

# Black holes with primary scalar hair

**Theodoros Nakas**

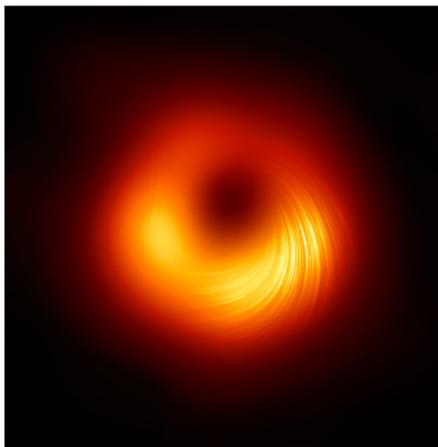


Cosmology, Gravity, Astroparticle Physics Group,  
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IBS CTPU-CGA

Prague Spring 2025: CAS - IBS CTPU-CGA - ISCT  
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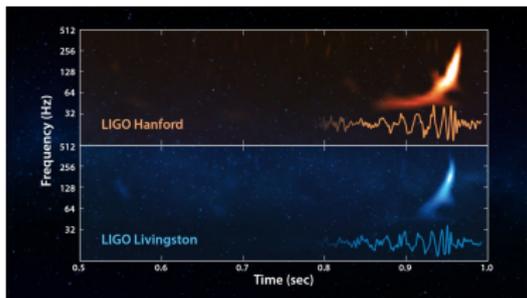
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Collaborators: A. Bakopoulos, C. Charmousis,  
N. Lecoeur, P. Kanti [[2310.11919/gr-qc](#)], N. Chatzifotis [[2312.17198/gr-qc](#)]



### Event Horizon Telescope (EHT)

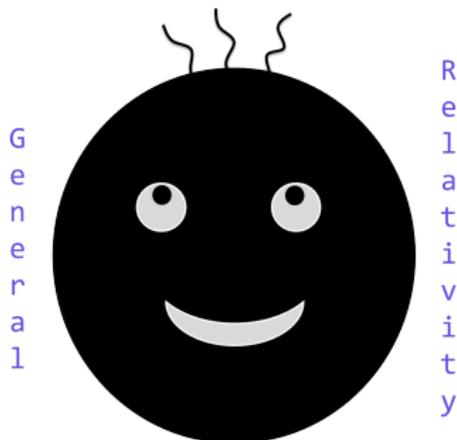
- ▶ **Goal:** Direct observation of black holes' photon ring.
- ▶ **Major Achievements:** First-ever image of a black hole (M87\*) in 2019.
- ▶ **Nobel Prize in Physics 2020:** Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel, and Andrea Ghez.



### LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA

- ▶ **Goal:** Detecting gravitational waves from compact-object mergers.
- ▶ **Major Achievements:** First detection of black hole–black hole merger (GW150914, 2015).
- ▶ **Nobel Prize in Physics 2017:** Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish, and Kip S. Thorne.

# Black holes have no hair!



## GR solutions are special

In General Relativity, every black hole is characterized by only three observable quantities/“hairs”:

- Mass ( $M$ )
- Angular Momentum/Spin ( $J$ )
- Electric charge ( $Q_e$ )

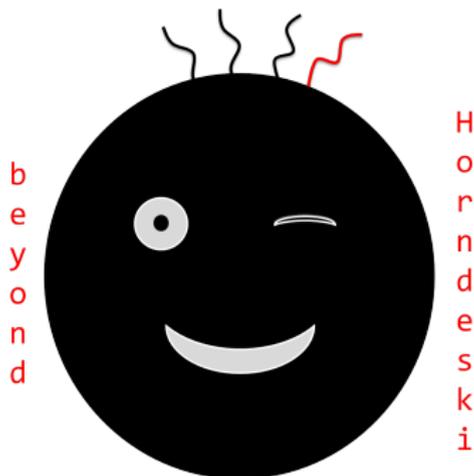
Two black holes with the same values for these parameters are completely indistinguishable.

## No(-scalar)-hair theorems

- ▶ J. D. Bekenstein, 1972 & 1995
- ▶ J. D. Bekenstein [[9605059/gr-qc](#)] (short review)
- ▶ C. Herdeiro, E. Radu [[1504.08209/gr-qc](#)] (review)

More often than not, these theorems can be **evaded** in Einstein-scalar-Gauss-Bonnet gravity or Horndeski and beyond Horndeski theories.

# Black holes have ~~no~~ hair!



In gravitational theories beyond GR, black holes might acquire additional properties, depending on the theoretical framework.

## Scalar-tensor (ST) theories

For static and asymptotically flat black-hole solutions in ST theories:

- Secondary hair:  $g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu}(M; x^\lambda)$ ,  $\phi = \phi(M; x^\lambda)$   
(no additional information)
- Primary hair:  $g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu}(M, \mathbf{q}; x^\lambda)$ ,  
 $\phi = \phi(M, \mathbf{q}; x^\lambda)$   
(additional information linked to the existence of the scalar field)

In [2310.11919/gr-qc] we presented *the first solution of a black hole with primary scalar hair in a single field scalar-tensor theory (beyond Horndeski gravity)*.

In [2312.17198/gr-qc], we *generalized the method and obtained a class of different solutions with primary scalar hair*.

# Bocharova-Bronnikov-Melnikov-Bekenstein solution (1970s)

A scalar-tensor (ST) theory with a conformally coupled scalar field

$$S[g_{\mu\nu}, \phi] = \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{R}{16\pi} - \frac{1}{12} \phi^2 R - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\lambda \phi \partial^\lambda \phi \right)$$

Invariance of the EOM of  $\phi$  under the conformal transformation:

$$\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = \Omega^2 g_{\mu\nu}, \quad \tilde{\phi} = \Omega^{-1} \phi$$

The BBMB solution

- There exist **static** and **spherically symmetric** black-hole solutions

$$ds^2 = - \left( 1 - \frac{M}{r} \right)^2 dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{\left( 1 - \frac{M}{r} \right)^2} + r^2 (d\vartheta^2 + \sin^2 \vartheta d\varphi^2).$$

- The profile of the scalar field is non-trivial

$$\phi = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}} \frac{M}{r - M}.$$

- The black holes possess **secondary hair**.

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- ▶ They are the **simplest modifications of gravity** with a single scalar degree of freedom (e.g. Brans-Dicke, Horndeski, beyond Horndeski, DHOST).
- ▶ They constitute limits of more complex fundamental theories:
  - Lovelock  $\xrightarrow{\text{Kaluza-Klein reduction}}$  Horndeski
- ▶ String Theory predicts that the actual theory of gravity is a scalar-tensor theory. The **spin-2 graviton** is accompanied by a spin-0 partner, the **dilaton**.

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Scalar-tensor theories are the simplest well-motivated departures from GR

# Horndeski and beyond Horndeski theories

## Horndeski gravity (1974)

$$S_H[g_{\mu\nu}, \phi] = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left\{ \mathcal{L}_2^H + \mathcal{L}_3^H + \mathcal{L}_4^H + \mathcal{L}_5^H \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{L}_2^H = G_2(\phi, X), \quad \mathcal{L}_3^H = -G_3(\phi, X)\square\phi, \quad \mathcal{L}_4^H = G_4(\phi, X)R + G_{4X} \left[ (\square\phi)^2 - (\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2 \right],$$

$$\mathcal{L}_5^H = G_5(\phi, X)G_{\mu\nu}\nabla^\mu\nabla^\nu\phi - \frac{G_{5X}}{6} \left[ (\square\phi)^3 - 3(\square\phi)(\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\phi)^2 + 2(\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\phi)^3 \right].$$

Here,  $X = -\frac{1}{2}\partial^\mu\phi\partial_\mu\phi$  represents the kinetic term,  $G_{iX} \equiv dG_i/dX$ , while

$(\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\phi)^2 \equiv (\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\phi)(\nabla^\mu\nabla^\nu\phi)$  and  $(\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\phi)^3 \equiv (\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\phi)(\nabla^\nu\nabla^\lambda\phi)(\nabla_\lambda\nabla^\mu\phi)$ .

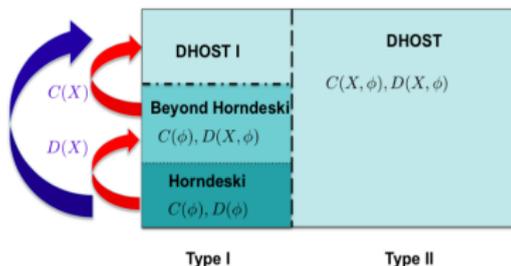


Figure stolen from David Langlois [1811.06271/gr-qc]

### General disformal transformation

$$\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = C(X, \phi)g_{\mu\nu} + D(X, \phi)\partial_\mu\phi\partial_\nu\phi$$

### Horndeski $\rightarrow$ Beyond Horndeski

$$\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + D(X)\partial_\mu\phi\partial_\nu\phi$$

# Black holes with primary scalar hair

A. Bakopoulos, C. Charmousis, N. LeCoeur, P. Kanti, T.N., [2310.11919/gr-qc]

A. Bakopoulos, N. Chatzifotis, T.N., [2312.17198/gr-qc]

- Shift symmetric ( $\phi \rightarrow \phi + c$ ) and  $Z_2$  symmetric ( $\phi \rightarrow -\phi$ ) beyond Horndeski theory:

$$S_{bH} [g_{\mu\nu}, \phi] = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left\{ G_2(X) + G_4(X)R + G_{4X} [(\Box\phi)^2 - \phi_{;\mu\nu}\phi^{;\mu\nu}] \right. \\ \left. + F_4(X)\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}\epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}{}_{\sigma}\phi_{;\mu}\phi_{;\alpha}\phi_{;\nu\beta}\phi_{;\rho\gamma} \right\},$$

$$G_{iX} \equiv \frac{dG_i}{dX}, \quad \phi_{;\mu} \equiv \partial_\mu \phi, \quad \phi_{;\mu\nu} \equiv \nabla_\mu \partial_\nu \phi, \quad X \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi.$$

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- ▶ We seek static, spherically symmetric and asymptotically flat solutions

$$ds^2 = -h(r) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(d\vartheta^2 + \sin^2\vartheta d\varphi^2), \quad \phi(t, r) = qt + \psi(r).$$

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- ▶ We seek **static**, **spherically symmetric** and **asymptotically flat** solutions

$$ds^2 = -h(r) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(d\vartheta^2 + \sin^2\vartheta d\varphi^2), \quad \phi(t, r) = qt + \psi(r).$$

- ▶ The **internal shift symmetry of the theory**  $\Rightarrow$  a **Noether current**

$$\left\{ \mathbf{J} = \mathcal{J}_\mu dx^\mu, \quad \mathcal{J}^\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}} \frac{\delta S}{\delta(\partial_\mu\phi)} = (\mathcal{J}^t, 0, 0, 0) \right\} \Rightarrow \boxed{Q_s = \int \star\mathbf{J} \propto q^k}$$

Using the auxiliary function  $Z(X) \equiv 2XG_{4X} - G_4 + 4X^2F_4$ , the independent EOM are

$$\frac{f}{h} = \frac{\gamma^2}{Z^2}, \quad (1)$$

$$r^2(G_2Z)_X + 2(G_4Z)_X \left(1 - \frac{q^2\gamma^2}{2Z^2X}\right) = 0, \quad (2)$$

$$2\gamma^2 \left(hr - \frac{q^2r}{2X}\right)' = -r^2G_2Z - 2G_4Z \left(1 - \frac{q^2\gamma^2}{2Z^2X}\right) + \frac{q^2\gamma^2X'r}{ZX^2} (2XG_{4X} - G_4). \quad (3)$$

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For **homogeneous solutions** ( $h = f$ ), the above system of equations is **integrable**.

- Eq. (1) results in  $Z = \gamma$ .
- Assuming that  $G_4(X) = \frac{\lambda^2}{2}G_2(X) + \zeta$ , eq. (2) yields

$$X = \frac{q^2}{2} \frac{1}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2}.$$

- Eq. (3) now leads to

$$h(r) = 1 + \frac{C}{r} + \left(1 + \frac{\zeta}{\gamma}\right) \frac{r^2}{\lambda^2} + \frac{1}{\gamma} \frac{1}{r} \int r^2(G_2 - 2XG_{2X}) dr.$$

Considering

$$G_2(X) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_{\frac{n}{s}} X^{\frac{n}{s}}, \quad s \in \mathbb{Z}^+, \quad [c_{\frac{n}{s}}] = [L]^{2(\frac{n}{s}-1)}$$

one obtains

$$h(r) = 1 + \frac{C}{r} + \left(1 + \frac{\zeta}{\gamma} + \frac{\lambda^2}{3\gamma} c_0\right) \frac{r^2}{\lambda^2} + \frac{r^2}{3\gamma} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{\frac{n}{s}} \left(1 - \frac{2n}{s}\right) \left(\frac{q^2/2}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2}\right)^{\frac{n}{s}} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{n}{s}, 1; \frac{5}{2}; \frac{1}{1 + \lambda^2/r^2}\right).$$

At  $r \rightarrow +\infty$  one finds

$$h(r) = 1 + \frac{1}{r} \left[ C + \frac{\lambda^3 \sqrt{\pi}}{4\gamma} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{\frac{n}{s}} \left(1 - \frac{2n}{s}\right) \left(\frac{q^2}{2}\right)^{\frac{n}{s}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{s} - \frac{3}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{s}\right)} \right] + \left(1 + \frac{\zeta}{\gamma} + \frac{\lambda^2}{3\gamma} c_0\right) \frac{r^2}{\lambda^2} + \frac{2\beta}{3\gamma} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{\frac{n}{s}} \left(\frac{q^2}{2}\right)^{\frac{n}{s}} \left(\frac{\lambda}{r}\right)^{\frac{2n}{s}} \left[ \left(\frac{1 - \frac{2n}{s}}{1 - \frac{2n}{3s}}\right) \frac{r^2}{\lambda^2} - \frac{3n}{s} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) \right].$$

For asymptotically flat solutions, it is necessary to have  $\zeta = -\gamma = 1$ ,  $c_0 = 0$ , and  $\frac{n}{s} > \frac{3}{2}$ .

## 1st Solution

$$G_2(X) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_{\frac{n}{s}} X^{\frac{n}{s}}, \quad s \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

$$c_{\frac{n}{s}} = 0, \quad \forall \frac{n}{s} \neq 2$$

$$c_2 = -\frac{8\eta}{3\lambda^2}$$

- ▶ Model functions of the theory:

$$G_2(X) = -\frac{8\eta}{3\lambda^2} X^2 \quad G_4(X) = 1 - \frac{4\eta}{3} X^2, \quad F_4(X) = \eta,$$

$\eta$  and  $\lambda$  coupling constants, with dimensions (length)<sup>4</sup> and (length), respectively.

- ▶ Spacetime geometry:

$$ds^2 = -f(r) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(d\vartheta^2 + \sin^2\vartheta d\varphi^2),$$

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \eta q^4 \left[ \frac{\pi/2 - \arctan(r/\lambda)}{r/\lambda} + \frac{1}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2} \right].$$

- ▶ Scalar field, kinetic term, and scalar charge/hair:

$$\phi(t, r) = qt + \psi(r), \quad X = \frac{q^2/2}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2}, \quad [\psi'(r)]^2 = \frac{q^2}{f^2(r)} \left[ 1 - \frac{f(r)}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2} \right],$$

$$j^\mu = \left( -\frac{2q}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2} G_{2X}, 0, 0, 0 \right), \quad Q_s = \int \star \mathbf{J} = \frac{16\pi^2}{3} \eta \lambda q^3.$$

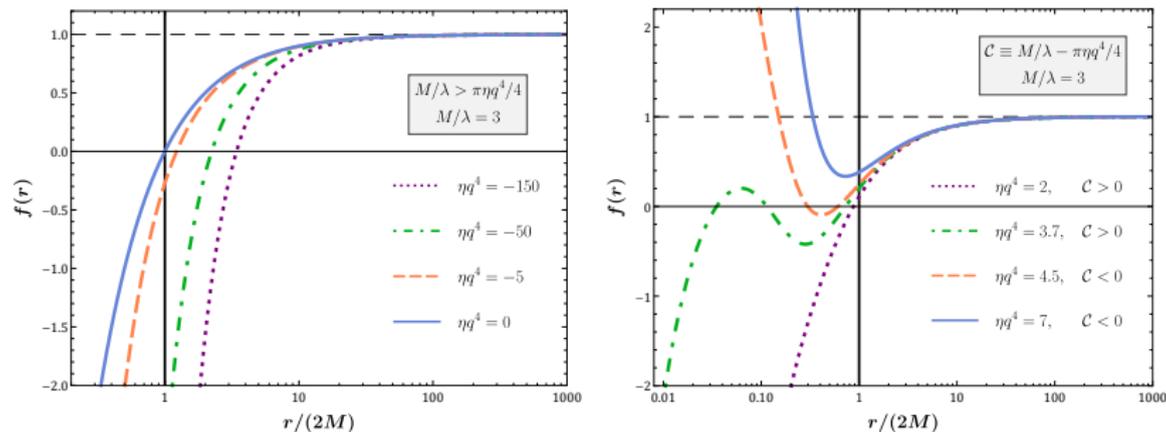
- ▶ The solution has **two independent free parameters**:  $M$  (ADM mass),  $q$  (primary scalar hair).  
For  $q = 0 \rightarrow \{\text{GR limit} + \text{Schwarzschild solution}\}$ .

Asymptotically the solution behaves like RN but with the scalar playing the role of electric charge

$$f(r \rightarrow +\infty) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + 2\eta q^4 \frac{\lambda^2}{r^2} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{r^4}\right),$$

while close to the singularity we have

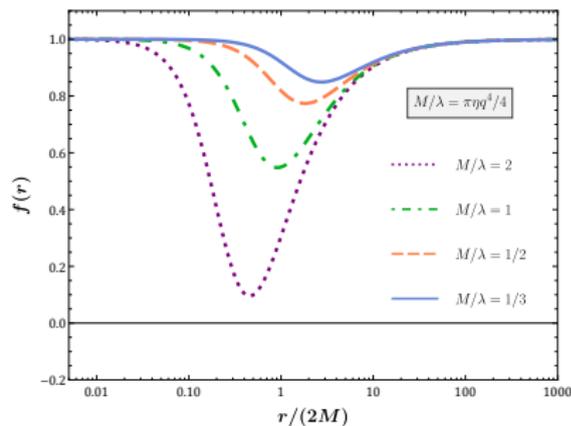
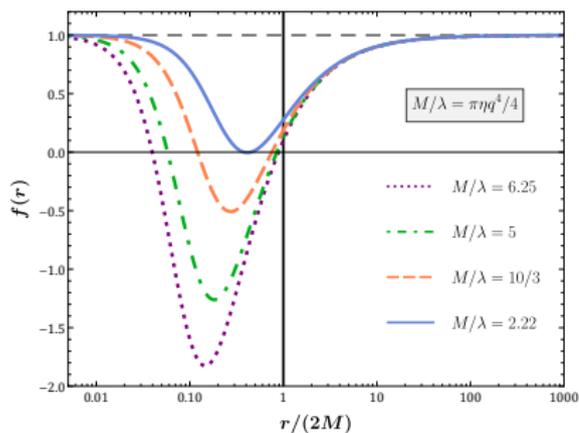
$$f(r \rightarrow 0) = 1 - \frac{2M - \pi\eta q^4 \lambda/2}{r} - \frac{2\eta q^4 r^2}{3\lambda^2} + \mathcal{O}(r^4).$$



**Left:**  $\eta < 0$ , single-horizon BH more sparse than Schwarzschild. **Right:**  $\eta > 0$ , multiple-horizon BH more compact than Schwarzschild or naked singularities.

For  $M = \pi\eta q^4 \lambda/4$ , the central singularity disappears and all curvature invariants become infinitely regular:

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{4M}{\pi\lambda} \left[ \frac{\arctan(r/\lambda)}{r/\lambda} - \frac{1}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2} \right].$$



**Left:** Regular BH solutions. **Right:** Solitonic solutions.

## 2nd Solution

$$G_2(X) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_{\frac{n}{s}} X^{\frac{n}{s}}, \quad s \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

$$c_{\frac{n}{s}} = 0, \quad \forall \frac{n}{s} \neq \frac{5}{2}$$

$$c_{\frac{5}{2}} = \frac{2\eta}{\lambda^2}$$

- ▶ Model functions of the theory:

$$G_2(X) = \frac{2\eta}{\lambda^2} X^{5/2} \quad G_4(X) = 1 + \eta X^{5/2}, \quad F_4(X) = -\eta\sqrt{X},$$

$\eta$  and  $\lambda$  coupling constants, with dimensions (length)<sup>5</sup> and (length), respectively.

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$$ds^2 = -f(r) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(d\vartheta^2 + \sin^2\vartheta d\varphi^2),$$

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} - \frac{\sqrt{2}\eta q^5}{3} \frac{\lambda}{r} \left( 1 - \frac{r^3}{(r^2 + \lambda^2)^{3/2}} \right).$$

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$$\phi(t, r) = qt + \psi(r), \quad X = \frac{q^2/2}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2}, \quad [\psi'(r)]^2 = \frac{q^2}{f^2(r)} \left[ 1 - \frac{f(r)}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2} \right],$$

$$j^\mu = \left( -\frac{2q}{1 + (r/\lambda)^2} G_{2X}, 0, 0, 0 \right), \quad Q_s = \int \star \mathbf{J} = -\frac{20\pi}{3\sqrt{2}} \eta \lambda q^4.$$

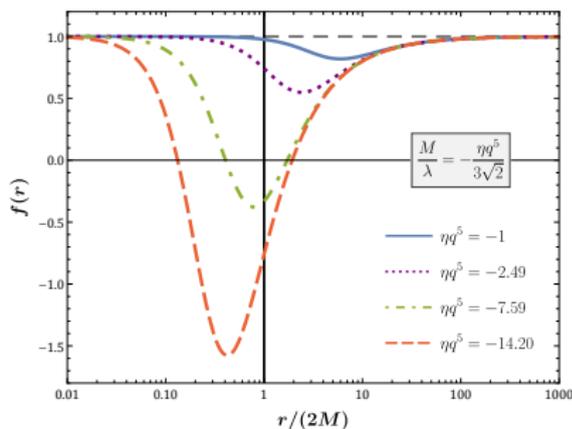
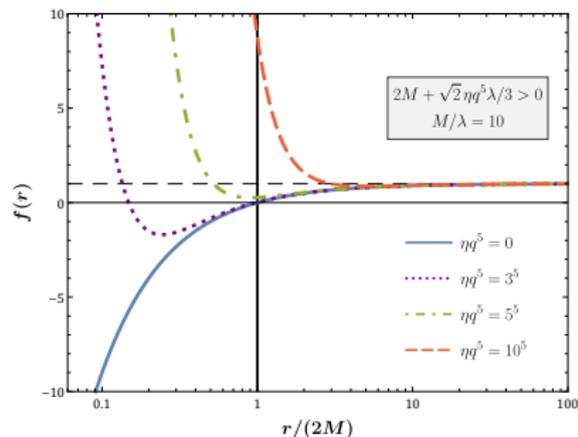
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For  $q = 0 \rightarrow \{\text{GR limit} + \text{Schwarzschild solution}\}$ .

Asymptotically the solution behaves like the Schwarzschild solution but with a small correction from the scalar hair

$$f(r \rightarrow +\infty) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} - \frac{\eta q^5}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\lambda^3}{r^3} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{r^4}\right),$$

while close to the singularity we have

$$f(r \rightarrow 0) = 1 - \frac{2M + \sqrt{2}\eta q^5 \lambda/3}{r} - \frac{\sqrt{2}\eta q^5}{3} \frac{r^2}{\lambda^2} + \mathcal{O}(r^4).$$



**Left:**  $\eta > 0$ , BH solutions with two horizons. **Right:**  $\eta < 0$ , Regular BH and solitonic solutions.

## Bardeen solution in beyond Horndeski

Especially in the regular case, where  $\frac{M}{\lambda} = -\frac{\eta q^5}{3\sqrt{2}}$ , the resulting solution is the Bardeen:

$$ds^2 = -f(r) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(d\vartheta^2 + \sin^2 \vartheta d\varphi^2),$$

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{2Mr^2}{(r^2 + \lambda^2)^{3/2}}, \quad \mathbf{M \text{ is a free parameter.}}$$

## Bardeen from non-linear magnetic monopole (E. Ayon-Beato, A. Garcia [0009077/gr-qc])

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} [R - 4\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F})], \quad \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F}) = \frac{3M}{\lambda^3} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2\lambda^2 \mathcal{F}}}{1 + \sqrt{2\lambda^2 \mathcal{F}}} \right)^{5/2},$$

$$\mathcal{F} \equiv \frac{1}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}, \quad F_{\mu\nu} = 2\delta_{[\mu}^{\vartheta} \delta_{\nu]}^{\varphi} \lambda \sin \vartheta.$$

In this case, the parameter  $\mathbf{M}$  is a coupling constant and therefore not a free parameter.

**The beyond Horndeski gravity constitutes a more natural framework to describe the Bardeen solution.**

## Conclusions:

- ▶ We have demonstrated a **generic method that one can use to construct compact-object solutions** (single or multiple-horizon black holes, regular black holes, and solitons) with primary scalar hair in shift and  $\mathbf{Z}_2$  symmetric beyond Horndeski theory.

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The key ingredients of the method are:

- A linearly time-dependent scalar field that carries the scalar hair.
- The proportionality of the model functions  $G_4(X) \propto G_2(X)$  and their power expansion

$$G_2(X) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_{\frac{n}{s}} X^{\frac{n}{s}}, \quad s \in \mathbb{Z}^+.$$

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- ▶ We have identified the scalar charge/hair accompanying the solutions through the Noether current that emanates from the internal shift symmetry of the theory.

$$\left\{ \mathbf{J} = J_{\mu} dx^{\mu}, \quad J^{\mu} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}} \frac{\delta S}{\delta(\partial_{\mu}\phi)} = (J^t, 0, 0, 0) \right\} \Rightarrow \boxed{Q_s = \int \star \mathbf{J} \propto q^k}$$

## Conclusions:

- ▶ We have demonstrated a **generic method that one can use to construct compact-object solutions** (single or multiple-horizon black holes, regular black holes, and solitons) with primary scalar hair in shift and  $\mathbf{Z}_2$  symmetric beyond Horndeski theory.

The key ingredients of the method are:

- A linearly time-dependent scalar field that carries the scalar hair.
- The proportionality of the model functions  $G_4(X) \propto G_2(X)$  and their power expansion

$$G_2(X) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_{\frac{n}{s}} X^{\frac{n}{s}}, \quad s \in \mathbb{Z}^+.$$

- ▶ We have identified the scalar charge/hair accompanying the solutions through the Noether current that emanates from the internal shift symmetry of the theory.

$$\left\{ \mathbf{J} = J_{\mu} dx^{\mu}, \quad J^{\mu} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}} \frac{\delta S}{\delta(\partial_{\mu}\phi)} = (J^t, 0, 0, 0) \right\} \Rightarrow \boxed{Q_s = \int \star \mathbf{J} \propto q^k}$$

- ▶ The beyond Horndeski gravity constitutes a more natural framework to describe the Bardeen solution.

## Future Directions:

- ▶ To consider such black-hole solutions as realistic astrophysical objects, they should be proven stable under perturbations. Thus, **the stability analysis is a crucial next step.**

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## Future Directions:

- ▶ To consider such black-hole solutions as realistic astrophysical objects, they should be proven stable under perturbations. Thus, **the stability analysis is a crucial next step.**
- ▶ Study the **quasinormal modes** of black holes with primary scalar hair.
- ▶ Is it possible to generalize the method to construct **rotating black-hole solutions** with primary scalar hair?

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