

Static spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild metrics and implications for the classical double copy

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We discuss the physical interpretation of stress-energy tensors that source static spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild metrics. We find that the sources of such metrics with no curvature singularities or horizons do not simultaneously satisfy the weak and strong energy conditions. Sensible stress-energy tensors usually satisfy both of them. Under most circumstances, these sources are not perfect fluids and contain shear stresses. We show that for these systems the classical double copy associates the electric charge density to the Komar energy density. In addition, we demonstrate that the stress-energy tensors are determined by the electric charge density and their conservation equations.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In the last 20 years, amplitude-based methods have become important in the study of gauge theories and gravity. Apart from the ease they provide us with carrying out explicit perturbative calculations in gauge theories, amplitudes have revealed hidden structures in them that are not transparent in the local Lagrangian formulation. Examples of this include the color-kinematics duality first introduced by Bern, Carrasco, and Johansson (BCJ) and the perturbative double copy introduced in [1] which reveal a deep connection between perturbative gauge theory and gravity amplitudes. This double copy states that one can deduce the n -point graviton amplitude straight from the n -point Yang-Mills one if the Yang-Mills amplitude is written in BCJ form (see Refs. [1–3], and [4]). This duality is proven at tree level and expected to hold at all orders in perturbation theory.

While the perturbative double copy is well understood operationally, there are still many unanswered questions on the subject. For example, is the double copy relationship between gauge and gravity theories only perturbative or does it manifest itself in other aspects of the theories? Investigating along these lines, the authors of [5] (see also [6]) found that the classical solutions of general relativity and electromagnetism exhibit similar double copy structure. Specifically, they found that time-independent Kerr-Schild metrics can be interpreted as the “classical double copies” of time-independent electromagnetic (E&M) vector potentials.

We now give a couple of illustrative examples (see [5]). The first example is that the Kerr-Schild form of the Schwarzschild metric, which is sourced by a point mass [7], is the double copy of the electrostatic potential for a point charge. The second example is that the Kerr-Schild form of the Kerr metric, which is sourced by a rotating disc of mass and the pressures needed to stabilize it [8], is the double copy of the vector potential of a rotating disc of charge.

These two examples underscore a couple of important aspects about the classical double copy of static E&M vector potentials. The classical double copy relates the energy-momentum distribution sourcing the metric to the charges and currents sourcing the E&M vector potential. Furthermore the sources for the metric generally include pressures that are not present in the E&M source. These additional terms provide forces that stabilize the source distribution and make the metric time independent.

In this paper, we analyze static spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild metrics with no curvature singularities and no horizons.¹ Our goal is to understand the stress-energy tensors that source these metrics and determine the relationship between these stress-energy tensors and the sources of the corresponding E&M problem. As one might expect, the classical double copy associates static spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild metrics with spherically symmetric electrostatic potentials. It also naturally relates the charge density of the E&M problem to the Komar energy density of the gravity one.

Stress-energy tensors sourcing these double copies are usually not perfect fluids and contain shear stresses [6]. We show that the GR strong and weak energy conditions cannot simultaneously be satisfied by these stress-energy tensors. We also show that the stress-energy tensors sourcing spherically symmetric double copies are composed of a piece fixed by the sources of the E&M problem and another piece determined by conservation of the stress-energy tensor. This is consistent with the examples presented in [5].

The paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II we review Kerr-Schild metrics and the classical double copy presented

¹Indeed, there are many simple examples of metrics that have singularities and/or horizons, such as the Schwarzschild and de Sitter metrics. For simplicity, however, we do not include them in our analysis.

in [5]. In Sec. III we deduce the stress-energy tensor of a static spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild metric from Einstein's equations and interpret its components. In Sec. IV we re-derive the stress-energy tensor found in Sec. III using the classical double copy and conservation of the stress-energy tensor. In Sec. V we test these stress-energy tensors against the GR energy conditions and examine their physical properties. We end with concluding remarks in Sec. VI.

II. THE CLASSICAL DOUBLE COPY

In this section we summarize the double copy for classical solutions (which we call the classical double copy) first presented in [5]. We begin by defining a Kerr-Schild metric as a metric whose components can be written in some coordinate system [9] (see also [10]), which we call Kerr-Schild coordinates, as

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \phi k_\mu k_\nu \quad (2.1)$$

where $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(-1, 1, 1, 1)$ is the Minkowski metric and k^μ is a geodesic null vector satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} k^2 &= 0 \\ k^\mu \partial_\mu k_\nu &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

The fact that k^μ squares to zero implies the components of the inverse metric can be expressed

$$g^{\mu\nu} = \eta^{\mu\nu} - \phi k^\mu k^\nu. \quad (2.3)$$

By Eqs. (2.1) and (2.3), it is equivalent to raise and lower k^μ 's index with either the Minkowski or the full metric. Let us adopt the convention to also raise and lower a partial derivative's index with the Minkowski metric. With this convention the Ricci tensor with one index raised and one lowered can be written

$$R^\mu{}_\nu = \frac{1}{2} (\partial^\mu \partial_\alpha (\phi k^\alpha k_\nu) + \partial_\nu \partial_\alpha (\phi k^\alpha k^\mu) - \partial^2 (\phi k^\mu k_\nu)). \quad (2.4)$$

Let us now specialize to the case of time-independent metrics: $\partial_0 \phi = \partial_0 k_\nu = 0$. We only consider Kerr vectors satisfying $k^0 = 1$. Then since k^μ squares to zero, we have

$$k^\mu = (1, \hat{k}), \quad (2.5)$$

where \hat{k} is a unit 3-vector. By plugging (2.5) into (2.4) we can express the Ricci tensor's components as

$$\begin{aligned} R^\mu{}_0 &= -\frac{1}{2} \partial_\nu (\partial^\mu (\phi k^\nu) - \partial^\nu (\phi k^\mu)) \\ R^i{}_j &= \frac{1}{2} \partial_l (\partial^i (\phi k^l k_j) + \partial_j (\phi k^l k^i) - \partial^l (\phi k^i k_j)). \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

In the context of the classical double copy the Kerr-Schild metric (2.1) is referred to as the ‘‘double copy’’ since it

involves two factors of the vector k^μ . By removing one copy of k^μ from (2.1) we can construct the ‘‘single copy’’ and its associated field strength:

$$\begin{aligned} A^\mu &= \phi k^\mu \\ F^{\mu\nu} &= \partial^\nu A^\mu - \partial^\mu A^\nu. \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

Using these definitions we write the first equation in (2.6) as [5,6]

$$R^\mu{}_0 = -\frac{1}{2} \partial_\nu F^{\mu\nu} = -2\pi j^\mu. \quad (2.8)$$

We immediately recognize (2.8) as the sourced Maxwell's equations. This means we can interpret the single copy A^μ as the E&M vector potential sourced by the the current

$$j^\mu = -\frac{1}{2\pi} R^\mu{}_0. \quad (2.9)$$

It is difficult to see such a clear relationship between the Ricci tensor's spatial components and j^μ in the second equation of (2.6). However, by using (2.4) and the properties of k^μ it can be shown

$$R^\mu{}_\nu k^\nu k_\mu = 0. \quad (2.10)$$

By expanding out the contractions in (2.10) we can write

$$R^{\hat{k}}{}_{\hat{k}} = -2\pi(\rho - 2\vec{j} \cdot \hat{k}) \quad (2.11)$$

where we've defined $\rho = j^0$ and $R^{\hat{k}}{}_{\hat{k}} = R^i{}_j \hat{k}^j \hat{k}_i$. The spatial component $R^{\hat{k}}{}_{\hat{k}}$ is fixed by ρ and the component of the spatial current parallel to \hat{k} .

Equations (2.8) and (2.11) embody the classical double copy relationship between A^μ and $g_{\mu\nu}$. In general the other Ricci components will depend on terms parameterized by ϕ , \hat{k} and their derivatives. Typically these terms will not have simple relationships to the components of j^μ like the $R^\mu{}_0$ and $R^{\hat{k}}{}_{\hat{k}}$ components did in (2.8) and (2.11).

III. STATIC SPHERICALLY SYMMETRIC KERR-SCHILD METRICS

We now restrict our attention to static spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild metrics. We will interpret the components of the stress-energy tensors sourcing these metrics and relate them to the sources of the corresponding single copies. The most general spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild solution that can be written is

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \phi(r) k_\mu k_\nu \quad (3.1)$$

where $k^\mu = (1, \hat{r})$. It is easily seen that this is the only spherically symmetric k^μ that satisfies constraints (2.2) and $k^0 = 1$. The single copy of this metric is

$$A^\mu = \phi(r)(1, \hat{r}). \quad (3.2)$$

One can perform the gauge transformation $A^\mu \rightarrow A^\mu + \partial^\mu \lambda$ where

$$\lambda = - \int^r \phi(r') dr' \quad (3.3)$$

to write $A^\mu = \phi(r)(1, 0, 0, 0)$. This means the single copy of a spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild metric is an electrostatic potential sourced by a spherically symmetric distribution of charge

$$j^\mu = \rho(r)(1, 0, 0, 0) \quad (3.4)$$

where as before, $\rho(r) = -\nabla^2 \phi / 4\pi$. The Ricci tensor components for (3.1) are

$$R^0_0 = \frac{\nabla^2 \phi}{2}, \quad R^0_i = R^i_0 = 0$$

$$R^i_j = \frac{1}{2} \left[\nabla^2 \phi \left(\frac{x^i x_j}{r^2} \right) + 2 \left(\frac{\phi'}{r} + \frac{\phi}{r^2} \right) \left(\delta^i_j - \frac{x^i x_j}{r^2} \right) \right]. \quad (3.5)$$

As expected, R^0_0 and $R^{\hat{r}}_{\hat{r}}$ are parameterized by the E&M charge density ρ and since $j^i = 0$, $R^i_0 = 0$. On the other hand, the components of R^i_j perpendicular to $\hat{r} \hat{r}$ depend on the combination

$$\tilde{\rho} = \frac{\phi'}{r} + \frac{\phi}{r^2} \quad (3.6)$$

rather than $j^0 = \rho$. Before we talk more about $\tilde{\rho}$ lets interpret ρ on both sides of the classical double copy. On the E&M side ρ is the charge density sourcing the vector potential A^μ . It turns out that it can be interpreted on the gravity side as the Komar energy density [11] (and see for example [12]).

It is useful to change to a coordinate system in which $g_{\mu\nu}$ is diagonal. If we use unprimed coordinates to denote the old coordinate system and primed ones to denote the new ones then the coordinate transformation that diagonalizes the metric is

$$dt = dt' - \frac{\phi}{1-\phi} dr'$$

$$dr = dr'. \quad (3.7)$$

The metric components in the new coordinate system, which we call Schwarzschild coordinates, are

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag} \left(-(1-\phi), \frac{1}{1-\phi}, r^2, r^2 \sin^2 \theta \right). \quad (3.8)$$

It is important to note that (3.8) is not the most general spherically symmetric metric. The fact that g_{rr} is minus the

inverse of g_{tt} is a consequence of the metric being Kerr-Schild. We focus on metrics where $\phi(r) < 1$ to ensure there are no horizons. We will also assume there are no curvature singularities.

Let us choose units such that $c = \hbar = 8\pi G = 1$.² We now calculate the Komar energy in the Schwarzschild frame. Since we have a timelike Killing vector $K^\mu = (1, 0, 0, 0)$, we can express the Komar energy contained within a three-dimensional spatial volume Σ as

$$E = 2 \int_{\Sigma} d^3 x \sqrt{\gamma} n_\mu K^\nu R^\mu{}_\nu \quad (3.9)$$

where $\gamma = r^4 \sin^2 \theta / (1-\phi)$ is the determinant of the induced metric on the volume Σ and $n^\mu = (1/\sqrt{1-\phi}, \vec{0})$ is the unit normal to the surface. The R^0_0 component doesn't change under the coordinate transformation (3.7) so we can then plug the first equation of (3.5) into (3.9) to find

$$E = - \int_{\Sigma} r^2 dr d\Omega \nabla^2 \phi. \quad (3.10)$$

The Komar energy density is then

$$\rho_K = -\nabla^2 \phi = 4\pi\rho \quad (3.11)$$

The classical double copy naturally associates the charge density ρ to the Komar energy density ρ_K . We restrict ourselves to potentials such that ρ_K and $\tilde{\rho}$ are both finite. This prevents scalars such as $R^\mu{}_\nu R^\nu{}_\mu = \rho_K^2 / 2 + 2\tilde{\rho}^2$ from exhibiting curvature singularities. Hence we impose

$$\phi(0) = \phi'(0) = 0. \quad (3.12)$$

Let us now interpret $\tilde{\rho}$ by matching the stress-energy tensor sourcing the double copy to a general fluid solution. Using Einstein's equations, we solve for the stress-energy tensor in terms of the Ricci tensor. In our units

$$R^\mu{}_\nu - \frac{1}{2} \delta^\mu{}_\nu R = T^\mu{}_\nu. \quad (3.13)$$

By plugging (3.5) into (3.13) we can find the components of the stress-energy tensor with one index raised and one lowered in Kerr-Schild coordinates. We then transform to Schwarzschild coordinates using (3.7) and express the stress-energy tensor with two lowered indices using (3.8). The result is

²If you keep the units for G, then the electromagnetic charge density is $\sqrt{8\pi G} \rho_K$.

$$\begin{aligned}
T_{\mu\nu} &= \text{diag} \left((1-\phi) \left(\frac{\phi'}{r} + \frac{\phi}{r^2} \right), -\frac{1}{1-\phi} \left(\frac{\phi'}{r} + \frac{\phi}{r^2} \right), \right. \\
&\quad \left. -\frac{r^2 \nabla^2 \phi}{2}, -\frac{r^2 \sin^2 \theta \nabla^2 \phi}{2} \right) \\
&= \left((1-\phi) \tilde{\rho}, -\frac{1}{1-\phi} \tilde{\rho}, \frac{r^2}{2} \rho_K, \frac{r^2 \sin^2 \theta}{2} \rho_K \right). \quad (3.14)
\end{aligned}$$

We interpret these components by matching them to the components of a general fluid solution. This stress-energy tensor is characterized by matter energy density, pressures, shear stress and heat flux,

$$T_{\mu\nu} = (\rho_m + p_m) u_\mu u_\nu + p_m g_{\mu\nu} + (u_\mu q_\nu + u_\nu q_\mu) + \pi_{\mu\nu} \quad (3.15)$$

where ρ_m is the matter energy density, p_m is the pressure stabilizing the matter, u^μ is the four-velocity of the fluid, q^μ is the heat flux and $\pi_{\mu\nu}$ is the shear tensor which satisfies $\pi_{\mu\nu} u^\mu = 0$ and $g^{\mu\nu} \pi_{\mu\nu} = 0$. Matching (3.14) to (3.15) gives

$$T_{\mu\nu} = (\rho_m + p_m) u_\mu u_\nu + p_m g_{\mu\nu} + \pi_{\mu\nu} \quad (3.16)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
u^\mu &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\phi}}, 0, 0, 0 \right), \\
q^\mu &= 0, \quad \rho_m = \tilde{\rho}, \quad p_m = \frac{1}{3}(\rho_K - \rho_m) \\
\pi_{\mu\nu} &= \pi_{ij} = -\frac{3}{2}(\rho_m + p_m) \left(\frac{3-\phi}{3(1-\phi)} \frac{x_i x_j}{r^2} - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \right). \quad (3.17)
\end{aligned}$$

It is well known that the classical double copy does not always yield perfect fluids. In fact, since

$$\rho_m + p_m = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{2\phi}{r^2} - \phi'' \right) \quad (3.18)$$

only for $\phi \propto r^2$ or $\phi \propto 1/r$ does the shear term vanish and a perfect fluid source the double copy. The $1/r$ case is the potential of a point charge, which gets double copied to the Schwarzschild metric, while the r^2 case corresponds to a constant charge density and double copies to de Sitter spacetime and anti-de Sitter spacetime. Shear stresses will be needed to stabilize all other spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild solutions.

Another thing to note is that $\rho_m = \tilde{\rho}$ is the energy density of the fluid and, as can be seen from (3.6), is not directly related to the E&M source j^μ . The pressure is proportional to the difference between the Komar energy density and ρ_m . This implies the Komar energy gets contributions from the energy due to the stabilizing isotropic pressure p_m and the

energy density ρ_m . The double copy then maps the electric charge density to a linear combination of ρ_m and internal pressures.

IV. THE STRESS TENSOR FROM CONSERVATION AND E&M SOURCES

Earlier we mentioned the stress-energy tensor has a piece determined by the sources of the single copy and another piece that stabilizes the distribution. We now show this explicitly using conservation of the stress-energy tensor. The general form of the Ricci tensor for a spherically symmetric source is

$$\begin{aligned}
R^0_0 &= A(r), \quad R^i_0 = B(r) \frac{x^i}{r} \\
R^i_j &= C(r) \frac{x^i x_j}{r^2} + D(r) \left(\delta^i_j - \frac{x^i x_j}{r^2} \right). \quad (4.1)
\end{aligned}$$

Let us now specialize to Kerr-Schild metrics. By Eqs. (2.8) and (2.11), the R^μ_0 and $R^{\hat{r}}_{\hat{r}}$ components are determined by the single copy's sources. So R^μ_ν can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
R^0_0 &= \frac{\nabla^2 \phi}{2}, \quad R^i_0 = 0 \\
R^i_j &= \frac{\nabla^2 \phi}{2} \frac{x^i x_j}{r^2} + D(r) \left(\delta^i_j - \frac{x^i x_j}{r^2} \right). \quad (4.2)
\end{aligned}$$

We can fix $D(r)$ using conservation of the stress-energy tensor. Plugging (4.2) into Einstein's equations, we find

$$\begin{aligned}
T^0_0 &= -D(r) \quad \text{and} \\
T^i_j &= -\frac{\nabla^2 \phi}{2} \left(\delta^i_j - \frac{x^i x_j}{r^2} \right) - D(r) \frac{x^i x_j}{r^2} \quad (4.3)
\end{aligned}$$

The components (4.3) turn out to be the same in both Kerr-Schild and Schwarzschild coordinates. Let us now impose conservation of stress-energy

$$\nabla_\mu T^\mu_\nu = 0. \quad (4.4)$$

In stars, for example, it is (4.4) that gives rise to the equation for hydrostatic equilibrium. Since we're working in Kerr-Schild coordinates this equation simplifies and becomes

$$\partial_\mu T^\mu_\nu - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\nu (\phi k^\alpha k_\mu) T^\mu_\alpha = 0. \quad (4.5)$$

By time independence the $\nu = 0$ component is satisfied trivially. The $\nu = k$ component reduces to the constraint

$$\nabla^2 \phi - rD'(r) - 2D(r) = 0. \quad (4.6)$$

The solution to this equation is

$$D(r) = \left(\frac{\phi'}{r} + \frac{\phi}{r^2} \right) + \frac{d}{r^2}, \quad (4.7)$$

where d is a constant. To avoid curvature singularities at the origin we set $d = 0$. We have reproduced the Ricci and stress-energy components obtained in the previous section. This calculation shows that the piece of the stress-energy tensor not fixed by the single copy is responsible for stabilizing the gravitational system. This is consistent with the Kerr metric presented in [5] which exhibit stress-energy tensors composed of an E&M piece and a stabilization one.

V. THE ENERGY CONDITIONS

In this section we review some of the GR energy conditions. Most sensible forms of matter should satisfy these energy conditions.³ Let us start with the null energy condition, which places the fewest constraints on the source. The null energy condition demands

$$T_{\mu\nu} l^\mu l^\nu \geq 0 \quad (5.1)$$

where l^μ is any null vector. For (3.16) this implies

$$(\rho_m + p_m)(u_\mu l^\mu)^2 + \pi_{\mu\nu} l^\mu l^\nu \geq 0. \quad (5.2)$$

We interpret (5.2) below when we specialize to the sources of spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild metrics. Note that the null energy condition is saturated by the choice $l^\mu = k^\mu$ [6].

Next we consider the so-called weak energy condition which demands that the stress-energy tensor satisfies

$$T_{\mu\nu} t^\mu t^\nu \geq 0 \quad (5.3)$$

where t^μ is any timelike vector. This condition ensures that observers moving along timelike paths observe positive energy densities. To derive the conditions (5.3) places on the components of (3.16), we first note that any timelike vector t^μ can be expressed as a linear combination of the fluid's four velocity u^μ and a null vector l^μ :

$$t^\mu = \alpha u^\mu + \beta l^\mu, \quad (5.4)$$

where the coefficients α and β satisfy $\alpha^2 \geq 2\alpha\beta u_\mu l^\mu$. If we plug (5.4) and (3.16) into (5.3), then we find

$$T_{\mu\nu} t^\mu t^\nu = \rho_m(\alpha^2 - 2\alpha\beta u_\mu l^\mu) + \beta^2[(\rho_m + p_m)(u_\mu l^\mu)^2 + \pi_{\mu\nu} l^\mu l^\nu] \geq 0. \quad (5.5)$$

This implies

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_m &\geq 0 \\ (\rho_m + p_m)(u_\mu l^\mu)^2 + \pi_{\mu\nu} l^\mu l^\nu &\geq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (5.6)$$

³An exception is vacuum energy which can have either sign for ρ_m and has $\rho_m + p_m = 0$.

The second condition is exactly what we got from the null energy conditions. The weak energy condition, however, also requires the matter energy density be positive everywhere.

The last energy condition we consider is the strong energy condition, which imposes

$$T_{\mu\nu} t^\mu t^\nu \geq \frac{1}{2} T^\mu{}_\mu t^\nu t_\nu. \quad (5.7)$$

It is easily shown that this requires that the components (3.16) satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}(\rho_m + 3p_m)(\alpha^2 - 2\alpha\beta u_\mu l^\mu) \\ + \beta^2[(\rho_m + p_m)(u_\mu l^\mu)^2 + \pi_{\mu\nu} l^\mu l^\nu] \geq 0, \end{aligned} \quad (5.8)$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_m + 3p_m &\geq 0 \\ (\rho_m + p_m)(u_\mu l^\mu)^2 + \pi_{\mu\nu} l^\mu l^\nu &\geq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (5.9)$$

The second inequality is again just the null energy condition. We note the strong energy condition has the physical interpretation of demanding that gravity be attractive.

Our discussion so far applies to any fluid solution whose heat flux $q^\mu = 0$. Let us now consider such solutions that also source spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild solutions. We see from (3.8) and (3.17) that $\phi(r)$ and its derivatives parameterize these fluid solutions. The energy conditions then become inequalities that constrain $\phi(r)$ and its derivatives. To see this we first write the arbitrary null vector l^μ appearing in these conditions as

$$l^\mu = (l^0, \vec{l}). \quad (5.10)$$

For l^μ to be null with respect to (3.8) its components must satisfy

$$|\vec{l}| = \frac{1 - \phi}{\sqrt{1 - \phi \sin^2 \alpha}} l^0, \quad (5.11)$$

where $\cos \alpha = \hat{r} \cdot \hat{l}$. Using (5.11) and (3.17) we can write the inequality (5.2) appearing in the null, weak and strong energy conditions as

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq (\rho_m + p_m)(u_\mu l^\mu)^2 + \pi_{\mu\nu} l^\mu l^\nu \\ &= (\rho_m + p_m) \left[(1 - \phi)(l^0)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{3 - \phi}{1 - \phi} \cos^2 \alpha - 1 \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \left(\frac{(1 - \phi)^2}{1 - \phi \sin^2 \alpha} \right) (l^0)^2 \right] \\ &= (\rho_m + p_m) \left(\frac{3}{2} \right) \left[\frac{(l^0)^2 (1 - \phi)^2 \sin^2 \alpha}{(1 - \phi \sin^2 \alpha)} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (5.12)$$

For $\phi(r) < 1$, the bracketed term on the last line is then greater than or equal to zero for all r . To satisfy the null energy condition, its components must then satisfy

$$\rho_m + p_m \geq 0. \quad (5.13)$$

We see that the null energy condition allows for negative energy densities so long as the pressure is positive and compensates accordingly. The weak energy condition then requires

$$\rho_m \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_m + p_m \geq 0, \quad (5.14)$$

while the strong energy condition requires

$$\rho_m + 3p_m \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_m + p_m \geq 0. \quad (5.15)$$

The unique solution to $\nabla^2 \phi = -4\pi\rho = -\rho_K$ that satisfies (3.12) is

$$\phi(r) = \frac{1}{r} \int_0^r dr' r'^2 \rho_K(r') - \int_0^r dr' r' \rho_K(r'), \quad (5.16)$$

which implies

$$\rho_m = -\frac{1}{r^2} \int_0^r dr' r' \rho_K(r'). \quad (5.17)$$

We can use (5.17) to express the pressure in terms of ρ_K

$$p_m = \frac{1}{3} \left(\rho_K + \frac{1}{r^2} \int_0^r dr' r' \rho_K(r') \right), \quad (5.18)$$

and write the null energy condition (5.13) as

$$\rho_K - \frac{2}{r^2} \int_0^r dr' r' \rho_K(r') \geq 0. \quad (5.19)$$

Similarly, we can write the weak energy condition (5.14) as

$$-\frac{1}{r^2} \int_0^r dr' r' \rho_K(r') \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_K - \frac{2}{r^2} \int_0^r dr' r' \rho_K(r') \geq 0, \quad (5.20)$$

and the strong energy condition (5.15) as

$$\rho_K \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_K - \frac{2}{r^2} \int_0^r dr' r' \rho_K(r') \geq 0. \quad (5.21)$$

We immediately see that we cannot satisfy the strong and weak energy conditions, (5.21) and (5.20), at the same time for any $\rho_K(r)$. Most sensible matter distributions are expected to satisfy both the strong and weak energy conditions.

It is worth mentioning that distributions such that $\rho_K(0) = 0$ cannot satisfy the weak energy condition. To see this, we go to the small r limit and expand $\rho_K(r)$ as

$$\rho_K(r) = \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} \rho_K^{(n)}(0) r^n, \quad (5.22)$$

where $\rho_K^{(n)}(0)$ is the n th derivative of ρ_K at the origin. If we plug this expansion into (5.20), the weak energy condition becomes

$$-\sum_n \frac{\rho_K^{(n)}(0)}{n!} \frac{1}{n+2} r^n \geq 0$$

$$\sum_n \frac{\rho_K^{(n)}(0)}{n!} \left[1 - \frac{2}{n+2} \right] r^n \geq 0. \quad (5.23)$$

If $\rho_K(0) = 0$, then the leading-order term becomes the linear one. However, the first inequality in (5.23) implies $\rho_K'(0) \leq 0$, while the second one implies $\rho_K'(0) \geq 0$. These then force $\rho_K'(0) = 0$. To satisfy (5.23) order by order, we must have $\rho_K^{(n)}(0) = 0$.

The weak energy condition excludes $\rho_K(r)$ that are positive for all r . If $\rho_K(r)$ is to be positive at all and satisfy the weak energy condition, then it must start off negative and flip sign as r increases. There are some $\rho_K(r)$ that satisfy the null energy condition (5.19) and are positive for all r . Note that the vacuum field double copy examples presented in [5,13] and [14] are exempt from this analysis.

VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

We have studied the nature of the sources (*i.e.* the stress tensors) for static Kerr-Schild metrics with spherical symmetry. These metrics are double copies of spherically symmetric electrostatic potentials. We found that specifying the charge distribution sourcing the single copy and imposing $\nabla_\mu T_\nu^\mu = 0$ fixed these stress-energy tensors. Finally, we find that both the weak and strong energy conditions are never satisfied simultaneously by the stress-energy tensors arising from static spherically symmetric Kerr-Schild metrics with no curvature singularities or horizons. Most sensible matter distributions are expected to satisfy these conditions. It is possible, however, that there are other coordinate systems that display double copy behavior and map E&M solutions to GR ones that satisfy the energy conditions [14].

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