Extended geometry of black holes

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Abstract. Pure Schwarzschild spacetimes can be glued together along the curvature singularities. We present coordinate systems covering regions on both sides of the singularity in which the gluing procedure is described. We show that geodesics can be continued in a natural and unambiguous way across the singularity: the resulting space is complete in the sense that all geodesics can be extended indefinitely, whilst in crossing the singularity the light-cone structure of spacetime is preserved. This extension of Schwarzschild geometry can be interpreted as an infinite covering of standard Kruskal spacetime; the full four-dimensional spacetime we obtain is not a manifold, but has the more general structure of a stratified variety.

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In this paper we present some remarks on the structure of spacetime near singularities in classical, pure Einsteinian general relativity, i.e. the classical field theory for the metric structure defined by the Einstein equations. This theory in itself certainly does not describe all aspects of gravity, especially not at small length scales where quantum corrections should be taken into account. However, for any quantum theory of gravity a good understanding of the classical theory is helpful; in addition, the theory has found important applications both in physics and in mathematics.

In mathematical relativity spacetime is usually assumed (cf. for example, [1]) to be a smooth, connected, inextendable Hausdorff manifold $M$ with a smooth Lorentz metric. (In fact, for geodesics to be uniquely defined, it is only necessary to assume that the metric is $C^2$, i.e. differentiable with locally Lipschitz continuous derivatives.) One definition of inextendability is to require that $M$ cannot be embedded isometrically in a larger Lorentz manifold of the same dimension. There is also the stronger notion of local inextendability [1]: $M$ is called locally inextendable if there is no open set $U$ in $M$ with non-compact closure that has an extension in which the closure of the image of $U$ is compact.

Inextendability is an important requirement coming from physics: an essential aspect of general relativity is that the geometry of spacetime is subject to dynamics. But then it is compulsory to consider an inextendable spacetime manifold: taking an extendable spacetime amounts to stopping dynamics at an arbitrary point. Such arbitrariness affects the validity of any global result.

The geometry of spacetime is usually studied by means of geodesics. From the point of view of physics this involves the idealization of 'test particles' which is certainly debatable. From a mathematical point of view geodesics are a natural tool since they are known to encode most of the geometric information about $M$. Therefore, in this paper, completeness of (time-like) geodesics will be taken as the criterion for inextendability.
The notion of inextendability depends, of course, strongly on the other requirements one imposes on $M$: weakening one of them may imply that a manifold that is inextendable in the original axiomatic setting becomes extendable in the new one. Below we present some arguments which show that requiring $M$ to be a smooth manifold with a smooth metric is too restrictive and that one has to include singularities in the description of spacetime. This, in turn, will allow for the extension of Schwarzschild spacetime we are going to present.

The main mathematical observation behind our results is the fact that spacetimes can be glued together along singularities in such a way as to allow for a natural, unambiguous continuation of geodesics from one region to the other, preserving the light-cone structure; the reason for this is that the solution of a differential equation—in our case the geodesic equation—can be regular, even if the coefficients of this equation, given by the metric and its derivatives, have singular points.

Proposals to extend the Schwarzschild solution beyond the curvature singularity at $r = 0$ have been put forward by other authors [2, 3]. In fact there is a small and—in our opinion undeservedly—little-known tradition in this field; we will therefore also rederive with new tools and in a slightly different perspective some results that are, in principle, not quite new, but are not so well known. Given the renewed interest in extensions of black-hole solutions motivated by string theory and taking into account ‘the resistance to any change in the rules’ [3] we present them in this paper as well.

Compared to previous work, our treatment is simpler both from a conceptual and from a computational point of view. While in [3] similar results have been obtained by embedding Schwarzschild spacetime in a cosmic dust solution, our gluing procedure relies on the existence of coordinate systems for the Schwarzschild solution which cover regions on both sides of the singularity, and allow for an explicit description of the geodesics crossing from one region to the other. We will state carefully the rules for the extension of the geodesics; in particular, we will point out a subtle difference between the two-dimensional reduction of the geometry obtained by suppressing the angular part and the full four-dimensional geometry. This difference implies that in contrast to the two-dimensional reduction where the extension is still a topological manifold—albeit one for which the metric structure is divergent at infinitely many isolated one-dimensional submanifolds—it is necessary in the full four-dimensional geometry to replace the structure of a manifold with the closely related structure of a stratified variety.

In the rest of this paper we first introduce new local coordinates for Schwarzschild spacetime. In these coordinates the geometry near the singularity is first explored by the use of radial geodesics; in a second step non-radial geodesics are also considered. We conclude with a description of the global features of this extension of the Schwarzschild solution.

The Schwarzschild metric is the locally unique solution of the Einstein equations in empty space [4, 5] describing a spherically symmetric gravitational field, static outside the horizon $r_H = 2M$. In terms of the original $(r, t)$ coordinates the solution is singular at the horizon, but other coordinate systems are known, extending the solution smoothly across the horizon all the way up to the curvature singularity at $r = 0$. The most complete description of this kind is the one by Kruskal [6] and Szekeres [7]. This spacetime is not geodesically complete; however, it has the important property that the only obstructions to geodesic completeness are the curvature singularities: all geodesics can be extended indefinitely unless they reach the curvature singularity.

The line element characterizing the Kruskal–Szekeres solution takes the form

$$\frac{ds^2}{4M^2} = f(u, v)(-dv^2 + du^2) + g(u, v)\, d\Omega^2$$

(1)
where \( f(u, v) \) and \( g(u, v) \) are functions of \( u^2 - v^2 \) only, and the connection with the standard Schwarzschild coordinate is

\[
u^2 - v^2 = \left( \frac{r}{2M} - 1 \right) e^{r/2M} \quad \begin{cases} \tanh \frac{t}{4M} & \text{if } |v| < |u| \\ \coth \frac{t}{4M} & \text{if } |v| > |u| \end{cases}
\]

The functions \( f \) and \( g \) are then implicitly defined by

\[
f(u, v) = \frac{8M}{r} e^{-r/2M} \quad g(u, v) = \frac{r^2}{4M^2}.
\]

The spacetime domain covered by this solution of the Einstein equations consists of two physically distinct exterior regions, extending from \( r = \infty \) to the horizon and usually denoted as regions I and III, and two interior regions bounded by the horizon and either the future or the past singularity, known as regions II and IV, respectively [8].

A new coordinate system for the Schwarzschild solution is given for the two regions I and III outside the black-hole horizon \( (r > 2M) \) by the line element

\[
ds^2 = -\tanh^2 \frac{\rho}{2} \, dr^2 + 4M^2 \cosh^4 \frac{\rho}{2} (d\rho^2 + d\Omega^2).
\]

It is easily checked that this is a solution of the matter-free Einstein equations with \( r > 2M \) by performing the transformation to standard \( (r, t) \) coordinates:

\[
\frac{r}{2M} = \cosh^2 \frac{\rho}{2}.
\]

The explicit connection of \( \rho \) with the Kruskal–Szekeres coordinates is

\[
u = e^{1/2 \cosh^2 \rho} \sinh \frac{\rho}{2} \cos \frac{t}{4M} \quad v = e^{1/2 \cosh^2 \rho} \sinh \frac{\rho}{2} \sin \frac{t}{4M}.
\]

In the domain \( \rho = \rho_t > 0 \) this corresponds to \( u > 0 \), and one obtains a cover of region I in the Kruskal–Szekeres diagram. Setting \( \rho = \rho_+ = 0 \), \( \rho_- \) covers the exterior region III, with \( u < 0 \). The double covering of the exterior region \( r > 2M \) in the Kruskal–Szekeres diagram is known to describe two physically distinct sheets of Schwarzschild spacetime.

We observe that the coordinate system (4) can be continued to the interior region of Schwarzschild spacetime by a simple Wick rotation

\[
\rho = \mp i \rho \pm.
\]

The two possible choices for the sign in the Wick rotation correspond to two possible ways of patching regions outside the horizon with \( r > 2M \) to the interior of a black hole, yielding regions I and III, respectively. The line element inside the black-hole horizon \( (r < 2M) \) is then given by

\[
ds^2 = \tan^2 \frac{\rho}{2} \, dt^2 + 4M^2 \cos^4 \frac{\rho}{2} \left( -d\rho^2 + d\Omega^2 \right)
\]

for \( 0 \leq \rho \leq 2\pi \). This shows that after the Wick rotation \( \rho \) becomes a time-like and \( t \) a space-like coordinate, analogously to ordinary Schwarzschild coordinates. Comparing with (5), the connection with the usual \( (r, t) \) coordinates is made by the transformation

\[
\cos^2 \frac{\rho}{2} = \frac{r}{2M}.
\]

Clearly, this provides a double-valued parametrization of the interior region containing the singularity \( r = 0 \), or \( \rho = \pi \): every value \( r > 0 \) corresponds to two distinct values of \( \rho \) in
the domain \([0, 2\pi]\). This double-valuedness holds both near the past and the future horizon, as follows from the transformation to Kruskal–Szekeres coordinates

\[
u = e^{1/2 \cos^2(\rho/2)} \sin \frac{\rho}{2} \sinh \frac{t}{4M}, \quad \rho = e^{1/2 \cos^2(\rho/2)} \sin \frac{\rho}{2} \cosh \frac{t}{4M}.
\]

(10)

In order to interpret the double covering of the region inside the horizon by our solution, we are going to investigate time-like geodesics. For simplicity, let us start with incoming radial geodesics; they are solutions of the equation

\[
\frac{d\rho}{dt} = \frac{-\sin(\rho/2)}{2M \cos^4(\rho/2)}
\]

from which we deduce the following expression for the proper time measured by an infalling test particle:

\[
d\tau = 2M \cos^2 \frac{\rho}{2} \sin \frac{\rho}{2} d\rho
\]

(12)

with \(\tau\) increasing as \(\rho\) increases from 0 at the horizon to \(\pi\) at the singularity.

Now moving on to values \(\rho > \pi\) and increasing \(\tau\) according to (12) we see that the particle moves away from the singularity as its proper time increases, and the region of \((u, v)\) space we are in contains a past singularity; hence it is physically distinct from the region before the encounter with the infinite curvature singularity. The double-valuedness thus allows one to connect the interior of the original Schwarzschild spacetime at the curvature singularity to a new region, which can be interpreted as the inner region of the white hole of a new Schwarzschild spacetime. We will discuss the global features of such an extended spacetime in more detail below.

We emphasize that we are not extending the \(r\)-coordinate to negative values, nor the Kruskal–Szekeres coordinates to \(v^2 - u^2 > 1\). Rather, we glue a new, physically distinct, region of positive \(r\)-values to spacetime, which can be reached only by passing the curvature singularity.

In the following, we show that this gluing can be done without running into physical paradoxes. It follows from (12) that two points on a geodesic separated by the singularity are only a finite interval of proper time apart \([2]:

\[
\int_{\rho = \pi - \epsilon}^{\rho = \pi + \epsilon} d\tau = \frac{8M}{3} \cos^3 \left( \frac{\pi - \epsilon}{2} \right) \approx \frac{M}{3} \epsilon^3.
\]

(13)

We also observe that the geodesic is smooth everywhere in the sense that the velocity as measured in the Kruskal–Szekeres coordinates is finite and continuous, even when the proper velocity and acceleration become momentarily infinite, and that the light-cone structure is preserved upon crossing the singularity.

In support of these statements, we consider a system of test particles falling in radially from rest at any point \(0 < r_0 < \infty\). To construct the corresponding geodesics it is most convenient to introduce a collection of coordinate systems \((\kappa, t, \Omega)\) parametrized by a variable \(\kappa_H\) of the form

\[
d\xi^2 = -\frac{\kappa^2 - \kappa_H^2}{(1 + \kappa_H)^2 \kappa^2} dt^2 + 4M^2 \frac{(1 + \kappa^2)^2 \kappa^4}{\kappa_H^2} \left[ \frac{1 + \kappa_H^2}{(1 + \kappa^2)^2} \frac{4 \kappa^2}{\kappa^2 - \kappa_H^2} + d\Omega^2 \right].
\]

(14)

These coordinate systems describe Schwarzschild spacetime for \(r < r_0\) via the transformation

\[
\frac{r}{2M} = \frac{r_0}{2M} \frac{\kappa^2}{1 + \kappa^2}
\]

(15)
with \( r_0 \) related to the parameter \( \kappa_H \), the value of \( \kappa \) at the horizon, by

\[
\frac{r_0}{2M} = \frac{1 + \kappa^2_H}{\kappa^2_H}.
\]  

(16)

Just like the \((\rho, t)\) coordinate system, the \((\kappa, t)\) coordinate systems represent a double cover of the domain \( 0 < r < r_0 \), and, in fact, extend into the new region of spacetime beyond the singularity. In terms of \( \kappa \) the equation for radial geodesics becomes

\[
\frac{1}{4M} \frac{dt}{d\kappa} = \frac{(1 + \kappa^2_H)^2}{\kappa^3_H} \frac{\kappa^4}{(1 + \kappa^2_H)^2 (\kappa^2_H - \kappa^2)}.
\]  

(17)

For \( \kappa < \kappa_H \) this has the solution

\[
\frac{t - t_0}{4M} = \tanh^{-1} \frac{\kappa}{\kappa_H} - \left( \frac{1 + 3\kappa^2_H}{2\kappa^3_H} \right) \tan^{-1} \frac{\kappa}{2 \kappa_H} \frac{\kappa}{1 + \kappa^2}.
\]  

(18)

It follows that the horizon at \( t \to \infty \) is crossed at \( \kappa = \kappa_H \), whilst the geodesic reaches the singularity \( \kappa = 0 \) at \( t = t_0 \). Inside the horizon the velocity of the test particle in the Kruskal–Szekeres coordinate system is found to be

\[
\frac{du}{dv} = \tanh \left[ \frac{t_0}{4M} - \left( \frac{1 + 3\kappa^2_H}{2\kappa^3_H} \right) \tan^{-1} \frac{\kappa}{2 \kappa_H} \frac{\kappa}{1 + \kappa^2} \right].
\]  

(19)

Therefore \( |du/dv| < 1 \) at all times, both for \( \kappa > 0 \) (before reaching the singularity) and for \( \kappa < 0 \) (after traversing the singularity). On the other hand, null geodesics (light rays) correspond to straight lines

\[
\frac{du}{dv} = \pm 1.
\]  

(20)

It follows that time-like geodesics also remain time-like in the region of spacetime corresponding to \( \kappa < 0 \). Equation (19) proves the above assertion regarding the finiteness and continuity of the velocity in the \((u, v)\) coordinate system for all values of \( \kappa \).

So far we have only considered radial geodesics; our results show that the two-dimensional geometry obtained by suppressing the angular degrees of freedom looks as follows: we obtain an infinite sequence of (two-dimensional reductions of) Kruskal–Szekeres spacetimes as depicted in figure 1 which forms a smooth topological manifold. However, the metric structure of this manifold diverges along infinitely many one-dimensional submanifolds, marked by full curves in figure 1. It can also be shown that the black-hole solution for two-dimensional dilaton gravity can be extended similarly [9].

In a second step we are going to explore the extension of the angular coordinates \( \varphi \) and \( \theta \); let us therefore now look at non-radial geodesics. It is crucial to remark that angular momentum is a conserved quantity in our problem. Using this, we can choose \( \theta = \pi/2 = \text{constant} \) on both sheets. Chosing this constant to be the same amounts to imposing the conservation law for angular momentum across the singularity.

In addition, we have the conserved quantity

\[
L = \cos^4 \frac{\rho}{2} \frac{d\varphi}{d\tau},
\]  

(21)

which allows us to derive, for geodesics with non-vanishing angular momentum, a relation between \( \rho \) and \( \varphi \) that can be integrated across the singularity.

For geodesics in the equatorial plane entering from infinity we obtain

\[
\left( \frac{d\rho}{d\tau} \right)^2 = 1 + \frac{4M^2 \cos^4(\rho/2)}{L^2 \sin^2(\rho/2)}.
\]  

(22)
which is finite in a neighbourhood of the singularity and becomes 1 in the limit $\rho \to \pi$. This implies the existence of a non-singular relation $\rho = \rho(\varphi)$, so that $\varphi$ can be integrated to a smooth function of proper time. For geodesics entering from a finite distance, an analogous argument goes through as well. However, the equations become more complicated and we refrain from presenting them in detail.

The singularity can thus be interpreted as a single point on time-like geodesics at which the proper acceleration becomes momentarily infinite, as in the case of a test charge moving through the Coulomb singularity of a fixed charge of opposite sign. Just as in the electric analogue, a conservation law, the conservation of energy–momentum on geodesics, guarantees that in the absence of a hard (delta-function) core in the potential the particle continues its worldline after moving through the singular point, with finite velocity.

From this analogy, one might speculate that some of these features might survive in a quantum theory, where it is well known that singularities like the Coulomb singularity do not exclude the existence of well behaved, normalizable particle wavefunctions. Further support for this conjecture comes from recent work on two-dimensional black-hole models emerging from string theory, which are described by gauged Wess–Zumino–Witten sigma models \cite{10,11}. These theories also exhibit a pattern of geodesic continuation of spacetime to new regions. Our results show that in purely classical gravity such spacetime extensions already occur, even in the presence of curvature singularities.

Observing that in the new region of spacetime there is a past singularity, it follows that eventually the geodesics reach another event horizon, where (8) can again be continued to an exterior region with a metric structure of type (4), but this time the Wick rotation is made around the point $2\pi$, rather than $\rho = 0$. Gluing together these solutions in a new Kruskal–Szekeres coordinate system, one encounters a new future singularity, and the construction described here can be repeated indefinitely, both in the forward and backward directions of proper time. This is particularly clear if one follows one of the geodesics starting from rest at a finite distance $r_0$, as described by (18); passing through the singularity at $r = 0$ it again reaches a maximal distance $r_0$ in the new sheet of spacetime, then falls back in until it reaches the next singularity, etc. In order to avoid problems with causality due to closed time-like loops we cannot identify the new regions with any earlier ones, a procedure which would result in a covering of spacetime by a finite number of Kruskal–Szekeres spacetimes. We are thus forced to consider an infinite covering.

We are now in a position to describe the global geometric features of this extension of
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Schwarzschild spacetime: it consists of an infinite sequence of Kruskal–Szekeres domains, connected along lines of infinite curvature. This geometrical object is not a manifold any more, but rather a stratified variety; by definition, a stratified variety is a connected topological space which can be represented as the disjoint sum of manifolds which can have different dimensions. The manifolds that make up this variety are referred to as strata. A simple example of a stratified variety is a double cone: it has a two-dimensional stratum consisting of two parts that are isomorphic separately to an infinitely long cylinder, and a zero-dimensional stratum, the tip of the cone.

In our case there are two strata: a four-dimensional one consisting of a disjoint sum of countably many Kruskal–Szekeres spacetimes, and a one-dimensional stratum which consists of the singular lines (marked by the bold lines in figure 1). In fact, there is a two-dimensional sphere of radius $r$ attached to any point of the Kruskal diagram which degenerates at the singularity $r = 0$, the one-dimensional stratum. The strata are glued together such that spacetime as a whole is connected; as we have seen, any time-like geodesic can be continued naturally through the singular stratum. This again has an analogue for the cone (supplied with the flat metric on it): there are two types of geodesics on a cone, curves that could be described as slightly curved hyperbolae and straight lines through the tip. The latter can be extended smoothly to the second sheet of the cone. However, in contrast to Schwarzschild spacetime, only these radial geodesics cross the singularity.

In the stratified variety we propose as the extension of Schwarzschild spacetime that all geodesics can be continued indefinitely in a unique way, including those that reach the curvature singularity; therefore, the resulting spacetime is geodesically complete and should be seen as the truly inextendable spacetime underlying Schwarzschild geometry.

References