#### UNRUH MEETS LARMOR: ACCELERATION, RADIATION, AND THE SURPRISING ROLE OF ZERO-ENERGY RINDLER MODES

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FAPESP



Acceleration and radiation:

→Uniformly accelerated charge radiates (w.r.t. inertial observers) with power  $P = \frac{2e^2a^2}{3c^3}$  (Larmor, 1897)

Uniformly accelerated charge [proper acceleration a]

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Uniformly accelerated charge [proper acceleration a] Acceleration and radiation:

- →Uniformly accelerated charge radiates (w.r.t. inertial observers) with power  $P = \frac{2e^2a^2}{3c^3}$  (Larmor, 1897)
- Radiation concept is observer-dependent: coaccelerating observers see no acceleration (Rohrlich, 1961 and Boulware, 1980)

## The Unruh Effect

Bíll Unruh, "Notes on black hole evaporation", Phys. Rev. D, 14, 870 (1976).



Uniformly accelerating observers in Minkowski vacuum experience a thermal bath of elementary particles at a temperature proportional to their proper acceleration.



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Event Horizon Accelerating  $T_{\rm U} = \frac{\hbar a}{2\pi c k_{\rm B}} = a/(10^{21} cm/s^2) K$ Unruh Nacuum

The Unruh effect vindicated Fulling's previous discovery that the particle concept in QFT is observer dependent.

Steve Fulling, "Nonuniqueness canonical field quantization in Riemannian spacetime", Phys. Rev. D, 7, 2850 (1973).



# The Unruh Effect

Bíll Unruh, "Notes on black hole evaporation", Phys. Rev. D, 14, 870 (1976).









Híguchí, Matsas, and Sudarsky, PRD 46 3450 (1992)

# Uniformly Accelerated Frame



Híguchí, Matsas, and Sudarsky, PRD 46 3450 (1992)





Accelerated Frame

Inertial Frame











Inertial Frame



 $\boldsymbol{a}$ 

a





Bill Unruh and Bob Wald, "What happens when an accelerating observer detects a Rindler particle", Phys. Rev. D 29, 1047 (1984).





Híguchí, Matsas, and Sudarsky, PRD 46 3450 (1992)







$$\frac{d\Gamma^{em+abs}}{d^2\mathbf{k}_{\perp}} = \frac{q^2}{4\pi^3 a} |K_1(k_{\perp}/a)|^2$$

PRL 118, 161102 (2017) PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 21 APRIL 2017

#### Proposal for Observing the Unruh Effect using Classical Electrodynamics

 Gabriel Cozzella,<sup>1,\*</sup> André G. S. Landulfo,<sup>2,†</sup> George E. A. Matsas,<sup>3,‡</sup> and Daniel A. T. Vanzella<sup>4,3</sup>
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#### **Accelerated Observer**



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**Accelerated Observer** 





and predicts what an inertial experimentalist should observe



Accelerated Observer Unruh thermal bath Accelerated observer assumes the existence of the Unruh thermal bath

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spectral-angular distribution (from classical electrodynamics)

$$I(\omega, \theta, \phi) \equiv \frac{d\mathcal{E}(\omega, \theta, \phi)}{d\omega \, d(\cos \theta) \, d\phi}$$



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 $I(\omega,\theta,\phi) \underset{\varepsilon=\hbar\omega}{\rightarrow} \frac{1}{\Delta\tau_R} \frac{dN_{k\perp}^M}{dk_{\perp}}$ 



Acceleration, radiation, and the Unruh effect— Two puzzling aspects:

Uniformly accelerated charge [proper acceleration a]



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➡The Unruh effect is a strictly quantum effect while Larmor radiation is a classical one



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The crucial role played by zero-energy Rindler photons in this context

Landulfo, Fulling, and Matsas, PRD 100 042020 (2019)



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The crucial role played by zero-energy Rindler photons in this context







$$\begin{cases} v_{\omega \mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{R} = e^{-i\omega\tau} F_{\omega \mathbf{k}_{\perp}}(\xi, \mathbf{x}_{\perp}) & I \\ 0 & II \end{cases}$$



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Unruh Modes (positive-frequency wrt the inertial time t)

$$w_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{1} \equiv \frac{v_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{R} + e^{-\pi\omega/a} v_{\omega-\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{L*}}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-2\pi\omega/a}}}, \qquad w_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{2} \equiv \frac{v_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{L} + e^{-\pi\omega/a} v_{\omega-\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{R*}}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-2\pi\omega/a}}}$$










In the asymptotic future  $(\Sigma_+)$ 

$$Ej = -\sum_{\sigma=1}^{2} \int_{0}^{\infty} d\omega \int d^{2}\mathbf{k}_{\perp} \langle w_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{\sigma}, Ej \rangle_{{}_{\mathrm{KG}}} w_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{\sigma} + \mathrm{H.c.},$$
  
 $Ej = Aj - Rj$ 



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 $Ej = Aj - Rj$ 

The coefficients can be written in terms of a spacetime integral

$$\langle w^1_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}, Ej \rangle_{\mathrm{KG}} = \frac{i}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-2\pi\omega/a}}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} d^4x \sqrt{-g} v^{R^*}_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}(x) j(x)$$

$$\langle w_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{2}, Ej \rangle_{\mathrm{KG}} = \frac{ie^{-\pi\omega/a}}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-2\pi\omega/a}}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{4}} d^{4}x \sqrt{-g} v_{\omega-\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{R}(x) j(x)$$



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And computed exactly yielding

$$\langle w_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{1}, Ej \rangle_{\mathrm{KG}} = \frac{2iq}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-2\pi\omega/a}}} F_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{*}(0) \frac{\sin\omega T}{\omega}$$
$$\langle w_{\omega\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{2}, Ej \rangle_{\mathrm{KG}} = \frac{2iqe^{-\pi\omega/a}}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-2\pi\omega/a}}} F_{\omega-\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}(0) \frac{\sin\omega T}{\omega}$$

$$\frac{iqK_0(k_{\perp}/a)}{\sqrt{2\pi^2 a}}\delta(\omega)$$

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 $\mathcal{J}^+$ 

 $\mathcal{J}^{ ext{-}}$ 



 $J^+(\text{supp } j)$ 

 $\Sigma_+$ 

 $J^{-}(\text{supp } j)$ 

R

L

 $\mathcal{J}^+$ 

 $\mathcal{J}^{-}$ 



Only zero-energy Unruh modes contribute to the classical radiation seen by inertial observers in the asymptotic future.

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Only zero-energy Unruh modes contribute to the classical radiation seen by inertial observers in the asymptotic future.

The expansion amplitudes are built entirely from zero-energy Rindler modes in the right wedge



$$Rj = -\frac{iq}{\sqrt{2\pi^2 a}} \int d^2 \mathbf{k}_{\perp} K_0(k_{\perp}/a) w_{0\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^2 + H.c.$$



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In the future (F) region

$$w_{\omega \mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{2} = -i \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}_{\perp} \cdot \mathbf{x}_{\perp} + i\omega\zeta}}{\sqrt{32\pi^{2}a}} e^{\pi\omega/2a} H_{i\omega/a}^{(2)} \left(k_{\perp} e^{a\eta}/a\right),$$



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From which, we can cast Rj as

$$Rj = \frac{-q}{4\pi\rho_0(x)}$$



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$$\rho_0(x) \equiv \frac{a}{2} \sqrt{\left(-x^\mu x_\mu + a^{-2}\right)^2 + 4(t^2 - z^2)/a^2}$$



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Retarded solution obtained by the usual Green function method of classical (scalar) electrodynamics





From the classical Photon Number (on  $\Sigma_+$ )

$$N_M \equiv \left< Rj^+, Rj^+ \right>_{\rm KG}$$



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yíelds

$$\frac{N_M}{T_{\rm tot}} = \frac{q^2 a}{4\pi^2}$$

 $Rj^+$  (inertial) positive-frequency part of Rj



Exactly the result obtained using tree-level QFT [Ren and Weinberg PRD 49, 6526,1994]



$$\Sigma_{t_0}$$

$$\nabla^a \nabla_a \hat{\phi} = j$$



$$\hat{\phi}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_{\text{ret}}(t, \mathbf{x})\hat{I} + \hat{\phi}_{\text{in}}(t, \mathbf{x}),$$

$$\nabla^a \nabla_a \hat{\phi} = j$$



 $\hat{\phi}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_{\text{ret}}(t, \mathbf{x})\hat{I} + \hat{\phi}_{\text{in}}(t, \mathbf{x}),$   $\downarrow$ classical retarded solution

$$\nabla^a \nabla_a \hat{\phi} = j$$



free scalar field  $\hat{\phi}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_{\text{ret}}(t, \mathbf{x})\hat{I} + \hat{\phi}_{\text{in}}(t, \mathbf{x}),$   $\mathbf{k}$ classical retarded solution

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free scalar field  

$$\hat{\phi}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_{\text{ret}}(t, \mathbf{x})\hat{I} + \hat{\phi}_{\text{in}}(t, \mathbf{x}),$$

$$\downarrow$$
classical retarded solution

$$\hat{\phi}_{\rm in}(t,\mathbf{x}) \equiv \sum_{j} \left[ u_j(t,\mathbf{x})\hat{a}_{\rm in}(u_j^*) + u_j^*(t,\mathbf{x})\hat{a}_{\rm in}^{\dagger}(u_j) \right]$$

$$\nabla^a \nabla_a \hat{\phi} = j$$



free scalar field  

$$\hat{\phi}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_{\text{ret}}(t, \mathbf{x})\hat{I} + \hat{\phi}_{\text{in}}(t, \mathbf{x}),$$

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Mínkowskí mode

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positive-frequency Minkowski mode

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$$\hat{a}_{\rm in}(u_j^*)|0_{\rm in}^M\rangle = 0$$



free scalar field  

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positive-frequency
Minkowski mode

$$\nabla^a \nabla_a \hat{\phi} = j$$

$$\hat{a}_{\mathrm{in}}(u_j^*)|0_{\mathrm{in}}^M\rangle = 0$$
vacuum state for inertial observers in the asymptotic



$$\nabla^a \nabla_a \hat{\phi} = j$$



 $\hat{\phi}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_{\text{adv}}(t, \mathbf{x})\hat{I} + \hat{\phi}_{\text{out}}(t, \mathbf{x})$ 

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free scalar field  $\hat{\phi}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_{\text{adv}}(t, \mathbf{x})\hat{I} + \hat{\phi}_{\text{out}}(t, \mathbf{x})$   $\downarrow$ classical advanced solution

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free scalar field

$$= j \qquad \qquad \hat{a}_{\rm out}(v_j^*) |0_{\rm out}^M\rangle = 0$$



free scalar field  

$$\hat{\phi}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_{adv}(t, \mathbf{x})\hat{I} + \hat{\phi}_{out}(t, \mathbf{x})$$

$$\downarrow$$
classical advanced solution

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$$positive\text{-frequency}$$
Minkowski mode

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$$\hat{a}_{\text{out}}(v_j^*)|0_{\text{out}}^M\rangle = 0$$

$$\downarrow$$
vacuum state for inertial
observers in the asymptotic



$$|0_{\rm in}^M\rangle \qquad \hat{S}\hat{\phi}_{\rm out}\hat{S}^{\dagger} = \hat{\phi}_{\rm in}.$$



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$$\hat{S} = \exp\left[-i\int d^4x\sqrt{-g}\;\hat{\phi}_{\rm out}(x)j(x)\right]$$

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 $\hat{S} = \exp\left[-i \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \,\hat{\phi}_{\rm out}(x) j(x)\right]$ 

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$$\hat{S} = \exp\left[-i\int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \ \hat{\phi}_{\rm out}(x)j(x)\right]$$

$$\hat{S} = \exp\left[\hat{a}_{\text{out}}\left(KEj^*\right) - \hat{a}_{\text{out}}^{\dagger}\left(KEj\right)\right]$$

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$$KEj \equiv \sum_{\sigma} \int_0^\infty d\omega \int d^2 \mathbf{k}_\perp \langle w^{\sigma}_{\omega \mathbf{k}_\perp}, Ej \rangle_{\rm KG} w^{\sigma}_{\omega \mathbf{k}_\perp}$$



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$$|0_{\rm in}^M\rangle = e^{-\|KEj\|^2/2} e^{-\hat{a}_{\rm out}^{\dagger}(KEj)} |0_{\rm out}^M\rangle,$$



 $|0_{\rm in}^M\rangle \qquad \hat{S}\hat{\phi}_{\rm out}\hat{S}^{\dagger} = \hat{\phi}_{\rm in}.$ 



$$|0_{\rm in}^M\rangle \qquad \hat{S}\hat{\phi}_{\rm out}\hat{S}^{\dagger} = \hat{\phi}_{\rm in}.$$



 $|0_{\rm in}^M\rangle \qquad \hat{S}\hat{\phi}_{\rm out}\hat{S}^\dagger = \hat{\phi}_{\rm in}.$ 







$$\exp\left[-\frac{T_{\text{tot}}q^{2}a}{(4\pi^{2})}\right]\bigotimes_{\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}\exp\left[\frac{iqK_{0}(k_{\perp}/a)}{\sqrt{2\pi^{2}a}}\hat{a}_{\text{out}}^{\dagger}\left(w_{0\mathbf{k}_{\perp}}^{2}\right)\right]|0_{\text{out}}^{M}\rangle,$$

$$\text{coherent state}$$

$$Classical Particle Number$$

$$\frac{\langle 0_{\text{in}}^{M}|\hat{N}^{\text{out}}|0_{\text{in}}^{M}\rangle}{T_{\text{tot}}} = \frac{q^{2}a}{4\pi^{2}},$$
Exactly the classical result





(scalar) Larmor formula  $\int dS^b \langle 0^M_{\text{in}} | : \hat{T}^{\text{out}}_{ab} : |0^M_{\text{in}} \rangle (\partial_t)^a = \frac{q^2 a^2}{12\pi}$ 



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➡ We We believe that our results put to rest any doubts questioning the relationship between the Unruh effect and the classical Larmor radiation.