Quantum backreaction for overspinning BTZ geometries

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We examine the semiclassical backreaction of a conformally coupled scalar field on an overspinning (Bañados-Teitelboim-Zanelli) BTZ geometry. This extends the work done on a similar problem for (2 + 1)-anti-de Sitter geometries of the BTZ family with |M| > |J|. The overspinning classical solutions correspond to |M| < |J| and possess a naked singularity at r = 0. Using the renormalized quantum stress-energy tensor for a conformally coupled scalar field on such a spacetime, we obtain the semiclassical Einstein equations, which we attempt to solve perturbatively. We show that the stress-energy tensor is nonrenormalizable in this approach, and consequently the perturbative solution to the semiclassical equations in the overspinning case does not exist. This could be an indication of the fact that the naked singularity at the center of an overspinning geometry is of a more severe nature than the conical singularity found in the same family of BTZ geometries.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Since the dawn of general relativity, many black hole solutions to Einstein's field equations have been found. All these black holes contain a spacetime singularity hidden by an event horizon. However, for some range of values of the integration constants (mass M, angular momentum J, electric charge Q) these solutions have no event horizon. Although paradoxical, these naked singularities are exact solutions to the classical equations of general relativity as well. In the vicinity of a naked singularity causality and other physical laws can be arbitrarily violated, which is why Roger Penrose suggested the existence of a (weak) cosmic censorship principle in nature [1], requiring singularities to be hidden behind an event horizon. In that case, an outside observer would be causally disconnected from the singularity.

Classically, naked singularities cannot be ruled out on mathematical grounds, and it is difficult to prove that every possible collapse process leads to the formation of an event horizon. The fact that so far no naked singularities have been observed in the Universe may be interpreted as an indication that, in the strong gravity regime near a

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The accumulation of experiments and observations that confirm the predictions of general relativity puts very tight constraints on possible theories incorporating both general relativity and quantum theory. Since both theories are so well established in their regimes, it is sensible to look for a common area where a semiclassical approach could be used to obtain a better understanding of the issues at hand. Calculating quantum effects on a curved background spacetime is notoriously difficult, but in (2 + 1)dimensional anti–de Sitter (AdS) spacetime this problem becomes significantly simpler and still provides meaningful information to learn from.

The Bañados-Teitelboim-Zanelli (BTZ) black hole in (2 + 1)-dimensional AdS spacetime [2,3], obtained for $M \ge |J|$ are particularly interesting geometries in this respect, but these are not the only solutions of physical interest in this theory and with the same global symmetries. Locally constant curvature 2 + 1 spacetimes include, besides the BTZ black hole family, the self-dual Coussaert-Henneaux spacetimes [4], and the toroidal time-dependent geometries [5], with global isometry groups $SO(2) \times \mathbb{R}$ $SO(2) \times SO(2, 1)$ and $SO(2) \times SO(2)$, respectively.

Recently, the quantum back reaction on the classical singularities was studied for several geometries, including static, rotating, and extremal BTZ black holes, as well as for static and rotating conical naked singularities [6–9]. The naked singularities considered in these papers are continuations of the BTZ spacetime to the case of negative

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mass [10]. The interesting aspect of this result is that the quantum fluctuations of a conformally coupled scalar field generate a nonvanishing stress energy-momentum tensor that through Einstein's equations produces a back-reacted geometry with a horizon of order Planck length in radius. This dressing up of the naked singularity, turning it into a black hole, could be viewed as a mechanism that implements cosmic censorship. These results have also been confirmed by an alternative holographic approach in [11].

Here we are concerned with the overspinning BTZ spacetime, which occurs if the absolute value of the angular momentum is greater than that of the mass. This geometry is also endowed with a naked singularity at r = 0, as in the case of the conical singularity obtained for $M \leq -|J|$.

We show that the stress-energy tensor contains incurable divergences, making the perturbative ansatz to the semiclassical equations of motion ill defined. While the equations of motion can still be formally integrated, the first order corrections to the metric functions would become large, further demonstrating the inapplicability of a perturbative approach to this type of geometry. This strongly suggests that the naked singularity of an overspinning geometry is of a more severe nature than the conical singularities appearing in the other BTZ geometries so that they cannot be cured by a perturbative quantum censor.

II. OVERSPINNING BTZ SPACETIME

The rotating BTZ metric [2,3], is given by

$$ds^{2} = -\left(\frac{r^{2}}{l^{2}} - M\right) dt^{2} - J dt d\theta + \left(\frac{r^{2}}{l^{2}} - M + \frac{J^{2}}{4r^{2}}\right)^{-1} dr^{2} + r^{2} d\theta^{2}, \qquad (1)$$

where the coordinate ranges are $-\infty < t < \infty$, $0 < r < \infty$, and $0 \le \theta < 2\pi$; $\Lambda = -l^{-2}$ is the cosmological constant; and *M* and *J* are mass and angular momentum respectively. This metric describes different spacetimes that can be classified by the values of *M* and *J* which determine the nature of the four roots of the equation $g^{rr} = 0$,

$$\lambda_{\pm} = \frac{l}{2} \left[\sqrt{M + \frac{J}{l}} \pm \sqrt{M - \frac{J}{l}} \right].$$
 (2)

These roots are real for $M \ge |J|/l$ (black holes) and take complex values for M < |J|/l (naked singularities). The full classification is explained in detail in [2], but here we will consider the so-called overspinning geometry (|M|l < |J|). This geometry was examined in [12] through the study of classical geodesics around it. In particular, we will analyze the back reaction of the geometry to the presence of a conformally coupled quantum scalar field, following the steps in [6–9], where the back reaction for conical naked singularities in the parameter range $M \le -|J|$ was studied. The strategy followed in those references is quite straightforward:

- (a) The back-reacted metric due to the presence of a quantum field can be found solving the Einstein equations sourced by the renormalized stress-energy tensor (RSET) $\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle$.
- (b) The first correction to the classical solution corresponds to the quantum fluctuation around the vacuum of the scalar field, which can be expressed in terms of the Green/two-point function (cf., (19) below) [13].
- (c) Since the BTZ geometries are quotients of a constant negative curvature 2+1 spacetime by appropriate Killing vector fields [2,12], the Green's function for a quantum scalar field can be found by the method of images from the Green function in the universal covering of anti-de Sitter space-time (CAdS₃), as proposed in [14].
- (d) The Green function of a conformally coupled field can be obtained by a conformal transformation from that in flat space; the two-point function is completely determined by the cordal distance $\sigma(x, x')$.

The only critical step in the construction is the convergence of the sum over distinct images needed for the RSET.

The starting point of the analysis is the observation that the BTZ spacetimes (1) are quotients of $CAdS_3$ by the appropriate Killing vector. The constant negative curvature spacetime AdS_3 is defined by a pseudosphere of radius *l* embedded in $\mathbb{R}^{(2,2)}$ as

$$\eta_{AB}X^{A}X^{B} = -(X^{0})^{2} + (X^{1})^{2} + (X^{2})^{2} - (X^{3})^{2} = -l^{2}.$$
 (3)

The metric reads as

$$\eta_{AB} dX^A dX^B = -(dX^0)^2 + (dX^1)^2 + (dX^2)^2 - (dX^3)^2, \quad (4)$$

where the embedding coordinates X^A must be specified as functions of (t, r, θ) . As shown in [12], the overspinning geometry (1) with |M| < |J| corresponds to embedding coordinates given by

$$X^{0} = \frac{l}{2}\sqrt{A+1}\cosh\left[a(t/l-\theta)\right]\{\cos[b(\theta+t/l)] - \sin\left[b(\theta+t/l)\right]\} + \epsilon \frac{l}{2}\sqrt{A-1}\sinh\left[a(t/l-\theta)\right]\{\sin[b(\theta+t/l)] + \cos\left[b(\theta+t/l)\right]\},$$
(5)

$$X^{1} = \frac{l}{2}\sqrt{A+1}\sinh[a(t/l-\theta)]\{\cos[b(\theta+t/l)] - \sin[b(\theta+t/l)]\} + \epsilon \frac{l}{2}\sqrt{A-1}\cosh[a(t/l-\theta)]\{\sin[b(\theta+t/l)] + \cos[b(\theta+t/l)]\},$$
(6)

$$X^{2} = \frac{l}{2}\sqrt{A+1}\sinh[a(t/l-\theta)]\{\sin[b(\theta+t/l)] + \cos[b(\theta+t/l)]\} - e\frac{l}{2}\sqrt{A-1}\cosh[a(t/l-\theta)]\{\cos[b(\theta+t/l)] - \sin[b(\theta+t/l)]\},$$
(7)

$$X^{3} = \frac{l}{2}\sqrt{A+1}\cosh\left[a(t/l-\theta)\right]\{\sin\left[b(\theta+t/l)\right] + \cos\left[b(\theta+t/l)\right]\} - e\frac{l}{2}\sqrt{A-1}\sinh\left[a(t/l-\theta)\right]\{\cos\left[b(\theta+t/l)\right] - \sin\left[b(\theta+t/l)\right]\},$$
(8)

where

$$a = \frac{\sqrt{|J|/l + M}}{2}, \qquad b = \frac{\sqrt{|J|/l - M}}{2}, \qquad A = \frac{2\sqrt{\frac{J^2}{4} + \frac{r^4}{l^2} - Mr^2}}{\sqrt{J^2 - l^2M^2}}, \tag{9}$$

with $\epsilon = \text{sign}(M - r^2/l^2)$. Note that both cases ($\epsilon = \pm 1$) lead to the same RSET, and hence to the same end results.¹

The overspinning BTZ spacetime is now obtained through identifications generated by a Killing field ξ [2]. In the overspinning case the corresponding Killing vector is given by

$$\xi = -a(J_{01} - J_{23}) + b(J_{03} - J_{12}) \tag{10}$$

(see Ref. [12] for details). This can also be written as $\xi = \frac{1}{2} \omega^{AB} J_{AB}$, where the antisymmetric matrix ω^{AB} characterizes the identification. The Killing field in matrix form reads as

$$\xi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -a & 0 & -b \\ -a & 0 & -b & 0 \\ 0 & b & 0 & -a \\ b & 0 & -a & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (11)

The identification in the embedding space $\mathbb{R}^{(2,2)}$ under the action of the Killing field is a mapping defined by the matrix, $H(\xi) = e^{2\pi\xi}$, which takes the form

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} C(a)c(b) & -S(a)c(b) & S(a)s(b) & -C(a)s(b) \\ -S(a)c(b) & C(a)c(b) & -C(a)s(b) & S(a)s(b) \\ -S(a)s(b) & C(a)s(b) & C(a)c(b) & -S(a)c(b) \\ C(a)s(b) & -S(a)s(b) & -S(a)c(b) & C(a)c(b) \end{pmatrix},$$
(12)

where $C(a) \equiv \cosh(2\pi a)$, $S(a) \equiv \sinh(2\pi a)$, $c(b) \equiv \cos(2\pi b)$, and $s(b) \equiv \sin(2\pi b)$.

An important feature of the Killing vector (10) is that the boost and rotation generators $K \equiv J_{01} - J_{23}$ and $J \equiv J_{03} - J_{12}$ commute, [K, J] = 0. Consequently, $H = e^{2\pi\xi}$ can be factored as $H = H_a \cdot H_b = H_b \cdot H_a$, where $H_a = H|_{b=0}$ and $H_b = H|_{a=0}$. Iterating the identification by H is equivalent to acting with

$$H^{n} = \begin{pmatrix} C(na)c(nb) & -S(na)c(nb) & S(na)s(nb) & -C(na)s(nb) \\ -S(na)c(nb) & C(na)c(nb) & -C(na)s(nb) & S(na)s(nb) \\ -S(na)s(nb) & C(na)s(nb) & C(na)c(nb) & -S(na)c(nb) \\ C(na)s(nb) & -S(na)s(nb) & -S(na)c(nb) & C(na)c(nb) \end{pmatrix} = H^{n}_{a} \cdot H^{n}_{b}.$$
(13)

¹Without loss of generality, we will assume J > 0 for the rest of this work.

Quotienting a manifold by a rotation Killing vector requires the identification angle to be a rational fraction of 2π . Otherwise, each point is identified with infinitely many images which densely cover a circle, and the resulting image set would not be a smooth manifold [9]. This means that the coefficient *b* in (10) must be rational, namely,

$$b = k/m, \tag{14}$$

with *k*, *m* relative primes. No restrictions are necessary for *a*, as boosts act transitively in a noncompact manner. Note that the *m*th iteration produces a pure boost (and a rotation by $2k\pi$, which is equivalent to the identity, $H_b^m = 1$). In fact, we can treat the rotated plane and the boosted plane separately by splitting the identification matrix as follows: consider writing n = qm + p, where $p \in \{0, 1, ..., m - 1\}$, $q \in \{0, 1, ..., \infty\}$, and *m* is some positive integer.

Hence, the powers of $H = H_a \cdot H_b$ can be arranged as follows:

Here each column corresponds to a fixed p and includes infinitely many boosts, while each row has a fixed qcomprising a finite set of rotations. In this pattern, an interesting observation becomes apparent. First note that H_a is precisely the identification matrix of the rotating nonextremal BTZ black hole, and H_b the identification matrix of the rotating nonextremal naked singularity [9]. Now, using trigonometric identities, one can write in general, as can be seen in (15),

$$H^{qm+p} = H^{qm}_{a} H^{p}_{a} H^{p}_{b} = H^{q}_{a \cdot m} H^{p}_{a} H^{p}_{b}, \qquad (16)$$

so that the *p*th column reads as

$$H^{p}_{a}H^{p}_{b}\{\mathbb{1}, H^{1}_{a \cdot m}, H^{2}_{a \cdot m}, H^{3}_{a \cdot m}, \cdots\}.$$
 (17)

Or in other words, each column contains the powers of the identification matrix associated with the rotating nonex-tremal black hole, multiplied by some constant.

III. RENORMALIZED STRESS-ENERGY TENSOR

To describe the quantum effects on the spacetime geometry, in particular the backreaction of the naked singularity to the presence of a quantum field, we consider the semiclassical Einstein equations

$$G_{\mu\nu} - l^{-2}g_{\mu\nu} = \kappa \langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle, \qquad (18)$$

where $\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle$ is the renormalized expectation value of the RSET for a conformally coupled scalar field [6–9],

$$\kappa \langle T_{\mu\nu}(x) \rangle = \pi l_P \lim_{x' \to x} \left(3\nabla^x_{\mu} \nabla^{x'}_{\nu} - g_{\mu\nu} g^{\lambda\rho} \nabla^x_{\lambda} \nabla^{x'}_{\rho} - \nabla^x_{\mu} \nabla^x_{\nu} - \frac{1}{4l^2} g_{\mu\nu} \right) G(x, x'), \qquad l_P = \frac{\hbar\kappa}{8\pi}. \tag{19}$$

Using the method of images, the propagator, $G(x, x') = \{\phi(x), \phi(x')\}$, is the anticommutator of the scalar field, which takes the form [9,14–18]

$$G(x, x') = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_{n \in I} \frac{\Theta(\sigma(x, H^n x'))}{\sqrt{\sigma(x, H^n x')}}, \qquad (20)$$

where $\sigma(x, x')$ is the chordal distance connecting *x* and *x'*, which can be expressed in terms of the corresponding embedding coordinates in $\mathbb{R}^{(2,2)}$ as

$$\sigma(x, x') = \frac{1}{2} \left[-(X^0 - X'^0)^2 + (X^1 - X'^1)^2 + (X^2 - X'^2)^2 - (X^3 - X'^3)^2 \right].$$
(21)

The Heaviside step function Θ in (20) was introduced in [9] because $\sigma(x, H^n x)$ can be negative in the rotating case. Calling $d_n(x)$ the cordal distance between a spacetime point and its *n*th image,

$$d_n = 2\sigma(x, H^n x)$$

= $2l^2[-1 + \cosh(2\pi a n)\cos(2\pi b n)$
- $B(r)\sinh(2\pi a n)\sin(2\pi b n)],$ (22)

with

$$B(r) = \frac{l^2 M - 2r^2}{4abl^2},$$
(23)

and the RSET takes the form [9,14]

$$\kappa \langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle = \frac{3l_{\rm P}}{2} \sum_{n \in I \setminus \{0\}} \Theta(d_n(x)) \left(S_{\mu\nu}^n - \frac{1}{3} g_{\mu\nu} g^{\lambda\rho} S_{\lambda\rho}^n \right), \quad (24)$$

with

$$S_{ab}^{n} = \frac{H_{ab}^{n}}{d_{n}^{3/2}} + \frac{3H_{ac}^{n}X^{c}H_{bd}^{-n}X^{d} - H_{ac}^{n}X^{c}H_{bd}^{n}X^{d}}{d_{n}^{5/2}}.$$
 (25)

The set *I* in the sum (24) includes all distinct images. With the splitting (16) between boosts (H_a) and rotations (H_b) , one must sum over different ranges for *q* and *p*.

A. Explicit form for $\langle T^{\mu}{}_{\nu} \rangle$

Note that for any rational value of b there are infinitely many values of n for which 2bn is an integer, which occurs for p = 0, which implies bn = kq and consequently the last term in (22) vanishes, making the distance function d_n independent of r. This causes an infinite number of terms in the sum (24) to diverge, signaling a breakdown of the perturbative approach. This can be seen in the nonvanishing components of the stress-energy tensor,

$$\kappa \langle T_{t}^{t} \rangle = \frac{l_{P}l^{2}}{8ab} \sum_{m=1 \atop m \nmid n}^{\infty} \left(\frac{6(a^{2}+b^{2})Bb_{n}-4ab\bar{b}_{n}+12B\bar{a}_{n}}{d_{n}^{5/2}} + \frac{[3(a^{2}-b^{2})B-2ab](\bar{c}_{n}-8)+[3(a^{2}-b^{2})+2abB]c_{n}e_{n}}{d_{n}^{5/2}} \right),$$
(26a)

$$\kappa \langle T'_{\theta} \rangle = -\frac{3l_P l^3}{8ab} \sum_{n=1 \atop m \mid n}^{\infty} \frac{2[(a^2 - b^2)B + 4ab]b_n + 4Ba_n + (a^2 + b^2)[B(\bar{c}_n - 8) + e_n c_n]}{d_n^{5/2}},$$
(26b)

$$\kappa \langle T^r_r \rangle = l_P \sum_{n=1 \atop m \neq n}^{\infty} \frac{c_n}{d_n^{3/2}}$$
(26c)

$$\kappa \langle T^{\theta}_{l} \rangle = \frac{3l_{P}l}{8ab} \sum_{n=1 \atop m \neq n}^{\infty} \frac{2[(a^{2}-b^{2})B-4ab]b_{n}+4Ba_{n}+(a^{2}+b^{2})[B(\bar{c}_{n}-8)+c_{n}e_{n}]}{d_{n}^{5/2}},$$
(26d)

$$\kappa \langle T^{\theta}_{\theta} \rangle = -\kappa [\langle T^{t}_{t} \rangle + \langle T^{r}_{r} \rangle], \qquad (26e)$$

where $\sum_{n=1}^{n} s_n \equiv \sum_{n=1}^{n} \Theta(d_n) s_n$, and

 $a_n = a^2 \cos(4\pi bn) + b^2 \cosh(4\pi an), \qquad \bar{a}_n = a^2 \cos(4\pi bn) - b^2 \cosh(4\pi an),$ (27a)

$$b_n = \cos(4\pi bn) - \cosh(4\pi an), \qquad \bar{b}_n = \cos(4\pi bn) + \cosh(4\pi an), \tag{27b}$$

$$c_n = 2\cosh(2\pi an)\cos(2\pi bn) + 2, \qquad \bar{c}_n = 2\cosh(4\pi an)\cos(4\pi bn) + 2,$$
 (27c)

$$e_n = 4\sinh(2\pi an)\sin(2\pi bn). \tag{27d}$$

The presence of B(r) in the numerator of the $\langle T^{\mu}{}_{\nu} \rangle$ components makes them grow as r^2 for large distance. Hence, as the denominators are independent of r for n = qm, these sums contain infinitely many asymptotically divergent terms. The problem is that to renormalize the stress-energy tensor using the Hadamard regularization scheme simply removes one divergent term corresponding to n = 0 (or p = q = 0) in the sum (20). However, we see that the stress-energy tensor has infinitely many divergent terms, for p = 0 and all possible qs. A "natural" scheme to avoid the problem would be to eliminate the b's that generate the issue, but this would mean eliminating all rational b's, contradicting (14).

It is still possible in principle that, in spite of the divergences in $\langle T^{\mu}{}_{\nu}\rangle$, they cancel out in the equations, yielding a finite result for the back-reacted metric. We will see next that such cancellation does not occur, so that the field equations do not allow for a perturbative solution.

B. Back-reacted metric

The back-reacted geometry is expected to belong in the same family of spherically symmetric stationary BTZ metrics. It is therefore natural to assume the ansatz

$$ds^{2} = -N(r)^{2}f(r)dt^{2} + f(r)^{-1}dr^{2} + r^{2}(d\theta + k(r)dt)^{2}.$$
(28)

Additionally, based on the previous results [9] we write

$$N(r) = N_0(r) + l_P N_1(r) + O(l_P^2),$$
(29)

$$f(r) = f_0(r) + l_P f_1(r) + O(l_P^2),$$
(30)

$$k(r) = k_0(r) + l_P k_1(r) + O(l_P^2).$$
(31)

The zeroth order equations describe the unperturbed situation that yields the BTZ metric,

$$N_0(r) = 1, \quad f_0(r) = \frac{r^2}{l^2} - M + \frac{J^2}{4r^2}, \quad k_0(r) = -\frac{J}{2r^2}.$$
 (32)

The first order corrections in l_P of the field equations yield

$$N_{1}(r) = \frac{\kappa}{l_{P}} \int \mathrm{d}r \frac{r}{f_{0}(r)} \left(\langle T^{r}_{r} \rangle - \langle T^{t}_{t} \rangle - \frac{J}{2r^{2}} \langle T^{t}_{\theta} \rangle \right) + K_{1},$$
(33)

$$f_1(r) = \int dr \left[-2f_0(r)N_1'(r) + \left(\frac{J^2}{r^3} - \frac{2M}{r}\right)N_1(r) \quad (34) \right]$$

$$+\frac{2}{r^3}\int \mathrm{d}r \left(2MrN_1(r)+\frac{\kappa}{l_P}r^3\langle T^r_r\rangle\right)\right]+\frac{K_2}{r^2}+K_3,\quad(35)$$

$$Jk_{1}(r) = -f_{1}(r) - 2f_{0}(r)N_{1}(r) + 2\int r dr \left(\frac{2}{l^{2}}N_{1}(r) + \frac{\kappa}{l_{P}}\langle T^{r}_{r} \rangle\right) + K_{4}.$$
 (36)

Here the integration constants must be chosen as $K_i = 0$ (i = 1, 2, 3, 4) so that the $O(l_P)$ metric corrections vanish for $\langle T^{\mu}{}_{\nu} \rangle = 0$. Even before integrating these expressions, it can be directly checked that the divergences of the stressenergy tensor do not cancel out, leading to unbounded results for N_1 , f_1 , and k_1 . Consequently, the perturbative ansatz (29)–(31) does not work, since the first order corrections cannot be shown to be small.

IV. SUMMARY

We have shown that a naked singularity of an overspinning BTZ geometry conformally coupled to a quantum scalar field does not lead to a renormalized stress-energy tensor. This causes incurable infinities to appear in the equations of motion and in the purportedly perturbative solutions. This is contrary to the previously studied cases of conical singularities, where the quantum corrections of the conformally coupled scalar field yields a finite renormalized stress-energy tensor and the resulting back-reacted geometry acquires a horizon, which provides a mechanism that enforces cosmic censorship [6–9]. Our result indicates that the overspinning geometry is plagued by a more severe form of naked singularity, inaccessible by a perturbative approach. Consequently, it is not possible to claim that the singularity may become dressed by perturbative quantum corrections.

Our result seems to indicate that coupling a conformal quantum scalar field to an overspinning geometry may cause the metric to be significantly different from the original BTZ metric. In any event, it is not possible to assert, as in the other cases of naked singularities, that quantum mechanics provides a cosmic censor in this case.

It would be interesting to understand whether there is a more profound problem with this type of geometry, or if the strongly rotating behavior simply prevents the application of perturbative methods. Perhaps one way to approach this problem would be by numerical methods, hoping to get a better understanding of the nature of this particular type of singularity and to see if this is purely a problem of the perturbative approach, or if there is a more fundamental issue with the overspinning singularity.

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