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Towards the construction of multi-centered black holes in AdS

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Abstract: We find a class of approximate perturbative solutions describing multi-centered BPS black holes in asymptotically AdS4. These black holes are moving coplanarly in a circular orbit with common radius but fixed phase differences, where the radius is characterized by a common boost velocity *v*. While the solutions are not complete, as they are only accurate up to $\mathcal{O}(M^2v^2)$, we are able to locally investigate their supersymmetric properties in four-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 2$ supergravity. The result indicates that, while a single BPS black hole preserves half of the supersymmetries, a configuration with two or more black holes is only 1/4 BPS. These perturbative solutions reduce in the asymptotically Minkowski limit to the multi-black hole solution of Majumdar and Papapetrou.

KEYWORDS: Black Holes, Supergravity Models

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Contents

1 Introduction

It is well known that black holes in four-dimensional asymptotically Minkowski spacetime are characterized by their masses, charges and angular momenta. For non-rotating black holes, the Reissner-Nordstrom solution with mass *M* and charge *Q* is the unique spherically symmetric solution to the Einstein-Maxwell equations. A regular horizon exists for $M \geq Q$, with $M = Q$ being extremal. This latter case is special as it has zero temperature and satisfies a static no-force condition with gravitational attraction precisely balanced against Coulomb repulsion. Moreover, it is a $1/2$ BPS solution in the natural $\mathcal{N}=2$ supergravity extension of Einstein-Maxwell theory.

The static no-force condition suggests that it should be possible to obtain a multiextremal-black hole configuration, and indeed such a solution was constructed in fourdimensional Einstein-Maxwell theory by Majumdar and Papapetrou (MP) [\[1,](#page-28-0) [2\]](#page-28-1)

$$
ds^{2} = -\mathcal{H}^{-2}dt^{2} + \mathcal{H}^{2}d\vec{x}^{2}, \qquad A = \mathcal{H}^{-1}dt,
$$

$$
\mathcal{H} = 1 + \sum_{i} \frac{q_{i}}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_{i}|}.
$$
 (1.1)

While general relativity is a non-linear theory, the remarkable property of the MP solution is that it takes the form of a linear superposition of black holes with charge (or mass) q_i located at \vec{x}_i through the single function $\mathcal{H}(\vec{x})$ which is harmonic on the transverse Euclidean space. This MP solution and its various generalizations based on harmonic superposition lies at the heart of numerous multi-centered solutions for BPS black holes and branes in supergravity and string theory.

Most of what we know about multi-centered BPS configurations applies to ungauged supergravities admitting a Minkowski vacuum. With the advent of AdS/CFT, it would be natural to generalize such solutions to gauged supergravities and the resulting asymptotically AdS spacetimes. However, this appears rather difficult for several reasons. Firstly, in a cosmological background, there is the addition of a cosmological force that can disrupt the mass/charge balance of BPS black holes. This can potentially be dealt with by adjusting the mass/charge ratio to restore force balance or by allowing for non-static configurations. However, changing the mass/charge ratio will most likely render the black holes non-BPS. Secondly, BPS black holes in AdS are generally more complicated than their asymptotically Minkowski counterparts. While asymptotically Minkowski BPS black holes can be spherically symmetric, their asymptotically AdS counterparts often have to carry angular momentum. This was demonstrated in the corresponding minimal gauged supergravities in [\[3\]](#page-28-2) for $D = 4$ and in [\[4,](#page-28-3) [5\]](#page-28-4) for $D = 5$. These supersymmetric black holes carry angular momentum and preserve only $1/4$ of the $\mathcal{N}=2$ supersymmetries. Thus the starting point for a multi-black hole configuration in AdS is already more involved, and it is unlikely that a simple analytic solution will be found.

Curiously, the MP solution, (1.1) , can be generalized to include a positive cosmological constant [\[6\]](#page-28-5)

$$
ds^{2} = -\mathcal{H}^{-2}dt^{2} + e^{2Ht}\mathcal{H}^{2}d\vec{x}^{2}, \qquad A = \mathcal{H}^{-1}dt,
$$

$$
\mathcal{H} = 1 + e^{-Ht}\sum_{i} \frac{q_{i}}{|\vec{x} - \vec{x}_{i}|}, \qquad H = \pm \sqrt{\frac{\Lambda}{3}}.
$$
 (1.2)

This solution corresponds to a collection of black holes in an expanding (or contracting) de Sitter universe, and it is clear that this configuration is non-static. Given the existence of this solution, one may wonder if a simple analytic continuation can yield an asymptotically AdS multi-black hole solution. However, formally taking $\Lambda \to -\Lambda$ yields a complex Hubble constant *H* and hence a complex metric. While this can be removed by a 'double' Wick rotation, swapping the time *t* with one of the space coordinates, the resulting configuration then has an imaginary gauge field [\[7,](#page-28-6) [8\]](#page-28-7). Alternatively, we can take the de Sitter solution as is without analytic continuation, and consider it to be a solution to gauged supergravity with imaginary gauge coupling *g*, so that $\Lambda = -3g^2$ is positive.

Of course, neither of these possibilities of analytic continuation or an imaginary coupling constant is entirely satisfactory, and it remains an open question whether true multicentered BPS black hole configurations exist in AdS. This has been previously investigated in [\[9](#page-28-8)[–11\]](#page-28-9) in various approximations or with different asymptotics. While we do not have a complete answer to this question, we provide partial evidence for the existence of such

solutions. In particular, we start with a single four-dimensional Reissner-Nordstrom AdS (RNAdS) black hole in the BPS limit and boost it into a circular orbit in global coordinates. The black hole is still following a geodesic, as the cosmological attraction in AdS is responsible for the circular motion. We then superpose two such black holes in the same circular orbit, but separated by a phase so they are kept at a fixed separation.

Of course, the superposition of two black holes is only a valid solution at the linearized level, so the important step we take is to perturbatively construct the first non-linear correction to this configuration. In particular, we work to quadratic order in the black hole masses, and the first correction can be thought of as an interaction term proportional to the product M_1M_2 of the individual masses.

It should be noted that we have made several technical simplifications in the analysis. Firstly, the BPS limit of the RNAdS_4 solution is actually a naked singularity, so in some sense the starting point is not particularly physical. However, we believe any obstruction to a true multi-centered BPS solution would arise not from the singularities but rather from possible long range interactions. Hence we expect the constructed solution to remain valid sufficiently far away from the singularities. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, the boosted black hole solution, while conceptually simple, is rather complicated to write out explicitly. Thus we work only to second order in the boost velocity, which can be thought of as a proxy for the orbital radius. This is a more serious limitation, as it restricts us to infinitesimally displaced black holes and hence prevents us from examining the full structure of the resulting spacetime.

Even with these limitations, we are able to investigate the supersymmetry properties of the two black hole solution within $\mathcal{N} = 2$ gauged supergravity. The single RNAdS₄ black hole was considered in [\[12\]](#page-28-10) and found to be 1/2-BPS in the limit $M = Q$. However, we find that the superposition of two or more such black holes leads to a 1*/*4-BPS solution. While each individual black hole preserves two out of a possible four complex Killing spinors, they only share a single common Killing spinor, thus giving rise to a 1*/*4-BPS configuration.

In the following, we present a class of solutions to the linearized Einstein-Maxwell equations describing multi-centered black holes in $AdS₄$. In section [2,](#page-4-0) we discuss the probe limit of a two-black hole configuration in AdS by considering circular geodesics in an RNAdS background. When the black hole and the test particle both have $M = Q$ the circular geodesic is unchanged from that of a geodesic in vacuum AdS. This suggests a stationary multi-BPS configuration is possible, and provides a hint to start with a superposition of two black holes. In section [3,](#page-6-0) we boost the black holes away from the origin of AdS in global coordinates and discuss the BPS condition at the lowest order. In section [4,](#page-12-0) we obtain the first perturbative correction to the linear superposition solution by solving the linearized Einstein equation. We then revisit the BPS condition while taking these corrections into account and demonstrate that the multi-center solution is 1/4 BPS. Finally, we conclude in section [5](#page-15-0) with some open questions. We include three appendices. The explicit two-black hole solution is given in appendix [A,](#page-16-0) and the Minkowski limit is taken in appendix [B.](#page-24-0) Appendix [C](#page-26-0) gives the local Lorentz transformation parameters that compensate the boost of the curved space Dirac matrices.

2 Test particles and geodesics in AdS

Before turning to multi-centered black hole configurations, it is instructive to consider the motion of test particles in AdS. Our expectation is that black holes satisfying a non-force condition will move along geodesics, assuming they are treated as test particles. In a Minkowski background, it is straightforward in this way to obtain a static configuration of *n* particles at rest with each other, so long as $M = Q$ so the gravitational attraction is balanced by the electrostatic repulsion. However, in AdS there is also a cosmological attraction to contend with, so that $M = Q$ black holes will not necessarily remain at rest.

Consider a static spherically symmetric four-dimensional spacetime with metric

$$
ds^{2} = -f(r)dt^{2} + \frac{dr^{2}}{f(r)} + r^{2}d\Omega_{2}^{2},
$$
\n(2.1)

and scalar potential $A_t(r)$. The RNAdS₄ solution corresponds to

$$
f = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \frac{Q^2}{r^2} + g^2 r^2, \qquad A_t = \frac{Q}{r},
$$
\n(2.2)

while the vacuum AdS solution can be obtained by setting $M = Q = 0$. Because of spherical symmetry, we can restrict to geodesics in the equatorial plane. Now consider a charged test particle with mass *m* and charge *q* following the geodesic equation $\dot{U}^{\mu} = \frac{q}{n}$ $\frac{q}{m}F^{\mu}{}_{\nu}U^{\nu}$ where $U^{\mu} = \dot{x}^{\mu}$ is the four-velocity and dots denote derivatives with respect to the affine parameter (or proper time for timelike geodesics). Since the spacetime is invariant under shifts in *t* and ϕ (where ϕ is the azimuthal angle), we have two conserved quantities

$$
\frac{E}{m} = f(r)\dot{t} + \frac{q}{m}A_t(r), \qquad \frac{L}{m} = r^2\dot{\phi}.
$$
\n(2.3)

Timelike geodesics satisfying $U_{\mu}U^{\mu} = -1$ then obey the conservation of energy equation

$$
\dot{r}^2 + f(r) \left(1 + \frac{L^2}{m^2 r^2} \right) = \left(\frac{E}{m} - \frac{q}{m} A_t(r) \right)^2.
$$
 (2.4)

2.1 Geodesic of a test particle in AdS

Before turning to a test particle in a black hole background, we set $M = Q = 0$ to obtain geodesics in AdS

$$
\dot{r}^2 + \left(1 + g^2 r^2\right) \left(1 + \frac{L^2}{m^2 r^2}\right) = \left(\frac{E}{m}\right)^2 \tag{2.5}
$$

Radial timelike geodesics can be obtained by setting $L = 0$, in which case we have

$$
\dot{r}^2 + g^2 r^2 = \left(\frac{E}{m}\right)^2 - 1.
$$
\n(2.6)

This has a simple harmonic solution

$$
r(\tau) = \frac{1}{g} \left(\left(\frac{E}{m} \right)^2 - 1 \right)^{1/2} \sin(g\tau), \tag{2.7}
$$

up to constant shifts in τ . In particular, radial geodesics displaced from the origin, $r = 0$, of global coordinates undergo simple harmonic motion in this coordinate frame. This suggests that boosting the actual RNAdS black hole solution will lead to a rather complicated metric when written out explicitly.

It is also instructive to consider constant radius circular geodesics in vacuum AdS. Such geodesics sit at the minimum of the effective potential and satisfy

$$
E = m(1 + g^2 r_0^2), \qquad L = \pm g m r_0^2,\tag{2.8}
$$

where r_0 is the radius of the orbit. This leads to the simple parametrization

$$
t(\tau) = \tau, \qquad \phi(\tau) = \pm g\tau,
$$
\n
$$
(2.9)
$$

where τ is the proper time. These orbits do not have a Minkowski counterpart, as they depend on the cosmological attraction which vanishes in the flat-space limit.

2.2 Geodesic of a charged test particle in RNAdS

We now consider the motion of a charged test particle in the RNAdS background, (2.2) . For radial timelike geodesics, we have

$$
\dot{r}^2 + 2\left(\frac{E}{m}\frac{q}{m} - \frac{M}{Q}\right)\frac{Q}{r} + \left(1 - \left(\frac{q}{m}\right)^2\right)\frac{Q^2}{r^2} + g^2r^2 = \left(\frac{E}{m}\right)^2 - 1.
$$
 (2.10)

Note that the $1/r$ and $1/r^2$ terms can be removed from the effective potential by taking

$$
\frac{m}{q} = 1, \qquad \frac{E}{m} = \frac{M}{Q}, \tag{2.11}
$$

in which case we end up with simply

$$
\dot{r}^2 + g^2 r^2 = \left(\frac{M}{Q}\right)^2 - 1.\tag{2.12}
$$

At first glance, this appears similar to the vacuum AdS expression, [\(2.6\)](#page-4-3). However, an important distinction is that (2.6) holds for any energy $E \ge m$, with the minimal energy $E = m$ geodesic stationary at the origin, $r(\tau) = 0$, while the RNAdS geodesic is at a fixed energy given by the *M/Q* ratio of the black hole. Moreover, while the condition $m = q$ corresponds to an extremal test particle, minimal geodesics in the sense of (2.12) are possible for any $M \geq Q$.

At this point it is worth noting that the extremality condition for the RNAdS black hole is not the same as the BPS condition. Extremality is obtained when the outer horizon is a double root of $f(r)$, corresponding to

$$
M = r_{+}(1 + 2g^{2}r_{+}^{2}), \qquad Q = r_{+}\sqrt{1 + 3g^{2}r_{+}^{2}}, \tag{2.13}
$$

where r_{+} is the location of the horizon. This implies that $M/Q > 1$ at extremality, while the BPS condition gives $M/Q = 1$ (so the resulting solution is actually a naked singularity).

For the extremal black hole, the minimal geodesic is sensible and has a simple harmonic solution with turning point outside the horizon. However, for the BPS case with $M/Q = 1$, the right-hand side of (2.12) vanishes, leaving only the $r(\tau) = 0$ solution where the test particle is sitting on top of the singularity.

It is interesting to contrast the behavior of radial timelike geodesics in an AdS versus dS background. The dS case is readily obtained by analytically continuing $g^2 \to -g^2$. Taking $m/q = 1$ for the test particle and $M/Q = 1$ for the black hole, the minimal geodesics in the dS black hole background obeys $\dot{r}^2 - g^2 r^2 = 0$, which has a non-trivial solution $r(\tau) = r_0 e^{\pm g\tau}$, corresponding to a free particle comoving with the Hubble expansion.

We now turn to circular geodesics which can be obtained by demanding that the test particle sits at the minimum of the effective potential in (2.4) . For a given black hole of mass *M* and charge *Q* and test particle of mass *m* and charge *q*, we can solve for the energy *E* and angular momentum *L* in terms of the orbital radius r_0 . While these expressions are not particularly illuminating in general, they simply considerable when we consider an extremal test particle with $m = q$ orbiting a BPS black hole (actually a naked singularity) with $M = Q$. The resulting circular geodesic (at radius r_0) has

$$
E = m \left(1 + \frac{g^2 r_0^2}{1 - \frac{M}{r_0}} \right), \qquad L = \pm \frac{g m r_0^2}{1 - \frac{M}{r_0}}.
$$
\n(2.14)

Note that this reduces to [\(2.8\)](#page-5-2) in the vacuum AdS limit, $M \to 0$. The geodesic itself has the proper time parametrization

$$
t(\tau) = \frac{\tau}{1 - \frac{M}{r_0}}, \qquad \phi(\tau) = \pm \frac{g\tau}{1 - \frac{M}{r_0}}, \tag{2.15}
$$

which leads to the universal circular orbit

$$
\phi(t) = \pm gt. \tag{2.16}
$$

This demonstrates that, at least for an extremal test particle in a circular orbit, its motion is unaffected by the presence of the BPS black hole.

This feature of circular orbits is consistent with the existence of a no-force condition for multi-BPS black holes in AdS. Note that this is specific to $m/q = 1$ and $M/Q = 1$, so in particular extremal RNAdS black holes with $M/Q > 1$ do not have this universal circular orbit property. This suggests that the no-force condition of BPS black holes in asymptotically-flat spacetimes will have an AdS counterpart where the cosmological attraction does not disturb the $M/Q = 1$ condition, but is instead accounted for by placing the black holes in circular orbits in AdS. This motivates us to look for multi-BPS-black hole configurations where the black holes are orbiting the origin of AdS in global coordinates.

3 Superposing AdS black holes

Motivated by the test particle geodesics, we proceed to build a multi-BPS-black hole configuration where each black hole has $M = Q$ and orbits at radius r_0 , but with different phases. A basic configuration would be to take two black holes separated by a phase of π , but one can be more general.

As indicated above, we work to second order in the black hole masses, so we start by taking an RNAdS black hole in global coordinates and boosting it into an orbit at radius r_0 . We then superpose to such solutions, keeping terms only up to $\mathcal{O}(M_1^2)$ and $\mathcal{O}(M_2^2)$. We then work out the $\mathcal{O}(M_1M_2)$ interaction terms perturbatively using the linearized Einstein equation.

Our starting point is thus to boost the RNAdS solution, (2.1) with (2.2) , to move the singularity to a radius r_0 . Conceptually this is simple, as we just perform a coordinate transformation that respects the asymptotic $O(3, 2)$ isometry of AdS₄. However, the expressions for the transformed metric are cumbersome to work with, so we further simplify by expanding for small boost velocities. This amounts to perturbatively expanding the solution for small r_0 .

To motivate the boost, consider AdS_4 as the hypersurface parameterized by

$$
T_1^2 + T_2^2 - X_1^2 - X_2^2 - X_3^2 = \frac{1}{g^2},
$$
\n(3.1)

in a 5D space with metric

$$
ds^{2} = -dT_{1}^{2} - dT_{2}^{2} + dX_{1}^{2} + dX_{2}^{2} + dX_{3}^{2}.
$$
 (3.2)

We then introduce unconstrained four-dimensional coordinates $\{\tau, \rho, \theta, \phi\}$ by taking

$$
T_1 = \frac{1}{g} \cosh \rho \cos \tau, \qquad T_2 = \frac{1}{g} \cosh \rho \sin \tau, X_1 = \frac{1}{g} \sinh \rho \sin \theta \cos \phi, \qquad X_2 = \frac{1}{g} \sinh \rho \sin \theta \sin \phi, \qquad X_3 = \frac{1}{g} \sinh \rho \cos \theta.
$$
 (3.3)

One additional transformation between $\{\tau, \rho\}$ and $\{t, r\}$

$$
r = -\frac{1}{g}\sinh\rho, \qquad t = -\frac{1}{g}\tau,
$$
\n(3.4)

then yields the familiar global $AdS₄$ metric

$$
ds^{2} = -(1+g^{2}r^{2})dt^{2} + \frac{dr^{2}}{(1+g^{2}r^{2})} + r^{2} \left(d\theta^{2} + \sin^{2}\theta d\phi^{2}\right).
$$
 (3.5)

The isometry group of AdS_4 is $O(3, 2)$, and in the 5D embedding space, the generators of $O(3, 2)$ are just Lorentz transformations. A timelike geodesic at $r = 0$ sits at $X_1 = X_2 =$ $X_3 = 0$ and moves along the $T_1 - T_2$ circle. We can transform this into a circular orbit in the X_1 - X_2 plane by performing a simultaneous boost in T_1 - X_1 and T_2 - X_2 according to

$$
\begin{pmatrix} T_1' \\ T_2' \\ X_1' \\ X_2' \\ X_3' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & -v\gamma \\ \gamma & -v\gamma \\ -v\gamma & \gamma \\ -v\gamma & \gamma \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T_1 \\ T_2 \\ X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \end{pmatrix},
$$
(3.6)

where $\gamma = 1/$ √ $1-v^2$ and the boost velocity *v* will be related to the radius r_0 of the resulting orbit.

When translated to the four-dimensional coordinates, the boost acts as

$$
\tan \tau' = \frac{\sin \tau - v \tanh \rho \sin \theta \sin \phi}{\cos \tau - v \tanh \rho \sin \theta \cos \phi},
$$

\n
$$
\cosh \rho' = \gamma \cosh \rho \sqrt{1 - 2v \tanh \rho \sin \theta \cos(\phi - \tau) + v^2 \tanh^2 \rho \sin^2 \theta},
$$

\n
$$
\sin \theta' = \frac{\sqrt{\sin^2 \theta - 2v \coth \rho \sin \theta \cos(\phi - \tau) + v^2 \coth^2 \rho}}{\sqrt{1 - 2v \coth \rho \sin \theta \cos(\phi - \tau) + v^2 (\coth^2 \rho - \cos^2 \theta)}},
$$

\n
$$
\tan \phi' = \frac{\sin \theta \sin \phi - v \coth \rho \sin \tau}{\sin \theta \cos \phi - v \coth \rho \cos \tau}.
$$
\n(3.7)

This boost is an isometry of global $AdS₄$, but it takes a timelike geodesic at $r = 0$ into a circular orbit at radius $r_0 = v\gamma/g$ with angular velocity governed by the AdS radius, $\omega = g$, as in [\(2.16\)](#page-6-1).

The boost, [\(3.7\)](#page-8-0), is not an isometry of the RNAdS black hole solution, but transforms it into a black hole orbiting at radius r_0 . However, the resulting expressions are rather unwieldy. So, in practice, we expand only to second order in the boost velocity *v*. The boosted RNAdS metric represents a single orbiting black hole. However, we can take several boosted solutions, each with a boost velocity v_i (and corresponding orbital radius $v_i \gamma_i / g$) and phase angle δ_i and combine them as a starting point for obtaining a multi-black hole solution. All black holes rotate in the $x-y$ plane around the origin with the same angular velocity, but with independent orbital radii and phase angles.

Of course, we have to be careful about what we mean by "combining" black hole solutions in a non-linear theory. Here we take a perturbative approach and start with a linear superposition of the form

$$
g_{\mu\nu}^{(0)} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + \sum_{i} g_{i\,\mu\nu}(v_i, \delta_i),
$$

$$
F_{\mu\nu}^{(0)} = \sum_{i} F_{i\,\mu\nu}(v_i, \delta_i),
$$
 (3.8)

where $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ is the background AdS metric, [\(3.5\)](#page-7-0), and $g_{i\mu\nu}$ is the metric corresponding to the *i*-th black hole, with the background AdS subtracted out. Each subtracted metric *gi µν* starts at $\mathcal{O}(M_i)$, but is otherwise fully non-linear in the mass M_i .

Of course, the linear superposition solution given by $g_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}$ and $F_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}$ is not a solution to the non-linear Einstein equation, but it provides a starting point for a perturbative expansion. We organize this expansion by powers of the "mass" where this mass can be any one of the M_i masses or Q_i charges. At $\mathcal{O}(M^0)$, the solution is just the background AdS. At $\mathcal{O}(M)$, we just have the linearized metric of a set of black holes orbiting in AdS. At this order, the charges Q_i do not backreact on the metric, and the individual black holes are non-interacting. The first non-trivial order is quadratic in the masses. Since we use the full AdS black hole metric $g_i{}_{\mu\nu}$, the separate $\mathcal{O}(M_i^2)$ and $\mathcal{O}(M_j^2)$ terms in the metric with $i \neq j$ ought to be valid by themselves. However, what is missing is the $\mathcal{O}(M_iM_j)$ interaction term. This suggests that we perturb around the superposition metric $g_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}$ in [\(3.8\)](#page-8-1) in order to recover the interaction term. Since we work only to quadratic order in the masses in

the metric, we only need the Maxwell field $F_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}$ to linear (i.e. non-interacting) order as the stress-tensor is of $\mathcal{O}(F_{\mu\nu}^2)$.

3.1 Multi-centered black holes and the BPS condition

Before constructing the $\mathcal{O}(M_iM_i)$ interaction term, it is instructive to examine the BPS condition at the linearized order for a multi-centered solution. To fix our conventions, we take pure gauged $\mathcal{N} = 2$ supergravity in four dimensions with bosonic Lagrangian

$$
e^{-1}\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{4}R - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{3}{2}g^2.
$$
 (3.9)

We have set $\kappa^2 = 2$ and work with $(- + + +)$ signature. The corresponding gravitino variation is

$$
\delta\psi_{\mu} = \hat{\nabla}_{\mu}\epsilon \equiv \left[\nabla_{\mu} - igA_{\mu} + \frac{i}{4}F_{\rho\sigma}\gamma^{\rho\sigma}\gamma_{\mu} + \frac{1}{2}g\gamma_{\mu}\right]\epsilon,
$$
\n(3.10)

where the spinors are Dirac.

The BPS condition for a single AdS black hole was studied in [\[12\]](#page-28-10). The starting point is the Killing spinor equation, $\hat{\nabla} \epsilon = 0$, and the corresponding integrability condition

$$
\Omega_{\mu\nu}\epsilon \equiv [\hat{\nabla}_{\mu}, \hat{\nabla}_{\nu}]\epsilon = 0.
$$
\n(3.11)

Working out the commutator of the supercovariant derivative gives an explicit expression [\[12\]](#page-28-10)

$$
\Omega_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4} C_{\mu\nu}{}^{ab} \gamma_{ab} + \frac{i}{2} \gamma^{ab} \gamma_{[\nu} \left(\nabla_{\mu} F_{ab} \right) + \frac{i}{8} g F_{ab} \left(3 \gamma^{ab} \gamma_{\mu\nu} + \gamma_{\mu\nu} \gamma^{ab} \right). \tag{3.12}
$$

The advantage of studying the integrability condition, [\(3.11\)](#page-9-1), is that it is purely algebraic. Hence to count the Killing spinors, all we need to do is to count the number of zero eigenvalues of the $\Omega_{\mu\nu}$ matrix and keep track of the corresponding eigenvectors.

At linear mass order, the integrability matrix $\Omega_{\mu\nu}$ decomposes into a linear superposition of terms

$$
\Omega_{\mu\nu} = \sum_{i} \Omega_{i\,\mu\nu}(v_i, \delta_i). \tag{3.13}
$$

Furthermore, since the quantities $C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$ and $F_{\mu\nu}$ are already first order in mass (or charge), it is sufficient to use the background AdS vielbein, which we take to be

$$
e_{\mu}^{a} = \text{diag}\left(\sqrt{1 + g^{2}r^{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + g^{2}r^{2}}}, r, r \sin \theta\right).
$$
 (3.14)

Focusing on the *t*-*r* integrability matrix Ω_{tr} , and taking a single $M = Q$ black hole at the origin of AdS, we find

$$
\Omega_{tr} = \frac{2iM}{r^3} \gamma^r \Pi_+, \tag{3.15}
$$

where Π_{\pm} is the projection

$$
\Pi_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 \pm \frac{gr\gamma^1 - i\gamma^0}{\sqrt{1 + g^2 r^2}} \right). \tag{3.16}
$$

(Integrability in the other directions works similarly.) This shows that the single AdS black hole is a 1/2 BPS object with Killing spinors of the form $\epsilon = \Pi_{-}\hat{\epsilon}$ for some (not necessarily constant) Dirac spinor $\hat{\epsilon}$. The explicit Killing spinors for a single black hole at the origin have been constructed in [\[12\]](#page-28-10), thus verifying that no obstruction arises in this case from higher order integrability.

We are, of course, more interested in the superposition of boosted solutions, [\(3.13\)](#page-9-2). For a single black hole, the boost as a general coordinate transformation respects supersymmetry. Hence the solution remains 1/2 BPS, although the Killing spinors are correspondingly boosted. Working to $\mathcal{O}(v^2)$ in the boost velocity and taking a vanishing phase shift δ , we find explicitly two independent solutions to the integrability condition, [\(3.11\)](#page-9-1)

$$
\hat{\epsilon}_{1} = \left(1, 0, 0, i\frac{1+\sqrt{1+r^{2}}}{r}\right) \n+ \left[ve^{-i(\phi-t)}\frac{1+\sqrt{1+r^{2}}}{r^{2}} - v^{2}e^{-2i(\phi-t)}\frac{(1+\sqrt{1+r^{2}})^{2}}{r^{3}}\sin\theta + \mathcal{O}(v^{3})\right](0, 0, 1, -e^{i\theta}), \n\hat{\epsilon}_{2} = \left(0, 1, i\frac{1+\sqrt{1+r^{2}}}{r}, 0\right) \n+ e^{-i\theta}\left[ve^{-i(\phi-t)}\frac{1+\sqrt{1+r^{2}}}{r^{2}} - v^{2}e^{-2i(\phi-t)}\frac{(1+\sqrt{1+r^{2}})^{2}}{r^{3}}\sin\theta + \mathcal{O}(v^{3})\right](0, 0, 1, -e^{i\theta}).
$$
\n(3.17)

Here we have set $q = 1$ and used the Dirac representation

$$
\gamma^0 = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}, \quad \gamma^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & i \\ 0 & 0 & i & 0 \\ 0 & -i & 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \gamma^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \gamma^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -i \\ -i & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},
$$
\n(3.18)

with antihermitian γ^0 . The phase shift δ can be restored by taking $\phi \to \phi - \delta$. Note that $\hat{\epsilon}_1$ and $\hat{\epsilon}_2$ are zero eigenvectors; the actual Killing spinors, ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 will take the form $\epsilon_i = f_i(t, r, \theta, \phi)\hat{\epsilon}_i$ for some appropriate functions f_i that can only be obtained by directly solving the first order Killing spinor equation, $\hat{\nabla} \epsilon = 0$.

Regardless of the undetermined functions f_1 and f_2 , the velocity dependence of (3.17) demonstrates that the actual Killing spinors ϵ_1 and ϵ_2 necessarily depend on the boost velocity *v*. However, it is possible to take a linear combination $\hat{\epsilon}_1 - e^{i\theta} \hat{\epsilon}_2$ to obtain a velocity independent eigenvector up to $\mathcal{O}(Mv^2)$:

$$
\hat{\epsilon} = \left(1, -e^{i\theta}, -ie^{i\theta}\frac{1+\sqrt{1+r^2}}{r}, i\frac{1+\sqrt{1+r^2}}{r}\right).
$$
\n(3.19)

More generally, we see that the corresponding Killing spinor is of the form

$$
\epsilon = f(t, r, \theta, \phi)\hat{\epsilon}, \qquad \hat{\epsilon} = \Pi_-\tilde{\Pi}_-\epsilon_0, \qquad (3.20)
$$

where ϵ_0 is a constant spinor and the additional projection is

$$
\tilde{\Pi}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 \pm (\gamma^{012} - ie^{i\theta} (\gamma^{013} + \gamma^{23})) \right). \tag{3.21}
$$

The eigenvector $\hat{\epsilon}$ in [\(3.19\)](#page-10-1) is independent of mass, boost velocity and phase shift. At linear mass order, there is no interaction term in the integrability matrix, so the linear superposition, (3.13) , holds. Since $\hat{\epsilon}$ serves as a common eigenvector to all boosted BPS black holes regardless of M_i , v_i , or δ_i , we see that, to this order, at least, the Killing spinor for a multi-centered black hole configuration will still take the form [\(3.20\)](#page-10-2). Note, however, that the function $f(t, r, \theta, \phi)$ multiplying $\hat{\epsilon}$ may have dependence on the boost velocities v_i and phase shifts δ_i .

One may wonder if a second more complicated eigenvector $\hat{\epsilon}'$ could exist that depends on boost velocities and phase shifts in some manner. However, we will show below that the integrability matrix Ω_{tr} for a two black hole configuration only has a single vanishing eigenvalue, so the universal eigenvector, (3.19) , is unique. This demonstrates, at least from an integrability point of view, that the multi-centered black hole configuration is a $1/4$ BPS solution with Killing spinor given by [\(3.20\)](#page-10-2).

While we have worked to second order in boost velocity *v*, we expect the eigenvector $\hat{\epsilon}$ in [\(3.19\)](#page-10-1) to remain independent of *v* to all orders, so that integrability can be satisfied at the level of linear superposition of independently boosted black holes. One way to test this beyond quadratic order in *v* is to start with a black hole at the origin of AdS, where the Killing spinors are explicitly known. Out of the two linearly independent Killing spinors, we focus on the combination proportional to $\hat{\epsilon}$ in (3.19) and perform the 'boost' coordinate transformation, [\(3.7\)](#page-8-0). From general covariance, the transformed spinor will remain a zero eigenvector to the 'boosted' integrability condition, [\(3.11\)](#page-9-1).

To be more precise about the transformation, we have to keep in mind that spinors are actually sections of the spin bundle, and do not transform directly under general coordinate transformations. This suggests the transformation

$$
\hat{\epsilon} \to \hat{\epsilon}' = \left(1, -e^{i\theta'}, -ie^{i\theta'}\frac{1+\sqrt{1+r'^2}}{r'}, i\frac{1+\sqrt{1+r'^2}}{r'}\right),\tag{3.22}
$$

where the primed coordinates are given by (3.7) and (3.4) . However, this is not quite what we want when linearly superposing solutions at first order in the black hole masses. In particular, in order for the superposition of the integrability matrices $\Omega_{i\mu\nu}$ to hold in [\(3.13\)](#page-9-2), it is necessary to use a consistent set of Dirac matrices

$$
\gamma_t = \sqrt{1 + g^2 r^2} \gamma_0, \qquad \gamma_r = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + g^2 r^2}} \gamma_1, \qquad \gamma_\theta = r \gamma_2, \qquad \gamma_\phi = r \sin \theta \gamma_3,
$$
\n(3.23)

that are independent of the boost parameters v and δ . This necessitates a compensating local Lorentz transformation to accompany the boost coordinate transformation such that

$$
\gamma_{\mu} \to \gamma_{\mu'} \equiv \frac{\partial x^{\nu}}{\partial x^{\mu'}} S \gamma_{\nu} S^{-1} = \gamma_{\mu}, \tag{3.24}
$$

where

$$
S = \exp\left(\frac{1}{4}\omega_{ab}\gamma^{ab}\right) \tag{3.25}
$$

is the spinor transformation matrix and $\omega_{[ab]}$ are the six local Lorentz transformation parameters.

Unfortunately, the coordinate transformation procedure leading to [\(3.7\)](#page-8-0) does not appear to lend itself to a simple expression for the Lorentz parameters ω_{ab} . Nevertheless, we have obtained *S* to $\mathcal{O}(v^4)$ in the boost parameter *v* by directly solving [\(3.24\)](#page-11-0). Since the quartic-order parameters are rather long and unilluminating, we present ω_{ab} only up to third order in appendix [C.](#page-26-0) Given the local Lorentz transformation matrix (3.25) , we then verify up to $\mathcal{O}(v^4)$ that

$$
\hat{\epsilon} \to \hat{\epsilon}' \equiv S\hat{\epsilon}(x^{\mu'}) = \zeta(x^{\mu})\hat{\epsilon}(x^{\mu}),\tag{3.26}
$$

where $\zeta(x^{\mu})$ is an overall shift in normalization. Since we focus only on zero eigenvectors of the integrability condition, this additional factor of $\zeta(x^{\mu})$ is irrelevant, and we conclude that the velocity independence of the zero eigenvector $\hat{\epsilon}$ survives at least up to quartic order in *v*. We expect this to hold at all orders in *v* and have numerical evidence that this is the case. However we have been unable to demonstrate this analytically due to the complicated nature of the compensating local Lorentz transformation.

4 Towards a multi-centered solution

We now take the linear superposition solution, (3.8) , as a starting point, and consider the perturbative corrections to the metric. The first non-trivial correction occurs at $\mathcal{O}(M_iM_i)$, corresponding to a pairwise 'interaction' between two black holes. Note that the gauge field does not need to be corrected at this order, since the lowest-order stress tensor is already quadratic in the masses.

It is sufficient to consider the interaction between two black holes, with masses *M*¹ and M_2 and charge to mass ratios $\lambda_1 = Q_1/M_1$ and $\lambda_2 = Q_2/M_2$. While the individual black hole BPS conditions demand $\lambda_i = \pm 1$, we work more generally so that we can more directly examine the supersymmetry of the two black hole solution. For simplicity, we boost both black holes with a single boost parameter *v*, and introduce δ as a relative phase between the two black holes in the orbital plane. As noted above, we work only to $\mathcal{O}(v^2)$ in the boost velocity due to the complicated nature of the boosted metric. The solution then depends on the parameters $\{M_1, M_2, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, v, \delta\}.$

4.1 Solving the linearized Einstein equation

The equations of motion arising from the Lagrangian [\(3.9\)](#page-9-3) are the Maxwell equation $\nabla^{\mu}F_{\mu\nu}=0$ and the Einstein equation

$$
R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R - 3g^2g_{\mu\nu} = \underbrace{2(F_{\mu\lambda}F_{\nu}^{\lambda} - \frac{1}{4}g_{\mu\nu}F_{\rho\sigma}F^{\rho\sigma})}_{S_{\mu\nu}},\tag{4.1}
$$

or equivalently

$$
R_{\mu\nu} + 3g^2 g_{\mu\nu} = S_{\mu\nu}.
$$
\n(4.2)

At the order we are interested in, we only need the Maxwell field to $\mathcal{O}(M_i)$. Hence we do not need to go beyond the lowest order Maxwell equation. This also implies that we can take the lowest order stress energy tensor $S_{\mu\nu}$.

As in [\(3.8\)](#page-8-1), we start with a linear superposition metric and add an interaction term *hµν*. In particular, we take

$$
g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + g_{1\,\mu\nu} + g_{2\,\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu},
$$

\n
$$
F_{\mu\nu} = F_{1\,\mu\nu} + F_{2\,\mu\nu},
$$
\n(4.3)

where $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ is the background AdS metric, $g_{i\mu\nu}$ is the *i*-th black hole metric with $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ subtracted and $h_{\mu\nu}$ is the $\mathcal{O}(M_1M_2)$ interaction we are solving for. Note that the fields ${\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + g_i}_{\mu\nu}, F_i}_{\mu\nu}$ is just the RNAdS solution for the *i*-th black hole.

We now consider the linearized Einstein equation about the background

$$
g_{\mu\nu} = \hat{g}_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu},\tag{4.4}
$$

where

$$
\hat{g}_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + g_{1\,\mu\nu} + g_{2\,\mu\nu} \tag{4.5}
$$

is the linear superposition metric. The linearized Ricci tensor can be written as

$$
R_{\mu\nu} = \hat{R}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} (\hat{\nabla}^{\alpha} \hat{\nabla}_{\mu} h_{\nu\alpha} + \hat{\nabla}^{\alpha} \hat{\nabla}_{\nu} h_{\mu\alpha} - \hat{g}^{\alpha\beta} \hat{\nabla}_{\nu} \hat{\nabla}_{\mu} h_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{\nabla}^{\alpha} \hat{\nabla}_{\alpha} h_{\mu\nu}), \tag{4.6}
$$

where $\hat{\nabla}_{\alpha}$ is the covariant derivative with respect to the metric $\hat{g}_{\mu\nu}$, and $\hat{R}_{\mu\nu}$ is the Ricci tensor computed from $\hat{g}_{\mu\nu}$. Substituting this expression into [\(4.2\)](#page-12-2) then gives

$$
\hat{\nabla}^{\alpha}\hat{\nabla}_{\mu}h_{\nu\alpha} + \hat{\nabla}^{\alpha}\hat{\nabla}_{\nu}h_{\mu\alpha} - \hat{g}^{\alpha\beta}\hat{\nabla}_{\nu}\hat{\nabla}_{\mu}h_{\alpha\beta} - \hat{\nabla}^{\alpha}\hat{\nabla}_{\alpha}h_{\mu\nu} + 6g^{2}h_{\mu\nu} = -2(\hat{R}_{\mu\nu} + 3g^{2}\hat{g}_{\mu\nu} - S_{\mu\nu}), \tag{4.7}
$$

where $S_{\mu\nu}$ is calculated to quadratic (i.e. lowest) order in the masses. The right-hand side is the Einstein equation for the linear superposition metric $\hat{g}_{\mu\nu}$. This would vanish for a single $\{M_1, \lambda_1\}$ (or a single $\{M_2, \lambda_2\}$) black hole, but gives a non-vanishing contribution at $\mathcal{O}(M_1M_2)$, which is a source to the linearized Einstein equation for $h_{\mu\nu}$.

Since $h_{\mu\nu}$ is of $\mathcal{O}(M_1M_2)$, and we only work to this order, we can make a further simplification on the left-hand side of (4.7) by replacing the linear superposition $\hat{g}_{\mu\nu}$ background metric with the vacuum AdS metric $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$. The result is the linearized Einstein equation in an AdS background sourced by the *M*1-*M*² interaction

$$
\bar{\nabla}^{\alpha}\bar{\nabla}_{\mu}h_{\nu\alpha} + \bar{\nabla}^{\alpha}\bar{\nabla}_{\nu}h_{\mu\alpha} - \bar{g}^{\alpha\beta}\bar{\nabla}_{\nu}\bar{\nabla}_{\mu}h_{\alpha\beta} - \bar{\nabla}^{\alpha}\bar{\nabla}_{\alpha}h_{\mu\nu} + 6g^{2}h_{\mu\nu} = -2(\hat{R}_{\mu\nu} + 3g^{2}\hat{g}_{\mu\nu} - S_{\mu\nu}). \tag{4.8}
$$

Here $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ is the AdS metric, [\(3.5\)](#page-7-0), and $\bar{\nabla}_{\mu}$ are covariant derivatives with respect to this background.

We expand the right-hand side of (4.8) to second order in the boost velocity v for the two black holes. (Recall that both black holes are given the same boost velocity, but have a relative phase angle δ .) From the boost, (3.7) , we see that the resulting expression involves combinations of trigonometric functions of θ and $\phi - qt$ along with rational polynomials of *r*. This provides a hint for solving the linearized Einstein equation with source using separation of variables. We find a solution to this system of equations up to $\mathcal{O}(M_1M_2v^2)$. The expressions are rather long and are presented in appendix [A.](#page-16-0)

4.2 The BPS condition for the two black hole solution

What we have found is a perturbative solution up to $\mathcal{O}(M^2v^2)$ for two black holes in AdS. Both black holes orbit the origin at the same radius since the same boost velocity was used, but they have a relative phase angle of δ . To be clear, this is not a complete solution; the expansion in small boost velocity does not really separate the two centers. Nevertheless, there is already enough information in the perturbative solution to put some constraints on the possibility of realizing a full multi black hole solution.

We have already considered the BPS condition at the linear superposition order and demonstrated that the multi-centered solution is at most 1/4 BPS. It is instructive to reconsider this condition for the two-black hole solution to $\mathcal{O}(M^2v^2)$. In fact, one of the main reasons we have taken arbitrary charges $Q_1 = \lambda_1 M_1$ and $Q_2 = \lambda_2 M_2$ in the perturbative solution is to see where the $M = |Q|$ BPS condition arises in the solution.

Instead of constructing the Killing spinor as we did above in [\(3.19\)](#page-10-1), we look for zero eigenvalues of the integrability matrix $\Omega_{\mu\nu}$ defined in [\(3.12\)](#page-9-4). For simplicity, we focus on t -*r* integrability, namely the Ω_{tr} matrix and take the two black holes to have a phase difference of π . Since each entry in Ω_{tr} begins at $\mathcal{O}(M)$, the determinant of Ω_{tr} starts at $\mathcal{O}(M^4)$. Since the perturbative solution is valid to $\mathcal{O}(M^2v^2)$, we can then examine det Ω_{tr} up to $\mathcal{O}(M^5v^2)$, which is also the lowest non-trivial order that is sensitive to the interaction between the two black holes.

The determinant of Ω_{tr} can be expanded order by order in terms of mass and velocity, and at each order the component should be vanishing. We present the three lowest orders below:

$$
\mathcal{O}(M^4): \quad (M_1 + M_2 - Q_1 - Q_2)^2 (M_1 + M_2 + Q_1 + Q_2)^2 = 0,\tag{4.9a}
$$

$$
\mathcal{O}(M^4v): \quad (M_1 + M_2 - Q_1 - Q_2)(M_1 + M_2 + Q_1 + Q_2)\left(Q_1^2 - Q_2^2 - M_1^2 + M_2^2\right) = 0,\tag{4.9b}
$$

$$
\mathcal{O}(M^5 v): \quad (Q_1 + Q_2) (M_1 + M_2 - Q_1 - Q_2) (M_1 + M_2 + Q_1 + Q_2) \n\cdot \left[(Q_1 M_2 - Q_2 M_1) (r^2 + 1) \cos(t - \phi) + i (M_1^2 - M_2^2) r^2 \sin(t - \phi) \right] v = 0.
$$
\n(4.9c)

At this order, the determinant vanishes when

$$
M_1 + M_2 = \pm (Q_1 + Q_2), \tag{4.10}
$$

indicating that all that is needed is for the total mass to equal the total charge. At $\mathcal{O}(M^4)$, we are still in the linear superposition regime, and this is why the eigenvalues of Ω_{tr} only depend on the total mass and total charge of the two black holes.

At $\mathcal{O}(M^5v)$ we may have expected to be sensitive to the individual charges and masses. However, this does not seem to be the case. Instead, we have to go to $\mathcal{O}(M^5v^2)$ before this is revealed. By substituting (4.10) into det Ω_{tr} and working to $\mathcal{O}(M^5v^2)$, we find, in

particular, a combination of the form

$$
(M_1 \mp Q_1)(M_1 + M_2)^3 \Big[4i(M_1 \mp Q_1)(1 + r^2) \cos(t - \phi) \n\pm r^2 \Big(4(M_1 - M_2) + 3(M_1 \mp Q_1)(1 + r^2) \Big) \sin(t - \phi) \Big] = 0.
$$
\n(4.11)

Here we have used (4.10) to remove Q_2 from this expression. Now it is clear that the only solution is $Q_1/M_1 = Q_2/M_2 = \pm 1$. Furthermore, one can see that this is a repeated root for $(4.9a)$ and $(4.9b)$, but is merely a single root of $(4.9c)$ and (4.11) . This further demonstrates that a single $Q = \pm M$ black hole, upon boosting, is still $1/2$ BPS. However, when taking interactions into account, the best we could expect is 1/4 BPS.

5 Discussion

At the first non-trivial order in interactions that we are working at, we can write down a stationary two black hole solution for any set of masses M_1 and M_2 and charges Q_1 and *Q*2. However, if the forces are unbalanced, we would not expect the solution to remain stationary if expanded to higher orders in mass and the boost velocity. Alternatively, one may end up with a stationary solution where the two black holes are kept apart by a strut, i.e. a line singularity connecting the black holes.

From the perturbative solution alone, this force balance requirement does not show up at $\mathcal{O}(M^2v^2)$. Nevertheless, as we have seen, the solution is only supersymmetric when mass is equal to the charge. We thus expect that the BPS condition will be a requirement for the existence of a truly stationary multi-centered black hole solution beyond the first order in interactions.

While the explicit solution we presented in appendix [A](#page-16-0) involves two black holes, at this order it is easy to generalize to any number of black holes by simply adding together pairwise interaction terms among all the black holes. Of course, the solution is specialized to the case of all black holes with the same boost velocity and hence orbiting at the same radius, but with various phase angles. We anticipate that it should be possible to generalize the solution for the interaction term to the case where each black hole has its own independent boost velocity. We believe, however, that the angular momenta of the black holes must remain aligned, lest the BPS condition becomes completely broken.

As shown in appendix [B,](#page-24-0) one can recover the asymptotically Minkowski limit of the two AdS black hole solution by taking the gauge coupling constant $g \to 0$ while keeping $r_0 = v/g$ fixed. Even in this limit, there is the freedom to perform coordinate transformations, which we can exploit to put the metric in a diagonal form. For general masses and charges (i.e. general λ_1 and λ_2) the solution remains rather complicated. However, in the BPS limit, $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \pm 1$, it indeed reduces to the MP solution, [\(1.1\)](#page-1-1), expanded to $\mathcal{O}(M^2 r_0^2)$. Again, global issues such as horizons and possible strut singularities when the black holes are unbalanced cannot be seen at this perturbative order.

An important limitation of the two black hole solution is that it is only constructed to $\mathcal{O}(M^2v^2)$. In principle, there should not be any obstruction to all orders in the boost velocity v , as this is just a technical issue of working with a rather complicated source

term in the linearized Einstein equation, (4.8) , resulting from the full expressions for the boost, [\(3.7\)](#page-8-0). What would be considerably more difficult would be to work out the interaction to higher order in the masses. It would of course be desirable to obtain a complete solution to all orders in the masses and boost velocity. However, it is unlikely that an analytic solution would be found. Instead, it would be interesting to see if a numerical solution can be constructed. If so, this would provide stronger evidence for the existence of multi-centered BPS black holes in AdS.

It is worth keeping in mind that we have focused on the non-rotating RNAdS_4 solution in the BPS limit of $M = Q$, which is actually a naked singularity. As we work locally in a perturbative expansion, our analysis does not depend on the existence of a regular horizon. Nevertheless, the construction of a true multi-centered black hole solution would have to start from a BPS black hole with regular horizon, which necessarily carries angular momentum in AdS_4 [\[3\]](#page-28-2). Working this out, even to perturbative order, would be considerably more involved. (But see appendix E of [\[13\]](#page-28-11) for a probe giant graviton analysis in a Gutowski-Reall AdS_5 black hole background.) Nevertheless, we conjecture that such a solution is possible, and moreover that the spins of the black holes as well as their orbital angular momenta would all have to be lined up in order to preserve supersymmetry.

Our consideration of supersymmetry has been in the context of pure four-dimensional gauged $\mathcal{N} = 2$ supergravity. If we allowed for additional vector multiplets, then static BPS black holes with regular horizons do exist [\[14–](#page-28-12)[16\]](#page-28-13). Finding multi-centered BPS solutions in this context could be more straightforward, as the starting point would still be spherically symmetric. Moreover, such multi-centered solutions could help shed additional light on the connection between the topologically twisted index and $AdS₄$ black hole microstates [\[17,](#page-28-14) [18\]](#page-28-15).

Finally, although we have focused on the four-dimensional case, much of the analysis and the perturbative construction method can be extended to dimensions higher than four. It would be a simple generalization to consider the *d*-dimensional RNAdS solution with $M = Q$ and to boost into a common rotation plane. Again, a regular solution would have to start with a rotating BPS black hole, such as the Gutowski-Reall solution in AdS_5 [\[4,](#page-28-3) [5\]](#page-28-4). While higher dimensional black holes can carry multiple angular momenta, it is again likely that a multi-centered solution would have to have all angular momenta including black hole spin lined up along a common axis. The $AdS₅$ case is especially interesting in light of recent developments in counting $1/16$ BPS states in $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM.

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A The Full metric

The full metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ of two Reissner-Nordstrom black holes with $Q_1 = \lambda_1 M_1$, $Q_2 = \lambda_2 M_2$ could be written as the sum of 4 parts

$$
g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + g_{1\,\mu\nu} + g_{2\,\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu},\tag{A.1}
$$

where $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ is the background AdS metric described by [\(2.1\)](#page-4-5), $g_{1\mu\nu}$ represents the metric for the first black hole, $g_{2\mu\nu}$ represents the metric for the second black hole, and $h_{\mu\nu}$ corresponds to their interactions. For the sake of convenience, we have set the gauge coupling constant $g = 1$; explicit dependence on g is easily restored using dimensional analysis.

A.1 The boosted black hole terms

The metric $g_{1\mu\nu}$ of the first black hole is obtained by boosting the standard RNAdS solution using [\(3.7\)](#page-8-0). While $g_{1\mu\nu}$ can be given to all orders in the boost velocity *v*, given the complexity of the boost, we only expand up to second order in *v*

$$
g_{1\,\mu\nu} = g_{1\,\mu\nu}^{(0)} + v g_{1\,\mu\nu}^{(1)} + v^2 g_{1\,\mu\nu}^{(2)}.
$$
\n(A.2)

Recall also that we work only to $\mathcal{O}(M^2)$. At zeroth order, we have just the RNAdS solution expanded to second order in mass with the AdS background subtracted out

$$
g_{1\,\mu\nu}^{(0)} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2M_1}{r} - \frac{M_1^2 \lambda_1^2}{r^2} & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{2M_1}{r(r^2+1)^2} + \frac{(4-(r^2+1)\lambda_1^2)M_1^2}{r^2(r^2+1)^3} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} .
$$
 (A.3)

At $\mathcal{O}(v)$, the boosted black hole is given angular velocity in the *x-y* plane. Hence the metric components pick up $\sin(t - \phi)$ and $\cos(t - \phi)$ dependence

$$
g_{1\,tt}^{(1)} = \left(-\frac{2M_1\left(3r^2+1\right)}{r^2\sqrt{r^2+1}} + \frac{2\lambda_1^2M_1^2\left(2r^2+1\right)}{r^3\sqrt{r^2+1}}\right)\sin(\theta)\cos(t-\phi),\tag{A.4a}
$$

$$
g_{1\,tr}^{(1)} = \left(-\frac{4M_1}{r\left(r^2+1\right)^{3/2}} + \frac{2M_1^2\left(\lambda_1^2\left(r^2+1\right)-2\right)}{r^2\left(r^2+1\right)^{5/2}}\right)\sin(\theta)\sin(t-\phi),\tag{A.4b}
$$

$$
g_{1\,t\theta}^{(1)} = \left(-\frac{2M_1}{\sqrt{r^2 + 1}} + \frac{\lambda_1^2 M_1^2}{r\sqrt{r^2 + 1}}\right) \cos(\theta)\sin(t - \phi),\tag{A.4c}
$$

$$
g_{1\,t\phi}^{(1)} = \left(\frac{2M_1}{\sqrt{r^2 + 1}} - \frac{\lambda_1^2 M_1^2}{r\sqrt{r^2 + 1}}\right) \sin(\theta) \cos(t - \phi),\tag{A.4d}
$$

$$
g_{1rr}^{(1)} = \left(-\frac{2M_1 (3r^2 + 1)}{r^2 (r^2 + 1)^{5/2}} - \frac{2M_1^2 (4(3r^2 + 1) - \lambda_1^2 (r^2 + 1) (2r^2 + 1))}{r^3 (r^2 + 1)^{7/2}}\right) \sin(\theta) \cos(t - \phi),\tag{A.4e}
$$

$$
g_{1\,r\theta}^{(1)} = \left(\frac{2M_1}{r\,(r^2+1)^{3/2}} + \frac{M_1^2\,(4-\lambda_1^2\,(r^2+1))}{r^2\,(r^2+1)^{5/2}}\right)\cos(\theta)\cos(t-\phi),\tag{A.4f}
$$

$$
g_{1\,r\phi}^{(1)} = \left(\frac{2M_1}{r\,(r^2+1)^{3/2}} + \frac{M_1^2\,(4-\lambda_1^2\,(r^2+1))}{r^2\,(r^2+1)^{5/2}}\right)\sin(\theta)\sin(t-\phi),\tag{A.4g}
$$

$$
g_{1\,\theta\theta}^{(1)} = g_{1\theta\phi}^{(1)} = g_{1\phi\phi}^{(1)} = 0.\tag{A.4h}
$$

At $\mathcal{O}(v^2)$ the metric components now have second harmonic components $\sin(2t - 2\phi)$ and $\cos(2t-2\phi)$

$$
g_{1tt}^{(2)} = \frac{M_1}{2r^3} \left(-2(r^2 + 1) + (7r^2 + 3) \sin^2(\theta) + \frac{(17r^4 + 8r^2 + 3) \sin^2(\theta) \cos(2t - 2\phi)}{r^2 + 1} \right)
$$

+
$$
\frac{M_1^2}{2r^4} \left\{ \frac{8r^2 \sin^2(\theta) \sin^2(t - \phi)}{(r^2 + 1)^2} + \lambda_1^2 \left[2(r^2 + 1) - (7r^2 + 4) \sin^2(\theta) \right] - \frac{(13r^4 + 11r^2 + 4) \sin^2(\theta) \cos(2t - 2\phi)}{r^2 + 1} \right\},
$$
(A.5a)

$$
g_{1\,tr}^{(2)} = \left(\frac{3M_1\left(3r^2+1\right)}{r^2\left(r^2+1\right)^2} + \frac{M_1^2\left(4\left(8r^2+3\right) - \lambda_1^2\left(r^2+1\right)\left(11r^2+5\right)\right)}{2r^3\left(r^2+1\right)^3}\right)\sin^2(\theta)\sin(2t-2\phi),\tag{A.5b}
$$

$$
g_{1\,t\theta}^{(2)} = \left(\frac{2M_1r}{(r^2+1)} - \frac{M_1^2\left(4 + \lambda_1^2(r^2+1)\left(5r^2+1\right)\right)}{4r^2\left(r^2+1\right)^2}\right)\sin(2\theta)\sin(2t-2\phi),\tag{A.5c}
$$
\n
$$
g_{1\,t\phi}^{(2)} = -\frac{2M_1\sin^2(\theta)\left(2r^2\cos(2t-2\phi) + r^2+1\right)}{r\left(r^2+1\right)} + \frac{M_1^2\sin^2(\theta)\left(\lambda_1^2\left(r^2+1\right)\left(\left(5r^2+1\right)\cos(2t-2\phi) + 3\left(r^2+1\right)\right) - 8\sin^2(t-\phi)\right)}{r\left(r^2+1\right)},
$$

$$
g_{1rr}^{(2)} = \frac{M_1}{2r^3 (r^2 + 1)^3} \Biggl\{ -6(r^2 + 1)^2
$$
\n
$$
+ \sin^2(\theta) \Bigl((r^2 + 1)(9r^2 + 5) + \Bigl(15r^4 + 8r^2 + 5\Bigr) \cos(2t - 2\phi) \Bigr) \Biggr\}
$$
\n
$$
+ \frac{M_1^2}{2r^4 (r^2 + 1)^4} \Biggl\{ -4 \Bigl[2(r^2 + 1)(3r^2 + 2) - \sin^2(\theta) \Bigl(18r^4 + 16r^2 + 5 + \Bigl(24r^4 + 16r^2 + 5\Bigr) \cos(2t - \phi) \Bigr) \Biggr]
$$
\n
$$
+ \lambda_1^2 (r^2 + 1) \Biggl[4(r^2 + 1)^2
$$
\n
$$
- \sin^2(\theta) \Bigl((r^2 + 1)(8r^2 + 5) + \Bigl(12r^4 + 11r^2 + 5\Bigr) \cos(2t - 2\phi) \Bigr) \Biggr] \Biggr\}, \qquad (A.5e)
$$
\n
$$
g_{1r\theta}^{(2)} = -\frac{M_1 \sin(2\theta) \Bigl((3r^2 + 1) \cos(2t - 2\phi) + r^2 + 1 \Bigr)}{r^2 (r^2 + 1)^2}
$$
\n
$$
+ \frac{M_1^2 \sin(2\theta)}{4r^3 (r^2 + 1)^3} \Biggl\{ -4 \Bigl[\Bigl(8r^2 + 3 \Bigr) \cos(2t - 2\phi) + 6r^2 + 3 \Bigr]
$$
\n(4.5f)

$$
+\lambda_1^2 \left(r^2+1\right) \left(\left(7r^2+3\right)\cos(2t-2\phi)+3\left(r^2+1\right)\right)\},\tag{A.5f}
$$
\n
$$
g_{1\,r\phi}^{(2)} = \left(-\frac{2M_1\left(3r^2+1\right)}{r^2\left(r^2+1\right)^2}+\frac{M_1^2\left(\lambda_1^2\left((r^2+1)(7r^2+3)-4\left(8r^2+3\right)\right)\right)}{2r^3\left(r^2+1\right)^3}\right)\sin^2(\theta)\sin(2t-2\phi),\tag{A.5g}
$$

$$
g_{1\theta\theta}^{(2)} = \frac{M_1 \cos^2(\theta)}{r} \left(1 - \frac{r^2 - 1}{r^2 + 1} \cos(2t - 2\phi) \right)
$$

+
$$
\frac{M_1^2 \cos^2(\theta) \left(\lambda_1^2 (r^2 + 1) \left((r^2 - 1) \cos(2t - 2\phi) - r^2 - 1 \right) + 8 \cos^2(t - \phi) \right)}{2r^2 (r^2 + 1)^2}, \quad (A.5h)
$$

$$
g_{1\,\theta\phi}^{(2)} = \left(-\frac{M_1\,(r^2-1)}{2r\,(r^2+1)} + \frac{M_1^2\,\left(\lambda_1^2\,(r^4-1)+4\right)}{4r^2\,(r^2+1)^2}\right)\sin(2\theta)\sin(2t-2\phi),\tag{A.5i}
$$

$$
g_{1\,\phi\phi}^{(2)} = \frac{M_1 \sin^2(\theta)}{r} \left(1 + \frac{r^2 - 1}{r^2 + 1} \cos(2t - 2\phi) \right)
$$

$$
- \frac{M_1^2 \sin^2(\theta) \left(\lambda_1^2 (r^2 + 1) \left((r^2 - 1) \cos(2t - 2\phi) + r^2 + 1 \right) - 8 \sin^2(t - \phi) \right)}{2r^2 (r^2 + 1)^2}.
$$
 (A.5j)

The expressions for the second black hole follow from $g_{1\mu\nu}$ with the substitution $M_1 \to M_2$, $\lambda_1 \to \lambda_2$ and $\phi \to \phi - \delta$ where δ is the phase difference between the two black holes.

A.2 The interaction term

The interaction term $h_{\mu\nu}$ is obtained by solving the linearized Einstein equation, [\(4.8\)](#page-13-1), order by order in the boost velocity *v*

$$
h_{\mu\nu} = M_1 M_2 \left(h_{\mu\nu}^{(0)} + v h_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + v^2 h_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} \right). \tag{A.6}
$$

By separating and expanding in trigonometric functions of θ and $t-\phi$, we are able to convert the resulting partial differential equations into a set of ordinary differential equations for functions of *r*. Even so, the solution is not unique for two reasons. Firstly, one can always add a general solution to the homogeneous equation. And, secondly, there is the freedom to perform diffeomorphisms on the solution. To fix the homogeneous solution, we demand that the falloff as $r \to \infty$ is faster than that of the standard RNAdS solution so that the asymptotic behavior is unchanged. As for diffeomorphisms, we leave this free at first, but will return to it below.

At $\mathcal{O}(v^0)$, the black holes are sitting on top of each other, and the interaction comes simply from the expansion $(M_1+M_2)^2 = M_1^2 + M_2^2 + 2M_1M_2$ (and a similar one for the charge)

$$
h_{\mu\nu}^{(0)} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{2\lambda_1 \lambda_2}{r^2} & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \frac{8-2\lambda_1 \lambda_2 (r^2+1)}{r^2 (r^2+1)^3} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} .
$$
 (A.7)

At $\mathcal{O}(v)$, we have

$$
h_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{4\lambda_1\lambda_2\sqrt{r^2+1}(3-8r^4)\cos(\frac{\delta}{2}+t-\phi)}{3r^3} & -\frac{8\left(2-\lambda_1\lambda_2\left(r^2+1\right)^2\right)\sin(\frac{\delta}{2}+t-\phi)}{r^2(r^2+1)^{5/2}} & 0 & 0\\ -\frac{8\left(2-\lambda_1\lambda_2\left(r^2+1\right)^2\right)\sin(\frac{\delta}{2}+t-\phi)}{r^2(r^2+1)^{5/2}} & \frac{8\left(\lambda_1\lambda_2+\lambda_1\lambda_2r^4+2\left(\lambda_1\lambda_2-3\right)r^2-4\right)\cos(\frac{\delta}{2}+t-\phi)}{r^3(r^2+1)^{7/2}} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0\\ \times \cos\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)\sin\theta. & \text{(A.8)}
$$

Finally, at $\mathcal{O}(v^2)$, we have

$$
h_{tt}^{(2)} = \frac{\cos(2\theta)}{16r^4 (r^2 + 1)^2} \left\{-135r^6 - 302r^4 - 199r^2 - 32 + (135r^6 + 302r^4 + 135r^2 + 32)\cos(\delta) + 90r (r^2 + 1)^2 (3r^2 + 1)\sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) \cot^{-1}(r) + \lambda_1\lambda_2 (r^2 + 1)^2 \left[(13r^2 + 8)\cos(\delta) - 18(3r^2 + 1) r \sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) \cot^{-1}(r) + 51r^2 + 24 \right] \right\},\tag{A.9a}
$$

$$
h_{tr}^{(2)} = -\frac{\sin^2(\theta)\sin(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{16r^5 (r^2 + 1)^3} \left\{ \left(-585r^8 - 1269r^6 - 1103r^4 - 99r^2 + 64 \right) \cos(\delta) \right.+ 585r^8 + 1269r^6 + 591r^4 - 157r^2 - 64 + 390r (r^2 + 1)^3 (3r^2 - 1) \sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) \tan^{-1}(r) + \lambda_1 \lambda_2 (r^2 + 1)^2 \left[23r^4 + 13r^2 - 16 + 3(35r^4 + 17r^2 - 16) \cos(\delta) \right.- 6 (3r^4 + 2r^2 - 1) r \sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) \tan^{-1}(r) \Bigg\}, \tag{A.9b}
$$

$$
h_{t\theta}^{(2)} = 0,
$$
\n(A.9c)\n
$$
h_{t\phi}^{(2)} = \frac{\sin^2(\theta) \left(\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \left(r^2 + 1 \right)^2 (2 \cos(\delta) + 1) - 4 \cos(\delta) \right)}{r^2 (r^2 + 1)^2},
$$
\n(A.9d)

$$
r^{2}(r^{2}+1)^{2}
$$
\n
$$
h_{rr}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{16r^{6}(r^{2}+1)^{4}} \Big\{ 60r^{8} + 340r^{6} + 532r^{4} + 412r^{2} + 160 - 120 (r^{2}+1)^{4} r \sin^{2} \left(\frac{\delta}{2} \right) \cot^{-1}(r) + \cos(2\theta) \Big(-225r^{8} - 918r^{6} - 1033r^{4} - 340r^{2} + 90 (r^{2}+1)^{2} (5r^{2}+3) r^{3} \sin^{2} \left(\frac{\delta}{2} \right) \cot^{-1}(r) \Big) + \cos(\delta) \left(-60r^{8} - 148r^{6} - 916r^{4} - 604r^{2} - 160 + (225r^{8} + 342r^{6} + 265r^{4} + 84r^{2}) \cos(2\theta) \right) + 4 \sin^{2}(\theta) \cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi) (r^{2}+1) \left(399r^{4} + 281r^{2} + 80 + 195 (r^{2}+1)^{2} r \tan^{-1}(r) \right) - 4 \cos(\delta) \sin^{2}(\theta) \cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi) \left(15r^{6} + 296r^{4} + 233r^{2} + 80 + 195 (r^{2}+1)^{3} r \tan^{-1}(r) \right) + \lambda_{1}\lambda_{2}(1 + r^{2}) \Big[-36r^{6} - 112r^{4} - 116r^{2} - 40 + (69r^{6} + 129r^{4} + 60r^{2}) \cos(2\theta) + \cos(\delta) \left(132r^{6} + 304r^{4} + 212r^{2} + 40 + (27r^{6} + 31r^{4} + 4r^{2}) \cos(2\theta) \right) - 6r (r^{2}+1) \sin^{2} \left(\frac{\delta}{2} \right) \cot^{-1}(r) \left(3r^{2} (5r^{2}+3) \cos(2\theta) - 4 (r^{2}+1)^{2} \right) + 4 \sin^{2}(\theta) \cos(\delta + 2t -
$$

$$
+180r^{3}(r^{2}-1)(r^{2}+1)^{2}\sin^{2}(\frac{\delta}{2})\cot^{-1}(r)+\lambda_{1}\lambda_{2}(1+r^{2})\left[36r^{6}-12r^{4}-48r^{2}\right]
$$

\n
$$
+4r^{2}(7r^{4}+3r^{2}-4)\cos(\delta)-72r^{3}(r^{4}-1)\sin^{2}(\frac{\delta}{2})\cot^{-1}(r)-2\cos(\delta+2t-2\phi).
$$

\n
$$
(29r^{6}+14r^{4}-19r^{2}-16+(3r^{6}-14r^{4}-77r^{2}-48)\cos(\delta)
$$

\n
$$
-6r(r^{2}-1)(r^{2}+1)^{2}\sin^{2}(\frac{\delta}{2})\tan^{-1}(r))\Big]\Big], \qquad (A.9f)
$$

\n
$$
h_{r\phi}^{(2)} = \frac{\sin^{2}(\theta)\sin(\delta+2t-2\phi)}{16r^{5}(r^{2}+1)^{3}}\Big(-195r^{8}-421r^{6}-181r^{4}+237r^{2}+64\cos(\delta)
$$

\n
$$
+195r^{8}+421r^{6}-75r^{4}-365r^{2}-64+390r(r^{2}-1)(r^{2}+1)^{3}\sin^{2}(\frac{\delta}{2})\tan^{-1}(r)
$$

\n
$$
+ \lambda_{1}\lambda_{2}(1+r^{2})\Big[29r^{6}+14r^{4}-19r^{2}-16+(3r^{6}-14r^{4}-77r^{2}-48)\cos(\delta)
$$

\n
$$
-6r(r^{2}-1)(r^{2}+1)^{2}\sin^{2}(\frac{\delta}{2})\tan^{-1}(r)\Big], \qquad (A.9g)
$$

\n
$$
h_{\theta\theta}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{16r^{4}(r^{2}+1)^{2}}\Big\{-\left(r^{2}+1\right)^{2}(45r^{2}+32)+\left(45r^{6}+122r^{4}+173r^{2}+32\right)\cos(\delta)
$$

\n
$$
+30r(r^{2}+1)^{2}(3r^{2}+1)\sin^{2}(\frac{\delta}{2})\cot^{-1}(r)-2\sin^{2}(\frac{\delta}{
$$

$$
h_{\theta\phi}^{(2)} = 0,
$$
\n(A.9i)
\n
$$
h_{\phi\phi}^{(2)} = \sin^2(\theta)h_{\theta\theta}^{(2)}.
$$
\n(A.9j)

By restoring the gauge coupling constant
$$
g
$$
, we note that $h_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}$ becomes singular in the

Minkowski limit $g \to 0$. However, this is only a coordinate artifact, as can be seen by making the transformation

$$
r \to r - \frac{v^2 M_1 M_2}{64r^5} \left(2\sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) \left(6r\left(3r^2 + 1\right)(5 - \lambda_1\lambda_2)\cot^{-1}(r) - 16(4 - \lambda_1\lambda_2)\right) \right)
$$

$$
- 32\left(\cos(\delta)(3\lambda_1\lambda_2 - 4) + \lambda_1\lambda_2 + 4\right)\sin^2(\theta)\cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)\right). \tag{A.10}
$$

This transformation is not unique, but was chosen to remove some of the $cot^{-1}(r)$ terms from the above in addition to removing the singular terms in the $g \to 0$ limit.

Since this transformation is explicitly of $\mathcal{O}(v^2M_1M_2)$, it only affects $h_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}$. The transformed expression is then as follows.

$$
h_{tt}^{(2)} = -\frac{8\sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)\sin^2(\theta)\cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{r^4} + \frac{15\left(3r^2 + 1\right)\sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)\left(3\cos(2\theta) + 1\right)\cot^{-1}(r)}{8r^3} + \frac{-\left(135r^2 + 32\right)\cos(2\theta) + \cos(\delta)\left(\frac{\left(135r^6 + 302r^4 + 135r^2 + 32\right)\cos(2\theta)}{(r^2 + 1)^2} + 32\right) - 32}{16r^4} + \lambda_1\lambda_2\left(-\frac{\left(3\cos(\delta) + 1\right)\sin^2(\theta)\cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{r^4} + \frac{-8\cos(\delta) + \cos(2\theta)\left(\left(13r^2 + 8\right)\cos(\delta) + 51r^2 + 24\right) + 8}{16r^4} - \frac{3\left(3r^2 + 1\right)\sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right)\left(3\cos(2\theta) + 1\right)\cot^{-1}(r)}{8r^3}\right), \qquad (A.11a)
$$
\n
$$
h_{tr}^{(2)} = \frac{195\left(3r^2 - 1\right)\left(\cos(\delta) - 1\right)\tan^{-1}(r)\sin^2(\theta)\sin(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{16r^4}
$$

$$
h_{tr}^{(2)} = \frac{165(6t - 1)(65t(6t) - 1)(65t(6t) + 1)(65t(6t) + 2e^t - 2\phi)}}{16r^4} + \frac{(585r^6 + 1269r^4 + 1167r^2 + 227)\cos(\delta)\sin^2(\theta)\sin(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{16r^3(r^2 + 1)^3} - \frac{(585r^4 + 684r^2 - 29)\sin^2(\theta)\sin(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{16r^3(r^2 + 1)^2} + \lambda_1\lambda_2\left(-\frac{3(3r^2 - 1)(\cos(\delta) - 1)\sin^2(\theta)\tan^{-1}(r)\sin(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{16r^4}\right) - \frac{\sin^2(\theta)(3(35r^2 + 17)\cos(\delta) + 23r^2 + 13)\sin(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{16r^3(r^2 + 1)}\right), \tag{A.11b}
$$

$$
h_{t\theta}^{(2)} = 0,
$$
\n(A.11c)
\n
$$
h_{t\phi}^{(2)} = \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_2 (2 \cos(\delta) + 1) \sin^2(\theta)}{r^2} - \frac{4 \cos(\delta) \sin^2(\theta)}{r^2 (r^2 + 1)^2},
$$
\n(A.11d)

$$
h_{rr}^{(2)} = \frac{195 \sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) \tan^{-1}(r) \sin^2(\theta) \cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{2r^5(r^2 + 1)}
$$

+
$$
\frac{(303r^4 + 408r^2 + (81r^4 - 24r^2 + 23) \cos(\delta) + 105) \sin^2(\theta) \cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{4r^4(r^2 + 1)^4}
$$

+
$$
\frac{15 (5r^2 + 3) \sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) (3 \cos(2\theta) + 1) \cot^{-1}(r)}{8r^3(r^2 + 1)^2}
$$

+
$$
\frac{\cos(\delta) (-105r^6 - 61r^4 - 447r^2 + (225r^6 + 342r^4 + 265r^2 + 84) \cos(2\theta) - 107)}{16r^4(r^2 + 1)^4}
$$

-
$$
\frac{(-105r^4 - 148r^2 + (225r^4 + 693r^2 + 340) \cos(2\theta) + 85)}{16r^4(r^2 + 1)^3}
$$

+
$$
\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \left(-\frac{3 \sin^2\left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) \tan^{-1}(r) \sin^2(\theta) \cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{2r^7 + 2r^5}\right)
$$

$$
+\frac{127\cos(\delta) + \cos(2\theta) ((27r^2 + 4) \cos(\delta) + 69r^2 + 60) + 141r^2 \cos(\delta) - 45r^2 - 31
$$

\n
$$
+\frac{(20r^4 + 21r^2 + 3 (4r^4 + 9r^2 + 3) \cos(\delta) + 7) \sin^2(\theta) \cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{4r^4 (r^2 + 1)^3}
$$
\n
$$
-\frac{3 (5r^2 + 3) \sin^2(\frac{\delta}{2}) (3 \cos(2\theta) + 1) \cot^{-1}(r)}{8r^3 (r^2 + 1)^2}
$$
\n
$$
-\frac{45 (r^2 - 1) \sin^2(\frac{\delta}{2}) \sin(2\theta) \cot^{-1}(r)}{8r^2 (r^2 + 1)}
$$
\n
$$
+\frac{195 (r^2 - 1) \sin^2(\frac{\delta}{2}) \sin(2\theta) \cot^{-1}(r) \cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{8r^4 (r^2 + 1)}
$$
\n
$$
+\frac{\sin(2\theta) (45r^4 + 33r^2 - 3 (15r^4 + 11r^2 - 4) \cos(\delta) - 76)}{16r^3 (r^2 + 1)^2}
$$
\n
$$
-\frac{(-195r^6 - 421r^4 + 11r^2 + 237) \sin(2\theta) \cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{32r^3 (r^2 + 1)^3}
$$
\n
$$
-\frac{(195r^6 + 421r^4 + 245r^2 - 109) \cos(\delta) \sin(2\theta) \cos(\delta + 2t - 2\phi)}{32r^3 (r^2 + 1)^3}
$$
\n
$$
+\lambda_1\lambda_2 \left(\frac{9 (r^2 - 1) \sin^2(\frac{\delta}{2}) \sin(2\theta) \cot^{-1}(r)}{3r^2 (r^2 + 1)} + \frac{\sin(2\theta) ((4 - 7r^2) \cos(\delta) - 9r^2 + 12)}{16r^3 (r^2 + 1)}\right)
$$
\n
$$
-\frac{3 (r^2 - 1) \sin^2(\frac{\delta}{2}) \tan^{-1}(r
$$

 $16r^2(r^2+1)^2$

$$
+\frac{195 (r^{2}+1) (\cos(\delta)-1) \sin^{2}(\theta) \tan^{-1}(r) \cos(\delta+2t-2\phi)}{16r^{3}}+\lambda_{1} \lambda_{2} \left(\frac{17-49 \cos(\delta)}{16r^{2}} - \frac{\sin^{2}(\theta) ((51r^{2}+53) \cos(\delta)+13r^{2}+11) \cos(\delta+2t-2\phi)}{16r^{2}(r^{2}+1)} \right)
$$

3 (r²+1) (cos(\delta)-1) sin²(\theta) tan⁻¹(r) cos(\delta+2t-2\phi) (4.11b)

$$
-\frac{\sigma(r+1)(\cos(\sigma)-1)\sin(\sigma)\tan(\sigma)\cos(\sigma+2t-2\varphi)}{16r^3}\bigg),\tag{A.11h}
$$

$$
h_{\theta\phi}^{(2)} = 0,
$$
\n(A.11i)
\n
$$
h_{\phi\phi}^{(2)} = \sin^2(\theta)h_{\theta\theta}^{(2)}.
$$
\n(A.11j)

B The asymptotically Minkowski limit

The Minkowski limit of the two RNAdS black hole solution can be recovered by taking $g \to 0$ while holding the displacement radius $r_0 = v/g$ fixed. In this limit, the black holes no longer orbit with angular momentum and become static while remaining displaced from the origin.

To avoid coordinate singularities in the $g \to 0$ limit, we work with the transformed second-order interaction metric, $(A.11)$. Even in this limit, the second order metric, $(A.1)$, is not particularly simple, although one can verify that it is static and stationary, as the metric becomes time independent and is block diagonal between g_{tt} and the spatial components. The metric can be diagonalized (at least at this perturbative order) by performing a coordinate transformation

$$
r \to r + M_1 \left(1 - \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right)^2 \frac{1 - \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\phi)}{2} \right) + M_2 \left(1 - \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right)^2 \frac{1 - \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\delta - \phi)}{2} \right) + \frac{\lambda_1^2 r_0^2 M_1^2}{r^3} \frac{1 - \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\phi)}{2} + \frac{\lambda_2^2 r_0^2 M_2^2}{r^3} \frac{1 - \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\delta - \phi)}{2} + \frac{r_0 M_1 M_2}{r^2} \left[\cos \left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) \cos \left(\frac{\delta}{2} - \phi\right) \sin(\theta) (\lambda_1 \lambda_2 - 4) \right. + \frac{r_0}{3264r} \left(1632 \cos(\delta - 2\phi) \sin^2(\theta) (\cos(\delta)(2\lambda_1 \lambda_2 - 23) + 27) \right. + 4 \cos(2\theta) (\cos(\delta)(443 - 35\lambda_1 \lambda_2) + 259\lambda_1 \lambda_2 - 1075) + 3733\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cos(\delta) - 8221 \cos(\delta) - 1173\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + 7293 \right), \qquad (B.1a)
$$

$$
\theta \to \theta + \frac{r_0 M_1}{r^2} \left(1 - \frac{r_0}{r} \sin(\theta) \cos(\phi) \right) \cos(\theta) \cos(\phi) + \frac{r_0 M_2}{r^2} \left(1 - \frac{r_0}{r} \sin(\theta) \cos(\delta - \phi) \right) \cos(\theta) \cos(\delta - \phi) + \frac{r_0 M_1^2}{r^3} \left(-\frac{1}{3} \left(\lambda_1^2 + 2 \right) \cos(\theta) \cos(\phi) + \frac{r_0}{8r} \left(\left(\lambda_1^2 - 1 \right) \cos(2\phi) + \lambda_1^2 + 3 - 2 \left(\lambda_1^2 + 1 \right) \cos(2\theta) \cos^2(\phi) \right) \cot(\theta) \right)
$$

$$
+\frac{r_0M_2^2}{r^3}\left(-\frac{1}{3}\left(\lambda_2^2+2\right)\cos(\theta)\cos(\delta-\phi) \right.\n+\frac{r_0}{8r}\left(\left(\lambda_2^2-1\right)\cos(2(\delta-\phi))+\lambda_2^2+3-2\left(\lambda_2^2+1\right)\cos(2\theta)\cos^2(\delta-\phi)\right)\cot(\theta)\right)\n+\frac{r_0M_1M_2}{r^3}\left(\frac{1}{6}(\lambda_1\lambda_2-16)\cos(\theta)(\cos(\delta-\phi)+\cos(\phi))\right)\n+\frac{r_0}{1632r}\sin(2\theta)\left(\cos(\delta)(137\lambda_1\lambda_2-545)-408\cos(\delta-2\phi)\right)\n+1224\cos(2(\delta-\phi))+47\lambda_1\lambda_2+1224\cos(2\phi)+2401\right)\n-\frac{r_0}{r}\cot(\theta)\sin(\phi)\sin(\delta-\phi)\right),\n\phi\rightarrow\phi-\frac{r_0M_1}{r^2}\left(1-\frac{r_0}{r}\sin(\theta)\cos(\phi)\right)\csc(\theta)\sin(\phi)\n+\frac{r_0M_2^2}{r^2}\left(1-\frac{r_0}{r}\sin(\theta)\cos(\delta-\phi)\right)\csc(\theta)\sin(\delta-\phi)\n+\frac{r_0M_2^2}{r^3}\left(\frac{1}{3}\left(\lambda_1^2+2\right)+\frac{r_0}{4r}\csc(\theta)\cos(\phi)\left(\left(\lambda_1^2+3\right)\cos(2\theta)-\lambda_1^2+1\right)\right)\csc(\theta)\sin(\phi)\n-\frac{r_0M_2^2}{r^3}\left(\frac{1}{3}\left(\lambda_2^2+2\right)+\frac{r_0}{4r}\csc(\theta)\cos(\delta-\phi)\left(\left(\lambda_2^2+3\right)\cos(2\theta)-\lambda_2^2+1\right)\right)\csc(\theta)\sin(\delta-\phi)\n+\frac{r_0M_1M_2}{r^3}\left(\frac{1}{6}(\lambda_1\lambda_2-16)\csc(\theta)(\sin(\delta-\phi)-\sin(\phi))\right)\n+\frac{r_0}{2r}\sin(\delta-2\phi)\left(1+6\cos(\delta)-2\csc^2(\theta)\right)\right).
$$
\n(B.1b)

After this transformation, the diagonal metric components become

$$
g_{tt} = -\frac{1}{\mathcal{H}^2} - \frac{M_1^2}{r^2} (\lambda_1^2 - 1) \left(1 - 2 \left(\frac{r_0}{r} \right) \sin(\theta) \cos(\phi) - \left(\frac{r_0}{r} \right)^2 \left(1 - 4 \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\phi) \right) \right) - \frac{M_2^2}{r^2} (\lambda_2^2 - 1) \left(1 - 2 \left(\frac{r_0}{r} \right) \sin(\theta) \cos(\delta - \phi) - \left(\frac{r_0}{r} \right)^2 \left(1 - 4 \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\delta - \phi) \right) \right) - \frac{2M_1M_2}{r^2} (\lambda_1\lambda_2 - 1) \left[1 - \left(\frac{r_0}{r} \right) \sin(\theta) (\cos(\delta - \phi) + \cos(\phi)) \right] - \left(\frac{r_0}{r} \right)^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(\theta) (3 \cos^2(\delta - \phi) + 2 \cos(\delta - \phi) \cos(\phi) + 3 \cos^2(\phi)) \right) \right], (B.2a)
$$

$$
g_{rr} = \frac{1}{-g_{tt}} + \frac{2r_0^2 M_1^2}{r^4} (\lambda_1^2 - 1) \left(\sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\phi) - 1 \right) + \frac{2r_0^2 M_2^2}{r^4} (\lambda_2^2 - 1) \left(\sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\delta - \phi) - 1 \right) + \frac{r_0^2 M_1M_2}{544r^4} (\lambda_1\lambda_2 - 1) \left(8 \sin^2(\theta) (136 \cos(\delta - 2\phi) - 47) + \cos(\delta) (4 \cos(2\theta) + 857) + 35 \right), (B.2b)
$$

$$
g_{\theta\theta} = g_{rr}r^{2} + M_{1}^{2}(\lambda_{1}^{2} - 1) \left(1 - \frac{4}{3} \left(\frac{r_{0}}{r}\right) \sin(\theta) \cos(\phi) + 2\left(\frac{r_{0}}{r}\right)^{2}\right) + M_{2}^{2}(\lambda_{2}^{2} - 1) \left(1 - \frac{4}{3} \left(\frac{r_{0}}{r}\right) \sin(\theta) \cos(\delta - \phi) + 2\left(\frac{r_{0}}{r}\right)^{2}\right) + 2M_{1}M_{2}(\lambda_{1}\lambda_{2} - 1) \left[1 - \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{r_{0}}{r}\right) \sin(\theta) (\cos(\delta - \phi) + \cos(\phi))\right] - \frac{1}{816} \left(\frac{r_{0}}{r}\right)^{2} \left(3(35 \cos(\delta) + 149) \cos(2\theta) + 755 \cos(\delta) - 51 + 1224 \sin^{2} \left(\frac{\delta}{2}\right) \sin^{2}(\theta) \cos(\delta - 2\phi)\right)\right],
$$
 (B.2c)

$$
g_{\phi\phi} = g_{\theta\theta}\sin^2(\theta) + \frac{r_0^2 M_1 M_2}{408r^2} (\lambda_1 \lambda_2 - 1)(137\cos(\delta) + 47)\sin^4(\theta),
$$
 (B.2d)

where

$$
\mathcal{H} = 1 + \frac{M_1}{r} \left(1 - \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right) \sin(\theta) \cos(\phi) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right)^2 \left(3 \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\phi) - 1 \right) \right) + \frac{M_2}{r} \left(1 - \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right) \sin(\theta) \cos(\delta - \phi) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right)^2 \left(3 \sin^2(\theta) \cos^2(\delta - \phi) - 1 \right) \right).
$$
 (B.3)

Note that this reduces to the MP solution, [\(1.1\)](#page-1-1), in the BPS limit when $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \pm 1$. Here the harmonic function H is expanded only to second order in the displacement r_0 , but it is clear that it is the perturbative expansion of

$$
\mathcal{H} = 1 + \frac{M_1}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_1|} + \frac{M_2}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_2|},
$$
\n(B.4)

where

$$
\vec{r}_1 = -r_0 \hat{i}, \qquad \vec{r}_2 = -r_0 (\hat{i} \cos \delta + \hat{j} \sin \delta), \qquad (B.5)
$$

in standard isotropic coordinates with $x = r \sin \theta \cos \phi$, $y = r \sin \theta \sin \phi$ and $z = r \cos \theta$.

C The local Lorentz parameters

Here we present the compensating local Lorentz transformation parameters ω_{ab} that accompany the boost coordinate transformation, [\(3.7\)](#page-8-0). This transformation ensures that the AdS Dirac matrices with curved space indices retain their simple form, [\(3.23\)](#page-11-2), after boosting. Although we have constructed ω_{ab} to quartic order in *v*, for brevity we present the parameters only to $\mathcal{O}(v^3)$.

$$
\omega_{01} = -\frac{v \sin(\theta) \sin(t - \phi)}{\sqrt{r^2 + 1}} + \frac{v^2 (3r^2 + 1) \sin^2(\theta) \sin(2t - 2\phi)}{4r (r^2 + 1)} \n+ \frac{v^3 \sin^3(\theta) \sin(t - \phi)}{24r^2 (r^2 + 1)^{3/2}} \left\{ \left(r^2 + 1 \right) \csc^4(\theta) \left(\left(r^2 + 3 \right) \cos(2\theta) + 3r^2 + 1 \right) \right. \n+ \left(31r^4 + 22r^2 + 7 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) + 17r^4 + 16r^2 + 7 \right\},
$$
\n(C.1)

$$
\omega_{02} = -v \cos(\theta) \sin(t - \phi) + \frac{v^2 \sin(2t - 2\phi) \left(\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) + r^2 \sin(2\theta) + (r^2 + 1) \cot(\theta)\right)}{4r\sqrt{r^2 + 1}} \n+ \frac{v^3 \cot(\theta) \csc(\theta) \sin(t - \phi)}{192r^2 (r^2 + 1)} \left\{ 88r^4 + 134r^2 + 61 + \left(136r^4 + 216r^2 + 101 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) \right. \n+ 4 \cos(2\theta) \left(-2 \left(7r^2 + 8 \right) r^2 - 7 - \left(24r^4 + 30r^2 + 13 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) \right) \n+ \cos(4\theta) \left(8r^4 + 10r^2 + 7 + \left(16 \left(r^4 + r^2 \right) + 7 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) \right) \right\}, \qquad (C.2)
$$
\n
$$
\omega_{03} = v \cos(t - \phi) + \frac{v^2 \csc(\theta) \sin^2(t - \phi) \left(-\cos(2\theta)r^2 + 3r^2 + 2 \right)}{4r\sqrt{r^2 + 1}} \n- \frac{v^3 \csc^2(\theta) \cos(t - \phi)}{192r^2 (r^2 + 1)} \left\{ 53r^4 + 88r^2 + 56 - \left(85r^4 + 120r^2 + 56 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) \right. \n+ 4r^2 \cos(2\theta) \left(\left(9r^2 + 2 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) - r^2 + 6 \right) + 14r^4 \cos(4\theta) \sin^2(t - \phi) \right\}, \qquad (C.3)
$$
\n
$$
\omega_{12} = -\frac{v \cos(\theta) \cos(t - \phi)}{r} - \frac{v^2 \cot(\theta)}{8r^2 \sqrt{r^2 + 1}} \left\{ \left(\left(3r^2 + 2 \right) \cos(2\theta) - 5r^2 - 4 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) \right. \n+ r^2 \cos(2\
$$

$$
\omega_{13} = -\frac{v \sin(t - \phi)}{r} - \frac{v^2 \csc(\theta) \left((2r^2 + 1) \cos(2\theta) - 4r^2 - 3 \right) \sin(2t - 2\phi)}{8r^2 \sqrt{r^2 + 1}}
$$

$$
- \frac{v^3 \csc^2(\theta) \sin(t - \phi)}{192r^3 (r^2 + 1)} \left\{ 4 \cos(2\theta) \left(-2 \left(7r^2 + 6 \right) r^2 - 3 - \left(24r^4 + 26r^2 + 9 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) \right) \right.
$$

$$
+ \left(132r^4 + 196r^2 + 85 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) + 84r^4 + 114r^2 + 45
$$

$$
+ \cos(4\theta) \left(12r^4 + 14r^2 + 7 + \left(20 \left(r^4 + r^2 \right) + 7 \right) \cos(2t - 2\phi) \right) \right\}, \tag{C.5}
$$

$$
\omega_{23} = -\frac{v\sqrt{r^2 + 1}\cot(\theta)\sin(t - \phi)}{r} - \frac{v^2(r^2 + 1)(\cos(3\theta) - 9\cos(\theta))\csc^2(\theta)\sin(2t - 2\phi))}{16r^2} + \frac{v^3}{192r^3\sqrt{r^2 + 1}} \left\{ 2\cot(\theta)\left(-11r^4 - 2r^2 + (3r^4 + 2r^2 + 7)\cos(2\theta) + 1\right)\sin(t - \phi) \right\}
$$

$$
-\frac{1}{4}\left(r^2+1\right)^2\left(302\cos(\theta)-53\cos(3\theta)+7\cos(5\theta)\right)\csc^3(\theta)\sin(3t-3\phi)\bigg\}.\tag{C.6}
$$

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