Dressing a black hole with non-minimally coupled scalar field hair

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Abstract
We investigate the possibility of dressing a four-dimensional black hole with classical scalar field hair which is non-minimally coupled to the spacetime curvature. Our model includes a cosmological constant but no self-interaction potential for the scalar field. We are able to rule out black-hole hair except when the cosmological constant is negative and the constant governing the coupling to the Ricci scalar curvature is positive. In this case, non-trivial hairy black-hole solutions exist, at least some of which are linearly stable. However, when the coupling constant becomes too large, the black-hole hair becomes unstable.

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1. Introduction

The existence or non-existence of scalar field hair for black holes in general relativity has been a subject of investigation for over 30 years (see, for example, [1] for a detailed review, or [2] for a nice summary of the situation). In this paper we are concerned with scalar field hair for black holes in four-dimensional theories with the following action:

\[
S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (R - 2\Lambda) - \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \xi R \phi^2 - V(\phi) \right],
\]

where \(R\) is the Ricci scalar curvature, \(\Lambda\) is the cosmological constant (which may be positive, negative or zero), \(\xi\) is the coupling constant, \(V(\phi)\) is the scalar field self-interaction potential and \((\nabla \phi)^2 = \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi\). For a minimally coupled scalar field, \(\xi = 0\), and for conformal coupling, \(\xi = 1/6\) in four dimensions.

The work to date in the literature has tended to concentrate on the case of a minimally coupled scalar field in asymptotically flat spacetime, with a succession of no-hair theorems proved for ever more general self-interaction potentials \(V\) [3–8]. Although Bekenstein’s...
original result [3] (which ruled out hair for a massive scalar field with no additional self-interaction potential) was for general static spacetimes without the additional assumption of spherical symmetry, subsequent work (such as [5–8]) assumed that the geometry was spherically symmetric. We shall also consider only static, spherically symmetric spacetimes in this paper.

Dropping the assumption that the geometry is asymptotically flat, and introducing a cosmological constant, the picture changes, with non-trivial, minimally coupled, scalar field hair existing for certain non-zero potentials [9–12]. However, if the self-interaction potential \( V \) is identically zero, then there is no scalar field hair independent of the sign of the cosmological constant [9, 10]. For non-zero self-interaction potential, when the cosmological constant is negative, at least some of the non-trivial hairy black holes found are linearly stable [9], but, when the cosmological constant is positive, all solutions examined so far are unstable [10]. Black holes with minimally coupled scalar hair in asymptotically anti-de Sitter space have also been of recent interest in supergravity [13], but these solutions are unstable [14].

Conformally coupled scalar field hair for black holes has been studied for as long as minimally coupled scalar field hair, with the discovery of an exact, closed form, solution of the field equations with a zero self-interaction potential, known as the BBMB black hole [15–17]. While this is the unique static, asymptotically flat, solution of the Einstein-conformal scalar field system [18], the scalar field diverges on the event horizon, and, furthermore, the solution is unstable [19]. The BBMB black-hole solution can be generalized in the presence of a cosmological constant, but only with a non-vanishing self-interaction potential. When the cosmological constant is positive, the corresponding solution has a quartic potential [20], but is again unstable [21]. For positive cosmological constant, there are no non-trivial solutions when the self-interaction potential is zero [22]. When the cosmological constant is negative, stable, non-trivial hairy black holes have been found numerically when the potential is zero or quadratic [22], and there is also an exact, closed-form solution for a quartic potential [23].

Non-minimal couplings other than conformal coupling have received less attention in the literature, and, to date, only asymptotically flat spacetimes have been considered. No-hair theorems have been proved by various authors [24–26]. Mayo and Bekenstein [24] considered very general potentials, and found it necessary to employ energy arguments to prove their no-hair theorems. The particular case of a quartic self-interaction potential has been considered by Ayón-Beato [27], who proved a general no-hair theorem for arbitrary coupling \( \xi \). For vanishing potential, there is strong numerical evidence [28] that there are no non-trivial solutions for any coupling \( \xi \) to the scalar curvature, and the theorems of Saa [25, 26] back this up, although they make assumptions about the scalar field which are necessary to employ the conformal transformation technique [15, 29], which we shall consider later in section 4.

The state of current knowledge of the existence and stability of scalar field hair when the self-interaction potential is zero can therefore be summarized in the following table:

| \( V = 0 \) | \( \xi < 0 \) | \( \xi = 0 \) | \( 0 < \xi < 1/6 \) | \( \xi = 1/6 \) | \( \xi > 1/6 \) |
|------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| \( \Lambda > 0 \) | No hair | No hair | No hair | No hair | No hair |
| \( \Lambda = 0 \) | No hair | No hair | No hair | Unstable hair | No hair |
| \( \Lambda < 0 \) | No hair | Stable hair | No hair | No hair | No hair |

Our purpose in this paper is to investigate the effect of introducing a cosmological constant into these models, and we consider arbitrary coupling constant \( \xi \) but a vanishing potential for simplicity.
The outline of this paper is as follows. In section 2 we introduce our model, and also discuss the boundary conditions satisfied by the scalar field, particularly at infinity, which will be crucial for our later analysis. Next, in section 3, we prove some simple no-hair theorems in the cases $\Lambda > 0, \xi > 0$ and $\Lambda < 0, \xi < 0$, using the technique of Bekenstein [3]. In order to study the remaining cases, that is $\Lambda > 0, \xi < 0$ and $\Lambda < 0, \xi > 0$, in section 4 we employ a conformal transformation [15, 29], which maps the system with a non-minimally coupled scalar field to one in which there is a scalar field which is minimally coupled to the geometry but has a complex self-interaction. This will enable us to prove a no-hair theorem in section 4.2 for the case when $\Lambda > 0$ and $\xi < 0$. For the remaining region of the $\Lambda, \xi$ parameter space, when $\Lambda < 0$ and $\xi > 0$, we are unable to prove a no-hair theorem and, in section 5.1, we find numerically non-trivial hairy black holes in this case, before examining the linear stability of these solutions in section 5.2. For the particular black-hole solutions we study numerically, we find that those solutions when $0 < \xi < 3/16$ are stable, whereas those when $\xi > 3/16$ turn out to be unstable. Our conclusions are presented in section 6.

Throughout this paper, the metric has signature $(-+++)$, and we will use units in which the gravitational coupling constant $\kappa^2 = 8\pi G$ (with $G$ being Newton’s constant) is set equal to unity and $c = 1$.

2. The model

We consider action (1), but in this paper we shall consider only the simplest case, when the self-interaction potential $V(\phi) \equiv 0$. However, we shall comment in various places on whether our results for $V \equiv 0$ are likely to be extendible to non-zero potentials.

Setting $V \equiv 0$ in (1) and then taking the variation yields the Einstein field equations:

\[ [1 - \xi \phi^2] G_{\mu\nu} + g_{\mu\nu} \Lambda = (1 - 2\xi) \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla_\nu \phi + (2\xi - \frac{1}{2}) g_{\mu\nu} (\nabla \phi)^2 - 2\xi \phi \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi + 2\xi g_{\mu\nu} \phi \nabla^\rho \nabla_\rho \phi; \]

and the scalar field equation:

\[ \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu \phi = \xi R \phi. \]

It is useful to take the trace of the Einstein equations (2) to give the Ricci scalar:

\[ R = \frac{(1 - 6\xi)(\nabla \phi)^2 + 4\Lambda}{1 - \xi(1 - 6\xi) \phi^2}, \]

where we have made use of the scalar field equation (3) to substitute for $\nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu \phi$ arising in the expression for $R$. This equation enables one to eliminate higher-order derivatives of the metric from the scalar field equation (3).

We consider a static, spherically symmetric black-hole geometry with line element

\[ ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2m(r)}{r} - \frac{\Lambda r^2}{3}\right) \exp(2\delta(r)) dr^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2m(r)}{r} - \frac{\Lambda r^2}{3}\right)^{-1} (dr^2 + r^2 d\theta^2 + r^2 \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2), \]

and assume that the scalar field $\phi$ depends only on the radial coordinate $r$. For later convenience, we define the quantity $N(r)$ as

\[ N(r) = 1 - \frac{2m(r)}{r} - \frac{\Lambda r^2}{3}. \]

The Einstein equations for this system are (a prime denotes $d/dr$):
\[
\frac{2}{r^2}(1 - \xi \phi^2) m' = \xi \Lambda \phi^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2} - 2\xi\right) N \phi'^2 - \xi \phi \phi' N' - 2\xi \phi \phi'' - \frac{4N}{r} \xi \phi \phi'; 
\]
(6a)

\[
\frac{2}{r}(1 - \xi \phi^2) \delta' = (1 - 2\xi) \phi^2 - 2\xi \phi \phi'' + 2\xi \phi \phi'; 
\]
(6b)

and the scalar field equation takes the form

\[
N \phi'' + \left(N \delta' + N' + \frac{2N}{r}\right) \phi' - \xi R \phi = 0. 
\]
(7)

It is now possible, using (4), to eliminate the Ricci scalar curvature from the scalar field equation (7) and then also eliminate \(\phi''\) from the right-hand side of the Einstein equations (6a), (6b) above. Writing the equations in this form would make them more amenable to numerical integration.

We are interested in black-hole solutions possessing a regular, non-extremal event horizon at \(r = r_h\), close to which the field variables have the form

\[
N(r) = N'(r_h)(r - r_h) + O(r - r_h)^2; 
\]
\[
\delta(r) = \delta(r_h) + O(r - r_h); 
\]
\[
\phi(r) = \phi(r_h) + O(r - r_h). 
\]

There may also be a cosmological event horizon at \(r = r_c > r_h\) (depending upon the sign of the cosmological constant), with similar expansions of the fields nearby.

At infinity, we assume that the geometry approaches asymptotically (anti-)de Sitter space, and that the scalar field \(\phi\) takes the form

\[
\phi = \phi_\infty + O(r^{-k}), 
\]
(8)

where \(\phi_\infty\) is a constant, for some \(k > 0\), and \(k\) is not necessarily an integer. Since we are working only with a vanishing potential \(V\), we find, as in [22], that consistency with the Einstein equations (6a), (6b) and expression (4) for the Ricci scalar curvature requires \(\phi_\infty = 0\) and then the scalar field equation (7) gives the following equation for \(k\):

\[
k^2 - 3k + 12\xi = 0, 
\]

which has solutions

\[
k = \frac{3}{2} \left(1 \pm \sqrt{1 - \frac{16\xi}{3}}\right). 
\]
(9)

It is clear that \(k\) has a positive real part for all \(\xi > 0\), so that the scalar field \(\phi\) converges to zero at infinity. If \(\xi > 3/16\), then \(k\) is no longer real but has a non-zero imaginary part. In this case, it is expected that \(\phi\) oscillates about zero with decreasing amplitude as \(r \to \infty\), as was observed for a minimally coupled scalar field in anti-de Sitter space with a non-zero self-interaction potential [9]. If \(\xi < 0\), then one root of \(k\) is negative, which means that the scalar field \(\phi\) diverges at infinity, although the other root for \(k\) is positive. We rule out the case in which \(\phi\) diverges at infinity since, in that situation, the geometry would no longer approach asymptotically (anti-)de Sitter space in a manner compatible with the constraint (4) on the Ricci scalar curvature. Note that the form of \(k\) does not depend on the cosmological constant here (unlike [22]) because we have set the potential to zero.

Substituting the asymptotic behaviour of \(\phi\) (8) into the Einstein equation (6b), we find that \(\delta' \sim O(r^{-2k-1})\) for all \(k\), so \(\delta \to \delta_\infty + O(r^{-2k})\), for some constant \(\delta_\infty\), which we may take to be zero. Using the other Einstein equation (6a), we find that \(m' \sim O(r^{-2k+2})\). When \(\xi < 3/16\), the constant \(k\) is real and, taking the positive root in (9), \(k > 3/2\), so in this case, \(m \to M + O(r^{-2k+3})\) as \(r \to \infty\), where \(M\) is a constant, and the metric function \(m(r)\)
converges to $M$ at infinity. However, when $\xi \geq 3/16$, the constant $k$ is complex with real part equal to $3/2$, which means that $m \sim O(\ln r)$ as $r \to \infty$. A similar situation arises in [30], for a minimally coupled scalar field with a non-zero self-interaction potential. The consequences of the logarithmic branch for the asymptotic structure of the geometry are explored in [30], and we shall not consider them further here.

3. Simple no-hair theorems

In this section we take the simple approach of Bekenstein [3] to prove some elementary no-hair theorems. Similar techniques were used in [22] to prove the non-existence of non-trivial hairy black-hole solutions when the cosmological constant is positive and the scalar field conformally coupled. It should be emphasized that this approach only rules out regular scalar field hair (i.e. scalar fields such that the function $\phi$ is finite everywhere, including at any event or cosmological horizon). So, for example, the BBMB black hole [15–17] evades our proof as the scalar field in that case diverges at the event horizon.

We start with the scalar field equation (7), multiply both sides by $\phi r^2 e^{\delta}$ and integrate from the event horizon $r = r_h$ to $r = x$, where $x = r_c$, the radius of the cosmological horizon, if $\Lambda > 0$ and $x = \infty$ if $\Lambda < 0$. This gives the equation

$$0 = \int_{r_h}^{x} dr \left[ r^2 e^{\delta} R \phi^2 - \phi (Nr^2 e^{\delta} \phi') \right] = -\int_{r_h}^{x} dr \left[ N r^2 e^{\delta} \phi'' + \xi R \phi^2 \right].$$

(10)

where we have integrated by parts in the second line. It is clear that the boundary term in (10) vanishes at a regular event or cosmological horizon where both $\phi$ and its derivative are finite. If $\Lambda < 0$, the boundary term at infinity also vanishes if $\xi < 0$ because of the requirement imposed in section 2 that $\phi$ must tend to zero at infinity, so we take the positive root for $k$ in (9). This is sufficient for our requirements in section 3.3 below, but we note that the boundary term at infinity also vanishes if $0 < \xi < 3/16$, so that $k > 3/2$ (9) but does not vanish if $\xi \geq 3/16$, in which case the real part of $k$ is equal to $3/2$.

Setting the boundary term equal to zero, we now substitute, in equation (10), for the Ricci scalar $R$ from (4), to give

$$0 = \int_{r_h}^{x} r^2 e^{\delta} \left[ \frac{\mathcal{F}}{\mathcal{G}} \right],$$

where

$$\mathcal{F} = N \phi'^2 + 4\Lambda \xi \phi^2; \quad \mathcal{G} = 1 - \xi(1 - 6\xi)\phi^2.$$ 

(11)

It is then straightforward to prove no-hair theorems using the properties of $\mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{G}$, in the cases $\Lambda > 0$, $\xi > 0$ and $\Lambda < 0$, $\xi < 0$. We now consider these cases in turn.

3.1. $\Lambda > 0$ and $\xi > 1/6$

In this case there is a cosmological horizon at $r = r_c$ and we have from (11) that both $\mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{G}$ are positive and finite everywhere between $r_h$ and $r_c$. Therefore, it must be the case that $\mathcal{F} \equiv 0$ for all $r \in [r_h, r_c]$. This is only possible if $\phi'$ and $\phi$ are identically zero, so the black hole has no hair and the geometry is the trivial Schwarzschild–de Sitter black hole.
3.2. \( \Lambda < 0 \) and \( \xi < 0 \)

The fact that the black hole can have no non-trivial scalar field hair in this case follows by exactly the same argument as in section 3.1, as here it is also the case that both \( \mathcal{F} \) and \( \mathcal{G} \) are positive everywhere outside the event horizon, and we have shown at the beginning of section 3 that the boundary term at infinity vanishes in this case.

3.3. \( \Lambda > 0 \) and \( 0 < \xi < 1/6 \)

This case is slightly more complicated because here it might be possible for \( \mathcal{G} \) to vanish somewhere between the event and cosmological horizon. Suppose that, at some point \( r = r_0 \), the function \( \mathcal{G} \) has a zero. This point will be a curvature singularity unless \( \mathcal{F} \) has a zero there as well. Now \( \mathcal{F} \) is the sum of two positive terms for these values of \( \Lambda \) and \( \xi \), so, in order for \( \mathcal{F} \) to vanish, each of these positive terms must be zero at this particular value of \( r \). Therefore, it must be the case that \( \phi = 0 \) at \( r = r_0 \). However, we then have a contradiction as \( \phi = 0 \) implies that \( \mathcal{G} = 1 \) at \( r = r_0 \), whereas we started with the assumption that \( \mathcal{G} = 0 \) at \( r = r_0 \). Hence \( \mathcal{G} \) can have no zeros between the event and cosmological horizon, and is of one sign.

It does not matter which sign \( \mathcal{G} \) has, as we see that \( \mathcal{F} \) is positive everywhere, and so the only possibility we are left with is that \( \mathcal{F} \) vanishes identically between the event and cosmological horizon. This is then the same as the two previous cases, and the black hole has no non-trivial scalar field hair.

3.4. Other cases

We can add our results in this section to the table introduced in section 1 (new results are highlighted in bold):

| \( V = 0 \) | \( \xi < 0 \) | \( \xi = 0 \) | \( 0 < \xi < 1/6 \) | \( \xi = 1/6 \) | \( \xi > 1/6 \) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| \( \Lambda > 0 \) | No hair | No hair | No hair | No hair | No hair |
| \( \Lambda = 0 \) | No hair | No hair | No hair | Unstable hair | No hair |
| \( \Lambda < 0 \) | No hair | No hair | Stable hair | No hair | |

Unfortunately the simple arguments employed in this section cannot be extended to the remaining cases (the blanks in the table) as it is no longer straightforward to show that \( \mathcal{F} \) and \( \mathcal{G} \) are of one sign outside the black-hole event horizon. Furthermore, in this section the fact that we have been considering only vanishing potential has been crucial. For non-zero potential, this method is not useful (as was the case for \( \Lambda = 0 \) and \( \xi = 0 \) [8]), although it may be possible to extend it to a limited number of potentials \( V \) (for example, this was done for a quadratic potential in the \( \Lambda > 0, \xi = 1/6 \) case in [22]).

4. Conformal transformation

In our previous work on conformally coupled scalar fields [22], we found it useful to employ a conformal transformation [15, 29], which mapped the system onto the much simpler system involving just a minimally coupled scalar field. We shall apply the same techniques in this section.
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4.1. Definition of the conformal transformation

The system described by the action (1) above can be transformed under a conformal transformation as follows [15, 29]:

\[ \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = \Omega g_{\mu\nu}, \] (12)

where

\[ \Omega = 1 - \xi \phi^2. \]

This transformation is valid only for those solutions for which \( \Omega \) does not vanish, which is automatically the case if \( \xi < 0 \), but will be a non-trivial assumption for \( \xi > 0 \). Under this transformation the action becomes that of a minimally coupled scalar field:

\[ S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\bar{g}} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\nabla} \bar{\Phi})^2 - U(\bar{\Phi}) \right], \] (13)

where a bar denotes quantities calculated using the transformed metric \( \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \), and we have defined a new scalar field \( \bar{\Phi} \) as [29]

\[ \bar{\Phi} = \int d\phi \left[ 1 - \xi (1 - 6\xi) \phi^2 (1 - \xi \phi^2)^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}. \] (14)

For all values of \( \xi \), we will choose the constant of integration so that \( \bar{\Phi} = 0 \) when \( \phi = 0 \). For values of \( \xi \) not equal to \( 1/6 \) (or zero), the field \( \Phi(14) \) can be written in terms of inverse sinh and tanh functions of \( \phi \), but cannot be readily inverted in simple closed form. The transformed potential \( U(\bar{\Phi}) \) takes the implicit form [29]

\[ U(\bar{\Phi}) = \frac{\Lambda \xi \phi^2 (2 - \xi \phi^2)}{(1 - \xi \phi^2)^2}. \] (15)

Note that the presence of the cosmological constant means that the potential in the minimally coupled scalar field system is not zero, even though the potential in the non-minimally coupled scalar field system is zero. We also note that, although the cosmological constant introduces a length scale into the theory, it is unchanged by this transformation.

We assume that the transformed metric \( \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \) (12) is spherically symmetric, and we take it to have the form

\[ d\bar{s}^2 = -\bar{N}(\bar{r}) e^{2\bar{m}(\bar{r})} d\bar{r}^2 + \bar{N}(\bar{r})^{-1} d\bar{\theta}^2 + \bar{r}^2 d\bar{\phi}^2, \]

where we have defined a transformed radial coordinate \( \bar{r} \) by

\[ \bar{r} = (1 - \xi \phi^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} r. \]

We also define a new quantity \( \bar{m}(\bar{r}) \) by

\[ \bar{N}(\bar{r}) = 1 - \frac{2\bar{m}(\bar{r})}{\bar{r}} - \frac{\Lambda \bar{r}^2}{3}; \]

in terms of which the field equations derived from the transformed action (13) are

\[ \frac{d\bar{m}}{d\bar{r}} = \frac{r^2}{4} \bar{N} \left( \frac{d\bar{\Phi}}{d\bar{r}} \right)^2 + \frac{r^2}{2} U(\bar{\Phi}); \] (16a)

\[ \frac{d\bar{\delta}}{d\bar{r}} = \frac{\bar{r}}{2} \left( \frac{d\bar{\Phi}}{d\bar{r}} \right)^2; \] (16b)

\[ 0 = \bar{N} \frac{d^2\bar{\Phi}}{d\bar{r}^2} + \left( \bar{N} \frac{d\bar{\delta}}{d\bar{r}} + \frac{d\bar{N}}{d\bar{r}} + \frac{2\bar{N}}{\bar{r}} \right) \frac{d\bar{\Phi}}{d\bar{r}} - \frac{dU}{d\bar{\Phi}}. \] (16c)

Further details of the conformal transformation and the relationship between the original and the transformed metric can be found in [22].

We now use the conformal transformation to prove a no-hair theorem in the case \( \Lambda > 0 \) and \( \xi < 0 \).
4.2. Application of the conformal transformation: $\Lambda > 0$ and $\xi < 0$

We saw in section 3 that the simple techniques employed there to prove no-hair theorems did not apply to this case. We shall therefore consider a different approach, and employ the conformal transformation defined in the previous subsection. As $\xi < 0$, the conformal transformation is well defined provided the scalar field $\phi$ remains regular. In this case the potential of the minimally coupled scalar field $\phi$ is negative for all values of $\phi$ and has a single stationary point, a maximum, when $\phi = 0$ (see figure 1, where we plot the potential $U/\Lambda$ for the case $\xi = -0.1$).

Unlike the previous section, in this case we concentrate on the behaviour of the scalar field outside the cosmological horizon in order to prove that only the trivial solution is possible. Recall that at the cosmological horizon, $\dot{N} = 0$ and $\frac{\dot{N}}{\phi} < 0$ because $\dot{N} < 0$ outside the cosmological horizon. At the cosmological horizon, using (16c), we have

$$\frac{d\dot{N}}{d\phi} \frac{d\phi}{d\dot{r}} = \frac{dU}{d\phi}.$$ 

Suppose, firstly, that $\phi > 0$ at the cosmological horizon, then $\frac{d\phi}{d\phi} < 0$ and therefore $\frac{d\phi}{d\phi} > 0$, so that $\phi$ is positive and increasing at the cosmological horizon. Now, we know from the discussion in section 2 that the non-minimally coupled scalar field $\phi$ must tend to zero at infinity, and, this is then also the case for the minimally coupled scalar field $\phi$. Therefore $\phi$ must have a maximum somewhere outside the cosmological horizon, at which point $\frac{d\phi}{d\phi} = 0$. Substituting this into the field equation (16c) gives the equation,

$$\ddot{N} \frac{d^2\phi}{d\dot{r}^2} = \frac{dU}{d\phi}.$$ 

Bearing in mind that $\dot{N} < 0$ because we are outside the cosmological horizon, and that $\frac{dU}{d\phi} < 0$ because $\phi > 0$, we see that at this stationary point,

$$\frac{d^3\phi}{d\dot{r}^2} > 0,$$

and so any stationary point of $\phi$ outside the cosmological horizon can only be a minimum when $\phi > 0$. Therefore, it is not possible for $\phi$ to have a maximum and so the boundary condition at infinity cannot be satisfied. The argument carries over similarly if $\phi$ is negative at the cosmological horizon, only in this case $\phi$ is decreasing at the cosmological horizon but is unable to have a minimum outside the cosmological horizon and thus cannot satisfy the boundary condition at infinity.
The only possibility is therefore that $\Phi = 0$ at the cosmological horizon. By repeatedly differentiating the scalar field equation (16c), it can be shown that all derivatives of $\Phi$ then vanish at the cosmological horizon, and we deduce that $\Phi \equiv 0$ everywhere. Adding this result to our table, we now have

$$
\begin{array}{cccccc}
V &=& 0 & \xi < 0 & \xi = 0 & 0 < \xi < 1/6 & \xi = 1/6 & \xi > 1/6 \\
\Lambda > 0 & \text{No hair} & \text{No hair} & \text{No hair} & \text{No hair} & \text{No hair} & \text{No hair} \\
\Lambda = 0 & \text{No hair} & \text{No hair} & \text{No hair} & \text{Unstable hair} & \text{No hair} & \\
\Lambda < 0 & \text{No hair} & \text{No hair} & \text{Stable hair} & & & \\
\end{array}
$$

It should be emphasized that our no-hair theorem in this case applies only for scalar field hair which is a function of the coordinate $r$ only, with the metric of the form (5). This is a strong assumption, particularly in the region exterior to the cosmological horizon, where $r$ is a time-like coordinate. We are unable to rule out black-hole solutions for which the scalar field is not just a function of $r$ outside the cosmological horizon, or for which either $\phi$ or one of its derivatives ceases to be regular on the cosmological horizon. However, this does not render our result without significance; for example, it rules out black-hole solutions similar to those presented in [20], where there is a scalar field depending only on the coordinate $r$, including in the region outside the cosmological horizon. Similarly, in the Einstein–Yang–Mills system, non-trivial solutions do exist when the metric outside the cosmological horizon has the form (5), with the matter fields depending only on the coordinate $r$ [31].

5. Existence and stability of hairy black holes when $\Lambda < 0$ and $\xi > 0$

The only region of parameter space where we have not been able to prove a no-hair theorem is when $\Lambda < 0$ and $\xi > 0$. Given that there are known to be stable, non-trivial, solutions when $\xi = 0$ or $1/6$, it perhaps comes as no surprise to find hairy black-hole solutions in this case.

5.1. Existence of hairy black-hole solutions

To find the solutions, we integrated the minimally coupled field equations (16a)–(16b) numerically, and then transformed these solutions back to the non-minimally coupled system. This is the same strategy as employed for the conformally coupled scalar field system in [22], but means that we only find those solutions for which the conformal transformation (12) is valid. The solutions display very similar properties to those found in the conformally coupled case [22], with the scalar field $\phi$ monotonically decaying to zero from its value on the event horizon when $\xi < 3/16$. When $\xi > 3/16$, the scalar field starts to oscillate about zero with decreasing amplitude, as predicted in section 2.

As an example, two typical solutions are shown in figure 2, for the values $\xi = 0.1$ (dotted) and $\xi = 0.2$ (solid), where the cosmological constant $\Lambda = -0.1$, the radius of the event horizon $r_h = 1.0541$ for the $\xi = 0.1$ solution and $r_h = 1.118$ for the $\xi = 0.2$ solution, and the value of the scalar field on the event horizon is $\phi(r_h) = 1$. We have investigated a large number of numerical solutions by varying the parameters $\Lambda, r_h, \xi$ and $\phi(r_h)$ and found the same qualitative behaviour in each case. From figure 2, the monotonically decreasing behaviour of $\phi$ as $r \to \infty$ can be seen for $\xi < 3/16$. For $\xi > 3/16$, the oscillatory behaviour of $\phi$ as $r \to \infty$ can be seen in figure 3.
Figure 2. Examples of typical hairy black-hole solutions with a non-minimally coupled scalar field, when $\xi = 0.1$ (dotted) and $\xi = 0.2$ (solid). For these solutions, the event horizon radius is taken to be $r_h = 1.0541$ for the $\xi = 0.1$ solution and $r_h = 1.118$ for the $\xi = 0.2$ solution, the cosmological constant $\Lambda = -0.1$ and the value of the scalar field at the event horizon is $\phi(r_h) = 1$. Solutions for other values of the parameters $\Lambda, r_h, \xi$ and $\phi(r_h)$ behave similarly.

Figure 3. Example of a typical hairy black-hole solution with a non-minimally coupled scalar field, when $\xi = 0.2 > 3/16$. The values of the other parameters are as in figure 2. The first oscillation in $\phi$ about zero can be seen in the main graph, while the inset shows the second oscillation.

5.2. Stability of the hairy black-hole solutions

We now investigate the stability of these hairy black holes, using the same approach as in [22]. We consider linear, spherically symmetric perturbations of the metric and scalar field. The algebra is simplest if we make use of the conformal transformation, but either way it is straightforward to eliminate the perturbations of the metric functions from the linearized Einstein equations and obtain a single perturbation equation for the quantity $\psi$, which is related to the perturbation of the scalar field, $\delta \phi$, by

$$\psi = r(1 - \xi \phi^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}[1 - \xi(1 - 6\xi)\phi^2]^{\frac{1}{2}} \delta \phi.$$  

This single perturbation equation has the standard Schrödinger form, for perturbations which are periodic in time (i.e. $\psi(t, r) = \psi_0(r)$):

$$\sigma^2 \psi = -\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial r^2} + U \psi,$$  

(17)

where $r_s$ is the usual ‘tortoise’ coordinate given in terms of the radial coordinate $r$ by

$$\frac{dr_s}{dr} = \frac{e^{-\delta}}{N};$$
and, because we are working in asymptotically anti-de Sitter space, the tortoise coordinate $r_*$, by a choice of the constant of integration, lies in the interval $(-\infty, 0]$. The perturbation potential $U$ is given by

$$U = \frac{Ne^{2\xi}}{r_*^2} \left[ 1 - N A^{-2} B^2 - \Lambda r^2 A - \Lambda \xi r^2 \phi^2 A^{-1} (2 - \xi \phi^2) + 8 \Lambda \xi r^3 \phi' A^{-1} B^{-1} + 4 \Lambda \xi r^5 C^{-2} + 16 \Lambda \xi r^2 \phi^2 A^{-1} C^{-1} + \Lambda r^4 \phi^2 A^{-1} B^{-2} C - r^2 \phi^2 B^{-2} C \right]; \quad (18)$$

where

$$A = 1 - \xi \phi^2; \quad B = 1 - \xi \phi^2 - \xi r \phi'; \quad C = 1 - \xi (1 - 6\xi) \phi^2.$$

The perturbation potential $U$ (18) vanishes at the event horizon $r = r_h$, and at infinity its leading order behaviour is

$$U \sim \frac{2 \Lambda^2 r^2}{9} (1 - 6\xi).$$

This means that the potential diverges to positive infinity like $+r^2$ as $r \to \infty$ for $\xi < 1/6$, and diverges to negative infinity like $-r^2$ if $\xi > 1/6$. In the case that $\xi = 1/6$, the potential remains bounded at infinity, as found in [22].

As in [22], it is necessary to examine the potential numerically, for example, in figure 4 we plot, as a function of the radial coordinate $r$, the perturbation potential $U$ (18) divided by $Ne^{2\xi}$ for the black-hole solutions shown in figure 2. It can be seen that the potential for the solution with $\xi < 1/6$ is positive everywhere outside the event horizon, whereas that for the solution with $\xi > 1/6$ becomes negative for sufficiently large $r$. Similar behaviour was observed for all the other solutions we examined.

For those solutions with $\xi < 1/6$ for which the perturbation potential $U$ is positive everywhere outside the event horizon, we can conclude immediately that the perturbation equation (17) has no bound state solutions and so the black holes are linearly stable.

The situation for the black holes with $\xi > 1/6$ is more complex, with the potential diverging to $-\infty$ as $r_* \to 0$, and further analysis is needed. If we define a new variable $y$ by $y = -r_*$, then $y \in [0, \infty)$, and the form of the potential is sketched in figure 5. We will examine the form of the zero mode solutions to (17). The zero modes are the time-independent
solutions of the perturbation equation (17). There is a standard result (discussed, for example, in [32]), that the number of bound states of the equation

$$\sigma^2 \psi = - \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y^2} + U \psi$$

(which is the same as the perturbation equation (17), but with $y$ as the independent variable instead of $r_*$) is equal to the number of zeros of the zero mode $f(y)$ such that $f(0) = 0$.

However, numerically it is easier to find the zero mode $g(r)$ of the equivalent perturbation equation

$$-N^2 e^{2\delta} g'' - N e^{\delta}(N e^{\delta})' g' + U g = 0,$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

with suitable initial conditions on $g$ at the event horizon of the black hole (that is, at $y \rightarrow \infty$).

By examining the form of the solutions to (19) as $r \rightarrow \infty$ (which corresponds to $y \rightarrow 0$), it can be shown that as $r \rightarrow \infty$, the function $g$ behaves like $r^{-\ell}$, where

$$\ell = \frac{1}{2} [1 \pm \sqrt{9 - 48\xi}].$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

The real part of $\ell$ is positive whenever $\xi > 1/6$, which is the case in which we are most interested here, so that $g(r)$ tends to zero as $r \rightarrow \infty$. Therefore, this $g(r)$ constructed numerically turns out to be a valid zero mode $f(y)$. Therefore, the number of bound state solutions of (17) is equal to the number of zeros of our numerical function $g$.

In figure 6 we plot the corresponding zero mode function $g$ for the black-hole solutions shown in figure 2, and also for similar black-hole solutions (with $\phi(r_h) = 1$) when $\xi = 0.17$ and 0.18. We find that, for $\xi < 1/6$, the zero mode functions have no zeros, and simply increase away from their value at the event horizon. For $\xi > 1/6$, the situation is more complicated, depending on whether $\xi \leq 3/16$ or $\xi > 3/16$. If $1/6 < \xi \leq 3/16$, then from (20), the constant $\ell$ is real and the zero mode function $g$ monotonically decreases to zero as $r \rightarrow \infty$, as can be seen in figure 6, although the decrease to zero is slow since $\ell < 1/2$. However, for $\xi > 1/6$, the zero mode functions have at least one zero, and may in fact oscillate many times with decreasing amplitude as $y \rightarrow 0$ ($r \rightarrow \infty$). This can be seen in figure 7, where we zoom in on the behaviour of the zero mode when $\xi = 0.2$, for the black-hole solution shown in figure 2. This means that for $\xi > 3/16$ there is at least one bound state solution of (17) with $\sigma^2 < 0$ and so the black holes are unstable.
Figure 6. The zero mode solutions of the perturbation equation (19) for the equilibrium black-hole solutions plotted in figure 2, and the corresponding solutions when $\xi = 0.17$ and $0.18$. The cosmological constant is $\Lambda = -0.1$.

Figure 7. Detailed structure of the zero mode solution of the perturbation equation (19) for $\xi = 0.2$, $\phi(r_0) = 1$ and $\Lambda = -0.1$. The main graph shows the first oscillation in the zero mode; the inset the second.

6. Conclusions

In this paper we have studied black-hole solutions in four-dimensional general relativity with a scalar field which is non-minimally coupled to the Ricci scalar curvature but otherwise has no self-interaction.

Using a simple technique due to Bekenstein [3], we were able to rule out non-trivial scalar field hair when $\Lambda \xi > 0$, at least for this zero potential case. We expect that this result may be true also for some non-zero potentials, for example, for a quadratic potential as in the conformally coupled case [22]. However, we do not expect it to be true for all potentials. For example, for the minimally coupled scalar field, although there is no hair when the potential vanishes, non-trivial scalar field hair does exist for the double-well Higgs potential. It does seem reasonable to conjecture that, in analogy with the minimally coupled case, any scalar field hair when the cosmological constant is positive will be unstable, but there may well be stable scalar field hair for negative cosmological constant.

We then used a conformal transformation [15, 29], valid for $\xi < 0$, to rule out scalar field hair when $\Lambda > 0$ and $\xi < 0$. Again, the vanishing of the self-interaction potential seems to be
crucial in this proof and we suspect that there may well be hair for some non-zero potentials in this case (although we would again conjecture that such hair must be unstable).

Finally, when \( \Lambda < 0 \) and \( \xi > 0 \), we found numerically hairy black-hole solutions of the field equations, at least some of which are stable when \( 0 < \xi < 3/16 \), but all the solutions studied were unstable when \( \xi > 3/16 \). We summarize our results in the completed table below, with new results derived in this paper highlighted in bold:

| \( V = 0 \) | \( \xi < 0 \) | \( \xi = 0 \) | \( 0 < \xi < 1/6 \) | \( \xi = 1/6 \) | \( \xi > 1/6 \) |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| \( \Lambda > 0 \) | No hair | No hair | No hair | No hair | No hair |
| \( \Lambda = 0 \) | No hair | No hair | No hair | Unstable hair | No hair |
| \( \Lambda < 0 \) | No hair | No hair | Stable hair | Stable hair | Unstable hair |

for \( \xi > 3/16 \)

The instability of the black holes when \( \xi > 3/16 \) may be understood in terms of the Breitenlohner–Freedman bound [33, 34]. In the asymptotically anti-de Sitter region of spacetime, the scalar field equation (7) takes the form

\[
\nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu \phi = 4\xi \Lambda \phi,
\]

so that \( 4\Lambda \xi \) acts as a (negative) ‘mass’-squared term in this limit. The Breitenlohner–Freedman bound states that for ‘masses’-squared less than

\[
m_\ast^2 = \frac{3\Lambda}{4},
\]

in four dimensions, the corresponding scalar fields produce a perturbative instability of anti-de Sitter spacetime. In our case the Breitenlohner–Freedman bound corresponds to \( \xi = 3/16 \), and therefore for larger values of \( \xi \) the Breitenlohner–Freedman instability is reflected in the instability of our black-hole solutions. It is interesting to note that this is the same value of \( \xi \) at which the scalar field starts to oscillate about zero as \( r \to \infty \), so the instability is in accord with the observation in [9] for the minimally coupled scalar field case, that the number of unstable modes of the black-hole configuration was equal to the number of zeros of the scalar field.

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