Analytic treatment of complete and incomplete geodesics in Taub–NUT space–times

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We present the complete set of analytical solutions of the geodesic equation in Taub–NUT space–times in terms of the Weierstraß elliptic functions. We systematically study the underlying polynomials and characterize the motion of test particles by its zeros. Since the presence of the “Misner string” in the Taub–NUT metric has led to different interpretations, we consider these in terms of the geodesics of the space–time. In particular, we address the geodesic incompleteness at the horizons discussed by Misner and Taub \cite{1}, and the analytic extension of Miller, Kruskal and Godfrey \cite{2}, and compare with the Reissner–Nordström space–time.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Taub–NUT solution of the vacuum Einstein equations exhibits intriguing properties. The double name of the solution originates from the two parts the solution consists of, and at the same time highlights its strange features. In 1951 Taub\(^3\) derived a solution valid in the “inner” region \((\Delta_r < 0, \text{ see Eq. (1)})\), which was interpreted as a cosmological model (see e.g. Brill\(^4\) and Wheeler\(^5\)). In 1963 independently Newman, Unti and Tamburino (NUT)\(^6\) obtained a metric valid in the “outer” region \((\Delta_r > 0)\) which reduces to the Schwarzschild metric in the limit of vanishing NUT parameter. Misner\(^7\) then suggested to consider the Taub space–time joined analytically to the NUT space–time as a single Taub–NUT space–time.

The gravitomagnetic properties of the Taub–NUT space–time are determined by the nondiagonal part of the metric, which features the NUT parameter \(n\) as a gravitomagnetic charge. This nondiagonal term implicates a singularity on the half-axis \(\vartheta = \pi\), termed “Misner string”, which is distinct from the ordinary coordinate singularity associated with the use of spherical coordinates. Misner\(^7\) suggested to evade this singularity, by introducing a periodic time coordinate and two coordinate patches. The first coordinate patch covers the northern hemisphere and the singularity is located along the axis \(\vartheta = \pi\), while the second patch covers the southern hemisphere with the singularity extending along the axis \(\vartheta = 0\). (This construction is analogous to the way in which the “Dirac string” singularity in the vector potential of the Abelian magnetic monopole is eliminated.) A periodic time coordinate is thus the price to be paid for a Taub–NUT space–time free of these axial singularities.

Indeed, this periodic identification of the time coordinate makes the solution look rather problematic for physical applications because of the resulting causality violations. Noting that every observer at rest in the coordinate system would move on a closed time-like world-line, Bonnor\(^8\) was led to suggest an alternative interpretation of the metric, in order to evade this unsatisfactory property of the Misner interpretation of the Taub–NUT space–time. In his approach Bonnor retained the singularity at \(\vartheta = \pi\), and endowed it with a physical meaning: he interpreted it as a semi–infinite massless rotating rod. In his interpretation the NUT space–time is then considered as being created by a spherically symmetric body of mass \(M\) at the origin and by a source of pure angular momentum (associated with the NUT parameter) which is uniformly distributed along the \(\vartheta = \pi\)-axis. Thus the “Misner string” is representing a physical singularity. Moreover, close to the singular semi-axis there looms a region of space–time containing closed time-like curves. Consequently, to obtain a physically more reasonable interpretation of the Taub-NUT solution, Bonnor was forced to restrict the coordinate range, as to exclude the singular regions along with the region with closed time-like curves. Containing holes, the resulting manifold is then incomplete in the sense that not all geodesics can be extended to arbitrarily large values of their affine parameters\(^9\).

Recently, Manko and Ruiz\(^9\) reconsidered the interpretation of Bonnor for the general family of Taub-NUT solutions, containing a constant \(C\) in the nondiagonal part of the metric, \(g_{\vartheta \vartheta} \propto 2n(\cos \vartheta + C)\). This constant then defines the position of the singularity on the axis of the respective Taub-NUT space–time. For the special cases, when \(C = 1\) or \(C = -1\) (as considered in\(^6\)\(^8\)) there is only a single semi-infinite singularity on the upper or lower part of the symmetry axis, respectively. All other \(C\)-values correspond to Taub-NUT solutions with two semi-infinite singularities. The general source associated with these singularities is then interpreted as two semi-infinite counter-rotating rods (or only a single semi-infinite rotating rod in the special cases \(|C| = 1\)) with a finite rod (also rotating in general) inbetween them. The total mass of the NUT solutions is \(M\) and does not depend on the choice of \(C\). In particular, none of the rods yields a divergent contribution to the total mass. For the choice \(C = 0\), the angular momentum of the middle rod \(J_2 = Cn\sqrt{M^2 + n^2}\) vanishes, and the diverging angular momenta \(J_1\) and \(J_2\) of the semi-infinite rods cancel each other. The analysis of Manko and Ruiz is based on the exact calculation of the Komar integrals for the mass and the angular momentum of the three rods constituting the NUT source and their total values. The unattractive properties of the Bonnor interpretation are thus retained for this general family of Taub-NUT solutions: the axial singularity and the closed time-like curves in its vicinity.

Presuming the periodic identification of the time coordinate, Misner and Taub\(^1\) explored the geodesics of the Taub-NUT space–time and detected the presence of incomplete geodesics. This may seem surprising, since the origin and the axis are regular in their interpretation of the space–time. However, employing Eddington-Finkelstein coordinates, Misner and Taub found a singular behaviour of some geodesics at the horizons: as one of the horizons is approached for the second time, the modified time coordinate diverges and the affine parameter terminates, thus making these geodesics incomplete. Now the same type of behaviour is found for geodesics in the Reissner-Nordström space–time, and is dealt with by analytical continuation of the Reissner-Nordström space–time at the horizons, which consequently allows the continuation of these respective geodesics. The obvious question following from this observation is therefore whether the Taub-NUT space–time can be analytically continued in an analogous fashion as the Reissner-Nordström space–time.

Indeed, in 1971 Miller, Kruskal and Godfrey\(^6\) applied Kruskal-like coordinates and provided an analytic extension of the Taub-NUT metric for the entire range of \(r\)-values. Consequently, in their approach the geodesics, which previously terminated at a horizon, could in principle be extended in these new coordinates. They would no longer be
incomplete. However, the analytic extension introduced in \[2\] came at the prize that the periodic identification of the time coordinate was no longer possible, since it would violate the Hausdorff property of the manifold. Consequently, without the periodic identification the singularities on the axis are not evaded, and therefore the extension of Miller, Kruskal and Godfrey \[2\] is geodesically incomplete, as they note.

Leaving aside the incompleteness of certain classes of geodesics, which apparently cannot be avoided in either interpretation of the vacuum Taub-NUT space–time, let us now address some further interesting aspects of this space–time. First of all we note, that the geodesics of the Taub-NUT space–time share many of the properties of the trajectories of charged particles in the field of a magnetic monopole. A thorough discussion and comparison of these orbits can be found in Zimmerman and Shahir \[10\]. One particular such property is, that test particles always move on a cone. This was also pointed out by Lynden-Bell and Nouri-Zonos \[11\], who studied a Newtonian analogue of monopole space–times and discussed the observational possibilities for (gravito)magnetic monopoles. In fact, the spectra of supernovae, quasars or AGN might be good candidates to infer the existence of (gravito)magnetic monopoles.

On the other hand, the lack of observational evidence for the existence of gravitomagnetic masses might be explained by its presumably very large value \[12\], and by not sufficiently sensitive instruments \[13\]. Nouri-Zonos and Lynden-Bell \[14\] suggested to look for gravitomagnetic masses by means of gravitational lensing. By considering the propagation of light in Taub–NUT space–time they showed that the NUT deflector influences the gravitational lensing effect on the null geodesics. In contrast to the lensing in Schwarzschild space–times, the gravitomagnetic field shears the observed form of the source. The possibility to detect and the method to measure the gravitomagnetic masses with the next generation of microlensing experiments was studied in \[15\]. In \[16\] even the anomalous acceleration of the Pioneer spacecraft was associated with a gravitomagnetic charge.

We present in this paper the complete set of analytic solutions of the geodesic equation in Taub-NUT space–times in terms of the Weierstraß elliptic functions (the complete set of analytical solutions of the geodesic equation in Plebański–Demiański space-times which Taub–NUT is a special case of, can be found in \[17\]). We classify the orbits by means of the analysis of the underlying polynomials which include the parameters of the metric and the physical quantities characterizing the test particles. In particular, we discuss the incomplete geodesics, arising in Eddington–Finkelstein coordinates, as one of the horizons is approached for the second time, and we address the analytic extension of the space–time necessary to extend the geodesics, but forcing us to retain the singularity on the axis. We also discuss observable effects in Taub–NUT space–times on the basis of analytically defined observables, thus making other approaches to experimental signals of the NUT parameter, e.g. \[18, 19\], more rigorous.

### II. THE GEODESIC EQUATION

The general Taub–NUT solution of the Einstein field equations is described by the metric \[6, 7\]

\[
ds^2 = \frac{\Delta r}{\rho^2} (dt - 2n(\cos \vartheta + C) d\varphi)^2 - \frac{\rho^2}{\Delta} dr^2 - \rho^2 (d\vartheta^2 + \sin^2 \vartheta d\varphi^2), \tag{1}\]

where \(\rho^2 = r^2 + n^2\) and \(\Delta_r = r^2 - 2Mr - n^2\). Here \(M\) is the (gravitoelectric) mass of the solution, and \(n\) is the NUT charge, regarded as gravitomagnetic mass. For \(n \neq 0\) there are always two horizons, defined by \(\Delta_r = 0\), and given by

\[
r_{\pm} = M \pm \sqrt{M^2 + n^2}. \tag{2}\]

One horizon is located at \(r_+ > 2M\), the other at \(n \mid -|n| < r_- < 0\). Between the horizons the radial coordinate \(r\) becomes timelike, and the time coordinate \(t\) spacelike.

For test particles or light (\(g_{\mu\nu}u^\mu u^\nu = \delta, \delta = 1\) for massive test particles and \(\delta = 0\) for light) moving on a geodesic one immediately infers the conserved energy \(E\) and angular momentum \(L\)

\[
E = \frac{\Delta_r}{\rho^2} \left( \frac{dt}{d\tau} - 2n(\cos \vartheta + C) \frac{d\varphi}{d\tau} \right), \tag{3}
\]

\[
L = 2n(\cos \vartheta + C) \frac{\Delta_r}{\rho^2} \left( \frac{dt}{d\tau} - 2n(\cos \vartheta + C) \frac{d\varphi}{d\tau} \right) + \rho^2 \sin^2 \vartheta \frac{d\varphi}{d\tau}, \tag{4}
\]

where \(\tau\) is an affine parameter along the geodesic.

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\(1\) From \(r_\pm = M \pm \sqrt{M^2 + n^2}\) we obtain \(r_\pm^2 - 2r_\pm M = n^2\). Since \(r_- < 0\) it follows that \(-|n| < r_-\).
For convenience, we introduce dimensionless quantities \( r_S = 2M \)

\[
\tilde{r} = \frac{r}{r_S}, \quad \tilde{t} = \frac{t}{r_S}, \quad \tilde{\tau} = \frac{\tau}{r_S}, \quad \tilde{n} = \frac{n}{r_S}, \quad \tilde{L} = \frac{L}{r_S}.
\] (5)

It is straightforward to see that in Taub–NUT space–times the Hamilton–Jacobi equation

\[
2 \frac{\partial S}{\partial \tilde{\tau}} = g^{\mu \nu} \frac{\partial S}{\partial x^\mu} \frac{\partial S}{\partial x^\nu}
\] (6)

is separable and yields for each coordinate a corresponding differential equation

\[
\left( \frac{d\tilde{r}}{d\gamma} \right)^2 = R
\] (7)

\[
\left( \frac{d\tilde{\tau}}{d\gamma} \right)^2 = \Theta
\] (8)

\[
\frac{d\varphi}{d\gamma} = \frac{L' - 2\tilde{n}E \cos \vartheta}{\sin^2 \vartheta}, \quad \text{with} \quad L' = \tilde{L} - 2\tilde{n}EC
\] (9)

\[
\frac{d\tilde{t}}{d\gamma} = E\frac{\tilde{\rho}^4}{\Delta_r} + 2\tilde{n}(\cos \vartheta + C) \frac{L' - 2\tilde{n}E \cos \vartheta}{\sin^2 \vartheta}.
\] (10)

Here we used \( \tilde{\rho}^2 = \tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{n}^2 \) and \( \Delta_r = \tilde{r}^2 - \tilde{r} - \tilde{n}^2 \) and introduced the Mino time \( \gamma \) through \( \tilde{\rho}^2 d\gamma = d\tilde{\tau} \) [20]. We also defined

\[
R = (\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{n}^2)^2 E^2 - \Delta_r (\delta \tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{L}^2 + k)
\] (11)

\[
\Theta = k' - \delta \tilde{n}^2 + \tilde{L}^2 - \frac{(L' - 2\tilde{n}E \cos \vartheta)^2}{\sin^2 \vartheta}.
\] (12)

The separation constant \( k \) is known as Carter constant. A study of the geodesic equation in Weyl coordinates has been performed in [21].

### A. Gauge transformation

Consider a transformation \( t = t' + 2nC\varphi \). It brings the metric (11) into \( C \)-independent form:

\[
ds^2 = \frac{\Delta_r}{\tilde{\rho}^2} (dt' - 2n \cos \vartheta d\varphi)^2 - \frac{\tilde{\rho}^2}{\Delta_r} dr^2 - \rho^2 (d\vartheta^2 + \sin^2 \vartheta d\varphi^2),
\] (13)

with corresponding conserved energy \( E' = E \) and angular momentum \( L' = \tilde{L} - 2\tilde{n}EC \) for a test particle or light. Thus, the apt notation \( L' \) introduced in the Hamilton-Jacobi equations (7)-(10) represents a conserved angular momentum in the gauge transformed metric (13).

The Hamilton-Jacobi equation for each coordinate of the metric (13) yields

\[
\left( \frac{d\tilde{r}}{d\gamma} \right)^2 = R
\] (14)

\[
\left( \frac{d\tilde{\tau}}{d\gamma} \right)^2 = \Theta
\] (15)

\[
\frac{d\varphi}{d\gamma} = \frac{L' - 2\tilde{n}E \cos \vartheta}{\sin^2 \vartheta}
\] (16)

\[
\frac{d\tilde{t}}{d\gamma} = E\frac{\tilde{\rho}^4}{\Delta_r} + 2\tilde{n}(\cos \vartheta + C) \frac{L' - 2\tilde{n}E \cos \vartheta}{\sin^2 \vartheta},
\] (17)

with

\[
R = (\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{n}^2)^2 E^2 - \Delta_r (\delta \tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{L}'^2 + k')
\] (18)

\[
\Theta = k' - \delta \tilde{n}^2 + \tilde{L}'^2 - \frac{(L' - 2\tilde{n}E \cos \vartheta)^2}{\sin^2 \vartheta}.
\] (19)
The Carter constant $k'$ is related to $k$ as $k' = \tilde{L}^2 - L'^2$.

From the considerations above one concludes that the metric (11) can be brought into form (13), which corresponds to the metric (11) for $C = 0$. The same feature is observed for the Hamilton-Jacobi equations (7)-(10) and (14)-(17) under interchange of the constants $L'$ and $\tilde{L}$, $k'$ and $k$ and the coordinates $\tilde{t}$ and $\tilde{t}$.

### III. COMPLETE CLASSIFICATION OF GEODESICS

Consider the Hamilton-Jacobi equations (7)-(10). The properties of the orbits are given by the polynomial $\Theta(12)$. The constants of motion (energy, angular momentum and separation constant) as well as the parameters of the metric (dimensionless NUT-parameter) characterize these polynomials and, as a consequence, the types of orbits. In this section we discuss the motion in Taub-NUT space-times in terms of the properties of the underlying polynomial $R$ and the function $\Theta$.

#### A. The $\vartheta$–motion

In order to obtain from Eq. (8) real values of the coordinate $\vartheta$ we have to require $\Theta \geq 0$. This implies $c_2 := k - \delta \tilde{n}^2 + \tilde{L}^2 \geq 0$. With the new variable $\xi := \cos \vartheta$, Eq. (8) turns into the equation

$$\left(\frac{d\xi}{d\gamma}\right)^2 = \Theta_\xi \quad \text{with} \quad \Theta_\xi := a\xi^2 + b\xi + c,$$

with a simple polynomial of second order on the right hand side, where $a = -(c_2 + 4\tilde{n}^2E'^2)$, $b = 4\tilde{n}EL'$, and $c = c_2 - \tilde{L}^2$. Since $c_2 \geq 0$ we have $a < 0$. This means that $\Theta_\xi$ can be positive if and only if there are real zeros of $\Theta_\xi$. The polynomial $\Theta_\xi$ plays the role of an effective potential for the $\vartheta$–motion. The zeros of $\Theta$ define the angles of two cones which confine the motion of the test particles. (A similar feature appears in Kerr space-times [22].) Moreover, every trajectory is not only constrained by these cones but lies itself on a cone in 3-space [1, 10, 11] (the discussion for $C = -1$ in the papers [1, 10] can be extended for the general family of Taub-NUT solutions).

The discriminant $D = b^2 - 4ac$ of the polynomial $\Theta_\xi$ can be written as $D = 4c_1c_2$ with $c_1 := c_2 - \tilde{L}^2 + 4\tilde{n}^2E'^2$. The existence of real zeros of $\Theta_\xi$ requires $D \geq 0$. This implies that both $c_1$ and $c_2$ should be non-negative

$$\begin{align*}
c_1 &= c_2 - \tilde{L}^2 + 4\tilde{n}^2E'^2 \geq 0 \\
c_2 &= k - \delta \tilde{n}^2 + \tilde{L}^2 \geq 0.
\end{align*}$$

These are conditions on the parameters $E, \tilde{L}$, and $k$ for some given $\tilde{n}$. As long as $k - \delta \tilde{n}^2$ is positive there are no constraints on $\tilde{L}$ and $E$. When $k - \delta \tilde{n}^2$ becomes negative the inequalities (21) imply lower limits for the energy and angular momentum given by $\tilde{L}_{\text{min}} = \pm \sqrt{\delta n^2 - k}$ and $E_{\text{min}} = \frac{1}{2n(1-C^2)} \left(-\tilde{L}C \pm \sqrt{\delta n^2 - k + c_2C^2}\right)$.

One can show that

$$\Theta = c_1 - \frac{(L' \cos \vartheta - 2E\tilde{n})^2}{\sin^2 \vartheta} = c_2 - \frac{(L' - 2E\tilde{n} \cos \vartheta)^2}{\sin^2 \vartheta}.$$  

The zeros of $\Theta_\xi$ are given by

$$\xi_{1,2} = \frac{2E\tilde{n}L' \mp \sqrt{c_1c_2}}{c_1 + \tilde{L}^2}.$$  

The conditions (24) ensure the compatibility of $\xi \in [-1, 1]$ with $\Theta_\xi \geq 0$.

The function $\Theta_\xi$ describes a parabola with the maximum at $\left(\frac{2\tilde{n}EL'}{c_1 + \tilde{L}^2}, \frac{c_1c_2}{c_1 + \tilde{L}^2}\right)$. For nonvanishing $\tilde{n}$, $E$, and $\tilde{L}$ the maximum of the parabola is no longer located at $\xi = 0$ or, equivalently, the zeros are no longer symmetric with respect to $\xi = 0$. Only for vanishing $\tilde{n}$, $E$, or $\tilde{L}$ both cones are symmetric with respect to the equatorial plane.

The $\vartheta$–motion can be classified according to the sign of $c_2 - \tilde{L}^2$:

1. If $c_2 - \tilde{L}^2 < 0$ then $\Theta_\xi$ has 2 positive zeros for $L'E\tilde{n} > 0$ and $\vartheta \in (0, \pi/2)$, so that the particle moves above the equatorial plane without crossing it. If $L'E\tilde{n} < 0$ then $\vartheta \in (\pi/2, \pi)$. 

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\[
\xi_{1,2} = \frac{2E\tilde{n}L' \mp \sqrt{c_1c_2}}{c_1 + \tilde{L}^2}.
\]

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\[
\Theta_\xi := a\xi^2 + b\xi + c.
\]

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\[
\Theta = c_1 - \frac{(L' \cos \vartheta - 2E\tilde{n})^2}{\sin^2 \vartheta} = c_2 - \frac{(L' - 2E\tilde{n} \cos \vartheta)^2}{\sin^2 \vartheta}.
\]
2. If \( c_2 - L'^2 = 0 \) then \( \Theta_\xi \) has two zeros: \( \xi_1 = 0 \) and \( \xi_2 = \frac{4E'n}{L'n} \). If \( L'E'n \geq 0 \) then \( \xi \in [0, 1) \) and \( \vartheta \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2}] \). If \( L'E'n \leq 0 \) then \( \xi \in (-1, 0) \) and \( \vartheta \in [\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi) \). If \( L' = 2E'n \) then the \( \vartheta \)-motion fills the whole upper hemisphere \( \vartheta \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}] \). The motion fills the whole lower hemisphere with \( \vartheta \in [\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi] \) if \( L' = -2E'n \).

3. If \( c_2 - L'^2 > 0 \) then \( \Theta_\xi \) has a positive and a negative zero and \( \vartheta \in (0, \pi) \), and the particle crosses the equatorial plane during its motion.

In general, the second term of the function \( \Theta \) in (22) diverges for \( \vartheta \to 0, \pi \). However, if \( L' = 2E'n \) this term is regular for \( \vartheta = 0 \) and if \( L' = -2E'n \) it is regular for \( \vartheta = \pi \). If \( L' = \pm 2E'n \), then \( c_1 = c_2 \). The regularity of \( \Theta \) in these cases can be seen from

\[
\Theta = c_2 - 4E'n^2 \frac{(1 \mp \cos \vartheta)^2}{\sin^2 \vartheta},
\]

by application of L'Hôpital's rule. If, furthermore, \( E'^2 = 0 \) then \( \Theta = k - \delta n^2 + \hat{L}^2 \) which is independent of \( \vartheta \).

In the special cases when one of the constants \( c_1 \) or \( c_2 \) or both vanish, \( \Theta_\xi \) has a double root which is the only possible value for \( \vartheta \). One can distinguish three cases:

1. If \( c_1 = 0 \) and \( c_2 > 0 \), then \( \xi = \frac{2E'n}{L'} \) for \( L'^2 > 4E'^2n^2 \).

2. If \( c_2 = 0 \) and \( c_1 > 0 \) then \( \xi = \frac{L'}{2E'n} \) for \( L'^2 < 4E'^2n^2 \).

3. If \( c_1 = c_2 = 0 \) then \( \xi = \pm 1 \) implying that \( \vartheta = 0 \) or \( \vartheta = \pi \) are possible. In this case \( L' = \pm 2E'n \) (as discussed above).

This means that during a test particle's motion the coordinate \( \vartheta \) is constant and the trajectory lies on a cone around the \( \vartheta = 0, \pi \)-axis with the opening angle \( \arccos \xi \). In this case we immediately obtain from (9) that \( \varphi(\gamma) = C(\gamma - \gamma_{in}) \) with a constant \( C = \frac{L'-2E'nK}{1-\xi^2} \), which in case 1 is \( C = L' \) and in case 2 is \( C = 0 \).

Thus, the nonvanishing of \( c_1 \) and \( c_2 \) indicates that the motion of the particle is not symmetric with respect to the \( \vartheta = 0, \pi \)-axis. Therefore, these two constants may be regarded to play the role of a generalized Carter constant which appears, e.g., in the motion of particles in a Kerr space–time.

**B. The \( \hat{r} \)-motion**

1. Possible types of orbits

Before discussing the \( \hat{r} \)-motion we introduce a list of all possible orbits:

1. **Transit orbits** (TO) with \( \hat{r} \in (\pm \infty, \mp \infty) \) with a single transit of \( r = 0 \).

2. **Escape orbits** (EO) with ranges

   (a) \( (r_1, \infty) \) with \( r_1 > 0 \) or

   (b) \( (-\infty, r'_1) \) with \( r'_1 < 0 \).

   These escape orbits do not cross \( r = 0 \).

3. **Crossover escape orbits** (CEO) with ranges

   (a) \( (r_1, \infty) \) with \( r_1 < 0 \) or

   (b) \( (-\infty, r'_1) \) with \( r'_1 > 0 \).

   which cross \( r = 0 \) two times.

4. **Bound orbits** (BO) with range \( \hat{r} \in (r_1, r_2) \) with \( r_1 < r_2 \) and

   (a) either \( r_1, r_2 > 0 \) or

   (b) \( r_1, r_2 < 0 \).

5. **Crossover bound orbits** (CBO) with range \( \hat{r} \in (r_1, r_2) \) where \( r_1 < 0 \) and \( r_2 > 0 \).

The mathematical condition from the geodesic equation for crossing the origin \( \hat{r} = 0 \) is \( R(0) \geq 0 \). This implies \( R(0) = n^2 (\hat{n}^2 E'^2 + c_2 + \delta n^2) \geq 0 \), which is always fulfilled under the conditions (21).
2. The radial motion

The right hand side of the differential equation (21) has the form $R = \sum_{i=0}^{4} b_i \tilde{r}^i$ with the coefficients

\begin{align}
  b_4 &= E^2 - \delta \\
  b_3 &= \delta \\
  b_2 &= 2n^2E^2 - c_2 \\
  b_1 &= c_2 + \delta n^2 \\
  b_0 &= n^2\left(\tilde{n}^2E^2 + c_2 + \delta n^2\right).
\end{align}

Let us now consider massive particles only, that is given by $E^2 = 1$, as solutions of the geodesic equations.

Before classifying all orbits we show that it is not possible to have an orbit completely constrained to the region between the two horizons. If such an orbit would exist then the turning points should lie in this region. These turning points are given by

\[0 = \left(\frac{d\tilde{r}}{d\tilde{\gamma}}\right)^2 = (\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{n}^2)^2\left(E^2 - \tilde{\Delta}_r \frac{\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{L}^2 + k}{(\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{n}^2)^2}\right),\]

where $\tilde{L}^2 + k \geq 0$ as can be inferred from (21). Then it is clear that for $E^2 = 0$ we have $\tilde{\Delta}_r = 0$ which gives the horizons $r = r_{\pm}$ as turning points. This case requires $k \geq \tilde{n}^2$. If $E^2 > 0$ then also $\tilde{\Delta}_r > 0$, implying that the turning points are in the outer regions, that is in $r > r_+$ and $r < r_-$. Therefore it is not possible to have geodesic motion completely constrained to the region between the two horizons. Moreover, having crossed one of the horizons once, a particle is forced to pass the origin $r = 0$ and then cross the other horizon as well.

Furthermore, it is not possible to have a turning point at one of the horizons only. If, e.g., $r = r_-$ is a turning point, then $\tilde{\Delta}_r(r_-) = 0$. Then we necessarily have $E^2 = 0$. In this case also $r = r_+$ is a turning point. Therefore it is not possible to have a turning point at one of the horizons only. If $E^2 = 0$ then the turning points at the horizon are the only turning points. That is, if one of the turning points is on one of the horizons then a second one is lying on the other horizon, and there are no further turning points.

The expression

\[V_{\text{eff}} := \tilde{\Delta}_r \frac{\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{L}^2 + k}{(\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{n}^2)^2}\]

may be regarded as an effective potential. Though it does not determine the motion of the particles in the usual sense it determines the turning points through the condition $E^2 - V_{\text{eff}} = 0$.

Using the $L$–$E$ diagrams in Fig. [F1] as well as the above considerations we can give all possible combinations of zeros of $R$ and an interpretation in terms of specific types of orbits which are summarized in Table I. Note that at the moment we are not discussing features related to singularities and/or geodesic incompleteness. This discussion will follow in Section [V]. In the present section we are just exploring the types of orbits that are mathematically possible as solutions of the geodesic equations.

The types of orbits related to various parameters are given by:

- Region (0): no real zeros. We have TOs only with particles moving from $\pm \infty$ to $\mp \infty$ which we call orbit A.
- Region (1): one real zero. Here the coefficient of the highest power in $R$, given by $E^2 - 1$ for massive test particles, vanishes for $E^2 = 1$. On the $E^2 = 1$ line within the region (2) there is one real zero. The orbit is a CEO with particles coming from $\tilde{r} = +\infty$.
- Region (2): two real zeros. Due to the fact that the coefficient of the $\tilde{r}^4$–term is given by $E^2 - 1$ the sign and, thus, the type of orbit changes for $E^2$ larger or smaller than 1. For $E^2 < 1$ only CBOs are possible.
  - Region (2)$_+$: We obtain EOs and CEOS.
TABLE I: Types of polynomials and orbits in the Taub–NUT space–time. The thick lines represent the range of orbits. Turning points are shown by thick dots. The regions (1) and (3) are the line $E^2 = 1$ lying in the regions (2) and (4). The indices + and − indicate $E^2 > 1$ and $E^2 < 1$, respectively. The position $\tilde{r} = 0$ is shown by a vertical line, the horizons are indicated by a vertical double line. In the case $D_0$ the turning points lie on the horizons for $E^2 = 0$.

| Region | +zeros | −zeros | range of $\tilde{r}$ | orbit |
|--------|--------|--------|----------------------|-------|
| A (0)  |  0     |  0     |         | TO    |
| B (1)  |  0     |  1     |         | CEO   |
| C (2)$_+$ |  0 |  2     |         | EO, CEO |
| D (2)$_-$ |  1 |  1     |         | CBO |
| $D_0$  |        |        |         | CBO$_0$ |
| E (3)  |  2     |  1     |         | CBO, EO |
| F (4)$_+$ |  2 |  2     |         | EO, CBO, EO |
| G (4)$_-$ |  3 |  1     |         | CBO, BO |

− Region (2)$_-$: Due to the sign change mentioned above the types of orbits change leading to one CBO. For $0 < E^2 < 1$ the two turning points are larger than $r_+$ and smaller than $r_-$, respectively. For $E^2 = 0$ the two turning points are lying on the two horizons.

• Region (3): three real zeros. Again, for $E^2 = 1$ the term of highest power in $R$ vanishes giving three zeros for the $E^2 = 1$–line contained within the region (4). For $E^2 > 0$ the turning points cannot coincide with the horizons.

• Region (4): four real zeros. Here again the types of orbits change depending on the sign of the coefficient $E^2 − 1$ of the leading term in $R$.

− Region (4)$_+$: We obtain two EOs and a CBO. For the CBO the turning points cannot be on the horizons.

− Region (4)$_-$: Here we find BOs and CBOs. The turning points cannot be on the horizons.

The corresponding effective potentials are exhibited in Figure 2. We note the asymmetry of the possible types of orbits with respect to the outer regions. In the negative $r$ region no bound orbits are possible, since the effective potential is repulsive here.

IV. SOLUTION OF THE GEODESIC EQUATION

Now we present the analytical solutions of the differential equations (7)–(10).

A. Solution of the $\vartheta$–equation

The solution of Eq. (20) with $a < 0$ and $D > 0$ is given by the elementary function

$$\vartheta(\gamma) = \arccos \left( \frac{1}{2a} \left( \sqrt{D} \sin \left( \sqrt{-a} \gamma - \gamma_{\text{in}}^\vartheta \right) - b \right) \right),$$

where $\gamma_{\text{in}}^\vartheta = \sqrt{-a} \gamma_{\text{in}} - \arcsin \left( \frac{2a \gamma_{\text{in}} + b}{\sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}} \right)$ and $\gamma_{\text{in}}$ is the initial value of $\gamma$.

B. Solution of the $\tilde{r}$–equation

For timelike geodesics the polynomial $R$ in (11) is of fourth order. A standard substitution $\tilde{r} = \pm \frac{1}{2} + \tilde{r}_R$, where $\tilde{r}_R$ is a zero of $R$, reduces (7) to a differential equation with a third order polynomial $\left( \frac{dx}{d\gamma} \right)^2 = R_3$, where $R_3 = \sum_{i=0}^{3} b_i x^i$.  

FIG. 1: Parametric $\tilde{L}$-$E$ diagrams showing the location of the regions (0)–(4), which reflect the number of zeros of the polynomial $R$ in Eq. (11). Each region contains a set of orbits peculiar to it which are described in Table I and in the text (Section III B 2). Here the influence of the independent variation of $n$ (fig. 1(a)–(d)), and $k$ (fig. 1(e)–(i)) on the zeros of $R$ is presented. The dashed region denotes the prohibited values of $E$ and $\tilde{L}$ following from the inequalities (21). Here $C = 0$.

A further substitution $x = \frac{1}{b_3} (4y - \frac{b_2}{3})$ transforms that into the standard Weierstraß form

$$\left( \frac{dy}{d\gamma} \right)^2 = 4y^3 - g_2 y - g_3 := P_3(y),$$

where

$$g_2 = \frac{b_2^2}{12} \cdot \frac{b_1 b_3}{4}, \quad g_3 = \frac{b_1 b_2 b_3}{48} - \frac{b_0 b_3^2}{16} - \frac{b_2^2}{216}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (34)

The differential equation (33) is of elliptic type and is solved by the Weierstraß $\wp$-function

$$y(\gamma) = \wp (\gamma - \gamma'_\text{in}; g_2, g_3),$$

where $\gamma'_\text{in} = \gamma_\text{in} + \int_{y_\text{in}}^{\infty} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{4y^3 - g_2 y - g_3}}$ with $y_\text{in} = \pm \frac{b_3}{4} (\tilde{r}_\text{in} - \tilde{r}_R)^{-1} + \frac{b_2}{12}$. Then the solution of (7) acquires the form

$$\tilde{r} = \pm \frac{b_3}{4\wp (\gamma - \gamma'_\text{in}, g_2, g_3)} + \tilde{r}_R.$$  \hspace{1cm} (36)
C. Solution of the $\varphi$-equation

Eq. (11) can be simplified by using (8) and by performing the substitution $\xi = \cos \vartheta$

$$d\varphi = -\frac{d\xi}{\sqrt{\Theta_\xi}} \frac{L'}{1 - \xi^2} + \frac{\xi d\xi}{\sqrt{\Theta_\xi}} \frac{2\tilde{n}E}{1 - \xi^2},$$

where $\Theta_\xi$ is given in (20). This equation can be easily integrated and the solution for $a < 0$ and $D > 0$ is given by

$$\varphi(\gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \left( I_- - I_+ \right) \xi_{\text{in}}^{\xi(\gamma)} + \varphi_{\text{in}},$$

FIG. 2: $V_{\text{eff}}$ for orbits of type A, B, C, D, D$_0$, E, F, G from Table I, showing the position of the orbit types CBO, CEO, BO, EO, TO. The points indicate the turning points of the motion and the dashed lines correspond to the values of the energy $E^2$. At infinity the effective potential tends to the value $\lim_{\tilde{r} \to \pm \infty} V_{\text{eff}} = 1.$
where

\[ I_{\pm} = \frac{L' \pm 2E\tilde{n} \arctan \frac{1 - uB_{\pm}}{\sqrt{1 - u^2\sqrt{B_{\pm}^2 - 1}}}}{L' \pm 2E\tilde{n}} \] (39)

\[ u = \frac{2a\xi + b}{\sqrt{D}} \] (40)

\[ B_{\pm} = \frac{b \pm 2a}{\sqrt{D}}. \] (41)

It can be shown that

\[ B_{\pm}^2 - 1 = \frac{4(-a)}{D} (2E\tilde{n} \mp L')^2 > 0. \] (42)

For the special case \( c_2 = L'^2 \) and \( L' = 2E\tilde{n} \) the solution reduces to the simple form

\[ \varphi(\gamma) = \frac{1}{2} \arctan \frac{\sqrt{2(1 - 3\xi)}}{4\sqrt{-\xi^2 + \xi}} |_{\xi_{in}} + \varphi_{in}. \] (43)

**D. Solution of the \( \tilde{t} \)-equation**

Eq. (10) consists of \( \tilde{r} \) and \( \tilde{\theta} \) parts:

\[ \tilde{r} - \tilde{t}_{in} = E \int_{\tilde{t}_{in}}^{\tilde{t}(\gamma)} \frac{\rho^4}{\Delta_\gamma \sqrt{R}} d\tilde{r} + 2\tilde{n} \int_{\tilde{\theta}_{in}}^{\varnothing(\gamma)} (\cos \varnothing + C) \frac{L' - 2\tilde{n}E \cos \varnothing}{\sin^2 \varnothing} d\varnothing =: I_\varnothing(\gamma) + I_{\varnothing}(\gamma). \] (44)

Again with the substitution \( \xi = \cos \varnothing \) the integral \( I_\varnothing(\varnothing) \) can be easily solved:

\[ I_\varnothing(\gamma) = \tilde{n} \left( I_+ + I_- \right) |_{\xi_{in}}^{\xi(\gamma)} + C \tilde{n} \left( I_+ - I_- \right) |_{\xi_{in}}^{\xi(\gamma)} + \frac{4\tilde{n}^2E}{\sqrt{a}} \arcsin \frac{2a\xi + b}{\sqrt{D}} |_{\xi_{in}}^{\xi(\gamma)} \] (45)

with \( I_{\pm} \) as in (39).

We now consider \( I_\varphi \). The substitution \( \tilde{r} = \pm \frac{b_3 \xi}{4y - \frac{b_3}{3}} + \tilde{r}_R \) reexpresses \( I_\varphi \) in terms of \( y \):

\[ I_\varphi(\gamma) = E \int_{y_{in}}^{y} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{P_\gamma(y)}} \left\{ \left( \tilde{r}_R \left( 4y - \frac{b_3}{3} \right) \pm b_3 \right)^2 + n^2 \left( 4y - \frac{b_3}{3} \right)^2 \right\}^2, \] (46)

where \( \Delta_y = \tilde{\Delta}_R(\tilde{r}_R) \left( 4y - \frac{b_3}{3} \right)^2 \pm (2\tilde{r}_R - 1) b_3 \left( 4y - \frac{b_3}{3} \right) + b_3^2 = 16\tilde{\Delta}_R(\tilde{r}_R)(y - p_1)(y - p_2) \). Here, \( p_1 \) and \( p_2 \) are two zeros of \( \Delta_y \).

We next apply a partial fractions decomposition upon Eq. (46):

\[ I_\varphi(\gamma) = E \int_{y_{in}}^{y} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{P_\gamma(y)}} \left( K_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{3} \frac{K_j}{y - p_j} + \frac{K_4}{(y - p_3)^2} \right), \] (47)

where \( p_3 = \frac{b_3}{11} \) and \( K_i, i = 0, ..., 4, \) are constants which arise from the partial fractions decomposition. These depend on the parameters of the metric and the test particle and on \( \tilde{r}_R \). After the substitution \( y = \varphi(v) \) with \( \varphi'(v) = (-1)^i \sqrt{4\varphi'^2(v) - g_2\varphi(v) - g_3} \), where \( \rho \) is either 0 or 1 depending on the sign of \( \varphi'(v) \) in the considered interval and on the branch of the square root, Eq. (47) simplifies to

\[ I_\varphi(\gamma) = E \int_{v_{in}}^{v} (-1)^i \left( K_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{3} \frac{K_j}{\varphi(v) - p_j} + \frac{K_4}{(\varphi(v) - p_3)^2} \right) dv. \] (48)

Here \( v = v(\gamma) = \gamma - \gamma_{in}' \) and \( v_{in} = v(\gamma_{in}) \).
The final solution takes the form (details can be found in the appendices \[3\] and \[4\])

\[
I_\tilde{r}(\gamma) = \mp (-1)^p E \left\{ (K_0 + A_2 K_4) (v - v_{in}) + \sum_{i=1}^{2} \sum_{j=1}^{3} \frac{K_j}{\wp'(v_{3i})} \left( \zeta(v_{3i})(v - v_{in}) + \log \frac{\sigma(v - v_{3i})}{\sigma(v_{in} - v_{3i})} \right) \right\},
\]

where \(v_{ji}\) are the poles of the functions \((\wp(v) - p_j)^{-1}\) and \((\wp(v) - p_3)^{-2}\) in \[17\] such that \(\wp(v_{31}) = p_3 = \wp(v_{32})\) since \(\wp(v)\) is an even elliptic function of order two which assumes every value in the fundamental parallelogram with multiplicity two. Here \(\zeta(v)\) is the Weierstraß zeta function and \(\sigma(v)\) is the Weierstraß sigma function \[23\];

\[A_2 = -\sum_{i=1}^{2} \left( \frac{\wp(v_{3i})}{(\wp'(v_{3i}))^2} + \frac{\wp''(v_{3i})\zeta(v_{3i})}{(\wp'(v_{3i}))^3} \right)\]

is a constant.

### E. The complete orbits

With these analytical results we have found the full set of orbits for massive point particles: A TO is shown in Fig. 3, a BO in Fig. 4, a CBO in Fig. 5, an EO in Fig. 6, and a CEO in Fig. 7. The degenerate case of a CBO where the turning points are lying on the horizons is exhibited in Fig. 8(a). A further degenerate case, an orbit which crosses the \(\vartheta = 0\)–axis, is shown in Fig. 8(b). The CBO, CEO and TO contain a positive \(r\) and a negative \(r\) part. For simplicity and since it does not create confusion, these two parts are included in the same plot. In Fig. 3, Fig. 5(b), Fig. 7(b) and Fig. 8(a) the part of the orbit with negative \(r\) is plotted in sea green, whereas the blue color always represents positive \(r\).

The constant \(C\) appearing in the general family of Taub–NUT solutions (eq. \[1\]) is chosen zero in the calculation of the geodesics. In general, it follows from the Hamilton-Jacobi equations \(7\)–\(9\) that the constant \(C\) can be absorbed in the constant \(L'\) and does not influence the characteristic features of the geodesics in the Taub-NUT space-times discussed in section \[1\]. Moreover, as it is shown in the section \[1A\] one can switch between the \(C\)-dependent metric \(1\) and Hamilton-Jacobi equations \(7\)–\(10\) and the \(C\)-independent metric \(13\) and Hamilton-Jacobi equations \(14\)–\(17\) by introducing a gauge transformed coordinate \(t'\) and interchanging the constants of motion \(L'\, k'\) and \(k\).

These orbits are just solutions of the geodesic equation for the spatial coordinates. The complete discussion of these orbits is possible only by including the solutions for the time coordinate and the proper time, which is critical for the issue of geodesic incompleteness and other singularities. This is done in the next section.
V. THE ISSUE OF SINGULARITIES

In this section we discuss the nature of the singularities which are present in the Taub–NUT space–times. We address these singularities in terms of the analytic solutions of the geodesic equation. Different interpretations of the Taub–NUT space–time give rise to different types of singularities.

1. The family of Taub–NUT space–times as given by the metric (1) possesses a singularity along the whole \( \vartheta = 0, \pi \) axis when \( |C| \neq 1 \) \( \textcircled{9} \), which includes our choice \( C = 0, \) Eq. (1). The choice \( |C| = 1 \) leads only to singular semi–axes (see e.g. Misner \( \textcircled{7} \)).

2. In the interpretation of Misner \( \textcircled{1} \) and Misner and Taub \( \textcircled{1} \) one can avoid the singularity present on the axis by employing a periodic identification of the time coordinate. Hypersurfaces \( r = \text{const} \) then possess the topology \( S^3 \). In this case it is, however, not possible to eliminate the geodesic incompleteness which arises at the horizons, as discussed below.

3. When analytically extending the space–time at the horizons by gluing further copies of the space–time following
Miller, Kruskal and Godfrey [2], one has to retain the singularity along the $\vartheta = 0, \pi$ axis. Therefore one finds the space–times considered by Bonnor [8] and Manko and Ruiz [9], where the axial singularity is interpreted as a physical singularity. Such a singularity might possibly be avoided, however, if an appropriate interior solution were included.

Before discussing the singularities of Taub–NUT space–times in terms of the behavior of the geodesics, we visualize Taub–NUT space–times using Carter–Penrose diagrams.

### A. Singularities in a single copy of Taub–NUT space–time

The Carter–Penrose diagram for a single copy of Taub–NUT space–time is shown in Fig. 11. It consists of three regions: region I with $\infty > r > r_+ > 0$, region II with $r_+ > r > r_-$ and region III with $0 > r_- > r > -\infty$. This diagram is helpful in discussing the singularity issues. One can consider two versions of it because the geodesic motion in regions I and III is different. (Recall that the potential in region III is repulsive.) Thus the motion of a particle depends on whether it starts in region I or region III.
(a) Degenerate CBO with parameters $n = 0.5, k = 1.0, \tilde{L} = 3.0, E = 0$. The turning points coincide with the horizons, where $r_- < 0$ is the inner circle. The motion takes place in a plane. The figure combines both regions $r > 0$ (blue) and $r < 0$ (sea green).

(b) CBO: $n = 0.5, k = \tilde{n}^2, \tilde{L} = 0.9, E = \tilde{L}/(2\tilde{n})$. The red point indicates the $\vartheta = 0$-axis. In the Misner interpretation the axis is regular and a test particle can move across $\vartheta = 0$; alternatively, when the axis is interpreted to represent a physical singularity, the orbit must end when it encounters this singularity. Details are given in Section V.

FIG. 8: Two degenerate orbits. A CBO with the horizons as turning points and a CBO crossing the $\vartheta = 0, \pi$ axis.

The possible orbits obtained above are depicted in Fig. 10. From this diagram it is immediately clear that the CEOs shown in red, as well as the CBOs shown in blue (and the $D_0$ shown in green which represent a special case of the CBOs) are geodesically incomplete in a single copy of Taub–NUT space. The CEOs, for instance, start at spatial infinity, cross the horizons $r_+$ and $r_-$, and are forced to end when they reach the horizon $r_-$ a second time. Therefore, as long as there is only a single copy of Taub–NUT space, there is no way for such a geodesic to cross the horizon $r_-$ a second time, implying geodesic incompleteness of the space–time. This illustrates the problem in the interpretation of Misner and Taub, where the periodic identification of the time coordinate precludes the analytic extension of the space–time with further copies.

B. Singularities in the Misner and Taub version of the Taub–NUT space–time

The geodesic incompleteness in this version of Taub–NUT space–time has been investigated by Misner and Taub [1]. We now explicitly demonstrate this geodesic incompleteness by means of our analytic solution: By introducing Eddington–Finkelstein like coordinates $\psi_{\pm}$ through $2n\psi_{\pm} = t \pm \int_{\tilde{r}}^{\tilde{r}_{\text{in}}} \frac{\rho^2}{\Delta_r} d\tilde{r}$, one eliminates the singular behavior of the metric (1) at the horizons $\Delta_r = 0$ and one obtains two metrics

$$ds^2 = 4n^2 \frac{\Delta_r}{\rho^2} (d\psi - (\cos \vartheta + C)d\varphi)^2 = 4n \left( d\psi - (\cos \vartheta + C)d\varphi \right) dr - \rho^2 \left( d\vartheta^2 + \sin^2 \vartheta d\varphi^2 \right).$$

With $I_{\varphi}(\gamma)$ and $I_{\vartheta}(\gamma)$ as in (44) the equation for the coordinate $\psi$ takes the form

$$2\tilde{n}(\psi_{\pm} - \psi_{\text{in}}) = (\tilde{t} - \tilde{t}_{\text{in}}) \pm \int_{\tilde{r}_{\text{in}}}^{\tilde{r}} \frac{\rho^2}{\Delta_r} d\tilde{r} = I_{\varphi}(\gamma) + I_{\vartheta}(\gamma) \pm \left( \tilde{r} + \frac{1}{2} \log |\Delta_r| + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + 4n^2 \log \left( \frac{2\tilde{r} - 1}{\sqrt{2n^2 + 1}} \right)} \right) \Bigg|_{\tilde{r}_{\text{in}}}^{\tilde{r}(\gamma)}.$$

Figure 11 shows the $\psi(\gamma)$–dependence which reveals the incompleteness of crossover bound geodesics. Consider e.g. $\psi_+$ in Fig. 11(a). A test particle starting its motion somewhere in the region $\Delta_r > 0$ can cross the horizons $r_+$ and $r_-$ only once; when it approaches $r_-$ for the second time the function $\psi(\gamma)$ diverges and prevents the particle from leaving the region $\Delta_r \leq 0$. This behaviour represents the geodesic incompleteness observed by Misner and Taub [1]. Also if a particle starts from $\tilde{r} = 0$ the geodesic is incomplete, since once a particle leaves the region $\Delta_r \leq 0$ after
crossing one of the horizons $r_-$ or $r_+$, it cannot cross this horizon a second time, because $\psi(\gamma)$ diverges there. At
the same time the affine parameter $\gamma$ cannot be continued further, which indicates the geodesic incompleteness of the Taub–NUT space–time.

Figure [11(b)] for $\psi_-$ demonstrates the incompleteness of the geodesics at the first pair of horizons.

Thus, the Eddington–Finkelstein–like transformations eliminate the singular behaviour of the original Schwarzschild–like coordinates only at the first crossing of the horizons, but lead to incomplete geodesics at the attempted second crossing.

Because an analytic extension of the space–time with a second copy is not possible without destroying the Hausdorff property of the underlying topological space [2], the Taub-NUT space–time with periodically identified time coordinate is geodesically incomplete.

C. Singularities in the Kruskal–like analytic extension of the Taub–NUT space–time

In order to extend these incomplete geodesics, Miller, Kruskal and Godfrey [2] presented a Kruskal–like analytic extension of the Taub–NUT space–time, where an infinite sequence of further copies of Taub–NUT space–time is added. This procedure is completely analogous to the case of the Reissner–Nordström space–time discussed in Appendix A. The Carter–Penrose diagram of this extension of Taub–NUT space–time is presented in Fig. [12].

In this extended space–time it is possible to continue the CEOs and CBOs. These geodesics are therefore no longer forced to terminate at a horizon, when trying to pass it for a second time. This is illustrated in Fig. [13] where these orbits are displayed in the Carter–Penrose diagram.

The price to pay for the continuation of the geodesics at the horizons is, however, that the singular $\theta = 0, \pi$–axis cannot be eliminated by a periodic identification of the time coordinate. Thus, the axis represents a singularity, where geodesics must terminate. In the classification of Ellis and Schmidt [28, 29] this type of singularity has been termed a quasi–regular singularity, since the curvature remains finite (see also [30, 31]). Nevertheless, a geodesic ends when reaching the singularity, analogous to the more often encountered conical singularity. A further discussion of this type of singularity may be found in [32] and [33], classifying this singularity further as a torsion singularity.

Thus, the introduction of the Kruskal–like analytical extension of the space–time eliminates the geodesic incompleteness at the horizons but only trades it for a physical singularity along the $\theta = 0, \pi$–axis, where the geodesics are forced to terminate: consequently the geodesic incompleteness of Taub–NUT space–times is retained in either interpretation of this intriguing vacuum solution.
FIG. 12: Kruskal–like analytic continuation of Taub–NUT space–time in a Carter–Penrose diagram. Here region I is given by $r > r_+$, region II by $r_- < r < r_+$ and region III by $r < r_-$. One copy of Taub–NUT space corresponds to the regions I, II, and III glued together diagonally, compare Fig. 9.

VI. THE OBSERVABLES

As in any other space–time orbits in Taub–NUT space–time possess some invariantly defined observables like perihelion shift, light deflection, the deflecton angle for flyby orbits, or the Lense–Thirring effect. These quantities are directly or indirectly related to the periods of the $\vartheta$ and the $\tilde{r}$ motion.

The two fundamental periods of the $\varphi$–function where $2\omega_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $2\omega_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ are

$$
\omega_1 = \int_{e_1}^{e_2} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{P_3(y)}}, \quad \omega_2 = \int_{e_2}^{e_3} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{P_3(y)}}.
$$

(52)

For a bound orbit in the region (4)– the $\tilde{r}$–motion of the test particle is periodic $\tilde{r}(\gamma + \omega_2) = \tilde{r}(\gamma)$, in particular it
oscillates between $r_{\min}$ and $r_{\max}$ with a period $\omega_r = 2\omega_1$ 

$$\omega_r = 2 \int_{r_{\min}}^{r_{\max}} \frac{d\tilde{r}}{\sqrt{R}} = 2 \int_{e_1}^{e_2} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{P_3(y)}} = 2\omega_1,$$

where $e_1$ and $e_2$ are the zeros of $P_3(y)$ related to $r_{\min}$ and $r_{\max}$. The corresponding orbital frequency is $\frac{2\pi}{\omega_r}$.

The $\vartheta$–period of a bound orbit in the region (4)– is simply given by

$$\omega_{\vartheta} = 2 \int_{\vartheta_{\min}}^{\vartheta_{\max}} \frac{d\vartheta}{\sqrt{\Theta}} = -2 \int_{\xi_{\min}}^{\xi_{\max}} \frac{d\xi}{\sqrt{\Theta \xi}} = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{-a}},$$

FIG. 13: The CEO (red) and the CBO (blue) in the Kruskal–like analytic extension of Taub–NUT space–time. In the Misner–Taub interpretation of Taub–NUT space–time these orbits are incomplete at the horizons. In the Bonnor–Manko–Ruiz interpretation of Taub–NUT space–time the orbits are incomplete at the singular axis. The orbits then consist of incomplete pieces: 3 pieces for the CEO (red): $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow D$, which are incomplete at $B$ and $C$; an infinite number of pieces for the CBO (blue): $A \rightarrow B, B \rightarrow C, C \rightarrow D, etc.,$ which are incomplete at $A, B, C, D, etc.$ Also shown is the orbit $D_0$ (green).
and the corresponding frequency by \( \frac{2\pi}{\omega} \).

The secular rates at which the angle \( \varphi \) and the time \( t \) accumulate are given by (for \( L' > 2\bar{n}\bar{n} \)):

\[
Y_{\varphi} = \frac{2}{\omega} \int_{\xi_{\text{max}}}^{\xi_{\text{min}}} L' - 2\bar{n}\bar{E}\xi \left( -\frac{d\xi}{\sqrt{\Theta}} \right) = \frac{1}{\omega} (I_- - I_+) \xi_{\text{min}} = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} = \sqrt{-a}.
\]

and

\[
\Gamma = \frac{2}{\omega} \int_{r_{\text{min}}}^{r_{\text{max}}} \sqrt{\frac{\rho^4}{\Delta r} + \frac{2}{\omega} \int_{\vartheta_{\text{min}}}^{\vartheta_{\text{max}}} \left( L' - 2\bar{n}\bar{E}\cos \vartheta \right) \frac{2\bar{n}(\cos \vartheta + C)}{\sin^2 \vartheta} \sqrt{\Theta}} \, d\vartheta = \frac{2}{\omega} I \mathbf{Y}_{n_{\text{e}}e} + 4\bar{n}\bar{E} + 2\bar{n}\sqrt{-aC},
\]

where \( I \) defined in Eq. (19) is evaluated at \( e_i \), corresponding to the root \( e_i \), \( i = 1, 2 \). The orbital frequencies \( \Omega_r, \Omega_{\vartheta} \) and \( \Omega_{\varphi} \) are then given by:

\[
\Omega_{\varphi} = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} \frac{1}{\Gamma}, \quad \Omega_{\vartheta} = \frac{2\pi}{\omega} \frac{1}{\Gamma}, \quad \Omega_{r} = \frac{Y_{r}}{\Gamma}.
\]

As discussed in [24, 25] the differences between these orbital frequencies are related to the perihelion shift and the Lense–Thirring effect

\[
\Delta_{\text{perihelion}} = \Omega_{\varphi} - \Omega_{\vartheta} = \left( \sqrt{-a} - \frac{2\pi}{\omega} \right) \frac{1}{\Gamma}
\]

\[
\Delta_{\text{Lense–Thirring}} = \Omega_{\varphi} - \Omega_{\vartheta} = 0.
\]

Interestingly, there is no Lense-Thirring effect in the Taub–NUT space-times. The geometrical reason for this is the property that the orbits lie on cones. These cones are fixed in space, and the orbit reaches the maximal value of \( \vartheta \) after each full revolution of \( \varphi \) by \( 2\pi \). Consequently, the frequencies \( \Omega_{\varphi} \) and \( \Omega_{\vartheta} \) coincide. Thus in Taub–NUT space-times the fixed cone plays the role of the fixed plane of Schwarzschild space-times. We expect that in the case of a Kerr-Taub-NUT space-time the orbital cone in the far field region precesses like the orbital plane precesses in Kerr space-time.

Further possible observables in the Taub–NUT space–time are given by the deflection angle for escape and transit orbits for massive test particles and for light.

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

In this paper we presented the analytic solution of the geodesic equation in Taub–NUT space–times in terms of the Weierstraß \( \varphi \), \( \sigma \) and \( \zeta \) functions. The derived orbits depend on the particle’s energy, angular momentum, Carter constant and on the parameters of the gravitating source. We discussed the general structure of the orbits and gave a complete classification of their types.

We also addressed the properties of the geodesics in the light of the interpretations of the Taub–NUT metric following on the one hand Misner [7] and on the other hand Bonnor [8]. According to Misner and Taub [1] one encounters incomplete geodesics, when the affine parameter suddenly terminates at the attempt to cross a horizon a second time. In their approach Misner and Taub used Eddington–Finkelstein transformations. Such kind of transformations lead to incomplete geodesics also in the Reissner–Norström space–time. This is due to the shortcoming of these coordinates to not provide the complete analytical extension of the space–time. In such a Kruskal–like extension of the Taub–NUT space–time as performed by Miller, Kruskal and Godfrey [2] the incomplete geodesic behaviour at the horizons is eliminated. However, other geodesics are then incomplete in the analytically extended Taub–NUT space–time, because the singularity at the \( \vartheta = 0, \pi \) axis is retained. A periodic identification of the time coordinate would violate the Hausdorff property of the manifold and is thus prohibited. Following Bonnor [8] and Manko and Ruiz [9] the singularity on the axis must then be considered as a physical singularity.

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Appendix A: Incomplete behavior of geodesics in the Reissner–Nordström space–times

The $\tilde{r}$– and $\tilde{t}$–equations in the Reissner–Nordström space–time in four dimensions take the form (cf. Eqs. (7), (10))

$$
\left(\frac{d\tilde{r}}{d\gamma}\right)^2 = R_{RN}, \quad R_{RN} = E^2\tilde{r}^4 - \Delta_{RN}(\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{L}^2), \quad (A1)
$$

$$
\frac{d\tilde{t}}{d\gamma} = \frac{E\tilde{r}^4}{\Delta_{RN}}, \quad \Delta_{RN} = \tilde{r}^2 - \tilde{r} + \eta^2, \quad (A2)
$$

where $\eta$ is the normalized charge, $\eta = \frac{q}{r_S}$, and the Mino [20] time $\gamma$ is used where $\tilde{r}^2d\gamma = d\tilde{r}$. Solutions of these equations can be derived by the same scheme as employed in Eq. (7) with solution (36) and in Eq. (10) with solution (44). (Note that in the Reissner–Nordström space–time the motion can be restricted to the equatorial plane and only the $I_{\tilde{r}}(\gamma)$ part survives.)

The incomplete behaviour of geodesics in the Reissner–Nordström space–time is similar to that in the Taub–NUT space–time. Although the orbits are completely regular from the $\tilde{r}$–, $\vartheta$– and $\varphi$–equations, this interesting feature reveals itself when one investigates the $t$–equation. The Eddington–Finkelstein transformations $\psi_{\pm} = \tilde{t} \pm \int \frac{\tilde{r}^2}{\Delta_{RN}} d\tilde{r}$ convert the metric into a nonsingular form. The affine parameter $\gamma$ stops to increase at some point while $\psi$ diverges there. This happens at the attempt to cross one of the horizons a second time, as illustrated in Fig. 14. The similarity with Fig. 11 for the Taub–NUT space–time is immediately recognized.

The Kruskal–like extension of the Reissner–Nordström space–time is better suited for the description of the geodesics. These coordinates present an analytical extension of the space-time to the entire range of possible radial and time coordinates, and yield an infinite set of copies of the original Reissner–Nordström space–time. Consequently, the geodesics which seemed to be incomplete at the horizons in Eddington–Finkelstein coordinates can be smoothly continued through the horizons to the glued regions I, II, III of the copies. (The Carter-Penrose diagram of the Kruskal extension for the Reissner–Nordström space–time can be found, for instance, in [26, 27].)

Appendix B: Integration of elliptic integrals of the third kind

We consider an integral of the type $I_1 = \int_{\psi_0}^{\psi_1} \frac{dv}{\varphi(v) - p_1}$. This integral is of the third kind because the function $f_1(v) = (\varphi(v) - p_1)^{-1}$ has two simple poles $v_1$ and $v_2$ in a fundamental parallelogram with vertices 0, $2\omega_1$, $2\omega_1 + 2\omega_2$, $2\omega_1 + 2\omega_2$.
Consider the Laurent series for the function $f_1$ around $v_i$

$$f_1(v) = a_{-1,i}(v - v_i)^{-1} + \text{holomorphic part}, \quad (B1)$$

and the Taylor series of $f_1^{-1}$ about $v_i$

$$f_1^{-1}(v) = \varphi'(v_i)(v-v_i) + \mathcal{O}(v^2) \quad (B2)$$

Comparing the coefficients in the equality $1 = f_1(v)f_1^{-1}(v)$ where

$$1 = f_1(v) \left( \varphi'(v_i)(v-v_i) + \mathcal{O}(v^2) \right) = a_{-1,i}\varphi'(v_i) + \mathcal{O}(v^2) \quad (B3)$$

yields $a_{-1,i} = -\frac{1}{\varphi'(v_i)}$. Thus, the function $f_1(v)$ has a residue $\frac{1}{\varphi'(v_i)}$ in $v_i$.

The Weierstraß $\zeta(v)$ function is an elliptic function with a simple pole in 0 and residue 1. Then the function $A_1 = f_1(v) - \sum_{i=1}^{2} \frac{\varphi(v_i)}{\varphi'(v_i)}$ is an elliptic function without poles and therefore a constant \[23\], which can be determined from $f_1(0) = 0$. Thus,

$$f_1(v) = \sum_{i=1}^{2} \frac{\zeta(v-v_i) + \zeta(v_i)}{\varphi'(v_i)} \quad (B4)$$

Here $\varphi'(v_2) = \varphi'(2\omega_j - v_1) = -\varphi'(v_1)$. Applying now the definition of the Weierstraß $\sigma$–function $\int_{v_n}^{v} \zeta(v)dv = \log \sigma(v) - \log \sigma(v_n)$ upon the integral $I_1$ we get the solution

$$I_1 = \int_{v_n}^{v} f_1(v)dv = \sum_{i=1}^{2} \frac{1}{\varphi'(v_i)} \left( \zeta(v_i)(v-v_i) + \log \frac{\sigma(v-v_i)}{\sigma(v_n-v_i)} \right). \quad (B5)$$

**Appendix C: Integration of elliptic integrals of the type** $I_2 = \int_{v_n}^{v} \frac{dv}{(\varphi(v)-p_3)^2}$

We consider the Laurent series of $f_2(v)$ and the Taylor series of $f_2^{-1}(v)$ around $v_i$ for $f_2(v) = \frac{1}{(\varphi(v)-p_3)^2}$:

$$f_2(v) = a_{-2,i}(v-v_i)^{-2} + a_{-1,i}(v-v_i)^{-1} + \text{holomorphic part}, \quad (C1)$$

$$f_2^{-1}(v) = \left( \varphi'(v_i)(v-v_i) + \frac{1}{2}\varphi''(v_i)(v-v_i)^2 + \mathcal{O}(v^3) \right)^2$$

$$= \left( \varphi'(v_i) \right)^2(v-v_i)^2 + \varphi'(v_i)\varphi''(v_i)(v-v_i)^3 + \mathcal{O}(v^4). \quad (C2)$$

The function $f_2(v)$ has poles of second order in $v_1$ and $v_2$ such that $f_2(v_1) = p_3 = f_2(v_2)$. Comparison of the coefficients in

$$1 = f_2(v) \left( (\varphi'(v_i))^2(v-v_i)^2 + \varphi'(v_i)\varphi''(v_i)(v-v_i)^3 + \mathcal{O}(v^4) \right)$$

$$= a_{-2,i} (\varphi'(v_i))^2 + (v-v_i) \left[ a_{-1,i}(\varphi'(v_i))^2 + a_{-2,i}\varphi'(v_i)\varphi''(v_i) \right] + \mathcal{O}(v^2) \quad (C3)$$

yields

$$a_{-2,i} = \frac{1}{(\varphi'(v_i))^2}, \quad a_{-1,i} = -\frac{\varphi''(v_i)}{(\varphi'(v_i))^3}. \quad (C4)$$

The function $\varphi(v)$ possesses a pole of second order in $v = 0$ with residuum 0 and the Laurent series of $\varphi$ begins with $v^{-2}$. Then the Laurent series of $a_{-2,i} \varphi(v - v_i)$ around $v_i$ begins with $a_{-2,i}(v_v - v_i)^{-2}$ which is similar to the first term in \[C1\]. The Laurent series of $a_{-1,i} \zeta(v - v_i)$ around $v_i$ begins with $a_{-1,i}(v_v - v_i)^{-1}$. Thus, the function $A_2 = f_2(v) - \sum_{i=1}^{2} \frac{\varphi(v-v_i)}{(\varphi'(v_i))^2} - \frac{\varphi''(v_i)\zeta(v-v_i)}{(\varphi'(v_i))^3}$ has no poles and is constant \[28\] and can be calculated from $f_2(0) = 0$: $A_2 = -\sum_{i=1}^{2} \left( \frac{\varphi(v_i)}{(\varphi'(v_i))^2} + \frac{\varphi''(v_i)\zeta(v_i)}{(\varphi'(v_i))^3} \right)$.
Using \( \int_{v_{in}}^{v} \varphi(v) dv = -\zeta(v) + \zeta(v_{in}) \) and the definition of the \( \sigma \)–function the integral \( I_2 \) takes the form:

\[
I_2 = \int_{v_{in}}^{v} f_2(v) dv = A_2(v - v_{in}) - \sum_{i=1}^{2} \left[ \zeta(v - v_i) - \zeta(v_{in} - v_i) + \frac{\varphi''(v_i)}{\varphi'(v_i)} \log \frac{\sigma(v - v_i)}{\sigma(v_{in} - v_i)} \right] \frac{1}{(\varphi'(v_i))^2}. \tag{C5}
\]

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