Exactly Soluble BPS Black Holes in Higher Curvature $N = 2$ Supergravity

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We find a class of $d=4$, $N=2$ supergravity with $R^2$-interactions that admits exact BPS black holes. The prepotential contains quadratic, cubic and chiral curvature-squared terms. Black hole geometry realizes stretched horizon, and consists of anti-de Sitter, intermediate and outermost flat regions.

Recently, in string theory, black holes in higher curvature gravity received renewed interest. For one thing, an interesting connection was found between the partition function of Bogomolnyi-Prasad-Sommerfield (BPS) black holes in quantum Type II string theory compactified on a Calabi-Yau 3-fold and the product of partition sums for topological and anti-topological strings. It is claimed that black hole entropy, which is modified by higher curvature and higher genus effects, is interpretable as a Legendre transform of free energies for the topological and anti-topological strings. For another, for BPS black holes with fewer charges, it was discovered that the stretched horizon as envisaged by Sen emerges naturally by the higher curvature and higher genus effects. See [1], [2] for subsequent works for these issues.

In $d = 4$, $N \geq 2$ supergravity, part of higher curvature effects is encoded into so-called gravitational $F$-terms. Bosonic part of these terms takes a form of square of Riemann curvature $R^2$ times a compactification-dependent (local) function involving graviphoton field strengths and scalar fields in the vector and hyper multiplets. It was established in [3] that universal near-horizon behavior of the black hole configuration, called attractor mechanism, remains valid even after including gravitational $F$-terms. Aforementioned works [1, 2] are both built essentially on this observation: black hole entropy encodes information of gravitational $F$-terms. Despite such development, no analytic solution for BPS black holes is currently available once higher curvature terms are incorporated. In this Letter, we report discovery of a class of exactly soluble $\frac{1}{2}$-BPS black holes in $d = 4$, $N \geq 2$ supergravity with gravitational $F$-terms. They are built upon a simple variant of the supergravity prepotential, and hence are expected to serve as invaluable reference for better understanding of topological string, black hole entropy, stretched horizon and beyond.

We shall adopt the method of superconformal multiplet calculus in constructing $N = 2$ Poincaré supergravity coupled with matter, and follow closely the formalism developed in [4]. Denote the vector multiplet as $(X^I, F_{ab}^I)$, the hypermultiplet potential as $\chi$, the auxiliary multiplet as $(D, T_{ab})$, the Weyl curvature-squared multiplet as $(A, \tilde{C})$, and the prepotential as $F = F(X^I, \tilde{A})$ with notations $F_I \equiv (\partial F/\partial X^I)$, $F_A \equiv \partial F/\partial \tilde{A}$. Then relevant bosonic part of the Lagrangian reads

$$8\pi e^{-1}\mathcal{L} = iD_\mu F_I D^\mu \tilde{X}^I - iF_I \overline{\tilde{X}}^I \left(\frac{1}{6}R - D\right) + \frac{1}{3} \tilde{C} e_{ab} X^I T_{ab} + \frac{1}{2} e_{ab} F_{ab}^I \tilde{F} + \frac{1}{8} F_{ab}^I \tilde{F} + \frac{1}{4} \tilde{F} + \frac{1}{2} F_A \tilde{C} + \text{h.c.}. \quad (1)$$

The $\frac{1}{2}$-BPS black hole is constructable as follows [3]. Denote local $N = 2$ supersymmetry parameters as $\varepsilon_A = (\varepsilon^A)^*$ where $A = 1, 2$ are SU(2) indices. The $\frac{1}{2}$-BPS condition reads $e^{i\alpha(x)} \varepsilon_A(x) = e^{i\alpha_0} \varepsilon^A(x)$, where $\alpha(x)$ is a phase-factor to be determined. This puts the spacetime metric for a single-centered black hole in Tod’s form:

$$ds^2 = -e^{-2g(r)} dt^2 + e^{-2g(r)} (dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_2^2), \quad (2)$$

sets all hypermultiplet scalars and hence the potential $\chi$ to constant, and imposes all vector multiplet scalars to obey to so-called “generalized stabilization conditions”:

$$\text{Im} Y^I = \tilde{H}^I = \frac{1}{2} \left( \tilde{h}^I + \tilde{q}^I \frac{1}{r} \right)$$

$$\text{Im} F_I = H_I = \frac{1}{2} \left( h_I + q_I \frac{1}{r} \right). \quad (3)$$

Here, $Y^I = e^{-g} X^I$ and $\Upsilon = e^{-2g} \tilde{A}$ are scale and U(1) invariant variables of the vector and the Weyl curvature-squared multiplets, and $F = F(Y, \Upsilon)$ is the prepotential of degree 2, where $Y^I$ and $\Upsilon$ carry degree 1 and 2, respectively. Other equations to be solved together are

$$\Upsilon = -64(\nabla p g)^2 \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Im}(Y^I F_I) + \frac{1}{4} e^{-2g} = -128 e^g \nabla_p (\text{Im} F_I \nabla_p e^{-g}) \quad (5)$$

$$\tilde{H}^I \nabla_p H_I - H_I \nabla_p \tilde{H}^I = 0, \quad (6)$$
where we made use of rotational symmetry of the ansatz eq. [2]. All hypermultiplet scalars being constant, \( \chi \) takes a negative constant value and sets an overall mass scale in the theory.

We shall consider a theory defined by prepotential:

\[
F(Y, \Upsilon) = -\left(C \frac{Y^1 Y^2 Y^3}{Y^0} + \frac{i\tau}{2}(Y^3)^2 + k \frac{Y^3}{Y^0} \Upsilon \right),
\]

and look for a BPS black hole solution. Specifically, we shall look for a solution carrying both electric and magnetic charges, but not of dyonic type. Choosing these charges along 0 and 3 directions in vector multiplets, we find the solution is obtained by taking an ansatz that \( Y^0 \) is purely real, \( Y^1 = Y^2 = 0 \), and \( Y^3 \) is purely imaginary. In addition, we shall fix the phase and the scale in the superconformal symmetry by the gauge \( \alpha = 0, \ g(\infty) = 0 \).

The generalized stabilization equations are solved by

\[
-iY^3 = \bar{H} \equiv \left(\bar{h} + \frac{p}{r} \right) = \frac{\bar{h}}{1 + \frac{Q}{r}} \quad (Q > 0),
\]

\[
+iF_0 = \bar{H} = \left( h + \frac{Q}{r} \right) = \frac{h}{1 + \frac{Q}{4}} \quad (Q > 0).
\]

Using \([1]\), \( Y^0 \) is then solved from \( F_0 \) in terms of \( H, \bar{H}, g \):

\[
Y^0 = 8\sqrt{k}g'(r)\sqrt{\bar{H}/H}.
\]

We also have \( \text{Im}F_T = (\sqrt{k}/\sqrt{8g'})\sqrt{HH} \)

\[
\text{Im}(Y^T F_T) = \frac{e^{-K}}{2} = \tau \bar{H}^2 + 16\sqrt{k}g'(r)\sqrt{HH}
\]

Using these expressions, eq. [10] becomes

\[
\tau \bar{H}^2 + 16\sqrt{k}g'(r)\sqrt{HH} + \frac{\sum}{} e^{-2g} = 16\sqrt{k}e^g \nabla \cdot \left( \frac{1}{g} \sqrt{HH} \nabla e^{-g} \right).
\]

The equation is further simplifiable to

\[
\tau \bar{H}^2 + \frac{\chi}{} e^{-2g(r)} = -16\sqrt{k} \frac{r^2}{r^2} \partial_r (r^2 \sqrt{HH}).
\]

This equation determines the metric factor \( e^{g(r)} \). Notice that derivatives of \( g(r) \) all dropped out in eq. [11]. This is because in our ansatz we took spherical symmetry and turned off \( Y^3, Y^2 \) completely. Later, we will revisit this issue when considering more general solution.

Now, in the gauge \( g(\infty) = 0 \) adopted, the negative constant \( \chi \) is determined as \( \chi = -4\pi \bar{h}^2 \) (Notice that we have taken \( \tau > 0 \)). The final form of the solution yields eq. [8] along with the metric factor

\[
e^{-2g(r)} = \left(1 + \frac{Q}{r} \right)^2 + \frac{Q\varepsilon}{r^2} \left[r^2 \left(1 + \frac{Q}{r}\right)\left(1 + \frac{Q}{r}\right)\right].
\]

where \( \varepsilon = (16\sqrt{k}/Q\bar{h}^2)\sqrt{hh} \). The metric factor is remarkably simple and behaves similar to that of extremal charged black hole. To see this, choose \( Q = \bar{Q} \). Then,

\[
e^{-2g(r)} = (1 + \varepsilon)^{1 + \frac{Q}{r}} - \varepsilon.
\]

Near the horizon, \( r \sim 0 \), the spacetime metric becomes

\[
ds^2 = (1 + \varepsilon)Q^2 \left( \frac{dr^2}{r^2} + d\Omega^2 \right) - \frac{r^2}{(1 + \varepsilon)Q^2},
\]

and yields the Bertotti-Robinson geometry except rescaling by \((1 + \varepsilon)\). This near-horizon behavior is in fact universal for all values of \( p, q \), equivalently, \( Q, \bar{Q} \).

These black holes carry nontrivial central charge \( Z \), defined by the charge coupled to the graviphoton:

\[
Z(r) = e^{\frac{1}{2}K(r)} (p^3 F_3(r) - q_0 Y^0(r)).
\]

The BPS mass is then determined by \( Z \) at spatial infinity:

\[
M_{\text{BPS}} = |Z|_{r=\infty} = \sqrt{2}\tau p.
\]

The entropy as defined by surface integral of Noether current at the horizon yields

\[
S_{\text{BH}} = \pi \left[ |Z|^2 - 256\text{Im}\,\partial r F(Y, \Upsilon) \right]_{r=0}
\]

\[
= \pi \left[ (2\tau)^2 + 32\sqrt{k}\sqrt{\pi l} + (32\sqrt{k}\sqrt{\pi l}) \right].
\]

The first term is given by the area of the horizon, while the second term, which is not manifestly of geometric origin, is due to Weyl curvature-squared terms. This shows clearly that the black hole has a finite horizon area even for a single magnetic charge along 1-component of the vector multiplet, and is set by the quadratic coupling \( \tau \) in the prepotential. In \( \tau \to 0 \) limit, the entropy is the same as the one studied in [2]. From the solution, this limit appears singular, but one can take a scaling limit that \( \tau \sim \delta^2, \bar{h} = 1/\delta, h = \delta \). In this limit, the black hole becomes massless, but the geometry and the entropy remains finite so long as \( k \) is nonzero. Notice also that mass-entropy relation of these black holes now reads

\[
S_{\text{BH}} = \pi M_{\text{BPS}}^2 + 64\pi \left[ \frac{q_0}{\sqrt{2}\tau} M_{\text{BPS}} \right]^{1/2},
\]

deviating from familiar one by higher curvature effects.

In obtaining the exact solution, we took \( Y^1 = Y^2 = 0 \). Actually, we can relax this and take more general ansatz \( Y^1 = i\epsilon_1, Y^2 = i\epsilon_2, \) where \( \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2 \) are real-valued constants. The stabilization equations are again solved similarly:

\[
Y^0 = \sqrt{C\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 + 64k(g')^2} \sqrt{\bar{H}/H},
\]

\[
Y^1 = i\epsilon_1, \quad Y^2 = i\epsilon_2, \quad Y^3 = i\bar{H},
\]

\[
F_0 = -iH, \quad F_1 = C\bar{H} \epsilon_2 / Y^0, \quad F_2 = C\bar{H} \epsilon_1 / Y^0
\]

\[
F_3 = \sqrt{C\epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 + 64k(g')^2} \sqrt{H/\bar{H} + \tau \bar{H}}.
\]
The equation determining $g(r)$ is now given by

$$\frac{1}{4} \chi e^{-2g} = \tau H^2 + 4\sqrt{HH} \frac{C_{1e_2}}{\sqrt{C_{1e_2} + 64k(g')^2}}$$

$$+ 128k \frac{1}{r^2} \partial_r \left( r^2 \sqrt{HH} \frac{g'}{\sqrt{C_{1e_2} + 64k(g')^2}} \right).$$

(19)

Now, this is a complicated differential equation for $g(r)$. Still, it clearly shows that the solution behaves essentially the same as the one we have found above in the region where $(g')^2 \gg C_{1e_2}$. Indeed, in the near-horizon region, it is straightforward to check that $g(r) \sim 1/r$ is a consistent solution. In the region where $(g')^2 \ll C_{1e_2}$, the first two terms on the right-hand side are of order $O(1)$, and the equation is reduced to a 3-dimensional Liouville type equation. It is easy to see that the solution is oscillatory (related observations were made in [8]):

$$g(r) \to g_0 + \frac{1}{2r} (g_1 + g_2 \sin(\omega r + \varphi)) + O(r^{-2}).$$

Expanding (19) in $1/r$-series, we see that the oscillation frequency is set by

$$\omega^2 = \frac{1}{16k} \left( C_{1e_2} + \frac{\tilde{h}^2 \sqrt{C_{1e_2}}}{4\sqrt{hh}} \right).$$

(20)

The coefficients $g_2, \varphi$ are undetermined at this order, but are determinable at order $1/r^2$ and higher.

Black hole’s global geometry thus consists of three regions: near-horizon region of $AdS_2 \times S^2$, intermediate flat region, and outermost flat region. See fig.1 for a cartoon view. By turning on $Y, Y^2$ to nonzero constant values, we have made the black hole to open up a new asymptotic region patched as the outermost region, where the metric factor exhibits oscillatory behavior. See fig.2. Actually, the oscillatory behavior can be absorbed by redefining the metric as $g_{mn} \to (1 + cR)g_{mn}$. At asymptotic infinity, by linearizing the metric as $g_{mn} = \eta_{mn} + h_{mn}$, it is straightforward to see that $h_{mn} \to h_{mn} + cRq_{mn}$ for $c = -g_2/12\omega^2$ eliminates the oscillatory part completely. Notice that it can be made effective only at the outermost region.

Behavior of the central charge $Z(r)$ is now complicated, but we will record it for reference:

$$Z(r) = e^{-K/2} \left( p^3 F_3 - q_0 Y^0 \right).$$

(21)

where

$$e^{-K} = 2\tau H^2 + 4\sqrt{HH}$$

$$\times \left( \sqrt{C_{1e_2}} + 64k(g')^2 + \frac{C_{1e_2}}{\sqrt{C_{1e_2} + 64k(g')^2}} \right).$$

(22)

The BPS mass is then given again by $Z$ at spatial infinity:

$$M_{BPS} = |Z|_{r=\infty} = \sqrt{2} \left( \tau p + \beta \frac{p + \frac{c}{c_0}}{r} \right),$$

(23)

where $\beta = \sqrt{C_{1e_2} h^2/\hbar^2}$. On the other hand, the entropy remains the same as [10], since, near the horizon $r = 0, e_1, e_2$ are completely negligible and the black hole behaves the same as the analytic solution found above.

Causal structure of the black hole is quite similar to Bertotti-Robinson geometry. This is most clearly seen for the special case $Q = \tilde{Q}$. Introduce Eddington-Finkelstein coordinate $v = t + x$ where $x = r + 2Q(1 + \varepsilon) log r - Q^2(1 + \varepsilon)/r$. For $v = constant$ and $r \to 0$, the metric is nonsingular. Hence, the spacetime is extendible beyond the future horizon to $r < 0$. We find that the extended spacetime exhibits a timelike singularity at $r = r_* = -(1 + \sqrt{\varepsilon}/(1 + \varepsilon))^{-1}Q$, where $g_{vv} = e^{2g(r)}$ diverges. Similar analysis and conclusion follow for the past horizon defined with coordinate $u = t - x$.

The exact black hole found above is based on the specific choice of the prepotential $F(Y, \chi)$ as in [4]. We shall now motivate how such a form might arise from string theory. The gravitational $F$-term, $\partial_\chi^2 F(Y, 0)$ originates from one-loop $n$-point amplitudes for heterotic string theory compactified on $K_3 \times T^2$ or genus-$n$ amplitudes for Type II string theories compactified on a Calabi-Yau 3-fold $X$ with a structure of $K_3$ fiberation over $P^1(C)$. Each amplitude can be represented as topological partition function of topologically twisted string sigma model. It is of interest whether the prepotential [4] may be motivated from appropriate string theory compactifications. As is well-known, the special geometry of the corresponding vector multiplet moduli space $M_N$ is characterized by the period vector $(X^I, F_I)$ ($I = 0, \cdots, n$). The corresponding inhomogeneous special coordinates are $S = X^I/X^0$ and $T^A = X^A/X^0$ ($A = 1, 2, \cdots, n$).

In heterotic string description, the prepotential ought to respect S-duality symmetry. Requiring covariance under the S-duality group, the prepotential becomes restricted to the form [4]:

$$F(X) = -\frac{X^1}{X^0} \eta_{AB} X^A X^B - G(X),$$

(24)
where $G(X)$ is of degree 2 in $X^I$, invariant under the shift $S \to S + Z$, and regular in the weak coupling limit $S \to +i\infty$. This implies that $G(X)$ is expandable in $m$-instanton contributions:

$$G(X) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i m S} g^{(m)}(X^0, X^A)$$

where again each $g^{(m)}$ is of degree 2 in $X^0, X^A$. We are interested in weak coupling limit, so set $g^{(m)} = 0$ except for $m = 0$. $g^{(m)}$ is also constrained to exhibit requisite singularity structure over $\mathcal{M}_V$. For $g^{(0)}$, the singularity is of trilogarithmic type at gauge symmetry enhancement points. As is also well-known, T-duality symmetry imposes further constraints on $F(X)$. Such constraints are fairly complicated due to quantum corrections to the transformation laws of $X^I$'s. In particular, the dilaton $S = X^1/X^0$ is generically not invariant under T-duality. Rather, T-duality invariant dilaton $S_{\text{inv}}$ takes the form

$$S_{\text{inv}} = S + \frac{1}{2(n+1)} \left( (\partial_0^2 + \cdots + \partial_n^2) g^{(0)} - \frac{4}{2\pi i} + K \right),$$

where $K$ is a function of degree zero, determined up to an additive constant, and has no singularity over $\mathcal{M}_V$. It thus shows that, at large $S, T^A$, far away from singular points, a given choice of $g^{(0)}$, which is of degree two, approximates specific form of quantum effects. Clearly, the simplest form is that $f^{(0)} = i r \delta_{AB} X^A X^B$. Its origin is somewhat trivial but is also known to be generic [2]. By appropriate redefinition of $X^I$'s, we thus have the structure of $F(X)$ in (7) we started with. As for the gravitational part of $F(X)$, it typically takes the form

$$F_{\text{grav}} = \Upsilon \sum_{A=1}^{n} \frac{\beta_A}{4\pi i} \log \Delta(e^{4\pi i Y^A/Y^0}),$$

where $\Delta(q) = \eta(q)^{24}$ and $\eta(q)$ is the Dedekind eta function. For a given string compactification, threshold corrections give rise these terms and $\beta_A (A = 1, 2, 3)$ define gravitational $\beta$-functions. Again, at large $S, T^A$, eq. (25) is approximated by terms proportional to $Y^A/Y^0$. Our choice in (7) amounts to $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$ and $\beta_3 = k$, but one can relax it and still find exact black holes.

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