

**Rotating Black Holes in Higher Dimensions  
with a Cosmological Constant**

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ABSTRACT

We present the metric for a rotating black hole with a cosmological constant and with arbitrary angular momenta in all higher dimensions. The metric is given in both Kerr-Schild and Boyer-Lindquist form. In the Euclidean-signature case, we also obtain smooth compact Einstein spaces on associated  $S^{D-2}$  bundles over  $S^2$ , infinitely many for each odd  $D \geq 5$ . Applications to string theory and M-theory are indicated.

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In recent years there has been a strong interest, in both physics and mathematics, in higher dimensional solutions of Einstein's equations. Black holes are among the most important exact solutions in general relativity, and so solutions describing higher-dimensional black holes are of particular significance. The first general rotating black hole solutions in higher dimensions were given by Myers and Perry [2], in the case that the cosmological constant vanishes. These have since been used extensively in string and M-theory calculations. More recently, interest has grown in Einstein metrics with a cosmological constant, both cosmologically in four dimensions, and in fundamental theories of nature in higher dimensions. In fact in four dimensions, Carter [3] had already found a generalization of the Kerr solution with a cosmological constant and asymptotically de Sitter or anti-de Sitter boundary conditions (the Kerr-de Sitter metric). Hawking, Hunter and Taylor-Robinson [4] generalized Carter's solution to five dimensions, with arbitrary angular momenta, and to all dimensions with just one nonzero angular momentum parameter.

In a recent development, Tasinato *et al.* have shown that the Kerr solutions in five dimensions or higher (with zero cosmological constant) may be interpreted as time-dependent S-brane solutions of string or M-theory [5]. (See also related work on twisted S-branes, and their relation to Kerr solutions, in four dimensions [6] and in higher dimensions [7].) An important question is how the results of this work on time-dependent cosmological backgrounds in string and M-theory are affected by a non-vanishing cosmological term. This requires explicit solutions generalising the higher-dimensional Kerr solution to the case when the cosmological constant is nonzero.

Another area of string and M-theory where solutions with non-vanishing cosmological constant are needed is in the AdS/CFT correspondence. Following the pioneering work of [4] in five dimensions, the principal remaining cases of interest are in dimensions six and seven. An important application of our new metrics is to study the thermodynamics of rotating black holes in higher dimensional anti-de Sitter backgrounds, especially those of relevance for the AdS/CFT correspondence. Recent work in [8], using our new metrics, has provided complete results for the masses, and other thermodynamic quantities, in all dimensions. This has clarified certain inconsistencies in previous literature, and in fact having the results available in all dimensions has also helped to settle some previous residual inconsistencies in four dimensions.

A further striking application of the Kerr-de Sitter metrics is in the Euclidean-signature regime, where in four dimensions they provided, by analytic continuation, the first non-singular and compact inhomogeneous Einstein metrics with positive-definite signature and

positive scalar curvature [9]. One application of this metric is as an instanton mediating creation of the universe “from nothing” [10]. This has been generalised in [11] to five dimensions, producing an infinite family of non-singular Einstein metrics which, for example, using the AdS/CFT correspondence, provide infinitely many supersymmetry-breaking ground states for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory. In a recent development, it has been shown that in limiting cases our new Kerr-de Sitter metrics in the Euclidean regime give rise to infinite families of Einstein-Sasaki metrics [12], which can provide supersymmetric backgrounds of importance for the AdS/CFT correspondence.

Motivated by these considerations, we present here our basic results for rotating black hole metrics in all higher dimensions with a cosmological constant and with arbitrary angular momenta. A more detailed treatment is given in [13].

Let the dimension of spacetime be  $D = 2N + \epsilon + 1 \geq 4$ , with  $N = [(D - 1)/2]$  being the number of orthogonal spatial 2-planes, each of which can have a rotation parameter  $a_i$ . Thus  $\epsilon = (D - 1) \bmod 2$ . Let  $\phi_i$  be the  $N$  azimuthal angles in the  $N$  orthogonal 2-planes, each with period  $2\pi$ . Let the remaining  $N + \epsilon$  spatial dimensions be parameterized by a radial coordinate  $r$  and by  $N + \epsilon$  ‘direction cosines’  $\mu_i$  obeying the constraint

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \mu_i^2 = 1, \quad (1)$$

where  $0 \leq \mu_i \leq 1$  for  $1 \leq i \leq N$ , and (for even  $D$ )  $-1 \leq \mu_{N+1} \leq 1$ .

The Kerr-de Sitter metrics we have found satisfy  $R_{\mu\nu} = (D - 1) \lambda g_{\mu\nu}$ , and are given in Kerr-Schild form [14] by

$$ds^2 = d\bar{s}^2 + \frac{2M}{U} (k_\mu dx^\mu)^2, \quad (2)$$

where the de Sitter metric  $d\bar{s}^2$ , the null 1-form  $k_\mu$ , and the function  $U(r, \mu_i)$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} d\bar{s}^2 = & -W(1 - \lambda r^2) dt^2 + F dr^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{r^2 + a_i^2}{1 + \lambda a_i^2} d\mu_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{r^2 + a_i^2}{1 + \lambda a_i^2} \mu_i^2 d\phi_i^2 \\ & + \frac{\lambda}{W(1 - \lambda r^2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{(r^2 + a_i^2) \mu_i d\mu_i}{1 + \lambda a_i^2} \right)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$$k_\mu dx^\mu = F dr + W dt - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{a_i \mu_i^2}{1 + \lambda a_i^2} d\phi_i, \quad (4)$$

$$U = r^\epsilon \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{\mu_i^2}{r^2 + a_i^2} \prod_{j=1}^N (r^2 + a_j^2), \quad (5)$$

where the functions  $W(\mu_i)$  and  $F(r, \mu_i)$  are defined to be

$$W \equiv \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{\mu_i^2}{1 + \lambda a_i^2}, \quad F \equiv \frac{1}{1 - \lambda r^2} \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{r^2 \mu_i^2}{r^2 + a_i^2}. \quad (6)$$

We have been led to these metrics by putting the previously-known  $D = 4$  and  $D = 5$  Kerr-de Sitter metrics into Kerr-Schild form, and making natural generalisations to higher dimensions. We have explicitly checked that they obey the Einstein equation for all physically interesting cases  $D \leq 11$ . Since  $D \leq 11$  is not distinguished in any way in the general expressions for the metrics, we are confident that they are valid in all dimensions. Furthermore, if all rotations  $a_i$  except one are set to zero, our expressions reduce to those obtained in [4] in any dimension. Finally, we note that if the cosmological constant is set to zero, our metrics reduce to those found by Myers and Perry [2].

One may eliminate cross terms with  $dr$  by passing to generalized Boyer-Lindquist coordinates

$$dt = d\tau + \frac{2M dr}{(1 - \lambda r^2)(V - 2M)}, \quad d\phi_i = d\varphi_i + \frac{2M a_i dr}{(r^2 + a_i^2)(V - 2M)}. \quad (7)$$

The Kerr-de Sitter metrics then have the form

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 = & -W(1 - \lambda r^2) d\tau^2 + \frac{2M}{U} \left( W d\tau - \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{a_i \mu_i^2 d\varphi_i}{1 + \lambda a_i^2} \right)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{r^2 + a_i^2}{1 + \lambda a_i^2} \mu_i^2 d\varphi_i^2 \\ & + \frac{U dr^2}{V - 2M} + \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{r^2 + a_i^2}{1 + \lambda a_i^2} d\mu_i^2 + \frac{\lambda}{W(1 - \lambda r^2)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{r^2 + a_i^2}{1 + \lambda a_i^2} \mu_i d\mu_i \right)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where  $V(r)$  is defined by

$$V \equiv \frac{U}{F} \equiv r^{\epsilon-2} (1 - \lambda r^2) \prod_{i=1}^N (r^2 + a_i^2). \quad (9)$$

The Kerr-de Sitter metrics have Killing horizons at  $r = r_H$ , where  $V(r_H) = 2M$  and where the Killing vector field

$$l = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{a_i (1 - \lambda r_H^2)}{r_H^2 + a_i^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{a_i (1 - \lambda r_H^2)}{r_H^2 + a_i^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi_i} \quad (10)$$

coincides with the null generator of the horizon. The Kerr-Schild coordinates extend through the future horizon. By contrast, the Boyer-Lindquist coordinates are valid either outside the horizon or inside the horizon. It is the latter case, in which  $r$  plays the rôle of the time coordinate, that is relevant for time-dependent S-brane solutions.

On the horizon, the Killing vector  $l$  obeys  $l^\mu \nabla_\mu l_\nu = \kappa l_\nu$ , where the surface gravity, constant on each connected component of the horizon, is given by

$$\kappa = r_H (1 - \lambda r_H^2) \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{r_H^2 + a_i^2} + \frac{\epsilon}{2r_H^2} \right) - \frac{1}{r_H}, \quad (11)$$

The area of the horizon is given by

$$A_H = \mathcal{A}_{D-2} r_H^{\epsilon-1} \prod_{i=1}^N \frac{r_H^2 + a_i^2}{1 + \lambda a_i^2}, \quad (12)$$

where

$$\mathcal{A}_m = \frac{2\pi^{(m+1)/2}}{\Gamma[(m+1)/2]} \quad (13)$$

is the volume of the unit  $m$ -sphere.

We can pass from the Lorentzian-signature Kerr-de Sitter metrics (8) to Euclidean-signature Einstein metrics by making the Boyer-Lindquist time coordinate  $\tau$  and the rotation parameters  $a_i$  all purely imaginary. The generic local Einstein metrics do not give smooth complete compact Einstein spaces, but for  $\lambda > 0$ , we can choose discrete special values for  $a_i$  and  $M$ , as in four dimensions in [9] and in five dimensions in [11], to get complete non-singular metrics.

The idea is that  $i\tau$  becomes an angular coordinate with the appropriate period required to avoid a conical singularity at one root of  $V(r) - 2M$ , say at  $r = r_1$ . We call this the black hole horizon, by analogy with the Lorentzian-signature case. If  $r$  ranges from  $r_1$  to a second root of  $V(r) - 2M$ , say at  $r = r_2$  (which we shall call the cosmological horizon), we require the same period of  $i\tau$  to avoid a conical singularity at  $r = r_2$ . Thus the surface gravities at  $r_1$  and at  $r_2$  must be identical, which can be accomplished by choosing  $M$  so that  $r_1$  approaches  $r_2$ . In this limit  $g_{rr}$  diverges in just the right way that the proper distance between the two roots or horizons approaches a nonzero finite limit. In the limiting process, the period of  $i\tau$  goes to infinity, but the metric length of its orbit remains finite. After appropriately rescaling  $r$  and  $i\tau$ , one arrives at a finite metric.

The remaining conditions for regularity are that in each 2-plane with a nonzero rotation parameter  $a_i$ , the black hole horizon rotate an integer number  $k_i$  times, relative to the cosmological horizon, during one period of the Euclidean time coordinate  $i\tau$ . More details are given in [13]. These conditions place  $N$  constraints on the  $N$  rotation parameters  $a_i$ .

One obtains [13] smooth compact Einstein metrics of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda ds^2 = & \frac{(1+A)z(\mu_i)}{4A+2A^2+2B} (d\chi^2 + \sin^2 \chi d\psi^2) + \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{(1+A)d\mu_i^2}{1+A+x_i} + \frac{A}{w(\mu_i)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{(1+A)\mu_i d\mu_i}{1+A+x_i} \right)^2 \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(1+A)\mu_i^2}{1+A+x_i} (d\varphi_i + k_i \sin^2 \frac{\chi}{2} d\psi)^2 - \frac{1+A}{z(\mu_i)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\sqrt{x_i + x_i^2} \mu_i^2}{1+A+x_i} (d\varphi_i + k_i \sin^2 \frac{\chi}{2} d\psi) \right]^2, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
A &\equiv \sum_{i=1}^N x_i - \frac{\epsilon}{2}, & B &\equiv \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 + \frac{\epsilon}{2}, \\
w(\mu_i) &\equiv \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} \frac{Ax_i\mu_i^2}{1+A+x_i}, & z(\mu_i) &\equiv \sum_{i=1}^{N+\epsilon} x_i\mu_i^2,
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

and where the parameters  $x_i$  must be chosen so that each

$$k_i = \frac{2(1+A+x_i)\sqrt{x_i+x_i^2}}{2A+A^2+B} \tag{16}$$

is an integer.

In terms of the constant parameters  $x_i$  defined here and the resulting auxiliary constants  $A$  and  $B$ , the roots of  $V(r) - 2M$  and the parameters of the Kerr-de Sitter metric (8) are given by

$$r_1 = r_2 = \sqrt{\frac{1+A}{\lambda A}}, \quad M = -\frac{r_1^{D-3}}{2A} \prod_{i=1}^N (-x_i^{-1}), \quad a_i = i r_1 \sqrt{\frac{1+x_i}{x_i}}. \tag{17}$$

One can see that for a real Euclidean metric, one needs either all  $x_i \leq -1$  or all  $x_i > 0$ . In the former case, we showed [13] that all but one  $x_i$  must be  $-1$ , corresponding to only one  $a_i$  and  $k_i$  nonzero, and that the only nonzero  $k_i$  allowed is  $k_i = 1$ . The resulting solutions were first given in [9] for  $D = 4$  and in [11] for higher  $D$ . In the latter case, where all  $x_i$  are positive, which is allowed only for odd  $D$ , we showed [13] that all possible sets of purely positive integers  $k_i$  lead to unique solutions for  $x_i > 0$  and to unique regular compact Einstein metrics, though  $k_1 = k_2 = 1$  for  $D = 5$  leads to  $x_1 = x_2 = \infty$  rather than to finite solutions for the  $x_i$ . This and certain other cases in which one or more  $x_i = \infty$  also lead to regular metrics [11].

Except for the  $D = 5$  solutions with  $k_1 \geq 1$  and  $k_2 \geq 1$ , which were given by [11], our compact Einstein metrics with all  $k_i > 0$  in odd  $D$  are new. Because all sets of positive  $k_i$  are allowed, for all odd  $D \geq 5$  we get an infinite set of smooth compact Einstein metrics on  $S^2 \times S^{D-2}$  when  $\sum_i k_i$  is even, and an infinite set of smooth compact Einstein metrics on the nontrivial  $S^{D-2}$  bundle over  $S^2$  when  $\sum_i k_i$  is odd.

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