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# Scalar radiation from a radially infalling source into a Schwarzschild black hole in the framework of quantum field theory

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**Abstract** We investigate the radiation to infinity of a massless scalar field from a source falling radially towards a Schwarzschild black hole using the framework of the quantum field theory at tree level. When the source falls from infinity, the monopole radiation is dominant for low initial velocities. Higher multipoles become dominant at high initial velocities. It is found that, as in the electromagnetic and gravitational cases, at high initial velocities the energy spectrum for each multipole with  $l \geq 1$  approximately is constant up to the fundamental quasinormal frequency and then drops to zero. We also investigate the case where the source falls from rest at a finite distance from the black hole. It is found that the monopole and dipole contributions in this case are dominant. This case needs to be carefully distinguished from the unphysical process where the source abruptly appears at rest and starts falling, which would result in radiation of an infinite amount of energy. We also investigate the radiation of a massless scalar field to the horizon of the black hole, finding some features similar to the gravitational case.

## 1 Introduction

Black holes (BHs) stand out as the most relevant and simple objects described by General Relativity. BHs are trapped regions, even to light, due to their extremely intense gravitational field. The boundary of no return from which light cannot escape, the BH event horizon, is determined as a function of only three parameters associated with the BH, i.e. mass, angular momentum and electric charge [1]. Particles falling into BHs emit radiation which carries information about the

event horizon to infinity, as a “fingerprint” of the BHs [2–5]. Thus, in principle, evidence for the existence of an event horizon and therefore for the existence of BHs can be obtained by analyzing the radiation emitted from a source falling into BHs. The scientific literature about the dynamics of a test particle falling into BHs has developed significantly in the early 1970s. The existing results for the problem of radiation emission from a particle falling radially into BHs were obtained using the formalism of the Classical Field Theory (CFT) [2–17]. The investigation of this kind of problems from the viewpoint of the Quantum Field Theory (QFT) has not been carried out. The formalism of QFT applied to the problem of radiation emission has been used for the determination of the radiation emission by sources and charges rotating around a BH, known as synchrotron radiation [18–25]. Furthermore, QFT has been used to investigate radiation emission from an uniformly accelerated source in flat spacetimes [26, 27] and also to investigate the interaction of sources with Hawking radiation [28–34]. In this paper, using QFT at tree level, we investigate in detail the properties of the radiation emission due to the radial infall of a particle source of a massless scalar field into a Schwarzschild BH. One of the main advantages in computing the emitted energy using the framework of QFT at level tree is that this approach makes the extension to the radiative quantum corrections more straightforward. We note in passing that the change in the geometry due to the Hawking radiation for an astrophysical black hole is extremely small [35] and, as a result, that it is legitimate to use the eternal black hole in our calculations.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2 we briefly review the general formalism used in this paper. In Sect. 3 we describe the radial infall of a source into a Schwarzschild BH according to General Relativity. In Sect. 4 we obtain expressions for the emitted energy spectrum and

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the total emitted energy for a quantum scalar field minimally coupled to the scalar source. In Sect. 5 we obtain the zero-frequency limit of the emitted energy spectra, using approximate analytic solutions. In Sect. 6 we analyze and discuss our numerical results for the radiation emission obtained from the viewpoint of QFT. We summarize some features of our results in Sect. 7. We use natural units with  $G = c = \hbar = 1$ , unless otherwise stated.

## 2 General formalism of QFT in Schwarzschild spacetime

The total Lagrangian density with a classical source  $j(x^\mu)$ , minimally coupled to a massless and chargeless scalar field  $\hat{\Phi}(x^\mu)$ , can be written by

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{1}{2} \nabla^\mu \hat{\Phi} \nabla_\mu \hat{\Phi} + j \hat{\Phi} \right), \tag{1}$$

where  $g \equiv \det(g_{\mu\nu})$  is the determinant of the metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$ .

The line element  $ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu$  of the Schwarzschild spacetime can be written

$$ds^2 = f dt^2 - f^{-1} dr^2 - r^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2), \tag{2}$$

where  $f(r) = 1 - 2M/r$ . Note that  $f(r = r_h) = 0$ , with  $r_h \equiv 2M$  being the position of the event horizon of the Schwarzschild BH, and  $f(r \rightarrow \infty) = 1$ . This spacetime is asymptotically flat.

The scalar field  $\hat{\Phi}(x^\mu)$  can be expanded in terms of a complete set of positive- and negative-frequency modes,  $u_{\omega l m}$  and  $u_{\omega l m}^*$ , as

$$\hat{\Phi} = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^{m=l} \int_0^{\infty} d\omega \left[ u_{\omega l m} \hat{a}_{\omega l m} + u_{\omega l m}^* \hat{a}_{\omega l m}^\dagger \right], \tag{3}$$

with  $\omega > 0$ , where “\*” denotes complex conjugation and  $\hat{a}_{\omega l m}$  and its Hermitian adjoint  $\hat{a}_{\omega l m}^\dagger$  are, respectively, the annihilation and the creation operators [36]. These operators satisfy the following non-vanishing commutation relations:

$$\left[ \hat{a}_{\omega l m}, \hat{a}_{\omega' l' m'}^\dagger \right] = \delta(\omega - \omega') \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}. \tag{4}$$

Since the Schwarzschild spacetime is spherically symmetric, the positive-frequency modes  $u_{\omega l m}(x^\mu)$ , can be written by

$$u_{\omega l m}(x^\mu) = C_{\omega l m} \frac{\psi_{\omega l}^*(r)}{r} Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) \exp(-i\omega t), \tag{5}$$

which satisfy the Klein–Gordon equation

$$\nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu u_{\omega l m} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \partial_\mu (\sqrt{-g} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\nu u_{\omega l m}) = 0, \tag{6}$$

where  $C_{\omega l m}$  is a normalization constant,  $Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi)$  are the spherical harmonics [37] and  $\sqrt{-g} = r^2 \sin \theta$  [obtained

from the line element (2)]. The Klein–Gordon inner product for the mode functions is defined as follows:

$$\sigma_{KG}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2) = i \int_S dS^\mu \left[ \varphi_1^* \nabla_\mu \varphi_2 - (\nabla_\mu \varphi_2^*) \varphi_1 \right], \tag{7}$$

with  $dS^\mu = r^2 \sin \theta dr d\theta d\phi \delta_0^\mu / f(r)$ , where  $S$  is a constant-time hypersurface, which is a Cauchy surface [38]. The commutation relations (4) imply that the modes  $u_{\omega l m}$  are normalized as follows:

$$\sigma_{KG}(u_{\omega l m}, u_{\omega' l' m'}) = \delta(\omega - \omega') \delta_{ll'} \delta_{mm'}, \tag{8}$$

$$\sigma_{KG}(u_{\omega l m}^*, u_{\omega' l' m'}) = 0. \tag{9}$$

The conditions (8) determine the normalization constant  $C_{\omega l m}$  in Eq. (5).

Substituting Eq. (5) into the Klein–Gordon equation (6), we obtain the following ordinary differential equation for  $\psi_{\omega l}(x)$ :

$$\left[ \frac{d^2}{dr_*^2} + \omega^2 - V_l(r) \right] \psi_{\omega l}(r_*) = 0, \tag{10}$$

where  $V_l(r)$  is the effective potential, given by

$$V_l(r) = f(r) \left[ \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{df}{dr} \right]. \tag{11}$$

The Regge–Wheeler coordinate  $r_*$  is defined by  $dr_*/dr \equiv f(r)^{-1}$ , which for the Schwarzschild BH can be explicitly written as

$$r_* = r + r_h \log(r/r_h - 1). \tag{12}$$

Equation (10) admits two independent sets of solutions which can be represented by the modes  $\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up}}(r_*)$ , purely incoming from the past horizon  $H^-$ , and the modes  $\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{in}}(r_*)$ , purely incoming from the past null infinity  $\mathcal{I}^-$ . The solutions  $\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up}}(r_*)$  and  $\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{in}}(r_*)$  satisfy, respectively, the following boundary conditions at the event horizon ( $r_* \rightarrow -\infty$ ) and at spatial infinity ( $r_* \rightarrow \infty$ ):

$$\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up}}(r_*) \approx \begin{cases} A_{\omega l}^{\text{up}} \chi_{\text{hor}}^* + B_{\omega l}^{\text{up}} \chi_{\text{hor}} & (r_* \rightarrow -\infty), \\ \chi_{\text{inf}} & (r_* \rightarrow \infty), \end{cases} \tag{13}$$

and

$$\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{in}}(r_*) \approx \begin{cases} \chi_{\text{hor}} & (r_* \rightarrow -\infty), \\ A_{\omega l}^{\text{in}} \chi_{\text{inf}}^* + B_{\omega l}^{\text{in}} \chi_{\text{inf}} & (r_* \rightarrow \infty). \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

The functions  $\chi_{\text{hor}}$  and  $\chi_{\text{inf}}$  are defined to be of the form  $\exp(-i\omega r_*)$  and  $\exp(i\omega r_*)$ , respectively, at leading order in  $1/r_*$ . In our numerical computations we write these functions near the horizon and near spatial infinity as

$$\chi_{\text{hor}} = \exp(-i\omega r_*) \sum_{j=0}^{j_{\text{max}}} a_j (r - r_h)^j, \tag{15}$$

$$\chi_{\text{inf}} = \exp(i\omega r_*) \sum_{j=0}^{j_{\text{max}}} \frac{b_j}{r^j}, \tag{16}$$

where the coefficients  $a_j$  and  $b_j$  are obtained from Eq. (10), with the choice  $a_0 = 1$  and  $b_0 = 1$ . We let  $j_{\text{max}} = 10$  in our computation. The coefficients  $A_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}$  and  $B_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}$  are determined by matching the boundary conditions (13) and (14) with the numerical solution  $\psi_{\omega l}(r_*)$ , obtained from Eq. (10), at the event horizon  $r_* \rightarrow -\infty$  and at spatial infinity  $r_* \rightarrow \infty$ , respectively. Note that the coefficients  $A_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}$  and  $B_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}$  are related to the transmission coefficient  $|\mathcal{T}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}|^2$  and reflection coefficient  $|\mathcal{R}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}|^2$ , respectively, as follows:

$$|\mathcal{T}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}|^2 \equiv \frac{1}{|A_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}|^2}, \tag{17}$$

$$|\mathcal{R}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}|^2 \equiv \left| \frac{B_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}}{A_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}} \right|^2. \tag{18}$$

The reflection and transmission coefficients satisfy the following relation:

$$|\mathcal{R}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}|^2 + |\mathcal{T}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}|^2 = 1. \tag{19}$$

From the boundary conditions (13) and (14) and Eq. (8) we find that the normalization constant  $C_{\omega l m}$  can be written

$$C_{\omega l m}^{\text{up/in}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\omega} A_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}}. \tag{20}$$

We note that, because of the complex conjugation in Eq. (5) of  $\psi_{\omega l}(r)$ , the modes  $u_{\omega l m}(x^\mu)$  are the modes purely ingoing into the future horizon  $H^+$  [with  $\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up}*}(r)$ ] or purely outgoing to the future null infinity  $\mathcal{I}^+$  [with  $\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{in}*}(r)$ ]. These are the modes that are used for computing the radiation into the horizon and to null infinity in the next section.

### 3 Radial infall of a source into a Schwarzschild black hole

We consider a source falling radially into a Schwarzschild BH. The source has a zero angular momentum as a result. Without loss of generality we let the source fall along the  $z$ -axis. The stress–energy tensor for a point source can be written by

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \int \frac{d\tau}{\sqrt{-g}} q \delta^4 [x^\alpha - x^\alpha(\tau)] \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau}, \tag{21}$$

where  $\tau$  is the source’s proper time.

By setting  $j(x^\mu) = T_v^\nu$  (corresponding to a scalar source) we find the following expression for a massive source:

$$j(x^\mu) = \frac{q}{\sqrt{-g}v^t} \delta(r - r_s) \delta(\theta - \theta_s) \delta(\phi - \phi_s), \tag{22}$$

where  $(r, \theta, \phi) = (r_s, \theta_s, \phi_s)$  refers to the spatial coordinates of the source at given time  $t$  in spherical polar coordinates,  $q$  is a coupling constant between the source and a massless and chargeless scalar field  $\hat{\phi}$  [18,32], and  $v^t$  is the contravariant  $t$ -component of the four-velocity of the source. The factor  $1/v^t$  makes the source boost invariant along its trajectory.

The four-velocity  $v^\mu$  of a source infalling radially is given by the following expression:

$$v^\mu \equiv \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} = \left[ \frac{E}{f(r)}, -\sqrt{E^2 - f(r)}, 0, 0 \right], \tag{23}$$

where  $E$  is the source’s conserved energy divided by its rest mass [1]. If the source has initial position  $r = r_0$  and velocity  $v_0$  in the ingoing radial direction (at  $t = 0$ ), then [38]

$$E = \sqrt{\frac{f(r_0)}{1 - [v_0/f(r_0)]^2}}. \tag{24}$$

Using Eqs. (2) and (23) it is possible to find an expression for the modulus of the velocity of the source (falling radially) at position  $r$  in the static frame [39], namely

$$U_r = \left| f(r)^{-1} \frac{dr}{dt} \right| = \frac{1}{E} \sqrt{E^2 - f(r)}. \tag{25}$$

In Fig. 1 we exhibit plots of  $U_r$  for selected values of  $v_0$  and  $r_0$ .

We write the radial coordinate of the source as  $r_s \equiv r_s(t_s)$  with  $t_s$  being the time coordinate in Eq. (2) associated with the trajectory of the radial infall along its geodesic. The function  $t_s(r_s)$  is obtained from the relation

$$\frac{dt_s}{dr_s} = -\frac{E}{f(r_s)\sqrt{E^2 - f(r_s)}}. \tag{26}$$

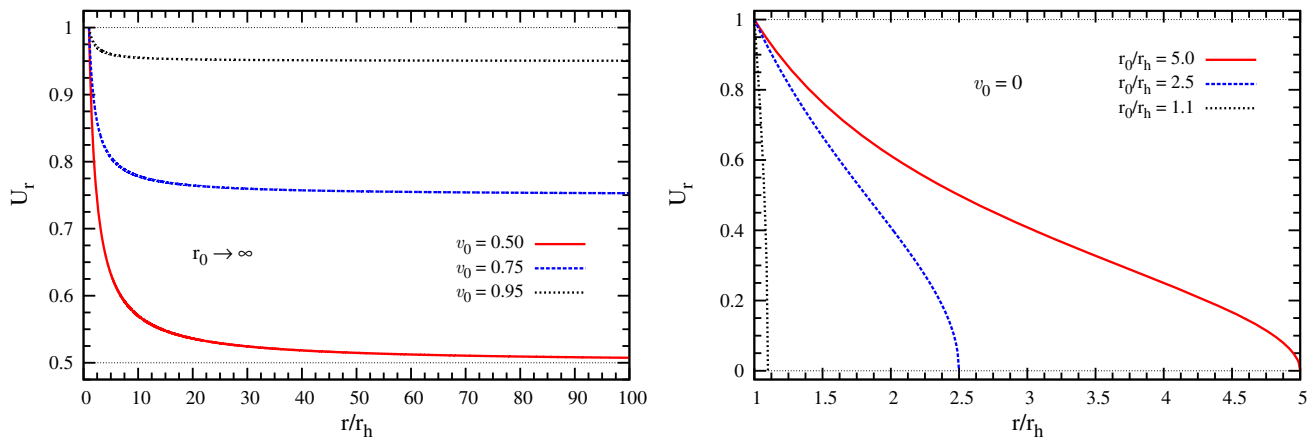
This formula follows from Eq. (23). Using the properties of the Dirac delta function and Eqs. (23) and (26) Eq. (22) can be rewritten as follows:

$$j(x^\mu) = \frac{q \delta(t - t_s) \delta(\theta - \theta_s) \delta(\phi - \phi_s)}{r_s^2 \sin\theta \sqrt{E^2 - f(r_s)}}, \tag{27}$$

where  $t_s(r)$  is the inverse function of  $r = r_s(t_s)$ . The constants  $\theta_s$  will be set to 0 (and then  $\phi_s$  will be ambiguous and can be set to any value).

### 4 Total emitted energy

Now the computation of the total emitted energy (for each multipole number  $l$  and azimuthal number  $m$ ) by a source



**Fig. 1** Modulus of the radial component of the velocity of the source (measured by a static observer, located at  $r$ , as a particle passes by her [39]), as a function of  $r$ , for a source released from spatial infinity

( $r_0 \rightarrow \infty$ ) with initial velocity  $v_0 = 0.5$ ,  $v_0 = 0.75$  and  $v_0 = 0.95$  (plots on the left) and for a source infalling from rest ( $v_0 = 0$ ) released at positions  $r_0 = 5 r_h$ ,  $r_0 = 2.5 r_h$  and  $r_0 = 1.1 r_h$  (plots on the right)

$j(x^\mu)$  minimally coupled to a scalar field  $\hat{\Phi}(x^\mu)$  in a background of a spherically symmetric spacetime using QFT at tree level can be done. The starting point is the following expression [18,19]:

$$E_{lm}^{\text{hor/inf}} = \int_0^\infty d\omega \omega |\mathcal{A}_{\omega l m}^{\text{up/in}}|^2, \tag{28}$$

where the labels “inf” and “hor” correspond to the energy radiated, respectively, to infinity and to the event horizon.  $\mathcal{A}_{\omega l m}^{\text{up/in}}$  are the emission amplitudes at tree level given by

$$\mathcal{A}_{\omega l m}^{\text{up/in}} = \left\langle \omega l m | i \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} j(x^\mu) \hat{\Phi}(x^\mu) | 0 \right\rangle, \tag{29}$$

corresponding to a transition between the vacuum state and one scalar particle state. By recalling that

$$\hat{a}_{\omega l m} | 0 \rangle = 0, \tag{30}$$

with  $|0\rangle$  being the Boulware vacuum [36,40], and  $|\omega l m\rangle = \hat{a}_{\omega l m}^\dagger | 0 \rangle$ , we find, using the commutation relations (4),

$$\langle \omega l m | \hat{a}_{\omega' l' m'}^\dagger | 0 \rangle = \delta(\omega - \omega') \delta_{l l'} \delta_{m m'}. \tag{31}$$

Then, substituting Eq. (3) into Eq. (29) and using Eqs. (30) and (31), we find

$$\mathcal{A}_{\omega l m}^{\text{up/in}} = i \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} j(x^\mu) u_{\omega l m}^*(x^\mu). \tag{32}$$

If we had chosen the Unruh or Hartle–Hawking vacuum [41, 42] there would be absorption and stimulated emission of the scalar particles. The rates of these two processes would be exactly the same and, as a result, the net emission would be the same as in the Boulware vacuum (see, e.g. [18,43]). It is well known that the Boulware vacuum is unphysical because the expectation value of the stress–energy tensor is singular at the past and future horizons for this state [44]. Our results

can be regarded to be about the net emission from the scalar source in the Unruh vacuum, which is more physical.

As stated before, the motion is along the  $z$ -axis without loss of generality because of the spherical symmetry of Schwarzschild spacetime. Thus we consider  $\theta_s = 0$  and  $\phi_s = 0$ . (The value of  $\phi_s$  is arbitrary once we have  $\theta_s = 0$ . However, we choose this value for definiteness.) As a consequence only the mode  $m = 0$  contributes to the emission amplitude [9,17]. Because of this fact the only spherical harmonics which will be associated to non-vanishing amplitudes are  $Y_{l0}(\theta, \phi)$  with

$$Y_{l0}(0, 0) = \sqrt{\frac{2l+1}{4\pi}}. \tag{33}$$

From now on we will omit the azimuthal quantum number  $m$  from  $\mathcal{A}_{\omega l m}^{\text{up/in}}$  and  $E_{lm}^{\text{hor/inf}}$  for the reason stated above.

By substituting Eqs. (5), (20), (27) and (33) into Eq. (32) the following expression for the emission amplitude is found:

$$\mathcal{A}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}} = \frac{i q \sqrt{2l+1}}{4\pi \sqrt{\omega} A_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}} \int_{r_h}^{r_0} dr_s \frac{\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}(r_s) \exp(i\omega t_s)}{r_s \sqrt{E^2 - f(r_s)}}. \tag{34}$$

Using Eq. (26), Eq. (34) can be rewritten by integrating by parts as follows:

$$\mathcal{A}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}} = \frac{q \sqrt{2l+1}}{4\pi E \omega \sqrt{\omega} A_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}} \left[ -B + \int_{r_h}^{r_0} dr_s \left( \frac{\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}}{r_s} \frac{df}{dr_s} + \frac{f}{r_s} \frac{d\psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}}{dr_s} - \frac{f \psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}}{r_s^2} \right) \exp(i\omega t_s) \right], \tag{35}$$

where

$$B = \left[ \frac{f(r_s) \psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}(r_s) \exp(i\omega t_s)}{r_s} \right]_{r_s=r_0}. \tag{36}$$

Equation (34), or equivalently (35), in fact represents the emission amplitude from a scalar source that suddenly appears at  $t_s = 0$  and starts falling. To obtain the amplitude from a scalar source that is static until  $t_s = 0$  and then starts falling, we first convert the  $r_s$  integral in Eq. (34) for the amplitude back to the  $t_s$  integral using Eq. (26) and find

$$\mathcal{A}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}} = \frac{iq\sqrt{2l+1}}{4\pi E\sqrt{\omega}A_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_s \frac{f(r_s)}{r_s} \times \psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}(r_s) \exp(i\omega t_s). \tag{37}$$

Since  $r_s(t_s) = r_0$  for  $t_s \leq 0$  we can readily evaluate the integral over  $(-\infty, 0]$  by changing  $\exp(i\omega t_s)$  to  $\exp(i\omega t_s + \epsilon t_s)$  with  $\epsilon > 0$  and letting  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . We integrate by parts over  $[0, \infty)$  and find that the boundary term is canceled by the integral over  $(-\infty, 0]$ . Thus the result turns out to be Eq. (35) with  $B = 0$ .

Finally, using Eq. (28), we write the emitted energy spectra as <sup>1</sup>:

$$E_{\omega l}^{\text{hor/inf}} = \omega |\mathcal{A}_{\omega l}^{\text{up/in}}|^2. \tag{38}$$

### 5 The zero-frequency limit

In this section we obtain the zero-frequency limit (ZFL) of the spectra of the energy emitted to infinity (Eq. (28)), using approximate analytic solutions of Eq. (10) in order to check the results obtained for the energy spectra considering the full numerical solution.

Since there is only one parameter  $M$  with dimensions in Schwarzschild spacetime the low-frequency limit is the limit where  $\omega \ll M^{-1}$ . Since the energy spectra  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{hor/inf}}$  are dimensionless, they are functions of  $M\omega$  for  $r_0 = \infty$ . Hence, their  $\omega \rightarrow 0$  limit for  $r_0 = \infty$  is achieved by letting  $M \rightarrow 0$  [45]. (Note that  $r_0$  introduces another parameter with dimensions if it is finite.) In this limit we may replace the potential  $V_l(r)$  in Eq. (11) by its leading term for a large  $r$ ,

$$V_l(r) \approx l(l+1)/r^2, \tag{39}$$

and we let

$$f(r) \approx 1. \tag{40}$$

Equation (10) in this approximation is the wave equation in Minkowski spacetime with the following familiar solutions:

$$(A_{\omega l}^{\text{in}})^{-1} \psi_{\omega l}^{\text{in}}(r) \approx 2\omega r j_l(\omega r), \tag{41}$$

where  $j_l(\omega r)$  are the spherical Bessel functions [37], up to a phase factor. Thus, in the limit  $M \rightarrow 0$  Eq. (34) for  $r_0 = \infty$  becomes

<sup>1</sup> Some authors define  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{hor/inf}}$  to be 1/2 times ours because the total energy emitted is obtained by integrating  $E^{\text{hor/inf}}$  over  $\omega$  from  $-\infty$  to  $\infty$  in their case.

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{\omega} \mathcal{A}_{\omega l}^{\text{in}} &= \frac{iq\sqrt{2l+1}}{2\pi} \sqrt{v_0^{-2} - 1} \\ &\times \int_0^{\infty} \omega dr_s j_l(\omega r_s) \exp(-i\omega r_s/v_0) \\ &= \frac{q\sqrt{2l+1}}{2\pi} \sqrt{v_0^{-2} - 1} (-i)^l Q_l(v_0^{-1}), \end{aligned} \tag{42}$$

where  $Q_l(z)$  is the Legendre function of the second kind with the branch cut  $[-1, 1]$ . Hence for  $r_0 = \infty$  we find the  $\omega \rightarrow 0$  limit of the spectra of the energy emitted to infinity,  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{inf}}$

$$E_{0l}^{\text{inf}, r_0=\infty} = \frac{q^2(2l+1)}{4\pi^2} (v_0^{-2} - 1) [Q_l(v_0^{-1})]^2. \tag{43}$$

Now, if  $r$  is held fixed, then (see, e.g. Sec. VI of Ref. [32])

$$\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} (A_{\omega l}^{\text{in}})^{-1} \psi_{\omega l}^{\text{in}}(r) = \delta_l^0 r. \tag{44}$$

For  $r_0$  finite this limit can be used for all  $r \leq r_0$  in Eq. (35) (with  $B = 0$ ). Thus, we find

$$\begin{aligned} E_{0l}^{\text{inf}} &= \frac{q^2 \delta_l^0}{4\pi^2 E^2} \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{q^2 \delta_l^0}{4\pi^2} \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right) \text{ if } v_0 = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

Note that this formula is not valid for  $r_0 = \infty$  because the limits  $\omega \rightarrow 0$  and  $r_0 \rightarrow \infty$  do not commute. The zero-frequency limit of  $(A_{\omega l}^{\text{up}})^{-1} \psi_{\omega l}^{\text{up}}(r)$ , relevant to the radiation emitted to the horizon, is also known (see, e.g. Ref. [32]). It can be used to find the zero-frequency limit of the spectra of energy emitted to the horizon,  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{hor}}$ , for finite  $r_0$  in a similar manner with the following result:

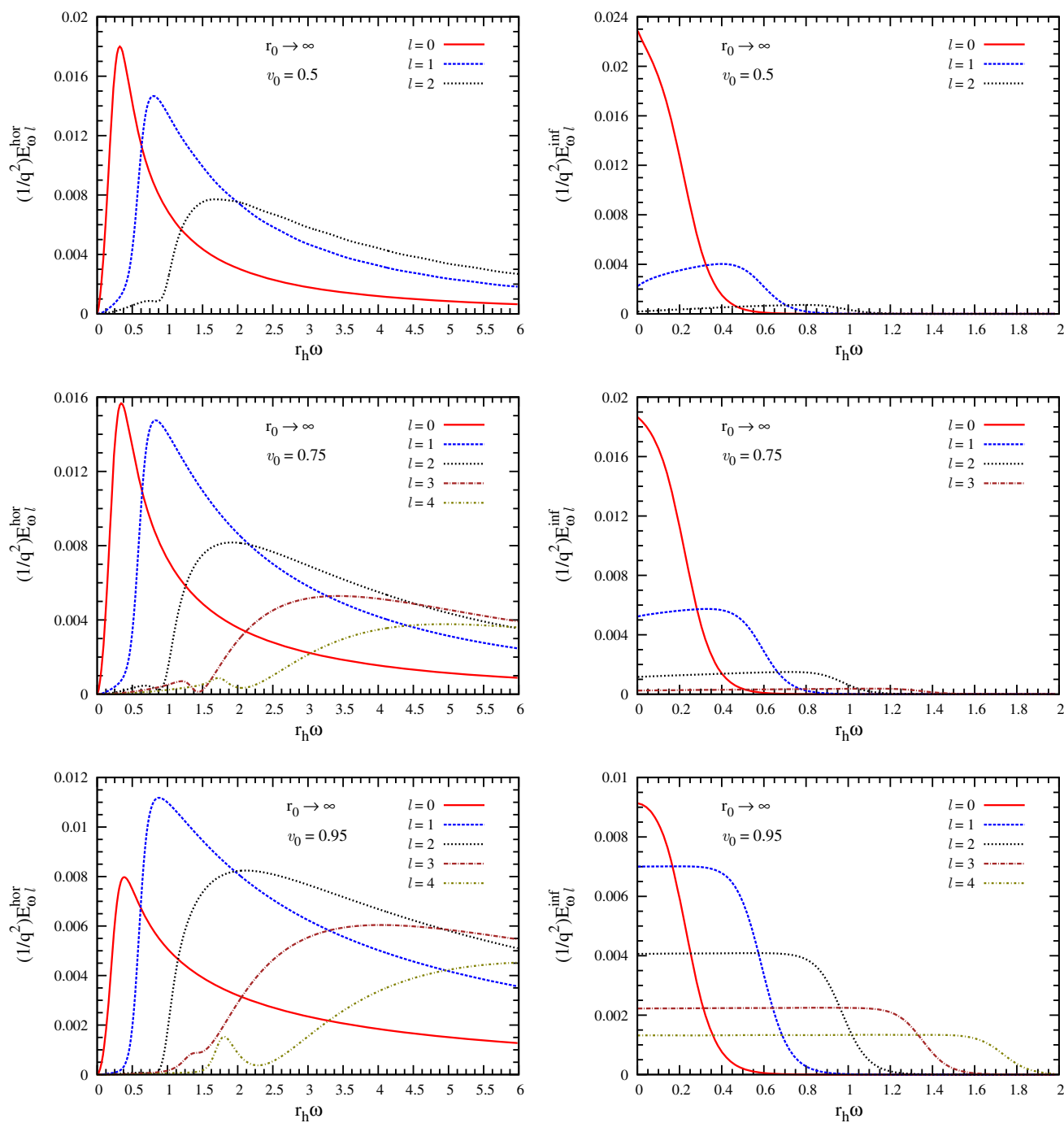
$$\begin{aligned} E_{0l}^{\text{hor}} &= \frac{(2l+1)q^2}{\pi^2 E^2} [Q_l(r_0/M - 1)]^2 \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{(2l+1)q^2}{\pi^2} [Q_l(r_0/M - 1)]^2 \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right) \text{ if } v_0 = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{46}$$

### 6 Numerical results

In Sect. 4 we described how to find the energy spectra of massless scalar radiation from a source freely falling radially. In this section numerical evaluation of the energy spectra is presented. As for the source's motion, the following two distinct cases are being considered: (i) the source coming from  $r = \infty$  with a non-vanishing initial velocity  $v_0$  and (ii) the source released from rest at a certain position  $r = r_0$ .

The results for the spectra for the energy emitted to the horizon,  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{hor}}$ , and to infinity,  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{inf}}$ , for the radial infall of a source starting from  $r = \infty$  for selected values of initial velocity  $v_0$  are shown in Fig. 2. These results were obtained numerically from Eqs. (34) and (38) as a function of  $\omega$  and for selected values of the multipole number  $l$ . [We obtain the



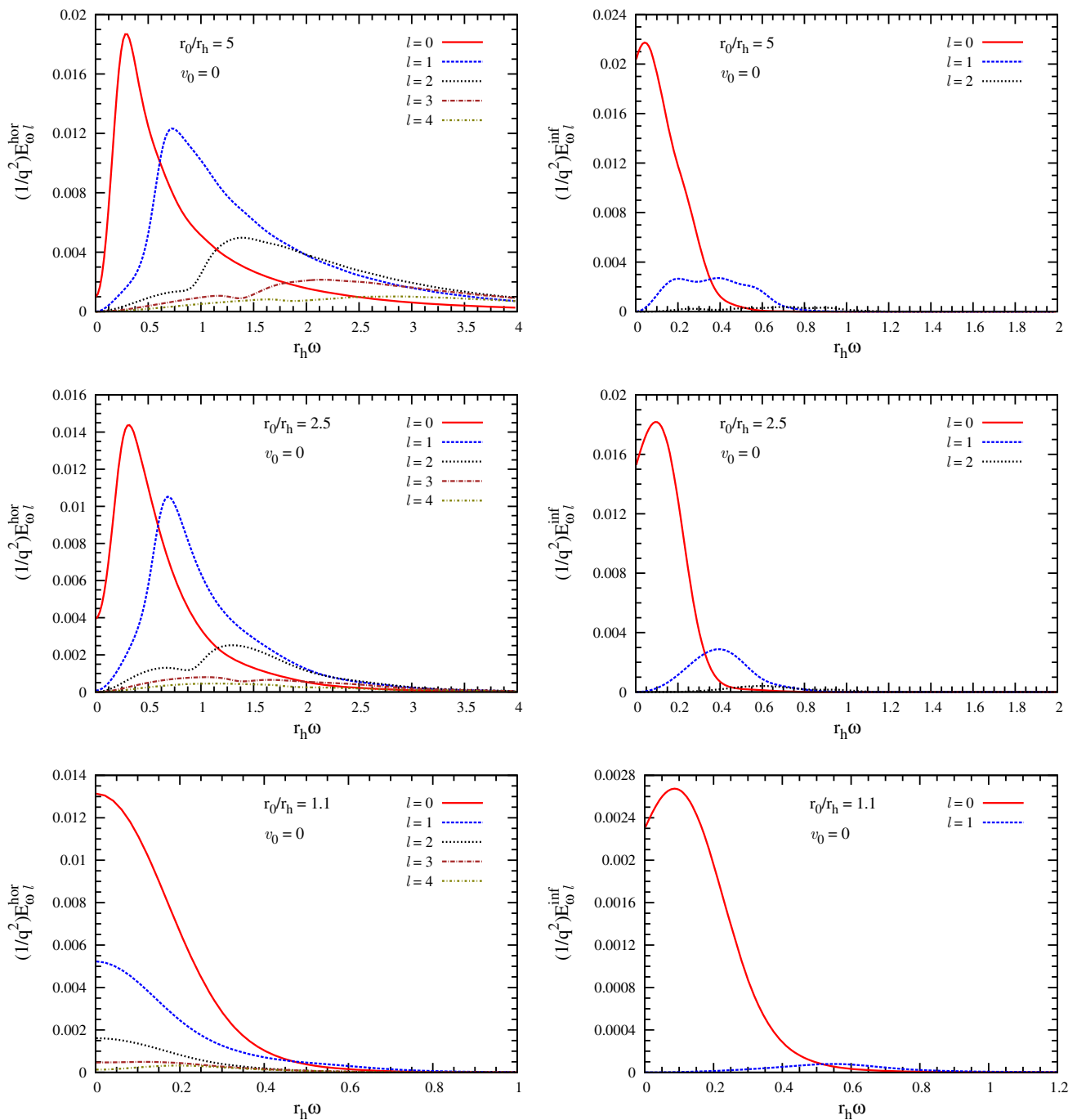


**Fig. 2** Numerical estimates of the spectra of the emitted energy,  $E_{\omega l}^{hor}$  (plots on the left) and  $E_{\omega l}^{inf}$  (plots on the right) as functions of  $\omega$  for selected values of the multipole number, obtained from Eqs. (34)

and (38) for the radial infall of a source from spatial infinity ( $r_0 \rightarrow \infty$ ), with the initial velocity  $v_0 = 0.5$  (plots at the top),  $v_0 = 0.75$  (plots in the middle) and  $v_0 = 0.95$  (plots at the bottom)

same results by using Eq. (35), instead of Eq. (34), and setting  $B = 0$ , because the boundary term (36) vanishes.] We note that the spectra of energy emitted to the horizon,  $E_{\omega l}^{hor}$ , (plots on the left in Fig. 2) starts from zero (at  $\omega = 0$ ), reaches a maximum and then slowly decreases to zero (for high values of  $\omega$ ). Note that the energy emitted to the horizon does

not decrease as the multipole number  $l$  increases unlike the energy emitted to infinity. This behavior of the spectra  $E_{\omega l}^{hor}$  is similar to that of the corresponding spectrum for the gravitational radiation [5]. It reflects the fact that the source has infinite self energy due to the Coulomb-like potential and that the region of large energy density passes through the



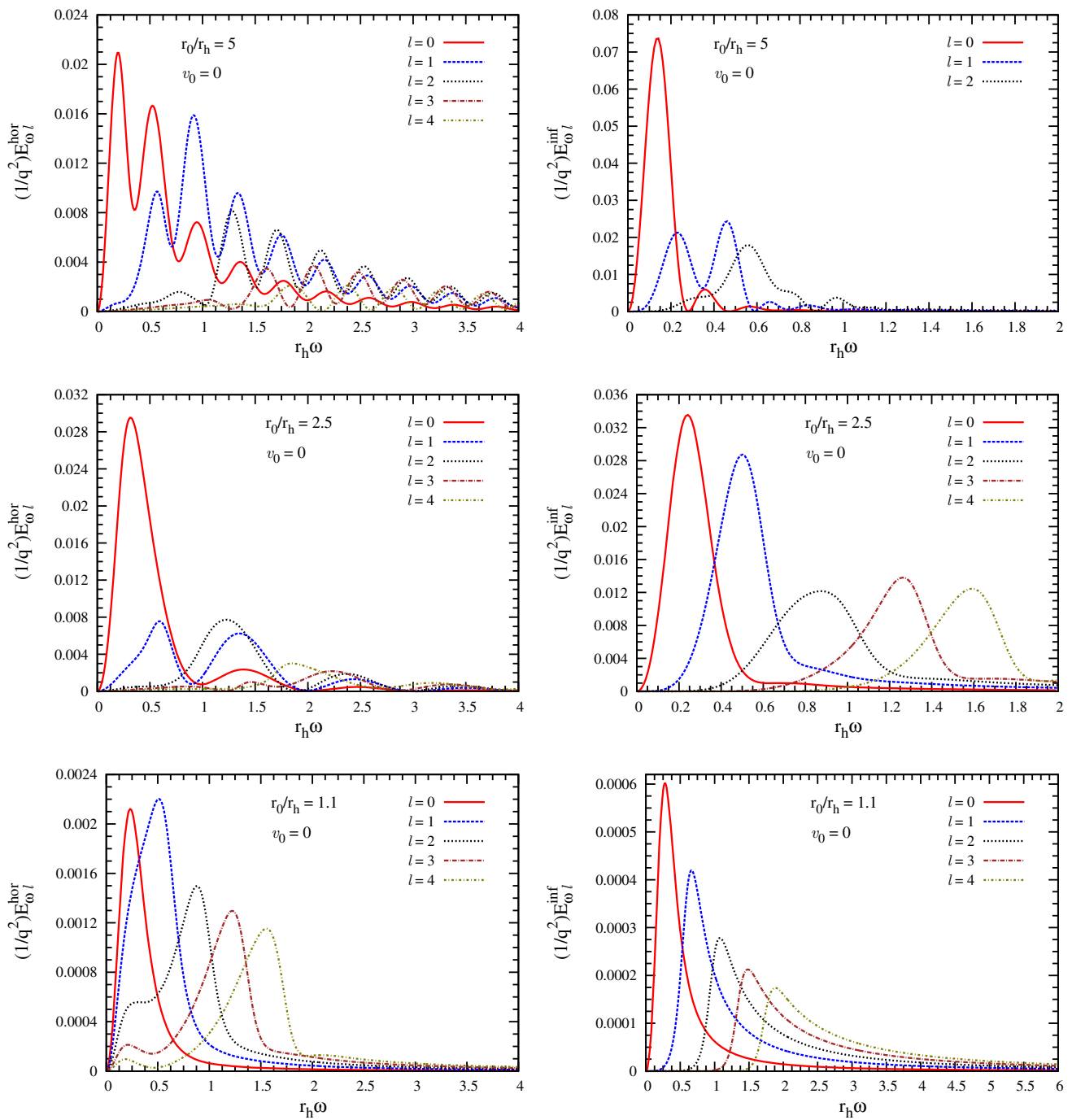
**Fig. 3** Numerical estimates of the spectra of the emitted energy,  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{hor}}$  (plots on the left) and  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{inf}}$  (plots on the right), as functions of  $\omega$ , for selected values of the multipole number, obtained from Eqs. (35)

and (38) (with  $B = 0$ ), for a source in-falling from rest ( $v_0 = 0$ ) at positions  $r_0 = 5r_h$  (plots at the top),  $r_0 = 2.5r_h$  (plots in the middle) and  $r_0 = 1.1r_h$  (plots at the bottom)

horizon as the source approaches it. The spectrum of energy emitted to infinity,  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{inf}}$ , (plots on the right in Fig. 2) starts from a non-vanishing finite value (at  $\omega = 0$ ) and goes to zero for high frequencies. The contribution of higher multipoles decreases rapidly with increasing  $l$  as in the gravitational case [4]. These spectra were studied by Brito [45] and our results are in agreement with his. It is interesting that for high ini-

tial velocities the spectrum for each  $l \geq 1$  is approximately constant and drops to zero around the fundamental quasinormal frequency. [These frequencies  $\omega_{\text{qn}}$  are given as  $\omega_{\text{qn}}r_h = 0.215$  ( $l = 0$ ),  $0.586$  ( $l = 1$ ),  $0.967$  ( $l = 2$ ),  $1.351$  ( $l = 3$ ) and  $1.733$  ( $l = 4$ ) (see, e.g. Ref. [46]).] The spectra for the gravitational and electromagnetic radiation behave in a similar manner [7, 13].





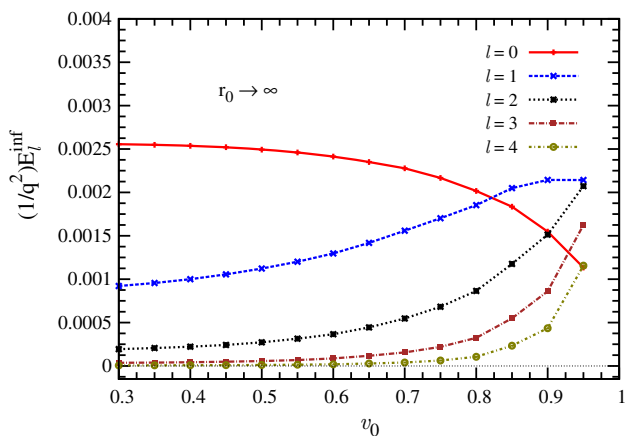
**Fig. 4** Numerical estimates of the spectra of the emitted energy,  $E_{\omega l}^{hor}$  (plots on the left) and  $E_{\omega l}^{inf}$  (plots on the right) as a function of  $\omega$  for selected values of the multipole number, obtained from Eqs. (34)

and (38), considering a source infalling from rest ( $v_0 = 0$ ) at positions  $r_0 = 5 r_h$  (plots at the top),  $r_0 = 2.5 r_h$  (plots in the middle) and  $r_0 = 1.1 r_h$  (plots at the bottom)

The results for the emitted energy spectra  $E_{\omega l}^{hor}$  and  $E_{\omega l}^{inf}$  for the radial infall of a source starting from rest for selected values of position  $r_0$  obtained numerically from Eqs. (35) (with  $B = 0$ ) and (38) are shown in Fig. 3 as functions of  $\omega$  and for selected values of the multipole number  $l$ . We note that the emission to infinity is dominated by lower multipoles ( $l = 0, 1$ ) while there is a substantial contribution from the

modes with  $l \geq 2$  to the emission to the horizon, reflecting the region of high energy density surrounding the source passing through the horizon.

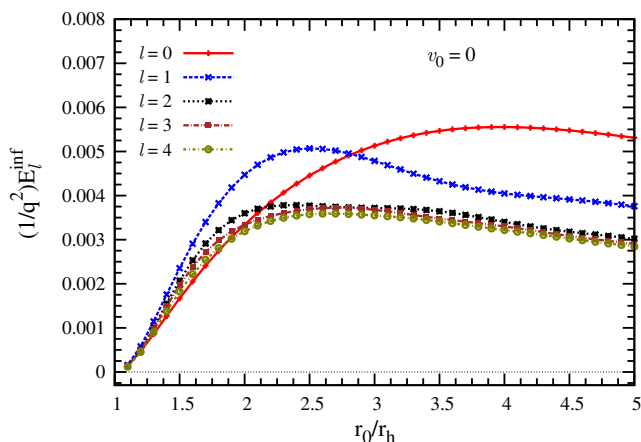
Next we show the same spectra using Eq. (34) instead of Eq. (35) (with  $B = 0$ ). As we stated before, the emission in this case is from a source that emerges suddenly at  $r = r_0$  and starts falling. The results are shown in Fig. 4. We note that



**Fig. 5** Numerical estimates of the emitted energy radiated to infinity,  $E_l^{\text{inf}}$ , as a function of  $v_0$  for multipole numbers  $l = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ , obtained from Eq. (28)

the spectra of the emitted energy both to the horizon and to infinity,  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{hor}}$  and  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{inf}}$ , vanish for both  $\omega = 0$  and  $\omega \rightarrow \infty$ , (i) oscillating between these limits for mid-to-large values of  $r_0$  (e.g.,  $r_0 = 5 r_h$ ) or (ii) behaving with a Gaussian-like profile, for small values of  $r_0$  (e.g.,  $r_0 = 2.5 r_h$  and  $r_0 = 1.1 r_h$ ).

In the plots of Fig. 5 we show the energy emitted to infinity  $E_l^{\text{inf}}$ , obtained from Eq. (28), as a function of the initial velocity  $v_0$ . The monopole ( $l = 0$ ) emission is dominant for low initial velocities while higher multipoles ( $l \geq 1$ ) become significant for high initial velocities. We note that for  $l = 0$  as the initial velocity  $v_0$  increases, the value of  $E_0^{\text{inf}}$  decreases. It is interesting that this behavior for the multipole number  $l = 0$  is the opposite to that for the multipole numbers  $l \geq 1$ . In the plots of Fig. 6 we show the emitted energy  $E_l^{\text{inf}}$ , obtained from Eq. (28), as a function of the position  $r_0$ . We note that, as the position  $r_0$  gets closer to the BH event horizon, the emitted energy  $E_l^{\text{inf}}$  goes to zero as expected. The plot on the right uses Eq. (35) with  $B = 0$ . It can be



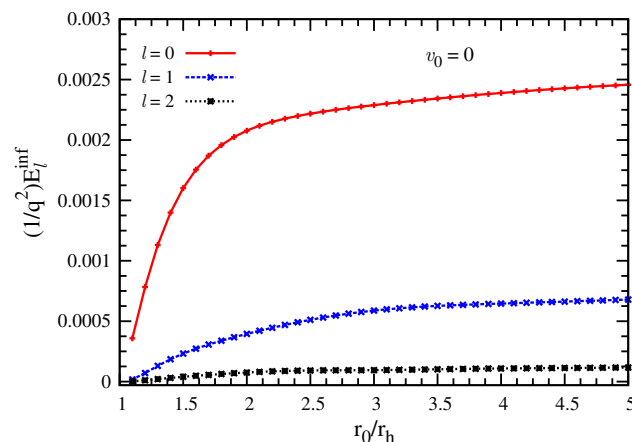
**Table 1** Spectra of the energy radiated to infinity in the ZFL for multipole numbers  $l = 0, 1, 2$ , considering the source released from infinity with non-vanishing initial velocity. We compare the results obtained numerically by using Eq. (10) with the ones obtained analytically in Eq. (43)

$v_0$	Method	$l = 0$	$l = 1$	$l = 2$
0.5	Numerical	0.022854	0.002252	0.000176
	Analytic	0.022929	0.002216	0.000170
0.75	Numerical	0.018646	0.00524	0.001162
	Analytic	0.018650	0.00522	0.001150
0.95	Numerical	0.009132	0.007002	0.00406
	Analytic	0.009182	0.007072	0.00413

seen that the emission is mainly with  $l = 0$  and  $l = 1$  and that it increases as a function of  $r_0$ . The plots on the left use Eq. (34). The spectrum does not decrease as a function of  $l$ . This is an ultraviolet effect arising from a sudden emergence of a source at  $r = r_0$ .

In Tables 1, 2 and 3, we compare the zero-frequency limit (ZFL) of the energy spectra obtained numerically with the corresponding analytic results. In Table 1 we compare the ZFL of the spectrum of the energy radiated to infinity from a source infalling from  $r = \infty$  obtained analytically in Eq. (43) with the ones obtained using the numerical solution of Eq. (10) in order to check the numerical results. Similarly, in Table 2 we compare the ZFL for the spectrum of the energy radiated to infinity for the source infalling radially from rest from a certain position  $r_0$ , given by Eq. (45), with the ones obtained using the numerical solution of Eq. (10).

In Table 3 we compare the ZFL for the spectrum of the energy radiated to the event horizon for the source infalling radially from rest at a certain position  $r_0$ , given by Eq. (46), with the ones obtained using the numerical solution of



**Fig. 6** Numerical estimates of the emitted energy radiated to infinity,  $E_l^{\text{inf}}$ , as a function of  $r_0$ , obtained using Eq. (28), considering Eq. (34) (plots on the left) and Eq. (35) with  $B = 0$  (plots on the right) for selected choices of multipole numbers obtained from Eq. (28)

**Table 2** Spectra of the energy radiated to infinity in the ZFL for  $l = 0$ . The numerical results are compared with the exact values given by Eq. (45) (the results for  $l > 0$  are identically zero), considering the source released from rest at a certain finite position  $r_0$

$r_0/r_h$	Method	$l = 0$
1.1	Numerical	0.002312
	Analytic	0.002302
2.5	Numerical	0.015288
	Analytic	0.015198
5.0	Numerical	0.020384
	Analytic	0.020264

**Table 3** Spectra of energy radiated to the event horizon in the ZFL. The numerical results are compared with the exact values given by Eq. (46) for  $l = 0, 1, 2$ , considering the source released from rest at a certain finite position  $r_0$

$r_0/r_h$	Method	$l = 0$	$l = 1$	$l = 2$
1.1	Numerical	0.013133	0.005228	0.001612
	Analytic	0.013240	0.005319	0.001667
2.5	Numerical	0.003944	0.000081	$< 10^{-6}$
	Analytic	0.003965	0.000085	$< 10^{-6}$
5.0	Numerical	0.001000	$< 10^{-6}$	$< 10^{-8}$
	Analytic	0.001009	$< 10^{-6}$	$< 10^{-8}$

Eq. (10). In all cases the ZFL of the numerical results agree very well with the analytic expressions.

## 7 Summary

In this paper we studied the radiation emission of massless scalar field from the radial infall of a source into a Schwarzschild BH, using the formalism of QFT at tree level. We numerically computed the spectra of the emitted energy,  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{hor}}$  (energy radiated to the event horizon) and  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{inf}}$  (energy radiated to infinity), in two distinct situations related to the initial condition of the radial infall of a source, namely: (i) the source starting with non-vanishing velocity  $v_0$  from spatial infinity and (ii) the source infalling from rest at a certain finite position  $r_0$ .

Some aspects of the case in which the source comes from infinity with a certain non-vanishing velocity  $v_0$  are summarized here. For all multipole numbers  $l$  the spectra of the energy emitted to infinity are nonzero in the low-frequency limit. For high initial velocities the spectrum is approximately constant until the frequency is around the fundamental quasinormal frequency and then rapidly goes to zero. For low initial velocities the monopole ( $l = 0$ ) radiation and the dipole ( $l = 1$ ) (to a lesser extent) are dominant while higher multipoles are significant at higher initial velocities. Interestingly, as the initial velocity  $v_0$  is increased, the emitted energy for the monopole radiation ( $l = 0$ ) decreases whereas that for the higher multipoles increases. The spectrum of the energy

emitted to the event horizon starts from zero increases to a maximum and then decreases very slowly, reflecting the fact that, as the source falls toward the horizon, the Coulomb-like energy of the source passes through the black hole.

Next, some properties of the energy spectra when the source starts falling from rest at a certain distance from the black hole are being discussed. The monopole spectrum of the energy emitted to infinity starts from a nonzero value, while for  $l \geq 1$  the spectra start at zero. These spectra all rise to a maximum and then decrease to zero. As for the spectrum of energy emitted to the event horizon, the emission is mainly with  $l = 0$  (monopole) and with  $l = 1$  (dipole). The emission to the horizon has more contribution from higher multipoles. It is also remarked that a naïve calculation would lead to a source appearing abruptly and then starting to fall. A boundary term needs to be subtracted in order to calculate the emission from a source at rest and then starting to fall.

Finally, it is noted that the behavior of the spectra of the emitted energy,  $E_{\omega l}^{\text{inf}}$ , and the total emitted energy  $E_l^{\text{inf}}$  to infinity for multipole numbers  $l \geq 1$  are similar to the electromagnetic and gravitational cases (see e.g. Refs. [7, 8, 10, 13]).

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