

Problem with the energy-momentum tensor

We have a response function

$$\chi(t, \mathbf{r}) = \int dt' d\mathbf{r}' \{ \langle [\mathbf{J}(t, \mathbf{r}, T^{00}(t', \mathbf{r}')) \rangle \psi(t', \mathbf{r}') \} , \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{J} is a charge current, $T^{\mu\nu}$ is the energy-momentum tensor, and ψ is a gravitational potential¹. Using the continuity relation of the energy-momentum tensor

$$\partial_0 T^{00} + \partial_i T^{0i} = 0 \implies T^{00}(t, \mathbf{r}) = - \int_{-\infty}^t dt' \partial_i T^{0i}(t', \mathbf{r}),$$

and integration by parts

$$\int uv' = uv - \int u'v$$

we get

$$\chi = \int dt' d\mathbf{r}' \int dt'' \{ \langle [\mathbf{J}(t, \mathbf{r}, T^{0j}(t'', \mathbf{r}')) \rangle \partial'_j \psi(t', \mathbf{r}') \} . \quad (2)$$

Now, our response function, an observable, depends on the value of T^{0j} itself, not the divergence.

¹Yes, condensed matter physisists have a hack where they use gravitational potential to “simulate” temperature.