

The moduli space of dynamical spherically symmetric black hole spacetimes and the extremal threshold

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ICERM

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joint work with Y. Angelopoulos and R. Unger

MODULI SPACE

Spherically symmetric spacetimes (\mathcal{M}^{3+1}, g) solving

$$\mathrm{Ric}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}\mathrm{R}g_{\mu\nu} = 2T_{\mu\nu}. \quad (1)$$

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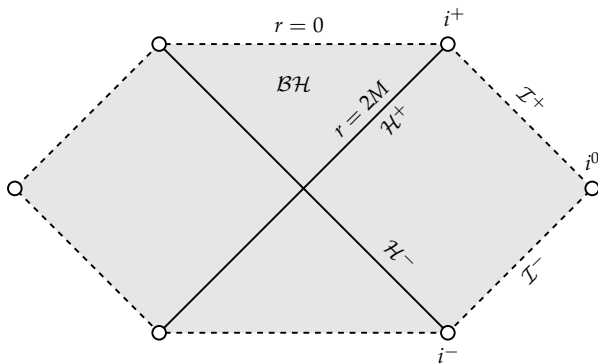
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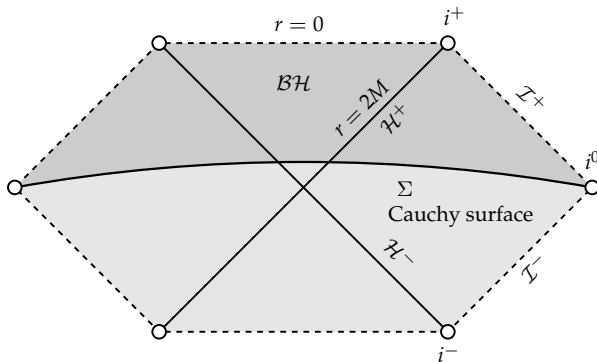
$$\mathfrak{M} = \{\text{MGHD of spherically symmetric, asym. flat data on } \mathbb{R}^3 \text{ for (1)}\}/\{\text{Diff}\}$$

- ▶ Natural to parametrize the moduli space by initial data.
- ▶ Regular center excludes the Schwarzschild and Reissner-Nordström family (except Minkowski space).

REFRESHER ON SCHWARZSCHILD

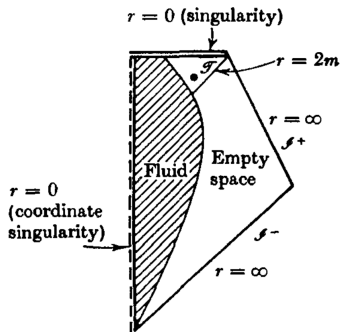


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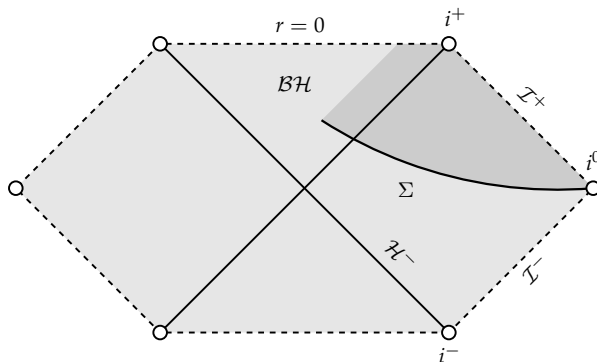
Maximally extended Schwarzschild is the unique maximal Cauchy development of the data induced on a spacelike hypersurface $\Sigma \cong \mathbb{R} \times S^2$ not on \mathbb{R}^3 .

REFRESHER ON GRAVITATIONAL COLLAPSE



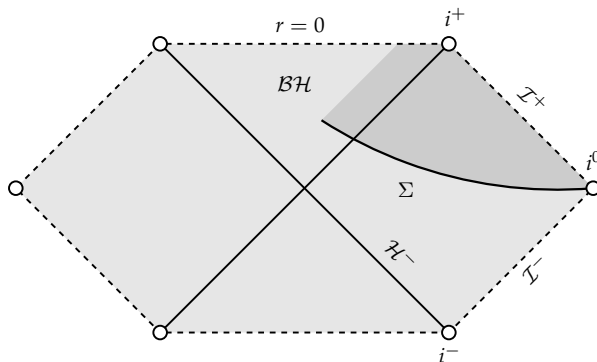
- Penrose diagram of gravitational collapse (Oppenheimer-Snyder, '39)
- Black hole formation from regular initial data.
- Oppenheimer-Snyder collapse $\in \mathfrak{M}$.

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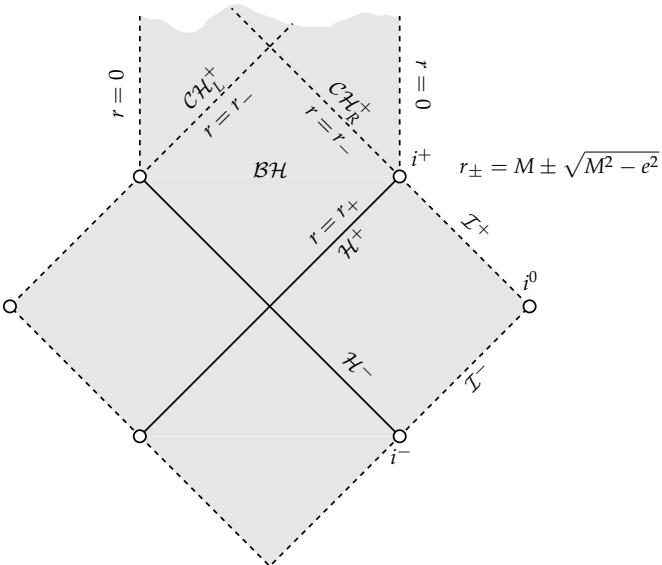
- Darker shaded region of Schwarzschild is isometric to the vacuum region of the Oppenheimer–Snyder collapse.
- In this sense, Schwarzschild relevant for moduli space of grav. collapse \mathfrak{M} .

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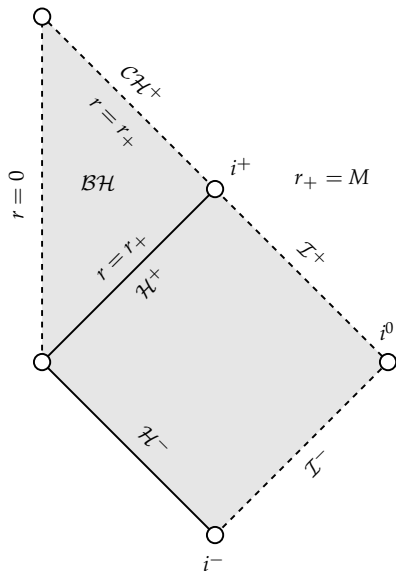


- Darker shaded region of Schwarzschild is isometric to the vacuum region of the Oppenheimer–Snyder collapse.
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- Remark: **No** region of negative-mass Schwarzschild is relevant for the study of \mathfrak{M} because elements in \mathfrak{M} cannot have negative Hawking mass m

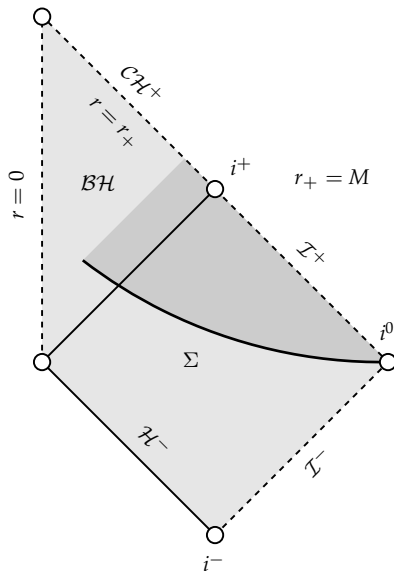
$$1 - \frac{2m}{r} = g(\nabla r, \nabla r).$$

REFRESHER ON SUBEXTREMAL REISSNER–NORDSTRÖM: $0 < |e| < M$ 

REFRESHER ON EXTREMAL REISSNER–NORDSTRÖM: $0 < |e| = M$

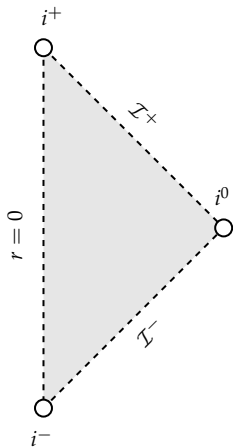


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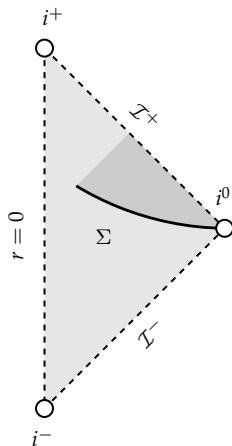


Non-negative Hawking mass requires $r \geq \frac{e^2}{2M}$.

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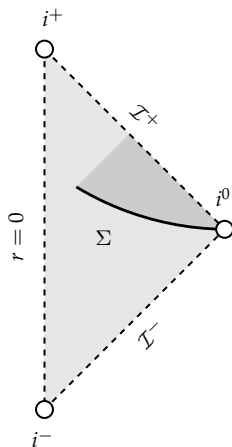


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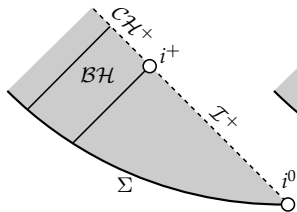
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The naked singularity of extremal Reissner–Nordström is dynamically *inaccessible!*

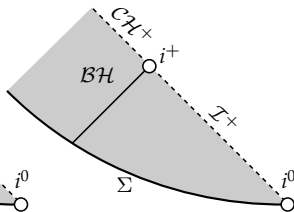
REISSNER–NORDSTRÖM FAMILY ARISES DYNAMICALLY

Theorem (K.–Unger '22).

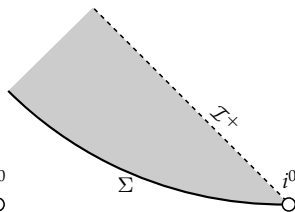
There exist regular, spherically symmetric data on \mathbb{R}^3 for the Einstein–Maxwell–charged scalar field model (i.e. elements in \mathfrak{M}) whose MGHD contains the darker shaded regions of Reissner–Nordström for $|e| \leq M$, $|e| = M$ and $|e| > M$.



(a) $|e| < M$: black hole



(b) $|e| = M$: black hole

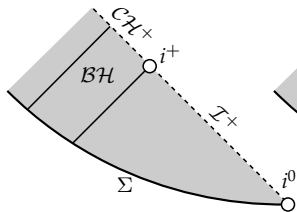


(c) $|e| > M$: dispersive

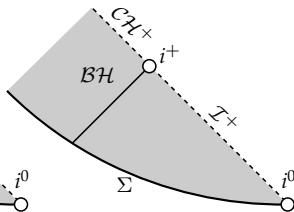
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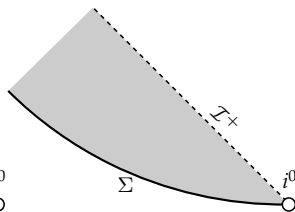
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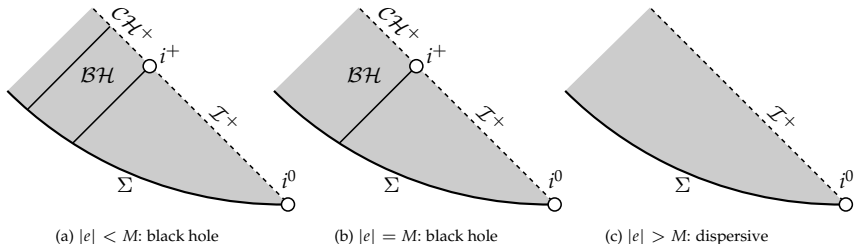
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- More generally, all regions of the Reissner–Nordström family with Hawking mass $m > 0$ arise in gravitational collapse.

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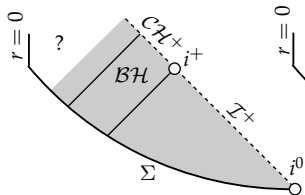


- ▶ More generally, all regions of the Reissner–Nordström family with Hawking mass $m > 0$ arise in gravitational collapse.
- ▶ If local charge-mass inequality (e.g. $m \geq |e|$) holds, then no sphere with

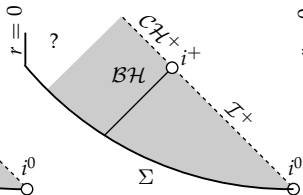
$$r \leq \frac{e^2}{M}$$

can arise in gravitational collapse [REALL'24, MCSHARRY–REALL-'25].

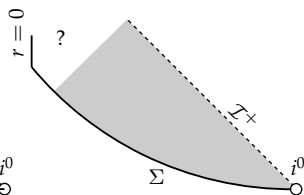
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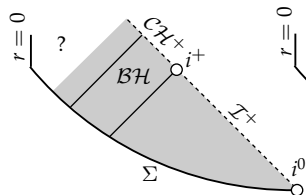


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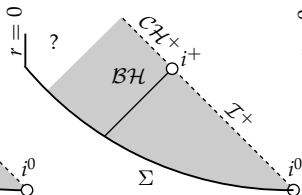


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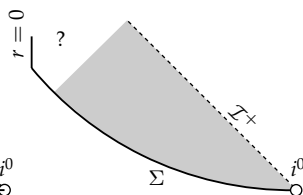
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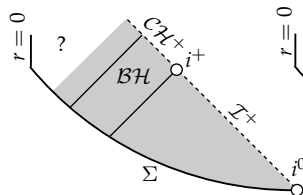
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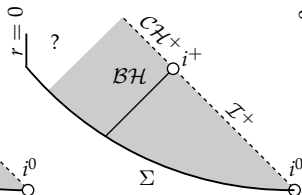
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- This suggests that extremal black holes could arise on the black hole formation threshold: **Extremal critical collapse.**

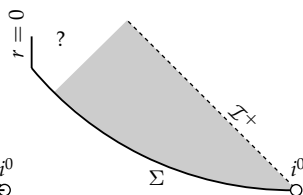
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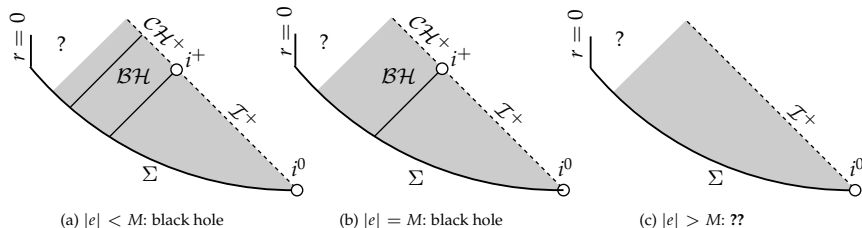
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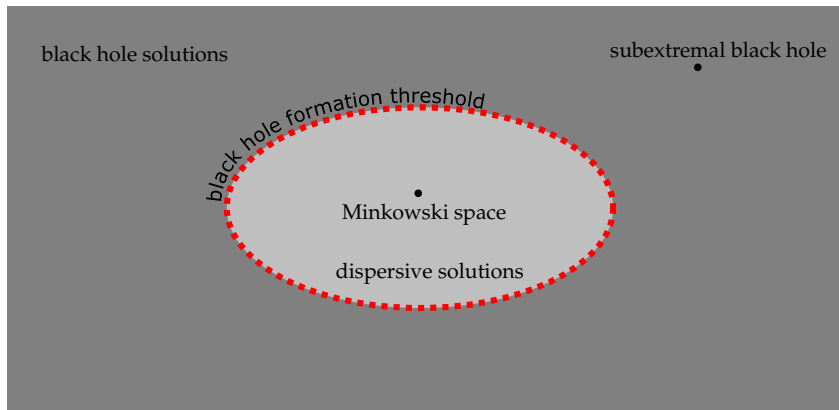
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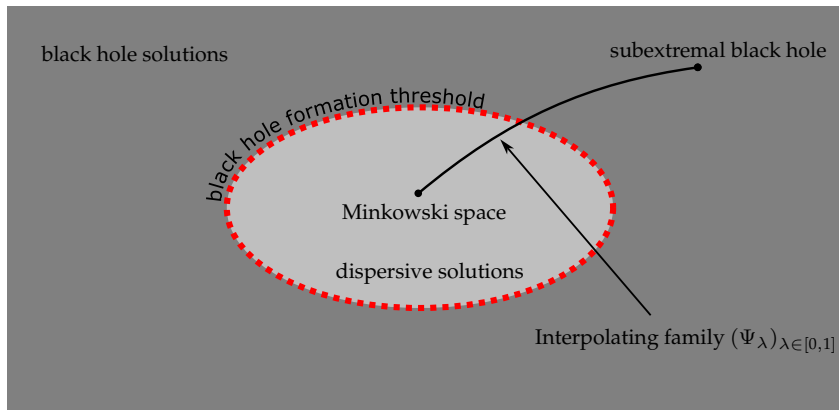


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- More accessible in the Einstein–Maxwell–Vlasov system: Exploit localization in physical space.

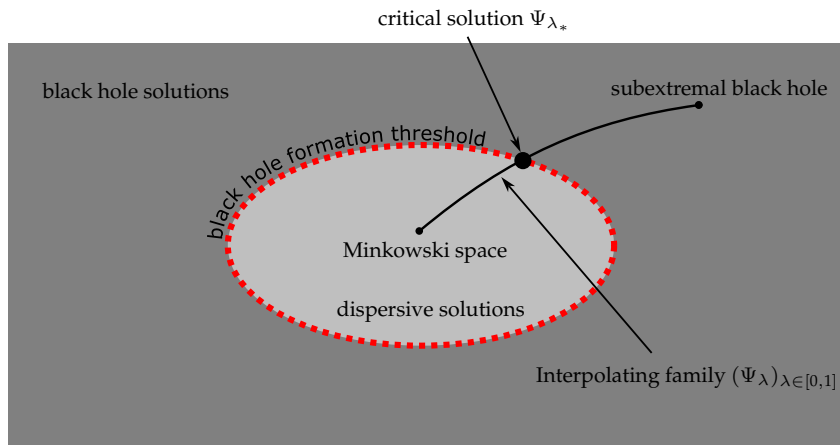
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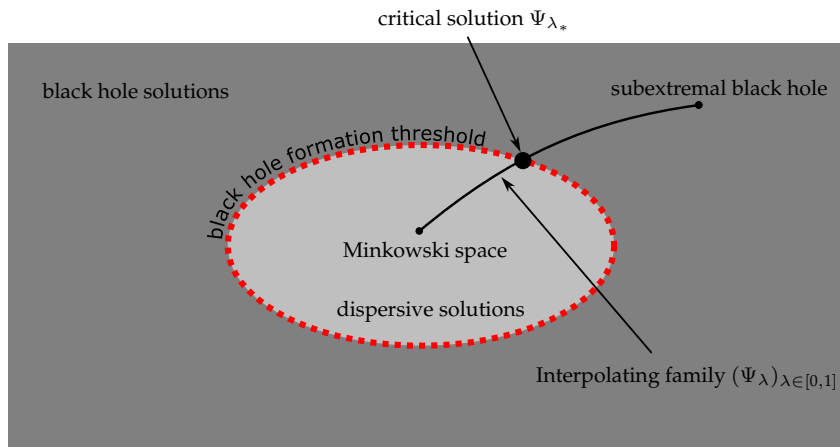
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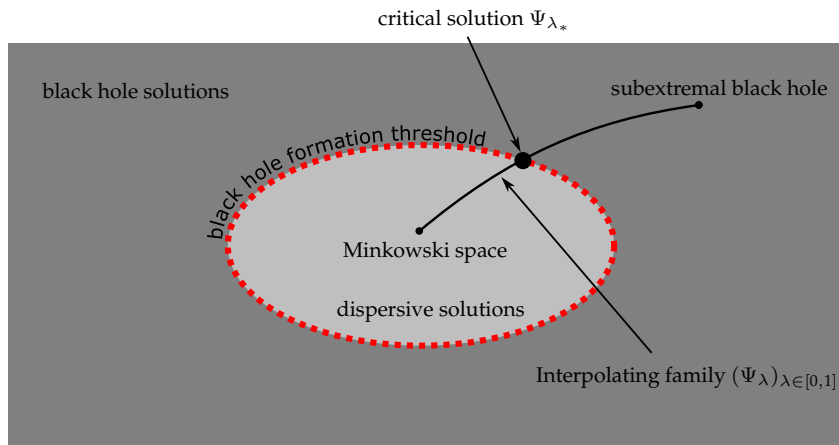
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[CHOPTUIK '93, ...]

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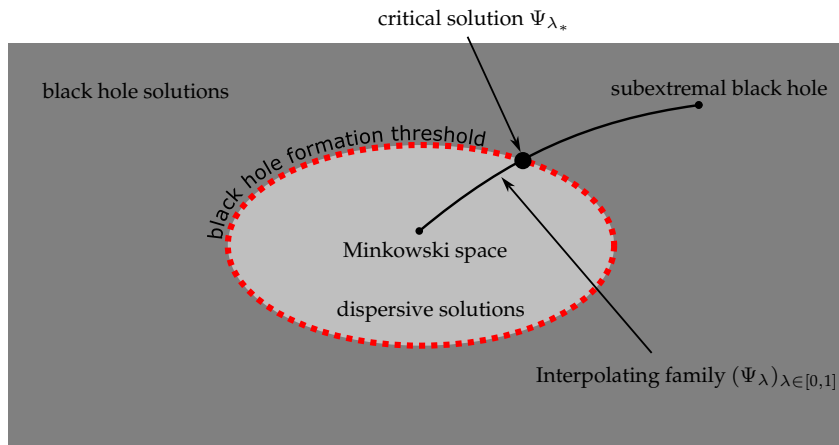
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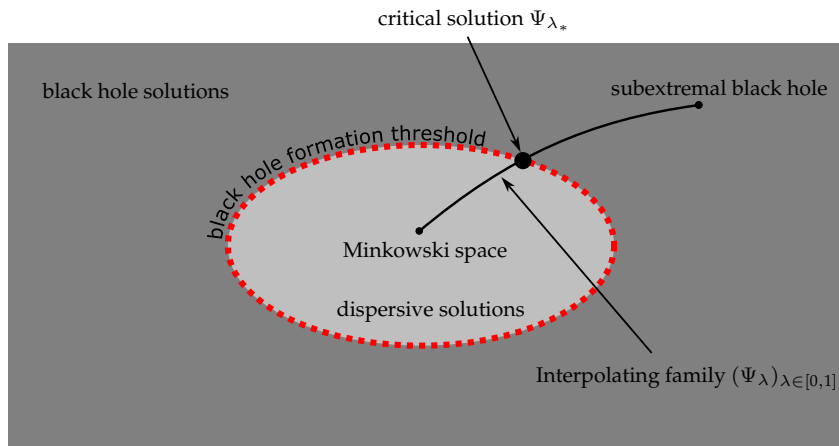
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Although “much newer”, extremal critical collapse is *more accessible*.

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We consider **self-gravitating charged plasma**: Einstein–Maxwell–Vlasov system

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- ▶ If $\lambda = \lambda_*$, an **extremal** black hole forms.
- ▶ If $\lambda_* < \lambda \leq 1$, a **subextremal** black hole forms.

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There exists a smooth 1-parameter family of solutions $\{D_\lambda\}_{\lambda \in [0,1]}$ and a critical value $\lambda_* \in (0, 1)$ such that:

- ▶ If $0 \leq \lambda < \lambda_*$, the solution **disperses** to Minkowski space and **no** black hole forms.
- ▶ If $\lambda = \lambda_*$, an **extremal** black hole forms.
- ▶ If $\lambda_* < \lambda \leq 1$, a **subextremal** black hole forms.

There exist **extremal** black holes on the black hole formation threshold!

THEOREM: EXTREMAL CRITICAL COLLAPSE

We consider **self-gravitating charged plasma**: Einstein–Maxwell–Vlasov system

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu} = 2 \left(g^{\alpha\beta}F_{\alpha\nu}F_{\beta\mu} - \frac{1}{4}F^{\alpha\beta}F_{\alpha\beta}g_{\mu\nu} + \int_{P_x^m} p_\mu p_\nu f d\mu_x^m \right), \\ \nabla^\alpha F_{\mu\alpha} = \mathfrak{e} \int_{P_x^m} p_\mu f d\mu_x^m, \\ p^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu} f - \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\mu p^\alpha p^\beta \frac{\partial}{\partial p^\mu} f = -\mathfrak{e} F^\mu{}_\alpha p^\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial p^\mu} f. \end{array} \right.$$

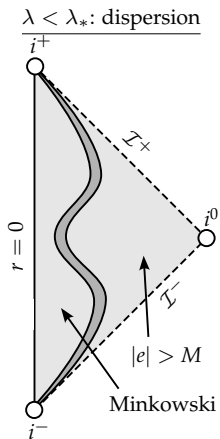
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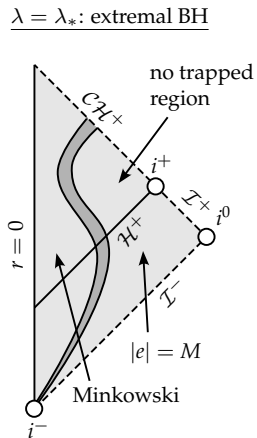
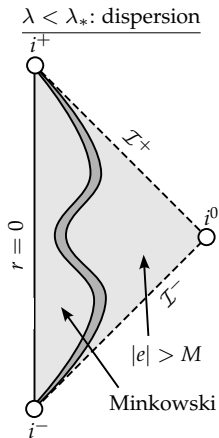
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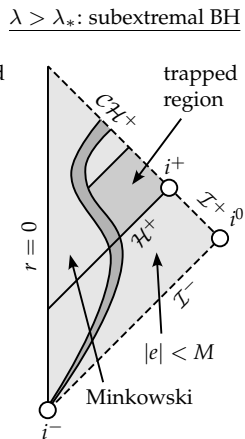
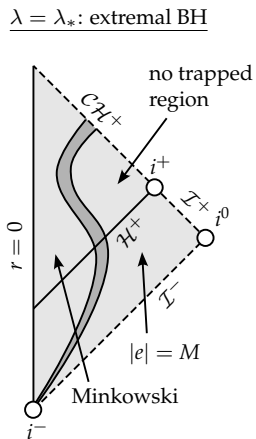
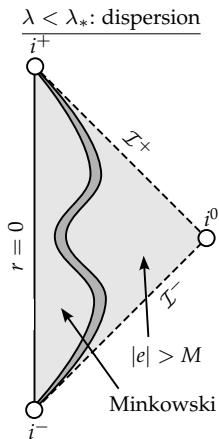
PENROSE DIAGRAM: EXTREMAL CRITICAL COLLAPSE



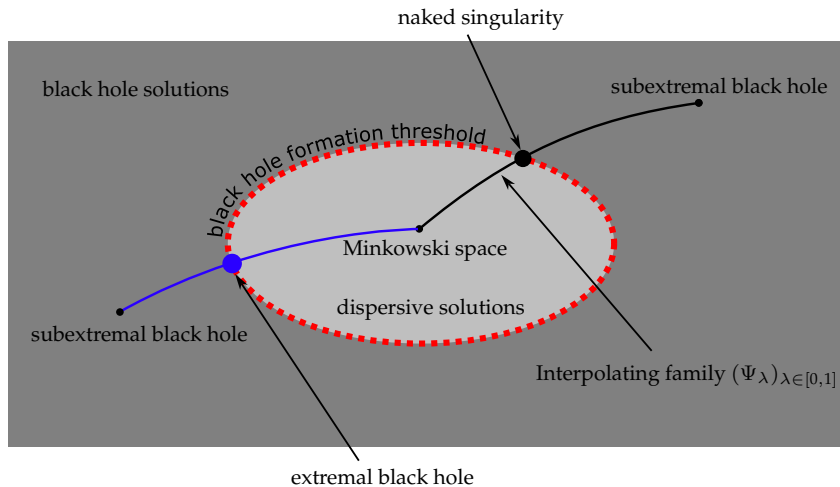
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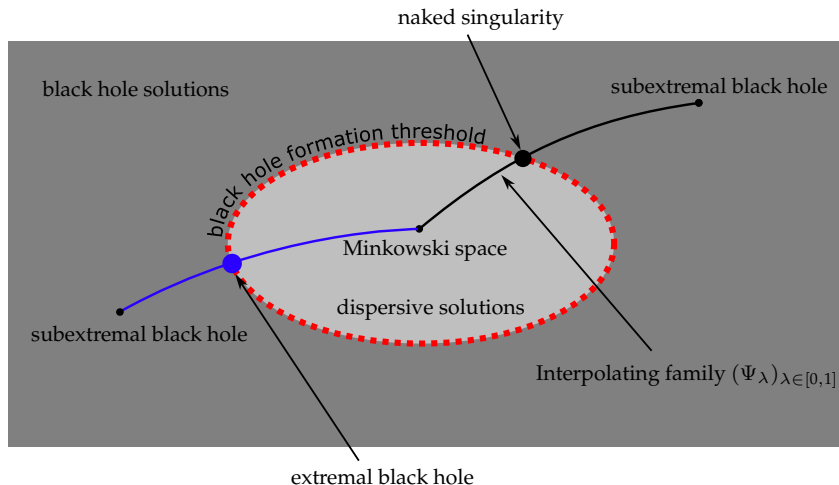
PENROSE DIAGRAM: EXTREMAL CRITICAL COLLAPSE



CARTOON PICTURE OF MODULI SPACE



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Recently, East numerically observed both charged Vlasov stars and extremal black holes on the threshold for the Einstein–Maxwell–Vlasov system [EAST'25].

STABILITY OF EXTREMAL CRITICAL COLLAPSE

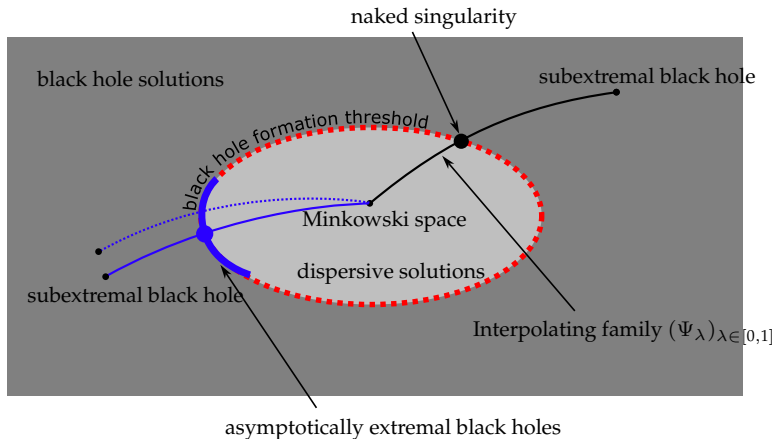
Conjecture.

*Extremal critical collapse is a **stable** phenomenon.*

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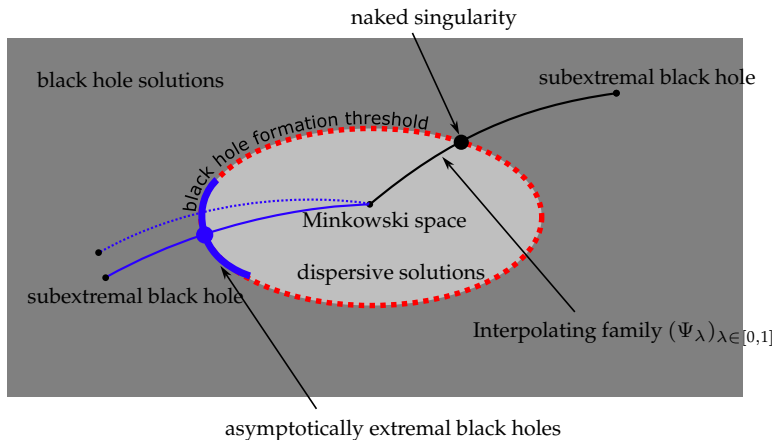
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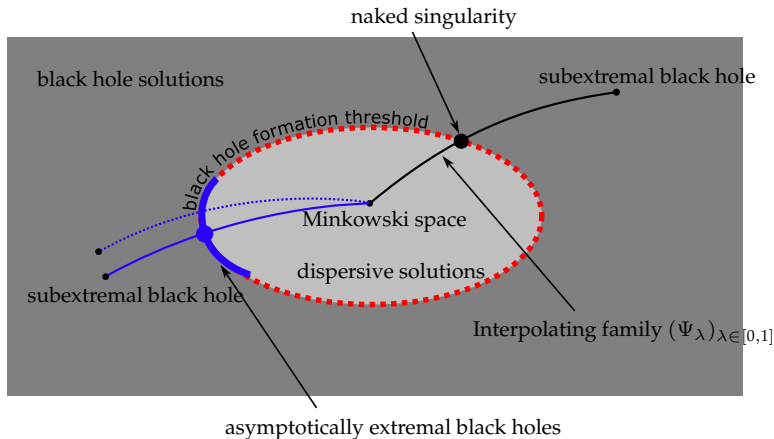


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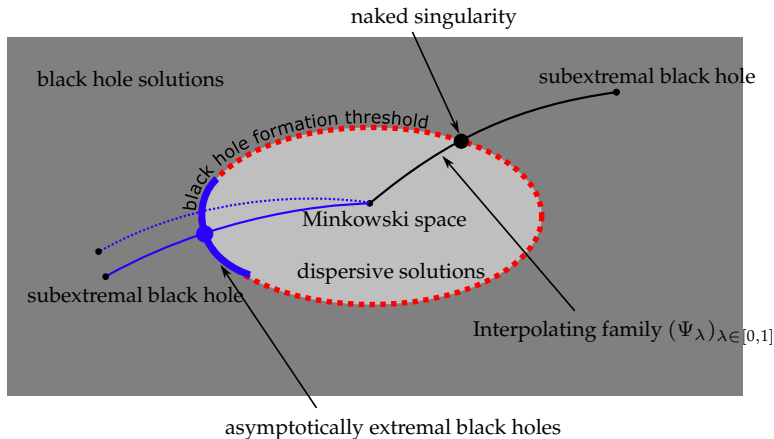


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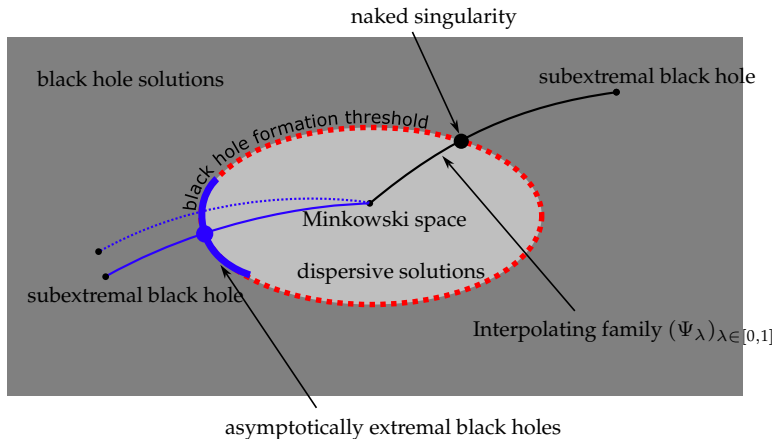


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- ▶ The black hole formation threshold is not expected to be smooth.

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- Further difficulty: **Aretakis instability** associated to extremal horizons
- The black hole formation threshold is not expected to be smooth.
- Back to the Einstein-(neutral) scalar field model as in [MURATA-REALL-TANAHASHI'13]

EINSTEIN-MAXWELL-(NEUTRAL) SCALAR FIELD

$$\text{Ric}(g) - \frac{1}{2}R(g)g = 2(T^{\text{EM}} + T^{\text{SF}}),$$

$$dF = 0, \quad d \star F = 0, \quad \square_g \phi = 0,$$

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{EM}} \doteq F_{\mu\alpha}F^\alpha{}_\nu - \frac{1}{4}g_{\mu\nu}F_{\alpha\beta}F^{\alpha\beta}, \quad T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{SF}} \doteq \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu} \partial_\alpha \phi \partial^\alpha \phi.$$

$$\partial_u \partial_v r = -\frac{\Omega^2}{4r} - \frac{\partial_u r \partial_v r}{r} + \frac{\Omega^2 Q^2}{4r^3},$$

$$\partial_u \partial_v \log \Omega^2 = \frac{\Omega^2}{2r^2} + \frac{2\partial_u r \partial_v r}{r^2} - \frac{\Omega^2 Q^2}{r^4} - 2\partial_u \phi \partial_v \phi,$$

and Raychaudhuri's equations

$$\partial_u \left(\frac{\partial_u r}{\Omega^2} \right) = -\frac{r}{\Omega^2} (\partial_u \phi)^2, \quad \partial_v \left(\frac{\partial_v r}{\Omega^2} \right) = -\frac{r}{\Omega^2} (\partial_v \phi)^2.$$

$$\partial_u \partial_v \phi = -\frac{\partial_v r \partial_u \phi}{r} - \frac{\partial_u r \partial_v \phi}{r}.$$

It is useful to eliminate Ω for ϖ and have

$$\boxed{(\phi, r, \varpi, Q)}$$

as unknowns. Here

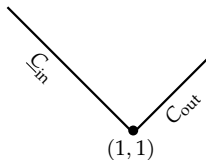
$$\varpi \doteq m + \frac{Q^2}{2r}, \quad Q = \text{const.}$$

This is the renormalized Hawking/Dougan-Mason mass in spherical symmetry.

DEFINITION OF THE MODULI SPACE \mathfrak{M}

Fix $M_0 > 0$ once and for all. Characteristic data posed on $C = \underline{C}_{\text{in}} \cup C_{\text{out}}$:

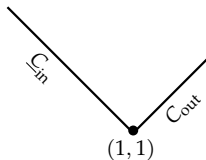
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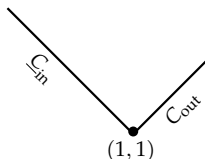
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Initial data gauge: $\partial_v r = 1$ on C_{out} and $\partial_u r = -1$ on C_{in} .

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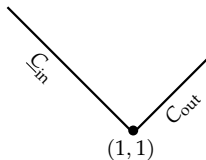
Free data:

- ▶ (r_o, ϖ_o, ρ_o) , $\rho_o = Q_o / \varpi_o$ on the bifurcation sphere $(1, 1)$.
- ▶ ϕ_o on $C = C_{\text{in}} \cup C_{\text{out}}$
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$$\Psi \doteq (\phi_o, r_o, \varpi_o, \rho_o) \in C_w^2(C) \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} = \mathfrak{X} \times \mathbb{R} = \mathfrak{Z}$$

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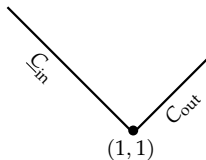
$$\Psi \in \mathfrak{M} \doteq B_\varepsilon^{\mathfrak{X}}(x_0) \times [-10, 10]_{\rho_o} \subset \mathfrak{Z}$$

where

$$x_0 = (0, 100M_0, M_0).$$

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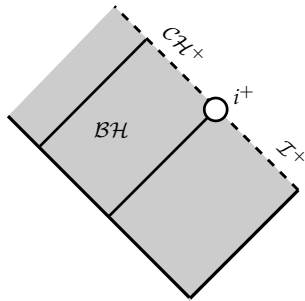
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Any $\Psi \in \mathfrak{M}$ gives rise to a unique MGHD in the future of $\underline{C}_{\text{in}} \cup C_{\text{out}}$.

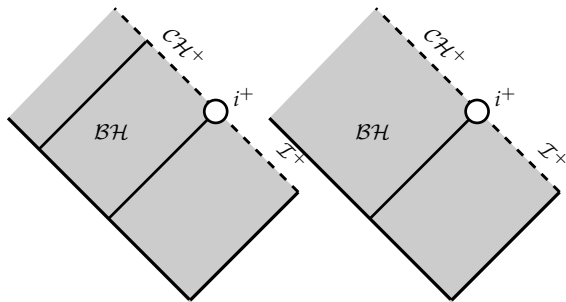
Setup inspired by [MURATA-REALL-TANAHASHI '13].

THE REISSNER–NORDSTRÖM FAMILY $(x_0, \rho)_{\rho \in [-10, 10]}$



(a) MGHD of $\Psi = (x_0, 9/10)$

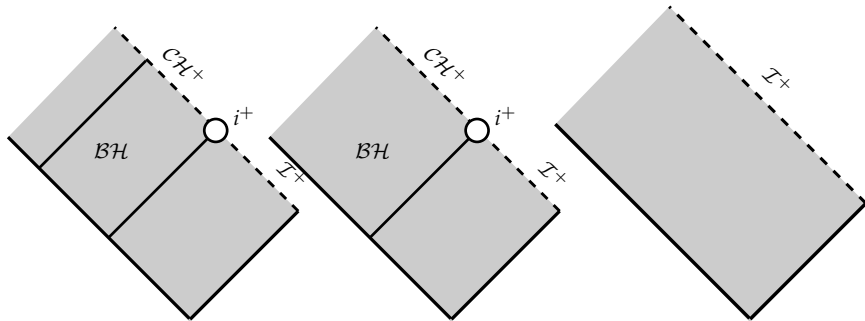
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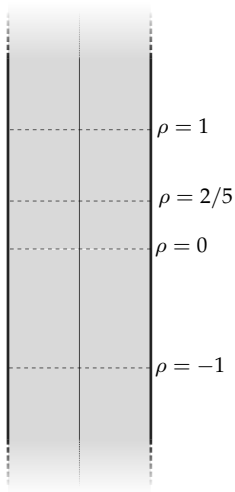
(a) MGHD of $\Psi = (x_0, 9/10)$

(b) MGHD of $\Psi = (x_0, 1)$

(c) MGHD of $\Psi = (x_0, 11/10)$

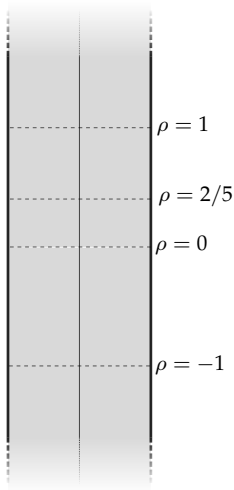
Critical collapse in the Reissner–Nordström family.

ILLUSTRATION OF THE MODULI SPACE \mathfrak{M}



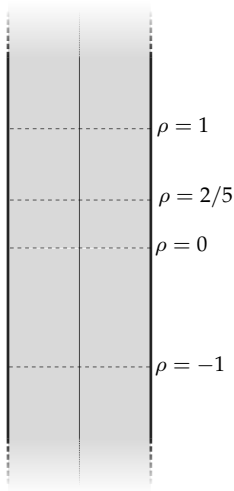
- The vertical axis is $\Psi = (x_0, \rho_o)$, where $\rho_o \in [-10, 10]$ and $x_0 = (0, 100M_0, M_0)$.

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- ▶ Perturbing in the horizontal axis is also making $\phi_0 \neq 0$.
- ▶ This is only a (small) open subset of the full moduli space which itself is a subset of the Banach space \mathfrak{Z} .

A PRIORI DICHOTOMY

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{M}_{\text{black}} &\doteq \{\Psi \in \mathfrak{M} : \text{MGHD of } \Psi \text{ contains a black hole region.}\} \\ \mathfrak{M}_{\text{dispersive}} &\doteq \{\Psi \in \mathfrak{M} : \text{MGHD of } \Psi \text{ is asymptotically flat.}\}\end{aligned}$$

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Theorem (Dafermos '05).

$$\mathfrak{M} = \mathfrak{M}_{\text{black}} \sqcup \mathfrak{M}_{\text{disp}}$$

This is a general result exploiting the

- ▶ *monotonicities* of Raychaudhuri's equations,
- ▶ the *semilinearity* and *subcriticality* of Einstein equations in spherical symmetry in an initial data gauge (no teleological gauge) and away from the center.

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Theorem (Angelopoulos–K.–Unger, upcoming).

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- The theorem can be viewed as the spherically symmetric analog of a conjecture [DAFERMOS–HOLZEGEL–RODNIANSKI–TAYLOR ’21]. See Mihalidis’ talk.

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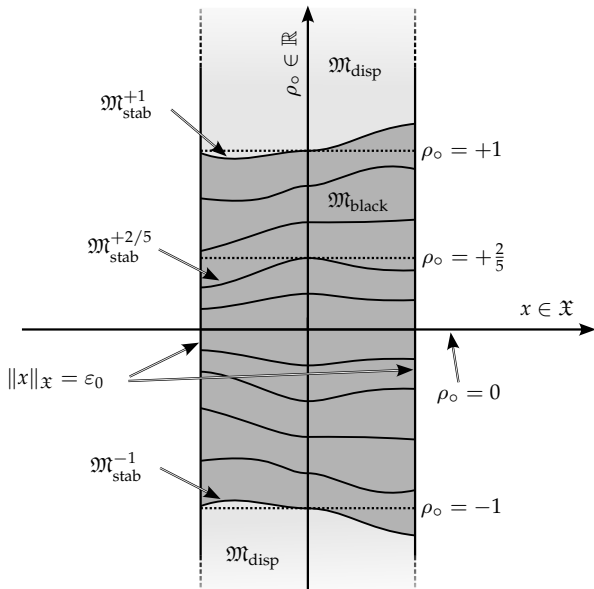
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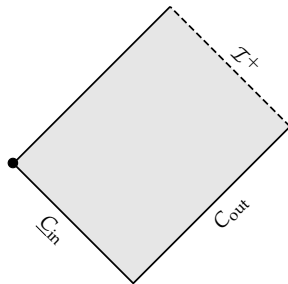
3. *Universality and scaling laws with scaling index $1/2$*
The final area, temperature, and event horizon location satisfy “universal scaling laws” with index $1/2$.
4. *Aretakis instability at the threshold*
The Aretakis instability is present for generic data in $\mathfrak{M}_{\text{stab}}^{\pm 1}$ and a transient horizon instability is exhibited near $\mathfrak{M}_{\text{stab}}^{\pm 1}$.
 - ▶ The theorem can be viewed as the spherically symmetric analog of a conjecture [DAFERMOS–HOLZEGEL–RODNIANSKI–TAYLOR ’21]. See Mihalidis’ talk.
 - ▶ Asymptotic stability in the subextremal case proved before by [DR05],[LUK–OH’19]. Builds on large body of works of [ANGELOPOULOS–ARETAKIS–GAJIC].

ILLUSTRATION OF MAIN THEOREM

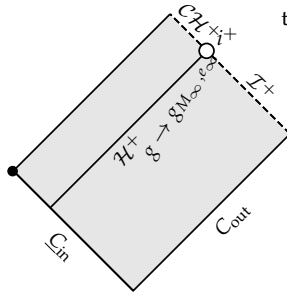


TRICHOTOMY

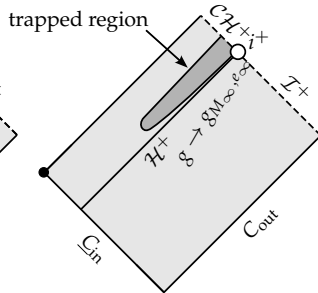
$\Psi \in \mathfrak{M}_{\text{disp}}: \text{no black hole}$



$\Psi \in \mathfrak{M}_{\text{stab}}^\sigma: |\sigma| = 1$



$\Psi \in \mathfrak{M}_{\text{stab}}^\sigma: \sigma \in (-1, 1)$



UNIVERSAL SCALING LAWS

If $\Psi \in \mathfrak{M}_{\text{black}}$, define:

- ▶ $\mathcal{M}(\Psi)$ final mass
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Scaling of \mathcal{K} measured numerically in this setting by [MURATA-REALL-TANAHASHI'13].

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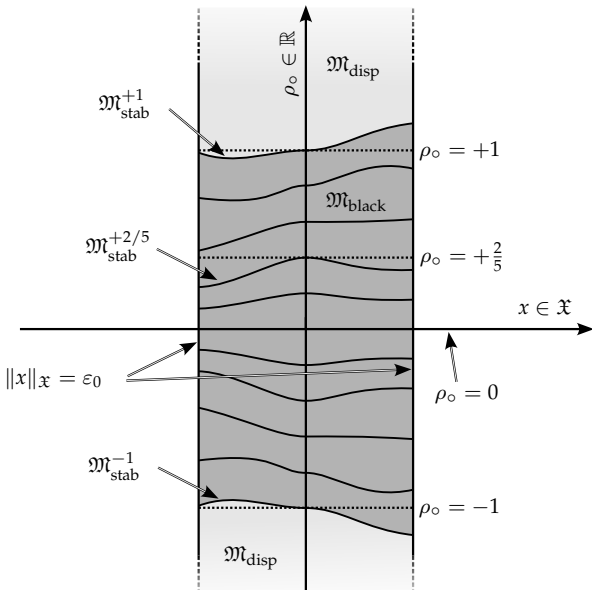
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Numerical evidence for this transient instability timescale given in

[MURATA-REALL-TANAHASHI'13].



Thank you for your attention!