

Retiring the third law of black hole thermodynamics

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Cambridge Friday GR seminar
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joint work with Christoph Kehle (ETH Zürich)
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Black hole thermodynamics

Commun. math. Phys. 31, 161–170 (1973)
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The Four Laws of Black Hole Mechanics

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Fundamentally, these are statements about Einstein gravity coupled to classical matter fields (and are already interesting in vacuum!).

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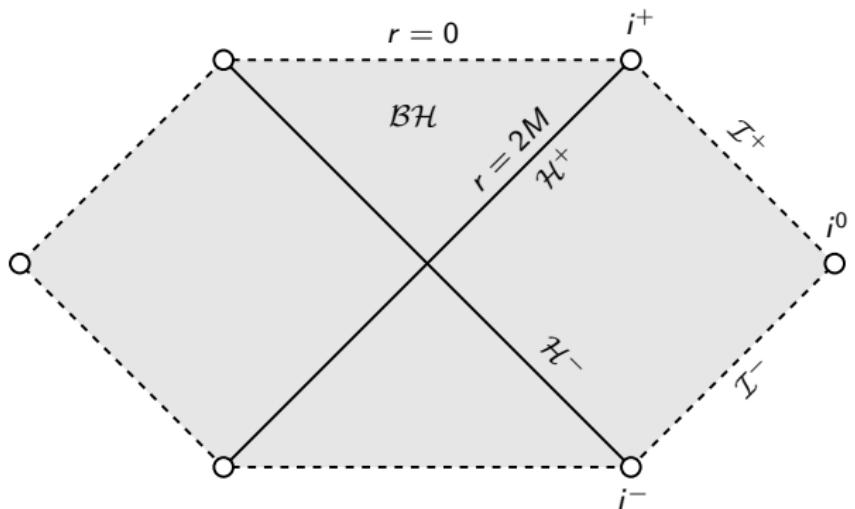
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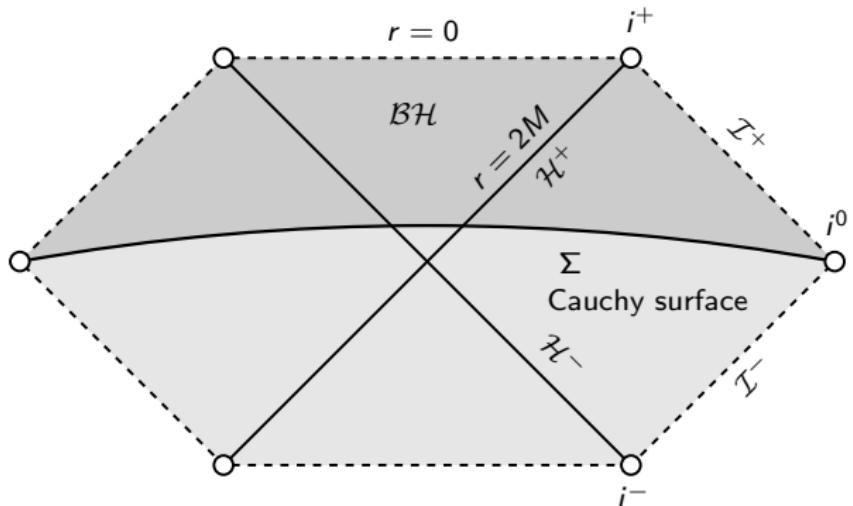
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- ▶ Laws 0, 1, and 2 proved by Hawking, Carter, Bardeen–Carter–Hawking, Wald, ...

Refresher on Schwarzschild

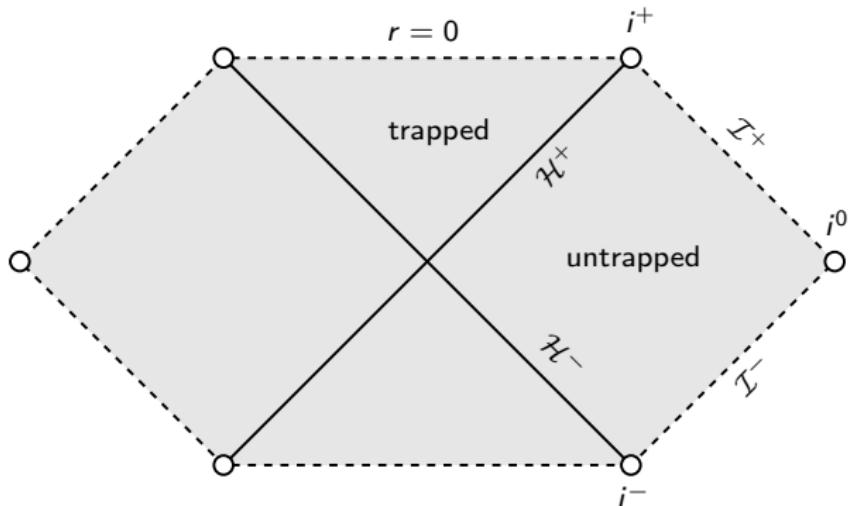


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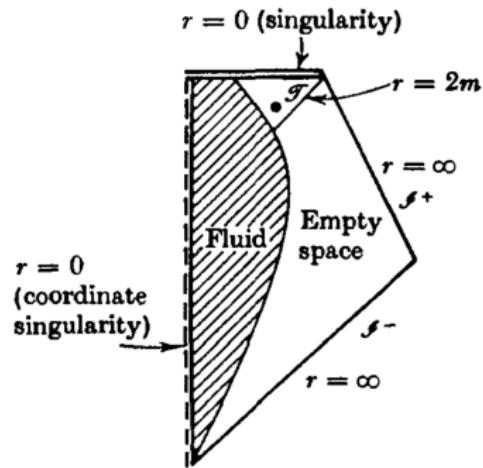
Maximally extended Schwarzschild is the unique maximal Cauchy development of the data induced on a spacelike hypersurface Σ as depicted here.

Refresher on Schwarzschild



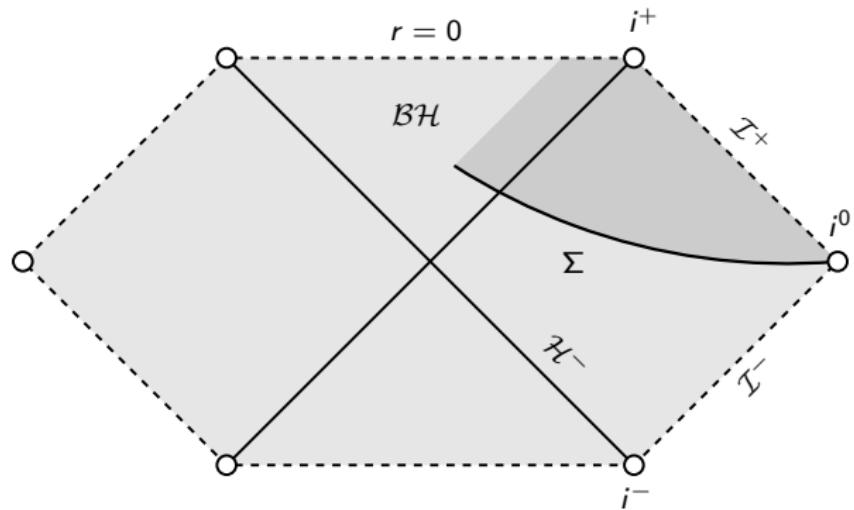
The black hole interior is foliated by **trapped surfaces** (both future null expansions negative).

Refresher on gravitational collapse

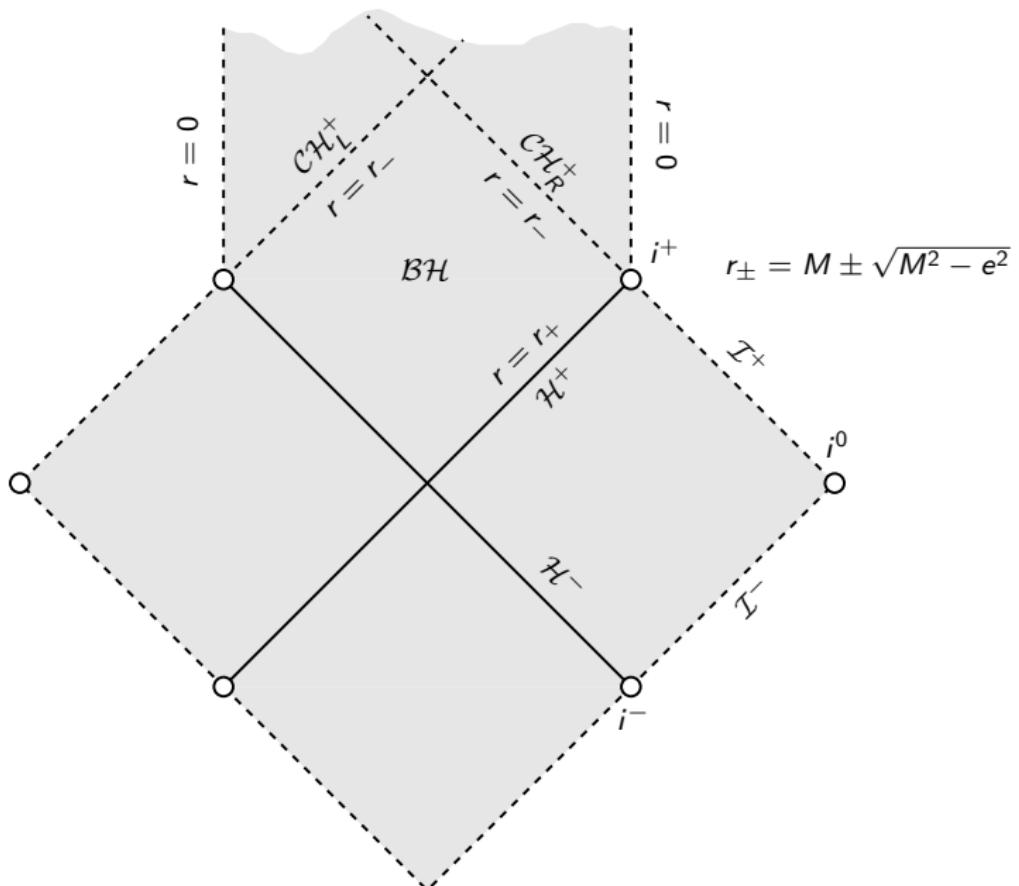


Penrose diagram of gravitational collapse. One-ended Cauchy data!

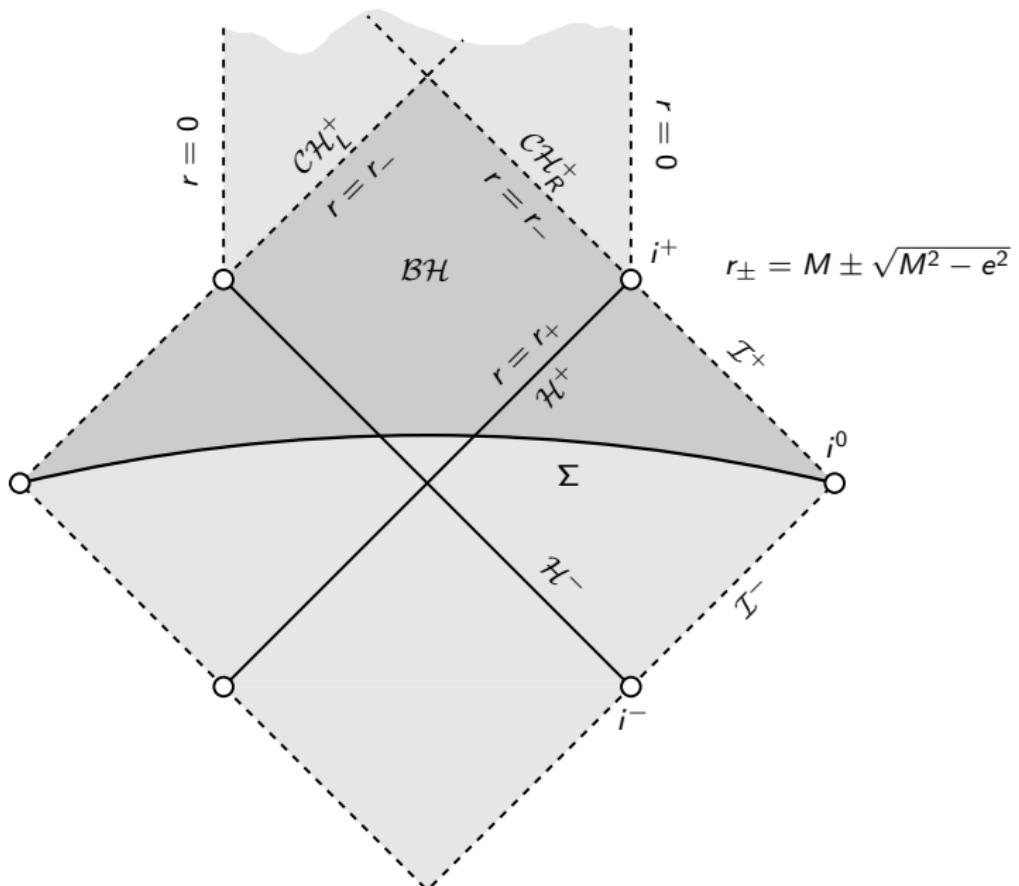
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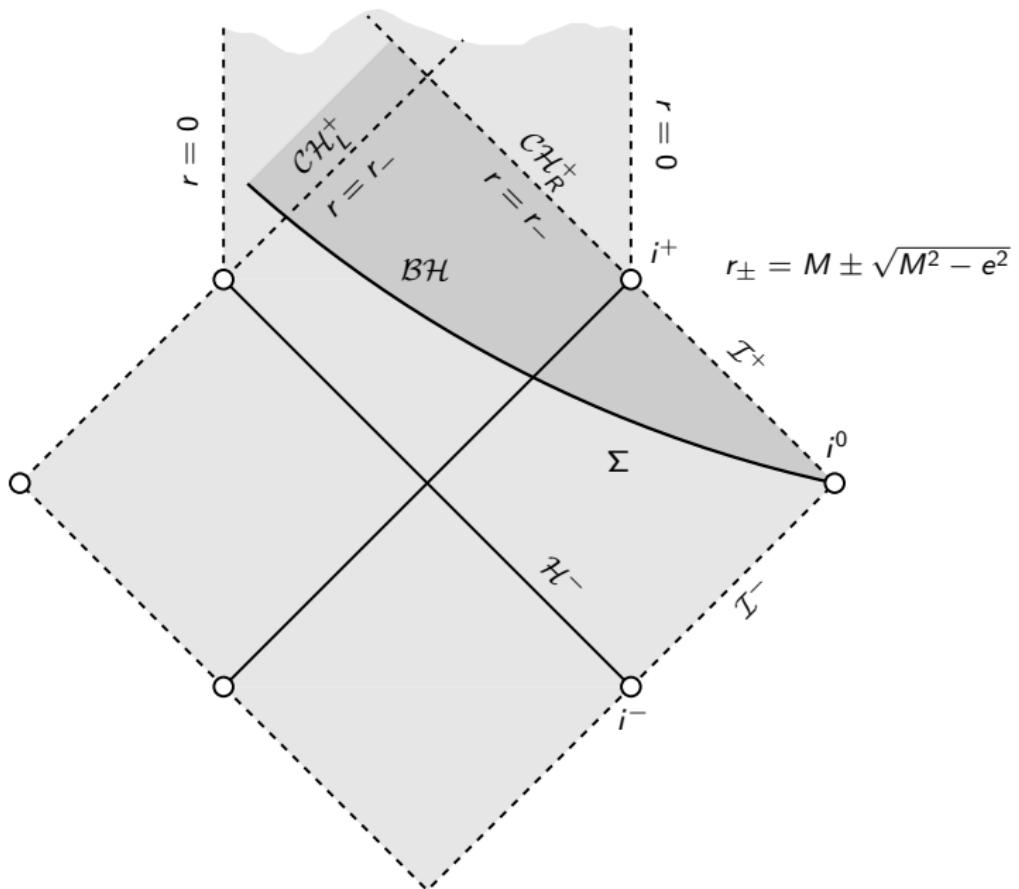
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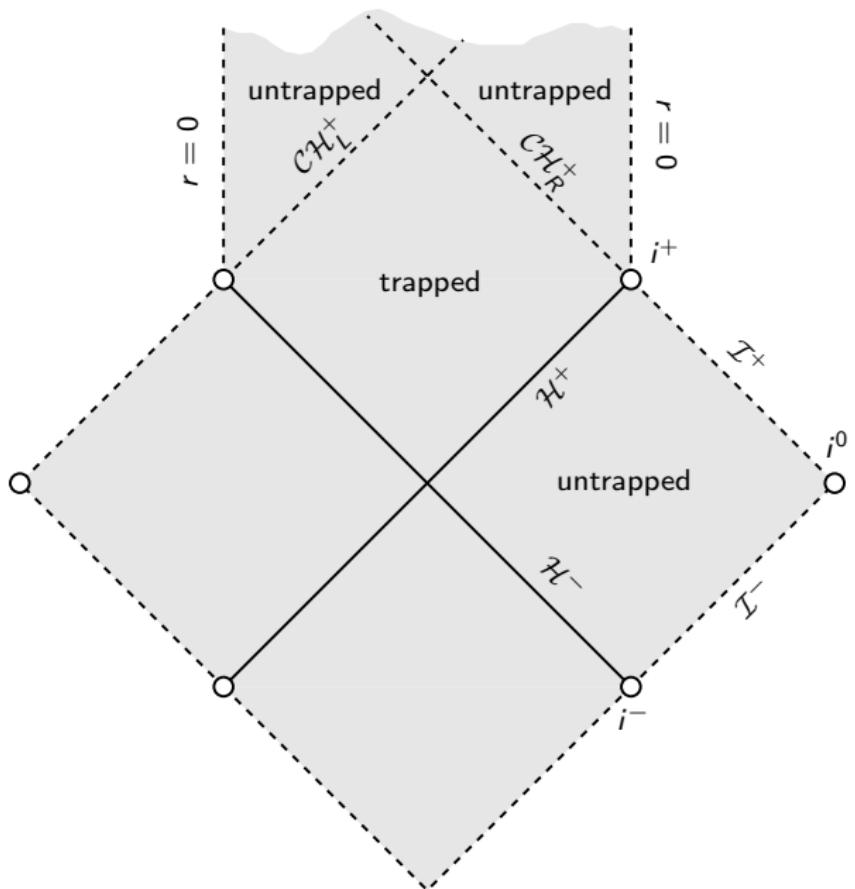
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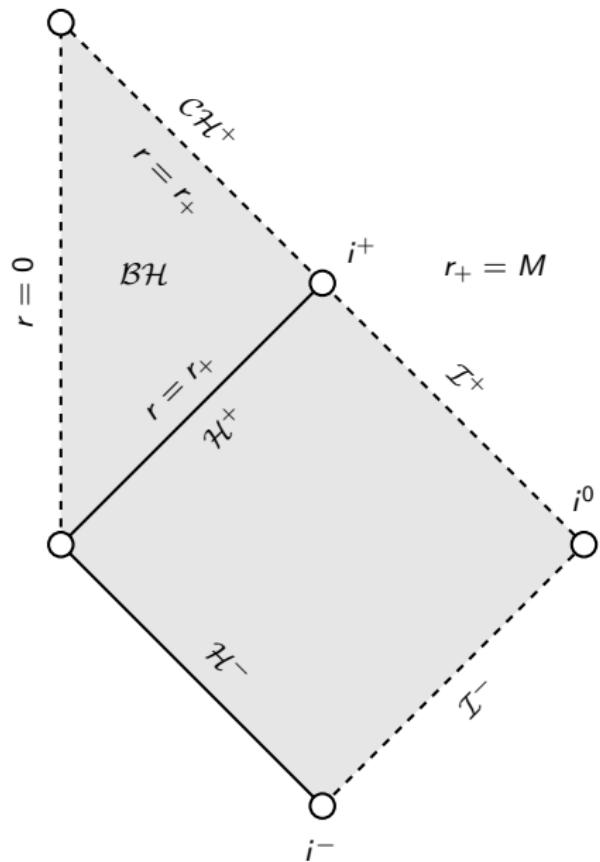
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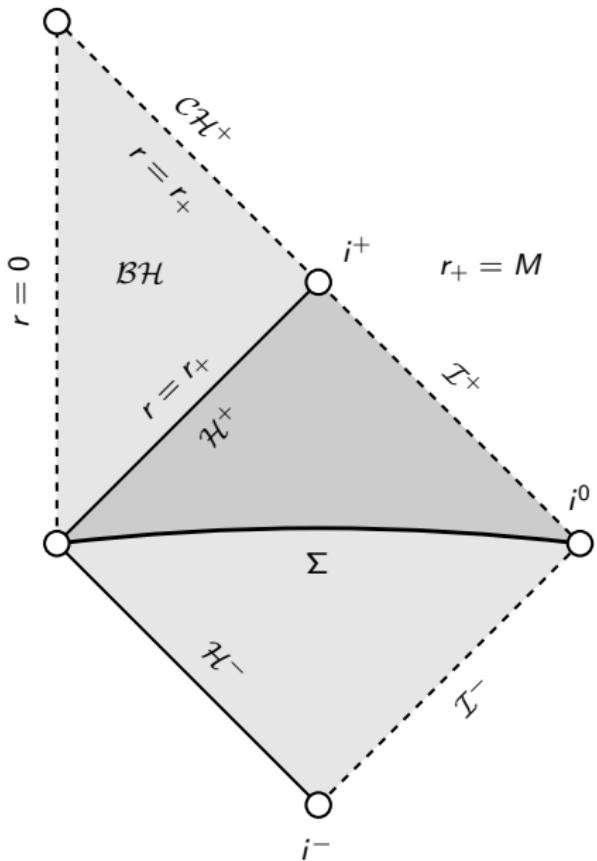
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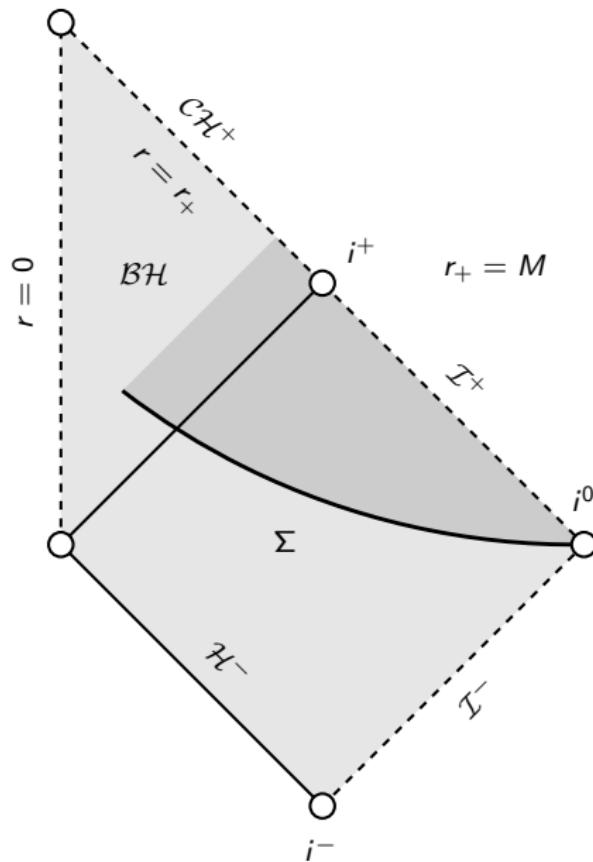
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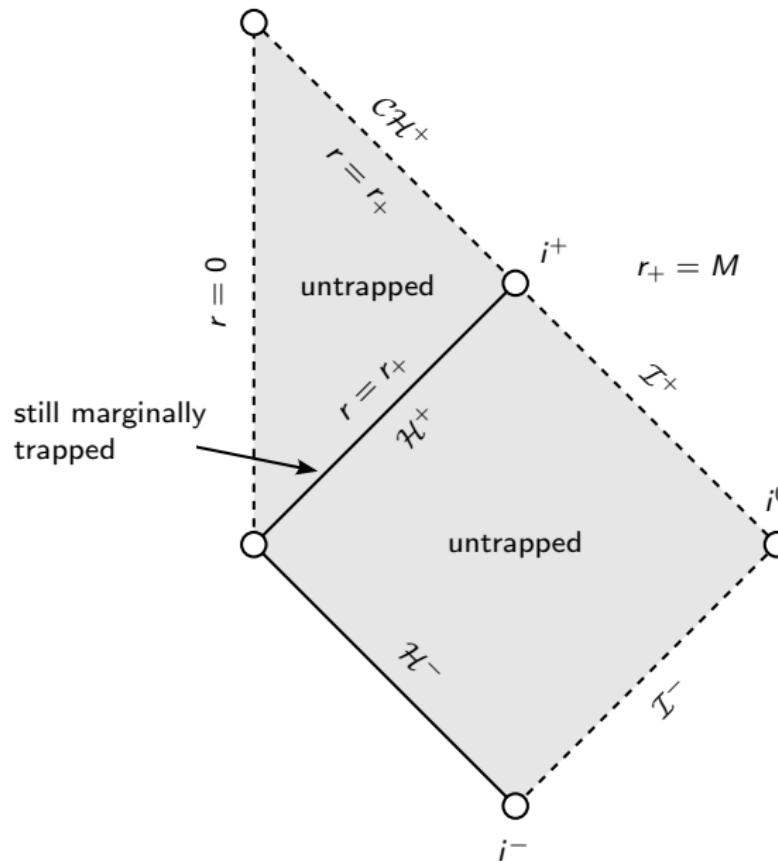
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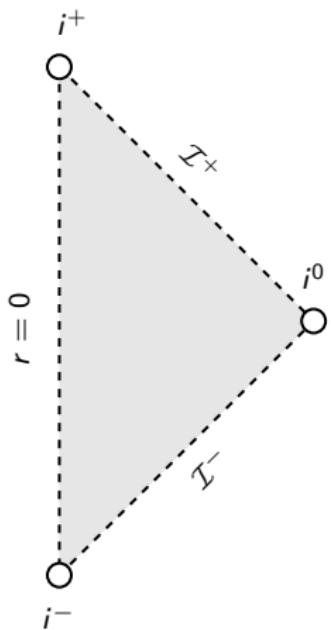
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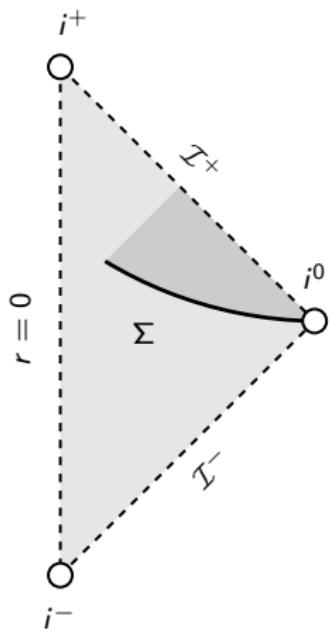
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Refresher on superextremal Reissner–Nordström: $0 < M < |e|$



Refresher on superextremal Reissner–Nordström: $0 < M < |e|$



Surface gravity of Reissner–Nordström

- RN with mass M and charge e , $|e| \leq M$, has

$$\kappa = \frac{\sqrt{M^2 - e^2}}{(M + \sqrt{M^2 - e^2})^2}$$

- **Subextremal:** $\kappa > 0$
- **Extremal:** $\kappa = 0$

The third law

Original formulation of Bardeen–Carter–Hawking:

Extending the analogy even further one would postulate:

The Third Law

It is impossible by any procedure, no matter how idealized, to reduce κ to zero by a finite sequence of operations.

Difficult to interpret κ dynamically!

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4. Extremizing associated with “losing trapped surfaces.”
 - ▶ This parenthetical remark is related to the “mistake” in Israel’s paper and we will discuss it later.

Retiring the third law

Conjecture (The third law, BCH '73, Israel '86).

A subextremal black hole cannot become extremal in finite time by any continuous process, no matter how idealized, in which the spacetime and matter fields remain regular and obey the weak energy condition.

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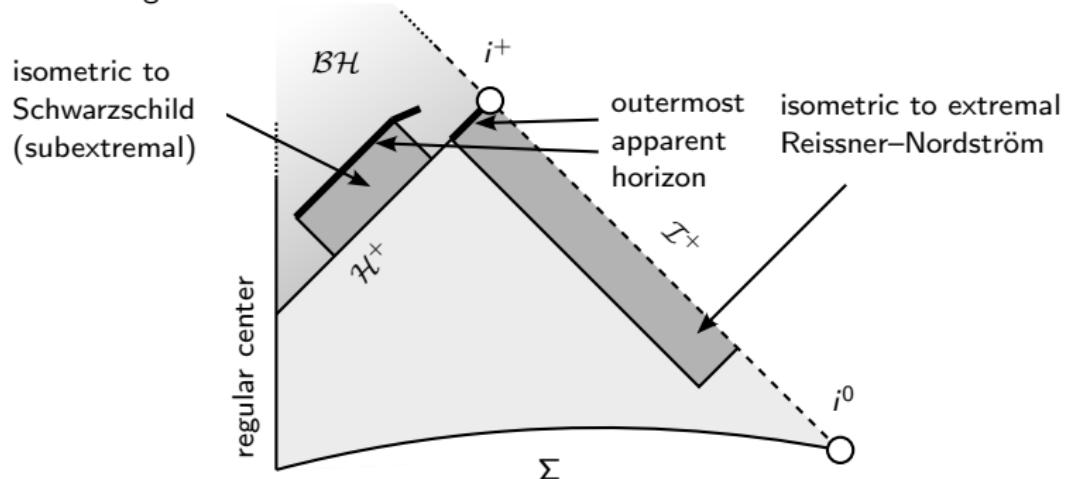
Theorem (Kehle–U. '22).

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More precisely, there exist regular solutions of the Einstein–Maxwell-charged scalar field (self-gravitating charged massless scalar field) system with the following behavior:

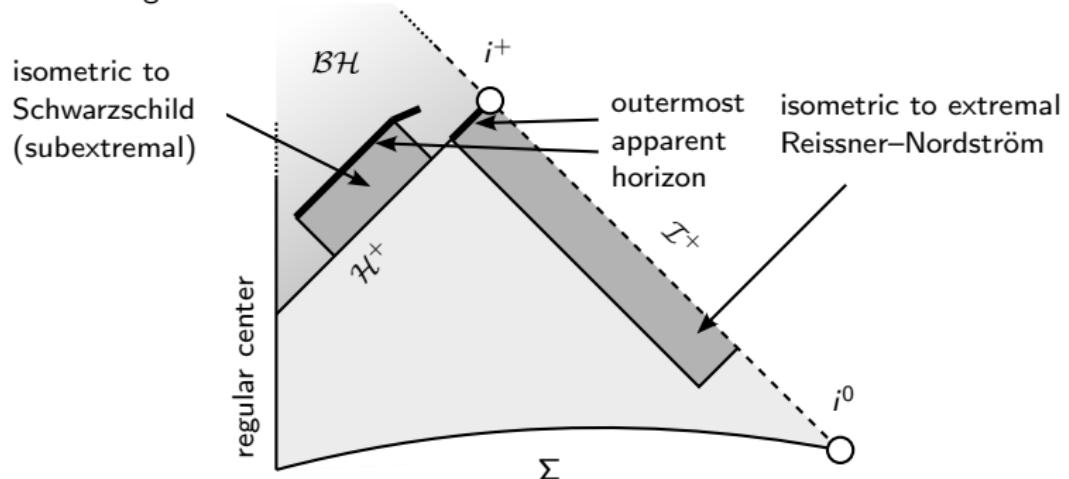
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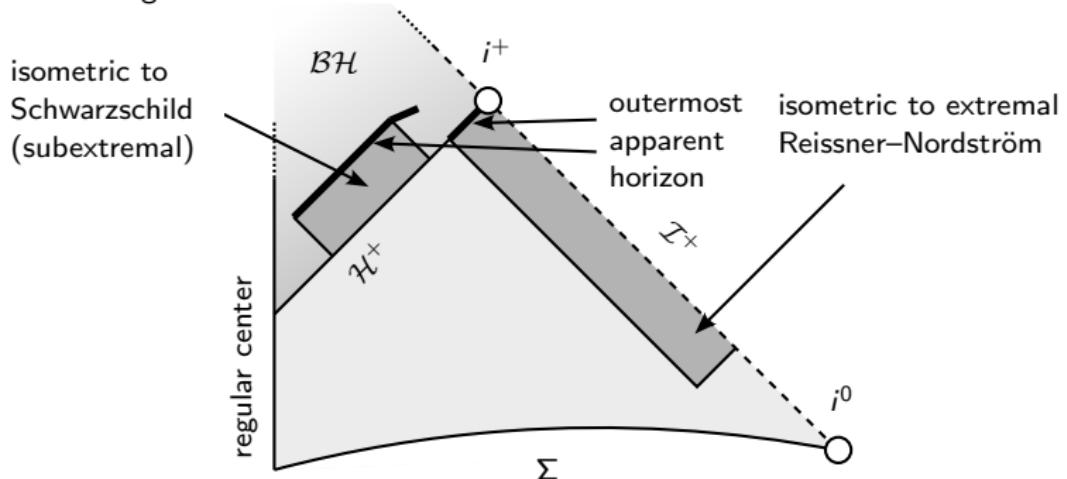
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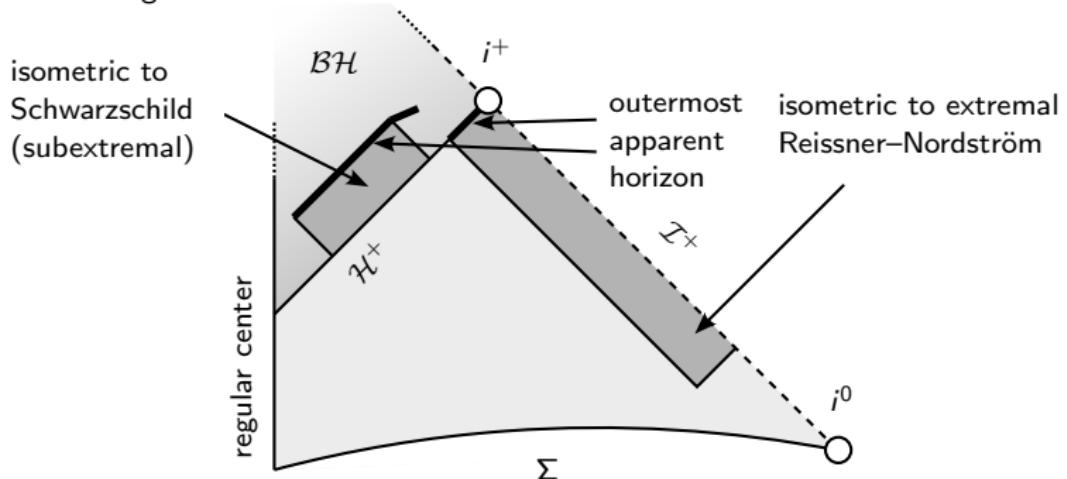
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- ▶ Forms an exactly Schwarzschild “apparent horizon.”

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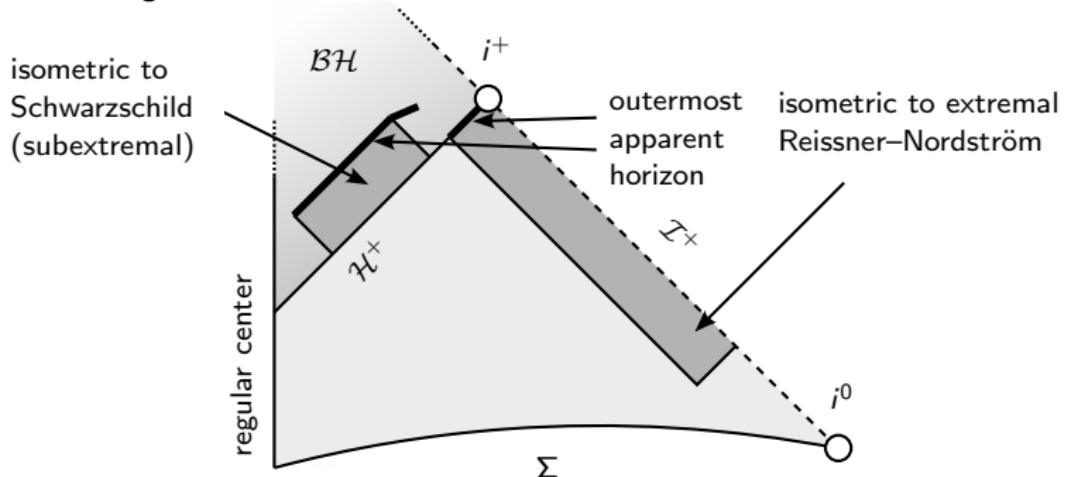
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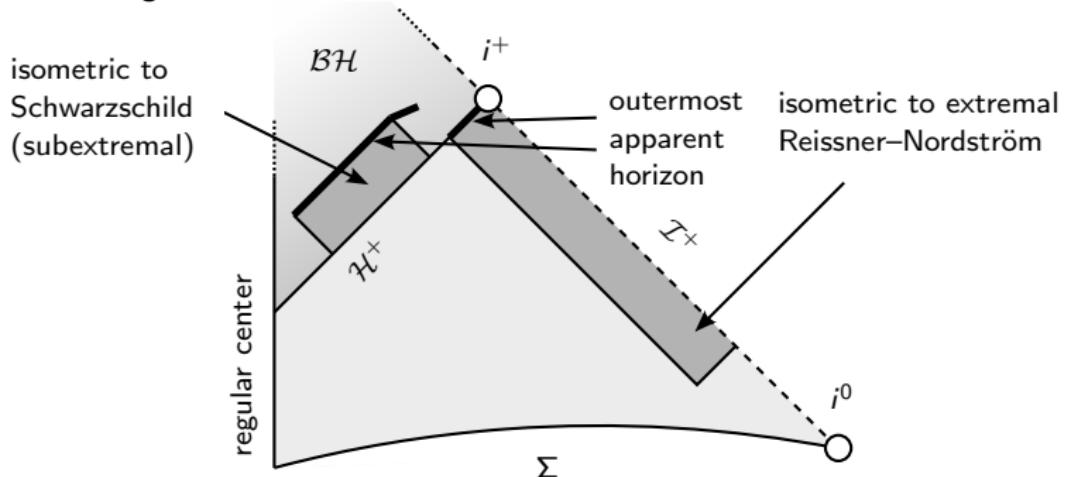
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- ▶ Model satisfies the dominant energy condition.

Einstein–Maxwell-charged scalar field system

- ▶ Lorentzian manifold (\mathcal{M}^{3+1}, g)
- ▶ 2-form $F = dA$ (electromagnetism)
- ▶ Charged (complex) massless scalar field ϕ

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$$R_{\mu\nu}(g) - \frac{1}{2}R(g)g_{\mu\nu} = 2 \left(T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{EM}} + T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{CSF}} \right) \quad (1)$$

$$\nabla^\mu F_{\mu\nu} = 2\epsilon \operatorname{Im}(\phi \overline{D_\nu \phi}) \quad (2)$$

$$g^{\mu\nu} D_\mu D_\nu \phi = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{EM}} = g^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\nu} F_{\beta\mu} - \frac{1}{4} F^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta} g_{\mu\nu} \quad (4)$$

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{CSF}} = \operatorname{Re}(D_\mu \phi \overline{D_\nu \phi}) - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} g^{\alpha\beta} D_\alpha \phi \overline{D_\beta \phi} \quad (5)$$

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- ▶ In an appropriate gauge, this is a nonlinear hyperbolic system for (g, F, ϕ) .
- ▶ Spherical symmetry, ϕ degree of freedom breaks rigidity from Birkhoff.

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But this is not true. The outermost apparent horizon can jump in smooth spacetimes.

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- ▶ Follows immediately from Raychaudhuri's equation

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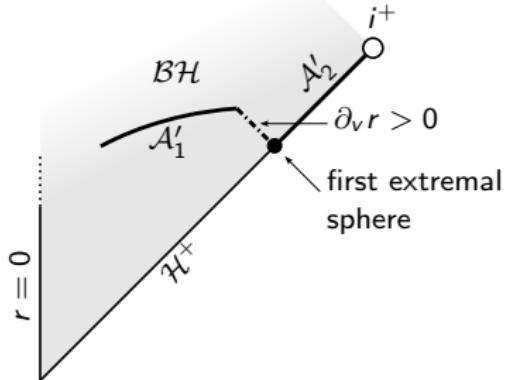
- ▶ Extremal Reissner–Nordström (and Kerr) have no trapped surfaces, but their subextremal versions do.
- ▶ In his paper, Israel seems to have implicitly assumed that a regular solution will have a connected outermost apparent horizon.

Infractions can result from the absorption of infinitesimally thin, massive shells,⁵ which force the apparent horizon to jump outward discontinuously

But this is not true. The outermost apparent horizon can jump in smooth spacetimes.

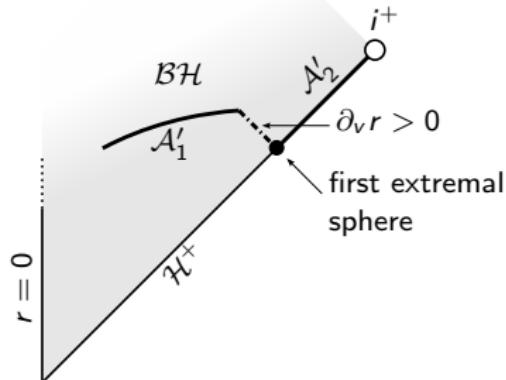
- ▶ Under this implicit assumption, Israel concluded the third law to be true on the basis of Raychaudhuri's equation.

Israel's paper reinterpreted



Outermost apparent horizon becomes disconnected the instant the black hole becomes extremal!

Israel's paper reinterpreted



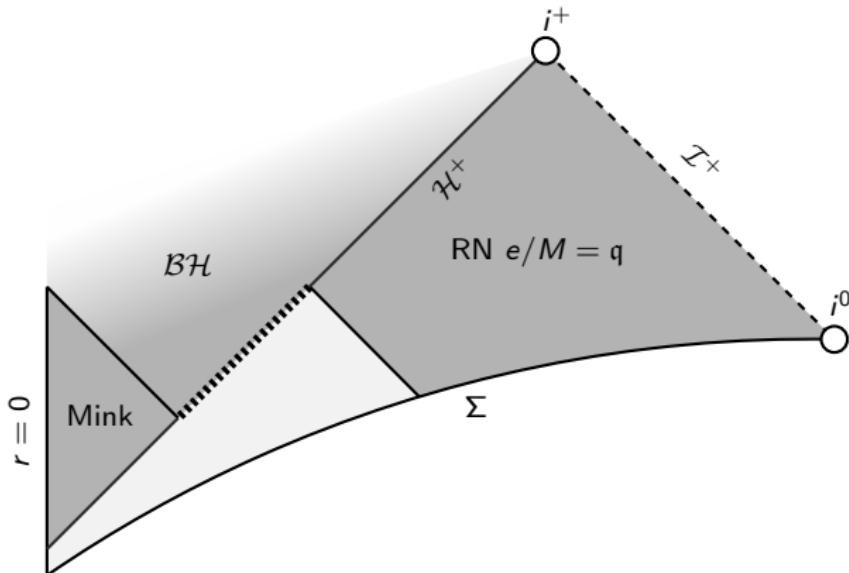
Outermost apparent horizon becomes disconnected the instant the black hole becomes extremal!

However, this is a feature, not a glitch!

Gravitational collapse for any charge to mass ratio

Theorem (Kehle–U.).

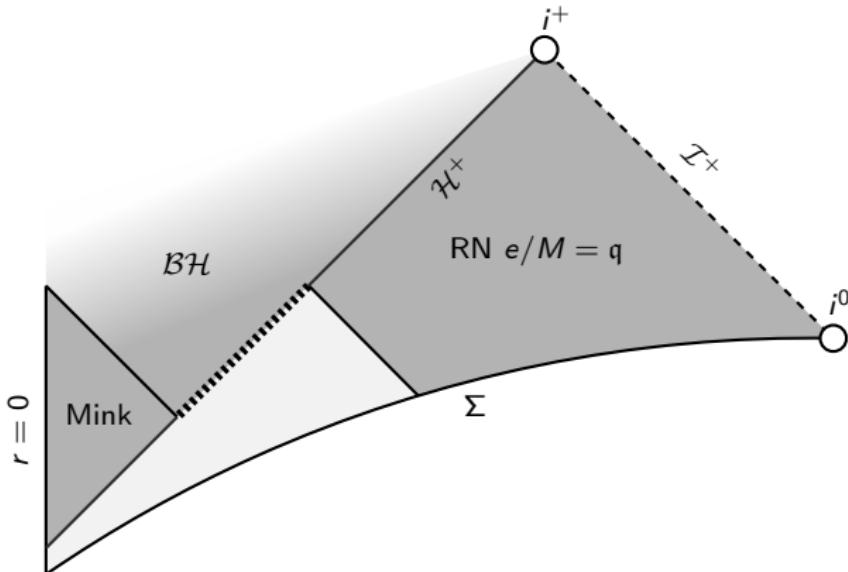
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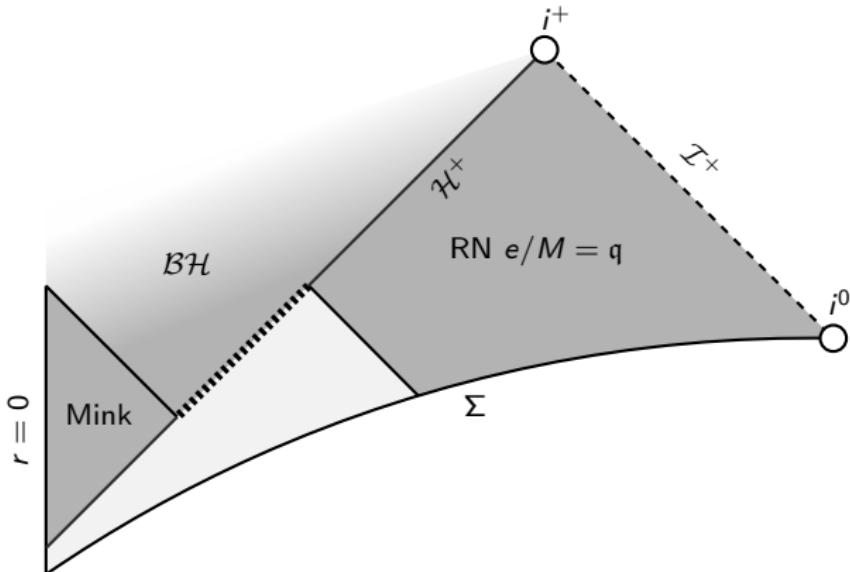


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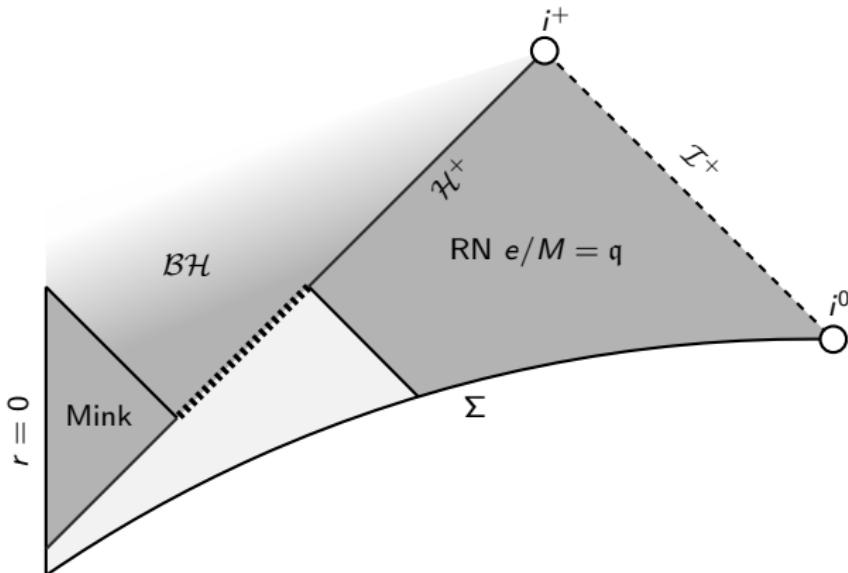


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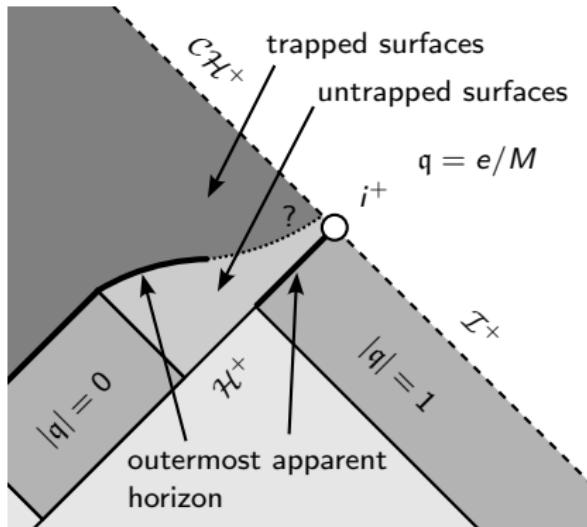
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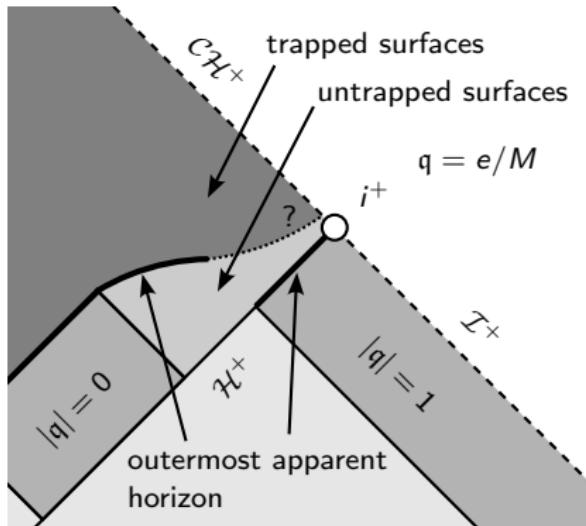


- ▶ From the point of view of our construction, the extremal case is exactly the same as the subextremal case!
- ▶ $|q| \rightarrow 1$ represents a regular limit.
- ▶ $T = 0$ is not fundamentally different than $T > 0$ in these examples.

Interior structure of third law violating solutions

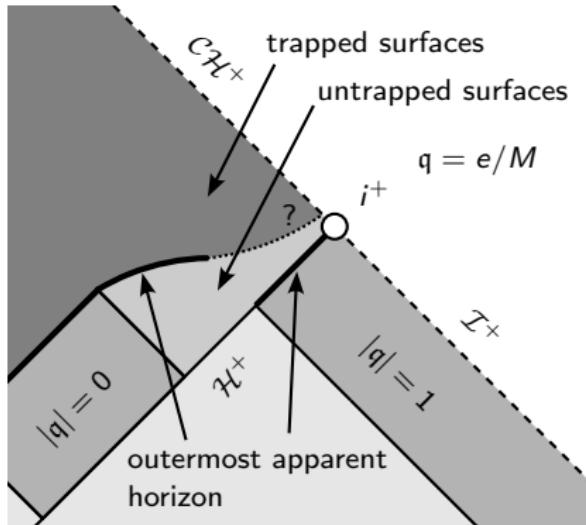


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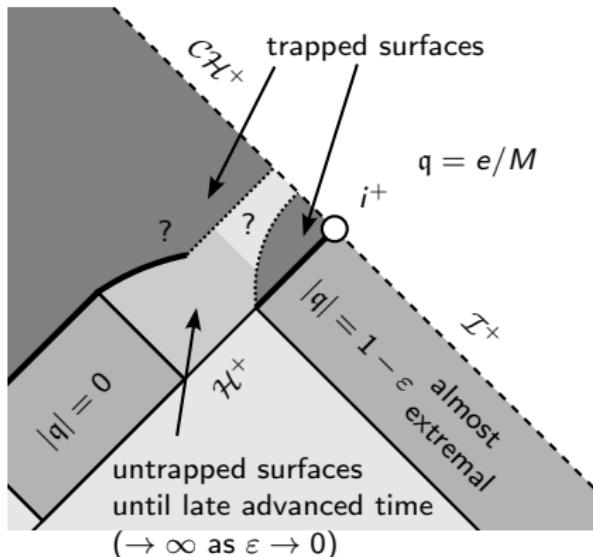
Interior structure of third law violating solutions



- ▶ Consistent with Israel's observation: the outermost apparent horizon becomes disconnected.
- ▶ Trapped surfaces persist for all time and are found at any retarded time in the black hole interior.

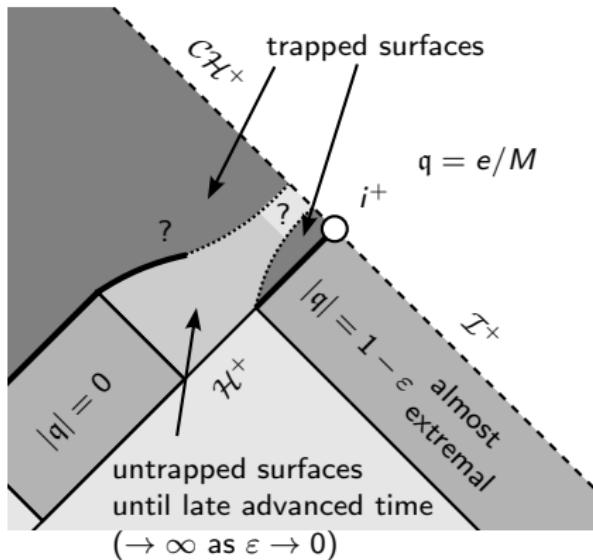
So where do the trapped surfaces go?

The geometry of a $|q| = 1 - \varepsilon$ example converges to a $|q| = 1$ example as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.



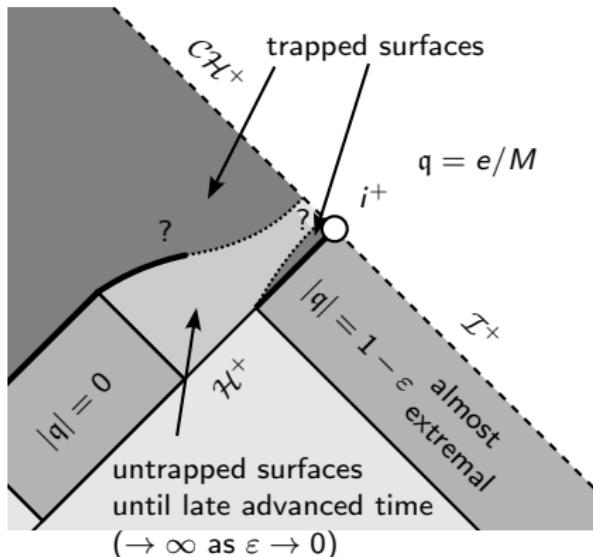
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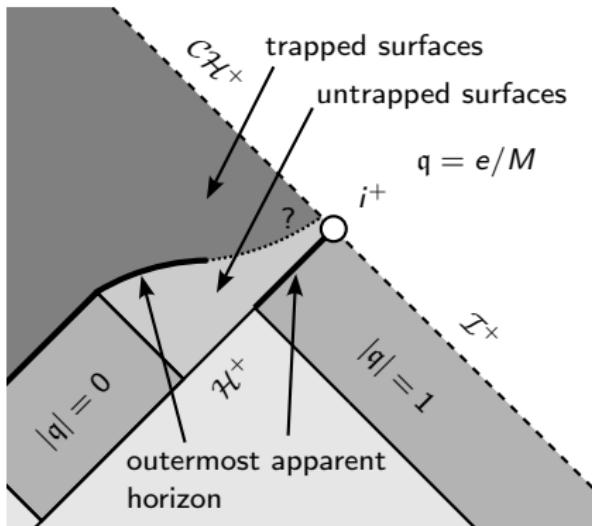
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On the (non)genericity of our examples

The Third Law

It is impossible by any procedure, no matter how idealized, to reduce κ to zero by a finite sequence of operations.

A nonextremal black hole cannot become extremal (i.e., lose its trapped surfaces) at a finite advanced time in any continuous process in which the stress-energy tensor of accreted matter stays bounded and satisfies the weak energy condition in a neighborhood of the outer apparent horizon.

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- ▶ However, such a reformulation would be completely trivial (and has nothing to do with $T = 0$).

The third law and supercharging

Bardeen–Carter–Hawking:

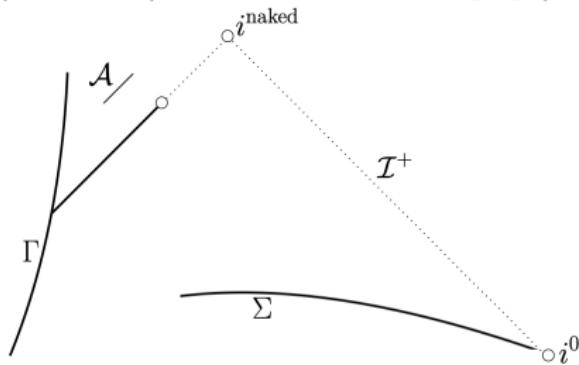
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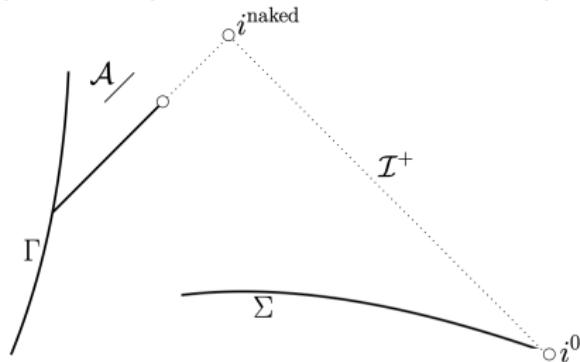


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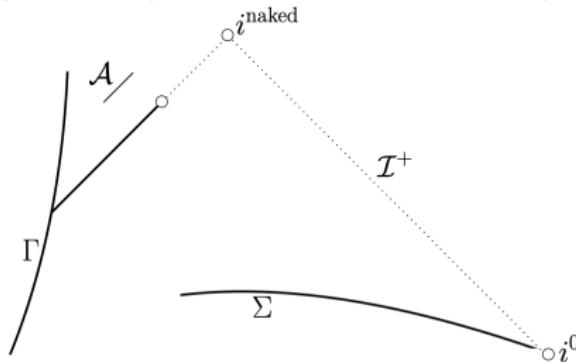
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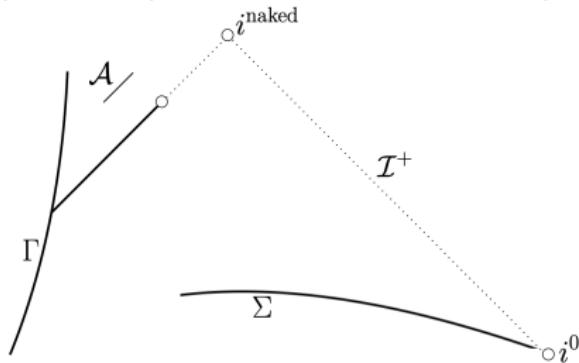
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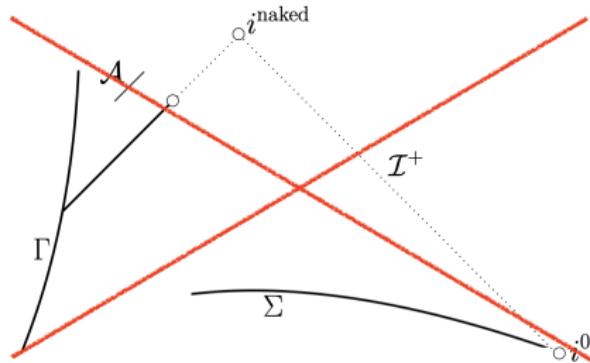
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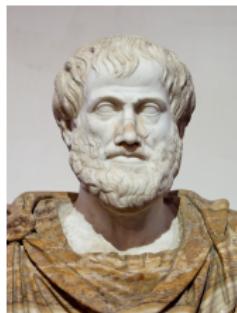
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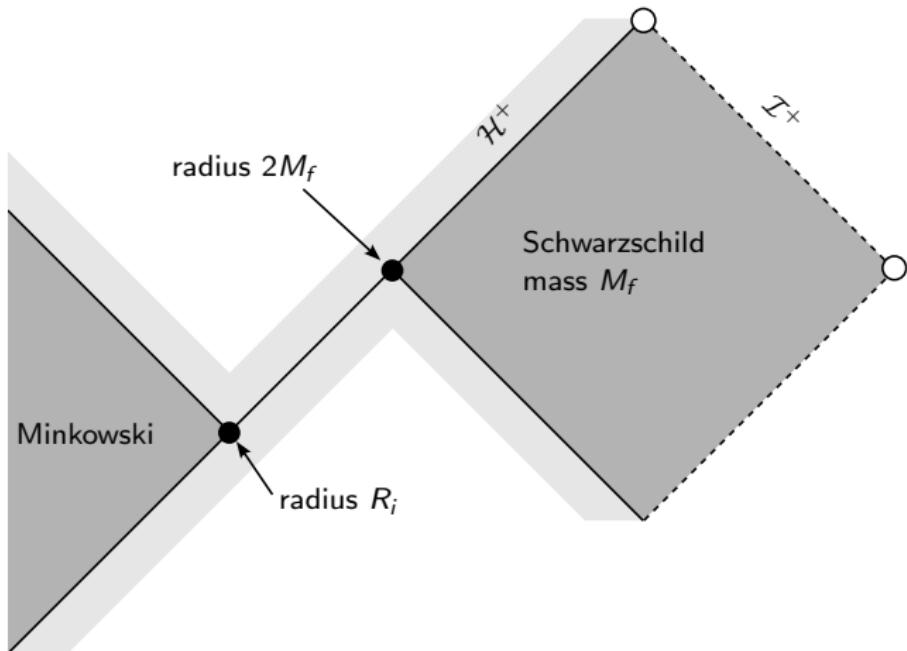
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The black hole region \mathcal{BH} and event horizon \mathcal{H}^+ of a spacetime are **teleological** notions—they can't be located *without knowing the entire future of the spacetime*.

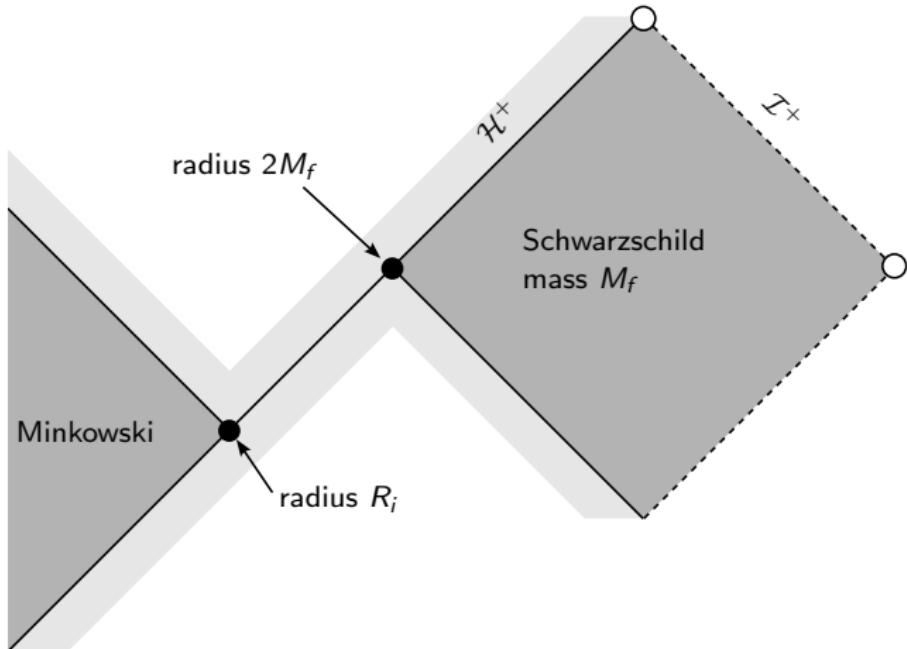
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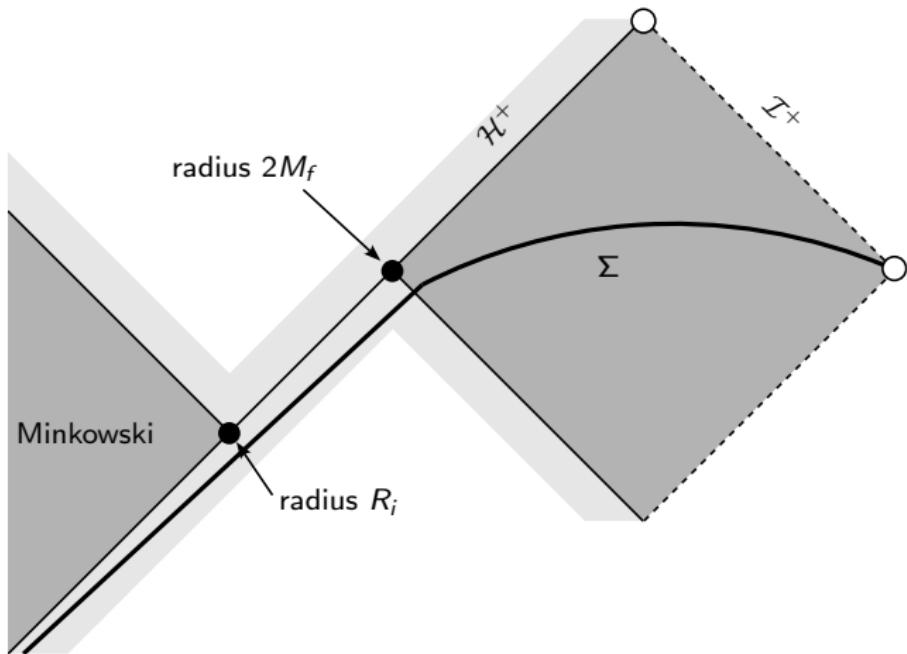
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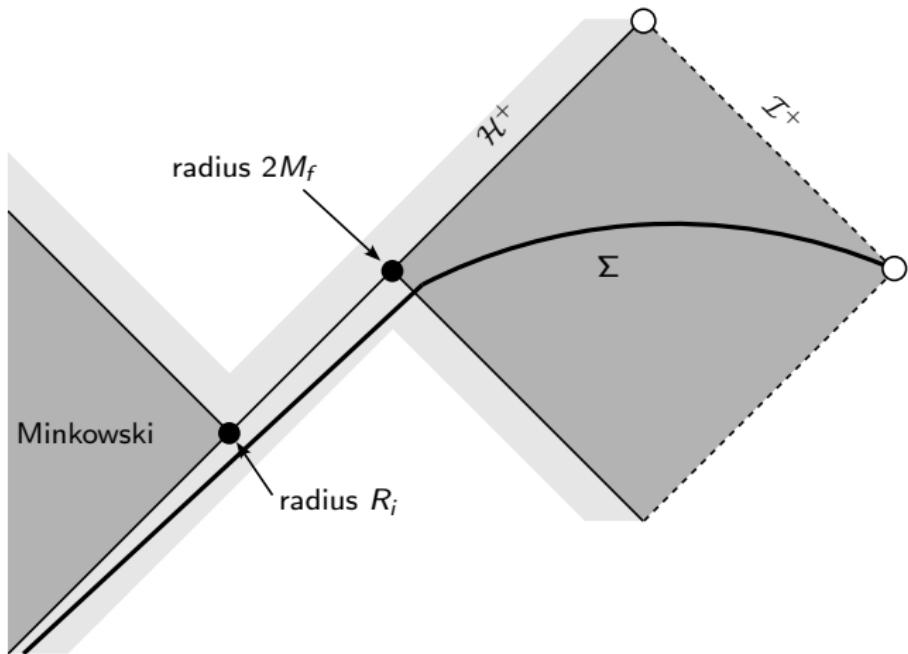
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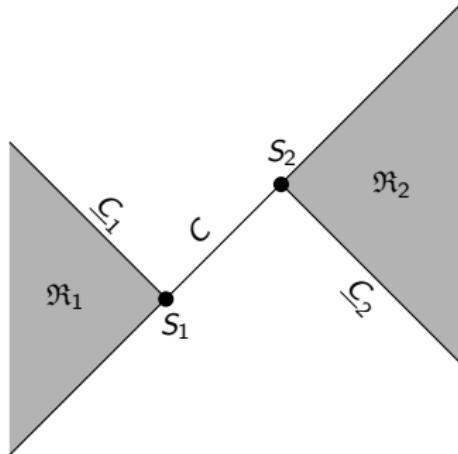
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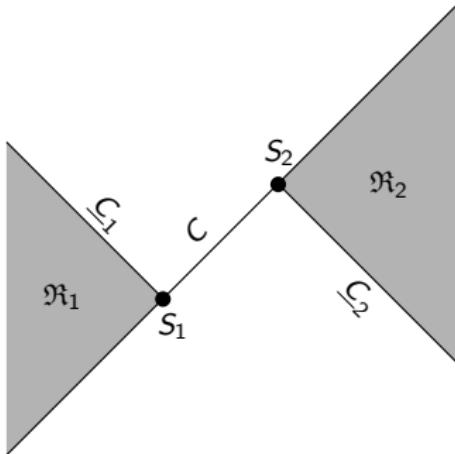


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Characteristic gluing for the vacuum Einstein equations recently initiated by
Aretakis–Czimek–Rodnianski, but in a different regime than required for this problem.

Characteristic/null gluing for the linear wave equation



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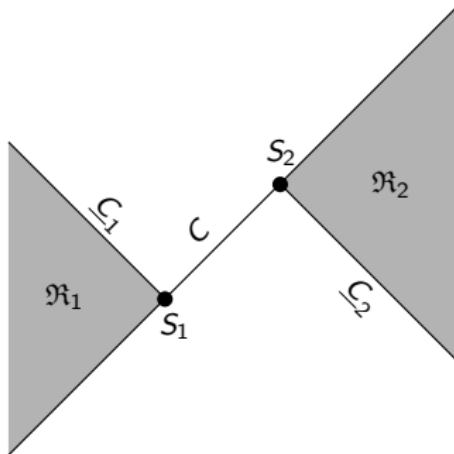


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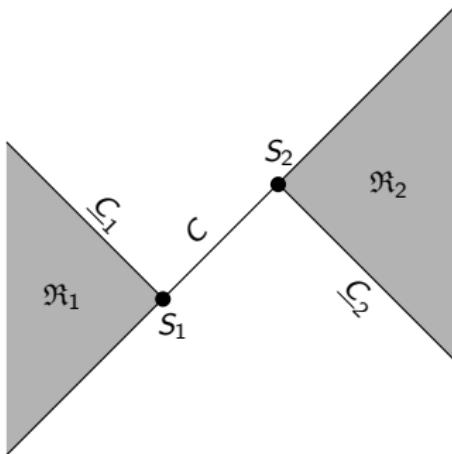
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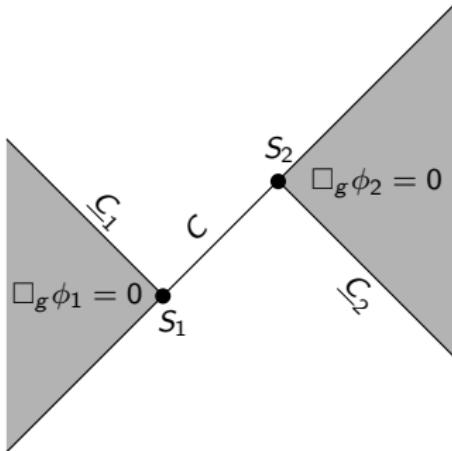
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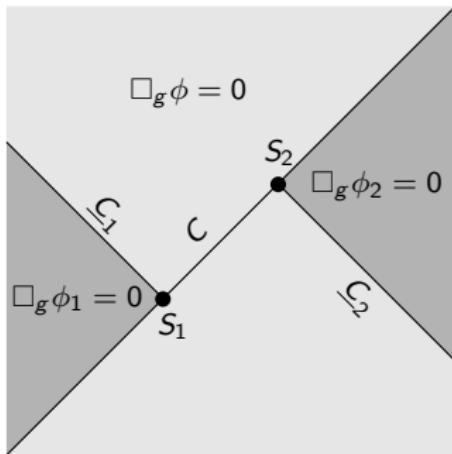
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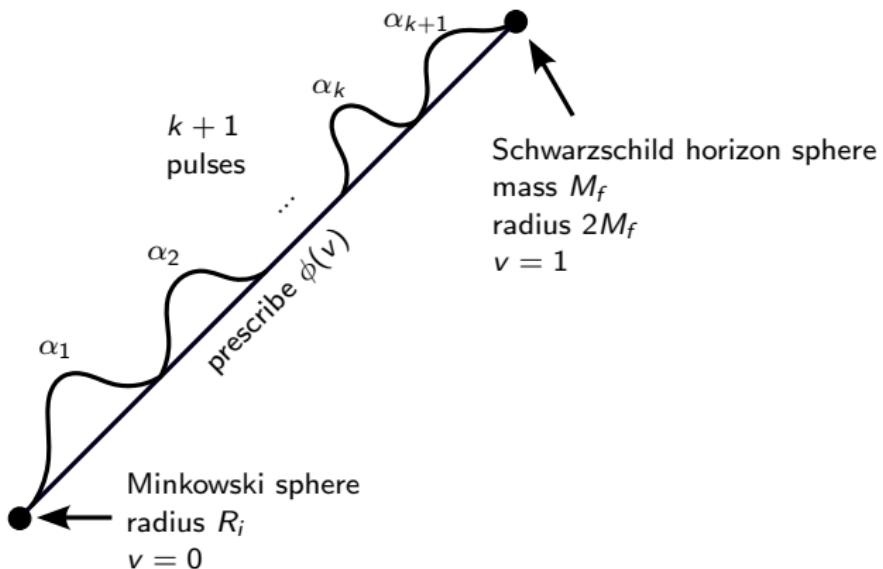
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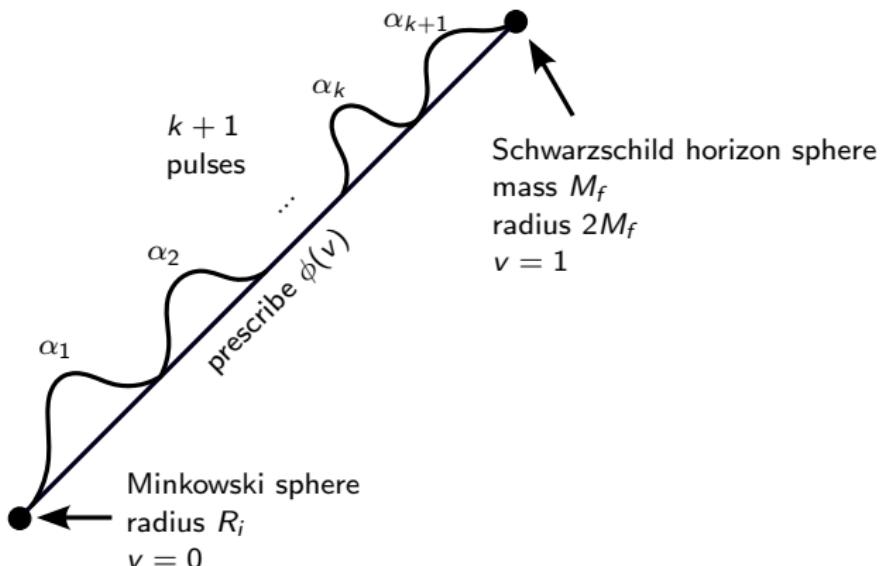
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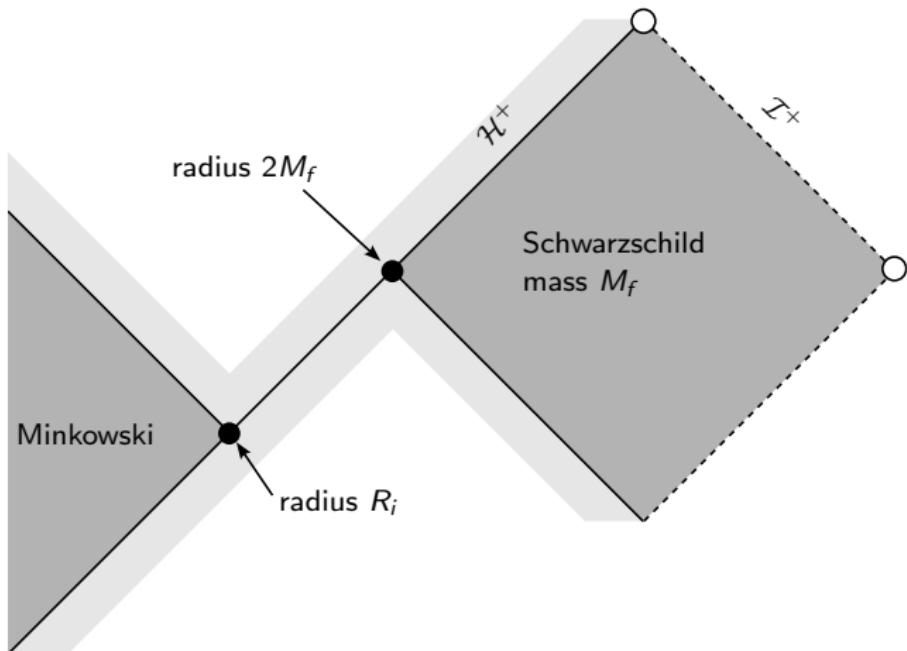
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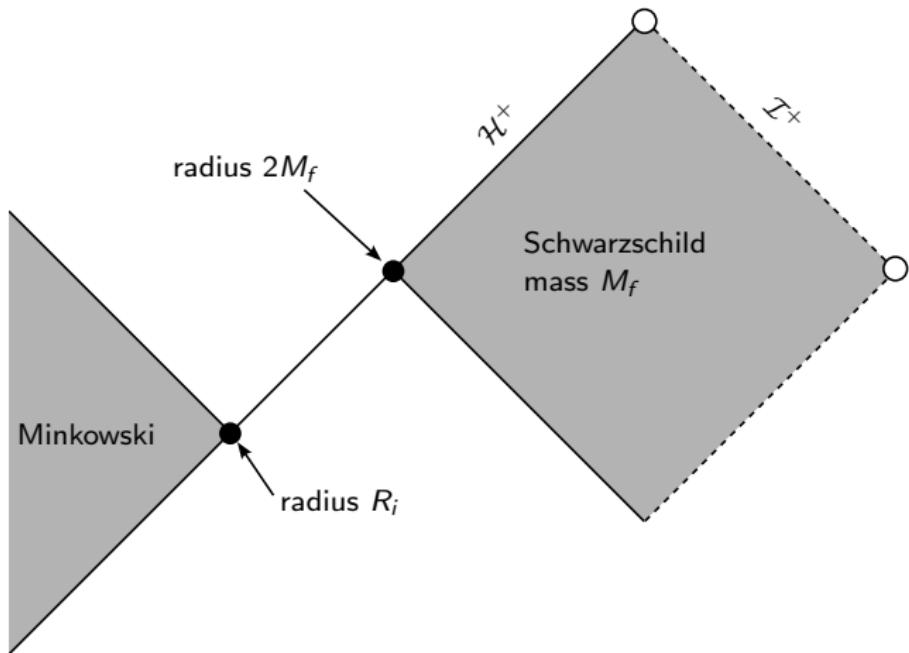


Pulse amplitudes α_j are chosen using the Borsuk–Ulam theorem, making use of the symmetry $\phi \mapsto -\phi$ of the equations.

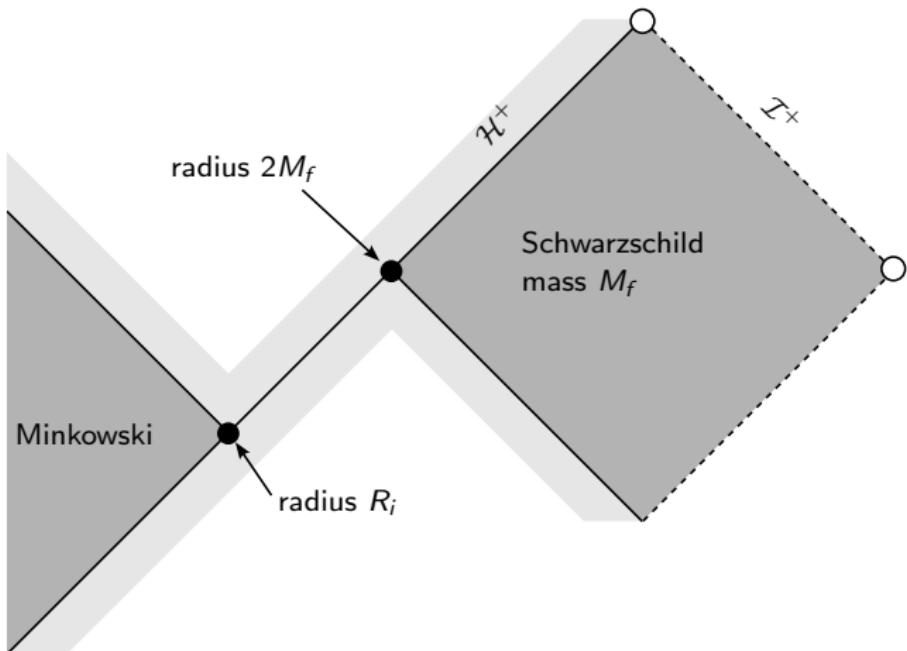
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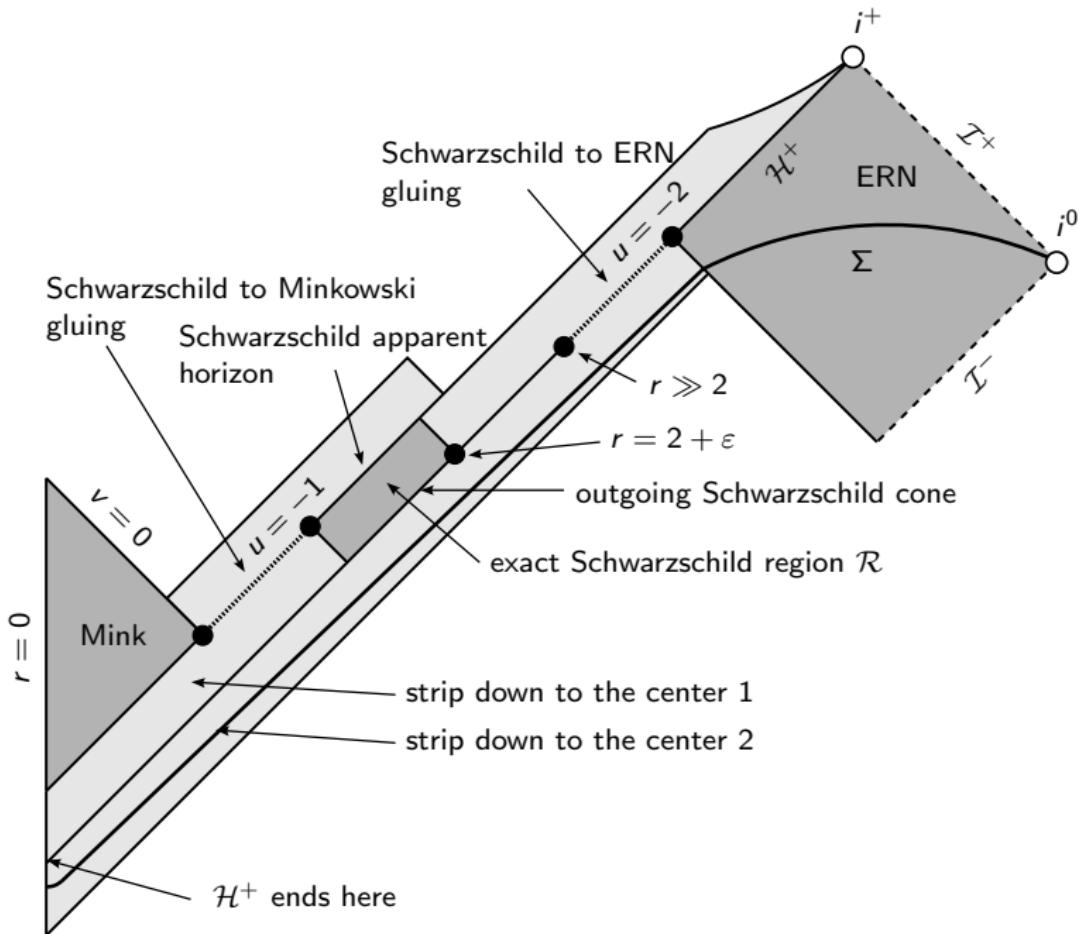
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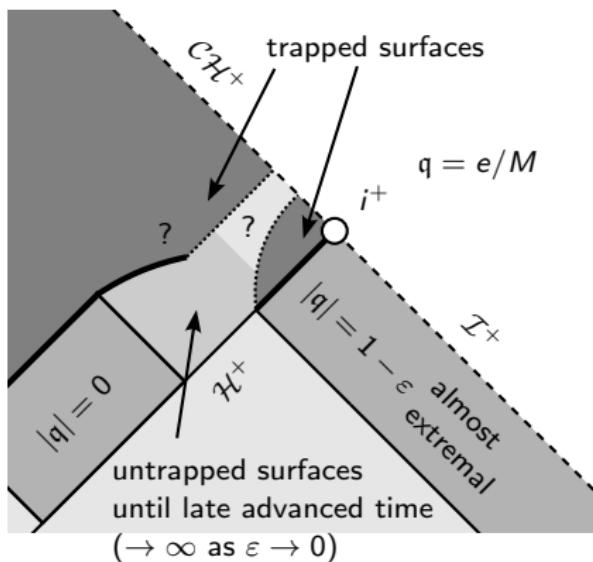
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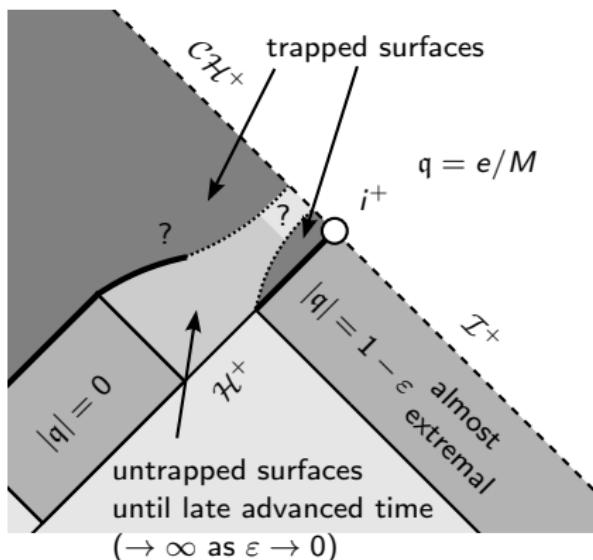
Disproof of the third law



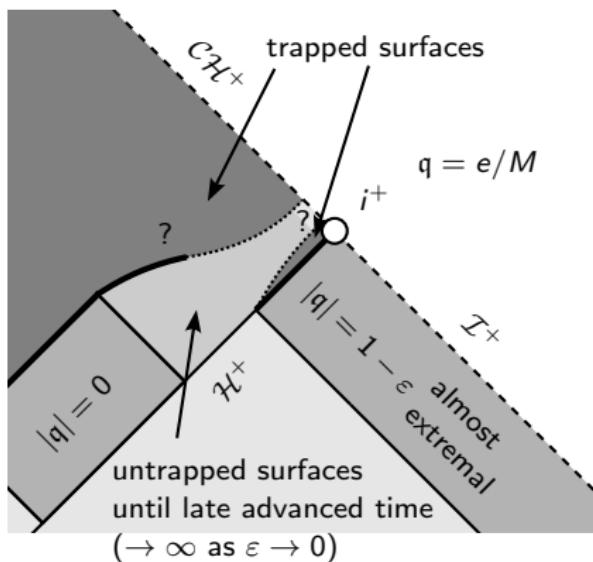
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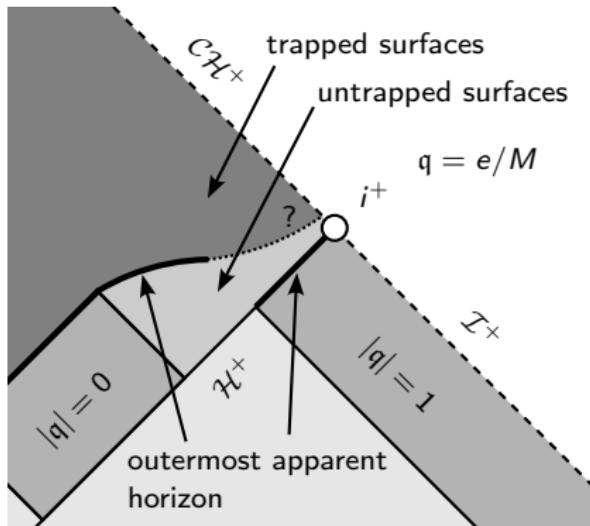
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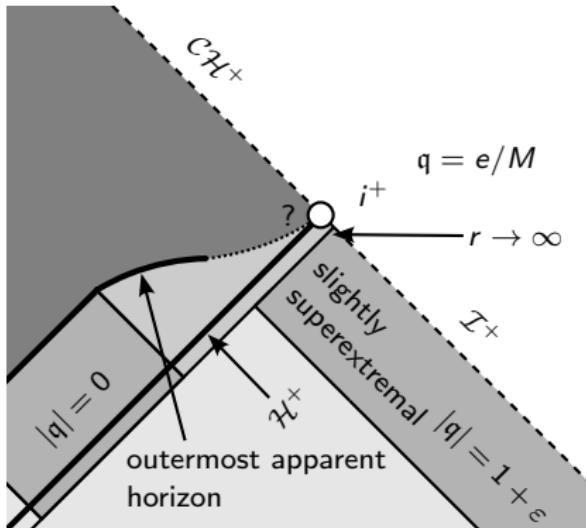
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Critical behavior: We expect that there are smooth 1-parameter families of solutions passing through extremality where the event horizon “jumps” as soon as the exterior becomes superextremal. There is **no naked singularity**.

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