

# Retiring the third law of black hole thermodynamics

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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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Department of Physics, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

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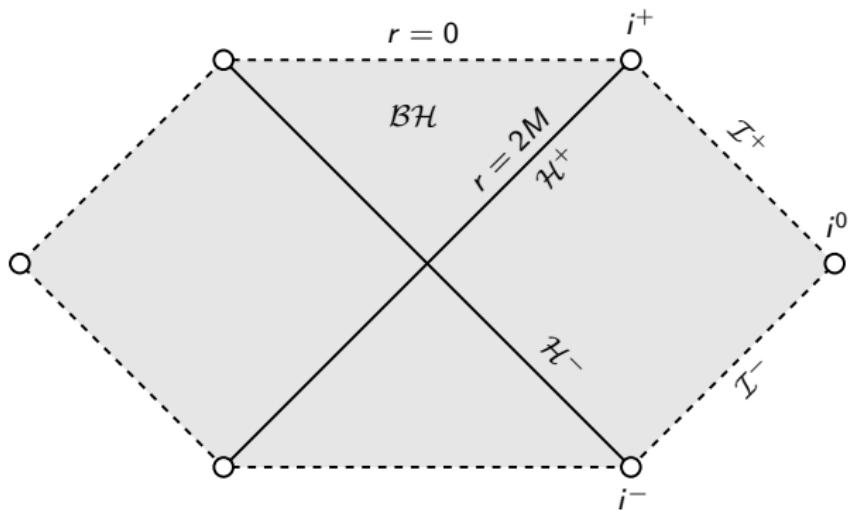
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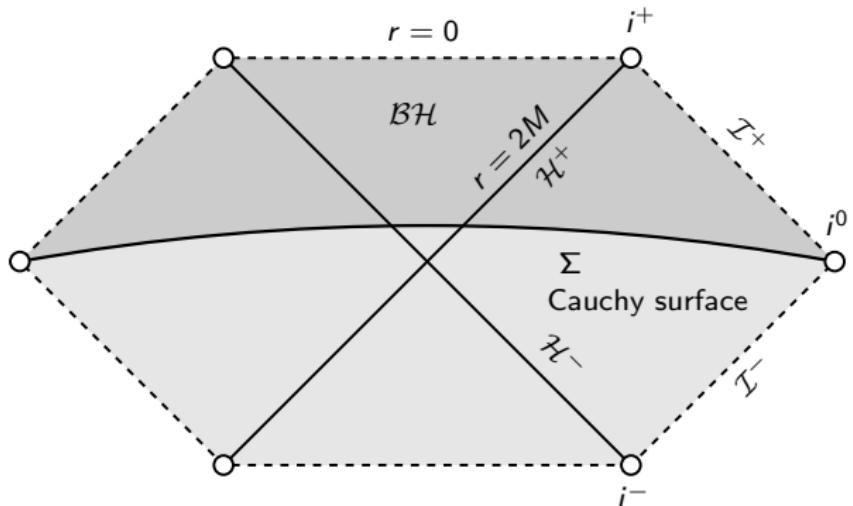
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- ▶ Laws 0, 1, and 2 proved by Hawking, Carter, Bardeen–Carter–Hawking, Wald, ...

# Refresher on Schwarzschild

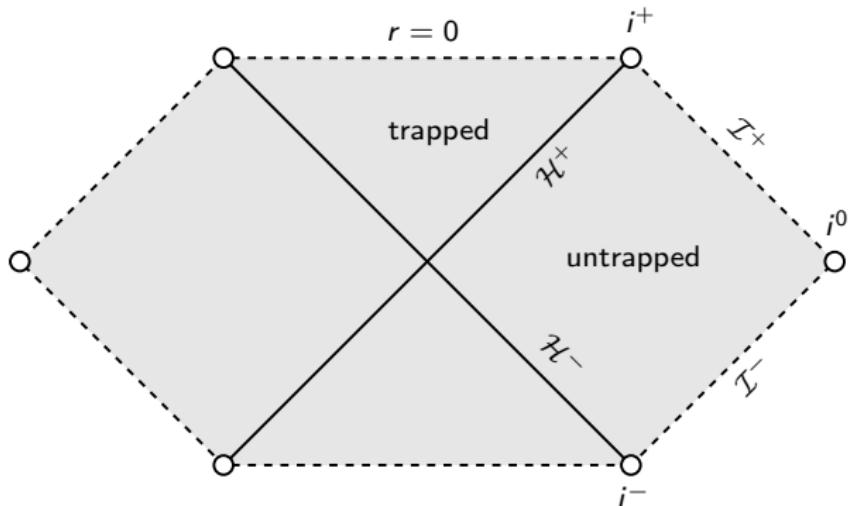


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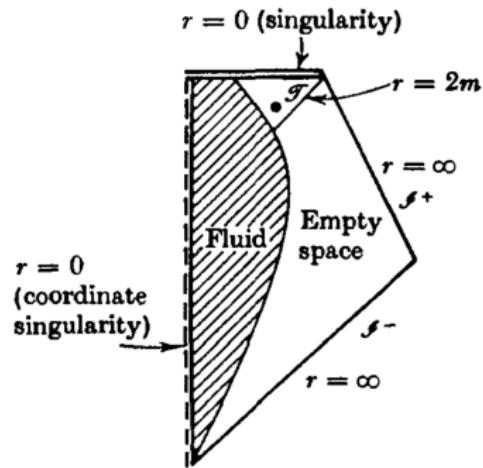
Maximally extended Schwarzschild is the unique maximal Cauchy development of the data induced on a spacelike hypersurface  $\Sigma$  as depicted here.

## Refresher on Schwarzschild



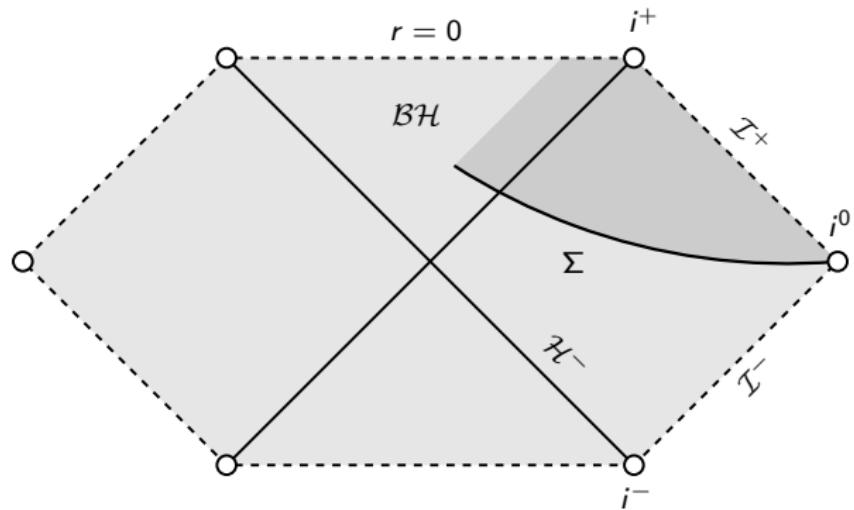
The black hole interior is foliated by **trapped surfaces** (both future null expansions negative).

## Refresher on gravitational collapse

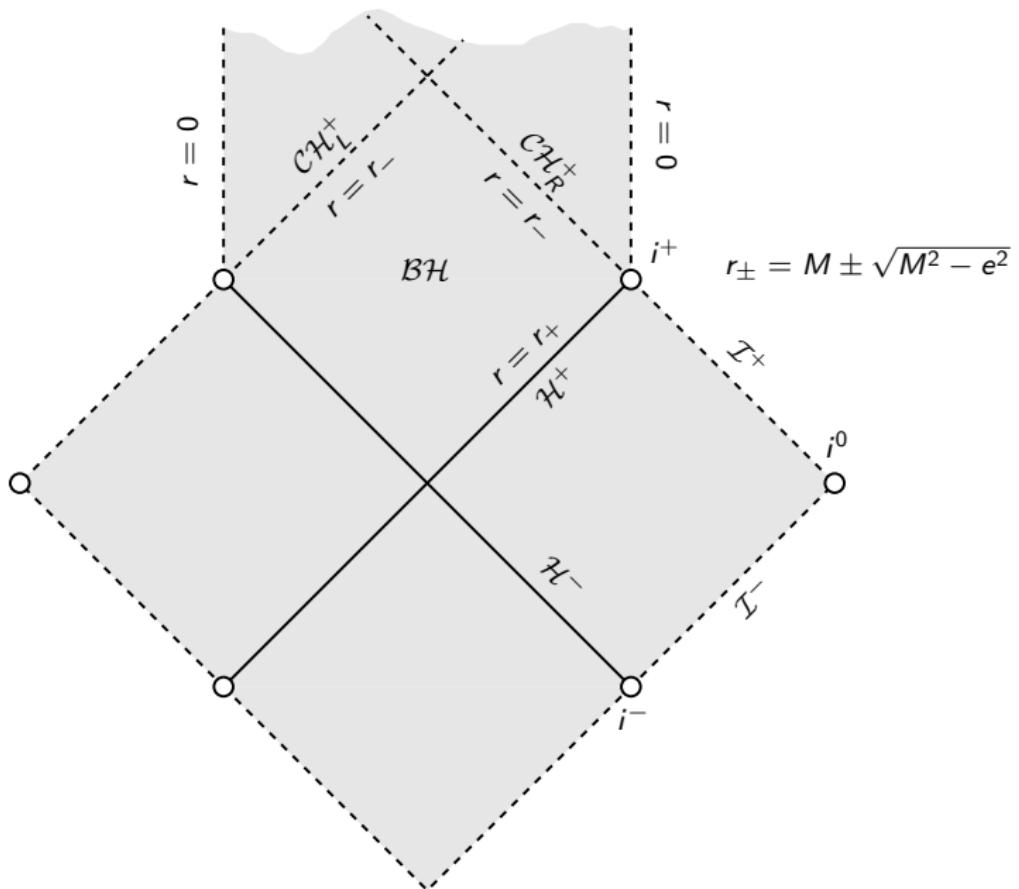


Penrose diagram of gravitational collapse. One-ended Cauchy data!

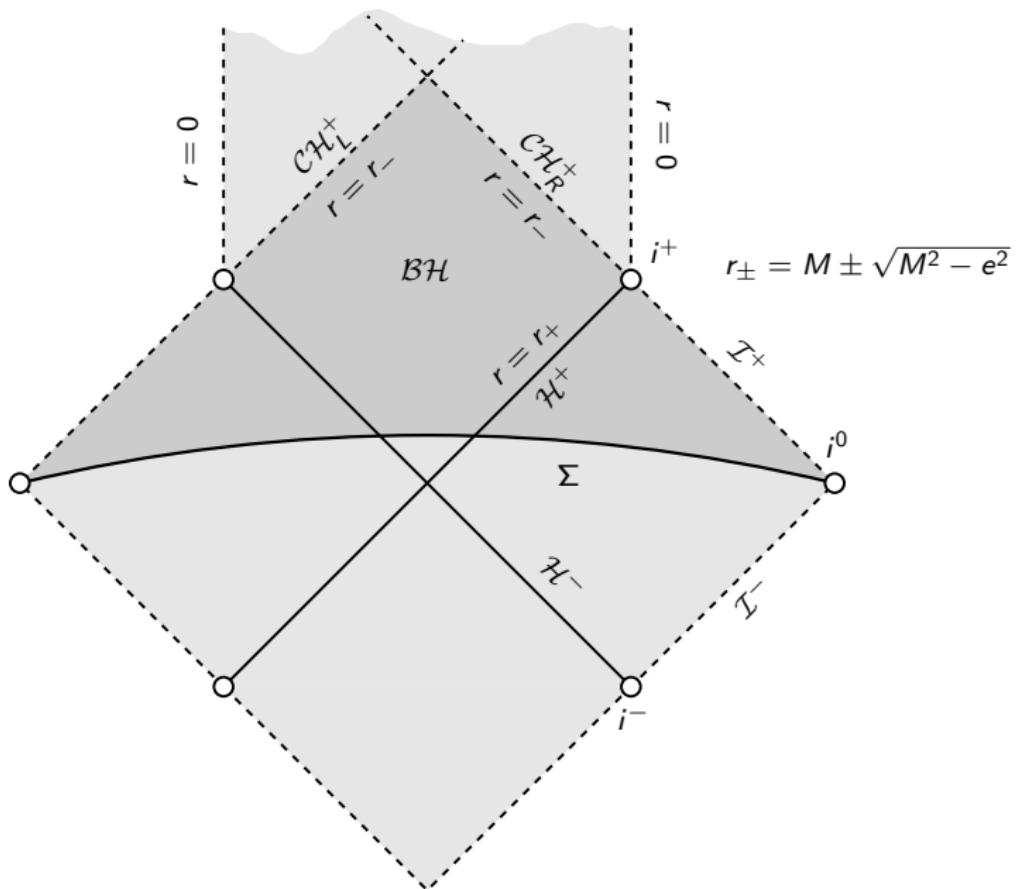
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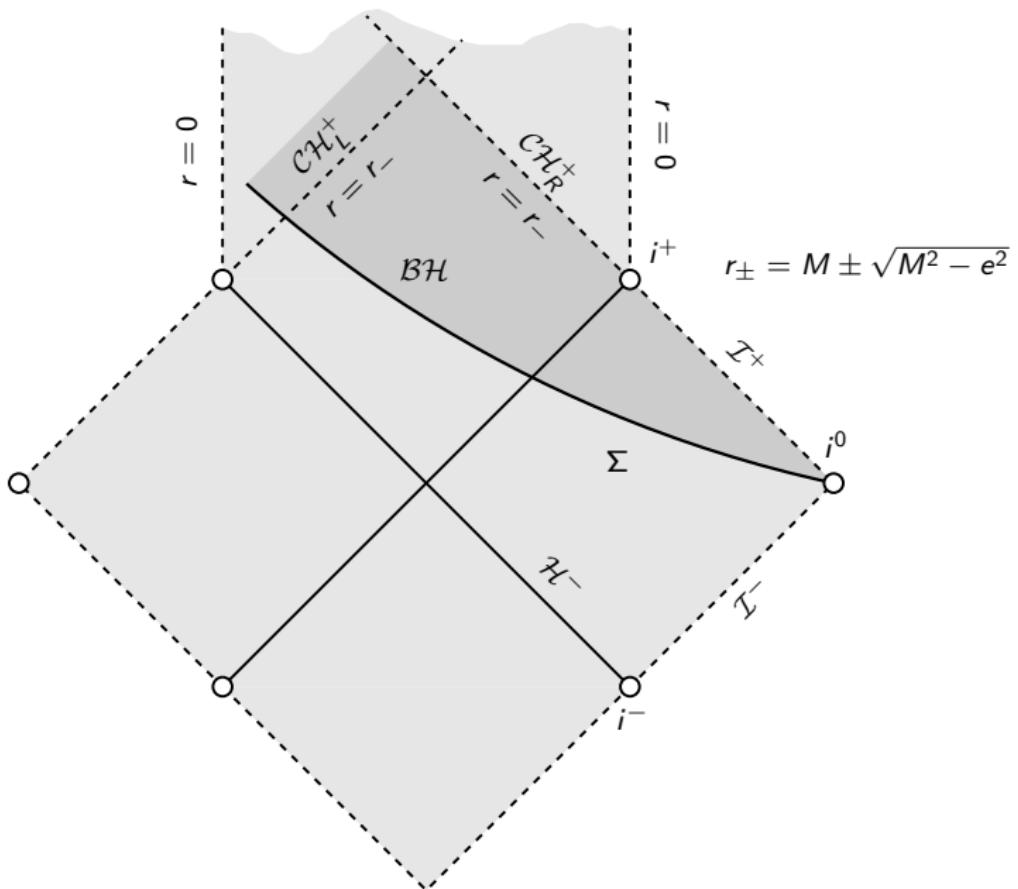
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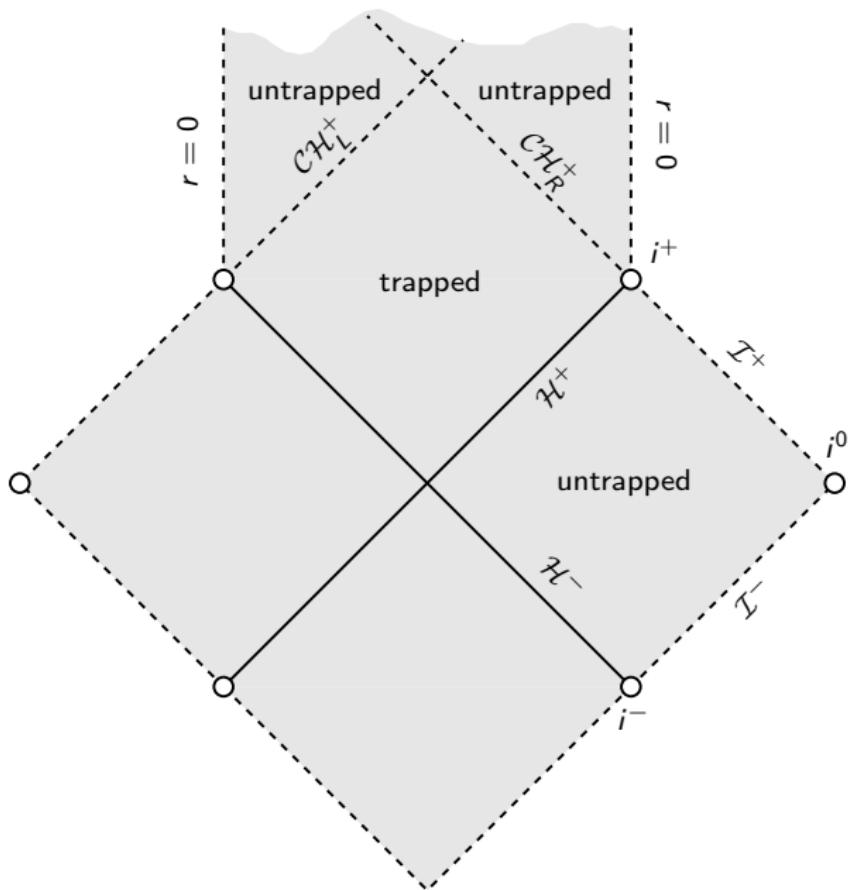
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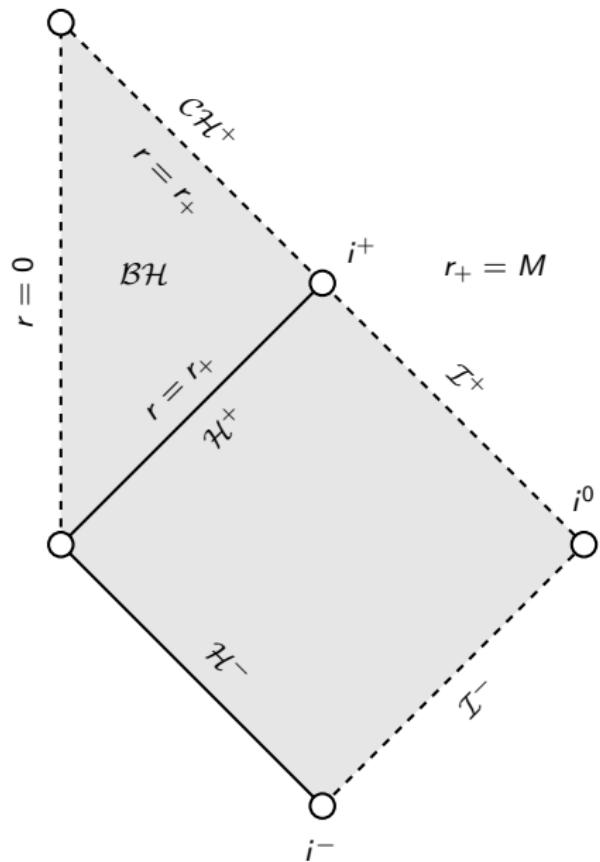
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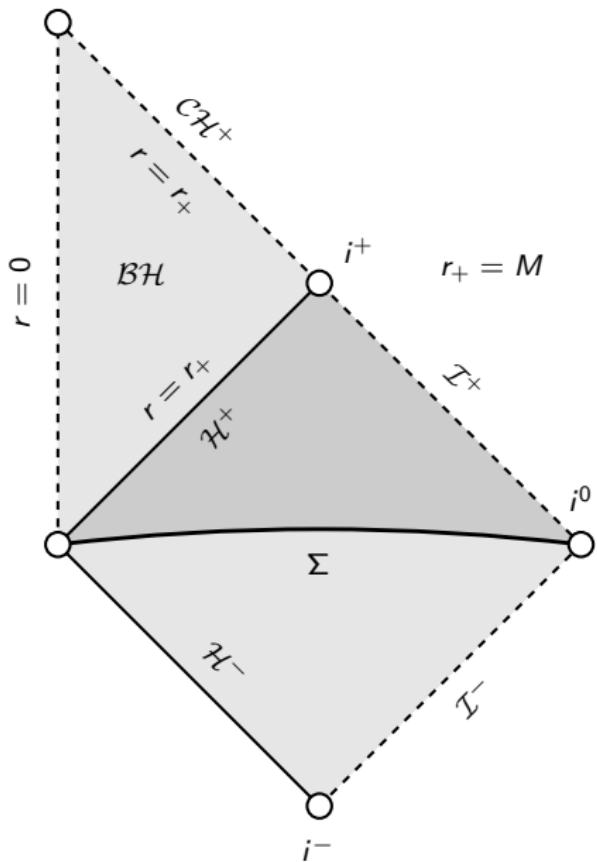
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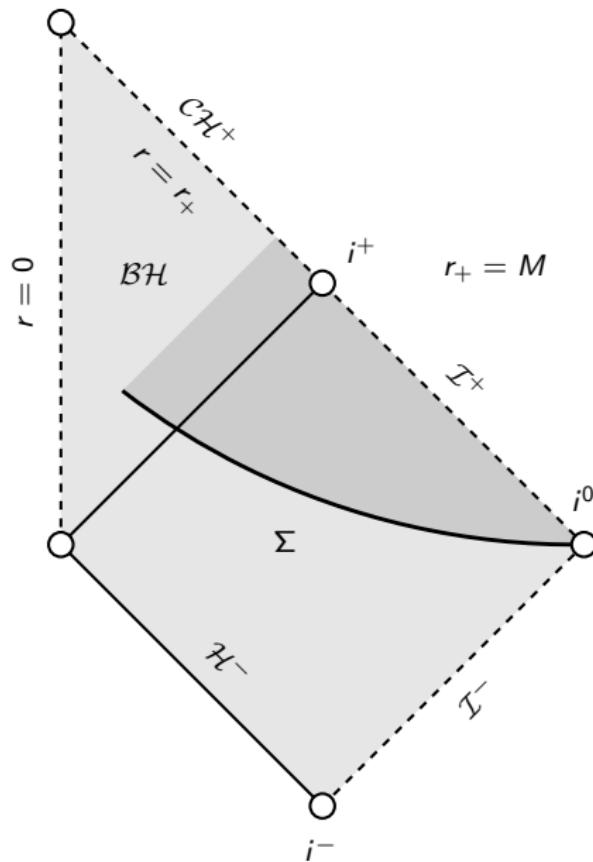
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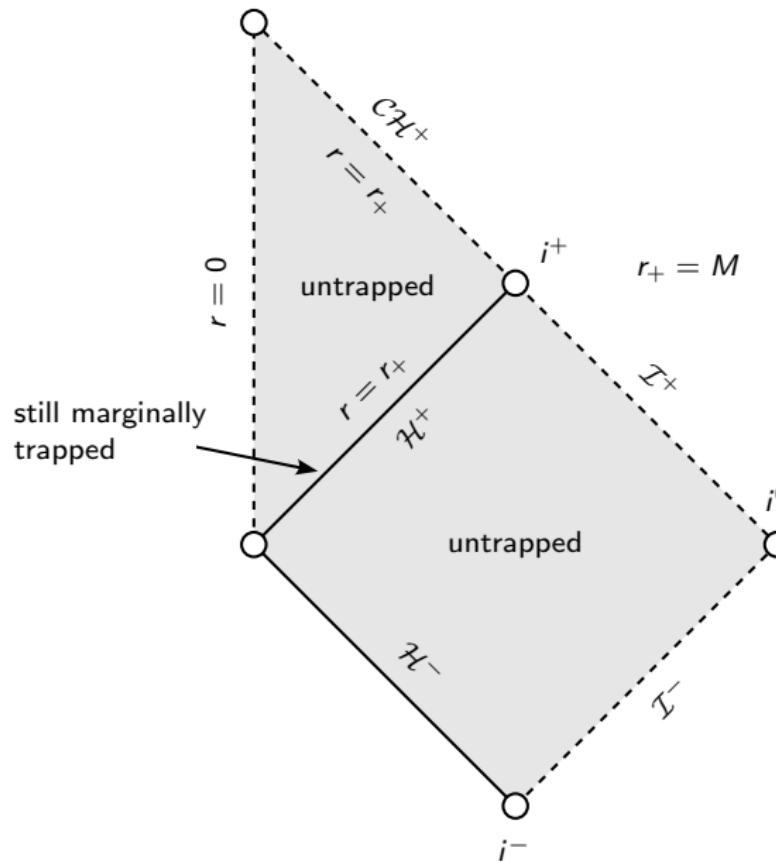
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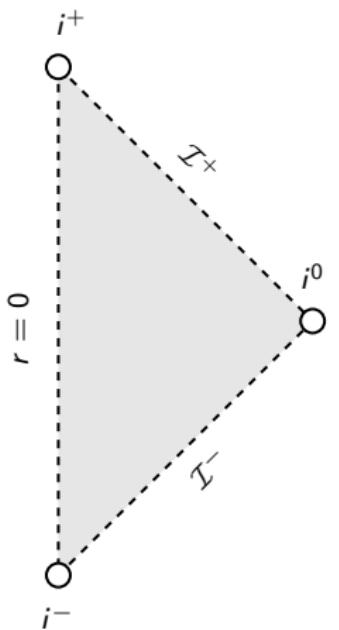
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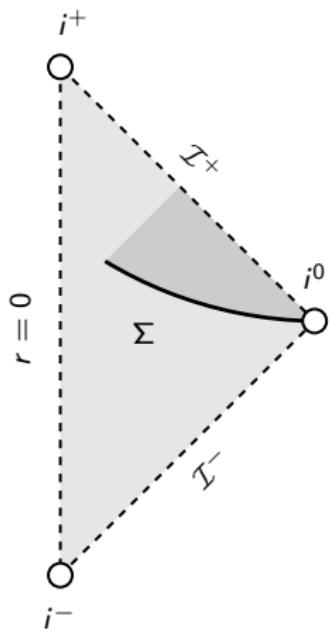
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## Surface gravity of Reissner–Nordström

- 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  $\kappa$  to zero by a finite sequence of operations.

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  - ▶ This parenthetical remark is related to the “mistake” in Israel’s paper and we will discuss it later.

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### **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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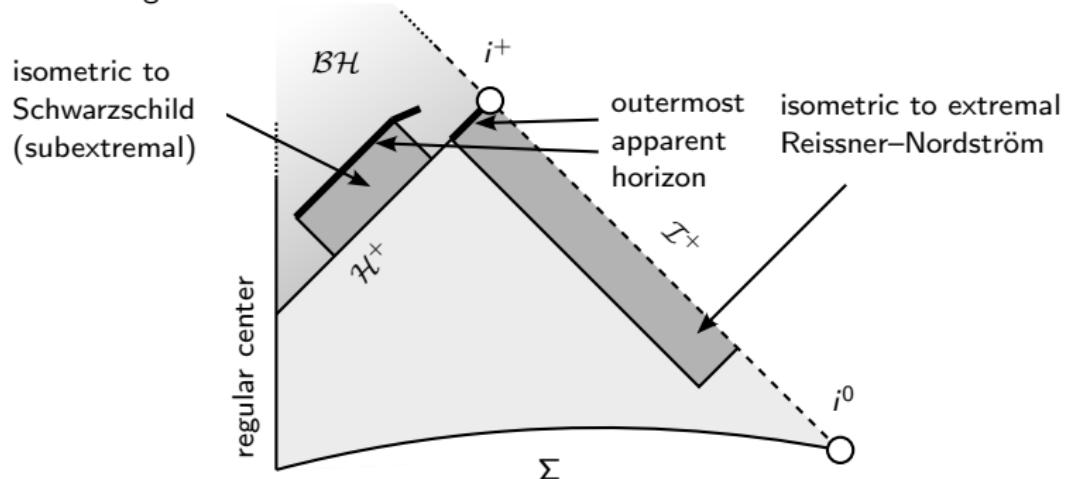
### **Theorem (Kehle–U. '22).**

*Subextremal black holes can become extremal in finite time, evolving from regular initial data. In particular, the “third law of black hole thermodynamics” is false.*

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

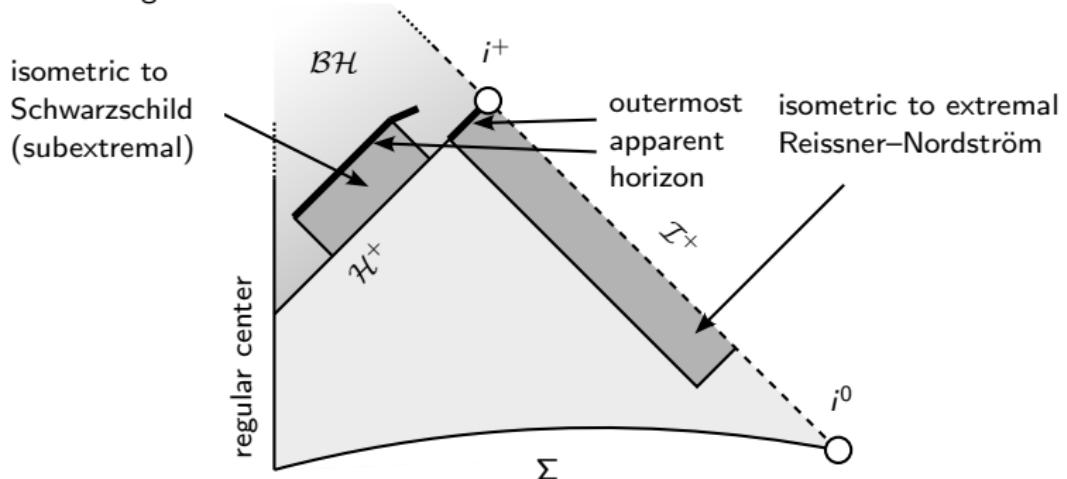
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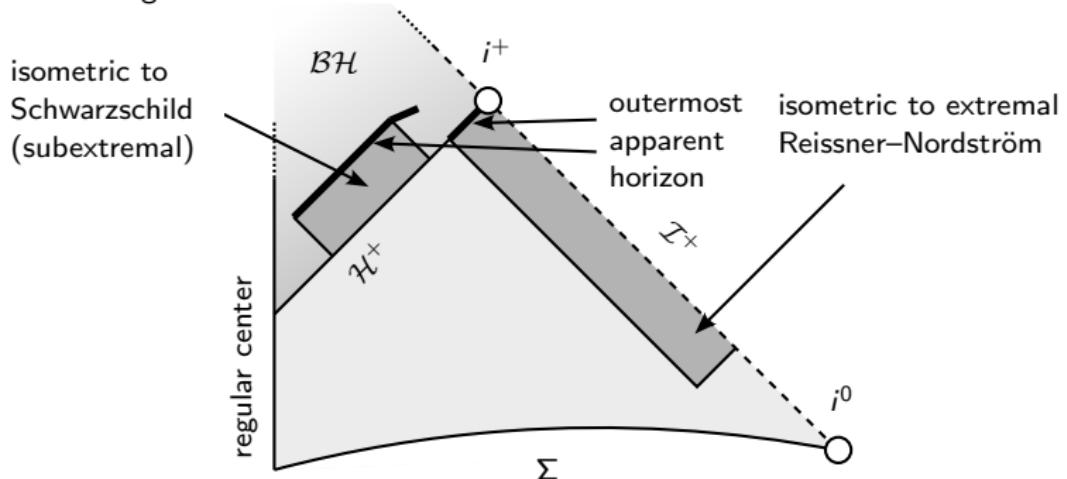
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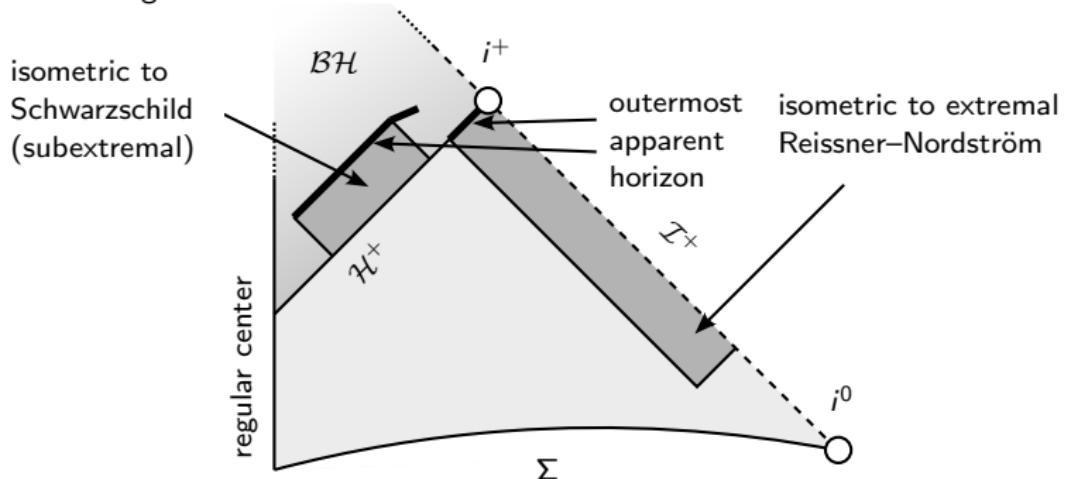
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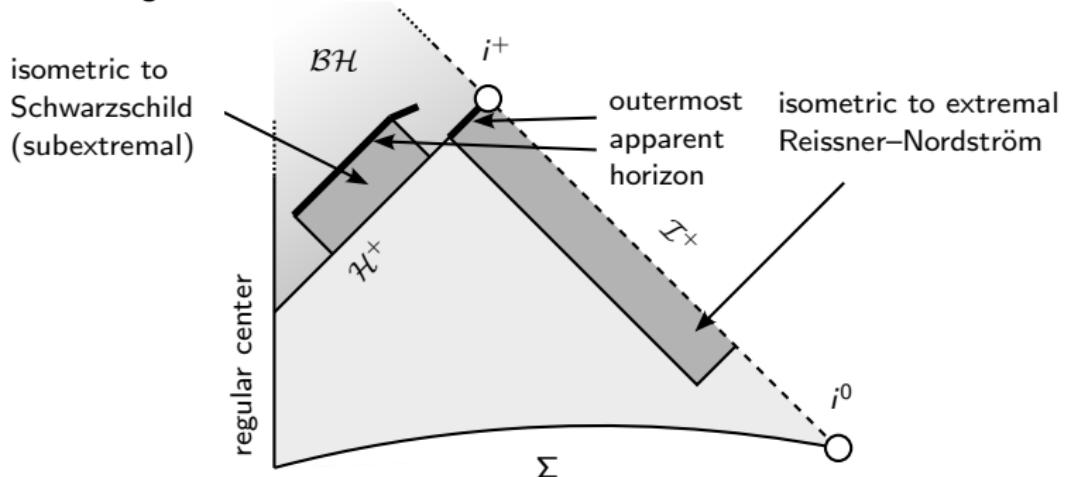
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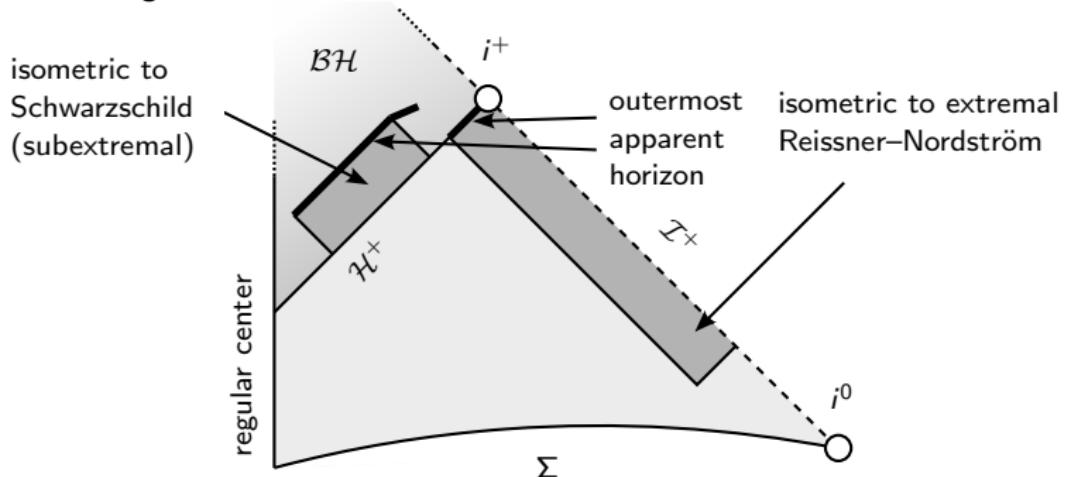
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- ▶ Model satisfies the dominant energy condition.

## Einstein–Maxwell-charged scalar field system

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

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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  $(g, F, \phi)$ .
- ▶ Spherical symmetry,  $\phi$  degree of freedom breaks rigidity from Birkhoff.

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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.

Infractons can result from the absorption of infinitesimally thin, massive shells,<sup>5</sup> which force the apparent horizon to jump outward discontinuously

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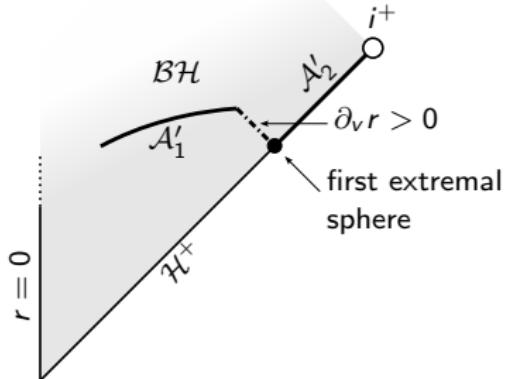
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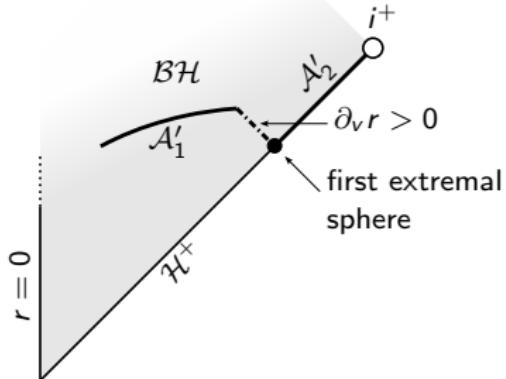
- ▶ Under this implicit assumption, Israel concluded the third law to be true on the basis of Raychaudhuri's equation.

## Israel's paper reinterpreted



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

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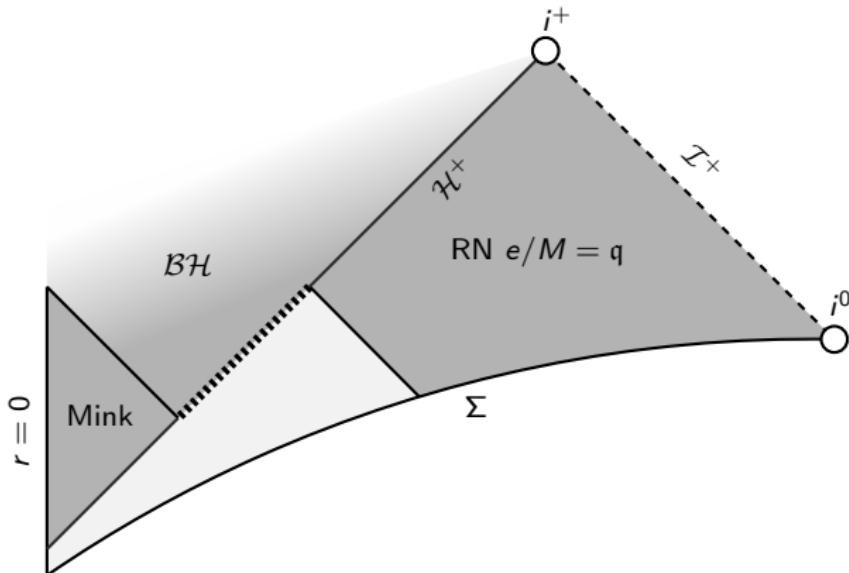
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However, this is a feature, not a glitch!

## Gravitational collapse for any charge to mass ratio

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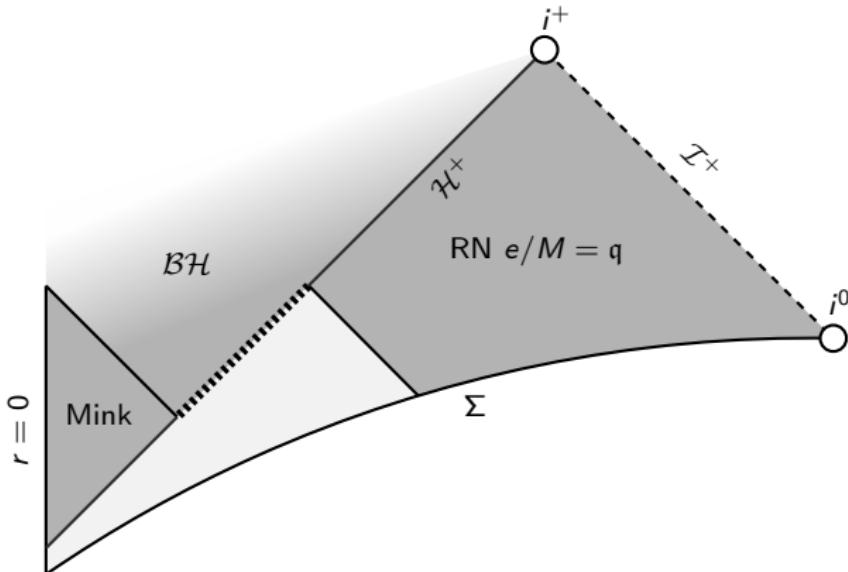
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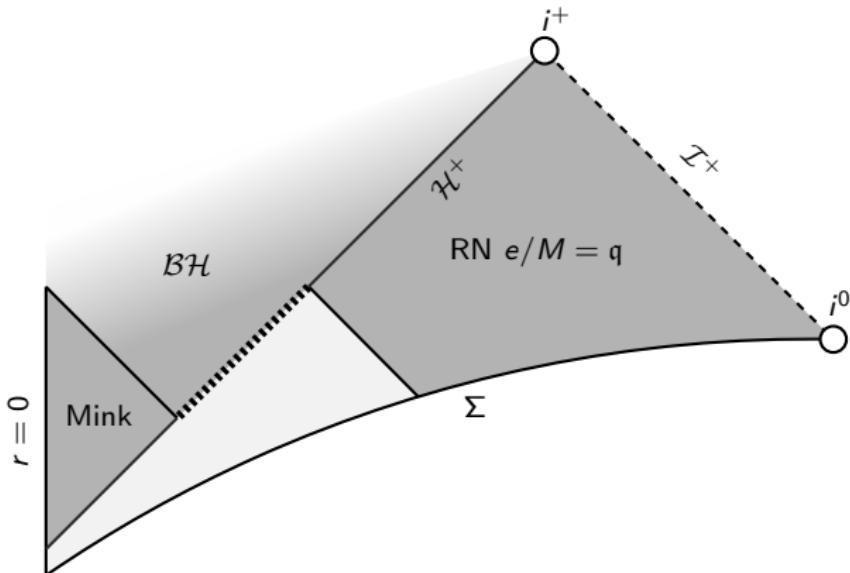


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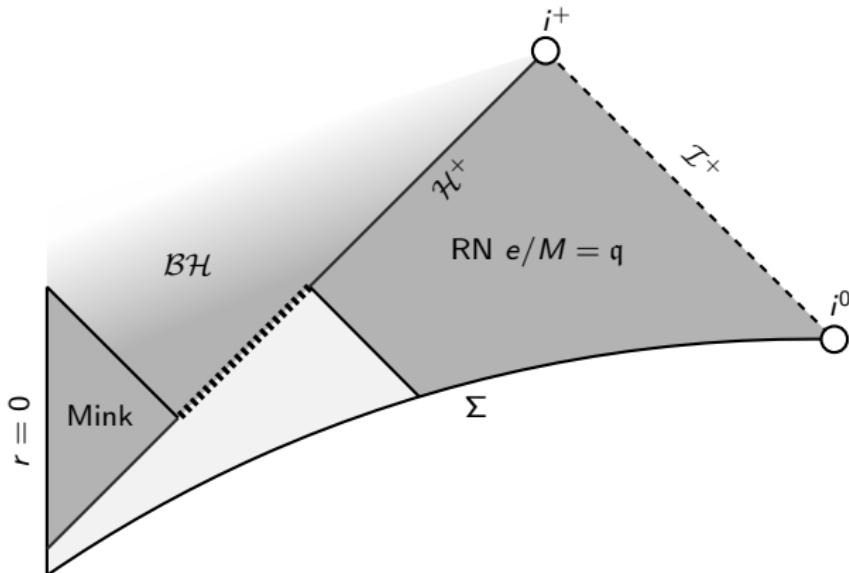


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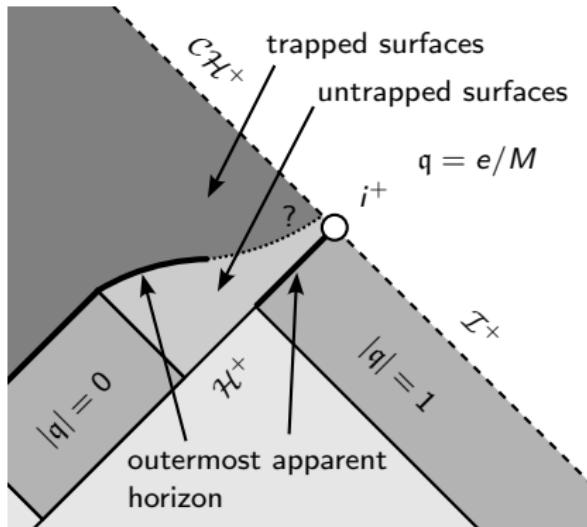
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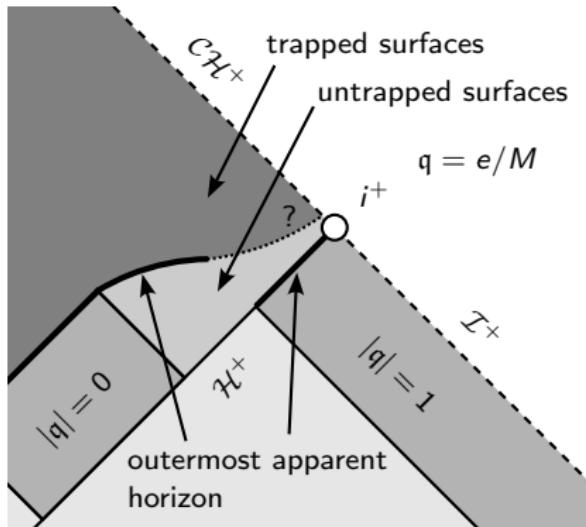


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## Interior structure of third law violating solutions

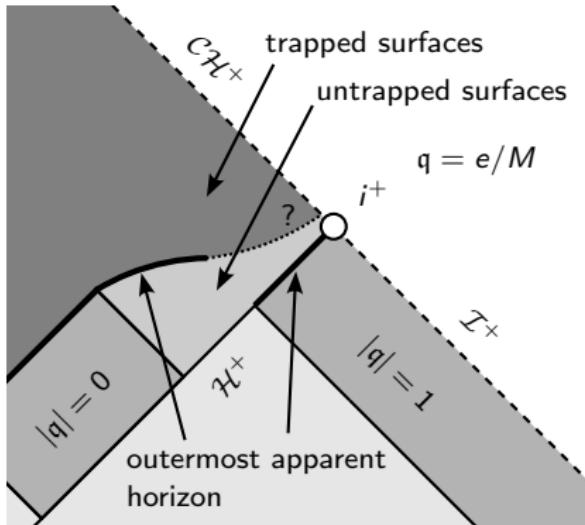


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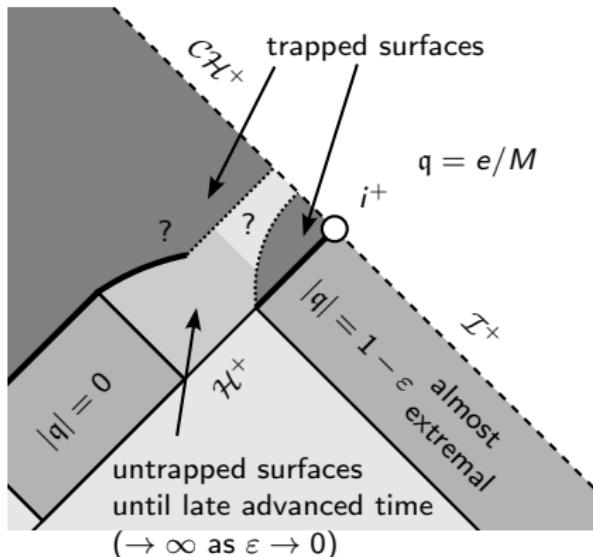
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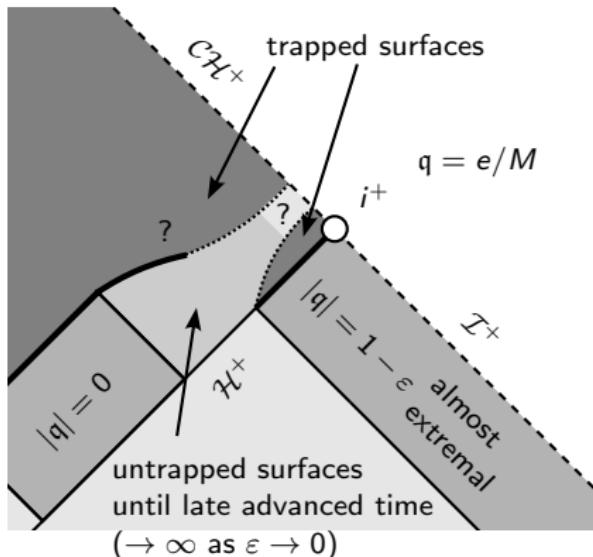
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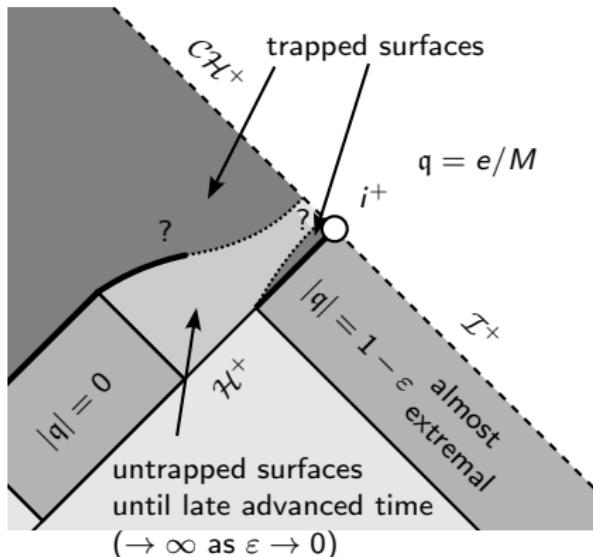
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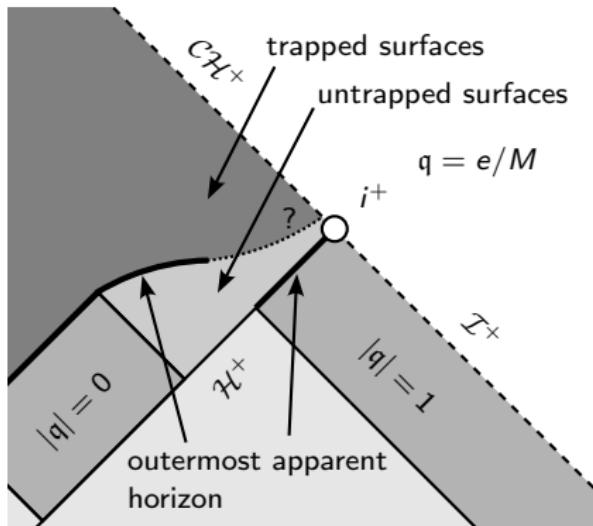
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## On the (non)genericity of our examples

### *The Third Law*

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## The third law and supercharging

Bardeen–Carter–Hawking:

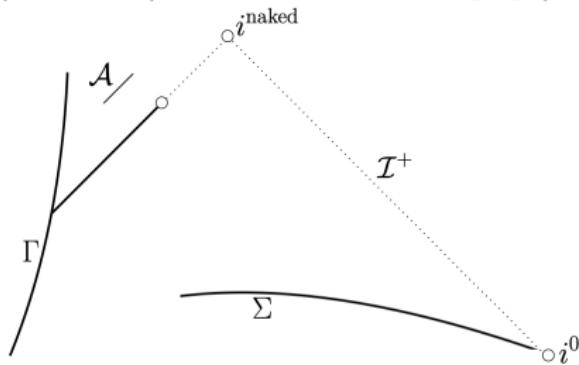
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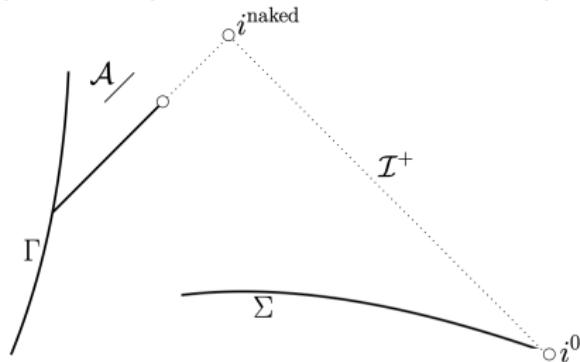


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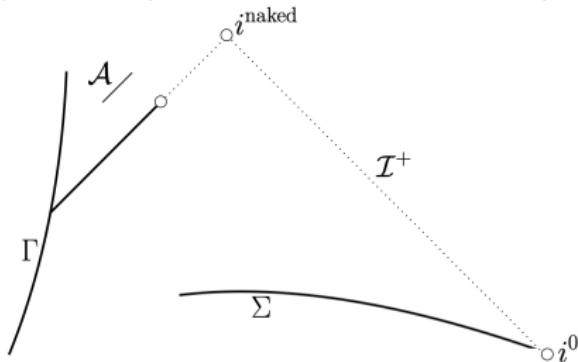
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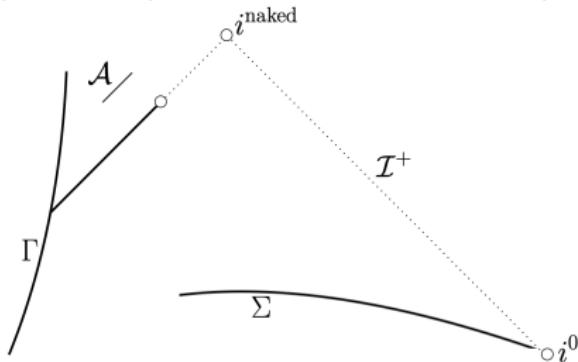
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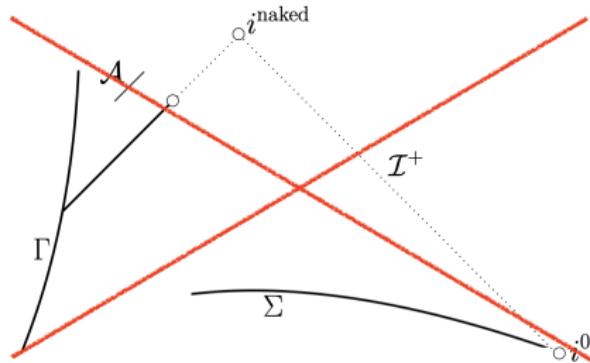
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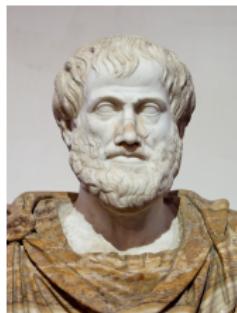
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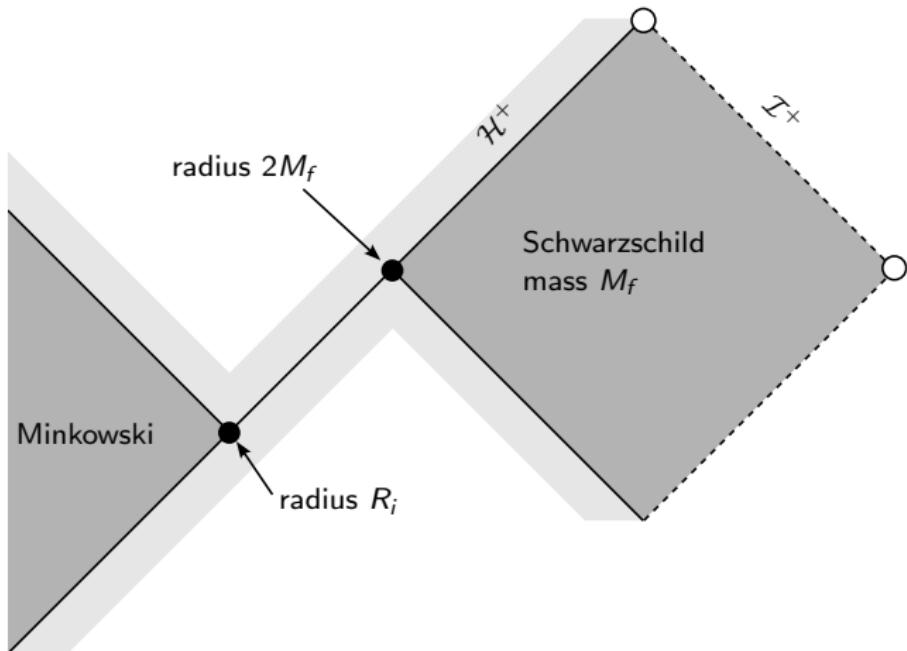
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The black hole region  $\mathcal{BH}$  and event horizon  $\mathcal{H}^+$  of a spacetime are **teleological** notions—they can't be located *without knowing the entire future of the spacetime*.

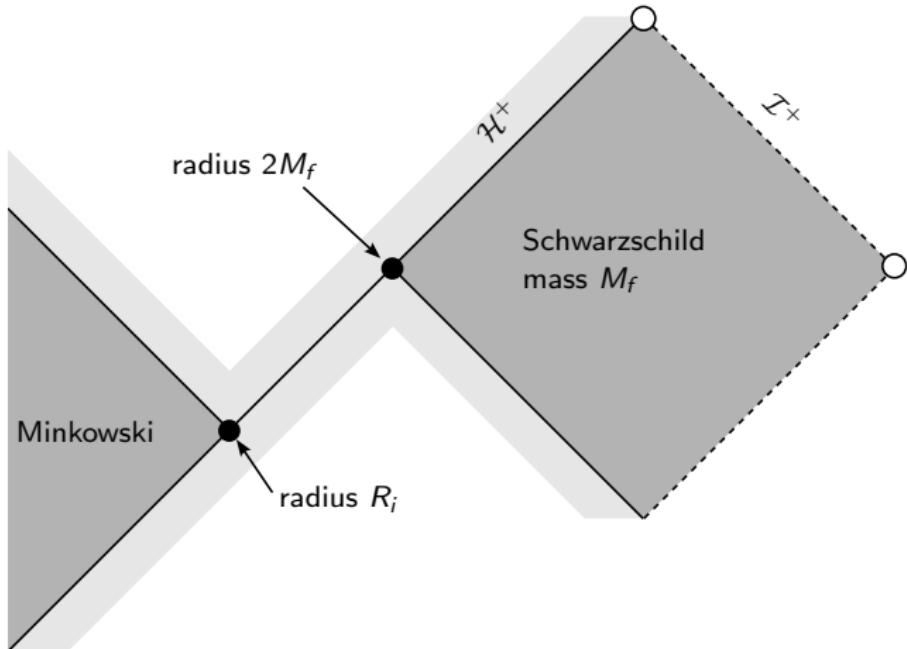
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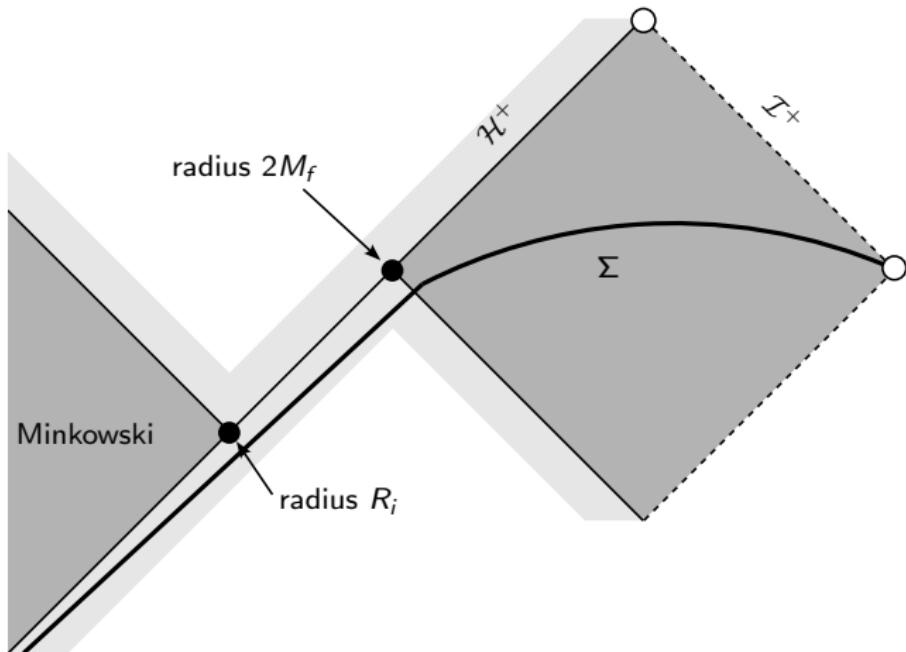
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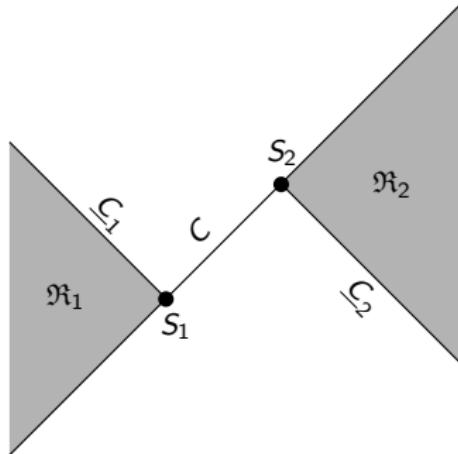
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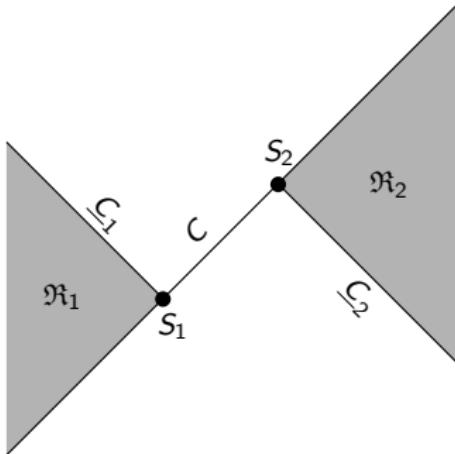


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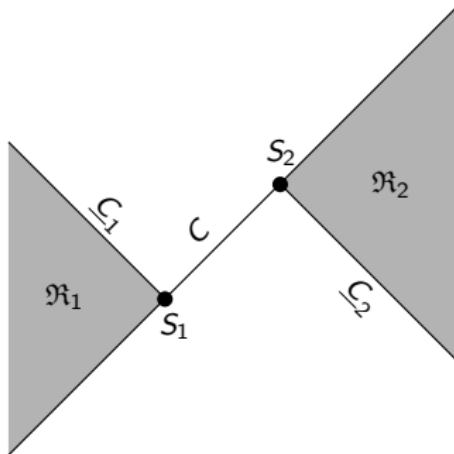


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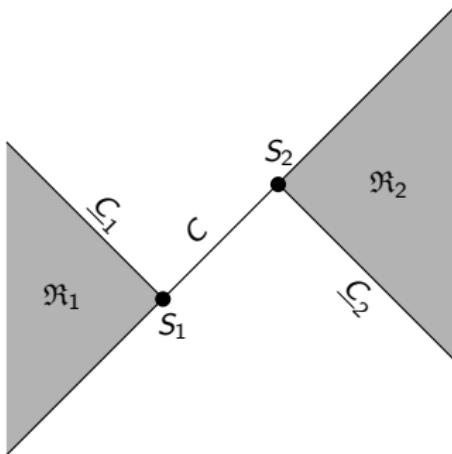
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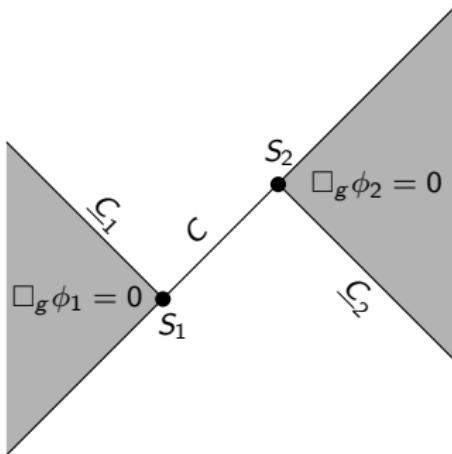
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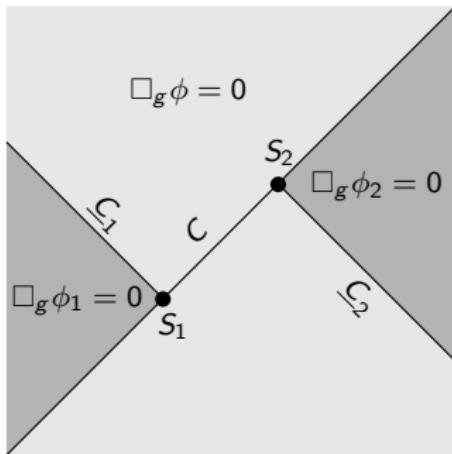
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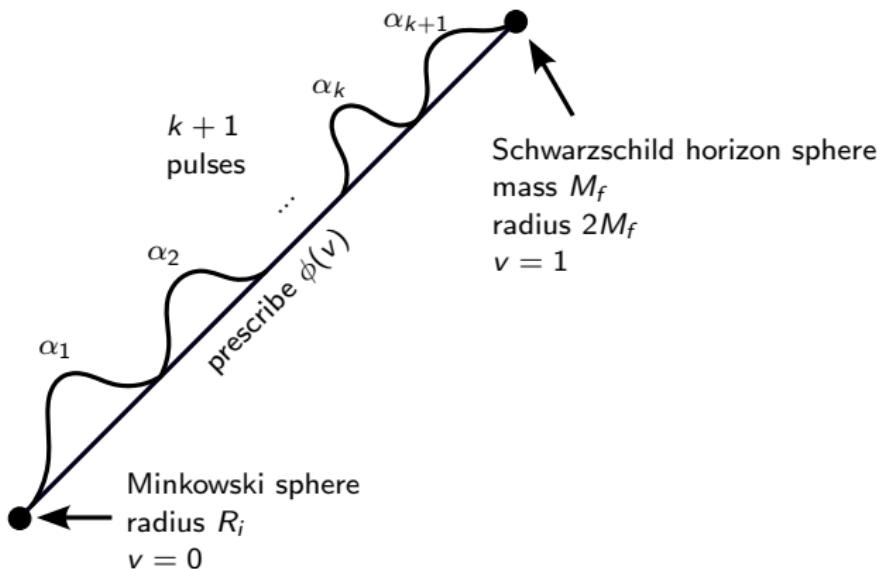
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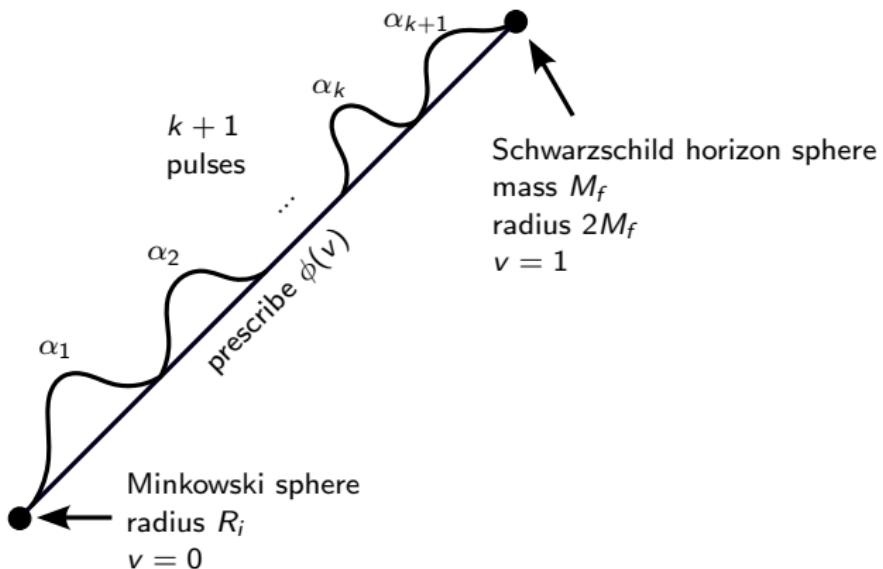
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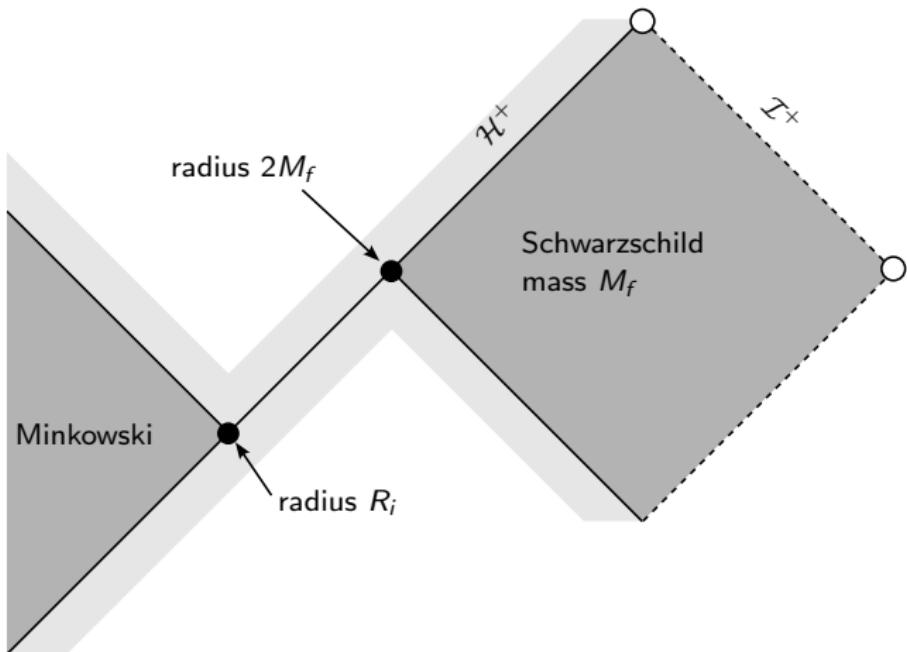
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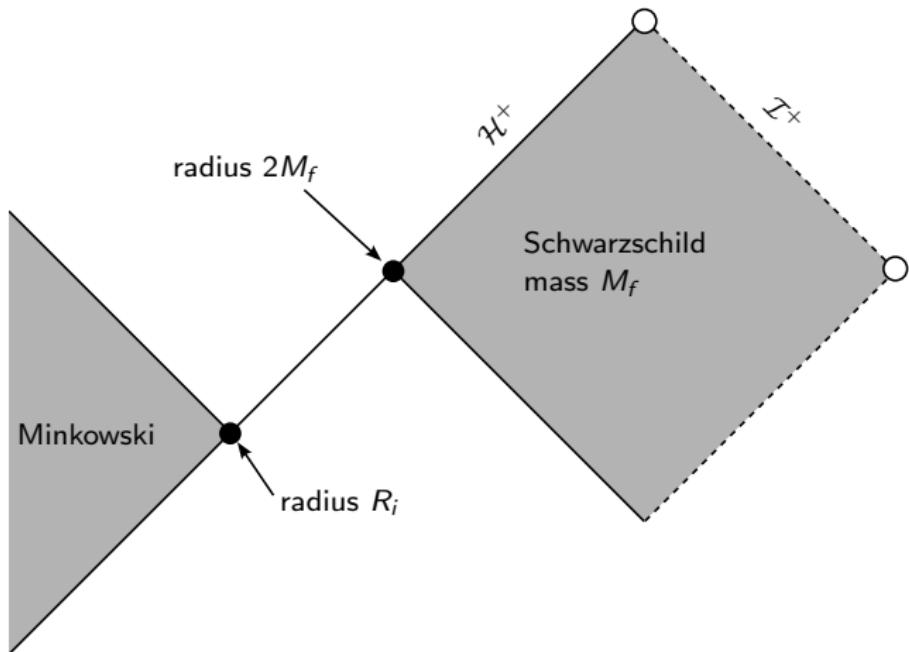


Pulse amplitudes  $\alpha_j$  are chosen using the Borsuk–Ulam theorem, making use of the symmetry  $\phi \mapsto -\phi$  of the equations.

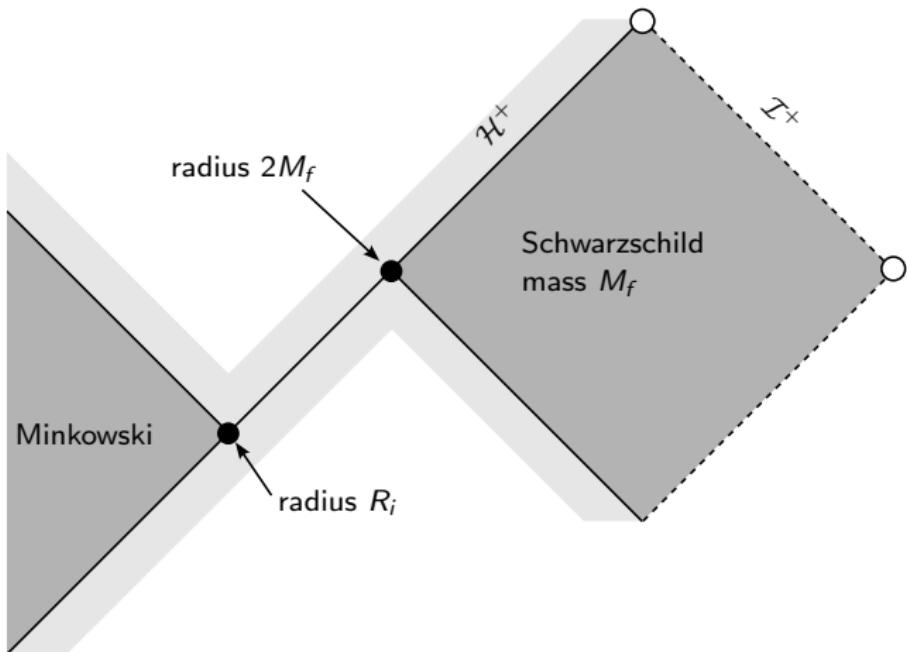
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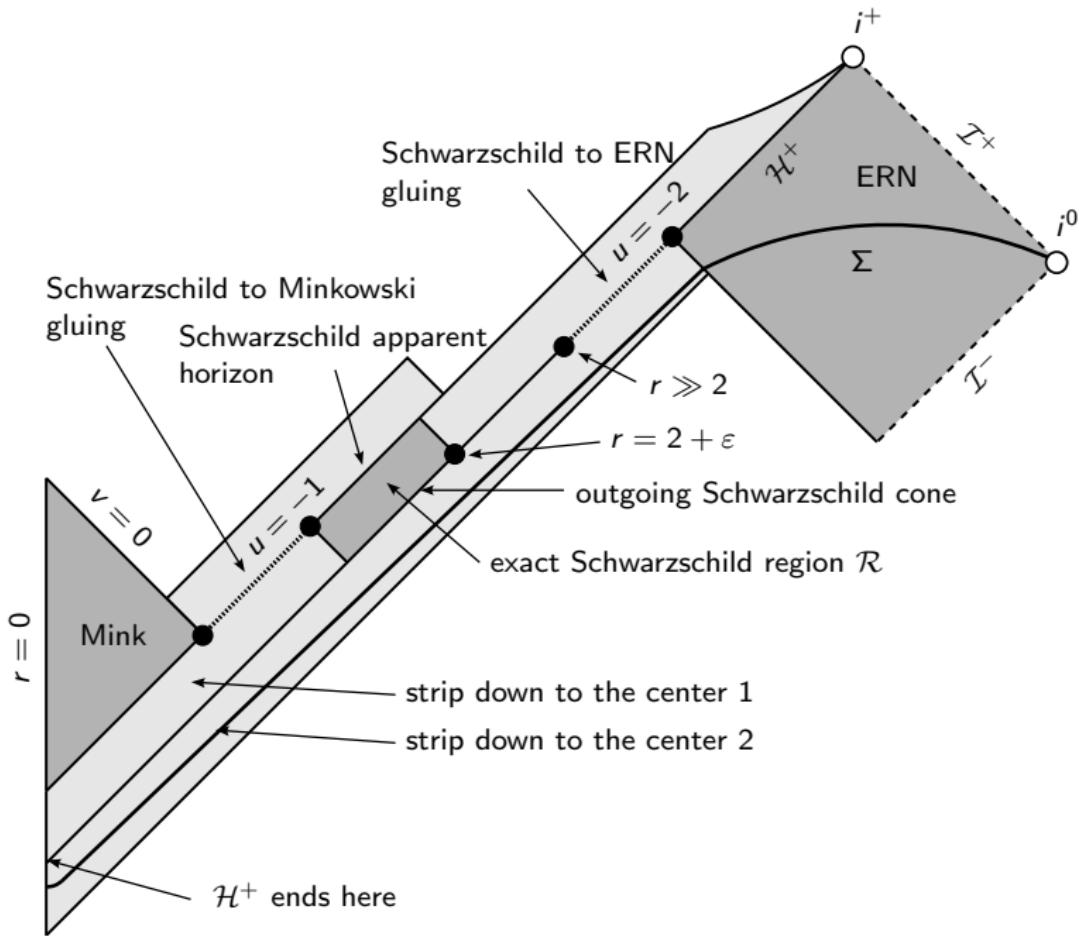
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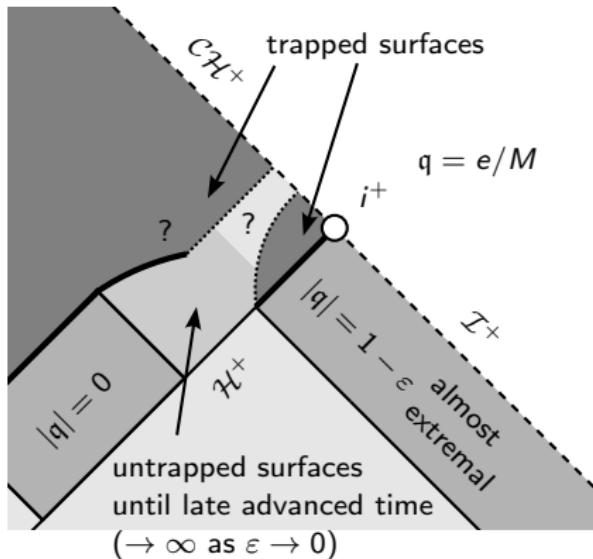
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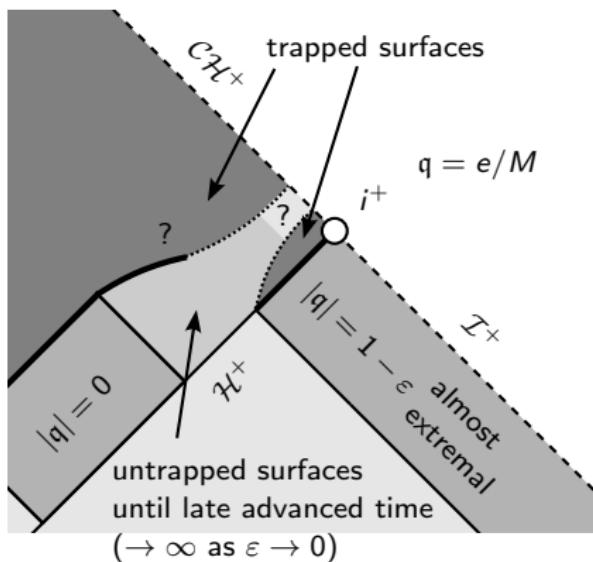
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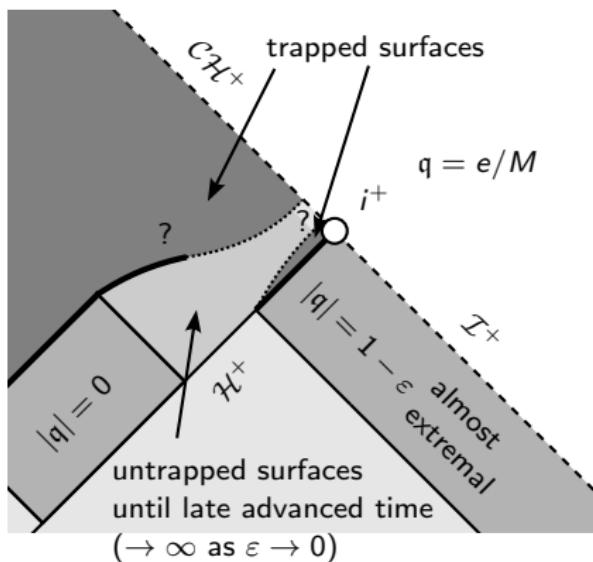
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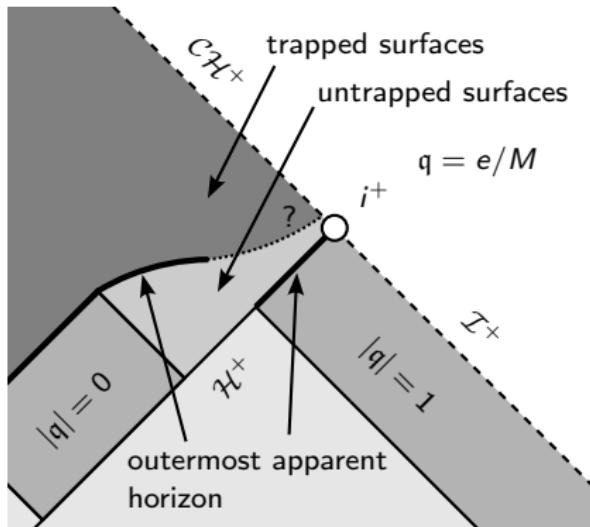
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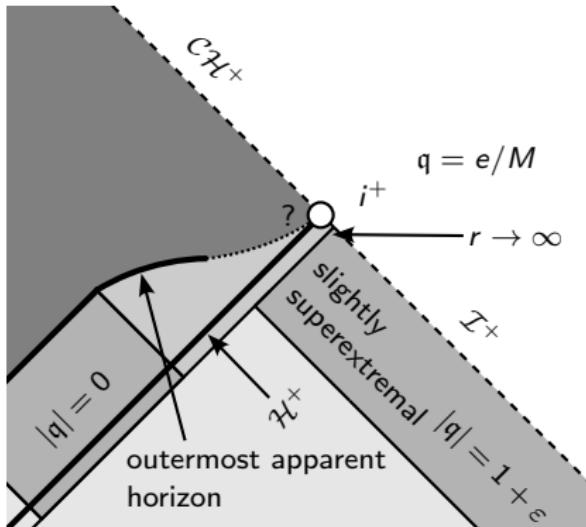
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**Critical behavior:** We expect that there are smooth 1-parameter families of solutions passing through extremality where the event horizon “jumps” as soon as the exterior becomes superextremal. There is **no naked singularity**.

## The vacuum case

We believe that the charged scalar field is not necessary to provide a counterexample to the third law:

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*Thank you!*