

Black Hole Geometry and Evolution:

the stability operator and
bifurcation theory

DBHM & GWG, Trieste

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Also: R.Hennigar, Hari Kunduri, Sarah Muth, Lucy Newhook,
Saikat Mondal, Daniel Pook-Kolb, Billy Sievers (Chan)

Physics Questions

- During a merger what happens to the original black holes?
- What else happens inside after the final apparent horizon forms?
- More specifically: Do black holes end? How?
- What does this question even mean?

How do black holes end?

How do

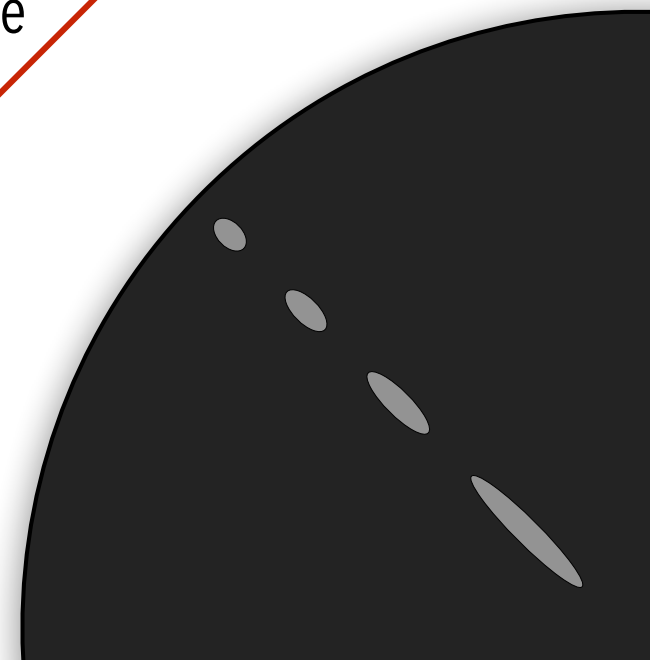
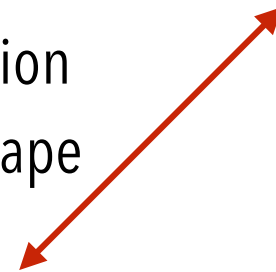
black holes

end?

Should be:

- i. gravitationally bound region
from which light can't escape
- ~~ii. distinguishable from
surrounding spacetime~~

• no longer distinct



How do black holes end?

How do

black holes

end?

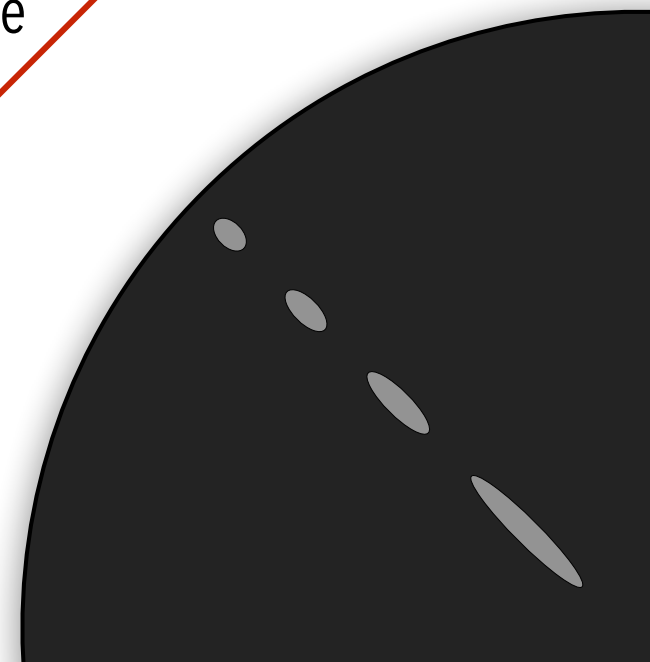
- “external fields”
become so strong
that the BH can no
longer be distinguished

Should be:

- gravitationally bound region
from which light can't escape
- ~~distinguishable from
surrounding spacetime~~

- no longer distinct

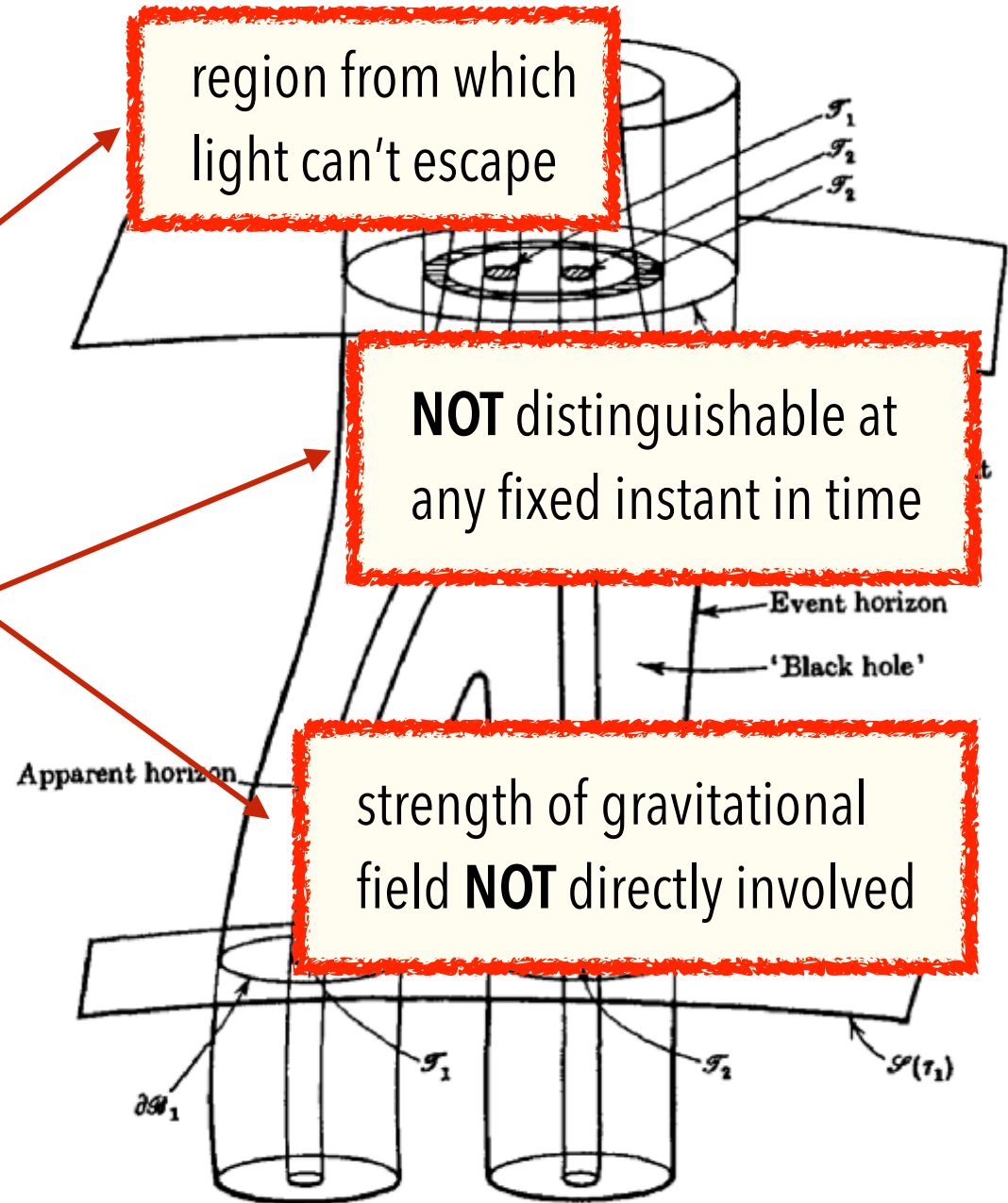
“Dissolved”



Black hole mergers and event horizons

Causal black holes

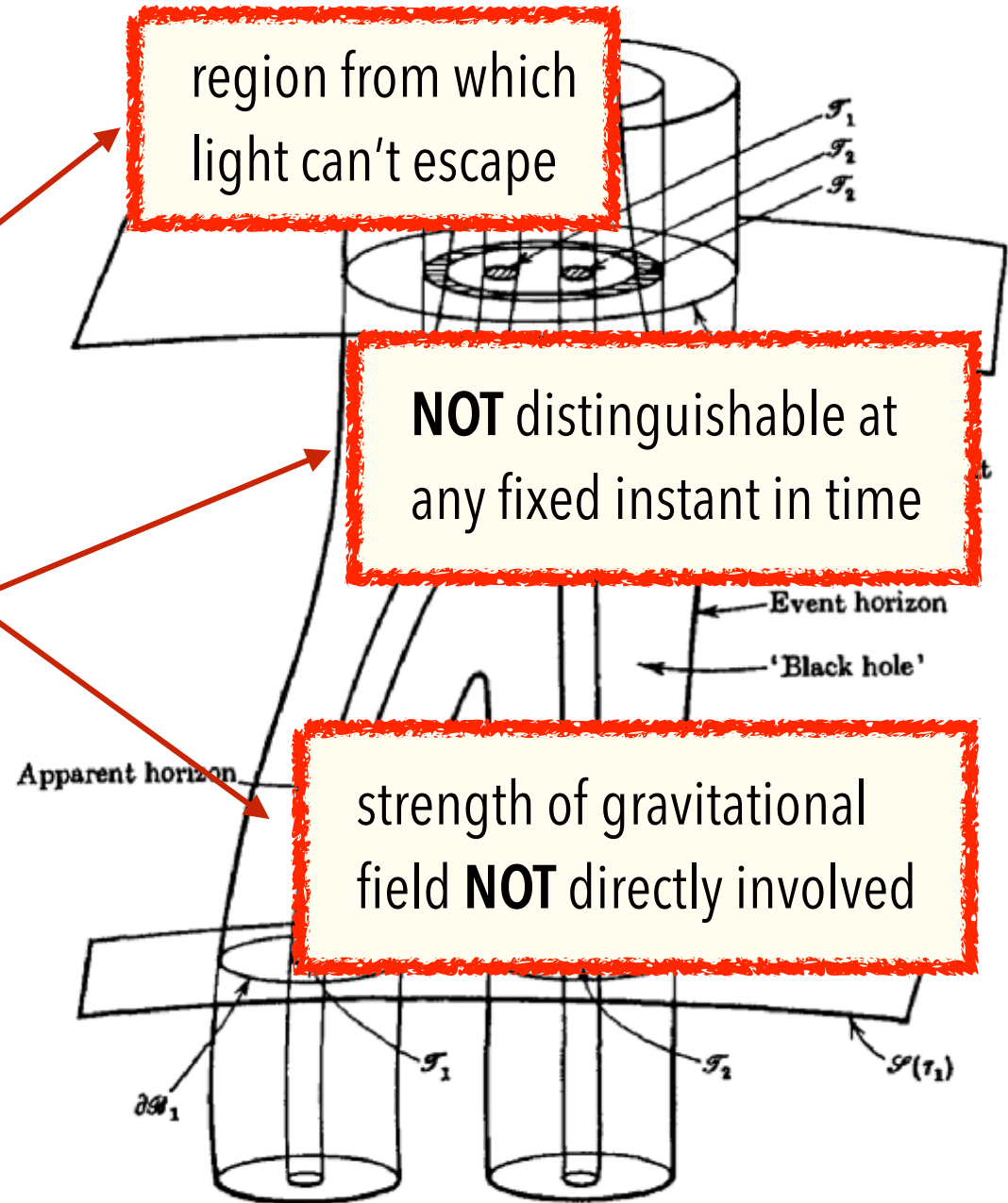
- regions of spacetime that cannot send signals to \mathcal{I}^+
- event horizon is a null surface determined by future boundary conditions



Black hole mergers and event horizons

Causal black holes

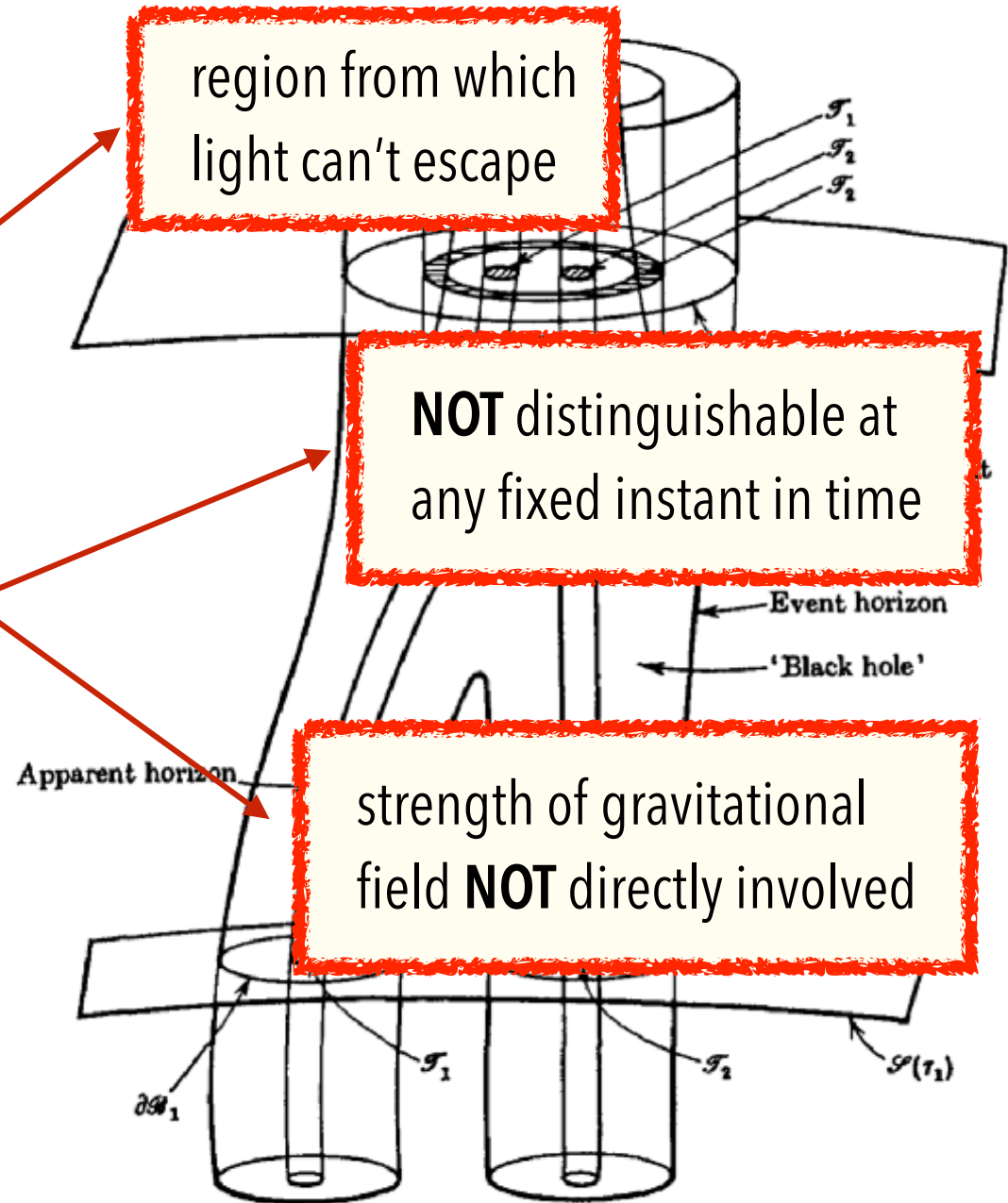
- regions of spacetime that cannot send signals to \mathcal{I}^+
- event horizon is a null surface determined by future boundary conditions
- don't tell us anything about internal structure



Black hole mergers and event horizons

Causal black holes

- regions of spacetime that cannot send signals to \mathcal{I}^+
- event horizon is a null surface determined by future boundary conditions
- don't tell us anything about internal structure
- interesting but picture is definitely incomplete

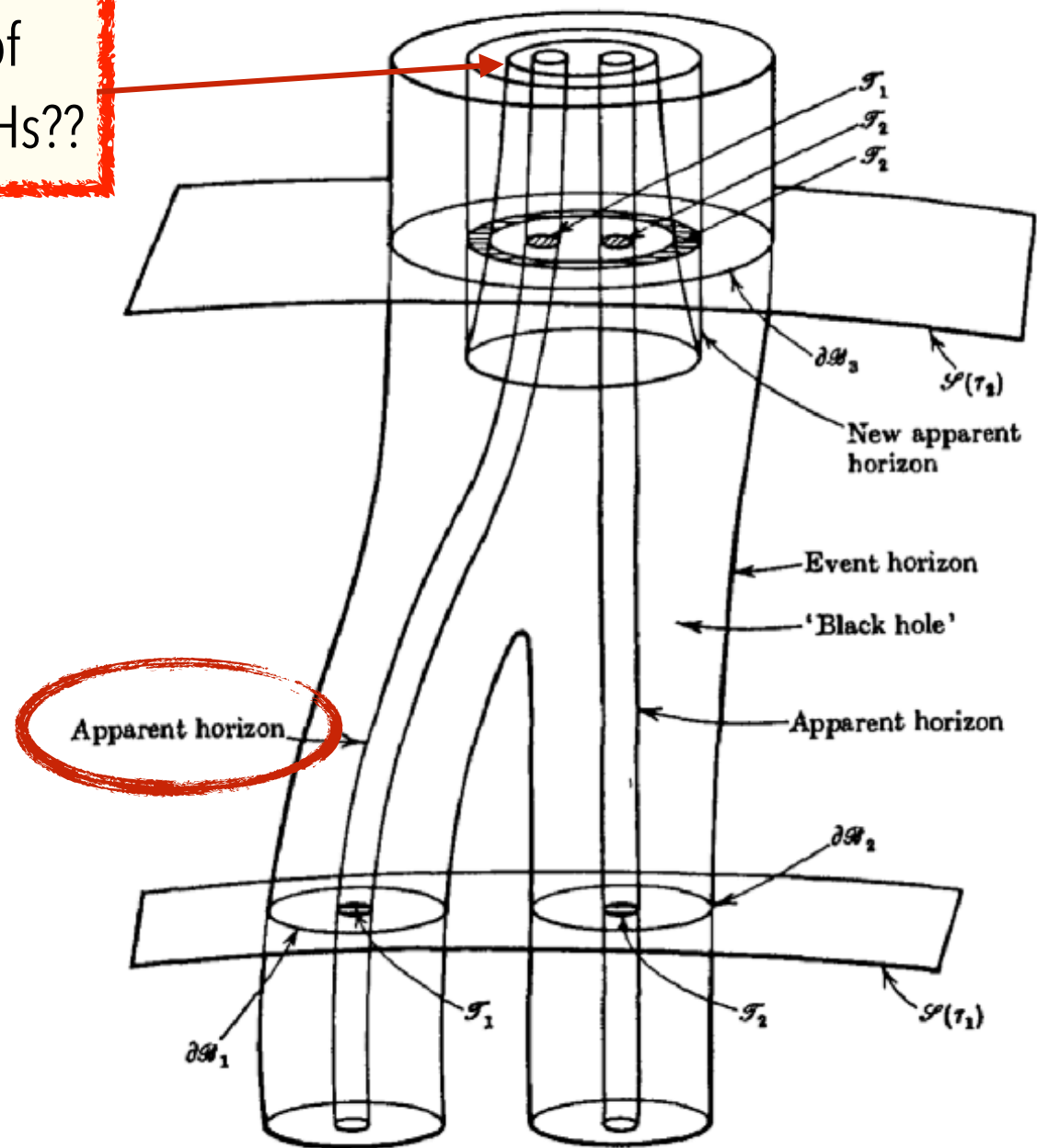


Black hole mergers and event horizons

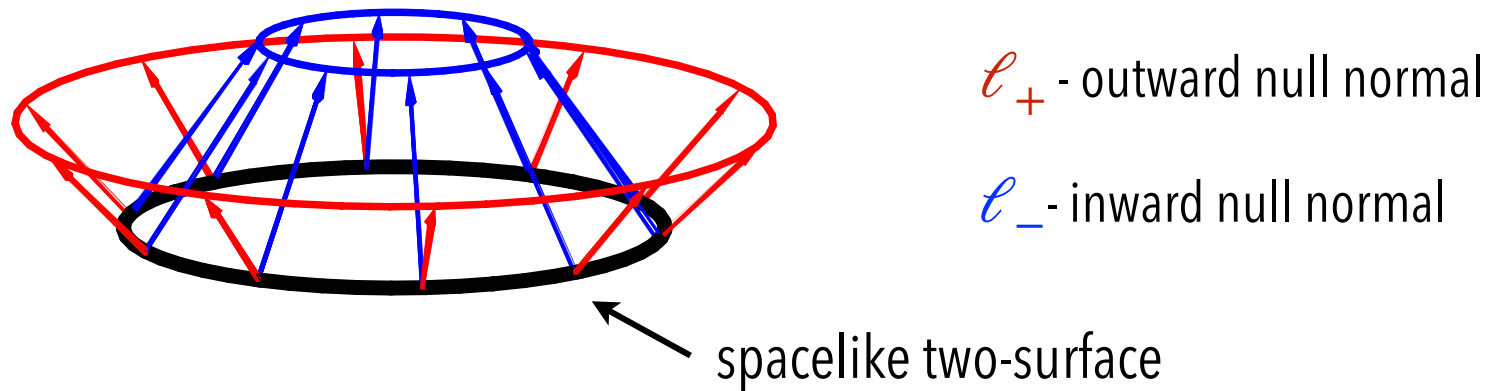
Causal black holes

final fate of
original AHs??

- regions of spacetime that cannot send signals to \mathcal{I}^+
- event horizon is a null surface determined by future boundary conditions
- don't tell us anything about internal structure
- interesting but picture is definitely incomplete

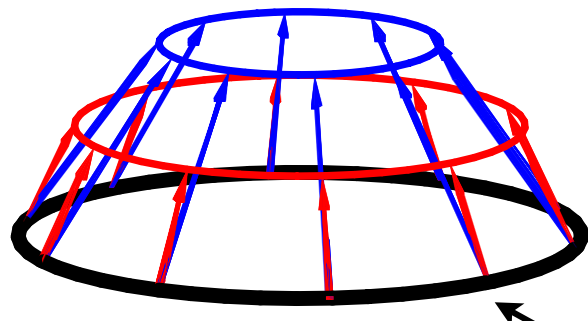


How do you know if you are inside a black hole?



- "Regular" convex surface (ie sphere): $\theta_+ > 0$ and $\theta_- < 0$

How do you know if you are inside a black hole?



ℓ_+ - outward null normal

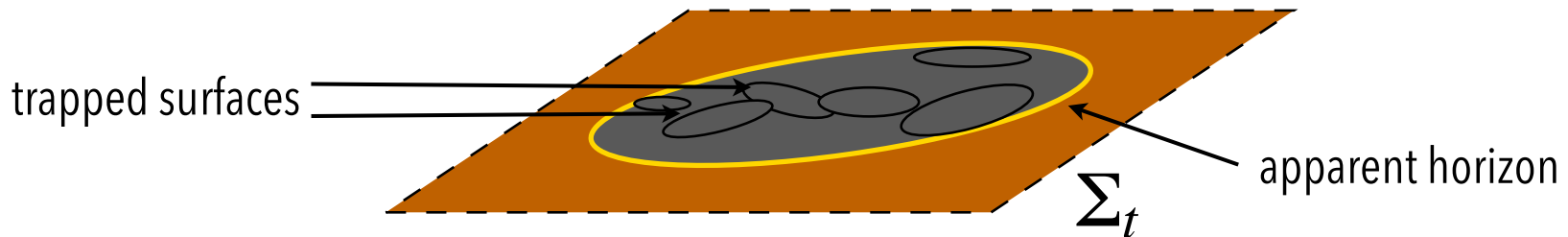
ℓ_- - inward null normal

← spacelike two-surface

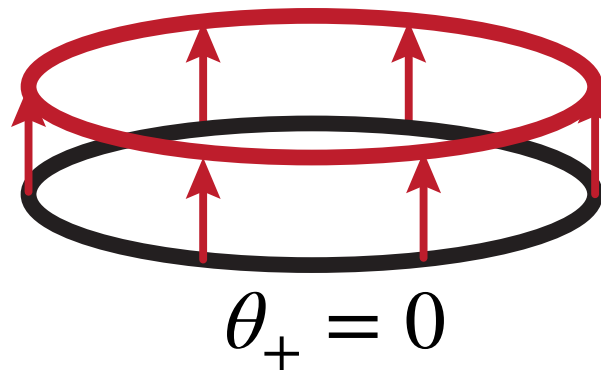
- "Regular" convex surface (ie sphere): $\theta_+ > 0$ and $\theta_- < 0$
- Trapped surface: $\theta_+ < 0$ and $\theta_- < 0$ (everything falls inwards!)
- Trapped surfaces imply the existence of singularities "inside" and (if asymptotically flat) event horizons "outside" (Penrose PRL 65, Nobel 2020)

(Outer) trapped surfaces are inside black holes

Apparent horizons and MOTS



- The *apparent horizon* bounds the (outer) trapped region
- It is a *marginally outer trapped surface* (MOTS)



- Coincides with or is inside the event horizon

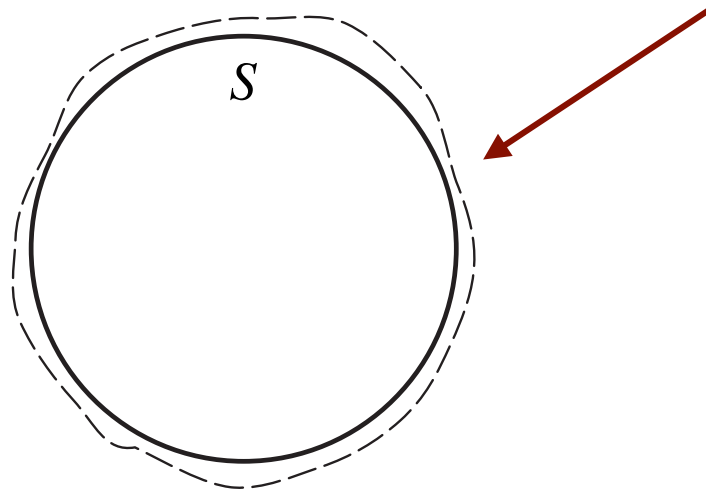
Schwarzschild, RN,
Kerr event horizons
are MOTS and
apparent horizons

RN and Kerr inner
horizons as well as
cosmo horizons are
MOTS

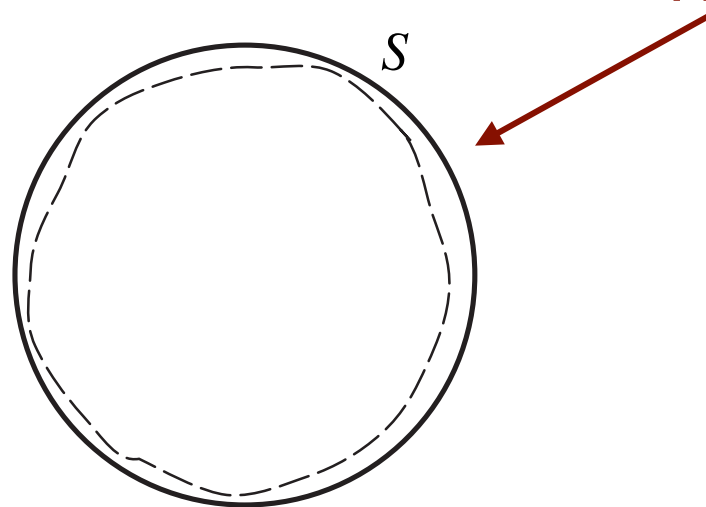
A local characterization of apparent horizons

A MOTS S in a time slice Σ_t is a (local) boundary and *strictly stably outermost* if:

- 1) Small outward deformations become *outer untrapped*

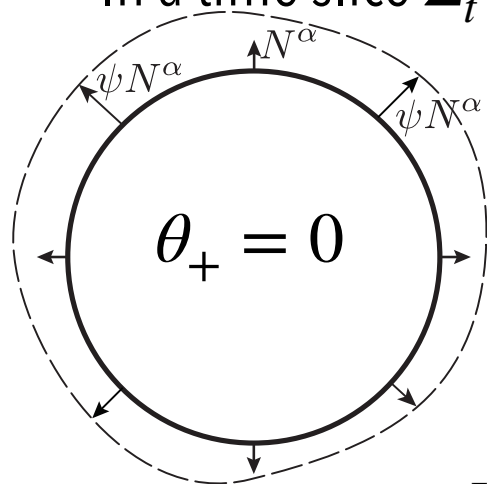


- 2) Small inward deformations become *outer trapped*



3D Stability Operator for (non-rotating) MOTS

- In a time slice Σ_t with N unit normal to S and future outward null $l_+ = u + N$:



variation of expansion	stability operator	2D surface Laplacian	Gauss curvature	square of null shear	matter term
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓

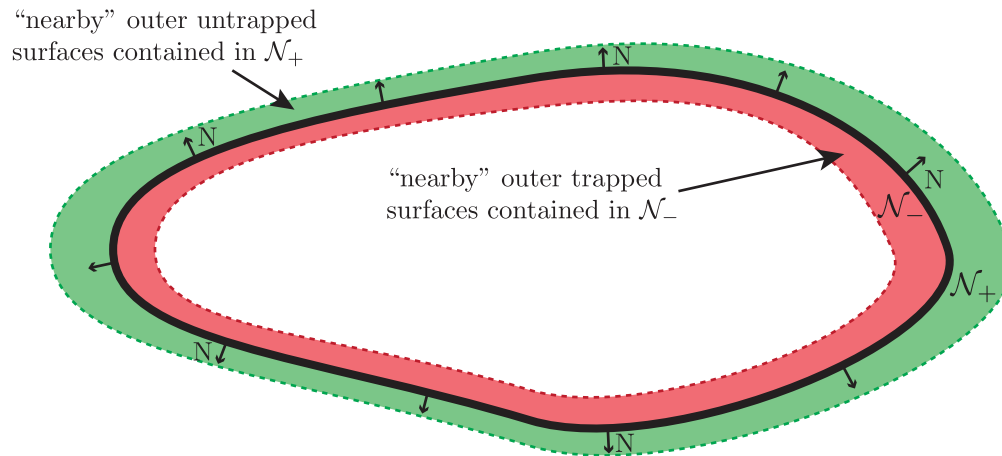
$$\delta_{\psi N} \theta_+ = L_S(l_+, N) \psi = - \mathcal{D}^2 \psi + (\mathcal{K} - 2 \|\sigma_+\|^2 - G_{++}) \psi$$

(Andersson, Mars, Simon, 2005, PRL 111102)

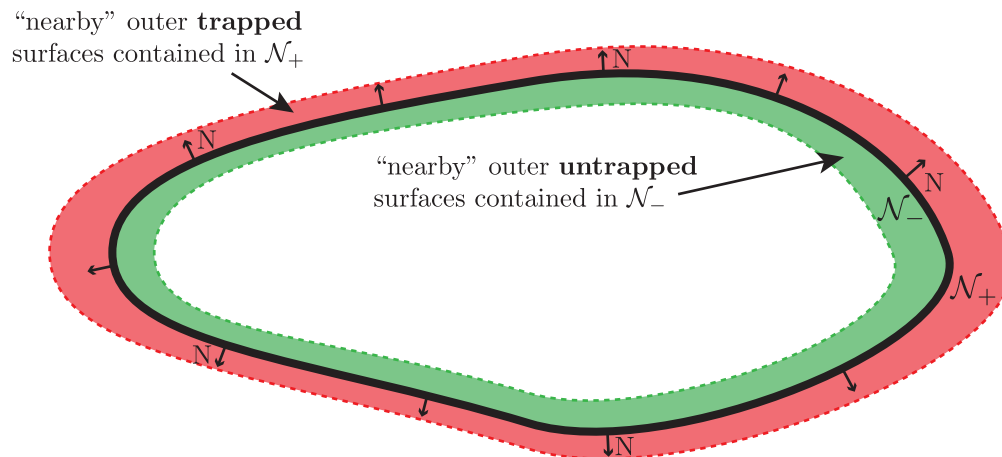
(Andersson, Mars, Simon, Adv.Theor.Math.Phys. 12 (2008) 4, 853-888)

- $L_S(l_+, N) \psi = \delta_{\psi N} \theta_+$ is a self-adjoint linear elliptic operator on ψ
- Eigenvalue spectrum is discrete and real
- There is a smallest **principal eigenvalue** λ_o . All other eigenvalues are larger.
- Principal eigenfunction $\psi_o > 0$
- Define (n_0, n_-) -stability: $n_0 =$ # of vanishing eigenvalues
 $n_- =$ # of negative eigenvalues
- Strictly stable $\lambda_o > 0 \iff$ all eigenvalues positive
 \iff outward deformations outer untrapped
 \iff inward deformations outer trapped

Stability: MOTSs as local boundaries



Strictly stable ($\lambda_o > 0$)
 \Rightarrow outer untrapped outside,
 outer trapped inside
Local apparent horizon



Strictly unstable ($\lambda_o < 0$)
 \Rightarrow outer untrapped outside,
 outer untrapped inside
Local inner horizon

Stability: MOTSs as local boundaries

“nearby” outer untrapped surfaces contained in \mathcal{N}_+

“nearby” outer trapped surfaces contained in \mathcal{N}_-

Strictly stable ($\lambda_o > 0$)

\Rightarrow outer untrapped outside,

Canonical Example: Reissner-Nordström

Outer horizon $r_{\text{OH}} = m + \sqrt{m^2 - q^2}$: strictly stable

“nearby” outer surfaces contain

Inner horizon $r_{\text{IH}} = m - \sqrt{m^2 - q^2}$: strictly unstable

< 0)

“nearby” outer **untrapped** surfaces contained in \mathcal{N}_-

\Rightarrow outer untrapped outside,

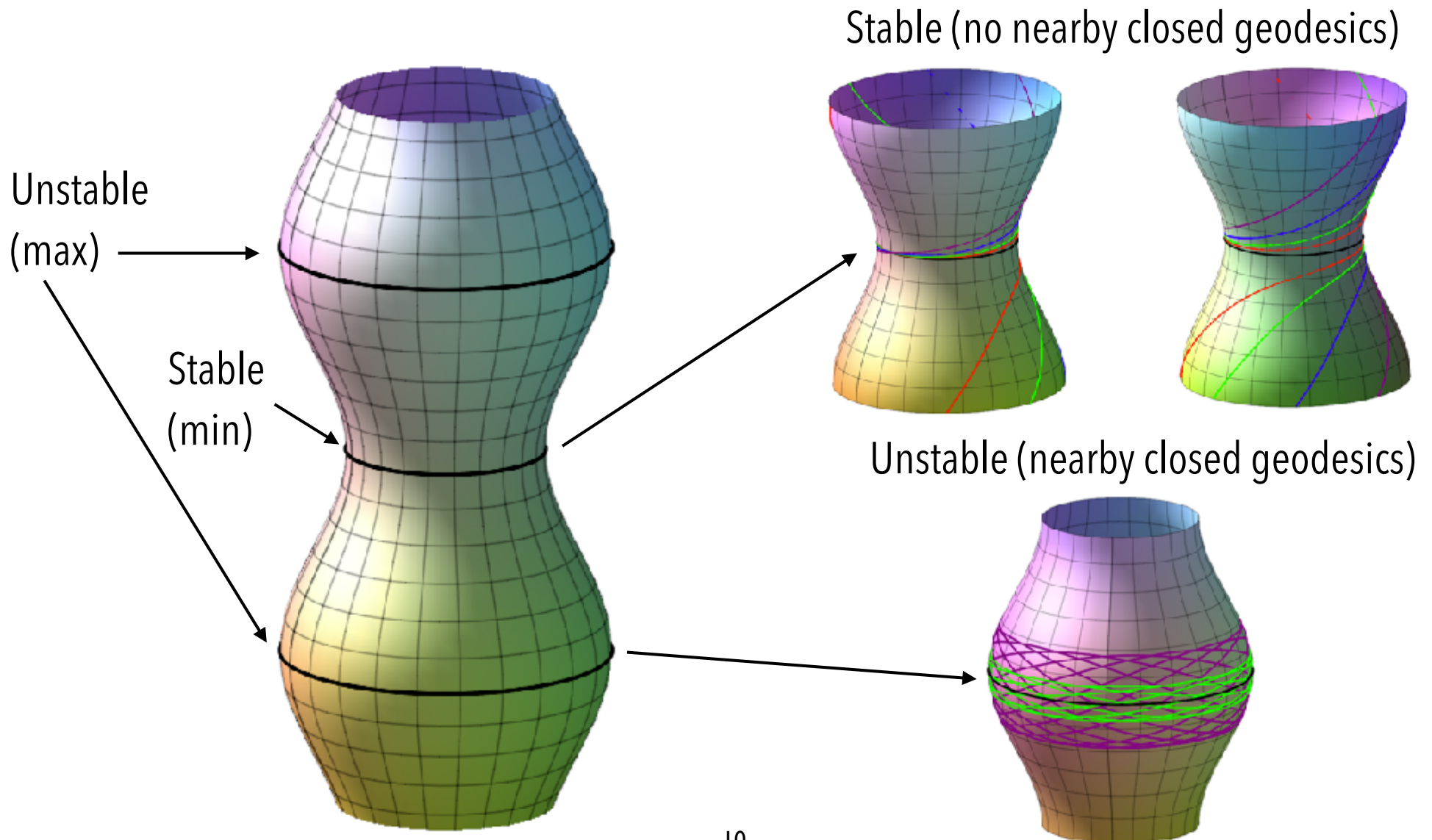
outer untrapped inside

Local inner horizon

An aside...

What does "stable" mean?

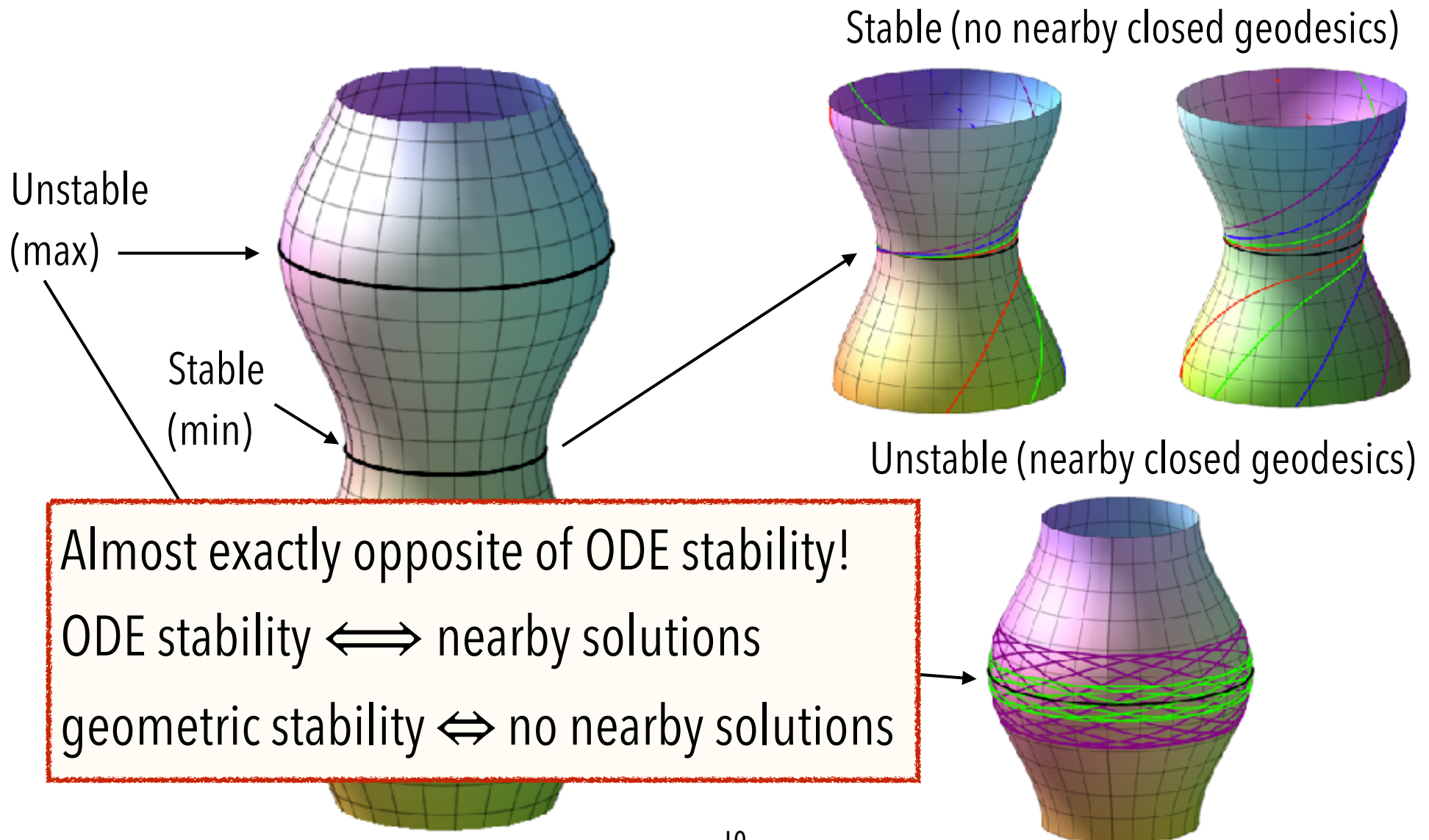
This is *geometric stability* in the sense of minimal surfaces/geodesics.



An aside...

What does "stable" mean?

This is *geometric stability* in the sense of minimal surfaces/geodesics.

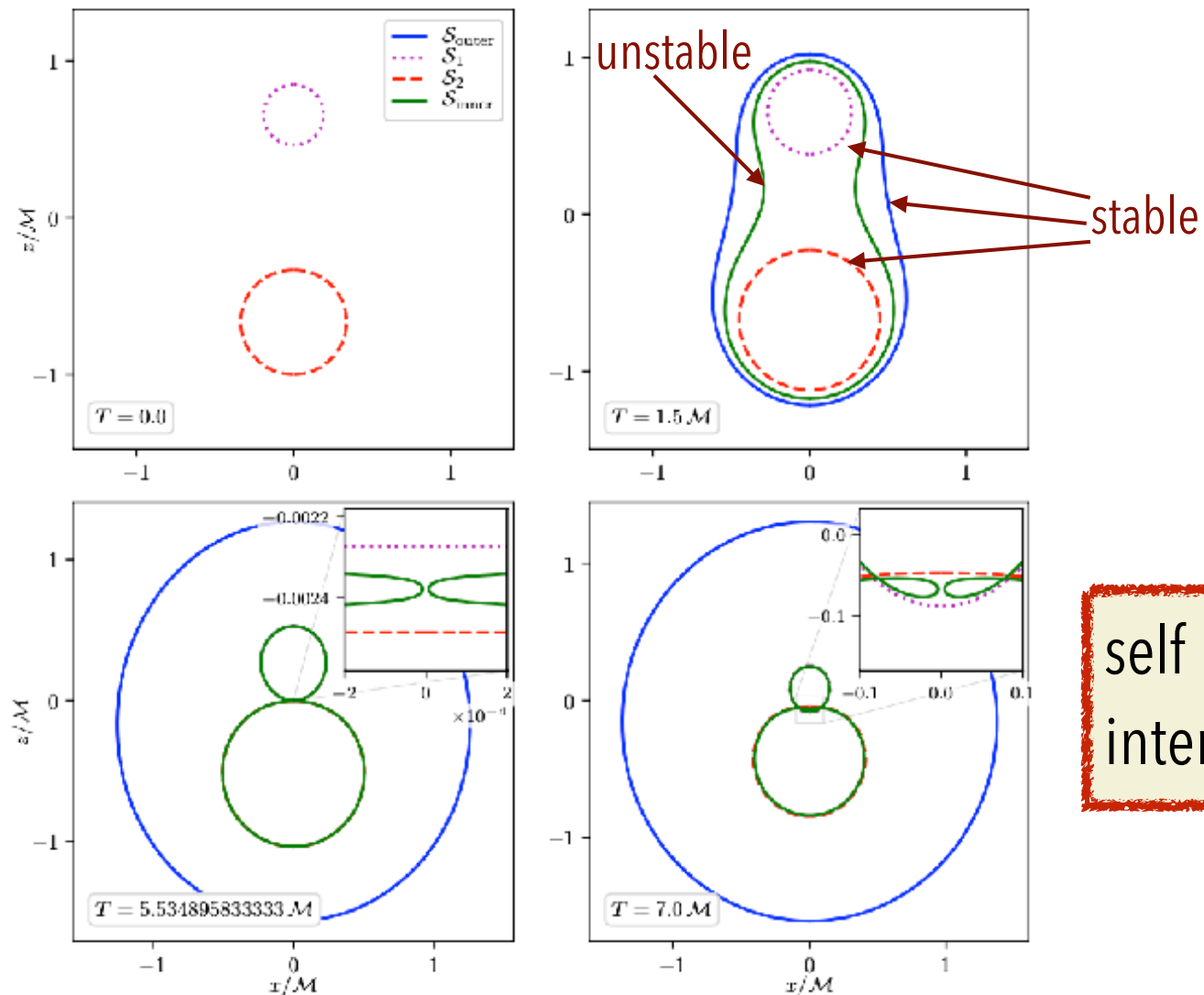


MOTSs can have "exotic" properties

Self-intersecting marginally outer trapped surfaces

Daniel Pook-Kolb,^{1,2} Ofek Birnholtz,³ Badri Krishnan,^{1,2} and Erik Schnetter^{4,5,6}

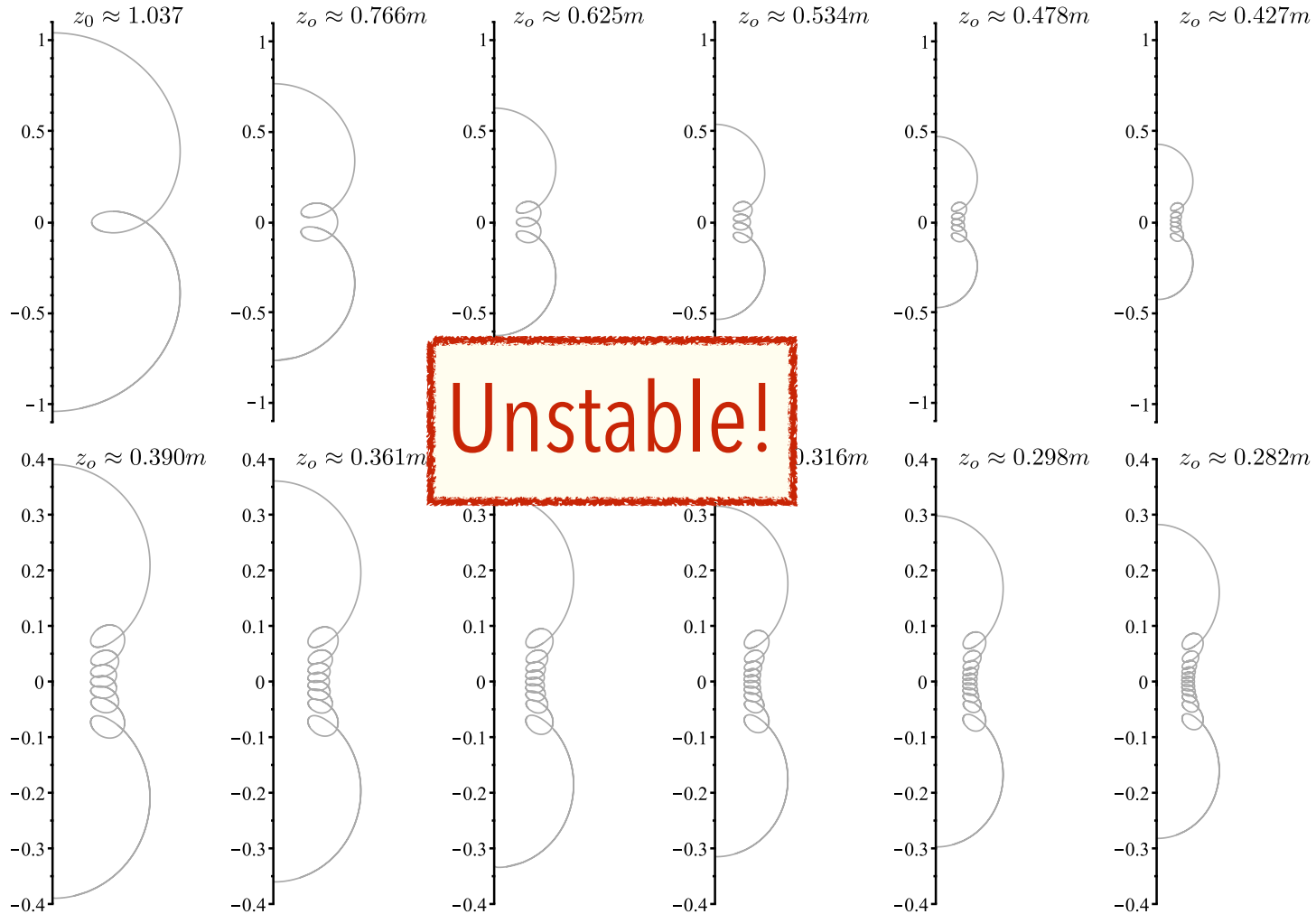
Phys. Rev. D 100, 084044 (2019)



self
intersections!

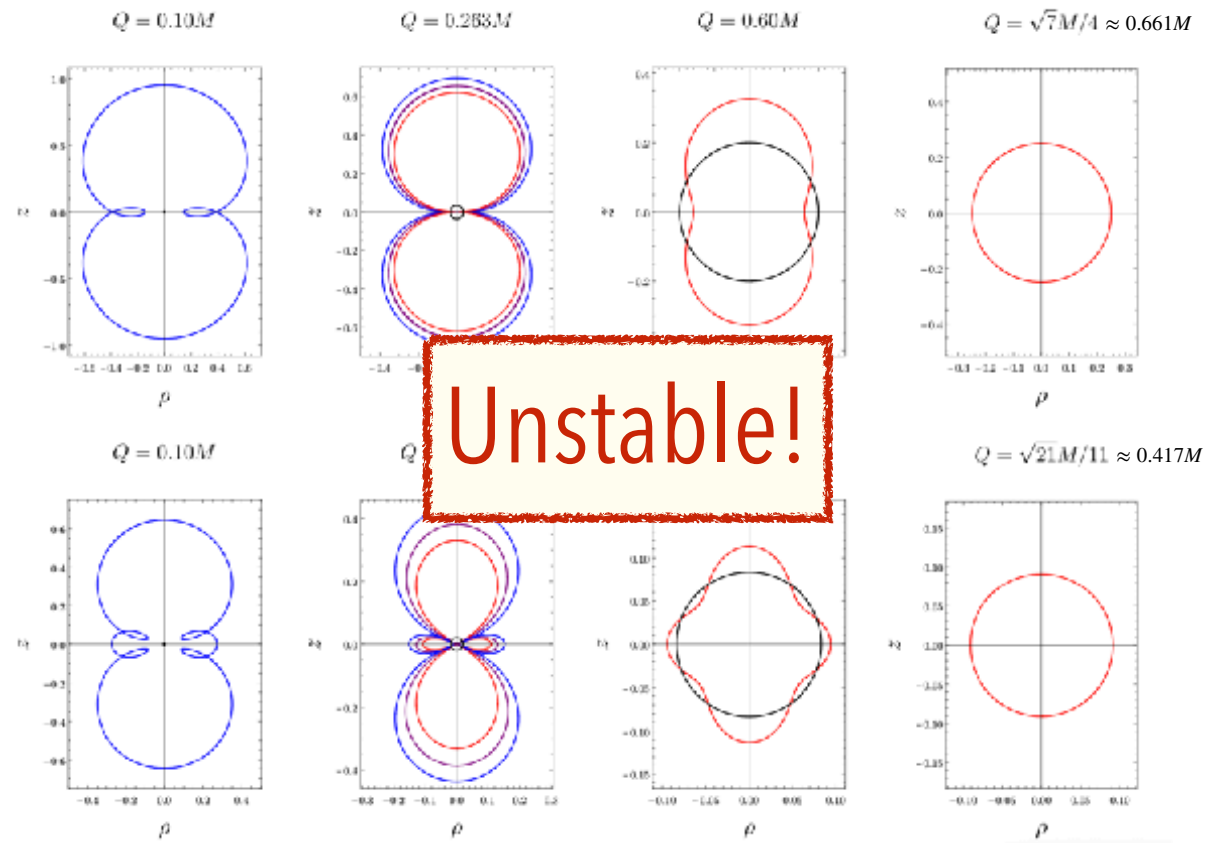
Most MOTS are not horizons/boundaries...

Schwarzschild



IB, R.Hennigar, S.Mondal (PRD 2020)

Reissner-Nordström (around inner horizon)



R.Hennigar, B.Chan/Sievers, L.Newhook, IB PRD 2022

Existence is robust across coordinate systems and solutions
(B.Sievers, R.Hennigar, H.Kunduri, S.Muth, L.Newhook, IB)

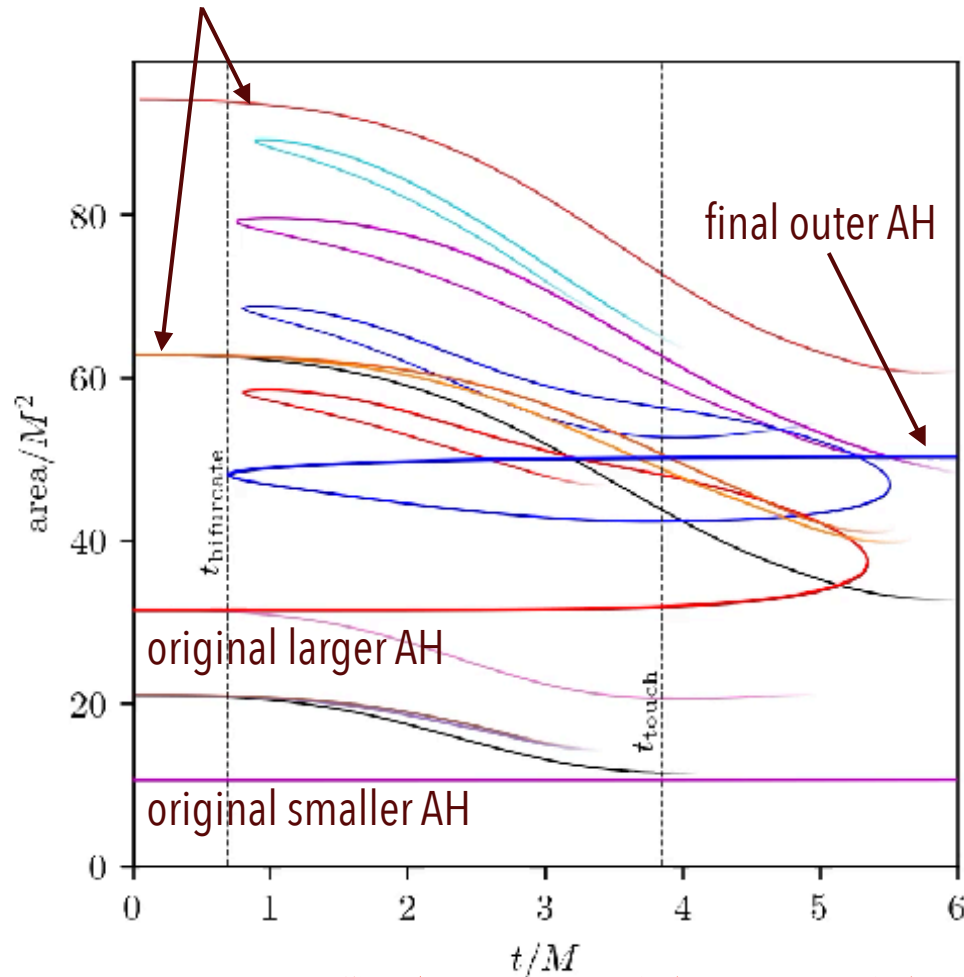
Mergers are complicated...

Pook-Kolb, Hennigar, Booth PRL 2021 (Summary)

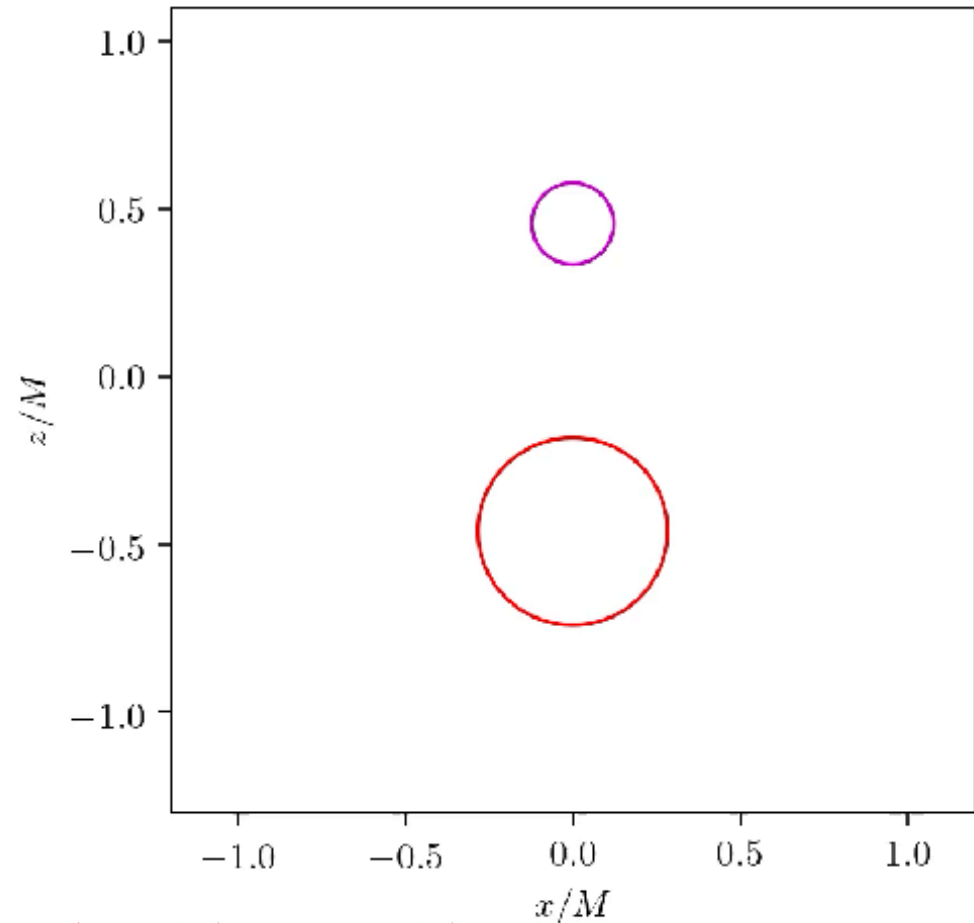
Pook-Kolb, Hennigar, Booth PRD 2021 (Theory)

Booth, Hennigar, Pook-Kolb PRD 2021 (Numerical Results)

wormhole straddling MOTS



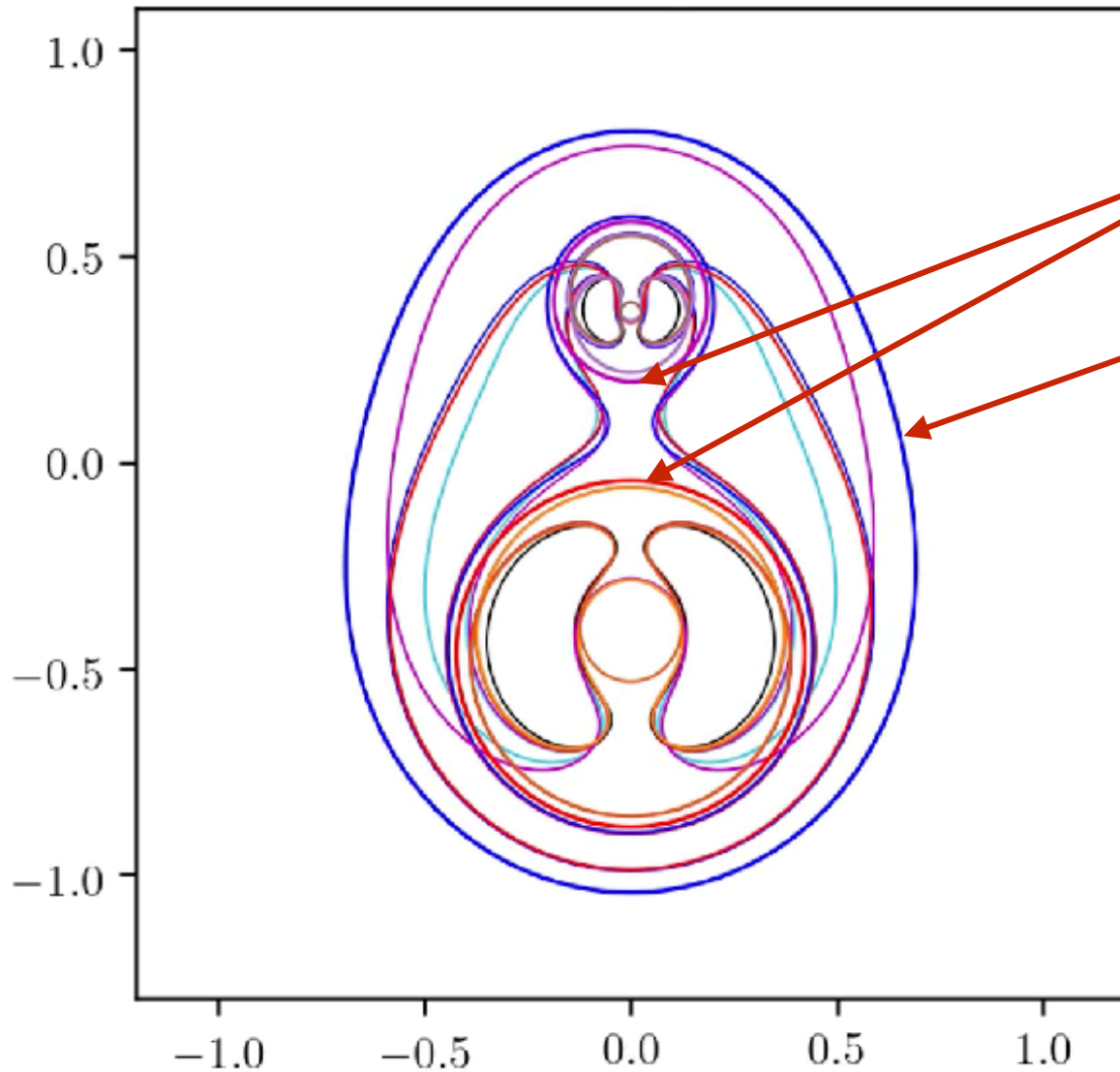
MOTSs at $t = 0.000000 M$



Most MOTS do not bound trapped regions

During a merger

MOTSs at $t = 2.094256 M$



The original and final
apparent horizons are
stable.

All other MOTS are
unstable.

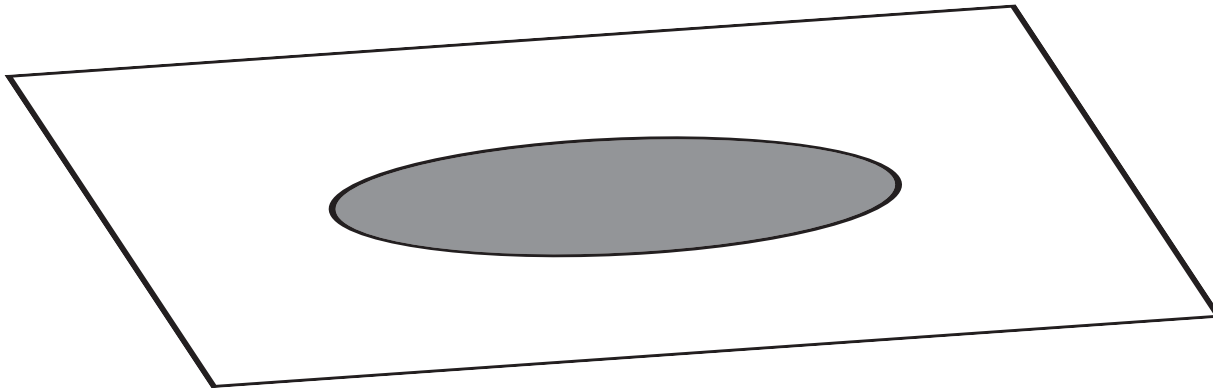
Second application of stability operator

Stability Operator and Evolution/Deformation

examples: time evolution, q in RN, Λ is dS, anything else

Problem: δ_α = one-parameter deformation of the geometry (h_{ij}, K_{ij}) of a slice Σ_t

Can we perturb S in Σ_t so that it remains a MOTS?



Second application of stability operator

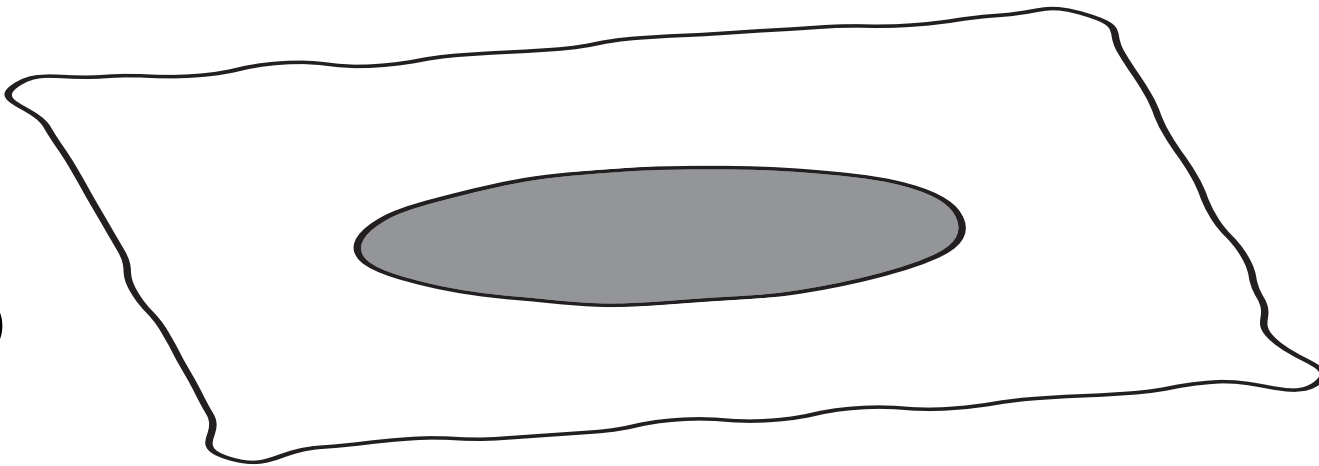
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distorted
 (h_{ij}, K_{ij})
 $\theta_+|_S \neq 0$



Second application of stability operator

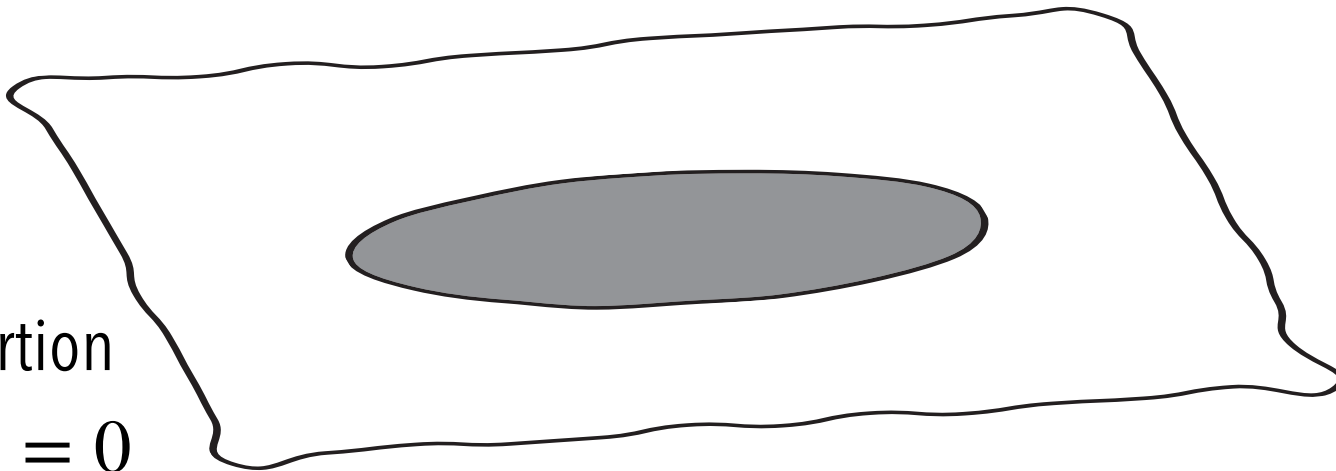
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Problem: δ_α = one-parameter deformation of the geometry (h_{ij}, K_{ij}) of a slice Σ_t

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small distortion
of $S \rightarrow \theta_+ = 0$



Second application of stability operator

Stability Operator and Evolution/Deformation

examples: time evolution, q in RN, Λ is dS, anything else

Problem: δ_α = one-parameter deformation of the geometry (h_{ij}, K_{ij}) of a slice Σ_t

Can we perturb S in Σ_t so that it remains a MOTS?

total change in expansion

change due to (h, K) deformation

Solution: Look for a ψ for which: $0 = \delta\theta_+ = \delta_\alpha\theta_+ + \delta_{\psi N}\theta_+$

change from S
perturbation

$$\iff 0 = \delta_\alpha\theta_+ + L_S(l_+, N)\psi$$

$$\iff \psi = -L_S^{-1}(l_+, N)[\delta_\alpha\theta_+]$$

ψ is unique if $L_S(l_+, N)$ is invertible $\iff L_S(l_+, N)$ has no vanishing eigenvalues

Strict stability ($\lambda_o > 0$) is sufficient but not necessary for uniqueness

Non-uniqueness: If ψ_0 is an eigenfunction with $\lambda_0 = 0$ and ψ is a particular solution then

$$\tilde{\psi} = \psi + k\psi_0$$

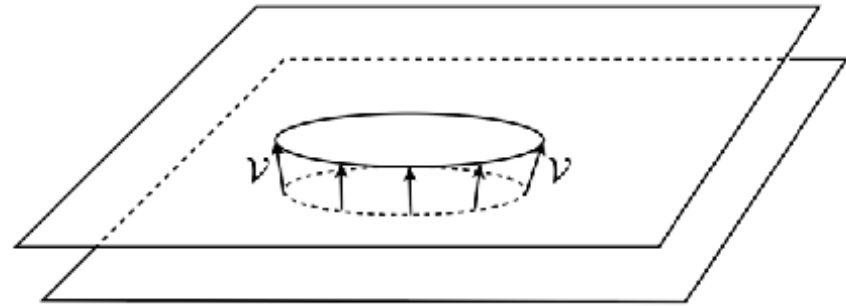
is also a solution.

Example: time evolution

- Time evolution of a MOTS:

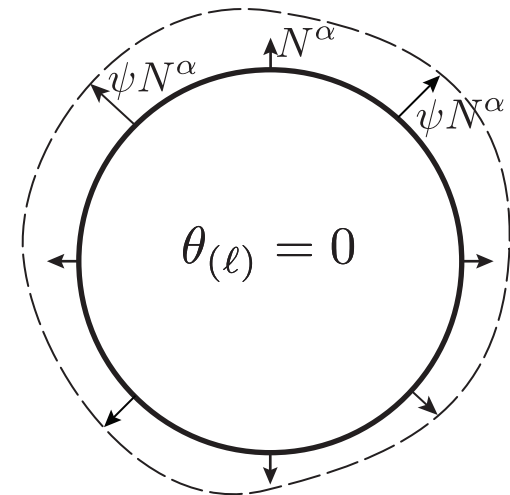
$$0 = \delta_t \theta_+ + \delta_{\psi N} \theta_+$$

$$\iff \psi = -L^{-1}(l_+, N)[\delta_t \theta_+]$$



$$\mathcal{V} = t + \psi N$$

- Unique if there are no vanishing eigenvalues
- If the MOTS is **marginally stable** then there exists a function ψ_0 such that: $\delta_{\psi_0 N} \theta_+ = L_{\Sigma} \psi_0 = 0$

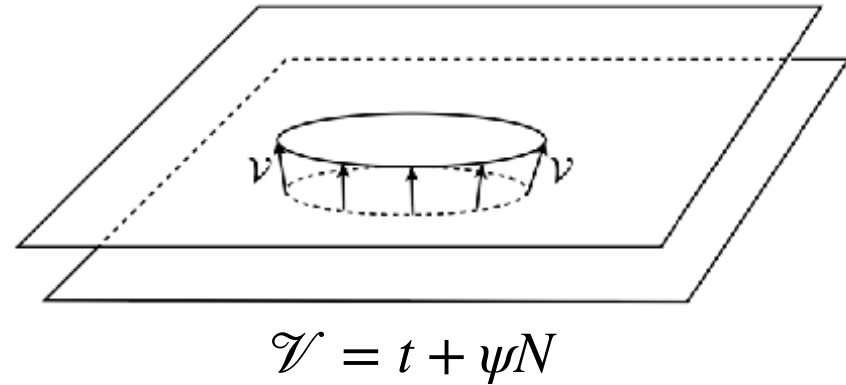


Example: time evolution

- Time evolution of a MOTS:

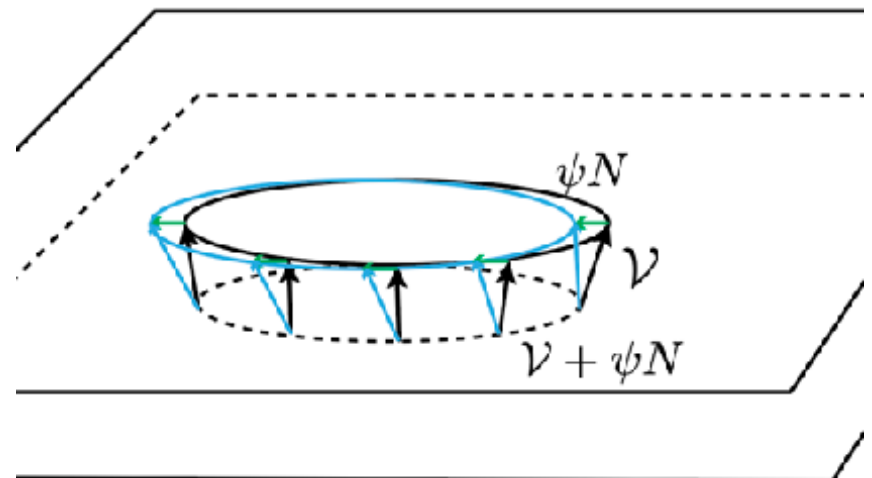
$$0 = \delta_t \theta_+ + \delta_{\psi N} \theta_+$$

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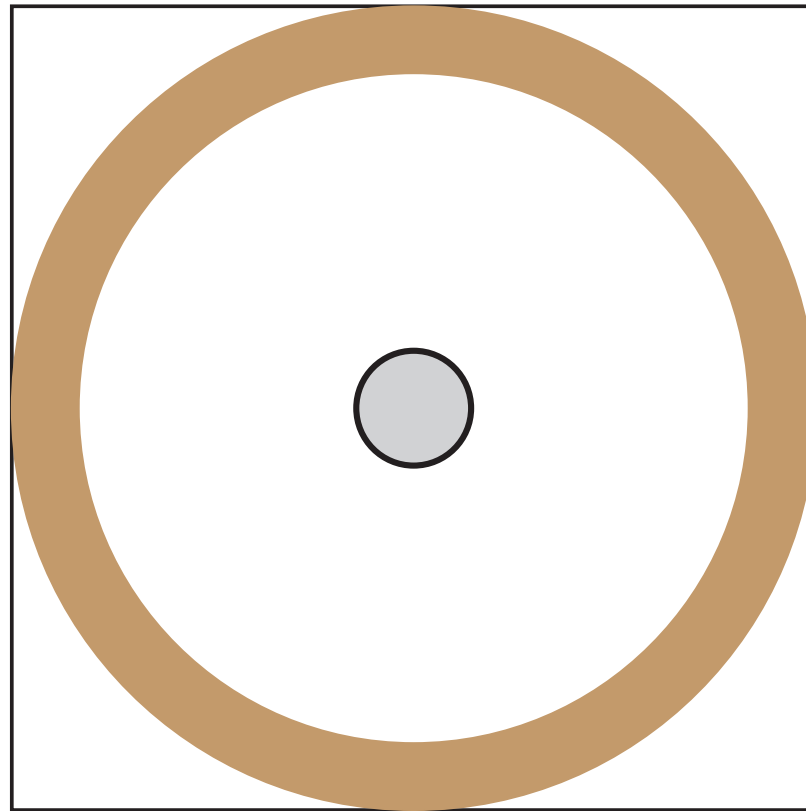
- Unique if there are no vanishing eigenvalues
- If the MOTS is **marginally stable** then there exists a function ψ_0 such that: $\delta_{\psi_0 N} \theta_+ = L_{\Sigma} \psi_0 = 0$

- Then: $\delta_{(\mathcal{V} + \psi_0 N)} \theta_+ = 0$ so:
 $\mathcal{V} + \psi_0 N$ is an equally good
 "time-evolution" vector



MOTS time evolution - an example

Huge shell of dust falls into black hole

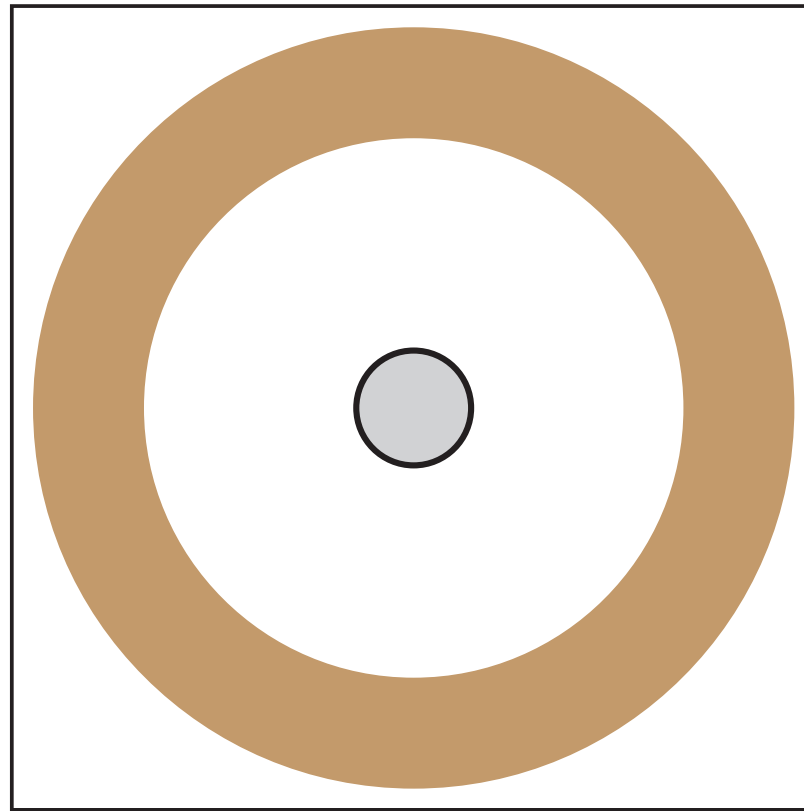


t_1

Booth, Brits, Gonzalez, Van Den Broeck
CQG 2006

MOTS time evolution - an example

Huge shell of dust falls into black hole

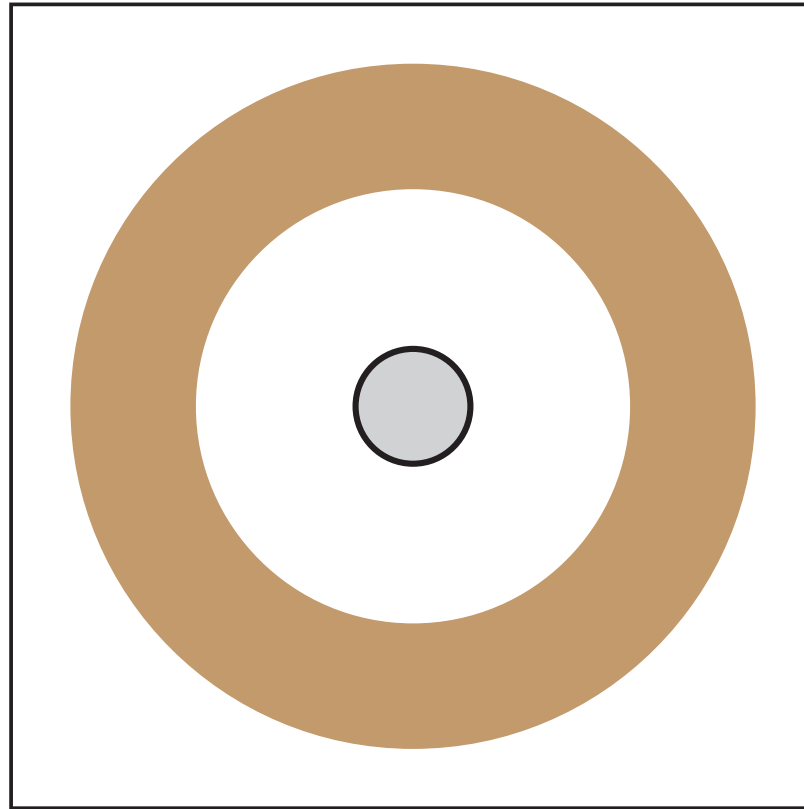


t_2

Booth, Brits, Gonzalez, Van Den Broeck
CQG 2006

MOTS time evolution - an example

Huge shell of dust falls into black hole

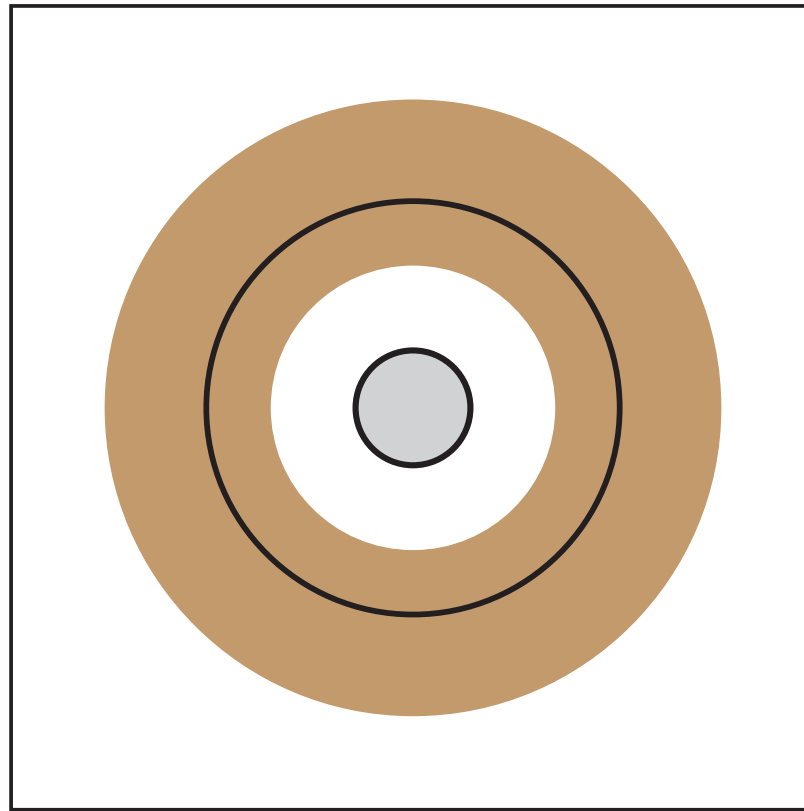


t_3

Booth, Brits, Gonzalez, Van Den Broeck
CQG 2006

MOTS time evolution - an example

New marginally stable outer MOTS forms

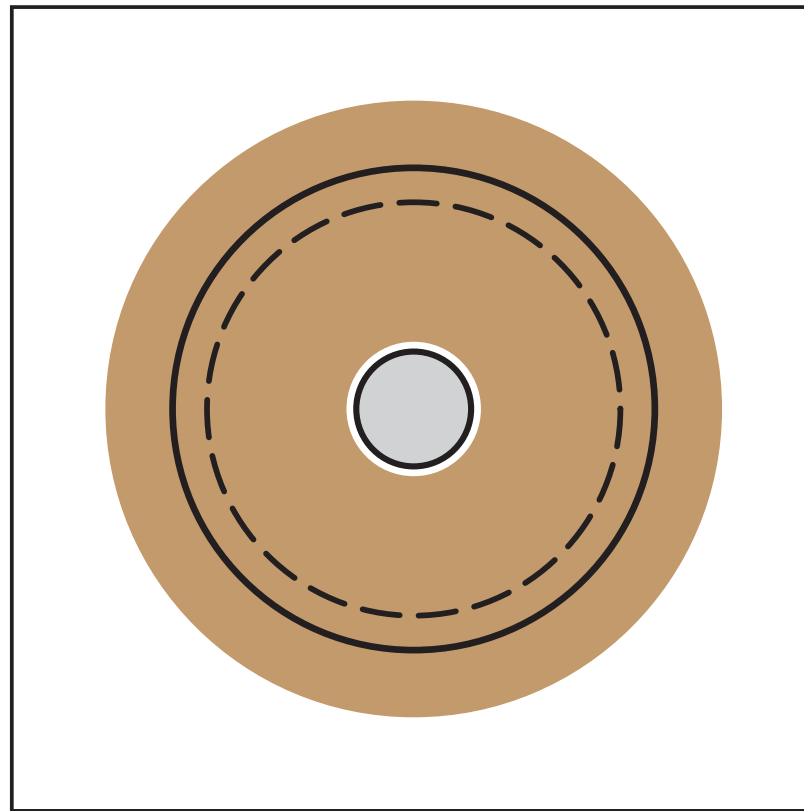


t_4

Booth, Brits, Gonzalez, Van Den Broeck
CQG 2006

MOTS time evolution - an example

Bifurcates into unstable and stable MOTS

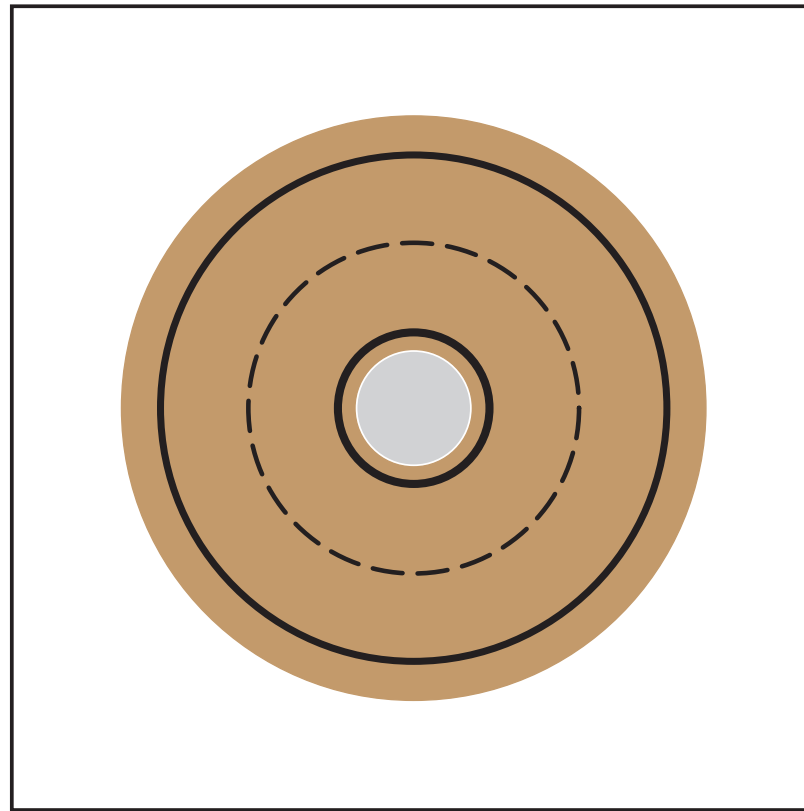


t_5

Booth, Brits, Gonzalez, Van Den Broeck
CQG 2006

MOTS time evolution - an example

Bifurcates into unstable and stable MOTS

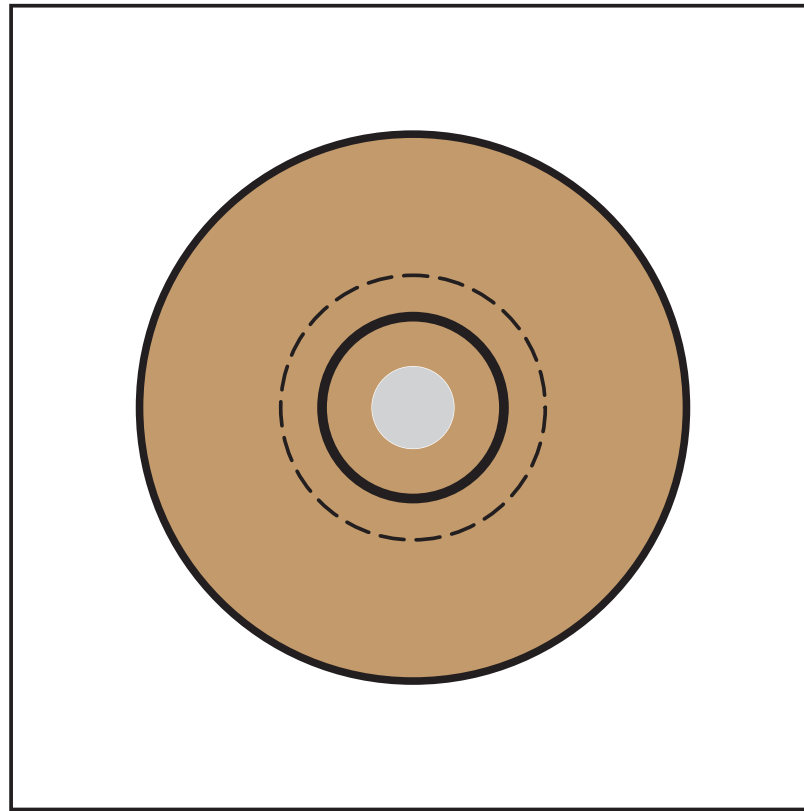


t_6

Booth, Brits, Gonzalez, Van Den Broeck
CQG 2006

MOTS time evolution - an example

Unstable MOTS approaches inner stable

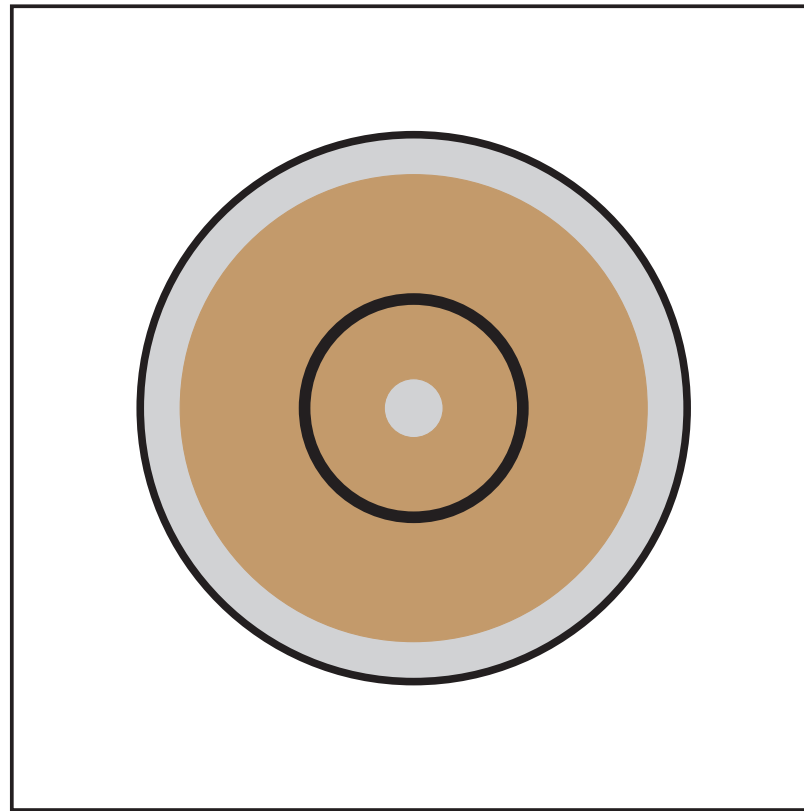


t_7

Booth, Brits, Gonzalez, Van Den Broeck
CQG 2006

MOTS time evolution - an example

Inner MOTS marginally stable

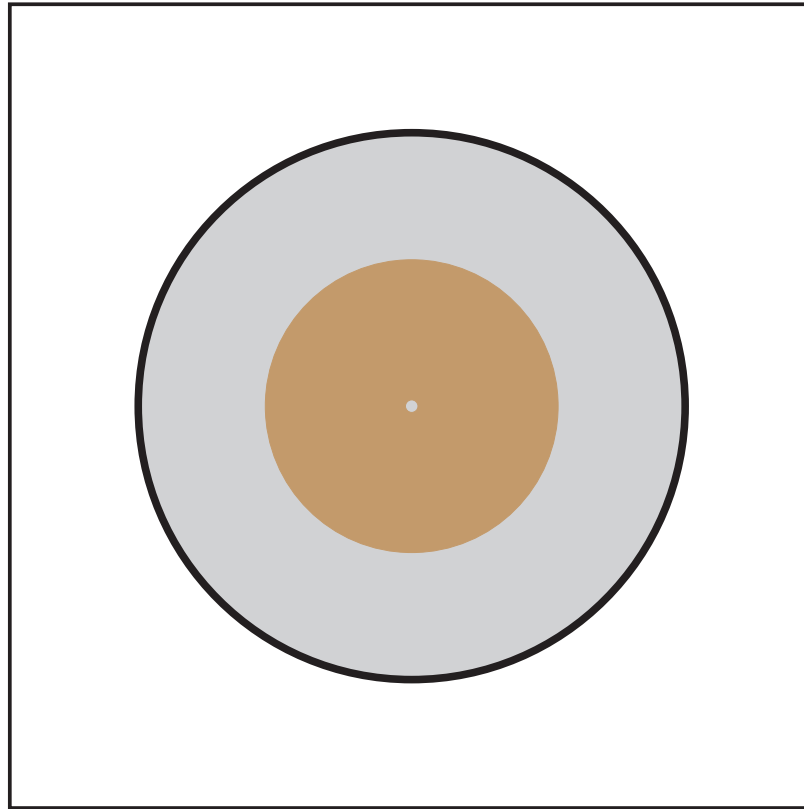


t_8

Booth, Brits, Gonzalez, Van Den Broeck
CQG 2006

MOTS time evolution - an example

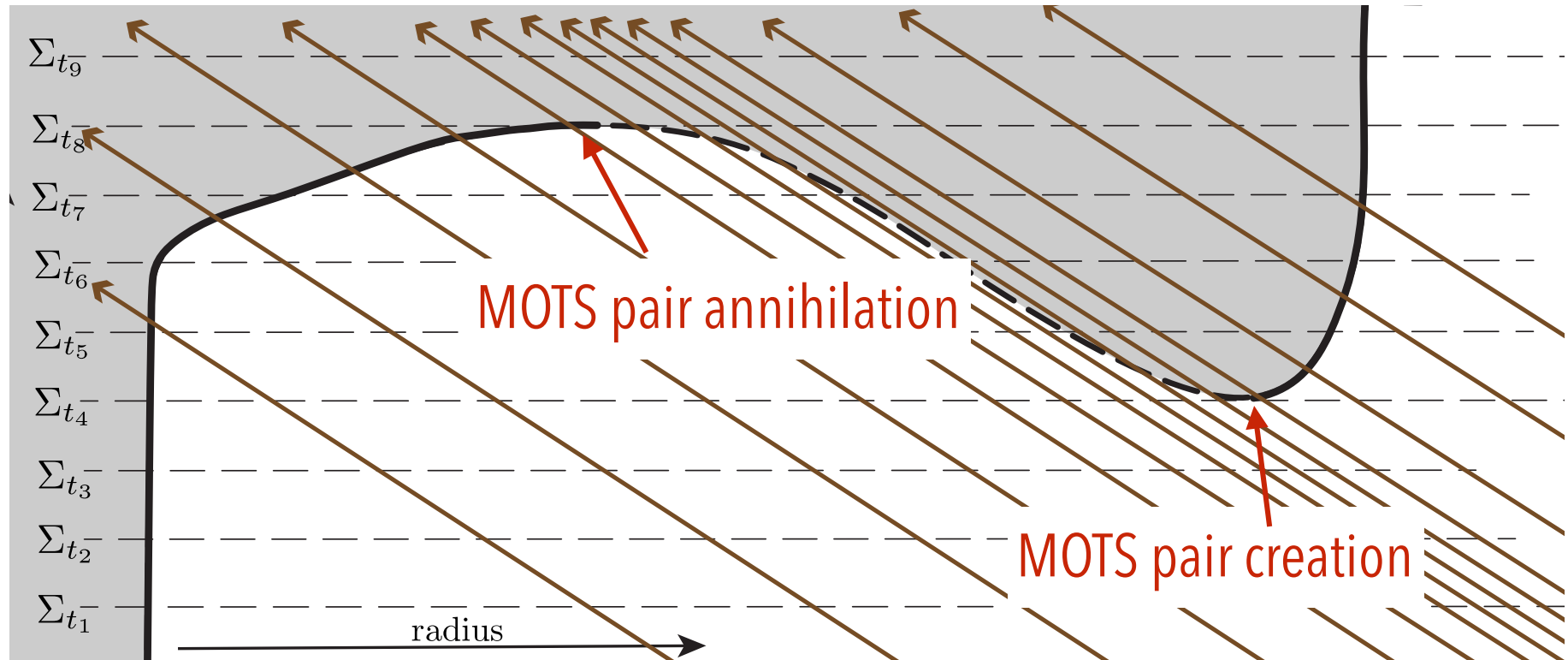
Inner MOTS (original black hole) "dissolves"



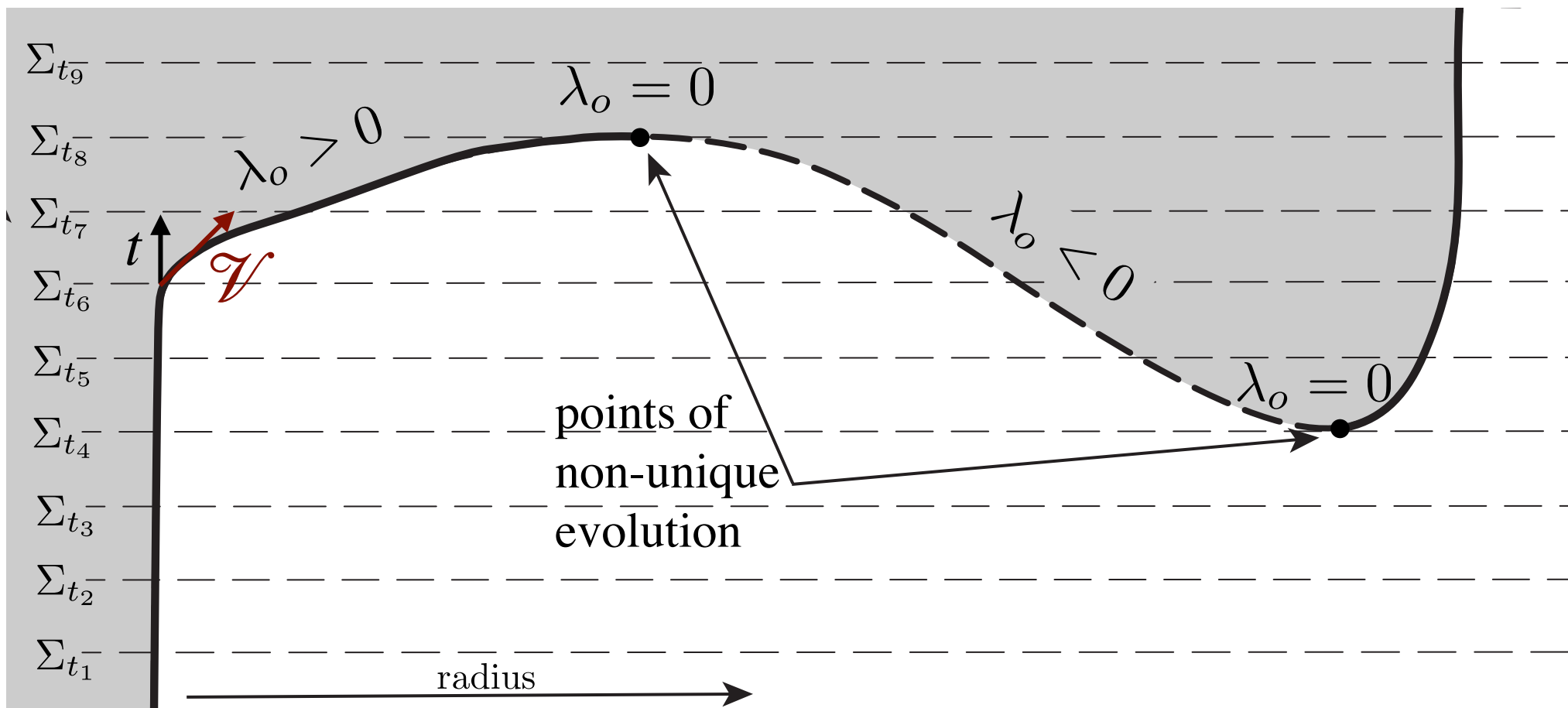
t_9

Booth, Brits, Gonzalez, Van Den Broeck
CQG 2006

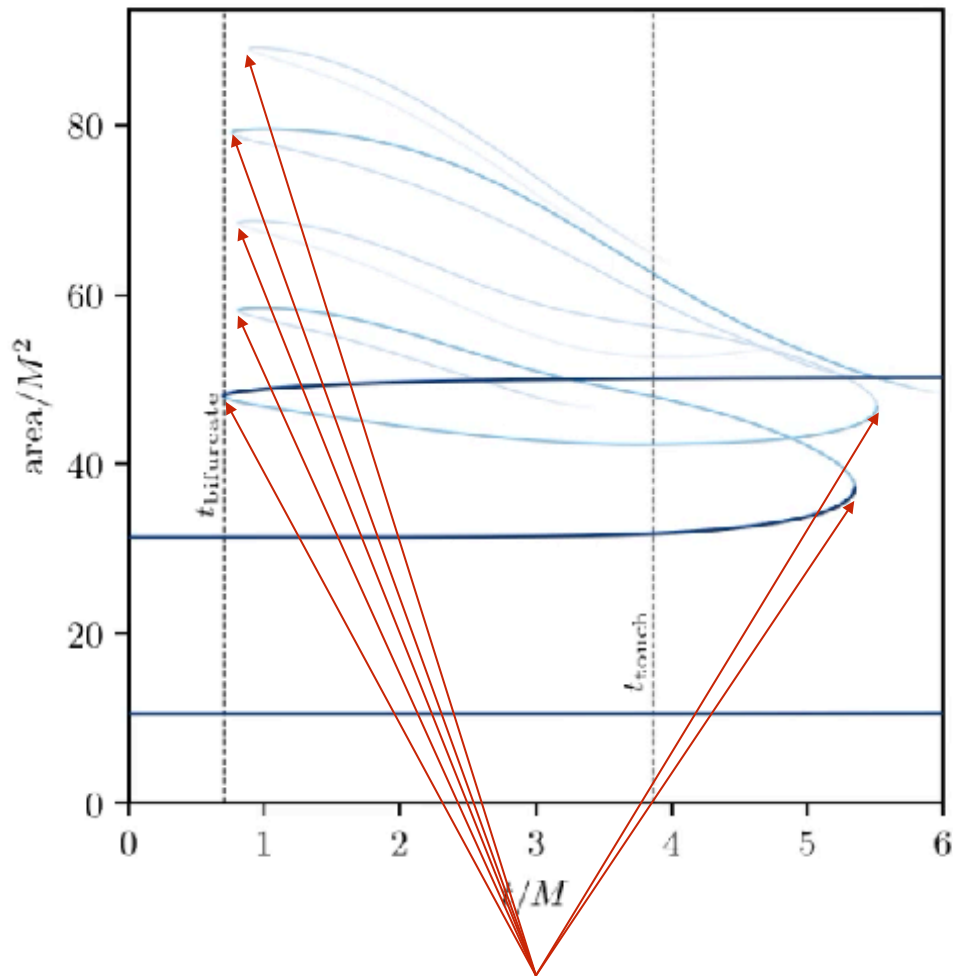
MOTS time evolution - an example



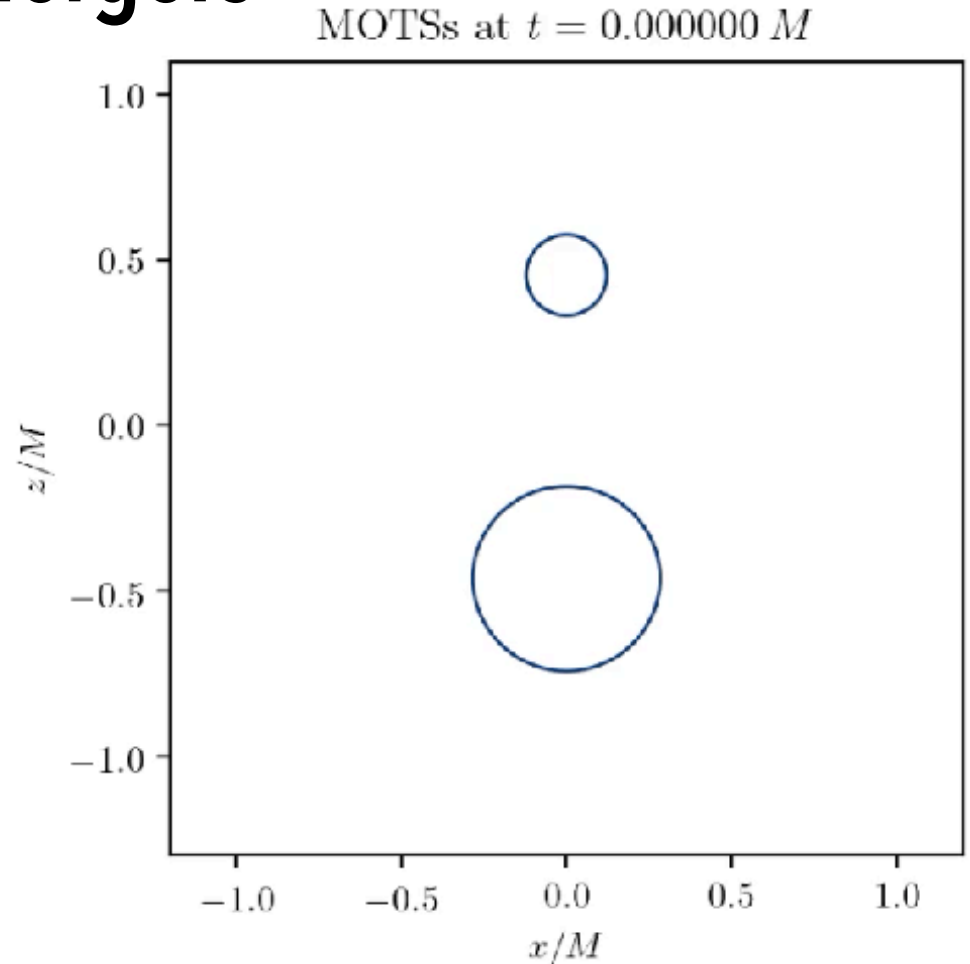
MOTS evolution and the stability operator



MOTS during black hole mergers



L_Σ has a vanishing eigenvalue at
creation and annihilation points



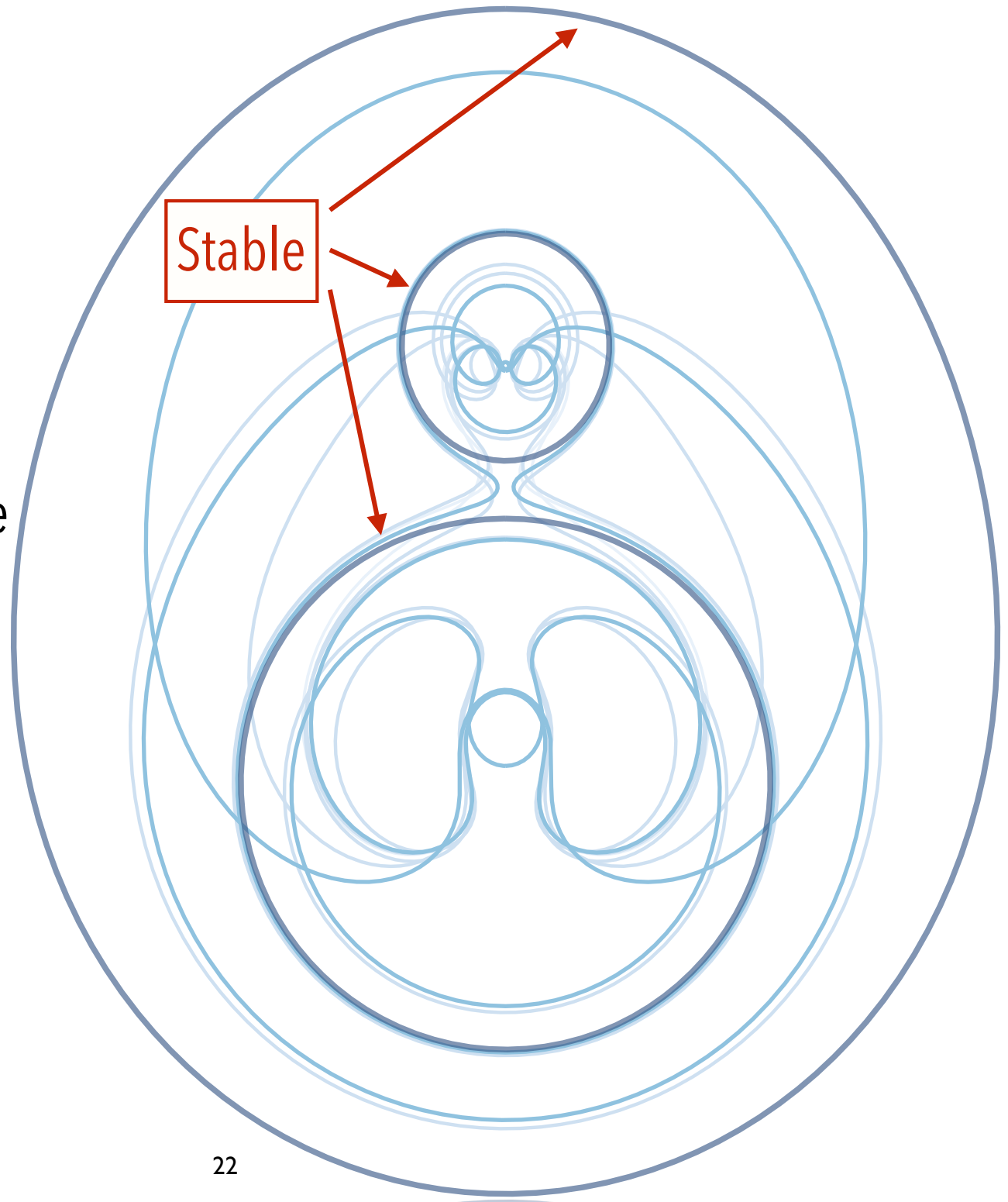
Black = stable MOTS = apparent horizons

Blue = unstable MOTS

Fading = lost for numerical reasons

Binary Mergers

- Only the initial and final outer AHs are stable
- Other MOTS are unstable and do not bound trapped regions
- Eigenvalues vanish at creation/annihilation events



Binary Mergers

- Only the initial and final outer AHs are stable

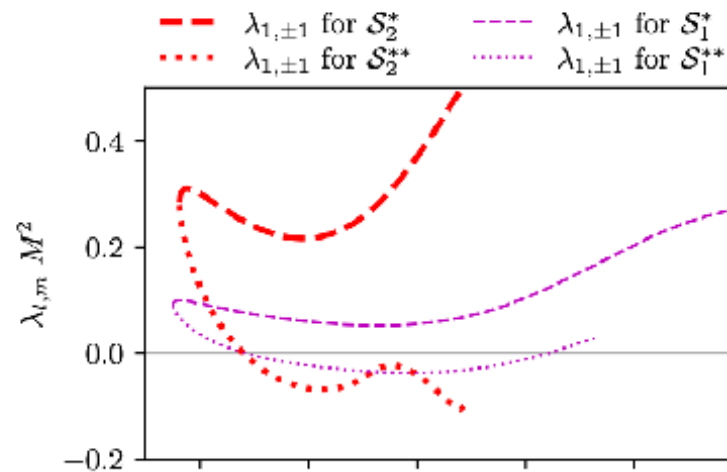


Stable

- - MOTS can annihilate (boundary gone) - dissolved
 - Involves interactions with unstable, internal MOTS
 - Are creations/annihilations the only interactions?
- Eigenvalues vanish at creation/annihilation events

Clue 1: Vanishing eigenvalues, smooth evolution

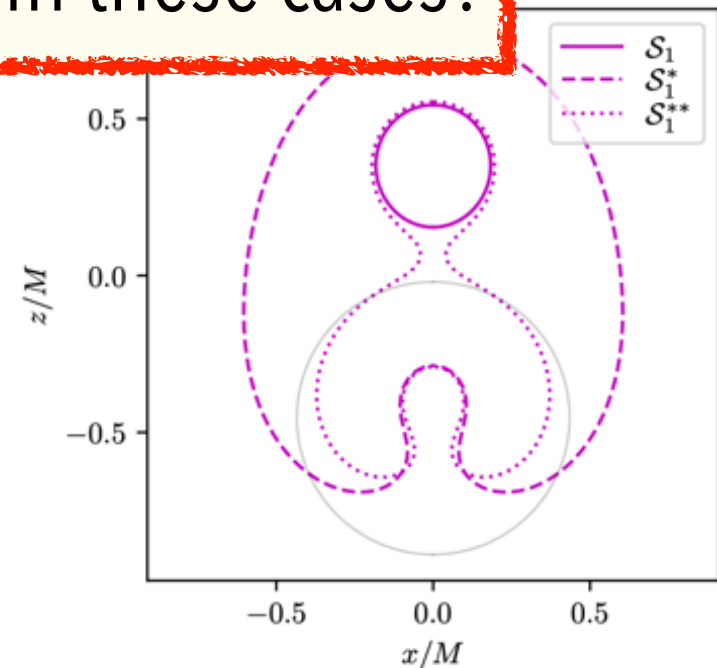
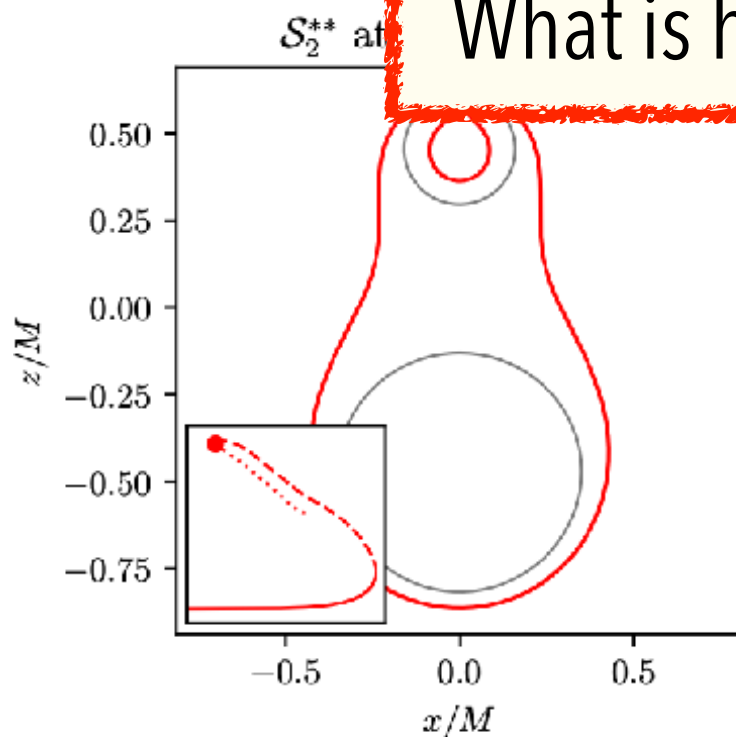
Pook-Kolb, Booth,
Hennigar, PRD 2021
"Ultimate fate...II.."



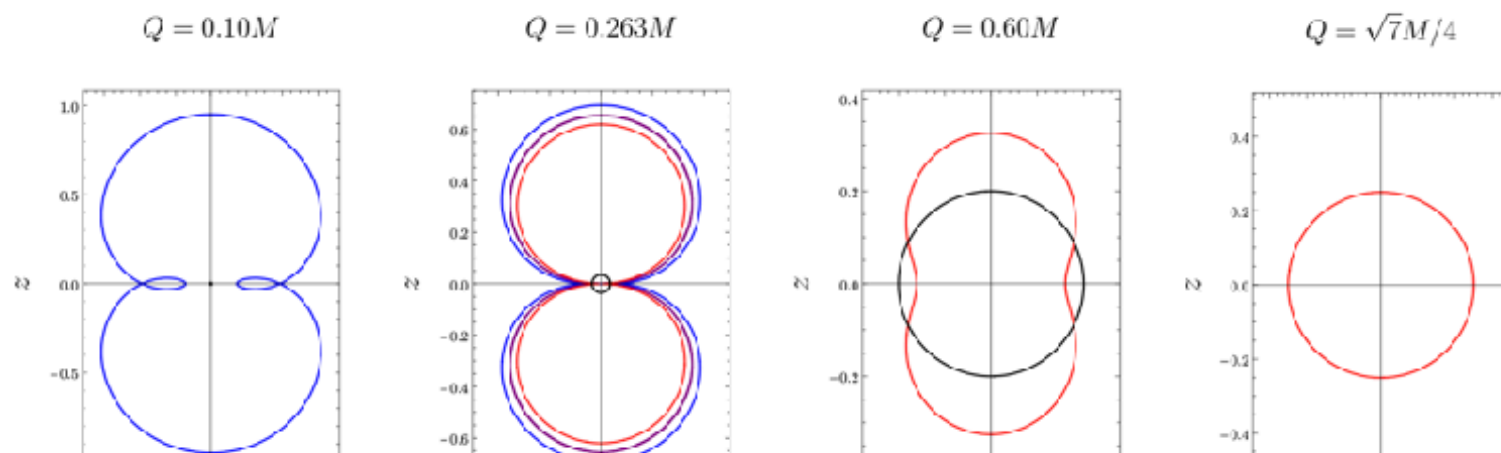
spacetime deformation

Non-axisymmetric
eigenvalues

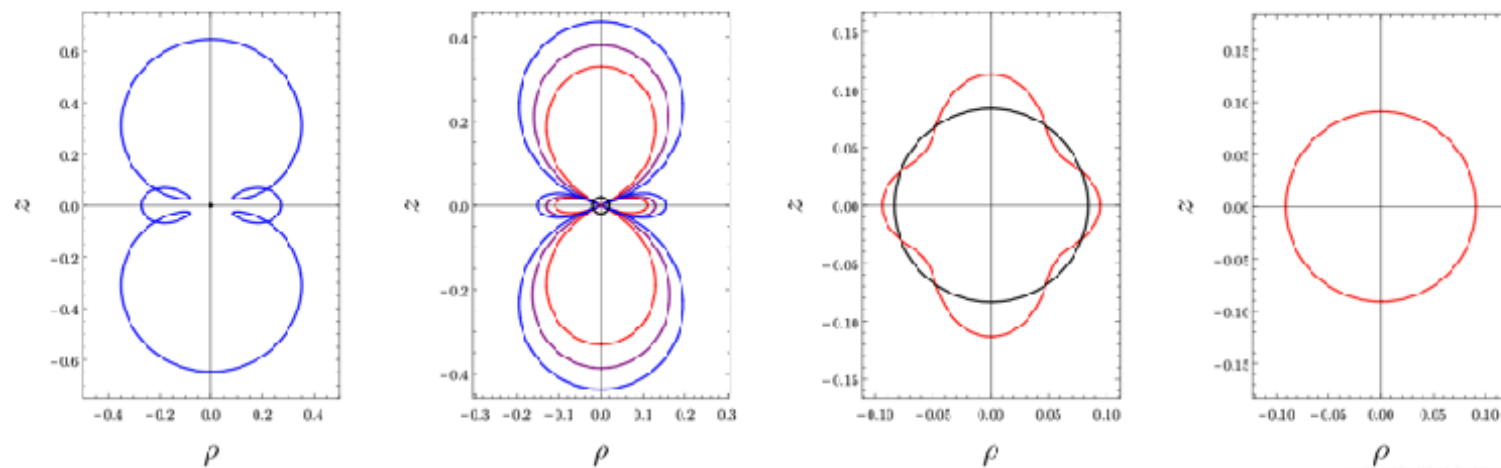
What is happening in these cases?



Clue 2: Tri-furcations in Reissner-Nordström???



More complicated splits/annihilations can occur



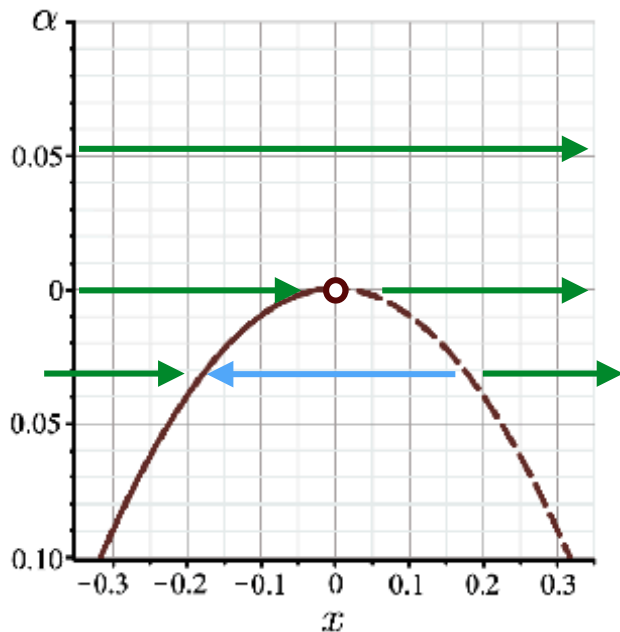
Hennigar, Chan, Newhook, Booth PRD 2022 (Interior MOTS...)

Recall bifurcation theory for dynamical systems...

Fixed points for differential equations

$$\dot{x} = \alpha + x^2$$

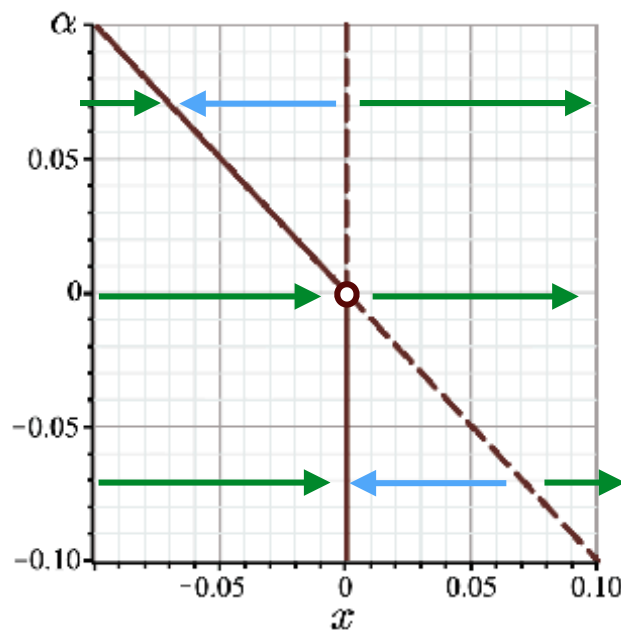
$\alpha < 0$ has fixed points:
 $x_o = \pm \sqrt{|\alpha|}$



a) Saddle-node

$$\dot{x} = x(\alpha + x)$$

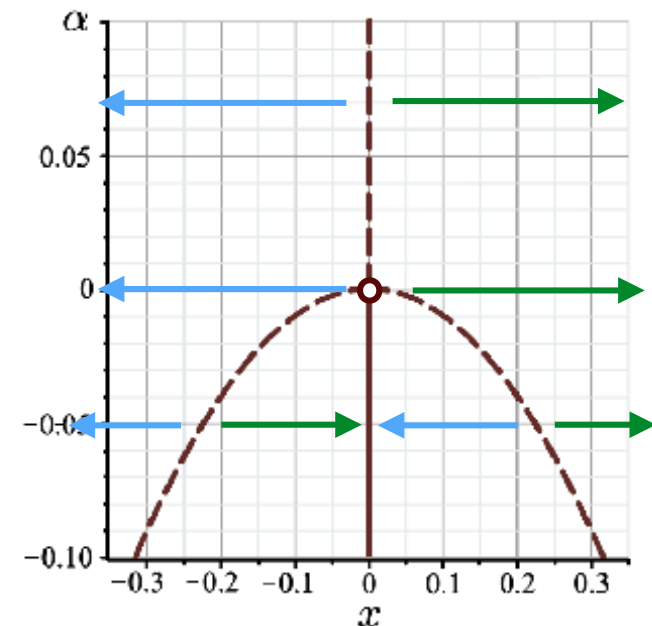
fixed points:
 $x_o = 0, -\alpha$



b) Transcritical

$$\dot{x} = x(\alpha + x^2)$$

fixed points: $x = 0$,
 $\alpha < 0 : x_o = \pm \sqrt{|\alpha|}$



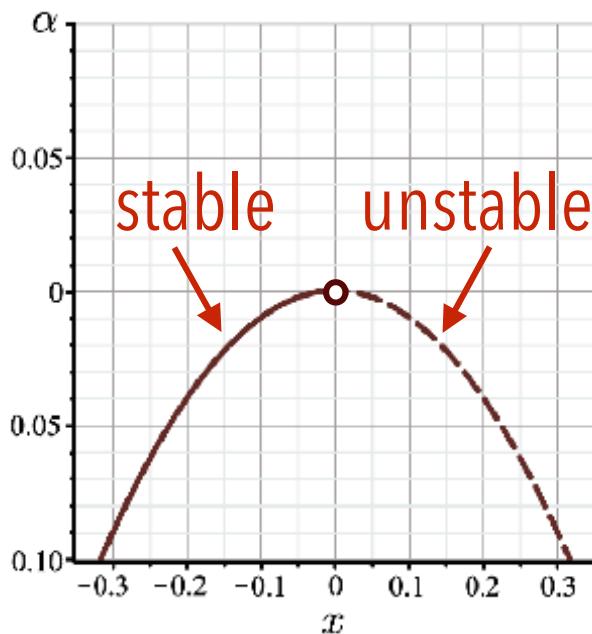
c) Pitchfork

Recall bifurcation theory for dynamical systems...

Fixed points for differential equations

$$\dot{x} = \alpha + x^2$$

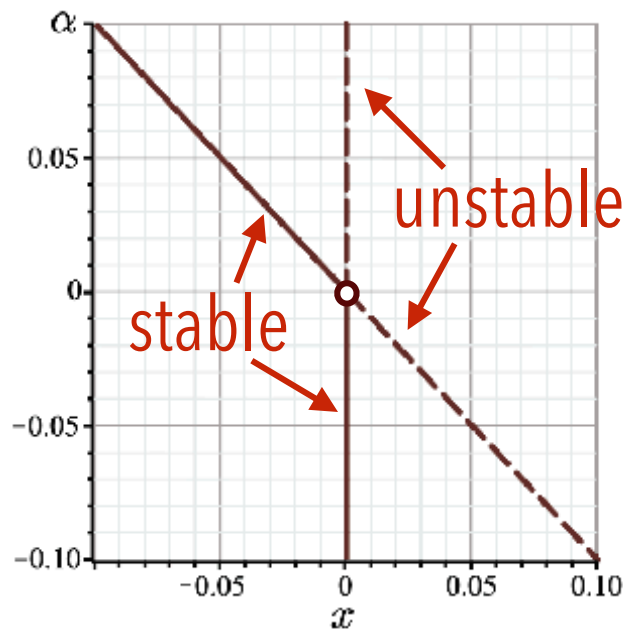
$\alpha < 0$ has fixed points:
 $x_o = \pm \sqrt{|\alpha|}$



a) Saddle-node

$$\dot{x} = x(\alpha + x)$$

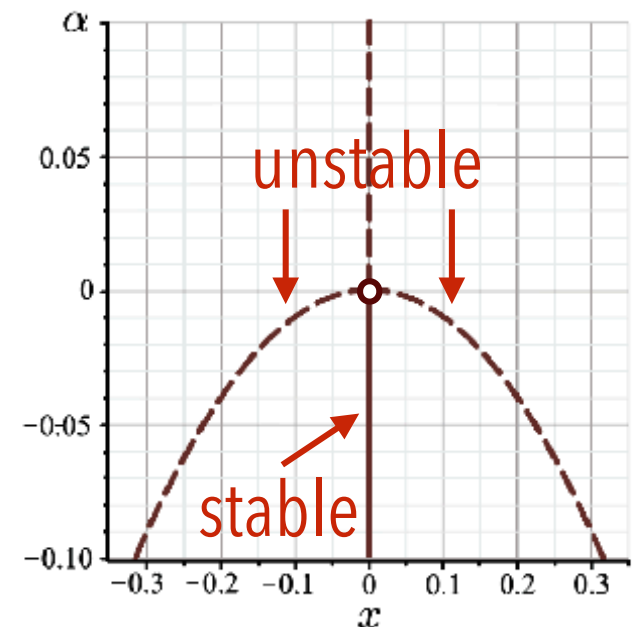
fixed points:
 $x_o = 0, -\alpha$



b) Transcritical

$$\dot{x} = x(\alpha + x^2)$$

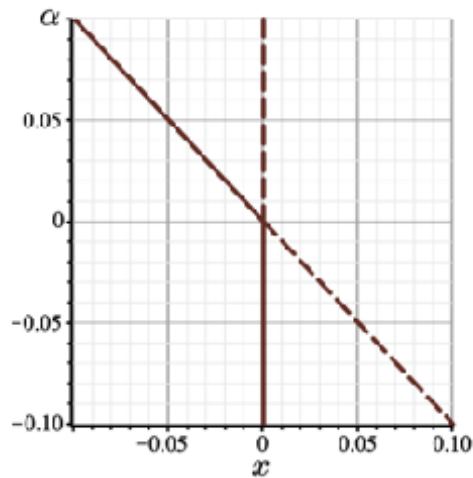
fixed points: $x = 0$,
 $\alpha < 0 : x_o = \pm \sqrt{|\alpha|}$



c) Pitchfork

More generally:

- $\dot{x} = f(\alpha, x) \implies$ for a fixed point $f(\alpha, x_o) = 0$
 - Near fixed point: $x = x_o + \delta x \implies \delta \dot{x} = f_x \delta x$
 - Stable $f_x(\alpha, x_o) < 0$
 Unstable $f_x(\alpha, x_o) > 0$
- $$f = x(x + \alpha)$$
- $$\implies f_x = 2x + \alpha$$
- $$\implies f_\alpha = x$$



b) Transcritical

- DE for a curve of fixed points $X(\alpha)$

$$\frac{d}{d\alpha} (f(\alpha, X(\alpha))) = f_\alpha + f_x X_\alpha = 0$$

$$\text{Unique solution if } X_\alpha = -\frac{f_\alpha}{f_x} = -\frac{x}{2x + \alpha}$$

At bifurcation point $(\alpha, x) = (0,0)$, X_α is unconstrained

Even more generally...

- $\dot{x}^i = f^i(\alpha, x) \implies$ for a fixed point $f^i(\alpha, x_o^j) = 0$
- Near fixed point: $x^i = x_o^i + \delta x^i \implies \delta \dot{x}^i = f_{,j}^i \delta x^j$
- Stable $f_{,j}^i$ all negative eigenvalues
Unstable $f_{,j}^i$ one or more positive eigenvalues
- DE for a curve of fixed points $X^i(\alpha)$

$$\frac{d}{d\alpha} (f^i(\alpha, X^j(\alpha))) = f_{,\alpha}^i + f_{,j}^i X_{,\alpha}^j = 0 \implies X_{,\alpha}^i = - [f_{,j}^i]^{-1} f_{,\alpha}^j$$

if inverse exists
- If $f_{,j}^i$ has a vanishing eigenvalue, $X_{,\alpha}^j$ is unconstrained in that direction.
- Vanishing eigenvalue \iff non-invertible \iff bifurcation point

And now: bifurcation theory for MOTSs

ODEs

MOTSs

Phase space

coordinates : x^i
(finite dimensional)

surfaces $S : X^\alpha(\theta, \phi)$
(infinite dimensional)

Fixed points

$$f^j(\alpha, x^i) = 0$$

$$\theta_\ell(X^\alpha(\theta, \phi)) = 0$$

Linearization

$$x^i \rightarrow x^i + \epsilon \Delta x^i$$

$$f_\alpha \Delta \alpha + f_{,i}^j \Delta x^i = 0$$

$$X^\alpha \rightarrow X^\alpha + \epsilon \psi N^\alpha$$

$$\delta_\alpha \theta_+ + L_S \psi = 0$$

Stability

all eigenvalues of $f_{,j}^i$

all eigenvalues of L_S

negative

positive

Birfurcations

vanishing λ_ν of $f_{,j}^i$

vanishing λ_ν of L_S

"Direction" of
bifurcation

eigenvector v_ν

eigenfunction ψ_ν

opposite name
conventions!!!

Spherical Symmetry

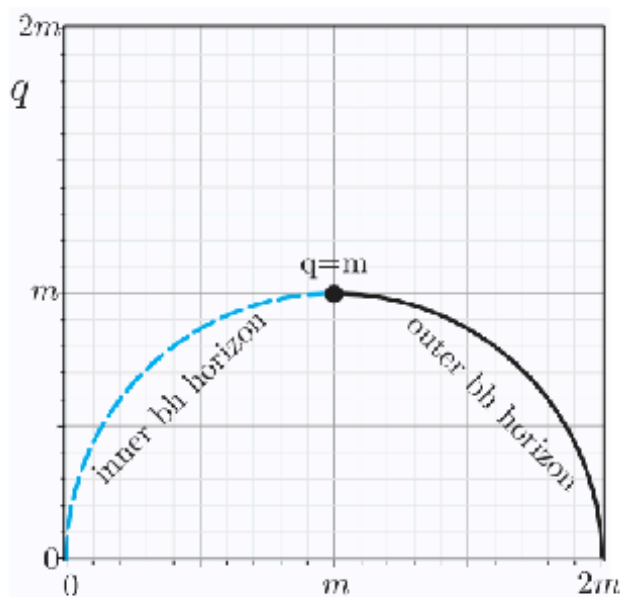
Reissner-Nordström-deSitter

$$ds^2 = -F dv^2 + 2dvdr + r^2 d\Omega^2$$

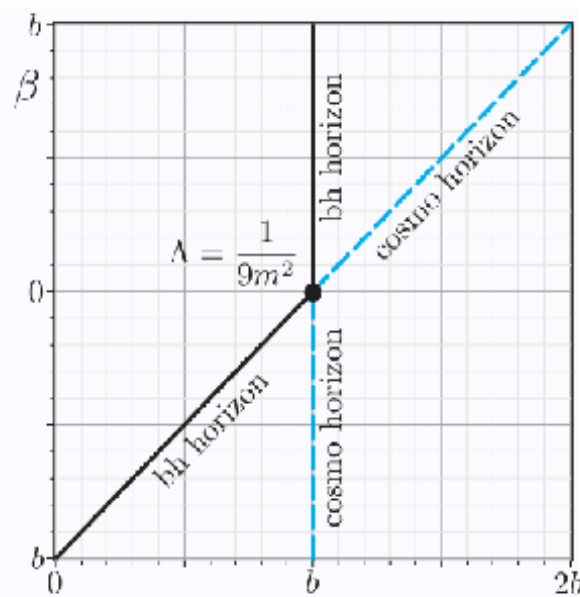
$$F = -\frac{\Lambda}{3}r^2 + 1 - \frac{2m}{r} + \frac{q^2}{r^2} \quad \text{for functions } \Lambda(\alpha), m(\alpha), q(\alpha)$$

MOTSs bifurcations are **exactly** ODE bifurcations (modulo naming) with

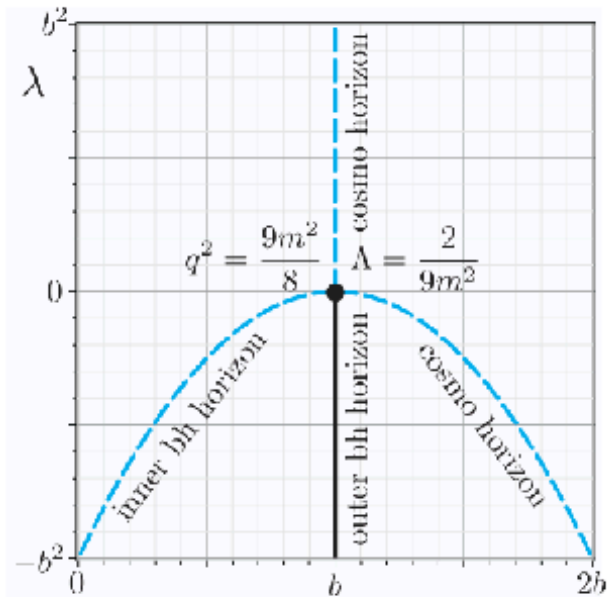
$$\dot{r} = \frac{dr}{dv} = f = \frac{F}{2} \quad (\text{radial null geodesics})$$



a) Reissner-Nordström:
saddle-node



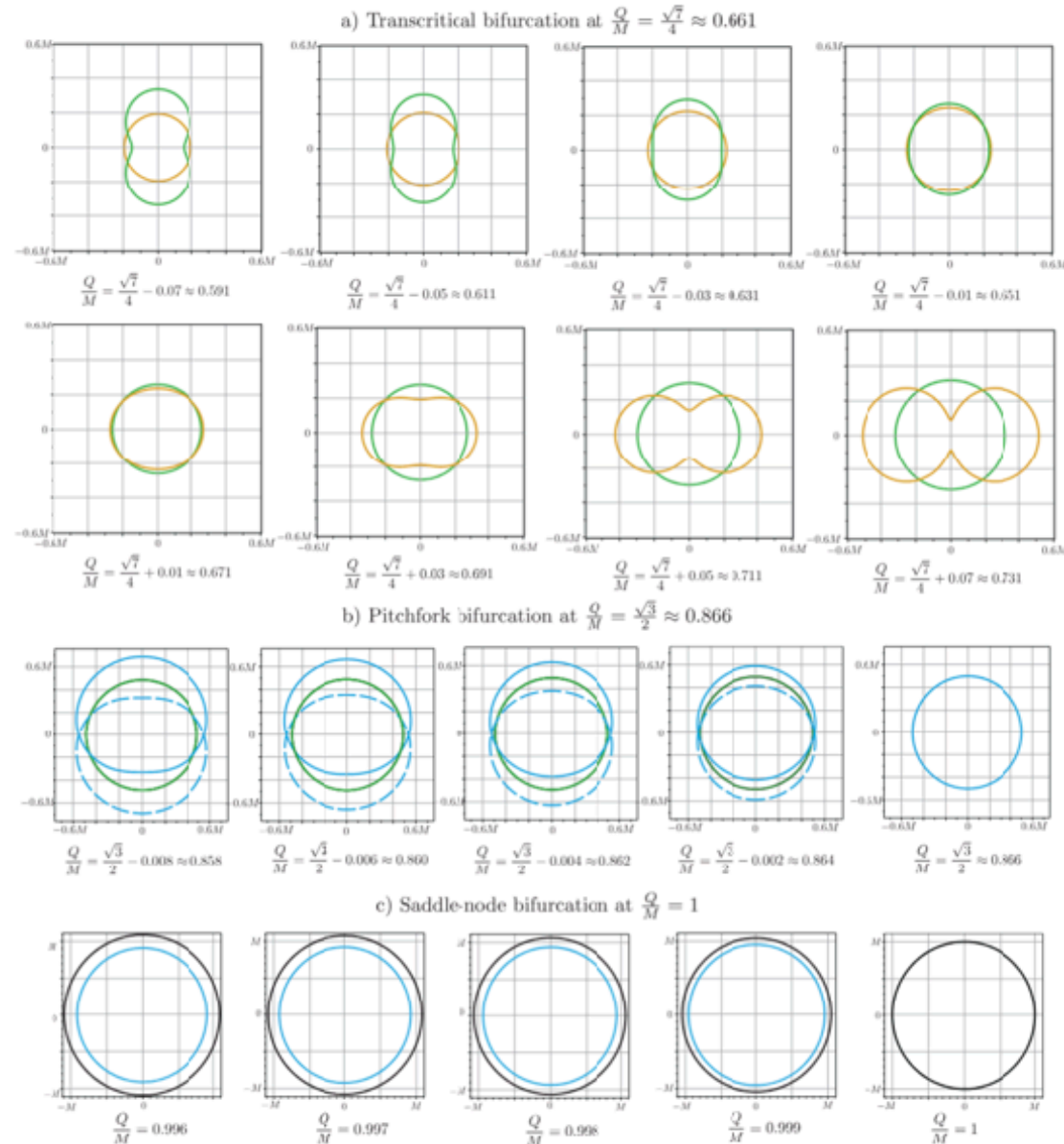
b) Schwarzschild-deSitter:
transcritical



c) Reissner-Nordström-deSitter:
pitchfork

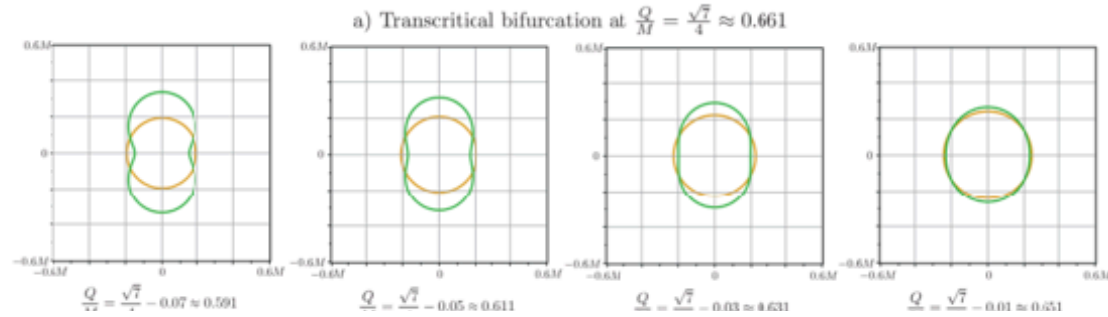
Axi-symmetric
bifurcations
from
spherical symmetry

Back to Reissner-Nordström: order emerges



Axi-symmetric
bifurcations
from
spherical symmetry

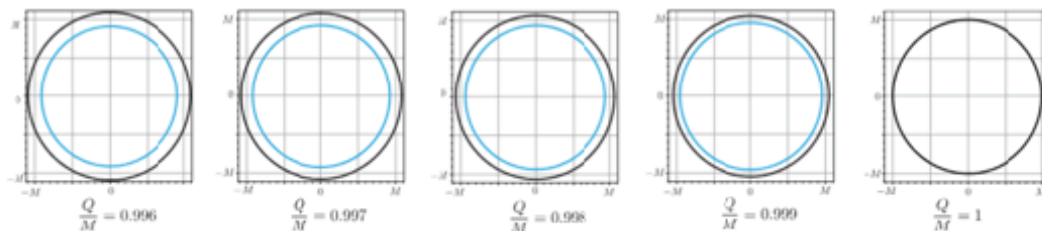
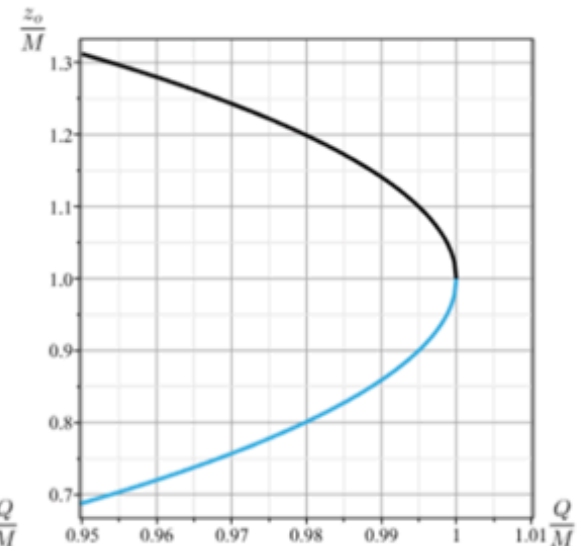
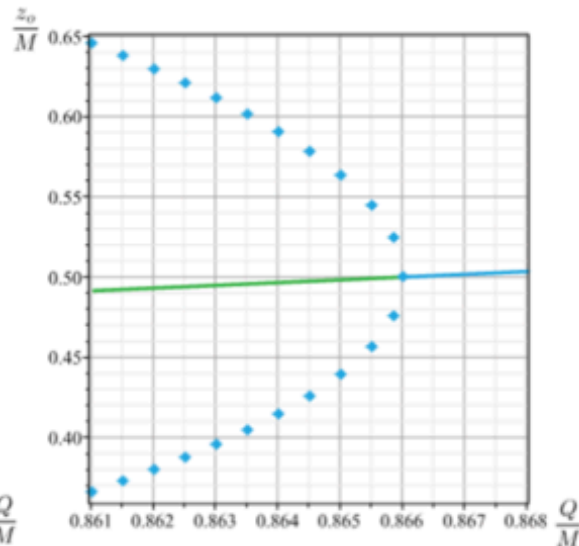
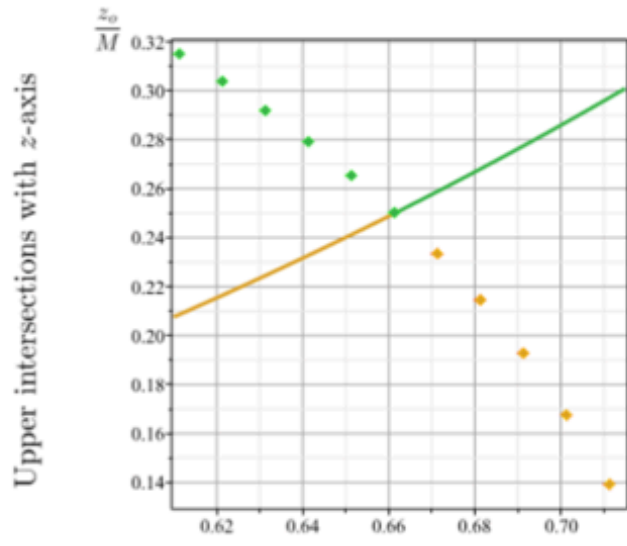
Back to Reissner-Nordström: order emerges



a) Transcritical bifurcation at $\frac{Q}{M} = \frac{\sqrt{7}}{4}$

b) Pitchfork bifurcation at $\frac{Q}{M} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

c) Saddle node bifurcation at $\frac{Q}{M} = 1$



Weyl-Schwarzschild

- All static, axisymmetric metrics can be written in the form

$$ds^2 = -e^U dt^2 + e^{-2U+2V} (dz^2 + d\rho^2) + e^{-2U} \rho^2 d\phi^2$$

where $U = U(\rho, z)$ and $V = V(\rho, z)$.

- These are vacuum solutions if U is a solution of the flat space Laplace equation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial \rho^2} + \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial U}{\partial \rho} + \frac{\partial^2 U}{\partial z^2} = 0$$

$$\text{and } \frac{\partial V}{\partial \rho} = \rho \left(\left[\frac{\partial U}{\partial \rho} \right]^2 + \left[\frac{\partial U}{\partial z} \right]^2 \right), \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial z} = 2\rho \frac{\partial U}{\partial \rho} \frac{\partial U}{\partial z}.$$

- U solutions can be classified in the usual way: monopole, dipole, quadrupole, octopole etc.

Weyl-distorted Schwarzschild

$$ds^2 = -e^{2U} \left(1 - \frac{2m}{r}\right) + e^{-2U+2V} \left(\frac{dr^2}{1 - \frac{2m}{r}} + r^2 d\theta^2\right) + e^{-2U} r^2 \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2$$

- If we demand no conical singularities on the horizon and deform from infinity, then the metric on the horizon at $r=2m$ is:

$$dS^2 = 4m^2 e^{-2U} (e^{4U-4u_o} d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2)$$

where $U(2m, \theta) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \alpha_i P_i(\cos \theta)$ and $V(2m, \theta) = 2U(2m, \theta) - 2u_o$

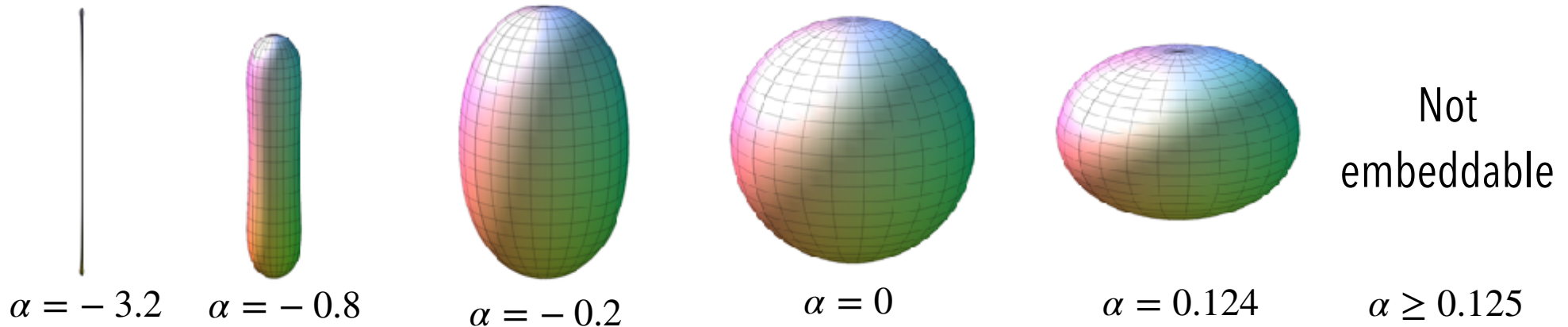
with $U(2m, 0) = U(2m, \pi) = u_o$, $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha_{2k-1} = 0$, $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha_{2k} = u_o$

Focus on quadrupole case

Weyl Distorted Schwarzschild

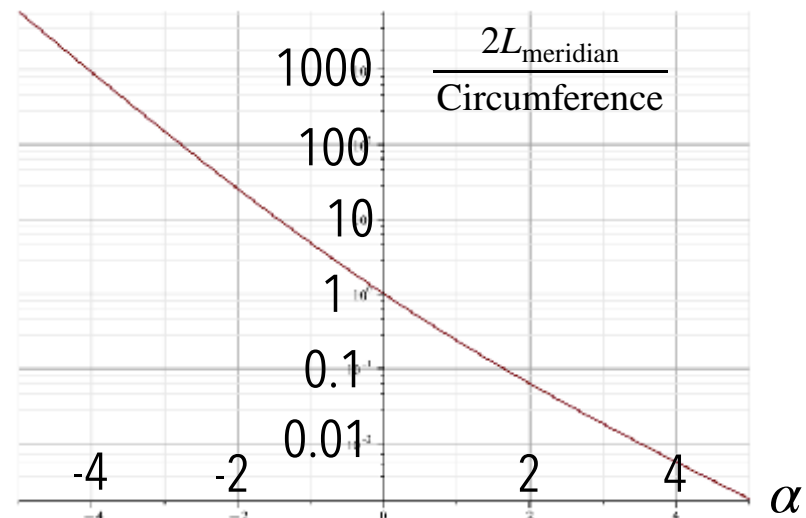
T.Pilkington, A.Melanson,
J. Fitzgerald, IB
CQG 28:125018,2011

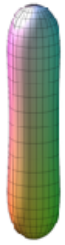
- Quadrupole solutions give a one-parameter (α) family of distortions
- $r = 2m$ bends but it doesn't break!



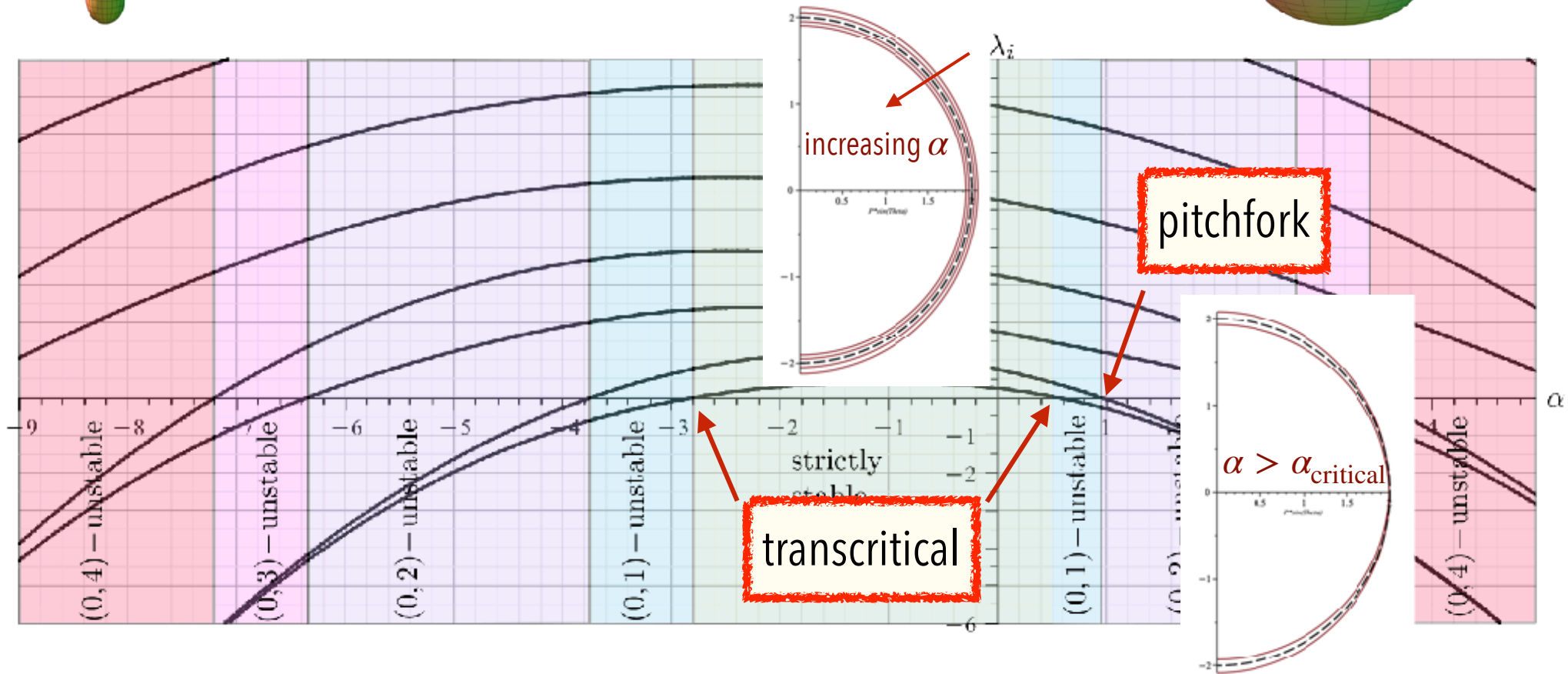
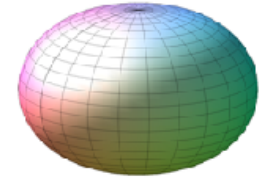
$$\text{Area} = 16\pi^2 m^2 e^{-2\alpha}$$

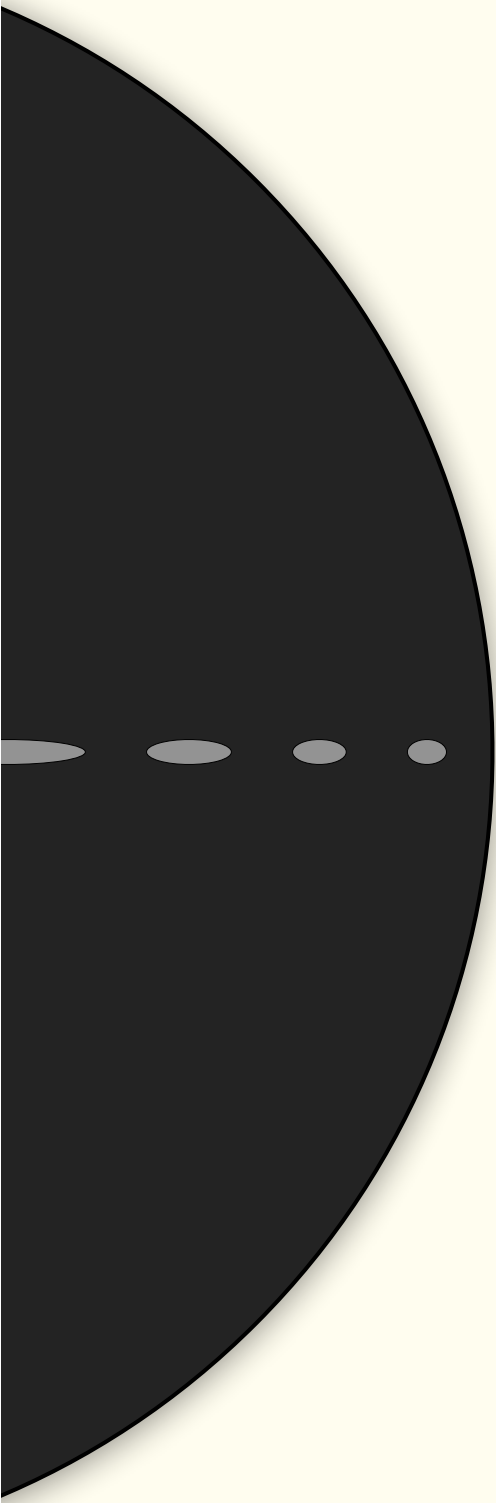
$$\text{Circumference} = 4\pi m$$





Eigenvalues of quadrupole-distorted Schwarzschild





Take aways

- Most MOTS are not boundaries of trapped regions: they simply identify regions of (very) strong gravity
- Rich set of unstable MOTS inside all black holes studied
- Strictly stable MOTS are (at least local) boundaries
- Stability operator also determines MOTS evolution
- Evolution is unique *except* at stability transitions
- These include the well-known pair-creations and pair-annihilations (principal eigenvalues, saddle-node)
- These involve interactions with internal (unstable) MOTS
- Other possibilities include transcritical and pitchfork
- Possible bifurcations are universal