



THE NONLINEAR POTENTIAL THEORY THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS

AND THE PENROSE INEQUALITY WE FOUND THERE

joint with M. Fogagnolo, L. Mazzieri, A. Pluda and M. Pozzetta

Recent Advances in Comparison Geometry

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MGR in a nutshell

1

NPT and IMCF in comparison

2

Monotonicity formulas

3

The Riemannian Penrose inequalities

4

1

ONCE UPON A TIME
MGR IN A NUTSHELL

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- **Einstein (field) equations:** the model of a gravitational system evolving through the time is a Lorentzian manifold $(\mathfrak{M}^{3+1}, \mathfrak{g})$, \mathfrak{g} with signature $(+++ -)$, solving the system of equations

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$$\mu = 8\pi T(n, n) = \frac{1}{2}(R + (\text{tr } K)^2 - |K|^2) \quad (\text{Energy density})$$

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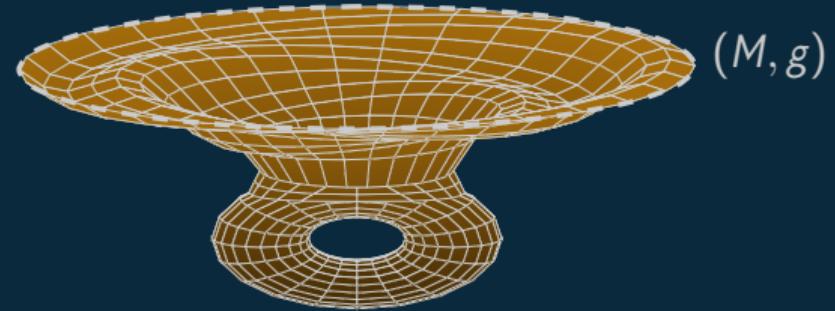
- **Dominant energy condition:** generalise the requirement that the energy density is nonnegative
 $\mu \geq |J| \stackrel{K=0}{\rightsquigarrow} R \geq 0.$
- **Time-symmetric:** $K = 0 \rightsquigarrow$ apparent horizons are minimal surfaces.

- **Isolated gravitational system:** a system where gravitational influences at large distances can be neglected $\rightsquigarrow (M, g)$ is asymptotically flat

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Asymptotically flat manifold

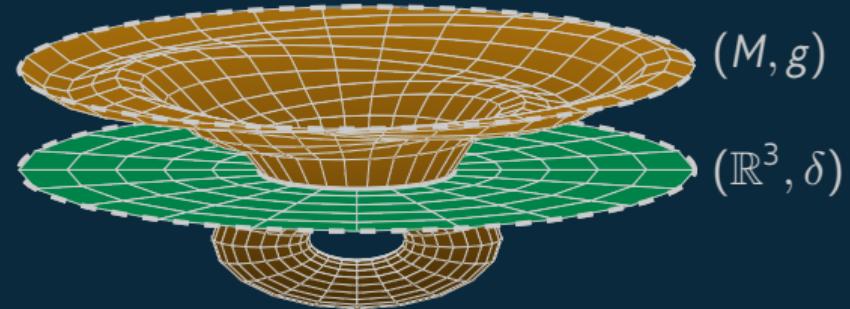
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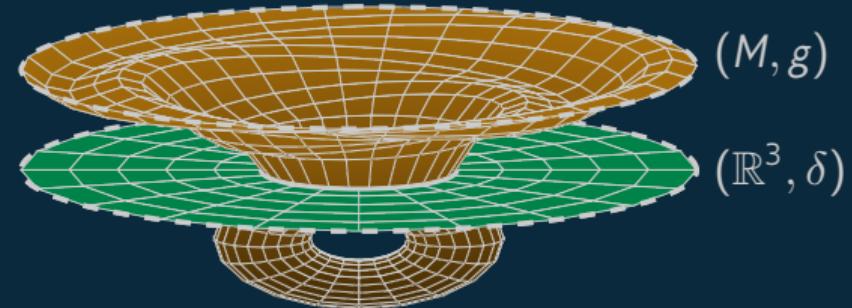
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\mathcal{C}_1^1 -asymptotically flat

If (M, g) is \mathcal{C}_1^1 -asymptotically flat

$$|g_{ij} - \delta_{ij}| \leq C|x|^{-1}$$

$$|\partial g_{ij}| \leq C|x|^{-2}$$



Setting

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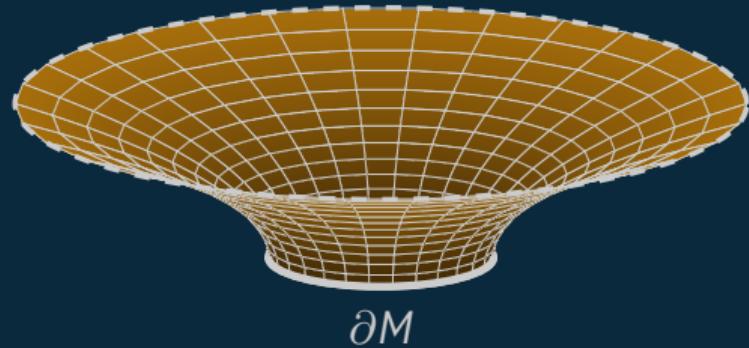
Schwarzschild solution

Given $m \geq 0$, the Schwarzschild solution is $(\mathfrak{S}(m), \sigma)$, where $\mathfrak{S}(m) \cong \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_{2m}$ and

$$\sigma := \left(1 + \frac{m}{2|x|}\right)^4 \delta.$$

Scalar flat ($R = 0$), asymptotically flat with minimal outermost boundary. The quantity m is the mass of the black hole and satisfies

$$m = \sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}}.$$



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- ADM mass: defined by [Arnowitt, Deser, Misner '61]. [Bartrik '86], [Chruściel '86] ↳ is a geometric invariant provided (M, g) is \mathcal{C}_τ^1 -asymptotically flat, $\tau > 1/2$.

Theorem - [Schoen, Yau '79 · CMP]

Let (M, g) a \mathcal{C}^2_τ -asymptotically flat Riemannian manifold, $\tau > 1/2$, with $R \geq 0$, then $m_{ADM} \geq 0$. Moreover, $m_{ADM} = 0$ if and only if $(M, g) \cong (\mathbb{R}^3, \delta)$.

In dimension $3 \leq n \leq 7$ [Schoen, Yau '79 · Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA], [Lohkamp '16], for spin manifolds [Witten '81 · CMP], [Bray, Kazaras, Khuri, Stern '22 · J. Geom. Anal] using harmonic functions with linear growth and [Agostiniani, Mazzieri, Oronzio '24 · CMP] using the harmonic Green function.

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RIEMANNIAN PNEROSE INEQUALITY

Theorem - [Huisken, Ilmanen '01 · JDG]

Let (M, g) be a \mathcal{C}^1 -asymptotically flat 3-Riemannian manifold with $R \geq 0$ and $\text{Ric} \geq -C/|x|^2$ and connected, outermost, minimal boundary. Then

$$\sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}} \leq m_{\text{ADM}}. \quad (\text{RPI})$$

Moreover, the equality holds if and only if $(M, g) \cong (\mathfrak{S}(m_{\text{ADM}}), \sigma)$.

For multiple horizons [Bray '01 · JDG], in dimension $3 \leq n \leq 7$ [Bray, Lee '09 · DMJ] and [Agostiniani, Mantegazza, Mazzieri, Oronzio '22] using nonlinear potential theory.

A “smooth” proof.

Take Σ and evolve it using the IMCF, namely a family of diffeomorphisms $F_t(\Sigma) = \Sigma_t \subset M$ with

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} F_t = \frac{\nu}{H}, \quad (\text{IMCF})$$

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Consider the **Hawking mass**

$$m_H(\Sigma) := \sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma|}{16\pi}} \left(1 - \int_{\Sigma} \frac{H^2}{16\pi} d\mathcal{H}^2 \right). \quad (\text{Hawking mass})$$

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Since $R \geq 0$, the function $t \mapsto m_H(\Sigma_t)$ is monotone nondecreasing, indeed

$$\frac{d}{dt} m_H(\Sigma_t) = \frac{1}{16\pi} \sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma_t|}{16\pi}} \left(\underbrace{8\pi - \int_{\Sigma_t} R^\top d\mathcal{H}^2}_{\geq 0 \text{ Gauss-Bonnet}} + \underbrace{\int_{\Sigma_t} |\mathring{h}|^2 + R + 2 \frac{|\nabla^\top H|^2}{H^2} d\mathcal{H}^2}_{Q_1 \geq 0} \right)$$

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Moreover,

$$m_H(\Sigma) \leq \varlimsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} m_H(\Sigma_t) \leq m_{\text{ADM}}.$$

↑
asymptotic assumptions on g

□

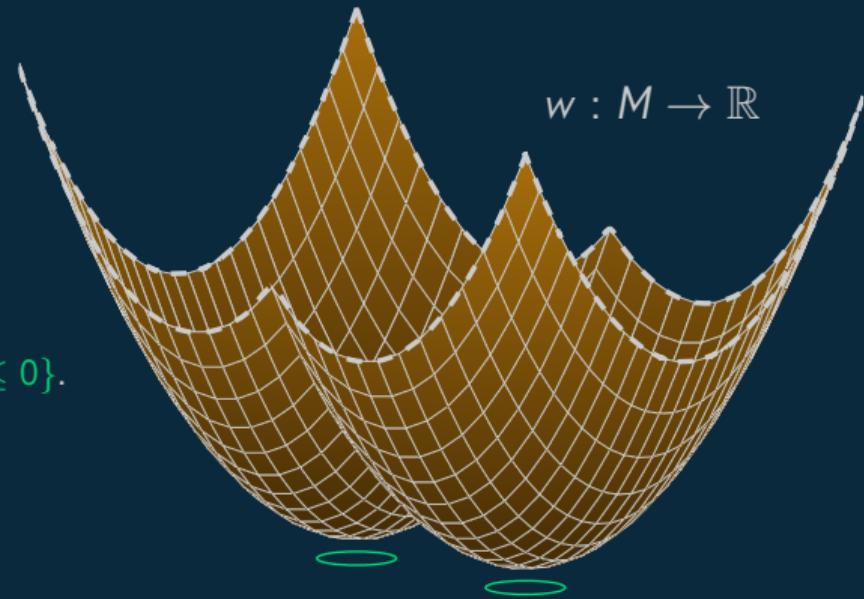
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TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDEE **NPT AND IMCF IN COMPARISON**

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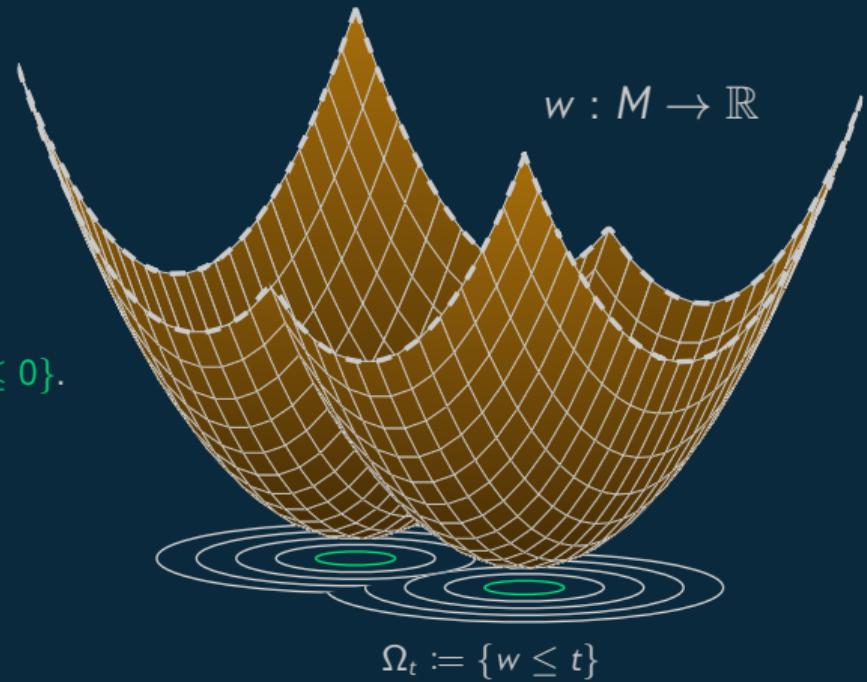


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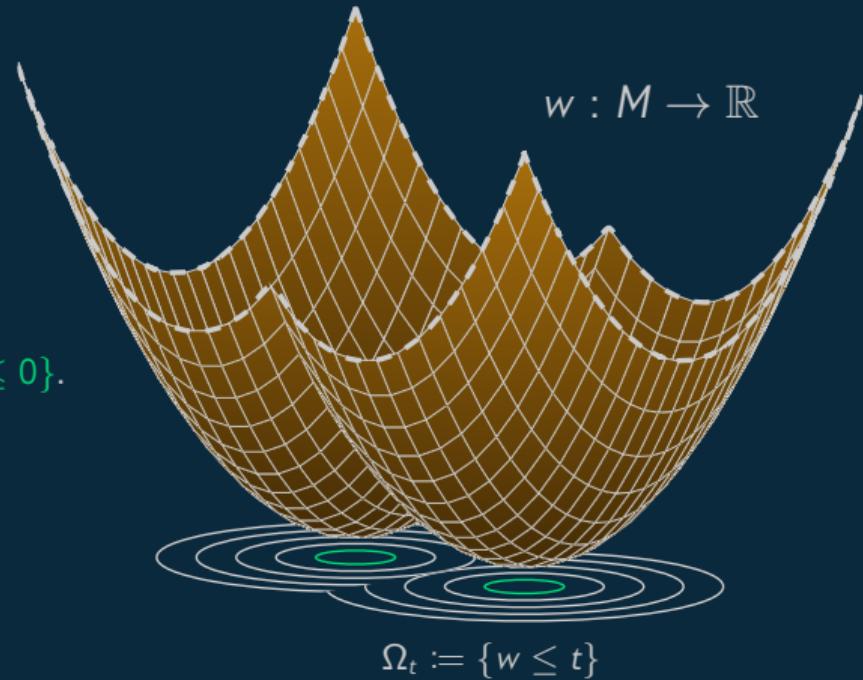
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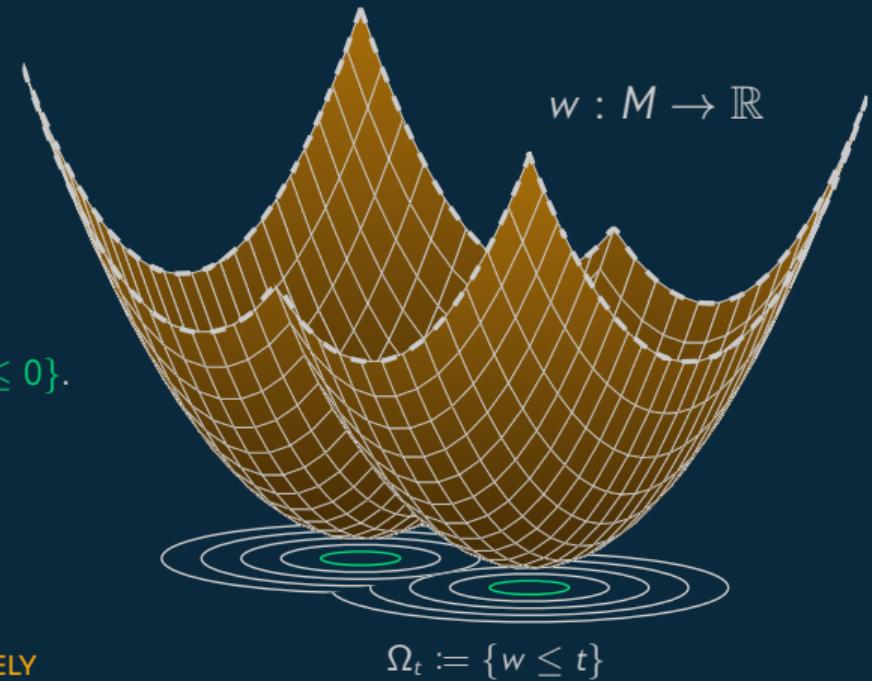


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WE NEED TO CHOOSE THE FUNCTION w WISELY



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Proposition - [Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '22 · JFA]

In this setting, $\mathfrak{c}_p(\partial\Omega) \rightarrow |\partial\Omega^*|/4\pi$ as $p \rightarrow 1^+$. In particular, $\mathfrak{c}_p(\partial\Omega_t^{(p)}) \rightarrow |\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}|/4\pi$.

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Theorem - [Mari, Rigoli, Setti '22 · AJM]

In this setting, $w_p \rightarrow w_1$ uniformly on compact subsets of M as $p \rightarrow 1^+$.

After the works [Moser '07 · JEMS] in \mathbb{R}^n and [Kotschwar, Ni '09 · Ann. Sci. Éc. Norm. Supér] in nonnegative sectional curvature.

3

THE TEA PARTY
MONOTONICITY FORMULAS

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[Agostiniani, Mantegazza, Mazzieri, Oronzio '22] introduced the **p -Hawking mass**

$$\mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\Sigma) = \frac{c_p(\Sigma)^{\frac{1}{3-p}}}{2} \left[1 + \int_{\Sigma} \frac{|\nabla w_p|^2}{4(3-p)^2\pi} d\mathcal{H}^2 - \int_{\Sigma} \frac{|\nabla w_p| H}{4(3-p)\pi} d\mathcal{H}^2 \right] \quad (p\text{-Hawking mass})$$

and proved that $t \mapsto \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\partial\Omega_t^{(p)})$ is monotone nondecreasing along regular values.

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and proved that $t \mapsto \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\partial\Omega_t^{(p)})$ is monotone nondecreasing along regular values.

Theorem - [B — , Pluda, Pozzetta '24]

Almost every level of w_p is a **curvature varifold** and

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\partial\Omega_t^{(p)}) \geq \frac{\mathfrak{c}_p(\partial\Omega_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}}}{(3-p)16\pi} \underbrace{\int_{\partial\Omega_t^{(p)}} |\mathring{h}|^2 + R + 2 \frac{|\nabla^\top |\nabla w_p||^2}{|\nabla w_p|^2} + 2 \frac{5-p}{p-1} \left(\frac{|\nabla w_p|}{3-p} - \frac{H}{2} \right)^2}_{Q_p} d\mathcal{H}^2$$

holds for almost every $t \in [0, +\infty)$.

INVERSE MEAN CURVATURE FLOW [*Huisken, Ilmanen '01 · JDG*]

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}) \geq \frac{1}{16\pi} \sqrt{\frac{|\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}|}{16\pi}} \int_{\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}} |\mathring{h}|^2 + R + 2 \frac{|\nabla^\top H|^2}{H^2} d\mathcal{H}^2$$

NONLINEAR POTENTIAL THEORY [*B — , Pluda, Pozzetta '24*]

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\partial\Omega_t^{(p)}) \geq \frac{c_p (\partial\Omega_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}}}{(3-p)16\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega_t^{(p)}} |\mathring{h}|^2 + R + 2 \frac{|\nabla^\top |\nabla w_p||^2}{|\nabla w_p|^2} + 2 \frac{5-p}{p-1} \left(\frac{|\nabla w_p|}{3-p} - \frac{H}{2} \right)^2 d\mathcal{H}^2$$

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6. By coarea: $\lim_{p \rightarrow 1^+} \int |\nabla w_p|^2 = \int |\nabla w_1|^2 \rightsquigarrow \nabla w_p \rightarrow \nabla w_1$ strongly in L^2

Theorem - [B — , Pluda, Pozzetta '24]

In our setting, $\nabla w_p \rightarrow \nabla w$ in L_{loc}^q for every $q < +\infty$. Moreover, $\partial\Omega_t^{(p)}$ converges in the sense of varifold to $\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}$ and

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}) \geq \frac{1}{16\pi} \sqrt{\frac{|\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}|}{16\pi}} \int_{\partial\Omega_t} |\mathring{h}|^2 + R + 2 \frac{|\nabla^\top H|^2}{H^2} dH^2.$$

for almost every $t \in [0, +\infty)$.

We recover the monotonicity formula proved in [Huisken, Ilmanen '01 · JDG].

4

FIGHTING THE JABBERWOCKY RIEMANNIAN PENROSE INEQUALITIES

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[Huisken '06] introduced the concept of **isoperimetric mass**: given $\{\Omega_k\}$ an exhaustion of M

$$\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}} := \sup_{\{\Omega_k\}} \overline{\lim}_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}(\Omega_k) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}(\Omega_k) := \frac{2}{|\partial\Omega_k|} \underbrace{\left(|\Omega_k| - \frac{|\partial\Omega_k|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{6\sqrt{\pi}} \right)}_{\mathbb{R}^3 \text{ isoperimetric deficit}}.$$

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[Jáuregui '20] introduced the concept of **isocapacitary mass** ($p = 2$ only): given $\{\Omega_k\}$ an exhaustion of M

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- $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}$ and $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}$ are **geometric invariants** without any asymptotic assumption.
- In $(\mathfrak{S}(\mathfrak{m}), \sigma)$, it holds $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}} = \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)} = \mathfrak{m}$.

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$$\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}} := \sup_{\{\Omega_k\}} \overline{\lim}_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}(\Omega_k) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}(\Omega_k) := \frac{2}{|\partial\Omega_k|} \underbrace{\left(|\Omega_k| - \frac{|\partial\Omega_k|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{6\sqrt{\pi}} \right)}_{\mathbb{R}^3 \text{ isoperimetric deficit}}.$$

[Jáuregui '20] introduced the concept of **iscapacitary mass** ($p = 2$ only): given $\{\Omega_k\}$ an exhaustion of M

$$\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)} := \sup_{\{\Omega_k\}} \overline{\lim}_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}^{(p)}(\Omega_k) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}(\Omega_k) := \frac{1}{2p\pi \mathfrak{c}_p(\partial\Omega_k)} \underbrace{\left(|\Omega_k| - \frac{4\pi}{3} \mathfrak{c}_p(\partial\Omega_k)^{\frac{3}{3-p}} \right)}_{\mathbb{R}^3 \text{ iscapacitary deficit}}.$$

- $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}$ and $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}$ are **geometric invariants** without any asymptotic assumption.
- In $(\mathfrak{S}(\mathfrak{m}), \sigma)$, it holds $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}} = \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)} = \mathfrak{m}$.

WHAT ABOUT THE EQUIVALENCE WITH $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}}$?

RIEMANNIAN PENROSE INEQUALITY IS VALID FOR $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}$ AND $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}$?

Theorem - [Fan, Shi, Tam '09 · Comm. Anal. Geom.]

$\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}(B_R) \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}}$ as $R \rightarrow +\infty$, provided $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}}$ is defined. In particular, $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}} \leq \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}$.

Theorem - [Jauregui '20]

$\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(2)}(B_R) \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}}$ as $R \rightarrow +\infty$, provided $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}}$ is defined. In particular, $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}} \leq \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(2)}$. The equality holds for harmonically flat manifolds.

Theorem - [Jauregui, Lee '19 · CRELLE]

If $\mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega) \leq m$ for Ω in a given class, then $\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}} \leq m$.

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Combining them with [Huisken, Ilmanen '01 · JDG] we get

Equivalence of masses - RPI

If (M, g) is \mathcal{C}^1_1 -asymptotically flat and $\text{Ric} \geq -C/|x|^2$

$$\sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}} \leq \mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}} = \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}} \leq \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}.$$

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SUMMING UP**Equivalence of masses -**

always

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For all concepts under the ussumptions of [Huisken, Ilmanen '01 · JDG].

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WHAT HAPPENS BELOW THIS THRESHOLD?

Theorem - [B — , Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '22], [B — , Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '23 · SIGMA]

Let (M, g) be a \mathcal{C}^1_τ -asymptotically flat 3-Riemannian manifold, $\tau > 1/2$, with $R \geq 0$ and connected, outermost, minimal boundary. Then,

$$\sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}} \leq m_{ADM} = m_{iso} = m_{iso}^{(p)}. \quad (\text{RPI})$$

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Some remarks

- We already know $m_{ADM} \leq m_{iso}^{(p)}$.

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- We already know $m_{ADM} \leq m_{iso}^{(p)}$.
- It is easy to prove that $m_{iso}^{(p)} \leq m_{iso}$: sharp isoperimetric inequality \rightsquigarrow sharp isocapacitary inequality via symmetrization [Jauregui '12] (taking the ball of \mathbb{R}^3 of the same volume of $\Omega_t^{(p)}$). Hence, from Shi's isoperimetric inequality

$$|\Omega|^{\frac{3-p}{3}} \leq \left(\frac{4\pi}{3}\right)^{\frac{3-p}{3}} c_p(\partial\Omega) + \frac{p(3-p)}{2} \left(\frac{4\pi}{3}\right)^{\frac{3-p}{3}} c_p(\partial\Omega)^{\frac{2-p}{3-p}} (m_{iso} + o(1))$$

as $|\Omega| \rightarrow +\infty$.

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- If we show $m_{iso} \leq m_{ADM} \rightsquigarrow m_{iso}^{(p)} \leq m_{iso} \leq m_{ADM} \leq m_{iso}^{(p)} \rightsquigarrow$ they are equal.

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- If we show $m_{iso} \leq m_{ADM} \rightsquigarrow m_{iso}^{(p)} \leq m_{iso} \leq m_{ADM} \leq m_{iso}^{(p)} \rightsquigarrow$ they are equal.
- We want to apply [Jauregui, Lee '19 · CRELLE]: proving $m_H(\partial\Omega) \leq m_{ADM}$ is enough to conclude.

IMCF proof

Take $\Omega \subseteq M$ and evolve with $\Omega_t^{(1)} = \{w_1 \leq t\}$

$$t \mapsto \mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega_t^{(1)})$$

is monotone nondecreasing. By **asymptotic assumptions on g**

$$\mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega) \leq \varlimsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}) \leq \mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}}.$$

[Huisken, Ilmanen '01 · JDG]

$$\sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma|}{16\pi}} \left(1 - \int_{\Sigma} \frac{\mathsf{H}^2}{16\pi} d\mathcal{H}^2 \right)$$

Linear potential proof

Take $\Omega \subseteq M$ and evolve with $\Omega_t^{(2)} = \{w_2 \leq t\}$

$$t \mapsto \mathfrak{m}_H^{(2)}(\partial\Omega_t^{(2)})$$

is monotone nondecreasing. By **refined integral asymptotic behaviour of w_2**

$$\mathfrak{m}_H^{(2)}(\partial\Omega) \leq \varlimsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}_H^{(2)}(\partial\Omega_t^{(2)}) \leq \mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}}.$$

[Agostiniani, Mazzieri, Oronzio '24 · CMP]

$$\frac{\mathfrak{c}_2(\Sigma)}{2} \left(1 + \int_{\Sigma} \frac{(2|\nabla w_2| - \mathsf{H})^2}{16\pi} - \frac{\mathsf{H}^2}{16\pi} d\mathcal{H}^2 \right)$$

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Take Ω , evolve with $\Omega_t^{(1)} = \{w_1 \leq t\}$,

$$\mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega) \leq \varlimsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega_t^{(1)})$$

Linear potential proof

Take $\Omega \subseteq M$ and evolve with $\Omega_t^{(2)} = \{w_2 \leq t\}$

$$t \mapsto \mathfrak{m}_H^{(2)}(\partial\Omega_t^{(2)})$$

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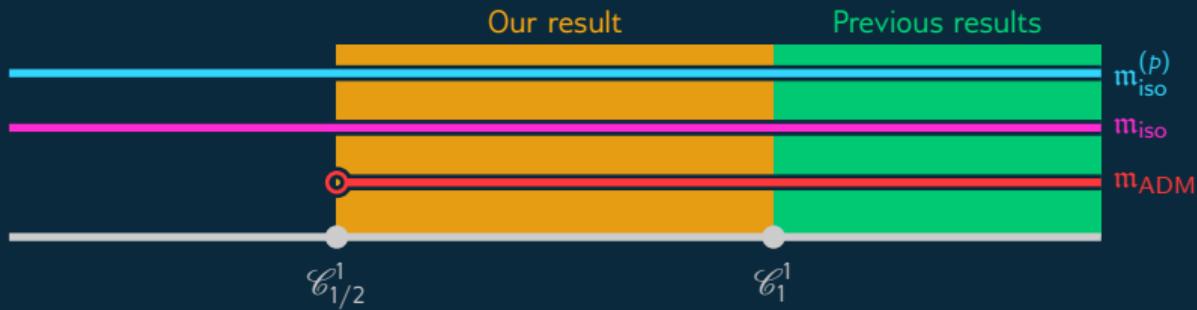
[Agostiniani, Mazzieri, Oronzio '24 · CMP]

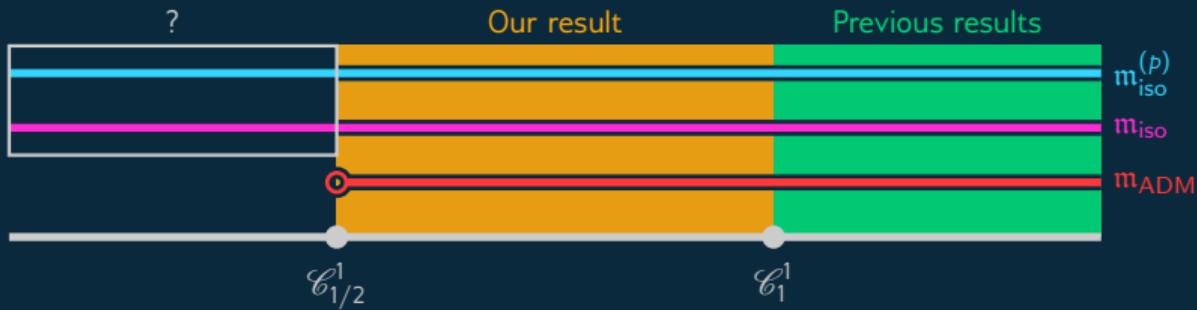
$$\frac{\mathfrak{c}_2(\Sigma)}{2} \left(1 + \int_{\Sigma} \frac{(2|\nabla w_2| - \mathsf{H})^2}{16\pi} - \frac{\mathsf{H}^2}{16\pi} d\mathcal{H}^2 \right)$$

Take Ω , evolve with $\Omega_t^{(1)} = \{w_1 \leq t\}$, at any time t control the Hawking mass with the 2-Hawking mass:

$$\mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega) \leq \varlimsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}_H(\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}) \leq \varlimsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\sqrt{|\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}|}}{\sqrt{4\pi} \mathfrak{c}_2(\partial\Omega_t^{(1)})} \mathfrak{m}_H^{(2)}(\partial\Omega_t^{(2)}) \leq \varlimsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\sqrt{|\partial\Omega_t^{(1)}|}}{\sqrt{4\pi} \mathfrak{c}_2(\partial\Omega_t^{(1)})} \mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}} \leq \mathfrak{m}_{\text{ADM}}$$







Theorem - [B — , Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '22]

Let (M, g) be a 3-Riemannian manifold \mathcal{C}^0 -asymptotically flat with $R \geq 0$ and connected, outermost, minimal boundary. Then,

$$\sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}} \leq m_{\text{iso}}. \quad (\text{isoperimetric RPI})$$

Moreover, the equality holds if and only if $(M, g) \cong (\mathfrak{S}(m_{\text{iso}}), \sigma)$.

Proof.

Evolving ∂M using IMCF $\Omega_t = \Omega_t^{(1)} = \{w_1 \leq t\}$ we have

$$\mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}} \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}(\Omega_t) \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2}{|\partial\Omega_t|} \left(|\Omega_t| - \frac{|\partial\Omega_t|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{6\sqrt{\pi}} \right)$$

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de l'Hôpital

$$\geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2}{|\partial\Omega_t|} \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} \frac{1}{H} d\mathcal{H}^2 - \frac{|\partial\Omega_t|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{4\sqrt{\pi}} \right)$$

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Hölder

$$\geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2}{|\partial\Omega^{(1)}|} \left(\frac{|\partial\Omega_t|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} H^2 d\mathcal{H}^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}} - \frac{|\partial\Omega_t|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{4\sqrt{\pi}} \right)$$

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$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} 2 \left(\frac{|\partial\Omega_t|}{\int_{\partial\Omega_t} H^2 d\mathcal{H}^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{4\sqrt{\pi}} \left(\int_{\partial\Omega_t} H^2 d\mathcal{H}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right)$$

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Let (M, g) be a 3-Riemannian manifold \mathcal{C}^0 -asymptotically flat with $R \geq 0$ (+ an extra assumption) and connected, outermost, minimal boundary. Then,

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- With NPT: [Xia, Yin, Zhou '24 · Adv. Math.] and [Mazurowski, Yao '24] proved a sharp version for the ADM mass \rightsquigarrow wait for Chao Xia’s talk.

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- These are results towards understanding the geometry of initial data sets endowed with \mathcal{C}^0 metrics \rightsquigarrow wait for Gioacchino Antonelli's talk.

Thank you for your attention!