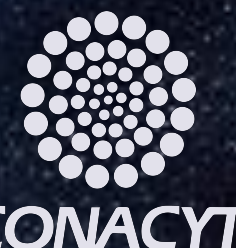


# Astrophysical aspects of string compactifications

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*University of Cambridge*  
3rd training school, COST  
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*Philippe Brax*



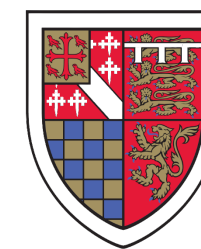
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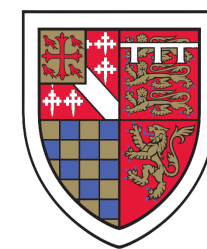
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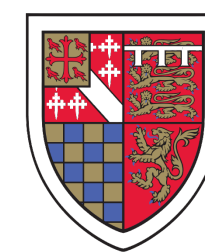


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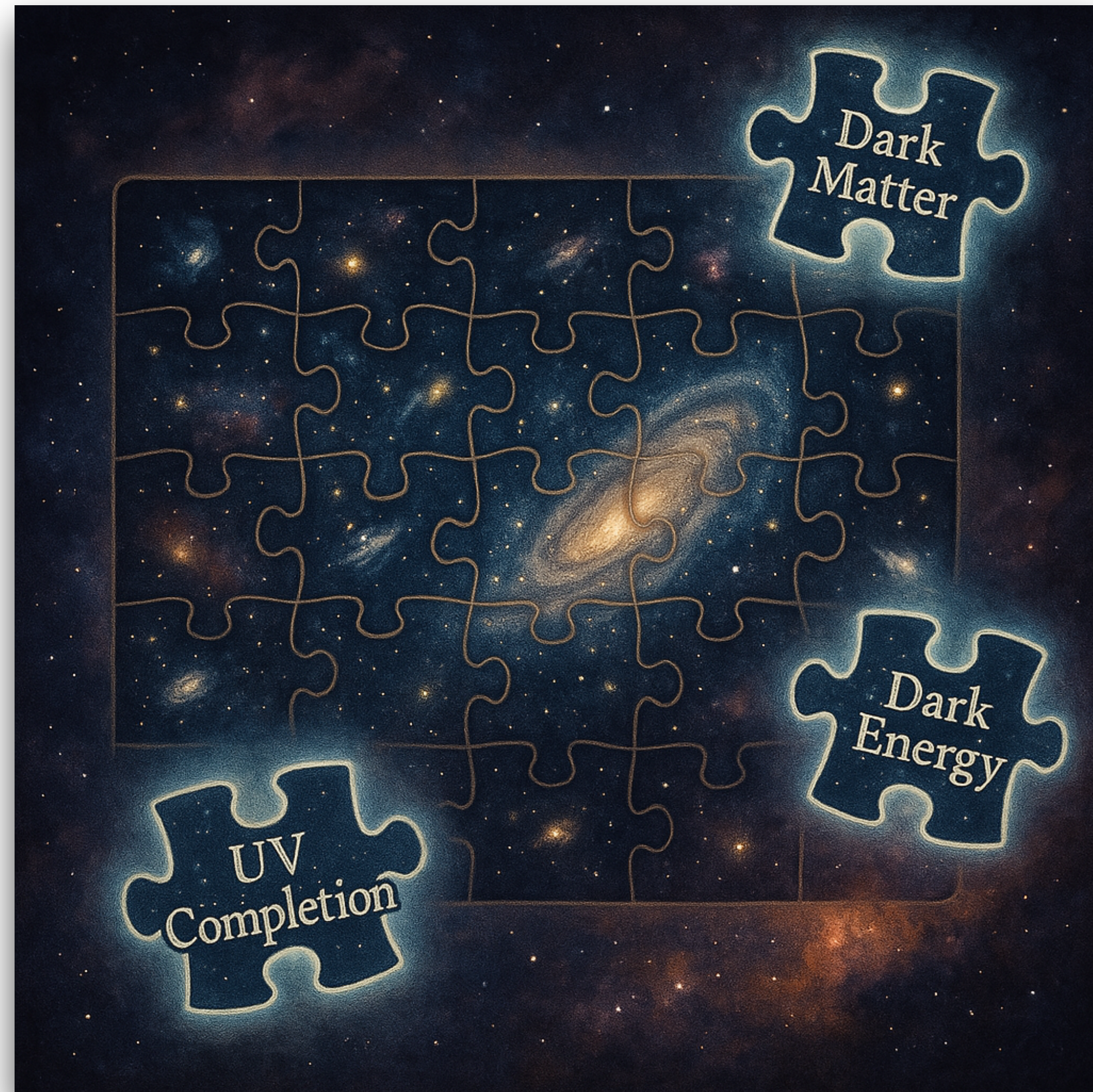
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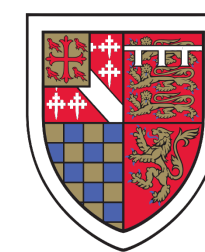


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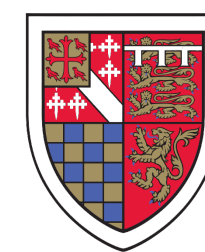


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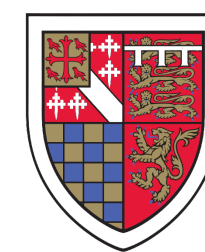


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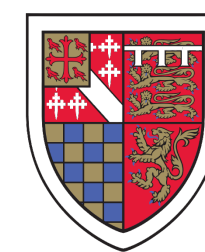
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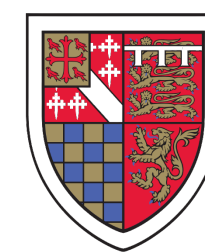
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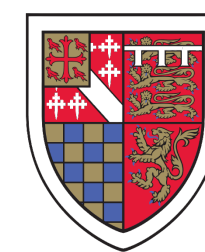
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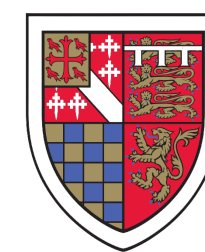
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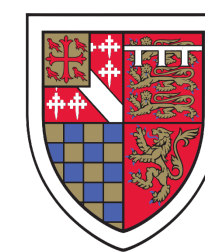
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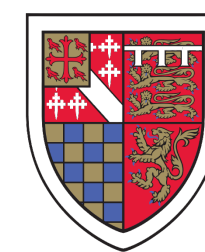
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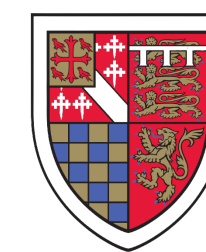
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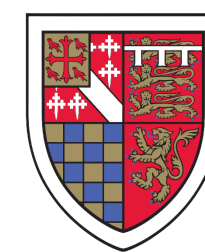
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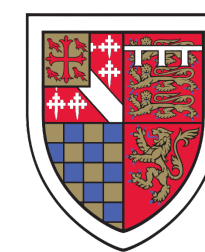
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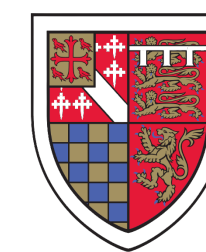
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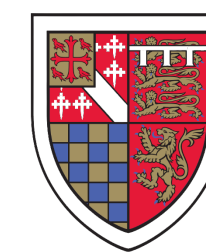
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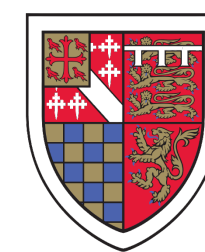
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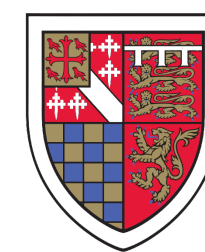
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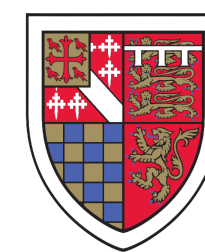
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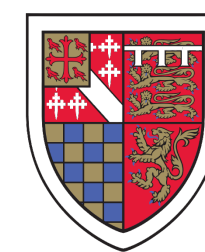
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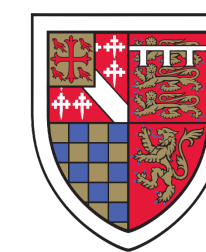
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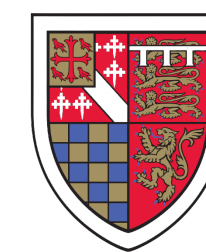
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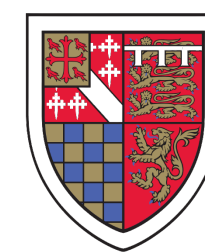
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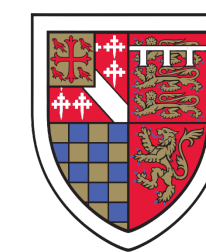
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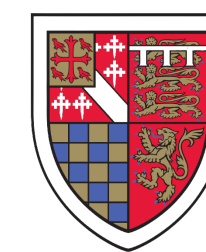
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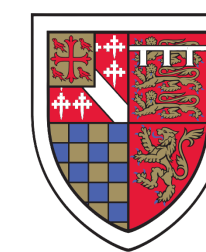
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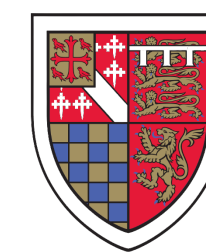
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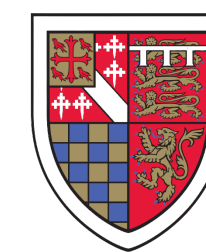
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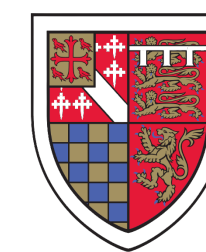
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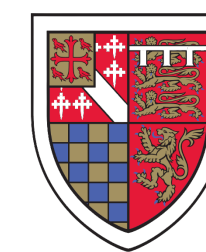
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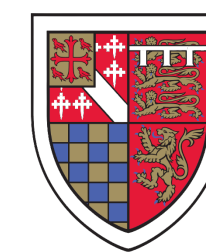
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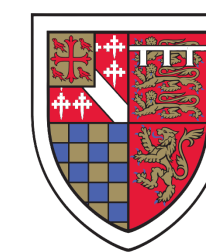
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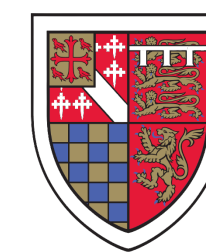
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**What is the effect of this coupling to matter in strong gravity environments?**

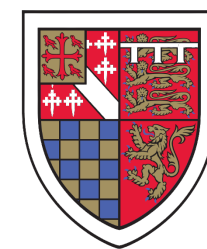




*Axio-dilaton*



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LAPTh, Annecy, France*

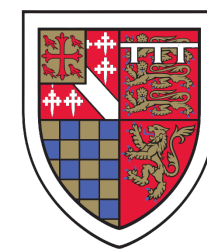


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$$\mathcal{L} = -\sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M_p^2}{2} \mathcal{R} + \frac{M_p^2}{2} (\partial\varphi)^2 + \frac{M_p^2}{2} W^2(\varphi) (\partial\mathfrak{a})^2 + \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{a}) \right] + \mathcal{L}_m(\psi, \varphi, \mathfrak{a}, \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}).$$

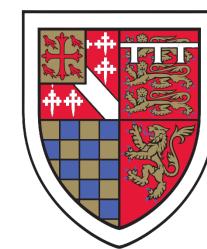
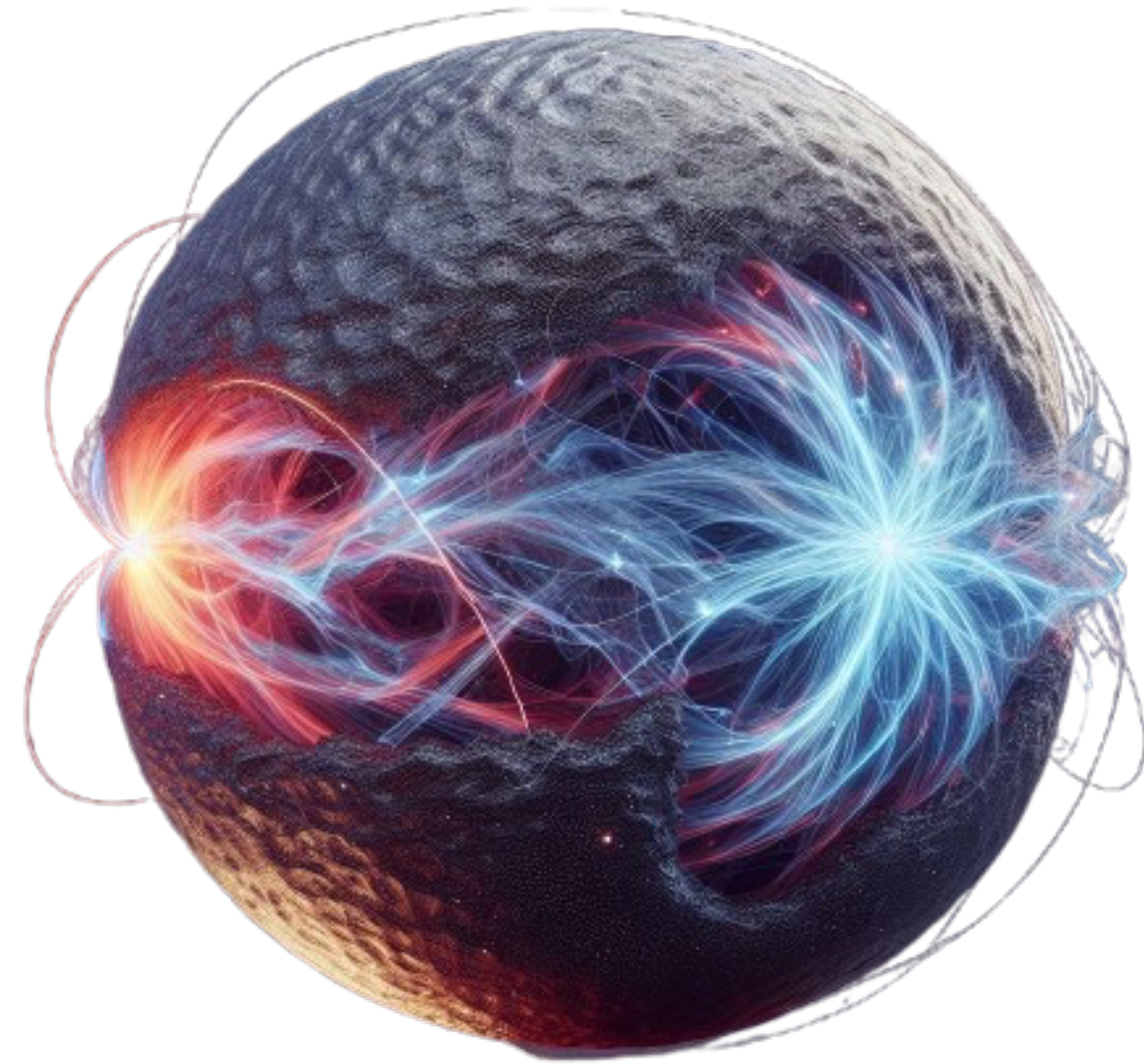


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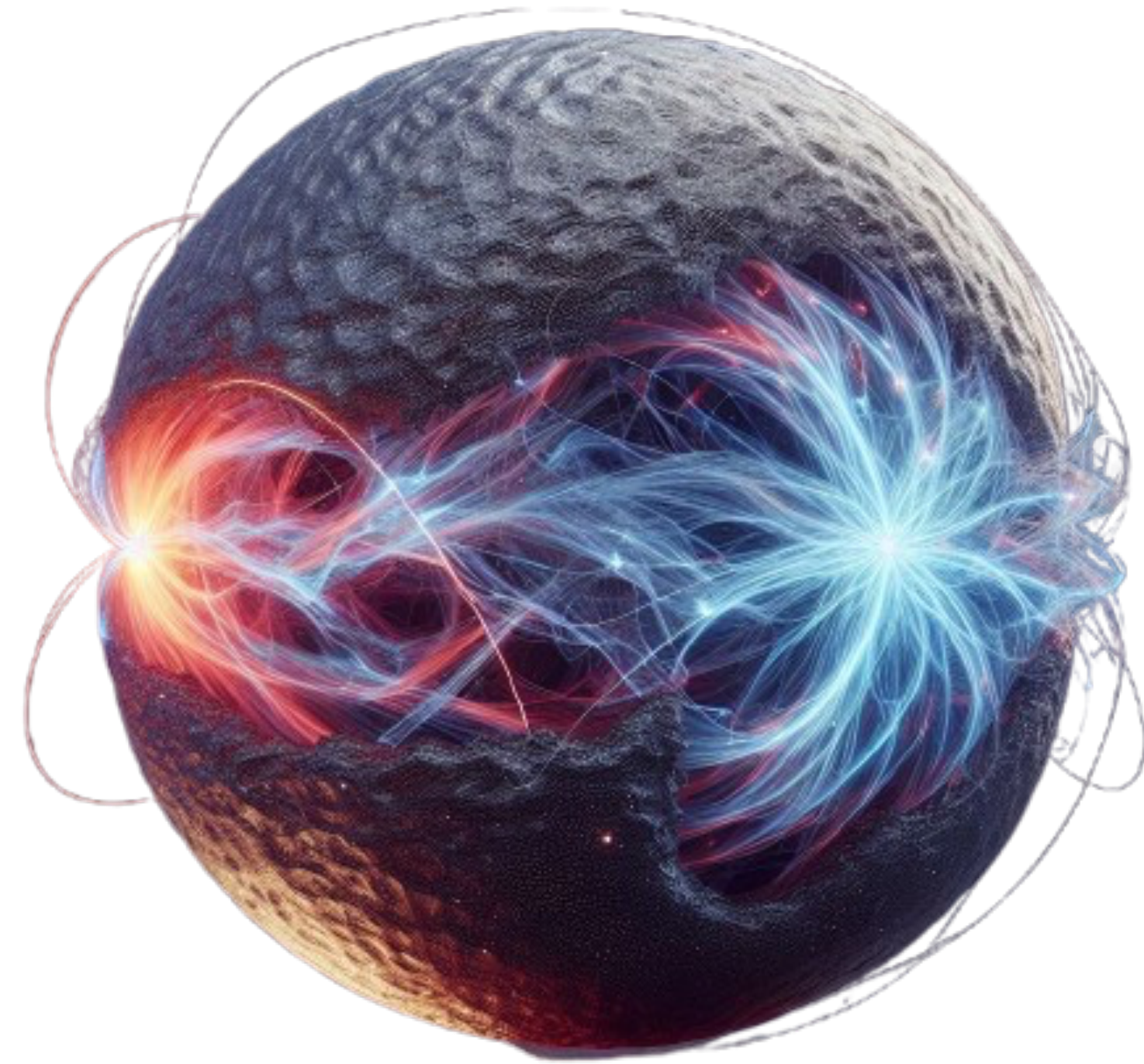




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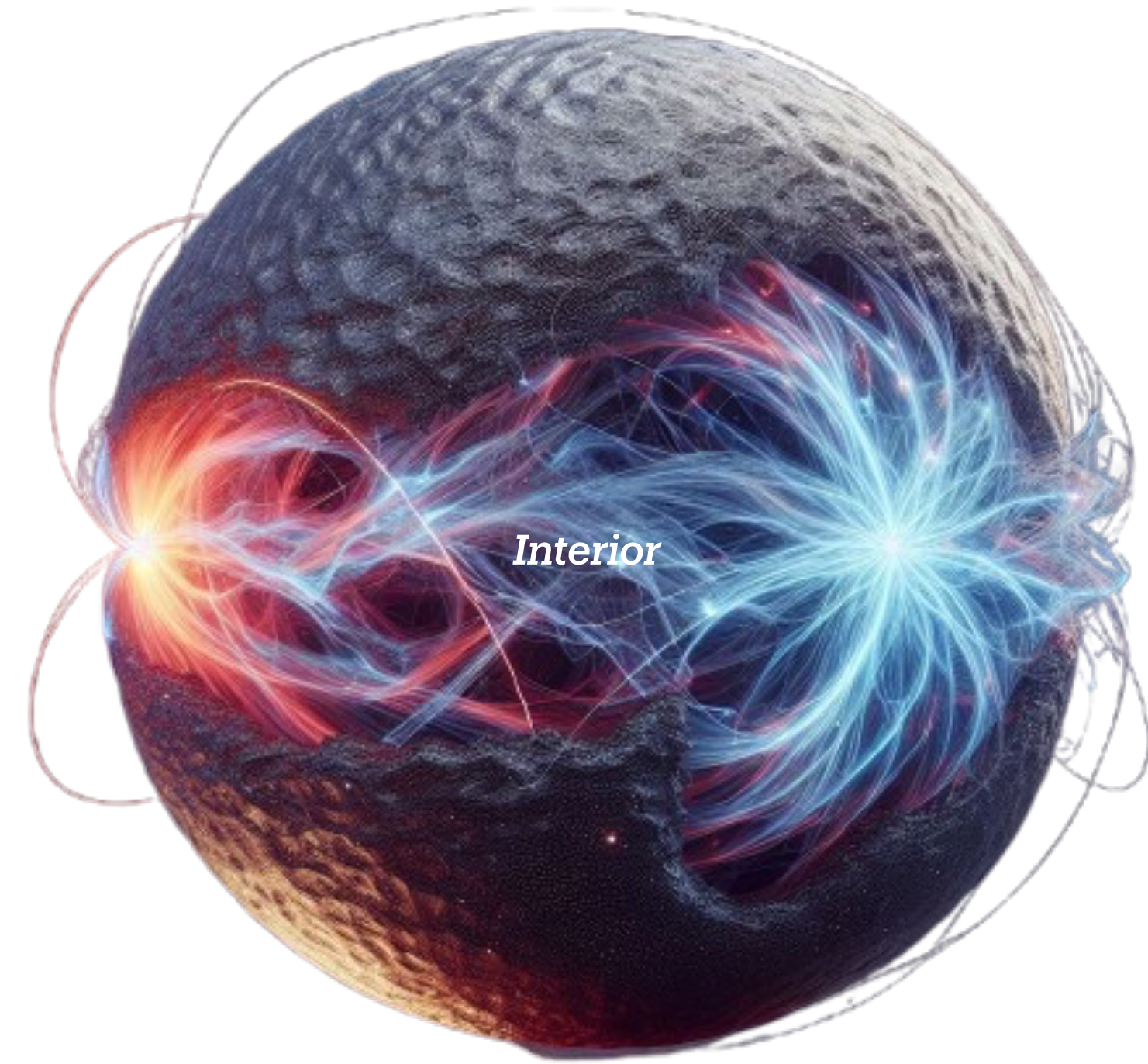




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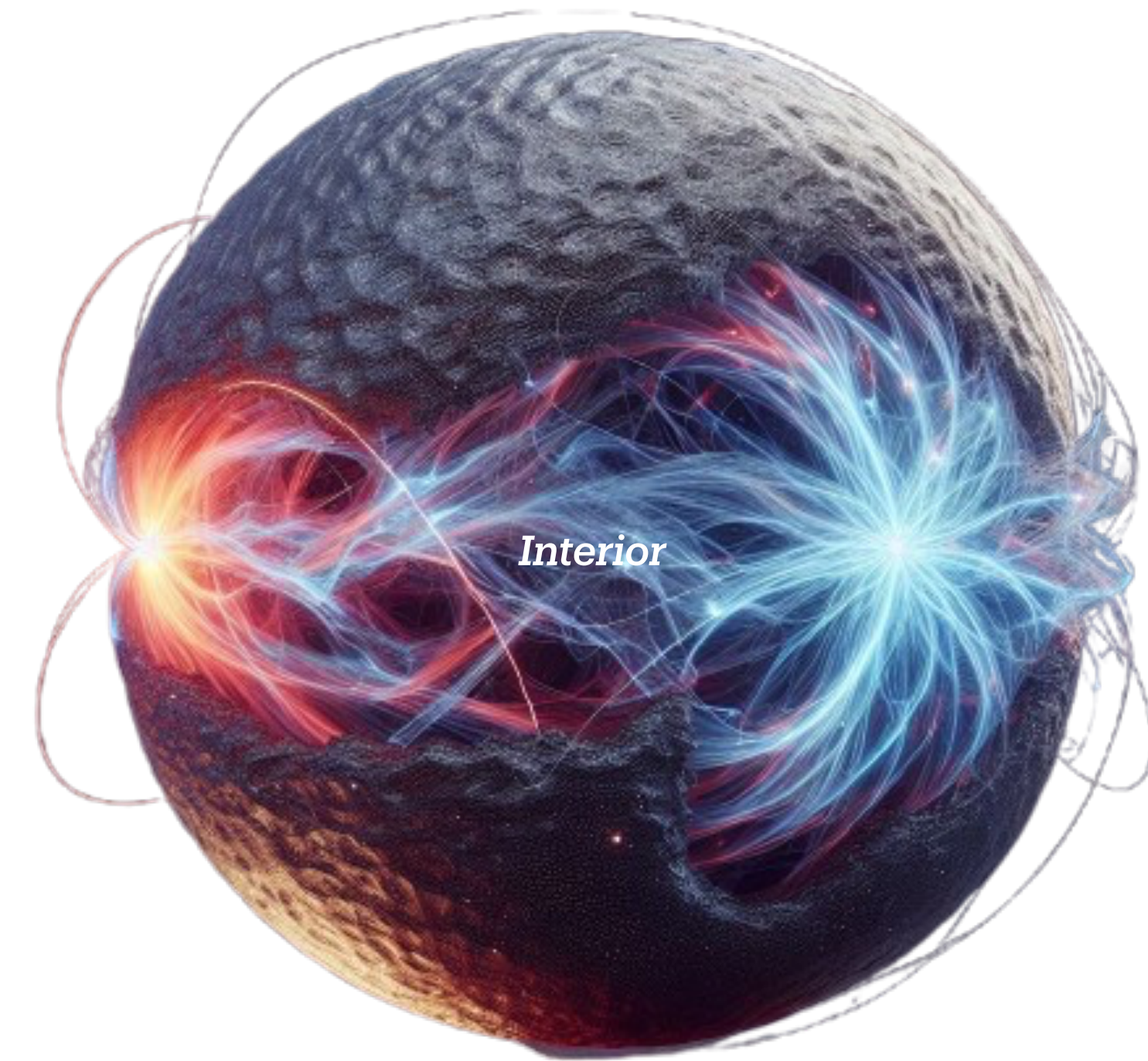


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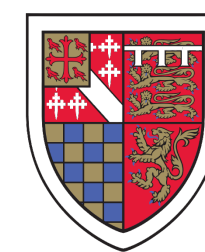
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**Exterior**  
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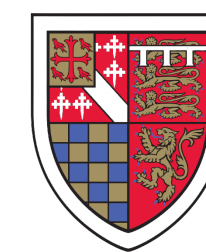
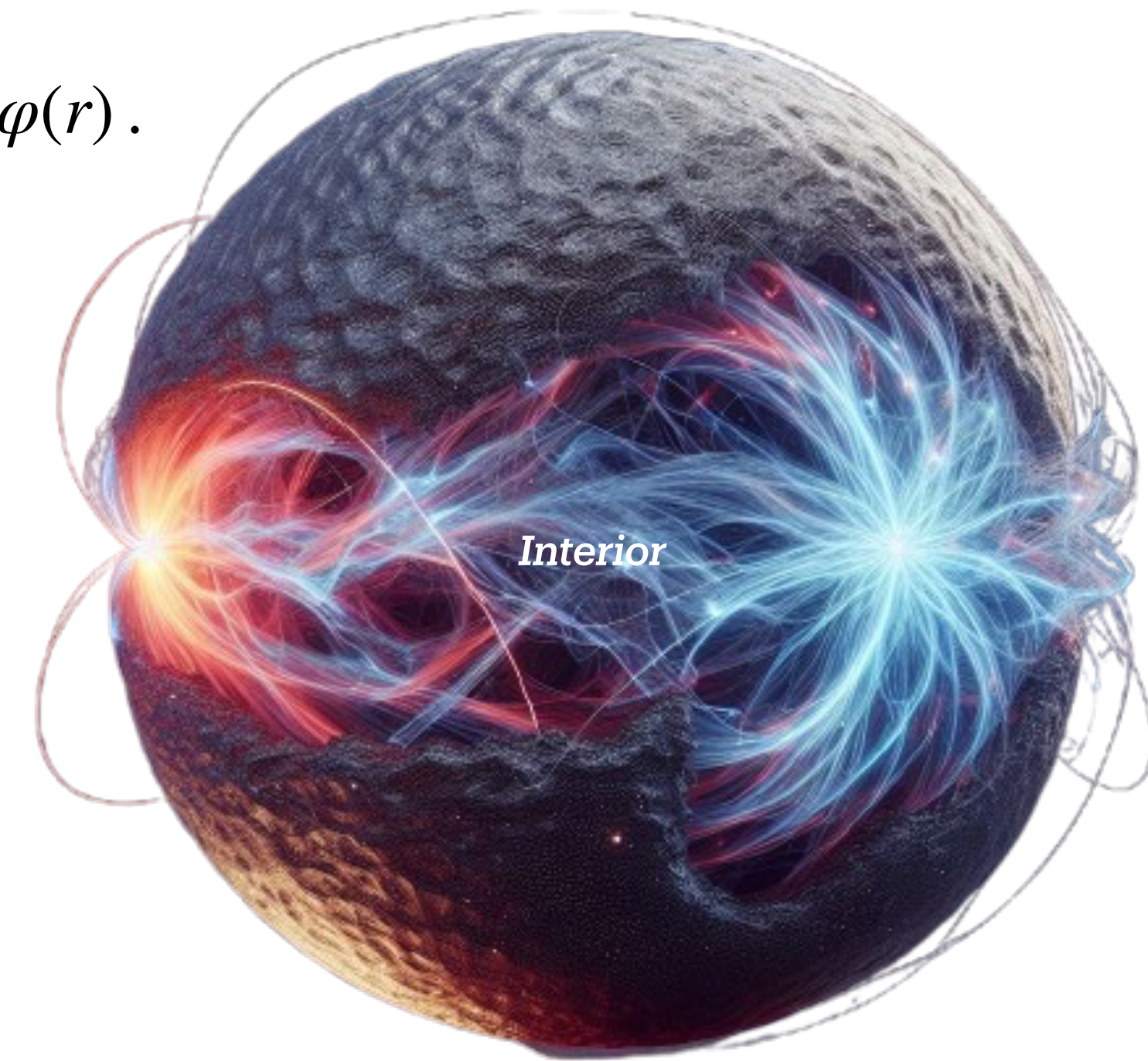
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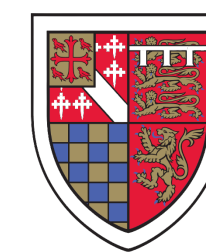
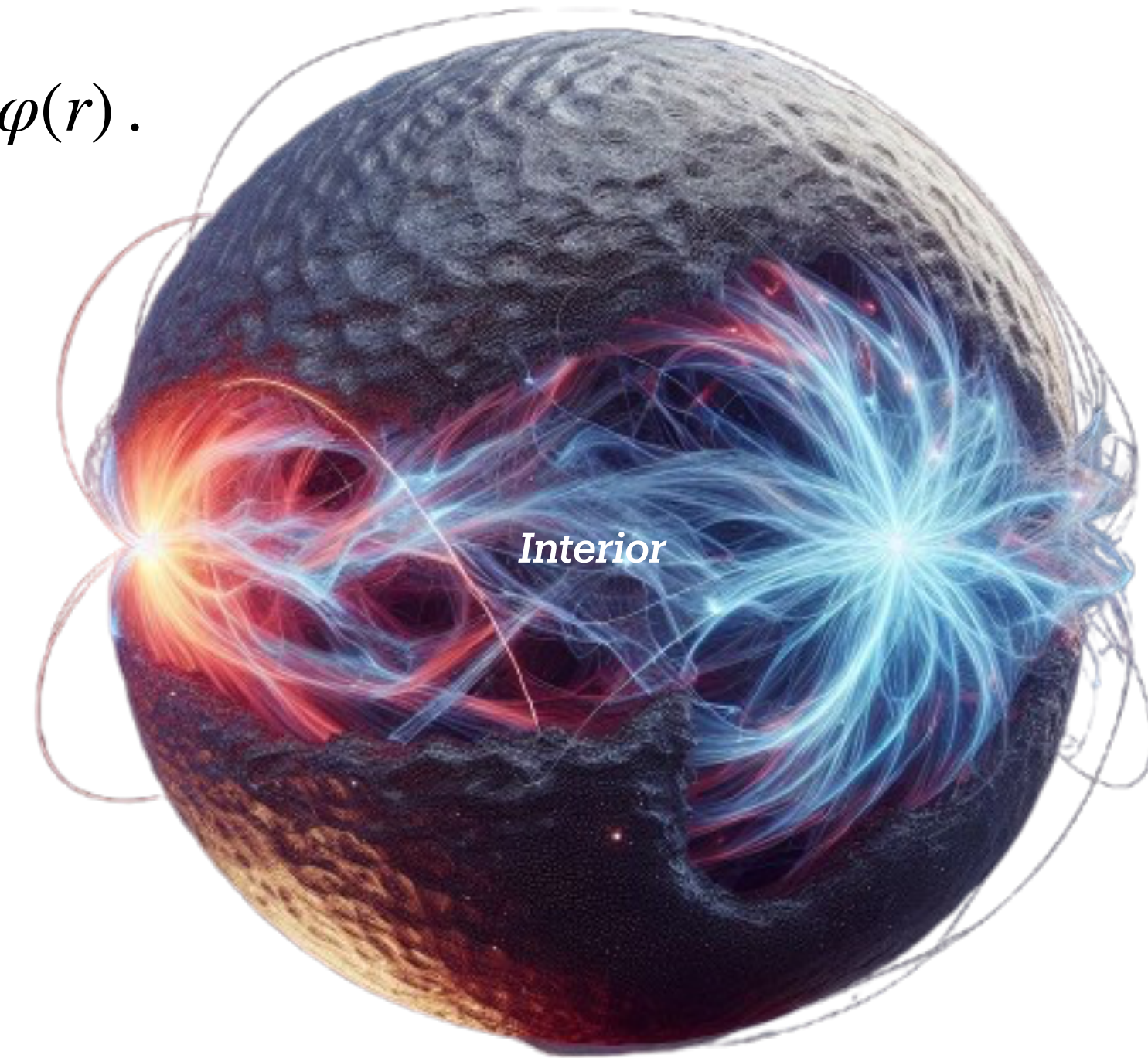
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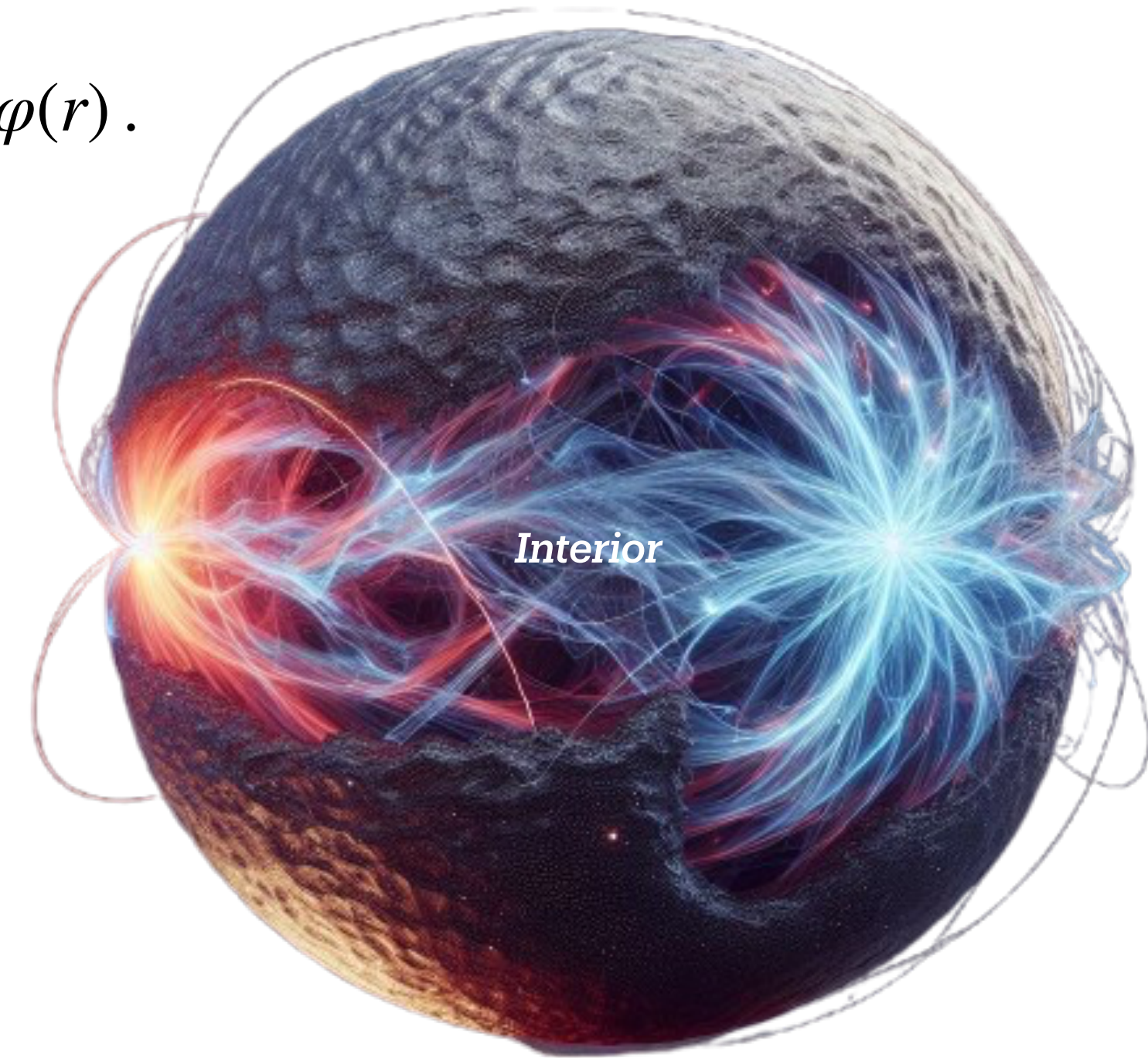
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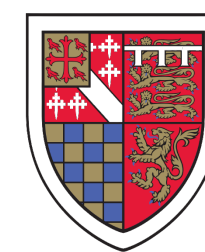
1. -  $V = \frac{1}{2} \mu_{out}^2 M_p^2 \mathbf{a}^2(r)$ , for the exterior,

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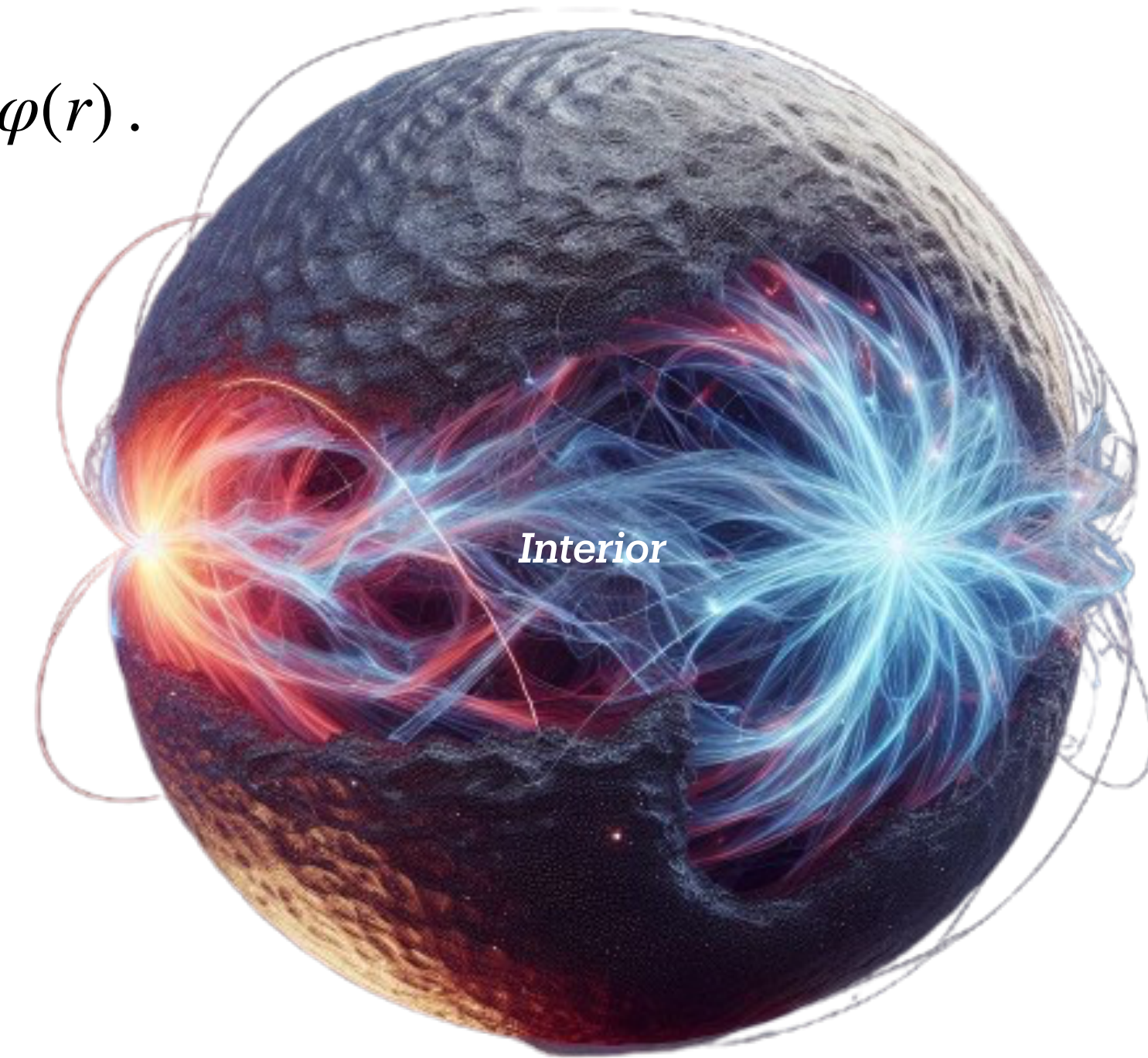
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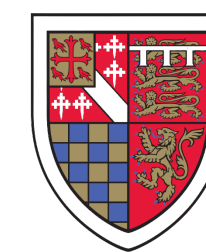
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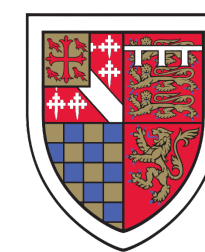
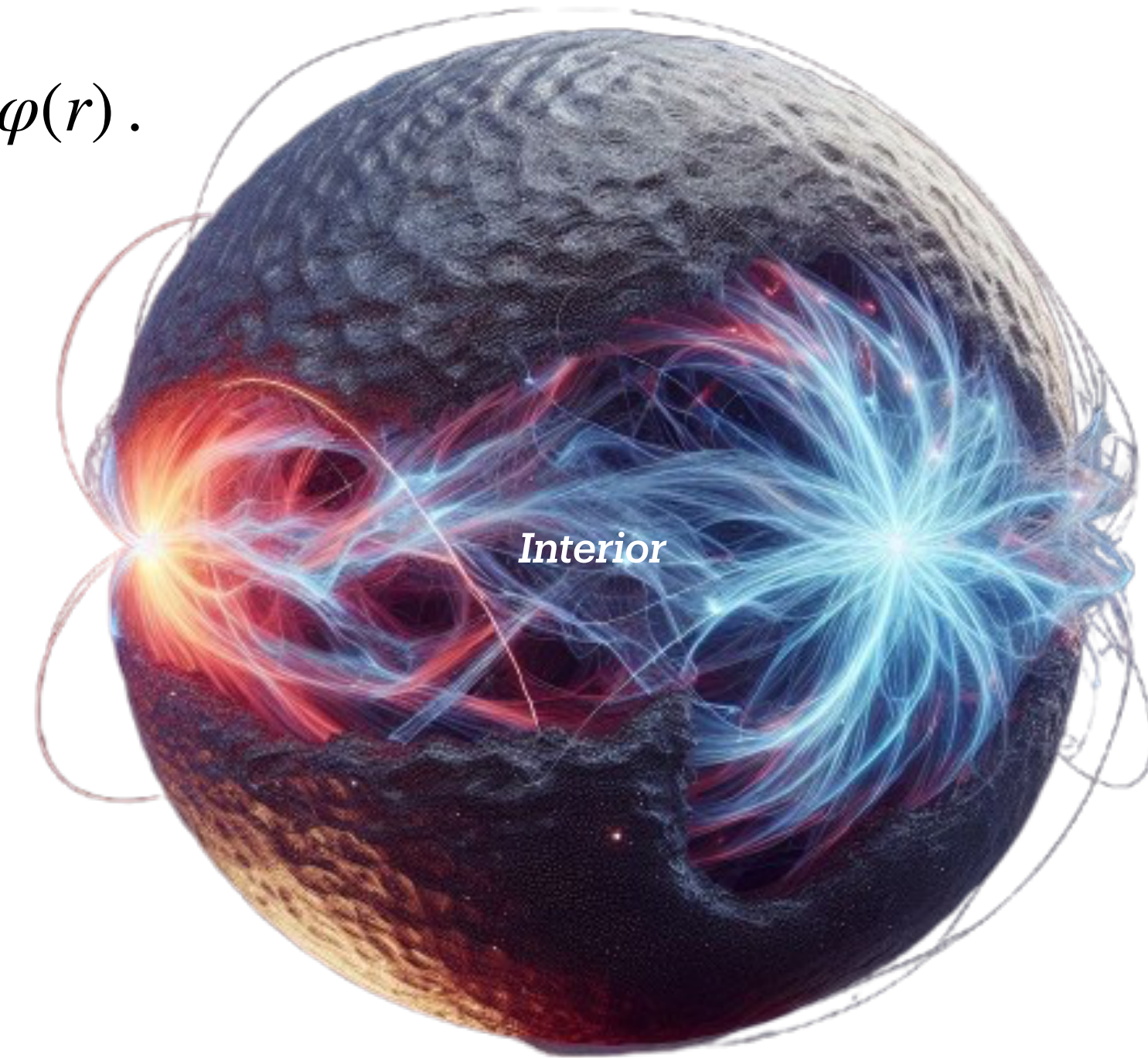
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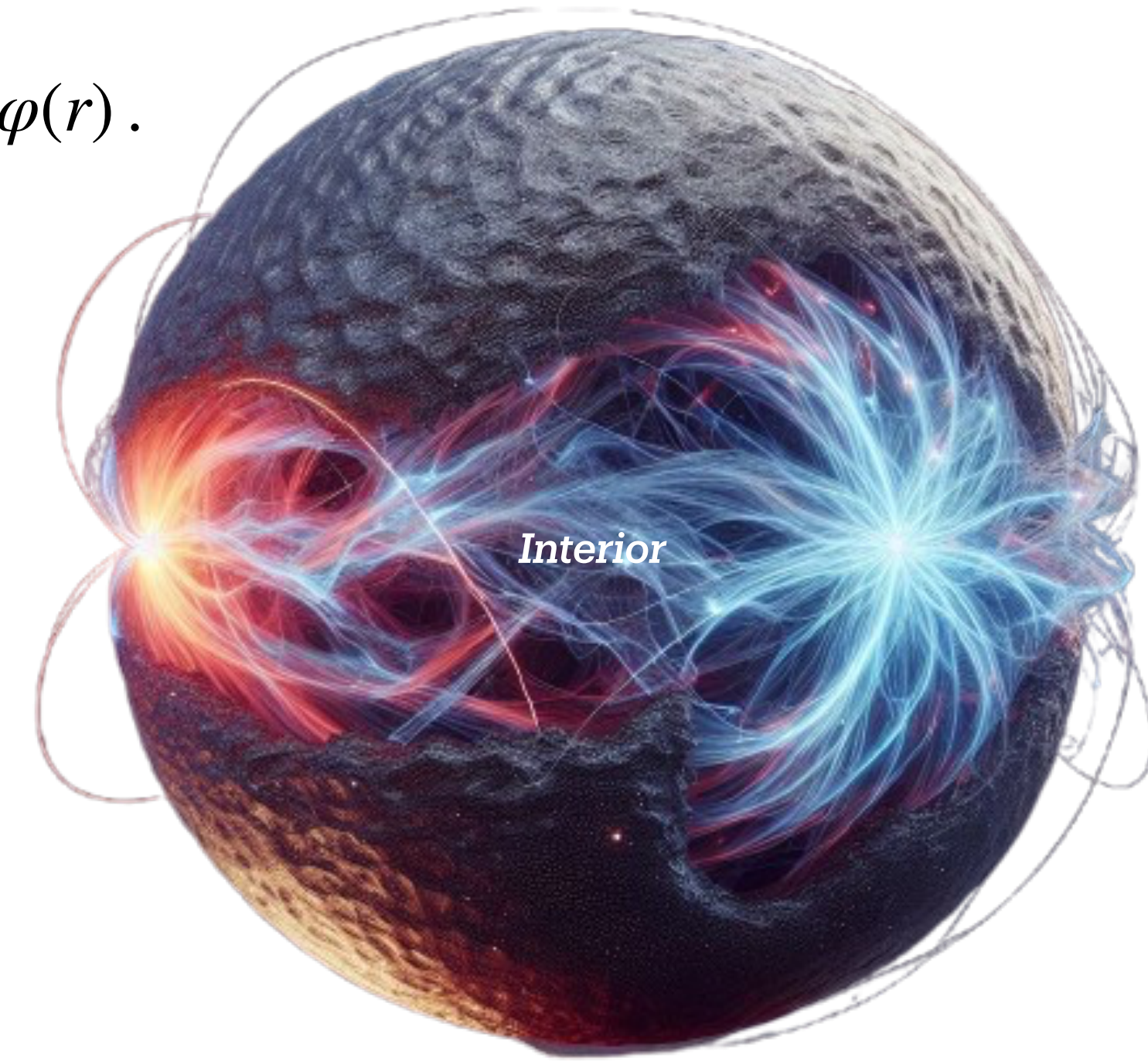
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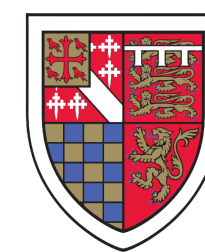
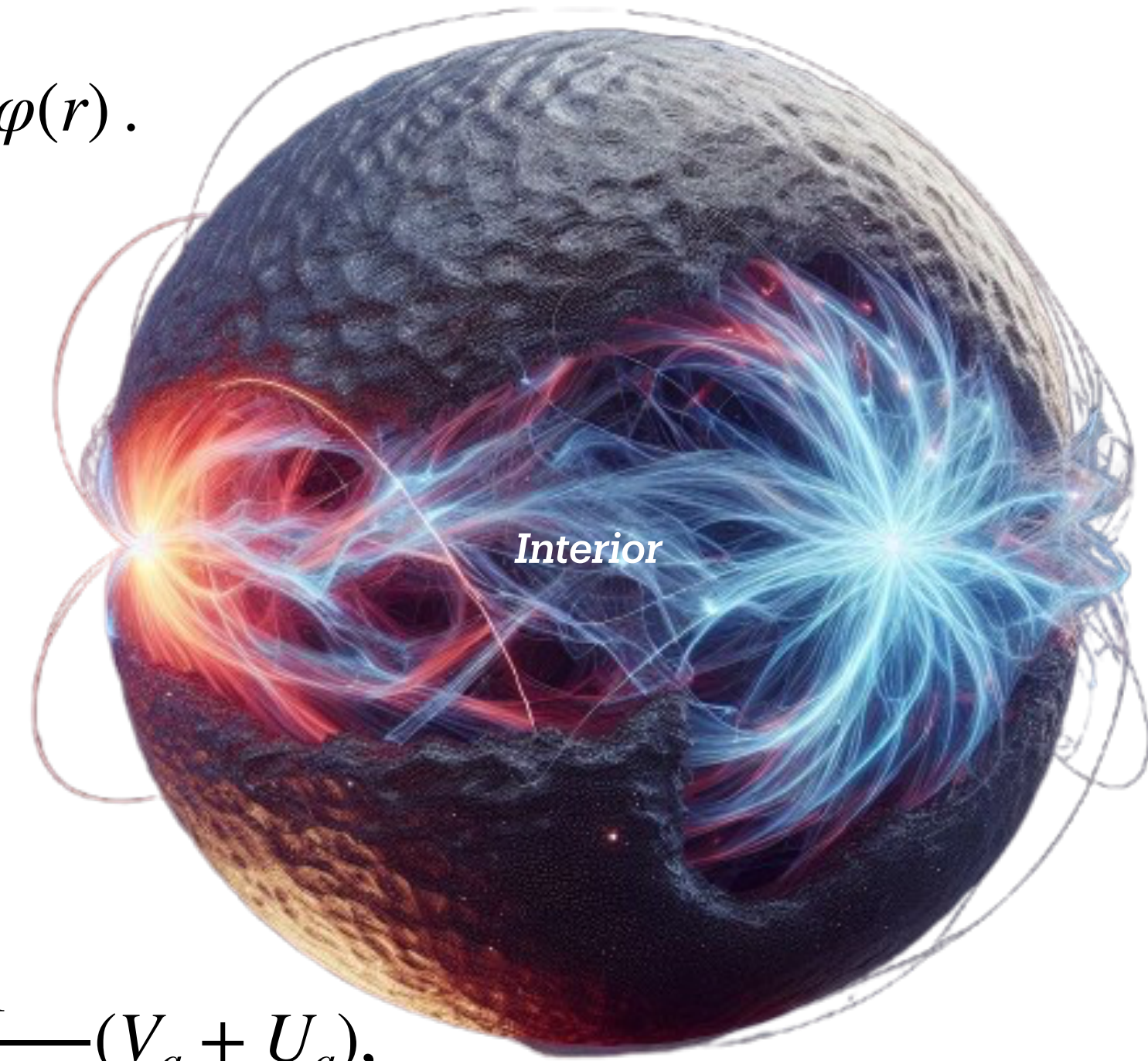
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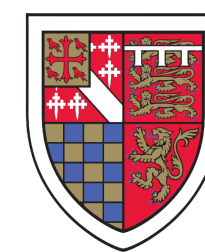
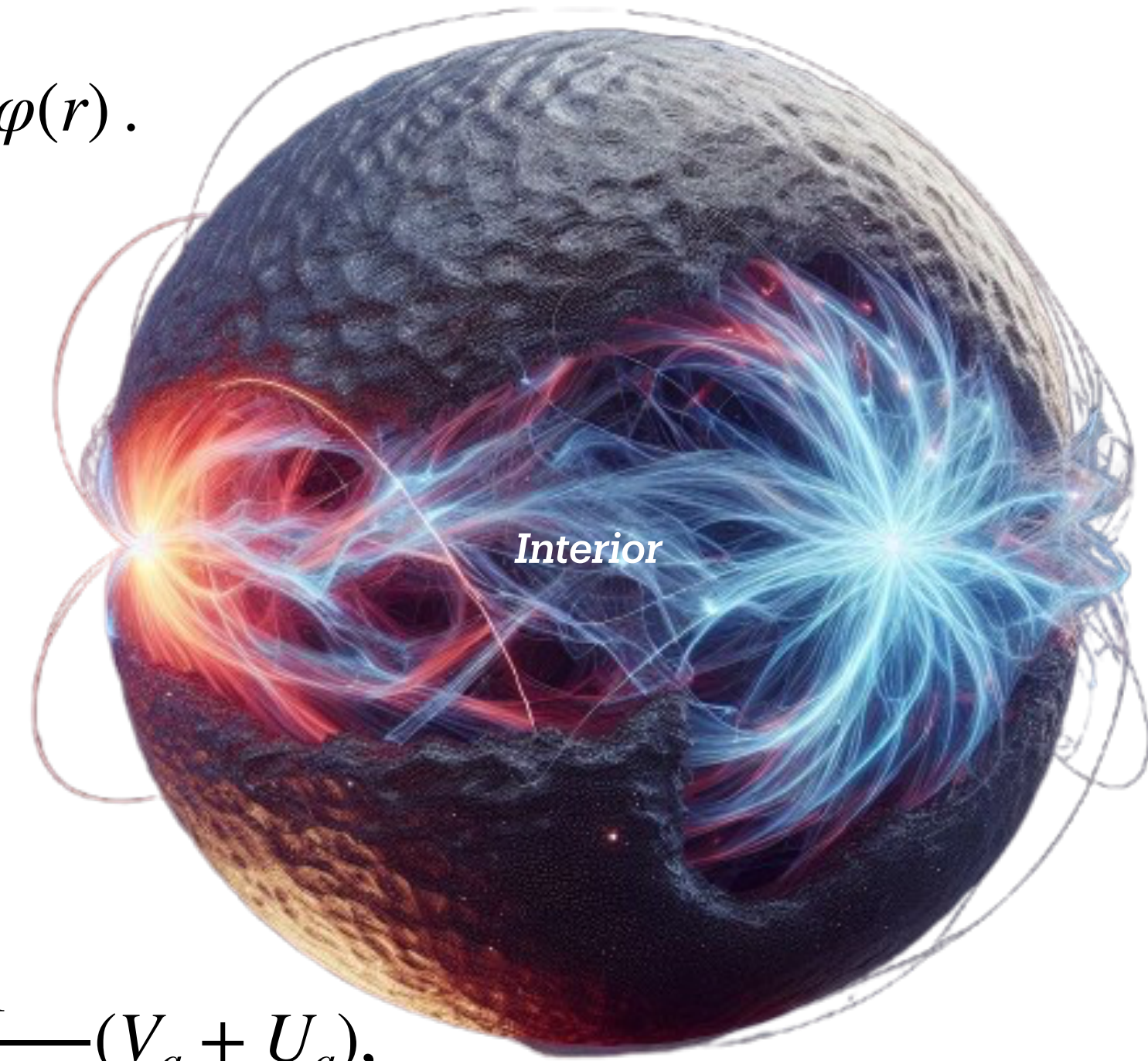
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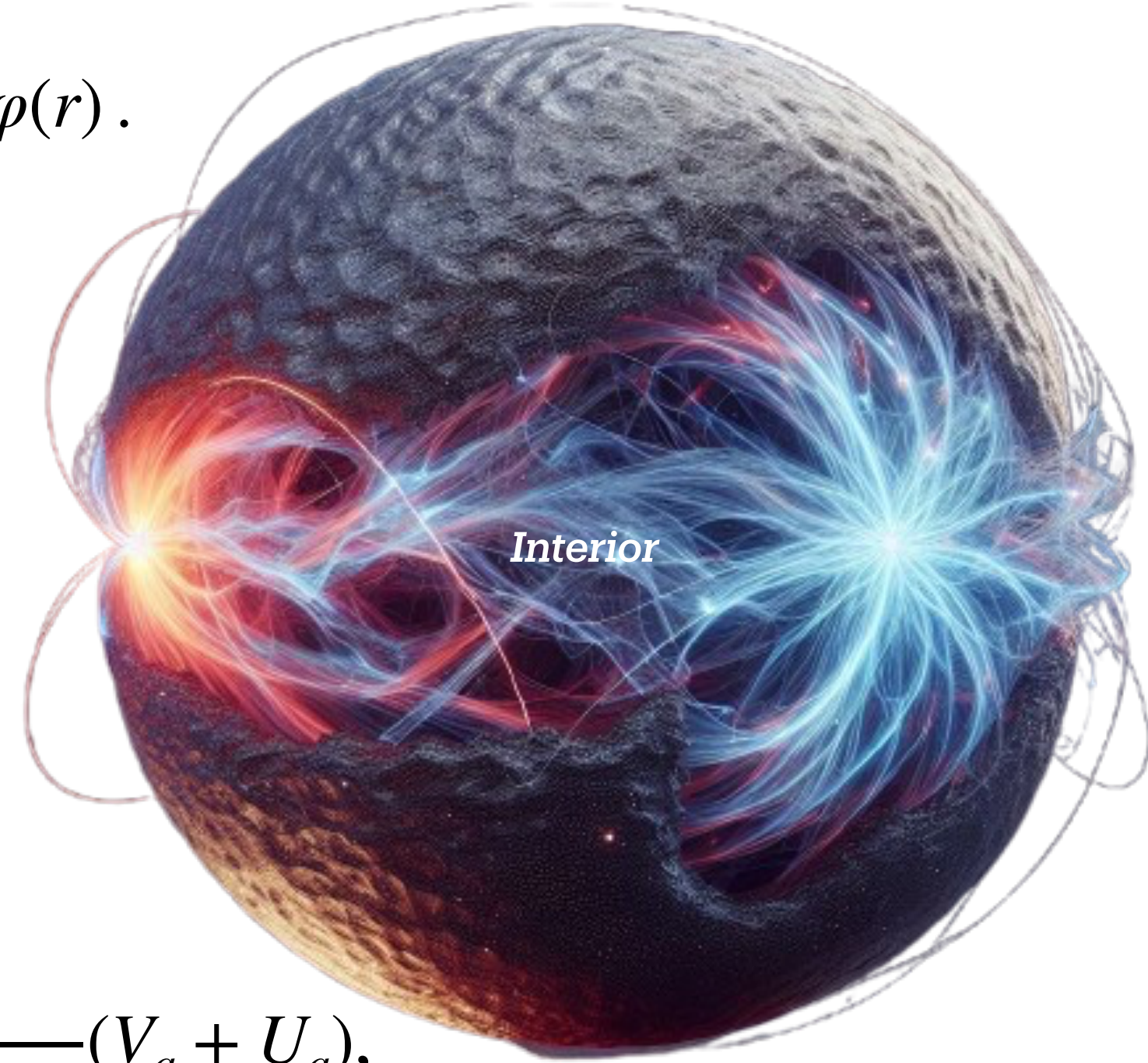
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**Interior**

with  $\mu_{in/out} M_p = m_{in/out} f$ , with  $f$  the axion decay constant. Therefore,

$$\varphi'' + \frac{2}{r} \varphi' - W W_\varphi e^{-\nu} \mathbf{a}^2 = -\frac{gT}{M_p^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{a}'' + \frac{2}{r} \mathbf{a}' + 2 \frac{W_\varphi}{W} e^{-\nu} \mathbf{a}' \varphi' = \frac{1}{W^2 M_p^2} (V_a + U_a),$$

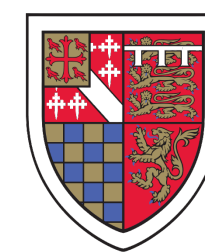
where  $T \simeq T_{\mu\nu} g^{\mu\nu}$  which in the non-relativistic limit can be approximated as  $T \simeq -\epsilon$ .



# *Axio-dilaton-TOV system*



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# Axio-dilaton-TOV system

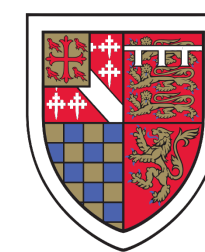
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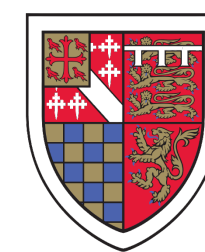
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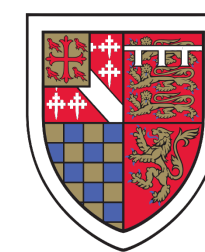
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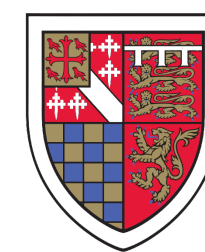


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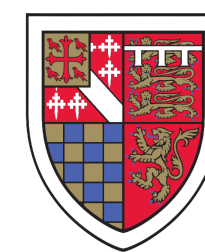


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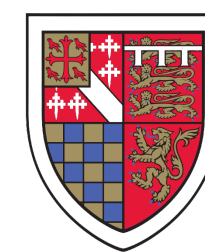
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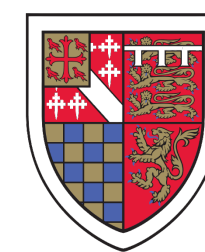
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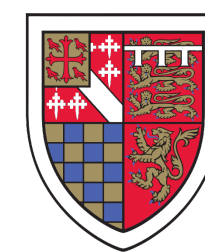
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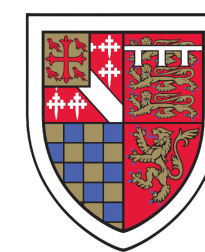
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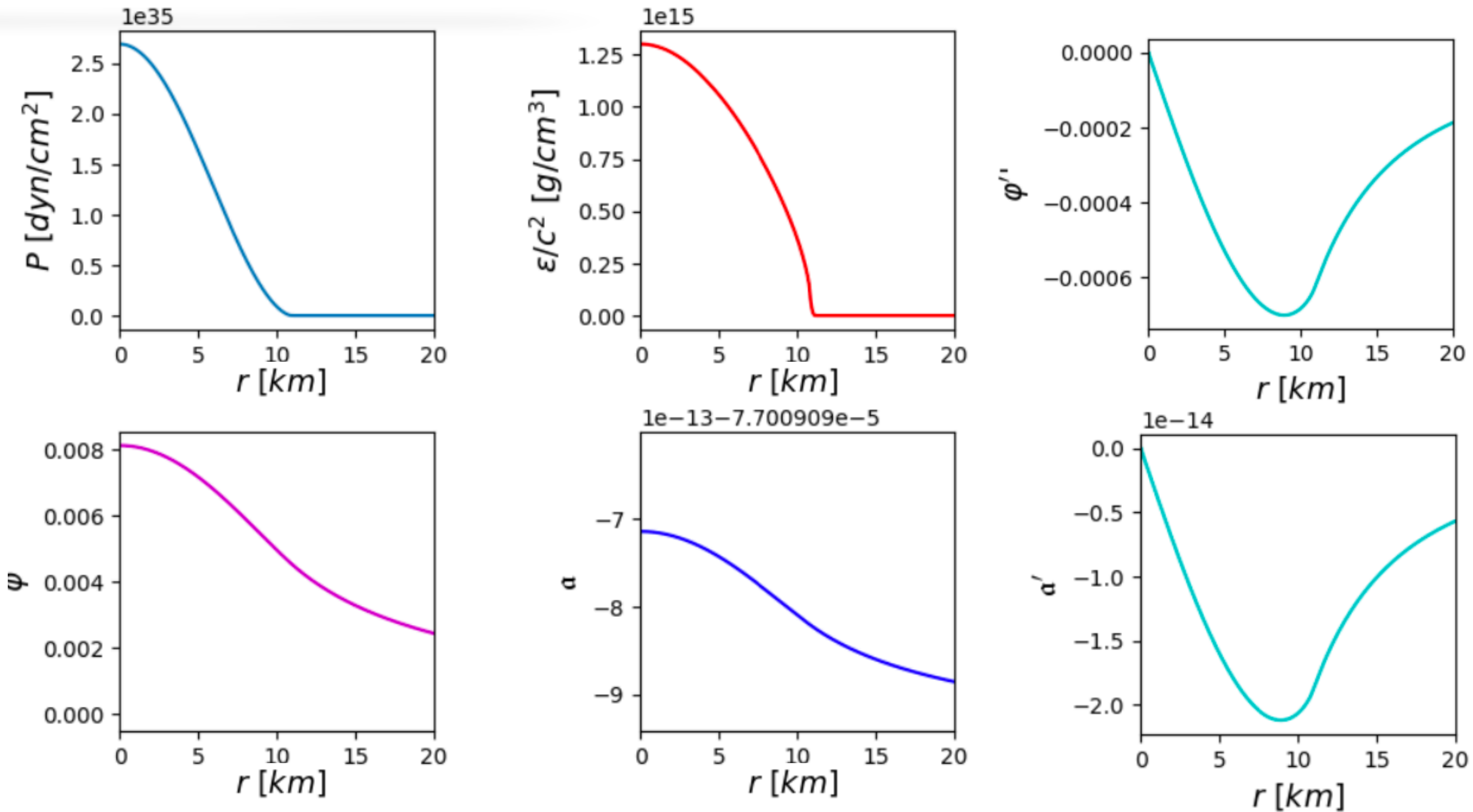
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[F. Douchin and P. Haensel,, 2001]





# Numerical solutions

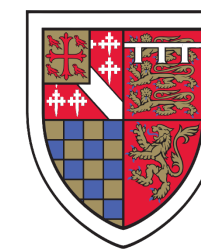


In this figure, we use the following values for the parameters:

$$g = 0.01, \quad \xi = 1, \quad m_{in} \gg m_{out} = 10^{-9} eV \quad \longrightarrow \quad R = 11.4 \text{ km}.$$



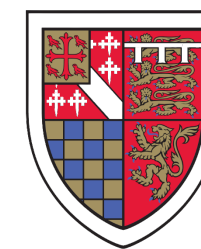
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# *Screening mechanism*



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In the axio-dilaton scenario:



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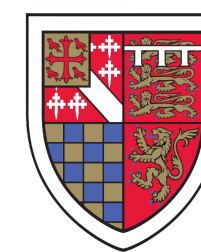


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In the axio-dilaton scenario:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M_p^2}{2} \mathcal{R} + \frac{M_p^2}{2} (\partial\varphi)^2 + \frac{M_p^2}{2} W^2(\varphi) (\partial\mathfrak{a})^2 + \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{a}) \right] + \mathcal{L}_m(\psi, \varphi, \mathfrak{a}, \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}).$$



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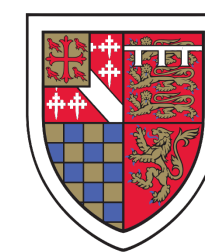
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Where the matter interaction is  $\mathcal{L}_m \propto -\epsilon(r)\mathbf{a}^2$ , therefore, the axion experiences a different minimum inside and outside matter.



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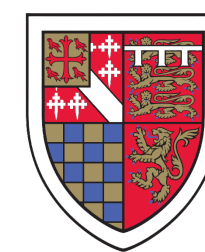
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Notice that in the absence of an axion gradient, the scalar charge can be approximated at the surface by



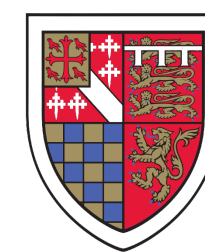
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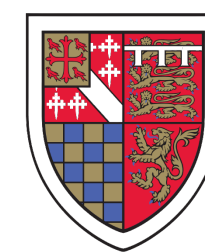
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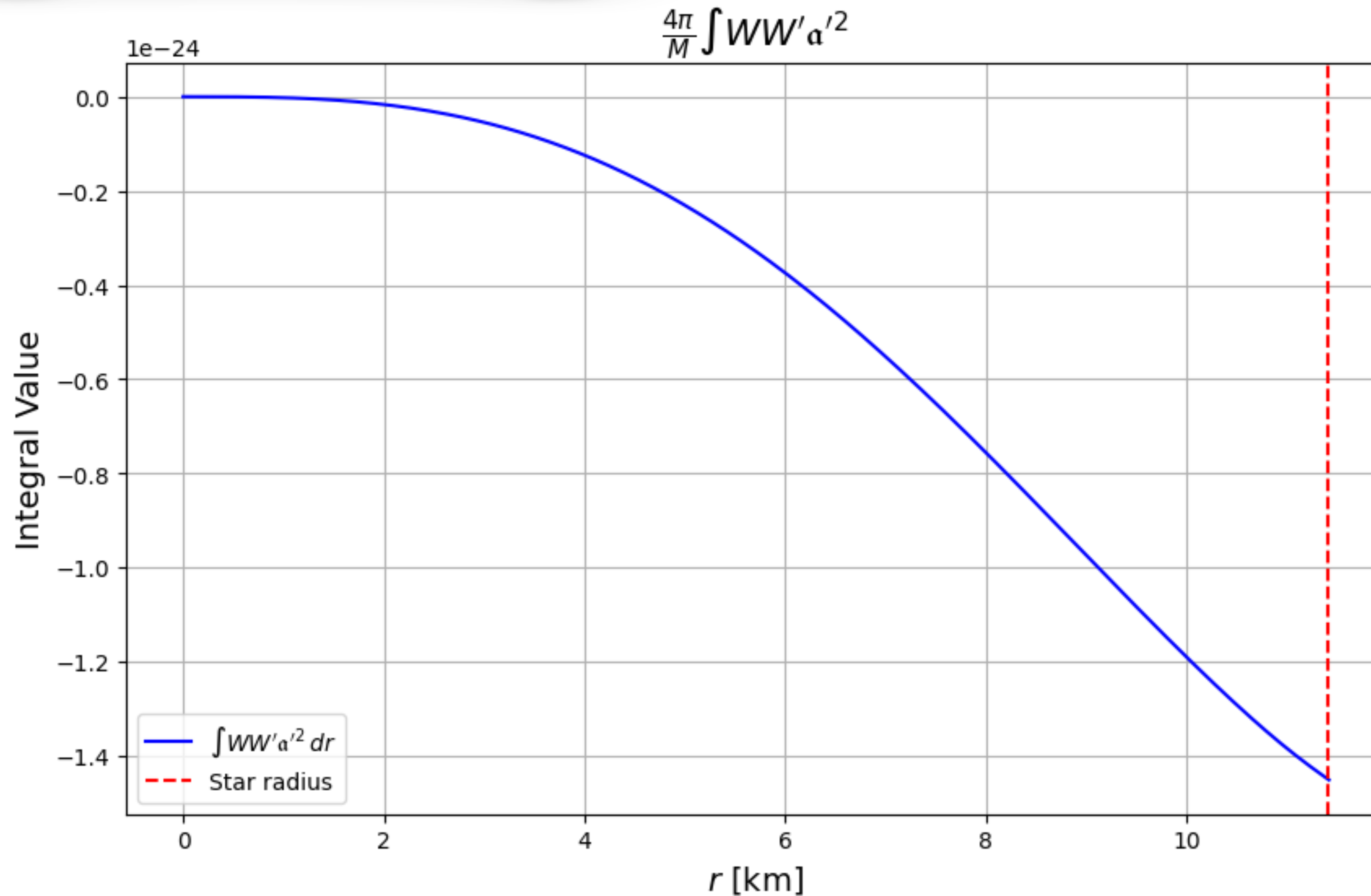
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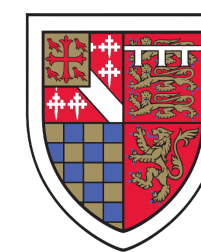
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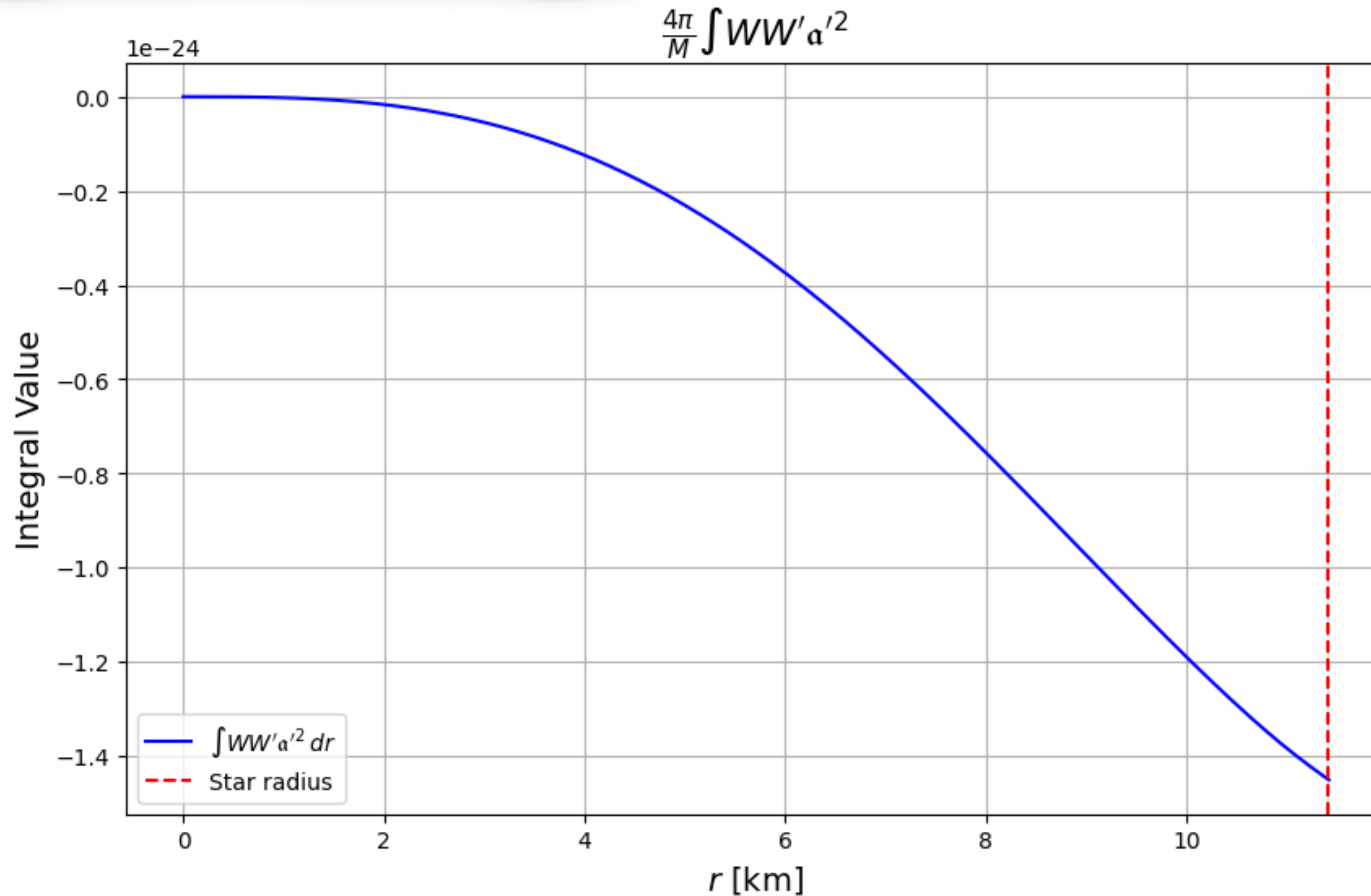
Contribution to the screening when  $\xi \sim 1$ .



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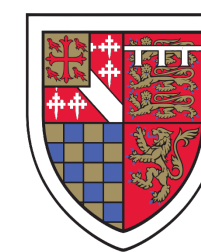
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# Conclusions



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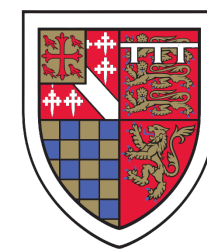


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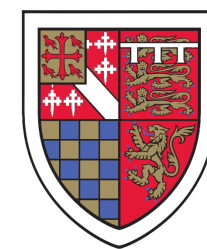


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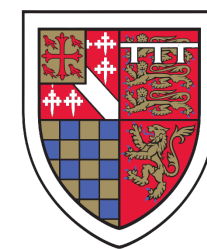


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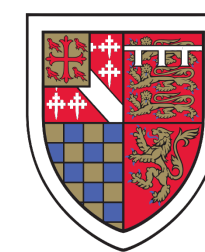


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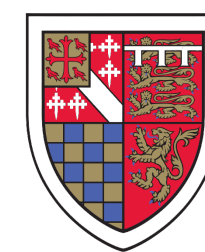


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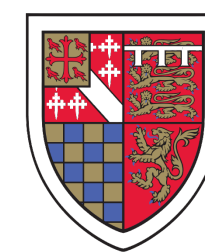


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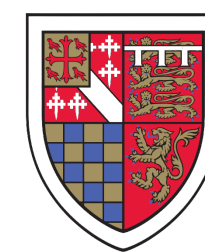


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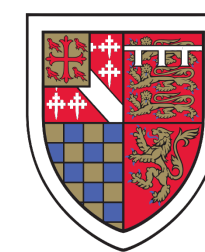


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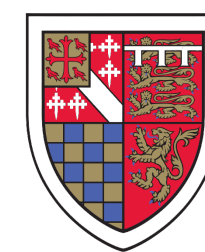


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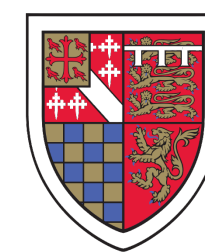


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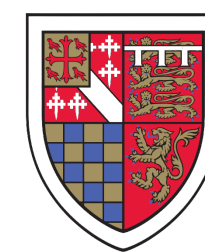
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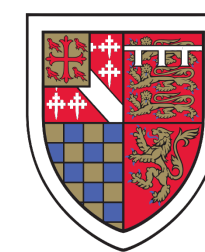
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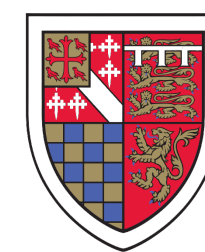
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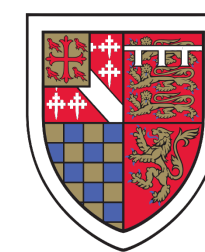
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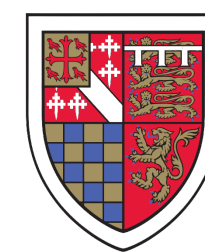


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- Further studies of multiple scalars interacting through two-derivative sigma-model couplings.





# *Thank you*

**Mario Ramos Hamud**

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DAMTP | University of Cambridge  
*(Applying for postdocs this fall)*





# Compact objects

They are the endpoint of stellar evolution and an astrophysical laboratory. Different mechanisms support them against gravitational collapse:

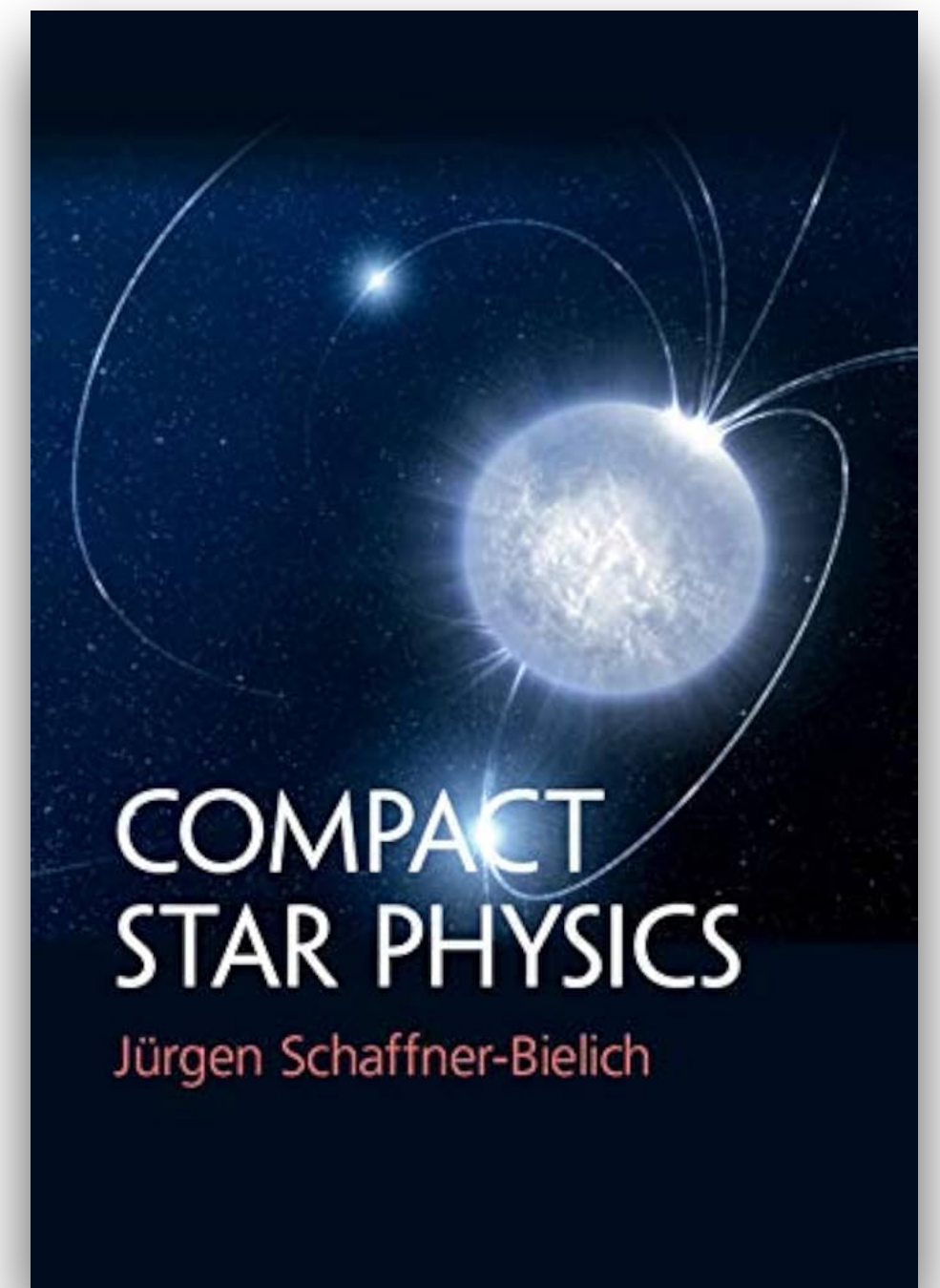
- White dwarfs: supported by the degeneracy pressure of electrons.
- Neutron stars (NS): interaction between nucleons.
- Black holes: completely collapsed, gravitational singularity.

More information on radii and masses available for NS:

- Original massive star containing 8-25  $M_{\odot}$  before supernova explosion.
- Theoretically, remnant NS compresses  $1.4M_{\odot}$  into a 10 – 15 km sphere.
- Experimentally, (Satellite mission NICER) measured PSR J0030 + 0451 radius:

$$12.71 \pm 1.19 \text{ km}$$

$$13.02 \pm 1.24 \text{ km}$$



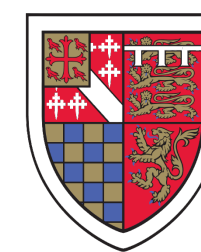
[J. Schaffner-Bielich , 2020]

[Riley, T. E. et al , 2019]

[Miller, M. C. et al , 2019]



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# Equation of state

We consider a piecewise polytropic equation of state:

$$P(\rho) = K_i \rho^{\Gamma_i},$$

[F. Douchin and P. Haensel,, 2001]

where  $\rho$  is the rest-mass density,  $K_i$  are some constants and  $\Gamma_i$  adiabatic indices. In addition,  $\rho_1 = 10^{14.7} \text{g/cm}^3$  and  $\rho_2 = 10^{15.0} \text{g/cm}^3$ , such that for each region of the piecewise density

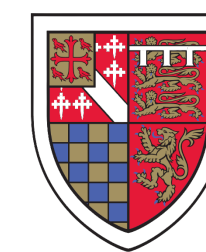
$$\rho_{i-1} \leq \rho \leq \rho_i.$$

The energy density  $\epsilon$  of this adiabatic ideal gas follows the first law of thermodynamics

$$d \left( \frac{\epsilon}{\rho} \right) = - P d \left( \frac{1}{\rho} \right),$$

which implies by continuity,

$$\epsilon = (1 + \alpha_i) \rho + \frac{K_i}{\Gamma_i - 1} \rho^{\Gamma_i}, \quad \text{with} \quad \alpha_i = \frac{\epsilon(\rho_{i-1})}{\rho_{i-1}} - 1 - \frac{\Gamma_i}{\Gamma_i - 1} K_i \rho_{i-1}^{\Gamma_i - 1}.$$



# *Einstein equations*

We can write variables in the JF, particularly pressure and density as

$$P = A^4(\tau)\tilde{P} \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon = A^4(\tau)\tilde{\epsilon}.$$

Defining  $\mu(r) = m(r)/r$ , the independent Einstein equations are given by

$$r\mu' + \mu = 4\pi Gr^2(A^4\tilde{\epsilon} - V) - \frac{r^2}{4}(1 - 2\mu)(\varphi'^2 + W^2\mathbf{a}'^2),$$

$$\nu' = \frac{8\pi Gr^2(A^4\tilde{P} + V) + 2\mu}{r(1 - 2\mu)} - \frac{r}{2}(\varphi'^2 + W^2\mathbf{a}'^2),$$

$$\frac{\nu''}{2} + \frac{(\nu')^2}{4} - \frac{\nu'\mu'}{2(1 - 2\mu)} + \frac{1}{2r} \left( \nu' - \frac{2\mu'}{1 - 2\mu} \right) = \frac{8\pi G(A^4\tilde{P} + \mathcal{V})}{(1 - 2\mu)} + \frac{1}{2}(\varphi'^2 + W^2\mathbf{a}'^2),$$

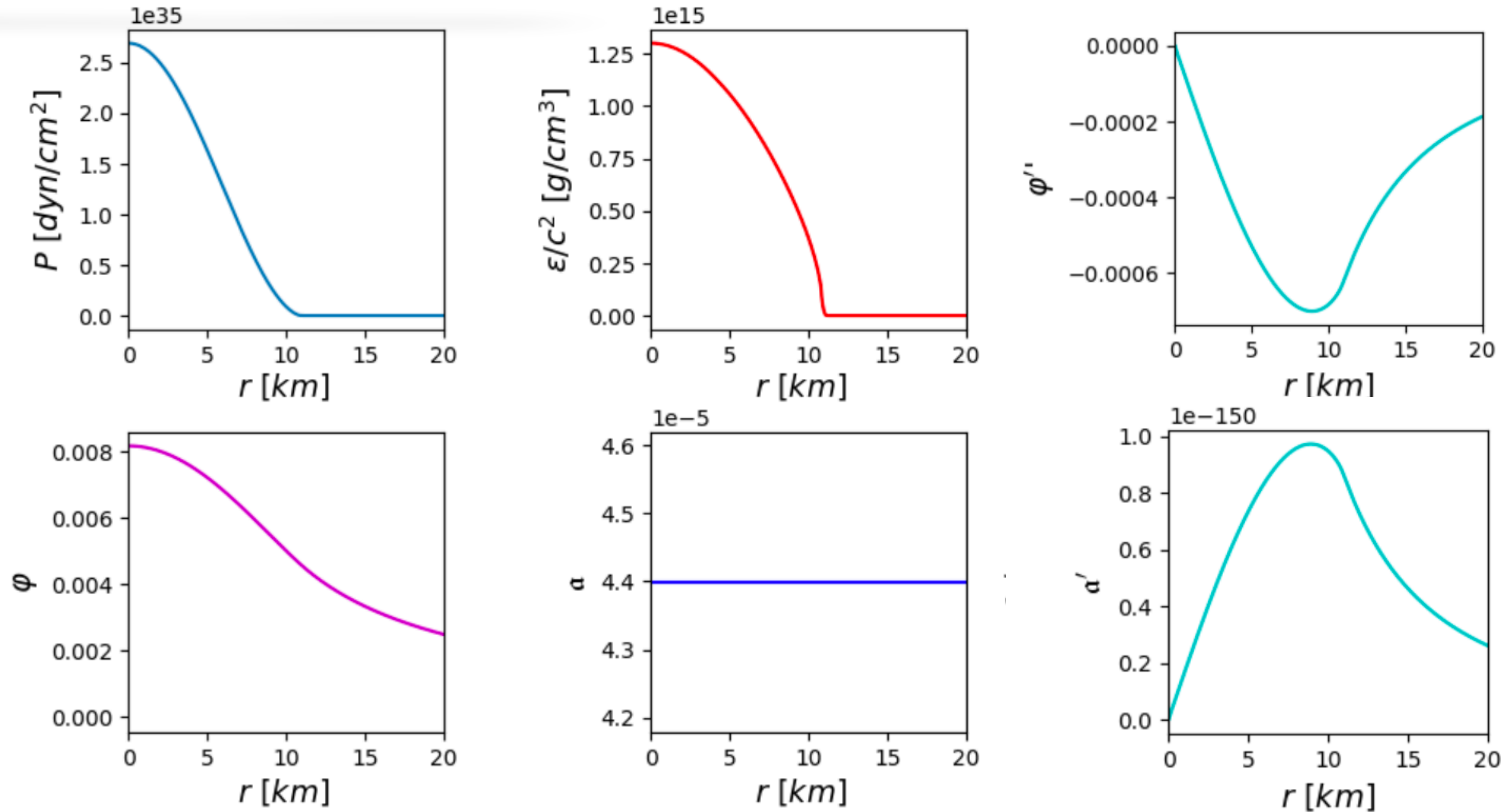
And additionally, the Tolman-Oppenheimer-Volkoff (TOV) equation

$$\tilde{P}' = -(\tilde{\epsilon} + \tilde{P}) \left[ \frac{4\pi Gr^2(A^4\tilde{P} + \mathcal{V}) + \mu}{r(1 - 2\mu)} - \frac{r}{4}(\varphi'^2 + W^2\mathbf{a}'^2) + \mathfrak{g}\varphi' \right].$$





# Numerical solutions

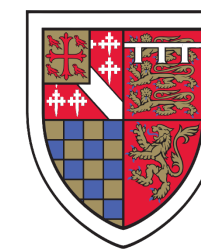


In this figure, we use the following values for the parameters:

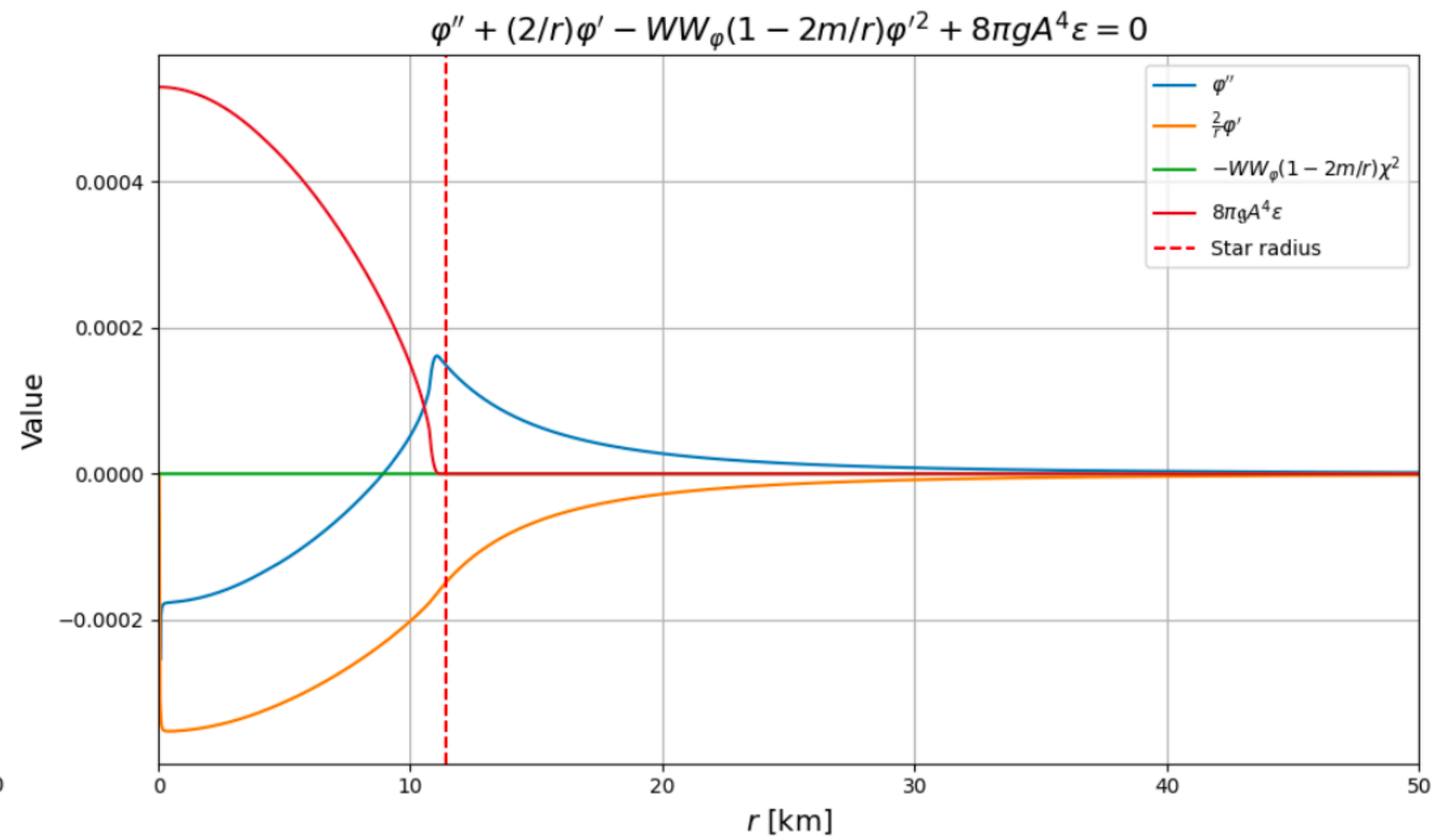
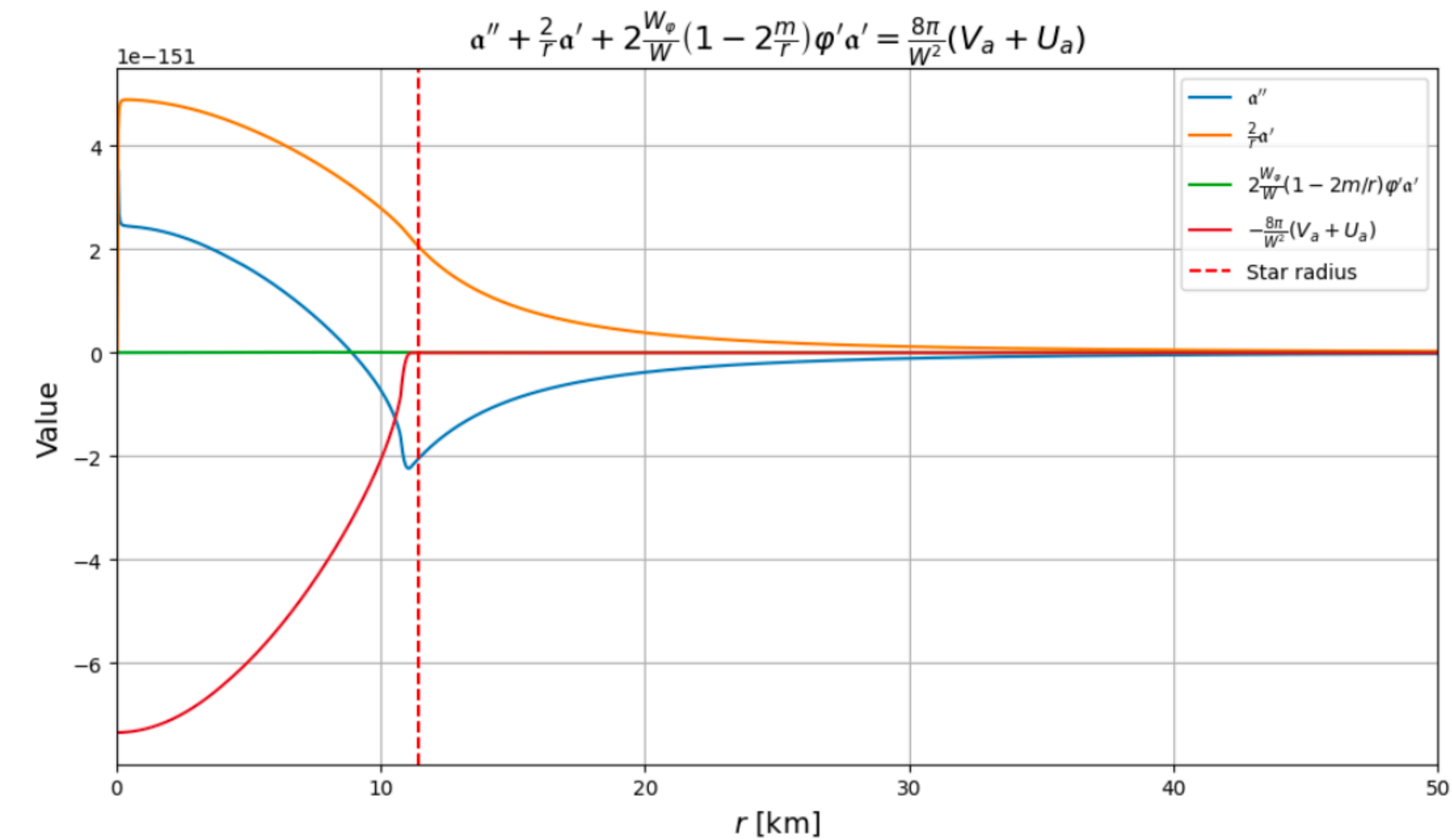
$$g = 0.01, \quad \xi = 1, \quad m_{in} = 10^{-6} \text{eV} \quad \text{and} \quad m_{out} = 10^{-9} \text{eV} \quad \longrightarrow \quad R = 11.4 \text{km}.$$



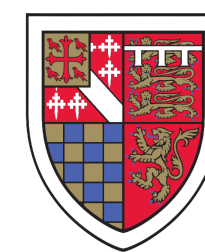
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# Numerical solutions



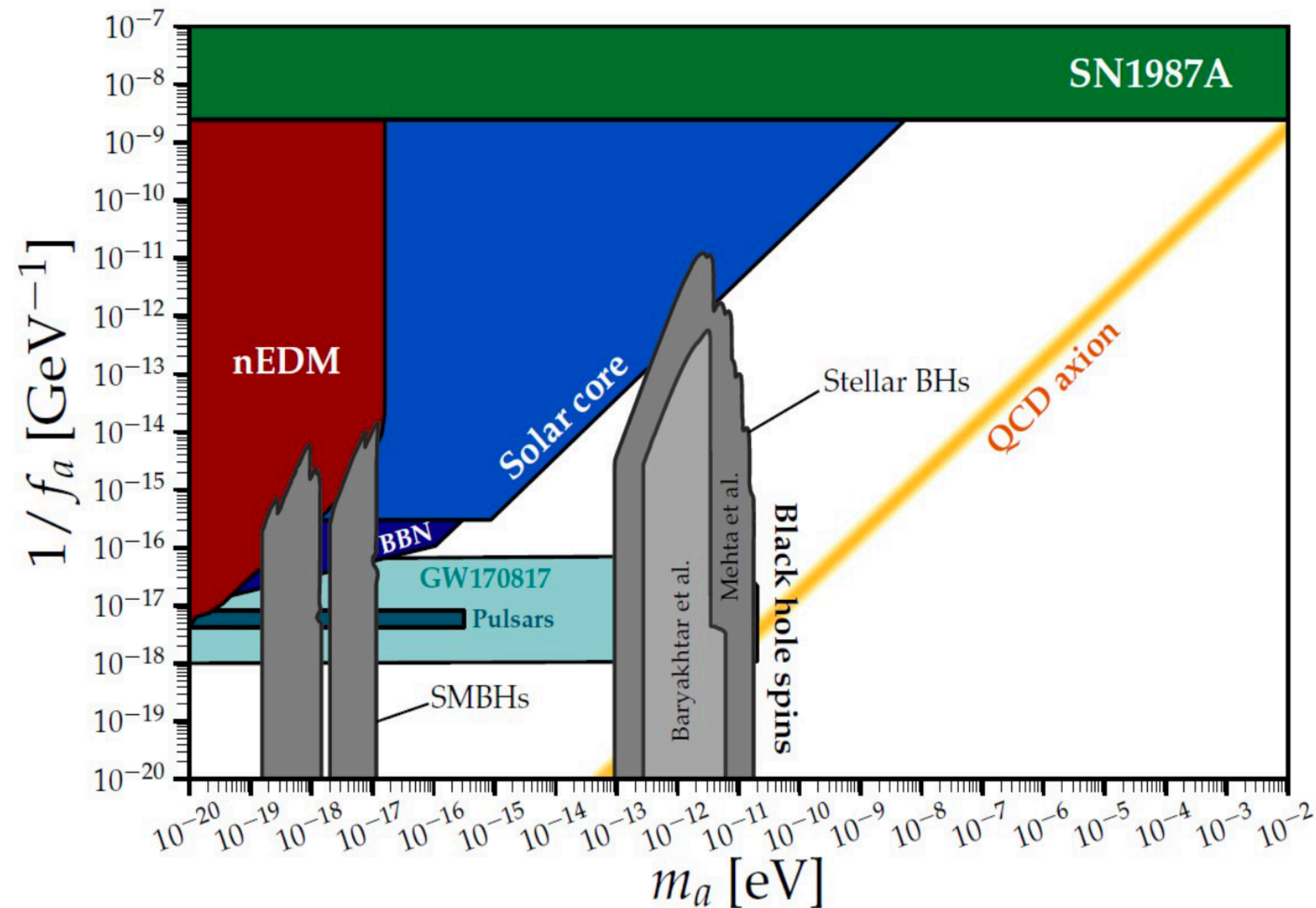
Evolution of the axio-dilaton system. The equations are satisfied along the whole radial coordinate.



# Phenomenology

Phenomenological values would require  $\xi > 10^9$  which requires  $f \leq 10^9$  GeV.

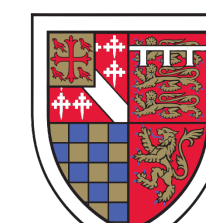
[P. Brax, , C. Burgess and F. Quevedo, 2023]



[P.A. Zyla et al. (Particle Data Group), 2020]



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# *Adiabatic approximation*

Consider the following potential for the axion field:

$$V(\mathbf{a}) = \frac{1}{2}\mu_{\text{out}}^2 M_p^2 (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}_+)^2 \quad \text{and} \quad U(a) = \frac{1}{2}\mu_{\text{in}}^2 M_p^2 (\mathbf{a} - \mathbf{a}_-)^2 \epsilon(r),$$

where  $\mu_{\text{in/out}} M_p = m_{\text{in/out}} f = m_{\mathbf{a}} M_P W(\varphi)$ . Extremizing the effective potential with respect to the axion field,

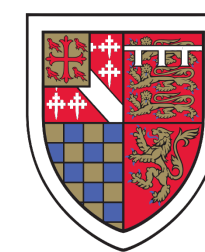
$$\frac{d(V(a) + U(a))}{da} = 0,$$

turns out into the axion solution

$$\mathbf{a}(r) = \frac{\mu_{\text{out}}^2 \mathbf{a}_+ + \mu_{\text{in}}^2 \epsilon(r) \mathbf{a}_-}{\mu_{\text{out}}^2 + \mu_{\text{in}}^2 \epsilon(r)}.$$

The **adiabatic limit** inside the source implies, in particular,  $m_{\text{in}} R \gg 1$ , that is, the Compton wavelength is way smaller than the star's radius.

**The axion profile adiabatically follows the minimum of the local potential**



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