

Black holes with electroweak hair: the non-perturbative analysis

Romain Gervalle

Black holes and their symmetries

July 3, 2025

Reference paper: R. G. and M. S. Volkov, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 133, 171402 [[arXiv:2406.14357](#)]
+ the detailed derivation submitted to *Phys. Rev. D* [[arXiv:2504.09304](#)]

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- 2 Non-extremal hairy black holes
- 3 Extremal hairy black holes
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Hairy black holes: the qualitative picture

The RN instability should grow at the *non-perturbative* level to form **a hair**.

Same magnetic charge $P = n/(2e)$ as for RN black holes.

The hairy solutions emerge from the RN branch when $r_H = r_H^0(n) \approx \sqrt{|n|}/g$.

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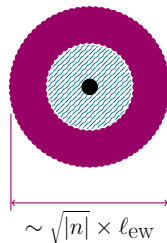
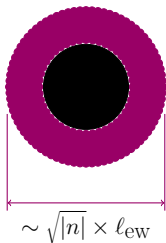
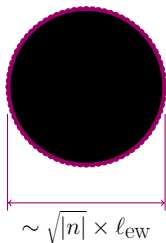
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- 1) **The electroweak hair appears**, 2) **gets longer** as the horizon shrinks and
- 3) eventually **a bubble of symmetric phase appears**.

$$1) |B(r_H)| \approx m_W^2, \quad 2) m_W^2 < |B(r_H)| < m_H^2, \quad 3) |B(r_H)| > m_H^2$$



Axially symmetric ansatz

The orbital momentum of the unstable mode is $j = |n|/2 - 1$.

→ Spherical symmetry only for $|n| = 2$ (considered by [Bai, Korwar, 2021]).

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→ We assume a **static** and **axially-symmetric** spacetime metric,

$$ds^2 = -e^{2U} N(r) dt^2 + e^{2K} \left(\frac{dr^2}{N(r)} + r^2 d\vartheta^2 \right) + e^{2S} r^2 \sin^2 \vartheta d\varphi^2,$$

where $N(r)$ is a *gauge-fixing* function s.t. $N(r_H) = 0$.

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→ **Purely magnetic** electroweak fields,

$$W_\mu dx^\mu = \frac{\tau_2}{2} \left(-\frac{1}{r} H_1 dr + H_2 d\vartheta \right) + \frac{n}{2} \left[(\cos \vartheta + H_3 \sin \vartheta) \frac{\tau_3}{2} - H_4 \sin \vartheta \frac{\tau_1}{2} \right] d\varphi,$$

$$B_\mu dx^\mu = \frac{n}{2} (\cos \vartheta + y \sin \vartheta) d\varphi \quad \Phi = (\phi_1, \phi_2)^T \text{ with } \phi_1, \phi_2 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

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→ **10 nonlinear elliptic** field equations to be solved (**FreeFem** solver).

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The hair charge

In the **Nambu description**, a part of the charge P is stored **in the hair**.

$$P_h = \int_{r > r_H} \tilde{\mathcal{J}}^0 \sqrt{-g} \, d^3x, \quad P_H = P - P_h.$$

P_h : charge *inside the hair*, P_H : *horizon* charge.

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RN black holes: $P_h = 0$, $P_H = P$, all charge is **inside the horizon**.

Hairy black holes: P_h **grows when the horizon shrinks**. A maximum is reached in the extremal limit,

$$P_h = g'^2 \times P = 0.22 \times P.$$

→ **22% of the charge** moves to the hair.

The ADM mass

The black hole mass M is computed from the **asymptotic behavior** $g_{00} = -1 + 2M/r + \dots$ or from the **Komar integral**,

$$M = \frac{k_H A_H}{4\pi} + \frac{\kappa}{8\pi} \int_{r > r_H} (-T_0^0 + T_k^k) \sqrt{-g} d^3x,$$

surface gravity: $k_H = (1/2) N'(r) e^{U-K}|_{r=r_H}$,

horizon area: $A_H = 2\pi r_H^2 \int_0^\pi e^{K+S} \sin \vartheta d\vartheta|_{r=r_H}$.

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Like for the charge, the mass split into,

$$M = M_H + M_h, \quad M_H \neq \frac{k_H A_H}{4\pi}.$$

The horizon mass M_H is defined as the mass of a RN black hole of size r_H and charge $P_H \leq P$.

Hairy black holes: M_h/M **grows when the horizon shrinks**.

The horizon oblateness

The configurations are **not spherical**. We define,

$$\text{equatorial horizon radius: } r_{\text{eq}} = \sqrt{g_{\varphi\varphi}(r_{\text{H}}, \pi/2)},$$

$$\text{polar horizon radius: } r_{\text{pl}} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi \sqrt{g_{\vartheta\vartheta}(r_{\text{H}}, \vartheta)} d\vartheta,$$

$$\text{average radius: } r_h = \sqrt{A_{\text{H}}/(4\pi)},$$

$$\text{horizon oblateness: } \delta = r_{\text{eq}}/r_{\text{pl}} - 1.$$

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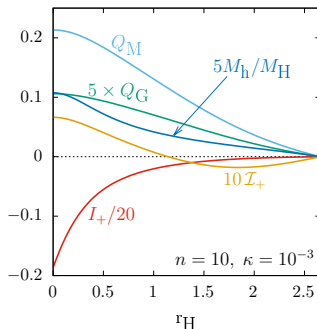
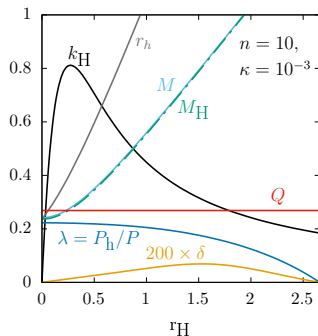
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Hairy black holes: as the horizon shrinks, δ increases, then reaches a maximum, and eventually **vanishes in the extremal limit**.

→ Extremal hairy black holes have **a perfectly spherical horizon**.

Non-extremal hairy black holes: global overview

Output parameters for $n = 10$, $\kappa = 10^{-3}$:



Additional quantities:

I_+ ('t Hooft), $\mathcal{I}_+$ (Nambu) : **electric currents** in upper half-space,
 Q_G , Q_M : gravitational and magnetic **quadrupole moments** [Fodor et al., 2021].

Magnetic field profile

We define the '**t Hooft** electromagnetic field ΔF of the condensate/hair as,

$$\Delta F = F - \underbrace{\frac{n}{2e} \sin \vartheta d\vartheta \wedge d\varphi}_{\text{charge inside the BH}}.$$

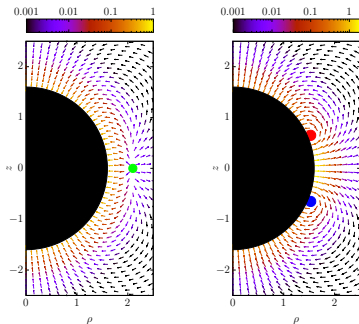
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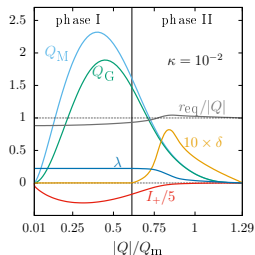


Nambu (left): condensate field $\Delta \vec{B}$ is sourced by the **smooth distribution of magnetic charge** P_h outside the black hole.

't Hooft (right): condensate field $\Delta \vec{B}$ is sourced by **two oppositely directed electric currents** $I_{\pm}$ (all charge inside the horizon).

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Extremal hairy black holes

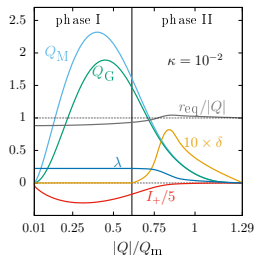


If $|Q| = \sqrt{\kappa/2} P \ll Q_m = \sqrt{2/(\kappa\beta)}/g$:

electroweak fields at r_H are in the **false vacuum**
($|\Phi| = W_\mu^a = 0$, B_μ is Coulombian).

→ The horizon geometry is **spherical** ($\delta = 0$).

Extremal hairy black holes



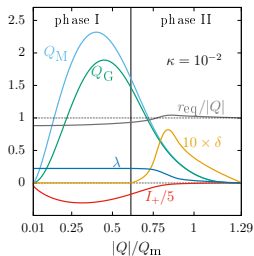
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- We observe a **phase transition** ($\delta > 0$) at $|Q| \approx 0.62 Q_m \Rightarrow |B(r_H)| \approx m_H^2$.
→ The black hole starts *absorbing* the hair.
- Extremal hairy BHs merge with extremal RN at $|Q| \approx 1.29 Q_m \Rightarrow |B(r_H)| \approx m_W^2$.
→ **No hairy BHs** beyond this charge.

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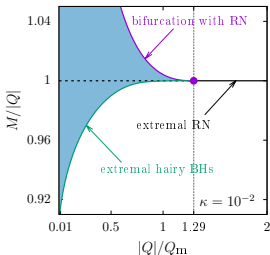
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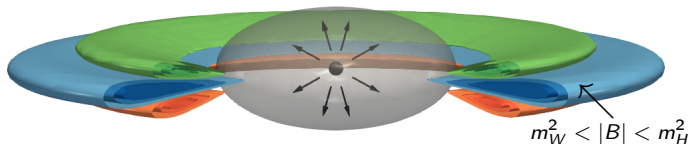
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- For all extremal hairy solutions: $M \leq |Q|$.



Structure of extremal solutions

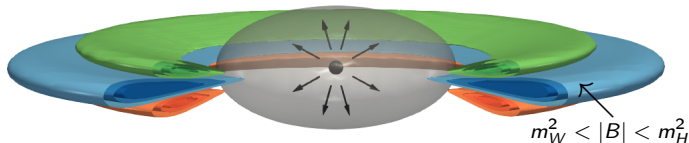
An extremal hairy black hole in phase I (**Nambu description**):



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Structure of extremal solutions

An extremal hairy black hole in phase I (**Nambu description**):



→ The strong magnetic field produces a *bubble* of **Higgs false vacuum**: restoration of the full electroweak gauge symmetry near the horizon.

→ Inside ($|B| > m_H^2$): $|\Phi| = W_\mu^a = 0$, B_μ is **Coulombian** and

$$g_{\mu\nu} \sim \text{RN-de Sitter with } r_{\text{eq}} = r_{\text{ext.}}^{\text{RNdS}} \approx g|Q|.$$

→ Far field ($|B| < m_W^2$): $|\Phi| = 1$, B_μ , W_μ^a are **Coulombian** and

$$g_{\mu\nu} \sim \text{RN with } \boxed{M \approx g|Q| < |Q|}.$$

The weakness of gravity

The hair mass $M_h \ll M$ is very small because of the **negative Zeeman energy** of the condensate interacting with the background magnetic field,

$$m_W^2 \rightarrow m_W^2 - |B| \approx 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{M_h}{Q_h} \ll 1, \quad (Q_h = 0.22 \times Q).$$

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→ Manifestation of the **weak gravity conjecture**.

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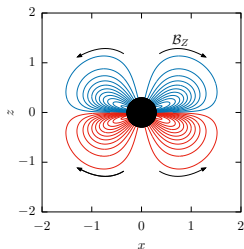
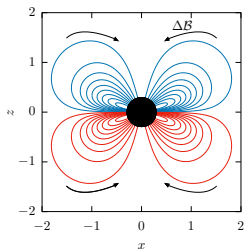
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$$M = M_H + M_h \approx M_H \approx g|Q| < |Q|.$$

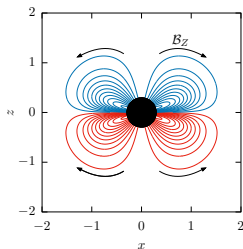
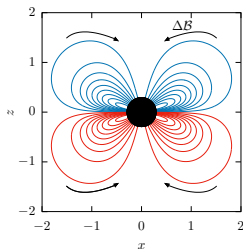
→ Hairy black holes are **energetically favored** as compared to RN.

The black hole "corona"



- The magnetic field lines form **loops** starting and ending at the horizon (**'t Hooft description**).
→ The black hole **"corona"**.
- The *massless* and *massive* magnetic fields ΔB and B_Z flow in opposite directions.
→ They are sourced by **opposite currents** of gauge bosons.

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Order of magnitudes: (for *maximally* hairy BHs, $|n| \sim 10^{32}$)

$$r_{\text{hor}} \approx 1.4 \text{ cm}, \quad r_{\text{hair}} \approx 2.2 \text{ cm}, \quad |\mathcal{B}(R_{\odot})| \approx 0.1 \text{ T},$$

$$M \approx 2 \times 10^{25} \text{ kg}, \quad M_{\text{hair}} \approx 11\% \times M.$$

- Black holes with an **axially symmetric** electroweak hair are constructed numerically.
→ Very compelling candidates for both **hairy black holes** and **magnetic monopoles**.
No physics beyond the Standard Model + GR is required!
- The hair features an electroweak *symmetric phase* where $|\Phi| \approx 0$ and contains **W/Z-boson** currents generating the black hole "**corona**".
- They cannot decay into RN because they are **less energetic**: $M \leq |Q|$.
→ They can still reduce their energy by splitting their hair into a hedgehog of vortices: the "**fully spread**" **corona** (never been described at the non-perturbative level).
- They could have been created in the fluctuating magnetic field of the **early Universe** → *primordial black holes*.

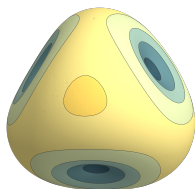
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Beyond axial symmetry

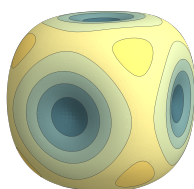
Perturbative analysis reveals that the axially symmetric condensate **do not achieve the energy minimum** (except for $|n| = 4$).

→ Decay to configurations with only **discrete symmetries**:

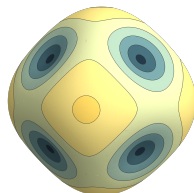
$$|n| = 6$$



$$|n| = 8$$



$$|n| = 10$$



Similar situation as in flat space, with an *external and uniform* magnetic field [Ambjorn, Olesen, 1988] - [Chernodub *et al.*, 2023].