

Positive Energy Theorems for Charged Spin Initial Data

Simon Raulot

Laboratoire de Mathématiques Raphaël Salem
Université de Rouen Normandie

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Einstein equations

$$\text{geometry of } (\mathcal{M}^{n+1}, \mathfrak{g}) \rightsquigarrow \text{Ric}_{\mathfrak{g}} - \frac{1}{2} \text{Scal}_{\mathfrak{g}} \mathfrak{g} = \mathcal{T} \leftarrow \text{physical fields}$$

Relate the geometry of spacetime, a **Lorentzian manifold** $(\mathcal{M}^{n+1}, \mathfrak{g})$, to its matter/energy content encoded by the **energy-momentum tensor** \mathcal{T} .

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Dominant energy condition

For every future-directed timelike vector field T , the vector field

$$-\mathcal{T}(T, \cdot)^{\sharp}$$

is future-directed causal.

Energy density is nonnegative and energy propagates causally.

Physical setting

Einstein–Maxwell equations

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- When

$$\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{T}_F := 2 \left(F \circ F - \frac{1}{2} |F|^2 g \right)$$

is the electromagnetic energy-momentum tensor, where F is a 2-form on \mathcal{M} (the **Faraday tensor**), satisfying the Maxwell equations

$$dF = 0, \quad d(*F) = 0,$$

one obtains the (source-free) **Einstein–Maxwell equations**.

Mathematical framework

Charged initial data sets

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A **charged initial data set** is a quadruple (M^n, g, K, E) where

- (M^n, g) is a Riemannian manifold;

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- E is a vector field on M ; in the **purely electric case**,

$$F = c_n T^b \wedge E^b, \quad c_n = \sqrt{\frac{(n-1)(n-2)}{2}},$$

where T is the future-directed unit timelike normal to M .

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A charged initial data set satisfies the **DEC** if $\mu \geq \sqrt{|J|^2 + \varpi^2}$.

In the Einstein–Maxwell case, the Einstein–Maxwell constraint equations imply

$$\mu = 0, \quad J = 0, \quad \varpi = 0,$$

so that the DEC is saturated.

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A subset $M_{\text{ext}} \subset M$ is said to be an **asymptotically flat end (AF end)** if there exists a chart at infinity

$$\psi^{-1} : M_{\text{ext}} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \overline{B}_R(0)$$

such that, setting $e := \psi^*g - \delta$, one has

$$e = O_2(r^{-\tau}), \quad \psi^*K = O_1(r^{-\tau-1}), \quad \psi^*E = O_1(r^{-\tau-1}),$$

for some

$$\tau > \frac{n-2}{2}.$$

Here the decay is measured with respect to the Euclidean metric δ and its Levi-Civita connection ∇^δ .

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Here the decay is measured with respect to the Euclidean metric δ and its Levi-Civita connection ∇^δ . We also assume

$$\mu, J, \varpi \in L^1(M).$$

Mathematical framework

ADM energy-momentum and total charge

For an asymptotically flat charged initial data set, one defines:

- the **ADM energy** (or **ADM mass**):

$$m = \frac{1}{2(n-1)\omega_{n-1}} \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \int_{S_r} (\operatorname{div}_\delta e - d \operatorname{tr}_\delta e)(\nu_r) d\sigma_r;$$

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- the **ADM linear momentum**: for $i = 1, \dots, n$,

$$\mathcal{P}_i = \frac{1}{(n-1)\omega_{n-1}} \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \int_{S_r} (\psi^* K - (\operatorname{tr}_\delta \psi^* K)\delta)(\partial_i, \nu_r) d\sigma_r;$$

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Asymptotic flatness \implies these quantities are geometric invariants (Bartnik ('86), Chruściel ('86); see also Michel ('10) for a general geometric formulation).

The positive energy theorem

Positive energy theorem

Let (M^n, g, K) be a **complete** initial data set containing an **AF end** and satisfying the **DEC**. Then its ADM energy-momentum vector $(m, \mathcal{P}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n,1}$ satisfies

$$m \geq |\mathcal{P}|.$$

Moreover, equality holds if and only if (M^n, g, K) can be isometrically embedded into a pp-wave spacetime with second fundamental form K .

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Two main approaches:

- **Minimal hypersurfaces + Jang equation**: Schoen–Yau ('79), Lohkamp ('06), Eichmair ('13), Huang–Lee ('19), Lesourd–Unger–Yau ('24), Brendle–Wang ('26);

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- **Dirac operators**: Witten ('81), Parker–Taubes ('82), Bartnik ('86), Chruściel–Maerten ('06), Hirsch–Zhang ('25).

The positive energy theorem with charge for $n = 3$

Positive energy theorem with charge

Let (M^3, g, K, E) be a **complete** charged initial data set containing an **AF end** and satisfying the **DEC**. Then its ADM energy-momentum vector $(m, \mathcal{P}) \in \mathbb{R}^{3,1}$ and total charge Q satisfy

$$m \geq \sqrt{|\mathcal{P}|^2 + Q^2}.$$

Moreover, if equality holds, $\text{tr}K = 0$ and if some additional natural assumptions are satisfied, then (M^3, g, K, E) can be isometrically embedded into a Majumdar–Papapetrou spacetime.

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- **Spacetime harmonic functions**: Bray–Hirsch–Kazaras–Khuri–Zhang ('23);

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Theorem (R.'26, CQG)

Let (M^n, g, K, E) be a **complete spin** charged initial data set containing an **AF end** and satisfying the **DEC**. Then its ADM energy-momentum vector $(m, \mathcal{P}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n,1}$ and total charge Q satisfy

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Proof strategy: **Witten's spinorial method**.

Witten's method

Spin geometry

We restrict to the **time-symmetric** case $K = 0$ (so $J = 0$ and $\mathcal{P} = 0$) that is

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (M^n, g, E) \text{ complete spin with an AF end} \\ \mu \geq |\varpi| \end{array} \right. \implies m \geq |Q|.$$

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- the associated **Dirac operator** $D = c \circ \nabla$.

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Charged Schrödinger–Lichnerowicz formula

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The associated modified Dirac operator is

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$$(D^-)^* D^- = (\nabla^-)^* \nabla^- + \frac{1}{2} (\mu + \varpi) \text{Id}_{S_g}.$$

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The Witten argument

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Using the analytic framework developed by Bartnik–Chruściel ('05), the operator

$$D^- : \mathbb{H}^- \longrightarrow L^2(S_g)$$

is an isomorphism. Hence there exists a unique spinor Φ such that

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Integrating the charged Schrödinger–Lichnerowicz formula gives

$$\frac{n-1}{2} \omega_{n-1} (m - |Q|) = \int_M (|\nabla^- \Phi|^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\mu + \varpi)|\Phi|^2 - \underbrace{|D^- \Phi|^2}_{=0}) d\mu.$$

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Charged parallel spinors

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$$\nabla_X \Phi = -\frac{1}{2}c(X)c(E)\Phi - \frac{n-1}{2}g(E, X)\Phi$$

for all $X \in \Gamma(TM)$ is called a **(negative) charged parallel spinor (CPS)**.

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Example

If $E = 0$, CPS are **parallel spinors**. In particular, (M^n, g) is **Ricci-flat**.

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(M^n, g, Φ)
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$\Delta(\ln V) = 0$

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$$E^b = -\frac{1}{n-2} d \ln V;$$

- the Lorentzian metric $\mathfrak{g} = -V^2 dt^2 + g$ defines a **static solution** of the Einstein–Maxwell equations with Faraday tensor $F = c_n dt \wedge E^b$.

Conformal correspondence

(M^n, g, Φ)
Φ CPS
$\Delta(\ln V) = 0$

$$\bar{g} = V^{\frac{2}{n-2}} g$$



$$\Psi = V^{-1/2} \Phi$$

$(M^n, \bar{g}, \bar{\Psi})$
$\bar{\Psi}$ \bar{g} -parallel
$\bar{\Delta}(V^{-1}) = 0$

Charged parallel spinors

A general construction

Start with a manifold (M^n, \bar{g}) carrying a **parallel spinor** $\bar{\Psi}$ and let $U > 0$ be a **\bar{g} -harmonic function**.

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Then (M^n, g, E) carries a **charged parallel spinor**.

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What about parallel spinors?

Charged parallel spinors

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Cone construction (Bär '93)

If (Σ^{n-1}, γ) carries a real Killing spinor

$$\nabla_X^\gamma \psi = -\frac{\lambda}{n-1} c_\gamma(X) \psi, \quad X \in \Gamma(T\Sigma), \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^*$$

then the **Riemannian cone**

$$(C(\Sigma), g_C) = ((0, \infty) \times \Sigma, dr^2 + r^2 \gamma)$$

has a parallel spinor.

Charged parallel spinors

The extremal Reissner–Nordström manifold

For $(\Sigma^{n-1}, \gamma) = (\mathbb{S}^{n-1}, g_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}})$, we get $g_C = \delta$.

Charged parallel spinors

The extremal Reissner–Nordström manifold

For $(\Sigma^{n-1}, \gamma) = (\mathbb{S}^{n-1}, g_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}})$, we get $g_C = \delta$. Choose

$$U_m(r) = 1 + \frac{m}{r^{n-2}}, \quad m > 0,$$

then the metric $g_m = U_m^{\frac{2}{n-2}} \delta$ on $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ defines the **extremal Reissner–Nordström manifold**.

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- one **asymptotically cylindrical end (AC end)** :

$$g_m \underset{t \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} dt^2 + h, \quad h = m^{\frac{2}{n-2}} g_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} \quad t = -m^{\frac{1}{n-2}} \ln r;$$

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- the CPS is given by $\Phi = U_m^{-\frac{1}{2}} \Psi$ and

$$V_m := |\Phi|^2 = m^{-1} e^{-(n-2)qt} (1 + O_2(e^{-(n-2)qt})), \quad q = m^{-\frac{1}{n-2}}.$$

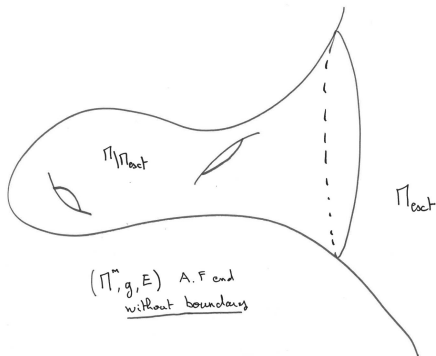
Charged parallel spinors

Non-trivial charged equality cases require additional geometric structure

Charged parallel spinors

Non-trivial charged equality cases require additional geometric structure

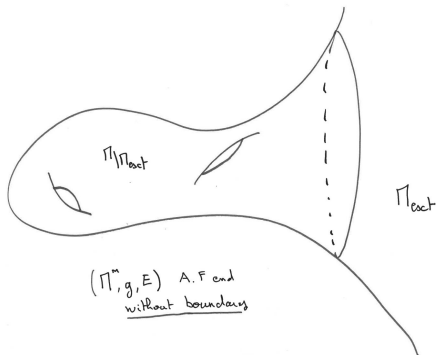
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Charged parallel spinors

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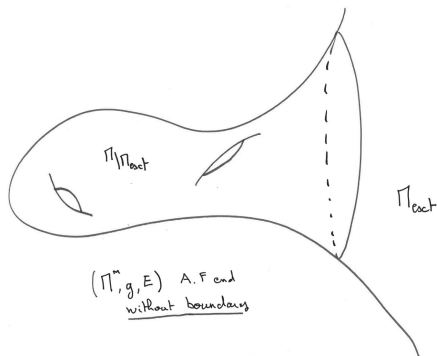


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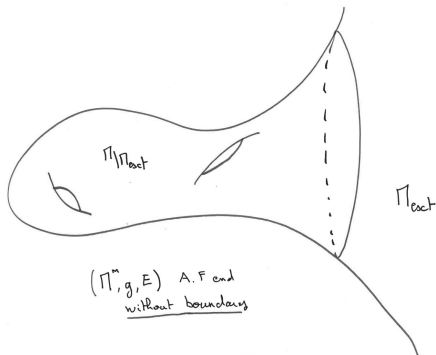


$$0 = \int_{M_r} \text{div}(E) d\mu = \int_{S_r} g(E, \nu_r) d\sigma_r$$

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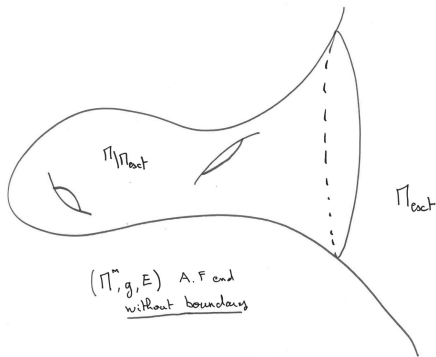


$$0 = \int_{M_r} \text{div}(E) d\mu = \int_{S_r} g(E, \nu_r) d\sigma_r \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow +\infty} \omega_{n-1} Q$$

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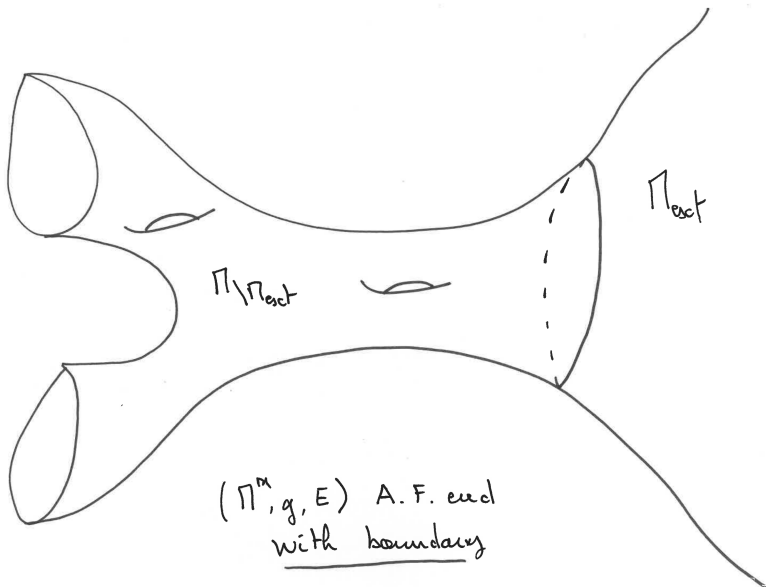
Non-trivial charged equality cases require additional geometric structure

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$$0 = \int_{M_r} \text{div}(E) d\mu = \int_{S_r} g(E, \nu_r) d\sigma_r \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow +\infty} \omega_{n-1} Q \implies m = |Q| = 0.$$

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with boundary



The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with boundary

For $r_0 > 0$, the domain in the extremal Reissner-Nordström manifold

$$\Omega_{m,r_0} := \mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_{r_0}(0),$$

is a complete manifold with an AF end and a **compact inner boundary**.

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The restriction of the CPS Φ on $\partial\Omega_{m,r_0}$ satisfies

$$\mathcal{D}\Phi|_{\partial\Omega_{m,r_0}} = -\frac{n-1}{2}(m+r_0^{n-2})^{-\frac{1}{n-2}}\Phi|_{\partial\Omega_{m,r_0}}$$

where \mathcal{D} is the **Dirac operator** of $(\partial\Omega_{m,r_0}, g_m|_{\partial\Omega_{m,r_0}})$

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$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} D^-\Phi = 0 & \text{on } \Omega_{m,r_0} \\ P_{>0}\Phi = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega_{m,r_0} \rightsquigarrow \text{Atiyah-Patodi-Singer condition} \\ \Phi \rightarrow \Phi_0 & \text{at infinity.} \end{array} \right.$$

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with boundary

Theorem (R.'26)

Let $n \geq 3$ and let (M^n, g, E) be a complete charged spin initial data set containing an AF end and with a **compact** boundary ∂M with positive scalar curvature. Assume that the DEC holds and that

$$\sup_{\partial M} (H + (n-1)|g(E, \nu)|) \leq \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{n-2} \inf_{\partial M} R_{\partial M}}.$$

Then the mass and charge satisfy

$$m \geq |Q|.$$

If ∂M is **connected** and $\operatorname{div}(E) = 0$, equality occurs if and only if (M^n, g, E) is isometric to the exterior region of a coordinate sphere in an extremal Reissner–Nordström manifold.

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with boundary

Sketch of the proof: the inequality

Integrating the charged Schrödinger–Lichnerowicz formula yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{n-1}{2} \omega_{n-1} (m - |Q|) &= \int_M \left(|\nabla^- \Phi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\mu + \varpi) |\Phi|^2 \right) d\mu \\ &\quad - \int_{\partial M} \left\langle \not{D}\Phi + \frac{1}{2} (H - (n-1)g(E, \nu))\Phi, \Phi \right\rangle d\sigma. \end{aligned}$$

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By Friedrich's inequality,

$$\lambda_1 \geq \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{n-1}{n-2} \inf_{\partial M} R_{\partial M}}$$

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hence $m \geq |Q|$.

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with boundary

Sketch of the proof: the equality case I

Assume that equality holds, the boundary is **connected** and $\operatorname{div}(E) = 0$.

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The spinor Φ is a **CPS** with $\Phi \rightarrow \Phi_0 \neq 0$, $|\Phi_0| = 1$ then

$$\ln V = \frac{Q}{r^{n-2}} + o_2(r^{2-n}).$$

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By Herzlich's positive mass theorem with boundary,

$$(M^n, \bar{g}) \simeq (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_{r_0}(0), \delta).$$

The mass-charge inequality for connected boundary

Sketch of the proof: the equality case II

Setting $U := V^{-1}$ we obtain

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Delta_\delta U = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^n \setminus B_{r_0}(0), \\ U \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{at infinity,} \\ U = \alpha \quad \text{on } \partial B_{r_0}(0). \end{array} \right.$$

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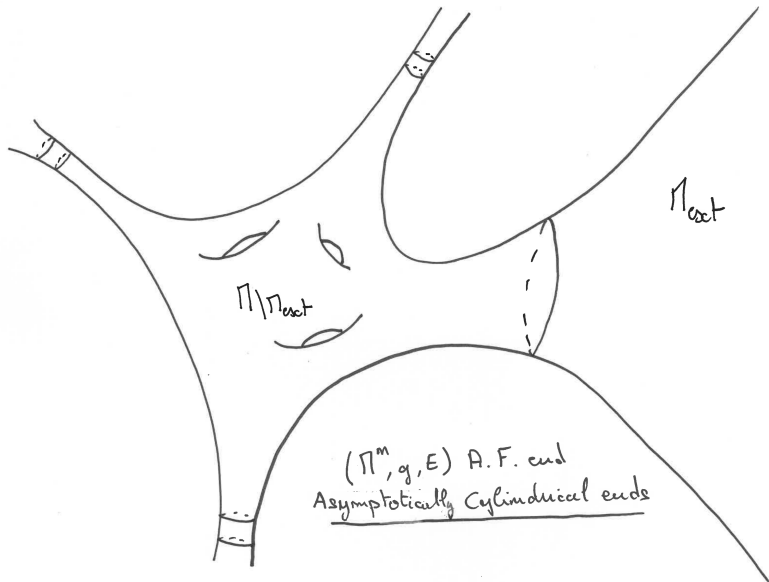
It follows that $U(r) = U_m(r) = 1 + \frac{m}{r^{n-2}}$ hence

$$g = U_m^{\frac{2}{n-2}} \delta = g_m,$$

so (M^n, g, E) is the exterior region of a sphere in an extremal Reissner–Nordström manifold.

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

Manifold with an AC end



The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

Manifold with an AC end

A subset $\mathcal{E} \subset M$ in a charged initial data set (M^n, g, E) is an **asymptotically cylindrical end (AC end)** if

$$\mathcal{E} \simeq (T_0, \infty) \times \Sigma, \quad g_\infty = dt^2 + h, \quad E_\infty = Y + q\partial_t$$

where (Σ^{n-1}, h) , the **limiting cross-section** of the AC end, is a $(n-1)$ -dimensional Riemannian closed manifold, $Y \in \Gamma(T\Sigma)$ and $q \in C^\infty(\Sigma)$

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$$|(\nabla^\infty)^j(g - g_\infty)|_{g_\infty} = O(e^{-\alpha t}), \quad j = 0, 1, 2,$$

$$|(\nabla^\infty)^j(E - E_\infty)|_{g_\infty} = O(e^{-\alpha t}), \quad j = 0, 1.$$

Here $\alpha > 0$, and ∇^∞ is the Levi-Civita connection of g_∞ .

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Theorem (R.'26)

Let $n \geq 3$ and let (M^n, g, E) be a complete charged spin manifold containing at least one AF end and a finite number of AC ends. Assume that the DEC holds. Then

$$m \geq |Q|.$$

If moreover $\operatorname{div}(E) = 0$ and M has exactly **one AC end** whose limiting cross-section has **positive scalar curvature**, then equality holds if and only if (M^n, g, E) is isometric to the extremal Reissner–Nordström manifold.

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Main idea of the proof: transform the **cylindrical end** into an **isolated conical singularity** and apply the positive mass theorem of Dai–Sun–Wang ('24).

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

Sketch of the proof I

The Witten spinor Φ is a **charged parallel spinor** and if $V := |\Phi|^2$, we have:

- along **the** AC end,

$$E^b = -\frac{1}{n-2} d \ln V = Y^b + q dt + O_1(e^{-\alpha t})$$

and then $q = -\omega_{n-1} Q / \text{Vol}(\Sigma, h) \geq 0$ is a **nonnegative constant**;

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After renormalization,

$$\Psi_t = e^{\frac{n-2}{2}qt} \Phi|_{\Sigma_t} \longrightarrow \Psi_\infty \neq 0 \quad \text{in } C^1,$$

and the limiting spinor satisfies

$$\not{D}_h \Psi_\infty = -\frac{n-1}{2} q \Psi_\infty.$$

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

Sketch of the proof II

- Friedrich's inequality and the Gauss equation yield

$$\frac{(n-1)^2}{4} q^2 \geq \lambda_1^2 \geq \frac{n-1}{4(n-2)} \inf_{\Sigma} R_{\Sigma}$$

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

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so Ψ_{∞} is a **real Killing spinor** on (Σ^{n-1}, h) with $q > 0$. In particular, R_{Σ} is constant and so $Y \equiv 0$.

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- Set $\bar{g} = V^{\frac{2}{n-2}} g$ with $V = |\Phi|^2$ then (M, \bar{g}) is **Ricci-flat** with an **AF end** with **zero mass**.

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What happens to the AC end after the conformal change?

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

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$$\frac{(n-1)^2}{4} q^2 \geq \lambda_1^2 \geq \frac{n-1}{4(n-2)} \inf_{\Sigma} R_{\Sigma} = \frac{(n-1)^2}{4} \inf_{\Sigma} (|Y|_h^2 + q^2)$$

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- Set $\bar{g} = V^{\frac{2}{n-2}} g$ with $V = |\Phi|^2$ then (M, \bar{g}) is **Ricci-flat** with an **AF end** with **zero mass**.
- Since $Y \equiv 0$ on the AC end:

$$V(t, y) = C e^{-(n-2)qt} (1 + O_2(e^{-\alpha t}))$$

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

Sketch of the proof II

- Friedrich's inequality and the Gauss equation yield

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then, setting $\rho = C^{1/(n-2)} q^{-1} e^{-qt}$, one obtains

$$\bar{g} = d\rho^2 + \rho^2 \tilde{h} + \kappa, \quad \tilde{h} = q^2 h, \quad |(\nabla^C)^j \kappa|_{g_C} = O(\rho^{\beta-j}), \quad j = 0, 1, 2,$$

that is, an **isolated conical singularity**.

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

Sketch of the proof III

Rigidity in the positive mass theorem with isolated conical singularities of Dai–Sun–Wang ('24) gives

$$(M, \bar{g}) \simeq (\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}, \delta).$$

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

Sketch of the proof III

Rigidity in the positive mass theorem with isolated conical singularities of Dai–Sun–Wang ('24) gives

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Setting $U := V^{-1}$, we obtain

$$\Delta_\delta U = 0, \quad U \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{at infinity,}$$

and U has an isolated pole at 0.

The mass-charge inequality for manifolds with AC ends

Sketch of the proof III

Rigidity in the positive mass theorem with isolated conical singularities of Dai–Sun–Wang ('24) gives

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Setting $U := V^{-1}$, we obtain

$$\Delta_\delta U = 0, \quad U \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{at infinity,}$$

and U has an isolated pole at 0. By Bôcher's theorem,

$$U(x) = U_m(x) = 1 + \frac{m}{|x|^{n-2}},$$

hence

$$g = U_m^{\frac{2}{n-2}} \delta = g_m \quad \text{and} \quad E^b = \frac{1}{n-2} d \ln U_m = E_m^b.$$

Therefore (M^n, g, E) is the extremal Reissner–Nordström manifold of mass m .

- Extend the rigidity statement to manifolds with **multiple AC ends** and recover the higher-dimensional **Majumdar–Papapetrou manifolds**

$$\left(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{p_1, \dots, p_N\}, U^{\frac{2}{n-2}} \delta \right), \quad U(x) = 1 + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{m_j}{|x - p_j|^{n-2}},$$

by introducing suitable weighted spaces.

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- Generalize the theory to the **asymptotically hyperbolic** setting (Preprint '26).

Thank you for your attention!