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Null energy condition and positivity of black hole mass

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Motivation

- In SR and for classical field theory that play a role in physics, the positive total energy is the integral of a positive energy density ρ ;

Responsible for ensuring the stability of the ground state



- In gravity, the situation is very different.

There is no satisfactory way to define the local energy density including gravity

- It is an old conjecture that this total energy is in fact always strictly positive, except for flat Minkowski space, which has zero energy

Motivation

- Positive energy theorem:

Under dominant energy condition, the ADM energy of any asymptotically flat spacetime solving the Einstein equations is non-negative, and zero precisely only for Minkowski spacetime .

- The first proof is given by Richard Schoen and Shing-Tung Yau:

[Commun. Math. Phys. 65, 45 \(1979\)](#); [Commun. Math. Phys. 79, 231 \(1981\)](#)

- An alternative proof for Einstein gravity, making crucial use of spinor algebra

[Edward Witten, Commun. Math. Phys. 80, 381 \(1981\)](#)

- Gibbons, Hawking, Horowitz and Perry proved extensions of the theorem to asymptotically anti-de Sitter spacetimes and to Einstein–Maxwell theory.

$$M \geq \sqrt{Q^2 + P^2} \quad \text{Here } Q \text{ is charge, } P \text{ is magnetic charge}$$

[Commun. Math. Phys. 88 \(3\): 295–308](#)

Motivation

- An initial data site has an apparent horizon with area A_H and ADM mass E ;
- The system then will evolve and settle down to a Kerr-Newman black hole;

- Assume that the dynamics is dominated by classical physics and **null energy condition (NEC)** is satisfied, then

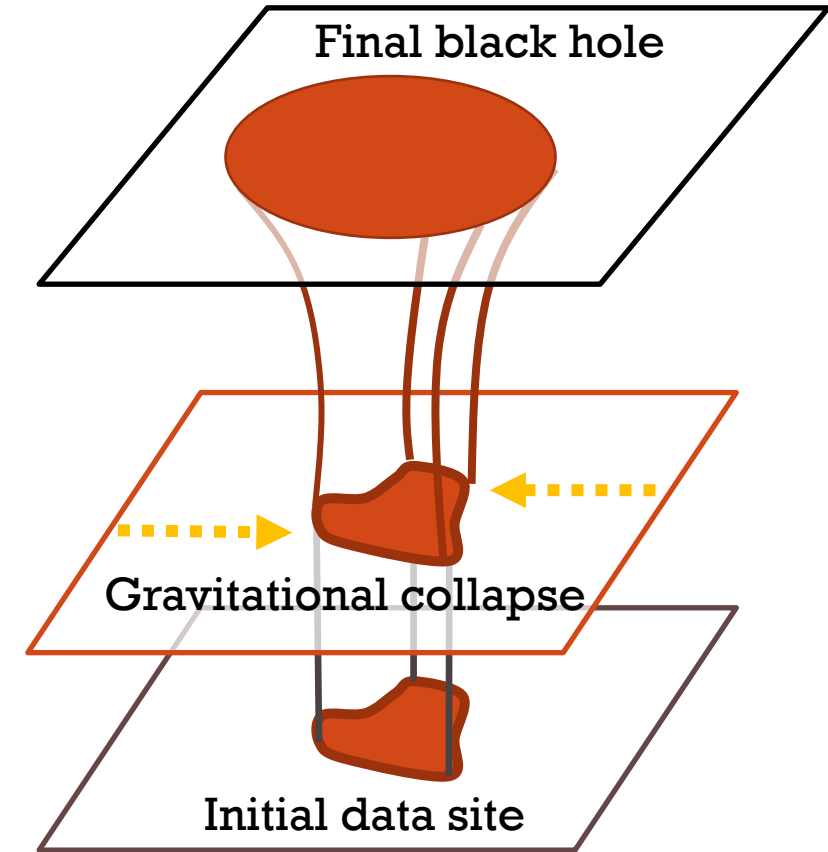
$$A_H \leq A_{H,f}$$

- For the final Kerr-Newman black hole,

$$A_{H,f} = 4\pi(r_h^2 + a^2), \quad M_f = \frac{r_h^2 + a^2}{2r_h}$$

- We can see that $A_{H,f} \leq 16\pi M_f^2$. Then we see
 $A_H \leq 16\pi M_f^2 \leq 16\pi M^2$

A gap: Only NEC is involved in above physical heuristic argument



Motivation

- We have four different variables to describe the size of a black hole

Radius of horizon r_+

Radius of photon sphere r_{ph}

Radius of shadow r_{sh}

- In Schwarzschild black hole, we find

$$\frac{3r_+}{2} = r_{ph} = \frac{r_{sh}}{\sqrt{3}} = 3M$$

- Our work shows that with some suitable energy condition,

$$\frac{3r_+}{2} \leq r_{ph} \leq \frac{r_{sh}}{\sqrt{3}} \leq 3M$$

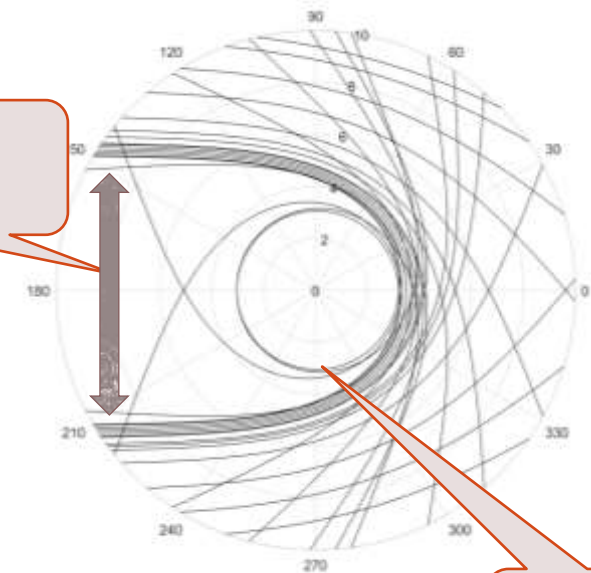
[Eur.Phys.J.C 80 \(2020\) 10, 949](#)

- Particularly, we proved that if NEC is true, then

$$r_h < r_{ph} \leq 3M$$

This suggests NEC is enough to insure positive energy!

Size of shadow



Photon sphere

New theorem of “positive mass” on black hole

For asymptotically flat stationary black hole, if

- (1) Einstein equation and **null energy condition** are satisfied, and
- (2) the cross-section of event horizon has S^2 topology, then

$$3M \geq \frac{\kappa A}{4\pi} + \sqrt{\frac{A}{4\pi}}$$

- Particularly, a regular static spacetime has nonnegative ADM energy.

In static spherically symmetric case

- We consider the spherically symmetric spacetime.

$$ds^2 = -f(r)e^{-\chi(r)}dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\varphi^2) \quad f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \dots, \quad |\chi(r)| \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(1/r^{1+\alpha}), \quad r \rightarrow \infty$$

- The energy momentum tensor has a form

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \dots, \quad |\chi(r)| \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(1/r^{1+\alpha}), \quad r \rightarrow \infty$$

- Surface gravity and area of horizon are given by $\kappa = \frac{f'(r_h)e^{-\chi(r_h)/2}}{2}$, $\mathcal{A} = \pi r_h^2$

- The Einsteins equation gives the following independent equations

$$f' = (1 - 8\pi r^2 \rho - f)/r,$$

$$\chi' = -\frac{8\pi r}{f}(\rho + p_r),$$

NEC insures $\chi' \leq 0$  NEC insures $\chi \geq 0$

$$p_r' = \frac{\rho + 4p_T - 3p_r}{2r} - \frac{(p_r + \rho)(8\pi p_r r^2 + 1)}{2r f}$$

In static spherically symmetric case

- Let us define a new quasi-local masses

$$m_n(r) = \frac{r^4 e^{\chi/2}}{6} \left(\frac{f e^{-\chi}}{r^2} \right)' + \frac{r}{3}$$

$f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \dots, \quad |\chi(r)| \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(1/r^{1+\alpha}), \quad r \rightarrow \infty$

At infinity, they both give us black hole mass

- At horizon, they are all positive

$$m_n(r_h) = \frac{\kappa \mathcal{A}}{12\pi} + \frac{r_h}{3}$$

$$m_s(\infty) = m_n(\infty) = M$$

Using Einstein equation, one can verify $m'_n(r) = \frac{8\pi}{3} e^{-\chi/2} r^2 (\rho + p_T) + \frac{1}{3} [1 - e^{-\chi(r)/2}]$

NEC gives us theorem on positivity of black hole mass!

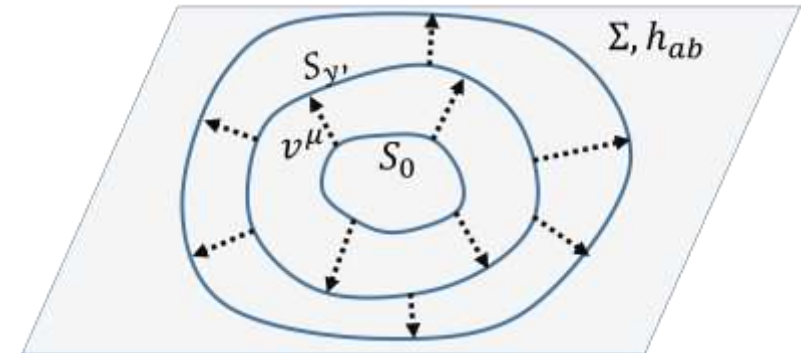
Beyond spherically symmetric case

For a static black hole, we can make ADM decomposition

$$ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + h_{ab} dx^a dx^b$$

We can foliate the equal t surface by $\{S_y\}$ and find a quasi-local mass $m(y)$ on every surface S_y

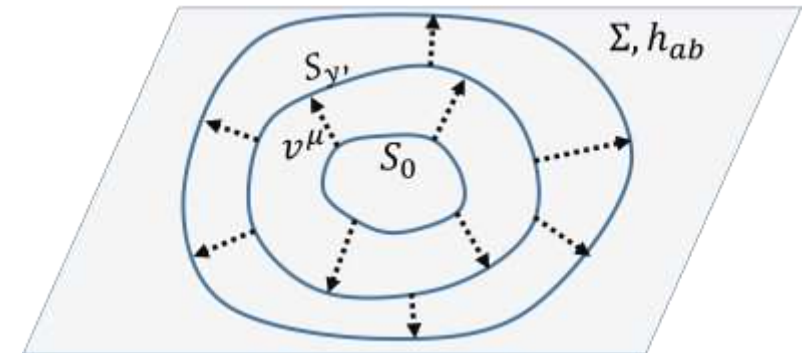
- (1) $m(0) \leq m(\infty)$;
- (2) At the initial surface we have $3m(0) = \sqrt{\mathcal{A}/(4\pi)} + \kappa\mathcal{A}/(4\pi)$;
- (3) At the infinity $m(\infty) = E$;



Basic idea of proof

- Geroch, Pong Soo Jang and Wald once proposed a very important tool called “inverse mean curvature flow” to solve Penrose inequality;
- For a given initial surface, the flow is generated by the vector field $v^\mu = k^{-1}r^\mu$ and r^μ is the outward unit normal vector of the surface.
- The Hawking-Geroch mass of surface S_y is defined as

$$m_H(S_y) = \frac{\sqrt{A(S_y)}}{64\pi^{3/2}} \int_{S_y} (2\mathcal{R} - k^2) dS$$

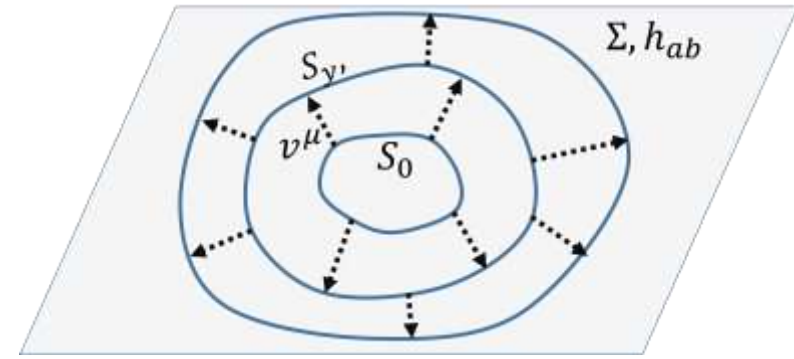


- Hawking-Geroch mass satisfies

$$m_H(0) = \frac{\sqrt{A(S_0)}}{64\pi^{3/2}} \int_{S_0} (2\mathcal{R} - k^2) dS = \sqrt{\frac{\mathcal{A}}{16\pi}} \quad m_H(\infty) = E$$

Geroch, Wald and Jang found that

$$m_H(y) - m_H(0) \geq \int_{\Sigma_t} \rho Q dV$$



Here Q is a positive function and will approach to 1 rapidly.

$$ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + h_{ab} dx^a dx^b$$

We now introduce a scalar field W on according to following elliptic equation

$$D^2(NW) = 8\pi Q(\rho + T/2) \quad W|_{\partial\Sigma_t} = 1$$

$$\partial_a(WN)dS^a|_{\partial\Sigma_t} = \partial_a N dS^a|_{\partial\Sigma_t}$$

We consider a new quasi-local mass

$$m_K(y) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S_y} \partial_a(NW)dS^a \quad \longrightarrow \quad m_K(\infty) - m_K(0) = 2 \int_{\Sigma_t} Q(\rho + T/2)dV$$

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S_y} \partial_a N dS^a = \frac{\kappa \mathcal{A}}{4\pi}, \quad \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S_y} \partial_a N dS^a = E \quad \longrightarrow \quad m_K(0) = \frac{\kappa \mathcal{A}}{4\pi}, \quad m_K(\infty) = E$$

Define the combination $m(r) := \frac{2}{3}m_H(r) + \frac{1}{3}m_K(r)$ \longrightarrow $3m(\infty) - 3m(0) = 3E - \left(\frac{\kappa A}{4\pi} + \sqrt{\frac{A}{4\pi}} \right)$

$$m_H(y) - m_H(0) \geq \int_{\Sigma_t} \rho Q dV \qquad m_K(\infty) - m_K(0) = 2 \int_{\Sigma_t} Q(\rho + T/2) dV$$

$$\longrightarrow m(\infty) - m(0) \geq \frac{1}{3} \int_{\Sigma_t} (4\rho + T) Q dV$$

$$\longrightarrow 3E \geq \left(\frac{\kappa A}{4\pi} + \sqrt{\frac{A}{4\pi}} \right)$$

NEC insures it
nonnegative

We then conclude that NEC can insures the nonnegativity of ADM energy for static black hole!

Summary

- I conjecture there may be a universal inequality by only requiring NEC;

$$3E \geq \frac{\kappa A}{4\pi} + \sqrt{\frac{A}{4\pi}}, \quad 2E \geq \sqrt{\frac{A}{4\pi}}$$

- A proof for static black hole that contains one connect compact horizon is given;
- This begs a new challenge for a famous settled question of general relativity:

In what general case can NEC replace DEC to insure nonnegative ADM energy?