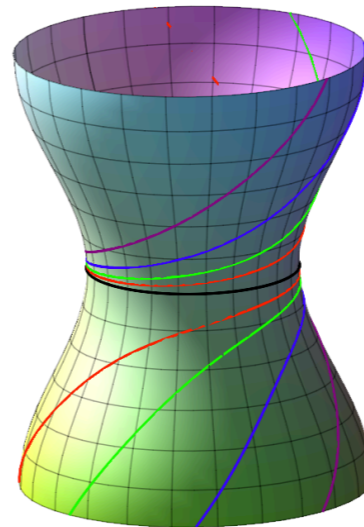
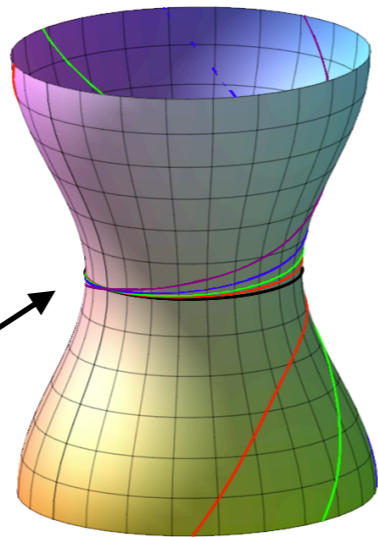
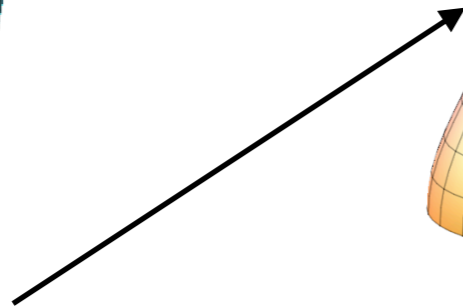
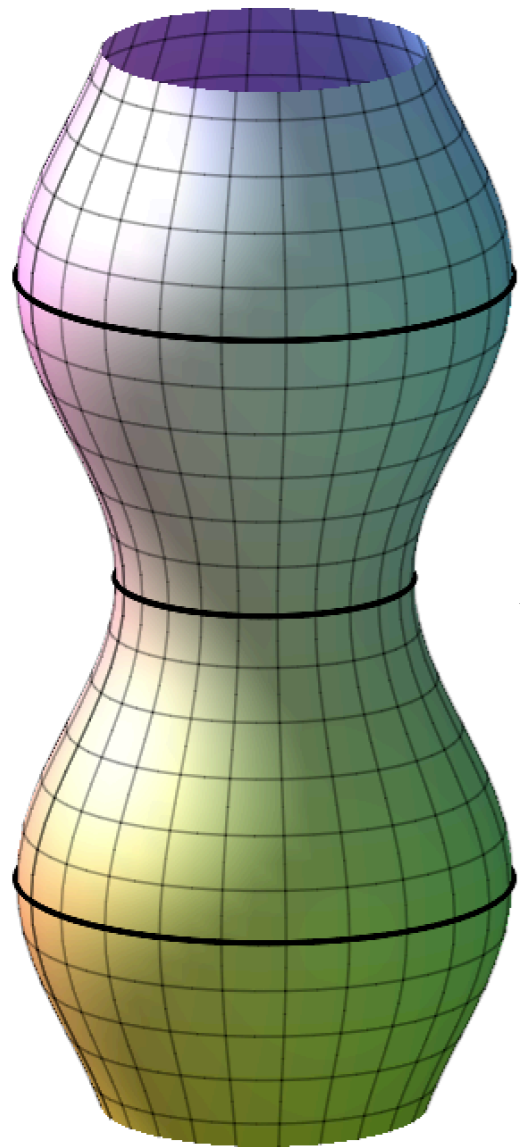


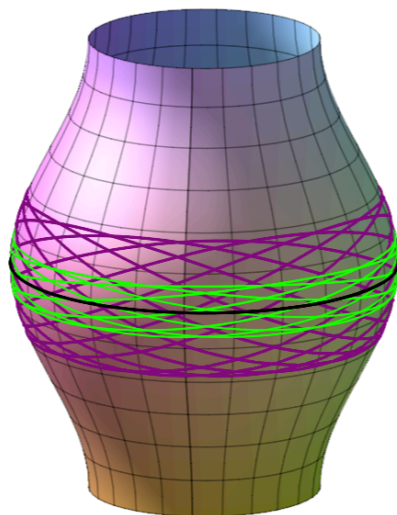
# Exotic MOTSs are unstable

Stable



Should you care?

Unstable

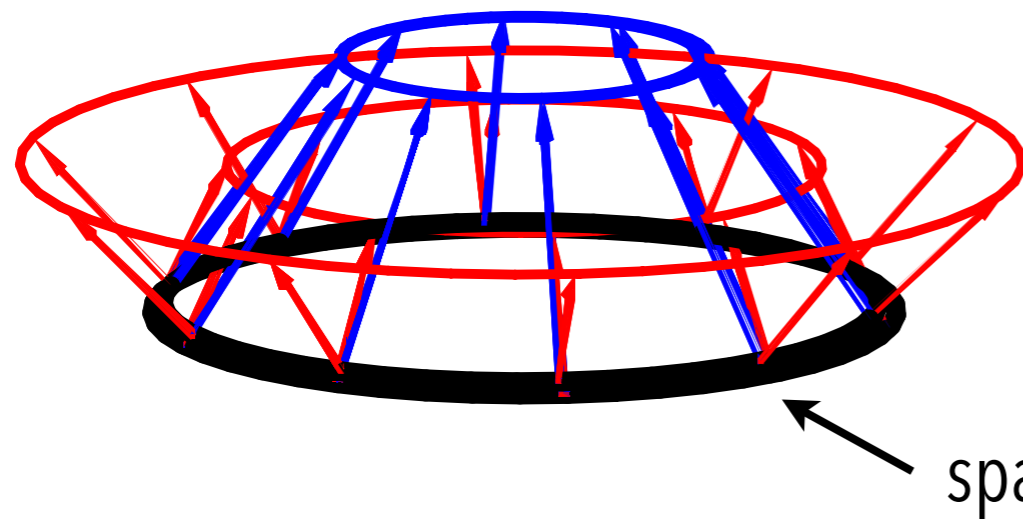


Ivan Booth (Memorial)  
Graham Cox (Memorial)  
Juan Margalef (Memorial)



# Trapped Surfaces

How do you know if you are inside a black hole?



$\ell_+$  - outward null normal

$\ell_-$  - inward null normal

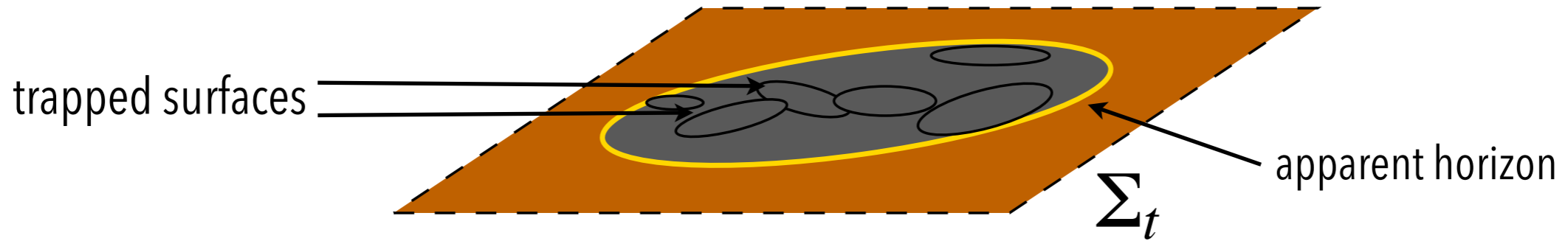
spacelike two-surface

- "Regular" convex surface (ie sphere):  $\theta_+ > 0$  and  $\theta_- < 0$
- Trapped surface:  $\theta_+ < 0$  and  $\theta_- < 0$  (everything falls inwards!)
- Trapped surfaces imply the existence of singularities "inside" and event horizons "outside" (Penrose 65)

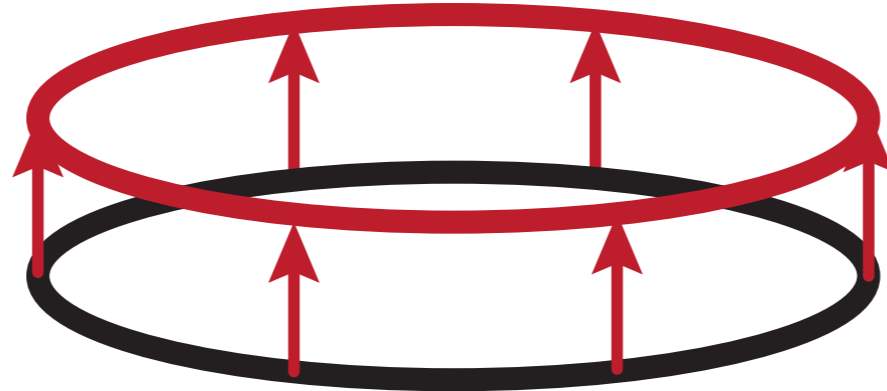
Trapped surfaces are inside black holes

# MOTSs

## Apparent horizons and MOTS

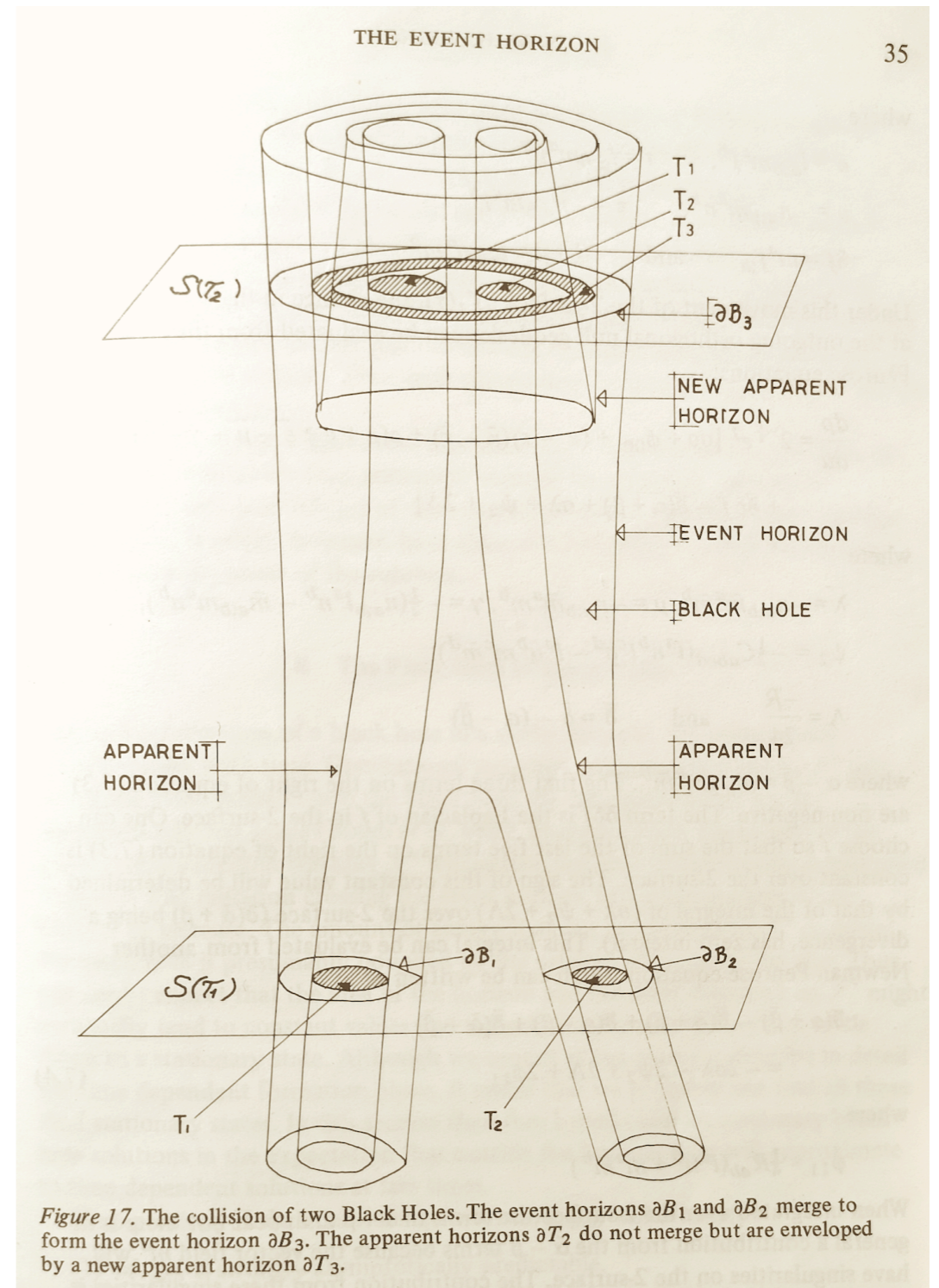
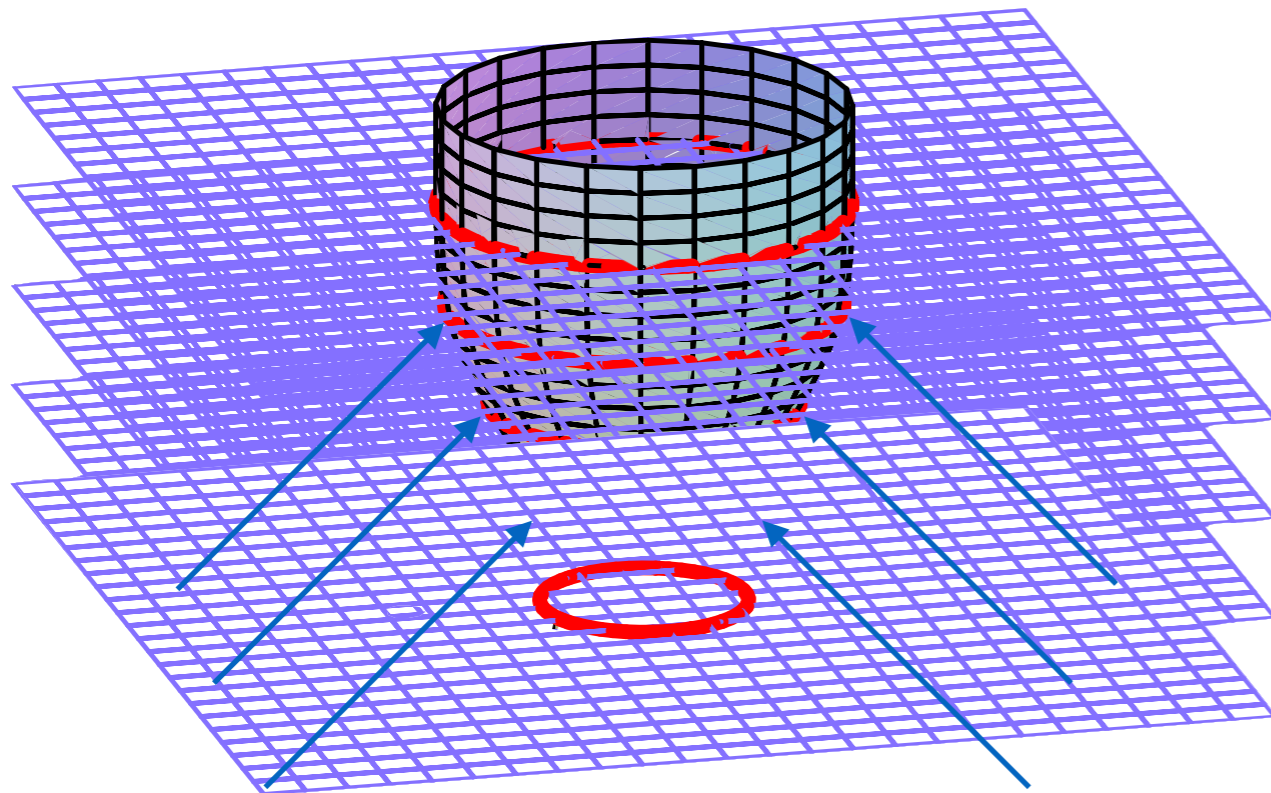


- The apparent horizon is a marginally outer trapped surface (MOTS)



- In practice mathematical and numerical relativists study *outermost MOTS* (and often call them apparent horizons)

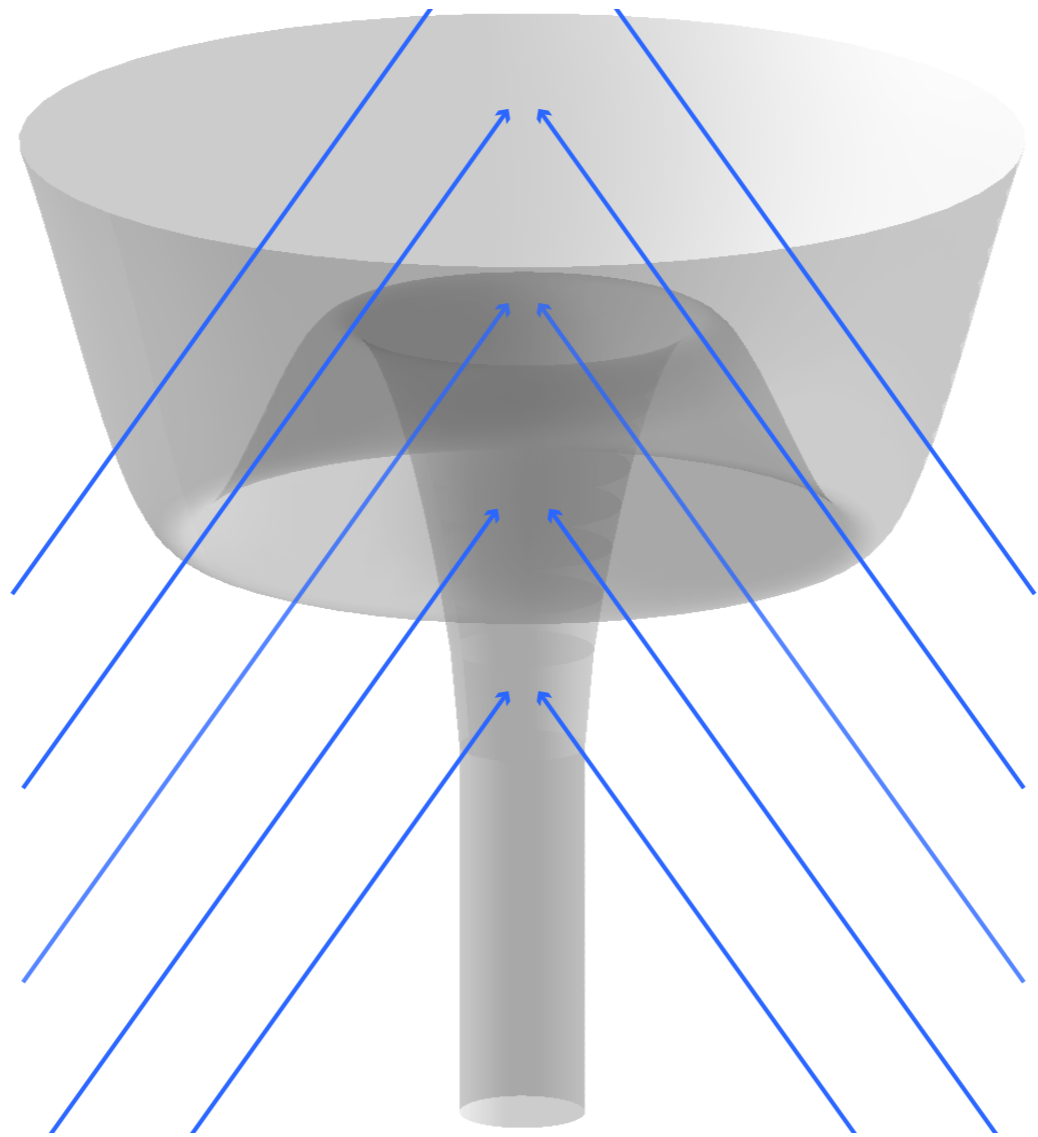
# Time Evolution of Black Holes



Hawking, Les Houches 1972



# Outermost MOTS can "jump"



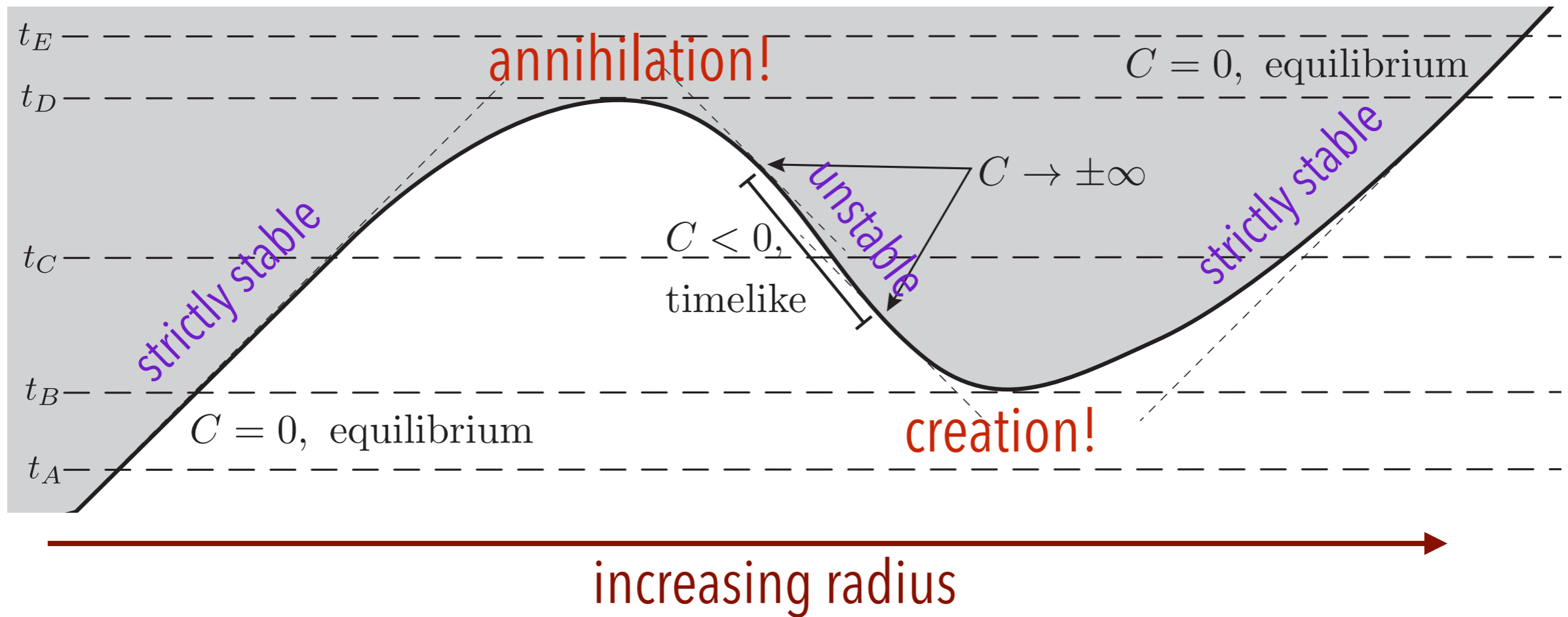
- There are exact solutions showing this behaviour

I Bendov  
(FLRW + Schwarz)  
PRD 2004

IB, Brits, Gonzalez,  
Van Den Broeck  
CQG 2006

# MOTSs

## MOTS "creation" and "annihilation"

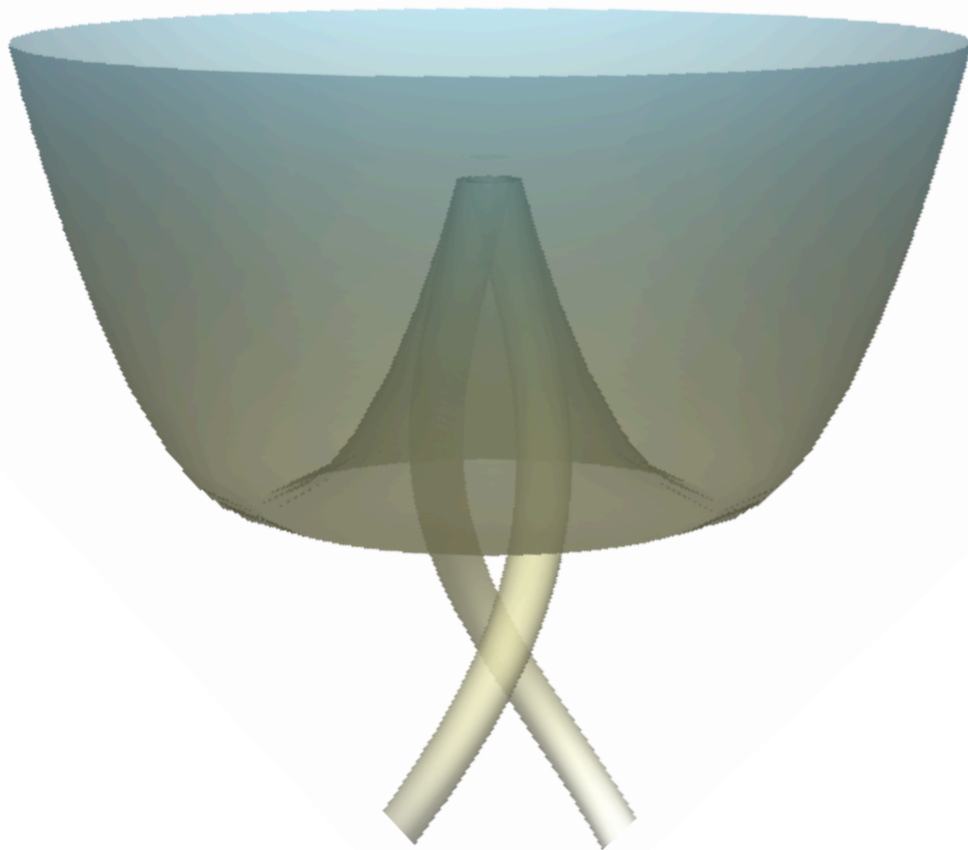


or weaving through time...

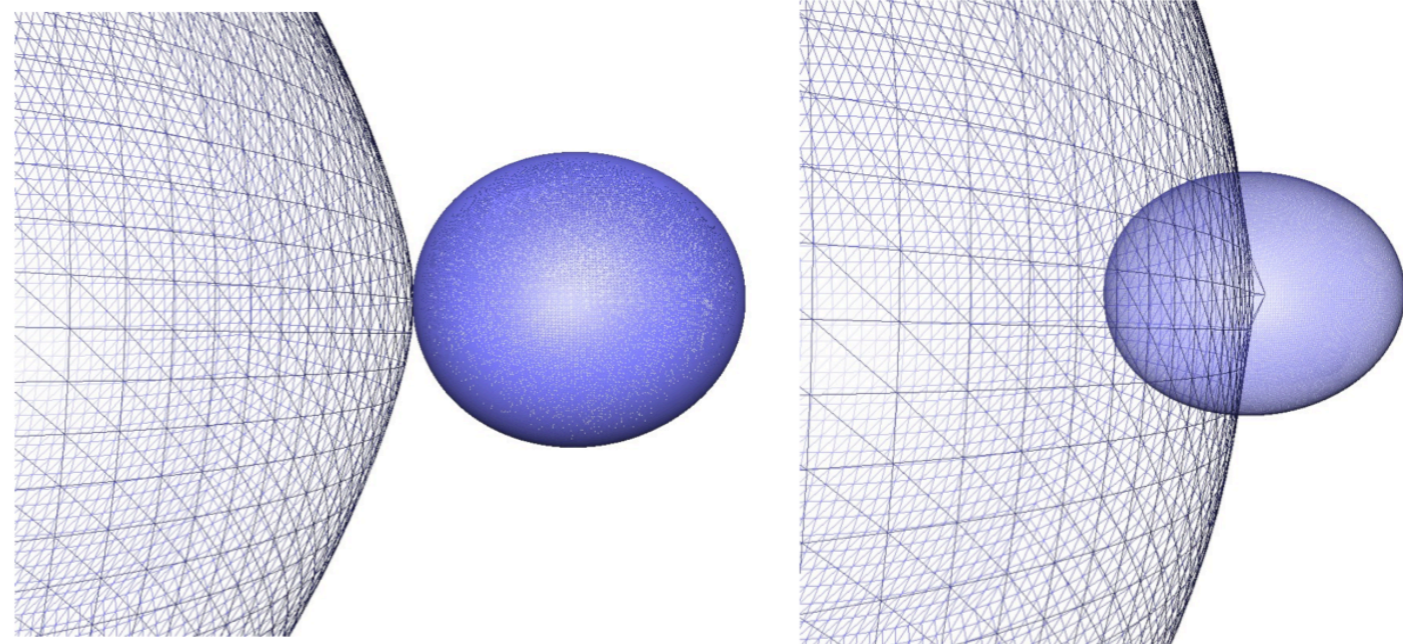
# MOTSs A pair of pants for apparent horizons? (pre 2018)

Since at least 2000: one continuous "horizon"  
(S. Hayward, Proceedings MG9, gr-qc/0008071)

Saggy pair of pants?



(Gupta, Krishnan, Nielsen, Schnetter, 2018, PRD97, 084028)



(Mösta, Andersson, Metzger, Szilágyi, Winicour, 2015, CQG 32, 235003)

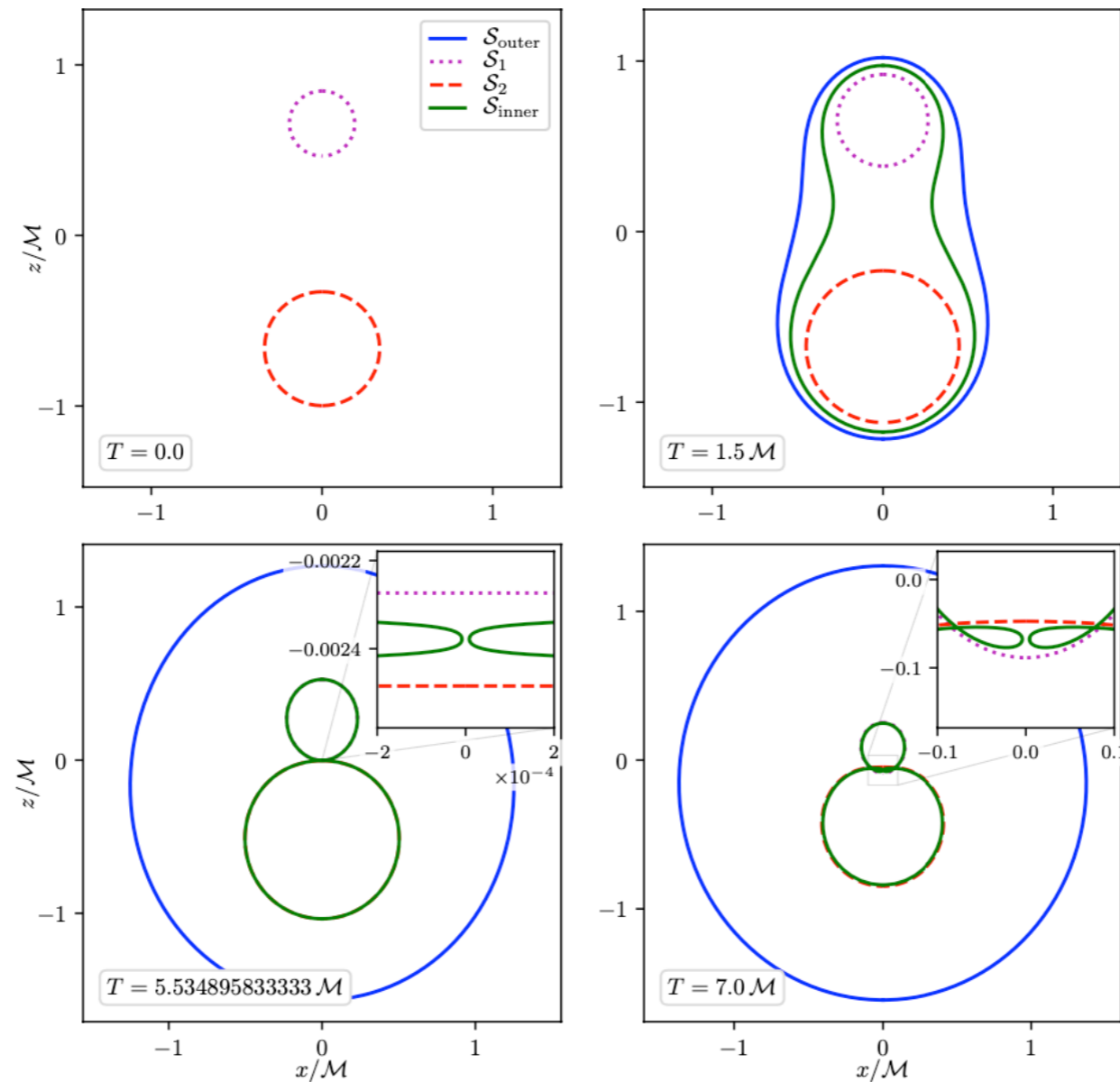
AH finders lost track of the original (and inner) horizons

# Exotic MOTS

## Self-intersecting marginally outer trapped surfaces

Daniel Pook-Kolb,<sup>1,2</sup> Ofek Birnholtz,<sup>3</sup> Badri Krishnan,<sup>1,2</sup> and Erik Schnetter<sup>4,5,6</sup>

Phys. Rev. D 100, 084044 (2019)



- There are self-intersecting MOTS



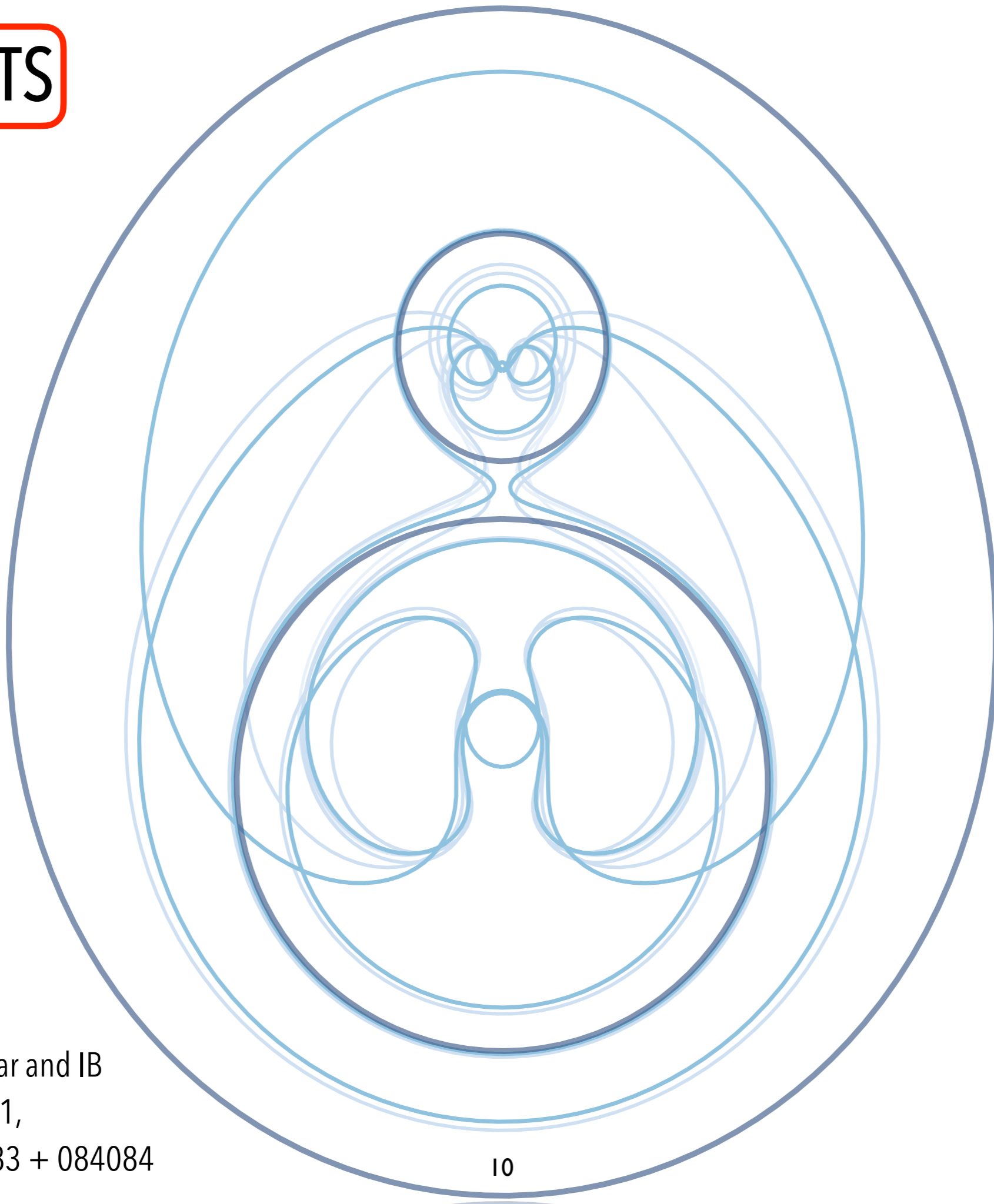
# Exotic MOTS

That was just the tip of the iceberg...





# Exotic MOTS



D.Pook-Kolb, R.Hennigar and IB  
*PRL* 127 (2021) 181101,  
*PRD* 104 (2021) 084083 + 084084

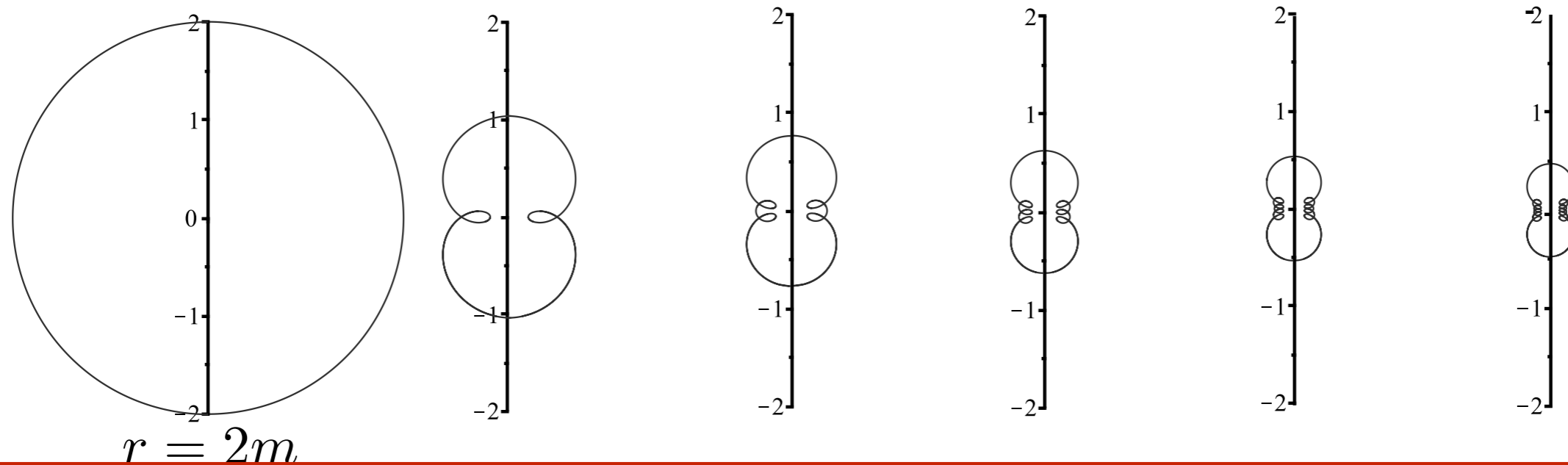
# Exotic MOTS

# Exact Solutions

**Marginally outer trapped surfaces in the Schwarzschild spacetime:  
Multiple self-intersections and extreme mass ratio mergers**

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **102**, 044031 (2020)

IB, Robie Hennigar, Saikat Mondal



How generic are these?

**Very!**

Observed in (IB, KTB.Chan, R.Hennigar, H.Kunduri, S.Mondal, S.Muth, L.Newhook, M.Tavayef, Z.Hoyles)

PRD 105 (2022) 4, 044024; CQG 40 (2023) 9, 095010 + preparation):

assorted Schwarzschild coordinates, Reissner-Nordström, Kerr, Gauss-Bonnet,  
LQG-inspired, 5D (Schwarzschild + Myers Perry), Tolman-Bondi, deSitter and SdS

# Exotic MOTS

## Should you care?

No:

- This is all inside the event horizon (unobservable)
- Not a source of gravitational waves



# Exotic MOTS

## Should you care?

No:

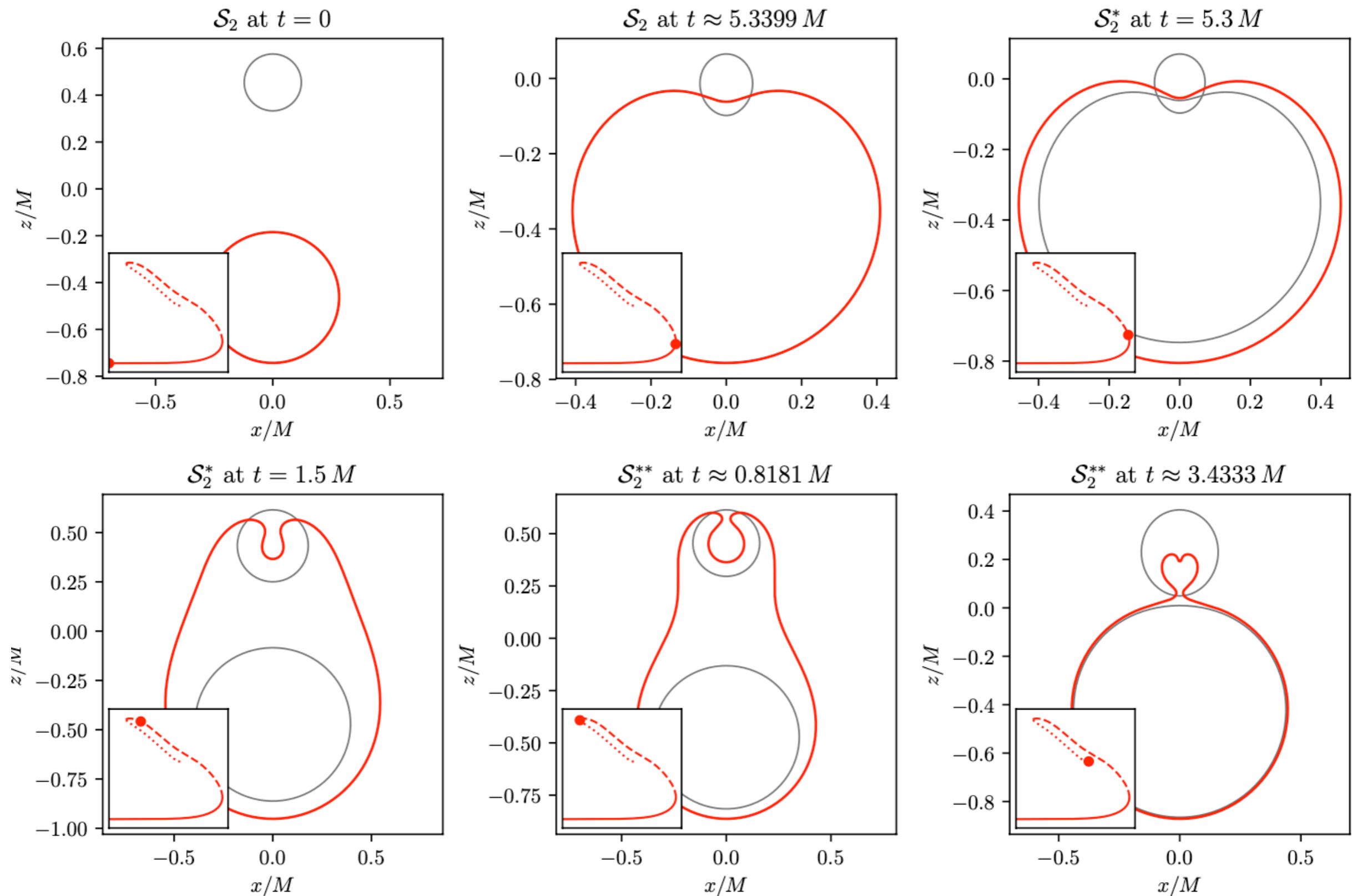
- This is all inside the event horizon (unobservable)
- Not a source of gravitational waves

Yes:

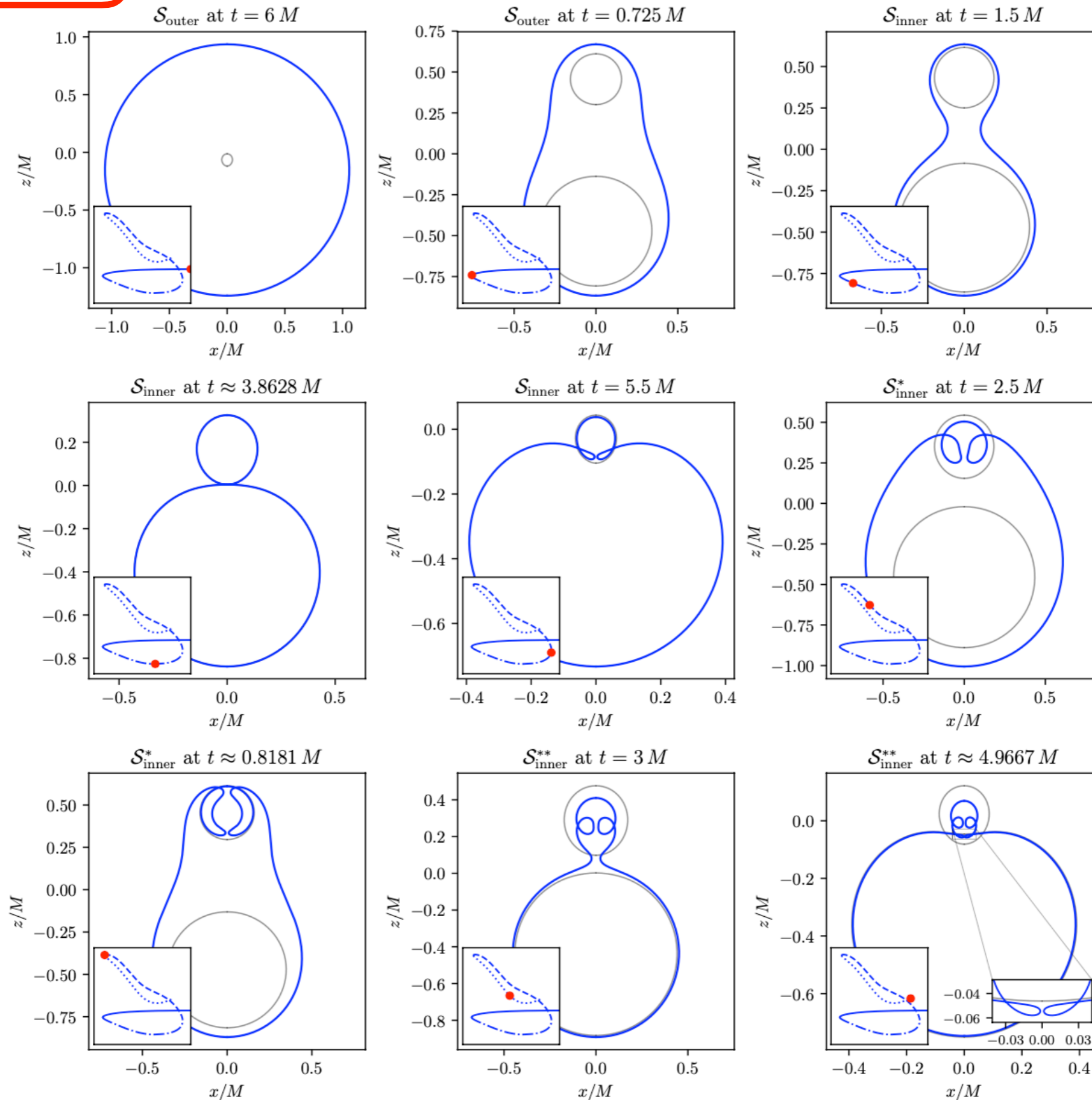
- They play a core role in horizon mergers

# Exotic MOTS

## Annihilation of original apparent horizons



# Exotic MOTS Outer/inner split: one of many



## Should you care?

### No:

- This is all inside the event horizon (unobservable)
- Not a source of gravitational waves

### Yes:

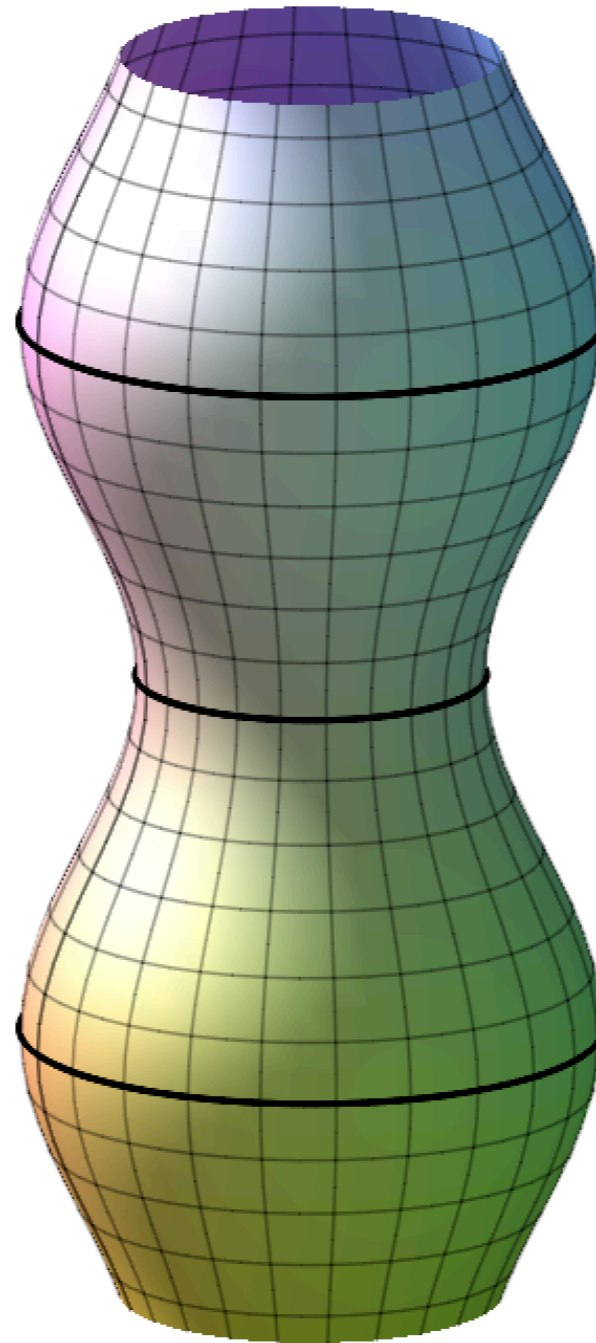
- They play a core role in horizon mergers
- Need tools to interpret numerical simulations.  
How black hole boundaries evolve is a tool.
- Physicists like to understand things...



# Exotic MOTS

## Should you be surprised?

- No! (in retrospect)
- Defining equations are second order
- Expect solutions for good initial data
- There are an infinite number of (open) MOTS through every point in space
- But do they close?



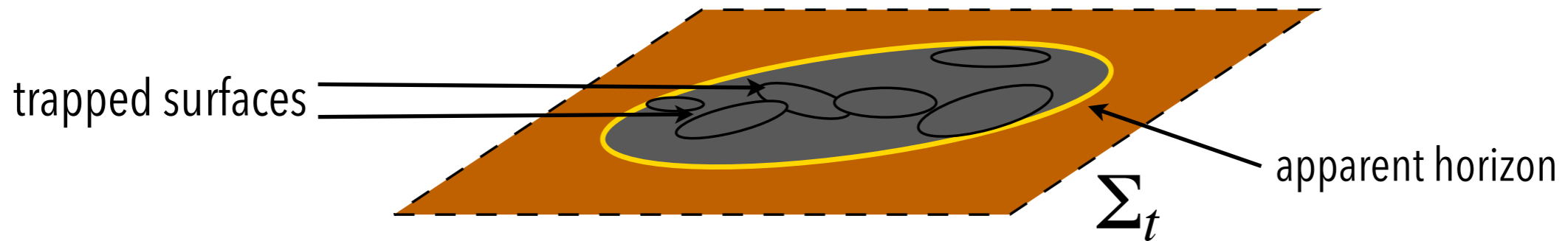
### Geodesic "analogy"

Closed geodesics (MOTS)

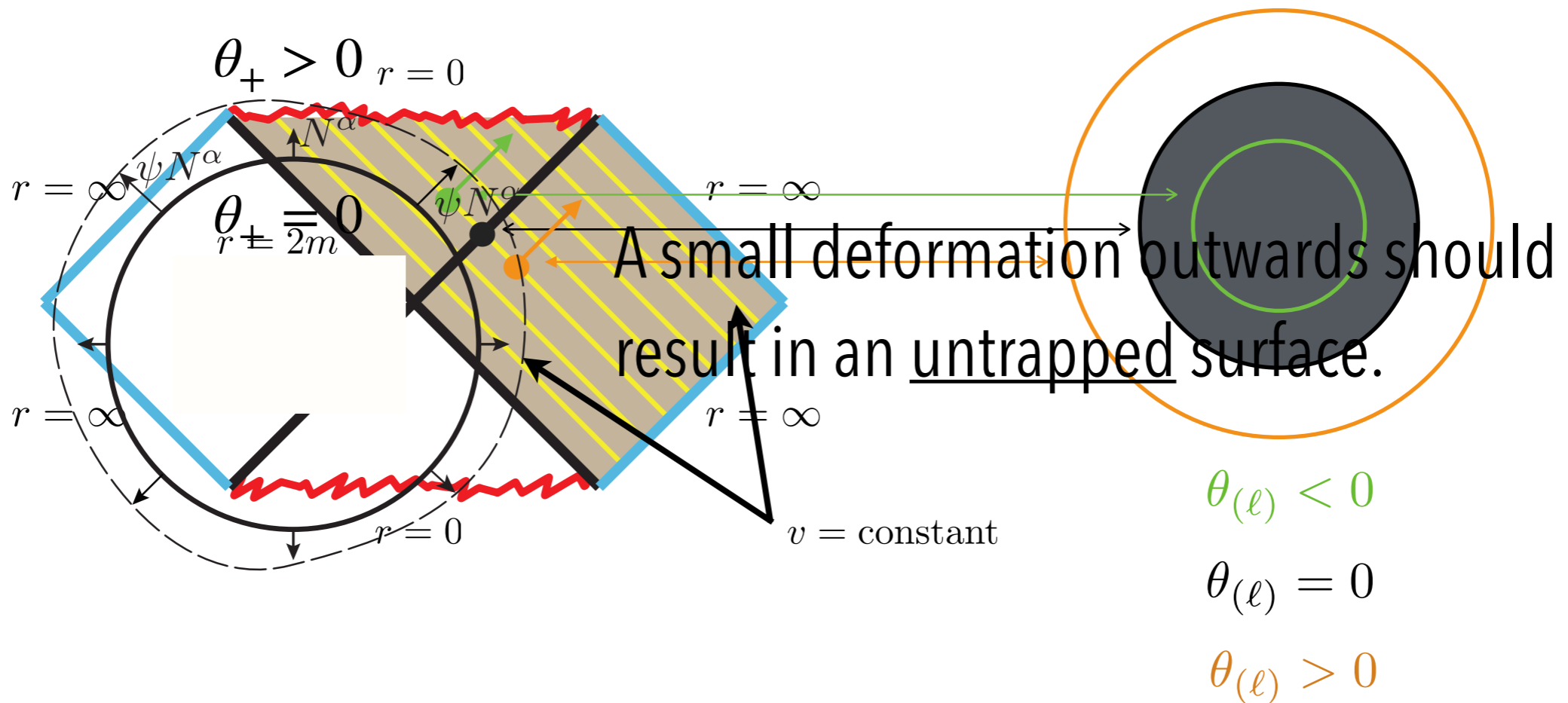
+ "exotic" closed geodesics  
= infinite number of marginally outer trapped **open** surfaces (MOTOS)

# Stability

## Which MOTS are black hole boundaries?



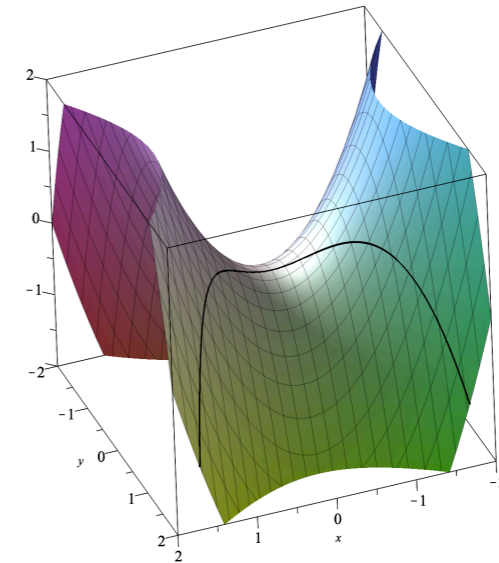
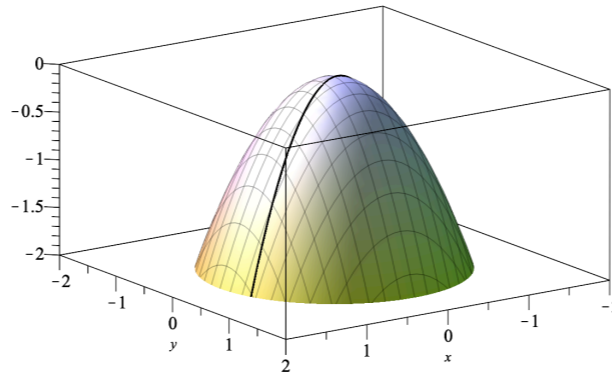
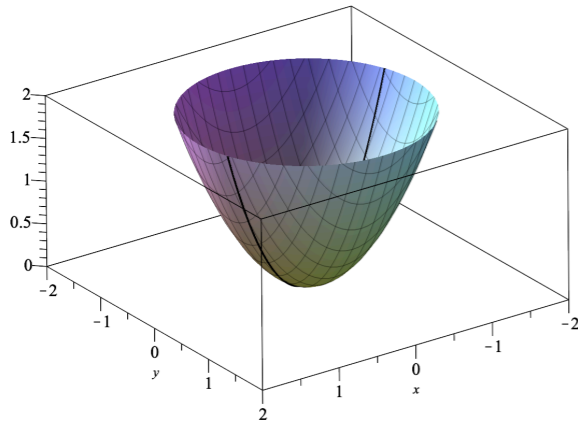
It should be a boundary between trapped and untrapped regions:



# Stability

## Max/Min Problems: $z = f(x, y)$

- Consider a curve  $x = X(t), y = Y(t) \implies z(t) = f(X(t), Y(t))$



Stable/Isolated:  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 > 0$ , no nearby points with same value

Marginally stable/inconclusive:  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = 0$

Unstable/Not Isolated:  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 < 0$ , nearby points with same value

# Stability

## Stability Operator (Geodesics)

- First variation:  $\delta L = 0$
- Stability from second variation of length

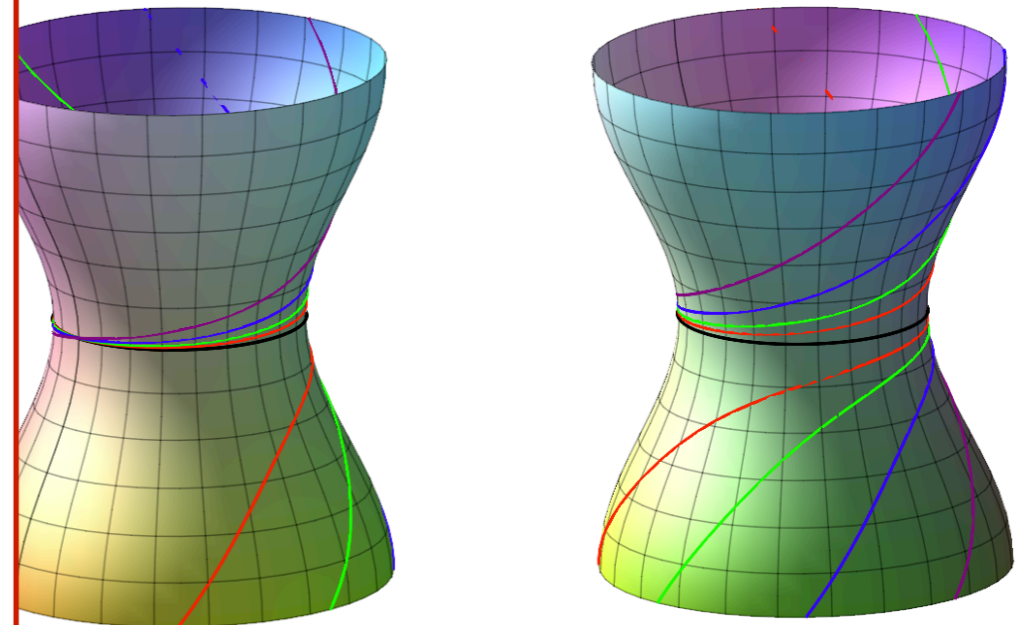
$$\delta_{\psi N}^2 L = \delta_{\psi N} k_N = - \int_{s_1}^{s_2} \psi (\mathcal{L}_\gamma \psi) ds$$

where the Jacobi/stability operator is

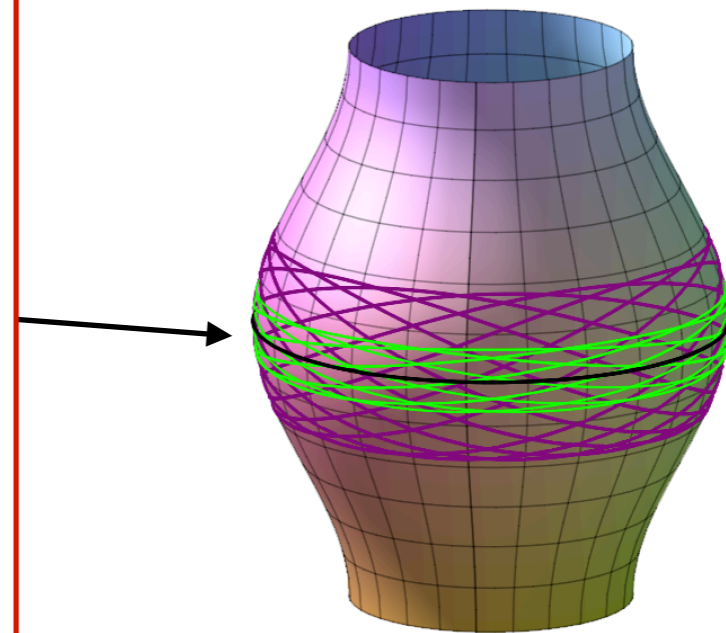
$$\mathcal{L}_\gamma \psi = \left( \frac{d^2}{ds^2} + K \right) \psi$$

- Eigenvalue spectrum of  $\mathcal{L}_\gamma$  determines stability:
  - $\lambda_n > 0 \implies$  stable (minimum length)
  - $\exists \lambda_n < 0 \implies$  unstable, conjugate points for nearby geodesics
- Eigenfunctions = basis for deformations

Stable (no nearby close geodesics)



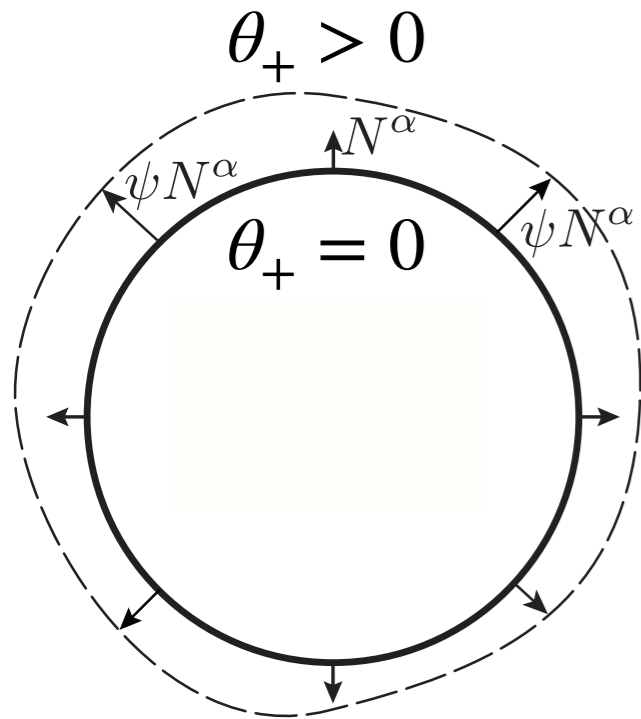
Unstable (nearby closed geodesics)



# Stability

## Stability Operator (MOTS)

- There is a similar stability operator for MOTS



$$\delta_\psi \theta_+ = \mathcal{L}\psi = -\Delta\psi - 2\tilde{\omega}^A d_A\psi + (K - 2\|\sigma_+\|^2 + \|\omega\|^2)\psi$$

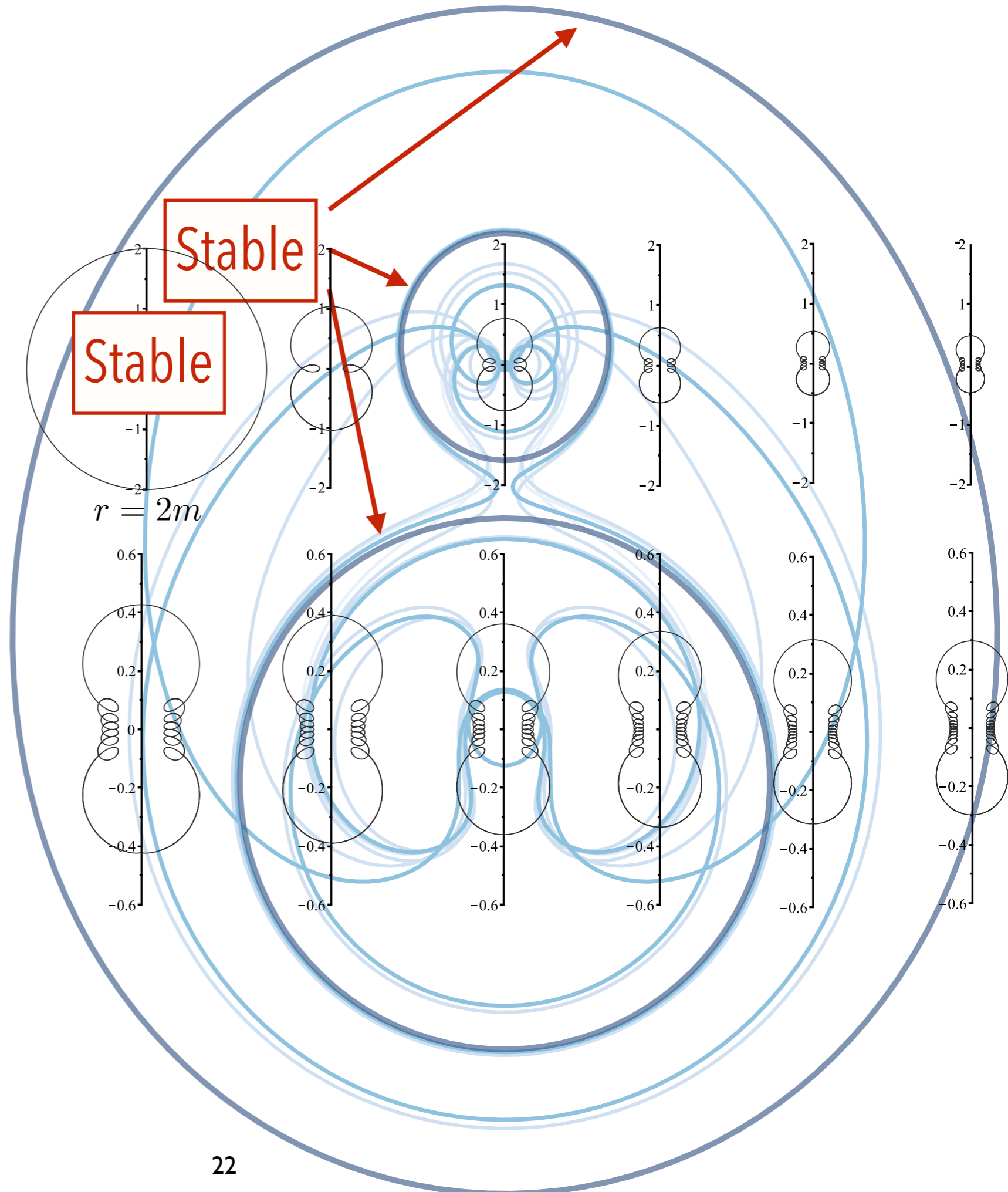
- There is a principal (real, smallest) eigenvalue  $\lambda_0$
- $\lambda_0 > 0 \implies$  (real parts of) all eigenvalues positive  
 $\implies$  a boundary between trapped and untrapped
- $\lambda_0 < 0 \implies$  there are modes for which  $\theta_+$  increases  
 $\implies$  there are modes for which  $\theta_+$  decreases  
 $\implies$  not a boundary

(Introduced by Andersson, Mars, Simon PRL 2005 / Hayward PRD 2005)



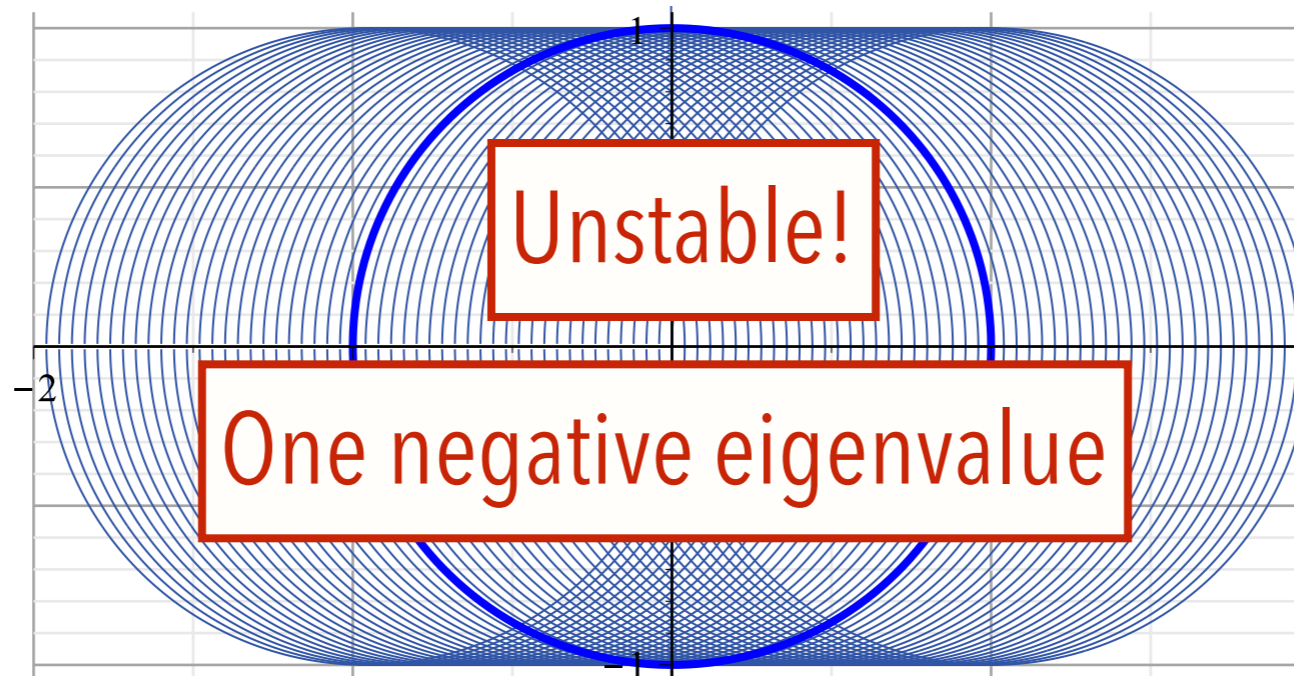
# Stability

- Binary mergers:  
only the initial and final  
outer AHs are stable
- Stationary solutions:  
only the outer AH  
is stable
- BUT: This is purely  
computational and  
case-by-case



# MOTS in deSitter Spacetime

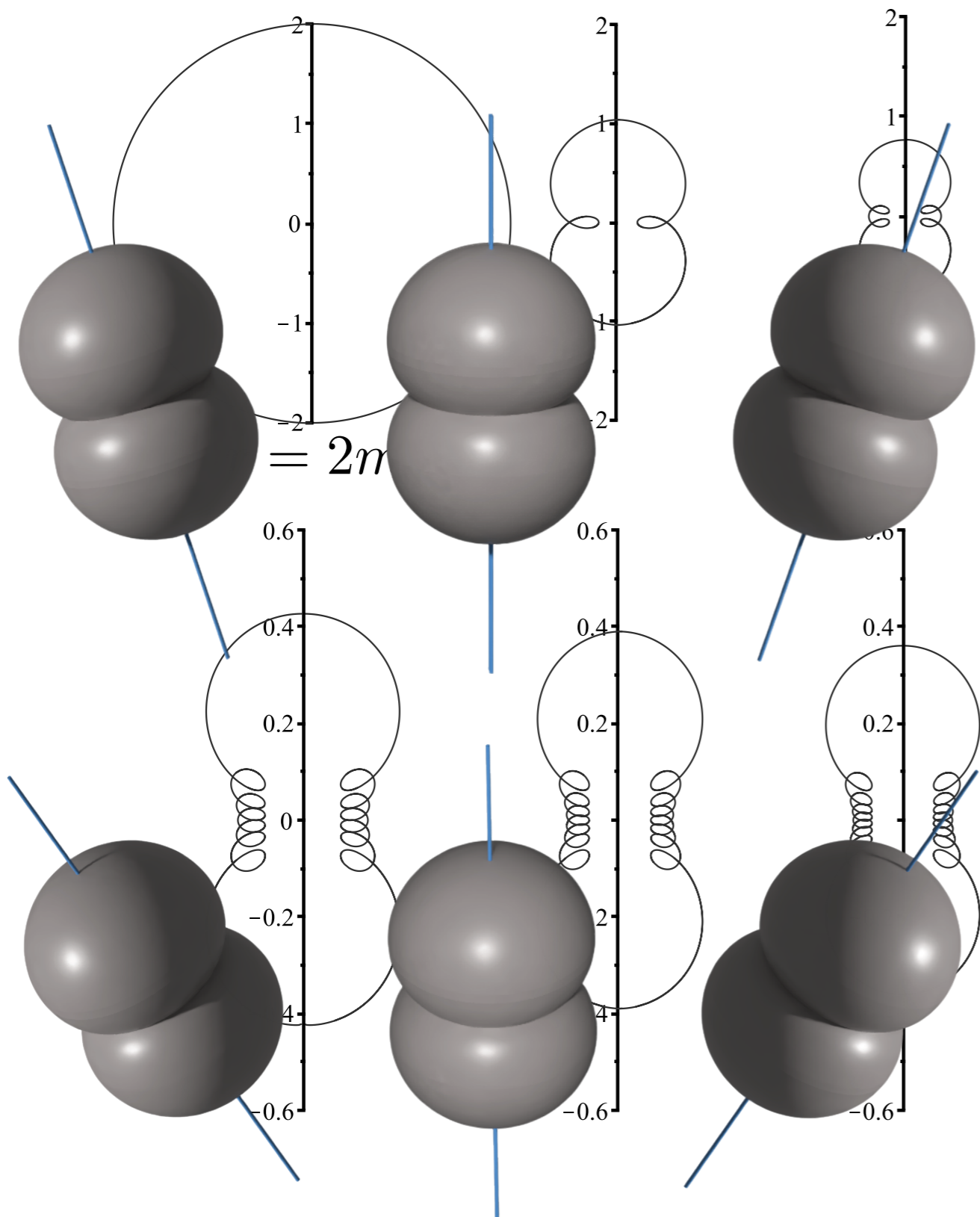
- deSitter is homogeneous and isotropic
- There is a cosmological horizon of areal radius  $\sqrt{\frac{3}{\Lambda}}$  centred around every point (this is a MOTS)



IB, H Kunduri, A O'Grady  
CQG 2017

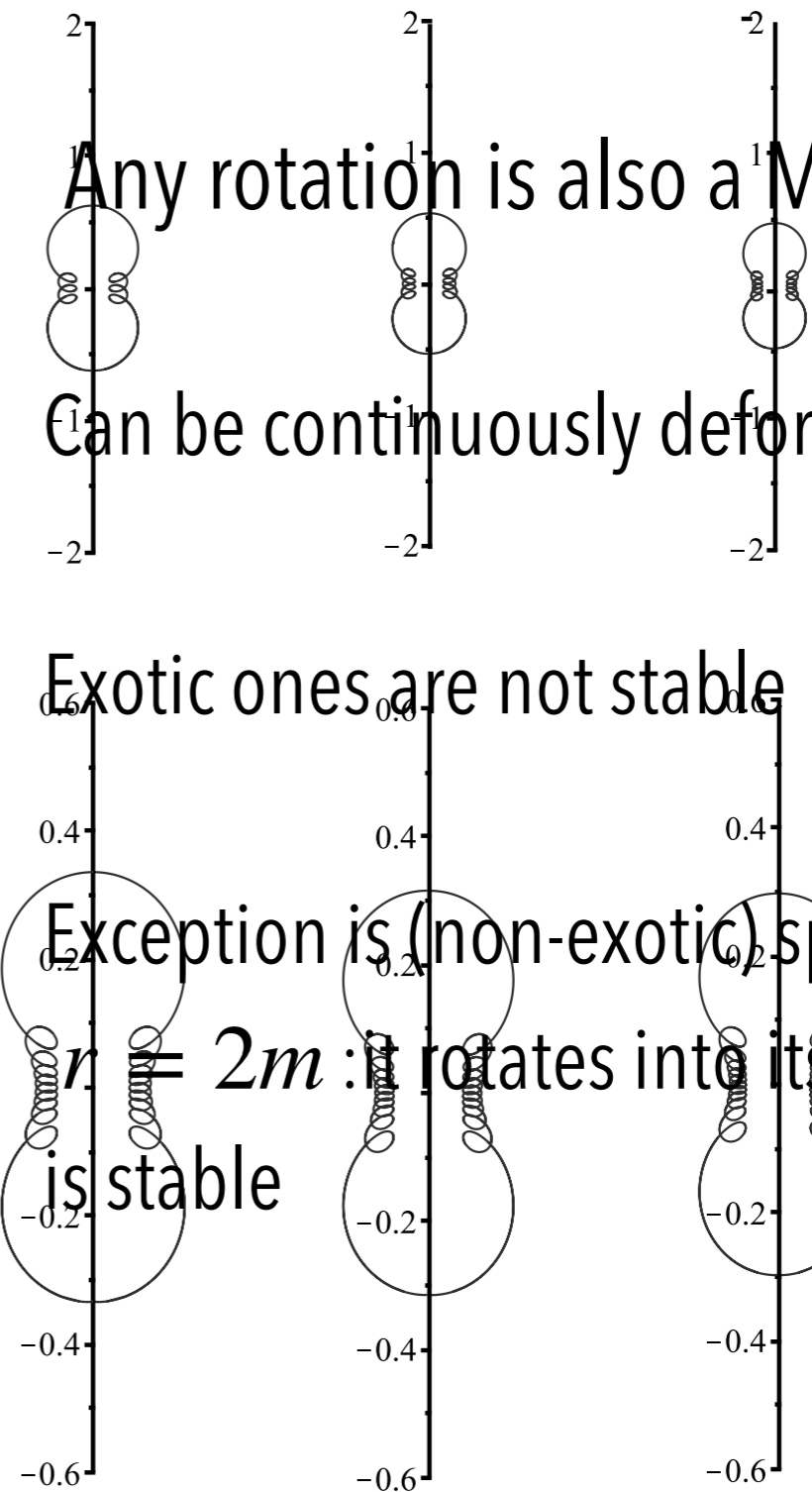
- There are continuous "deformations" of the cosmological horizons
- These horizons are not boundaries

# Exotic MOTS in Schwarzschild - Revisited



Any rotation is also a MOTS

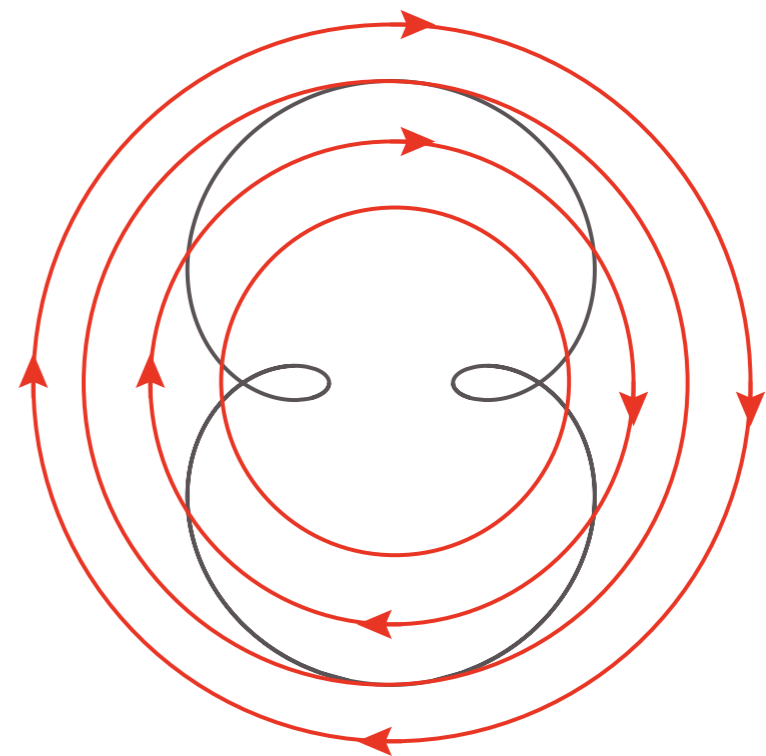
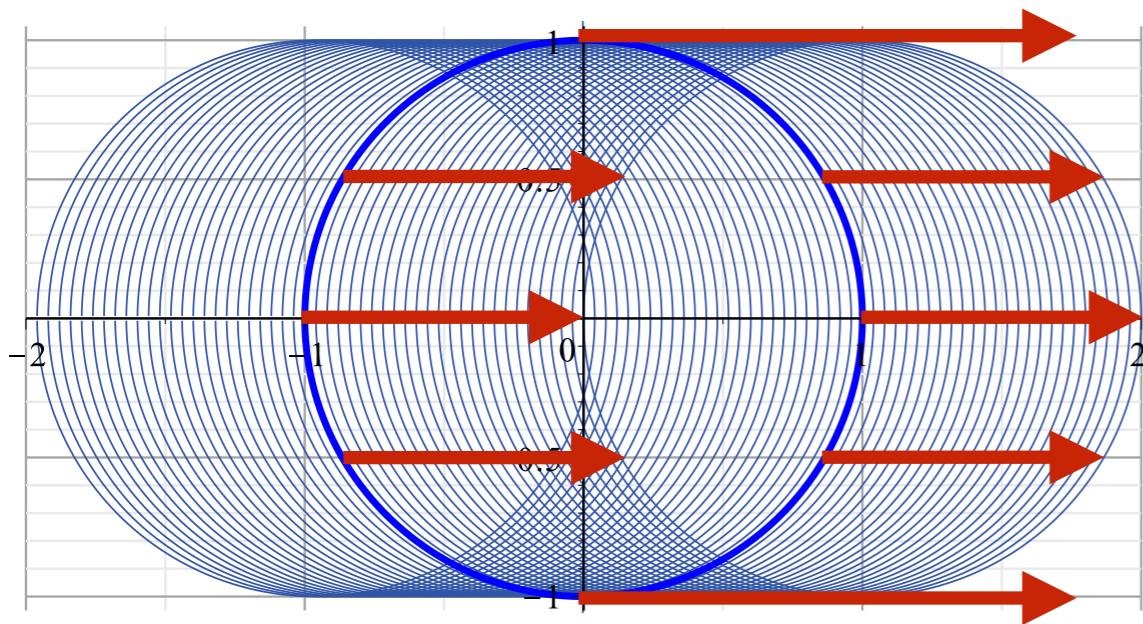
- Can be continuously deformed
- Exotic ones are not stable
- Exception is (non-exotic) spherical  $r = 2m$ : it rotates into itself and is stable



# Symmetry and Stability

## Highlighted Theorem:

Let  $S$  be a MOTS and  $X$  be a symmetry of  $(\Sigma, h_{ij}, K_{ij})$  but not  $S$ .  
Then  $S$  is unstable if and only if  $X$  is tangent to  $S$  at some point.



- All exotic MOTS in spherically symmetric exact solutions are necessarily unstable
- Black hole boundaries must share the symmetries of the spacetime



# Conclusions

- Our understanding of black hole boundaries has advanced significantly in the last few years
- There have been big surprises!
- Continues to be useful to import tools from classical DG
- There is rich set of properties still to be fully understood.

