



From linear potential theory to the inverse mean curvature flow

Applications to Riemannian Penrose-type inequalities

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Geometric Measure Theory on Metric Spaces with Applications to Physics and Geometry

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- A **time-symmetric initial data set** is a Riemannian 3-manifold $(M, g, K = 0)$ satisfying the Einstein constraint equations

$$8\pi\mu = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{R} + \text{tr} K^2 - |K|^2) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{R}, \quad (\text{energy density})$$

$$8\pi J = \text{div}(K - \text{tr} K g) = 0. \quad (\text{momentum density})$$

- The **dominant energy condition** prescribes $\mathbf{R} \geq 0$.
- An outermost **apparent horizon** Σ is an outermost **minimal surface**.

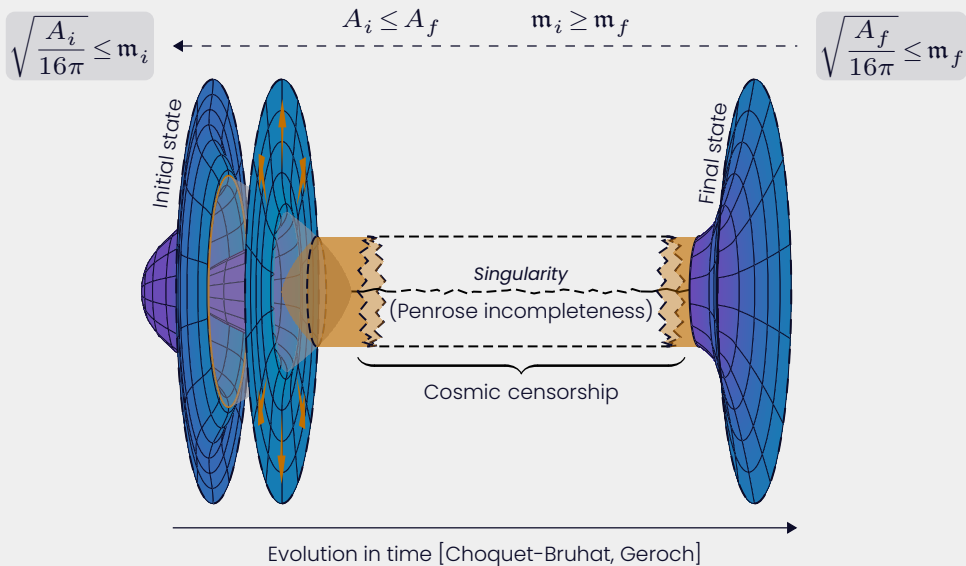
Definition - Asymptotically flat manifold

(M, g) is $\mathcal{C}_\tau^k$ -asymptotically flat provided $M \setminus K \cong \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_R$ and $|g - \delta| = O_k(|x|^{-\tau})$.

(M, g) arises as a spacelike time slice in an isolated gravitating system governed by Einstein's equations.



$$\sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma|}{16\pi}} \leq m$$

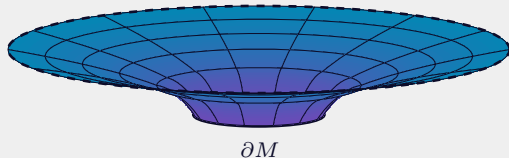


Spatial Schwarzschild manifold

Given $m \geq 0$, it is

$$\left(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_{2m}, \left(1 + \frac{m}{2|x|} \right)^4 \delta \right).$$

- It is scalar flat $R = 0$.
- ∂M is outermost minimal.
- It is $\mathcal{C}_1^\infty$ -asymptotically flat.



The quantity m represents the mass of the black hole and satisfies the equality in the Penrose inequality

$$m = \sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}}.$$

Definition - ADM mass [Arnowitt, Deser, Misner '61 · Phys. Rev.]

$$m_{\text{ADM}} := \lim_{R \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_{\partial B_R} (\partial_j g_{kj} - \partial_k g_{jj}) \frac{x^k}{|x|} d\sigma_\delta$$

The naive idea would be to integrate the mass density $\mu = R/(16\pi)$

$\Rightarrow$ spatial Schwarzschild would have 0 mass, and

$\Rightarrow$ there would be no superposition principle.



$$\frac{1}{16\pi} \int_M R d\text{Vol} \approx \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_M \nabla R|_\delta (g - \delta) dx = \lim_{R \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_{B_R} \partial_k (\partial_j g_{kj} - \partial_k g_{jj}) dx.$$

Theorem - [Bartnik '86 · CPAM], [Chruściel '86 · SPRINGER]

m_{ADM} is a geometric invariant if (M, g) is $\mathcal{C}_\tau^1$ -asymptotically flat, $\tau > 1/2$.

- The general case is still a conjecture.

Theorem – Riemannian Penrose inequality

Let (M, g) be a $\mathcal{C}_1^1$ -asymptotically flat 3-Riemannian manifold with $R \geq 0$ and $\text{Ric} \geq -C/|x|^2$ and a minimal connected outermost boundary ∂M . Then,

$$\sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}} \leq m_{\text{ADM}}.$$

Moreover, the equality holds if and only if (M, g) is isometric to the Schwarzschild of mass m_{ADM} .

- [Bray '01 · JDG] for disconnected horizons (up to dimension 8 [Bray, Lee '09 · DUKE]).
- [Huisken, Ilmanen '01 · JDG] for connected horizons using inverse mean curvature flow (IMCF).
- [Agostiniani, Mantegazza, Mazzieri, Oronzio '22] for connected horizons using nonlinear potential theory.



Prove the Riemannian Penrose inequality for $\mathcal{C}_{\tau > 1/2}^1$ -asymptotically flat manifolds.

**Bridging two paths towards the
Riemannian Penrose inequality**

1

**Beyond the horizon of ADM mass
toward milder asymptotics**

2

1

**Bridging two paths towards the
Riemannian Penrose inequality**

- Consider the **Hawking mass**

$$m_H(\Sigma) := \sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma|}{16\pi}} \overbrace{\left(1 - \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_{\Sigma} H^2 d\sigma\right)}^{\text{Willmore deficit in } \mathbb{R}^3}.$$

- ∂M is minimal $\implies m_H(\partial M) = \sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}}$
- Evolve ∂M using the weak IMCF w_1** and define $\Sigma_t^{(1)} := \partial\{w_1 \leq t\}$.
- M is 3-dimensional and $R \geq 0$

$$\implies \frac{d}{dt} m_H(\Sigma_t^{(1)}) \geq \frac{1}{16\pi} \sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma_t^{(1)}|}{16\pi}} \overbrace{\left(8\pi - \int_{\Sigma_t^{(1)}} R^\top d\sigma + \int_{\Sigma_t^{(1)}} |\mathring{h}|^2 + R + \frac{|\nabla^\top H|^2}{H^2} d\sigma\right)}^{\text{Gauss-Bonnet}} \geq 0.$$

$$\implies t \mapsto m_H(\Sigma_t^{(1)}) \text{ is monotone } \underline{\text{non decreasing}}.$$

- g is asymptotically flat

$$\implies \Sigma_t^{(1)} \text{ asymptotically approaches large coordinate spheres as } t \rightarrow +\infty,$$

$$\implies \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} m_H(\Sigma_t^{(1)}) \leq m_{\text{ADM}}.$$

We introduce the p -**Hawking mass**, which is

$$\mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\Sigma) := \frac{\mathfrak{c}_p(\Sigma)^{\frac{1}{3-p}}}{8\pi} \overbrace{\left(4\pi - \int_{\Sigma} \frac{H^2}{4} d\sigma + \int_{\Sigma} \left(\frac{H}{2} - \frac{|\nabla w_p|}{3-p} \right)^2 d\sigma \right)}^{\text{Willmore deficit in } \mathbb{R}^3},$$

where $\mathfrak{c}_p(\Sigma)$ is the p -capacity of Σ and w_p is the p -IMCF issuing from Σ .

- The 1-Hawking mass is the Hawking mass for strictly outward minimizing Σ :

$$\mathfrak{m}_H^{(1)}(\Sigma) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma|}{16\pi}} \left(4\pi - \int_{\Sigma} \frac{H^2}{4} d\sigma + \cancel{\int_{\Sigma} \left(\frac{H}{2} - \frac{|\nabla w_1|}{2} \right)^2 d\sigma} \right) = \mathfrak{m}_H(\Sigma)$$

- The Hawking mass is the smallest:

$$\mathfrak{m}_H(\Sigma) \leq \frac{1}{4\pi} \sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma|}{4\pi}} \left(4\pi - \int_{\Sigma} \frac{H^2}{4} d\sigma + \int_{\Sigma} \left(\frac{H}{2} - \frac{|\nabla w_p|}{3-p} \right)^2 d\sigma \right) = \sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma|}{4\pi}} \mathfrak{c}_p(\Sigma)^{-\frac{3}{3-p}} \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\Sigma)$$



$$\mathfrak{m}_H^{(q)}(\Sigma) \not\leq \mathfrak{c}_p(\Sigma)^{\frac{1}{3-q}} \mathfrak{c}_p(\Sigma)^{-\frac{1}{3-p}} \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\Sigma)$$

for $q \neq 1$

Theorem - [B —, Pluda, Pozzetta '24]

Let w_p be the proper p -IMCF issuing from Σ , $p \in [1, 2]$, and $\Sigma_t^{(p)} = \partial\{w_p \leq t\}$. Then, $t \mapsto \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\Sigma_t^{(p)})$ is monotone nondecreasing and

$$\frac{d}{dt} \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\Sigma_t^{(p)}) \geq \frac{\mathfrak{c}_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}}}{16\pi(3-p)} \left(8\pi - \int_{\Sigma_t^{(p)}} R^\top d\sigma + \int_{\Sigma_t^{(p)}} |\mathring{h}|^2 + R + \frac{|\nabla^\top |\nabla w_p||^2}{|\nabla w_p|^2} + \frac{5-p}{p-1} \left(\frac{H}{2} - \frac{|\nabla w_p|}{3-p} \right)^2 d\sigma \right).$$

Moreover,

- $\varliminf_{p \rightarrow 1^+} \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\Sigma) \geq \mathfrak{m}_H(\Sigma)$,
 - $\mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\Sigma_t^{(p)}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}_H(\Sigma_t^{(1)})$ in L_{loc}^1 as $p \rightarrow 1^+$,
 - and the above inequality passes to the limit.
- For $p > 1$, monotonicity was proven in [Agostiniani, Mantegazza, Mazziere, Oronzio '22].
 - For $p = 1$, the formula was proven in [Huisken, Ilmanen '01 · JDG].

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{c_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}}}{8\pi} \left(4\pi - \int_{\Sigma_t^{(p)}} \frac{H^2}{4} d\sigma + \int_{\Sigma_t^{(p)}} \left(\frac{H}{2} - \frac{|\nabla w_p|}{3-p} \right)^2 d\sigma \right)$$

- Asymptotic behaviors of w_p and g come into play.
- The better the asymptotics for w_p , the fewer the constraints on g .



Characterize $\varepsilon_p(x) := w_p(x) - \overbrace{(3-p)\log|x| - (3-p)\log c_p(\Sigma)}^{\text{model solution on } \mathbb{R}^3}$

m_H depends only on $|\nabla w_1| = H$.

$p=1$

$\mathcal{C}_\tau^1$ -asymptotic flatness and $\text{Ric} \geq -C|x|^{-2} \implies \varepsilon_1(x) = o(1)$ and $\Sigma_t^{(1)} \sim \mathbb{S}^2(e^{\frac{t}{2}})$ in $\mathcal{C}^1$.

$\mathcal{C}_1^1$ -asymptotic flatness and $\text{Ric} \geq -C|x|^{-2} \implies \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} m_H(\Sigma_t^{(1)}) \leq m_{\text{ADM}}.$

$m_H^{(p)}$ depends also on $\nabla|\nabla w_p|$.

$p>1$

$\mathcal{C}_\tau^1$ -asymptotic flatness $\implies \varepsilon_p(x) = o_1(1).$

$\mathcal{C}_\tau^1$ -asymptotic flatness $\implies \varepsilon_2(x) = o_1(|x|^{-\tau})$ and $\|\text{Hess} \varepsilon_2\|_{L^2(\Sigma_t^{(2)})} = O(e^{-2\tau t}).$

$p=2$

$\mathcal{C}_{\tau>1/2}^1$ -asymptotic flatness $\implies \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} m_H^{(2)}(\Sigma_t^{(2)}) \leq m_{\text{ADM}}.$

Assume (M, g) is $\mathcal{C}_{\tau > 1/2}^1$ -asymptotically flat

$$m_H(\partial M) \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} m_H(\Sigma_t^{(1)}) \leq \overline{\lim}_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma_t^{(1)}|}{4\pi}} c_2(\Sigma_t^{(1)})^{-1} m_H^{(2)}(\Sigma_t^{(1)}) \leq C m_{\text{ADM}}.$$



$$\varepsilon_p(x) = o(1) \implies c_q(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-q}} c_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{-\frac{1}{3-p}} = (1 + o(1)).$$

Assuming $\text{Ric} \geq -C|x|^{-2} \implies m_H(\partial M) \leq m_{\text{ADM}}$



$\mathcal{C}_{\tau > 1/2}^1$ -asymptotic flatness $\implies \varepsilon_p(x) = o_1(1)$ for $p > 1$.



$$m_H^{(p)}(\Sigma) \not\leq c_p(\Sigma)^{\frac{1}{3-p}} c_2(\Sigma)^{-1} m_H^{(2)}(\Sigma) \quad \text{for } p \neq 1$$

$$m_H^{(p)}(\partial M) \leq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} m_H^{(p)}(\Sigma_t^{(p)}) \leq \overline{\lim}_{t \rightarrow +\infty} c_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}} c_2(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{-1} m_H^{(2)}(\Sigma_t^{(p)}) \leq m_{\text{ADM}},$$

and $\lim_{p \rightarrow 1^+} m_H^{(p)}(\partial M) \geq \sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}}.$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} m_H^{(p)}(\Sigma_t^{(p)}) \leq \overline{\lim}_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left(4\pi - \int_{\Sigma_t^{(p)}} \frac{H^2}{4} - \left(\frac{H}{2} - \frac{|\nabla w_p|}{3-p} \right)^2 d\sigma \right)}{8\pi \frac{d}{dt} c_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{-\frac{1}{3-p}}} \quad (\text{de l'H\^opital rule})$$

$$\leq \overline{\lim}_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{c_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}}}{8\pi} \left(\int_{\Sigma_t^{(p)}} \frac{R^\top}{2} - \frac{H^2}{4} d\sigma \right) \quad (\text{computing derivatives})$$

$$\leq \overline{\lim}_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{c_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}}}{8\pi} \left(4\pi - \int_{\Sigma_t^{(p)}} \frac{H^2}{4} d\sigma \right) \quad (\text{Gauss-Bonnet theorem})$$

$$= \overline{\lim}_{t \rightarrow +\infty} c_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}} \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{|\Sigma_t^{(p)}|}} m_H(\Sigma_t^{(p)}) \quad (\text{recognize } m_H)$$

$$\leq \overline{\lim}_{t \rightarrow +\infty} c_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}} c_2(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{-1} m_H^{(2)}(\Sigma_t^{(p)}) \leq m_{\text{ADM}} \quad (m_H \text{ is the smaller})$$

Theorem - [B —, Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '25 · CPAM]

Let (M, g) be a $\mathcal{C}_\tau^1$ -asymptotically flat 3-Riemannian manifold, $\tau > 1/2$, with $R \geq 0$ and a minimal connected outermost boundary. Then,

$$\sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}} \leq m_{\text{ADM}}.$$

Moreover, the equality holds if and only if (M, g) is isometric to the Schwarzschild of mass m_{ADM} .

2

**Beyond the horizon of ADM mass
toward milder asymptotics**

[Huisken '09] introduced the notion of **isoperimetric mass**, which is

$$m_{\text{iso}} := \sup_{\Omega_k} \overline{\lim}_{\Omega_k \uparrow M} m_{\text{iso}}(\Omega_k),$$

where Ω_k is an exhaustion of M and

$$m_{\text{iso}}(\Omega_k) := \frac{2}{|\partial\Omega_k|} \underbrace{\left(|\Omega_k| - \frac{|\partial\Omega_k|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{6\sqrt{\pi}} \right)}_{\text{isoperimetric deficit in } \mathbb{R}^3}.$$

- m_{iso} is a well-defined geometric invariant and depends only on the notions of volume and area.
- $m_{\text{iso}} \geq 0$ by [Jauregui, Lee, Unger '24], even if $R \geq 0$ is not satisfied.
- $m_{\text{iso}} \geq m_{\text{ADM}}$ by [Fan, Shi, Tam '09 · CAG]
 $\implies$ (RPI) holds under stronger assumptions.
- $m_{\text{iso}} \leq m_{\text{ADM}}$ by combining [Jauregui, Lee '19 · CRELLE] and [**B** —, Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '25 · CPAM]
 $\implies$ [Bartnik '86 · CPAM] and [Chruściel '86 · SPRINGER].

Theorem - [**B** —, Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '25 · CPAM]

Let (M, g) be a $\mathcal{C}^0$ -asymptotically flat 3-Riemannian manifold, with $R \geq 0$ and a minimal connected outermost boundary. Then,

$$\sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}} \leq m_{\text{iso}}.$$

Moreover, the equality holds if and only if (M, g) is isometric to the Schwarzschild of mass m_{iso} .

Let $\Omega_t^{(1)} = \{w_1 \leq t\}$ (so that $\partial\Omega_t^{(1)} = \Sigma_t^{(1)}$).

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} m_{\text{iso}}(\Omega_t^{(1)}) \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} 2 \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left(|\Omega_t^{(1)}| - \frac{|\Sigma_t^{(1)}|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{6\sqrt{\pi}} \right)}{\frac{d}{dt} |\Sigma_t^{(1)}|} \quad (\text{de l'H\^opital rule})$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2}{|\Sigma_t^{(1)}|} \left(\int_{\Sigma_t^{(1)}} \frac{1}{H} d\sigma - \frac{|\Sigma_t^{(1)}|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{4\sqrt{\pi}} \right) \quad (\text{computing derivatives})$$

$$\geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{2}{|\Sigma_t^{(1)}|} \left(|\Sigma_t^{(1)}|^{\frac{3}{2}} \left(\int_{\Sigma_t^{(1)}} H^2 d\sigma \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{|\Sigma_t^{(1)}|^{\frac{3}{2}}}{4\sqrt{\pi}} \right) \quad (\text{H\^older's inequality})$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} 2 \left(\frac{|\Sigma_t^{(1)}|}{\int_{\Sigma_t^{(1)}} H^2 d\sigma} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[1 - \left(\frac{1}{16\pi} \int_{\Sigma_t^{(1)}} H^2 d\sigma \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right] \quad (\text{factorizing})$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} m_H(\Sigma_t^{(1)}) \geq m_H(\partial M) = \sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}} \quad (\text{monotonicity})$$

$(m_{\text{iso}} < +\infty)$

[Jauregui '20 · CAG] introduced (for $p=2$) the **iso- p -capacitary mass** $m_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}$, which is

$$m_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}(\Omega_k) = \frac{1}{2p\pi c_p(\partial\Omega_k)^{\frac{2}{3-p}}} \underbrace{\left(|\Omega_k| - \frac{4\pi}{3} c_p(\partial\Omega_k)^{\frac{3}{3-p}} \right)}_{\text{iso-}p\text{-capacitary deficit in } \mathbb{R}^3}.$$

- $m_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}$ is a well defined geometric invariant.



What happens when replacing the isoperimetric mass/Hawking mass with the iso- p -capacitary mass/ p -Hawking mass in the previous argument?

Theorem - [B —, Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '23 · SIGMA]

Let (M, g) be a $\mathcal{C}^0$ -asymptotically flat (+ extra assumption) 3-Riemannian manifold, with $R \geq 0$ and a minimal connected outermost boundary. Then,

$$\mathfrak{c}_p(\partial M)^{\frac{2}{3-p}} \leq \frac{5-p}{2} \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}.$$

- We needed to assume $\int_{\Sigma_t^{(p)}} |\nabla w_p|^2 d\sigma = o(e^{t/(p-1)})$, because

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}_{\text{iso}}^{(p)}(\Omega_t^{(p)}) \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\mathfrak{c}_p(\Sigma_t^{(p)})^{\frac{1}{3-p}}}{4\pi(3-p)} \left(4\pi - \int_{\Sigma_t^{(p)}} \frac{|\nabla w_p|^2}{(3-p)^2} d\sigma \right) \geq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}(\Sigma_t^{(p)}) \geq \frac{1}{2} \mathfrak{c}_p(\partial M)^{\frac{1}{3-p}}.$$

Does the extra condition hold in general? (open!)

- IMCF can jump over minimal horizons. Is it possible to do the same with p -IMCF? (open!)
- It is not sharp since $\mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}$ is constant only on $\mathbb{R}^3$ and not on Schwarzschild spatial manifold. Can $\mathfrak{m}_H^{(p)}$ be replaced with the quantities introduced in [Xia, Yin, Zhou '24 · Adv. Math.] to prove the sharp one? (open!)



[Bray, Miao '08 · Duke], [Xiao '16 · Ann. Henri Poincaré] proved the sharp estimate

$$c_p(\partial M)^{\frac{1}{3-p}} \leq k_p \sqrt{\frac{|\partial M|}{16\pi}} \leq k_p m_{\text{iso}}.$$

- $m_{\text{iso}}^{(2)} = m_{\text{ADM}}$ by [Jauregui '20 · CAG] under stronger assumptions.
- $m_{\text{iso}}^{(p)} = m_{\text{ADM}} = m_{\text{iso}}$ by [**B** —, Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '23 · SIGMA] under sharp assumptions.
- $m_{\text{iso}}^{(p)} \rightarrow m_{\text{iso}}$ in $\mathcal{C}^0$ -asymptotically flat manifolds with $R \geq 0$ by [**B** —, Fogagnolo, Mazzieri '23 · SIGMA].

Theorem - [**B** — '2X]

Let (M, g) be a $\mathcal{C}^0$ -asymptotically flat 3-dimensional manifold, $R \geq 0$. Then, $m_{\text{iso}}^{(p)} = m_{\text{iso}}$ for every p .