Charged boson stars and black holes

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\textbf{A B S T R A C T}

We consider boson stars and black holes in scalar electrodynamics with a V-shaped scalar potential. The boson stars come in two types, having either ball-like or shell-like charge density. We analyze the properties of these solutions and determine their domains of existence. When mass and charge become equal, the space–times develop a throat. The shell-like solutions need not be globally regular, but may possess a horizon. The space–times then consist of a Schwarzschild-type black hole in the interior, surrounded by a shell of charged matter, and thus a Reissner–Nordström-type space–time in the exterior. These solutions violate black hole uniqueness. The mass of the black hole solutions is related to the mass of the regular shell-like solutions by a mass formula of the type first obtained within the isolated horizon framework.

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1. Introduction

Q-balls represent stationary localized solutions of a complex scalar field theory with a suitable self-interaction in flat space [1, 2]. The global phase invariance of the scalar field theory is associated with a conserved charge $Q$ [1], which represents the electromagnetic charge, once the theory is promoted to a gauge theory.

The simplest type of Q-balls is spherically symmetric. These possess a finite mass and charge, but carry no angular momentum. Considering their mass as a function of their charge, there are two branches of Q-balls, merging and ending at a cusp, where mass and charge assume their minimal values [1].

Recently, a new type of scalar potential for Q-balls was considered, leading to the signum-Gordon equation for the scalar field [3,4]. This potential gives rise to spatially compact Q-balls, where the scalar field vanishes identically outside a critical radius $r_o$ [3]. When coupled to electromagnetism, a new type of solution appears, Q-shells [4]. In Q-shells the scalar field vanishes identically both inside a critical radius $r_l$ and outside a critical radius $r_o$, thus forming a finite shell $r_l < r < r_o$ of charged matter.

When gravity is coupled to Q-balls, boson stars arise, representing globally regular self-gravitating solutions [5–8]. The presence of gravity has a crucial influence on the domain of existence of the classical solutions. Instead of only two branches of solutions joint at a single cusp, the boson stars exhibit an intricate cusp structure, where mass and charge oscillate endlessly. For black holes with scalar fields, on the other hand, a number of theorems exist, which exclude their existence under a large variety of conditions [9–11].

Here we consider the effect of gravity on the Q-balls and Q-shells of the signum-Gordon model coupled to a Maxwell field. We construct these charged boson stars and gravitating Q-shells and analyze their properties and their domains of existence. We observe that at certain critical values of the mass and charge, the space–times form a throat at the (outer) radius $r_o$, rendering the respective exterior space–time an exterior extremal Reissner–Nordström space–time.

Moreover, we show that in this model the black hole theorems can be eluded, that forbid black holes with scalar hair. Indeed, the gravitating Q-shells can be endowed with a horizon $r_H$ in the interior region $0 < r < r_l$, where the scalar field vanishes and the gauge potential is constant. This Schwarzschild-type black hole in the interior is surrounded by a shell of charged matter, $r_l < r < r_o$, leading to an exterior space–time $r_0 < r < \infty$ of Reissner–Nordström type. We analyze the global and horizon properties of these black holes within Q-shells, and present a mass relation. When a throat develops at the outer radius $r_o$, which renders the respective exterior space–time an exterior extremal Reissner–Nordström space–time, the temperature of the horizon $r_H$ tends to zero.

In Section 2 we recall the action and ansätze for the fields. We present the gravitating Q-balls and Q-shells in Sections 3 and 4, respectively, and the black holes within Q-shells in Section 5. We end with a conclusion and an outlook.

2. Action

We consider the action of a self-interacting complex scalar field $\phi$ coupled to a U(1) gauge field and to Einstein gravity
The mass is given by

\[ \text{mass} = \frac{1}{2} \pi (r_0 - r_H)^2. \]

where \( r_0 \) is the outer radius, \( r_H \) is the inner radius, and \( \Sigma \) is the asymptotically flat spacelike hypersurface.

Let us now specify the boundary conditions for the metric and matter functions. For the metric function \( A \) we adopt

\[ A(r_0) = 1, \]

where \( r_0 \) is the outer radius, thus fixing the time coordinate. For the mass function \( m(r) \) we require for globally regular ball-like boson star solutions

\[ m(0) = 0, \]

for globally regular shell-like solutions

\[ m(r_i) = 0, \]

where \( r_i \) is the inner radius of the shell, and for black hole solutions

\[ m(r_H) = \frac{r_H}{2}, \]

where \( r_H < r_i \) denotes the horizon.

To be able to specify more than four boundary conditions for the matter functions we introduce one or more auxiliary variables.

For globally regular boson star solutions we require at the origin and at the outer radius \( r_0 \) the conditions

\[ b'(0) = 0, \quad h'(0) = 0, \quad h(r_0) = 0, \quad h'(r_0) = 0, \]

where the prime denotes differentiation with respect to \( r \). In order to choose also the value of \( b(0) \) as a boundary condition, we make the outer radius \( r_0 \) an auxiliary (constant) variable, and thus add the differential equation \( r_0' = 0 \), without imposing a boundary condition.

For globally regular shell solutions as well as for black holes we require at the inner radius \( r_i \) and at the outer radius \( r_0 \) the conditions

\[ b'(r_i) = 0, \quad h(r_i) = 0, \quad h'(r_i) = 0, \]

\[ h(r_0) = 0, \quad h'(r_0) = 0. \]

In order to choose also the value of \( b(r_i) \) as a boundary condition, we now also make the ratio of inner and outer radius \( r_i/r_0 \) an auxiliary (constant) variable. Alternatively to demanding a certain value for \( b(r_i) \), we may also specify the value of the electric charge \( Q \).

The charge \( Q \) of the solutions is associated with the conserved current

\[ j^\mu = -i(\Phi^* D^\mu \Phi - \Phi D^\mu \Phi^*), \quad j^{\mu;\mu} = 0, \]

i.e., the charge is obtained as the spatial integral

\[ Q = -i \int_0^1 \sqrt{-g} d\theta d\phi d\Sigma. \]

The mass \( M \) of the stationary asymptotically flat space–times is obtained from the corresponding Komar expression. For globally regular space–times like boson stars and shells of boson matter the mass is given by

\[ M = \frac{1}{4\pi G} \int_\Sigma R_{\mu\nu} n^\mu \xi^\nu dV, \]

where \( \Sigma \) denotes an asymptotically flat spacelike hypersurface, \( n^\mu \) is normal to \( \Sigma \) with \( n^\mu n_\mu = -1 \), \( dV \) is the natural volume element on \( \Sigma \), and \( \xi \) denotes an asymptotically timelike Killing vector field [12]. Replacing the Ricci tensor via the Einstein equations by the stress–energy tensor yields

\[ M = 2 \int_\Sigma \left( T_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} T^\gamma_\gamma \right) n^\mu \xi^\nu dV. \]
For black hole space–times the corresponding Komar expression is given by

\[ M_H = M + 2 \int \left( T_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} T \right) n^\mu n^\nu \, dV, \]

where \( M_H \) is the horizon mass of the black hole. The mass of all (gravitating) solutions can be directly obtained from the asymptotic form of their metric. In the units employed, we find

\[ M = \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \lim_{r \to \infty} m(r). \]

3. Boson stars

We first address the set of globally regular ball-like boson star solutions, obtained by coupling the Q-ball solutions [4] to gravity. We illustrate the physical properties of these solutions in Fig. 1.

Fig. 1(a) represents the phase diagram for the boson star solutions. Here the sets of solutions for a sequence of values of the gravitational coupling \( \alpha \) are exhibited in Fig. 1(c) and (d). Both show a very similar pattern. Again, the biggest mass and charge for a given \( \alpha \leq \alpha_{cr} \) are reached in region I at the respective bifurcation point with the shell-like solutions, while the oscillations of \( b(0) \) seen in regions Ia, II and Ila lead to spiral patterns for the mass and charge.

The corresponding family of curves for the asymptotic value \( b(\infty) \) of the gauge field function \( b(r) \) at infinity (which can be identified with the value of the scalar field frequency \( \omega \) in the gauge, where the gauge field vanishes at infinity) is exhibited in Fig. 1(e). Here the overall pattern is different, but spirals occur as well. Finally, in Fig. 1(f) we exhibit the ratio of mass and charge \( M/Q \) versus \( Q \). We observe a linear increase of \( M/Q \) with \( Q \) for the larger values of \( Q \) in regions I and Ila, where the slope decreases with increasing \( \alpha \), making \( M/Q \) almost constant for larger values of \( \alpha \) (e.g., \( \alpha = 0.22 \)).

While the occurrence of spirals is a typical feature of boson star solutions [1], the present sets of solutions exhibit a for boson stars new phenomenon, namely the formation of throats. As a throat is formed, the minimum of the metric function \( N(r) \) tends to zero, and the zero is reached precisely at the outer radius \( r_o \).

The space–time for \( r \geq r_o \) then corresponds to the exterior space–time of an extremal Reissner–Nordström (RN) black hole. Indeed, there the metric function \( N(r) \) can be expressed as

\[ N(r) = 1 - \frac{2\alpha^2 M}{r} + \frac{\alpha^2 Q^2}{r^2} = \left( 1 - \frac{\alpha Q}{r} \right)^2, \]

i.e., \( r_H = r_o = \alpha^2 M = \alpha Q \) for the extremal RN solution [in the units employed]. As seen in Fig. 1(f), this relation is precisely satisfied, when \( b(0) \to 0 \). Thus a throat is formed, when in a set of solutions the value \( b(0) \) of the gauge field function tends to zero. In fact, the function \( b(r) \) then tends to zero in the whole region \( r < r_o \) and its derivative \( b'(r) \) does so as well. However, at \( r_o \) the derivative \( b'(r) \) jumps to a finite value, necessary for the Coulomb fall–off of a solution with charge \( Q \).

Finally we note, that the sets of boson star solutions with fixed gravitational coupling constant \( \alpha \) satisfy a mass relation. This relation is based on the observation, that

\[ dM = b(\infty) \, dQ, \]

shown to hold for the regular solutions in flat space [4]. Since (28) continues to hold for the gravitating solutions, integration yields the mass relation

\[ M_2 = M_1 + M_Q = M_1 + \int \frac{Q_2}{Q_1} b(\infty) \, dQ, \]

where the mass \( M_2 \) of a regular solution with charge \( Q_2 \) is obtained by integrating from any regular solution with mass \( M_1 \) and charge \( Q_1 \) along the curve of intermediate solutions of the set.

4. Gravitating Q-shells

Let us next consider the gravitating shell-like solutions. Here the space–time consists of 3 parts. In the inner part \( 0 \leq r < r_i \), the gauge potential is constant and the scalar field vanishes. Consequently, it is Minkowski–like, with \( N(r) = 1 \) and \( A(r) = \text{const} < 1 \). The middle region \( r_i < r < r_o \) then represents the shell of charged bosonic matter, while the outer region \( r_o < r < \infty \) corresponds to part of a Reissner–Nordström space–time, where the gauge field exhibits the standard Coulomb fall–off, while the scalar field vanishes identically. This behaviour of the functions is demonstrated
Fig. 1. Properties of the boson star solutions shown versus \( b(0) \), the value of the gauge field function \( b(r) \) at the origin: (a) \( h(0) \), the value of the scalar field function \( h(r) \) at the origin, forms with \( b(0) \) the phase diagram of the solutions; (b) \( r_0 \) indicates the size of the solutions; (c) and (d) exhibit logarithmically the mass \( M \) and the charge \( Q \), respectively; and (e) shows the value \( b(\infty) \) of the gauge field function \( b(r) \) at infinity (which corresponds to the value of the scalar field frequency \( \omega \)). In (f) the ratio of mass and charge \( M/Q \) is exhibited versus the charge \( Q \). Note that \( a = \alpha^2 \), and the asterisks mark the transition points from boson stars (Q-balls) to Q-shells.

We exhibit in Fig. 3 the properties of shell-like solutions. Fig. 3(a) shows the ratio of the inner radius \( r_i \) to the outer radius \( r_o \) for these solutions. For a given finite value of the gravitational coupling, the branch of gravitating shells emerges at the corresponding boson star solution and ends, when a throat is formed at the outer radius \( r_o \). As this happens, the value of \( b(r_i) \) reaches zero (or equivalently \( b(0) \to 0 \), since \( b(r) \) is constant in the interior, \( 0 \leq r \leq r_i \)). The exterior space-time \( r > r_o \) then corresponds to the exterior of an extremal RN space-time.

Thus in contrast to Q-shells in flat space, which grow rapidly in size, mass and charge as the ratio \( r_i/r_o \to 1 \), the growth of gravitating Q-shells is limited by gravity, and the restriction in size, mass and charge is the stronger, the greater the value of the gravitational coupling constant \( \alpha \). This is demonstrated in Fig. 3(b), (c)
Fig. 2. Functions of the gravitating \( Q \)-shell solutions shown versus the radial coordinate \( r \) for \( Q = 10 \) and \( a^2 = 0.1 \): (a) metric functions \( A(r) \) and \( N(r) \); (b) matter functions \( h(r) \) and \( b(r) \). Also shown are the corresponding functions for black hole solutions with several horizon radii \( r_H \). The largest \( r_H \) is close to the critical value, where the throat is formed.

Fig. 3. Properties of the gravitating \( Q \)-shell solutions shown versus \( b(r_i) \), the value of the gauge field function \( b(r) \) at the inner shell radius \( r_i \); (a) \( r_i/r_o \), the ratio of inner and outer shell radii; (b) the outer shell radius \( r_o \); (c) the mass \( M \) of shell-like solutions and boson stars (resp. \( Q \)-balls for \( \alpha = 0 \)); (d) the scaled mass \( \alpha^2 M \) and the scaled charge \( \alpha \cdot Q \). Note that \( \alpha = a^2 \), and the asterisks mark the transition points from boson stars (\( Q \)-balls) to \( Q \)-shells.

and (d), where the outer radius \( r_o \), the mass \( M \) and the charge \( Q \) are exhibited for a sequence of values of the gravitational coupling constant.

In Fig. 3(c) for comparison also the mass of the corresponding boson star solutions (resp. \( Q \)-ball solutions for vanishing gravitational coupling constant) are exhibited. The transitions from the ball-like to the shell-like solutions are indicated in the figure by the small asterisks. With increasing \( \alpha \) the sets of shell-like solutions decrease rapidly, until at the critical value \( \alpha_{cb} \) (see Fig. 1(a)) they cease to exist.
Fig. 4. Properties of the black hole solutions with Schwarzschild-type interior shown versus the horizon radius $r_H$: The left column exhibits for solutions with fixed charge $Q = 10$ (a) $b(r_i)$, the value of the gauge field function $b(r)$ at the inner shell radius $r_i$; (c) the mass $M$; (e) the ratio of the temperature $T$ at the black hole horizon $r_H$ to the corresponding Schwarzschild black hole temperature $T_S$. The right column ((b), (d), (f)) exhibits the same for solutions with fixed charge $Q = 100$. Note that $a = \alpha^2$.

Fig. 3(d) exhibits the scaled mass $\alpha^2 M$ and the scaled charge $\alpha Q$ for several sets of gravitating $Q$-shells. Together with Fig. 3(b) the figure demonstrates, that the condition for extremal RN solutions, $r_o = \alpha^2 M = \alpha Q$, is satisfied for the shell-like solutions, as the throat forms at the outer radius $r_o$.

Finally we note, that the shell-like solutions satisfy the mass relation (29) as well. Consequently the mass relation holds for any two globally regular solutions of a set with given gravitational coupling constant, thus relating also ball-like and shell-like solutions.

5. Black holes

Let us finally address black holes in this model. The simplest type of black holes is obtained, when the Minkowski-like inner part of the space-time, $0 \leq r \leq r_s$, of gravitating $Q$-shell solu-
Fig. 4 for which is an important physical quantity, we discuss the black hole.

Fig. 4(b) for several fixed values of the gravitational coupling constant \(\alpha\), obtained from the asymptotic metric (26) and the mass formula (33). Note that \(a = \alpha^2\).

For larger (fixed) values of the charge we always observe this second pattern, although the throat may either be reached directly after a monotonic increase of the horizon radius \(r_H\) to its maximum value, or along a second branch, where the horizon radius is decreasing again (having passed a bifurcation), as seen in Fig. 4(b).

As seen in the figure, whenever bifurcations occur, there are two (or more) black hole space–times with the same value of the charge \(Q\) and the same horizon radius \(r_H\) (within a certain range of values), but different values of the total mass \(M\) as measured at infinity. Surprisingly, however, there are also two (or more) black hole space–times with the same value of the charge \(Q\) and the same value of the total mass \(M\) (within a certain range of values). These black holes thus have the same set of global charges but are otherwise distinct solutions of the Einstein–matter equations. Consequently, black hole uniqueness does not hold in this model of scalar electrodynamics.

Let us finally consider some mass relations for these black holes space–times possessing \(Q\)-shells. We begin by recalling an interesting result obtained in the isolated horizon framework [13]. It states that the mass \(M\) of a black hole space–time with horizon radius \(r_H\) and the mass \(M_{\text{reg}}\) of the corresponding globally regular space–time obtained in the limit \(r_H \to 0\) are related via [13–15]

\[ M = M_{\text{reg}} + M_{\Delta}, \quad \text{(30)} \]

where the mass contribution \(M_{\Delta}\) is defined by

\[ M_{\Delta} = \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \int_{0}^{r_H} \kappa(r_H^*) r_H^* dr_H^*. \quad \text{(31)} \]

Here \(\kappa(r_H^*)\) represents the surface gravity of the black hole with horizon radius \(r_H\), \(\kappa = 2\pi T\). Accordingly, the mass \(M\) of a space–time with a black hole with horizon radius \(r_H\) within a \(Q\)-shell with total charge \(Q\) should be obtained as the sum of the globally regular gravitating \(Q\)-shell with charge \(Q\) and the integral \(M_{\Delta}\) along the set of black hole space–times, obtained by increasing the horizon radius for fixed charge from zero to \(r_H\).

This relation is demonstrated in Fig. 5(a) for the set of solutions with charge \(Q = 10\) and gravitational coupling constant \(\alpha^2 = 0.01\). The values for the mass \(M\) obtained from the relation (31) are seen to agree with the values for the black hole mass \(M\) obtained from the asymptotics (26). The set of solutions exhibited has spiralling...
character, i.e., it has besides the main first branch a second branch, also exhibited, and further branches, not resolved in the figure.

When the charge is allowed to vary, too, one expects a change of the above relation in accordance with (28) and the first law (in the units employed), i.e.,

$$dM = \frac{\kappa}{8\pi} \alpha^2 dA + b(\infty) dQ,$$

where $A = 4\pi r_H^2$ denotes the area of the horizon and $b(\infty)$ represents the electrostatic potential at infinity. Thus we generalize the above relation (30) to read

$$M = M_{\text{reg}} + M_{\Delta} + M_{\Delta} + \int_{Q_{\text{reg}}} Q b(\infty) dQ'.$$

This relation is demonstrated in Fig. 5(b), where for several values of the gravitational coupling constant and for fixed ratio of inner and outer shell radii $r_i/r_o$, the values for the mass $M$ obtained from the relation (33) are shown together with the values for the mass $M$ obtained from the asymptotics (26).

6. Conclusion and outlook

We have considered boson stars, gravitating $Q$-shells and black holes within $Q$-shells in scalar electrodynamics with a V-shaped scalar potential, where the scalar field is finite only in compact ball-like or shell-like regions.

The gravitating $Q$-shells surround a flat Minkowski-like interior region, while their exterior represents part of an exterior RN space–time. When the flat interior is replaced by a Schwarzschild-like interior, black hole space–times result, where a Schwarzschild-like black hole is surrounded by a compact shell of charged matter, whose exterior again represents part of an exterior RN space–time.

These black hole space–times violate black hole uniqueness, in certain regions of parameter space. Here for the same values of the mass $M$ and the charge $Q$ two or more distinct solutions of the Einstein-matter equations exist.

The solutions satisfy certain relations of the type obtained first in the isolated horizon formalism, which connect the mass $M$ of a black hole solution with the mass $M_{\text{reg}}$ of the associated globally regular solution. The masses of two regular solutions are related in an analogous (simpler) manner. This formalism further suggests to interpret the black hole space–times as bound states of Schwarzschild-type black holes and gravitating $Q$-shells [15].

While we have restricted our discussion here to Schwarzschild-type black holes in the interior, there are also black hole space–times with charged, i.e., Reissner–Nordström-type interior solutions. These more general black hole space–times will be discussed elsewhere.

The inclusion of rotation presents another interesting generalization of the solution considered here, since rotating boson stars are well known [7,8,16–18]. The construction of the corresponding rotating shells and their black hole generalizations, however, still poses a challenge.

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