Analytical study of charged boson stars with large scalar self-couplings

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Abstract We give good approximate analytic solutions for spherical charged boson stars in the large scalar-self-coupling limit in general relativity. We show that if the charge $e$ and mass $m$ of the scalar field nearly satisfy the critical relation $e^2 \approx Gm^2$ (where $G$ is the Newton constant), our analytic expressions for stable solutions agree well with the numerical solutions.

1 Introduction

One of the great problems in astroparticle physics is the dark matter problem \cite{1,2}. Many non-baryonic dark matter candidates have been supposed in the last several decades; for instance, weakly interacting massive particles (WIMPs) have been studied along with development of phenomenological supersymmetric particle theory.

There is a novel idea that condensation of unknown scalar bosons as a compact object may play a role in dark matter. Such a gravitating configuration is called a boson star \cite{3–6} and serves as a simple model to solve some problems arising in astrophysics, such as galactic dynamics and stellar structure, avoiding restrictions on WIMPs and other models.

Many authors have studied various models for boson stars so far, and the studies on boson stars can yield not only a clue to astrophysical problems but also new insights into compact configurations in general relativity and in modified gravity theories on theoretical grounds.

As a specific example, stable boson stars in scalar theory with a large quartic self-coupling, first studied by Colpi et al. \cite{7}, typically have a large length scale, and thus the idea of boson stars with a galactic size naturally arises as an explanation of the flat rotation curves of galaxies \cite{8–14}.

Another interesting object is a charged boson star \cite{3,17–20}. The typical size of charged boson stars is larger than that of neutral boson stars, because of partial subtraction of the magnitude of the attractive force by the “electric” force.

Consider a system of particles with mass $m$ and charge $e$. In the limit of $e^2 \rightarrow Gm^2$, where $G$ is the Newton constant, the long-range forces are mutually canceled. This fact raises a question: near the critical point $e^2 = Gm^2$, can one find some simple (or peculiar) behavior in the system?

A few decades ago, Jetzer et al. found the critical behavior in the mass of a time-independent, spherical charged boson star \cite{3,17}. Pugliese et al. recently investigated such behavior for gravitating charged scalar theory without scalar self-interactions \cite{20}. Both analyses relied on numerical methods. In the present paper, we will study critical behaviors in stationary spherical charged boson stars with a large scalar self-coupling, using analytical approximations.

If the charge is near critical, i.e., $e^2 \approx Gm^2$, the equilibrium density distribution is expected to be dilute as well as large scale. The value of the central density goes to zero as the total mass becomes infinite. Because the pressure in the center of the almost critical charged boson star is small compared to the energy density, the configuration approaches a Newtonian boson star in the critical limit. Therefore, we first arrive at the idea of obtaining solutions for boson stars with a small $\epsilon$, which represents the (appropriately normalized) central value of a square of the scalar field.

It should be noted that it is necessary to find solutions of the next order in $\epsilon$, because the post-Newtonian effect determines the stability of a definite mass and radius. The

\textsuperscript{1} The large values of couplings among unknown fields may be compatible to the recently proposed scheme of strongly interacting massive particles (SIMPs) \cite{15,16}, though we need a hierarchical mass spectrum.

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boundary between a stable and an unstable star is given by the maximum mass. It is reported [3,17] that the maximum mass increases with increasing gauge coupling constant. An important aim of the present paper is to reproduce this behavior semi-quantitatively in our approximation.

The present paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, we give the field equations for a boson star in general relativity and their large coupling limit. In Sect. 3, in order to generate simple approximate solutions, we construct an approximate differential equation for the square of the scalar field. Linearizing the equation, we obtain analytical approximate solutions expressed by trigonometric functions. The critical behavior in the mass of the boson star is qualitatively confirmed by using the approximate solutions. In Sect. 4, we reconsider the energy density of the electric field, which is ignored in Sect. 3. After including the electromagnetic contribution to the total mass, we again compare our approximate analysis with numerical results. Finally, we summarize and discuss our results in Sect. 5.

In Appendix A, a naive perturbative treatment of the equation as a power expansion of $\epsilon$ is given. In Appendix B, we present the method which relies on the Taylor expansion in radius coordinates and estimates the mass of the stable boson star in the critical limit.

## 2 Charged boson stars in large coupling limit

We consider an Einstein–Maxwell system with a self-interacting complex scalar field $\phi$ of mass $m$ and charge $e$, governed by the following action (where $\hbar = c = 1$):

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{1}{16\pi} R - F^2 - |D_\mu \phi|^2 - m^2 |\phi|^2 - \frac{\lambda}{2} |\phi|^4 \right],$$

(2.1)

where $d^4x = dt d^3r$, $G$ is the Newton constant, $R$ is the scalar curvature, and $F^2 = g^\mu\nu g^{\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma}$. The field strength is defined as $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$, where $A_\mu$ is a $U(1)$ gauge field. The gauge field also appears in $|D_\mu \phi|^2 \equiv g^{\mu\nu} (D_\mu \phi)^* (D_\nu \phi)$, where the covariant derivative is $D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ieA_\mu$. The scalar self-coupling constant $\lambda$ is assumed to be positive.

Varying the action with respect to the metric, we obtain the Einstein equation

$$R^\mu_\nu - \frac{1}{2} R g^\mu_\nu = 8\pi GT^\mu_\nu,$$

(2.2)

where the energy-momentum tensor $T^\mu_\nu$ in the system is given by

$$16\pi T^\mu_\nu = (D_\mu \phi)^*(D_\nu \phi) + (D_\nu \phi)^*(D_\mu \phi) - g^\mu_\nu |D_\rho \phi|^2$$

$$-g^\mu_\nu \left( m^2 |\phi|^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} |\phi|^4 \right) + 4g^{\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\rho} F_{\nu\sigma} - g^\mu_\nu F^2.$$

(2.3)

On the other hand, the equation of motion for the scalar field $\phi$ is given by

$$D^\mu D_\mu \phi - m^2 \phi - \lambda |\phi|^2 \phi = 0,$$

(2.4)

and the Maxwell equation is given by

$$D_{\mu} F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{e^2}{4} [\phi^* D^\nu \phi - \phi (D^\nu \phi)^*] = 0.$$

(2.5)

In the present paper, we consider stationary spherical boson stars. Thus, we assume the metric with spherical symmetry

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2GM(r)}{r}\right) e^{-2\delta(r)} dt^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2GM(r)}{r}\right)^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2).$$

(2.6)

The ansatze for the scalar field and the gauge field are given by

$$\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{G}} \phi(r) e^{-i\omega t}, \quad eA_\mu = m(A(r) + \omega) \delta_\mu 0,$$

(2.7)

where $\omega$ is a constant.

Furthermore, we adopt the following new definitions of couplings:

$$q^2 \equiv \frac{e^2}{Gm^2}, \quad \Lambda \equiv \frac{\lambda}{Gm^2}.$$

(2.8)

Substituting the foregoing ansatze and definitions in field Eqs. (2.2), (2.4), and (2.5) with the following replacement to dimensionless variables

$$mr \rightarrow r, \quad GmM(r) \rightarrow M(r),$$

(2.9)

we obtain the simultaneous differential equations

$$\phi'' + \left( \frac{2}{r} - \delta' + \frac{2M - rM'}{r^2} \right) \phi' + \left[ \frac{e^{2\delta}}{1 - 2Mr^2} A^2 - 1 - \Lambda \phi^2 \right] \frac{1}{1 - 2Mr} \phi = 0,$$

(2.10)

$$A'' + \left( \frac{2}{r} + \delta' \right) A' - \frac{q^2}{2} \left( \frac{1}{1 - 2Mr} \right) \phi^2 A = 0,$$

(2.11)

$$\frac{2}{r^2} M' = \frac{e^{2\delta} A'^2}{q^2} + \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{e^{2\delta}}{1 - 2Mr} A^2 \phi^2 \right] + \left( \frac{1}{1 - 2Mr} \right) \phi^2 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \phi^2 + \frac{\Lambda}{4} \phi^4 \right].$$

(2.12)
\[-\frac{1}{r} \delta'' = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{e^{2\delta}}{(1 - 2M/r)^2} A^2 \phi^2 + \phi'^2 \right), \quad (2.13)\]

where the prime (') indicates the derivative with respect to \( r \).

To realize the configuration of a spherical boson star, we impose the following boundary conditions:

\[ \phi'(0) = 0, \quad A'(0) = 0, \quad M(0) = 0, \quad \sigma(0) = 0, \quad \phi(\infty) = 0, \quad A(\infty) = \text{const}. \quad (2.14) \]

Note that an arbitrary value for \( \delta(0) \) is allowed because it can be absorbed by the redefinition of the time coordinate \( t \).

Here, we consider the large coupling limit [3,7]. To take the limit, we introduce the following quantities:

\[ x \equiv \frac{\hat{g} r}{\sqrt{\Lambda}}, \quad \Phi(x) \equiv \sqrt{\Lambda} \phi(r), \quad \mu(x) \equiv \frac{g M(r)}{\sqrt{\Lambda}}, \quad (2.15) \]

where \( g = \sqrt{1 - q^2} \). \quad (2.16)

Owing to new variables, we can take the limit of \( \Lambda \to \infty \); the field equations then become [3]

\[ \sigma \equiv \Phi^2 = \frac{e^{2\delta}}{1 - 2\mu/x} A^2 - 1, \quad (2.17) \]

\[ A'' + \left( \frac{2}{x} + \delta' \right) A' - \frac{q^2}{2g^2} \frac{1}{1 - 2\mu/x} \sigma A = 0, \quad (2.18) \]

\[ \frac{2}{x^2} \mu'' = e^{2\delta} \frac{A^2}{q^2} - 1 \frac{e^{2\delta}}{2} A^2 \frac{\sigma}{g^2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sigma}{g^2} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{\sigma^2}{g^2}, \quad (2.19) \]

\[ -\frac{1}{x} \delta' = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{e^{2\delta}}{1 - 2\mu/x} \right)^2 A^2 \frac{\sigma}{g^2}, \quad (2.20) \]

where, and hereafter, the prime (') stands for \( \frac{d}{dx} \). Note that the first equation shows an algebraic relation valid for \( \sigma = \Phi^2 > 0 \). Therefore, the field equations are now reduced to three differential equations on \( A(x), \mu(x), \) and \( \delta(x) \). The surface of the spherical boson star is defined by the radius \( x = x_s \) at which \( \sigma(x_s) = \Phi^2(x_s) = 0 \). Outside the boson star, it is thought that \( \Phi(x) \) vanishes for \( x > x_s \).

The numerical solutions for the system in the large coupling limit have been investigated, for example, in Refs. [3, 17]. We will consider an approximation that leads to analytic solutions for the system in the next section.

3 Approximate equation for square of the scalar field

When solving the field equations mathematically, we initially regard the region of definition for \( A(x), \mu(x), \) and \( \delta(x) \) as \([0, \infty)\), though physical meanings of the solutions hold only in the region of positive \( \sigma(x) = \Phi^2(x) \); i.e., \([0, x_s]\).

Here, we again give the field equations for \( \alpha(x) \equiv A(x)/A(0) = A(x)/A_0, \mu(x), \) and \( \delta(x) \) [(2.18), (2.19), and (2.20)]:

\[ \alpha''(x) + \left( \frac{2}{x} + \delta'(x) \right) \alpha'(x) - \frac{q^2}{2g^2} \frac{1}{1 - 2\mu/x} \sigma(x) \sigma'(x) = 0, \quad (3.1) \]

\[ \frac{2}{x^2} \mu''(x) = e^{2\delta(x)} A_0^2 \frac{\alpha'(x)^2}{q^2} + \frac{1}{g^2} \sigma(x) \left( 1 + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\sigma(x)}{\sigma(\infty)} \right), \quad (3.2) \]

\[ -\frac{1}{x} \delta'(x) = \frac{1}{2g^2} \frac{1}{1 - 2\mu/x} \sigma(x) (1 + \sigma(x)), \quad (3.3) \]

where

\[ \sigma(x) = e^{2\delta(x)} \frac{A_0^2 \sigma^2(x)}{1 - 2\mu(x)/x} - 1. \quad (3.4) \]

If \( q^2 \approx 1 \), an attractive force (gravity) and a repulsive force (Coulomb repulsion) almost cancel each other out. Under the restriction that the particle number is constant, the density becomes low (because of the repulsive force which originates from the self-interaction of scalars\(^2\)) for a stable boson star.

Therefore, we can examine the expansion in terms of a “small” parameter \( \epsilon \) defined by \( \epsilon \equiv A_0^2 - 1 = \sigma(0) \) for solving the differential equations. Although the equations at the lowest order of \( \epsilon \) become very simple, those at the next order are very complicated to analyze. This approach is described in Appendix A. Thus, in the present section, we consider the other approach.

Now, we investigate the relationship in terms of derivatives of \( \sigma(x) \) by using the following approximation. Because we wish to consider a stable dilute boson star, we first assume \( 2\mu(x)/x \ll 1 \) and \( \delta(x) \ll 1 \), which are near-vacuum values of the variables. We will, however, take care of their derivative, which is expressed by \( \sigma(x) \) and its derivative.

We next assume \( (\alpha'(x))^2 \ll \sigma(x)/g^2 \). This assumption implies that the energy density of the electric field is negligible compared with the energy density of the scalar field and can therefore be omitted, because the right-hand side of Eq. (3.2) is proportional to the total energy density. For finite values of \( \sigma(x) \) and small \( g^2 \), this approximation is reasonable. Because we are now going to study the behavior of \( \sigma(x) \) in the nearly flat background, we take only the first order in the electric field in the present approximation. It is noteworthy that we do not assume \( \sigma(x) \ll 1 \) at the first time, whose value should be small for a stable dilute boson star in the critical limit \( g \approx 0 \).

\(^2\) Even if the self-interaction is absent, the density is expected to become low due to the uncertainty principle (“quantum force”).
Then, by using Eq. (3.4), we can approximate the first derivative of \( \ln(1 + \sigma(x)) \) as
\[
\frac{\sigma'(x)}{1 + \sigma(x)} \approx \frac{2 \omega'(x)}{\omega(x)} + \frac{2 \mu'(x)}{x} - \frac{2 \mu(x)}{x^2} + 2 \delta'(x).
\]  
(3.5)

Under the same assumptions, the field Eqs. (3.2) and (3.3) can be interpreted as
\[
\frac{2}{x^2} \mu'(x) \approx \frac{x}{g^2} \sigma(x) \left( 1 + \frac{3}{4} \sigma(x) \right),
\]  
(3.6)
\[
2 \delta'(x) \approx -\frac{x}{g^2} \sigma(x)(1 + \sigma(x)),
\]  
(3.7)
where we find that \( \mu'(x) \) and \( \delta'(x) \) are supposed to be determined by \( \sigma(x) \). Equation (3.5) then becomes
\[
\frac{\sigma'(x)}{1 + \sigma(x)} \approx \frac{2 \omega'(x)}{\omega(x)} - \frac{x}{4g^2} \delta'(x) - \frac{2 \mu(x)}{x^2}.
\]  
(3.8)

One more differentiation of the above equation yields
\[
\frac{\sigma''(x)}{1 + \sigma(x)} \approx \frac{2 \omega''(x)}{\omega(x)} - \frac{2 \omega'(x)}{\omega(x)} \left( -\frac{x}{2g^2} \sigma(x) \sigma'(x) - \frac{2 \mu'(x)}{x} + \frac{4 \mu(x)}{x^2} \right)
\]  
\[-\frac{x}{2g^2} \sigma(x) \sigma'(x) - \frac{2 \mu'(x)}{x} + \frac{4 \mu(x)}{x^2}
\]  
\[+ \left( \frac{\sigma'(x)}{1 + \sigma(x)} \right)^2 - 2 \left( \frac{\omega'(x)}{\omega(x)} \right)^2.
\]  
(3.9)
where we used an approximate equation that comes from Eq. (3.1),
\[
\omega''(x) + \left( \frac{2}{x} + \delta'(x) \right) \omega'(x) - \frac{q^2}{2g^2} \sigma(x) \omega(x) = 0.
\]  
(3.11)

Note also that \( q^2 - 1 \approx -1 \).

The second and third terms in Eq. (3.10) are reduced, if we can further approximate \( \frac{\sigma'(x)}{1 + \sigma(x)} \) by \( \frac{2 \omega'(x)}{\omega(x)} \) and use Eq. (3.7), to
\[
-2 \delta'(x) \frac{\omega'(x)}{\omega(x)} - \frac{x}{2g^2} \sigma(x)(1 + \sigma(x)),
\]  
\[\approx -2 \delta'(x) \frac{\omega'(x)}{\omega(x)} + 2 \delta'(x) \frac{\omega'(x)}{\omega(x)}
\]  
\[\approx 0.
\]  
(3.12)

Now, if we assume \( (\omega'(x))^2 \ll \sigma(x)/g^2, \frac{2 \mu(x)}{x} \ll 1, \delta(x) \ll 1 \), and adopt the additional assumption \( |x| \ll 2 \omega'(x)/\omega(x) \ll 2 \mu(x)/\omega(x) \), the following differential equation on \( \sigma(x) \) holds:
\[
\sigma''(x) + \frac{2}{x} \sigma'(x) + (1 + \sigma(x))
\]  
\[\times \left( \sigma(x) + \frac{3}{2g^2} \sigma^2(x) - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\sigma'(x)}{1 + \sigma(x)} \right)^2 \right) = 0.
\]  
(3.13)

Unfortunately, exact solutions for this nonlinear equation are not known. Although it is interesting to solve this nonlinear equation, we here consider a further approximation to solve the equation analytically.\(^3\)

In order to solve the equation approximately, we first set \( \sigma(x) \equiv \tilde{\sigma}(0) \). We then find
\[
\tilde{\sigma}''(x) + \frac{2}{x} \tilde{\sigma}'(x) + (1 + \epsilon \tilde{\sigma}(x))
\]  
\[\times \left[ \tilde{\sigma}(x) + \frac{3 \epsilon}{2g^2} \tilde{\sigma}^2(x) - \frac{\epsilon^2 (\tilde{\sigma}'(x))^2}{2 (1 + \epsilon \tilde{\sigma}(x))^2} \right] = 0.
\]  
(3.14)

The boundary condition at \( x = 0 \) then should be \( \tilde{\sigma}(0) = 1 \) and \( \tilde{\sigma}'(0) = 0 \).

As an approximation scheme, we further assume that the value of \( \epsilon \), which indicates the central value of the scalar density, is small for a stable dilute boson star. We then find the following approximate linear equation:
\[
\tilde{\sigma}''(x) + \frac{2}{x} \tilde{\sigma}'(x) + (1 + \epsilon) \left( 1 + \frac{3 \epsilon}{2g^2} \right) \tilde{\sigma}(x) = 0.
\]  
(3.15)

This approximation is considered to be good, especially for \( x \approx 0 \), where \( \tilde{\sigma} \approx 1 \) and \( \tilde{\sigma}' \approx 0 \). For a stable dilute boson

\(^3\) A comment is given in Sect. 5.
star, it is expected that the behavior of the solution near the origin determines its overall shape and size. Furthermore, we have left the “next-leading” terms in $\epsilon$ because the limit of $\epsilon \to 0$ in Eq. (3.14) or Eq. (3.15) yields the result corresponding to the Newtonian limit and, as previously stated, we wish to study the relativistic mass of the critically charged boson star.

The solution for the above linearized equation satisfying $\tilde{\sigma}(0) = 1$ is

$$\tilde{\sigma}(x) = \frac{\sin kx}{kx},$$

where

$$k = k(\epsilon) \equiv \sqrt{(1 + \epsilon)(1 + \frac{3\epsilon}{2g^2})}.$$

The approximate equation for $\mu(x)$ (3.6) then yields

$$\mu(x) \approx \frac{\epsilon}{2g^2k^3} \left[ \sin kx - kx \cos kx + \frac{3\epsilon}{8} \left( kx - \frac{\sin 2kx}{2} \right) \right].$$

In Fig. 1 (for $g^2 = 0.1$ and $\epsilon = 0.01$) and Fig. 2 (for $g^2 = 0.1$ and $\epsilon = 0.001$), dotted lines are the numerical results in the large coupling limit, and light solid lines are our approximations. One can see that they almost coincide.

The surface of the boson star is located at $x = x_\ast$, where $\sigma(x_\ast) = 0$. By using our approximate solution (3.16), we easily find that $x_\ast(\epsilon) = \pi/k$ and

$$\mu(x_\ast(\epsilon)) \approx \frac{\pi}{2g^2k^3} \left( 1 + \frac{3\epsilon}{8} \right).$$

Our definition of mass in the present section is the integration of the energy density inside a boson star, where $\sigma(x) > 0$.

$$M_\ast = \frac{\mu(x_\ast(\epsilon))}{g} = \frac{GM(x_\ast(\epsilon))}{\sqrt{\Lambda}}.$$  

and we show $M_\ast$ as a function of $\Phi(0) = \sqrt{\epsilon}$ in Fig. 3. In this figure, dots indicate the numerical dependence of the mass with respect to $\Phi(0)$ for $g = 0.1, 0.2,$ and $0.3$, whereas light solid curves represent our approximation for $g = 0.1, 0.2,$ and $0.3$.

$M_\ast$ reaches its maximum value as $\Phi(0)$ increases. The behaviors of the approximate values look alike as in figure (Fig. 9) in Ref. [3] for small $\Phi(0)$, whereas, unfortunately, they look different for large $\Phi(0)$ (as expected, because the present approximation relies only on small $\Phi(0) = \sqrt{\epsilon}$).

In the general relativistic system, it is known that the mass of the star increases monotonically up to a maximum as the central density increases. The maximum mass defines the border between the stable and unstable configurations.

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4 The discussion on the definition of mass corresponding to that in Refs. [3,17] is given in Sect. 4.
The approximate solution value of \( g \) is known to be \( \sqrt{\Lambda/(Gm)} \). Thus, the mass of the stable charged boson star is found to be \( M_\ast \approx 0.415 \times 2^{3/4} \times \sqrt{2} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-q^2}} \). Therefore, the deviation from the precise value is \( \sim 33\% \) for \( M_{\text{max}} \) and \( \sim 20\% \) for \( \Phi(0)_{\text{max}} \). The definition of the radius of the boson star in Ref. [3] is the average of \( r_\ast \) over the particle density. In the present approximation, the function \( \sigma(x) \) represents both the particle and the energy density. Thus, their definition of the radius should be recognized as \( R_\ast \approx 0.344 r_{\text{max}} \), because the solution for \( \sigma(x) \) is proportional to \( \sin kx/kx \), and \( \{\int_0^\infty x(\sin x/x)dx\}/(\pi\int_0^\infty (\sin x/x)dx\) \( \approx 0.344 \). Our approximate value is \( R_\ast \approx 0.415 \times 2^{3/4} \times \sqrt{2} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-q^2}} \). The deviation of \( r_{\text{max}} \) is considered to be \( \sim 58\% \).

Finally, in this section, we mention that it is also possible to show the qualitative \( M_\ast \sim \sqrt{\tau} \) relation in the other approximation. The approximation, which utilizes the approximate functions of the order \( O(\tau^2) \), is shown in Appendix B.

In the next section, we reconsider the definition of mass and inclusion of the energy density of the electric field.

4 The energy of the electric field

In the approximation scheme in the last section, we assumed \( (\alpha')^2 \ll \sigma/g^2 \). This corresponds to the omission of the energy density of the electric field as it is negligible compared with the energy density of the scalar field.

In the present section, we estimate the contribution of the electric energy density to the boson star mass. Although accounting for the electric energy in addition to the scalar energy sounds inconsistent judging from the ansatz, it can be considered that the configuration is the main source field of all the fields because the approximation for the scalar field configuration \( \sigma(x) \) fits numerical computations very well. Thus, we insist that the addition of the electric energy density has a physical meaning.

The definition of mass in Refs. [3,17] includes the contribution of the electric field. It is pointed out [20] that \( M_\ast \) (in our notation) differs from the “actual” mass (which is proportional to the coefficient of the inverse of the distance from the origin in the asymptotic region). The difference is due to the electric contribution and has been ignored in the approximation scheme in Sect. 3.

We adopt Eq. (3.11), but we omit the term \( \alpha'\delta' \) in the equation, where the term is smaller than the source term \( \propto \sigma \). We then get

\[ \alpha(x) \approx 1 + \frac{q^2\varepsilon}{2g^2k^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\sin kx}{kx} \right) \quad \text{for} \quad x < x_\ast = \pi/k. \]  

\[ \text{(4.1)} \]

Jetzer and Bij [3,17] gave (in our notation) \( \Phi(0)_{\text{max}} \approx (2.43/2^{1/4})\sqrt{1-q^2} = 1.44\sqrt{1-q^2} \). Therefore, the deviation from the precise value is \( \sim 33\% \) for \( M_{\text{max}} \) and \( \sim 20\% \) for \( \Phi(0)_{\text{max}} \). The definition of the radius of the boson star in Ref. [3] is the average of \( r_\ast \) over the particle density. In the present approximation, the function \( \sigma(x) \) represents both the particle and the energy density. Thus, their definition of the radius should be recognized as \( R_\ast \approx 0.344 r_{\text{max}} \), because the solution for \( \sigma(x) \) is proportional to \( \sin kx/kx \), and \( \{\int_0^\infty x(\sin x/x)dx\}/(\pi\int_0^\infty (\sin x/x)dx\) \( \approx 0.344 \). Our approximate value is \( R_\ast \approx 0.415 \times 2^{3/4} \times \sqrt{2} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-q^2}} \). The deviation of \( r_{\text{max}} \) is considered to be \( \sim 58\% \).

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We adopt Eq. (3.11), but we omit the term \( \alpha'\delta' \) in the equation, where the term is smaller than the source term \( \propto \sigma \). We then get

\[ \alpha(x) \approx 1 + \frac{q^2\varepsilon}{2g^2k^2} \left( 1 - \frac{\sin kx}{kx} \right) \quad \text{for} \quad x < x_\ast = \pi/k. \]  

\[ \text{(4.1)} \]

The factor \( 2^{3/4} \) comes from the different definition of critical charge and its power, and the factor \( \sqrt{2} \) comes from the different definition of \( \lambda/G \).
Note that in this section we consider the solutions for \( \alpha(x) \) inside the boson star \( (x < x_s) \) and outside the boson star \( (x > x_s) \) separately. Therefore, the electric contribution to the mass inside the boson star can be estimated as

\[
\Delta M_e(\epsilon) = \frac{1 + \epsilon}{2g} \int_0^{x_s} \frac{(\alpha'(x))^2}{q^2} dx = \frac{\pi q^2 \epsilon^2 (1 + \epsilon)}{16g^2 k^5}, \tag{4.2}
\]

where we approximated \( \delta \approx 0 \). The ratio of the correction

\[
\frac{\Delta M_e(\epsilon)}{M_e(\epsilon)} = \frac{q^2 \epsilon^2 (1 + \epsilon)}{8g^2 k^2 (1 + \frac{3\epsilon}{2})}\tag{4.3}
\]

is at most 8% in the parameter region of Fig. 3, and the approximate value of \( M_s + \Delta M_e \) cannot be larger than that of the numerical result.

Next, we consider the contribution of the electric field outside the boson star. At the surface of the boson star, \( x = x_s = \pi/k \), and from Eq. (4.1), we have

\[
\alpha(x_s) \approx \frac{q^2 \epsilon}{2g^2 k^2}, \quad \alpha'(x_s) \approx \frac{q^2 \epsilon}{2g^2 k \pi}.	ag{4.4}
\]

Outside the boson star, \( \alpha \) behaves in accordance with \( \alpha(x) = C_0 + C_1 x \), which is the solution of the field equation \( \alpha''(x) + \frac{2}{r} \alpha'(x) = 0 \). Thus, we find the following solution for \( \alpha(x) \) outside the boson star, which is smoothly connected to the solution for \( \alpha \) inside the boson star:

\[
\alpha(x) \approx \frac{q^2 \epsilon}{2g^2 k^2} - \frac{\pi q^2 \epsilon}{2g^2 k^3 \pi} \quad \text{for} \quad x > x_s.	ag{4.5}
\]

Using this solution, we find the electric energy outside the charged boson star as

\[
\Delta M_{\text{outside}} = \frac{1 + \epsilon}{2g} \int_{x_s}^\infty e^{2\delta(x)} \alpha'(x)^2 q_x^2.	ag{4.6}
\]

In the present approximation scheme, \( \delta(x_s) = -\frac{\epsilon}{g^2 k^3} + O(\epsilon^2) \). Therefore, we again ignore \( \delta(x_m) \) and obtain

\[
\Delta M_{\text{outside}}(\epsilon) = \frac{\pi q^2 \epsilon^2 (1 + \epsilon)}{8g^2 k^5}.	ag{4.7}
\]

which is the same order as \( \Delta M_e(\epsilon) \).

We then estimate the total mass as

\[
M(\epsilon) \equiv M_s(\epsilon) + \Delta M_e(\epsilon) + \Delta M_{\text{outside}}(\epsilon) = \frac{\epsilon \pi}{2g^2 k^3 \left( 1 + \frac{3\epsilon}{8} \right)} + \frac{3\pi q^2 \epsilon^2 (1 + \epsilon)}{16g^2 k^5},\tag{4.8}
\]

which is illustrated in Fig. 4 for \( g = 0.1, 0.2, \) and 0.3. For small values of \( \Phi(0) = \sqrt{\epsilon} \), approximate values fit the numerical results better than the previous approximation.

The maximum mass is attained if \( \frac{\delta M(\epsilon)}{\delta \epsilon} = 0 \), which reduces to

\[
\frac{\epsilon}{g^2} \rightarrow \frac{4}{15} \left( 2 + \sqrt{14} \right) = 1.53 \quad \text{for} \quad \epsilon, g^2 \rightarrow 0.\tag{4.9}
\]

\[\text{Fig. 4 Approximate charged boson star mass } M \text{ (including the electric energy) in units of } \sqrt{\pi/(G\text{m})} \text{ as a function of } \Phi(0) = \sqrt{\epsilon}\phi(0) \text{ for } g = 0.1, 0.2, \text{ and } 0.3 \text{ (from the upper line to the lower line) for the case } \Lambda \rightarrow \infty. \text{ The dots indicate the numerical results in the large coupling limit.}\]

The maximum mass is then

\[
M_{\text{max}} \approx \frac{10\sqrt{3}(11 + 3\sqrt{14})\pi}{3(\sqrt{7} + \sqrt{2})^3 g} = 0.472 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - q^2}}.\tag{4.10}
\]

The deviation of \( M \) from the values in Refs. [3,17] is now approximately 12%, while \( \Phi(0)_{\text{max}} \approx \sqrt{1.53g} = 1.24\sqrt{1 - q^2} \), and the deviation is 14%. We have now obtained good approximate values by including the electric energy contribution.

### 5 Summary and discussion

In this paper, we presented approximate solutions for dilute charged boson stars with spherical symmetry in the large scalar self-coupling limit. An approximation scheme is presented in Sect. 3, where we first consider the approximate differential equation for the square of the scalar field \( \sigma(x) \).

In this approximation, we assumed that the contribution of the energy density of the electric field is relatively small. A further linearized approximation yields a fully analytic approximation for a charged boson star. In Sect. 4, we improved the approximation by reconsidering the electric energy. Because it has been recognized that solutions with an \( \epsilon \) value that is smaller than the maximum \( \epsilon_m \) value are stable and the others are unstable, our approximation has a certain physical meaning for stable configurations of charged boson stars.

We confirmed that the maximum mass of the boson star increases with the gauge coupling constant as \( (\sqrt{1 - q^2})^{-1} \) for a charge close to the critical charge \( e^2 \approx Gm^2 \) in our approximation, whose deviation from the numerical result is on the order of a few percent.

It was pointed out that there is a localized configuration even if the charge of the scalar field is larger than the critical coupling for scalar theory without self-coupling [20]. The analysis of the critical behavior of the maximum mass in the large self-coupling limit under consideration is nevertheless
valid, because the large coupling limit does not yield higher node solutions [3], whereas only solutions with nodes exist for over-critical cases as reported in Ref. [20] for scalar theory with no self-interaction.

Our analytically approximate solutions can be used to check the validity of numerical solutions generally. Analytic solutions can also be used as a background configuration in an investigation of the quantum vacuum around charged boson stars [18], as well as the seeds of an exact solution (for instance, nonspherical) in numerical computations.

We would like to improve the approximation for not so small $\epsilon$. To this end, we have to try a basic approach such as the Padé approximation. In Sect. 3, a nonlinear equation for $\sigma(x)$ has been derived. We wish to use some type of renormalization group methods [21–24] to evaluate the solution, though it is difficult to directly apply the known methods to the present form of the equation.

Finally, we should consider the analysis of charged boson stars in scalar theory with an arbitrary self-coupling. We hope to return to these and other subjects in future work.

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Appendix A: Perturbative expansion in terms of $\epsilon$

Here, we solve the field equations obtained in Sect. 2 as a perturbative expansion in $\epsilon$. First, we define

\[
A(x) = A_0 \alpha(x) = A_0 \left(1 + \epsilon \alpha_1(x) + \epsilon^2 \alpha_2(x) + \cdots \right),
\]

\[
\mu(x) = \epsilon \mu_1(x) + \epsilon^2 \mu_2(x) + \cdots,
\]

\[
\delta(x) = \epsilon \delta_1(x) + \epsilon^2 \delta_2(x) + \cdots,
\]

where $\epsilon$ is a parameter defined as

\[
\epsilon \equiv A_0^2 - 1 \quad \text{or} \quad A_0 \equiv \sqrt{1 + \epsilon},
\]

which means

\[
\sigma(0) \equiv \Phi^2(0) = \epsilon,
\]

if we identify boundary conditions $\alpha_i(0) = \mu_i(0) = \delta_i(0) = 0$ ($i = 1, 2, \ldots$). The value of $\epsilon$ is expected to be small in the critical limit $g^2 \approx 1$ or equivalent to $g^2 \approx 0$.

Substituting the above series expressions (A1), (A2), and (A3) into the field Eqs. (2.17), (2.18), (2.19), and (2.20), we find the equations in the first order in powers of $\epsilon$,

\[
\alpha_1'' + \frac{2}{x} \alpha_1' = \frac{q^2}{g^2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \alpha_1 + \frac{\mu_1}{x} + \delta_1 \right),
\]

\[
\alpha_1'' + \frac{2}{x} \alpha_1' = \frac{q^2}{g^2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \alpha_1 + \frac{\mu_1}{x} + \delta_1 \right),
\]

\[
\mu_1'' = \frac{1}{g^2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \alpha_1 + \frac{\mu_1}{x} + \delta_1 \right),
\]

\[
\mu_1'' = \frac{1}{g^2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \alpha_1 + \frac{\mu_1}{x} + \delta_1 \right),
\]

which are just the linearized field equations.

In this order, using $\alpha_1'' + \frac{2}{x} \alpha_1' = \frac{1}{x^2} (x^2 \alpha_1)' = \frac{1}{x} (x \alpha_1)''$ and paying attention to the similarity of the right-hand sides of the equations, we can easily obtain analytic solutions under the boundary conditions at $x = 0$ as

\[
\alpha_1(x) = \frac{q^2}{2g^2} \left(1 - \sin \frac{x}{x} \right),
\]

\[
\mu_1(x) = \frac{1}{2g^2} \left(\sin x - x \cos x \right),
\]

\[
\delta_1(x) = -\frac{1}{2g^2} \left(1 - \cos x \right).
\]

Up to this order, the profile of the scalar field is found to be

\[
\phi^2(x) \approx (1 + \epsilon)(1 + 2\epsilon \delta_1(x)) \left(1 + \frac{2(\mu_1(x))}{x} \right) (1 + \epsilon \alpha_1(x))^2 - 1 = \epsilon \left(1 + 2\alpha_1(x) + \frac{2\mu_1(x)}{x} + 2\delta_1(x) \right) + O(\epsilon^2)
\]

\[
= \epsilon \frac{\sin x}{x} + O(\epsilon^2).
\]

This profile has been obtained in the same system by the Newtonian approximation. Because we now treat dilute boson stars, the result is just a verification of the present lowest-order analysis.

The field equations in the second order of $\epsilon$ can be read as

\[
\alpha_2'' + \frac{2}{x} \alpha_2' = \frac{q^2}{g^2} \left(\alpha_2 + \frac{\mu_2}{x} + \delta_2 \right) + \mu_a,
\]

\[
\mu_2'' = \frac{1}{g^2} \left(\alpha_2 + \frac{\mu_2}{x} + \delta_2 \right) + \mu_\mu.
\]

\[
\delta_2'' = -\frac{1}{g^2} \left(\alpha_2 + \frac{\mu_2}{x} + \delta_2 \right) + \delta_\delta,
\]

where

\[
\mu_a = -\alpha_1' \delta_1 + \frac{q^2}{g^2} \left(\frac{2}{x} \alpha_1 + \frac{\mu_1}{x} \right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \alpha_1 + \frac{\mu_1}{x} + \delta_1 \right) + X,
\]

\[
\mu_\mu = \frac{1}{2q^2} \alpha_1'' + \frac{1}{g^2} \left[\frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \alpha_1 + \frac{\mu_1}{x} + \delta_1 \right)^2 + X \right],
\]

\[
\delta_\delta = -\frac{1}{g^2} \left[1 + 2\alpha_1 + \frac{4\mu_1}{x} + 2\delta_1 \right]
\]
Numerical solutions in the large coupling limit (dotted lines) and perturbative approximations (light dashed lines for the first-order approximations in $\epsilon$ and light solid lines for the second-order approximation in $\epsilon$) for $\alpha(x)$, $\mu(x)$, and $\delta(x)$ on the interval $[0, \pi]$, where $g^2 = 0.1$ and $\epsilon = 0.01$. The approximation is good for small values of $\epsilon$, as expected. We
We consider the solution for the field Eqs. (3.1)–(3.3) at the lowest order in the Taylor expansion in $\sigma(0)$, because of the boundary condition $\sigma(0) = \sqrt{\Lambda \phi(0)}$ for $g = 0.1, 0.2,$ and $0.3$ (from the upper line to the lower line) for the case $\Lambda \to \infty$. The dots indicate the numerical results.

![Graph](image-url)

**Fig. 7** Charged boson star mass (approximated using the second-order functions) in units of $\sqrt{\Lambda/(Gm)}$ as a function of $\Phi(0) = \sqrt{\Lambda \phi(0)}$ for $g = 0.1, 0.2,$ and $0.3$ (from the upper line to the lower line) for the case $\Lambda \to \infty$. The dots indicate the numerical results.

We also find that near the critical charge $g \approx 0$ ($q \approx 1$), the $i$-th order functions seems $\sim O((\epsilon/g^2)^i)$. Thus, if $\epsilon/g^2 \ll 1$, the perturbative approximation works well and the solutions up to the second order agree with the numerical results.

The solutions are parameterized by $\epsilon = \sigma(0)$. The stability of the objects described by the solutions is discussed by variations of this parameter. It is demonstrated that the configuration is stable if the boson star mass takes the maximum value with respect to variations of this parameter.

To obtain the maximum mass of boson stars, we first evaluate the value of $\mu(x)/g$ at the surface of the boson star $x = x_s$ and next consider the variation with respect to the parameter $g$. The perturbed solution we obtained is not suitable for such calculations in the analytic method, because of the complexity seen in the second-order solutions.

**Appendix B: Approximation by the Taylor expansion in $x$**

We consider the solution for the field Eqs. (3.1)–(3.3) at the lowest order in the Taylor expansion in $x$ around $x = 0$ with the boundary condition $\sigma(0) = \epsilon$. We then find

\[ \alpha(x) \approx 1 + \frac{q^2 \epsilon}{12g^2} x^2, \]  
\[ \frac{\mu(x)}{x} \approx \frac{\epsilon(3 \epsilon + 4)}{24g^2} x^2, \]  
\[ \delta(x) \approx -\frac{\epsilon(1 + \epsilon)}{4g^2} x^2. \]

Accordingly, using Eq. (3.4), we find $\sigma(x)$ at the lowest order as

\[ \sigma(x) \approx (1 + \epsilon)(1 + 2\delta(x)) \left(1 + \frac{2\mu(x)}{x}\right) (\alpha(x))^2 - 1. \]

For a small $g$,

\[ M_{\text{max}} = \frac{\mu(x_s)}{g} \approx 4\frac{\sqrt{7}}{9g} \approx 0.629 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - q^2}}, \]

and

\[ r_{\text{max}} \equiv \frac{x_s}{g} \approx 1.41 \frac{\sqrt{7}}{g} \approx 1.41 \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - q^2}}. \]

We find that the approximation is qualitatively good, and the deviations are slightly worse than those in the previous approximation discussed in Sect. 3.

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6 In some cases, however, quasi-stable configurations with a very long lifetime may be admitted as astrophysical objects.

7 In this scheme, the approximate values may always be larger than the numerical values. Therefore, no purpose is served by making a further correction due to the electric field.
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