

# A NOTE ON EXISTENCE AND NON-EXISTENCE OF HORIZONS IN SOME ASYMPTOTICALLY FLAT 3-MANIFOLDS

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ABSTRACT. We consider asymptotically flat manifolds of the form  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4g)$ , where  $G$  is the Green's function of the conformal Laplacian of  $(S^3, g)$  at a point  $P$ . We show if  $\text{Ric}(g) \geq 2g$  and the volume of  $(S^3, g)$  is no less than one half of the volume of the standard unit sphere, then there are no closed minimal surfaces in  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4g)$ . We also give an example of  $(S^3, g)$  where  $\text{Ric}(g) > 0$  but  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4g)$  does have closed minimal surfaces.

## 1. Introduction

Let  $(N^3, g, p)$  be an initial data set satisfying the dominant energy constraint condition in general relativity. It is a fascinating question to ask under what conditions an *apparent horizon* (of a black hole) exists in  $(N^3, g, p)$ . Here an apparent horizon is a 2-surface  $\Sigma^2 \subset N^3$  satisfying

$$(1) \quad H_\Sigma = \text{Tr}_\Sigma p,$$

where  $H_\Sigma$  is the mean curvature of  $\Sigma$  in  $N$  and  $\text{Tr}_\Sigma p$  is the trace of the restriction of  $p$  to  $\Sigma$ .

A fundamental result of Schoen and Yau states that *matter condensation* causes apparent horizons to be formed [11]. Their result is remarkable not only because it provides a general criteria to the existence question, but also because it leads to a refined problem – besides matter fields, what is the *pure effect of gravity* on the formation of apparent horizons?

To analyze this refined problem, one considers an asymptotically flat initial data set  $(N^3, g, p)$  in a *vacuum* spacetime. As the first step, one assumes  $(N^3, g, p)$  is time-symmetric (i.e.  $p \equiv 0$ ). In this context, an apparent horizon is simply a *minimal surface*, and the relevant topological assumption is that  $N^3$  is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . (If  $N^3$  has nontrivial topology, a closed minimal surface always exists by [8].)

There is a geometric construction of such an initial data set. Let  $[g]$  be a conformal class of metrics on the three-sphere  $S^3$ . Recall the Yamabe constant of  $(S^3, [g])$  is defined by

$$(2) \quad Y(S^3, [g]) = \inf_{v \in W^{1,2}(S^3)} \frac{\int_M [8|\nabla v|_g^2 + R(g)v^2] dV_g}{(\int_M v^6 dV_g)^{\frac{1}{3}}},$$

where  $R(g)$  is the scalar curvature of  $g$ . If  $Y(S^3, [g]) > 0$ , there exists a positive Green's function  $G$  of the conformal Laplacian  $8\Delta_g - R(g)$  at any fixed point  $P \in S^3$ . Consider the new metric  $G^4g$  on  $S^3 \setminus \{P\}$ , it is easily checked that  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4g)$  is

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asymptotically flat with zero scalar curvature. One basic fact about this construction is that the blowing-up manifold  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4 g)$ , up to a constant scaling, depends only on the conformal class  $[g]$ . Precisely, if one replaces  $g$  by another metric  $\bar{g} \in [g]$  and let  $\bar{G}$  be the Green's function associated to  $\bar{g}$ , then the metric  $\bar{G}^4 \bar{g}$  differs from  $G^4 g$  only by a constant multiple. Therefore, it is of interest to seek conditions on  $[g]$  that determine whether  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4 g)$  has a horizon.

So far, no such a conformal invariant condition has been found. However, there are results where conditions in terms of a single metric are given. In [1], Beig and Ó Murchadha studied the behavior of a *critical sequence*, i.e. a sequence of metrics  $\{g_n\}$  on  $S^3$  converging to a metric  $g_0$  with zero scalar curvature. They showed the blowing-up manifold  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G_n^4 g_n)$  has a horizon for sufficiently large  $n$ . Their idea was further explored by Yan [12]. Given a metric  $g$  on  $S^3$ , assuming the diameter of  $(S^3, g) \leq D$ , the volume of  $(S^3, g) \geq V$  and the Ricci curvature of  $g$  satisfies  $\text{Ric}(g) \geq \mu g$ , Yan showed that, for any  $r > \frac{3}{2}$ , there exists a small positive number  $\delta = \delta(\mu, V, D, r) \leq 1$  such that, if  $R(g) > 0$  and  $\|R(g)\|_{L^r(S^3, g)} < \delta$ , then the blowing-up manifold  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4 g)$  has a horizon.

One question arising from Yan's theorem is whether a *positive* Ricci curvature metric on  $S^3$  can produce a blowing-up manifold with a horizon, as it is unclear whether Yan's theorem could be applied when  $\mu > 0$ . Another motivation to this question is, as a positive Ricci curvature metric can be deformed to the standard metric on  $S^3$  through metrics of positive Ricci curvature, it is of potential interest to study how the horizon disappears in the corresponding deformation of the blowing-up manifold if it exists initially.

In this paper, we focus on conformal classes of metrics with a positive Ricci curvature metric. Our main result is the observation of a volume condition which guarantees non-existence of horizons in the blowing-up manifold. Throughout the paper,  $\mathbb{S}^3$  denotes  $S^3$  with the standard metric of constant curvature +1.

**Theorem** *Let  $[g]$  be a conformal class of metrics on  $S^3$  which has a metric of positive Ricci curvature. Consider*

$$V_{\max}(S^3, [g]) = \sup_{\bar{g} \in [g]} \{ \text{Vol}(S^3, \bar{g}) \mid \text{Ric}(\bar{g}) \geq 2\bar{g} \},$$

where  $\text{Vol}(\cdot)$  is the volume functional. If

$$V_{\max}(S^3, [g]) \geq \frac{1}{2} \text{Vol}(\mathbb{S}^3),$$

then the blowing-up manifold  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4 g)$  has no horizon.

We also give an example of  $(S^3, g)$  where  $\text{Ric}(g) > 0$  and  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4 g)$  does have horizons.

## 2. Positive Ricci curvature and maximum volume

We first explain the volume assumption in the Theorem. Let  $M^n$  be a smooth, connected, closed manifold of dimension  $n \geq 3$ . Assume  $[g]$  is a conformal class of metrics on  $M^n$  which has a metric of positive Ricci curvature. One can define

$$(3) \quad V_{\max}(M^n, [g]) = \sup_{\bar{g} \in [g]} \{ \text{Vol}(M^n, \bar{g}) \mid \text{Ric}(\bar{g}) \geq (n-1)\bar{g} \}.$$

The following result relating  $V_{max}(M^n, [g])$  and the Yamabe constant of  $(M^n, [g])$  was observed in [5].

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $[g]$  be a conformal class of metrics on  $M^n$  which has a metric of positive Ricci curvature. Then the Yamabe constant of  $(M^n, [g])$  satisfies*

$$(4) \quad Y(M^n, [g]) \geq n(n-1)V_{max}(M^n, [g])^{\frac{2}{n}}.$$

*Proof.* By definition,

$$(5) \quad Y(M^n, [g]) = \inf_{v \in W^{1,2}(M)} \frac{\int_M [c_n |\nabla v|_{\bar{g}}^2 + R(\bar{g})v^2] dV_{\bar{g}}}{\left( \int_M v^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} dV_{\bar{g}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}}}$$

for any  $\bar{g} \in [g]$ , where  $c_n = \frac{4(n-1)}{n-2}$ .

Assume  $Ric(\bar{g}) \geq (n-1)\bar{g}$ , by a result of Ilias [7], which is based on the isoperimetric inequality of Gromov [9], we have

$$(6) \quad \int_M [c_n |\nabla v|_{\bar{g}}^2 + n(n-1)v^2] dV_{\bar{g}} \geq \left( \int_M v^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} dV_{\bar{g}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}} n(n-1)Vol(M^n, \bar{g})^{\frac{2}{n}}$$

for any  $v \in W^{1,2}(M)$ . Note that  $R(\bar{g}) \geq n(n-1)$ , hence

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} Y(M^n, [g]) &\geq \inf_{v \in W^{1,2}(M)} \frac{\int_M [c_n |\nabla v|_{\bar{g}}^2 + n(n-1)v^2] dV_{\bar{g}}}{\left( \int_M v^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} dV_{\bar{g}} \right)^{\frac{n-2}{n}}} \\ &\geq n(n-1)Vol(M^n, \bar{g})^{\frac{2}{n}}. \end{aligned}$$

Taking the supremum over  $\bar{g} \in [g]$  satisfying  $Ric(\bar{g}) \geq (n-1)\bar{g}$ , we have

$$(8) \quad Y(M^n, [g]) \geq n(n-1)V_{max}(M^n, [g])^{\frac{2}{n}}.$$

□

As an immediate corollary, we see the assumption

$$V_{max}(S^3, [g]) \geq \frac{1}{2}Vol(\mathbb{S}^3)$$

in the Theorem implies

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} Y(S^3, [g]) &\geq 6 \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} Vol(\mathbb{S}^3)^{\frac{2}{3}} \\ &= Y(RP^3, [g_0]), \end{aligned}$$

where  $RP^3$  is the three dimensional projective space and  $g_0$  is the standard metric on  $RP^3$  which has constant sectional curvature +1.

### 3. An upper bound of the Sobolev constant when a horizon is present

One basic fact relating the conformal class  $[g]$  on  $S^3$  and the blowing-up metric  $h = G^4 g$  on  $\mathbb{R}^3 = S^3 \setminus \{P\}$  is

$$(10) \quad Y(S^3, [g]) = 8S(h),$$

where  $S(h)$  is the Sobolev constant of the asymptotically flat manifold  $(\mathbb{R}^3, h)$  [3]. Recall  $S(h)$  is defined by

$$(11) \quad S(h) = \inf_{u \in W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3, h)} \left\{ \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|_h^2 dV_h}{\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u^6 dV_h\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}} \right\}.$$

The next proposition, which plays a key role in the derivation of the Theorem, was essentially established by Bray and Neves in [3] using the inverse mean curvature flow technique [6]. As the statement of Bray and Neves is different from what we need, we include the proof here.

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $h$  be a complete metric on  $\mathbb{R}^3$  such that  $(\mathbb{R}^3, h)$  is asymptotically flat. If  $(\mathbb{R}^3, h)$  has nonnegative scalar curvature and has a closed minimal surface, then*

$$(12) \quad S(h) < \frac{1}{8} Y(RP^3, [g_0]).$$

*Proof.* Since  $(\mathbb{R}^3, h)$  has a closed minimal surface, the *outermost* minimal surface  $\mathcal{S}$  in  $(\mathbb{R}^3, h)$ , i.e. the closed minimal surface that is not enclosed by any other minimal surface [2], exists and consists of a finite union of disjoint, embedded minimal two-spheres and projective planes. As our background manifold is  $\mathbb{R}^3$ ,  $\mathcal{S}$  must consist of embedded minimal two-spheres alone, furthermore each component of  $\mathcal{S}$  necessarily bounds a three-ball.

We fix a component  $\Sigma$  of  $\mathcal{S}$  and denote by  $\Omega$  the three-ball that  $\Sigma$  bounds in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Let  $\phi$  be the weak solution to the inverse mean curvature flow in  $(\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \Omega, h)$  with initial condition  $\Sigma$  [6].  $\phi$  satisfies

$$\phi \geq 0, \quad \phi|_{\Sigma} = 0, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \phi = \infty.$$

Let  $\Sigma_t$  be the set  $\partial\{u < t\}$  for  $t > 0$  and  $\Sigma_0$  be the starting surface  $\Sigma$ , then the family of surfaces  $\{\Sigma_t\}$  satisfies the following properties [6]:

- (1)  $\{\Sigma_t\}$  consists of  $C^{1,\alpha}$  surfaces. For a.e.  $t$ ,  $\Sigma_t$  has weak mean curvature  $H$  and  $H = |\nabla u|_h$  for a.e.  $x \in \Sigma_t$ .
- (2)  $|\Sigma_t| = e^t |\Sigma_0|$ , where  $|\Sigma_t|$  denotes the area of  $\Sigma_t$ .
- (3) Since  $(\mathbb{R}^3, h)$  has nonnegative scalar curvature,  $\Sigma$  is connected and  $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{\Omega}$  is simply connected, the Hawking quasi-local mass of  $\Sigma_t$ ,

$$m_H(\Sigma_t) = \sqrt{\frac{|\Sigma_t|}{16\pi}} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_{\Sigma_t} H^2 d\mu \right),$$

is monotone increasing. Here  $d\mu$  is the induced surface measure.

Now we restrict attention to functions  $u \in W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3, h)$  that have the form

$$(13) \quad u(x) = \begin{cases} f(0) & x \in \Omega \\ f(\phi(x)) & x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \Omega \end{cases}$$

for some  $C^1$  functions  $f(t)$  defined on  $[0, \infty)$ . By the coarea formula and Property 1 above, we have

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|_h^2 dV_h &= \int_0^\infty f'(t)^2 \left( \int_{\Sigma_t} H d\mu \right) dt \\ &\leq \int_0^\infty f'(t)^2 \sqrt{16\pi|\Sigma|(e^t - e^{\frac{t}{2}})} dt, \end{aligned}$$

where the inequality follows from Property 2, 3 and Hölder's inequality. Similarly, we have

$$(15) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u^6 dV_h &\geq \int_0^\infty f(t)^6 \left( \int_{\Sigma_t} H^{-1} d\mu \right) dt \\ &\geq \int_0^\infty f(t)^6 e^{2t} |\Sigma|^2 [16\pi|\Sigma|(e^t - e^{\frac{t}{2}})]^{-\frac{1}{2}} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$(16) \quad \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|_h^2 dV_h}{\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u^6 dV_h \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}} \leq \frac{(16\pi)^{\frac{2}{3}} \int_0^\infty f'(t)^2 (e^t - e^{\frac{t}{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}} dt}{\left( \int_0^\infty f(t)^6 e^{2t} (e^t - e^{\frac{t}{2}})^{-\frac{1}{2}} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}}.$$

To pick an optimal  $f(t)$  that minimizes the right side of (16), we consider the half spatial Schwarzschild manifold

$$(M^3, g_S) = (\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B_1(0), (1 + \frac{1}{|x|})^4 \delta_{ij})$$

and the quotient manifold  $(\tilde{M}^3, \tilde{g}_S)$  obtained from  $(M^3, g_S)$  by identifying the antipodal points of  $\{|x| = 1\}$ . Up to scaling,  $(\tilde{M}^3, \tilde{g}_S)$  is isometric to  $(RP^3 \setminus \{Q\}, G_0^4 g_0)$ , the blowing-up manifold of  $(RP^3, g_0)$  by its Green function at a point  $Q$ . Hence, the Sobolev constant  $S(\tilde{g}_S)$  of  $(\tilde{M}^3, \tilde{g}_S)$  equals  $\frac{1}{8}Y(RP^3, [g_0])$ . On the other hand,  $S(\tilde{g}_S)$  is achieved by a function  $u_0$  that is a constant on each coordinate sphere  $\{|x| = t\}$  in  $\tilde{M}$ , and the level set of the solution  $\phi_0$  to the inverse mean curvature flow starting at  $\{|x| = 1\}$  in  $(M, g_S)$  is also given by coordinate spheres. Therefore, lifted as a function on  $(M^3, g_S)$ ,  $u_0$  has the form of

$$u_0 = f_0 \circ \phi_0$$

for some explicitly determined function  $f_0(t)$ , and

$$(17) \quad S(\tilde{g}_S) = \frac{\int_M |\nabla u_0|_{g_S}^2 dV_{g_S}}{\left( \int_M u_0^6 dV_{g_S} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}} = \frac{(16\pi)^{\frac{2}{3}} \int_0^\infty f_0'(t)^2 (e^t - e^{\frac{t}{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}} dt}{\left( \int_0^\infty f_0(t)^6 e^{2t} (e^t - e^{\frac{t}{2}})^{-\frac{1}{2}} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}},$$

where the second equality holds because the Hawking quasi-local mass remains unchanged along the level sets of  $\phi_0$ . Now consider  $u = f_0 \circ \phi$  on  $(\mathbb{R}^3, h)$ . It was verified in [3] that  $u \in W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^3, h)$ . Therefore, we have

$$(18) \quad \begin{aligned} S(h) &\leq \frac{\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\nabla u|_h^2 dV_h}{\left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u^6 dV_h \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}} \leq \frac{(16\pi)^{\frac{2}{3}} \int_0^\infty f_0'(t)^2 (e^t - e^{\frac{t}{2}})^{\frac{1}{2}} dt}{\left( \int_0^\infty f_0(t)^6 e^{2t} (e^t - e^{\frac{t}{2}})^{-\frac{1}{2}} dt \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}} \\ &= S(\tilde{g}_S) = \frac{1}{8}Y(RP^3, [g_0]). \end{aligned}$$

To show the strict inequality, we assume  $S(h) = \frac{1}{8}Y(RP^3, [g_0])$ . Then,  $S(h)$  is achieved by  $u = f_0 \circ \phi$ . It follows from the Euler-Lagrange equation of the Sobolev functional (11) that  $u$  satisfies

$$(19) \quad \Delta_h u + Cu^5 = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^3,$$

where  $C = S(h)||u||_{L^6(\mathbb{R}^3, h)}^{-4}$ . However,  $u \equiv f_0(0)$  on  $\Omega$  and  $f_0(0) \neq 0$  (Indeed, up to a constant multiple,  $f_0(t) = (2e^t - e^{\frac{t}{2}})^{-\frac{1}{2}} [3]$ ). Hence,  $C = 0$ , which contradicts to the fact that  $u$  is not a constant. Therefore, the strict inequality  $S(h) < \frac{1}{8}Y(RP^3, [g_0])$  holds.  $\square$

*Proof of the Theorem:* Suppose  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4 g)$  has a horizon, then it follows from (10) and Proposition 2 that

$$(20) \quad Y(S^3, [g]) < Y(RP^3, [g_0]).$$

On the other hand, the assumption  $V_{\max}(S^3, [g]) \geq \frac{1}{2}Vol(\mathbb{S}^3)$  implies

$$(21) \quad Y(S^3, [g]) \geq Y(RP^3, [g_0])$$

by (9), which is a contradiction. Hence, there are no horizons in  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G^4 g)$ .  $\square$

#### 4. An example with horizons

In this section, we provide an example to show that there exist metrics on  $S^3$  with positive Ricci curvature such that the blowing-up manifolds do have horizons.

Our example comes from a 1-parameter family of left-invariant metrics  $\{g_\epsilon\}$  on  $S^3$ , commonly known as the *Berger metrics*. Precisely, we think  $S^3$  as the Lie Group

$$SU(2) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} z & -w \\ \bar{w} & \bar{z} \end{pmatrix} : |z|^2 + |w|^2 = 1 \right\},$$

where the Lie algebra of  $SU(2)$  is spanned by

$$X_1 = \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{pmatrix}, \quad X_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad X_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then  $\{g_\epsilon\}$  is defined by declaring  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  to be orthogonal,  $X_1$  to have length  $\epsilon$  and  $X_2, X_3$  to be unit vectors. Note that scalar multiplication on  $S^3 \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  corresponds to multiplication on the left by matrices  $\begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\theta} \end{pmatrix}$  on  $SU(2)$ , hence  $X_1$  is exactly tangent to the circle fiber of the *Hopf fibration*

$$\pi : S^3 \longrightarrow S^2 = S^3/S^1$$

and  $g_\epsilon$  shrinks the circle fiber as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . One fact of  $g_\epsilon$  for small  $\epsilon$  is that all sectional curvature of  $(S^3, g_\epsilon)$  lies in the interval  $[\epsilon^2, 4 - 3\epsilon^2]$  (see [10]), in particular  $g_\epsilon$  has positive Ricci curvature.

**Proposition 3.** *Let  $P \in S^3$  be a fixed point and  $G_\epsilon$  be the Green's function of the conformal Laplacian of  $g_\epsilon$  at  $P$ . Then  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, G_\epsilon^4 g_\epsilon)$  has a horizon for  $\epsilon$  sufficiently small.*

*Proof.* For each  $\epsilon \in (0, 1]$ , we consider the rescaled metric  $\bar{g}_\epsilon = \epsilon^{-2}g_\epsilon$  and the Green's function  $\bar{G}_\epsilon$  associated to  $\bar{g}_\epsilon$  at  $P$ . Then, with respect to  $\bar{g}_\epsilon$ ,  $X_1$  becomes a unit vector and  $X_2, X_3$  have large length  $\epsilon^{-1}$  as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . Let  $U \subset S^3$  be a fixed neighborhood of  $P$  such that  $\pi|_U$  is a trivial fibration. Let  $O$  be a fixed point in the product manifold  $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ . By a scaling argument, there exists a family of diffeomorphisms

$$\Psi_\epsilon : U \longrightarrow \Psi_\epsilon(U) \subset S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2,$$

such that  $\Psi_\epsilon(P) = O \in \Psi_\epsilon(U)$ ,  $\{\Psi_\epsilon(U)\}_{1 \geq \epsilon > 0}$  forms an exhaustion family of  $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$  as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , and the push forward metrics  $\hat{g}_\epsilon = \Psi_\epsilon^{-1*}(\bar{g}_\epsilon|_U)$  on  $\Psi_\epsilon(U)$  converge in  $C^2$  norm on compact sets to a flat metric  $\hat{g}$  on  $S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ . Now fix another point  $Q \in \Psi_1(U)$  that is different from  $O$  and consider the normalized function

$$(22) \quad \hat{G}_\epsilon(x) = \frac{\bar{G}_\epsilon \circ \Psi_\epsilon^{-1}(x)}{\bar{G}_\epsilon \circ \Psi_\epsilon^{-1}(Q)}$$

for  $x \in \Psi_\epsilon(U) \setminus \{O\}$ . Then  $\hat{G}_\epsilon$  satisfies

$$(23) \quad \begin{cases} 8\Delta_{\hat{g}_\epsilon} \hat{G}_\epsilon - R(\hat{g}_\epsilon) \hat{G}_\epsilon &= 0 \text{ on } \Psi_\epsilon(U) \setminus \{O\} \\ \hat{G}_\epsilon &= 1 \text{ at } Q \end{cases}.$$

Since  $\hat{G}_\epsilon$  is positive and  $\hat{g}_\epsilon$  converges to  $\hat{g}$  as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , it follows from the Harnack inequality that  $\hat{G}_\epsilon$  converges to a positive function  $\hat{G}$  on  $(S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2) \setminus \{O\}$  in  $C^2$  norm on any compact set away from  $\{O\}$ . Furthermore,  $\hat{G}$  satisfies

$$(24) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta_{\hat{g}} \hat{G} &= 0 \text{ on } (S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2) \setminus \{O\} \\ \hat{G} &= 1 \text{ at } Q \end{cases}.$$

On the other hand, the fact that the geodesic ball in  $(S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2, \hat{g})$  only has quadratic volume growth implies  $(S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2, \hat{g})$  does not have a positive Green's function for the usual Laplacian  $\Delta_{\hat{g}}$  [4]. Therefore,  $\hat{G} \equiv 1$  on  $(S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2) \setminus \{O\}$ . Hence, the metrics  $\hat{G}_\epsilon^4 \hat{g}_\epsilon$  converge to  $\hat{g}$  in  $C^2$  norm on any compact set away from  $\{O\}$ . Now let  $V \subset S^1 \times \mathbb{R}^2$  be a small open ball containing  $O$  such that  $\partial V$  is an embedded two sphere whose mean curvature vector computed with respect to  $\hat{g}$  points towards  $O$ . Then, for sufficiently small  $\epsilon$ , the mean curvature vector of  $\partial V$  computed with respect to  $\hat{G}_\epsilon^4 \hat{g}_\epsilon$  still points towards  $O$ . As  $(\Psi_\epsilon(U), \hat{G}_\epsilon^4 \hat{g}_\epsilon)$  is isometric to  $(U, \bar{G}_\epsilon^4 \bar{g}_\epsilon)$ , the mean curvature vector of the boundary of  $\Psi_\epsilon^{-1}(V)$  in  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, \bar{G}_\epsilon^4 \bar{g}_\epsilon)$  must point towards the blowing-up point  $P$ . On the other hand, as  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, \bar{G}_\epsilon^4 \bar{g}_\epsilon)$  is asymptotically flat, its infinity is foliated by two spheres whose mean curvature vector points away from  $P$ . Therefore, it follows from standard geometric measure theory that there exists an embedded minimal two sphere in  $\Psi_\epsilon(V)$ , hence  $(S^3 \setminus \{P\}, \bar{G}_\epsilon^4 \bar{g}_\epsilon)$  has a horizon.  $\square$

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