

## Article

# Inflation inside Non-Topological Defects and Scalar Black Holes

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we demonstrate that a phenomenon described as *topological inflation*, during which inflation occurs inside the core of topological defects, has a non-topological counterpart. This appears in a simple set-up containing Einstein gravity coupled minimally to an electromagnetic field as well as a self-interacting, complex valued scalar field. The U(1) symmetry of the model is unbroken and leads to the existence of globally regular solutions, so-called boson stars, that develop a horizon for sufficiently strong gravitational coupling. We also find that the same phenomenon exists for black holes with scalar hair.

**Keywords:** black holes; scalar fields; boson stars



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## 1. Introduction

The theory of General Relativity (GR) is the best tested theory of gravity developed up to date. The classical tests, within the solar system, where the deviations from Newtonian gravity are small, helped to promote GR to one of the fundamental theories of nature. For strong gravitational fields, i.e., when the deviations from Newtonian gravity become important, observations and tests have now become available. An excellent laboratory to consider strong gravitational field effects are black holes (BHs) and neutron stars (NSs). It is a common belief that BHs are “simpler” to describe than NSs partly due to the lack of knowledge of the equation of state of the matter making up the NS. BHs, in fact, are still believed to follow the so-called no-hair conjecture [1], which states that all stationary asymptotically flat BHs are fully characterized by global charges associated with a Gauss law. There are numerous counter-examples for the conjecture when considering nonlinear matter fields. However, the situation for scalar fields is very different. A number of no-scalar-hair theorems were put forward (see [2] for a recent review) and scalar fields, apparently, should be trivial around a stationary and asymptotically flat BH spacetime.

One process where a scalar field can become non-trivial in a BH spacetime is through spontaneous scalarization. It was first discussed in a scalar-tensor theory of gravity around a NS [3], in which the scalar field couples to the trace of the energy-momentum tensor and can obtain non-vanishing values even if its asymptotic value is zero. The corresponding phenomenon has gained considerable attention in black hole physics [4].

The view on no-hair theorems for minimally coupled scalar fields has changed since the discovery of hairy Kerr BHs in a model where a massive complex scalar field is minimally coupled to gravity [5,6]. To circumvent the no-scalar-hair theorems, it is necessary to assume a harmonic dependence on the time and azimuth coordinates. Then, the so-called synchronization condition  $\omega/m = \Omega_H$  must be imposed, where  $\omega$  is the scalar field frequency,  $m$  an integer, and  $\Omega_H$  the horizon angular velocity. The configuration of the

test scalar field outside the event horizon was dubbed “scalar cloud” and when taking backreaction into account leads to the existence of hairy Kerr BH solutions. As the horizon radius approaches zero, the solution is reduced to a spinning *boson star*.

Boson stars (BSs) are regular, stationary, and localized solutions to the Einstein–Klein–Gordon system of equations, formed by a complex scalar field with a continuous U(1) symmetry, which gives rise to a globally conserved Noether charge. They are the self-gravitating counterparts of Q-balls [7].

Their size can range from the atomic scale up to the size of supermassive BHs, depending on the choice of the scalar potential (see [8] for a review), and can be used as models for dark matter particles [9] and BH mimickers [10], for example. The absence of an event horizon, however, can lead to significant changes in the propagation of light rays when compared to the spacetime of a BH [11]. Charged BSs were studied in [12] for a self-interacting scalar potential whose motivation comes from supersymmetric extensions of the standard model and, originally, uncharged Q-balls had been discussed [13–15]. A combination of the attractive effects of gravity and the repulsive effects of electromagnetism can render the charged BS stable. Most work that deals with boson stars is concerned with infinitely extended boson stars, e.g., also when considering these compact objects as black hole mimickers. Moreover, the boson stars that are actually compact do need a very specific potential that is not differentiable at vanishing scalar field value; see, e.g., [16]. In this latter case, the exterior of the boson star would simply be given by the Schwarzschild solution with a scalar field identically zero. Thus, in this paper, we consider only the boson stars with scalar field falling off exponentially at infinity.

Further studies concerning scalar clouds were considered subsequently for Reissner–Nordström (RN) spacetime [17], where, for a non-trivial configuration of the gauged scalar field, it was shown that it is necessary to add self-interactions in the scalar potential and the resonance condition to be satisfied,  $\omega = qV(r_h)$ , where  $q$  is the scalar coupling constant and  $V(r_h)$  the electric potential on the horizon.

Gauged scalar clouds in the Schwarzschild BH were considered in [17,18]. In this case, the background is fixed by the Schwarzschild metric and the differential equations for the electric potential and the scalar field are coupled. It was shown that the scalar clouds exist for some range in the gauge coupling, and it was also found numerically in [18] that two different solutions exist for the same values of the gauge coupling constant and the electric potential at infinity. When backreaction is taken into account, the solutions exist up to a maximal value of the gravitational constant and lead to two distinct situations: (i) an extremal BH with a diverging derivative of the scalar field at the horizon and (ii) a RN–de Sitter solution with a screened electric charge.

In this paper, we extend the results of [18] to include globally regular space-times with the same matter field content. The corresponding solutions are charged Q-balls (in a Minkowski space-time) and boson stars. In the following, we will demonstrate that the phenomenon described above doesn’t depend on the details of the scalar self-interaction or on the fact that the space-time possesses a priori a horizon. Our paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, we discuss the model and equations of motion, while Section 3 contains our results on black hole and globally regular space-times, respectively. We end with a discussion in Section 4.

## 2. Model

Here, we will discuss solutions to the following (3+1)-dimensional model :

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{L} \quad , \quad \mathcal{L} = \frac{\mathcal{R}}{16\pi G} - (D_\mu \Psi)^* D^\mu \Psi - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - U(|\Psi|) \quad . \quad (1)$$

This is the Einstein–Hilbert action with  $\mathcal{R}$  the Ricci scalar and  $G$  Newton’s constant minimally coupled to a complex valued scalar field  $\Psi$  that is charged under a U(1) gauge field  $A_\mu$ .  $D_\mu = \partial_\mu - iqA_\mu$  is the covariant derivative of the scalar field and  $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$  the field strength tensor of the U(1) gauge field. The scalar field potential  $U(|\Psi|)$  will

turn out to be a crucial ingredient in our construction in the following. We will choose the potential as follows [13,14] :

$$U(|\Psi|) = \mu^2 \eta^2 \left[ 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{|\Psi|^2}{\eta^2}\right) \right], \quad (2)$$

where  $\mu$  corresponds to the mass of the scalar field and  $\eta$  is an energy scale.

In the following, we are interested in spherically symmetric and stationary solutions. The Ansatz for the metric is:

$$ds^2 = -N(r)(\sigma(r))^2 dt^2 + \frac{1}{N(r)} dr^2 + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2), \quad N(r) = 1 - \frac{2m(r)}{r}, \quad (3)$$

while the matter fields are chosen according to :

$$\Psi(r, t) = \eta e^{i\tilde{\omega}t} \psi(r), \quad A_0 = \eta V(r) \quad (4)$$

with  $\tilde{\omega}$  a real constant. Note that, although the scalar field is time-dependent, the associated energy-momentum tensor is static and hence likewise the space-time. Defining the following dimensionless quantities

$$x = \mu r, \quad \omega = \frac{\tilde{\omega}}{\mu}, \quad e = \frac{\eta q}{\mu}, \quad \alpha = 4\pi G \eta^2 \quad (5)$$

the equations resulting from the variation of the action (1) depend only on  $e$  and  $\alpha$  and read (with the prime denoting derivative with respect to  $x$ ) :

$$m' = \alpha x^2 \left[ \frac{V'^2}{2\sigma^2} + N\psi'^2 + U(\psi) + \frac{(\omega - eV)^2}{N\sigma^2} \psi^2 \right] \quad (6)$$

$$\sigma' = 2\alpha x \sigma \left[ \psi'^2 + \frac{(\omega - eV)^2}{N^2\sigma^2} \psi^2 \right] \quad (7)$$

for the metric functions and

$$V'' + \left( \frac{2}{x} - \frac{\sigma'}{\sigma} \right) V' + \frac{2(\omega - eV)\psi^2}{N} = 0 \quad (8)$$

$$\psi'' + \left( \frac{2}{x} + \frac{N'}{N} + \frac{\sigma'}{\sigma} \right) \psi' + \frac{(\omega - eV)^2 \psi}{N^2\sigma^2} - \frac{1}{2N} \frac{dU}{d\psi} = 0. \quad (9)$$

for the matter fields. As is obvious, these equations depend only on the combination  $\omega - eV(x)$ . Note that the Lagrangian density and with it the energy density are now given in units of  $\eta^2 \mu^2$ .

The asymptotic behaviour of the metric and matter field functions is:

$$N(x \gg 1) = 1 - \frac{2M}{x} + \frac{\alpha Q^2}{x^2} + \dots, \quad \sigma(x \gg 1) = 1 + \mathcal{O}(x^{-4}), \quad (10)$$

$$V(x) = V_\infty - \frac{Q}{x} + \dots, \quad \psi(x \rightarrow \infty) \sim \frac{\exp(-\mu_{\text{eff},\infty} x)}{x} + \dots, \quad \mu_{\text{eff},\infty} = \sqrt{1 - \Omega^2}, \quad (11)$$

where  $\Omega^2 := (\omega - eV_\infty)^2$ .  $M$  and  $Q$  denote the (dimensionless) mass and electric charge of the solution, respectively.  $V_\infty$  can be understood to be a “chemical potential”, i.e., the resistance of the system against the addition of extra charges  $e$  to the system. Note that the scalar field possesses an effective mass  $\mu_{\text{eff}}$  smaller than the bare mass of the scalar field, which—in our dimensionless units—is equal to unity.

Next to the electric charge, the solutions possess a Noether charge which results from the unbroken U(1) symmetry of the system. This reads :

$$Q_N = \int dx \frac{2x^2 e v \psi^2}{N \sigma} . \quad (12)$$

This quantity can be interpreted as the number of scalar bosons that make up the solution. For globally regular solutions  $eQ_N \equiv Q$ , while, for black holes,  $Q = eQ_N - E_x(x_h)x_h^2/\sigma(x_h)$ , where  $E_x(x) = -V'(x)$  is the radial electric field of the solution. The second term in this equality is the horizon electric charge and is the consequences of the fact that the horizon corresponds to a surface on which boundary conditions have to be imposed. Finally, the temperature  $T_H$  and entropy  $S$  of the black hole solutions are given by

$$T_H = (4\pi)^{-1} \sigma(x_h) N'|_{x=x_h} , \quad S = \pi x_h^2 . \quad (13)$$

The energy-density  $\epsilon$ , radial pressure  $p_r$ , and tangential pressure  $p_\theta = p_\phi$ , respectively, read :

$$\epsilon = -T_t^t = \epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2 + \epsilon_3 + U(\psi) \quad (14)$$

$$p_r = T_r^r = -\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2 + \epsilon_3 - U(\psi) \quad (15)$$

$$p_\theta = T_\theta^\theta = \epsilon_1 - \epsilon_2 + \epsilon_3 - U(\psi) . \quad (16)$$

with

$$\epsilon_1 = \frac{V'^2}{2\sigma^2} , \quad \epsilon_2 = N\psi'^2 , \quad \epsilon_3 = \frac{(\omega - eV)^2 \psi^2}{N\sigma^2} . \quad (17)$$

### 3. Results

In the following, we will discuss the different types of solutions to the equations of motions (7)–(9). We will start with the discussion of black holes, for which we have integrated the equations between  $x = x_h$ , i.e., the horizon and infinity, respectively. The solutions correspond to Schwarzschild black holes endowed with charged scalar clouds, so-called *Q*-clouds, when neglecting the backreaction of the cloud on the space-time, otherwise to charged black holes with scalar hair. We will also discuss globally regular solutions that exist on  $x \in [0 : \infty)$ . Without and with backreaction, these are charged *Q*-balls and charged boson stars, respectively.

#### 3.1. Black Hole Solutions

Here, we will discuss space-times that contain a horizon. We begin by discussing *Q*-clouds on Schwarzschild black holes and will demonstrate that the results obtained in [18] are not specific to the form of the scalar potential and that the existence of two branches of *Q*-cloud solutions can also be observed when considering a potential of the form (2). We will then discuss the backreaction of these two different branches of solutions onto the space-time.

##### 3.1.1. Solutions without Scalar Fields

Without scalar fields  $\psi \equiv 0$ , the equations of motion have well-known black hole solutions. These are the uncharged Schwarzschild ( $Q = 0$ ) and the charged Reissner–Nordström solution, respectively:

$$N(x) = 1 - \frac{2M}{x} - \frac{\alpha Q^2}{x^2} , \quad \sigma \equiv 1 , \quad V(x) = \frac{Q}{x_h} - \frac{Q}{x} . \quad (18)$$

The horizon(s) of this space-time are  $x_\pm = M \pm \sqrt{M^2 - \alpha Q^2}$ . For the Reissner–Nordström solution, there exists a so-called *extremal limit*, the limit of maximal possible charge for the black hole, which is  $x_+ = x_- = M = \sqrt{\alpha}Q$ . Note that we have chosen  $V(x_h) = 0$  here, such that  $V_\infty = Q/x_h$ .

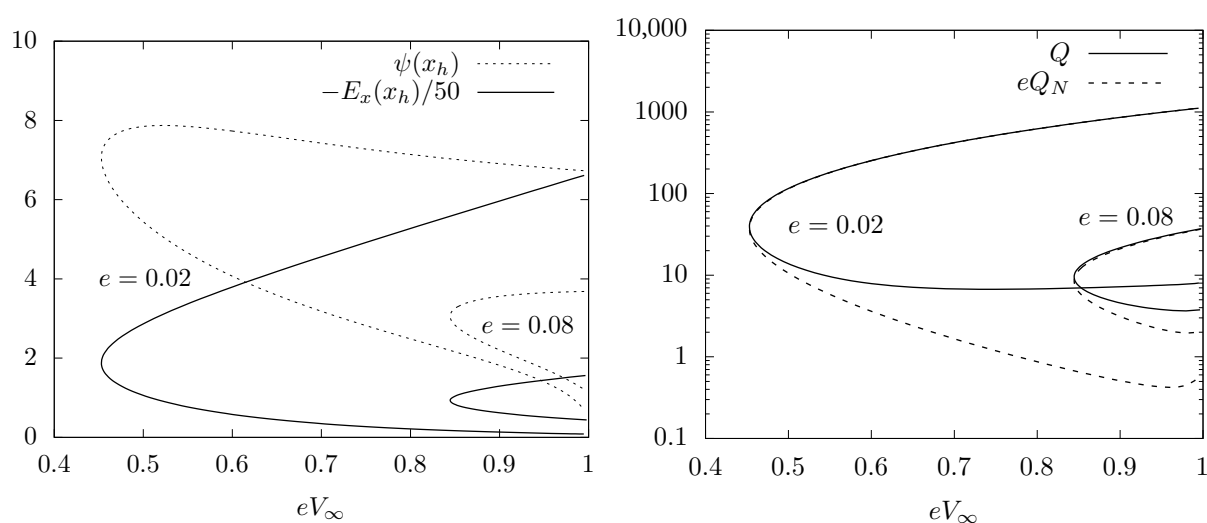
### 3.1.2. Q-Clouds on Schwarzschild Black Holes

In this section, we consider the equations of the matter fields in the background of a Schwarzschild black hole, i.e., we set  $\alpha = 0$  and let  $\sigma \equiv 1$ ,  $N = 1 - x_h/x$ , where  $x_h$  is the event horizon radius. In order to ensure regularity of the matter fields on the horizon, we need to impose :

$$\psi'(x_h) = \frac{x_h}{2} \frac{dU}{d\psi}(\psi(x_h)) , \quad V(x_h) = 0 , \quad \psi(x \rightarrow \infty) = 0 , \quad V(x \rightarrow \infty) = V_\infty . \quad (19)$$

Note that  $V(x_h) = 0$  is a gauge choice implying  $\omega = 0$  and hence  $\Omega = eV_\infty$ . This is the so-called synchronization condition necessary for the scalar field to be non-trivial in the black hole background.

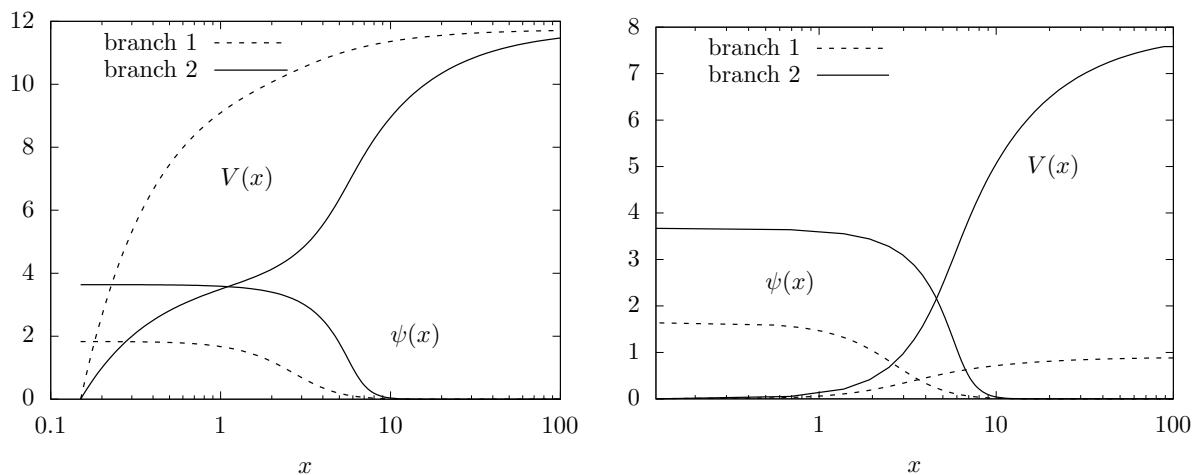
In Figure 1 (left), we give the value of the scalar field  $\psi$  as well as the radial electric field  $E_x$  on the horizon for  $x_h = 0.15$  and two different values of  $e$  dependent on  $eV_\infty$ . We also give the electric charge  $Q$  as well as the electric charge contained in  $Q_N$  charges  $e$  in this figure (right). This demonstrates that charged Q-clouds exist on a finite interval of  $\Omega \in [\Omega_{\min} : 1]$  and that, for each choice of  $eV_\infty$ , two solutions with different mass  $M$ , electric charge  $Q$ , and Noether charge  $Q_N$  exist. On the first branch of solutions, starting at  $eV_\infty = 1$  (which is the threshold for the electric potential to be able to create scalar particles of mass unity) and decreasing  $eV_\infty$ , the scalar field on the horizon  $\psi(x_h)$  increases up to a maximal value. With it, the radial electric field on the horizon,  $E_x(x_h)$ , decreases in absolute value. Moreover, the electric charge  $Q$  and the Noether charge  $Q_N$  increase.  $eV_\infty$  can be decreased to a minimal value that depends on  $e$  and increases with the increase of  $e$ . Increasing  $eV_\infty$  again from this minimal value, a second branch of charged Q-clouds exist that extends all the way back to  $eV_\infty = 1$ . On this second branch, the scalar field on the horizon decreases and with it the absolute value of the electric field on the horizon when increasing  $eV_\infty$ . Interesting, we observe that on this second branch of solutions nearly all electric charge seems to be contained in the  $Q_N$  scalar bosons which each carry charge  $e$ , while the horizon electric charge decreases indicated by the decreasing electric field on the horizon. Hence, moving along the branches stores increasingly electric charge in the scalar cloud and moves it away from the black hole horizon. Figure 1 (right) further demonstrates that  $eQ_N$  is approximately equal to  $Q$  on the second branch, while on the first branch we find  $eQ_N < Q$ .



**Figure 1.** Left: We show the value of the scalar field  $\psi$  (dashed) and the radial electric field  $E_x$  (solid) on the horizon dependent on  $eV_\infty \equiv \Omega$  for  $x_h = 0.15$  and two different values of  $e$ . Right: We show the values of the electric charge  $Q$  (solid) and the charge contained in  $Q_N$  charges  $e$ ,  $eQ_N$ , (dashed) dependent on  $eV_\infty \equiv \Omega$  for the same solutions.

In Figure 2 (left), we show the profiles of the scalar field function  $\psi(x)$  and the gauge field function  $V(x)$  for the two  $Q$ -cloud solutions available for  $e = 0.08$ ,  $eV_\infty \equiv \Omega = 0.94$  and  $x_h = 0.15$ .

When fixing  $V_\infty$  and varying  $e$ , we find that—again—two branches of solutions exist. These two branches join at a minimal value of the gauge coupling,  $e_{\min}$ , and exist both up to  $e_{\max} = 1/V_\infty$  where the effective mass  $\mu_{\text{eff},\infty}$  of the scalar field becomes zero. The minimal value of  $e$  has to be determined numerically and we find that  $e_{\min} \approx 0.088$  for  $V_\infty = 10$  and  $e_{\min} \approx 0.109$  for  $V_\infty = 8.8$ , respectively. In other words, the potential difference between the horizon and infinity, i.e., the chemical potential, needs to be large enough to support the scalar cloud.

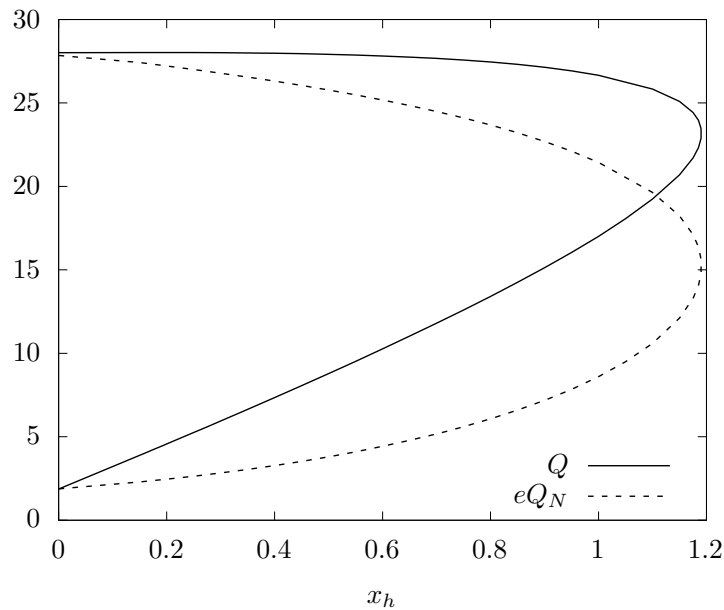


**Figure 2.** **Left:** Profiles of the scalar field  $\psi(x)$  and the gauge potential  $V(x)$  for the two possible  $Q$ -cloud solutions on Schwarzschild black holes with  $x_h = 0.15$ ,  $e = 0.08$ , and  $eV_\infty = \Omega = 0.94$ . **Right:** Profiles of the scalar field  $\psi(x)$  and the gauge potential  $V(x)$  for the two possible  $Q$ -ball solutions for  $e = 0.08$  and  $\Omega = 0.94$ .

Another interesting question is to understand how the surface area, i.e., the entropy of the background Schwarzschild black hole influences the observations we have made. We have hence fixed  $e$  and  $V_\infty$  and studied the solutions for varying event horizon radius  $x_h$ . Our results are shown in Figure 3, where we give the electric charge  $Q$  as well as the electric charge contained in the  $Q_N$  scalar bosons that make up the cloud dependent on the event horizon radius  $x_h$ . Again, we obtain two branches of solutions. We find that the black hole needs to be sufficiently small in order to allow for the scalar clouds to exist. For the particular choice of parameters here, we find that the maximal possible event horizon radius is  $x_h \approx 1.2$ . Remembering the rescaling (5), this means that  $r_h < 1.2\lambda_{C,\mu}$ , where  $\lambda_{C,\mu} = 1/\mu$  is the Compton wavelength of the bare scalar field. This implies that we would need an *ultra-light scalar field* in order for the phenomenon of  $Q$ -cloud formation to be relevant for astrophysical black holes. e.g., for  $\mu = 10^{-10}$  eV, the maximal possible event horizon radius for  $Q$ -clouds to exist would be  $\approx 2.4$  km, the approximate size of a solar mass black hole. We find that, when varying  $eV_\infty$ , the maximal radius can double or triple. However, it stays the same order of magnitude.

As a final remark, let us mention that, in the limit  $x_h \rightarrow 0$ , we find that  $Q \rightarrow eQ_N$ . This is not surprising since globally regular counterparts to the solutions discussed above exist. These are charged  $Q$ -balls (without backreaction of the space-time) and charged boson stars (with backreaction), respectively. Moreover, Figure 3 indicates that, also in the regular limit, two different types of solutions should exist when fixing  $e$  and  $V_\infty$ . This is what we will discuss in Section 3.2.





**Figure 3.** We show the electric charge  $Q$  and the electric charge contained in  $Q_N$  charges  $e$  of  $Q$ -clouds on Schwarzschild black holes with  $x_h = 0.15$  and for  $e = 0.08$ ,  $V_\infty = 11.75$ , i.e.,  $\Omega = eV_\infty = 0.94$ .

### 3.1.3. Backreaction of $Q$ -Clouds

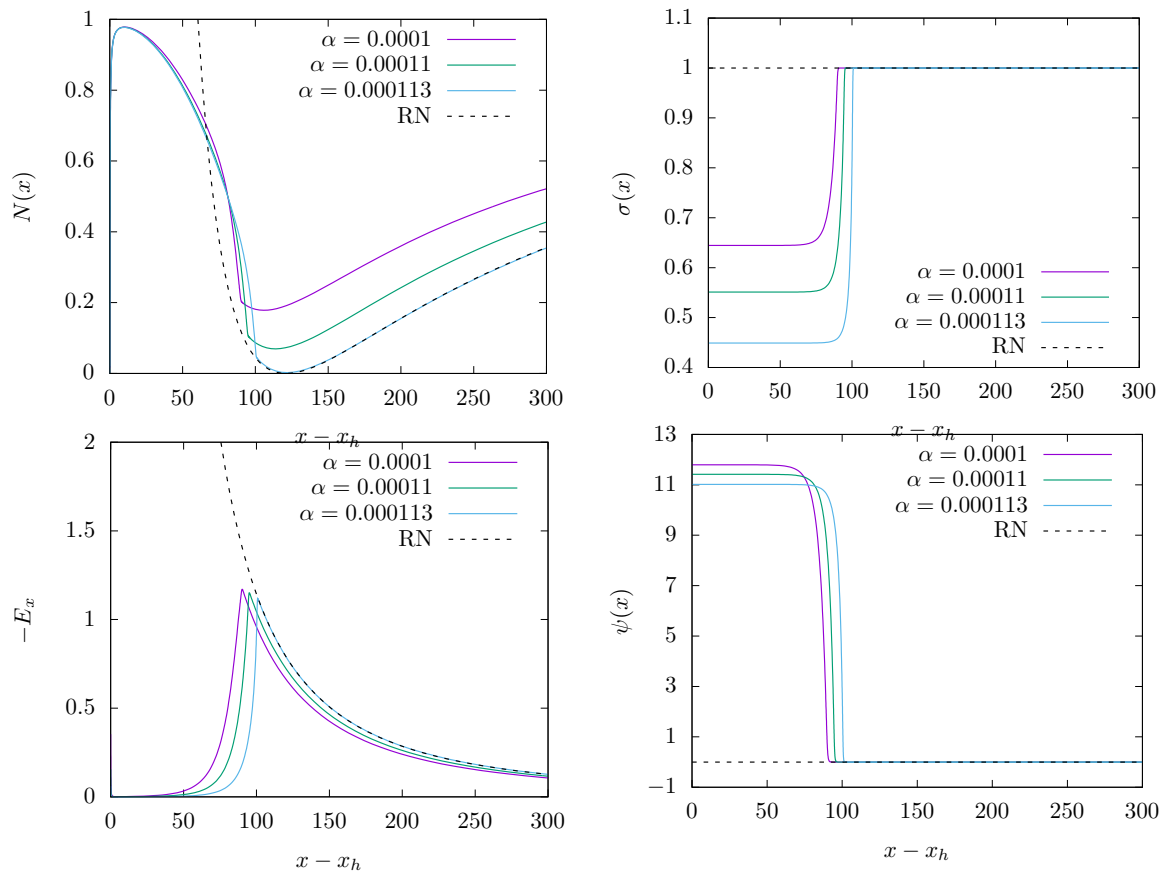
For  $\alpha > 0$ , the  $Q$ -clouds backreact on the space-time and modify the original Schwarzschild black hole. The result is a charged black hole which carries scalar hair on its horizon. Note that the existence of these solutions does not contradict no-hair theorems due to the specific form of the scalar field potential. In [18], the same model as in this paper has been discussed, however, for a  $\psi^6$ -self-interaction potential. It was noticed that, when approaching the critical value of the gravitational coupling for solutions on the second branch of solutions (those with larger values of  $\psi(x)$ ), the black holes form a second horizon. This second horizon can be interpreted as the horizon of an extremal RN solution. Here, we find that this is also true when considering an exponential-type potential for the scalar field. We show the approach to criticality for the metric and matter field functions in Figure 4 for  $\Omega = 0.6$  and  $x_h = 0.15$ . We find that, at a critical value of  $\alpha = \alpha_{cr}$ , the solution forms a second horizon at  $x = x_h^{(ex)}$  that agrees with the value of an extremal horizon of the corresponding RN solution. Our numerical results indicate that  $x_h^{(ex)} \approx M \approx \sqrt{\alpha}Q \approx 121$  for our choice of couplings.

The question then remains how these solutions can be interpreted and why they exist. In fact, this can be understood when considering the energy density components, see (17). In Figure 5 (left), we plot the different components very close to the critical value of  $\alpha = \alpha_{cr} \approx 0.000113$ . Clearly, the scalar field energy  $U(\psi)$  dominates all the other energy momentum components up to a radius  $x \approx \tilde{x}$ , with  $\tilde{x}$  on the order of 100 for this particular choice of  $\alpha$  and  $\Omega$ . This means that the energy-momentum tensor is approximately of the form  $T_\mu^\nu = \text{diag}(\epsilon, p, p, p)$ , where  $\epsilon = -p = U(\psi)$ . This is the energy of a perfect fluid that has the equation of state of a positive cosmological constant. In fact, assuming that  $U(\psi) = U_0$  dominates the energy density up to  $x = \tilde{x}$ , we can integrate the equation for  $m$  to get

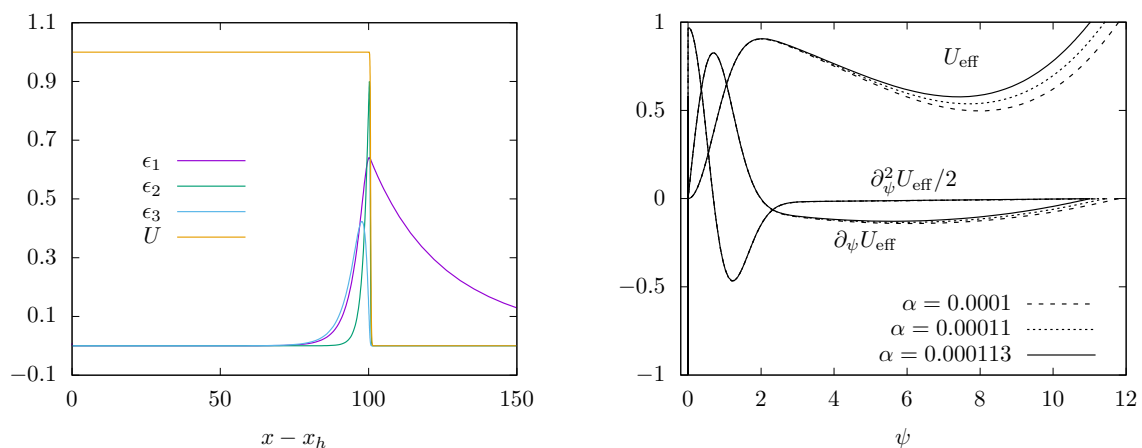
$$N_{cr}(x) \approx 1 - \frac{2}{3}\alpha U_0 x^2, \quad (20)$$

while  $\sigma = \sigma_0 \neq 0$ . This is a space-time with a positive cosmological constant  $\Lambda = 2\alpha U_0$ . For our choice of potential,  $U_0 = 1$ . Using  $\alpha_{cr} \approx 0.000113$ , the cosmological horizon of this solution would be at  $x = x_c \approx 115 \approx \tilde{x}$ . This is not equal to the value of the extremal horizon  $x_h^{(ex)}$ . This is different to what is found in the case of inflating monopoles (see

e.g., [19,20]) or BH solutions with scalar hair in a scalar-tensor gravity model (see [21] in this issue), where  $x_c = x_h^{(\text{ex})}$ . We rather find a “transition zone” between  $\tilde{x}$  and the extremal RN solution that is of finite thickness—in our dimensionless coordinates,  $\Delta x := x_h^{(\text{ex})} - \tilde{x} = \mathcal{O}(10)$ .



**Figure 4.** We show the approach to critically for a back hole with charged scalar hair for  $\Omega = 0.6$  and  $x_h = 0.15$ .



**Figure 5.** **Left:** We show the profiles of the energy density components (see (17)) for  $x_h = 0.15$ ,  $\Omega = 0.6$  and close to the critical value of  $\alpha$ ,  $\alpha_{cr} \approx 0.000113$ . **Right:** We show the effective potential  $U_{\text{eff}} = U - \frac{(\omega - eV)^2}{N\sigma^2}\psi^2$  and the first ( $\partial_\psi U_{\text{eff}}$ ) and second derivative ( $\partial_\psi^2 U_{\text{eff}}$ ) with respect to  $\psi$  at the approach to criticality for  $x_h = 0.15$  and  $\Omega = 0.6$ .



Figure 5 (right) further demonstrates that the reason for the existence of these solutions is related to the coupling of the scalar field to the electromagnetic field. The “bare” potential  $U(\psi)$  does not possess extrema away from  $\psi = 0$ , while the effective potential  $U_{\text{eff}} = U(\psi) - \frac{(\omega - eV)^2}{N\sigma^2}\psi^2$  does. For  $\alpha$  close to  $\alpha_{cr}$  and  $\Omega = 0.6$ , there exists a local minimum for  $\psi = \mathcal{O}(10)$ . This is the value that  $\psi$  takes on the horizon and up to  $x \approx x_c$ . Moreover, the first and second derivative of the effective potential with respect to  $\psi$ ,  $\partial_\psi U_{\text{eff}}$  and  $\partial_\psi^2 U_{\text{eff}}$ , respectively, are smaller than the potential itself close to this value of  $\psi$ . Hence, the effective potential is sufficiently “flat” to allow for inflation.

### 3.2. Globally Regular Solutions

For globally regular solutions, we have to impose boundary conditions at the origin  $x = 0$  which ensure regularity. These are

$$m(0) = 0, \quad V(0) = 0, \quad V'|_{x=0} = 0, \quad \psi'|_{x=0} = 0. \quad (21)$$

The condition  $V(0) = 0$  is, in fact, a gauge choice. At spatial infinity, the boundary conditions are chosen such that the solution is asymptotically flat and has finite energy. They read:

$$\psi(x \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow 0, \quad N(x \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow 1. \quad (22)$$

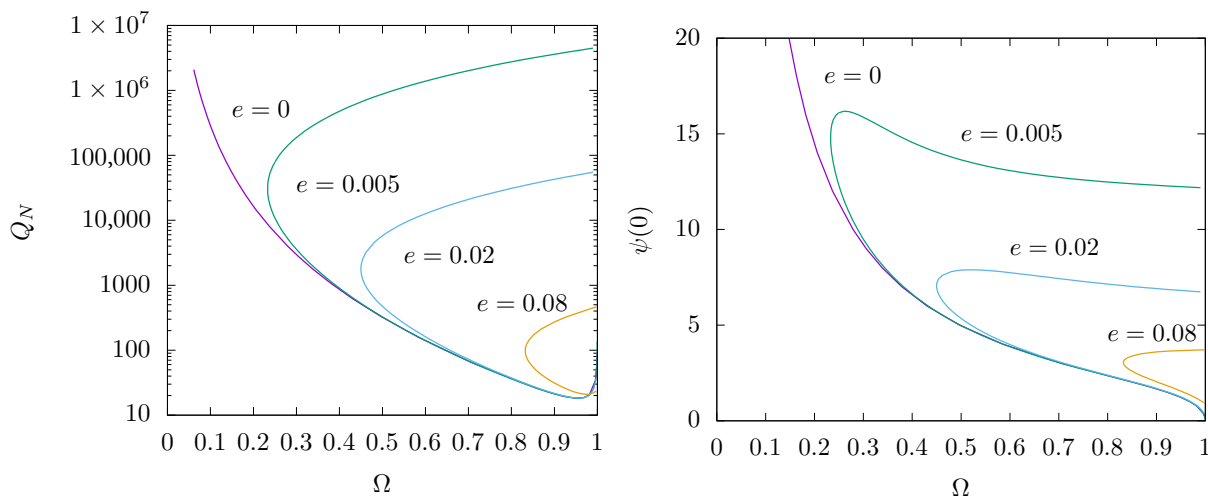
Note, in particular, that now  $\omega \neq 0$  is necessary for globally regular solutions to exist and that it cannot be set to zero as in the black hole case. In the following, however, we will only use the gauge-invariant quantity  $\Omega = \omega - eV_\infty$  to describe the solutions.

#### 3.2.1. (Un)Charged Q-Balls

For  $\alpha = 0$ , the matter field Equations (8) and (9) decouple from the gravity equations and the metric functions are  $m \equiv 0$  (i.e.,  $N \equiv 1$ ) and  $\sigma \equiv 1$  (or equal to any non-vanishing, positive constant). The remaining Equations (8) and (9) possess non-trivial solutions, so-called (charged) Q-balls. For  $V \equiv 0$ , the solutions for the specific potential (2) have been studied in [13–15], while, for  $V \neq 0$ , they were investigated in [12]. Let us remind the reader of the most important features of these solutions in the following and add details that are important for the discussion in the following. For  $e = 0$ , the solutions exist for  $\Omega \in (0 : 1]$ , and there is a one-to-one relation between the value of the scalar field  $\psi$  at the origin,  $\psi(0)$ , and  $\Omega$ . The limit  $\psi(0) \rightarrow 0$  corresponds to  $\Omega \rightarrow 1$ . In this limit, the solution becomes  $\psi(x) \equiv 0$ . However, neither the mass nor the Noether charge  $Q_N$  of the solutions vanish. Increasing the value  $\psi(0)$  from zero,  $\Omega$  decreases, while the mass  $M$  and Noether charge  $Q_N$  increase monotonically. The dependence of  $Q_N$  on  $\Omega$  for  $e = 0$  is given in Figure 6 (left). This demonstrates that, for  $\Omega \rightarrow 0$ , the Noether charge  $Q_N$  diverges with  $\psi(0)$  tending to infinity. That means that the central density of the uncharged Q-ball is not restricted and can become arbitrarily large.

When choosing  $e \neq 0$ , charged Q-balls can be constructed. However, there is a very crucial difference to the uncharged case: the central value of  $\psi(0)$  is limited to a finite value. As such, solutions exist only for  $\Omega \in [\Omega_{\min} : 1]$  with  $\Omega_{\min} > 0$  for  $e \neq 0$ . Moreover, two charged Q-ball solutions—and not one as in the uncharged case—are possible. Figure 6 demonstrates the existence of this second branch of solutions for several values of  $e$ . Here, we give the Noether charge  $Q_N$  of the (un)charged Q-balls (including the uncharged case  $e = 0$ ) (left) as well as the central value of the scalar field,  $\psi(0)$ , for several values of  $e$  and dependent on  $\Omega$ . Note that this is qualitatively similar to the case for Q-clouds on Schwarzschild black holes, see Figure 1 (left): decreasing  $\Omega$  on the first branch of solutions, the value of  $\psi(0)$  increases up to a maximal value at  $\Omega_{\min} > 0$ . From there, a second branch of solutions extends all the way back to  $\Omega = 1$ . On this second branch, the value of  $\psi(0)$  slightly decreases when increasing  $\Omega$ . Moreover, we find that  $\Omega_{\min}$  is more or less equal when considering charged Q-clouds and Q-balls, respectively. The presence of the horizon in the former case does not seem to influence this value. The Noether charge  $Q_N$  of the Q-balls on the second branch is much larger than that of solutions on the first branch.

Hence, the  $Q$ -balls on the second branch are composed of many more scalar bosons than those on the first branch.

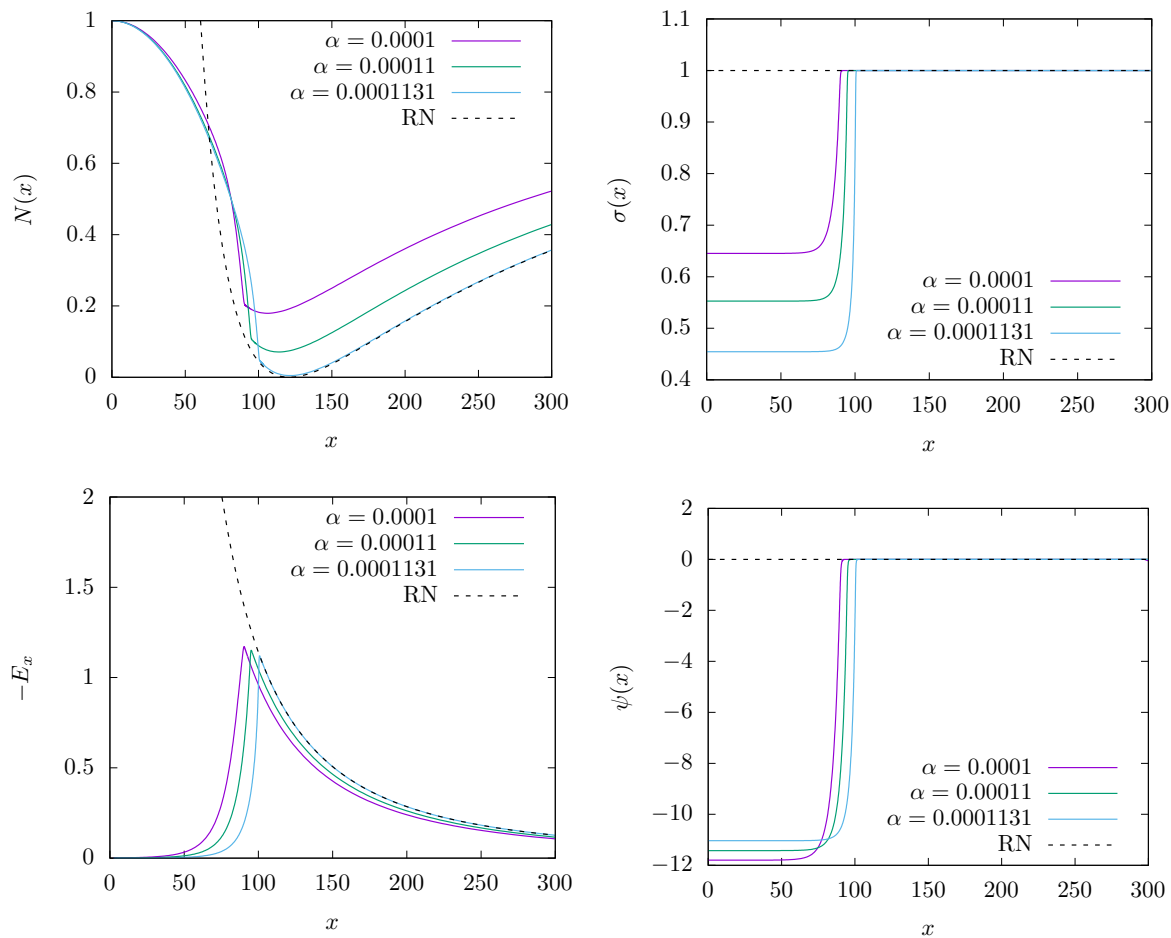


**Figure 6.** **Left:** We show the Noether charge  $Q_N$  of (un)charged  $Q$ -balls dependent on  $\Omega$  for four different values of  $e$ . **Right:** We show the central value of the scalar field,  $\psi(0)$ , of (un)charged  $Q$ -balls dependent on  $\Omega$  for four different values of  $e$ .

When two solutions exist for the same value of  $\Omega$ , we will use the convention in the following to denote “branch 1” (resp. “branch 2”) the branch of solutions with the lower (resp. higher) Noether charge  $Q_N$ . The profiles of the scalar field  $\psi(x)$  and the electric potential  $V(x)$  of the two different  $Q$ -ball solutions for  $e = 0.08$  and  $\Omega = 0.94$  are shown in Figure 2 (right). Although some features appear to be similar when comparing  $Q$ -clouds and  $Q$ -balls, there is one crucial difference which is apparent from Figure 2: the electric field. For  $Q$ -balls, it vanishes at the origin (as it should), while it is non-zero on the horizon of the black hole that carries the charged  $Q$ -cloud.

### 3.2.2. Charged Boson Stars

For  $\alpha \neq 0$ , charged boson star solutions exist. We have constructed these solutions and found that a previously unnoticed phenomenon is present when the  $U(1)$  in the model is gauged, i.e., when the scalar field is charged under the  $U(1)$ . In fact, this phenomenon is very similar to that observed for charged black holes with scalar hair (see [18] and discussion above). Choosing a solution on the second branch of solutions, where  $\psi(x)$  is large at and close to the origin and increasing the gravitational coupling leads to the appearance of a horizon at a critical value of  $\alpha$ . The approach to criticality is shown in Figure 7 for  $\Omega = 0.6$ . When increasing  $\alpha$ , we find that the minimal value of  $N(x)$  tends to zero, while  $\sigma(0)$  decreases (but does not reach zero). For  $\alpha = \alpha_{cr}$ , we find that, outside a given value of the radial coordinate  $x = \tilde{x}$ , the solution corresponds to the extremally charged Reissner–Nordström solution with  $\sigma \equiv 1$  and  $\psi \equiv 0$ . For  $\Omega = 0.6$ , we find that  $\alpha_{cr} \approx 0.000113$ . Note that the value of  $\tilde{x}$  and the location of the extremal horizon at  $x_h^{(ex)} \approx 121$  do not coincide in this case. In agreement with our interpretation of the limiting solution, we find that the mass at  $\alpha_{cr}$  is  $M = x_h^{(ex)} = \sqrt{\alpha}Q \approx 121$ . Comparing this to the case of charged black holes with scalar hair, we find that fixing  $\Omega$  leads to the same numerical values of  $\alpha_{cr}$ ,  $x_c$  and  $x_h^{(ex)}$  for both cases. This suggests that the phenomenon of inflation observed for black holes has a regular limit for  $x_h \rightarrow 0$ . The reason for this is also connected to the observation that, while for boson stars we always have  $eQ_N = Q$ , this is not true for black hole. However, for the black hole solutions on the second branch, we find  $eQ_N \approx Q$ , which means that (essentially) all electric charge is carried by the scalar field. Hence, these black holes behave very similar to charged boson stars.



**Figure 7.** We show the approach for a charged boson star with  $\Omega = 0.6$ .

The interpretation of the solutions is, hence, very similar, although we are now dealing with an a priori *globally regular* space-time. In particular, for the same choice of  $\Omega$  and  $\alpha$ , Figure 5 (left and right) is identical to the corresponding equivalent plots for the boson stars. Note that, while the component  $\epsilon_1$  is zero for the boson stars *by construction*, it is zero for the black hole in this particular limit. To re-emphasize this point, only in this particular limit does the electric field on the horizon of the black hole vanish indicating that the horizon electric charge is vanishing.

As we have discussed above, the exterior of the black hole is hence inflating with the scalar field energy dominating the remaining energy-momentum components and hence driving inflation. We find the interior of the boson star defined by  $U(\psi) = U_0 \approx 1$  (as compared to the exterior of the boson star, where  $U(\psi) = 0$ ) is inflating. Hence, *these solutions are the non-topological equivalent of the inflating topological defects (such as magnetic monopoles) that have been discussed in [22,23]*. These latter defects contain a core that is trapped inside the false vacuum of the model and this is exactly what provides the vacuum energy to drive inflation. Consequently, in these models of *topological inflation*, topological defects can “blow up” to sizes of the universe. Here, we find that a similar phenomenon happens for localized, globally regular solutions made up out of a complex valued scalar field coupled to an Abelian gauge field.

#### 4. Discussion

In this paper, we have studied black holes and globally regular solutions in a simple scalar field model with scalar field self-interaction of an exponential type that is motivated from models of gauge-mediated supersymmetry breaking. The crucial point for the existence of the solutions presented here is the self-interacting of the scalar field as well as the

coupling to the electromagnetic field. This latter coupling allows for the effective scalar field potential to possess a local minimum (the “false vacuum”) in which the scalar field can become trapped for specific choices of the coupling constants such that the energy density of these solutions becomes dominated by the scalar field energy of this false vacuum. When letting these solutions backreact on the space-time, we find that, for sufficiently strong gravitational coupling, a second horizon starts to form which corresponds to the horizon of an extremal RN solution.

In order to get an idea of whether these results could be important at cosmological scale, let us go back to dimensional couplings for a moment. For  $e = 0.005$  (corresponding to the case  $\Omega = 0.6$  described above), we find that  $\alpha_{cr} \approx 0.000113$ . This corresponds to  $\eta \approx 0.003 M_{\text{Pl}}$ , where  $M_{\text{Pl}} = G^{-1/2}$ . Hence, the energy scale of the scalar field would have to be on the order of the Grand Unification scale. The remaining details depend very much on the mass  $\mu$  of the scalar field.  $e = 0.005$  then implies  $q \approx 1.67(\mu/M_{\text{Pl}})$  and a Hubble constant associated with the expansion of  $H \sim \sqrt{\frac{8\pi G U_0}{3}} = \sqrt{\frac{8\pi}{3}} \frac{\mu\eta}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \approx 0.0087\mu$ .

Let us now discuss the new phenomenon observed here compared to the topological inflation scenario. What we have noticed in the model at hand is a phenomenon not discussed in the literature so far. It contains an unbroken U(1) symmetry (in contrast to the model of topological inflation, where a spontaneous symmetry breaking occurs) and is hence much closer to the scalar field models normally used in inflation. Considering topological inflation to occur inside the core of magnetic monopoles typically requires a higher rank gauge group to be broken to U(1) and hence a Higgs field in the adjoint representation of the group. All of this is not necessary in our case. We are dealing with a simple set up that does not require any symmetry breaking mechanism. However, only the coupling to a U(1) gauge field. Certainly, what we have presented is a toy model, However, we believe that it is quite generic.

## 5. Materials and Methods

We have used the Black box solver COLSYS.

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## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

BH	Black Hole
BS	Boson Star
NS	Neutron Star
RN	Reissner–Nordström

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