

Wormholes in Einstein-scalar-Gauss-Bonnet theories with a scalar self-interaction potential

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We construct wormholes in Einstein-scalar-Gauss-Bonnet theories with a potential for the scalar field that includes a mass term and self-interaction terms. By varying the Gauss-Bonnet coupling constant we delimit the domain of existence of wormholes in these theories. The presence of the self-interaction enlarges the domain of existence significantly. There arise wormholes with a single throat and wormholes with an equator and a double throat. We determine the physical properties of these wormholes including their mass, their size and their geometry.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In general relativity (GR) traversable Lorentzian wormholes need the presence of some exotic form of matter, since the existence of such wormholes requires the energy conditions to be violated (see e.g., [1–3].) In contrast, alternative theories of gravity can circumvent this feature. Here the energy conditions can be violated due to the gravitational interaction itself. Indeed, alternative theories of gravity can give rise to an effective stress energy tensor that leads to violation of the energy conditions without the need for exotic matter (see e.g., [4–13]).

A particularly attractive type of theories, where traversable Lorentzian wormholes arise, are the Einstein-scalar-Gauss-Bonnet (EsGB) theories. These theories contain higher curvature terms in the form of the Gauss-Bonnet (GB) invariant, which arise for instance in string theories [14–16]. In order to contribute to the equations of motions in four spacetime dimensions, the GB term should be coupled to a scalar field. String theories involve a dilaton field and prescribe an exponential coupling of the dilaton field with the GB term. However, in recent years, more general coupling functions have been suggested [17–21]. Among the attractive features of EsGB theories is the

observation that they lead to equations of motion, that are of second order, and thus avoid the Ostrogradski instability and ghosts [22–24].

Already some time ago traversable wormholes were constructed in dilatonic EsGB theories [10,11]. These wormholes possess a single throat, connecting two asymptotically flat regions. At the throat a thin shell of ordinary matter, thus matter respecting the energy conditions, is localized. For a given equation of state, this thin shell is determined by the Israel junction conditions [25,26]. The latter are invoked at the throat in order to obtain regular wormhole spacetimes without curvature singularities in both asymptotically flat regions.

The boundaries of the domain of existence of these wormholes were shown to consist of the set of dilatonic EsGB black holes [27], of a set of solutions with curvature singularities and of a set of solutions with coordinate singularities [28]. In fact, it was realized only recently, that at this latter boundary the throat becomes degenerate and a new type of EsGB wormhole solutions arises. These wormholes possess an equator, that is surrounded by a double throat [28].

The consideration of more general coupling functions of the scalar field to the GB term brought forward the interesting new phenomenon of curvature induced spontaneous scalarization of black holes [19–21,29–46]. In fact, for an appropriate choice of coupling function, the GR black holes remain solutions of the EsGB equations of

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motion. However, the GR black holes become unstable at critical values of the GB coupling and develop scalar hair. This is in contrast to the dilatonic EsGB theories with exponential coupling function, which do not allow for GB black hole solutions [27,47–62].

The interesting properties of black holes in nondilatonic EsGB theories have provoked the question concerning the properties of wormholes in these theories. Here a first study of such EsGB wormholes with a massless scalar field has already provided new insight [28]. In particular, numerous coupling functions were shown to possess such wormhole solutions, and the domain of existence of wormhole solutions was fully mapped out for a quadratic coupling function. Analogous to the dilatonic wormholes, the boundary of the domain of existence is formed by EsGB black holes, by singular solutions and by wormholes with a degenerate throat, where the latter can also be continued to wormhole solutions with an equator and a double throat. Again, ordinary matter can be invoked to satisfy the junction conditions for a thin shell of matter at the single throat (or at the equator), yielding symmetric solutions.

Here we continue the investigation of EsGB wormholes by taking a type of coupling function, that can give rise to a branch of stable fundamental EsGB black holes [20,40]. We further supplement the scalar field with a mass term and a self-interaction. For the self-interaction we employ a potential of the form employed for nontopological solitons and boson stars (see e.g., [63,64]). We construct the domain of existence of these wormholes and investigate their physical properties. In particular, we consider the effects of the self-interaction as opposed to a mass term only. We note that charged EsGB wormholes have also been obtained recently [65].

The paper is organized as follows: In Sec. II we specify the theoretical setting, presenting the action, the equations of motion, the boundary conditions, the conditions for throats (equators), the junction conditions, and the energy conditions. In Sec. III we present our results, including the profile functions of the solutions, the domain of existence and its boundaries, an analysis of the thin shell of matter at the throat (equator), embeddings of the throat (equator) geometry, and the violation of the null energy condition (NEC). In Sec. IV we present our conclusions.

II. THEORETICAL SETTING

A. Action and equations of motion

We consider the effective action for Einstein-scalar-Gauss-Bonnet theories,

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[R - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - U(\phi) + F(\phi) R_{\text{GB}}^2 \right], \quad (1)$$

where R is the curvature scalar, ϕ is the scalar field with the coupling function $F(\phi)$ and potential $U(\phi)$, and

$$R_{\text{GB}}^2 = R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - 4R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + R^2 \quad (2)$$

is the quadratic Gauss-Bonnet correction term.

The Einstein equations and the scalar field equation are obtained from the variation of the action with respect to the metric and the scalar field,

$$G_\nu^\mu = T_\nu^\mu, \quad (3)$$

$$\nabla^\mu \nabla_\mu \phi + \dot{F}(\phi) R_{\text{GB}}^2 - \dot{U}(\phi) = 0. \quad (4)$$

The effective stress-energy tensor is given by the expression,

$$T_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{1}{4} g_{\mu\nu} (\partial_\rho \phi \partial^\rho \phi + 2U(\phi)) + \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - \frac{1}{2} (g_{\rho\mu} g_{\lambda\nu} + g_{\lambda\mu} g_{\rho\nu}) \eta^{\kappa\lambda\alpha\beta} \tilde{R}^{\rho\gamma}_{\alpha\beta} \nabla_\gamma \partial_\kappa F(\phi). \quad (5)$$

Here, we have defined $\tilde{R}^{\rho\gamma}_{\alpha\beta} = \eta^{\rho\gamma\sigma\tau} R_{\sigma\tau\alpha\beta}$ and $\eta^{\rho\gamma\sigma\tau} = \epsilon^{\rho\gamma\sigma\tau} / \sqrt{-g}$, and the dot denotes the derivative with respect to the scalar field ϕ .

To obtain static, spherically symmetric wormhole solutions we assume the line element in the form,

$$ds^2 = -e^{f_0} dt^2 + e^{f_1} [d\eta^2 + h^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)], \quad (6)$$

with the auxiliary function $h^2 = \eta^2 + \eta_0^2$, where η_0 is a scaling parameter. The two metric functions f_0 and f_1 and the scalar field function ϕ are functions of the radial coordinate η only.

Substitution of the above ansatz (6) for the metric and the scalar field in the Einstein equations and in the scalar-field equation leads to four coupled, nonlinear, ordinary differential equations (ODEs), which are analogous to those displayed in [28], where, however, different coupling functions $F(\phi)$ were chosen, and the scalar potential was set to zero. Out of the four ODEs, three ODEs are of second order, and one ODE is of first order. But only three of the equations are independent. In our numerical analysis we solve the first order and two of the second order ODEs. We note that the field equations are invariant under the scaling transformation,

$$\begin{aligned} \eta &\rightarrow \chi \eta, & \eta_0 &\rightarrow \chi \eta_0, & F &\rightarrow \chi^2 F, \\ U &\rightarrow \chi^{-2} U, & \chi &> 0, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

which allows us to fix the parameter η_0 .

B. Throats, equators, and boundary conditions

In order to obtain regular asymptotically flat wormhole solutions, we need to impose an appropriate set of boundary conditions for the ODEs.

Wormhole solutions possess one or more finite extrema of the spherical radius,

$$R_C = e^{f_1/2} h. \quad (8)$$

In the simplest case they feature a single minimum corresponding to their single throat. But they may also feature a local maximum surrounded by two minima. The local maximum then corresponds to their equator, while the two minima represent their two throats surrounding their equator. While wormholes with more extrema do exist in other theories, we do not find such wormholes in the theory considered here.

To obtain the inner boundary conditions we require the presence of an extremum of the spherical radius at $\eta = 0$. This yields

$$\left. \frac{dR_C}{d\eta} \right|_{\eta=0} = 0 \Leftrightarrow f'_1|_{\eta=0} = 0. \quad (9)$$

Thus we choose as one of our boundary conditions at $\eta = 0$ the condition $f'_1|_{\eta=0} = 0$. In addition, we choose at $\eta = 0$ any one of the three conditions,

$$f_0|_{\eta=0} = f_{0c}, \quad f_1|_{\eta=0} = f_{1c}, \quad \phi|_{\eta=0} = \phi_c. \quad (10)$$

For simplicity we will refer to the two-dimensional surface $\eta = 0$ as center.

In order to obtain asymptotically flat solutions we employ the boundary conditions at infinity,

$$f_0|_{\eta=\infty} = 0, \quad f_1|_{\eta=\infty} = 0, \quad \phi|_{\eta=\infty} = 0. \quad (11)$$

Consequently, we find for a fixed value of α (see Eq. (30)) a one parameter family of solutions.

Expansion of the functions at infinity shows, that we can read off the mass M of the solutions as follows:

$$f_1 = \frac{2M}{\eta} + O\left(\frac{1}{\eta^2}\right). \quad (12)$$

Since the solutions are symmetric, the mass has the same value in both asymptotically flat parts of the spacetime. We note that the wormhole solutions with a mass term in the potential have a vanishing scalar charge due to the exponential decay of the scalar field.

C. Junction conditions

The solutions are symmetrically continued to the negative η range, yielding a second asymptotically flat region. Since the derivatives of the functions f_0 and ϕ do not vanish at the center $\eta = 0$, in general, we amend the solutions by the presence of a thin shell-like distribution of matter there. The complete solution is then determined by invoking the junction conditions [25,26], at the jumps of

the Einstein and scalar field equations at the throat (or equator) $\eta = 0$.

The jumps in the Einstein and scalar field equations at the center are given by

$$\langle G^\mu{}_\nu - T^\mu{}_\nu \rangle = s^\mu{}_\nu, \quad \langle \nabla^2 \phi + \dot{F} R_{GB}^2 \rangle = s_s, \quad (13)$$

where $s^\mu{}_\nu$ corresponds to the stress-energy tensor of the matter at the center and s_s represents a source term for the scalar field. In order to satisfy the junction conditions Eq. (13) we assume the presence of a perfect fluid with pressure p and energy density ε , and a scalar density ρ_s at the center. However, without further amendments this would lead to negative energy densities for most of the solutions. In order to generically obtain shells of nonexotic matter, i. e. $\varepsilon \geq 0$, we add a simple action at the center [10,11,28],

$$S_\Sigma = \int [\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_0 F(\phi) \bar{R}] \sqrt{-\bar{h}} d^3x, \quad (14)$$

where we have introduced the constants λ_1 and λ_0 , and we denote by \bar{h}_{ab} the three-dimensional induced metric at the center and by \bar{R} the corresponding Ricci scalar. This leads to the junction conditions,

$$8\dot{F}\phi' e^{-\frac{3f_1}{2}} = \lambda_1 \eta_0^2 + 4\lambda_0 F e^{-f_1} - \varepsilon \eta_0^2, \quad (15)$$

$$e^{-\frac{f_1}{2}} f'_0 = \lambda_1 + p, \quad (16)$$

$$e^{-f_1} \phi' - 4 \frac{\dot{F}}{\eta_0^2} f'_0 e^{-2f_1} = -4\lambda_0 \frac{\dot{F}}{\eta_0^2} e^{-\frac{3f_1}{2}} + \frac{\rho_s}{2}, \quad (17)$$

where all quantities are taken at $\eta = 0$. The matter density ε and pressure p , and the scalar density ρ_s are determined via the arbitrary constants λ_0 and λ_1 and the functions close to the center. We can always find a range of values for the constants λ_1 and λ_0 , where the matter density ε is positive, thus allowing us to avoid any exotic matter. In the case of vanishing pressure, i.e., for $p = 0$, the matter simply corresponds to dust, and therefore its equation of state is the one of dust. In this special case we obtain $\lambda_1 = e^{-f_1/2} f'_0$. Choosing $\lambda_0 = \lambda_1$, in addition, we find [10,11,28]

$$\varepsilon = \frac{e^{-\frac{3f_1}{2}}}{\eta_0} [(4F + \eta_0^2 e^{f_1}) f'_0 - 8\dot{F}\phi'], \quad (18)$$

$$\rho_s = 2e^{-f_1} \phi', \quad (19)$$

where again all quantities are taken at $\eta = 0$.

D. Energy conditions

In wormhole solutions the NEC,

$$T_{\mu\nu}n^\mu n^\nu \geq 0 \quad (20)$$

must be violated, where n^μ is any null vector ($n^\mu n_\mu = 0$). Defining the null vector n^μ ,

$$n^\mu = \left(1, \sqrt{-g_{tt}/g_{\eta\eta}}, 0, 0\right), \quad (21)$$

and thus $n_\mu = (g_{tt}, \sqrt{-g_{tt}g_{\eta\eta}}, 0, 0)$, the NEC takes in a spherically symmetric spacetime the form,

$$T_{\mu\nu}n^\mu n^\nu = T_t^t n^t n_t + T_\eta^\eta n^\eta n_\eta = -g_{tt}(-T_t^t + T_\eta^\eta). \quad (22)$$

Consequently the NEC holds when

$$-T_t^t + T_\eta^\eta \geq 0. \quad (23)$$

Alternatively, defining

$$n^\mu = (1, 0, \sqrt{-g_{tt}/g_{\theta\theta}}, 0), \quad (24)$$

the NEC holds when

$$-T_t^t + T_\theta^\theta \geq 0. \quad (25)$$

For wormhole solutions these conditions must be violated [1,10,11,28].

E. Embeddings

To visualize the wormhole geometry we consider the isometric embedding of the equatorial plane of the solutions. The equatorial plane is obtained from the line element (6) by setting t constant, and $\theta = \pi/2$. This line element is then set equal to a hypersurface in the three-dimensional Euclidean space, yielding

$$e^{f_1}[d\eta^2 + (\eta^2 + \eta_0^2)d\varphi^2] = d\rho^2 + \rho^2 d\varphi^2 + dz^2, \quad (26)$$

where (ρ, φ, z) represent cylindrical coordinates on the hypersurface. We now consider ρ and z to be functions of η ,

$$\rho(\eta) = e^{f_1/2} \sqrt{\eta^2 + \eta_0^2}, \quad (27)$$

$$\left(\frac{d\rho}{d\eta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dz}{d\eta}\right)^2 = e^{f_1}. \quad (28)$$

Solving for $z(\eta)$ leads to

$$z(\eta) = \pm \int_0^\eta \sqrt{e^{f_1(\tilde{\eta})} - \left(\frac{d}{d\tilde{\eta}} \left[e^{f_1(\tilde{\eta})/2} \sqrt{\tilde{\eta}^2 + \eta_0^2} \right] \right)^2} d\tilde{\eta}. \quad (29)$$

With $\rho(\eta)$ and $z(\eta)$ we thus obtain a parametric representation of the equatorial plane (for a fixed value of the φ).

III. RESULTS

A. Parameters and numerics

In the following we present our results, obtained with the coupling function $F(\phi)$ and the potential $U(\phi)$:

$$F(\phi) = \frac{\alpha}{2\beta}(1 - e^{-\beta\phi^2}), \quad U(\phi) = \lambda(c_2\phi^2 + c_4\phi^4 + c_6\phi^6). \quad (30)$$

We fix the constant $\beta = 1.5$, but leave α as a free parameter. When employing the full potential we also set $\lambda = 0.06$, $c_2 = 1.1$, $c_4 = -2$, and $c_6 = 1$, whereas in the case of a mass term only, we retain $\lambda = 0.06$, $c_2 = 1.1$, but set $c_4 = c_6 = 0$. Furthermore, we set $\eta_0 = 1$.

The numerical integration of the system of coupled ODEs is done with the help of COLSYS [66]. COLSYS is an ODE solver that uses a collocation method for boundary value ODEs together with a damped Newton method of quasilinearization. At each iteration step the linearized problem is solved via a spline collocation at Gaussian points. COLSYS employs a mesh selection procedure to adapt and refine the mesh until a prescribed stopping criterion is reached. We typically use 10^3 subintervals, yielding a relative error of less than 10^{-8} for the solutions. Note however that close to singular solutions the number of subintervals is increased up to 5×10^4 .

B. Solutions

We exhibit in Fig. 1 the profile functions for a set of wormholes solutions with self-interaction potential. Shown are the metric components $-g_{tt}$ and $g_{\eta\eta}$, the scalar field ϕ , and the spherical radius R_C vs the radial coordinate η . For the two free parameters, the coupling constant α and the value of the scalar field ϕ_c at the center, we have selected the values (a) $(\alpha, \phi_c) = (0.8, -0.4)$, a value for α close to its minimal value; (b) $(1.1, -0.4)$, a larger value of α ; (c) $(1.4, -0.067)$, a value of ϕ_c close to the black hole limit; (d) $(1.4, -0.95)$, a small value of ϕ_c ; (e) $(1.7, -1.02)$, another small value of ϕ_c ; (f) $(3.0, -1.205)$, a value for α close to its maximal value.

The metric function $-g_{tt}$ is always monotonically rising from a small value at the center to its asymptotic value. The metric function $g_{\eta\eta}$ is typically not monotonic, but exhibits a minimum at the center, from where it rises to its maximum, before approaching its asymptotic value. When the black hole limit is approached, however, it becomes monotonic with its maximum at the center approaching the black hole value of $g_{\eta\eta}(0) = 4$ [see Fig. 1(c)]. The scalar field becomes very small as the black hole limit is approached. But is never assumes large absolute values. These are on the order of one or smaller.

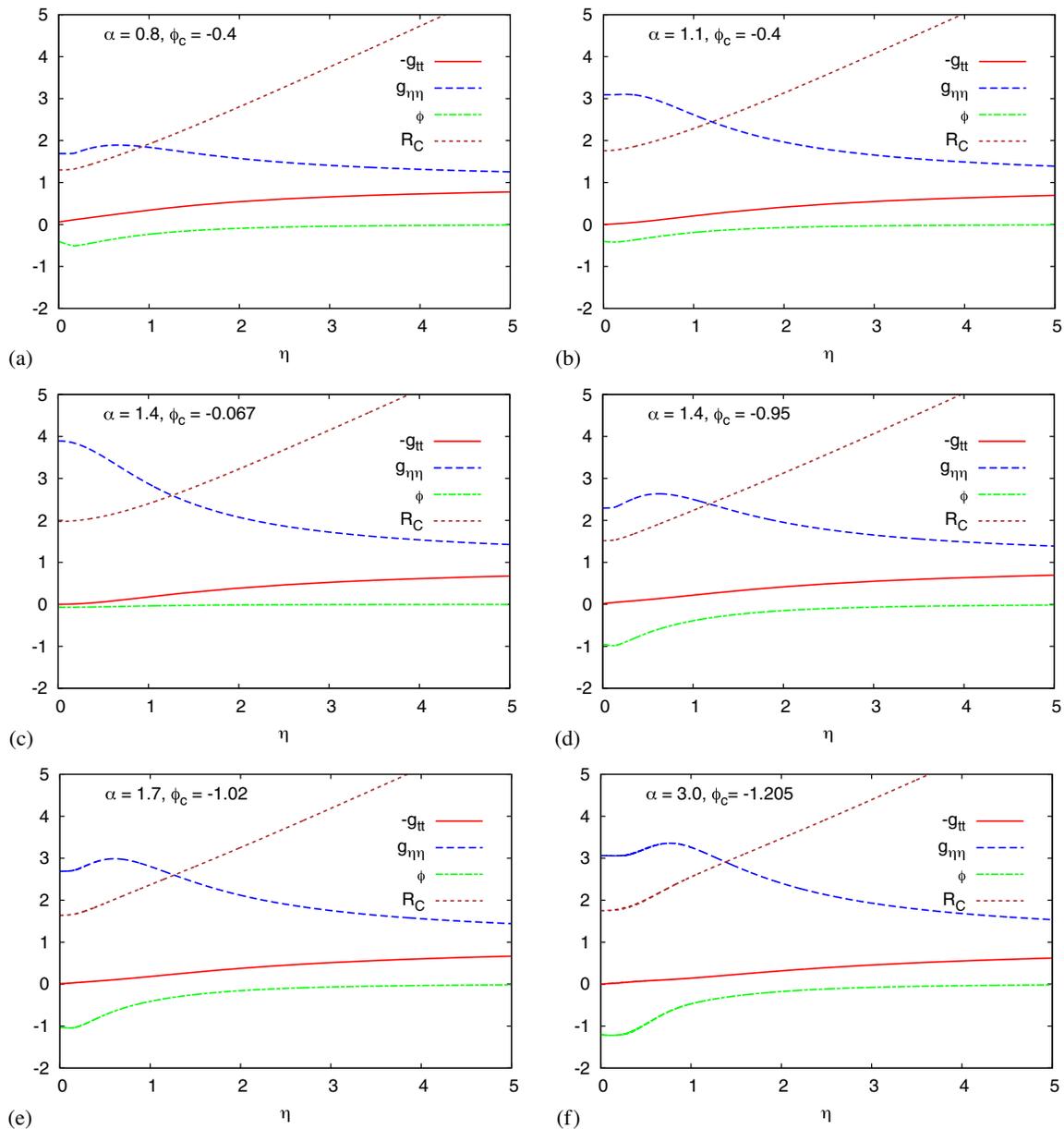


FIG. 1. Metric components $-g_{tt}$ and $g_{\eta\eta}$, scalar field ϕ , and spherical radius R_C vs radial coordinate η for a set of self-interacting wormhole solutions with parameters (α, ϕ_c) : (a) $(0.8, -0.4)$, (b) $(1.1, -0.4)$, (c) $(1.4, -0.067)$, (d) $(1.4, -0.95)$, (e) $(1.7, -1.02)$, (f) $(3.0, -1.205)$.

Of interest is also the spherical radius R_C . As the black hole limit is approached, the value of R_C at the center approaches $R_C(0) = 2$ [see Fig. 1(c)]. While R_C is monotonically increasing in the case of wormhole solutions with a single throat, it has a maximum at the center for wormhole solutions with an equator and a double throat.

C. Domain of existence

Wormhole solutions exist for a limited range of parameter values. The domain of existence of wormhole solutions is illustrated in Fig. 2 for wormholes with mass and self-interaction (left column) and wormholes with a mass term

only (right column). As seen in Fig. 2(a), where the coupling constant α is shown versus the value of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c , wormhole solutions arise for a minimal value of the coupling constant α , $\alpha_{\min} \approx 0.76$. As α increases, the corresponding families of solutions expand, until a critical value of α , $\alpha_{\text{cr}} \approx 1.02$, is reached.

Further increase of α then leads to two disconnected branches of wormhole solutions. The branches with the smaller values of ϕ_c can be continued up to $\alpha_{\max} \approx 3.56$. The branches with the larger values of ϕ_c , on the other hand, cannot be continued that far. They end at a limiting value of $\alpha_{\text{lim}} \approx 1.83$. The domain of existence is delimited by solutions with cusp singularities (blue), solutions with

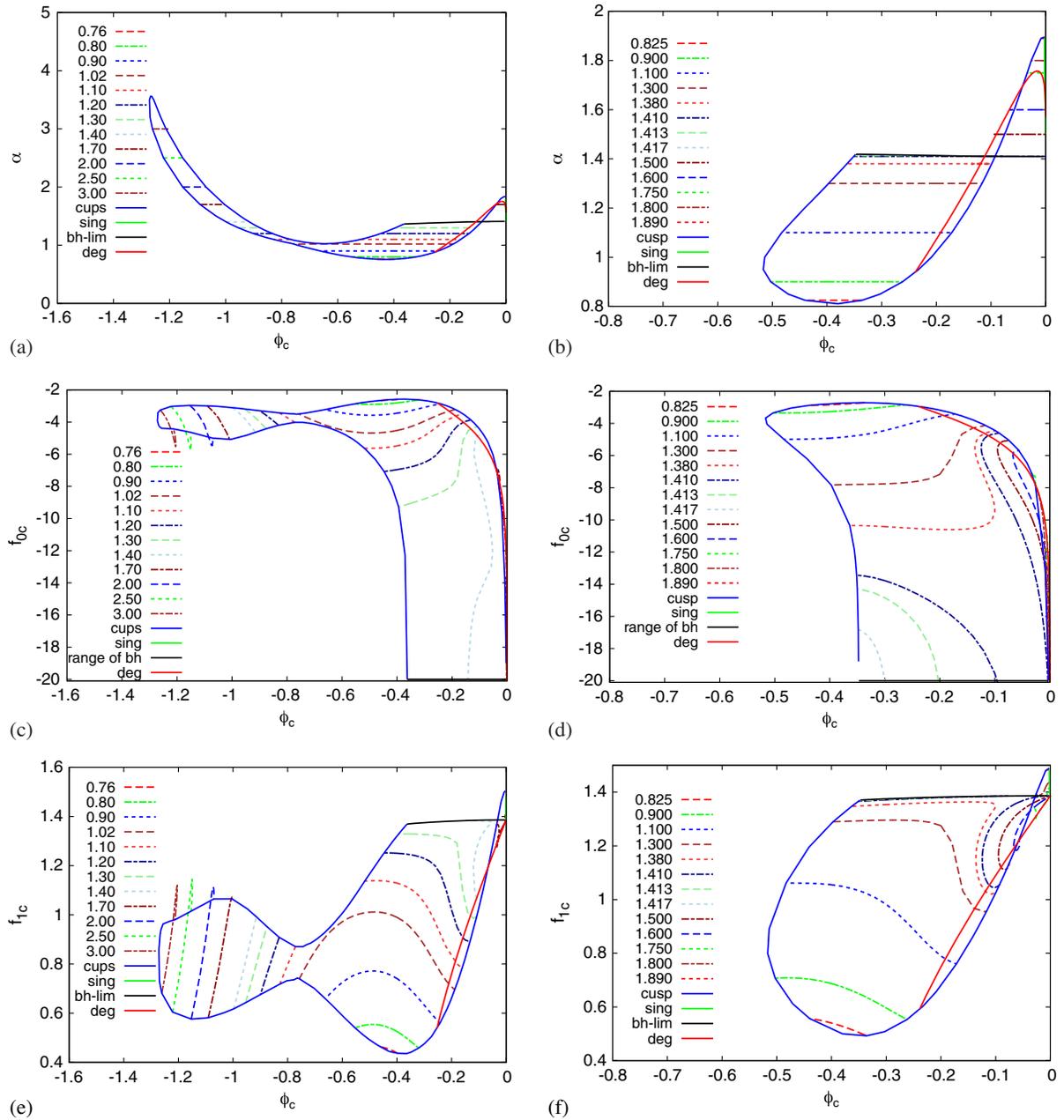


FIG. 2. Domain of existence of wormhole solutions for a set of fixed values of the coupling constant α . Various quantities are shown vs the value of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c : (a) and (b) coupling constant α , (c) and (d) value of the metric function f_0 at the center, f_{0c} , (e) and (f) value of the metric function f_1 at the center, f_{1c} [left column: with self-interaction, right column: with mass term only]. Also shown are the limiting solutions, scalarized EsGB black holes (black), singular solutions (green), cusp singularities (blue), and the degenerate wormhole solutions (red).

singularities at the center (green), and scalarized EsGB black hole solutions (black), reaching all the way up to their bifurcation point from the Schwarzschild black hole. The limiting solutions will be discussed further below.

For wormholes with a mass term only, the coupling constant α is shown versus the value of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c in Fig. 2(b). We immediately note, that the domain of existence basically only consists of one part of the domain of existence of wormholes with self-interaction.

This part more or less agrees with the right-hand side of the domain shown in Fig. 2(a), and thus the larger values of ϕ_c . Thus the effect of the self-interaction is to allow for wormhole solutions with much smaller values of ϕ_c and much larger values of the coupling constant α .

We exhibit the value of the metric function f_0 at the center, f_{0c} , in Figs. 2(c) and 2(d), and the value of the metric function f_1 at the center, f_{1c} , in Figs. 2(e) and 2(f), with 2(c) and 2(e) [2(d) and 2(f)] representing wormholes with

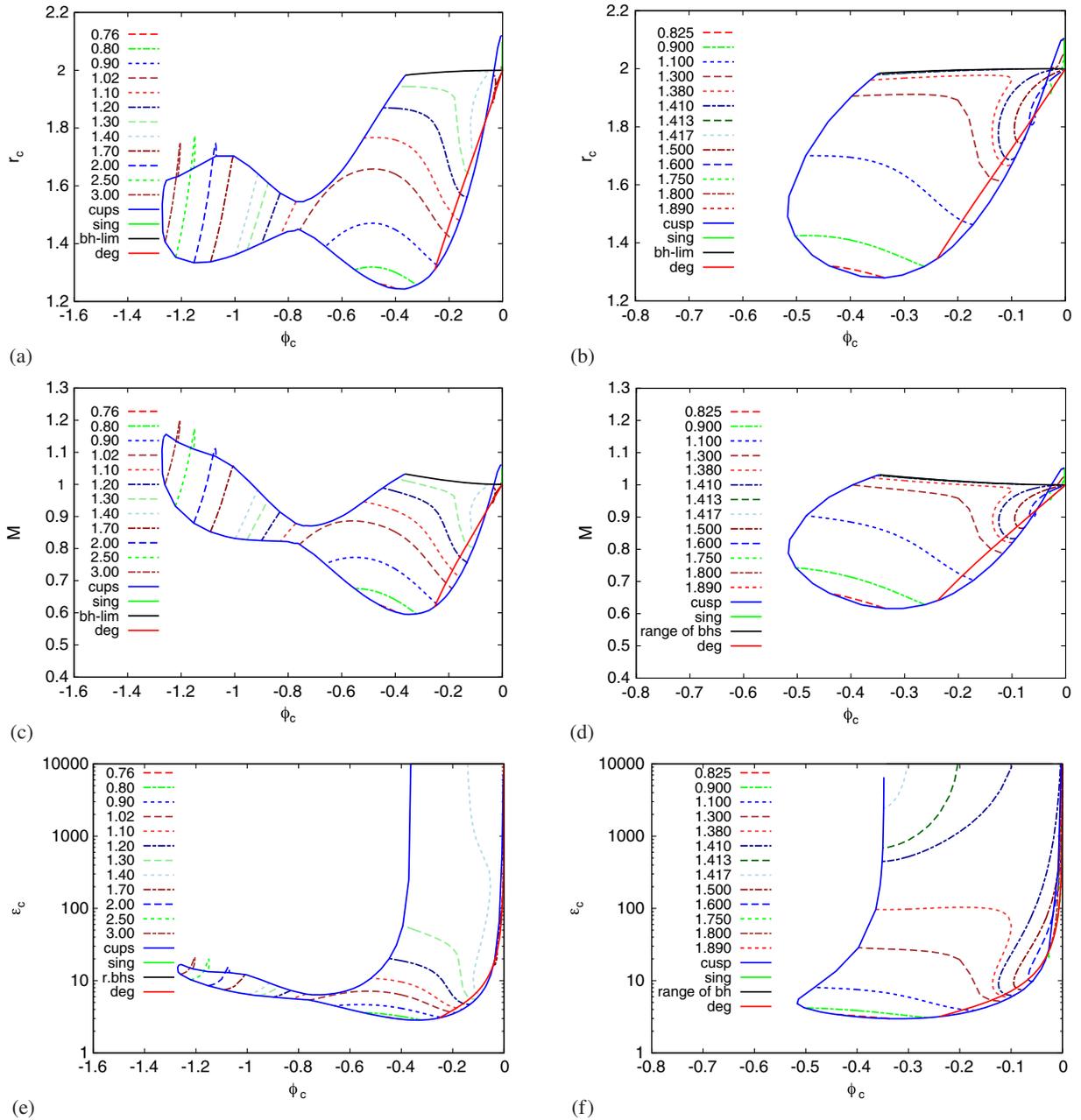


FIG. 3. Domain of existence of wormhole solutions for a set of fixed values of the coupling constant α . Various quantities are shown vs the value of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c : (a) and (b) value of the spherical radius R_C at the center, r_c , (c) and (d) value of the mass M , (e) and (f) value of the energy density at the center, ε_c [left column: with self-interaction, right column: with mass term only]. Also shown are the limiting solutions, scalarized EsGB black holes (black), singular solutions (green), cusp singularities (blue), and the degenerate wormhole solutions (red).

(without) self-interaction. Again, we see, how the presence of the self-interaction leads to an opening of the left-hand boundary of the wormhole solutions with mass term only at its leftmost point to allow a new region of solutions to be present, where considerably smaller values of f_{0c} and f_{1c} are reached and much higher values of the coupling constant.

In particular, we note, that in the left upper region, i.e., in the small ϕ_c region present only for wormholes with self-interaction, there are two branches of f_{0c} and f_{1c} for a

given value of α . The first branch starts from a cusp singularity while the second branch ends in a cusp singularity. In the large ϕ_c region, on the other hand, the value f_{0c} decreases without bound as the black hole limit, and thus a horizon is approached. In contrast, the value f_{1c} tends towards a finite limiting black hole value, since we are not employing Schwarzschild-like coordinates. In the Schwarzschild limit it approaches in our isotropic coordinates the value $f_{1c} = 2 \ln 2$.

This is consistent with the limiting values of the spherical radius at the center, which approaches in the Schwarzschild limit $r_c = 2$. This is seen in Fig. 3, where the value of the spherical radius R_C at the center, r_c , is shown with (a) and without (b) self-interaction, versus the value of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c . We note that the leftmost part of the domain of existence, present due to the self-interaction, does not feature larger or smaller spherical throat radii than those already present without self-interaction.

The chosen scaling corresponds to a mass of the limiting Schwarzschild black hole of $M = 1$. This is seen in Figs. 3(c) and 3(d), where the mass M of the wormhole solutions is shown versus the value of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c . We note, that the overall variation of the mass is moderate. In the region due to self-interaction, however, the mass can get bigger than in the remaining domain of existence. Thus the presence of the self-interaction not only increases the domain of existence but also allows for larger values of the mass. This is, in fact, analogous to the effect of the self-interaction for boson stars [63,64].

Finally, in Figs. 3(e) and 3(f) we exhibit the matter energy density ε in the thin shell at the center, Eq. (18), assuming dust and choosing $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$. Already for this

simple choice there is quite a large range of wormhole solutions, where we find positive values for ε . The additional set of wormholes due to the self-interaction have all positive values of the matter energy density ε . Thus these wormholes are constituted by physically allowed matter, that is respecting the energy conditions.

In Figs. 2 and 3 we also exhibit the line (red), where the throat becomes degenerate, i.e., where the minimum of R_C turns into a saddle point. The wormholes to the left of this line possess a single throat located at the center. The wormholes to the right of this line possess an equator at the center that is surrounded by a throat on each side. The geometry of these solutions is discussed further below. This region with wormholes with equators is basically unchanged by the presence of the self-interaction.

D. Limits

In Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) we exhibit the mass M of the wormhole solutions versus the spherical radius r_c at the center for a set of fixed values of the coupling constant α , again with 4(a) and without 4(b) self-interaction. In these diagrams the sets of limiting solutions are clearly visible.

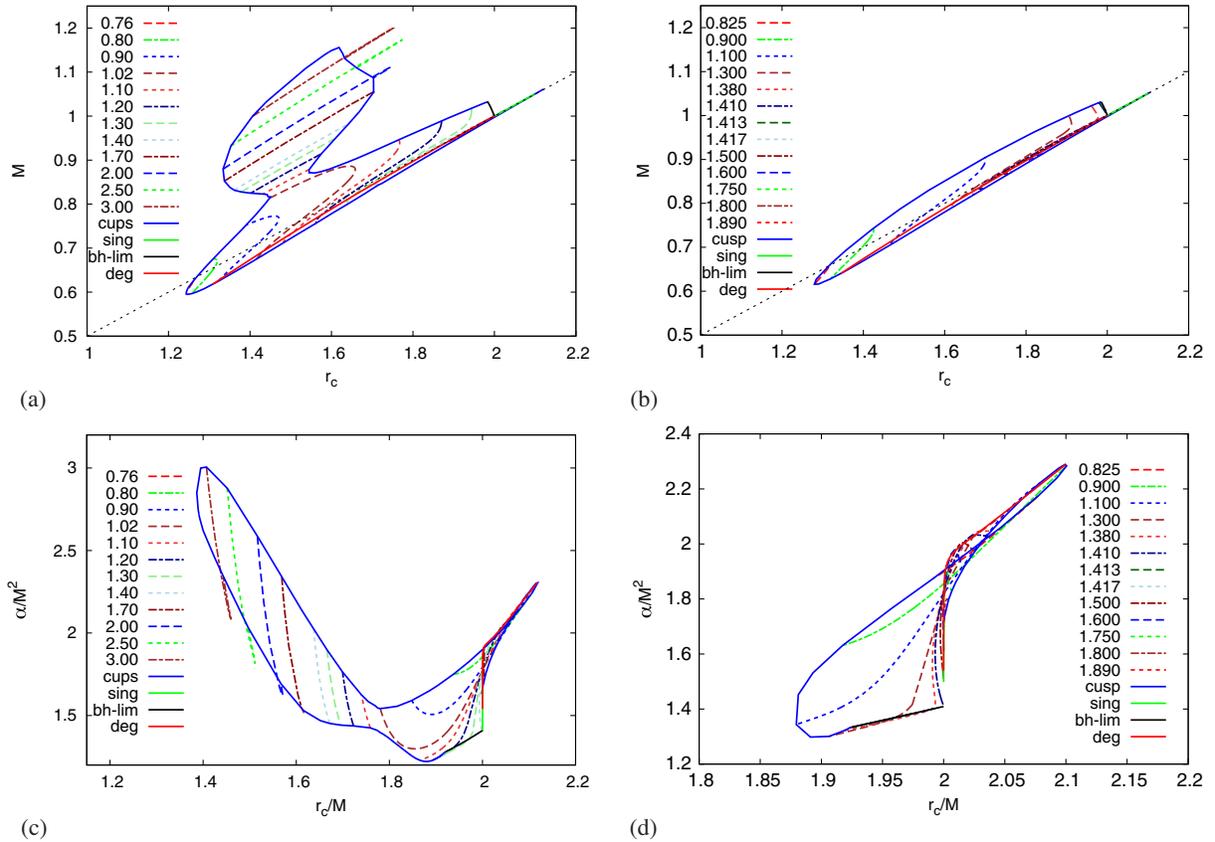


FIG. 4. (a) and (b) mass M vs spherical radius r_c at the center for fixed values of the coupling constant α ; (c) and (d) scaled coupling constant α/M^2 vs scaled spherical radius r_c/M at the center for the same set of α values [left column: with self-interaction, right column: with mass term only]. Also shown are the limiting solutions, scalarized EsGB black holes (solid black) [Schwarzschild black holes (dotted black)], singular solutions (green), cusp singularities (blue), and the degenerate wormhole solutions (red).

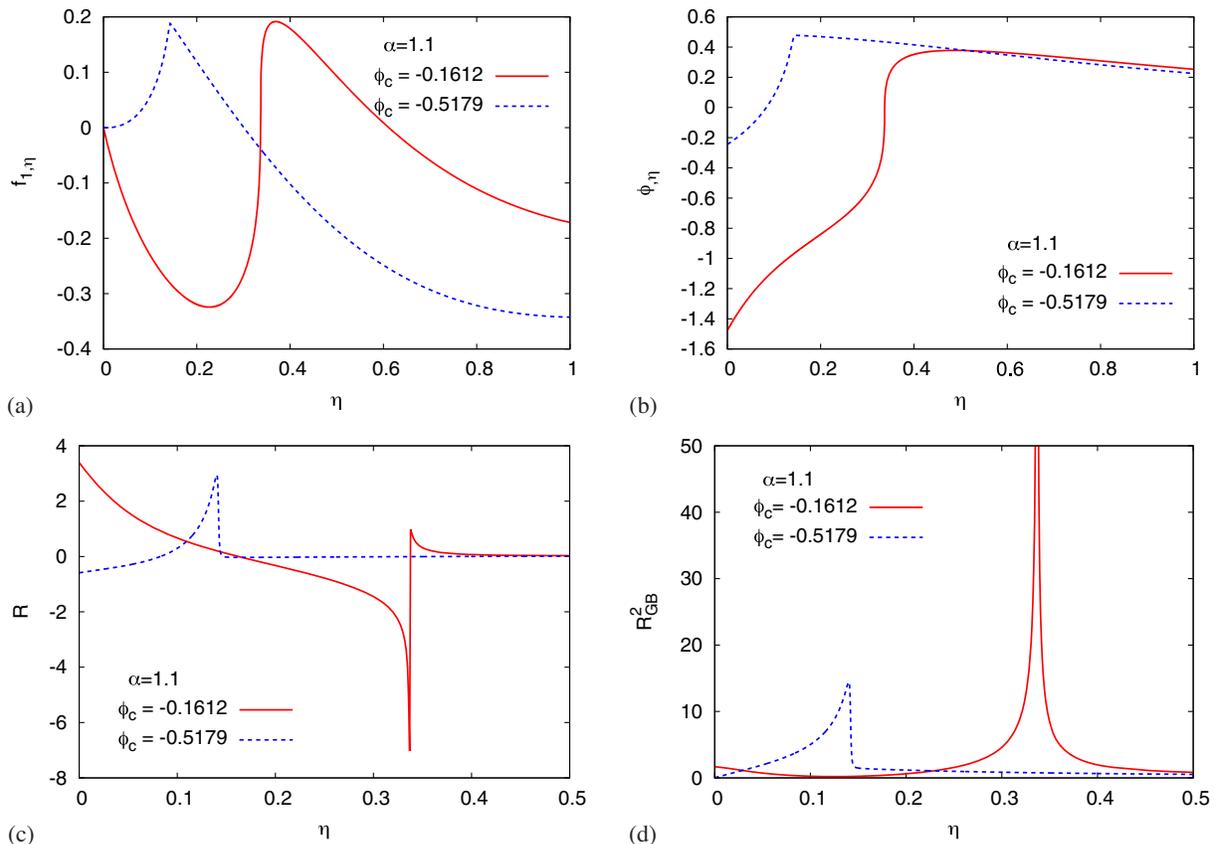


FIG. 5. Boundary of the domain of existence (examples with self-interaction): emergence of a cusp singularity at some value η_* : the first derivative of the metric function f_1 (a) and of the scalar field function ϕ (b) for $\alpha = 1.1$ and two values of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c : $f_{1,\eta}$ and $\phi_{,\eta}$ develop a jump at some η_* (blue, $\phi_c = -0.5179$), $f_{1,\eta}$ and $\phi_{,\eta}$ diverge at some η_* (red, $\phi_c = -0.1612$); scalar curvature R (c) and Gauss-Bonnet term R_{GB}^2 (d) vs radial coordinate η for the same solutions.

The solid blue curve represents the end points of regular wormhole solutions, where cusp singularities are encountered. The solid green curve forms the boundary where singularities at the center arise. The solid black curve represents the limit where scalarized EsGB black holes are encountered, where r_c represents the horizon radius. We illustrate these limits with examples below. We have also indicated (dotted black) the line $M = r_c/2$, corresponding to Schwarzschild black holes with horizon radius r_c .

Figures 4(c) and 4(d) are diagrams for the corresponding scaled quantities. Here the scaled coupling constant α/M^2 is shown versus the scaled spherical radius r_c/M at the center, to provide a dimensionless representation of the domain of existence. These diagrams again illustrate the huge effect of the self-interaction, increasing the domain of existence vastly, in particular, when the scaled quantities are considered.

We now turn to the discussion of the boundary of the domain of existence. Solutions with cusp singularities form the largest part of the boundary. The emergence of cusp singularities is related to the determinant that is encountered upon diagonalization of the set of second order ODEs with respect to the second derivatives of the functions (see also [28,67,68]). This determinant may possess a node at

some value η_* of the radial coordinate. Since diagonalization involves division by the determinant, the equations of motion are then no longer regular at η_* , but feature a cusp singularity.

We demonstrate how such cusp singularities form in Figs. 5(a) and 5(b), where we show for the metric function f_1 (a) and the scalar function ϕ (b) the first derivative $f_{1,\eta}$ and $\phi_{,\eta}$ versus the radial coordinate η for the coupling constant $\alpha = 1.0$ and two values of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c : for $\phi_c = -0.5179$ the second derivatives $f_{1,\eta}$ and $\phi_{,\eta}$ develop a jump at some value η_* (blue curves), whereas for $\phi_c = -0.1612$ the second derivatives $f_{1,\eta}$ and $\phi_{,\eta}$ diverge at some value η_* (red curves). The second derivatives $f_{1,\eta}$ and $\phi_{,\eta}$ diverge at η_* , when the determinant behaves as $(\eta - \eta_*)^g$ with $g < 1$. In contrast, when the determinant behaves as $(\eta - \eta_*)$, a jump of $f_{1,\eta}$ and $\phi_{,\eta}$ arises. Associated with these jumps/divergences are divergences of the curvature scalar R and the GB scalar R_{GB} , as seen in Figs. 5(c) and 5(d), where the curvature scalar R (c) and the GB scalar R_{GB} (d) are shown for the same solutions.

In Figs. 6(a)–6(d) we consider the part of the boundary, where a singularity is approached at the center. In this case

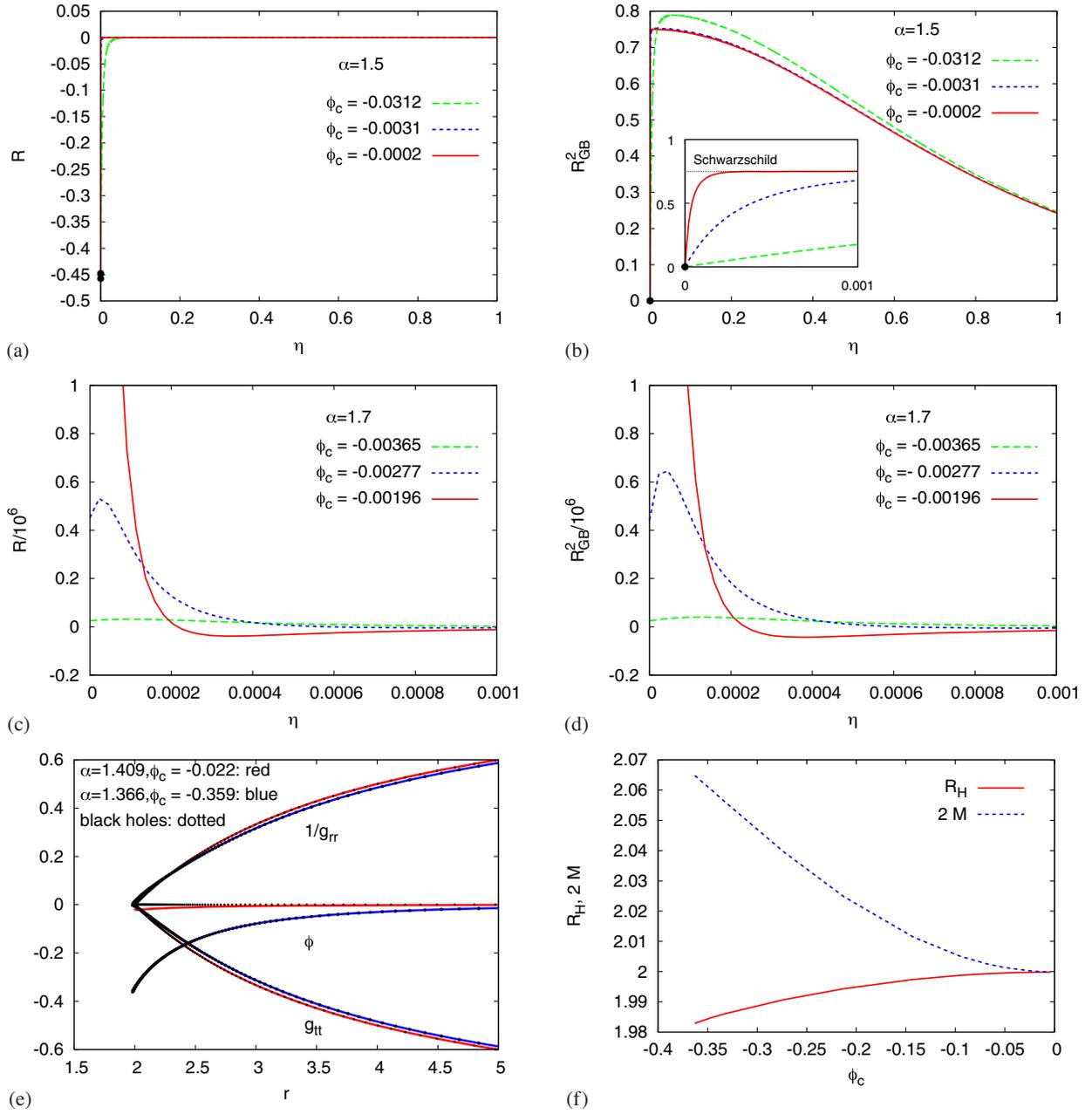


FIG. 6. Boundary of the domain of existence (examples with self-interaction): (a)–(b) convergence towards Schwarzschild black hole solutions: scalar curvature R (a) and Gauss-Bonnet term R_{GB}^2 (b) vs radial coordinate η for $\alpha = 1.5$ and several values of ϕ_c ; (c)–(d) emergence of a curvature singularity at the center: scalar curvature R (c) and Gauss-Bonnet term R_{GB}^2 (d) vs radial coordinate η for $\alpha = 1.7$ and several values of ϕ_c ; (e) convergence towards scalarized EsGB black hole solutions: metric functions g_{tt} and g_{rr} of two solutions vs Schwarzschild radial coordinate r (red: $\alpha = 1.409$, $\phi_c = -0.022$) and (blue: $\alpha = 1.366$, $\phi_c = -0.359$); (f) set of limiting scalarized (fundamental) EsBG black hole solutions: the mass $2M$, and spherical horizon radius R_H vs the value of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c .

the scalar field ϕ goes to zero at the center, $\phi_c \rightarrow 0$, while its second order derivative diverges to minus infinity at the center, $\phi''(0) \rightarrow -\infty$. At the same time the value of the metric function f_0 diverges to minus infinity at the center, $f_{0r} \rightarrow -\infty$. Since $\phi_c \rightarrow 0$, this part of the boundary resides on the vertical axis in all plots where ϕ_c is shown on the horizontal axis.

For $1.41 \leq \alpha \leq 1.56$ the wormhole solutions (with fixed α) converge pointwise to the Schwarzschild black hole with unit mass. With decreasing $|\phi_c|$ the deviation from the Schwarzschild black hole decreases on an increasing interval. In the limit $\phi_c \rightarrow 0$ the wormholes coincide with the Schwarzschild black hole except at the center. The derivative of the scalar field $\phi'(0)$ at the center remains

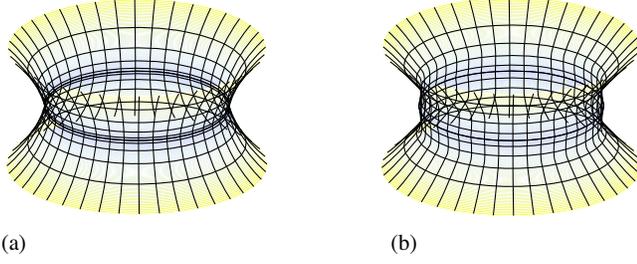


FIG. 7. Embeddings of the equatorial plane (examples with self-interaction): (a) single throat wormhole with coupling constant $\alpha = 1.7$ and value of the scalar field at the center $\phi_c = -0.0121$; (b) double throat wormhole with $\alpha = 1.7$ and $\phi_c = -0.03$.

finite in this limit, but its second order derivative diverges. We demonstrate this limiting behaviour for a family of wormhole solutions with fixed $\alpha = 1.5$ and $\phi_c = -0.0312, -0.0031$ and -0.0002 . In Figs. 6(a) and 6(b) we show the curvature invariants R (a) and R_{GB}^2 (b) versus the radial coordinate η close to the center. The black dots mark the values of the curvature invariants at the center. We observe that no curvature singularity emerges.

However, when $\alpha > 1.56$ the limiting behavior changes. In this case the limit $\phi_c \rightarrow 0$ is characterized by a diverging derivative of the scalar field at the center, $\phi'(0) \rightarrow -\infty$, and curvature singularities. This is shown in Figs. 6(c) and 6(d) where the curvature invariants R (c) and R_{GB}^2 (d) are plotted versus the radial coordinate η for a family of wormhole solutions with fixed value of $\alpha = 1.7$ and $\phi_c = -0.00365, -0.00277, -0.00196$.

Interestingly, the singular limits to the Schwarzschild black hole are characterized by a throat at the center, whereas the limits to curvature singularities are characterized by an equator.

In Fig. 6(e) we show the metric functions g_{tt} and g_{rr} and the scalar field function ϕ for two (self-interacting)

wormhole solutions close to the black hole limit (with $\alpha = 1.409, \phi_c = -0.022$ and $\alpha = 1.366, \phi_c = -0.359$). For comparison we exhibit the (fundamental) EsGB black hole solutions for the same values of α and ϕ_c , and thus demonstrate the approach of the wormhole solutions to the EsGB black hole boundary. Figure 6(f) shows the mass $2M$, and the spherical horizon radius R_H of the branch of (self-interacting fundamental) EsGB black holes versus the value of the scalar field at the center ϕ_c . These EsGB black holes branch off from the Schwarzschild solution at $\alpha \approx 1.41$, where $\phi_c = 0$.

E. Embedding diagrams and energy conditions

We visualize the geometry of a typical single wormhole in Fig. 7(a), where we have chosen for the coupling constant the value $\alpha = 1.7$ and for the scalar field at the center $\phi_c = -0.0121$. Figure 7(b) shows the geometry of a typical wormhole with an equator and a double throat, obtained with the parameter choice $\alpha = 1.7$ and $\phi_c = -0.03$. The equator and the throats are clearly visible in the figure. Both solutions belong to the same family ($\alpha = 1.7$) of self-interacting wormholes. As ϕ_c is increased, the single throat (minimum) at the center first turns into a degenerate throat (saddle point) at a critical value of ϕ_c , and then becomes an equator (maximum), concealed by a throat (minimum) on each side.

In Fig. 8 we exhibit the quantities $(-T'_t + T'_\eta)/N$ (a) and $(-T'_t + T'_\theta)/N$ (b) with $N = \sqrt{(T'_t)^2 + (T'_r)^2 + 2(T'_\theta)^2}$ versus the radial coordinate η for several values of the coupling constant α and the scalar field at the center ϕ_c . $(\alpha, \phi_c) = (0.8, -0.4), (1.1, -0.4), (1.4, -0.067), (1.4, -0.95), (1.7, -1.02), (3.0, -1.205)$. When $-T'_t + T'_\eta$ and $-T'_t + T'_\theta$ are negative, the NEC is violated. Inspection of the figures shows that the NEC is indeed violated, as it must be. The violation always occurs in the inner regions of the wormhole spacetimes.

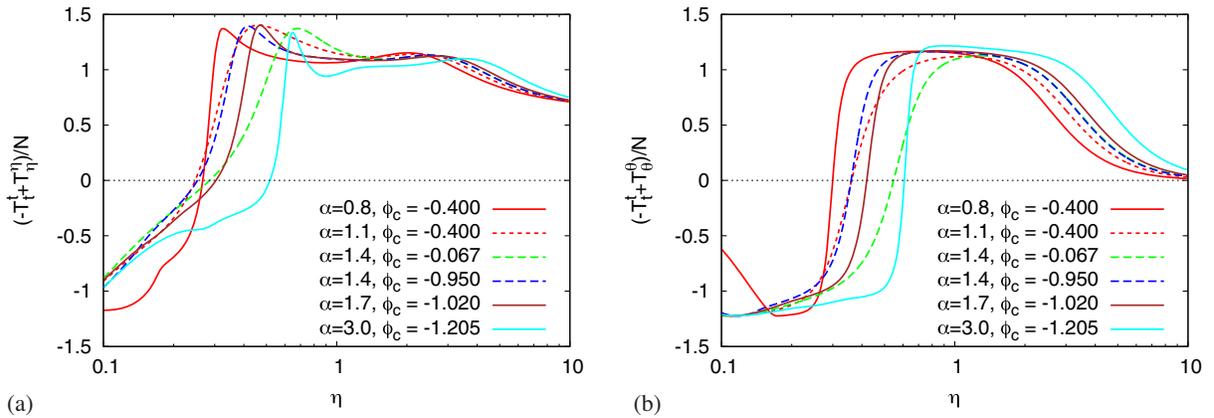


FIG. 8. Violation of the energy conditions (examples with self-interaction): Combinations of stress-energy tensor $(-T'_t + T'_\eta)/N$ (a) and $(-T'_t + T'_\theta)/N$ (b) with $N = \sqrt{(T'_t)^2 + (T'_r)^2 + 2(T'_\theta)^2}$ vs radial coordinate η showing regions of NEC violation for several values of the coupling constant α and the scalar field at the center ϕ_c .

IV. CONCLUSIONS

EsGB theories have very attractive properties. In particular, they allow for several types of interesting compact solutions. Like GR, they possess black hole solutions [19–21,27,29–62]. However, these black hole solutions may carry gravitational scalar hair. Depending on the coupling function to the GB term, the scalar hair of the black holes can arise due to curvature induced spontaneous scalarization.

Besides black holes EsGB theories allow for wormhole solutions, since their effective stress energy tensor provides for violation of the energy conditions via the gravitational sector [10,11,28]. While previously wormhole solutions in EsGB theories were obtained for massless scalar fields, we have here considered wormholes in the presence of a mass term and a sextic self-interaction, inspired by boson stars. Moreover, we have employed a type of coupling function allowing for curvature induced spontaneously scalarized black holes.

We have mapped out the domain of existence of these wormhole solutions, varying the GB coupling constant α . The boundary of the domain of existence consists mostly of solutions where a cusp singularity is encountered. Here the second derivative of some functions either has a jump or diverges. Consequently, also the curvature scalars diverge. A small part of the boundary is provided by solutions, where singularities are encountered at the center of the configurations. Here the scalar field vanishes at the center, while its second order derivative diverges along with one of the metric functions. Some part of this boundary is characterized by curvature singularities. The remaining part of the boundary is constituted by the set of scalarized EsGB black holes, together with the marginally stable Schwarzschild black hole.

The domain of existence is significantly increased by the presence of the self-interaction as compared to the case with a mass term only. This is similar to the case of boson stars, where the sextic self-interaction allows for a much larger set of solutions, which, in particular, possess much higher masses [63,64]). Here the sextic self-interaction also leads to more massive wormholes in the new region in parameter space available due to the self-interaction.

Most of the wormholes possess a single throat at the center. However, there is a small region in parameter space, present already for a mass term only (and also for vanishing

mass), where the wormholes develop a maximum at the center surrounded by a minimum on each side. In this case, the wormhole solutions possess an equator, that is connected to each asymptotically flat region via a throat.

At the center, a shell of ordinary matter like, for instance, dust can be invoked to obtain solutions that are regular in both asymptotically flat regions and symmetric with respect to coordinate inflection, $\eta \rightarrow -\eta$. The junction conditions [25,26] can be satisfied with ordinary matter, and there is no need for any type of exotic matter to obtain regular symmetric wormhole solutions. This is different from GR, where exotic matter is needed to obtain the necessary violation of the energy conditions.

Although we invoke the junction conditions when we obtain the wormhole solutions, our procedure is not a typical cut and paste procedure, since the throats (equators) arise naturally in these wormhole solutions. We invoke the junction conditions only to achieve that both asymptotically flat regions are free of singularities. It would certainly be of great interest to find wormhole solutions, that would be smooth throughout, without the need for a thin shell of matter at the center. While the present model does not allow for such smooth wormholes, it is quite conceivable that they might be generated by other coupling functions or scalar potentials.

Nevertheless it will be interesting to investigate all these wormhole solutions and their properties further. Since wormholes represent compact objects, that can mimic black holes to some extent, the next objectives will be to study the (possible) lightrings of these objects [69,70] and to investigate the (possible) presence of echoes [71–73]. These objectives have recently already been addressed for a further type of compact solutions, that EsGB theories allow for, namely particlelike solutions [67,68]. It should certainly be interesting to also extend these particlelike solutions to the case of a nonvanishing scalar field potential, as has been done here for the wormhole solutions [28].

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