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Simon Raulot

▶ To cite this version:

Simon Raulot. Nonexistence of DEC spin fill-ins. 2022. hal-03630991

HAL Id: hal-03630991 https://hal.science/hal-03630991v1

Preprint submitted on 5 Apr 2022

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NONEXISTENCE OF DEC SPIN FILL-INS

SIMON RAULOT

ABSTRACT. In this note, we show that a closed spin Riemannian manifold does not admit a spin fill-in satisfying the dominant energy condition (DEC) if a certain generalized mean curvature function is point-wise large.

Given a closed n-dimensional Riemannian manifold (Σ, γ) , it is a very interesting question to know whether there exists an (n+1)-dimensional compact Riemannian manifold (Ω, g) with nonnegative scalar curvature (NNSC) whose boundary is isometric to (Σ, γ) . If so, the Riemannian manifold is called a fill-in of (Σ, γ) and the set of all such fill-ins, referred to as NNSC fill-ins of (Σ, γ) , is denoted by $\mathcal{F}(\Sigma, \gamma)$. The problem of the existence of such fill-ins has recently been solved by Shi, Wang and Wei [SWW22] where it is shown that if Σ is the boundary of an (n+1)-dimensional compact manifold Ω then, any metric γ on Σ can be extended to a Riemannian metric g on Ω with positive scalar curvature.

One can also try to find a fill-in whose mean curvature is prescribed by a smooth function H on Σ . This problem is tightly related to the Bartnik quasi-local mass [Bar89] and a triplet (Σ, γ, H) is then usually called a Bartnik data.

In [Mia21], Miao proved that if Σ is the boundary of some compact (n+1)-dimensional manifold Ω , then given any Riemannian metric γ on Σ , there exists a constant H_0 , depending on γ and Ω , such that, if $\min_{\Sigma} H \geq H_0$, there does not exist NNSC fill-ins of (Σ, γ, H) . The proof makes use of the work of Shi, Wang and Wei [SWW22] and of Schoen and Yau's results on closed manifolds [SY79, SY19]. Such a result is also obtained for fill-ins with a negative scalar curvature lower bound.

This fact was previously demonstrated by Gromov [Gro18] for spin manifolds. More precisely, he showed that if (Ω, g) is a NNSC spin fill-in of (Σ, γ, H) , then

$$\min_{\Sigma} H \le \frac{n}{\operatorname{Rad}(\Sigma, \gamma)}$$

where $\operatorname{Rad}(\Sigma, \gamma)$ is a constant only depending on (Σ, γ) and known as the hyperspherical radius of (Σ, γ) . The main remark here, which is the key point of our argument, is that the nonexistence of NNSC spin fill-ins can be obtained by taking another route. Indeed, it can be deduced from from an eigenvalue estimate on the first eigenvalue $\lambda_1(\Sigma, \gamma)$ of the Dirac operator of (Σ, γ) proved by Hijazi, Montiel and Zhang [HMZ01] and which states that

$$\min_{\Sigma} H \le 2|\lambda_1(\Sigma, \gamma)|. \tag{1}$$

Since $\lambda_1(\Sigma, \gamma)$ depends only on Σ , γ and the involved spin structure, the nonexistence of NNSC spin fill-ins is a direct consequence of (1). This inequality is sharp since round balls in the Euclidean space satisfy the equality case of (1). Note that a similar result can

Date: April 5, 2022.

be deduced for spin fill-ins with a negative scalar curvature lower bound from [HMR03] as in [Gro18].

In this note, we use the aforementioned observation to generalize this result in the context of spin fill-ins satisfying the dominant energy condition (DEC). Following [Bar97], a 5-uple $(\Sigma, \gamma, H, \alpha, \mathfrak{h})$ is called a spacetime Bartnik data set if (Σ, γ) is an oriented, closed Riemannian manifold, H and \mathfrak{h} are smooth functions on Σ and α is a smooth 1-form on Σ . In this situation, a triplet (Ω, g, k) is a fill-in of such a spacetime Bartnik data if

- (1) (Ω, g, k) is a compact initial data set, that is (Ω, g) is an (n + 1)-dimensional compact Riemannian manifold with boundary and k is a smooth symmetric (0, 2)-tensor field on Ω ,
- (2) there exists an isometry $f:(\Sigma,\gamma)\to(\partial\Omega,g_{|\partial\Omega})$ such that
 - (a) $f^*H_g = H$, where H_g is the mean curvature of $\partial\Omega$ in (Ω, g) with respect to the outward unit normal $\widetilde{\nu}$,
 - (b) $f^*(k(\widetilde{\nu},\cdot)^T) = \alpha$,
 - (c) $f^*(\operatorname{Tr}_{g_{|\partial\Omega}} k) = \mathfrak{h}.$

Here $\operatorname{Tr}_{g_{\mid \partial\Omega}}$ denotes the trace operator on $\partial\Omega$ and ω^T is the tangent part to Σ of a 1-form ω defined along Σ . In the following, we will omit the isometry f in the identification between Σ and $\partial\Omega$. Then, a fill-in (Ω, g, k) of $(\Sigma, \gamma, H, \alpha, \mathfrak{h})$ satisfies the dominant energy condition, or is a DEC fill-in, if

$$\mu \ge |J|_g$$

where μ and J are respectively the mass density and the current density defined by

$$\mu = \frac{1}{2} \left(R_g + (\text{Tr}_g \, k)^2 - |k|_g^2 \right)$$

and

$$J = \operatorname{div}_g (k - (\operatorname{Tr}_g k)g).$$

Here R_g and Tr_g denote respectively the scalar curvature and the trace operator of (Ω, g) . In this situation, a natural generalization of the mean curvature is given by the function

$$\mathcal{H}_g := H_g - \sqrt{|k(\widetilde{\nu}, \cdot)^T|_g^2 + (\operatorname{Tr}_{g|\partial\Omega} k)^2}$$

which corresponds, for a spacetime Bartnik data, to

$$\mathcal{H} := f^* \mathcal{H}_g = H - \sqrt{|\alpha|_{\gamma}^2 + \mathfrak{h}^2}.$$
 (2)

When Σ is endowed with a spin structure, we will say that (Ω, g, k) is a DEC spin fill-in of the spacetime Bartnik data $(\Sigma, \gamma, H, \alpha, \mathfrak{h})$ if (Ω, g, k) is a DEC fill-in and if Ω is a spin manifold which induces the given spin structure on Σ . We then have the following result.

Theorem 1. Given any Riemannian metric γ on an n-dimensional spin manifold Σ , there exists a constant \mathcal{H}_0 , depending only on Σ , γ and the spin structure of Σ , such that, if $\min_{\Sigma} \mathcal{H} \geq \mathcal{H}_0$, there do not exist DEC spin fill-ins of $(\Sigma, \gamma, H, \alpha, \mathfrak{h})$.

This question was tackled by Tsang in [Tsa22] where several partial results are proved. We remark that if k=0 then $\alpha=0$ and $\mathfrak{h}=0$, and the DEC gives the nonnegativity of the scalar curvature so that a DEC fill-in of (Σ, γ, H) corresponds to a NNSC fill-in. In a same way, if k=cg, $c\neq 0$, then $\alpha=0$ and $\mathfrak{h}=nc$, and the DEC condition implies that the scalar curvature of (Ω,g) is bounded from below by a negative constant, namely $R_g \geq -n(n+1)c^2$. These remarks imply that our result covers both of these cases. As mentioned above, the proof is a direct consequence of an eigenvalue estimate for the first eigenvalue of the Dirac operator of a spacetime Bartnik spin data which admits a DEC spin fill-in. This lower bound is stated as follow.

Theorem 2. If a spacetime Bartnik spin data $(\Sigma, \gamma, H, \alpha, \mathfrak{h})$ admits a DEC spin fill-in (Ω, g, k) with $\mathcal{H} > 0$, then the first eigenvalue $\lambda_1(\Sigma, \gamma)$ of the Dirac operator of (Σ, γ) satisfies

$$\min_{\Sigma} \mathcal{H} \leq 2|\lambda_1(\Sigma, \gamma)|.$$

One can consider $\mathcal{F}_{spin}(\Sigma, \gamma)$, the set of the DEC spin fill-ins of the Riemannian spin manifold (Σ, γ) without specifying the data H, α and \mathfrak{h} . Then Theorem 2 implies that if $\mathcal{F}_{spin}(\Sigma, \gamma) \neq \emptyset$, it holds that

$$\sup_{(\Omega,g,k)\in\mathcal{F}_{spin}(\Sigma,\gamma)}\min_{\Sigma}\mathcal{H}\leq 2|\lambda_1(\Sigma,\gamma)|<\infty.$$

The proof of Theorem 2 relies on spin geometry and we refer especially to [BHM⁺15, Fri98, Gin09 for more details on this subject. Let us briefly recall what we need here. Since (Ω, q) is a Riemannian spin manifold, there exists a smooth Hermitian vector bundle over Ω , the spinor bundle, denoted by $\mathbf{S}\Omega$, whose sections are called spinor fields. The Hermitian scalar product is denoted by \langle , \rangle . Moreover, the tangent bundle $T\Omega$ acts on $\mathbf{S}\Omega$ by Clifford multiplication $X\otimes\psi\mapsto c(X)\psi$ for any tangent vector fields X and any spinor fields ψ . On the other hand, the Riemannian Levi-Civita connection ∇ lifts to the so-called spin Levi-Civita connection, also denoted by ∇ , and defines a metric covariant derivative on $\mathbf{S}\Omega$ that preserves the Clifford multiplication. A quadruplet $(\mathbf{S}\Omega, c, \langle , \rangle, \nabla)$ which satisfies the previous assumptions is usually referred to as a Dirac bundle. The Dirac operator is then the first order elliptic differential operator acting on $\mathbf{S}\Omega$ defined by $D := c \circ \nabla$. The spin structure on Ω induces, via a choice of an unit normal field to $\partial\Omega\simeq\Sigma$, a spin structure on Σ . This allows to define the *extrinsic* spinor bundle $\beta := \mathbf{S}\Omega_{|\Sigma}$ over Σ on which there exists a Clifford multiplication ξ and a metric covariant derivative ∇ . The quadruplet $(\mathcal{S}, \ell, \langle , \rangle, \nabla)$ is thus endowed with a Dirac bundle structure. Similarly, the extrinsic Dirac operator is defined by taking the Clifford trace of the covariant derivative ∇ that is $\mathbb{D} := \not c \circ \nabla$. It is by now well-known that this operator can be expressed using the Dirac operator D_{Σ} of (Σ, γ) endowed with the induced spin structure. What is important to us here is that the first nonnegative eigenvalue of the extrinsic Dirac operator \mathcal{D} corresponds to $|\lambda_1(\Sigma, \gamma)|$, the absolute value of the first eigenvalue of D_{Σ} and so it only depends on (Σ, γ) and the spin structure on \sum .

Proof of Theorem 2: Let (Ω, g, k) be a DEC spin fill-in of the spacetime Bartnik spin data $(\Sigma, \gamma, H, \alpha, \mathfrak{h})$ and consider the modified spin covariant derivatives defined by

$$\nabla_X^{\pm}\psi := \nabla_X\psi \pm \frac{i}{2}c(k(X))\psi \tag{3}$$

for $X \in \Gamma(T\Omega)$ and $\psi \in \Gamma(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$. The associated Dirac-type operators given by $D^{\pm} := c \circ \nabla^{\pm}$ are easily seen to satisfy

$$D^{\pm}\psi = D\psi \mp \frac{i}{2}(\operatorname{Tr}_{g} k)\psi. \tag{4}$$

These are first order elliptic differential operators whose formal adjoints, with respect to the L^2 scalar product on $\mathbf{S}\Omega$, are D^{\mp} as deduced from the following integration by parts formulae

$$\int_{\Omega} \langle D^{\pm} \psi, \varphi \rangle d\mu = \int_{\Omega} \langle \psi, D^{\mp} \varphi \rangle d\mu - \int_{\Sigma} \langle c(\nu)\psi, \varphi \rangle d\sigma \tag{5}$$

for all smooth spinor fields ψ , φ on Ω . Here $d\mu$ (resp. $d\sigma$) denotes the Riemannian volume (resp. area) element of (Ω, g) (resp. (Σ, γ)) and ν is the inner unit normal to Σ in (Ω, g) . In a same way, a straightforward computation implies that

$$(\nabla^{\pm})^* \nabla^{\pm} \psi = -\sum_{j=1}^{n+1} \nabla_{e_j}^{\mp} \nabla_{e_j}^{\pm} \psi \tag{6}$$

where $(\nabla^{\pm})^*$ denote the formal adjoints of the modified connection ∇^{\pm} and $\{e_1, \dots, e_{n+1}\}$ is a local g-orthonormal frame of $T\Omega$. In particular, the Stokes formula leads to

$$\int_{\Omega} \langle (\nabla^{\pm})^* \nabla^{\pm} \psi, \psi \rangle d\mu = \int_{\Omega} |\nabla^{\pm} \psi|^2 d\mu + \int_{\Sigma} \langle \nabla^{\pm}_{\nu} \psi, \psi \rangle d\sigma. \tag{7}$$

Then, it follows from the fact that $(D^{\pm})^* = D^{\mp}$, from (6) and the classical Schrödinger-Lichnerowicz formula

$$D^2\psi = \nabla^*\nabla\psi + \frac{R_g}{4}\psi$$

that

$$(D^{\pm})^* D^{\pm} \psi = (\nabla^{\pm})^* \nabla^{\pm} \psi + \frac{1}{2} (\mu \psi \pm i c(J) \psi)$$
(8)

for all $\psi \in \Gamma(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$. This is the (n+1)-dimensional Riemannian counterpart of the formula obtained by Witten [Wit81] in his proof of the positive energy theorem. Now observe that since the point-wise symmetric endomorphism $J^{\pm} := \pm ic(J)$ satisfies $\left(J^{\pm}\right)^2 \psi = |J|_a^2 \psi$ it holds that

$$\langle J^{\pm}\psi,\psi\rangle \geq -|J|_q|\psi|^2$$

so that the DEC and (8) imply the point-wise inequalities

$$\langle (D^{\pm})^* D^{\pm} \psi, \psi \rangle \ge \langle (\nabla^{\pm})^* \nabla^{\pm} \psi, \psi \rangle$$

for all $\psi \in \Gamma(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$. Now integrating by part these estimates on Ω using (5) and (7) leads to the following important integral inequalities

$$\int_{\Omega} \left(|\nabla^{\pm} \psi|^2 - |D^{\pm} \psi|^2 \right) d\mu \le -\int_{\Sigma} \langle \nabla_{\nu}^{\pm} \psi + c(\nu) D^{\pm} \psi, \psi \rangle d\sigma. \tag{9}$$

From the very definitions (3) and (4) of the modified covariant derivatives and the associated Dirac operators, we compute that

$$-\nabla_{\nu}^{\pm}\psi - c(\nu)D^{\pm}\psi = \mathcal{D}\psi - \frac{1}{2}(H\psi \mp ic(\mathcal{V})\psi)$$
(10)

where

$$\mathcal{V} := \alpha^{\sharp} + \mathfrak{h}\nu \in \Gamma(T\Omega_{|\Sigma})$$

since (Ω, g, k) is a fill-in of the data $(\Sigma, \gamma, H, \alpha, \mathfrak{h})$. Here $\sharp : T^*\Omega \to T\Omega$ denotes the classical musical isomorphism between the cotangent bundle and the tangent bundle. Observe that the endomorphisms $\mathcal{V}^{\pm} := \pm ic(\mathcal{V})$ of \mathfrak{F} is point-wise symmetric with respect to the Hermitian structure and satisfies $(\mathcal{V}^{\pm})^2\psi = |\mathcal{V}|^2\psi$ in such a way that

$$\langle \mathcal{V}^{\pm}\psi, \psi \rangle \ge -|\mathcal{V}|_g |\psi|^2 = -\sqrt{\mathfrak{h}^2 + |\alpha|_{\gamma}^2} |\psi|^2 \tag{11}$$

for all $\psi \in \Gamma(\mathcal{S})$. Combining (9), (10) and (11) yields the following integral inequalities

$$\int_{\Omega} \left(|\nabla^{\pm} \psi|^2 - |D^{\pm} \psi|^2 \right) d\mu \le \int_{\Sigma} \langle D \psi - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H} \psi, \psi \rangle d\sigma. \tag{12}$$

which hold for all $\psi \in \Gamma(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$ and where \mathcal{H} is the generalized mean curvature function defined in (2).

Now we are going to show that one can extend any spinor fields on Σ in a suitable way. For this, we recall that the map $\chi := ic(\nu)$ is a boundary chirality operator (in the sense of [BB12, Example 7.26]) and so it is an orthogonal involution of \mathcal{S} which induces an orthogonal splitting $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}^+ \oplus \mathcal{S}^-$ into the eigenbundles of χ for the eigenvalues ± 1 . The associated projection maps $P^{\pm} : \mathcal{S} \to \mathcal{S}^{\pm}$ define elliptic local boundary conditions for the Dirac-type operators D^{\pm} (see [BB12, Corollary 7.23] for example). This implies that the operators

$$D_+^+: \left\{ \psi \in H^1(\mathbf{S}\Omega) / P^{\pm}\psi_{|\Sigma} = 0 \right\} \longrightarrow L^2(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$$

are of Fredholm type and that if $\Phi \in \Gamma(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$ and $\Psi \in \Gamma(\mathcal{S})$ are smooth spinor fields, any solutions $\psi \in \Gamma(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$ of the boundary problem

$$\begin{cases} D^{+}\psi = \Phi & \text{on } \Omega \\ P^{\pm}\psi_{|\Sigma} = P^{\pm}\Psi & \text{on } \Sigma \end{cases}$$
 (13)

are smooth. The same holds for the operators D_{\pm}^- . It turns out that these operators are isomorphisms. To prove this fact, we notice that it is enough to show that D_{\pm}^+ and D_{\pm}^- are one-to-one since it follows from the integration by parts formulae (5) that the adjoint of D_{\pm}^+ is D_{\mp}^- . So take ψ_{\pm} , non trivial, in the kernel of D_{\pm}^+ , that is $\psi_{\pm} \in \Gamma(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$ satisfies (13) with $\Phi = 0$ and $\Psi = 0$. In particular, ψ_{\pm} is smooth on Ω . On the other hand, from the self-adjointness of the Dirac operator \mathcal{D} and the fact that $\mathcal{D}\chi = -\chi \mathcal{D}$, we get that

$$\int_{\Sigma} \langle \mathcal{D}\psi, \psi \rangle d\sigma = 2 \int_{\Sigma} \operatorname{Re} \langle \mathcal{D}(P^{\pm}\psi), P^{\mp}\psi \rangle d\sigma \tag{14}$$

for all $\psi \in \Gamma(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$. Using this formula for $\psi = \psi_{\pm}$, we deduce from (12) that

$$0 \le \int_{\Omega} |\nabla^{\pm} \psi_{\pm}|^2 d\mu \le -\frac{1}{2} \min_{\Sigma} \mathcal{H} \int_{\Sigma} |\psi_{\pm}|^2 d\sigma.$$

Since we assumed that \mathcal{H} is positive on Σ , we conclude that ψ_{\pm} is zero on Σ and $\nabla^{\pm}\psi_{\pm}=0$. This leads to a contradiction since this last property implies that ψ_{\pm} is nowhere vanishing on Ω . The same holds for D_{\pm}^{-} .

Now take $\Psi_1 \in \Gamma(\mathcal{S})$ be an eigenspinor for the operator \mathcal{D} associated with the eigenvalue $|\lambda_1(\Sigma, \gamma)|$ and so, from the previous discussion, there exists an unique smooth solution $\varphi \in \Gamma(\mathbf{S}\Omega)$ satisfying

$$\begin{cases} D^+ \varphi = 0 & \text{on } \Omega \\ P^+ \varphi_{|\Sigma} = P^+ \Psi_1 & \text{on } \Sigma. \end{cases}$$

Taking $\psi = \varphi$ in (12) and using the fact that

$$2\operatorname{Re}\langle P^{-}\Psi_{1}, P^{-}\varphi\rangle \leq |P^{-}\Psi_{1}|^{2} + |P^{-}\varphi|^{2},$$

finally lead to

$$0 \le \left(|\lambda_1(\Sigma, \gamma)| - \frac{1}{2} \min_{\Sigma} \mathcal{H} \right) \int_{\Sigma} |\varphi|^2 d\sigma$$

which implies the estimate of Theorem 2. To get this last inequality, we implicitly used the fact that

$$|\lambda_{1}(\Sigma,\gamma)| \int_{\Sigma} |P^{-}\Psi_{1}|^{2} d\sigma = \int_{\Sigma} \langle \mathcal{D}(P^{+}\varphi), P^{-}\Psi_{1} \rangle d\sigma$$

$$= \int_{\Sigma} \langle P^{+}\varphi, \mathcal{D}(P^{-}\Psi_{1}) \rangle d\sigma$$

$$= \int_{\Sigma} \langle P^{+}\varphi, P^{+}(\mathcal{D}\Psi_{1}) \rangle d\sigma$$

$$= |\lambda_{1}(\Sigma,\gamma)| \int_{\Sigma} |P^{+}\varphi|^{2} d\sigma$$

which follows from the identity (14) and the self-adjointness of \mathbb{D} .

We conclude this note by noticing that this method is probably easily generalized to other situations (like the Einstein-Maxwell equations with nonnegative cosmological constant).

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(Simon Raulot) LABORATOIRE DE MATHÉMATIQUES R. SALEM UMR 6085 CNRS-UNIVERSITÉ DE ROUEN AVENUE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ, BP.12 TECHNOPÔLE DU MADRILLET 76801 SAINT-ÉTIENNE-DU-ROUVRAY, FRANCE.

Email address: simon.raulot@univ-rouen.fr