

Holographic phase transitions from higgsed, non abelian charged black holes

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ABSTRACT: We find solutions of a gravity-Yang-Mills-Higgs theory in four dimensions that represent asymptotic anti-de Sitter charged black holes with partial/full gauge symmetry breaking. We then apply the AdS/CFT correspondence to study the strong coupling regime of a $2 + 1$ quantum field theory at temperature T and finite chemical potential, which undergoes transitions to phases exhibiting the condensation of a composite charged vector operator below a critical temperature T_c , presumably describing $p + ip/p$ -wave superconductors. In the case of $p + ip$ -wave superconductors the transitions are always of second order. But for p -wave superconductors we determine the existence of a critical value α_c of the gravitational coupling (for fixed Higgs v.e.v. parameter \hat{m}_W) beyond which the transitions become of first order. As a by-product, we show that the p -wave phase is energetically favored over the $p + ip$ one, for any values of the parameters. We also find the ground state solutions corresponding to zero temperature. Such states are described by domain wall geometries that interpolate between AdS_4 spaces with different light velocities, and for a given \hat{m}_W , they exist below a critical value of the coupling. The behavior of the order parameter as function of the gravitational coupling near the critical coupling suggests the presence of second order quantum phase transitions. We finally study the dependence of the solution on the Higgs coupling, and find the existence of a critical value beyond which no condensed solution is present.

KEYWORDS: AdS-CFT Correspondence, Classical Theories of Gravity, Black Holes, Holography and condensed matter physics (AdS/CMT)

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	The gravity-Yang-Mills-Higgs system	3
2.1	The model	3
2.2	Boundary conditions	5
3	Solutions at $T > 0$: superconducting state	7
4	Numerical solutions	8
4.1	The free energy	10
5	Zero temperature solutions	13
6	Analysis for $\lambda \neq 0$	18
7	Conclusions and outlook	21
A	Boundary expansions	23
B	AH conventions	24

1 Introduction

In recent years the application of AdS/CFT or more generally gauge/gravity correspondence [1–3] to the study of condensed matter physics has attracted a lot of attention, providing in particular gravitational descriptions of systems exhibiting superconductor/superfluid phases [4, 5]. Since in condensed matter physics we are typically dealing with systems at finite charge density and temperature, in the context of the AdS/CFT correspondence the dual gravity descriptions should be given in terms of gravitational models with a negative cosmological constant which admit charged black holes as vacuum solutions. In fact, a charged black hole naturally introduces a charge density/chemical potential and temperature in the quantum field theory (QFT) defined on the boundary using the gauge/gravity correspondence. This set-up allows in particular to study phase transitions and construct phase diagrams in parameter space.

The simplest model is provided by an Einstein-Maxwell theory coupled to a charged scalar field that, in the framework of the AdS/CFT correspondence, is dual to a scalar operator which carries the charge of a global U(1) symmetry. It has been shown that a charged black hole solution, interpreted as the uncondensed phase, becomes unstable and develops scalar hair at low temperature breaking the U(1) symmetry near the black hole

horizon [6, 7]. This phenomenon in general may be interpreted as a second order phase transition between conductor and superconductor phases, interpretation that is supported by analyzing the behavior of the conductivity in these phases [5]. There were also studied vortex like solutions that describe type II holographic superconductors [8–10] and more recently, spatially anisotropic, abelian models of superconductors [11].

Soon after these “*s*-wave” holographic superconductor models were introduced, holographic superconductors models with vector hair, known as *p*-wave holographic superconductors, were explored numerically first in [12] and [13] (for a recent analytical treatment, see [14]). The simplest example of *p*-wave holographic superconductors may be provided by an Einstein-Yang-Mills theory with SU(2) gauge group and no scalar fields, where the electromagnetic gauge symmetry is identified with an U(1) subgroup of SU(2). The other components of the SU(2) gauge field play the role of charged fields dual to some vector operators whose non-zero expectation values break the U(1) symmetry leading to a phase transition in the dual field theory.

More recently, solutions to gravity-matter field equations where both scalar and vector order parameters are present were considered; they describe systems where competition/coexistence of different phases takes place [15]–[18].

Regular, self-gravitating dyonic solutions of the Einstein-Yang-Mills-Higgs (EYMH) equations in the BPS limit and asymptotic to global AdS space, were constructed time ago in [19] and [20]. They were extended to dyonic black hole solutions in [21] and [22], where they were interpreted as describing a so-called *p*+*ip*-wave superconductor (isotropic) system at finite temperature in the condensed phase. The purpose of the present work is to generalize previous results by finding more general black hole solutions of EYMH in asymptotically AdS_4 space with finite mass and electric charge density, to interpret them via the gauge/gravity duality as describing phases of a strongly coupled field theory, and to construct the corresponding phase diagrams.¹ More specifically, in first term we start by revisiting the analysis of [21, 22], verifying the existence of second order phase transitions all along the parameter space. It was found (see for example [23]) that some holographic systems pass from a second order phase transition as a function of the temperature in the non back-reaction limit to a first order when the gravitational coupling exceeds a certain value. Such a phenomenon occurs in holographic superfluids when the velocity is high enough [24, 25], and it was measured in certain types of superconductors [26–28]. We have found this kind of behavior in our system in the anisotropic case, finding condensed solutions and constructing the phase diagram. Second, we compute free energies and find that for any set of values of the free parameters that determines the solutions, the anisotropic phase is energetically favored over the isotropic phase, as conjectured in other contexts [29–31]. Third, we analyze the zero temperature limit, case that had not been addressed before; for low enough gravitational coupling we find solutions which spontaneously break the U(1) symmetry and have zero entropy, and so describe the true ground state of the system. For gravitational couplings higher than a critical value the solution

¹We will be considering the usual plane horizon ansatz, relevant to study condensed matter systems with translational invariance. Under these circumstances, the magnetic charge density of the dyon solutions in [21, 22] disappears.

disappears, which is interpreted as a second order quantum phase transition. Lastly, we study the effect of a non zero Higgs potential on the system.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we present the model and write the translational invariant ansatz for the fields and the equations of motion that reduces to a nonlinear system of coupled ordinary differential equations. In section 3 we present generalities of the systems to be studied at non-zero temperature, in particular the analysis of the holographic map to be used. In section 4 we present the numerical results concerning the “BPS limit”, i.e. null Higgs potential, including computations of free energies. Section 5 is devoted to the study of the zero temperature case and the description of the ground state of the superconductor, including the presence of quantum phase transitions as function of the gravitational coupling and variable Higgs vacuum expectation value (vev) \hat{m}_W . In section 6 the effect of a non-zero Higgs potential is considered. A summary and discussion of the results is given in section 7. Finally two appendices are added, one containing the boundary expansions of the fields and other containing the equations of motion and free energy in other parameterization commonly used in the literature.

2 The gravity-Yang-Mills-Higgs system

2.1 The model

We consider a gravity-Yang-Mills-Higgs system in a 1 + 3 dimensional space-time with Minkowski signature $(-+++)$. We take $SU(2)$ as the gauge group, with generators satisfying the algebra,

$$[X_a, X_b] = \epsilon_{abc} X_c; \quad a, b, c = 0, 1, 2, \quad \epsilon_{012} \equiv +1 \tag{2.1}$$

and the scalar field in the adjoint representation, $H = H^a X_a$. The full action to be considered is,

$$S = S^{(bulk)} + S^{(GH)} + S^{(ct)} \tag{2.2}$$

where

$$S^{(bulk)} = \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{|g|} \left(\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \left(R + \frac{6}{L^2} \right) - \frac{1}{4e^2} F_{MN}^a F^{aMN} - \frac{1}{2} D^M H^a D_M H^a - \frac{\lambda}{4} (H^a H^a - H_0^2)^2 \right)$$

$$S^{(GH)} = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} d^3x \sqrt{|h|} 2K \tag{2.3}$$

where κ , e and λ are the gravitational, gauge and scalar couplings respectively, L is the AdS scale related to the negative cosmological constant through $\Lambda = -3/L^2$, and $H_0 > 0$ defines the vacuum expectation value of the Higgs field (and so the boundary condition at infinity, see below in (2.14)). As it is well-known, the Gibbons-Hawking term $S^{(GH)}$ is necessary to have a well defined variational principle [32], where $K \equiv \nabla_a n^a$ is the trace of the extrinsic curvature, and h and n the induced metric and normal vector on $\partial\mathcal{M}$. The counter-term action $S^{(ct)}$ will be discussed in section 4.

The field strength F_{MN}^a and the covariant derivative D_M acting on the Higgs triplet H^a are defined as,

$$F_{MN}^a \equiv \partial_M A_N^a - \partial_N A_M^a + \epsilon_{abc} A_M^b A_N^c; \quad D_M H^a \equiv \partial_M H^a + \epsilon_{abc} A_M^b H^c. \quad (2.4)$$

Let us consider coordinates (x^μ, y) and an ansatz preserving translational invariance in the coordinates $\{x^\mu, \mu = 0, 1, 2\}$,

$$\begin{aligned} g &= -f(y) A(y)^2 dx^{02} + y^2 \left(c(y)^2 dx^{12} + dx^{22} \right) + L^2 \frac{dy^2}{f(y)} \\ A &= L^{-1} \left(dx^0 J(y) X_0 + dx^1 K_1(y) X_1 + dx^2 K_2(y) X_2 \right) \\ H &= H_0 H(y) X_0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

In what follows it will be convenient to introduce the dimensionless coupling constants,

$$\alpha \equiv \frac{\kappa}{eL}; \quad \hat{m}_W \equiv e H_0 L; \quad \lambda_0 \equiv e^2 H_0^4 L^4 \lambda. \quad (2.6)$$

The gravity equations of motion (e.o.m.) derived from (2.3) result,

$$\begin{aligned} -(y f(y))' + 3y^2 - y^2 f(y) \frac{c''(y)}{c(y)} - \left(3y f(y) + \frac{y^2}{2} f'(y) \right) \frac{c'(y)}{c(y)} \\ = \alpha^2 \left(\frac{\lambda_0}{4} y^2 (H(y)^2 - 1)^2 + f(y) V_1 + V_2 + \frac{y^2}{2} \frac{J'(y)^2}{A(y)^2} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{K_1(y)^2}{c(y)^2} + K_2(y)^2 \right) \left(\hat{m}_W^2 H(y)^2 + \frac{J(y)^2}{f(y) A(y)^2} \right) \right) \\ y \frac{A'(y)}{A(y)} - \frac{A(y)}{2c(y)} \left(\frac{y^2 c'(y)}{A(y)} \right)' = \alpha^2 \left(V_1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{K_1(y)^2}{c(y)^2} + K_2(y)^2 \right) \frac{J(y)^2}{f(y)^2 A(y)^2} \right) \\ \frac{1}{A(y) c(y)} (y^2 f(y) A(y) c'(y))' = \alpha^2 \left(\left(\frac{K_1(y)^2}{c(y)^2} - K_2(y)^2 \right) \left(\frac{J(y)^2}{f(y) A(y)^2} - \hat{m}_W^2 H(y)^2 \right) \right. \\ \left. - f(y) \left(\frac{K_1'(y)^2}{c(y)^2} - K_2'(y)^2 \right) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

while that the matter e.o.m. are,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{c(y)}{A(y)} \left(\frac{f(y) A(y)}{c(y)} K_1'(y) \right)' &= \left(\frac{K_2(y)^2}{y^2} + \hat{m}_W^2 H(y)^2 - \frac{J(y)^2}{f(y) A(y)^2} \right) K_1(y) \\ \frac{1}{A(y) c(y)} (f(y) A(y) c(y) K_2'(y))' &= \left(\frac{K_1(y)^2}{c(y)^2 y^2} + \hat{m}_W^2 H(y)^2 - \frac{J(y)^2}{f(y) A(y)^2} \right) K_2(y) \\ \frac{1}{A(y) c(y)} (y^2 f(y) A(y) c(y) H'(y))' &= \left(\frac{K_1(y)^2}{c(y)^2} + K_2(y)^2 + \frac{\lambda_0}{\hat{m}_W^2} y^2 (H(y)^2 - 1) \right) H(y) \\ \frac{f(y) A(y)}{c(y)} \left(\frac{y^2 c(y)}{A(y)} J'(y) \right)' &= \left(\frac{K_1(y)^2}{c(y)^2} + K_2(y)^2 \right) J(y) \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

where we have defined,

$$V_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{K_1'(y)^2}{c(y)^2} + K_2'(y)^2 \right) + \frac{\hat{m}_W^2}{2} y^2 H'(y)^2; \quad V_2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{K_1(y)^2 K_2(y)^2}{y^2 c(y)^2}. \quad (2.9)$$

We will start by considering the ‘‘BPS limit’’ $\lambda_0 = 0$, but conserving the crucial Higgs vacuum value $H_0 > 0$. The effect of a finite Higgs coupling will be considered in section 6.

2.2 Boundary conditions

We will search for charged black hole solutions which present a horizon at $y = y_h$ where $f(y_h) = 0$. The associated Bekenstein-Hawking temperature of the black hole is given by,

$$T_{BH} = \frac{1}{4\pi L} A(y_h) f'(y_h). \quad (2.10)$$

The ansatz (and e.o.m.) are invariant under the scale transformations,

$$\begin{aligned} (x^0; A(y), J(y)) &\longrightarrow \left(\frac{x^0}{\beta}; \beta A(y), \beta J(y) \right) \\ (x^1; c(y), K_1(y)) &\longrightarrow \left(\frac{x^1}{\beta'}; \beta' c(y), \beta' K_1(y) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

They allow to fix some normalization imposing the b.c., $A(y), c(y) \xrightarrow{y \rightarrow \infty} 1$, in such a way that the x^μ 's are identified with the minkowskian coordinates of the boundary QFT, and (2.10) with its temperature. Furthermore there exists another scaling symmetry,

$$(x^\mu, y) \rightarrow \left(\frac{x^\mu}{\gamma}, \gamma y \right), \quad f(y) \rightarrow \gamma^2 f(y), \quad K_i(y) \rightarrow \gamma K_i(y), \quad J(y) \rightarrow \gamma J(y) \quad (2.12)$$

that if $y_h \neq 0$, allows to fix $y_h = 1$.² Since now on we will fix the position of the horizon in this way, having in mind that we have to consider only scale invariants quantities.

In [21] and [22] solutions to (2.7)–(2.8) with a horizon and asymptotically AdS_4 were studied. More specifically, there were found solutions with $K_1 = K_2 = K$ and the following boundary conditions; near the horizon $y \rightarrow 1^+$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) &= f_1 (y - 1) + \mathcal{O}[(y - 1)^2] \\ A(y) &= a_0 + a_1 (y - 1) + \mathcal{O}[(y - 1)^2] \\ c(y) &= c_0 + c_1 (y - 1) + \mathcal{O}[(y - 1)^2] \\ H(y) &= h_0 + h_1 (y - 1) + \mathcal{O}[(y - 1)^2] \\ K(y) &= k_0 + k_1 (y - 1) + \mathcal{O}[(y - 1)^2] \\ J(y) &= j_1 (y - 1) + \mathcal{O}[(y - 1)^2] \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

while on the boundary $y \rightarrow \infty$,

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) &= y^2 + \frac{F_1}{y} + \dots \\ A(y) &= 1 + \dots \\ c(y) &= 1 + \dots \\ H(y) &= 1 + \frac{H_1}{y^3} + \dots \\ K(y) &= \frac{K_1}{y^{\kappa_1}} + \dots \\ J(y) &= J_0 + \frac{J_1}{y} + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

²This is the case except when we consider the zero temperature limit. When back-reaction is not taking into account $y_h = 0$ corresponds to AdS space; when it is considered, $y_h = 0$ is imposed in order to get a true ground state description and (2.12) can be used to fix the chemical potential, see section 5.

where consistency with the e.o.m. and finiteness of $K(y)$ fixes κ_1 to be,

$$\kappa_1 (\kappa_1 - 1) = \hat{m}_W^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \kappa_1 = \frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + \hat{m}_W^2}. \quad (2.15)$$

For more about the b.c. at the boundary, we refer the reader to the appendix A. We will adopt the b.c. (2.13)–(2.14) in this paper except in section 5 where the b.c. on the horizon will have to be modified.

The bulk theory is invariant under the gauge group $SU(2)$; however the b.c. on the Higgs field, $H(y) \xrightarrow{y \rightarrow \infty} 1$, breaks this invariance to the $U(1)$ generated by X_0 . With respect to this gauge subgroup the electric charge density of a solution is defined as usual by,

$$\rho \equiv \frac{1}{V_2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} *F|_{U(1)} = \frac{1}{L^2} \frac{c(y)}{A(y)} y^2 J'(y)|_{y \rightarrow \infty} = -\frac{J_1}{L^2}. \quad (2.16)$$

As we show in section 4, at fixed couplings (α, \hat{m}_W) a general solution to (2.7)–(2.8) with the b.c. (2.13)–(2.14) is determined by J_0 , which is related to the $U(1)$ chemical potential by,

$$\mu \equiv A_0^0(\infty) = \frac{J_0}{L}. \quad (2.17)$$

From (2.16) and (2.17) the standard asymptotic expansion follows,

$$A_0^0(y) = \mu - \frac{L\rho}{y} + \dots \quad (2.18)$$

Along this paper we will adopt μ as our scale. From (2.12) the dimensionless, scale invariant temperature is,

$$T \equiv \frac{T_{BH}}{\mu} = \frac{a_0 f_1}{4\pi J_0} \quad (2.19)$$

where a_0 and f_1 are defined in (2.13). A solution is determined by the three free parameters (α, \hat{m}_W, J_0) , and so the temperature (through the coefficients a_0, f_1) results a function of them.³

In the analytic solution to the equations (2.7)–(2.8) that preserves the $U(1)_{X_0}$ symmetry matter fields take the form,

$$J(y) = J_0 + \frac{J_1}{y} = J_0 \left(1 - \frac{1}{y}\right); \quad K_i(y) = 0; \quad H(y) = 1 \quad (2.20)$$

where we imposed smooth behavior of the gauge field at the horizon which yields the condition $J(1) = 0$, see the last line in (2.13), and then fixed $J_1 = -J_0$.⁴ In what the metric functions concern, they correspond to the AdS Reissner-Nordström (AdS-RN) black hole,

$$\begin{aligned} A(y) &= c(y) = 1 \\ f(y) &= y^2 - \left(1 + \frac{\alpha^2 J_0^2}{2}\right) \frac{1}{y} + \frac{\alpha^2 J_0^2}{2} \frac{1}{y^2} \\ &= \frac{y-1}{y^2} \left(3 - \frac{\alpha^2 J_0^2}{2} + (y^2 + 2y + 3)(y-1)\right) \end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

³In EYM systems where the Higgs field is not present the temperature is function of the only free parameter of the theory, α , see [23].

⁴When $y_h = 0$, $J(y) = J_0$ is just the chemical potential and the metric solution is AdS space; it describes the uncondensed phase when the temperature is zero, see section 5.

with temperature,

$$T = \frac{1}{4\pi J_0} \left(3 - \frac{\alpha^2 J_0^2}{2} \right). \tag{2.22}$$

The extremal, zero temperature AdS-RN black hole is defined by the relation $\alpha^2 J_0^2 = 6$.

3 Solutions at $T > 0$: superconducting state

When the “magnetic part” of the gauge field is non-trivial, i.e. $K_i(y) \neq 0$ for some $i = 1, 2$, the solution breaks not only the $U(1)_{X_0}$ invariance, but also the invariance under rotations in the (x^1, x^2) -plane. According to the AdS/CFT dictionary this hair is interpreted as a spontaneous breaking of a global $U(1)$ symmetry present in the boundary QFT, whose currents take an expectation value,

$$\langle J_i^a(x) \rangle \sim K_i \delta_i^a; \quad i, a = 1, 2. \tag{3.1}$$

Giving that the order parameter is dual to (a component of) the gauge field we are presumably modeling a p -wave superconductor [13]. The normal state of the superconductor is described by the AdS-RN solution (2.20)–(2.21); such solution is energetically favored until a critical temperature T_c is reached; when $T < T_c$ the non symmetric, hairy solution gives rise to a superconductor phase.

We remark that with the b.c. on the Higgs field we are breaking explicitly the gauge group from $SU(2)$ to $U(1)_{X_0}$; this yields a mass for the “W” gauge bosons,

$$m_W \equiv e H_0. \tag{3.2}$$

The problem is thus the following: can we find under this condition a solution with $K_i(y) \neq 0$ that breaks spontaneously the $U(1)_{X_0}$? In the boundary QFT this is then interpreted as the breaking of a global $U(1)$ symmetry as it happens in superfluids and superconductors with weakly coupled photons. From here we identify T_c with the critical temperature of the phase transition in the QFT.

We will consider two cases.

- *The isotropic case:* $K(y) \equiv K_1(y) = K_2(y)$.

Although both gauge and rotational symmetries are broken by a hairy solution, a configuration (2.5) with $K_1(y) = K_2(y)$ preserves the diagonal subgroup, $(U(1)_{X_0} \times SO(2)_{\text{rot}})_{\text{diag}}$, fact that is manifest in (3.1) [12]. This configuration give rise to an energy-momentum tensor isotropic in the x^1 - x^2 plane; therefore the metric function $c(y)$ must be a constant, even when back-reaction is taken into account.

This kind of configurations were first studied in [21]–[22], using relaxation methods. We will re-obtain these solutions here for later use by using shooting methods.

- *The anisotropic case:* $K(y) \equiv K_1(y); K_2(y) = 0$.

As stated above, a configuration with $K_1 = 0$ preserves the $U(1)_{X_0}$ and spatial rotations. When $K_1(y)$ develops a non zero value the gauge symmetry $U(1)_{X_0}$ breaks,

and the condensate $K_1(y) X_1 dx^1$ choose a direction x^1 as a special one. Then if we take into account back-reaction effects the system cannot support the condition $g_{11} = g_{22}$ [13]. Due to this fact $T_{x^1x^1} \neq T_{x^2x^2}$ and the function $c(y)$ can not be a constant; in conclusion the system will be in an anisotropic phase.

In both cases the vacuum expectation value in the $d = 3$ field theory of the current operator \mathcal{O}_K , dual to the function K associated with the magnetic field in the bulk, follows from the identification, $\langle \mathcal{O}_K \rangle \sim K_1$ with K_1 defined in (2.14); $K_1 = K_1(T)$ can be taken as the order parameter that describes the phase transition of the system. As discussed for different models [7]–[22] one can interpret this result by stating that a condensate is formed above a black hole horizon because of a balance of gravitational and electrostatic forces. From the asymptotic behavior in (2.14) we get the dimension $\Delta[\mathcal{O}_K]$ of the operator \mathcal{O}_K [33]

$$\Delta[\mathcal{O}_K] = 1 + \kappa_1 = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{1 + 4 \hat{m}_W^2}. \tag{3.3}$$

From numerical solutions we conclude that a finite temperature continuous symmetry breaking transition takes place so that the system condenses at a critical temperature T_c , as can be seen from the behavior of $K_1(T)$ for $T \approx T_c$ in figures 3, 4 and 5. Furthermore, we compare the free energies corresponding to both phases in figures 8 and 9, finding that the anisotropic phase is favored, see [29–31] for related results.

4 Numerical solutions

We analyzed numerically equations (2.7)–(2.8) and found solutions that satisfy the required b.c. (2.13)–(2.14) in a wide region of the parameter space, that lead to the phase diagram in figure 1. Such solutions in the anisotropic case are shown in figure 2.

Before presenting the results, we think is worth to spend a few words on the method used. As discussed in appendix A, after fixing some normalization and asking for finiteness the solution near the boundary admits the expansions in equation (A.1), and is determined by six constants, $(F_1, C_1, J_0, J_1, K_1, H_1)$. However the b.c. on the horizon impose five conditions. The first two come from the definition of the horizon and the regularity of the gauge field,

$$f(1) = 0; \quad J(1) = 0. \tag{4.1}$$

They essentially fix the mass ($\sim F_1$) and the charge density ($\sim J_1$) of the black hole. The remaining three conditions fix (C_1, K_1, H_1) and are obtained from an analysis of the (singular) behavior of the e.o.m. near the horizon,

$$\begin{aligned} c'(1) &= \alpha^2 \hat{m}_W^2 \frac{c(1)}{f'(1)} \left(-\frac{K_1(1)^2}{c(1)^2} + K_2(1)^2 \right) H(1)^2 \\ K_1'(1) &= \frac{K_1(1)}{f'(1)} (K_2(1)^2 + \hat{m}_W^2 H(1)^2) \\ H'(1) &= \frac{H(1)}{f'(1)} \left(\frac{K_1(1)^2}{c(1)^2} + K_2(1)^2 \right). \end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

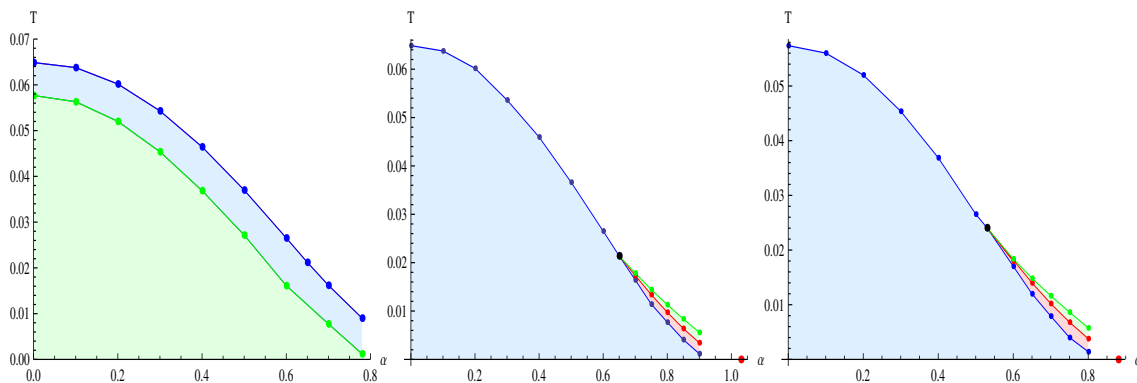


Figure 1. Phase diagrams in the isotropic case (left) for $\hat{m}_W = 0.1$ (blue), $\hat{m}_W = 0.4$ (green), and in the anisotropic case, for $\hat{m}_W = 0.1$ (center) and $\hat{m}_W = 0.4$ (right).

Therefore the only additional free parameter that determines the solution is J_0 , i.e. the chemical potential (2.17). In practice we integrate the system from the horizon, where according to (4.1)–(4.2) the free parameters are,

$$J'(1) = j_1; \quad K(1) = k_0; \quad H(1) = h_0; \quad A(1) = a_0; \quad c(1) = c_0 \quad (4.3)$$

as defined in (2.13). These parameters are selected in such a way that the solution matches the conditions on the boundary (2.14),

$$A(\infty) = c(\infty) = H(\infty) = 1; \quad K(\infty) = 0; \quad J(\infty) = J_0. \quad (4.4)$$

Figure 1 displays the phase diagrams in the α – T plane, for two different values of \hat{m}_W . In the white regions only the normal or uncondensed phase is present. In the isotropic case the system experiments second order phase transitions along the blue ($\hat{m}_W = 0.1$) and green ($\hat{m}_W = 0.4$) curves. In the anisotropic case, in the blue and red regions the condensed phase is the thermodynamically preferred phase. The blue line until the black point indicates a critical line of second order transitions. The black point signals the coupling α_{tc} beyond which the transitions become of first order along the red line, while that the blue and green lines that continue after this tri-critical point represent spinodal lines. The critical red curve of first order phase transitions ends in the red point at $T = 0$, which represents a quantum phase transition, signaling a critical coupling $\tilde{\alpha}$ above which the condensed phase ceases to exist, see section 5. By comparing both graphs we can see that both α_{tc} and $\tilde{\alpha}$ decrease with increasing \hat{m}_W . Similar phase diagrams were obtained in reference [34] in absence of Higgs fields.

In figure 2 the fields are shown as functions of the coordinate y , at fixed J_0 and \hat{m}_W and for different α 's. For $\alpha_c \approx 0.8825$ a second horizon appears, as displayed from the curves corresponding to $f(y)/y^2$. The uncondensed and condensed phases are separated by a curve on which the formation of the second horizon takes place for a given critical temperature determined by the gauge boson mass \hat{m}_W and J_0 . In the isotropic case the curve is displayed in figure 1 for two different values of \hat{m}_W (blues and green lines) and it coincides with the critical curve on which the phase transitions take place. On the

other hand, in the anisotropic case the curve coincides with the critical curve (blue line in figure 1) until the tri-critical point α_{tc} , and it continues through the spinodal curve in green.

In figure 3 the order parameter K_1 in the isotropic case is plotted as a function of the temperature for different values of \hat{m}_W , at fixed gravitational coupling $\alpha = 0.7$. In this case the transition is of second order independently of α , in agreement with [12].

Figures 4 and 5 shows the order parameter K_1 as function of T in the anisotropic case from two perspectives: at fixed $\hat{m}_W = 0.4$ and varying α in figure 4 and at fixed $\alpha = 0.7$ and varying \hat{m}_W in figure 5. From figure 4 it is seen that for $\alpha_{tc} \approx 0.53$ K_1 becomes multi-valued, fact that signals the passage from second to first order phase transitions as corroborated from the free energy computations of the next subsection. This phenomenon has been found recently in p -wave superfluids by studying the role of the back-reaction in the phase transitions [23] (for experimental results on first order phase transitions in superconductors, see [26–28]). By comparing figures 3 and 5 it is observed that the temperature at which the order parameter becomes zero is the same in both cases, and that the critical temperature decreases when \hat{m}_W increases, what can be interpreted as the presence of the Higgs field hinders the condensation. Furthermore, we have checked that near T_c and for weak gravitational couplings $\alpha < \alpha_{tc}$, K_1 behaves like $(T_c - T)^{\frac{1}{2}}$, indicating a second order phase transition with mean field exponent $\frac{1}{2}$ as usually happens in holographic descriptions of critical systems in the limit of large number degrees of freedom.

4.1 The free energy

According to the AdS/CFT correspondence, the free energy of the QFT is given by,

$$F \equiv T S_{eucl} = \int_{y_h}^{\infty} dy \int d\vec{x}^2 L_{eucl}. \quad (4.5)$$

From (2.3) and using the e.o.m. the bulk contribution to the free energy density can be written as,

$$\begin{aligned} f^{(\text{bulk})} = & \frac{1}{2e^2 L^3} \int_1^{y_\infty} dy A(y) c(y) y^2 \left(\frac{6}{\alpha^2} - \frac{\lambda_0}{2} (H(y)^2 - 1)^2 \right. \\ & + \frac{f(y)}{y^2} \left(\frac{K_1'(y)^2}{c(y)^2} + K_2'(y)^2 \right) + \frac{K_1(y)^2 K_2(y)^2}{y^4 c(y)^2} \\ & \left. - \frac{J'(y)^2}{A(y)^2} - \frac{J(y)^2}{y^2 f(y) A(y)^2} \left(\frac{K_1(y)^2}{c(y)^2} + K_2(y)^2 \right) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

The Gibbons-Hawking contribution is,

$$f^{(GH)} = \frac{1}{2e^2 L^3} \left(-\frac{2}{\alpha^2} \right) f(y)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(y^2 f(y)^{\frac{1}{2}} A(y) c(y) \right)' \Big|_{y_\infty}. \quad (4.7)$$

Here we have introduced y_∞ to regularize the expressions since they present divergent terms. To this end we introduce a counter-term action [35, 36],

$$S^{(ct)} = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} d^3x \sqrt{|h|} \frac{-2}{L} \quad (4.8)$$

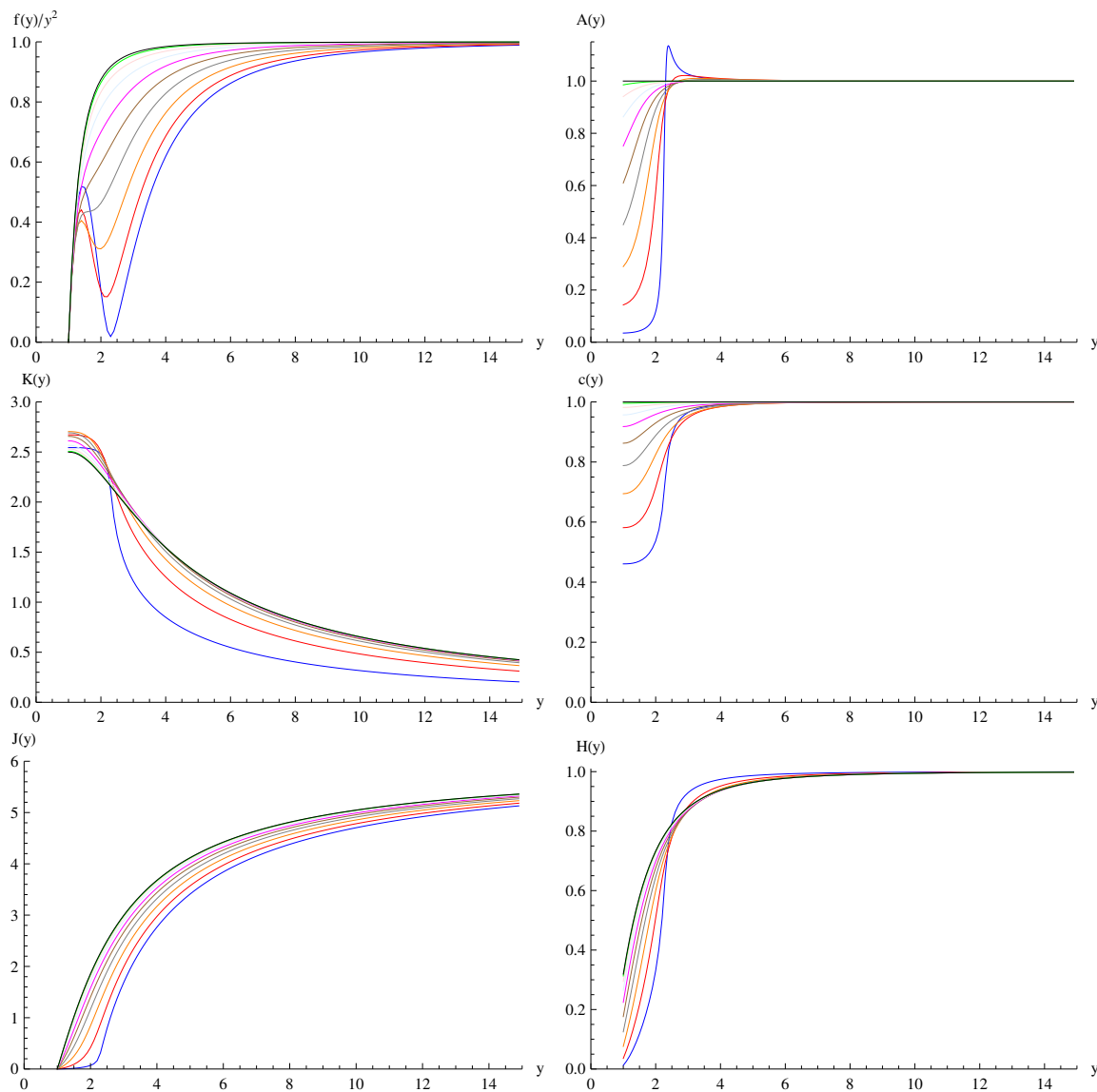


Figure 2. Solutions for the fields $(f(y), A(y), c(y), K(y), J(y), H(y))$ with the b.c. (2.13)–(2.14) in the anisotropic case. The curves correspond to $J_0 = 6$, $\hat{m}_W = 0.4$ with different fixed values of $\alpha = 0.0$ (black), 0.1 (green), 0.2 (light red), 0.3 (light blue), 0.4 (fuchsia), 0.5 (brown), 0.6 (gray), 0.7 (orange), 0.8 (red), 0.88 (blue). One can appreciate from the curves corresponding to $f(y)/y^2$ the formation of a second horizon at $\alpha_c \approx 0.8825$. The analogous solutions for the isotropic case can be found in [22].

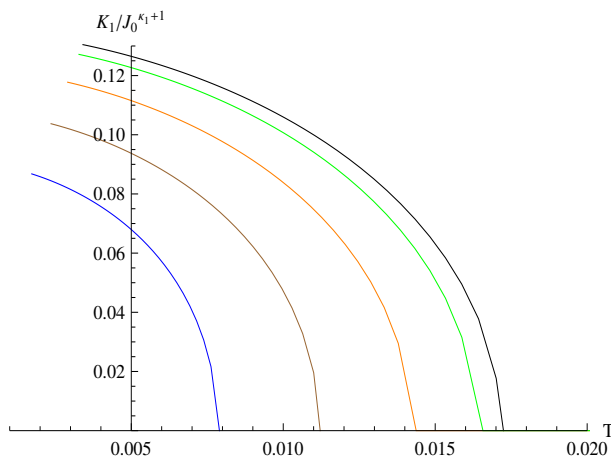


Figure 3. The order parameter $K_1/J_0^{1+\kappa_1} = \langle \hat{O}_{K_1} \rangle / J_0^{1+\kappa_1}$ is plotted in the isotropic case at fixed $\alpha = 0.7$, for different values of $\hat{m}_W = 0.01$ (black), 0.1 (green), 0.2 (orange), 0.3 (brown), 0.4 (blue) that correspond to the critical temperatures $T_c = 0.017056, 0.016371, 0.014174, 0.011215, 0.00791$ respectively. Near the critical temperature the order parameter behaves like $(T_c - T)^{1/2}$.

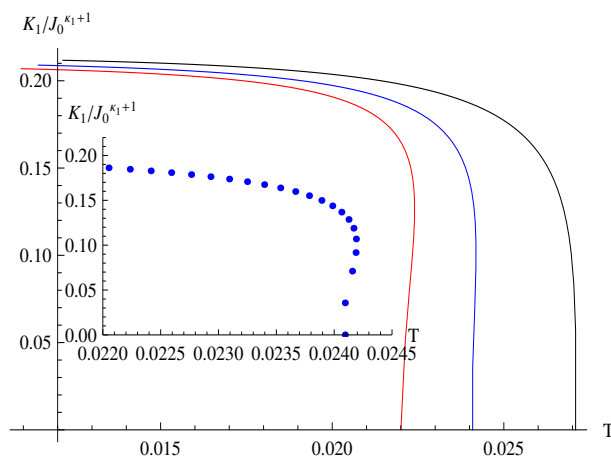


Figure 4. The order parameter $K_1/J_0^{1+\kappa_1} = \langle \hat{O}_{K_1} \rangle / J_0^{1+\kappa_1}$ is plotted in the anisotropic case at fixed $\hat{m}_W = 0.4$, for different values of $\alpha = 0.50$ (black), 0.53 (blue), 0.55 (red). In the inset is displayed the multi-valuation of the order parameter for $\alpha_{tc} \approx 0.53$.

which give rise to the following contribution to the free energy density,

$$f^{(ct)} = \frac{1}{2e^2 L^3} \frac{4}{\alpha^2} \left(f(y)^{1/2} A(y) c(y) y^2 \right) \Big|_{y_\infty} \quad (4.9)$$

The total free energy density of the system f is then given by,

$$f \equiv \lim_{y_\infty \rightarrow \infty} \left(f^{(bulk)} + f^{(GH)} + f^{(ct)} \right). \quad (4.10)$$

We remark that in order to analyze the results the right thing to do is to work with the scale invariant free energy density,

$$\hat{f} \equiv \frac{\kappa^2}{L^2 \mu^3} f. \quad (4.11)$$

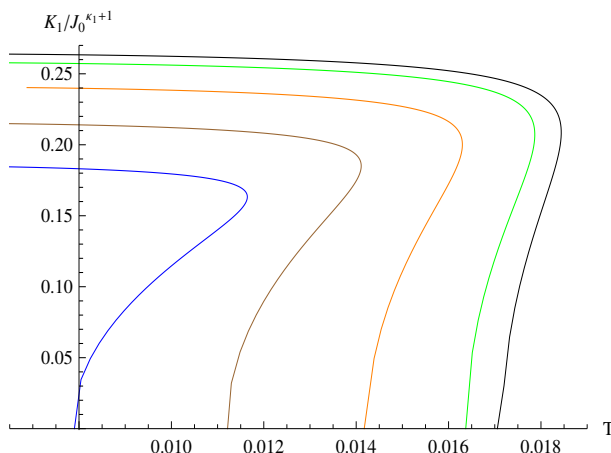


Figure 5. The order parameter $K_1/J_0^{1+\kappa_1} = \langle \hat{O}_{K_1} \rangle / J_0^{1+\kappa_1}$ is plotted in the anisotropic case at fixed $\alpha = 0.7$, showing the phase transition at different values of $\hat{m}_W = 0.01$ (black), 0.1 (green), 0.2 (orange), 0.3 (brown), 0.4 (blue), 0.32 (blue).

figures 6 and 7 show the evolution of the free energy density (4.11) with the mass of the gauge boson for two different values of α , in the isotropic and anisotropic cases respectively. Figure 6 displays the continuity of \hat{f} at the critical temperature (where the free energy density of the uncondensed phase intersects the curve of the condensed phase) for both values of α , for any \hat{m}_W , fact that indicates the second order character of the phase transition as the behavior of K_1 in figure 3 suggested. In figure 7 instead it is observed the discontinuity in the first derivative of the free energy density at the critical temperature for $\alpha = 0.7 > \alpha_{tc}$ for any \hat{m}_W , signaling a first order phase transition. In both cases the critical temperature decreases with growing \hat{m}_W , in agreement with the analysis of the behavior of the order parameter made above.

In figures 8 and 9 the free energy densities of the isotropic and anisotropic phases are compared for two values of the gravitational coupling, $\alpha < \alpha_{tc}$ (figure 8) and $\alpha > \alpha_{tc}$ (figure 9). From them one can see that the free energy density of the anisotropic phase, no matter the region where the value of α is, i.e. if first or second order phase transitions take place, is lower than the free energy density of the isotropic phase. That is, the anisotropic phase is always energetically favored over the isotropic one.

5 Zero temperature solutions

In this section we will address the problem of quantum phase transitions in three dimensional p -wave superconductors (anisotropic case), i.e. transitions at $T = 0$, that to our knowledge was not considered before in the literature (see however [37–40] for related studies in other settings).

It is known that when a charged AdS black hole is driven to a state of zero temperature it becomes extremal, but its entropy is different from zero and then it can not describe the ground state of the superconductor that we are presumably modeling holographically. To reach our goal the radius of the black hole needs to become null, to agree with the

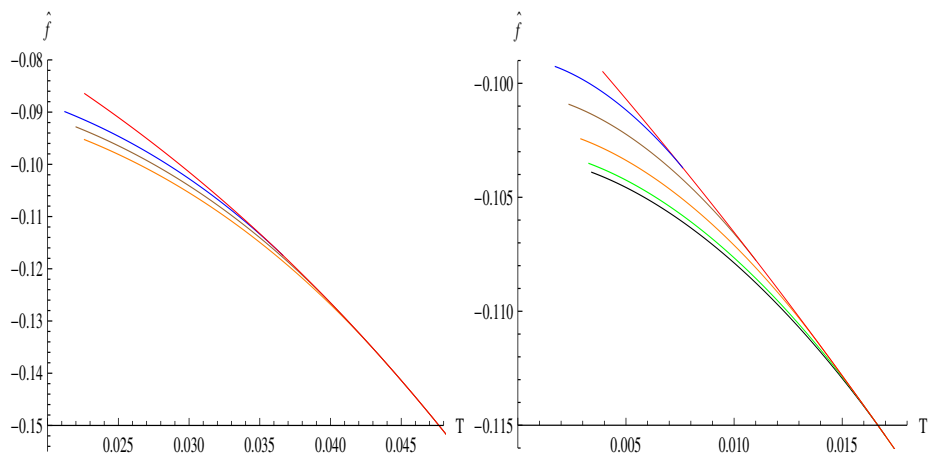


Figure 6. The free energy density \hat{f} is plotted as function of the temperature in the isotropic case for two values of the gravitational coupling constant, $\alpha = 0.4$ (left) and $\alpha = 0.7$ (right), at different values of $\hat{m}_W = 0.01$ (black), 0.1 (green), 0.2 (orange), 0.3 (brown), 0.4 (blue). The red curve represents the free energy density of the uncondensed phase.

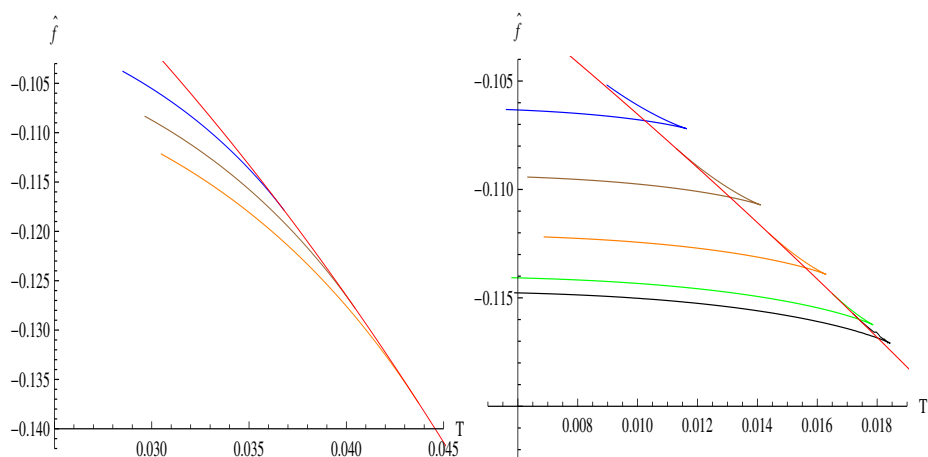


Figure 7. The free energy density \hat{f} is plotted as function of the temperature in the anisotropic case for two values of the gravitational coupling constant, $\alpha = 0.4$ (left) and $\alpha = 0.7$ (right), at different values of $\hat{m}_W = 0.01$ (black), 0.1 (green), 0.2 (orange), 0.3 (brown), 0.4 (blue). The red curve represents the free energy density of the uncondensed phase.

third law of thermodynamics and really describe the quantum ground state [29, 41]. So we must impose that $y_h = 0$, i.e. the coordinate $y \in [0, \infty)$. A very important thing from a technical point of view is that while the asymptotic behavior of the fields is as in (2.14), the expansions near the horizon drastically change with respect to the $T > 0$ case. At leading order the (non analytical) behavior of the fields for $y \rightarrow 0^+$ is,

$$f(y) = y^2 - \alpha^2 \frac{\tilde{k}_0 \tilde{j}_0^2}{2 \tilde{c}_0 \tilde{a}_0^2} \frac{e^{-\frac{2\tilde{k}_0}{\tilde{c}_0 y}}}{y} + \dots$$

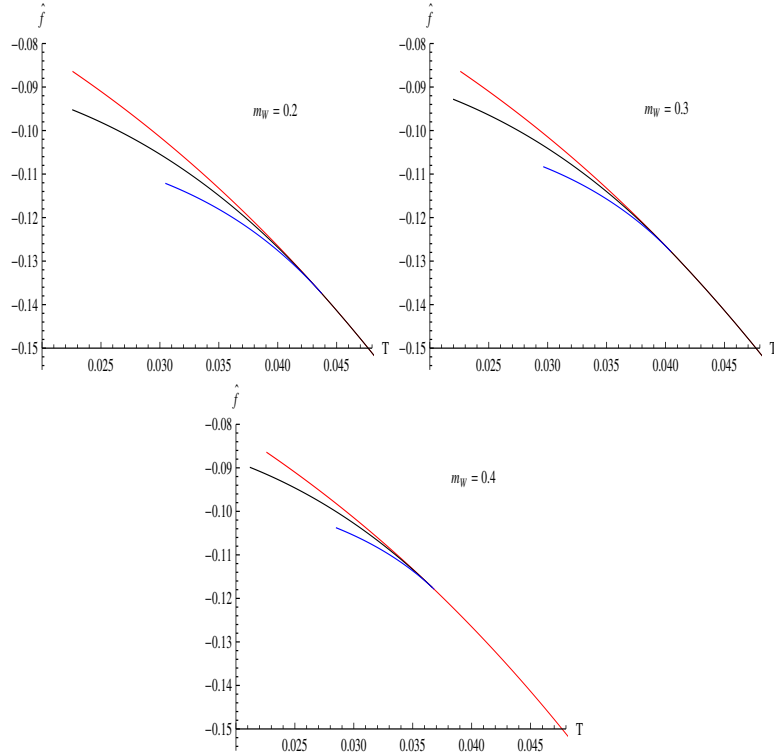


Figure 8. The free energy densities for the isotropic (black) and anisotropic (blue) cases are plotted as function of the temperature for different values of \hat{m}_W , at fixed $\alpha = 0.4$. The red curve represents the free energy density of the uncondensed phase.

$$\begin{aligned}
 A(y) &= \tilde{a}_0 \left(1 + \alpha^2 \frac{\tilde{k}_0 \tilde{j}_0^2}{\tilde{c}_0 \tilde{a}_0^2} \frac{e^{-\frac{2\tilde{k}_0}{\tilde{c}_0 y}}}{y^3} + \dots \right) \\
 c(y) &= \tilde{c}_0 \left(1 + \alpha^2 \frac{\tilde{j}_0^2}{\tilde{a}_0^2} \frac{e^{-\frac{2\tilde{k}_0}{\tilde{c}_0 y}}}{y^2} + \dots \right) \\
 K(y) &= \tilde{k}_0 \left(1 - \frac{\tilde{c}_0^2 \tilde{j}_0^2}{4\tilde{a}_0^2 \tilde{k}_0^2} e^{-\frac{2\tilde{k}_0}{\tilde{c}_0 y}} + \dots \right) \\
 J(y) &= \tilde{j}_0 e^{-\frac{\tilde{k}_0}{\tilde{c}_0 y}} + \dots \\
 H(y) &= \tilde{h}_0 e^{-\frac{\tilde{k}_0}{\tilde{c}_0 y}} + \dots
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.1}$$

The independent constants are $\tilde{k}_0, \tilde{j}_0, \tilde{h}_0, \tilde{a}_0, \tilde{c}_0$. Such constants are chosen in the same way as in the $T > 0$ case, see (4.4). From (5.1) it follows that near the horizon the solution is another AdS_4 space. The solutions that describe the quantum ground state of the superconductor in the condensed phase are therefore domain walls interpolating AdS_4 spaces with the same radius L but different light velocities in both directions, in virtue of the fact that $\tilde{a}_0 \neq 1$ and $\tilde{c}_0 \neq 1$. More explicitly,

$$\frac{v_1^{UV}}{v_1^{IR}} = \frac{y_h}{y_\infty} \frac{c(y_h)}{c(y_\infty)} \sqrt{\frac{f(y_\infty)}{f(y_h)} \frac{A(y_\infty)}{A(y_h)}} = \frac{\tilde{c}_0}{\tilde{a}_0}; \quad \frac{v_2^{UV}}{v_2^{IR}} = \frac{y_h}{y_\infty} \sqrt{\frac{f(y_\infty)}{f(y_h)} \frac{A(y_\infty)}{A(y_h)}} = \frac{1}{\tilde{a}_0} \tag{5.2}$$

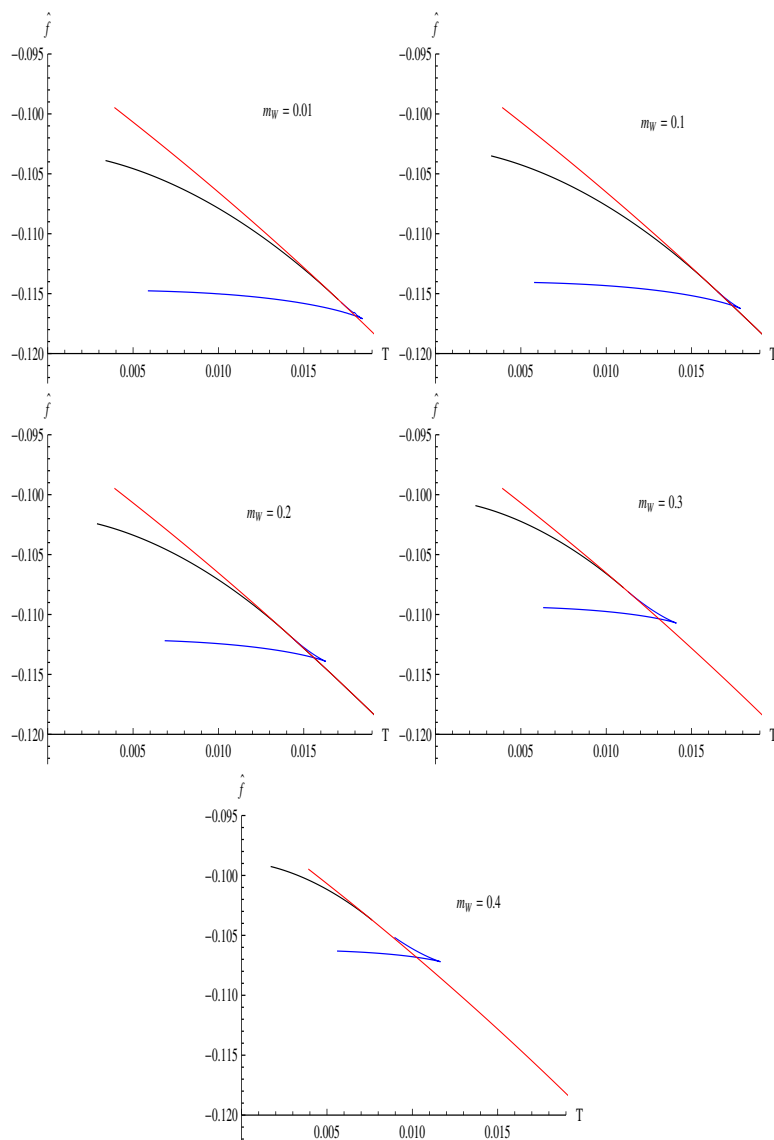


Figure 9. The free energy densities for the isotropic (black) and anisotropic (blue) cases are plotted as function of the temperature for different values of \hat{m}_W , at fixed $\alpha = 0.7$. The red curve represents the free energy density of the uncondensed phase.

On the other hand, the uncondensed phase is described strictly by AdS_4 space and $J(y) = J_0$, which replace the AdS-RN solution (2.20)–(2.21). Interestingly, we found that above a certain $\tilde{\alpha}$ the solution representing the condensed phase disappears and the only solution that exists is AdS space. This result can be guessed from the following analysis borrowed from [38] (see also [29]). At very low temperatures the normal phase is nearly represented by the extremal, zero temperature Reissner-Nördstrom solution (2.20)–(2.22) with $J_0^2 = \frac{6}{\alpha^2}$, whose near horizon geometry is $AdS_2 \times \mathfrak{R}^2$. If we perturb this solution with a non-zero gauge field $K_1(y) = K(y)$, from the first equation in (2.8) its linear equation in this background

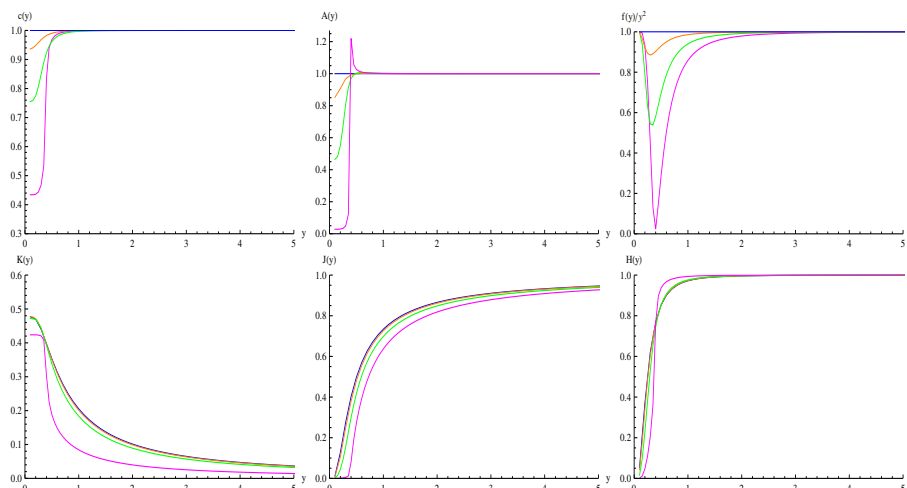


Figure 10. We display for $T = 0$ the solutions $f(y)/y^2$, $A(y)$, $c(y)$, $H(y)$, $K(y)$ and $J(y)$ as functions of the coordinate y from the horizon, now located at $y = 0$, towards the boundary, for $\hat{m}_W = 0.4$ and different values of $\alpha = 0.0$ (blue), 0.3 (orange), 0.6 (green), 0.8 (fuchsia). One can appreciate from the curves corresponding to $f(y)/y^2$ the formation of a second horizon when α approaches $\tilde{\alpha} \approx \alpha_c|_{T>0} \approx 0.8825$; for larger values of α the asymmetric solution ceases to exist.

results,

$$0 = (\rho^2 \partial_\rho^2 + 2\rho \partial_\rho - \hat{m}_{\text{eff}}^2) K(y) \tag{5.3}$$

where $\rho \equiv y - 1$, which is just the wave equation for AdS_2 with an effective mass,

$$\hat{m}_{\text{eff}}^2 = \frac{1}{6} \left(\hat{m}_W^2 - \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \right) \tag{5.4}$$

So, the instability to form $SU(2)$ vector hair at low temperature is just that of scalar fields below the BF bound for AdS_2 , $\hat{m}_{BF}^2 = -\frac{1}{4}$. That is, when $\hat{m}_{\text{eff}}^2 < \hat{m}_{BF}^2$ one could wait that AdS vacuum gets unstable and the system prefers to be in the phase described by the superconducting black hole solution with non abelian hair. Thus we get a plausible condition for instability,

$$\alpha^2 < \tilde{\alpha}_{\text{guess}}^2 \equiv \frac{1}{\frac{3}{2} + \hat{m}_W^2}. \tag{5.5}$$

figure 10 shows the fields for different values of the gravitational coupling.⁵ In the example showed ($\hat{m}_W = 0.4$) we obtain $\tilde{\alpha} \approx 0.8825 \approx \alpha_c|_{T>0}$, see figures 2 and 10.

We worked out the solutions for different values of the parameter \hat{m}_W , in table 1 the corresponding critical couplings are shown. It is observed that $\tilde{\alpha}$ decreases with growing \hat{m}_W and that $\tilde{\alpha}_{\text{guess}} < \tilde{\alpha}$, what is consistent with the instability analysis made before.

On the other hand, in figure 11 it is shown the order parameter as a function of the coupling α . We have verified that the behavior near the critical coupling is of the type,

$$K_1(\alpha) \sim (\tilde{\alpha} - \alpha)^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{5.6}$$

consistent with the existence of a second order phase transition in the mean field, large number of degrees of freedom limit.

⁵We use the scaling symmetry (2.12) to fix $J_0 = 1$.

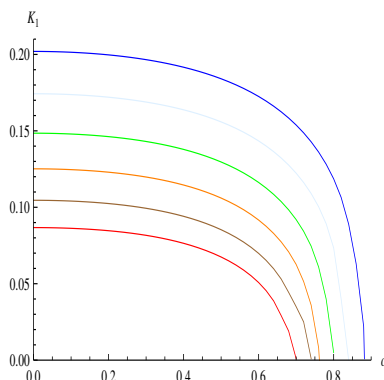


Figure 11. The order parameter K_1 is plotted as function of α at $T = 0$, for different values of $\hat{m}_W = 0.5$ (blue), 0.6 (lightblue), 0.7 (green), 0.8 (orange), 0.9 (brown), 1.0 (red). The values for which $K_1 = 0$ define the critical couplings $\tilde{\alpha}$.

\hat{m}_W	$\tilde{\alpha}$
0.1	1.03
0.2	0.97
0.3	0.94
0.4	0.88
0.5	0.86
0.6	0.84
0.7	0.80
0.8	0.76
0.9	0.74
1.0	0.70

Table 1. Critical gravitational couplings $\tilde{\alpha}$ for different values of \hat{m}_W at $T = 0$.

6 Analysis for $\lambda \neq 0$

In this section we will study the effect of a non-zero Higgs potential as introduced in (2.3), specified by the Higgs vev scale H_0 and the strength λ . For simplicity we will work in the no back-reaction limit $\alpha = 0$, although the new insights does not depend on this fact.

In the conventions of appendix B, the e.o.m. (2.8) in the anisotropic case reduce to,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (f(u) K'(u))' &= \left(\hat{m}_W^2 \frac{H(u)^2}{u^2} - \frac{J(u)^2}{f(u)} \right) K(u) \\
 u^2 \left(\frac{f(u)}{u^2} H'(u) \right)' &= \left(K(u)^2 + \frac{\lambda_0}{\hat{m}_W^2} \frac{H(u)^2 - 1}{u^2} \right) H(u) \\
 J''(u) &= \frac{K(u)^2}{f(u)} J(u)
 \end{aligned} \tag{6.1}$$

where $f(u) = 1 - u^3$.

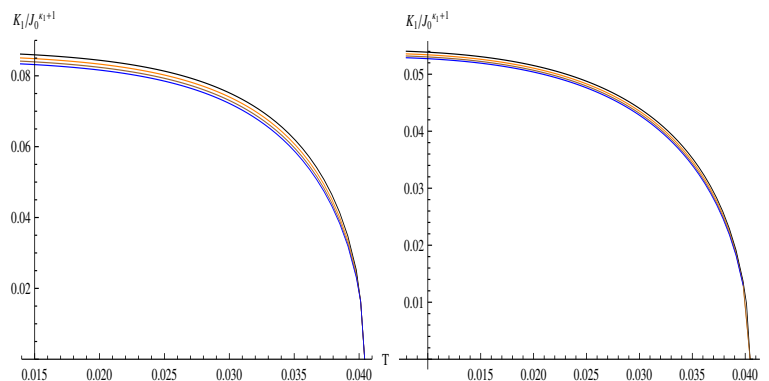


Figure 12. The condensate K_1 as a function of the temperature T , for $m_W^2 = 1$ and $\lambda_0 = 0$ (black), 0.25 (orange), 0.5 (brown), 0.75 (blue), in the anisotropic (left) and isotropic (right) cases.

The existence of a non-zero λ does not modify the behavior of $K(y)$ and $J(y)$ on the boundary that remain as in (2.14), but it does in the Higgs case where we now have,

$$H(u) = 1 + H_- u^{\Delta_-} + \dots + H_+ u^{\Delta_+} + \dots \tag{6.2}$$

where, for general λ_0 and \hat{m}_W ,

$$\Delta_{\pm} = \frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} + 2 \frac{\lambda_0}{\hat{m}_W^2}}. \tag{6.3}$$

A first well-known fact is that reality of Δ_{\pm} necessarily implies the BF bound $\lambda_0 \geq -\frac{9}{8} \hat{m}_W^2$. When we are in the window $-\frac{9}{8} \leq \frac{\lambda_0}{\hat{m}_W^2} \leq -\frac{3}{4}$ both modes are normalizable and lead to consistent quantization and we can impose $H_- = 0$ or $H_+ = 0$. If $\lambda_0 > -\frac{3}{4} \hat{m}_W^2$, the condition $H_- = 0$ must be imposed [42]. We will consider for definiteness the case $\lambda_0 > 0$.

A very interesting fact is that, besides the existence of a bound from below for the Higgs coupling as stated above, a straight analysis of the solution near the boundary $u = 0$ yields the result that a bound from above is also present. We find that there exists a critical value λ_0^c defined by,

$$\frac{\lambda_0^c}{\hat{m}_W^2} = 2 + (\kappa_1 - 1) (2 \kappa_1 + 3) \tag{6.4}$$

such that for $\lambda_0 > \lambda_0^c$ the condensed solution ceases to exist. In the example considered below $\hat{m}_W^2 = 1$, $\lambda_0^c \sim 5.854$. This is so for both the isotropic and anisotropic cases.

Figures 12 and 13 show the condensate and the free energy respectively as functions of the temperature, for a fixed \hat{m}_W and different Higgs couplings.⁶ One can appreciate that both the order parameter and the free energy decreases with increasing strength of the potential λ_0 ; however the critical temperature does not change and the phase transitions remain of second order.

In figure 14 the free energies of both isotropic and anisotropic cases as functions of the temperature are plotted together for comparison, for fixed Higgs scale and different

⁶For higher Higgs strengths towards the critical value the curves does not experiment significative changes.

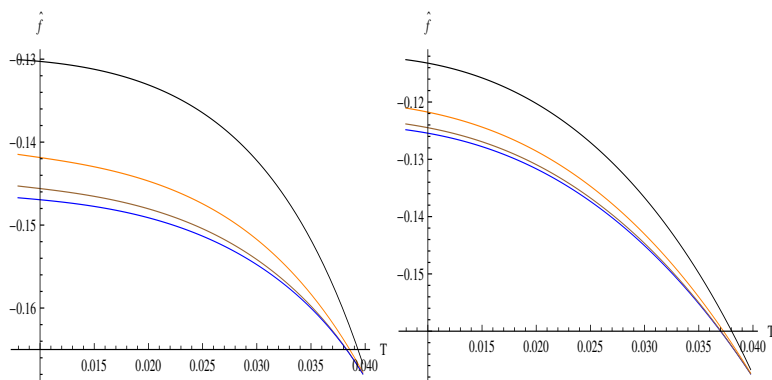


Figure 13. The free energy \hat{f} as a function of the temperature T for $m_W^2 = 1$ and $\lambda_0 = 0$ (black), 0.25 (orange), 0.5 (brown), 0.75 (blue) in the anisotropic (left) and isotropic (right) cases.

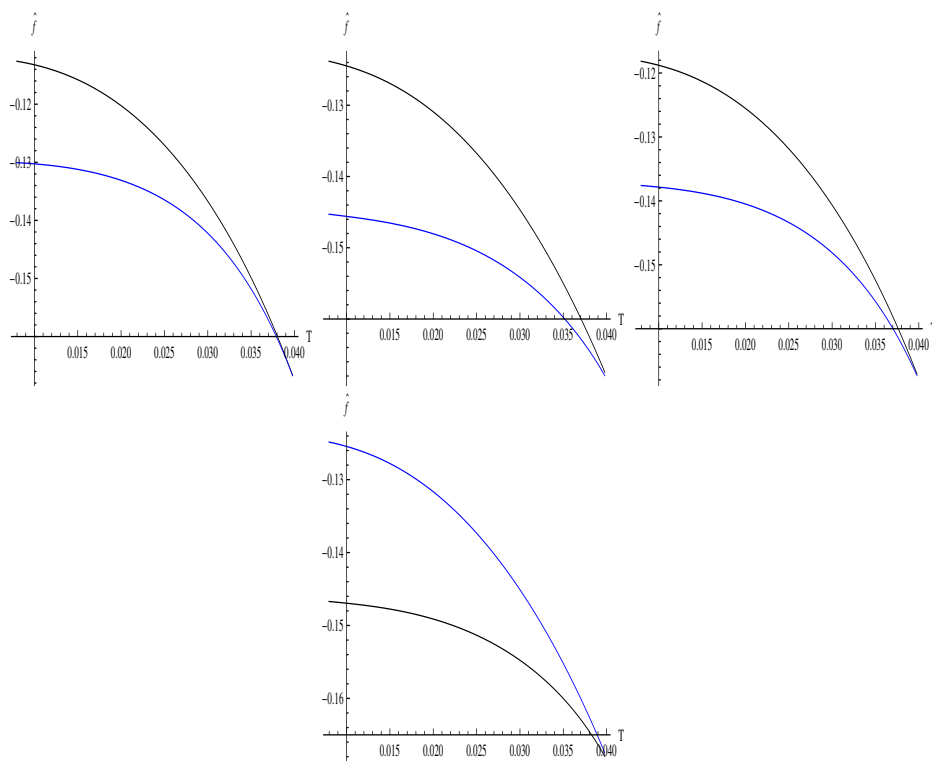


Figure 14. Comparison between the free energies of the anisotropic (blue) and isotropic (black) cases for $m_W^2 = 1$ and, from left to right, $\lambda_0 = 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75$.

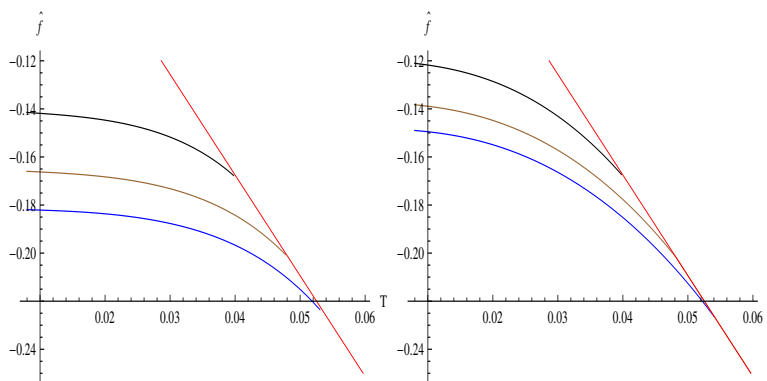


Figure 15. The free energy as a function of the temperature in the anisotropic (left) and isotropic (right) cases, for fixed $\lambda_0 = 0.25$ and different values of $\hat{m}_W = 0.5$ (blue), 0.7 (brown) and 1.0 (black). The red curve represents the free energy of the normal phase.

Higgs couplings. The anisotropic phase always remains energetically favored over the isotropic one.

As stated before, a critical value (6.4) above which the condensed phase does not exist is present, and it was verified by our numerical calculations; such result occurs in both isotropic and anisotropic cases.

Figures 15 show the free energies in function of the temperature for a fixed λ_0 , for different gauge boson masses. It is observed that they increase with increasing \hat{m}_W . The curves are similar to the left curves in figures 6 and 7.

7 Conclusions and outlook

In this paper we have investigated four dimensional solutions of black holes with non-abelian, $SU(2)$ hair introduced by Yang-Mills gauge bosons and a non trivial Higgs field in the adjoint representation, whose v.e.v. triggers the breaking of the gauge symmetry to a $U(1)$ subgroup under which the black hole is charged.

In the spirit of the AdS/CFT correspondence, the symmetric solution given by the AdS-RN black hole when the temperature is positive and AdS when $T = 0$, describes the uncondensed phase of the dual three dimensional QFT. A solution with non-abelian hair generically breaks the $U(1)$ gauge symmetry together with the rotational symmetry, and is interpreted as describing a condensed phase of the QFT. The order parameter is the coefficient of the leading order term of the magnetic component of the gauge field, and thus the systems described are generically termed p -wave superfluids/superconductors. We have considered two cases. The isotropic case that describes $p + ip$ -wave superconductors where the diagonal subgroup of $U(1)_{\text{gauge}} \times SO(2)_{\text{rot}}$ is preserved, and the anisotropic case where no symmetry is preserved. In both cases we get phase transitions at critical temperatures that decrease when the gravitational coupling grows and in the case of anisotropic superconductors the phase transitions become of first order for large gravitational couplings [23]. These results are summarized in the phase diagrams presented in figure 1.

We also find solutions that describe the zero entropy ground state of the p -wave superconductor, showing the existence of phase transitions from the normal phase (described by AdS space) to this condensed phase, that is present below a certain value of the gravitational coupling $\tilde{\alpha}$. These transitions are of second order, according to the behavior (5.6) of the order parameter near the transition obtained from figure 11. Such states are described by domain wall geometries that interpolate two AdS spaces. The occurrence of AdS space near the horizon, with the the same scale as the AdS in the boundary but different light velocities, presumably indicates that there is an emergent scale invariance in the $T = 0$ limit [23, 24].

Finally we study the effect of considering a non zero Higgs potential. It was found that for Higgs coupling constants greater than a critical value λ_c , the solution collapses to the normal one. This fact relies on the ultraviolet behavior of the system; in particular is independent if the back-reaction is considered or not. For λ below λ_c the system and its thermodynamic variables behave qualitatively as in the case $\lambda = 0$, but with lower free energy.

A very relevant fact conjectured in the literature [12, 13, 29] for systems without Higgs fields that we have explicitly addressed in this paper including them together with the corresponding Higgs potential, is that below the critical temperature in all the parameter space we found that the free energy density of the anisotropic solution is lower than that of the isotropic one, indicating that the p -wave superconductor phase is more stable than the one corresponding to the $p + ip$ -wave superconductor. This result is illustrated in figures 8, 9 and 14.

We believe it is worth to make the following remarks. It is straight to see that if we switch off the Higgs field the e.o.m. of the p -wave superconductor are recovered. However if we switch off the magnetic part of the gauge field, $K_1 = K_2 = 0$, it is seen that we do not recover the e.o.m. of a s -wave superconductor. This is due to the fact that we are switching the Higgs field in the X_0 -direction, not in the X_1 -direction. This lead us to conclude that in our set-up the Higgs field can not condense spontaneously since the temporal component of the gauge field (which plays a fundamental role in the condensation) is null. Therefore we will never have competition between s -wave and p -wave phases, as it takes place in the cases analyzed in references [15]–[18] where the matter field ansatz is slightly different and the vev Higgs field is put to zero. Furthermore it is not difficult to see from the e.o.m. that a configuration where a vev (3.1) is present necessary implies a non-trivial Higgs field; however the vev of its dual scalar operator $\mathcal{O}(x)$,

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(x) \rangle \sim H_1 \tag{7.1}$$

does not indicate any spontaneous breaking in view of the presence of the source H_0 .

We stress that, although they share some similar characteristics, the presence of the Higgs fields with the non trivial b.c. $|\vec{H}(\infty)| = H_0 > 0$, introduces a scale that makes our systems different from those considered in precedence since [13, 37], in which the scalars were not present. On one hand from the obvious fact that the system is larger and more complex; in particular we have three free parameters (α, \hat{m}_W, J_0) and, among other things, the dimension (3.3) of the order parameter remains arbitrary. Instead, in EYM systems

where the Higgs field is not present, the temperature for example is a function of just one parameter $\alpha \equiv \frac{\kappa}{eL}$ [23]. On the other hand and more important, from the QFT point of view to which the systems we have considered are presumed to be holographically dual. This fact can be elucidate by studying the transport properties of the system, i.e. the conductivities. Even ignoring back-reaction effects, we finish with a system of fifteen coupled second order equations that results much more cumbersome to disentangle than in the Abelian case or in the absence of Higgs fields. We hope to report results in this direction in a near future [43].

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A Boundary expansions

Along this paper we used shooting methods to get the solutions to the e.o.m. We present here the (next to) leading order behavior of the fields near the boundary that is necessary to carry out the numerics.

For large $y \rightarrow \infty$ the fields admit the expansions,

$$\begin{aligned}
 A(y) &= 1 + \frac{A_1}{y^{a_1}} \quad \tilde{A}_1(y) = 1 + \frac{A_1}{y^{a_1}} \left(1 + \frac{A_2}{y^{a_2}} \tilde{A}_2(y) \right) \\
 f(y) &= y^2 + \frac{F_1}{y} \quad \tilde{F}_1(y) = 1 + \frac{F_1}{y} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha^2 J_1^2}{2 \hat{m}_W^2 F_1 y} \tilde{F}_2(y) \right) \\
 c(y) &= 1 + \frac{C_1}{y^3} \quad \tilde{C}_1(y) = 1 + \frac{C_1}{y^3} \left(1 + \frac{C_2}{y^{c_2}} \tilde{C}_2(y) \right) \\
 K(y) &= \frac{K_1}{y^{\kappa_1}} \quad \tilde{K}_1(y) = \frac{K_1}{y^{\kappa_1}} \left(1 - \frac{J_0^2}{2(1+2\kappa_1)y^2} \tilde{K}_2(y) \right); \quad \kappa_1 \equiv \frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} + \hat{m}_W^2} \\
 J(y) &= J_0 + \frac{J_1}{y} \quad \tilde{J}_1(y) = J_0 + \frac{J_1}{y} \left(1 + \frac{J_2}{y^{j_2}} \tilde{J}_2(y) \right) \\
 H(y) &= 1 + \frac{H_1}{y^3} \quad \tilde{H}_1(y) = 1 + \frac{H_1}{y^3} \left(1 + \frac{H_2}{y^{h_2}} \tilde{H}_2(y) \right)
 \end{aligned} \tag{A.1}$$

where $\tilde{A}_i(0) = 1$, $a_i > 0$, etc., for $i = 1, 2, \dots$. The constants $(F_1, C_1, J_0, J_1, K_1, H_1)$ are free, all the other ones as well the powers (including those make explicit in (A.1)) are determined by the e.o.m.⁷ In the isotropic case, $K(y) \equiv K_1(y) = K_2(y)$, $C(y) = 1$

⁷The boundary conditions at the horizon leave just one free parameter (that we take J_0) that determines completely the solution, see section 4.

($C_1 = 0$), they are given by,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a_1, A_1) &= \begin{cases} 6 < 2\kappa_1 + 2, & -\frac{3}{4}\alpha^2 H_1^2 & ; 2 < \hat{m}_W^2 < \infty \\ 2\kappa_1 + 2 < 6, & -\frac{\alpha^2 \kappa_1^2 K_1^2}{2\hat{m}_W^2(1+\kappa_1)} & ; 0 < \hat{m}_W^2 < 2 \\ 6 = 2\kappa_1 + 2, & -\alpha^2 \left(\frac{3}{4}H_1^2 + \frac{1}{3}K_1^2\right) & ; \hat{m}_W^2 = 2 \end{cases} \\
 (j_2, J_2) &= \begin{cases} 6 < 2\kappa_1 + 1, & \frac{A_1}{7} & ; \frac{15}{4} < \hat{m}_W^2 < \infty \\ 2\kappa_1 + 1 < 6, & \frac{K_1^2 J_0}{(2\kappa_1+1)(1+\kappa_1)J_1} & ; 0 < \hat{m}_W^2 < \frac{15}{4} \\ 6 = 2\kappa_1 + 1, & \frac{K_1^2 J_0}{21J_1} + \frac{A_1}{7} & ; \hat{m}_W^2 = \frac{15}{4} \end{cases} \\
 (h_2, H_2) &= \begin{cases} 3 < 2\kappa_1 - 1, & -\frac{F_1}{2} & ; 2 < \hat{m}_W^2 < \infty \\ 2\kappa_1 - 1 < 3, & \frac{K_1^2}{(2\kappa_1-1)(1+\kappa_1)H_1} & ; 0 < \hat{m}_W^2 < 2 \\ 3 = 2\kappa_1 - 1, & \frac{K_1^2}{9H_1} - \frac{F_1}{2} & ; \hat{m}_W^2 = 2 \end{cases} \tag{A.2}
 \end{aligned}$$

while that in the anisotropic case, $K(y) \equiv K_1(y)$, $K_2(y) = 0$, they result,

$$(a_1, A_1) = (3, -C_1) \tag{A.3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 (c_2, C_2) &= \begin{cases} 3 < 2\kappa_1 - 1, & -\frac{F_1 - C_1}{2} & ; 2 < \hat{m}_W^2 < \infty \\ 2\kappa_1 - 1 < 3, & -\frac{\alpha^2(1+\hat{m}_W^{-2}\kappa_1^2)K_1^2}{2(2\kappa_1-1)(1+\kappa_1)C_1} & ; 0 < \hat{m}_W^2 < 2 \\ 3 = 2\kappa_1 - 1, & -\frac{F_1 - C_1}{2} - \frac{\alpha^2 K_1^2}{6C_1} & ; \hat{m}_W^2 = 2 \end{cases} \\
 (j_2, J_2) &= \left(3, -\frac{C_1}{2}\right) \\
 (h_2, H_2) &= \begin{cases} 3 < 2\kappa_1 - 1, & -\frac{F_1}{2} & ; 2 < \hat{m}_W^2 < \infty \\ 2\kappa_1 - 1 < 3, & \frac{K_1^2}{2(2\kappa_1-1)(1+\kappa_1)H_1} & ; 0 < \hat{m}_W^2 < 2 \\ 3 = 2\kappa_1 - 1, & -\frac{F_1}{2} + \frac{K_1^2}{18H_1} & ; \hat{m}_W^2 = 2 \end{cases} \tag{A.4}
 \end{aligned}$$

B AH conventions

In this appendix we write the e.o.m. in the conventions of references [23, 44]. Besides being often present in literature, they proved to be convenient in some numerical computations.

The ansatz is written as,

$$\begin{aligned}
 g &= \frac{L^2}{u^2} \left(-\tilde{f}(u) s(u)^2 dt^2 + \frac{dx^2}{g(u)^2} + g(u)^2 d\tilde{y}^2 + \frac{du^2}{\tilde{f}(u)} \right) \\
 A &= dt \tilde{J}(u) X_0 + dx \tilde{K}_1(u) X_1 + d\tilde{y} \tilde{K}_2(u) X_2 \\
 H &= H_0 \tilde{H}(u) X_0. \tag{B.1}
 \end{aligned}$$

The relation with the conventions used in the bulk of the paper are,

$$\begin{aligned}
 x^0 &= Lt, & x^1 &= Lx, & x^2 &= L\tilde{y}, & y &= \frac{g(u)}{u} \\
 c(y) &= \frac{1}{g(u)^2}, & f(y) &= \frac{\tilde{f}(u)}{u^2} (g(u) - u g'(u))^2, & A(y) &= \frac{s(u)}{g(u) - u g'(u)} \\
 J(y) &= \tilde{J}(u), & K_1(y) &= K_1(u), & K_2(y) &= \tilde{K}_2(u), & H(y) &= \tilde{H}(u). \tag{B.2}
 \end{aligned}$$

The gravity e.o.m. result (out the tildes),

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(u) &= \frac{3}{u} (f(u) - 1) + u f(u) \frac{g'(u)^2}{g(u)^2} + \frac{u}{g(u)^2} \quad (1) \\
 \frac{s'(u)}{s(u)} &= -u \frac{g'(u)^2}{g(u)^2} - \frac{u^3}{g(u)^2} y'(u)^2 \quad (2) \\
 2 \frac{u^2 g(u)}{f(u) s(u)} \left(\frac{s(u) f(u)}{u^2 g(u)} g'(u) \right)' &= -\frac{1}{f(u) g(u)} \quad (3)
 \end{aligned} \tag{B.3}$$

where (1), (2), (3) are the r.h.s.'s of (2.7) written in the variables (B.2), while that the matter e.o.m. are,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{1}{g(u)^2} (f(u) s(u) g(u)^2 K_1'(u))' &= \left(\frac{s(u)}{g(u)^2} K_2(u)^2 + \hat{m}_W^2 \frac{s(u) H(u)^2}{u^2} - \frac{J(u)^2}{f(u) s(u)} \right) K_1(u) \\
 \frac{1}{g(u)^2} (f(u) s(u) g(u)^2 K_2'(u))' &= \left(s(u) g(u)^2 K_1(u)^2 + \hat{m}_W^2 \frac{s(u) H(u)^2}{u^2} - \frac{J(u)^2}{f(u) s(u)} \right) K_2(u) \\
 f(u) s(u) \left(\frac{J'(u)}{s(u)} \right)' &= \left(g(u)^2 K_1(u)^2 + \frac{K_2(y)^2}{g(u)^2} \right) J(u) \\
 \frac{u^2}{s(u)} \left(\frac{f(u) s(u)}{u^2} H'(u) \right)' &= \left(g(u)^2 K_1(u)^2 + \frac{K_2(y)^2}{g(u)^2} + \frac{\lambda_0}{\hat{m}_W^2} \frac{H(u)^2 - 1}{u^2} \right) H(u). \quad (B.4)
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally, the contributions to the free energy density are,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{f}^{(bulk)} &= \frac{\alpha^2}{2 J_0^3} \int_{u_0}^{u_1} du s(u) \left(\frac{6}{\alpha^2 u^4} - \frac{\lambda_0}{2 u^4} (H(u)^2 - 1)^2 \right. \\
 &\quad + \frac{f(u)}{g(u)^2} (g(u)^4 K_1'(u)^2 + K_2'(u)^2) + K_1(u)^2 K_2(u)^2 \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{J'(u)^2}{s(u)^2} - \frac{J(u)^2}{f(u) s(u)^2 g(u)^2} (g(u)^4 K_1(y)^2 + K_2(y)^2) \right) \\
 \hat{f}^{(GH)} &= \frac{\alpha^2}{2 J_0^3} \frac{2}{\alpha^2} u f(u)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{f(u)^{\frac{1}{2}} s(u)}{u^3} \right)' \Big|_{u_0} \\
 \hat{f}^{(ct)} &= \frac{\alpha^2}{2 J_0^3} \frac{4}{\alpha^2} \left(\frac{f(u)^{\frac{1}{2}} s(u)}{u^3} \right) \Big|_{u_0}. \quad (B.5)
 \end{aligned}$$

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