

Impulsive gravitational waves

From particle motion to geometry

Roland Steinbauer

Faculty of Mathematics, University of Vienna

HASOP 2023
Novi Sad, April 2023

Long-term project
Non-smooth Spacetime Geometry
Lorentzian Geometry & GR in low regularity

Theoretical branch

- analytic methods:
causality & singularity thms

Chruściel, Grant,

Graf, Grant, Hörmann, Kunzinger, Ohanyan, Vickers,

Sämann, Schinnerl, Stojković, S.

Ling, Minguzzi, Sbierski

- synthetic: measured
Lorentzian length spaces

Kunzinger, Sämann

Braun, Cavaletti, Mondino, McCann, Solis,

Beran, Callist, Ohanyan, Rott, S.

Exact solutions branch

Impulsive

gravitational waves

- particle motion,
completeness

Podolský, Sämann, Švarc, S.

- matching spacetimes

Mars, Manzano, Ohanyan, S.

Table of Contents

- 1 Impulsive gravitational waves: Basics in flat space
- 2 Turning on Λ
- 3 Geodesic equation
- 4 Limiting geodesics
- 5 The 'discontinuous transformation'

Table of Contents

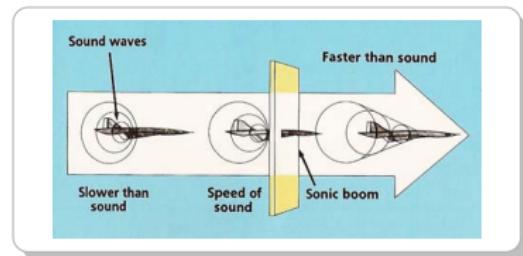
- 1 Impulsive gravitational waves: Basics in flat space
- 2 Turning on Λ
- 3 Geodesic equation
- 4 Limiting geodesics
- 5 The 'discontinuous transformation'

Impulsive gravitational waves

- model short but strong pulses of gravitational radiation
- put forward by Roger Penrose in the late 1960's
- shockwave generated by ultrarelativistic particle [AS-1972]

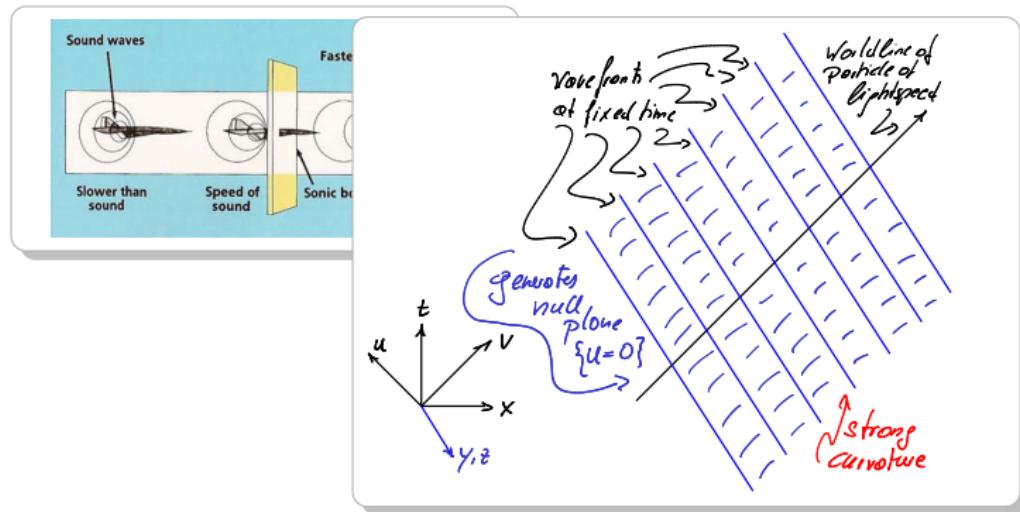
Impulsive gravitational waves

- model short but strong pulses of gravitational radiation
- put forward by Roger Penrose in the late 1960's
- shockwave generated by ultrarelativistic particle [AS-1972]



Impulsive gravitational waves

- model short but strong pulses of gravitational radiation
- put forward by Roger Penrose in the late 1960's
- shockwave generated by ultrarelativistic particle [AS-1972]



Impulsive gravitational waves

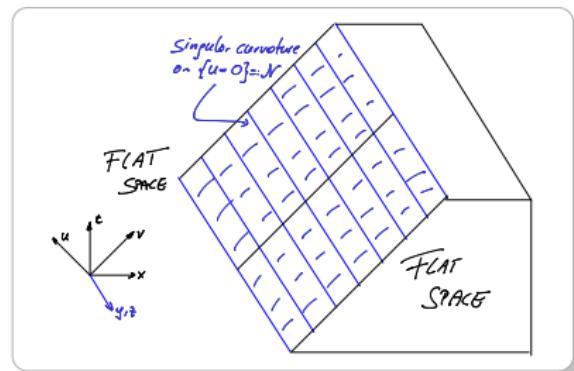
- model short but strong pulses of gravitational radiation
- put forward by Roger Penrose in the late 1960's
- shockwave generated by ultrarelativistic particle [AS-1972]

Impulsive gravitational waves

- model short but strong pulses of gravitational radiation
- put forward by Roger Penrose in the late 1960's
- shockwave generated by ultrarelativistic particle [AS-1972]
- singular curvature concentrated on a null hypersurface
in flat Minkowski space

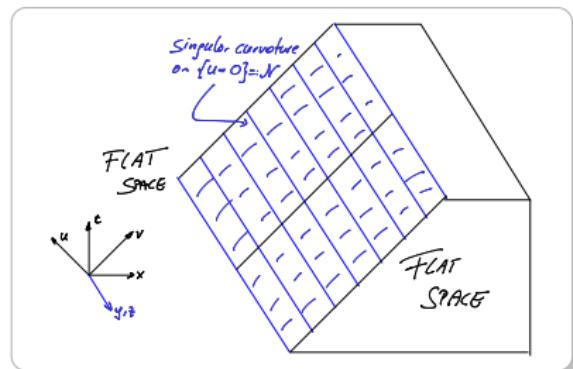
Impulsive gravitational waves

- model short but strong pulses of gravitational radiation
- put forward by Roger Penrose in the late 1960's
- shockwave generated by ultrarelativistic particle [AS-1972]
- singular curvature concentrated on a null hypersurface
in flat Minkowski space



Impulsive gravitational waves

- model short but strong pulses of gravitational radiation
- put forward by Roger Penrose in the late 1960's
- shockwave generated by ultrarelativistic particle [AS-1972]
- singular curvature concentrated on a null hypersurface
in flat Minkowski space



Vivid distributional metric [Pen,72]

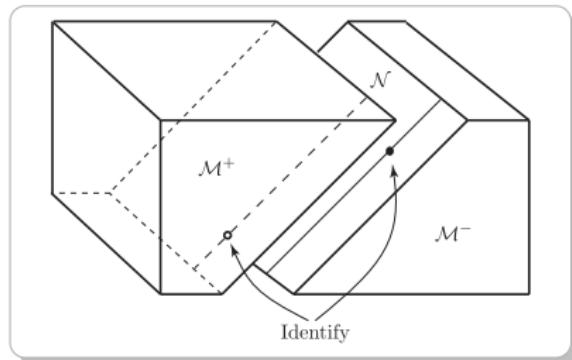
$$ds^2 = -2 dU dV + dy^2 + dz^2 + 2 H(y, z) \delta(U) dU^2 \quad (B)$$

Brinkman-form of impulsive pp-wave

Penrose cut & paste construction

- **cut** Minkowski space $(\mathbb{R}^4, ds_0^2 = -2dU dV + dy^2 + dz^2)$ along null plane $\mathcal{N} = \{U = 0\}$
- **shift** resulting half-spaces M^- , M^+
- **paste** by identifying boundary points in \mathcal{N} according to the **Penrose junction conditions**

$$\mathcal{V} \in M^- \mapsto \mathcal{V} - H(y, z) \in M^+$$



Leads to the $C^{0,1}$ -**Rosen metric of impulsive pp-waves**

$$ds^2 = 2 \left| dZ + \textcolor{red}{u_+} (H_{,\bar{Z}Z} dZ + H_{,\bar{Z}\bar{Z}} d\bar{Z}) \right|^2 - 2 du dv \quad (\text{R})$$

$Z \in \mathcal{C}$, complex coordinate to simplify matters . . .

The ‘discontinuous coordinate transformation’

- The (B) and (R) forms of the metric are physically equivalent.
- Both possess distributional curvature concentrated on \mathcal{N} .
- There is a “discontinuous transformation” between them

The ‘discontinuous coordinate transformation’

- The (B) and (R) forms of the metric are physically equivalent.
- Both possess distributional curvature concentrated on \mathcal{N} .
- There is a “discontinuous transformation” between them

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{U} &= u \\ \mathcal{V} &= v + \Theta(u) H + u_+ H_{,Z} H_{,\bar{Z}} \quad (T) \\ \eta &= Z + u_+ H_{,\bar{Z}}\end{aligned}$$

Takes

$$ds^2 = -2 d\mathcal{U} d\mathcal{V} + dy^2 + dz^2 + 2 H(y, z) \delta(\mathcal{U}) d\mathcal{U}^2 \quad (B)$$

to

$$ds^2 = 2 |dZ + u_+ (H_{,\bar{Z}Z} dZ + H_{,\bar{Z}\bar{Z}} d\bar{Z})|^2 - 2 du dv \quad (R)$$

The ‘discontinuous coordinate transformation’

- The (B) and (R) forms of the metric are physically equivalent.
- Both possess distributional curvature concentrated on \mathcal{N} .
- There is a “discontinuous transformation” between them

The ‘discontinuous coordinate transformation’

- The (B) and (R) forms of the metric are physically equivalent.
- Both possess distributional curvature concentrated on \mathcal{N} .
- There is a “discontinuous transformation” between them
- Made rigorous in nonlinear generalized functions [KS,99].
Needs:
 - (A) Geometric insight:
transformation given by special family of null geodesics
 - (B) Analytic insight:
fully nonlinear distributional analysis of the geodesics of (B)

The ‘discontinuous coordinate transformation’

- The (B) and (R) forms of the metric are physically equivalent.
- Both possess distributional curvature concentrated on \mathcal{N} .
- There is a “discontinuous transformation” between them
- Made rigorous in nonlinear generalized functions [KS,99].

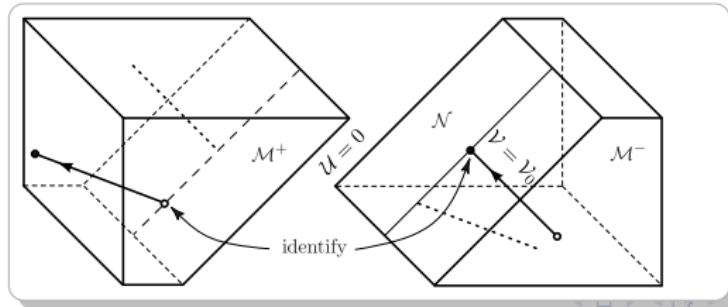
Needs:

(A) Geometric insight:

transformation given by special family of null geodesics

(B) Analytic insight:

fully nonlinear distributional analysis of the geodesics of (B)



The ‘discontinuous coordinate transformation’

- The (B) and (R) forms of the metric are physically equivalent.
- Both possess distributional curvature concentrated on \mathcal{N} .
- There is a “discontinuous transformation” between them
- Made rigorous in nonlinear generalized functions [KS,99].
Needs:
 - (A) Geometric insight:
transformation given by special family of null geodesics
 - (B) Analytic insight:
fully nonlinear distributional analysis of the geodesics of (B)

The ‘discontinuous coordinate transformation’

- The (B) and (R) forms of the metric are physically equivalent.
- Both possess distributional curvature concentrated on \mathcal{N} .
- There is a “discontinuous transformation” between them
- Made rigorous in nonlinear generalized functions [KS,99].
Needs:
 - (A) Geometric insight:
transformation given by special family of null geodesics
 - (B) Analytic insight:
fully nonlinear distributional analysis of the geodesics of (B)

Goal: Do the same for nonvanishing (positive) cosmological constant Λ .

Analytic core: fixed point argument to solve the

i.v.p. for the geodesic equations of (B)-analog

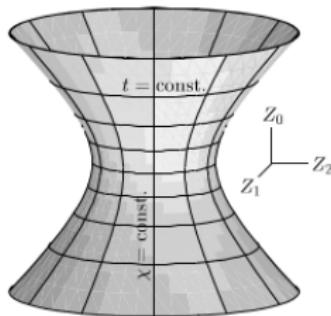
Table of Contents

- 1 Impulsive gravitational waves: Basics in flat space
- 2 Turning on Λ
- 3 Geodesic equation
- 4 Limiting geodesics
- 5 The 'discontinuous transformation'

(Non-expanding) Impulsive waves in de Sitter universe

de Sitter space

- vacuum solution of Einstein eqs. with a positive cosmological constant
- simplest cosmological model with observed accelerating expansion
- simplest visualization: **4D hyperboloid in 5D Minkowski space**



Flat \mathbb{R}^5 with metric

$$ds_0^2 = -2dUdV + dZ_2^2 + dZ_3^2 + dZ_4^2$$

constraint

$$Z_2^2 + Z_3^2 + Z_4^2 - 2UV = 3/\Lambda,$$

(Non-expanding) Impulsive waves in de Sitter universe

de Sitter space

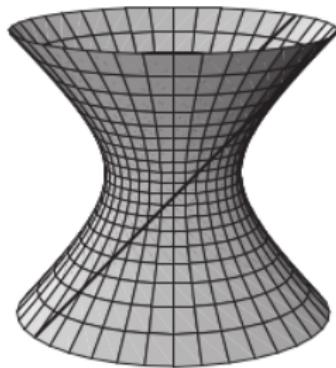
- vacuum solution of Einstein eqs. with a positive cosmological constant
- simplest cosmological model with observed accelerating expansion
- simplest visualization: **4D hyperboloid in 5D Minkowski space**

(Non-expanding) Impulsive waves in de Sitter universe

de Sitter space

- vacuum solution of Einstein eqs. with a positive cosmological constant
- simplest cosmological model with observed accelerating expansion
- simplest visualization: **4D hyperboloid in 5D Minkowski space**

Impulsive wave in de Sitter



5D pp-wave with metric

$$ds^2 = -2dUdV + dZ_2^2 + dZ_3^2 + dZ_4^2 + H(Z_2, Z_3, Z_4) \delta(U) dU^2$$

(same) constraint

$$Z_2^2 + Z_3^2 + Z_4^2 - 2UV = 3/\Lambda$$

impulse on null hypersurface

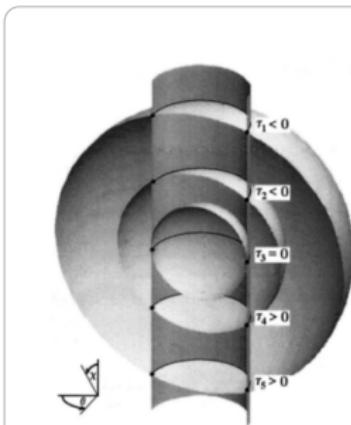
$$\{U = 0\} : Z_2^2 + Z_3^2 + Z_4^2 = 3/\Lambda$$

(Non-expanding) Impulsive waves in de Sitter universe

de Sitter space

- vacuum solution of Einstein eqs. with a positive cosmological constant
- simplest cosmological model with observed accelerating expansion
- simplest visualization: **4D hyperboloid in 5D Minkowski space**

Impulsive wave in de Sitter



5D pp-wave with metric

$$ds^2 = -2dUdV + dZ_2^2 + dZ_3^2 + dZ_4^2 + H(Z_2, Z_3, Z_4) \delta(U) dU^2$$

(same) constraint

$$Z_2^2 + Z_3^2 + Z_4^2 - 2UV = 3/\Lambda$$

impulse on null hypersurface

$$\{U = 0\} : Z_2^2 + Z_3^2 + Z_4^2 = 3/\Lambda$$

Regularisation—Generalized spacetime

- Regularised 5D impulsive pp-wave ($\bar{M} = \mathbb{R}^5, \bar{g}_\varepsilon$) with

$$d\bar{s}_\varepsilon^2 = -2dUdV + dZ_2^2 + dZ_3^2 + \sigma dZ_4^2 + H(Z_p) \delta_\varepsilon(U) dU^2 \quad (2.1)$$

with **model delta net**

$$\delta_\varepsilon(x) := \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \rho\left(\frac{x}{\varepsilon}\right)$$

- de Sitter hyperboloid (M, g_ε) in $(\bar{M}, \bar{g}_\varepsilon)$ as usual:

$$M := \{(U, V, Z_2, Z_3, Z_4) \in \bar{M} : -2UV + Z_2^2 + Z_3^2 + Z_4^2 - a^2 = 0\}$$

- Generalized (Colombeau) 5D impulsive pp-wave ($\bar{M} = \mathbb{R}^5, \bar{g}$) with

$$d\bar{s}^2 = -2dUdV + dZ_2^2 + dZ_3^2 + dZ_4^2 + H(Z_p) D(U) dU^2 \quad (2.2)$$

with $D = [(\delta_\varepsilon)_\varepsilon]$ **generalized δ -function**

Table of Contents

- 1 Impulsive gravitational waves: Basics in flat space
- 2 Turning on Λ
- 3 Geodesic equation
- 4 Limiting geodesics
- 5 The 'discontinuous transformation'

Geodesic equation

$\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ with $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma} = 0$

Geodesic equation

$\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ with $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma} = 0$

$\gamma_\varepsilon : I \rightarrow M$ with $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon}^\varepsilon \dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon = 0$, explicitly for $\gamma_\varepsilon = (U_\varepsilon, V_\varepsilon, Z_{p\varepsilon})$

Geodesic equation

$\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ with $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma} = 0$

$\gamma_\varepsilon : I \rightarrow M$ with $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon}^\varepsilon \dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon = 0$, explicitly for $\gamma_\varepsilon = (U_\varepsilon, V_\varepsilon, Z_{p\varepsilon})$

Regularised equations

$$\ddot{U}_\varepsilon = - \left(e + \frac{1}{2} \dot{U}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - \dot{U}_\varepsilon (H \delta_\varepsilon U_\varepsilon) \right) \frac{U_\varepsilon}{3/\Lambda - U_\varepsilon^2 H \delta_\varepsilon}$$

$$\ddot{Z}_{p\varepsilon} - \frac{1}{2} H_{,p} \delta_\varepsilon \dot{U}_\varepsilon^2 = - \left(e + \frac{1}{2} \dot{U}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - \dot{U}_\varepsilon (H \delta_\varepsilon U_\varepsilon) \right) \frac{Z_{p\varepsilon}}{3/\Lambda - U_\varepsilon^2 H \delta_\varepsilon}$$

$$\ddot{V}_\varepsilon - \frac{1}{2} H \delta'_\varepsilon \dot{U}_\varepsilon^2 - \delta^{pq} H_{,p} \delta_\varepsilon \dot{Z}_q^\varepsilon \dot{U}_\varepsilon = - \left(e + \frac{1}{2} \dot{U}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - \dot{U}_\varepsilon (H \delta_\varepsilon U_\varepsilon) \right) \frac{V_\varepsilon + H \delta_\varepsilon U_\varepsilon}{3/\Lambda - U_\varepsilon^2 H \delta_\varepsilon}$$

where

$$\delta_\varepsilon = \delta_\varepsilon(U_\varepsilon(t)), \quad \delta'_\varepsilon = \delta'_\varepsilon(U_\varepsilon(t)), \quad e = 0, \pm 1,$$

$$\tilde{G}_\varepsilon = \tilde{G}_\varepsilon(U_\varepsilon(t), Z_{p\varepsilon}(t)), \quad H = H(Z_{p\varepsilon}(t)), \quad \text{and} \quad H_{,p} = H_{,p}(Z_{q\varepsilon}(t))$$

Geodesic equation

$\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ with $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma} = 0$

$\gamma_\varepsilon : I \rightarrow M$ with $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon}^\varepsilon \dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon = 0$, explicitly for $\gamma_\varepsilon = (U_\varepsilon, V_\varepsilon, Z_{p\varepsilon})$

good news!

$$\ddot{U}_\varepsilon = - \left(e + \frac{1}{2} \dot{U}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - \dot{U}_\varepsilon (H \delta_\varepsilon U_\varepsilon) \right) \frac{U_\varepsilon}{3/\Lambda - U_\varepsilon^2 H \delta_\varepsilon}$$
$$\ddot{Z}_{p\varepsilon} - \frac{1}{2} H_{,p} \delta_\varepsilon \dot{U}_\varepsilon^2 = - \left(e + \frac{1}{2} \dot{U}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - \dot{U}_\varepsilon (H \delta_\varepsilon U_\varepsilon) \right) \frac{Z_{p\varepsilon}}{3/\Lambda - U_\varepsilon^2 H \delta_\varepsilon}$$

linear & decoupled . . . simply integrate at the end

BUT

$$\delta_\varepsilon = \delta_\varepsilon(U_\varepsilon(t)), \quad \delta'_\varepsilon = \delta'_\varepsilon(U_\varepsilon(t)), \quad e = 0, \pm 1,$$

$$\tilde{G}_\varepsilon = \tilde{G}_\varepsilon(U_\varepsilon(t), Z_{p\varepsilon}(t)), \quad H = H(Z_{p\varepsilon}(t)), \quad \text{and} \quad H_{,p} = H_{,p}(Z_{q\varepsilon}(t))$$

Geodesic equation

$\gamma : I \rightarrow M$ with $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}} \dot{\gamma} = 0$

$\gamma_\varepsilon : I \rightarrow M$ with $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon}^\varepsilon \dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon = 0$, explicitly for $\gamma_\varepsilon = (U_\varepsilon, V_\varepsilon, Z_{p\varepsilon})$

Model system for $\gamma_\varepsilon \equiv x_\varepsilon = (u_\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$

$$\ddot{u}_\varepsilon = - \left(e + \frac{1}{2} \dot{u}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - \dot{u}_\varepsilon (H \delta_\varepsilon u_\varepsilon) \right) \frac{u_\varepsilon}{3/\Lambda - u_\varepsilon^2 H \delta_\varepsilon}$$

$$\ddot{z}_\varepsilon - \frac{1}{2} D H \delta_\varepsilon \dot{u}_\varepsilon^2 = - \left(e + \frac{1}{2} \dot{u}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - \dot{u}_\varepsilon (H \delta_\varepsilon u_\varepsilon) \right) \frac{z_\varepsilon}{3/\Lambda - u_\varepsilon^2 H \delta_\varepsilon}$$

with

$$H = H(z_\varepsilon) \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$$

$$\tilde{G}_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon) := D H(z_\varepsilon) \delta_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) z_\varepsilon + H(z_\varepsilon) \delta'_\varepsilon(u_\varepsilon) u_\varepsilon$$

Initial data & time of existence

Seed geodesics and initial conditions

The u -component of the seed geodesic γ (black) reaches the regularisation sandwich at

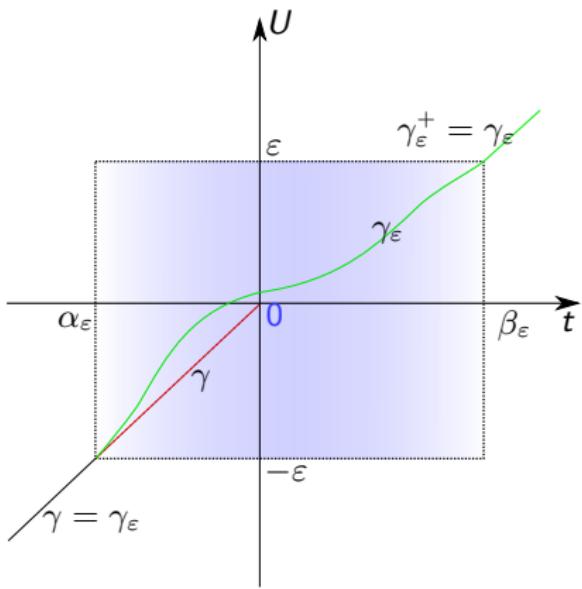
$$t = \alpha_\varepsilon, \text{ i.e., } u(\alpha_\varepsilon) = -\varepsilon.$$

In the background spacetime γ would continue (dotted red) to

$$U = 0 \text{ at } t = 0.$$

In the regularised spacetime γ continues as γ_ε (green) solving the model equations.

Goal: show that γ_ε lives long enough to cross the sandwich for ε small.



Initial data & time of existence

Seed geodesics and initial conditions

The u -component of the seed geodesic γ (black) reaches the regularisation sandwich at

$$t = \alpha_\varepsilon, \text{ i.e., } u(\alpha_\varepsilon) = -\varepsilon.$$

In the background spacetime γ would continue (dotted red) to

$$U = 0 \text{ at } t = 0.$$

In the regularised spacetime γ continues as γ_ε (green) solving the model equations.

Goal: show that γ_ε lives long enough to cross the sandwich for ε small.

We look for solutions on

$$J_\varepsilon = [\alpha_\varepsilon, \alpha_\varepsilon + \eta] \quad (\eta > 0)$$

and set data at $t = \alpha_\varepsilon$

$$\gamma_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) = (-\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon^0)$$

$$\dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) = (\dot{u}_\varepsilon^0 (> 0), \dot{z}_\varepsilon^0)$$

where we additionally demand convergence to some seed data

$$(-\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon^0) \rightarrow (0, z^0)$$

$$(\dot{u}_\varepsilon^0 > 0, \dot{z}_\varepsilon^0) \rightarrow (\dot{u}^0 > 0, \dot{z}^0)$$

The full model system

Model system for $\gamma_\varepsilon \equiv x_\varepsilon = (u_\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$

$$\ddot{u}_\varepsilon = - \left(e + \frac{1}{2} \dot{u}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - \dot{u}_\varepsilon (\dot{H} \delta_\varepsilon u_\varepsilon) \right) \frac{u_\varepsilon}{3/\Lambda - u_\varepsilon^2 H \delta_\varepsilon}$$

$$\ddot{z}_\varepsilon - \frac{1}{2} D H \delta_\varepsilon \dot{u}_\varepsilon^2 = - \left(e + \frac{1}{2} \dot{u}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - \dot{u}_\varepsilon (\dot{H} \delta_\varepsilon u_\varepsilon) \right) \frac{z_\varepsilon}{3/\Lambda - u_\varepsilon^2 H \delta_\varepsilon}$$

with data

$$\begin{aligned} x_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) &= (u_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon), z_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon)) = (u_\varepsilon^0, z_\varepsilon^0) \\ &= (-\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon^0) \rightarrow (0, z^0) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\dot{x}_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) = (\dot{u}_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon), \dot{z}_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon)) = (\dot{u}_\varepsilon^0, \dot{z}_\varepsilon^0) \rightarrow (\dot{u}^0 (> 0), z^0) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$$

Solution space & operator

$$\mathfrak{X}_\varepsilon := \left\{ x_\varepsilon = (u_\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon) \in \mathcal{C}^1(J_\varepsilon, \mathbb{R}^4) : x_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) = x_\varepsilon^0, \dot{x}_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) = \dot{x}_\varepsilon^0 \right.$$
$$\left. \|x_\varepsilon - x^0\|_\infty \leq C_1, \|\dot{x}_\varepsilon - \dot{x}^0\|_\infty \leq C_2, \dot{u}_\varepsilon \in \left[\frac{1}{2}\dot{u}^0, \frac{3}{2}\dot{u}^0 \right] \right\}$$

- prospective solutions assume ε -dependent data
- centred around the 'fixed' data $(0, z^0)$ and (\dot{u}_0, \dot{z}^0)
- \dot{u}_ε forced to stay positive
- \mathfrak{X}_ε only depends on ε via the domain J_ε and data

Solution space & operator

$$\mathfrak{X}_\varepsilon := \left\{ x_\varepsilon = (u_\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon) \in \mathcal{C}^1(J_\varepsilon, \mathbb{R}^4) : \begin{array}{l} x_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) = x_\varepsilon^0, \dot{x}_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) = \dot{x}_\varepsilon^0 \\ \|x_\varepsilon - x^0\|_\infty \leq C_1, \|\dot{x}_\varepsilon - \dot{x}^0\|_\infty \leq C_2, \dot{u}_\varepsilon \in \left[\frac{1}{2}\dot{u}^0, \frac{3}{2}\dot{u}^0\right] \end{array} \right\}$$

Solution space & operator

$$\mathfrak{X}_\varepsilon := \left\{ x_\varepsilon = (u_\varepsilon, z_\varepsilon) \in \mathcal{C}^1(J_\varepsilon, \mathbb{R}^4) : \begin{aligned} x_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) &= x_\varepsilon^0, \quad \dot{x}_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon) = \dot{x}_\varepsilon^0 \\ \|x_\varepsilon - x^0\|_\infty &\leq C_1, \quad \|\dot{x}_\varepsilon - \dot{x}^0\|_\infty \leq C_2, \quad \dot{u}_\varepsilon \in \left[\frac{1}{2}\dot{u}^0, \frac{3}{2}\dot{u}^0 \right] \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$A_\varepsilon^1(x_\varepsilon)(t) = - \int_{\alpha_\varepsilon}^t \int_{\alpha_\varepsilon}^s \frac{eu_\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2}u_\varepsilon \dot{u}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - u_\varepsilon \dot{u}_\varepsilon (H\delta_\varepsilon u_\varepsilon)^\cdot}{3/\Lambda - u_\varepsilon^2 H\delta_\varepsilon} dr ds$$

$$+ \dot{u}_\varepsilon^0(t - \alpha_\varepsilon) - \varepsilon$$

$$A_\varepsilon^2(x_\varepsilon)(t) := \int_{\alpha_\varepsilon}^t \int_{\alpha_\varepsilon}^s \left(\frac{1}{2}DH\delta_\varepsilon \dot{u}_\varepsilon^2 - \frac{ez_\varepsilon + \frac{1}{2}z_\varepsilon \dot{u}_\varepsilon^2 \tilde{G}_\varepsilon - z_\varepsilon \dot{u}_\varepsilon (H\delta_\varepsilon u_\varepsilon)^\cdot}{\sigma a^2 - u_\varepsilon^2 H\delta_\varepsilon} \right) dr ds$$

$$+ \dot{z}_\varepsilon^0(t - \alpha_\varepsilon) + z_\varepsilon^0$$

Local existence & uniqueness

A lot of interesting estimates lead to

$$\| (A_\varepsilon)^n(x_\varepsilon) - (A_\varepsilon)^n(x^*_\varepsilon) \|_{C^1} \leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \beta_n \|x_\varepsilon - x^*_\varepsilon\|_{C^1} \quad \text{with } \sum \beta_n < \infty$$

and so Weissinger's fixed point theorem applies.

Theorem (Existence and uniqueness, (LSSP,16), (SS,17))

The initial value problem for the geodesic equation has a unique smooth solution (for small ε)

$$\gamma_\varepsilon = (U_\varepsilon, V_\varepsilon, Z_\varepsilon) \quad \text{on} \quad [\alpha_\varepsilon, \alpha_\varepsilon + \eta],$$

Moreover γ_ε is uniformly bounded in ε together with \dot{U}_ε and \dot{Z}_ε .

Local existence & uniqueness

A lo

$$\eta(\cancel{\rho}) := \min \left\{ 1, \frac{a^2}{24\dot{u}^0}, \frac{C_1}{\frac{3}{2} + \dot{u}^0}, \frac{2C_1}{54\|\rho\|_1\|DH\|_\infty\dot{u}^0}, \frac{a^2 C_1}{12(|z^0| + C_1)}, \frac{a^2 C_2}{8(|z^0| + C_1)}, \right.$$
$$\left. \frac{C_1 a^2}{54} \left(\dot{u}^0 (|z^0| + C_1) (3\|DH\|_\infty \|\rho\|_\infty (|z^0| + C_1) + \|H\|_\infty \|\rho'\|_\infty) \right)^{-1}, \frac{C_1}{6(1 + |z^0|)}, \right.$$
$$\left. \frac{C_1 a^2}{72} \left((|z^0| + C_1) \left(3\|DH\|_\infty \|\rho\|_\infty (|\dot{z}^0| + C_2) + \frac{3}{2} \dot{u}^0 \|H\|_\infty (\|\rho'\|_\infty + \|\rho\|_\infty) \right) \right)^{-1} \right\}$$

and

Theorem (Existence and uniqueness, (LSSP,16), (SS,17))

The initial value problem for the geodesic equation has a unique smooth solution (for small ε)

$$\gamma_\varepsilon = (U_\varepsilon, V_\varepsilon, Z_\varepsilon) \quad \text{on} \quad [\alpha_\varepsilon, \alpha_\varepsilon + \eta],$$

Moreover γ_ε is uniformly bounded in ε together with \dot{U}_ε and \dot{Z}_ε .

Local existence & uniqueness

A local solution exists if

$$\varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_0 := \min \left\{ \frac{\frac{a^2}{2} \| \rho \|_\infty \| H \|_\infty}{\| \dot{H} \|_0}, \frac{\frac{a^2}{72} \left(3 \| DH \|_\infty \| \rho \|_\infty (|z^0| + C_1) + \| H \|_\infty \| \rho' \|_\infty \right)^{-1}}{\| \dot{u}^0 \|}, \right.$$
$$\left. \frac{\frac{a^2}{96} \left(3 \| DH \|_\infty \| \rho \|_\infty (|\dot{z}^0| + C_2) + \frac{3}{2} \dot{u}^0 \| H \|_\infty (\| \rho' \|_\infty + \| \rho \|_\infty) \right)^{-1}}{\| \dot{u}^0 \|}, \right.$$
$$\left. (3 \| DH \|_\infty \| \rho \|_\infty (|\dot{z}^0| + C_2))^{-1}, \frac{\eta \dot{u}^0}{6}, \eta \right\}.$$

and

Theorem (Existence and uniqueness, (LSSP,16), (SS,17))

The initial value problem for the geodesic equation has a unique smooth solution (for small ε)

$$\gamma_\varepsilon = (U_\varepsilon, V_\varepsilon, Z_\varepsilon) \quad \text{on} \quad [\alpha_\varepsilon, \alpha_\varepsilon + \eta],$$

Moreover γ_ε is uniformly bounded in ε together with \dot{U}_ε and \dot{Z}_ε .

Extension of geodesics

Theorem (Global geodesics (LSSP,16), (SS,17))

The geodesics γ_ε extend to geodesics of the background de Sitter spacetime 'behind' the sandwich wave zone. In particular

- the solutions γ_ε are global, i.e. defined for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$
- the spacetime (M, g_ε) is geodesically complete (i.e. non-singular)

Proof.

$$U_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon + \eta) = -\varepsilon + \int_{\alpha_\varepsilon}^{\alpha_\varepsilon + \eta} \dot{U}_\varepsilon(s) ds \geq -\varepsilon + \frac{\eta}{2} \dot{U}^0 \geq -\varepsilon + 3\varepsilon \geq \varepsilon$$

since $\varepsilon \leq \eta \dot{U}^0 / 6$

For such ε , γ_ε leaves the wave zone and extends to a geodesic of the background spacetime since the geodesic equations coincide there. □

Table of Contents

- 1 Impulsive gravitational waves: Basics in flat space
- 2 Turning on Λ
- 3 Geodesic equation
- 4 Limiting geodesics
- 5 The 'discontinuous transformation'

Preliminaries

Recall: γ_ε leaves regularisation strip at some $\beta_\varepsilon : U_\varepsilon(t = \beta_\varepsilon) = \varepsilon$

Lemma (Limits of exit data)

We have that $\beta_\varepsilon \searrow 0$ and

$$\gamma_\varepsilon(\beta_\varepsilon) \rightarrow (0, B + V^0, Z_p^0)$$

$$\dot{\gamma}_\varepsilon(\beta_\varepsilon) \rightarrow (1, C + \dot{V}^0, A_p + \dot{Z}_p^0)$$

where

$$A_p = \frac{1}{2} \left(H_{,i}(Z_r^0) + \frac{Z_i^0}{a^2} (H(Z_r^0) - \delta^{pq} Z_p^0 H_{,q}(Z_r^0)) \right)$$

$$B = \frac{1}{2} H(Z_p^0)$$

$$C = \frac{1}{8} \left(\sum_{p=1}^3 H_{,p}(Z_r^0)^2 + \frac{1}{a^2} H(Z_r^0)^2 - \frac{1}{a^2} (\delta^{pq} Z_p^0 H_{,q}(Z_r^0))^2 \right)$$

$$- \frac{1}{2a^2} (\delta^{pq} Z_p^0 H_{,q}(Z_r^0) - H(Z_r^0)) V^0 + \frac{1}{2} \delta^{pq} H_{,p}(Z_r^0) \dot{Z}_q^0$$

Convergence result [LSSP,16]

- in front=seed: $\gamma^-(0) = (0, V^0, Z_p^0)$, $\dot{\gamma}^-(0) = (1, V^0, Z_p^0)$
- behind: $\gamma^+(0) = (0, V^0 + \textcolor{red}{B}, Z_p^0)$, $\dot{\gamma}^+(0) = (1, V^0 + \textcolor{red}{C}, Z_p^0 + \textcolor{red}{A}_p)$
- combine:

$$\tilde{\gamma}(\lambda) = (\tilde{U}, \tilde{V}, \tilde{Z}_p)(\lambda) := \begin{cases} \gamma^-(\lambda), & \lambda \leq 0 \\ \gamma^+(\lambda), & \lambda > 0. \end{cases}$$

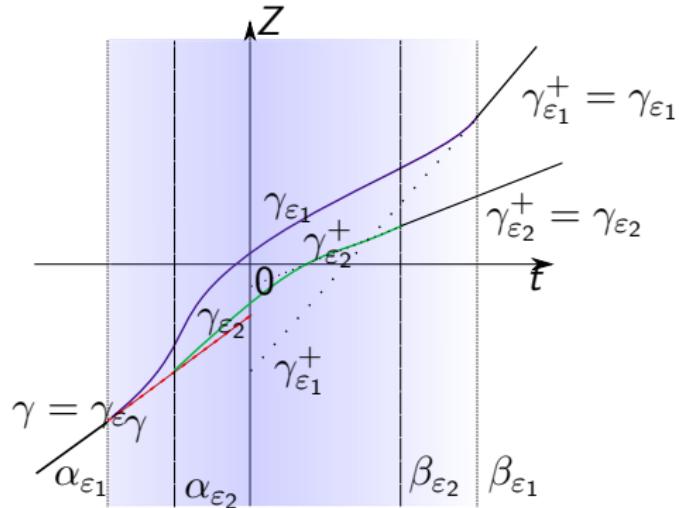
Theorem (Limiting geodesics)

The global solutions converges weakly to the limiting geodesic,

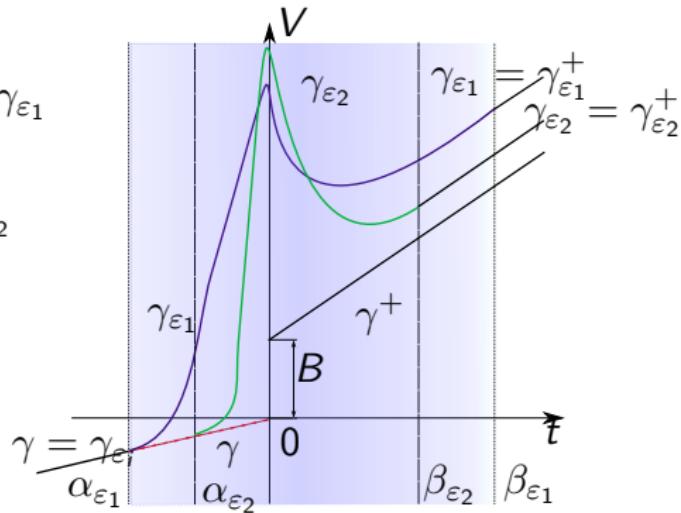
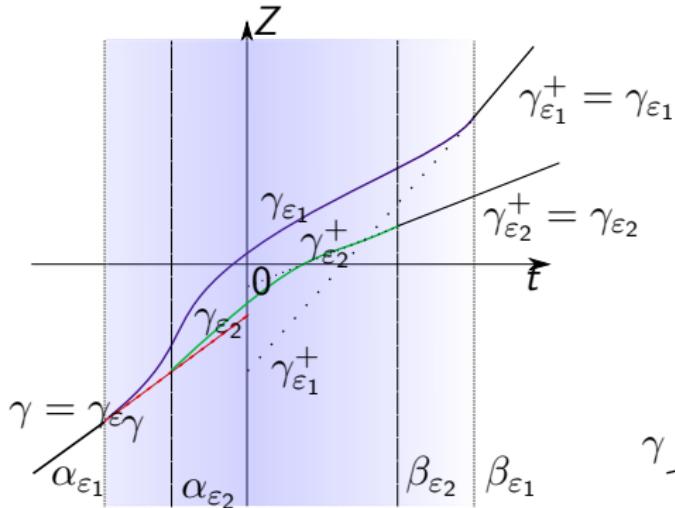
$$\gamma_\varepsilon = (U_\varepsilon, V_\varepsilon, Z_{p\varepsilon}) \rightarrow \tilde{\gamma} = (\tilde{U}, \tilde{V}, \tilde{Z}_p).$$

Moreover, we have $U_\varepsilon \rightarrow \tilde{U}$ in C^1 , $Z_{p\varepsilon} \rightarrow \tilde{Z}_p$ in C^0 & this is optimal!

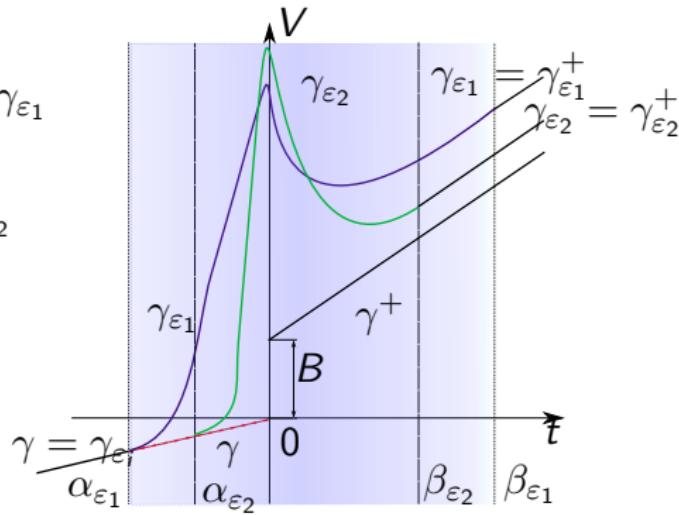
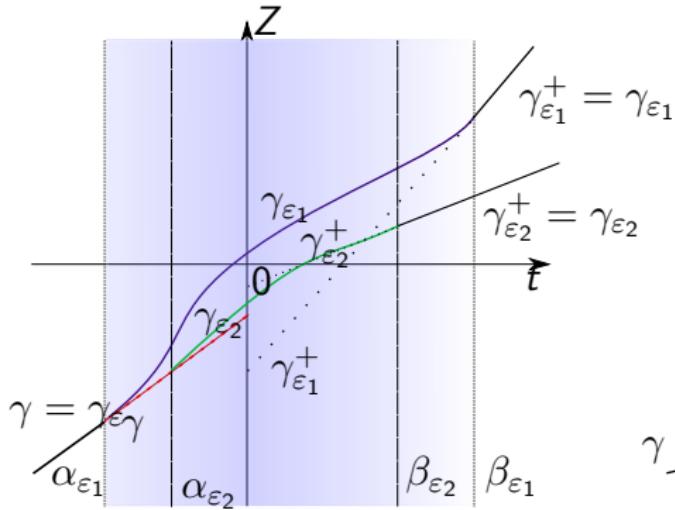
Nice pictures & the null case



Nice pictures & the null case



Nice pictures & the null case



Null case: simple, backgrd. geodesics are straight lines (generators)

$$\tilde{\gamma}(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ V^0 + \dot{V}^0 \lambda + \Theta(\lambda)B + C\lambda_+ \\ Z_p^0 + \dot{Z}_p^0 \lambda + A_p\lambda_+ \end{pmatrix}$$

Table of Contents

- 1 Impulsive gravitational waves: Basics in flat space
- 2 Turning on Λ
- 3 Geodesic equation
- 4 Limiting geodesics
- 5 The 'discontinuous transformation'

(A) The geometric insight [PSSS,19]

'Discontinuous transformation' with Λ

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{U} &= u \\ \mathcal{V} &= v + \Theta(u) H + u_+ H_{,Z} H_{,\bar{Z}} \quad (T) \\ \eta &= Z + u_+ H_{,\bar{Z}}\end{aligned}$$

Takes

$$ds^2 = \frac{-2 d\mathcal{U} d\mathcal{V} + 2d\eta d\bar{\eta} + 2 H(y, z) \delta(\mathcal{U}) d\mathcal{U}^2}{[1 + \frac{1}{6} \Lambda(\eta\bar{\eta} - \mathcal{U}\mathcal{V})]^2} \quad (B)$$

to

$$ds^2 = \frac{2 |dZ + u_+(H_{,\bar{Z}}Z dZ + H_{,\bar{Z}}\bar{Z} d\bar{Z})|^2 - 2 du dv}{[1 + \frac{1}{6} \Lambda(Z\bar{Z} - uv + u_+ G)]^2} \quad (R)$$

(A) The geometric insight [PSSS,19]

'Discontinuous transformation' with Λ

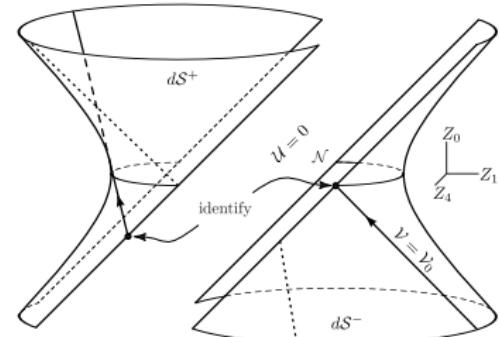
$$\mathcal{U} = u$$

$$\mathcal{V} = v + \Theta(u) H + u_+ H_{,Z} H_{,\bar{Z}} \quad (T)$$

$$\eta = Z + u_+ H_{,\bar{Z}}$$

limiting geos w. null generators as seed

$$\tilde{\gamma}(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ V^0 + \dot{V}^0 \lambda + \Theta(\lambda) B + C \lambda_+ \\ Z_p^0 + \dot{Z}_p^0 \lambda + A_p \lambda_+ \end{pmatrix}$$



(A) The geometric insight [PSSS,19]

'Discontinuous transformation' with Λ

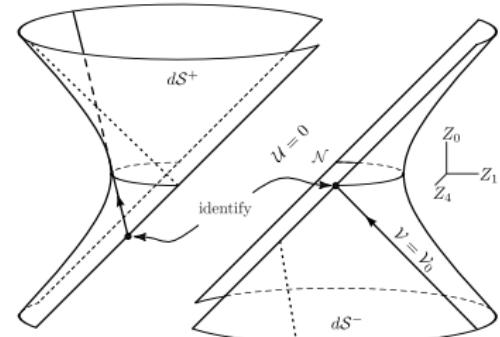
$$\mathcal{U} = u$$

$$\mathcal{V} = v + \Theta(u) H + u_+ H_{,Z} H_{,\bar{Z}} \quad (T)$$

$$\eta = Z + u_+ H_{,\bar{Z}}$$

limiting geos w. null generators as seed

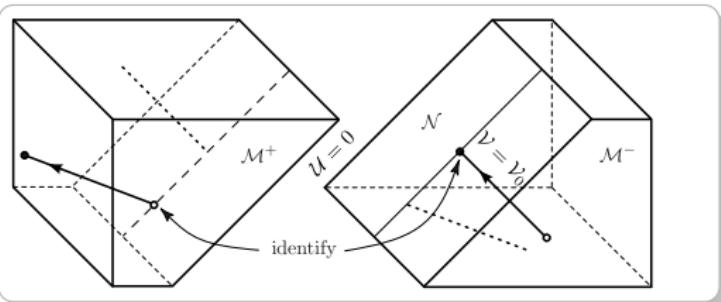
$$\tilde{\gamma}(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ V^0 + \dot{V}^0 \lambda + \Theta(\lambda) B + C \lambda_+ \\ Z_p^0 + \dot{Z}_p^0 \lambda + A_p \lambda_+ \end{pmatrix}$$



'broken geodesic generators' are coordinate lines of system in which the metric becomes continuous

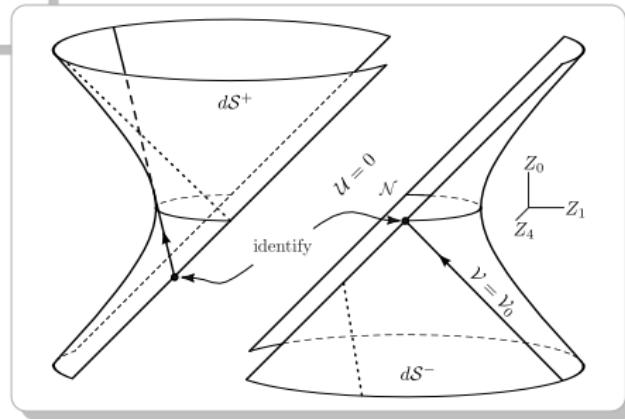
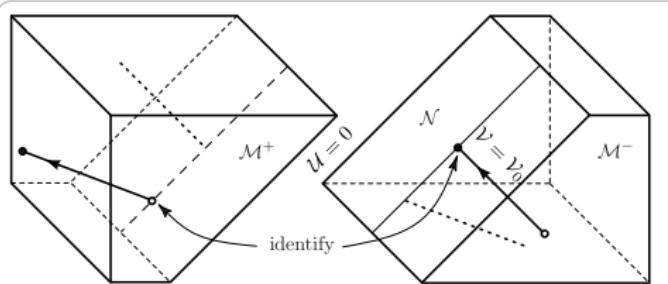
(A) The geometric insight & even nicer pictures

The new picture is a direct generalization of Penrose's cut & paste:



(A) The geometric insight & even nicer pictures

The new picture is a direct generalization of Penrose's cut & paste:



(B) Analytic insight [SSSS,23]

- ‘discontinuous trsf.’ via limiting geodesics

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ X \\ Y \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \gamma[v, X, Y](u) = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v + \Theta(u)B + u_+ C \\ X + u_+ H^i_X \\ Y + u_+ H^i_Y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

- geometric regularisation of trsf. via regularised geodesics

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ X \\ Y \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} U \\ V \\ Z_p \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{(T_\varepsilon)} \gamma_{5D}^\varepsilon[V, Z_p](U) = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{U}_\varepsilon \\ \bar{V}_\varepsilon \\ \bar{Z}_{p_\varepsilon} \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} u_\varepsilon \\ v_\varepsilon \\ x_\varepsilon \\ y_\varepsilon \end{pmatrix}$$

Beware: We have to go via 5D!

The regularized transformation

$$\bar{U}_\varepsilon[V, Z_p](U) = U - \int_{-\varepsilon}^U \int_{-\varepsilon}^s \frac{\Delta_\varepsilon(r)}{N_\varepsilon(r)} \bar{U}_\varepsilon(r) dr ds$$

$$\bar{V}_\varepsilon[V, Z_p](U) = (1 - \beta U)V + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\varepsilon}^U \int_{-\varepsilon}^s H(\bar{Z}_{p\varepsilon})(r) \delta'_\varepsilon(\bar{U}_\varepsilon(r)) \dot{\bar{U}}_\varepsilon^2(r) dr ds$$

$$+ \int_{-\varepsilon}^U \int_{-\varepsilon}^s \delta^{pq} H_{,p}(\bar{Z}_{w\varepsilon}(r)) \delta_\varepsilon(\bar{U}_\varepsilon(r)) \dot{\bar{Z}}_{q\varepsilon}(r) \dot{\bar{U}}_\varepsilon(r) dr ds$$

$$- \int_{-\varepsilon}^U \int_{-\varepsilon}^s \frac{\Delta_\varepsilon(r)}{N_\varepsilon(r)} \left(\bar{V}_\varepsilon(r) + H(\bar{Z}_{p\varepsilon})(r) \delta_\varepsilon(\bar{U}_\varepsilon(r)) \bar{U}_\varepsilon(r) \right) dr ds$$

$$\bar{Z}_{p\varepsilon}[V, Z_p](U) = \dots$$

with

$$\Delta_\varepsilon(r) := \frac{1}{2} S \dot{\bar{U}}_\varepsilon^2(r) \tilde{G}_\varepsilon(r) - \dot{\bar{U}}_\varepsilon(r) \frac{d}{dr} \left(H(\bar{Z}_{p\varepsilon})(r) \delta_\varepsilon(\bar{U}_\varepsilon(r)) \bar{U}_\varepsilon(r) \right) \text{ with}$$

$$\tilde{G}_\varepsilon(r) := \delta^{pq} H_{,p}(\bar{Z}_{w\varepsilon}(r)) \delta_\varepsilon(\bar{U}_\varepsilon(r)) \dot{\bar{Z}}_{q\varepsilon}(r) + H(\bar{Z}_{w\varepsilon}(r)) \delta'_\varepsilon(\bar{U}_\varepsilon(r)) \bar{U}_\varepsilon(r),$$

$$N_\varepsilon(r) := \sigma a^2 - \bar{U}_\varepsilon^2(r) H(\bar{Z}_{p\varepsilon})(r) \delta_\varepsilon(\bar{U}_\varepsilon(r)).$$

The generalized transformation

Theorem (SSSS,23)

The discontinuous coordinate transform $T = [(T_\varepsilon)_\varepsilon]$ is a generalized diffeomorphism on suitable subsets.

That means in particular (on suitable open Ω)

- $T_\varepsilon : \Omega \rightarrow T_\varepsilon(\Omega) =: \tilde{\Omega}_\varepsilon$ is a diffeomorphism
& there is an open $\tilde{\Omega} \subseteq \bigcap_{\varepsilon \leq \eta} \tilde{\Omega}_\varepsilon$.
- For the inverses T_ε^{-1} there is an open $\Omega_1 \subseteq \bigcap_{\varepsilon \leq \eta} T_\varepsilon^{-1}(\tilde{\Omega})$.

Technically one has to

- estimate the minors of the Jacobian uniformly
- use a global univalence result by Gales & Nikaido
- use results on generalized diffeos by Erlacher & Grosser

References

- [SSLP,16] C. Sämann, R. Steinbauer, A. Lecke, J. Podolský, *Geodesics in nonexpanding impulsive gravitational waves with Λ , part I*, **CQG 33 (2016)**
- [SSS,16] C. Sämann, R. Steinbauer, R. Švarc, *Completeness of general pp-wave spacetimes and their impulsive limit.*, **CQG 33 (2016)**
- [SS,17] C. Sämann, R. Steinbauer, *Geodesics in nonexpanding impulsive gravitational waves with Λ , part II.*, **JMP 58 (2017)**
- [PSSS,19] J. Podolský, C. Sämann, R. Steinbauer, R. Švarc, *Cut-and-paste for imp. gravitational waves with Λ : The geometric picture.* **PRD 100 (2019)**
- [PS,22] J. Podolský, R. Steinbauer, *Penrose junction conditions with Λ : Geometric insights into low-regularity metrics for impulsive gravitational waves.* **GRG 54 (2022)**
- [SSSS,23] C. Sämann, B. Schinnerl, R. Steinbauer, R. Švarc, *Cut-and-paste for impulsive gravitational waves with Λ : The mathematical analysis.* **in preparation (2023)**