

The wave equation on singular space-times

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Weakly singular space-times I

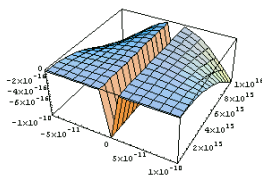
- General Relativity: space-time (M, g)

$$\text{Einstein equations } G_{ab}[g] = \kappa T_{ab}$$

- classically: singularities defined geometrically

i.e., via incomplete geodesics

- problem: many reasonable space-times are singular e.g.:



impulsive gravitational waves,
shell-crossing singularities,
cosmic strings, ...

- often (but not always) the metric is locally bounded but
 - below validity of standard differential geometry, i.e., $C^{1,1}$
 - below largest “reasonable” distributional class, i.e., $H_{loc}^2 \cap L_{loc}^\infty$ [Geroch, Traschen, 87]

→ nonlinear distributional geometry (digression)

Weakly singular space-times II

- physically relevant: not geodesics but tidal forces on extended bodies near singularity but unclear how to model!
 - **idea:** study behavior of test fields instead [Clarke, 96]
singularities as obstructions to the evolution of test fields rather than as obstructions to extending geodesics
 - **so:** study Cauchy problem for the wave equation locally near singularity
 - **problem:** $\square_g u = \nabla^a(\nabla_a u) = |\det g|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_a (|\det g|^{-\frac{1}{2}} g^{ab} \partial_b u)$
involves coefficients of low regularity
 - **results:** local unique solvability
 - for shell-crossing singularities [Clarke, 98] (weak solution concept)
 - for cosmic strings [Vickers, Wilson, 00] (in \mathcal{G})
- ↪ generalization to “weakly singular” space-times (this talk)

Distributional differential geometry

[Schwartz, de Rham, Marsden, Parker, ...]

- distributions on manifolds: dual space of compactly supported n -forms

$$\mathcal{D}'(M) = (\Omega_c^n(M))'$$

- distributional sections in vector bundles

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{D}'(M, E) &= \left(\Gamma_c(M, E^* \otimes \Omega_c^n(M)) \right)' \\ &\cong \mathcal{D}'(M) \otimes_{\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)} \Gamma(M, E) \\ &\cong L_{\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)} \left(\Gamma(M, E^*), \mathcal{D}'(M) \right)\end{aligned}$$

- extension of classical operations by continuity:

$$L_\xi, [,], \wedge, \iota_\xi, \{, \} \dots$$

but with only one \mathcal{D}' -factor

- distributional **pseudo-Riemannian metric**

$$g \in \mathcal{D}'_2{}^0(M) = \{t : \mathfrak{X}(M) \times \mathfrak{X}(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'(M) : t \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(M) - \text{bilinear}\}$$

symmetric and nondegenerate, i.e., $g(\xi, \eta) = 0 \forall \eta \in \mathfrak{X}(M) \Rightarrow \xi = 0$.

- distributional **connection** $D : \mathfrak{X}(M) \times \mathcal{D}'_0{}^1(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'_0{}^1(M)$
 $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$ -linear in first, \mathbb{R} -linear in second slot, $D_\xi(f\eta) = fD_\xi\eta + \xi(f)\eta$
- **problems:**
 - **can't insert** \mathcal{D}' -vector fields into \mathcal{D}' -metric
 - **curvature** in general undefined: $R(\xi, \eta) = [D_\xi, D_\eta] - D_{[\xi, \eta]}$ (nonlin.!)
 - notion of **nondegeneracy** is too weak (no point-values \rightsquigarrow non-local):
 $ds^2 = x^2 dx^2$ (classically) degenerate in 0, but nondegenerate in \mathcal{D}' .
 - **index** of a distributional metric?
 - **geodesics** of a distributional metric?

Would need a notion of *manifold-valued* distributions.

Distributional General Relativity?

- differential geometry, Einstein equations:

$g \in \mathcal{D}'(M, T_2^0(M))$ simply not possible!

- positive results in special cases

- gravitational shock waves [Lichnerowicz, 1950-ies]
- thin shells of matter, [Israel, 66]
- ultrarelativistic black holes [Balasin, Nachbagauer, 1990-ies]
- ...

$$\dim \text{supp}(T_{ab}) = \dim \text{supp}(G_{ab}) = 3$$

- No-go results [Geroch-Traschen, 1987]

- maximal “reasonable” class is $g_{ab} \in H_{loc}^2 \cap L_{loc}^\infty$
 - curvature tensors, in particular G_{ab} defined in \mathcal{D}'
 - limit consistency, completeness
 - Bianchi identities (\leadsto energy conservation) can't be formulated

$$\implies \dim \text{supp}(G_{ab}) \geq 3$$

- excludes many interesting examples, e.g. cosmic strings

Nonlinear distributional geometry

- Colombeau tensor fields (special version)
usual quotient construction using:

$$(T_s^r)_M : (u_\varepsilon) \in (T_s^r)^{(0,1]} : \forall K \subset\subset M \forall P \exists N : \sup_{x \in K} \|Pu_\varepsilon(x)\|_h = O(\varepsilon^{-N})$$

$$\mathcal{N}_s^r : (u_\varepsilon) \in (T_s^r)^{(0,1]} : \forall K \subset\subset M \quad \forall m : \sup_{x \in K} \|u_\varepsilon(x)\|_h = O(\varepsilon^m)$$

$$\mathcal{G}_s^r(M) := (T_s^r)_M / \mathcal{N}_s^r \quad \mathcal{G}(M) := G_0^0(M)$$

- $\mathcal{G}(-)$ is a fine sheaf of differential algebras w.r.t. $L_X u := [(L_X u_\varepsilon)_\varepsilon]$
- $\mathcal{G}_s^r(-)$ is a fine sheaf of $\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)$ -modules and
of $\mathcal{G}(M)$ -modules; finitely gen., projective
- characterizations:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_s^r(M) &\cong \mathcal{G}(M) \otimes T_s^r(M) \cong L_{\mathcal{C}^\infty(M)}(T_s^r(M), \mathcal{G}(M)) \\ &\cong L_{\mathcal{G}(M)}(\mathcal{G}_s^r(M), \mathcal{G}(M)) \end{aligned}$$

Generalized pseudo-Riemannian geometry I

- For $g \in \mathcal{G}_2^0(M)$ TFAE
 - (i) $g : \mathcal{G}_0^1(M) \times \mathcal{G}_0^1(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{G}(M)$ symm. & $\det g$ invertible in $\mathcal{G}(M)$
 - (ii) $\forall \tilde{x}: g(\tilde{x}): \tilde{\mathbb{K}}^n \times \tilde{\mathbb{K}}^n \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbb{K}}$ symmetric and nondegenerate
 - (iii) On every rel. cp. chart there exists a representative that is a classical pseudo-Riemannian metric and $\det g$ is invertible in $\mathcal{G}(M)$

If there exists a representative with constant index, g is called **generalized pseudo-Riemannian metric**.

- **results:**

- index of is well-defined
(proof by finite-dimensional perturbation theory)
- inverse metric g^{-1} is a well-defined element of $\mathcal{G}_0^2(M)$
- $\xi \mapsto g(\xi, \cdot)$ induces a $\mathcal{G}(M)$ -linear isomorphism: $\mathcal{G}_0^1(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_1^0(M)$
 \rightsquigarrow raising/lowering of indices

- **Generalized connection:**

$$\hat{D} : \mathcal{G}_0^1(M) \times \mathcal{G}_0^1(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_0^1(M)$$

$\mathcal{G}(M)$ -linear in first, $\tilde{\mathbb{R}}$ -linear in second slot, $\hat{D}_\xi(f\eta) = f\hat{D}_\xi\eta + \xi(f)\eta$

- **Fundamental Lemma:** For every generalized metric there exists a unique metric and torsion-free connection, the *generalized Levi-Civita connection*.
- **curvature** can be defined

$$\hat{R}_{\xi,\eta}\zeta := \hat{D}_{[\xi,\eta]}\zeta - [\hat{D}_\xi, \hat{D}_\eta]\zeta$$

Einstein equations can be formulated

- compatibility with
 - classical theory: $\hat{g} \approx_k g \Rightarrow$ gen. curvature \approx_{k-2} class. curvature
 - Geroch-Traschen approach (recent work)

- **The Result:** Local existence and uniqueness Theorem for the Cauchy problem for the scalar wave equation for a large class of “weakly singular” (essentially locally bounded) space-time metrics in the (special) Colombeau algebra.
- **Class of metrics:**
precise definition needs some geometric preparation
 - formulated entirely in \mathcal{G}
 - many weakly singular metrics can be modelled within this class
 - embedding via convolution with standard mollifier
 - physically motivated modelling
 - e.g.: impulsive pp-waves (in Rosen form), expanding spherical impulsive waves, cosmic strings, ...

- the metric:** $g_{ab} \in \mathcal{G}_2^0(M)$ a generalized Lorentz metric
 $\Rightarrow \forall V \subseteq M$ rel. cp. \exists repr. $(g_{ab}^\varepsilon)_\varepsilon$ which is a classical L-metric and

$$\forall K \subset\subset U \exists N : \inf_K \|\det g_\varepsilon\| \geq \varepsilon^m$$
 use exclusively such representatives from now on
- the geometry:** $p \in U \subseteq M$ open & rel. cp.
 $t : U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ smooth, $t(p) = 0$, $\sigma := dt \neq 0$ on U
 assume $\exists M_0 > 0 : g_\varepsilon^{-1}(dt, dt) \leq 1/M_0^2$
 $\implies \Sigma_\tau := \{q \in U : t(q) = \tau\}$ “uniformly spacelike” hypersurfaces
- constructions:** normal vector $\xi_\varepsilon^a := g_\varepsilon^{ab} \sigma_b$; norm $V_\varepsilon^2 := -g_\varepsilon(\xi_\varepsilon, \xi_\varepsilon)$
 corresponding normalized versions: $\hat{\xi}_\varepsilon^a = \xi_\varepsilon^a / V_\varepsilon$, $\hat{\sigma}_a^\varepsilon := \sigma_a / V_\varepsilon$
 note: only σ independent of $\varepsilon!$
 generalized Riemann metric: $e_{ab}^\varepsilon := g_{ab}^\varepsilon + 2\hat{\sigma}_a^\varepsilon \hat{\sigma}_b^\varepsilon$

The class of metrics

We define the following class of **weakly singular metrics**

(A) $\forall K \subset\subset U \forall k \forall \eta_1, \dots, \eta_k \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$

- $\sup_K \|L\eta_1 \dots L\eta_k g_\varepsilon\| = O(\varepsilon^{-k})$
- $\sup_K \|L\eta_1 \dots L\eta_k g_\varepsilon^{-1}\| = O(\varepsilon^{-k})$

in particular $g_\varepsilon, g_\varepsilon^{-1}$ locally uniformly bounded

$$\Rightarrow 1/M_0 \leq \sqrt{-g_\varepsilon(\xi_\varepsilon, \xi_\varepsilon)} = V_\varepsilon \leq M_0$$

(B) $\forall K \subset\subset U : \sup_K \|\nabla_{g^\varepsilon} \xi_\varepsilon\| = O(1)$

$$\Rightarrow \|L_\xi g_\varepsilon\|_{e_\varepsilon} = O(1), \quad \|\nabla_{g^\varepsilon} e_\varepsilon\| = O(1) = \|\nabla_{g^\varepsilon} e_\varepsilon^{-1}\|_{e_\varepsilon}$$

(C) for each $\varepsilon : \Sigma := \Sigma_0$ past cp., spacelike hypersurface s.t. $\partial J_\varepsilon^+(\Sigma) = \Sigma$
and $\exists A \neq \emptyset$, open $A \subseteq \bigcap_\varepsilon J_\varepsilon^+(\Sigma)$

\Rightarrow existence of classical solutions on common domain

all norms $\| \cdot \|$ derived from some classical Riemannian background metric

Formulation of the result

- For given weakly singular g and $v, w \in \mathcal{G}(\Sigma)$ we consider the i.v.p.

$$\square_g u = 0, \quad u|_{\Sigma} = v, \quad L_{\hat{\xi}}|_{\Sigma} u = w \quad (\square)$$

and ask for solutions in $\mathcal{G}(U)$

Theorem: Let (M, g) be a generalized space-time with a weakly singular metric (i.e., (A)–(C) hold) and let $v, w \in \mathcal{G}(\Sigma)$. Then for any $p \in \Sigma$ there exists an open neighborhood V where (\square) has a unique solution in $\mathcal{G}(V)$.

- In coordinates $(U, \{t, x^1, x^2, x^3\})$

$$g_{\varepsilon} = -V_{\varepsilon}^2 dt^2 + h_{ij}^{\varepsilon} (dx^i - N_{\varepsilon}^i dt) \otimes (dx^j - N_{\varepsilon}^j dt)$$

$$V_{\varepsilon}, \partial V_{\varepsilon}, h_{ij}^{\varepsilon} = O(1), \quad \partial^{\alpha} V_{\varepsilon}, \partial^{\alpha} h_{ij}^{\varepsilon}, \partial^{\alpha} N_{\varepsilon}^i = O(\varepsilon^{|\alpha|})$$

$$\square_{g_{\varepsilon}} u_{\varepsilon} = |\det g_{\varepsilon}|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \partial_a (|\det g_{\varepsilon}|^{-\frac{1}{2}} g_{\varepsilon}^{ab} \partial_b) u_{\varepsilon} = f_{\varepsilon} \in \mathcal{N}(U)$$

$$u_{\varepsilon}(t=0, x^i) = v_{\varepsilon}(x^i), \quad L_{\hat{\xi}_{\varepsilon}} u_{\varepsilon}(t=0, x^i) = w_{\varepsilon}(x^i) \quad (\square_{\varepsilon})$$

General strategy of proof

key ingredient: higher order energy estimates

- use of ε -dependent Sobolev norms
- use of ε -dependent energy-momentum tensors
- switch back to sup-norms

step 1: existence of classical solutions u_ε for fixed ε (by (C))
 \rightsquigarrow candidate for \mathcal{G} -solution

step 2: existence of \mathcal{G} -solutions:
moderate data \rightsquigarrow moderate initial energies
 \rightsquigarrow moderate energies for all times $\rightsquigarrow (u_\varepsilon)_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{E}_M(V)$

step 3: uniqueness—part 1:
independence of the choice of the representatives of v, w
negligible data $\rightsquigarrow [\dots\dots] \rightsquigarrow (u_\varepsilon)_\varepsilon \in \mathcal{N}(V)$

step 2: uniqueness—part 2:
independence of the choice of the representative of g

Sobolev norms and energies I

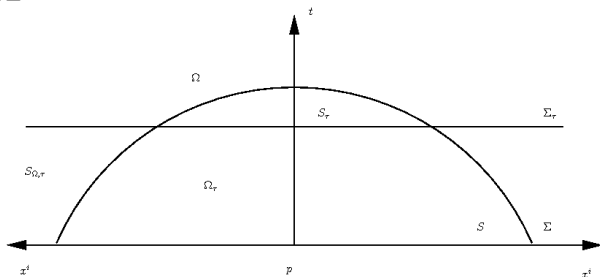
- use the R-metric $e_{ab}^\varepsilon := g_{ab}^\varepsilon + 2\hat{\sigma}_a^\varepsilon \hat{\sigma}_b^\varepsilon$ to define “pointwise” norm

$$|\nabla_\varepsilon^{(j)} u|^2 := \|\nabla_{p_1}^\varepsilon \dots \nabla_{p_j}^\varepsilon u\|_{e_\varepsilon}^2 \\ = e_\varepsilon^{p_1 q_1} \dots e_\varepsilon^{p_j q_j} (\nabla_{p_1}^\varepsilon \dots \nabla_{p_j}^\varepsilon u) (\nabla_{q_1}^\varepsilon \dots \nabla_{q_j}^\varepsilon u)$$

- 4D-Sobolev norms on Ω_τ w.r.t. ∇_{g^ε} resp. ∂

$$\nabla \|u\|_{\Omega_\tau, \varepsilon}^k := \left(\sum_{j=0}^k \int_{\Omega_\tau} |\nabla_\varepsilon^{(j)}(u)|^2 \mu^\varepsilon \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\partial \|u\|_{\Omega_\tau, \varepsilon}^k := \left(\sum_{\substack{p_1, \dots, p_j \\ 0 \leq j \leq k}} \int_{\Omega_\tau} |\partial_{p_1} \dots \partial_{p_j} u|^2 \mu^\varepsilon \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$



- 3D-Sobolev norms on S_τ w.r.t. ∇_{g^ε} resp. ∂

$$\nabla \|u\|_{S_{\tau,\varepsilon}}^k := \left(\sum_{j=0}^k \int_{S_\tau} |\nabla_\varepsilon^{(j)}(u)|^2 \mu_\tau^\varepsilon \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\partial \|u\|_{S_{\tau,\varepsilon}}^k := \left(\sum_{\substack{p_1, \dots, p_j \\ 0 \leq j \leq k}} \int_{S_\tau} |\partial_{p_1} \dots \partial_{p_j} u|^2 \mu_\tau^\varepsilon \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

- Energy momentum tensors ($k > 0$)

$$T_\varepsilon^{ab,0}(u) := -\frac{1}{2} g_\varepsilon^{ab} u^2$$

$$T_\varepsilon^{ab,k}(u) := \left(g_\varepsilon^{ac} g_\varepsilon^{bd} - \frac{1}{2} g_\varepsilon^{ab} g_\varepsilon^{cd} \right) e_\varepsilon^{p_1 q_1} \dots e_\varepsilon^{p_{k-1} q_{k-1}} \\ (\nabla_c^\varepsilon \nabla_{p_1}^\varepsilon \dots \nabla_{p_{k-1}}^\varepsilon u) (\nabla_d^\varepsilon \nabla_{q_1}^\varepsilon \dots \nabla_{q_{k-1}}^\varepsilon u)$$

- Energies ($k \geq 0$)

$$E_{\tau,\varepsilon}^k(u) := \sum_{j=0}^k \int_{S_\tau} T_\varepsilon^{ab,j}(u) \widehat{\xi}_a^\varepsilon \widehat{\xi}_b^\varepsilon \widehat{\mu}_\tau^\varepsilon$$

Lemma 1: Equivalency of norms and energies

(i) $(\nabla \| \|_{S_{\tau, \varepsilon}}$ vs. energies)

There exist constants A, A' such that

$$A'(\nabla \| u \|_{S_{\tau, \varepsilon}}^k)^2 \leq E_{\tau, \varepsilon}^k(u) \leq A(\nabla \| u \|_{S_{\tau, \varepsilon}}^k)^2$$

(ii) $(\nabla \| \|_{S_{\tau, \varepsilon}}$ vs. $\partial \| \|_{S_{\tau, \varepsilon}}$)

For each k there exist positive constants B_k, B'_k such that

$$(\nabla \| u \|_{S_{\tau, \varepsilon}}^k)^2 \leq B'_k \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{2(k-j)}} (\partial \| u \|_{S_{\tau, \varepsilon}}^j)^2$$

$$(\partial \| u \|_{S_{\tau, \varepsilon}}^k)^2 \leq B_k \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{2(k-j)}} (\nabla \| u \|_{S_{\tau, \varepsilon}}^j)^2$$

(iii) (basic energy estimate) $\forall \varepsilon, \tau$ the dominant energy condition gives:

$$E_{\tau, \varepsilon}^k(u) \leq E_{\tau=0, \varepsilon}^k(u) + \sum_{j=0}^k \int_{\Omega_{\tau}} \left(\xi_b \nabla_a^\varepsilon T_\varepsilon^{ab,j}(u) + T_\varepsilon^{ab,j}(u) \nabla_a^\varepsilon \xi_b \right) \mu_\varepsilon.$$

Proposition 1: Energy estimates

Let u_ε be a solution of (\square_ε) . Then $\forall k \exists C'_k, C''_k, C'''_k$ s.t. $\forall 0 \leq \tau \leq \gamma$

$$(i) \quad E_{\tau,\varepsilon}^k(u_\varepsilon) \leq E_{0,\varepsilon}^k(u_\varepsilon) + C'_k (\nabla \|f_\varepsilon\|_{\Omega_{\tau,\varepsilon}}^{k-1})^2 + C'''_k \int_{\zeta=0}^{\tau} E_{\zeta,\varepsilon}^k(u_\varepsilon) d\zeta \\ + C''_k \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{2(1+k-j)}} \int_{\zeta=0}^{\tau} E_{\zeta,\varepsilon}^j(u_\varepsilon) d\zeta$$

$$(ii) \quad E_{\tau,\varepsilon}^k(u_\varepsilon) \leq \left(E_{0,\varepsilon}^k(u_\varepsilon) + C'_k (\nabla \|f_\varepsilon\|_{\Omega_{\tau,\varepsilon}}^{k-1})^2 \right. \\ \left. + C''_k \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} \frac{1}{\varepsilon^{2(1+k-j)}} \int_{\zeta=0}^{\tau} E_{\zeta,\varepsilon}^j(u_\varepsilon) d\zeta \right) e^{C'''_k \tau}$$

(iii) If the initial energy $(E_{0,\varepsilon}^k(u_\varepsilon))_\varepsilon$ is moderate [negligible] then

$$\sup_{0 \leq \tau \leq \gamma} (E_{\tau,\varepsilon}^k(u_\varepsilon))_\varepsilon$$

is moderate [negligible].

Lemma 2: Auxiliary estimates

(i) (Bounds on initial energies from initial data)

Let u_ε be a solution of (\square_ε) . If $(v_\varepsilon)_\varepsilon, (w_\varepsilon)_\varepsilon$ are moderate resp. negligible, then the initial energies $(E_{0,\varepsilon}^k(u_\varepsilon))_\varepsilon$, for each $k \geq 0$, are moderate resp. negligible nets of real numbers.

[estimate t -derivatives of the data using the wave equation

$$\partial_t^2 u_\varepsilon = -V_\varepsilon^2 \left(f_\varepsilon + \frac{2}{V_\varepsilon^2} N^i \partial_t \partial_i u_\varepsilon - \left(h_\varepsilon^{ij} - \frac{1}{V_\varepsilon^2} N_\varepsilon^i N_\varepsilon^j \right) \partial_i \partial_j u_\varepsilon + g_\varepsilon^{ab} \Gamma[\mathbf{g}_\varepsilon]^c{}_{ab} \frac{\partial u_\varepsilon}{\partial x^c} \right)]$$

(ii) (Bounds on solutions from bounds on energies)

For $m > 3/2$ an integer, there exists a constant K and number N such that for all $u \in C^\infty(\Omega_\tau)$ and for all $\zeta \in [0, \tau]$ we have

$$\sup_{x \in \Omega_\tau} |\partial_{x^{i_1}} \cdots \partial_{x^{i_l}} u(x)| \leq K \varepsilon^{-N} \sup_{0 \leq \zeta \leq \tau} E_{\zeta, \varepsilon}^{m+l}(u).$$

[uses Sobolev embedding plus Lemma 1]

Independence of the representative of the metric

(i) Let \hat{g}_ε be another representative and consider

$$\begin{aligned}\square_{\hat{g}_\varepsilon} \hat{u}_\varepsilon &= f_\varepsilon \\ \hat{u}_\varepsilon(t=0, x^i) &= v_\varepsilon(x^i) \\ \partial_t \hat{u}_\varepsilon(t=0, x^i) &= w_\varepsilon(x^i)\end{aligned}$$

(ii) The difference $\tilde{u}_\varepsilon := u_\varepsilon - \hat{u}_\varepsilon$ solves

$$\square_{\hat{g}_\varepsilon} \tilde{u}_\varepsilon = f_\varepsilon - \square_{\hat{g}_\varepsilon} u_\varepsilon, \text{ vanishing data}$$

(iii) $f_\varepsilon - \square_{\hat{g}_\varepsilon} u_\varepsilon = (f_\varepsilon - \square_{g_\varepsilon} u_\varepsilon) + (\square_{g_\varepsilon} u_\varepsilon - \square_{\hat{g}_\varepsilon} u_\varepsilon) = \square_{g_\varepsilon} u_\varepsilon - \square_{\hat{g}_\varepsilon} u_\varepsilon$
is negligible by well-definedness of \square_g .

- more general classes of metrics: log-type growth in ε replacing $O(1)$...Hölder-Zygmund classes
- generalization of Hadamard parametrix constructions
- generalized singularity theorems
(extending geodesics in generalized sense)
- go non-linear: Einstein equations
- connections to cosmic censorship hypothesis

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