# Distributional curvature and the focusing of geodesics 

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- singularity $\sim$ incomplete causal geodesic


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Why should you care?

- Roger Penrose's 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics
- recent extensions to non-smooth spacetimes


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Here: bring out the analysis underneath the geometry

- classical: analysis of Riccati equation, comparison results
- low regularity: distributional curvature, regularsiation, focusing


## The structure of the singularity theorems

## Pattern theorem

A spacetime $(M, g)$ is singular if it satisfies:
(I) A suitable initial condition,
(E) an energy or curvature condition,
(C) a causality condition.
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(C) a causality condition.
(I) $\leadsto$ causal geodesics start focusing
(E) $\sim$ focusing goes on (Raychaud. Riccati) $\leadsto$ focal pt. $\leadsto$ geos. stop maximising
(C) $\leadsto$ there are maximising causal geos resolution: some causal geodesics stop existing before conj. pt.
global structure of spacetime

## Geodesics, maximisers \& Jacobi tensors

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

$$
\ddot{\gamma}^{i}(s)=\Gamma_{j k}^{i}(\gamma(s)) \dot{\gamma}^{j}(s) \dot{\gamma}^{k}(s) \quad \text { with } \Gamma \sim g^{-1} \partial g
$$

- For data $p \in M, v \in T_{p} M$ unique max. extended sol.
- Locally causal geodesics $(g(\dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}) \leq 0)$ maximise Lor. distance


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- Locally causal geodesics $(g(\dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}) \leq 0)$ maximise Lor. distance
- Stop maximising after first conjuagte point, i.e. $\gamma(a)$ such that exists Jacobi tensor $A(s): \dot{\gamma}^{\perp}(s) \rightarrow \dot{\gamma}^{\perp}(s)$, i.e. unique sol. of

$$
\ddot{A}+R A=0 \text {, with tidal force op. } R: v \mapsto \operatorname{Riem}(v, \dot{\gamma}) \dot{\gamma}
$$

with $A(0)=0, \dot{A}(0)=$ id satisfies $\operatorname{ker} A(a) \neq\{0\}$

- Key idea: estimates on curvature say when geos stop maximising


## Geodesic focusing

- Raychaudhuri eq. for expansion $\theta:=\operatorname{tr}\left(\dot{A} A^{-1}\right)=(\operatorname{det} A)^{-1}(\operatorname{det} A)$.

$$
\dot{\theta}=-\operatorname{Ric}(\dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma})-\operatorname{tr}\left(\sigma^{2}\right)-\frac{\theta^{2}}{d}
$$

(SEC) $\operatorname{Ric}(\dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}) \geq 0$ "generates" conjugate points:

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\theta(0)<0 \text { then } \theta \rightarrow-\infty \text { for } t \in[0,-d / \theta(0)) .
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## Advanced focusing

All Lagrange ${ }^{1}$ Jacobi tensors with $[A(0)]=$ id and $\theta(0) \leq 0$ become singular for some $t>0$.

- Needs analysis of full matrix Riccati eq. for $B=\dot{A} A^{-1}$ :

$$
\dot{B}+B^{2}+R=0
$$

- Needs (SEC) and genericity condition:
tidal force operator $R$ nontrivial at some $\gamma(t)$
${ }^{1} W(A, A):=\dot{A}^{\dagger} A-A^{\dagger} \dot{A}=0$


## The Hawking-Penrose theorem

## Theorem

Let $(M, g)$ be a spacetime such that
(E) (SEC) holds, i.e., $\operatorname{Ric}(X, X) \geq 0$ for all $X$ timelike, and (GC) holds along any causal geodesic $\gamma$
(C) it is chronological.

Moreover, assume it contains at least one of the following:
(I1) a compact achronal set without edge,
(I2) a closed future trapped surface $P$,
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Then $M$ is causal geodesically incomplete.

## Low regularity: Why \& How?

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(A) Curvature merely a distribution of order one
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- Basis: chartwise regularisation by convolution

$$
g_{\varepsilon}(x):=g \star_{M} \rho_{\varepsilon}(x):=\sum \chi_{i}(x) \psi_{i}^{*}\left(\left(\psi_{i *}\left(\zeta_{i} \cdot g\right)\right) * \rho_{\varepsilon}\right)(x)
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## Lemma 1 (Reg. and conv. for $g \in C^{1}$ )

There are smooth $\check{g}_{\varepsilon} \prec g \prec \hat{g}_{\varepsilon}$ with $\check{g}_{\varepsilon}, \hat{g}_{\varepsilon} \rightarrow g$ in $C^{1}$, and

$$
\left\|g-g_{\varepsilon}\right\|_{\infty, K} \leq c_{K} \varepsilon \quad \text { and } \quad\left\|\check{g}_{\varepsilon}-g_{\varepsilon}\right\|_{\infty, K} \leq c_{K} \varepsilon
$$

Analogously for $\hat{g}_{\varepsilon}$ and inverses $g^{-1}, g_{\varepsilon}^{-1},\left(\check{g}_{\varepsilon}\right)^{-1}$, and $\left(\hat{g}_{\varepsilon}\right)^{-1}$.
$C^{1}$-focusing: The rough guide (1)
(1) Formulate suitable (E) for $g \in C^{1}$
(2) Derive surrogate ( E ) for $\check{g}_{\varepsilon}: \operatorname{Ric}\left[\check{g}_{\varepsilon}\right](X, X)>-\delta$ (on $K \mathrm{cp}$.)
(3) still show advanced focusing for $\check{g}_{\varepsilon}$
(9) show that geodesics of $g$ stop maximising.
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(2) Problem: $\operatorname{Ric}\left[\check{g}_{\varepsilon}\right] \rightarrow \operatorname{Ric}[g]$ only distributionally $\leadsto$ cannot carry $\operatorname{Ric}[g](X, X) \geq 0$ through construction
Solution: $\operatorname{Ric}[g] \star_{M} \rho_{\varepsilon}-\operatorname{Ric}\left[g_{\varepsilon}\right], \operatorname{Ric}\left[g_{\varepsilon}\right]-\operatorname{Ric}\left[\check{g}_{\varepsilon}\right] \rightarrow 0$ loc. unif.
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\begin{align*}
& \text { Friedrichs Lemma for } \Gamma \text {-terms in Ric }\left(\Gamma \sim g^{-1} \partial g\right) \\
& \partial g \in C^{0}, g_{\varepsilon}^{-1}, g_{\varepsilon}^{-1} \in C^{1} \text { with }\left|g_{\varepsilon}^{-1}-g^{-1}\right|_{\infty, K} \leq C \varepsilon  \tag{Lem.1!}\\
& \text { Then } g_{\varepsilon}^{-1}\left(\partial g \star \rho_{\varepsilon}\right)-\left(g^{-1} \partial g\right) \star \rho_{\varepsilon} \rightarrow 0 \text { in } C^{1} .
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(3) Derive (SEC), $R\left[\check{g}_{z}\right](t)>\operatorname{diag}(c,-C, \ldots,-C)(\mathrm{SGC})$.
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- Proposition 1 (Advanced smooth focusing under (SEC) \& (SGC)) There is $\delta>0, T>0$ such that any causal geo. $\gamma$ with ( $r$ suitable)
(i) $\operatorname{Ric}(\dot{\gamma}, \dot{\gamma}) \geq-\delta$ on $[-T, T]$
(ii) (SGC) holds on $[-r, r]$ possesses a pair of conjugate points on $[-T, T]$.


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Riccati comparison of $B:=\dot{A} A^{-1}$ with $A(-T)=0, A(0)=$ id to solution $\tilde{B}$ of

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Trick: Assume no conjugate point $\leadsto|\theta| \leq C$
$\leadsto$ initial condition $\tilde{B}\left(t_{1}\right)=\tilde{\beta}\left(t_{1}\right)$ id, with $\tilde{\beta}\left(t_{1}\right) \geq$ largest eigenvalue of $B\left(t_{1}\right)$

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\Longrightarrow B \leq \tilde{B} \text { on }\left[t_{1}, r\right] \quad[\text { Eschenburg \& Heintze, 1990] }
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Equation for $\tilde{B}$ diagonal $\leadsto$ explicit solution with $B>\tilde{B}\{$

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Stragtegy: Ass. $\gamma$ glob. g-maximiser

- approximate $\gamma$ by $\check{g}_{\varepsilon}$-geos. $\gamma_{\varepsilon}$

$$
\Rightarrow \gamma_{\varepsilon} \text { are } \check{g}_{\varepsilon} \text {-maximisers }
$$

- on cp. ngbhd. of $\gamma$ turn
(DSEC) \& (DGC) into (i), (ii)
- Prop. 1 for $\delta$ small, $T$ large

$$
\Rightarrow \gamma_{\varepsilon} \text { has conj. pts. } \Rightarrow \xi
$$



Problem: How to approximate non-unique sols. of $g$-geo. eq. by solutions to smooth $\check{g}_{\varepsilon}$ geo. eq. ???

Solution: Geodesic non-branching assumption

- well motivated from metric geometry
- adds novel aspect to interpretation of HE \& GL sing. thms.


## The Hawking-Penrose theorem

## Theorem

Let $(M, g)$ be a spacetime such that
(E) (SEC) \& (GC) hold
(C) it is chronological.

Moreover, assume it contains at least one of the following:
(I1) a compact achronal set without edge,
(I2) a closed future trapped surface $P$,
(I3) a future trapped point
Then $M$ is causal geodesically incomplete.
(cosmological case)
(grav. collapse)


## The $C^{1}$-Hawking-Penrose theorem

## Theorem

Let $(M, g)$ be a $C^{1}$-spacetime such that
(E) (DSEC) \& (DGC) hold
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Moreover, assume it contains at least one of the following:
(I1) a compact achronal set without edge,
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(I3) a future trapped point all in the sense of support manifolds
Then $M$ is causal geodesically incomplete.


## Literature

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## Happy Birthday Nenad

