

# Points of General Relativistic Shock Wave Interaction are Regularity Singularities where Spacetime is Not Locally Flat

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(Joint work with Blake Temple.)

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# Part I

## Intuitive Introduction

What are shock waves?

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Shock waves are discontinuities evolving in time.

# Intuitive Introduction

FullImage\_2005122151636\_846.jpg (JPEG-Grafik, 500 × 326 Pixel)

<http://www.teamandroid.com/img-2/>



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- In General Relativity (GR), shock waves can be present in the matter content of spacetime.

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→ How do shock waves effect the metric tensor?

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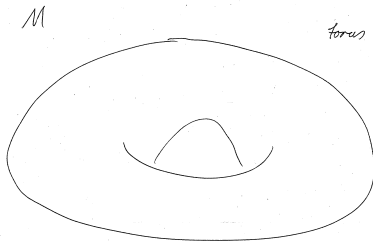
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→ “Regularity Singularity”

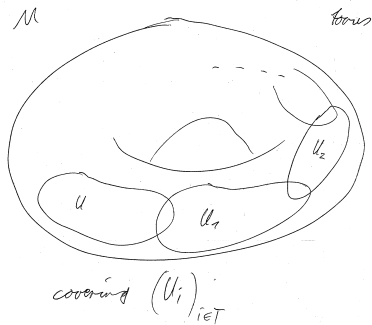
## Part II

# Background: Shock Waves in General Relativity

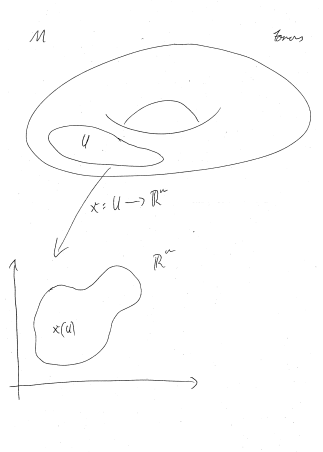
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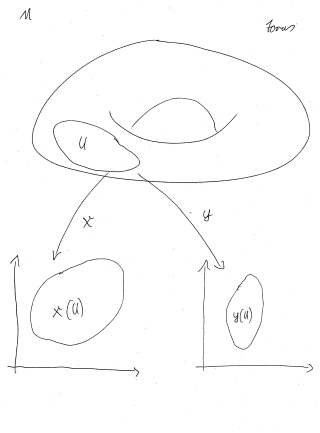
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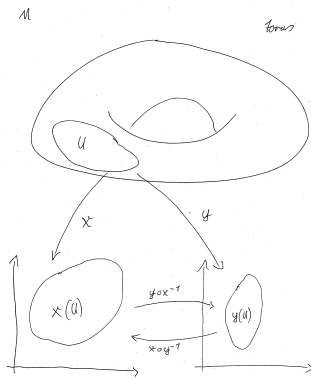
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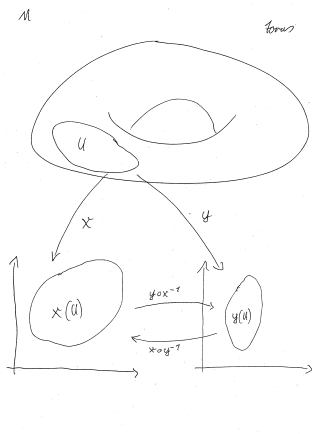
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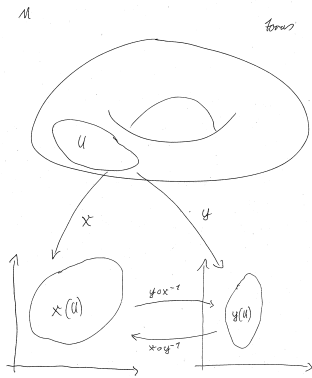


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- collection of all such mappings and domains,  $(x, U)$ , is called  
a  $C^k$ -atlas

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- In new coord's,  $g(x) = g_{\mu\nu}(y) dy^\mu dy^\nu$ , the metric components transform as

$$g_{ij}(x) = J_i^\mu J_j^\nu g_{\mu\nu}(y(x)),$$

where  $J_j^\mu := \frac{\partial x^\mu \circ y^{-1}}{\partial y^j}$  denotes the Jacobian.

Spacetime is a 4-D manifold with a Lorentz-metric  
( $\rightarrow$  “Equivalence Principle”).

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- $G$  is the unique (modulo a constant) curvature tensor being divergence-free,  $\mathbf{div} G = 0$ , thus imposing conservation of energy in the Einstein equations.

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- Einstein equations,  $G^{\mu\nu} = \kappa T^{\mu\nu}$ , hold strongly off  $\Sigma$ .

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Shock waves can form in the relativistic Euler equations,  $\operatorname{div} T = 0$ , out of smooth initial data.

## Part III

# The Question of the Metric Regularity

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## Central Question:

Do there exist coordinates  $x^j$  such that the metric in the new coordinates,  $g_{ij}$ , is in  $C^{1,1}$ ?

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( $\rightarrow$  No observer in free-fall?!)
- $C^{1,1}$  is a quite common assumption in GR, e.g.,  $C^{1,1}$  regularity is required in Singularity Theorems (of Penrose, Hawking and Ellis).

## Part IV

# The Metric Regularity Across a Single Shock Surface

## "Israel's Theorem"

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Suppose:

- $(M,g)$  a (Riemann) manifold with a  $C^{1,1}$ -atlas
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Lesson: Across a **single** shock one can always lift metric regularity to  $C^{1,1}$ !

## Part V

# The Metric Regularity at Points of Shock Wave Interaction

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Before we state our theorem, let me introduce the shock wave interaction we consider:

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- Schwarzschild spacetime (outside of black hole or star),

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- Assume Standard Schwarzschild Coordinates (=SSC) exists around a point  $p \in M$ , that is, coord's  $(t, r, \vartheta, \varphi)$  where the metric reads

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## Points of Regular Shock Wave Interaction in SSC:

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- Note:  $\Sigma_i(t)$  is a 2-sphere with radius  $x_i(t)$  and center  $r = 0$ .
- Instead of  $\Sigma_i$  it suffices to consider curves  $\gamma_i(t) = (t, x_i(t))$ , (so-called “shock curves”).

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- So,  $p$  is 2-sphere with radius  $x_1(0) = x_2(0)$  and center  $r = 0$ .
- We expect this structure to be generic, for radial shock waves in spherical symmetry!

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- Existence before and after interaction was established by Groah and Temple (2005).

Let's state our main theorem:

## Theorem 1, (R. and Temple, 2011)

Assume  $p$  is “a point of regular shock wave interaction in SSC”.  
Then:  $\exists$   $C^{1,1}$  coordinate transformation, defined in a neighborhood of  $p$ , such that both holds:

- The metric components are  $C^1$  functions of the new coordinates.
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- This is our motivation for calling points of shock wave interaction “*Regularity Singularities*”.

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- two shock waves come in; one shock and one rarefaction wave go out
- two compression waves come in; two shock waves go out

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## Part VI

# The Proof of Theorem 1

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Taking limit to point of interaction  $p$  of above equation yields

$$\text{Det}(g_{\alpha\beta}(p)) = 0.$$

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- Assume (for contradiction) there exist coordinates  $x^\alpha$ , such that the transformed metric,

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- Thus, differentiating the RHS of (1) and taking the jump leads to

$$[J_{\alpha,\gamma}^\mu]_i J_\beta^\nu g_{\mu\nu} + [J_{\beta,\gamma}^\nu]_i J_\alpha^\mu g_{\mu\nu} + J_\alpha^\mu J_\beta^\nu [g_{\mu\nu,\gamma}]_i = 0.$$



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- It's only defined on the shock curves!

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- Next, we characterize all  $C^{0,1}$ -functions, defined on some open neighborhood  $\mathcal{N}$  of  $p$ , that meet (5).
- To understand how this is done, we illustrate the procedure for  $J_0^t$ .

- By (5), the jump of the derivatives of  $J_0^t$  across  $\gamma_i(t) = (t, x_i(t))$  should satisfy

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    - $\dot{x}_i[A_r]_i = -[A_t]_i$ , (by smoothness of  $g_{\mu\nu}$  along shocks).

- In fact, all functions that meet (5) are of the above form,

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- In summary, we obtain the following Lemma:

## Lemma

If the RH jump condition hold, then there exists a set of functions

$J_\alpha^\mu \in C^{0,1}(\mathcal{N} \cap \overline{\mathbb{R}_-^2})$  that satisfies the smoothing condition (5) on  $\gamma_i \cap \mathcal{N}$ , ( $i = 1, 2$ ).

All such  $J_\alpha^\mu$  assume the canonical form

$$\begin{aligned} J_0^t(t, r) &= \sum_i \alpha_i(t) |x_i(t) - r| + \Phi(t, r), & \alpha_i(t) &= \frac{[A_r]_i \phi_i(t) + [B_t]_i \omega_i(t)}{4A \circ \gamma_i(t)}, \\ J_1^t(t, r) &= \sum_i \beta_i(t) |x_i(t) - r| + N(t, r), & \beta_i(t) &= \frac{[A_r]_i \nu_i(t) + [B_t]_i \zeta_i(t)}{4A \circ \gamma_i(t)}, \\ J_0^r(t, r) &= \sum_i \delta_i(t) |x_i(t) - r| + \Omega(t, r), & \delta_i(t) &= \frac{[B_t]_i \phi_i(t) + [B_r]_i \omega_i(t)}{4B \circ \gamma_i(t)}, \\ J_1^r(t, r) &= \sum_i \epsilon_i(t) |x_i(t) - r| + Z(t, r), & \epsilon_i(t) &= \frac{[B_t]_i \nu_i(t) + [B_r]_i \zeta_i(t)}{4B \circ \gamma_i(t)}, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where

$$\phi_i = \Phi \circ \gamma_i, \quad \omega_i = \Omega \circ \gamma_i, \quad \zeta_i = Z \circ \gamma_i, \quad \nu_i = N \circ \gamma_i, \quad (8)$$

and  $\Phi, \Omega, Z, N \in C^{0,1}(\mathcal{N} \cap \overline{\mathbb{R}_-^2})$  have matching derivatives on each shock curve  $\gamma_i(t)$ ,

$$[U_r]_i = 0 = [U_t]_i, \quad (9)$$

for  $U = \Phi, \Omega, Z, N$ ,  $t \in (-\epsilon, 0)$ .

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- Moreover, the Jacobian must assume the canonical form (7).
- Substituting the canonical form (7) into the above integrability condition and taking the jump across any of the shocks, (WLOG across  $\gamma_1$ ), implies that for all  $t < 0$ ,

$$\delta_1(t)\dot{x}_1(t)\beta_2(t) - \epsilon_1(t)\dot{x}_1(t)\alpha_2(t) + \epsilon_1(t)\delta_2(t) - \delta_1(t)\epsilon_2(t) = 0.$$

- Taking the limit  $t \rightarrow 0^+$  of

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gives

$$\frac{1}{4B} \left( \frac{\dot{\alpha}_1\dot{\alpha}_2}{A} + \frac{1}{B} \right) [B_r]_1[B_r]_2 (\dot{\alpha}_1 - \dot{\alpha}_2) (\phi_0\zeta_0 - \nu_0\omega_0) = 0, \quad (10)$$

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where

- $\phi_0 = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \phi_1(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \phi_2(t)$
- $\phi_i(t) := \Phi \circ \gamma_i(t)$
- $\zeta_0, \dots, \omega_0$  defined analogously.

- In (10), that is,

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$$\text{Det} (J_\alpha^\mu \circ \gamma_i(t)) = (J_0^t J_1^r - J_1^t J_0^r) |_{\gamma_i(t)} = \phi_i(t) \zeta_i(t) - \nu_i(t) \omega_i(t).$$

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$$\text{Det} (J_\alpha^\mu \circ \gamma_i(t)) = (J_0^t J_1^r - J_1^t J_0^r) |_{\gamma_i(t)} = \phi_i(t) \zeta_i(t) - \nu_i(t) \omega_i(t).$$

- Thus, taking the limit  $t \rightarrow 0^+$  and using (11), yields

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0^+} \text{Det} (J_\alpha^\mu \circ \gamma_i(t)) = \phi_i(0) \zeta_i(0) - \nu_i(0) \omega_i(0) = \phi_0 \zeta_0 - \nu_0 \omega_0 = 0.$$

- In (10), that is,

$$\frac{1}{4B} \left( \frac{\dot{x}_1 \dot{x}_2}{A} + \frac{1}{B} \right) [B_r]_1 [B_r]_2 (\dot{x}_1 - \dot{x}_2) (\phi_0 \zeta_0 - \nu_0 \omega_0) = 0,$$

all factors must be nonzero, except the last one, thus

$$\phi_0 \zeta_0 - \nu_0 \omega_0 = 0. \quad (11)$$

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- This completes the proof, since  $g_{\alpha\beta} = J_\alpha^\mu J_\beta^\nu g_{\mu\nu}$ .  $\square$

- So far, we've established that there is no coordinate transformation of the  $(t, r)$ -plane that smoothes the SSC-metric,  $g_{\mu\nu}$ , to  $C^1$ .
- To prove our main Theorem we just need to extend the above result to the full atlas.
- Recall our main Theorem:

### Theorem 1, (R. and Temple, 2011)

Assume  $p$  is “a point of regular shock wave interaction in SSC”.  
Then:  $\nexists$   $C^{1,1}$  coordinate transformation, defined in a neighborhood of  $p$ , such that both holds:

- The metric components are  $C^1$  functions of the new coordinates.
- The metric has a nonzero determinant at  $p$ .

## Outline of Proof:

- Assume there exist coordinates, such that the metric in the new coordinates,  $g_{\alpha\beta}$ , is in  $C^1$ .
- In general,  $g_{\alpha\beta}$  is not of the box-diagonal form,

$$ds^2 = -A(t, r)dt^2 + B(t, r)dr^2 + 2D(t, r)dtdr + C(t, r)d\Omega^2. \quad (12)$$

- However, (following the arguments in [Weinberg, *Gravitation and Cosmology*]), there exists a coordinate transformation that takes  $g_{\alpha\beta}$  over to a metric of the form (12) and preserves the metric regularity.
- (Remark: A crucial step is to prove a  $C^1$  regularity of solutions of Killing's equation, for a given  $C^1$  metric.)
- But (12) is related to our original SSC metric,  $g_{\mu\nu}$ , by a transformation in the  $(t, r)$ -plane, contradicting Theorem 2.  $\square$

# Part VII

## Conclusion and Discussion

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- At points,  $p$ , of regular shock interaction in SSC the gravitational metric suffers a **non-removable** lack of  $C^1$  regularity.
- The Einstein equations cannot hold strongly (only weakly) in any coordinate system.
- At  $p$ , spacetime is **not locally flat**, that is, there do not exist coordinates  $x^j$ , such that the metric satisfies:
  - $g_{ij}(p) = \eta_{ij}$ , where  $\eta_{ij} = \text{diag}(-1, 1, 1, 1)$ ,
  - $g_{ij,l}(p) = 0$ ,
  - $g_{ij,kl}$  are bounded on some neighborhood of  $p$ .

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- In particular, there exist (non-removable) distributional second order metric derivatives.
- These distributional derivatives are not hidden by an event horizon.
- However, all “curvature scalars” remain bounded.  
( $\Rightarrow$  No naked singularities!)

Discussion:

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- Having unbounded second order metric derivatives, but no event horizon, regularity singularities might be measurable. What could be such a measurable effect?
- Our Theorem applies to spherically symmetric spacetimes and radial shock waves only. Do regularity singularities persist, if we remove any of our symmetry assumptions?

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Thank you for your attention!