

# A Genericity problem in Lorentzian Geometry

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# Outline

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## Introduction

- Genericity and stability in GR
- Genericity of lightlike nondegeneracy

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## Variational setup

- Fermat principles

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## Proof of the main result

- $C^k$  genericity of lightlike nondegeneracy
- $C^\infty$  genericity of lightlike nondegeneracy

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# Why genericity?

**S W Hawking, *Stable and Generic properties in General Relativity*, Gen Rel Grav 1 (1971)**

...

*The accuracy of the observation is always limited by practical difficulties and by the uncertainty principle. Thus the only properties of spacetime that are physically significant are those that are stable in some appropriate topology.*

...

# A couple of examples...

## Global stability of exact solutions

- Minkowski solution

D Christodoulou and S Klainerman, *The Global nonlinear stability of the Minkowski space*, Princeton Math Series **41** (1993), S Klainerman and F Nicolò, *Class Quantum Grav* **20** (2003), H Lindblad and I Rodnianski, *Commun Math Phys* **256** (2005)

- flat Bianchi type III model

Y Choquet-Bruhat and V Moncrief, *Ann H Poincaré* **2** (2001), C-B, in *The Einstein Equations and the large scale behavior of gravitational fields*, Birkhäuser (2004)

## Gravitational collapse and Cosmic Censorship

Stability wrt metric perturbations of scalar field solutions collapsing to a naked singularity (es. D Christodoulou, *Ann Math*, 149 (1999), but BV data are used!)

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# Generic properties of Lorentzian geodesic flow

## One step behind: Bumpy Theorem in Riemannian geometry

the set of the metric in a fixed compact manifold  $M$  st every closed geo is nondegenerate is generic (genericity =  $G_\delta$  dense)

- first stated by R Abraham (*Global Analysis* (1970) AMS)
- first proved by W. Thurston (Math. Ann. 1971 (1972))
- first published by G. B. Aronson (Proc. Amer. Math. Soc. 1972)

## Application: Morse theory for closed geodesics on compact manifolds

- R Bott (nondegenerate case) Comm. Pure Appl. Math. **9** (1956)
- D Gromoll and W Meyer (possibly degenerate case) J. Diff. Geom. **3** (1969)

## Bumpy theorem for general Hamiltonian flows?

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- flow may possibly arrange differently on energy levels

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## Lorentzian case: a HUGE literature...

Morse theory for light rays and timelike geodesics

- K Uhlenbeck (Topology **14** (1975))
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## Key requisite

Nondegeneracy of critical points

A Abbondandolo and P Majer, Asian J Math 12 (2008)

$C^0$ -stability of Morse complex homology

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⇒ Morse theory of light rays between  $p$  and  $q$  unchanged in a set of Lorentzian manifolds st nondegeneracy generically holds

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# Geometric motivations

## Problem

Genericity of non conjugacy along light rays joining an event  $p$  and an observer  $U$

- keeping  $g$  fixed, wrt  $(p, U)$  (using  $\exp \rightarrow \text{OK}$ )
- keeping  $(p, U)$  fixed, wrt  $g$ ?

## Obstructions

- singularity of the exponential map
- light cones of points far from  $U$

## Assumption

Existence of a splitting structure for  $(M, g)$

# Geometric motivations

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- keeping  $g$  fixed, wrt  $(p, U)$  (using exp  $\rightarrow$  OK)
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## Obstructions

- regularity of curves space
- light cones depend on  $g$

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- light curves space varies with  $g$

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# The main result

**RG, F Giannoni, P Piccione, Commun Math Phys 287 (2009)**

$M_0$  diff manifold,  $p_0 \neq p_1 \in M_0$

The set of all *standard stationary* metrics defined in  $M_0 \times \mathbb{R}$  with only nondegenerate light rays from  $(p_0, 0)$  to  $U = \{p_1\} \times \mathbb{R}$  is generic in the  $C^\infty$  topology

◀ Return

## Plan of the proof

- $C^k$  genericity  $\forall k$
- extension to  $C^\infty$  genericity (RG, Piccione (2009))
- genericity

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# Techniques for genericity results

## Riemannian bumpy theorem: Klingenberg argument

- local perturbation argument to adjust the flow near a closed geo
- if  $g$  has a degenerate closed geo  $\gamma(t) \Rightarrow \exists g_n \rightarrow g$  such that  $\gamma(t)$  nondegenerate  $g_n$ -closed geo

## Issue (just to fix ideas...)

$$f(x, a, b) = e^{-\frac{1}{a+b}} e^{-\frac{1}{(x-u(a,b))^2}} \sin \frac{1}{x-u(a,b)}, \quad u(a, b) = \frac{b}{a+b}, \quad x > 0, \quad a, b < 1$$

## Anosov criticism to Klingenberg proof

- local perturbation argument requires some uniformity (bumpy theorem)
- if  $g$  has a degenerate closed geo, we can perturb it by a smooth compact support

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- local perturbation arguments suffer from uniformity issues



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- local perturbation arguments suffer from uniformity issues
- way out: Sard's theorem (or transversality theorem) appears as an essential resource

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# An abstract genericity result

**B White, Indiana Univ Math J (1991), L Biliotti, MA Javaloyes, P Piccione, Indiana Univ Math J (2009)**

$B$  Banach,  $\mathcal{H}$  Hilbert;  $B, \mathcal{H}$  separable,  $A \subset B \times \mathcal{H}$  open  
 $F : A \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $F \in \mathcal{C}^k (k \geq 2)$ ;  $F_b : x \rightarrow F(b, x)$

$$\mathfrak{C} = \{(b_0, x_0) \in A : x_0 \text{ critical point of } F_{b_0}\}.$$

Assume  $\forall (b_0, x_0) \in \mathfrak{C}$  :

**(a)** the Hessian  $d^2 F_{b_0}(x_0) = \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x^2}(b_0, x_0)$  is Fredholm;

**(b)**  $\forall \xi \in \text{Ker}(d^2 F_{b_0}(x_0))$  with  $\xi \neq 0 \exists \beta \in T_{b_0} B$  such that

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## Condition (b)

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} : B \times \mathcal{H} \rightarrow T^*\mathcal{H} \text{ transversal to the } 0\text{-section of } T^*\mathcal{H} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{C} \subseteq B \times \mathcal{H} \text{ submanifold}$$

## Piccione, Indiana Univ

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$$\{b \in \Pi(A) : F_b \text{ not Morse}\} = \{\text{crit vals of } \Pi|_{\mathfrak{C}}\}$$

$B$  Banach,  $\mathcal{H}$  Hilbert;  $E \Rightarrow$  result follows from Sard-Smale  
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## Fermat principles

$$M = M_0 \times \mathbb{R}, g \in \text{Riem}(M_0), \delta \in \mathfrak{X}(M_0)$$

$$g_{(x,s)}((v,r),(\bar{v},\bar{r})) = g_x(v,\bar{v}) + g_x(\delta(x),v)\bar{r} + g_x(\delta(x),\bar{v})r - \beta(x)r\bar{r}$$

E Minguzzi and M Sánchez [arXiv:gr-qc/0609119](https://arxiv.org/abs/gr-qc/0609119)

$$\beta(x) = 1$$

Randers metric on  $M_0$

$$h(v,w) = g(v,w) + g(\delta_p,v)g(\delta_p,w), \quad \omega_p(v) = g(\delta_p,v)$$

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$$f_{(h,\omega)}(v) = \sqrt{h(v,v)} + \omega(v), \quad v \in TM_0$$

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$\exists$  bijection  $\gamma = (x,t) \leftrightarrow x$  from future pointing light geo in  $M_0 \times \mathbb{R}$  between  $(p_0,0)$  and  $\{p_1\} \times \mathbb{R}$  to Randers geo from  $p_0$  to  $p_1$ .

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# Reduction to the base space

## The functional

$\Omega_{p_0, p_1}(M_0) = H^1$  curves  $x : [0, 1] \rightarrow M_0$  from  $p_0$  to  $p_1$

$$F(x) = \left( \int_0^1 g(\dot{x}, \dot{x}) + g(\dot{x}, \delta)^2 ds \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \int_0^1 g(\dot{x}, \delta) ds$$

- $F$  smooth
- critical points = Finsler geodesics w/  
 $\sqrt{g(\dot{x}, \dot{x}) + g(\dot{x}, \delta)^2} \equiv -c_x$  (constant)

## Euler–Lagrange equation

$$\frac{D}{ds} \dot{x} + \frac{D}{ds} (g(\dot{x}, \delta) \delta) - g(\dot{x}, \delta) (\nabla \delta)^* \dot{x} + c_x [(\nabla \delta)^* \dot{x} - (\nabla \delta) \dot{x}] = 0$$

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> order Fermat principle

Let  $x \in \Omega_{p_0, p_1}(M_0)$  cp of  $F$ . Recall the bijection

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A Masiello, Pitman Research Notes in Mathematics 309 (1994)

- $\gamma(1)$  conjugate to  $\gamma(0)$  along  $\gamma \Leftrightarrow x$  degenerate cp of  $F$
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# Begin the begin...

► Main Theorem

## Applying the abstract genericity result ► recall it

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- ① find a suitable set of admissible metrics  $g = (g, \delta) \in \mathfrak{A}$
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  - $g \in \mathfrak{A}$
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  - $V = (\xi, \tau)$  nontrivial Jacobi along  $\gamma = (x, t)$  st  
 $V(0) = V(1) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \exists h = (h, \zeta) \in T_g \mathfrak{A} \text{ st } \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial g \partial x}(g, x)[h, \xi] \neq 0$$

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## ► Main Theorem

### Applying the abstract genericity result ► recall it

$$F : \mathfrak{A} \times \Omega_{p_0, p_1}(M_0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

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# Find admissible metrics

Let  $g_0 \in \text{Riem}(M_0)$  ( $\rightsquigarrow \nabla^0$ ) and  $k \geq 2$  fixed

## Assumptions on $(h, V) \in \mathfrak{A}$

[◀ Return](#)

- 1  $\|h\|_k = \max_{j=0,\dots,k} \left[ \sup_{x \in M_0} \|(\nabla^0)^j h_x\| \right] < +\infty$
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## Remarks on $\mathfrak{A}$

• it is an open subset of a Banach space

•  $(h, V)$  defines a stationary Einstein metric on  $M_0 \times \mathbb{R}$

• the vanishing tensor  $\rho$  is  $C^k$

•  $\|h\|_k, \|V\|_k \rightarrow 0 \iff$  convergence to compact, static

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# The transversality condition

## Problem

$\forall g = (g, \delta) \in \mathfrak{A}, x \in \Omega_{p_0, p_1}(M_0)$  cp of  $x \mapsto F(g, x)$ ,  $V = (\xi, \tau)$  Jacobi w/  
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- $\sharp\{\text{self-}\cap \text{ of } x\} < +\infty$  and  $\sharp\{s \in [0, 1] : \xi_s \parallel \dot{x}(s)\} < +\infty$
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similarly...

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- $\exists K \in \mathfrak{X}(x(]a, b[))$  w/  $\int_a^b g(Z, K) ds \neq 0$
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# The transversality condition

## Problem

$\forall g = (g, \delta) \in \mathfrak{A}, x \in \Omega_{p_0, p_1}(M_0)$  cp of  $x \mapsto F(g, x)$ ,  $V = (\xi, \tau)$  Jacobi w/  
 $V_0 = V_1 = 0 \Rightarrow \exists h = (h, \zeta) \in T_g \mathfrak{A}$  st  $\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial g \partial x}(g, x)[h, \xi] \neq 0$

## A sketch of the proof when $x$ not periodic

- $\#\{\text{self-}\cap \text{ of } x\} < +\infty$  and  $\#\{s \in [0, 1] : \xi_s \parallel \dot{x}(s)\} < +\infty$
- $\exists ]a, b[ \subset [0, 1], U \subset M_0$  w/  $x(]a, b[)$  embedded in  $U$ ,  $\xi_s \not\parallel \dot{x}(s)$
- observe that  $Z = [c_x - g(\dot{x}, \delta)]\dot{x} \neq 0 \forall s$
- $\exists K \in \mathfrak{X}(x(]a, b[))$  w/  $\int_a^b g(Z, K) ds \neq 0$
- $\exists \zeta \in \mathfrak{X}(U)$  w/  $\zeta_x = 0, \nabla_\xi \zeta = K$  on  $x(]a, b[)$ .

- observe that  $\zeta = 0$  and  $h = \nabla_\xi h \equiv 0$  implies

$$\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial g \partial x}(g, x)[h, \xi] = \frac{1}{2c_x} \int_0^1 g(Z, \nabla_\xi \zeta) ds$$

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## A sketch of the proof when $x$ not periodic

- Note that in this way a **stronger** result is proven
  - 1  $\forall g$ , the set of  $\delta$  such that  $g$  has only nondegenerate light rays from  $(p_0, 0)$  to  $\{p_1\} \times \mathbb{R}$  is generic in  $\{\delta : (g, \delta) \in \mathfrak{A}\}$
  - 2  $\forall \delta$ , the set of  $g$  such that  $g$  has only nondegenerate light rays from  $(p_0, 0)$  to  $\{p_1\} \times \mathbb{R}$  is generic in  $\{g : (g, \delta) \in \mathfrak{A}\}$

# Extension to $C^\infty$ genericity

## Obstruction

►  $C^k$  admissible tensors

$C^\infty$ -topology makes the space of admissible metrics Frechet

## Solution

Use an idea from A Floer, H Hofer and D Salamon (1995), Duke Math J **80** 251, used in L Biliotti, MA Javaloyes and P Piccione, Indiana Univ. Math. J (2009) for the fixed-point case.

## To begin

- From now on denote the set of admissible tensor by  $\mathfrak{A}_k$  (to stress dependence on  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ).

- Given  $(g, \mu, \nu) \in \mathfrak{A}_k$ , denote by  $\mathfrak{A}_{k, \mu}$  the set of  $(g, \nu) \in \mathfrak{A}_k$  such that  $\nu$  is  $\mu$ -ray in  $\mathfrak{A}_k$ . If  $(g, \mu) \in \mathfrak{A}_k$  and  $(g, \nu) \in \mathfrak{A}_k$  is nondegenerate, then  $(g, \mu, \nu) \in \mathfrak{A}_k$ .

- It will be proved so far that  $\mathfrak{A}_k$  is generic for  $\mathfrak{A}_k$ .

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$C^\infty$  genericity of lightlike nondegeneracy

# Extension to $C^\infty$ genericity

**Problem: start from  $\mathfrak{A}_{k,*} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_k$  generic  $\forall k \geq 2$**

- $\mathfrak{A}_\infty = \bigcap_k \mathfrak{A}_k$ ,  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*} = \bigcap_k \mathfrak{A}_{k,*}$
- claim:  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_\infty$  generic

Sketch of the proof

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- claim:  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_\infty$  generic

## Sketch of the proof

- define  $\mathfrak{A}_{k,*N}$  such that every light ray between  $p$  and  $\gamma$  st  $\|x\|_\infty \leq N$  is nondegenerate and let  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*N} = \bigcap_k \mathfrak{A}_{k,*N}$
- $\mathfrak{A}_{k,*N} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_k$  is open and  $\forall k$  and  $\forall N \leq k \leq \infty$  and  $\forall N$
- claim:  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*N} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*}$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*}$
- $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*}$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_\infty$
- $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*N}$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*}$  and  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*N} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*}$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*}$
- $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*N}$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*}$

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## Sketch of the proof

- define  $\mathfrak{A}_{k,x,N}$  such that every light ray between  $p$  and  $\gamma$  st  $\|x\|_\infty \leq N$  is nondegenerate and let  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,x,N} = \bigcap_k \mathfrak{A}_{k,x,N}$
- $\mathfrak{A}_{k,x,N} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_k$  is open  $\forall x$  and  $\forall 2 \leq k \leq +\infty$
- observe  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*} = \bigcup_x \bigcap_N \mathfrak{A}_{\infty,x,N}$  dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_\infty$
- $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,x,N} \cap \mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*} \neq \emptyset$  dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,x,N}$
- $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,x,N} \cap \mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*} \neq \emptyset$  dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*}$   $\forall x, N$  dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*}$
- $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_\infty$  generic

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- define  $\mathfrak{A}_{k,*,N}$  such that every light ray between  $p$  and  $\gamma$  st  $\|\dot{x}\|_\infty \leq N$  is nondegenerate and let  $\mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*,N} = \bigcap_k \mathfrak{A}_{k,*,N}$
- $\mathfrak{A}_{k,*,N} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_k$  is open  $\forall N$  and  $\forall 2 \leq k \leq +\infty$
- observe  $\mathfrak{A}_{k,*} \subseteq \mathfrak{A}_{k,*,N} \Rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_{k,*,N}$  dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_k$
- observe  $\mathfrak{A}_\infty$  dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_k$   
 $\Rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*,N} = \mathfrak{A}_\infty \cap \mathfrak{A}_{k,*,N}$  dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_k \forall k \Rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_{\infty,*,N}$  dense in  $\mathfrak{A}_\infty$
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# Summary

## Conclusions

- motivations for studying genericity features in GR are observational and geometrical as well
- genericity problems in Lorentzian geometry can be tackled using global abstract results
- these techniques also successfully extend to general splitting spacetimes (work in progress)
- open problem: genericity of light rays nondegeneracy for wider classes of spacetimes

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