

Applications of Tractor Calculus in General Relativity

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Asymptotically de Sitter spacetimes

Einstein field equations

$$R_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{ab} + \Lambda g_{ab} = T_{ab}, \quad (1)$$

with $\Lambda > 0$ and

$$g_{ab} = \sigma^{-2} \mathbf{g}_{ab}, \quad T_{ab} = \sigma^q \tau_{ab}, \quad q \geq 0. \quad (2)$$

Characterized the geometry of conformal infinity Σ ($n = 4$) in terms of constraints relating conformal fundamental forms

$$\mathring{K}_{ab}, \quad W_{a\hat{n}b\hat{n}}, \quad \bar{\nabla}_b A_{a\hat{n}}^{\top b}, \quad \mathring{\top} B_{ab}$$

and the stress-energy tensor density τ_{ab} .

Example:

Friedmann–Lemaître–Robertson–Walker (FLRW) metric

We want to solve ($n = 4, \Lambda = 0$)

$$\tilde{R}_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}\tilde{R}\tilde{g}_{ab} = \tilde{T}_{ab}, \quad (3)$$

with

$$\tilde{g} = -dt^2 + a^2(t) (dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2) \quad (4)$$

and the *perfect fluid* stress-energy tensor:

$$\tilde{T}_{ab} = (\rho + p) v_a v_b + p\tilde{g}_{ab}, \quad (5)$$

where $\rho = \rho(t)$ is the density, $p = p(t)$ is the pressure and $v \equiv \partial_t$ is the four-velocity.

Equation of state:

$$p = w\rho, \quad -\frac{1}{3} \leq w \leq 1 \quad (6)$$

Spacetimes with initial isotropic singularity

Solution with initial singularity at $t = 0 \implies a(0) = 0$:

$$a = c_1 t^{\frac{2}{3(w+1)}}, \quad \rho = c_2 t^{-2}, \quad c_1, c_2 = \text{const.} \quad (7)$$

so

$$\tilde{g} = -dt^2 + c_1^2 t^{\frac{4}{3(w+1)}} (dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2). \quad (8)$$

Introduce new time coordinate τ defined by

$$\frac{dt}{c_1 t^{\frac{2}{3(w+1)}}} = d\tau \quad (9)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{g} &= c_3 \tau^{\frac{4}{3w+1}} (-d\tau^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2) \\ &= \Omega^\alpha (-d\tau^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2), \quad \alpha = \frac{4}{3w+1} > 0, \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

if ($w \neq -\frac{1}{3}$) and the initial isotropic singularity can be defined as a spacelike hypersurface where $\Omega = 0$.

Conformal geometry of initial singularity

A. R. Gover, J. Kopiński and A. Waldron, *The geometry of an isotropic Big Bang*, coming soon.

Isotropic singularity spacetime (ISS): n -dimensional spacetime $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g}_{ab})$ that arises as follows. There is a smooth manifold M with equipped with

- smooth conformal structure \mathbf{c} of Lorentzian signature
- spacelike boundary Σ
- a scale $\tau \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}[u])$ with $u < 0$ that is defining:
 - $\Sigma = \tau^{-1}(0)$
 - $\nabla_a^g \tau \neq 0$ on Σ

Then $\tilde{M} := \{x \in M \mid \tau(x) > 0\}$ and

$$\tilde{g}_{ab} := \tau^\alpha \mathbf{g}_{ab}, \quad \alpha := -\frac{2}{u}, \quad (11)$$

i.e. the physical metric \tilde{g}_{ab} is degenerate on Σ .

Einstein field equations

Let $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g}_{ab})$ satisfy the Einstein field equations with cosmological constant Λ ,

$$\tilde{R}_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}\tilde{R}\tilde{g}_{ab} + \Lambda\tilde{g}_{ab} = \tilde{T}_{ab}, \quad (12)$$

where \tilde{T}_{ab} is the stress-energy tensor. After splitting into trace-free and trace parts,

$$\overset{\circ}{\tilde{P}}_{ab} = \frac{1}{n-2}\overset{\circ}{\tilde{T}}_{ab}, \quad \tilde{R} = \frac{2}{n-2}(n\Lambda - \tilde{T}_c{}^c) \quad (13)$$

Let χ_{ab} be the stress-energy tensor density of weight ν ,

$$\chi_{ab} \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}_{(ab)}[\nu]), \quad (14)$$

i.e.

$$\chi_{ab} = \tilde{\sigma}^\nu \tilde{T}_{ab}, \quad (15)$$

where $\tilde{g}_{ab} = \tilde{\sigma}^{-2}\mathbf{g}_{ab}$.

Trace-free part of the Einstein field equations

$$\nabla_a \nabla_b \tilde{\sigma} + \tilde{\sigma} P_{ab} - \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{g}_{ab} (\Delta \tilde{\sigma} + \tilde{\sigma} J) = \frac{\tilde{\sigma}^{1-\nu}}{n-2} \dot{\chi}_{ab}. \quad (16)$$

Let $\tau \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}[u])$ be a defining density of the boundary Σ and

$$\tau := \tilde{\sigma}^u \implies \tilde{\mathbf{g}}_{ab} = \tau^{-\frac{2}{u}} \mathbf{g}_{ab}, \quad u < 0. \quad (17)$$

Then equation (16) can be written as

$$-\frac{u-1}{u^2} \nabla_{(a} \tau \nabla_{b)} \tau + \frac{\tau}{u} \nabla_{(a} \nabla_{b)} \tau + \tau^2 \dot{P}_{ab} = \tau^{2-\frac{\nu}{u}} \frac{\dot{\chi}_{ab}}{n-2}. \quad (18)$$

Regularity on Σ and $\nabla_a \tau \neq 0|_{\Sigma}$ implies

$$2 - \frac{\nu}{u} = 0 \implies \nu = 2u \implies \chi_{ab} \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}_{(ab)}[2u]). \quad (19)$$

Ultimately

$$-\frac{u-1}{u^2} \nabla_{(a} \tau \nabla_{b)} \tau + \frac{\tau}{u} \nabla_{(a} \nabla_{b)} \tau + \tau^2 \dot{P}_{ab} = \frac{\dot{\chi}_{ab}}{n-2}. \quad (20)$$

Trace part of the Einstein field equations

$$\tilde{R} = \frac{2}{n-2} (n\Lambda - \tilde{T}_c{}^c) \quad (21)$$

equivalent to

$$l_\tau^2 = \frac{2u^2}{(n+2u-2)(n-1)(n-2)} \left(\chi - n\tau^{2-\frac{2}{u}} \Lambda \right), \quad (22)$$

If

$$n+2u-2=0 \iff u=1-\frac{n}{2} \quad (23)$$

then (21) implies

$$\tau \left[\Delta\tau + \left(\frac{2-n}{2} \right) \tau J \right] = \frac{1}{2(n-1)} \left(\chi - n\tau^{\frac{2n}{n-2}} \Lambda \right) \quad (24)$$

and $\chi \stackrel{\Sigma}{=} 0$.

Generically ($u \neq 1 - \frac{n}{2}$)

$$l_\tau^2 = \frac{2u^2}{(n+2u-2)(n-1)(n-2)} \left(\chi - n\tau^{2-\frac{2}{u}}\Lambda \right), \quad (25)$$

implies

$$\mathbf{g}(n, n) = c_1\chi + \mathcal{O}(\tau) \quad (26)$$

where

$$n_a := \nabla_a \tau \quad (27)$$

is the extension of the normal vector of Σ to M .

Consequences:

- unlike in the case of asymptotically de Sitter spacetimes, the sign of cosmological constant Λ does **not** control the causal character of Σ
- vanishing stress-energy tensor $\implies \Sigma$ is a null hypersurface

Summary

The Einstein field equations are equivalent to

$$\nabla_a^T \left(I_{\tau \frac{1}{u}} \right) = \frac{\tau^{\frac{1}{u}-2}}{n-2} \dot{\chi}, \quad (28)$$

and

$$I_{\tau}^2 = \frac{2u^2}{(n+2u-2)(n-1)(n-2)} \left(\chi - n\tau^{2-\frac{2}{u}} \Lambda \right). \quad (29)$$

The canonical metric of isotropic singularity

Theorem

In any isotropic singularity spacetime the initial hypersurface Σ has a canonical Riemannian metric g_{Σ} .

Proof.

$\mathbf{g}^{ab}\nabla_a\tau\nabla_b\tau < 0$ has weight $2(u-1) \neq 0$. Hence

$$g_\tau := \left(\mathbf{g}^{ab}\nabla_a\tau\nabla_b\tau\right)^{\frac{1}{1-u}} \mathbf{g} \quad (30)$$

and $g_\Sigma := g_\tau|_{T\Sigma}$. □

Corollary

Given an isotropic singularity spacetime $(M, \mathbf{g}_{ab}, \tau)$ with $\Sigma = \tau^{-1}(0)$ closed, there is canonically a volume of initial singularity,

$$V_\Sigma := \int_\Sigma dV_{g_\Sigma}. \quad (31)$$

Extension of the trace-free extrinsic curvature

Let

$$E^\tau := \tau^{2-\frac{1}{u}} q^* \left(\nabla^\tau I_{\tau \frac{1}{u}} \right), \quad (32)$$

where q^* extracts the middle slot from a tractor, i.e.

$$E_{ab}^\tau := -\frac{u-1}{u^2} \nabla_{(a} \tau \nabla_{b)} \tau + \frac{\tau}{u} \nabla_{(a} \nabla_{b)} \tau + \tau^2 \mathring{P}_{ab}. \quad (33)$$

The trace-free part of the Einstein field equations implies

$$E_{ab}^\tau = \frac{\mathring{\chi}_{ab}}{n-2}. \quad (34)$$

E_{ab}^τ and the extension of the unit normal vector \hat{n}_a

Let σ be a singular Yamabe scale corresponding to the isotropic singularity Σ , i.e.

$$\Sigma = \sigma^{-1}(0), \quad \nabla_a \sigma|_\Sigma \neq 0 \quad (35)$$

and

$$I_\sigma^2 = -1 + \mathcal{O}(\sigma^n) \quad (36)$$

Then

$$\mathbf{g}(\hat{n}, \hat{n}) = -1 + \mathcal{O}(\sigma^n) \quad (37)$$

where

$$\hat{n}_a := \nabla_a \sigma \quad (38)$$

is the extension of the unit normal vector.

Let $\kappa \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}[1-u])$ such that

$$\tau = \frac{\sigma}{\kappa}. \quad (39)$$

Extracting conformal fundamental forms from E_{ab}^τ :

a) replace τ by $\sigma\kappa^{-1}$ in E_{ab}^τ to get

$$E_{ab}^\tau = -\frac{u-1}{u^2\kappa^2} \hat{n}_{(a} \hat{n}_{b)0} + \frac{\sigma}{u\kappa^2} \nabla_{(a} \hat{n}_{b)0} + \mathcal{O}(\sigma) \quad (40)$$

b) apply $\delta = \nabla_{\hat{n}} + \dots$ to have $\nabla_{(a\hat{n}b)_0}$ in the leading term in σ :

$$\delta E_{ab}^\tau = -\frac{1}{u\kappa^2} \nabla_{(a\hat{n}b)_0} - \delta \left(\frac{u-1}{u^2\kappa^2} \hat{n}_{(a\hat{n}b)_0} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\sigma) \quad (41)$$

b) apply standard definition of conformal fundamental forms with respect to δE_{ab}^τ :

$$\overset{\circ}{K}_{ab}^{(i+2)} := \overset{\circ}{\nabla} \delta^i (\delta E_{ab}^\tau) \quad (42)$$

Constraints relating conformal fundamental forms and the stress-energy tensor density on isotropic singularity Σ

We have

$$E_{ab}^\tau = \frac{\overset{\circ}{\chi}_{ab}}{n-2} \quad (43)$$

so

$$\overset{\circ}{K}_{ab}^{(i+2)} \overset{\Sigma}{=} \frac{1}{n-2} \overset{\circ}{\nabla} \delta^i (\delta \overset{\circ}{\chi}_{ab}). \quad (44)$$

Isotropic singularity spacetime

The metric of isotropic singularity spacetime \tilde{g}_{ab} has the following form,

$$\tilde{g}_{ab} = \tau^{-\frac{2}{u}} \mathbf{g}_{ab}, \quad \tau \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}[u]) \quad (45)$$

and initial singularity is a hypersurface $\Sigma = \tau^{-1}(0)$.

Singular Yamabe scale and κ

There is a canonical singular Yamabe scale σ corresponding to Σ , i.e.

$$\Sigma = \sigma^{-1}(0), \quad I_\sigma^2 = -1 + \mathcal{O}(\sigma^n). \quad (46)$$

Hence, there exist $\kappa \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}[1-u])$ such that

$$\tau = \frac{\sigma}{\kappa} \quad (47)$$

and $\kappa \neq 0$ everywhere. Ultimately,

$$(\kappa, \mathbf{g}_{ab}) \longrightarrow \tilde{g}_{ab} \xrightarrow{\text{EFEs}} \tilde{T}_{ab}(\chi_{ab}). \quad (48)$$

Admissible stress-energy tensors: energy conditions

Generalizations of the statement 'the energy density of a region of spacetime cannot be negative'

- null energy condition

$$\tilde{T}_{ab}k^ak^b \geq 0 \quad \text{for every null } k^a$$

- weak energy condition

$$\tilde{T}_{ab}v^av^b \geq 0 \quad \text{for every timelike } v^a$$

- dominant energy condition

$$-\tilde{T}^a{}_b Y^b \text{ is timelike or null for every timelike or null } Y^a$$

- strong energy condition

$$\left(\tilde{T}_{ab} - \frac{1}{n-2} \tilde{T} \tilde{g}_{ab} \right) v^a v^b \geq 0 \quad \text{for every timelike } v^a \quad (49)$$

Introduction

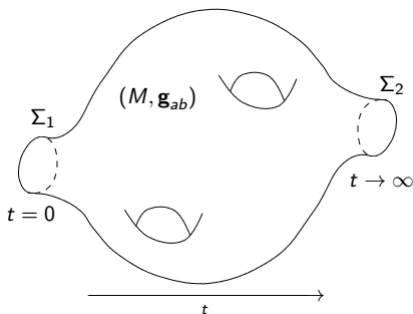
Observations of the Universe suggest that:

- 1 Universe started with a Big Bang
- 2 the cosmological constant Λ is positive

Implications:

- 1 initial state of the Universe can be modelled by the isotropic singularity spacetime
- 2 the end state of the evolution of the Universe can be modelled by the asymptotically de Sitter spacetime

Conformal extension (M, g_{ab}) of the Universe

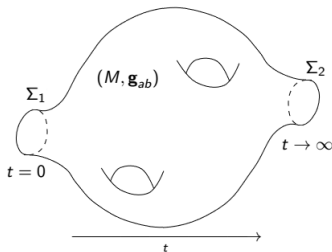


Spacetime (physical) metric \hat{g}_{ab} satisfies the Einstein field equations

$$\hat{R}_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}\hat{R}\hat{g}_{ab} + \hat{\Lambda}\hat{g}_{ab} = \hat{T}_{ab}, \quad (50)$$

in the interior of M .

Conformal extension (M, \mathbf{g}_{ab}) of the Universe



Moreover:

- $\tau \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}[u])$ is a defining density of Σ_1 and

$$\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{ab} = \tau^{-\frac{2}{u}} \mathbf{g}_{ab}, \quad \hat{T}_{ab} = \tau^{-2} \chi_{ab}, \quad u < 0 \quad (51)$$

in a tubular neighbourhood of Σ_1 .

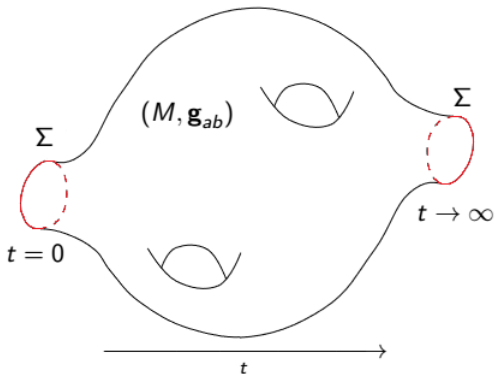
- $\sigma \in \Gamma(\mathcal{E}[1])$ is a defining density of Σ_2 and

$$\hat{\mathbf{g}}_{ab} = \sigma^{-2} \mathbf{g}_{ab}, \quad \hat{T}_{ab} = \sigma^q \tau_{ab}, \quad q \geq 0 \quad (52)$$

in a tubular neighbourhood of Σ_2 .

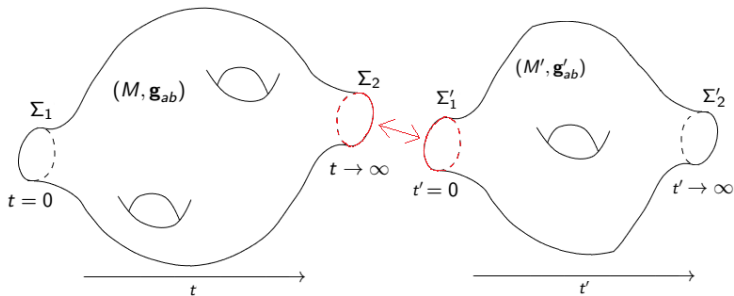
Conformal Periodic Cosmology model

Glue Σ_1 and Σ_2 together (both spacelike hypersurfaces) identifying them as a single hypersurface Σ



Conformal Cyclic Cosmology model

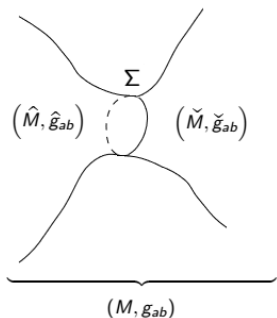
Identify Σ_2 with the isotropic singularity Σ'_1 of the conformal extension (M', \mathbf{g}'_{ab}) corresponding to the other spacetime $(\check{M}, \check{\mathbf{g}}_{ab})$



i.e. the end state of the evolution of our Universe (current aeon) is identified with the initial state of the next Universe (next aeon).

P. Tod, *The equations of Conformal Cyclic Cosmology*, Gen. Relativ. Gravit. 47, 17 (2015).

Geometric picture



We have three manifolds with metrics:

- current aeon (\hat{M}, \hat{g}_{ab})
- next aeon $(\check{M}, \check{g}_{ab})$
- conformal extension of both (M, g_{ab}) such that

$$\hat{g}_{ab} = \hat{\Omega}^2 g_{ab}, \quad \check{g}_{ab} = \check{\Omega}^2 g_{ab} \quad (53)$$

The metric g_{ab} is called the bridging metric, $M = \hat{M} \cup \check{M} \cup \Sigma$ and

$$\Sigma = \{\check{\Omega} = 0\} = \{\hat{\Omega}^{-1} = 0\} \quad (54)$$

Reciprocal hypothesis

We have

$$\check{g}_{ab} = \check{\Omega}^2 g_{ab} = \check{\Omega}^2 \left(\frac{\hat{g}_{ab}}{\hat{\Omega}^2} \right) = \left(\frac{\check{\Omega}}{\hat{\Omega}} \right)^2 \hat{g}_{ab} \quad (55)$$

Let

$$\check{\Omega}\hat{\Omega} = -1. \quad (56)$$

Then

$$\check{g}_{ab} = \hat{\Omega}^{-4} \hat{g}_{ab} \quad (57)$$

i.e. the metric in the next aeon is determined by the metric in the current aeon given a unique $\hat{\Omega}$.

Equivalently – assume that we know \hat{g}_{ab} and $\hat{\Omega}$. Then

$$g_{ab} = \hat{\Omega}^{-2} \hat{g}_{ab} \quad (58)$$

is known. If $\check{\Omega} = \hat{\Omega}^{-1}$ then

$$\check{g}_{ab} = \hat{\Omega}^{-2} g_{ab}. \quad (59)$$

Friedmann–Lemaître–Robertson–Walker metric

Let

$$\hat{g} = \hat{a}^2(\tau) (-d\tau^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2) \quad (60)$$

with the perfect fluid stress-energy tensor with four-velocity $\hat{v} = \partial_t$ and radiation equation of state, $\hat{p} = \frac{1}{3}\hat{\rho}$.

Einstein field equations reduce to $\hat{\rho} = \hat{m}\hat{a}^{-4}$, $\hat{m} = \text{const}$ and

$$\left(\frac{d\hat{a}}{d\tau}\right)^2 = \frac{\hat{m}}{3} + \frac{\hat{\Lambda}}{3}\hat{a}^4 \quad (61)$$

We have

$$\hat{g}_{ab} = \hat{\Omega}^2 g_{ab}, \quad (62)$$

so the obvious choice for $\hat{\Omega}$ is

$$\hat{\Omega} = c_1 \hat{a}. \quad (63)$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned}\check{g} &= \hat{\Omega}^{-4} \hat{g} \\ &= \check{a}^2 (-d\tau^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2)\end{aligned}\tag{64}$$

where

$$\check{a} := -\frac{1}{c_1^2 \hat{a}}\tag{65}$$

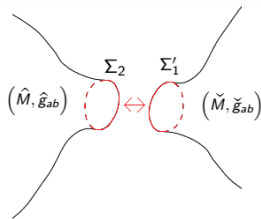
If

$$c_1 = \left(\hat{\Lambda}/\hat{m}\right)^{1/4}\tag{66}$$

then

$$\left(\frac{d\check{a}}{d\tau}\right)^2 = \frac{\check{m}}{3} + \frac{\check{\Lambda}}{3} \check{a}^4\tag{67}$$

with $\check{m} = \hat{m}$ and $\check{\Lambda} = \hat{\Lambda}$, i.e. \check{g} satisfies the same equation as \hat{g} (aeons are diffeomorphic).



- asymptotically de Sitter spacetime (\hat{M}, \hat{g}_{ab}) ,

$$\hat{g}_{ab} = \sigma^{-2} \mathbf{g}_{ab}, \quad \hat{T}_{ab} = \sigma^q \tau_{ab}, \quad q \geq 0, \quad (68)$$

and σ is a defining density of Σ_2

- spacetime with isotropic singularity $(\check{M}, \check{g}_{ab})$,

$$\check{g}_{ab} = \tau^{-\frac{2}{u}} \mathbf{g}'_{ab}, \quad \check{T}_{ab} = \tau^{-2} \chi_{ab}, \quad u < 0, \quad (69)$$

and τ is a defining density of Σ'_1 .

When can Σ_2 and Σ'_1 be identified?

What are the matching conditions?

**Simplest model of a spherically symmetric star:
A spherical cluster of matter in an empty spacetime**

- interior: homogeneous and isotropic distribution of matter \rightarrow perfect fluid spacetime
- exterior: vacuum \rightarrow Schwarzschild spacetime

We have

$$g_{int} = -dt^2 + a^2(t) (dr^2 + \sin^2 r g_{S^2}) \quad (70)$$

and

$$g_{ext} = - \left(1 - \frac{2m}{r'} \right) dt'^2 + \frac{d(r')^2}{1 - \frac{2m}{r'}} + (r')^2 g_{S^2} \quad (71)$$

Let $t = t'$ and consider $t = \text{const}$ hyperurface. Induced metrics are

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{g}_{int} &= a^2 (dr^2 + \sin^2 r g_{S^2}), \\ \bar{g}_{ext} &= \frac{d(r')^2}{1 - \frac{2m}{r'}} + (r')^2 g_{S^2}.\end{aligned}\tag{72}$$

Let the boundary of a spherical cluster be located at

$$r = R_1, \quad r' = R_2 > 2m\tag{73}$$

(outside of the event horizon of a black hole).

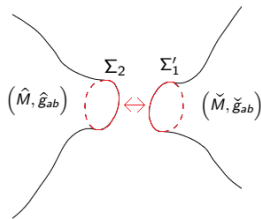
Matching conditions

$$\bar{g}_{int}|_{r=R_1} = \bar{g}_{ext}|_{r'=R_2}, \quad K_{int}|_{r=R_1} = K_{out}|_{r'=R_2}\tag{74}$$

so

$$R_2 = a \sin R_1, \quad \sin R_1 = \sqrt{2 \frac{m}{R_2}}\tag{75}$$

which implies $m = \frac{a \sin^3 R_1}{2}$.



- asymptotically de Sitter spacetime (\hat{M}, \hat{g}_{ab}) ,

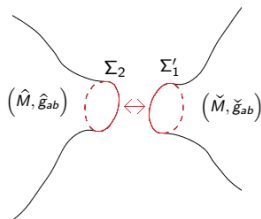
$$\mathring{K}_{ab}^{(i+2)} = \frac{1}{n-2} \mathring{\nabla} \delta^i (\sigma^{q+1} \mathring{\tau}_{ab}) \quad (76)$$

on Σ_2

- spacetime with isotropic singularity $(\check{M}, \check{g}_{ab})$,

$$\mathring{K}_{ab}^{(i+2)} = \frac{1}{n-2} \mathring{\nabla} \delta^i (\delta \mathring{\chi}_{ab}). \quad (77)$$

on Σ'_1



Matching conditions

$$\bar{\mathbf{g}}|_{\Sigma_2} = \bar{\mathbf{g}}'|_{\Sigma'_1}, \quad \mathring{K}_{\bar{\mathbf{g}}}^{(j)}|_{\Sigma_2} = \mathring{K}_{\bar{\mathbf{g}}'}^{(j)}|_{\Sigma'_1}, \quad j = 2, \dots, n(?) \quad (78)$$

Matching of conformal fundamental forms – matching stress-energy tensor densities.

Thank you for your attention!