

# A conjecture on the behaviour of the development of time symmetric, conformally flat initial data at spatial infinity

Juan A. Valiente Kroon

School of Mathematical Sciences  
Queen Mary, University of London

[j.a.valiente-kroon@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:j.a.valiente-kroon@qmul.ac.uk),

**Hyperbolic equations in General Relativity**

Bordeaux, 19th June April 2008

# Outline

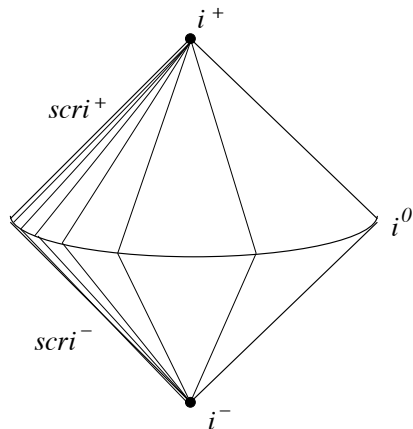
- 1 Motivation
- 2 Regular finite initial value problem at spatial infinity
- 3 Developments of time symmetric, conformally flat data
- 4 The Maxwell field on the Schwarzschild spacetime
- 5 Back to the (conformal) Einstein equations

# Asymptotically simple spacetimes

## Definition

A smooth ( $C^\infty$ ) spacetime  $(\tilde{\mathcal{M}}, \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu})$  is called asymptotically simple if there is another manifold  $(\mathcal{M}, g_{\mu\nu})$  such that:

- (i)  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$  is an open submanifold of  $\mathcal{M}$  with smooth boundary  $\partial\tilde{\mathcal{M}} = \mathcal{I}$ ;
- (ii) there is a  $\Omega$  on  $\mathcal{M}$  such that  $g_{\mu\nu} = \Omega^2 \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$  on  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$  and so that  $\Omega = 0$ ,  $d\Omega \neq 0$  on  $\mathcal{I}$ ;
- (iii) every null geodesic in  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$  acquires a future and a past endpoint on  $\mathcal{I}$ ;
- (iv)  $\tilde{R}_{\mu\nu} = 0$ .

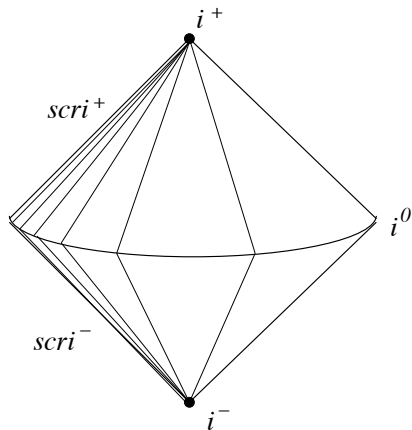


# Asymptotically simple spacetimes

## Definition

A smooth ( $C^\infty$ ) spacetime  $(\tilde{\mathcal{M}}, \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu})$  is called asymptotically simple if there is another manifold  $(\mathcal{M}, g_{\mu\nu})$  such that:

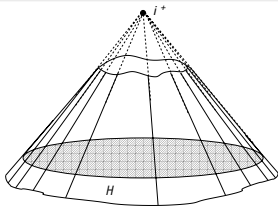
- (i)  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$  is an open submanifold of  $\mathcal{M}$  with smooth boundary  $\partial\tilde{\mathcal{M}} = \mathcal{I}$ ;
- (ii) there is a  $\Omega$  on  $\mathcal{M}$  such that  $g_{\mu\nu} = \Omega^2 \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$  on  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$  and so that  $\Omega = 0, d\Omega \neq 0$  on  $\mathcal{I}$ ;
- (iii) every null geodesic in  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$  acquires a future and a past endpoint on  $\mathcal{I}$ ;
- (iv)  $\tilde{R}_{\mu\nu} = 0$ .



## Question:

How to construct, starting from Cauchy data, asymptotically simple spacetimes?

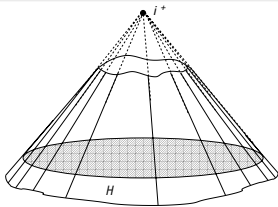
# The hyperboloidal initial value problem



## Theorem (Friedrich, 1986)

*Given the hyperboloidal initial value problem, for suitably smooth initial data close to Minkowski hyperboloidal data one has semi-global existence. The development has the same asymptotic structure as Minkowski spacetime.*

# The hyperboloidal initial value problem



## Theorem (Friedrich, 1986)

*Given the hyperboloidal initial value problem, for suitably smooth initial data close to Minkowski hyperboloidal data one has semi-global existence. The development has the same asymptotic structure as Minkowski spacetime.*

## Remarks:

- The location of the intersection of the hyperboloid with null infinity is irrelevant for the theorem.
- However, the hyperboloid can not be pushed down to spatial infinity,  $i^0$ .
- The smoothness of null infinity seems to depend on what happens in an arbitrary small neighbourhood of spatial infinity.

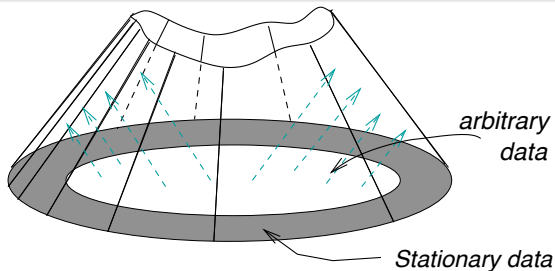
## Leitmotiv:

*Understand the role of spatial infinity for the smoothness of null infinity.*

# A vague conjecture...

## Evidence:

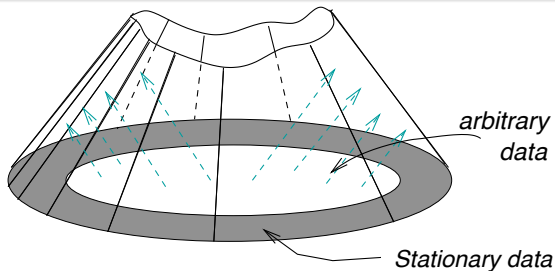
spacetimes with Cauchy slices which are stationary in a neighbourhood of spatial infinity play special role among asymptotically simple spacetimes.



# A vague conjecture...

## Evidence:

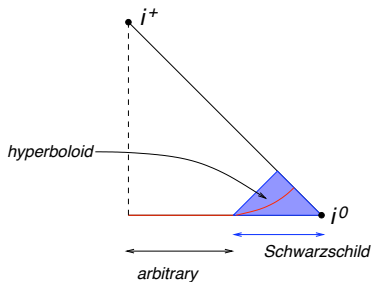
spacetimes with Cauchy slices which are stationary in a neighbourhood of spatial infinity play special role among asymptotically simple spacetimes.



## Objective of this talk:

- The purpose of this talk is to discuss how this vague idea can be formulated in a more precise way!

# Spacetimes which are stationary in a neighbourhood of $i^0$



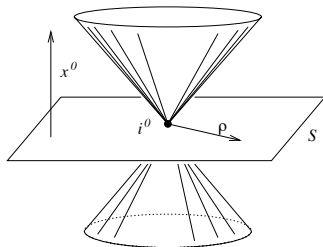
## Ingredients to construct an asymptotically simple spacetime:

- Construct Cauchy data using the Corvino-Schoen-Chruściel-Delay gluing techniques.
- Semi-global existence of the development and the smoothness of null infinity follows from Friedrich's existence result for hyperboloidal data.

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Regular finite initial value problem at spatial infinity**
- 3 Developments of time symmetric, conformally flat data
- 4 The Maxwell field on the Schwarzschild spacetime
- 5 Back to the (conformal) Einstein equations

# The standard representation of spatial infinity



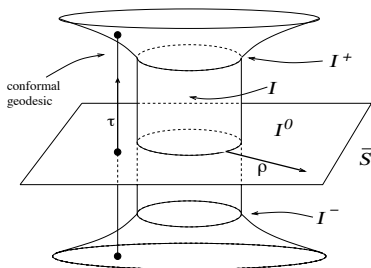
## Spatial infinity as a point:

Discuss asymptotics in a conformally rescaled spacetime  $(\mathcal{M}, g_{\mu\nu})$ ,

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \Omega^2 \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$$

- This representation is not appropriate since relevant objects like the Weyl tensor are in general singular at  $i^0$ .
- Furthermore, one would like to analyse questions regarding directionally dependent limits.

# The cylinder at spatial infinity



## An alternative representation (H.Friedrich).

- Blow up the point  $i^0$ .
- Use conformal Gaussian coordinates. One has that:

$$\Theta = \frac{1}{\kappa\vartheta^2} \left( 1 - \tau^2 \kappa^2 \left( \frac{D_i \vartheta D^i \vartheta}{\vartheta^2} \right) \right), \quad (\text{Conformal factor})$$

$$I^\pm = \{\tau = \pm 1, \rho = 0\} \quad (\text{Critical sets})$$

- Rescale conveniently the frame to regularise singular spinors.

# The regular initial value problem at spatial infinity

One more ingredient:

together with the **conformal Einstein field equations**, this representation allows to formulate the

**regular finite initial value problem near spatial infinity.**

# The regular initial value problem at spatial infinity

## One more ingredient:

together with the **conformal Einstein field equations**, this representation allows to formulate the

**regular finite initial value problem near spatial infinity.**

## Advantages:

- The location of the conformal boundary (infinity) is known *a priori*.
- The equations and data are regular up to the conformal boundary.
- One can obtain statements about the smoothness of solutions near the sets  $\mathcal{I}^\pm \cup I^\pm$ .
- Provides a way of unfolding the time evolution near  $I$  so that it can be analysed to the required detail.

## The unknowns:

Work with spinors (not essential but convenient!).

- The components of the frame, connection, and Ricci tensor

$$v = (c_{AB}^\mu, \Gamma_{ABCD}, \Phi_{ABCD}).$$

- The components of the Weyl spinor

$$\phi = (\phi_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4).$$

## The equations:

- The evolution equations are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\tau v &= K v + Q(v, v) + L \phi, \\ A^0 \partial_\tau \phi + A^\alpha \partial_\alpha \phi &= B(\Gamma_{ABCD}) \phi. \quad (\text{Bianchi subsystem}) \end{aligned}$$

- There are in addition 3 **Bianchi constraint equations**.

# Initial data for the conformal propagation equations

## The Hamiltonian and momentum constraints:

Let be given an initial data set for the vacuum Einstein equations  $(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}, \tilde{h}_{ij}, \tilde{\chi}_{ij})$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{r} - \tilde{\chi}^2 + \tilde{\chi}_{ij}\tilde{\chi}^{ij} &= 0, \\ \tilde{D}^i \tilde{\chi}_{ij} - \tilde{D}_j \tilde{\chi} &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

- Initial data for the conformal propagation equations can be calculated using the

conformal constraint equations

## Remark:

- The Hamiltonian and momentum constraints will be solved under the assumption of maximal data using the so-called conformal Ansatz.

$$A^0 \partial_\tau \phi + A^\alpha \partial_\alpha \phi = B(\Gamma_{ABCD})\phi.$$

## Some properties of the evolution system

- The matrix associated to the  $\partial_\tau$  term in the Bianchi propagation equations is given by:

$$A^0 = \sqrt{2} \text{diag}(1 - \tau, 1, 1, 1, 1 + \tau).$$

- Thus, the equations degenerate at the sets where null infinity touches spatial infinity:

$$I^\pm = \{\rho = 0, \tau = \pm 1\}$$

- Standard methods of symmetric hyperbolic systems cannot be used to analyse the equations near  $I^\pm$ .
- The cylinder at spatial infinity is a total characteristic ( $A^\rho|_I = 0$ ) of the propagation equations:
  - The equations reduce to an interior system on  $I$ .

## Methodological guideline:

*“Existence and other properties of singular equations depend strongly on their algebraic structure.”*

# Behaviour near the critical sets

## General strategy:

Investigate the behaviour of the conformal field equations near the critical sets using asymptotic expansions.

# Behaviour near the critical sets

## General strategy:

Investigate the behaviour of the conformal field equations near the critical sets using asymptotic expansions.

## The asymptotic expansions:

- Assume that the field quantities admit the following *Taylor like expansions*:

$$v = \sum_{p \geq 0} \frac{1}{p!} v^{(p)}(\tau, \theta, \varphi) \rho^p, \quad \phi = \sum_{p \geq 0} \frac{1}{p!} \phi^{(p)}(\tau, \theta, \varphi) \rho^p,$$

where

$$v^{(p)}(\tau, \theta, \varphi) = \partial_\rho^p v|_I, \quad \phi^{(p)}(\tau, \theta, \varphi) = \partial_\rho^p \phi|_I.$$

- In order to determine the coefficients  $v_j^{(p)}$  and  $\phi_j^{(p)}$  exploit the fact that the cylinder  $I$  is a **total characteristic** of the conformal field equations.

# A hierarchy of interior equations

## The interior equations:

Obtained by differentiating the propagation equations with respect to  $\rho$  and evaluating on  $I$  renders a **hierarchy** of them.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\tau v^{(p)} &= K v^{(p)} + Q(v^{(0)}, v^{(p)}) + Q(v^{(p)}, v^{(0)}) \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \left( Q(v^{(j)}, v^{(p-j)}) + L^{(j)} \phi^{(p-j)} \right) + L^{(p)} \phi^{(0)}, \\ A^{0,(0)} \partial_\tau \phi^{(p)} + A^{C,(p)} \partial_C \phi^{(p)} &= B(\Gamma_{ABCD}^{(0)}) \phi^{(p)} \\ &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^p \binom{p}{j} \left( B(\Gamma_{ABCD}^{(j)}) \phi^{(p-j)} - A^{\mu,(j)} \partial_\mu \phi^{(p-j)} \right), \end{aligned}$$

- The equations can be solved recursively —the equations are linear and decoupled.
- The coefficients  $v_j^{(p)}$  and  $\phi_j^{(p)}$  are completely determined by the expansions of the initial data on  $\mathcal{S}$  near spatial infinity.

# Solving the transport equations

## Summary of the method:

- Expand  $v^{(p)}$  and  $\phi^{(p)}$  in terms of spherical harmonics:

$$\phi_j^{(p)} = \sum_{l=|2-j|}^p \sum_{m=-l}^l a_{j,p;l,m}(\tau) Y_{lm} \rho^p.$$

- Analyse a system of ODE's for the  $\tau$  dependent coefficients.

# Solving the transport equations

## Summary of the method:

- Expand  $v^{(p)}$  and  $\phi^{(p)}$  in terms of spherical harmonics:

$$\phi_j^{(p)} = \sum_{l=|2-j|}^p \sum_{m=-l}^l a_{j,p;l,m}(\tau)_s Y_{lm} \rho^p.$$

- Analyse a system of ODE's for the  $\tau$  dependent coefficients.
- The transport equations for the  $v$ -quantities are integrated without problems.
- In order to analyse in detail the structure of the solutions of the Bianchi propagation system, use the Bianchi constraints to obtain a **reduced system**.

# Solving the transport equations

## Summary of the method:

- Expand  $v^{(p)}$  and  $\phi^{(p)}$  in terms of spherical harmonics:

$$\phi_j^{(p)} = \sum_{l=|2-j|}^p \sum_{m=-l}^l a_{j,p;l,m}(\tau) Y_{lm} \rho^p.$$

- Analyse a system of ODE's for the  $\tau$  dependent coefficients.
- The transport equations for the  $v$ -quantities are integrated without problems.
- In order to analyse in detail the structure of the solutions of the Bianchi propagation system, use the Bianchi constraints to obtain a **reduced system**.

## Computer algebra:

- Because of its algorithmic nature and of the linearity of the equations, the procedure can be appropriately implemented on a computer algebra system —e.g. Maple V. In some sense, the only limits are the hardware resources at hand!

The reduced system:

For a given multi-index  $\alpha = (p, l, m)$ , the **reduced**  $2 \times 2$  system is of the form

$$y'_\alpha(\tau) = C_\alpha(\tau)y_\alpha(\tau) + b_\alpha(\tau)$$

with  $C_\alpha(\tau)$  a  $2 \times 2$  matrix valued function, and  $y_\alpha(\tau)$  and  $b_\alpha(\tau)$  2-component vectors.

## The reduced system:

For a given multi-index  $\alpha = (p, l, m)$ , the **reduced**  $2 \times 2$  system is of the form

$$y'_\alpha(\tau) = C_\alpha(\tau)y_\alpha(\tau) + b_\alpha(\tau)$$

with  $C_\alpha(\tau)$  a  $2 \times 2$  matrix valued function, and  $y_\alpha(\tau)$  and  $b_\alpha(\tau)$  2-component vectors.

## Remarks:

- From the solutions to this system, one can calculate the expansion coefficients of  $\phi^{(p)}$  and  $v^{(p+1)}$ .
- For given order  $p$  the vector  $b_\alpha(\tau)$  is calculated from the lower order  $v^{(q)}$  and the  $\phi^{(q)}$ 's. The matrices  $C_\alpha(\tau)$  are independent of the lower order solutions —i.e. universal.

Solutions to the reduced system:

They can be written in the form

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

where  $X_\alpha(\tau)$  denotes a fundamental matrix of the system.

## Solutions to the reduced system:

They can be written in the form

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

where  $X_\alpha(\tau)$  denotes a fundamental matrix of the system.

## The fundamental matrices:

- The fundamental matrices are known explicitly in terms of special functions.
- One can show that

$$\det X = f(\tau)(1 - \tau^2)^{p-2}$$

with  $f(\tau) \neq 0$  for  $\tau \in [-1, 1]$ .

- There is, at least potentially, the possibility of solutions which are non-smooth at  $\tau = \pm 1$ .

# More on the fundamental matrices

## Regular fundamental matrices:

Given the multi-index  $\alpha = (p, l, m)$ , if  $0 \leq l \leq p - 1$ , the fundamental matrices are expressible in terms of Jacobi polynomials.

- The fundamental matrices are analytic!

# More on the fundamental matrices

## Regular fundamental matrices:

Given the multi-index  $\alpha = (p, l, m)$ , if  $0 \leq l \leq p - 1$ , the fundamental matrices are expressible in terms of Jacobi polynomials.

- The fundamental matrices are analytic!

## Singular fundamental matrices:

Given  $\alpha = (p, l, m)$ , if  $l = p$  the fundamental matrices contain products of polynomials and  $\ln(1 \pm \tau)$ .

- The fundamental matrices are non-smooth!

# A regularity condition

Can the effects of a singular fundamental matrix be avoided?

- Recall that the solutions to the reduced system are given by

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds.$$

- The above are regular at the critical points if and only if

$$a_{0,p;p,m}(0) = a_{4,p;p,m}(0), \quad -p \leq m \leq p.$$

# A regularity condition

Can the effects of a singular fundamental matrix be avoided?

- Recall that the solutions to the reduced system are given by

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds.$$

- The above are regular at the critical points if and only if

$$a_{0,p;p,m}(0) = a_{4,p;p,m}(0), \quad -p \leq m \leq p.$$

Time symmetric data:

In this case the condition can be reformulated as

$$\mathfrak{C}(D_{k_p} \cdots D_{k_1} B_{l_j})(i) = 0,$$

with  $B_{l_j}$  the Cotton-Bach tensor of the initial metric,  $\mathfrak{C}$  denotes the trace-free part. It only involves freely specifiable data!

# Are there any other singularities at the critical sets?

Does the regularity condition get hold of all the singularities at the critical sets?

- Back to the integral representation of the solutions to the reduced system:

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds.$$

# Are there any other singularities at the critical sets?

Does the regularity condition get hold of all the singularities at the critical sets?

- Back to the integral representation of the solutions to the reduced system:

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds.$$

The *lazy man* theorem

*In general the solutions to the hierarchy of transport equations will be singular at the critical sets.*

# Are there any other singularities at the critical sets?

Does the regularity condition get hold of all the singularities at the critical sets?

- Back to the integral representation of the solutions to the reduced system:

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds.$$

The *lazy man* theorem

*In general the solutions to the hierarchy of transport equations will be singular at the critical sets.*

Going beyond the lazy man:

- Any further analysis requires the consideration of specific classes of initial data!

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Regular finite initial value problem at spatial infinity
- 3 Developments of time symmetric, conformally flat data**
- 4 The Maxwell field on the Schwarzschild spacetime
- 5 Back to the (conformal) Einstein equations

# Time symmetric conformally flat initial data

## The initial data:

- Work with a compactified initial hypersurface  $\mathcal{S}$ . One has that

$$\tilde{h}_{ij} = \vartheta^4 \delta_{ij}, \quad \chi_{ij} = 0.$$

- The Hamiltonian constraint implies the equation

$$\Delta \vartheta = \delta(i)$$

- In a neighbourhood of infinity the conformal factor can be written as:

$$\vartheta = 1/\rho + W,$$

with

$$W = \frac{1}{2}M + \sum_{l=2}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l w_{l,m} Y_{lm} \rho^l$$

## Schwarzschild data:

- An initial data set will be said to be **Schwarzschild data to order  $p$**  if the summation with respect to the index  $l$  starts at  $l = p + 1$ .

# Solving the transport equations for the choice of data

How many spherical harmonic sectors to be solved?

At order  $p$  there are  $p(p+2)$  sectors to be solved corresponding to

$$Y_{00}, Y_{1m_1}, Y_{2m_2}, \dots, Y_{pm_p},$$

where

$$-p \leq m_p \leq p.$$

# Solving the transport equations for the choice of data

How many spherical harmonic sectors to be solved?

At order  $p$  there are  $p(p+2)$  sectors to be solved corresponding to

$$Y_{00}, Y_{1m_1}, Y_{2m_2}, \dots, Y_{pm_p},$$

where

$$-p \leq m_p \leq p.$$

## Remarks:

- The number of sectors to be solved is a consequence of the choice of initial data.
- The sectors with  $l = 0, 1$  do not give rise to singular solutions.
- The assumption of axial symmetry reduces in a significant manner the number of sectors to be analysed but still contains the essential complications of the general case.

# Results from explicit calculations

## Logarithmic singularities:

Explicit calculations up to order  $p = 9$  have shown that for time symmetric, conformally flat data the coefficients  $\phi^{(p)}$  develop logarithmic singularities at the critical points  $I^\pm$ , unless:

- the data is **Schwarzschildian** up to order  $p = 6$ .

# Results from explicit calculations

## Logarithmic singularities:

Explicit calculations up to order  $p = 9$  have shown that for time symmetric, conformally flat data the coefficients  $\phi^{(p)}$  develop logarithmic singularities at the critical points  $I^\pm$ , unless:

- the data is **Schwarzschildian** up to order  $p = 6$ .

## Expansion of $W$ :

One has

$$w_{l,m} = 0 \quad l = 2, 3, 4, 5 \quad m = -l, \dots, l,$$

that is,

$$W = \frac{1}{2}M + \sum_{l=7}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l w_{l,m} Y_{l,m} \rho^l.$$

# The big question:

*Can one infer and prove general patterns from the computer algebra calculations?*

## Conjecture

Assume that one has an initial data set which is *Schwarzschildian up to order  $p$* :

$$W = \frac{1}{2}M + \sum_{m=-l}^l w_{p+1,l} Y_{p+1,l} \rho^{p+1} + \dots$$

Then there is a  $p_* > p$  such that the solutions of the reduced system

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds, \quad \alpha = (p', l, m)$$

are logarithm-free for  $p' < p_*$ , but for  $p' = p_*$  there are sectors which contain logarithmic divergences.

- The solutions belong to the ring generated by  $\ln(1 \pm \tau)$  and *polynomials in  $\tau$* . These logarithmic divergences do not arise if and only if

$$w_{p+1,m} = 0, \quad m = -p - 1, \dots, p + 1,$$

—i.e the data is *Schwarzschildian to order  $p + 1$* .

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Regular finite initial value problem at spatial infinity
- 3 Developments of time symmetric, conformally flat data
- 4 The Maxwell field on the Schwarzschild spacetime**
- 5 Back to the (conformal) Einstein equations

# A simpler model problem

## Problems proving the conjecture:

- The large number of propagation equations (50) complicates a direct attack on the problem. It would be useful to have a simpler model problem.

# A simpler model problem

## Problems proving the conjecture:

- The large number of propagation equations (50) complicates a direct attack on the problem. It would be useful to have a simpler model problem.

## Possible alternatives:

- The most natural option would be to consider a **spin-2 massless field** over a **Schwarzschild background**:
  - However this problem is overdetermined (**Buchdahl constraints**)!
  - The constraint equations cannot be dropped as they are required to calculate the reduced system.
- The next best thing is to consider a **spin-1 Maxwell** field:
  - 3 evolution equations and 1 constraint.

## Implementing the model problem:

- Transport equations for the Maxwell field at the cylinder at spatial infinity of the Schwarzschild spacetime can be introduced without major problems.

## Implementing the model problem:

- Transport equations for the Maxwell field at the cylinder at spatial infinity of the Schwarzschild spacetime can be introduced without major problems.

## The reduced system:

- As in the case of the CFE, the analysis can be reduced to the study of solutions of a  $(2 \times 2)$  reduced system

$$y'_\alpha(\tau) = C_\alpha(\tau)y_\alpha(\tau) + b_\alpha(\tau)$$

with solutions of the form

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

where

$$\det X = C(1 - \tau^2)^{p-1}.$$

# The initial data

Data expandable in powers of  $\rho$ :

Consider initial data for the Maxwell equations such that the first  $2^p$ -polar terms appear at order  $p$ . That is,

$$\phi_0 = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^p \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{p!} a_{0,p;l,m}(0)_1 Y_{lm} \rho^p,$$

$$\phi_1 = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^p \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{p!} a_{1,p;l,m}(0) Y_{lm} \rho^p,$$

$$\phi_2 = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^p \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{p!} a_{2,p;l,m}(0)_{-1} Y_{lm} \rho^p.$$

# The initial data

Data expandable in powers of  $\rho$ :

Consider initial data for the Maxwell equations such that the first  $2^p$ -polar terms appear at order  $\rho^p$ . That is,

$$\phi_0 = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^p \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{p!} a_{0,p;l,m}(0) {}_1Y_{lm} \rho^p,$$

$$\phi_1 = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^p \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{p!} a_{1,p;l,m}(0) Y_{lm} \rho^p,$$

$$\phi_2 = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=1}^p \sum_{m=-l}^l \frac{1}{p!} a_{2,p;l,m}(0) {}_{-1}Y_{lm} \rho^p.$$

A regularity condition:

The development has logarithmic singularities at the critical points unless

$$a_{0,p;p,m}(0) = a_{2,p;p,m}(0), \quad -p \leq m \leq p.$$

# On the regularity conditions

## Regularity condition for Maxwell data:

The development has logarithmic singularities at the critical points unless

$$a_{0,p;p,m}(0) = a_{2,p;p,m}(0), \quad -p \leq m \leq p.$$

## Regularity condition for time symmetric data for the conformal Einstein field equations:

The analogous of the previous condition for the time symmetric initial data for the Einstein equations

$$a_{0,p;p,m}(0) = a_{4,p;p,m}(0), \quad -p \leq m \leq p.$$

can be rewritten as

$$\mathfrak{C}(D_{k_p} \cdots D_{k_1} B_{l_j})(i) = 0,$$

with  $B_{l_j}$  the Cotton-Bach tensor of the initial metric,  $\mathfrak{C}$  denotes the trace-free part.

# Question:

*Are the singularities precluded by this regularity condition the only ones that can arise?*

# Answer: no!

## Theorem (JAVK 07)

Assuming that the initial data satisfies the regularity condition, the solutions to the reduced system for the sectors  $Y_{pm}$  are:

- polynomial in  $\tau$  for the orders  $\rho^p$  and  $\rho^{p+1}$ ;
- belong to the ring generated by polynomials in  $\tau$  and  $\ln(1 \pm \tau)$  for order  $\rho^{p+2}$ .

# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Regular finite initial value problem at spatial infinity
- 3 Developments of time symmetric, conformally flat data
- 4 The Maxwell field on the Schwarzschild spacetime
- 5 Back to the (conformal) Einstein equations**

# The conjecture for the conformal Einstein field equations:

## Conjecture

Assume that one has an initial data set which is Schwarzschildean up to order  $p$ :

$$W = \frac{1}{2}M + \sum_{m=-l}^l w_{p+1,l} Y_{p+1,l} \rho^{p+1} + \dots$$

Then there is a  $p_*$  such that the solutions of the reduced system

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds, \quad \alpha = (p', l, m)$$

are logarithm-free for  $p' < p_*$ , but for  $p' = p_*$  there are sectors which contain logarithmic divergences.

- The solutions belong to the ring generated by  $\ln(1 \pm \tau)$  and polynomials in  $\tau$ . These logarithmic divergences do not arise if and only if

$$w_{p+1,m} = 0, \quad m = -p - 1, \dots, p + 1,$$

—i.e. the data is Schwarzschildean to order  $p + 1$ .

# A proof?

## Tentative strategy:

- As in the case of the Maxwell field on the Schwarzschild spacetime, attempt to construct a proof by a (more or less) direct and explicit calculation.
- Look at the behaviour of the solutions associated with the harmonics  $Y_{p+1,m}$ .

# Integration for the lower orders

The data:

The data is Schwarzschildian to order  $p$

$$W = \frac{1}{2}M + \sum_{m=-l}^l w_{p+1,l} Y_{p+1,l} \rho^{p+1} + \dots$$

The result:

For  $p' < p + 1$  the integration of the transport equations is identical to the case of the Schwarzschild spacetime up to the corresponding order.

# What happens at order $p + 1$ ?

## Result:

- The  $v$ -transport equations can be integrated trivially to give

$$v^{(p+1)} = 0$$

for the sector  $Y_{p+1,m}$ .

# What happens at order $p + 1$ ?

## Result:

- The  $v$ -transport equations can be integrated trivially to give

$$v^{(p+1)} = 0$$

for the sector  $Y_{p+1,m}$ .

- On the other hand

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

In this case,  $b_\alpha = 0$  for the relevant multi-indices (i.e. the sectors  $Y_{p+1,m}$ ). Consequently, the solutions  $y_\alpha(\tau)$  are **trivially polynomial** in  $\tau$ .

# What happens at order $p + 2$ ?

## Result

- Using the results of the order  $p + 1$ , the solutions to the  $v$ -transport equations can be explicitly integrated in terms of **hypergeometric functions**.
- The product  $X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)$  in the integral

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

contains rational expressions of the form

$$\frac{P_\pm(\tau)}{(1 \pm \tau)^3} = Q_\pm(\tau) + \frac{a_1}{(1 \pm \tau)} + \frac{a_2}{(1 \pm \tau)^2} + \frac{a_3}{(1 \pm \tau)^3}.$$

# What happens at order $p + 2$ ?

## Result

- Using the results of the order  $p + 1$ , the solutions to the  $v$ -transport equations can be explicitly integrated in terms of **hypergeometric functions**.
- The product  $X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)$  in the integral

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

contains rational expressions of the form

$$\frac{P_\pm(\tau)}{(1 \pm \tau)^3} = Q_\pm(\tau) + \frac{a_1}{(1 \pm \tau)} + \frac{a_2}{(1 \pm \tau)^2} + \frac{a_3}{(1 \pm \tau)^3}.$$

## Non-trivially:

- A remarkable **cancellation occurs!!**

$$a_1 = 0.$$

No  $(1 \pm \tau)^{-1}$  terms are present. There are no logarithms at this order!

# What happens at order $p + 3$ ?

## Result:

- Again, one can find explicit expressions for the solutions to the order  $p + 3$   $v$ -transport equations.
- One finds that the product  $X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)$  in the integral

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

contains rational expressions of the form

$$\frac{P_\pm(\tau)}{(1 \pm \tau)^{p+4}} = Q_\pm(\tau) + \frac{a_1}{(1 \pm \tau)} + \frac{a_2}{(1 \pm \tau)^2} + \cdots + \frac{a_{p+4}}{(1 \pm \tau)^{p+4}}$$

# What happens at order $p + 3$ ?

## Result:

- Again, one can find explicit expressions for the solutions to the order  $p + 3$   $v$ -transport equations.
- One finds that the product  $X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)$  in the integral

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

contains rational expressions of the form

$$\frac{P_\pm(\tau)}{(1 \pm \tau)^{p+4}} = Q_\pm(\tau) + \frac{a_1}{(1 \pm \tau)} + \frac{a_2}{(1 \pm \tau)^2} + \cdots + \frac{a_{p+4}}{(1 \pm \tau)^{p+4}}$$

## Non-trivial result:

- A lengthy inductive argument shows that

$$a_1 = 0.$$

- Again, there are no logarithms at this order!

# Again with the conjecture...

## Conjecture

Assume that one has an initial data set which is Schwarzschildean up to order  $p$ :

$$W = \frac{1}{2}M + \sum_{m=-l}^l w_{p+1,l} Y_{p+1,l} \rho^{p+1} + \dots$$

Then there is a  $p_*$  such that the solutions of the reduced system

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau) X_\alpha(0)^{-1} y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1} b_\alpha(s) ds, \quad \alpha = (p', l, m)$$

are logarithm-free for  $p' < p_*$ , but for  $p' = p_*$  there are sectors which contain logarithmic divergences.

- The solutions belong to the ring generated by  $\ln(1 \pm \tau)$  and polynomials in  $\tau$ . These logarithmic divergences do not arise if and only if

$$w_{p+1,m} = 0, \quad m = -p-1, \dots, p+1,$$

—i.e the data is Schwarzschildean to order  $p+1$ .

# What does one expect to happen at order $p + 4$ ?

## Insights:

- The analysis of particular explicit examples indicate that no cancellations occur at this order, so that the rational expressions in

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

do produce logarithms, and that these logarithms are not present if and only if

$$w_{p+1,m} = 0, \quad m = -p - 1, \dots, p + 1.$$

# What does one expect to happen at order $p + 4$ ?

## Insights:

- The analysis of particular explicit examples indicate that no cancellations occur at this order, so that the rational expressions in

$$y_\alpha(\tau) = X_\alpha(\tau)X_\alpha(0)^{-1}y_\alpha(0) + X_\alpha(\tau) \int_0^\tau X_\alpha(s)^{-1}b_\alpha(s)ds,$$

do produce logarithms, and that these logarithms are not present if and only if

$$w_{p+1,m} = 0, \quad m = -p - 1, \dots, p + 1.$$

- In the language of the conjecture one would have that

$$p_* = p + 4.$$

# Still to be addressed...

One would like to understand the following:

- Why are the expansions more regular than what *a priori* one would expect?
- The remarkable cancellations occurring in the expansions at order  $p + 2$  and  $p + 3$  show that there is some crucial structure which has not yet been identified/exploited.

# Still to be addressed...

One would like to understand the following:

- Why are the expansions more regular than what *a priori* one would expect?
- The remarkable cancellations occurring in the expansions at order  $p + 2$  and  $p + 3$  show that there is some crucial structure which has not yet been identified/exploited.

More general classes of data:

- Can one generalise the discussion to more general classes of data?
  - Probably yes but the calculations will be more involved. What part of the information available is the really essential one?

## Some bibliography:

- JAVK. *A new class of obstructions to the smoothness of null infinity*. *Comm. Math. Phys.* **244**, 133-156 (2004).
- JAVK. *The Maxwell field on the Schwarzschild spacetime: behaviour near spatial infinity*. *Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond. A* **463**, 2609-2630 (2007).