

Global aspects of Lorentzian manifolds with special holonomy

Thomas Leistner



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[Joint work with [D. Schliebner](#), arXiv:1306.0120, and with [H. Baum & K. Lärz](#), arXiv:1204.5657, all Humboldt University Berlin]

Holonomy groups in a nutshell

- Let (M, \mathbf{g}) be a semi-Riemannian manifold \rightsquigarrow Parallel transport

$$\mathcal{P}_\gamma : T_{\gamma(0)}M \ni X_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} X(1) \in T_{\gamma(1)}M$$

where $X(t)$ is the solution to the ODE $\nabla_{\dot{\gamma}(t)}X(t) \equiv 0$ with $X(0) = X_0$.

For $p \in M^n$ we define the (connected) holonomy group

$$\text{Hol}_p^0(M, \mathbf{g}) := \{ \mathcal{P}_\gamma \mid \gamma(0) = \gamma(1) = p, \gamma \sim \{p\} \} \subset \text{O}(T_p M, \mathbf{g}_p) \simeq \text{O}(r, s)$$

- For $p, q \in M$: $\text{Hol}_p(M, \mathbf{g}) \sim \text{Hol}_q(M, \mathbf{g})$ conjugated in $\text{O}(r, s)$.
- $\text{Hol}_p^0(M, \mathbf{g}) \subset \text{Hol}_p(M, \mathbf{g})$ normal and the fundamental group

$$\Pi_1(M, p) \ni [\gamma] \xrightarrow{\text{surjects}} [P_\gamma] \in \text{Hol}_p(M, \mathbf{g}) / \text{Hol}_p^0(M, \mathbf{g})$$

- Ambrose-Singer**: The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{hol}_p(M, \mathbf{g})$ is spanned by

$$P_\gamma^{-1} \circ R_{\gamma(1)}(X, Y) \circ P_\gamma \in \mathfrak{so}(T_p M, \mathbf{g}_p),$$

where $\gamma(0) = p$, $R_{\gamma(1)}$ the curvature at $\gamma(1)$, $X, Y \in T_{\gamma(1)}M$.

Special Lorentzian holonomy

A Lorentzian manifold $(\mathcal{M}^{n+2}, \mathbf{g})$ has **special holonomy** if

- 1 $\text{Hol}^0 \neq \text{SO}^0(1, n)$ and
- 2 $T_p\mathcal{M}$ has **no non-degenerate Hol^0 -invariant subspaces**.

This is in accordance with the terminology for Riemannian manifolds (indecomposable = irreducible, Berger's list),

- De Rham/ Wu decomposition
 $\implies (\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g})$ is **not a product**, not even locally.

but with a **fundamental difference**:

- $\text{Hol}^0 \subset \text{SO}^0(1, n+1)$ **irreducible** $\implies \text{Hol}^0 = \text{SO}^0(1, n+1)$
[Berger, DiScala/Olmos]
i.e., special holonomy \implies **Hol^0 -invariant null line** $\mathbb{L} \subset T_p\mathcal{M}$.
- $\text{Nor}_{\text{O}(1, n+1)}(\text{Hol}^0) \subset \text{Stab}_{\text{O}(1, n+1)}(\mathbb{L}) \simeq (\mathbb{R}^* \times \text{O}(n)) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n \implies$
 \mathbb{L} is Hol -invariant.

Geometrically: \mathcal{M} admits a **parallel null line bundle**, i.e., fibres are invariant under parallel transport.

If $(\mathcal{M}^{n+2}, \mathbf{g})$ is Lorentzian with special holonomy, then $\text{Hol}^0(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g}) \simeq$

- ① $G \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n$ or $(\mathbb{R}^+ \times G) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n$, where G is a Riemannian holonomy group,
- ② $(A \times G^s) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^{n-k}$, where G^s is the semisimple part of a Riemannian holonomy group G and $A \subset \mathbb{R}^+ \times Z(G)$ if $k = 0$, or $A \subset Z(G) \times \mathbb{R}^k$.
In fact, $A = \text{graph}(\Psi)$ for $\Psi \in \text{Hom}(Z(G), \mathbb{R}^+ \text{ or } \mathbb{R}^k)$

- For all possible groups there exist metrics [... Galaev '06].
- E.g.: $(\mathcal{N}^n, \mathbf{h})$ Riemannian, $H \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathcal{N})$, $\exists p: \det(\nabla^{\mathbf{h}} dH)_p \neq 0 \Rightarrow$

$$(\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathcal{N}, \mathbf{g} = \mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{h}, H} := 2du(dv + Hdu) + \mathbf{h})$$

has holonomy $(\mathbb{R}^+ \times \text{Hol}(\mathcal{N}, \mathbf{h})) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$ or $\text{Hol}(\mathcal{N}, \mathbf{h}) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^{n-2}$, if $\frac{\partial H}{\partial v} = 0$.

Are there compact or geodesically complete examples for all groups?

Screen bundle and screen distribution

Let $(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g})$ be Lorentzian of dim. $n + 2$, Hol^0 indecomp. & not irred.,

- \exists bundle of parallel null lines $\mathbb{L} \subset \mathbb{L}^\perp \subset T\mathcal{M}$
- **Screen bundle** $\Sigma := \mathbb{L}^\perp / \mathbb{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ with pos. def. metric induced by \mathbf{g} and connection $\nabla^\Sigma: \nabla_X^\Sigma[Y] := [\nabla_X Y]$. Then

$$G = \text{pr}_{\text{SO}(n)} \text{Hol}_p(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g}) = \text{Hol}_p(\Sigma, \nabla^\Sigma)$$

- **Screen distribution** $\mathbb{S} \subset \mathbb{L}^\perp$, rank n and $\mathbf{g}|_{\mathbb{S} \times \mathbb{S}}$ positive definite, i.e., a splitting of $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{L} \rightarrow \mathbb{L}^\perp \rightarrow \Sigma \rightarrow 0$.

Assume \mathbb{L} is spanned by a *parallel* null vector field $V \in \Gamma(\mathbb{L})$

- **screen vector field** Z : null, $\mathbf{g}(Z, V) = 1 \xleftrightarrow{1-1} \mathbb{S} := V^\perp \cap Z^\perp$.
- As $(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g})$ is time-oriented, there exists a screen distribution/vf

Involutive and horizontal screen distributions

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \mathbb{S} \text{ horizontal} \iff [V, S] \in \Gamma(\mathbb{S}) \forall S \in \Gamma(\mathbb{S}) \\ \mathbb{S} \text{ involutive} \iff [S_1, S_2] \in \Gamma(\mathbb{S}) \forall S_1, S_2 \in \Gamma(\mathbb{S}) \end{array} \right\} \iff V^b \wedge dZ^b = 0$$

In the above example: $\mathbb{S} = \text{span}(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n)$, $Z = \partial_u - H\partial_v$, $Z^b = dv + Hdu$.

Definition: A Lorentzian manifold $(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g})$ is a

- *pp-wave* if it admits a parallel null vf V and $R(U, W) = 0 \forall U, W \in V^\perp$.
- *standard pp-wave* if $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^{n+2} \ni (u, v, x^1, \dots, x^n)$ and

$$\mathbf{g} = \mathbf{g}^H := 2du(dv + Hdu) + \delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j \quad (1)$$

for a smooth function H with $\partial_v H = 0$.

Equivalences: $(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g})$ is a pp-wave

- \Leftrightarrow it is locally of the form (1),
- $\Leftrightarrow \nabla V = 0$ & $R(X, Y) : V^\perp \rightarrow \mathbb{R}V, \forall X, Y \in TM$,
- $\Leftrightarrow \nabla V = 0$ & the screen bundle is flat,
- $\Leftrightarrow \text{Hol}^0(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g}) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$,
- $\Leftrightarrow \text{Hol}(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g}) \subset \Gamma \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n$ for $\Gamma \subset O(n)$ discrete,
- $\Leftrightarrow \nabla V = 0$ & locally, $\exists S_1, \dots, S_n \in \Gamma(V^\perp)$ with $g(S_i, S_j) = \delta_{ij}$ and $\nabla S_i = \alpha^i \otimes V$, where α^i local one-forms with $d\alpha^i|_{V^\perp \wedge V^\perp} = 0$.

Geodesic completeness for compact pp-waves

- Compact Lorentzian manifolds are not always geodesically complete.
- They are if: homogeneous (Marsden '72), of constant curvature (Carrière '89, Klingler '96), or have a time-like conformal ν (Romero/Sánchez '95) **Are compact pp-waves complete?**
- Ehlers-Kundt '62: *"Prove that complete, Ricci-flat pp-waves are plane waves, no matter which topology one chooses!"* (EK)
- *plane wave* = pp-wave with $\nabla_X R = 0 \forall X \in V^\perp$.

Theorem (Schliebner/TL '13)

Let (M, g) be a compact pp-wave. Then:

- 1 Its universal cover is globally isometric to a standard pp-wave.
- 2 (M, g) is geodesically complete.

Corollary

Every compact Ricci-flat pp-wave is a plane wave.

Thm and Corollary give a proof of (EK) in the compact case (and any dim).

Examples

- 1 η flat metric on the torus \mathbb{T}^n , $H \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^n)$ smooth. $\mathcal{M} := \mathbb{T}^2 \times \mathbb{T}^n$ with

$$\mathbf{g}^H = 2d\theta d\varphi + 2Hd\theta^2 + \eta,$$

\Rightarrow complete pp-wave metric on the torus \mathbb{T}^{n+2} , in gen. no plane wave.

- 2 \blacktriangleright Torus \mathbb{T}^{n+1} with canonical 1-forms ξ^0, \dots, ξ^n . Set

$$\omega = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij} \xi^i \wedge \xi^j \in \Omega^2(\mathbb{T}^{n+1})$$

with const's $a_{ij} = -a_{ji}$ such that $0 \neq c := [\omega] \in H^2(\mathbb{T}^{n+1}, \mathbb{Z})$.

- \blacktriangleright Let $\pi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^{n+1}$ be the S^1 -bundle with 1st Chern class $= c$, $A \in T^*\mathcal{M} \otimes i\mathbb{R}$ the S^1 -connection with curvature $F := dA = -2\pi i \pi^* \omega$.
- \blacktriangleright Pull backs $\eta := \pi^* \xi^0$, $\sigma^i := \pi^* \xi^i$ $i = 1, \dots, n$, function $H \in C^\infty(\mathbb{T}^{n+1})$,

$$\mathbf{g} = 2(H\eta - iA) \cdot \eta + \sum_{i=1}^n (\sigma^i)^2 = \text{pp-wave metric on } \mathcal{M}.$$

- \blacktriangleright Note: $(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g})$ does *not* admit an involute screen distribution

Step 1: A compact pp-wave is univ. covered by \mathbb{R}^{n+2} .

- ① Screen distribution $\mathbb{S} := V^\perp \cap Z^\perp \rightsquigarrow$ **complete** Riemannian metric:

$$\mathbf{h}(V, \cdot) := \mathbf{g}(Z, \cdot), \quad \mathbf{h}(Z, \cdot) := \mathbf{g}(V, \cdot), \quad \mathbf{h}|_{\mathbb{S} \times \mathbb{S}} := \mathbf{g}|_{\mathbb{S} \times \mathbb{S}},$$

with complete lift $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}$ to the universal cover $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$.

- ② Z complete $\Rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{M}} \stackrel{\text{diff.}}{\simeq} \mathbb{R} \times \tilde{\mathcal{N}}$, with $\tilde{\mathcal{N}}$ is a leaf of \tilde{V}^\perp , and $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}|_{\tilde{\mathcal{N}}}$ complete.
- ③ Σ flat $\Rightarrow \exists S_1, \dots, S_n \in \Gamma(\tilde{V}^\perp \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{M}})$ with
- ▶ $g(S_i, S_j) = \delta_{ij}$, $\tilde{\nabla} S_i = \alpha^i \otimes \tilde{V}$, with $d\alpha^i|_{\tilde{V}^\perp \wedge \tilde{V}^\perp} = 0$
 - ▶ geodesic for $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}|_{\tilde{\mathcal{N}}}$ and hence complete.
- ④ $\exists b_i \in C^\infty(\tilde{\mathcal{M}})$: $db_i|_{\tilde{V}^\perp} = \alpha^i|_{\tilde{V}^\perp}$. $\hat{S}_i := S_i - b_i V$ spans an **involutive and horizontal** screen and satisfies: $\tilde{\nabla}_U \hat{S}_i = 0$, whenever $U \in \tilde{V}^\perp$.
- ⑤ S_i complete $\Rightarrow \hat{S}_i$ complete.
 \tilde{V} and \hat{S}_i complete & parallel on $(\tilde{\mathcal{N}}, \tilde{\nabla})$, i.e., $\tilde{\mathcal{N}} \simeq \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$.

Step 2: The universal cover is a standard pp-wave

Let Z be a screen vector field and γ be the integral curve of $\tilde{Z} \in \Gamma(T\tilde{\mathcal{M}})$ through o , S_i be a global frame for the screen $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}$.

$$\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{n+2} \ni (u, v, x^1, \dots, x^n) \mapsto \exp_{\gamma(u)}^{\tilde{\mathbf{g}}} (v \tilde{V}(\gamma(u)) + x^k S_k(\gamma(u))) \in \tilde{\mathcal{M}}.$$

- $(\tilde{\mathcal{N}}, \tilde{\nabla}|_{\tilde{\mathcal{N}}})$ is complete, flat and simply connected, for each leaf $\tilde{\mathcal{N}}$
 $\Rightarrow \exp_p^{\tilde{\mathbf{g}}}|_{\tilde{V}^\perp} : \tilde{V}_p^\perp \rightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{N}}$ is a diffeomorphism for each $p \in \tilde{\mathcal{M}}$.
 $\Rightarrow \Phi$ is a diffeomorphism.
- $\Phi^* \tilde{\mathbf{g}}$ is a standard pp-wave metric on \mathbb{R}^{n+2} with $2H := (\Phi^* \tilde{\mathbf{g}})(\partial_u, \partial_u)$.

Step 3: Completeness

Lemma (C.f. results by Candela et al)

A standard pp-wave metric \mathbf{g}^H is complete if all $\left| \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^i \partial x^j} \right|$ are bounded.

Let $(\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g})$ be a compact pp-wave with screen vf Z and let $\Phi^* \mathbf{g} = g^H$.

- Define a bilinear form $Q := R(., Z, Z, .)$ on \mathcal{M} .
- With \mathcal{M} compact, $\mathbf{g}(Q, Q) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n R(S_i, Z, Z, S_j)^2$ is bounded.
- We have $\Phi^* Q(\partial_i, \partial_j) = -\partial_i \partial_j(H)$, and thus

$$C^2 > \mathbf{g}(Q, Q) = \mathbf{g}^H(\Phi^* Q, \Phi^* Q)^2 = \sum_{i,j=1}^n \Phi^* Q(\partial_i, \partial_i) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n (\partial_i \partial_j H)^2 \geq 0,$$

i.e., all $\partial_i \partial_j H$ bounded.

By the Lemma, a compact pp-wave is complete. □

Proof of corollary: Ric = 0 \Rightarrow H and thus $\partial_i \partial_j H$ harmonic for $\Delta^0 = \sum_{i=1}^n \partial_i^2$.
 $\partial_i \partial_j H$ bounded \Rightarrow independent of x^i .

Holonomy groups and coverings

$(\widetilde{M}, \widetilde{\mathbf{g}})$ semi-Riemannian, $\Gamma \subset \text{Iso}(\widetilde{M}, \widetilde{\mathbf{g}})$ properly discontinuous on \widetilde{M}
 \implies covering $(\widetilde{M}, \widetilde{\mathbf{g}}) \xrightarrow{\pi} (M := \widetilde{M}/\Gamma, \mathbf{g})$.

For $p \in M$ and $\tilde{p} \in \pi^{-1}(p)$:

① injective group homomorphism

$$\iota : \text{Hol}_{\tilde{p}}(\widetilde{M}, \widetilde{\mathbf{g}}) \hookrightarrow \text{Hol}_p(M, \mathbf{g}), \quad \tilde{P}_{\tilde{\gamma}} \mapsto P_{\pi \circ \tilde{\gamma}},$$

for $\tilde{\gamma}$ a loop at \tilde{p} , and the image is a normal subgroup.

② surjective group homomorphism

$$\Phi : \Gamma \rightarrow \text{Hol}_p(M) / \text{Hol}_{\tilde{p}}(\widetilde{M}), \quad \sigma \mapsto [P_{\gamma}],$$

γ loop at p that, when lifted to a curve $\tilde{\gamma}$ starting at \tilde{p} , ends at $\sigma^{-1}(\tilde{p})$.

For a loop γ at $p \in M$, we have:

$$P_{\gamma} = d\sigma_{\sigma^{-1}(\tilde{p})} \circ \tilde{P}_{\tilde{\gamma}} \quad (\text{using } T_{\tilde{p}}\widetilde{M} \xrightarrow{d\pi_{\tilde{p}}} T_p M),$$

$\tilde{\gamma}$ is the lift of γ starting at \tilde{p} and ending at $\sigma^{-1}(\tilde{p})$ with $\sigma \in \Gamma$. I.e.,

$$[d\sigma_{\sigma^{-1}(\tilde{p})} \circ \tilde{P}_{\tilde{\gamma}} = (d\sigma^{-1}|_{\tilde{p}})^{-1} \circ \tilde{P}_{\tilde{\gamma}}] \in \Phi(\sigma) \in \text{Hol}_p(M) / \text{Hol}_{\tilde{p}}(\widetilde{M}).$$

Isometries of special Lorentzian manifolds

Let $(\mathcal{N}^n, \mathbf{h})$ be Riemannian, $H \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathcal{N})$, $\exists p: \det(\nabla^{\mathbf{h}} dH)_p \neq 0$.

$$(\widetilde{\mathcal{M}} = \Omega \times \mathcal{N}, \widetilde{\mathbf{g}} = \mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{h}, H} := 2du(dv + Hdu) + \mathbf{h})$$

$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ open domain. Isometries of $(\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}, \widetilde{\mathbf{g}})$ are of the form:

$$\sigma \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ \mathbf{x} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{a}u + b \\ v + \tau(u, \mathbf{x}) \\ \rho(u, \mathbf{x}) \end{pmatrix}, \text{ with } \rho(u, \cdot) \in \text{Iso}(\mathcal{N}, \mathbf{h}) \forall u.$$

Theorem (Baum, Lärz, TL '12)

Let $\pi : (\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}, \mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{h}, H}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{M}, \mathbf{g}) := \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}/\Gamma$ be a covering. Then, for $\sigma \in \Gamma$ a representative of $\Phi(\sigma) \in \text{Hol}_p(M)/\text{Hol}_{\bar{p}}(\widetilde{\mathcal{M}})$ is given by

$$\hat{\phi}(\sigma) = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & (d\rho^{-1}(u, v, \cdot)|_{\mathbf{x}})^{-1} \circ \text{P}_{\sigma}^{\mathbf{h}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \in \Phi(\sigma),$$

In particular, $\text{Hol}_{\pi(\bar{q})}(M) = \{\hat{\phi}(\sigma) \mid \sigma \in \Gamma\} \cdot \text{Hol}_p(N, h) \times \mathbb{R}^n$.

Examples with disconnected holonomy groups [BLL '12]

Using certain $\Gamma \subset \text{Iso}(\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}, \widetilde{\mathfrak{g}})$ we obtain examples with $\text{Hol} =$

$$\mathbb{Z}^p \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n, (\mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n, (\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^n, (\mathbb{Z} \ltimes \text{SU}(n)) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^{2n}, (\mathbb{Z}_2 \ltimes \text{SU}(n)) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^{2n}$$

Example with infinitely generated holonomy group

- $\mathcal{N} := \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \mathbb{Z}^2$ with flat metric $\mathbf{h} = dx^2 + dy^2$, $\Gamma := \Pi_1(\mathcal{N}) = \mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z} * \dots$ infinitely generated free group, $\text{Hol}(\mathcal{N}, \mathbf{h})$ trivial, $H \in C^\infty(\mathcal{N})$.
- $\pi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{N} = \mathbb{R}^2 / \Gamma$ univ. cover, $\widetilde{\mathbf{h}} = \pi^* \mathbf{h}$, $\widetilde{H} := H \circ \pi$ are Γ -invariant.
- $\Omega := \{(v, u) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid u > 0\}$, $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}} := \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^2$, $\widetilde{\mathfrak{g}} = 2du(dv + \frac{\widetilde{H}}{u^2} du) + \mathbf{h}$.
- Fix generators $(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots)$ of Γ , $\underline{\lambda} := (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots)$ lin. indep. over \mathbb{Q} , $\sigma_i(v, u, x) := (e^{\lambda_i} v, e^{-\lambda_i} u, \gamma_i(x))$, $\Gamma_{\underline{\lambda}} := \langle \sigma_i \mid i = 1, 2, \dots \rangle \subset \text{Iso}(\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}, \widetilde{\mathfrak{g}})$.
- $\Gamma_{\underline{\lambda}}$ acts properly discontinuous on $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}$ and $\mathcal{M} = \widetilde{\mathcal{M}} / \Gamma_{\underline{\lambda}}$ is LMf with metric \mathfrak{g} , $\text{Hol}(\mathcal{M}, \mathfrak{g})$ is **infinitely generated** by

$$\begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_i} & w & * \\ 0 & 1_2 & * \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-\lambda_i} \end{pmatrix} \in \text{O}(1, 3), \quad w \in \mathbb{R}^2$$