

Wind Finslerian structures: from Zermelo's navigation to the causality of spacetimes

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(joint work with E. Caponio and M.A. Javaloyes)



Classical Finsler Geometry:

- (M, g_R) Riemannian: replace Euclidean scalar products by (positively homogeneous) norms at each $p \in M$
Positively homogeneous: $\| \lambda v \| = |\lambda| \| v \|$ for $\lambda \geq 0$

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- Application: Lagrangians, navigation, fastest trajectories to go up and down a hill...

Two types of Lorentz-Finsler links

Link 1 with Lorentzian Geometry:

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We will NOT follow this link

Link 2: pure geometric correspondence between

- A class of spacetimes \longleftrightarrow A class of Finsler manifolds

Understanding the link 2

- 1 Product spacetime $(\mathbb{R} \times M, g_L = -dt^2 + g_0)$, g_0 Riemannian:
Finsler $F(v) = \sqrt{g_0(v, v)}$, $v \in TM$.
Lightlike directions \longleftrightarrow *F-unit vectors*

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- 3** Product spacetime with stationary cross term
 $(\mathbb{R} \times M, g_L = -dt^2 + \omega \otimes dt + dt \otimes \omega + g_0)$, ω : 1 form.
Finsler (Randers): $F^\pm(v) = \sqrt{g_0(v, v) + \omega(v)^2} \pm \omega(v)$.
Future (resp. past)-directed lightlike directions
 \longleftrightarrow F^+ (resp. F^-)-unit vectors

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- 4** Standard stationary (strictly)
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Finsler (Randers): F^\pm for g_L/Λ .
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Step further to be developed here

- Standard space-transverse Killing (SSTK):
($\mathbb{R} \times M, g_L = -\Lambda dt^2 + \omega \otimes dt + dt \otimes \omega + g_0$),
only under $\Lambda + \|\omega\|^2 > 0$ (Lorentzian restriction).
Assign “wind-Finsler structures” Σ^\pm so that
Future (resp.) past-directed lightlike directions
 $\longleftrightarrow \Sigma^+$ (resp. Σ^-)-unit vectors

Previous results on the standard stationary case

(Stationary spacetimes vs Randers spaces)

- Caponio, Javaloyes, Masiello Math, Ann. '11 (arxiv:0702323)
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- 3 Causal boundaries \longleftrightarrow Cauchy, Gromov and Busemann
boundaries in Finslerian (and Riemannian) settings
(Flores, Herrera, — Memoirs AMS'13).

And so on...

Summing up: precedents

*Conformal structure of a class of spacetimes:
(standard) **stationary** ones*

\longleftrightarrow *Geometry of a class of Finsler manifolds:
Randers spaces*

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—some of them extensible to general Finsler manifolds
- ← Finsler elements allow a precise description of spacetime counterparts

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Broader relation

Lorentzian Geometry \longleftrightarrow Finsler Geometry

(including the Riemannian one!)

Summing up: aim

A step further: equivalence between

Conformal structure of a class of spacetimes:

*(standard) **space-transverse Killing (SSTK) ones** \longleftrightarrow*

*Geometry of a class of **generalized Finsler manifolds:***

Wind Riemannian/ Wind Finslerian structures

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Geometry of a class of **generalized Finsler manifolds:**
Wind Riemannian/ Wind Finslerian structures*

Applicability:

- \rightarrow new geometric elements and results for wind Riemannian structures can be obtained from the spacetime viewpoint
—some of them extensible to general wind Finsler structures
- \leftarrow (generalized) Finsler elements allow a precise description of spacetime counterparts.

Remarkably:

- Wind Riemannian structures include some “singular Finsler geometries” commonly used (Kropina metrics), which are described by “non-singular” spacetimes.

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- Broader relation:
Lorentzian Geometry \longleftrightarrow Extended Finsler Geometry

Non-relativistic motivation

Why to generalize Finsler manifolds?

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- *Note:* in the literature “Finsler” is commonly used for non-standard notions of Finsler manifolds

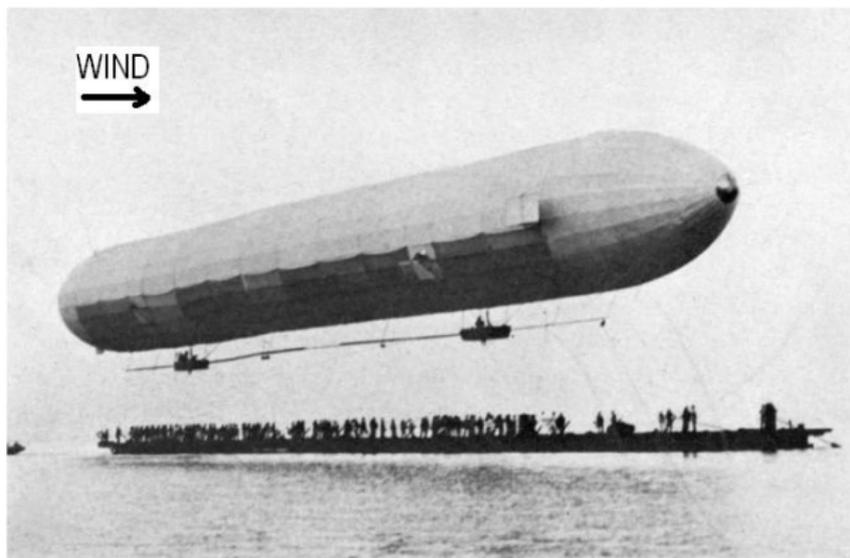
Non-relativistic motivation

Why to generalize Finsler manifolds?

- *Note:* in the literature “Finsler” is commonly used for non-standard notions of Finsler manifolds
- A simple example on the necessity of our generalization: *windy navigation*

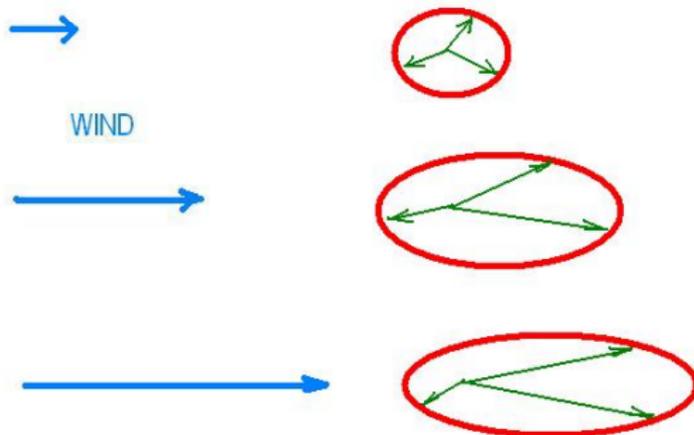
Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

Classical Zermelo's navigation: plane/Zeppelin in the air or ship on the sea with a (mild) wind.



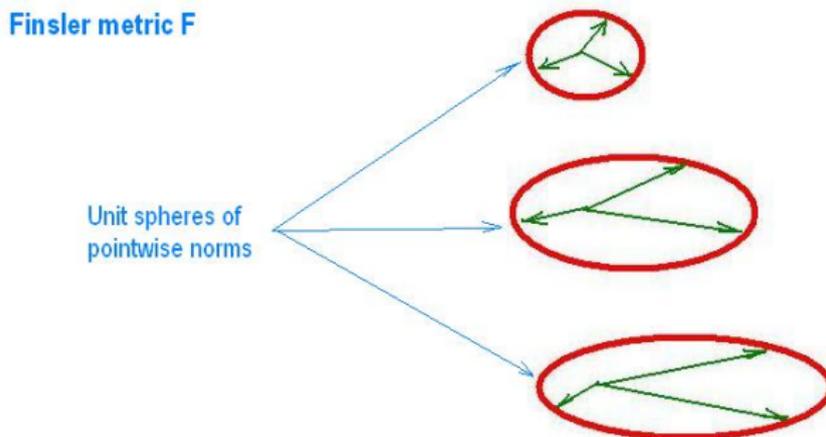
Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

The possible **maximum velocities at each point and direction** (linearized trips of unit time) determine a **(topological) smooth sphere** Σ_p at each tangent space $T_p M, p \in M$



Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

Regarding the spheres Σ_p as the indicatrices (unit spheres) for (non-reversible) norms, a Finsler metric Z (Zermelo) is obtained



Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

Note:

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- Zermelo metric is, in fact, a Randers metric obtained by:
 - 1 taking a **Riemannian metric** g_R and
 - 2 **shifting the centers** of the unit balls by means of a vector field W (wind) ... with $g_R(W, W) < 1$

Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

What about if the wind is not mild? ($g_R(W, W) \geq 1$)

Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

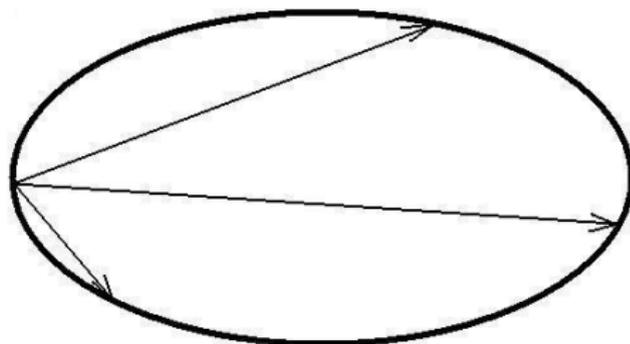
What about if the wind is not mild? ($g_R(W, W) \geq 1$)

- The plane/ship is not able to move in some **forbidden directions**:
some regions become unreachable —or must be reached by going around

Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

In the **critical case** $g_R(W, W) = 1$ one obtains a **Kropina metric**, which is singular as a Finsler metric

Velocities for limit wind

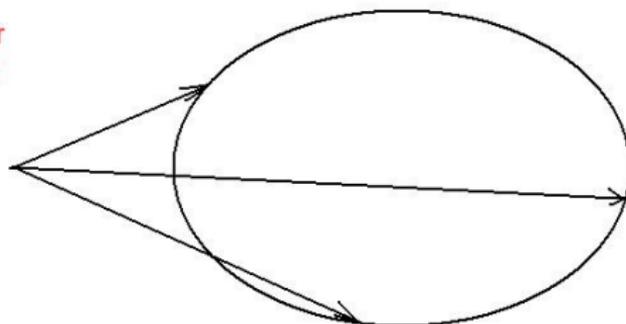


Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

For strong wind $g_R(W, W) > 1$,

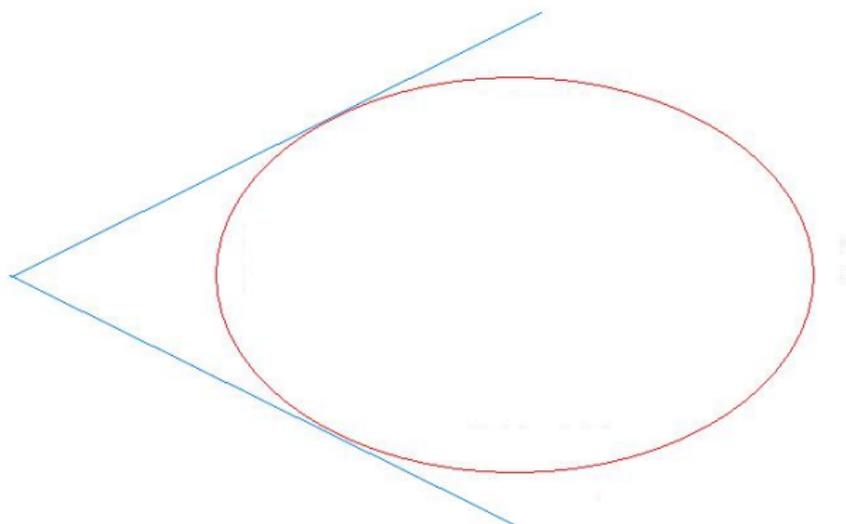
- Vector 0 does not belong to the “unit ball”

Velocites for
strong wind



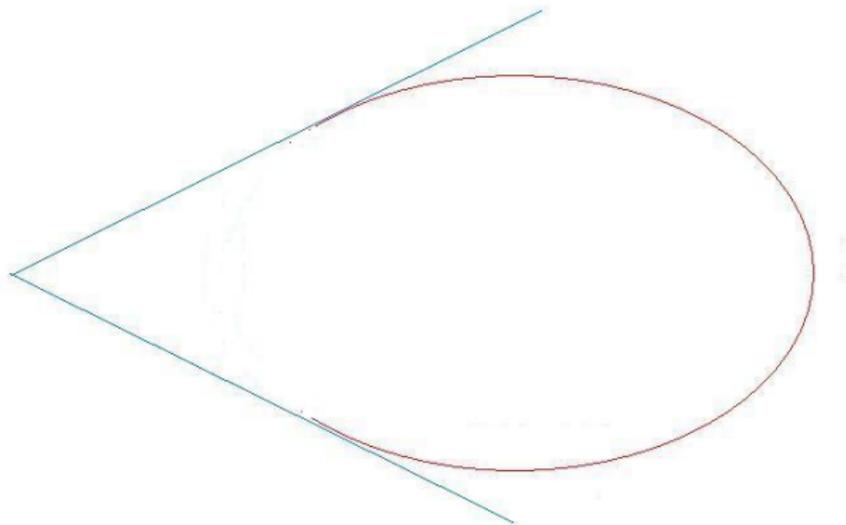
Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

From the Finsler viewpoint, one has two “conic Finsler pseudometric”:



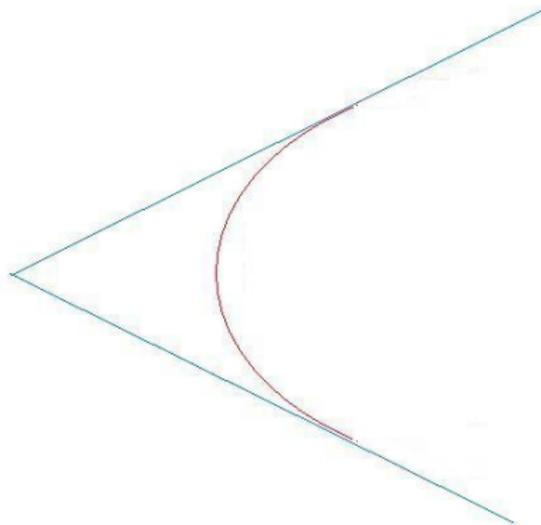
Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

- one **properly Finslerian** (“definite positive”, convex indicatrix)



Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

- the other Lorentzian (concave).



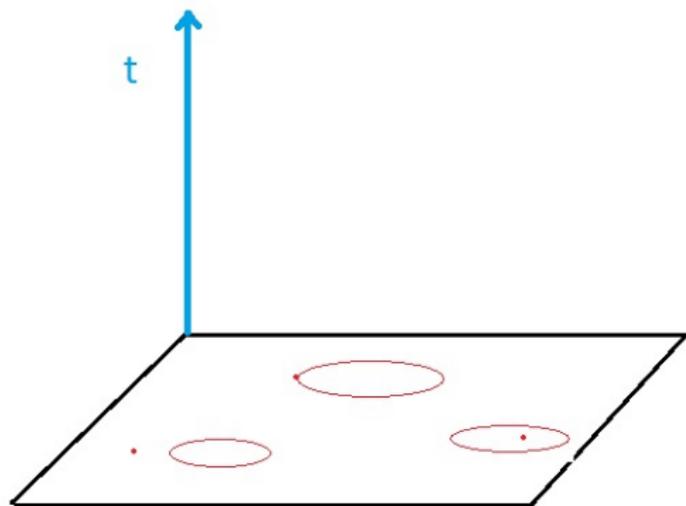
Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

This seems complicated! ...but, from the viewpoint of the set Σ of the indicatrices, nothing singular happens.

Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

The spacetime viewpoint:

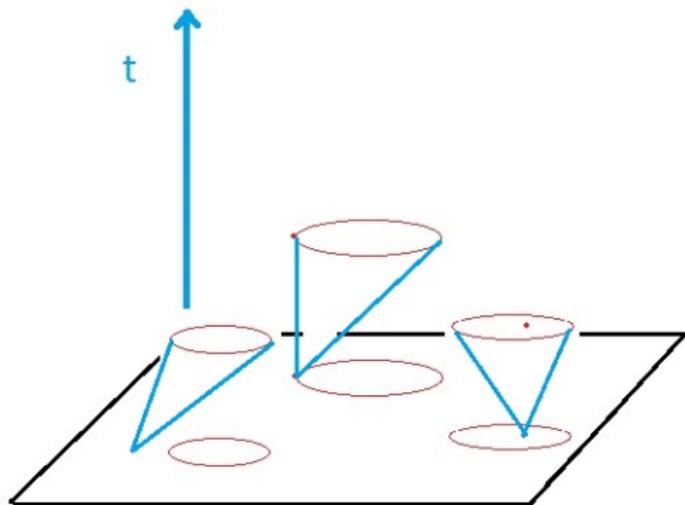
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Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

The spacetime viewpoint:

- Add the time as a dimension more
- Putting a “unit of time” to all the indicatrices... one has a cone structure



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- 2 One can visualize the reachable regions... as well as those regions that must be abandoned necessarily.

This is completely analogous to the situations for causal futures, black holes and all the relativists' fauna.

Motivation: navigation and spacetimes

The moral is then:

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The moral is then:

- 1 One has powerful tools to describe Zermelo's navigation by using spacetimes, in a smooth non-singular way, including Kropina metrics!
- 2 But this will be useful to describe spacetimes too: the “conformal initial data” ($t = 0$) that determines the Lorentzian metric are the introduced “wind Finsler” elements. That is, the conformal part of the so-called *Killing initial data* for Einstein equations can be always represented by “wind Finsler” elements!

Parts of the remainder of the talk

- 1 Wind Finslerian structures
- 2 SSTK spacetimes
- 3 Mild and critical wind: Randers-Kropina (Causal K)
- 4 Arbitrary wind and wind Riemannian structures

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Definition

Finsler metric $F : TM \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

- positively homog. strongly convex norm at each $p \in M$
- varying with p continuously and smooth away 0.

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- **Strongly convex**: the second fundamental form of the unit sphere is **positive definite**
 - if replaced by concaveness, Lorentz-Finsler (but necessarily defined only in a **conic** domain of TM)
- Positively homogeneous: $F(\lambda v) = \lambda F(v)$ for $\lambda > 0$
- Reversed Finsler metric: $F^{\text{rev}}(v) := F(-v)$

Distance and balls:

Taking infimum of lengths of curves connecting two points, each Finsler metric induces a *generalized distance* d_F . This means:

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Centered at any point x_0 , there are:

- forward balls: $d_F(x_0, x) < r$
- backward balls: $d_F(x, x_0) < r$

They may differ but each one generate the manifold topology.

Relevant examples, for Riemannian g_R , 1-forms ω, β :

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■ Randers metric: $R = \sqrt{g_R + \omega^2} + \omega$ ($= \sqrt{h} + \omega, \|\omega\|_h < 1$)

■ Kropina metric: $F = g_R/\beta$

—Defined in the *conic* domain (open half plane)

$$\beta(v) > 0$$

—It will be a “limit case” of Randers

– Beware! One can define formally d_F but

typically $d_F(x, x) = \infty$.

Definition

For a **vector space** V :

- **Wind Minkowski structure:** Compact strongly convex smooth hypersurface Σ^V embedded in V
- **Unit ball** B Bounded open domain B enclosed by Σ^V
- **Conic domain** A : open region determined by B from 0.

Notion of wind Finslerian structure

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For a manifold M :

- **Wind Finsler structure:** smooth hypersurface $\Sigma \hookrightarrow TM$:
 $\Sigma_p = \Sigma \cap T_pM$ is wind Minkowski in T_pM (+transversality)
- **Ball at p :** $B_p \subset T_pM$ ($\rightsquigarrow A_p$) **Domain** $A := \cup_p A_p$
- **Region of strong wind:** $M_I := \{p \in M : 0 \notin \bar{B}_p\}$
- **Properly conic domain:** $A_I := \Sigma \cap \pi^{-1}(M_I)$

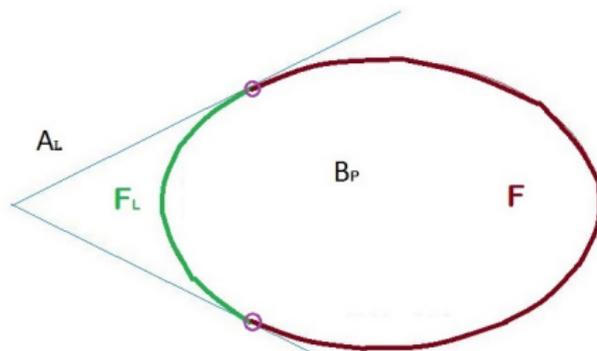
Notion of wind Finslerian structure

Proposition

Any Σ determines two conic pseudo-Finsler metrics:

- (i) $F : A \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ **conic Finsler** metric on all M ,
- (ii) $F_I : A_I \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$ F_I is a **Lorentz-Finsler** metric in the region M_I of strong wind

Moreover, $F < F_I$ on A_I , F and F_I can be extended continuously, and both extensions **coincide on the boundary of A_I**



Proposition

Any Σ is the displacement of the indicatrix of Finsler metric F_0 along some vector field W :

$$F_0 \left(\frac{v}{Z(v)} - W \right) = 1,$$

($v \in \Sigma \iff Z(v)$ is a solution)

Definition

A **wind Riemann structure** is a wind Finslerian structure $\Sigma \subset TM$ such that, **alternatively**:

- Σ is the translation of the indicatrix of a Riemannian norm $F_0 = \sqrt{g_R}$ along some vector field W .
- Σ_p is an ellipsoid $\forall p \in M$.

Proposition

Let (M, Σ) be a wind Riemann structure. Then, for some h semi-Riemannian and β 1-form

(i) $0_p \in B_p \Rightarrow \Sigma_p$ indicatrix for *Randers*:

$$F(v) = \sqrt{h(v, v)} + \beta(v)$$

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(ii) $0_p \in \Sigma_p \Rightarrow \Sigma_p$ indicatrix for *Kropina*:

$$F(v) = -h(v, v)/2\beta(v) \text{ (on } A_p = \{v \in T_p M : -\beta(v) > 0\}),$$

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- (ii) $0_p \in \Sigma_p \Rightarrow \Sigma_p$ indicatrix for **Kropina**:
 $F(v) = -h(v, v)/2\beta(v)$ (on $A_p = \{v \in T_p M : -\beta(v) > 0\}$),
- (iii) $0_p \notin \bar{B}_p \Rightarrow \Sigma_p$ indicatrix for two **pseudo-Randers type**:
 $F(v) = -\sqrt{h(v, v)} - \beta(v)$, $F_I(v) = \sqrt{h(v, v)} - \beta(v)$
 $A_p = \{v \in T_p M : h(v, v) > 0 \text{ and } -\beta(v) > 0\}$.
 $-h$ Lorentz, $\beta(v)^2 > \alpha(v, v)$, $v \in T_p M \setminus 0$.

Remark.

- The elements h, β cannot be chosen to match continuously in the Kropina region \rightsquigarrow complicated viewpoint
- However, this is possible when $0 \in \bar{B}_p, \forall p \in M$
 \rightsquigarrow “Randers-Kropina” metric appears:
lengths, distances, geodesics *formally* definible as a *limit* of the standard Finslerian case...
(but with striking differences!)

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- 3 Mild and critical Wind: Randers-Kropina (Causal K)
- 4 Arbitrary wind and wind Riemannian structures

Notion of SSTK

A spacetime $(\mathbb{R} \times M, g)$ is *standard with a space-transverse Killing vector field (SSTK)* when

$$g = -(\Lambda \circ \pi)dt^2 + \pi^*\omega \otimes dt + dt \otimes \pi^*\omega + \pi^*g_0,$$

(necessarily $\Lambda > -\|\omega\|_0^2$) $\pi : \mathbb{R} \times M \rightarrow M$ projection

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$$\partial_t \text{ Killing and } \begin{cases} \text{timelike} & \Lambda > 0 \\ \text{lightlike} & \Lambda = 0 \\ \text{spacelike} & \Lambda < 0 \end{cases}$$

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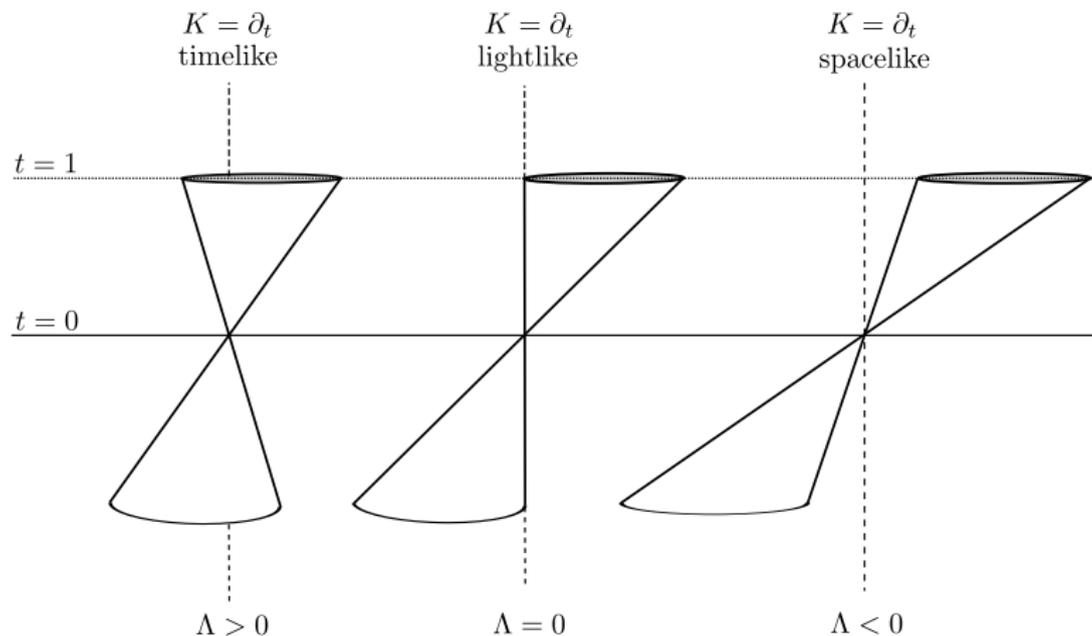
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The projection $t : \mathbb{R} \times M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ **temporal function**
[for v causal (timelike or lightlike), $dt(v) > 0$ defines the future direction]

Notion of SSTK



Wind Riemannian structure for a SSTK

The set of all the future-pointing lightlike directions determines:

$$\Sigma = \{v \in TM : (1, v) \text{ is (future-p.) lightlike in } T(\mathbb{R} \times M)\}$$

Proposition

Σ is a wind Riemannian structure

—the Fermat structure of the conformal class of the SSTK

Proof. $(1, v)$ lightlike iff $-\Lambda + 2\omega(v) + g_0(v, v) = 0$,

—pointwise ellipsoid by the Lorentzian condition $\Lambda > -\|\omega\|_0^2$. ■

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Remark: analogously for past: $\tilde{\Sigma} = -\Sigma$

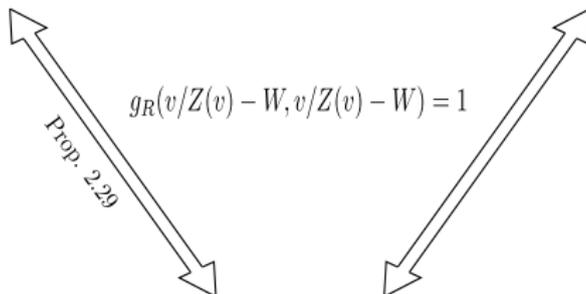
Wind Riemannian
structure
 (g_R, W)
(no restrictions)

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} g_0 = g_R \\ \omega = -g_R(\cdot, W) \end{array} \right\} \Lambda = 1 - g_R(W, W)$$



Theorem 3.11

Conformal class of
SSTK spacetime
 (g_0, ω, Λ)
 $g = g_0 + 2\omega dt - \Lambda dt^2$
with $\Lambda + \|\omega\|_{g_0}^2 > 0$
normalizable to
 $\Lambda = 1 - g_0(W, W)$

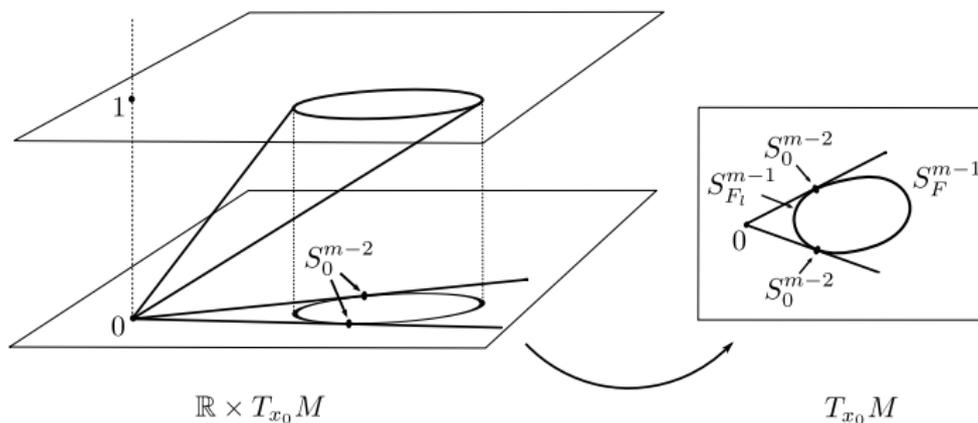


$$g_R(v/Z(v) - W, v/Z(v) - W) = 1$$

Zermelo structure Z
 (α, β)
 $0_p \in B_p$: α_p Riemannian, $\|\beta_p\|_\alpha < 1$
 $0_p \in \Sigma_p$: α_p Riemannian, $\beta_p \neq 0$
 $0_p \notin \bar{B}_p$: $-\alpha_p$ Lorentzian, $\beta_p^2 - \alpha_p$ Riemannian

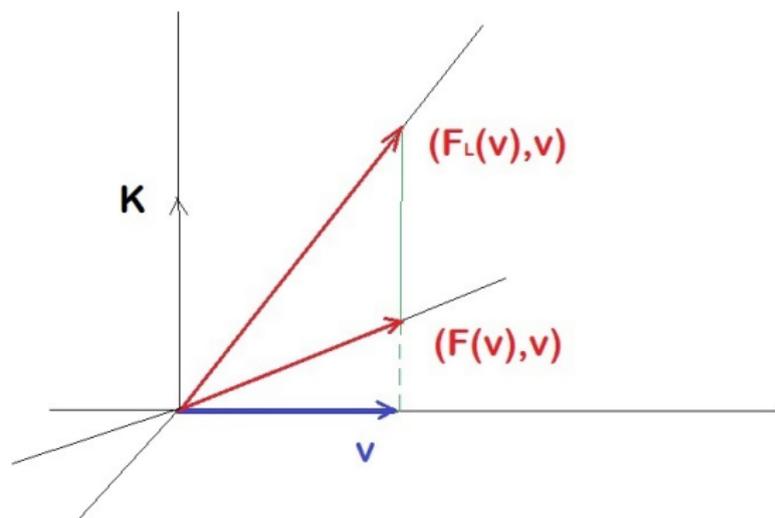
Interpretation of F and F_I

Region $M_I \equiv \{\Lambda < 0\}$ (∂_t spacelike)



Interpretation of F and F_l

Region $M_l \equiv \{\Lambda < 0\}$ (∂_t spacelike)



Interpretation of F and F_I

Explicit formulas:

$$F(v) = \frac{g_0(v,v)}{-\omega(v) + \sqrt{\Lambda g_0(v,v) + \omega(v)^2}}, \quad \forall v \in A$$
$$F_I(v) = -\frac{g_0(v,v)}{\omega(v) + \sqrt{\Lambda g_0(v,v) + \omega(v)^2}}, \quad \forall v \in A_I,$$

Interpretation of the metric in the root:

$$h(v, v) = \Lambda g_0(v, v) + \omega(v)^2$$

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Remark:

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- h well defined on all M

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Remark:

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- h well defined on all M

Proposition

Let $p_{\mathbb{R}}^{\perp} : T(\mathbb{R} \times M_{\Lambda \neq 0}) \rightarrow T(\mathbb{R} \times M_{\Lambda \neq 0})$ the *natural projection on the bundle* ∂_t^{\perp} *g -orthogonal to* ∂_t .

$$h(v, v) = -\Lambda g(p_{\mathbb{R}}^{\perp}(0, v), p_{\mathbb{R}}^{\perp}(0, v)) \quad \forall v \in T_x M, x \in M_{\Lambda \neq 0}$$

Summing up:

$-h/\Lambda$ is the metric for the projection on $K^\perp (= \partial_t^\perp)$
up to Λ , which allows its extension to all M

$$h \begin{cases} \text{Riemannian} & \text{if } \Lambda > 0 \\ \text{Lorentz with index } n-1 & \text{if } \Lambda < 0 \\ \text{Degenerate} & \text{if } \Lambda = 0 \end{cases}$$

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Case

$$K = \partial_t \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{Causal (timelike or lightlike)} & \Lambda \geq 0 \\ \text{Non-strong wind (mild or critical)} & g_R(W, W) \leq 1 \\ \text{Randers-Kropina metric} & F \end{array} \right.$$

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d_F : F -separation , formal distance but POSSIBLY:

- Non- symmetric
- $d_F(x, x) > 0$
- $d_F(x, y) = +\infty$ (even for $x = y$)

Characterization of chronology

Description of chronology in terms of d_F -balls

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Proposition

For any SSTK spacetime $(\mathbb{R} \times M, g)$ with causal K :

$$(t_0, x_0) \ll (t_1, x_1) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad d_F(x_0, x_1) < t_1 - t_0$$

$$I^+(t_0, x_0) = \{(t, y) : d_F(x_0, y) < t - t_0\},$$

$$I^-(t_0, x_0) = \{(t, y) : d_F(y, x_0) < t_0 - t\}.$$

Properties for d_F from non-trivial properties of limits of lightlike geodesics

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Proposition

For any Randers-Kropina metric F on M :

$d_F : M \times M \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ is continuous away from the diagonal

$$D = \{(x, x) : x \in M\} \subset M \times M.$$

Main theorem:

For any SSTK $(\mathbb{R} \times M, g)$ (necessarily stably causal) with causal K

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- Causal simplicity (closed $J^+(p)$, $J^-(p)$) **equivalent to any of:**
 - 1 (M, F) is **convex**: $x_0, x_1 \in M$ with $d_F(x_0, x_1) < \infty$ connectable by minimizing geodesic.
 - 2 $J^+(p)$ is closed $\forall p \in \mathbb{R} \times M$.
 - 3 $J^-(p)$ is closed $\forall p \in \mathbb{R} \times M$.

Full characterization of causality

- Global hyperbolicity ($J^+(p) \cap J^-(q)$ compact) equivalent to All $\bar{B}_F^+(x_0, r_1) \cap \bar{B}_F^-(x_1, r_2)$ compact

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 - 1 Closures $\bar{B}_F^+(x, r), \bar{B}_F^-(x, r)$ compact
 - 2 F forward and backward geodesically complete. (i.e. all geodesics extendible to $+\infty$ and $-\infty$)

Straightforward consequence: Hopf-Rinow type theorem

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Corollary

For any Randers-Kropina metric F on a manifold M :

- *Forward geodesic completeness* of F
 \iff *compactness of $\bar{B}^+(x, r)$ (forward closed balls)*
- \implies *compactness of $\bar{B}^+(x_1, r_1) \cap \bar{B}^-(x_2, r_2)$*
- \implies *convexity of (M, F)*

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Balls and geodesics for wind Finsler

No “distance” d_F for wind Riemannian

↪ redefinitions of balls and geodesics for any wind Finsler
–simplify here always by using “wind curves” (w.c.) with
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Wind balls:

$$B_{\Sigma}^{+}(x_0, r) = \{x \in M \mid \exists \gamma \text{ w. c.} : \ell_F(\gamma) < r < \ell_{F_1}(\gamma)\},$$

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Wind c-balls:

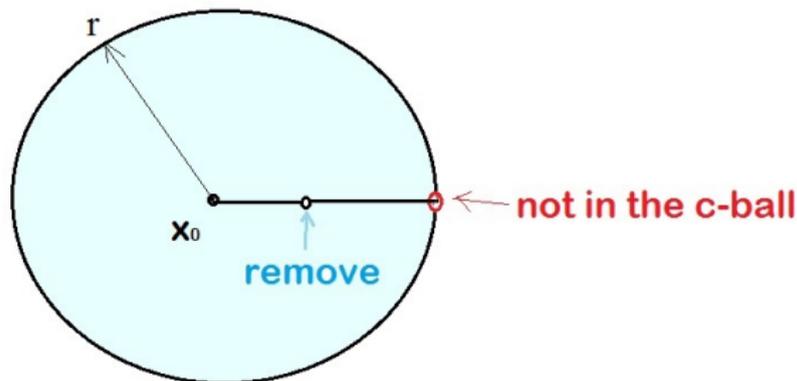
$$\hat{B}_{\Sigma}^{+}(x_0, r) = \{x \in M \mid \exists \gamma \text{ w. c.} : \ell_F(\gamma) \leq r \leq \ell_{F_1}(\gamma)\},$$

$$\hat{B}_{\Sigma}^{-}(x_0, r) = \{x \in M \mid \exists \gamma \text{ w. c.} : \ell_F(\gamma) \leq r \leq \ell_{F_1}(\gamma)\}.$$

Balls and geodesics for wind Finsler

Closed balls: $\bar{B}_{\Sigma}^{+}(x_0, r), \bar{B}_{\Sigma}^{-}(x_0, r)$

$$B_{\Sigma}^{+}(x_0, r) \subset \hat{B}_{\Sigma}^{+}(x_0, r) \subset \bar{B}_{\Sigma}^{+}(x_0, r)$$



Balls and geodesics for wind Finsler

Extremizing (wind) pregeodesic: given $x_1 \in \hat{B}_\Sigma^+(x_0, r) \setminus B_\Sigma^+(x_0, r)$,
w. c. curve γ : $l_F(\gamma) \leq r \leq l_{F_1}(\gamma)$

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Pregeodesic: locally extremizing pregeodesic

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Proposition

Let γ geodesic parametrized by arc length for a wind Finslerian structure (M, Σ) : $\dot{\gamma}(\mathbf{t}) \in \mathbf{A}$ (open)

Then γ is a (standard) unit geodesic for either F or F_I .

Characterization of causal relations in SSTK

Proposition

Let $(\mathbb{R} \times M, g)$ a SSTK:

$$I^+(t_0, x_0) = \cup_{s>0} \{t_0 + s\} \times B_{\Sigma}^+(x_0, s),$$

$$J^+(t_0, x_0) = \cup_{s \geq 0} \{t_0 + s\} \times \hat{B}_{\Sigma}^+(x_0, s)$$

Moreover:

$$(t_1, x_1) \in J^+(t_0, x_0) \setminus I^+(t_0, x_0) \iff$$

$$\exists \gamma \text{ extremizing geodesic from } x_0 \text{ to } x_1 : \begin{cases} l_F(\gamma) = t_1 - t_0 \\ l_{F_I}(\gamma) = t_1 - t_0 \end{cases}$$

Consequences for wind Riemannian

Characterization of wind geodesics, **solution of navigation**
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Theorem

Let (M, Σ) be a wind Riemannian structure. A wind curve x in M_I is a wind geodesic $\iff x$ is

- a (standard) *geodesic of F, F_I* or
- a *lightlike geodesic of $-h$* (Lorentzian metric).

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Moreover, given $x_0 \in M$, $\exists \epsilon > 0$:

- the c -balls $\hat{B}^\pm(x, r)$ are compact, and
- the F (resp. F_I) geodesics parametrized by the arc length departing from x_0 are defined on all $[0, r]$ and are global minima (resp. local maxima).

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w-convexity : **the c-balls are closed**

Full characterization of causality

- Global hyperbolicity equivalent to any of

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- 2 Accessible regions for Σ (**including planes and ships**) and K -horizons:
determined by $-h$ (in M_I and its “Newtonian limit” in $\Lambda = 0$)

3 Cauchy developments:

fully characterization in terms of the “wind-distance” to a subset

↪ properties of smoothness of the distance to a subset

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- Riemannian case: horizons in a product spacetime (Chrusciel, Fu, Galloway and Howard '02)
- Finslerian case (connections with Hamilton-Jacobi, Li, Nirenberg '05): horizons in a standard stationary spacetime (Caponio, Javaloyes, — '11)
- Randers-Kropina and properly Wind Finsler: further results, including interpretations and generalizations of results for trapped surfaces (Mars and Reiris '12).

4 Fermat principle:

holds for the arrival time to integral curves of $K = \partial_t$ even when they are spacelike!

5 Existence of closed geodesics

- Muito obrigado pela vossa atenção
- Thank you very much for your attention
- Muchas gracias por vuestra atención