

Non-Existence of Trouser-Worlds

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Received September 15, 1966

Abstract. Simple restrictions are derived on the global structure of normal hyperbolic Riemannian spaces. As a consequence, cosmological models of the trouser type are ruled out irrespective of field equations.

A well-known phenomenon in astronomy is the appearance of new visible objects in the sky. This led JORDAN to the conjecture that gravity theory might offer cosmological models in which separate *spaces unite* at some finite time, yielding a discrete growth of the observable matter in the universe. In order to have an imaginable model in mind, think of a 2-dimensional pair of trousers in Minkowskian 3-space such that the vertical direction is timelike: horizontal sections of this “trouser world” are two circles near the bottom, and one circle at hip level. In other words: space sections are disconnected at some time, and connected at another. However, closer inspection shows that this model does not carry a regular metric: near the saddle point its signature changes from normal hyperbolic to (positive) definite. Is this failure unavoidable, i.e. independent of imbedding, and dimension? We are going to prove a simple lemma which indeed denies the existence of trouser worlds. (Further relevant global properties will be presented by SEIFERT in a later article.)

Lemma. *Consider a g -complete [1] Riemannian space of continuity class C_2 containing a continuous surface Σ , and a continuous unit vector field u^a over Σ . Follow the geodesics which start on Σ with direction u^a up to (eigen) distance s (from Σ). The “geodesic map” $\Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma(s)$ of Σ onto the points $\Sigma(s)$ thus obtained is continuous for every s .*

Proof. It suffices to show that the image points $x_k(s)$ of a converging point sequence x_k in Σ converge towards the image point $x(s)$ of the limit x of x_k (with respect to the coordinate topology). Note that the geodesics of a C_2 -space cannot split because their differential equation satisfies a Lipschitz condition.

Suppose now that for a certain s , $x_k(s)$ does not converge towards $x(s)$, and call s_0 the infimum of all such s . Consequently, the geodesic segments g_k converge pointwise towards g for all s smaller than s_0 ; and so do their tangent vectors

$\dot{x}^a := dx^a/ds$, and coordinate acceleration vectors $\ddot{x}^a := -\Gamma_{bc}^a \dot{x}^b \dot{x}^c$. For if not, one could find a subsequence whose $\dot{x}_k^a(s_1)$ converge towards a vector differing from $\dot{x}^a(s_1)$; which conflicts with the convergence of g_k around s_1 . Next observe that $x_k(s_0)$ converges towards $x(s_0)$. In order to see this we introduce a normal coordinate system S in $x(s_0)$, and assume that convergence is violated. It is then possible to choose a subsequence of g_k whose intersections with a small sphere around $x(s_0)$ converge towards a point not contained in g . But this contradicts the fact that $\dot{x}^a(s)$ converges for all $s < s_0$, and that \ddot{x}^a is a first order quantity at the origin of S . Finally we see that $x_k(s)$ converges towards $x(s)$ for an open interval of distances s containing s_0 . This follows from the continuous dependence of solutions of differential equations on their initial values in sufficiently small domains: $x_k(s) \rightarrow x(s)$ holds for $x_k(s_0) \rightarrow x(s_0)$, $\dot{x}_k^a(s_0) \rightarrow \dot{x}^a(s_0)$. The existence of an s_0 has thereby been refuted.

The lemma has interesting *consequences*. Recall for instance that the continuous image of a connected (compact) manifold is connected (compact), and that a simply connected image implies a simply connected inverse image. If in cosmology, Σ is taken to be a spacelike hypersurface intersecting every matter worldline, and if the matter 4-velocity is chosen as u^a , then the lemma implies that matter can *never separate* into disjoint pieces.

In conclusion, let us define a *trouser world* as a spacetime model which a) can be divided, by means of two space sections Σ_{\pm} , into three disjoint parts: the future of Σ_+ , the past of Σ_- , and the rest, and such that b) Σ_+ is connected whereas Σ_- consists of at least two connectivity components Σ_j with disjoint past, c) timelike geodesics meeting Σ_+ meet Σ_- within a uniform interval of eigen time, and d) for each Σ_j there exists a timelike geodesic meeting both Σ_j , and Σ_+ . This definition expresses what we understand by "uniting spaces". The lemma implies that such a world cannot exist: Choose Σ_+ as the surface Σ from the lemma, and take for u^a a past directed timelike vector field such that in some points x_j of Σ_+ , u^a agrees with the tangent of a geodesic meeting Σ_j . For sufficiently large s , the geodesic image $\Sigma(s)$ must have swept past Σ_- , i.e. must have torn if the past of Σ_- was disconnected; which contradicts the lemma.

Acknowledgements. These problems have been stimulated by WOLFGANG BUDICH, and developed in discussions with JOHN MADORE, PROFESSOR A. PAPANETROU, and HANS-JÜRGEN SEIFERT.

Literatur

- [1] KUNDT, W.: Z. Physik **172**, 488 (1963).