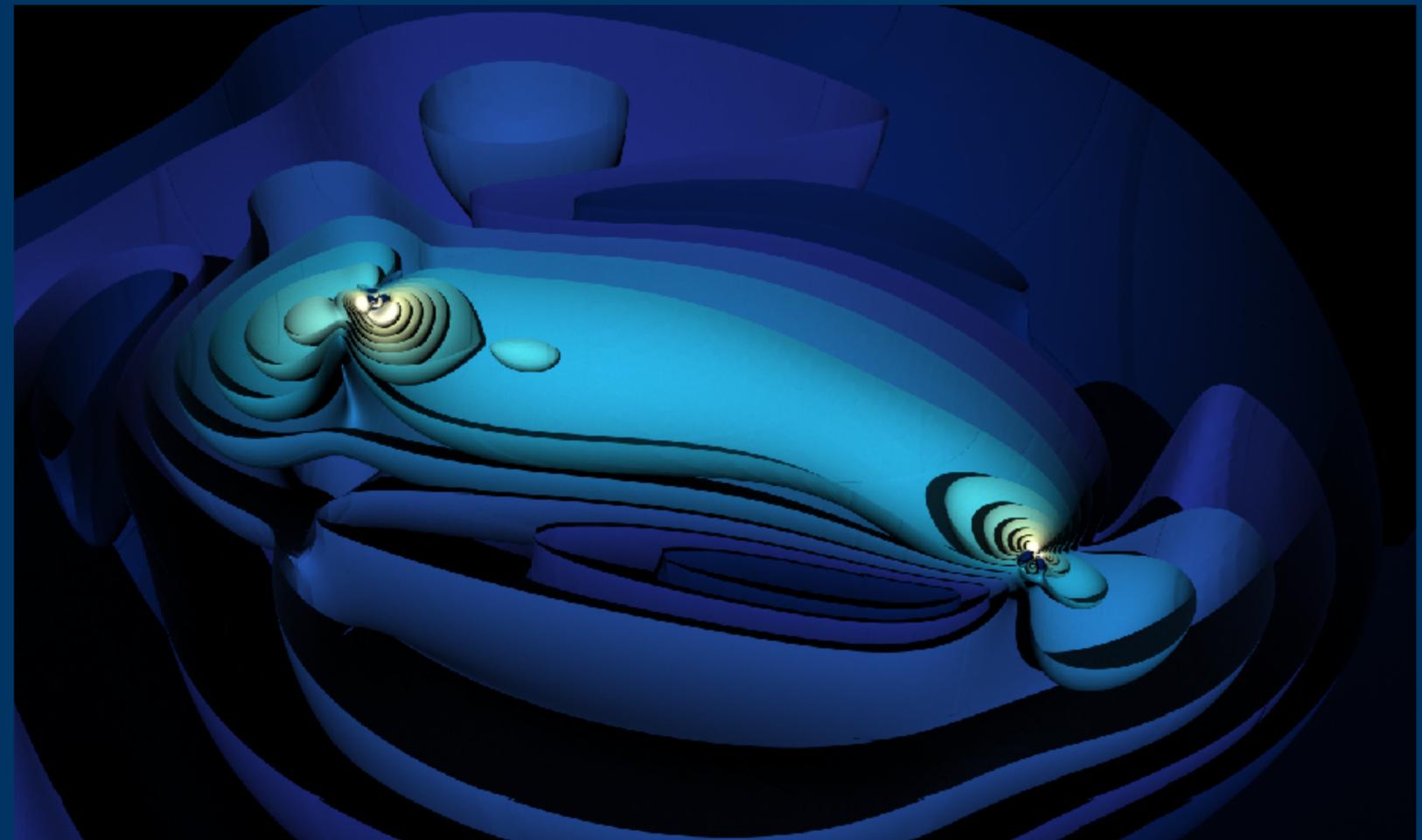


# Advanced Numerical Relativity

Dr Katy Clough

Ernest Rutherford Fellow

Queen Mary University of London



*Image credit: Bamber/KC/Cielo*

# Practical ~~Advanced~~ Numerical Relativity

Katy Clough





## Secrets of “advanced” NR people:

- Make lots of mistakes
- Take the time to learn from your mistakes
- Immerse yourself in the code, visualise the data
- Don't give up or lose hope... it will work!

**Topic of these sessions:  
What are the possible  
mistakes one can make  
when setting up a  
numerical relativity  
simulation?**



# Specific questions we will address

- Does the physical problem require NR?
- How do I choose my initial data?
- What is the right formulation and gauge?
- How should I set the (many) parameters?
- What diagnostics do I want to extract?
- How can I be sure my simulation is correct?

# BabyGRChombo is broken!

KAClough / **BabyGRChombo** Public

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README.md

## BabyGRChombo

A spherically symmetric BSSN code used for teaching NR - FIXME!

# Format for the lectures

## Session 1 (now):

- Brief reminder of the big picture - GR and NR 101
- We will discuss and play “spot the deliberate mistake” for each of our questions
- We will look at the relevant parts of BabyGRChombo, a python code that implements NR in spherical symmetry, and think about what could be wrong at each stage

## Session 2 (tomorrow):

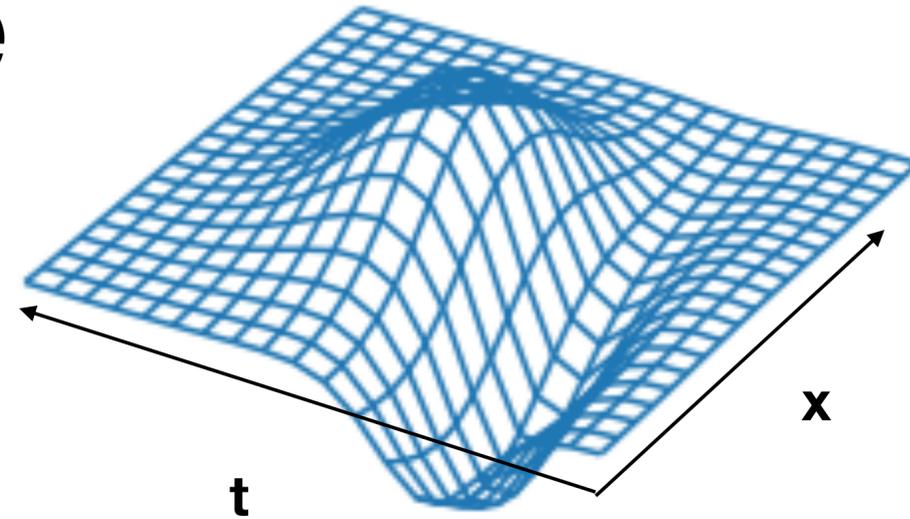
- We will try to fix / upgrade BabyGRChombo
- Ask questions about things you have seen but haven't understood

# GR & NR 101

$$R_{ab} - R/2 g_{ab} = 8\pi T_{ab}$$

# Curved spacetime

$$ds^2 = f(x, t) dt^2 + g(x, t) dx^2 + 2 h(x, t) dt dx$$



$$ds^2 = \begin{pmatrix} dt & dx \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f(x, t) & h(x, t) \\ h(x, t) & g(x, t) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} dt \\ dx \end{pmatrix}$$

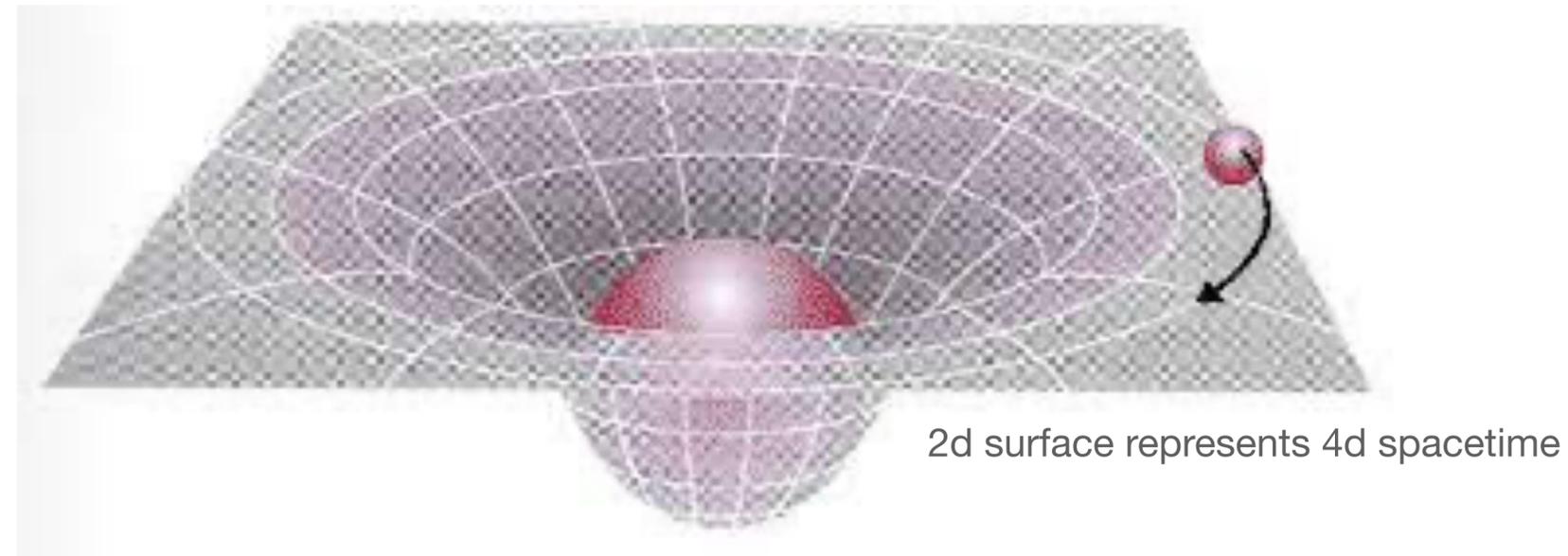
# Curved spacetime

$$ds^2 = (dt \quad dx \quad dy \quad dz) \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} g_{00} & g_{01} & g_{02} & g_{03} \\ g_{10} & g_{11} & g_{12} & g_{13} \\ g_{20} & g_{21} & g_{22} & g_{23} \\ g_{30} & g_{31} & g_{32} & g_{33} \end{pmatrix}}_{\text{“The spacetime metric”}} \begin{pmatrix} dt \\ dx \\ dy \\ dz \end{pmatrix}$$

“The spacetime metric”

$$g_{ab}(t, \vec{x})$$

The Einstein equation tells us how the metric should look, given some energy/matter distribution



$$R_{ab} - R/2 g_{ab} = 8\pi T_{ab}$$

*“Matter tells spacetime how to curve...”*

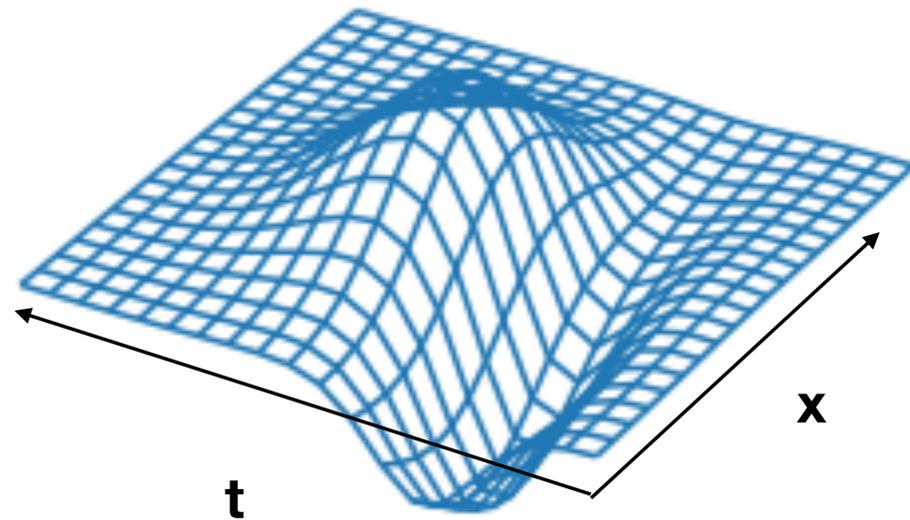
# The Einstein equation tells us how the metric should look, given some energy/matter distribution

4 constraint equations for any time slice - non linear elliptic/Poisson equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \text{non linear terms} = f(\text{energy, momentum})$$

An evolution equation for all time - non linear hyperbolic/wave equation

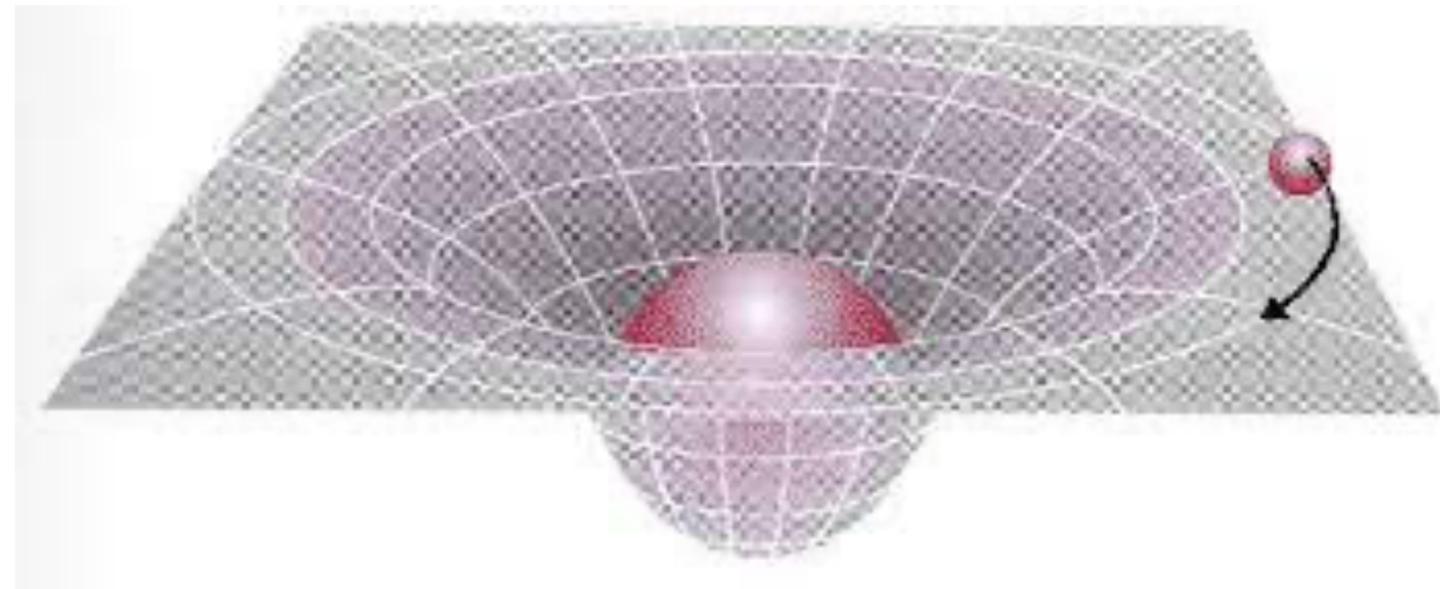
$$\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \text{non linear terms} = f(\text{energy, momentum})$$



$$\mathbf{R}_{ab} - \mathbf{R}/2 \mathbf{g}_{ab} = 8\pi \mathbf{T}_{ab}$$

*“Matter tells spacetime how to curve...”*

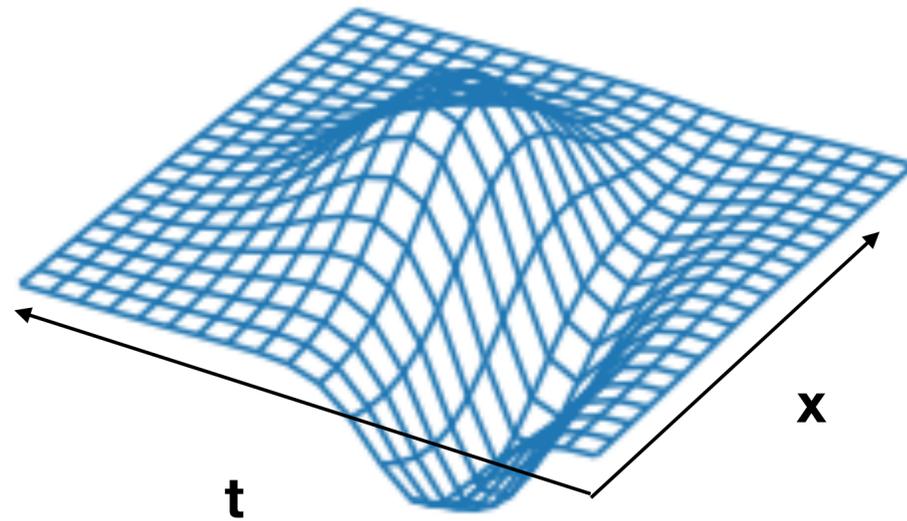
# The metric determines the motion of matter



$$R_{ab} - R/2 g_{ab} = 8\pi T_{ab}$$

*"...spacetime tells matter how to move."*

# The metric determines the motion of matter



$$R_{ab} - R/2 g_{ab} = 8\pi T_{ab}$$

Continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \underbrace{\nabla}_{g_{ab}} \cdot \mathbf{j} = \underbrace{\text{source}}_{g_{ab}}$$

“...spacetime tells matter how to move.”

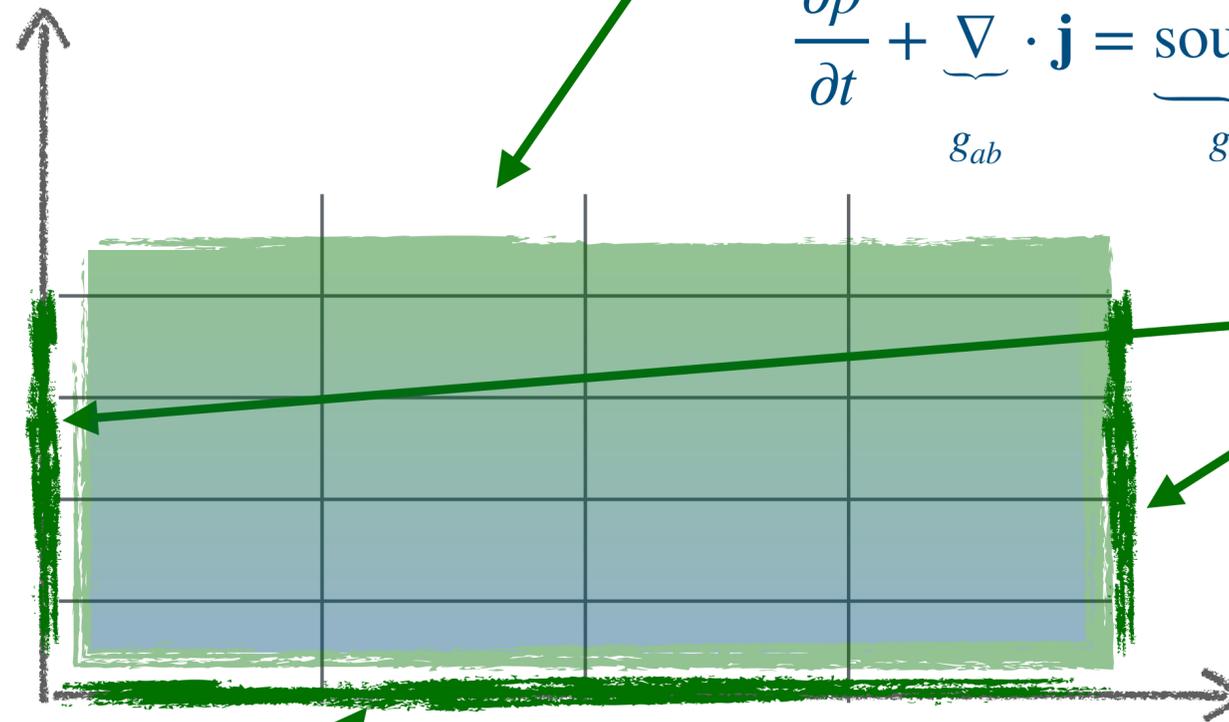
# Numerical relativity

Fill using Einstein equation and continuity for matter

$$\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \text{non linear terms} = f(\text{energy, momentum})$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \underbrace{\nabla \cdot \mathbf{j}}_{g_{ab}} = \underbrace{\text{source}}_{g_{ab}}$$

"local time"



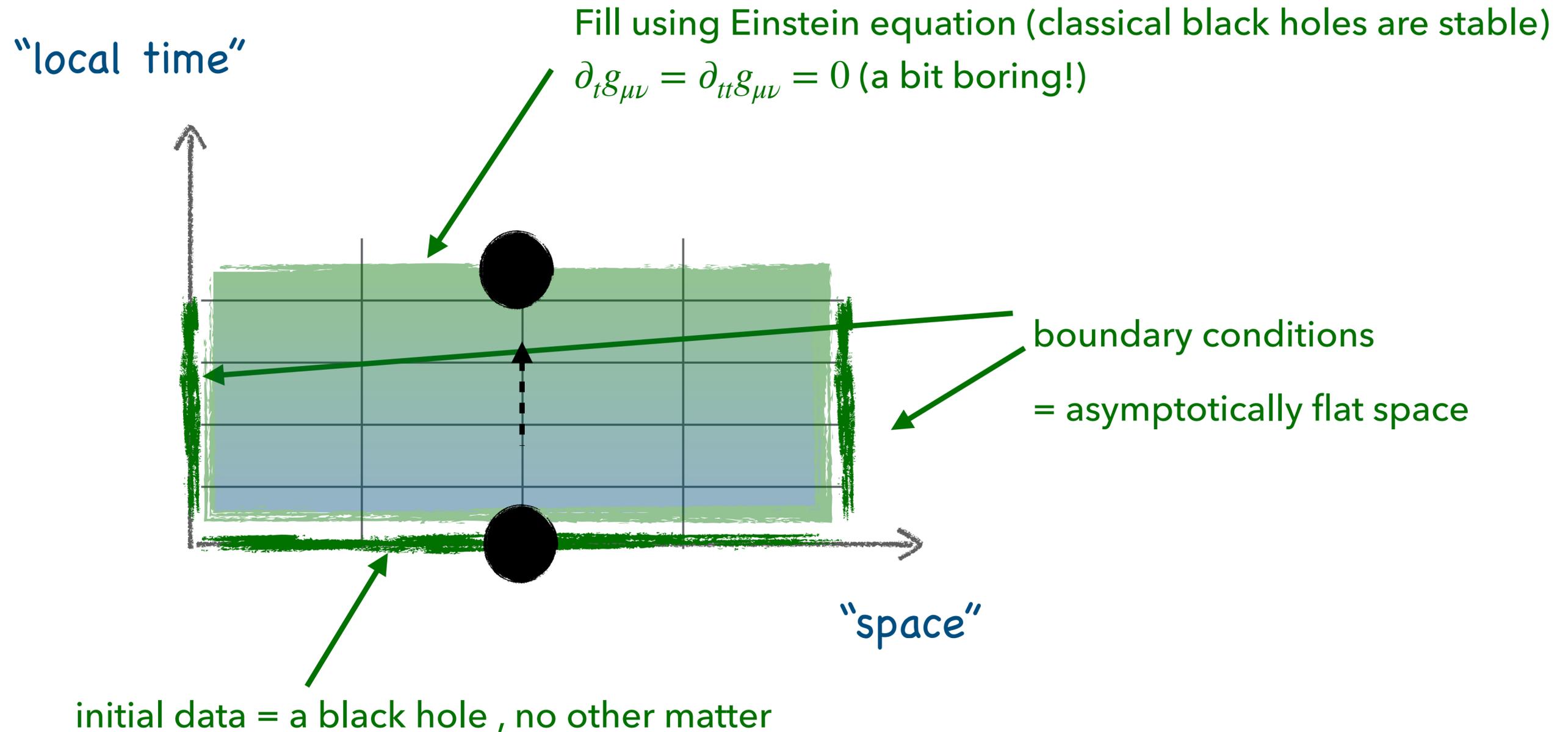
boundary conditions

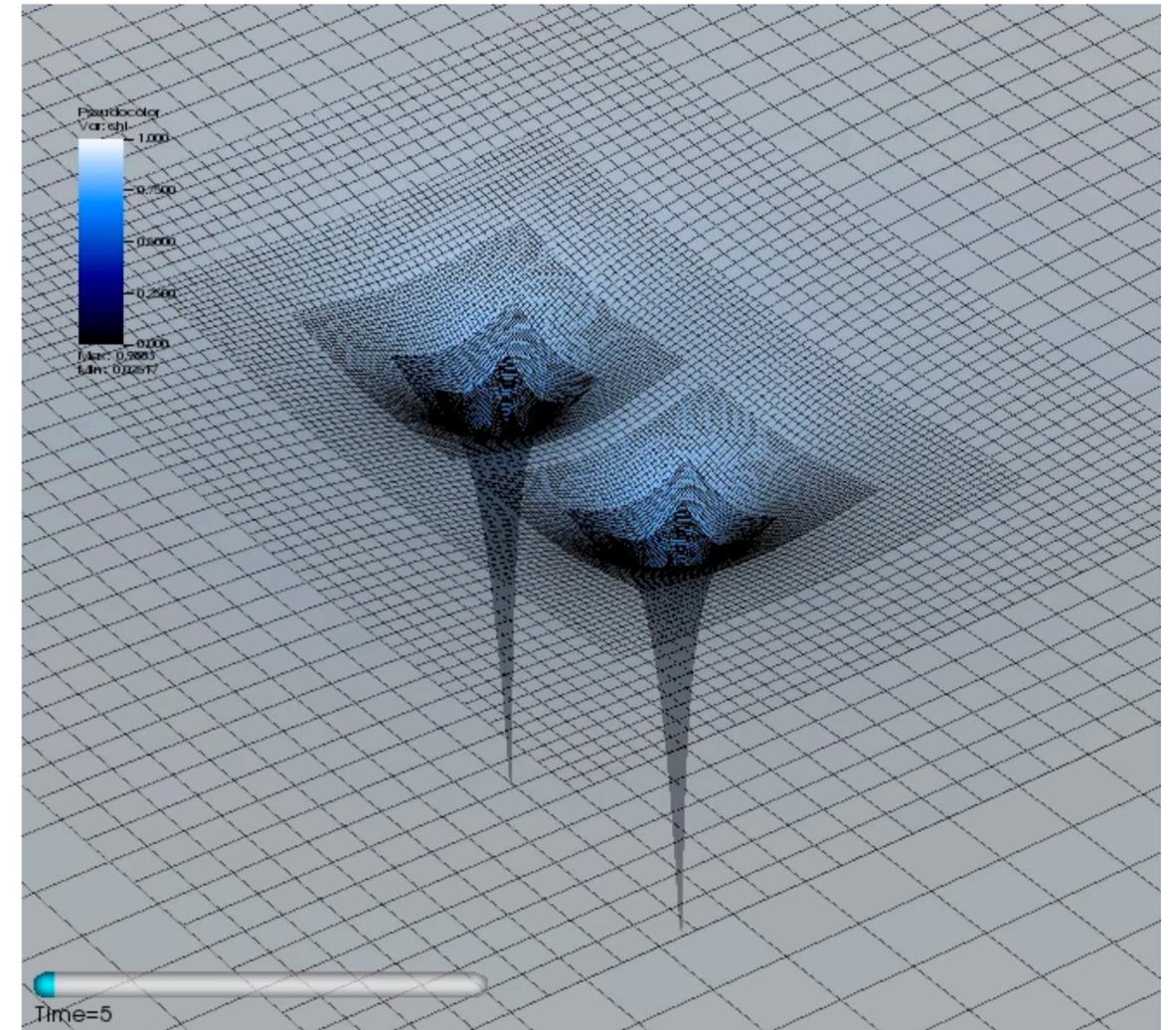
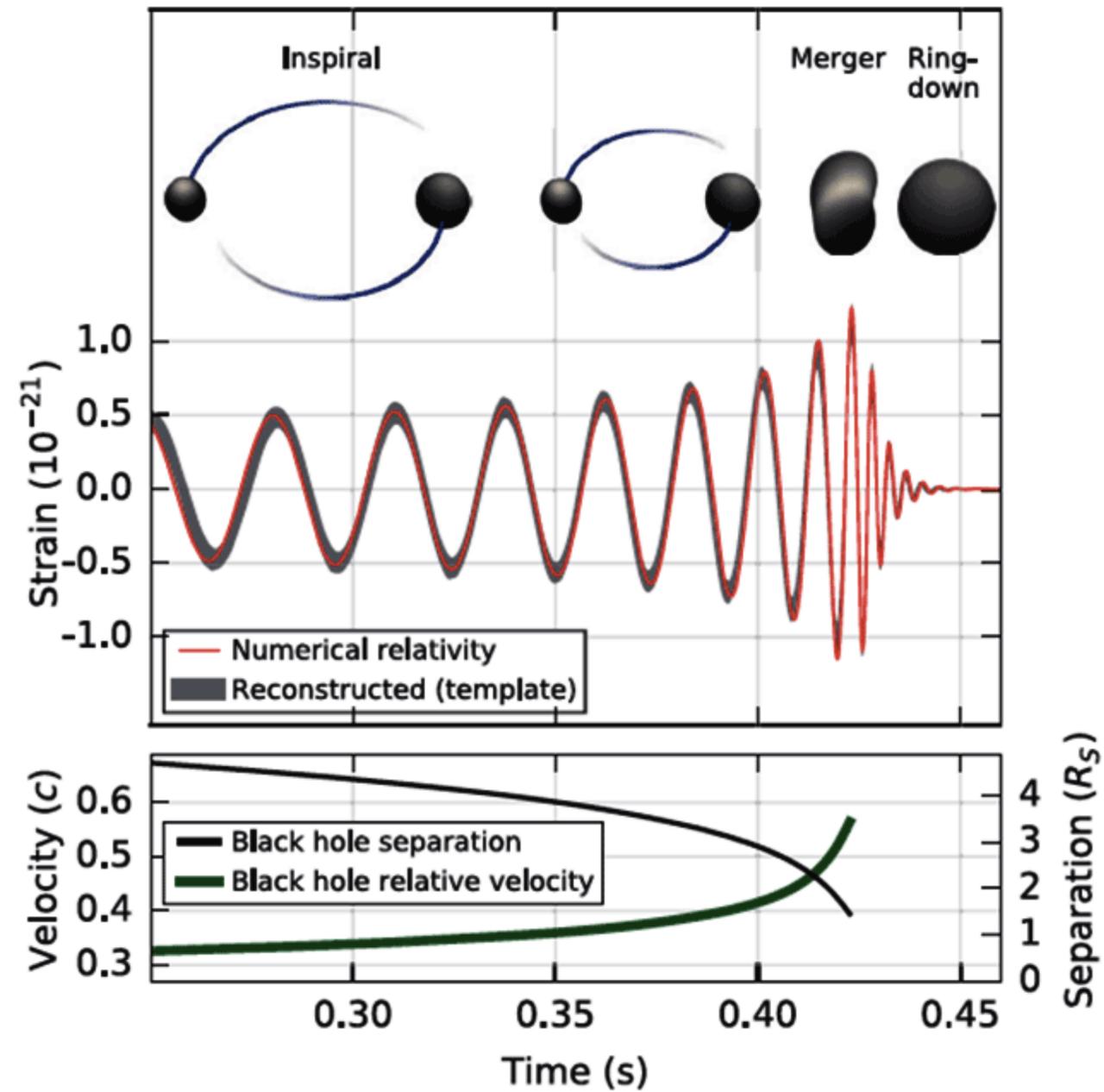
$$(\partial_{xx} g_{ab}, \partial_x g_{ab}, g_{ab}, T_{ab})$$

initial data  $(\partial_t g_{ab}, g_{ab}, T_{ab})$  satisfying

$$\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \text{non linear terms} = f(\text{energy, momentum})$$

# Numerical relativity





# GW150914

t=14 September 2015, x = LIGO, Earth

(Roughly)  $\frac{1}{\det(g_{ab})}$

**Topic of this session:  
What are the possible  
mistakes one can make  
when setting up a  
numerical relativity  
simulation?**



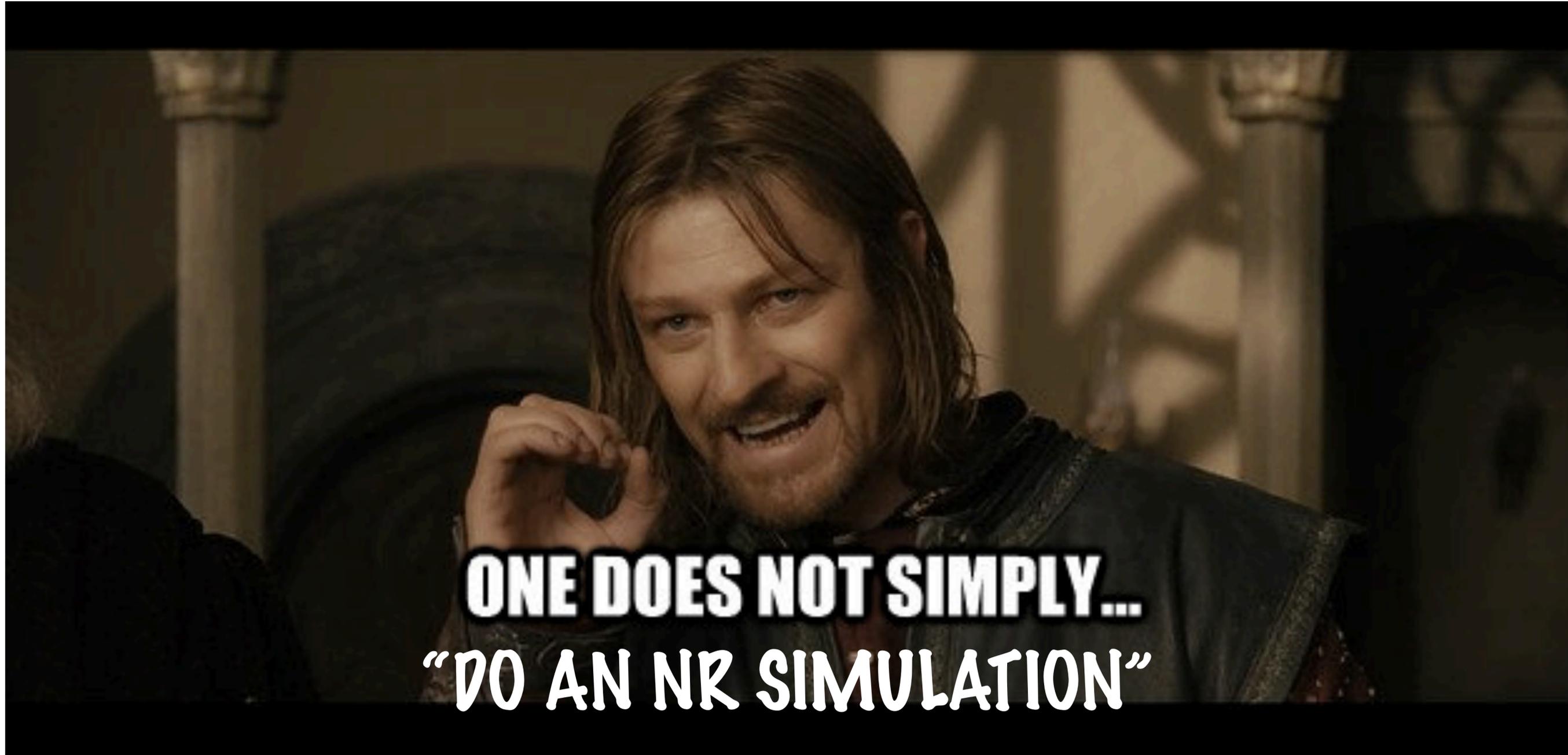
# Specific questions we will address

1. Does the physical problem require NR?
2. How do I choose my initial data?
3. What is the right formulation
4. What is the right gauge?
5. How should I set the (many) parameters?
6. What diagnostics do I want to extract?
7. How can I be sure my simulation is correct?

**Q1: Does the physical problem  
require NR?**

**=**

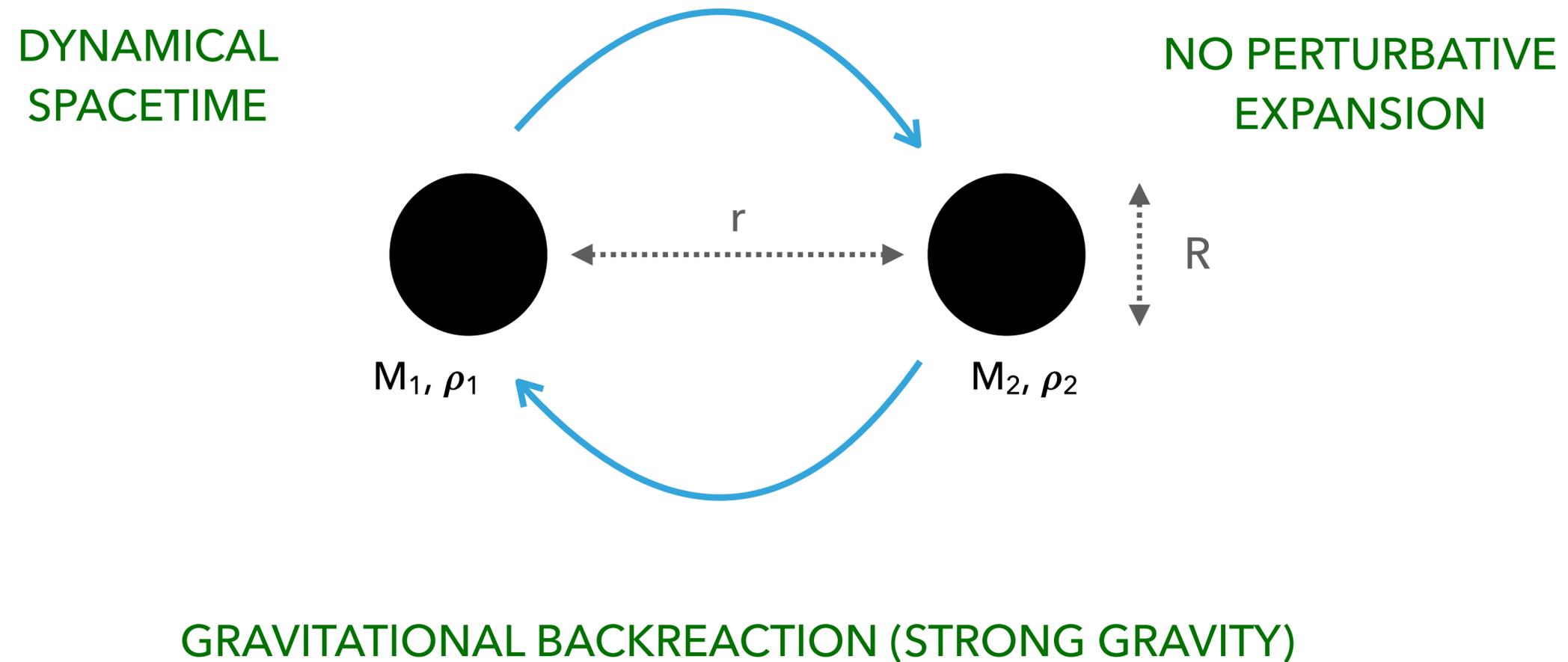
**What research problems can I  
solve that no one else can?**



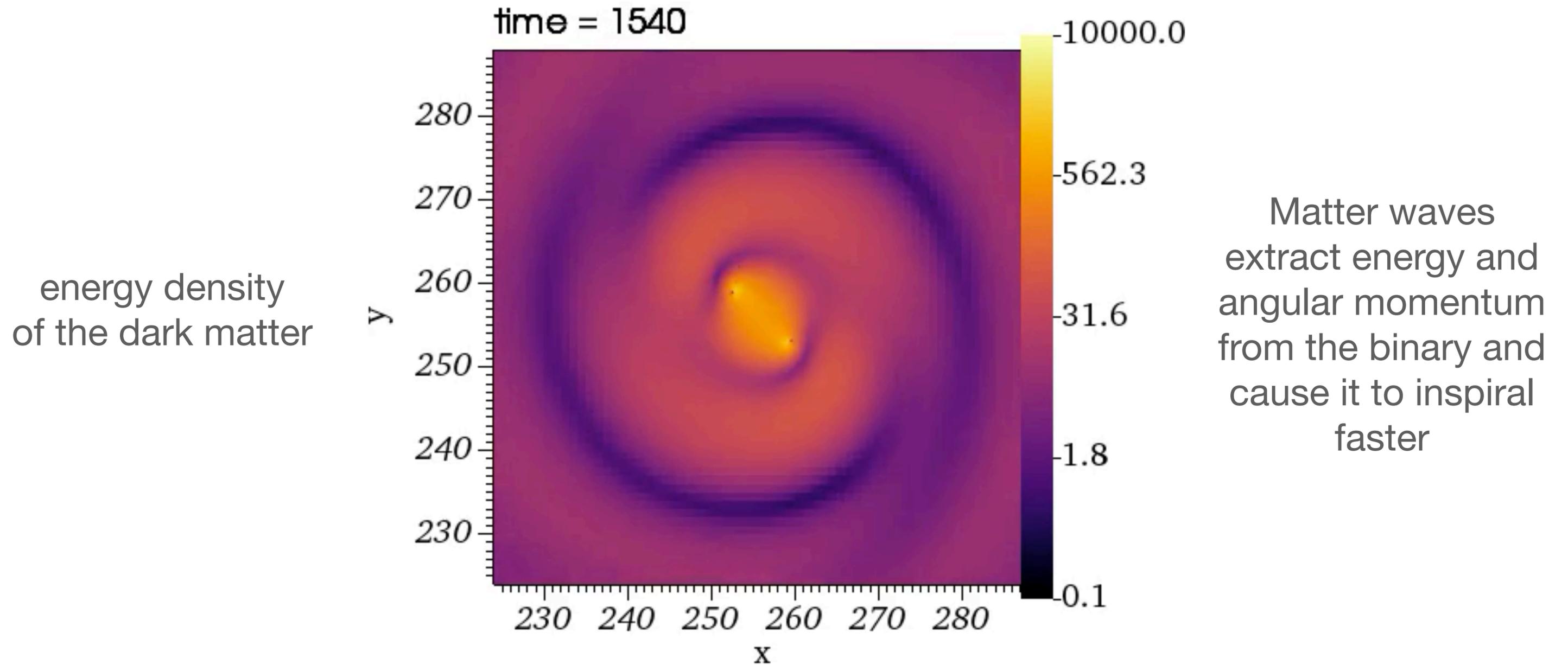
**ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY...**

**"DO AN NR SIMULATION"**

# Q: When do we need numerical relativity?



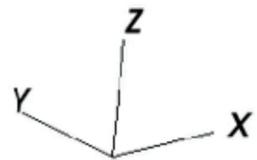
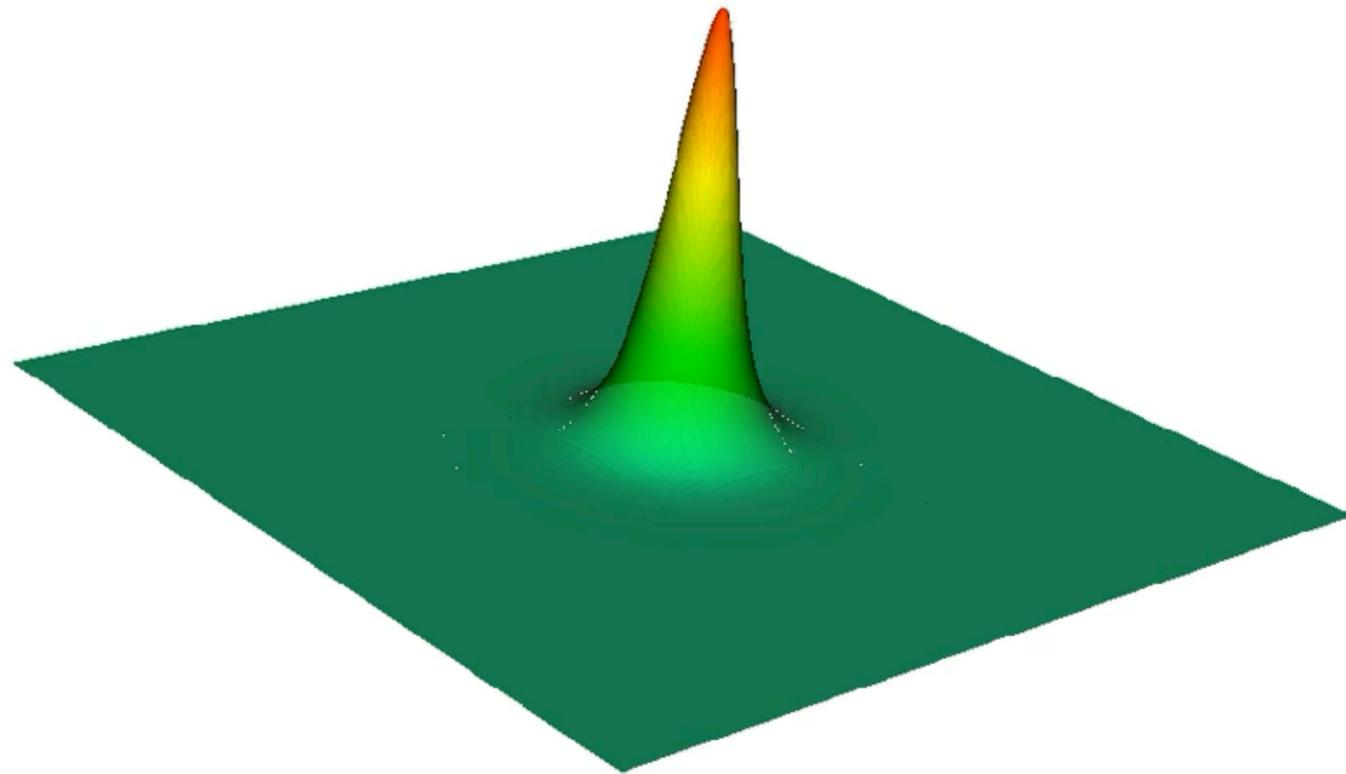
# e.g. black holes in low mass dark matter



Simulation credit: KC / J Bamber

# BabyGRChombo problem - oscillations

See Helfer et. al. 2016 (<https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.04724>)



- Do we need NR for this?

**Q2: How do I choose my initial data?**

**=**

**What initial data can I (fairly easily) solve for?**

# set gauge

lapse = 1.0

FOR (i) { shift [i] = 0.0 }

# set metric

chi = 1.0

FOR (i) { bar-gamma [i][i] = 1 }

# set matter

$u = 10.0 * \exp(-\Gamma * \Gamma)$   
 $* \Gamma^2$

v = 0.0

**What is  
wrong  
here?**

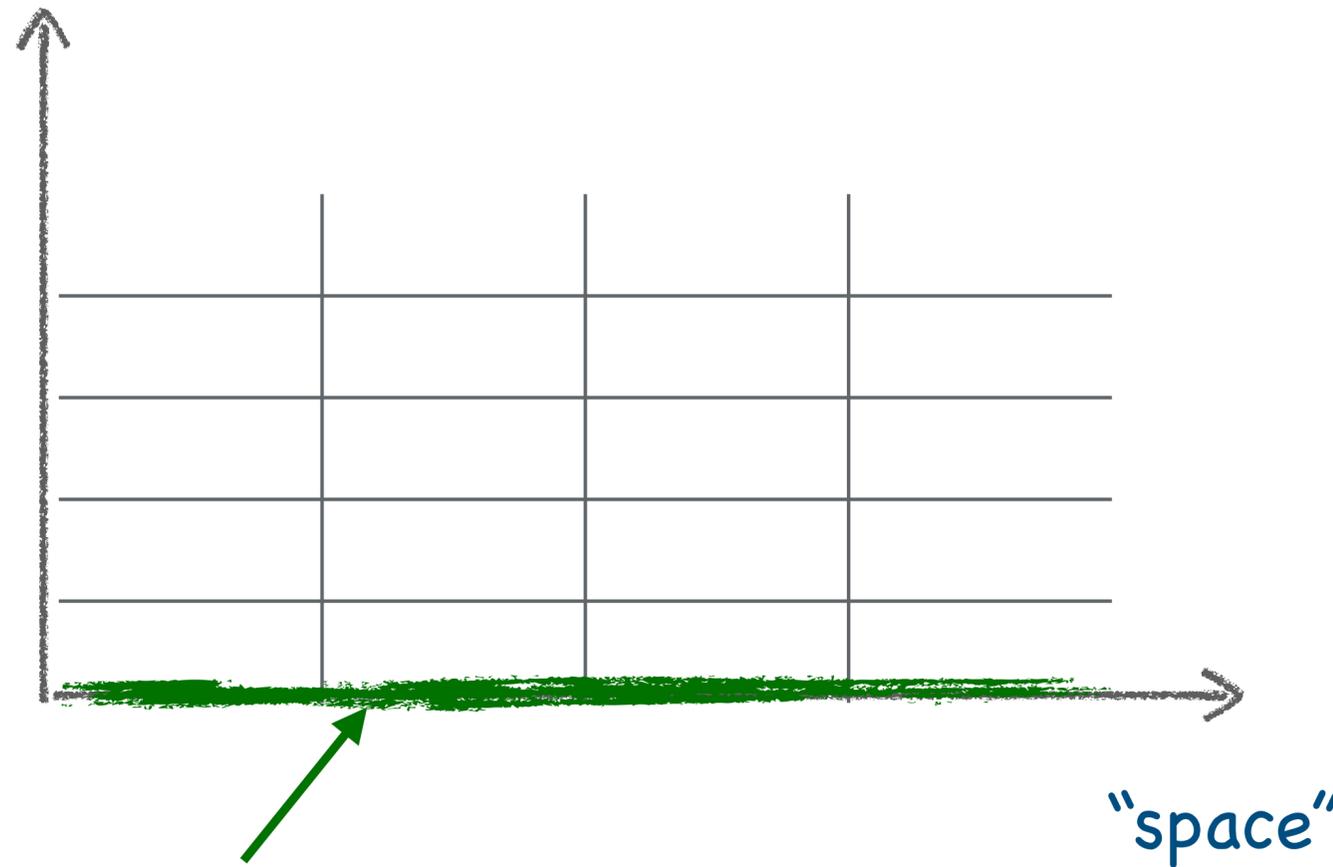
# Initial conditions

Given  $(\rho, S_i)$  configuration, choose  $(\gamma_{ij}, K_{ij})$  such that

$$\mathcal{H} \equiv {}^{(3)}R + K^2 + K_{ij}K^{ij} - 16\pi\rho = 0$$

$$\mathcal{M}_i \equiv D_j K^j_i - D_i K - 8\pi S_i = 0$$

“local time”



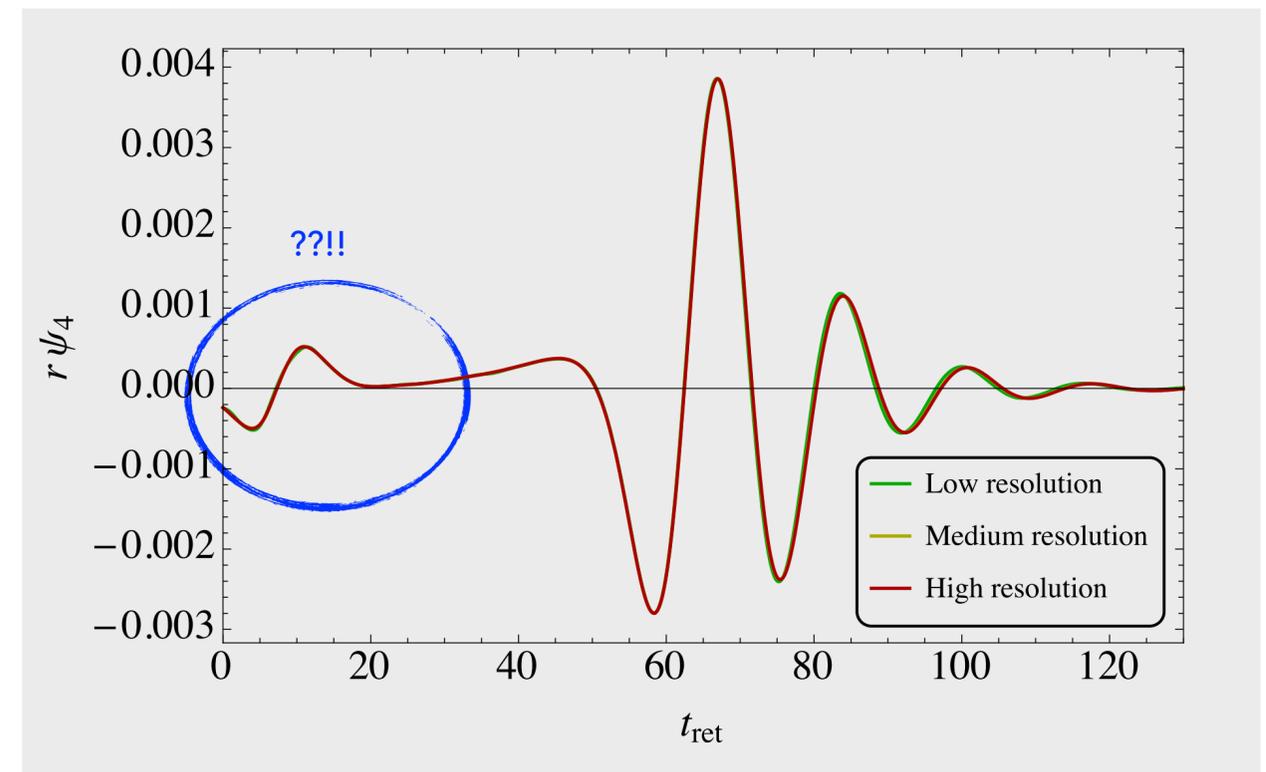
initial data  $(\partial_t g_{ab}, g_{ab}, T_{ab})$  satisfying  
 $\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \text{non linear terms} = f(\text{energy, momentum})$

# Counting degrees of freedom

Given  $(\rho, S_i)$  configuration, choose  $(\gamma_{ij}, K_{ij})$  - for now treat lapse and shift as gauge params

- 6 + 6 components to be chosen
- 4 constraints
- 8 remaining = 2 x 2 physical degrees of freedom (GW polarisations) + 4 coordinate choices

Not usually obvious how to separate these...



# BabyGRChombo initial conditions

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'KAClough / BabyGRChombo'. The repository is public and has 1 branch (main) and 0 tags. The commit history shows a recent commit by KAClough titled 'Add papers' with commit hash ec4dad2, made 2 minutes ago, containing 3 commits. The file list includes folders 'papers' and 'source', and files '.gitignore', 'BabyGRChombo.ipynb', 'LICENSE', 'README.md', 'myinitialconditions.py', and 'myparams.py'. The file 'myinitialconditions.py' is circled in red. Below the file list, the README.md content is displayed, featuring the title 'BabyGRChombo' and the description 'A spherically symmetric BSSN code used for teaching NR - FIXME!'.

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File	Commit Message	Time
papers	Add papers	2 minutes ago
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myparams.py	Initial commit of broken BabyGRChombo	3 minutes ago

README.md

## BabyGRChombo

A spherically symmetric BSSN code used for teaching NR - FIXME!

# BabyGRChombo initial conditions

110 lines (88 sloc) | 4.34 KB

```
1 # myinitialconditions.py
2
3 # set the initial conditions for all the variables
4
5 from myparams import *
6 from source.uservariables import *
7 from source.tensoralgebra import *
8 from source.fourthorderderivatives import *
9 import numpy as np
10 from scipy.interpolate import interp1d
11
12 def get_initial_vars_values() :
13
14     initial_vars_values = np.zeros(NUM_VARS * N)
15
16     # Use oscillaton data to construct functions for the vars
17     grr0_data = np.loadtxt("source/initial_data/grr0.csv")
18     lapse0_data = np.loadtxt("source/initial_data/lapse0.csv")
19     v0_data = np.loadtxt("source/initial_data/v0.csv")
20
21     # set up grid in radial direction in areal polar coordinates
22     dR = 0.01;
23     length = np.size(grr0_data)
24     R = np.linspace(0, dR*(length-1), num=length)
25     f_grr = interp1d(R, grr0_data)
26     f_lapse = interp1d(R, lapse0_data)
27     f_v = interp1d(R, v0_data)
28
29     for ix in range(num_ghosts, N-num_ghosts) :
30
31         # position on the grid
32         r_i = r[ix]
33
```

- Interpolates from some (constraint satisfying) data which was solved for using a shooting method
- This data is generated in areal polar gauge  $ds^2 = \alpha^2 dt^2 + g_{rr} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2$  but has to be converted into the appropriate form for the reference metric
- The scalar field is initially at  $u=0$  everywhere but with non zero conjugate momentum  $v$
- What could be wrong here?

**Q3: What is the right formulation?**

**=**

**What is the formulation in the  
code I am using? Can I read the  
code?**

# Calculate bg eqn 4

$$a = 2.0 * K -$$

$$3.0 / 2.0 * st$$

$$b = \{1.0, 0, \pi/3.0\}$$

$$\text{out} = a * b[2]$$

$$- a * b[0]$$

$$- 3.0 * b[1]$$

$$\text{out2} = \text{myfunction}(a, b, 67.3)$$

**What is  
wrong  
here?**

# BabyGRChombo formulation

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## BabyGRChombo

A spherically symmetric BSSN code used for teaching NR - FIXME!

# BabyGRChombo formulation

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main **BabyGRChombo / source /** Go to file Add file ...

 **KAClough** Initial commit of broken BabyGRChombo 2dc4b24 18 minutes ago [History](#)

..		
 initial_data	Initial commit of broken BabyGRChombo	18 minutes ago
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 diagnostics.py	Initial commit of broken BabyGRChombo	18 minutes ago
 fourthorderderivatives.py	Initial commit of broken BabyGRChombo	18 minutes ago
 mymatter.py	Initial commit of broken BabyGRChombo	18 minutes ago
 <b>rhsevolution.py</b>	Initial commit of broken BabyGRChombo	18 minutes ago
 tensoralgebra.py	Initial commit of broken BabyGRChombo	18 minutes ago
 uservariables.py	Initial commit of broken BabyGRChombo	18 minutes ago

# BabyGRChombo formulation

97 lines (72 sloc) | 4.23 KB

Raw Blame

```
1 # bssn_rhs.py
2 # as in Etienne https://arxiv.org/abs/1712.07658v2
3 # see also Baumgarte https://arxiv.org/abs/1211.6632 for the eqns with matter
4
5 import numpy as np
6 from myparams import *
7 from source.tensoralgebra import *
8
9 def get_rhs_phi(lapse, K, bar_div_shift) :
10
11     dphidt = (- one_sixth * lapse * K
12              + one_sixth * bar_div_shift)
13
14     return dphidt
15
16 def get_rhs_h(r_here, r_gamma_LL, lapse, traceA, bar_div_shift, hat_D_shift, a) :
17
18     dhdt = np.zeros_like(rank_2_spatial_tensor)
19     inv_scaling = np.array([1.0, 1.0/r_here, 1.0/r_here/sintheta])
20     for i in range(0, SPACEDIM):
21         for j in range(0, SPACEDIM):
22
23             # note that trace of \bar A_ij = 0 is enforced dynamically using the first term
24             # as in Etienne https://arxiv.org/abs/1712.07658v2 eqn (11a)
25             # recall that h is the rescaled quantity so we need to scale
26             dhdt[i][j] += ( two_thirds * r_gamma_LL[i][j] * (lapse * traceA - bar_div_shift)
27                          + inv_scaling[i] * inv_scaling[j] * (hat_D_shift[i][j] + hat_D_shift[j][i])
28                          - 2.0 * lapse * a[i][j])
29
30     return dhdt
```

- This is probably where the bugs are!
- Will need to check the equations to the papers provided
- Uses the reference metric approach for spherical symmetry which scales the tensors to remove singularities (don't worry too much about this, just check the equations!)
- Do you find the naming helpful? What would you change?

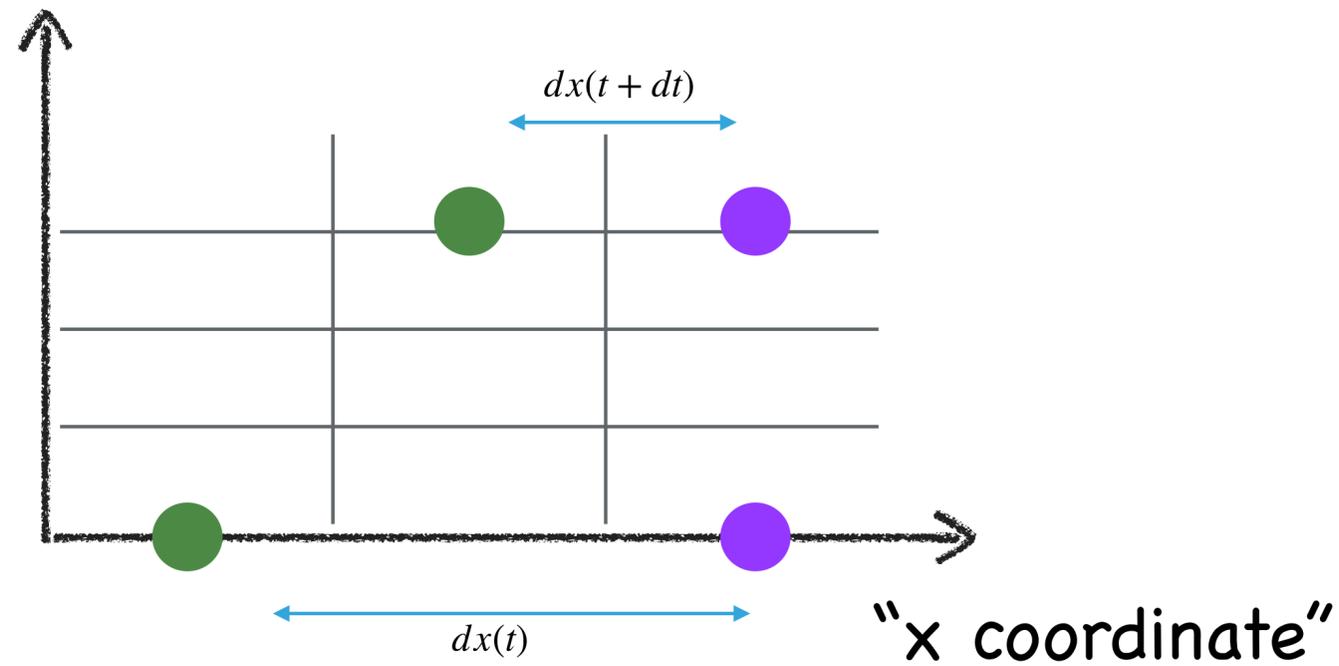
**Q4: What is the right gauge?**

**=**

**Do I understand my evolving  
coordinates?**

## CODE VIEW

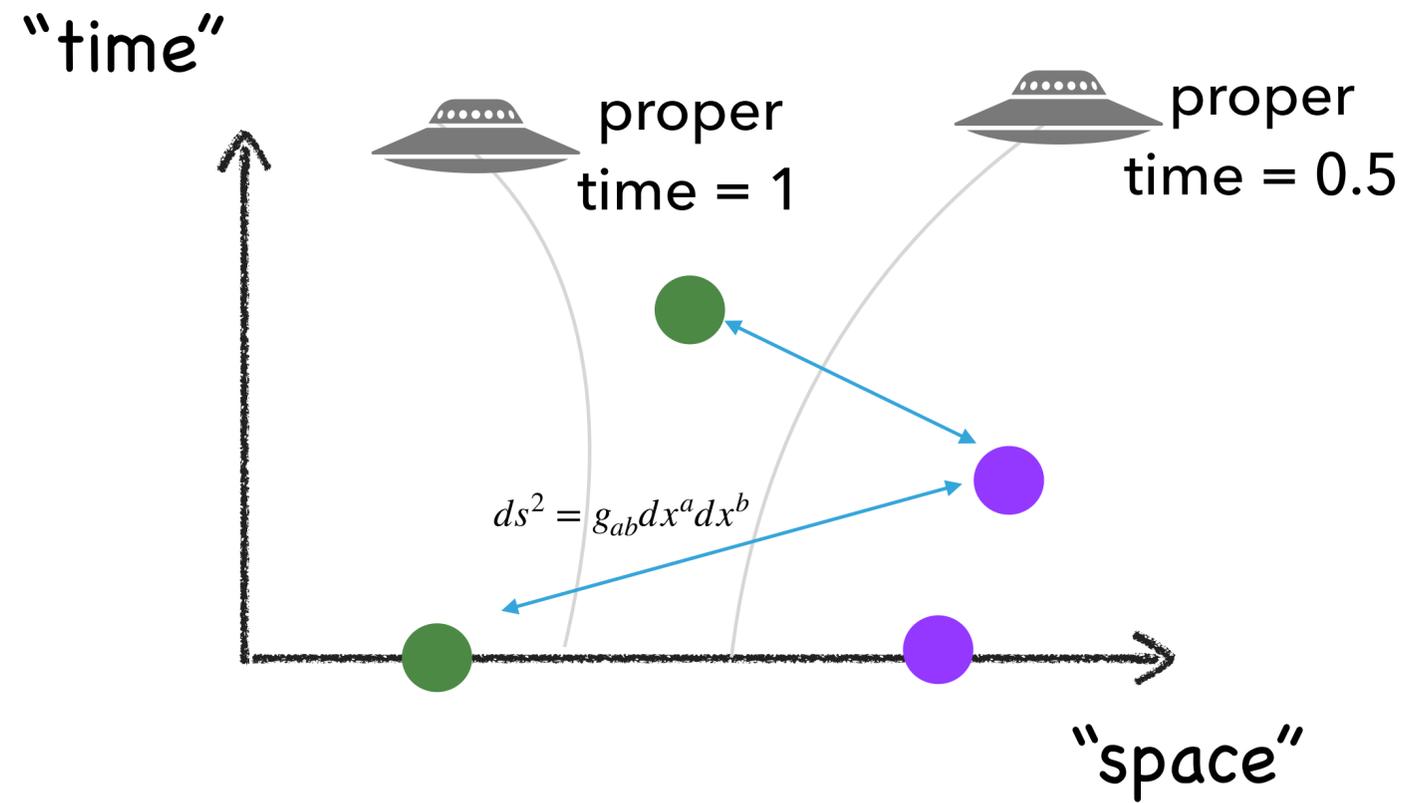
"time coordinate"



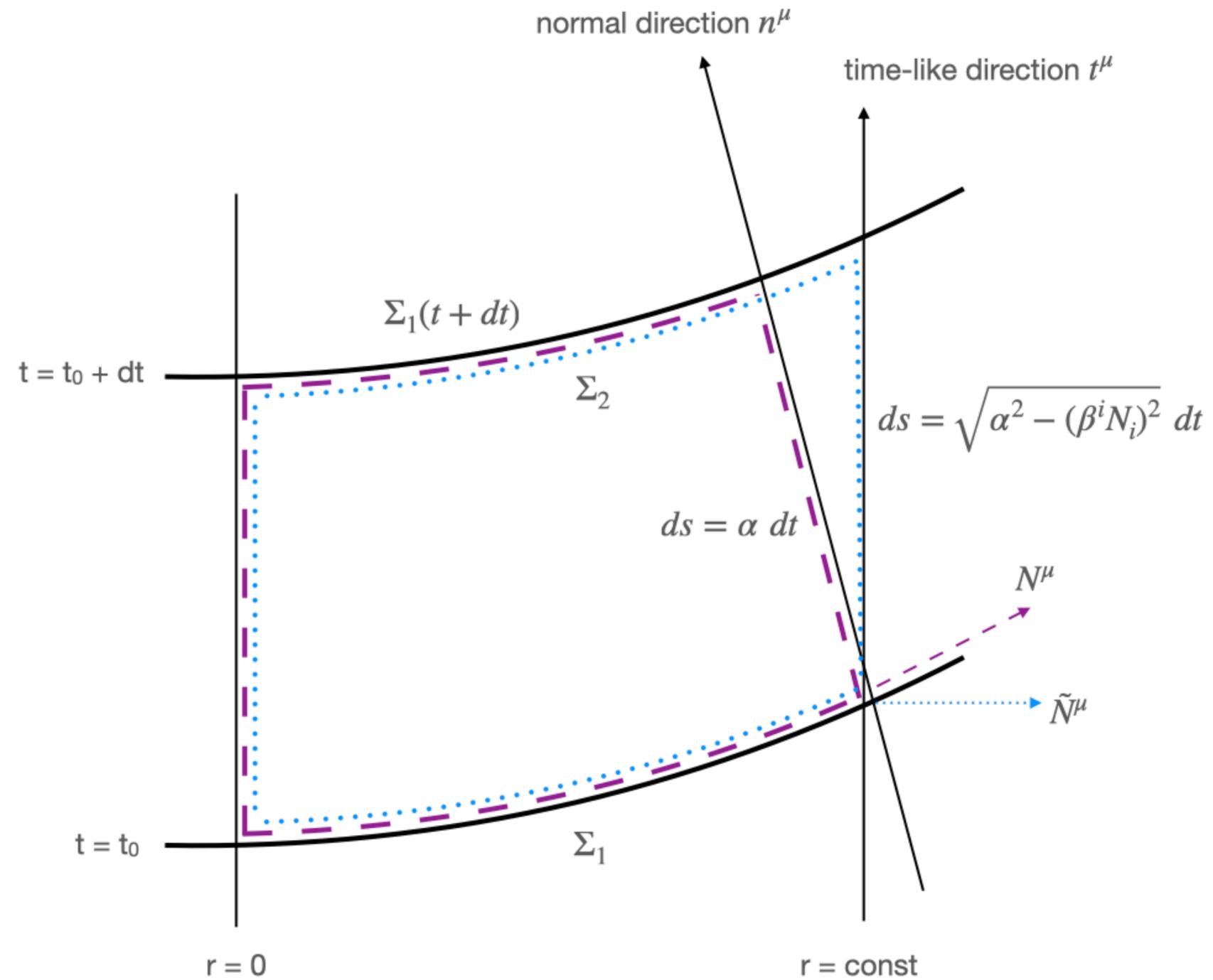
**What is  
wrong  
here?**

*"My two objects have got closer together  
over time"*

# "PHYSICAL" VIEW?



# What do "fixed" coordinates mean in a puncture-like gauge?



# BabyGRChombo gauge

```
226
227 rhs_a      = get_rhs_a(a, bar_div_shift, lapse[ix], K[ix], em4phi, bar_Rij,
228                      r_here, Delta_ULL, bar_gamma_UU, bar_A_UU, bar_A_LL,
229                      d2phidx2[ix], dphidx[ix], d2lapsedx2[ix], dlapsedx[ix],
230                      h, dhdr, d2hdr2, matter_Sij)
231
232 rhs_lambdar[ix] = get_rhs_lambdar(hat_D2_shift, Delta_U, Delta_ULL, bar_div_shift,
233                                 bar_D_div_shift, bar_gamma_UU, bar_A_UU, lapse[ix], dlapsedx[ix],
234                                 dphidx[ix], dKdx[ix], matter_Si)
235
236 # Add advection to time derivatives
237 rhs_phi[ix]    += shiftr[ix] * dphidx[ix]
238 rhs_hrr[ix]    = rhs_h[i_r][i_r] + shiftr[ix] * dhrrdx[ix] - 2.0 * hrr[ix] * dshiftrdx[ix]
239 rhs_htt[ix]    = rhs_h[i_t][i_t] + shiftr[ix] * dhttdx[ix]
240 rhs_hpp[ix]    = rhs_h[i_p][i_p] + shiftr[ix] * dhppdx[ix]
241 rhs_K[ix]      += shiftr[ix] * dKdx[ix]
242 rhs_arr[ix]    = rhs_a[i_r][i_r] + shiftr[ix] * darrdx[ix] - 2.0 * arr[ix] * dshiftrdx[ix]
243 rhs_att[ix]    = rhs_a[i_t][i_t] + shiftr[ix] * dattdx[ix]
244 rhs_app[ix]    = rhs_a[i_p][i_p] + shiftr[ix] * dappdx[ix]
245 rhs_lambdar[ix] += shiftr[ix] * dlambdardx[ix] - lambdar[ix] * dshiftrdx[ix]
246
247 # Set the gauge vars rhs
248 rhs_br[ix]     = 0.75 * rhs_lambdar[ix] - eta * br[ix]
249 rhs_shiftr[ix] = br[ix]
250 rhs_lapse[ix]  = - 2.0 * lapse[ix] * K[ix] + shiftr[ix] * dlapsedx[ix]
251
252
```

- Using standard puncture gauge
- Will we see any gauge evolution?
- What could be wrong here?

**Q5: How should I set the  
parameters**

**=**

**What are the units?**

# My params

Mass\_BH1 = 0.5

Mass\_BH2 = 0.5

scalar\_field\_mass = 1.0

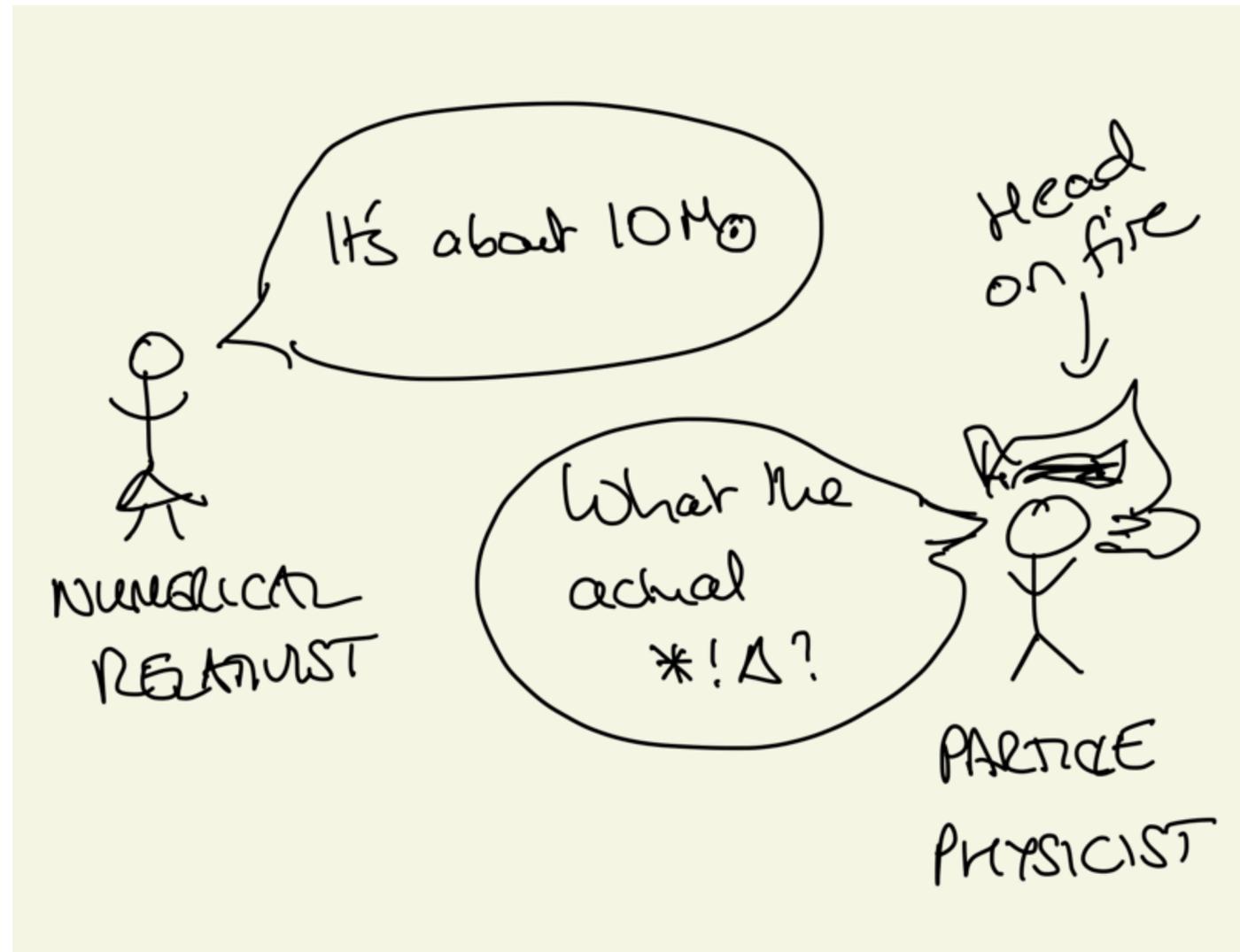
# gauge params

eta = 2e3

kappa\_1 = 0.5

**What is  
wrong  
here?**

# What is the separation of the two black holes in your simulation?



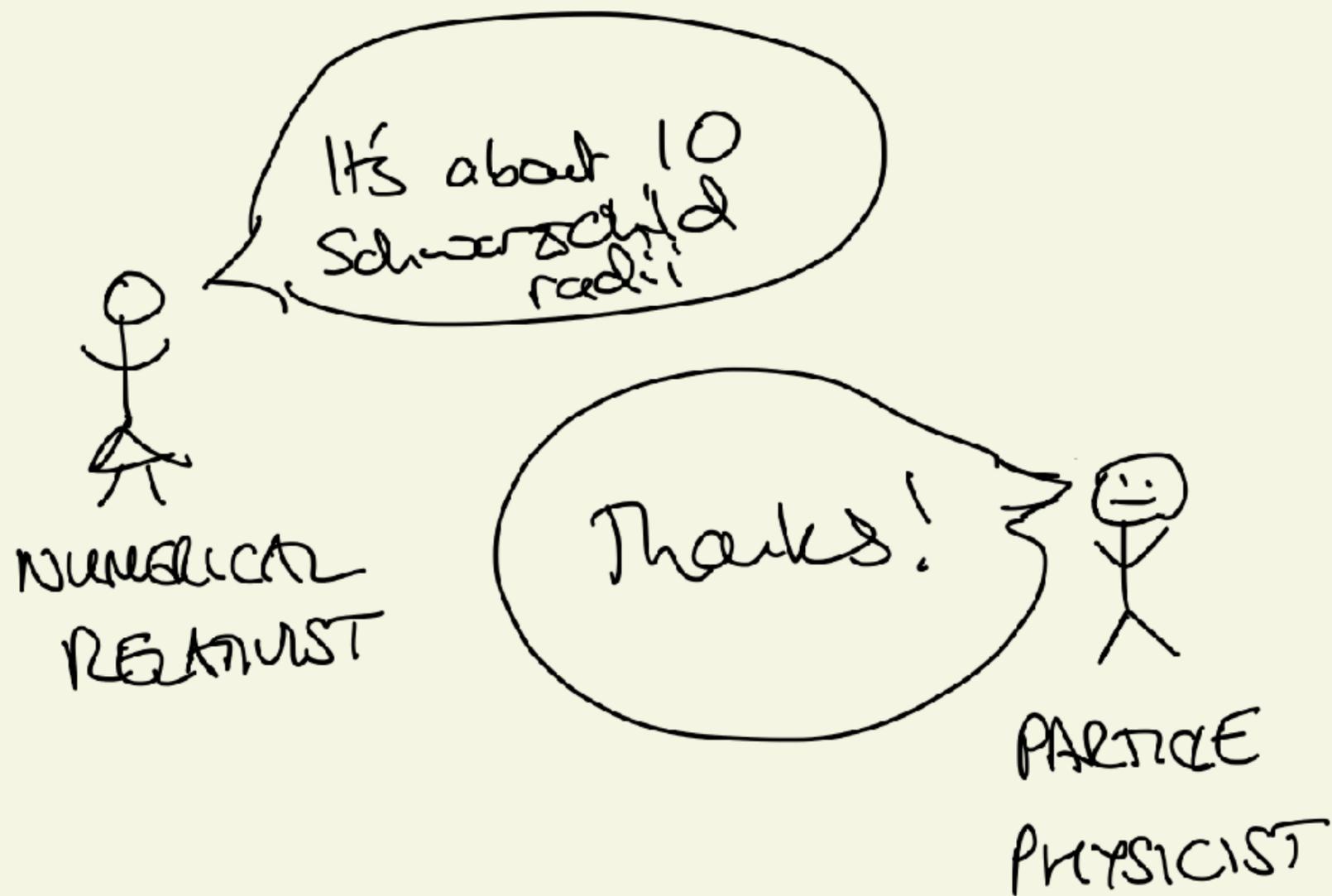
$G = c = 1$  for NR

THERE IS NO  $\hbar$  in GR

If we set  $M = M_{pl}$   
then  $\hbar$  is 1, but usually  
 $\hbar \neq 1$ , because  $M = M_{\odot}$ .

Usually we are describing  
a "curvature radius"

not a mass.



# BabyGRChombo params

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## BabyGRChombo

A spherically symmetric BSSN code used for teaching NR - FIXME!

# BabyGRChombo params

28 lines (23 sloc) | 922 Bytes

Raw Blame   

```
1 # myparams.py
2
3 # specify the params that are fixed throughout the evolution
4
5 import numpy as np
6
7 # Input parameters for grid and evolution here
8 N_r = 120 # num points on physical grid
9 N_t = 101 # time resolution (only for outputs, not for integration)
10 R = 60 # Maximum outer radius
11 T = 3.0 # Maximum evolution time
12
13 # coefficients for bssn and gauge evolution
14 eta = 1.0 # 1+log slicing damping coefficient
15 sigma = 1.0 # kreiss-oliger damping coefficient
16 eight_pi_G = 8.0 * np.pi * 1.0 # Newtons constant, we take G=c=1
17 scalar_mu = 1.0 # this is an inverse length scale related to the scalar compton wavelength
18
19 # These values are hardcoded or calculated from the inputs above
20 # so should not be changed
21 dx = R/N_r
22 dt = T/N_t
23 num_ghosts = 3
24 N = N_r + num_ghosts * 2
25 r = np.linspace(-(num_ghosts-0.5)*dx, R+(num_ghosts-0.5)*dx, N)
26 t = np.linspace(0, T-dt, N_t)
27 oneoverdx = 1.0 / dx
28 oneoverdxsquared = oneoverdx * oneoverdx
```

- Check you know what all of these are...
- Hard coding should be avoided!
- Are the values reasonable?
- Why do we predefine some values like oneoverdx?

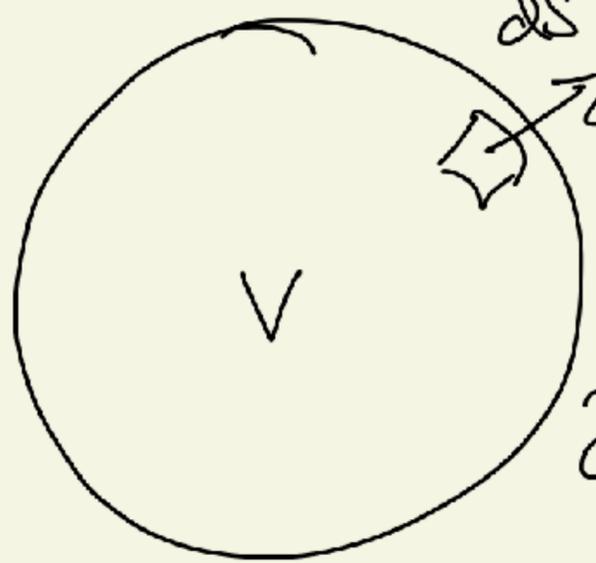
**Q6: What diagnostics should I  
extract?**

**=**

**What does this all mean?**

# Diagnostics

$$\text{diag}(t) = \int_0^L \int_0^L \int_0^L \rho(t) dx dy dz$$

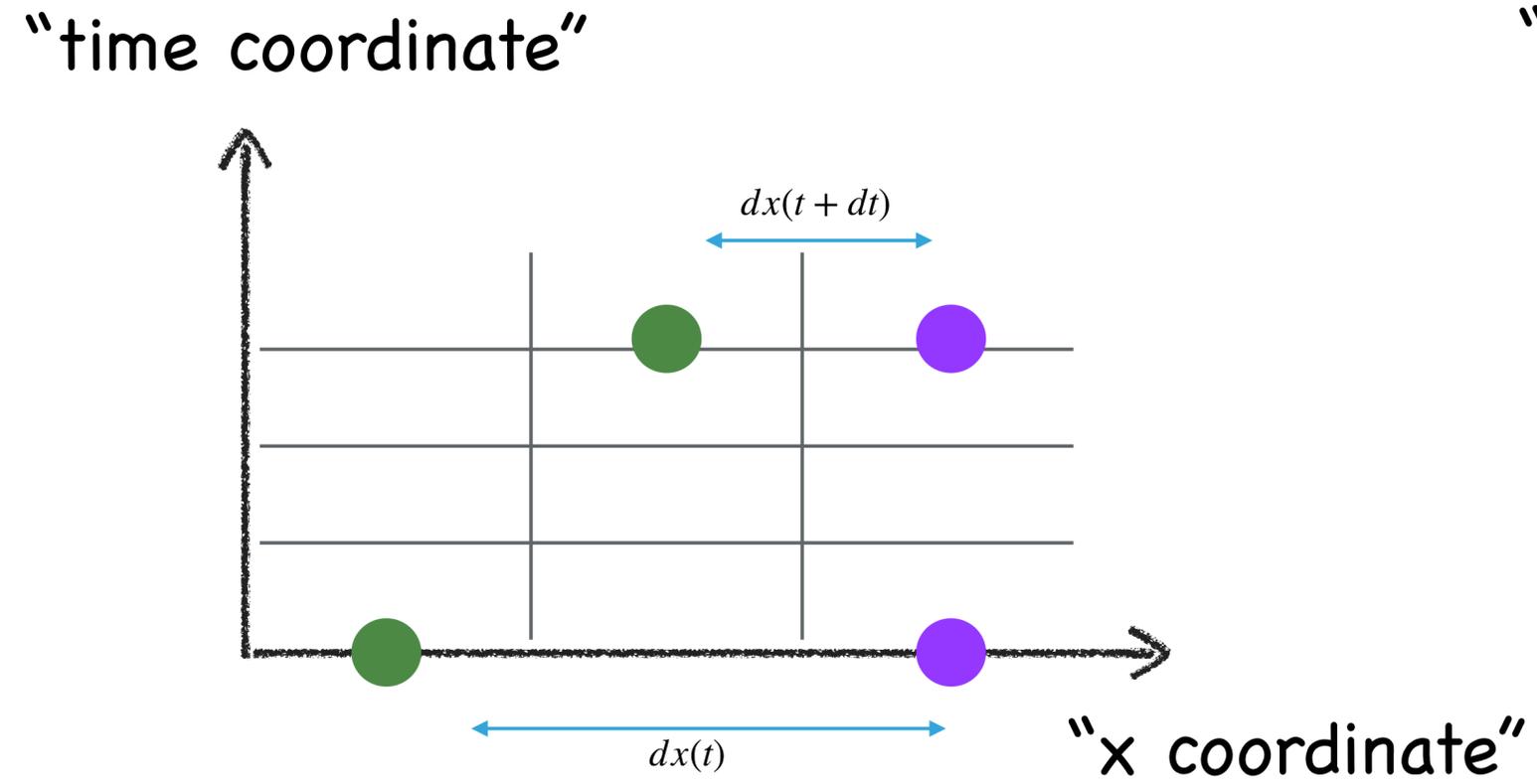


A diagram showing a circular volume labeled  $V$ . A small square element on the boundary is labeled  $dS^i$  with an arrow pointing outwards.

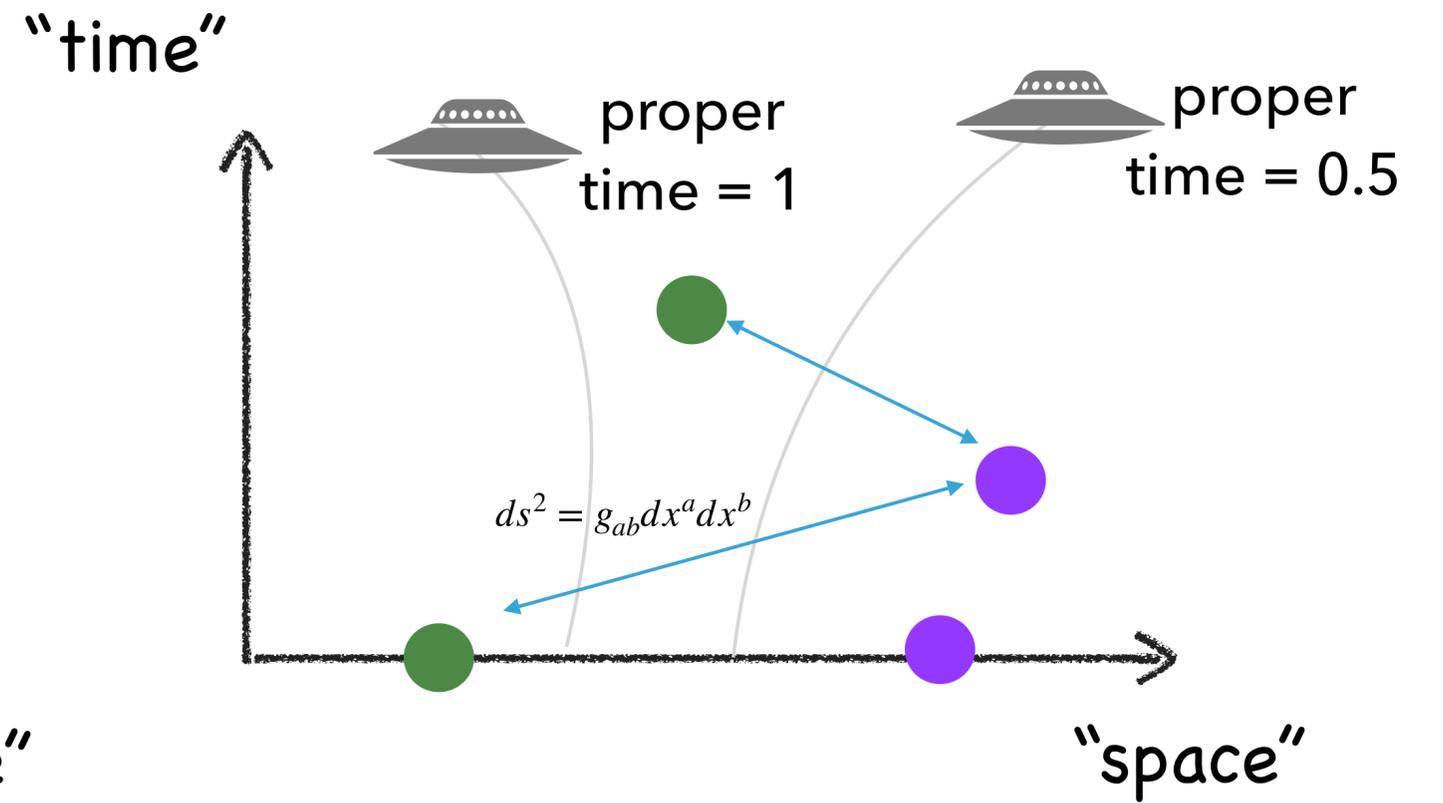
$$\int T_i^0 dS^i = 0$$
$$\partial_t \int \rho dV = 0$$

**What is wrong here?**

# CODE VIEW



# "PHYSICAL" VIEW?



# Useful diagnostics

Classical and Quantum Gravity

NOTE

Continuity equations for general matter: applications in numerical relativity

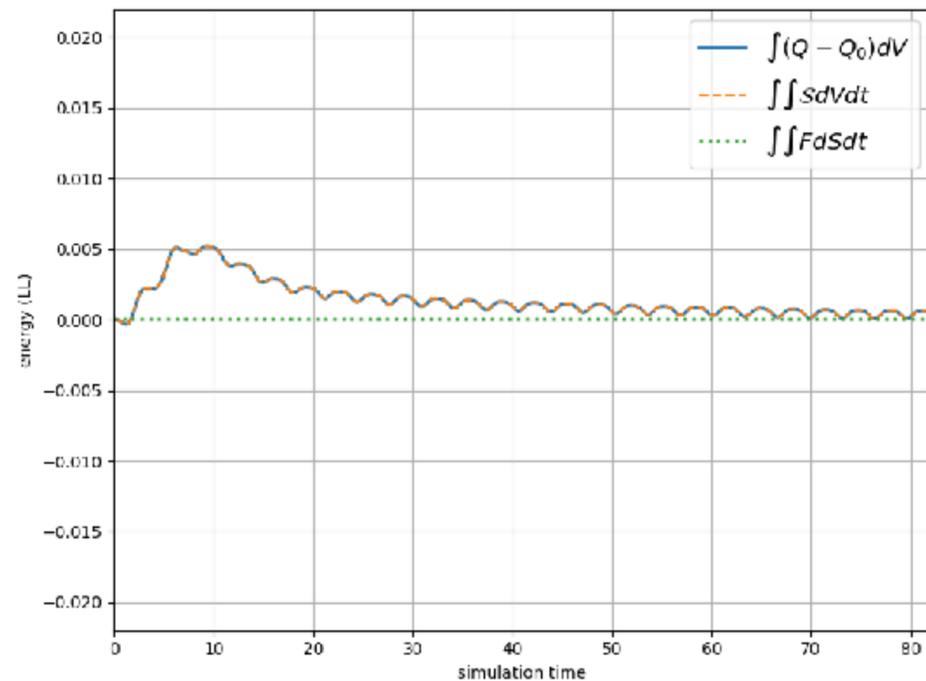
Katy Clough<sup>2,1</sup> 

Published 23 July 2021 • © 2021 IOP Publishing Ltd

[Classical and Quantum Gravity](#), Volume 38, Number 16

Citation Katy Clough 2021 *Class. Quantum Grav.* 38 167001

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- Anything extracted at asymptotically flat infinity!
- Constraint violation in the “*area of physical interest*”
- All the contributions to the conserved quantities in matter charges (helps identify gravitational “forces”)
- ...

# BabyGRChombo diagnostics

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# BabyGRChombo diagnostics

```
127
128 # The connections Delta^i, Delta^i_jk and Delta_ijk
129 Delta_U, Delta_ULL, Delta_LLL = get_connection(r_here, bar_gamma_UU, bar_gamma_LL, h, dhdr)
130 bar_Rij = get_ricci_tensor(r_here, h, dhdr, d2hdr2, lambdar[ix], dlambdardx[ix],
131                          Delta_U, Delta_ULL, Delta_LLL, bar_gamma_UU, bar_gamma_LL)
132 bar_R = get_trace(bar_Rij, bar_gamma_UU)
133
134 # Matter sources
135 matter_rho = get_rho( u[ix], dudx[ix], v[ix], bar_gamma_UU, em4phi )
136 matter_Si = get_Si( u[ix], dudx[ix], v[ix], bar_gamma_UU, em4phi )
137 matter_S, matter_Sij = get_Sij( u[ix], dudx[ix], v[ix], bar_gamma_UU, em4phi,
138                                bar_gamma_LL)
139
140 # End of: Calculate some useful quantities, now start diagnostic
141 #####
142
143 # Get the Ham constraint eqn (13) of Baumgarte https://arxiv.org/abs/1211.6632
144 Ham_i[ix] = ( two_thirds * K[ix] * K[ix] - trace_A2
145             + em4phi * ( bar_R
146                       - 8.0 * bar_gamma_UU[i_r][i_r] * (dphidx[ix] * dphidx[ix]
147                                                         + d2phidx2[ix])
148                       + 8.0 * bar_gamma_UU[i_t][i_t] * flat_chris[i_r][i_t][i_t] * dphidx[ix]
149                       + 8.0 * bar_gamma_UU[i_p][i_p] * flat_chris[i_r][i_p][i_p] * dphidx[ix]
150                       + 8.0 * Delta_U[i_r] * dphidx[ix])
151             - 2.0 * eight_pi_G * matter_rho )
152
153 #print("bar_R is ", bar_R)
154
```

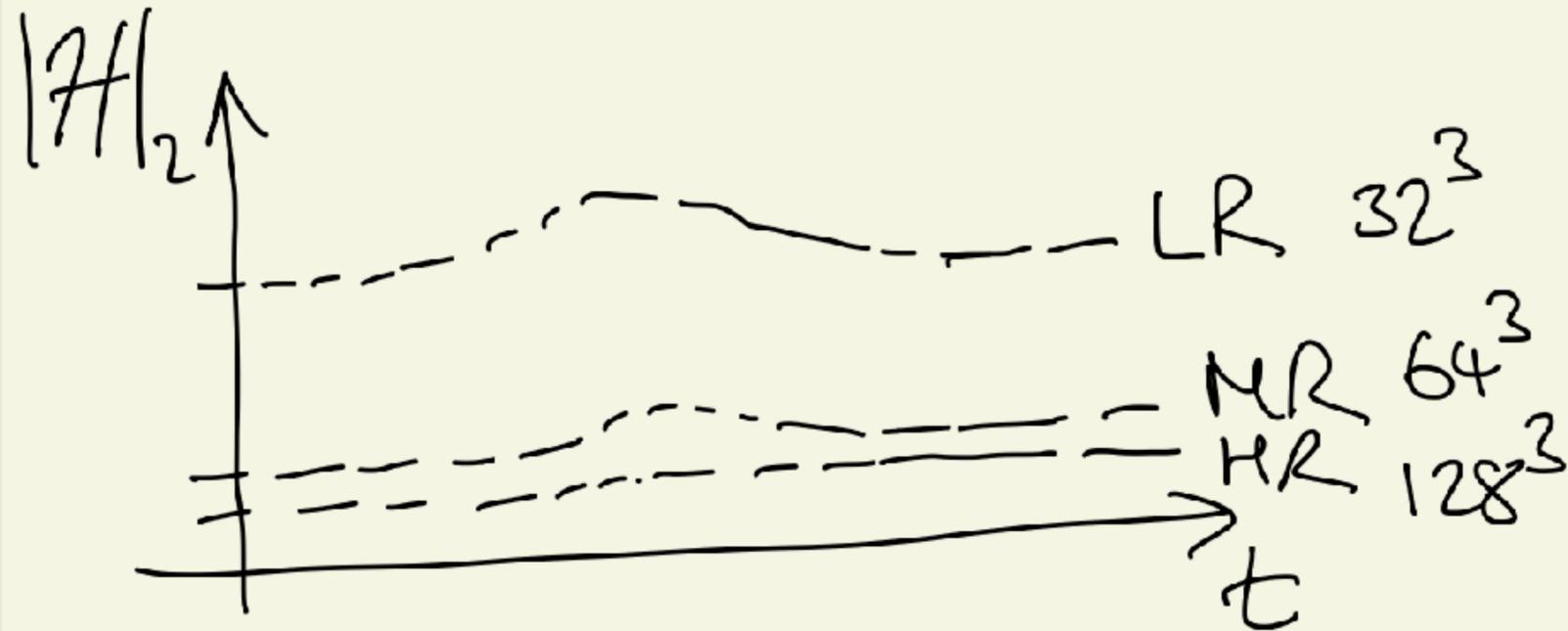
- Currently only the Hamiltonian constraint is implemented
- What other quantities would be useful?
- You will see that these are done in *postprocessing* and not during the evolution. Advantages / disadvantages?

**Q7: How can I be sure my  
simulation is correct?**

**=**

**How small is small?  
(Have I done a convergence test?)**

# Convergence test



Convergence factor

$$= 40$$

$$\text{Order of FDS} = 4$$

**What is wrong here?**

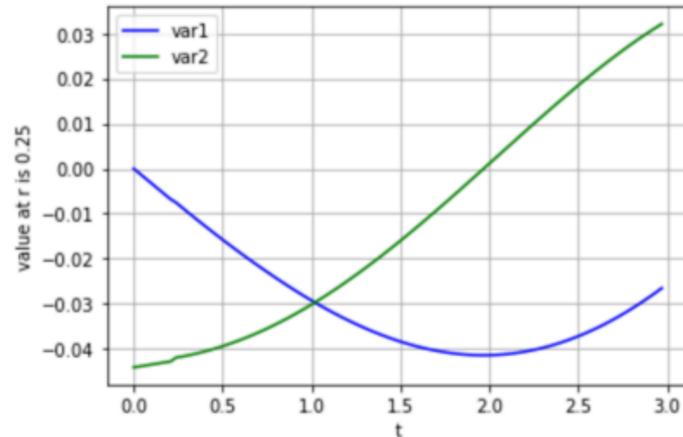
# BabyGRChombo convergence

```
In [5]: #solve for the solution
solution = odeint(get_rhs, initial_vars_values, t, args=(0, 0), atol=1e-3, rtol=1e-3) # hmin=1e-2, mxstep=100
```

```
In [6]: # Plot a single point versus time

var1 = idx_u
var2 = idx_v

idx = num_ghosts
r_i = np.round(r[idx],2)
u_of_t = solution[0:N_t, var1 * N + idx]
plt.plot(t, u_of_t, 'b-', label='var1')
v_of_t = solution[0:N_t, var2 * N + idx]
plt.plot(t, v_of_t, 'g-', label='var2')
plt.legend(loc='best')
plt.xlabel('t')
plt.ylabel('value at r is '+str(r_i))
plt.legend(loc='best')
plt.grid()
```



- Uses odeint which is a python routine plus 4th order finite difference stencils
- What should the order of convergence be?
- Need to add a convergence test!

# Day 2 of Advanced NR: Fix BabyGRChombo!

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README.md

## BabyGRChombo

A spherically symmetric BSSN code used for teaching NR - FIXME!

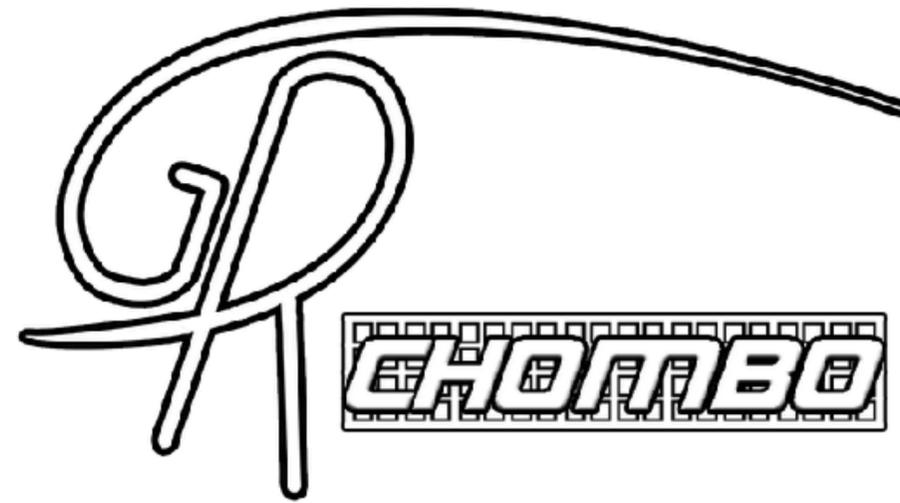
# Get BabyGRChombo

1. Navigate to <https://github.com/KAClough/BabyGRChombo>
2. Create your own fork of the code (you will need a GitHub account).  
Now you can change things without breaking the main code :-)
3. In your laptop terminal git clone your fork to your laptop:  

```
>> git clone https://github.com/KAClough/BabyGRChombo.git
```
4. Navigate to the folder and open jupyter notebooks  

```
>> cd BabyGRChombo  
>> jupyter notebook
```
5. Look at the file `BabyGRChombo.ipynb` and run it

# Questions?



[www.grchombo.org](http://www.grchombo.org)

*You can follow us on Twitter!*

*@GRChombo*

**End of Day 1 lectures**

# Practical ~~Advanced~~ Numerical Relativity : Day 2

Katy Clough

THIS IS GIT. IT TRACKS COLLABORATIVE WORK ON PROJECTS THROUGH A BEAUTIFUL DISTRIBUTED GRAPH THEORY TREE MODEL.

COOL. HOW DO WE USE IT?

NO IDEA. JUST MEMORIZE THESE SHELL COMMANDS AND TYPE THEM TO SYNC UP. IF YOU GET ERRORS, SAVE YOUR WORK ELSEWHERE, DELETE THE PROJECT, AND DOWNLOAD A FRESH COPY.



# BabyGRChombo is broken!

KAClough / **BabyGRChombo** Public Star Pin

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README.md 

## BabyGRChombo

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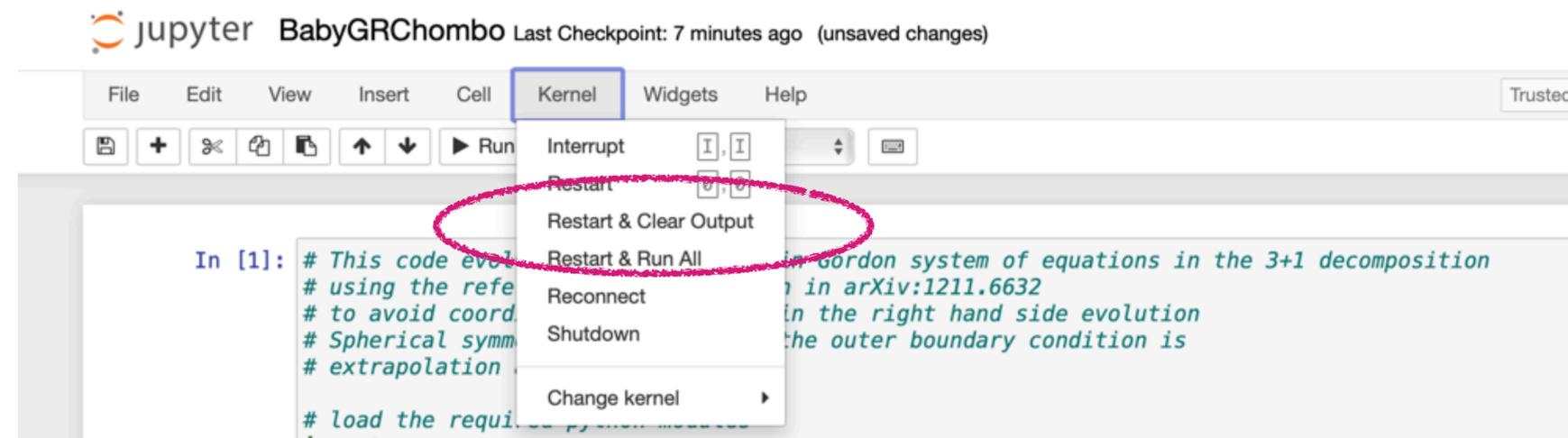
A spherically symmetric BSSN code used for teaching NR - FIXME!

# Format for the lectures

Session 2 (now):

- Key points of the reference metric framework
- 4 suggestions for possible error sources

***TOP TIP: Remember after changing code to restart kernel:***



# Key points of the reference metric framework

Numerical Relativity in Spherical Polar Coordinates:  
Evolution Calculations with the BSSN Formulation

Thomas W. Baumgarte,<sup>1,2</sup> Pedro J. Montero,<sup>1</sup> Isabel Cordero-Carrión,<sup>1</sup> and Ewald Müller<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Max-Planck-Institute für Astrophysik, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 1, D-85748, Garching bei München, Germany  
<sup>2</sup>Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME 04011, USA

SENR/NRPy+: Numerical relativity in singular curvilinear coordinate systems

Ian Ruchlin,<sup>1</sup> Zachariah B. Etienne,<sup>1,2</sup> and Thomas W. Baumgarte<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506, USA

<sup>2</sup>Center for Gravitational Waves and Cosmology, West Virginia University,  
Chestnut Ridge Research Building, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505, USA

<sup>3</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine 04011, USA

(Dated: March 30, 2018)

As in the usual BSSN we decompose the spatial metric  $\gamma_{ij}$  such that

$$\gamma_{ij} = e^{4\phi} \bar{\gamma}_{ij}$$

The determinant  $\bar{\gamma}$  of the conformal spatial metric must therefore obey

$$e^{4\phi} = (\bar{\gamma}/\gamma)^{-1/3}$$

However, instead of choosing it to be 1 we choose (and enforce at each timestep) that it obeys

$$\partial_t \bar{\gamma} = 0 \quad \bar{\gamma} = \hat{\gamma}$$

# Key points of the reference metric framework

## *What's the hat?*

This relates to the reference metric  $\hat{\gamma}_{ij}$  - which we choose to be the flat space metric in spherical polar coordinates, i.e.

$$\hat{\gamma}_{ij} = \text{diag}(1, r^2, r^2 \sin^2 \theta)$$

Thus

->  $\bar{\gamma} = r^4 \sin^2 \theta$  is spatially varying

-> all quantities in the BSSN equations are real tensors (tensor densities of weight 0)

# Key points of the reference metric framework

We now decompose the conformal metric into

$$\bar{\gamma}_{ij} = \hat{\gamma}_{ij} + \epsilon_{ij}$$

Where the deviation from the flat metric  $\epsilon_{ij}$  is ***not necessarily small***.

This deviation is the quantity we want to evolve.

# Key points of the reference metric framework

We can also define a related connection *which is a tensor*

$$\Delta_{jk}^i = \bar{\Delta}_{jk}^i - \hat{\Delta}_{jk}^i$$

And its contracted form

$$\Delta^i = \bar{\gamma}^{ij} \Delta_{jk}^i$$

*(Note my adoption of Etienne's naming for this as Delta not DeltaGamma  $\Delta_{jk}^i = \Delta\Gamma_{jk}^i$  - it just reduces the number of "gamma"s in the code)*

# Key points of the reference metric framework

## ***Final clever trick:***

We want to evolve just the deviation from the flat metric  $\epsilon_{ij}$  but many components will scale as  $1/r$  near the origin of the coordinates. Therefore we rescale it (and its time derivative) and evolve the rescaled quantities  $h$  and  $a$  only:

$$\epsilon_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} h_{rr} & rh_{r\theta} & r \sin \theta h_{r\phi} \\ rh_{r\theta} & r^2 h_{\theta\theta} & r^2 \sin \theta h_{\theta\phi} \\ r \sin \theta h_{r\phi} & r^2 \sin \theta h_{\theta\phi} & r^2 \sin^2 \theta h_{\phi\phi} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (20)$$

We similarly rescale the extrinsic curvature  $\bar{A}_{ij}$  as

$$\bar{A}_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{rr} & ra_{r\theta} & r \sin \theta a_{r\phi} \\ ra_{r\theta} & r^2 a_{\theta\theta} & r^2 \sin \theta a_{\theta\phi} \\ r \sin \theta a_{r\phi} & r^2 \sin \theta a_{\theta\phi} & r^2 \sin^2 \theta a_{\phi\phi} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (21)$$

and the connection vector  $\bar{\Lambda}^i$  as

$$\bar{\Lambda}^i = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda^r \\ \lambda^\theta / r \\ \lambda^\phi / (r \sin \theta) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (22)$$

# Simplifications in BabyGRChombo

*In spherical symmetry:*

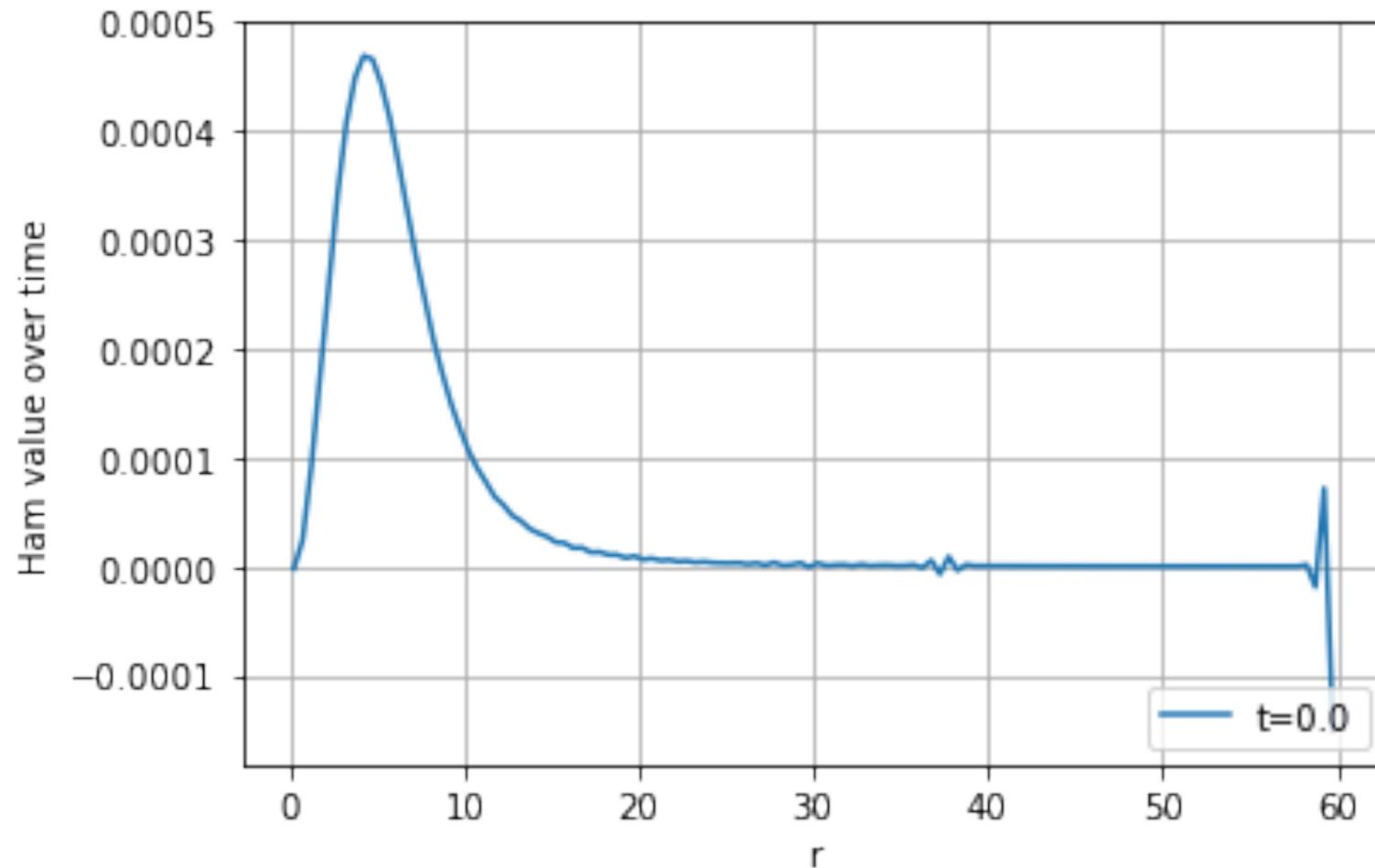
- The metric  $\bar{\gamma}_{ij}$  is diagonal

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\Gamma}_{\theta\theta}^r &= -r & \hat{\Gamma}_{\phi\phi}^r &= -r \sin^2 \theta \\ \hat{\Gamma}_{\phi\phi}^\theta &= -\sin \theta \cos \theta & \hat{\Gamma}_{r\theta}^\theta &= r^{-1} \\ \hat{\Gamma}_{r\phi}^\phi &= r^{-1} & \hat{\Gamma}_{\phi\theta}^\phi &= \cot \theta. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

- Therefore so are  $\bar{A}$  and  $a$
- Only the  $r$  component of vectors are non zero
- Only partial derivatives with respect to  $r$  exist  
*(note this does NOT usually mean that only covariant derivatives with respect to  $r$  exist due to non zero christoffels)*
- We can choose  $\sin \theta = 1$   $\cos \theta = 0$

# Possible sources of error

- Initial conditions - are we sure we have satisfied the constraints?  
(Have I done a convergence test? Of course not!)



```
# Get the Ham constraint eqn (13) of Baumgarte https://arxiv.org/abs/1211.6632
Ham_i[ix] = ( two_thirds * K[ix] * K[ix] - trace_A2
+ em4phi * ( bar_R
- 8.0 * bar_gamma_UU[i_r][i_r] * (dphidx[ix] * dphidx[ix]
+ d2phidx2[ix])
+ 8.0 * bar_gamma_UU[i_t][i_t] * flat_chris[i_r][i_t][i_t] * dphidx[ix]
+ 8.0 * bar_gamma_UU[i_p][i_p] * flat_chris[i_r][i_p][i_p] * dphidx[ix]
+ 8.0 * Delta_U[i_r] * dphidx[ix])
- 2.0 * eight_pi_G * matter_rho )
```

- If wrong this means perhaps the term here multiplying em4phi is wrong as  $K_{ij}$  is initially zero
- Could also be the initial setting of  $\phi$  and  $h$  using grr

# Possible sources of error

- RHS equations - lots of derived quantities calculated assuming spherical symmetry - are these right?

e.g. here I have used

$$\bar{D}_i \beta^i = \partial_i \beta^i + \frac{1}{2\bar{\gamma}} \beta^i \partial_i \bar{\gamma}, \quad \bar{\gamma} = \hat{\gamma} = r^4 \quad \implies \bar{D}_i \beta^i = \partial_r \beta^r + \frac{2}{r} \beta^r$$

```
# This is the conformal divergence of the shift \bar{D}_i \beta^i  
# We use the fact that the determinant of the conformal metric is  
# fixed to that of the flat space metric in spherical coords
```

```
bar_div_shift = dshiftrdx[ix] + 2.0 / r_here * shiftr[ix]
```

```
# This is D^r (\bar{D}_i \beta^i) note the raised index of r
```

```
bar_D_div_shift = bar_gamma_UU[i_r][i_r] * (d2shiftrdx2[ix]
```

```
    + 2.0 / r_here * dshiftrdx[ix]
```

```
    - 2.0 / r_here / r_here * shiftr[ix])
```

# Possible sources of error

- The rescaling should ensure factors of  $1/r$  are always treated analytically and not multiplied within terms. Probably some of the `tensoralgebra.py` code does not respect that. For example this bit looks dodgy:

```
138
139 # Computer the  $\bar{A}^{ij}$  given  $A_{ij}$  and  $\bar{\gamma}^{ij}$ 
140 def get_A_UU(A_LL, bar_gamma_UU) :
141
142     A_UU = np.zeros_like(rank_2_spatial_tensor)
143
144     for i in range(0, SPACEDIM):
145         for j in range(0, SPACEDIM):
146             for k in range(0, SPACEDIM):
147                 for l in range(0, SPACEDIM):
148                     A_UU[i][j] = bar_gamma_UU[i][k] * bar_gamma_UU[j][l] * A_LL[k][l]
149
150     return A_UU
151
```

# Possible sources of error

- What is odeint actually doing? Does it respect the limits on the Courant factor? Might want to set an *hmin* value to respect this.

```
In [*]: #solve for the solution  
solution = odeint(get_rhs, initial_vars_values, t, args=(0, 0), atol=1e-3, rtol=1e-3) # hmin=1e-2, mxstep=100
```

- Reminder - courant factor  $C$  relates the timestep to the spatial resolution as

$$C \equiv \Delta t / \Delta x < 0.5$$

Physically the condition is related to causality so it should really be (ignoring the shift)

$$C = \tilde{\alpha} \Delta t / \Delta x < 0.5 \quad (\tilde{\alpha} = \alpha \gamma^{-1/2} \text{ is the "desensitised lapse" )}$$

# Exercises with BabyGRChombo

More ambitious! ->>

1. Find the bugs!
2. Change gauge so normal observers follow geodesics
3. Add too much (or too little) dissipation
4. Speed up the code using mpi4py, python tricks (maintain readability!)
5. Write momentum constraint diagnostic
6. Write energy conservation diagnostic
7. Add convergence testing
8. Add black hole initial conditions (with zero scalar field)
9. Add an initial condition solver for the metric for arbitrary field configurations
10. Form black hole via collapse of gaussian field configurations
11. Add vector field