

Numerical Relativity and scalar fields

Dr Katy Clough

Ernest Rutherford Fellow

Queen Mary University of London

engrenage

aka Baby

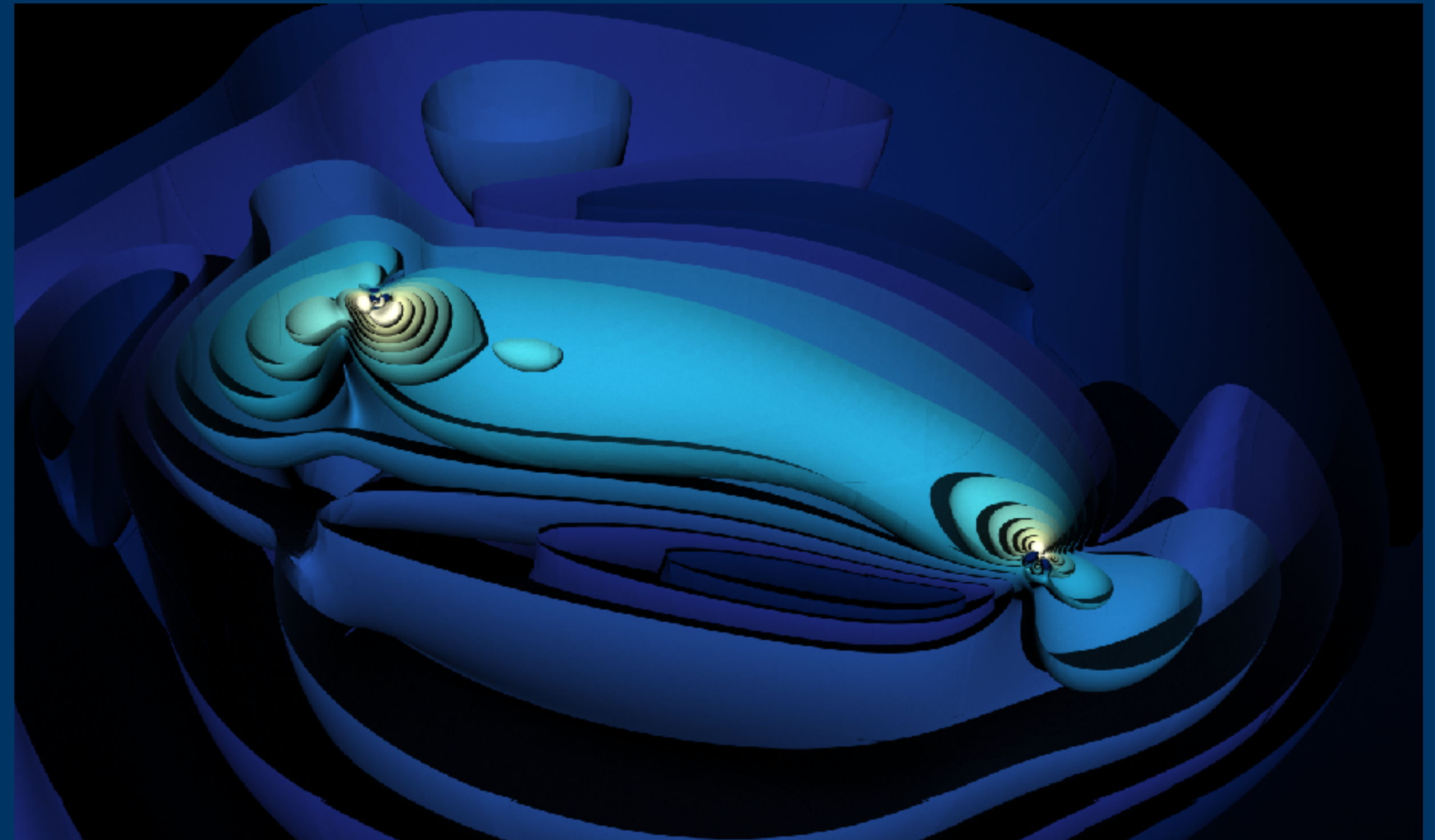


Image credit: Bamber/KC/Cielo

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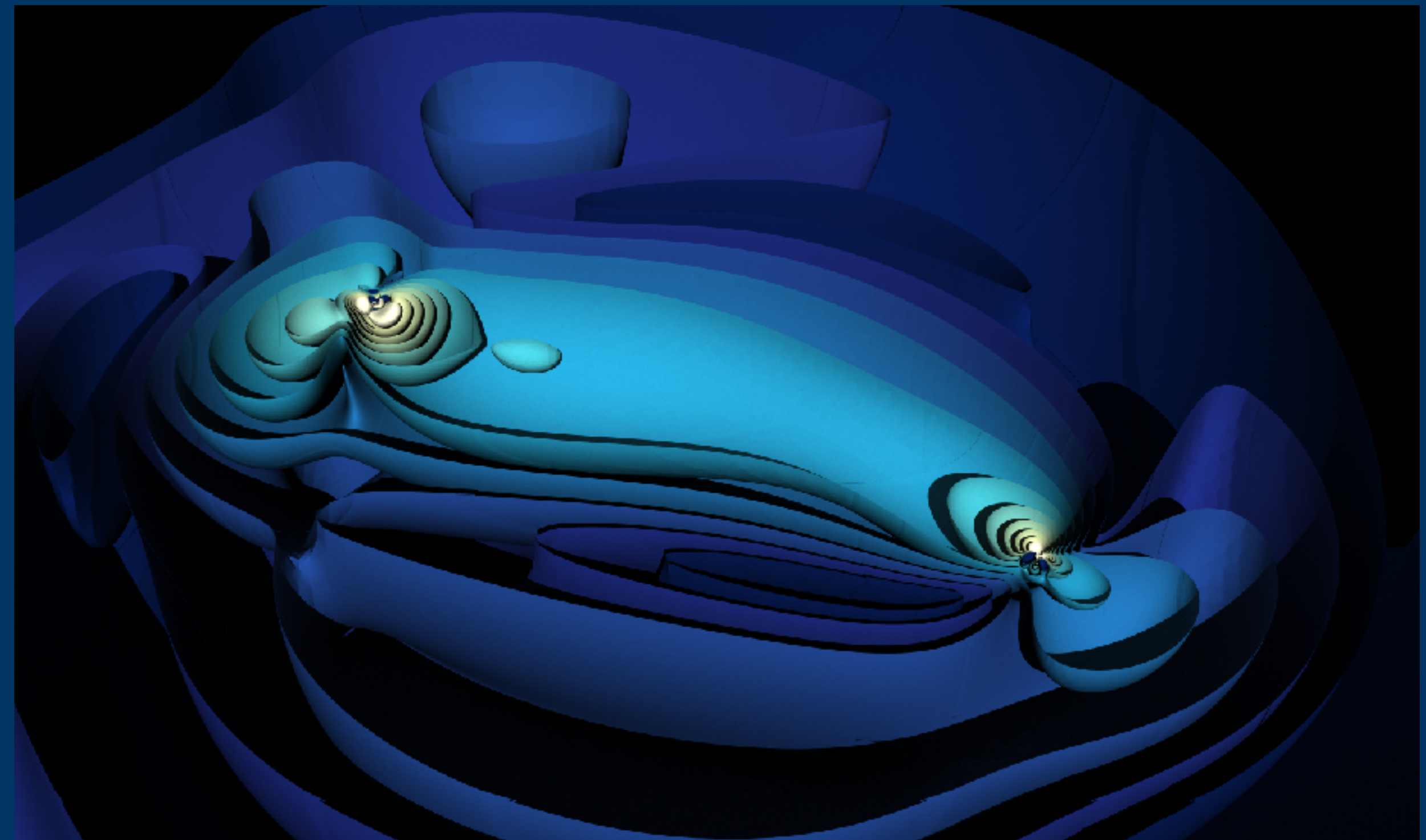
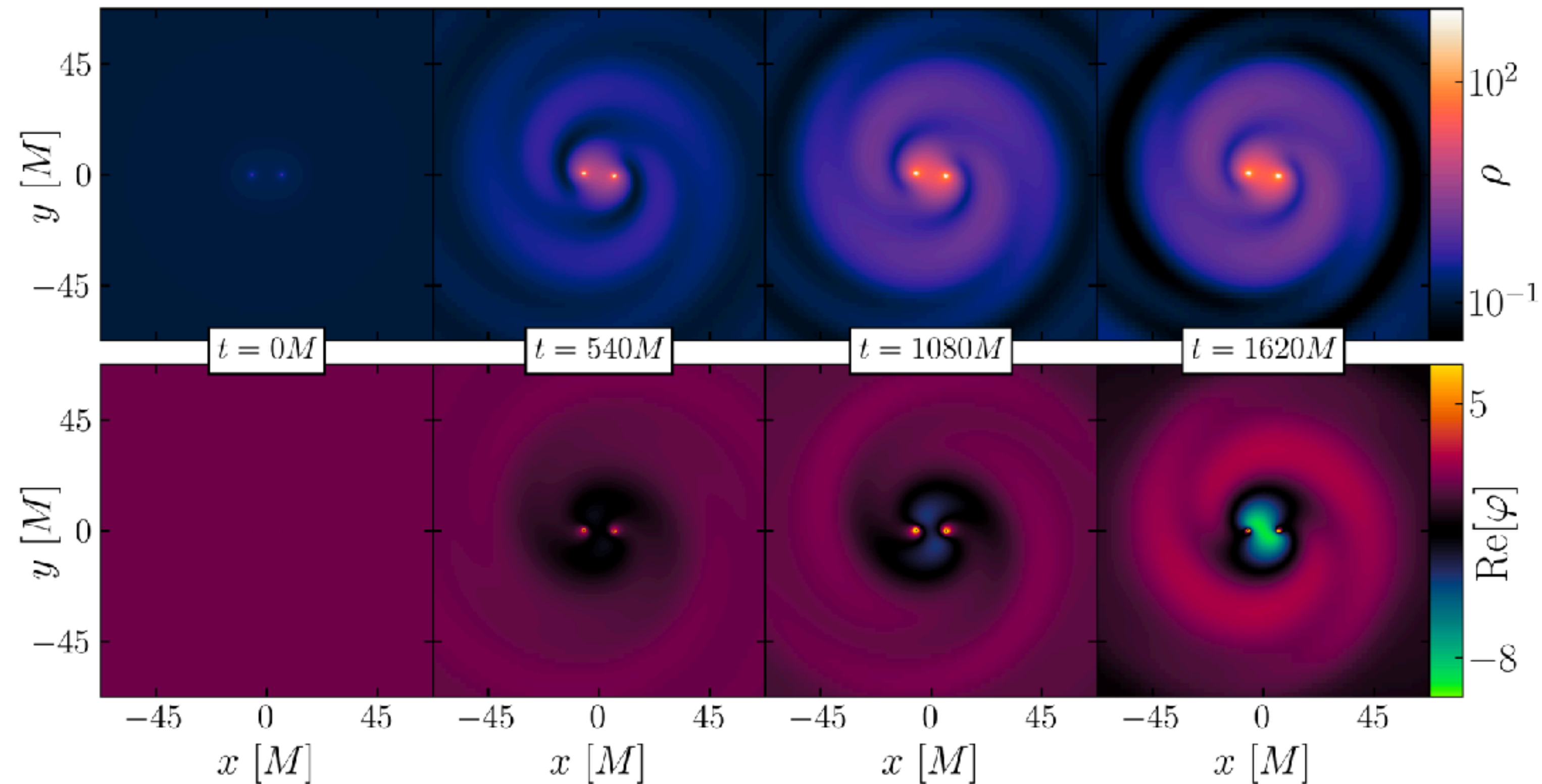


Image credit: Bamber/KC/Cielo

(In principle) GWs can inform us about new fields in BH environments, but dynamics is complex

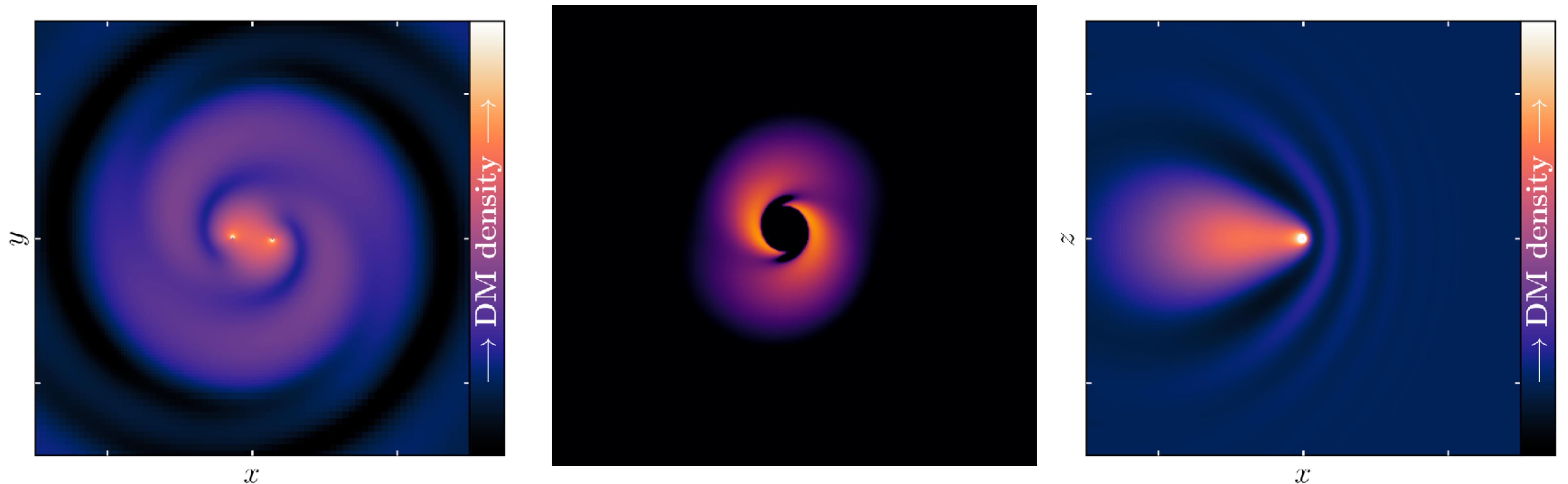


Black hole merger simulations in wave dark matter environments

Jamie Bamber, Josu C. Aurrekoetxea, Katy Clough, Pedro G. Ferreira

Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023) 2, 024035

(In principle) GWs can inform us about new fields in BH environments, but dynamics is complex



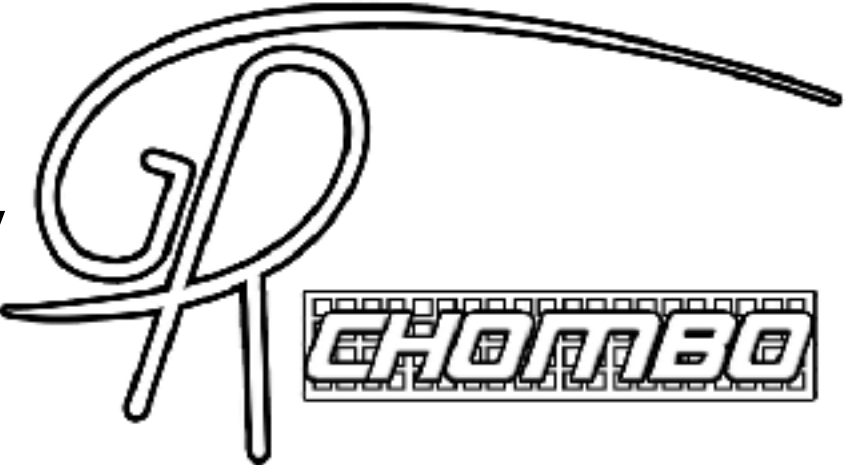
Accretion, superradiance, dynamical friction, scalar-tensor theories, bosonic stars...

Supercomputers can help



engrenage

aka Baby



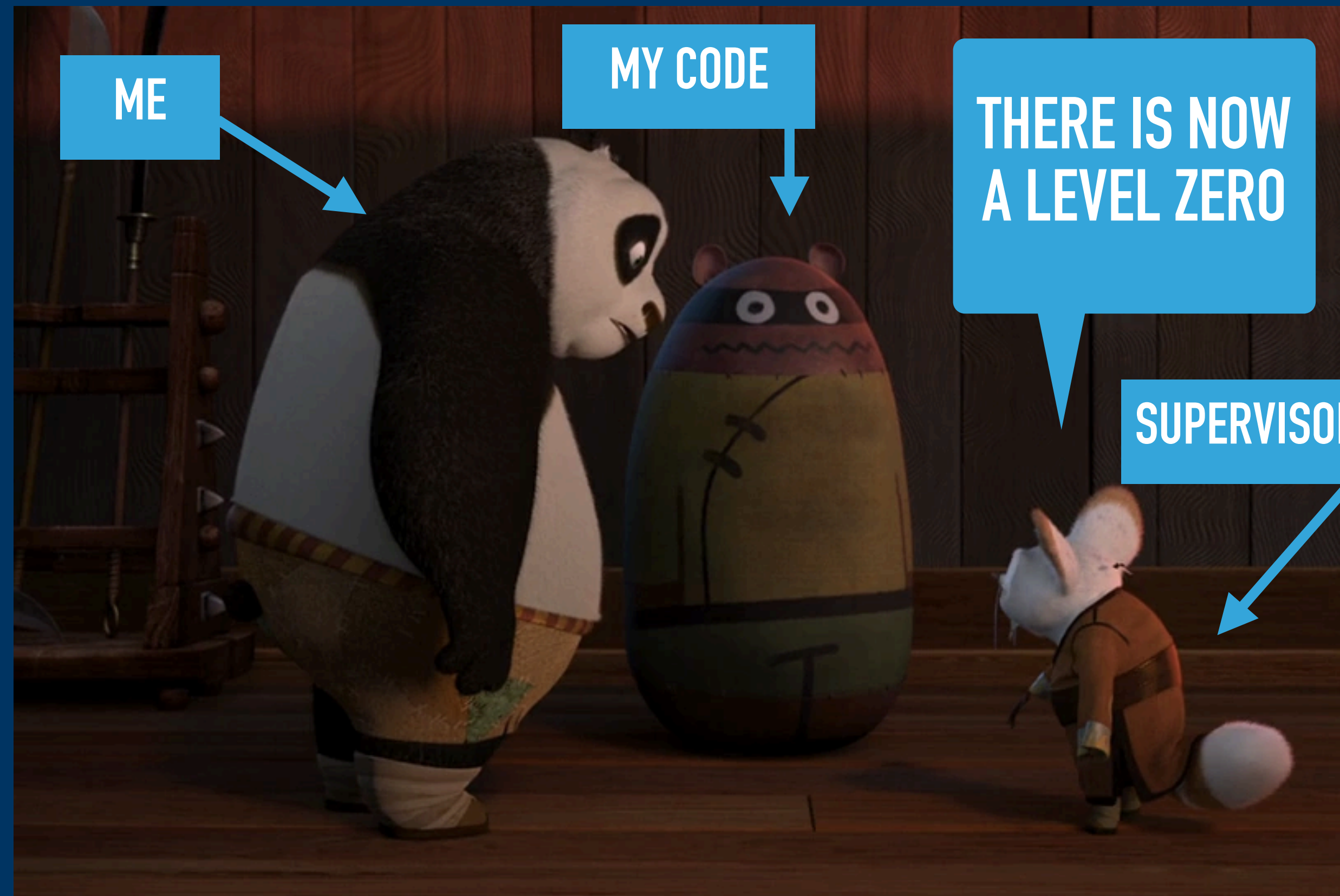
is born

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository 'engrenage' under the organization 'GRTLCollaboration'. The repository is public and has 58 forks and 23 stars. It is currently on the 'NewHorizonsForPsi' branch, which is up to date with the 'main' branch. The repository contains several folders and files, with the most recent commit being a merge pull request #24 from 'GRTLCollaboration/add_grid_class' by 'KAClough' 4 months ago. The repository description is 'A spherically symmetric BSSN code used for teaching NR'. The repository also has a BSD-3-Clause license and 74 commits.

File/Folder	Commit Message	Commit Date
examples	Add check on base dx for oscillaton example	4 months ago
papers	messy debug session	2 years ago
source	Add check on base dx for oscillaton example	4 months ago
tests	fixed diss bug, now all seems to work ok	4 months ago
.gitignore	Adding Grid and Derivatives classes	5 months ago
LICENSE	Initial commit	2 years ago
README.md	Fix some comments	4 months ago
engrenage.png	Update naming	last year

<https://github.com/GRTLCollaboration/engrenage/tree/NewHorizonsForPsi>

We start where we start...



London, England, October 2013...

We start where we start...



Lecture 1: Level zero - theoretical background

- How to solve PDEs on a computer
- Overview of numerical relativity
- The variables of the engrenage code

We start where we start...



Lecture 2: Level one - 4 practical exercises

- Initial conditions - adding the scalar field to a BH
- Modifying equations of motion for the scalar
- Modifying the dynamical gauge for the metric
- Diagnostics - measuring scalar energy fluxes



Lecture 1: Level zero

Lecture 1: theoretical background



- How to solve PDEs on a computer
- Overview of numerical relativity
- The variables of the engrenage code

“[Nature] does not care about our mathematical difficulties; [it] integrates [numeri]cally.”

- Albert Einstein (roughly said this)

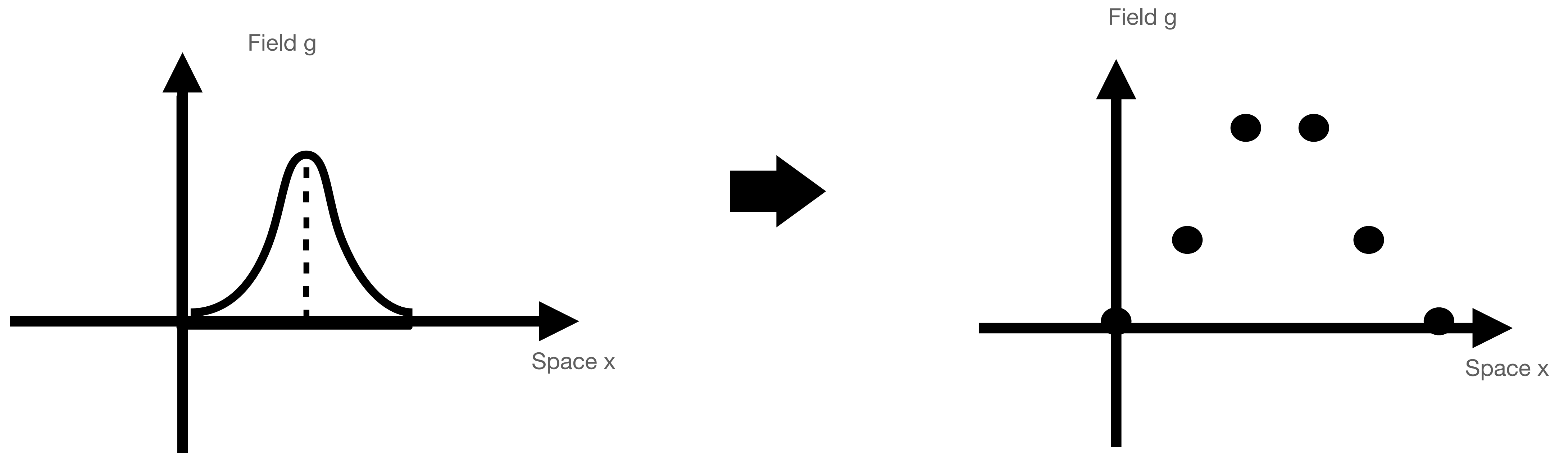
How would Nature solve the wave equation?

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

Each event in space
“feels” the points
around it, and
evolves forward in
time in response

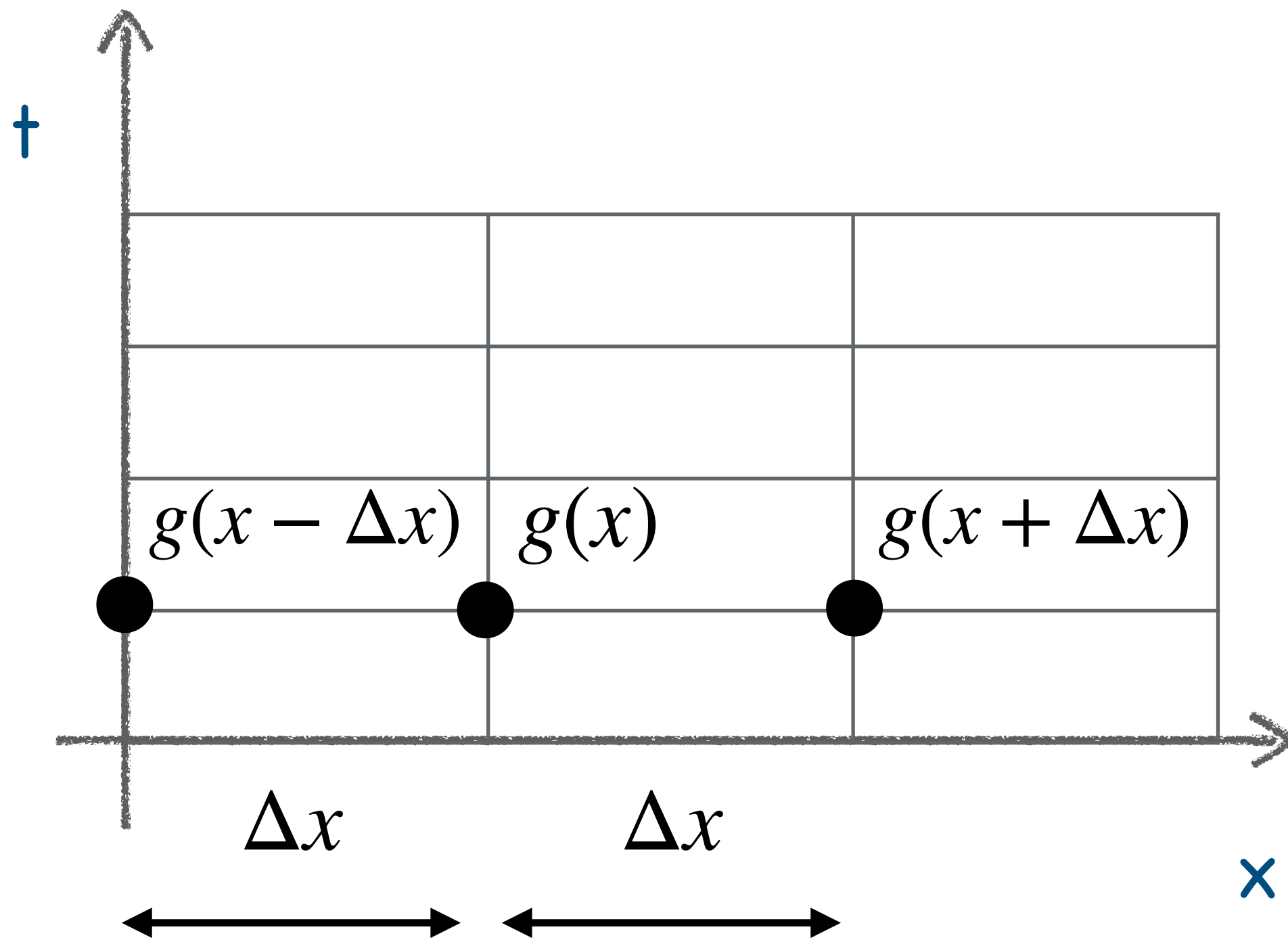
How do I represent a continuous function on a computer?

Position x	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Field g	0	1	3	3	1	0



How do I find spatial derivatives numerically?

$$\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} = \text{Source}$$



$$\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} \approx \frac{\frac{g(x + \Delta x) - g(x)}{\Delta x} - \frac{g(x) - g(x - \Delta x)}{\Delta x}}{\Delta x}$$

This approach is called finite differencing

We can see it as the convolution of *a stencil* with the *current state vector*.

$\Delta x = 0.5$
↔

Position x	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Field g	0	1	3	2	1	0

↑

-1	0	1
----	---	---

First derivative stencil

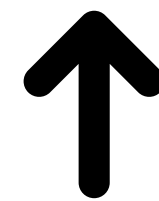
$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \approx \frac{g(x + \Delta x) - g(x - \Delta x)}{2\Delta x}$$

dg/dx						
-------	--	--	--	--	--	--

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First derivative stencil

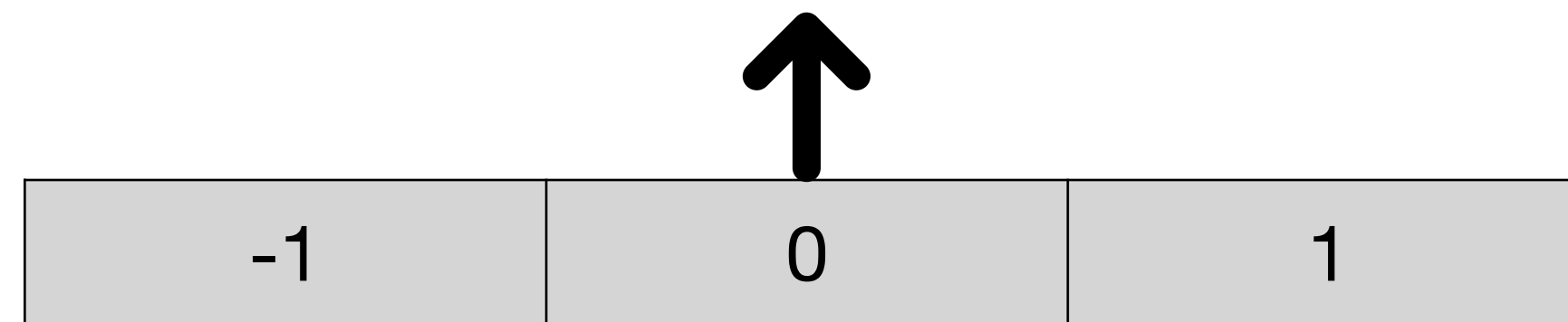
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dg/dx			1			
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First derivative stencil

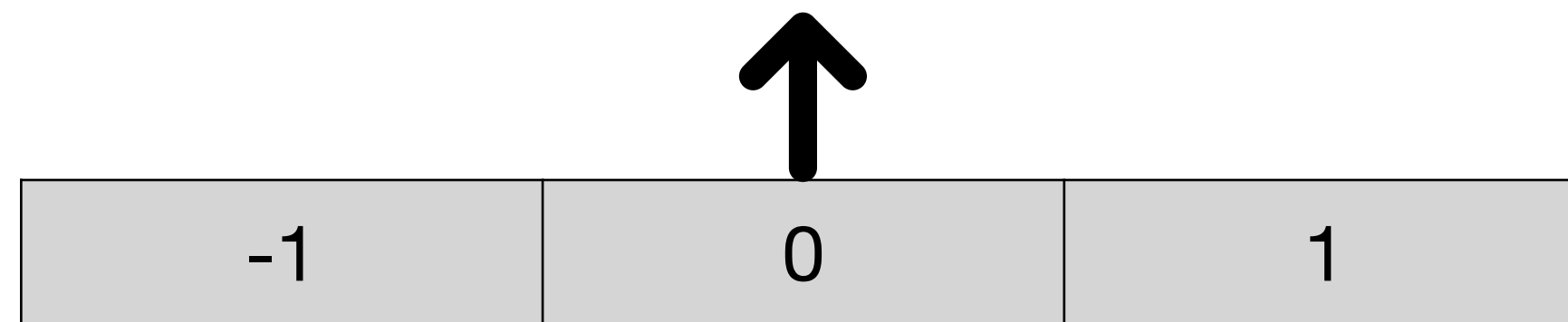
$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \approx \frac{g(x + \Delta x) - g(x - \Delta x)}{2\Delta x}$$

dg/dx			1			
-------	--	--	---	--	--	--

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First derivative stencil

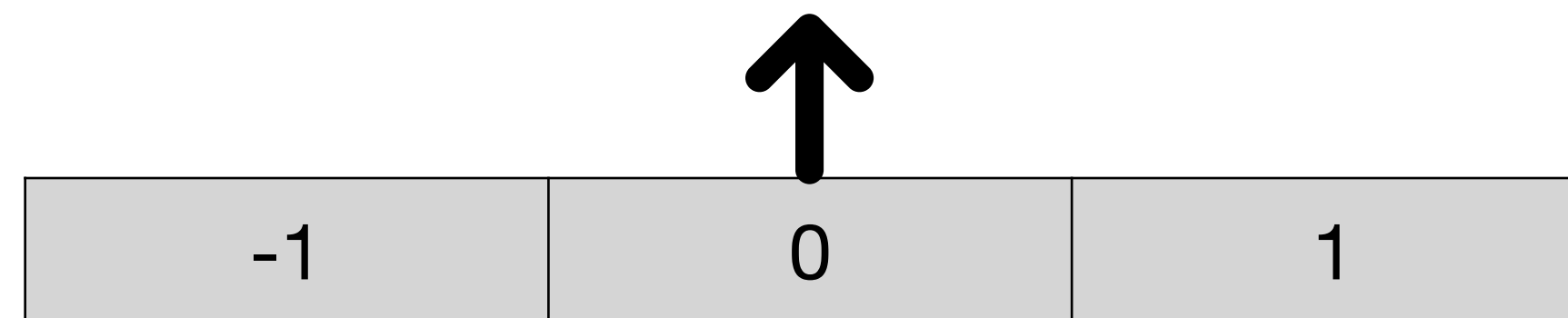
$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \approx \frac{g(x + \Delta x) - g(x - \Delta x)}{2\Delta x}$$

dg/dx		3	1			
--------------	--	----------	----------	--	--	--

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Position x	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
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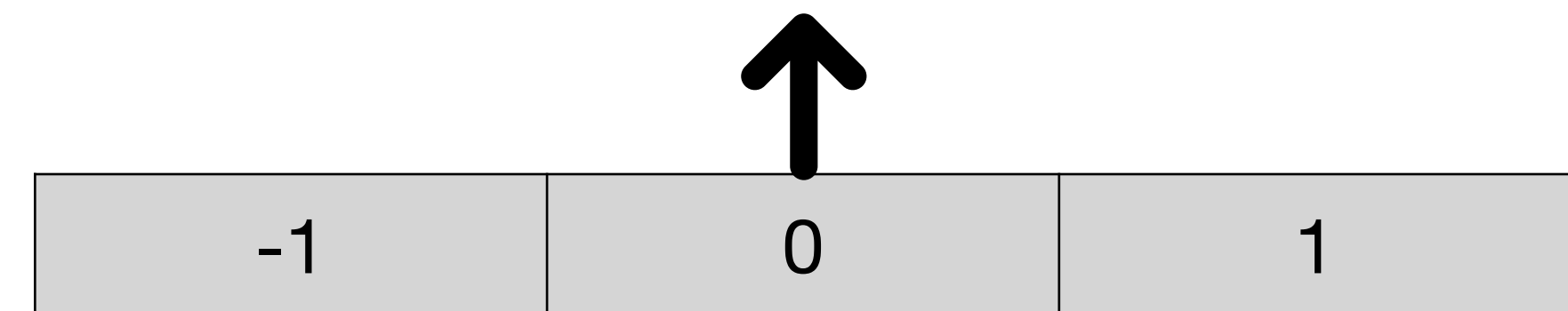


dg/dx		3	1	-2		
--------------	--	----------	----------	-----------	--	--

This approach is called finite differencing

We can see it as the convolution of *a stencil* with the *current state vector*.

Position x	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Field g	0	1	3	2	1	0



dg/dx		3	1	-2	-2	
-------	--	---	---	----	----	--

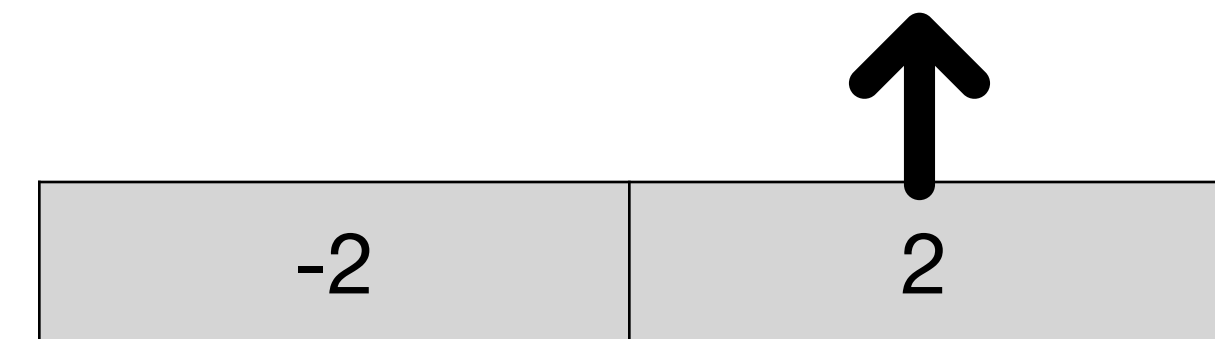
What about the end points?

This approach is called finite differencing

We can see it as the convolution of *a stencil* with the *current state vector*.

Position x	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Field g	0	1	3	2	1	0

*Use one sided stencil - doesn't
have to be centralised*



dg/dx		3	1	-2	-2	-2
-------	--	---	---	----	----	----

This approach is called finite differencing

We can see it as the convolution of *a stencil* with the *current state vector*.

Position x	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Field g	0	1	3	2	1	0

OR use a **boundary condition** -
some knowledge about the function
- e.g. maybe its derivative goes to zero here



dg/dx		3	1	-2	-2	0
-------	--	---	---	----	----	---

Finite differencing - matrix representation

We can also represent this convolution in matrix form:

Position x	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Field g	0	1	3	2	1	0

dg/dx

=

Matrix D

g

2
3
1
-2
-2
-2

=

-2	2				
-1	0	1			
	-1	0	1		
		-1	0	1	
			-1	0	1
				-2	2

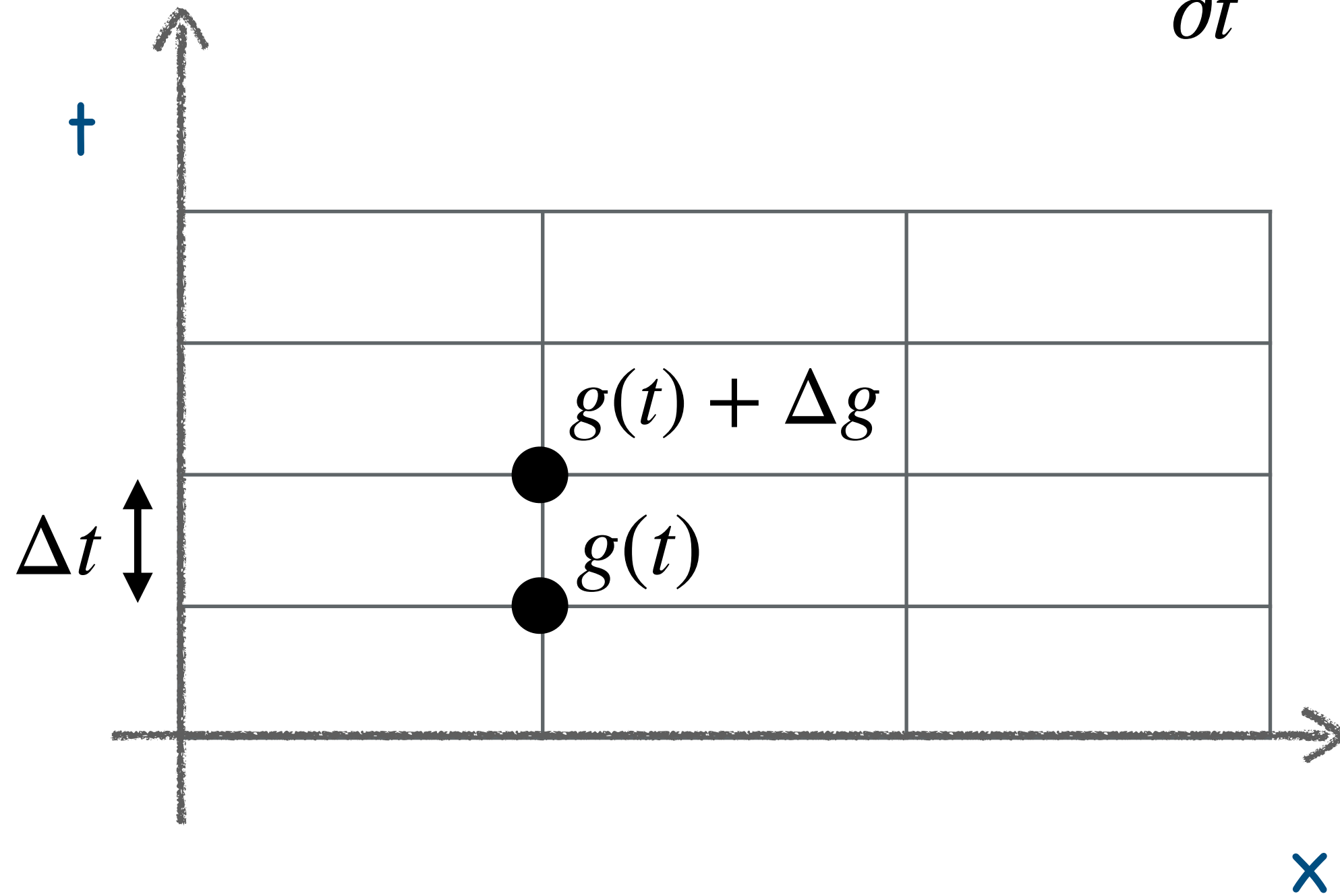


0
1
3
2
1
0

All blank entries zero

How do I integrate time derivatives numerically?

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial t^2}\right) - \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} = \text{Source} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial K}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \text{Source} \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} = K \end{array} \right.$$



$$\Delta K = \Delta t \left(\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \text{Source} \right)$$

$$\Delta g = K \Delta t$$

Matrix implementation of time evolution

Position x	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Field g	0	1	3	2	1	0
Field K	0	2	1	1	1	0

dKdt

=

Matrix D²

g

Source

2
3
1
-2
-2
-2

=

X	X				
X	X	X			
	X	X	X		
		X	X	X	
			X	X	X
				X	X

•

0
1
3
2
1
0

+

0
3
4
5
7
0

Matrix implementation of time evolution

Position x	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
Field g	0	1	3	2	1	0
Field K	0	2	1	1	1	0

dgdt

0
2
1
1
1
0

=

=

K

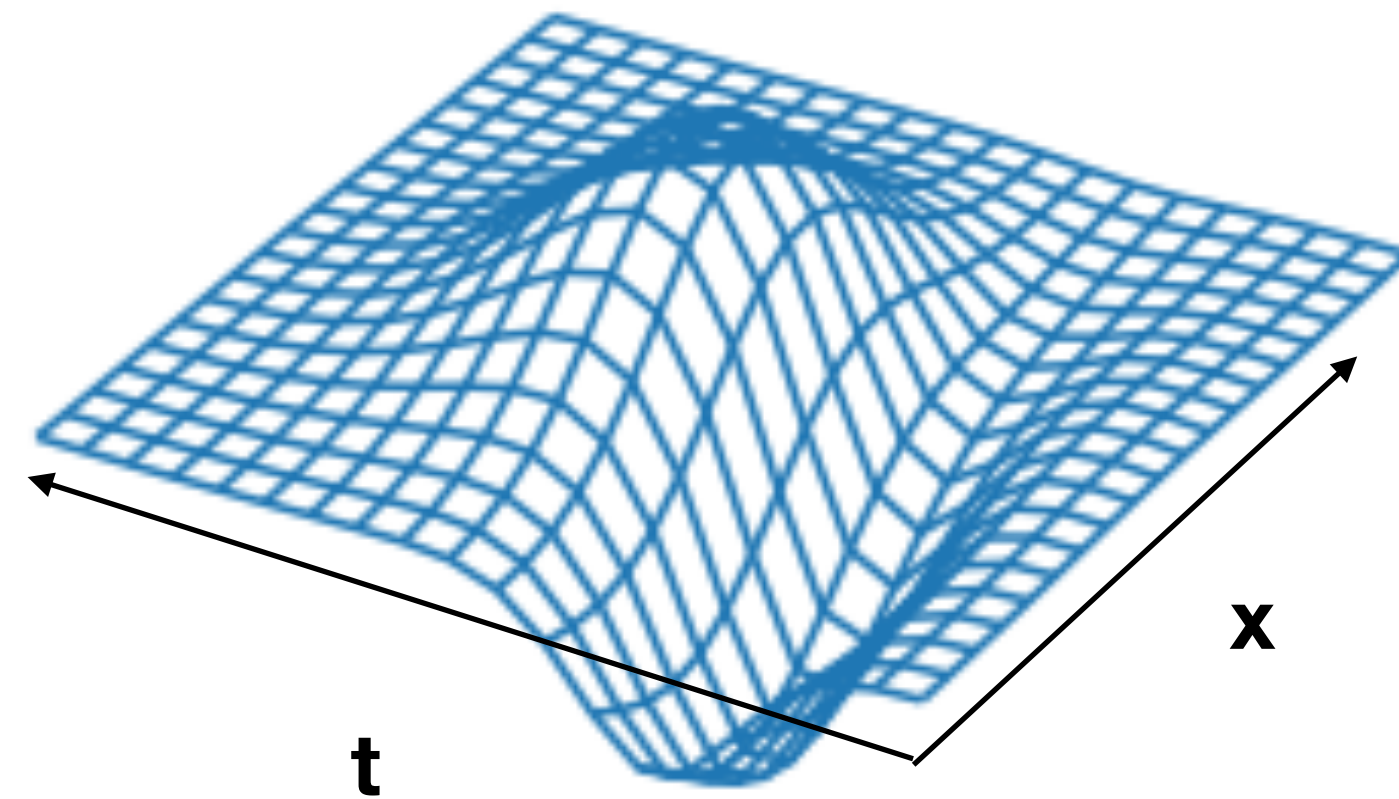
0
2
1
1
1
0

GR & NR 101

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

Curved spacetime

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



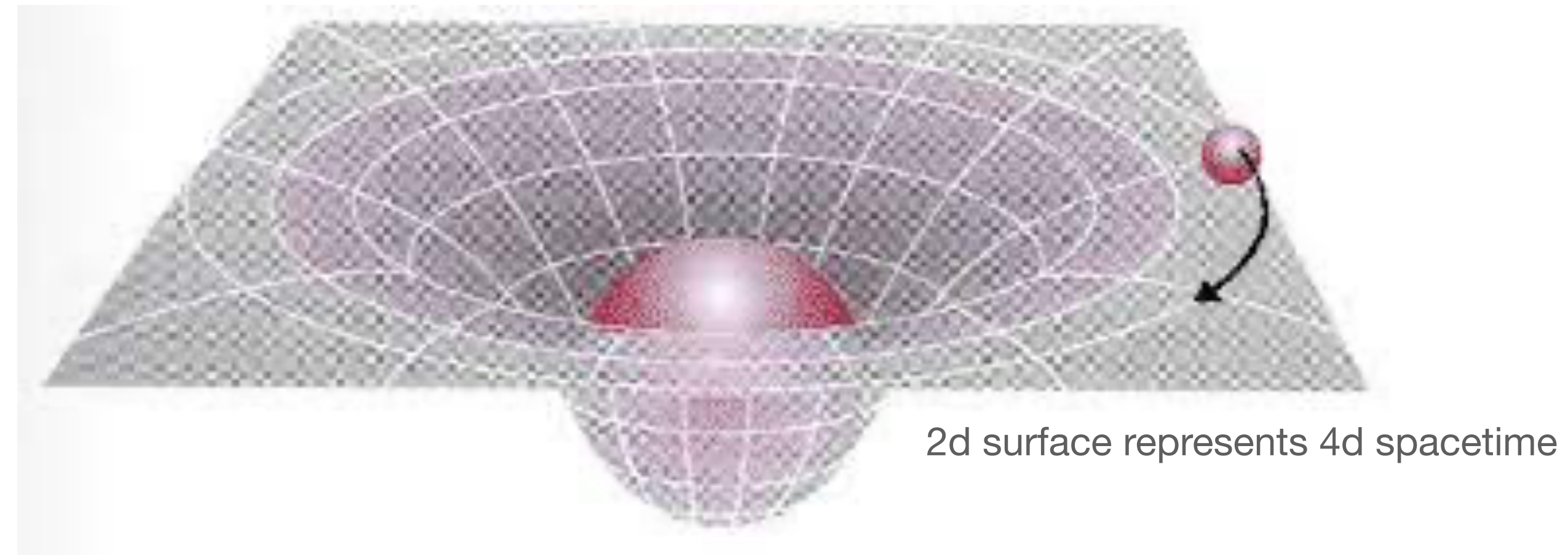
Curved spacetime

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

“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...”

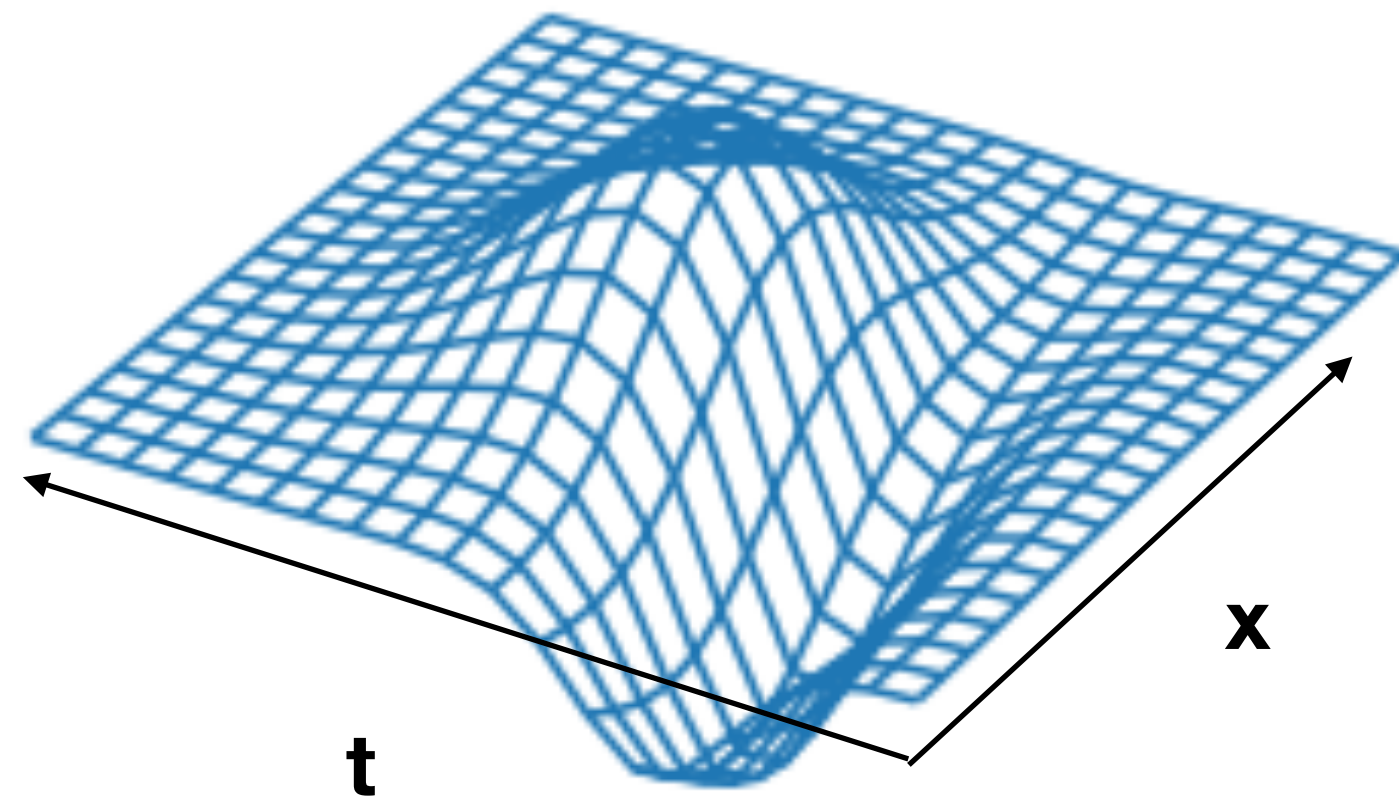
The Einstein equation tells us how the metric should look, given some energy/matter distribution

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

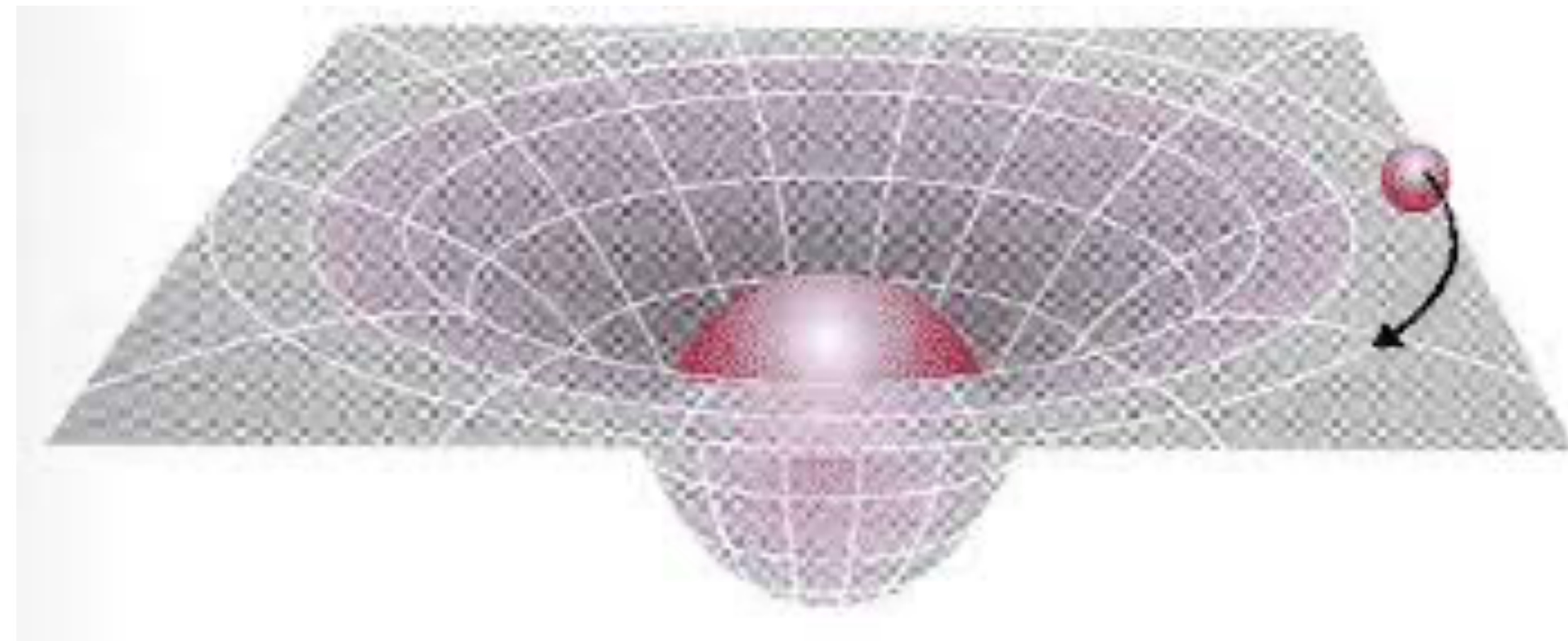
$$\frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2} + \text{non linear terms} = f(\text{energy, momentum})$$



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

“Matter tells spacetime how to curve...”

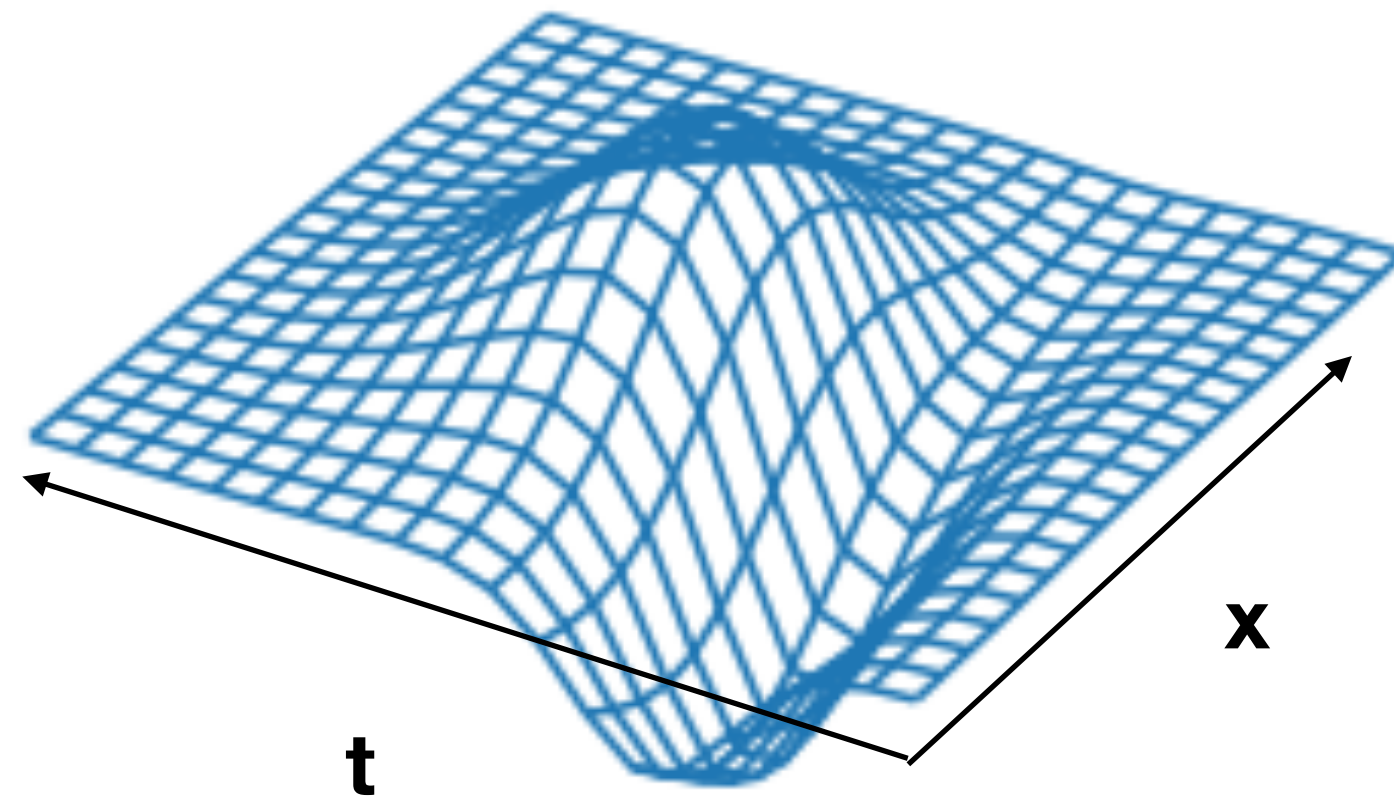
The metric determines the motion of matter



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

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

The metric determines the motion of matter



Klein Gordon equation for the scalar field u

$$g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_{\mu} \nabla_{\nu} u = \frac{dV}{du}$$

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

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

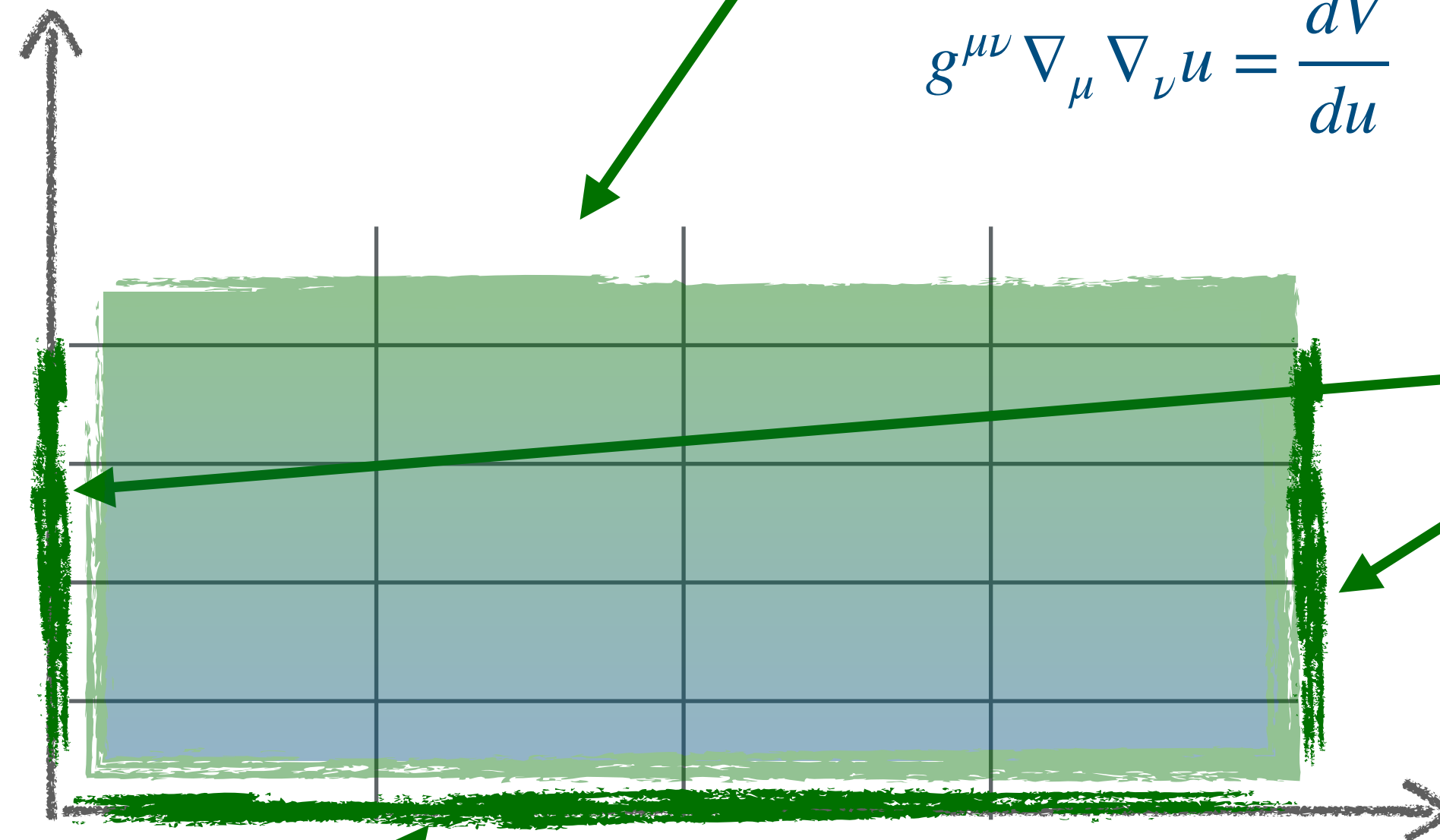
Numerical relativity

Fill using Einstein equation and continuity for matter

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

$$g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu u = \frac{dV}{du}$$

"local time"



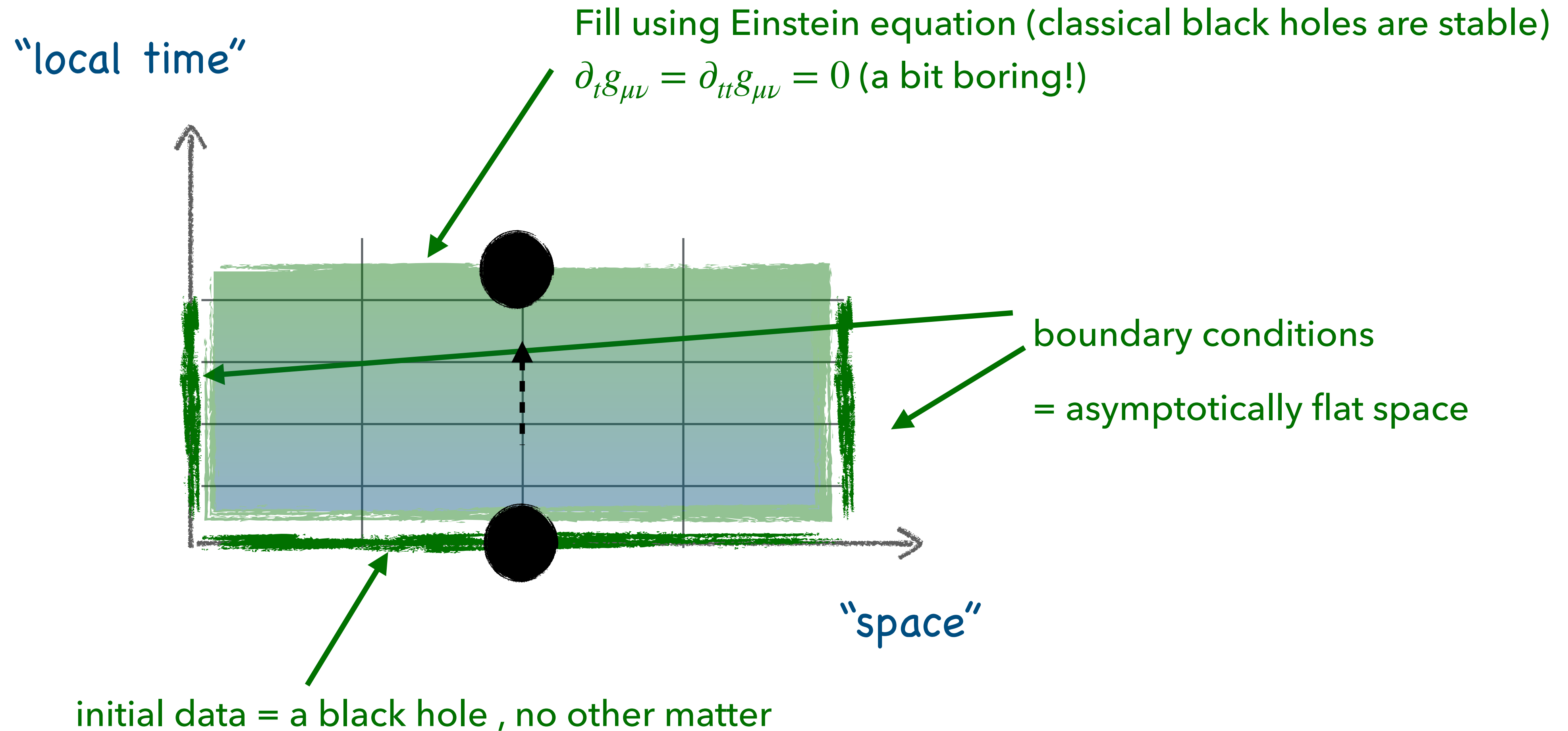
boundary conditions

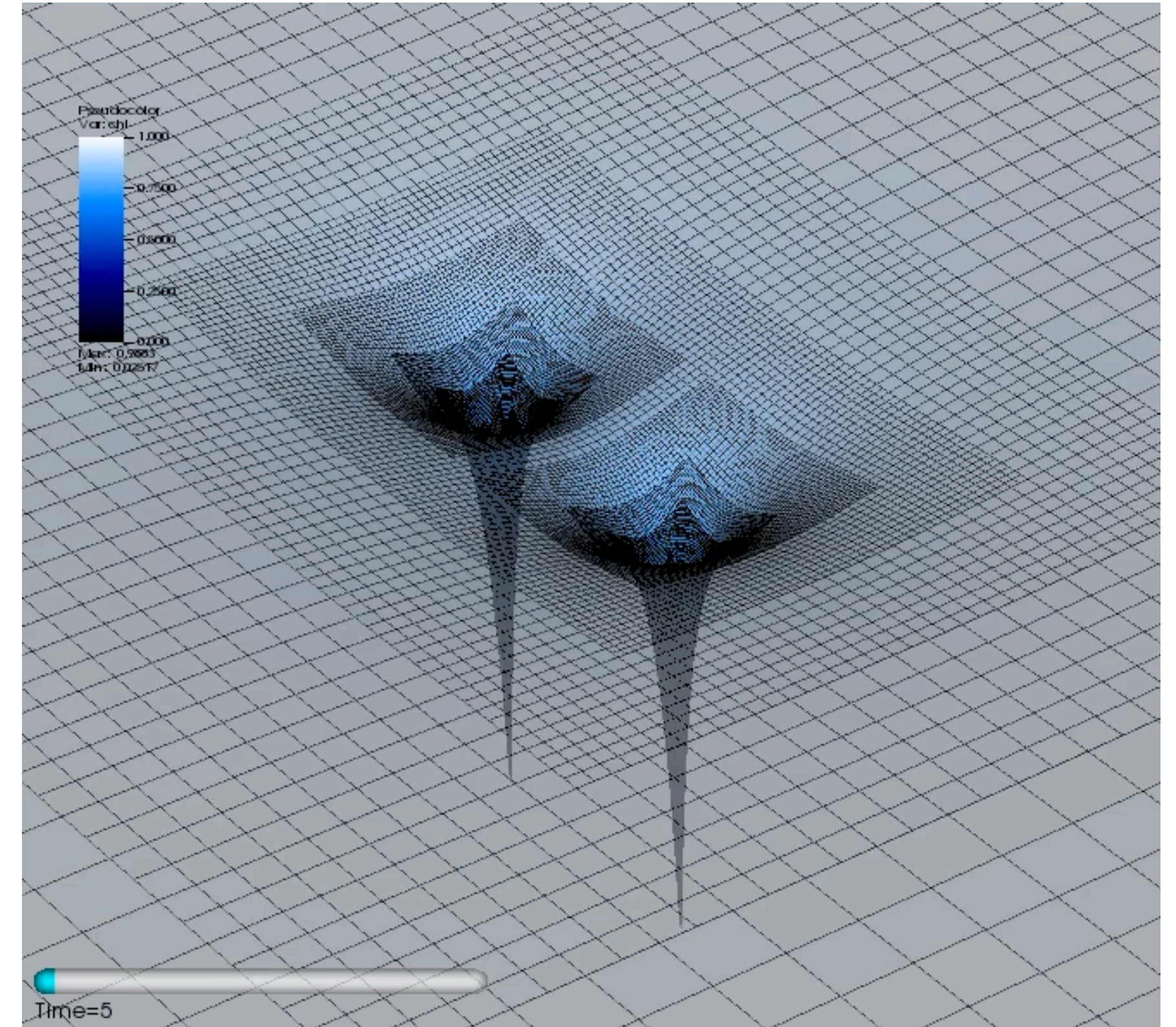
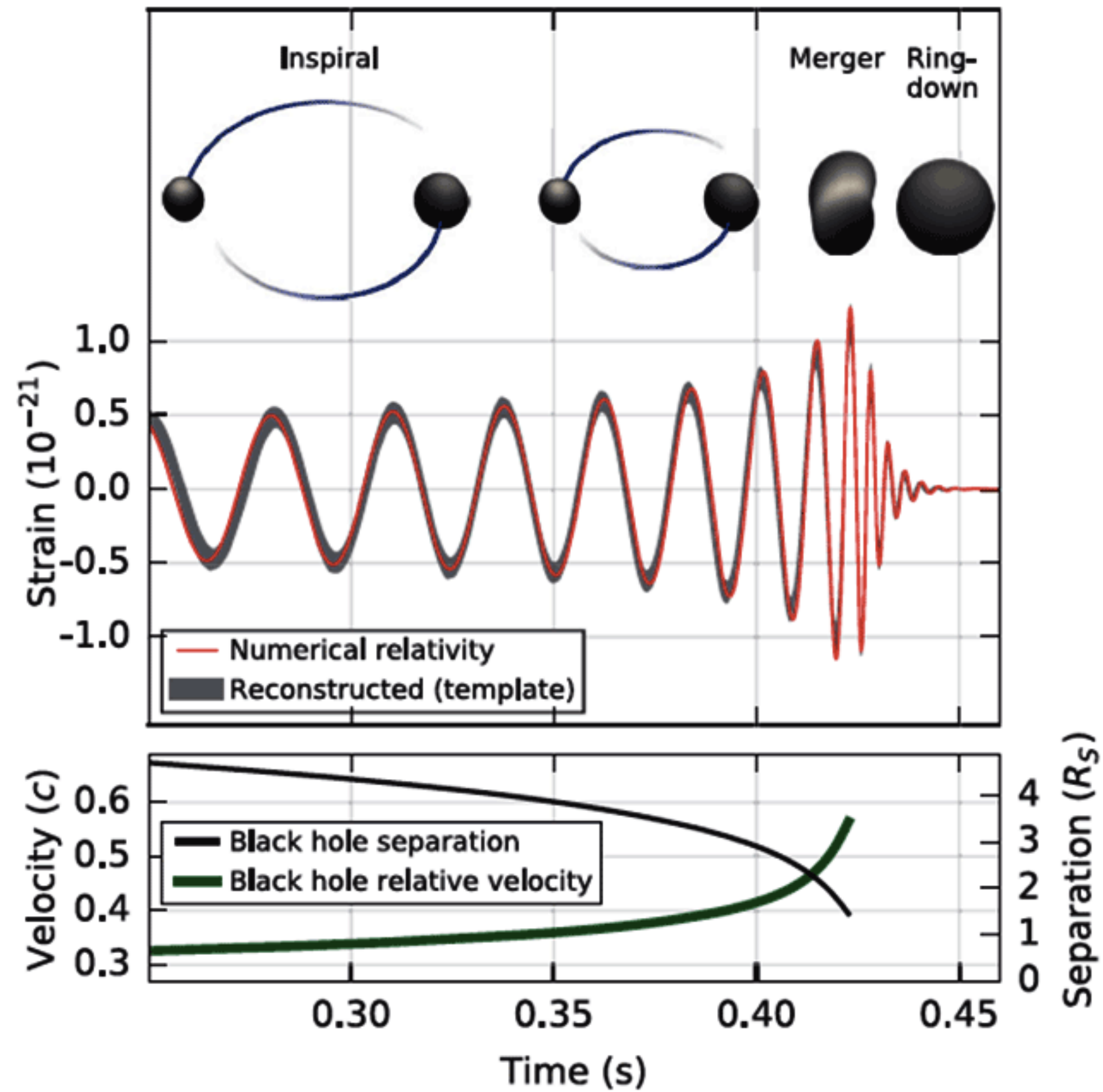
$$(\partial_{xx}g_{ab}, \partial_x g_{ab}, g_{ab}, T_{ab})$$

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





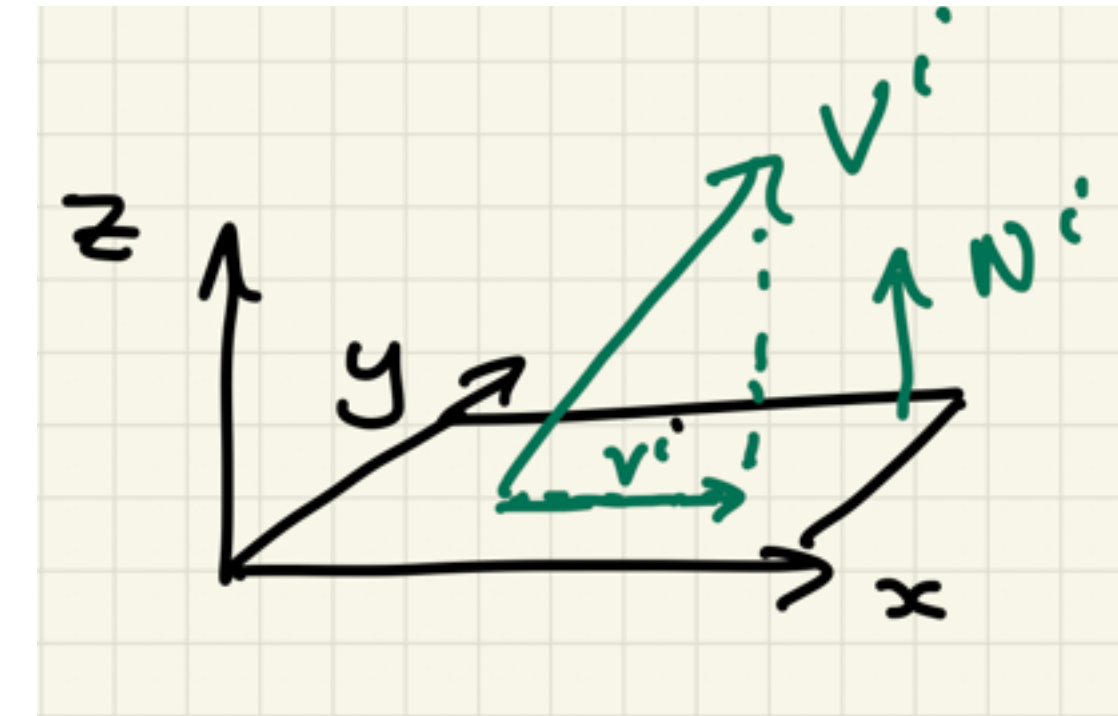
GW150914

t=14 September 2015, x = LIGO, Earth

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

ADM decomposition, in theory and in practise

What is the ADM decomposition?



We can decompose a vector into the part that lies in a surface and a part normal to the surface

$$V^i = v^i + a N^i$$
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + 3 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

What is the ADM decomposition?

We can decompose the 4D spacetime metric into the part that lies in a 3D spatial hypersurface and a part normal to the 3D spatial hypersurface

4D spacetime metric = 3D spatial metric + normal vector (or lapse and shift β^i)

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \gamma_{\mu\nu} - n_{\mu}n_{\nu}$$
$$n^{\mu} = \left(\frac{1}{\alpha}, \beta^i/\alpha\right)$$

$\downarrow dl^2 = \gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j$

We can also decompose the Einstein equations themselves into the part that lies in the surface and the part normal to the surface

$$n^\mu n^\nu (G_{\mu\nu} - 8\pi T_{\mu\nu}) \implies \mathcal{H} \equiv {}^{(3)}R + K^2 + K_{ij}K^{ij} - 16\pi\rho = 0$$

$$P_i^\mu n^\mu (G_{\mu\nu} - 8\pi T_{\mu\nu}) \implies \mathcal{M}_i \equiv D_j K^j_i - D_i K - 8\pi S_i = 0$$

$$P_i^\mu P_j^\nu (G_{\mu\nu} - 8\pi T_{\mu\nu}) \implies \partial_t K_{ij} = f(\alpha, \beta^i, \gamma^{ij}, K_{ij}, \partial_i(\text{variables}), \text{matter})$$

Where we defined $\partial_t \gamma_{ij} = -2\alpha K_{ij} + D_i \beta_j + D_j \beta_i$

What is the ADM decomposition?

If we know the metric, we can read off the quantities from the line element in the adapted coordinates

In adapted coordinates, the line element can be written as

$$ds^2 = -(\alpha^2 - \beta^i \beta_i) dt^2 + 2\beta_i dt dx^i + \gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

What is the ADM decomposition?

e.g. Schwarzschild

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) dt^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2$$

What is ...

$$\alpha =$$

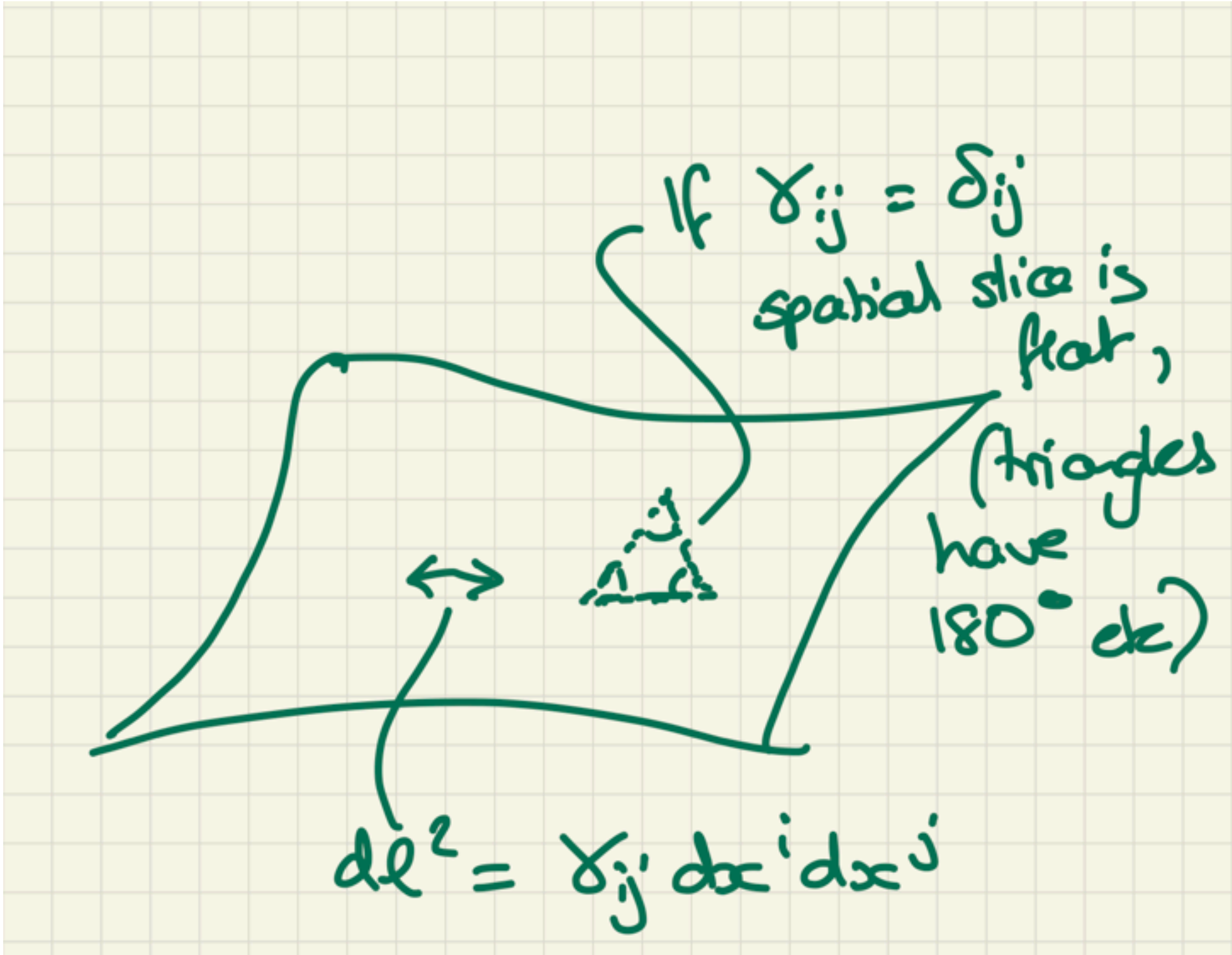
$$\beta^i =$$

$$\gamma_{ij} =$$

?

The spatial metric tells us about proper distances on the spacelike hypersurface, which can be flat or curved

What (physically) is the spatial metric γ_{ij} ?



BSSN decomposition of the intrinsic curvature/spatial metric

We perform a conformal decomposition of the spatial metric into a conformal part and an overall conformal factor

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

The rough motivation is to “factor out” any large overall stretching of spacetime (ie, around singularities) into the conformal factor (at this point we haven’t defined how exactly to make the split)

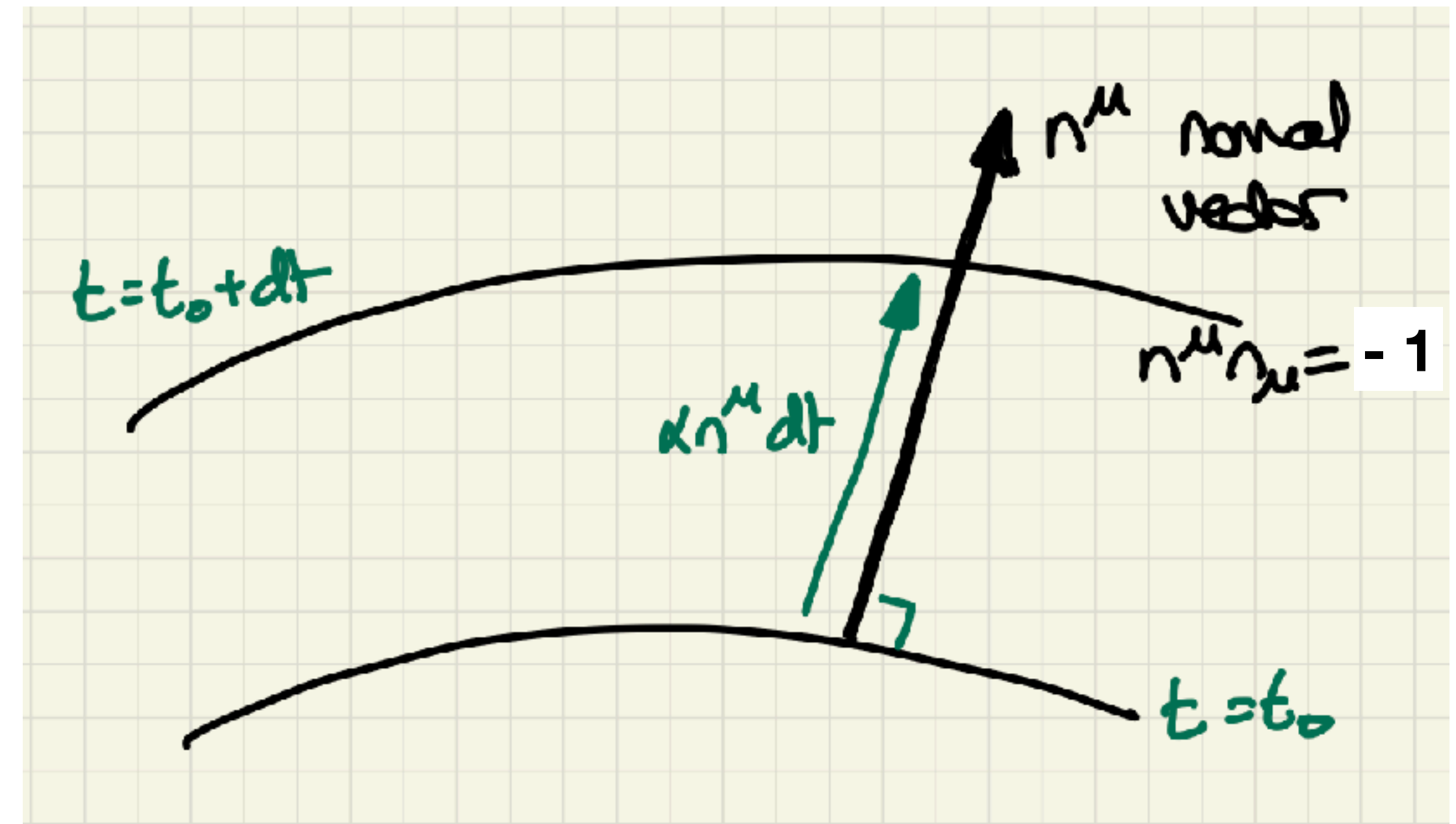
What relates to the spatial metric γ_{ij} in engrenage?

```
1 #uservariables.py
2
3 # hard code number of ghosts to 3 here
4 num_ghosts = 3
5
6 # This file provides the list of (rescaled) variables to be evolved and
7 # assigns each one an index and its parity
8 # For description of the data structure see https://github.com/GRChombo/engrenage/wiki/Useful-code-background
9
10 idx_u      = 0    # scalar field
11 idx_v      = 1    # scalar field conjugate momentum (roughly the time derivative of u)
12 idx_phi    = 2    # conformal factor of metric,  $\gamma_{ij} = e^{4 \phi} \bar{\gamma}_{ij}$ 
13 idx_hrr    = 3    # rescaled  $\epsilon_{rr} \rightarrow h_{rr}$  - deviation of rr component of the metric from flat
14 idx_htt    = 4    # rescaled  $\epsilon_{tt} \rightarrow h_{tt}$  - deviation of tt component of the metric from flat
15 idx_hpp    = 5    # rescaled  $\epsilon_{pp} \rightarrow h_{pp}$  - deviation of pp component of the metric from flat
16 idx_K      = 6    # mean curvature K
17 idx_arr    = 7    # rescaled  $\tilde{A}_{rr} \rightarrow a_{rr}$  - (roughly) time derivative of hrr
18 idx_att    = 8    # rescaled  $\tilde{A}_{tt} \rightarrow a_{tt}$  - (roughly) time derivative of htt
19 idx_app    = 9    # rescaled  $\tilde{A}_{pp} \rightarrow a_{pp}$  - (roughly) time derivative of hpp
20 idx_lambdar = 10  # rescaled  $\bar{\Lambda} \rightarrow \lambda^r$ 
21 idx_shiftr = 11  # rescaled  $\beta^r \rightarrow$  radial shift - gauge variable for relabelling spatial points
22 idx_br     = 12  # rescaled  $B^r \rightarrow b^r$  - time derivative of shift
23 idx_lapse  = 13  # lapse - gauge variable for time slicing
24
```

The lapse is related to how much **proper time** passes for an observer going to the next slice

(not the full story - see *the shift* coming up soon)

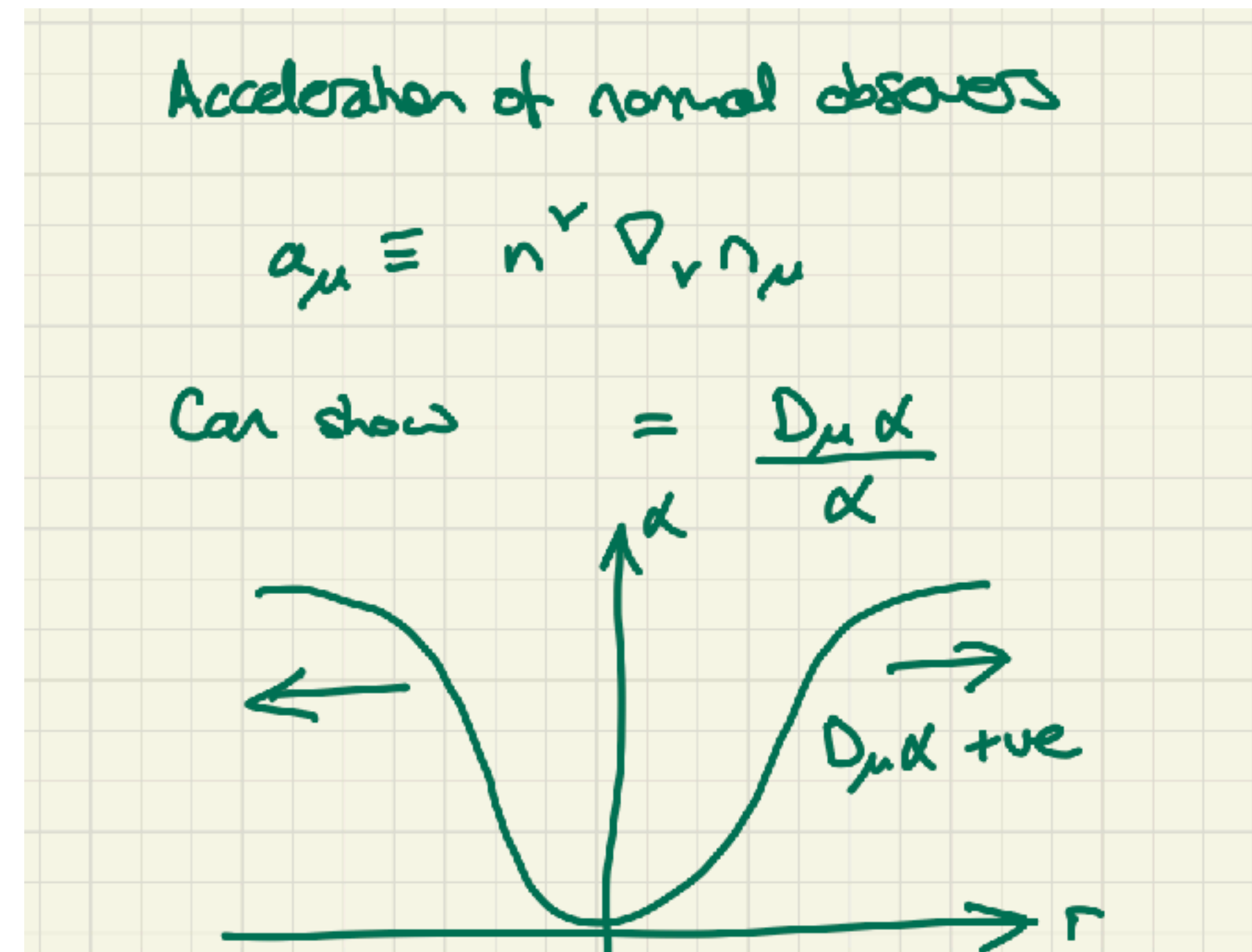
What (physically) is the lapse α ?



A spatially varying lapse indicates that the normal observers are **accelerated**

This is important for the stability of the puncture gauge in NR, where we will observe the "**collapse of the lapse**".

What (physically) is the lapse α ?

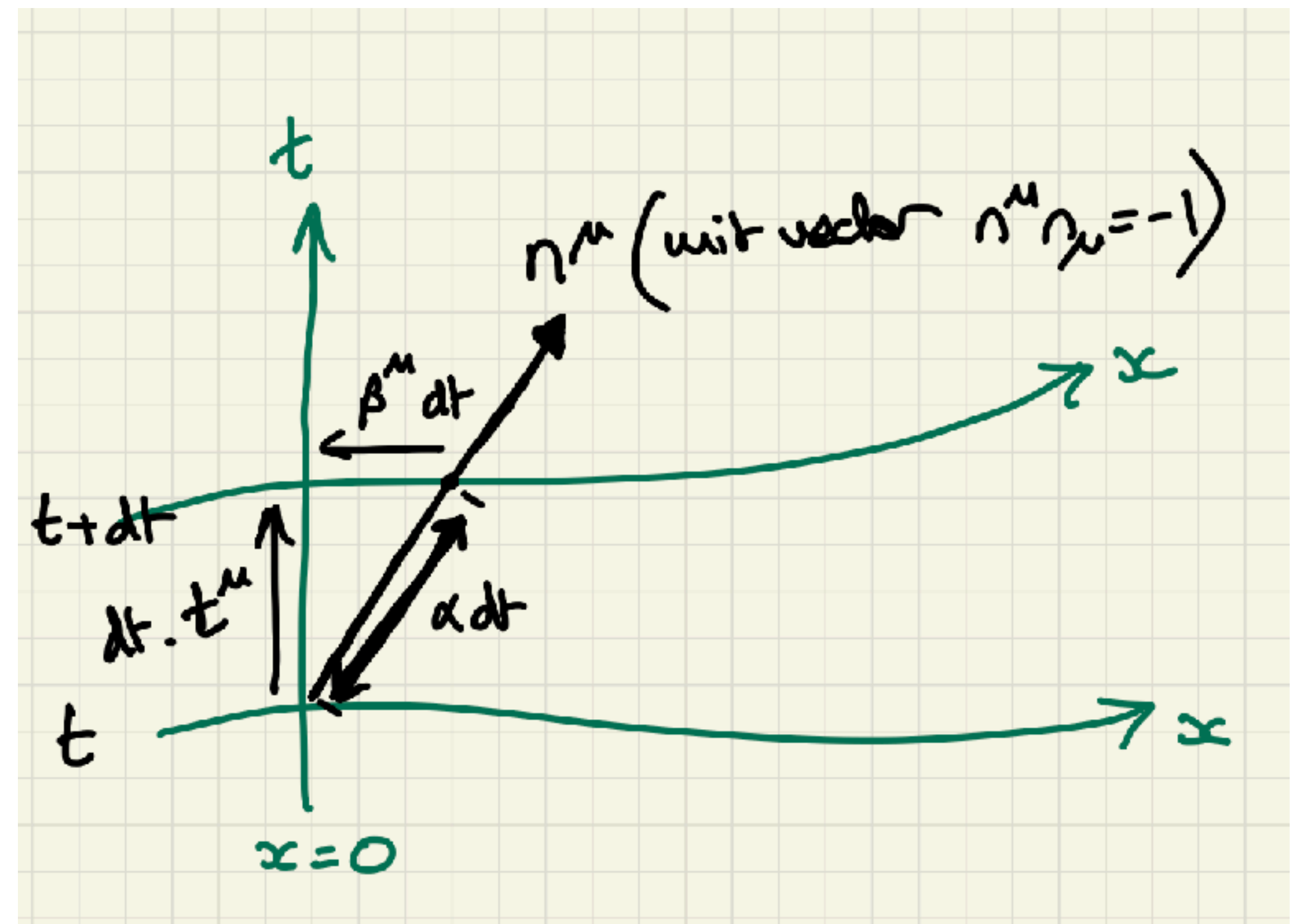


What relates to the lapse in engrenage?

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24
```

The shift tells us about how we **relabel coordinates** from one slice to the next. I like to think of it as the amount the normal observers have to "jump" to get back to the coordinate they were on at the last time slice

What (physically) is the shift β^i ?



Dynamical gauge

1. Lapse aims (roughly) to minimise K

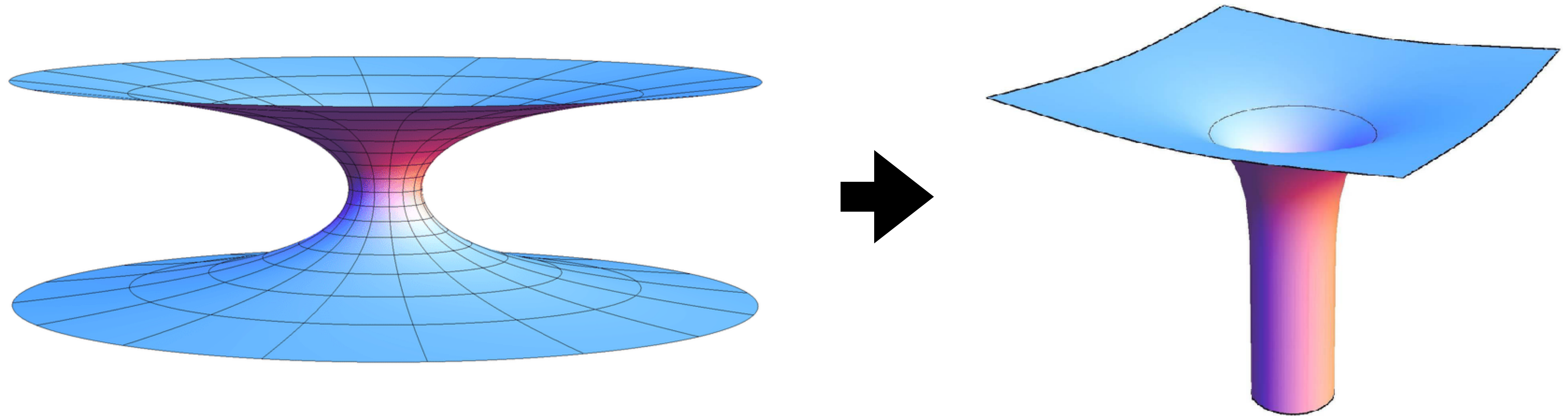
$$\partial_t \alpha \sim -2\alpha K$$

2. Shift aims (roughly) to minimise $\bar{\Gamma}^i = \bar{\gamma}^{jk} \bar{\Gamma}_{jk}^i$

$$\partial_t \beta^i \sim \bar{\Gamma}^i - \eta \beta^i$$

Black hole “punctures”

The initial “wormhole” metric evolves into a “trumpet” shape that terminates at a finite radius outside the singularity



What relates to the shift in engrenage?

```
1 #uservariables.py
2
3 # hard code number of ghosts to 3 here
4 num_ghosts = 3
5
6 # This file provides the list of (rescaled) variables to be evolved and
7 # assigns each one an index and its parity
8 # For description of the data structure see https://github.com/GRChombo/engrenage/wiki/Useful-code-background
9
10 idx_u      = 0    # scalar field
11 idx_v      = 1    # scalar field conjugate momentum (roughly the time derivative of u)
12 idx_phi    = 2    # conformal factor of metric,  $\gamma_{ij} = e^{4\phi} \bar{\gamma}_{ij}$ 
13 idx_hrr    = 3    # rescaled  $\epsilon_{rr} \rightarrow h_{rr}$  - deviation of rr component of the metric from flat
14 idx_htt    = 4    # rescaled  $\epsilon_{tt} \rightarrow h_{tt}$  - deviation of tt component of the metric from flat
15 idx_hpp    = 5    # rescaled  $\epsilon_{pp} \rightarrow h_{pp}$  - deviation of pp component of the metric from flat
16 idx_K      = 6    # mean curvature K
17 idx_arr    = 7    # rescaled  $\tilde{A}_{rr} \rightarrow a_{rr}$  - (roughly) time derivative of hrr
18 idx_att    = 8    # rescaled  $\tilde{A}_{tt} \rightarrow a_{tt}$  - (roughly) time derivative of htt
19 idx_app    = 9    # rescaled  $\tilde{A}_{pp} \rightarrow a_{pp}$  - (roughly) time derivative of hpp
20 idx_lambdar = 10  # rescaled  $\bar{\Lambda} \rightarrow \lambda^r$ 
21 idx_shiftr = 11  # rescaled  $\beta^r \rightarrow$  radial shift - gauge variable for relabelling spatial points
22 idx_br     = 12  # rescaled  $B^r \rightarrow b^r$  - time derivative of shift
23 idx_lapse  = 13  # lapse - gauge variable for time slicing
24
```

What (physically) is the extrinsic curvature K_{ij} ?

The extrinsic curvature can be viewed in two equivalent ways:

1. It is related to the Lie Derivative of the spatial metric along the normal vector congruence

$$K_{ij} \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}_n \gamma_{ij}$$

In this way it is related to the time derivative of the metric as

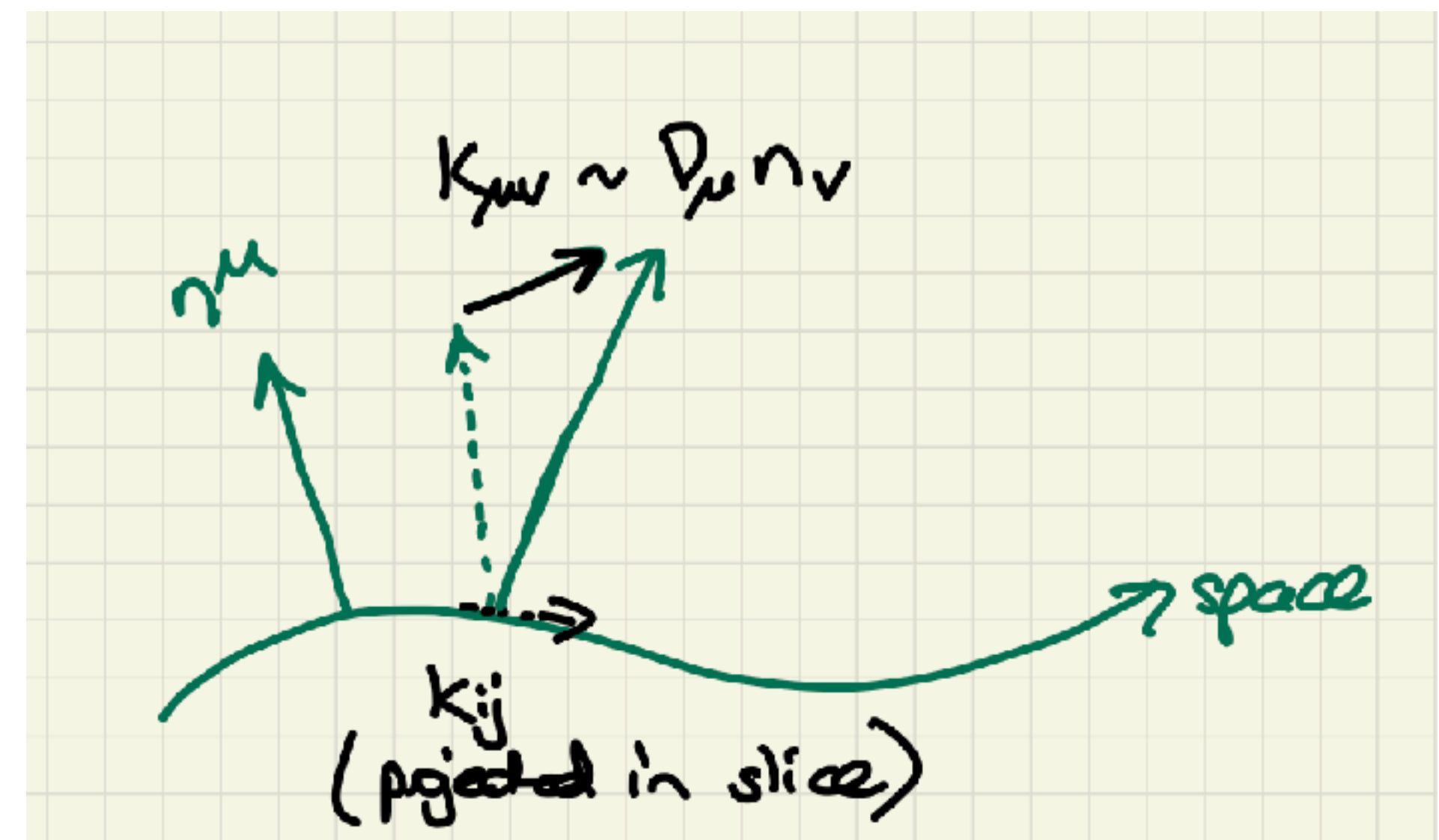
$$\partial_t \gamma_{ij} = -2\alpha K_{ij} + D_i \beta_j + D_j \beta_i$$

What (physically) is the extrinsic curvature K_{ij} ?

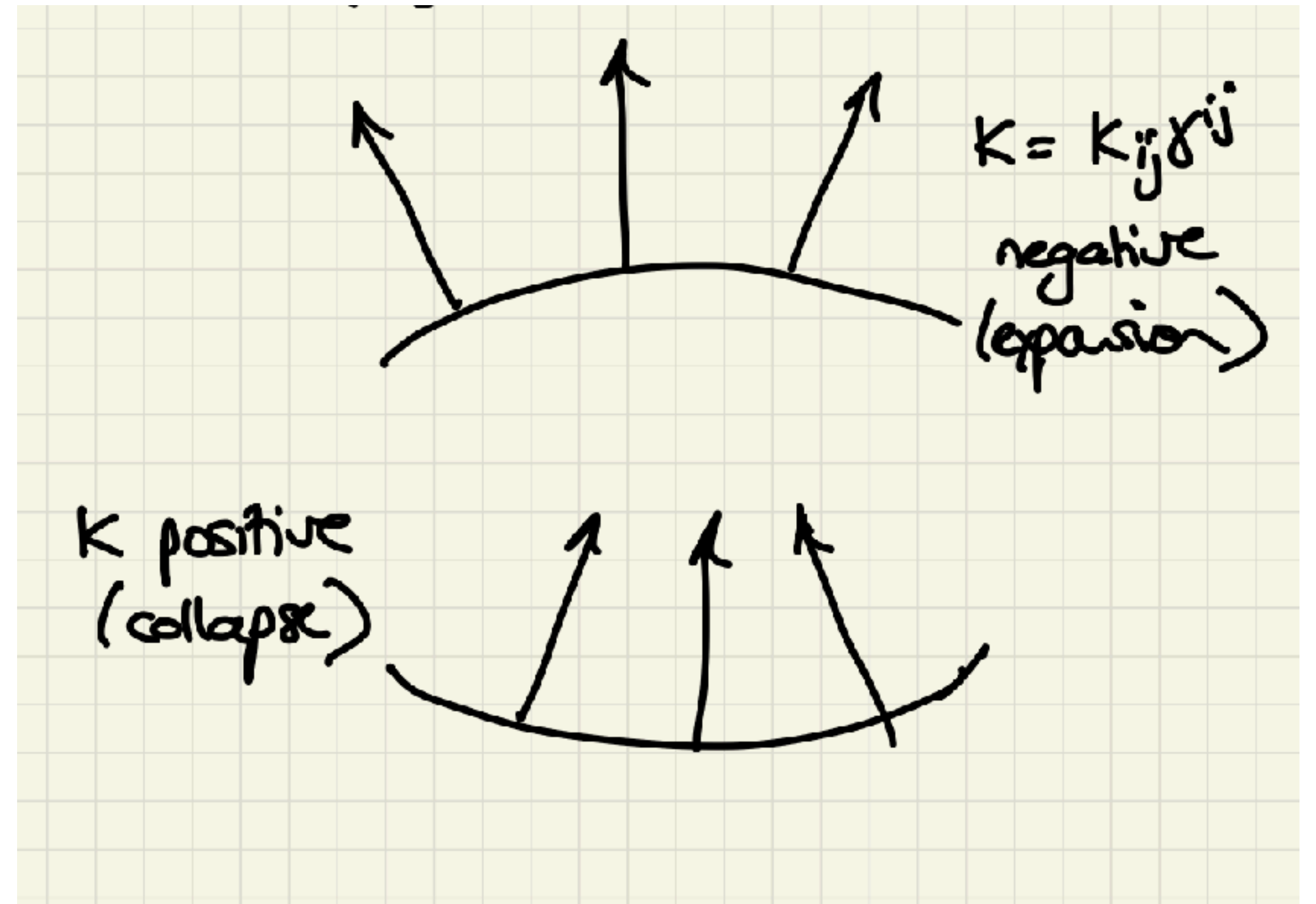
The extrinsic curvature can be viewed in two equivalent ways:

2. It is related to the (covariant) derivative of the normal vector projected into the spatial slice

$$K_{ij} \equiv -\gamma_i^\mu \gamma_j^\nu \nabla_\mu n_\nu$$



What (physically) is the trace of the extrinsic curvature K ?



BSSN decomposition of the extrinsic curvature

We perform a conformal decomposition plus
a separation into trace and trace free parts

as:

$$K_{ij} = e^{4\phi} \left(\bar{A}_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} \bar{\gamma}_{ij} K \right)$$

The rough motivation is to split out an overall
expansion rate (the mean curvature K) and a
traceless part relating to gravitational wave
content

What relates to the K_{ij} in engrenage?

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```



**End of lecture 1 -
you are now at level 1!**



Lecture 2: Level one

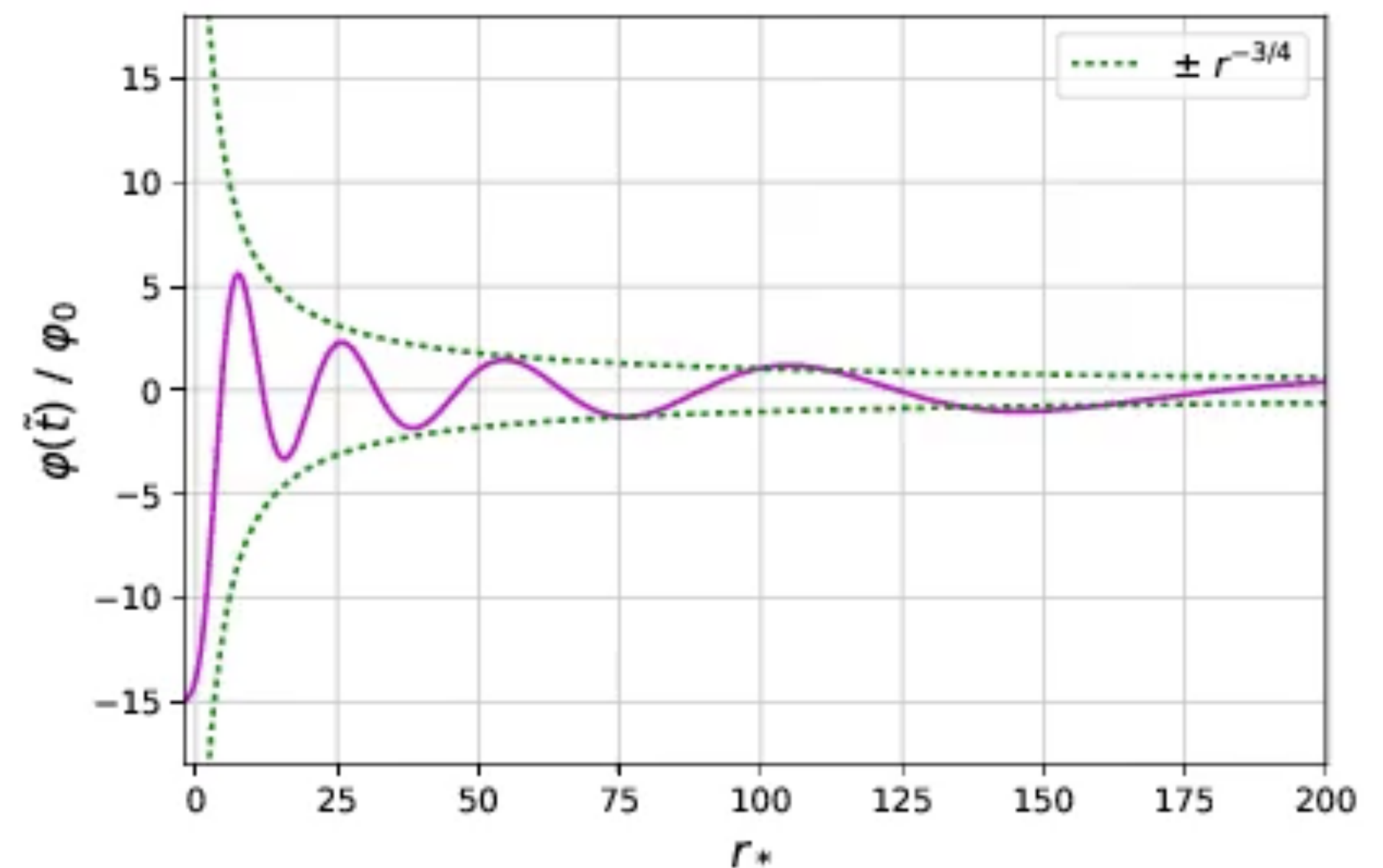
Lecture 2: Four practical exercises



- Initial conditions - adding the scalar field to a BH
- Modifying equations of motion for the scalar
- Modifying the dynamical gauge for the metric
- Diagnostics - measuring scalar energy fluxes

Engrenage exercise 1: initial conditions

- Add a spatially constant scalar field $u_0 = 10^{-6}$ to the black hole initial conditions
- We need to make sure the Hamiltonian constraint is solved, so also set K to achieve this.
- ***Estimated lines of code required: 2-4***



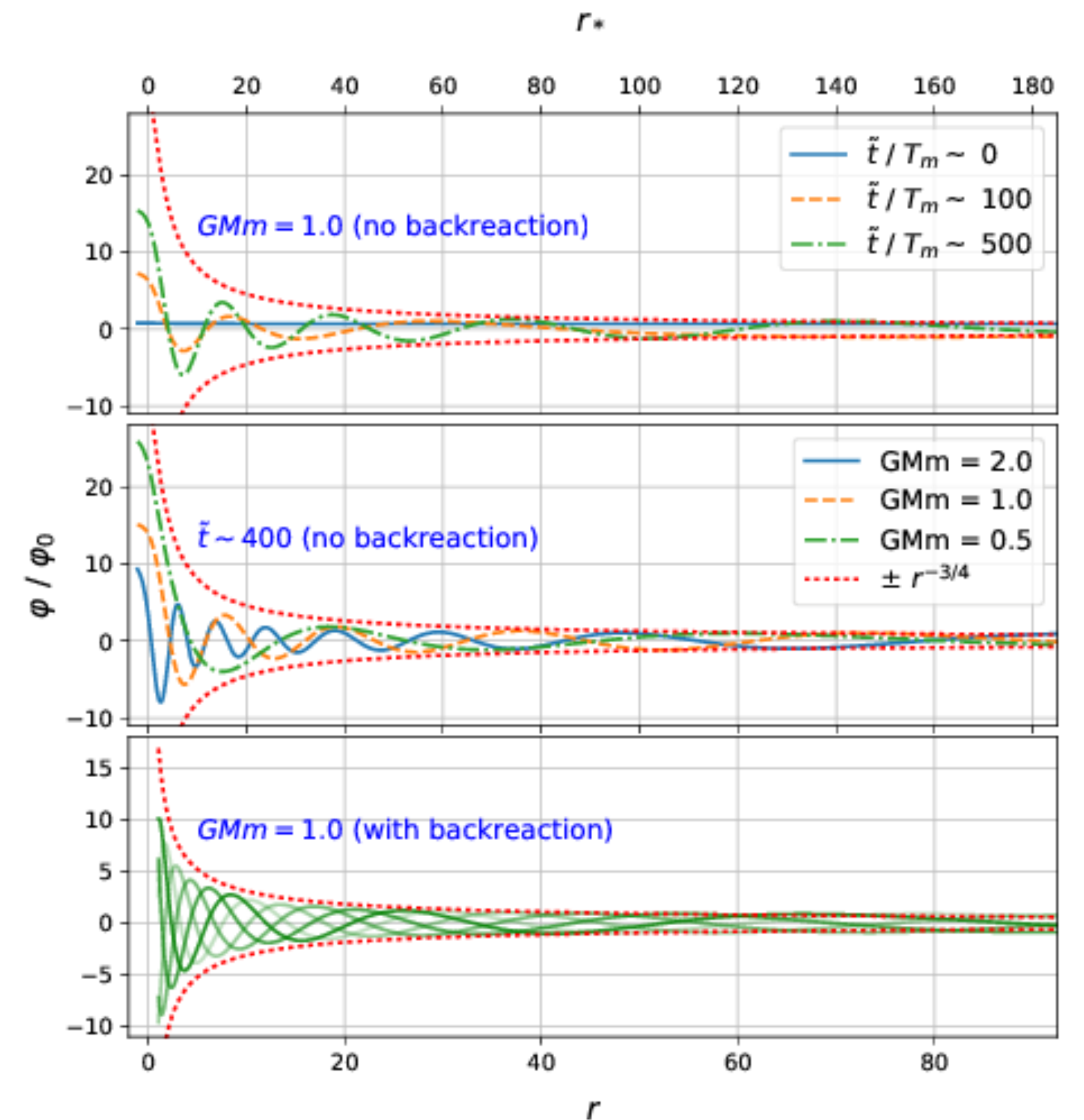
Engrenage exercise 2 - change the scalar eom

- Find and change the potential to:

$$V(u) = \frac{1}{2}\mu^2 u^2 + \frac{1}{4}\mu^2 \lambda u^4$$

Investigate the effect of changing the scalar mass μ and the self interaction λ .

- Estimated lines of code required: 2-3**



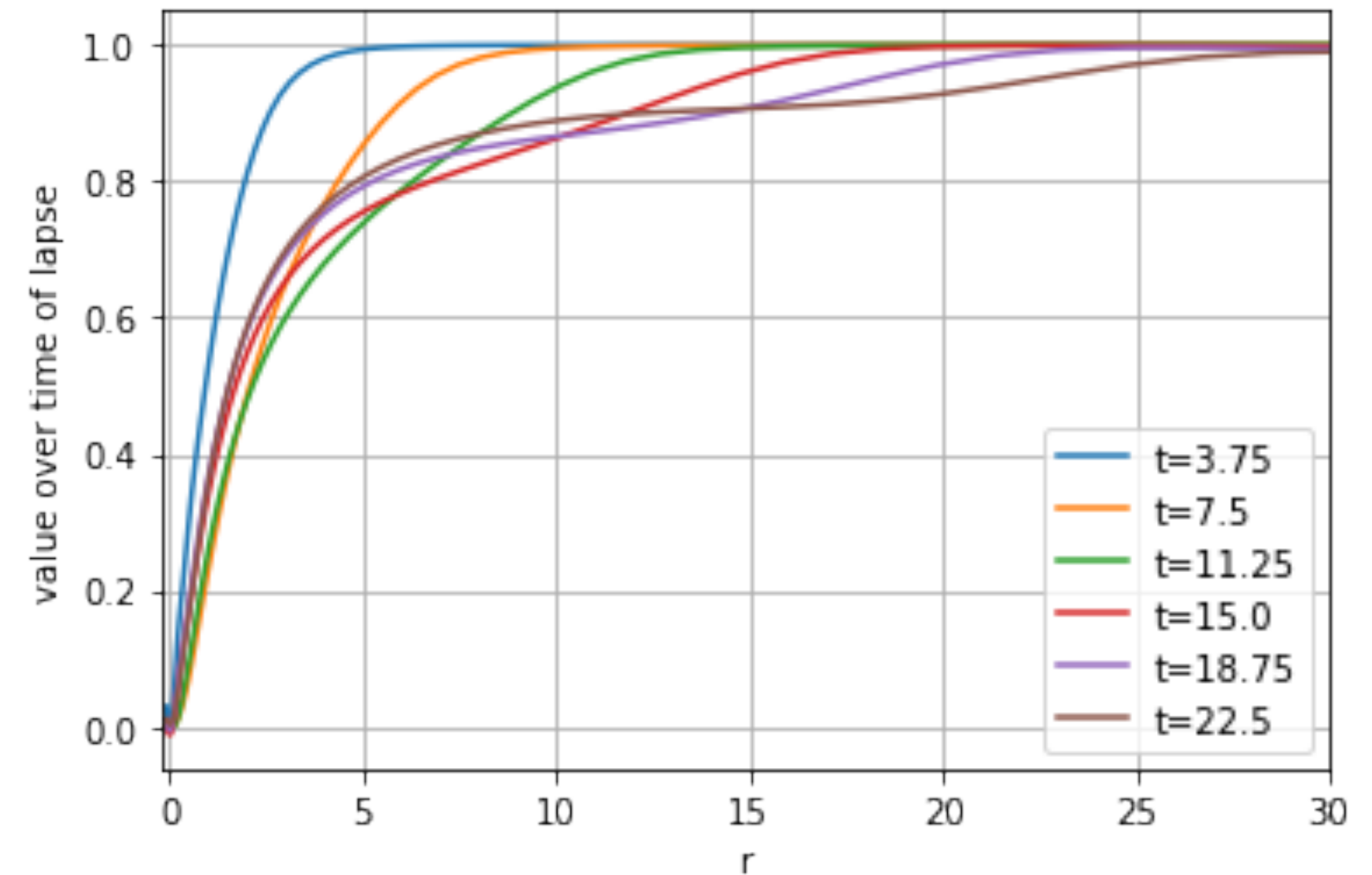
Engrenage exercise 3 - change the gauge

- Implement the shock avoiding gauge in <https://inspirehep.net/literature/2111279>

$$\partial_\tau \alpha = -(\alpha^2 + \kappa) K$$

with $\kappa = 0.05$

- What does it change about the evolution of the collapse of the lapse?
- How sensitive is stability to the choice of the parameter kappa?

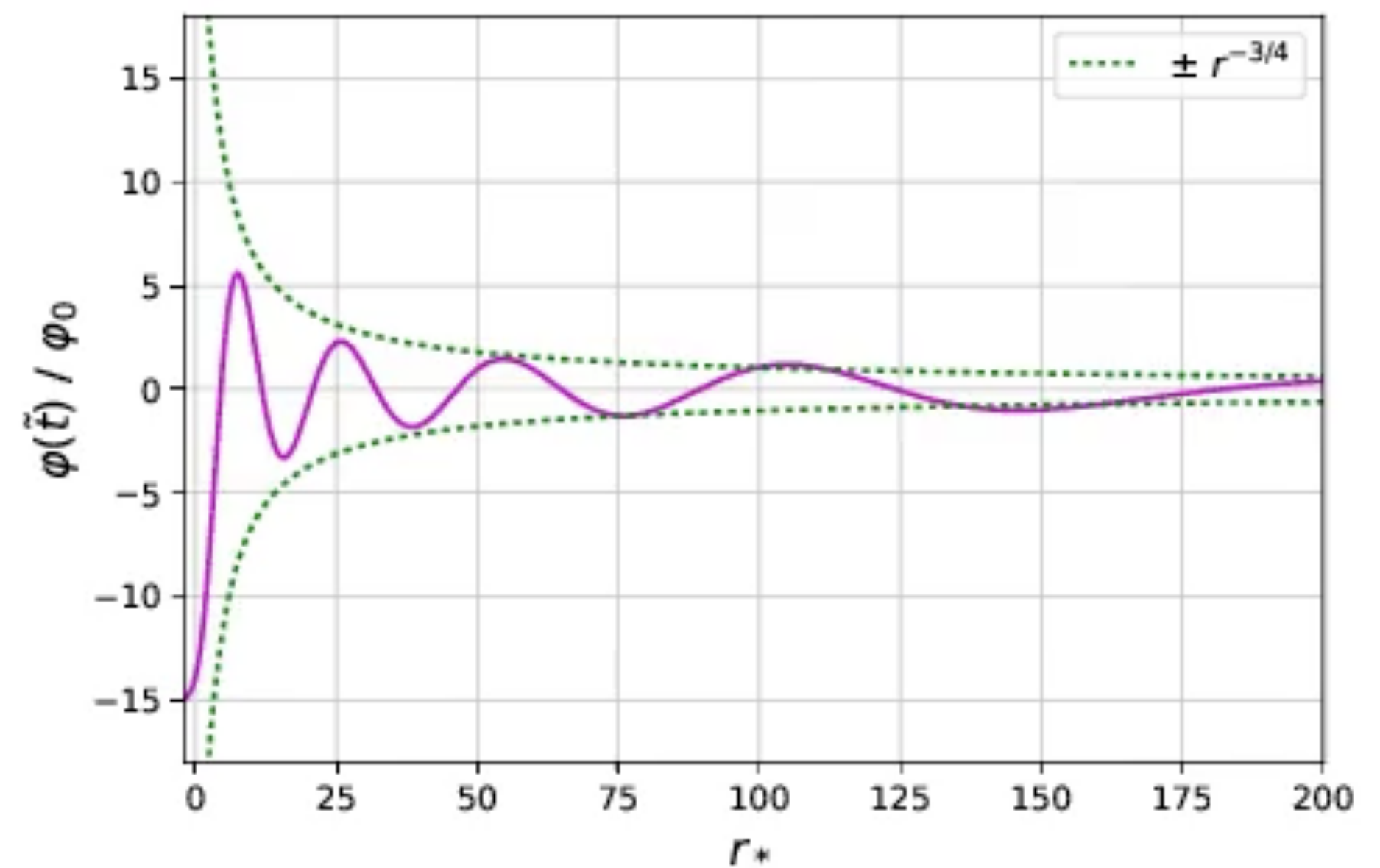


Engrenage exercise 4: diagnostics

- Write a diagnostic to calculate the radial flux across a spherical coordinate surface as a function of radius

$$F = 4\pi r^2 \sqrt{\gamma} S^r$$

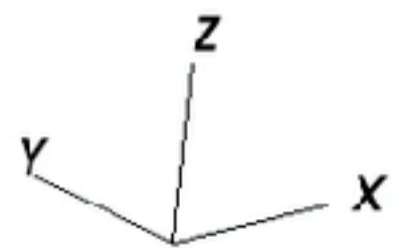
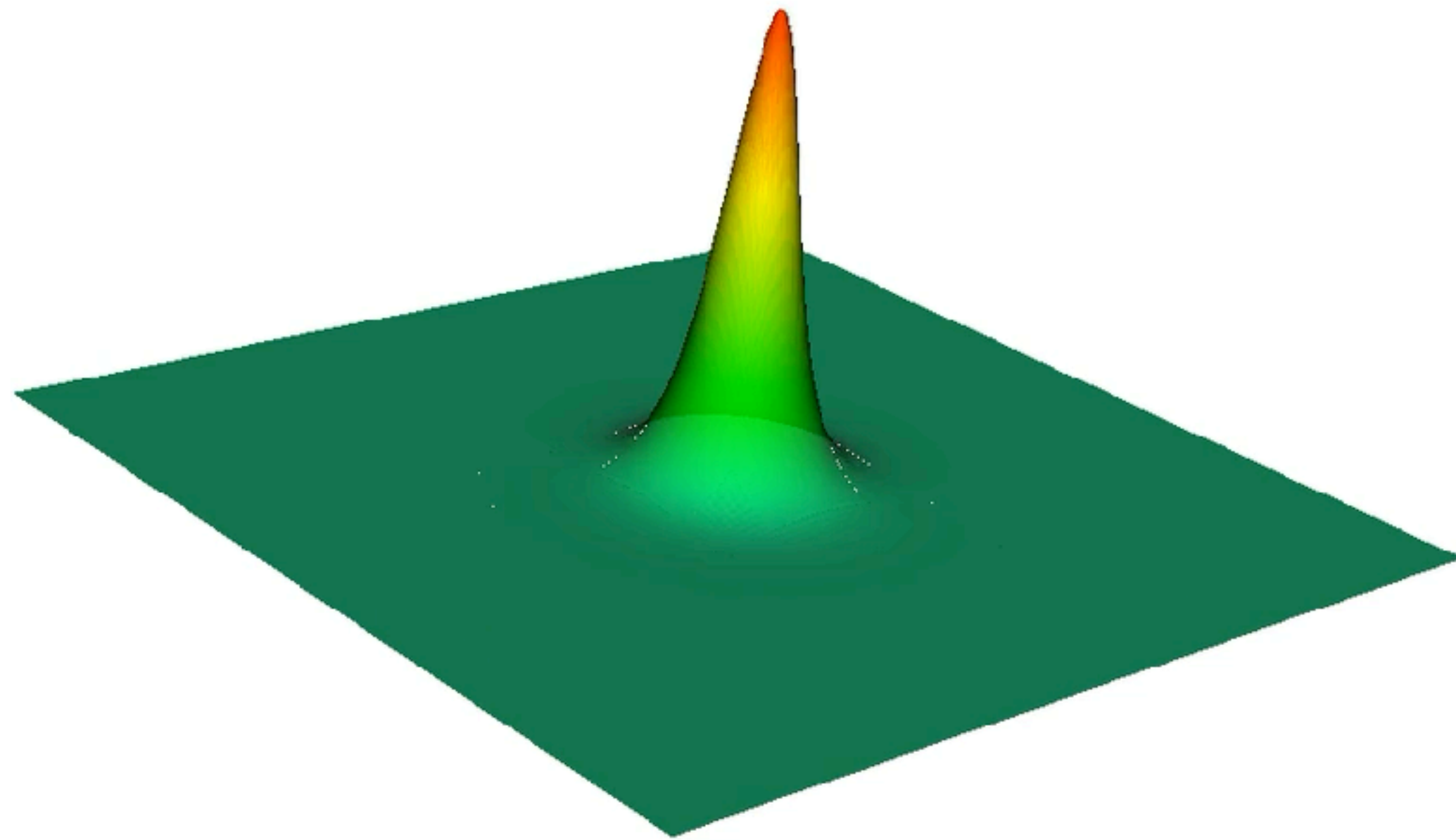
- $S_i = -\nu \partial_j u$ is the momentum density of the scalar field
- What happens to the flux at small radii over time?



Extension - oscillaton

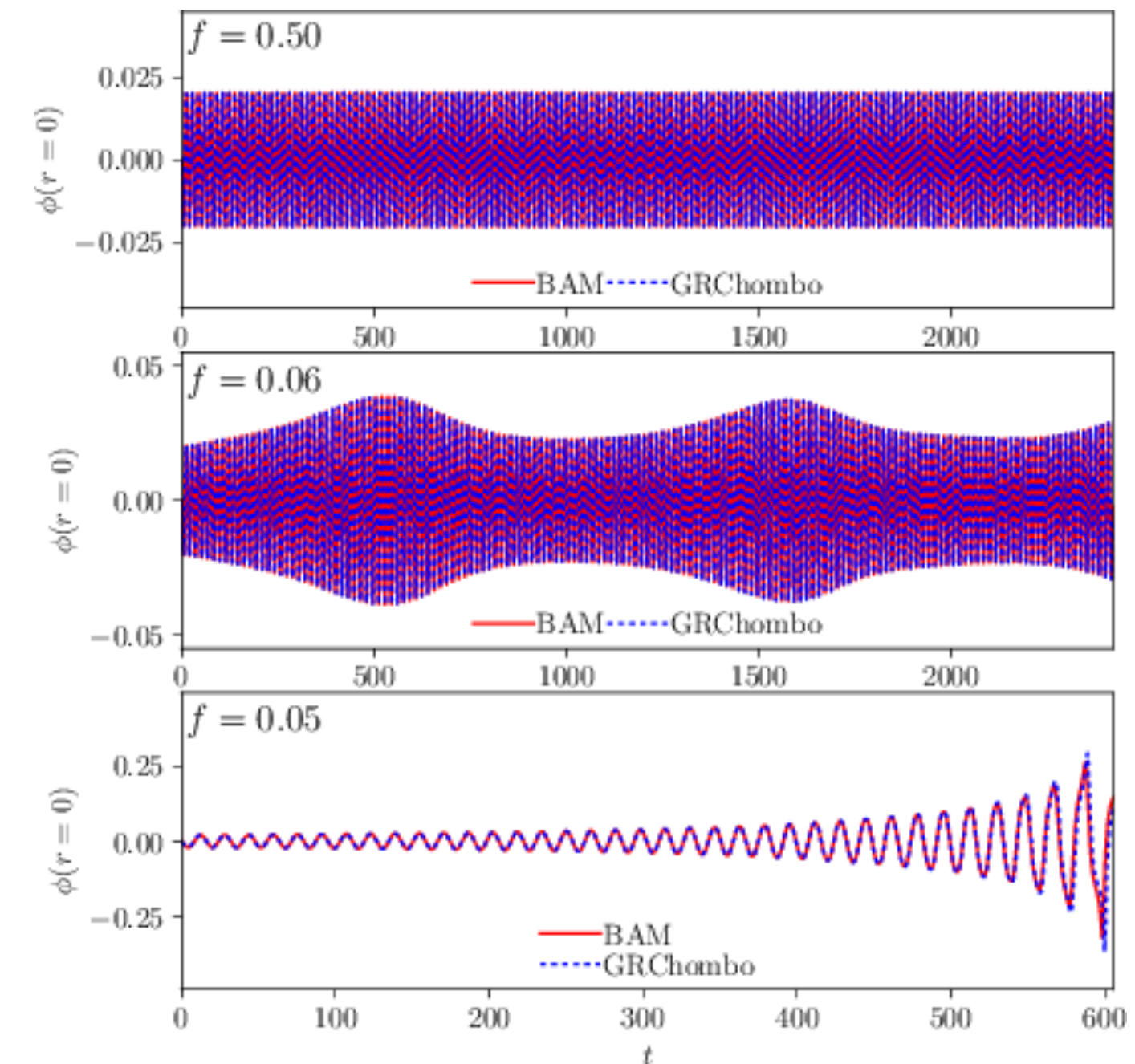
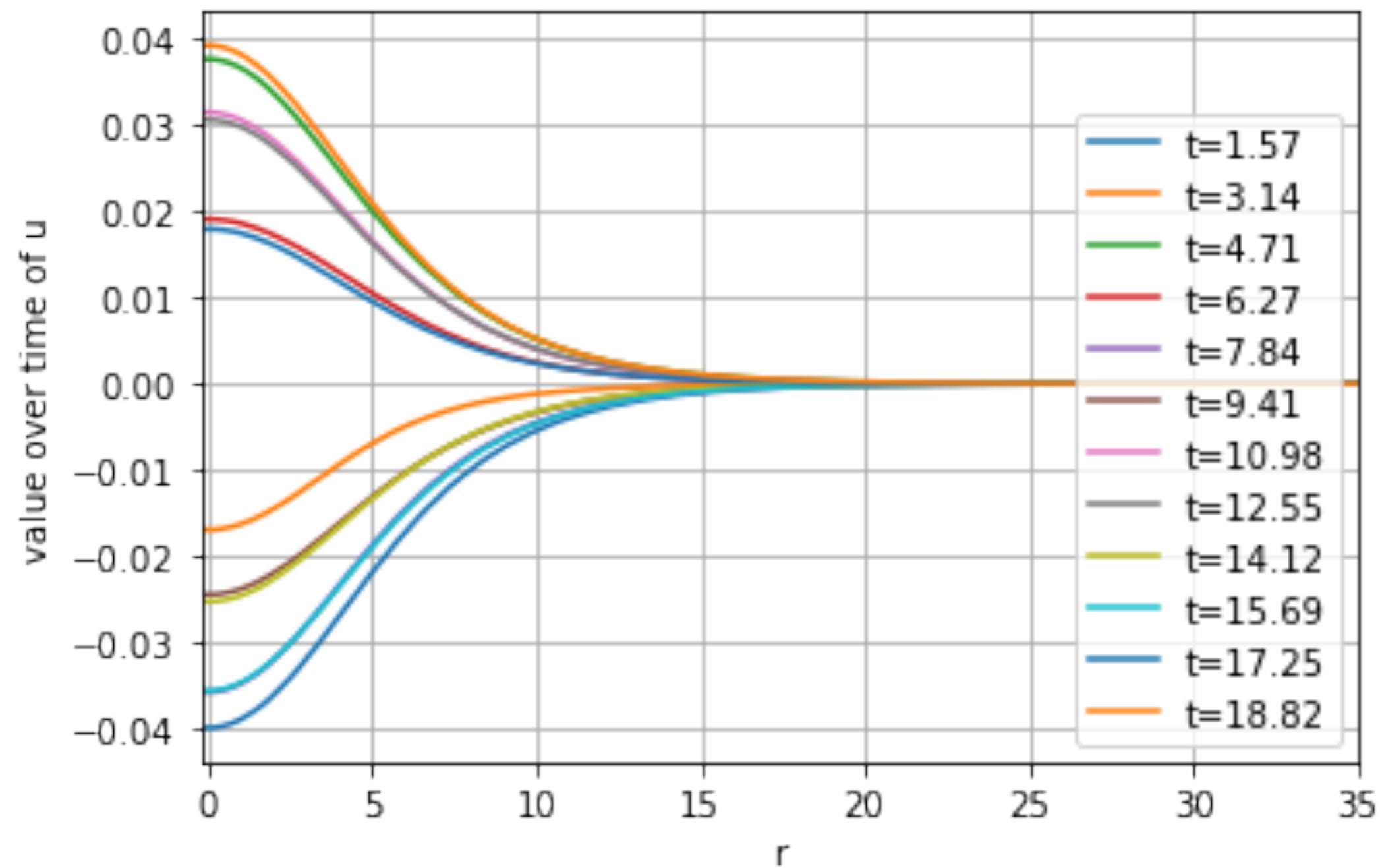
Engrenage oscillaton

Field obeying massive Klein Gordon equation can have stable solitonic solutions with gravity



Engrenage oscillaton

- Repeat exercises 2-4 from the BH example for the oscillaton

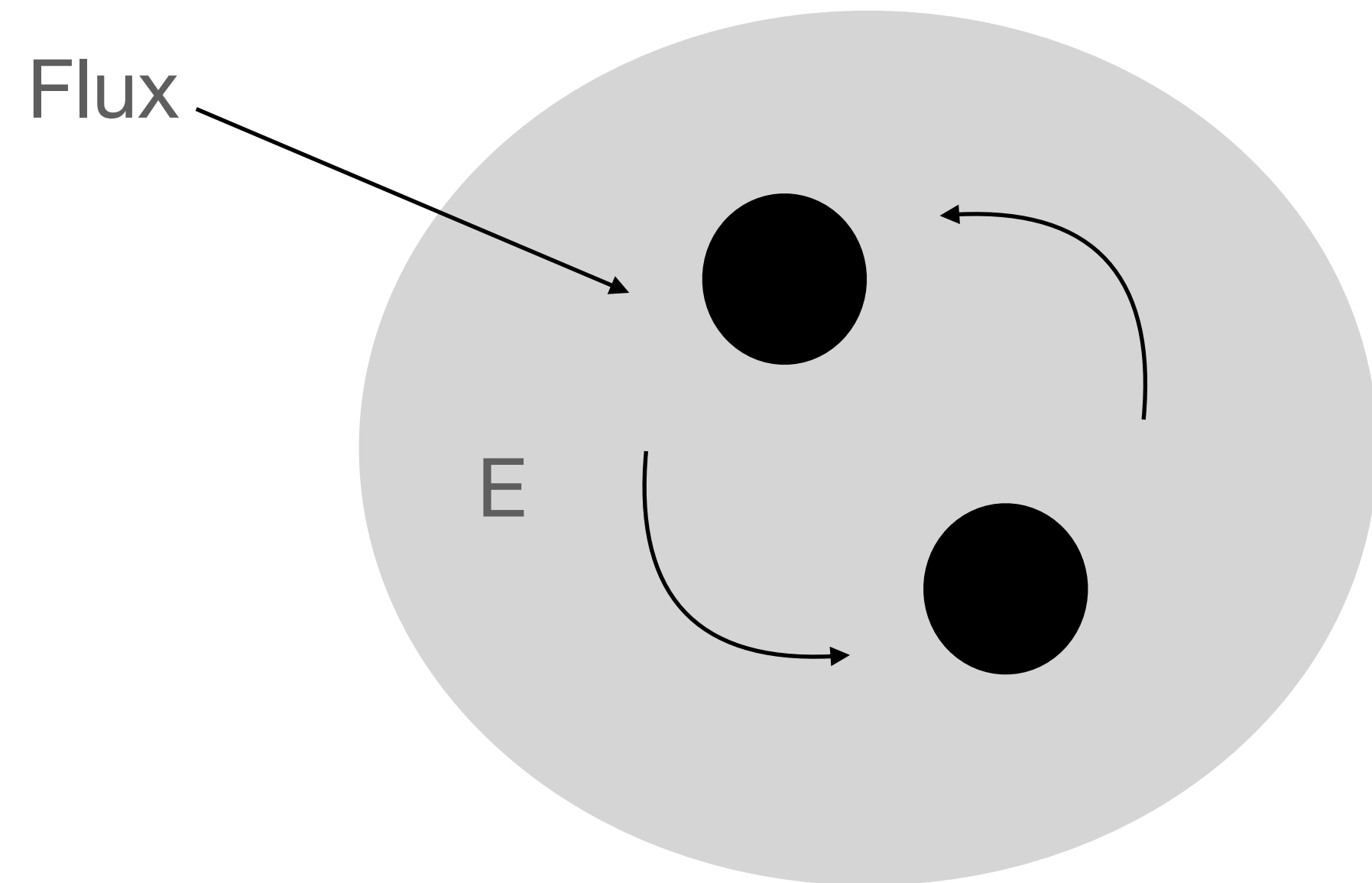


<https://inspirehep.net/literature/1687181>

Some useful technical points

Matter energy (non) conservation

Matter energy (non) conservation



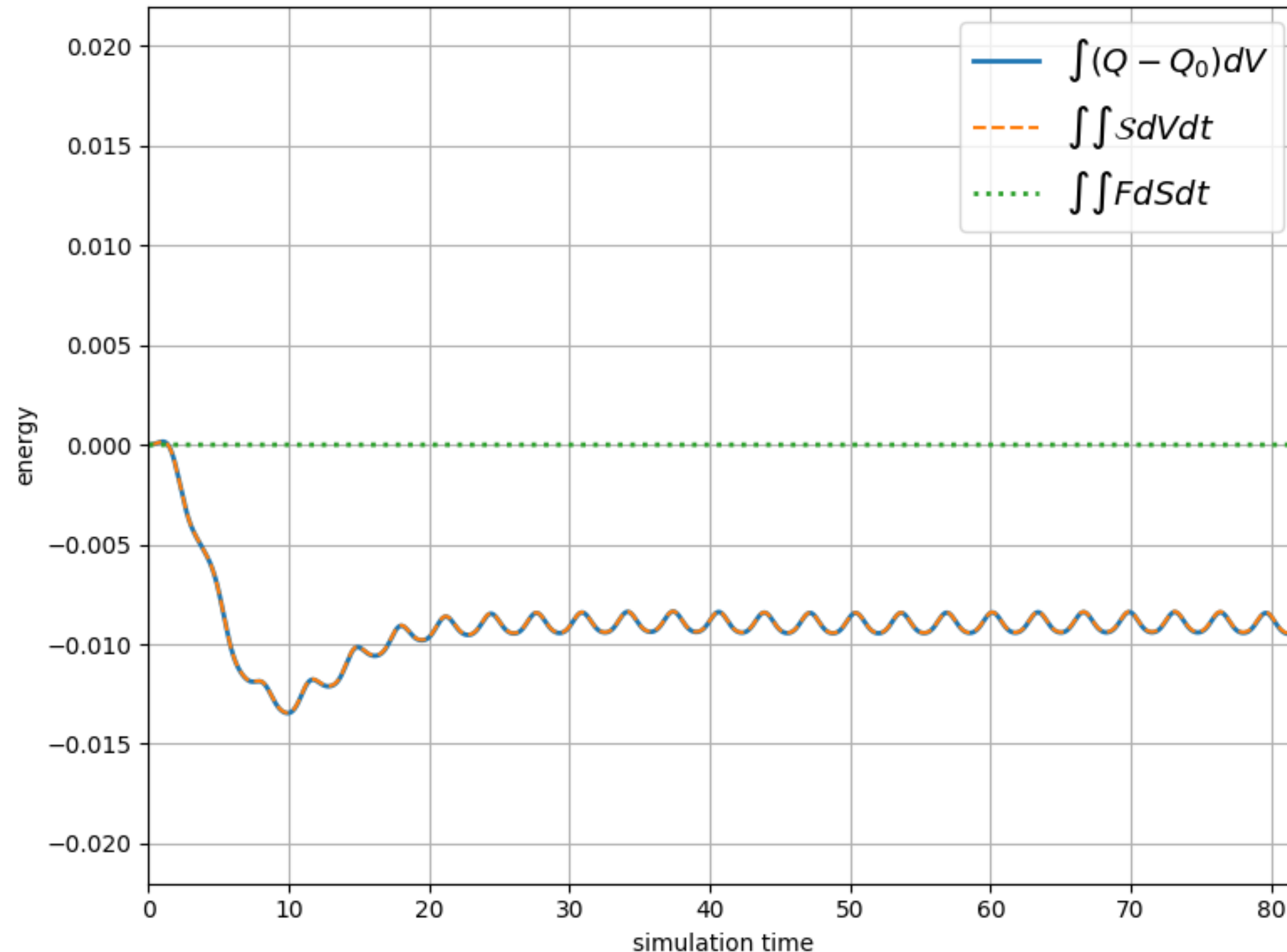
The global breakdown of energy conservation can be quantified as a source related to the curvature of the spacetime

$$\partial_t E = \text{Net Flux} + S$$

$$S \sim \int \Gamma_{\nu t}^{\mu} T_{\mu}^{\nu} dV$$

Matter energy (non) conservation

Oscillaton energy conservation



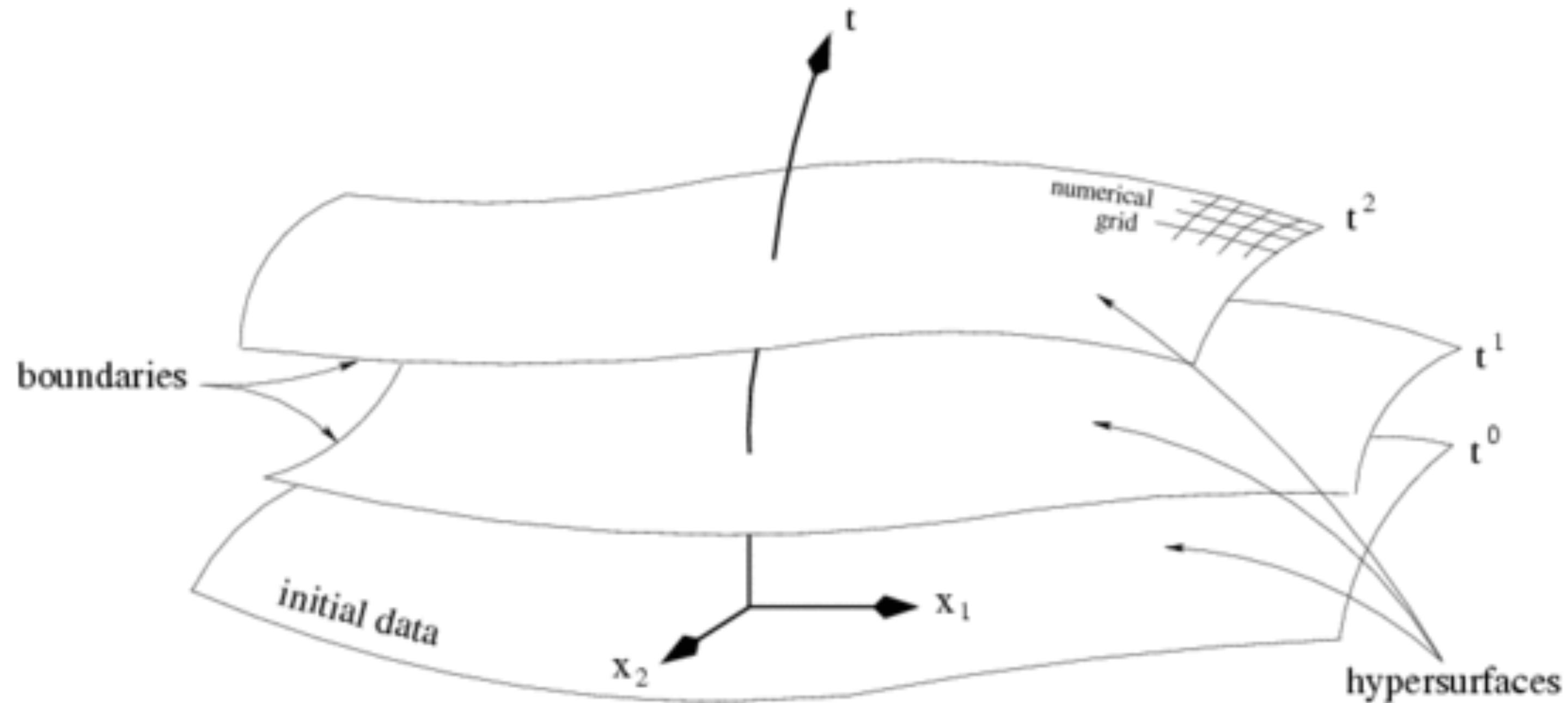
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$$S \sim \int \Gamma_{\nu t}^{\mu} T_{\mu}^{\nu} dV$$

Gauge dependent quantities:
How can a “scalar” be gauge dependent?

Scalars



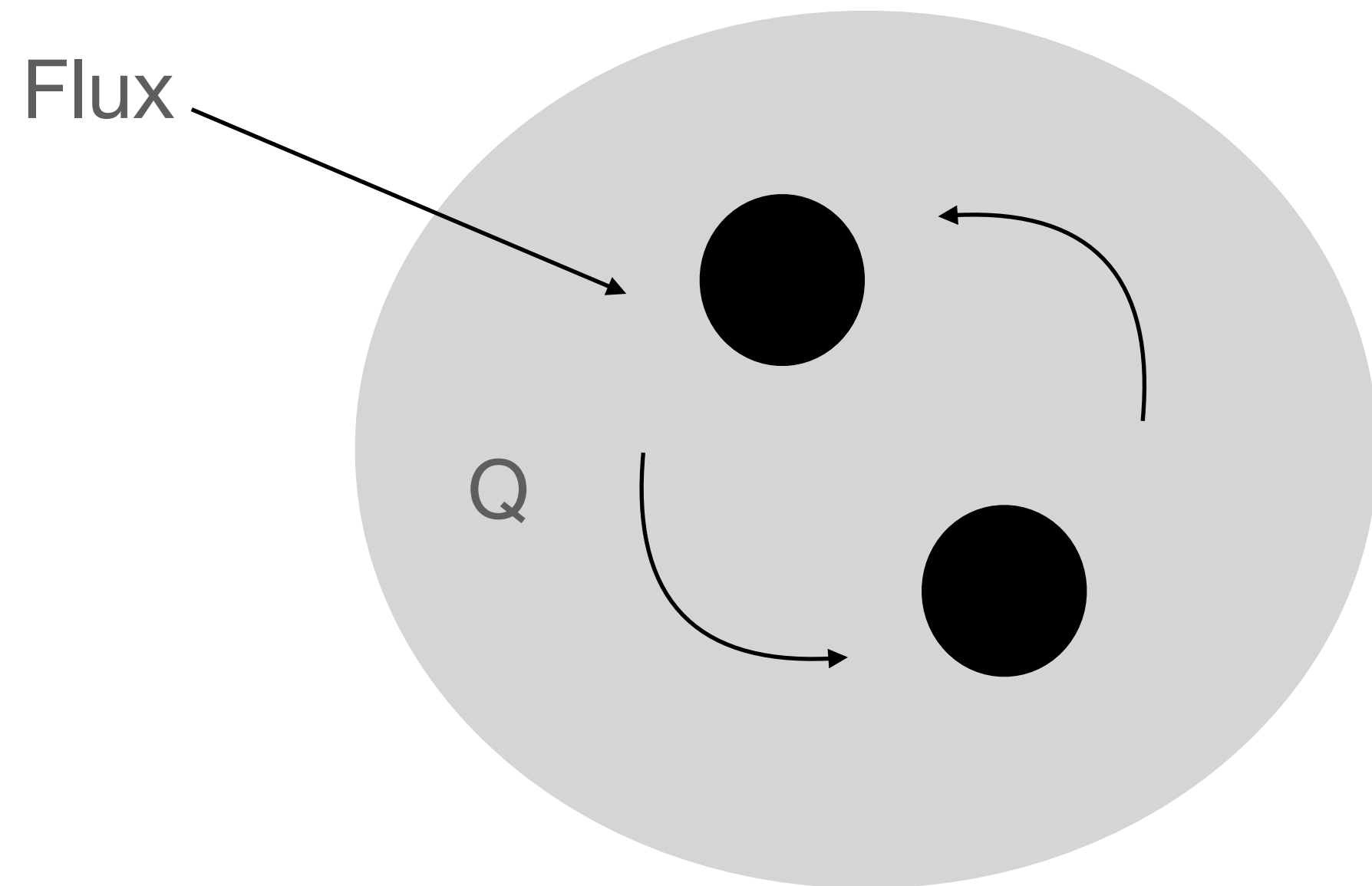
Consider the value of a scalar at some event E

Do all observers agree on the value of the scalar field u ?

Do all observers agree on the value of the energy density?

$$\rho = n^\mu n^\nu T_{\mu\nu}$$

Matter energy (non) conservation



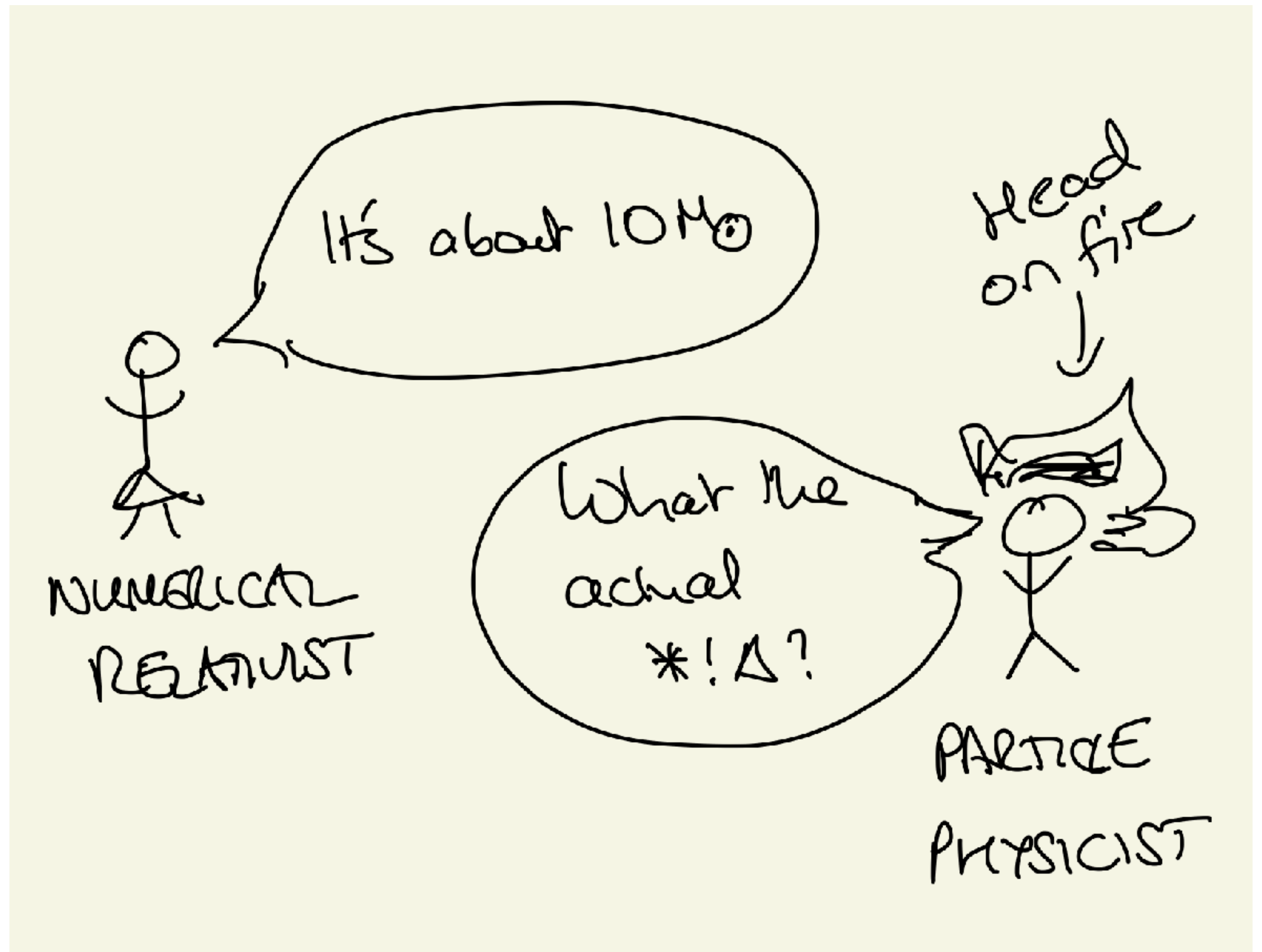
Is the integral over a spatial volume gauge dependent?

Who measures this?

Often more useful to say
slicing dependent

Units

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



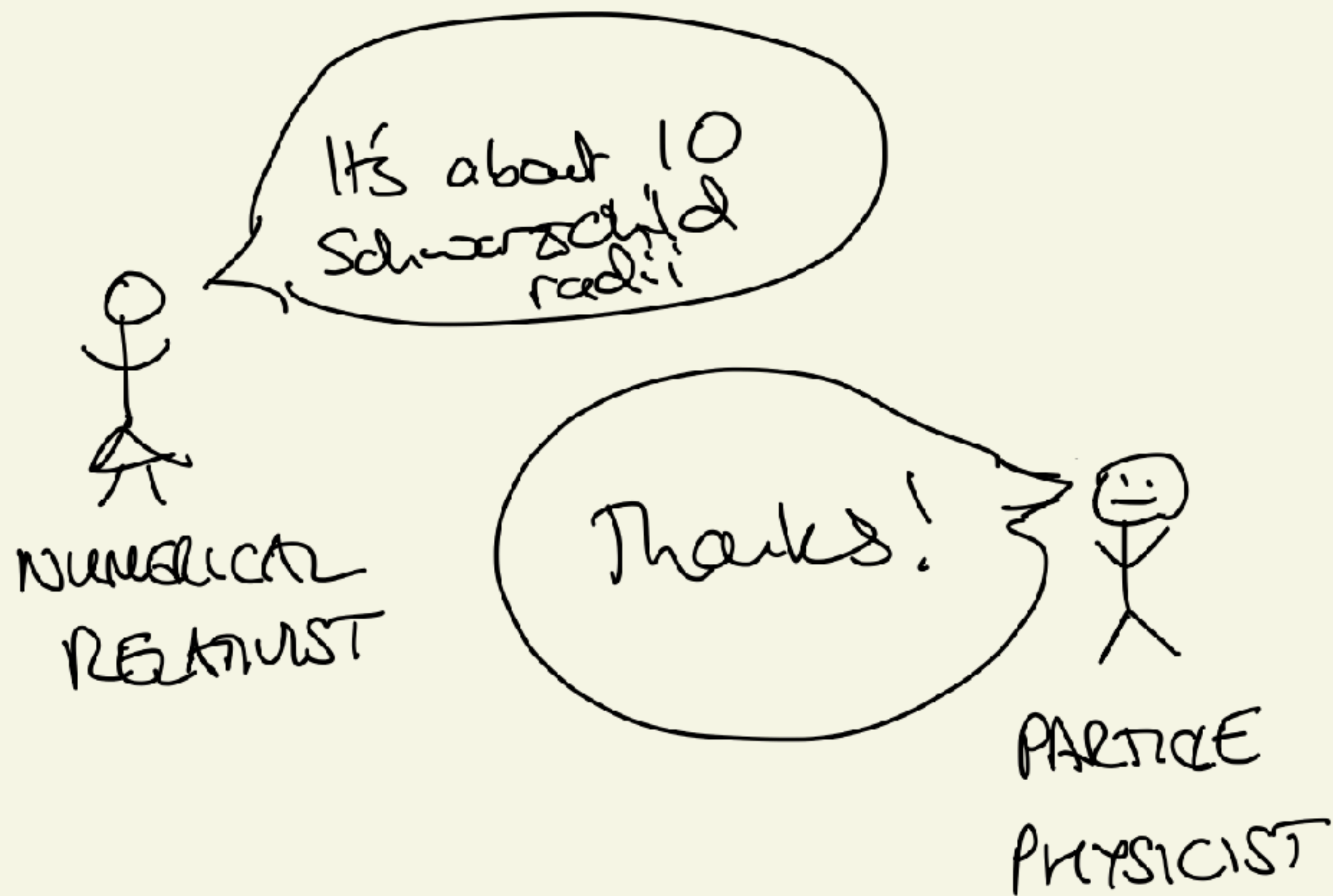
$G = c = 1$ for NR

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.





You have now
reached the end
of the course,
good luck in your
research!

Just remember to have fun, make mistakes, and persevere.

Advice from [scipy.org](https://www.scipy.org)