

# Characterization and structure of second-order symmetric Lorentzian manifolds

Oihane F. Blanco, M. Sánchez and J.M.M. Senovilla

*VI International Meeting on Lorentzian Geometry, Granada 2011*  
Granada (Spain)  
September 6-9, 2011



Universidad de Granada

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- **Simple examples of rth-symmetric Lorentzian spaces** (within the class of plane waves) :

$$g_A = -2du \left( dv + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} (\mathbf{a}_{ij} \mathbf{u}^{r-1} + \dots + \mathbf{b}_{ij} \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{c}_{ij}) x^i x^j du \right) + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$



## PURPOSE OF THIS TALK

- **to determine** the *Lorentzian 2nd-order symmetric spaces of arbitrary dimension*, i.e.,

*Lorentzian manifolds with  $\nabla\nabla R = 0$*

following the geometric/PDE approach by OFB, Sánchez and Senovilla, 2011

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## ① MAIN RESULTS.

- Preliminary Characterization
- Local and Global Structure theorems

## ② LOCAL STUDY OF BRINKMANN SPACES

- Motivation
- Geometric developments

## ③ STEPS FOR THE PROOF of the Local Structure Theorem

# MAIN RESULTS.

## Preliminary characterization *[OFB, Sánchez M, Senovilla J M M, 2011]*

The following statements are equivalent in a  $n$ -dimensional Lorentzian manifold  $(M, g)$ :

- (I)  $(M, g)$  is **2nd-symmetric** ( $\nabla\nabla R = 0$ ) .
- (II)  $X, Y, Z, V$  are parallelly propagated vector fields along any curve  $\alpha \implies (\nabla_V R)(X, Y)Z$  is parallelly propagated along  $\alpha$ .
- (III)  $(M, g)$  is semi-symmetric ( $R_{XY}R = 0$ , or equiv.,  $\nabla_X(\nabla_Y R) - \nabla_{\nabla_X Y}R$  is symmetric in  $X, Y$ ) and satisfies the equivalent conditions in the auxiliary Lemma below.

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## AUXILIARY LEMMA

The following conditions are equivalent in a  $n$ -dimensional Lorentzian manifold :

- (I)  $\nabla_X(\nabla_Y R) - \nabla_{\nabla_X Y}R$  is skew-symmetric in  $X, Y$ .
- (II) Let  $X, Y, Z$  be **parallelly propagated** vector fields along some **geodesic**  $\gamma$  ( $\gamma'$  its tangent vector field). Then, **the vector field**  $(\nabla_{\gamma'} R)(X, Y)Z$  is itself **parallelly propagated** along  $\gamma$ .
- (III) Let  $\Pi$  be a **non-degenerate tangent plane** and  $K(\Pi)$  its **sectional curvature**. Then, **the parallel transport**  $\Pi_\gamma$  of  $\Pi$  along **any geodesic**  $\gamma$  ( $\gamma'$  its tangent vector field) satisfies that  **$\nabla_{\gamma'}(K(\Pi_\gamma))$  remains constant** along  $\gamma$ .

# MAIN RESULTS.

## Structure Theorem *[OFB, Sánchez M, Senovilla J M M, 2011]*

Let  $(M, g)$  be a 2nd-symmetric non-symmetric  $n$ -dimensional Lorentzian manifold.

### LOCAL CLASSIFICATION:

$(M, g)$  is locally isometric to  $(\mathbb{R}^{d+2} \times N, g_A \oplus g_N)$ , where:

- $g_A = -2du \left( dv + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} (a_{ij}u + b_{ij})x^i x^j du \right) + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$  and at least one of  $a_{ij} \neq 0$ , and
- $(N, g_N)$  is a symmetric (non-flat) Riemannian space.

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If  $(M, g)$  is geodesically complete and simply connected, then  $(M, g)$  is globally isometric to  $(\mathbb{R}^{d+2} \times N, g_A \oplus g_N)$ .

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### Elements of the Proof (local result):

- exploit the implicit symmetries of the equations of 2nd-symmetry,
- develop different technical tools for some classes of PDE, and
- transform the problem into two: one elementary, the other reducible to the symmetric case

# LOCAL STUDY OF BRINKMANN SPACES

## MOTIVATION

For arbitrary dimension, when  $\nabla\nabla R = 0 \not\Rightarrow \nabla R = 0$ ?

## THEOREM [JMM Senovilla, 2008]

Let  $D \subseteq M$  be a simply-connected domain of an  $n$ -dimensional 2nd-symmetric Lorentzian manifold  $(M, g)$ . Then, **if there is NO parallel lightlike vector field** on  $D$ ,  $(D, g)$  is in fact *locally symmetric* (i.e.,  $\nabla R = 0$ ).



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Therefore:

a **2-symmetric non-locally symmetric** Lorentzian manifold must have a **parallel lightlike vector field** and locally, it is a Brinkmann space

$$ds^2 = -2du(dv + Hdu + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} W_i dx^i) + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} g_{ij} dx^i dx^j, \quad i, j \in \{2, \dots, n-1\}$$

where  $H$ ,  $W_i$  and  $g_{ij} = g_{ji}$  are functions independent of  $v$ , otherwise arbitrary.

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**Task:** write the equations of 2nd-symmetry ( $\nabla_\rho \nabla_\sigma R^\alpha_{\beta\lambda\mu} = 0$  in an appropriate basis) **for Brinkmann spaces** in a manageable way and solve them.

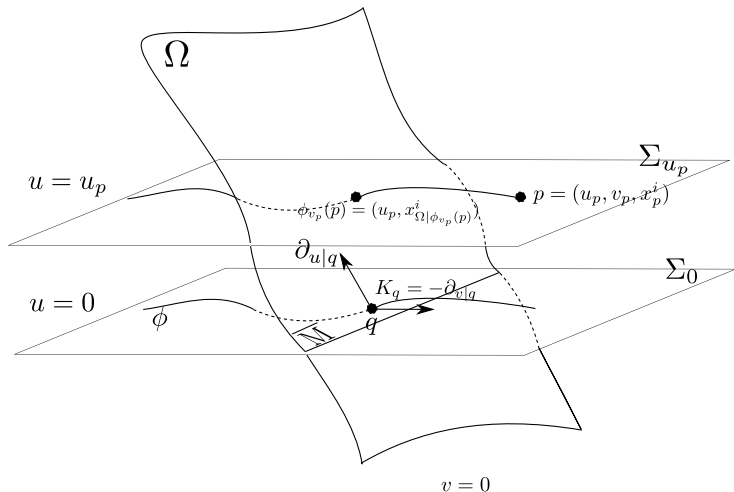
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## GEOMETRIC DEVELOPMENTS

- Metric:**

$$g = -2du \left( dv + H(u, x^k)du + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} W_i(u, x^k)dx^i \right) + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} g_{ij}(u, x^k)dx^i dx^j$$

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- **(Metric) tensor derivations for tensor sections on the foliation:**

- 1 **The (symmetric) covariant derivative  $\bar{\nabla}$  on  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bar{\nabla} : \Gamma(T\overline{\mathcal{M}}) \times \Gamma(T\overline{\mathcal{M}}) & \longrightarrow & \Gamma(T\overline{\mathcal{M}}) \\ (X, Y) & \longrightarrow & \bar{\nabla}_X Y \end{array}$$

- 2 **The transverse tensor derivation  $D_0$  on  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D_0 : \Gamma(T'_s \overline{\mathcal{M}}) & \longrightarrow & \Gamma(T'_s \overline{\mathcal{M}}) \\ T & \longrightarrow & D_0 T = \overline{(\nabla_{(\partial_u - H\partial_v)} T)} \end{array}$$

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- **The curvature tensor  $\bar{\mathcal{R}}$  of the foliation  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$**

$$\bar{\mathcal{R}}(X, Y)Z = (\bar{\nabla}_X \bar{\nabla}_Y - \bar{\nabla}_Y \bar{\nabla}_X - \bar{\nabla}_{[X, Y]})Z \in \Gamma(T\overline{\mathcal{M}}), \quad \forall X, Y, Z \in \Gamma(T\overline{\mathcal{M}})$$

and its derived **Ricci tensor  $\bar{\text{Ric}}$**  and **scalar curvature  $\bar{S}$** .

# LOCAL STUDY OF BRINKMANN SPACES

## GEOMETRIC DEVELOPMENTS

### DEFINITIONS

- $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  is **flat** (respectively, **locally symmetric**) if  $\overline{\mathcal{R}} = 0$  (resp.  $\overline{\nabla} \overline{\mathcal{R}} = 0$ )
- $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  is  **$u$ -Einstein** if  $\overline{\text{Ric}} = \mu \overline{g}$  for some function  $\mu$  such that  $d\mu \wedge du = 0$ .
  - 1 If  $\mu = \text{const.}$ ,  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  is **Einstein**
  - 2 If  $\mu \equiv 0$ ,  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  is **Ricci-flat**.



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### PROPOSITION

Let  $(M, g)$  be a Brinkmann space with a spatial foliation  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ . Then,

- 1  $\overline{\nabla}^r \overline{\mathcal{R}} = 0$  (**rth-symmetric**)  $\implies \overline{\nabla} \overline{\mathcal{R}} = 0$  (**locally symmetric**).
- 2  $\overline{\nabla} \overline{\mathcal{R}} = 0$  (**locally symmetric**) and  $\overline{\mathcal{R}ic} = 0$  (**Ricci-flat**)  $\implies \overline{\mathcal{R}} = 0$  (**flat**)
- 3 If  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  is **flat**, the Brinkmann space admits a chart  $\{u, v, y^i\}$  such that the metric  $g$  becomes:

$$g = -2du(dv + Hdu + \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} W_i dy^i) + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} \delta_{ij} dy^i dy^j.$$

# LOCAL STUDY ON BRINKMANN SPACES

## EISENHART DECOMPOSITION

### CLASSICAL VERSION OF EISENHART THEOREM

If a Riemannian manifold  $(N, g_R)$  admits a symmetric two-covariant tensor field  $L \in \Gamma(T_2^0 N)$  not proportional to the metric  $g_R$  such that  $\nabla^{g_R} L = 0$ , then

- $g_R$  is reducible:  $g_R = g_R^{(1)} \oplus g_R^{(2)} \oplus \dots \oplus g_R^{(s)}$  (with each  $g_R^{(m)}$  not necessarily irreducible).
- $L = \sum_{m=1}^s \lambda_m g_R^{(m)}$  for some constants  $\lambda_m$ .

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### GENERALIZED EISENHART THEOREM [OFB, Sánchez M, Senovilla J M M, 2011]

Let  $(M, g)$  be a Brinkmann space and fix a Brinkmann chart  $\{u, v, x^i\}$ . Assume that there exists a symmetric section  $\bar{L} \in \Gamma(T_2^0 \bar{M})$  not proportional to  $\bar{g}$  which is:

- invariant under the flow of  $\partial_v$ ,  $\bar{\nabla}$ -parallel and  $D_0$ -parallel,

then, the decomposition  $\{u, v\}$  admits a Brinkmann chart  $\{u, v, y^i\}$  such that:

- 1  $\bar{g}$  is reducible:  $\bar{g} = (\sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} g_{ij}(u, x^k) dx^i dx^j) = \bar{g}^{(1)} \oplus \dots \oplus \bar{g}^{(s)}$  for some  $s \geq 2$ .
- 2  $\bar{L} = \sum_{m=1}^s \lambda_m \bar{g}^{(m)}$  for some **constants**  $\lambda_m \in \mathbb{R}$ .

# STEPS FOR THE PROOF

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GEOMETRIC ELEMENTS.

In some appropriate bases of  $TM$  and  $T\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ :

# STEPS FOR THE PROOF

STEP 1. TRANSLATE THE EXISTENCE OF THE PARALLEL LIGHTLIKE VECTOR FIELD INTO  $R, \nabla R, \nabla \nabla R$

$R, \nabla R, \nabla \nabla R$  will turn out to be geometrically fully described by elements in the foliation  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ .

## GEOMETRIC ELEMENTS.

In some appropriate bases of  $TM$  and  $T\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ :

- Geometric elements for  $R$ :  $A \in T_2\overline{\mathcal{M}}, B \in T_3\overline{\mathcal{M}}, \overline{R} \in T_3^1\overline{\mathcal{M}}$

$$A_{ij} = R^1{}_{i0j}; \quad B_{ijk} = R^1{}_{ijk}; \quad \overline{\mathcal{R}}^i{}_{jkl} = R^i{}_{jkl}$$

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- Simplified expressions for  $\nabla\nabla R$ : with  $t = -\frac{1}{2}(\ddot{g} + \bar{d}w) \in T_2\overline{\mathcal{M}}$  and  $h = \bar{d}H - \dot{w} \in T_1\overline{\mathcal{M}}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_s \nabla_0 R^i{}_{jkl} &= \bar{\nabla}_s \tilde{R}^i{}_{jkl} + \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} t^r{}_s \bar{\nabla}_r \overline{R}^i{}_{jkl}, & \nabla_0 \nabla_0 R^i{}_{jkl} &= D_0 \tilde{R}^i{}_{jkl} - \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} h^r \bar{\nabla}_r \overline{R}^i{}_{jkl}, \\ \nabla_n \nabla_s R^1{}_{ijk} &= \bar{\nabla}_n \hat{B}_{sijk} - \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} t_{rn} \bar{\nabla}_s \overline{R}^r{}_{ijk}, & \nabla_0 \nabla_s R^1{}_{ijk} &= D_0 \hat{B}_{sijk} + \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} h_r \bar{\nabla}_s \overline{R}^r{}_{ijk}, \\ \nabla_s \nabla_0 R^1{}_{ijk} &= \bar{\nabla}_s \tilde{B}_{ijk} - \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} t^r{}_s (\tilde{R}_{rijk} - \hat{B}_{rijk}), & \nabla_0 \nabla_0 R^1{}_{ijk} &= D_0 \tilde{B}_{ijk} + \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} h^r (\tilde{R}_{rijk} - \hat{B}_{rijk}), \\ \nabla_k \nabla_s R^1{}_{i0j} &= \bar{\nabla}_k \hat{A}_{sij} - 2 \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} t^r{}_k \hat{B}_{s(ij)r}, & \nabla_0 \nabla_s R^1{}_{i0j} &= D_0 \hat{A}_{sij} + 2 \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} h^r \hat{B}_{s(ij)r}, \\ \nabla_k \nabla_0 R^1{}_{i0j} &= \bar{\nabla}_k \tilde{A}_{ij} - \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} t^r{}_k (2\tilde{B}_{(ij)r} - \hat{A}_{rij}), & \nabla_0 \nabla_0 R^1{}_{i0j} &= D_0 \tilde{A}_{ij} + \sum_{r=2}^{n-1} h^r (2\tilde{B}_{(ij)r} - \hat{A}_{rij}), \\ \nabla_m \nabla_s R^i{}_{jkl} &= \bar{\nabla}_m \bar{\nabla}_s \overline{R}^i{}_{jkl}, & \nabla_0 \nabla_s R^i{}_{jkl} &= D_0 \bar{\nabla}_s \overline{R}^i{}_{jkl} \end{aligned}$$

# STEPS FOR THE PROOF

STEP 2. INTRODUCE THE 2ND-SYMMETRY CONDITION TO SIMPLIFY THE GIVEN GEOMETRIC ELEMENTS.

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$$\nabla_m \nabla_s R^i{}_{jkl} = \bar{\nabla}_m \bar{\nabla}_s \bar{\mathcal{R}}^i{}_{jkl},$$

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The non-vanishing components of  $\nabla\nabla R$  up to now:

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① First simplification:  $\nabla_m \nabla_s R^i{}_{jkl} = \bar{\nabla}_m \bar{\nabla}_s \bar{\mathcal{R}}^i{}_{jkl} = 0 \implies \bar{\nabla}_s \bar{\mathcal{R}}^i{}_{jkl} = 0$

$\bar{\nabla}^r \bar{\mathcal{R}} = 0$  (rth-symmetric)  $\implies \bar{\nabla} \bar{\mathcal{R}} = 0$  (locally symmetric).

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- 2 Second simplification: all the geometric elements for  $\nabla R$  except  $\tilde{A}$  vanish, i.e.,  $\hat{B} = 0$ ;  $\tilde{B} = 0$ ;  $\hat{A} = 0$ ;  $\tilde{R} = D_0 \bar{\mathcal{R}} = 0$ .

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*Proof.* Exploit the integrability conditions and combine them with technical algebraic results as the following:

## TECHNICAL ALGEBRAIC RESULT

Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a  $l$ -dimensional vector space with a positive definite inner product and  $T_{ijk}$  a  $(0,3)$ -tensor such that:

- (A) it is skew-symmetric in the last two indices:  $T_{ijk} = -T_{ikj}$ ,
- (B) it satisfies a cyclic identity:  $T_{ijk} + T_{jki} + T_{kij} = 0$

If  $T_{(ij)k}$  satisfies that  $\sum_{r=2}^{n-1} T_{(ij)}{}^r T_{rnm} = 0$ , then  $T_{ijk} = 0$ .



# STEPS FOR THE PROOF

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...and the equations of 2nd-symmetry are simplified to:

$\bar{\nabla} \tilde{A} = 0,$	$D_0 \tilde{A} = 0$
$\bar{\nabla} \bar{\mathcal{R}} = 0,$	$D_0 \bar{\mathcal{R}} = 0$
$\hat{B} = 0; \tilde{B} = 0; \hat{A} = 0$	

# STEPS FOR THE PROOF

STEP 3. REDUCE THE EQUATIONS INTO TWO SIMPLER AND SOLVABLE PARTS.

Equations of 2nd-symmetry:

$$\begin{array}{l} \bar{\nabla} \tilde{A} = 0, \quad D_0 \tilde{A} = 0 \quad \hat{B} = 0; \tilde{B} = 0; \hat{A} = 0 \\ \bar{\nabla} \bar{R} = 0, \quad D_0 \bar{R} = 0 \quad (\implies \bar{\nabla} \bar{R}_{ic} = 0; D_0 \bar{R}_{ic} = 0) \end{array}$$

## GENERALIZED EISENHART THEOREM

If there exists a symmetric section  $\bar{L} \in \Gamma(T_2^0 \bar{\mathcal{M}})$  not proportional to  $\bar{g}$  which is invariant under the flow of  $\partial_\nu$ ,  $\bar{\nabla}$ -parallel and  $D_0$ -parallel, then, there exists a chart  $\{u, \nu, y^i\}$  such that:

- 1  $\bar{g}$  is reducible:  $\bar{g} = (\sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} g_{ij}(u, x^k) dx^i dx^j) = \bar{g}^{(1)} \oplus \dots \oplus \bar{g}^{(s)}$  for some  $s \geq 2$ .
- 2  $\bar{L} = \sum_{m=1}^s \lambda_m \bar{g}^{(m)}$  for some **constants**  $\lambda_m \in \mathbb{R}$ .

# STEPS FOR THE PROOF

STEP 3. REDUCE THE EQUATIONS INTO TWO SIMPLER AND SOLVABLE PARTS.

Equations of 2nd-symmetry:

$$\begin{array}{l} \bar{\nabla} \tilde{A} = 0, \quad D_0 \tilde{A} = 0 \quad \hat{B} = 0; \tilde{B} = 0; \hat{A} = 0 \\ \bar{\nabla} \bar{R} = 0, \quad D_0 \bar{R} = 0 \quad (\implies \bar{\nabla} \bar{R}ic = 0; D_0 \bar{R}ic = 0) \end{array}$$

## GENERALIZED EISENHART THEOREM

If there exists a symmetric section  $\bar{L} \in \Gamma(T_2^0 \bar{\mathcal{M}})$  not proportional to  $\bar{g}$  which is invariant under the flow of  $\partial_\nu$ ,  $\bar{\nabla}$ -parallel and  $D_0$ -parallel, then, there exists a chart  $\{u, v, y^i\}$  such that:

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- **Applying this Generalized Eisenhart theorem to  $\tilde{A}$  and  $\bar{R}ic$ :** the equations are reorganized into **two Lorentzian problems**:

- 1 **A locally symmetric Brinkmann space with a non Ricci-flat foliation**, i.e., equations for *locally symmetric Lorentzian manifolds with a parallel lightlike vector field*  $\rightarrow$  known solution (Cahen-Wallach)
- 2 **A Brinkmann space with a Ricci-flat  $\implies$  Flat foliation** with equations for *2nd-symmetric plane waves*  $\rightarrow$  solvable, giving the simple example presented before:

$$g_A = -2du \left( dv + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} (a_{ij}u + b_{ij}) x^i x^j du \right) + \sum_{i,j=2}^{n-1} \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

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