Energy estimates for non-linear wave equations in mathematical General Relativity

1 Lecturer:

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2 Mode of the discussion, venue and time, audience:

- Offline, in English, at A614 in the Shuangqing Complex Building, at Tsinghua University.
- During the Fall semester 2025, starting September 17, 2025. Two sessions per week: every Wednesday, at 11:00–12:30 and then at 14:30–16:00. No class on Wednesday October 15, 2025.
- Audience: Graduate, Postdoc, Researcher.

3 Prerequisite:

Basic knowledge from my previous courses on "The Cauchy problem in mathematical General Relativity", on "Non-linear wave equations in General Relativity", and on "Dispersive estimates for non-linear waves in mathematical General Relativity", graduate level knowledge in differential geometry and in Riemannian geometry, and basic knowledge in partial differential equations and analysis.

4 Introduction:

This course introduces mathematical tools of analysis for partial differential equations to prove uniform bounds and decay for solutions of non-linear wave equations arising in General Relativity. The course material builds on a series of courses that I gave in Spring–Fall 2024, and in Spring 2025, on the Cauchy problem in mathematical General Relativity, on non-linear wave equations in General Relativity, and on dispersive estimates for non-linear waves in mathematical General Relativity. The goal of this course is to explain the vector field method and how to obtain energy estimates for solutions of tensorial coupled non-linear hyperbolic partial differential equations, in order to prove decay for solutions of non-linear wave equations provided that one exploits the non-linear structure of the wave equations. We shall exhibit how this can be applied to the Einstein equations coupled to non-linear matter such as the Yang-Mills fields, by studying the simpler case of higher dimensions.

5 Keywords:

Energy estimates, non-linear wave equations, hyperbolic partial differential equations, Minkowski vector fields, Klainerman-Sobolev inequality, weighted energy norms, bootstrap argument, decay estimates, Hardy type inequality, commutator term, Grönwall type inequality, Einstein equations, Yang-Mills fields, Einstein-Yang-Mills system, gauge transformations, Minkowski metric, wave coordinates, Lorenz gauge.

6 Syllabus:

1. **Reminders of prerequisites:**
   The Einstein equations, the Yang-Mills equations, the coupled Einstein-Yang-Mills system, wave coordinates, the Lorenz gauge, recasting the Einstein-Yang-Mills system as a coupled system of non-linear hyperbolic partial differential equations, the hyperbolic Cauchy problem, the constraint equations, the gauges invariance of the equations.

2. **Set-up of analysis for proving decay for solutions of non-linear wave equations:**
   - The Minkowski vector fields.
   - Weighted Klainerman-Sobolev inequality.
   - Definition of the norms.
   - The energy norm.
   - The bootstrap argument.
   - The bootstrap assumption.
   - The big O notation.

3. **À priori decay estimates:**
   - The spatial asymptotic behaviour of the fields on the initial hypersurface.
   - Estimates on the time evolution of the fields.

4. **Looking at the structure of the source terms of the coupled non-linear wave equations for the Einstein-Yang-Mills system in the Lorenz gauge and in wave coordinates.**

5. **Using the bootstrap assumption to exhibit the structure of the source terms of the Einstein-Yang-Mills system in higher dimensions:**
   - Using the bootstrap assumption to exhibit the structure of the source terms for the Yang-Mills potential.
   - Using the bootstrap assumption to exhibit the structure of the source terms for the metric.
   - The source terms in higher dimensions $n \geq 5$.

6. **Energy estimates for non-linear wave equations.**

7. **A Hardy type inequality.**

8. **The commutator term for $n \geq 4$:**
   - Using the Hardy type inequality to estimate the commutator term.

9. **The energy estimate for the Einstein-Yang-Mills fields in higher dimensions $n \geq 4$.**

10. **Closing the bootstrap argument for the Einstein-Yang-Mills fields in higher dimensions :**
    - Using the Hardy type inequality for the space-time integrals of the source terms for $n \geq 5$.
    - Grönwall type inequality on the energy for $n \geq 5$.
    - Decay estimates for the Einstein-Yang-Mills fields in higher dimensions $n \geq 5$.

7 References:

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