Spikes in the Mixmaster regime of $G_2$ cosmologies

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EGM11 May 12-13, 2008
Introduction: Singularity and BKL conjecture

How does an inhomogeneous cosmological model behave near a singularity?
Belinsky, Khalatnikov and Lifshitz (BKL) conjecture: model behavior is
1. vacuum dominated ("matter doesn’t matter")
2. local (locally behaves like spatially homogeneous models)
3. oscillatory (called “Mixmaster” by Misner)

Will show that 2. is violated by spiky inhomogeneity.
Building blocks made of vacuum, anisotropic, spatially homogeneous explicit solutions:
1. Kasner solution (Bianchi type I)
2. Taub solution (Bianchi type II)

Two Mixmaster prototypes:
1. Bianchi type IX
2. Bianchi type VI$^*_1/9$
Visualizing the Mixmaster dynamics

Apply 3+1 decomposition (get intrinsic and extrinsic curvatures). Intrinsic curvature describes the spatial curvature $^3 R_{ab}$. Extrinsic curvature describes the anisotropy of the expansion. Factor out the overall expansion so that variables do not blow up at singularity. Left with spatial curvature components $N_{ab}$ and expansion shear $\Sigma_{ab}$. 
Building blocks made of vacuum, anisotropic, spatially homogeneous explicit solutions:
1. Kasner solution (Bianchi type I) \( (N_{ab} = 0) \)
2. Taub solution (Bianchi type II) \( (N_{ab} \) has 1 non-zero eigenvalue) 

Two prototypes:
1. Bianchi type IX \( (N_{ab} \) eigenvectors do not rotate, 3 non-zero eigenvalues) 
2. Bianchi type VI\(^*\)\(-1/9\) \( (N_{ab} \) eigenvectors rotate, 2 non-zero eigenvalues) 

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Visualizing the Mixmaster dynamics: Kasner points and Taub orbits

Kasner solution

\[
\Sigma_{ab} = \begin{pmatrix}
-2\Sigma_+ & 0 & 0 \\
0 & \Sigma_+ + \sqrt{3}\Sigma_- & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \Sigma_+ - \sqrt{3}\Sigma_-
\end{pmatrix}, \quad \Sigma_+^2 + \Sigma_-^2 = 1.
\]

Each Kasner solution is represented by a point on the unit circle.

Taub solution

\[
\Sigma_{ab} = \begin{pmatrix}
-2\Sigma_+ & 0 & 0 \\
0 & \Sigma_+ + \sqrt{3}\Sigma_- & 0 \\
0 & 0 & \Sigma_+ - \sqrt{3}\Sigma_-\n\end{pmatrix}, \quad N_{ab} = \begin{pmatrix}N_{11} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0\end{pmatrix}.
\]

Each Taub solution is represented by an orbit connecting 2 Kasner points.
Kasner points and Taub orbits

3 orientations of Taub orbits projected onto the \((\Sigma_+, \Sigma_-)\) plane. Arrows indicate evolution towards singularity.
Mixmaster orbit built from consecutive Taub orbits connecting the Kasner points.
Spikes discovered numerically

Beverly Berger & Vincent Moncrief 1993 found that spiky inhomogeneity develops near the singularity in numerical simulations of Gowdy models, which are inhomogeneous models with 2 KVF's ($G_2$) with special group action. Gowdy models have no Mixmaster dynamics.

Reason: $N_{ab}(t,x)$ eigenvalue may have a zero at certain locations. Taub solution is not possible here, and a spike forms as a result.

Do spikes also appear in general models with Mixmaster? If they do, how do they affect the Mixmaster dynamics?

Narrowing spikes make numerical simulations difficult. Luckily ...
Explicit spike solution discovered

The explicit spike solution is found last year [WCL 2008]. Solution describes a spike that forms and then flattens out.

The spiky inhomogeneity in components $N_-$ and $\Sigma_X$
One spike orbit is equivalent to two consecutive Taub orbits.
Numerical simulations of $G_2$ cosmologies

$G_2$ cosmologies have Mixmaster dynamics and spikes. Numerical simulations of $G_2$ cosmologies are carried out [WCL, Frans Pretorius, David Garfinkle and Lars Andersson 2008, in preparation].

Simulations confirm that spikes
1. recur (repeatedly form and flatten out).
2. are an integral, inhomogeneous part of the Mixmaster dynamics.
Conclusion: New building blocks of Mixmaster oscillation

Building blocks made of vacuum, anisotropic explicit solutions.
1. Kasner solution (Bianchi type I)
2. Taub solution (Bianchi type II)
3. Spike solution (\(G_2\) Gowdy class)

New Mixmaster prototype: \(G_2\) inhomogeneous models.

Next step: Mixmaster dynamics in general inhomogeneous models.