SpaceTime-Time: Special Relativity



Albert Einstein special relativity (1905) Hermann Minkowski 4D spacetime model (1908)

$$\begin{bmatrix} t & x & y & z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} g_{11} & g_{12} & g_{13} & g_{14} \\ g_{21} & g_{22} & g_{23} & g_{24} \\ g_{31} & g_{32} & g_{33} & g_{34} \\ g_{41} & g_{42} & g_{43} & g_{44} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

Yardstick plus clock!

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SpaceTime-Time: General Relativity (1915)

We've been following the 1916 paper: "The Foundation of the General Theory of Relativity"

• Einstein replaced the corollary we proved last class with

$$\frac{d^2x^{\lambda}}{ds^2} = -\Gamma^{\lambda}_{\mu\nu}\frac{dx^{\mu}}{ds}\frac{dx^{\nu}}{ds}$$

- $\frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x^{i}} \& \Gamma^{\lambda}_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^{\mu}}{ds}$ similar roles: Field equations relate these potential functions to the distribution of matter
- Field equations written in the Christoffel symbols:

$$\frac{\partial \Gamma^{\lambda}_{\mu\lambda}}{\partial x^{\nu}} - \frac{\partial \Gamma^{\lambda}_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x^{\lambda}} + \Gamma^{\beta}_{\mu\lambda}\Gamma^{\lambda}_{\nu\beta} - \Gamma^{\beta}_{\mu\nu}\Gamma^{\lambda}_{\beta\lambda} = 0$$

Consequences and Experiments

- Spacetime in the presence of masses is curved and geodesics more interesting
- Gravity is the curvature of spacetime
- Arthur Eddington (1919): star near sun shifted by amount predicted by relativity! → Einstein public figure
- Radio sources
- Gravitational lensing and LIGO gravitational waves
- Precession of the orbit of Mercury



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Solutions for General Relativity



- 2nd order PDE 16 eqs and 16 unknowns
- Einstein: "Cosmological Considerations in the General Theory of Relativity" (1917)

It remains now to determine those components of the gravitational potential which define the purely spatial-geometrical relations of our continuum (g_{11}, g_{12} ... it follows that the curvature of the required space must be constant.

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• de Sitter: $\mathbb{R} \times S^3$ (1917)

Course Overview

- Curves: torsion and curvature, piece together (DEs) to give us a nice curve. Frenet frame basis
- Surfaces: 1st and 2nd fundamental forms. 1st and Christoffel symbols intrinsic → Gauss curvature. *E*, *F*, *G* piece together to give us a nice smooth surface, or one with manageable singularities like the cone. *I*, *m*, *n* determine how the surface sits in space (if it does)
- SpaceTimes: g_{ij} and Γ^k_{ij} more terms → curvature tensors. Einstein's field equations: way to solve for "nice" solutions.



Final Research Pres: review + extension + bib + peer review

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