

GR notes

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Conventions

1. Greek index (e.g. α, β, μ, ν) take value from $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$.
2. Events denoted by cursive capitals (e.g. $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{E}$).
3. $(x^0, x^1, x^2, x^3) \equiv (t, x, y, z) \equiv x^\alpha$
4. Latin index (e.g. i, j, k) take value from $\{1, 2, 3\}$.
5. New unit that speed of light $c = 1$
6. Einstein summation convention $ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu}x^\mu x^\nu = \sum_{\mu=0}^3 \sum_{\nu=0}^3 g_{\mu\nu}x^\mu x^\nu$

1 Special Relativity

1.1 Spacetime

Definition 1.1. Inertial coordinate

The coordinate system must satisfy three property to be consider inertial coordinat:

1. The distance between two points are independent of time.
2. The clocks at every points ticking off time coordinate t at same rate.
3. The geometry of space is always Euclidean (flat).

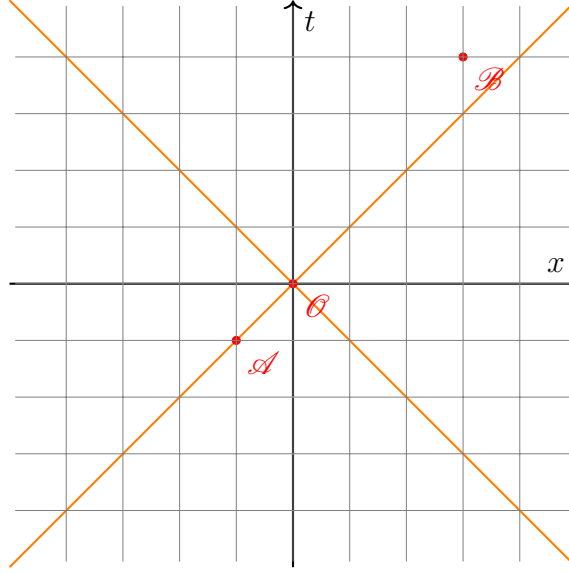


Figure 1: two events with coordinate $(-1, -1, 0, 0)$ and $(4, 3, 0, 0)$. Orange line is light's worldline.

The event in 4-D spacetime is defined by a set of coordinate (t, x, y, z) . For simplicity, we assume those events have $y = 0, z = 0$ so that we can draw a 2D graph to represent them.

Analog to Euclidean geometry, just like the euclidean distance $\Delta l^2 = \Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2 + \Delta z^2$, we define the **spacetime interval** $\Delta s^2 = -\Delta t^2 + \Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2 + \Delta z^2$.

Remark. There are a lot different conventions to define the sign of interval, here we just use the popular one $(-, +, +, +)$.

Example.

Interval for the two events in Figure 1 is $\Delta s^2 = -\Delta t^2 + \Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2 + \Delta z^2 = -9$.

The universality speed of light means that $\frac{\Delta r}{\Delta t} = \frac{\sqrt{\Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2 + \Delta z^2}}{\Delta t} = 1$ are always hold, then we can then write the interval $\Delta s^2 = -\Delta t^2 + \Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2 + \Delta z^2 = 0$. This experimental fact yield all law of special relativity.

When the interval Δs^2 is less than 0, we call the separation between events is **timelike**; When the interval Δs^2 is equal to 0, we call it **lightlike** or null; When the interval Δs^2 is greater than 0, we call it **spacelike**.

1.2 Tensor

1.3 Energy and Momentum

2 Differential Geometry

2.1 Geodesics

2.2 Riemann Tensor

2.3 Connection

Proof. Here is a proof shows that connection not a tensor by show connection does not obey tensor transformation law.

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_{\beta'} e_{\alpha'} &= \Gamma_{\alpha'\beta'}^{\gamma'} e_{\gamma'} \\ &= \frac{\partial x^\lambda}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \nabla_\lambda \left(\frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} e_\mu \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial x^\lambda}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^\lambda} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} e_\mu + \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} \Gamma_{\mu\lambda}^\gamma e_\gamma \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial x^\lambda}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\lambda} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} e_\mu + \frac{\partial x^\lambda}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} \Gamma_{\mu\lambda}^\gamma e_\gamma \\ &= \frac{\partial x^\lambda}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\lambda} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} \frac{\partial x^{\gamma'}}{\partial x^\mu} e_{\gamma'} + \frac{\partial x^\lambda}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} \frac{\partial x^{\gamma'}}{\partial x^\gamma} \Gamma_{\mu\lambda}^\gamma e_{\gamma'}\end{aligned}$$

which yield

$$\Gamma_{\alpha'\beta'}^{\gamma'} = \frac{\partial x^\lambda}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\lambda} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} \frac{\partial x^{\gamma'}}{\partial x^\mu} + \frac{\partial x^\lambda}{\partial x^{\beta'}} \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial x^{\alpha'}} \frac{\partial x^{\gamma'}}{\partial x^\gamma} \Gamma_{\mu\lambda}^\gamma$$

There is an extra term in transformation of connection, so connection is not a tensor. □

A Topology Space

B Manifolds