Introduction to General Relativity

AMATH 475

Prof. Eduardo Martin-martinez

LaTeXed by *Sibelius Peng*

Preface

Disclaimer Much of the information on this set of notes is transcribed directly/indirectly from the lectures of AMATH 475 during Winter 2020 as well as other related resources. I do not make any warranties about the completeness, reliability and accuracy of this set of notes. Use at your own risk.

For any questions, send me an email via https://notes.sibeliusp.com/contact/.

You can find my notes for other courses on https://notes.sibeliusp.com/.

Sibelius Peng

Contents

0

Pre-Math

0.1 Index notation

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} A^1{}_1 & A^1{}_2 \\ A^2{}_1 & A^2{}_2 \end{pmatrix} \qquad B = \begin{pmatrix} B^1{}_1 & B^1{}_2 \\ B^2{}_1 & B^2{}_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(A \cdot B)^a{}_b = A^a{}_c B^c{}_b = B^c{}_b A^a{}_c \qquad \text{sum over all possible } c$$

Identify followings:

$$B_\kappa{}^\nu A_\mu{}^\kappa = A_\mu{}^\kappa B_\kappa{}^\nu = C_\mu{}^\nu = (A \cdot B)_\mu{}^\nu$$

$$A^\kappa{}_\mu B_\kappa{}^\nu = D_\mu{}^\nu = (A^T)_\mu{}^\kappa B_\kappa{}^\nu = (A^T \cdot B)_\mu{}^\kappa$$
$$A_\kappa{}^\nu B_\mu{}^\kappa = E_\mu{}^\nu = (B \cdot A)_\mu{}^\nu$$
$$A^\kappa{}_\mu B^\nu{}_\kappa = (A^T)_\mu{}^\kappa (B^T)_\kappa{}^\nu = \Big((B \cdot A)^T\Big)_\mu{}^\nu$$

$\mathbf{v} = v^1 \mathbf{e}_1 + v^2 \mathbf{e}_2 \qquad \{\mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2\}$ Basis 1.

$\mathbf{v} = v^a \mathbf{e}_a = v'^a \mathbf{e}'_a \qquad \{\mathbf{e}'_1, \mathbf{e}'_2\}$ Basis 2.

Change of basis matrix Λ

$$\mathbf{e}'_a = \Lambda_a{}^b \mathbf{e}_b$$
$$v'^a = \tilde{\Lambda}^a{}_b v^b$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
v^a \mathbf{e}_a &= v'^a \mathbf{e}'_a \\
&= \tilde{\Lambda}^a{}_b v^b \Lambda_a{}^c \mathbf{e}_c \\
&= \tilde{\Lambda}^a{}_b \Lambda_a{}^c v^b \mathbf{e}_c \\
&= \underbrace{\left(\tilde{\Lambda}^T\right)_b{}^a \Lambda_a{}^c}_{\delta_b^c} v^b \mathbf{e}_c \\
&= v^b \mathbf{e}_b
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
\implies \left(\tilde{\Lambda}^T\right)_b{}^a \Lambda_a{}^c &= \delta_b^c \\
\tilde{\Lambda}^T \cdot \Lambda &= \mathbb{1}
\end{aligned}
$$

$\tilde{\Lambda}^T$ is the inverse transpose of Λ

covariant and contravariant object

A covariant object is an object that under change of basis transforms like the elements of a basis. Λ. (sub-indices)

A contravariant object transforms like components of vectors. ($\tilde{\Lambda} = (\Lambda^T)^{-1}$). (super-indices)

0.2 Vectors and one-forms

one-form

Let V be a vector space. A one-form is a linear map $\boldsymbol{\omega} : V \to \mathbb{R}$.

or we write: $(\boldsymbol{\omega}, \cdot) : V \to \mathbb{R}$ and $(\boldsymbol{\omega}, \mathbf{v}) \in \mathbb{R}$.

dual vector space

The set of all one-forms on V (call V^*) is a vector space as well called the dual vector space to V.

dual basis

Let $\{\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_1, \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_2, \ldots\}$ (or $\{\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_i\}$) be a basis of V so that any $\mathbf{v} \in V$ can be written as $\mathbf{v} = v^i \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_i$.

We define the dual basis (of V^*) to $\{\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_i\}$ as $\{\boldsymbol{\omega}^i\}$ such that $\boldsymbol{\omega}^i(\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_j) = \delta^i_j$.

For a one form $\boldsymbol{\omega}$ we denote its "components of the basis $\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}$" as $(\boldsymbol{\omega}, \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_m) = \omega_m$

Proposition 0.1

The dual basis of V^* is actually a basis of V^*.

The action of $\boldsymbol{\omega} \in V^*$ on a vector $\mathbf{v} = v^\mu \boldsymbol{\Upsilon} \in V$ is

$$(\boldsymbol{\omega}, \mathbf{v}) = (\boldsymbol{\omega}, v^\mu \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_\mu) = v^\mu \omega_\mu$$

Let's prove $\{\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}^a\}$ is linear independent.

Proof:

A linear comb. $c_a \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}^a$ acts on a vector $\mathbf{v} = v^a \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_a$

$$\begin{aligned} (c_a \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}^a, \mathbf{v}) &= c_a (\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}^a, \mathbf{v}) \\ &= c_a (\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}^a, v^b \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_b) \\ &= c_a v^b \underbrace{(\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}^a, \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_b)}_{\delta^a_b} \\ &= c_a v^b \delta^a_b = c_a v^a \end{aligned}$$

For LI,

$$c_a \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}^a = 0 \iff c_a = 0 \quad \forall a$$
$$c_a v^a = 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{v} \iff c_a = 0$$

□

vectors: take one-forms $\to \mathbb{R}$ one-forms: take vectors $\to \mathbb{R}$

0.3 Tensor

type (m, n) tensor

A type (m, n) tensor is a multilinear map that

$$\mathbf{T} : V^n \otimes (V^*)^m \to \mathbb{R}$$

Components of $\mathbf{T}$:

$$\mathbf{T}(\boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_{a1}, \dots, \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}_{an}, \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}^{b1}, \dots, \boldsymbol{\Upsilon}^{bm}) = T_{a_1 \dots a_n}{}^{b_1 \dots b_m}$$

1. Tensor product takes $\binom{m}{n}$ and $\binom{m'}{n'} \to \binom{m+m'}{n+n'}$ tensor
2. Contraction takes $\binom{m}{n} \to \binom{m-1}{n-1}$

Example:

1. $T_a{}^b, S_c{}^d$.
$$(\mathbf{T} \otimes \mathbf{S})_a{}^b{}_c{}^d = T_a{}^d S_c{}^d = P_a{}^b{}_c{}^d$$

2. $T_a{}^{bc} \to c^b T_a{}^{ba}$
$$v^a, w_b \begin{cases} v^a \omega_b \\ v^a \omega_a \end{cases}$$

If you have a favorite type $(2, 0)$ symmetric tensor $\mathbf{g}$

$$v_\mu = g_{\mu\nu} v^\nu$$

$g^{\mu\nu} :=$ components of the inverse of $\mathbf{g}_{\mu\nu}$

$$v^\nu = g^{\mu\nu}$$

then

$$g^{\mu\nu} g_{\nu\sigma} = \delta^\mu_\sigma$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} v^\mu w^\nu = v_\mu w^\nu = \mathbf{v}\mathbf{w}$$
$$||\mathbf{v}||^2 = g_{\nu\mu} v^\mu v^\nu$$

Then we can define the angle

$$\frac{\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w}}{||\mathbf{w}||\ ||\mathbf{v}||} := \cos\theta$$
$$T_\mu{}^\nu = g^{\nu\sigma} T_{\mu\sigma}$$
$$T^{\mu\nu} = g^{\nu\sigma} g^{\mu\rho} T_{\sigma\rho}$$
$$g^\nu_\mu = g^{\nu\sigma} g_{\sigma\mu} = \sigma^\nu_\mu$$

0.4 Levi-Civita symbol

Levi-Civita symbol $\epsilon^{abc\ldots}, \epsilon_{abc\ldots}$

- is antisymmetric
- $\epsilon^{1234\ldots} = 1$, $\epsilon_{1234} = 1$

$\epsilon^{123} = 1, \quad \epsilon^{213} = -1, \quad \epsilon^{312} = 1, \quad \epsilon^{113} = 0$

$\epsilon^{123456} = 1, \quad \epsilon^{612453} = -1$

$\det(M) := \epsilon_{ijk\ldots} M^i{}_1 M^j{}_2 M_{j3} \ldots$

Exercise:

prove $\epsilon^{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}\epsilon_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_n} = n! i_j = 1, \dots, n$

$$\epsilon^{ijk}\epsilon_{ilm} = \delta^j_l \delta^k_m - \delta^j_m \delta^k_l$$

$$\epsilon^{ijmn}\epsilon_{klmn} = 2(\delta^i_k \delta^j_l - \delta^j_k \delta^i_l)$$

Prove $\vec{A} \times (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) = (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{C})\vec{B} - (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B})\vec{C}$

Proof:

Let $\vec{F} = \vec{A} \times (\vec{B} \times \vec{C})$ $\vec{D} = \vec{B} \times \vec{C}$

Then

$$D^k \epsilon^k{}_{ij} B^i C_j$$

$$F^l = \epsilon^l{}_{mk} A^m D^k \implies$$

$\square$

Index