

Introductory Conformal Field Theory

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1 Conformal transformations

Conformal transformations are the coordinate transformations $x \rightarrow x'$ which lead to the metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ changes as,

$$g_{\mu\nu}(x) \rightarrow g'_{\mu\nu}(x') = \frac{\partial x'^{\alpha}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \frac{\partial x'^{\beta}}{\partial x^{\nu}} g_{\alpha\beta}(x) = \Lambda(x) g_{\mu\nu}(x) \quad (1)$$

There are four kinds of transformations for dimension $d \geq 2$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(translation)} \quad & x'^{\mu} = x^{\mu} + a^{\mu} \\ \text{(dilation)} \quad & x'^{\mu} = \alpha x^{\mu} \\ \text{(rigid rotation)} \quad & x'^{\mu} = M^{\mu}_{\nu} x^{\nu} \\ \text{(special conformal transformation)} \quad & x'^{\mu} = \frac{x^{\mu} - b^{\mu} x^2}{1 - 2b \cdot x + b^2 x^2} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$