

Using L^AT_EX for MIT Lecture notes

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1. Lecture 1

(a) MIT Introduction to Geometric Viewpoint on physics

- i. Mathematical foundations on General Relativity
- ii. Derive Einstein Field Equations
- iii. **Spacetime:** so what is SpaceTime?? from purely mathematical point of view...
A **manifold** of events that is **endowed** with **metric**.
- iv. **Manifold:** A set of points with well-understood connectedness property. How we connect on region of space time into another region. (For More rigorous discussion insight please refer Carrol Book on General Relativity.)
- v. **Space?????:** Event When and where something happens. Essentially event is fundamental notion of a coordinate in space and time .
- vi. **Labels:** i.e coordinates we attach to events, but the event itself is independent on the choice of coordinate system or labels.
- vii. **Metric:** A notion of distance between events in manifold. Without this, manifold has no notion of distance encoded in it. The idea that the mathematical structure that tells me how far apart the two events are is intimately connected to the properties of gravity.
- viii. **Special Relativity:** Simplest theory of spacetime, corresponds to general relativity where there is no gravity.
- ix. **Inertial Reference Frame:** A lattice of clocks and measuring rods that allows us to label-assign coordinates to spacetime events. (*refer to the book of S Thorne on Gravitation*) Is at rest with respect to someone who does not feel any force acting on it.

Properties in respect of Inertial Frame of Reference:

- A. This lattice moves freely through spacetime, No force acting in it, is not rotating.
- B. Measuring rods are orthogonal wrt each other. i.e. orthogonal coordinate system.
- C. Spacing system of measurement are uniformly ticked. Tick mark are uniformly spaced.
- D. clocks tick uniformly
- E. Clock Synchronized using **"Einstein Synchronization Procedure"**

This procedure takes advantage of the fact that the speed of light is same for all frame of reference (observers). Speed of light is key invariant irrespective of any frame of reference.

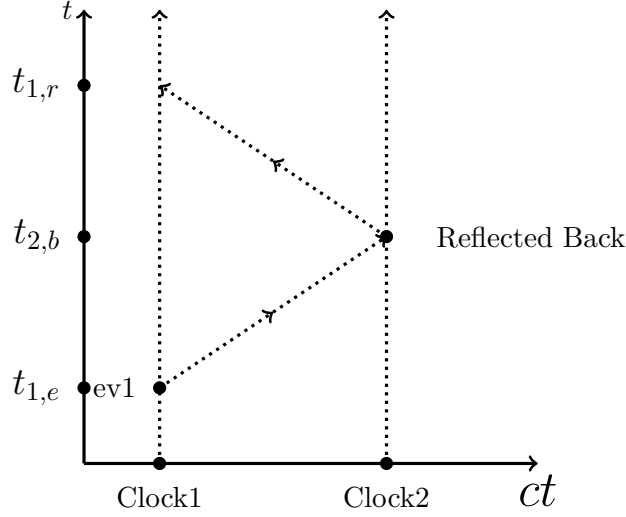


Figure 1

- $t_{1,e}$: Event When Clock1 emits light pulse.
 $t_{2,b}$: Event When observer at Clock2 reflects light pulse.
 $t_{1,r}$: Event When Clock1 receives reflected light pulse.
 $t_{2,b} = \frac{t_{1,e} + t_{1,r}}{2}$

(b) Geometric Viewpoint on physics

i. Units

- **Units:** Choose basic unit of length to be the distance light travels in basic unit of time.
- \Rightarrow If my basic unit of time is 1 sec then basic unit of length will be one light second
- Further if we take unit time to be one nano sec then corresponding unit length will be 1 foot *i.e. speed of light is 1 foot per nano sec*
- we take speed of light to be one unit $c = \frac{1 \text{ light time unit}}{\text{time unit}}$
- This means that all velocities will be dimensionless

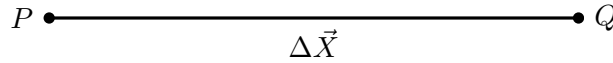


Figure 2

$\Delta \vec{X}$ is displacement in space time from point P to Q
 We Shall define components with respect to observer O .

$$\Delta \vec{X} \doteq (t_Q - t_P, X_Q - X_P, Y_Q - Y_P, Z_Q - Z_P)$$

The above equation can be written in compact notation i.e

$$\Delta \vec{X} \xrightarrow{O} \Delta X^\mu$$

where $\mu \in [t, x, y, z]$ or $\mu \in [0, 1, 2, 3]$

Usually 0 corresponds to time whereas 1,2,3 may denote other orthogonal coordinate system.

ii. **Different Inertial Observer:**

P Q and $\vec{\Delta X}$ are geometric objects exists independent of representation.

$$\vec{\Delta X} \xrightarrow{\bar{O}} \Delta X^{\bar{\mu}}$$

O and \bar{O} components are related by lorentz transformation as given below:

$$\Delta X^{\bar{0}} = \gamma \Delta X^0 - \gamma v \Delta X^1$$

$$\Delta X^{\bar{1}} = -\gamma v \Delta X^0 + \gamma \Delta X^1$$

$$\Delta X^{\bar{2}} = \Delta X^2$$

$$\Delta X^{\bar{3}} = \Delta X^3$$

The above set of transformation holds good for reference frame \bar{O} moving along axis 1 with speed v along axis 1 as seen by observer O .

$$\text{where } \gamma = \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2}} \right]$$

here v is light speed unit as defined earlier.

Better compact notation:

$$\Delta X^{\bar{\mu}} = \sum_{\nu=0}^3 \Lambda_{\nu}^{\bar{\mu}} \Delta X^{\nu}$$

or writing in simple way of Einstein Summation convention: Repeated indices in upstairs and downstairs positions are summed from 0 to 3.

$$\Delta X^{\bar{\mu}} = \Lambda_{\nu}^{\bar{\mu}} \Delta X^{\nu}$$

$$\Lambda_{\nu}^{\bar{\mu}} = \frac{\delta X^{\bar{\mu}}}{\delta X^{\nu}}$$

the above equation will be used in transformation from one reference frame to other.

ν is dummy index, however $\bar{\mu}$ is not the dummy index sometimes called free index.

iii. **Spacetime Vector:** Any quartet of numbers (i.e components) which transforms between Inertial reference Frame like displacement Vector.

$$\vec{A} = (A^0, A^1, A^2, A^3) \xrightarrow{O} A^{\alpha}$$

$$\text{If } A^{\bar{\mu}} = \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\bar{\mu}} A^{\alpha}$$

decides the component of Vector with respect to observer O then, it also requires linearity rules

i.e If \vec{A} and \vec{B} are two vectors then their sum

$$\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$$

is also a vector.

Further if \vec{A} is a vector and a is a scalar then their product is a vector.

$$\vec{D} = a.\vec{A}$$

Note: the scalar quantity should be same for all frame of reference/observers.

This means mass cannot be taken as scalar.

2. Lecture 2

(a) **Introduction to Tensors**

Basis Vector: In Frame of reference/observer ' O ' we can write down 4 special vectors :

$$\vec{e}_0 = (1, 0, 0, 0)$$

$$\vec{e}_1 = (0, 1, 0, 0)$$

$$\vec{e}_2 = (0, 0, 1, 0)$$

$$\vec{e}_3 = (0, 0, 0, 1)$$

Compact way of writing this:

$$(\vec{e}_\alpha)^\beta = \delta_\alpha^\beta$$

Kronecker delta function

The utility of above set of equations is:

$$\vec{A} = A^\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\alpha$$

The above equation represents actual equality and not representation symbol.

we shall now see how basis vectors transform when reference frame changes.

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A} &= A^\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\alpha = A^\mu \cdot \vec{e}_\mu \\ &= \left(\Lambda_{\beta}^{\mu} A^{\beta} \right) \vec{e}_\mu \end{aligned}$$

Index Notation

Normally the above equation is represented in matrix notation. However as the index of matrix increases representation in matrix form is not desirable.

For ordinary multiplication the above equation can be reformatted as

$$= \left(A^\beta \Lambda_{\beta}^{\mu} \right) \vec{e}_\mu$$

In above equation β is dummy index and can be re-written as...

$$\begin{aligned} A^\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\alpha &= A^\beta \Lambda_{\beta}^{\mu} \vec{e}_\mu \\ \Rightarrow A^\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\alpha &= A^\alpha \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\mu} \vec{e}_\mu \\ \Rightarrow A^\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\alpha - A^\alpha \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\mu} \vec{e}_\mu &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow A^\alpha \left(\vec{e}_\alpha - \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\mu} \vec{e}_\mu \right) &= 0 \text{ --- (1)} \end{aligned}$$

Since A^α is arbitrary... the above equation (1) will hold good or are valid only if

$$\vec{e}_\alpha = \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\mu} \vec{e}_\mu$$

$$\text{since } A^\mu = \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\mu} A^\alpha$$

to get inverse lorentz transformation just reverse the velocity components

$$\vec{e}_\alpha = \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\mu}(v) \vec{e}_\mu$$

$$\vec{e}_\mu = \Lambda_{\mu}^{\nu}(-v) \vec{e}_\nu$$

Using the transformation:

$$\vec{e}_\alpha = \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\bar{\beta}}(v) \vec{e}_{\bar{\beta}}$$

$$\vec{e}_\alpha = \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\bar{\beta}}(v) \left[\Lambda_{\bar{\beta}}^{\gamma}(-v) \vec{e}_\gamma \right]$$

$$\vec{e}_\alpha = \left[\Lambda_{\alpha}^{\bar{\beta}}(v) \Lambda_{\bar{\beta}}^{\gamma}(-v) \right] \vec{e}_\gamma$$

the above equation will hold good if the components under square brackets reduces to Identity matrix.

kronecker delta function:

$$\delta_{\gamma}^{\alpha} = \Lambda_{\alpha}^{\bar{\beta}} \Lambda_{\bar{\beta}}^{\gamma}$$

likewise:

$$\delta_{\bar{\gamma}}^{\bar{\alpha}} = \Lambda_{\bar{\alpha}}^{\beta} \Lambda_{\beta}^{\bar{\gamma}}$$

we shall now see operations which can be done with these 4 vectors (i.e 3 space vector and one time vector)

i. Scalar Product:

As per special relativity

$$\Delta S^2 = -\Delta t^2 + \Delta X^2 + \Delta Y^2 + \Delta Z^2$$

this is invariant: Same in all lorentz frame of reference

the above equation can be written as

$$\Delta S^2 = \Delta \vec{X} \cdot \Delta \vec{X}$$

$$\stackrel{\theta}{=} -(\Delta X_0)^2 + (\Delta X_1)^2 + (\Delta X_2)^2 + (\Delta X_3)^2$$

The question may arise that why the first component i.e time has negative sign where as other dimensions i.e spacial direction are +ve sign. The direction of time is one-sided. we cannot go back and forth in time. This is how the space time as we know it. It is part of built-in geometry of nature.

this has same transformation properties as displacement vector.

since 4 vectors have same transformation properties as $\Delta \vec{X}$, we similarly define

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} \stackrel{\theta}{=} -(A^0)^2 + (A^1)^2 + (A^2)^2 + (A^3)^2$$

because this transformation has same properties as displacement vector then this equation must be lorentz invariant.

ii. Terminology:

If $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} < 0$ then vector \vec{A} is "time like".

If $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} > 0$ then vector \vec{A} is "Space like".

If $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} = 0$ then vector \vec{A} is "light like or NULL".

iii. More General Notation

Scalar is a quantity which does not have any component

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} \stackrel{\theta}{=} -A^0 \cdot B^0 + A^1 \cdot B^1 + A^2 \cdot B^2 + A^3 \cdot B^3$$

This quantity must also be an invariant. This can be easily proved by using

$\vec{C} = \vec{A} + \vec{B}$, since $\vec{C} \cdot \vec{C}$ is invariant

$\Rightarrow \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B}$ is also lorentz invariant.

using \vec{A} and \vec{B} as component of basis vectors we have

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} &= (A^\alpha \vec{e}_\alpha) \cdot (B^\beta \vec{e}_\beta) \\ &= A^\alpha B^\beta (\vec{e}_\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\beta) \\ &= A^\alpha B^\beta \eta_{\alpha\beta} \end{aligned}$$

here $\eta_{\alpha\beta}$ is two index tensor

$$\eta_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \text{the "metric" Tensor}$$

$$\Delta S^2 = \Delta \vec{X} \cdot \Delta \vec{X}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta S^2 = \eta_{\alpha\beta} \Delta X^\alpha \Delta X^\beta$$

we will use η for transformation in cartesian coordinates

rewriting the above equations in form of differentials we have

$$dS^2 = d\vec{X} \cdot d\vec{X}$$

$$\Rightarrow dS^2 = \eta_{\alpha\beta} dX^\alpha dX^\beta$$

when the equation below holds true: i.e

$$d\vec{X} = dX^\alpha \vec{e}_\alpha$$

then we say that \vec{e}_α is **coordinate basis** vector.

iv. Curvilinear coordinates:

$$d\vec{X} = dX^i \vec{e}_i$$

$$= dr \vec{e}_r + d\theta \vec{e}_\theta + d\phi \vec{e}_\phi$$

$$= dr \vec{e}_r + d\theta r \vec{e}_\theta + d\phi r \sin \theta \vec{e}_\phi$$

\vec{e}_i is orthogonal basis if

$$\vec{e}_i \cdot \vec{e}_j = \delta_{ij}$$

kronecker delta function.

for Curvilinear coordinates as defined above this is not the case as :

$$\vec{e}_{\hat{r}} \cdot \vec{e}_{\hat{r}} = 1$$

$$\vec{e}_{\hat{\theta}} \cdot \vec{e}_{\hat{\theta}} = r^2$$

$$\vec{e}_{\hat{\phi}} \cdot \vec{e}_{\hat{\phi}} = r^2 \cdot \sin^2 \theta$$

thus the metric tensor $\eta_{\alpha\beta}$ will change for Curvilinear coordinate system as we are not dealing with orthonormal basis vectors.

v. **Important 4 vectors**

$$\vec{U} \equiv \frac{d\vec{X}}{dT} \text{ this has 4 velocity components..}$$

dT is time interval as measured along the trajectory of the observer

Interval of **"proper time"**

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