Using LaTeX 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 or collection 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. **Event:** Event When and where something happens. Essentially event is fundamental notion of a coordinate in space and time .

   vi. **Coordinates or Labels:** coordinates we attach to events,but the event itself is independent on the choice of coordinate system or labels.

   vii. **Metric:** To measure.....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.
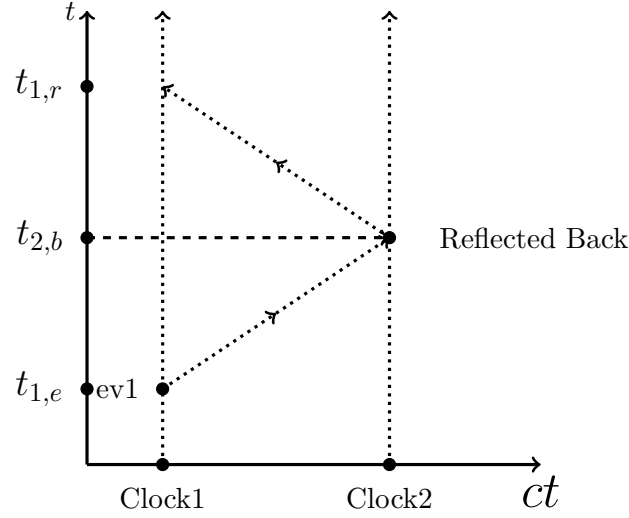

Figure 1

$t_{1,e}$: Event When Clock1 emits light pulse.
$t_{2,b}$: Event when the observer at Clock2 reflects a 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 a 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 $c = \dfrac{1 \text{ light time unit}}{\text{time unit}} = 1$

- This means that all velocities will be dimensionless

- Let O be an observer in inertial frame of reference (IRF) defined few moments ago and O observes events P and Q.
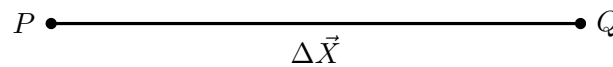

Figure 2

$\Delta \vec{X}$ is displacement in space time from point P to Q

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We Shall define components with respect to observer O.

$$\Delta \vec{X} \doteq_{O} (t_Q - t_P, X_Q - X_P, Y_Q - Y_P, Z_Q - Z_p)$$

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

$\Delta \vec{X} \underset{O}{\rightarrow} \Delta X^{\mu}$

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

$\Delta \vec{X} \underset{\overline{O}}{\rightarrow} \Delta X^{\overline{\mu}}$

O and $\overline{O}$ components are related by Lorentz transformation as given below:

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

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

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

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

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

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

here v is light speed unit as defined earlier.

Better compact notation:

$$\Delta X^{\overline{\mu}} = \sum_{\nu=0}^{3} \Lambda^{\overline{\mu}}_{\nu} \ \Delta X^{\nu}$$

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

$$\Delta X^{\overline{\mu}} = \Lambda^{\overline{\mu}}_{\nu} \ \Delta X^{\nu}$$

Notice:

$$\Lambda^{\overline{\mu}}_{\nu} = \frac{\delta X^{\overline{\mu}}}{\delta X^{\nu}}$$

the above equation will be used in transformation from one reference frame to other. ν is dummy index, however $\overline{\mu}$ is not the dummy index sometimes called the free index.

iii. **Spacetime Vector:** Any quartet of numbers (i.e. components) that transforms between inertial reference frame like displacement vector.

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

If $A^{\overline{\mu}} = \Lambda^{\overline{\mu}}_{\alpha}.A^{\alpha}$

decides the component of Vector with respect to observer $\overline{O}$ 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 scaler then their product is a vector.

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

Note: the scaler quantity should be same for all frame of reference/observers *i.e* that quantity should be Lorentz invariant. This means mass cannot be taken

as scaler as it is not Lorentz invariant.

2. **Lecture 2**

(a) **Introduction to Tensors**

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

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

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

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

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

Compact way of writing this:

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

Kronecker delta function: A mathematical function that takes two variables and returns 1 if the variables are equal, and 0 if they are not

Definition

$\delta_{ij} = 1$ if $i = j$ and $\delta_{ij} = 0$ if $i \neq j$

The utility of above set of equations is:

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

The above equation represents actual equality and not representation symbol... we shall now see how basis vectors transforms when reference frame changes.

$\vec{A} = A^\alpha . \vec{e}_\alpha = A^{\overline{\mu}} . \vec{e}_{\overline{\mu}}$

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

Index Notation

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

For ordinary multiplication the above equation can be reformatted as

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

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

$A^\alpha . \vec{e}_\alpha = A^\beta \Lambda_\beta^{\overline{\mu}} \vec{e}_{\overline{\mu}}$

$\Rightarrow A^\alpha . \vec{e}_\alpha = A^\alpha \Lambda_\alpha^{\overline{\mu}} \vec{e}_{\overline{\mu}}$

$\Rightarrow A^\alpha . \vec{e}_\alpha - A^\alpha \Lambda_\alpha^{\overline{\mu}} \vec{e}_{\overline{\mu}} = 0$

$\Rightarrow A^\alpha \left(\vec{e}_\alpha - \Lambda_\alpha^{\overline{\mu}} \vec{e}_{\overline{\mu}} \right) = 0 - (1)$

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

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

since $A^{\overline{\mu}} = \Lambda_\alpha^{\overline{\mu}} . A^\alpha$

to get inverse Lorentz transformation just reverse the velocity components

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

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

Using the transformation: $\vec{e}_\alpha = \Lambda_\alpha^{\overline{\beta}}(\underset{\sim}{v}) \vec{e}_{\overline{\beta}}$

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

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

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

Kronecker delta function:

$\delta^\alpha_\gamma = \Lambda^{\overline{\beta}}_\alpha \Lambda^\gamma_{\overline{\beta}}$

likewise:

$\delta^{\overline{\alpha}}_{\overline{\gamma}} = \Lambda^\beta_\alpha \Lambda^{\overline{\gamma}}_\beta$

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

i. **Scaler 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
$\Delta S^2 = \Delta \vec{X} \cdot \Delta \vec{X}$
$\underset{\theta}{\doteq} -(\Delta X_0)^2 + (\Delta X_1)^2 + (\Delta X_2)^2 + (\Delta X_3)^2$
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
$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{A} \underset{\theta}{\doteq} -(A^0)^2 + (A^1)^2 + (A^2)^2 + (A^3)^2$
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**
Scaler is a quantity which does not have any component
$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} \underset{\theta}{\doteq} -A^0 \cdot B^0 + A^1 \cdot B^1 + A^2 \cdot B^2 + A^3 \cdot B^3$
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

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = (A^\alpha \vec{e_\alpha}) \cdot (B^\beta \vec{e_\beta})$$
$$= A^\alpha . B^\beta (\vec{e_\alpha} . \vec{e_\beta})$$
$$= A^\alpha . B^\beta \eta_{\alpha\beta}$$

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

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

$\Delta S^2 = \Delta \vec{X} \cdot \Delta \vec{X}$
$\Rightarrow \Delta S^2 = \eta_{\alpha\beta} \Delta X^\alpha \Delta X^\beta$
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 $\vec{e}_\alpha$ is **coordinate basis** vector.

iv. **Curvilinear coordinates**:

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

$= dr \; \vec{e_r} + d\theta \; \vec{e_\theta} + d\phi \; \vec{e_\phi}$

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

$\vec{e}_{\hat{i}}$ is orthogonal basis if

$\vec{e}_{\hat{i}} \cdot \vec{e}_{\hat{j}} = \delta_{ij}$

Kronecker delta function.

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

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

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

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

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**

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

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

Interval of **"proper time"**

for observer seeing an object going by with a constant velocity. he will observer 4 velocity components given by :

$\overset{o}{=}(\gamma, \gamma\underset{\sim}{V})$

where γ is Lorentz factor given by $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v^2}}$

In rest frame of the observer $\vec{u} = (1, \underset{\sim}{0})$

i.e person is standing still but moving through time.

vi. **4 Momentum** components

$\vec{P} = m\vec{u}$ where m is **"rest mass"** of the object

External observer will see two components

$\dot{=}(E, P)$

scaler product $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} = -\gamma^2 + \gamma^2 . v^2 = -1$

a) if $v = 0$ then $\gamma = 1$ the above equation will hold good/true.

b) γ is frame invariant quantity this means transformation equations shall hold good for any frame of reference we shall use this property to solve complex equations.

c) Now for 4-Momentum components just multiply 4-velocity components times mass of the object.

$\vec{p} \cdot \vec{p} = m^2 \; \vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} = -m^2$

Since the above equation is also related to energy and Momentum we have

$= -E^2 + |P|^2$

or
$$E^2 - |P|^2 = m^2$$
in the above equation we have taken velocity of light in free space "c=1" as unit length...a more general form will be....
$$E^2 - P^2 \cdot c^2 = m^2 \cdot c^4$$

vii. **Conservation of 4-Momentum**

we have N particles interacting, then we have

$$\vec{P}_{TOT} = \sum_{i=0}^{N} \vec{p}_i$$

the total Momentum is conserved in this interaction. Algebra often simplifies by choosing a convenient frame of reference...

i.e. **Center of Momentum** frame...

$$\vec{P}_{TOT} \underset{CoM}{\doteq} (E, \underset{\sim}{0})$$

Zero special momentum.......

this is specially relevant/useful of we are studying particle collision

very useful results follows from invariance of scaler product...

let $\vec{p}$ be the 4-Momentum of the particle A

let $\vec{u}$ be the 4-velocity of observer O

Now the question arise that what does O measure as Energy of particle A.

representing $\vec{p}$ as (E, P)

so, $\vec{p} \underset{O}{\doteq} (E_O, \vec{P}_O)$ momentum as seen by observer O.

but velocity u in O's reference frame.. $\vec{u} \underset{O}{\doteq} (1, \underset{\sim}{0})$

this means that if we go into O's inertial reference frame and take dot product of two vectors we have..

$\vec{p} \cdot \vec{u} = -E_o$

or

$\boxed{E_o = -\vec{p} \cdot \vec{u}}$

the above scaler product is invariant... it remains same irrespective of any frame of reference...

this invariance guarantees that the equation used for calculating scaler product of $\vec{p} \cdot \vec{u}$ will holds good/is invariant for any frame of reference

another important 4-vector component is $\vec{a}$ i.e.

$\vec{a} = \dfrac{d\vec{u}}{d\tau}$ Always the case that $\vec{a} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$

and $\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u} = -1$

$\Rightarrow \dfrac{d(\vec{u} \cdot \vec{u})}{d\tau} = 2\vec{u} \cdot \vec{a} = 0$

Tensors are more generally:

A tensor of type $\begin{pmatrix} O \\ N \end{pmatrix}$ as a function or mapping of N 4-Vectors into Lorentz invariant scaler which is linear in each of its N arguments....

viii. **Recap of Inner Product**

$$\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = -A^0 B^0 + A^1 B^1 + A^2 B^2 + A^3 B^3$$
$$= A^\alpha B^\beta \vec{e}_\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\beta$$
$$= \eta_{\alpha\beta} A^\alpha B^\beta = a$$

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here $\eta_{\alpha\beta} \equiv \vec{e}_\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\beta$ is the <u>metric</u> <u>tensor</u> of special relativity of rectilinear (Cartesian) coordinates system.

The negative component of above equation i.e $-A^0 B^0$ are time like components..

for Cartesian system $\eta_{\alpha\beta} = \text{diag}(-1, 1, 1, 1)$ metric tensor...

if 4D-vector is multiplied by a scaler say γ then

Scaler multiplication

$\gamma \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \eta_{\alpha\beta}(\gamma A^\alpha)B^\beta = \gamma \ a$

DoT Product with sum of two vectors

$\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} + \vec{A} \cdot \vec{C}$

$$\vec{A} \cdot (\vec{B} + \vec{C}) = \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} + \vec{A} \cdot \vec{C}$$
$$= \eta_{\alpha\beta} A^\alpha B^\beta + \eta_{\alpha\beta} A^\alpha C^\beta$$

Alternatively we can define tensor as a two slot mathematical machine:

$\overline{\overline{\eta}} \ (\vec{A}, \vec{B}) \equiv \vec{A} \cdot \vec{B} = \eta_{\alpha\beta} A^\alpha B^\beta = a$

$\vec{A}$ and $\vec{B}$ are frame independent geometric objects and a are frame independent scaler and therefore a tensor must be frame independent object as well...

Put geometric objects into a slots and get geometric objects out, tensor must be frame independent geometric object as well...

Different representation of Tensors are being used by different observers...we need to get components used by a particular observers....hence we use tensor to plug basis vector into its slots...

$\overline{\overline{\eta}} \ (\vec{e}_\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\beta) \equiv \eta_{\alpha\beta}$

for other frame of reference or observer

$\overline{\overline{\eta}} \ (\vec{e}_{\overline{\alpha}} \cdot \vec{e}_{\overline{\beta}}) \equiv \eta_{\overline{\alpha}\overline{\beta}}$

$\eta_{\overline{\alpha}\overline{\beta}} = \overline{\overline{\eta}} \ (\Lambda^\mu_{\overline{\alpha}} \ \vec{e}_\mu, \Lambda^\nu_{\overline{\beta}} \ \vec{e}_\nu)$

where $\vec{e}_\mu$ and $\vec{e}_\nu$ are the basis vector in barred frame of reference...

now because of linearity we can rewrite the above equation as...

$= \Lambda^\mu_{\overline{\alpha}} \ \Lambda^\nu_{\overline{\beta}} \ \overline{\overline{\eta}} \ (\vec{e}_\mu, \vec{e}_\nu)$

$\boxed{\eta_{\overline{\alpha}\overline{\beta}} = \Lambda^\mu_{\overline{\alpha}} \ \Lambda^\nu_{\overline{\beta}} \ \eta_{\mu\nu}}$

Note: $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(-1,1,1,1)$ in all frames

$\begin{pmatrix} O \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ Tensors: Special subsets "1-form" also called dual vectors...

1-form is a mapping from a single vector o a Lorentz invariant scaler...

let $\widetilde{p}(\vec{A}) = $ some scaler

Components come from putting in basis vectors

$\widetilde{p}(\vec{e}_\alpha) = p_\alpha$

i.e.

$\widetilde{p}(\vec{A}) = \widetilde{p}(A^\alpha \vec{e}_\alpha)$

$= A^\alpha \widetilde{p}(\vec{e}_\alpha)$

$= A^\alpha p_\alpha$

Now, how to get components transformation in different frames of reference...

$p_{\overline{\alpha}} = \Lambda^\mu_{\overline{\alpha}} p_\mu$

we need basis vectors of 1-forms: want a set of geometric objects

$\{\tilde{\omega}^\alpha\}$

such that $\tilde{p} = p_\alpha \ \tilde{\omega}^\alpha$

since we know that $p_\alpha = \widetilde{p} \ (\widetilde{e}_\alpha)$

with contraction $p_\alpha A^\alpha = \widetilde{p}(\vec{A})$

$\widetilde{p}(\widetilde{A}) = P_\beta \tilde{\omega}^\beta (A^\alpha \tilde{e}_\alpha)$

$\widetilde{p}(\widetilde{A}) = P_\beta A^\alpha \tilde{\omega}^\beta (\tilde{e}_\alpha)$

The above equation will hold good if $\tilde{\omega}^\beta (\tilde{e}_\alpha) = \delta_\alpha{}^\beta$

This will lead to (for example) a set of basis objects

$\tilde{\omega}^0 \underset{O}{\dot=} (1, 0, 0, 0)$

$\tilde{\omega}^1 \underset{O}{\dot=} (0, 1, 0, 0)$ etc...

The above expression looks a lot like basis vectors...

But enter is a "dual way" akin to row vectors or column vectors....

Mathematically

$$\sum_{\mu=0}^{3} A^\mu B^\mu$$

plays no role in physics involved... as this is not related to the underlined invariance structure of the Lorentz transformation...

However,

$$\sum_{\mu=0}^{3} p_\mu A^\mu$$

is important.

ix. **Quantum Waveform**

Last Update 26-06-2025

Hi Addie....

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text Draw.io