Modern Space-Time

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Abstract

The Interdefinition of Length and Time.

Since 1983, the meter, second and speed of light "c" have been defined by N meters = c * 1 second with N = 299,792,458.

We find, that's had a profound effect on Relativity Theory.

In the MKS system of units we have the basis vectors \vec{e}^0 , \vec{e}^1 , \vec{e}^2 , \vec{e}^3 such that the magnitudes are,

$$|\vec{e}^{i}| = 1 meter, \{i = 1, 2, 3\} \ and \ |\vec{e}^{0}| = c * 1 \sec ond.$$
 (1)

These are related by N * $|\sim e_i| = |\sim e_0|$ as per International definition. We may of course eliminate the N by an arbitrary change in the length scale to simplify to $|\vec{e}|^i = |\vec{e}|^0$.

With it understood the $|\vec{e}^{\,u}|$ are the 4D basis vectors, we define our metrics by the scalar products herein,

$$g_{uv} = \vec{e}_u \bullet \vec{e}_v \text{ and } g_{uv} = \vec{e}^u \bullet \vec{e}^v,$$
 (2)

being the covariant and contravariant metric tensors.

In a Cartesian Coordinate System that yields,

$$g_{00} = g_{11} = g_{22} = g_{33} = 1. ag{3}$$

An Alternative to the conventional Minkowski Metric.

In flat space we set $g_{00} = g_{11} = g_{22} = g_{33} = 1$ and $g_{0i} = -dx^i/dx^0$, that and that works well when merging SR with GR, neatly expressed,

$$U_i U^i = 0 (4)$$

as the definition the modern Theory of Relativity as required by the new 1983 definition of tme.

Expand that to detail time and space as,

$$U_0 U^0 + U_i U^i = 1, \{i = 1, 2, 3\}$$
 (5)

The U_iU^i is *absolute velocity* and since one can always find a CS where motion of something is zero, is the same as saying motion is relative,

hence, $U_iU^i=0$ = absolute motion is the covariant way (for all CS's using tensors) of writing "motion is relative". Of course relative motion is retained by U^i and being non-zero generally produces,

$$U_i = 0$$
, generally. (6)

Now we can use association to obtain,

$$U_{i} = g_{i\mu}U^{\mu} = 0 \tag{7}$$

and expand index " μ " in time and space $\{0,i\}$ $\{0,i\}$ to,

$$0 = g_{i0}U^0 + g_{ii}U^j$$
 (8)

Using algebra we see,

$$g_{i0} = -g_{ij}U^{j}/U^{0} = -g_{ij}dx^{j}/dx^{0}$$
(9)

Specifying a flat space-time metric gij simplifies to the Kronecker delta and so,

$$g_{i0} = -dx^{i}/cdt$$

simplified, and is aberration...a real effect well established by experiment.

Now we substitute the nonorthogonal components in

in $ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu$ by expanding indices " μ " and " ν " over time and space,

$$ds^{2} = g_{00}dx^{o}dx^{0} + 2g_{oi}dx^{0}dx^{i} + g_{ii}dx^{i}dx^{j}$$
(10)

From Equation (9) sub in $g_{0i} = -g_{ij}dx^{j}/dx^{0}$ and get

$$ds^{2} = g_{00}dx^{0}dx^{0} - g_{ii}dx^{i}dx^{j}$$
 (generally) . (11)

Sub in a simplified metric g_{00} , g_{11} ... = 1 and $dx^0 = cdt$ to get the familiar

$$ds^{2} = c^{2}dt^{2} - dx^{2} - dy^{2} - dz^{2}$$
(12)

that Minkowski and later Einstein needed for GR.

The relative motion and the vanishing of *absolute* motion has been deduced to $U_i = 0$.

Above, we see the only metric compatible with $U_i = 0$ is, $ds^2 = g_{00} dx^0 dx^0 - g_{ij} dx^i dx^j \text{ (generally)}. \tag{13}$

Note: The $\sqrt{1}$ is not applicable or possible in time or space, (it may be mathematically possible to transform $\sqrt{-1}$ axes to normal axes).

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