

Newtonian Mechanics, Special Relativity  
and some General Relativity.

Student Seminar

2021-04-15

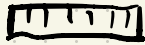


Edvard Aksnes

Disclaimer: I'm not a physicist, take everything with a large grain of salt...

Question: How can you describe what goes on in the universe / our reality?

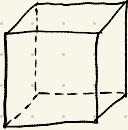
Want to predict where "things" are going.

We can **measure**:

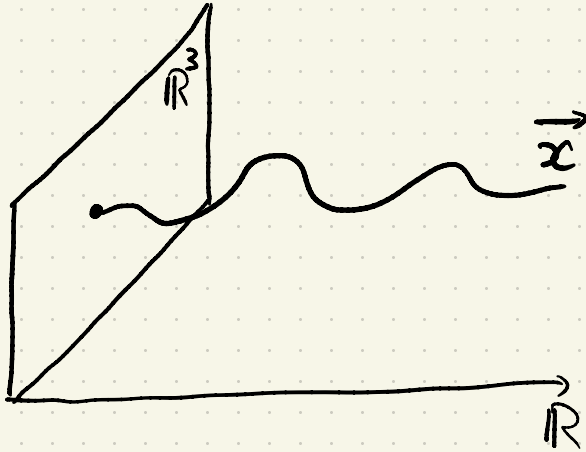
- Space   $\rightsquigarrow$  
- Time 

Seems we live in  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3$ .

Want: How do objects move in spacetime?

Model: A big object   $\longleftrightarrow$  • Single point.

A motion:  $\vec{x}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  *Worldline.*



Newtonian mechanics  $\rightarrow$  2 physical concepts

- Mass

$m$

- Force

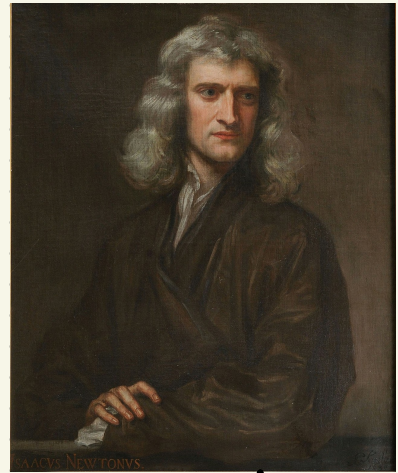
$F \nearrow$ ;  $F + F' \searrow$

Defined in vague terms.

Mass = "how much force to move something"

Force = "something which makes something move"

# Newton's laws:



Isaac Newton

- 1st. law, principle of inertia: An object in motion stays in motion unless acted upon by a net external force

$$\sum F = 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = 0$$

- 2nd law: Time change of **momentum** is proportional to the force

$$F = \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt}$$

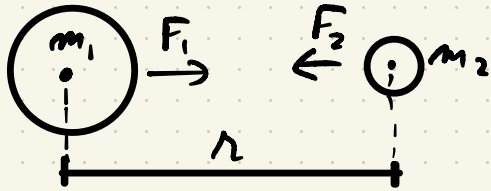
$$\vec{p} = m\vec{v} \quad \text{momentum}$$

- 3d law: All forces between two objects exist in equal magnitude and opposite direction:  $F_A = -F_B$

# How are forces determined? Experiment

Take an object, define its mass = 1. Measure how it moves under different contexts.

Example: (Newton's law of universal gravitation)



$$|F_1| = |F_2| = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

↑  
gravitational constant  
 $\approx 6.674 \cdot 10^{-11} \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{kg} \cdot \text{s}^2}$

Modern theory: 4 Fundamental forces

- Gravitation
- Electromagnetism
- Strong force
- Weak force

More examples: FYS-MEK1100

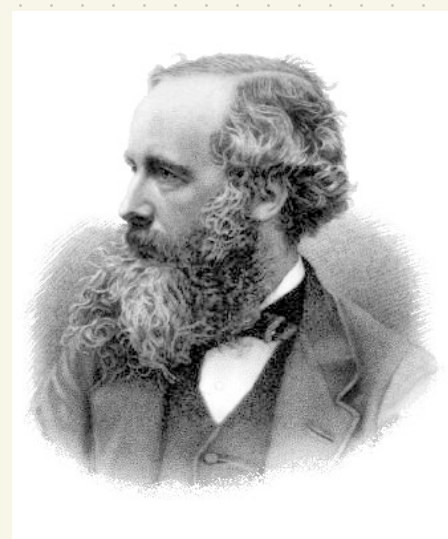
How to change reference frame (coord. system)?

- Spatial rotation :  $(\vec{x}, t) \mapsto (R\vec{x}, t) \quad R \in O(3)$
- Spatial translation :  $(\vec{x}, t) \mapsto (\vec{x} + a, t) \quad a \in \mathbb{R}^3$
- Uniform motion :  $(\vec{x}, t) \mapsto (\vec{x} + t\vec{v}, t) \quad v \in \mathbb{R}^3$

Galilean transformation: composition of these 3.



# 1860's: Maxwell's equation for electromagnetism



James Clerk Maxwell

Name	Integral equations	Differential equations
Gauss's law	$\oiint_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = 4\pi \iiint_{\Omega} \rho dV$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 4\pi\rho$
Gauss's law for magnetism	$\oiint_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{S} = 0$	$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
Maxwell-Faraday equation (Faraday's law of induction)	$\oint_{\partial\Sigma} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{d}{dt} \iint_{\Sigma} \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{S}$	$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$
Ampère's circuital law (with Maxwell's addition)	$\oint_{\partial\Sigma} \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \frac{1}{c} \left( 4\pi \iint_{\Sigma} \mathbf{J} \cdot d\mathbf{S} + \frac{d}{dt} \iint_{\Sigma} \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{S} \right)$	$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \frac{1}{c} \left( 4\pi\mathbf{J} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \right)$

$$\mathbf{F} = q(\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B})$$

Lorentz force

$\Rightarrow$  NOT invariant under Galilean transformation

However: Invariant under Lorentz transformation:

Velocity:  $\vec{v} = (u, 0, 0)$

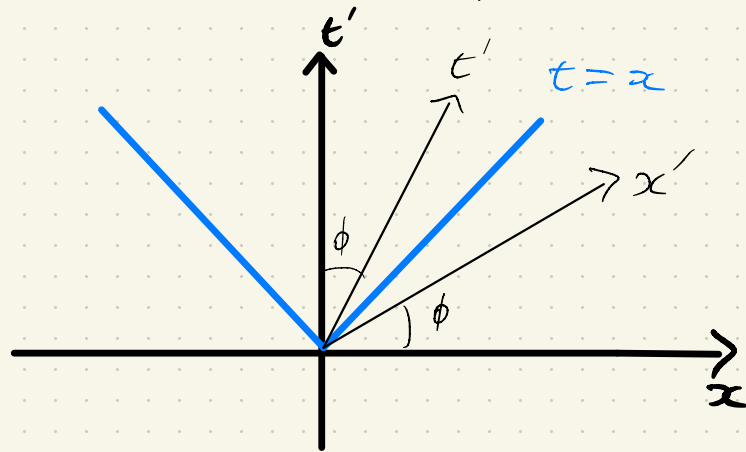
$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

Lorentz factor.

Observations:

1. Time dilation.
2. No simultaneity.  
 $\{t=0\} \neq \{t'=0\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^4$

$$\begin{pmatrix} t \\ x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \gamma \left( t - \frac{ux}{c^2} \right) \\ \gamma (x - ut) \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix}$$



# Einstein:

Galilean transformations

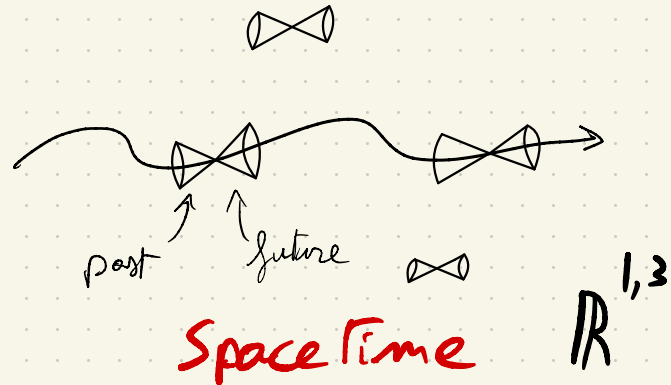
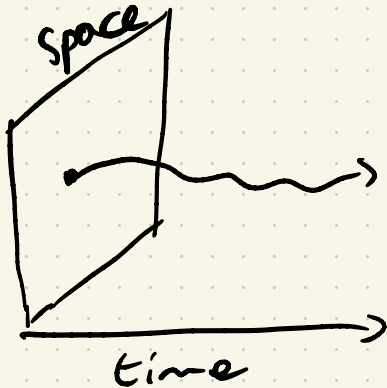


Poincaré transformations

(Lorentz tr.  
+ translation/  
rotation)



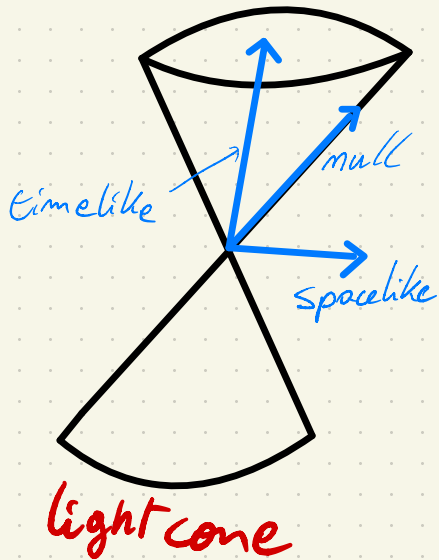
Albert Einstein



# Spacetime / Minkowski Space :

4 manifold  $\mathbb{R}^{1,3} = (\mathbb{R}^4, d)$

where  $d((t_1, \vec{x}_1), (t_2, \vec{x}_2)) = \sqrt{-c^2(t_1 - t_2)^2 + \|\vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2\|^2}$



Metric:  $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -c^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Local coords:  $(x^\mu)_{\mu=0, \dots, 3}$

A particle with mass follows a worldline where all tangent vectors are timelike.  $\tilde{x}: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{1,3}$ , param  $\lambda$

$$\Delta\tau = \int_0^1 d\tau = \int_0^1 \sqrt{\sum_{\mu, \nu=0}^3 -\eta_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\lambda}} d\lambda$$

Given a particle with mass, we can parametrize its path with the internal clock  $\Delta\tau$ .

$\leadsto$  Four-velocity  $U = \left( \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \right)_{\mu=0, \dots, 3}$   $\|U\| = c^2$

$\leadsto$  Momentum four-vector  $p = mU$   
 $m$  mass of particle.

**Energy** is the 0-th component of  $p$ .  $E = p^0$ .

In the reference frame of the particle  $U = (c^2, 0, 0, 0)$

$$\Rightarrow E = mc^2$$

Suppose we have a reference frame  $(x^\mu)_{\mu=0,\dots,3}$ , and a particle moving with velocity  $v = \frac{dx}{dt}$  along the  $x$  axis.

In particle ref frame:  $(t', x) = (x, 0)$

$$p = (mc^2, 0, 0, 0)$$

In our ref frame:  $(t, x)$

Apply Lorentz transform

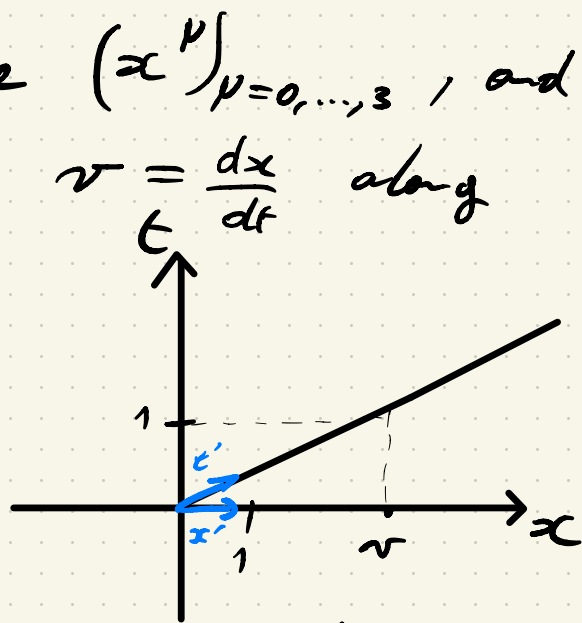
$$x = \gamma(x' + vt')$$

$$t = \gamma(t' + vx'/c^2)$$

$$p = (\gamma mc^2, v\gamma m, 0, 0)$$

$$\gamma = \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$$

Small  $v \rightarrow p^0 \approx m + \frac{1}{2}mv^2$  (rest energy + potential),  $p^1 = mv$  (Newtonian momentum)



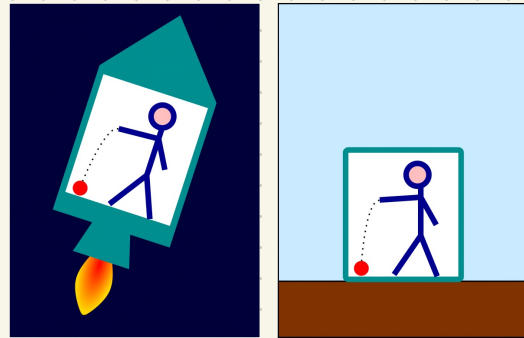
# Gravity is special

Inertial mass	Gravitational Mass.
$[F = \underline{m_i} a]$	$[F_g = -\underline{m_g} \nabla \phi]$

Weak Equivalence Principle:

$$m_i = m_g$$

Experimentally verified

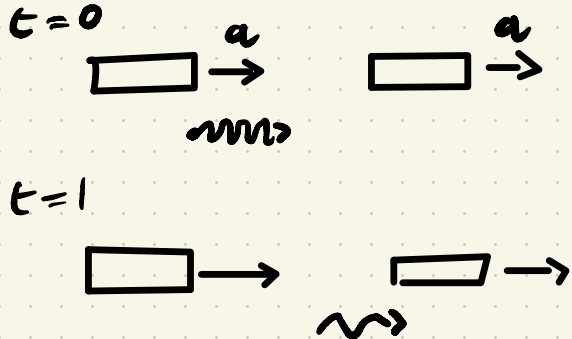


## → Einstein Equivalence Principle

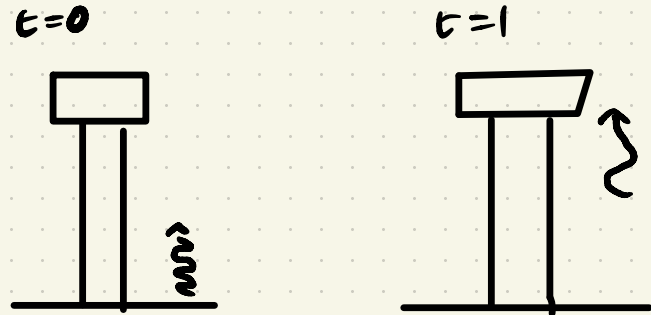
In small enough regions of spacetime, the laws of physics reduce to those of special relativity. It is impossible to detect the existence of a gravitational field.

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Moving Rockets



vs Tower





→ Spacetime is not  $\mathbb{R}^{1,3}$ ,  
it must be **curved!**

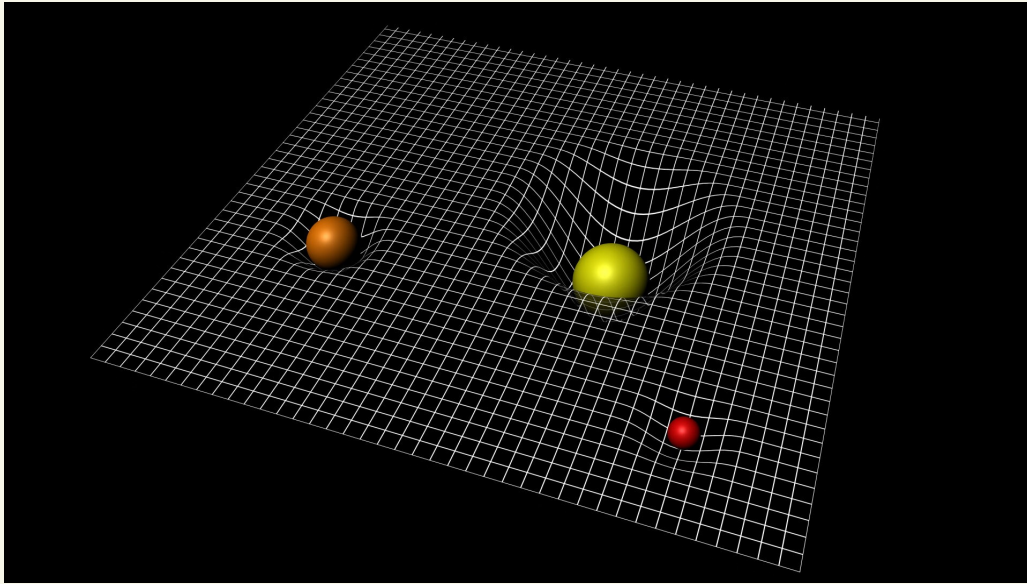
In 1915, having worked for 8 years, Einstein published the **General theory of relativity**.

Curvature of spacetime  $\leftrightarrow$  Matter & Energy

**Einstein's field equation:**  $R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} R g_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}$

Free particles: **Geodesic equation:**  $\sum_{\rho, \sigma} \frac{d^2 x^\rho}{d\lambda^2} + \Gamma_{\rho\sigma}^\mu \frac{dx^\rho}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^\sigma}{d\lambda} = 0$

Thanks for your time!



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