

This Mission intends to reinforce Lectures 2 - Lecture 6 of my 2022 Mathematics of GR course. Please read Chapter 1 of Sean Carroll's *Spacetime and Geometry* text.

**Problem 1** Use the repeated index notation to prove the identity  $\vec{A} \times (\vec{B} \times \vec{C}) = (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{C})\vec{B} - (\vec{A} \cdot \vec{B})\vec{C}$

**Problem 2** Consider two inertial frames which are related by an  $x$ -velocity transformation. In particular, we suppose the primed frame is moving with velocity  $V$  in the  $x$ -direction. We have the following relations between frame  $(t, x, y, z)$  and  $(t', x', y', z')$ :

$$\begin{aligned}t' &= \gamma(t - Vx/c^2) \\x' &= \gamma(x - Vt) \\y' &= y, \\z' &= z\end{aligned}$$

where  $\gamma = \frac{1}{1 - V^2/c^2}$  and  $c$  is the speed of light. Notice these are linear relations between  $(t, x, y, z)$  and  $(t', x', y', z')$  hence we have the corresponding differential relations:

$$\begin{aligned}dt' &= \gamma(dt - Vdx/c^2) \\dx' &= \gamma(dx - Vdt) \\dy' &= dy, \\dz' &= dz\end{aligned}$$

Let  $\vec{u} = \langle \frac{dx}{dt}, \frac{dy}{dt}, \frac{dz}{dt} \rangle$  denote the velocity of a trajectory in the  $(t, x, y, z)$ -frame and let  $\vec{u}' = \langle \frac{dx'}{dt'}, \frac{dy'}{dt'}, \frac{dz'}{dt'} \rangle$  denote the velocity of the same trajectory as measured in the  $(t', x', y', z')$  frame. Furthermore, let us denote  $\vec{u} = \langle u_1, u_2, u_3 \rangle$  and  $\vec{u}' = \langle u'_1, u'_2, u'_3 \rangle$ . Using formal calculus of differentials derive the following relations between the velocity measured in the unprimed and primed frame:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{(a.) } u'_1 &= \frac{u_1 - V}{1 - Vu_1/c^2} \\ \text{(b.) } u'_2 &= \frac{u_2}{\gamma(1 - Vu_1/c^2)} \\ \text{(c.) } u'_3 &= \frac{u_3}{\gamma(1 - Vu_1/c^2)}\end{aligned}$$

**Problem 3** Use the transformations derived in the previous problem to answer the following:

- (a.) Suppose  $\vec{u} = \langle c, 0, 0 \rangle$ . Show  $\vec{u}'$  has speed  $c$ .
- (b.) Suppose  $\vec{u} = \langle 0, c, 0 \rangle$ . Show  $\vec{u}'$  has speed  $c$ .

**Problem 4** The speed of an object moving with  $x$ -velocity  $u'_1$  in a primed frame moving with velocity  $V$  in the  $x$ -direction is given by  $u_1 = \frac{u'_1 + V}{1 + Vu'_1/c^2}$  (this is the inverse of the relation in part (a.) of a previous problem). This is the colinear velocity addition rule in special

relativity. As you can clearly see, *velocities do not add*. In contrast, if we define rapidity of the frame by

$$\tanh(\alpha) = V/c$$

and the rapidity of the particle in the primed frame by

$$\tanh(\beta') = u'_1/c$$

and the rapidity of the particle in the unprimed frame by

$$\tanh(\beta) = u_1/c$$

then show that  $\beta = \alpha + \beta'$ . That is, show that *rapidities add*. Let me give you a huge hint:

$$\tanh(a + b) = \frac{\tanh(a) + \tanh(b)}{1 + \tanh(a)\tanh(b)}.$$

**Problem 5** Answer the questions posed on page 6 of Lecture 4. Prove or disprove:

- (a.) The composition of isometries in Minkowski space is an isometry.
- (b.) A spacetime translation is an isometry on  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .
- (c.) A Lorentz matrix induces an isometry on spacetime.
- (d.) An isometry of Minkowski space fixing 0 is a Lorentz transformation.
- (e.) Every isometry of spacetime is the composite of a Lorentz transformation and a spacetime translation.
- (f.) The Poincare group is a group.

**Problem 6** Show that a trajectory which falls along a line in one inertial frame of reference will also fall on a line in any other inertially related frame of reference. The context of this problem is Newtonian space.

**Problem 7** Derive Coriolis effect. See <http://www.supermath.info/CoriolisEffect.pdf>  
 Notice, this is somewhat removed from the formulas we derived in Lecture 5 page 2. I would like to understand how to get from one formalism to the other. In particular, the boxed equation on page 4 of the linked pdf which states:

$$\vec{a}_S = \vec{a}_0 + \vec{a}_{\bar{S}} + 2\vec{\omega} \times \vec{v}_{\bar{S}} + \frac{d\vec{\omega}}{dt} \times \vec{r} + \vec{\omega} \times (\vec{\omega} \times \vec{r})$$

versus my Lecture 5 page 2 formula of:

$$a_y = \ddot{R}x + 2\dot{R}v_x + Ra_x + \ddot{p}$$

**Problem 8** Carroll, Exercise 7 on page 47 on tensor calculations for given numerical tensor and 4-vector

**Problem 9** Carroll, Exercise 10 on page 47 on transforming electric and magnetic fields