

# Conformal transformations and the beginning of the Universe. Part I.

Pawel Nurowski

Centrum Fizyki Teoretycznej  
Polska Akademia Nauk

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## Quick intro to **General Relativity** theory:

- the arena for all physical events is a **spacetime** – a FOUR-dimensional manifold  $M$  equipped with a *metric*  $g$  of *Lorentzian signature*  $(-, +, +, +)$ ,
- points of  $M$  – are **physical events**; curves in  $M$  – are histories of events,
- because of the Lorentzian signature, there are **three categories of curves**:
  - **timelike** curves: whose tangent vectors  $u$  always satisfy  $g(u, u) < 0$ ,
  - **spacelike** curves: whose tangent vectors satisfy  $g(u, u) > 0$ ,
  - **null**, or using Elie Cartan's name, **optical** curves: whose tangent *nonzero* vectors satisfy  $g(u, u) = 0$ ;

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- **Curves** representing movement of particles in spacetime **are** particles' **worldlines**; physically **realistic particles** have worldlines which are:
  - either everywhere **timelike**, if they have mass, or
  - **optical**, if they are massless (they represent e.g. photons ~ particles of light);
  - curves whose tangent vectors are **never spacelike** are called **causal**; causal curves correspond to **worldlines of physically acceptable particles**;
- Particles in **free fall** have worldlines, which are **affinely** parametrized **causal geodesics**. Their **normalized** tangent vectors  $u$  satisfy

$$\nabla_u u = 0;$$

the word **normalized** means that  $g(u, u) = -1$  (for particles with mass) or  $0$  (for massless particles as e.g. photons).

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- The movement of test particles in free fall in gravitational field is determined by the Levi-Civita connection  $\nabla$  of the metric  $g$ , and the Newtonian **gravitational force** is incorporated in the notion of this connection,
- In GR every spacetime satisfies **Einstein's field equations**

$$Ric - \frac{1}{2}Rg + \Lambda g = \kappa T,$$

where  $\Lambda$  is a (cosmological) constant,  $\kappa$  is a universal constant (we choose units that it is equal to 1),  $Ric$  is the Ricci tensor of  $g$ ,  $R$  is its Ricci scalar, and  $T$  is the **energy momentum tensor**, which represents the matter content of spacetime;

- Once  $g$  satisfying Einstein's equations is given in  $M$ , the dynamics of **free** particles's movement is governed by a simple rule: knowing a position  $p$  and velocity  $u$  of a particle at  $p$ , follow a geodesic passing through  $p$  and tangent to  $u$ ; this is the worldline of the considered particle.

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- Einstein's equations:  $R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}$ ,  
 $R = R_{\mu\nu}g^{\mu\nu}$ , and  $g^{\mu\nu}g_{\nu\rho} = \delta^{\mu}_{\rho}$ .
- Here  $T_{\mu\nu} = T_{\nu\mu}$  is *symmetric*. Although  $T_{\mu\nu}$  is symmetric, the *endomorphism* tensor  $T^{\mu}_{\nu} = g^{\mu\rho}T_{\rho\nu}$ , due to the Lorentzian signature of the metric  $g$ , is *not*. Many algebraic types of  $T$ !
- Since  $T^{\mu}_{\nu} = R^{\mu}_{\nu} + (\Lambda - \frac{1}{2}R)\delta^{\mu}_{\nu}$  the eigenvalues  $\lambda_T$  of the endomorphism  $T$  **differ merely by a shift**  
 $\lambda_T = \lambda_R + \Lambda - \frac{1}{2}R$  from the eigenvalues  $\lambda_R$  of *Ric*.  
Therefore, due to the Einstein's equations we may speak about algebraic classification of the energy momentum tensor, or Ricci tensor, and use for it the usual Jordan classification of endomorphisms in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .
- Note however, that because of signature of the metric  $g$  one can attribute a **causality** to the eigenspaces, telling if the eigenspace is **timelike**, **spacelike** or **optical** (Plebański!).

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- Even under very strong symmetry assumptions about  $g$  one needs additional equation to solve it.
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