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1/29/01

PHYS 161

15th  
84-86

Week 5: Geodesics in Schwarzschild spacetime

Recap: ~~Previous week~~ I used calculus of variations; which is a methodology for finding geodesics, i.e. extremal paths between 2 spacetime events A, B.



$\lambda$ : parameter measuring distance along path

these are paths followed by particles in free fall without external non-gravitational forces.

$$\text{Let } s = \int_{A \text{ path}}^B \mathcal{L}(x, \dot{x}, \lambda) d\lambda$$

Geodesics equations followed from variational principle, that  $\delta s = 0$ , i.e., geodesics are extremal curves. In this formalism

- ①  $\lambda$  is "affine" parameter that varies along path
  - ②  $\vec{x} = (x, y, z, t)$  left this out last time
- 4 vectors  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{x} = \left( \frac{dx}{d\lambda}, \frac{dy}{d\lambda}, \frac{dz}{d\lambda}, \frac{dt}{d\lambda} \right) \\ x(\lambda), y(\lambda), z(\lambda), t(\lambda) \end{array} \right.$  are solutions to Euler-Lagrange eqs.

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} - \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = 0$$

I solved these in 3 cases, case

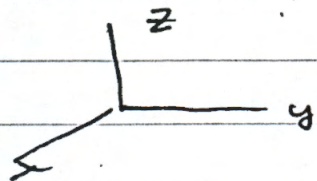
① Flat space :  $ds^2 = \sqrt{dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2}$

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{\left( \frac{dx}{d\lambda} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{dy}{d\lambda} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{dz}{d\lambda} \right)^2}$$

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We saw that these are space-like geodesics in flat Euclidean Space:



$$y = m_1 x + b_1, \quad z = m_2 x + b_2, \quad z = m_3 y + b_3$$

## ② Mechanics

Here we do not find extremal values of the interval. Rather we find extremal values of the action

$$S = \int \mathcal{L} d\lambda$$

where Lagrangian:  $\mathcal{L} = K - V = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 - V(x)$

In classical mechanics  $\lambda = t$

Lagrange equations

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} - \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} = m \dot{x}$$

$$\text{Therefore: } -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x} - \frac{d}{dt} (m \dot{x}) = 0$$

$$\text{or } \boxed{m \ddot{x} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}} \quad \text{Newton's 2nd Law}$$

## ② Special Relativity

$$-ds^2 = c^2 dt^2 - dx^2 - dy^2 - dz^2$$

$$\text{In this case } \mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-\left(\frac{ds}{d\lambda}\right)^2}$$

Use proper time  $\tau = \lambda$

$$d\tau = \sqrt{-ds^2}$$

$$-\left(\frac{ds}{d\lambda}\right)^2 = c^2 \frac{dt}{d\lambda^2} - \left(\frac{dx}{d\lambda}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{dy}{d\lambda}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{dz}{d\lambda}\right)^2$$

$$\sqrt{-\left(\frac{ds}{d\lambda}\right)^2} = c \sqrt{\dot{t}^2 - \frac{1}{c^2}(\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2)} = \mathcal{L}(x, y, z; \dot{x}, \dot{y}, \dot{z}, \dot{t})$$

$$x: \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = 0; \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} = \frac{c \left(-\frac{2\dot{x}}{c^2}\right)}{2\sqrt{\dots}} = -\dot{x}/c$$

Consider time-like geodesics:

$$\lambda = \tau: \quad \text{In this case } \left(-\frac{ds}{d\lambda}\right)^2 = -\left(\frac{ds}{d\tau}\right)^2 = c^2$$

$$\text{Therefore } \sqrt{-\left(\frac{ds}{d\lambda}\right)^2} = c = c \sqrt{\dot{t}^2 - \frac{1}{c^2}(\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2)}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{\dots} = 1$$

$$\text{So } \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} = -\dot{x}/c; \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{y}} = -\dot{y}/c; \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{z}} = -\dot{z}/c$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{t}} = c \dot{t}$$

$$\text{Since } \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{d}{d\tau} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{y}} \right) = \frac{d}{d\tau} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{z}} \right); \quad \frac{d}{d\tau} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{t}} \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \left( -\frac{\dot{x}}{c} \right) = 0 \Rightarrow \dot{x} = c, \tau + x_0$$

$$\frac{d}{d\tau}(c\dot{t}) = 0 \Rightarrow t = c_2\tau + t_0$$

(set  $t_0 = 0$ )  $\Rightarrow$   $\boxed{t = c_2\tau}$

Therefore:  $x = c_1\left(\frac{t}{c_2}\right) + x_0$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = v_x = \frac{c_1}{c_2} \quad (\text{3 velocity})$$

Now ignore  $y, z$

Recall  $\sqrt{\dot{t}^2 - \frac{1}{c^2}\dot{x}^2} = 1$

$$\therefore \sqrt{c_2^2 - \frac{c_1^2}{c^2}} = \sqrt{c_2^2 - \frac{v_x^2 c_2^2}{c^2}} = c_2 \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_x}{c}\right)^2} = 1$$

Therefore  $\boxed{c_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v_x}{c}\right)^2}} = \gamma}$

But since  $t = c_2\tau \Rightarrow \boxed{t = \gamma\tau}$

$$x = v_x t + x_0 \quad \text{or} \quad x = \gamma v_x \tau + x_0$$

Eq. of motion of special relativity



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$\lambda = c$  valid for time-like geodesics

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Clearly:  $\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial y} = -\frac{y}{c}$  ;  $\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial z} = -\frac{z}{c}$

$$\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial t} = \frac{c(z\dot{t})}{a\sqrt{\dots}} = c\dot{t}$$

Since  $\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial t} = 0$ , we have

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \left( \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{d\tau} \left( \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial \dot{t}} \right) = 0$$

As a result:

$$\dot{x} = c_1 \quad ; \quad \dot{t} = c_2$$

Solve:  $x = c_1 \tau + x_0$  ;  $t = c_2 \tau$  (synchronizing at  $t = \tau = 0$ )

or  $x = \left(\frac{c_1}{c_2}\right)t + x_0 \Rightarrow v_x = c_1/c_2$  (3-velocity)

Recall:  $\sqrt{\dot{t}^2 - \frac{x^2}{c^2}} = 1$  (Ignore  $y, z \dots$ )

$$\therefore \sqrt{c_2^2 - \frac{c_1^2}{c^2}} = \sqrt{c_2^2 - \frac{c_2^2 v_x^2}{c^2}} = c_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_x^2}{c^2}} = 1$$

$$\therefore c_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v_x^2}{c^2}}} = \gamma$$

But since  $t = c_2 \tau \Rightarrow t = \gamma \tau$  (Time dilation)

$$\therefore x = v_x t + x_0 ; \quad \tau = t/\gamma$$

These are geodesics in SR

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## Energy + Momentum in SR

### Canonical Coordinates and Conserved Quantities

Define canonical 4 momentum:  $p_\mu \equiv \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}^\mu}$

where  $\mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$  ( $t, x, y, z$ )

$p_\mu$  conserved when  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x^\mu} = 0$

why? Because  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x^\mu} - \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}^\mu} \right) = 0 \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x^\mu} - \frac{d}{d\lambda} (p_\mu) = 0 \text{ and } \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial x^\mu} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{d\lambda} (p_\mu) = 0 \text{ or } p_\mu = \text{const. along geodesic}$$

### 1-D Motion

$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} m \dot{x}^2 - V(x)$

on this case  $p_x \equiv \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{x}} \Rightarrow p_x = m \dot{x}$  and  $p_x$  is clearly linear momentum

Also  $p_t = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{t}}$  But  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(x)$

SR:  $\lambda = \tau : \mathcal{L} = c \sqrt{\left(\frac{dt}{d\tau}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{dx}{d\tau}\right)^2}$

Recall  $\frac{dx}{d\tau} = \text{const.}$

$$p_x \equiv m \frac{dx}{d\tau} \text{ also conserved}$$

$$p_x = m \frac{dx}{dt} \frac{dt}{d\tau} = m v_x \gamma \text{ also conserved}$$

Recall:  $p_x \rightarrow \infty$  as  $v_x \rightarrow c$

$$p_t = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{t}} = c \times \frac{\partial \left( \frac{dt}{d\tau} \right)}{\partial \left( \frac{dt}{d\tau} \right)} = c \left( \frac{dt}{d\tau} \right) \equiv \frac{E}{mc}$$



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$$p_t \equiv \frac{E}{mc} = c \left( \frac{dt}{dc} \right) = c \gamma \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{dt}{dE} = \frac{E}{mc^2} = \gamma}$$

As a result:  $1 = \sqrt{\left(\frac{dt}{dE}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{dx}{dE}\right)^2}$

becomes  $1 = \left(\frac{E}{mc^2}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{c^2} \left(\frac{p}{m}\right)^2$  (mult by  $mc^4$ )

or  $(mc^2)^2 = E^2 - c^2 p^2 \Rightarrow \boxed{E = \sqrt{(mc^2)^2 + c^2 p^2}}$

Thus a free particle has energy even when at rest. leads to concept of rest-mass energy: Since  $p = \gamma m v$

$$E = \gamma mc^2 \quad \left\{ \begin{aligned} E^2 &= (mc^2)^2 + \gamma^2 m^2 v^2 \\ &= (mc^2)^2 \left[ 1 + \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2 \right] = \gamma^2 (mc^2)^2 \\ \therefore \boxed{E} &= \gamma mc^2 \end{aligned} \right.$$

Newtonian theory:

For a free particle: Total energy  $E = K = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$   
Therefore, in limit  $v \rightarrow 0$ ,  $E \rightarrow 0$ .

SR: By contrast, in SR  $E = \gamma mc^2$ ,  
Therefore, in limit  $v \rightarrow 0$ ,  $E = mc^2$

On other words, free particle sitting still has energy: that energy can potentially be converted into kinetic energy or radiant energy by physical processes: fission reactors, ...

Kinetic Energy: In SR,  $K = E - mc^2$

Therefore  $K = (\gamma - 1) mc^2$   
In limit  $(v/c) \ll 1$ ,  $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - (v/c)^2}} \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2$

then  $K \approx \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2 - 1\right) mc^2 \approx \frac{1}{2} m v^2$

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Geodesics in Schwarzschild metric

$$-ds^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r}\right) c^2 dt^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r}\right)^{-1} dr^2 - r^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$

This metric is so called "vacuum" solution to Einstein field equations. This is because it describes spacetime outside spherically symmetric mass distribution. By contrast interior solution (described later) corresponds to spacetime in which mass is present. Although ☺

Schwarzschild then describes sun, black-hole, ... or any spacetime outside spherical mass distribution. The only difference is ratio  $\frac{2GM/c^2}{r}$ .  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{sun} \sim 10^{-6} \\ \text{BH} \sim 1 \end{array} \right.$

Geodesics

Let's do time-like and lightlike geodesics at same time. For this reason: Lagrangian: (otherwise divide by 0)

$L = -\left(\frac{ds}{d\lambda}\right)^2$  rather than  $L = \sqrt{\left(\frac{ds}{d\lambda}\right)^2}$  which works only for time like.   
 ~~since the Lagrangian is~~

Therefore:

$$L = \left(1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r}\right) c^2 \dot{t}^2 - \frac{\dot{r}^2}{\left(1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r}\right)} - r^2 (\dot{\theta}^2 + \sin^2\theta \dot{\phi}^2) \quad (1)$$

where  $\dot{t} = dt/d\lambda$ ;  $\dot{r} = dr/d\lambda$ ;  $\dot{\theta} = d\theta/d\lambda$ ;  $\dot{\phi} = d\phi/d\lambda$

Time-like: Let  $\lambda = \tau$  (proper time) :  $L = -\left(\frac{ds}{d\tau}\right)^2 = -c^2$  (or ~~...~~)

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$\lambda$

;  $L = 0$ : Lightlike





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Lagrange Equations

$$[t] : \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{t}} \right) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial t} = 0$$

Since  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial t} = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{t}} = \text{const.}$

$$\therefore \left( 1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r} \right) (2c^2 \dot{t}) = \text{const.}$$

{ from eq. (4) on p1176 }

$$\sim \textcircled{1} \left( 1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r} \right) \dot{t} = E$$

{ const. E related to energy (dimensionless) }

phys. as  $v \rightarrow \infty$   $E = \dot{t} = \gamma = \frac{E_{\text{total}}}{mc^2}$

$$[\phi] \quad \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}} \right) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} = 0$$

Since  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}} = \text{const}$

$$\therefore -r^2 \sin^2 \theta (2\dot{\phi}) = \text{const}$$

$$\sim \textcircled{2} r^2 \sin^2 \theta \dot{\phi} = L$$

{ L related to angular momentum }

Orbital plane : Turns out, because of spherical symmetry motion must occur in const. orbital plane. Without loss of generality, let's choose that plane to be  $\theta = \pi/2$ , equator. As a result, Eq. (2) becomes  $\dot{\theta} = 0$



$$r^2 \dot{\phi} = L \quad (2a)$$

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[r] This is complicated. In fact we don't need it. Rather we shall use condition:

$$\mathcal{L} = \kappa \text{ where } \kappa = \begin{cases} c^2 & : \text{timelike} \\ 0 & : \text{lightlike} \end{cases}$$

That is:

$$\left(1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r}\right) c^2 \dot{t}^2 - \frac{\dot{r}^2}{\left(1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r}\right)} - r^2 \dot{\phi}^2 = \kappa \quad (3)$$

Now combine eqs. (1), (2a), and (3)  
Simplify, let  $A \equiv 1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r}$

$$\therefore \kappa = A c^2 \dot{t}^2 - \frac{\dot{r}^2}{A} - r^2 \dot{\phi}^2$$

But eq. (1)  $\Rightarrow \dot{t}^2 = E^2/A^2$

eq. (2a)  $\Rightarrow \dot{\phi}^2 = L^2/r^4$

Therefore:  $\kappa = \frac{A c^2 E^2}{A^2} - \frac{\dot{r}^2}{A} - \frac{r^2 L^2}{r^4}$

$$\kappa = \frac{c^2 E^2}{A} - \frac{\dot{r}^2}{A} - \frac{L^2}{r^2} ; \downarrow \kappa A = c^2 E^2 - \dot{r}^2 - \frac{L^2}{r^2} A$$

~~mm~~ ~~Divide by 2~~ [<-previous page](#) [next page->](#)

$$\frac{1}{2} \dot{r}^2 + \frac{L^2}{2r^2} A + \frac{\kappa A}{2} = \frac{c^2 E^2}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \dot{r}^2 + \frac{A}{2} \left( \kappa + \frac{L^2}{r^2} \right) = \frac{c^2 E^2}{2}$$



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$$\frac{\dot{r}^2}{2} + V(r) = \frac{c^2 E^2}{2} = \text{constant}$$

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make like energy equation?

(BH-79A)

$$\text{on } \left[ \frac{1}{2} \dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r} \right) \left( \kappa + \frac{L^2}{r^2} \right) = \frac{c^2 E^2}{2} \right] \quad (4)$$

Eq. 4 shows radial motion of geodesic in Schwarzschild spacetime is that of unit mass particle of energy  $\frac{c^2 E^2}{2}$  moving in effective potential:

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{2} \kappa - \frac{\kappa GM/c^2}{r} + \frac{L^2}{2r^2} \left( 1 - \frac{GM/c^2}{r} \right) \quad (4a)$$

New Feature of General Relativity:

In addition to usual Newtonian terms  $\left( -\frac{\kappa GM/c^2}{r} \right)$  and centrifugal barrier term  $\left( \frac{L^2}{2r^2} \right)$  we have new

$-\frac{GM L^2/c^2}{r^3}$  term which dominates centrifugal barrier

term at small  $r$ :

$$\frac{1}{2} \dot{r}^2 + V(r) = \frac{c^2 E^2}{2}$$

Pure radial orbit:  $L=0$

$$\frac{1}{2} \dot{r}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{2GM/c^2}{r} \right) \kappa = \frac{c^2 E^2}{2}$$

Drop spaceship from rest at  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . Timelike  $\lambda = \tau, \kappa = c^2$

$$L = \kappa \begin{cases} = c^2 \text{ time} \\ = 0 \text{ lightlike} \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore \text{at } r \rightarrow \infty \quad 0 + \frac{c^2}{2} = \frac{E^2 c^2}{2} \Rightarrow E = 1$$

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$\therefore E = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{mc^2}$  where  $\mathcal{E}$  is physical energy

This only rest-mass energy at  $r \rightarrow \infty$

Also condition for escape to  $r \rightarrow \infty$ .