

The Unruh Effect

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Outline

- 1 Manifolds
 - The Definition
 - Vectors
 - Tensors
 - The Metric
- 2 Curvature
 - Covariant Derivatives
 - The Riemann Curvature Tensor
 - Killing Vectors
- 3 Quantum Field Theory in Curved Spacetime
 - The Scalar Field in Curved Spacetime
 - The Unruh Effect



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Pieces Which Look Flat

- A **manifold** is a set M , together with a **collection of subsets** $\{U_\alpha\}$, such that:
 - Each U_α has a **bijection** ϕ_α with an **open subset of \mathbf{R}^n**
a bunch of open balls
(coordinate systems)
 - What we call x^μ is short for $(\phi_\alpha)^\mu$
 - Each point of M is in at least one U_α
(every point is described by a coordinate system)
 - There are C^∞ transition functions between coordinate systems
(coordinate transformations)
- Summary: a manifold is a set made of subsets which **look like \mathbf{R}^n**



Coordinate Systems and Transformations

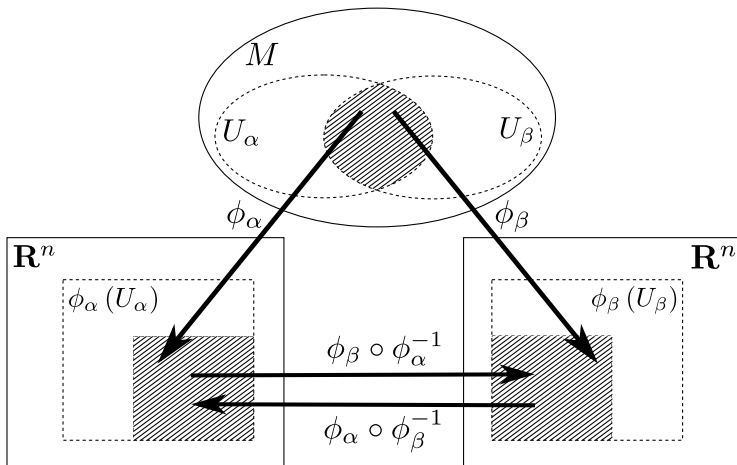


Figure: Coordinate systems and transformations.



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Directional Derivative Operators

- A **vector** at a point p is a linear function $V : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ obeying the **Leibniz rule** (\mathcal{F} is the set of all C^∞ scalar fields)
 $f: M \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$
- Intuition: every **curve** $\gamma : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow M$ parametrized by λ and which goes through p defines a vector

$$V(f) \equiv \left. \frac{d}{d\lambda} (f \circ \gamma) \right|_p \in \mathbf{R}$$

- Leibniz rule:

$$V(fg) = \left. \frac{df}{d\lambda} \right|_p g(p) + f(p) \left. \frac{dg}{d\lambda} \right|_p$$



The Tangent Space

- The set of all vectors at a point p forms a **vector space** called the **tangent space** T_p
- Given a coordinate system x^μ , **partial derivatives** ∂_μ form a basis for T_p :

$$V = \frac{d}{d\lambda} = \underbrace{\frac{dx^\mu}{d\lambda}}_{\equiv V^\mu} \partial_\mu$$

- We denote these vectors generically by their components V^μ in some coordinate system



Vector Transformation Law

- From the chain rule of derivatives we find the **vector transformation law**:

$$V' = V \Rightarrow V'^{\mu} \partial'_{\mu} = V^{\nu} \partial_{\nu} = V^{\nu} \frac{\partial x'^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\nu}} \partial'_{\mu}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{V'^{\mu} = \frac{\partial x'^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\nu}} V^{\nu}}$$

- Compare with the Lorentz transformation

$$V'^{\mu} = \Lambda^{\mu}_{\nu} V^{\nu}$$



Coordinate Basis

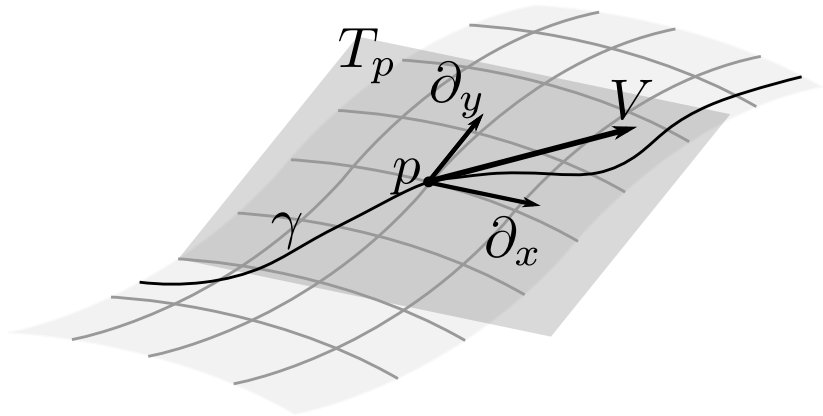


Figure: Coordinate basis.



Another Kind of Vector

- A **dual vector** at a point p is a **linear function** $\omega : T_p \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$
- The set of all dual vectors at a point p forms a **vector space** called the **cotangent space** T_p^*
 - The set $(T_p^*)^*$ can be **identified** with T_p
(so a vector is a linear function $V : T_p^* \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$)

Example

Given a coordinate system x^μ , the functions defined by $\mathbf{d}x^\mu (\partial_\nu) = \delta_\nu^\mu$ form a **coordinate basis** for the cotangent space.



It Transforms as a Covariant Vector

- Expansion in **coordinate basis**: $\omega = \omega_\mu dx^\mu$
- **Component notation**: ω_μ
- **Dual vector transformation law**:

$$\omega'_\mu = (\Lambda^{-1})^\nu{}_\mu \omega_\nu \longrightarrow \boxed{\omega'_\mu = \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial x'^\mu} \omega_\nu}$$



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A Multilinear Map

- A (k, l) **tensor** at a point p is a **multilinear function**

$$T : \underbrace{T_p^* \times \dots \times T_p^*}_k \times \underbrace{T_p \times \dots \times T_p}_l \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$$

- The set of all tensors at p forms a **vector space**

Examples

A vector is a **(1, 0) tensor** and a dual vector is a **(0, 1) tensor**.



A Product Between Tensors

- The **outer product** of a (k, l) tensor T with an (m, n) tensor S is a $(k + m, l + n)$ tensor $T \otimes S$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
 & T \otimes S \left(\omega^1, \dots, \omega^k, \omega^{k+1}, \dots, \omega^{k+m}; \nu_1, \dots, \nu_l, \nu_{l+1}, \dots, \nu_{l+n} \right) \\
 &= T \left(\omega^1, \dots, \omega^k, \nu_1, \dots, \nu_l \right) S \left(\omega^{k+1}, \dots, \omega^{k+m}, \nu_{l+1}, \dots, \nu_{l+n} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

(things we are used to writing as $T^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k} \nu_1 \dots \nu_l S^{\mu_{k+1} \dots \mu_{k+m}} \nu_{l+1} \dots \nu_{l+n}$)

Example

The outer product $\partial_{\mu_1} \otimes \dots \otimes \partial_{\mu_k} \otimes dx^{\nu_1} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{\nu_l}$ forms a **coordinate basis** for the vector space of tensors at a point.



It Transforms as a Tensor

- Expansion in **coordinate basis**:

$$T = T^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k}_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_l} \partial_{\mu_1} \otimes \dots \otimes \partial_{\mu_k} \otimes dx^{\nu_1} \otimes \dots \otimes dx^{\nu_l}$$

- Component notation**: $T^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k}_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_l}$

- Tensor transformation law**:

$$T'^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k}_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_l} = \Lambda^{\mu_1}_{\sigma_1} \dots \Lambda^{\mu_k}_{\sigma_k} \left(\Lambda^{-1} \right)^{\rho_1}_{\nu_1} \dots \left(\Lambda^{-1} \right)^{\rho_l}_{\nu_l} T^{\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_k}_{\rho_1 \dots \rho_l}$$

$$\longrightarrow T'^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k}_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_l} = \frac{\partial x'^{\mu_1}}{\partial x^{\sigma_1}} \dots \frac{\partial x'^{\mu_k}}{\partial x^{\sigma_k}} \frac{\partial x^{\rho_1}}{\partial x'^{\nu_1}} \dots \frac{\partial x^{\rho_l}}{\partial x'^{\nu_l}} T^{\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_k}_{\rho_1 \dots \rho_l}$$



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A Special Kind of Tensor

- A **metric** is a $(0, 2)$, **symmetric**, **nondegenerate** tensor field
a tensor $\forall p \in M$
 - Rank $(0, 2)$: takes two vectors and gives a real number
(**inner product** in tangent spaces)
 - **Symmetric**: $g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\nu\mu}$
 - **Nondegenerate**: determinant doesn't vanish
(**inverse metric**)
- For every point $p \in M$, one can always find a set of **locally inertial coordinates** such that $g_{\mu\nu}$ is in **canonical form** (**+1's** and **-1's**)
 - Convention:
 - **Riemannian**: all plus (**positive-definite**)
 - **Lorentzian**: one single **minus** \rightarrow **spacetime!**



A Norm

- We classify a vector V^μ in the following way

$$\text{if } g_{\mu\nu} V^\mu V^\nu \text{ is } \begin{cases} < 0, & V^\mu \text{ is } \mathbf{timelike} \\ = 0, & V^\mu \text{ is } \mathbf{null} \\ > 0, & V^\mu \text{ is } \mathbf{spacelike} \end{cases}$$

- In **locally inertial coordinates** (t, x, y, z) at a point p , a **timelike** vector is said to be
 - Future-directed** if it has a component in the direction of ∂_t
 - Past-directed** if it has a component in the direction of $-\partial_t$

Example

Trivial examples are **future-directed** ∂_t and **past-directed** $-\partial_t$.



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Partial Derivatives Do Not Transform As We Want

- Partial derivatives do not transform properly

- Scalars:

$$\partial'_\mu \phi' = \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial x'^\mu} \partial_\nu \phi \quad \checkmark$$

- Vectors:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial'_\mu V'^\nu &= \frac{\partial x^\sigma}{\partial x'^\mu} \partial_\sigma \left(\frac{\partial x'^\nu}{\partial x^\rho} V^\rho \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial x^\sigma}{\partial x'^\mu} \frac{\partial x'^\nu}{\partial x^\rho} \partial_\sigma V^\rho + \frac{\partial x^\sigma}{\partial x'^\mu} \frac{\partial^2 x'^\nu}{\partial x^\sigma \partial x^\rho} V^\rho \quad \times \end{aligned}$$



Generalization

- The **covariant derivative** ∇_μ generalizes the partial derivative ∂_μ and is defined from the Christoffel symbols

$$\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\sigma = \frac{1}{2}g^{\sigma\rho} (\partial_\mu g_{\nu\rho} + \partial_\nu g_{\rho\mu} - \partial_\rho g_{\mu\nu})$$

- Scalars: $\nabla_\mu \phi = \partial_\mu \phi$
- Contravariant vectors: $\nabla_\mu V^\nu = \partial_\mu V^\nu + \Gamma_{\mu\lambda}^\nu V^\lambda$
- Covariant vectors: $\nabla_\mu \omega_\nu = \partial_\mu \omega_\nu - \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\lambda \omega_\lambda$
- Tensors:

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_\sigma T^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k}_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_l} = & \partial_\sigma T^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k}_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_l} \\ & + \Gamma_{\sigma\lambda}^{\mu_1} T^{\lambda \dots \mu_k}_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_l} + \dots + \Gamma_{\sigma\lambda}^{\mu_k} T^{\mu_1 \dots \lambda}_{\nu_1 \dots \nu_l} \\ & - \Gamma_{\sigma\nu_1}^\lambda T^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k}_{\lambda \dots \nu_l} - \dots - \Gamma_{\sigma\nu_l}^\lambda T^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k}_{\nu_1 \dots \lambda} \end{aligned}$$



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The Definition

- The **Riemann tensor field** is defined from the **Christoffel symbols** as

$$R^\rho{}_{\sigma\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \Gamma^\rho_{\nu\sigma} - \partial_\nu \Gamma^\rho_{\mu\sigma} + \Gamma^\rho_{\mu\lambda} \Gamma^\lambda_{\nu\sigma} - \Gamma^\rho_{\nu\lambda} \Gamma^\lambda_{\mu\sigma}$$

- **Flat spacetime** $\Leftrightarrow R^\rho{}_{\sigma\mu\nu} = 0$ everywhere



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Killing Vectors

- A **Killing vector field** K^μ is one which satisfies **Killing's equation**

$$\nabla_{(\mu} K_{\nu)} = 0$$

- Given K^μ , there's a coordinate system such that $K = \partial_{\sigma^*} \Leftrightarrow \partial_{\sigma^*} g_{\mu\nu} = 0$, for some coordinate x^{σ^*}
 - **Symmetry** under $x^{\sigma^*} \rightarrow x^{\sigma^*} + a^{\sigma^*}$



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Generalizing a Theory

- **Flat** spacetime:

$$S = \int d^n x \mathcal{L}(\phi_i, \partial_\mu \phi_i)$$

- **Curved** spacetime:

- $\eta_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow g_{\mu\nu}$
- Require **coordinate-invariance**

$$\partial_\mu \longrightarrow \nabla_\mu \quad d^n x' \longrightarrow d^n x \sqrt{-g}$$

- Assert that the theory remains true:

$$S = \int d^n x \sqrt{-g} \underbrace{\hat{\mathcal{L}}(\phi_i, \nabla_\mu \phi_i)}_{\equiv \mathcal{L}}$$

$$\frac{\partial \hat{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial \phi_i} - \nabla_\mu \left[\frac{\partial \hat{\mathcal{L}}}{\partial (\nabla_\mu \phi_i)} \right] = 0$$



The Scalar Field in Flat Spacetime

- Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\eta^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu\phi\partial_\nu\phi - \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2$$

- EOM:

$$\left(\square - m^2\right)\phi = 0$$

where $\square \equiv \eta^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu\partial_\nu$

- Positive-frequency modes:

$$\partial_t f_k = -i\omega_k f_k$$

in some **globally** inertial coordinate system

- Field mode expansion:

$$\phi \propto \int dk \left(a_k f_k + a_k^\dagger f_k^* \right)$$



The Scalar Field in Curved Spacetime

- Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left(-\frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 \right)$$

- EOM:

$$\left(\square - m^2 \right) \phi = 0$$

where $\square \equiv g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu$

- Positive-frequency modes:

$$\partial_{\sigma^*} f_k = -i\omega_k f_k$$

where ∂_{σ^*} is a future-directed Killing vector in some **coordinate system**

- Field mode expansion:

$$\phi \propto \int dk \left(a_k f_k + a_k^\dagger f_k^* \right)$$



The Problem

- Is there any such future-directed Killing vector in my spacetime at all?
- If there are more than one, which one I should I use to define positive-frequency modes?
 - Each one is a partial derivative in a particular coordinate system, is there any coordinate system which is **preferred**?



Two Sets of Modes

- Suppose two such Killing vectors:
 - ∂_{σ^*} in some coordinate system x^μ
 - ∂_{ρ^*} in some coordinate system y^μ
- Positive-frequency modes:

$$\partial_{\sigma^*} f_i = -i\omega_i f_i \quad \partial_{\rho^*} g_i = -i\omega_i g_i$$

(i is just notation, can be discrete or continuous)

- Field mode expansion:

$$\phi \propto \sum_i \left(a_i f_i + a_i^\dagger f_i^* \right) \quad \phi \propto \sum_i \left(b_i g_i + b_i^\dagger g_i^* \right)$$

- Vacuum states:

$$a_i |0_f\rangle = 0$$

$$b_i |0_g\rangle = 0$$



Bogolubov Transformations

- Both sets must be a basis for the same function space
 - The transformations between these two sets are called the **Bogolubov transformations**:

$$g_i = \sum_j (\alpha_{ij} f_j + \beta_{ij} f_j^*)$$

$$f_i = \sum_j (\alpha_{ji}^* g_j - \beta_{ji} g_j^*)$$

- The expansion coefficients (now promoted to **creation** and **annihilation** operators) must transform accordingly in order to describe the same field:

$$a_i = \sum_j (\alpha_{ji} b_j + \beta_{ji}^* b_j^\dagger)$$

$$b_i = \sum_j (\alpha_{ij}^* a_j - \beta_{ij} a_j^\dagger)$$



Vacuum Is Relative

- Number operator of i -th g -mode:

$$n_{gi} = b_i^\dagger b_i = \sum_{jk} (\alpha_{ij} a_j^\dagger - \beta_{ij} a_j) (\alpha_{ik}^* a_k - \beta_{ik}^* a_k^\dagger)$$

- Calculating f -VEV of n_{gi} :

$$\langle 0_f | n_{gi} | 0_f \rangle = \sum_{jk} \beta_{ij} \beta_{ik}^* \langle 0_f | a_j a_k^\dagger | 0_f \rangle \propto \sum_{jk} \beta_{ij} \beta_{ik}^* \delta_{jk} = \sum_j |\beta_{ij}|^2$$

- No reason to believe it's zero:

$$\langle n_{gi} \rangle_{f\text{-vacuum}} \neq 0$$



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Massless Scalar in 2D

- Massless scalar field:

$$\square\phi = 0$$

- Two-dimensional Minkowski space in globally inertial coordinates:

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + dx^2$$



An Accelerated Observer

- Trajectory of an observer with acceleration α :

$$t(\tau) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \sinh(\alpha\tau)$$

$$x(\tau) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \cosh(\alpha\tau)$$

- Indeed, we can show that

$$a^\mu a_\mu = \alpha^2$$

where $a^\mu \equiv d^2x^\mu / d\tau^2$ is 4-acceleration



Rindler Coordinates

- From globally inertial coordinates (t, x) to **Rindler coordinates** (η, ξ) :

$$t = \frac{1}{a} e^{a\xi} \sinh(a\eta) \quad x = \frac{1}{a} e^{a\xi} \cosh(a\eta) \quad x > |t|$$

where a is some constant parameter

- In these coordinates, the accelerated trajectory becomes

$$\eta(\tau) = \frac{\alpha}{a} \tau \quad (\text{varies})$$

$$\xi(\tau) = \frac{1}{a} \ln\left(\frac{a}{\alpha}\right) \quad (\text{constant})$$

- Something similar can be shown for $x < -|t|$:

$$t = -\frac{1}{a} e^{a\xi} \sinh(a\eta) \quad x = -\frac{1}{a} e^{a\xi} \cosh(a\eta) \quad x < -|t|$$



A Timelike Killing Vector

- In these coordinates, our metric looks like

$$ds^2 = e^{2a\xi} \left(-d\eta^2 + d\xi^2 \right)$$

- We immediately see $\partial_\eta g_{\mu\nu} = 0 \Rightarrow \partial_\eta$ is a Killing vector
- Performing a coordinate transformation on this vector,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\eta &= \frac{\partial t}{\partial \eta} \partial_t + \frac{\partial x}{\partial \eta} \partial_x \\ &= a(x\partial_t + t\partial_x) \end{aligned}$$

- For $x > |t|$, ∂_η is future-directed, for $x < -|t|$, past-directed



Rindler Coordinates

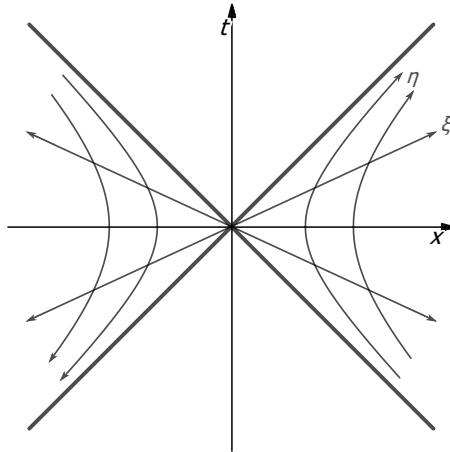


Figure: Minkowski spacetime in Rindler coordinates.

A Set of Modes

- In these coordinates, our massless KG looks like

$$e^{-2a\xi} \left(-\partial_\eta^2 + \partial_\xi^2 \right) \phi = 0$$

- The mode $g_k = (4\pi\omega)^{-1/2} e^{-i\omega\eta + ik\xi}$ solves this equation and satisfies $\partial_\eta g_k = -i\omega g_k$
- But we need $-\partial_\eta g_k = -i\omega g_k$ for $x < -|t|$, since there ∂_η is **past-directed**, so we impose

$$g_k^{(1)} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\omega}} e^{-i\omega\eta + ik\xi} & \text{for } x > |t| \\ 0 & \text{for } x < -|t| \end{cases}$$

$$g_k^{(2)} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x > |t| \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\omega}} e^{i\omega\eta + ik\xi} & \text{for } x < -|t| \end{cases}$$



Mode Expansion

- This way, we expand

$$\phi = \int dk \left(b_k^{(1)} g_k^{(1)} + b_k^{(1)\dagger} g_k^{(1)*} + b_k^{(2)} g_k^{(2)} + b_k^{(2)\dagger} g_k^{(2)*} \right)$$

- The Rindler vacuum will be defined by

$$b_k^{(1,2)} |0_R\rangle = 0$$

- Our job:
 - Find Bogolubov coefficients relating Minkowski and Rindler
 - Calculate Minkowski VEV of the Rindler number operator
- Shortcut: find a set of modes which share the same vacuum as Minkowski



A Shortcut

- From the definition of the Rindler coordinates,

$$e^{-a(\eta-\xi)} = \begin{cases} a(-t+x) & x > |t| \\ a(t-x) & x < -|t| \end{cases}$$

$$e^{a(\eta+\xi)} = \begin{cases} a(t+x) & x > |t| \\ a(-t-x) & x < -|t| \end{cases}$$



Finding New Modes

- Assuming $k > 0$, we have, for $x > |t|$,

$$\sqrt{4\pi\omega} g_k^{(1)} = a^{i\omega/a} (-t + x)^{i\omega/a}$$

- For $x < -|t|$,

$$\sqrt{4\pi\omega} g_k^{(2)} = a^{-i\omega/a} (-t - x)^{-i\omega/a}$$

- Taking complex conjugate and reversing momentum of $g_k^{(2)}$,

$$\sqrt{4\pi\omega} g_{-k}^{(2)*} = a^{i\omega/a} e^{\pi\omega/a} (-t + x)^{i\omega/a}$$

- So the combination

$$\sqrt{4\pi\omega} \left[g_k^{(1)} + e^{-\pi\omega/a} g_{-k}^{(2)*} \right] = 2a^{i\omega/a} (-t + x)^{i\omega/a}$$

works for both $x > |t|$ and $x < -|t|$ (an identical result is obtained for $k < 0$)



A New Set of Modes

- A similar reasoning leads to

$$\sqrt{4\pi\omega} \left[g_k^{(2)} + e^{-\pi\omega/a} g_{-k}^{(1)*} \right] = 2a^{i\omega/a} (-t - x)^{i\omega/a}$$

- A new set of modes which share the same vacuum as Minkowski:

$$\begin{aligned} h_k^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \sinh(\pi\omega/a)}} \left[e^{\pi\omega/2a} g_k^{(1)} + e^{-\pi\omega/2a} g_{-k}^{(2)*} \right] \\ h_k^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \sinh(\pi\omega/a)}} \left[e^{\pi\omega/2a} g_k^{(2)} + e^{-\pi\omega/2a} g_{-k}^{(1)*} \right] \end{aligned}$$



The Bogolubov Transformation

- These define a **Bogolubov transformation** from $g_k^{(1,2)}$ to $h_k^{(1,2)}$
- We can use this to write the Bogolubov transformation between operators:

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_k^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \sinh(\pi\omega/a)}} \left[e^{\pi\omega/2a} c_k^{(1)} + e^{-\pi\omega/2a} c_{-k}^{(2)\dagger} \right] \\
 b_k^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \sinh(\pi\omega/a)}} \left[e^{\pi\omega/2a} c_k^{(2)} + e^{-\pi\omega/2a} c_{-k}^{(1)\dagger} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

where $c_k^{(1,2)}$ annihilates the Minkowski vacuum:

$$c_k^{(1,2)} |0_M\rangle = 0$$



Thermal Radiation

- In the same manner as before,

$$\langle n_R \rangle_{\text{M-vacuum}} = \frac{1}{e^{2\pi\omega/a} - 1} \delta(0)$$

- The delta has to do with our use of nonsquare-integrable modes
 - It is possible to obtain a finite result restricting the size of spacetime and thus using wave packet modes
- The factor we obtain reminds us of thermal radiation with temperature

$$T = \frac{a}{2\pi}$$

- Interpretation: **an accelerated observer measures thermal radiation in the Minkowski vacuum**



For Further Reading



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Thanks! :)

