



**DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS**

**HONOURS LECTURE MODULE  
DESCRIPTIONS**

**2016**

## Honours Courses

There are four courses that honours students enrol in for Physics Honours. These are

PHYSICS 4010 Advanced Physics A (lecture subjects)

PHYSICS 4015 Advanced Physics B (lecture subjects)

PHYSICS 4020A Honours Physics Project part A (semester 1)

PHYSICS 4020B Honours Physics Project part B (semester 2)

and each is worth 6 units. Within these courses, students take seven lecture modules, six of which are counted to PHYSICS 4010 and PHYSICS 4015, and one of which is part of PHYSICS 4020A. The lecture modules (one of which is actually a practical subject!) that are offered within Physics are listed below. It is also possible to replace up to two of the modules listed below with level III lecture courses (Physics, Geophysics, Maths, Computer Science).

N.B. If you plan to take a level III course or a non-Physics course, *do NOT enrol in it!* Enrol in the courses listed above, and your entry into the level III or non-Physics course will be handled informally by the honours coordinators of the relevant departments.

At the first or second honours meeting in early February, we will note your choice of lecture modules.

## Lecture Module Descriptions

- H-1 Advanced Astrophysics (**Hill/Rowell**) (S2)
- H-2 Advanced Atmospheric Physics (**TBD**) (S2)
- H-3 Electrodynamics (**Zanotti**) (S2)
- H-4 Data Analysis and Modelling (**Rowell, Jackson**) (S1)
- H-5 Gauge Field Theories (**White**) (S2)
- H-6 Differential Geometry & General Relativity (**Crewther**) (S2)
- H-7 Non-Linear Optics/ Photonics IV (**Veitch, Luiten**) (S2)
- H-8 Nuclear and Radiation Physics (**Penfold/Medical Physics**) (S1)
- H-9 Quantum Field Theory (**Young**) (S1)
- H-10 Relativistic Quantum Mechanics & Particle Physics (**Leinweber**) (S1)
- H-11 Honours Electronics (**Veitch**) (S1)
- H-12 Applications of Relativity (**Drake**) (S1)

Please note that certain courses have pre-requisites.

H-6, 9 & 10 require Advanced Dynamics and Relativity (level III Physics).

H-9 & 10 require Quantum Mechanics III.

H-5 requires H-9 & 10

In addition there is a certain amount of overlap between H-12 and Advanced Dynamics and Relativity (ADR), so this course (H-12) is for students who have not taken ADR.

# H – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

H-1

## ADVANCED ASTROPHYSICS

Semester II

### Lecturers

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A/Profs Gary Hill & Gavin Rowell

### Aim

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This course aims to:

- ❖ Provide a detailed description of several aspects of high-energy astrophysics, both theoretical and observational.
- ❖ Provide solid fundamentals of radiative transfer in astrophysics
- ❖ Describe in some detail the thermal bremsstrahlung process and the spectra observed from hot ionized gas in astrophysics
- ❖ Provide more detailed insight into the process of star formation, and the features of the interstellar medium.
- ❖ Describe in some detail radiation processes in high energy astrophysics, including synchrotron, inverse Compton and relativistic bremsstrahlung.
- ❖ Describe special relativistic effects in astrophysical sources
- ❖ Introduce the experimental techniques and recent results in cosmic ray, gamma-ray and neutrino astrophysics, together with a theoretical background.
- ❖ Describe sources of high energy photon and particle radiation, including supernovae and active galaxies.

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should:

- ❖ Have a detailed physical and mathematical understanding of a variety of astrophysical systems and processes, particularly in the area of high energy astrophysics
- ❖ Understand how high energy astrophysics experiments and observatories are addressing the open questions
- ❖ Have expertise in problem solving in the areas covered in lectures

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ Skills of inquiry, objective criticism, logical thought and problem solving;
- ❖ To have a high order of numerical and analytical skills;
- ❖ The ability to communicate scientific information effectively;
- ❖ Scientific curiosity and the ability to continue learning independently;
- ❖ An appreciation of the central role of science in society and the close relationship between scientific research and the development of new knowledge

### Content (not necessarily in order below)

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- Fundamentals of Radiative Transfer and scattering (2 lectures)
- Interstellar Hydrogen, the Violent ISM and Star Formation (4 lectures)
- Cosmic Ray and Gamma-ray Observations and Techniques (4 lectures)
- Astrophysical Neutrinos (4 lectures)
- Radiation by Accelerated Charge and Relativistic Bremsstrahlung (2 lectures)

- Synchrotron and Inverse Compton Radiation (2 lecture)
- Cosmic Ray Diffusion and Acceleration (2 lectures)
- Relativistic Doppler Factor and Active Galactic Nuclei (2 lectures)
- Thermal Bremsstrahlung (1 lecture)
- Attenuation of photons in the Universe (1 lecture)

## **Structure**

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Two lectures per week. Tutorials arranged when needed.

## **Assessment**

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Written Examination	70%
Assignments	30%

## **References**

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Longair, M. *High Energy Astrophysics* vol 1 & 2

Rybicki, G. B. and Lightman, A. P. *Radiative Processes in Astrophysics*

Spitzer, L. *Physical Processes in the Interstellar Medium*

Shapiro, S. L. and Teukolsky, S. A. *Black Holes, White Dwarfs and Neutron Stars*

Harwit, M. *Astrophysical Concepts*

## **Contact information**

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A/Prof Gary Hill: [gary.hill@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:gary.hill@adelaide.edu.au)

phone: 8313 0229

H-2

## ADVANCED ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS

Semester II

### Lecturer

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TBD

### Aim

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This course aims to:

- ❖ Introduce the physics of planetary atmospheres and ionospheres, with special emphasis on the atmosphere and ionosphere of the Earth.
- ❖ To provide students with knowledge of the physical processes that govern the atmosphere.
- ❖ To provide students with knowledge of the processes that govern the formation of planetary ionospheres and radiowave propagation through weak plasmas.

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should:

- ❖ Have an understanding of the basics of atmospheres, including atmospheres in diffusive equilibrium.
- ❖ Understand the transfer of radiation through the atmosphere, including general solutions of the Radiative Transfer (Schwartzschild) equation.
- ❖ Understand the production and loss mechanisms that lead to formation of different atmospheric regions.
- ❖ Understand radiative properties of single lines and use for remote sensing from space.
- ❖ Understand the role of atmospheric waves in transporting momentum and how this affects the state of the atmosphere.
- ❖ Understand ionisation processes in planetary atmosphere and the production and loss mechanisms that influence the formation of different regions of the ionosphere
- ❖ Understand the propagation of radiowaves through weak plasmas and how this can be used to study the ionosphere.

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ Skills of inquiry, objective criticism, logical thought and problem solving;
- ❖ A high order of numerical and analytical skills;
- ❖ Scientific curiosity and the ability to continue learning independently;
- ❖ An appreciation of the central role of science in society and the close relationship between scientific research and the development of new knowledge

## Content

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### Introduction to Planetary Atmospheres (10%)

- Atmospheric composition, density and temperature
- Atmospheric thermodynamics and stability

### Radiation and Radiative Transfer (25%)

- radiative transfer equation and solution
- heating rates
- radiative cooling to space approximation
- formation of the stratosphere
- heat conduction and the energy budget above 100 km
- remote sensing of atmospheres from space

### Atmospheric Dynamics and the Role of Waves (45%)

- primitive equations for an atmosphere on a rotating planet
- Large scale motions for an atmosphere in radiative equilibrium
- vorticity and circulation
- the vorticity equation and potential vorticity
- Periodic motions and linear wave theory and solutions in a spherical atmosphere
- vertical propagation of planetary waves and their role in the energy budget of the middle atmosphere and the formation of the ozone hole
- vertical oscillations in a stratified fluid
- solutions of the primitive equations in a non-rotating, stratified fluid
- properties of atmospheric gravity waves
- Reynolds stresses and the transport of momentum by waves
- Wave-driven circulations of the atmosphere

### Ionospheric Physics (20%)

- The ionosphere, formation and dissipation
- Propagation of radiowaves in a weak plasma with and without an external magnetic field
- Characteristic modes and ionospheric sounding

## Structure

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Two hours of lectures/tutorials per week.

## Assessment

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Written Examination	70%
Assignments	30%

## References

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- Andrews, D. G. (2000): *An Introduction to Atmospheric Physics*, CUP.
- Andrews, D. G. J. R. Holton and C. B. Leovy (1987): *Middle Atmosphere Dynamics*, Academic Press.
- Houghton, J. (1977): *The Physics of Atmospheres*, CUP.
- Holton, J. R. (1980): *An Introduction to Dynamic Meteorology*, Academic Press.

## Contact information

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TBD

## H-3

# ELECTRODYNAMICS

Semester II

### Lecturer

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Dr. James Zanotti

### Aim

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This course aims to:

- ❖ Provide a more detailed insight into the solution of electrostatic problems through the use of Green's functions, and the Maxwell Stress tensor.
- ❖ Introduce the Inhomogeneous Wave Equations and retarded potentials.
- ❖ Introduce the calculation of radiation patterns from first principles, including both near field and radiation field components.
- ❖ Extend the treatment of wave propagation to conducting media, in particular metals, and thence to surface-plasmon-polariton solutions of Maxwell's equations.
- ❖ Introduce the implications of causality in electrodynamics, leading to a derivation of the Kramers-Kronig relations.
- ❖ Introduce metamaterials and negative refractive index.
- ❖ Review special relativity in electromagnetism, making the unification of electricity and magnetism explicit and deriving the electromagnetic field tensor.
- ❖ Introduce the Lienard-Wiechert potentials and use them to derive the radiation patterns from bremsstrahlung and synchrotron radiation.

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should:

- ❖ Have a detailed physical and mathematical understanding of a variety of electromagnetic phenomena.
- ❖ Have expertise in problem solving in the areas covered in lectures

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ Skills of inquiry, objective criticism, logical thought and problem solving;
- ❖ To have a high order of numerical and analytical skills;
- ❖ The ability to communicate scientific information effectively;
- ❖ Scientific curiosity and the ability to continue learning independently;
- ❖ An appreciation of the central role of science in society and the close relationship between scientific research and the development of new knowledge

### Content (not necessarily in order below)

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Electrostatics

Green's function solution of Poisson's Eq'n

Green's reciprocity theorem

Maxwell Stress Tensor

Inhomogeneous wave equations

Lorentz gauge

Green's function solution

Retarded potentials

## Radiation

- Radiation from ideal dipole
- Near field and radiation fields
- Radiation from dipole antennae
- Multipole expansion and multipole radiation
- Reciprocity theorem

## Propagation issues

- Drude model of metals
- Surface Plasmons
- Causality
- Kramers-Kronig relations
- Superluminal group & phase velocity
- Negative Index materials
- Metamaterials
- Negative refraction in periodic media

## Relativity

- Review, four-vectors, Lorentz transform of fields
- Field Tensor
- Lienard-Wiechert potentials
- Bremsstrahlung
- Synchrotron radiation

If time permits, we will look at scattering and radiation reaction

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## Structure

Two lectures per week. Tutorials arranged when needed.

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## Assessment

Written Examination	70%
Assignments	30%

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## References

*Intro to Electrodynamics* DJ Griffiths; this is an excellent book that is well worth having. The course will go beyond its level of difficulty somewhat. The notation in the notes follows Griffiths.

*Classical Electrodynamics* JD Jackson; a very comprehensive text, at a fairly difficult level, but very well written. Eight copies of the second ed'n are available for borrowing from the Advanced Laboratory. N.B. this ed'n uses the Gaussian system of units, not SI.

*Classical Electricity and Magnetism* W Panofsky and M Philips. This is a classic text, perhaps slightly easier than Jackson, but also not as comprehensive. Very well written. Three copies of the second ed'n are available for borrowing from the Advanced Laboratory – see Adrian Giffen.

*The Electromagnetic Field* A Shadowitz; There should be a copy in the BSL. This has a good introduction to relativistic aspects of Electrodynamics.

*Electromagnetic Fields and Waves* P Lorrain and D Corson; A classic text that is in the BSL. Intermediate in level between Griffiths and Panofsky.

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## Contact information

Dr. James Zanotti

Email: james.zanotti@adelaide.edu.au

Phone 8313 1595



H-4

**DATA ANALYSIS AND MODELLING**  
**(formerly Fourier techniques and applications)**

Semester I

**Lecturer**

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A./Prof Gavin Rowell, Dr Paul Jackson

**Aim**

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This course aims to:

- ❖ Provide an understanding of how Fourier techniques can be used to solve problems in physics.
- ❖ Demonstrate how the Fourier transform provides an understanding of physical phenomena and links together many different fields
- ❖ Develop an understanding of how to use Monte-Carlo simulation techniques

**Objectives**

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On completion of the course, students should:

- ❖ Understand how and when to apply Monte-Carlo techniques
- ❖ Develop proficiency with the package GEANT-4
- ❖ Develop confidence in solving problems in the spectral domain, including numerical solutions FT of data and applications to power spectra.
- ❖ Understand the relationship between how the instrument response function limits resolution and its relationship to convolution.
- ❖ Understand the relationship between the FTs and wave phenomena such as diffraction and scattering from three-dimensional objects.

**Attributes**

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ Ability to apply Fourier and Monte-Carlo techniques to the analysis of physical problems;
- ❖ Skills of inquiry, objective criticism, logical thought and problem solving;
- ❖ A high order of analytical skills;
- ❖ Scientific curiosity and the ability to continue learning independently;

**Content**

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One-dimensional FT and applications, including convolution and wavelets (50%)

- ❖ Introduction to Fourier transforms of real variables, symmetry relations Application of Fourier Transforms to linear systems with emphasis on circuits, including transfer function and the impulse response
- ❖ Convolution in physical systems, including the Instrument Response
- ❖ Application of Modulation Rule and Shift Theorem in physical systems
- ❖ The Sampling Theorem and Aliasing
- ❖ Discrete Fourier transforms and the FFT
- ❖ Power spectra
- ❖ Wavelets and their use.
- ❖ Auto and Cross- correlation functions with discrete and continuous variables
- ❖ The Wiener-Khintchine Theorem
- ❖ The Hilbert Transform and applications.

### Monte-Carlo techniques (50%)

- ❖ Introduction to random simulation
- ❖ Random number generators, and tests
- ❖ GEANT-4

### **Structure**

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Two hours of lectures per week plus tutorials as required

### **Assessment**

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Written Examination	70%
Assignments	30%

### **Texts**

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James, J. F., “*A Students Guide to Fourier Transforms*”, CUP

### **References**

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Bracewell, R. N., *The Fourier Transform and its Applications*, McGraw-Hill  
Champeney, D. C. *Fourier Transforms and their Physical Applications*, AP

### **Contact information**

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A/Prof Gavin Rowell

Email: [gavin.rowell@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:gavin.rowell@adelaide.edu.au)

Phone 8313 8374

Dr Paul Jackson

Email: [paul.jackson@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:paul.jackson@adelaide.edu.au)

Phone 8313 0269

H-5

## GAUGE FIELD THEORIES

Semester II

### Lecturer

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Dr Martin White

### Aim

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This course aims to:

- Provide a working knowledge and understanding of the theory of particles and fields
- To derive and understand particles and their interactions based on the concept of gauge invariance
- Describe and understand the electromagnetic, electroweak and strong forces as gauge theories

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should:

- Have an understanding of these fundamental interactions, their behaviours, features and dynamics as gauge theories
- Have a good working knowledge of the elements of the Standard Model and perform calculations with them.
- Understand the concepts and problems in current particle and nuclear physics
- Gain specialised analytical skills and techniques necessary for gauge field theory calculations.

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- Ability to apply an understanding of the physical principles to the other areas;
- Skills of inquiry, objective criticism, logical thought and problem solving;
- A high order of analytical skills;
- Scientific curiosity and the ability to continue learning independently;
- An appreciation of the central role of science in society and the close relationship between scientific research and the development of new knowledge

### Content

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- ❖ Principles of Gauge Invariance
- ❖ Gauge invariance in Abelian gauge field theories
- ❖ Group theory in particle physics
- ❖ U(1) gauge group
- ❖ Internal symmetries
- ❖ Special unitary groups SU(n), SU(2)
- ❖ Gauge invariance in non-Abelian gauge field theories
- ❖ Gauge invariance and geometry
- ❖ Functional methods
- ❖ Path integral quantization and gauge theories
- ❖ Generating functional methods
- ❖ Non-Abelian gauge fields and the Fadeev-Popov method
- ❖ Massive gauge bosons: Spontaneous breaking of gauge symmetry
- ❖ Higgs mechanism

- ❖ Electroweak unification and the Standard Model
- ❖ Electroweak interactions
- ❖ CKM matrix
- ❖ Perturbation theory
- ❖ Regularization and renormalization procedure

## Structure

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Two hours of lectures per week.

## Assessment

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Written Examination	60%
Assignments	40%

## References

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- Mandl, F. and G. Shaw, *Quantum Field Theory*, (Revised edn, Wiley, 1993)
- Aitchison, I. J. R. and A. J. G. Hey *Gauge Theories in Particle Physics*, (2nd edn, IoP, 1989)
- Ryder, L. H. *Quantum Field Theory*, (2nd edn, CUP 1996)
- Peskin, M E. and D. V. Schroeder *Introduction to Quantum Field Theory*, (Addison-Wesley 1995)
- Itzykson and Zuber, *Quantum Field Theory*, (McGraw-Hill 1980)
- Kaku, M. *Quantum Field Theory: A Modern Introduction*, (Oxford Univ. Press, 1993)
- Muta, *Quantum Chromodynamics*,
- Halzen, F. and A.D. Martin *Quarks and Leptons*, (Wiley and Sons, 1984)
- Bailin and Love, *Introduction to Gauge Field Theory* (IOP Publishing Ltd, Rev. Ed. 1993)
- Ramond, P. *Field Theory: a Modern Primer*, (Addison-Wesley, 1990)
- Huang, K. *Quarks, Leptons and Gauge Theories*, (World Scientific, 1992)

## Contact information

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Dr Martin White

Email: [martin.white@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:martin.white@adelaide.edu.au)

phone; 8313 0624

H-6

## GENERAL RELATIVITY

Semester II

### Lecturer

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Dr Rodney Crewther

### Aim

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This course aims to:

- ❖ Explain the mathematical, physical and philosophical aspects of Einstein's theory of general relativity as the relativistic theory of gravity.

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should:

- ❖ Be able to do tensor calculus in curved Riemannian spacetimes.
- ❖ Understand that general relativity is a physical theory, in which gravitational effects are incorporated by making the four dimensional space-time of special relativity curved.
- ❖ Comprehend the motion of particles in a gravitational field as straight lines in a curved space and from that derive the geodesic equation of motion for particles in a gravitational field.
- ❖ Be able to calculate observable general relativistic effects such as the gravitational time dilation effects on the global positioning system (GPS), the bending of light by stars and the existence of black holes. Have an understanding of the standard model of cosmology with particular reference to the "Big Bang".

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ Ability to apply an understanding of the physical principles and mathematics that underpins the relativistic theory of gravity.
- ❖ Skills of inquiry, objective criticism, logical thought and problem solving;
- ❖ A comprehensive understanding of tensor calculus and Riemannian geometry.
- ❖ Scientific curiosity and the ability to continue learning independently;
- ❖ An appreciation of the central role of science in society and the close relationship between scientific research and the development of new knowledge

### Content

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Special Relativity - Review

- Minkowski space, Lorentz transformations
- Four-vectors and tensors
- Curvilinear coordinates
- World line, four-velocity and four momentum

Principle of Equivalence

- Inertial mass, active and passive gravitational mass
- Weak and strong equivalence principles
- Eotvos and Pound-Rebka experiments
- Gravity as a pseudoforce
- General covariance

## Classical Field Theory

- Relativistic electrodynamics, four-current
- Lagrangian field theory
- Covariant derivative and Bianchi identity

## Stress-Energy Tensor

- Relation to four-momentum and stress
- Perfect fluids and dust
- Canonical method, symmetry, result for electromagnetism
- Response of action to variation of metric tensor

## Differential Geometry

- Manifolds, maps
- Tangent and co-tangent vectors
- Sylvester's law of inertia, vierbein field
- Type  $(p,q)$  tensors
- Forms and exterior derivatives

## Curved Space-Time

- Covariant derivative on  $(p,q)$  tensors
- Normal coordinates for a local inertial frame
- Christoffel connection, torsion
- Parallel transport and geodesics
- Riemann curvature tensor

## Einstein's Theory of Gravitation

- Bianchi identities, Ricci and Einstein tensors
- Einstein's equations
- Newtonian limit
- Cosmological constant
- Linearised gravity

## Schwarzschild Metric

- Birkhoff's theorem
- Schwarzschild solution
- Black holes
- Killing vectors
- Deflection of light by Sun
- Precession of Mercury orbit

## Introduction to Cosmology

- Friedman-Robertson-Walker metric
- Hubble constant: Universe closed, flat or open?
- Cosmic microwave background

## Structure

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Two hours of lectures/tutorials per week.

## Assessment

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Assignments

100%

## **Texts**

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Carroll, S., *Spacetime and Geometry – an Introduction to General Relativity*, Addison-Wesley, 2004.

## **References**

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Misner, C W, Thorne, K S, Wheeler, J A, *Gravitation*, Freeman, J A 1973.

Weinberg, S., *Gravitation and Cosmology*, John Wiley & Sons, 1972.

d’Inverno, R., *Introducing Einstein’s Relativity*, OUP, 1992.

Hobson, MP, Efstathiou, G, Lasenby, A N, *General Relativity – an Introduction for Physicists*, CUP 2006.

## **Contact information**

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Dr Rodney Crewther [rodney.crewther@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:rodney.crewther@adelaide.edu.au)

Phone

8313 4576 (internal: 34576)

H-7

## NON-LINEAR OPTICS

Semester I

### Lecturer

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Prof Andre Luiten  
A/Prof Peter Veitch

### Aim

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This course gives students:

- ❖ In depth exposure to non-linear optics
- ❖ Experience in applying nonlinear optics to advanced lasers, and optical fiber systems
- ❖ Sufficient knowledge to pursue research in these fields.

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should:

- ❖ Have an understanding of detailed nonlinear optics theory.
- ❖ An appreciation and knowledge of how to use and apply it to practical laser systems
- ❖ A working knowledge of how to approach new problems in nonlinear optics and applications.

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ An appreciation of the central role of science in society and the close relationship between scientific research and the development of new knowledge and technology.
- ❖ Skills of inquiry, objective criticism, logical thought and problem solving;
- ❖ Higher order numerical and analytical skills.
- ❖ Scientific curiosity and the ability to continue learning independently.
- ❖ Experience in solving original problems using their acquired skills.

### Content

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- ❖ Introduction: Overview and review of nonlinear optics.
- ❖ Wave equation description of NLO: Second Harmonic Generation, phase matching,
- ❖ Second, Third and higher order
- ❖ Intensity dependent index of refraction, general tensor formulation of susceptibility.
- ❖ Nonlinear optical processes: intensity dependent index
- ❖ Semiconductor and molecular nonlinearities
- ❖ Inelastic nonlinear optical processes: Stimulated Raman, Brillouin etc.
- ❖ Optical Phase conjugation
- ❖ Nonlinear Fibre Optics: Fibre Fundamentals: overview of basic fibre concepts, types, properties and applications. Photonic Crystals: concepts, 1- 2- and 3-dimensional photonic crystals, Fibre Bragg Gratings
- ❖ Optical Glasses: concepts, optical and thermal properties, fabrication,
- ❖ Microstructured Fibres: guidance mechanisms, optical properties, fabrication and applications, Nonlinear fibre devices based on microstructured fibres: review of operation of a range of devices
- ❖ Thermonuclear laser fusion
- ❖ Quantum optics, quantum cryptography



## Structure

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Two hours of lectures/tutorials per week.

## Assessment

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Take-home midterm exam	30%
Take-home final exam	50%
Student seminar on relevant topic	20%

## Texts

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Class notes handed out

## References

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- Milonni, P. and J. Eberly: *Lasers*, John Wiley & Sons, 1988  
Ghatak A.K. and K. Thyagarajan: *Optical Electronics*, Cambridge 1989  
Yariv, A.: *Optical Electronics*, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 4th edition, 1991  
Boyd, R.: *Nonlinear Optics*, Academic Press, 2003.  
Butcher, P.N. and D. Cotter: *The Elements of Nonlinear Optics* Cambridge 1990  
Agrawal, G.P.: *Nonlinear Fiber Optics* Academic Press 2001  
Saleh & Teich: *Photonics*

## Contact information

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Prof Andre Luiten	andre.luiten@adelaide.edu.au	
	Phone	8313 2359 (internal: 32359)
A/Prof Peter Veitch	peter.veitch@adelaide.edu.au	
	Phone	8313 5040 (internal: 35040)

H-8

## Nuclear and Radiation Physics

Semester I

### Lecturer

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Dr Scott Penfold

### Aim

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This course aims to:

- ❖ Introduce radiation and nuclear physics from an experimental viewpoint, applied to environmental, medical and solid state physics.
- ❖ Show how nuclear and radiation physics are related to other physics disciplines – solid state, elementary particle physics, radiochemistry, astronomy.
- ❖ Demonstrate the influence of experimental techniques used (or developed) for nuclear physics purposes (logic circuits, gamma cameras, semiconductor detectors) on development of new technologies.

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should be able to:

- ❖ Identify the components of the nucleus and describe the systematic behaviour of stable nuclides;
- ❖ Describe the main features of the liquid drop and shell models of the nucleus, and discuss their achievements and deficiencies.
- ❖ Discuss radioactive decay and the models used to understand it;
- ❖ Describe and explain the parameters used to describe nuclear reactions;
- ❖ Describe and apply the concepts and theories which relate to the interactions of various forms of ionizing radiation, including X-rays, gamma rays, charged particles and neutrons with matter.
- ❖ Describe the principles involved in the detection and accurate measurement of radiation.
- ❖ Discuss some of the applications of radiation and nuclear physics to medical and environmental and material physics.

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ Ability to apply an understanding of the physical principles that govern the interaction of photons and particles with matter
- ❖ Basic understanding of radiation safety issues and problems of radioactive waste disposal
- ❖ Ability to think from the experimental, technical and practical point of view
- ❖ Scientific curiosity and the ability to continue learning independently
- ❖ An appreciation of the central role of science in society and the close relationship between scientific research and many practical applications in our everyday lives that have resulted from this research.

### Content

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#### Nuclear Physics (30%)

- General properties of nuclei
- Stability, systematics, trans-uranic elements.
- Nuclear models, magic numbers
- Decay processes and half lives: fission,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -decay, electron capture
- Radioactive growth and decay, Bateman equations, laboratory generators

- Radioactive series
- Natural and artificial radioactivity, environmental problems, eg, radon, mining and waste disposal
- Radioisotope production
- Carbon dating, Accelerator Mass Spectrometry
- Theory of  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$ -decay, selection rules

#### Nuclear Reactions (20%)

- Interactions of neutrons with matter, neutron activation
- Applications of nuclear techniques (medical and solid state physics).

#### Radiation Physics (50%)

- General Properties of X-rays
- Generation of high energy Photons: X-ray apparatus, accelerators
- Tubes for imaging and therapy
- Fluorescent radiation, PIXE, monitoring bone lead levels
- Radiation measurements and units
- Interaction of Photons with Matter: photoelectric effect, Compton effect and pair production, Auger effect, Coherent (Rayleigh) scattering
- Energy transfer and deposition (absorption), build-up and KERMA
- Charged Particle Energy Losses
- Linear energy transfer (LET), stopping cross section, Bethe-Bloch formula
- Electron collision and radiation losses
- High-energy electron-photon showers, cosmic rays.

### **Structure**

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Two hours of lectures per week.

### **Assessment (to be Confirmed)**

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Written Examination (2 hours)	60%
Assignments	30%
Presentation	10%

Minimum requirements: Students must submit at least one assignment, take the examination and achieve an overall result of 50%.

### **Texts**

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Williams, W.S.C., *Nuclear and Particle Physics*, Oxford University Press, 1991.

Johns, H. E. and J. R. Cunningham, *The Physics of Radiology*, 4th Edition, CC Thomas: Springfield, 1983.

Evans, R. D., *The Atomic Nucleus*, McGraw Hill, 1955.

### **References**

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Lederer CM and V. S. Shirley, *Table of Isotopes*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, Wiley, 1978.

Burcham WE, and M. Jobes, *Nuclear and Particle Physics*, Longman, 1995.

Leo W. R., *Techniques for Nuclear and Particle Physics Experiments*, Springer-Verlag, 1994.

Khan F. M. and A. R. Potish., *The Physics of Radiation Therapy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Williams and Wilkins, 2003.

### **Contact information**

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Dr Scott Penfold      scott.penfold@adelaide.edu.au

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## QUANTUM FIELD THEORY

Semester I

### Lecturer

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A/Prof. Ross Young

### Aims

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This course aims to:

- ❖ Introduce students to field quantisation, scalar field theory and quantum electrodynamics.
- ❖ Develop calculational techniques in perturbation theory.
- ❖ Prepare students for Gauge Field Theory in semester II.

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should:

- ❖ understand field quantisation and the expansion of the scattering matrix;
- ❖ be able to carry out practical calculations based on Feynman diagrams.

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ The capabilities of a professional theoretical physicist.
- ❖ An understanding of quantum theory at its most fundamental level; this is the basis of modern physics and therefore underlies most of the benefits to society from advanced technology.
- ❖ The ability to carry out advanced field-theoretic calculations, which involves the highest order of numerical and analytical skills and develops the ability to continue independent research.
- ❖ Enhanced scientific curiosity, objective criticism and an understanding of the close relationship between scientific research and the development of new knowledge.

### Content

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#### Introduction

- Review of four-vector notation.
- Why quantise fields? (a)  $t \square$  operator, so neither is  $\mathbf{x}$ ; (b) causality; (c) photon field.
- Review point mechanics: Noether's theorem, Jacobi first integral, Hamiltonian.

#### Classical Field Theory

- Lagrangian (density), action, field equations of motion, equivalent Lagrangian.
- Real and complex scalar fields, 4-potential and Maxwell's equations, Schrödinger field.
- Stress-energy-momentum tensor and four-momentum, Hamiltonian (density).

#### Field Quantisation

- Dirac's quantum electrodynamics (1927).
- Free scalar field (real), 3-Fourier coefficients as ladder operators, particle number operators, Hamiltonian, zero-point energy and normal ordering, equal-time field commutators, complex scalar field.
- Heisenberg picture, space-time translations, ground state, invariantly normalized one-particle states, Fock space.

### Invariant Functions

- Lorentz invariance and causality, Pauli-Jordan function, unordered free two-point function, boundary value of complex function, time-ordered functions, contour integrals and  $i\epsilon$  prescriptions in momentum space.
- Feynman propagator, Green's function property and relation to canonical commutators.

### Fermion Fields

- Replace commutators with anti-commutators; (Dirac equation, traces, polarization sums, etc., done concurrently in Relativistic Quantum Mechanics and Particle Physics); free fermion field and propagator, Lorentz properties.

### Interacting Theories

- Local interactions: Yukawa, electromagnetic,  $\phi^4$ , Mexican hat.
- Interaction picture, time-evolution operator, S-matrix, Green's functions.
- Contractions, Wick's theorem, Dyson-Wick expansion.
- Feynman diagrams and rules for  $\phi^4$  theory, position and momentum space, Green's functions and S-matrix.
- Feynman rules for complex scalar and Yukawa theories.

### Introductory Quantum Electrodynamics

- Free photon field, gauge fixing (elementary), covariant gauges.
- Feynman rules.
- Polarisation sums.

### Cross Sections and Decay Rates

- Wave packets for initial and final particles, mutual beam flux, sums over final states, identical particles, examples such as Compton scattering.

## **Structure**

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Two hours of lectures per week.

## **Assessment**

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Written Examination:	70%
Assignments:	30%

## **Texts**

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Peskin, M.E. and D.V. Schroeder, *An Introduction to Quantum Field Theory*, Addison-Wesley 1995, Ch. 1-5.

## **References**

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Mandl, F. and G. Shaw, *Quantum Field Theory*, Wiley 1984.

## **Contact information**

---

A/Prof. Ross Young [ross.young@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:ross.young@adelaide.edu.au)

Phone

8313 3542 (internal: 33542)

H-10

## RELATIVISTIC QUANTUM MECHANICS & PARTICLE PHYSICS

Semester I

### Lecturer

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Professor Derek Leinweber

### Aim

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This course aims to:

- ❖ Review the concepts that lead to the formulation of the Klein-Gordon and Dirac Equations.
- ❖ Highlight the deep connection between the Lorentz transformations of special relativity and the transformation properties of Dirac spinors and the adjoint spinor.
- ❖ Examine plane wave solutions, completeness relations and projection operators.
- ❖ Solve the relativistic Hydrogen atom and explore its fine structure.
- ❖ Introduce the Standard Model Interactions of Particle Physics, conservation laws and associated Feynman graphs for physical processes.

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should:

- ❖ Understand the founding principles of relativistic quantum mechanics.
- ❖ Have a working knowledge of Dirac gamma matrices and their role in the Lorentz transformations of Dirac Spinors.
- ❖ Be able to use projection operators to filter spin and positive/negative energy solutions.
- ❖ Appreciate the modern field-theoretic description of negative energy states.
- ❖ Be able to solve relativistic one-body problems for spin-0 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  particles.
- ❖ Identify particle interactions allowed by the Standard Model and describe the physical process by which they occur.

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ To value the close relationship between scientific research and the development of new knowledge.
- ❖ An enthusiasm for, and enjoyment of, the ethos of science and the process of scientific investigation.
- ❖ Skills of inquiry, objective criticism, logical thought and problem solving;
- ❖ To have a high order of numerical and analytical skills;
- ❖ To possess scientific curiosity and the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary for a commitment to life long learning;

### Content

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#### Relativistic Quantum Mechanics (75%)

- Klein Gordon Equation
- Problems with the Klein Gordon Equation
- Dirac Equation
- Probability Current
- Two-Spinor Decomposition
- Hole Theory and the Anti-Particle Wave Function

- Rotation Group  $O(3)$  and the Lorentz Group  $O(3;1)$
- Review of Tensors
- Manipulating Exponentials of Operators
- Transforming Spinors: Vector and Spinor Lorentz Generators
- Lorentz Covariance of the Dirac Equation
- Adjoint Spinor
- Four-Current Density
- Parity
- Sixteen Gamma Matrices and associated Theorems for Gamma Matrices
- Natural Units
- Plane-Wave Solutions and their Lorentz Properties
- Completeness and Projectors
- Four-Spin
- Electromagnetic Coupling, Magnetic Moment and the Gyromagnetic ratio
- Charge Conjugation
- Klein-Gordon Atom
- Relativistic H Atom
- Corrections to Dirac Spectrum

#### Particle Physics (25%)

- Introduction to Standard Model Interactions
- Conservation of Charge, Baryon Number.
- Conservation of Lepton and Lepton Family Number.
- Quark Structure in Reactions.
- Strangeness, Parity, Charge Conjugation and G-Parity.
- Parity of the Pion.
- Quarks and Isospin.
- Constituent versus Current Quarks.
- Feynman Diagrams for Physical Processes

#### **Structure**

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Two one-hour lectures per week.

#### **Assessment**

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Written Examination	75%
Two Assignments	25%

#### **Texts**

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Crewther, R., *Lecture Notes: Relativistic Quantum Mechanics* (2003)

#### **References**

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Bjorken, J. D. and S. D. Drell, *Relativistic Quantum Mechanics*, Vol. I (1964)  
 Itzykson, C. and J.-B. Zuber, *Quantum Field Theory* (1980)

#### **Contact information**

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Prof Derek Leinweber    derek.leinweber@adelaide.edu.au

Phone:                      8313 3423 (internal: 33423)

**H-11**

## **HONOURS ELECTRONICS**

Semester I

### **Lecturer**

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Assoc. Professor Peter Veitch

### **Aim**

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This course provides an introduction to analogue and digital electronics used for signal conditioning, data acquisition and experiment control in experimental and applied physics. It includes applications of operational amplifiers, comparators, digital gates and flip-flops, astable and monostable multivibrators, digital to analog converters, analog to digital converters, and PIC (peripheral interface controller) chips.

### **Structure**

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One three-hour practical per week.

### **Assessment**

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Practical Examination	50%
Workbook assessment	50%

### **Texts**

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### **References**

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The Art of Electronics, *Horowitz and Hill*.

### **Contact information**

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Assoc. Professor Peter Veitch

peter.veitch@adelaide.edu.au

Phone:

8313 5040 (internal: 35040)



## APPLICATIONS OF RELATIVITY

### Lecturers

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Dr Sam Drake

### Aim

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The focus of this course is on teaching those aspects of relativity theory that are relevant to applied physics in the areas of signal processing, navigation, tracking, imagining, cartography and optimal path planning. All of the material is presented so that each new concept is demonstrated through practical examples. For each topic we will discuss a relativistic concept, derive the mathematics and give fully worked examples

### Objectives

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On completion of the course, students should:

- ❖ Understand how to construct and use space-time tensor equations to solve practical problems in applied physics
- ❖ Determine under what conditions relativistic effects such as time dilation and Einstein velocity addition are important
- ❖ Calculate the pseudo acceleration caused by coordinate transformations

### Attributes

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This course is intended to develop in students the following generic attributes:

- ❖ Skills of inquiry, objective criticism, logical thought and problem solving;
- ❖ To have a high order of numerical and analytical skills;
- ❖ The ability to communicate scientific information effectively;
- ❖ Scientific curiosity and the ability to continue learning independently;
- ❖ An appreciation of the central role of science in society and the close relationship between scientific research and the development of new knowledge

### Content (not necessarily in order below)

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#### Galilean Relativity

- Galilean transformation equations
- Principle of invariance
- The difference between phase and group velocity
- The Doppler effect for sound from the Galilean transformations

#### Lorentz transformations

- Derivation of the Lorentz transformations
- Consequences of the Lorentz transformations: The velocity addition formula, Angular aberration, time dilation, length contraction, lack of simultaneity
- The Doppler effect for light in a vacuum
- The relationship between causality and events inside or outside the light-cone
- The invariance of the Minkowski space-time interval under Lorentz transformations

#### Ring Laser Gyroscopes

- Beat frequency for the pedagogical RLG
- “Fresnel drag” for light in a medium

- Thomas precession (two Lorentz transformations produce a single Lorentz transformation and a rotation)

### **Tensors and the laws of physics**

- Understand the difference between co and contra variant vectors
- Einstein summation convention
- The relationship between the metric tensor and the Jacobian matrices
- Know how to swap from tensor notation to linear algebra notation
- Understand how the Jacobian matrix can be used to calculate the error covariance matrix in different coordinate systems
- Derive the Doppler effect for light in a vacuum from the Lorentz transformations in tensor notation
- Express bias in tensor notation

### **Relativistic Dynamics**

- Understand the Einstein velocity addition law is inconsistent with the conservation of Newtonian momentum
- $E^2 = p^2c^2 + m^2c^4$
- Conservation of four momentum (energy-momentum) and how to use it to calculate
- Energy efficiencies
- Momentum of photons
- De Broglie wavelength
- Compton scattering

### **Relativistic Electromagnetism**

- The speed of light in a vacuum from Maxwell's equations
- The Levi-Civita symbol and its use in Cross products, Curl, Grad curl etc
- The electromagnetic field tensor and its role in the Lorentz force on a charged particle in an EM field
- Rewriting Maxwell's equations as tensor equations
- Invariances of the EM tensor
- The transformation of the EM tensor using the Lorentz transformations
- Derivation of the Biot-Savart law from Lorentz transformations of a moving particle in an EM

### **Cartography and Tensor Algebra**

- Derive expressions for the Euclidean distance of various map projections
- Express the distortions (angle, distance and area) for different cylindrical projections
- Use the distortion formula to calculate: the speed and heading as a function of change in latitude and longitude, the distance along a loxodrome between points on a sphere, the error in latitude and longitude for a given GPS error
- Calculate the distortive effects of projecting the WGS84 ellipsoid onto a sphere

## Tracking in non-Cartesian coordinates

- Derive the Coriolis force by considering rotating basis vectors
- Express this derivative in terms of the Christoffel symbols
- Express the derivative of a vector with respect to proper time in terms of the derivative of the components and the Christoffel symbols
- In 2D polar coordinates calculate: The Christoffel symbols, Grad  $\Phi$
- Express the covariant derivative of a covariant vector in terms of the Christoffel symbols
- Appreciate that minimising the distance also leads to the geodesic equation

## General Relativity and the Global positioning system

- Given the metric tensor for a weak gravitational field calculate the difference in proper time for a clock on Earth and one in circular orbit

## Structure

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Two one-hour lectures per week.

## Assessment

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Assignments	20%
In-semester tests	10%
End of semester open-book exam	70%

## References

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The following book, papers and web sites are recommended:

- S. P. Drake, "Was Einstein an Engineer?," Proceedings of the IEEE, vol. 102, pp. 1870-1872, 2014.
- J. Wolfe. Einstein Light. Available: <http://newt.phys.unsw.edu.au/einsteinlight/>
- A. P. French, Special relativity. New York: Norton, 1968.
- B. F. Schutz, A first course in general relativity. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.
- S. P. Drake, "The equivalence principle as a stepping stone from special to general relativity: A Socratic dialog," American Journal of Physics, vol. 74, pp. 22-25, 2006.
- S. P. Drake and K. Dogancay, "Some applications of tensor algebra to estimation theory," in Wireless Pervasive Computing, 2008. ISWPC 2008. 3rd International Symposium on, 2008, pp. 106-110.
- S. P. Drake, B. D. O. Anderson, and C. Yu, "Causal association of electromagnetic signals using the Cayley--Menger determinant," Applied Physics Letters, vol. 95, p. 034106, 2009

## Contact information

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Dr Sam Drake                      samuel.drake@adelaide.edu.au