

General Theory of Relativity
Course code: CTPH 103
Graduate School - First Semester

Course outline

0. Historical Perspective

1. Special Relativity

- o Theoretical and Observational formulation
- o Lorentz Transformations
- o Relativistic Mechanics
- o Classical field theory (symmetries and conservation laws)

2. Mathematical Formulation

- o Equivalence principle
- o Manifolds, Tensors, affine connection, Metric
- o Derivative operator, Riemann curvature, Geodesics
- o Killing Vectors

3. Einstein Field Equations

- o Einstein Equations
- o Lagrangian formulation of GR
- o Symmetries and conservation laws in GR
- o Exact Solutions
[Schwarzschild (exterior solution), Tolman (interior solution), FRW Model, Vaidya solution]

4. Applications of General Relativity

- o Solar System tests (bending of light, mercury perihelion advance, geodetic precession)
- o Gravitational Waves

References:

1. L. D. Landau & E. M. Lifshitz: Classical Theory of Fields,
2. S. Weinberg: General Relativity and Cosmology,
3. R. d'Inverno: General Relativity,
4. B. F. Schutz: First Course in General Relativity,
5. J. L. Synge: General Theory of Relativity,
6. J. Hartle: General Relativity,
7. Notes on GR which are recent and follow modern notation:
[S. Carroll: General Relativity (available online)]