

Kerr spacetime

This worksheet demonstrates a few capabilities of [SageManifolds](#) (version 1.0, as included in SageMath 7.5) in computations regarding Kerr spacetime.

Click [here](#) to download the worksheet file (ipynb format). To run it, you must start SageMath within the Jupyter notebook, via the command `sage -n jupyter`

NB: a version of SageMath at least equal to 7.5 is required to run this worksheet:

```
In [1]: version()
```

```
Out[1]: 'SageMath version 7.5.1, Release Date: 2017-01-15'
```

First we set up the notebook to display mathematical objects using LaTeX rendering:

```
In [2]: %display latex
```

We also define a viewer for 3D plots (use 'threejs' or 'jmol' for interactive 3D graphics):

```
In [3]: viewer3D = 'jmol' # must be 'threejs', 'jmol', 'tachyon' or None (default)
```

Since some computations are quite long, we ask for running them in parallel on 8 cores:

```
In [4]: Parallelism().set(nproc=8)
```

Spacetime manifold

We declare the Kerr spacetime as a 4-dimensional differentiable manifold:

```
In [5]: M = Manifold(4, 'M', r'\mathcal{M}')
print(M)
```

```
4-dimensional differentiable manifold M
```

Let us use the standard **Boyer-Lindquist coordinates** on it, by first introducing the part \mathcal{M}_0 covered by these coordinates and then declaring a chart BL (for *Boyer-Lindquist*) on \mathcal{M}_0 , via the method `chart()`, the argument of which is a string expressing the coordinates names, their ranges (the default is $(-\infty, +\infty)$) and their LaTeX symbols:

```
In [6]: M0 = M.open_subset('M0', r'\mathcal{M}_0')
BL.<t,r,th,ph> = M0.chart(r't r:(0,+oo) th:(0,pi):\theta ph:(0,2*pi):\phi')
print(BL) ; BL
```

```
Chart (M0, (t, r, th, ph))
```

```
Out[6]: ( $\mathcal{M}_0, (t, r, \theta, \phi)$ )
```

```
In [7]: BL[0], BL[1]
```

```
Out[7]: (t, r)
```

Metric tensor

The 2 parameters m and a of the Kerr spacetime are declared as symbolic variables:

```
In [8]: var('m, a', domain='real')
```

```
Out[8]: (m, a)
```

Let us introduce the spacetime metric:

```
In [9]: g = M.lorentzian_metric('g')
```

The metric is set by its components in the coordinate frame associated with Boyer-Lindquist coordinates, which is the current manifold's default frame:

```
In [10]: rho2 = r^2 + (a*cos(th))^2
Delta = r^2 - 2*m*r + a^2
g[0,0] = -(1-2*m*r/rho2)
g[0,3] = -2*a*m*r*sin(th)^2/rho2
g[1,1], g[2,2] = rho2/Delta, rho2
g[3,3] = (r^2+a^2+2*m*r*(a*sin(th))^2/rho2)*sin(th)^2
g.display()
```

```
Out[10]:
```

$$g = \left(\frac{2mr}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2} - 1 \right) dt \otimes dt + \left(-\frac{2amr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2} \right) dt \otimes d\phi$$

$$+ \left(\frac{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2}{a^2 - 2mr + r^2} \right) dr \otimes dr + (a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2) d\theta \otimes d\theta$$

$$+ \left(-\frac{2amr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2} \right) d\phi \otimes dt + \left(\frac{2a^2mr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2} + a^2 + r^2 \right) \sin(\theta)^2 d\phi$$

$$\otimes d\phi$$

A matrix view of the components with respect to the manifold's default vector frame:

```
In [11]: g[:]
```

```
Out[11]:
```

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{2mr}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2} - 1 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{2amr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2} \\ 0 & \frac{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2}{a^2 - 2mr + r^2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2 & 0 \\ -\frac{2amr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2} & 0 & 0 & \left(\frac{2a^2mr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2} + a^2 + r^2 \right) \sin(\theta)^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The list of the non-vanishing components:

In [12]: `g.display_comp()`

Out[12]:

$$g_{tt} = \frac{2mr}{a^2 \cos^2(\theta) + r^2} - 1$$

$$g_{t\phi} = -\frac{2amr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos^2(\theta) + r^2}$$

$$g_{rr} = \frac{a^2 \cos^2(\theta) + r^2}{a^2 - 2mr + r^2}$$

$$g_{\theta\theta} = a^2 \cos^2(\theta) + r^2$$

$$g_{\phi t} = -\frac{2amr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos^2(\theta) + r^2}$$

$$g_{\phi\phi} = \left(\frac{2a^2mr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos^2(\theta) + r^2} + a^2 + r^2 \right) \sin^2(\theta)$$

Levi-Civita Connection

The Levi-Civita connection ∇ associated with g :

In [13]: `nabla = g.connection() ; print(nabla)`

Levi-Civita connection `nabla_g` associated with the Lorentzian metric g on the 4-dimensional differentiable manifold M

Let us verify that the covariant derivative of g with respect to ∇ vanishes identically:

In [14]: `nabla(g) == 0`

Out[14]: True

Another view of the above property:

In [15]: `nabla(g).display()`

Out[15]: $\nabla_g g = 0$

The nonzero Christoffel symbols (skipping those that can be deduced by symmetry of the last two indices):

In [16]: `g.christoffel_symbols_display()`

Out[16]:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma^t{}_{tr} &= \frac{a^2mr^2+mr^4-(a^4m+a^2mr^2)\cos(\theta)^2}{a^2r^4-2mr^5+r^6+(a^6-2a^4mr+a^4r^2)\cos(\theta)^4+2(a^4r^2-2a^2mr^3+a^2r^4)\cos(\theta)^2} \\ \Gamma^t{}_{t\theta} &= -\frac{2a^2mr\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)}{a^4\cos(\theta)^4+2a^2r^2\cos(\theta)^2+r^4} \\ \Gamma^t{}_{r\phi} &= -\frac{(a^3mr^2+3amr^4-(a^5m-a^3mr^2)\cos(\theta)^2)\sin(\theta)^2}{a^2r^4-2mr^5+r^6+(a^6-2a^4mr+a^4r^2)\cos(\theta)^4+2(a^4r^2-2a^2mr^3+a^2r^4)\cos(\theta)^2} \\ \Gamma^t{}_{\theta\phi} &= -\frac{2(a^5mr\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)^5-(a^5mr+a^3mr^3)\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)^3)}{a^6\cos(\theta)^6+3a^4r^2\cos(\theta)^4+3a^2r^4\cos(\theta)^2+r^6} \\ \Gamma^r{}_{tt} &= \frac{a^2mr^2-2m^2r^3+mr^4-(a^4m-2a^2m^2r+a^2mr^2)\cos(\theta)^2}{a^6\cos(\theta)^6+3a^4r^2\cos(\theta)^4+3a^2r^4\cos(\theta)^2+r^6} \\ \Gamma^r{}_{t\phi} &= -\frac{(a^3mr^2-2am^2r^3+amr^4-(a^5m-2a^3m^2r+a^3mr^2)\cos(\theta)^2)\sin(\theta)^2}{a^6\cos(\theta)^6+3a^4r^2\cos(\theta)^4+3a^2r^4\cos(\theta)^2+r^6} \\ \Gamma^r{}_{rr} &= \frac{a^2r-mr^2+(a^2m-a^2r)\cos(\theta)^2}{a^2r^2-2mr^3+r^4+(a^4-2a^2mr+a^2r^2)\cos(\theta)^2} \\ \Gamma^r{}_{r\theta} &= -\frac{a^2\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)}{a^2\cos(\theta)^2+r^2} \\ \Gamma^r{}_{\theta\theta} &= -\frac{a^2r-2mr^2+r^3}{a^2\cos(\theta)^2+r^2} \\ \Gamma^r{}_{\phi\phi} &= \frac{(a^4mr^2-2a^2m^2r^3+a^2mr^4-(a^6m-2a^4m^2r+a^4mr^2)\cos(\theta)^2)\sin(\theta)^4}{-(a^2r^5-2mr^6+r^7+(a^6r-2a^4mr^2+a^4r^3)\cos(\theta)^4+2(a^4r^3-2a^2mr^4+a^2r^5)\cos(\theta)^2)\sin(\theta)^2} \\ \Gamma^\theta{}_{tt} &= -\frac{2a^2mr\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)}{a^6\cos(\theta)^6+3a^4r^2\cos(\theta)^4+3a^2r^4\cos(\theta)^2+r^6} \\ \Gamma^\theta{}_{t\phi} &= \frac{2(a^3mr+amr^3)\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)}{a^6\cos(\theta)^6+3a^4r^2\cos(\theta)^4+3a^2r^4\cos(\theta)^2+r^6} \\ \Gamma^\theta{}_{rr} &= \frac{a^2\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)}{a^2r^2-2mr^3+r^4+(a^4-2a^2mr+a^2r^2)\cos(\theta)^2} \\ \Gamma^\theta{}_{r\theta} &= \frac{r}{a^2\cos(\theta)^2+r^2} \\ \Gamma^\theta{}_{\theta\theta} &= -\frac{a^2\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)}{a^2\cos(\theta)^2+r^2} \\ \Gamma^\theta{}_{\phi\phi} &= -\frac{((a^6-2a^4mr+a^4r^2)\cos(\theta)^5+2(a^4r^2-2a^2mr^3+a^2r^4)\cos(\theta)^3+(2a^4mr+4a^2mr^3+a^2r^4+r^6)\cos(\theta))\sin(\theta)^2}{a^6\cos(\theta)^6+3a^4r^2\cos(\theta)^4+3a^2r^4\cos(\theta)^2+r^6} \\ \Gamma^\phi{}_{tr} &= -\frac{a^3m\cos(\theta)^2-amr^2}{a^2r^4-2mr^5+r^6+(a^6-2a^4mr+a^4r^2)\cos(\theta)^4+2(a^4r^2-2a^2mr^3+a^2r^4)\cos(\theta)^2} \\ \Gamma^\phi{}_{t\theta} &= -\frac{2amr\cos(\theta)}{(a^4\cos(\theta)^4+2a^2r^2\cos(\theta)^2+r^4)\sin(\theta)} \\ \Gamma^\phi{}_{r\phi} &= -\frac{a^2mr^2+2mr^4-r^5+(a^4m-a^4r)\cos(\theta)^4-(a^4m-a^2mr^2+2a^2r^3)\cos(\theta)^2}{a^2r^4-2mr^5+r^6+(a^6-2a^4mr+a^4r^2)\cos(\theta)^4+2(a^4r^2-2a^2mr^3+a^2r^4)\cos(\theta)^2} \\ \Gamma^\phi{}_{\theta\phi} &= \frac{a^4\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)^4-2(a^4-a^2mr+a^2r^2)\cos(\theta)\sin(\theta)^2+(a^4+2a^2r^2+r^4)\cos(\theta)}{(a^4\cos(\theta)^4+2a^2r^2\cos(\theta)^2+r^4)\sin(\theta)} \end{aligned}$$

Killing vectors

The default vector frame on the spacetime manifold is the coordinate basis associated with Boyer-Lindquist coordinates:

In [17]: `M.default_frame()` is `BL.frame()`

Out[17]: True

In [18]: `BL.frame()`

Out[18]: $\left(\mathcal{M}_0, \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t}, \frac{\partial}{\partial r}, \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}, \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}\right)\right)$

Let us consider the first vector field of this frame:

In [19]: `xi = BL.frame()[0] ; xi`

Out[19]: $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$

In [20]: `print(xi)`

Vector field d/dt on the Open subset M0 of the 4-dimensional differentiable manifold M

The 1-form associated to it by metric duality is

In [21]: `xi_form = xi.down(g) ; xi_form.display()`

Out[21]: $\left(-\frac{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 - 2mr + r^2}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2}\right) dt + \left(-\frac{2amr \sin(\theta)^2}{a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^2}\right) d\phi$

Its covariant derivative is

In [22]: `nab_xi = nabra(xi_form) ; print(nab_xi) ; nab_xi.display()`

Tensor field of type (0,2) on the Open subset M0 of the 4-dimensional differentiable manifold M

Out[22]:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\frac{a^2 m \cos(\theta)^2 - mr^2}{a^4 \cos(\theta)^4 + 2a^2 r^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^4}\right) dt \otimes dr \\ & + \left(\frac{2a^2 mr \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta)}{a^4 \cos(\theta)^4 + 2a^2 r^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^4}\right) dt \otimes d\theta \\ & + \left(-\frac{a^2 m \cos(\theta)^2 - mr^2}{a^4 \cos(\theta)^4 + 2a^2 r^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^4}\right) dr \otimes dt \\ & + \left(\frac{(a^3 m \cos(\theta)^2 - amr^2) \sin(\theta)^2}{a^4 \cos(\theta)^4 + 2a^2 r^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^4}\right) dr \otimes d\phi \\ & + \left(-\frac{2a^2 mr \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta)}{a^4 \cos(\theta)^4 + 2a^2 r^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^4}\right) d\theta \otimes dt \\ & + \left(\frac{2(a^3 mr + amr^3) \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta)}{a^4 \cos(\theta)^4 + 2a^2 r^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^4}\right) d\theta \otimes d\phi \\ & + \left(-\frac{(a^3 m \cos(\theta)^2 - amr^2) \sin(\theta)^2}{a^4 \cos(\theta)^4 + 2a^2 r^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^4}\right) d\phi \otimes dr \\ & + \left(-\frac{2(a^3 mr + amr^3) \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta)}{a^4 \cos(\theta)^4 + 2a^2 r^2 \cos(\theta)^2 + r^4}\right) d\phi \otimes d\theta \end{aligned}$$

Let us check that the Killing equation is satisfied:

In [23]: `nab_xi.symmetrize() == 0`

Out[23]: True

Similarly, let us check that $\frac{\partial}{\partial\phi}$ is a Killing vector:

In [24]: `chi = BL.frame()[3] ; chi`

Out[24]: $\frac{\partial}{\partial\phi}$

In [25]: `nabla(chi.down(g)).symmetrize() == 0`

Out[25]: True

Curvature

The Ricci tensor associated with g :

In [26]: `Ric = g.ricci() ; print(Ric)`

Field of symmetric bilinear forms Ric(g) on the 4-dimensional differentiable manifold M

Let us check that the Kerr metric is a solution of the vacuum Einstein equation:

In [27]: `Ric == 0`

Out[27]: True

Another view of the above property:

In [28]: `Ric.display()`

Out[28]: Ric(g) = 0

The Riemann curvature tensor associated with g :

In [29]: `R = g.riemann() ; print(R)`

Tensor field Riem(g) of type (1,3) on the 4-dimensional differentiable manifold M

Contrary to the Ricci tensor, the Riemann tensor does not vanish; for instance, the component R^0_{123} is

In [30]: `R[0,1,2,3]`

Out[30]:
$$\frac{(a^7m - 2a^5m^2r + a^5mr^2) \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta)^5 + (a^7m + 2a^5m^2r + 6a^5mr^2 - 6a^3m^2r^3 + 5a^3mr^4) \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta)^3 - 2(a^7m - a^5mr^2 - 5a^3mr^4 - 3amr^6) \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta)}{a^2r^6 - 2mr^7 + r^8 + (a^8 - 2a^6mr + a^6r^2) \cos(\theta)^6 + 3(a^6r^2 - 2a^4mr^3 + a^4r^4) \cos(\theta)^4 + 3(a^4r^4 - 2a^2mr^5 + a^2r^6) \cos(\theta)^2}$$

Kretschmann scalar

The tensor R^b , of components $R_{abcd} = g_{am} R^m{}_{bcd}$:

```
In [35]: dR = R.down(g) ; print(dR)
```

Tensor field of type (0,4) on the 4-dimensional differentiable manifold M

The tensor R^\sharp , of components $R^{abcd} = g^{bp} g^{cq} g^{dr} R^a{}_{pqr}$:

```
In [36]: uR = R.up(g) ; print(uR)
```

Tensor field of type (4,0) on the 4-dimensional differentiable manifold M

The Kretschmann scalar $K := R^{abcd} R_{abcd}$:

```
In [37]: Kr_scalar = uR['^{abcd}']*dR['_{abcd}']
Kr_scalar.display()
```

```
Out[37]:  $\mathcal{M} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 
```

on $\mathcal{M}_0 : (t, r, \theta, \phi) \longmapsto -\frac{48 (a^6 m^2 \cos(\theta)^6 - 15 a^4 m^2 r^2 \cos(\theta)^4 + 15 a^2 m^2 r^4 \cos(\theta)^2 - 15 a^2 m^2 r^4 \cos(\theta)^2 + 4 a r \cos(\theta) + r^2) (a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 - 4 a r \cos(\theta) + r^2) (a \cos(\theta) + r) (a \cos(\theta) - r)}{a^{12} \cos(\theta)^{12} + 6 a^{10} r^2 \cos(\theta)^{10} + 15 a^8 r^4 \cos(\theta)^8 + 20 a^6 r^6 \cos(\theta)^6 + 15 a^4 r^8 \cos(\theta)^4 + 6 a^2 r^{10} \cos(\theta)^2 + r^{12}}$

A variant of this expression can be obtained by invoking the `factor()` method on the coordinate function representing the scalar field in the manifold's default chart:

```
In [38]: Kr = Kr_scalar.coord_function()
Kr.factor()
```

```
Out[38]: 48
          (a^2 cos(theta)^2 + 4 ar cos(theta) + r^2) (a^2 cos(theta)^2 - 4 ar cos(theta) + r^2) (a cos(theta) + r) (a cos(theta) - r)
          -----
          (a^2 cos(theta)^2 + r^2)^6
```

As a check, we can compare Kr to the formula given by R. Conn Henry, [Astrophys. J. 535, 350 \(2000\)](#):

```
In [39]: Kr == 48*m^2*(r^6 - 15*r^4*(a*cos(th))^2 + 15*r^2*(a*cos(th))^4 - (a*cos(th))^6) / (r^2+(a*cos(th))^2)^6
```

```
Out[39]: True
```

The Schwarzschild value of the Kretschmann scalar is recovered by setting $a = 0$:

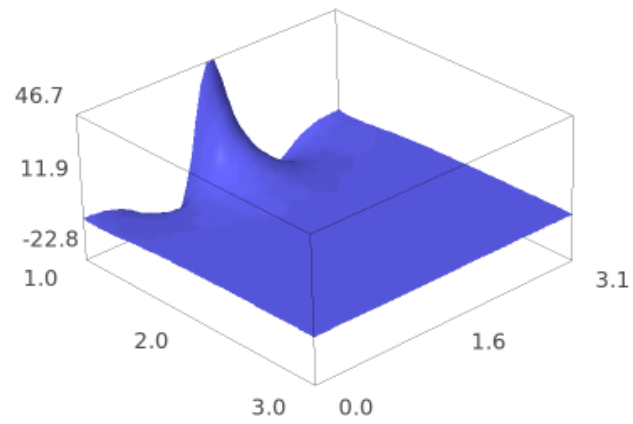
```
In [40]: Kr.expr().subs(a=0)
```

```
Out[40]:  $\frac{48 m^2}{r^6}$ 
```

Let us plot the Kretschmann scalar for $m = 1$ and $a = 0.9$:


```
In [41]: K1 = Kr.expr().subs(m=1, a=0.9)
         plot3d(K1, (r,1,3), (th, 0, pi), viewer=viewer3D, axes_labels=['r', 'th
         eta', 'Kr'])
```

Out[41]:



In []: