

# Geodesics

- \* the paths of the free (i.e. to fall)
- \* straightest lines - longest proper times (locally)
- \* curvature makes parallel geodesics to deviate ("gravity")
- \* geodesics determine parallel transport and covariant derivative<sup>(\*)</sup>
- \* Riemann Normal Coordinates:  
a convenient inertial frame

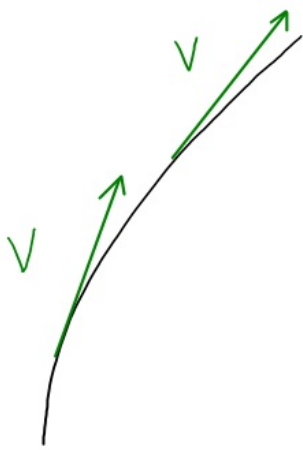
(\*) torsion free

Gravitation § 10

Carroll § 3.2-3.5

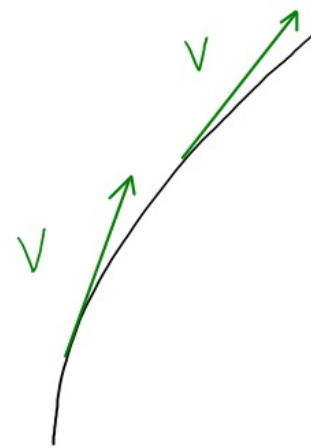
\* a curve is a geodesic if it parallel transports its tangent vector

$$D_V V^\mu = 0 \Leftrightarrow V^\nu \nabla_\nu V^\mu = 0$$



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$$D_v V^k = 0 \Leftrightarrow V^v \nabla_v V^k = 0 \quad (1)$$



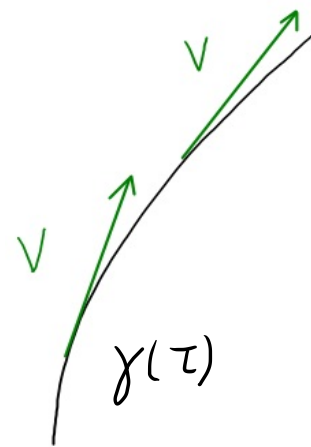
\* a weaker condition is

$$D_v V^k = f V^k, \quad f \in \mathcal{F}(U),$$

but an appropriate reparametrization it can be set to (1)  
(will prove that later)

\* a curve is a geodesic if it parallel transports its tangent vector

$$D_V V^h = 0 \Leftrightarrow V^\nu \nabla_\nu V^h = 0 \quad (1)$$



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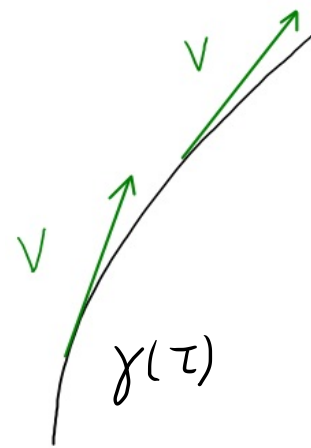
\* For  $D_V V^h = \frac{D}{d\tau} V^h = 0$ , the parameter  $\tau$  is an affine parameter

Any  $\tau' = \alpha\tau + \beta$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$  is also affine (freedom to choose units of length/time and origin)

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$$D_V V^{\mu} = 0 \Leftrightarrow V^{\nu} \nabla_{\nu} V^{\mu} = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\Rightarrow V^{\nu} \partial_{\nu} V^{\mu} + \Gamma^{\mu}_{\nu\rho} V^{\nu} V^{\rho} = 0$$



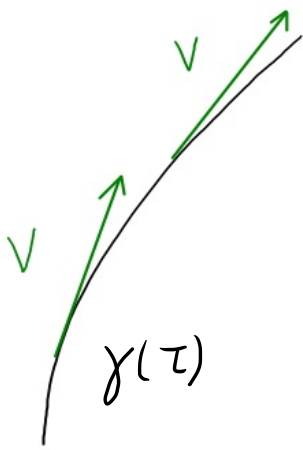
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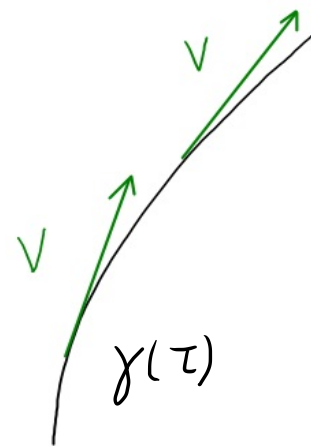
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\* if  $x^{\mu}(0)$ ,  $\frac{dx^{\mu}(0)}{d\tau}$  given  $\Rightarrow$  unique solution

$\Rightarrow$   $P$ ,  $V_P^{\mu}$  determine unique geodesic through  $P$  with tangent  $V_P^{\mu}$



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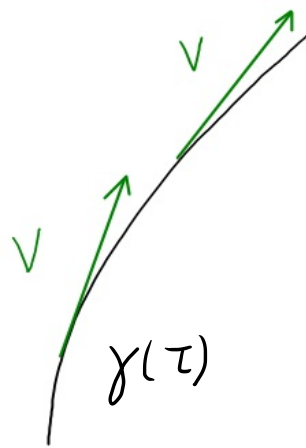
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\* geodesic depends only on symmetric part of  $\Gamma^\mu_{\nu\rho}$  :

geodesics don't depend on torsion





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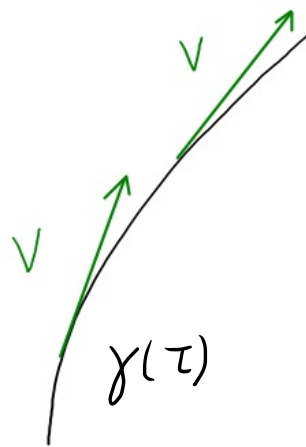
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\* If  $\Gamma^\mu_{\nu\rho} = 0$  everywhere, the solutions are straight lines

$\Rightarrow$  Flat space geodesics are straight lines



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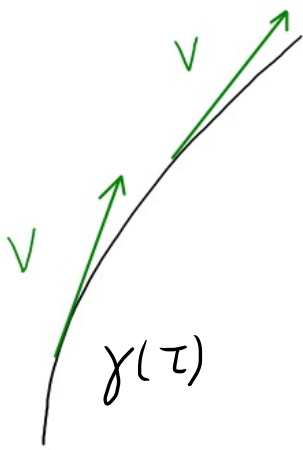
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\* Free particles move on geodesics

Equivalence principle: in inertial frames, free particles move on straight lines



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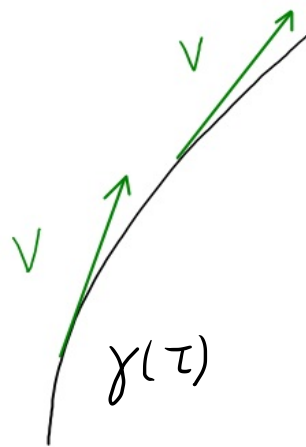
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$$\frac{d^2 x^\mu}{d\tau^2} + \Gamma^\mu_{\nu\rho} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\rho}{d\tau} = \frac{q}{m} F^\mu{}_\nu \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau}$$

\* Free particles move on geodesics ▲ Lorentz force

Equivalence principle: in inertial frames, free particles move on straight lines  
 If there is a force, we add it @ RHS



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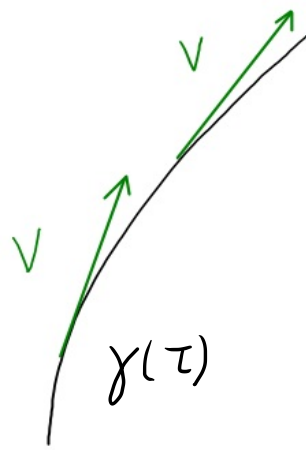
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\* character of geodesics (timelike/null/spacelike) does not change:  
parallel transport preserves inner product  $g_{\mu\nu} V^\mu V^\nu$



\* Parameter change:  $s = s(\tau)$

$$\frac{dx^h}{d\tau} = \frac{dx^h}{ds} \frac{ds}{d\tau}$$

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$$\frac{d^2 x^\mu}{ds^2} + \Gamma^\mu_{\nu\rho} \frac{dx^\nu}{ds} \frac{dx^\rho}{ds} = - \frac{d^2 s / d\tau^2}{(ds/d\tau)^2} \frac{dx^\mu}{ds}$$

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\* timelike paths:  $U^\mu = \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau}$  four-velocity,  $\tau$  proper time

$$p^\mu = m U^\mu$$

$$U^\nu \nabla_\nu U^\mu = 0 \Leftrightarrow p^\nu \nabla_\nu p^\mu = 0$$

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\* null paths: affine parameter  $\lambda$  s.t.  $p^\mu = \frac{dx^\mu}{d\lambda}$

observer w/ four velocity  $U^\mu$  measures

$$E = -p_\mu U^\mu \quad (\text{potential energy not included})$$

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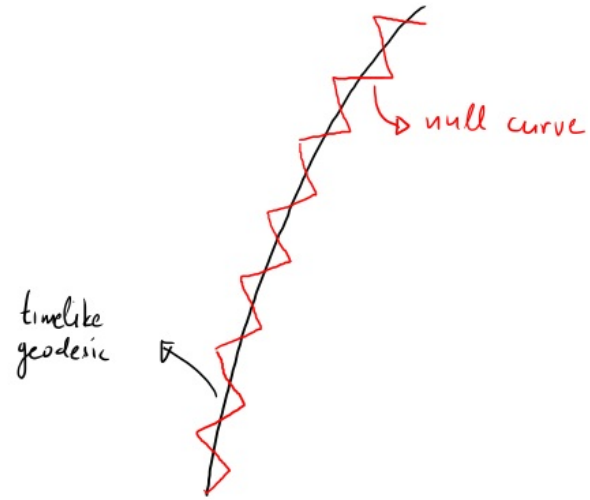
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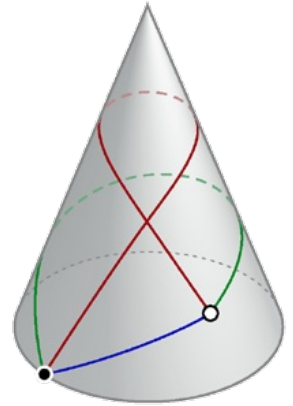
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<http://www.rdrop.com/~half/Creations/Puzzles/cone.geodesics/index.html>

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\* These are local maxima (minima for spacelike), due to global topology two points may be connected with geodesics of different lengths



Extremization of length/proper time  $\rightarrow$  geodesics

---

Consider a timelike curve,  $ds^2 = -d\tau^2$ ,

$$\tau = \int d\tau \left\{ -g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \right\}^{1/2}$$

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Parameterize curve s.t.  $g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} = g_{\mu\nu} U^\mu U^\nu = -1$ , so that

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Consider a timelike curve,  $ds^2 = -dz^2$ ,

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$$\delta\tau = \int dz \delta \left\{ -g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\nu}{dz} \right\}^{1/2} = -\frac{1}{2} \int dz \left\{ -g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\nu}{dz} \right\}^{-1/2} \delta \left\{ g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\nu}{dz} \right\}$$

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Variation:  $x^\mu \rightarrow x^\mu + \delta x^\mu$

$g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow g_{\mu\nu} + \partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu} \delta x^\lambda$  (like Taylor series)



Extremization of length/proper time  $\rightarrow$  geodesics

---

$$\int d\tau \delta \left( g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \right) = \int d\tau \left\{ \delta g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} + g_{\mu\nu} \delta \left( \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \right) \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} + g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \delta \left( \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \right) \right\}$$

---

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Extremization of length/proper time  $\rightarrow$  geodesics

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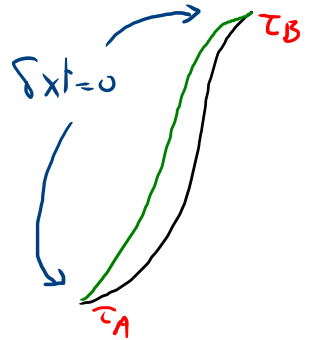
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Boundary term = 0 because  $\delta x^\nu = 0$  at initial + final point of variation

$$2 g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{d}{d\tau} \delta x^\nu = \frac{d}{d\tau} \left[ 2 g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \delta x^\nu \right] - \frac{d}{d\tau} \left[ 2 g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \right] \delta x^\nu$$

$$\int_{\tau_A}^{\tau_B} d\tau \frac{d}{d\tau} \left[ 2 g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \delta x^\nu \right] = 2 g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \delta x^\nu \Big|_{\tau_B} - 2 g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \delta x^\nu \Big|_{\tau_A}, \quad \delta x^\nu(\tau_B) = \delta x^\nu(\tau_A) = 0$$



Extremization of length/proper time  $\rightarrow$  geodesics

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$$\int d\tau \delta \left( g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \right) = \int d\tau \left\{ \delta g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} + g_{\mu\nu} \delta \left( \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \right) \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} + g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \delta \left( \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \right) \right\}$$

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$\mu \leftrightarrow \nu$

$$= \int d\tau \left\{ \partial_\nu g_{\mu\lambda} \delta x^\nu \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\lambda}{d\tau} - 2 \frac{d}{d\tau} \left[ g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \right] \delta x^\nu \right\}$$

---

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Extremization of length/proper time  $\rightarrow$  geodesics

---

$$\int d\tau \delta \left( g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \right) = \int d\tau \left\{ \delta g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} + g_{\mu\nu} \delta \left( \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \right) \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} + g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \delta \left( \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \right) \right\}$$

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$$= \int d\tau \left\{ \partial_\nu g_{\mu\lambda} \delta x^\nu \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\lambda}{d\tau} - 2 \frac{d}{d\tau} \left[ g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \right] \delta x^\nu \right\}$$

$$= \int d\tau \delta x^\nu \left\{ 2 g_{\mu\lambda} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\lambda}{d\tau} - 2 \left[ \frac{d}{d\tau} g_{\mu\nu} \right] \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} - 2 g_{\mu\nu} \frac{d^2 x^\mu}{d\tau^2} \right\}$$

Extremization of length/proper time  $\rightarrow$  geodesic

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$$\int d\tau \delta \left( g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \right) = \int d\tau \left\{ \delta g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} + g_{\mu\nu} \delta \left( \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \right) \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} + g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \delta \left( \frac{dx^\nu}{d\tau} \right) \right\}$$

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$$\frac{d}{d\tau} g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{dx^\lambda}{d\tau} \frac{\partial g_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x^\lambda}$$

Extremization of length/proper time  $\rightarrow$  geodesics

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Symmetric in  $\mu \leftrightarrow \lambda$

$$= - \int d\tau \delta x^\nu \left\{ 2 g_{\nu\mu} \frac{d^2 x^\mu}{d\tau^2} + \left( \partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu} + \partial_\mu g_{\lambda\nu} - \partial_\nu g_{\mu\lambda} \right) \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\lambda}{d\tau} \right\}$$

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Extremization of length/proper time  $\rightarrow$  geodesics

---

Extremization for arbitrary  $\delta x^\nu$  implies that the integrand must be zero  $\forall x$   
(simply choose  $\delta x^\nu = \delta(x^\nu - x_0^\nu)$  for all  $x_0^\nu$  on the curve)

$$2g_{\mu\nu} \frac{d^2 x^\mu}{dz^2} + (\partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu} + \partial_\mu g_{\lambda\nu} - \partial_\nu g_{\mu\lambda}) \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} = 0$$

---

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int dz \delta x^\nu \left\{ \partial_\nu g_{\mu\lambda} \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} - 2 \overbrace{\partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu}}^{\text{symmetric in } \mu \leftrightarrow \nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} - 2g_{\mu\nu} \frac{d^2 x^\mu}{dz^2} \right\} \\ &= - \int dz \delta x^\nu \left\{ 2g_{\nu\mu} \frac{d^2 x^\mu}{dz^2} + (\partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu} + \underbrace{\partial_\mu g_{\lambda\nu}}_{\lambda \leftrightarrow \mu} - \partial_\nu g_{\mu\lambda}) \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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$$g^{\sigma\tau} g_{\mu\nu} \frac{d^2 x^\mu}{dz^2} + \frac{1}{2} g^{\sigma\mu} (\partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu} + \partial_\mu g_{\lambda\nu} - \partial_\nu g_{\lambda\mu}) \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} \frac{dx^\nu}{dz} = 0$$

---


$$= \int dz \delta x^\nu \left\{ \partial_\nu g_{\mu\lambda} \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} - 2 \partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu} \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} - 2g_{\mu\nu} \frac{d^2 x^\mu}{dz^2} \right\}$$

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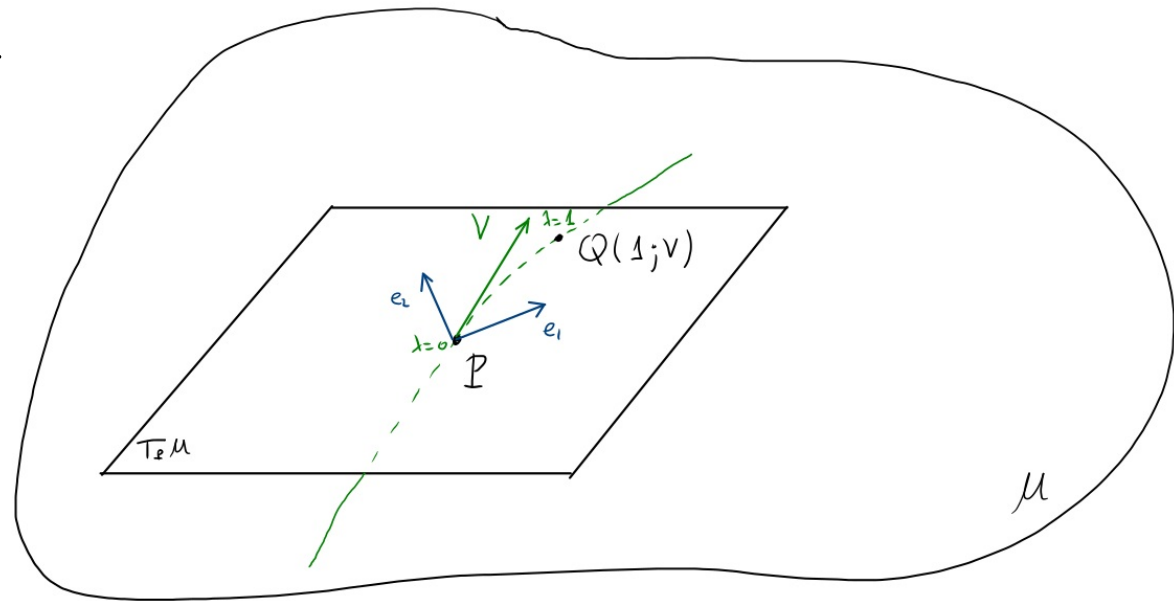
$$g^{\sigma\tau} g_{\mu\nu} \frac{d^2 x^\mu}{dz^2} + \frac{1}{2} g^{\sigma\mu} (\partial_\lambda g_{\mu\nu} + \partial_\mu g_{\lambda\nu} - \partial_\nu g_{\lambda\mu}) \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} = 0$$

$\delta^\sigma_\nu$

$$\frac{d^2 x^\sigma}{dz^2} + \Gamma^\sigma_{\mu\lambda} \frac{dx^\mu}{dz} \frac{dx^\lambda}{dz} = 0$$

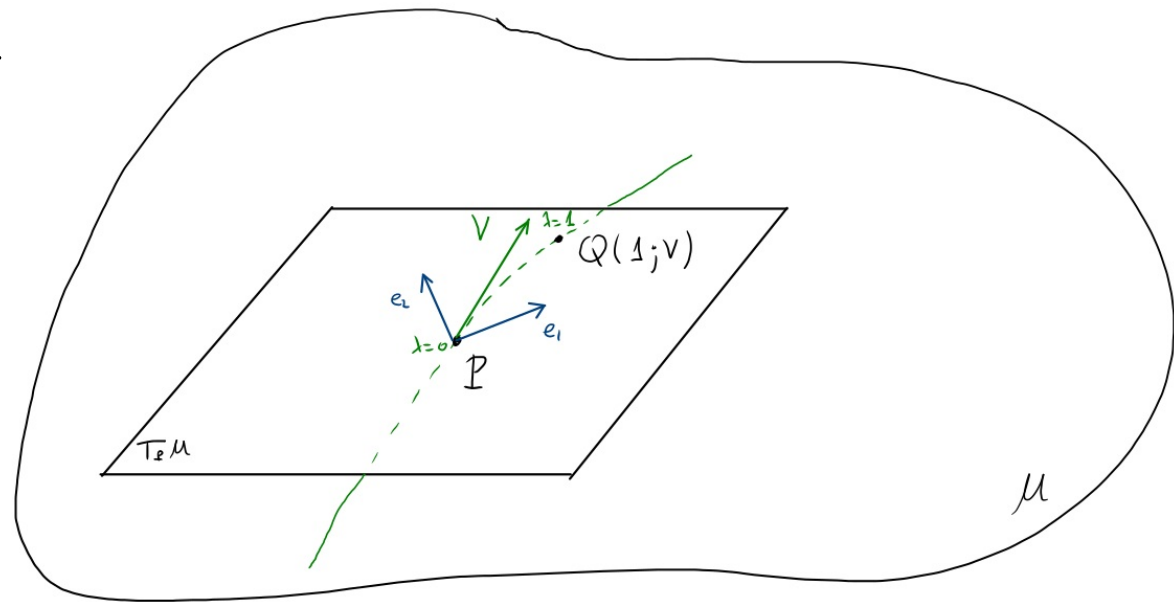
# Riemann Normal Coordinates

- \*  $\Gamma^M_{\nu\rho} = 0$  everywhere only on flat manifolds
- \* Construct local inertial frame using geodesics:



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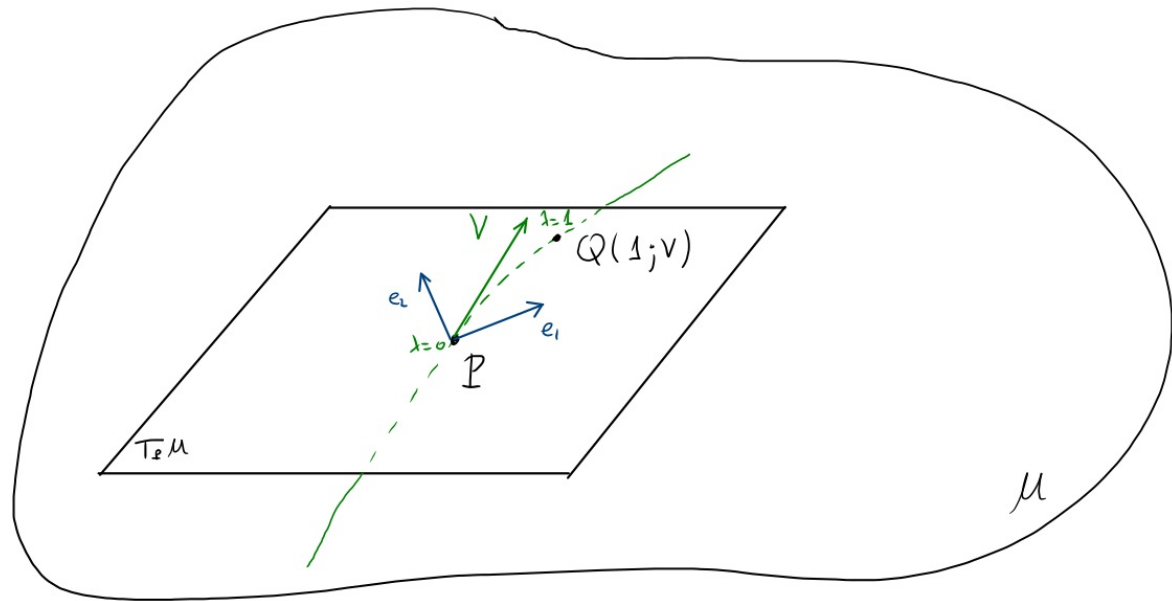
\* Construct local inertial frame using geodesics:

- Pick an event  $P$  and all geodesics through  $P$
- Each vector  $V$  at  $P$  determines a geodesic with affine parameter  $\lambda$ .

Consider the point

$$Q = Q(\lambda; V) \quad \xrightarrow{\text{which geodesic}}$$

on such a geodesic  $\xrightarrow{\text{where on geodesic}}$



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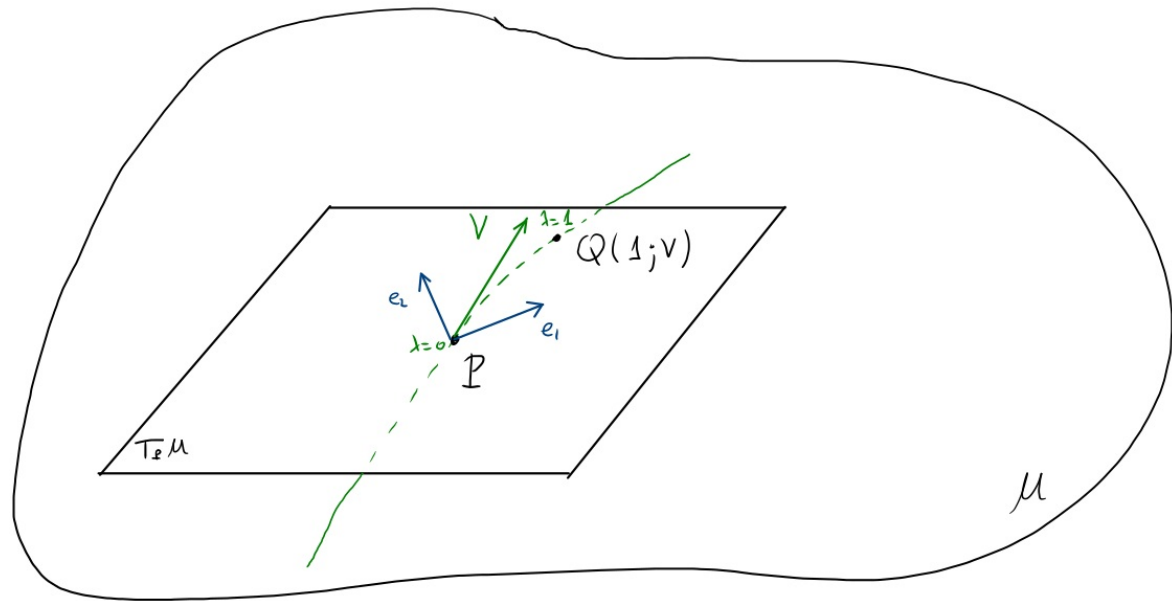
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Notice that  $Q = Q(\lambda; V) = Q(\frac{1}{2}\lambda; 2V)$ ,  
so we fix  $\lambda=1$ , vary  $V$



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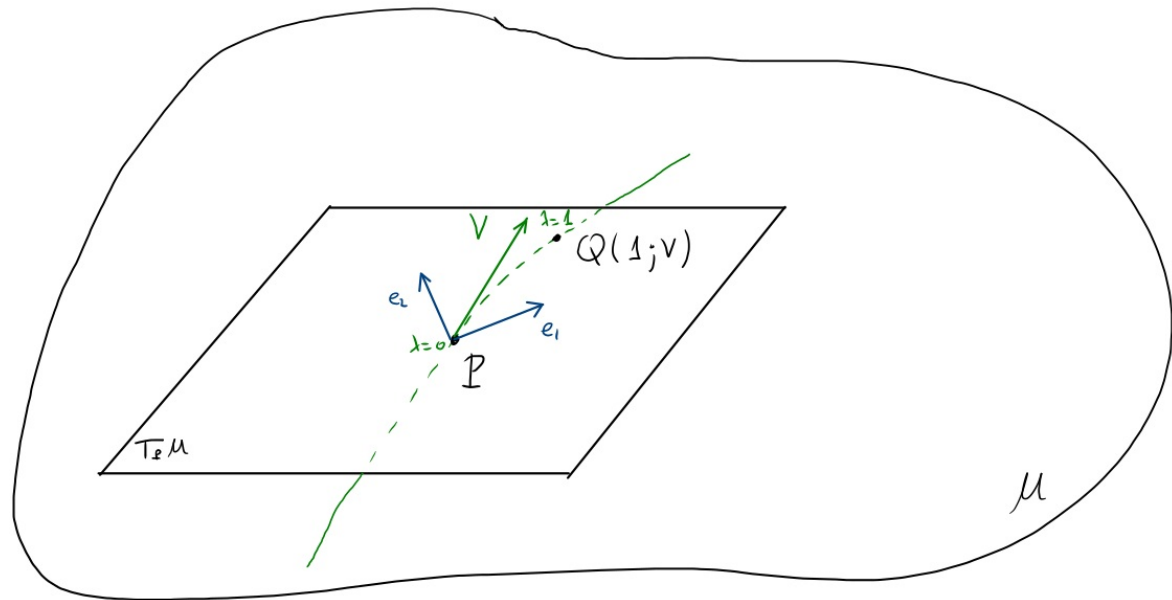
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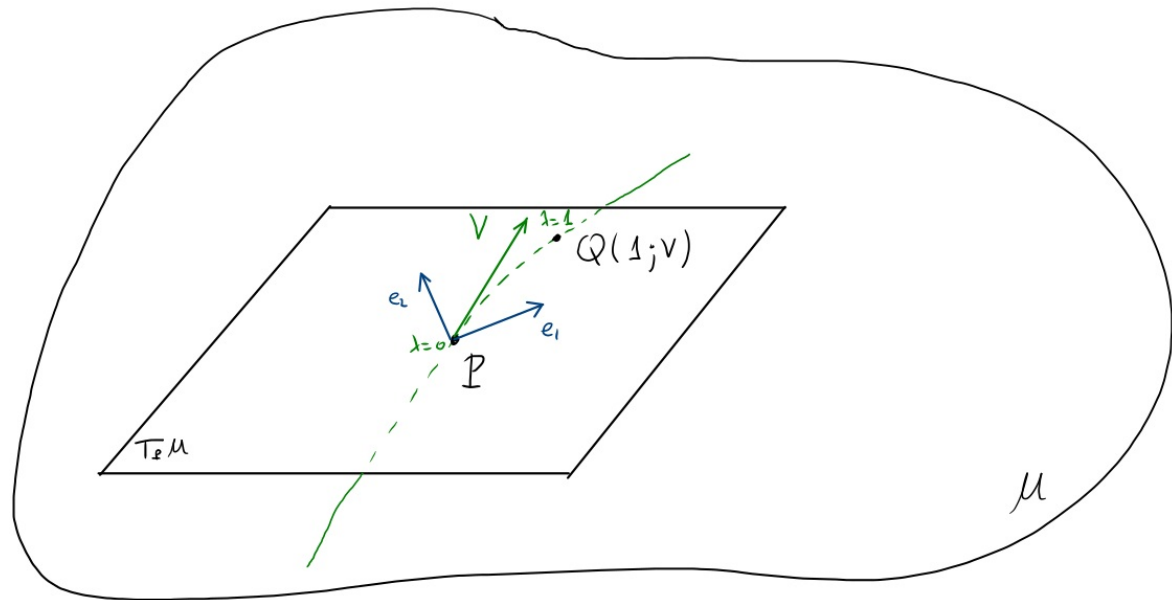
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⇒ Choose orthonormal basis  $e_{\mu}$  at  $T_P M$

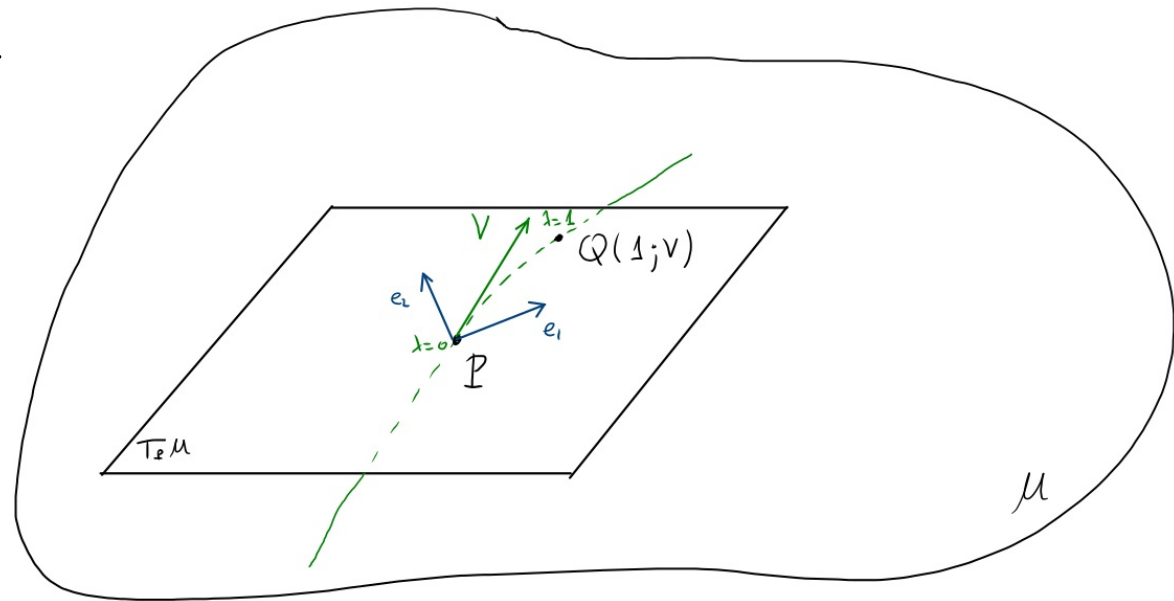
$$g(e_{\mu}, e_{\nu}) = g_{\alpha\beta} e_{\mu}^{\alpha} e_{\nu}^{\beta} = \eta_{\mu\nu}, \text{ so that}$$

$V = x^{\mu} e_{\mu}$  and define coordinates of  $Q(1; V)$   
 to be  $\{x^{\mu}\}$

# Riemann Normal Coordinates

\* Prove that: (problem 11.9, Gravitation)

- $e_\mu = \partial_\mu|_P$
- $\Gamma^\mu_{\nu\rho}(P) = 0$
- $\partial_\sigma \Gamma^\mu_{\nu\rho}(P) = -\frac{1}{3} (R^\mu{}_{\nu\rho\sigma} + R^\mu{}_{\rho\nu\sigma})$
- $g_{\mu\nu}(P) = \eta_{\mu\nu}$
- $\partial_\sigma g_{\mu\nu}(P) = 0$
- $\partial_\rho \partial_\sigma g_{\mu\nu}(P) = -\frac{1}{3} (R_{\rho\sigma\nu\mu} + R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu})$
- $R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}(P) = \partial_\rho \partial_\nu g_{\mu\sigma}(P) - \partial_\sigma \partial_\nu g_{\mu\rho}(P)$



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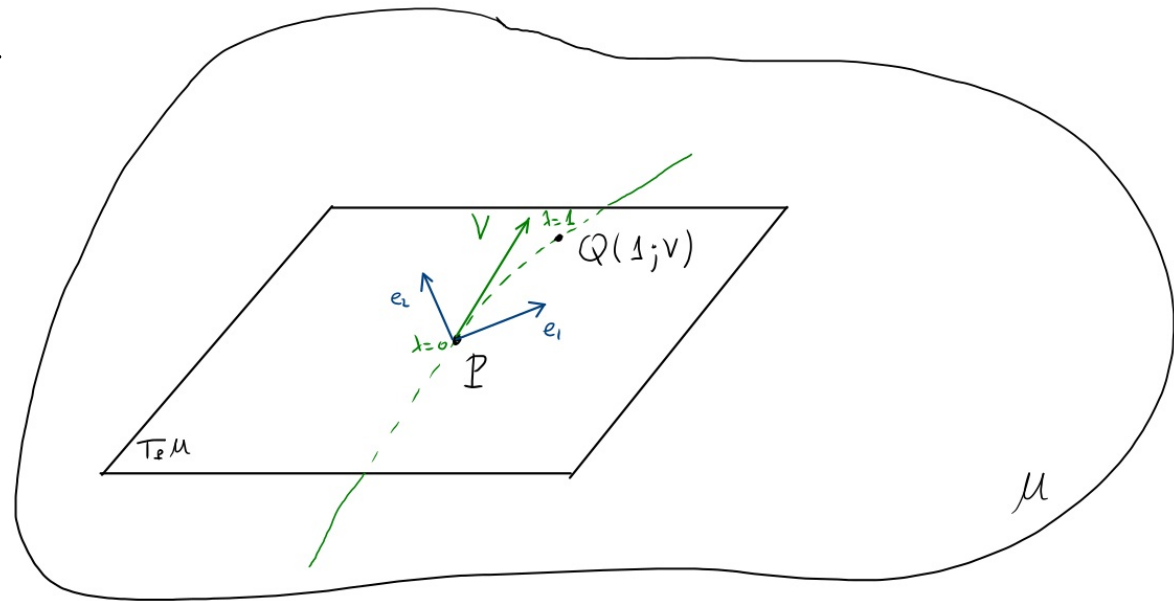
$$g(e_\mu, e_\nu) = g_{\alpha\beta} e_\mu^\alpha e_\nu^\beta = \eta_{\mu\nu}, \text{ so that}$$

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- $R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}(P) = \partial_{\rho}\partial_{\nu}g_{\mu\sigma}(P) - \partial_{\sigma}\partial_{\nu}g_{\mu\rho}(P)$



\* any other normal coordinate system same to 2<sup>nd</sup> order

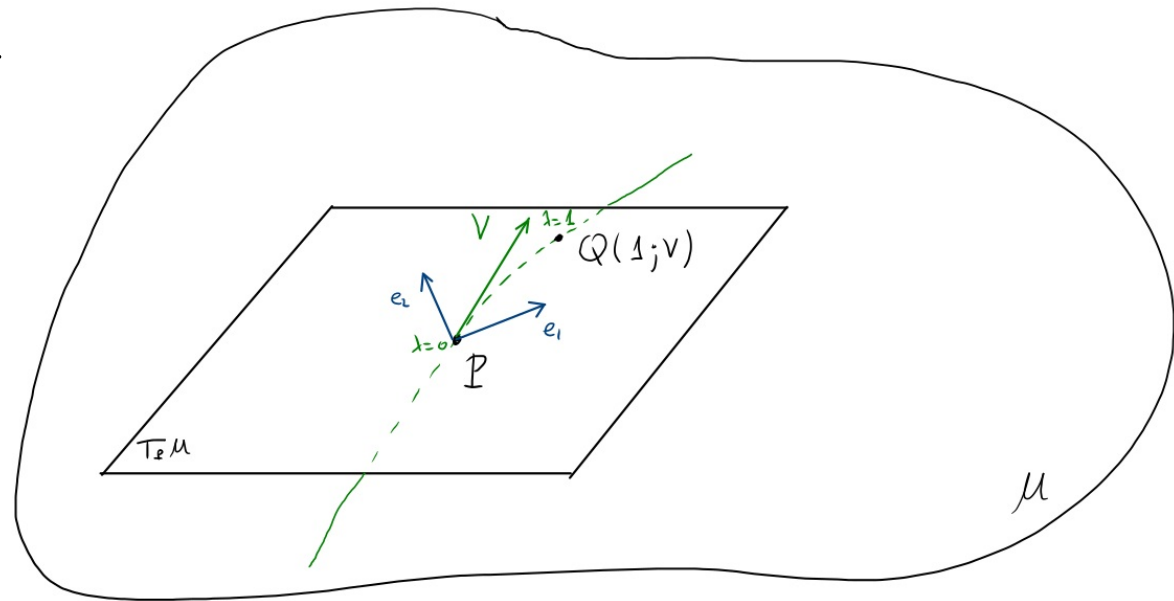
$$x^{\mu'}(P) = x^{\mu}(P) + \mathcal{O}[(x^{\mu})^3]$$

# Riemann Normal Coordinates

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- $\partial_{\sigma} \Gamma^{\mu}_{\nu\rho}(P) = -\frac{1}{3} (R^{\mu}_{\nu\rho\sigma} + R^{\mu}_{\rho\nu\sigma})$  (1)

- $g_{\mu\nu}(P) = \eta_{\mu\nu}$
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- $\partial_{\rho} \partial_{\sigma} g_{\mu\nu}(P) = -\frac{1}{3} (R_{\rho\sigma\nu\mu} + R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu})$
- $R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}(P) = \partial_{\rho} \partial_{\nu} g_{\mu\sigma}(P) - \partial_{\sigma} \partial_{\nu} g_{\mu\rho}(P)$  (2)



\* any other normal coordinate system same to 2<sup>nd</sup> order

$$x^{\mu'}(P) = x^{\mu}(P) + \mathcal{O}[(x^{\mu})^3]$$

\* if they are same to 3<sup>rd</sup> order

$$x^{\mu'}(P) = x^{\mu}(P) + \mathcal{O}[(x^{\mu})^4], \text{ then}$$

eqs. (1) + (2) are preserved

Geodesics  $\Rightarrow$  Parallel transport

so we will have established

Geodesics  $\Leftrightarrow$  Parallel Transport  $\Leftrightarrow$  Cov. Derivative  
Affine Connection (torsion free)



# Geodesics $\Rightarrow$ Parallel transport

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Geodesics  $\Leftrightarrow$  Parallel Transport  $\Leftrightarrow$  Cov. Derivative  
Affine Connection (torsion free)

\* Assume that we know all geodesics on  $M$   
 $\Rightarrow$  construct parallel transport using Schild's ladder  
(see Gravitation §10)

# Geodesics $\Rightarrow$ Parallel transport

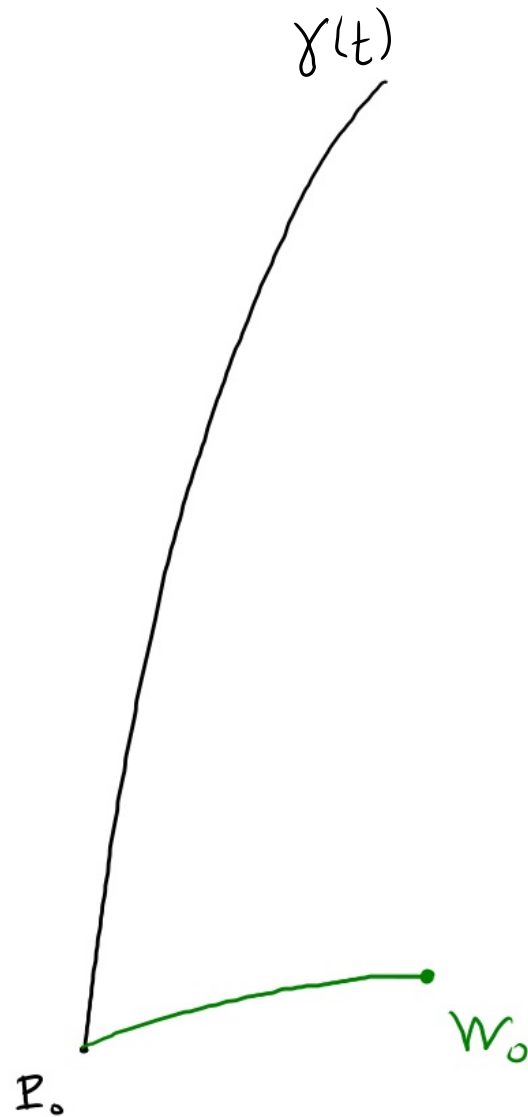
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Geodesics  $\Leftrightarrow$  Parallel Transport  $\Leftrightarrow$  Cov. Derivative  
Affine Connection (torsion free)

\* Assume that we know all geodesics on  $M$   
 $\Rightarrow$  construct parallel transport using Schild's ladder  
(see Gravitation §10)

\* Consider a curve  $\gamma(t)$  and a point  $P_0$  on it  
not necessarily a geodesic!

Let  $W(P_0)$  be a vector at  $P_0$  and the geodesic  
passing through  $P_0$  in the direction of  $W(P_0)$



# Geodesics $\Rightarrow$ Parallel transport

so we will have established

Geodesics  $\Leftrightarrow$  Parallel Transport  $\Leftrightarrow$  Cov. Derivative  
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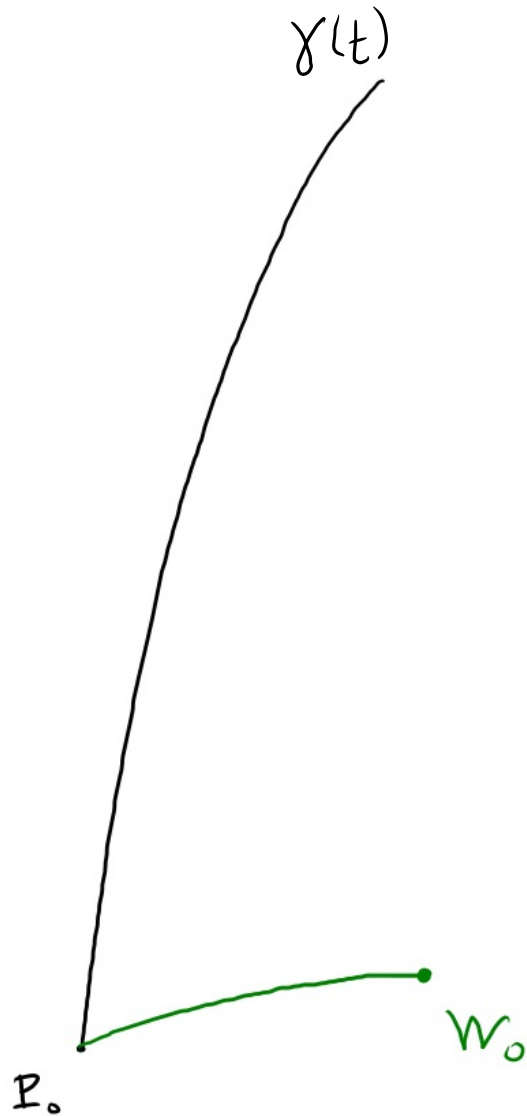
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Let  $W_0$  be a point on the geodesic, affine parameter distance  
 $\epsilon$  from  $P_0$ . For small  $\epsilon$ , we may write

$$P_0 W_0 \approx \epsilon W(P_0)$$

("equivalence principle")



\* take a point  $P_1$  close to  $P_0$

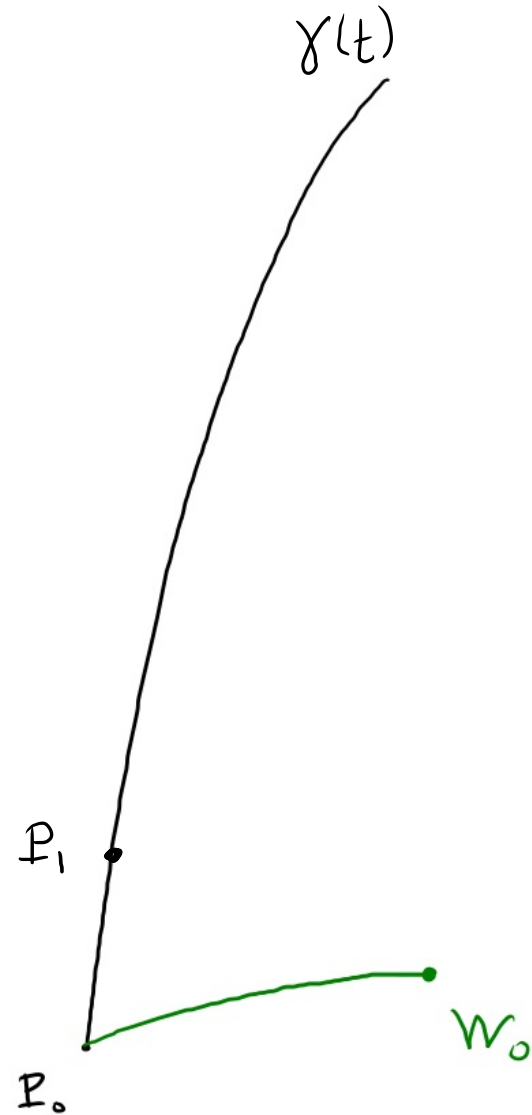
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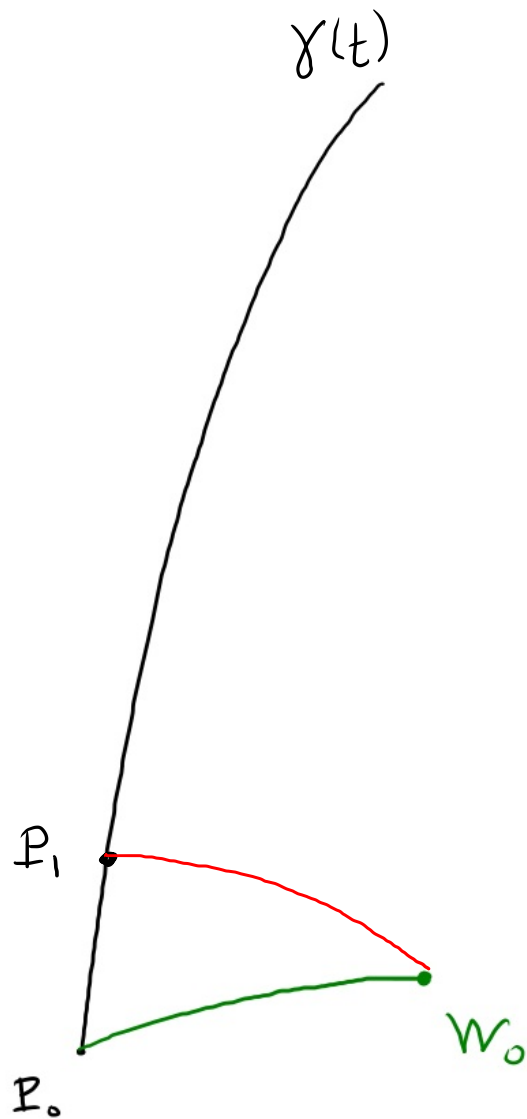
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  - \* compute  $N_1$ , midway between  $P_1, W_0$
- $$\lambda_{N_1} = \frac{\lambda_{P_1} + \lambda_{W_0}}{2}$$

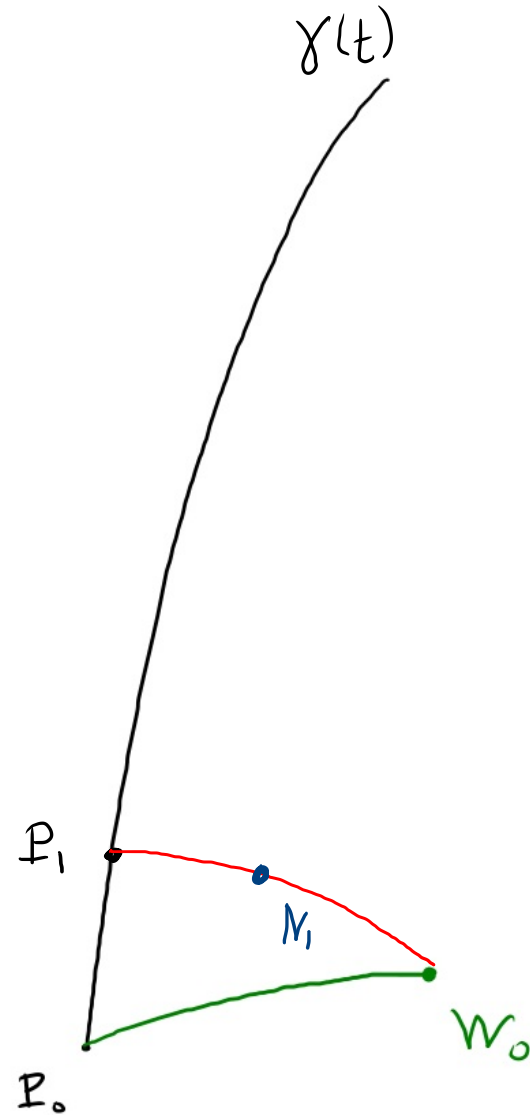
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- \* compute geodesic  $P_0 N_1$ , extend it to  $W_1$  s.t.

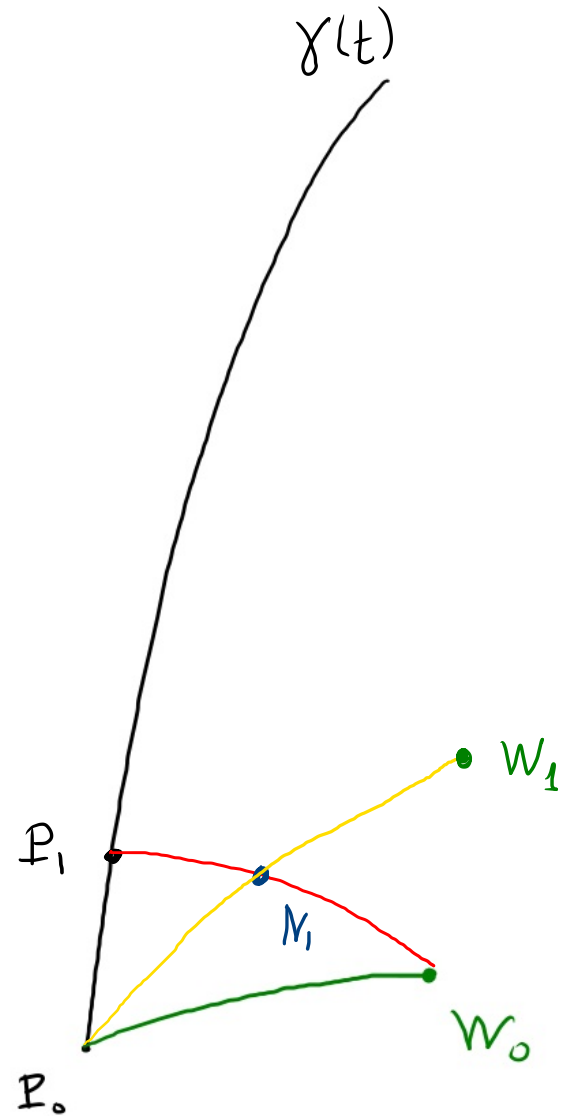
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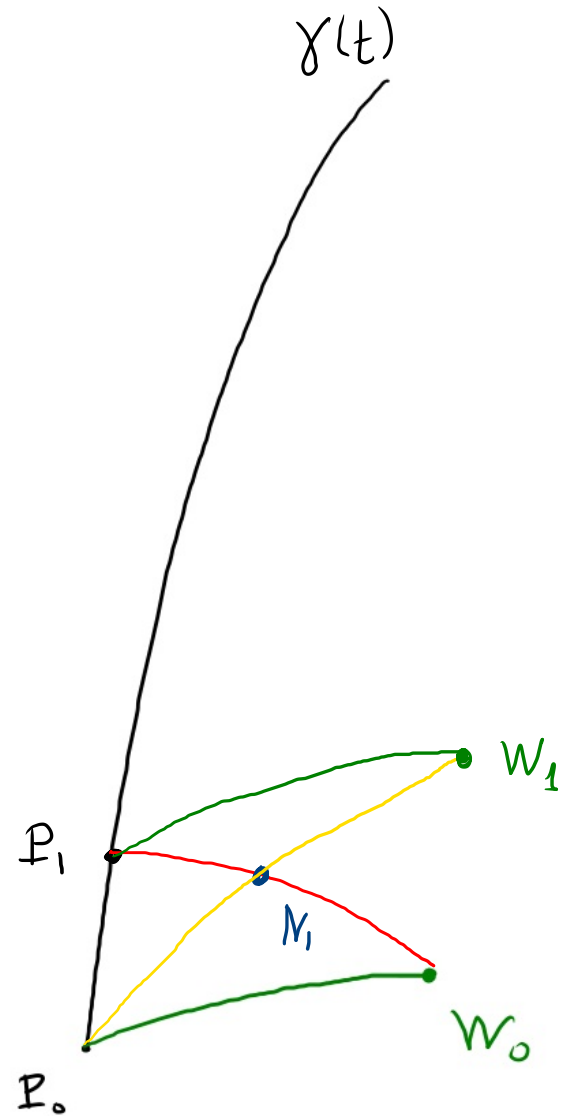
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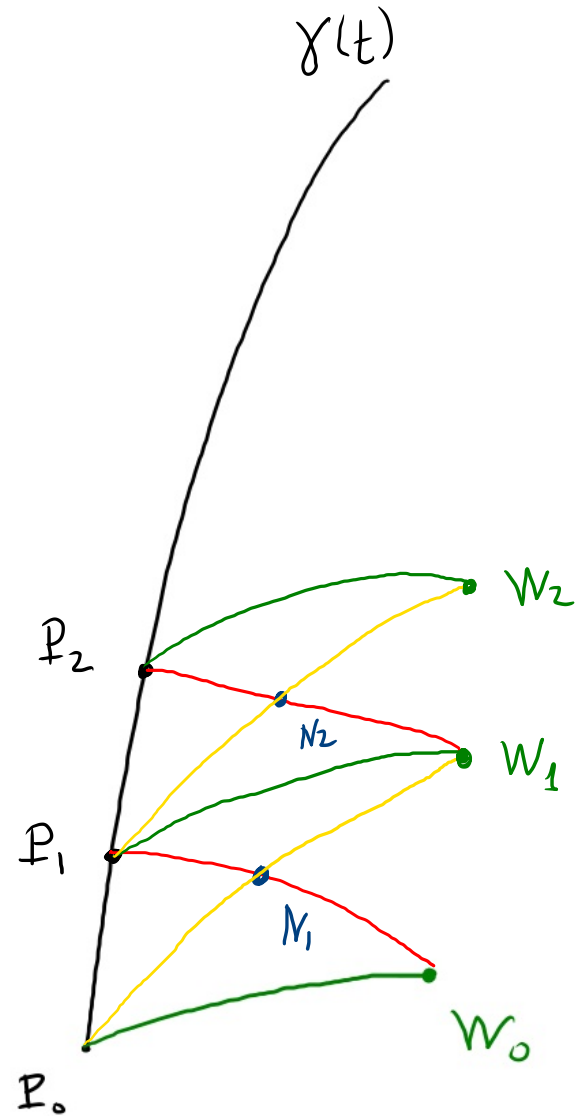
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- \* Repeat:

- choose  $P_2$
- draw geodesic  $P_2 W_1$
- draw  $N_2$  at  $\lambda_{N_2} = (\lambda_{P_2} + \lambda_{W_1})/2$
- draw geodesic  $P_1 N_2$ , extend it to  $W_2$  s.t.

$$\lambda_{N_2} = (\lambda_{P_1} + \lambda_{W_2})/2$$

- $P_2 W_2 \parallel P_1 W_1 \parallel P_0 W_0$



\* take a point  $P_1$  close to  $P_0$

\* draw the geodesic  $P_1 W_0$

\* compute  $N_1$ , midway between  $P_1, W_0$

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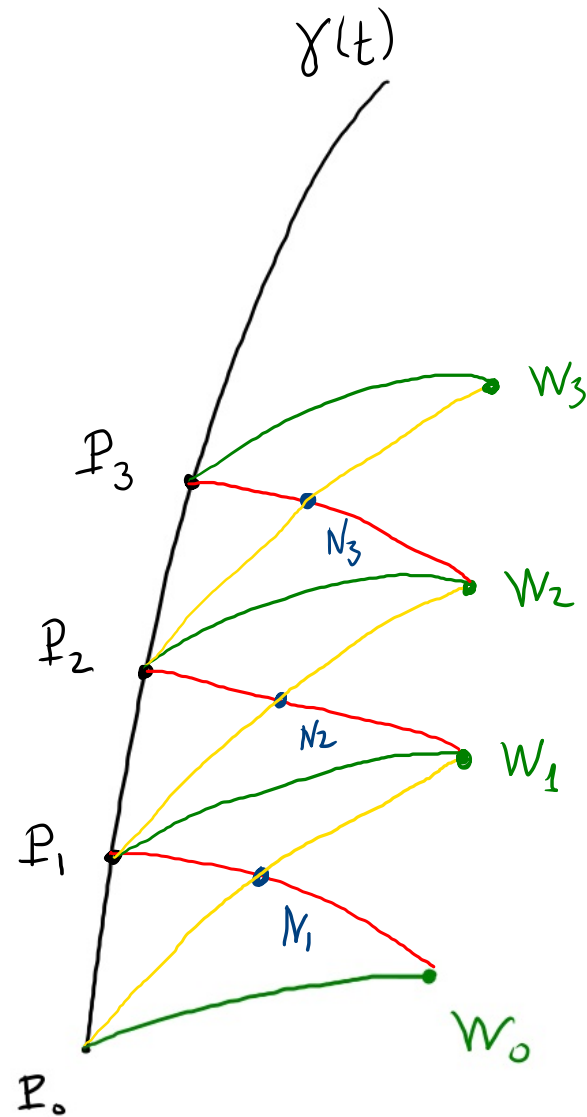
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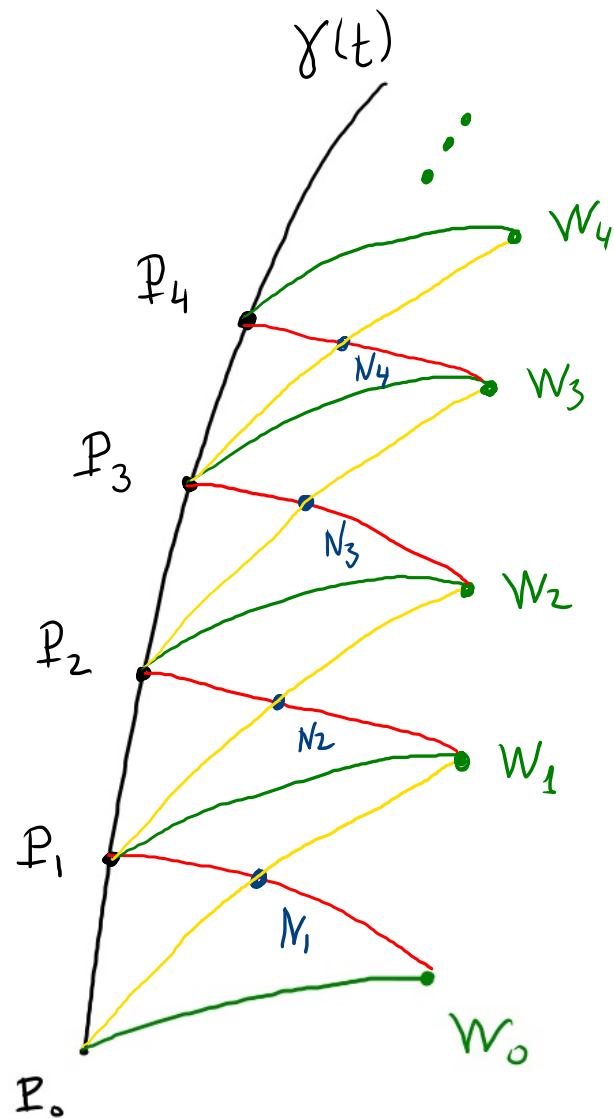
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-  $P_2 W_2 \parallel P_1 W_1 \parallel P_0 W_0 \parallel P_3 W_3 \parallel P_4 W_4 \parallel \dots$

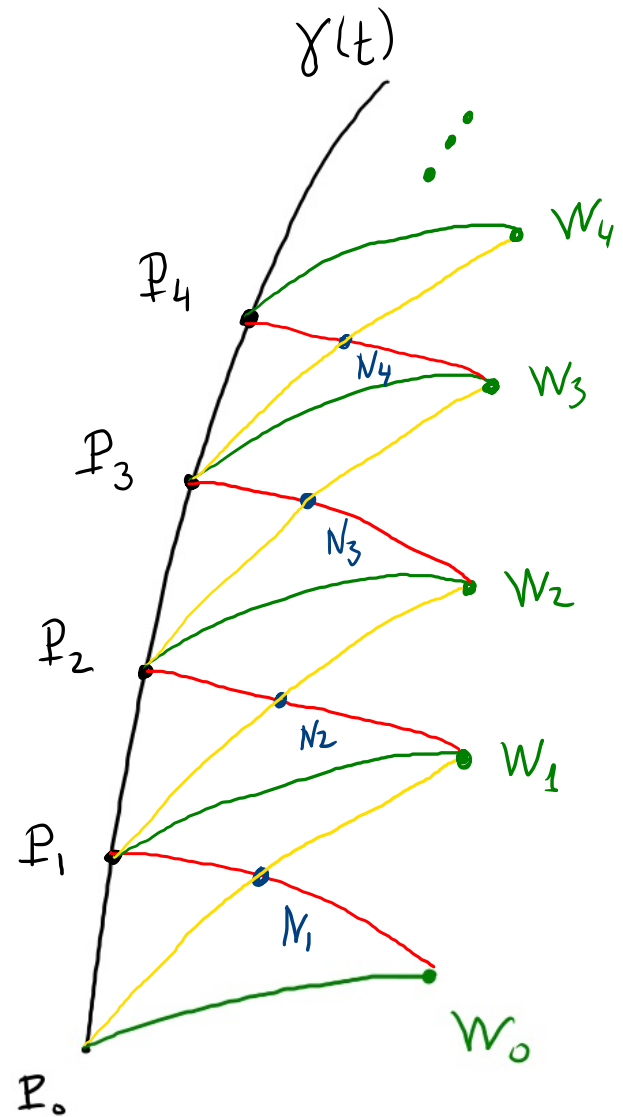


\* Works for flat space ...

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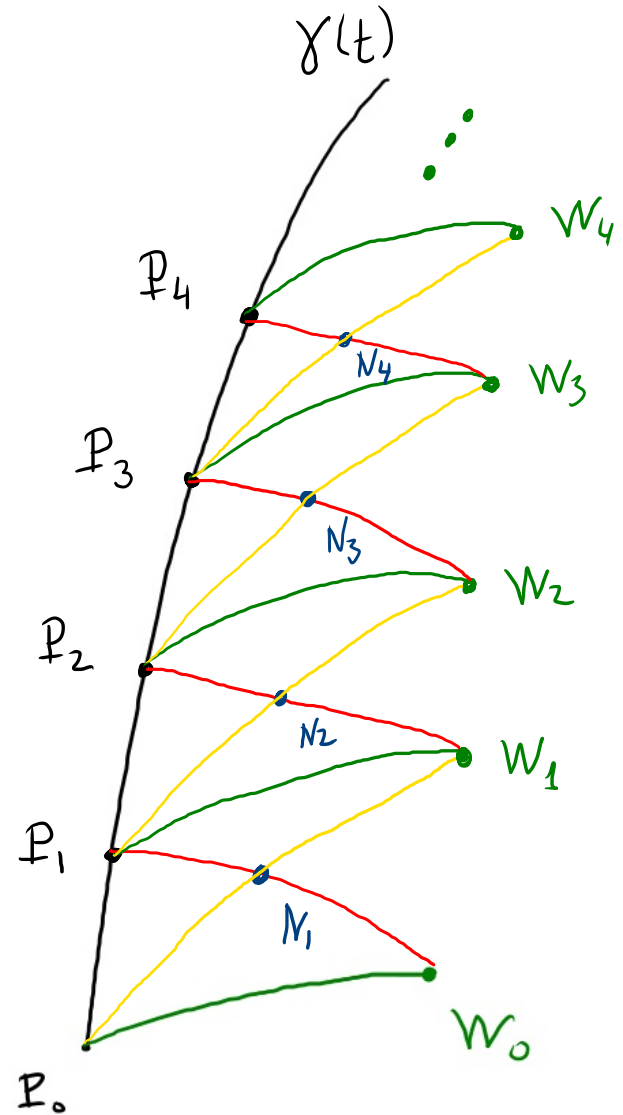
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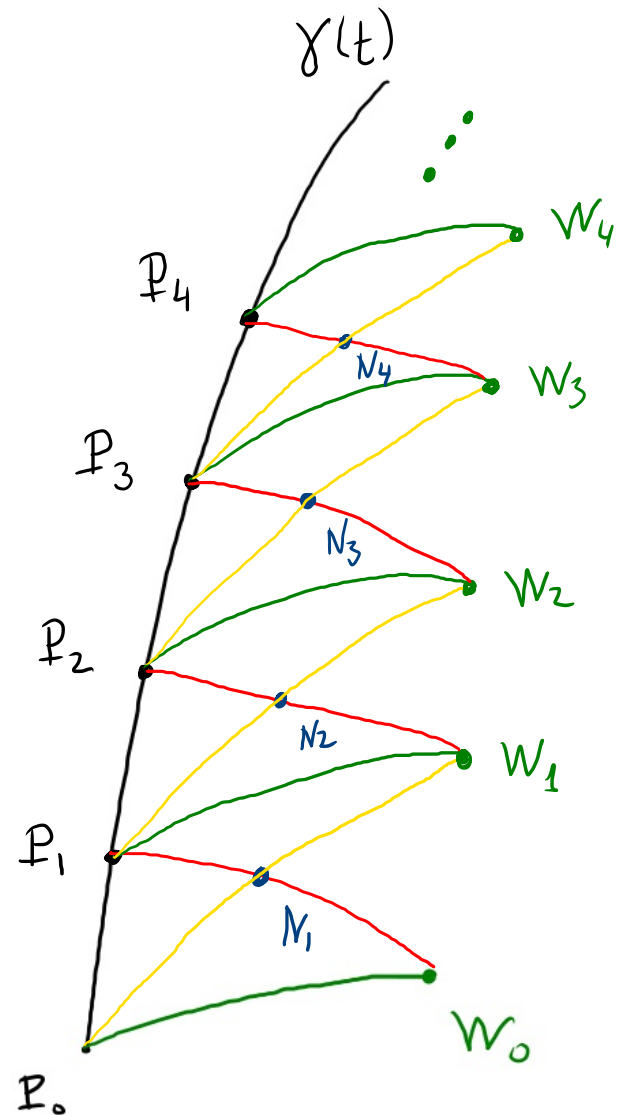
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- \* Defines parallel transport over finite distance  
by integrating the procedure

$$W(t_0) \rightarrow \tau_{t_0} W(t_0) \in T_{\gamma(t)} M$$

$$W(t) \rightarrow \tau_{t_0} W(t) \in T_{\gamma(t_0)} M$$

\* Repeat:

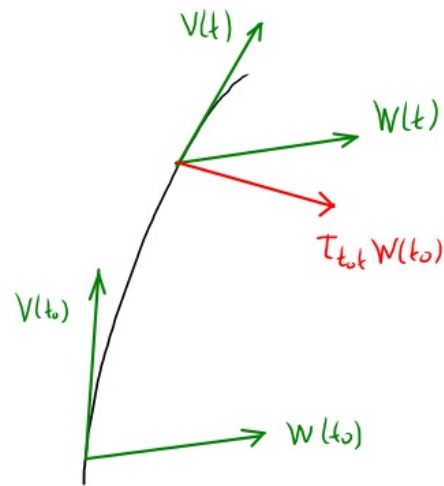
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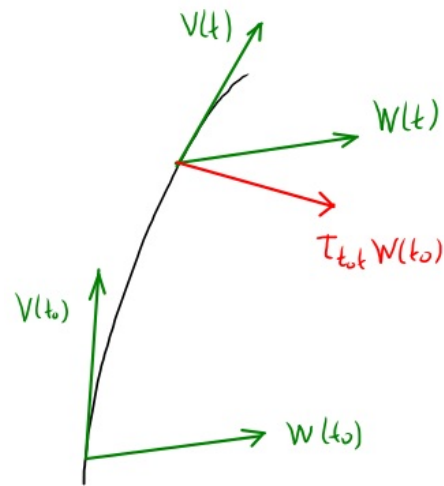
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such that

$$\tau_{t_0 t} f(t) W(t) = f(t_0) \tau_{t_0 t} W(t)$$

$$\tau_{t_0 t} (W(t_0) + U(t_0)) = \tau_{t_0 t} W(t_0) + \tau_{t_0 t} U(t_0)$$





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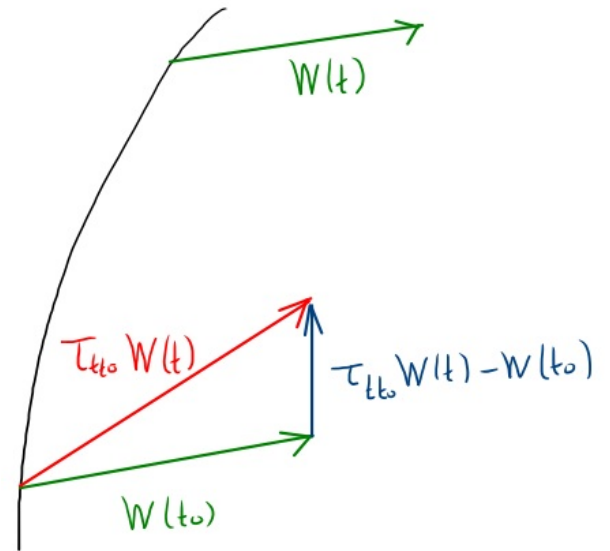
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- \* defines covariant derivative:  $D_V W(t_0) = \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \frac{\tau_{t_0} W(t) - W(t_0)}{t - t_0}$



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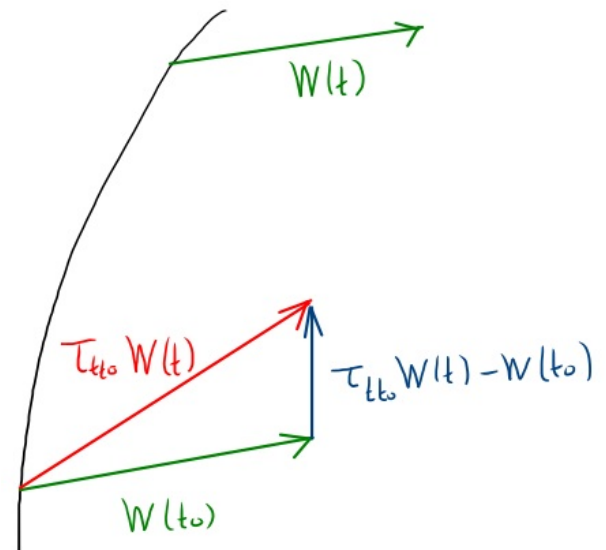
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$$D_V W - D_W V = [V, W] \quad (4)$$

$$D_{V+U} W = D_V W + D_U W \quad (5)$$



\* (1), (2), (3) easy to prove (exercise...)

\* (2) + (4)  $\Rightarrow$  (5) (see previous slides...)

\* so we prove (4):

Consider two vectors  $V(t_0), W(t_0)$  and their tangent curves. Consider infinitesimal  $\epsilon V(t_0), \epsilon W(t_0)$

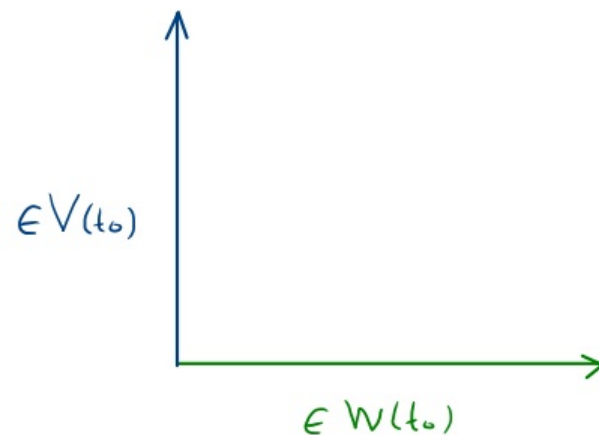
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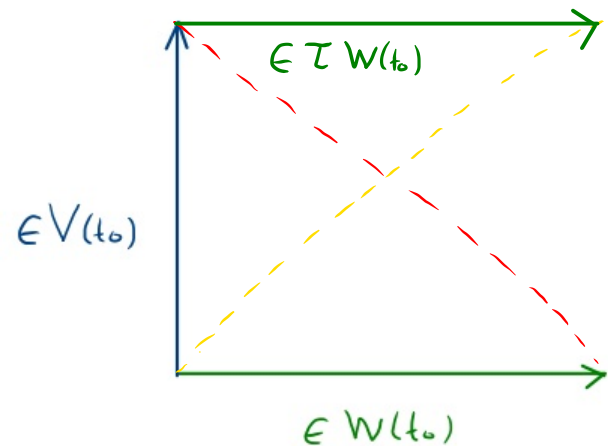
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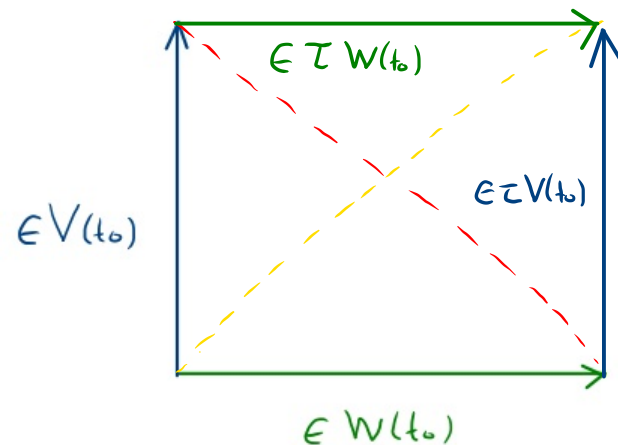
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- Consider values of vector fields at  $t_0 + \epsilon$   
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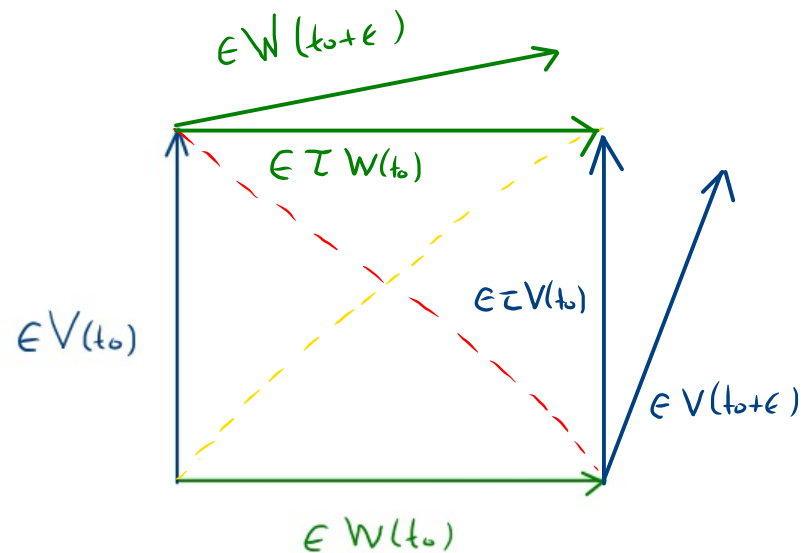
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• Consider values of vector fields at  $t_0 + \epsilon$   
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• Consider the differences

$$\underbrace{\epsilon W(t_0 + \epsilon) - \epsilon \tau W(t_0)} = \epsilon^2 D_V W \quad \underbrace{\epsilon V(t_0 + \epsilon) - \epsilon \tau V(t_0)} = \epsilon^2 D_W V$$

notice the correct signs!  
(prove it!)

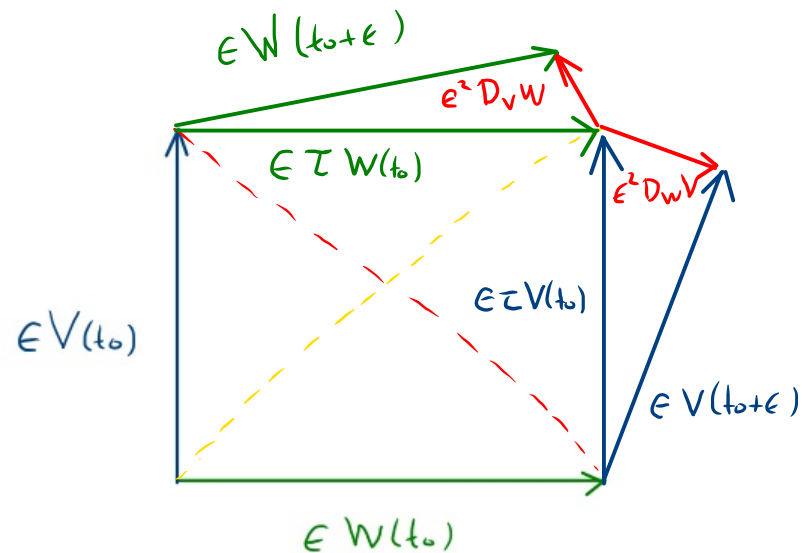
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- Consider values of vector fields at  $t_0 + \epsilon$   
 $\epsilon W(t_0 + \epsilon), \epsilon V(t_0 + \epsilon)$  along respective curves
- Consider the differences  
 $\epsilon W(t_0 + \epsilon) - \epsilon \tau W(t_0) = \epsilon^2 D_V W$      $\epsilon V(t_0 + \epsilon) - \epsilon \tau V(t_0) = \epsilon^2 D_W V$
- The difference  $\epsilon^2 D_V W - \epsilon^2 D_W V$  closes the rectangle formed by  $V, W = \epsilon^2 [V, W]$  !

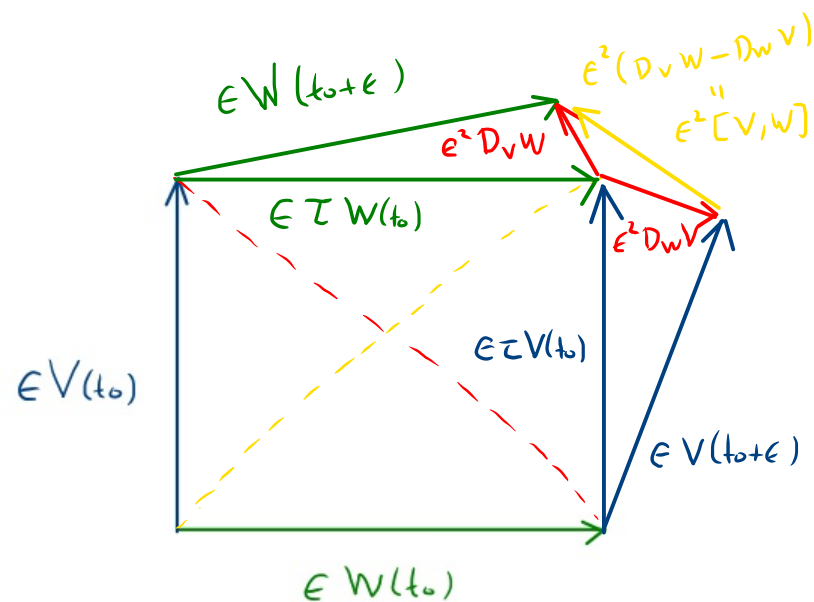
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Example: Expanding Universe (Carroll §3.5)

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a(t)^2 (dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2)$$

flat space cosmology

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flat space cosmology

$$= -dt^2 + a(t)^2 \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

Calculate  $\Gamma^{\lambda}_{\mu\nu}$ :

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$$x^\mu \rightarrow x^\mu + \delta x^\mu, \quad \delta I = 0$$

## Example: Expanding Universe (Carroll §3.5)

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boundary term, vanishes  
 since  $\delta t(\tau_A) = \delta t(\tau_B) = 0$

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Compare with  $\frac{d^2 t}{d\tau^2} + \Gamma^0_{ij} \frac{dx^i}{d\tau} \frac{dx^j}{d\tau} = 0 \Rightarrow \Gamma^0_{00} = \Gamma^0_{i0} = \Gamma^0_{0i} = 0$

$$\Gamma^0_{ij} = a \dot{a} \delta_{ij}$$

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$$x^i \rightarrow x^i + \delta x^i$$

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$$\delta I = \frac{1}{2} \int d\tau \left[ 0 + a^2(t) \delta_{ij} \frac{d\delta x^i}{d\tau} \frac{dx^j}{d\tau} + a^2(t) \delta_{ij} \frac{dx^i}{d\tau} \frac{d\delta x^j}{d\tau} \right]$$

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symm  $i \leftrightarrow j$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int d\tau 2 a^2(t) \delta_{ij} \frac{dx^i}{d\tau} \frac{d\delta x^j}{d\tau}$$

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$$a^2 \delta_{ij} \frac{dx^i}{dz} \frac{d\delta x^j}{dz} = \frac{d}{dz} \left[ a^2 \delta_{ij} \frac{dx^i}{dz} \delta x^j \right] - \frac{d}{dz} \left[ a^2 \delta_{ij} \frac{dx^i}{dz} \right] \delta x^j$$

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$$\delta I = 0 \quad \forall \delta x^i \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dz} \left[ a^2(t) \frac{dx^i}{dz} \right] = 0 \Rightarrow 2a \frac{da}{dz} \frac{dx^i}{dz} + a^2 \frac{d^2 x^i}{dz^2} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^2 x^i}{d\tau^2} + 2 \frac{a \dot{a}}{a^2} \frac{dt}{d\tau} \frac{dx^i}{d\tau} = 0$$

---

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$$\delta I = 0 \quad \delta x^i \Rightarrow \frac{d}{d\tau} \left[ a^2(t) \frac{dx^i}{d\tau} \right] = 0 \Rightarrow 2a \frac{da}{d\tau} \frac{dx^i}{d\tau} + a^2 \frac{d^2 x^i}{d\tau^2} = 0$$

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$$\Rightarrow \Gamma^i_{00} = \Gamma^i_{jk} = 0, \quad \Gamma^i_{0j} = \Gamma^i_{j0} = \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \delta^i_j$$

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consider photons moving on  $+x$  axis:

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solution:  $\frac{dt}{d\lambda} = \frac{c_0}{a(t)}$



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\* Consider comoving observers  $U^\mu = (1, 0, 0, 0)$ . Then  $E = -p_\mu U^\mu = -g_{00} \frac{dx^0}{d\lambda} U^0 = + \frac{\omega_0}{a}$

↳ remember: affine parameter is defined by  $p^\mu = \frac{dx^\mu}{d\lambda}$

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\*  $\omega_0$  is freq. of photon when  $a(t) = 1$ . Cosmological redshift:

$$\frac{E_2}{E_1} = \frac{h\omega_2}{h\omega_1} = \frac{\omega_0/a_2}{\omega_0/a_1} = \frac{a_1}{a_2} \quad (\text{note: energy reduces, photon not "stretched"}. \text{ A quantum mechanical "miracle"})$$