

# Gravito-electromagnetic analogies

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Based on [arXiv:1207.0465](#) (with Filipe Costa)

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## Outline

- Analogy between tidal tensors
- Analogy between inertial and electromagnetic fields
- Formal analogy between tidal tensors and electromagnetic fields

## Analogy between tidal tensors

- Idea: compare electromagnetic and gravitational interactions using only the **physical** (covariant) forces of the two theories.
- No gravitational force analogous to the Lorentz force, but **tidal forces** exist in both theories. Two basic effects:
  - the **relative acceleration** of two nearby test particles;
  - the net force exerted on particles with **dipole moments**.

- Worldline deviation:

$$\frac{D^2 \delta x^\alpha}{d\tau^2} = \frac{q}{m} E^\alpha{}_\beta \delta x^\beta, \quad E^\alpha{}_\beta \equiv F^\alpha{}_{\mu;\beta} U^\mu.$$

- Geodesic deviation:

$$\frac{D^2 \delta x^\alpha}{d\tau^2} = -\mathbb{E}^\alpha{}_\beta \delta x^\beta, \quad \mathbb{E}^\alpha{}_\beta \equiv R^\alpha{}_{\mu\beta\nu} U^\mu U^\nu.$$

- Force on a magnetic dipole:

$$F_{EM}^{\beta} = B_{\alpha}^{\beta} \mu^{\alpha}, \quad B^{\alpha}_{\beta} \equiv \star F^{\alpha}_{\mu;\beta} U^{\mu}.$$

- Force on a gyroscope:

$$F_G^{\beta} = -\mathbb{H}_{\alpha}^{\beta} S^{\alpha}, \quad \mathbb{H}^{\alpha}_{\beta} \equiv \star R^{\alpha}_{\mu\beta\nu} U^{\mu} U^{\nu}.$$

- A third effect: **differential precession**.
  - Of a magnetic dipole at rest with respect to a system of nearby magnetic dipoles:

$$\delta\Omega_{\text{EM}}^i = -\sigma B^i{}_{\beta} \delta x^{\beta}$$

( $\sigma$  gyromagnetic ratio).

- Of a gyroscope at rest in the Fermi frame determined by system of nearby gyroscopes:

$$\delta\Omega_{\text{G}}^i = \mathbb{H}^i{}_{\beta} \delta x^{\beta}.$$

- Time projection of the Maxwell source equations ( $\star d \star F = 4\pi J$ ):

$$E^\alpha{}_\alpha = 4\pi\rho_c.$$

- Time-time projection of the Einstein equations:

$$\mathbb{E}^\alpha{}_\alpha = 4\pi(2\rho + T^\alpha{}_\alpha).$$

- Space projection of the Maxwell source equations:

$$B_{[\alpha\beta]} = \frac{1}{2} \star F_{\alpha\beta;\gamma} U^\gamma - 2\pi\epsilon_{\alpha\beta\sigma\gamma} j^\sigma U^\gamma.$$

- Time-space projection of the Einstein equations:

$$\mathbb{H}_{[\alpha\beta]} = -4\pi\epsilon_{\alpha\beta\sigma\gamma} J^\sigma U^\gamma.$$

- Time projection of the Bianchi identity ( $dF = 0$ ):

$$B^\alpha{}_\alpha = 0.$$

- Time-time projection of the algebraic Bianchi identity:

$$\mathbb{H}^\alpha{}_\alpha = 0.$$

- Space projection of the Bianchi identity:

$$E_{[\alpha\beta]} = \frac{1}{2} F_{\alpha\beta;\gamma} U^\gamma.$$

- Space-time projection of the algebraic Bianchi identity:

$$\mathbb{E}_{[\alpha\beta]} = 0.$$

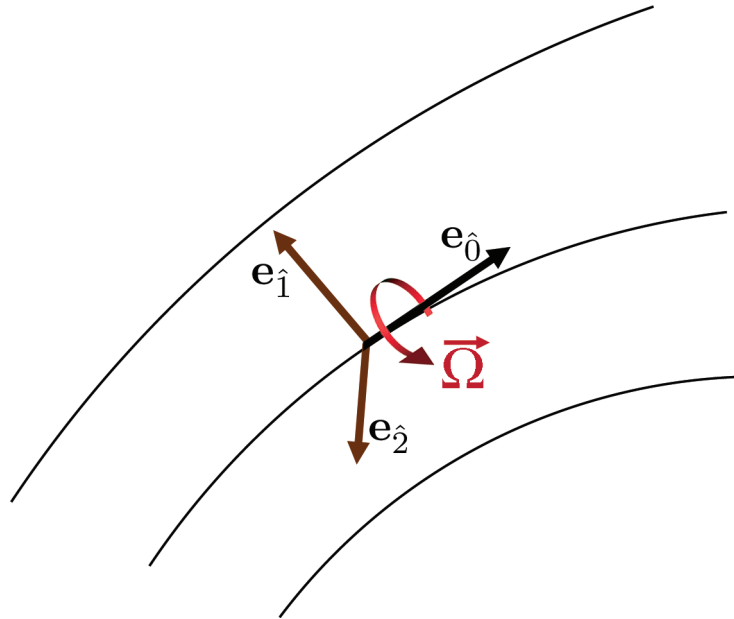


- Antisymmetric parts of electromagnetic tidal tensors encode the laws of **electromagnetic induction**.
  - $E_{[\alpha\beta]}$  encodes Faraday's law of induction;
  - $B_{[\alpha\beta]}$  encodes Maxwell's displacement current.
- No analogous effects in the gravitational physical forces.

## Analogy between inertial and electromagnetic fields

- Different spirit from the approach based on tidal tensors, where we compared physical forces of both theories.
- Here the parallelism is between physical electromagnetic forces and inertial “forces” (i.e. reference frame effects).

- **Threading:** congruence of observers with 4-velocity  $e_{\hat{0}}$  carrying a spatial triad  $\{e_{\hat{1}}, e_{\hat{2}}, e_{\hat{3}}\}$ .



- Kinematical quantities:

- acceleration  $a^{\hat{i}} = \Gamma_{\hat{0}\hat{0}}^{\hat{i}} = \Gamma_{\hat{0}\hat{i}}^{\hat{0}};$

- rotation relative to Fermi-Walker transport  $\Omega^{\hat{k}} = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_{\hat{i}\hat{j}\hat{k}}\Gamma_{\hat{0}\hat{i}}^{\hat{j}};$

- kinematical tensor  $K_{\hat{i}\hat{j}} \equiv \nabla_{\hat{j}}u_{\hat{i}} = \Gamma_{\hat{j}\hat{0}}^{\hat{i}} = \Gamma_{\hat{j}\hat{i}}^{\hat{0}};$

- expansion  $\theta = K^{\hat{i}}_{\hat{i}};$

- vorticity  $\omega_{\hat{i}\hat{j}} = K_{[\hat{i}\hat{j}};$

- shear  $\sigma_{\hat{i}\hat{j}} = K_{(\hat{i}\hat{j})} - \frac{1}{3}\theta\delta_{\hat{i}\hat{j}}.$

- If  $X$  is a **connecting vector** and  $Y$  is its spatial part then

$$\dot{Y}_{\hat{i}} = \left( \sigma_{\hat{i}\hat{j}} + \frac{1}{3}\theta\delta_{\hat{i}\hat{j}} + \omega_{\hat{i}\hat{j}} - \Omega_{\hat{i}\hat{j}} \right) Y^{\hat{j}}.$$

- Geodesic equation:

$$\frac{\tilde{D}\vec{U}}{d\tau} = U^{\hat{0}} \left[ U^{\hat{0}}\vec{G} + \vec{U} \times \vec{H} - \sigma^{\hat{i}}_{\hat{j}} U^{\hat{j}} \mathbf{e}_{\hat{i}} - \frac{1}{3}\theta\vec{U} \right].$$

- $\vec{G} = -\vec{a}$  is the **gravitoelectric field** and  $\vec{H} = \vec{\omega} + \vec{\Omega}$  is the **gravitomagnetic field**.

- Lorentz force law:

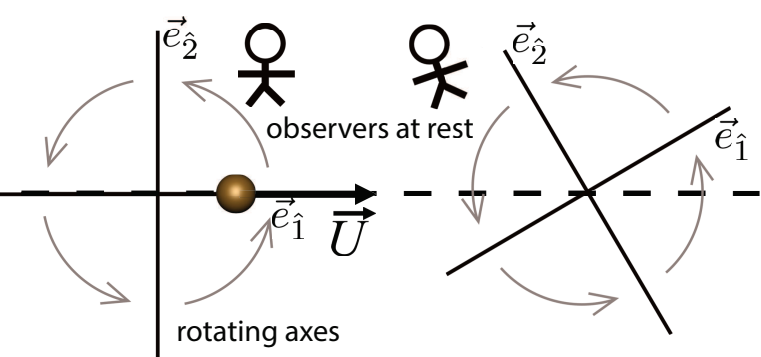
$$\frac{D\vec{U}}{d\tau} = \frac{q}{m} \left( U^0 \vec{E} + \vec{U} \times \vec{B} \right).$$

- In the equation of motion

$$\frac{\tilde{D}X^{\hat{i}}}{d\tau} = \frac{dX^{\hat{i}}}{d\tau} + \Gamma_{\hat{j}\hat{k}}^{\hat{i}} U^{\hat{j}} X^{\hat{k}}.$$

- Mathematically, this is the covariant derivative associated to a **connection  $\tilde{\nabla}$  on the bundle of spatial vectors** (ortogonal to the congruence).
- It corrects the **Fermi-Walker connection  $\nabla^\perp$**  (projected Levi-Civita connection) so that the triad  $\{\mathbf{e}_{\hat{1}}, \mathbf{e}_{\hat{2}}, \mathbf{e}_{\hat{3}}\}$  is constant along the congruence:

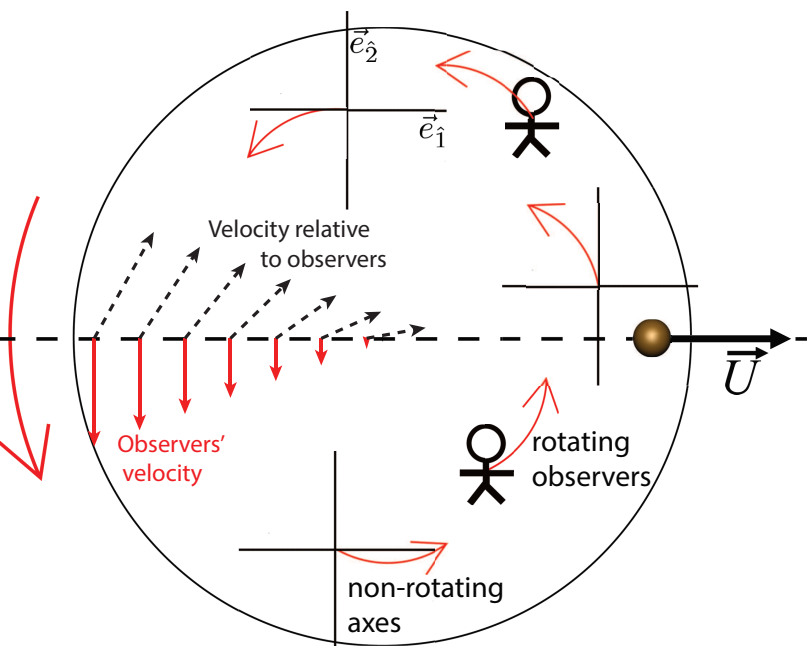
$$\frac{D^\perp X^{\hat{i}}}{d\tau} = \frac{dX^{\hat{i}}}{d\tau} + \Omega_{\hat{j}}^{\hat{i}} U^{\hat{0}} X^{\hat{j}} + \Gamma_{\hat{j}\hat{k}}^{\hat{i}} U^{\hat{j}} X^{\hat{k}}.$$



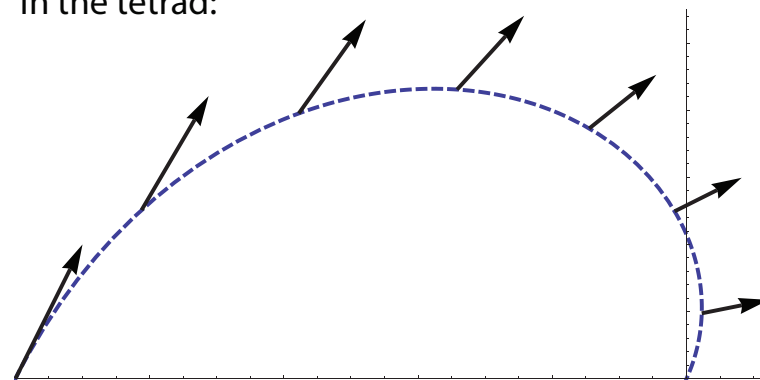
In the tetrad:



$$\vec{G} = 0; \quad \vec{H} = \vec{\Omega}$$

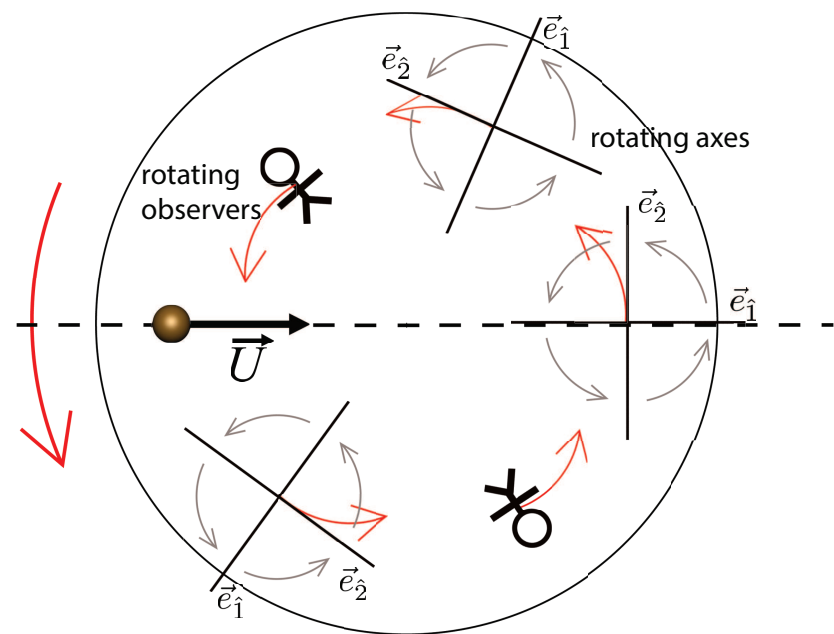


In the tetrad:

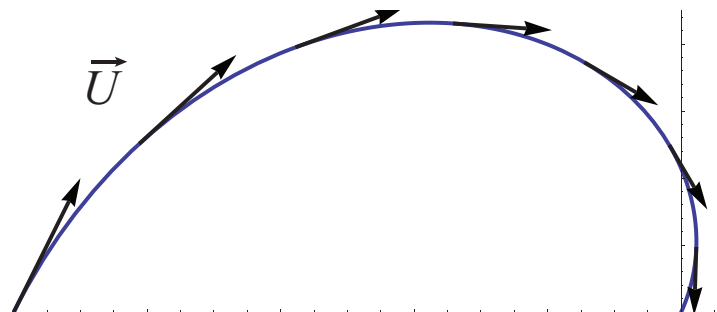


$$\vec{G} = \vec{\omega} \times (\vec{r} \times \vec{\omega}); \quad \vec{H} = \vec{\omega}$$





In the tetrad:



$$\vec{G} = \vec{\omega} \times (\vec{r} \times \vec{\omega}); \quad \vec{H} = \vec{\Omega} + \vec{\omega} = 2\vec{\omega}$$

- Important particular cases:
  - Quasi-Maxwell: rigid, congruence adapted ( $\vec{\Omega} = \vec{\omega}$ ) frame in a stationary spacetime. Yields the gravitomagnetic field  $\vec{H}$  measured by LARES/LAGEOS. Gives the rotation of local frames relative to the distant stars, as measured by Gravity Probe B.
  - Locally non-rotating observers: vorticity-free congruence with axes fixed to some coordinate system. Useful when studying black holes.

- If the **Mathisson-Pirani condition**  $S^{\alpha\beta}U_{\beta} = 0$  holds, the **spin** vector of a pole-dipole particle in a gravitational field is Fermi-Walker transported:

$$\frac{D_F S^{\alpha}}{d\tau} = 0.$$

- In the congruence adapted orthonormal frame:

$$\frac{d\vec{S}}{d\tau} = \frac{1}{2}\vec{S} \times \vec{H}.$$

- Resembles the precession of a **magnetic dipole**:

$$\frac{D\vec{S}}{d\tau} = \vec{\mu} \times \vec{B}.$$

- The force on a **gyroscope** at rest in a quasi-Maxwell frame is

$$\vec{F}_G = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \tilde{\nabla}(\vec{H} \cdot \vec{S}) - \vec{S}(\tilde{\nabla} \cdot \vec{H}) - 2(\vec{S} \cdot \vec{H})\vec{G} \right].$$

- Similar to the electromagnetic force on a **magnetic dipole**:

$$\vec{F}_{EM} = \tilde{\nabla}(\vec{B} \cdot \vec{\mu}) - \frac{1}{2} \left[ \vec{\mu}(\tilde{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B}) + (\vec{\mu} \cdot \vec{H})\vec{E} \right].$$

- Splitting of the electromagnetic and gravitational field equations into time and space projections for a quasi-Maxwell frame is similar.
- In this case  $\tilde{\nabla}$  is the **Levi-Civita connection** of the Riemannian quotient manifold (**space manifold**).

- Maxwell equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} &= 4\pi\rho_c + \vec{H} \cdot \vec{B}; \\ \tilde{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} &= -\vec{H} \cdot \vec{E}; \\ \tilde{\nabla} \times \vec{E} &= \vec{G} \times \vec{E}; \\ \tilde{\nabla} \times \vec{B} &= \vec{G} \times \vec{B} + 4\pi\vec{j}.\end{aligned}$$

- Gravitational field equations (time-time and time-space Einstein equations plus algebraic Bianchi identities):

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\nabla} \cdot \vec{G} &= -4\pi(2\rho + T^\alpha_\alpha) + \vec{G}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\vec{H}^2; \\ \tilde{\nabla} \cdot \vec{H} &= -\vec{H} \cdot \vec{G}; \\ \tilde{\nabla} \times \vec{G} &= \vec{0}; \\ \tilde{\nabla} \times \vec{H} &= 2\vec{G} \times \vec{H} - 16\pi\vec{J}.\end{aligned}$$

- Gravitational tidal tensors:

$$\mathbb{E}_{ij} = -\tilde{\nabla}_j G_i + G_i G_j + \frac{1}{4} (\vec{H}^2 \gamma_{ij} - H_j H_i) ;$$

$$\mathbb{H}_{ij} = -\frac{1}{2} [\tilde{\nabla}_j H_i + (\vec{G} \cdot \vec{H}) \gamma_{ij} - 2G_j H_i] .$$

- Electromagnetic tidal tensors:

$$E_{ij} = \tilde{\nabla}_j E_i - \frac{1}{2} [\vec{B} \cdot \vec{H} \gamma_{ij} - B_j H_i] ; \quad E_{i0} = \frac{1}{2} (\vec{H} \times \vec{E})_i + (\vec{G} \times \vec{B})_i ;$$

$$B_{ij} = \tilde{\nabla}_j B_i + \frac{1}{2} [\vec{E} \cdot \vec{H} \gamma_{ij} - E_j H_i] ; \quad B_{i0} = \frac{1}{2} (\vec{H} \times \vec{B})_i - (\vec{G} \times \vec{E})_i .$$

- Example: the **Gödel universe** is given by

$$ds^2 = \left(dt + e^{\sqrt{2}\omega x} dy\right)^2 + dx^2 + \frac{1}{2}e^{2\sqrt{2}\omega x} dy^2 + dz^2.$$

- We have  $\vec{G} = \vec{0}$  and  $\vec{H} = 2\omega\vec{e}_z$ , so the gravitomagnetic tidal tensor vanishes:  $\mathbb{H}_{\alpha\beta} = 0$ .
- On the other hand,

$$\mathbb{E}_{ij} = \omega^2 \left(\gamma_{ij} - \delta_i^z \delta_j^z\right)$$

is similar to the Newtonian tidal tensor  $\nabla_i \nabla_j V$  of a potential  $V = \omega^2(x^2 + y^2)/2$ , corresponding to the Newtonian analogue of the Gödel Universe: an infinite cylinder of dust rotating rigidly with angular velocity  $\omega$ .



- Linear GEM:

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi) dt^2 + 2\mathcal{A}_j dt dx^j + (1 - 2\Phi) \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j .$$

- Gravitational fields:

$$\vec{G} = -\nabla\Phi - \frac{\partial\vec{\mathcal{A}}}{\partial t} ; \quad \vec{H} = \nabla \times \vec{\mathcal{A}} .$$

- Geodesic equation:

$$\frac{d\vec{U}}{dt} = \vec{G} + \vec{v} \times \vec{H} + 2\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial t}\vec{v} .$$

- Linearized Einstein equations:

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{G} = -4\pi\rho + 3\frac{\partial^2\Phi}{\partial t^2} ;$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{G} = -\frac{\partial \vec{H}}{\partial t} ;$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{H} = 0 ;$$

$$\nabla \times \vec{H} = -16\pi\vec{J} + 4\frac{\partial \vec{G}}{\partial t} - 4\frac{\partial^2 \vec{\mathcal{A}}}{\partial t^2} ;$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\mathcal{A}_{(i,j)} - \left(\frac{\partial^2\Phi}{\partial t^2} - \nabla^2\Phi\right)\delta_{ij} = -4\pi\rho\delta_{ij} .$$

- Linearized tidal tensors:

$$\mathbb{E}_{ij} \approx -G_{i,j} + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_{ijk}\frac{\partial H^k}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial t}\delta_{ij} = -G_{(i,j)} - \frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial t}\delta_{ij} ;$$

$$\mathbb{H}_{ij} \approx -\frac{1}{2}\left[H_{i,j} - 2\epsilon_{ijl}\left(\frac{\partial G^l}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial^2\mathcal{A}^l}{\partial t^2}\right)\right] .$$

## Formal analogy between tidal tensors and electromagnetic fields

- Faraday tensor splits, with respect to a unit timelike vector  $U^\alpha$ , into its **electric** and **magnetic** parts:

$$E^\alpha = F^\alpha{}_\beta U^\beta, \quad B^\alpha = \star F^\alpha{}_\beta U^\beta.$$

- Two algebraically independent **invariants**:

$$E^\alpha E_\alpha - B^\alpha B_\alpha = -\frac{F_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta}}{2}, \quad E^\alpha B_\alpha = -\frac{F_{\alpha\beta} \star F^{\alpha\beta}}{4}.$$

- The Weyl tensor splits, with respect to a unit timelike vector  $U^\alpha$ , into its **electric** and **magnetic** parts:

$$\mathcal{E}_{\alpha\beta} = C_{\alpha\gamma\beta\sigma}U^\gamma U^\sigma, \quad \mathcal{H}_{\alpha\beta} = \star C_{\alpha\gamma\beta\sigma}U^\gamma U^\sigma.$$

- Two algebraically independent **invariants**:

$$\mathcal{E}^{\alpha\beta}\mathcal{E}_{\alpha\beta} - \mathcal{H}^{\alpha\beta}\mathcal{H}_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{C_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}C^{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}}{8}, \quad \mathcal{E}^{\alpha\beta}\mathcal{H}_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{C_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}\star C^{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}}{16}.$$

- There are also two **cubic** invariants.

- Maxwell's equations:

$$\begin{aligned} E^i_{,i} &= 0; & \epsilon^{ikl} E_{l,k} &= -\frac{\partial B^i}{\partial t}; \\ B^i_{,i} &= 0; & \epsilon^{ikl} B_{l,k} &= \frac{\partial E^i}{\partial t}. \end{aligned}$$

- **Matte's equations** (linearized Einstein plus second Bianchi):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}^{ij}_{,i} &= 0; & \epsilon^{ikl} \mathbb{E}^j_{l,k} &= -\frac{\partial \mathbb{H}^{ij}}{\partial t}; \\ \mathbb{H}^{ij}_{,i} &= 0; & \epsilon^{ilk} \mathbb{H}^j_{l,k} &= \frac{\partial \mathbb{E}^{ij}}{\partial t}. \end{aligned}$$

- Wave equations:

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \partial^k \partial_k \right) E^i = 0 ;$$
$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \partial^k \partial_k \right) B^i = 0 ;$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \partial^k \partial_k \right) \mathbb{E}_{ij} = 0 ;$$
$$\left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \partial^k \partial_k \right) \mathbb{H}_{ij} = 0 .$$

- Gravitational waves as propagating tidal tensors (do not couple to monopole particles). **Superenergy?**

- However, this analogy is **purely formal**, as it compares objects which are not physically analogous.
- In particular, the invariants give conditions for the vanishing of  $\mathbb{H}$ , not  $\vec{H}$ , and cannot be used to discuss effects such as gravitomagnetic forces on test particles or precession of gyroscopes.
- Future work with Filipe Costa and Lode Wylleman.