



FSH3372 General Relativity 7.5 credits

Allmän relativitetsteori

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years

Establishment

Course syllabus for FSH3372 valid from Autumn 2023

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

Third cycle

Additional regulations

The course cannot be part of a degree together with SH2372.

Specific prerequisites

FSH3371 and good knowledge of multivariable differential calculus. FSH3371 may be taken in parallel.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

After completing the course you should be able to:

- Use differential geometry to describe the properties of a curved space and compute basic quantities in differential geometry.
- Derive and use Einstein's field equations and describe the definition and role of the energy-momentum tensor in those, account for the physical interpretation of its components, and prove that Newton's theory of gravity is recovered in the non-relativistic limit.
- Compute physical quantities for test particles in a given solution to Einstein's field equations, e.g., particle trajectories and proper times.
- Give an account of the experiments with which the general theory of relativity has been tested and compare with predictions from Newton's theory of gravity.
- Use the Friedmann–Lemaître–Robertson–Walker metric to describe the different possibilities for how a homogeneous universe develops with time as well as describe the ideas behind cosmological inflation and dark energy.
- Independently deepen your knowledge in parts of the course contents with focus on current research in the subject and summarize new knowledge in a report.

Course contents

I. Basic differential geometry: Local coordinates on manifolds. Covariant and contravariant vector and tensor fields. (Pseudo-) Riemann metric. Covariant differentiation (Christoffel symbols, Levi-Civita connection). Parallel transport. Curved spaces. Lie derivatives and Killing vector fields.

II. General theory of relativity: Basic concepts in general relativity. Schwarzschild spacetime. Einstein's field equations. The energy-momentum tensor. Weak field limit. Experimental tests of general relativity. Gravitational lensing. Gravitational waves. Introductory cosmology (including the Friedmann–Lemaître–Robertson–Walker metric), including inflation and dark energy.

Examination

- PRO1 - Project, 1.5 credits, grading scale: P, F
- TEN1 - Written exam, 6.0 credits, grading scale: P, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

In the normal case, TEN1 is a written exam and corresponds to the exam in SH2372. PRO1 is normally a written report testing deepened knowledge and ability for independent studies within a specialized area as well as an oral discussion surrounding the report.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.