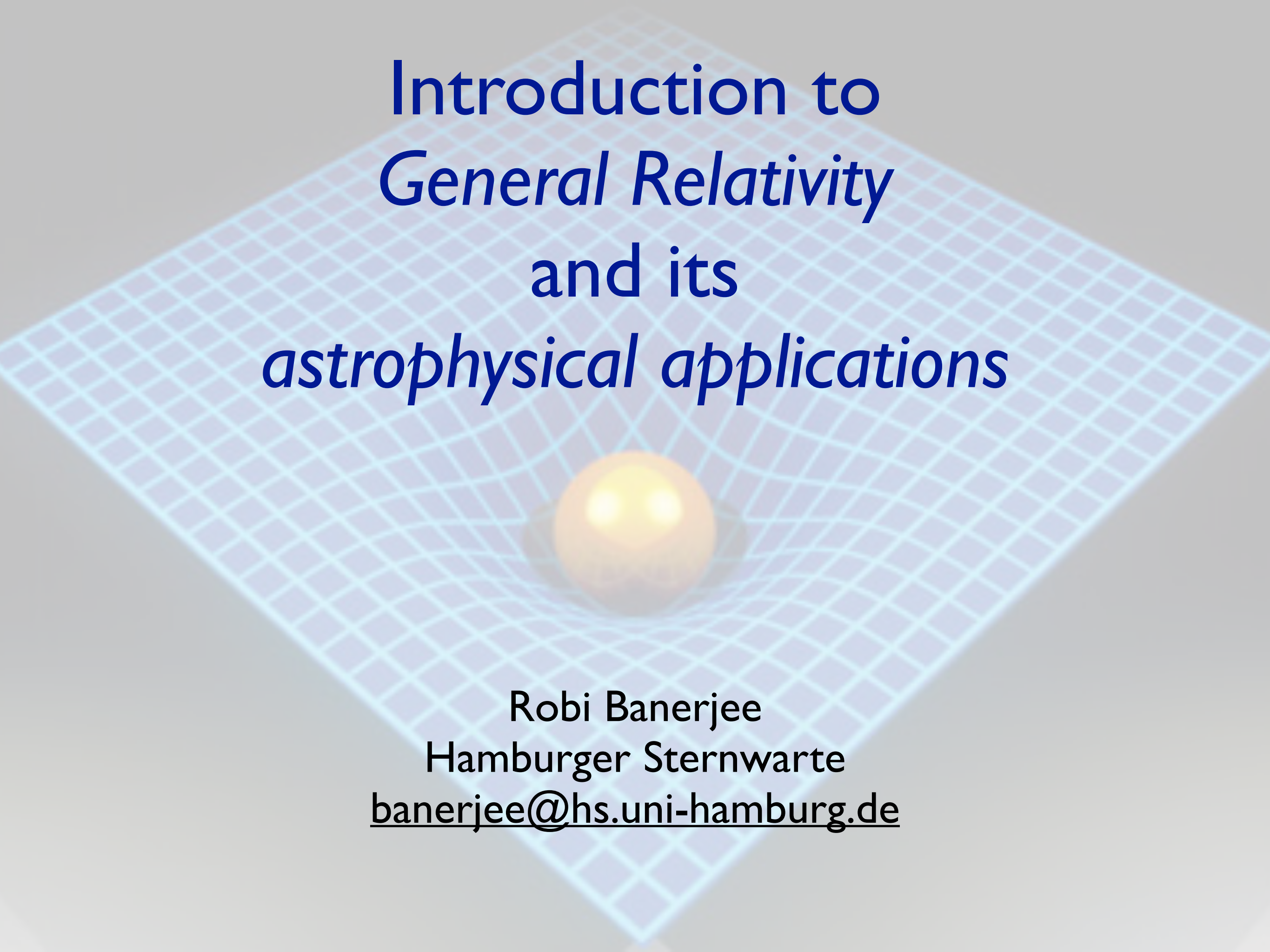




Introduction to *General Relativity* and its *astrophysical applications*

Robi Banerjee
Hamburger Sternwarte
banerjee@hs.uni-hamburg.de

General Informations

Hamburger Sternwarte Bergedorf

Contact

- e-Mail: banerjee@hs.uni-hamburg.de
- phone: 8404

General Informations

Winter term 2025/26: Dates, etc.

- Lectures: Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:30, Jungiusstr. 9, Rm 23 I
Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30, Jungiusstr. 11, HS INF
- Tutorials: Tuesdays, 11:45 – 13:15, Jungiusstr. 9, Rm 23 I
- Weekly home work, in groups of 2 to 3
- via moodle:
<https://lernen.min.uni-hamburg.de/course/view.php?id=6073>
- Credits: 8 LP
- Exam: Wednesday, Jan 28, 2026, 10:00

General Informations

Outline / Topics

This is an introductory course to the theory of *General Relativity* where we will focus on the **physics** basics.

The concepts of GR will then be applied to astrophysical phenomena.

Lecture is based on **James Hartle's book: *GRAVITY: An introduction to Einstein's General Relativity***, Addison Wesley, 2003

Outline of the **physical basics** & mathematics :

- Newton's physics of gravity
- Curvilinear space
- Geometry as physics (and vice versa)
- Concepts of *Special Relativity* / SPACETIME
- The Equivalence Principle
- Curved SPACETIME
- Geodesics
- Differential Geometry (a pragmatic summary)
- Einstein's field equations

General Informations

Outline / Topics

Astrophysical applications:

- Solar system
- Black holes
- Kerr black holes
- Accretion discs
- Gravitational lensing
- Gravitational waves
- Cosmology in a nut shell
- ...

General Informations

further literature

- James Hartle: *GRAVITY: An introduction to Einstein's General Relativity*, (2003)
- Misner, Thorne & Wheeler: *GRAVITATION* (1973, “the brick”)
- Padmanabhan: *Gravitation: Foundations and Frontiers* (2010)
- Bernard Schutz: *A first course in General Relativity* (2009)
- Ray d’Inverno: *Introducing Einstein’s Relativity* (1990)
- ...
- online: www.bartleby.com/173:
Relativity: The Special and General Theory
Translation of Einstein’s original book (1920)