



FERMI-WALKER PARALLEL TRANSPORT ACCORDING TO QUASI FRAME IN THREE DIMENSIONAL MINKOWSKI SPACE

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Abstract. In this paper, we present the Fermi-Walker parallel transport and the generalized Fermi-Walker parallel transport according to quasi frame in three dimensional Minkowski space.

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1. Introduction

A relativistic observer ξ needs reference frames in order to measure the movement and position of a object. If ξ is free falling, its restspaces are transported with Levi-Civita parallelism. For accelerated observers, the restspaces are not transported by the Levi-Civita parallelism. In this case Fermi-Walker parallelism is used to define constant directions. Fermi-Walker parallelism is an isometry between the tangent spaces along relativistic observer ξ . [6, 11].

Balakrishnan *et al* investigated time evolutions of the space curve associated with a geometric phase using Fermi-Walker parallel transport in three dimensional Euclidean space [2]. Gürbüz had introduced new geometric phases according three classes of a curve evolution in Minkowski space [7, 8].

Usual Fermi-Walker parallel derivative for any vector field A is given with respect to Frenet frame $\{t, n, b\}$ in three dimensional Euclidean space as following (cf. [9])

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^f A}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dA}{ds} - \langle t, A \rangle \frac{dt}{ds} - \left\langle \frac{dt}{ds}, A \right\rangle t.$$

Dandoloff and Zakrzewski [4] introduced the modified Fermi-Walker derivative of the vector field A according to Frenet frame in three dimensional Euclidean space as

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^f A}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dA}{ds} - \langle b, A \rangle \frac{db}{ds} - \left\langle \frac{db}{ds}, A \right\rangle n.$$

Generalized Fermi-Walker parallelism is used by both accelerated observers and not accelerated observers and it offers better choice of reference systems than the

classical one [11]. Recently many authors studied Fermi-Walker and generalized Fermi-Walker derivative for various spaces [10, 12, 13].

Coquillart introduced the quasi-normal vector of a space curve to construct the 3D curve offset [3]. The quasi frame has many advantages according to Frenet and Bishop frames. It is defined even when the curvature ($\kappa = 0$) vanishes. The construction of the quasi frame does not depend on the fact if the space curve has an unit speed or not.

In this paper we study Fermi-Walker derivative, generalized Fermi-Walker derivative and the modified Fermi-Walker derivative according to a quasi frame along a non-null curve in three dimensional Minkowski space.

2. Preliminaries

The three dimensional Minkowski space \mathbb{R}_1^3 is the real vector space \mathbb{R}^3 with the indefinite metric defined as

$$\langle x, y \rangle = x_1y_1 + x_2y_2 - x_3y_3$$

where $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ and $y = (y_1, y_2, y_3)$ in \mathbb{R}_1^3 . A vector x of \mathbb{R}_1^3 is said to be spacelike if $\langle x, x \rangle > 0$ or $x = 0$, timelike if $\langle x, x \rangle < 0$ and lightlike or null if $\langle x, x \rangle = 0$ and $x \neq 0$ [1].

Let $\alpha : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_1^3$ be a timelike curve with an arc-length parameter s in three dimensional Minkowski space \mathbb{R}_1^3 . The derivative formulas of the Frenet frame $\{t, n, b\}$ of a timelike curve are given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} t' \\ n' \\ b' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \kappa & 0 \\ \kappa & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t \\ n \\ b \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where t is unit tangent vector, n is unit normal vector and b is unit binormal vector. κ and τ are the curvature and the torsion of a timelike curve in \mathbb{R}_1^3 .

A quasi frame (or q -frame) is defined as follows (cf. [5])

$$t_q = t = \frac{\alpha'}{\|\alpha'\|}, \quad n_q = \frac{t \wedge k}{\|t \wedge k\|}, \quad b_q = -t_q \wedge n_q$$

where t_q is the unit tangent vector, n_q is the quasi normal vector, b_q is the quasi binormal vector and k is the projection vector.

If t and k are parallel, then the q -frame is singular and $t \wedge k$ vanishes. For this reason we will not study the case $t = k$. In this paper, for simplicity we choose the projection vector as $k = (0, 1, 0)$.

The derivative formulas of the quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q, k\}$ of a timelike curve are given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} t'_q \\ n'_q \\ b'_q \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \xi_1 & \xi_2 \\ \xi_1 & 0 & \xi_3 \\ \xi_2 & -\xi_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t_q \\ n_q \\ b_q \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle t_q, t_q \rangle &= -1, & \langle n_q, n_q \rangle &= 1, & \langle b_q, b_q \rangle &= 1 \\ n_q \wedge t_q &= b_q, & b_q \wedge t_q &= -n_q, & n_q \wedge b_q &= t_q \\ \xi_1 &= \kappa \cos \theta, & \xi_2 &= -\kappa \sin \theta, & \xi_3 &= \tau + \theta'. \end{aligned}$$

Here ξ_1, ξ_2, ξ_3 are the q -frame curvatures of a timelike curve along quasi frame and θ is the pseudo-Euclidean angle between the vectors the principal normal vector n and the quasi-normal vector n_q . The relationship between quasi frame and Frenet frame is given by

$$n_q = \cos \theta n + \sin \theta b, \quad b_q = -\sin \theta n + \cos \theta b.$$

Let $\alpha : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_1^3$ be a spacelike curve with a timelike binormal vector b in \mathbb{R}_1^3 . The derivative formulas of the Frenet frame $\{t, n, b\}$ along a spacelike curve are given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} t' \\ n' \\ b' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \kappa & 0 \\ -\kappa & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & \tau & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t \\ n \\ b \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3)$$

The derivative formulas of the quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q, k\}$ along a spacelike curve with a projection vector $k = (0, 1, 0)$ are given by (cf. [5])

$$\begin{pmatrix} t'_q \\ n'_q \\ b'_q \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \xi_1 & -\xi_2 \\ -\xi_1 & 0 & -\xi_3 \\ -\xi_2 & -\xi_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t_q \\ n_q \\ b_q \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle t_q, t_q \rangle &= 1, & \langle n_q, n_q \rangle &= 1, & \langle b_q, b_q \rangle &= -1 \\ n_q \wedge t_q &= -b_q, & b_q \wedge t_q &= -n_q, & n_q \wedge b_q &= -t_q \\ \xi_1 &= \kappa \cosh \theta, & \xi_2 &= -\kappa \sinh \theta, & \xi_3 &= -\tau - \theta' \end{aligned}$$

where θ is defined as the pseudo-angle between the binormal b (timelike) and quasi-normal b_q (timelike) vectors and ξ_1, ξ_2, ξ_3 are the quasi frame curvatures of a spacelike curve for the quasi frame in the three dimensional Minkowski space.

3. Fermi-Walker Parallel Transport with Quasi Frame

3.1. The curve α is spacelike

Definition 1. *The Fermi-Walker derivative of a vector field of V along a spacelike curve according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ is defined as*

$$\frac{D^f V}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dV}{ds} - \left(\frac{dt_q}{ds} \wedge t_q \right) \wedge V. \quad (5)$$

Definition 2. *Let $V = \eta_1 t_q + \eta_2 n_q + \eta_3 b_q$ be a vector field according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ along a spacelike curve α . If*

$$\frac{D^f V}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = 0 \quad (6)$$

is satisfied, the vector field V is called the Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ along a spacelike curve.

Lemma 3. *The Fermi-Walker derivative of a vector field $V = \eta_1 t_q + \eta_2 n_q + \eta_3 b_q$ according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ along a spacelike curve is given by*

$$\frac{D^f V}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dV}{ds} - (\xi_2 n_q - \xi_1 b_q) \wedge V. \quad (7)$$

Proof: Using (5), we obtain (7). ■

Theorem 4. *The vector field $V = \eta_1 t_q + \eta_2 n_q + \eta_3 b_q$ is the Fermi-Walker parallel along a spacelike curve according to quasi frame if and only if*

$$\frac{d\eta_1}{ds} = 0, \quad \frac{d\eta_2}{ds} = \eta_3 \xi_3, \quad \frac{d\eta_3}{ds} = \eta_2 \xi_3. \quad (8)$$

Here η_1, η_2 and η_3 are smooth functions with respect to s .

Proof: Using (7) we have

$$\frac{D^f V}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{d\eta_1}{ds} t_q + \left(\frac{d\eta_2}{ds} - \eta_3 \xi_3 \right) n_q + \left(\frac{d\eta_3}{ds} - \eta_2 \xi_3 \right) b_q. \quad (9)$$

If V is the Fermi-Walker parallel along a spacelike curve α according to quasi frame in \mathbb{R}_1^3 , then

$$\frac{D^f V}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = 0. \quad (10)$$

Thus (9) and (10) give (8). The other part is trivial. ■

Theorem 5. *The Fermi-Walker derivative of the vector field V coincides with derivative of V according to quasi frame along a spacelike curve in \mathbb{R}_1^3 if and only if*

$$V = c(\xi_1 b_q - \xi_2 n_q), \quad c = \text{constant}. \quad (11)$$

Proof:

$$\frac{D^f V}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dV}{ds} - (\xi_2 n_q - \xi_1 b_q) \wedge V = \frac{dV}{ds}$$

if and only if

$$V = c(\xi_2 n_q - \xi_1 b_q), \quad c = \text{constant}. \quad \blacksquare$$

Theorem 6. *If η_1, η_2, η_3 are constants and $\xi_3 = 0$, then the vector field V is the Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame along a spacelike curve α in \mathbb{R}_1^3 .*

Proof: If η_1, η_2, η_3 are constants and $\xi_3 = 0$, (9) implies

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^f V}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = 0.$$

Thus, V is the Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame. \blacksquare

3.2. The curve α is timelike

Definition 7. *The Fermi-Walker derivative of a vector field U along a timelike curve according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ is defined as*

$$\frac{D^f U}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dU}{ds} + \left(\frac{dt_q}{ds} \wedge t_q\right) \wedge U. \quad (12)$$

Definition 8. *Let $U = \mu_1 t_q + \mu_2 n_q + \mu_3 b_q$ be a vector field according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ of a timelike curve α . If*

$$\frac{D^f U}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = 0$$

is satisfied, the vector field U is called the Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ of a timelike curve.

Lemma 9. *The Fermi-Walker derivative of a vector field $U = \mu_1 t_q + \mu_2 n_q + \mu_3 b_q$ according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ along a timelike curve α is given by*

$$\frac{D^f U}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dU}{ds} + (\xi_1 b_q - \xi_2 n_q) \wedge U. \quad (13)$$

Proof: Using (12) we obtain (13). ■

Theorem 10. *The vector field $U = \mu_1 t_q + \mu_2 n_q + \mu_3 b_q$ is the Fermi-Walker parallel along a timelike curve according to quasi frame if and only if*

$$\frac{d\mu_1}{ds} = 0, \quad \frac{d\mu_2}{ds} = \mu_3 \xi_3, \quad \frac{d\mu_3}{ds} = -\mu_2 \xi_3. \quad (14)$$

Here μ_1, μ_2 and μ_3 are smooth functions with respect to s .

Proof: From (13) we have

$$\frac{D^f U}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dU}{ds} + (\xi_1 b_q - \xi_2 n_q) \wedge U \quad (15)$$

$$= \frac{d\mu_1}{ds} t_q + \left(\frac{d\mu_2}{ds} - \mu_3 \xi_3 \right) n_q + \left(\frac{d\mu_3}{ds} + \mu_2 \xi_3 \right) b_q. \quad (16)$$

If U is the Fermi-Walker parallel along a timelike curve α according to q -frame, then

$$\frac{D^f U}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = 0 \quad (17)$$

which implies (14). The rest part is obvious. ■

Theorem 11. *The Fermi-Walker derivative of the vector field U coincides with derivative of U according to quasi frame along a timelike curve in \mathbb{R}_1^3 if and only if*

$$U = c(\xi_1 b_q - \xi_2 n_q), \quad c = \text{constant}. \quad (18)$$

Proof:

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^f U}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dU}{ds} + (\xi_1 b_q - \xi_2 n_q) \wedge U = \frac{dU}{ds}$$

if and only if

$$U = c(\xi_1 b_q - \xi_2 n_q), \quad c = \text{constant}. \quad \blacksquare$$

Theorem 12. *If μ_1, μ_2, μ_3 are constants and $\xi_3 = 0$, then the vector field U is the Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame along a timelike curve α in \mathbb{R}_1^3 .*

Proof: If μ_1, μ_2, μ_3 are constants and $\xi_3 = 0$ with the help of (16), we obtain

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^f U}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = 0.$$

Thus U is the Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame. ■

Definition 13. The generalized Fermi-Walker derivative of a vector field U according to quasi frame along a timelike curve is defined as

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^G U}{\mathcal{D}^G s} = \frac{\mathcal{D}^f U}{\mathcal{D}^f s} + A(U), \quad \langle A(I), t_q \rangle = 0 \quad (19)$$

where A is a $(1, 1)$ -tensor field and $I \in \chi^\perp$.

Definition 14. Let $U = \mu_1 t_q + \mu_2 n_q + \mu_3 b_q$ be a vector field according to quasi frame of a timelike curve in \mathbb{R}_1^3 . If

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^G U}{\mathcal{D}^G s} = 0$$

is satisfied, U is called the generalized Fermi-Walker parallel transport with respect to quasi frame with a timelike curve α in \mathbb{R}_1^3 .

Theorem 15. The generalized Fermi-Walker derivative of the vector field U according to quasi frame along a timelike curve is given by

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^G U}{\mathcal{D}^G s} = \frac{d\mu_1}{ds} t_q + \left(\frac{d\mu_2}{ds} - \mu_3 \xi_3 \right) n_q + \left(\frac{d\mu_3}{ds} + \mu_2 \xi_3 \right) b_q + A(U). \quad (20)$$

Proof: Using (9) and (19), we obtain (20). ■

Theorem 16. The vector field $U = \mu_1 t_q + \mu_2 n_q + \mu_3 b_q$ is the generalized Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame along a timelike curve α if and only if

$$A(U) = - \left(\frac{d\mu_1}{ds} t_q + \left(\frac{d\mu_2}{ds} - \mu_3 \xi_3 \right) n_q + \left(\frac{d\mu_3}{ds} + \mu_2 \xi_3 \right) b_q \right) \quad (21)$$

where μ_1, μ_2, μ_3 are smooth functions with respect to s .

Proof: If U is the generalized Fermi-Walker parallel transport with respect to quasi frame along a timelike curve α , then

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^G U}{\mathcal{D}^G s} = 0. \quad (22)$$

Thus, (20) and (22) imply (21). ■

4. Modified Fermi-Walker Parallel Transport with Quasi Frame

Definition 17. Let $W = \lambda_1 t_q + \lambda_2 n_q + \lambda_3 b_q$ be a vector field. The modified Fermi-Walker derivative along a timelike curve α with respect to quasi frame is defined by

$$\frac{D^f W}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dW}{ds} - \left(\frac{dn_q}{ds} \wedge n_q \right) \wedge W. \quad (23)$$

Definition 18. Let $W = \lambda_1 t_q + \lambda_2 n_q + \lambda_3 b_q$ be a vector field according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ along a timelike curve α . If

$$\frac{D^f W}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = 0$$

is satisfied, the vector field W is called the modified Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ along a timelike curve with a projection k .

Lemma 19. The modified Fermi-Walker derivative of a vector field $W = \lambda_1 t_q + \lambda_2 n_q + \lambda_3 b_q$ according to quasi frame $\{t_q, n_q, b_q\}$ along a timelike curve is given by

$$\frac{D^f W}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dW}{ds} + (\xi_1 b_q + \xi_3 t_q) \wedge W. \quad (24)$$

Proof: Using (23) we obtain (24). ■

Theorem 20. The vector field $W = \lambda_1 t_q + \lambda_2 n_q + \lambda_3 b_q$ is the modified Fermi-Walker parallel along a timelike curve according to quasi frame if and only if

$$\frac{d\lambda_1}{ds} = -\lambda_3 \xi_2, \quad \frac{d\lambda_2}{ds} = 0, \quad \frac{d\lambda_3}{ds} = -\lambda_1 \xi_2 \quad (25)$$

where λ_1, λ_2 and λ_3 are smooth functions with respect to s .

Proof: Equation (24) implies

$$\frac{D^f W}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \left(\frac{d\lambda_1}{ds} + \lambda_3 \xi_2 \right) t_q + \left(\frac{d\lambda_2}{ds} - \lambda_3 \xi_3 \right) n_q + \left(\frac{d\lambda_3}{ds} + \lambda_1 \xi_2 \right) b_q. \quad (26)$$

If W is the modified Fermi-Walker parallel along a timelike curve α according to quasi frame, then

$$\frac{D^f W}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = 0 \quad (27)$$

and this implies (25). By this the claim of the Theorem is obvious. ■

Theorem 21. *The modified Fermi-Walker derivative of the vector field W coincides with derivative of W according to quasi frame of a timelike curve in \mathbb{R}_1^3 if and only if*

$$W = \varrho(\xi_1 b_q + \xi_3 t_q), \quad \varrho = \text{constant}. \quad (28)$$

Proof:

$$\frac{D^f W}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = \frac{dW}{ds} + (\xi_1 b_q + \xi_3 t_q) \wedge W = \frac{dW}{ds}$$

if and only if

$$W = \varrho(\xi_1 b_q + \xi_3 t_q), \quad \varrho = \text{constant}. \quad \blacksquare$$

Theorem 22. *If $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ are constants and $\xi_2 = 0, \xi_3 = 0$, then the vector field W is the modified Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame with a timelike curve in \mathbb{R}_1^3 .*

Proof: If $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$ are constants and $\xi_2 = \xi_3 = 0$ equation (26) implies

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^f W}{\mathcal{D}^f s} = 0. \quad (29)$$

Therefore, W is the modified Fermi-Walker parallel according to quasi frame. \blacksquare

Definition 23. *The generalized modified Fermi-Walker derivative of a vector field W along a timelike curve with respect quasi frame is defined by*

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^G W}{\mathcal{D}^G s} = \frac{\mathcal{D}^f W}{\mathcal{D}^f s} + A(W), \quad \langle A(I), n_q \rangle = 0. \quad (30)$$

Here A is a $(1, 1)$ - tensor field and $I \in \chi^\perp$.

Definition 24. *Let W be a vector field according to quasi frame in \mathbb{R}_1^3 . If*

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^G W}{\mathcal{D}^G s} = 0$$

is satisfied, W is called the generalized modified Fermi-Walker parallel along a timelike curve with respect to quasi frame.

Theorem 25. *The generalized modified Fermi-Walker derivative of a vector field $W = \lambda_1 t_q + \lambda_2 n_q + \lambda_3 b_q$ along a timelike curve with respect to q -frame is given by*

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^G W}{\mathcal{D}^G s} = \left(\frac{d\lambda_1}{ds} + \lambda_3 \xi_2 \right) t_q + \left(\frac{d\lambda_2}{ds} - \lambda_3 \xi_3 \right) n_q + \left(\frac{d\lambda_3}{ds} + \lambda_1 \xi_2 \right) b_q + A(W). \quad (31)$$

Proof: By combining (26) and (30), we obtain (31). ■

Theorem 26. *The vector field $W = \lambda_1 t_q + \lambda_2 n_q + \lambda_3 b_q$ is the generalized modified Fermi-Walker parallel along a timelike curve with respect to q -frame in \mathbb{R}_1^3 if and only if*

$$A(W) = - \left(\left(\frac{d\lambda_1}{ds} + \lambda_3 \xi_2 \right) t_q + \left(\frac{d\lambda_2}{ds} - \lambda_3 \xi_3 \right) n_q + \left(\frac{d\lambda_3}{ds} + \lambda_1 \xi_2 \right) b_q \right). \quad (32)$$

Proof: If W is the generalized modified Fermi-Walker parallel along a timelike curve with respect to q -frame in \mathbb{R}_1^3 , then

$$\frac{\mathcal{D}^G W}{\mathcal{D}^G s} = 0.$$

From this, we obtain (32). ■

5. Concluding Remarks

In the present work we have focused our attention on

- The study of the Fermi-Walker parallel transport along a spacelike and time-like curve with respect to quasi frames in the three dimensional Minkowskian space.
- The investigation of the properties the modified and generalized Fermi-Walker parallel vector fields.

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