

## LINKS ABOUT THE LIFE AND WORK OF HERMANN MINKOWSKI

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It's always nice to know a little something about the people behind the math we use! A particularly interesting person in the context of this course is **Hermann Minkowski** (1864–1909), who apart from his work on polyhedral geometry, also played a key role in the development of the theory of relativity in physics. In this document, I've collected some links to places where you can learn more about various aspects of his life and work.

- (1) The chapter *Allgemeine Lehrsätze über die konvexe Polyeder* in the collected works *Ausgewählte Arbeiten zur Zahlentheorie und zur Geometrie*, available at

[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-7091-9536-9\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-7091-9536-9_5).

(Do you recognize any definitions or results from our class?)

- (2) His article on *MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive* (a great resource for mathematical biographies):

<https://mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Minkowski/>.

- (3) A popular science article about his interactions with Albert Einstein:

<https://bigthink.com/starts-with-a-bang/einstein-top-professor-believe/>.



FIGURE 1. A photo of Hermann Minkowski and friends, including another central figure of the course, namely David Hilbert.