

General Relativity (225A) Fall 2013 Assignment 4 – Solutions

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Due Monday, October 28, 2013

1. Non-relativistic limit of a perfect fluid

The stress-energy tensor for a perfect fluid in Minkowski space is

$$T^{\mu\nu} = ((\epsilon + p) u^\mu u^\nu + p \eta^{\mu\nu}).$$

Consider the continuity equation $\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$ in the nonrelativistic limit, $\epsilon \gg p$ (recall that ϵ includes the rest mass!). Show that it implies the conservation of mass, and Euler's equation:

$$\rho \left(\partial_t \vec{v} + (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{v} \right) = -\vec{\nabla} P.$$

(See section 4.2 of Wald for more on this. Note that he uses ρ for ϵ and sets $c = 1$.)

The continuity equation says

$$0 = \partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = (\partial_\mu (\epsilon + p)) u^\mu u^\nu + (\epsilon + p) ((\partial_\mu u^\mu) u^\nu + u^\mu \partial_\mu u^\nu) + (\partial_\mu p) \eta^{\mu\nu}. \quad (1)$$

The vector field u satisfies

$$-1 = u^\nu u_\nu \implies 0 = \partial_\mu (u_\nu u^\nu) = 2 (\partial_\mu u^\nu) u_\nu$$

(in flat space). Projecting the conservation equation onto u_ν gives

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= -u^\mu \partial_\mu (\epsilon + p) - (\epsilon + p) \partial_\nu u^\nu + 0 + \partial_\mu p u^\mu \\ &= -u^\mu \partial_\mu \epsilon - \partial_\mu u^\mu (\epsilon + p) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

To find the content of the conservation law \perp to u^ν add u^ν times (2)

$$0 = u^\nu (-\partial_\mu \epsilon - \partial_\mu u^\mu (\epsilon + p) + \partial_\mu p u^\mu)$$

to both sides of (1) to get:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= +u^\mu u^\nu \partial_\mu p + (\epsilon + p) u^\mu \partial_\mu u^\nu + \partial_\mu p \eta^{\mu\nu} \\ &= (\epsilon + p) u^\nu \partial_\mu u^\mu + \partial_\mu p (\eta^{\mu\nu} + u^\mu u^\nu). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Now take the nonrelativistic limit: $\epsilon \gg p$, $u^\mu = (1, \vec{v})^\mu$ in which case $\partial_\mu u^\mu \rightarrow -0 + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{v}$. Eqn (2) becomes

$$0 = u^\mu \partial_\mu \epsilon + \partial_\mu u^\mu (\epsilon + p) \simeq +\partial_{x^0} \epsilon + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \epsilon + \vec{\nabla} \cdot v \epsilon \left(1 + \frac{p}{\epsilon} \right) \simeq +\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \epsilon}{\partial t} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot (\epsilon \vec{v})$$

which is energy conservation. Eqn (3) becomes

$$0 = (\epsilon + p) u^\mu \partial_\mu u^\nu + \partial_\mu p (\eta^{\mu\nu} + u^\mu u^\nu) \simeq \epsilon \left(\partial_0 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla} \right) u^\nu + \left((\partial_0 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) p \right) u^\nu + \partial_\mu p \eta^{\mu\nu}$$

Now look at the time and space components:

$$\boxed{\nu = 0} : 0 = \epsilon(0) + \frac{1}{c} \partial_t p + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla} p - \frac{1}{c} \partial_t p = \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla} p$$

$$\boxed{\nu \neq 0} : 0 = \epsilon \left(\frac{1}{c} \partial_t \vec{v} + (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{v} \right) + \vec{v} \left(\frac{1}{c} \partial_t p + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla} p \right) + \vec{\nabla} p$$

In the NR limit $v \ll c$, so the important terms are:

$$\boxed{\nu \neq 0} : 0 = \epsilon \left(\frac{1}{c} \partial_t \vec{v} + (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{v} \right) + \vec{\nabla} p$$

which is the Euler equation.

2. Stress tensors for fields in Minkowski space

- (a) Given a (translation-invariant) lagrangian density $\mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial_\mu \phi)$ for a scalar field ϕ , define the energy-momentum tensor as

$$T_\nu^\mu = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \partial_\nu \phi + \delta_\nu^\mu \mathcal{L}.$$

Show that the equation of motion for ϕ implies the conservation law $\partial_\mu T_\nu^\mu$.

The EoM for ϕ is

$$0 = \frac{\delta S}{\delta \phi(x)} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi}(x) - \partial_\mu \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \partial_\mu \phi}(x)$$

(see the lecture notes section 3.1), so

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\mu T_\nu^\mu &= -\underbrace{\partial_\mu \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)}}_{=-\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi}} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \phi + \underbrace{\partial_\nu \mathcal{L}}_{=\partial_\nu \phi \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} + \partial_\nu (\partial_\mu \phi) \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)}} \\ &= -\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} \partial_\nu \phi - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \phi + \partial_\nu \phi \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} + \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \phi \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_\mu \phi)} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

- (b) Show that the energy-momentum tensor for the Maxwell field

$$T_{EM}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \left(F^{\mu\rho} F^\nu{}_\rho - \frac{1}{4} \eta^{\mu\nu} F^2 \right)$$

is *traceless*, that is $(T_{EM})^\mu{}_\mu = 0$.

$$T_\mu^\mu = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \left(\underbrace{F^{\mu\rho} F_{\mu\rho}}_{=F^2} - \frac{1}{4} 4F^2 \right) = 0.$$

An apology: the notation F^ν_ρ in the pset statement is ambiguous: when raising and lowering indices on an object with multiply (non-symmetrized) indices, you have to keep track of which one was raised or lowered. I should have written $F^{\nu\rho}$ (which is harder to TeX).

- (c) Show that the energy-momentum tensor for the Maxwell field

$$T_{EM}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4\pi c} \left(F^{\mu\rho} F^\nu_\rho - \frac{1}{4} \eta^{\mu\nu} F^2 \right)$$

in the presence of an electric current j^μ obeys

$$\partial_\mu T_{EM}^{\mu\nu} = -j^\nu F^\nu_\rho.$$

Explain this result in words.

I am setting $c = 1$. Recall that Maxwell's equations with a source are

$$0 = \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \partial_\nu F_{\rho\sigma}, \quad \partial^\rho F_{\mu\rho} = 4\pi j_\mu.$$

We will need both.

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\mu T_{EM}^{\mu\nu} &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left((\partial_\mu F^{\mu\rho}) F^\nu_\rho + F^{\mu\rho} \partial_\mu F^\nu_\rho - \frac{2}{4} \eta^{\mu\nu} (\partial_\mu F_{\alpha\beta} F_{\gamma\delta} \eta^{\alpha\gamma} \eta^{\beta\delta}) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \left(-(\partial^\mu F_{\rho\mu}) F^{\nu\rho} + F^{\mu\rho} (\partial_\mu F^\nu_\rho) - \frac{1}{2} (\partial^\nu F_{\mu\rho}) F^{\mu\rho} \right) \\ &= -j_\rho F^{\nu\rho} + \frac{1}{4\pi} F^{\mu\rho} \eta^{\nu\sigma} \left(\partial_\mu F_{\sigma\rho} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\sigma F_{\mu\rho} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

But by antisymmetry of F : $F^{\mu\rho} (\partial_\mu F_{\sigma\rho}) = \frac{1}{2} F^{\mu\rho} (\partial_\mu F_{\sigma\rho} - \partial_\rho F_{\sigma\mu})$, so

$$\partial_\mu T_{EM}^{\mu\nu} = -j_\rho F^{\nu\rho} + \frac{1}{8\pi} F^{\mu\rho} \eta^{\nu\sigma} \underbrace{(\partial_\mu F_{\sigma\rho} + \partial_\rho F_{\mu\sigma} + \partial_\sigma F_{\rho\mu})}_{\propto \epsilon_{\mu\sigma\rho\nu} \epsilon^{\nu\alpha\beta\gamma} \partial_\alpha F_{\beta\gamma} = 0} = -j^\rho F^\nu_\rho.$$

The EM field can do work on the currents and vice versa; therefore the energy and momentum in the EM field can turn into energy of the charges and vice versa, and is therefore not conserved. The RHS of the $\nu = 0$ component is minus the work done on the particles by the fields; the RHS of the $\nu = i$ component is minus the force (change in momentum per unit time) in the i direction exerted on the particles by the Maxwell field.

- (d) **Optional:** show that tracelessness of T_μ^μ implies conservation of the *dilatation current* $D^\mu = x^\nu T_\nu^\mu$. Convince yourself that the associated conserved charge $\int_{\text{space}} D^0$ is the generator of scale transformations.

$$\partial_\mu D^\mu = T_\mu^\mu + x^\nu \partial_\mu T_\nu^\mu = T_\mu^\mu.$$

$$\int_{\text{space}} D^0 = \int_{\text{space}} (tT_0^0 + x^i T_i^0) = t\mathcal{H} + x^i \mathcal{P} = -\mathbf{i} \left(t\partial_t + x^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \right)$$

which actions on functions of t, x by $:\ (t\partial_t + x\partial_x) t^\alpha x^\beta = (\alpha + \beta)t^\alpha x^\beta$ and exponentiates to $e^{at\partial_t} f(t) = f(e^{at})$ (it shifts $\log t$ by a).

3. Polyakov form of the worldline action

- (a) Consider the following action for a particle trajectory $x^\mu(t)$:

$$S_\gamma[x] = -m \int dt \frac{dx^\mu}{dt} \frac{dx^\nu}{dt} g_{\mu\nu}(x) .$$

(Here $g_{\mu\nu}$ is some given metric. You may set $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu}$ if you like.) Convince yourself that the parameter t is meaningful, that is: reparametrizing t changes S_γ .

Reparametrizing by $\tilde{t} = \tilde{t}(t)$ changes the measure by one factor of $J \equiv \partial_t \tilde{t}$, but multiplies \dot{x}^2 by J^{-2} .

Now consider instead the following action

$$S[x, e] = - \int d\mathfrak{s} \left(\frac{1}{e(\mathfrak{s})} \frac{dx^\mu}{d\mathfrak{s}} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\mathfrak{s}} g_{\mu\nu}(x) - m^2 e(\mathfrak{s}) \right) .$$

The dynamical variables are $x^\mu(\mathfrak{s})$ (positions of a particle) and $e(\mathfrak{s})$; e is called an *einbein*¹:

$$ds_{1d}^2 = e^2(\mathfrak{s}) d\mathfrak{s}^2 .$$

- (b) Show that $S[x, e]$ is reparametrization invariant if we demand that ds_{1d}^2 is an invariant line element.

Notice that the second term is just $\int \sqrt{g}$ our usual way of making a coordinate-invariant integration measure. In the first term the $\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathfrak{s}}$ s each transform like e , so $\frac{1}{e} \dot{x}^2$ transforms like e .

- (c) Derive the equations of motion for e and x^μ . Compare with other reparametrization-invariant actions for a particle.

$$0 = \frac{\delta S}{\delta e(\mathfrak{s})} = -e^{-2} \dot{x}^2 + m^2 \implies \underline{e} = m \sqrt{\dot{x}^2}$$

$$S[x, \underline{e}] = -m \int d\mathfrak{s} \sqrt{\dot{x}^2}$$

is the reparam-invariant action we discussed before, so obviously the EoM agree. Even the values of the action agree when we set e equal to the solution of its EoM.

- (d) Take the limit $m \rightarrow 0$ to find the equations of motion for a massless particle.

In this limit, e is a Lagrange multiplier which enforces that the tangent vector is lightlike:

$$0 = \frac{\delta S_{m=0}}{\delta e(\mathfrak{s})} \propto \dot{x}^2 .$$

The EoM for x is still the geodesic equation. Now we can't choose \mathfrak{s} to be the proper time, but we *have to* demand that the lengths of the tangent vectors are independent of \mathfrak{s} – they are all zero. So any parametrization satisfying the lightlike-constraint is affine.

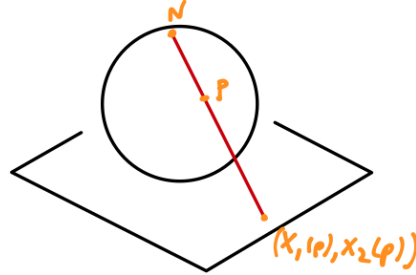
¹that's German for 'the square root of the metric in one dimension'

4. Show that S^2 using stereographic projections (aka Poincaré maps) for the coordinate charts (see the figure)

$$x_N : S^2 - \{\text{north pole}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \quad x_S : S^2 - \{\text{south pole}\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

is a differentiable manifold of dimension two. More precisely:

- (a) Write the Poincaré maps explicitly in terms of the embedding in \mathbb{R}^3 ($\{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid \sum_i x_i^2 = 1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$).



If we place the center of the unit sphere at the origin, the plane in the picture is $\{x_3 = -1\}$. The line L_N in the picture passes through $i(N) = (0, 0, 1)$ (the embedding of the north pole) and $i(p) = (x, y, z)$, the embedding of the point of interest p . The intersection of L_N with $z = -1$ determines $x_N(p) = (x_1^N, x_2^N, -1)$. We can parametrize it as $\vec{L}_N(t)$ so $\vec{L}_N(0) = i(N) = (0, 0, 1)$ and $\vec{L}_N(1) = (x, y, z)$, which gives

$$\vec{L}_N(t) \equiv (x_1^N(t), x_2^N(t), x_3^N(t)) = (tx, ty, 1 - t + tz).$$

The value of $t = t_N$ where $-1 = x_3^N(t_N) = 1 - (1 - z)t_N t_N$ is then $t_N = \frac{2}{1-z}$. Notice that this is a nice function as long as $z \neq 1$, and that's why we must exclude the north pole (where $(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 1)$) from this patch. The coordinates of the stereographic projection from N are then

$$x_N(p) = (x_1^N(t_N), x_2^N(t_N)) = (t_N x, t_N y) = \frac{2}{1-z}(x, y).$$

For the south pole, the plane is at $x_3 = +1$ and the line in question is

$$L_S(t) = (tx, ty, (1-t)(-1) + tz)$$

so the value of t where $x_3(t_S) = +1$ is $t_S = \frac{-2}{1+z}$ and

$$x_s(p) = (x_1^N(t_S), x_2^N(t_S)) = \frac{-2}{1+z}(x, y).$$

- (b) Show that the transition function $x_S \circ x_N^{-1} : \mathbb{R}_N^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_S^2$ is differentiable on the overlap of the two coordinate patches (everything but the poles).

The overlap $\mathcal{U}_N \cap \mathcal{U}_S$ where both coord systems are defined is everywhere but the north and south poles. Notice that $\frac{x_1^N}{x_2^N} = \frac{z+1}{z-1} = \frac{x_1^S}{x_2^S}$. The transition functions are nice and diagonal

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1^N \\ x_2^N \end{pmatrix} = \frac{z+1}{z-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1^S \\ x_2^S \end{pmatrix} \equiv M(x_1^S, x_2^S) \begin{pmatrix} x_1^S \\ x_2^S \end{pmatrix}$$

– notice that we must think of z here as a function of the coordinates $x_{1,2}^S$. Explicitly it is findable by

$$\begin{aligned} r^2 &\equiv (x_1^S)^2 + (x_2^S)^2 = 4 \frac{x^2 + y^2}{(1+z)^2} = 4 \frac{1-z^2}{(1+z)^2} \\ \implies z &= \frac{-2r^2 \pm \sqrt{4r^4 - 4(r^2-4)(r^2+4)}}{2(r^2+4)} = -\frac{r^2 \mp 4}{r^2+4}. \end{aligned}$$

The bottom root is just $z = -1$ which is not what we want – $-1 < z < 1$ on the overlap of patches. So the top root it is:

$$z = \frac{4-r^2}{4+r^2} = \frac{4 - (x_1^S)^2 - (x_2^S)^2}{4 + (x_1^S)^2 + (x_2^S)^2}.$$

And $\frac{z+1}{z-1} = \frac{-4}{r^2} = \frac{-4}{(x_1^S)^2 + (x_2^S)^2}$ and therefore the transition map is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1^N \\ x_2^N \end{pmatrix} = \frac{-4}{(x_1^S)^2 + (x_2^S)^2} \begin{pmatrix} x_1^S \\ x_2^S \end{pmatrix}$$

The inverse map is obtainable noticing that $(x_1^N)^2 + (x_2^N)^2 = \frac{16}{(x_1^S)^2 + (x_2^S)^2}$, so it has exactly the same form, but with $N \leftrightarrow S$. The transition function

$$\phi = x_N \circ x_S^{-1} : x_S(\mathcal{U}_S \cap \mathcal{U}_N) \rightarrow x_N(\mathcal{U}_S \cap \mathcal{U}_N)$$

is then perfectly smooth away from the points where $0 = (x_1^N)^2 + (x_2^N)^2$ or $0 = (x_1^S)^2 + (x_2^S)^2$ which are just S and N .

5. Verify explicitly that if ω_μ is a one-form (cotangent vector), then $\partial_\mu \omega_\nu - \partial_\nu \omega_\mu$ transforms as a rank-2 covariant tensor.

Under the coordinate change $x^\mu \rightarrow \tilde{x}^a(x)$, $\omega_\mu(x) \rightarrow \tilde{\omega}_a(\tilde{x}) = J_a^\mu \omega_\mu(x)$, and $\partial_\mu \rightarrow \tilde{\partial}_a = J_a^\mu \partial_\mu$ with $J_a^\mu \equiv \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial \tilde{x}^a} = \tilde{\partial}_a x^\mu$.

$$\begin{aligned} (d\omega)_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \omega_\nu - \partial_\nu \omega_\mu &\quad \rightarrow \quad \tilde{\partial}_a \tilde{\omega}_b - \tilde{\partial}_b \tilde{\omega}_a \\ &= \quad \tilde{\partial}_a \left(\tilde{\partial}_b x^\mu \omega_\mu \right) - (a \leftrightarrow b) \\ &= \quad \underbrace{\left(\tilde{\partial}_a \tilde{\partial}_b x^\mu - \tilde{\partial}_b \tilde{\partial}_a x^\mu \right)}_{=0} \omega_\mu + \tilde{\partial}_b x^\mu \tilde{\partial}_a \omega_\mu - \tilde{\partial}_a x^\mu \tilde{\partial}_b \omega_\mu \\ &\quad \stackrel{\text{chain rule}}{=} \quad \tilde{\partial}_b x^\mu \tilde{\partial}_a x^\nu \partial_\nu \omega_\mu - \tilde{\partial}_a x^\mu \tilde{\partial}_b x^\nu \partial_\nu \omega_\mu \\ &\quad \stackrel{\text{relabel dummy indices}}{=} \quad \tilde{\partial}_b x^\nu \tilde{\partial}_a x^\mu \partial_\mu \omega_\nu - \tilde{\partial}_a x^\mu \tilde{\partial}_b x^\nu \partial_\nu \omega_\mu \\ &\quad \stackrel{\text{factorize}}{=} \quad \tilde{\partial}_b x^\mu \tilde{\partial}_a x^\nu (\partial_\mu \omega_\nu - \partial_\nu \omega_\mu) \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

6. **Lie brackets.** The *commutator* or *Lie bracket* $[u, v]$ of two vector fields u, v on M is defined as follows, by its action on any function on M :

$$[u, v](f) = u(v(f)) - v(u(f)) .$$

(a) Show that its components in a coordinate basis are given by

$$[u, v]^\mu = u^\nu \partial_\nu v^\mu - v^\nu \partial_\nu u^\mu .$$

$$\begin{aligned} [u, v](f) &= u^\mu \partial_\mu (v^\nu \partial_\nu (f)) - v^\mu \partial_\mu (u^\nu \partial_\nu (f)) \\ &\stackrel{\text{product rule}}{=} u^\mu (\partial_\mu v^\nu) \partial_\nu f - v^\mu (\partial_\mu u^\nu) \partial_\nu f + u^\mu v^\nu \partial_\mu \partial_\nu f - v^\mu u^\nu \partial_\mu \partial_\nu f \\ &\stackrel{\text{rename dummy indices}}{=} (u^\mu (\partial_\mu v^\nu) \partial_\nu - v^\mu (\partial_\mu u^\nu) \partial_\nu) f + u^\mu v^\nu \partial_\mu \partial_\nu f - v^\nu u^\mu \partial_\mu \partial_\nu f \\ &= (u^\mu (\partial_\mu v^\nu) \partial_\nu - v^\mu (\partial_\mu u^\nu) \partial_\nu) f \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

So the components of the bracket are as given above.

(b) Using the fact that u^μ, v^μ transform as contravariant vectors, show explicitly that $[u, v]^\mu$ also transforms this way.

This is very similar to the problem about the transformation of $d\omega$ above. I will do this one in a more geometric way, by studying the vector itself, rather than the components :

$$\begin{aligned} u^\mu (\partial_\mu v^\nu) \partial_\nu - v^\mu (\partial_\mu u^\nu) \partial_\nu &\rightarrow \tilde{u}^a (\tilde{\partial}_a \tilde{v}^b) \tilde{\partial}_b - (u \leftrightarrow v) \\ &= J_\mu^a u^\mu ((J^{-1})_a^\sigma \partial_\sigma J_\nu^b v^\nu) (J^{-1})_b^\rho \partial_\rho - (u \leftrightarrow v) \\ &= u^\sigma (\partial_\sigma v^\rho) \partial_\rho - (u \leftrightarrow v) \\ &\stackrel{\text{rename dummy indices}}{=} u^\mu (\partial_\mu v^\nu) \partial_\nu - v^\mu (\partial_\mu u^\nu) \partial_\nu. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

(c) (Optional extra bit) Convince yourself from the general definition of Lie derivative given in lecture that $\mathcal{L}_u v = [u, v]$.

See the footnote in section 5.3.1 of the lecture notes.