

Mathematical problems of General Relativity

Problem sheet 2

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1. Show that the unit normal n^a is rotation free. That is, one has that

$$n_{[a}\nabla_b n_{c]} = 0.$$

Moreover show that the *twist* $\omega_{ab} \equiv h_a^c h_b^d \nabla_{[c} n_{d]}$ vanishes.

2. Given an arbitrary spacetime vector v^a show that $h_a^b v^a$ with $h_{ab} = g_{ab} + n_a n_b$ is purely spatial.
3. Show that $h_{ab} = g_{ab} + n_a n_b$ and $h^{ab} = g^{ab} + n^a n^b$ are inverses of each other —that is, $h_{ab} h^{bc} = \delta_a^c$.
4. Given an arbitrary tensor T_{ab} show that one can write

$$T_{ab} = T_{ab}^\perp - n_a n^c T_{cb}^\perp - n_b n^c T_{ac}^\perp + n_a n_b n^c n^d T_{cd}.$$

5. Given the Schwarzschild metric in isotropic coordinates

$$g = - \left(\frac{1 - \frac{m}{2r}}{1 + \frac{m}{2r}} \right)^2 dt^2 + \left(1 + \frac{m}{2r} \right)^2 (dr^2 + r^2 d\theta^2 + r^2 \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2),$$

consider the foliation given by hypersurfaces with constant time coordinate t . Compute the covector ω_a , the lapse of the foliation, its unit normal and the spatial metric of the hypersurfaces. Show that the extrinsic curvature of the hypersurfaces vanishes.

6. Show that the 3-dimensional covariant derivative D_a is compatible with the spatial metric h_{ab} . Moreover, show that D_a is torsion free.
7. Show that for the scalar product $v^a \omega_a$, the Leibnitz rule

$$D_a(v^b \omega_b) = v^b D_a \omega_b + \omega_b D_a v^b$$

holds only if v^a and ω_a are purely spatial.

8. Show that the acceleration is purely spatial.
9. Show that the acceleration a_a is related to the lapse α according to

$$a_a = D_a \ln \alpha.$$

10. Show that the acceleration for the normal observer in the Schwarzschild spacetime vanishes.

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