

General Relativity

Class 28

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Practical tools for doing curvature calculation

In this part we introduced Mathematica as a useful modern tool to do curvature calculation and went through the “Deriving the Schwarzschild Solution” notebook. I recommend people to check out video “Lecture28part1” by themselves since this is hard to be described by words. Aaron mentioned other tools as well. “xAct” is a great Mathematica package that currently under active development, and “Sage” is a Python based package which might not supported anymore but works well.

Spherical symmetric stars

We solved for the exterior of the star which is Schwarzschild. What about the interior of the star? This is a much harder problem, kind of an arbitrary hard problem to solve because the star can be made up of all kind of weird matter. It can be dynamical. A normal star can be pulsed and undergo nuclear reactions, swallow up, come back down, even collapse and explode. All that can happen in spherical symmetry. So, we cannot solve this problem with generality. But we can tackle this problem if we make some assumptions.

We already know that inside this star the metric can be written in this spherical symmetric form

$$ds^2 = -e^{2\alpha(t,r)}dt^2 + e^{2\beta(t,r)}dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2, \quad (0.1)$$

This is true even if the star is time variant.

We are going to simplify this problem by assuming a static star. So the star will be in equilibrium and won't be changing. We have a killing vector $\vec{K} = \vec{\partial}_t$

And it is convenient for this problem to adopt a slightly different parameterization of the unknown functions α and β as we used before. It would be a bit evocative. We are going to call this $\Phi(r)$ instead of $\alpha(t, r)$, Φ is going to be a direct analogy to the Newtonian potential of the inside of the star. We are going to have an even more evocative definition for the radial function. We are going to write it in a completely different way. Rather than writing it as $e^{2\beta}$, we are going to write it with a different unknown function $M(r)$ which could still totally be arbitrary. This is a very nice way to parametrize the equation. So the metric is

$$ds^2 = -e^{2\Phi(r)}dt^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2M(r)}{r}\right)^{-1}dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2, \quad (0.2)$$

Further to make progress, we need to know something about the right hand side of the Einstein's equation, some about the matter content. So just assuming $T_{\mu\nu}$ is a perfect fluid, which is characterized by some unknown density $\rho(r)$ and unknown pressure $P(r)$.

But what we do know is that for this to be static, the perfect fluid must be at rest in these coordinates. So we can think about the four velocity of fluid. (Remember this strength-energy tensor of perfect fluid depends on four velocity.) The four velocity of fluid has to be proportional to $\vec{\partial}_t$. The \vec{U} have to be point in the time direction, or say align with the flow of time. So U^μ has to have components some U^t potentially, but anything else has to be zero, otherwise the fluid is not at rest.

$$U^\mu = (U^t, 0, 0, 0) \quad (0.3)$$

And we can also notice that U^t is related to the unknown metric because we known that U has to satisfy the normalization condition

$$-1 = U^\mu U^\nu g_{\mu\nu} = (U^t)^2 g_{tt} \quad (0.4)$$

Solving this equation tells us

$$(U^t)^2 = \frac{-1}{g_{tt}} \Rightarrow U^t = \sqrt{\frac{-1}{g_{tt}}} \quad (0.5)$$

We choose the plus branch because we want the fluid to be moving toward in time not backward. Also notice that

$$U_\mu = g_{\mu\nu}U^\nu = (g_{tt}U^t, 0, 0, 0) \quad (0.6)$$

because when we dealing with the perfect fluid and reviewing in this kind of situation, it turns out just write $T_{\mu\nu}$ isn't very helpful. Remember

$$T_{\mu\nu} = (\rho + P)U^\nu + Pg_{\mu\nu} \quad (0.7)$$

It turns out that rather than solving Einstein's equation in the form with all indices down

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi T_{\mu\nu} \quad (0.8)$$

, it is super convenient in dealing with perfect fluids to raise one indices.

$$G^\mu{}_\nu = 8\pi T^\mu{}_\nu. \quad (0.9)$$

Let's take a look at what happens

$$T^\mu{}_\nu = (\rho + P)U^\mu U_\nu + P\delta^\mu{}_\nu \quad (0.10)$$

And then further more we break this piece $U^\mu U_\nu$ off. This piece is the outer product for two vectors. The first vector can be represented as a column vector and the second vector can be represented as a row vector

$$\begin{pmatrix} U^t \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} g_{tt}U^t & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} g_{tt}U^tU^t & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

This is exactly what we has before at equation (0.4) .So the matrix equals to

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = U^\mu U_\nu$$

So look what happened. Before we didn't know the U s looks like since it involves metric. The original form of the strength-energy tensor is hard to solve because it has unknown metric. After we write it as one index up, magically it now contains no components of metric at all. We get

$$T^\mu{}_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} -\rho & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & P & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & P & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & P \end{pmatrix} = U^\mu U_\nu$$

This is a diagonal matrix. That is a trick to make the calculation easier.

Our next goal then is to solve two equations as far as we can, potentially making some further assumptions to make progress. We want to make as much progress as we can with the former metric we already wrote down, and solving the equations $G^\mu{}_\nu = 8\pi T^\mu{}_\nu$. Remember we also have conservation of strength-energy tensor $\nabla^\mu T_{\mu\nu} = 0$, which could be written as $\nabla_\mu T^\mu{}_\nu = 0$ by changing the raising and lowering indices.

TOV equation

PART

III

We worked with Mathematica in this part. We went through the notebook "Deriving and solving the TOV equations" from the beginning of that to the section before "constant density". We have a knowledge recap at the beginning of Part 4.

Recap and ending for solving spherically symmetric static stars

We derived TOV equations for the perfect fluid star in the last part of this lecture. The main take ways was as follows:

We did find that $M(r)$ represent the mass enclosed in radius R

$$M(r) = \int_0^r 4\pi\rho(r')(r')^2 dr' \quad (0.11)$$

$4\pi(r')^2 dr'$ is the amount of volume in a little spherical symmetric shell of width dr' , so this M is just like flat space physics. What we also saw is that $M(r), \Phi(r)$ the two metric functions can be gotten by $\rho(r), P(r)$, and we also saw that the conservation equations $\nabla^\mu T_{\mu\nu} = 0$ gave us one more expression for $\frac{dP}{dr}$ which was then equivalents to the last few of Einstein's equations. And to complete the solution then, we need an equation of state EOS, which is $P(\rho)$, which we need to know something about the materials, we have to choose our material in order to find the EOS and truly complete the solution.(end review)

However, there is a chic trick we can use to actually get the fully analytical solution, and that's to assume something fairly unphysical. We assume $\rho = \text{constant}$ through the star. This is unphysical but is not that bad of an approximation. It turns out that if you have a very compact star, something like a neutron star, very very dense, which is where relativistic effects being important and where we even bother solving Einstein's equations to figure out the structure of the star and the spacetime. It turns out the ρ is fairly constant through that stars. This isn't the worst approximation. The reason why it doesn't make any sense is that this would actually require a constant, require an infinity speed of sound in the fluid. And that doesn't make any sense. You can't have an incompressible fluid in general relativity. Nevertheless we can go ahead and just proceed. And what we find then is that we can actually integrate this equation (0.11) trivially, we get that the $M(r)$ is equal to the constant ρ times the volume.

$$M(r) = \rho \frac{4\pi}{3} r^3 \quad (0.12)$$

And in particular, we define the radius of star, R , is the point beyond which the density falls to zero and in particular it is also where the pressure in the star goes to zero, so

$$P\Big|_R = 0. \quad (0.13)$$

Then we can define something M_0 which equals to the total mass of the star.

$$M_0 = \frac{4\pi}{3} R^3 \quad (0.14)$$

and so with this we can substitute out

$$\rho = \frac{3}{4\pi} \frac{M_0}{R^3} \quad (0.15)$$

everywhere in the equations and proceed.

So this closes our relationship. We have M as a function of ρ , we have ρ as a function of M . We can integrate all those other equations we wanted to. So we can integrate to get $P(r), \Phi(r)$, we can even verify (and this is done on the Mathematica notebook) that in the non-relativistic limit that $\Phi(r)$ goes to $\frac{M}{r}$ just like in Newtonian gravity (we'll get Newtonian gravitational potential field) as promised.

There is one more nice thing which you can see in the Mathematica notebook if you take a look which is that if we're calculating g_{tt} , it is equals to

$$g_{tt} = -e^{2\Phi(r)} \quad (0.16)$$

inside the star, and it's equals to

$$g_{tt} = -\left(1 - \frac{2M_S}{r}\right) \quad (0.17)$$

¹ outside the star. And if we require these two to match at the surface of the star ($r=R$), then we also discover that this total mass M_0 , defined as the mass inclosed in the whole star, is in fact precisely equal to what we were calling the mass of the Schwarzschild spacetime (M_s)

$$M_0 = M_S \quad (0.18)$$

So indeed the mass parameter used in the Schwarzschild spacetime is equals to the total mass enclosed, in a sense, of the star, and this is actually generically true. So this is going to be the case for any equation of state. So this is one way in which we know the mass parameter in Schwarzschild can be interpreted as the total mass of the star. Of course that stops to be a good connection once we collapse that star to form a black hole, but nevertheless at least it gives us the impression that parameter M should be the mass of the black hole. And I(Aaron) talked about in the question and answer section on Monday of this week (Mar. 13) two other ways in which we know that this is the Schwarzschild mass, I(Aaron)'ll try to point them out as we go forward.

For this particular constant density solution there is one another thing which is that we can define a compactness parameter $\frac{2M}{R}$. This is something that if we want the surface of the star to be outside of the event horizon of a black hole,² we want $\frac{2M}{R} < 1$, but it turns out that we find that the pressure at the center of the star goes to infinity when $\frac{2M}{R} \geq \frac{8}{9}$ this is known as the Buchdahl limit or the Buckdahl radius if we solve this for the special R . It says that if we take a certain mass of a star and we compact it inside two small radius, we can't get a stable static solution, instead it must collapse. So it's $\frac{2M}{R} < \frac{8}{9}$ for us to get a stable solution. So the compactness $\frac{2M_0}{R}$ cannot exceed $\frac{8}{9}$ for a solution for the $\rho = \text{constant}$ case. And if we solve that for R , we get that the $R > \frac{9}{4}M_0$. So instead of $2M$ which you might expected to, R has to be a bit bigger than that. And actually this is pretty generic, we can choose other equations of state and it's actually hard to get a star that is more compact than this whose radius is actually smaller than $\frac{9}{4}M_0$ when we measure the radius in the unit of mass. Remember that mass has units of length and remember our meter

¹ S represents Schwarzschild

² If $R < 2M$ we know that the stars are inside of the event horizon, inside of the black hole, we don't want that. We want instead use these other metric functions ($M(r), \Phi(r)$) inside the star so there is no horizon, there is no singularity even through you got Schwarzschild outside the star.

stake is that the mass of the sun which equals to about $1.5M_{\odot}$. So the mass of the star in gravitational units is actually a size, and if the radius is smaller than a certain size we can't have that solution, so the radius must be larger. That is the Buchdahl radius ($R = \frac{9}{4}M_0$).

We've now solved for all the spherically symmetric static stars. We phrase the equations and sort of simplified them to a degree we can practically solve them all. All we needed is the equation of state and to numerically integrate some integrals. In the special case where the density is constant we can actually fully solve and we can find the analytical expression for M and for Φ . That is in Aaron's Mathematica notebook and also in the Carroll 5.8. We've discussed how stars have a maximum compactness. They can't be too compact otherwise we can't get a stable solution. This is an indication that if we make a star too compact, it may actually collapse to form a black hole. And that is in fact the case you really can form black holes in our universe if stars get too compact. And this does actually happen in the real universe as we now know from a variety of observation.