## **Relativistic Astrophysics**

## Problems for day 1

## ICTP/SAIFR

1. Suppose a relativistic gas has adiabatic index  $\Gamma$ , so that  $P = K \rho^{\Gamma}$ , when s = constant. Use the second law of thermodynamics,

$$d\left(\frac{\epsilon}{\rho}\right) = -Pd\left(\frac{1}{\rho}\right) + \rho Tds,$$

to deduce

$$\epsilon = \rho + \frac{P}{\Gamma - 1}.$$

Thus, a relativistic polytrope with polytropic index n satisfies  $\epsilon = \rho + nP$ , where  $\Gamma = 1 + 1/n$ .

2. Rotating stars in the Newtonian approximation. The Euler equation is

$$(\partial_t + v^b \nabla_b) v_a + \frac{\nabla_a p}{\rho} + \nabla_a \Phi = 0,$$

with  $\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi\rho$ . Show that the equation can be rewritten as

$$(\partial_t + \pounds_{\mathbf{v}})v_a + \frac{\nabla_a p}{\rho} + \nabla_a (\Phi - \frac{1}{2}v^2) = 0.$$

For a uniformly rotating star,  $v^a = \Omega \phi^a$  (where  $\phi = x \hat{\mathbf{y}} - y \hat{\mathbf{x}}$ ); show that

$$\pounds_{\mathbf{v}} v_a = 0.$$

For a rotating star with a one-parameter equation of state  $p = p(\rho)$ , show that the Euler equation has the form

$$E_a \equiv \nabla_a (h - \frac{1}{2}v^2 + \Phi) + \varpi^2 \Omega \nabla_a \Omega = 0,$$

where  $\varpi^2 = \phi^a \phi_a = x^2 + y^a$  and the Newtonian enthalpy h is defined by  $h = \int_0^p \frac{dp}{\rho}$ . (The astrophysicists cylindrical coordinate is  $\varpi$  – script  $\pi$  – to distinguish it from  $\rho$ ).

By taking the curl  $\nabla_{[a} E_{b]} = 0$  of this equation, show that the angular velocity is stratified on cylinders:  $\Omega = \Omega(\varpi)$ .

Conclude that the Euler equation in for a uniformly rotating star has the first integral

$$h - \frac{1}{2}v^2 + \Phi = \mathcal{E},$$

where  $\mathcal{E}$  is constant throughout the star.

3. Show that the Lie derivative of the metric has components

$$\pounds_{\xi}g_{\mu\nu} = \xi^{\lambda}\partial_{\lambda}g_{\mu\nu} + g_{\lambda\nu}\partial_{\mu}\xi^{\lambda} + g_{\mu\lambda}\partial_{\nu}\xi^{\lambda},$$

and (using the defining equation written in terms of covariant derivatives) show the relation,

$$\pounds_{\xi} g_{\alpha\beta} = \nabla_{\alpha} \xi_{\beta} + \nabla_{\beta} \xi_{\alpha}.$$

A vector field  $\xi^{\alpha}$  is a Killing vector if  $\pounds_{\boldsymbol{\xi}} g_{\alpha\beta} = 0$  Note from the first of these equations, that if one chooses coordinates in which  $\xi^{\alpha}$  is along one of the coordinates, so that  $\boldsymbol{\xi} = \partial_{\phi}$ , for example, then the components  $\xi^{\mu}$  are constant and the statement that  $\xi^{\alpha}$  is a Killing vector means that the components of the metric are independent of the coordinate (independent of  $\phi$  in this example). 4. Lie derivatives and exterior derivatives (antisymmetric derivatives of antisymmetric tensors) commute. Check that this is true for a covector:

$$\pounds_{\mathbf{v}} \nabla_{[a} \sigma_{b]} = \nabla_{[a} \pounds_{\mathbf{v}} \sigma_{b]}$$

where  $2\nabla_{[a}\sigma_{b]} = \nabla_a\sigma_b - \nabla_b\sigma_a$ .