Relativistic Astrophysics

1. Let ξ^{α} be a Killing vector. Show that the motion of a free particle conserves $u_{\alpha}\xi^{\alpha}$, using the geodesic equation in the form

$$u^{\beta}\nabla_{\beta}u^{\alpha}=0.$$

For $\xi^{\alpha} = t^{\alpha}$ and for $\xi^{\alpha} = \phi^{\alpha}$, what is the physical meaning of the conserved quantities? Check for a particle in flat space (in special relativity) that your identification is right.

2. Dragging of inertial frames. The metric of a rotating star or black hole has the form

$$ds^{2} = -e^{2\nu}(dt - \omega d\phi)^{2} + e^{2\psi}d\phi^{2} + e^{2\mu}(d\varpi^{2} + dz^{2}).$$

Show that a particle with zero angular momentum has angular velocity ω . In particular, a particle dropped from rest at infinity, rotates with angular velocity ω in the direction of the star's rotation.

3. Using the fact that the metric is asymptotically flat, show that the asymptotic form of the equation for ω is $\nabla \left(\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ -i \end{array} \right)^2 \left(\left(\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ -i \end{array} \right)^2 \right) = 0$

$$\nabla \cdot (r^2 \sin^2 \theta \nabla \omega) = 0,$$

and check that the equation is satisfied by the asymptotic form $\omega = \frac{2J}{r^3}$, with J a constant (we will find that J is the angular momentum of the spacetime). Consider a spherical shell rotating with angular velocity Ω . For a nearly Newtonian shell, $\omega \ll \Omega$, and the metric coefficients in the equation for ω are again those of flat space, so that the equation for ω has the form

$$\nabla \cdot (r^2 \sin^2 \theta \nabla \omega) = -16\pi \rho r \sin^2 \theta \ \Omega,$$

Here $\rho = \frac{m}{4\pi r_0^2} \delta(r - r_0)$ from the requirement $\int \rho dV = m$. Find the spherically symmetric solution for ω .