

Exercise 1: Fundamentals of cosmology

(15 Points)

Let $T_{\mu\nu}$ be the energy-momentum tensor of a perfect fluid, given by

$$T_{\mu\nu} = (\rho + p)u_\mu u_\nu + pg_{\mu\nu}, \quad (1)$$

where ρ is the energy density, p is the isotropic pressure in the fluid's rest-frame and u^μ is its four-velocity. Furthermore, the Friedmann–Lemaître–Robertson–Walker (FLRW) metric is given as

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t) \left[\frac{dr^2}{1 - kr^2} + r^2 d\theta^2 + r^2 \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2 \right]. \quad (2)$$

You can find the Christoffel symbols and the Ricci tensor on the next page. The equations that relate the evolution of the scale factor $a(t)$ to the matter content of the universe are called *Friedmann equations*.

(a) Calculate the Ricci scalar R .

(b) Derive the Friedmann equations.

The first Friedmann equation can be obtained from the 00-component of Einstein's equations

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi GT_{\mu\nu}. \quad (3)$$

Use the trace of (3) and the first equation and to find the second Friedmann equation.

(c) Consider $\nabla_\mu T^{\mu 0} = 0$ to derive a continuity equation for ρ and p . Is this equation independent of the Friedmann equations?

(d) Suppose that pressure and energy density fulfill the equation of state

$$p = w\rho, \quad (4)$$

where w is a time-independent constant. Use this equation and the continuity equation from (c) to express the energy density in terms of the scale factor a .

(e) Determine the time dependence of the scale factor $a = a(t)$ using the Friedmann equations and $\rho(a)$ for the case $k = 0$.

(f) Consider the energy densities of dust, photons and vacuum energy. Find the constant w for each case. How do the respective energy densities depend on the scale factor a ? How does the scale factor evolve in time, if the universe is dominated by dust, photons or vacuum energy?

Exercise 2: Properties of the Einstein equations**(5 Points)**

With the Einstein tensor $G_{\mu\nu} \equiv R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu}$ the field equations of general relativity can be written as

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi GT_{\mu\nu}. \quad (5)$$

Since both $G_{\mu\nu}$ and $T_{\mu\nu}$ are symmetric, (5) represents 10 independent equations. The state of a system at a given time can be described by the values of the metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ and the time derivative $\partial_t g_{\mu\nu}$ – analogously to a state consisting of coordinates x^i and momenta p^i in classical mechanics. The evolution of such a state is then governed by Einstein's equations (5).

Show that of the 10 independent equations only 6 describe the dynamical evolution of the state, while the 4 equations given by $G^{0\nu} = 8\pi GT^{0\nu}$ merely serve as initial constraints. In order to do so, use the Bianchi identity

$$\nabla_\mu G^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad (6)$$

to show that the expression $\partial_t G^{0\nu}$ contains no third-order time derivatives and thus no second-order time derivatives occur in $G^{0\nu}$. Discuss.

Appendix

You have already calculated the non-vanishing Christoffel symbols of the FLRW metric on sheet 3. They are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{rr}^t &= \frac{a\dot{a}}{1-kr^2}, & \Gamma_{\theta\theta}^t &= a\dot{a}r^2, & \Gamma_{\phi\phi}^t &= a\dot{a}r^2 \sin^2\theta, \\ \Gamma_{rr}^r &= \frac{kr}{1-kr^2}, & \Gamma_{\theta\theta}^r &= -r(1-kr^2), & \Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r &= -r(1-kr^2) \sin^2\theta, \\ \Gamma_{r\theta}^\theta &= \Gamma_{r\phi}^\phi = \frac{1}{r}, & \Gamma_{\phi\phi}^\theta &= -\sin\theta \cos\theta, & \Gamma_{\theta\phi}^\phi &= \cot\theta \\ \Gamma_{tr}^r &= \Gamma_{t\theta}^\theta = \Gamma_{t\phi}^\phi = \frac{\dot{a}}{a}, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

or related to these by symmetry. The nonzero components of the Ricci tensor are

$$\begin{aligned} R_{tt} &= -3\frac{\ddot{a}}{a}, & R_{rr} &= \frac{a\ddot{a} + 2\dot{a}^2 + 2k}{1-kr^2}, \\ R_{\theta\theta} &= r^2(a\ddot{a} + 2\dot{a}^2 + 2k), & R_{\phi\phi} &= r^2(a\ddot{a} + 2\dot{a}^2 + 2k) \sin^2\theta. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$