

Geometric Mechanics

Homework 13

Due on January 7

1. Consider two galaxies in a FLRW model

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

whose spatial locations can be assumed to be $r = 0$ and $(r, \theta, \varphi) = (r_1, \theta_1, \varphi_1)$.

(a) Show that the family (reparameterized) null geodesics connecting the first galaxy to the second galaxy can be written as

$$(t, r, \theta, \varphi) = (t(r, t_0), r, \theta_1, \varphi_1) \quad (0 < r < r_1),$$

where $t(r, t_0)$ is the solution of

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dt}{dr} = \frac{a(t)}{\sqrt{1 - kr^2}} \\ t(0, t_0) = t_0 \end{cases}.$$

(b) Prove that $\frac{\partial t}{\partial t_0}(r_1, t_0) = \frac{a(t_1)}{a(t_0)}$, where $t_1 = t(r_1, t_0)$.

(c) The **redshift** of the light propagating from the first galaxy to the second galaxy is defined as

$$z = \frac{\partial t}{\partial t_0}(r_1, t_0) - 1 = \frac{a(t_1)}{a(t_0)} - 1.$$

This light is spread over a sphere of radius $R = a(t_1)r_1$, and so its brightness is inversely proportional to R^2 . Compute R as a function of z and t_1 for the following FLRW models:

- (i) **Milne universe**, for which $k = -1$ and $a(t) = t$;
- (ii) **Flat de Sitter universe**, for which $k = 0$ and $a(t) = e^{Ht}$;
- (iii) **Einstein-de Sitter universe**, for which $k = 0$ and $a(t) = (t/t_1)^{2/3}$.

(**Remark:** The brightness of distant galaxies is further reduced by a factor of $(1+z)^2$, since each photon has frequency, hence energy, $(1+z)$ times smaller at reception, and the rate of detection of photons is $(1+z)$ times smaller than the rate of emission; with this correction, R can be deduced from the observed brightness for galaxies of known luminosity, and the correct FLRW model can be chosen as the one whose curve $R = R(z)$ best fits observations).