

Selected Topics in the Theories of Gravity - Assignment 5

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1. Lie bracket of Killing vector fields

Consider two Killing vector fields $\xi = \xi^\mu \partial_\mu$ and $\xi' = \xi'^\mu \partial_\mu$.

- (a) Calculate the components ζ^μ of the the Lie bracket $\zeta = [\xi, \xi']$. Recall that the Lie bracket can be defined by its operation on scalar fields ϕ ,

$$[\xi, \xi']\phi = \xi(\xi'\phi) - \xi'(\xi\phi). \quad (1)$$

- (b) Show that ζ is also a Killing vector field.

2. Cylindrical symmetry

Consider the metric

$$ds^2 = -A(\rho)dt^2 + B(\rho)dz^2 + C(\rho)(x dx + y dy)^2 + D(\rho)(y dx - x dy)^2 \quad (2)$$

with $\rho^2 = x^2 + y^2$ and the diffeomorphisms f_{ϕ, c_t, c_z} given by

$$t' = t + c_t, \quad z' = z + c_z, \quad x' = x \cos \phi + y \sin \phi, \quad y' = -x \sin \phi + y \cos \phi. \quad (3)$$

- (a) Show that f_{ϕ, c_t, c_z} is an isometry.
(b) Find the orbits of this isometry group. What do they look like?
(c) Determine the Killing vector fields of the 1-parameter subgroups $f_{\phi, 0, 0}$, $f_{0, c_t, 0}$ and $f_{0, 0, c_z}$.