

GRAVITATION F10

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1. PROBLEM SET 2 DUE OCT 13 2010

1.1. Consider the metric $ds^2 = \frac{dx^2+dy^2}{y^2}$ on the upper half plane.

1.1.1. Show that the transformation $x + iy \equiv z \mapsto \frac{az+b}{cz+d}$ is a symmetry of the metric if the parameters a, b, c, d are real numbers with $ad - bc \neq 0$.

1.1.2. Solve the geodesic equation of this metric. (It will be useful to exploit conservation laws.)

1.2. Assume that the metric of space-time in a weak gravitational field $\frac{|\phi|}{c^2} \ll 1$ is $ds^2 \approx \left[1 + \frac{2\phi(x)}{c^2}\right] c^2 dt^2 - (dx^1)^2 - (dx^2)^2 - (dx^3)^2$. Use the variational principle to derive the equation of motion of particles, in the approximation that the velocity is small compared to c . Compare to the equations of Newtonian gravity.

1.3. A particle of mass m and charge q is moving in a gravitational field given by the metric $ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu$ as well as an electromagnetic field with potential A_μ . What is the action principle of this system? What are its equations of motion?