

SOME PURE RADIATION FIELDS IN GENERAL RELATIVITY

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Abstract

A Demianski-type metric is investigated in connection with Einstein's field equations corresponding to pure radiation fields. With the aid of complex vectorial formalism, a general solution of these field equations is obtained. The solution is algebraically special. A particular case of the solution is considered which includes many known solutions; among them are the radiating versions of some of Kinnersley's solutions.

1. Introduction

In spite of the fact that an exact gravitational wave solution radiating from a finite source must be algebraically general (Sachs [11]), many investigators have taken a keen interest in obtaining algebraically special solutions of Einstein's field equations. There are several reasons for it. One reason is that the Schwarzschild solution, the Kerr solution [6], the NUT solution (Newman *et al.* [8]), the Demianski solution [4], and the vacuum solutions of Kinnersley [7] are familiar members of this class.

Many investigators have discussed the non-static generalization of some of the above-mentioned vacuum solutions. Vaidya [12] has obtained a non-static generalization of the Schwarzschild solution, which represents the gravitational field of a spherically symmetric source emitting null fluid. The non-static generalizations of the Kerr and NUT solutions have been treated extensively (see, for example, Vaidya and Patel [14], Vaidya [13] and Vaidya *et al.* [15]). Patel [9] has obtained the radiating version of Demianski's solution. The object of the present investigation is to obtain radiating versions, which are algebraically special, of some of the vacuum metrics discussed by Kinnersley [7].

The field equations corresponding to the pure radiation fields are

$$R_{\alpha\beta} = -8\pi\mu k_\alpha k_\beta, \quad k_\alpha k^\alpha = 0, \quad (1)$$

where μ is the density of flowing radiation.

The formalism which we are going to use for the derivation of our solutions is the complex vectorial formalism developed by Cahen *et al.* [1]. A detailed account of this formalism is given by Israel [5], and we shall use his notation. A very brief description of this formalism is given in the next section.

The following conventions are used. The Greek and the first half of the Latin indices will range from 1 to 4 and the second half of the Latin indices will range from 1 to 3. The Greek indices indicate coordinates and tensor components while the Latin indices indicate tetrad components. The round brackets including the indices will denote symmetrization.

In this paper a radiating space-time will be a simply connected, differentiable, four-dimensional manifold with a metric tensor field g of signature $+, -, -, -$ that satisfies the field equations (1).

2. Complex vectorial formalism

A complete exposition of complex vectorial formalism is not attempted here. We shall consider only those aspects of this formalism which are necessary for our work.

Consider a four-dimensional pseudo-Riemannian space-time manifold V_4 . Let k_α and n_α be two future pointing real null vector fields and m_α be a complex null vector field in V_4 . They are such that the metric on V_4 has the form

$$g_{\alpha\beta} = 2k_{(\alpha}n_{\beta)} - 2m_{(\alpha}\bar{m}_{\beta)}, \quad (2)$$

with an overhead bar denoting the complex conjugation. Introducing the basic 1-forms,

$$\theta^1 = k_\alpha dx^\alpha, \quad \theta^2 = m_\alpha dx^\alpha, \quad \theta^3 = \bar{\theta}^2, \quad \theta^4 = n_\alpha dx^\alpha. \quad (3)$$

Here x^α are the local coordinates in V_4 .

Let Z^p be a basis for the complex 3-space \mathcal{C}^3 of self-dual 2-forms, given as

$$Z^1 = \theta^3 \wedge \theta^4, \quad Z^2 = \theta^1 \wedge \theta^2, \quad Z^3 = \frac{1}{2}(\theta^1 \wedge \theta^4 - \theta^2 \wedge \theta^3), \quad (4)$$

where \wedge denotes the exterior product.

The metric γ_{pq} for the space \mathcal{C}^3 is given by

$$\gamma^{pq} = 2\delta_1^{(p}\delta_2^{q)} - \frac{1}{2}\delta_3^p\delta_3^q. \quad (5)$$

In the absence of torsion in the Riemannian space, the complex-valued connection 1-forms σ_m and the complex-valued curvature 2-forms \sum_p are determined by the following equations known as Cartan's equations of structure:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} dZ^p &= \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon^{pmn}\sigma_m \wedge Z_n, \\ \sum_p &= d\sigma_p - \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{pmn}\sigma^m \wedge \sigma^n, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (6)$$

where d denotes exterior differentiation. Since \sum_p is a complex 2-form, it can be expressed in terms of Z^p and \bar{Z}^p as follows:

$$\sum_p = C_{pq} Z^q - \frac{1}{6} R \gamma_{pq} Z^q + E_{p\bar{q}} \bar{Z}^q. \tag{7}$$

Here C_{pq} is a complex-valued trace-free symmetric tensor, which corresponds to the Weyl tensor, $E_{p\bar{q}}$ is a hermitian tensor corresponding to the trace-free part of the Ricci tensor and R is the scalar curvature. Note that C_{pq} is related to the five Newman–Penrose components ψ_A in terms of which the Petrov classification can be made. In fact,

$$C_{pq} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} \psi_0 & -\psi_2 & \psi_1 \\ -\psi_2 & -\psi_4 & 2\psi_3 \\ \psi_1 & 2\psi_3 & -4\psi_2 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{8}$$

The Einstein field equations (1) can be expressed in terms of $E_{p\bar{q}}$ as

$$E_{p\bar{q}} = -8\pi\mu\delta^2_p \delta^{\bar{2}}_{\bar{q}}. \tag{9}$$

3. The metric and the field equations

After obtaining the solutions corresponding to the field equations (9), we intend to obtain the solutions of the Einstein–Maxwell equations corresponding to a source-free electromagnetic field plus pure radiation. So for computational purposes we consider a general metric of the Plebanski–Demianski type [10]. We take the metric in the form

$$ds^2 = 2(du + gG d\beta)(dr + hG d\beta) - 2L(du + gG d\beta)^2 - M^2((dy^2/(G^2)) + G^2 d\beta^2). \tag{10}$$

Here L and M are functions of u, r and y and h, g and G are functions of y only.

Introducing the basic 1-forms

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \theta^1 &= du + gG d\beta, & \sqrt{2}\theta^2 &= M((dy/G) + iG d\beta), \\ \theta^3 &= \theta^2, & \theta^4 &= dr - L\theta^1 + hG d\beta, \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{11}$$

we express (10) as

$$ds^2 = 2(\theta^1 \theta^4 - \theta^2 \theta^3). \tag{12}$$

Using the results (4), (6) and (11), we can obtain the connection 1-forms σ_p . They are given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \sigma_1 &= -2[(M_r/M) - i(gG)_y/(2M^2)] \theta^2, \\ \sigma_2 &= -\sqrt{2}[i(hL_r/M + gL_u/M) + GL_y/M] \theta^1 \\ &\quad + 2[(M_u + LM_r)/M + i\{(Gh)_y - L(gG)_y\}/(2M^2)] \theta^3, \\ \sigma_3 &= -2[L_r + i\{L(gG)_y - (Gh)_y\}/(2M^2)] \theta^1 \\ &\quad - \sqrt{2}[(MG)_y/(M^2) + i(gM_u + hM_r)/(M^2)] \theta^2 \\ &\quad - \sqrt{2}[-(MG)_y/(M^2) + i(gM_u + hM_r)/(M^2)] \theta^3 + i[(gG)_y/(M^2)] \theta^4, \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{13}$$

where suffixes denote partial derivatives.

The absence of the terms involving θ^3 and θ^4 in σ_1 indicates that the null congruence k^α is geodesic as well as shear-free.

We can now use σ_p given by (13) and Cartan's second equation of structure in (6) to determine the curvature 2-forms \sum_p . The expressions for \sum_p are very lengthy and therefore are not given here. These expressions for \sum_p will give us $E_{p\bar{q}}$ and R . They are given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_{1\bar{1}} &= (2/M) [M_{rr} - \{(gG)_y\}^2 / (4M^3)], \\
 E_{1\bar{2}} &= \bar{E}_{2\bar{1}} = 0, \\
 E_{1\bar{3}} &= \bar{E}_{3\bar{1}} = (\sqrt{2}/M) [h(gG)_y M_r / (M^3) + g(gG)_y M_u / (M^3) + G(M_r/M)_y \\
 &\quad - i\{h(M_r/M)_r + g(M_r/M)_u + G((gG)_y / (2M^2))_y\}], \\
 E_{2\bar{2}} &= (1/M^2) [h^2 L_{rr} + 2ghL_{ur} + G^2 L_{yy} + g^2 L_{uu} + 2GG_y L_y \\
 &\quad + 4LMM_{ur} + 2L_u MM_r - 2L_r MM_u + L(gG)_y (Gh)_y / (M^2) \\
 &\quad - 2\{(Gh)_y / (2M)\}^2], \\
 \bar{E}_{3\bar{2}} &= E_{2\bar{3}} = \sqrt{2}LE_{3\bar{1}} + (\sqrt{2}/M) [G(L_r + M_u/M)_y \\
 &\quad + g\{2L(gG)_y / (2M^2) - (Gh)_y / (2M^2)\}_u + ig(L_r + M_u/M)_u \\
 &\quad + h\{2L(gG)_y / (2M^2) - (Gh)_y / (2M^2)\}_r + ih(L_r + M_u/M)_r \\
 &\quad - G\{L(gG)_y / (M^2) - (Gh)_y / (2M^2)\}_y], \\
 E_{3\bar{3}} &= 2[L_{rr} - ghM_u / (M^3) - h^2 M_r / (M^3) + g^2 M_u^2 / (M^4) + h^2 M_r^2 / (M^4) \\
 &\quad + \{(MG)_y\}^2 / (M^4) + 2ghM_u M_r / (M^4) + 2(gG)_y (Gh)_y / (M^4) \\
 &\quad - L\{(gG)_y\}^2 / (M^4) + 2M_u M_r / (M^2) + 2LM_r^2 / (M^2) - ghM_r / (M^3) \\
 &\quad - g^2 M_u / (M^3)] + (2i / (M^3)) [M_r (Gh)_y + 4L_r M (gG)_y - M_u (gG)_y \\
 &\quad - L(gG)_y M_r + \{(gG)_y / (2M^2)\}_u M^3], \\
 R &= -E_{3\bar{3}} + 4LE_{1\bar{1}} + 2L_{rr} + 4M_r M_u / (M^2) + 4(M_r/M)_u + 4L_r (M_r/M) \\
 &\quad - (Gh)_y (gG)_y / (M^4) + 2L\{(gG)_y\}^2 / (M^4).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{14}$$

Now from the field equations (9) we have all $E_{p\bar{q}} = 0$ except $E_{2\bar{2}}$, and $R = 0$. Note that $E_{2\bar{2}}$ will give us the radiation density μ .

Equations $E_{1\bar{1}} = 0$ and $E_{1\bar{3}} = 0$ involve only one unknown function M . They can be solved to get

$$M^2 = F^2(X^2 + Y^2), \quad F^2 = f/Y, \quad 2f = (gG)_y, \tag{15}$$

where

$$X_u = -(Y-z)_\theta, \quad X_\theta = (Y-z)_u, \quad X_r = -1, \quad Y_r = 0. \tag{16}$$

Here, and in what follows, θ and z are defined by the relations

$$(g/G)dy = d\theta, \quad (h/G)dy = dz. \tag{17}$$

We set $R = 0$ and use M^2 given by (15), (16) and (17) to determine the following form of the function $2L$:

$$2L = 2qX + 2J + 2(E^*Y + F^*X) / (X^2 + Y^2), \tag{18}$$

where

$$q = -Y_u/Y, \tag{19}$$

and J , E and F are functions of u and y subjected to the condition

$$2E^* + 4JY - 2X_u Y - (hG)_y, Y/f = 0. \tag{20}$$

Then considering $E_{33} = 0$ and using the above relations we find that

$$2J = 2X_u - Y_\theta - (g/F)^2 [(Y_u/(2Y))_u + (Y_\theta/(2Y))_\theta - (f_\theta/(2f))_\theta - f_\theta/(g^2) - (gG_\theta)_\theta/(Gg)]. \tag{21}$$

It then follows from $E_{23} = 0$ that

$$E_\theta^* = -F_u^*, \quad E_u^* = F_\theta^*. \tag{22}$$

Using $E_{22} = -8\pi\mu$, the radiation density μ can be calculated. The expression for μ in this general case is lengthy and hence is not given here.

We have, so far, worked with the general metric (10). A case in which $f = Y$ has been treated by Patel [9] in connection with radiating Demianski space-times. In the next section we shall consider one more case which seems to be of physical interest.

4. The case $f \neq Y$, $Y = Y(y)$, $G = \sin \alpha$

We consider the case in which $Y = Y(y)$. It then follows from (16) that

$$X = au - r, \quad Y - z = -a\theta + b, \tag{23}$$

where a and b are constants of integration. No additional constant is added in X because such a constant can always be incorporated in the r -coordinate.

Since $Y = Y(y)$ only, equations (20), (21) and (22) imply that

$$E^* = k\theta + w, \quad F^* = -ku + m, \tag{24}$$

where k , w and m are constants of integration. We now introduce a variable ψ and a function $\lambda(\psi)$ as follows:

$$G = \sin \alpha, \quad (f/Y)^{\frac{1}{2}} d\alpha = d\psi, \quad (f/Y)^{\frac{1}{2}} \sin \alpha = \lambda(\psi). \tag{25}$$

Then we find from (21) that

$$2J = 2a + \frac{\lambda_{\psi\psi}}{\lambda}, \quad E^* = -N^* - \left[a + \frac{\lambda_{\psi\psi}}{\lambda} \right] Y, \tag{26}$$

with

$$2N^* = (h \sin \alpha)_\psi / \lambda. \tag{27}$$

Now we consider a case in which $\lambda_{\psi\psi}/\lambda$ is a constant, say ε , where $\varepsilon = 1, 0, -1$. The case $\varepsilon = 1$ has been discussed by Patel [9]. Therefore we shall restrict our attention to the following three cases: case (i) $\lambda = e^\psi$, case (ii) $\lambda = \sinh_\psi$ and case (iii) $\lambda = A\psi + B$, where A and B are constants.

Here it should be noted that in the above three cases the radiation density μ is given by

$$8\pi\mu = -2k/(X^2 + Y^2). \tag{28}$$

Now we shall discuss the details of these three cases.

CASE (i). $\lambda = e^\psi$.

In this case the results (21)–(24) show that the functions Y and N^* satisfy the following differential equations:

$$N_{\psi\psi}^* + N_\psi^* = 2(a+1)N^* + \{2a(a+1) + 2k\}Y \tag{29}$$

and

$$Y_{\psi\psi} + Y_\psi = -2N^* - 2aY. \tag{30}$$

If we set $p^2 = 1 + 4k$, then it can be seen easily that the differential equations (29) and (30) are equivalent to the equations

$$Z_{\psi\psi} + Z_\psi = (1-p)Z \tag{31}$$

and

$$Z_{\psi\psi}^* + Z_\psi^* = (1+p)Z^*, \tag{32}$$

with

$$\left. \begin{aligned} Z &= N^* + \frac{1}{2}(p+2a+1)Y \\ Z^* &= N^* + \frac{1}{2}(2a+1-p)Y. \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{33}$$

and

The solutions of (31) and (32) are given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} Z &= C_1 e^{\frac{1}{2}\psi(-1+\sqrt{(5+4p)})} + C_2 e^{\frac{1}{2}\psi(-1-\sqrt{(5+4p)})} \\ Z^* &= C_3 e^{-\frac{1}{2}\psi(1-\sqrt{(5-4p)})} + C_4 e^{\frac{1}{2}\psi(-1-\sqrt{(5-4p)})}, \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{34}$$

where C_1, C_2, C_3 and C_4 are constants of integration. Knowing Z and Z^* from (34) the result (33) gives us Y and N^* as

$$pY = Z^* - Z, \quad 2pN^* = Z(1+2a-p) + Z^*(1+2a+p); \tag{35}$$

hence we have

$$\left. \begin{aligned} h \sin \alpha &= \int 2N^* e^\psi d\psi \\ g \sin \alpha &= - \int 2Y e^\psi d\psi, \quad E^* = -N^* - (a+1)Y. \end{aligned} \right\} \tag{36}$$

We can therefore obtain the line-element in the final form as

$$ds^2 = 2(du + g \sin \alpha d\beta)(dr + h \sin \alpha d\beta) - 2L(du + g \sin \alpha d\beta)^2 - (X^2 + Y^2)(d\psi^2 + e^{2\psi} d\beta^2), \tag{37}$$

where $X = au - r$, Y , h and g are given by (34), (35) and (36) and

$$2L = 2a + 1 + \frac{2E^* Y + 2(-ku + m)(au - r)}{(au - r)^2 + Y^2}, \tag{38}$$

where E^* is given by (36).

Now if we take $k = 0$, the radiation density μ vanishes and we get an empty space-time. We have verified that this empty space-time is the transform of the type D vacuum metric (case II D) of Kinnersley [7]. Thus the metric (37) is the radiative extension of Kinnersley's vacuum metric (case II D). We have also verified that the metric (37) is algebraically special.

CASE (ii). $\lambda = \sinh \psi$.

In this case the differential equations to be satisfied by Y and N^* are

$$(1 - q^2) Y_{qq} - 2q Y_q = 2(N^* + aY) \tag{39}$$

and

$$(1 - q^2) N^*_{qq} - 2q N^*_q = 2\{-k - a(a+1)\} Y - 2(a+1) N^*, \tag{40}$$

where $q = \cosh \psi$.

If we set $p^2 = 1 + 4k$ and $0 < p \leq 5/4$, then it can be seen easily that the differential equations (39) and (40) are equivalent to the equations

$$(1 - q^2) Z_{qq} - 2q Z_q + n(n+1)Z = 0 \tag{41}$$

and

$$(1 - q^2) Z^*_{qq} - 2q Z^*_q + l(l+1)Z^* = 0, \tag{42}$$

with $1 - q = n(n+1)$, $1 + q = l(l+1)$,

$$Z = N^* + \frac{1}{2}(1 + 2a + p) Y \quad \text{and} \quad Z^* = N^* + \frac{1}{2}(1 + 2a - p) Y. \tag{43}$$

We need those solutions of (41) and (42) which will give us the Kinnersley vacuum metric (case IIB) for $a = k = 0$ as a particular case. The solutions of equations (41) and (42) can be seen from any standard text such as Coddington [3]. They are

$$Z = a_1 Q_n(q) \quad \text{and} \quad Z^* = b_0 q + b_1 Q_l(q), \tag{44}$$

where $Q_n(q)$ is the Legendre function of the second kind and its series expansion is given by

$$Q_n(q) = 1 - \frac{n(n+1)}{2!} q^2 + \frac{(n+3)(n+1)n(n-2)}{4!} q^4 - \dots \tag{45}$$

Knowing Z and Z^* from (44), the result (43) will give Y and N^* as

$$pY = Z - Z^*, \quad 2pN^* = (p - 1 - 2a)Z + (p + 1 + 2a)Z^*. \tag{46}$$

The functions g and h can now be determined as

$$h \sin \alpha = \int 2N^* \sinh \psi \, d\psi, \quad g \sin \alpha = - \int 2Y \sinh \psi \, d\psi. \tag{47}$$

Therefore the metric of the solution reduces to

$$ds^2 = 2 \left[du - \left(\int 2Y \sinh \psi \, d\psi \right) d\beta \right] \left[dr + \left(\int 2N^* \sinh \psi \, d\psi \right) d\beta \right] - (X^2 + Y^2)(d\psi^2 + \sinh^2 \psi \, d\beta^2) - 2L \left[d\mu - \left(\int 2Y \sinh \psi \, d\psi \right) d\beta \right]^2, \quad (48)$$

where

$$2L = 1 + 2a + \frac{2E^* Y + 2(-ku + m) X}{X^2 + Y^2}, \quad X = au - r, \quad \text{and} \quad E^* = -N^* - (a + 1) Y. \quad (49)$$

The functions Y and N^* are given by (47). If we put $k = 0$, we get $p = 1$ and consequently $n = 0$ and $l = 1$. In this case we get an empty space-time for which Y and N^* are given by

$$\left. \begin{aligned} Y &= a_1 - b_0 q - b_1 Q_l(q) \\ N^* &= -aa_1 + (a + 1)[b_0 q + b_1 Q_1(q)]. \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (50)$$

We have verified that for this vacuum solution the Penrose spinors ψ_A do not satisfy the equation

$$2\psi_3^2 = -3\psi_2 \psi_4. \quad (51)$$

Hence we conclude that this empty space-time is of type II and not of type D (Carmeli and Kaye [2]). However, if $b_1 = 0$, then (51) is satisfied and the metric becomes of type D . It is painless to verify that this metric is the transform of Kinnersley's metric (case IIB). Thus the metric (48) represents a radiating Kinnersley's metric (case IIB).

CASE (iii). $\lambda = A\psi + B$.

In this case also we have obtained the following two differential equations for the functions Y and N^* :

$$\gamma^2 Z_{\gamma\gamma} + \gamma Z_\gamma + \gamma^2 Z = 0 \quad (52)$$

and

$$\gamma^2 Z_{\gamma\gamma}^* + \gamma Z_\gamma^* - \gamma^2 Z^* = 0, \quad (53)$$

with

$$Z = N^* + (a + \sqrt{k}) \dot{Y}, \quad Z^* = N^* + (a - \sqrt{k}) Y \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma = 2\sqrt{k}(A\psi + B)/A. \quad (54)$$

The solutions of (52) and (53) are given by

$$Z = c_1 J_0(\gamma) + c_2 K_0(\gamma) \quad \text{and} \quad Z^* = d_1 J_0(-\gamma) + d_2 K_0(-\gamma), \quad (55)$$

where c_1, c_2, d_1 and d_2 are constants and J_0 and K_0 are zero-order Bessel functions

of the first and second kind respectively. In this case we have

$$\left. \begin{aligned} 2\sqrt{k}Y &= Z - Z^*, & 2\sqrt{k}N^* &= (a + \sqrt{k})Z^* - (a - \sqrt{k})Z, \\ g \sin \alpha &= - \int 2Y(A\psi + B) d\psi, & h \sin \alpha &= - \int 2N^*(A\psi + B) d\psi, \end{aligned} \right\} \quad (56)$$

where Z and Z^* are given by (55).

Here we have assumed that k is positive. The explicit form of the metric in this case can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= 2 \left[du - \left\{ \int 2Y(A\psi + B) d\psi \right\} d\beta \right] \left[dr + \left\{ \int 2N^*(A\psi + B) d\psi \right\} d\beta \right] \\ &\quad - (X^2 + Y^2) [d\psi^2 + (A\psi + B)^2 d\beta^2] - 2L \left[du - \left\{ \int 2Y(A\psi + B) d\psi \right\} d\beta \right]^2, \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

where

$$2L = 2a + \frac{2E^*Y + 2(-ku + m)X}{X^2 + Y^2}, \quad X = au - r, \quad \text{and} \quad E^* = -N^* - aY. \quad (58)$$

The functions N^* and Y are given by (56).

Since Y is singular for $k = 0$, it follows that the metric (57) is also singular for $k = 0$.

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