

F3. Photon Redshift and Free Streaming

• For photons, $E = \sqrt{q^2 + m^2} = q \equiv |\vec{q}| = \sqrt{\delta_{ij} q^i q^j}$.

Always, $q^i = q n^i$, $\delta_{ij} n^i n^j = 1$.

$\hat{n} = n^i = (\sin\theta \cos\phi, \sin\theta \sin\phi, \cos\theta)$ gives the direction of the photon momentum in the observer ($x^i = \text{const}$) frame (the local orthonormal frame).

• We now develop the 1st order collisionless Boltzmann equation for photons,

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = - \frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} \frac{dx^i}{dy} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} \frac{dq}{dy} \quad (1)$$

• The photon energy q observed by the local observer can be written as

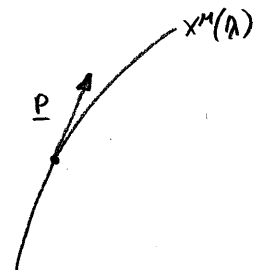
$$q \equiv -\underline{u} \cdot \underline{p} = -u_\mu p^\mu \quad (2)$$

where $\underline{u} = \underline{e}_0$ is the 4-velocity of the observer

and \underline{p} is the photon 4-momentum.

• The contravariant components of the photon 4-momentum are

$$p^\mu = \frac{dx^\mu}{d\lambda} = \left(\frac{dy}{d\lambda}, \frac{dx^i}{d\lambda} \right) \quad \text{where } \lambda \text{ is the affine parameter along photon world line}$$



They develop according to the geodesic equation

$$\frac{d^2 x^\mu}{d\lambda^2} + \Gamma^\mu_{\nu\sigma} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^\sigma}{d\lambda} = \frac{dp^\mu}{d\lambda} + \Gamma^\mu_{\nu\sigma} p^\nu p^\sigma = 0 \quad (3)$$

• The components of the observer 4-velocity are

$$\begin{aligned} u^\mu &= (e_0)^\mu = a^{-1} (1 + \frac{1}{2} h_{00}, 0, 0, 0) \\ u_\mu &= g_{\mu\nu} u^\nu = a^2 (\eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}) u^\nu = a (-1 + \frac{1}{2} h_{00}, h_{0i}) = -a (1 - \frac{1}{2} h_{00}, -h_{0i}) \quad (4) \end{aligned}$$

- We can relate the photon 4-momentum components in the rest frame, $p^\mu = (p^0, p^i)$ to those in the observer frame $\hat{p}^\mu = q^\mu = (q, q^i)$ by

$$p^\mu = X_{\hat{\alpha}}^\mu q^{\hat{\alpha}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow p^0 &= \bar{a}'(1 + \frac{1}{2}h_{00})q + \bar{a}'h_{0i}q^i = \bar{a}'q(1 + \frac{1}{2}h_{00} + h_{0i}n^i) \\ p^i &= \bar{a}'(\delta_{ij} - \frac{1}{2}h_{ij})q^j = \bar{a}'q(n^i - \frac{1}{2}h_{ij}n^j) \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

From this we actually only need below that to 0th order

$$p^0 = \bar{a}'q, \quad p^i = \bar{a}'q^i \quad \Rightarrow \quad \underline{\frac{p^i}{p^0} = n^i} \quad \text{to 0th order}$$

and that from

$$\underline{p \cdot p} = g_{\mu\nu} p^\mu p^\nu = \underbrace{\eta_{\mu\nu} p^\mu p^\nu}_{\delta_{ij} p^i p^j - (p^0)^2} + h_{\mu\nu} p^\mu p^\nu = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\frac{\delta_{ij} p^i p^j}{(p^0)^2}} = 1 - h_{00} - 2h_{0i} \frac{p^i}{p^0} - h_{ij} \frac{p^i p^j}{(p^0)^2} = \underline{1 - h_{00} - 2h_{0i}n^i - h_{ij}n^i n^j} \quad (6)$$

(to 1st order)

- Since $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i}$ is a perturbation, we can approximate $\frac{dx^i}{dy}$ in Eq. (1)

by $\underline{\frac{dx^i}{dy} = \frac{p^i}{p^0} \approx n^i}$ (to 0th order) and write (1) as

$$\underline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}} = -\frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} n^i - g \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} \cdot \frac{1}{g} \frac{dg}{dy} \quad (7)$$

- We then proceed to evaluate the photon redshift, $\frac{1}{g} \frac{dg}{dy}$. Evaluate first $\frac{dg}{dy}$

$$\frac{dq}{dy} = -\frac{d}{dy}(u_\mu p^\mu) = -\frac{du_\mu}{dy} p^\mu - u_\mu \frac{dp^\mu}{dy}$$

Here the observer u_μ is defined everywhere by the cd. system and the metric and we can write

$$\frac{du_\mu}{dy} = \frac{\partial u_\mu}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u_\mu}{\partial x^i} \frac{dx^i}{dy} = \frac{\partial u_\mu}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial u_\mu}{\partial x^i} \frac{p^i}{p^0}$$

Using u_μ from (4),

$\frac{\partial u_0}{\partial y} = -a'(1 - \frac{1}{2}h_{00}) + \frac{1}{2}ah'_{00}$	$\frac{\partial u_0}{\partial x^i} = \frac{1}{2}ah_{00,i}$
$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial y} = a'h_{0i} + ah'_{0i}$	$\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x^j} = ah_{0j,i}$

$$\therefore -\frac{du_\mu}{dy} p^\mu = \dots \quad (\text{exercise})$$

For $-u_\mu \frac{dp^\mu}{dy} = -u_\mu \frac{d\lambda}{dy} \frac{dp^\mu}{d\lambda} = -u_\mu \frac{1}{p^0} \frac{dp^\mu}{d\lambda}$ we need the geodesic equation (3)

The Christoffel symbols for a general $h_{\mu\nu}$ perturbation are

$\Gamma^0_{00} = \delta - \frac{1}{2}h'_{00}$	$\Gamma^0_{0i} = \delta h_{0i} - \frac{1}{2}h_{00,i}$
$\Gamma^0_{ij} = \delta \delta_{ij} + \delta \delta_{ij} h_{00} + \delta h_{ij} - \frac{1}{2}(h_{0i,j} + h_{0j,i}) + \frac{1}{2}h'_{ij}$	
$\Gamma^i_{00} = \delta h_{0i} + h'_{0i} - \frac{1}{2}h_{00,i}$	$\Gamma^i_{0j} = \delta \delta_{ij} - \frac{1}{2}(h_{0ji} - h_{0i,j}) + \frac{1}{2}h'_{ij}$
$\Gamma^i_{jk} = -\delta \delta_{jk} h_{0i} + \frac{1}{2}h'_{ijk} + \frac{1}{2}h_{ik,j} - \frac{1}{2}h_{jk,i}$	

The result is (exercise)

$$\frac{dq}{dy} = p^0 \left(-a' + \frac{1}{2}a'h_{00} + \frac{1}{2}ah_{00,i} n^i + a'h_{0i} n^i - ah'_{0i} n^i - \frac{1}{2}ah'^2_{ij} n^i n^j \right)$$

We also need $q = -g_{\mu\nu} u^\mu p^\nu = -a^2 (\eta_{00} + h_{00}) u^0 p^0 = \dots = ap^0 (1 - \frac{1}{2}h_{00} - h_{0i} n^i)$

to arrive at the final result (exercise)

$\frac{1}{q} \frac{dq}{dy} = -\delta - \frac{1}{2}h'^2_{ij} n^i n^j - h'_{0i} n^i + \frac{1}{2}h_{00,i} n^i$
--

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = -\frac{\partial f}{\partial x^i} n^i - q \frac{\partial f}{\partial q} \left(-\delta - \frac{1}{2}h'^2_{ij} n^i n^j - h'_{0i} n^i + \frac{1}{2}h_{00,i} n^i \right)$$