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## Relativistic Numerical Hydrodynamics

This book presents an overview of the computational framework in which calculations of relativistic hydrodynamics have been developed. It summarizes the jargon and methods used in the field, and provides illustrative applications to real physical systems. The authors explain how to break down the complexities of Einstein's equations and fluid dynamics, stressing the viability of the Euler–Lagrange approach to astrophysical problems. The book contains techniques and algorithms enabling one to build computer simulations of relativistic fluid problems for various astrophysical systems in one, two, and three dimensions. It also shows the reader how to test relativistic hydrodynamics codes.

Suitable for use as a textbook for graduate courses on astrophysical hydrodynamics and relativistic astrophysics, this book also provides a valuable reference for researchers already working in the field.

JAMES WILSON is widely recognized as a pioneer in the field of numerical relativity and hydrodynamics. Most of the techniques currently in active use in the field today were developed by him at one stage or another. He is best known for having first solved the supernova explosion mechanism by delayed neutrino heating, as well as for developing simulations for accreting black holes, black hole and neutron star collisions, supernova jets, and binary neutron stars. In 1994 he was awarded the Marcel Grossman General Relativity Prize for his contributions to the development of the field of numerical relativity. He is also the author of numerous publications in numerical astrophysics.

GRANT MATHEWS is Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics and Cosmology at Notre Dame University, Indiana. He has been working together with Jim Wilson for the past 15 years on the development of techniques for relativistic hydrodynamics in three spatial dimensions. He has published over 200 papers in areas of theoretical and experimental astrophysics, cosmology, and relativity.

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# Relativistic Numerical Hydrodynamics

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*Dedicated to our loving and patient wives Demetra and Eve*

## Contents

	<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Notation and convention	2
1.2	General relativity	3
	1.2.1 Metric tensor	5
	1.2.2 Energy momentum tensor	5
	1.2.3 Covariant differentiation	6
	1.2.4 Bianchi identities	7
1.3	(3+1) or ADM formalism	8
	1.3.1 Eulerian observer	9
	1.3.2 Coordinate observer	11
	1.3.3 ADM metric	11
	1.3.4 Fluid observer	12
	1.3.5 Field equations in (3+1) formalism	13
	1.3.6 Constraint equations	14
	1.3.7 Solving the ADM equations	15
	1.3.8 Gauge choices for $\gamma_{ij}$	16
	1.3.9 Gauge choices for $\vec{\beta}$	20
	<i>References</i>	21
<b>2</b>	<b>Special relativistic hydrodynamics</b>	<b>23</b>
2.1	Perfect fluid energy momentum tensor	23
2.2	Equation of motion	25
	2.2.1 Viscosity and heat flow	27
	2.2.2 Relativistic Navier–Stokes equation	28
	2.2.3 Causality and Navier–Stokes	28

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
2.3	Coordinate systems	29
2.4	Difference equations: generalities	29
	2.4.1 Artificial viscosity versus Riemann	30
	2.4.2 Finite difference preliminaries	32
	2.4.3 Relativistic hydrodynamics in one dimension	34
	2.4.4 Operator splitting	35
	2.4.5 Time step calculation	36
	2.4.6 Artificial viscosity	37
	2.4.7 Realistic artificial viscosity in one dimension	39
	2.4.8 Equation of state	41
	2.4.9 Velocity calculation	41
	2.4.10 Pressure work	42
	2.4.11 Grid update	43
	2.4.12 Pressure acceleration	44
	2.4.13 Advection	44
	2.4.14 Density advection	44
	2.4.15 Energy advection	46
	2.4.16 Momentum advection	46
	2.4.17 Completion of the cycle	48
2.5	Test problems	48
	2.5.1 Shocks and jump conditions	48
	2.5.2 Relativistic wall shocks	49
	2.5.3 Accelerating wall shocks	50
	2.5.4 Accelerating shocks in the Eulerian gauge	51
	2.5.5 Stopping wall shocks	52
	2.5.6 Relativistic rarefaction	53
	2.5.7 Newtonian and relativistic shock tube	55
	2.5.8 Newtonian Noh solution	59
	2.5.9 Homologous Newtonian collapse	60
	2.5.10 Other test problems	61
2.6	Application to heavy ion collisions	61
	2.6.1 Hydrodynamics and heavy ion stopping	64
	2.6.2 Nuclear fluid plus pions	69
	2.6.3 Solving the Navier–Stokes equation with pions	70
	<i>References</i>	73
<b>3</b>	<b>General relativistic hydrodynamics</b>	<b>75</b>
3.1	General relativity	75
3.2	General relativistic hydrodynamics	76
	3.2.1 State variables	76
	3.2.2 Equations of motion	78

<i>Contents</i>		ix
3.2.3	Viscosity and heat flow	79
3.2.4	Grid velocities	79
3.3	Difference equations	80
3.3.1	General relativistic hydrodynamics in one dimension	80
3.3.2	Operator splitting	80
3.3.3	Proper volume terms	80
3.3.4	Advection in one dimension	81
3.3.5	Grid velocity advection	81
3.3.6	Pressure acceleration	82
3.3.7	Metric acceleration	82
3.4	Multi-dimensional difference equations	83
3.4.1	The grid	83
3.4.2	Advection	84
3.4.3	Advection in curvilinear coordinates	85
3.4.4	Pressure terms	86
3.4.5	Velocity update	87
3.4.6	Energy $PdV$ velocity terms	89
3.5	Grid calculation	90
3.5.1	Pressure acceleration	92
3.5.2	Metric acceleration	92
3.5.3	Shift vector acceleration	92
3.5.4	Lapse and three-metric acceleration	93
3.6	Artificial viscosity	93
3.7	Real viscosity and heat flow	96
3.8	Time step	96
	<i>References</i>	98
<b>4</b>	<b>Cosmological hydrodynamics</b>	<b>99</b>
4.1	Planar cosmology	99
4.1.1	Hydrodynamics for planar cosmology	103
4.1.2	Solution of metric equations	104
4.2	Applications	105
4.2.1	Nucleosynthesis	105
4.2.2	Inflation	107
4.2.3	Inflaton potential	109
4.3	Spherical inhomogeneous cosmology	111
4.3.1	The metric	113
4.3.2	Quantum chromodynamics equation of state	114
4.3.3	Boundary conditions in spherical cosmology	114



x	<i>Contents</i>	
	<i>References</i>	115
<b>5</b>	<b>Stellar collapse and supernovae</b>	<b>117</b>
5.1	Collapse supernovae	117
5.2	The physical model	120
5.2.1	The metric	120
5.2.2	Energy momentum tensor	121
5.2.3	Evolution equations	122
5.2.4	Matter equations	123
5.3	Numerical methods	124
5.3.1	Hydrodynamics	124
5.3.2	Time step	124
5.3.3	Remap	125
5.3.4	Opacity averaging	126
5.4	Neutrino evolution equation	126
5.4.1	Flux limited diffusion	127
5.4.2	Flux limiter beam calculation	129
5.4.3	Neutrino annihilation beam calculation	129
5.4.4	Neutrino pressure force	130
5.4.5	Neutrino angular distribution	130
5.4.6	Operator splitting for the neutrino distribution	131
5.5	Neutrino–matter interactions	132
5.5.1	Electron capture	133
5.5.2	Neutrino–electron elastic scattering	135
5.5.3	Intermediate density scattering	136
5.5.4	Neutrino annihilation	138
5.5.5	Pair production of neutrinos in the core	139
5.5.6	Neutrino–nucleus interactions	140
5.6	Equation of state	141
5.6.1	Nuclear statistical equilibrium (NSE)	142
5.6.2	Nuclear burning	143
5.6.3	Photons, electrons, positrons, and pions	143
5.6.4	Baryons	143
5.6.5	Baryons below nuclear density not in NSE	144
5.6.6	Baryons below nuclear density and in NSE	145
5.6.7	Baryon matter above nuclear density	148
5.6.8	Numerical implementation of the equation of state	150
5.7	Convection	151
5.7.1	Mixing length theory	151
5.7.2	Convection phenomenology	152
5.8	Model of a 20 $M_{\odot}$ supernova explosion	158

*Contents* xi

	<i>References</i>	162
<b>6</b>	<b>Axially symmetric relativistic hydrodynamics</b>	<b>165</b>
6.1	Systems with a fixed metric	165
6.1.1	Kerr metric	165
6.1.2	Accretion shocks	166
6.1.3	Kerr accretion with magnetized gas	167
6.1.4	Magnetohydrodynamics results around a Kerr black hole	170
6.2	Rotating stars	170
6.2.1	Rotating stars	170
6.2.2	Magnetic rotating stars	173
6.3	Systems with a dynamic metric	176
6.3.1	Axisymmetric hydrodynamics	179
	<i>References</i>	179
<b>7</b>	<b>Hydrodynamics in three spatial dimensions</b>	<b>181</b>
7.1	The conformally flat approximation	181
7.2	Conformally flat model for binary neutron stars	183
7.2.1	Coordinate system	184
7.2.2	Hamiltonian constraint	185
7.2.3	Lapse function	187
7.2.4	Momentum constraint	188
7.2.5	Reliability of the conformally flat condition	189
7.2.6	Other checks on the conformally flat condition	192
7.3	Relativistic hydrodynamics	193
7.3.1	Equation of state	194
7.3.2	Gravitational radiation	194
7.3.3	Solution of elliptic equations	198
7.3.4	Extracting physical observables	199
7.4	Boundary conditions	199
7.5	Orbit calculations	201
7.6	Results	201
7.6.1	Analysis	204
7.7	Solving the Einstein equation in three dimensions	207
	<i>References</i>	209
	<i>Index</i>	214

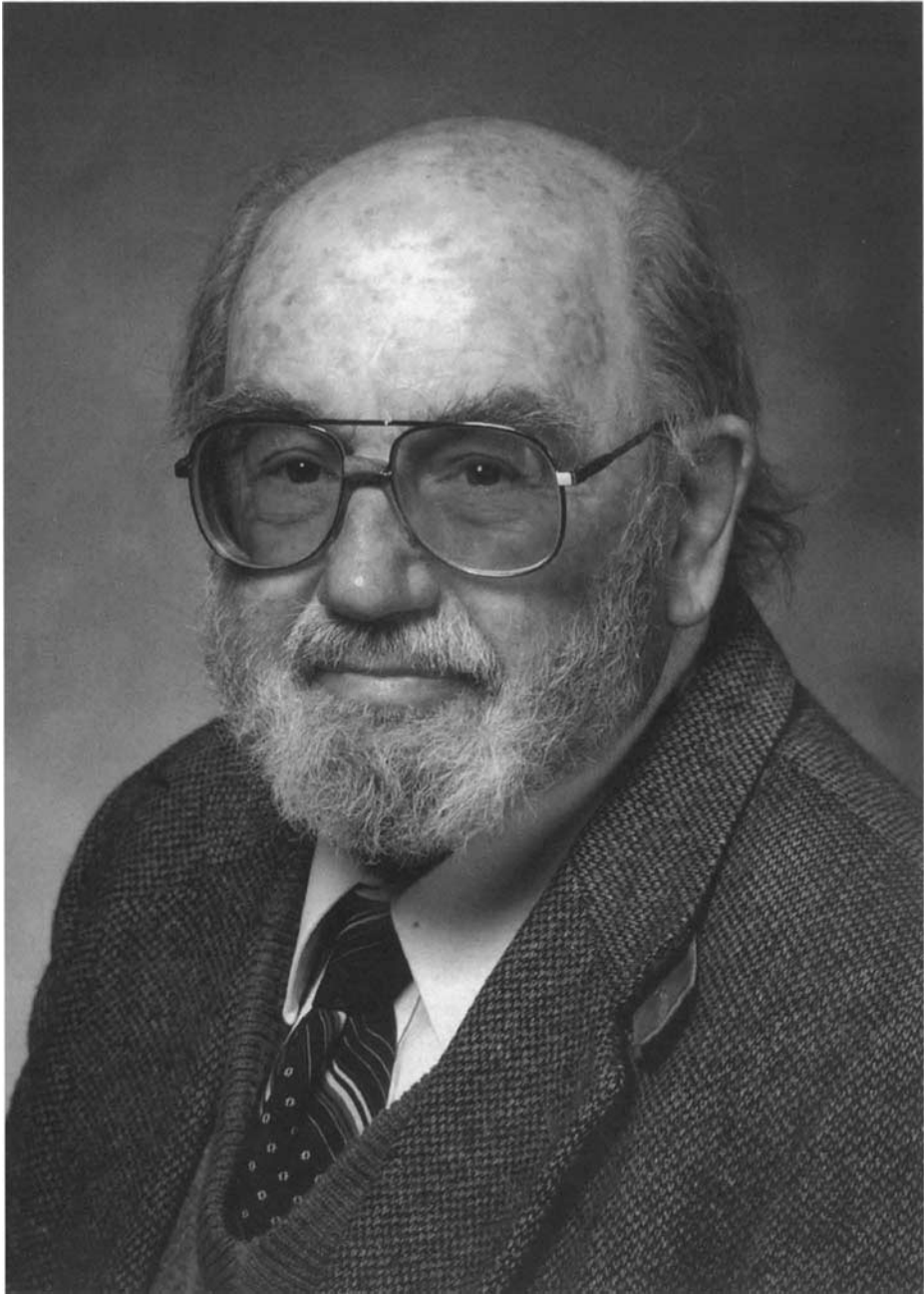
## Preface

We are convinced of a genuine need for a monograph describing the many facets and new developments in numerical relativistic hydrodynamics. Such calculations are crucial to several areas of current research in the physics of stellar collapse, supernovae, and black hole formation, as well as the merging of the final orbits of coalescing binary neutron stars. Both problems are only now entering the level of sophistication where three-dimensional relativistic hydrodynamics simulations are both possible and necessary. In the former problem such calculations are crucial to understand the explosion mechanism. In the latter problem, a great deal of interest in such calculations has recently been inspired by the development of next-generation gravity wave detectors to search for such events, and as a possible explanation of the physics underlying observed astrophysical  $\gamma$ -ray bursts.

The field of numerical relativistic hydrodynamics has developed over the past 30 years, but there has not been written a technical text explaining the many techniques relevant to this discipline, many of which are much different than standard general relativity textbook approaches. This book will present such a review of techniques for numerical general relativistic hydrodynamics developed by one of the pioneers of this field over the past three decades.

We begin by developing the equations and differencing schemes for special relativistic hydrodynamics as an introduction to the metric formulation of the problems. Here, the basic numerical techniques and a number of test problems and applications will be discussed.

Following this, the formalism for matter flows in the curved spacetime of general relativity will be presented in the usual (3+1) formalism. With the techniques established, the next chapter will then summarize cosmological applications in one spatial dimension. This will also lead naturally to



a discussion of core-collapse supernovae in spherical symmetry including the many physical complexities due to neutrino interactions and a large range of dynamic timescales.

Next we will describe some important axisymmetric problems such as stellar and black hole rotation, accretion and the head-on collision of two neutron stars. This topic also naturally leads to a discussion of magneto-hydrodynamics and its applications to axisymmetric problems.

The book then finally discusses an application in three spatial dimensions: the hydrodynamics of orbiting neutron stars. This chapter focuses on the development of the conformally flat approximation and techniques for analyzing the gravitational radiation generated by stellar collapse and binary mergers.

This book would best be described as a monograph. That is, it is a summary by experts in the field written for others at a similar level. Nevertheless, enough introductory material has been included that a graduate student or nonexpert can become familiar with the concepts without additional resource material. The main point of this book is to provide a summary of results and techniques for both the expert and nonexpert in one complete text. Some of this material has never been published and only exists in private notes. Most of the available material only exists in a number of journal publications and/or obscure conference proceedings, many of which are no longer in print.

The work described herein is of course the result of the efforts of many knowledgeable collaborators. We would particularly like to acknowledge the important contributions to the general relativistic hydrodynamics work discussed herein from Joan Centrella, Sam Dalhed, Steven Detweiler, Peter Dykema, Charles Evans, Chris Fragile, Hannu Kurki-Suonio, James LeBlanc, Pedro Marronetti, Richard Matzner, Ronald Mayle, Thomas McAbee, Jay Salmonson, and Larry Smarr. We would also like to acknowledge useful input from Peter Anninos and Dinshaw Balsara, along with help from Heidi Grantham in the preparation of some of the figures.

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xvi

*Preface*

