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# Generating perfect fluid solutions in isotropic coordinates



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#### ABSTRACT

We explore the symmetry group of the pressure isotropy condition in isotropic coordinates finding a rich structure. We work out some specific examples.

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### 1. Introduction

There is an extensive literature describing perfect fluid solutions in general relativity. A perfect fluid is a fluid that is completely determined by its mass density at rest  $\mu$  and isotropic pressure p. Perfect fluids do not have shear stresses, viscosities or heat conduction.

The perfect fluids are used in general relativity as idealized models to describe the interior of a star such as white dwarfs and neutron stars, or as cosmological models (examples are the dust (p=0) or the radiation fluid  $(\mu=3p)$ ). A model of an isolated star generally consists of an internal region filled with fluid and an external region which is an asymptotically flat vacuum solution. These two charts must be glued together through the outline of the star (the spherical surface of zero pressure).

For perfect fluid configurations Einstein's equations give rise only to the pressure isotropy condition. This condition together with the equation of state of the fluid determines a regular distribution of matter in a unique way [1,2]. However this road turns out to be impractical for most of the equations of state and it is worthwhile to follow other paths. One way is the transformation of the field equation into a form which is algebraic in one variable [3,4], using the other variable as a generating function. Kuchowicz [5] does the same in isotropic coordinates, followed by a similar

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method due to Glass and Goldman [6,7]. They also gives sufficient conditions on the generating function which ensures that the resulting metric is interesting for physical applications.

Another possibility is introducing a method that can be used to generate new solutions from known ones [8,9], which however requires calculations of integrals or solutions of a differential equation (see also more recently the series of papers [10–13]).

In this article we focus on determining the symmetry group of the pressure isotropy condition elaborating from the method introduced in [6,7], and we are able to find a sufficiently general algebraic structure that does not require the calculation of integrals or solve differential equations.

The article is organized as follows. First we introduce the general formalism and the new technique to generate perfect fluid solutions starting from those already known. We discuss the physical conditions that the perfect fluid must satisfy in order that the solution is physically acceptable [14]. We then move on to concrete applications. We start from the famous Schwarzschild internal solution obtained through our technique starting from one elementary solution. Then our transformation is applied again to obtain a deformation of the Schwarzschild internal solution (already known in the literature) and we discuss in great detail the physical constraints. Finally in the last paragraph we introduce a completely new solution studying the space of the parameters in which it is physically acceptable.

#### 2. General formulas

We want to describe here the relativistic stationary solutions of perfect fluid with the following choice of isotropic coordinates:

$$ds^{2} = -A^{2}(r)dt^{2} + B^{2}(r)(dr^{2} + r^{2}(d\theta^{2} + \sin^{2}\theta d\phi^{2}))$$
(2.1)

We define  $A^2(r) = e^{2\nu(r)}$  and  $B^2(r) = e^{2\omega(r)}$ . Einstein's equations in the presence of a fluid perfect are defined by

$$8\pi \mu = -e^{-2\omega} \left[ 2\omega'' + {\omega'}^2 + \frac{4\omega'}{r} \right]$$

$$8\pi p = e^{-2\omega} \left[ {\omega'}^2 + 2\omega' \ v' + \frac{2\omega'}{r} + \frac{2v'}{r} \right]$$

$$8\pi p = e^{-2\omega} \left[ {\omega'' + v'' + v'}^2 + \frac{\omega'}{r} + \frac{v'}{r} \right]$$
(2.2)

where  $\mu$  and p are respectively the density and the pressure of the perfect fluid. From these equations we derive the constraint due to the condition of pressure isotropy:

$$\omega'' + v'' + v'^2 - 2\omega'v' - \omega'^2 - \frac{\omega'}{r} - \frac{v'}{r} = 0$$
 (2.3)

In this article we want to discuss the symmetry group of this equation, which we will allow to generate new stationary perfect fluid solutions starting from known ones.

Define

$$\omega' = \frac{\alpha}{r} \qquad v' = \frac{\beta}{r} \tag{2.4}$$

the pressure isotropy condition can be recast as

$$\beta^{2} - \alpha^{2} - 2\alpha\beta - 2(\alpha + \beta) + r(\alpha' + \beta') = 0$$
(2.5)

Define  $\widetilde{\alpha} = \alpha + \beta$ ,  $x = r^2$ , Eq. (2.5) can be rewritten as

$$2\beta^2 = \widetilde{\alpha}^2 + 2\widetilde{\alpha} - 2x\frac{d}{dx}\,\widetilde{\alpha} \tag{2.6}$$

Replace  $\widetilde{\alpha} = x/f(x)$ ,  $\beta = x g(x)/f(x)$ , the pressure isotropy condition becomes

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(x) = g^2(x) - \frac{1}{2} \tag{2.7}$$

Define

$$\widetilde{f}(x) = f(x) + \frac{x}{2} \tag{2.8}$$

Eq. (2.7) reduces to

$$\frac{d}{dx}\widetilde{f}(x) = g^2(x) \tag{2.9}$$

It is now easy to study the symmetry group of the perfect fluid solutions with the choice of isotropic coordinates. This equation is in fact invariant with respect to the following Moebius transformations:

$$\widetilde{f}(x) \rightarrow \frac{a\widetilde{f}(x) + b}{c\widetilde{f}(x) + d}$$
  $ad - bc = 1$   
 $g(x) \rightarrow \frac{g(x)}{c\widetilde{f}(x) + d}$  (2.10)

We can thus build from a known solution a more extensive one (depending on three arbitrary parameters). Obviously many of these solutions will be discarded because they do not meet the necessary physical requirements (negative pressure and density, velocity of the sound greater than c, and so on...) which we will discuss later. We note that under the Moebius transformations (2.10), the quantities  $\widetilde{\alpha}(x)$ ,  $\beta(x)$  transform in a much more complex way:

$$\widetilde{\alpha}(x) \rightarrow \frac{(2dx + cx^2)\widetilde{\alpha} + 2cx^2}{(ax + 2b - cx^2/2 - dx)\widetilde{\alpha} + 2ax - cx^2} \qquad ad - bc = 1$$

$$\beta(x) \rightarrow \frac{2x\beta(x)}{(ax + 2b - cx^2/2 - dx)\widetilde{\alpha} + 2ax - cx^2}$$
(2.11)

Also the metric can be defined in terms of f and g:

$$\ln A^{2} = \int dx \, \frac{g(x)}{f(x)} + c_{1}$$

$$\ln B^{2} = \int dx \, \frac{1 - g(x)}{f(x)} + c_{2}$$
(2.12)

The other Einstein equations determine the pressure and density of the perfect fluid in terms of f(x) and g(x):

$$p = \frac{1}{8\pi f^2 B^2} \left[ 2f - x(g^2 - 1) \right]$$

$$\mu = 3(g - 1)p - \frac{xg(g^2 - 1)}{8\pi f^2 B^2} + \frac{xg'(x)}{2\pi f B^2}$$

$$= (4g - 3)p + \frac{1}{4\pi f B^2} (2xg' - g)$$
(2.13)

which can be recast as

$$\mu = \frac{1}{8\pi f^2 B^2} \left[ 6f(g-1) - x(g^2-1)(4g-3) + 4xfg' \right]$$
 (2.14)

In the following we will need to know the derivatives of p and  $\mu$ :

$$\frac{dp}{dx} = \frac{1}{8\pi f^2 B^2} \left[ g \left( 2 - 3g \right) + \frac{x g}{f} \left( 2g - 1 \right) \left( g^2 - 1 \right) - 2xgg' \right]$$
 (2.15)

We can easily verify that the following relationship is satisfied:

$$\frac{dp}{dx} = -\frac{g}{2f}(p+\mu) \tag{2.16}$$

Furthermore, the density derivative  $\mu$  can be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{d\mu}{dx} = \frac{1}{8\pi f^2 B^2} \left[ -5g \left( 2g - 1 \right) \left( g - 1 \right) - 2xg' \left( 8g^2 - 5g - 1 \right) + \frac{xg}{f} \left( 2g - 1 \right) \left( g^2 - 1 \right) \left( 4g - 3 \right) + 2f \left( 5g' + 2xg'' \right) \right]$$
(2.17)

Finally, the sound speed  $dp/d\mu$  can be represented as:

$$\frac{d\mu}{dp} = 4g - 3 + \frac{g(2g^2 - 2g + 1) - 2xg'(4g^2 - 2g - 1) + 2f(5g' + 2xg'')}{-g(3g - 2) + (xg/f)(2g - 1)(g^2 - 1) - 2xgg'}$$
(2.18)

There are important physical constraints that the perfect fluid solutions must meet:

(1) 
$$\infty > \mu > p > 0$$

(2) 
$$p' < 0 \ \mu' < 0$$

$$(3) \; \frac{dp}{d\mu} < 1$$

$$(4) \infty > A^2 > 0$$

$$(5) \infty > B^2 > 0 \tag{2.19}$$

Pressure and density must be positive and must be decreasing functions up to the radius where the pressure p becomes null (outline of the star). The sound speed  $dp/d\mu$  must be less than the speed of light. The metrics  $A^2$  and  $B^2$  must be positive definite and must not have singularities (even if apparent) as in the case of black hole. Note that a sufficient condition that satisfies all these physical requirements is that g'' > 0 (see Ref. [6,7]).

Given generic f and g it is not always guaranteed that there is a surface at which p = 0

$$2f = x_b (g^2 - 1) \longrightarrow x_b = \phi(x_b) = \frac{2f}{g^2 - 1}$$
 (2.20)

For this to happen, condition  $\phi' \leq 1$  must be satisfied which in turn implies that

$$g' \ge \frac{g(g^2 - 1)}{4f} \tag{2.21}$$

The solution must then satisfy the condition that the sound speed is lower than light speed. In particular, it is important to discuss the following cases:

$$\frac{d\mu}{dp}(0) > 1 \qquad \to \qquad 0 < f_0 < \frac{g_0}{10g_1} \left( 10g_0^2 - 18g_0 + 7 \right) 
\frac{d\mu}{dp}(x_b) > 1$$
(2.22)

where

$$\frac{d\mu}{dp}(x_b) = \frac{6g^2 - 5g + 1}{g} + \frac{x(g^2 - 1)}{g} \left(\frac{g' + 2xg''}{g - 2xg'}\right)$$
(2.23)

#### 3. Schwarzschild interior solution

This formalism also contains the black hole solution ( $p = \mu = 0$ ):

$$\widetilde{f}(x) = \frac{2x^2}{M^2}$$

$$g(x) = \frac{2\sqrt{x}}{M}$$
(3.1)

We note that the black hole solution is not analytical in x = 0 and therefore even if we apply the Moebius transformation (2.10), the perfect fluid solution generated by black hole is not physical (for example the pressure p can be negative).

Now let us apply the general formalism of the previous section to get already known solutions. The most famous is undoubtedly Schwarzschild's internal solution. The latter one can be obtained from the following non-physical solution:

$$\widetilde{f}(x) = x$$

$$g(x) = 1 \tag{3.2}$$

applying the following Moebius transformation:

$$A = \frac{3a - 1}{2a}$$

$$B = \frac{(a - 1)(2a - 1)}{2ab} \qquad AD - BC = 1$$

$$C = -\frac{b}{a}$$

$$D = \frac{1}{a}$$
(3.3)

from which we obtain

$$\widetilde{f} \longrightarrow \frac{A\widetilde{f} + B}{C\widetilde{f} + D} = \frac{a^2}{b(1 - bx)} + \frac{1 - 3a}{2b}$$

$$g \longrightarrow \frac{g}{C\widetilde{f} + D} = \frac{a}{1 - bx}$$
(3.4)

This is the internal solution of Schwarzschild in the isotropic coordinates. Let us recall some of its properties:

$$f(x) = \frac{(1 - 2a - bx)(1 - a - bx)}{2b(1 - bx)} \qquad g(x) = \frac{a}{1 - bx}$$
 (3.5)

The metric takes the elementary form:

$$A^{2} = \left(\frac{1 - a - bx}{1 - 2a - bx}\right)^{2} \qquad B^{2} = \frac{1}{(1 - 2a - bx)^{2}}$$
(3.6)

The condition  $\phi'(x) \le 1$  is always satisfied in any case. So there is an  $x = x_b$  for which the pressure is zero:

$$x_b = \frac{2f(x_b)}{g^2(x_b) - 1} = \frac{2a - 1}{b(3a - 1)}$$
(3.7)

In general the pressure is:

$$p = \frac{b}{2\pi} \frac{(1 - 2a - (1 - 3a)bx)}{1 - a - bx}$$
 (3.8)

and in the origin it is always greater than zero:

$$p_0 = \frac{4b(1-2a)}{(1-a)} > 0 \tag{3.9}$$

because  $a = 1 + \mu_0/(3p_0) > 1$ .

The density is constant:

$$\mu = \mu_0 = 3p_0(a-1) \tag{3.10}$$

and therefore the solution is not physical because  $d\mu/dp = 0$ .

The connection with the external black hole solution for  $x = x_b$  implies that:

$$g(x_b) = 3a - 1 = \frac{2\sqrt{x_b}}{M} \longrightarrow x_b = \frac{M^2}{4}(3a - 1)^2$$
 (3.11)

from which we derive that

$$b = \frac{4}{M^2} \frac{2a - 1}{(3a - 1)^3} \tag{3.12}$$

The connection with the external solution fixes b = b(a) while the parameter a is linked to pressure and density at the origin.

#### 4. Extended Schwarzschild interior solution

Let us start from Schwarzschild's internal solution

$$\widetilde{f} = \frac{a^2}{b(1-bx)} + \frac{1-3a}{2b}$$
 (4.1)

and apply the following Moebius transformation:

$$\widetilde{f} \longrightarrow \frac{\widetilde{f}}{1+k\widetilde{f}} = \frac{\widetilde{a}^2}{\widetilde{b}(1-\widetilde{b}x)} + \frac{1+2\alpha\,\widetilde{a}}{2\widetilde{b}}$$

$$g \longrightarrow \frac{g}{1+k\widetilde{f}} = \frac{\widetilde{a}}{(1-\widetilde{b}x)}$$
(4.2)

a deformation of  $\alpha = -3/2$  where the old and new quantities are linked by the condition:

$$\widetilde{a} = \frac{a}{D}$$

$$\widetilde{b} = \frac{b}{D} \left( 1 + k \left( \frac{1 - 3a}{2b} \right) \right)$$

$$D = 1 + k \left( \frac{1 - 3a + 2a^2}{2b} \right)$$

$$\alpha = -\frac{3}{2} - \frac{(D - 1)}{2a}$$

$$(4.3)$$

This model has been already studied in Ref. [7], but we will add some details. The perfect fluid solution that we will discuss in this chapter is therefore:

$$f = \frac{a}{b} \left[ \frac{a}{z} + \frac{z}{2a} + \alpha \right], \qquad z = 1 - bx$$

$$g = \frac{a}{z}$$
(4.4)

The metric can be easily integrated leading to the following formulas:

$$A^{2} = \left(\frac{z+z_{2}}{z+z_{1}}\right)^{-\frac{2a}{(z_{1}-z_{2})}} \qquad B^{2} = \frac{(z+z_{2})^{\frac{2(z_{2}+a)}{(z_{1}-z_{2})}}}{(z+z_{1})^{\frac{2(z_{1}+a)}{(z_{1}-z_{2})}}}$$
(4.5)

where  $z_{1,2} = a \left( -\alpha \pm \sqrt{\alpha^2 - 2} \right)$ .

Also this extended model has a value for which the pressure is zero. Indeed the condition  $2f = x (g^2 - 1)$  translates into the variable z as:

$$(1+2\alpha a)z^2+3a^2z-a^2=0$$
 (4.6)

from which

$$z_b = \frac{-3a^2 + a\sqrt{9a^2 + 4(1 + 2\alpha a)}}{2(1 + 2\alpha a)}$$
(4.7)

For  $\alpha = -3/2$  we obtain  $z_b = a/(3a-1)$ .

It is easy to extrapolate the following particular values from the solution (4.4):

$$f_0 = \frac{1}{b} \left( \alpha a + a^2 + \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

$$g_0 = a \qquad g_1 = ab$$
(4.8)

from which the condition  $\frac{d\mu}{d\eta}(0) > 1$  implies the following constraint on  $\alpha$ :

$$-a - \frac{1}{2a} < \alpha < -1.8 + \frac{0.2}{a} \tag{4.9}$$

The sound speed, applying Eq. (2.18), becomes:

$$\frac{d\mu}{dp} = \frac{4a}{z} - 3 + \frac{\frac{4a^2(\ 1+2\alpha+3a\ )}{z^3} + \frac{2a^2(\ \alpha-3\ )+6a}{z^2}}{\frac{2a}{z} - \frac{a^2}{z^2} - \frac{2a^2}{z^3} + \frac{2a(\ 1-z\ )}{(z^2+2\alpha az+2a^2\ )} \left(\frac{2a}{z} - 1\right) \left(\frac{a^2}{z^2} - 1\right)}$$
(4.10)

Obviously for  $\alpha = -3/2$  this expression simplifies and reduces to 0.

By plotting the solution (4.10), we obtain that it satisfies the condition  $d\left(\frac{dp}{d\mu}\right) > 0$  and therefore the condition  $\frac{dp}{d\mu}(x_b) < 1$  is more restrictive than the one at the origin.

Let us calculate  $\frac{d\mu}{dp}(x_b)$  at the point where the pressure becomes zero. The denominator of Eq. (4.10) simplifies considerably

$$\frac{d\mu}{dp}(x_b) = \frac{4a}{z_b} - 3 + \frac{4a(1+2\alpha+3a) + [2a(\alpha-3)+6]z_b}{a(3z_b-2)} > 1$$
 (4.11)

It is difficult to find a general formula for this condition and one has to resort to numerical calculation. However, for the following class of models an analytical constraint can be obtained:

$$\alpha = -a + \frac{1}{2} \longrightarrow z_b = \frac{a}{1+2a} \tag{4.12}$$

Now the constraint (4.11) becomes calculable:

$$\frac{d\mu}{dp}(x_b) > 1 \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad a > \frac{-1 + \sqrt{113}}{4} \simeq 2.4075 \tag{4.13}$$

#### 5. New solution

Finally, we introduce a new solution, inspired by Eq. (2.9) and by the condition g'' > 0:

$$\widetilde{f}(x) = 2k^2 e^{2x} \qquad k > 0$$

$$g(x) = 2k e^x \qquad (5.1)$$

Thus we have that  $f(x) = 2k^2 e^{2x} - x/2$ . This solution admits a zero of the pressure for

$$x_b = 1 ag{5.2}$$

where the decreasing function  $\phi(x)$  satisfies the conditions:

$$\phi_0 = \frac{4}{3} \qquad \phi_\infty = 1 \tag{5.3}$$

The metrics  $A^2$  and  $B^2$  are not analytically calculable, but we can prove that  $B^2$  is an regular increasing function of x in the range 0 < x < 1. The pressure can be calculated as follows:

$$p = \frac{k^2}{2\pi B^2} \frac{(1-x)e^{2x}}{(2k^2e^{2x} - \frac{x}{2})^2}$$
 (5.4)

where p > 0 in the range 0 < x < 1 if k > 1.

We also calculate the derivative of the pressure with respect to the variable *x*:

$$\frac{dp}{dx} = \frac{k^2 e^{2x}}{2\pi B^2 (2k^2 e^{2x} - \frac{x}{2})^3} \left[ 2k^2 e^{2x} (2x - 3) + 2ke^x (1 - x) + x^2 - \frac{x}{2} \right]$$
 (5.5)

The density can be easily calculated

$$\mu = \frac{k}{2\pi B^2 f^2} \left[ (8ke^x - 3)ke^{2x}(1-x) + e^x(2x-1)(2k^2e^{2x} - \frac{x}{2}) \right]$$
 (5.6)

Graphically we can check that it satisfies the condition  $\infty > \mu > p > 0$  for k > 1. The sound speed is in general

$$\frac{d\mu}{dp} = (8ke^{x} - 3) 
+ \frac{2ke^{x}(8k^{2}e^{2x} - 4ke^{x} + 1) - 4kxe^{x}(16k^{2}e^{2x} - 4ke^{x} - 1) + (4k^{2}e^{2x} - x)(10ke^{x} + 4kxe^{x})}{-4ke^{x}(3ke^{x} - 1) + \frac{2kxe^{x}}{(2k^{2}e^{2x} - \frac{x}{x})}(4ke^{x} - 1)(4k^{2}e^{2x} - 1) - 8k^{2}xe^{2x}}$$
(5.7)

We can analyze the sound speed at the origin:

$$\frac{dp}{d\mu}(0) < 1 \qquad \longrightarrow \qquad k > \frac{9 + \sqrt{46}}{10} \simeq 1.578 \tag{5.8}$$

Graphically this solution satisfies the condition

$$d\left(\frac{dp}{d\mu}\right) < 0 \tag{5.9}$$

and therefore the constraint  $\frac{dp}{d\mu}(x_b) < 1$  does not give further constraints and it is always automatically verified if Eq. (5.8) is valid.

Finally we can add another parameter to the solution

$$\widetilde{f}(x) = 2k^2 a e^{\frac{2x}{a}}$$

$$g(x) = 2k e^{\frac{x}{a}}$$
(5.10)

by moving the zero of the pressure at point x = a, but the solution is qualitatively the same as in case a = 1.

Let us apply the Moebius transformation (2.10) on the solution (5.10), we obtain

$$\widetilde{f}(x) = k^2 a \tanh\left(\frac{x}{a}\right) + c$$

$$g(x) = \frac{k}{\cosh(\frac{x}{a})}$$
(5.11)

We immediately notice that g''(x) < 0 around x = 0 (the center of the star), and graphing p(x) we see that it has a bizarre behavior and does not satisfy to the condition  $\frac{dp}{dx} < 0$ , so let us classify the solution (5.11) as not physical.

If we take (5.11) as seed and apply the Moebius transformation (2.10) we get again a three parameter extension of solution (5.11), which may contain some physically interesting ones.

# 6. Conclusions

Although most of perfect fluid solutions in general relativity have been studied in the Schwarzschild coordinates, we found a remarkable simplification in the isotropic coordinates, where we have developed an algebraic method to generate new solutions starting from already known ones. The symmetry group we have identified is practically the group of Moebius transformations and we are therefore able to generate extended solutions with three arbitrary real parameters with respect to the original ones. Obviously a strong selection of these solutions is necessary to meet the essential physical requirements (positive pressure and density, sound velocity less than *c* and

so on). We have applied our method to the Schwarzschild interior solution and to a deformation of it, in which we have discussed the physical requirements in great detail. We think the method that we have developed here could be useful in the future to identify new interesting solutions and to attempt a general classification of them.

# **Declaration of competing interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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