

Q2(5): Self Consistent Form for the Relativistic
Newton Equation.

Consider the relativistic velocity:

$$\underline{v} = \gamma \frac{d\underline{r}}{dt} \quad - (1)$$

then the relativistic acceleration is:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{a} &= \frac{d}{dt} (\gamma \underline{\dot{r}}) \\ &= \gamma \underline{\ddot{r}} + \underline{\dot{r}} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} \end{aligned} \quad - (2)$$

so the relativistic force equation is:

$$\underline{\bar{F}} = m \left(\gamma \underline{\ddot{r}} + \underline{\dot{r}} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} \right) = - \frac{mM\bar{G}}{r^3} \underline{r} \quad - (3)$$

In plane polar coordinates:

$$\underline{\ddot{r}} = (\ddot{r} - r\dot{\phi}^2) \underline{e}_r + (r\ddot{\phi} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\phi}) \underline{e}_\phi \quad - (4)$$

and

$$\underline{\dot{r}} = \dot{r} \underline{e}_r + r\dot{\phi} \underline{e}_\phi \quad - (5)$$

so eq. (3) becomes:

$$\gamma (\ddot{r} - r\dot{\phi}^2) + \frac{d\gamma}{dt} \dot{r} = - \frac{M\bar{G}}{r^2} \quad - (6)$$

and

$$\gamma (r\ddot{\phi} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\phi}) + r\dot{\phi} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} = 0 \quad - (7)$$

Eq. (6) is the relativistic Leibniz equation.

Eq. (7) is the conservation of relativistic angular momentum:

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = 0 \quad - (8)$$

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = \frac{d(\gamma m r^2 \dot{\phi})}{dt} = 0 \quad - (9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma \frac{d}{dt} (r^2 \dot{\phi}) + r^2 \dot{\phi} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} &= 0 \quad - (10) \\ &= \gamma \left(r^2 \ddot{\phi} + \frac{dr^2}{dt} \dot{\phi} \right) + r^2 \dot{\phi} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} \end{aligned}$$

Now use:

$$\frac{dr^2}{dt} = \frac{dr^2}{dr} \frac{dr}{dt} = 2r\dot{r} \quad - (11)$$

so eq. (10) becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma (r^2 \ddot{\phi} + 2r\dot{r}\dot{\phi}) + r^2 \dot{\phi} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} &= 0 \quad - (12) \\ &= \gamma (r\ddot{\phi} + 2\dot{r}\dot{\phi}) + r\dot{\phi} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Q.E.D., i.e. eq. (8) leads to eq. (7) in a self consistent way. Relativistic angular momentum is conserved.