

(3) How large, in order of magnitude, is the deflection of a light ray that grazes a neutron star? That grazes a galaxy?

The answer can only depend on  $G$ ,  $c$ , the impact parameter  $b$ , and the mass  $M$  of the attractor. A nonrelativistic calculation for a particle of mass  $m$  moving at practically constant speed  $v$  on a practically straight path that passes a distance  $b$  away from a mass  $M$  easily yields for the transverse momentum acquired  $2mMG/bv$ . The resulting small deflection of the trajectory is  $2MG/Bv^2$ . If we naively replace  $v^2$  by  $c^2$  we ought to get at least the right order of magnitude for the deflection of the light ray. As many readers will recall, Einstein's correct formula predicts a deflection just twice as great,  $4MG/bc^2$ . I'll use the correct formula. For a typical neutron star radius and mass I'll take 10 km and  $10^{33}$  g. For a galaxy, I'll assume for  $b$  and  $M$   $10^{23}$  cm and  $10^{44}$  g. Then the ray grazing the neutron star is deflected by 0.3 radians while the deflection of a ray "grazing" a galaxy is a million times smaller,  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  radians.