

325(3) : The Einsteinian Orbit

The starting equation is :

$$\frac{1}{r} = \left(\frac{1}{d} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{r_0}{r^2} \right) (1 + \epsilon \cos \theta) \quad - (1)$$

So

$$1 + \epsilon \cos \theta = \frac{1}{r \left(\frac{1}{d} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{r_0}{r^2} \right)} \quad - (2)$$

and

$$\cos \theta = \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{1}{r \left(\frac{1}{d} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{r_0}{r^2} \right)} - 1 \right) \quad - (3)$$

So

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{1}{r \left(\frac{1}{d} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{r_0}{r^2} \right)} - 1 \right) \right] \quad - (4)$$

The Newtonian result is

$$\theta_0 = \cos^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{d}{r} - 1 \right) \right) \quad - (5)$$

Therefore $\theta - \theta_0$ can be plotted against r .

Here

$$r_0 = \frac{2MG}{c^2} \quad - (6)$$

and at the perihelia :

$$r = r_{\min} = a(1 - \epsilon) = \frac{d}{1 + \epsilon} \quad - (7)$$

Therefore at the perihelia :

a) $\theta_0 = \cos^{-1} 1 = 0, 2\pi, \dots - (8)$

We choose $\theta_0 = 2\pi - (9)$

At θ perihelia:

$$\theta = \cos^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{1}{\frac{1}{1+\epsilon} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{r_0}{d} (1+\epsilon)} - 1 \right) \right]$$

$$= \cos^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{1+\epsilon}{1 + \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{(1+\epsilon)^2 r_0}{d} \right)} - 1 \right) \right] - (9)$$

So at θ perihelia:

$$\theta - \theta_0 = \cos^{-1} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{1+\epsilon}{1 + \frac{3}{2} \frac{r_0}{d} (1+\epsilon)^2} - 1 \right) \right] - 2\pi - (10)$$

This is the true precession of the Earth's perihelion for eq. (1).