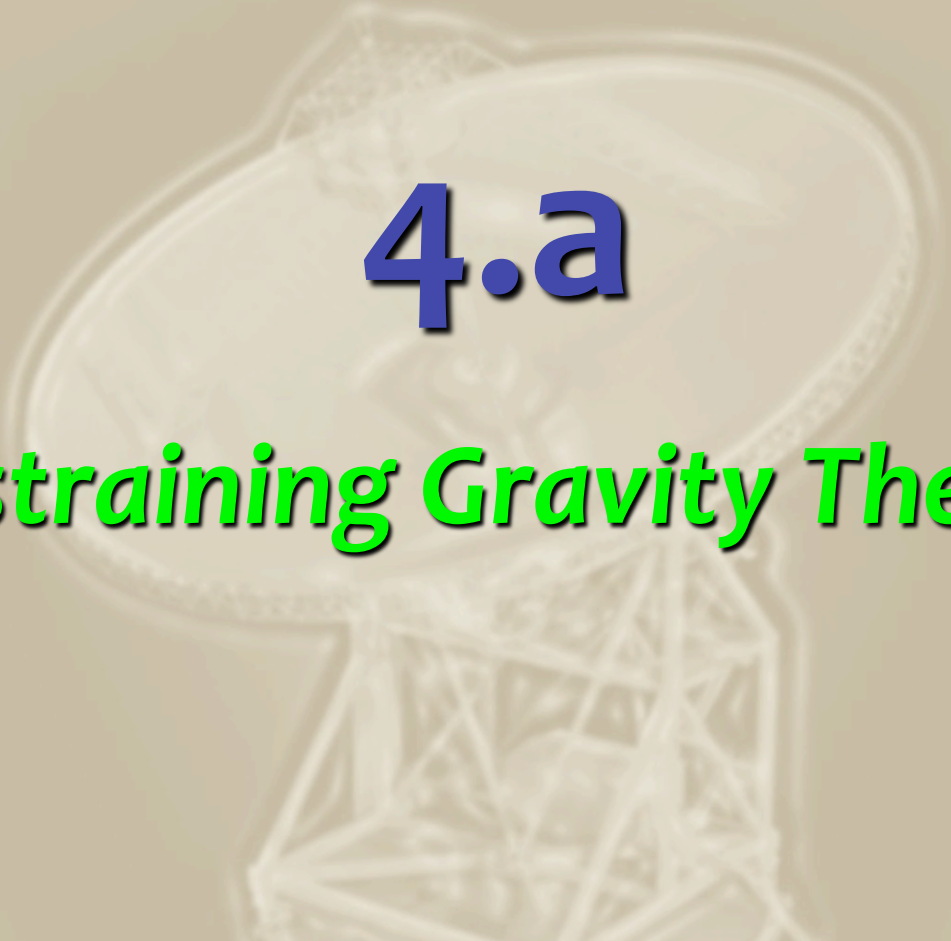


4.

# Pulsars Timing as a tool for fundamental physics investigations





# 4.a

## Constraining Gravity Theories

XXVII WINTER SCHOOL OF ASTROPHYSICS, Tenerife, Spain, November 9-20 2015



HIGH TIME RESOLUTION ASTROPHYSICS



... for some binary pulsars, the accuracy of the ToA data is so high that - by using only the keplerian description - one cannot obtain an acceptable timing solution !

**Additional physics is needed!**

... but... which physics?

# The pulsars with at least one measured post Keplerian parameter: 48 cases (12 in Globular Cluster)

PSR	$P_b$	$A_{\text{sin}i}$	T0	Ecc	$\omega$	$\dot{\omega}$	$\dot{P}_b$	$\gamma$	$\text{sin}i$	M2
	(days)	(lt-s)	(MJD)		(deg)	(deg/yr)		(sec)		( $M_{\odot}$ )
J0024-7204H	2.35769683	2.152813	51602.18629	0.070560	110.603	0.066	—	—	—	—
J0024-7204J	0.12066493779	0.0404021	—	—	—	—	-5.5E-13	—	—	—
J0045-7319	51.169451	174.2576	49169.21361	0.807949	115.2540	0.0259	-3.03E-17	—	—	—
J0437-4715	5.74104646	3.36669708	52009.852429	1.9180E-5	1.2224	0.01600	3.73E-12	—	0.674	0.254
J0514-4002A	18.78517915	36.296588	53623.1550879	0.8879773	82.266550	0.01289	—	—	—	—
J0621+1002	8.3186813	12.0320744	50944.75683	0.00245744	188.816	0.0105	—	—	—	—
J0737-3039A	0.10225156248	1.415032	53155.9074280	0.0877775	87.0331	16.89947	-1.252E-12	0.0003856	0.99974	1.2489
J0737-3039B	0.10225156248	1.5161	53155.9074280	0.0877775	267.0331	16.89947	-1.252E-12	0.00038	—	—
J0751+1807	0.263144266723	0.3966127	—	7.1E-7	45	—	-3.1E-14	—	0.90	0.191
J0823+0159	1232.404	162.14564	44286.49	0.0118689	332.022	0.0008	—	—	—	—
J1022+1001	7.8051302826	16.7654074	53587.3140	9.700E-5	97.75	—	—	—	0.7	1.05
J1023+0038	0.1980962019	0.3433494	—	—	—	—	2.5E-10	—	—	—
J1141-6545	0.1976509593	1.858922	51369.8545515	0.171884	42.4561	5.3096	-0.403E-12	0.000773	—	1.02
J1300+1240	25.262	0.0000030	49765.1	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—	0.060E-6
J1518+4904	8.6340050964	20.0440029	52857.71084163	0.24948451	342.554394	0.0113725	2.4E-13	—	—	—
J1537+1155	0.420737299153	3.7294626	50300.89497411	0.2736767	274.76928	1.755805	-0.138E-12	0.0020474	0.975	1.35
J1600-3053	14.3484577709	8.801652	53281.191	17.369E-5	181.85	—	—	—	0.8	0.6
J1603-7202	6.3086296703	6.8806610	—	9.28E-6	168.8	—	—	—	0.89	0.14
J1623-2631	191.44281	64.809460	48728.26242	0.02531545	117.1291	-5E-5	4E-10	—	—	—
J1640+2224	175.46066194	55.3297198	51626.1785	0.000797262	50.7308	—	—	—	0.99	0.15
J1713+0747	67.8251298718	32.34242099	51997.5784	0.0000749406	176.1915	—	—	—	0.89	0.28
J1740-3052	231.02965	756.9087	51353.512333	0.5788720	178.64613	0.00021	—	—	—	—
J1748-2021B	20.5500072	4.466994	54005.480292	0.5701606	314.31935	0.00391	—	—	—	—
J1750-3703A	17.3342759	24.39312	54003.127812	0.712431	131.3547	0.00548	—	—	—	—
J1750-3703B	3.60511446	2.865858	54002.7705	0.004046	323.07	0.00391	—	—	—	—
J1756-2251	0.319633898	2.7564	52812.919653	0.180567	322.571	2.585	—	0.0013	—	—
J1802-2124	0.698889243381	3.7188533	—	2.47E-6	20.3	—	—	—	—	0.78
J1804-0735	2.61676335	3.92055	48354.48538	0.21204	164.752	0.0595	—	—	—	—
J1811-1736	18.7791691	34.7827	50875.02452	0.828011	127.6577	0.0090	—	—	—	—
J1823-1115	357.76199	200.6720	47260.5438	0.794608	99.1719	7.4E-5	—	—	—	—
J1829+2456	1.176027941	7.238	52848.579775	0.1391412	229.92	0.2919	—	—	—	—
J1857+0943	12.32717115	9.230788	—	2.09192E-5	275.294	—	—	—	0.93	0.21
J1903+0327	95.1741176	105.60585	54063.8402308	0.436678411	141.65779	2.46E-4	—	—	—	1.051
J1906+0746	0.165993045	1.420198	53553.9126685	0.085303	61.053	7.57	—	—	—	—
J1909-3744	1.533449474590	1.89799106	—	1.302E-7	176	—	5.5E-13	—	0.9980	0.212
J1915+1606	0.322997462727	2.341774	46443.99588317	0.6171338	226.57518	4.226607	-2.4211E-12	4.294E-3	—	—
J1959+2048	0.3819666069	0.0892253	48196.0635242	0.00000	—	—	1.47E-11	—	—	—
J2019+2425	76.51163479	38.7676297	50054.6439021	0.00011109	159.03	—	-3E-11	—	—	—
J2051-0827	0.0991102506	0.045052	50999.9836017	0.0000	0.0	—	-1.55E-11	—	—	—
J2129+1210C	0.33528204828	2.51845	50000.0643452	0.681395	345.3069	4.4644	-3.96E-12	0.00478	—	—
J2145-0750	6.83893	10.1641080	53042.431	1.930E-5	200.63	0.06	4E-13	—	—	—
J2305+4707	12.33954454	32.6878	47452.560747	0.658369	35.0776	0.0099	—	—	—	—

## Going beyond Kepler...

Even before publication of General Relativity, a blossom of alternate Gravity Theories appeared

A very large class of these Theories (somehow the only ones which have some chance to be “viable”) are the **METRIC THEORIES OF GRAVITY** [e.g Will 2006 ]

- a symmetric metric exists
- all test bodies follow geodesic of the metric
- in local freely falling reference frames, all the NON-gravitational laws of physics are those written in the language of special relativity

In metric theories, gravitation must be a phenomenon related with the occurrence of a curved “spacetime”



## Going beyond Kepler...

In any metric theory, matter and NON-grav fields respond only to the “metric”

Additional fields can exist, though, giving rise to

- Tensor/scalar theories
- Tensor/vectorial theories
- Bimetric theories ...

all of them incorporating their own parameters

These additional fields prescribe how matter and NON-grav fields contribute to create the metric; once determined, the metric alone acts back on the matter

## Going beyond Kepler...

### The Parametrized Post Newtonian (PPN) approach

A suitable and successful framework for describing the results and constraining a very large class of METRIC theories of gravity is that of the so called Parametrized Post Newtonian formalism

It describes all metric theories of gravity in **WEAK-FIELD** conditions, i.e. at order  $1/c^2$  wrt Newtonian physics [e.g Will 2006 ]

Deviations from Newtonian physics are related to a set of 10 PPN-parameters, each of them associated with a specific physical effect  
[e.g Will 2006 ]

# Going beyond Kepler...

Parameter	What it measures, relative to general relativity	Value in GR	Value in scalar tensor theory	Value in semi-conservative theories
$\gamma$	How much space curvature produced by unit mass?	1	$(1+w)/(2+w)$	g
$\beta$	How “nonlinear” is gravity?	1	$1 + L$	b
$\xi$	Preferred-location effects?	0	0	x
$\alpha_1$	Preferred-frame effects?	0	0	$a_1$
$\alpha_2$		0	0	$a_2$
$\alpha_3$		0	0	0
$\zeta_1$	Is momentum conserved?	0	0	0
$\zeta_2$		0	0	0
$\zeta_3$		0	0	0
$\zeta_4$		0	0	0

@ Will 2009

The 10 PPN-parameters and their significance



# Going beyond Kepler...

## Tests of Gravity theories in the weak-field limit

**Weak** in which sense?

In term of the compactness parameter  $\epsilon$

$$\epsilon_{Earth} = \left| \frac{E_{grav}}{E_{rest}} \right| = \frac{GM_{Earth}}{R_{Earth}c^2} \cong 10^{-10}$$

$$\epsilon_{Sun} = \left| \frac{E_{grav}}{E_{rest}} \right| = \frac{GM_{Sun}}{R_{Sun}c^2} \cong 10^{-6}$$

All the Solar System tests fall in this category... since the experiment about the light deflection by Sun [Eddington 1919] and the observation of the Mercury advance of perihelion

The Parametrized Post Newtonian formalism is well tailored for describing the outcomes of these tests [e.g Will 2006 ]

So far, **GR** has passed all these tests with *full marks and cum laude*

# Going beyond Kepler...

## Tests of Gravity theories in the strong-field limit

**Strong** in which sense?

In term of the compactness parameter  $\epsilon$  the source should satisfy

$$\epsilon_{source} = \left| \frac{E_{grav}}{E_{rest}} \right| = \frac{GM_{source}}{R_{source}c^2} \cong 0.1 - 1$$

Where **to find a laboratory for testing GR** in extreme conditions?

Not on Earth or on Solar System...  
but in the Cosmo...very interesting targets are  
**“relativistic objects in compact binaries”**

**NSs and BHs are  
“relativistic” objects**

**“compact” binaries**

$$\epsilon_{NS} = \left| \frac{E_{grav}}{E_{rest}} \right| = \frac{GM_{NS}}{R_{NS}c^2} \cong 0.2 \quad \epsilon_{BH} = \left| \frac{E_{grav}}{E_{rest}} \right| = \frac{GM_{BH}}{R_{BH}c^2} \cong 0.5$$

Gravitational radiation *inspiral* affects binary evolution **within an Hubble time**



# Going beyond Kepler...

## Tests of Gravity theories in the strong-field limit

### Astrophysical contexts:

- during late stages of coalescence of a binary hosting relativistic objects, the orbital velocity approaches  $c$  and the orbital separation approaches the size of the star(s), whence physical processes occur in strong-field conditions: according to the BH mass, they are wonderful targets for LIGO, VIRGO, for the Pulsar Timing Arrays (PTAs) and, in future, LISA
- emission processes occurring in relativistic objects close to the event horizon: e.g. spectral and timing features in the electromagnetic emission (often X-ray) from the neighborhood of the last stable orbit of accretion disks surrounding NS or BH hosted in a binary system: some hints from XMM-Newton and Rossi-XTE but targets for future high energy (most X-ray) observatories: LOFT,...
- compact relativistic binary pulsars: targets for current TIMING observations in the RADIO band



## Going beyond Kepler...

### Tests of Gravity theories in the strong-field limit

**Wait a minute!** Orbits of known binary pulsars are never entering the strong-field limit...

$$\varepsilon_{bin-psr} = \left| \frac{E_{grav}}{E_{rest}} \right| = \frac{GM_{bin-psr}}{a_{bin-psr}c^2} \cong 10^{-5} - 10^{-3} \quad \frac{V_{bin-psr}}{c} \cong 10^{-5} - 10^{-3}$$

But in most alternative theories of gravity (e.g. in the tensor-scalar ones) the **orbital motion and the gravitational radiation damping depend on the gravitational binding energy** (i.e. self gravity, e.g.  $\varepsilon_{NS} \approx 0.2$ ,  $\varepsilon_{BH} \approx 0.5$ ) of the involved bodies

[e.g. Esposito-Farese 2005, Will 2006]

If enough accuracy in the measurements is provided, **significant effects are expected to be detectable even in the weak-field limit for the orbits**

## Going beyond Kepler...

### Tests of Gravity theories in the strong-field limit

A suitable and successful framework for testing and constraining a very large class of gravity theories is that of the **Post-Keplerian (PK) formalism** [Damour & Deruelle 1986]

**1<sup>st</sup> → PK parameters are operationally defined:**

i.e. they are phenomenological quantities, which there is a prescription to measure for

**2<sup>nd</sup> → In ANY specific gravity theory (picked in a large range of metric theories), and for negligible spin contributions, the PK parameters can be written only as a function of the masses of the two stars and of the keplerian parameters of the binary system**

[Damour & Deruelle 1986]

# Timing model: post-keplerian params

The easiest to observe post-keplerian parameters



- $\dot{\omega}$  : Periastron precession
- $\gamma$  : Time dilation and gravitational redshift
- $r$  : Shapiro delay “range”
- $s$  : Shapiro delay “shape”
- $\dot{P}_b$  : Orbit decay due to Gravitational Wave emission



# What do we learn when observing also the Post-keplerian parameters ?

$$\dot{\omega} = 3 \left( \frac{P_b}{2\pi} \right)^{-5/3} (T_{\odot} M)^{2/3} (1 - e^2)^{-1}, \quad \text{Periastron precession}$$

$$\gamma = e \left( \frac{P_b}{2\pi} \right)^{1/3} T_{\odot}^{2/3} M^{-4/3} m_c (m_p + 2m_c), \quad \text{Time dilation \& gravitational redshift}$$

$$\dot{P}_b = -\frac{192\pi}{5} \left( \frac{P_b}{2\pi} \right)^{-5/3} \left( 1 + \frac{73}{24}e^2 + \frac{37}{96}e^4 \right) (1 - e^2)^{-7/2} T_{\odot}^{5/3} m_p m_c M^{-1/3}, \quad \text{Orbital period decay}$$

$$r = T_{\odot} m_c, \quad \text{Shapiro delay (amplitude)}$$

$$s = x \left( \frac{P_b}{2\pi} \right)^{-2/3} T_{\odot}^{-1/3} M^{2/3} m_c^{-1}. \quad \text{Shapiro delay (shape)}$$

... where...

- $e$  orbital eccentricity
- $P_b$  orbital period
- $x$  projected semimajor axis
- $m_p$  pulsar mass
- $m_c$  companion star mass
- $M = m_p + m_c$  total system lagrangian mass

Once more than 2 relativistic PK parameters are known, one derives the masses of the 2 bodies and hence predicts the further PK par on the basis of a given Gravity Theory

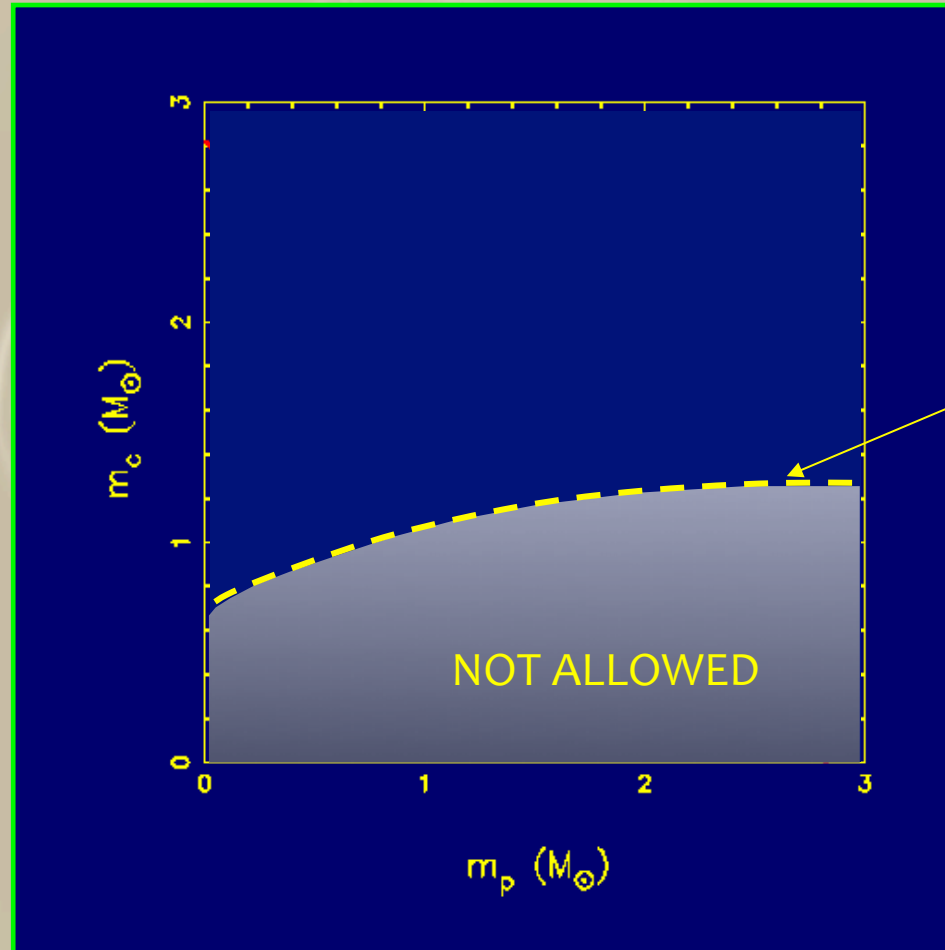
/ 2 PK



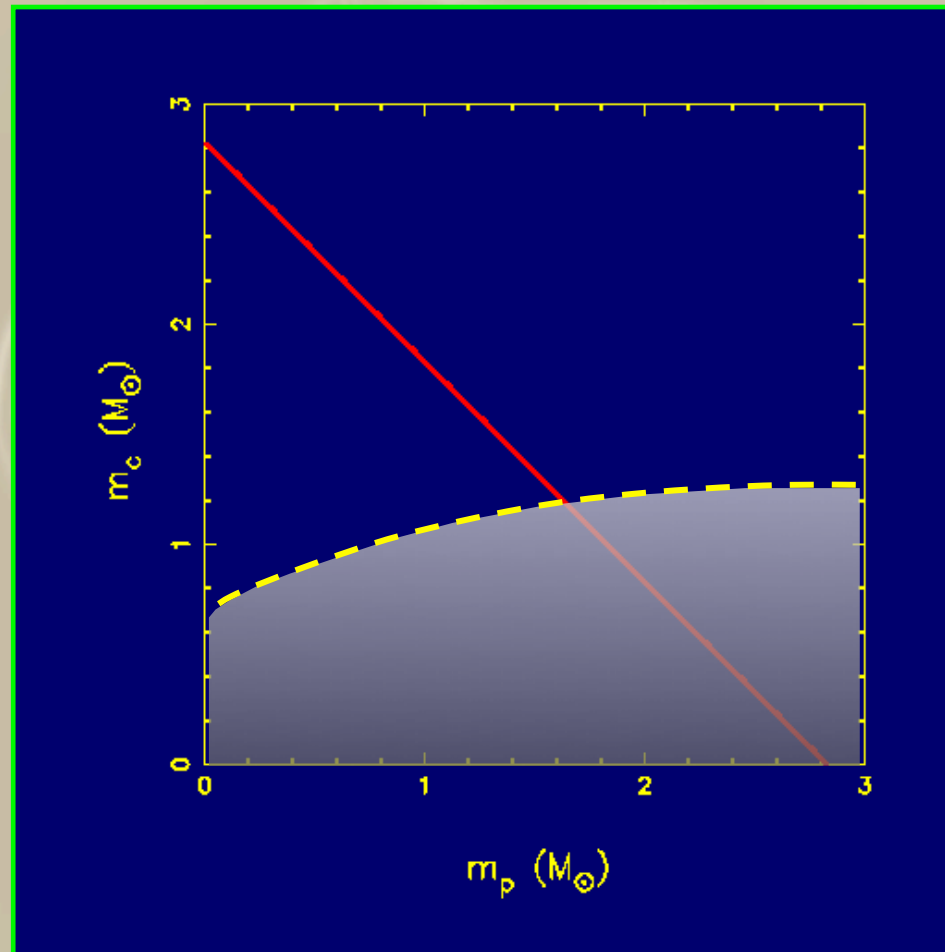
**A test for Gravity Theories**

$$f(m_p, m_c) = \frac{4\pi^2 (a_p \sin i)^3}{G P_{orb}^2} = \frac{(m_c \sin i)^3}{(m_p + m_c)^3}$$

## Mass Function constraint

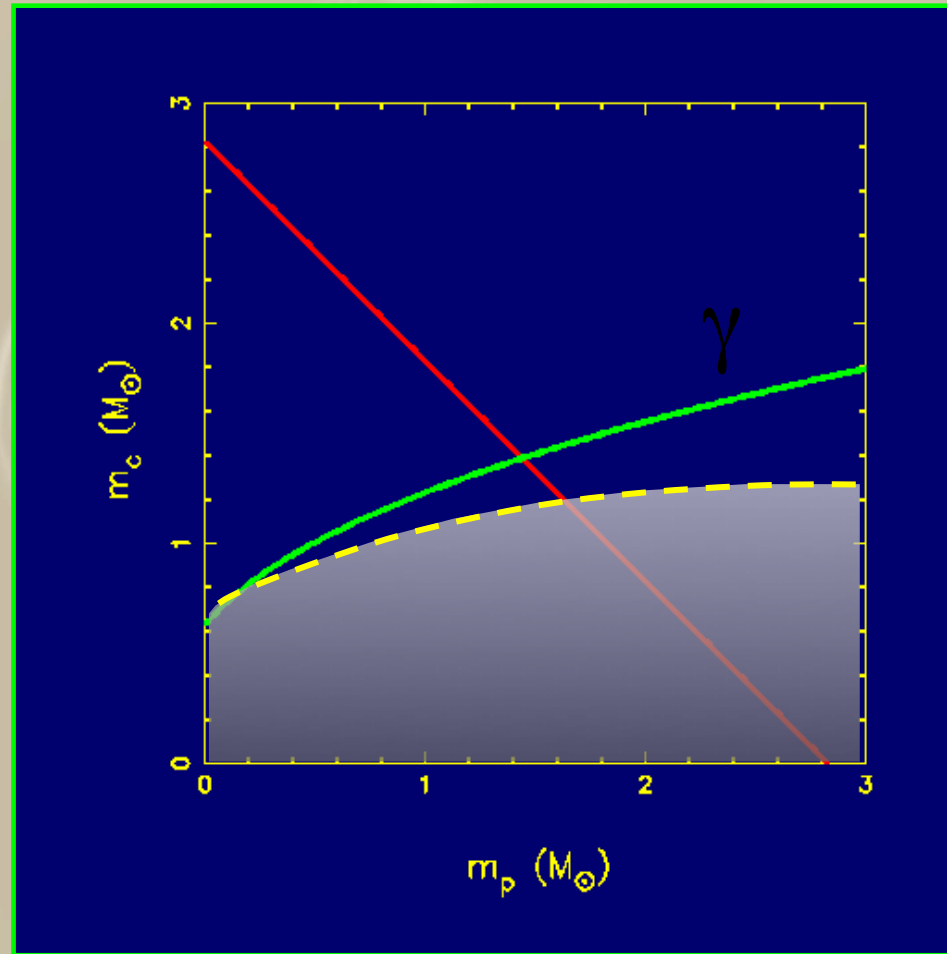


The pulsar and companion star masses are unconstrained

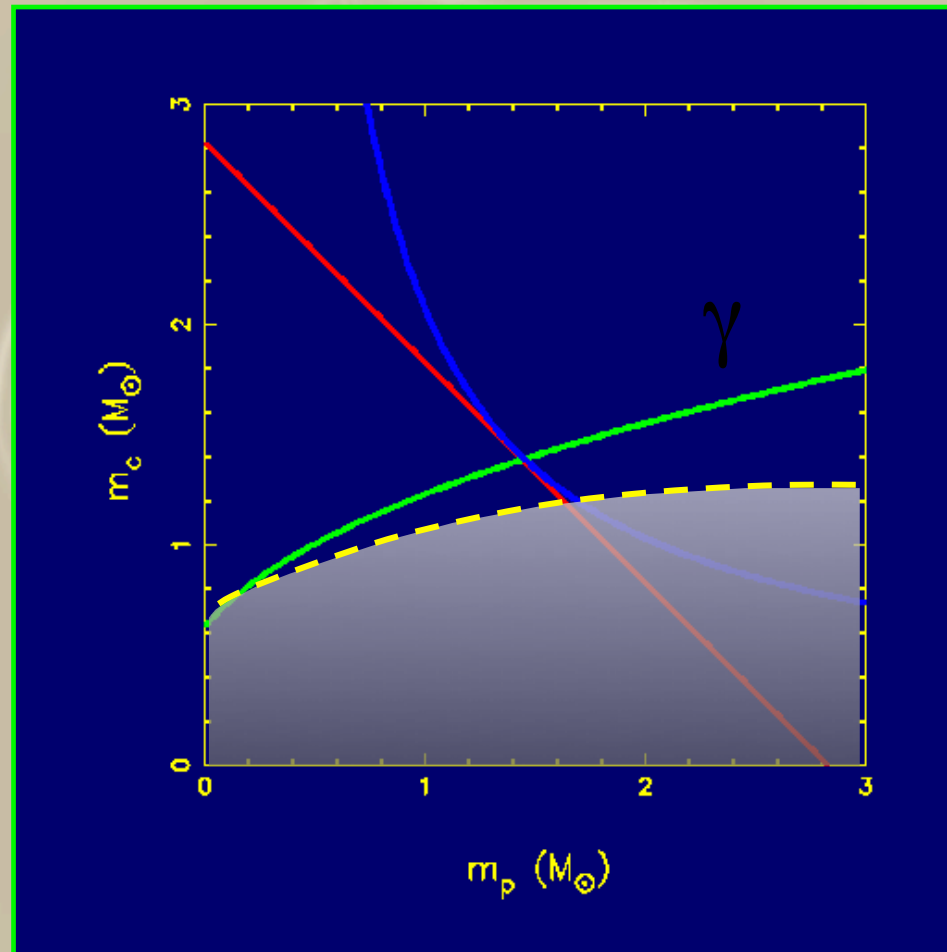


**One PK-parameter: constraining mass**

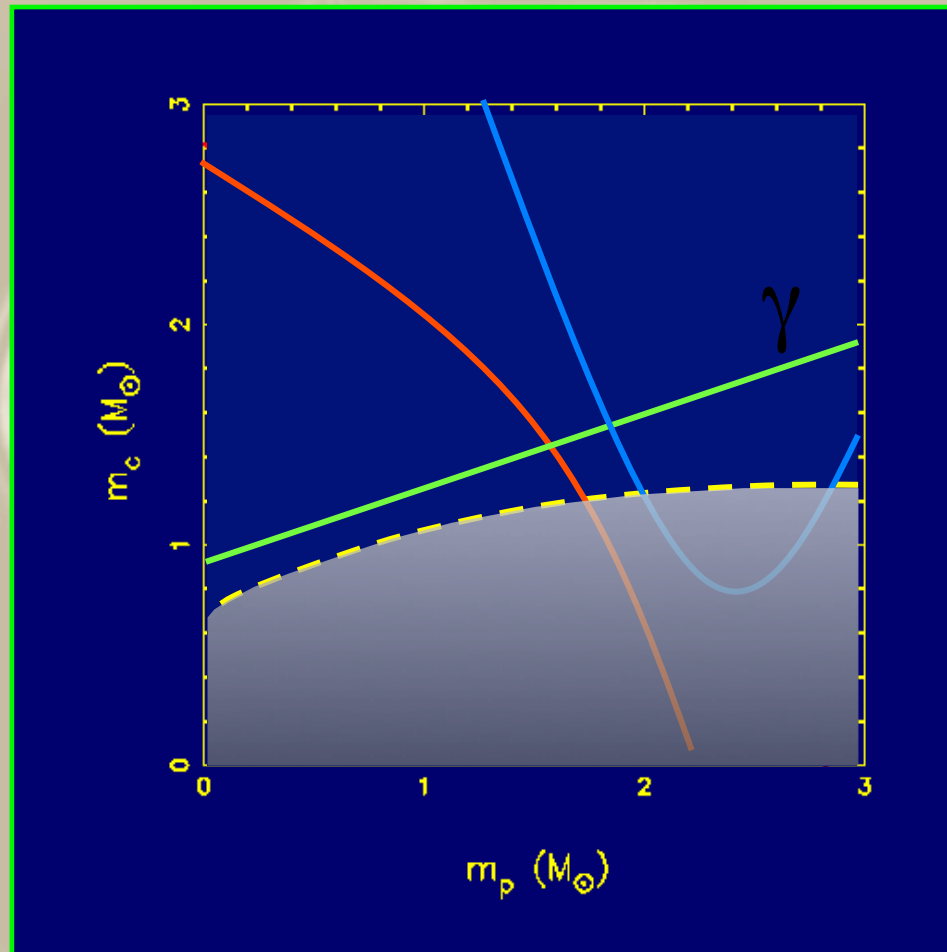




Two PK parameters: mass determined **within** a theory



Three PK parameters: in **correct theory lines meet!**



But **not in a wrong** theory !!!



# Now the catalog contains $\approx$ ten Double Neutron Star Binaries

PULSAR	$P_{\text{spin}}$ [ms]	DM [cm <sup>-3</sup> pc]	$P_{\text{orb}}$ [day]	$a_p \sin(i)$ [lt-s]	$M_{\text{c}+M_{\text{p}}}$ [ Msun ]	ecc	TimeSpDwn [10 <sup>8</sup> yr]	TimeMerg [10 <sup>8</sup> yr]
J0453+1559	45.7	-	4.07	14.5	$M_{\text{c,med}} = 1.2$	0.11	-	NS+WD?
J0737-3039	22.70	48.91	0.10	1.42	1.34+1.25	0.09	210	0.85
J1518+4904	40.93	11.62	8.63	20.04	2.72	0.25	200	>T Hubble
B1534+12	37.90	11.62	0.42	3.72	1.33+1.33	0.27	2.5	27.0
J1756-2251	28.45	121.60	0.32	2.75	2.57	0.18	tbd	11.0
J1811-1736	104.18	477.00	18.78	34.78	2.57	0.82	970	>T Hubble
J1829+2456	41.00	13.90	1.18	7.24	>1.22 <1.38	0.14	tbd	>T Hubble
B1913+16	59.03	168.77	0.32	2.34	1.387+1.441	0.62	1.1	3.0
J1906+0746	144.10	217.78	0.17	1.42	1.25+1.37	0.08	0.001	3.0
B2127+11C	30.53	67.13	0.34	2.52	1.36+1.34	0.68	1.0	2.2

# The most interesting for GR tests are:

PULSAR	$P_{\text{spin}}$ [ms]	DM [cm-3 pc]	$P_{\text{orb}}$ [day]	$a_p \sin(i)$ [lt-s]	$M_c + M_p$ [ Msun ]	ecc	TimeSpDwn [10 <sup>8</sup> yr]	TimeMerg [10 <sup>8</sup> yr]
J0453+1559	45.7	-	4.07	14.5	$M_{c,\text{med}} = 1.2$	0.11	-	NS+WD?
J0737-3039	22.70	48.91	0.10	1.42	1.34+1.25	0.09	210	0.85
J1518+4904	40.93	11.62	8.63	20.04	2.72	0.25	200	>T Hubble
B1534+12	37.90	11.62	0.42	3.72	1.33+1.33	0.27	2.5	27.0
J1756-2251	28.45	121.60	0.32	2.75	2.57	0.18	tbd	11.0
J1811-1736	104.18	477.00	18.78	34.78	2.57	0.82	970	>T Hubble
J1829+2456	41.00	13.90	1.18	7.24	>1.22 <1.38	0.14	tbd	>T Hubble
B1913+16	59.03	168.77	0.32	2.34	1.387+1.441	0.62	1.1	3.0
J1906+0746	144.10	217.78	0.17	1.42	1.25+1.37	0.08	0.001	3.0
B2127+11C	30.53	67.13	0.34	2.52	1.36+1.34	0.68	1.0	2.2

# PSR B1913+16

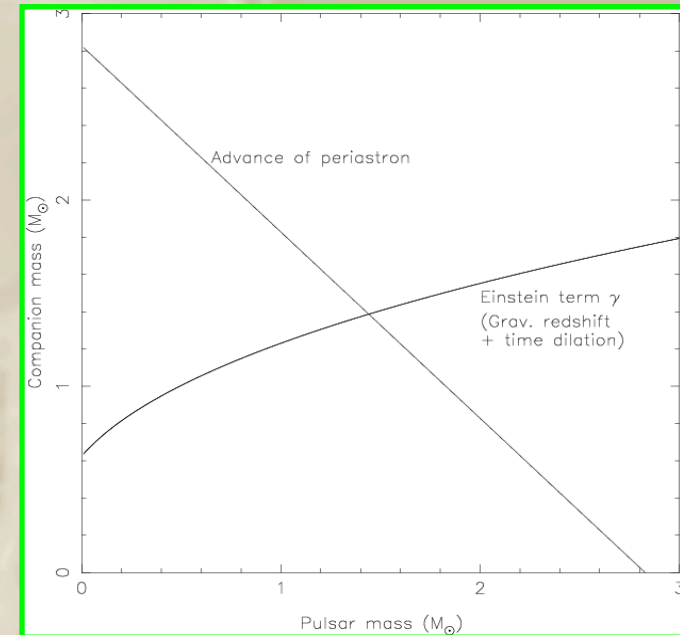
Discovered on 1974 [Hulse & Taylor 75]

Pulsar + Neutron Star

Spin period = 59 ms

Orbital period = 7.8 hrs

Eccentricity = 0.61



Measured 3 PK pars:  $\dot{\omega}$   $\gamma$   $\dot{P}_b$

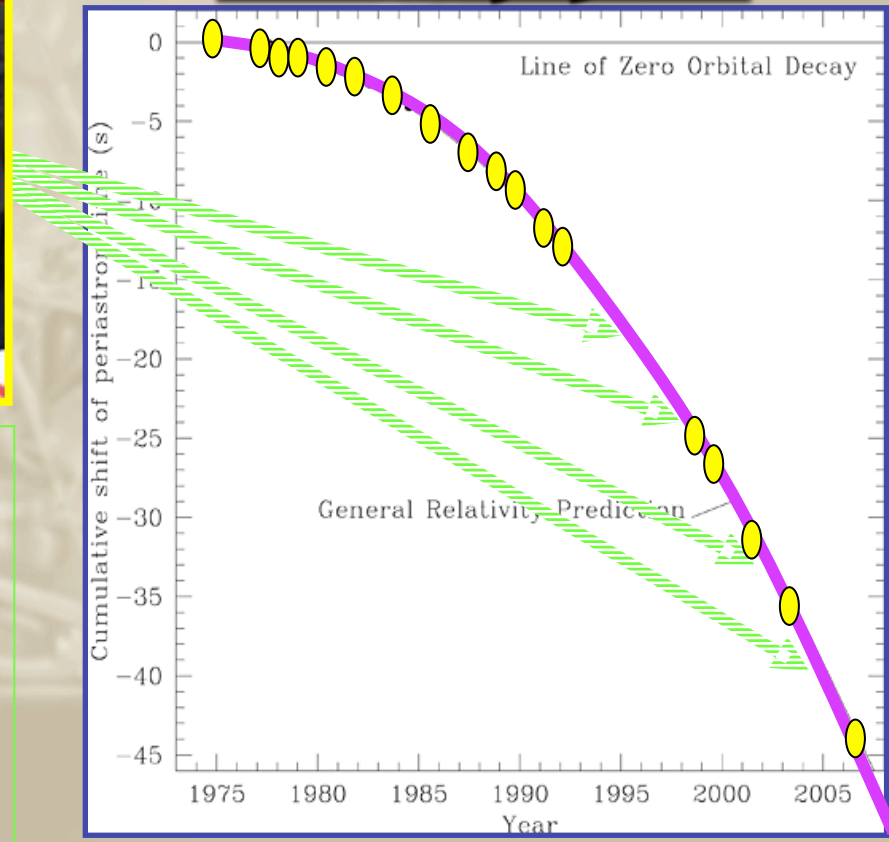
Most precise NS mass determination to date:

$1.4414(2) M_{\text{sun}} + 1.3867(2) M_{\text{sun}}$  [Weisberg & Taylor 2004]



The measurements of Russell Hulse  
 and of Joe Taylor...  
 Einstein's equations...

The (in?)direct proof of  
GW existence:  
PSR B1913+16



[ Weisberg 2007 ]

GR provides an accurate  
 description of the  
 as observed  
 i.e. a  
 a

**NOBEL PRIZE**  
**1993**  
**Taylor & Hulse**

ES:  
 ot

# PSR B1534+12

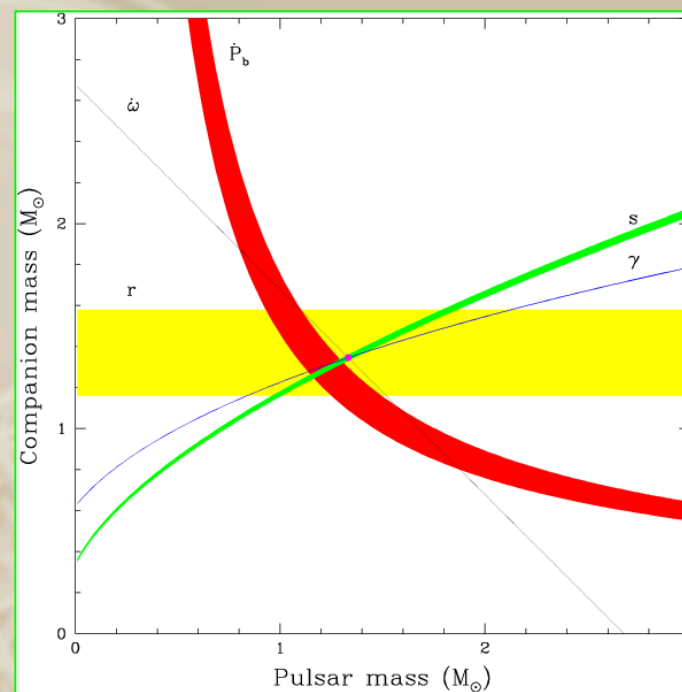
Discovered on 1990 [Wolszczan 90]

Pulsar + Neutron Star

Spin period = 38 ms

Orbital period = 10 hrs

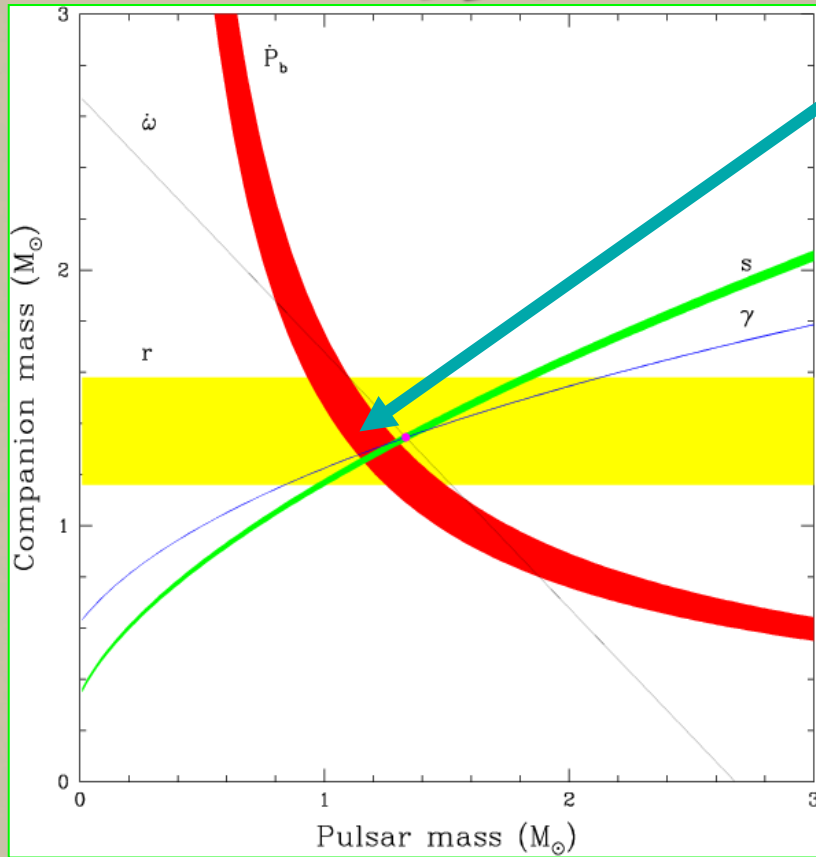
Eccentricity = 0.27



Measured 5 PK pars:  $\dot{\omega}$   $\gamma$   $\dot{P}_b$   $s$   $r$

Non-radiative predictions of GR tested at  
better than  $\sim 1\%$  level [Stairs 2002]

# PSR B1534+12



$\dot{P}_b$  does not match!

[ Stairs 2002 ]

Affected by relative acceleration of CoM of binary pulsar system wrt Solar System barycenter [ Damour & Taylor 1991 ]

Three terms:

- vertical acc in Galactic potential
- acc in the plane of the Galaxy
- apparent acc due to tranverse

motion [ Shklovskii 1970 ]

$$\left( \frac{\dot{P}_b}{P_b} \right)^{\text{gal}} = -\frac{a_z \sin b}{c} - \frac{v_0^2}{cR_0} \left[ \cos l + \frac{\beta}{\sin^2 l + \beta^2} \right] + \mu^2 \frac{d}{c}$$

$$\beta = d/R_0 - \cos l$$

This also limits radiative GR tests

for B1913+16 at current 0.2% level [ Weisberg & Taylor 2004 ]



# PSR J0737-3039A/B

Discovered on 2003 [ Burgay et al 2003, Lyne et al 2004 ]

Pulsar + Pulsar

Spin period = 22.7 ms + 2.77 s

Orbital period = 2.5 hrs

Eccentricity = 0.09

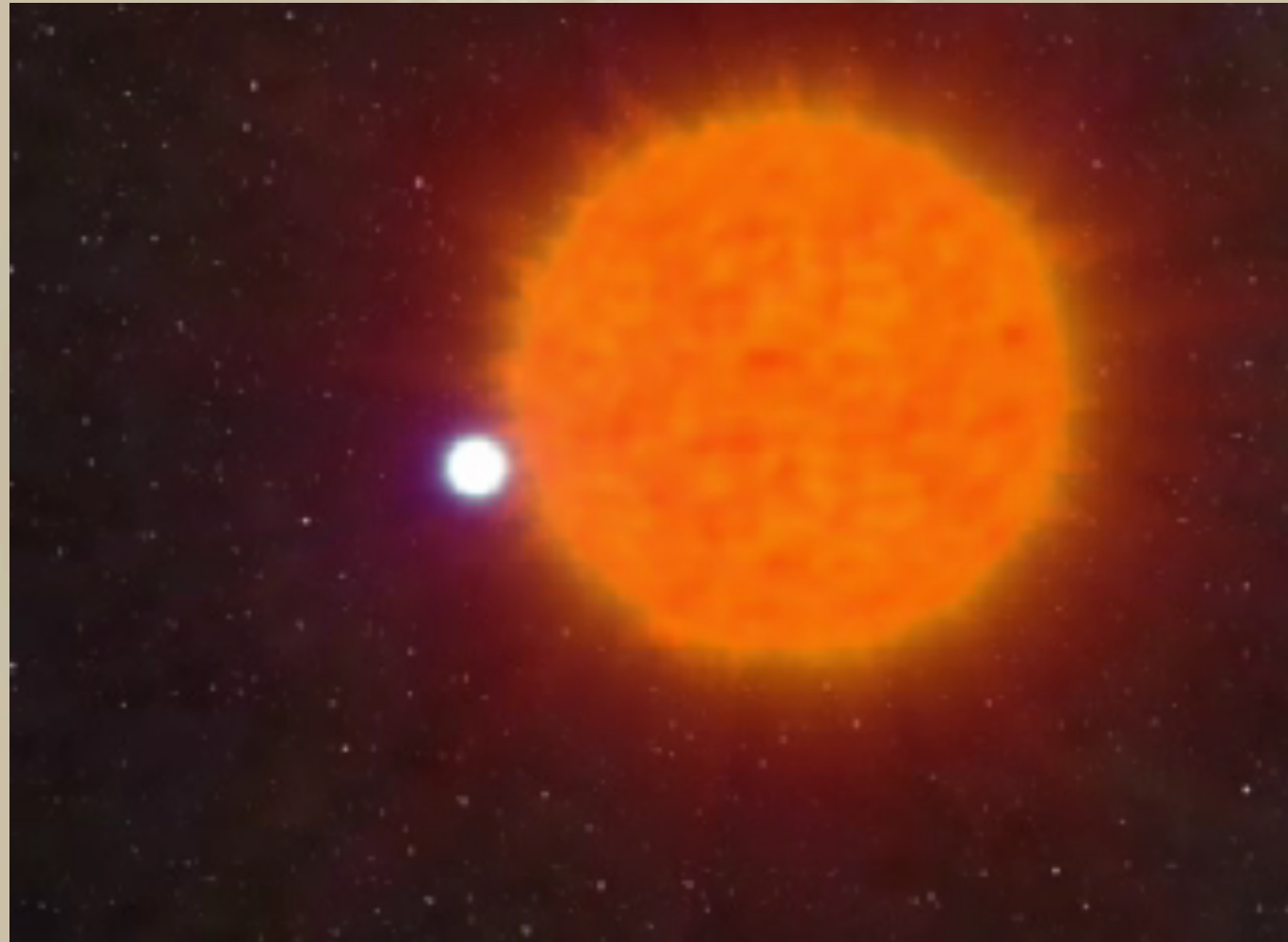
Measured 5 PK pars:  $\omega$   $\dot{\gamma}$   $P_b$   $\dot{s}$   $r$  [Kramer et al 2006]

+ mass ratio  $R$

+ geodetic precession rate  $\Omega_{\text{prec}}$  [ Breton et al 2008 ]



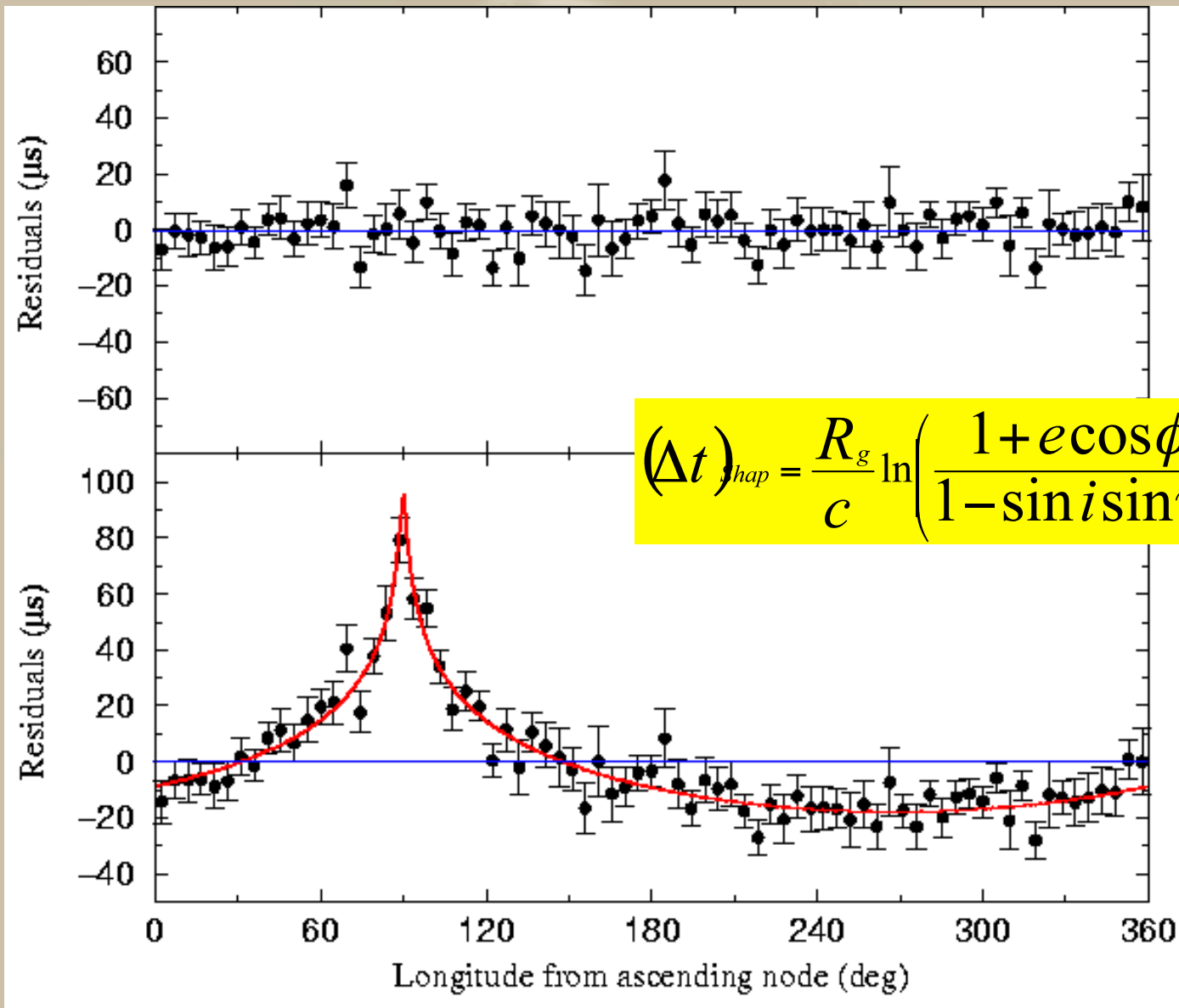
# The double pulsar PSR J0737-3039A/B



© Howe - ATNF

**The origin of the double pulsar**

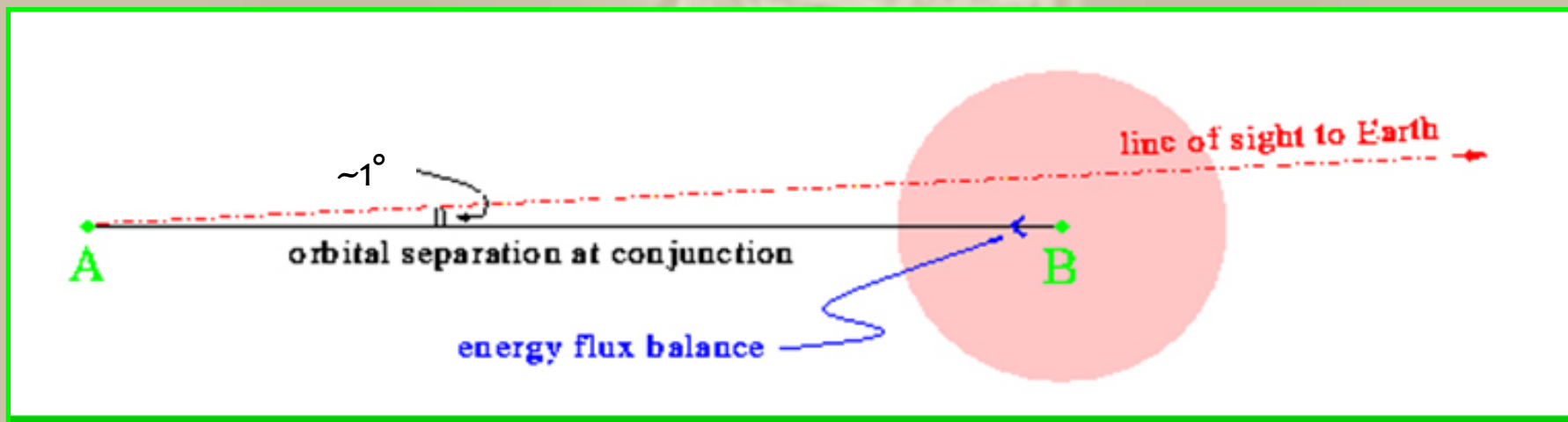
## Shapiro delay in PSR-A arrival times



## The orientation of the orbit

From determination of the “shape” s of the Shapiro delay  $s=0.99974(-39,+16)$

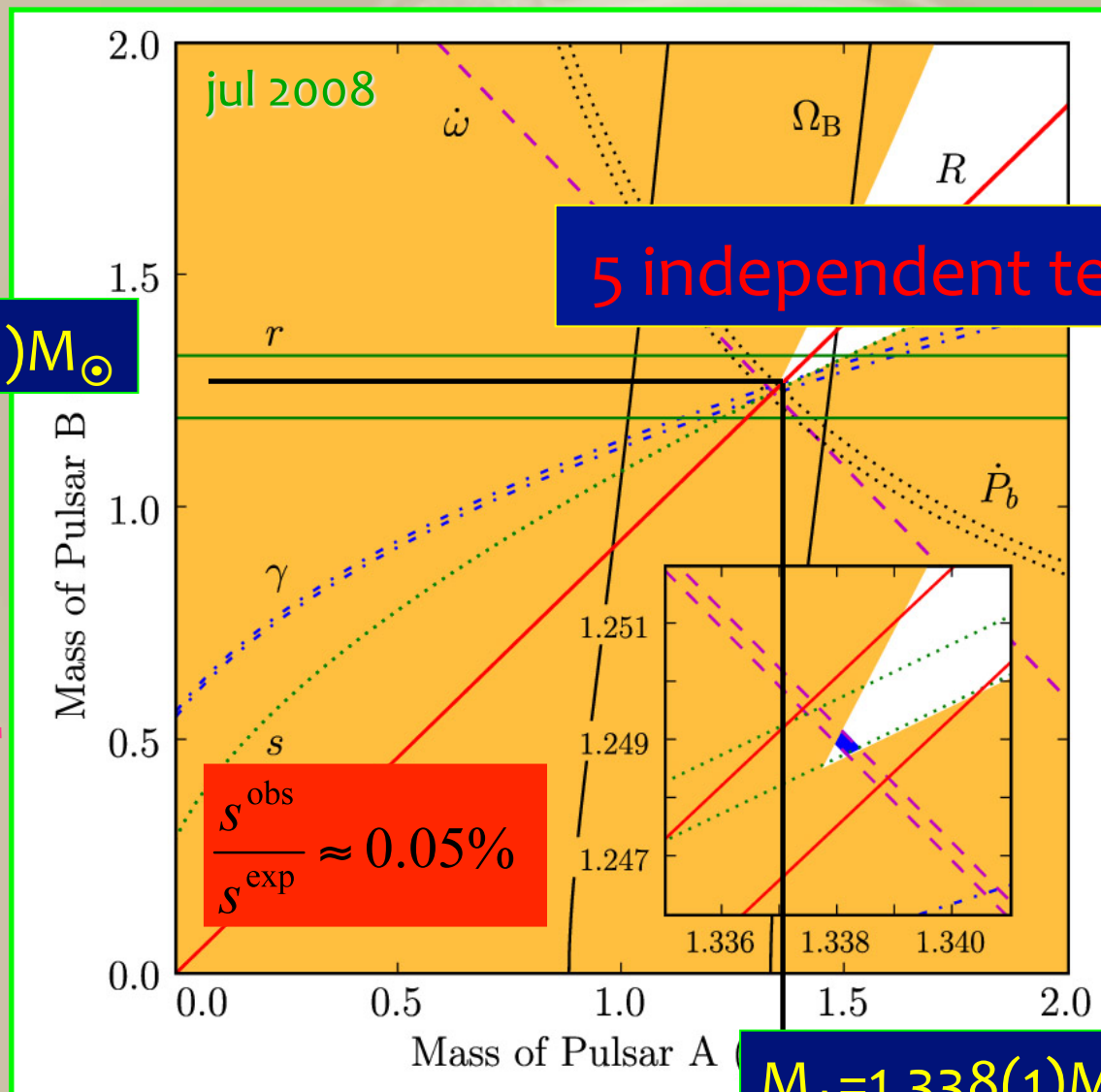
it results  $i = 88.7(-0.8+0.5)$  deg



[ © Possenti – adapted from Lyne et al 2004 ]



# The last published mass-mass diagram for the “best” Einstein theory benchmark: J0737-3039A/B



$M_B = 1.249(1)M_\odot$

5 independent tests of GR!

$M_A = 1.338(1)M_\odot$

[Breton et al 2008]

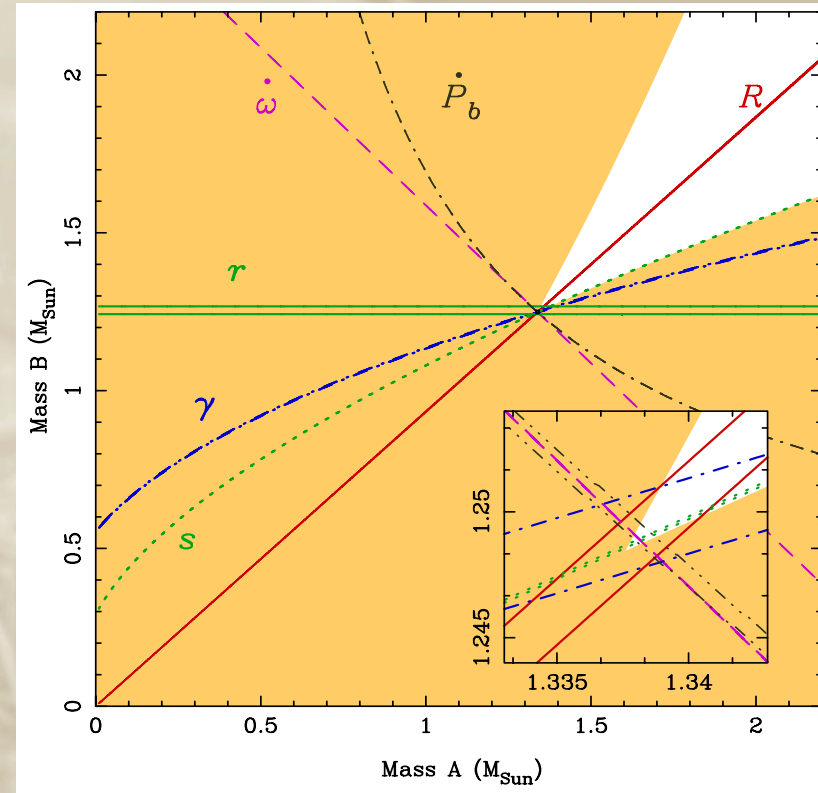
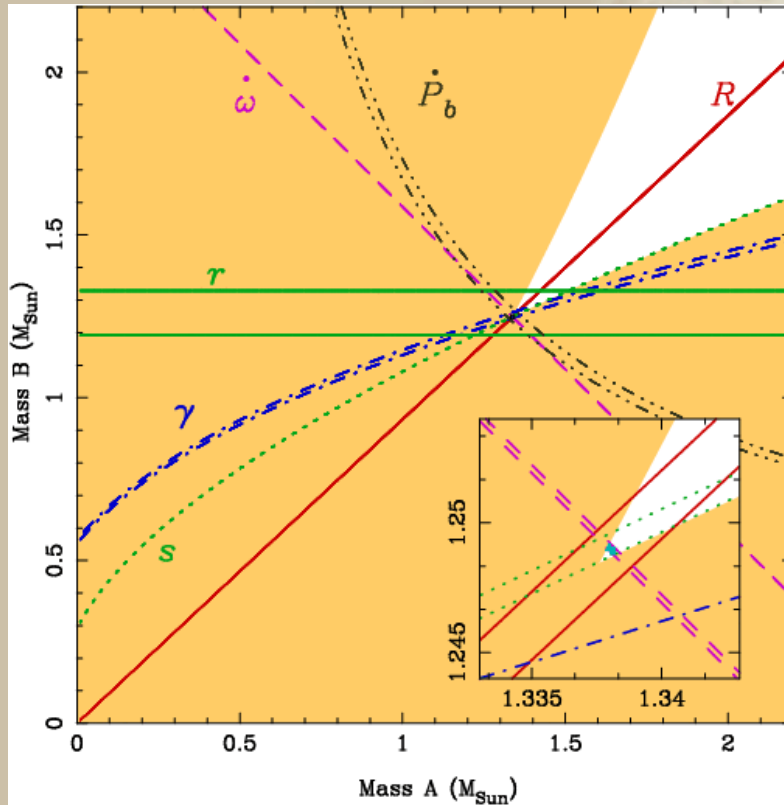
# Prospects for timing were excellent:

- precision  $\dot{\omega} \approx \text{time}^{1.5} P_b$
- precision  $\gamma \approx \text{time}^{1.5} P_b^{1.3}$
- precision  $dP_b/dt \approx \text{time}^{2.5} P_b^3$
- precision  $r, s \approx \text{time}^{0.5}$

...and in fact...

# The current mass-mass diagram for the “best” Einstein theory benchmark: J0737-3039A/B

[ Kramer et al 2006 ]



[ Kramer et al 2014 (in prep.) ]

Precision measurements, e.g.

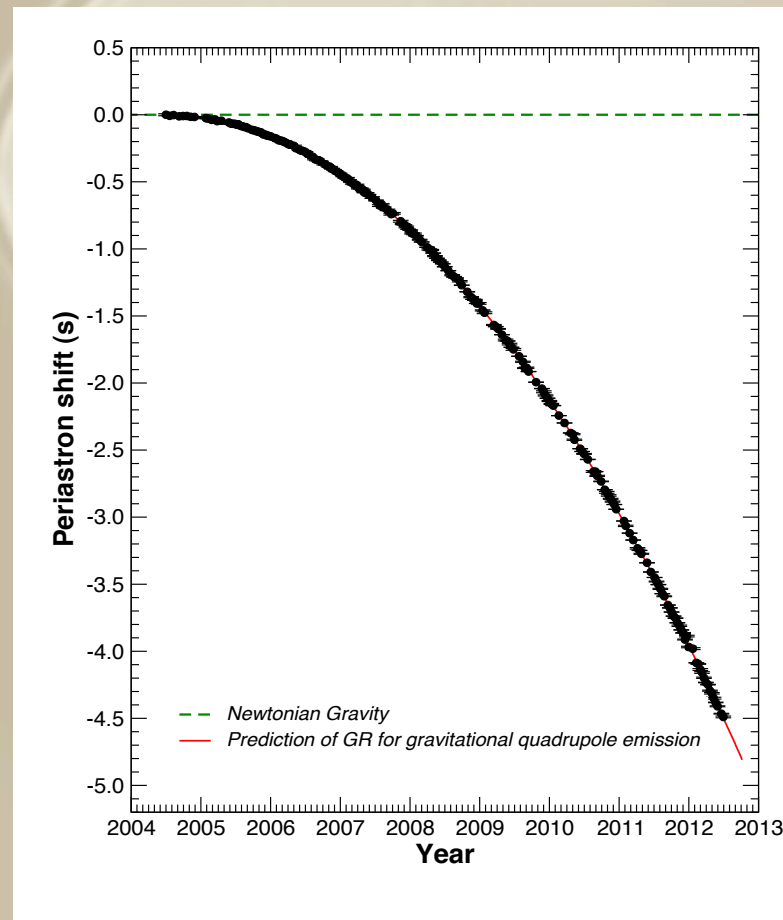
$P$  (ms) =  $22.69937884809636 \pm 0.00000000000003$  (measured to **30 atto-seconds!**)

$P_b$  (d) =  $0.102251562465 \pm 0.000000000002$  (i.e. 2.45h measured to **173 ns!**)



# Current radiative GR test for J0737-3039 system is at ~ 0.03% level

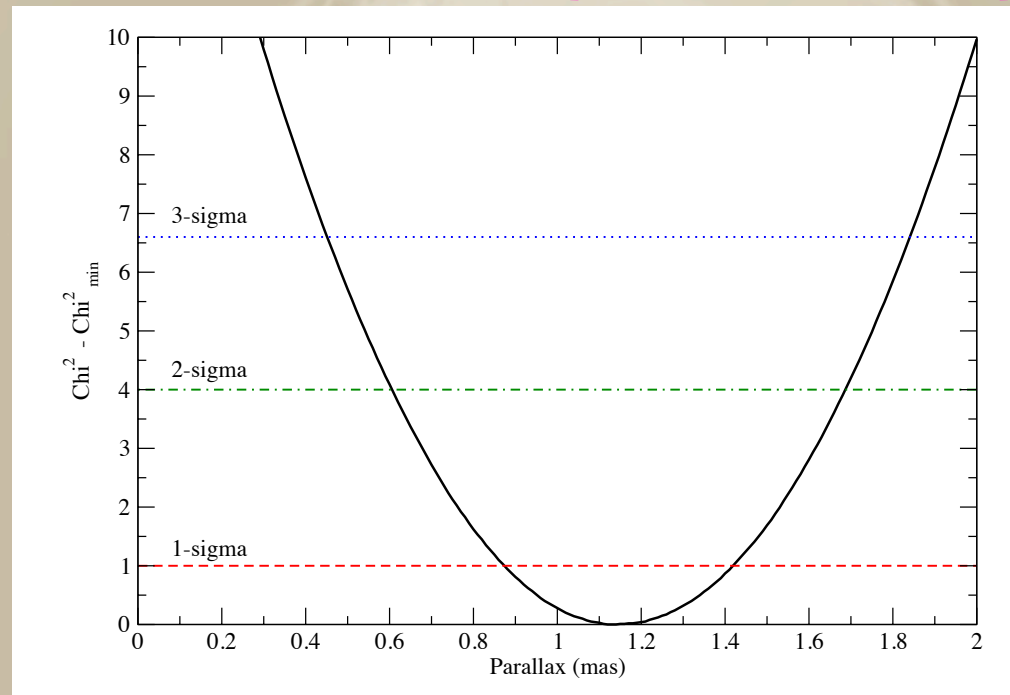
$$dP_b/dt = (-1.2480 \pm 0.0003) \times 10^{-12}$$



[ Kramer et al 2014 (in prep.) ]

# Precision is now so good that from now on, we need to better know kinematic effects and hence Distance

[Kramer et al. 2014 (in prep.)]



$$D = 0.784(+0.223, -0.145) \text{ kpc}$$

Closer than VLBI distance [Deller et al. 2009]

Speed < 10 km/s (effects less severe)

**Current radiative GR tests for J0737-3039 system are at ~1% level** [ Kramer et al 2006 ]

$$\dot{P}_b^{\text{obs}} = (-1.252 \pm 0.017) \times 10^{-12}$$

**What about galactic potential and kinematic corrections?**

$$\left( \frac{\dot{P}_b}{P_b} \right)^{\text{gal}} = - \frac{a_z \sin b}{c} - \frac{v_0^2}{cR_0} \left[ \cos l + \frac{\beta}{\sin^2 l + \beta^2} \right] + \mu^2 \frac{d}{c}$$

**From recent interferometric determination of the distance of the system:** [ Deller et al 2009 ]

$$\beta = d/R_0 - \cos l$$

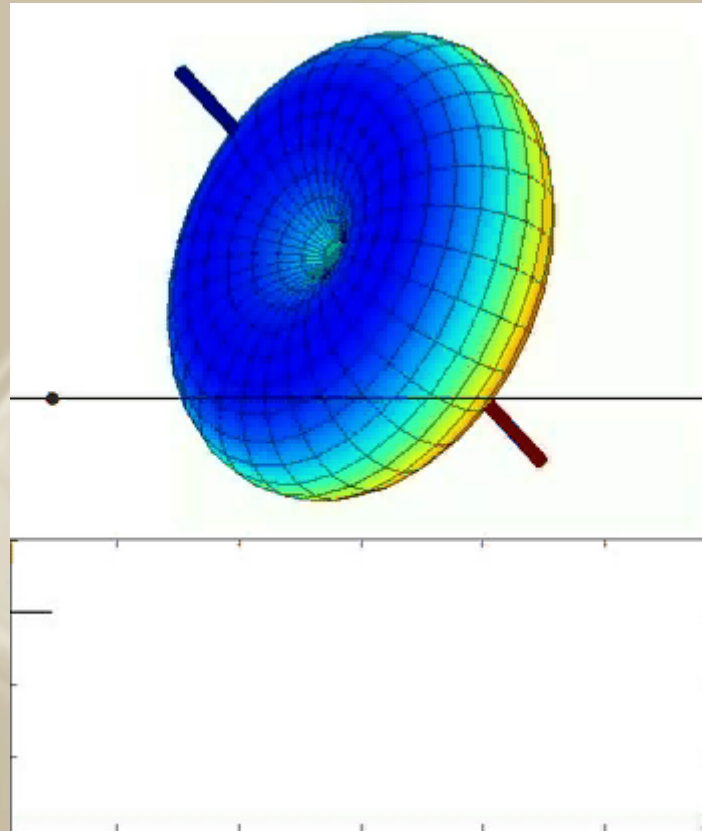
$$\dot{P}_b^{\text{rot}}/P_b = (-4.3 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-20} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\dot{P}_b^z/P_b = (3.8 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-21} \text{ s}^{-1} \quad \dot{P}_b^{\text{gk}} = (1.3 \pm 1.8) \times 10^{-16}$$

$$\dot{P}_b^{\text{Shk}}/P_b = (5.3 \pm 1.8) \times 10^{-20} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

**Radiative GR tests for J0737-3039 system may reach 0.01% level in a decade** [ Deller et al 2009 ]





From the data of 63 eclipses observed at GBT:  
Inclination of spin axis of pulsar B wrt orbit normal  
 $\Theta \approx 130.0^\circ \pm 0.5^\circ (1\sigma)$  or  $\Theta \approx 50.0^\circ \pm 0.5^\circ (1\sigma)$   
Angle between magnetic and spin axes of pulsar B  
 $\alpha \approx 70.9^\circ \pm 0.5^\circ (1\sigma)$

[Breton et al 2008]

# Constraint on spin-orbit coupling

In ANY “fully conservative”  
theory

$$\Omega_B = \frac{x_A x_B}{s^2} \frac{n^3}{1 - e^2} \frac{c^2 \sigma_B}{\mathcal{G}}$$

$$n = 2\pi / P_b$$

$\sigma_B$  = spin-orbit coupling constant

$\mathcal{G}$  = generalized grav constant

For the special case of the double pulsar only, we can measure

$$\left( \frac{c^2 \sigma_B}{\mathcal{G}} \right) = 3.38^{+0.49}_{-0.46}$$

...and compare with the GR prediction

$$\left( \frac{c^2 \sigma_B}{\mathcal{G}} \right)_{\text{GR}} = 2 + \frac{3}{2} \frac{m_A}{m_B} = 3.60677 \pm 0.00035$$

...getting...

$$\left( \frac{c^2 \sigma_B}{\mathcal{G}} \right)_{\text{obs}} / \left( \frac{c^2 \sigma_B}{\mathcal{G}} \right)_{\text{GR}} = 0.94 \pm 0.13$$

[ Breton et al 2008 ]

**GR “effacement” property of gravity holds also for SPINNING bodies: i.e. NS structure does not prevent it to behave like a spinning test particle in an external field**

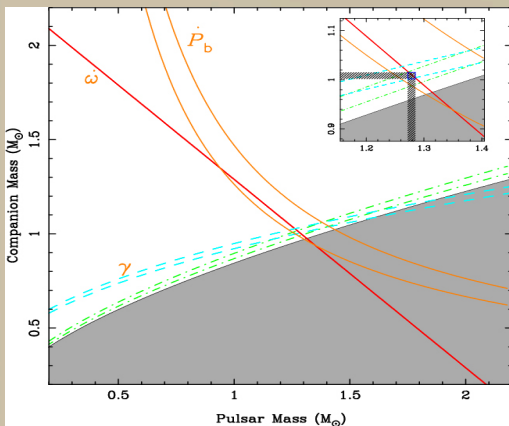
# The relativistic asymmetric NS+WD binaries

## PSR J1141-6545

[ Kaspi et al 2000 ]

Pulsar + “Heavy” WD  
 Spin period = 394 ms  
 Orbital period = 4.7 hrs  
 Eccentricity = 0.17

Measured 3 PK pars  $\dot{\omega}$   $\dot{\gamma}$   $\dot{P}_b$

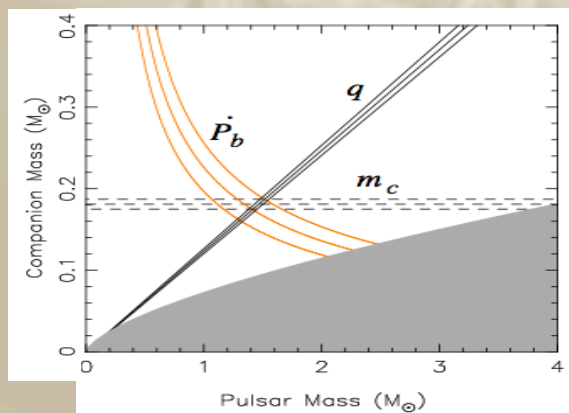


## PSR J1738+0333

[ Jacoby et al 2001,2005 ]

Pulsar + “Light” WD  
 Spin period = 5.8 ms  
 Orbital period = 8.5 hrs  
 Eccentricity  $< 4 \times 10^{-7}$

Measured 1 PK par  $\dot{P}_b$   
 +  $M_{comp}$ ,  $M_{psr}$  from optical obs

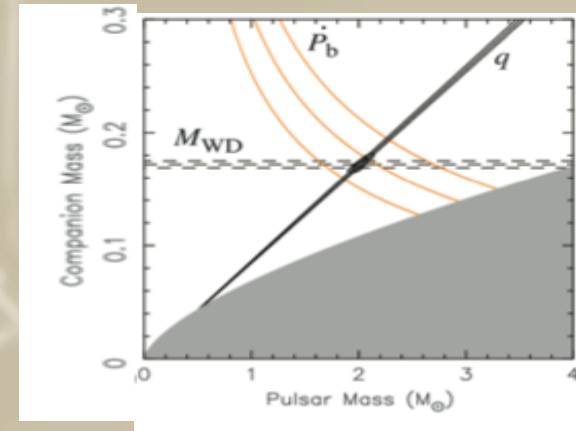


## PSR J0348+0432

[ Boyles et al 2013; Lynch et al 2013 ]

“Heavy” Pulsar + “Light” WD  
 Spin period = 39.1 ms  
 Orbital period = 2.5 hrs  
 Eccentricity  $< 3 \times 10^{-6}$

Measured 1 PK par  $\dot{P}_b$   
 +  $M_{comp}$ ,  $M_{psr}$  from optical obs



Radiative predictions of GR tested at better than:

~6% level [ Bhat et al 2008 ]

~15% level [ Freire et al 2012 ]

~18% level [ Antoniadis et al 2013 ]



# The relativistic asymmetric NS+WD binaries

Tensor-scalar theories predicts the emission of a large amount of DIPOLAR scalar waves (as opposed to the dominant QUADRUPOLAR radiation predicted by GR) in such very asymmetric systems

Masses of the two components and/or radii are very different...

$$\begin{array}{lll} M_{NS} = (1.27 \pm 0.01) M_{\text{sun}} & M_{NS} = (1.46 \pm 0.06) M_{\text{sun}} & M_{NS} = (2.01 \pm 0.04) M_{\text{sun}} \\ M_{WD} = (1.02 \pm 0.01) M_{\text{sun}} & M_{WD} = (0.118 \pm 0.008) M_{\text{sun}} & M_{WD} = (0.172 \pm 0.003) M_{\text{sun}} \end{array}$$

leading to a significant difference in the degree of compactness  $\epsilon$  (i.e. in the self-gravity) of the two bodies in these binaries

$$\epsilon_{NS} = \left| \frac{E_{grav}}{E_{rest}} \right| = \frac{GM_{NS}}{c^2 R_{NS}} \cong 0.2 \quad \epsilon_{WD} = \left| \frac{E_{grav}}{E_{rest}} \right| = \frac{GM_{WD}}{c^2 R_{WD}} \cong 10^{-4}$$

These are the best available binary systems for constraining the coupling constant  $\alpha_0$  in tensor-scalar theories

[Esposito-Farese 2005; Freire et al 2012; Verbiest et al 2012]



# The relativistic asymmetric NS+WD binaries

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \text{metric}$$

$$a(\varphi) = \alpha_0 \varphi + \frac{1}{2} \beta_0 \varphi^2$$

$\varphi$  scalar field

$a(\varphi)$  coupling field-matter

$\alpha_0, \beta_0$  coupling parameters

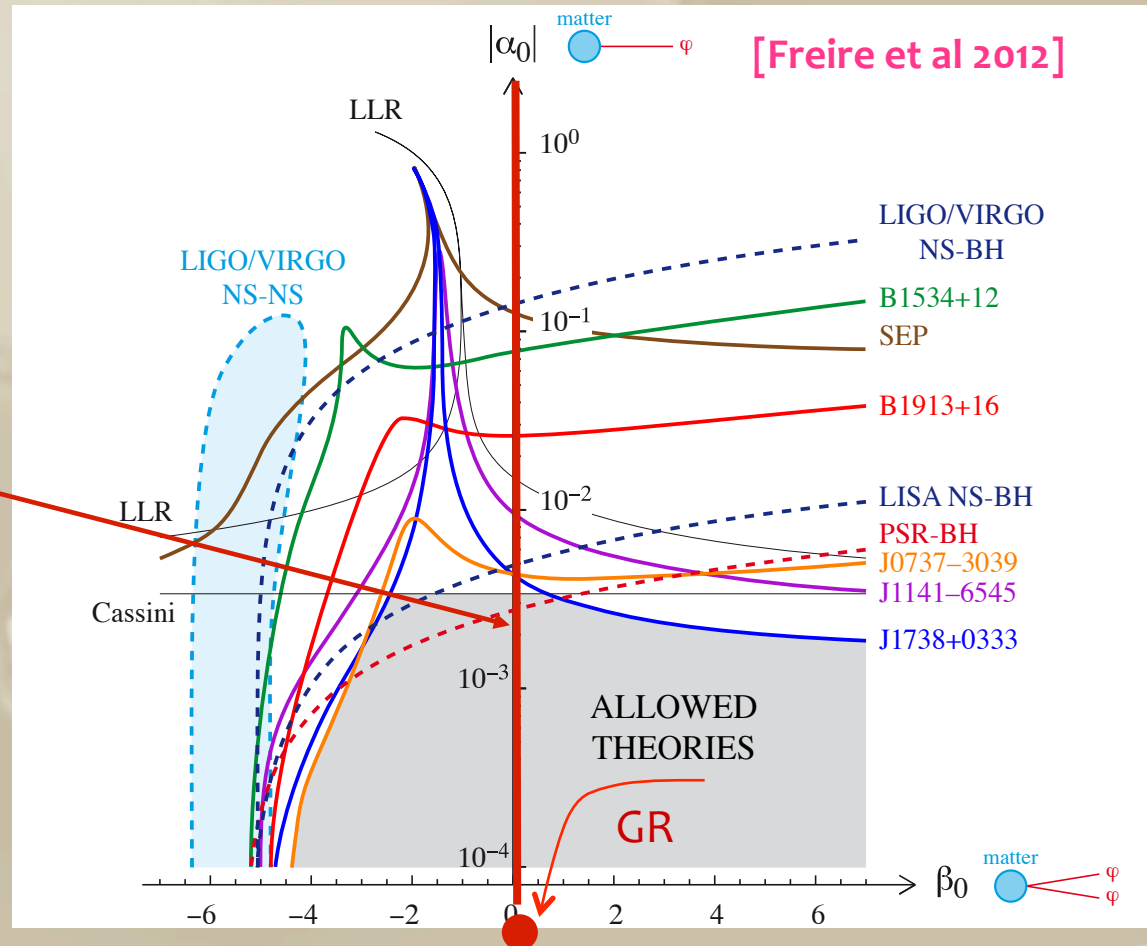
Branse-Dicke

The double pulsar put the strongest constraints for the  $\beta < 0$

Whence the limits are: [Freire et al 2012]

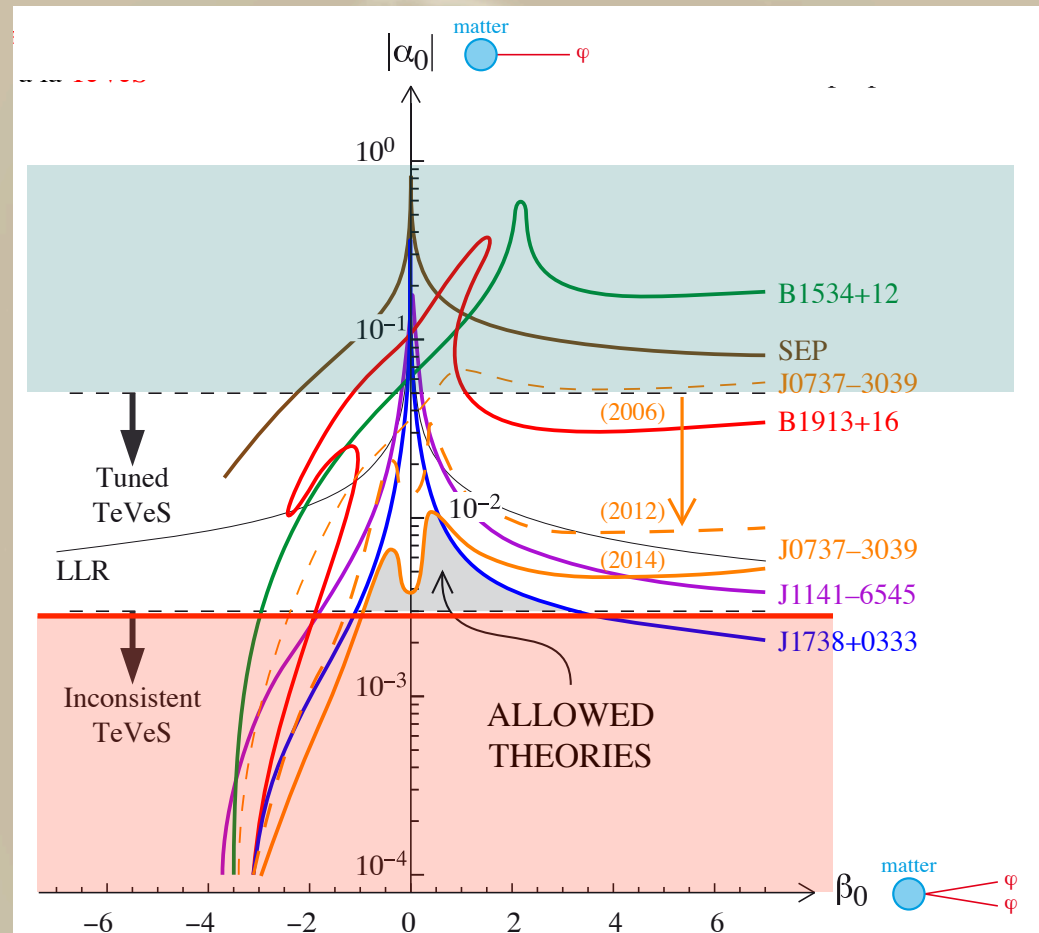
$$\alpha^2_{0,\infty} < 0.5 \cdot 10^{-6} \approx 0.1 \text{ Cassini limit}$$

$$\alpha^2_{0,B-D} < 2 \cdot 10^{-5} \approx 1.7 \text{ Cassini limit}$$



# Limits for general class of **Tensor****Vectorial****Scalar** theories

Double Pulsar  
and PSR-WD  
systems  
complement  
each other  
perfectly in  
constraining  
the allowed  
space of the  
parameters



[Kramer et al. 2015(in prep)]

MOND-like TeVeS theories **NEED TO BE TUNED** and thus deviate from its original form

## ... some other tests on fundamental physics with binary pulsars

**Time derivative of G**  
PSR J0437-4715

$[dG/dt]/G = (-5 \pm 18) \cdot 10^{-12} \text{ yr}^{-1}$   
(about 10 times weaker than lunar ranging but much simpler and in strong-field)  
[ Damour & Taylor 1991, Verbiest et al 2008 ]

**Strong Equivalence Principle**  
21 highly circular WD-MSP

$|\Delta| = 5.6 \cdot 10^{-3}$  (weaker than solar system tests, but in strong-field regime)  
[ Wex 1997, Stairs et al 2005 ]

**Momentum conservation**  
21 highly circular WD-MSP

$|\hat{\alpha}_3| = 4.0 \cdot 10^{-20}$  ( $10^{13}$  better than Earth or Mercury perihelion shifts)  
[ Bell & Damour 1996, Stairs et al 2005 ]

**Existence of preferred frame**  
PSR J1012+5307

$|\hat{\alpha}_1| = 1.4 \cdot 10^{-4}$  (slightly weaker than lunar laser ranging, but in strong-field regime)  
[ Wex 2000 ]



# the triple system parameters

## J0337+1715 - Timing Observations

Parameter	Symbol	Value
Fixed values		
Right ascension	RA	03 <sup>h</sup> 37 <sup>m</sup> 43 <sup>s</sup> .82589(13)
Declination	Dec	17°15'14".828(2)
Dispersion measure	DM	21.3162(3) pc cm <sup>-3</sup>
Solar system ephemeris		DE405
Reference epoch		MJD 55920.0
Observation span		MJD 55930.9 – 56436.5
Number of TOAs		26280
Weighted root-mean-squared residual		1.34 μs
Fitted parameters		
Spin-down parameters		
Pulsar spin frequency	$f$	365.953363096(11) Hz
Spin frequency derivative	$\dot{f}$	$-2.3658(12) \times 10^{-16}$ Hz s <sup>-1</sup>
Inner Keplerian parameters for pulsar orbit		
Semimajor axis projected along line of sight	$(a \sin i)_I$	1.21752844(4) lt-s
Orbital period	$P_{b,I}$	1.629401788(5) d
Eccentricity parameter ( $e \sin \Omega$ )	$e_{1,I}$	$6.8567(2) \times 10^{-4}$
Eccentricity parameter ( $e \cos \Omega$ )	$e_{2,I}$	$-9.171(2) \times 10^{-5}$
Time of ascending node	$t_{asc,I}$	MJD 55920.407717436(17)
Outer Keplerian parameters for centre of mass of inner binary		
Semimajor axis projected along line of sight	$(a \sin i)_O$	74.6727101(8) lt-s
Orbital period	$P_{b,O}$	327.257541(7) d
Eccentricity parameter ( $e \sin \Omega$ )	$e_{1,O}$	$3.5186279(3) \times 10^{-2}$
Eccentricity parameter ( $e \cos \Omega$ )	$e_{2,O}$	$-3.462131(11) \times 10^{-3}$
Time of ascending node	$t_{asc,O}$	MJD 56233.935815(7)
Interaction parameters		
Semimajor axis projected in plane of sky	$(a \cos i)_I$	1.4900(5) lt-s
Semimajor axis projected in plane of sky	$(a \cos i)_O$	91.42(4) lt-s
Inner companion mass over pulsar mass	$q_I = m_{cI}/m_p$	0.13737(4)
Difference in longs. of asc. nodes	$\delta\Omega$	$2.7(6) \times 10^{-3}$ °
Inferred or derived values		
Pulsar properties		
Pulsar period	$P$	2.73258863244(9) ms
Pulsar period derivative	$\dot{P}$	$1.7666(9) \times 10^{-20}$
Inferred surface dipole magnetic field	$B$	$2.2 \times 10^8$ G
Spin-down power	$\dot{E}$	$3.4 \times 10^{34}$ erg s <sup>-1</sup>
Characteristic age	$\tau$	$2.5 \times 10^8$ y
Orbital geometry		
Pulsar semimajor axis (inner)	$a_I$	1.9242(4) lt-s
Eccentricity (inner)	$e_I$	$6.9178(2) \times 10^{-4}$
Longitude of periastron (inner)	$\omega_I$	97.6182(19) °
Pulsar semimajor axis (outer)	$a_O$	118.04(3) lt-s
Eccentricity (outer)	$e_O$	$3.53561955(17) \times 10^{-2}$
Longitude of periastron (outer)	$\omega_O$	95.619493(19) °
Inclination of invariant plane	$i$	39.243(11) °
Inclination of inner orbit	$i_I$	39.254(10) °
Angle between orbital planes	$\delta i$	$1.20(17) \times 10^{-2}$ °
Angle between eccentricity vectors	$\delta_e \sim \omega_O - \omega_I$	$-1.9987(19)$ °
Masses		
Pulsar mass	$m_p$	1.4378(13) $M_\odot$
Inner companion mass	$m_{cI}$	0.19751(15) $M_\odot$
Outer companion mass	$m_{cO}$	0.4101(3) $M_\odot$

**Timing modeling by:  
Anne Archibald**

**Pulsar mass: 1.4378(13)  $M_\odot$   
Inner WD mass: 0.19751(15)  $M_\odot$   
Outer WD mass: 0.4101(3)  $M_\odot$**

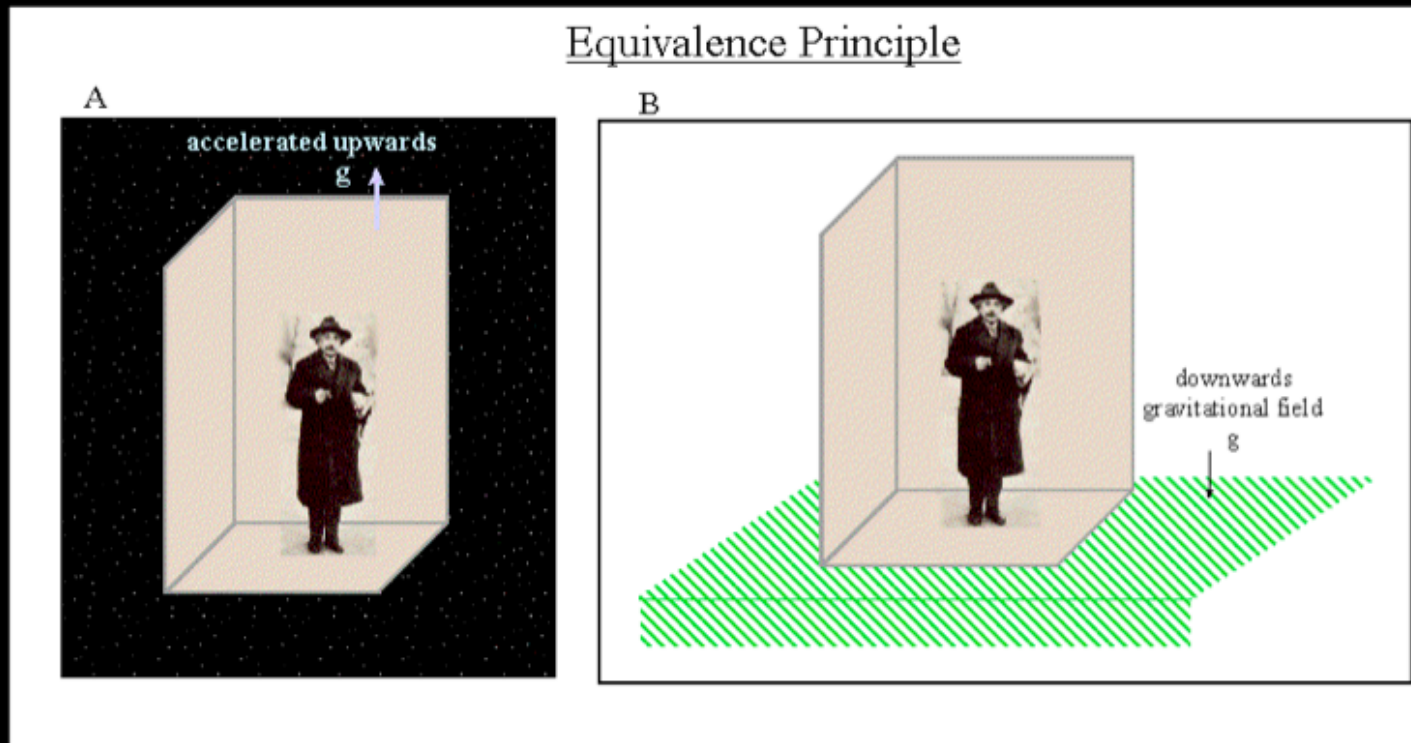
**You are impressed by all the  
high-precision numbers...**





# the triple system: Gen Rel tests prospects

## Also test the Strong Equivalence Principle



**J0337+1715 could be more constraining than lunar laser ranging**