



The Learned Society
of the Czech Republic

Charles University
in Prague



Einstein & Praha 1911-1912

Was Einstein right? How cosmic time keepers in space probe Einstein's strange world

Prof. Dr. Michael Kramer

A public lecture organized by Charles University and The Learned Society of the Czech Republic at the occasion of the conference
"Relativity and Gravitation – 100 years after Einstein in Prague"
under the auspices of the Rector of Charles University

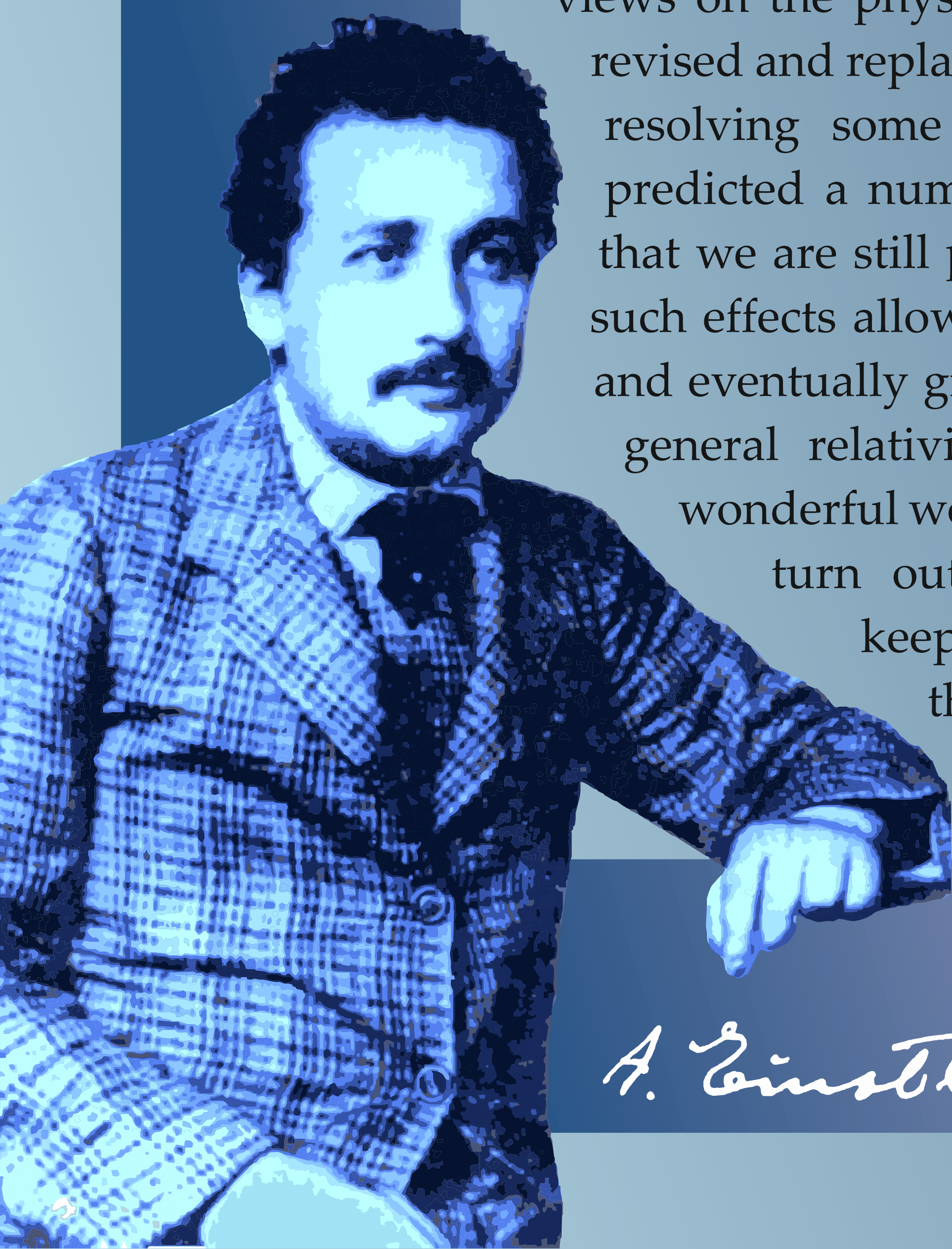
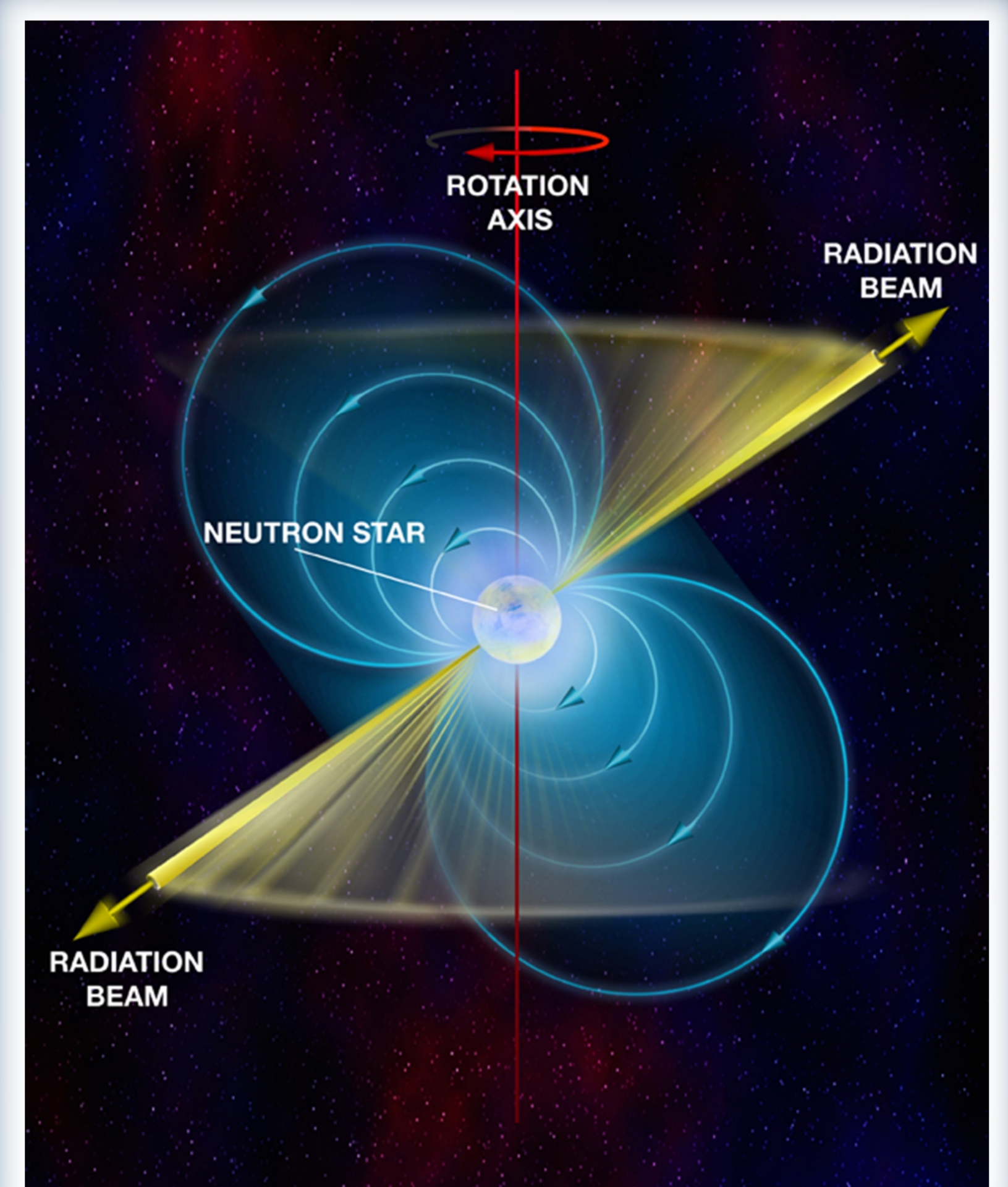
Wednesday 27th June 2012 8:00 pm

Great lecture hall of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, Palachovo nám. (Metro line A, Staroměstská station)

Michael Kramer is director at the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy in Bonn, Germany, Professor of Astrophysics at the Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics at the University of Manchester and Professor (Hon.Prof.) at the University of Bonn. His research addresses the study of fundamental physics using radio astronomy and focuses in particular on tests of theories of gravity using radio pulsars. For his contribution to pulsar astrophysics, notably for having first confirmed the existence of spin-orbit precession in binary pulsars, he received the Marcel-Grossmann Award in 2009. He also received the Academy Award of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Science and Humanities in 2011. He is also a member of the "PULSE" collaboration honoured with the Descartes Prize of the European Union in 2006. He co-authored "The Handbook of Pulsar Astronomy" which has become a standard reference for students and colleagues in his field.

The speaker will be introduced and the discussion will be moderated by prof. Jiří Bičák, Charles University, fellow of The Learned Society of the Czech Republic. The lecture will be delivered in English.

When Albert Einstein presented his theory of general relativity, it was a revolution in our understanding of the Universe. Century-long held views on the physical laws of nature had to be revised and replaced. The theory was capable of resolving some astronomical mysteries and predicted a number of further strange effects that we are still pursuing to detect. Measuring such effects allows us to test Einstein's theory and eventually give a verdict on the validity of general relativity. This talk tells about the wonderful world of exotic, dead stars which turn out to be precise cosmic time keepers that are ideal for probing the Universe of Albert Einstein.



A. Einstein

