Domenico Giulini
Leibniz University Hannover and ZARM Bremen

Another perspective on Einstein's "Prague" field equation of 1912

Authors: Domenico Giulini

During his time in Prague, Einstein searched for modifications of Newtonian gravitational field equation for static fields and arrived at a non-linear equation for a scalar field that, as it turns out retrospectively, shares some qualitative features with General Relativity (GR). In my talk I will show how to arrive at this equation form a procedure that merely requires a self consistent implementation of the gravitational field's self-energy in Newtonian gravity. This procedure is the analog of the derivation of GR starting from a Poincare invariant zero-mass spin-2 theory in Minkowski space (known as the "flat" approach to GR) and the requirement of consistent self coupling.