

The Story of Gravity: From Apples and Planets to Black Holes and Gravity Waves

Anirban Kundu

Abstract

Even the first human beings looked at different manifestations of gravity with awe and wonder --- be it the motion of celestial bodies, eclipses, or tides. It took a lot of patient observations and the genius of Sir Isaac Newton to arrive at a universal law of gravity. More than two centuries later came Albert Einstein, who was responsible for a complete paradigm shift and the modern theory of gravity. Very recently, some of his predictions, that seemed weird and exotic at that time, have been verified, and we are entering a new era of astronomy that does not depend on the detection of electromagnetic radiation. In this talk, I will try to give a brief and pedagogic idea of this wonderful journey and the exciting days that lie ahead.