

cal formulas by which this new world could be measured and understood. He said that space and time are not fixed and that mass curves space by the effects of gravity. These were strange and often bewildering assertions but could he prove them? How can anyone perform an experiment at scales impossible to measure on Earth?

The Sun is massive – that is, it has a lot of mass and therefore must exert a large gravitational effect, especially on other matter nearby. The space around the Sun must therefore be curved sufficiently enough to measurably bend light. Einstein realised during World War 1 that during a total solar eclipse one can see the stars very close to the Sun in the briefly darkened skies. The star patterns were already well known and accurately plotted, so could it just be that the position of a star in a pattern close to the Sun might appear to be slightly shifted – evidence that the light from a star passing

