

276(1) : Simple Explanation of Orbital Precession w/ 3D Orbit Theory

In 3 dimensions the orbit is :

$$r = \frac{d}{1 + \epsilon \cos \beta} \quad - (1)$$

where

$$\tan \beta = \frac{L}{L_z} \tan \phi \quad - (2)$$

Now assume that :

$$\beta = x \phi \quad - (3)$$

so :

$$r = \frac{d}{1 + \epsilon \cos(x \phi)} \quad - (4)$$

This is a precessing orbit. In the solar system:

$$x = 1 + \frac{3mG}{dc^2} \quad - (5)$$

to high experimental precision. Eqs. (2) and (3) mean that:

$$\tan x \phi = \left(\frac{L}{L_z} \right) \tan \phi \quad - (6)$$

i. e.

$$\boxed{\frac{L}{L_z} = \frac{\tan x \phi}{\tan \phi}} \quad - (7)$$

2) In the solar system and binary pulsar system
 $x \sim 1$ - (8)

to high precision. So for all ϕ , the precession
constant x is the result of a very small
change in the planar L_z to L . When:

$$L = L_z \quad - (8)$$

then

$$x = 1 \quad - (9)$$

and there is no precession
Specifically:

$$\boxed{x = \frac{1}{\phi} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{L}{L_z} \tan \phi \right)} \quad - (10)$$
$$= 1 + \frac{3mG}{\alpha c^2}$$

where

$$\alpha = \frac{L_z^2}{m^2 m G} \quad - (11)$$
