

The Measurement of Big G - A Historical Overview

The measurement of the Newtonian constant of gravitation has the longest history of all physical fundamental constants still measured today. More than two centuries have passed since Cavendish made the first laboratory measurement to determine the density of the Earth, what is equal to determining 'Big G'. Since then, a large array of different instruments, ranging from the simple torsion balance to the sophisticated atom interferometer, have been used to determine G. In this talk, a narrative arc from the historical beginnings of the different methods to their modern implementation is given. Finally, a brief overview of the current state of the art and an outlook will be given.