

IPhO 2025 France

HYDROGEN AND GALAXIES

Nilangshu Sarkar

23rd August 2025

This problem aims to study the peculiar physics of galaxies, such as their dynamics and structure. In particular, we explain how to measure the mass distribution of our galaxy from the inside. For this we will focus on hydrogen, its main constituent. Throughout this problem we will only use \hbar , defined as $\hbar = \frac{h}{2\pi}$

Part A - Introduction

Bohr Model

We assume that the hydrogen atom consists of a non-relativistic electron, with mass m_e , orbiting a fixed proton. Throughout this part, we assume its motion is on a circular orbit.

A.1 Determine the electron's velocity v in a circular orbit of radius r .

Solution:-

Since the question says that we can consider electron as simple particles, we will consider Newtonian Laws on them.

Centrifugal force on an electron revolving around the proton. $F_c = -\frac{m_e v^2}{r}$

By Coulomb's Law, Electrostatic force on an electron $F_e = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o r^2}$

By Newton's Second Law of Motion, since the electron is not coming closer to or going far from the proton $F_e = F_c \Rightarrow -\frac{m_e v^2}{r} = -\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o r^2} \Rightarrow$

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o m_e r}}$$

In the Bohr model, we assume the magnitude of the electron's angular momentum L is quantized, $L = n\hbar$, where $n > 0$ is an integer. We define $\alpha = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o \hbar c} \approx 7.27 \times 10^{-3}$

A.2 Show that the radius of each orbit is given by $r_n = n^2 r_1$, where r_1 is

called the Bohr radius. Express r_1 in terms of α , m_e , c and \hbar and calculate its numerical value with 3 digits. Express v_1 , the velocity on the orbit of radius r_1 , in terms of α and c .

Solution:-

We know that $L = m_e v r$. Therefore, $m_e v r = n \hbar = m_e r \sqrt{\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o m_e r}} \Rightarrow r = \left(\frac{4\pi\epsilon_o \hbar c}{e^2}\right) \frac{n^2 \hbar}{m_e c} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{n^2 \hbar}{m_e c} = \frac{\hbar}{\alpha m_e c} n^2$. Therefore, $r_1 = \frac{\hbar}{\alpha m_e c} \approx \frac{1.055197273 \times 10^{-34}}{(7.27 \times 10^{-3}) \times (9.109 \times 10^{-31}) \times (3 \times 10^8)} \approx 5.31 \times 10^{-11}$ **Note:-** $h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34}$. So, $\hbar = 1.055197273 \times 10^{-34}$

By Virial Theorem,

Kinetic energy $KE = \text{Half pf Potential energy } U$ Therefore if we consider case of r_1 , $KE = \frac{1}{2}U \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}m_e v_1^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o r_1} \Rightarrow m_e v_1^2 = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{\alpha m_e c}{\hbar}$
 $\Rightarrow v_1^2 = \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o \hbar c}\right) \alpha c^2 = \alpha^2 c^2$

Therefore, $v_1 = \alpha c$

A.3 Determine the electron's mechanical energy E_n on an orbit of radius r_n in terms of e , ϵ_o , r_1 and n . Determine E_1 in the ground state in terms of α , m_e , and c . Compute its numerical value in eV.

Solution:-

By Virial Theorem, Total Mechanical Energy = Half of Potential energy.

Therefore, $E_n = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o r_n} = -\frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_o r_n} = -\frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_o n^2 r_1}$

So, $E_1 = -\frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_o r_1}$

Now, $E_1 = -\frac{e^2}{8\pi\epsilon_o} \frac{\alpha m_e c}{\hbar} = -\alpha \frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_o \hbar c} \frac{m_e c^2}{2} = -\frac{1}{2} \alpha^2 m_e c^2 = -\frac{(7.27 \times 10^{-3})^2 \times (9.109 \times 10^{-31}) \times (3 \times 10^8)^2}{2} \approx -2.17 \times 10^{-18} \text{ J} = -2.17 \times 10^{-18} \times 6.242 \times 10^{18} \text{ eV}.$

About -13.6 eV

Hydrogen fine and hyperfine structures

The rare spontaneous inversion of the electron's spin causes a photon to be emitted on average once per 10 million years per hydrogen atom. This emission serves as a hydrogen tracer in the universe and is thus fundamental in astrophysics. We will study the transition responsible for this emission in two steps. First, consider the interaction between the electron spin and the relative motion of the electron and the proton. Working in the electron's frame of reference, the proton orbits the electron at a distance r_1 . This produces a magnetic field \vec{B}_1 .

A.4 Determine the magnitude B_1 of \vec{B}_1 at the position of the electron in terms of μ_o , e , α , c and r_1 .

Solution:-

Time period of the revolving electron, $T = \frac{2\pi r_1}{v_1}$

Equivalent current in the circular orbit of the electron, $i_e = \frac{e}{T} = e \frac{v_1}{2\pi r_1} = \frac{ev_1}{2\pi r_1}$

Equivalent magnetic field $B_1 = \frac{\mu_o i_e}{2r_1} = \frac{\mu_o}{2r_1} \frac{ev_1}{2\pi r_1} = \frac{\mu_o e \alpha c}{4\pi r_1^2}$

Second, the electron spin creates a magnetic moment $\vec{\mu}_s$. Its magnitude is roughly $\vec{\mu}_s = \frac{e\hbar}{m_e}$. The fine (F) structure is related to the energy difference ΔE_F between an electron with a magnetic moment $\vec{\mu}_s$ parallel to \vec{B}_1 and that of an electron with a magnetic moment $\vec{\mu}_s$ anti-parallel to \vec{B}_1 . Similarly, the hyperfine (HF) structure is related to the energy difference ΔE_{HF} , due to the interaction between parallel and anti-parallel magnetic moments of the electron and the proton. It is known to be approximately $\Delta E_{HF} \approx 3.72 \frac{m_e}{m_p} \Delta E_F$ where m_p is the proton mass.

A.5 Express ΔE_F as a function of α and E_1 . Express the wavelength λ_{HF} of a photon emitted during a transition between the two states of the hyperfine structure and give its numerical value with two digits.

Solution:-

Energy of a particle (here an electron) having Magnetic moment $\vec{\mu}_s$ in Magnetic field \vec{B}_1 is $-\vec{\mu}_s \cdot \vec{B}_1 = -\vec{\mu}_s \vec{B}_1 \cos(\theta)$, here θ = angle between direction of $\vec{\mu}_s$ and \vec{B}_1 . So, if Magnetic moment and Magnetic field are parallel ($\theta = 0$), Energy = $-\vec{\mu}_s \vec{B}_1$ and if Magnetic moment and Magnetic field are anti-parallel ($\theta = \pi$), Energy = $\vec{\mu}_s \vec{B}_1$
We know that, $\epsilon_o \mu_o = \frac{1}{c^2} \Rightarrow \mu_o = \frac{1}{\epsilon_o c^2}$

Therefore, $\Delta E_F = (\vec{\mu}_s \vec{B}_1) - (-\vec{\mu}_s \vec{B}_1) = 2\vec{\mu}_s \vec{B}_1 = 2 \frac{e\hbar}{m_e} \frac{\mu_o e \alpha c}{4\pi r_1^2} = \alpha \frac{e^2 \hbar c}{2\pi m_e} (\mu_o) \left(\frac{1}{r_1}\right)^2 = \alpha \frac{e^2 \hbar c}{2\pi m_e} \left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_o c^2}\right) \left(\frac{\alpha m_e c}{\hbar}\right)^2 = 4\left(\frac{1}{2}\alpha^2 m_e c^2\right) \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi \epsilon_o \hbar c}\right) \alpha$
 $\Rightarrow E_F = 4E_1 \alpha^2$

Therefore, $E_{HF} \approx 3.72 \frac{m_e}{m_p} (4E_1 \alpha^2)$

By Planck's Quantization of Energy theory, $E = h\nu$ where E is Energy of a photon, h is Planck's constant and ν is the frequency of the photon.

We know that, $\lambda = \frac{c}{\nu}$

Note :- $\frac{m_p}{m_e} = 1836$ Therefore, $E_{HF} = \frac{hc}{\lambda_{HF}} \Rightarrow \lambda_{HF} = \frac{hc}{E_{HF}} = \frac{hc}{4 \times 3.72 E_1 \alpha^2 \frac{m_p}{m_e}} =$

$$\frac{(6.626 \times 10^{-34})(3 \times 10^8)}{4 \times 3.72(2.17 \times 10^{-18})(7.27 \times 10^{-3})^2}(1836) \approx 0.21 \text{m}$$

Part B - Rotation curves of galaxies

0.1 Data

Kiloparsec: $1 \text{ kpc} = 3.09 \times 10^{19} \text{m}$

Solar mass: $1M_{\odot} = 1.99 \times 10^{30} \text{kg}$

We consider a spherical galaxy centered around a fixed point O . At any point P , let $\rho = \rho(P)$ be the volumetric mass density and $\phi = \phi(P)$ the associated gravitational potential (i.e. potential energy per unit mass). Both ρ and ϕ depend only on $r = |\overrightarrow{OP}|$. The motion of a mass m located at P , due to the field ϕ is restricted to a plane containing O .

B.1 In the case of a circular orbit, determine the velocity v_c of an object on a circular orbit passing through P in terms of r and $\frac{d\phi}{dr}$

Solution:-

In case of radially symmetric case, i.e. $V = V(r)$ where V is the Gravitational Potential at a point, Gravitational Field $\vec{g} = -\frac{d\vec{V}}{dr}$

In this case, $\vec{g} = -\frac{d\phi}{dr}$

So, inward force acting on a particle of mass m in a circular orbit of radius r is $\vec{F}_{inward} = m\vec{g} = -m\frac{d\phi}{dr}$

Centrifugal force acting on that particle or the outward force acting is $\vec{F}_{outward} = \frac{mv_c^2}{r}$ where v_c is velocity of the particle.

Since the particle is in a circular motion of constant radius, Resultant Force acting along the normal is zero.

Therefore, $\vec{F}_{inward} + \vec{F}_{outward} = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{F}_{outward} = -\vec{F}_{inward} \Rightarrow \frac{mv_c^2}{r} = -(-m\frac{d\phi}{dr}) \Rightarrow v_c^2 = r\frac{d\phi}{dr}$

Hence, $v_c = \sqrt{r\frac{d\phi}{dr}}$

Fig. 1(A) is a picture of the spiral galaxy NGC 6946 in the visible band (from the 0.8m Schulman Telescope at the Mount Lemmon Sky Center in Arizona). The little ellipses in Fig. 1(B) show experimental measurements of v_c for this galaxy. The central region ($r < 1 \text{kpc}$) is named the bulge. In this region, the mass distribution is roughly homogeneous. The red curve is a prediction for v_c if the system were homogeneous in the bulge and keplerian ($\phi(r) = -\beta/r$ with $\beta > 0$) outside it, i.e. considering that the total mass of the galaxy is concentrated in the bulge.

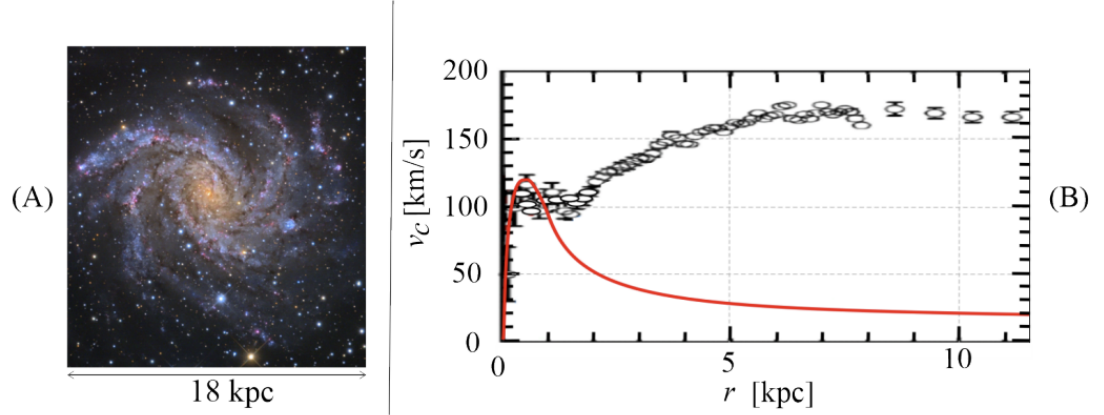


Fig. 1: NGC 6946 galaxy: Picture (A) and rotation curve (B).

B.2 Deduce the mass M_b of the bulge of NGC 6946 from the red rotation curve in Fig. 1(B), in solar mass units.

Solution:-

According to Gauss Law, Magnitude of Flux through an enclosed region equals $4\pi G$ times the total mass enclosed by the region.

By Gauss Law, $|\vec{g}|4\pi r^2 = (4\pi G)(M_b) \Rightarrow \frac{d\phi}{dr}4\pi r^2 = (4\pi G)(M_b) \Rightarrow M_b = \frac{d\phi}{dr} \frac{r^2}{G} = \frac{v_c^2}{r} \frac{r^2}{G} = \frac{v_c^2 r}{G}$

Note :- $|\vec{g}| = \frac{d\phi}{dr} = \frac{v_c^2}{r}$

From Fig. 1(B), $M_b = \frac{(20 \times 10^3)^2 \times (10 \times 3.09 \times 10^{19})}{6.6743 \times 10^{-11}} \text{ kg} = \frac{(20 \times 10^3)^2 \times (10 \times 3.09 \times 10^{19})}{6.6743 \times 10^{-11}} \times \frac{1}{1.99 \times 10^{30}} M_o$

Therefore, $M_b = 9.306 \times 10^8 M_o$

Comparing the keplerian model and the experimental data makes astronomers confident that part of the mass is invisible in the picture. They thus suppose that the galaxy's actual mass density is given by

$$\rho_m(r) = \frac{C_m}{r_m^2 + r^2} \dots \text{Eq. (1)}$$

where $C_m > 0$ and $r_m > 0$ are constants.

B.3 Show that the velocity profile $v_{c,m}(r)$, corresponding to the mass density in Eq. 1, can be written $v_{c,m}(r) = \sqrt{k_1 - \frac{k_2 \arctan \frac{r}{r_m}}{r}}$. Express k_1 and k_2 in terms of C_m , r_m and G .

(Hints: $\int_0^r \frac{x^2}{a^2 + x^2} dx = r - a \times \arctan(r/a)$, and: $\arctan(x) \approx x - x^3/3$ for $x \ll 1$)

Simplify $v_{c,m}(r)$ when $r \ll r_m$ and when $r \gg r_m$. Show that if $r \gg r_m$, the

mass $M_m(r)$ embedded in a sphere of radius r with the mass density given by Eq. 1 simplifies and depends only on C_m and r .
Estimate the mass of the galaxy NGC 6946 actually present in the picture in Fig. 1(A).

Solution:-

According to Gauss Law, Magnitude of Flux through an enclosed region equals $4\pi G$ times the total mass enclosed by the region.

By Gauss Law, $|\vec{g}|4\pi r^2 = (4\pi G) \int_0^r (4\pi r^2)(dr)\rho_m(r)$, Considering mass distribution over shells of elementary thickness dr at distance r from centre.

So, $|\vec{g}|4\pi r^2 = (4\pi G) \int_0^r r^2(-\frac{C_m}{r_m^2+r^2})dr = (4\pi G) \int_0^r C_m(\frac{r^2}{r_m^2+r^2})dr = (4\pi G)C_m(r - r_m \arctan(\frac{r}{r_m}))$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{v_{c,m}^2}{r} r^2 = (4\pi G)(C_m r - C_m r_m \arctan(\frac{r}{r_m}))$$

$$\Rightarrow v_{c,m} = \sqrt{4\pi G C_m - \frac{(4\pi G C_m r_m) \arctan(\frac{r}{r_m})}{r}}$$

Note :- $|\vec{g}| = \frac{d\phi}{dr} = \frac{v_c^2}{r}$

Comparing with $v_{c,m}(r) = \sqrt{k_1 - \frac{k_2 \arctan(\frac{r}{r_m})}{r}}$, we get,

$$k_1 = 4\pi G C_m \text{ and } k_2 = 4\pi G C_m r_m$$

If $r \ll r_m$ then, $\frac{r}{r_m} \ll 1$. So, $\arctan(\frac{r}{r_m}) \approx \frac{r}{r_m} - \frac{r^3}{3r_m^3}$

$$\text{Therefore if } r \ll r_m, v_{c,m} \approx \sqrt{4\pi G C_m - \frac{(4\pi G C_m r_m)(\frac{r}{r_m} - \frac{r^3}{3r_m^3})}{r}} \approx \sqrt{\frac{4\pi G C_m r^2}{3r_m^2}}$$

If $r \gg r_m$ then, $\frac{r}{r_m}$ tends to infinity. So, $\arctan(\frac{r}{r_m}) \approx \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $\frac{r_m}{r} = 0$.

$$\text{Therefore if } r \gg r_m, v_{c,m} \approx \sqrt{4\pi G C_m - \frac{(4\pi G C_m r_m)(\frac{\pi}{2})}{r}} \approx \sqrt{(4\pi G C_m)(1 - (\frac{r_m}{r})\frac{\pi}{2})} \approx \sqrt{4\pi G C_m}$$

Considering the case of $r \gg r_m$, $|\vec{g}| = \frac{d\phi}{dr} = \frac{v_{c,m}^2}{r} = \frac{4\pi G C_m}{r}$

By Gauss Law, $|\vec{g}|4\pi r^2 = (4\pi G)(M_m(r))$ where $M_m(r)$ is the mass embedded in a sphere of radius r with the mass density given by Eq. 1

$$\Rightarrow \frac{4\pi G C_m}{r} 4\pi r^2 = 4\pi G M_m(r)$$

$$\Rightarrow M_m(r) = 4\pi C_m r$$

Now we can see that as r becomes very large ($r \gg r_m$), the value of $v_c(r)$ becomes constant $\sqrt{4\pi G C_m}$. So if we plot the graph between $v_c(r)$ and r , we will get an asymptote at $v_c(r) = \sqrt{4\pi G C_m}$. In the figure

a similar asymptote can be seen at $v_c(r) = 160 \text{ km/s}$.

Therefore, $\sqrt{4\pi G C_m} = 160 \times 10^3 \Rightarrow C_m = \frac{(160 \times 10^3)^2}{4\pi G} \Rightarrow \frac{(160 \times 10^3)^2}{4\pi (6.6743 \times 10^{-11})} = 3.05 \times 10^{19}$

Diameter of the galaxy = 18 kpc. So, radius $r_{\text{galaxy}} = 9 \text{ kpc}$ or $9 \times 3.09 \times 10^{19} \text{ m}$ or $2.781 \times 10^{20} \text{ m}$

Therefore, $M_{\text{galaxy}} = 4\pi C_m r_{\text{galaxy}} = 4\pi (3.05 \times 10^{19}) (2.781 \times 10^{20}) = 1.066 \times 10^{41} \text{ kg} \approx 5.36 \times 10^{10} M_o$

Part C - Mass distribution in our galaxy

For a spiral galaxy, the model for Eq. 1 is modified and one usually considers the gravitational potential is given by $\phi_G(r, z) = \phi_o \ln(\frac{r}{r_o}) \exp[-(\frac{z}{z_o})^2]$, where z is the distance to the galactic plane (defined by $z = 0$), and $r < r_o$ is now the axial radius and ϕ_o a constant to be determined. r_o and z_o are constant values.

C.1 Find the equation of motion on z for the vertical motion of a point mass m in such a potential, assuming r is a constant. Show that, if $r < r_o$, the galactic plane is a stable equilibrium state by giving the angular frequency ω_o of small oscillations around it.

Solution:-

$$g_z = \frac{\partial \phi_G(r, z)}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\phi_o \ln(\frac{r}{r_o}) \exp[-(\frac{z}{z_o})^2]) = \phi_o \ln(\frac{r}{r_o}) \exp[-(\frac{z}{z_o})^2] (-\frac{2z}{z_o^2}) = -\frac{2z}{z_o^2} \phi_o \ln(\frac{r}{r_o}) \exp[-(\frac{z}{z_o})^2]$$

So, Force on a point mass m is $m\ddot{z} = mg = m(-\frac{2z}{z_o^2} \phi_o \ln(\frac{r}{r_o}) \exp[-(\frac{z}{z_o})^2]) \Rightarrow$

$\ddot{z} = -(\frac{2}{z_o^2} \phi_o \ln(\frac{r}{r_o}) \exp[-(\frac{z}{z_o})^2]) z \dots$ This is the equation of motion on z for the vertical motion of a point mass m considering r is constant.

For small oscillations, z become very small. So, $(\frac{z}{z_o})^2$ tends to zero.

Hence, $\exp[-(\frac{z}{z_o})^2] = 1$

In this case equation of motion becomes, $\ddot{z} = -(\frac{2}{z_o^2} \phi_o \ln(\frac{r}{r_o})) z \dots$ This denotes that the mass executes S.H.M. about $z = 0$ that is the Galactic Plane. Hence, the Galactic Plane is a Stable Equilibrium state for small oscillations. Comparing with $\ddot{z} = -\omega_o^2 z$, we get Angular Frequency ω_o here is $\sqrt{\frac{2}{z_o^2} \phi_o \ln(\frac{r}{r_o})}$

From here on, we set $z = 0$

C.2 Identify the regime, either $r \gg r_m$ or $r \ll r_m$, in which the model of Eq. 1 recovers a potential of the form $\phi_G(r, z)$ with a suitable definition of ϕ_o .

Under this condition $v_c(r)$ no longer depends on r . Express it in terms of ϕ_o .

Solution:-

Earlier we obtained that, if $r \ll r_m$, then $v_{c,m} \approx \sqrt{\frac{4\pi G C_m r^2}{3r_m^2}}$ and if $r \gg r_m$, then $v_{c,m} \approx \sqrt{4\pi G C_m}$.

But when, $r \gg r_m$, $v_c(r)$ don't depend on r . Hence the correct regime to consider is $r \gg r_m$.

Since, $g = -\frac{d\phi}{dr} = -\frac{v_c^2}{r}$ (Minus is there because it is an attractive force) so, in this case $g = -\frac{4\pi G C_m}{r} \Rightarrow \phi = -\int_R^r -\frac{4\pi G C_m}{r} dr = 4\pi G C_m (\ln(r) - \ln(R))$, here R is a constant reference point. So we might consider $\phi(r) = 4\pi G C_m \ln(r/c)$ c is some constant

Note that, from Eq. (1) we derived the Potential as function of r in the Galactic Plane $z = 0$. So it was basically, $\phi_G(r, 0)$ that we derived.

Now we can simply say, $\phi_G(r, 0) = 4\pi G C_m \ln(r/c) \Rightarrow \phi_o \ln(\frac{r}{r_o}) = 4\pi G C_m \ln(\frac{r}{c})$. Observe that both r_o and c are constants. So comparing left hand side and right hand side, we can say, $\phi_o = 4\pi G C_m$

So, our $v_c(r) = \sqrt{4\pi G C_m}$ becomes $v_c(r) = \sqrt{\phi_o}$

Therefore, outside the bulge the velocity modulus v_c does not depend on the distance to the galactic center. We will use this fact, as astronomers do, to measure the galaxy's mass distribution from the inside.

All galactic objects considered here for astronomical observations, such as stars or nebulae, are primarily composed of hydrogen. Outside the bulge, we assume that they rotate on circular orbits around the galactic center C . S is the sun's position and E that of a given galactic object emitting in the hydrogen spectrum. In the galactic plane, we consider a line of sight SE corresponding to the orientation of an observation, on the unit vector \hat{u}_v (see Fig. 2).

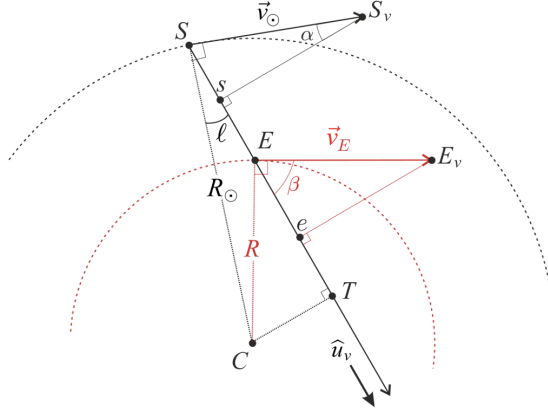


Fig. 2: Geometry of the measurement

Let ℓ be the galactic longitude, measuring the angle between SC and the SE . The sun's velocity on its circular orbit of radius $R_o = 8.00\text{kpc}$ is denoted \vec{v}_o . A galactic object in E orbits on another circle of radius R at velocity \vec{v}_E . Using a Doppler effect on the previously studied 21cm line, one can obtain the relative radial velocity $v_{rE/S}$ of the emitter E with respect to the sun S : it is the projection of $\vec{v}_E - \vec{v}_o$ on the line of sight.

C.3 Determine $v_{rE/S}$ in terms of ℓ, R, R_o and v_o . Then, express R in terms of R_o, v_o, ℓ and $v_{rE/S}$

Solution:-

Note :-

In $\triangle SsS_v, \angle S_vSs = \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha$

$\angle CSS_v = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow \ell + \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha = \frac{\pi}{2} \Rightarrow \alpha = \ell$

$CT = R \sin(\frac{\pi}{2} - \beta) = R_o \sin(\ell) \Rightarrow \cos(\beta) = \frac{R_o \sin(\ell)}{R}$

We will consider the velocity components Perpendicular and Parallel to the Line Of Sight SE in order to find each component of $\vec{v}_E - \vec{v}_o$ separately. Projection of velocity component Perpendicular to SE will be zero. So, we will consider only the velocity component Parallel to SE .

Component of Velocity of Sun Parallel to SE is $v_o \sin(\alpha) = v_o \sin(\ell)$

Component of Velocity of object in E Parallel to SE is $v_E \cos(\beta) = v_E \frac{R_o \sin(\ell)}{R}$

Relative velocity of emitter E with respect to the sun S Parallel to SE is $v_E \frac{R_o \sin(\ell)}{R} - v_o \sin(\ell)$.

Since this is Parallel to SE , the projection on SE will be same in magnitude.

Therefore, $v_{rE/S} = v_E \frac{R_o}{R} \sin(\ell) - v_o \sin(\ell)$

Now, let us use the interesting fact used by astronomers, that is the fact that velocity of objects outside the bulge is independent of r . In other words, $v_o = v_E$.

Therefore, $v_{rE/S} = v_o \left(\frac{R_o}{R} - 1 \right) \sin(\ell)$

Manipulating this, we get $R = \frac{R_o}{\frac{v_{rE/S}}{v_o \sin(\ell)} + 1}$

Using a radio telescope, we make observations in the plane of our galaxy toward a longitude $\ell = 30^\circ$. The frequency band used contains the 21cm line, whose frequency is $f_o = 1.42\text{GHz}$. The results are reported in Fig. 3.

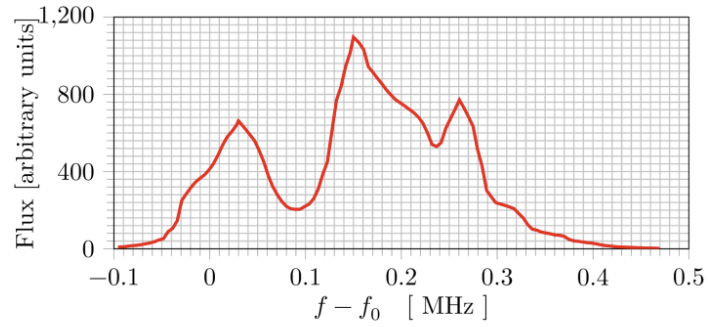


Fig. 3: Electromagnetic signal as a function of the frequency shift, measured in the radio frequency band at $\ell = 30^\circ$ using EU-HOU RadioAstronomy

C.4 In our galaxy, $v_o = 210\text{km/s}$. Determine the values of the relative radial velocity (with 3 significant digits) and the distance from the galactic center (with 2 significant digits) of the 3 sources observed in Fig. 3. Distances should be expressed as multiples of R_o .

Solution:-

Generally, speeds of planetary objects with respect to speed of light are large enough to not neglect them while dealing with phenomenon like Doppler effect, small enough to allow us use Binary approximations that we will do while solving.

We know that, $f = f_o \left(\frac{c}{c - v_r} \right) = f_o \left(\frac{1}{1 - \frac{v_r}{c}} \right) \approx f_o \left(1 + \frac{v_r}{c} \right)$...The approximation we talked about.

So, $v_{r,i} = c \left(\frac{f_i - f_o}{f_o} \right)$

Therefore,

$$v_{r,1} = c\left(\frac{f_1-f_e}{f_o}\right) = \frac{(3 \times 10^8)(0.03 \times 10^6)}{1.42 \times 10^9} \times 10^{-3} \text{km/s} \approx 6.34 \text{km/s}$$

$$v_{r,2} = c\left(\frac{f_2-f_e}{f_o}\right) = \frac{(3 \times 10^8)(0.15 \times 10^6)}{1.42 \times 10^9} \times 10^{-3} \text{km/s} \approx 31.7 \text{km/s}$$

$$v_{r,3} = c\left(\frac{f_3-f_e}{f_o}\right) = \frac{(3 \times 10^8)(0.26 \times 10^6)}{1.42 \times 10^9} \times 10^{-3} \text{km/s} \approx 54.9 \text{km/s}$$

$$R = \frac{R_o}{\frac{v_r}{v_o \sin(\ell)} + 1} = \left(\frac{1}{\frac{v_r}{v_o \sin(\ell)} + 1}\right) R_o = \left(\frac{1}{\frac{v_r}{210 \sin(30^\circ)} + 1}\right) R_o$$

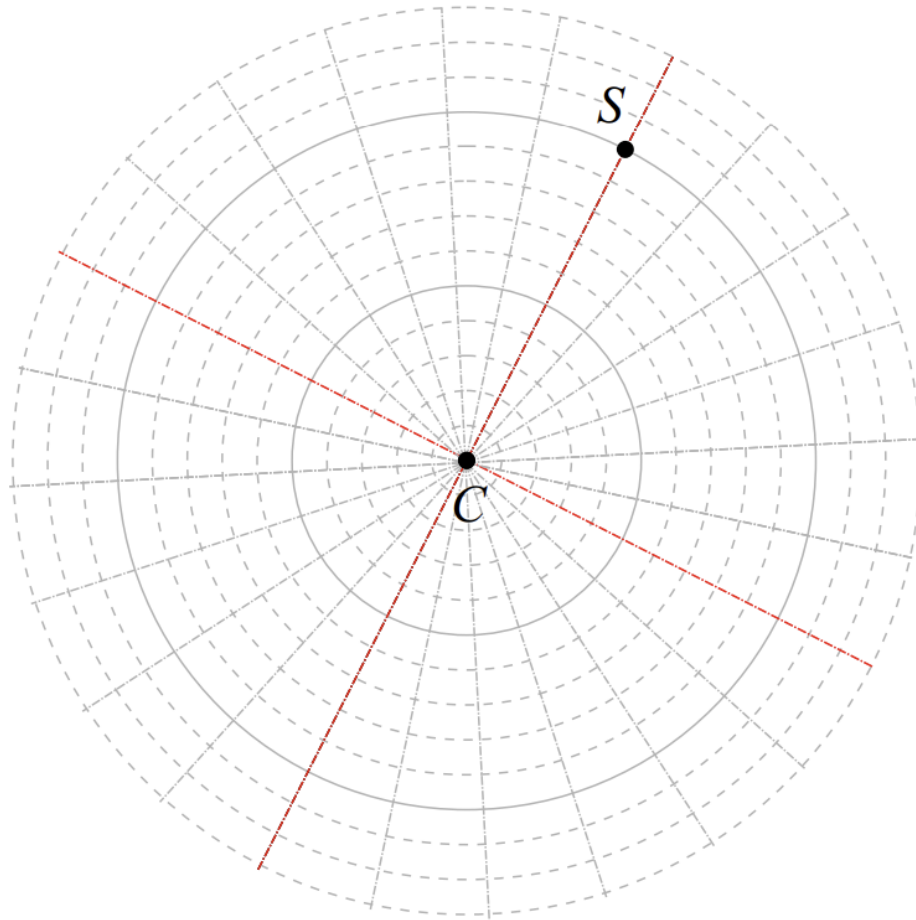
Therefore,

$$R_1 = \left(\frac{1}{\frac{v_{r,1}}{210 \sin(30^\circ)} + 1}\right) R_o \approx 0.95 R_o$$

$$R_2 = \left(\frac{1}{\frac{v_{r,2}}{210 \sin(30^\circ)} + 1}\right) R_o \approx 0.77 R_o$$

$$R_3 = \left(\frac{1}{\frac{v_{r,3}}{210 \sin(30^\circ)} + 1}\right) R_o \approx 0.66 R_o$$

C.5 (0.6pt)



Deduction :

This is a screenshot from the Answer Box

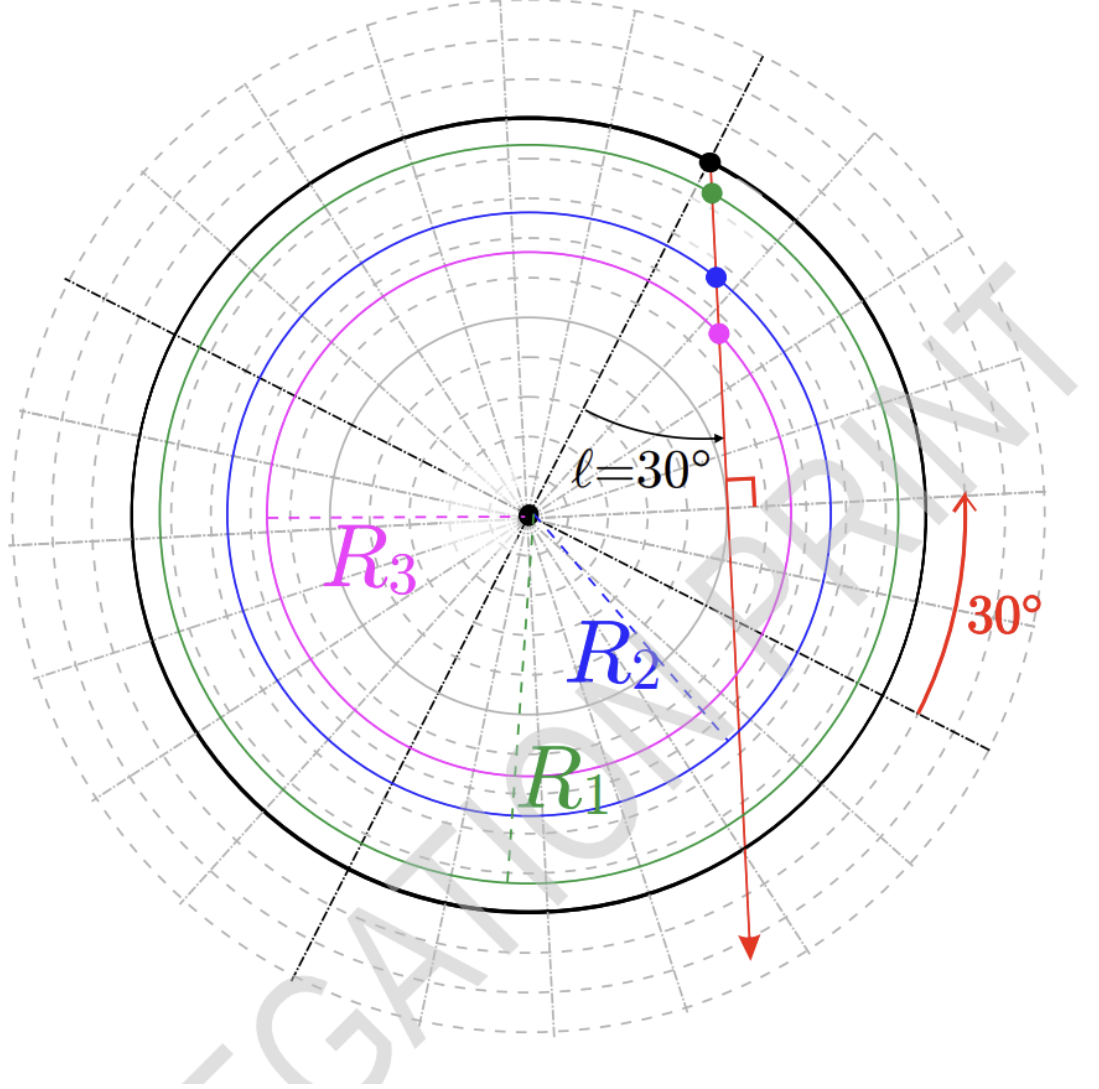
C.5 On the top view of our galaxy (in the answer box), indicate the positions of the sources observed in Fig. 3. What could be deduced from repeated measurements changing ℓ ?

Solution:-

Here we simply need to draw the three circles with the radii we obtained while solving C.4. Then, simply draw a tangent to the circle with radius $CS/2$ through S because we need $\ell = 30^\circ$ and note that $\sin(30^\circ) = \frac{1}{2}$. The point of intersection of the circles with the tangent drawn represents the position of the objects we took measurements of.

Note that there will be 2 points of intersection. We will simply take the nearer ones since the farther ones will be too far away for us to observe because our Galaxy is very large.

This is what is given in the Official Solution :-



Part D - Tully-Fisher relation and MOND theory

The flat external velocity curve of NGC 6946 in Fig. 1 is a common property of spiral galaxies, as can be seen in Fig. 4 (left). Plotting the external constant velocity value $v_{c,\infty}$ as a function of the measured total mass M_{tot} of each galaxy gives an interesting correlation called the Tully-Fisher relation, see Fig. 4 (right).

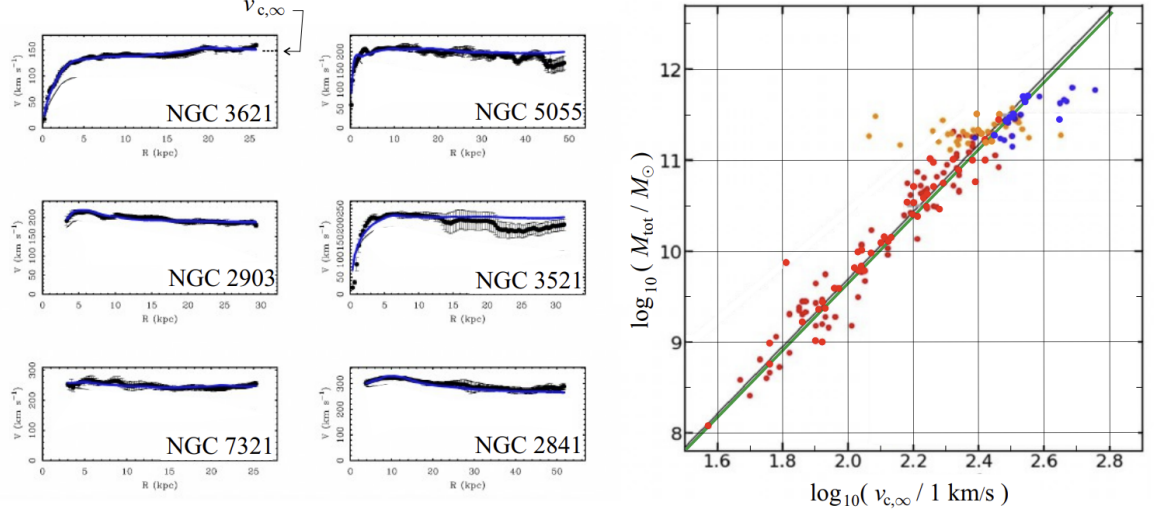


Fig. 4. Left: Rotation curves for typical spiral galaxies - Right: $\log_{10}(M_{\text{tot}})$ as a function of $\log_{10}(v_{c,\infty})$ on linear scales. Colored dots correspond to different galaxies and different surveys. The green line is the Tully-Fischer relation which is in very good agreement with the best fit line of the data (in black).

D.1 Assuming that the radius R of a galaxy doesn't depend on its mass, show that the model of Eq. 1 (part B) gives a relation of the form $M_{\text{tot}} = \eta v_{c,\infty}^\gamma$ where γ and η should be specified. Compare this expression to the Tully-Fischer relation by computing γ_{TF}

Solution:-

From Eq. 1 (part B), We can get the total mass of a Galaxy of Radius R as, $M_{\text{tot}} = \int_0^R 4\pi r^2 (dr) \frac{C_m}{r_m^2 + r^2}$, by considering Shells of elementary thickness.

Solving this gives us, $M_{\text{tot}} = 4\pi C_m (R - r_m \arctan(\frac{R}{r_m}))$.

Note that R is very large compared to r_m . So, we can safely approximate the result to $M_{\text{tot}} = 4\pi C_m R$.

Earlier in part B we found, $v_{c,\infty} = \sqrt{4\pi G C_m} \Rightarrow \frac{v_{c,\infty}^2}{G} = 4\pi C_m$

Therefore, we get $M_{\text{tot}} = (\frac{R}{G}) v_{c,\infty}^2$

Hence, $\eta = \frac{R}{G}$ and $\gamma = 2$

Now let us again consider the equation, $M_{\text{tot}} = \eta v_{c,\infty}^\gamma$. Taking logarithm on both sides we get, $\log_{10}(M_{\text{tot}}) = \gamma \log_{10}(v_{c,\infty}) + \log_{10}(\eta)$. So, we can see that γ is nothing but the slope of the graph between

$\log_{10}(M_{tot})$ and $\log_{10}(v_{c,\infty})$. That is shown in Fig 4. (Right). So from that graph we can say,

$$\gamma_{TF} = \frac{12-9}{2.6-1.8} = 3.75$$

In the extremely low acceleration regime, of the order of $a_o = 10^{-30}\text{m.s}^{-2}$, the Modified Newtonian Dynamics (MOND) theory suggests that one can modify Newton's second law using $\vec{F} = m\mu(\frac{a}{a_o})\vec{a}$ where $a = |\vec{a}|$ is the modulus of the acceleration and the μ function is defined by $\mu(x) = \frac{x}{1+x}$.

D.2 Using data for NGC 6946 in Fig. 1, estimate, within Newton's theory, the modulus of the acceleration a_m of a mass in the outer regions of NGC 6946.

Solution:-

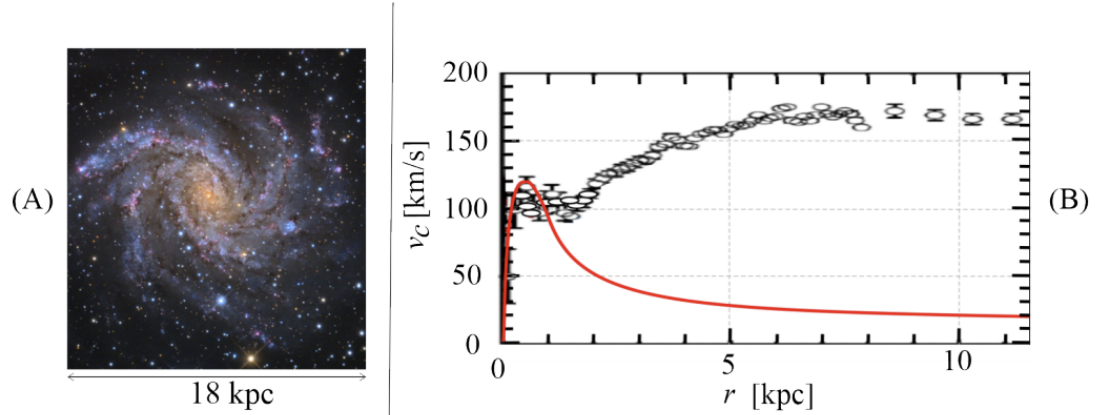


Fig. 1: NGC 6946 galaxy: Picture (A) and rotation curve (B).

I kept the Fig. 1. here for easier reference.

For a body undergoing Circular Motion, $a_m = \frac{v_c^2}{R}$. In this case v_c becomes constant as $v_c = 160\text{km/s}$ from $R > 5\text{kpc}$. Now in future we might have to use MOND theory. In that case we have to make sure that $a_m \ll a_o$, so we will aspire to take the largest possible value for a_m from the Fig. 1. So, we will take the least possible value of R i.e. 5kpc

$$\text{Therefore, } a_m = \frac{(160 \times 10^3)^2}{5 \times 3.09 \times 10^{19}} = 1.66 \times 10^{-10} \text{ms}^{-2}$$

D.3 Let m be a mass on a circular orbit of radius r with velocity $v_{c,\infty}$ in

the gravity field of a fixed mass M .

Within the MOND theory, with $a \ll a_o$, determine the Tully-Fischer exponent. Using data for NGC 6946 and/or Tully-Fischer law, calculate a_o to show that MOND operates in the correct regime.

Solution:-

$$\mu\left(\frac{a}{a_o}\right) = \frac{\frac{a}{a_o}}{1 + \frac{a}{a_o}}$$

Since, $\frac{a}{a_o} \ll 1$ Therefore, $\mu = \frac{a}{a_o}$

So the MOND equation becomes $|\vec{F}| = m\left(\frac{a}{a_o}\right)|\vec{a}| = \frac{ma^2}{a_o}$

Equating this Force with Gravitational Force, we get, $\frac{GMm}{r^2} = \frac{ma^2}{a_o} \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{GM}{r^2} = \frac{a^2}{a_o}$$

But in case of circular motion, the relation $a = \frac{v^2}{r}$ always holds.

With that we get, $\frac{GM}{r^2} = \frac{v_{c,\infty}^4}{r^2 a_o} \Rightarrow M = \left(\frac{1}{Ga_o}\right)v_{c,\infty}^4$

Comparing this with Tully-Fischer relation, we get, $\gamma_{MOND} = 4$

Using data for NGC 6946, we get, $v_{c,\infty} = 160 \text{ km/s} \Rightarrow \log_{10}(v_{c,\infty}/1 \text{ km/s}) = 2.2$.

From the graph of Fig. 4. (right) we can see the corresponding $\log(M_{tot}/M_o)$ to $\log_{10}(v_{c,\infty}/1 \text{ km/s}) = 2.2$. That is $\log(M_{tot}/M_o) = 10.45 \Rightarrow M_{tot} = 10^{10.45} = 2.82 \times 10^{10} M_o = 5.61 \times 10^{40} \text{ kg}$

$$\text{Now } a_o = \frac{v_{c,\infty}^4}{GM} = \frac{(160 \times 10^3)^4}{(6.6743 \times 10^{-11})(5.61 \times 10^{40})} = 1.75 \times 10^{-10} \text{ ms}^{-2}$$

Note how small the value is as expected.

D.4 Considering relevant cases, determine $v_c(r)$ for all values of r in the MOND theory in the case of a gravitational field due to a homogeneously distributed mass M with radius R_b .

Solution:-

According to Gauss Law, Magnitude of Flux through an enclosed region equals $4\pi G$ times the total mass enclosed by the region. i.e. $g(4\pi r^2) = (4\pi G)(\text{mass enclosed within radius } r) \Rightarrow g = \frac{G}{r^2}(\text{mass enclosed within radius } r)$. Here g is the magnitude of net Gravitational Field Vector.

For $r < R_b$, Mass enclosed within r is $\int_0^r (4\pi r^2(dr))(\rho)$. Here ρ is the density. Since density is uniform, $\rho = \frac{M}{\frac{4}{3}\pi R_b^3} = \frac{3M}{4\pi R_b^3}$.

so, Mass enclosed is $\int_0^r 4\pi r^2 \frac{3M}{4\pi R_b^3}(dr) = \frac{3M}{R_b^3} \int_0^r r^2(dr) = \frac{Mr^3}{R_b^3}$

Therefore, $g = \frac{G}{r^2} \frac{Mr^3}{R_b^3} = \frac{GMr}{R_b^3}$

For $r > R_b$, Mass enclosed = M . So, $g = \frac{GM}{r^2}$

By MOND theory, $|\vec{F}| = m\mu(\frac{a}{a_o})a = m(\frac{\frac{a}{a_o}}{1+\frac{a}{a_o}})a = m(\frac{\frac{v^2}{ra_o}}{1+\frac{v^2}{ra_o}})\frac{v^2}{r} = m(\frac{v^4}{r^2a_o+rv^2})$

By Newton's Gravitational theory, $|\vec{F}| = mg$

So, equating these two forces we get, $g = \frac{v^4}{r^2a_o+rv^2}$

$$\Rightarrow v^4 - (gr)v^2 - (gr^2a_o) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow v = \sqrt{\frac{gr + \sqrt{g^2r^2 + 4ga_or^2}}{2}}. \text{ We ignored, } \sqrt{\frac{gr - \sqrt{g^2r^2 + 4ga_or^2}}{2}} \text{ because } \sqrt{g^2 + 4ga_o} > g$$

$$\text{For } r < R_b, v = \sqrt{\frac{(\frac{GM}{R_b^3})r + \sqrt{(\frac{GM}{R_b^3})^2r^2 + 4(\frac{GM}{R_b^3})a_or^2}}{2}}.$$

Note that when, $r \rightarrow 0, v \rightarrow 0$

$$\text{For } r > R_b, v = \sqrt{\frac{(\frac{GM}{r^2})r + \sqrt{(\frac{GM}{r^2})^2r^2 + 4(\frac{GM}{r^2})a_or^2}}{2}}$$

$$\text{Note that when, } r \rightarrow \infty, v \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{4GMa_o}}{2}} = (GMa_o)^{\frac{1}{4}}$$