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Article: Summary of conference (P. G. Bergmann)

PHY 600 Reading Questionnaire

What is the main idea of the article?

Bergmann places experimental relativity (in particular gravitational wave detection) at the forefront.

Why is this topic important to gravitational wave detection?

This article contains discussions that would later be cited by pioneers in the field (Dave Weber + Weiss) and it started a more serious discussion on the possibility of gravitational wave detection.

What questions would you need to have answered before you could honestly say that you understand this topic?

I can probably separate these into two sections: Historical context + the relativity component:

Historical context:

- who was actually there?
- who went on to do further work in the field of gravitational wave physics?
- How did Weber + Weiss actually later learn about this?

Relativity:

- all the mathematical questions that Bergmann discusses are not obvious to me
  ie. the Cauchy problem.