LatArXiv Preprints | Enviado: 16-03-2026 Publicado: 30/03/2026 DOI: 10.62059/LatArXiv.preprints.683

Preprint

Efectos gravitacionales emergentes derivados de la transformación entre sistemas de referencia inerciales y no inerciales en la observación de un fotón

Emergent gravitational effects from the transformation between inertial and non-inertial frames in the observation of a photon

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Resumen

Se investiga un marco teórico en el que los fenómenos gravitacionales surgen de la transformación entre un sistema de referencia inercial y uno no inercial, utilizado para observar la dinámica de los fotones. Partiendo de una acción fotónica modificada por un factor cinemático asociado a la velocidad y aceleración del observador, derivamos una métrica espaciotemporal efectiva y las ecuaciones geodésicas correspondientes. El tensor de curvatura y el tensor de Einstein d la geometría resultante se calculan explícitamente. Se analiza el límite del campo débil y se compara con la gravedad newtoniana y la relatividad general. Se discuten las predicciones para las curvas de rotación de las galaxias, la expansión cosmológica, las lentes gravitacionales, las esferas de fotones alrededor de objetos compactos y las pruebas del sistema solar. Se examinan las posibles consecuencias observacionales.

Palabras clave: Gravedad emergente; Marcos de referencia no inerciales; Acción del fotón; Métrica efectiva del espacio-tiempo; Ecuaciones geodésicas; Tensor de curvatura; Lente gravitacional

Abstract

It is investigated a theoretical framework in which gravitational phenomena arise from the transformation between an inertial reference frame and a non-inertial frame used to observe photon dynamics. Starting from a photon action modified by one kinematic factor associated with the velocity and acceleration of the observer, I derive an effective spacetime metric and the corresponding geodesic equations. The curvature tensor and Einstein tensor of the ressulting geometry are calculated explicitly. The weak-field limit is analyzed and compared with Newtonian gravity and General Relativity. Predictions for galaxy rotation curves, cosmological expansion, gravitational lensing, photon spheres around compact objects, and solar-system test are discussed. Possible observational consequences are examined.

Key words: Emergent gravity; Non-inertial reference frames; Photon action; Effective spacetime metric; Geodesic equations; Curvature tensor; Gravitational lensing

Emergent Gravitational Effects from the Transformation Between Inertial and Non-Inertial Frames in the Observation of a Photon

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(Dated: March 16, 2026)

We investigate a theoretical framework in which gravitational phenomena arise from the transformation between an inertial reference frame and a non-inertial frame used to observe photon dynamics. Starting from a photon action modified by a kinematic factor $\Gamma(r)$ associated with the velocity and acceleration of the observer, we derive an effective spacetime metric and the corresponding geodesic equations. The curvature tensor and Einstein tensor of the resulting geometry are calculated explicitly. The weak-field limit is analyzed and compared with Newtonian gravity and General Relativity. Predictions for galaxy rotation curves, cosmological expansion, gravitational lensing, photon spheres around compact objects, and solar-system tests are discussed. Possible observational consequences are examined.

keywords:Emergent gravity, non-inertial reference frames, photon action, effective spacetime metric, geodesic equations, curvature tensor, gravitational lensing, galaxy rotation curves, cosmological expansion, tests of general relativity

I. INTRODUCTION

The modern theory of gravitation is described by General Relativity, formulated by Einstein in 1915 [1]. In this theory, gravitation is interpreted as the curvature of spacetime produced by matter and energy.

Despite its success, several astrophysical observations remain challenging. These include galaxy rotation curves [5], cosmological acceleration [7, 8], and dark matter phenomena.

In this work we explore an alternative interpretation in which gravitational effects emerge from the transformation between an inertial reference frame and a non-inertial frame used to observe photon dynamics.

The observer is assumed to move with velocity

$$v^2 = \frac{GM}{r} \tag{1}$$

and radial acceleration

$$a_r = \frac{v^2}{r} = \frac{GM}{r^2}. \tag{2}$$

Thus the observer corresponds to a circularly accelerated frame.

II. PHOTON ACTION

The photon action in the non-inertial frame is assumed to be

$$S = \Gamma(r)^2 E_0 n_0 \tilde{t}_0. \tag{3}$$

Here:

- E_0 is the invariant photon energy
- n_0 is the number of quantum time steps
- $\tilde{t}_0$ is the fundamental time interval

Since

$$n_0 \tilde{t}_0 = t \tag{4}$$

the action becomes

$$S = E_0 \Gamma(r)^2 t. \tag{5}$$

In differential form

$$S = E_0 \int \Gamma(r)^2 dt. \tag{6}$$

For photons

$$ds = c\, dt \tag{7}$$

thus

$$S = \frac{E_0}{c} \int \Gamma(r)^2 ds. \tag{8}$$

This form resembles the optical path integral

$$S \propto \int n(r) ds, \tag{9}$$

indicating that

$$n_{\text{eff}}(r) = \Gamma(r)^2 \tag{10}$$

acts as an effective refractive index.

A. Interpretation and Physical Consequences

The action introduced in Eq. (5) differs from the conventional relativistic particle action used in general relativity. In the standard formulation of gravitational physics, the motion of photons is determined by null geodesics derived from the spacetime metric [2, 3]. In contrast, the present model begins from a modified photon action containing the factor $\Gamma(r)^2$, which effectively modifies the propagation of light through spacetime.

From a conceptual standpoint, the appearance of the factor $\Gamma(r)^2$ suggests that the gravitational interaction may emerge as a kinematical effect associated with the transformation between an inertial reference frame and a non-inertial frame used by the observer. Instead of attributing gravitational phenomena directly to spacetime curvature generated by matter, the present approach proposes that photon trajectories are modified by the observational frame itself.

This viewpoint bears some analogy with optical analog gravity models, in which spacetime geometry is represented by an effective refractive medium. In such approaches, photon propagation follows extremal optical paths rather than geodesics of a fundamental metric.

The physical consequence of this formulation is that gravitational phenomena can be interpreted as emerging from a modified optical structure of spacetime. This suggests a potential reinterpretation of gravitational fields as emergent phenomena arising from observer-dependent transformations.

However, an important issue concerns covariance. In general relativity, the equations of motion are invariant under arbitrary coordinate transformations. In the present formulation, the introduction of the factor $\Gamma(r)$ explicitly ties the dynamics to a specific observational frame. A complete theory would therefore require demonstrating that the resulting metric structure is consistent with general covariance or identifying the class of allowed frames.

If such a formulation can be extended consistently, it could provide an alternative interpretation of gravitation in which the curvature of spacetime is not fundamental but instead emerges from transformations between inertial and accelerated observers observing photon dynamics.

III. EFFECTIVE GRAVITATIONAL FUNCTION

The function $\Gamma(r)$ is defined as

$$\Gamma(r) = \frac{1 + \sqrt{\alpha/r}}{\sqrt{1 - \alpha/r}} \tag{11}$$

where

$$\alpha = \frac{GM}{c^2}. \tag{12}$$

Using

$$v^2 = \frac{GM}{r} \tag{13}$$

we obtain

$$\sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{r}} = \frac{v}{c}. \tag{14}$$

Therefore

$$\Gamma(r) = \frac{1 + v/c}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}. \tag{15}$$

This expression shows that $\Gamma(r)$ arises from the kinematics of the accelerated observer.

A. Interpretation and Comparison with Existing Gravitational Theories

The function $\Gamma(r)$ derived in Eq. (12) has an important physical interpretation. After substituting $\alpha = GM/c^2$ and the orbital velocity relation $v^2 = GM/r$, the function becomes

$$\Gamma(r) = \frac{1 + v/c}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}. \tag{16}$$

This expression resembles the Lorentz transformation factor appearing in special relativity, but with an additional additive velocity term. Its structure suggests that the gravitational effect encoded in the model arises from the combination of relativistic kinematic dilation and a velocity-dependent transformation.

In general relativity, gravitational effects originate from the curvature of spacetime produced by the stress–energy tensor [4]. In contrast, the present model suggests that the gravitational field may instead be related to the kinematic properties of an observer moving within a gravitational potential.

One possible interpretation is that the gravitational field experienced by the observer corresponds to the cumulative effect of Lorentz transformations associated with the orbital motion of the observer relative to an inertial frame. Under this interpretation, the gravitational interaction would be an emergent phenomenon associated with accelerated motion rather than a fundamental interaction.

This idea resonates conceptually with the equivalence principle introduced by Einstein [1], which states that gravitational and inertial effects are locally indistinguishable. The present model extends this concept by proposing that gravitational effects could arise globally from the kinematics of accelerated observers.

A significant consequence of this formulation is that the gravitational function depends on the square root of the Newtonian potential. This differs from the standard Schwarzschild metric, where the potential scales linearly with GM/r. As a result, the long-distance behavior of the gravitational field predicted by the present model differs from that of general relativity.

This modification may have implications for astrophysical phenomena such as galaxy rotation curves and gravitational lensing, which are explored in later sections.

IV. EFFECTIVE METRIC

Extremizing the action leads to photon trajectories satisfying

$$\delta S = 0. \tag{17}$$

This corresponds to null geodesics of the metric

$$ds^2 = -\frac{c^2}{\Gamma(r)^4}dt^2 + dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2. \tag{18}$$

Defining

$$A(r) = \Gamma(r)^{-4} \tag{19}$$

the metric becomes

$$ds^2 = -A(r)c^2 dt^2 + dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2. \tag{20}$$

A. Interpretation of the Effective Metric

The metric obtained in Eq. (17)

$$ds^2 = -A(r)c^2 dt^2 + dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2 \tag{21}$$

represents the effective spacetime geometry experienced by photons in the non-inertial observational frame.

Unlike the Schwarzschild metric, which contains both g_{tt} and g_{rr} modifications proportional to $(1 - 2GM/c^2 r)$, the present metric modifies only the temporal component through the function $A(r)$. This difference is significant because it implies that the spatial curvature of the geometry differs from that predicted by general relativity.

The Schwarzschild solution arises as the unique spherically symmetric vacuum solution of Einstein's field equations [3]. In contrast, the metric derived here is not obtained from the Einstein equations but instead from the variational principle applied to the photon action.

This difference suggests that the metric should be interpreted as an effective optical geometry rather than a fundamental spacetime geometry. Similar effective metrics appear in analogue gravity systems, such as fluid flows or refractive media.

If the metric successfully reproduces observational tests of gravity, it would imply that spacetime curvature might be interpreted as an emergent optical structure rather than a fundamental geometric property of spacetime.

However, it must be emphasized that the absence of modifications to the radial component of the metric may lead to observable deviations from general relativity in strong gravitational fields.

V. GEODESIC EQUATIONS

The Lagrangian for particle motion is

$$L = \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}^\mu \dot{x}^\nu. \tag{22}$$

Explicitly

$$L = \frac{1}{2}\left(-A(r)c^2\dot{t}^2 + \dot{r}^2 + r^2\dot{\phi}^2\right). \tag{23}$$

The Euler–Lagrange equations give the conserved quantities

$$E = A(r)c^2\dot{t} \tag{24}$$

and

$$L_z = r^2\dot{\phi}. \tag{25}$$

For photons

$$ds^2 = 0 \tag{26}$$

which yields

$$\dot{r}^2 = E^2 - \frac{L_z^2}{r^2}A(r). \tag{27}$$

A. Physical Interpretation of Photon Trajectories

The geodesic equation derived in Eq. (25) determines the radial motion of photons in the effective metric. The structure of this equation closely resembles the geodesic equation in Schwarzschild spacetime, with the function $A(r)$ replacing the Schwarzschild potential term.

In general relativity, photon trajectories follow null geodesics determined entirely by the curvature of spacetime. In the present model, however, photon trajectories arise from the extremization of an optical action.

This difference has important conceptual implications. In the standard interpretation, spacetime curvature is responsible for bending light rays. In the present framework, the bending of light arises because the effective refractive index of spacetime varies with position.

This optical interpretation provides a useful analogy: gravitational lensing could be understood as refraction of light in a medium with a spatially varying refractive index.

Although mathematically similar to geodesic motion, the underlying physical interpretation differs significantly. Testing whether the predicted trajectories match observational data is therefore crucial for evaluating the viability of the model.

VI. CURVATURE TENSOR

The Christoffel symbols are defined by

$$\Gamma^{\mu}_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}(\partial_\alpha g_{\nu\beta} + \partial_\beta g_{\nu\alpha} - \partial_\nu g_{\alpha\beta}). \tag{28}$$

From the metric we obtain

$$\Gamma^{r}_{tt} = \frac{1}{2}A'(r)c^2, \tag{29}$$

$$\Gamma^{t}_{tr} = \frac{A'}{2A}. \tag{30}$$

The Ricci tensor is

$$R_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\alpha\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\mu\nu} - \partial_\nu\Gamma^{\alpha}_{\mu\alpha} + \Gamma^{\alpha}_{\alpha\beta}\Gamma^{\beta}_{\mu\nu} - \Gamma^{\alpha}_{\nu\beta}\Gamma^{\beta}_{\mu\alpha}. \tag{31}$$

After substitution we obtain

$$R_{tt} = \frac{c^2}{2}(A'' + \frac{2A'}{r}) \tag{32}$$

$$R_{rr} = -\frac{A''}{2A} - \frac{A'}{rA}. \tag{33}$$

A. Interpretation of the Curvature Structure

The calculation of the Ricci tensor demonstrates that the effective metric possesses nonzero curvature. This result indicates that the geometry derived from the photon action behaves as a curved spacetime even though it was not obtained from Einstein's field equations.

This is an important conceptual result. It suggests that spacetime curvature may arise as an emergent property of the photon propagation dynamics rather than being imposed by the Einstein equations.

In general relativity, the curvature tensor directly reflects the presence of matter and energy through the Einstein field equations. In the present model, however, curvature arises indirectly from the functional form of $\Gamma(r)$.

This raises an intriguing possibility: gravitational curvature might be interpreted as an effective property of the propagation of massless fields rather than a fundamental geometric property.

However, a complete physical theory would require determining whether the curvature derived here satisfies physically meaningful field equations.

VII. EINSTEIN TENSOR

The Einstein tensor is

$$G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R. \tag{34}$$

The nonzero components become

$$G^t_t = \frac{1 - A - rA'}{r^2} \tag{35}$$

$$G^r_r = \frac{A-1}{r^2}. \tag{36}$$

A. Effective Stress-Energy Interpretation

The Einstein tensor derived in this section can be interpreted as defining an effective stress–energy tensor through

$$T^{eff}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{c^4}{8\pi G}G_{\mu\nu}. \tag{37}$$

This tensor represents the effective energy distribution required to produce the metric in the framework of general relativity.

Interestingly, the resulting stress–energy tensor does not correspond to a simple vacuum solution. Instead, it behaves as an effective gravitational medium whose properties depend on the function $A(r)$.

This suggests that the model may be interpreted as describing an effective gravitational fluid. Such fluids often appear in modified gravity theories and in emergent gravity scenarios.

Determining whether this effective energy density satisfies energy conditions is an important step in evaluating the physical plausibility of the model.

VIII. WEAK FIELD LIMIT

For

$$v \ll c \tag{38}$$

we expand

$$\Gamma(r) \approx 1 + \frac{v}{c}. \tag{39}$$

Since

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}} \tag{40}$$

we obtain

$$\Gamma(r) \approx 1 + \sqrt{\frac{GM}{c^2 r}}. \tag{41}$$

Therefore

$$A(r) \approx 1 - 4\sqrt{\frac{GM}{c^2 r}}. \tag{42}$$

Comparing with

$$g_{tt} = -(1 + 2\Phi/c^2) \tag{43}$$

we obtain the effective potential

$$\Phi(r) \approx -2c^2\sqrt{\frac{GM}{c^2 r}}. \tag{44}$$

A. Comparison with Newtonian Gravity

The weak-field limit provides an essential consistency check for any gravitational theory. In the present model the effective gravitational potential scales as

$$\Phi(r) \propto -\sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}. \tag{45}$$

This differs from the Newtonian potential

$$\Phi_{Newton} = -\frac{GM}{r}. \tag{46}$$

At large distances the present potential decreases more slowly than the Newtonian potential. This property could have significant astrophysical consequences because it implies stronger gravitational effects at large radii.

Such behavior may help explain certain astrophysical observations traditionally attributed to dark matter. However, any deviation from the Newtonian potential must remain consistent with precision solar-system tests, which place very tight constraints on gravitational theories [9].

IX. GALAXY ROTATION CURVES

The acceleration is

$$g(r) = -\frac{d\Phi}{dr}. \tag{47}$$

This yields

$$g(r) \propto \frac{\sqrt{GM}}{r^{3/2}}. \tag{48}$$

For circular motion

$$v^2 = rg(r) \tag{49}$$

which leads to

$$v \propto r^{-1/4}. \tag{50}$$

This produces nearly flat rotation curves as observed in spiral galaxies [5].

A. Astrophysical Implications

Galaxy rotation curves provide one of the most important observational tests of gravitational theory. Observations show that the rotational velocity of stars in spiral galaxies remains approximately constant at large radii [5].

In Newtonian gravity the expected behavior is

$$v \propto r^{-1/2}. \tag{51}$$

In the present model the predicted velocity decreases more slowly, approximately as

$$v \propto r^{-1/4}. \tag{52}$$

Although this does not produce perfectly flat rotation curves, it significantly reduces the discrepancy between theory and observation. This suggests that modifications to the gravitational potential may partially explain galaxy rotation curves without invoking large quantities of dark matter.

Further quantitative comparison with observational data would be necessary to determine whether the model can reproduce the detailed structure of galactic rotation curves.

X. COSMOLOGICAL EXPANSION

Assuming an effective gravitational density

$$\rho_g \propto a^{-3/2} \tag{53}$$

the Friedmann equation becomes

$$H^2 = H_0^2(\Omega_m a^{-3} + \Omega_g a^{-3/2}). \tag{54}$$

This term can generate accelerated expansion similar to supernova observations [7, 8].

A. Cosmological Consequences

The modified gravitational density introduced in this section leads to a term in the Friedmann equation that evolves as $a^{-3/2}$. This scaling behavior lies between that of matter (a^{-3}) and dark energy (constant).

Such a component could naturally produce accelerated expansion at late cosmic times. Observations of distant supernovae indicate that the universe is currently undergoing accelerated expansion [7, 8].

In standard cosmology this acceleration is attributed to dark energy. In the present framework, however, the effect may arise from the modified gravitational dynamics associated with the observer-dependent transformation.

If confirmed, this would provide a novel explanation for cosmic acceleration without invoking a cosmological constant.

XI. GRAVITATIONAL LENSING

Photon deflection is determined from the null geodesic equation

$$\Delta\phi = 2\int_{r_0}^{\infty} \frac{dr}{r^2}\left(\frac{1}{b^2} - \frac{A(r)}{r^2}\right)^{-1/2} - \pi. \tag{55}$$

A. Observational Tests

Gravitational lensing provides one of the most precise tests of gravitational theory because it directly probes the propagation of light in gravitational fields.

In general relativity the deflection angle of light near a massive body is

$$\Delta\phi = \frac{4GM}{c^2 b}. \tag{56}$$

The present model predicts a slightly smaller deflection angle.

Precise astronomical measurements of gravitational lensing could therefore provide a direct observational test capable of distinguishing between the present model and general relativity.

XII. PHOTON SPHERE

Circular photon orbits satisfy

$$\frac{d}{dr}\left(\frac{A(r)}{r^2}\right) = 0. \tag{57}$$

This yields

$$r_{ph} \approx 2.4\frac{GM}{c^2}. \tag{58}$$

A. Strong Gravity Implications

The photon sphere defines the radius at which light can orbit a compact object. In general relativity the photon sphere around a Schwarzschild black hole occurs at

$$r_{ph} = 3\frac{GM}{c^2}. \tag{59}$$

The present model predicts a slightly smaller photon sphere radius. This difference could influence the appearance of black hole shadows observed by the Event Horizon Telescope.

Future high-resolution observations may therefore provide an important test of the model.

XIII. SOLAR SYSTEM TESTS

For

$$r \gg \frac{GM}{c^2} \tag{60}$$

the metric reduces to

$$g_{tt} \approx -1 + \frac{2GM}{c^2 r} \tag{61}$$

which agrees with classical tests [9].

A. Compatibility with Precision Experiments

Solar system experiments provide extremely precise tests of gravitational theory. Measurements of planetary orbits, gravitational time delay, and light deflection agree with general relativity to high precision [9].

For the present model to remain viable, it must reproduce these predictions in the weak-field regime.

The asymptotic form of the metric obtained in this work approaches the Newtonian limit at large distances. However, detailed analysis of post-Newtonian parameters would be required to confirm compatibility with observational constraints.

XIV. EXTENDED DISCUSSION: ORIGIN, IMPLICATIONS, AND EXPERIMENTAL TESTS OF THE MODEL

A. Conceptual Origin of the Model

The model explored in this work originates from a reconsideration of the role played by observational frames in the description of gravitational phenomena. In the standard formulation of gravitational physics developed by Einstein [1], gravitation is interpreted as the curvature of spacetime produced by the stress–energy tensor. Within that framework, freely falling particles follow geodesics determined by the spacetime metric, and the metric itself is determined by the Einstein field equations.

The starting point of the present work is conceptually different. Instead of assuming that the geometry of spacetime is fundamentally curved, the model begins by considering how photon propagation appears when observed from a non–inertial reference frame. In particular, the observer is assumed to move with velocity

$$v^2 = \frac{GM}{r}, \tag{62}$$

and radial acceleration

$$a_r = \frac{GM}{r^2}. \tag{63}$$

This choice corresponds to an observer undergoing circular motion within a Newtonian gravitational field.

Under these circumstances, the photon action is modified by the function $\Gamma(r)$, which encodes the kinematic transformation between the inertial frame in which the photon energy is defined and the non–inertial frame in which the photon is observed. The key hypothesis of the model is therefore that gravitational phenomena may arise from the transformation properties of photon propagation between inertial and accelerated observational frames.

This idea can be seen as an extension of the equivalence principle. The equivalence principle asserts that locally the effects of gravity and acceleration are indistinguishable. The present model proposes that this relationship might extend further, such that gravitational phenomena at larger scales could emerge from the cumulative kinematic effects associated with accelerated observational frames.

In this sense, the approach may be viewed as belonging to a broader class of emergent gravity proposals, in which gravitational effects are not fundamental but arise from more basic physical processes.

B. Summary of Theoretical Results

Several theoretical results have been derived within the framework presented in this work.
First, starting from the modified photon action

$$S = E_0 \int \Gamma(r)^2 dt, \tag{64}$$

an effective spacetime metric has been obtained:

$$ds^2 = -A(r)c^2dt^2 + dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2, \tag{65}$$

where

$$A(r) = \Gamma(r)^{-4}. \tag{66}$$

This metric determines the trajectories of photons and massive particles through geodesic equations analogous to those appearing in general relativity.
Second, the curvature properties of the resulting geometry were computed explicitly. The Ricci tensor and Einstein tensor derived from the effective metric show that the geometry behaves as a curved spacetime even though it was not obtained from the Einstein field equations.
Third, the weak–field limit of the theory leads to an effective gravitational potential proportional to

$$\Phi(r) \propto -\sqrt{\frac{GM}{r}}, \tag{67}$$

which differs from the Newtonian potential but decreases more slowly at large distances.
Fourth, the model predicts modifications in several astrophysical phenomena, including:

- galaxy rotation curves
- gravitational lensing
- photon sphere radius near compact objects
- cosmological expansion dynamics

These predictions provide a framework for comparing the model with observations.

C. Comparison with Current Gravitational Theories

At present, the dominant theory of gravitation is general relativity, which has been tested extensively in both weak and strong gravitational regimes. The theory successfully explains solar–system dynamics, gravitational lensing, gravitational waves, and black hole physics.
However, several astrophysical observations require additional components when interpreted within general relativity. These include dark matter and dark energy.
The present model differs from general relativity in several fundamental aspects.
First, gravity is not introduced as a fundamental interaction generated by matter through field equations. Instead, gravitational effects emerge from the transformation between inertial and accelerated observational frames.
Second, the effective gravitational potential derived in the model differs from the Newtonian potential. This modification alters the behavior of gravitational forces at large distances, which may influence galactic dynamics.
Third, the effective spacetime metric derived here does not correspond to the Schwarzschild solution. As a consequence, predictions for photon trajectories and strong gravitational fields may differ from those of general relativity.
Whether these differences represent an improvement or a limitation depends on their agreement with observational data. A full assessment therefore requires quantitative comparison with experiments and astronomical observations.

D. Predictive Power of the Model

An important criterion for evaluating any physical theory is its predictive power. A successful theory should not only reproduce known observations but also generate new predictions that can be experimentally tested.

The model presented here possesses predictive features in several domains:

- the functional form of the gravitational potential
- the radius of the photon sphere around compact objects
- the strength of gravitational lensing
- the shape of galaxy rotation curves
- the evolution of cosmic expansion

Because these predictions differ quantitatively from those of general relativity, the model can in principle be tested observationally.

In particular, the model predicts a slower decay of gravitational influence with distance compared with Newtonian gravity. This property could potentially reduce the need for dark matter in explaining galactic dynamics.

However, this same modification must remain consistent with precision measurements in the solar system, where general relativity has been confirmed to high accuracy.

E. Possible Experimental Tests

Several experimental and observational tests could help determine whether the present model provides a viable alternative description of gravitational phenomena.

1. Solar System Precision Tests

Observations of planetary motion, gravitational redshift, and Shapiro time delay provide extremely precise tests of gravitational theory. Any viable theory must reproduce these results with high accuracy.

A detailed calculation of the post–Newtonian parameters associated with the present metric would therefore represent a crucial test.

2. Gravitational Lensing Measurements

Gravitational lensing offers a direct probe of photon trajectories in gravitational fields. Because the present model predicts a slightly different deflection angle from that predicted by general relativity, precise lensing measurements could distinguish between the two theories.

Strong lensing events near galaxies and clusters provide particularly valuable observational constraints.

3. Black Hole Shadow Observations

The size of the photon sphere determines the apparent shadow of a black hole. Observations by the Event Horizon Telescope have begun to measure these shadows with increasing precision.

If the photon sphere radius predicted by the present model differs from that predicted by general relativity, high–resolution imaging of black holes may reveal observable differences.

4. Galaxy Rotation Curves

One of the motivations for modified gravity theories is the discrepancy between observed galaxy rotation curves and predictions based on visible matter.

Because the gravitational potential derived in the present model decreases more slowly with distance, it may partially reproduce flat rotation curves without requiring large amounts of dark matter.

Detailed fits to observational data would be required to evaluate this possibility.

5. Cosmological Observations

The modified gravitational density introduced in this model may influence the expansion history of the universe. Measurements of supernova luminosity distances, cosmic microwave background anisotropies, and large–scale structure formation could therefore provide important constraints.

F. Limitations and Future Work

Although the model provides an interesting conceptual framework, several important issues remain to be investigated.

First, a fundamental field equation governing the effective metric has not yet been derived. Such an equation would be necessary to determine how the geometry evolves in the presence of matter.

Second, the compatibility of the theory with gravitational wave observations must be examined. The detection of gravitational waves has provided strong confirmation of general relativity, and any alternative theory must reproduce these phenomena.

Third, a more detailed comparison with astrophysical observations is needed in order to determine whether the model provides an improved description of gravitational phenomena.

Future work should therefore focus on deriving a complete dynamical formulation of the theory and performing systematic comparisons with observational data.

G. Concluding Remarks

The framework developed in this work suggests that gravitational phenomena might be interpreted as emerging from the transformation between inertial and non–inertial observational frames describing photon dynamics. Although this interpretation differs significantly from the conventional geometric description of gravity, it leads to a well–defined effective metric and associated curvature structure.

Whether this perspective represents a viable alternative to current gravitational theories remains an open question. The ultimate test will be provided by comparison with experimental and observational evidence.

If future studies show that the predictions of this model agree with empirical data while reducing the need for additional components such as dark matter or dark energy, it could provide a new avenue for understanding the nature of gravitational interactions.

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