

Sunday Zoom - August 17, 2025 - 12:30 PM ET - Topic: "All Sensations Are True"

Post by "Martin" of September 20, 2025 at 2:01 PM

Le Sage's theory of gravitation is a nice example of a theory which can model some aspects but is refuted by experimental results.

By using simple senior high school physics, I found that the model can produce the observed $1/(\text{distance} * \text{distance})$ dependence in gravity but results in a dependence on mass with with an exponent of $2/3$ instead of 1. Attempts to fix this lead to a strong anisotropy, which contradicts observations. My own take fits statements by Paul du Bois-Reymond, Richard Feynman and others.

The history of the reception of the model shows that many physicists gave it friendly consideration but found it to be refuted by observations.

The claim that Le Sage's theory of gravitation explains what we observe is false. The strong analogy between Epicurus' and that theory is an example of where Epicurus' physics is false or obsolete.

The claim that Le Sage's model can explain magnetism or observed relativistic effects has no base and appears to be rather cultish/esoteric.