

Translation into English: [Chapter 2 - Catalogue of Errors for Both Theories of Relativity](#)

from the German documentation of G.O. Mueller

"On the Absolute Magnitude of the Special Theory of Relativity - A Documentary Thought Experiment on 95 Years of Criticism (1908-2003) with Proof of 3789 Critical Works" - Text Version 2.1 - June 2004  
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## M: The General Theory of Relativity / Error No. 5

### **Albert Einstein's claim that light is deflected by gravitational forces is said to be a fundamental achievement of his GTR and its confirmation is said to confirm the GTR**

*The question as to from whom and when a certain claim in physics was made must be put in the context of the available documentation, not on the basis of biographical fairness or for the satisfaction of any vanity (the first would be a matter for the History of Science the second for the newspapers), but due to the question of the factual interdependencies. An effect that is explained by several theories can no longer be claimed by any of these theories as compelling proof of the validity of this particular theory. An effect that has already been described cannot be subsequently claimed as the special performance of a later-developed theory, and its empirical confirmation is no compelling confirmation of the later theory.- The last-mentioned circumstances apply to light deflection; this was already described in 1801 by Johann v. Soldner and the deflection due to the sun was calculated.*

*Theimer (1977, p. 142): "A gravitational deflection of light was already predicted by Newton and was calculated in 1801 by the astronomer v. Soldner. His value amounted to only half that of Einstein's. In 1911 the value predicted by Einstein was still the same as that of v. Soldner. It was not until 1917 that he changed it to twice the value."*

P. Lenard first received notification in 1921 of the publication by v. Soldner in 1801 and he therefore republished it in 1921 in "Annalen der Physik". In his preface Lenard remarks that Soldner - without the assumptions of the GTR - had calculated the deflection of light due to gravity and had found a value that agreed with the results of observations of the eclipse of the sun in 1919.

The reason for reprinting the work of Soldner is its limited degree of familiarity and its importance, since "nobody can say to what extent the older performance served as a reason and a support for subsequent preoccupation with the same subject matter" (p. 594). - Soldner believed that light from hot matter itself had material characteristics and was therefore also affected by gravity. This opinion fell into oblivion in the 19th century due to the prevailing wave theory of light (p. 595). - Soldner made his findings without the help of the STR/GTR and their depictions of space and time (p. 596). "An entangled theory with very far-reaching claims that are not at all necessary for derivation of a result can never be confirmed by the validation of the result." In this case the theory would be "only artificial and apparently intertwined with the result".

For relativists it was only natural that they showed themselves to be very angry in 1921 about the reprint of the work of v. Soldner, as though this was a defamation of Albert Einstein. How could v. Soldner, even in the year 1801, have the audacity ... Since Lenard in the following year - for the first time in a critical physical publication - made anti-Semitic comments, it also proved possible to publicly dismiss the Soldner affair in the context of Lenard's anti-Semitism and thus, in a very elegant way, to avoid addressing the matter in the future in relativistic presentations, right up to the present day.

The unholy anti-Semitism has also buried free debate in the field of physics, and the findings in the Soldner text were one of its first victims.

Soldner, Johann v.: Über die Ablenkung eines Lichtstrahls von seiner geradlinigen Bewegung, durch die Attraktion eines Weltkörpers, an welchem er nahe vorbeigeht. In: Astronomisches Jahrbuch für das Jahr 1804. Berlin 1801, pp 161-172. - Lenard, Philipp: Vorbemerkung [zum Abdruck einer Arbeit von Soldner aus dem Jahr 1801] In: Annalen der Physik. F. 4, Bd. 65. 1921, H. 7, pp 593-600. Then extracts from Soldner's text: pp 600-604. - Theimer 1977, pp 141-142.