

# Transport in Astrophysics: IV. Anomalous Redshift in the Solar System

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## Abstract

The anomalous redshift on the sun's limb and that measured by Pioneer-6 are interesting for the process of absorption of light and the spatial density of matter around the sun. Here we derive a 3D solution for the diffusion equation in the case of the steady state, which is then adopted as the density of the ionized matter around the sun. In order to deal with the observed light's intensity, two integrals along the line of sight are evaluated. Alternatives to the Doppler shift have been considered as mechanisms: a thermal model, a plasma effect, the interaction of a low density electromagnetic wave with an electron and the interaction of light with a low density Fermi gas in standard QED. These four models are compared in the case of the Pioneer-6 signal.

## Keywords

Particle Diffusion, Random Walks

## 1. Introduction

The redshift,  $z$ , is defined as

$$z = \frac{\lambda_{obs} - \lambda_{em}}{\lambda_{em}}, \quad (1)$$

with  $\lambda_{obs}$  and  $\lambda_{em}$  denoting respectively the wavelengths of the observed and the emitted e.m. wave, and is usually classified as a Doppler effect. In the case of a redshift generated by another physical mechanism, we speak of an *anomalous redshift*. The first astronomical case to be analysed was the He redshift at the sun's limb, which dates back to 1910 [1] and can be considered a key problem in the Sun's atmosphere. More recent analyses can be found in [2] [3] [4] [5]. The shift of the absorption lines is modeled by different physical mechanisms: a turbulent model for the Sun's atmosphere [6], an atomic model which uses the

Lennard-Jones potential and standard photospheric models [7], a secondary radiation due to bremsstrahlung produced by the transfer of momentum of the solar photons to the electrons of the atoms of the solar atmosphere [8], and a model based on the photons of light losing energy due to interaction with electrons [9]. The above models suggest that at the moment of writing there is no single explanation for the shift of the absorption lines. The second astronomical case here analysed date back to 1969 and is the anomalous redshift at 2292 MHz from Pioneer-6 [10]. Starting from 1971 and up to 2013, different models have been used to analyse this anomalous redshift: radial currents in the solar atmosphere [11] [12] [13] [14], the interaction of the photons with matter [15] and the interaction of light with a low density Fermi gas in standard quantum electrodynamics (QED) [16]. In the period from 2014 up to now the following models have been considered for the anomalous redshift at 2292 MHz: the losses to electromagnetic waves when the electric component accelerates the electrons in the sun's atmosphere [17] and the interaction of the radio signal with the electron-dense solar corona in the framework of New Tired Light (NTL) [18]. Also in the case of Pioneer-6, there does not exist a unique model for the shift in frequency of communication. Some questions have not yet been analysed:

- 1) Can the radial profile in density of the 3D diffusion explain the decrease in density around the sun?
- 2) Can we integrate the above diffusion profile along the line of sight?
- 3) Can we compare different models for the anomalous redshift of the sun?

In order to answer the above questions, Section 2 reviews the relativistic formulae for the Doppler and gravitational redshifts, Section 3 reviews some existing models for the anomalous redshift, such as the photon-matter interaction, the plasma effect, the interaction of a low density electromagnetic wave with an electron and the interaction of light with a low density Fermi gas in standard QED. Section 4 sets up the steady state diffusion in 3D and derives two integrals along the line of sight. Section 5 applies the new results to the anomalous redshift measured on the solar limb and to that connected with Pioneer-6.

## 2. Relativistic Effects

In the framework of special relativity (SR), we analyse the case in which the receiver is at rest and the source is emitting light with an angle  $\theta$  with respect to the relative motion. The frequency observed by the receiver,  $\nu$ , is reduced from  $\nu_0$  to

$$\frac{\nu}{\nu_0} = \frac{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}{1-\beta \cos(\theta)}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\beta = \frac{v}{c}$ ,  $v$  is the absolute velocity of the source, and  $c$  is the speed of light, see Formula (14.5) in [19]. The relativistic redshift in SR is

$$z = -\frac{\beta \cos(\theta) + \sqrt{-\beta^2 + 1} - 1}{\sqrt{-\beta^2 + 1}}, \quad (3)$$

and a Taylor expansion up to order 3 in  $\beta$  gives

$$z = -\frac{2\beta\left(\cos^2(\theta)\beta - \frac{\beta}{2} + \cos(\theta)\right)}{2 + 2\left(\cos^2(\theta)\right)\beta^2 + 2\beta\cos(\theta) - \beta^2}. \quad (4)$$

The above equation in the case of  $\theta = 90$  deg, transverse motion, gives

$$z = \frac{\beta^2}{2}, \quad (5)$$

and in the case of  $\theta = 180$  deg, radial motion, gives

$$z = \beta + \frac{1}{2}\beta^2. \quad (6)$$

In general relativity (GR), the gravitational redshift for the sun is

$$z \approx \frac{GM}{Rc^2} = 2.122 \times 10^{-6}, \quad (7)$$

where  $G$  is the Newtonian constant of gravitation,  $M$  is the mass of the sun,  $R$  is the radius of the sun and  $c$  is the speed of light in vacuum, see Formula (5.485) in [20] and see [21] for an historical derivation.

### 3. Anomalous Redshift

This section reports the adopted statistics and reviews 4 different mechanisms for the anomalous redshift.

#### 3.1. Statistics

The merit function  $\chi^2$  is computed according to the formula

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(T_i - O_i)^2}{O_i}, \quad (8)$$

where  $n$  is the number of elements of the sample,  $T_i$  is the theoretical value, and  $O_i$  is the experimental datum.

#### 3.2. Models

The first mechanism is for reference and is due to the interaction between photons and matter. We start from the two equations on page 170 of [15]

$$T^3 = \frac{T_{\odot}^3 \omega}{4\pi}, \quad (9)$$

and

$$\frac{\omega}{4\pi} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{1 - \frac{R_{\odot}^2}{r^2}}}{2}, \quad (10)$$

where  $R_{\odot}$  is the radius of the sun,  $T$  is the temperature at distance  $r$ ,  $T_{\odot}$  is the temperature at distance  $R_{\odot}$  and  $\omega$  the considered solid angle. On introducing

$\frac{R_{\odot}}{r} = \frac{\sin(\theta)}{d}$ , Equation (2) of [15] for the redshift becomes

$$z = A \left( \int_{-\frac{\pi}{2}}^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{T_{\odot}^3 \left( -1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{\sin^2(\theta)}{d^2}} \right) \pi}{2\pi} d\theta \right), \tag{11}$$

where  $A$  is a constant. An analytical expression for the above integral is

$$z = -\frac{AT_{\odot}^3 \pi \left( -\pi + 2E\left(\frac{1}{d}\right) \right)}{2\pi}, \tag{12}$$

where  $E(x)$  is the complete elliptic integral of the second kind which according to [22] is

$$E(x) = E(1, x), \tag{13}$$

where  $E(z, y)$  is the incomplete elliptic integral of the second kind

$$E(z, y) = \int_0^z \frac{\sqrt{-y^2 t^2 + 1}}{\sqrt{-t^2 + 1}} dt. \tag{14}$$

A truncated series expansion of Equation (12) of order 3 with respect to the variable  $d$  about the point 1 is

$$z = \frac{AT_{\odot}^3 \pi (\pi - 2)}{2\pi} + \frac{AT_{\odot}^3 \pi (-3 \ln(2) + \ln(d - 1) + 1)(d - 1)}{2\pi} + \frac{AT_{\odot}^3 \pi \left( \frac{9 \ln(2)}{4} - \frac{3 \ln(d - 1)}{4} - \frac{11}{8} \right) (d - 1)^2}{2\pi}. \tag{15}$$

The maximum percentage error of the above expansion is  $\delta \approx 20\%$  in the interval  $1 < d < 1.7$  and we should go to order 12 in order to have  $\delta \approx 1\%$ . An asymptotic expansion of Equation (12) with respect to the variable  $d$  is

$$z = \frac{AT_{\odot}^3 \pi^2}{8\pi d^2} + \frac{3AT_{\odot}^3 \pi^2}{128\pi d^4}. \tag{16}$$

The maximum percentage error of the above expansion is  $\delta \approx 1\%$  in the interval  $1.7 < d < 10$ . The second case is an analysis of a plasma effect. In the framework of photons which penetrate a hot, sparse electron plasma, it is possible to derive a formula for the redshift

$$\ln(1 + z) = 3.326 \times 10^{-25} \int_0^R N_e dx + \frac{\gamma_i - \gamma_0}{\xi \omega}, \tag{17}$$

where  $\gamma_i$  is the initial photon width,  $\gamma_0$  is the final photon width,  $\omega$  is the photon frequency,  $\xi$  is an adjustment factor and  $N_e$  is the number of plasma electrons per  $\text{cm}^3$ , see Equation (20) in [23] or Equation (29) in [24]. The second term of Equation (17) is a small correction to the first term and therefore we have a simple expression for the plasma redshift in the CGS system:

$$\ln(1+z) = 3.326 \times 10^{-25} \int_0^R N_e dx. \quad (18)$$

The third mechanism is given by the interaction of a low density electromagnetic wave with an electron, see the equation on page 3 in [25], which in the SI system yields the following redshift

$$z = w \int_0^D n_e ds, \quad (19)$$

with

$$w = \frac{3q_e^4 \mu_0}{512\pi m_e^2} = 2.33 \times 10^{-30} \text{ m}^2, \quad (20)$$

where  $q_e$  is the charge of the electron,  $\mu_0$  is the magnetic permeability of the vacuum, and  $m_e$  is the mass of the electron.

The fourth mechanism is given by the interaction of light with a low density Fermi gas in standard QED, which yields the following redshift

$$z = \frac{3}{400000d^5} + \frac{1}{5000000d}, \quad (21)$$

see the last formula on page 282 in [16].

#### 4. Diffusion from the Sun

Here we assume that the concentration of ionized particles,  $C(r,t)$ , diffuses away from the surface of the sun according to Fick's second law in 3D

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} C(r,t) = \frac{D \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial r} C(r,t) \right) \right) \right)}{r^2}, \quad (22)$$

where  $D$  is the diffusion coefficient,  $t$  is the time and  $r$  is the radius. This partial differential Equation (PDE) in the stationary state becomes an ordinary differential Equation (ODE):

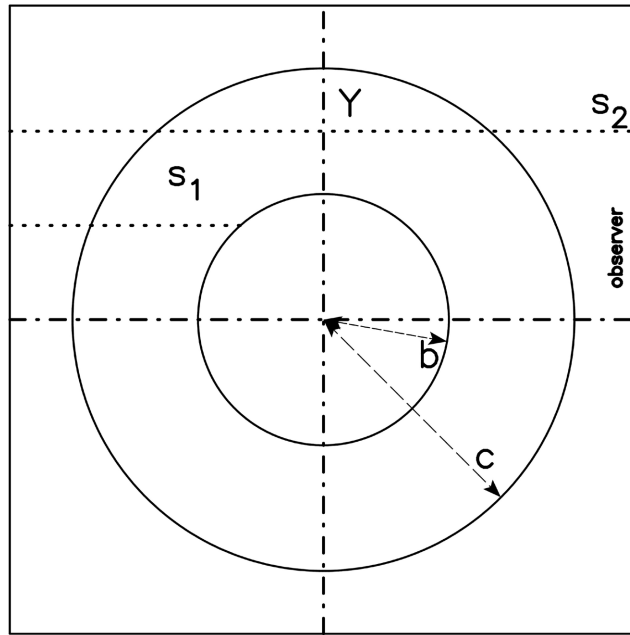
$$\frac{D \left( 2r \left( \frac{d}{dr} C(r) \right) + r^2 \left( \frac{d^2}{dr^2} C(r) \right) \right)}{r^2} = 0. \quad (23)$$

The boundary conditions are assumed to be  $C(b) = C_m$  and  $C(c) = 0$  and the solution of this ODE is

$$C(r) = -\frac{C_m b(c-r)}{(b-c)r}. \quad (24)$$

We are now interested in the integral  $I(x,y) = \int C(x,y) dx$  along a line of sight as shown in **Figure 1**.

We now consider a circular section of the diffusing sphere and make the substitution  $r = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ . We now evaluate two integrals which cover different ranges of the variable  $y$ . The first integral,  $I_{bc}$ , is taken over the interval  $b < y < c$  and is doubled for symmetry, or in other words is taken outside the radius of the sun



**Figure 1.** The two circles (sections of spheres) with radius of the sun,  $b$ , and radius of the end of diffusion,  $c$ , are represented by a full line. The observer is situated along the  $x$  direction, and two dotted lines of sight are indicated.

$$I_{bc} = \int_0^{\sqrt{c^2-y^2}} C(x, y) dx$$

$$= \frac{2C_m b \left( -\sqrt{c^2-y^2} + c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{c^2-y^2}}{y} \right) \right)}{b-c}; \quad b < y < c, \tag{25}$$

and the second integral,  $I_{0b}$ , is taken over the interval  $0 < y < b$ , or in other words is taken from the surface of the sun to the end of the diffusion

$$I_{0b} = \int_{\sqrt{b^2-y^2}}^{\sqrt{c^2-y^2}} C(x, y) dx$$

$$= \frac{bC_m \left( c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{b^2-y^2}}{y} \right) - c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{c^2-y^2}}{y} \right) - \sqrt{b^2-y^2} + \sqrt{c^2-y^2} \right)}{b-c}; \quad 0 < y < b. \tag{26}$$

A typical result for this integration is reported in **Figure 2**.

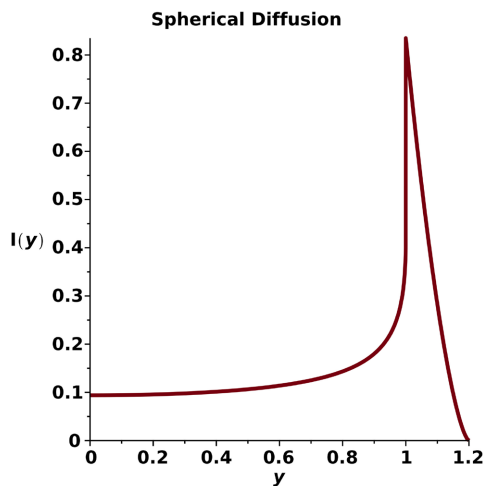
In order to parametrize the redshift as a function of the distance in the logarithmic case we fix

$$\ln(1 + z_{0b}) = A * I_{0b}, \tag{27}$$

where  $A$  is a constant and  $z_{0b}$  the redshift in the interval  $0 < y < b$ . The redshift is therefore

$$z_{0b} = e^{\frac{AbC_m \left( c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{b^2-y^2}}{y} \right) - c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{c^2-y^2}}{y} \right) - \sqrt{b^2-y^2} + \sqrt{c^2-y^2} \right)}{b-c}} - 1, \tag{28}$$

and in an analogous way introducing  $z_{bc}$  as the redshift in the interval  $b < y < c$



**Figure 2.** Behaviour of the intensity  $I(y)$  exhibited by  $I_{0b}$  and  $I_{bc}$  as functions of the distance from the centre when  $C_m = 1$ ,  $b = 1$  and  $c = \frac{6}{5}$ .

$$z_{bc} = e^{\frac{AbC_m \left( c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - y^2}}{y} \right) - c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{c^2 - y^2}}{y} \right) - \sqrt{b^2 - y^2} + \sqrt{c^2 - y^2} \right)}{b - c}} - 1. \tag{29}$$

Conversely, in order to parametrize the redshift as a function of the distance in the linear case we fix

$$z = B * I_{0b}, \tag{30}$$

where  $B$  is a constant. The redshift is therefore

$$z_{0b} = \frac{BbC_m \left( c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - y^2}}{y} \right) - c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{c^2 - y^2}}{y} \right) - \sqrt{b^2 - y^2} + \sqrt{c^2 - y^2} \right)}{b - c}, \tag{31}$$

and in an analogous way

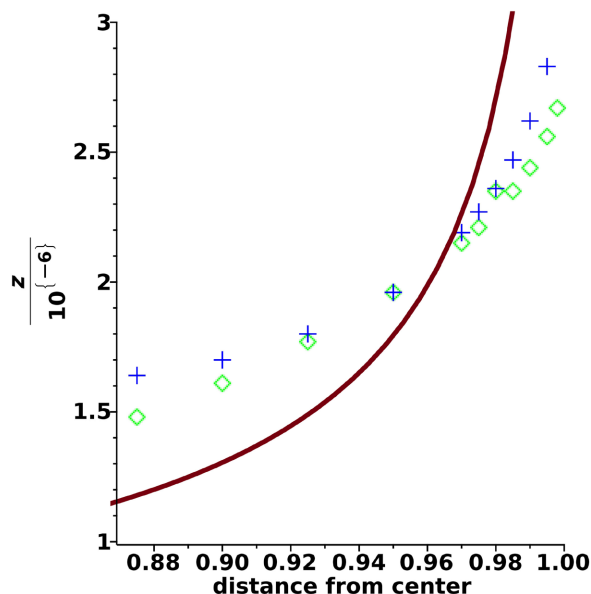
$$z_{bc} = - \frac{2BC_m b \left( -\sqrt{c^2 - y^2} + c \operatorname{arcsinh} \left( \frac{\sqrt{c^2 - y^2}}{y} \right) \right)}{b - c}. \tag{32}$$

### 5. Astrophysical Applications

Here we apply the new formulae to the Fraunhofer lines at the sun’s limb and to the 2292 MHz radio data from Pioneer-6.

#### 5.1. The Sun’s Lines

The redshift of the Fraunhofer spectral absorption lines varies from the centre to the limb of the sun and has been the subject of research. As an example, we analysed the data of [2] and [3] that can be found in Table 3 of [23]. **Figure 3** compares the experimental data with the theoretical curve as given by the plasma-redshift theory with a logarithmic expression for the redshift, see Equation (28).



**Figure 3.** Experimental measurements by [3] (blue crosses) and by [2] (green diamonds) with redshift expressed in  $10^{-6}$  units. Theoretical curve as given by Equation (28) with  $b=1$ ,  $c=b+b/100$  (red line),  $A=3.326 \times 10^{-25}$  in CGS and  $C_m = N_e = 5 \times 10^9 \frac{1}{\text{cm}^3}$ .

**Figure 4** compares the experimental data with the theoretical curve as given by the interaction of a low density electromagnetic wave with an electron with a linear expression for the redshift, see Equation (31).

**Figure 5** compares the experimental data with the theoretical curve as given by the relativistic Doppler model for the redshift, see Equation (4), where the variable  $-\cos(\theta)$  has been substituted by the distance from the centre to a given position expressed in solar units. The above relativistic Doppler model is only valid in the presence of a circular velocity at the equator of the sun and in the interval of distance in solar units  $[0,1]$ . The  $\chi^2$  of the three models for the three sets of data is reported in **Table 1**.

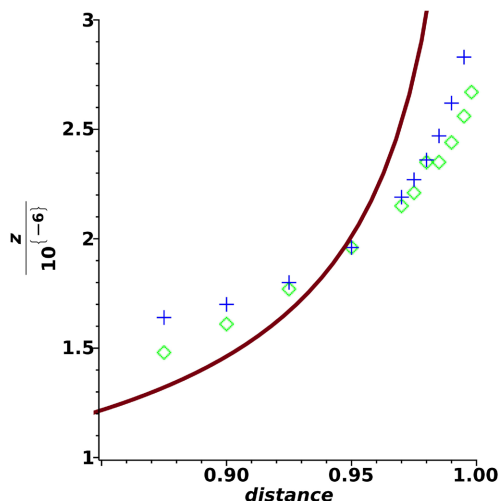
## 5.2. Pioneer-6 Anomalous Redshift

The occultation by the sun of the radio signals at 2292 MHz from Pioneer-6 was observed by [10]. The above data were analysed as redshift versus distance from the sun, see Figure 4 in [15], and explained as an interaction between incident transverse photons and light neutral bosons emitted by the sun. **Figure 6** reports the observed data as well the theoretical analytical curve for the photon-matter interaction, the model of reference, with the  $\chi^2$  reported in **Table 2**.

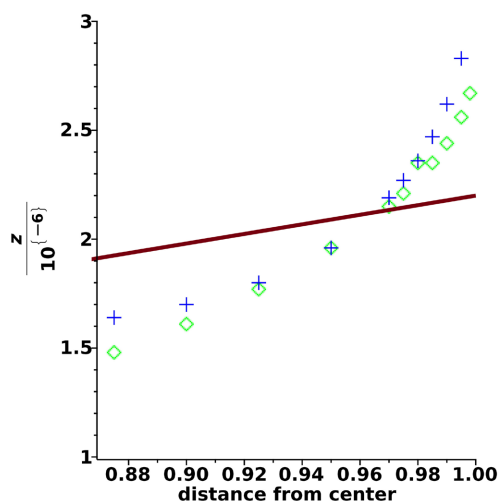
**Figure 7** compares the Pioneer-6 data with the theoretical curve as given by the plasma-redshift theory with a logarithmic expression for the redshift, see Equation (29), with  $\chi^2$  as in **Table 2**.

**Figure 8** compares the Pioneer-6 data with the theoretical curve as given by the interaction of a low density electromagnetic wave with an electron with a linear expression for the redshift, see Equation (32), with  $\chi^2$  as in **Table 2**.





**Figure 4.** Experimental measurements by [3] (blue crosses) and by [2] (green diamonds) with redshift expressed in  $10^{-6}$  units. Theoretical curve as given by Equation (31) with  $b = 1$ ,  $c = b + b/100$  (red line),  $B = 2.33 \times 10^{-30}$  in SI and  $C_m = N_e = 0.8 \times 10^{17} \frac{1}{m^3}$ .

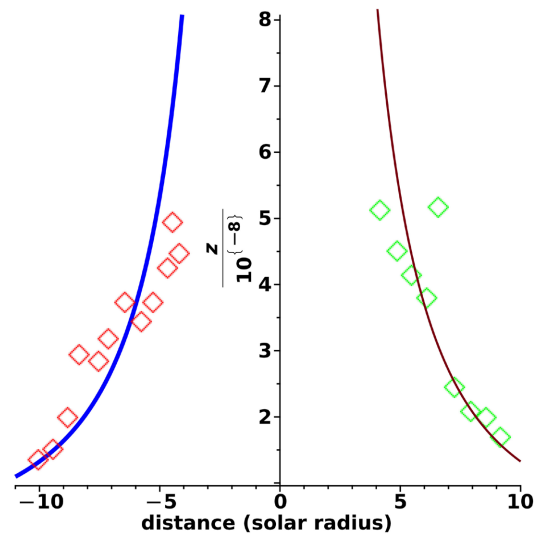


**Figure 5.** Experimental measurements by [3] (blue crosses) and by [2] (green diamonds) with redshift expressed in  $10^{-6}$  units. Theoretical curve for the Doppler model as given by Equation (4) with  $\beta = 2.2 \times 10^{-6}$ .

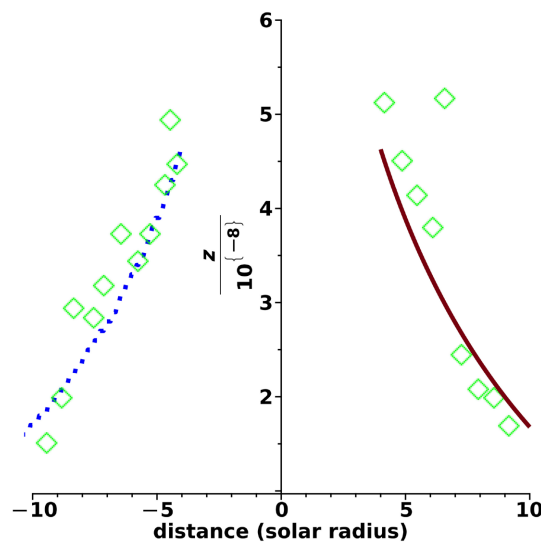
**Table 1.** Numerical values of  $\chi^2$  for the sun.

Involved Physics	Adam (1959) data	Higgs (1960) data
Plasma Physics	2.65	1.69
EM-electron	4.21	2.82
Doppler Effect	0.157	0.23

**Figure 9** compares the Pioneer-6 data with the theoretical curve as given by the interaction of light with a low density Fermi gas in standard QED, see Equation (21), with  $\chi^2$  as in **Table 2**.



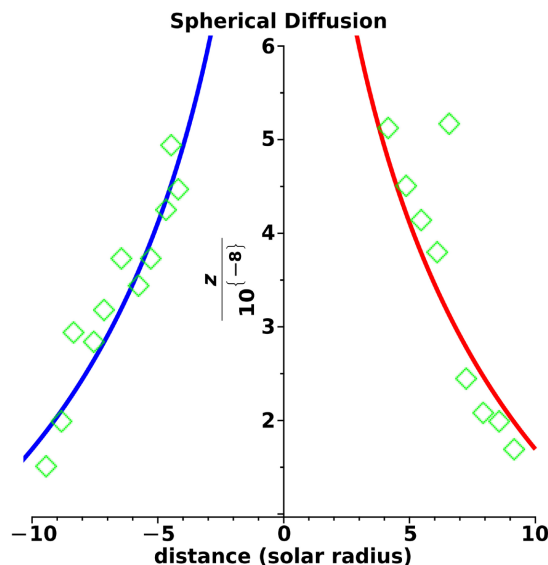
**Figure 6.** Experimental measurements of the redshift, expressed in  $10^{-8}$  units, of the Pioneer-6 signals (green and red diamonds). Theoretical analytical curve of the photon-matter interaction as given by Equation (12) with  $A = 2.5 \times 10^{-28}$  (blue and red line).



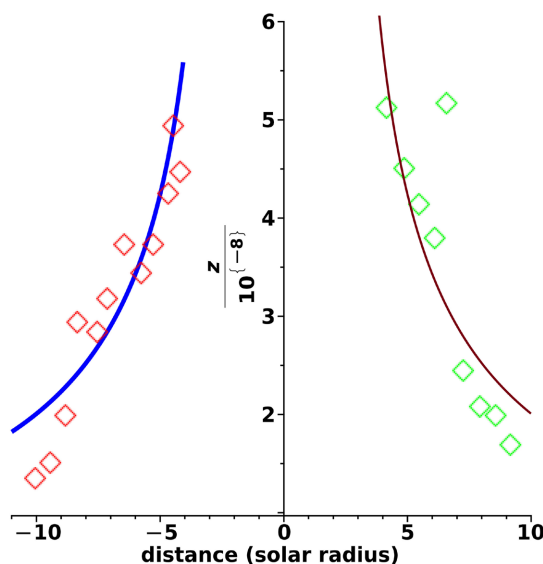
**Figure 7.** Experimental measurements of the redshift, expressed in  $10^{-8}$  units, of the Pioneer-6 signals (green diamonds). Theoretical curve as given by Equation (29) with  $b = 1$ ,  $c = b + 20 \times b$  (red full line and blue dotted line),  $A = 3.326 \times 10^{-25}$  in CGS and  $C_m = N_e = 7 \times 10^5 \frac{1}{\text{cm}^3}$ .

**Table 2.** Numerical values of  $\chi^2$  for the Pioneer-6 signal.

Involved Physics	left data	right data
Photon-Matter	0.33	0.51
Plasma-Physics	0.28	0.3
EM-electron	0.22	0.27
QED	0.49	0.37



**Figure 8.** Experimental measurements of the redshift, expressed in  $10^{-8}$  units, of the Pioneer-6 signals (green diamonds). Theoretical curve as given by Equation (32) with  $b = 1$ ,  $c = b + 20 \times b$  (red and blue line),  $B = 2.33 \times 10^{-30}$  in SI and  $C_m = N_e = 1.1 \times 10^{13} \frac{1}{\text{m}^3}$ .



**Figure 9.** Experimental measurements of the redshift, expressed in  $10^{-8}$  units, of the Pioneer-6 signals (green diamonds). Theoretical curve in the framework of QED as given by Equation (21).

## 6. Conclusions

### Diffusion with stationary state

A solution for the 3D steady state diffusion was presented, see Equation (24). Two new integrals were derived along two different regions of sight, see Equations (25) and (26). These integrals allow deriving 4 new expressions for the anomalous redshift in the logarithmic case, see Equations (28) and (29), and in the linear case, see Equations (31) and (32).

### Astrophysical fits

In the case of the anomalous redshift lines at the sun's limb, the best results are obtained by the Doppler shift, see **Table 1**. Unfortunately, the Doppler shift in the model here suggested presents a linear rather than a curved behaviour, see **Figure 5**, and in the opposite range of distance is blue-shifted rather than red-shifted. In the case of the anomalous redshift for the Pioneer-6 signals, the best results are obtained by the interaction of the EM wave with matter, followed by the plasma physics effect, see **Table 2**. The two historical models, the thermal photon-matter interaction and the QED model, produce a bigger  $\chi^2$ .

### Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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