

On the first attempts to measure light-bending by the Sun's gravitational field

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In the V Amazonian Symposium in Physics, we celebrate the centennial of the first experimental test of General Relativity, in allusion to the well-known successful measurements performed during the total solar eclipse of May 29, 1919. What is less known is the fact that the first attempts to measure light deflection by the Sun's gravitational field were organized years before that, to be performed during the total solar eclipses in 1912, 1914, 1916 and 1918. We report on the expeditions sent to these eclipses, with special emphasis to the one sent to Brazil, during the October 10, 1912 eclipse, led by the American astronomer Charles Dillon Perrine.