

Contents

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. **A brief introductory survey**
- 1.2. **Scalar-tensor theories in the Jordan frame**
- 1.3. **Two particular ST theories**
- 1.4. **The Brans-Dicke theory**
- 1.5. **Low energy effective four-dimensional Superstring theory**
- 1.6. **Broad outline of the aim and plan of the thesis**

Chapter 2

TIDAL FORCES IN COLD BLACK HOLE SPACETIMES

- 2.1. **Introduction**
- 2.2. **Tidal forces in a geodesic frame**
- 2.3. **EGR Solutions (Planck units)**
- 2.4. **Non-EGR Solutions (Planck units)**
- 2.5. **Kruskal-like extension of CBH**
- 2.6. **A better CBH**
- 2.7. **Conclusions**

Chapter 3

SCALAR FIELD DRESSING OF BLACK HOLES IN THE BERGMANN-NORDTVEDT-WAGONER THEORY

- 3.1. **Introduction**
- 3.2. **The action, field equations and the Bekenstein solution**
- 3.3. **Reformulation in the BNW theory**
- 3.4. **The conformal transformation**
- 3.5. **The new classes of solutions**
- 3.6. **Conclusions and remarks**

Chapter 4

BRANS-DICKE CORRECTIONS TO THE GRAVITATIONAL SAGNAC EFFECT

- 4.1. **Introduction**
- 4.2. **Rotating solutions in the Jordan and Einstein frames**
- 4.3. **Equatorial trajectory**
- 4.4. **Approximations**
- 4.5. **Polar (circular) orbits**
- 4.6. **Geodesics**
- 4.7. **Einstein frame**
- 4.8. **Discussions**
- 4.9. **Geodetic and Lense-Thirring Precession**
- 4.10. **Concluding remarks**

Chapter 5

STRING THEORY CORRECTIONS TO THE SAGNAC EFFECT

5.1. **Introduction**

5.2. **Equatorial orbit**

5.3. **Polar orbit**

5.4. **Geodesic orbit**

5.5. **An estimate of the dilatonic charge**

5.6. **Some remarks**

Chapter 6

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE WORK