

Very detailed calculation of the laplacian of a Plummer potential.  
The laplacian:

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} \right)$$

The first derivative:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{GM}{\sqrt{b^2 + r^2}} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{GM}{(b^2 + r^2)^{3/2}} (2r) \\ &= \frac{GMr}{(b^2 + r^2)^{3/2}} \end{aligned}$$

The second derivative:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} \right) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{GMr^3}{(b^2 + r^2)^{3/2}} \right) \\ &= GM \frac{3r^2(b^2 + r^2)^{3/2} - 3r^4(b^2 + r^2)^{1/2}}{(b^2 + r^2)^3} \\ &= GM \frac{(b^2 + r^2)^{1/2}}{(b^2 + r^2)^3} \left( 3r^2(b^2 + r^2) - 3r^4 \right) \\ &= GM \frac{1}{(b^2 + r^2)^{5/2}} \left( 3r^2(b^2 + r^2 - r^2) \right) \\ &= \frac{3GMr^2b^2}{(b^2 + r^2)^{5/2}} \end{aligned}$$

The laplacian:

$$\nabla^2 \phi = \frac{3GMb^2}{(b^2 + r^2)^{5/2}}$$