Astronomy 122

This Class (Lecture 20):

Death by Black Hole: Spaghetti-fication

Next Class:

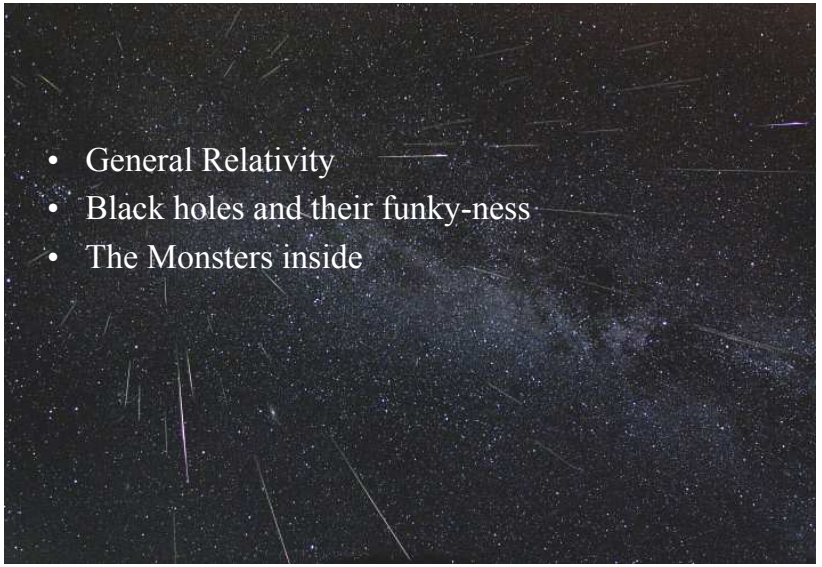
Is there anybody out there?

EC Nightlab and lecture report due in discussion tomorrow

HW8 due on Sunday.

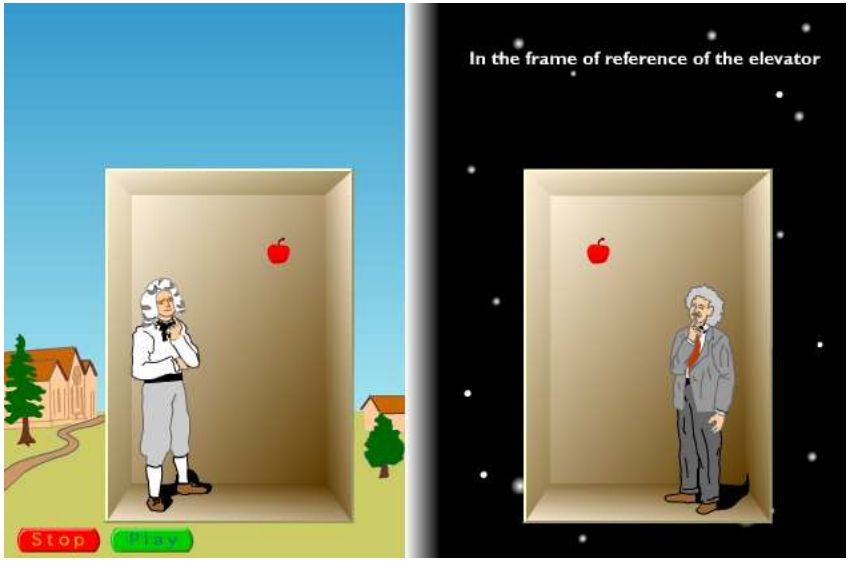
Music: *Rocket Man* – Elton John

Outline



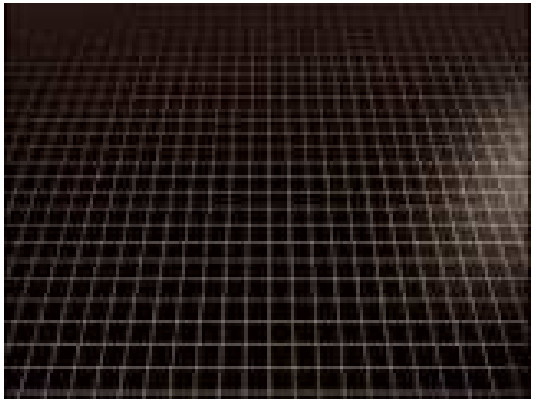
- General Relativity
- Black holes and their funky-ness
- The Monsters inside

The Theory of General Relativity

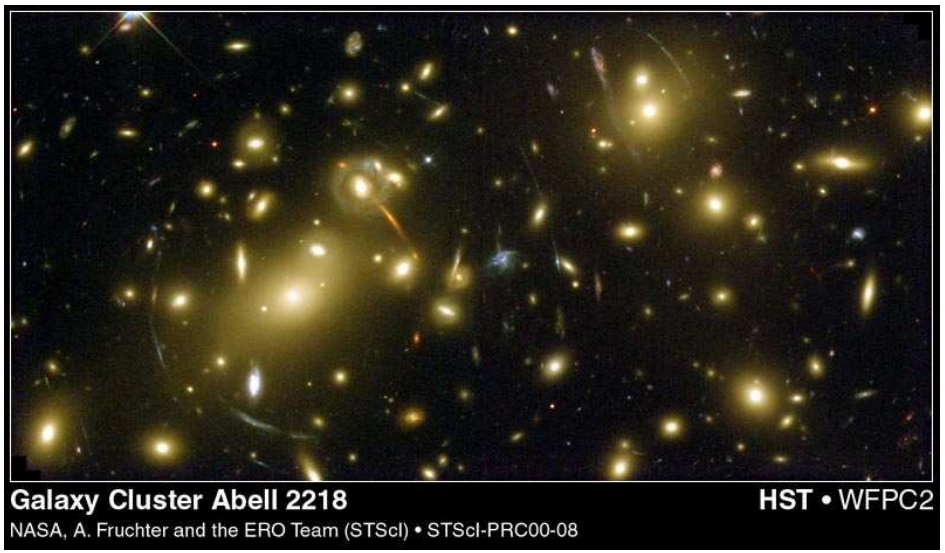


Curved Spacetime

- No matter = Flat Spacetime
- Massive object = Dent in Spacetime
  - Everything follows curvature of spacetime including light (photons)



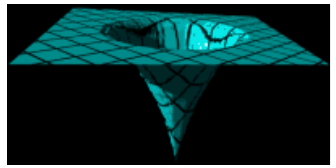
Einstein Lens

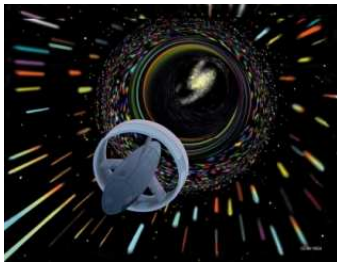


http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap000201.html

General relativity

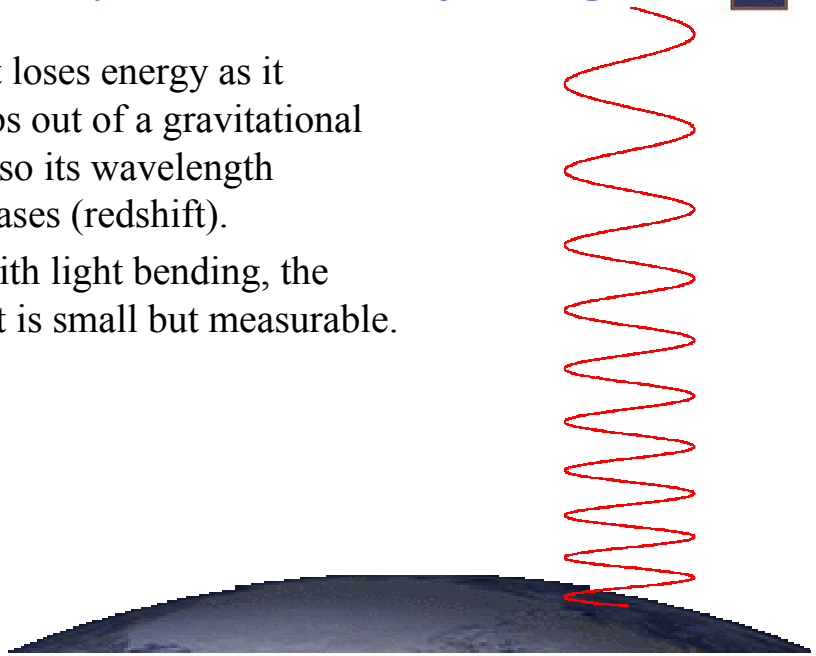
- Gravitational fields can also change space and time
  - A clock runs more slowly on Earth than it does in outer space away from any mass, e.g. planets.
- Einstein revealed that gravity is really 'warped' space-time.
- A black hole is an extreme example.



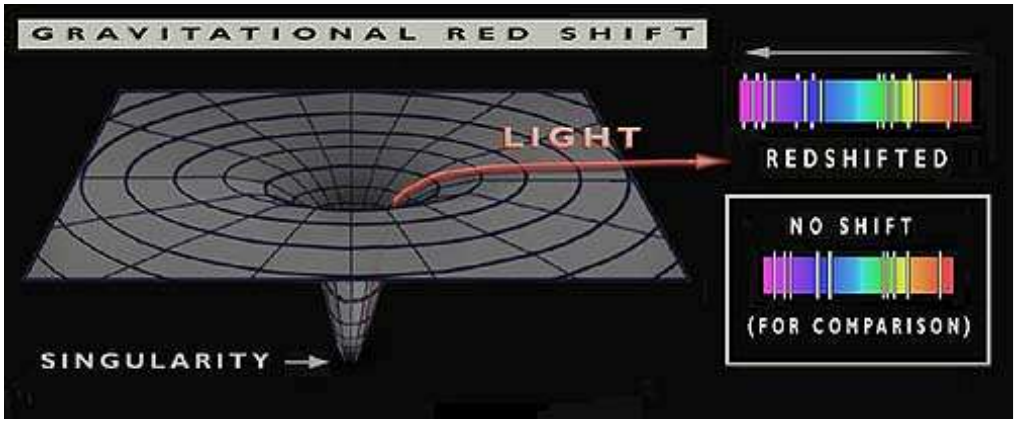


Gravity Also Redshifts Light

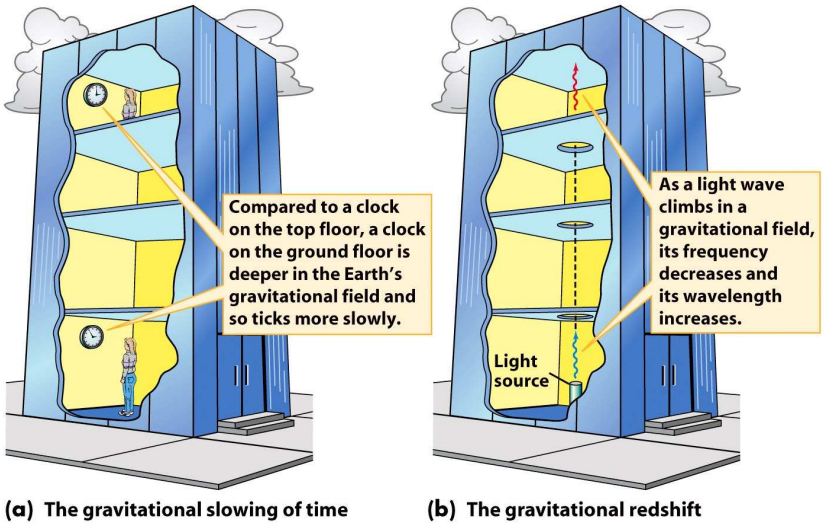
- Light loses energy as it climbs out of a gravitational field so its wavelength increases (redshift).
- As with light bending, the effect is small but measurable.



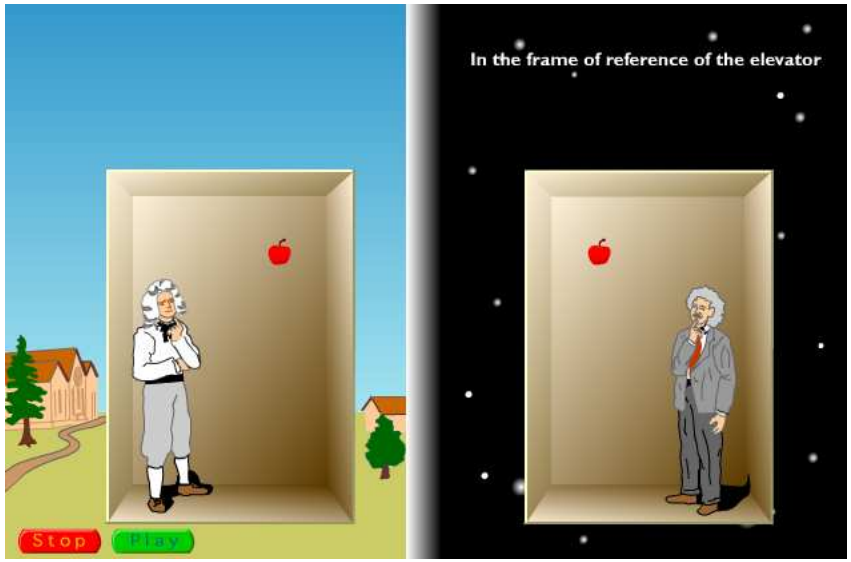
Gravity Redshifts Light



Gravity Redshifts Light



The Theory of General Relativity



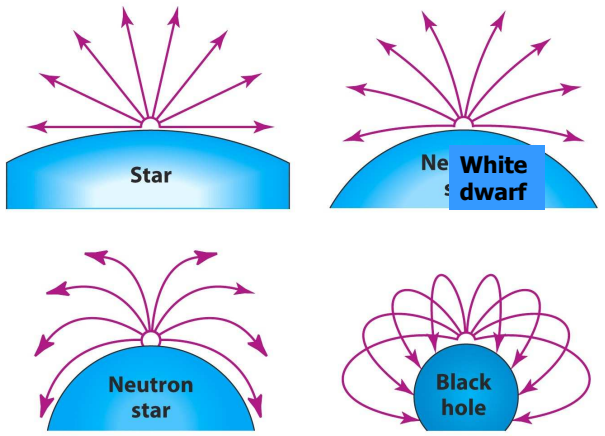
Question

In Einstein's general relativity,

a) It's all relative.
b) The force you feel as weight can only be from a gravity field.
c) Mass tells space-time how to curve, and the curvature of space-time tells mass how to accelerate.
d) Mass and space-time curvature are not related.
e) Being in a closed elevator freaks out Einstein.

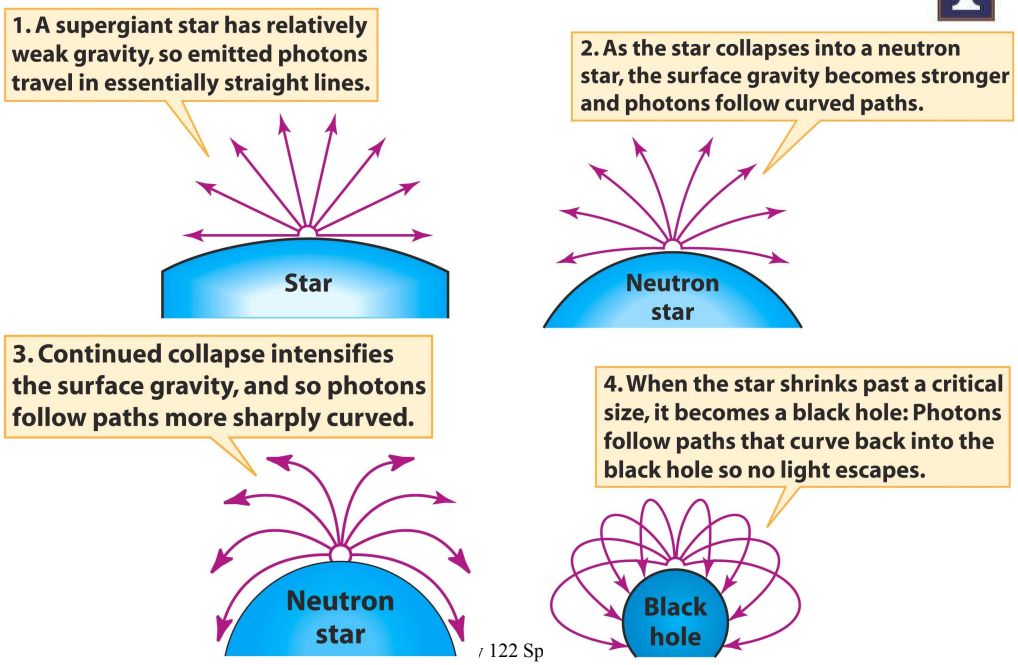
Back to Black Holes

- When matter gets sufficiently dense, it causes spacetime to curve so much, it closes in on itself
- Photons flying outward from such a massive object arc back inward!



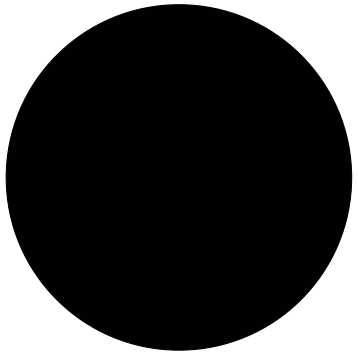
- Neither light or matter can escape its gravity, it is a **black hole!**

Black Holes



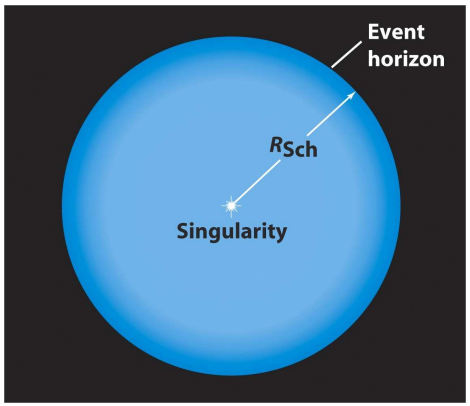
Black Holes Are Very Simple

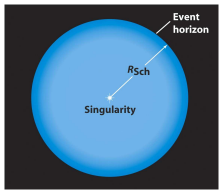
They can have only
- Mass
- Electric charge
- Rotation (spin)



Black Hole

- The matter in a black hole collapses to a point – called a **singularity**
- Black hole is dense and massive, but only a point. Everything is at the exact center.
- Still, a black hole is separated from the rest of the Universe by a boundary, the **event horizon**
- Nothing can escape from within its radius
- This radius is called the Schwarzschild radius

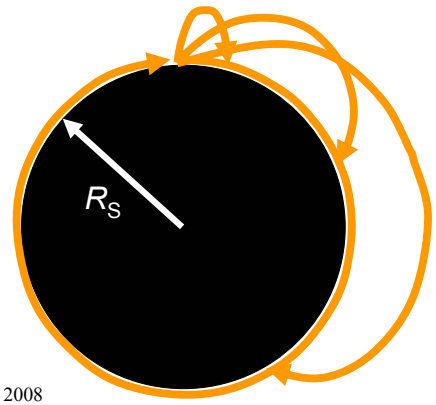




Black Hole

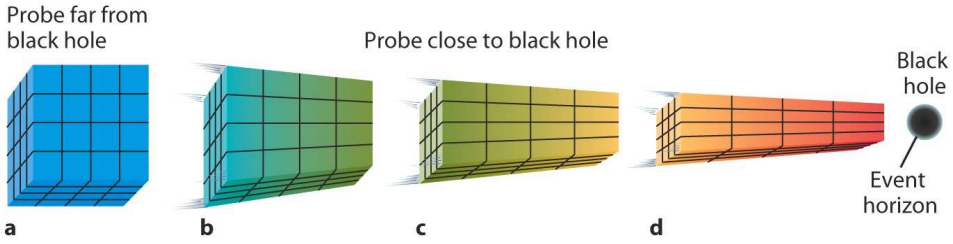
$$R_{Sch} = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

- More massive black hole → larger the event horizon
  - $R_{Sch} = 3\ (M/M_{\odot})$ km
  - If object's mass in radius < R_{Sch} then it's a BH
  - For Earth $R_{Sch} = 1$cm
- The radius of no return
- Cosmic roach hotel



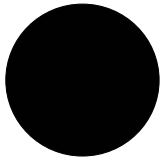
Probing a Black Hole

- We send a glowing blue cube into a black hole… What happens?
  - As the probe approaches the black hole, it gets stretched by the gravity of the black hole
  - The light it emits redshifts more and more as it gets closer to the black hole
  - Eventually, tidal forces rip it apart



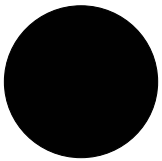
Death by Black Hole

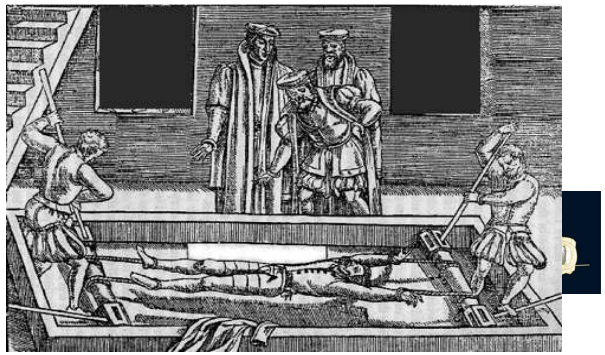
- Black holes themselves are not deadly… just a point.
- The warped space around them are deadly!
- Let's say you go toward one, feet first.
- This discussion is for solar mass-ish black holes.



Death by Black Hole

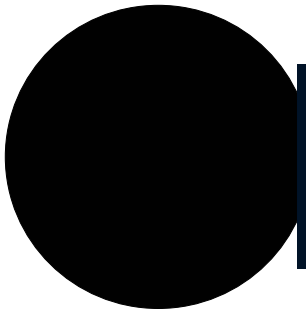
- At first you would not feel a thing….
- Microgravity… SOP for an astronaut.
- But as you get closer, the pull of gravity on your feet is stronger than the pull on your head– tidal forces.





Death by Black Hole

- The tidal pull…
- If you were made out of rubber, this would not be bad, but humans are made out of bones, muscles, etc.
- Molecular bonds are overcome, you snap in 2 at the midsection. Those pieces snap in two, and so on..

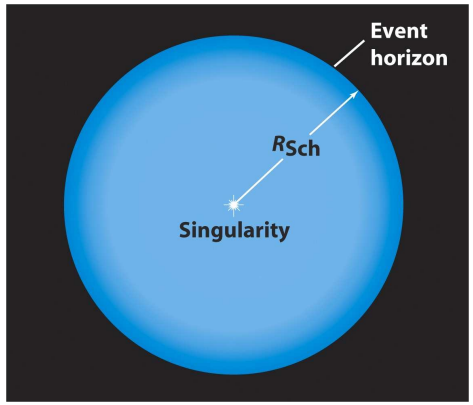


The Ultimate Rack

- The shreds of organic molecules headed toward the center of the black hole begin to feel that stretching feeling.. getting ripped into atoms
- Then, the atoms rip apart…
- Now we have an unrecognized stream of subatomic particles that use to be you only minutes ago.
- All of these parts are moving toward the black hole center, extruding through the fabric of space-time.. Like toothpaste squeezed through a tube..

Life inside a Black Hole?

- Once inside event horizon, no getting out
- All matter ⇒ center ⇒ point (?) "singularity"
- Known laws of physics break down
- A few points to make:
  - We know that all observers travel to center
  - Don't know what happens there
  - Regardless, certain that you die if you go in
  - In a way, it's not a relevant question, since can't get info out even if went in
  - Active subject of research!



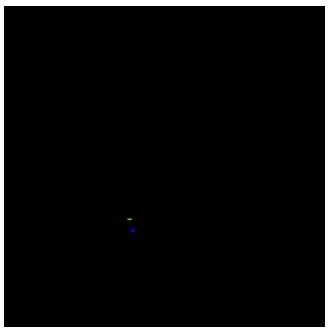
Question

The Schwarzschild radius of a black hole is the distance at which

a) the mass of the black hole is distributed; the outer rim of the back hole.
b) the speed of light is zero.
c) nothing can escape.
d) pictures of penguins painting pandas become only red.
e) the laws of physics break down.

Approaching a Black Hole

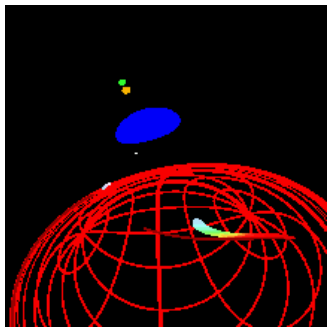
- A quad system with a black hole (30 $M_\odot$), a blue star (60 $M_\odot$), a yellow star, and a green star.
- Schwarzschild radius is marked in red.
- Up to last stable orbit $3R_{Sch}$



http://casa.colorado.edu/~ajsh/schw.shtml

Orbiting the Black Hole: Our POV

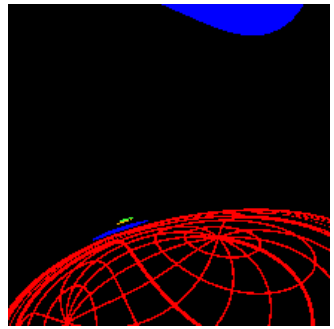
- Orbiting (unstable) at 2 R_{Sch}, we fire a white probe.
- The probe appears to freeze at the horizon of the black hole, joining the frozen images of probes fired on previous orbits. If we could see a probe clock, it would appear to halt.
- The changing colors of the probe show how it becomes more and more redshifted, from our point of view.
- From the probe point of view, it neither freezes nor redshifts, but careers on through the horizon toward the singularity of the black hole.



http://casa.colorado.edu/~ajsh/schw.shtml

Going In

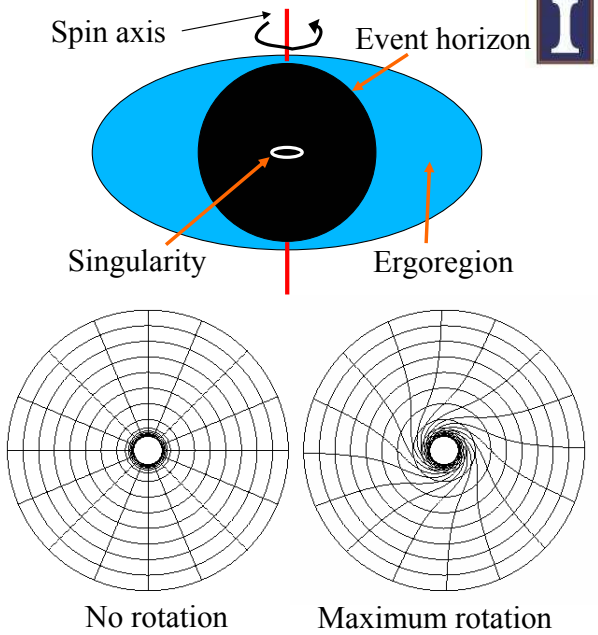
- Start out at 1.5 R_{Sch}, the last orbital position, requiring light speed.
- Inside of that, orbits go inside R_{Sch}
- Tidal forces at R_{Sch} for this object is about 1 million g's along a human.
- As we fall in, we free-fall quickly to the singularity
- The blue-shifted Universe is mostly x and γ-rays.
- The tidal force has become so strong that all images are concentrated into a thin line about (what is left of) our waist.



http://casa.colorado.edu/~ajsh/singularity.html

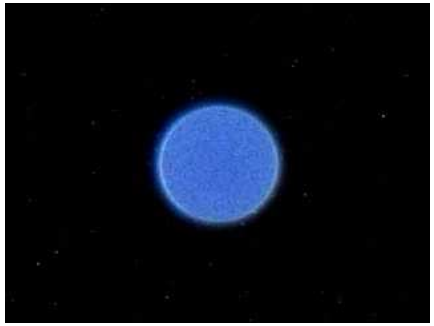
Rotating Black Holes

- First studied by Roy Kerr in the early 1960s
- Region just outside horizon where you are dragged along by spacetime
- Can't stand still in ergoregion without falling in
- Singularity is a torus



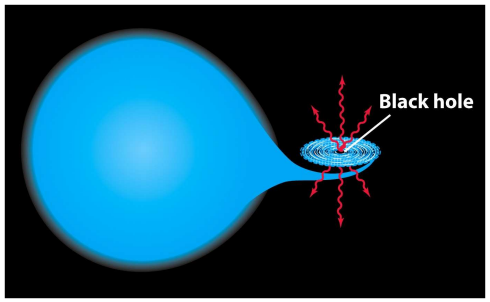
How To See A Black Hole

- Light cannot escape a black hole, how do we see it?
- We look for interactions between the black hole and a companion
  - Black hole pulls mass from the companion which forms a disk
  - The gas in the disk is compressed and heated so that it gives off X-rays



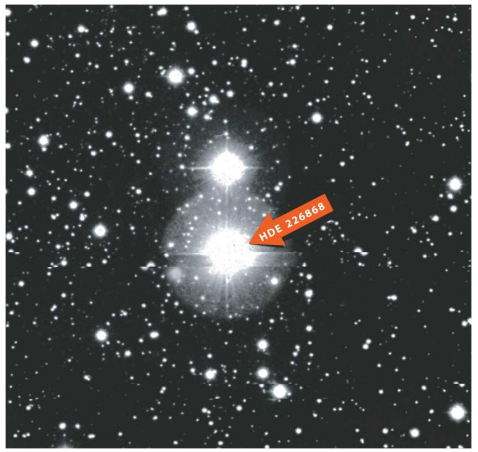
How To See A Black Hole

- If a black hole emits no light, how do we see it?
- We look for interactions between the black hole and a companion
  - Black hole pulls mass from the companion which forms a disk
  - The gas in the disk is compressed and heated so that it gives off X-rays

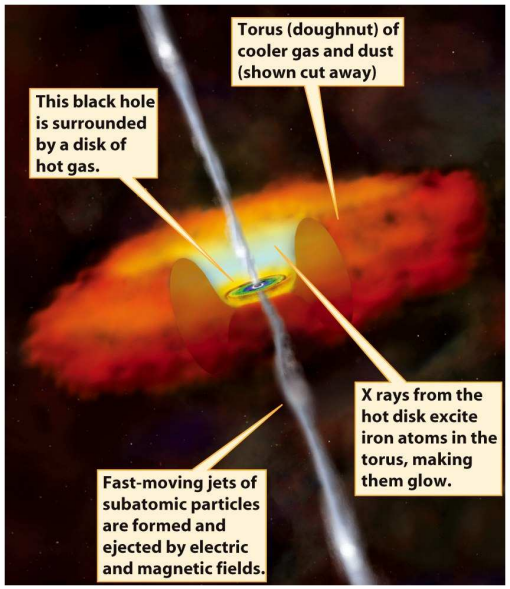


Cygnus X-1

- Binary system with unseen 7 solar mass companion
- Spectrum of X-ray emission consistent with that expected for a black hole
- Rapid fluctuations consistent with object a few km in diameter



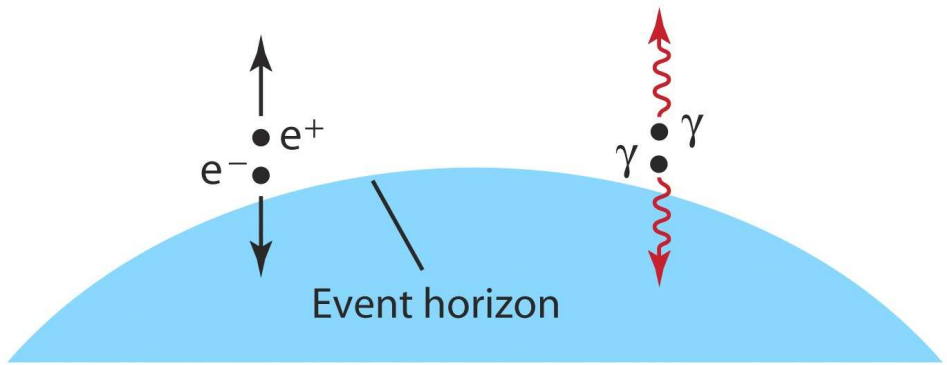
Black Holes

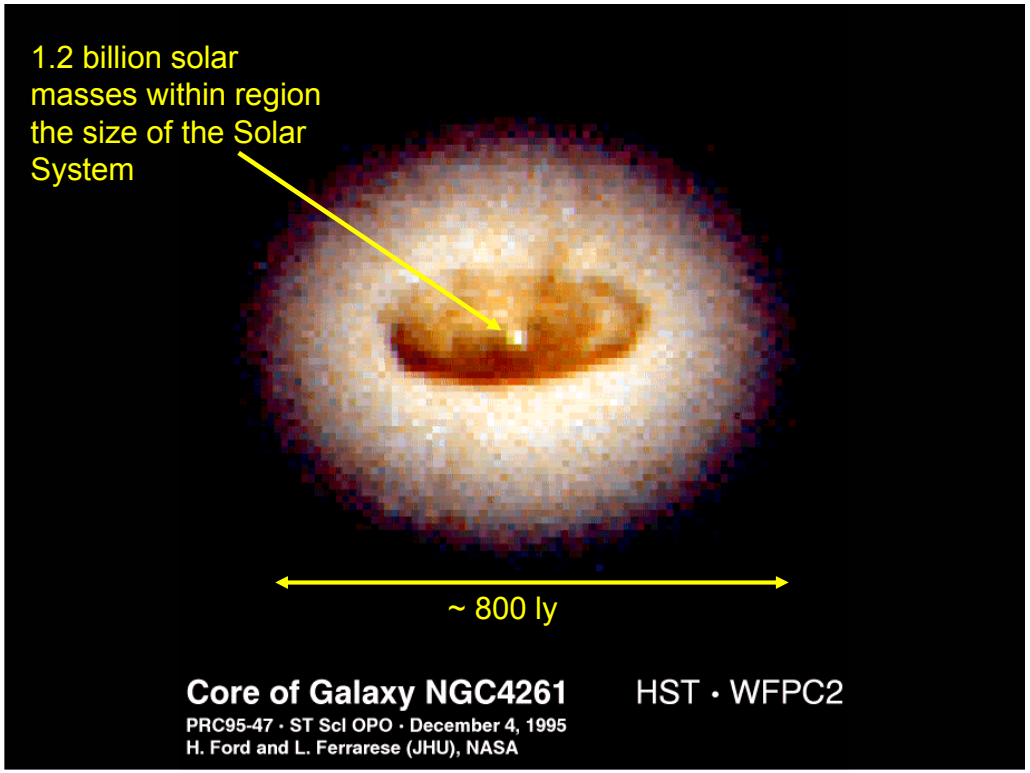


An artist's impression of Cygnus X-1

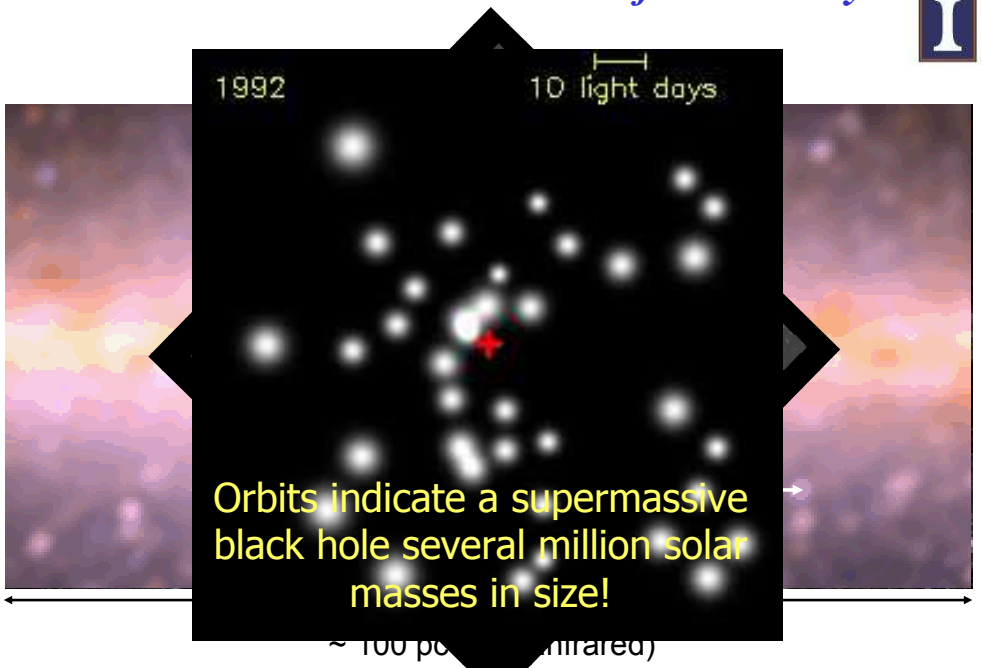
Hawking Radiation

- Black holes are not truly black!
- Quantum mechanical effects near event horizon cause them to produce blackbody-like radiation
- Temperature **increases** as mass **decreases**
- Too dim/cool to see for stellar-mass black holes





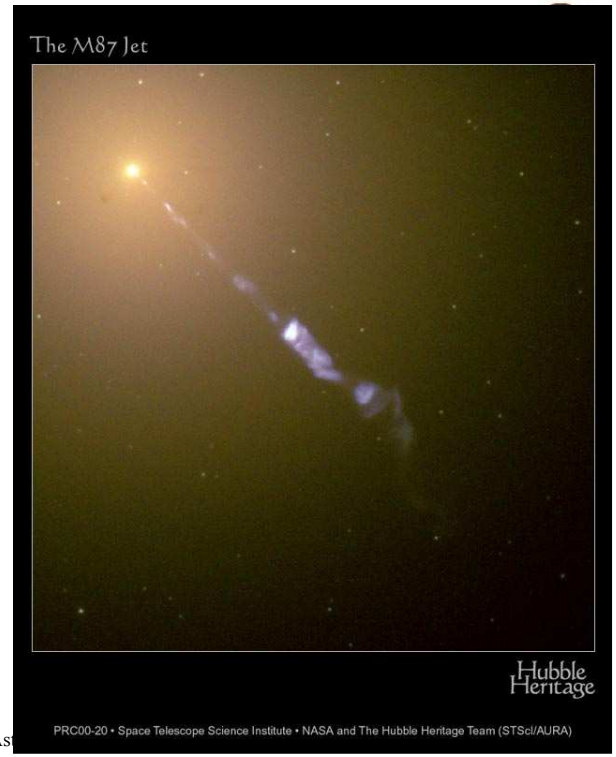
The Monster at the Center of the Galaxy



New Data

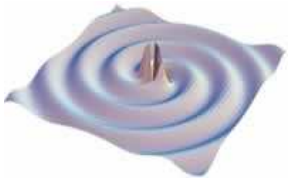
The Jet of M87

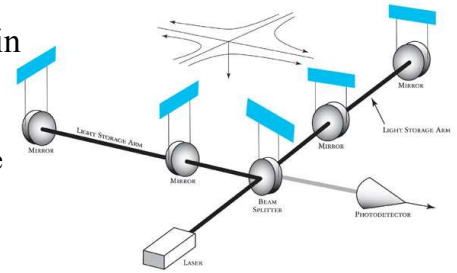
- Huge jet from the center of this galaxy (50 Mlyrs away).
- 5000 light years in length!
- The jet is probably created by energetic gas swirling around a massive black hole at the galaxy's center



Grav Waves

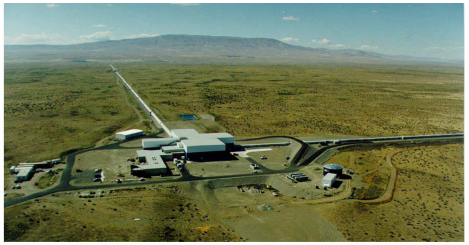
- Ripples in spacetime!
- Similar to EM radiation
- Recall rubber sheet analogy: if disturb, launch waves
- Larger disturbance ⇒ bigger waves
- Emitted in dynamic, strong gravity systems: neutron stars in pairs (binaries)
  - Orbit ⇒ emit gravity waves ⇒ lose energy ⇒ fall in ⇒ decrease period P





http://www.ligo.caltech.edu/LIGO_web/PR/scripts/facts.html

The Search



Four interferometers contribute data to LSC analyses:

•4 km and 2 km interferometers at LIGO Hanford Observatory

•4 km interferometer at LIGO Livingston Observatory

•GEO600

N.B.: No GEO data available for S2, but back on air for S3.

LIGO-G040300-00-Z http://sciencebulletins.amnh.org/astro/f/gravity.20041101/index.php *22 July 2004*

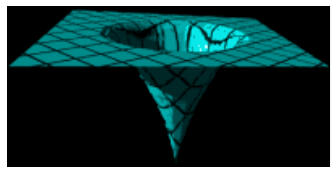
Question

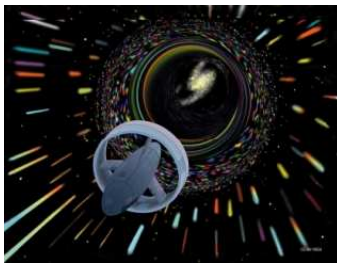
Black holes are

a) Impossible to detect
b) Have hair
c) Not seen directly, but there is strong evidence of their existence
d) Bright emitters of Hawking radiation
e) Going through our hands by the millions

General relativity

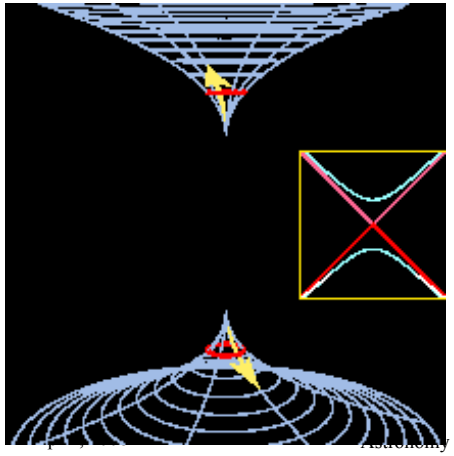
- Rotating black holes may form wormholes to "elsewhen" but they are thought to be short-lived.
- Researchers are considering stabilizing them with exotic matter.
- What if it were possible to create a localized region in which space-time was severely warped?
  - A car has a speed limit on a road, but what if you compress the road itself?





Wormholes

- Tunnel to another universe, or another part of our own?
- **No:**
  - Wormhole throat is unstable, and pinches off
  - Once you fall through one horizon, you can't come out through another
- **Also:** Stellar collapse to a black hole does not produce a wormhole
- **So:** mathematically allowed, but unphysical in general relativity



Sorry… not any time soon

Which is Mars? Which is Earth?