

Black Holes and General Relativity

General Relativity: Einstein's description of gravity (extension of Newton's). Published in 1915. It begins with:

The Equivalence Principle

Let's go through the following series of thought experiments and arguments:

- 1) Imagine you are far from any source of gravity, in free space, weightless. If you shine a light or throw a ball, it will move in a straight line.

2. If you are in freefall, you are also weightless. Einstein says these are equivalent. So in freefall, the light and the ball also travel in straight lines.
3. Now imagine two people in freefall on Earth, passing a ball back and forth. From their perspective, they pass the ball in a straight line. From a stationary perspective, the ball follows a curved path. So will a flashlight beam, but curvature of light path is small because light is fast (but not infinitely so).

The different perspectives are called frames of reference.

4. Gravity and acceleration are equivalent. An apple falling in Earth's gravity is the same as one falling in an elevator accelerating upwards, in free space.
5. All effects you would observe by being in an accelerated frame of reference you would also observe when under the influence of gravity.

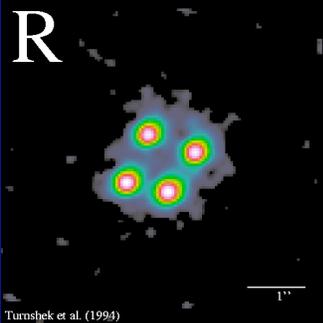
Examples:

- 1) Bending of light. If light travels in straight lines in free space, then gravity causes light to follow curved paths.

Observed! In 1919 eclipse.

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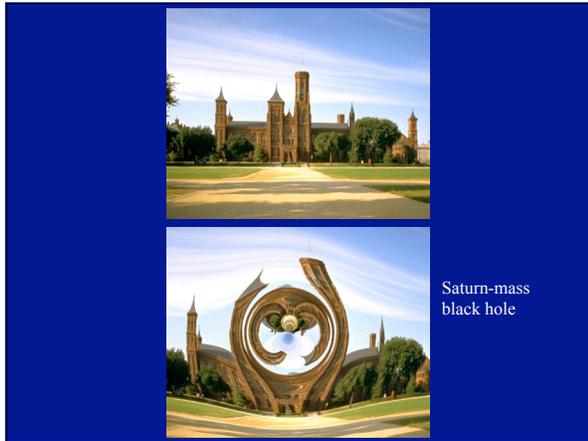
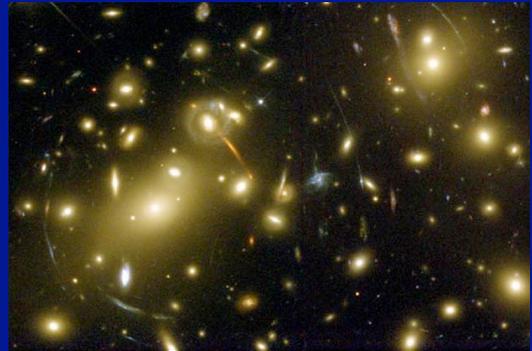
Gravitational lensing of a single background quasar into 4 objects



1413+117 the "cloverleaf" quasar
A 'quad' lens

Turnshek et al. (1994)

Gravitational lensing. The gravity of a foreground cluster of galaxies distorts the images of background galaxies into arc shapes.



Saturn-mass black hole

Clicker Question:

Eddington and his team were able to see a star appear from behind the sun sooner than expected during the 1919 solar eclipse due to:

- A: bending of the light by heat waves from the sun
- B: bending of the light due to the mass of the sun
- C: acceleration of the light to higher speeds by the sun
- D: bending of the light by strong magnetic fields

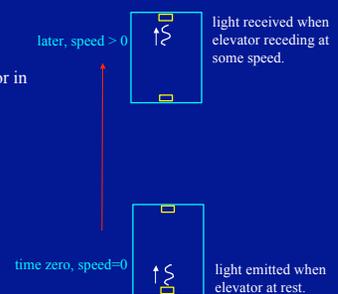
Clicker Question:

Einstein's equivalence principle states that:

- A: Mass and Energy are related
- B: All clocks appear to record time at the same rate regardless of how fast they move.
- C: Time and Money are related
- D: An observer cannot distinguish between an accelerating frame due to motion or due to gravity.

2. Gravitational Redshift

Consider accelerating elevator in free space (no gravity).



Received light has longer wavelength (or shorter frequency) because of Doppler Shift ("redshift"). Gravity must have same effect! Verified in Pound-Rebka experiment.

3. Gravitational Time Dilation

A photon moving upwards in gravity is redshifted. Since

$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$

the photon's period gets longer. Observer 1 will measure a longer period than Observer 2. So they disagree on time intervals. Observer 1 would say that Observer 2's clock runs slow!



All these effects are unnoticeable in our daily experience! They are tiny in Earth's gravity, but large in a black hole's.

Escape Velocity

Velocity needed to escape the gravitational pull of an object.

$$v_{\text{esc}} = \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{R}}$$

Escape velocity from Earth's surface is 11 km/sec.

If Earth were crushed down to 1 cm size, escape velocity would be speed of light. Then nothing, including light, could escape Earth.

This special radius, for a particular object, is called the Schwarzschild Radius, $R_s \propto M$.

Black Holes

If core with about $3 M_{\text{Sun}}$ or more collapses, not even neutron pressure can stop it (total mass of star about $25 M_{\text{Sun}}$).

Core collapses to a point, a "singularity".

Gravity is so strong that nothing can escape, not even light \Rightarrow black hole.

Schwarzschild radius for Earth is 1 cm. For a $3 M_{\text{Sun}}$ object, it's 9 km.

Clicker Question:

X-rays coming from the surface of a neutron star observed at Earth are shifted to:

- A: lower energies.
- B: higher energies.
- C: the energy doesn't change.
- D: lower speeds.

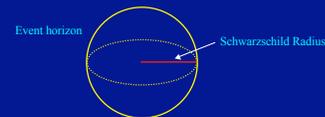
Clicker Question:

Suppose we start with two atomic clocks and take one up a high mountain for a week. Which is true?

- A: The two clocks will show the same amount of time has passed.
- B: The mountain clock will be slightly ahead (fast)
- C: The mountain clock will be slightly behind (slow)



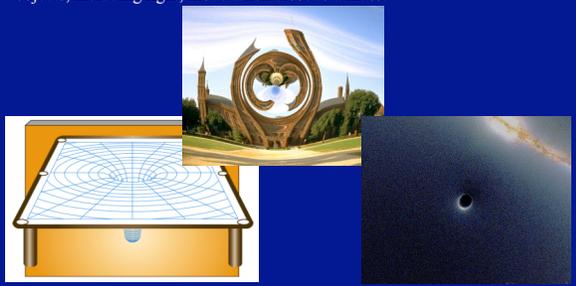
Event horizon: imaginary sphere around object with radius equal to Schwarzschild radius.



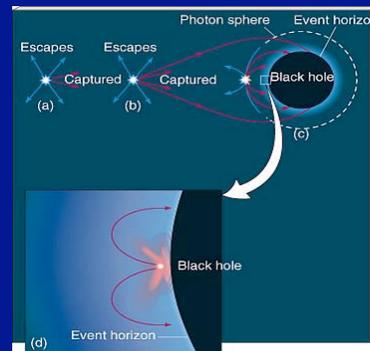
Anything crossing over to inside the event horizon, including light, is trapped. We can know nothing more about it after it does so.

Black hole achieves this by severely curving space. According to Einstein's General Relativity, all masses curve space. Gravity and space curvature are equivalent.

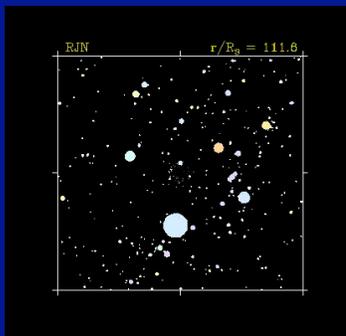
Like a rubber sheet, but in three dimensions, curvature dictates how all objects, including light, move when close to a mass.



Curvature at event horizon is so great that space "folds in on itself", i.e. anything crossing it is trapped.



Approaching a Black Hole:

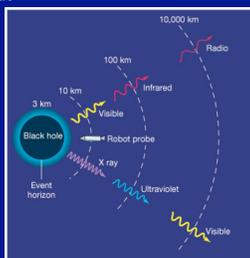


Circling a Black Hole at the Photon Sphere:



Effects around Black Holes

- 1) Enormous tidal forces.
- 2) Gravitational redshift. Example, blue light emitted just outside event horizon may appear red to distant observer.
- 3) Time dilation. Clock just outside event horizon appears to run slow to a distant observer. At event horizon, clock appears to stop.

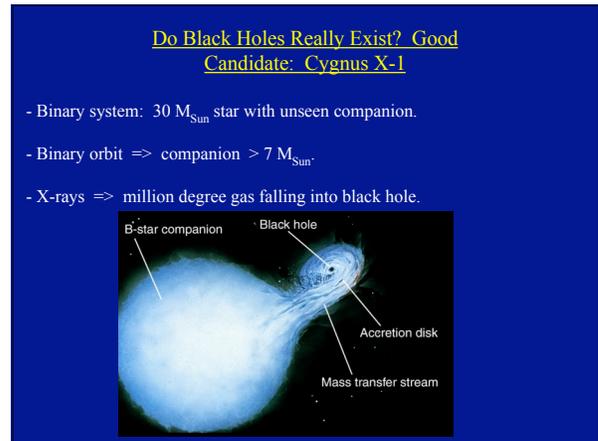
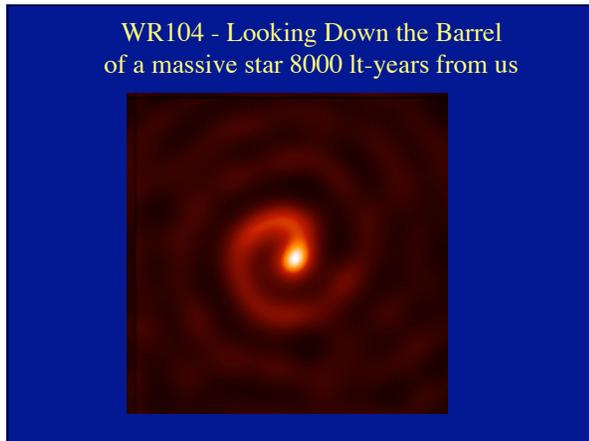
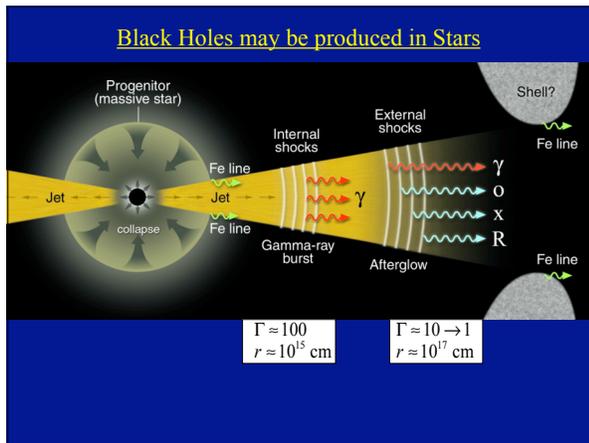


Black Holes have no Hair

Properties of a black hole:

- Mass
- Spin (angular momentum)
- **Charge (tends to be zero)**





Clicker Question:

The escape velocity for the Earth is normally 11 km/s, what would the escape velocity be if you launched a rocket from a platform 21000 km above the surface of the Earth (4 Earth radii):

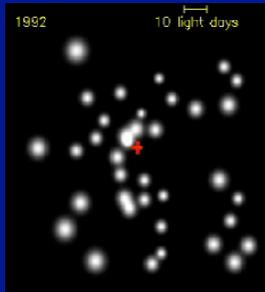
A: 22 km/s
 B: 11 km/s
 C: 6 km/s
 D: 3 km/s

Clicker Question:

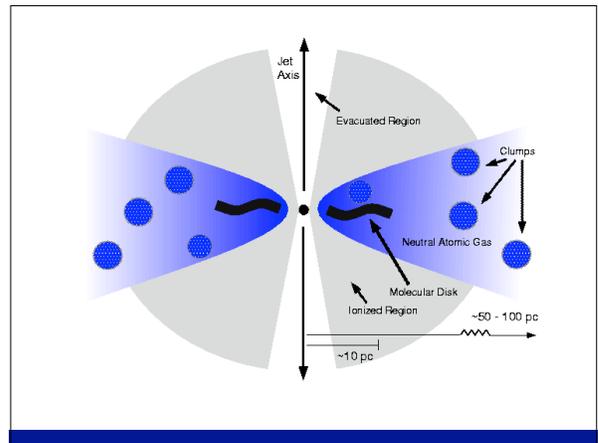
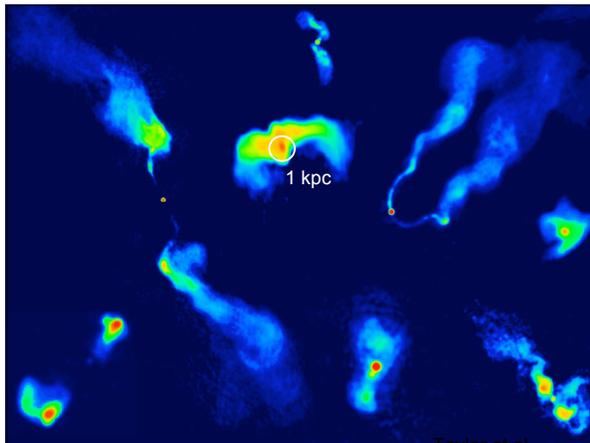
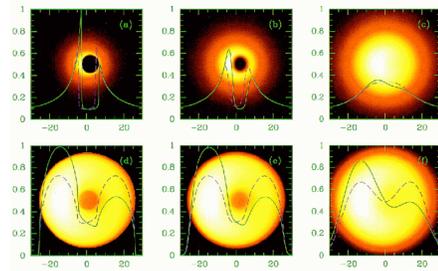
What is the escape velocity at the Event Horizon of a 100 solar mass black hole?

A: 300,000 km/s
 B: 3,000,000 km/s
 C: 30,000,000 km/s
 D: 300,000,000 km/s

Supermassive (3 million solar mass) Black Hole at the Galactic Center

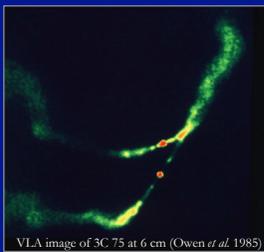


Shadow of a Black Hole



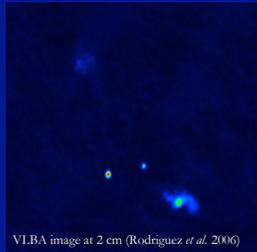
Supermassive Binary Black Holes

3C 75
⇒ 7 kpc separation

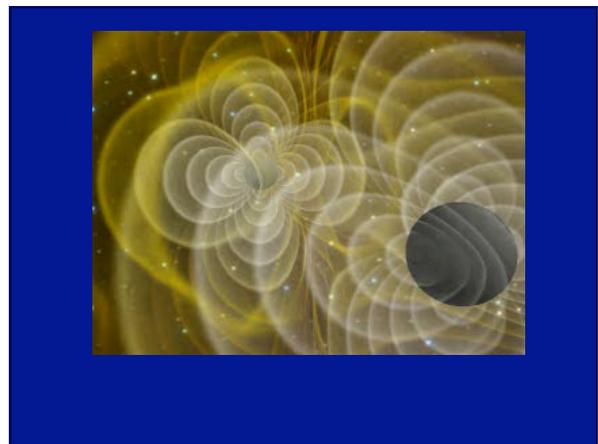


VLA image of 3C 75 at 6 cm (Owen *et al.* 1985)

0402+379
7 pc separation



VLBA image at 2 cm (Rodriguez *et al.* 2006)



Gravitational Waves



Hanford, Washington



Livingston, Louisiana

LIGO (Laser Interferometric Gravity-Wave Observatory)