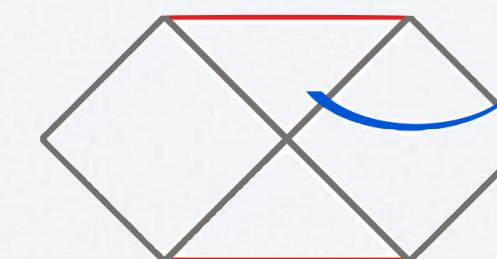


THE CENTER OF GRAVITY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BLACK HOLES

Rodrigo Panosso Macedo



<https://hyperboloid.al>

DISCLAIMER

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History is never made by single individuals.

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It is a smooth grow from small contributions, with eventual leaps

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(influenced by communities and political/economical powers)

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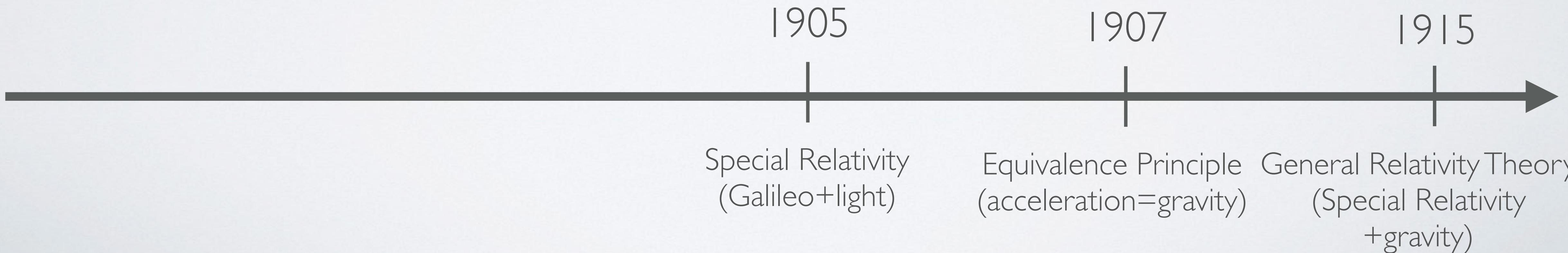
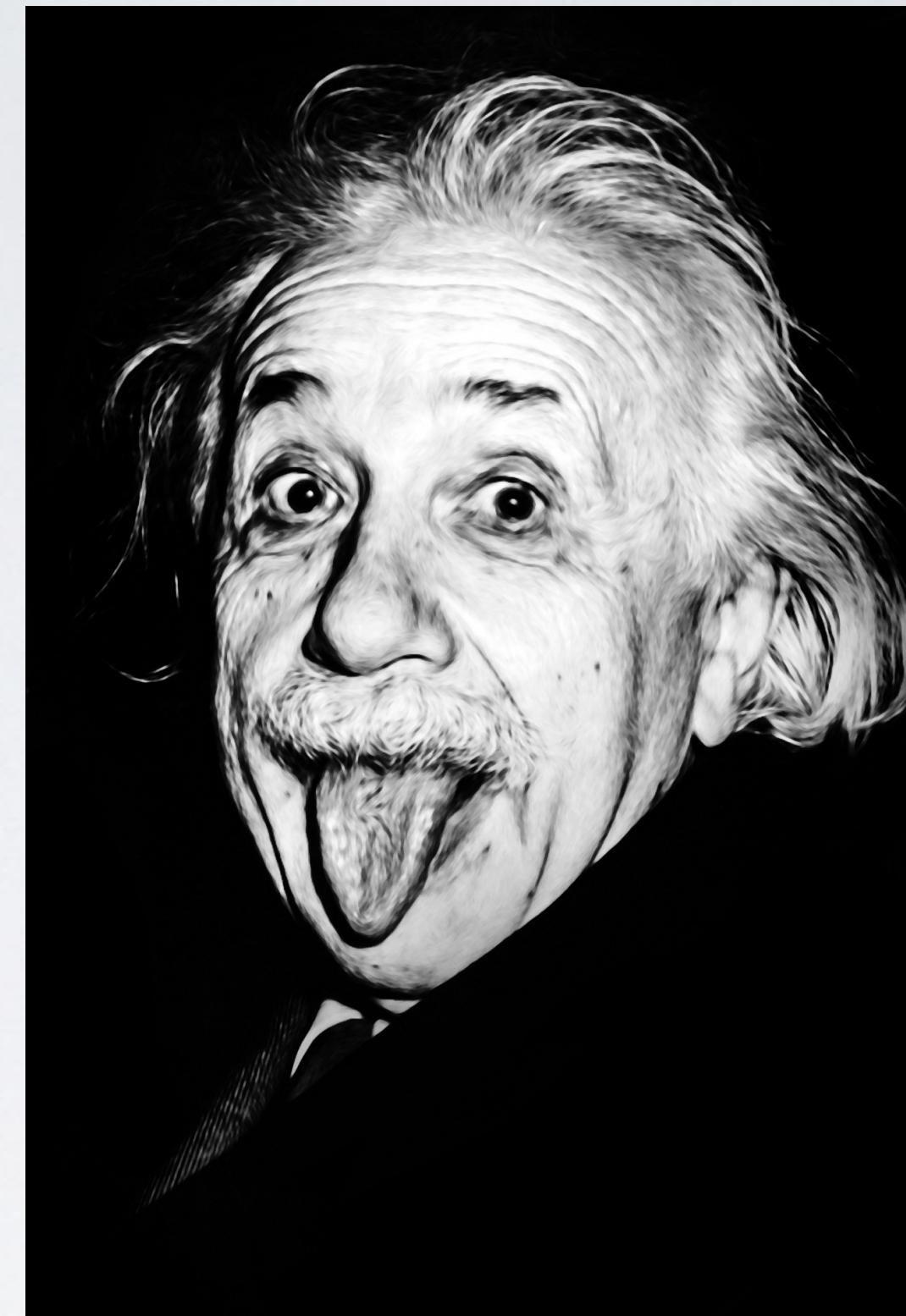
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But History is often told from the perspective of single individuals
(influenced by communities and political/economical powers)

Physics/Maths has been traditionally male dominated

GENERAL RELATIVITY



THE SCHWARZSCHILD SOLUTION

1916

“Black Hole” solution
(Karl Schwarzschild)



Karl Schwarzschild (1873-1916)

Spherically Symmetric Solution
vacuum Einstein's equations

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“The war treated me kind enough, in spite of the heavy gunfire, to allow me to get away from it all and take this walk in the land of your ideas”

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Died of skin disease two months after returning from the front

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**SOMETHING GOES
TERRIBLE WRONG WHEN**

$$R = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

(Schwarzschild Radius)

THE SCHWARZSCHILD SOLUTION

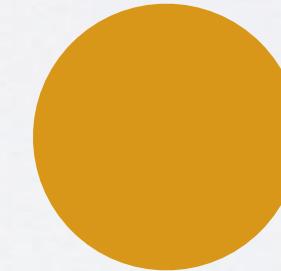
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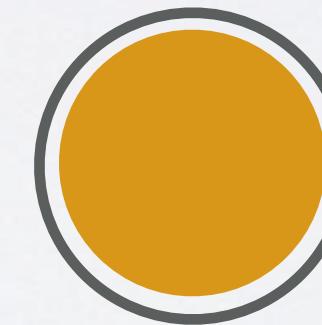
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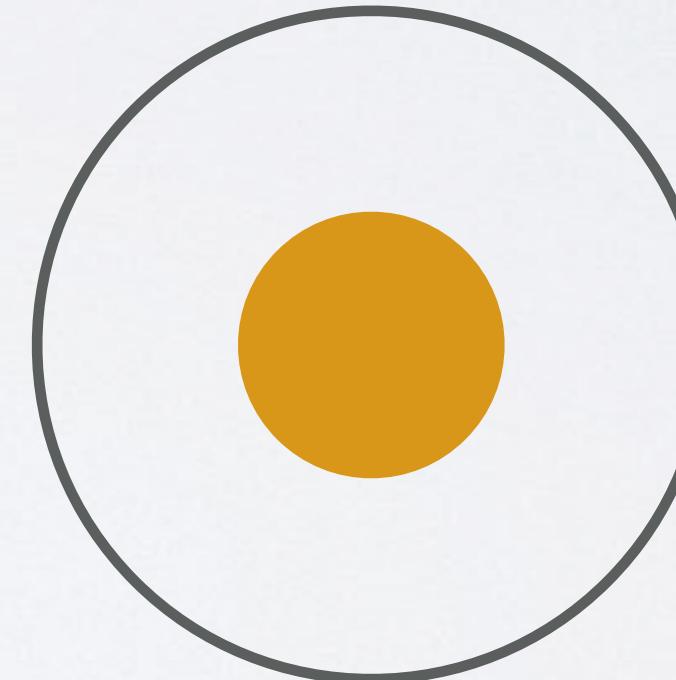
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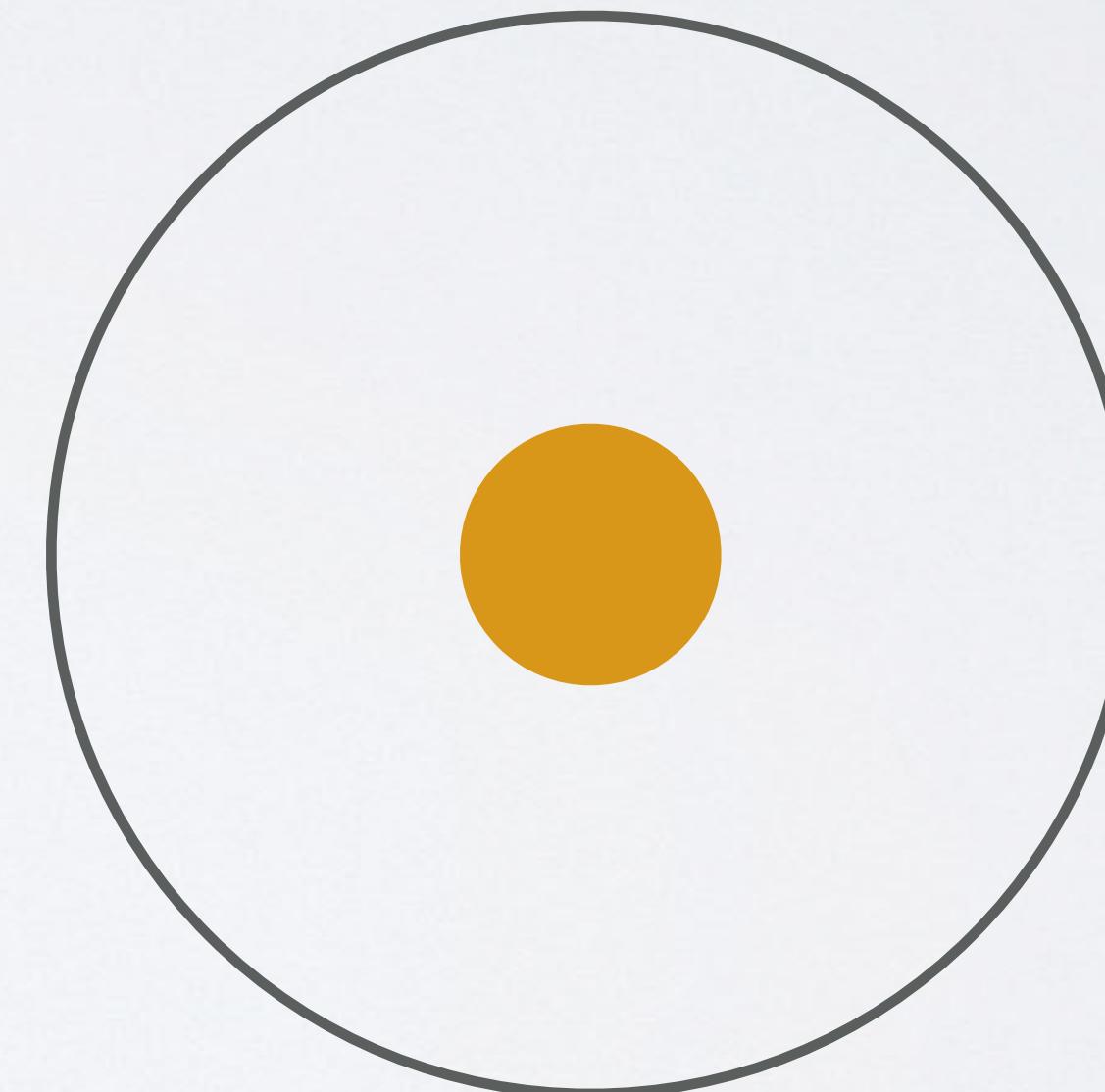
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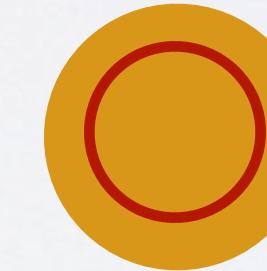
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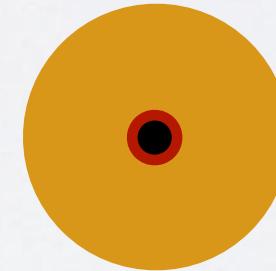
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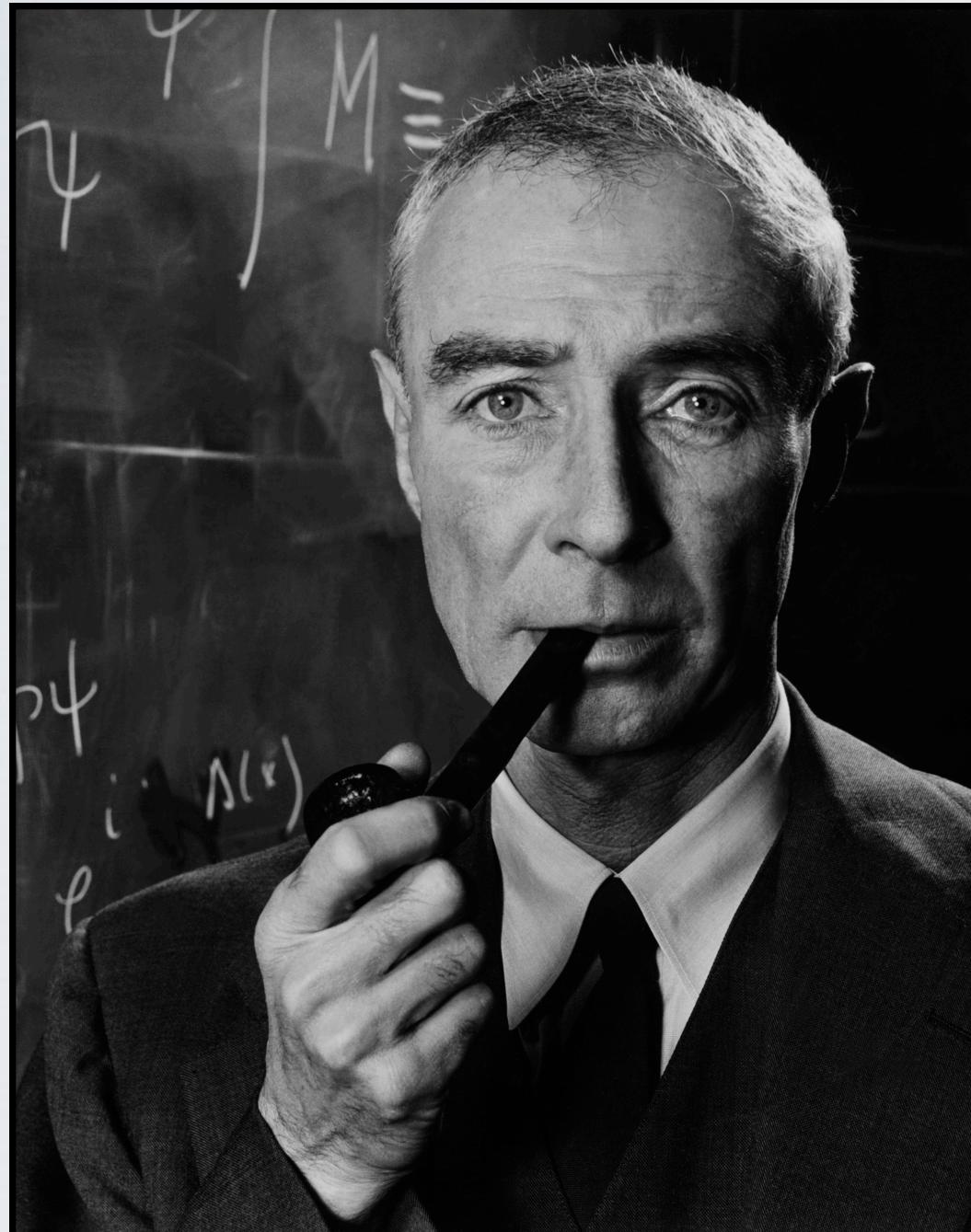


GRAVITATIONAL COLLAPSE

~1930

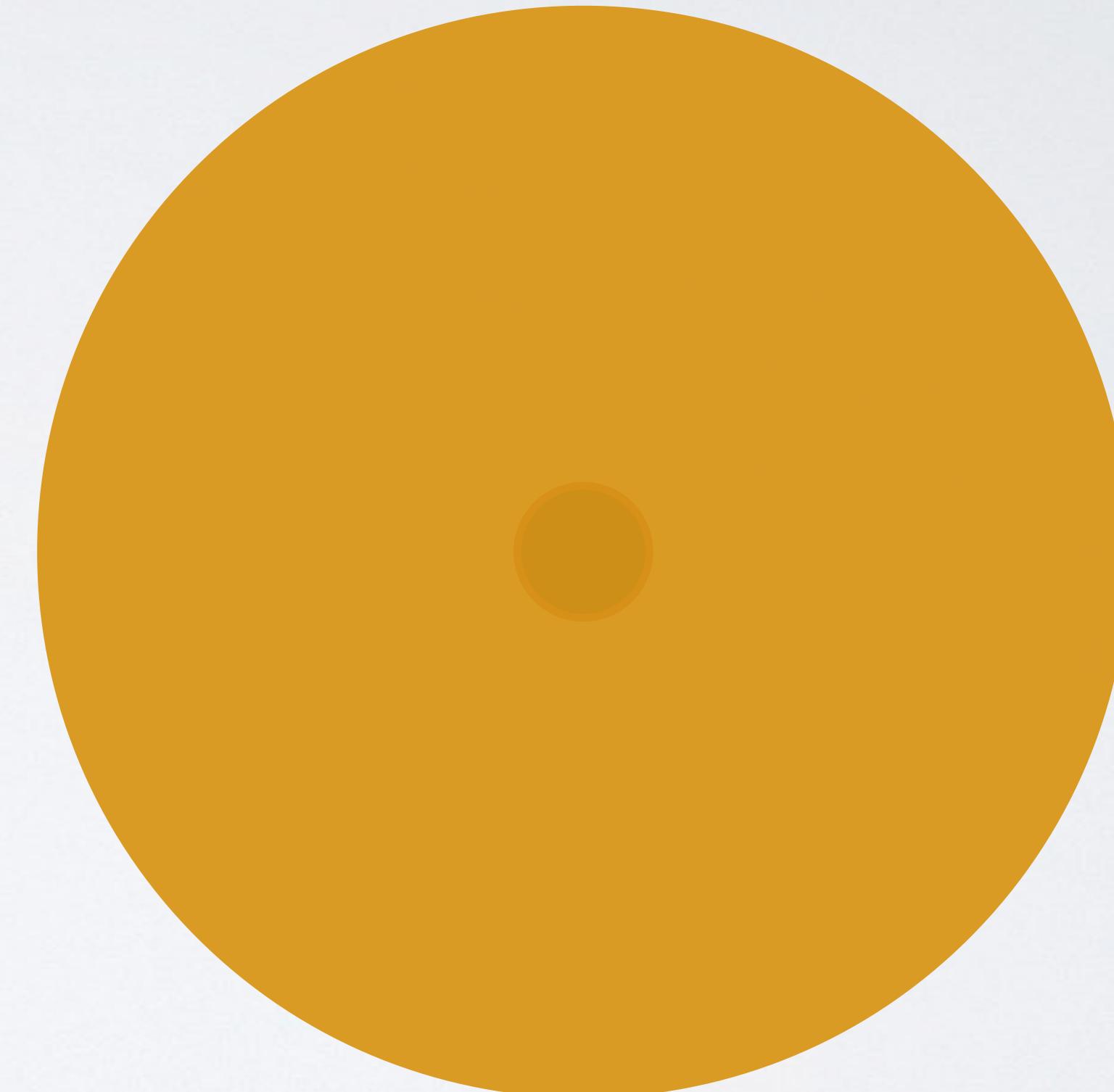
~1960

Gravitational Collapse
(Chandrasekhar; Oppenheimer-Snyder...)



J. Robert Oppenheimer
(1904-1967)

Hartland Snyder
(1913-1962)

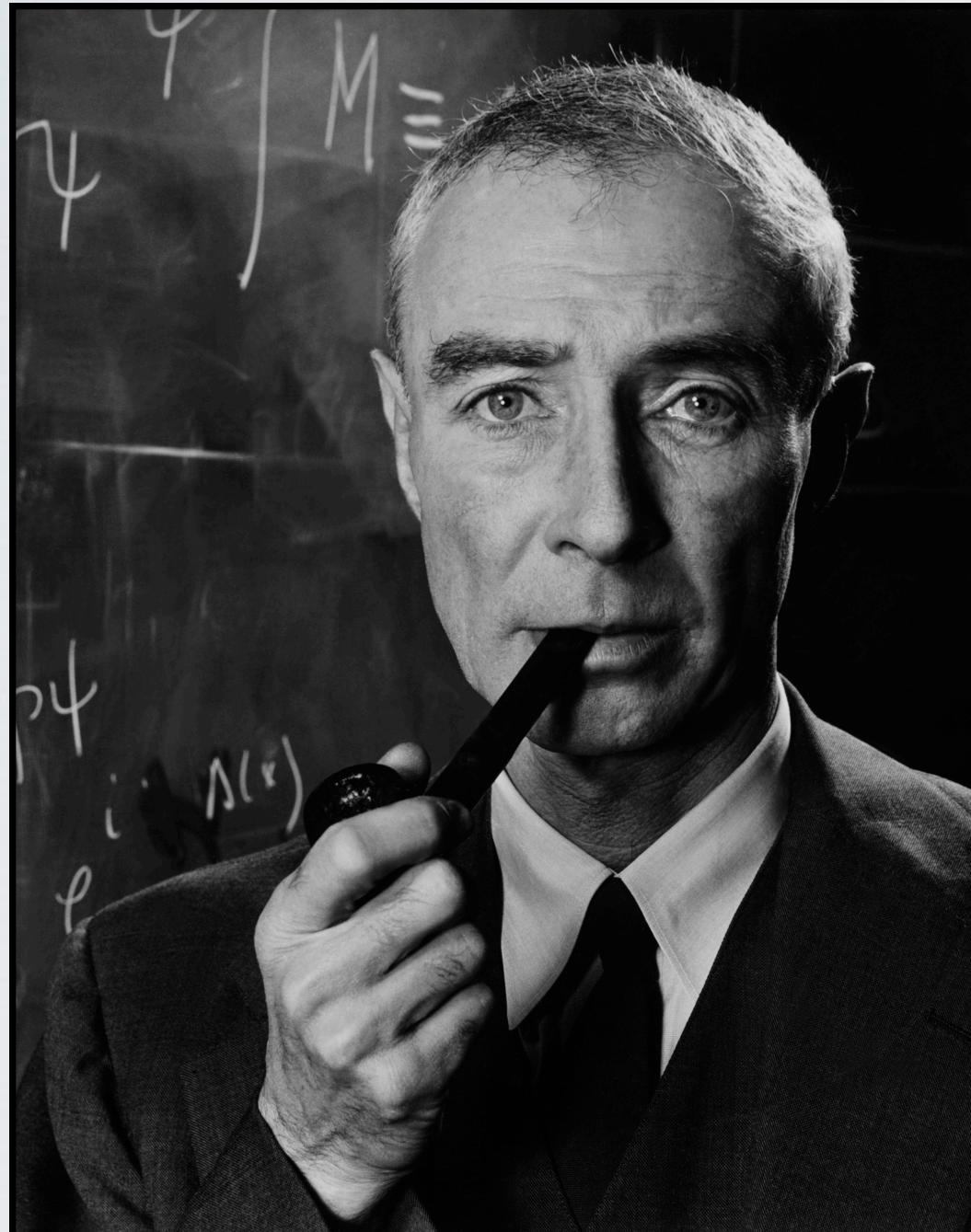


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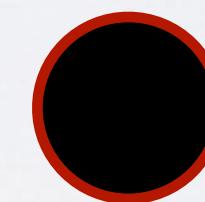
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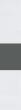
J. Robert Oppenheimer
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EVENT HORIZON

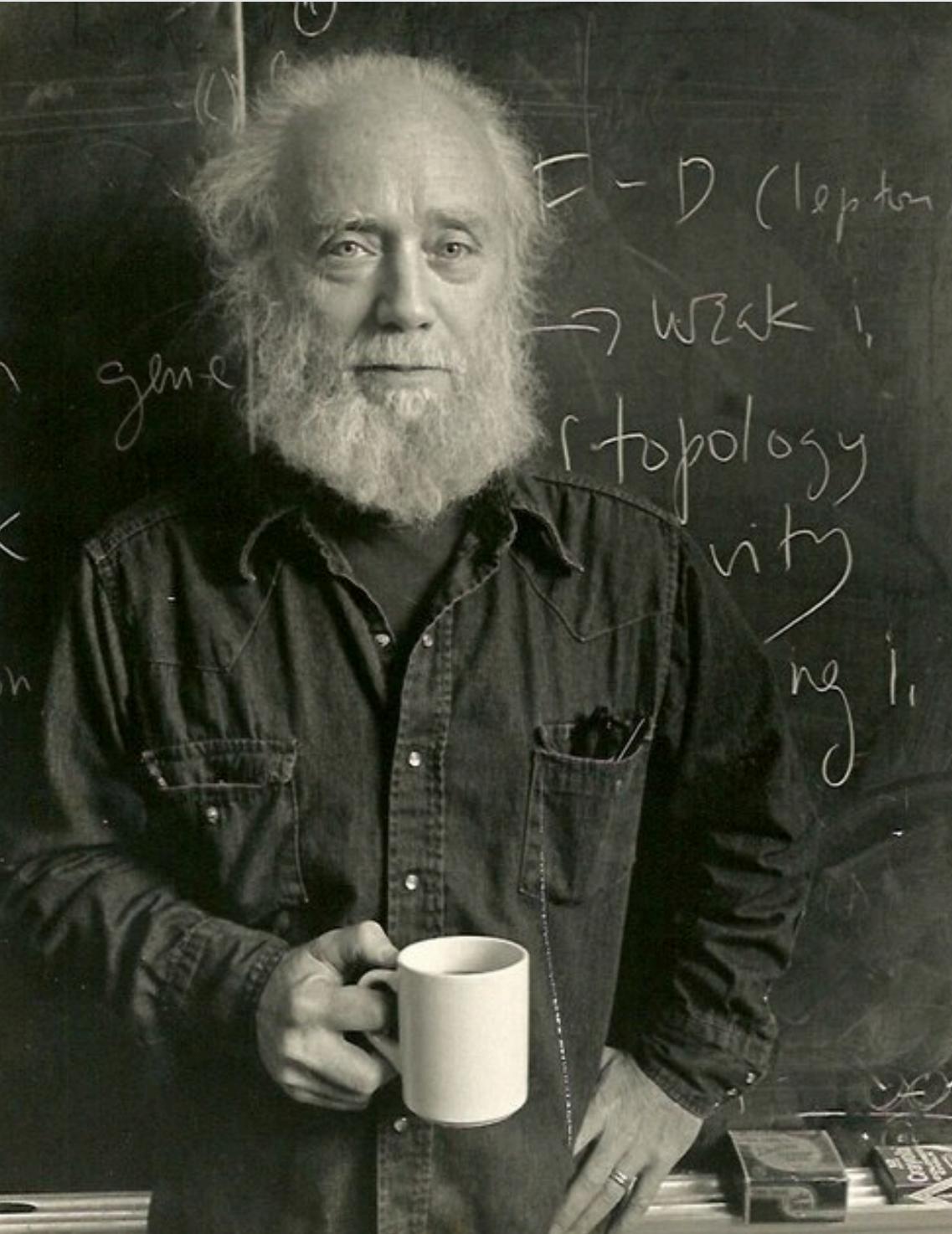
1950 1958 1960'



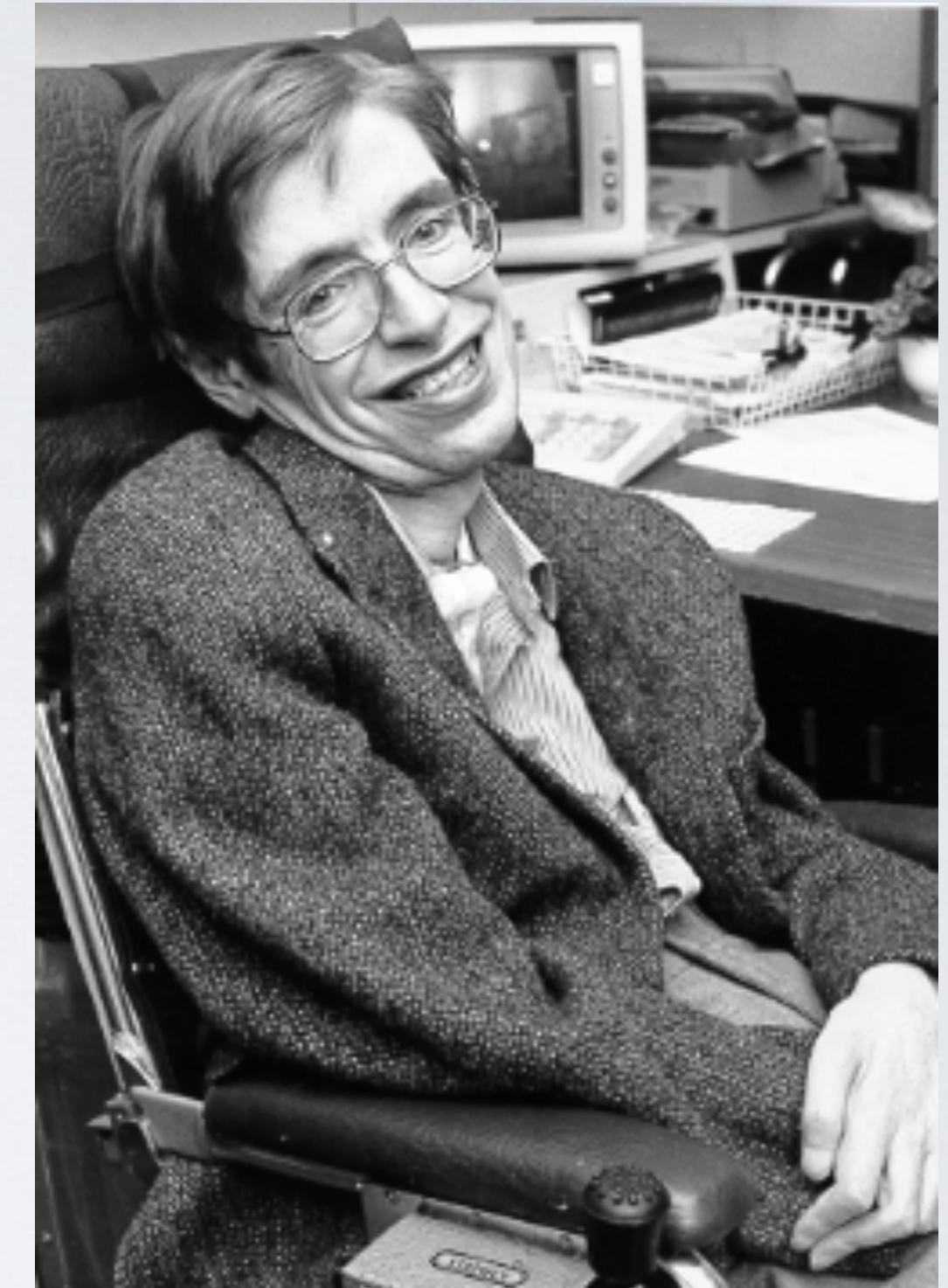
Notion of “event horizon” understood
(Rindler, Finkelstein, Hawking)



Wolfgang Rindler
(1924-2019)



David Finkelstein
(1929-2016)



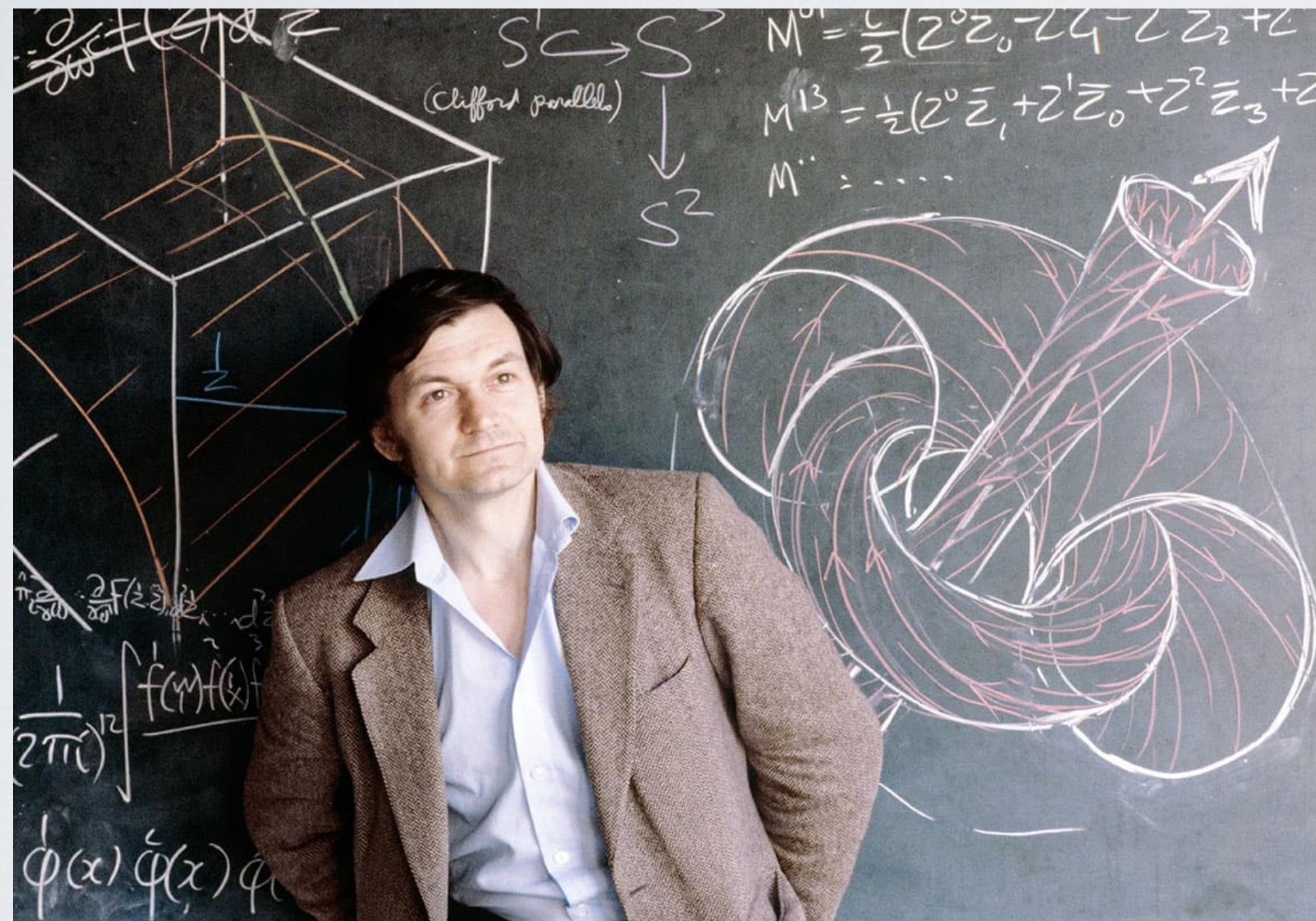
Stephen Hawking
(1942-2018)



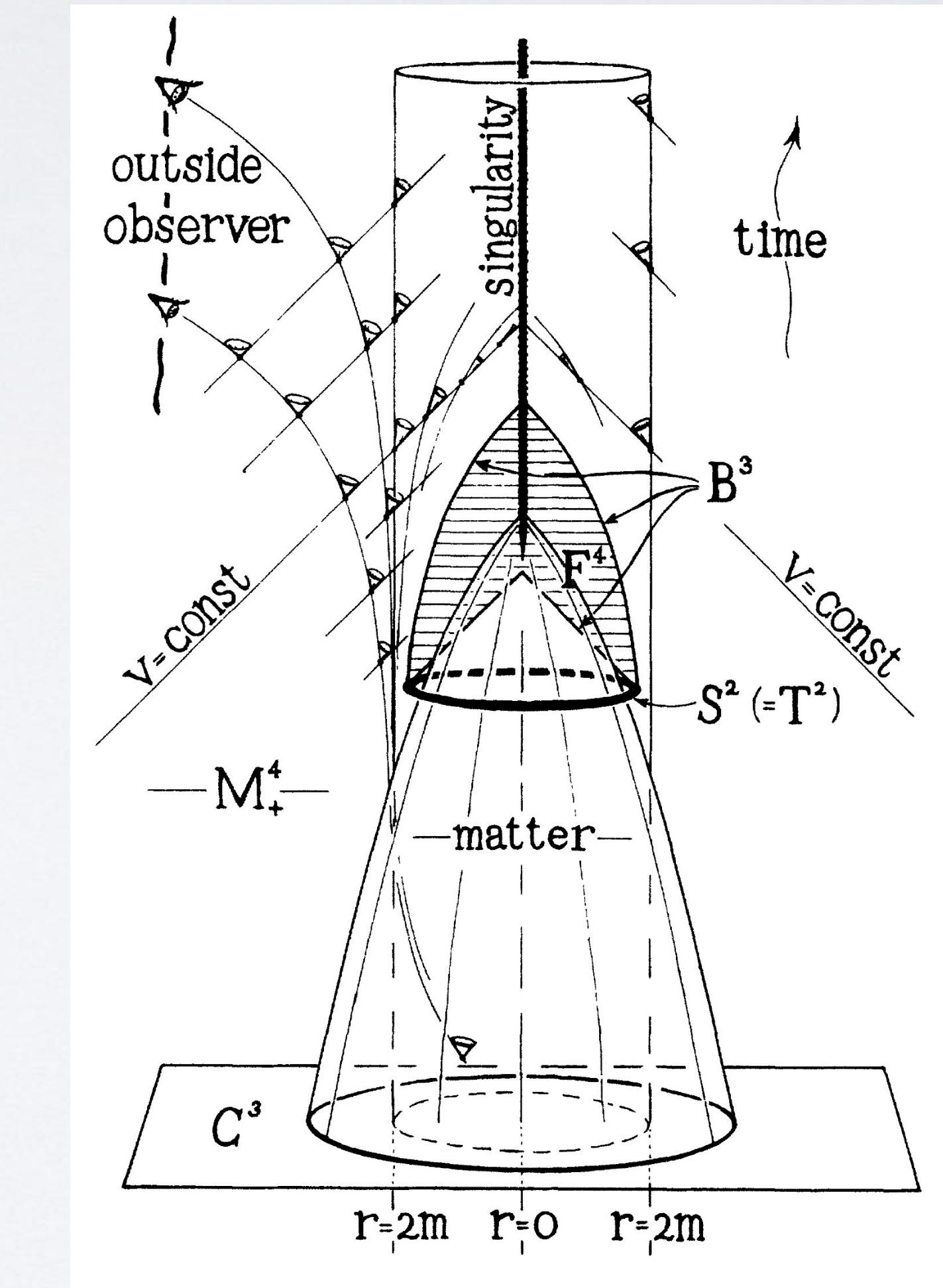
SINGULARITY THEOREM

1965

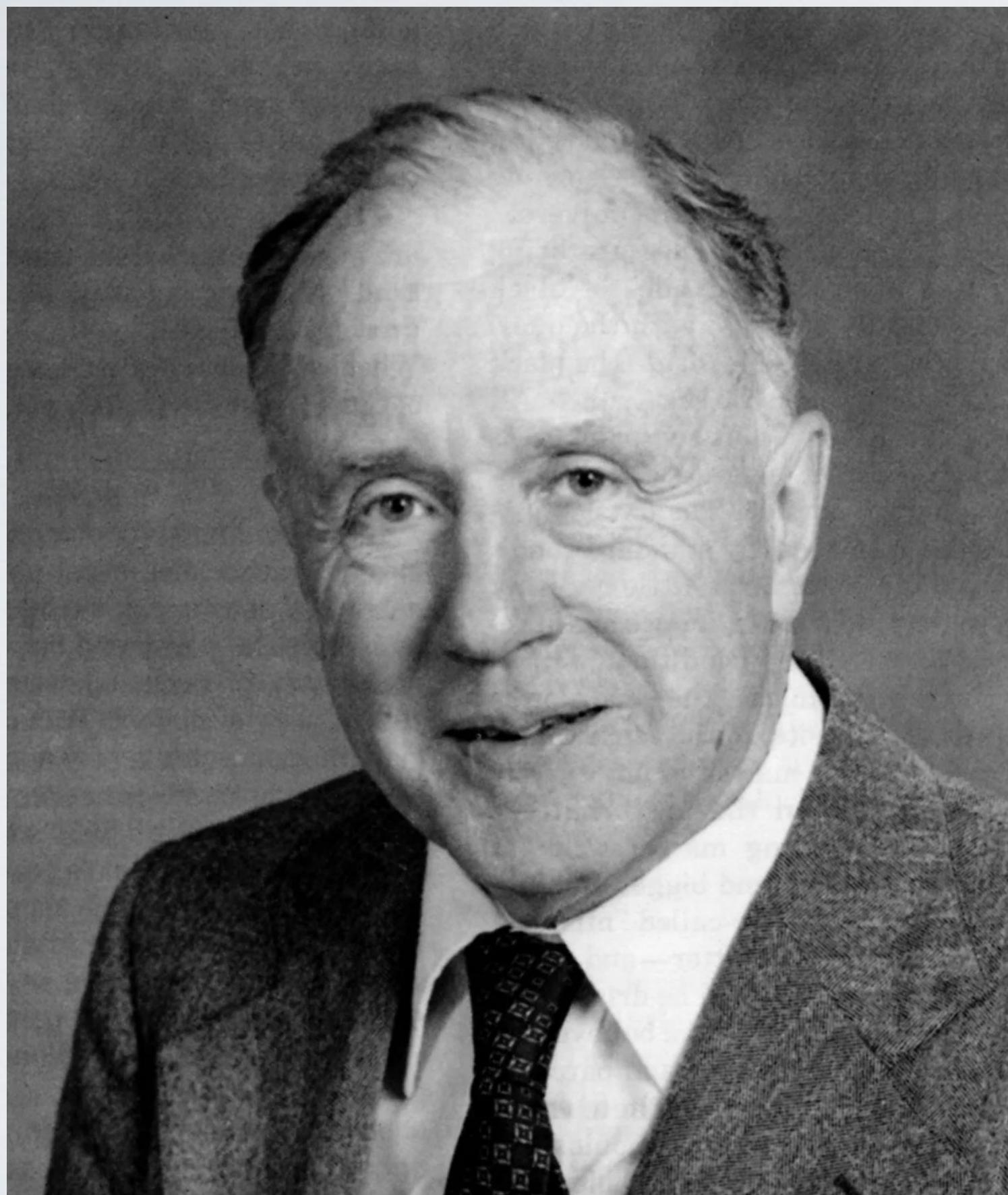
Singularity Theorem
(Roger Penrose)



Roger Penrose
(1931-)



BLACK HOLE TERM INVENTED

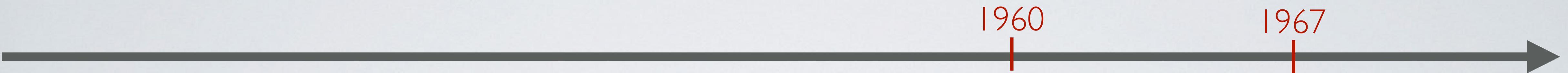


John Archibald Wheeler
(1911- 2008)

1967

Black Hole Term Coined
(John Wheeler)

BLACK HOLE TERM INVENTED



John Archibald Wheeler
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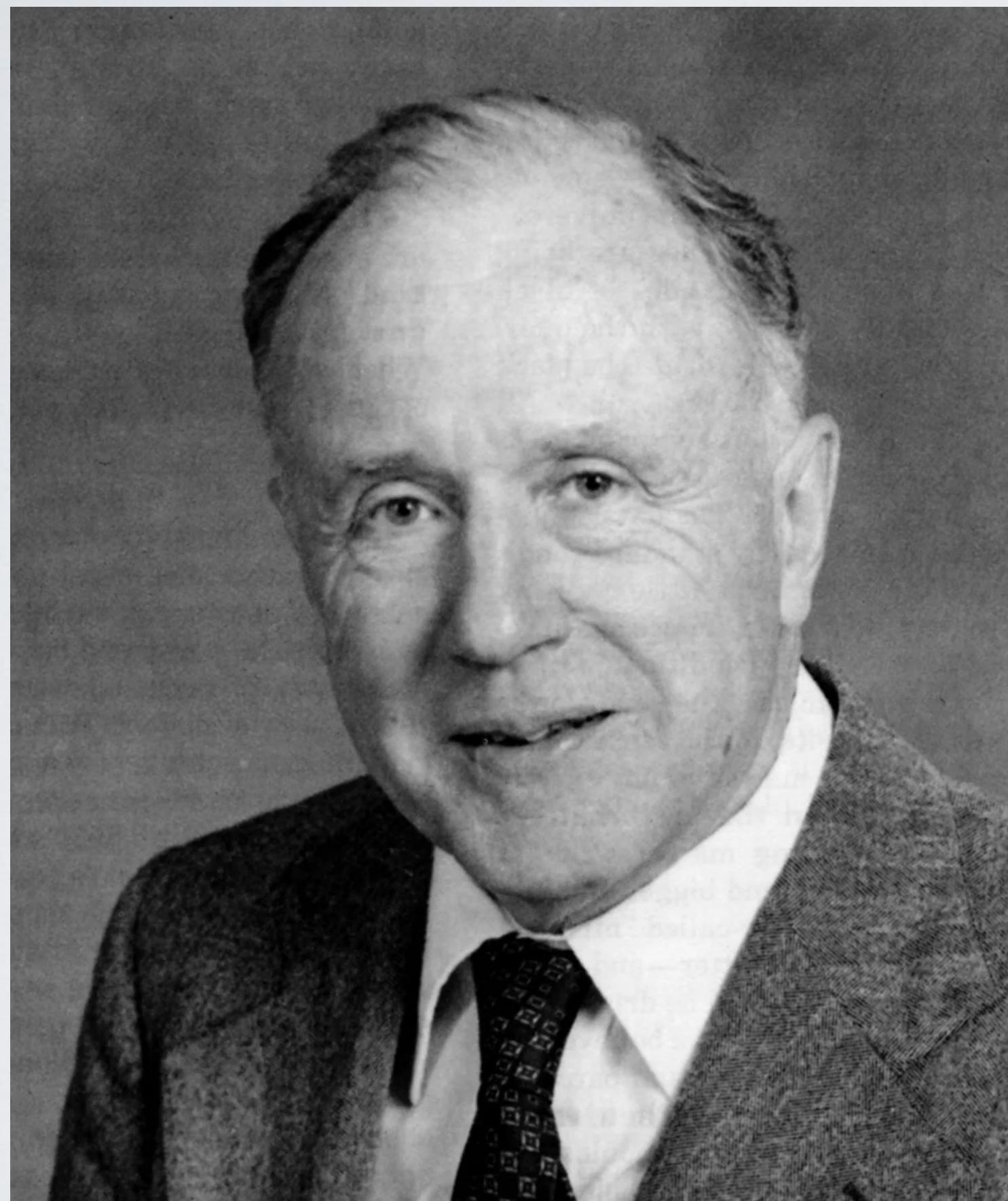
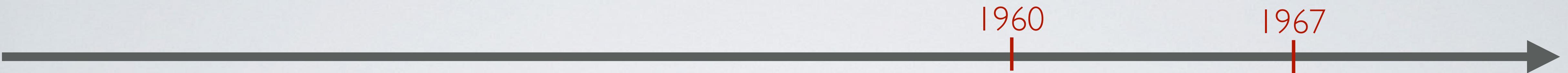
Robert Henry Dicke
(1916- 1997)

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Black Hole of Calcutta

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(John Wheeler)

Black Hole of Calcutta

Dungeon in Fort William, Calcutta
“people entered but never left alive”

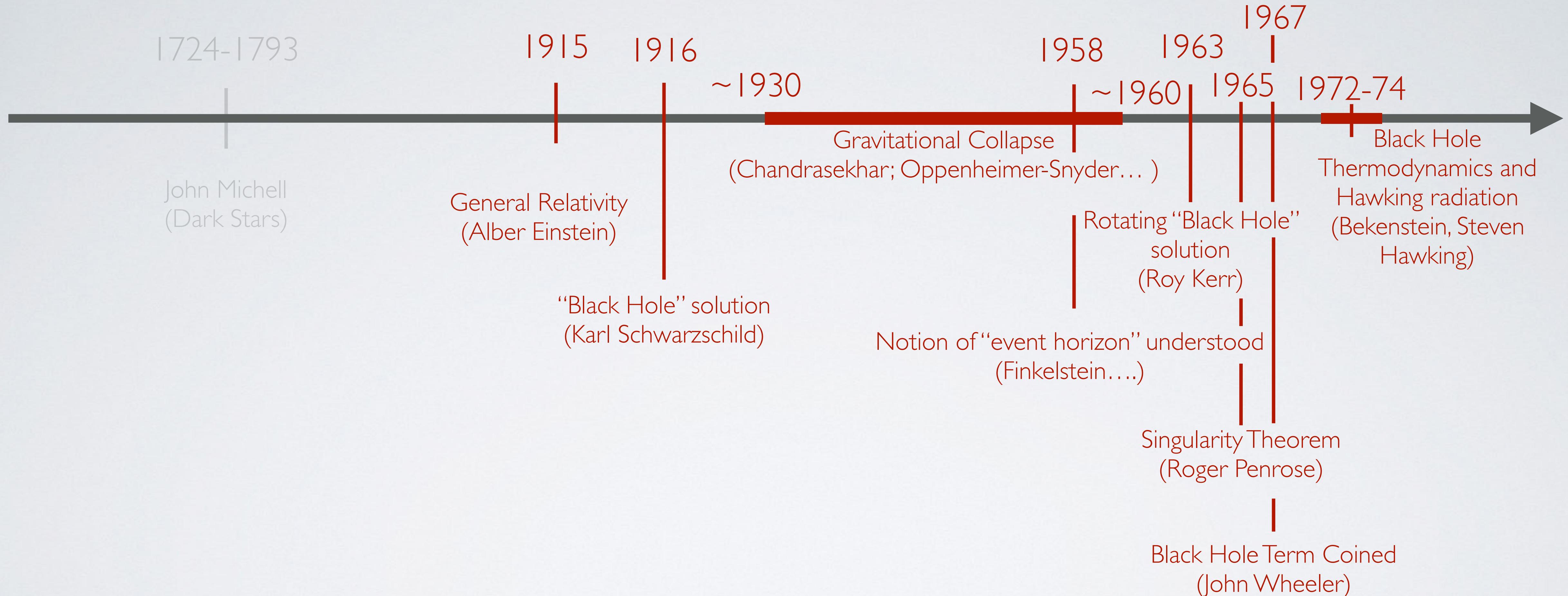
BLACK HOLE TIMELINE

1724-1793



John Michell
(Dark Stars)

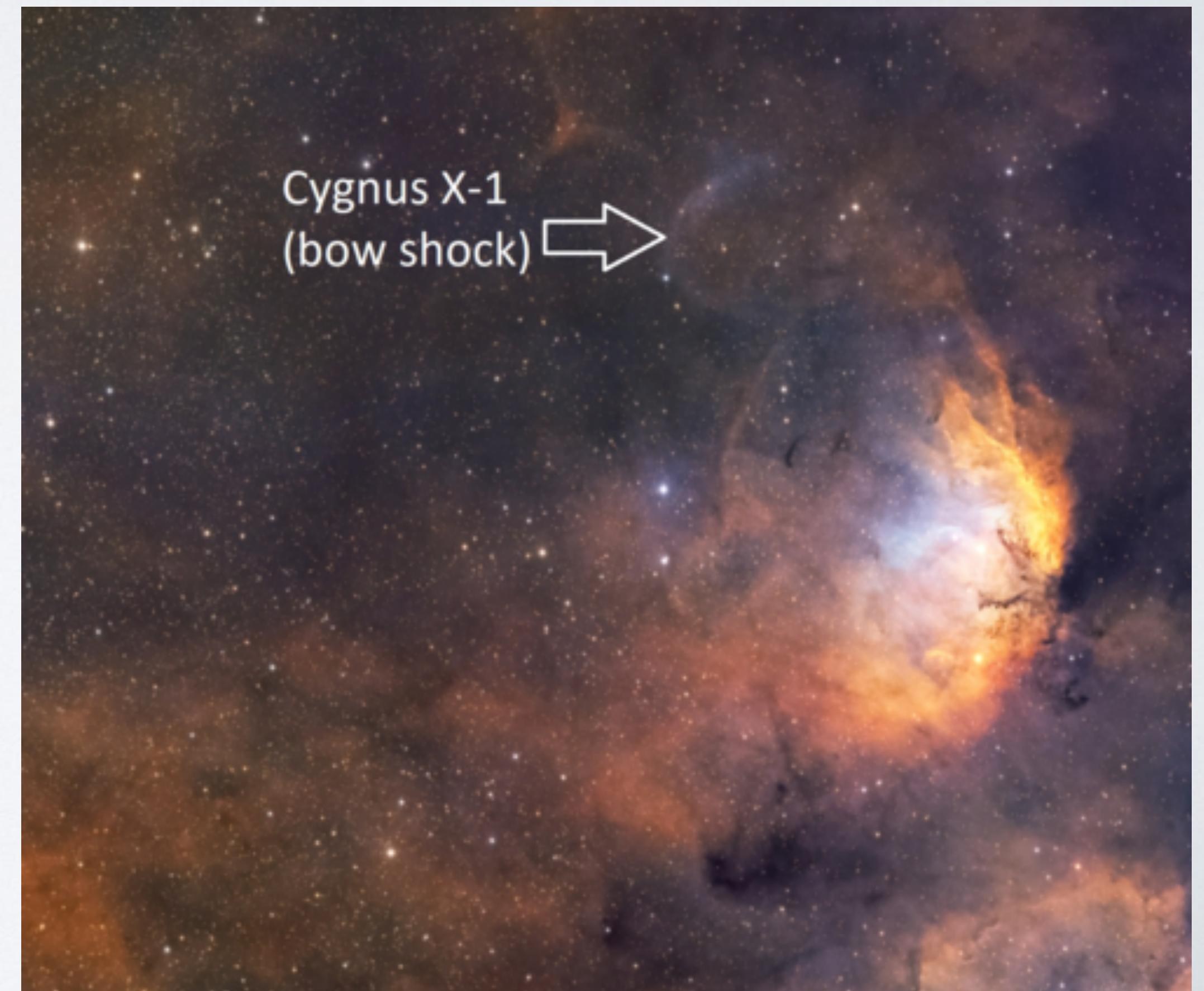
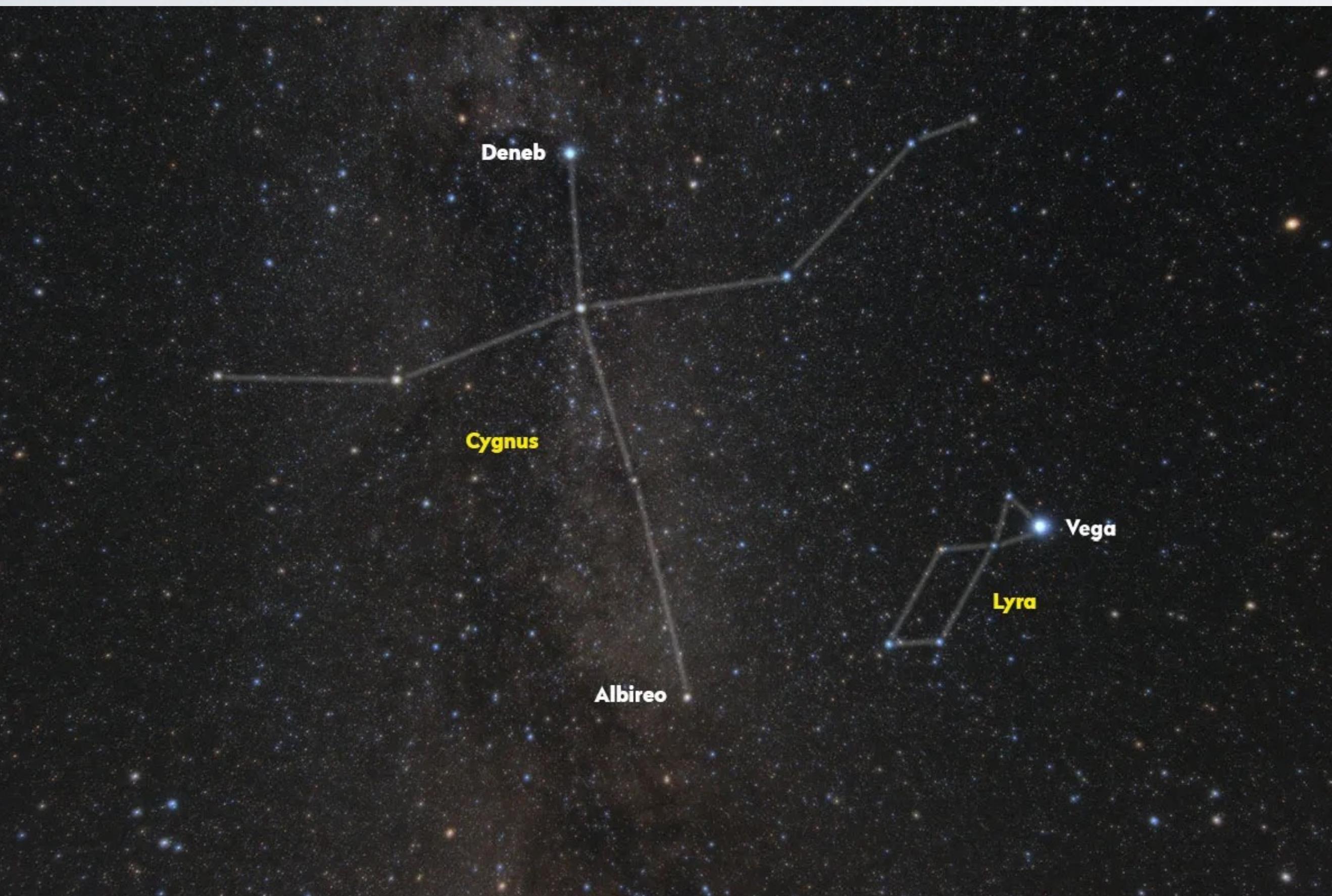
BLACK HOLE TIMELINE



CYGNUS X-1

1964

Discovery of strong
X-ray source
(Cygnus X-1)

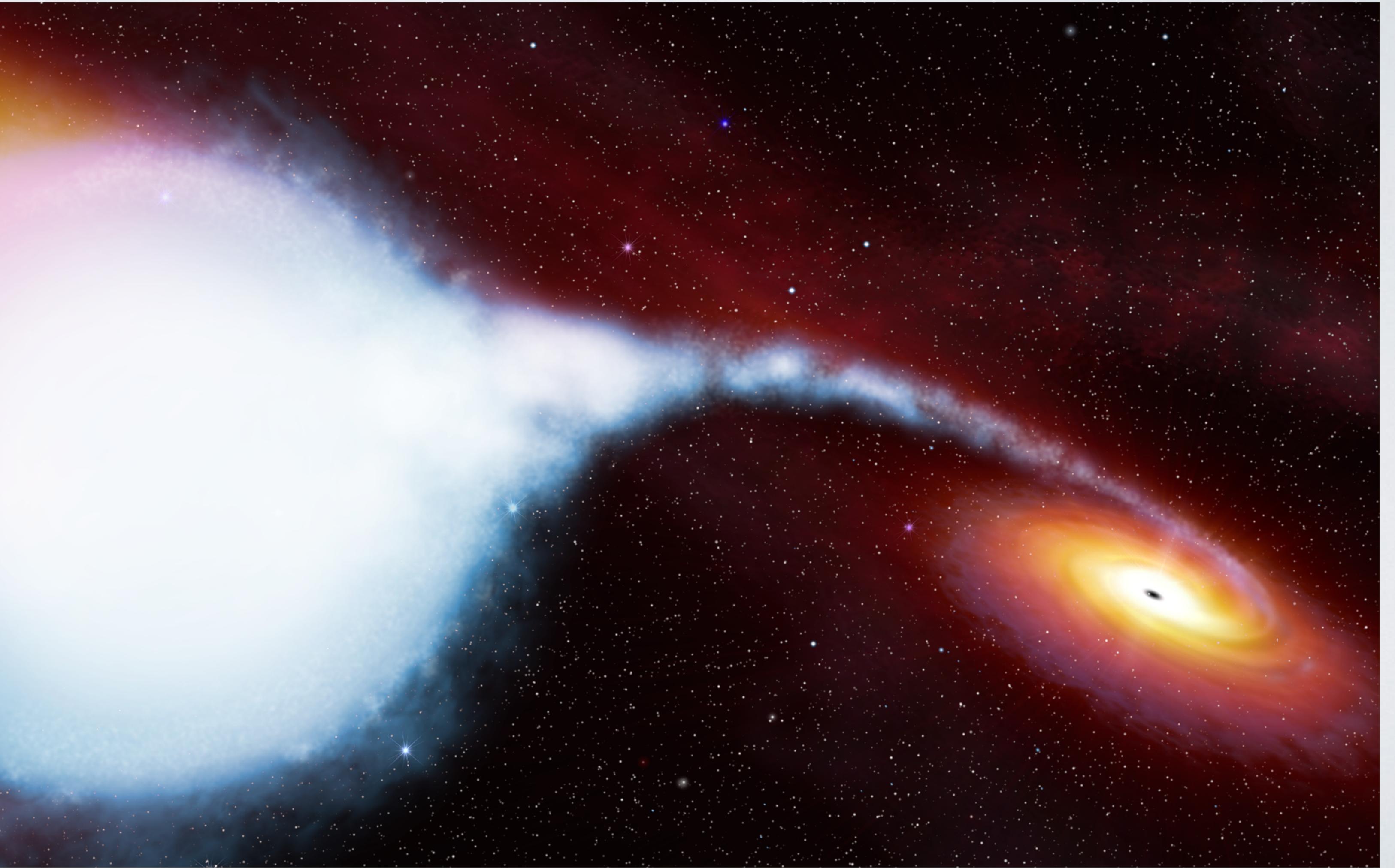


CYGNUS X-1

1964 1971-75

Discovery of strong
X-ray source
(Cygnus X-1)

Cygnus X-1 understood as
binary system: star + black hole

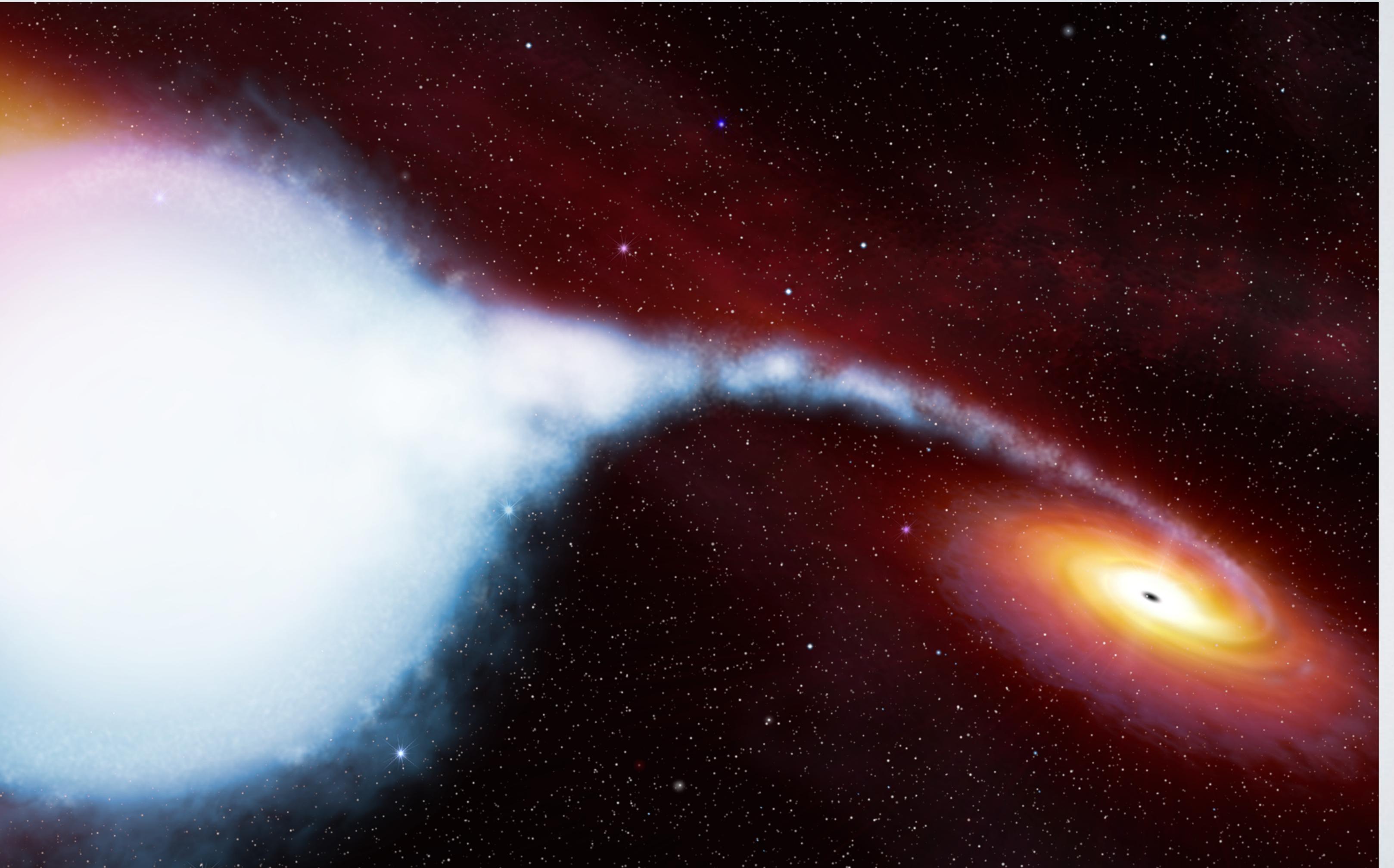
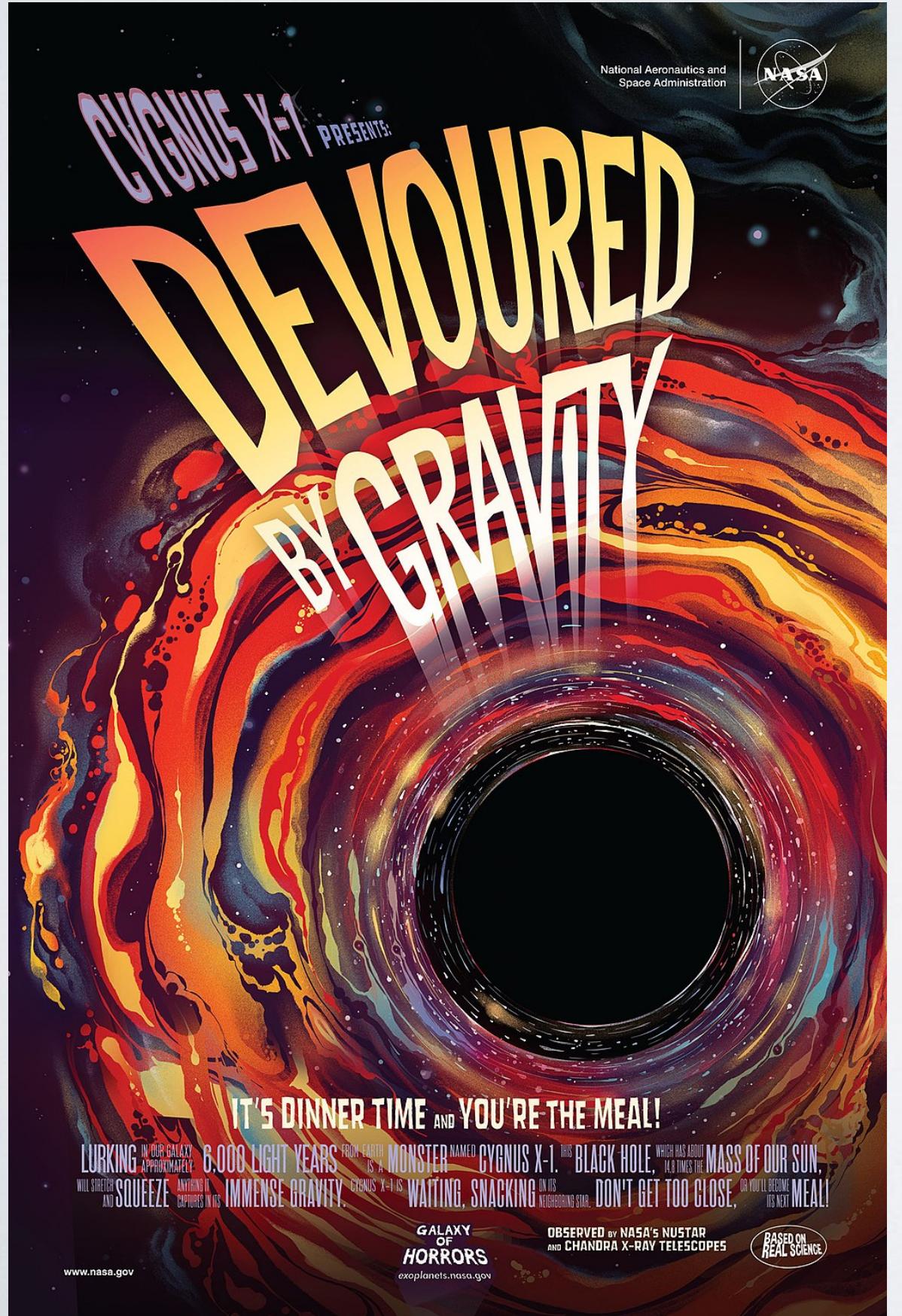


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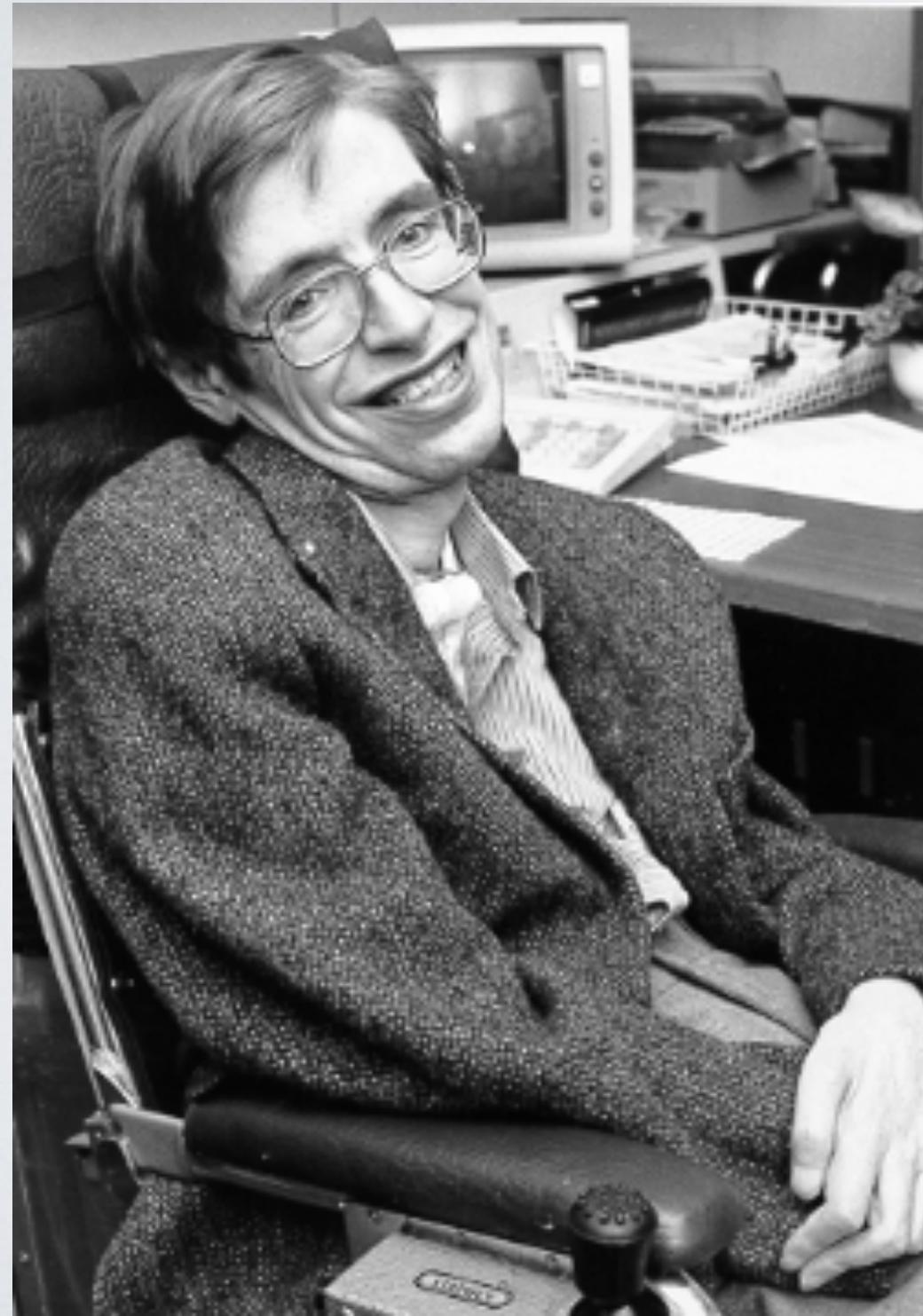
CYGNUS X-1

1964 1971-75

Discovery of strong
X-ray source
(Cygnus X-1)

Theoretical Modelling
(Richard Price and Kip Thorne)

Cygnus X-1 understood as
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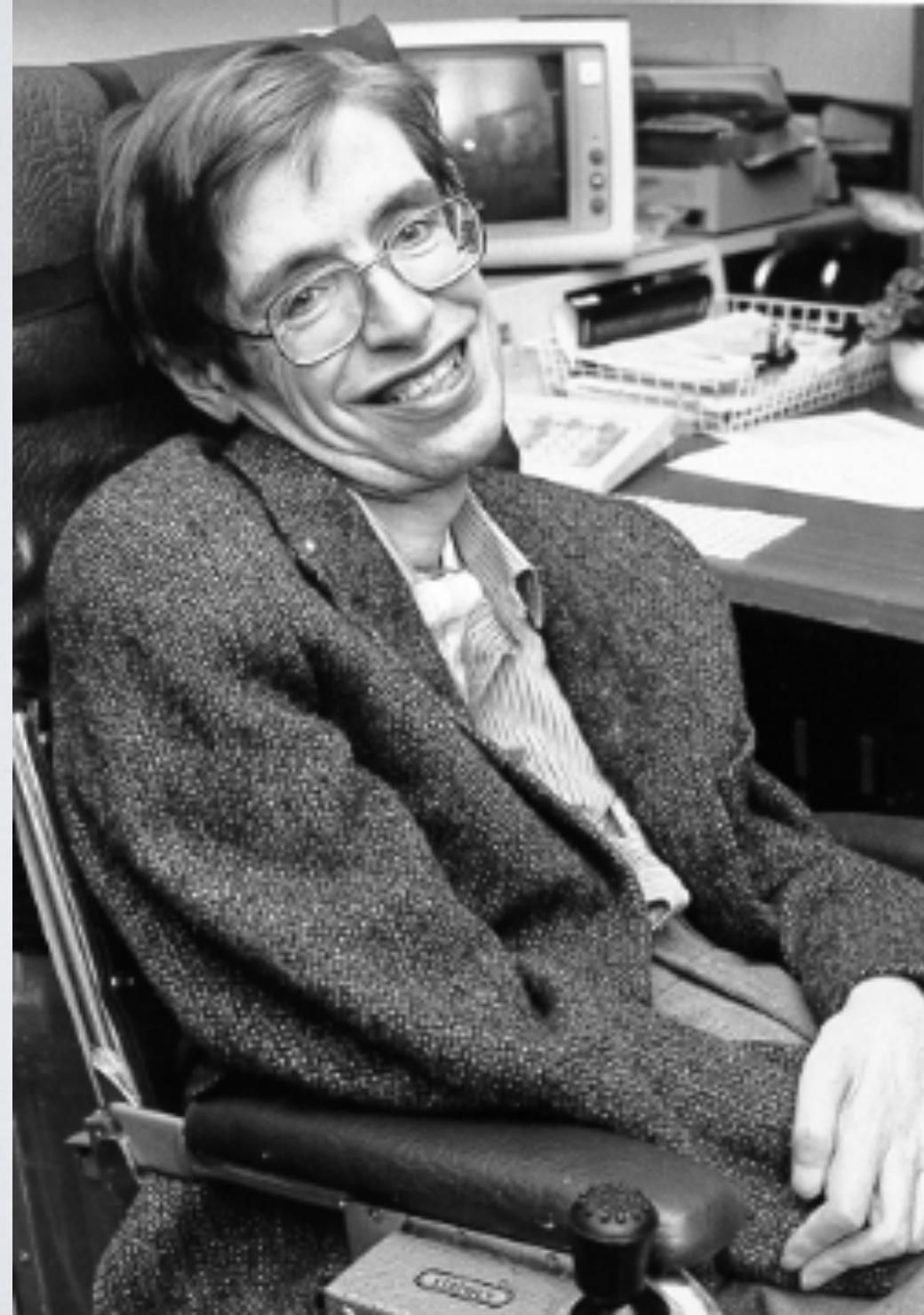
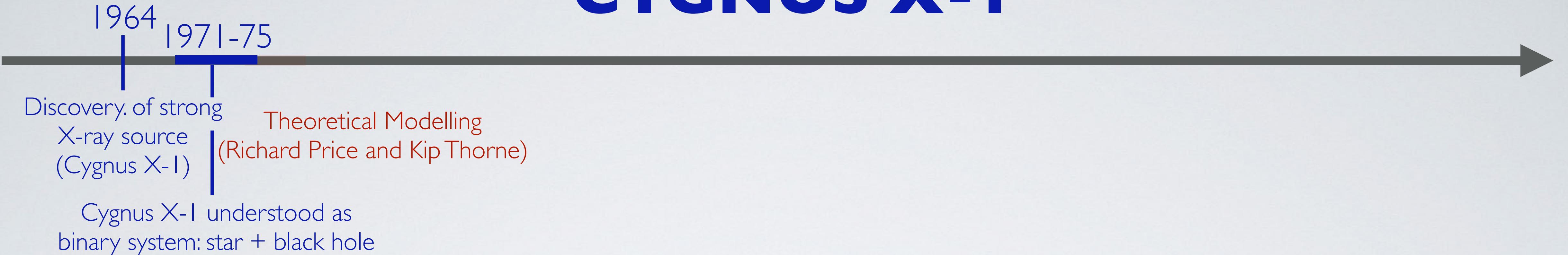


Stephen Hawking
(1942-2018)

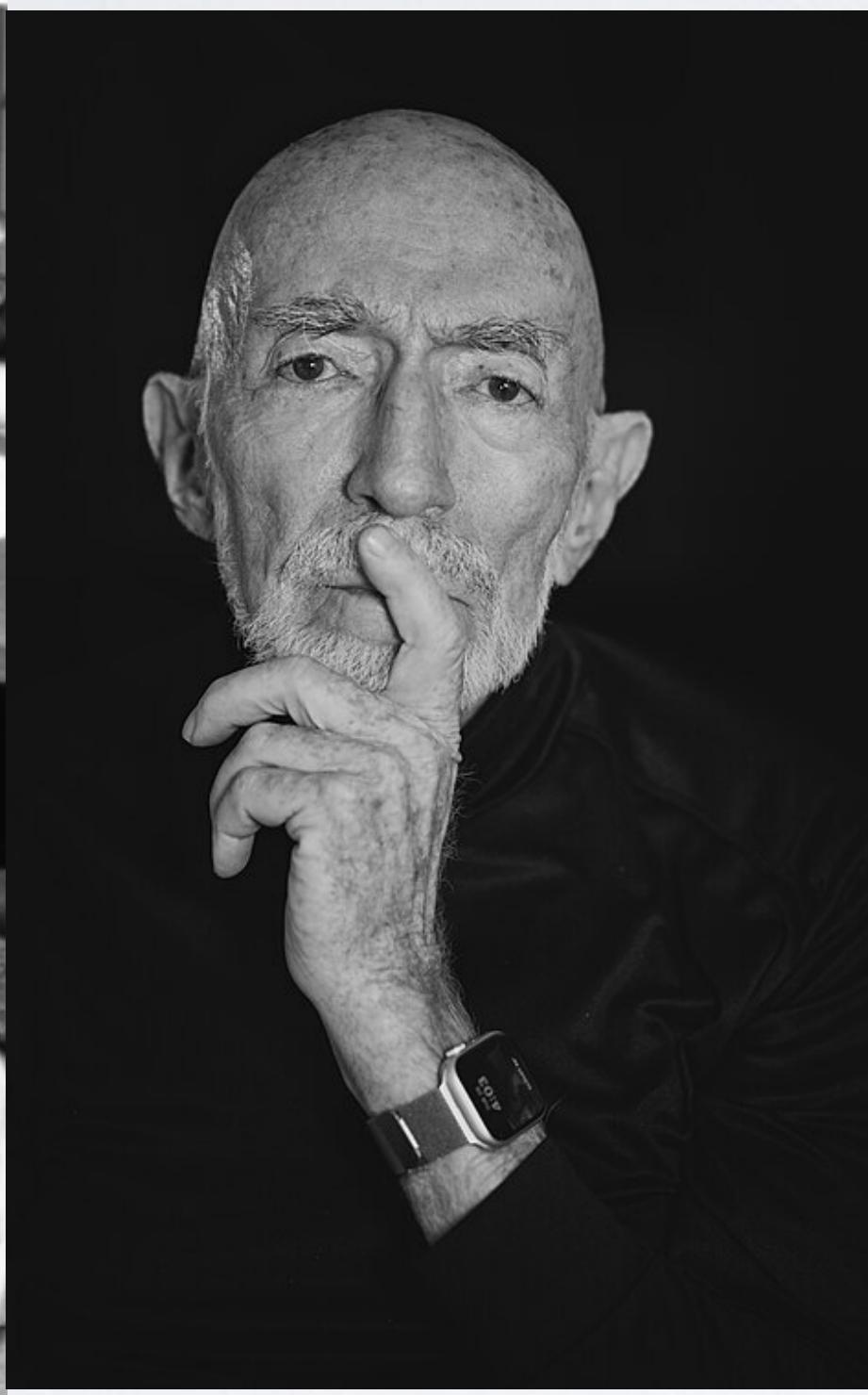


Kip Thorne
(1940-)

CYGNUS X-1



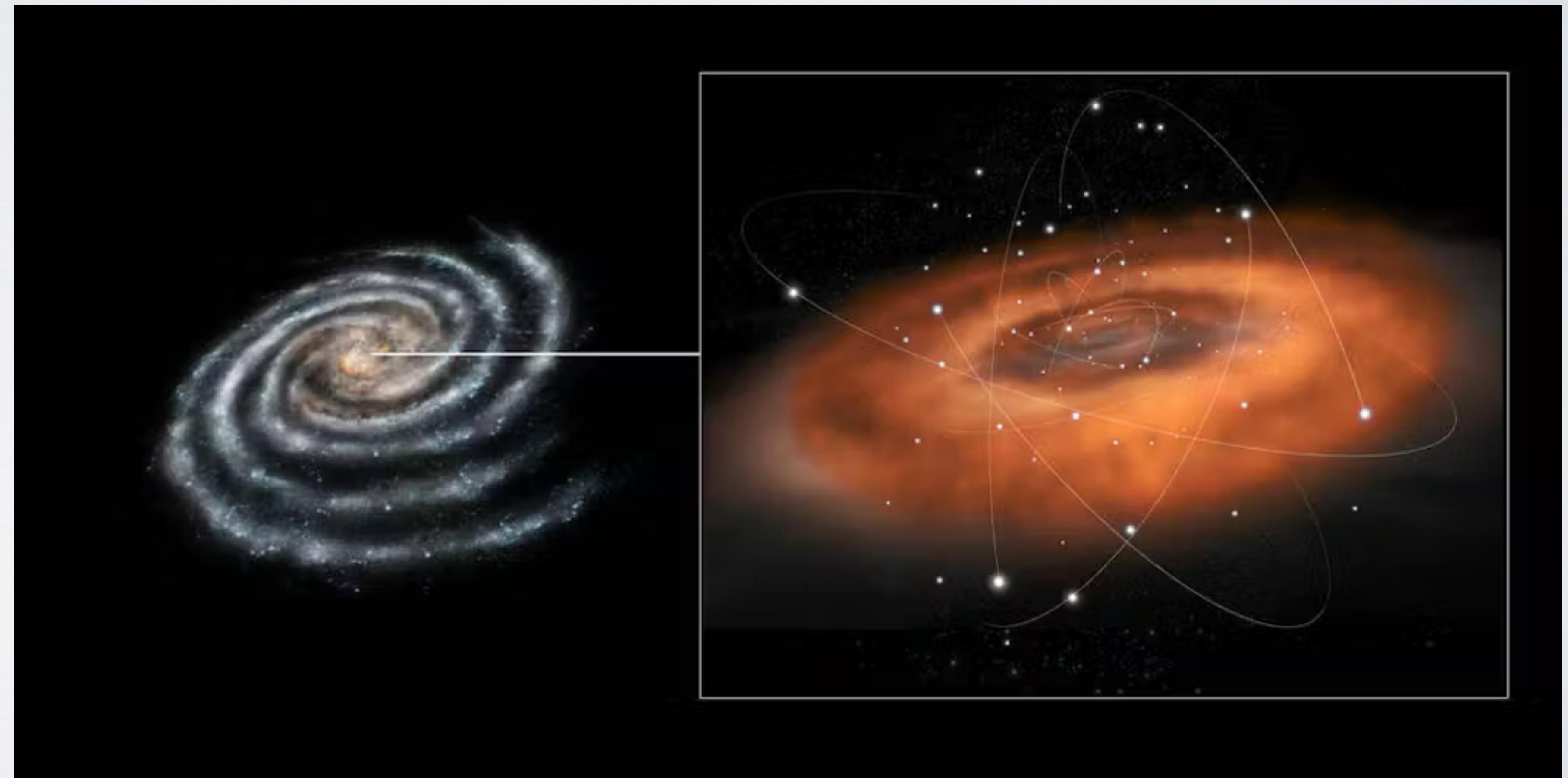
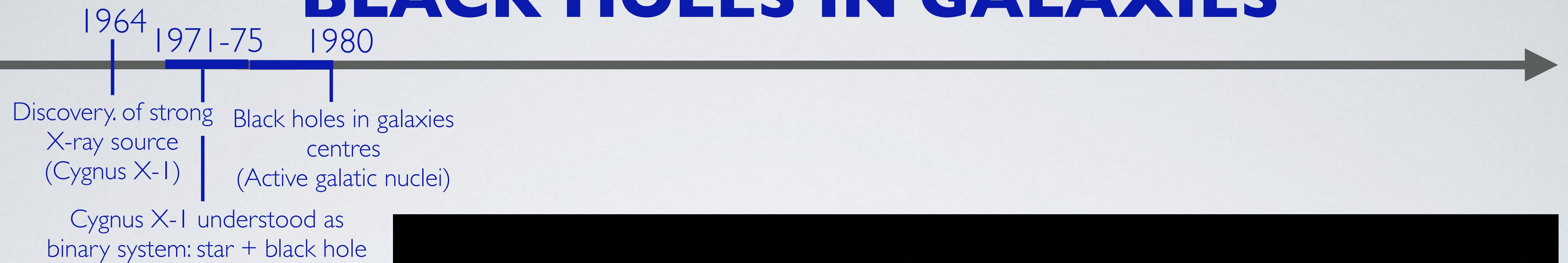
Stephen Hawking
(1942-2018)



Kip Thorne
(1940-)

“This was a form of insurance policy for me. I have done a lot of work on black holes, and it would all be wasted if it turned out that black holes do not exist. But in that case, I would have the consolation of winning my bet, which would win me four years of the magazine *Private Eye*. If black holes do exist, Kip will get one year of *Penthouse*. When we made the bet in 1975, we were 80% certain that Cygnus X-1 was a black hole. By now [1988], I would say that we are about 95% certain, but the bet has yet to be settled.”

BLACK HOLES IN GALAXIES

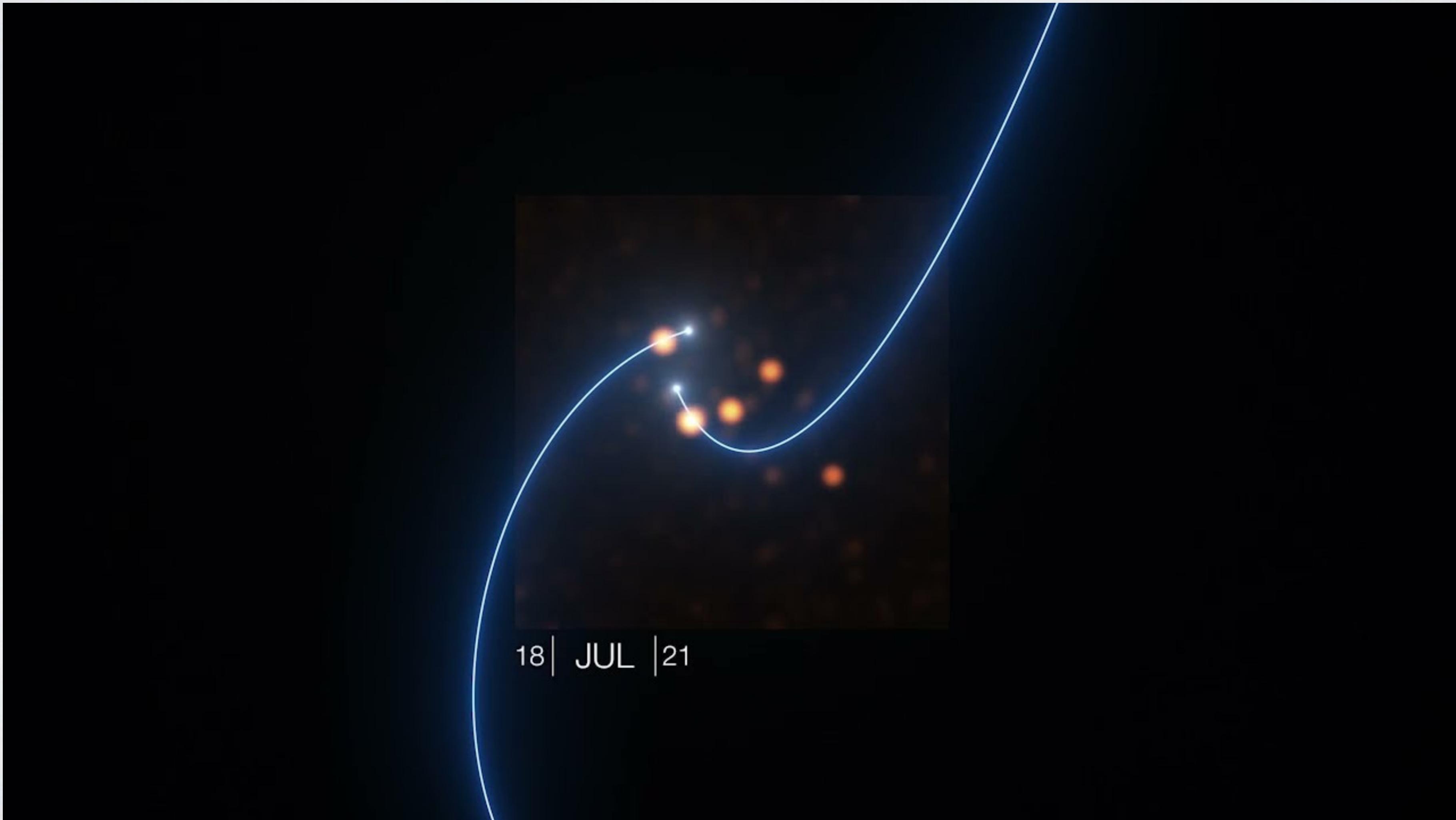


SAGITTARIUS A* (MILK WAY)

1990

2021

Stellar orbits around Sagittarius A*
(Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez)

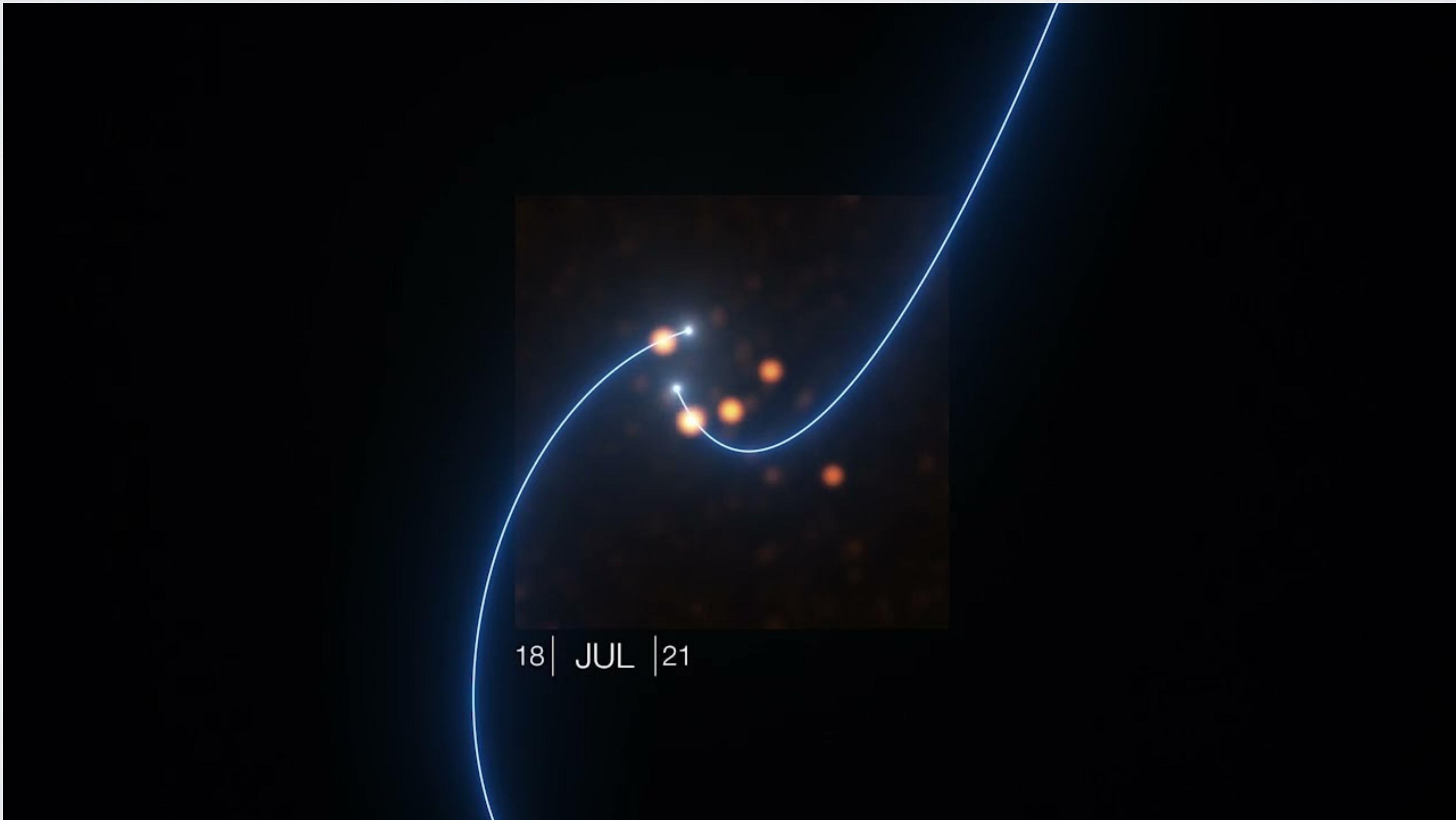


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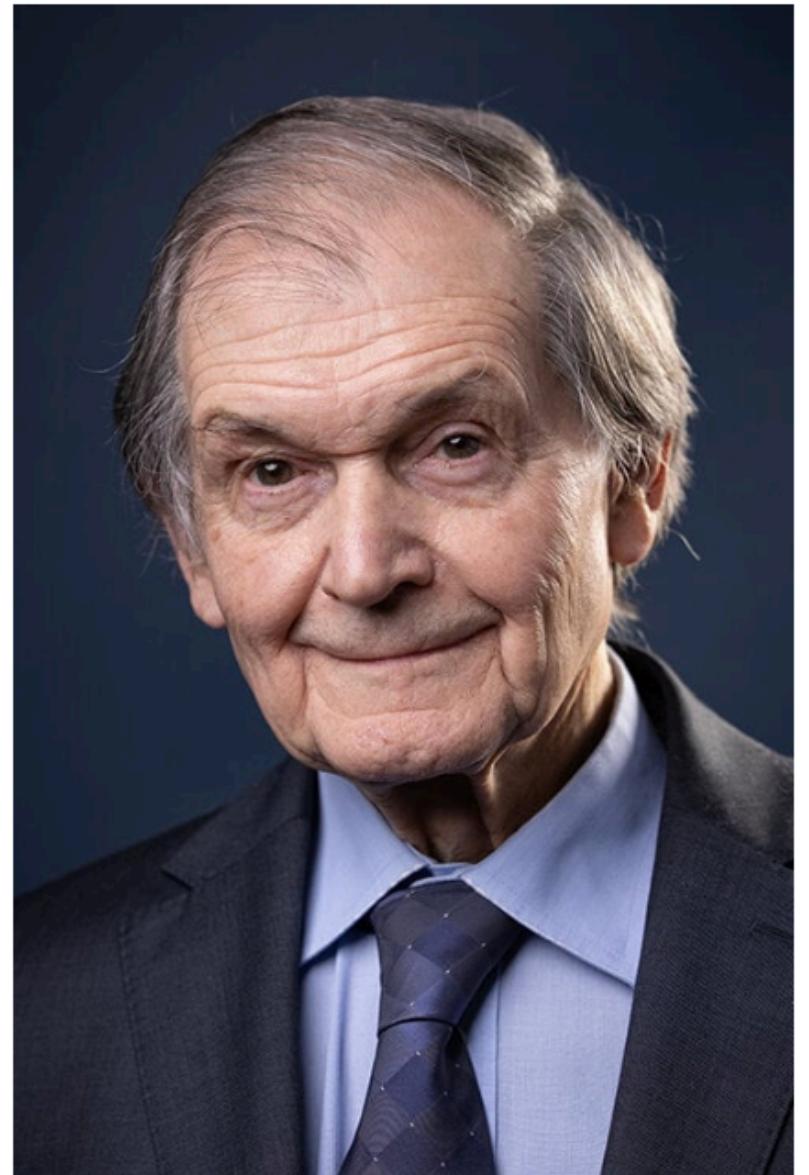
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Nobel Prize in Physics 2020



© Nobel Prize Outreach. Photo:
Fergus Kennedy

Roger Penrose

Prize share: 1/2



© Nobel Prize Outreach. Photo:
Bernhard Ludewig

Reinhard Genzel

Prize share: 1/4



© Nobel Prize Outreach. Photo:
Stefan Bladh.

Andrea Ghez

Prize share: 1/4

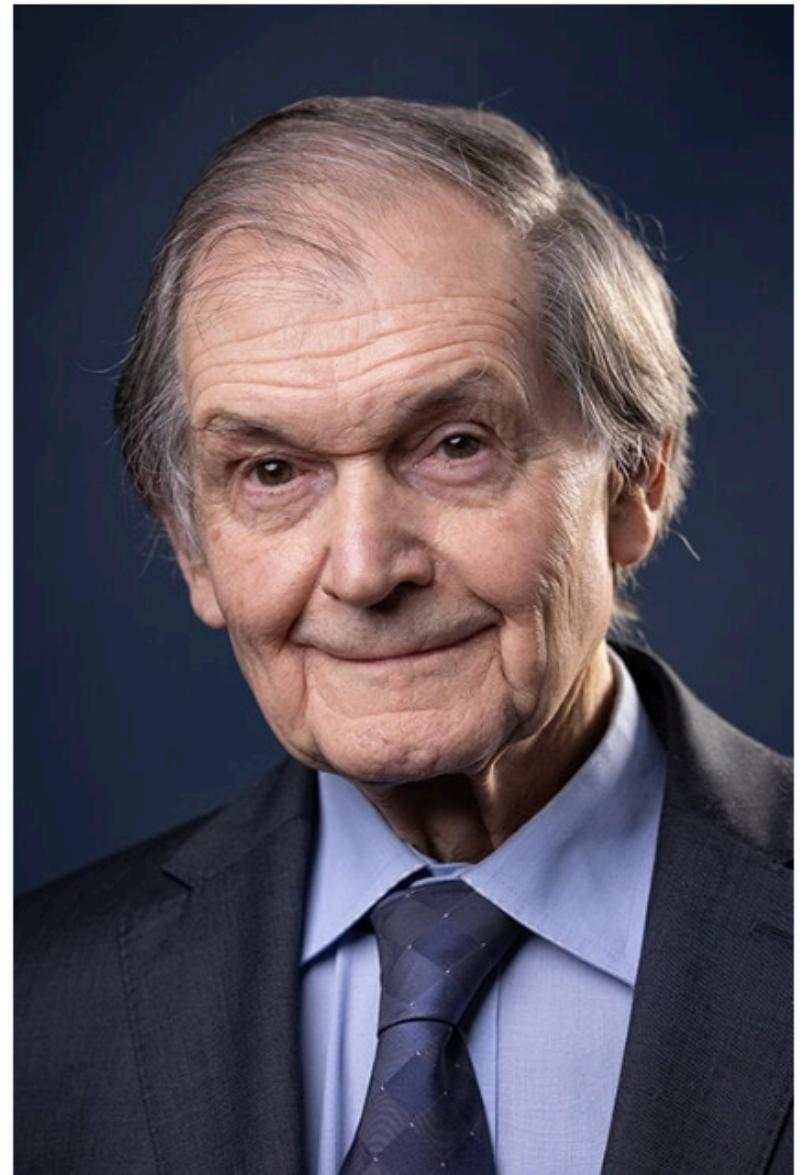
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© Nobel Prize Outreach. Photo:
Stefan Bladh

Andrea Ghez

Prize share: 1/4

"For the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity"

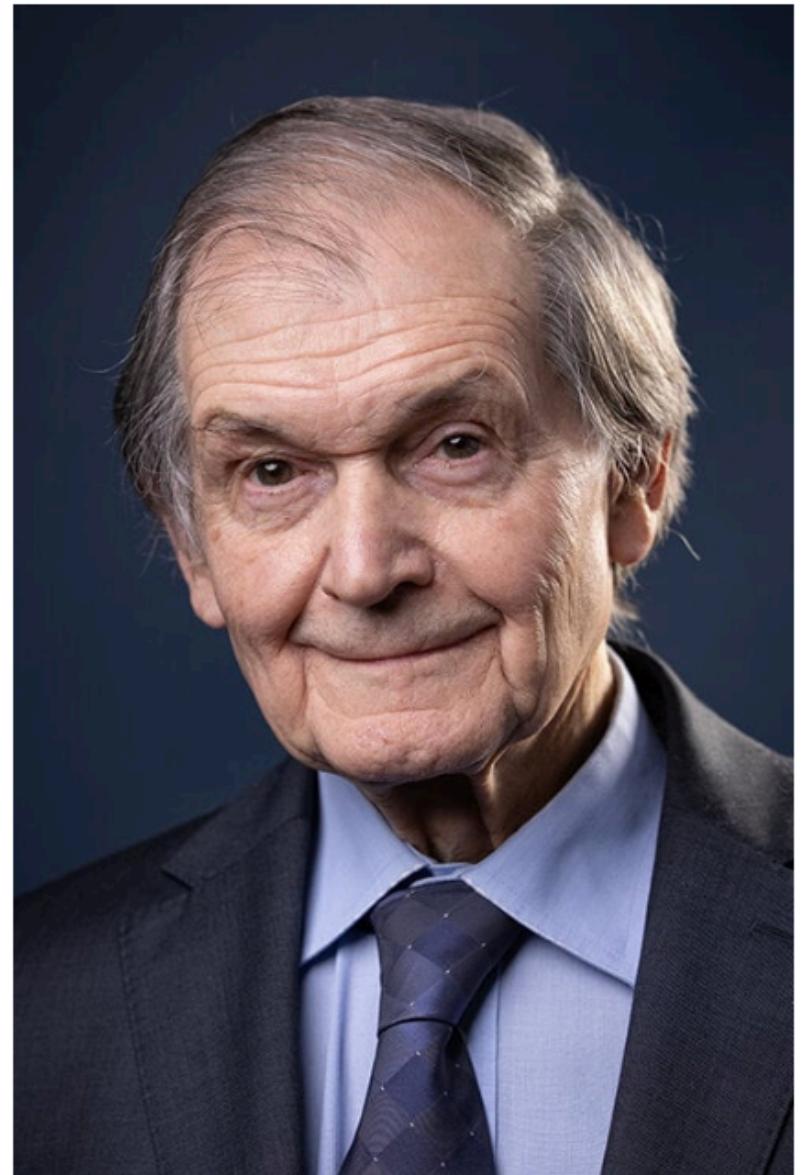
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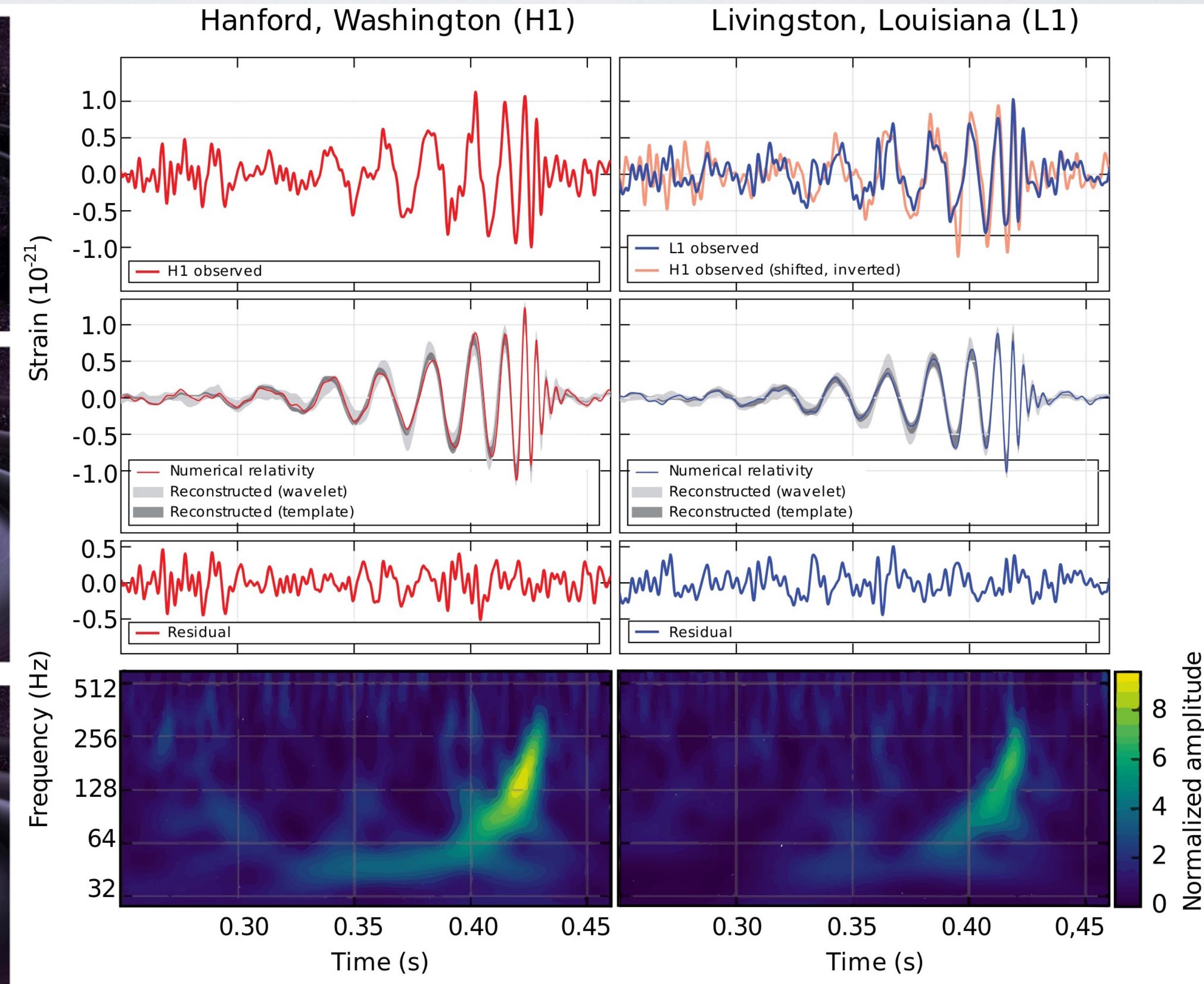
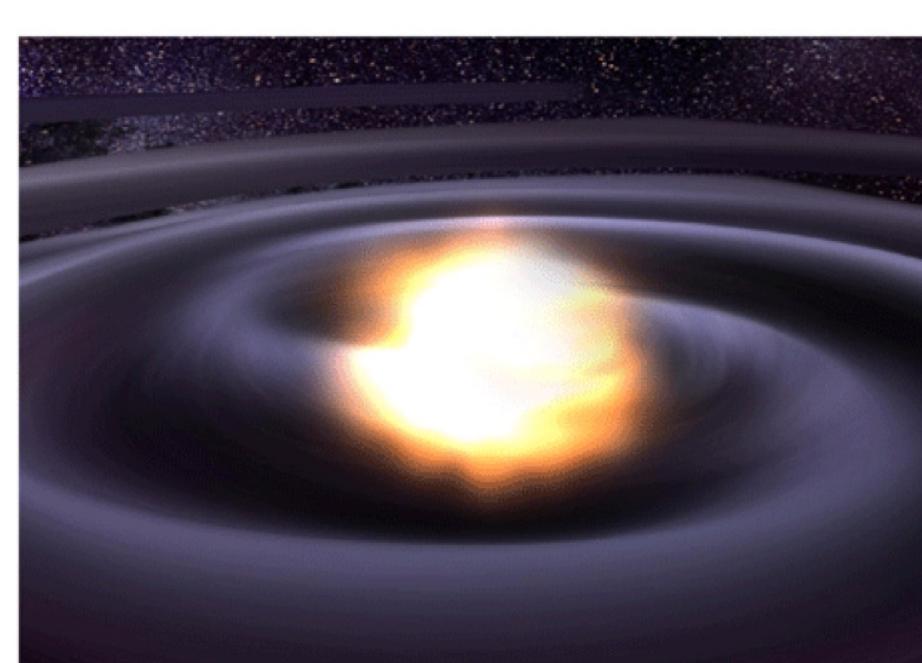
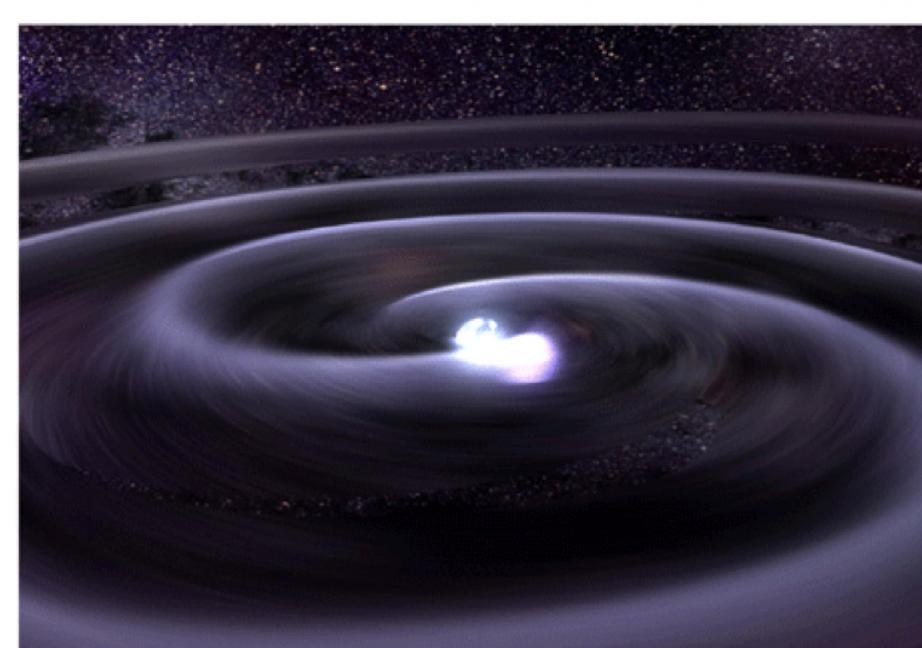
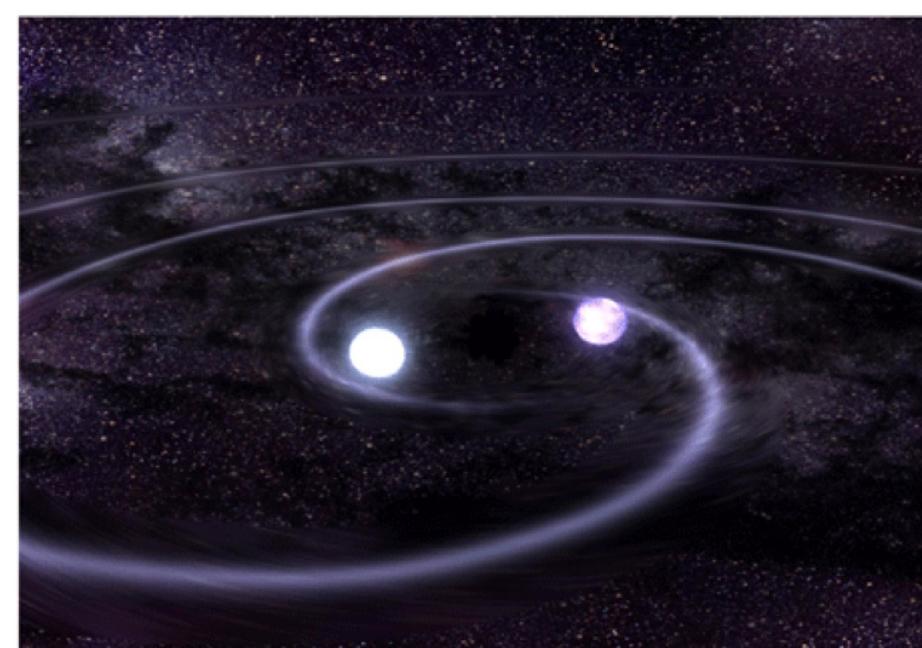
"For the discovery that black hole formation is a robust prediction of the general theory of relativity"

"For the discovery of a supermassive compact object at the centre of our galaxy"

BINARY BLACK HOLES: GW150917

2015
|

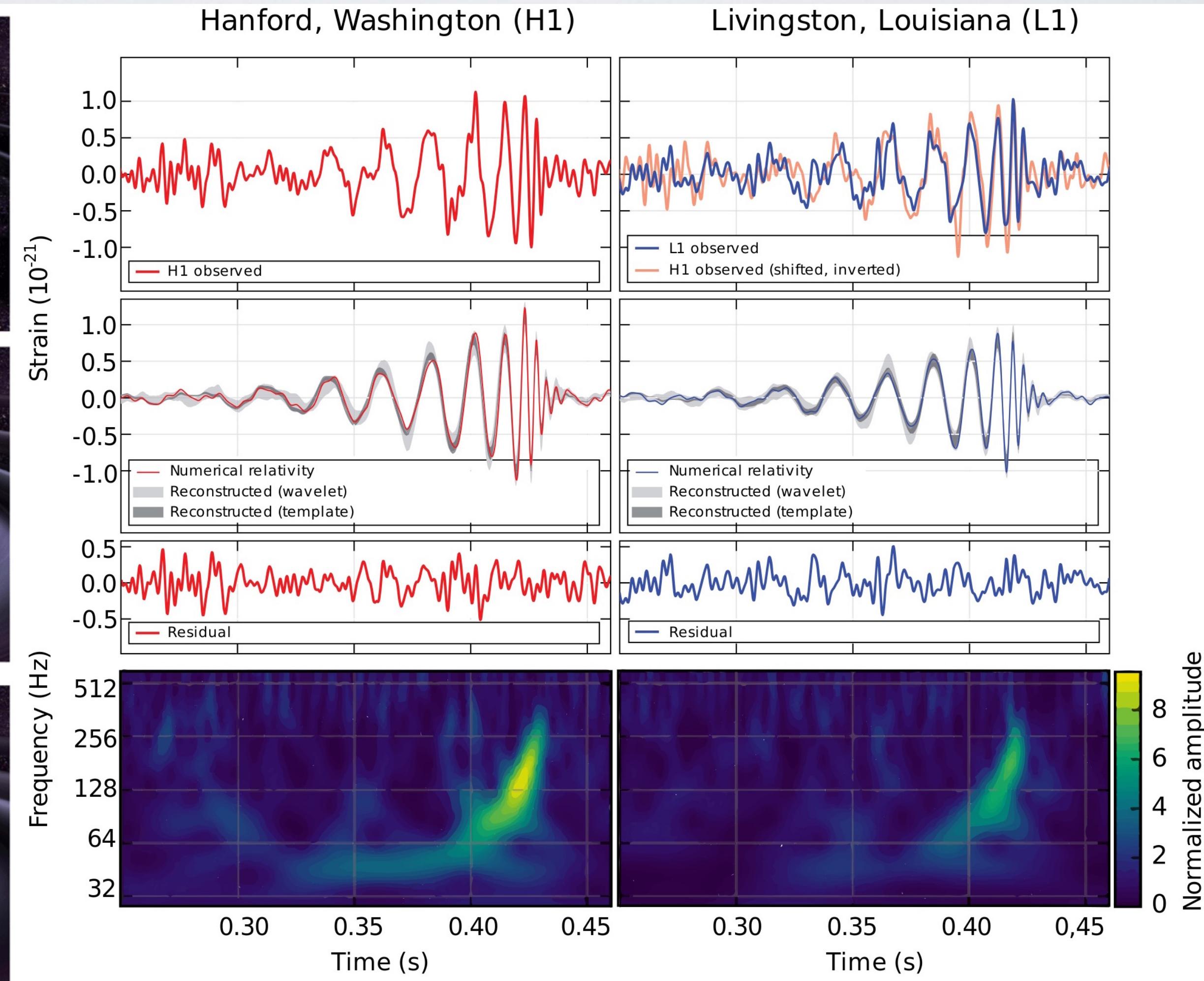
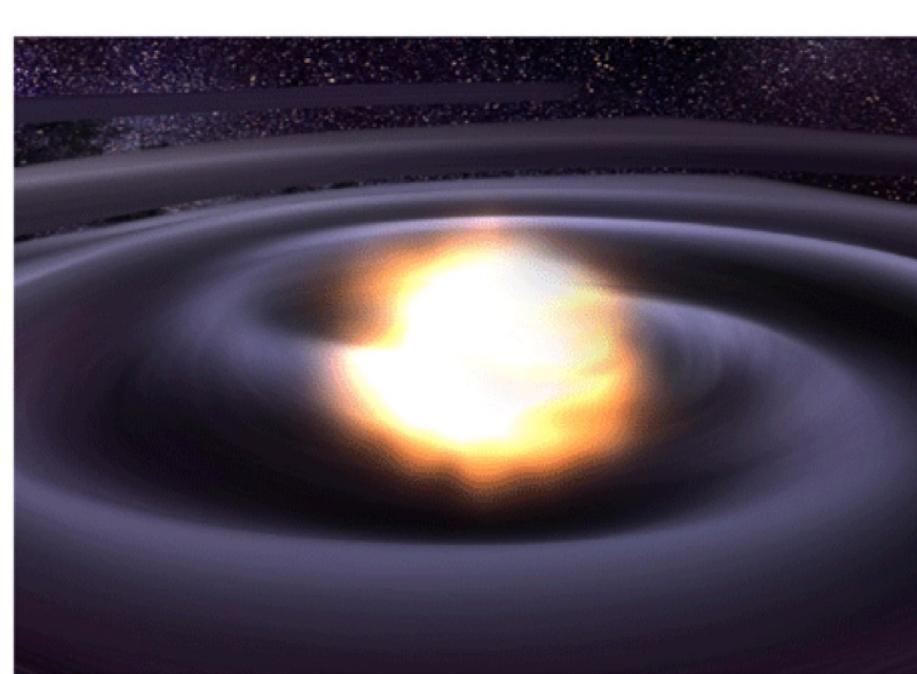
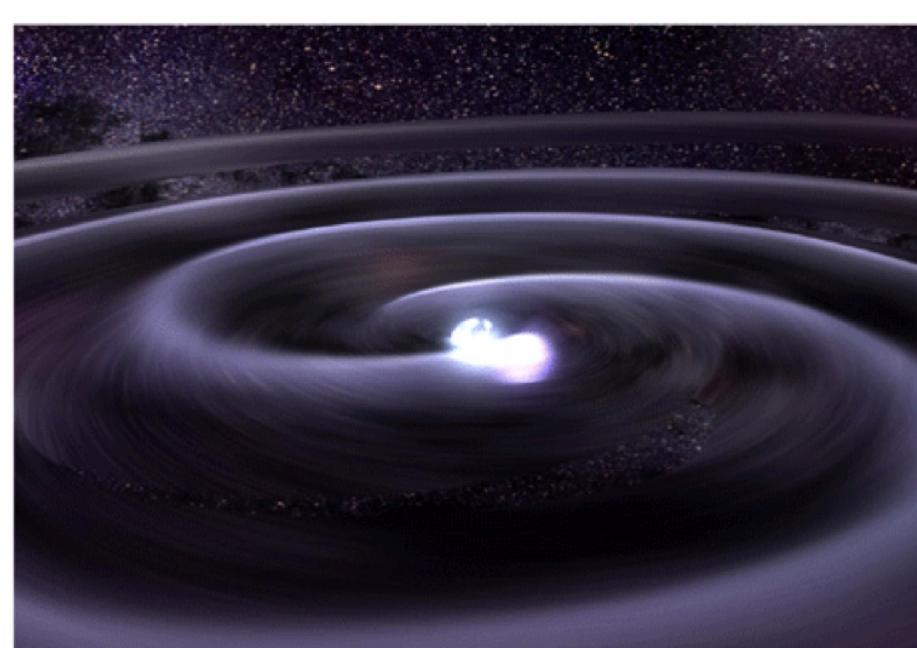
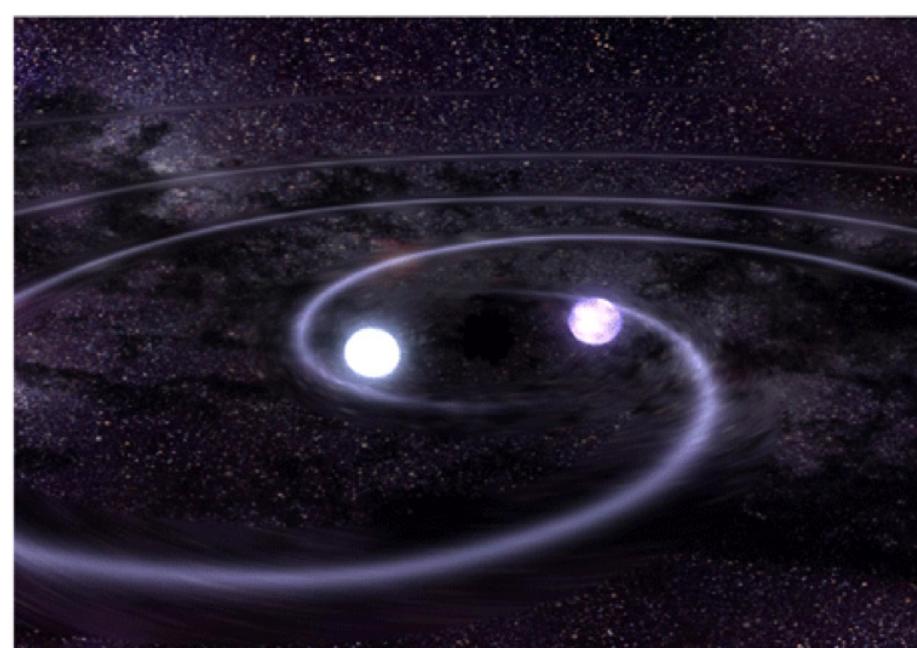
Gravitational Wave detection
(LIGO)



BINARY BLACK HOLES: GW150917

2015

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2015

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Gravitational Wave detection
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BINARY BLACK HOLES: GW150917

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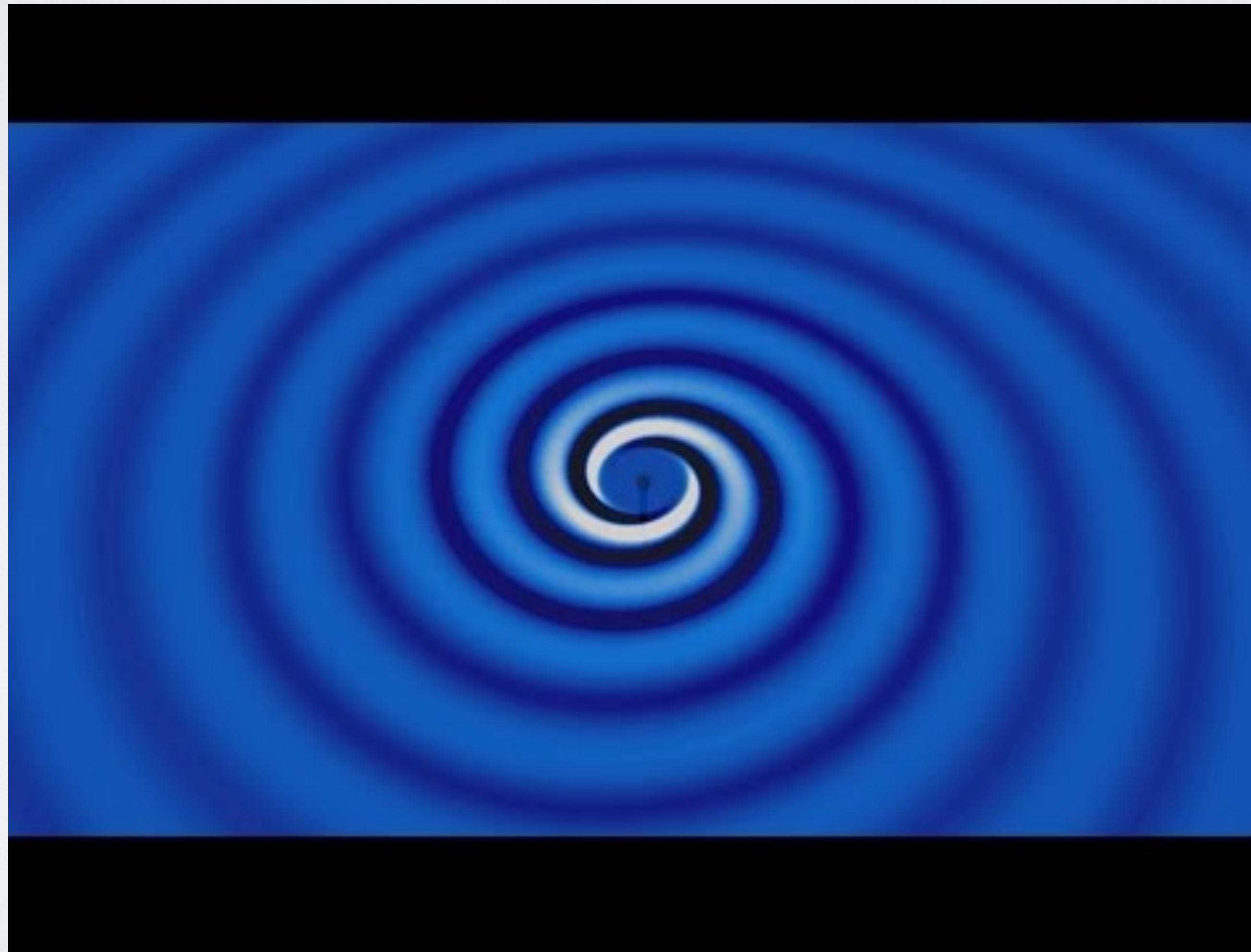
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BINARY BLACK HOLES: GW150917

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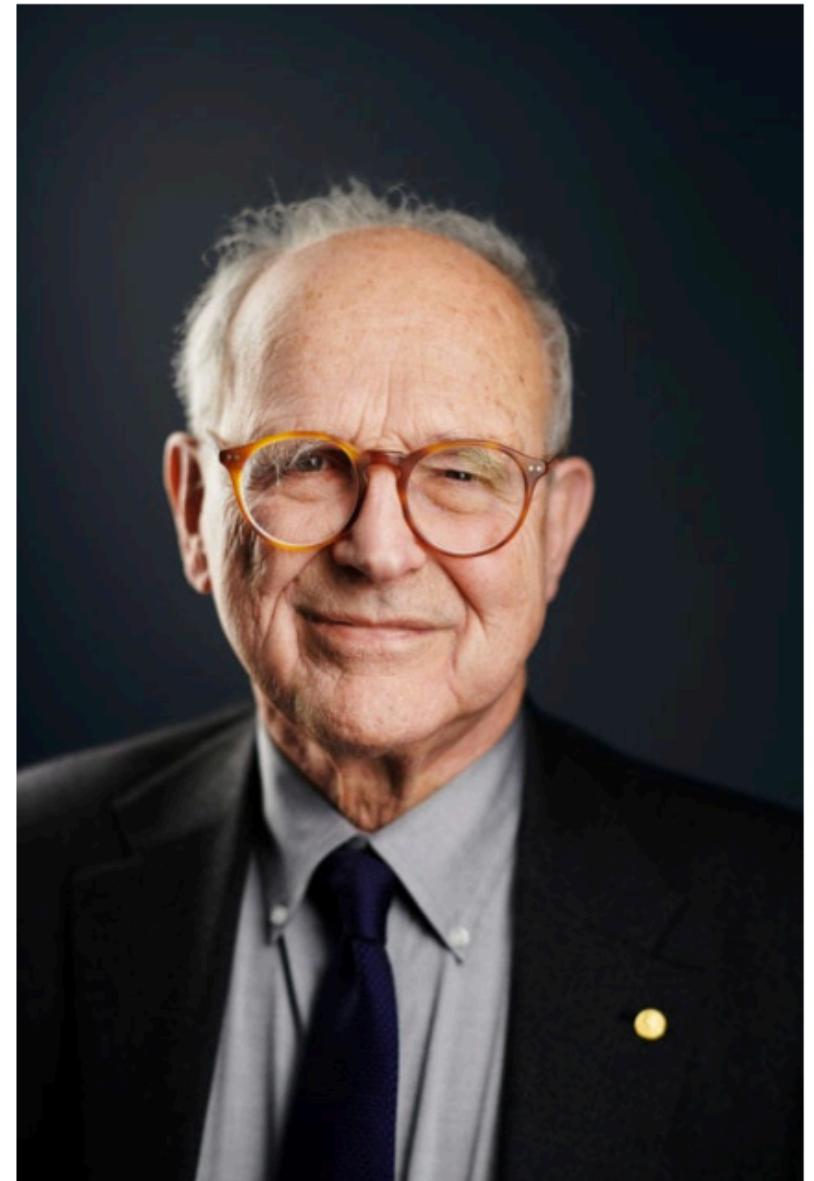
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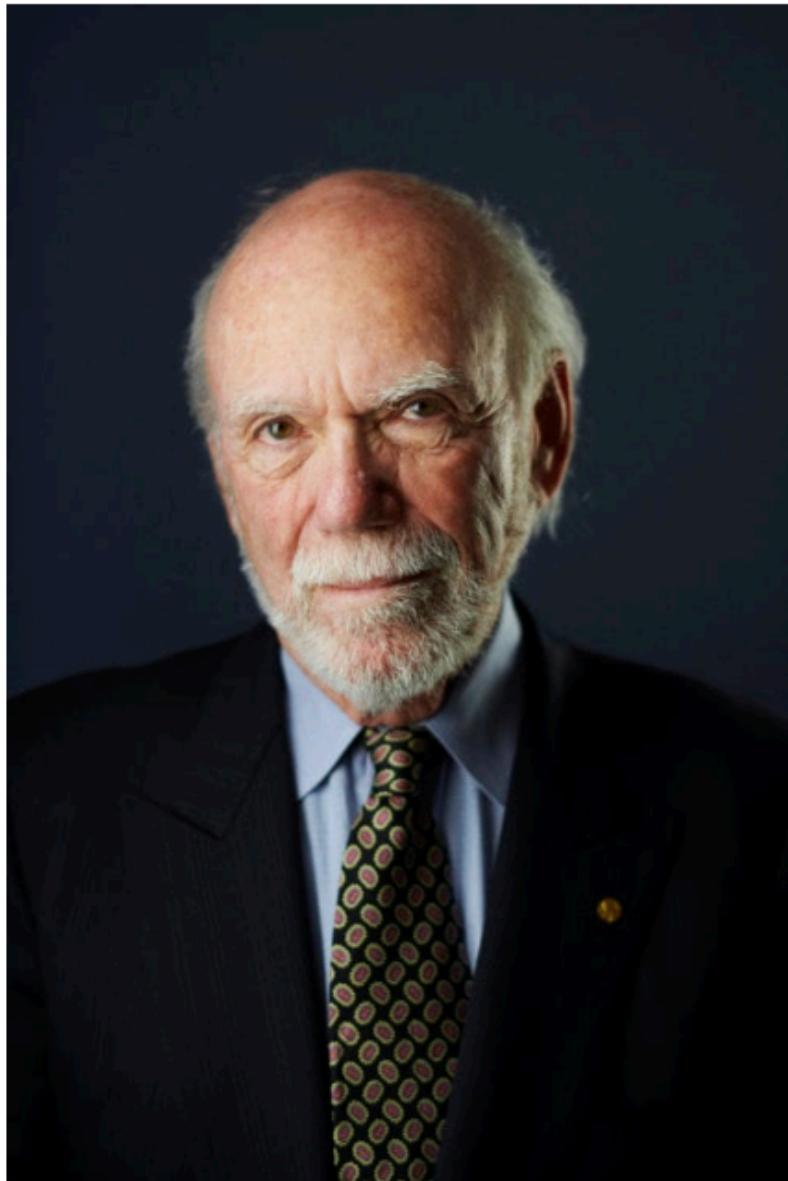
Nobel Prize in Physics 2017



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Rainer Weiss

Prize share: 1/2



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Barry C. Barish

Prize share: 1/4



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Kip S. Thorne

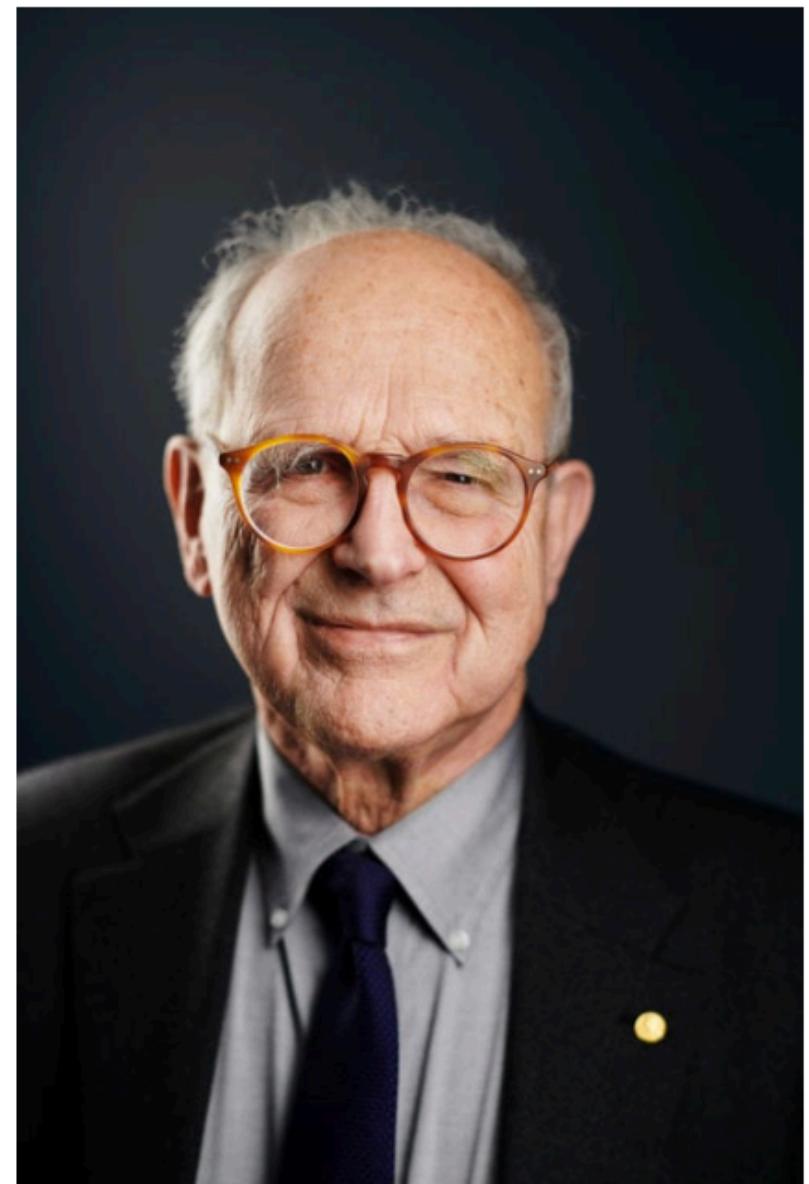
Prize share: 1/4

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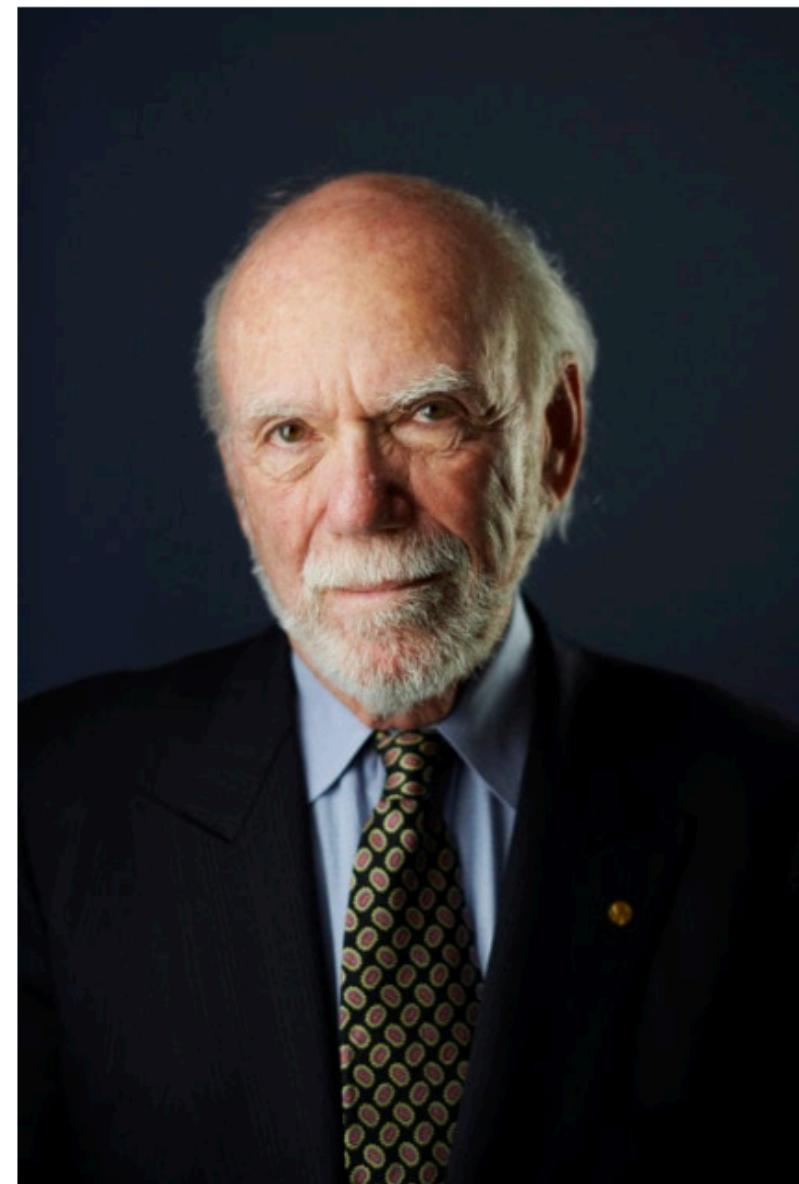
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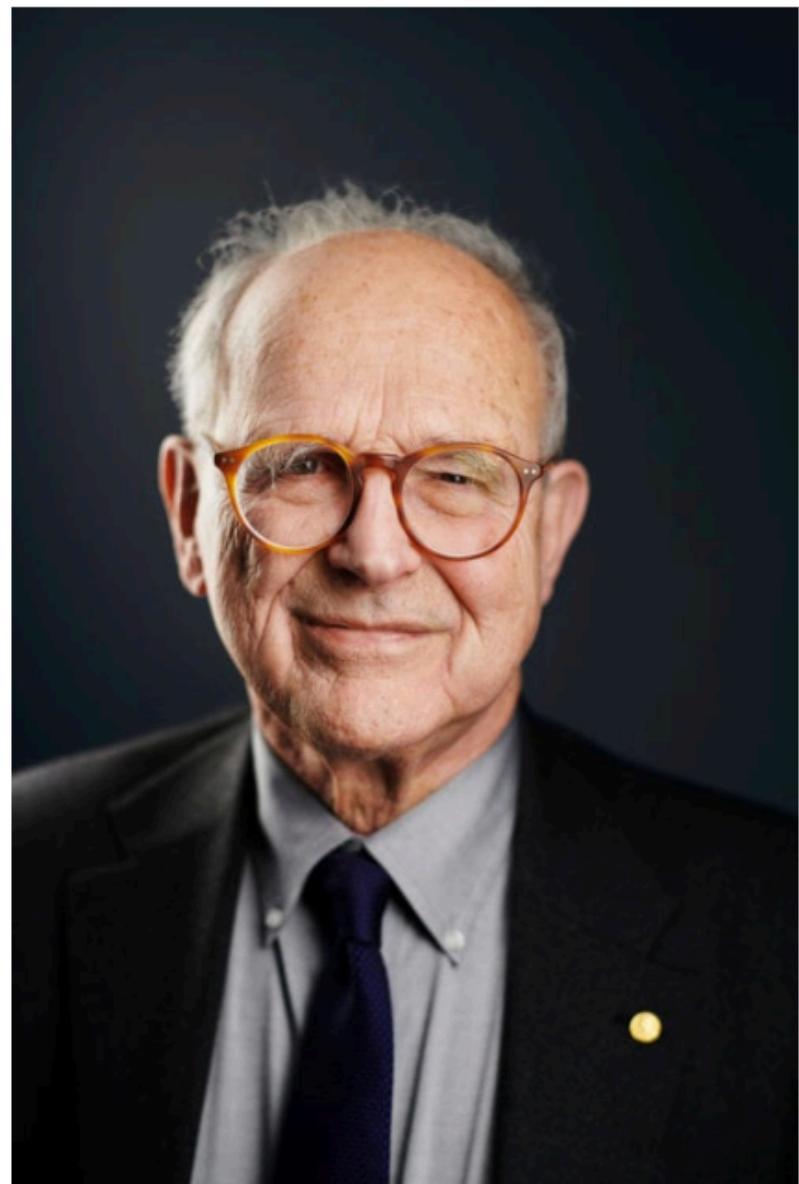
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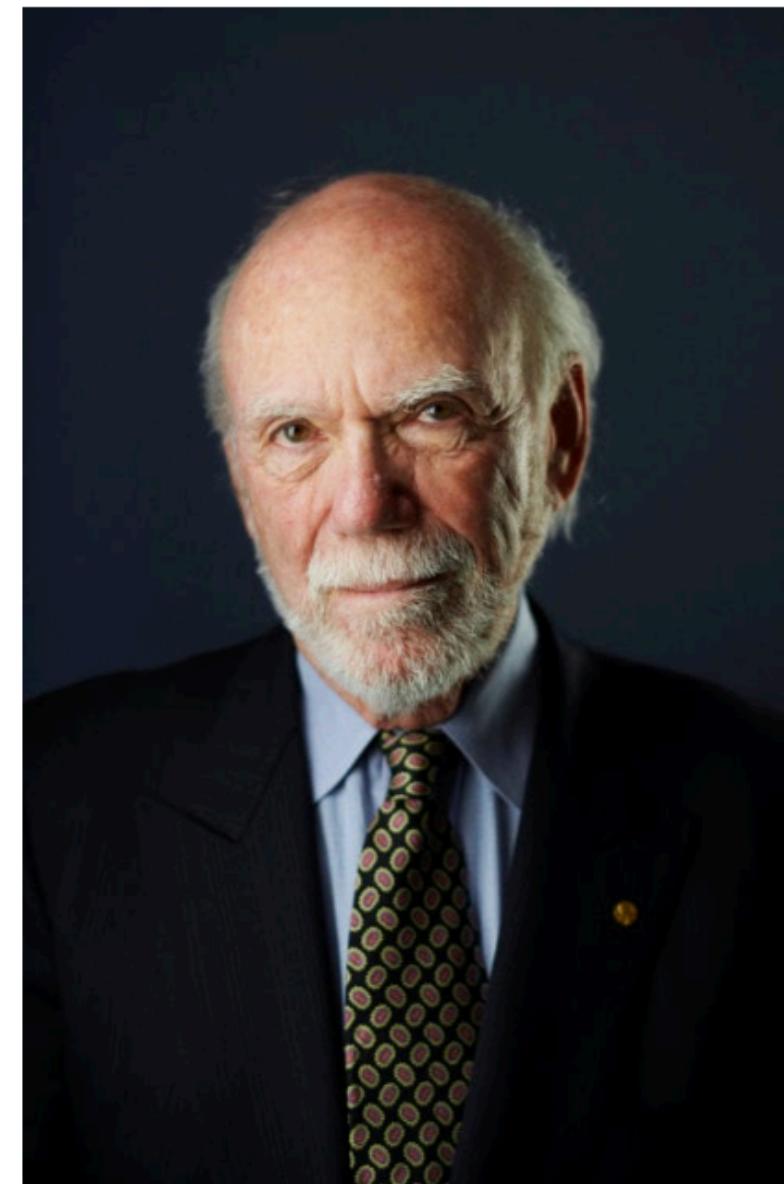
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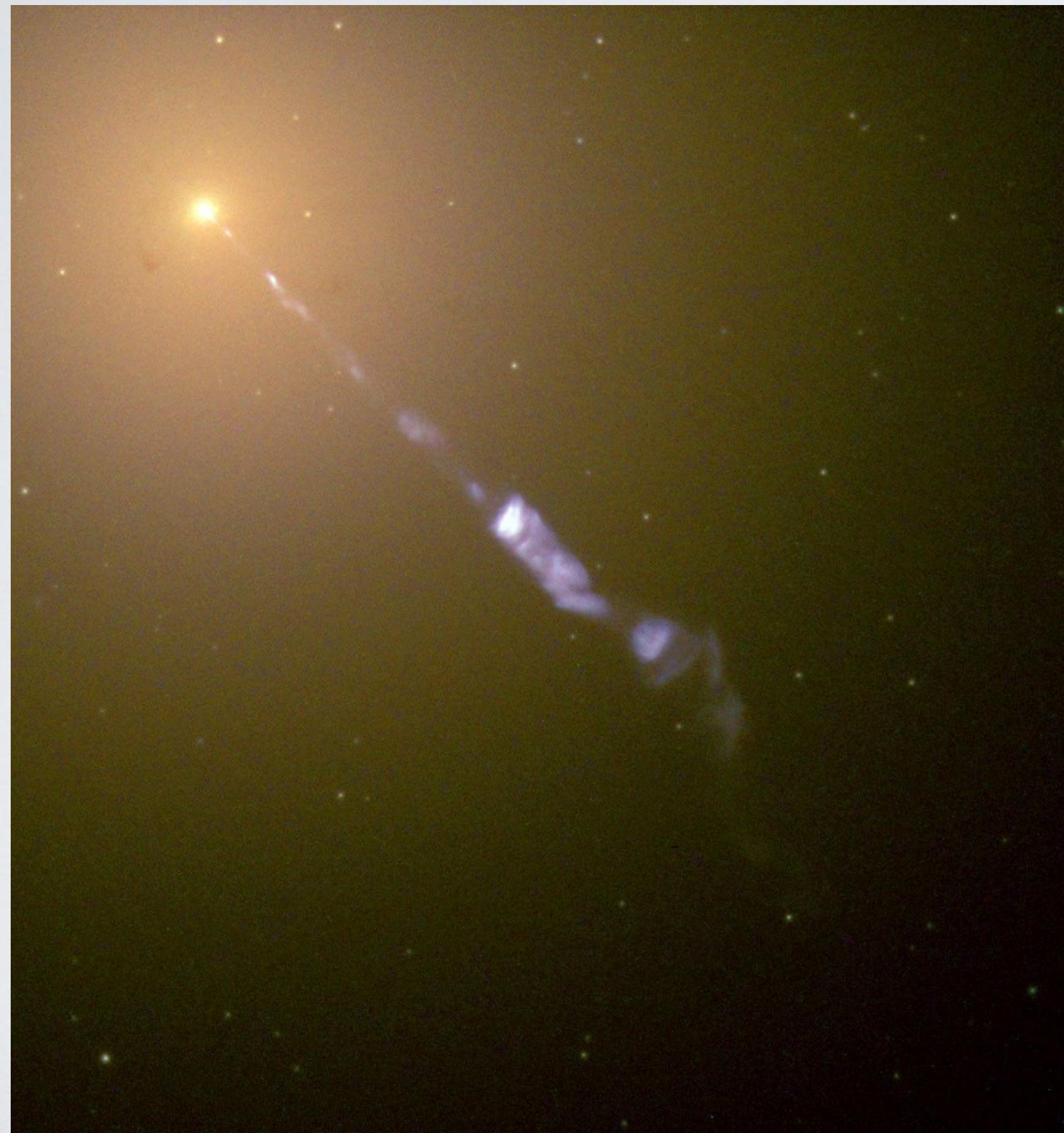
Prize share: 1/4

“For decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves”

BLACK HOLE IMAGE

2019

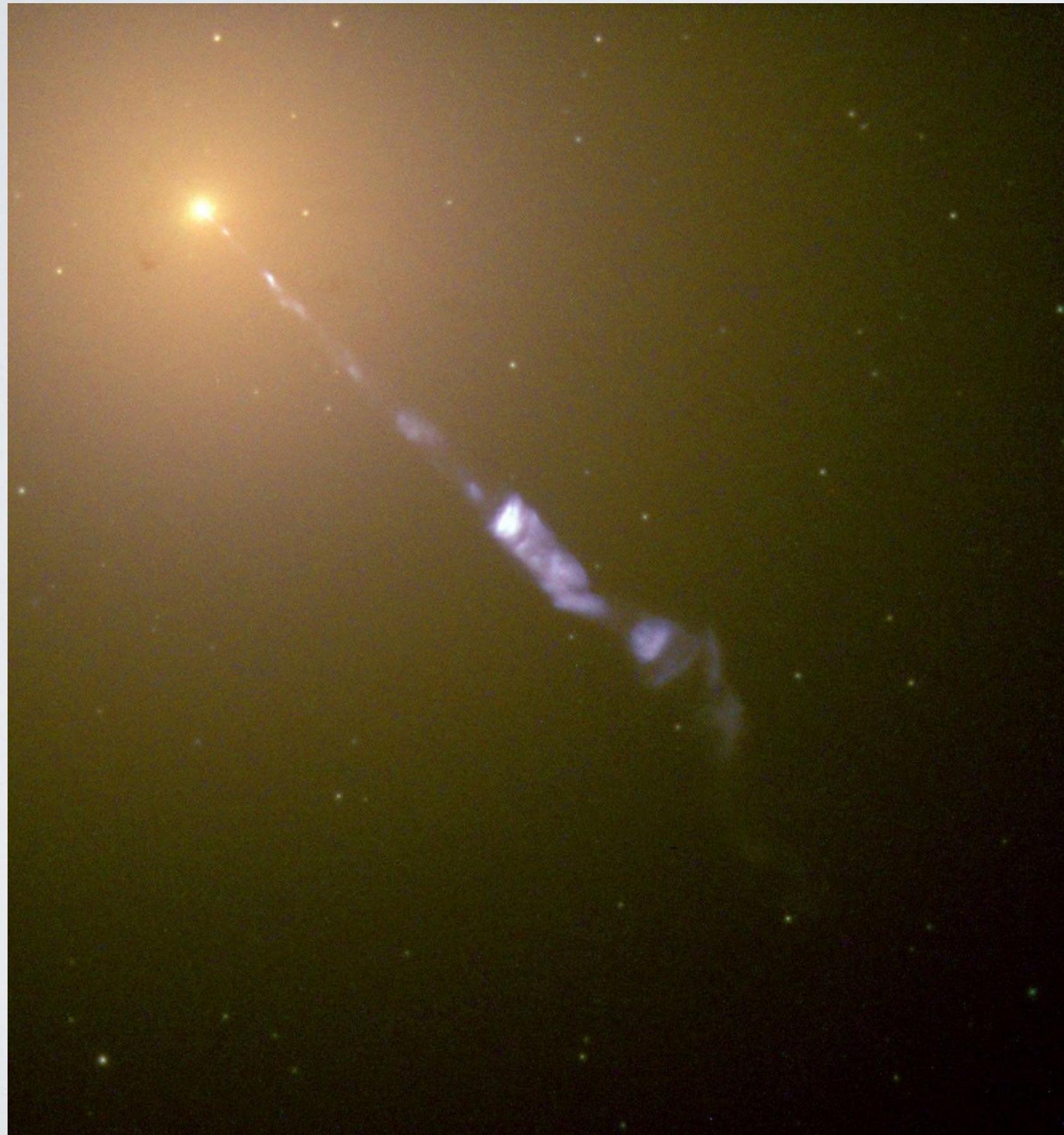
Black Hole Image of M87*
(Event Horizon Telescope)



BLACK HOLE IMAGE

2019

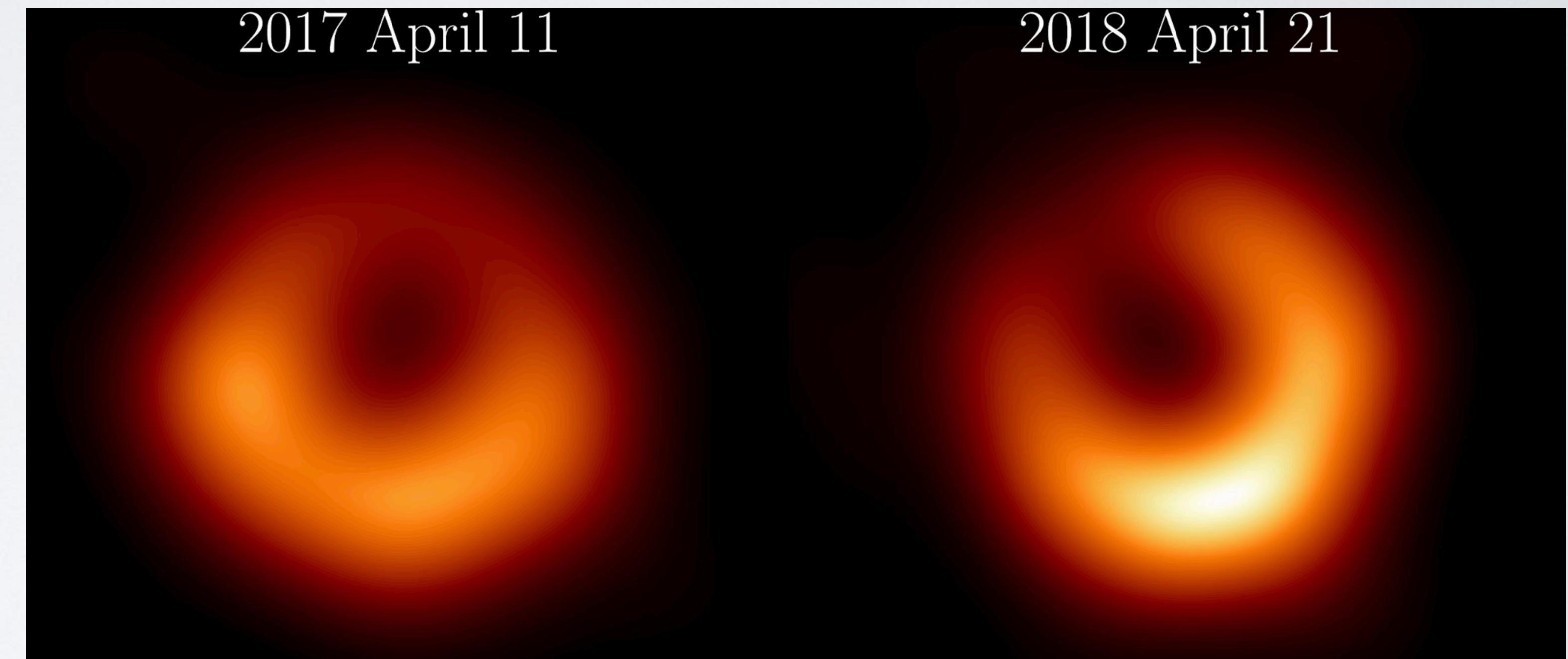
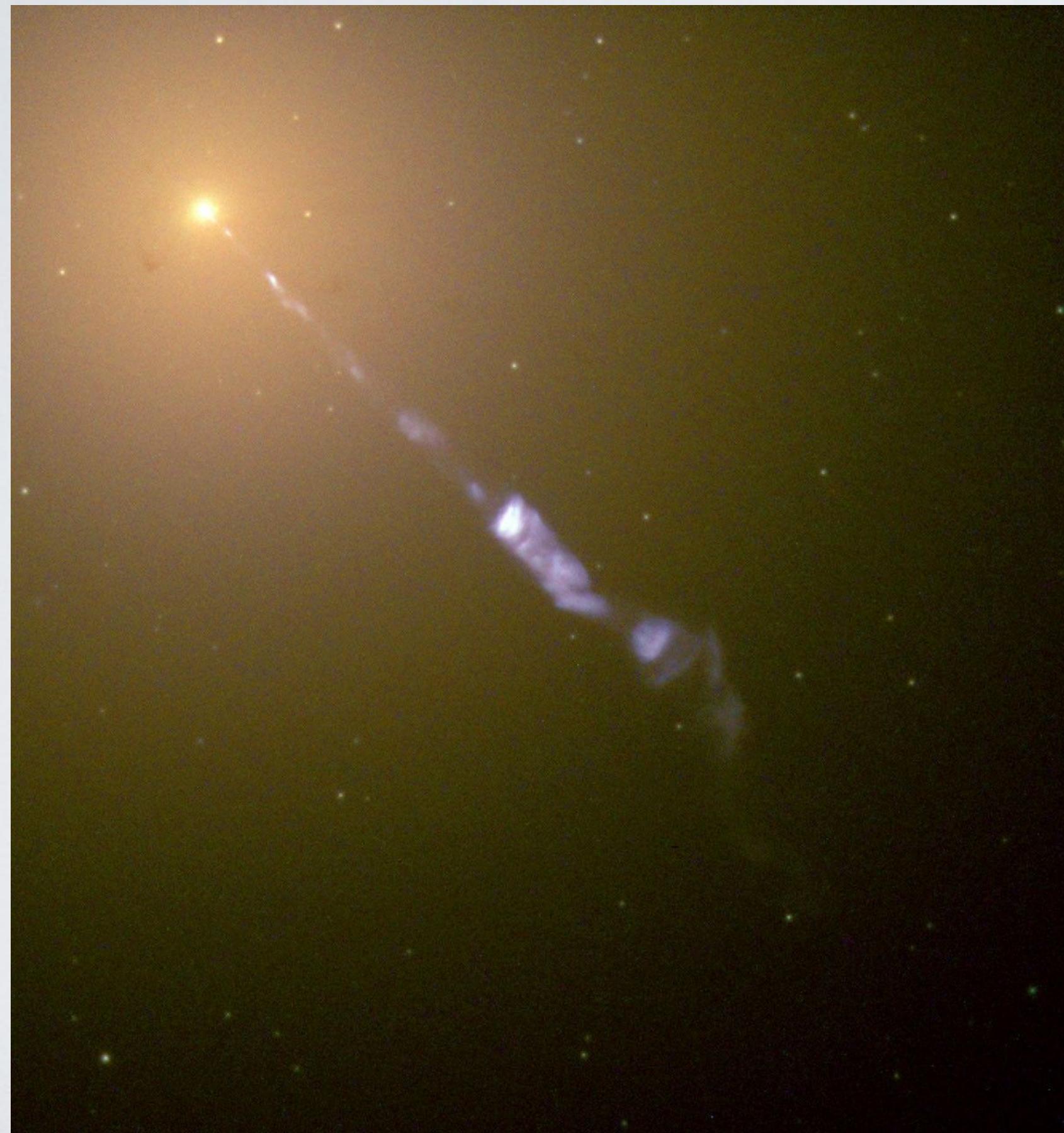
Black Hole Image of M87*
(Event Horizon Telescope)



BLACK HOLE IMAGE

2019

Black Hole Image of M87*
(Event Horizon Telescope)



BLACK HOLE IMAGE

2019

Black Hole Image of M87*
(Event Horizon Telescope)

BLACK HOLE IMAGE

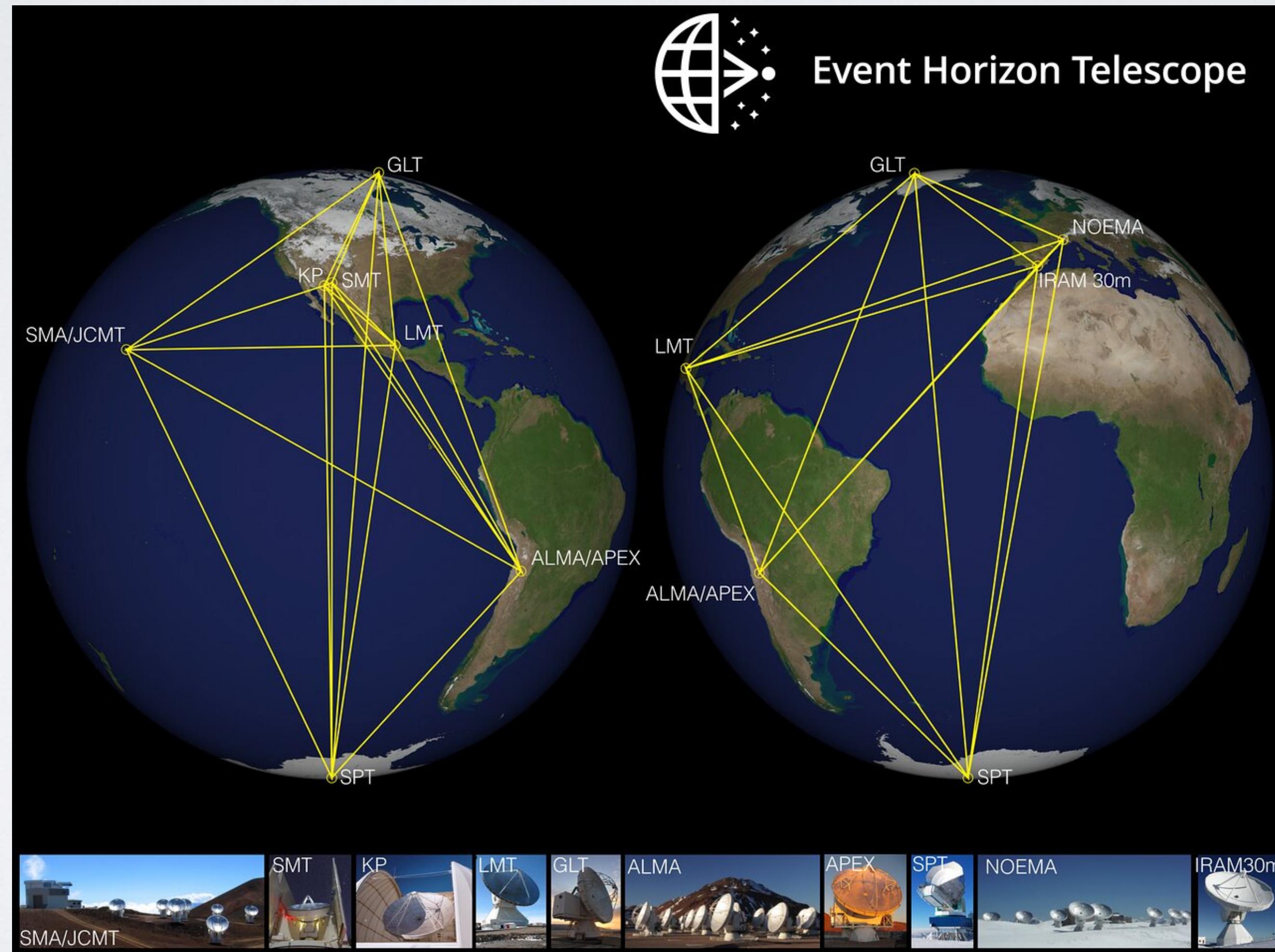
2019

Black Hole Image of M87*
(Event Horizon Telescope)

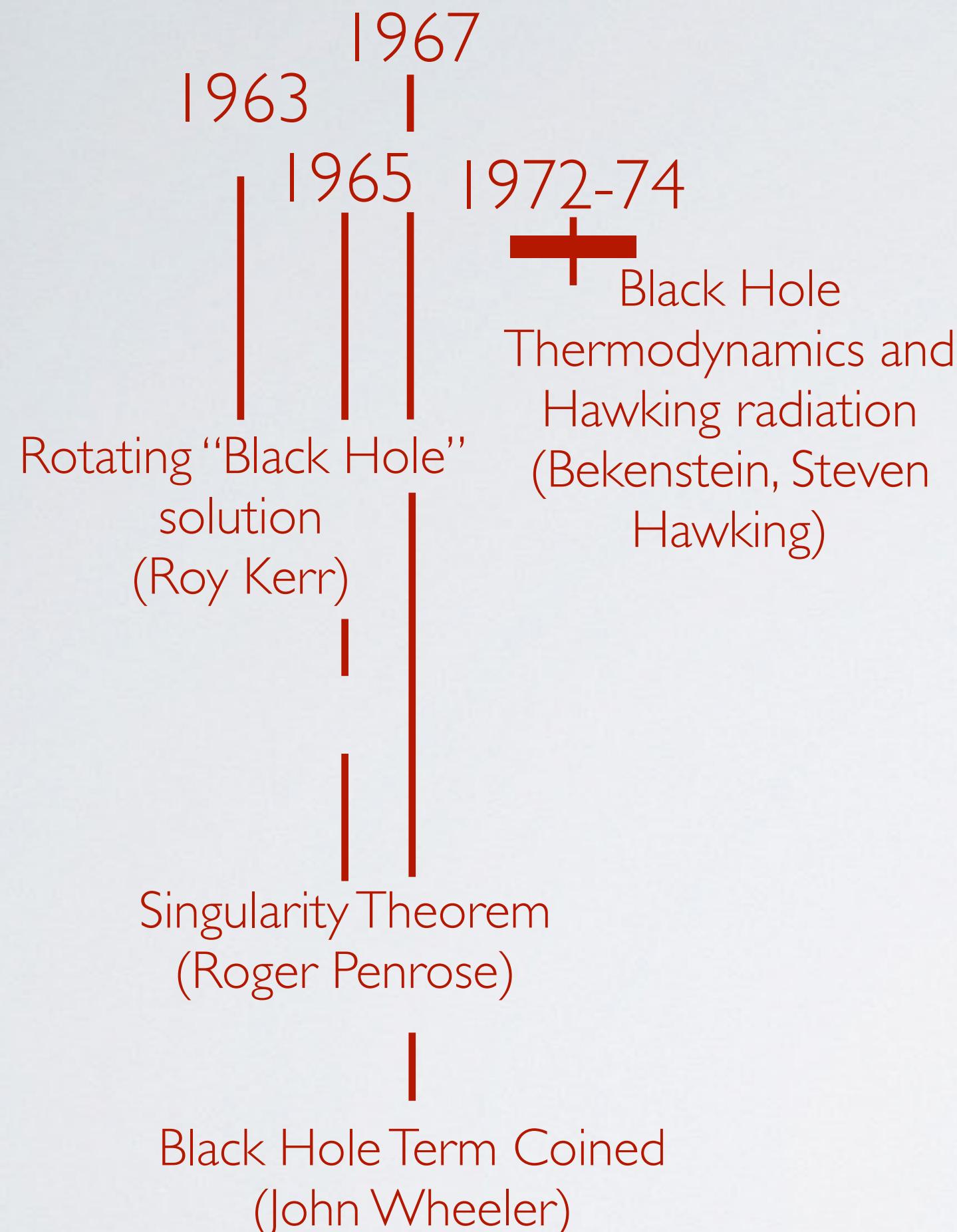
BLACK HOLE IMAGE

2019

Black Hole Image of M87*
(Event Horizon Telescope)



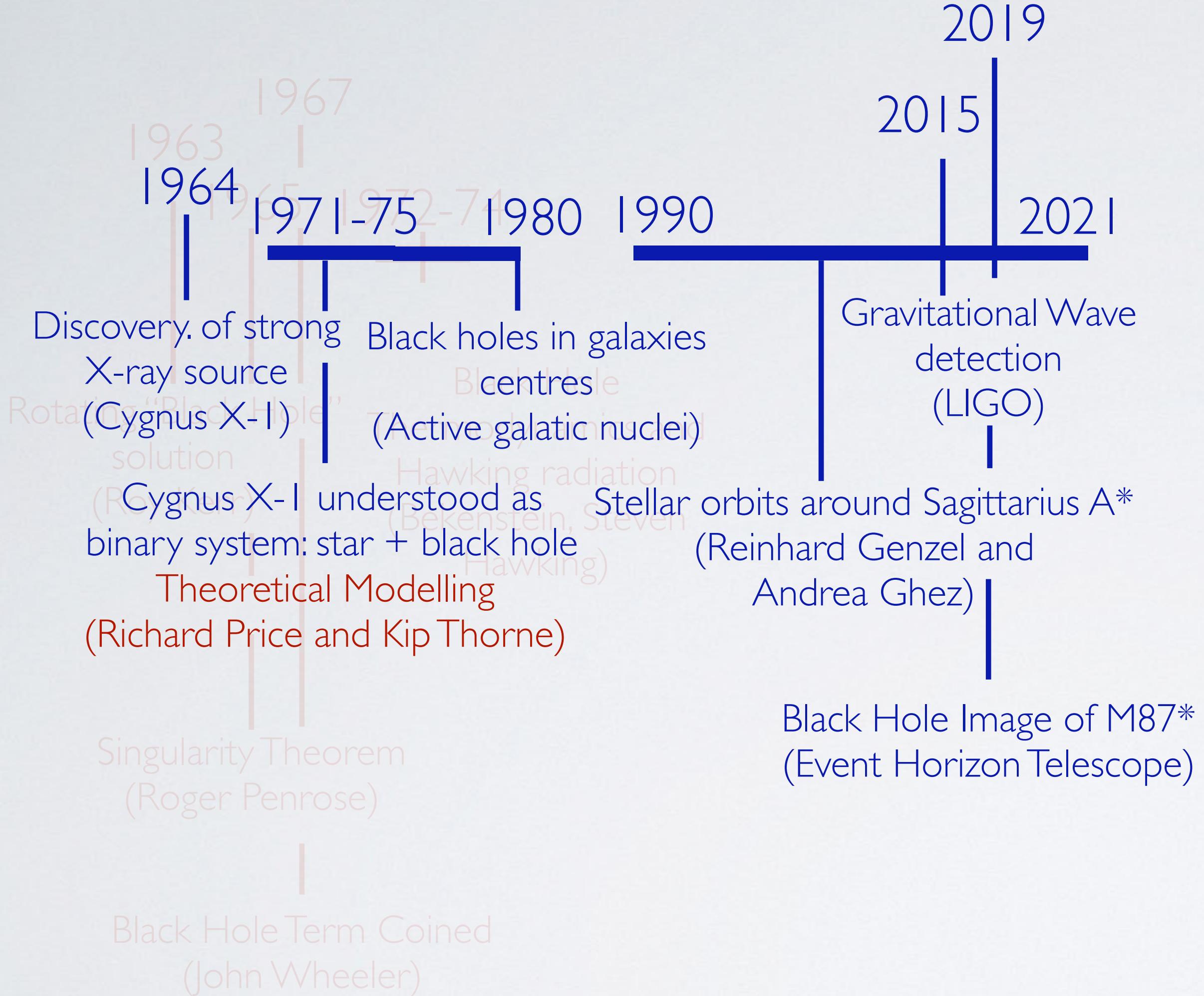
BLACK HOLE TIMELINE



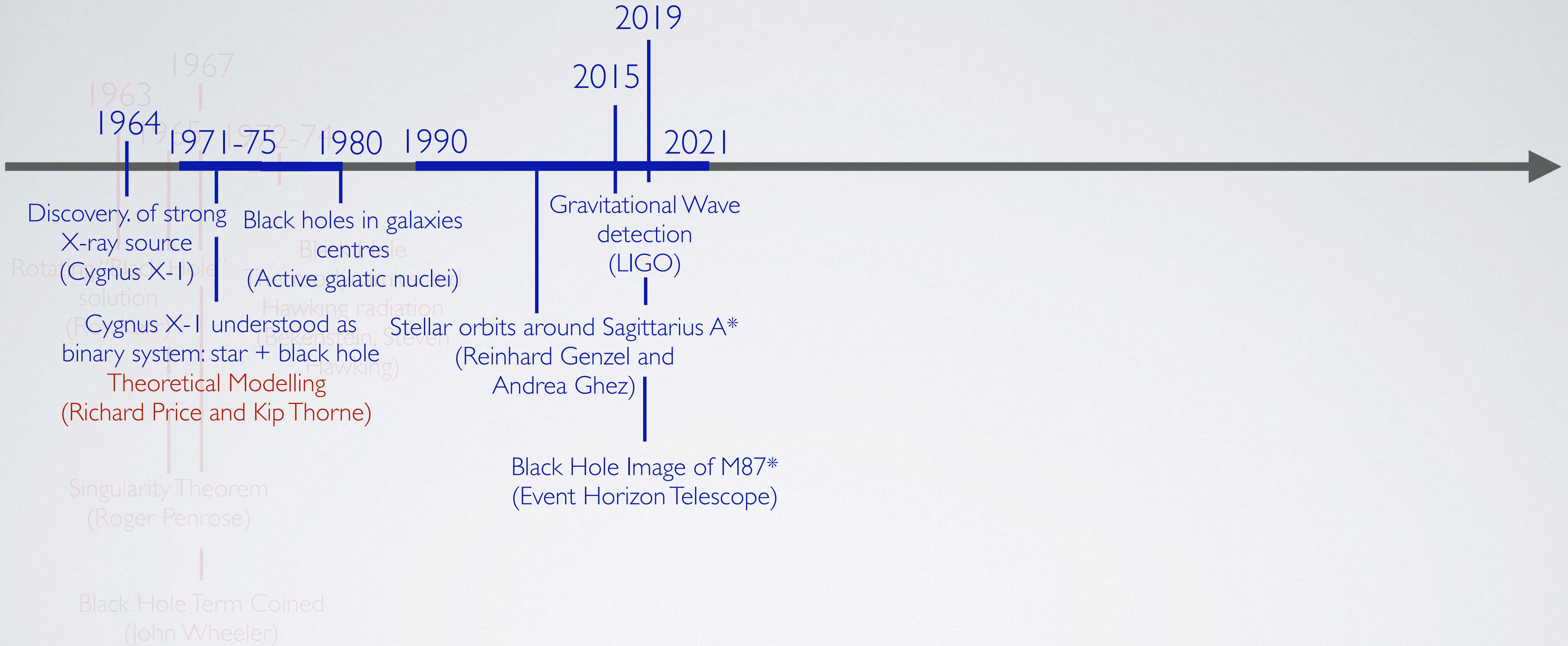
BLACK HOLE TIMELINE



BLACK HOLE TIMELINE



BLACK HOLE TIMELINE



BLACK HOLE COMICS

2025-2027

|

NBI + VIA Black Hole
Comics Project



BLACK HOLE COMICS

2025-2027

NBI + VIA Black Hole
Comics Project

