Emergent geometry and quantum gravity

$$\Psi_{\det}(y_1,\dots,y_{N_k}) := \sum_{\sigma\in S_{N_k}} (-1)^{|\sigma|}\psi_{\sigma(1)}(y_1)\cdots\psi_{\sigma(N_k)}(y_{N_k}).$$

$$d\mathbb{P}_{N,\beta} := \frac{1}{Z_{N,\beta}}\left|\Psi_{\det}(y_1,y_2,\dots,y_N)^2\right|^{\frac{3\beta}{\lambda_k}} dV_0^{\otimes N},$$

$$Z_{N,\beta} = C_N\int_{(S^2)^N}\prod_{1\leq i\neq j\leq N}\|x_i-x_j\|_{\mathbb{R}^3}^{\frac{2\beta}{N-1}}\,dA^{\otimes N},$$

Daniel Persson
Department of Mathematical Sciences
Chalmers University of Technology
University of Gothenburg

Colloquium
Department of Mathematics and
Mathematical Statistics
Umeå University
May 11, 2022

The talk is based on the paper

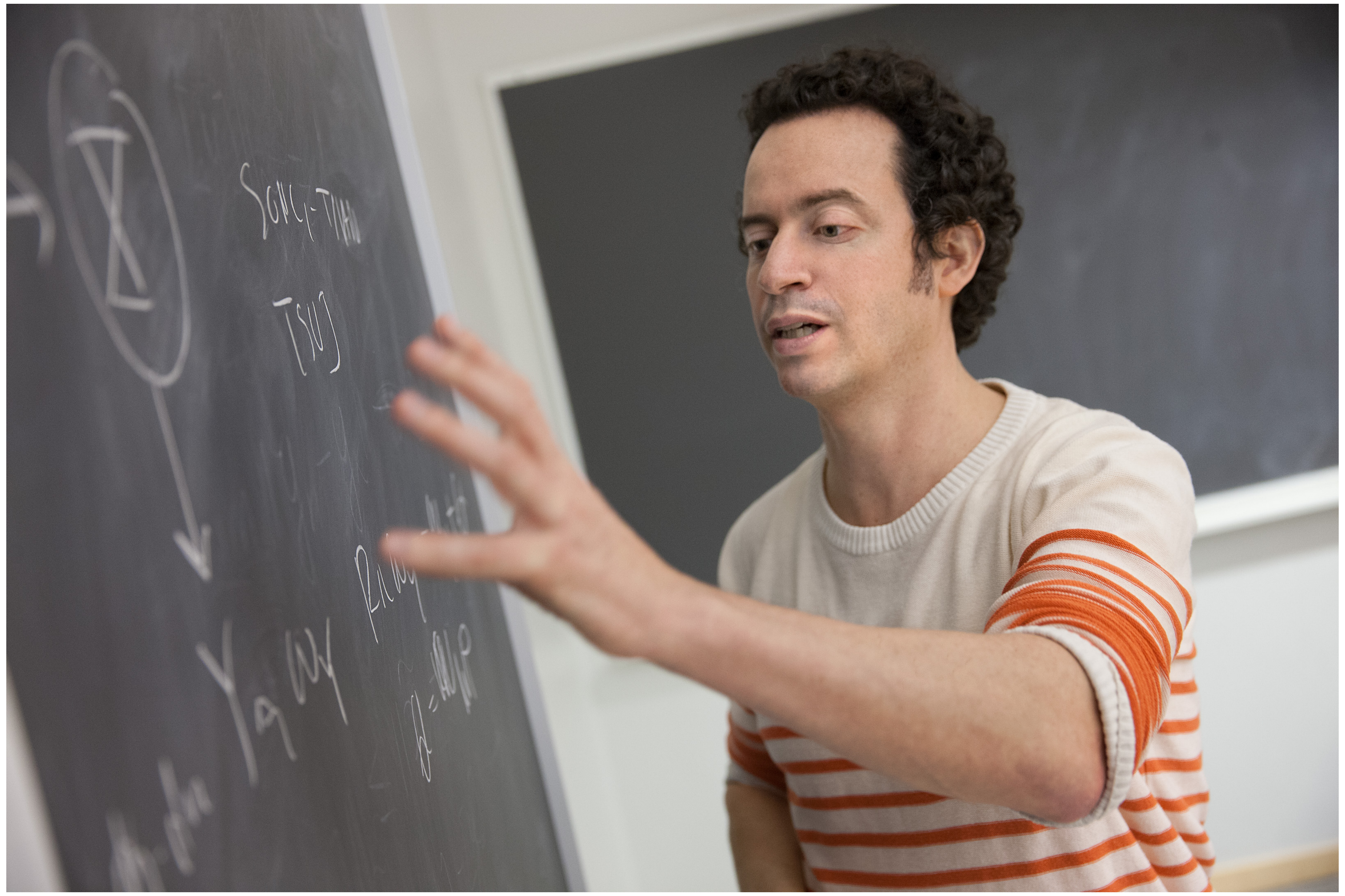
"Emergent Sasaki-Einstein Geometry and AdS/CFT"

Robert Berman, Tristan Collins, D.P.

Nature Communications, vol **13**, article number 365 (2022)

(and work in progress)

Tristan (MIT)



Robert (Chalmers)

Phys-i-cal Math-e-ma-tics, n.

Pronunciation: Brit. /ˈfɪzɨkl ˌmaθ(ə)ˈmatɪks / , U.S. /ˈfɪzək(ə)l ˌmæθ(ə)ˈmædɪks/

Physical mathematics is a fusion of mathematical and physical ideas, motivated by the dual, but equally central, goals of

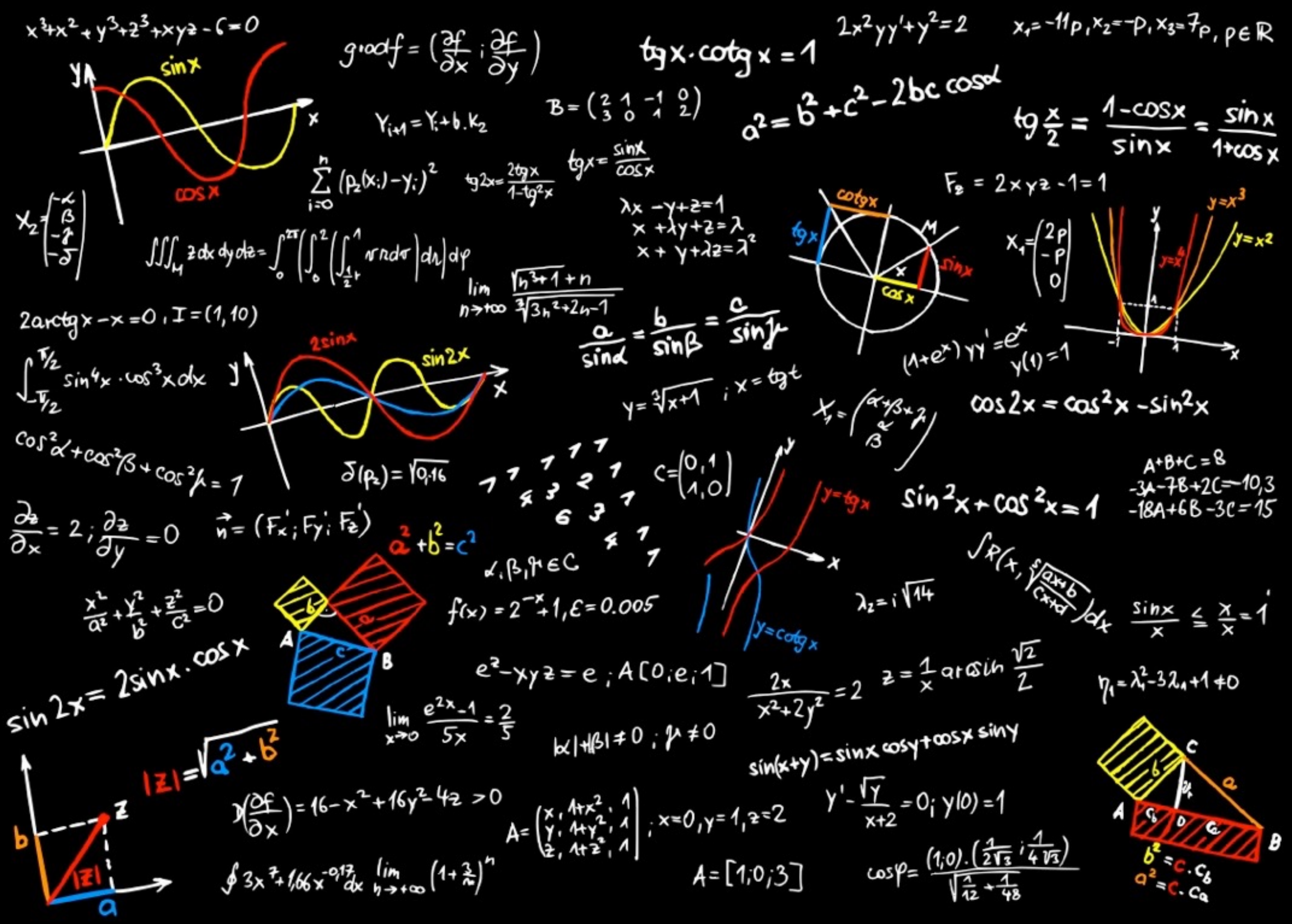
1. Elucidating the laws of nature at their most fundamental level,

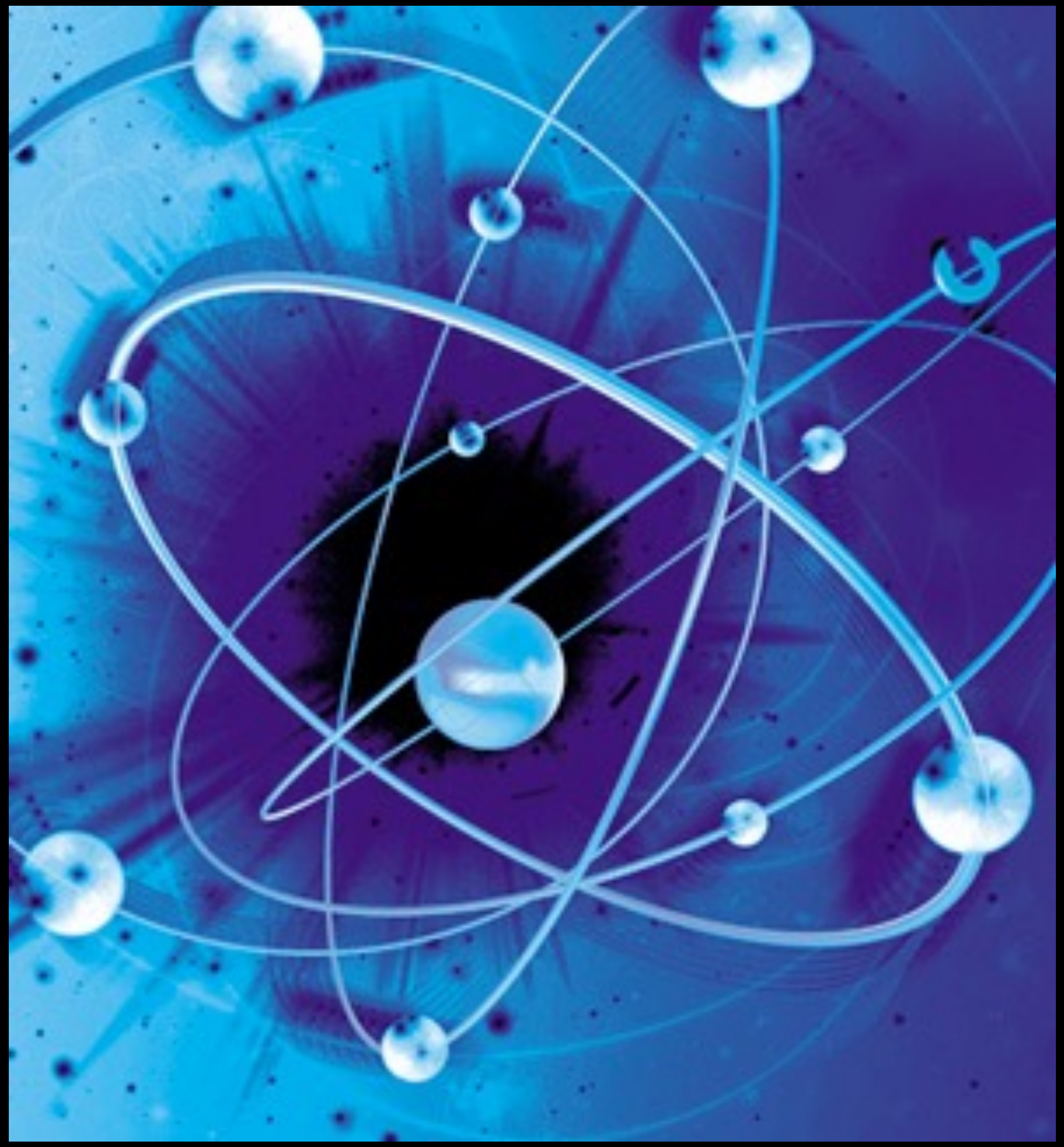
together with

2. Discovering deep mathematical truths.

[Greg Moore]

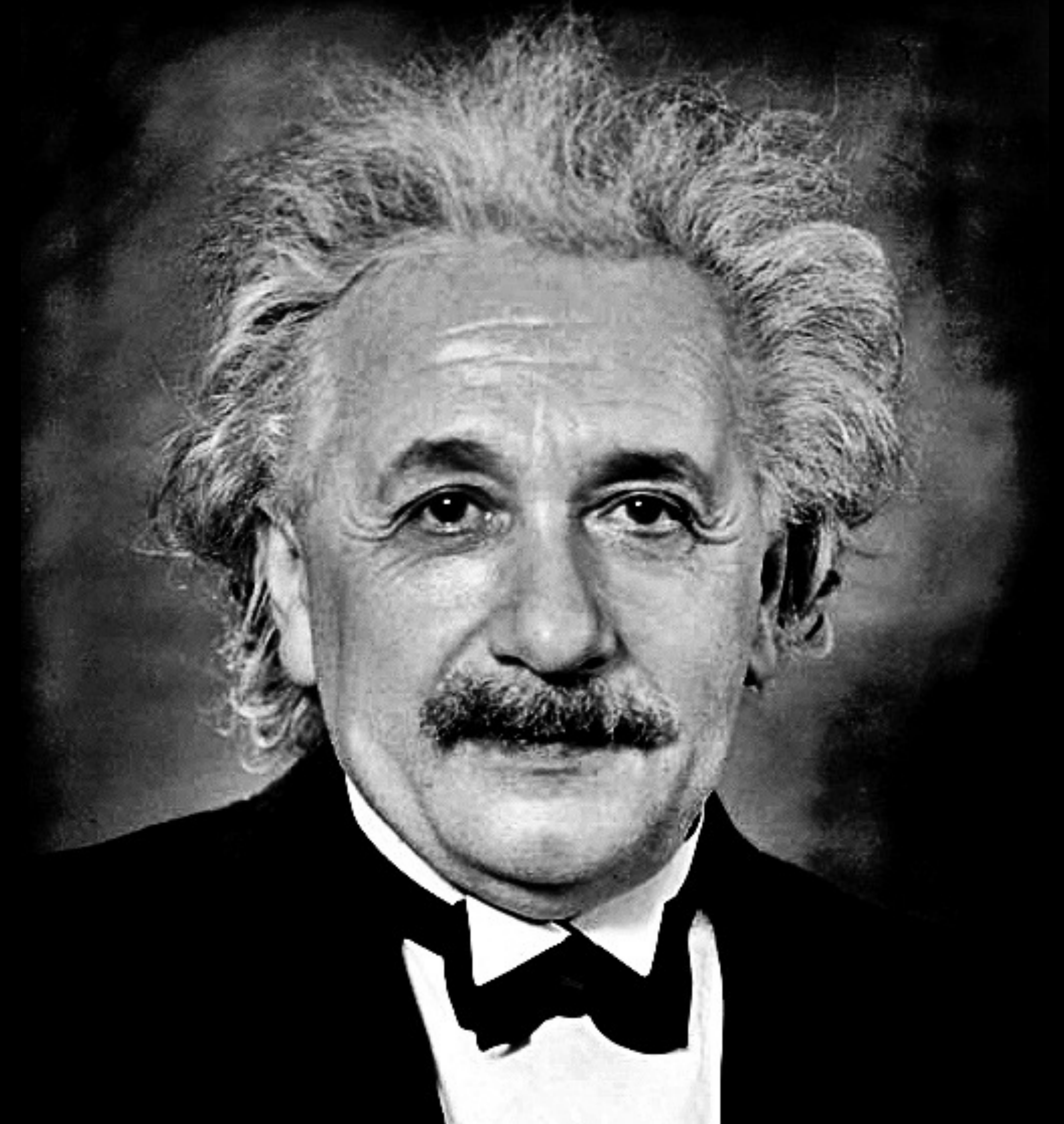
When we ask deep questions about Nature we are led deep into the world of mathematics





How can it be that mathematics, being after all a product of human thought which is independent of experience, is so admirably appropriate to the objects of reality?

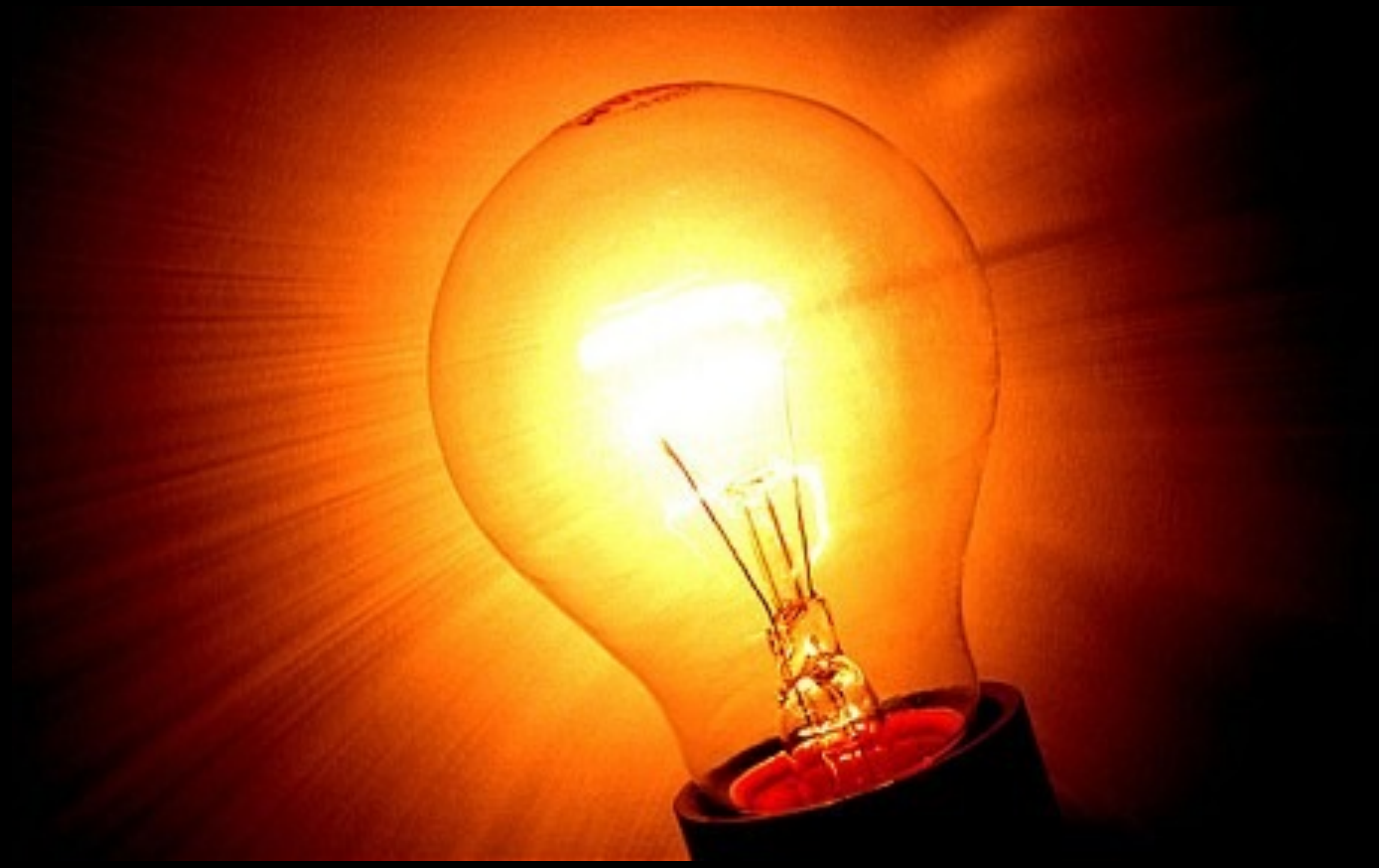
- A. Einstein




The fundamental laws of Nature are determined by symmetries!

strong nuclear force

gravity



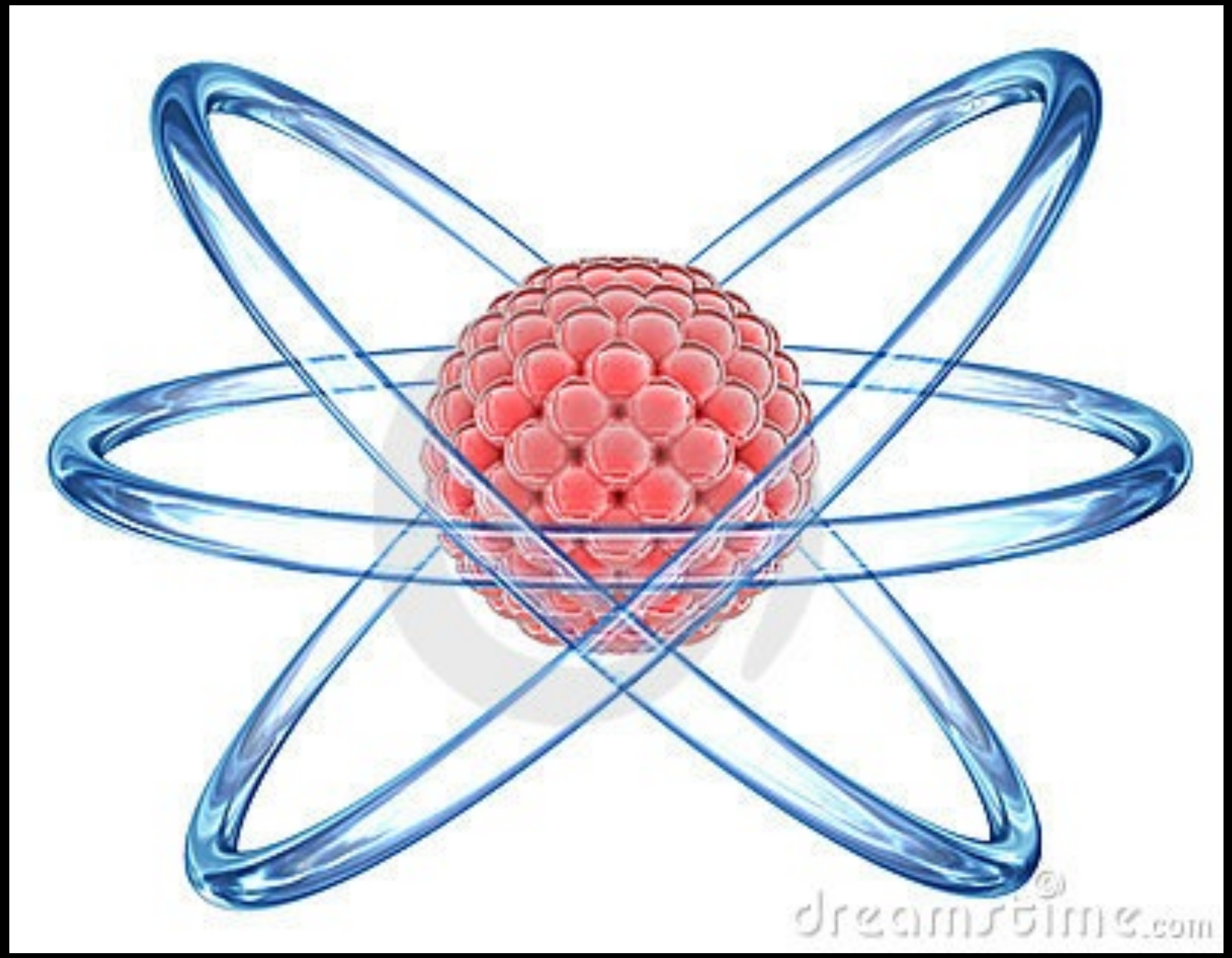
electromagnetism

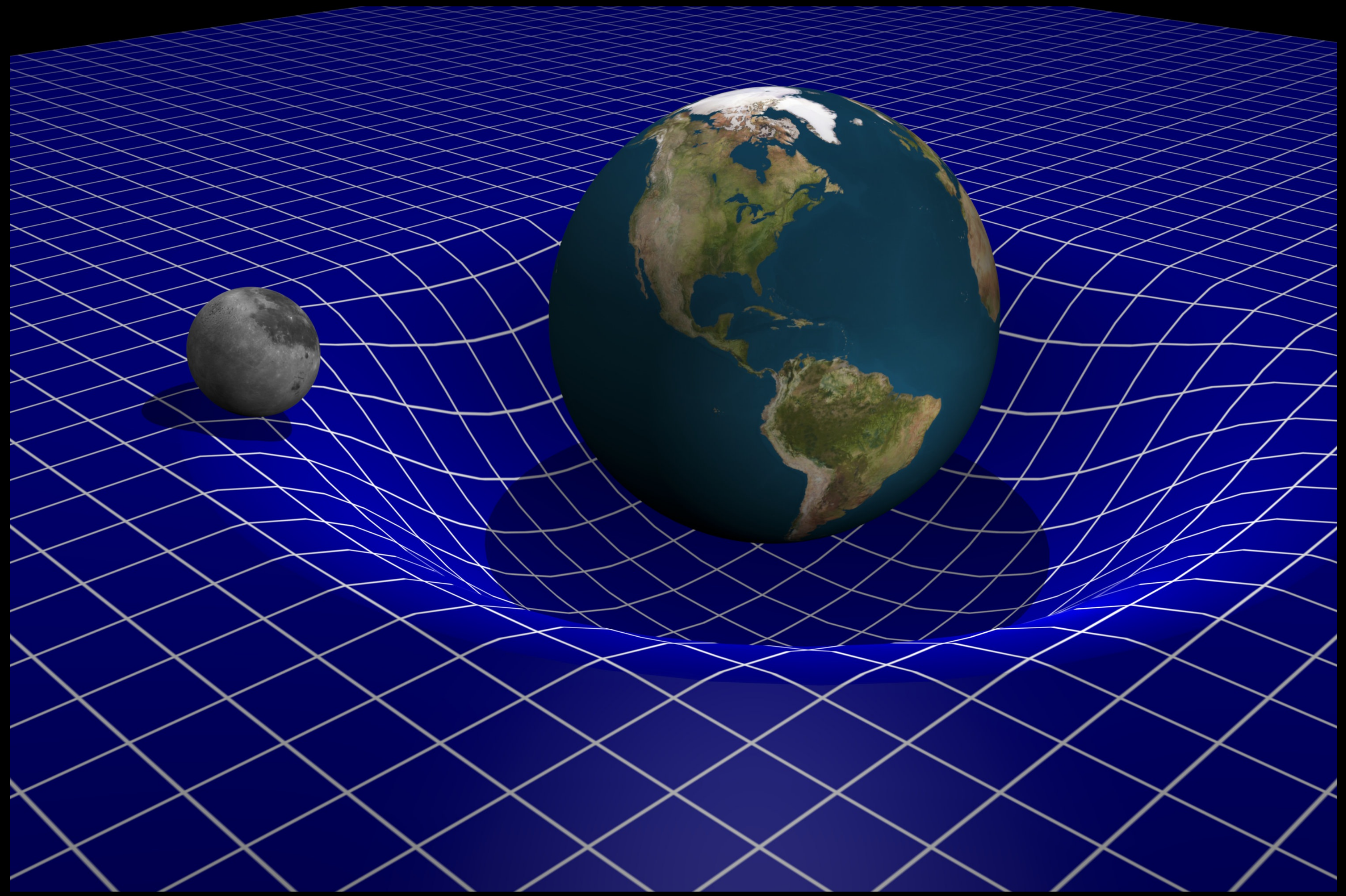
weak nuclear force





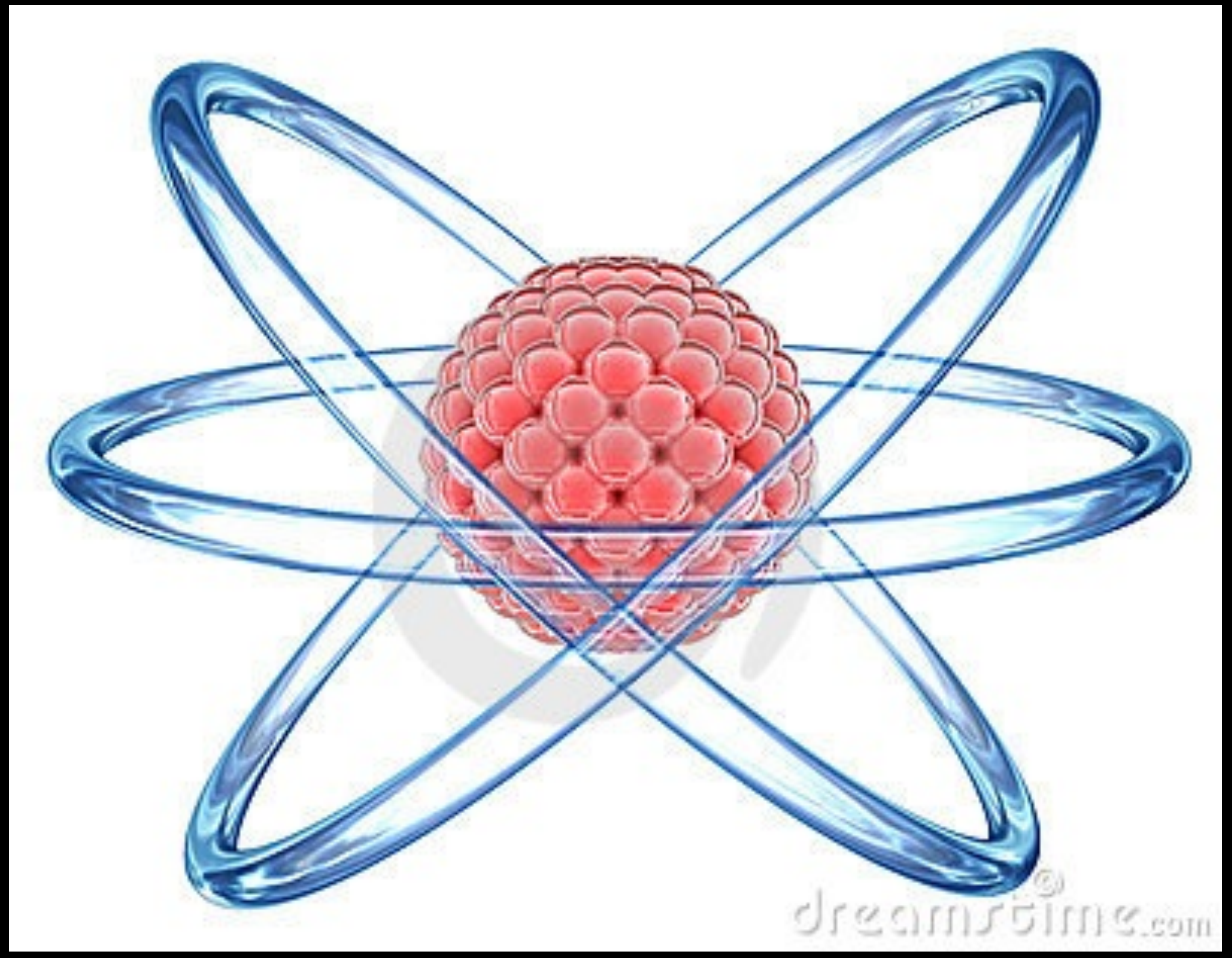
PlONK
©Lana

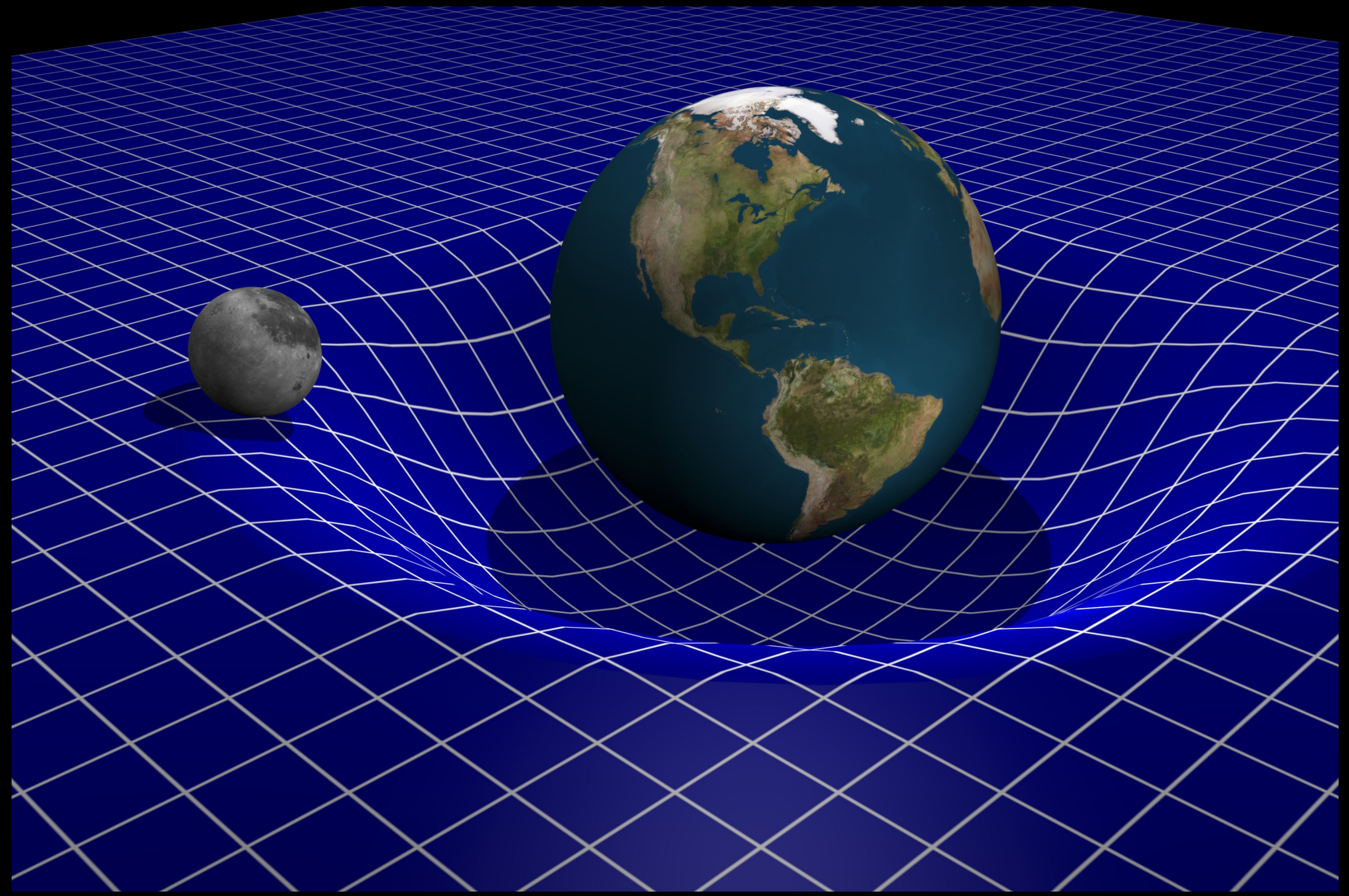




microcosmos

macrocosmos

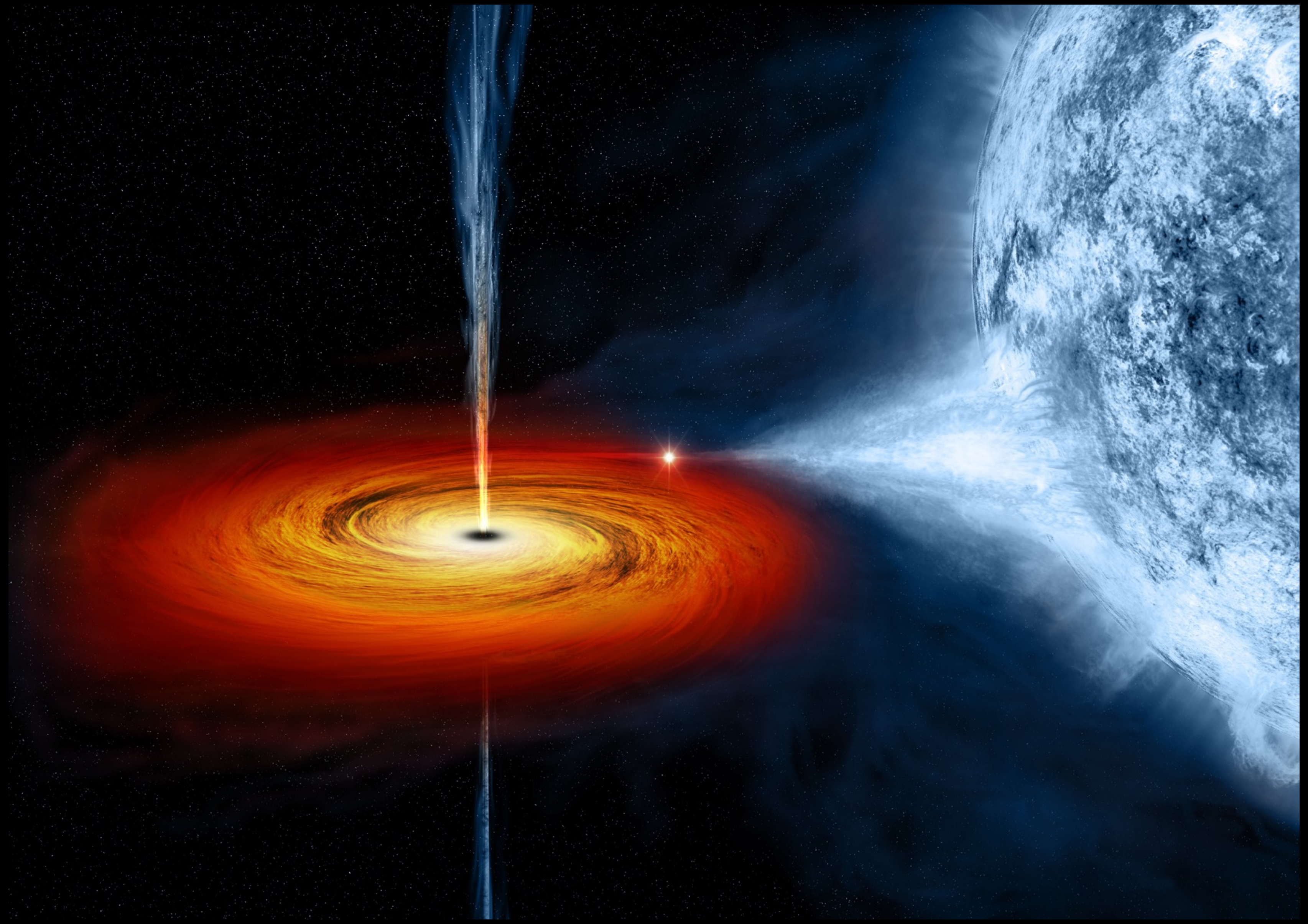




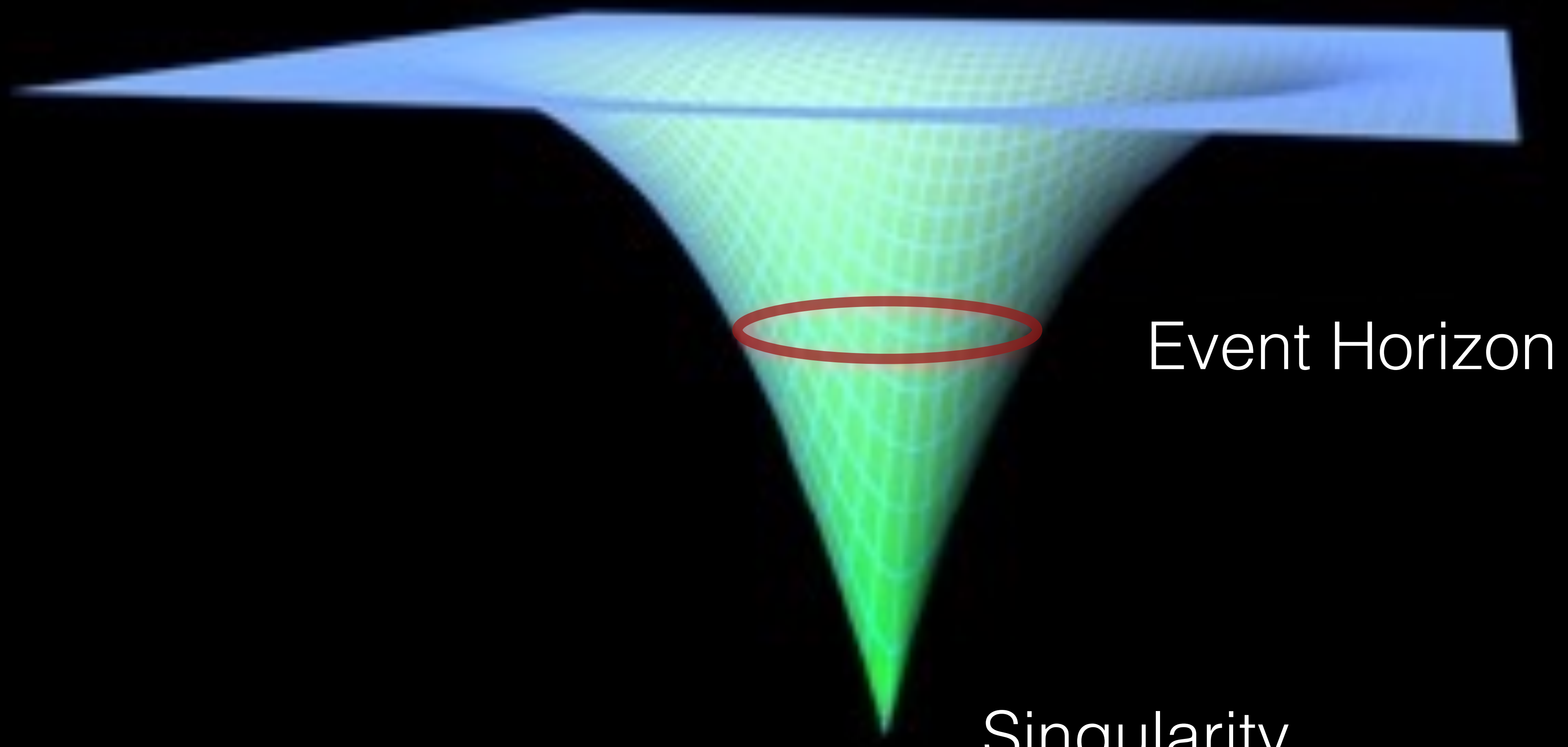
quantum field theory
(Yang-Mills gauge theory)

general relativity

A black hole forms in the final stage of the collapse of a sufficiently large star

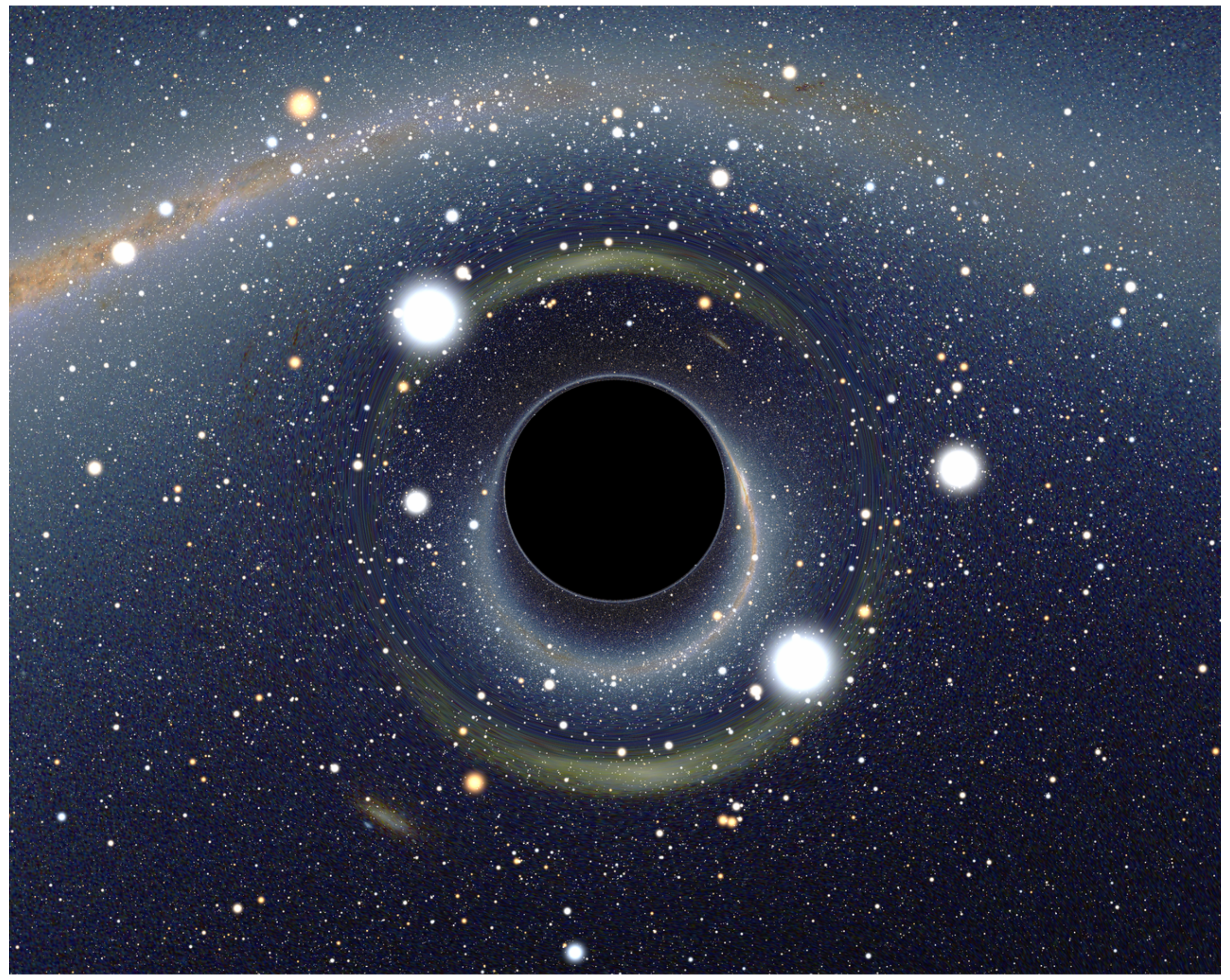


At its centre space and time break down into a **singularity**

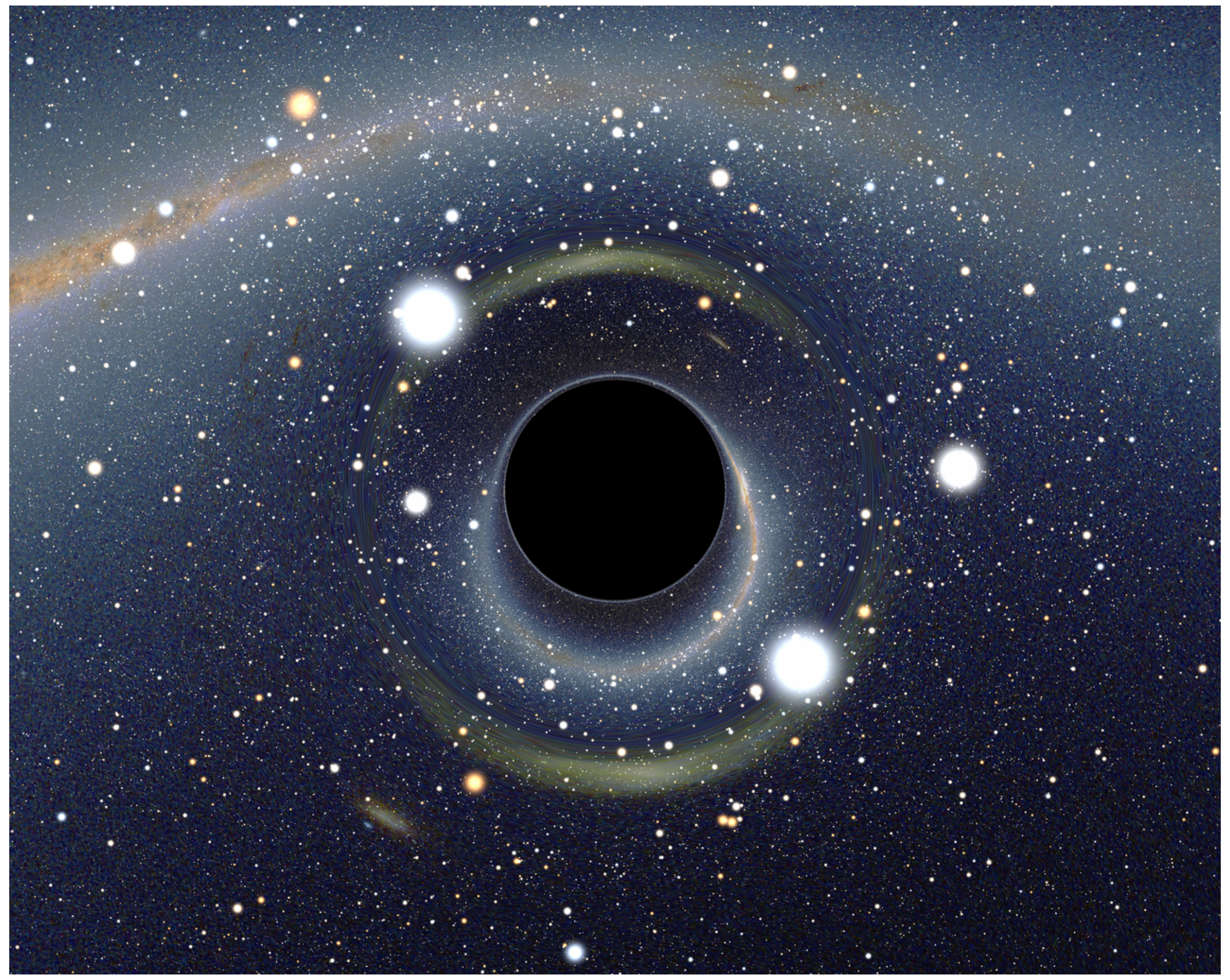


Do quantum effects resolve the singularity?

What is a black hole?



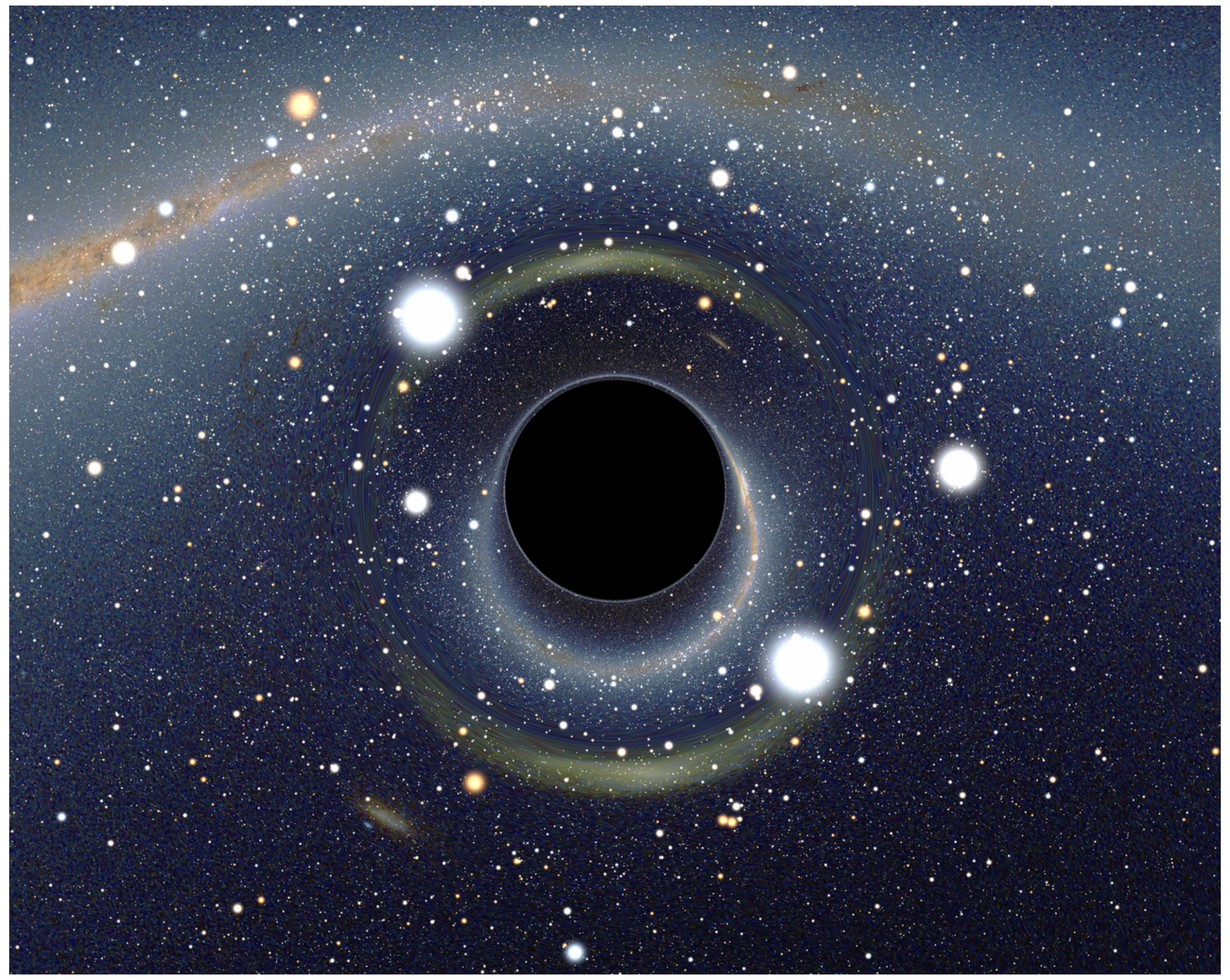
What is a black hole?



Einstein's equations describes the curvature of spacetime

$$R_{\mu\nu}(g) - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R(g) = T_{\mu\nu}(g, F, \dots)$$

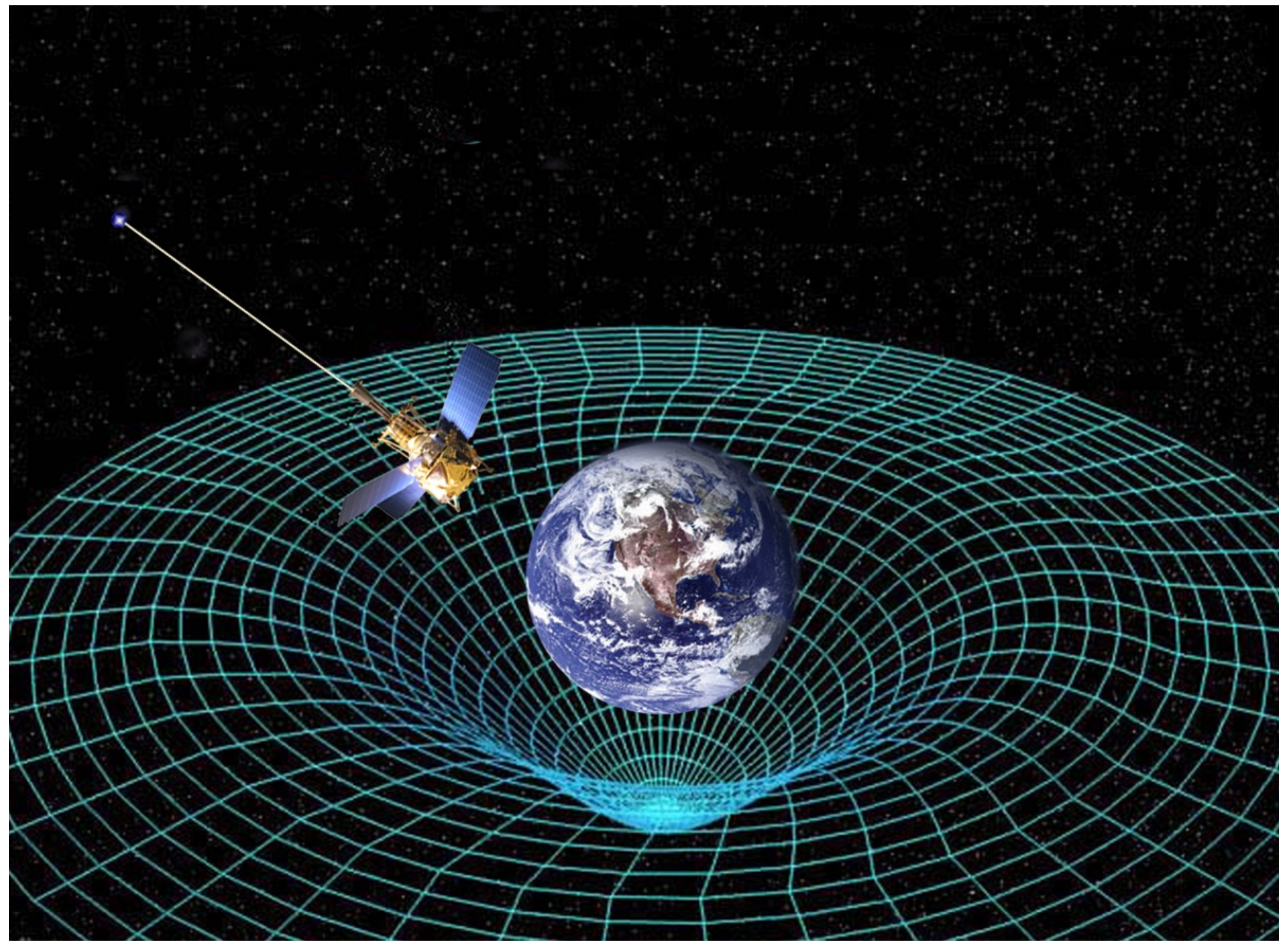
What is a black hole?



Einstein's equations describes the curvature of spacetime

$$R_{\mu\nu}(g) - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R(g) = T_{\mu\nu}(g, F, \ldots)$$

geometry
(Einstein tensor)

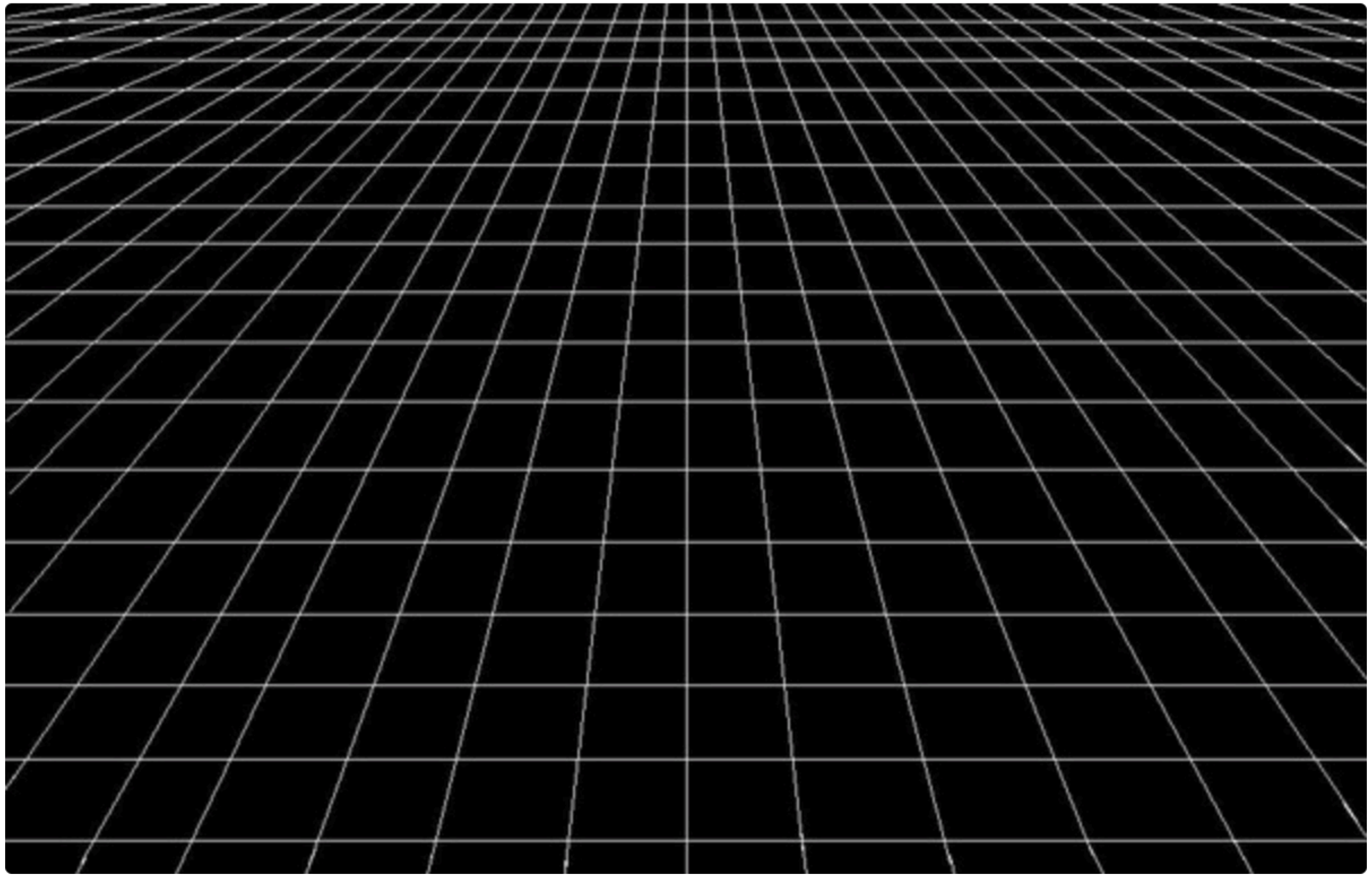


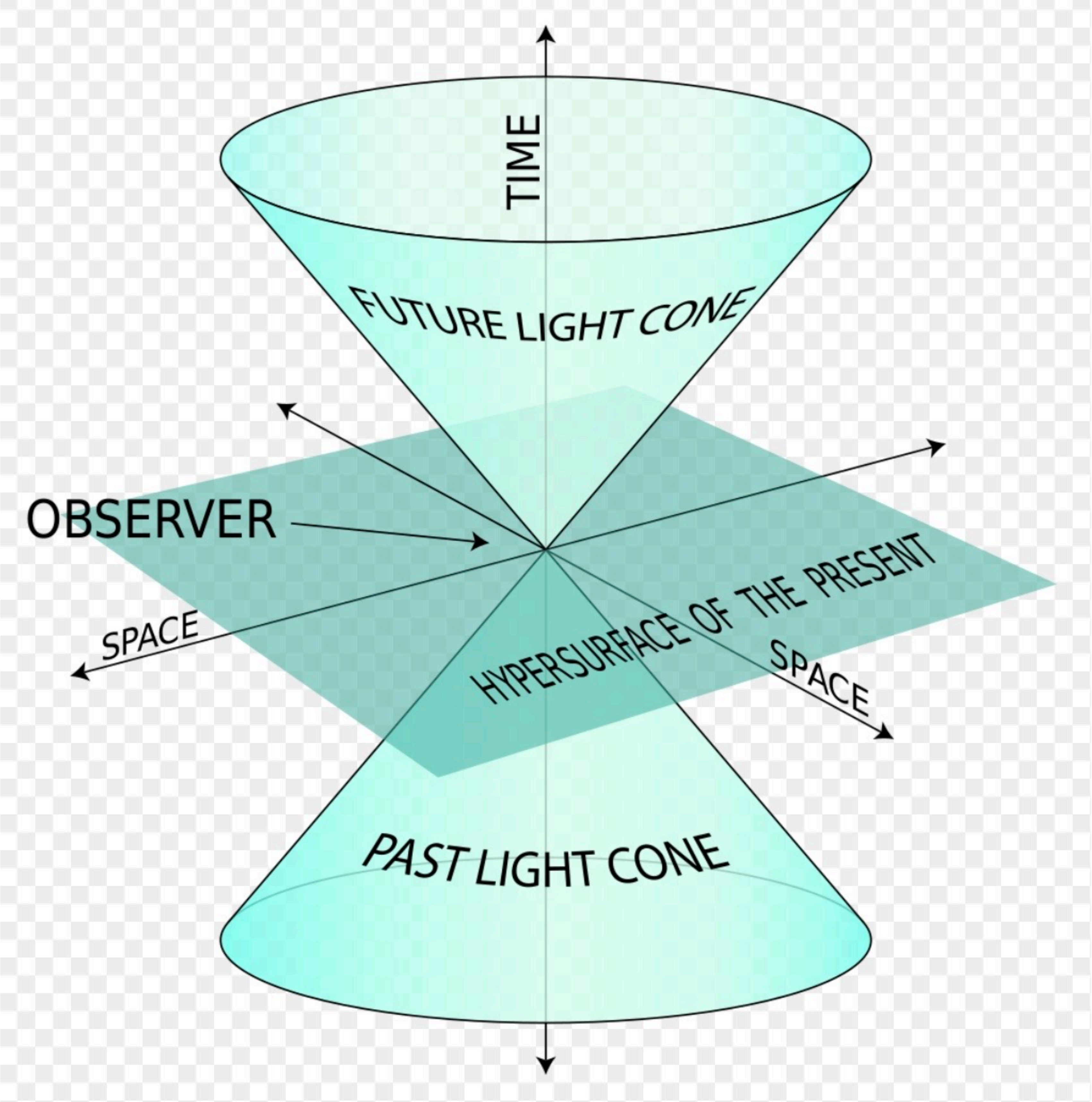
matter
(Stress-energy tensor)

Vacuum equations: $R_{\mu\nu}(g) = 0$ solutions are **Ricci flat:** $\mathrm{Ric}(g) = 0$

Simplest solution: Minkowski space

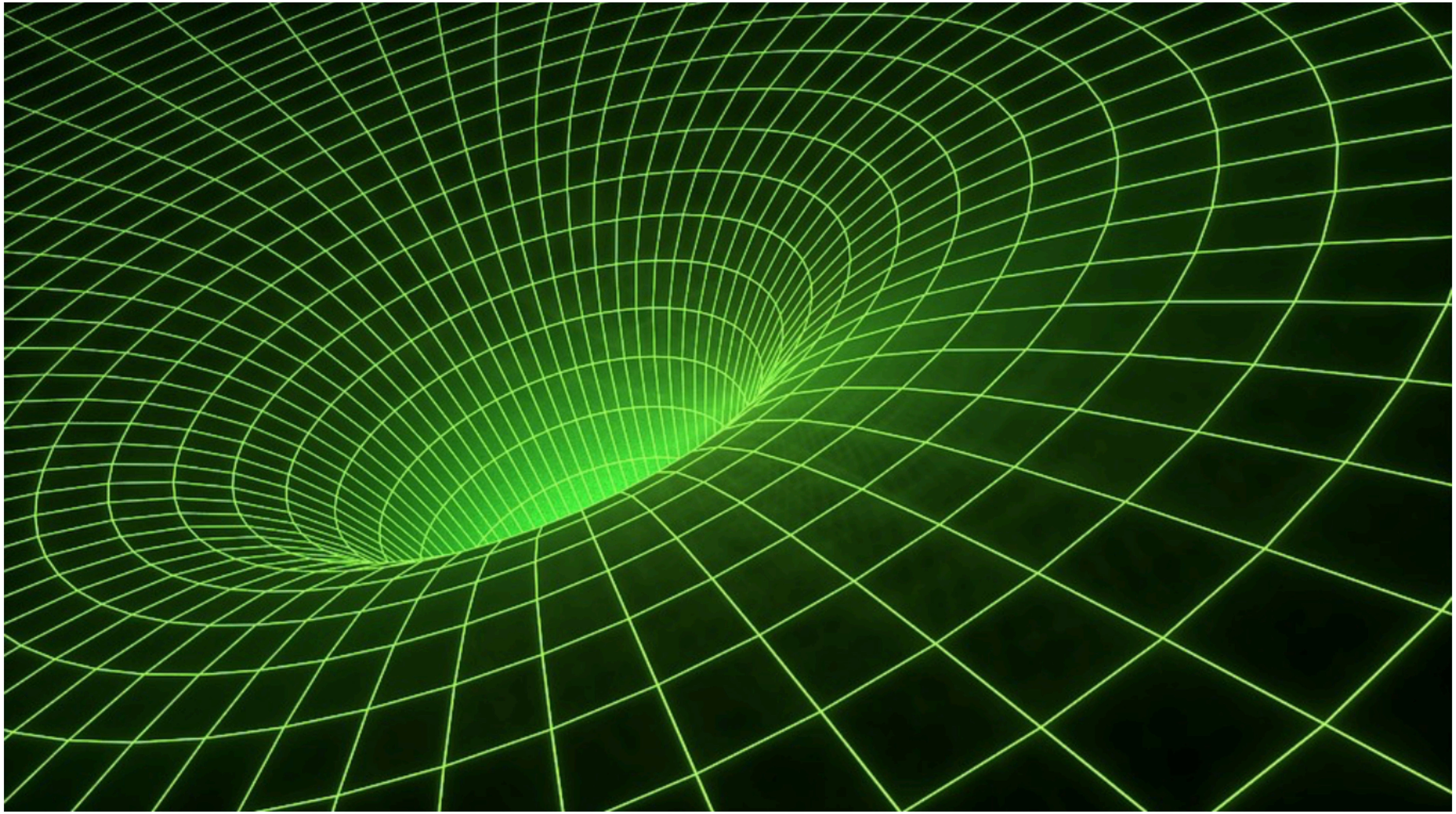
$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu}dx^\mu dx^\nu = -dt^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2$$





Vacuum equations: $R_{\mu\nu}(g) = 0$ solutions are **Ricci flat:** $\mathrm{Ric}(g) = 0$

Schwarzschild black hole solution



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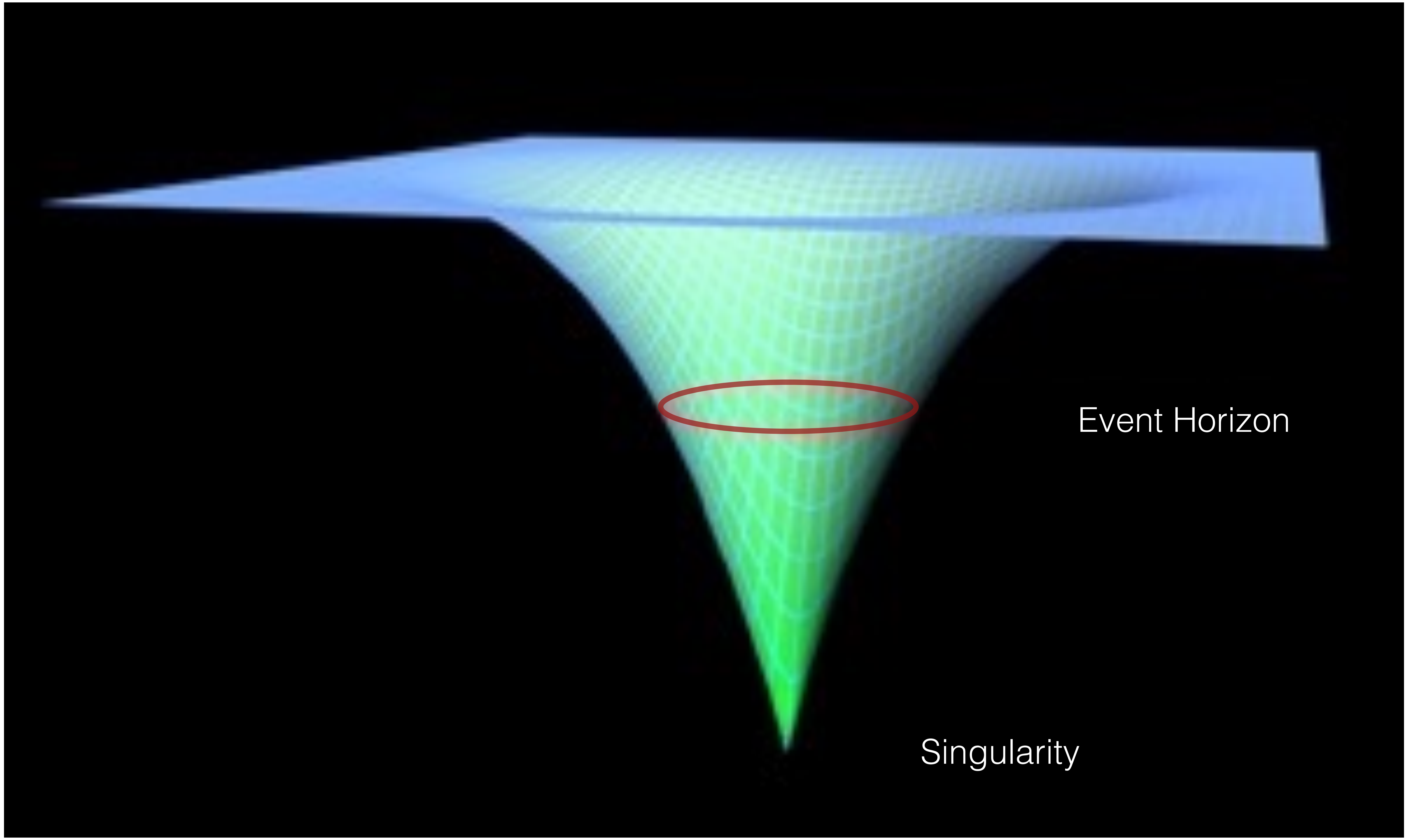


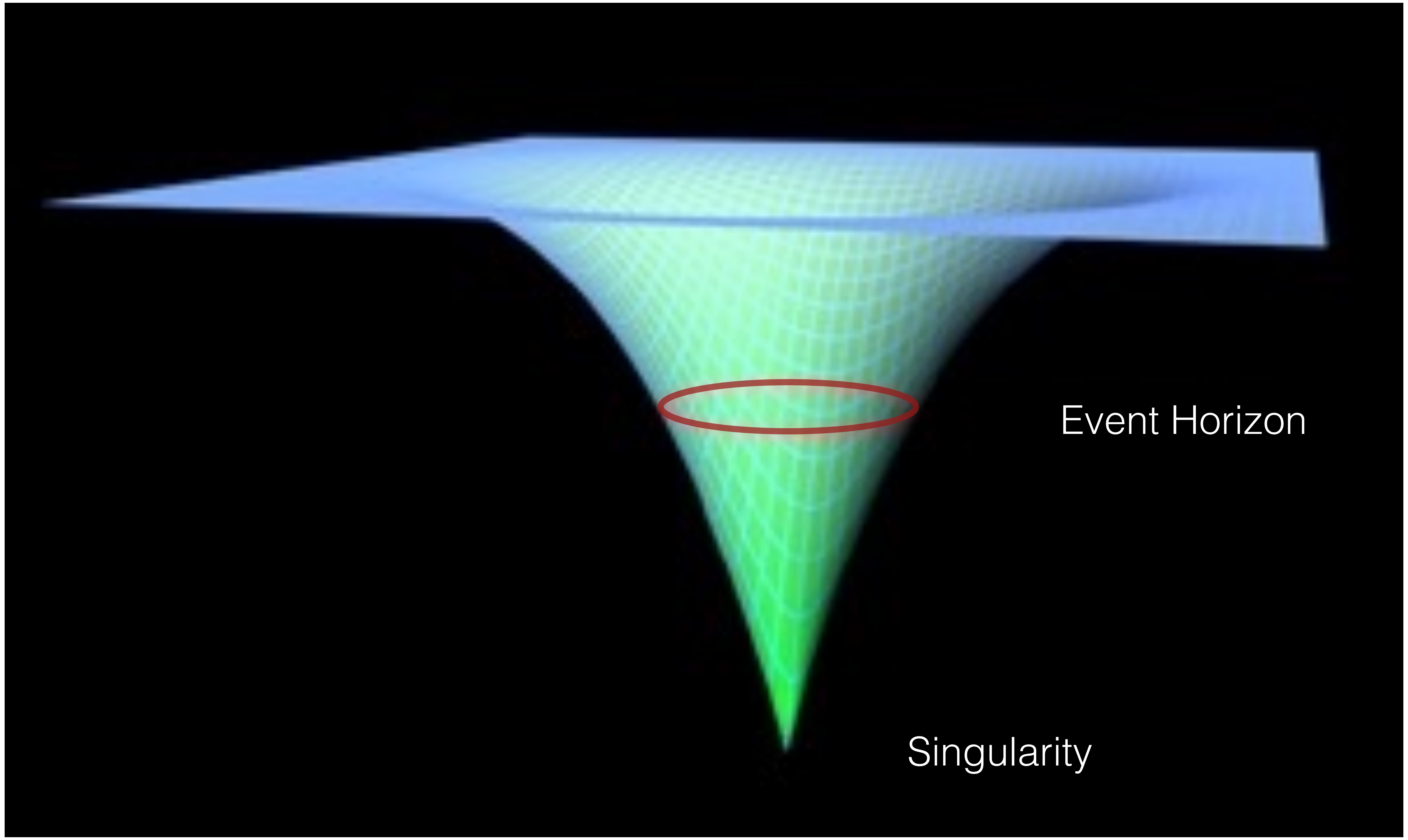
$$r = 2M$$

(coordinate singularity)

$$r = 0$$

(curvature singularity)

The existence of an event horizon suggests a **holographic** description of black holes



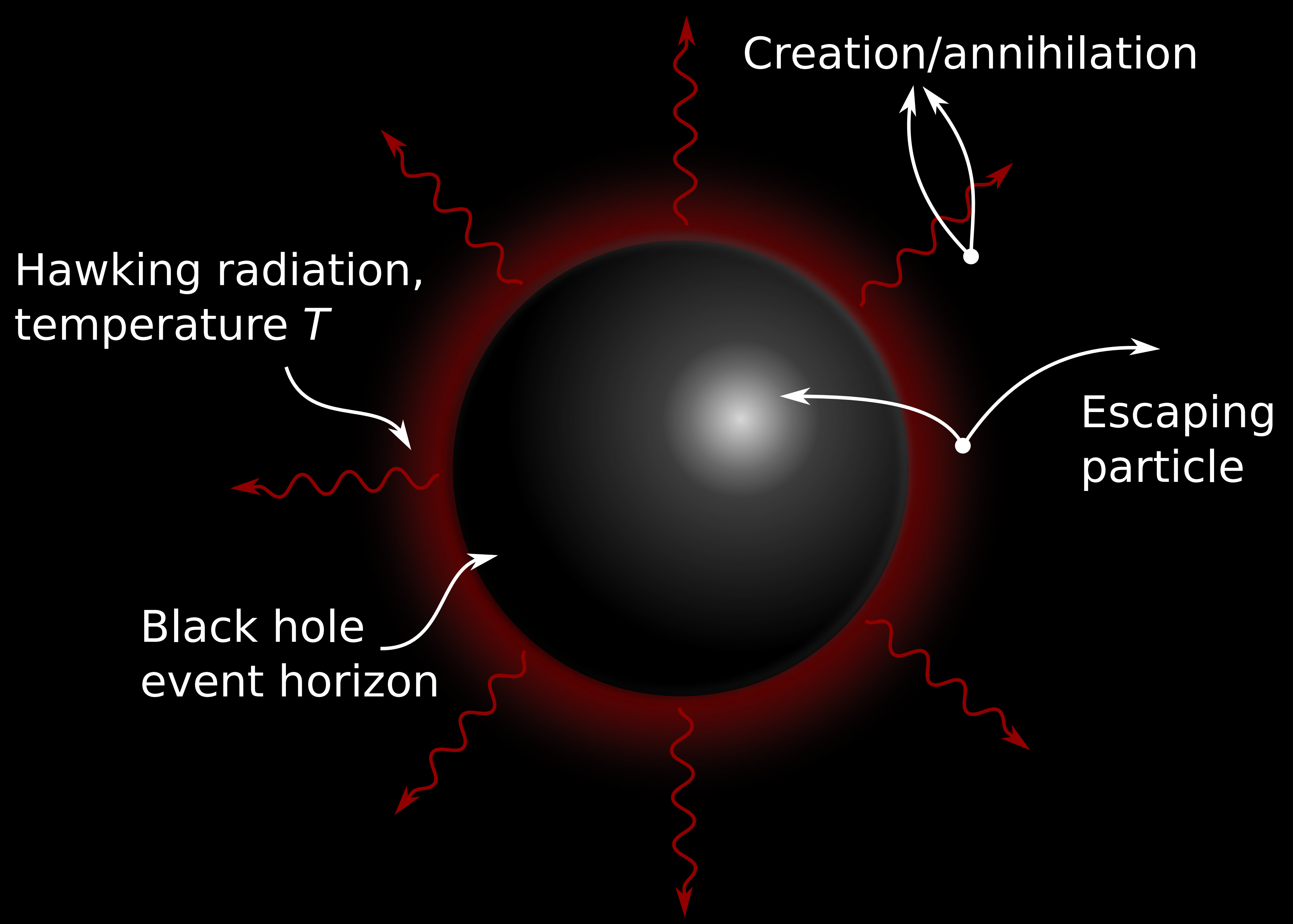
Can this be made more precise?

But black holes are not black!

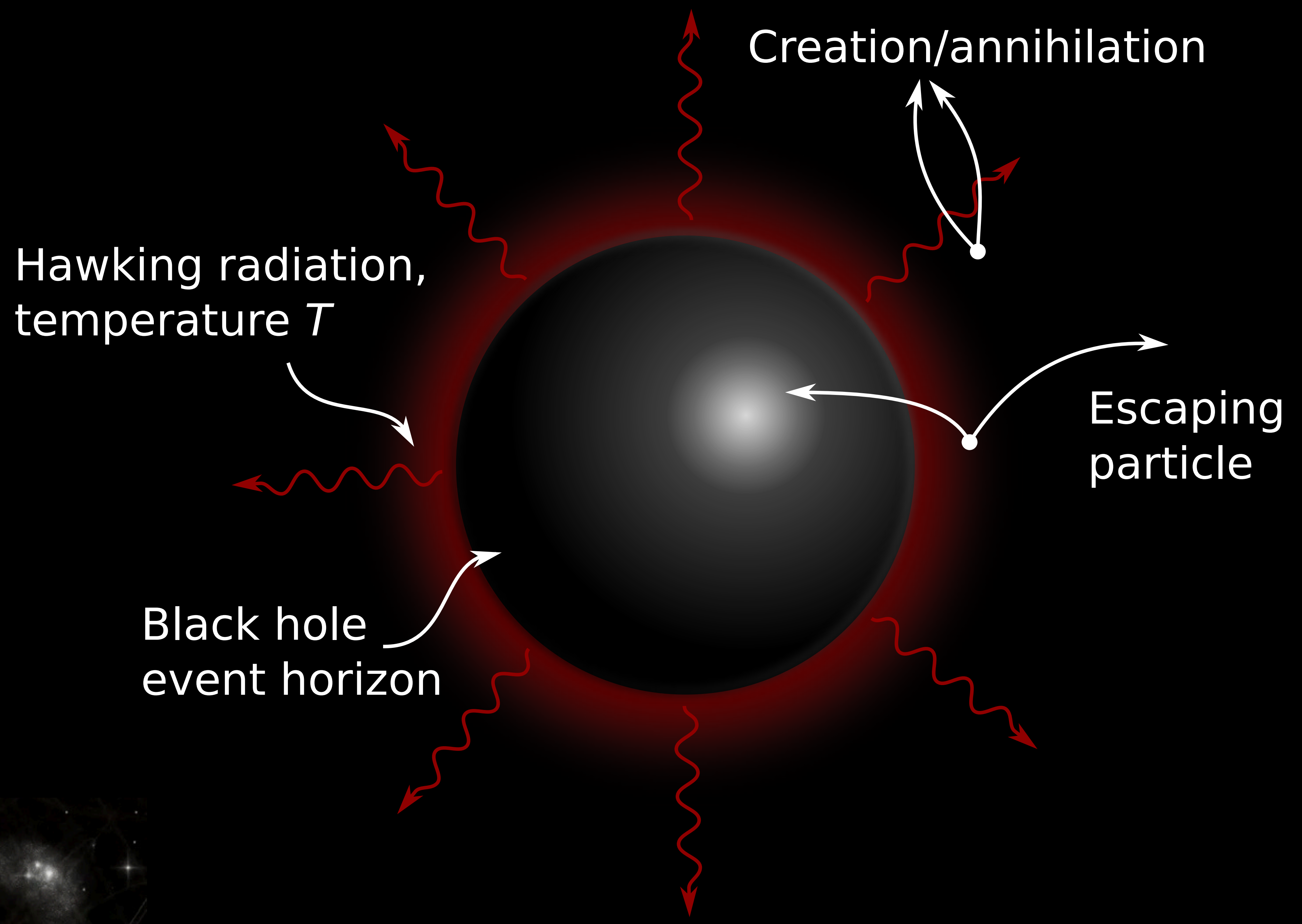
Hawking discovered that quantum effects close to the horion creates radiation

Quantum fluctuations outside the horizon cause pair creation

A particle with negative energy goes into the hole, while a positive energy particle escapes to infinity



Quantum fluctuations outside the horizon cause pair creation



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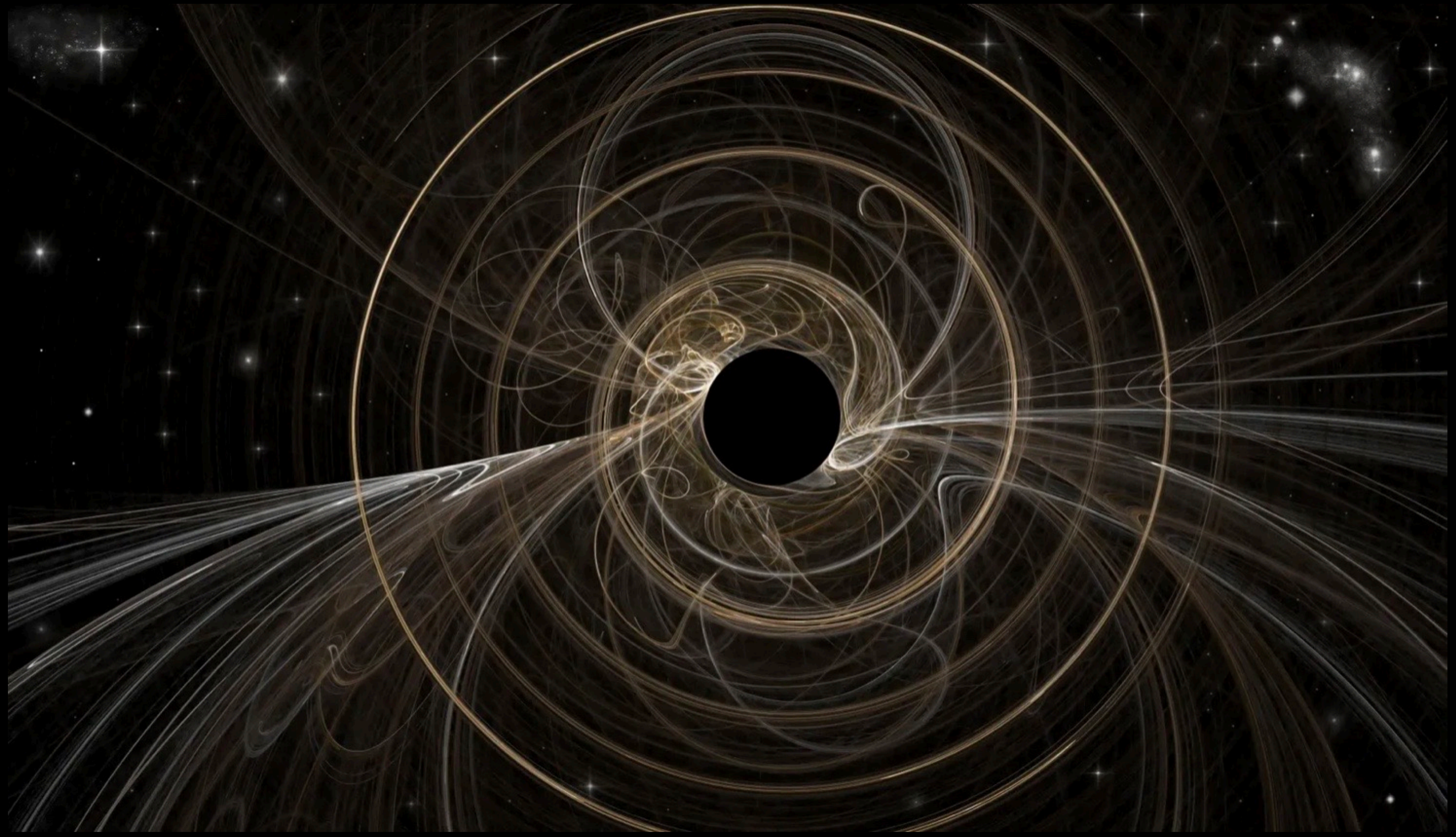


Hawking radiation!

Black holes behave like a black body with entropy

$$S = \frac{\text{Area}}{4 G_N \hbar}$$

Bekenstein-Hawking formula

Black holes behave like a black body with entropy

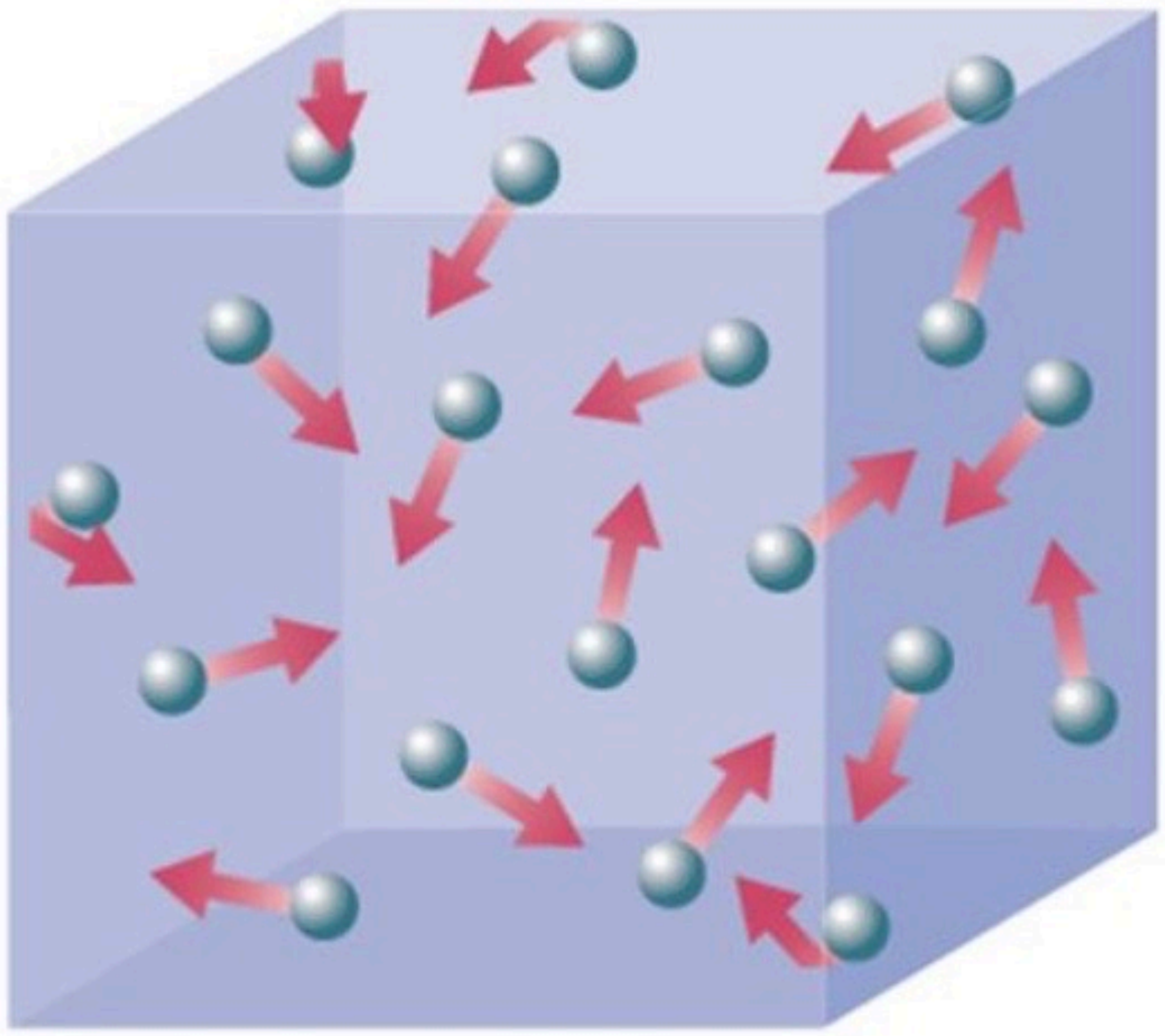
$$S = \frac{\text{Area}}{4 G_N \hbar}$$

Bekenstein-Hawking formula

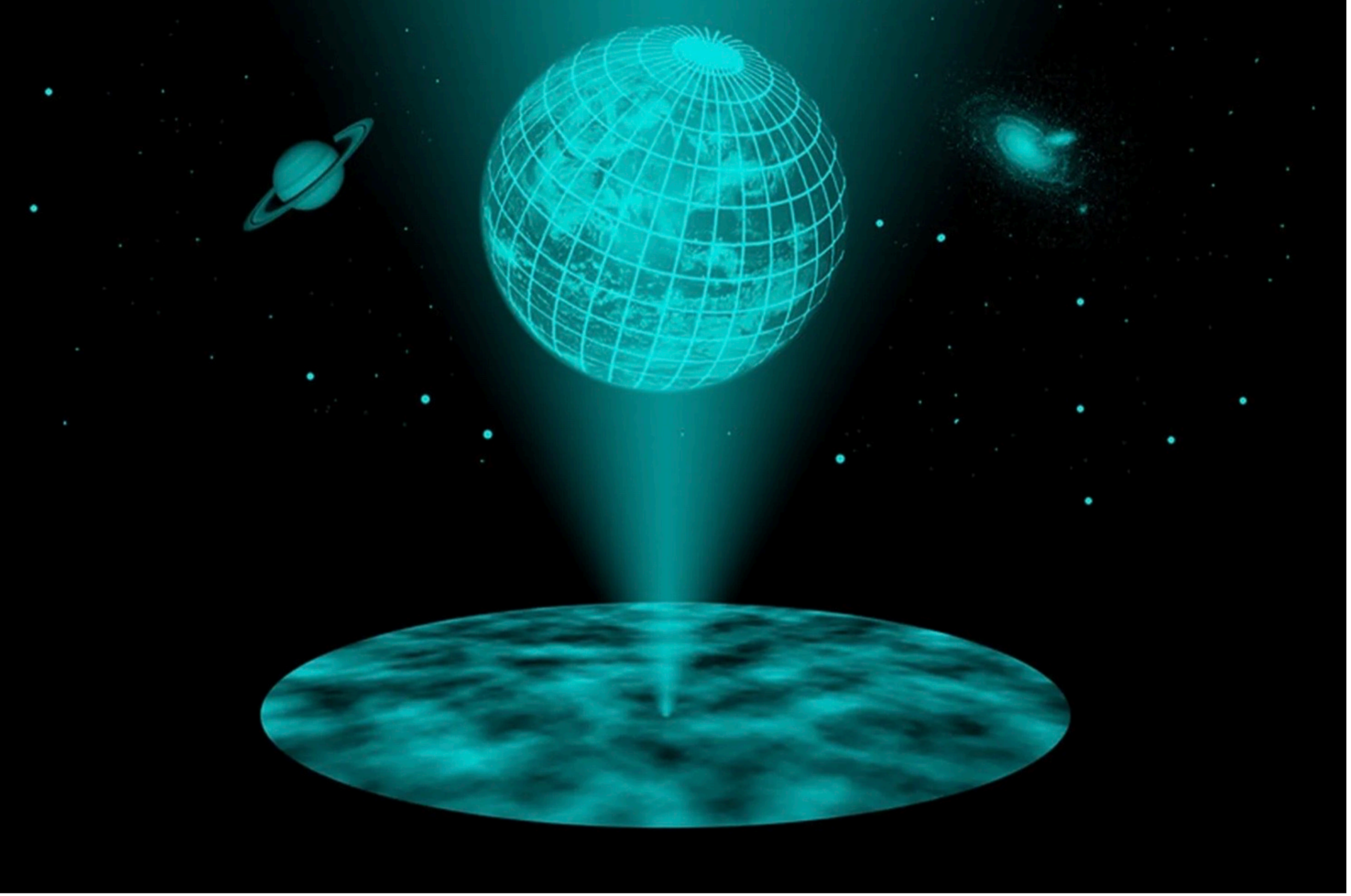
This is an amazing equation!

$$\text{Statistical Physics} = \frac{\text{Gravity}}{\text{Quantum Mechanics}}$$

Surprising that the entropy of a black hole is proportional to **area**



For ordinary matter systems entropy is proportional to the **volume**



Suggests a **holographic** quantum description of black holes

Holographic principle

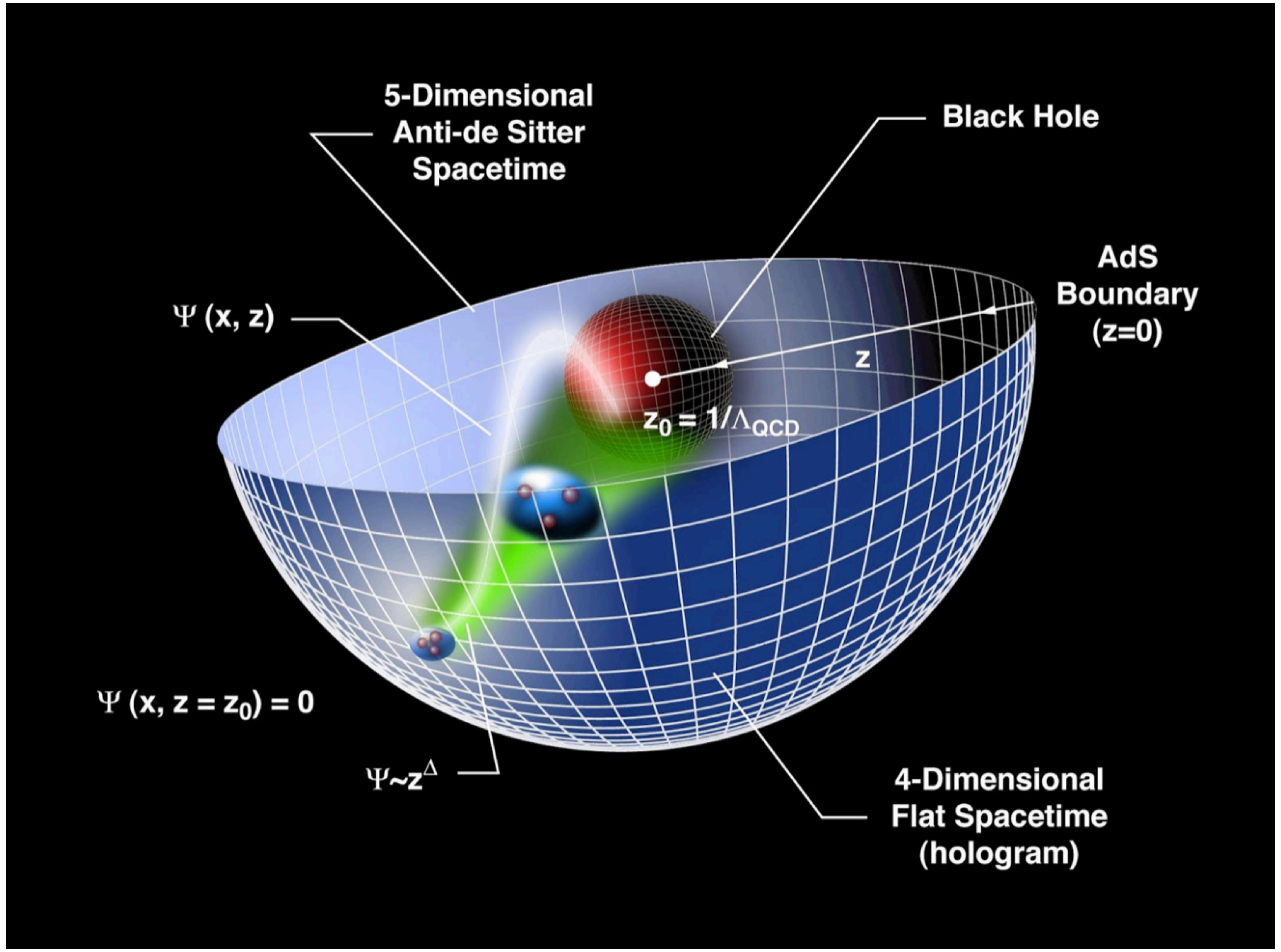
But could the entire universe be a hologram?

AdS/CFT correspondence

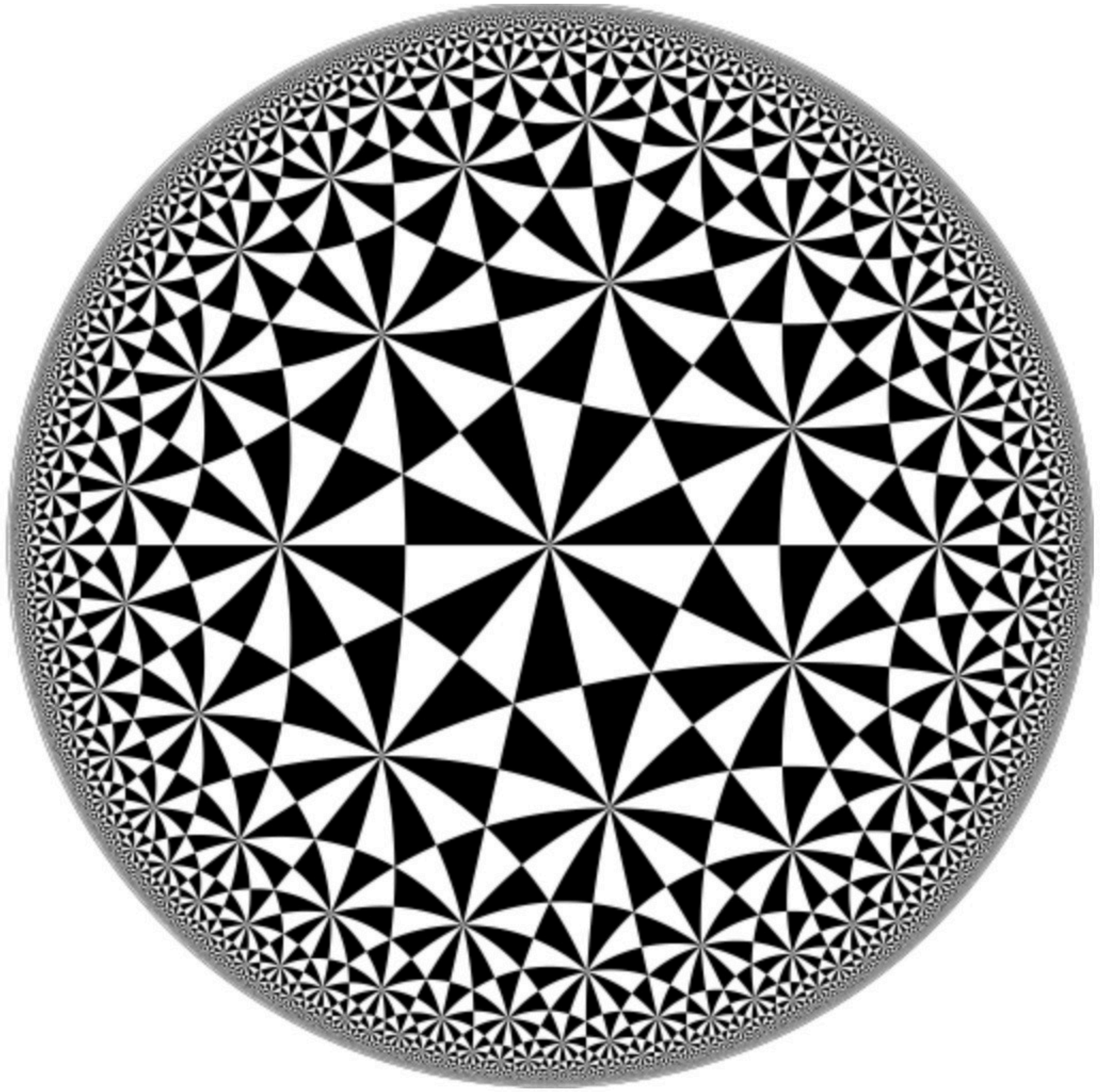
(Gauge/gravity correspondence)

General statement: There should be an exact equivalence between gravity in 5d and quantum field theory on its 4-dimensional flat boundary (Minkowski space)

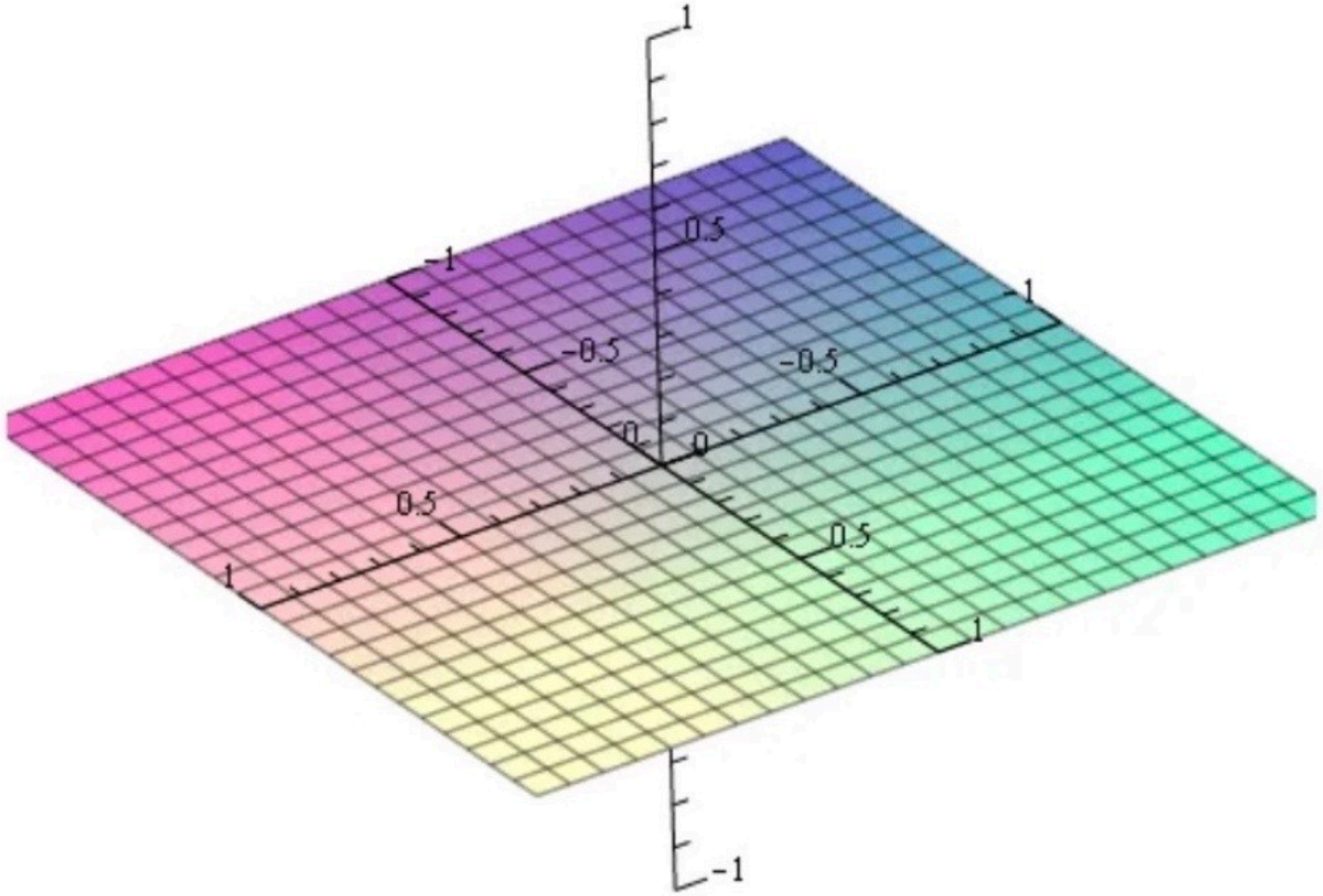
- Gravity in 5d anti-de Sitter space correspond to $SU(N)$ gauge theory (Yang-Mills theory) in Minkowski space
- Realization of the holographic principle
- Quantum description of gravity



Hyperbolic

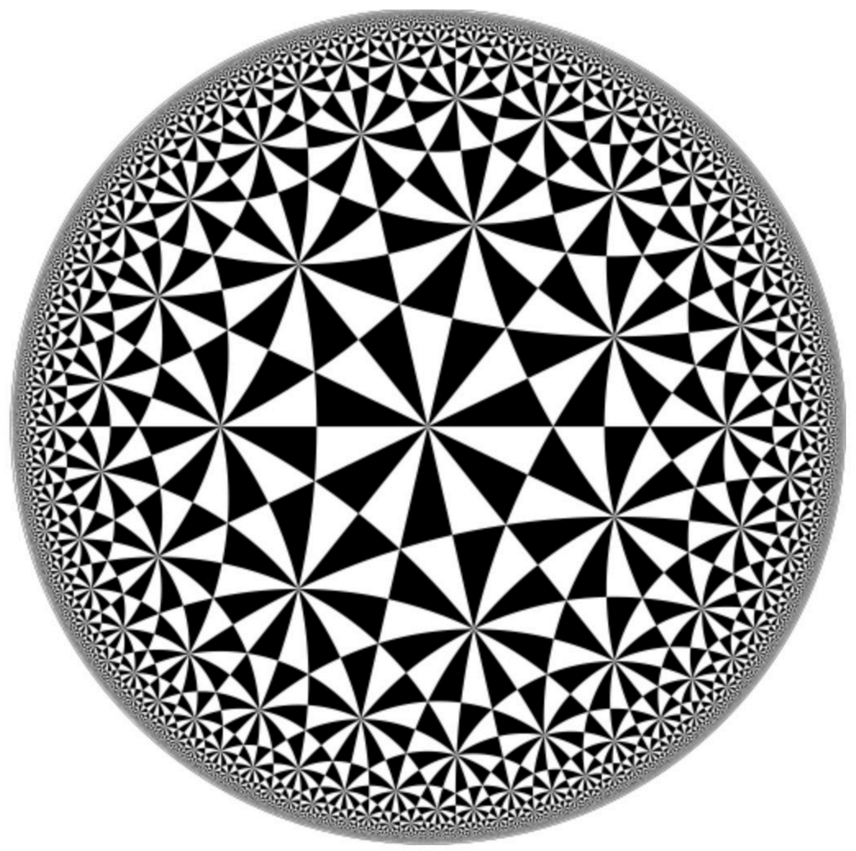


Flat



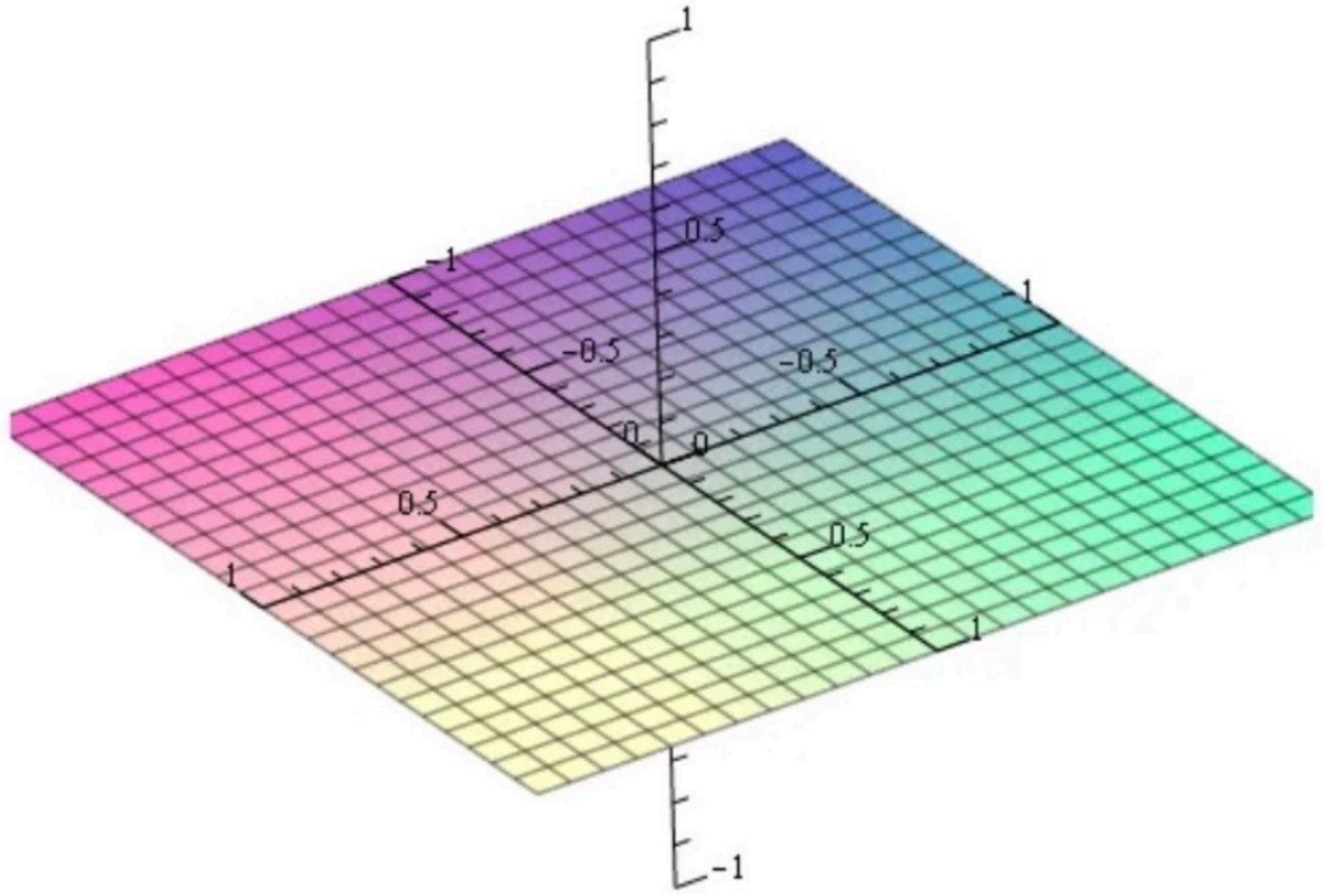
Anti-de Sitter space is like a Lorentzian version of hyperbolic space

5d gravity theory

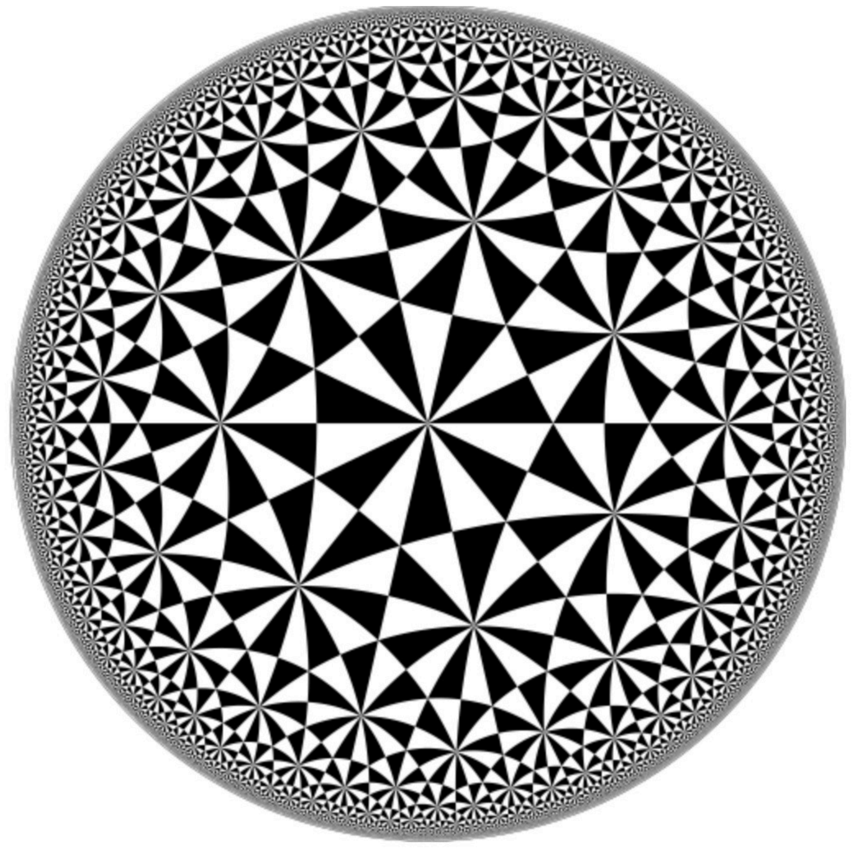


Equivalence

4d QFT

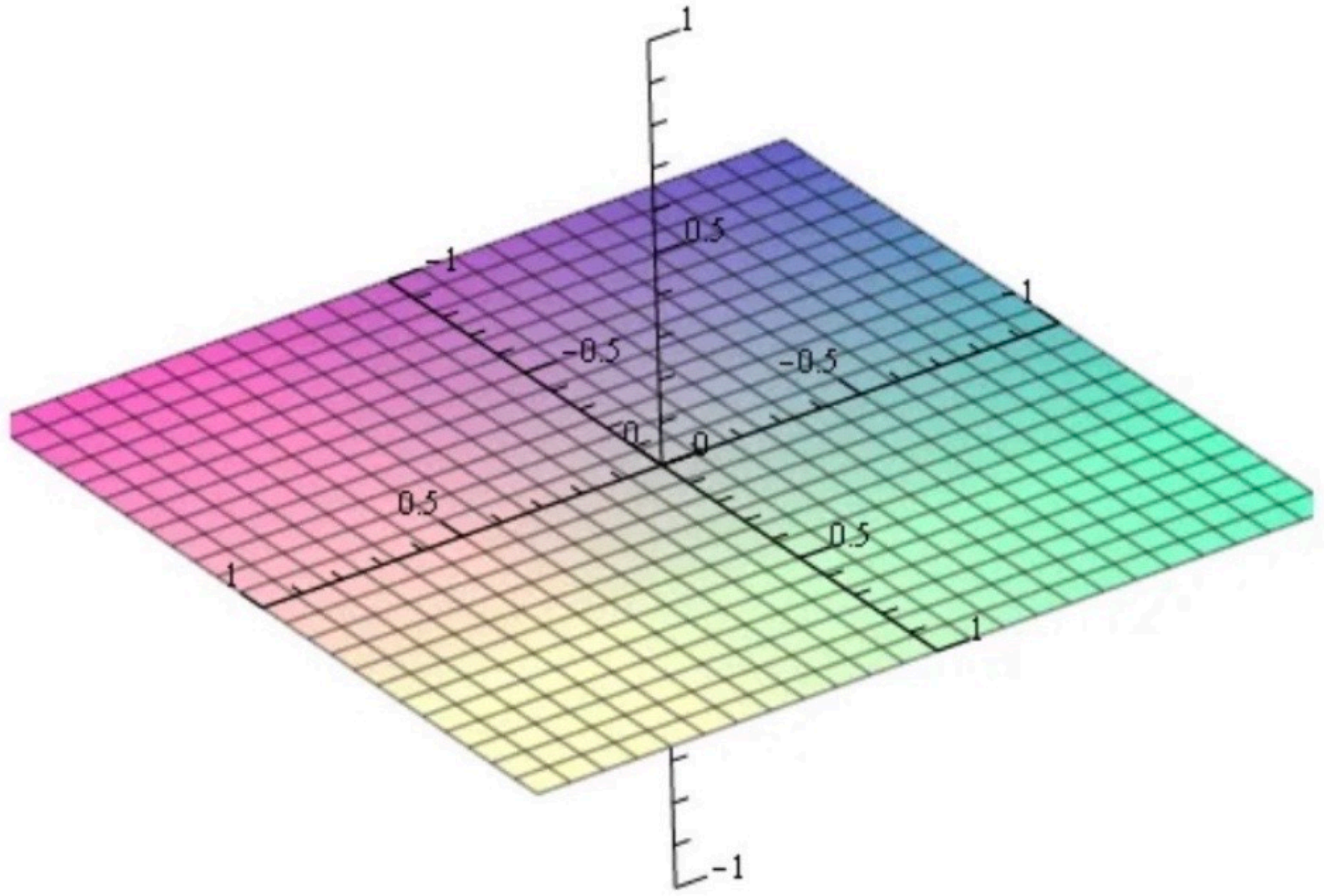


5d gravity theory



Equivalence

4d QFT

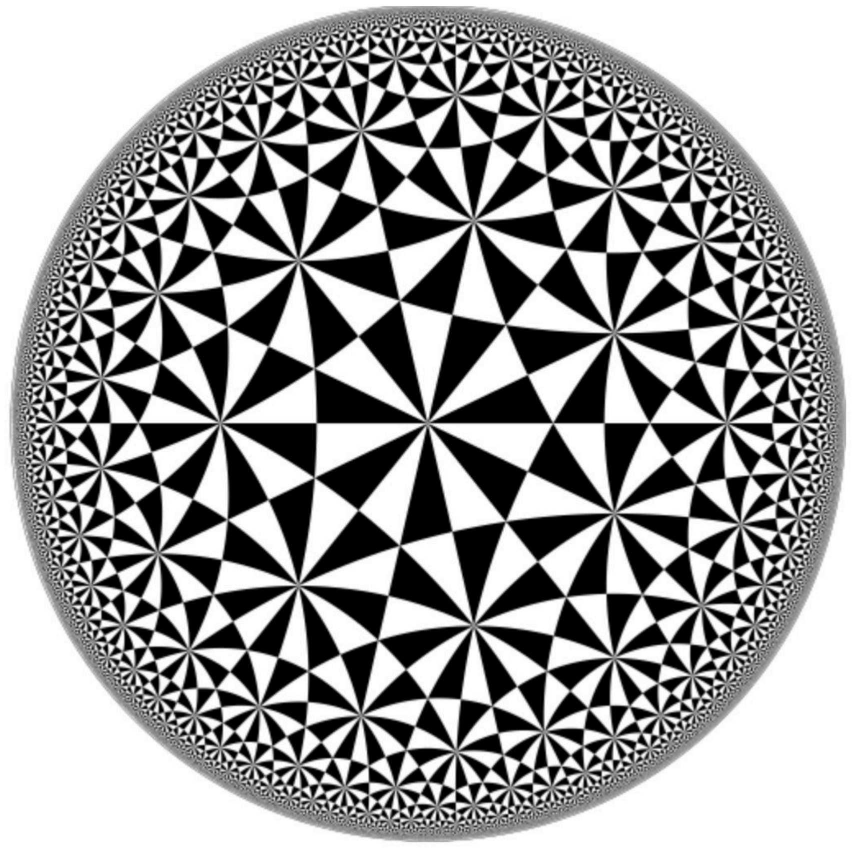


We also require an additional symmetry: **supersymmetry**

This puts constraints on the vacuum geometry to be of the form

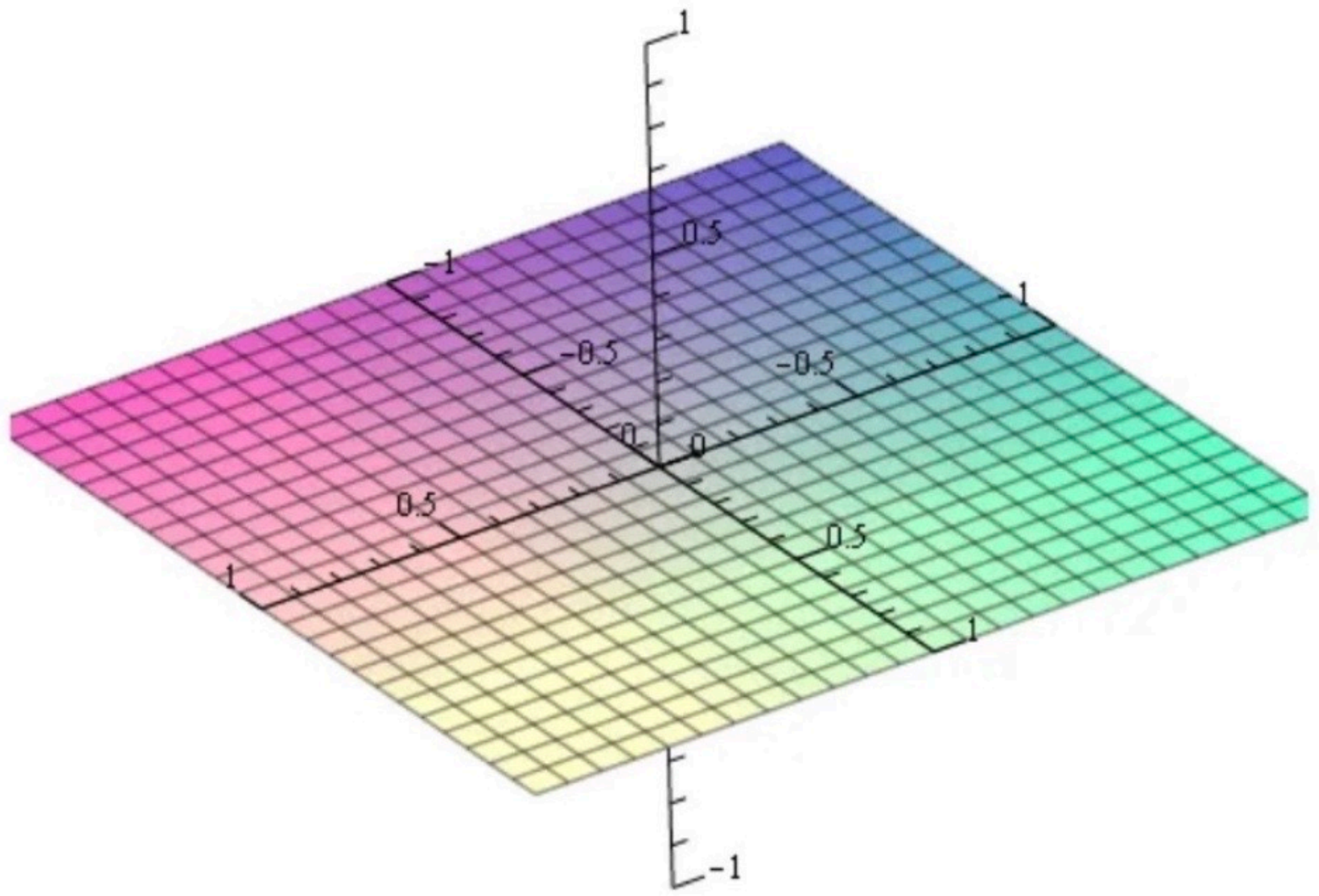
$$AdS_5 \times \mathcal{M}$$

5d gravity theory



Equivalence

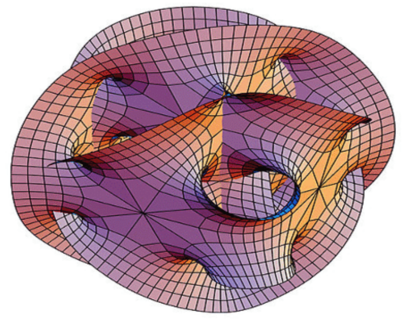
4d QFT



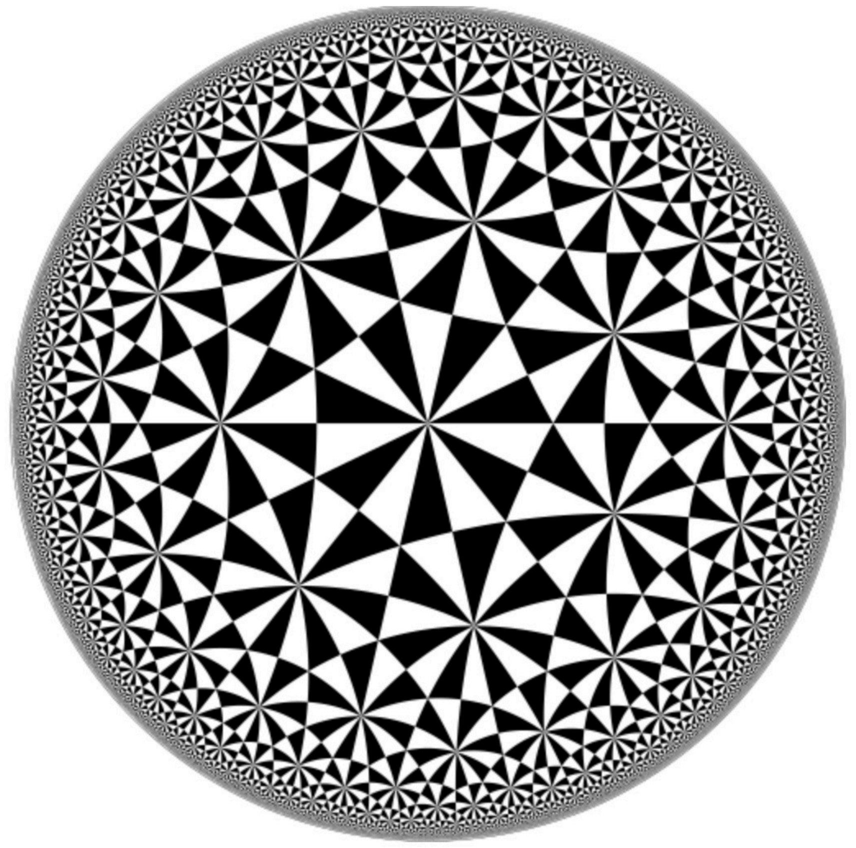
We also require an additional symmetry: **supersymmetry**

This puts constraints on the vacuum geometry to be of the form

External spacetime $\longrightarrow$ $AdS_5 \times \mathcal{M}$ $\longleftarrow$ **Internal compact space (Sasaki-Einstein)**

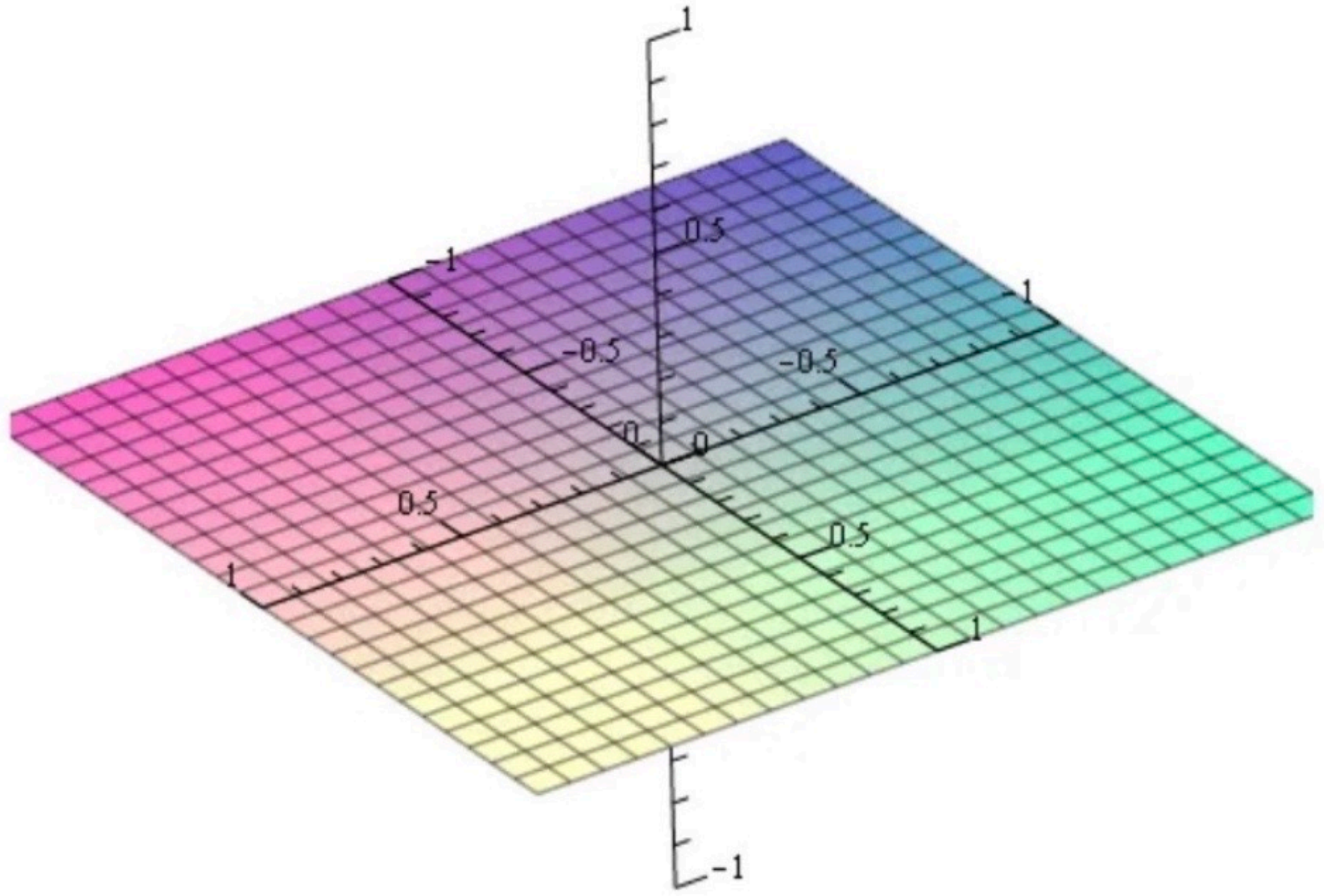


5d gravity theory



Equivalence

4d QFT



Crucial expectation of the AdS/CFT correspondence:
The classical **gravity solution** (metric tensor) should ***emerge***
from a particular quantum state of the dual QFT

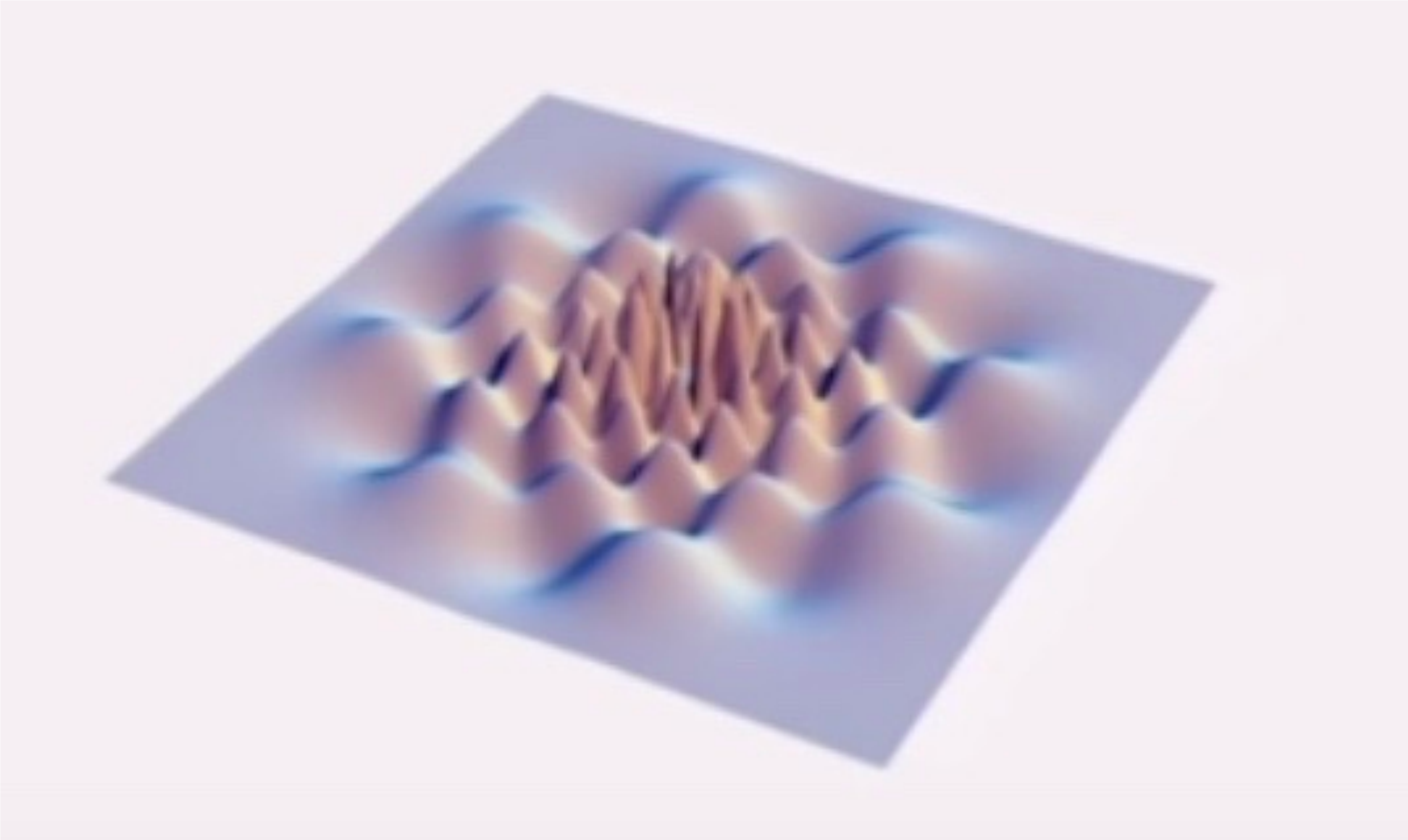
How to describe this emergent geometry?

Emergent geometry

Our aim: Make this precise by exhibiting a canonical (background independent) quantum state Ψ_N and show that its probability amplitude $||\Psi_N||^2$ reproduces the supergravity solution in the large N - limit

How to find the state Ψ_N ?

Constrain it using our knowledge of the QFT (symmetries etc.)



Space of **vacua** in the QFT is Y^N/S_N

(These correspond to transversal degrees of freedom of the N branes on $\mathbb{R}^4 \times \{p\} \subset \mathbb{R}^4 \times Y$)

Chiral ring of the gauge theory (BPS-states) $\longleftrightarrow$ Holomorphic functions $\mathcal{O}(Y^N/S_N)$

6d complex variety: Calabi-Yau cone

Y

Space of **vacua** in the QFT is Y^N/S_N

(These correspond to transversal degrees of freedom of the N branes on $\mathbb{R}^4 \times \{p\} \subset \mathbb{R}^4 \times Y$)

Chiral ring of the gauge theory (BPS-states) $\longleftrightarrow$ Holomorphic functions $\mathcal{O}(Y^N/S_N)$

6d complex variety: Calabi-Yau cone

Y

$\mathbb{R}_{>0}$ **conformal action**

We seek a holomorphic function Ψ_N such that $|\Psi_N|^2 \cdot [\text{measure}]$ is:

- $(\mathbb{R}_{>0})^N$-invariant
- S_N -invariant

Our proposal for the **canonical quantum state** is:

$$\boxed{\Psi_{N_k} := \Psi_{Slater}^{-1/k}}$$

Our proposal for the **canonical quantum state** is:

$$\boxed{\Psi_{N_k} := \Psi_{Slater}^{-1/k}}$$

- $N_k = \dim \mathcal{O}_k(Y) \qquad (N = N_k)$
- $\Psi_{Slater} = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{N_k}} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \psi_{\sigma(1)}(y_1) \cdots \psi_{\sigma(N_k)}(y_{N_k})$ (Slater determinant)
- $k \quad \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ -charge (R-charge in physics)
- $\psi_1, \ldots, \psi_{N_k}$ basis of $\mathcal{O}_k(Y)$

Our proposal for the **canonical quantum state** is:

$$\boxed{\Psi_{N_k} := \Psi_{Slater}^{-1/k}}$$

But the total integral of $|\Psi_{N_k}|^2 \cdot [\mathrm{measure}]$ **diverges** since Y is non-compact

Our proposal for the **canonical quantum state** is:

$$\boxed{\Psi_{N_k} := \Psi_{Slater}^{-1/k}}$$

But the total integral of $|\Psi_{N_k}|^2 \cdot [\mathrm{measure}]$ **diverges** since Y is non-compact

Resolution: Because of $\mathbb{R}_{>0}$ -invariance it reduces to a measure on the quotient

$$\mathcal{M} := (Y - \{0\})/\mathbb{R}_{>0}$$

compact
(internal space)

Metric is not given but we show that it **can be recovered from its volume form.**

Emergent geometry

$|\Psi_{N_k}|^2 \cdot [\text{measure}]$ yields a measure on $\mathcal{M}^{N_k}/S_{N_k}$

Makes crucial use of the fact that the metric can be recovered from its volume form

[Can be inferred from a previous result by Berman (2015)]

g_{N_k}: canonical approximations to the Sasaki-Einstein metric g on $\mathcal{M}$

$$\lim_{N_k \to \infty} g_{N_k} = g$$

Convergence still conjectural, but we prove it “modulo analytic continuation”


Thank you!

Secret slides
(only show if needed)

Vacuum equations: $R_{\mu\nu}(g) = 0$ (solutions are **Ricci flat**)

Schwarzschild black hole solution:

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu}dx^\mu dx^\nu = -\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)dt^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 ds^2_{sphere}$$

Flips sign as we cross the horizon.

$r > 2M$ **outside**

$r < 2M$ **inside**

time t

$\updownarrow$

space r

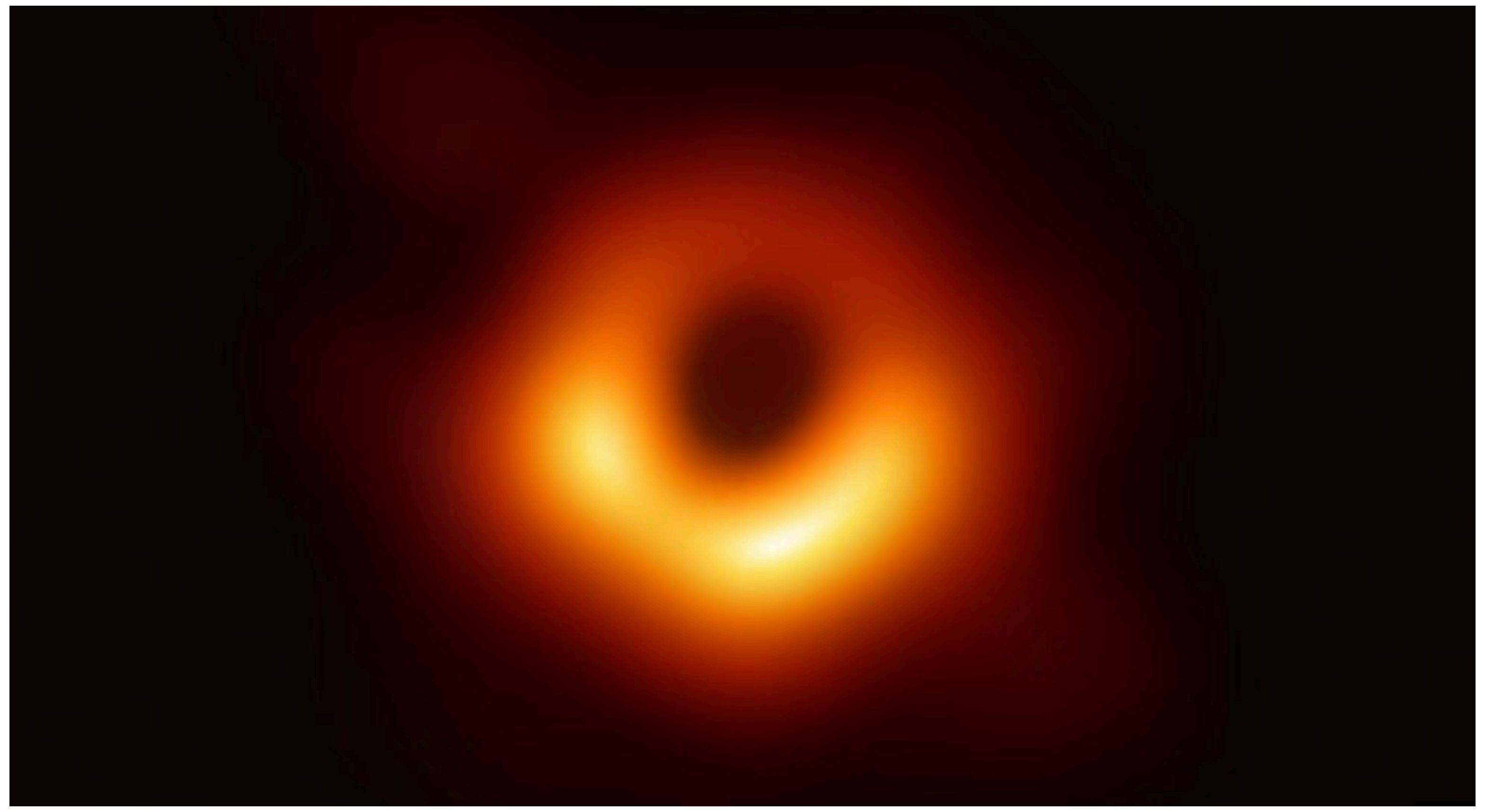
Vacuum equations: $R_{\mu\nu}(g) = 0$ (solutions are **Ricci flat**)

Schwarzschild black hole solution:

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu}dx^\mu dx^\nu = -\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)dt^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1}dr^2 + r^2 ds^2_{sphere}$$

Flips sign as we cross the horizon.

As we cross the horizon, the singularity lies in our **future**!



AdS/CFT originates from string theory

The gauge theory comes from string theory in 10 dimensional spacetime of the form

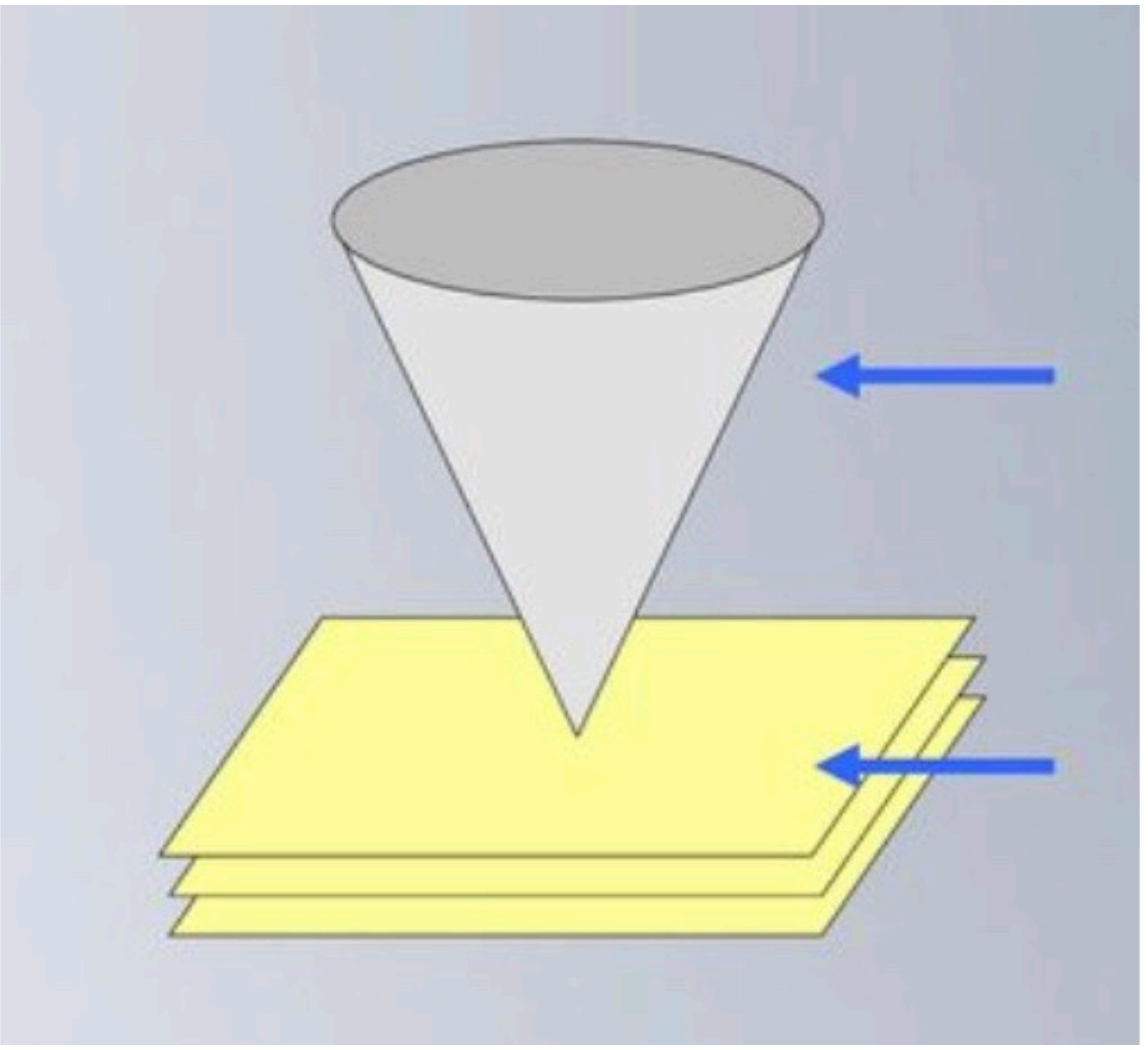
$$\mathbb{R}^4 \times Y$$

6d complex variety: Calabi-Yau cone

Y comes with a $\mathbb{C}^\times$ - action fixing a unique point p which is singular (except for $Y = \mathbb{C}^3$)

Embedd stack of N coincident D3-branes at the tip of the cone

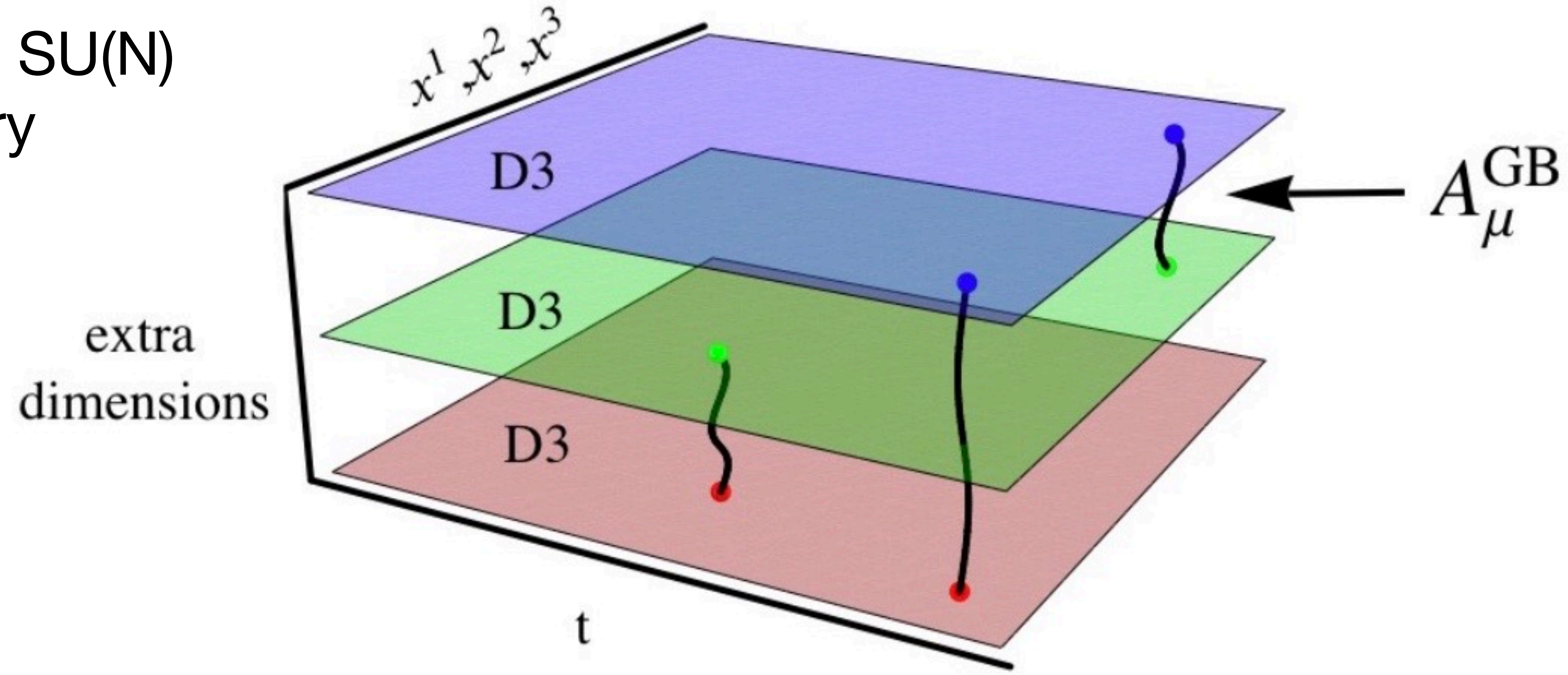
$$\mathbb{R}^4 \times \{p\} \subset \mathbb{R}^4 \times Y$$



Calabi-Yau Cone

stack of D3-branes

Open strings stretching between the branes gives rise to an SU(N) Yang-Mills gauge theory with superconformal symmetry

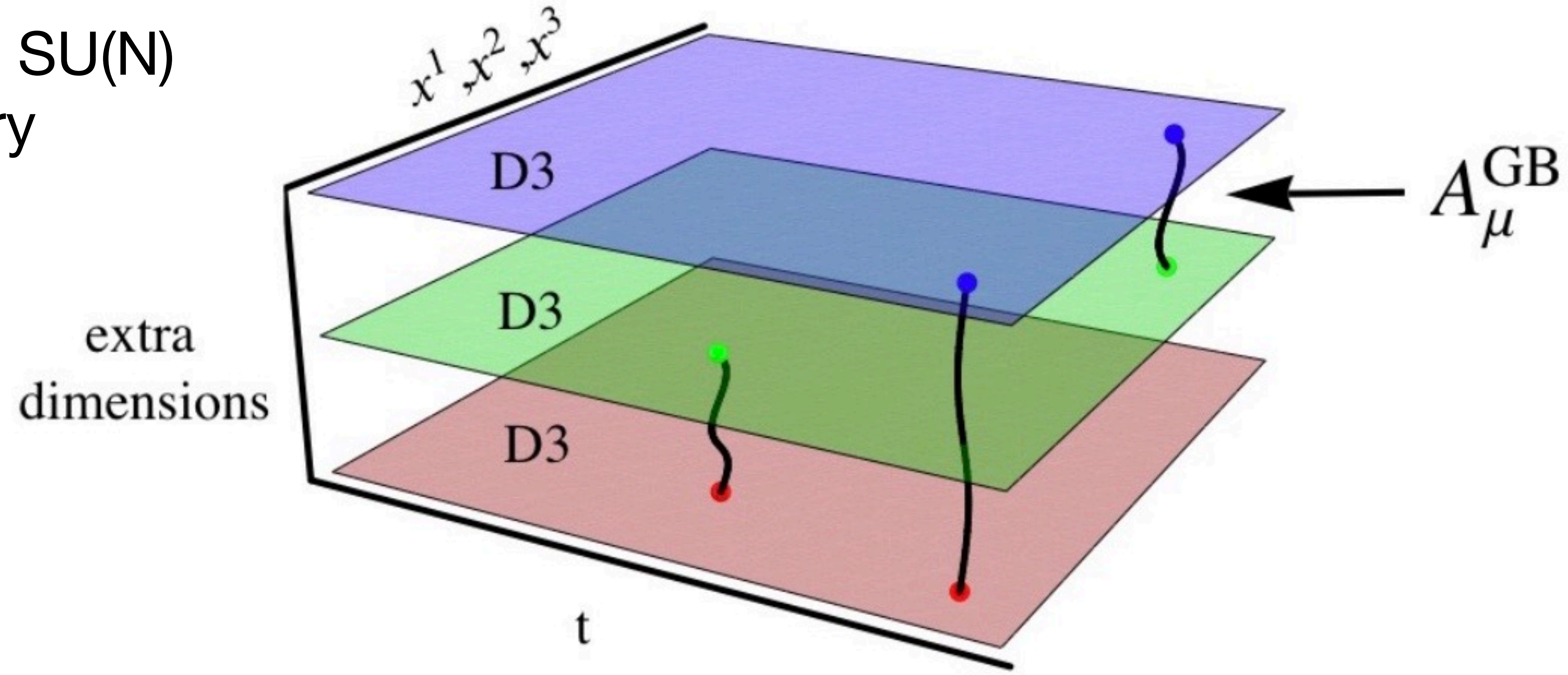


But D3-branes have an alternative description (at strong coupling): a black hole solution with electric-magnetic charge N and near-horizon geometry given by

$$AdS_5 \times \mathcal{M}$$

Sasaki-Einstein manifold (base of the cone)

Open strings stretching between the branes gives rise to an SU(N) Yang-Mills gauge theory with superconformal symmetry



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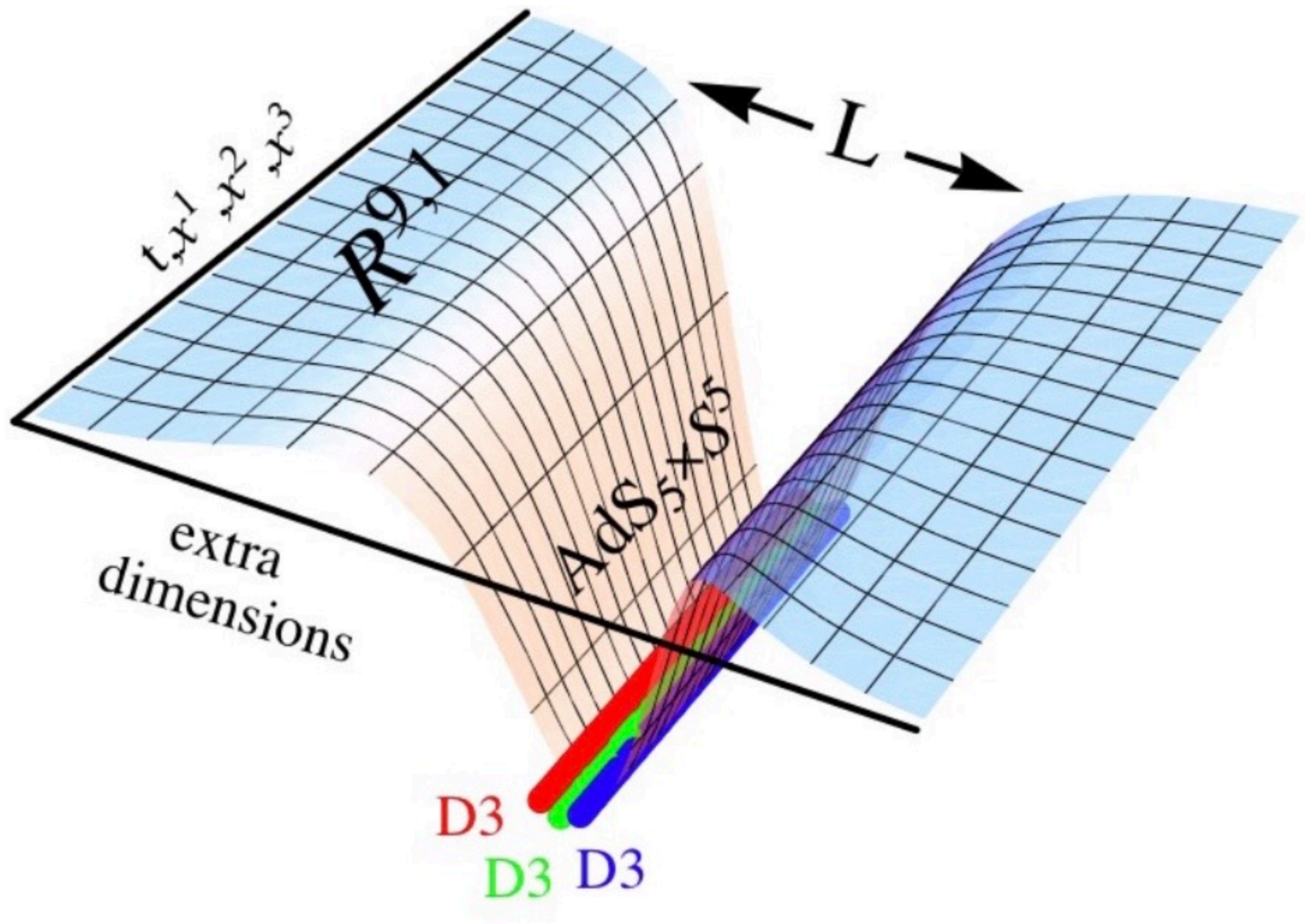


The basis for the AdS/CFT correspondence is that these two descriptions should be identified

Relation to Fano manifolds and K-stability

"reduced" Calabi-Yau $\quad X = (Y - \{p\})/\mathbb{C}^\times \quad$ Fano manifold (orbifold)

$$\begin{tikzcd} S^1 \arrow[r] & S \arrow[d] \\ & X \end{tikzcd}$$

The link is a circle bundle over the Fano manifold

AdS/CFT

Reeb vector generating circle action $\longleftrightarrow$ **R-charge** in the dual gauge theory

Relation to the probabilistic approach

Space of vacua in the gauge theory is Y^N/S_N

These correspond to transversal degrees of freedom of the N branes on $\mathbb{R}^4 \times \{p\} \subset \mathbb{R}^4 \times Y$

Chiral ring of the gauge theory (BPS-states) $\longleftrightarrow$ Holomorphic functions $\mathcal{O}(Y^N/S_N)$

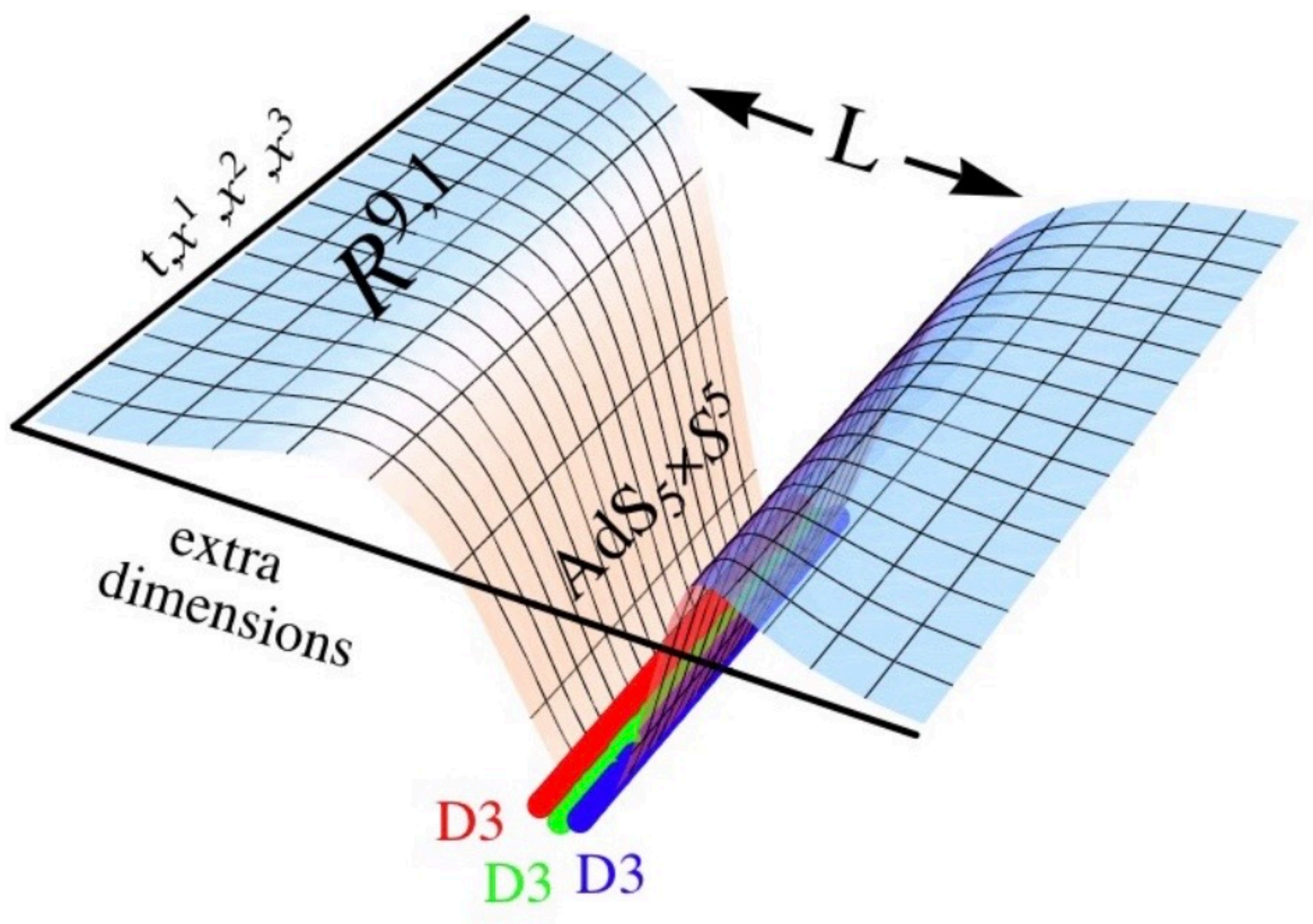
$$N = N_k := \dim H^0\Big(X, (K_X^{-1})^{\otimes k}\Big)$$

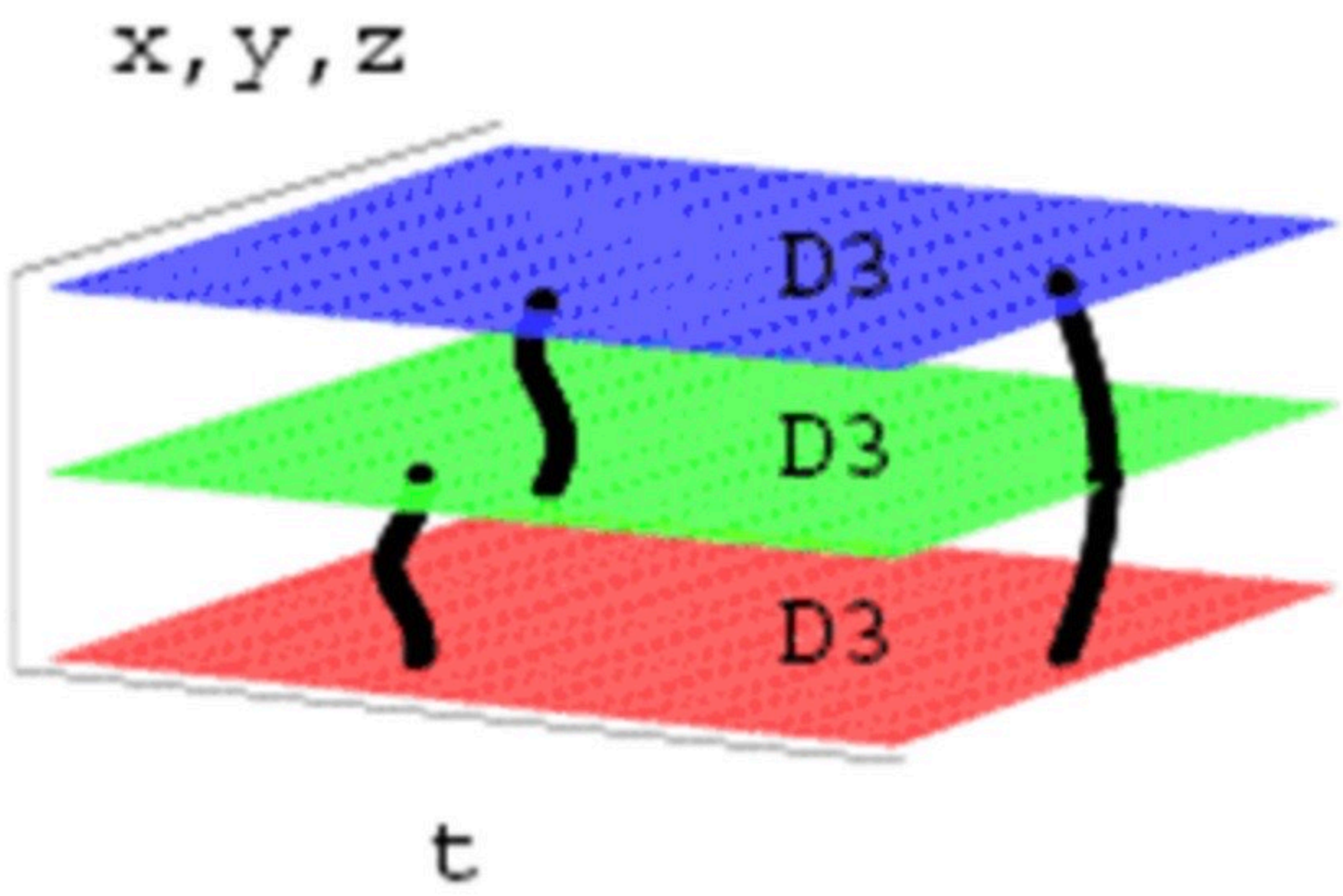
What is the physical interpretation of the state Ψ_N ?

Corresponds to a coherent state of N **dual giant gravitons**

These are D3-branes wrapping 3-cycles in AdS_5

(And thus points on the Sasaki-Einstein manifold $\mathcal{M}$)



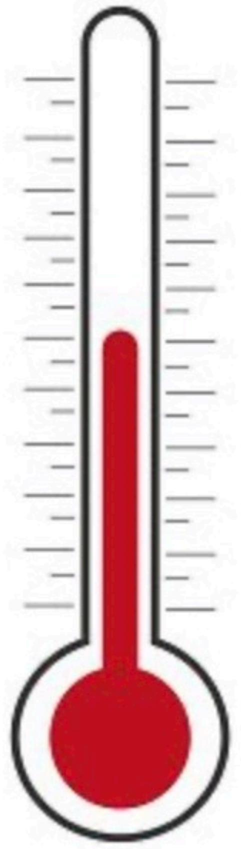


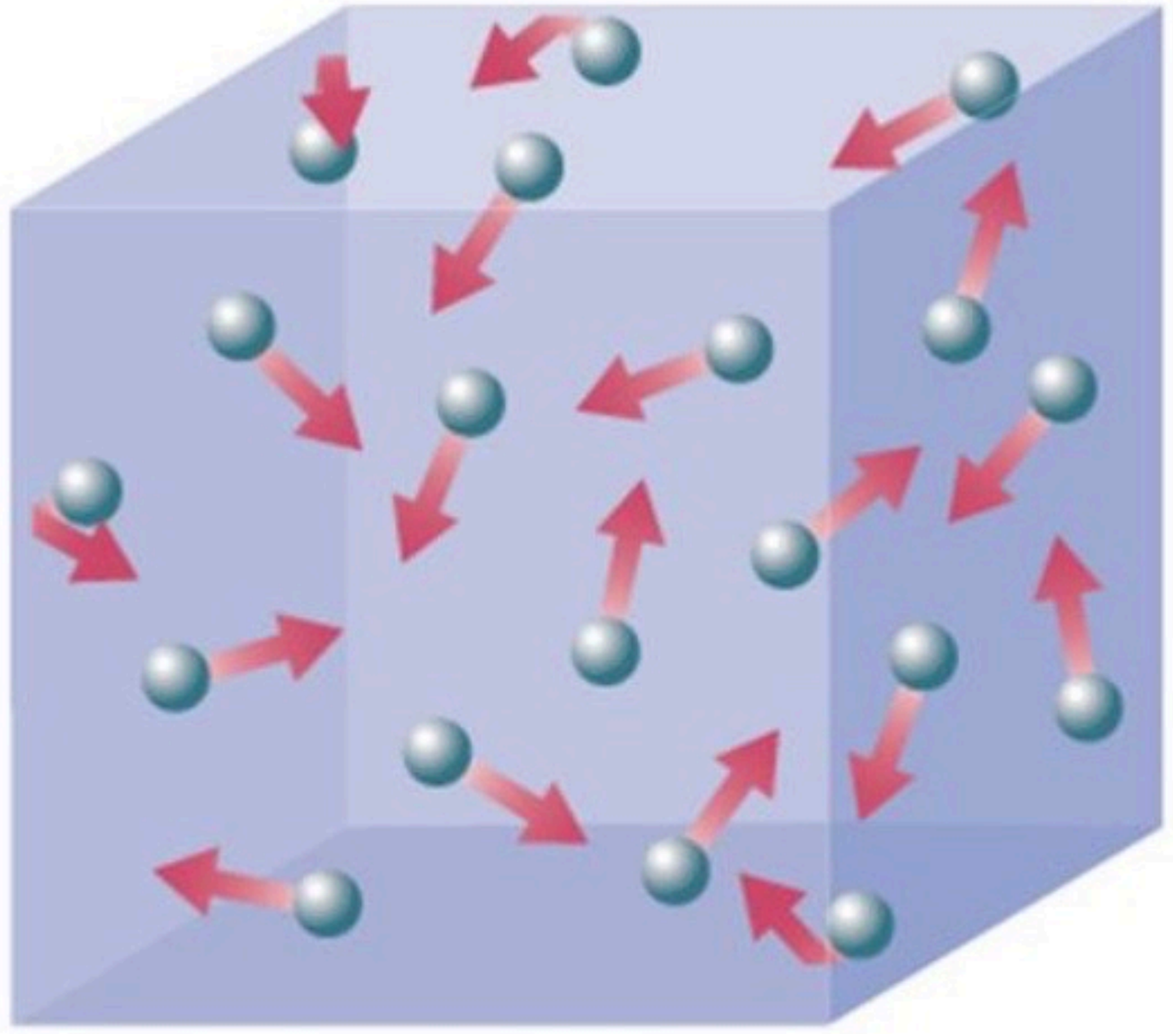
What is quantum gravity?

- A theory that unifies quantum mechanics with general relativity
- Should be able to describe black holes and the Big Bang

Crucial problem: Describe how Einstein gravity ***emerges*** from some more fundamental quantum state

Compare with **temperature**
as an **emergent quantity**





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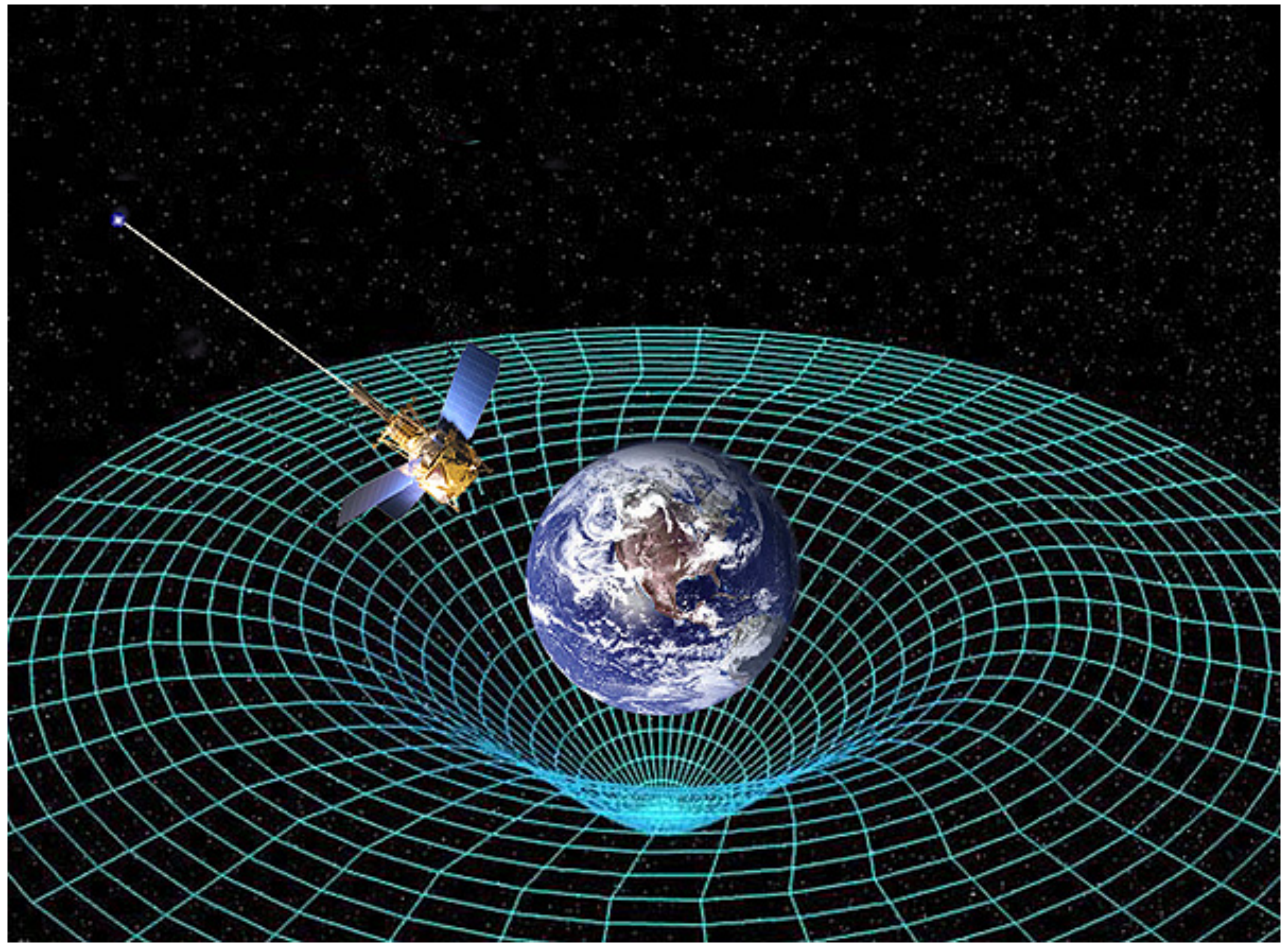

Goal: Solve this problem in a simplified "toy model" of quantum gravity