

GENERAL

RELATIVITY



PERIMETER
PI

INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS



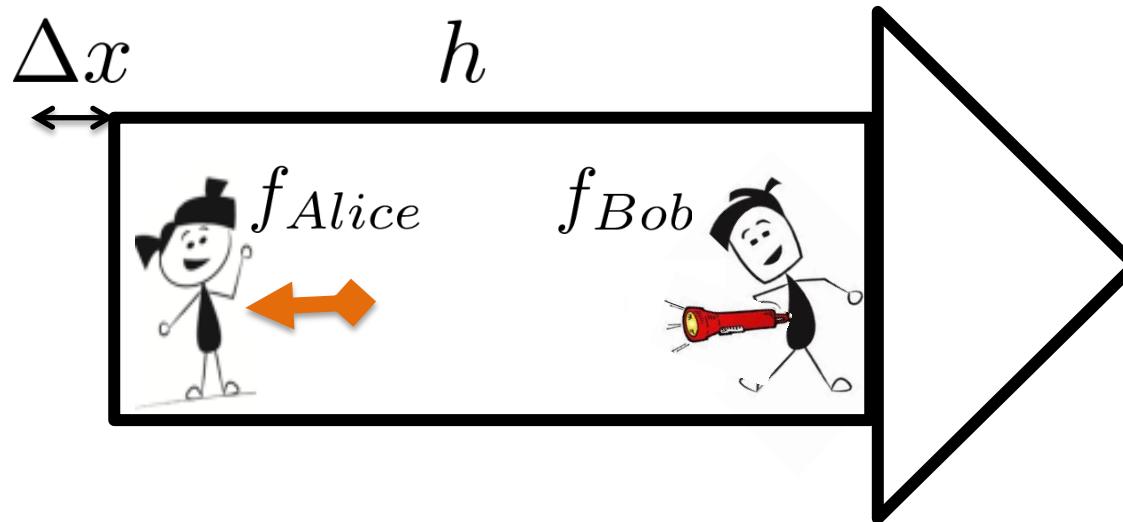
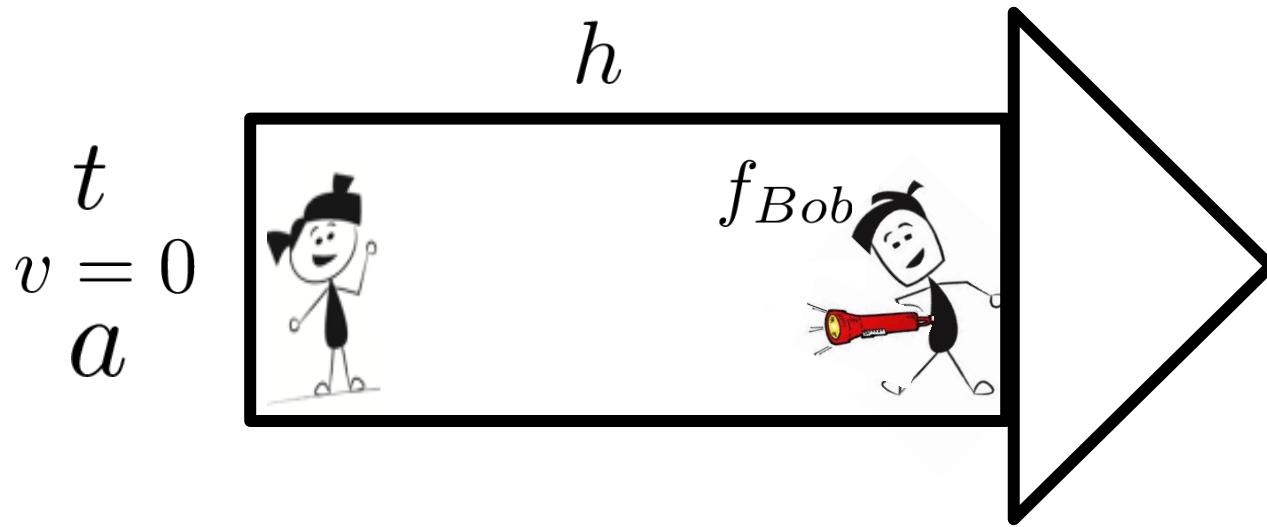
What is Gravity?

Gravity is the curvature (a.k.a. warping) of spacetime.

The Earth does not exert a force on objects...it curves spacetime so that the ground is *accelerating* up without *moving* up.

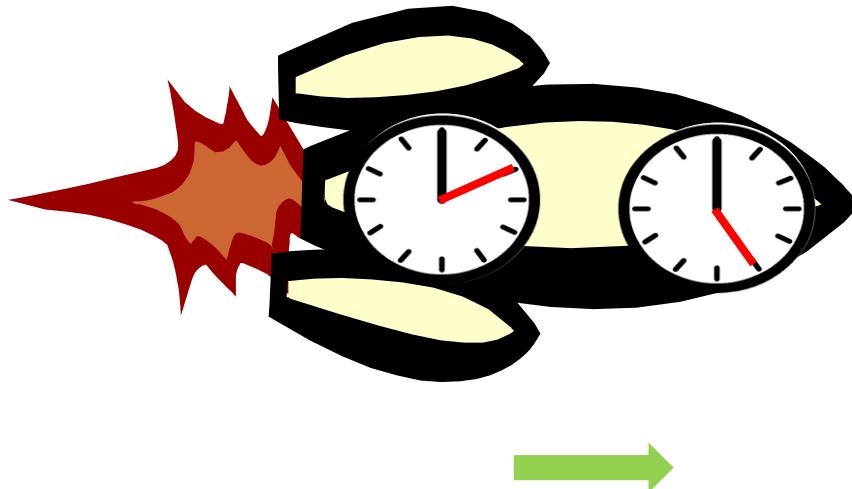
We experience this acceleration through weight, freefall, etc.

Light Pulse in an Accelerated Rocket



Acceleration Affects Time

Observers at the front have clocks that tick faster!

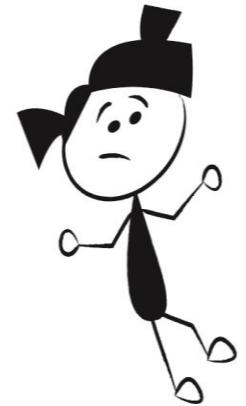


$$\Delta t_{back} = \left(1 - \frac{ah}{c^2}\right) \Delta t_{front}$$

Mass Affects Time

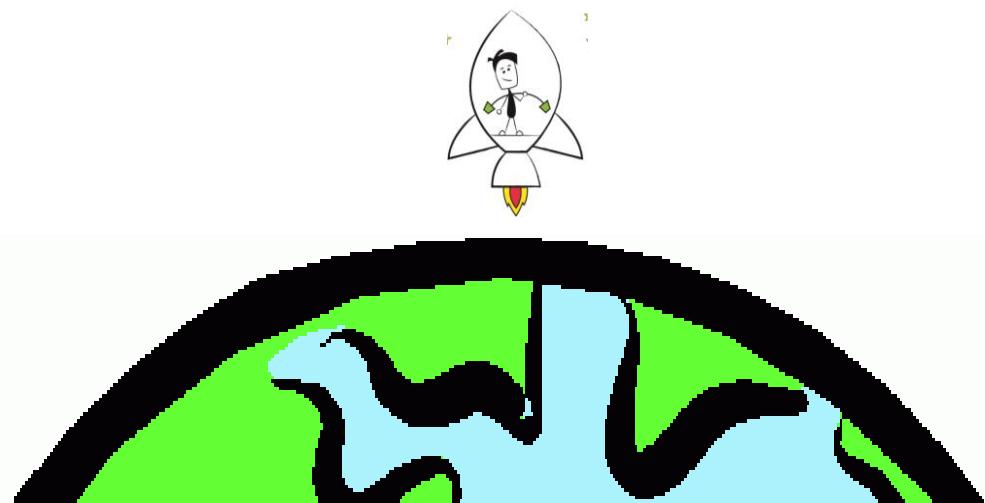
$$\Delta t_{bottom} = (1 - gh/c^2) \Delta t_{top}$$



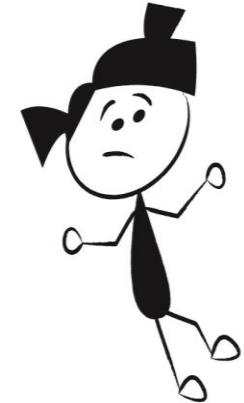


Imagine Alice in free-fall towards the Earth.

What is her velocity right before she hits the Earth?



Imagine Alice in free-fall towards the Earth.

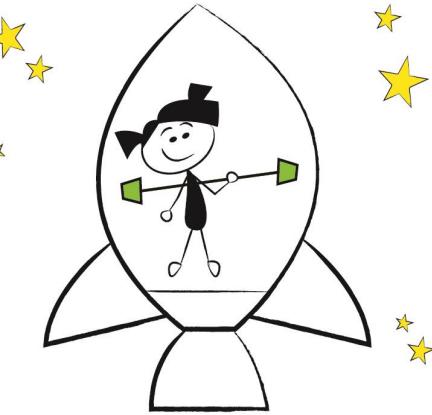
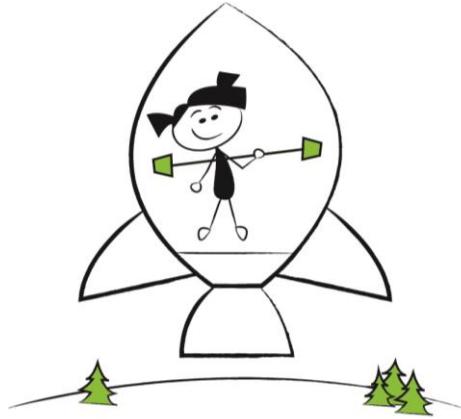


What is her velocity right before she hits the Earth?

$$KE_i + PE_i = KE_f + PE_f$$
$$0 + 0 = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 - \frac{GMm}{r}$$

$$v_e = \sqrt{\frac{2GM}{r}}$$



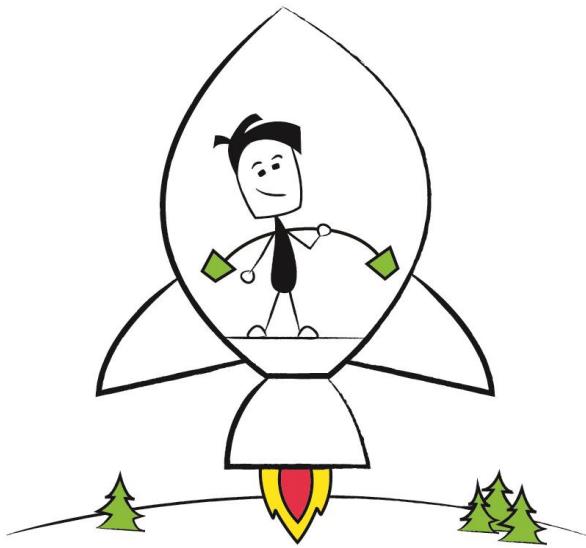


Falling

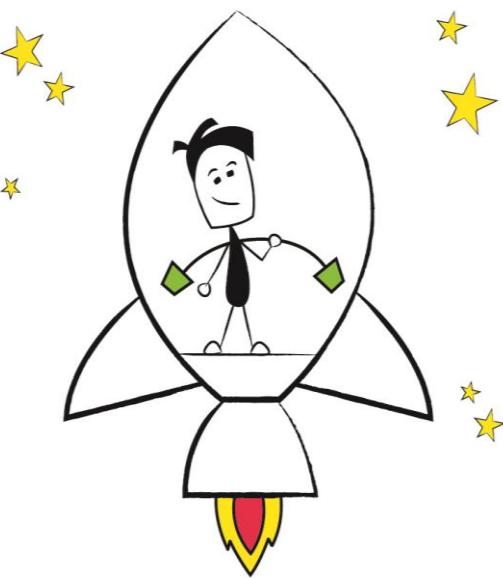
Floating

Alice is free-falling. She does not accelerate!

She moves on a **straight path** through curved spacetime!



=

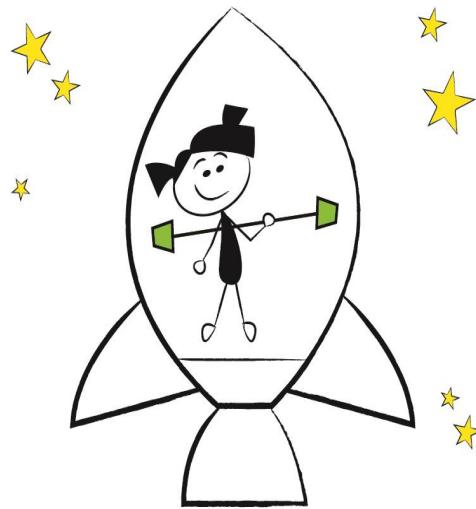


Hovering

Accelerating

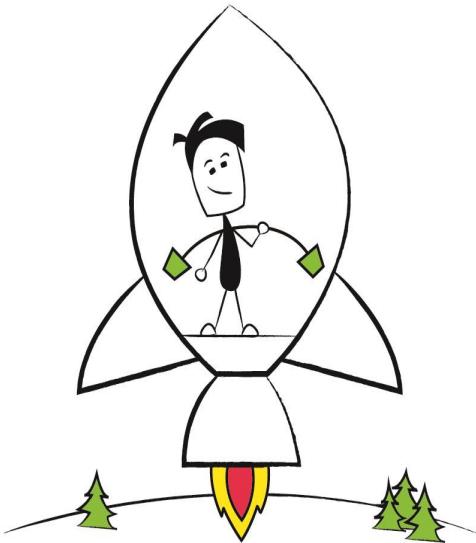
Bob is accelerating upward. He feels a force pushing him up!

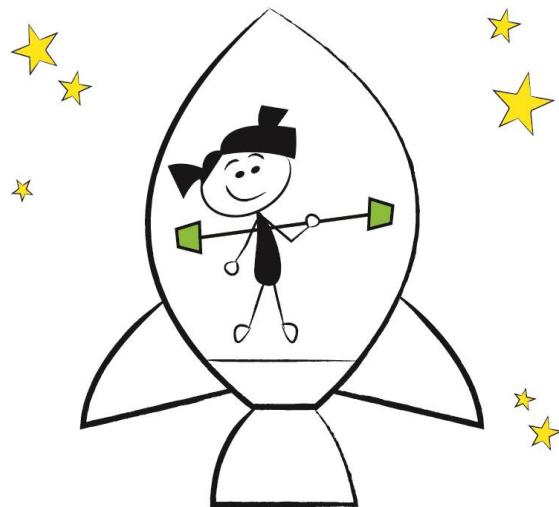
He moves on a **curved** path in spacetime!



The situation is equivalent to:

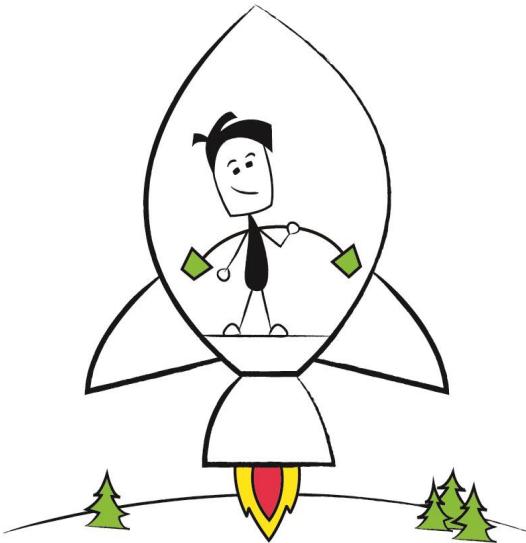
- Alice floating at rest
- Bob accelerating at a constant rate



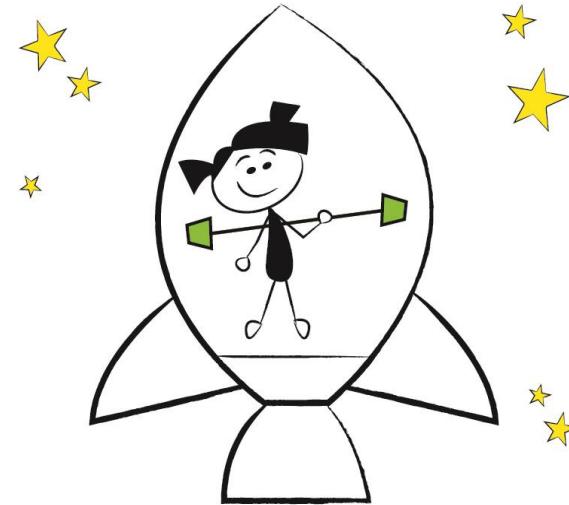
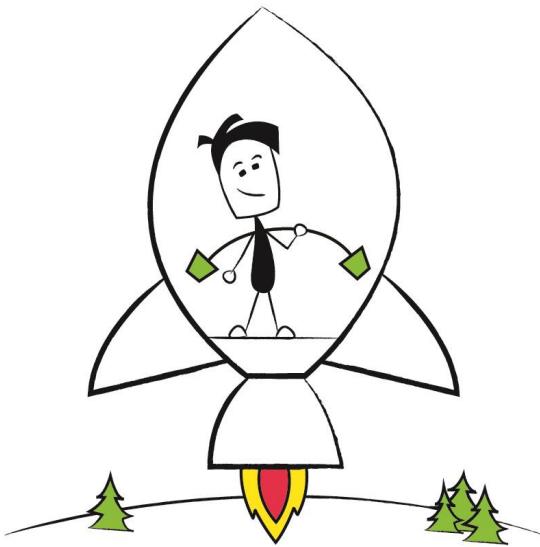


The situation is equivalent to:

- Alice floating at rest
- Bob accelerating at a constant rate



- When Bob reaches Alice he whizzes past with velocity v_{escape}



As he passes, Alice looks in and sees Bob's clock running slow!

By what factor?

$$\Delta t_{r,Bob} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} \Delta t_{\infty,Alice} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r}} \Delta t_{\infty,Alice}$$

Exercise to Try!

$$\Delta t_{r, Bob} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r}} \Delta t_{\infty, Alice}$$

Use the binomial approximation to derive the gravitational time dilation factor for the Earth.

$$\Delta t_{bottom} = (1 - gh/c^2) \Delta t_{top}$$

What are the dimensions of the factor $\frac{2GM}{c^2r}$?

What happens as $\frac{2GM}{c^2r}$ increases?

$\frac{2GM}{c^2r}$ is a measure of how “relativistic” the situation is

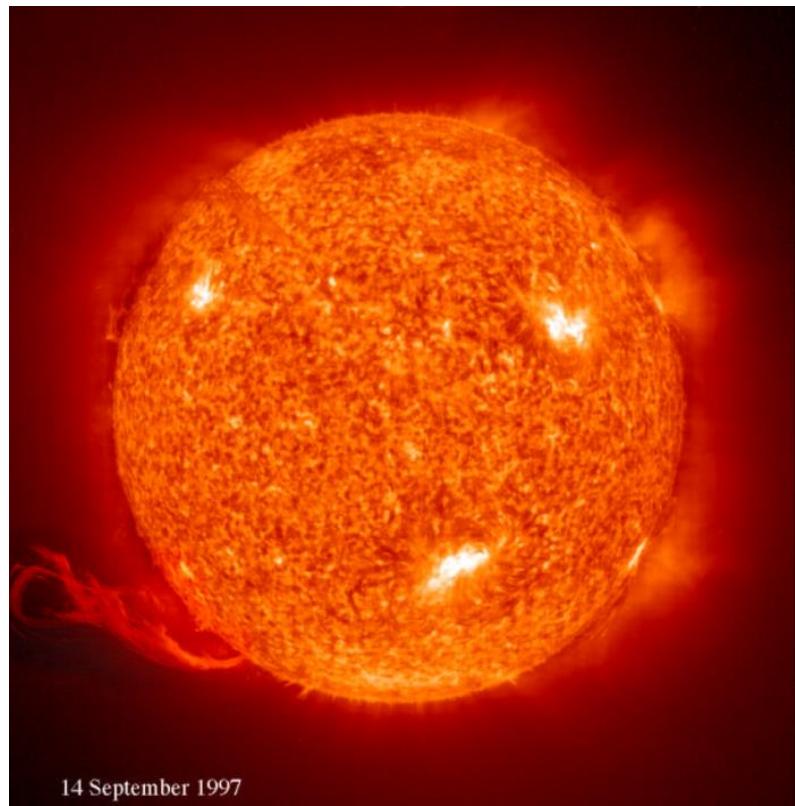
$$\Delta t_{r, Bob} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r}} \Delta t_{\infty, Alice}$$

The most massive body in the solar system is the sun.

What is $\frac{2GM}{c^2 r}$ for the sun?

$$M_{sun} = 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$$

$$r_{sun} = 7 \times 10^5 \text{ km}$$



Global Positioning System

What are the GPS SR + GR time dilation factors?

What is the time difference for one day?

$$v = 4 \text{ km/s}$$

$$h = 20000 \text{ km}$$



Global Positioning System – Special Relativity

$$v = 4 \text{ km/s}$$

$$\Delta t_{GPS} = \sqrt{1 - \beta^2} \Delta t_E$$

$$\frac{\Delta t_E - \Delta t_{GPS}}{\Delta t_E} = \frac{\Delta t_E - \sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}{\Delta t_E}$$

$$\frac{\Delta t_E - \Delta t_{GPS}}{\Delta t_E} = 1 - \sqrt{1 - \beta^2} = -9 \times 10^{-11}$$

Global Positioning System – Special Relativity

$$\frac{\Delta t_E - \Delta t_{GPS}}{\Delta t_E} = -9 \times 10^{-11}$$

One day has 86 400 s.

GPS clocks tick *slower* by 7.7 μs per day.

Global Positioning System – General Relativity

$$M = 6 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg} \quad G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$$

$$r_E = 6378 \text{ km}$$

$$\Delta t_E = \sqrt{1 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r}} \Delta t_{GPS}$$

$$\frac{\Delta t_E - \Delta t_{GPS}}{\Delta t_E} = \frac{\Delta t_E - \Delta t_E \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r}}}}{\Delta t_E}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r}}} = 7 \times 10^{-10}$$

Global Positioning System – General Relativity

$$\frac{\Delta t_E - \Delta t_{GPS}}{\Delta t_E} = 7 \times 10^{-10}$$

One day has 86 400 s.

GPS clocks tick *faster* by 60 μ s per day.

Global Positioning System



GPS clocks appear to tick ***slower*** due to SR.

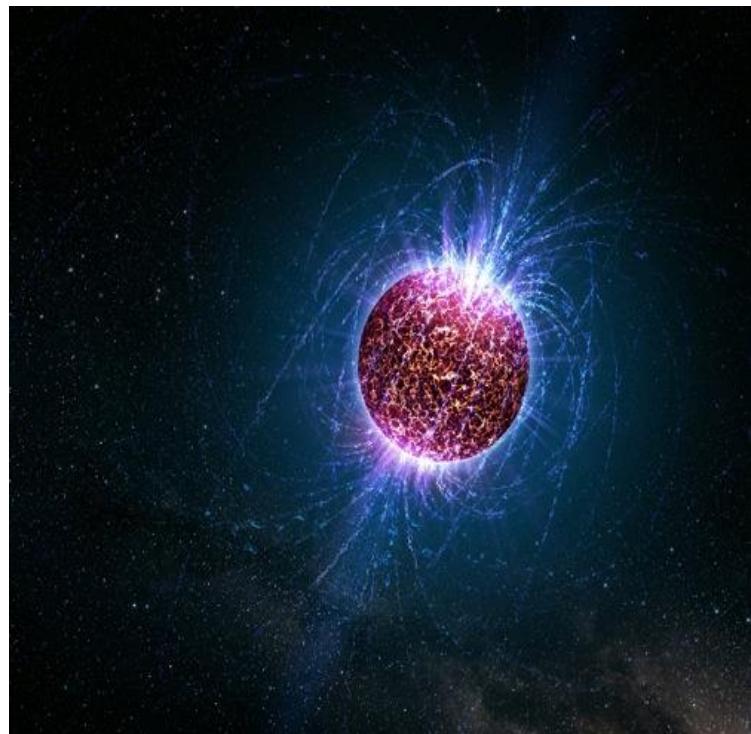
GPS clocks appear to tick ***faster*** due to GR.

$$\Delta t_{r,Bob} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r}} \Delta t_{\infty,Alice}$$

What is $\frac{2GM}{c^2 r}$ for a neutron star?

$$M_{neutron,*} = 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$$

$$r_{neutron,*} = 13 \text{ km}$$





Suppose we are on a star of with mass M and radius R

$$\frac{2GM}{c^2r} \ll 1$$

Squeeze the mass of the star into a smaller radius.

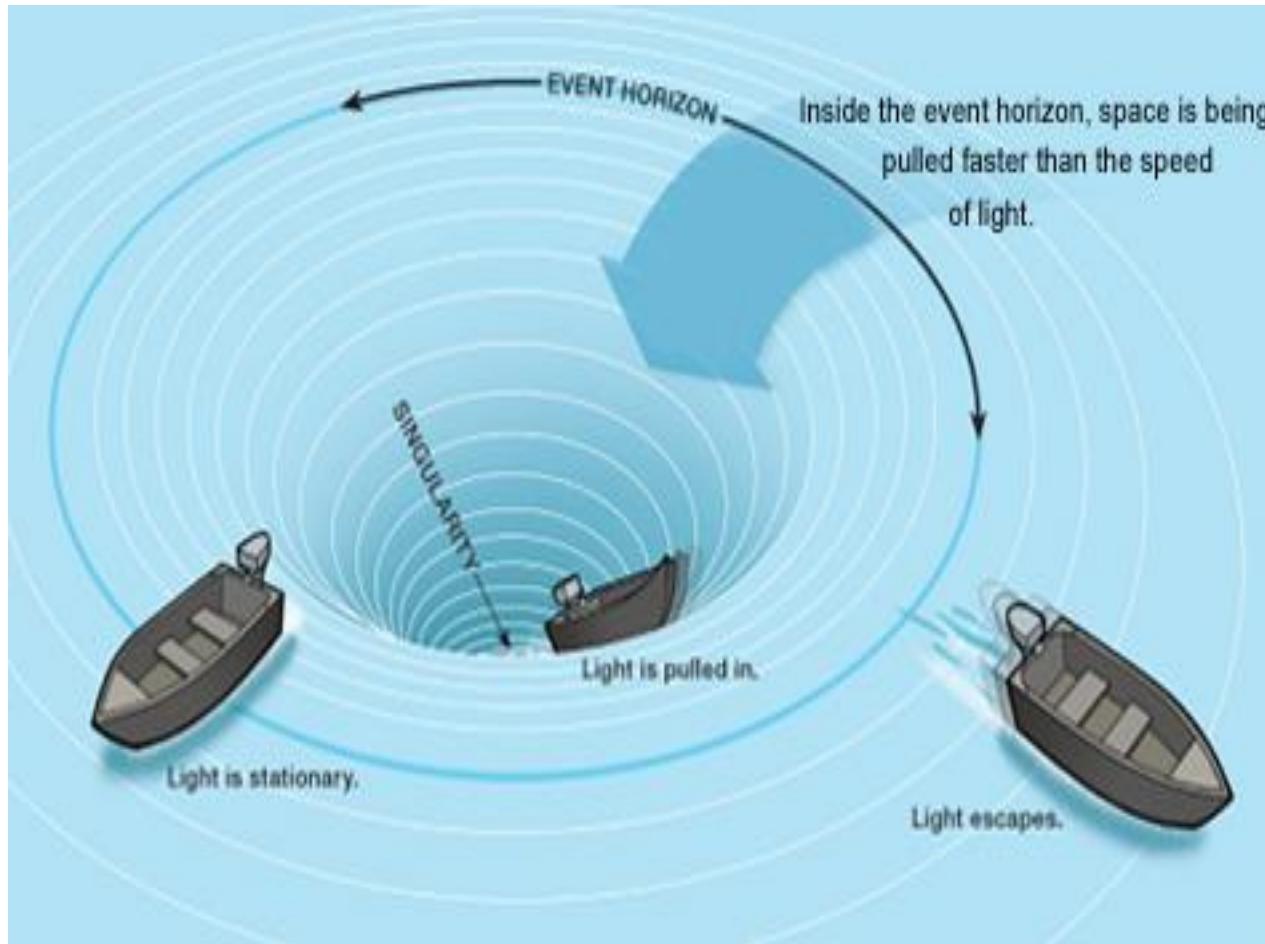
At what radius does something interesting happen?
What happens?

Schwarzschild Radius – Event Horizon

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



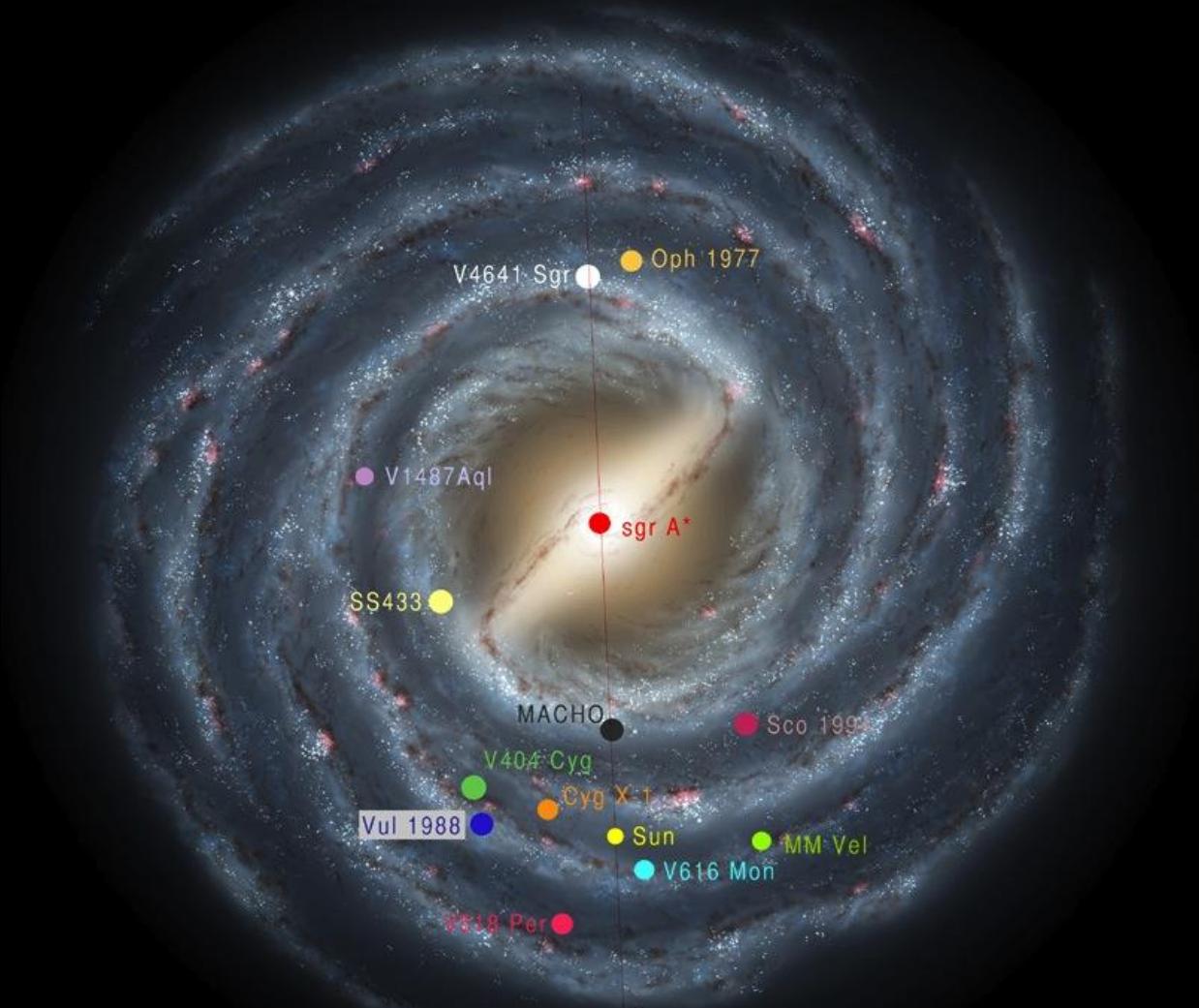
Escape speed = c



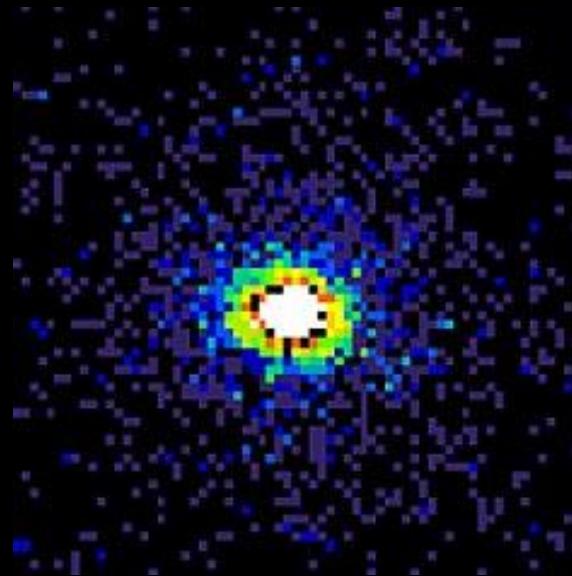
Schwarzschild Radius

Every mass as a Schwarzschild radius!
What is yours?

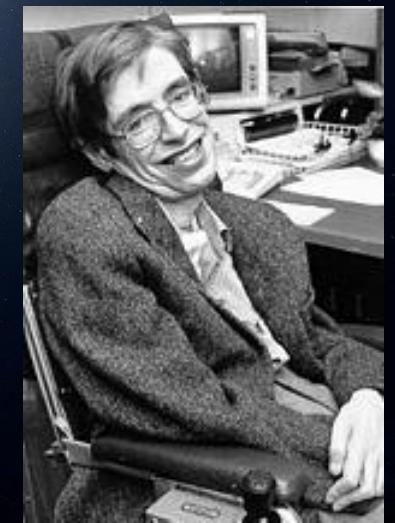
$$r_s = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$



Cygnus X-1



Thorne – Hawking Black Hole Bet



SMBH at the heart of the Milky Way

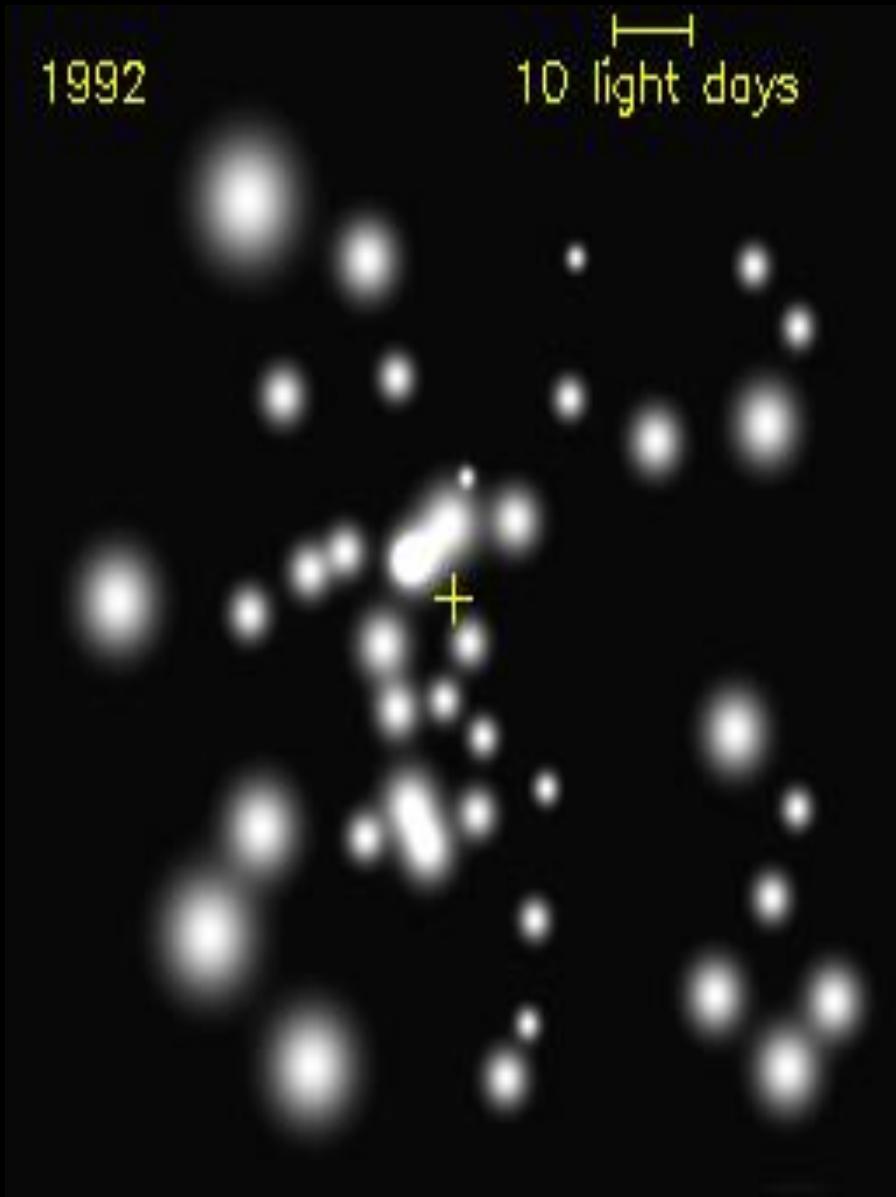
What is the schwarzschild radius of the black hole?

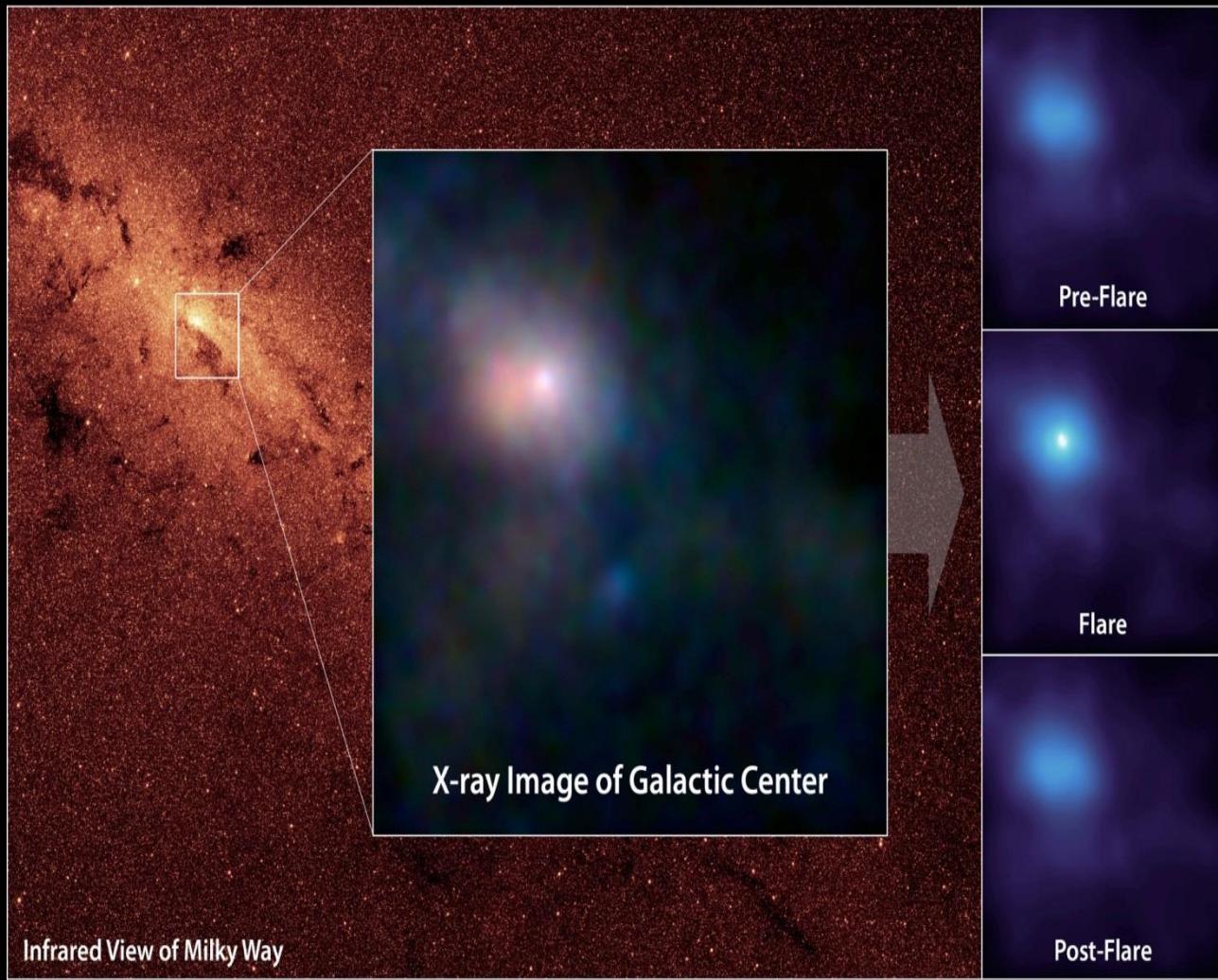
$$M_{SMBH} = 4 \times 10^6 M_{sun} = 8 \times 10^{36} \text{kg}$$

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

1992

10 light days





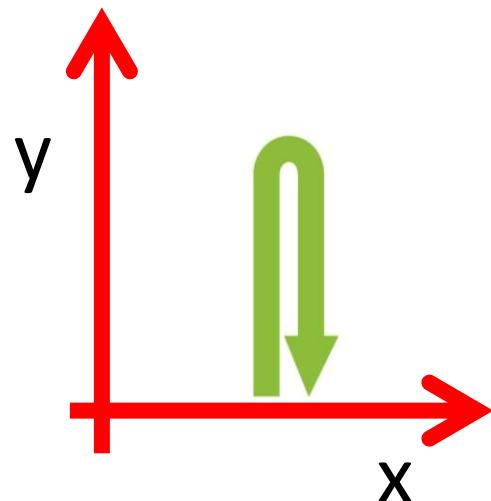
Gravity = Warping of Spacetime

- How does **time warping** explain gravity?
- How does **space warping** explain gravity?

Gravity – Warped Time

Draw the space-space diagram for a ball being tossed straight up.

If the ball starts with a speed of 10 m/s and reaches a maximum height of 5m how long is it in the air?



$$v = v_o - gt$$

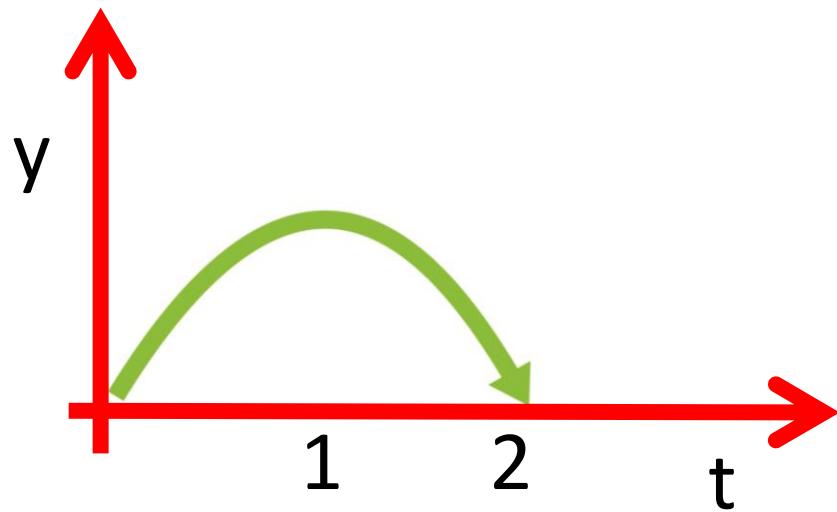
$$t_{top} = \frac{v_o}{g} = 1 \text{ sec}$$

$$t_{air} = 2 \text{ sec}$$

Gravity – Warped Time

Draw the spacetime diagram (t and y) for a ball being tossed straight up.

Gravity – Warped Time



Gravity – Warped Time

SR Time Dilation at t=0 and t=2

$$\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} \approx 1 - 5 \times 10^{-16} \quad \text{MOVING CLOCKS RUN SLOWER}$$

GR Time Dilation at t=1

$$1 + \frac{gh}{c^2} \approx 1 + 5 \times 10^{-16} \quad \text{HIGHER CLOCKS RUN FASTER}$$

Gravity – Warped Time

SR Time Dilation

Moving clocks run slow $\sim 10^{-16}$

GR Time Dilation

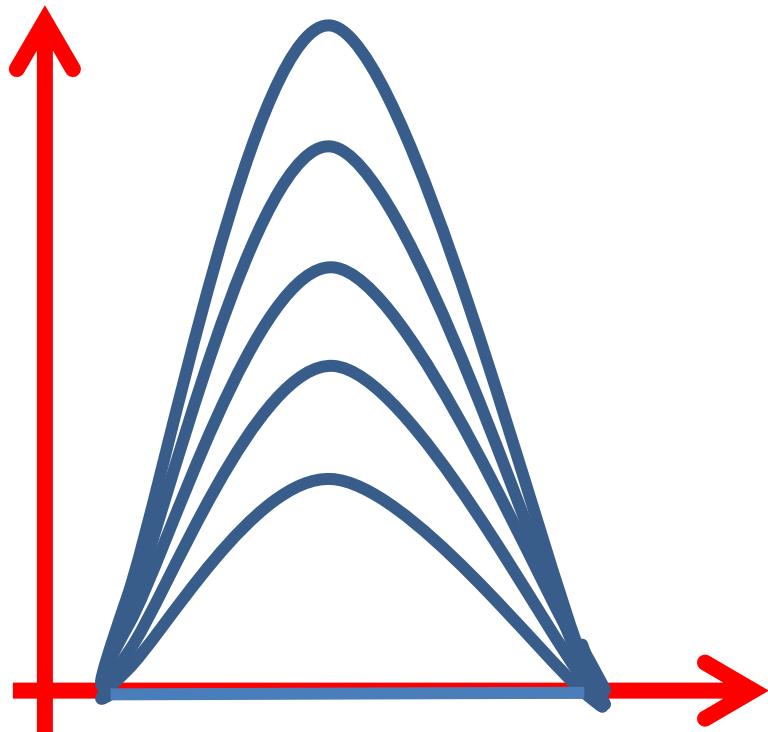
Higher clocks run fast $\sim 10^{-16}$

Gravity – Warped Time

Sketch many ball paths through the same two endpoints starting with a path that moves straight and then through increasing heights.

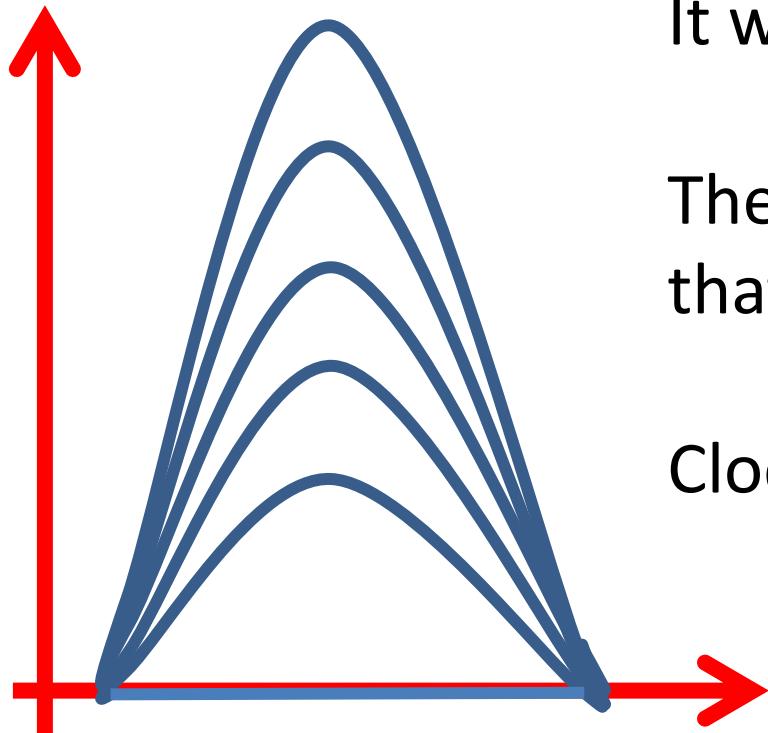
Gravity – Warped Time

Sketch many ball paths through the same two endpoints starting with a path that moves straight and then through increasing heights.



Gravity – Warped Time

What effect will GR time dilation have on the elapsed time for a clock strapped to the ball?



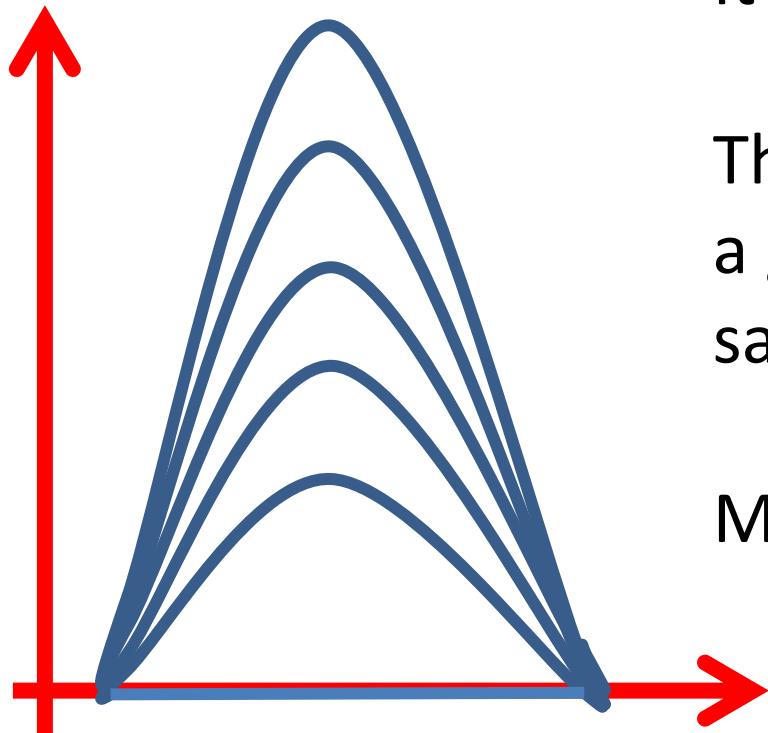
It will **increase** the elapsed time

The ball is moving through a space that is higher up

Clocks tick fast higher up

Gravity – Warped Time

What effect will SR time dilation have on the elapsed time for a clock strapped to the ball?



It will **decrease** the elapsed time

The ball must move faster to go to a greater height and back in the same time

Moving clocks run slow

Gravity – Warped Time

GR increases elapsed time!

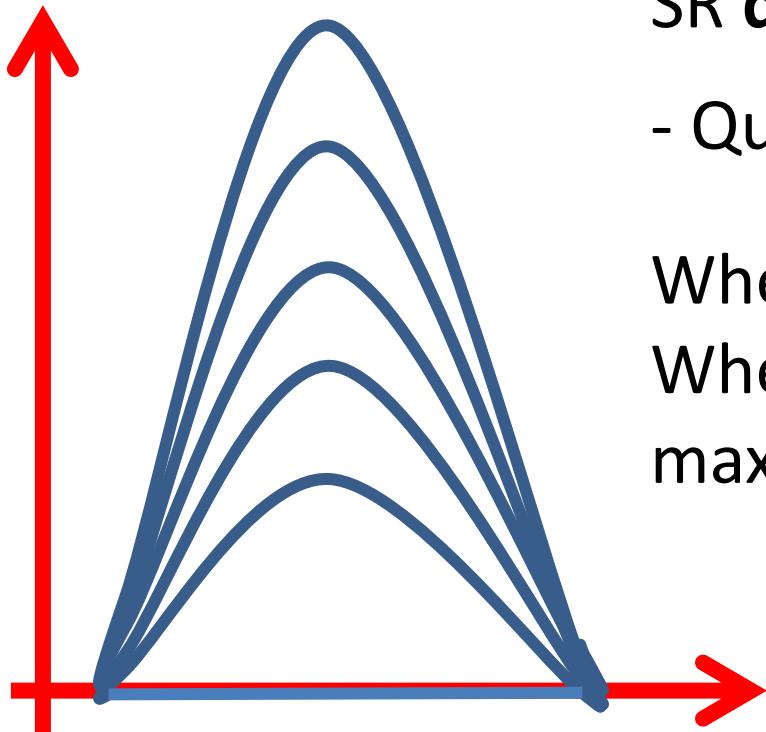
- Linear $\rightarrow \frac{gh}{c^2}$

SR decreases elapsed time!

- Quadratic $\rightarrow \frac{v^2}{c^2}$

Where is the sweet-spot?

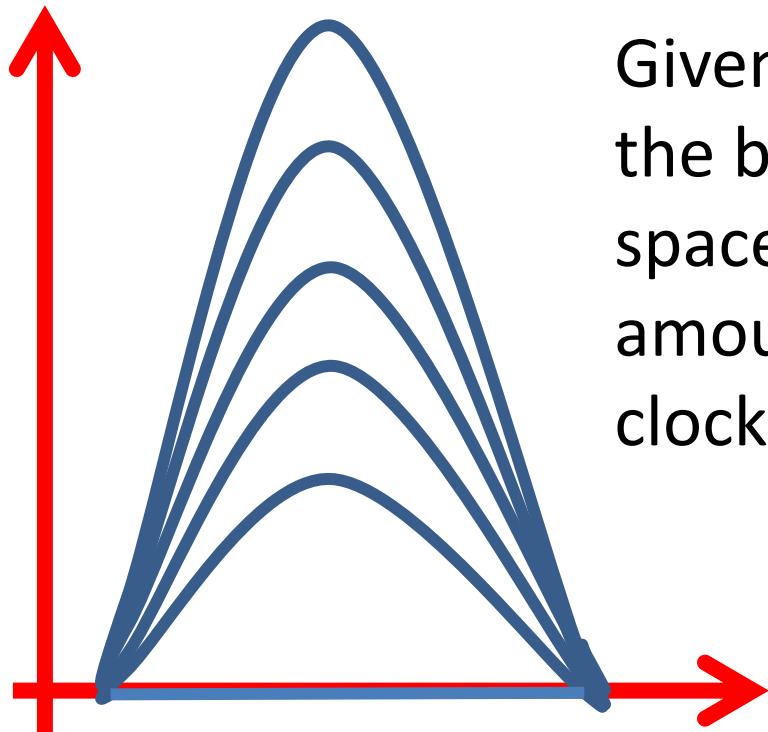
Where is the elapsed time is a maximum?



\hat{P}

Gravity – Warped Time

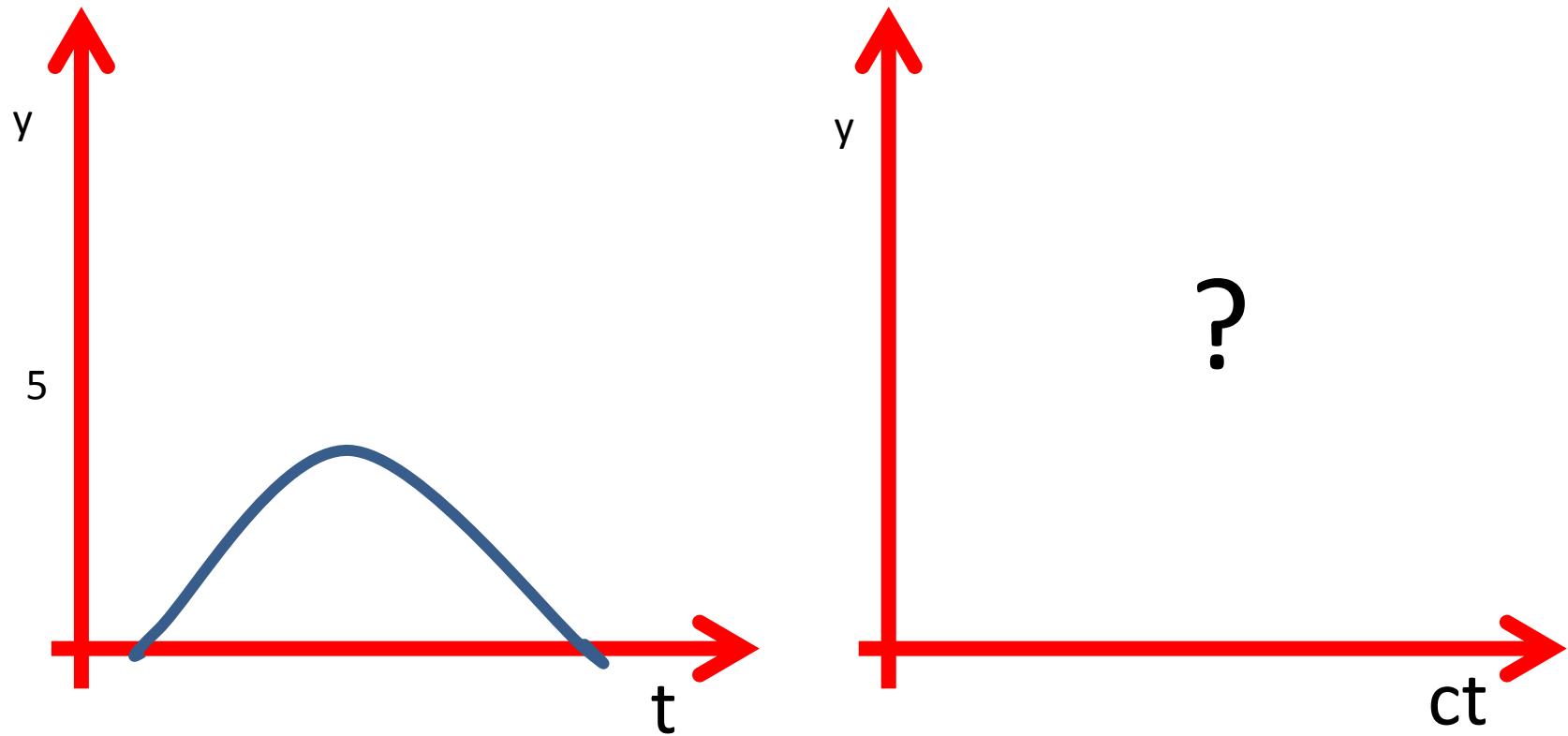
Max. Time = Straight path in curved spacetime



Given two endpoints in spacetime, the ball moves on a path through spacetime for which the **maximum** amount of time will elapse for a clock strapped to the ball.

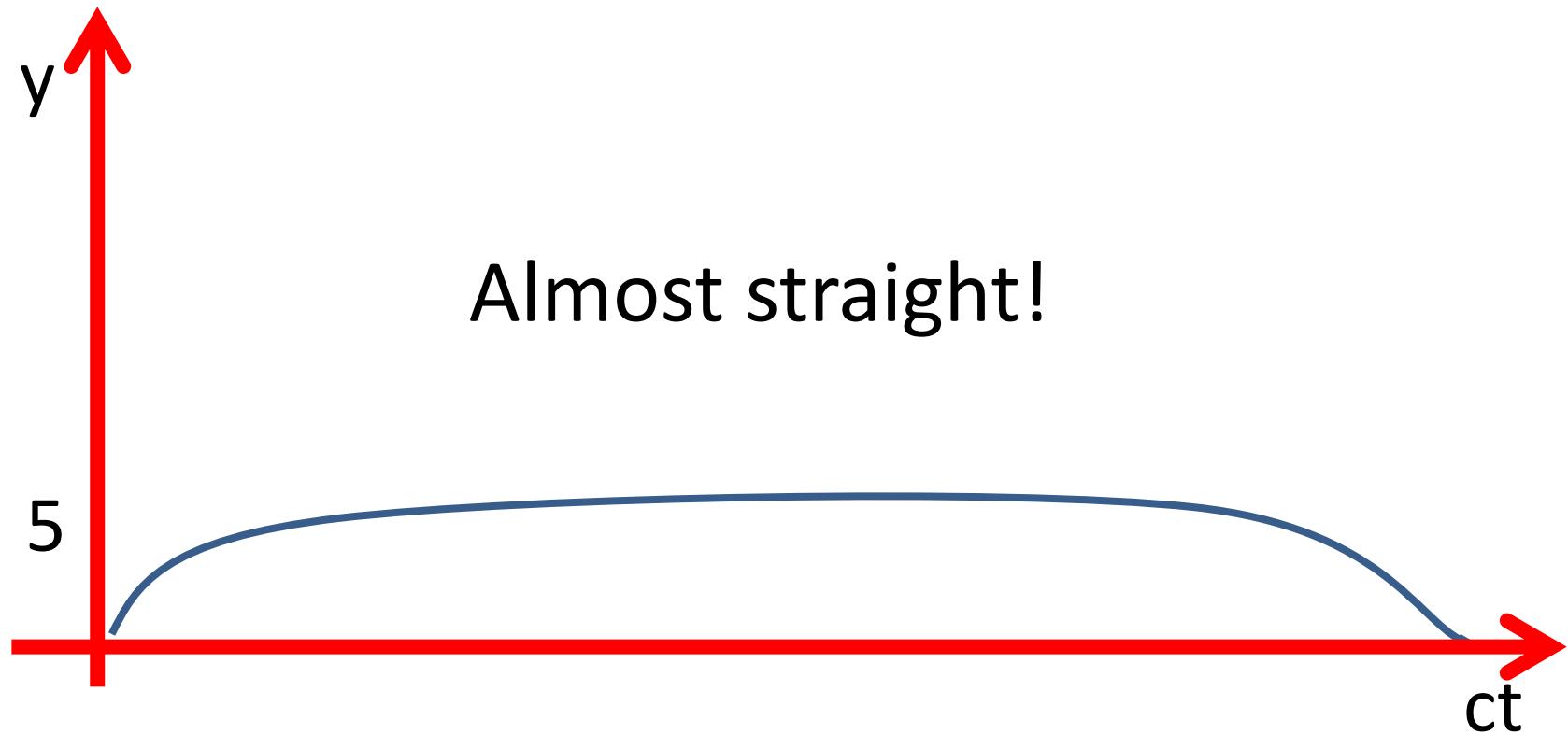
How curved is the spacetime of the Earth?

Draw the original path of the ball putting space and time on the same footing!



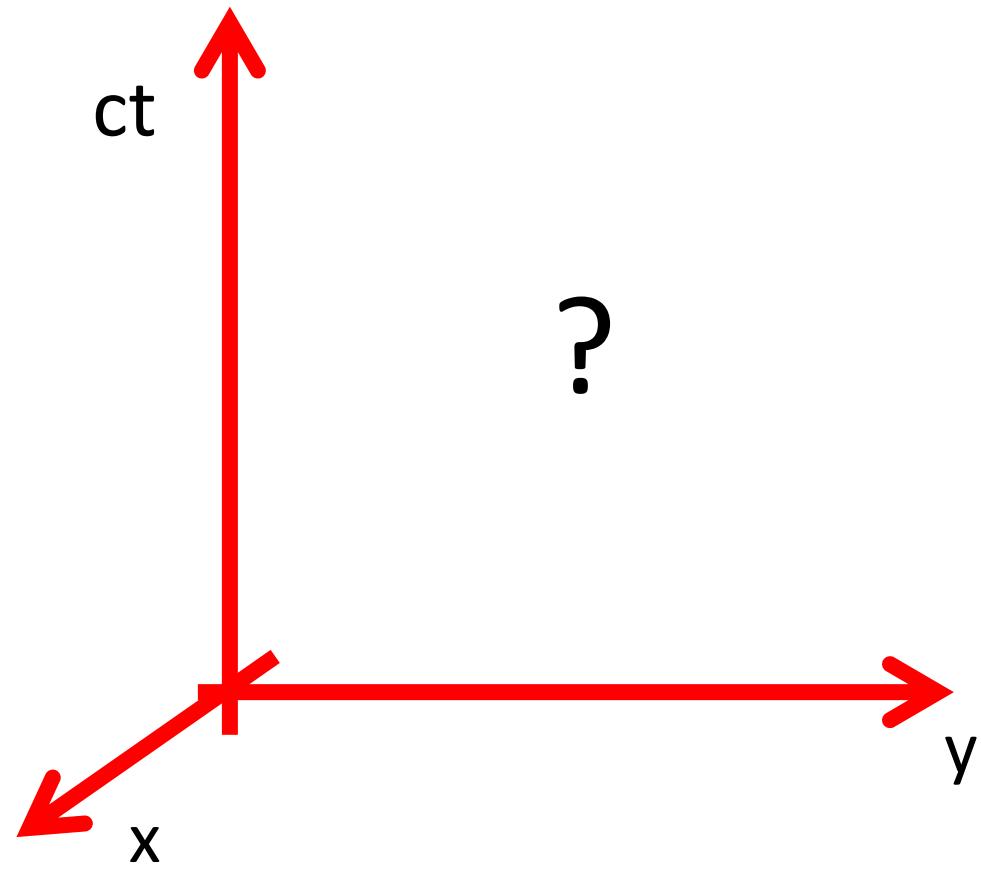
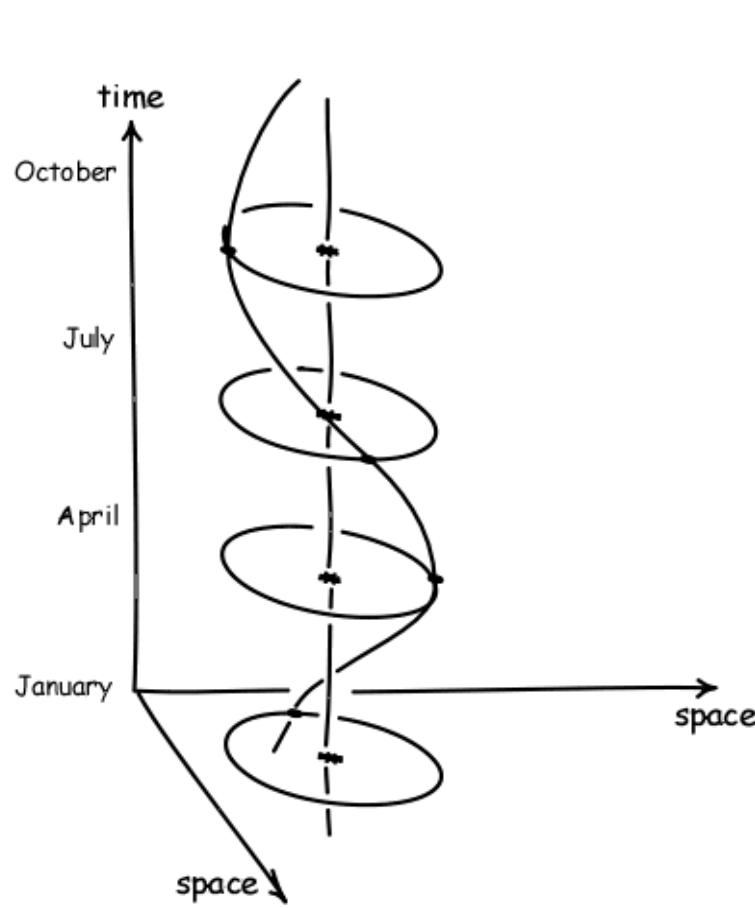
How curved is the spacetime of the Earth?

Spacetime is “stiff”. The mass of the Earth hardly warps it!

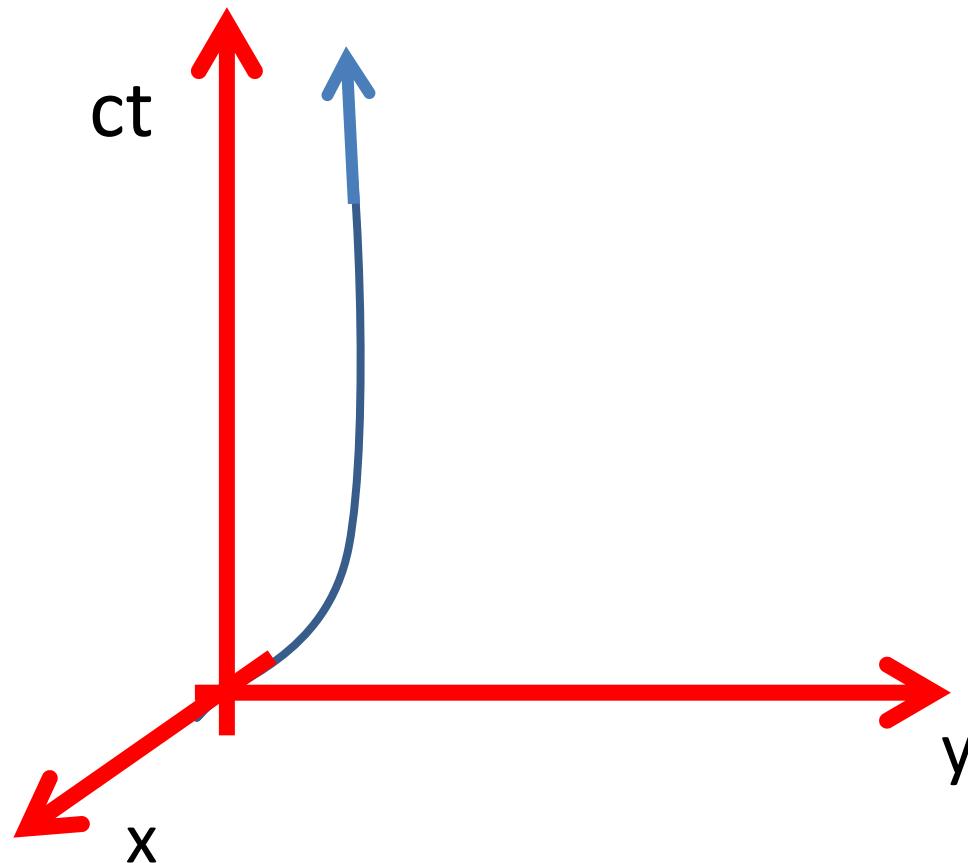


Can we explain Earth's orbit?

Re-draw Earth's orbit putting space and time on the same footing!

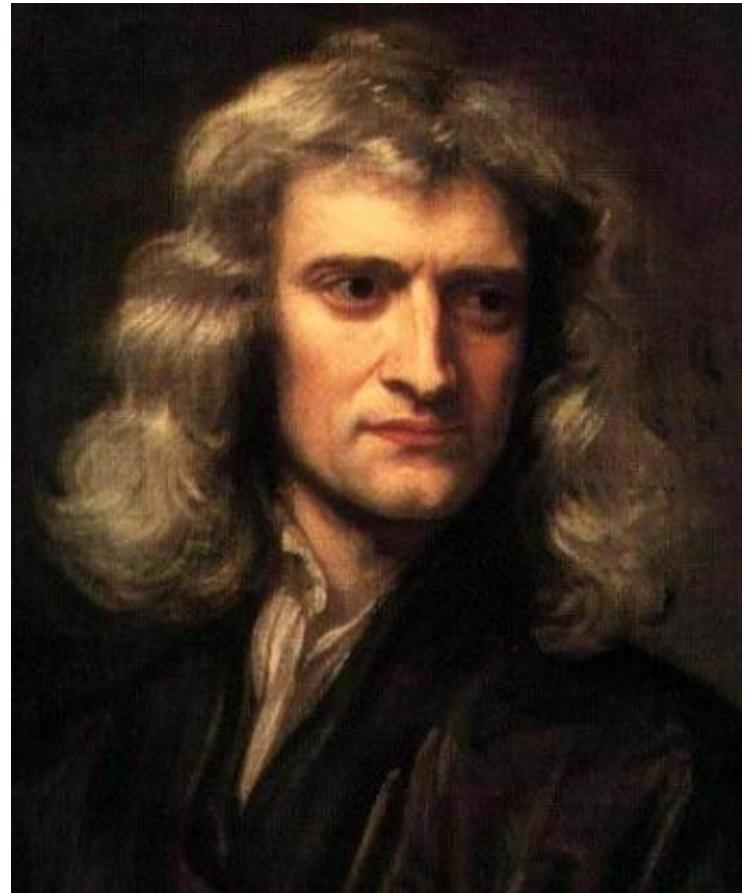


Can we explain Earth's orbit?



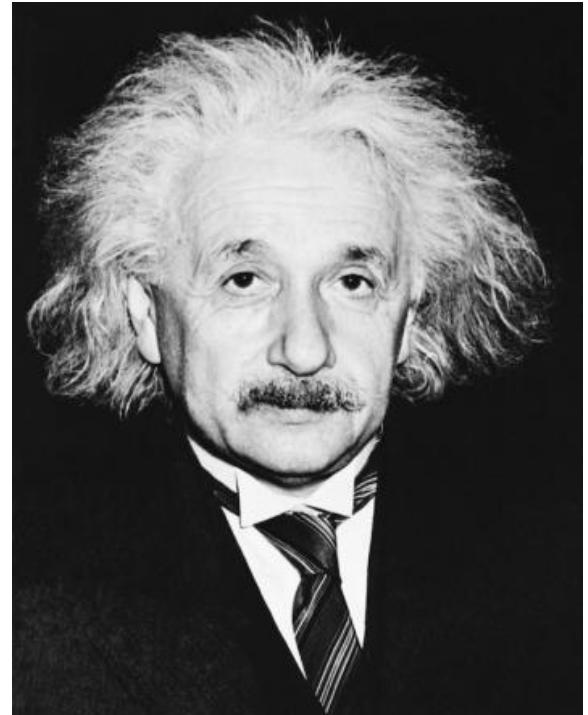
Newton

- Gravity is a force
- Something to put on LHS of $F=ma$
- This law determines acceleration and motion of the planets



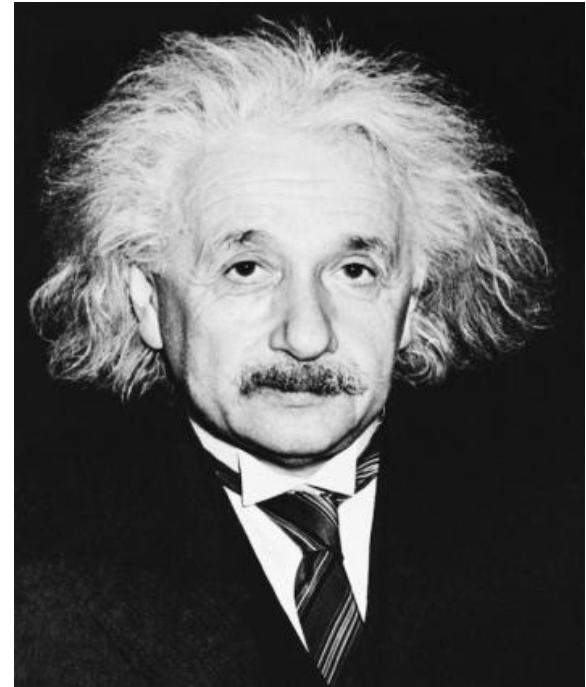
Einstein

- Gravity is not a force
- Doesn't belong in $F=ma$
- Gravity is part of the first law
- Bodies not acted on by any forces move on straight lines in spacetime



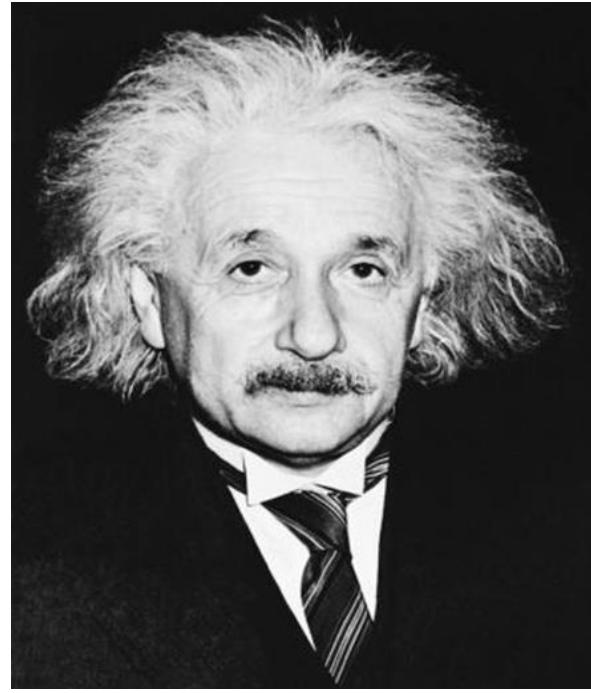
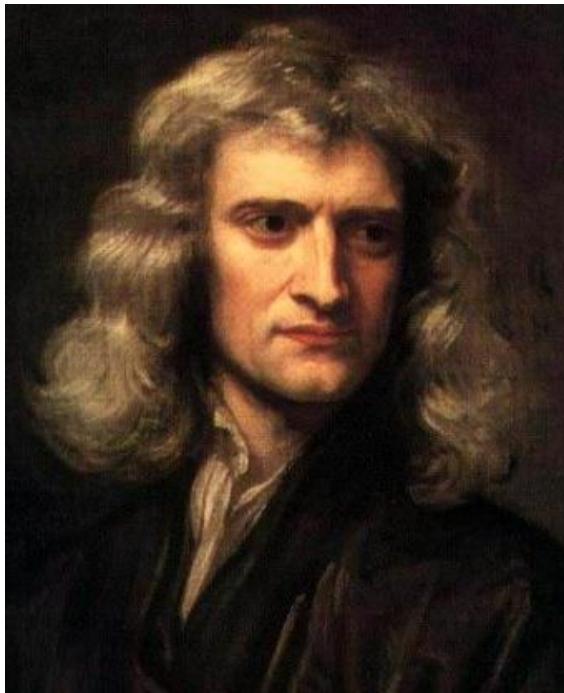
Einstein

1. Replace Newton's absolute space and time with flat spacetime (Minkowski Space)
2. Allow spacetime to be curved by the matter it contains.
3. Bodies in free-fall move on straight paths in this curved spacetime!



Gravity is not something that happens in spacetime – it is spacetime!

Newton vs. Einstein

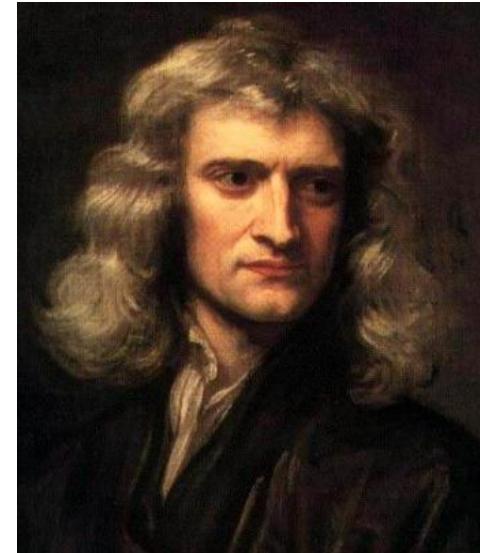


Einstein's model also predicts that space is warped as well!
Let's see if we can set Einstein's model apart!

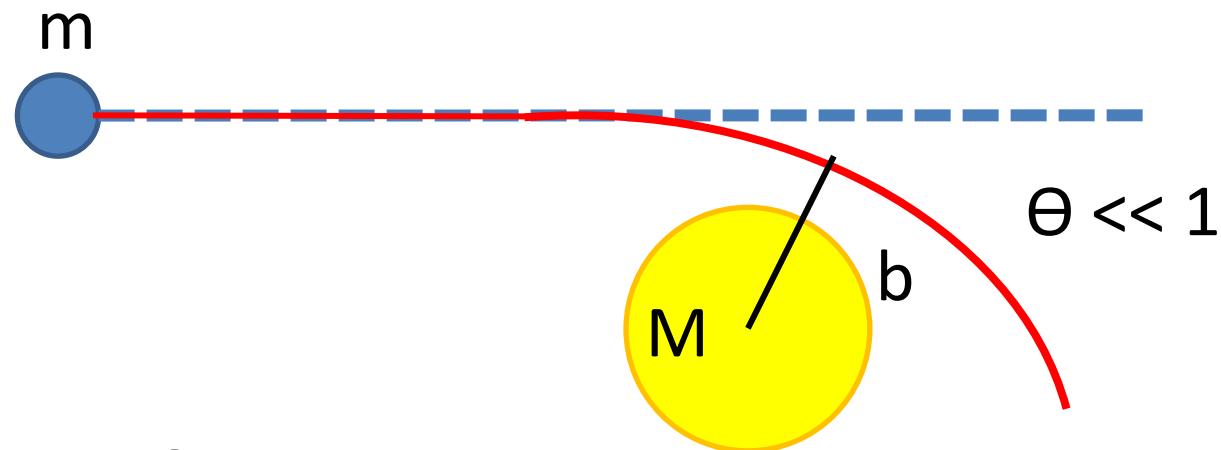
Gravity = Warping of Spacetime

- How does **time warping** explain gravity?
- How does **space warping** explain gravity?

Newton's Deflection



Throw a rock past a star! It will deflect!



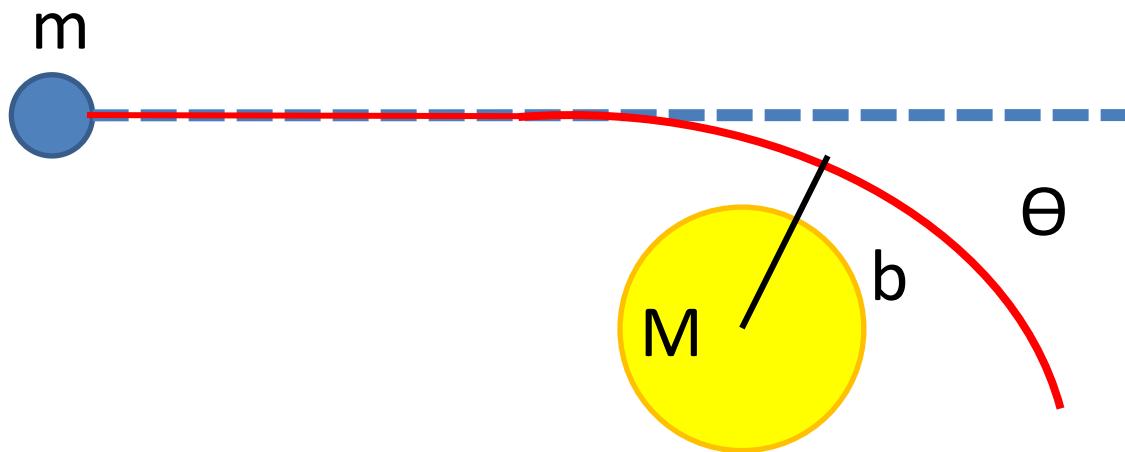
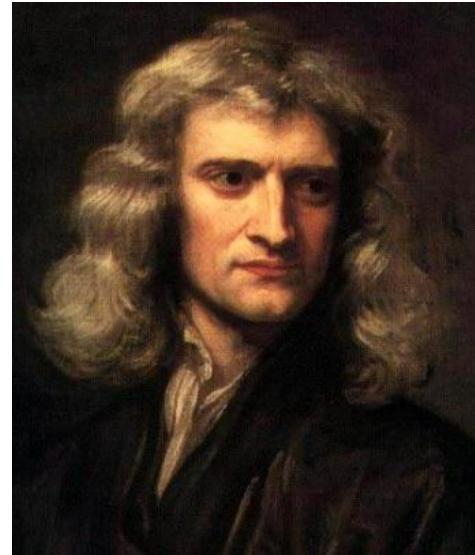
Estimate Θ

Will it depend on m ? Why or why not?

Newton's Deflection

What does θ depend on?

- G (strength of gravity)
- M (mass of star)
- V (speed of rock)
- b (impact parameter)



Use dimensional analysis to find θ

Dimensional Analysis

$$G \quad \left[\frac{L^3}{MT^2} \right]$$

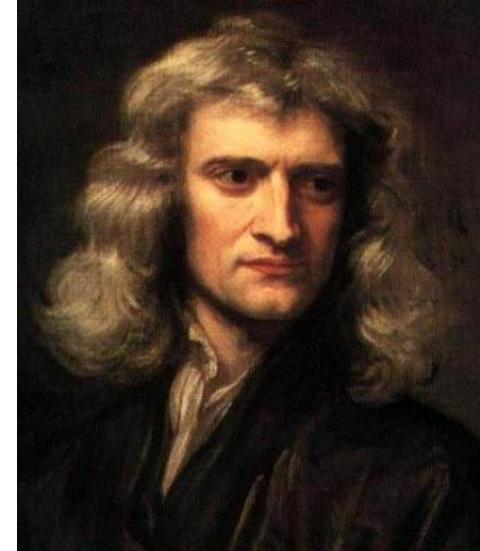
$$M \quad [M]$$

$$\frac{GM}{bv^2}$$

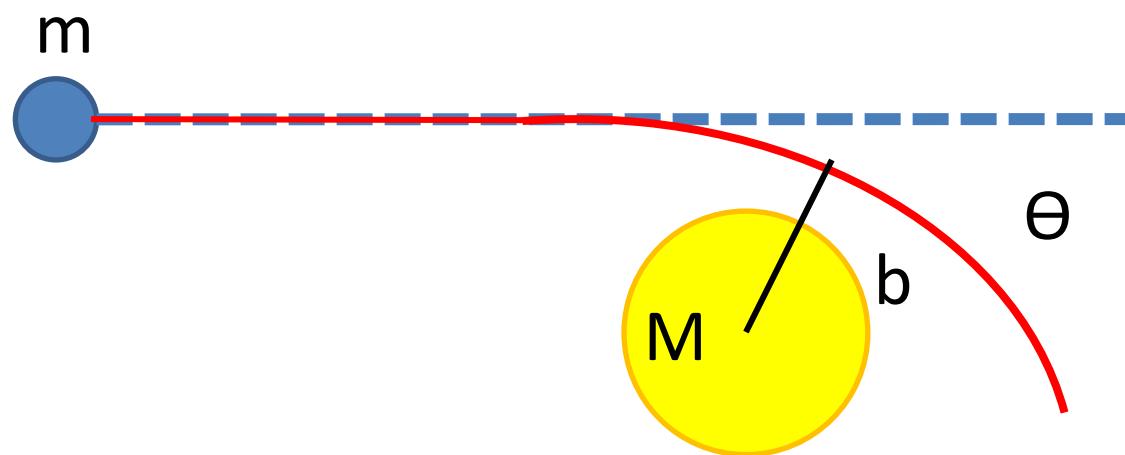
$$v \quad \left[\frac{L}{T} \right]$$

$$b \quad [L]$$

Newton's Deflection

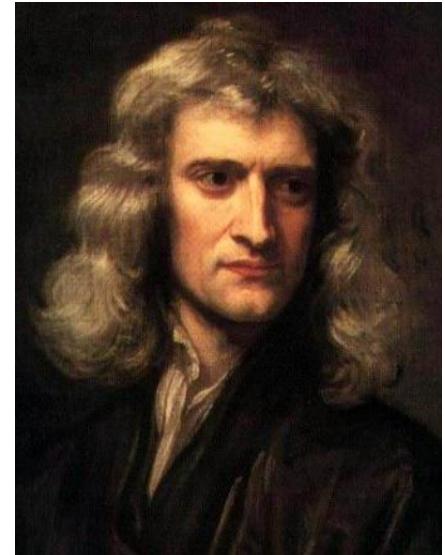


$$\theta_{Newton} = \frac{2GM}{bc^2}$$



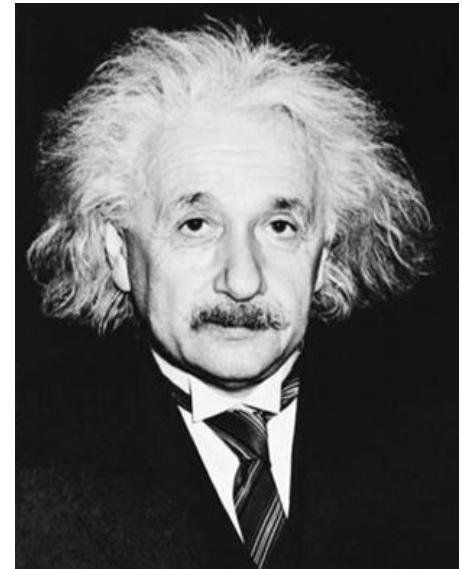
Newton – Bending of Light

$$\theta_{Newton} = \frac{2GM}{bc^2}$$



Einstein – Bending of Light

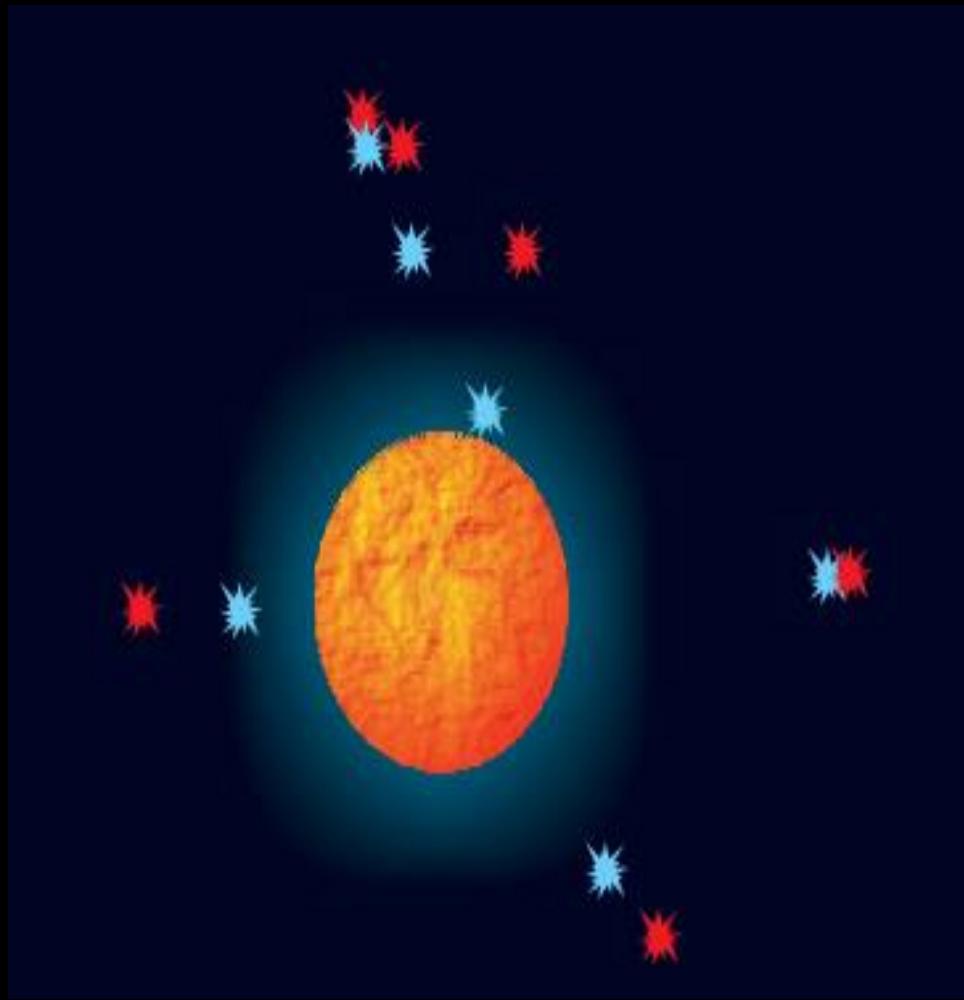
$$\theta_{Einstein} = \frac{4GM}{bc^2} = 2 \times \theta_{Newton}$$

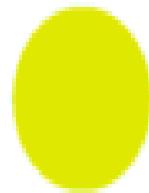


Eddington – Eclipse of 1919

$$\theta_{Einstein} = \frac{4GM}{Rc^2}$$







No Sun
Newton
Einstein



By how much is the star's light deflected?

$$R_{sun} = 7 \times 10^5 \text{ km} \quad M_{sun} = 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$$

$$\theta = \frac{4GM_{sun}}{c^2 R_{sun}} = 8.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ radians}$$
$$= 1.75 \text{ arcsec}$$

$$1 \text{ arcsec} = 4.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ radians}$$

LIGHTS ALL ASKEW, IN THE HEAVENS



Men of Science More or Less
Agog Over Results of Eclipse
Observations.

EINSTEIN THEORY TRIUMPHS

Stars Not Where They Seemed
or Were Calculated to be,
but Nobody Need Worry.

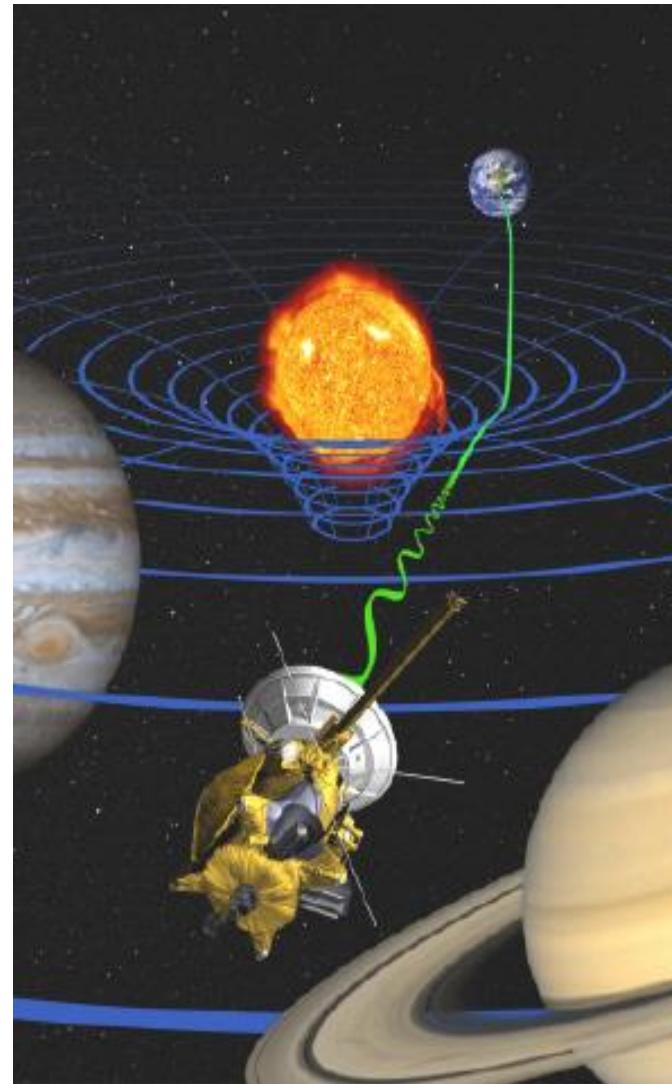
A BOOK FOR 12 WISE MEN

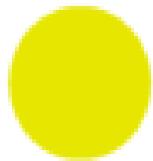
No More in All the World Could
Comprehend It, Said Einstein When
His Daring Publishers Accepted It.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
LONDON, Nov. 9.—Efforts made to
put in words intelligible to the non-
scientific public the Einstein theory of
light proved by the eclipse expedition
so far have not been very successful. The
new theory was discussed at a recent
meeting of the Royal Society and Royal
Astronomical Society. Sir Joseph Thom-
son, President of the Royal Society, de-
clares it is not possible to put Einstein's
theory into really intelligible words, yet
at the same time Thomson adds:

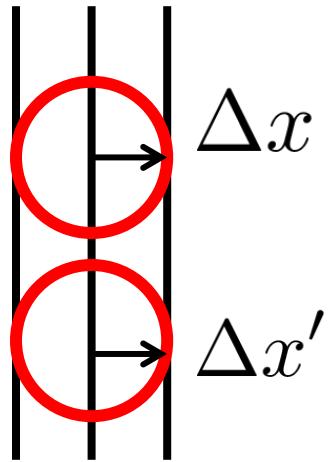
"The results of the eclipse expedition
demonstrating that the rays of light
from the stars are bent or deflected
from their normal course by other aerial
bodies acting upon them and conse-
quently the inference that light has
weight form a most important con-
tribution to the laws of gravity given us
since Newton laid down his principles."

Cassini





Ned Wright



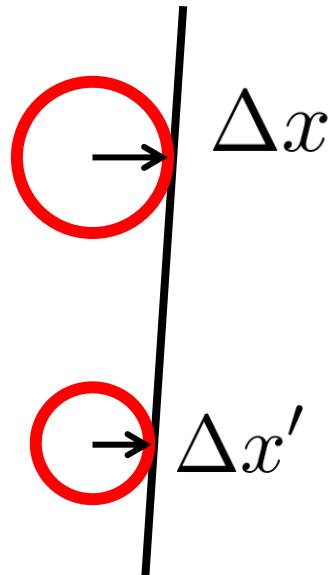
$$\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = c$$

$$\Delta t' = \Delta t \quad \text{No time warp!}$$

$$\Delta x' = \Delta x$$

$$\frac{\Delta x'}{\Delta t'} = c$$

Ray doesn't bend!



$$\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} = c$$

$$\Delta t' < \Delta t$$

time warp!

$$\frac{\Delta x'}{\Delta t'} = c$$

**But we still need speed c !
There is a space warp!**

Ray bends! There is a double tilt!

"One had to be a Newton to notice that the moon is falling when everyone sees that it doesn't fall."

- Paul Valery

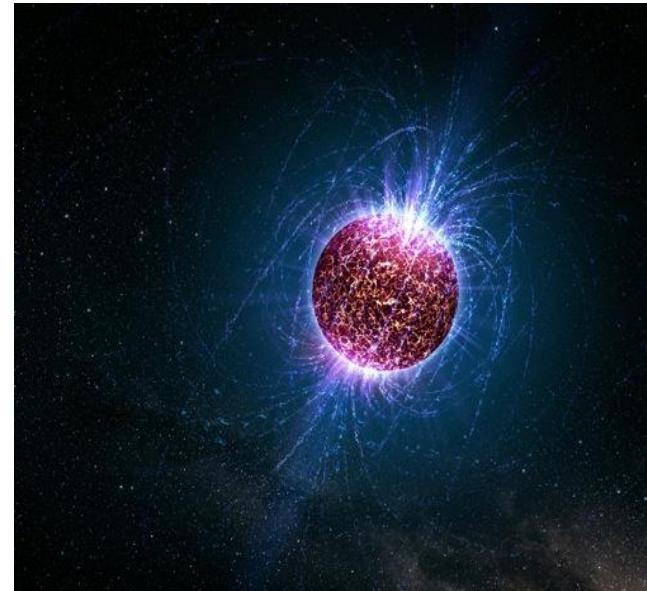
"In the spirit of the epigraph, we can say that it took the genius of Einstein to see that the Moon is moving in a straight line, when everyone sees that it doesn't."

- W. Burke

What is $\theta_E = \frac{4GM}{c^2r}$ for a neutron star?

$$M_{neutron,*} = 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$$

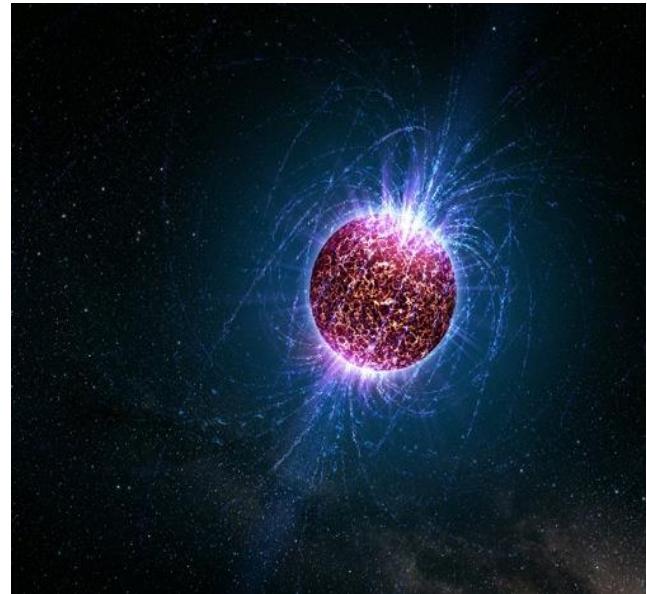
$$r_{neutron,*} = 13 \text{ km}$$



What is $\theta_E = \frac{4GM}{c^2r}$ for a neutron star?

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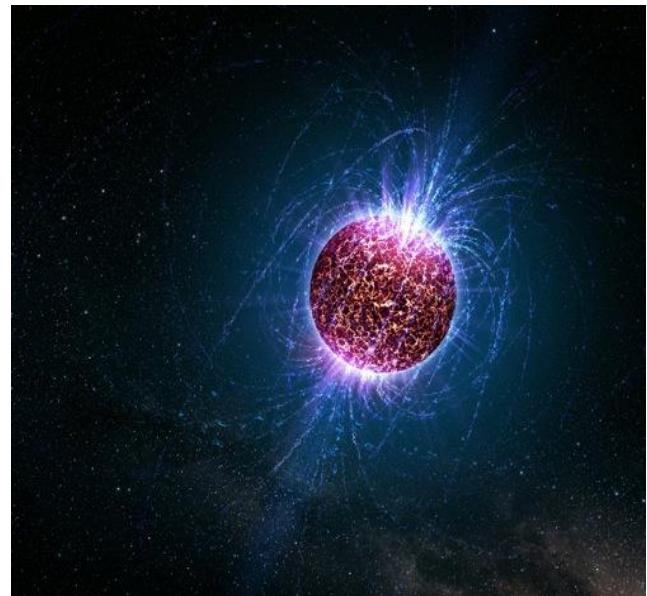


$$\theta_E = \frac{4GM}{c^2r} = 0.46 \text{ rad} = 26^\circ$$

What is the acceleration due to gravity?

$$M_{neutron,*} = 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg}$$

$$r_{neutron,*} = 13 \text{ km}$$

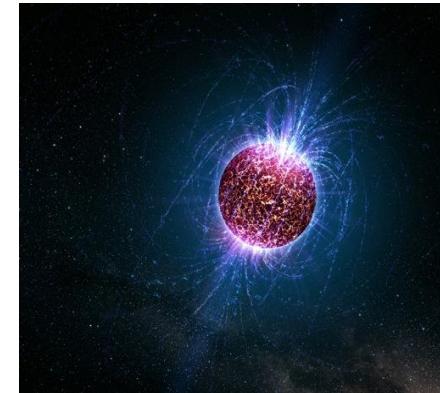


$$a = \frac{GM_{neutron}}{r^2} = 8 \times 10^{11} \text{ m/s}^2$$

If we shine a light 1 m off the surface, how far would light travel before it is bent down so much it hits the surface?

$$a = \frac{GM_{neutron}}{r^2} = 8 \times 10^{11} \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$v_i t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2 \quad \text{Newtonian}$$

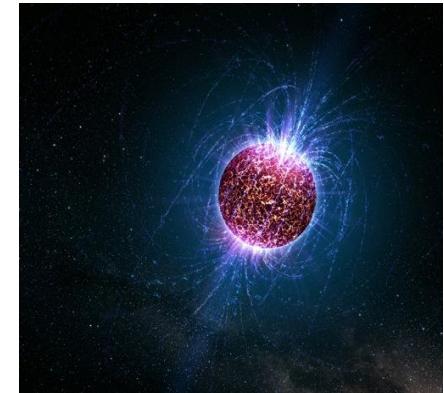


$$h \approx 2 \times \left(\frac{1}{2} a t^2 \right) \approx a \left(\frac{d}{c} \right)^2$$



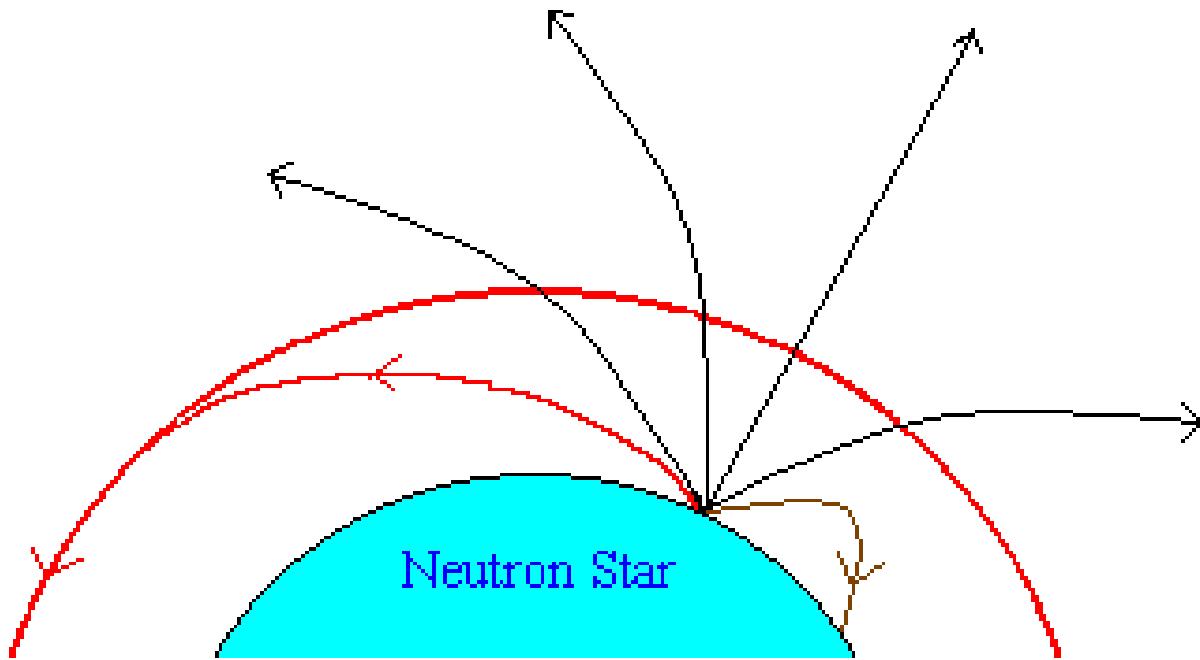
Double the Newtonian Effect

If we shine a light 1 m off the surface, how far would light travel before it is bent down so much it hits the surface?



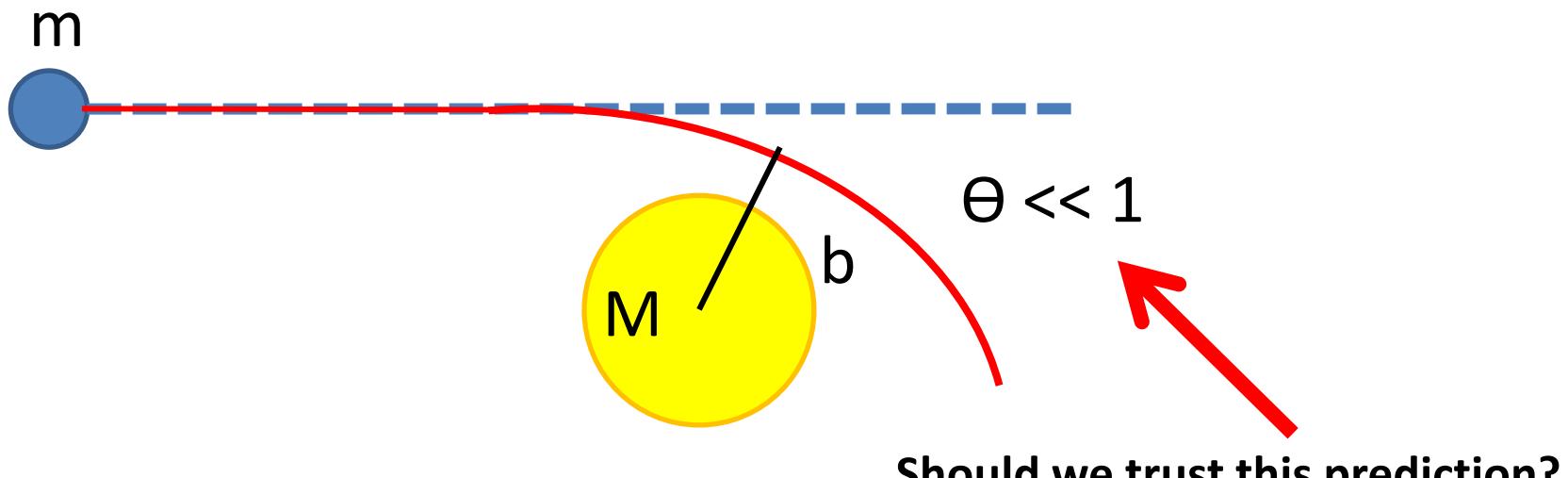
$$d = \sqrt{\frac{h}{a}}c$$

You would be able to see light bending!



Black Holes

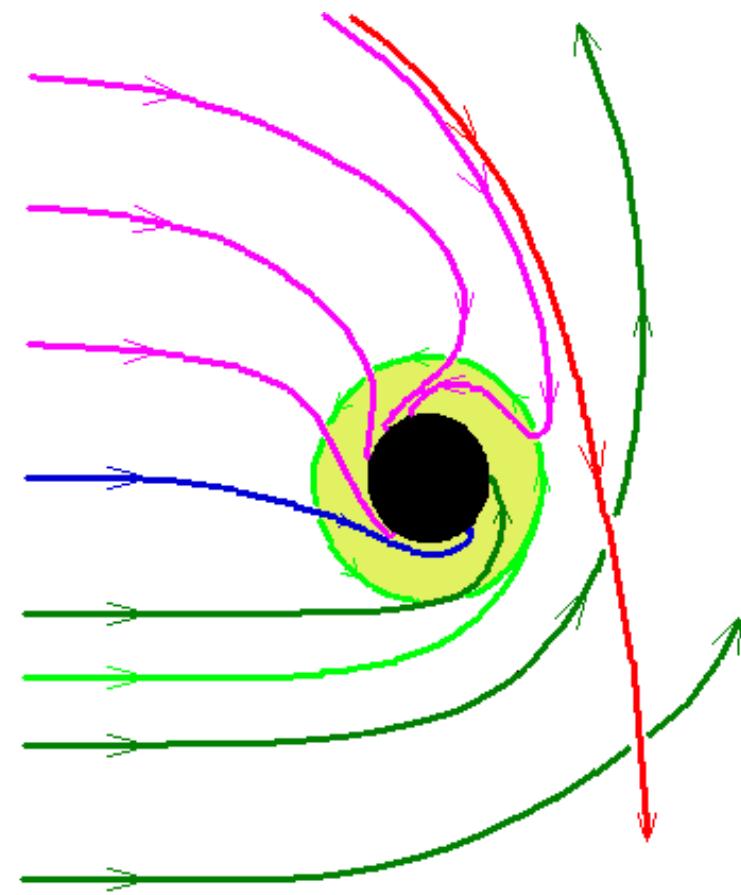
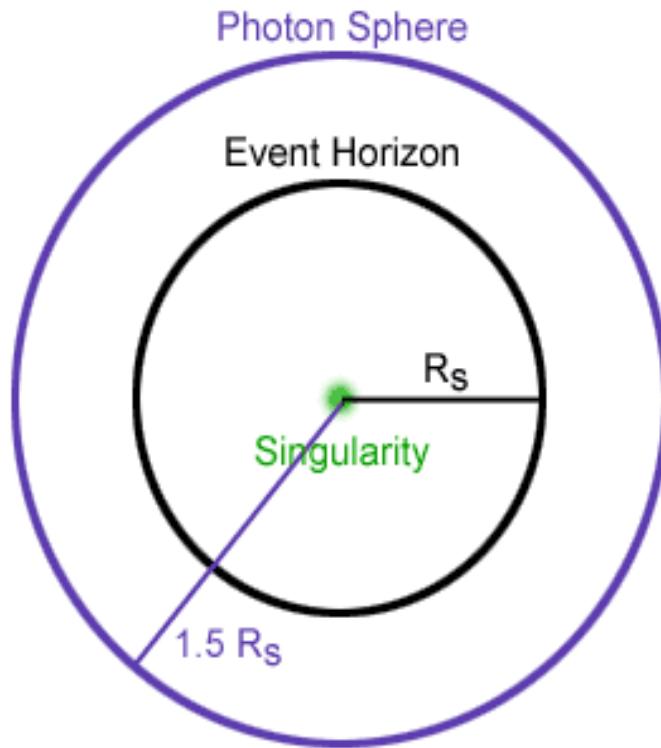
What prediction does Einstein's formula make when the impact parameter approaches R_s ?

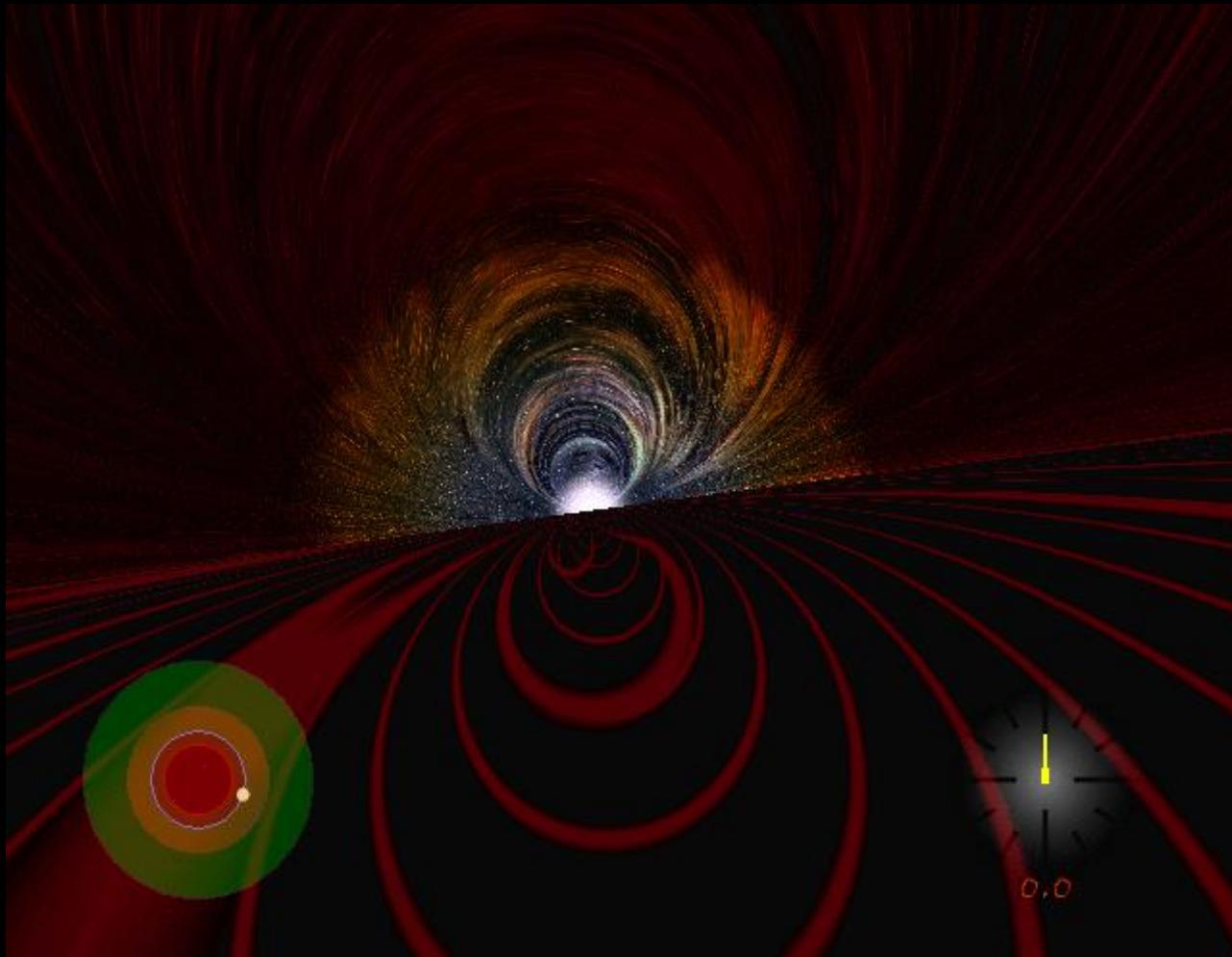


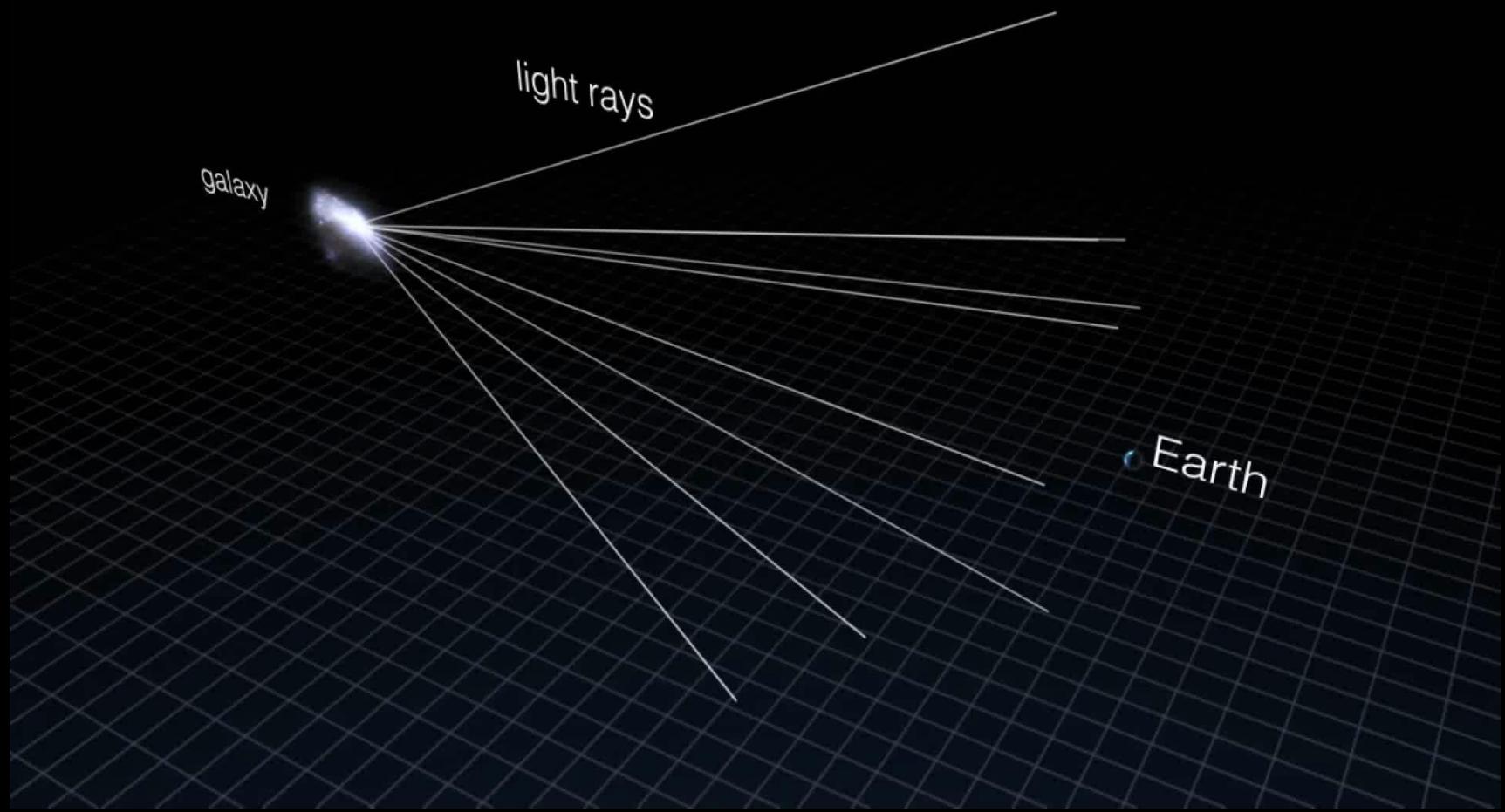
$$\theta_E = \frac{4GM}{c^2 b}$$

Black Holes

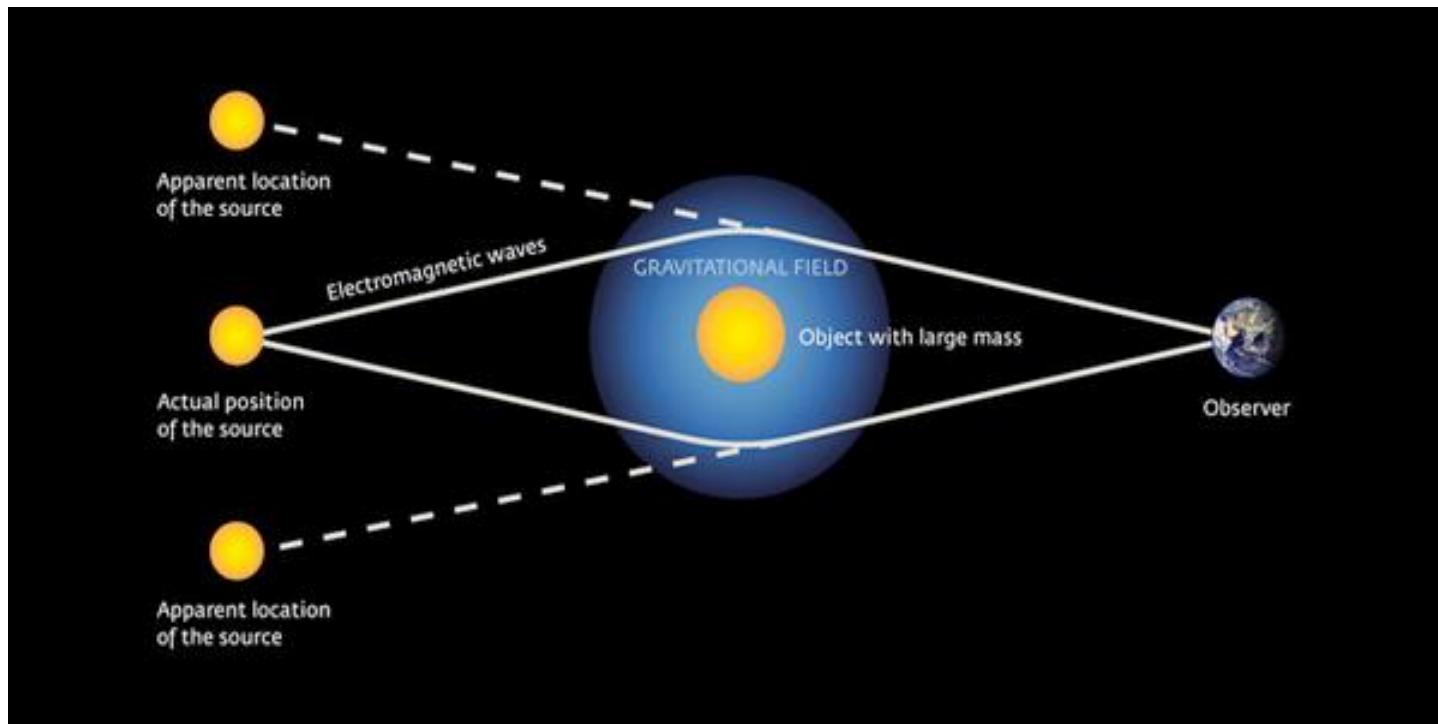
A full GR calculation reveals that for $b = 1.5 R_s$, a ray of light will be so bent it will orbit the black hole.





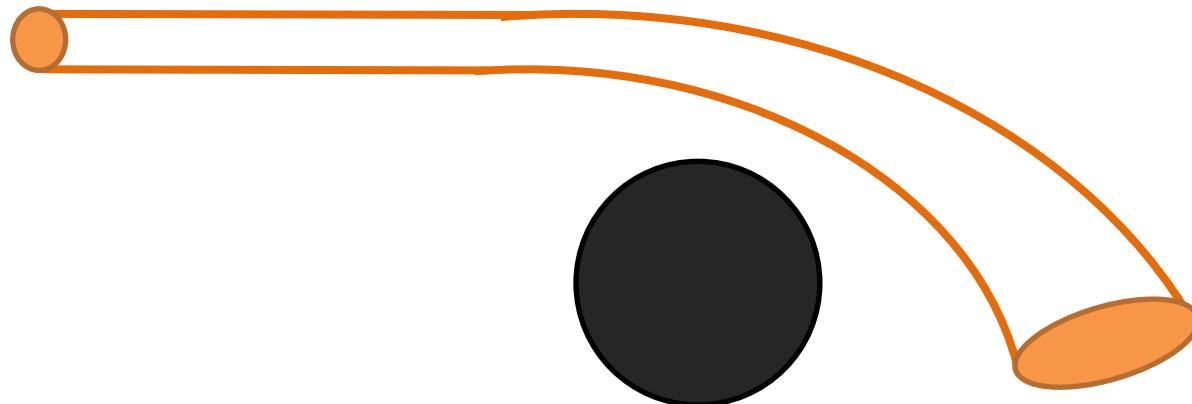


Gravitational Lensing



Gravitational Lensing

An extended object like a galaxy is stretched!
The surface brightness stays the same but area increases
so the total luminosity becomes brighter.

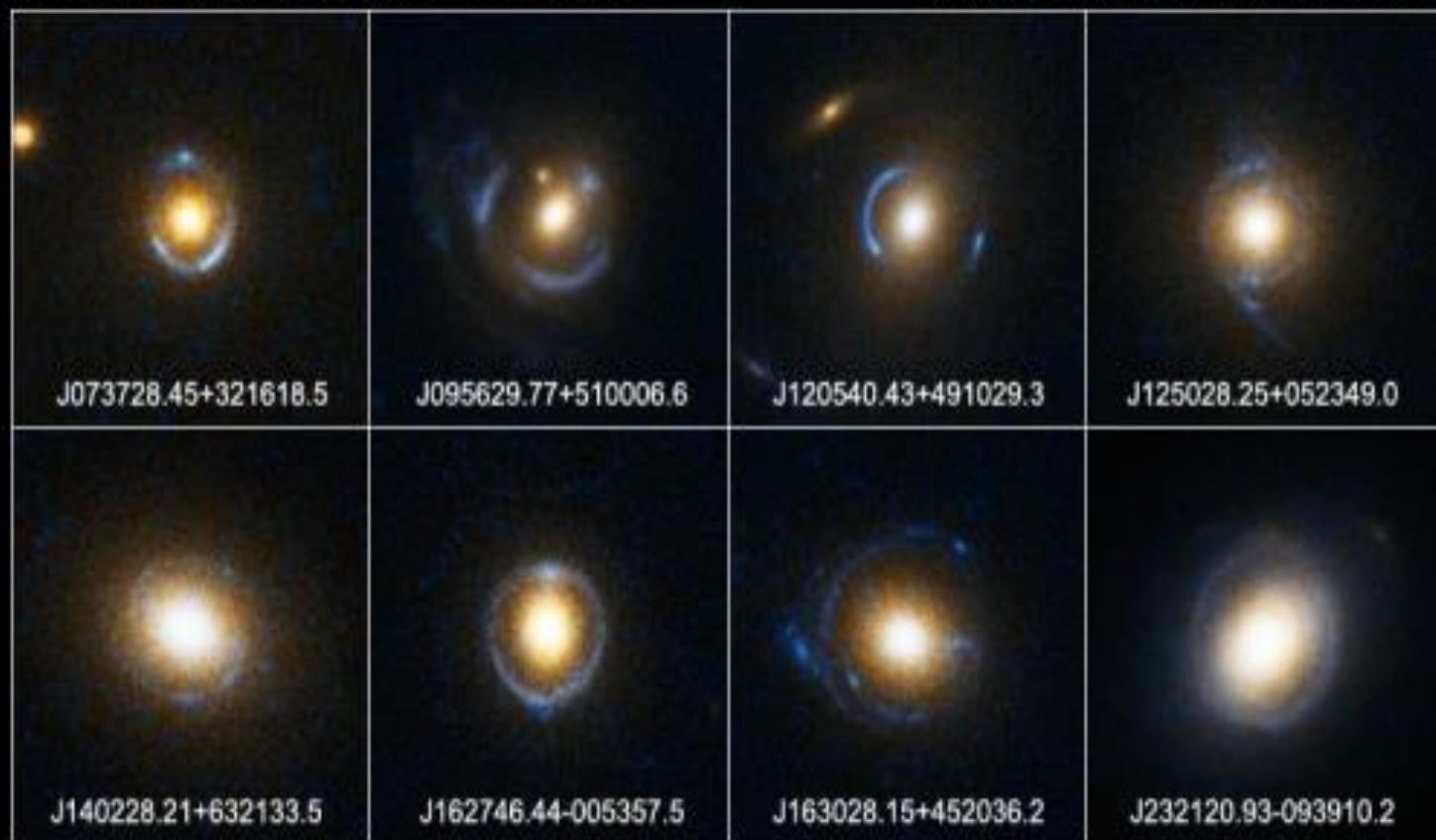


Lensing Galaxy



Einstein Ring Gravitational Lenses

Hubble Space Telescope • ACS

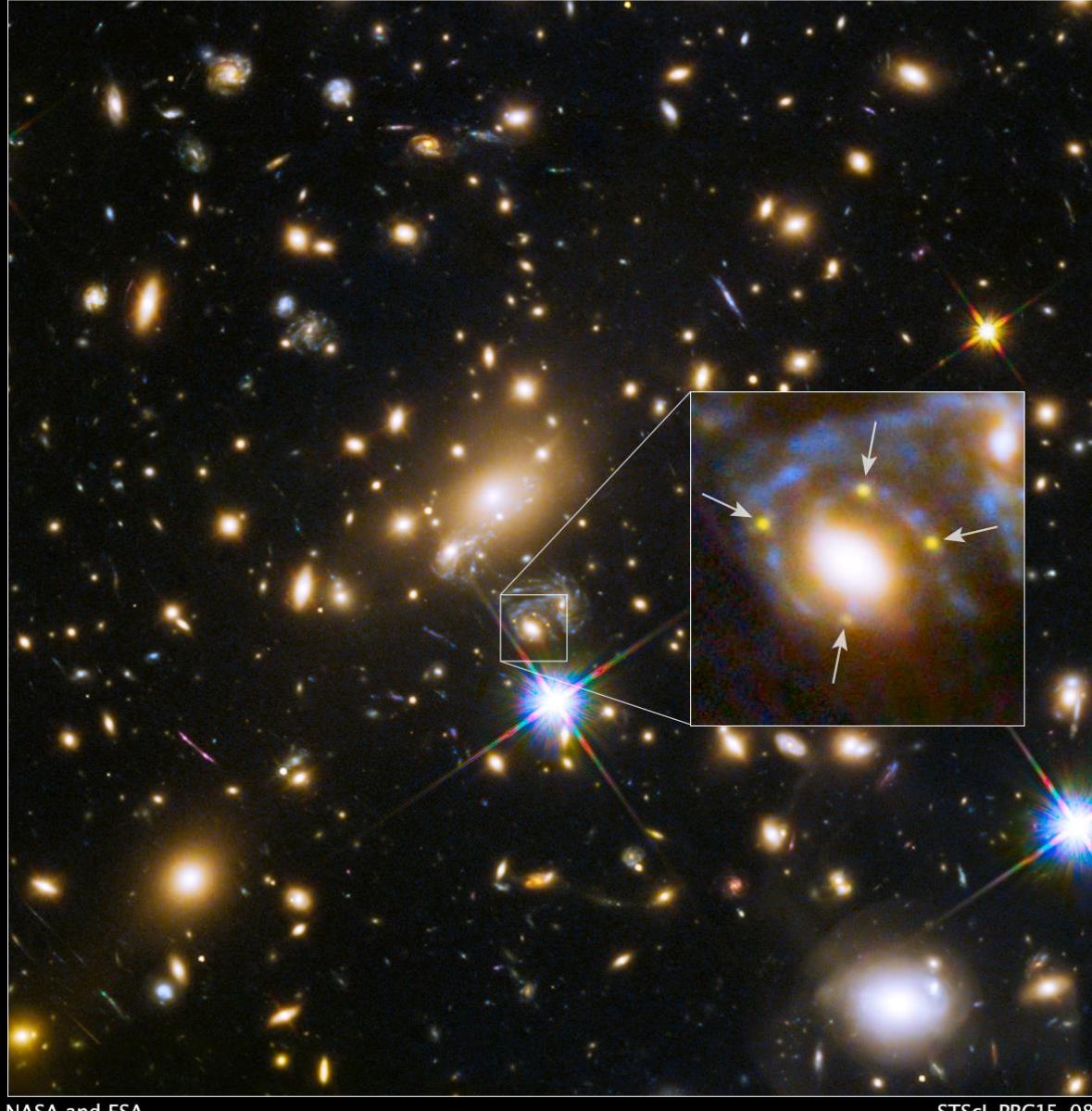


NASA, ESA, A. Bolton (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA), and the SLACS Team

STScI-PRC05-32

Supernova Refsdal
Galaxy Cluster MACS J1149.6+2223

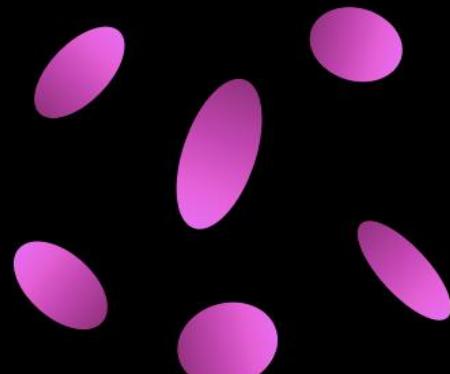
Hubble Space Telescope
ACS/WFC ■ WFC3/IR



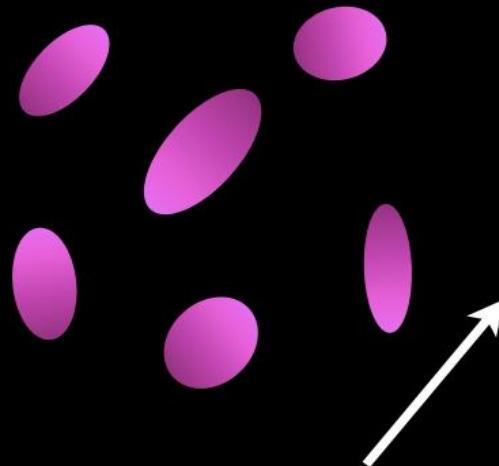
NASA and ESA

STScI-PRC15-08a

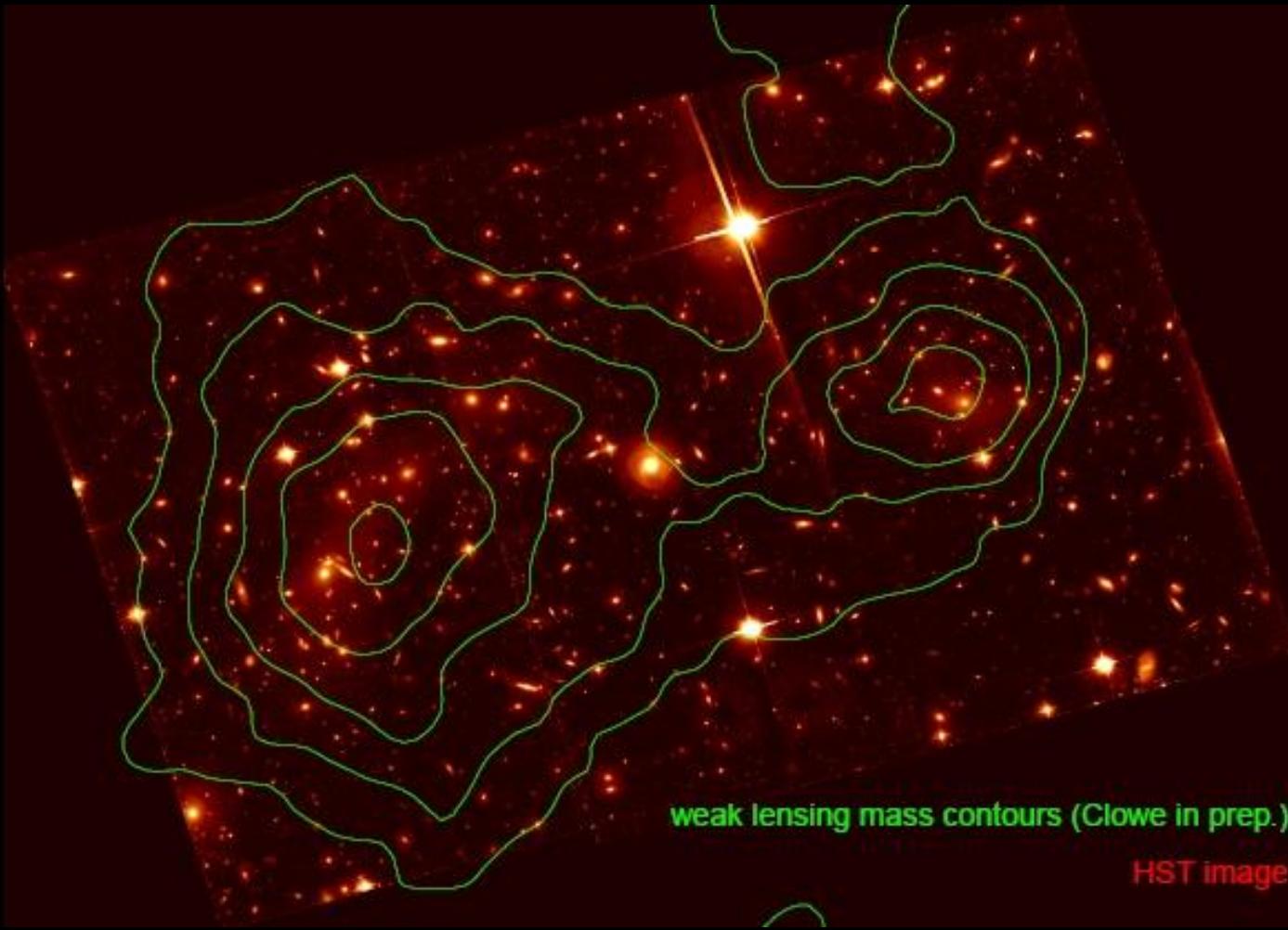
Weak Lensing



Galaxies randomly distributed



Slight alignment

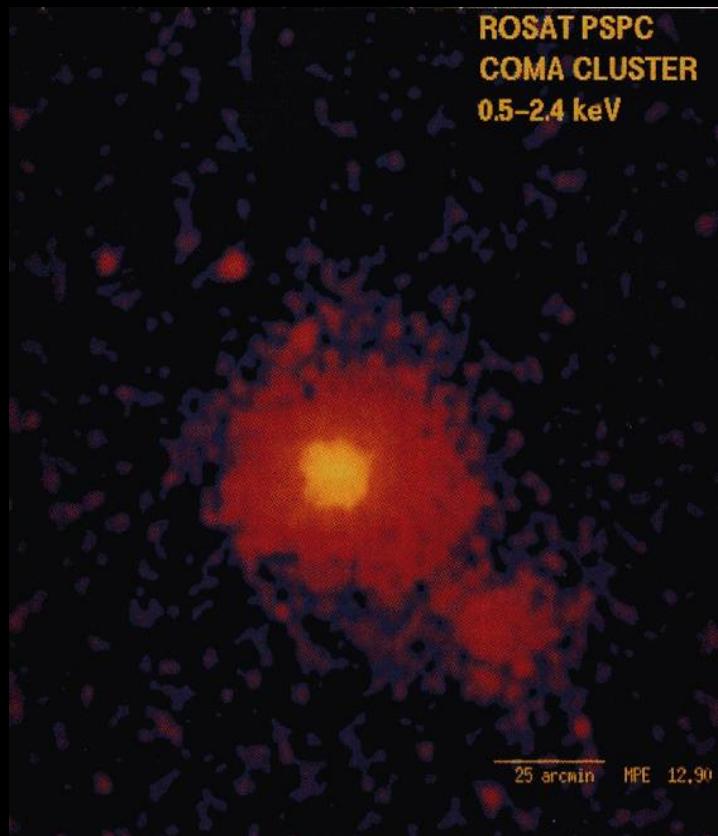
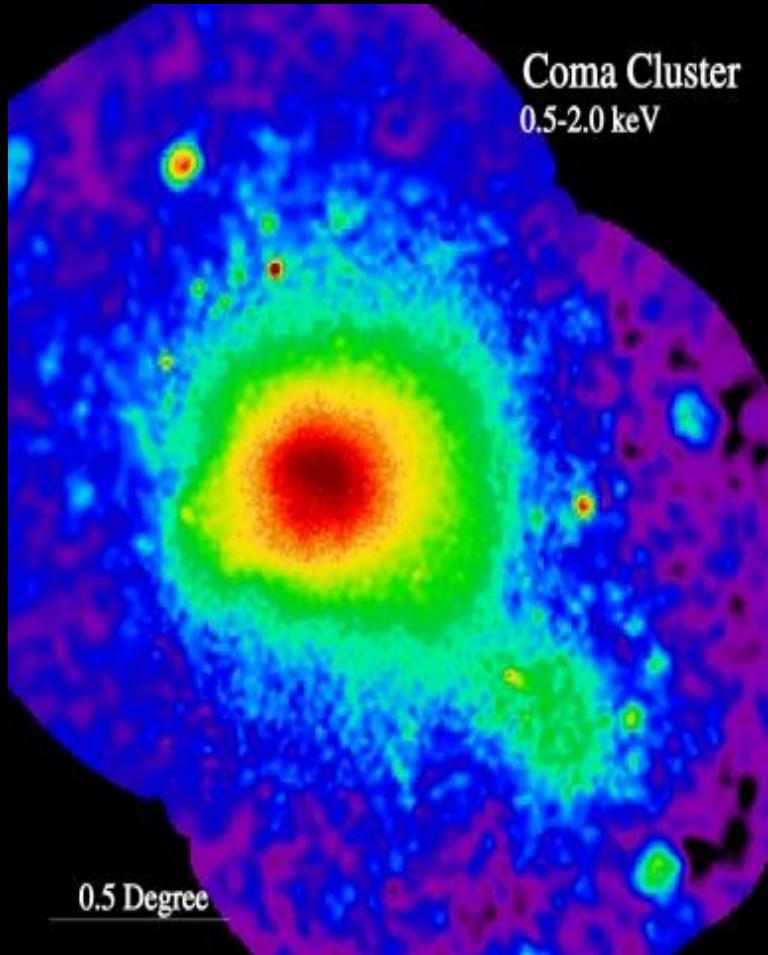


weak lensing mass contours (Clowe in prep.)

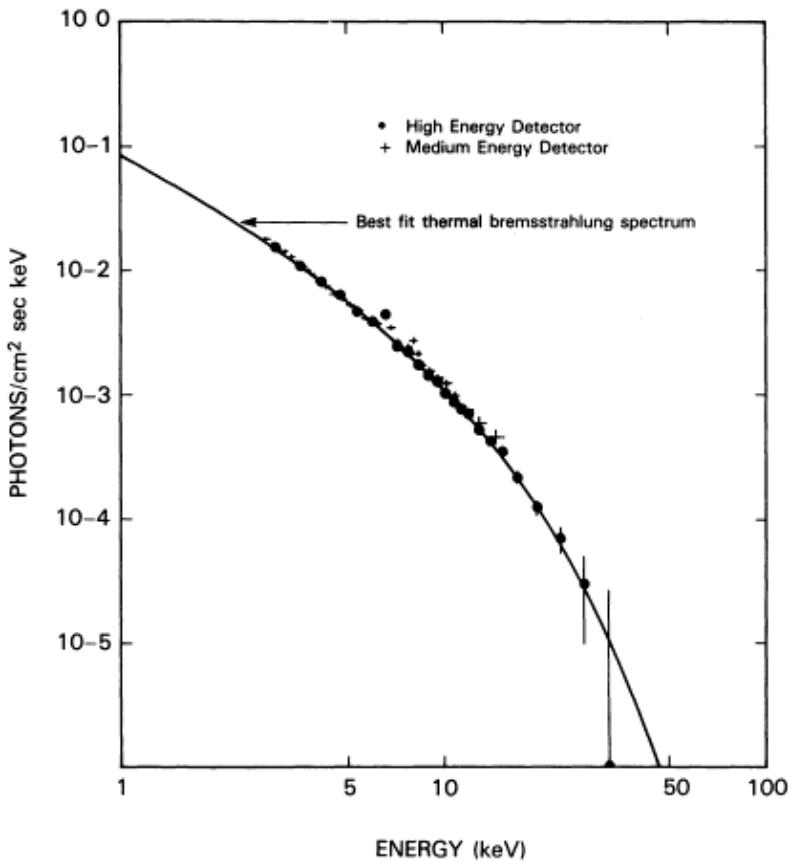
HST image



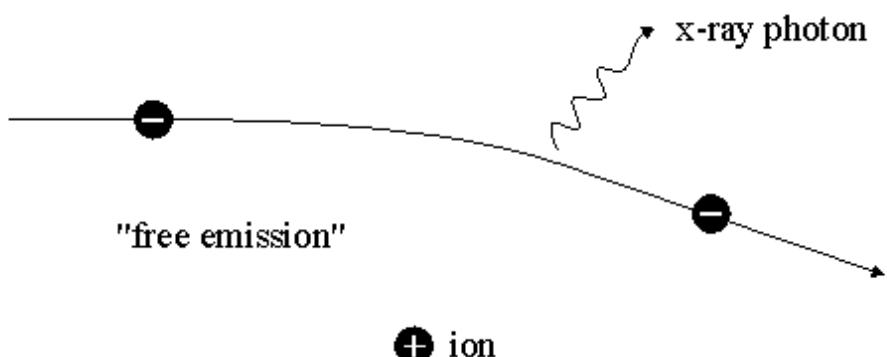
Hot Intracluster Gas



Hot Ionized – 10^7 - 10^8 K



Henriksen and Mushotzky (1986) ApJ 302, 287



X-rays produce by Thermal Bremsstrahlung Radiation

Mass is $\sim 10^{14} M_{\text{sun}}$

More intracluster gas than luminous matter!

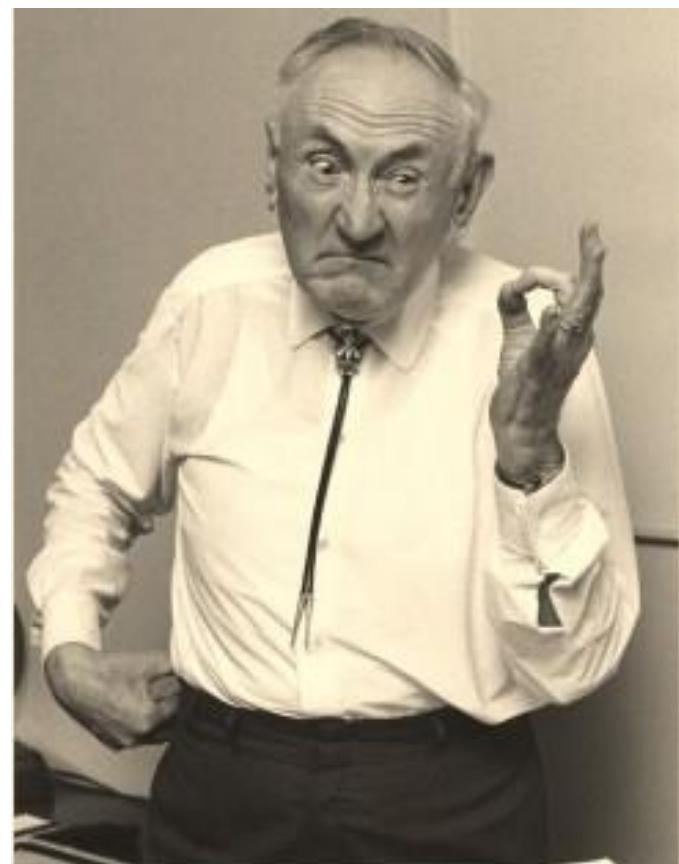
Gas Mass

$$M \approx 10^{14} \text{ M}_\odot$$

Luminous Mass

$$M = 10^{13} \text{ L}_\odot (3 \text{ M}_\odot / \text{L}_\odot) = 3 \times 10^{13} \text{ M}_\odot$$

Zwicky & Dark Matter

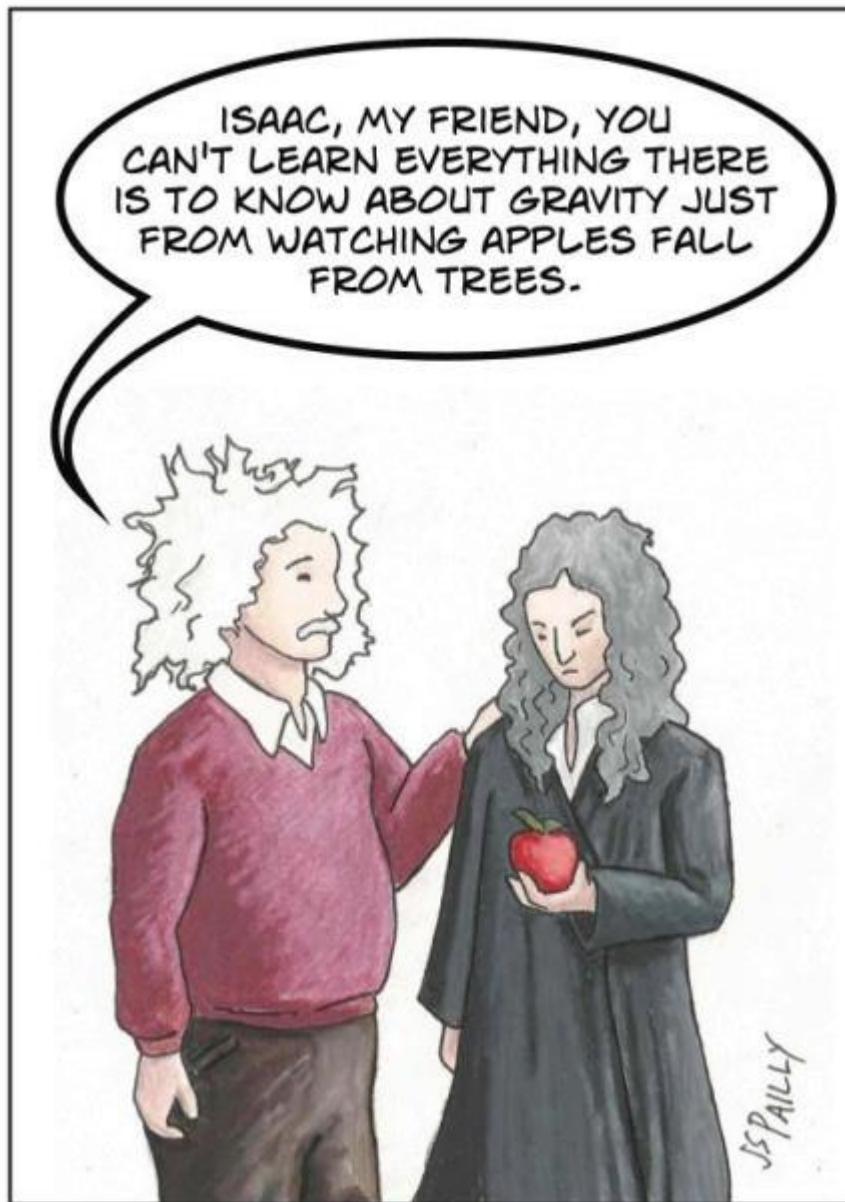


First to use the label “dark matter”

Gravity = Warping of Spacetime

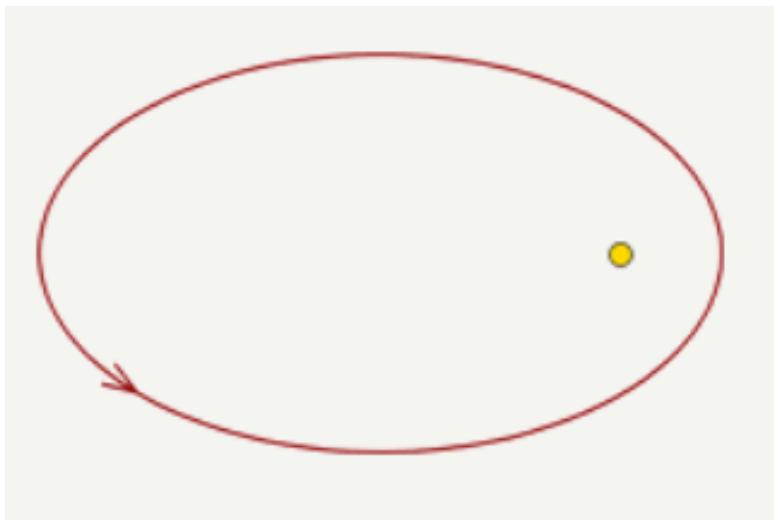
- **Time warping** explains gravity
- **Space warping** explains gravity

Newton's Gravity = Einstein's with time warp only



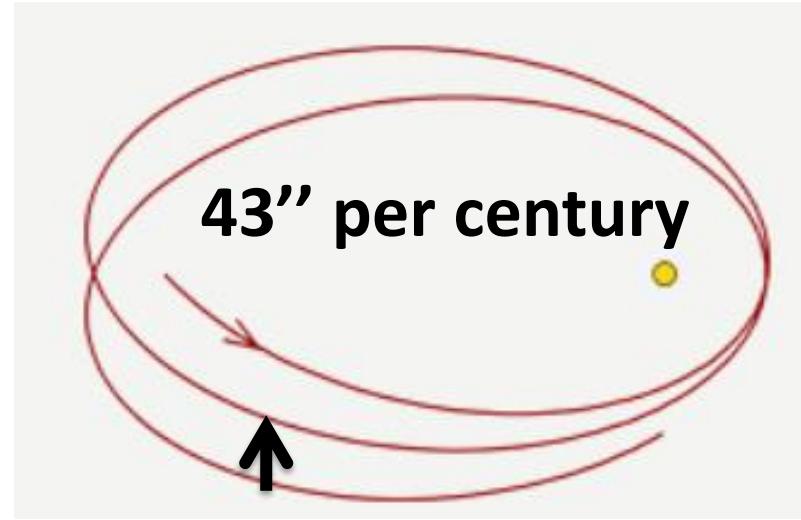
Newton's Gravity = Einstein's with time warp only

Newton



Mercury has a closed elliptical orbit.

Einstein



Including space warp
leads to a different
prediction – rosette!

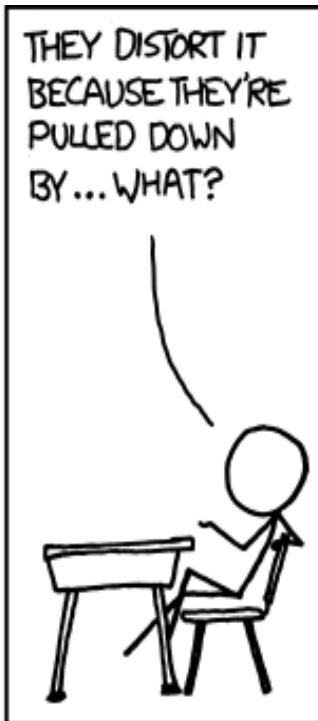
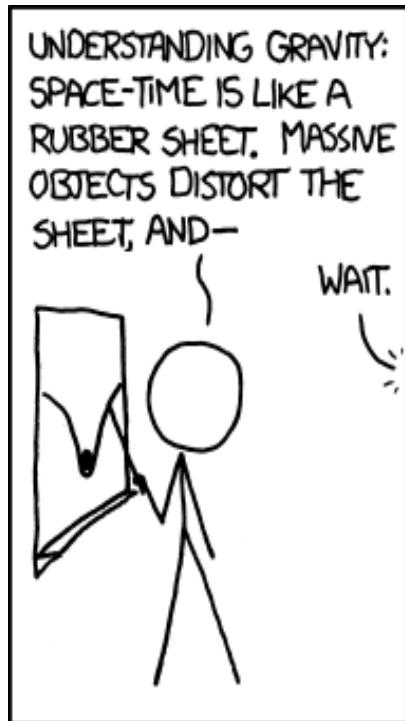
GR Calculation

$$\theta_{\text{per orbit}}$$

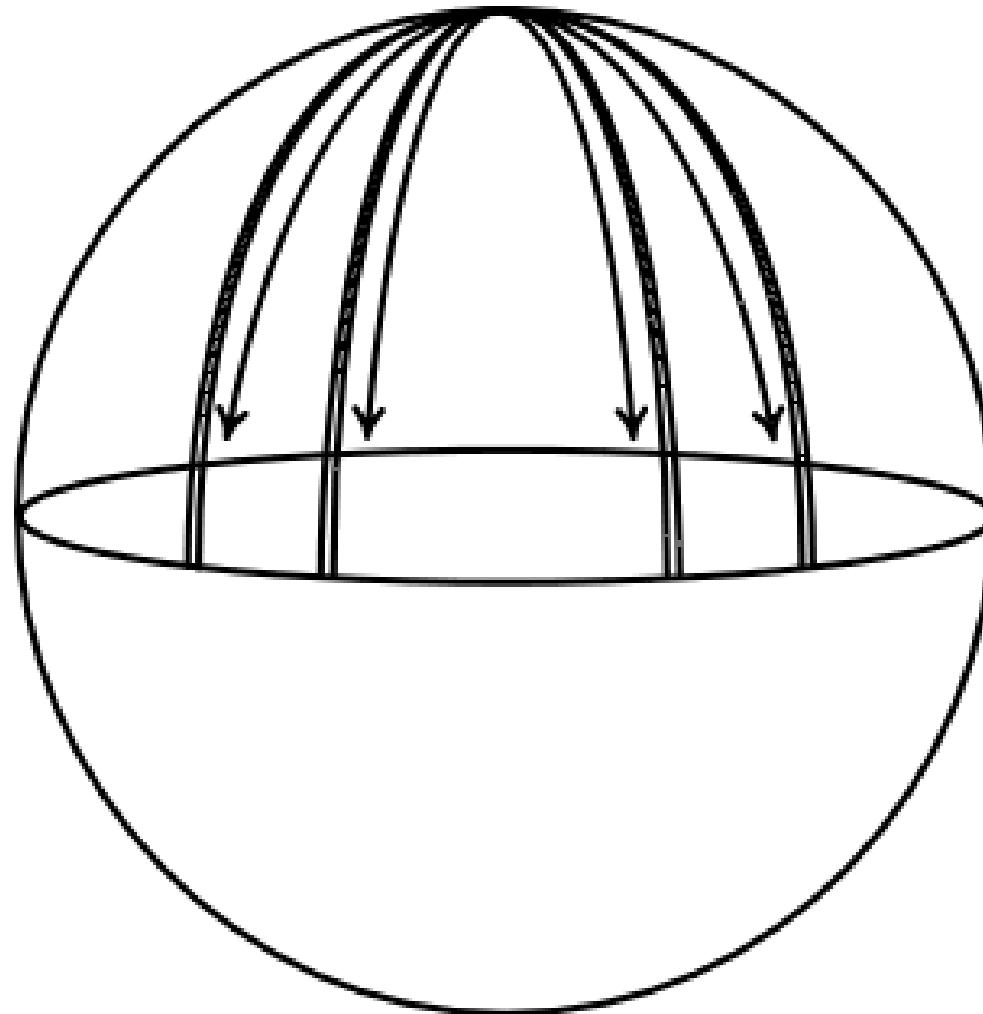
$$P_{\text{Mercury}} = 88 \text{ days} \Rightarrow 415 \text{ orbits per century}$$

$$\theta_{\text{per century}} = 415 \times \theta_{\text{per orbit}}$$

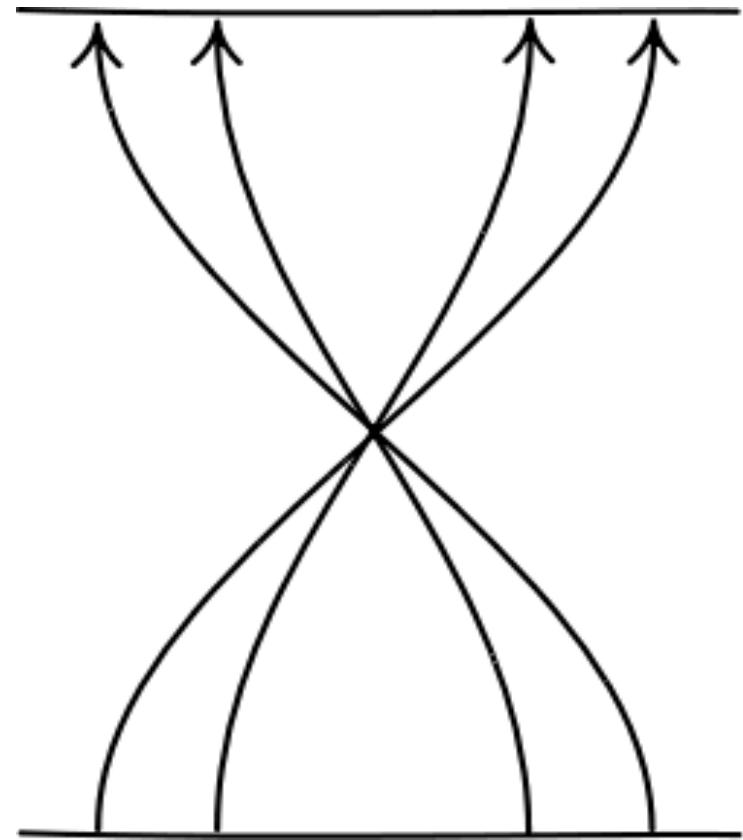
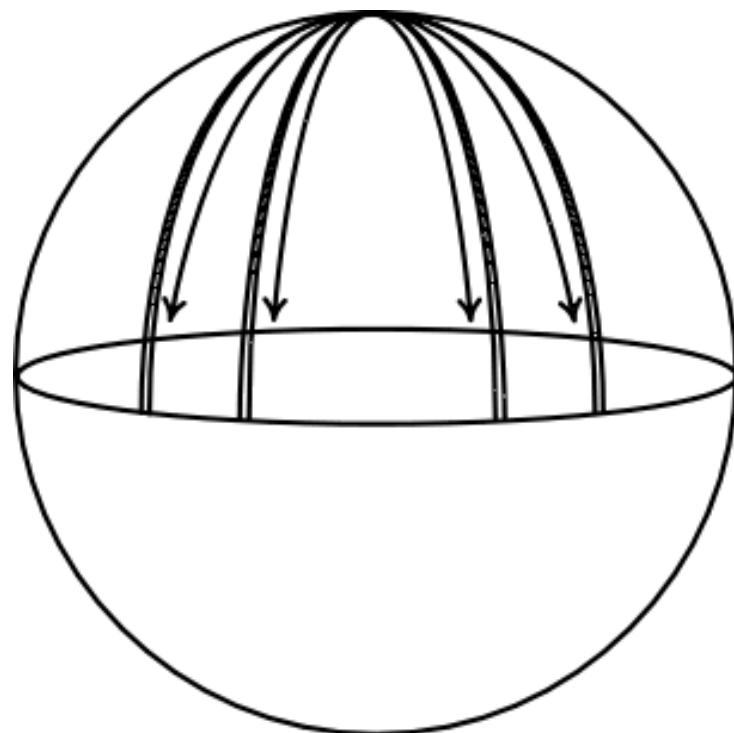
How can we describe curvature?



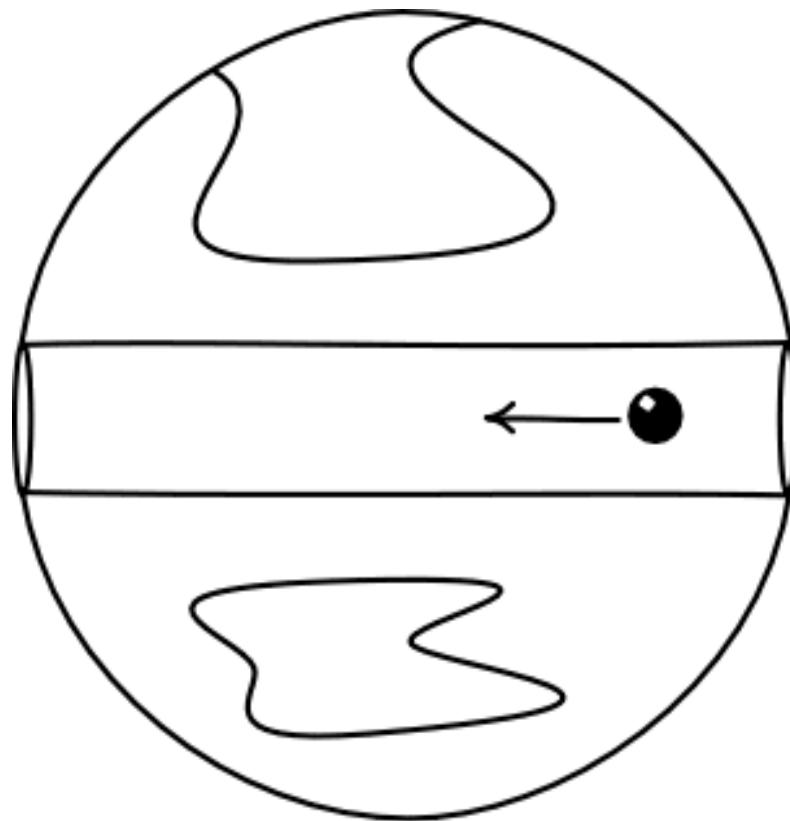
Curvature of Space

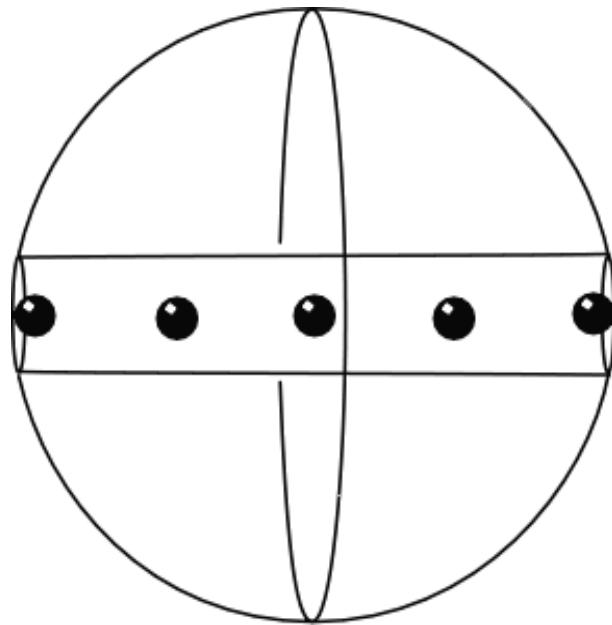


Curvature of Space

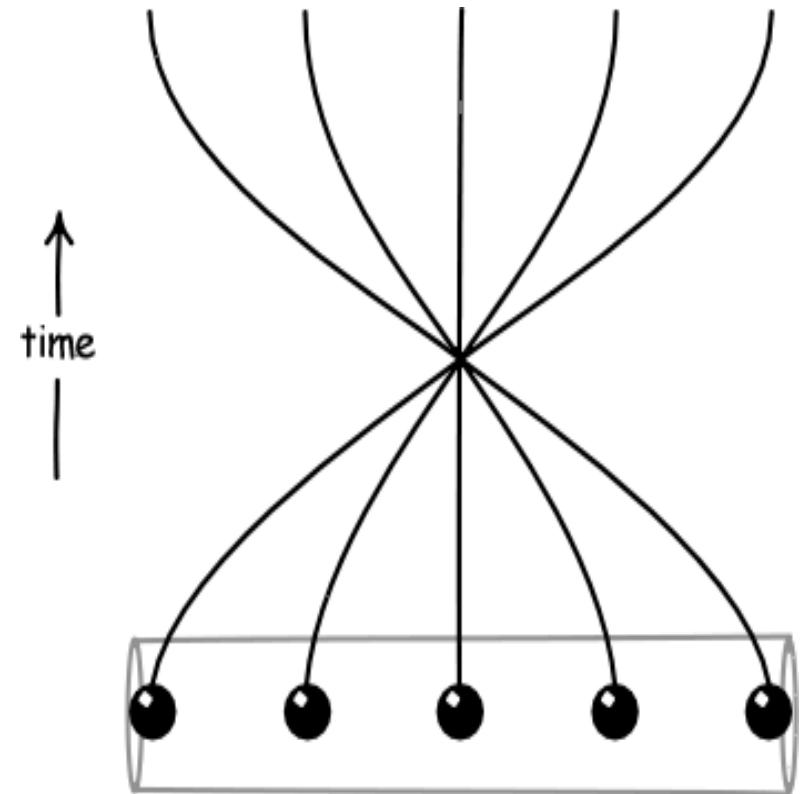
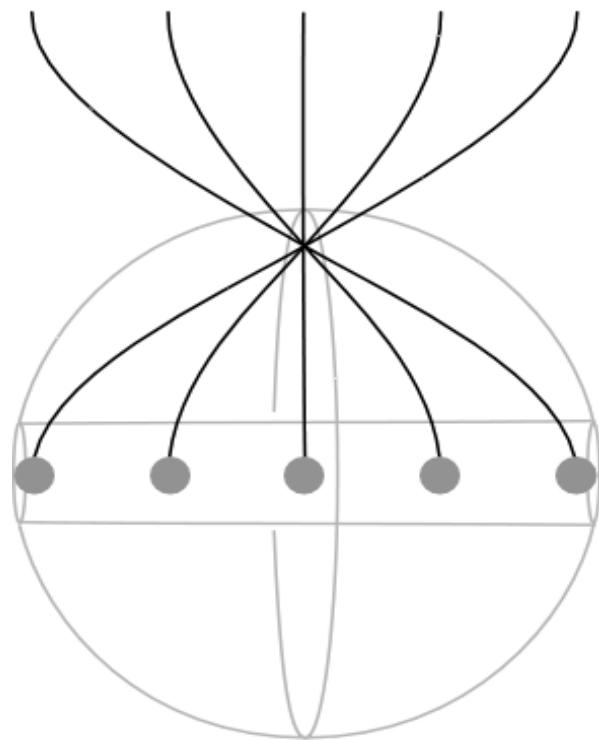


What about Spacetime?





Spacetime Curvature



Curvature in Spacetime Sheet in Earth \propto Matter Density of Earth

Key Concepts

Space and space-time are not rigid.

Matter and energy tell spacetime how to curve.

Objects travel along the straightest possible lines in curved spacetime.

Metrics

- Euclidean Space

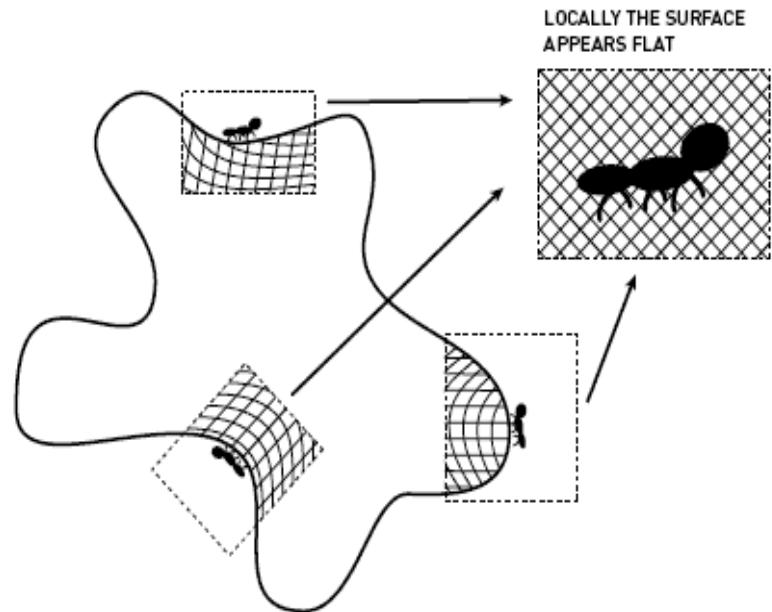
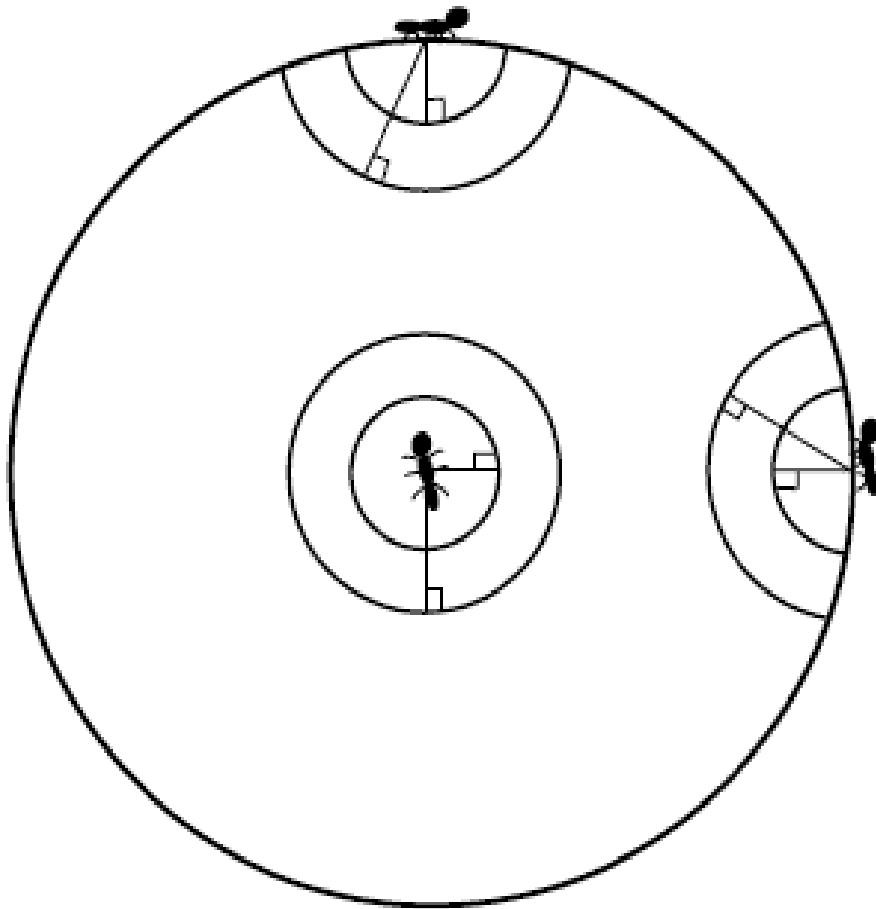
$$(dr)^2 = (dx)^2 + (dy)^2 + (dz)^2$$

- Minkowski Metric

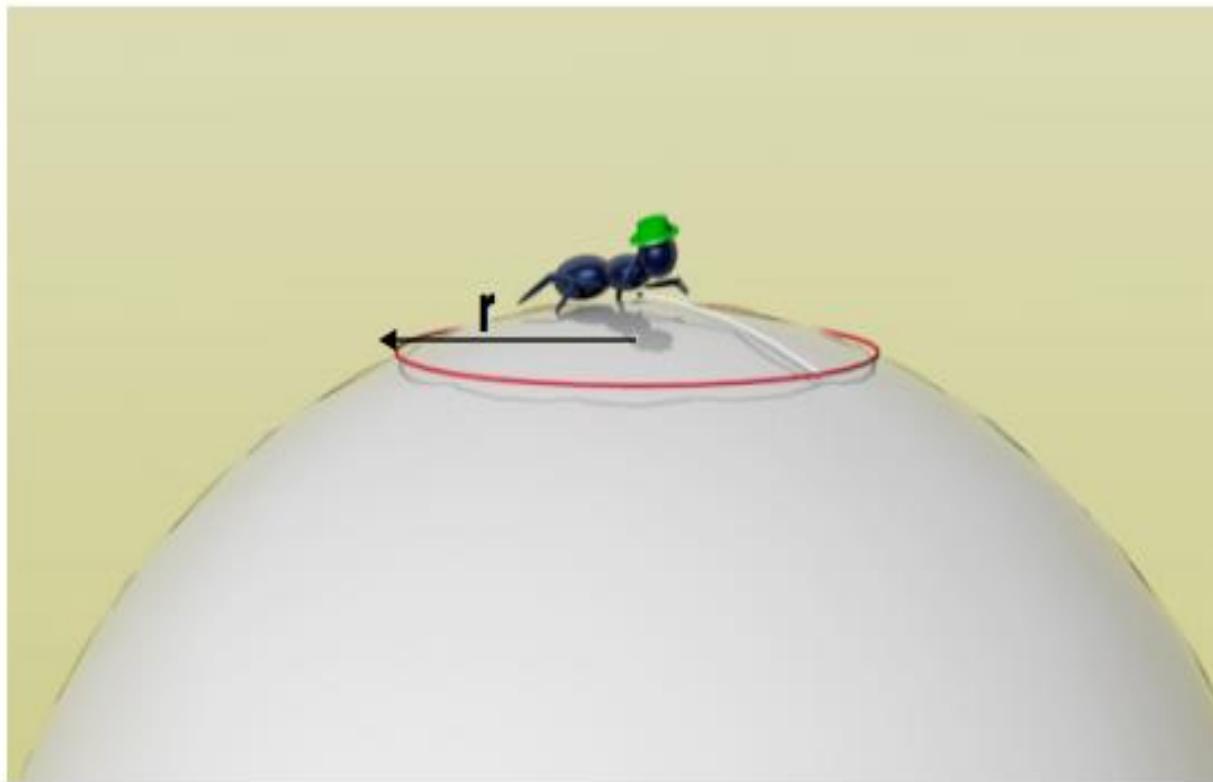
$$(ds)^2 = (cdt)^2 - (dr)^2$$

A metric defines the separation of two nearby points (or events, if we include time).

Curvature – taught by ants

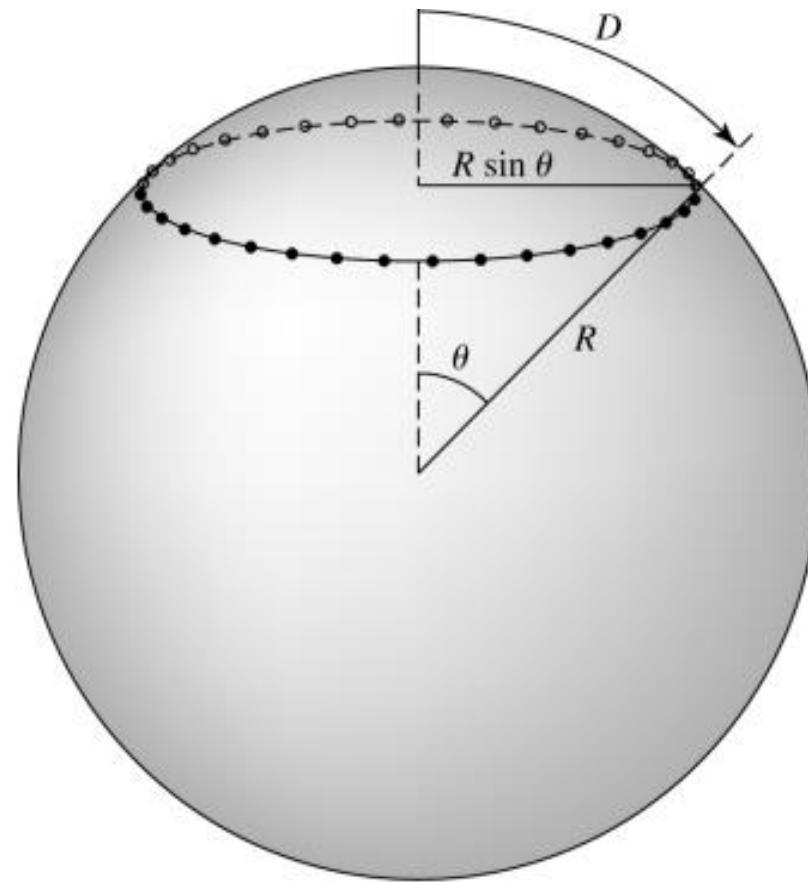


Ant Measurements



$$C_{\text{walk}} = 2\pi R \sin \theta$$

$$C_{\text{rope}} = 2\pi D = 2\pi R\theta$$



Curvature

Curvature, K is defined as:

$$K = 6\pi \frac{C_{rope} - C_{walk}}{C_{rope} A_{rope}} = \frac{1}{R^2} + O^2 + \dots$$



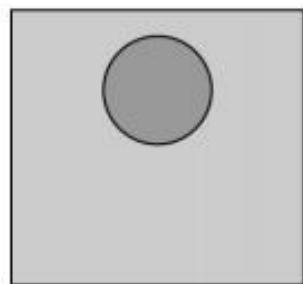
Radius of sphere

The curvature $K \propto R^{-2}$, ie large sphere appears locally flat.

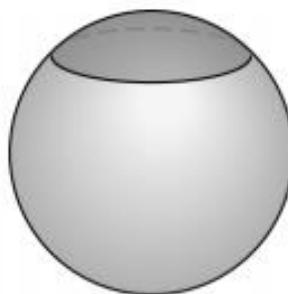
$k=0$: flat

$k<0$: negative curvature

$k>0$: positive curvature



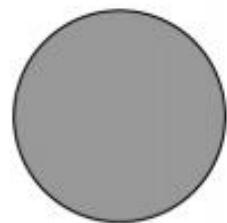
$$C = 2\pi D$$



$$C < 2\pi D$$

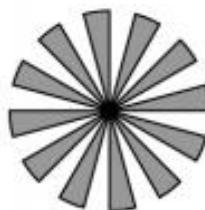


$$C > 2\pi D$$



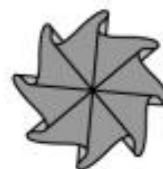
Zero curvature

(a)



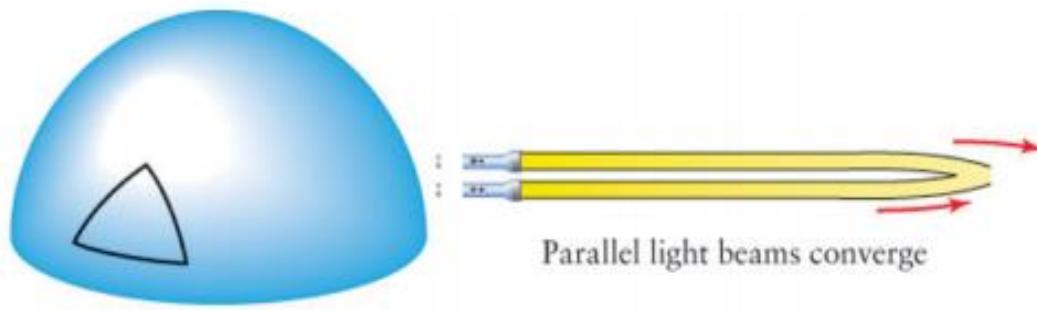
Positive curvature

(b)

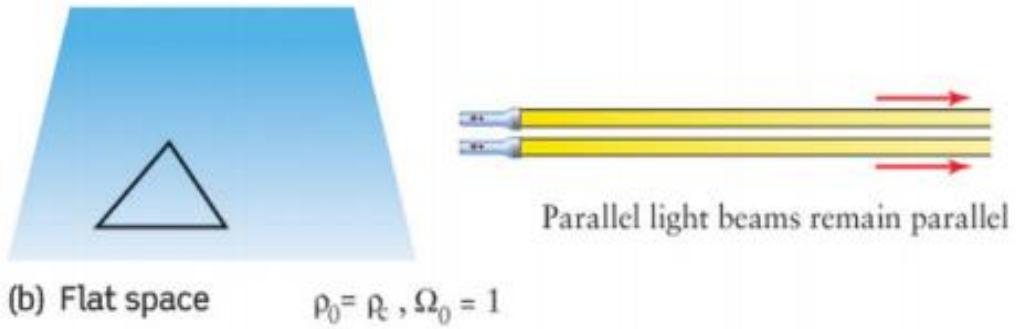


Negative curvature

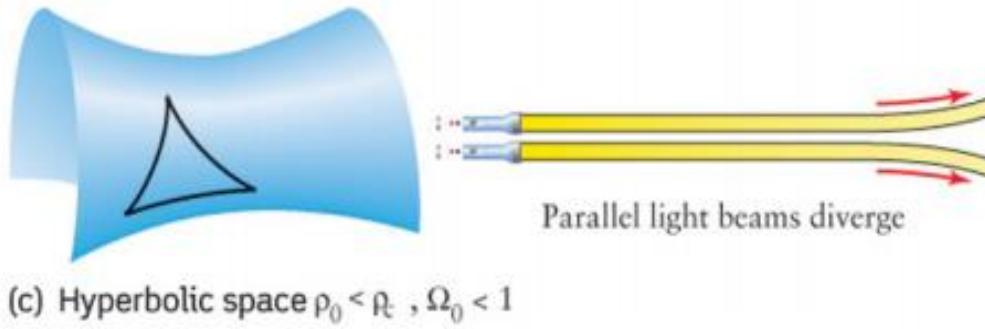
(c)



(a) Spherical space $\rho_0 > \rho_c$, $\Omega_0 > 1$



(b) Flat space $\rho_0 = \rho_c$, $\Omega_0 = 1$



(c) Hyperbolic space $\rho_0 < \rho_c$, $\Omega_0 < 1$

Metrics

- Euclidean Space

$$(dr)^2 = (dx)^2 + (dy)^2 + (dz)^2$$

- Minkowski Metric

$$(ds)^2 = (cdt)^2 - (dr)^2$$

A metric defines the separation of two nearby points (or events, if we include time).

Robertson-Walker Metric

$$(ds)^2 = (cdt)^2 - R^2(t) \left[\left(\frac{d\bar{\omega}}{\sqrt{1 - K\bar{\omega}^2}} \right)^2 + (\bar{\omega}d\theta)^2 + (\bar{\omega} \sin \theta d\phi)^2 \right]$$

- ds is just the interval between two spacetime events
- K is the present day curvature
- $R(t)$ is the expansion rate (or scale factor)
- w is the comoving radial coordinate

Einstein's Field Equations

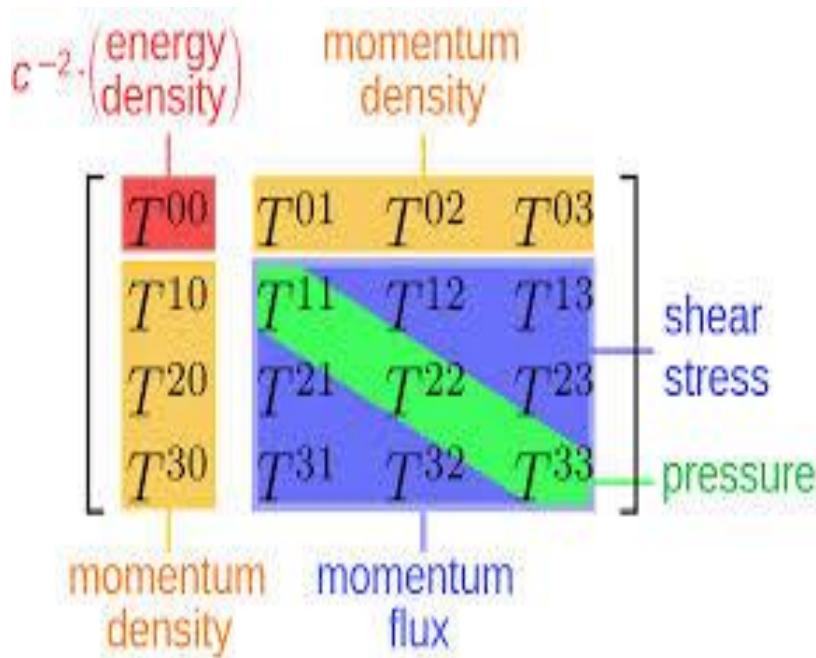
$$G_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu}$$

Spacetime Geometry Mass-energy & Momentum

The diagram illustrates the Einstein field equations $G_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu}$. It features two red arrows pointing towards the equation from below. The left arrow originates from the text "Spacetime Geometry" and points to the term $G_{\mu\nu}$. The right arrow originates from the text "Mass-energy & Momentum" and points to the term $T_{\mu\nu}$.

- Solving this equation for spacetimes with matter inside yields a curved spacetime.
- A set of 10 equations which say which Universes are “allowed” according to Einstein’s theory.
- “allowed” = Spacetimes whose curvature is correctly related to matter density

Stress-Energy Tensor



Energy, momentum, pressure and shear all contribute to the twisting and warping of spacetime!

Minkowski Metric in Cartesian 4D Spacetime

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_{\mu\nu}$$

GR + RW Metric = Friedmann

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \rho - \frac{k c^2}{R^2}$$

matter density curvature

H = Hubble's constant

ρ = matter density of the Universe

c = speed of light

k = curvature of the Universe

G = gravitational constant

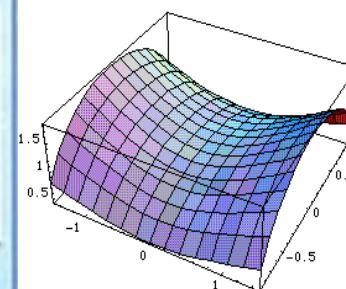
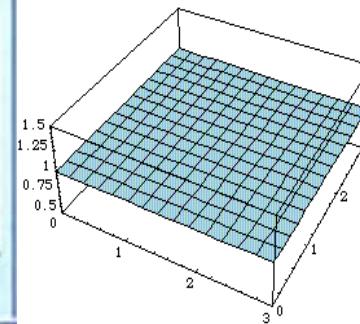
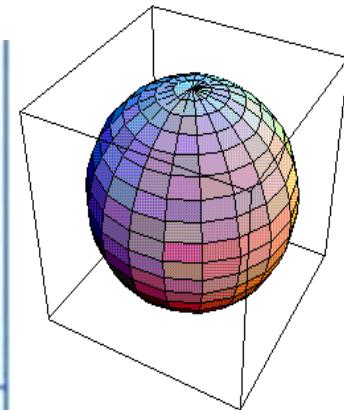
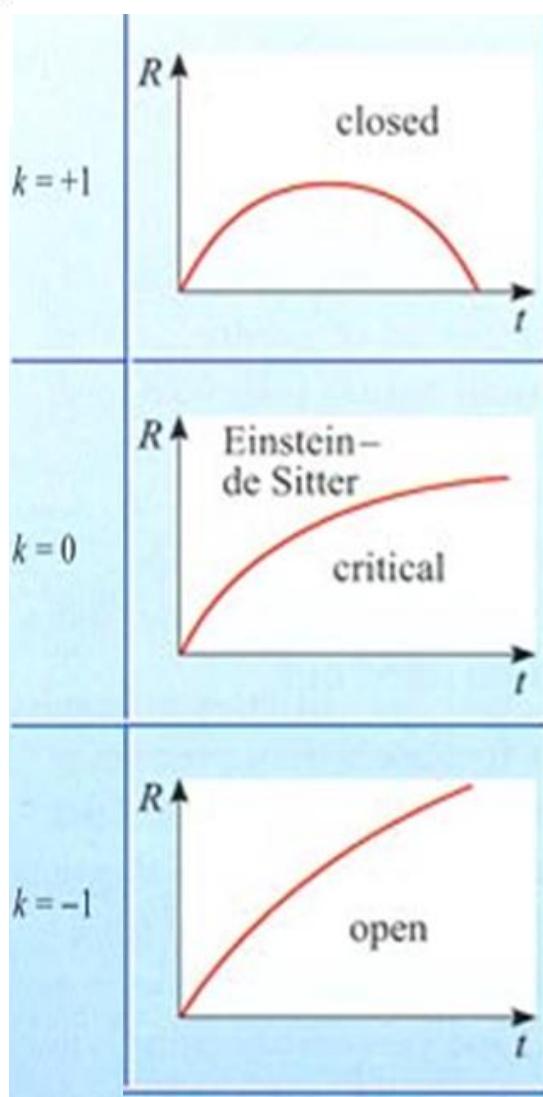
stant

R = radius of the Universe

If we measure the matter density of the Universe, we can solve for the curvature and determine the fate of the Universe.

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{kc^2}{R^2}$$

$$\rho_c = \frac{3H^2}{8\pi G}$$



Cosmological Constant

- At the time (1917), Hubble had not yet discovered that the Universe was expanding.
- Einstein adhered to the idea that the universe was **static**, i.e. **not** expanding or contracting
- Since the equations could not produce a static universe, he introduced a constant.

GR + RW Metric = Friedman

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{kc^2}{R^2} + \frac{\Lambda}{3}$$

matter density curvature dark energy

H = Hubble's constant

ρ = matter density of the Universe

c = speed of light

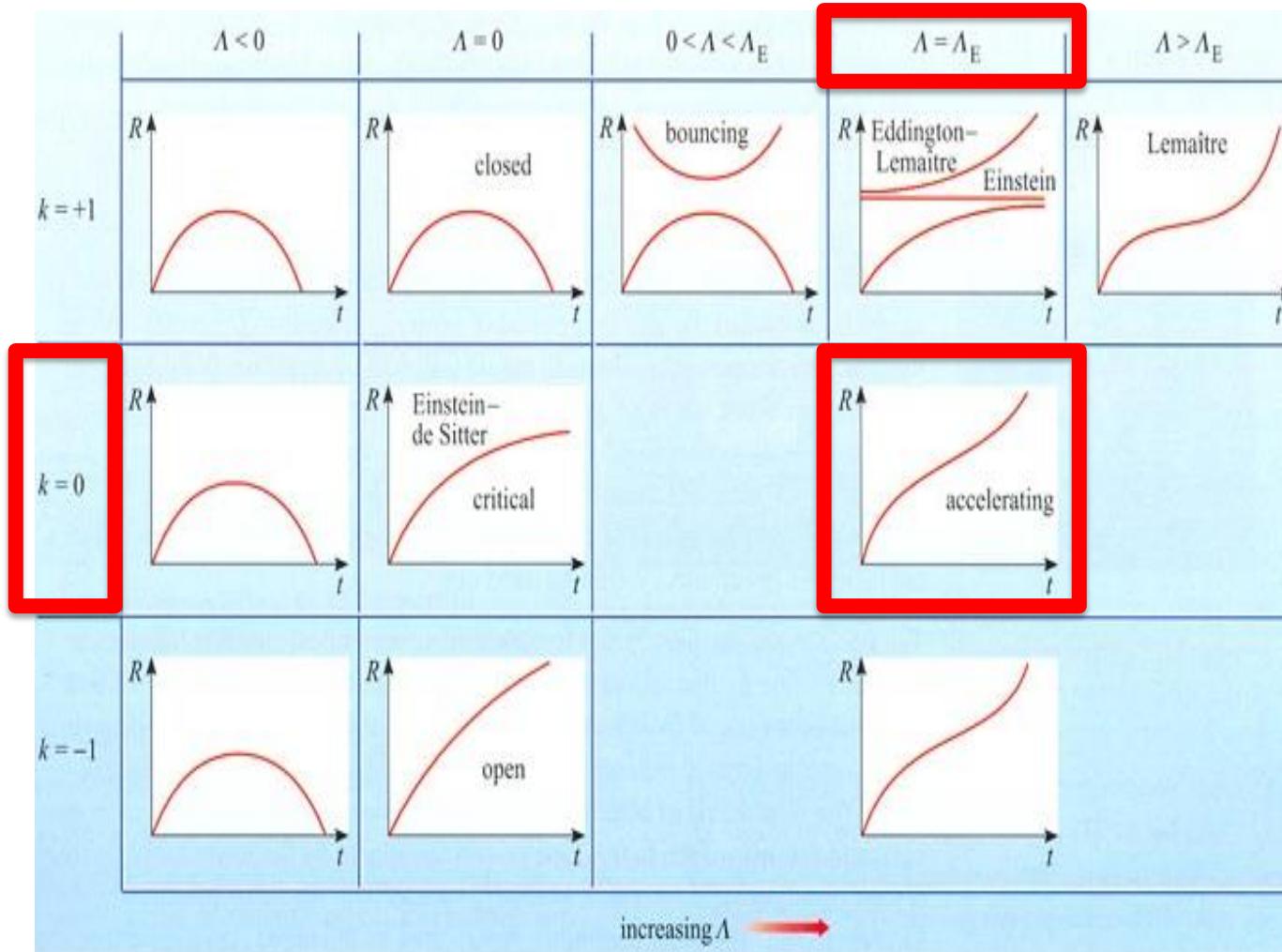
k = curvature of the Universe

G = gravitational constant

Λ = cosmological constant

R = radius of the Universe

If we measure the matter density of the Universe, we can solve for the curvature and determine the fate of the Universe.



Be careful: The presence of the cosmological constant means that the geometry does not necessarily determine the fate of the universe!

Dark Energy

What if we look really far away?



We need a new Standard Candle

Type 1a Supernova

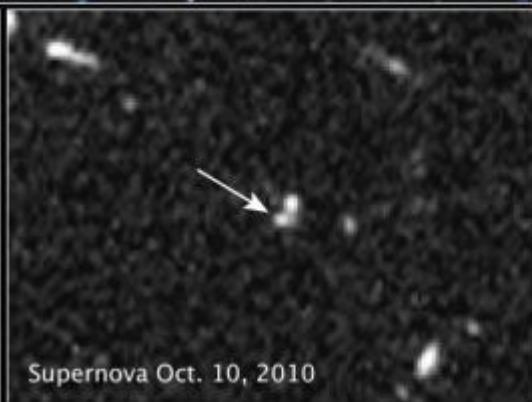


Supernova Primo in the Hubble Ultra Deep Field

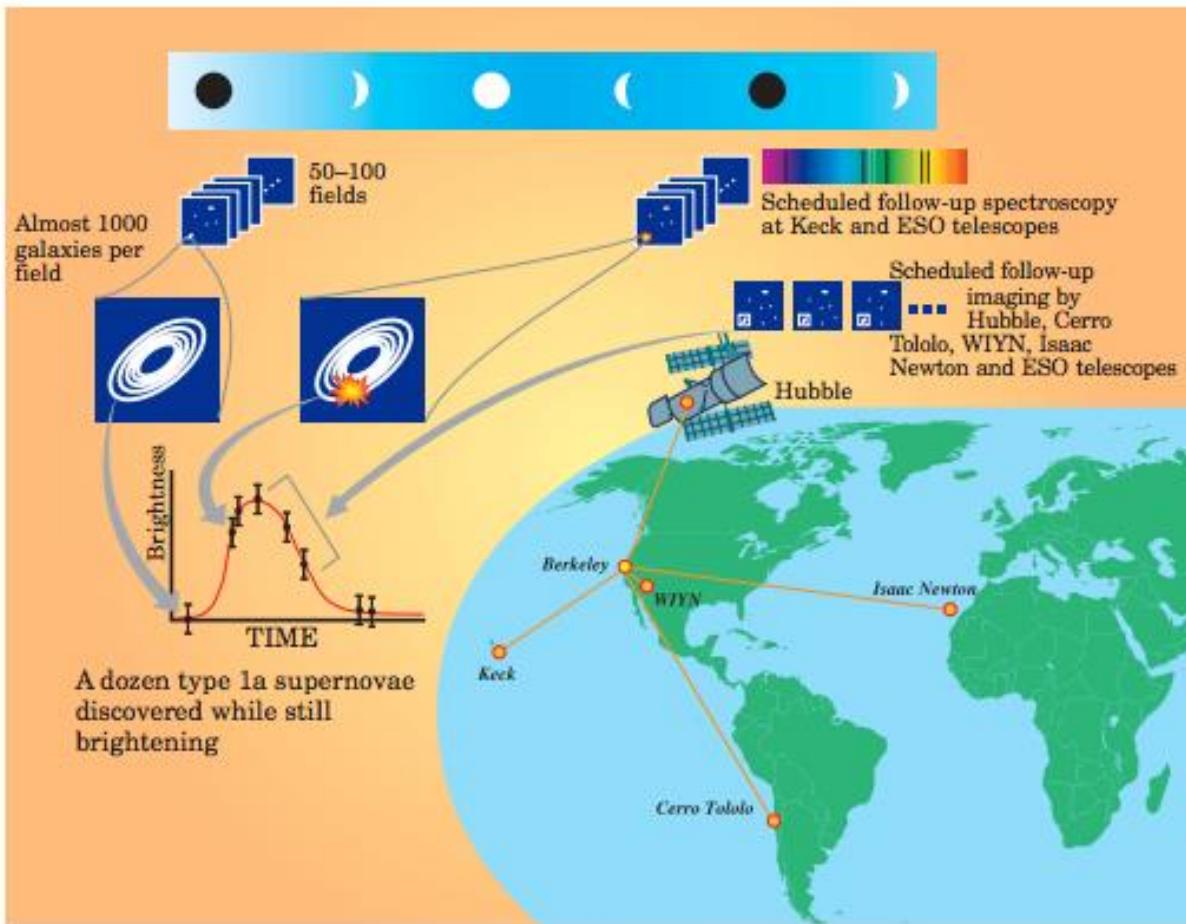
Hubble Space Telescope • WFC3 ACS



No Supernova



Supernova Oct. 10, 2010



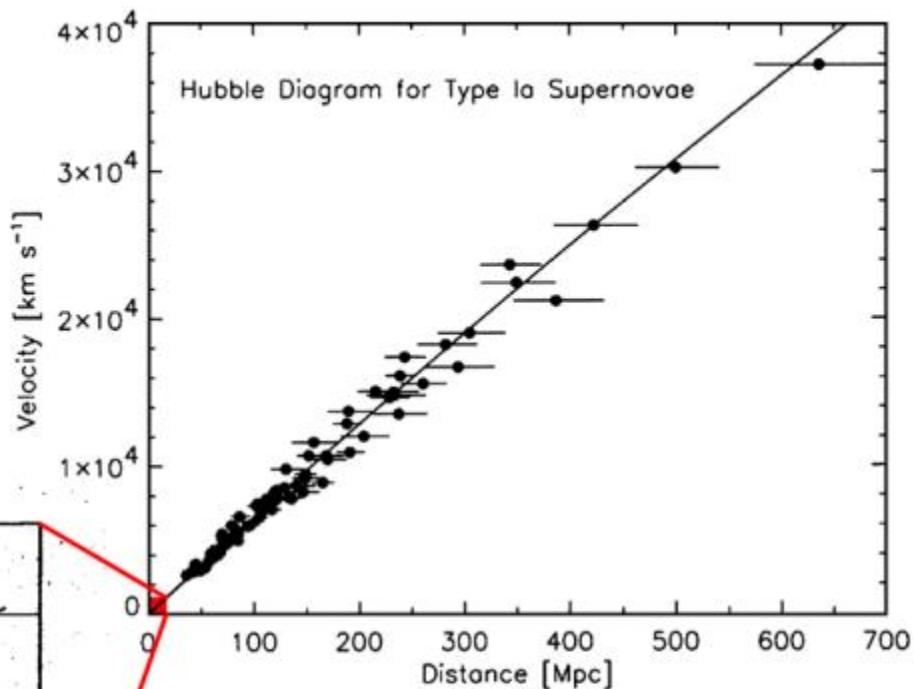
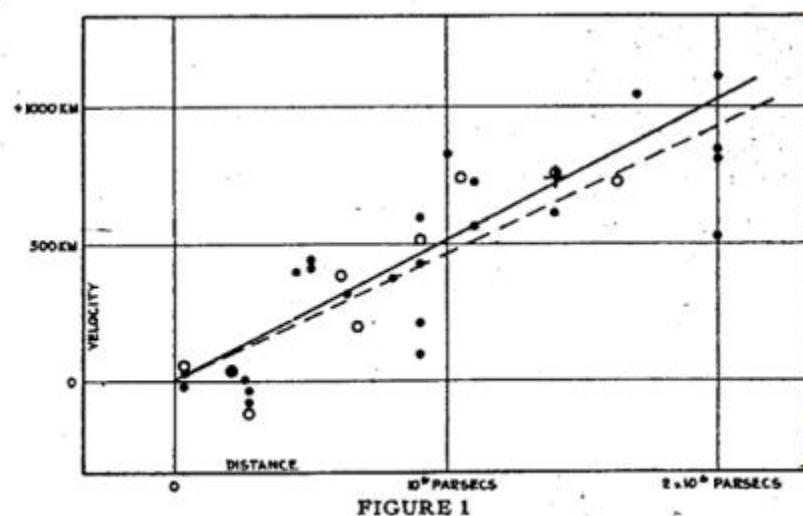
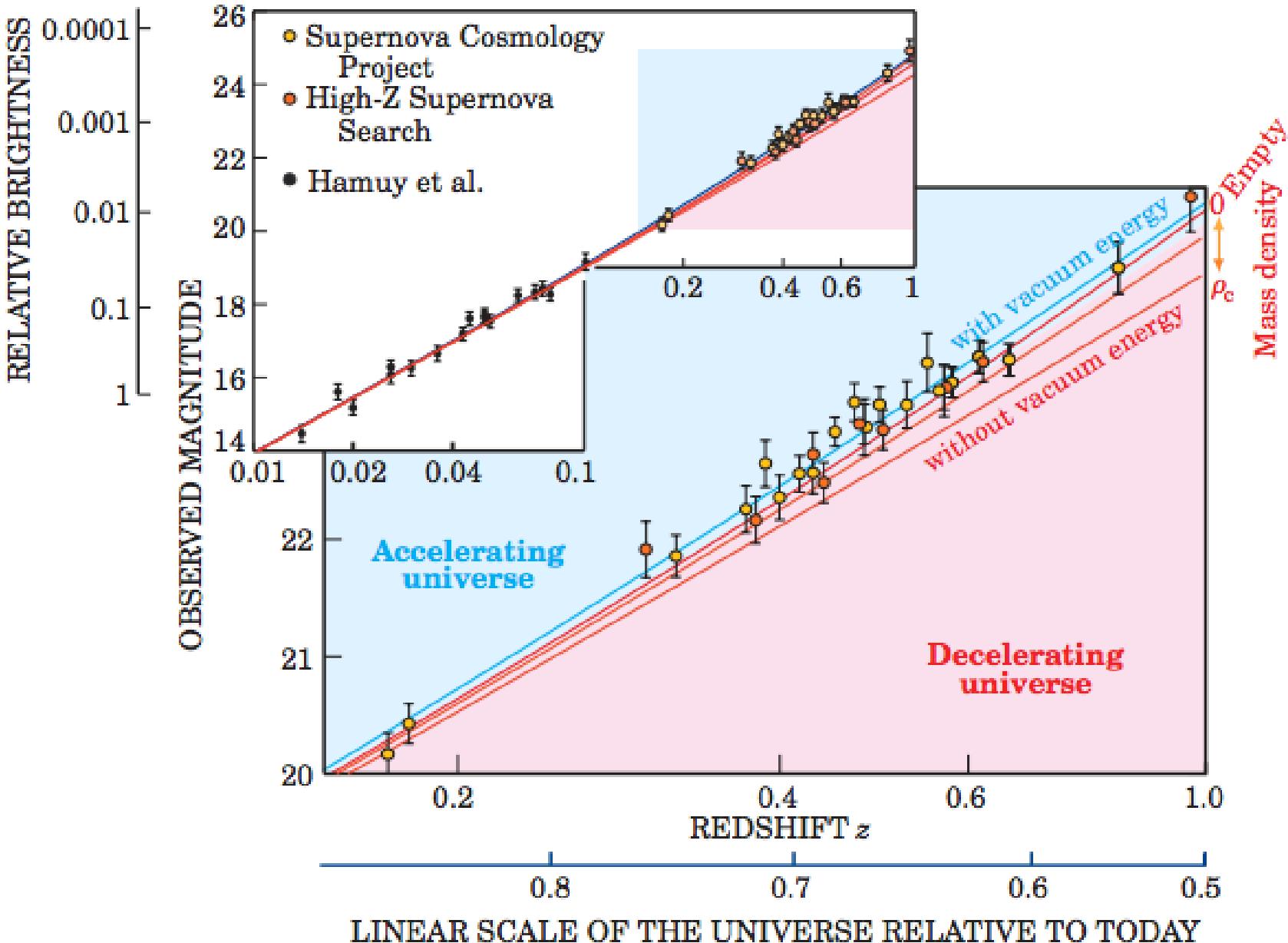
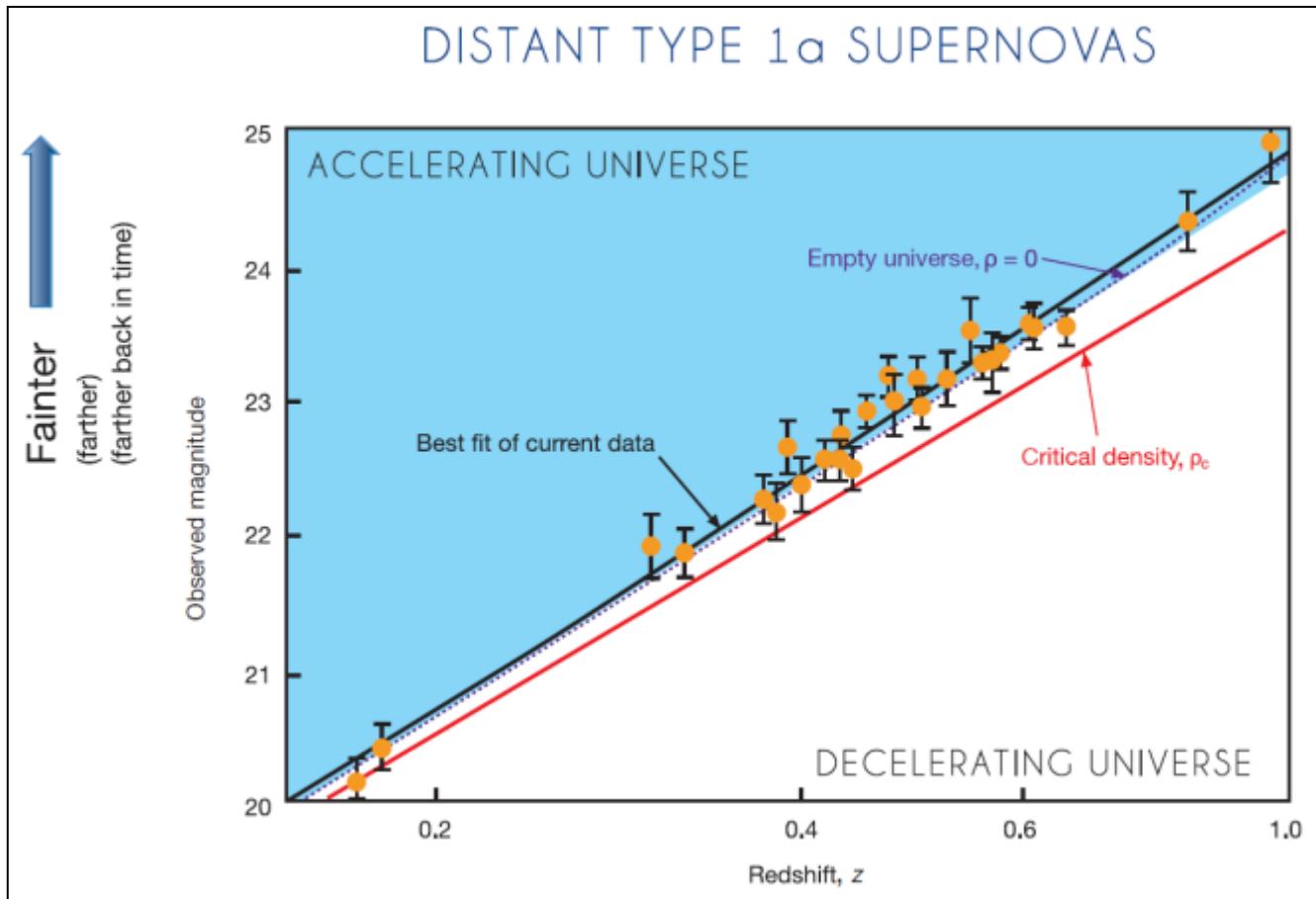


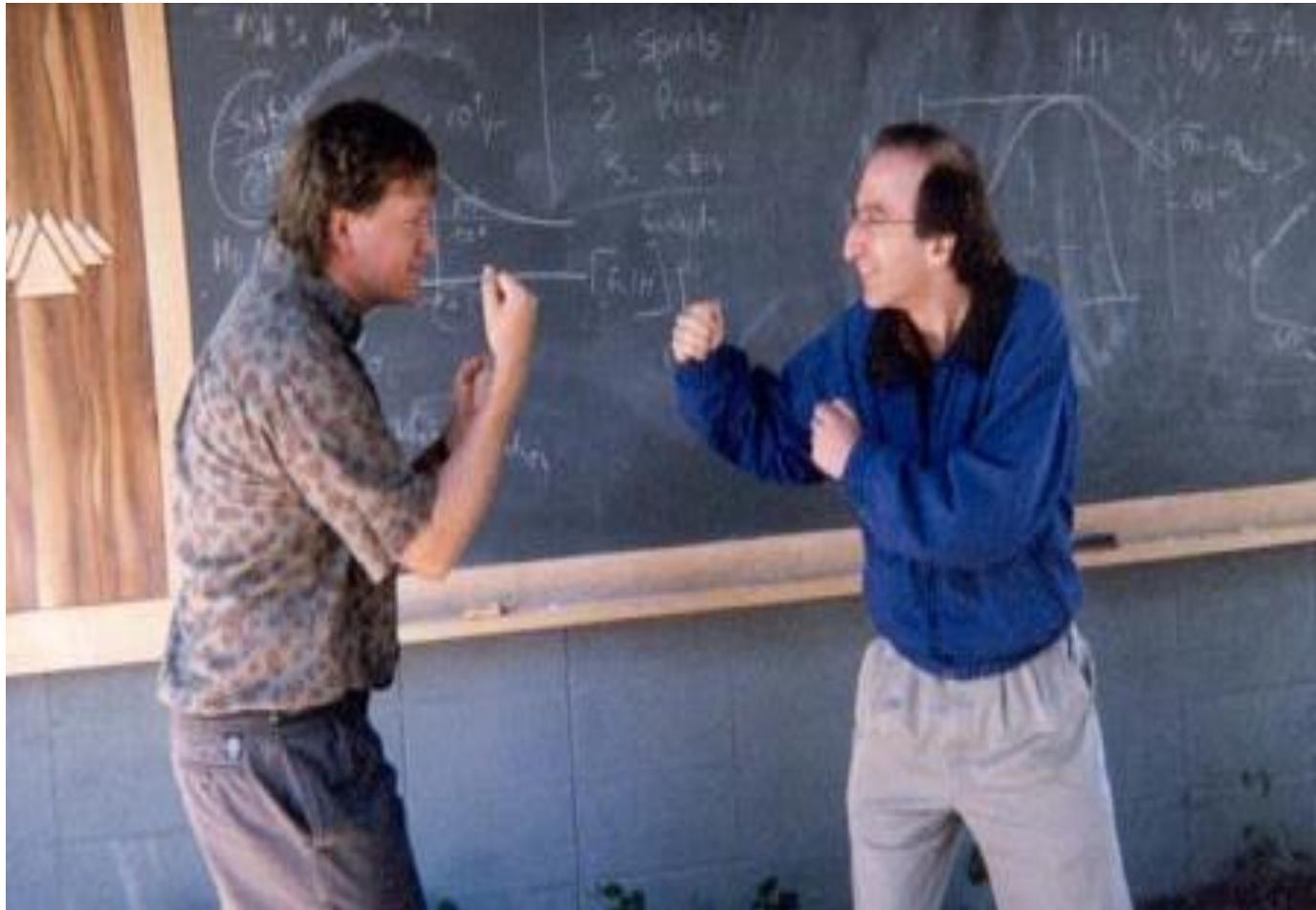
FIGURE 1



Dark Energy



Whose Universe is accelerating faster?



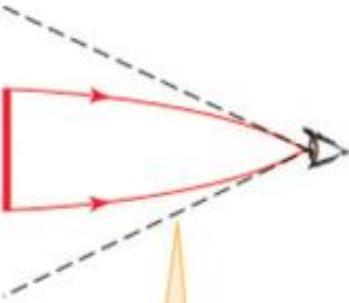
Schmidt & Perlmutter - eventually share with Riess the 2011 Nobel Prize.

Dark Energy

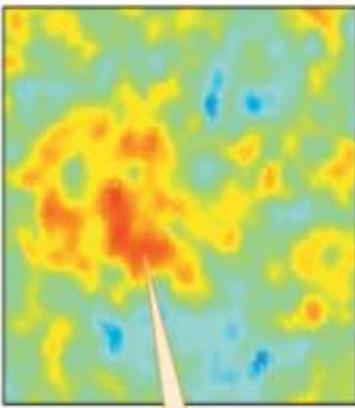
What does it mean that the line of best fit is steeper than an empty universe?

There must be
energy in the
vacuum!

The Curvature of our Universe

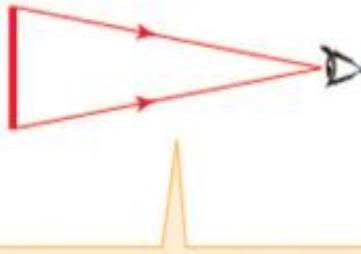


If the universe is closed,
light rays from opposite
sides of a hot spot bend
toward each other ...

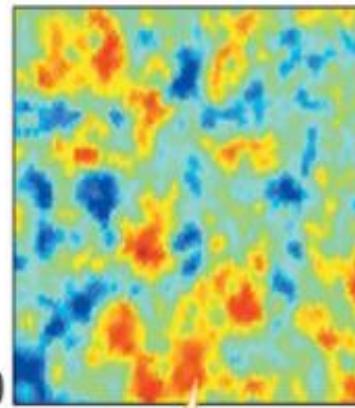


(a)

... and as a result, the hot
spot appears to us to be
larger than it actually is.

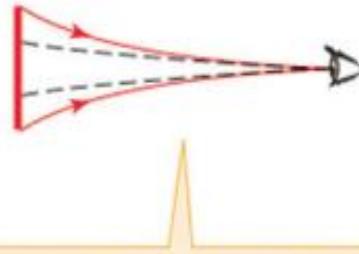


If the universe is flat,
light rays from opposite
sides of a hot spot do not
bend at all ...

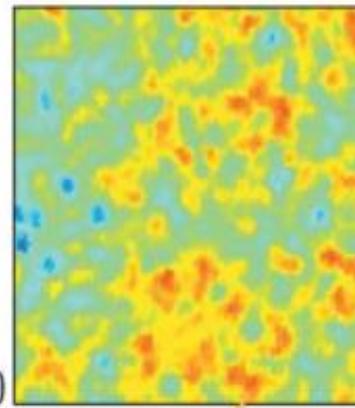


(b)

... and so the hot spot
appears to us with its true
size.



If the universe is open,
light rays from opposite
sides of a hot spot bend
away from each other ...



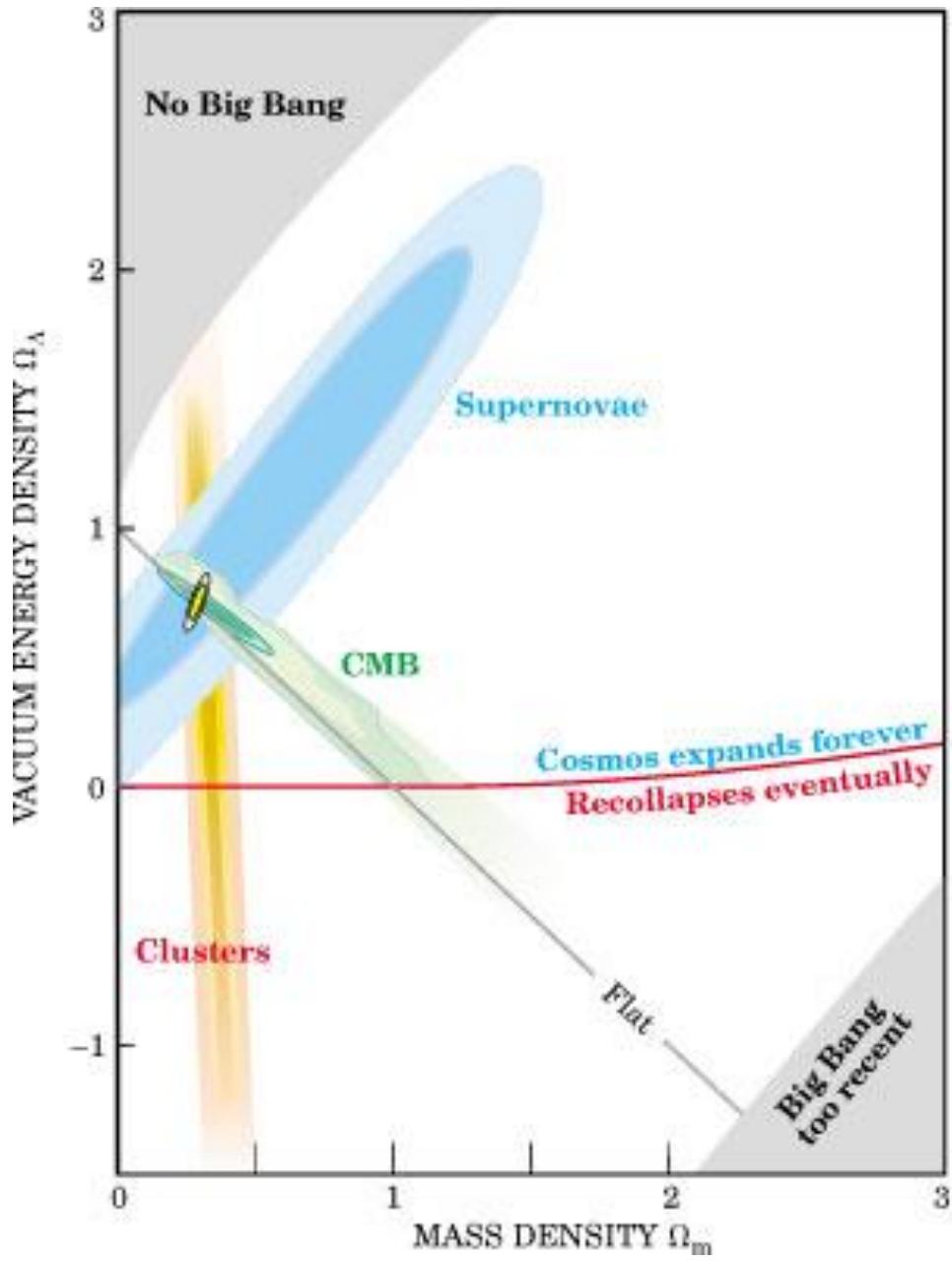
(c)

... and as a result, the hot
spot appears to us to be
smaller than it actually is.

The size of the CMB fluctuations is consistent with a flat universe!

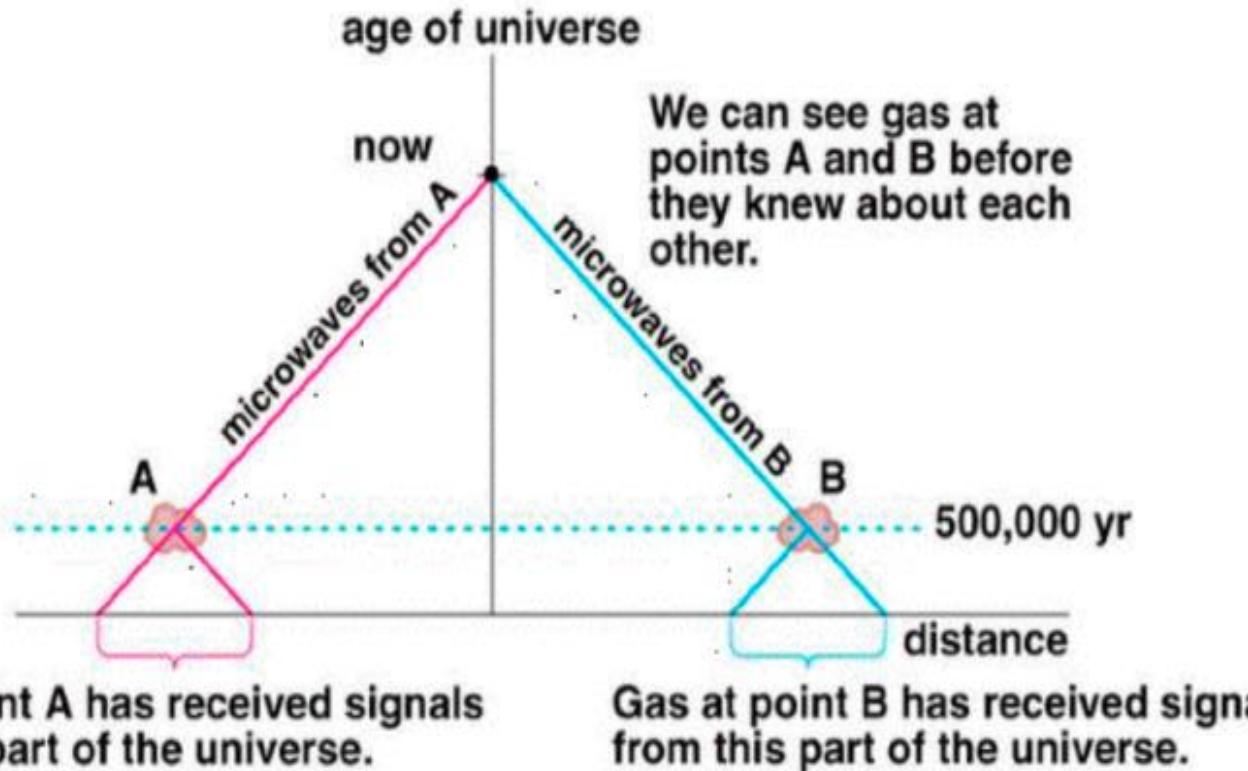
Flatness Problem

Why is the Universe so finely tuned?

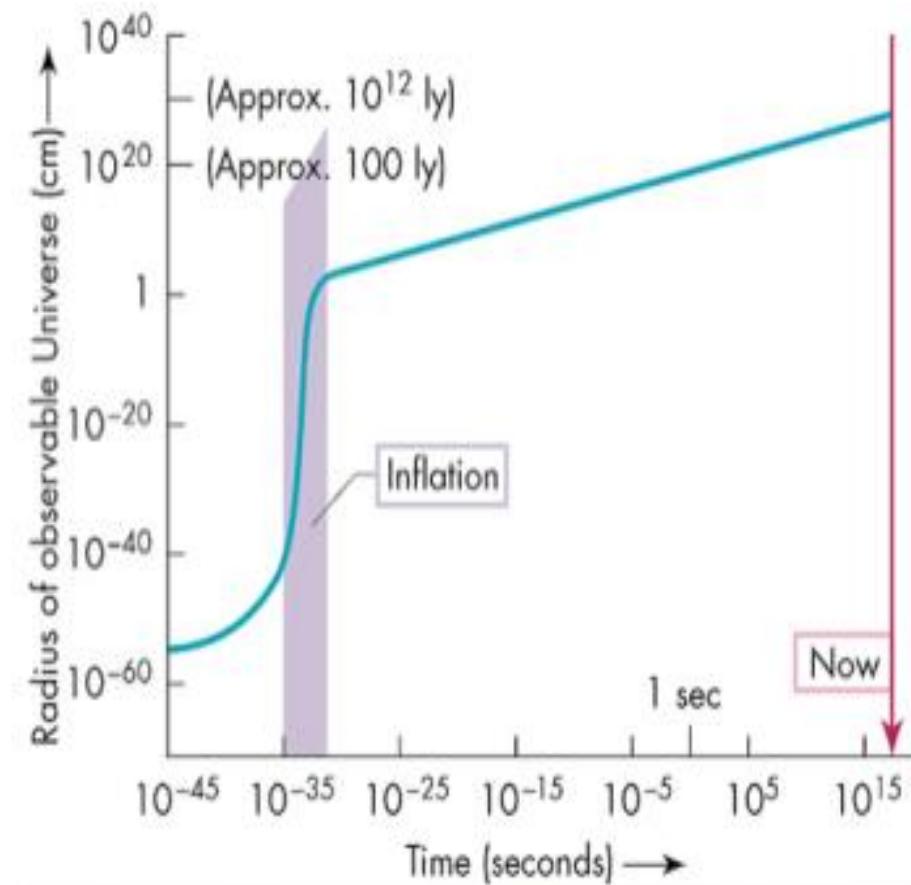


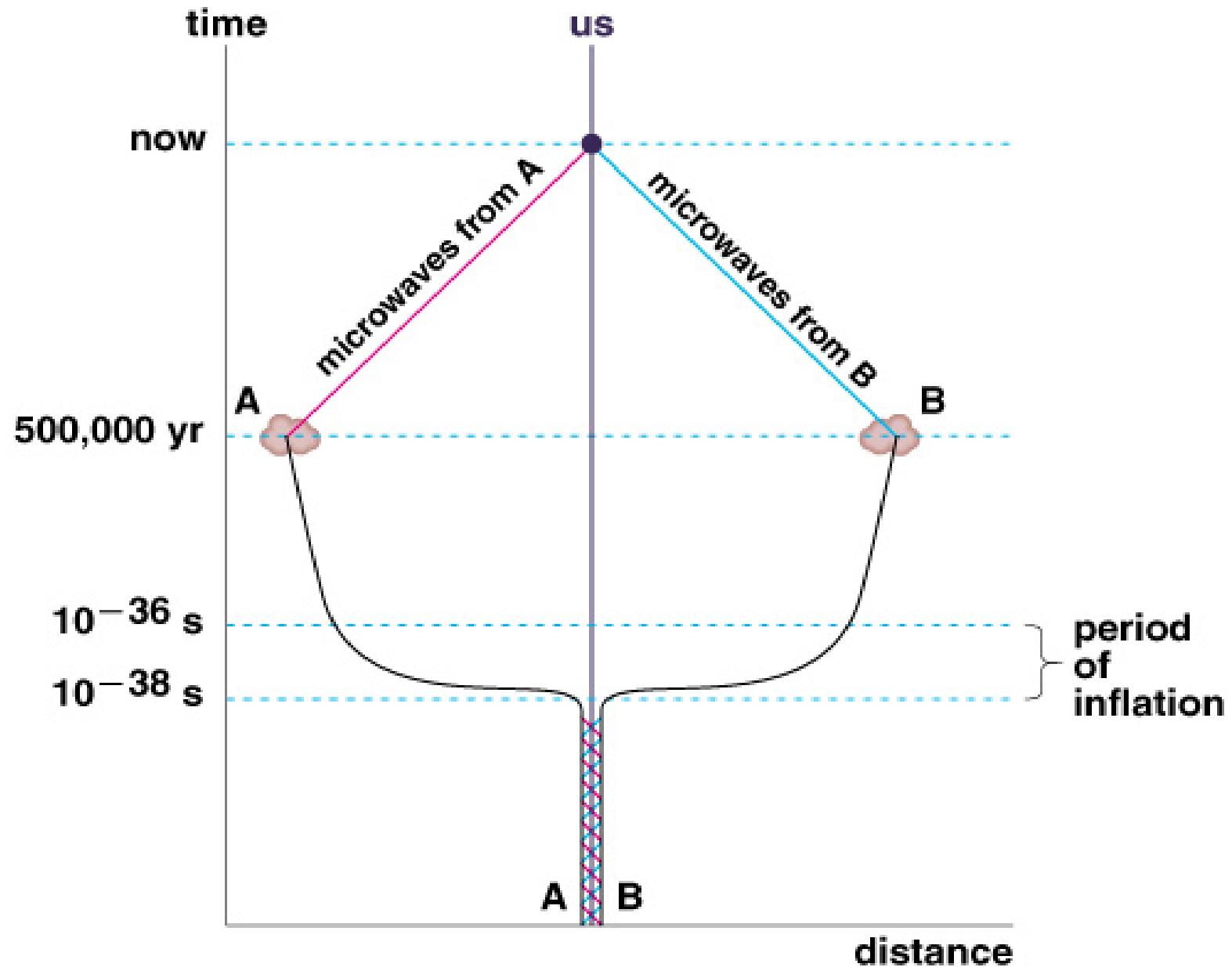
Horizon Problem

Why is the CMB so smooth?

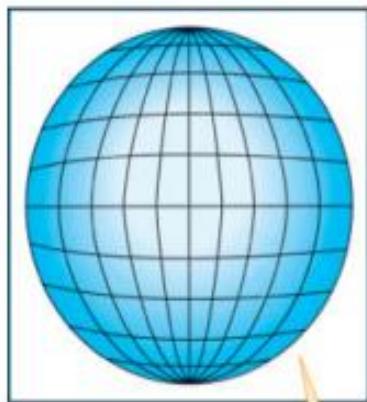


Solution? Inflation

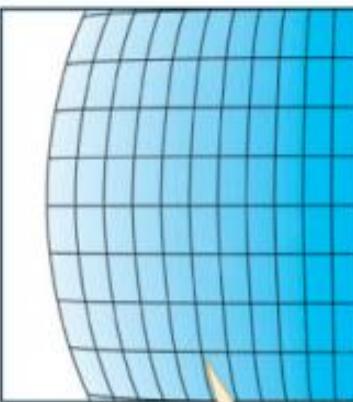




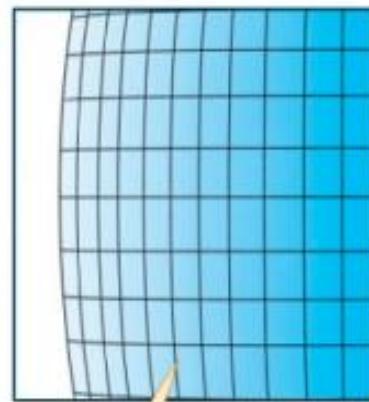
Original



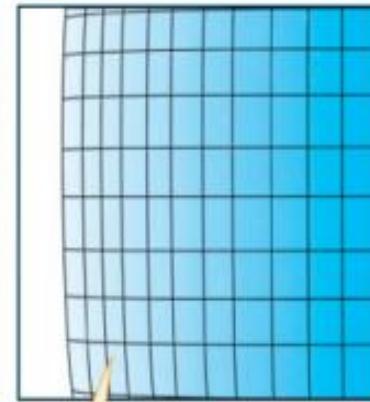
Inflated by a factor of 3 ...



... by a factor of 9 ...



... and by a factor of 27.



As the sphere is inflated, its curvature eventually becomes undetectable and its surface appears flat.

Inflation

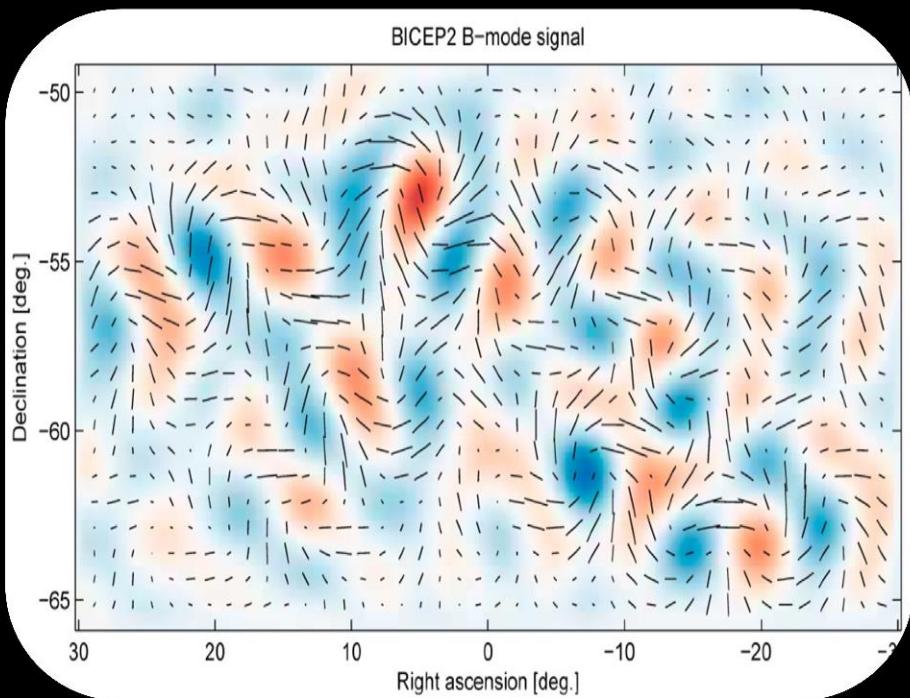
Does such a rapid expansion violate relativity?

- No, because it is space itself that is expanding rather than material particles flying away at high speeds!

What's New in Physics?

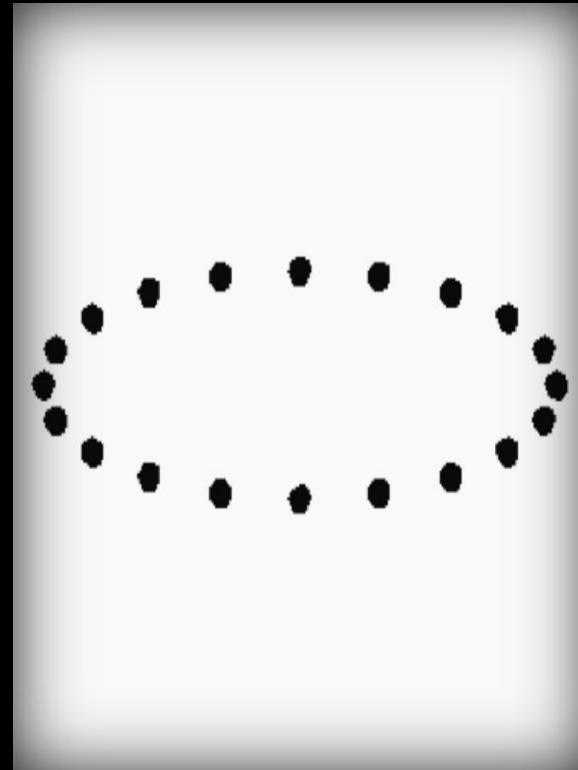
Gravitational Waves

First maybe...then maybe not
Is science 'working'?

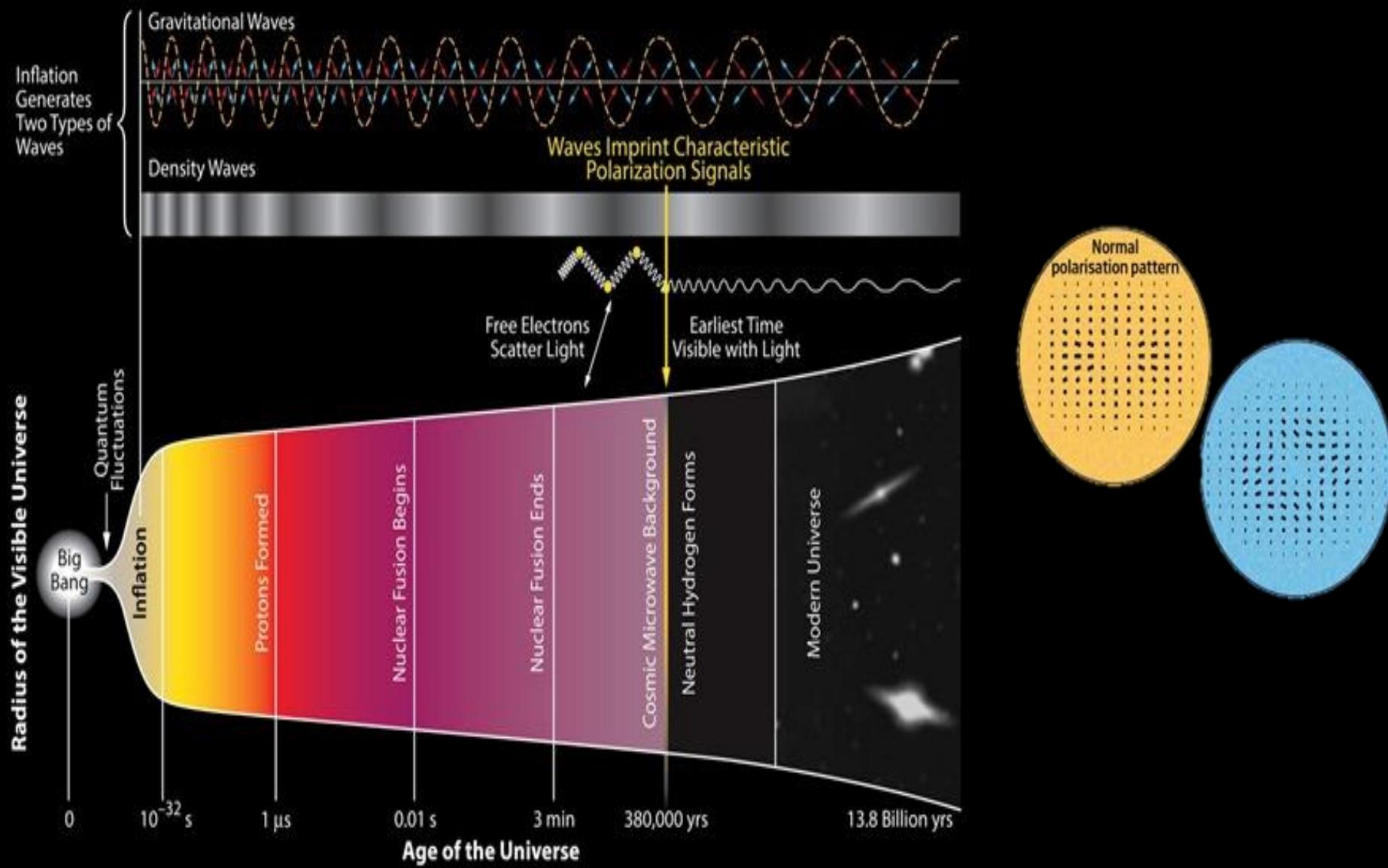


Gravitational Waves

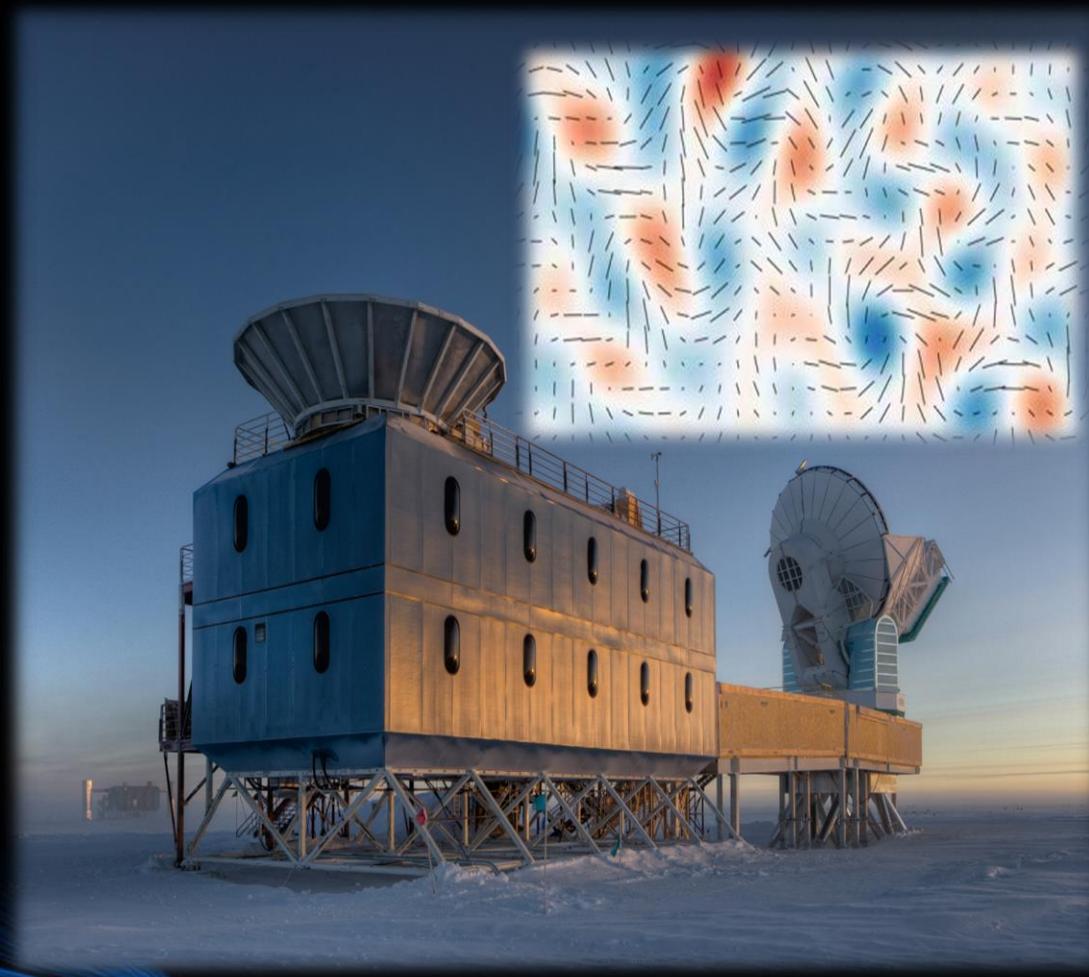
What is Waving?



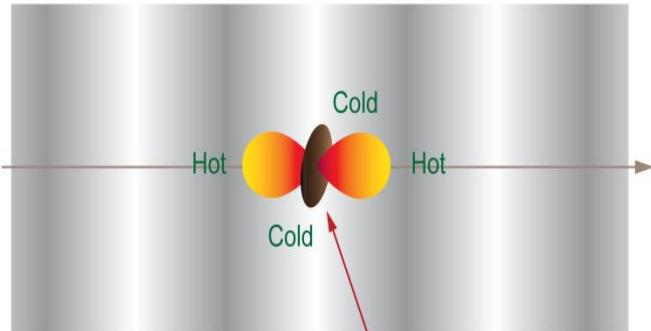
History of the Universe



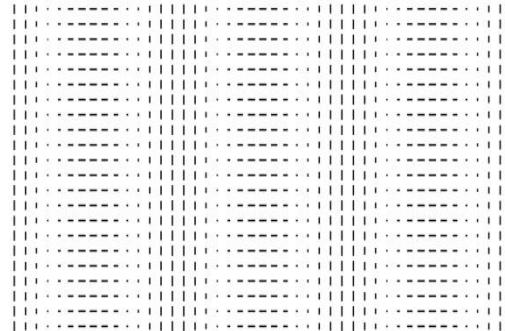
First Tremors of the Big Bang



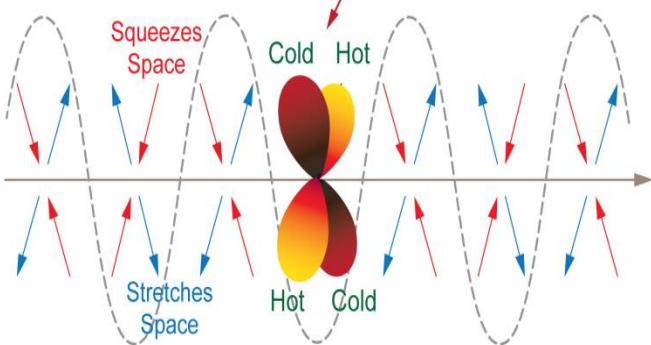
Density Wave



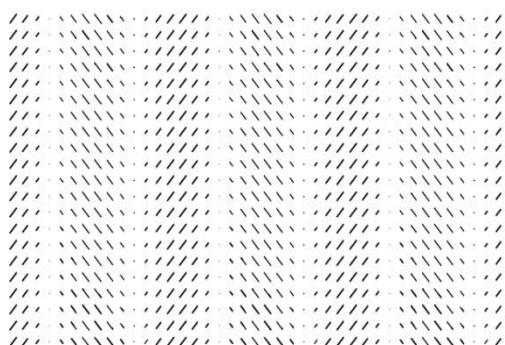
E-Mode Polarization Pattern



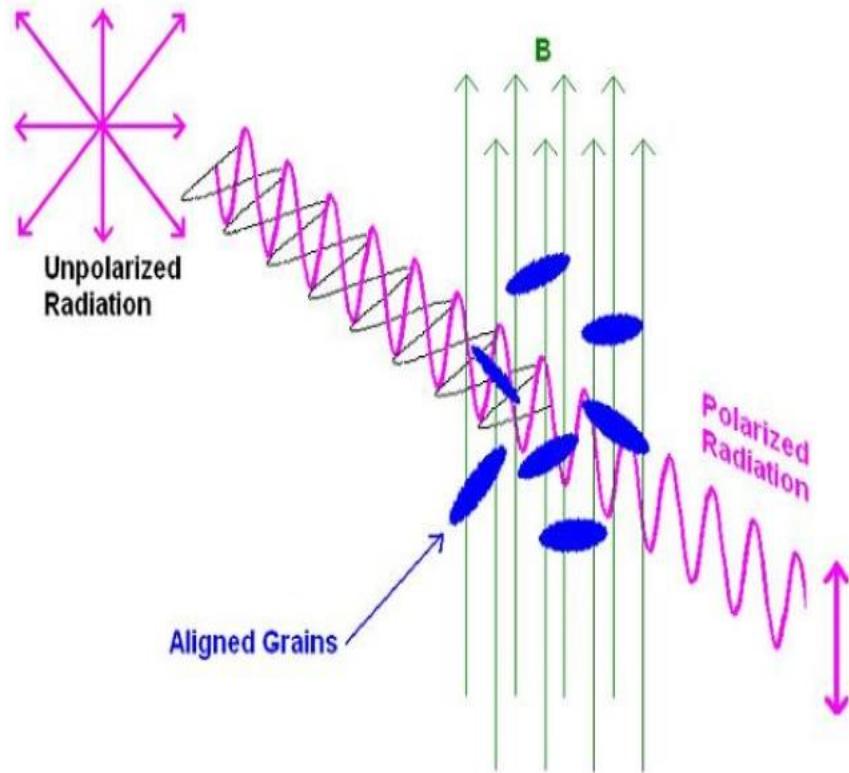
Gravitational Wave



B-Mode Polarization Pattern



Dust Polarizes Light



Milky Way's Magnetic Fingerprint

Planck Satellite

