

## Chapter 6. Diving

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- 13 • *Am I comfortable as I fall toward a black hole?*
- 14 • *How fast am I going when I reach the event horizon? Who measures my*  
15 *speed?*
- 16 • *How long do I live, measured on my wristwatch, as I fall into a black*  
17 *hole?*
- 18 • *How much does the mass of a black hole increase when a stone falls into*  
19 *it? when I fall into it?*
- 20 • *How close to a black hole can I stand on a spherical shell and still*  
21 *tolerate the “acceleration of gravity”?*

## CHAPTER

## 6

23

## Diving

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24 *Many historians of science believe that special relativity could have*  
 25 *been developed without Einstein; similar ideas were in the air at the*  
 26 *time. In contrast, it's difficult to see how general relativity could*  
 27 *have been created without Einstein – certainly not at that time, and*  
 28 *maybe never.*

29

—David Kaiser

### 6.1 ■ GO STRAIGHT: THE PRINCIPLE OF MAXIMAL AGING IN GLOBAL COORDINATES

31

32 *“Go straight!” spacetime shouts at the stone.*

33 *The stone’s wristwatch verifies that its path is straight.*

34 Section 5.7 described how an observer passes through a sequence of local  
 35 inertial frames, making each measurement in only one of these local frames.  
 36 Special relativity describes motion in each such local inertial frame. The  
 37 observer is just a stone that acts with purpose. Now we ask how a  
 38 (purposeless!) free stone moves in global coordinates.

39 Section 1.6 introduced the Principle of Maximal Aging that describes  
 40 motion in a single inertial frame. To describe global motion, we need to extend  
 41 this principle to a *sequence* of adjacent local inertial frames. Here, without  
 42 proof, is the simplest possible extension, to a *single adjacent pair* of local  
 43 inertial frames.

44

#### DEFINITION 1. Principle of Maximal Aging (curved spacetime)

45

46 The *Principle of Maximal Aging* states that a free stone follows a  
 47 worldline through spacetime such that its wristwatch time (aging) is a  
 48 maximum when summed across every adjoining pair of local inertial  
 frames along its worldline.

Definition: **Principle  
 of Maximal Aging**  
 in curved spacetime

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Box 1. What Then Is Time?

What then is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks me, I do not know.

\*\*\*\*\*

The world was made, not in time, but simultaneously with time. There was no time before the world.

—St. Augustine (354–430 C.E.)

Time takes all and gives all.

—Giordano Bruno (1548–1600 C.E.)

Everything fears Time, but Time fears the Pyramids.

—Anonymous

Philosophy is perfectly right in saying that life must be understood backward. But then one forgets the other clause—that it must be lived forward.

—Søren Kierkegaard

As if you could kill time without injuring eternity.

\*\*\*\*\*

Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in.

—Henry David Thoreau

Although time, space, place, and motion are very familiar to everyone, . . . it is useful to distinguish these quantities into absolute and relative, true and apparent, mathematical and common.

—Isaac Newton

Time is defined so that motion looks simple.

—Misner, Thorne, and Wheeler

Nothing puzzles me more than time and space; and yet nothing troubles me less, as I never think about them.

—Charles Lamb

Either this man is dead or my watch has stopped.

—Groucho Marx

“What time is it, Casey?”

“You mean right now?”

—Casey Stengel

It’s good to reach 100, because very few people die after 100.

—George Burns

The past is not dead. In fact, it’s not even past.

—William Faulkner

Time is Nature’s way to keep everything from happening all at once.

—Graffito, men’s room, Pecan St. Cafe, Austin, Texas

What time does this place get to New York?

—Barbara Stanwyck, during trans-Atlantic crossing on the steamship *Queen Mary*



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50  
51  
52  
53  
54

**Objection 1.** Now you have gone off the deep end! In Chapter 1, *Speeding*, you convinced me that the Principle of Maximal Aging was nothing more than a restatement of Newton’s First Law of Motion, the observation that in flat spacetime the free stone moves at constant speed along a straight line in space. But in curved spacetime the stone’s path will obviously be curved. You have violated your own Principle.



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56  
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59  
60

On the contrary, we have changed the Principle of Maximal Aging as little as possible in order to apply it to curved spacetime. We require the free stone to move along a straight worldline across *each one* of the pair of adjoining local inertial frames, as demanded by the special relativity Principle of Maximal Aging in each frame. We allow the stone only the choice of one map coordinate of the event, at the boundary between these

## Section 6.2 Map Energy from the Principle of Maximal Aging 6-3

61 two frames. That single generalization extends the Principle of Maximal  
 62 Aging from flat to curved spacetime. And the result is a single kink in the  
 63 worldline. When we shrink all adjoining inertial frames along the worldline  
 64 to the calculus limit, then the result is what you predict: a curved worldline  
 65 in global coordinates.

66 Now we can use the more general Principle of Maximal Aging to discover  
 67 a constant of motion for a free stone, what we call its *map energy*.

**6.2 ■ MAP ENERGY FROM THE PRINCIPLE OF MAXIMAL AGING**

69 *The global metric plus the Principle of Maximal Aging leads to map energy as*  
 70 *a constant of motion.*

Map energy: a  
constant of motion

71 This section uses the Principle of Maximal Aging from Section 6.1, plus the  
 72 Schwarzschild global metric to derive the expression for map energy of a free  
 73 stone near a nonspinning black hole. For a free stone, map energy is a constant  
 74 of motion; its value remains the same as the stone moves. Our derivation uses  
 75 a stone that falls inward along the  $r$ -direction, but at the end we show that  
 76 the resulting expression for map energy also applies to a stone moving in any  
 77 direction; energy is a *scalar*, which has no direction.

?

78 **Objection 2.** *Here is a fundamental objection to the Principle of Maximal*  
 79 *Aging: You nowhere derive it, yet you expect us readers to accept this*  
 80 *arbitrary Principle. Why should we believe you?*

!

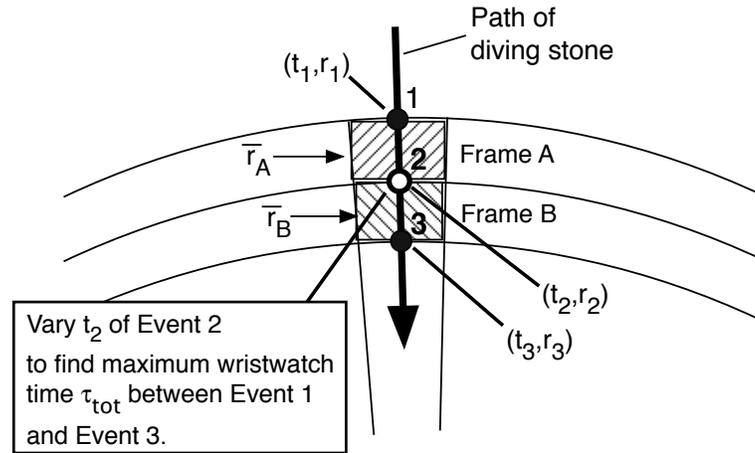
81 Guilty as charged! Our major tool in this book is the metric, which—along  
 82 with the topology of a spacetime region—tells us everything we can know  
 83 about the shape of spacetime in that region. But the shape of spacetime  
 84 revealed by the metric tells us nothing whatsoever about how a free stone  
 85 moves in this spacetime. For that we need a second tool, the Principle of  
 86 Maximal Aging which, like the metric, derives from Einstein's field  
 87 equations. In this book the metric plus the Principle of Maximal  
 88 Aging—both down one step from the field equations—are justified by their  
 89 immense predictive power. Until we derive the metric in Chapter 22, we  
 90 apply the slogan, "Handsome is as handsome does!"

Find maximal aging:  
find natural motion.

91 The Principle of Maximal Aging maximizes the stone's total wristwatch  
 92 time across *two adjoining* local inertial frames. Figure 1 shows the Above  
 93 Frame A (of average map coordinate  $\bar{r}_A$ ) and adjoining Below Frame B (of  
 94 average map coordinate  $\bar{r}_B$ ). The stone emits initial flash 1 as it enters the top  
 95 of Frame A, emits middle flash 2 as it transits from Above Frame A to Below  
 96 Frame B, and emits final flash 3 as it exits the bottom of Below Frame B. We  
 97 use the three *flash emission events* to find maximal aging.

98 *Outline of the method:* Fix the  $r$ - and  $\phi$ -coordinates of all three flash  
 99 emissions and fix the  $t$ -coordinates of upper and lower events 1 and 3. Next  
 100 vary the  $t$ -coordinate of the middle flash emission 2 to maximize the total  
 101 *wristwatch time* (aging) of the stone across both frames.

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**FIGURE 1** Use the Principle of Maximal Aging to derive the expression for Schwarzschild map energy. The diving stone first crosses the Above Frame A, then crosses the Below Frame B, emitting flashes at events 1, 2, and 3. Fix all three coordinates of events 1 and 3; but fix only the  $r$ - and  $\phi$ -coordinates of intermediate event 2. Then vary the  $t$ -coordinate of event 2 to maximize the *total wristwatch time* (aging) across both frames between fixed end-events 1 and 3. This leads to expression (8) for the stone’s map energy, a constant of motion.

102 So much for  $t$ -coordinates. How do we find *wristwatch times* across the two  
 103 frames? The Schwarzschild metric ties the increment of wristwatch time to  
 104 changes in  $r$ - and  $t$ -coordinates for a stone that falls inward along the  
 105  $r$ -coordinate. Write down the approximate form of the global metric twice,  
 106 first for Above frame A (at average  $\bar{r}_A$ ) and second for the Below frame B (at  
 107 average  $\bar{r}_B$ ). Take the square root of both sides:

Approximate the Schwarzschild metric for each frame.

$$\tau_A \approx \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}_A} \right) (t_2 - t_1)^2 + (\text{terms without } t\text{-coordinate}) \right]^{1/2} \quad (1)$$

$$\tau_B \approx \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}_B} \right) (t_3 - t_2)^2 + (\text{terms without } t\text{-coordinate}) \right]^{1/2} \quad (2)$$

108 We are interested only in those parts of the metric that contain the map  
 109  $t$ -coordinate, because we take derivatives with respect to that  $t$ -coordinate. To  
 110 prepare for the derivative that leads to maximal aging, take the derivative of  
 111  $\tau_A$  with respect to  $t_2$  of the intermediate event 2. The denominator in the  
 112 resulting derivative is just  $\tau_A$ :

$$\frac{d\tau_A}{dt_2} \approx \left( 1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}_A} \right) \frac{(t_2 - t_1)}{\tau_A} \quad (3)$$

113 The corresponding expression for  $d\tau_B/dt_2$  is:

## Section 6.2 Map Energy from the Principle of Maximal Aging 6-5

$$\frac{d\tau_B}{dt_2} \approx - \left(1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}_B}\right) \frac{(t_3 - t_2)}{\tau_B} \quad (4)$$

114 Add the two wristwatch times to obtain the summed wristwatch time  $\tau_{\text{tot}}$   
 115 between first and last events 1 and 3:

$$\tau_{\text{tot}} = \tau_A + \tau_B \quad (5)$$

Maximize aging  
 summed across  
 both frames.

116 Recall that we keep constant the total  $t$ -coordinate separation across both  
 117 frames. To find the maximum total wristwatch time, take the derivative of  
 118 both sides of (5) with respect to  $t_2$ , substitute from (3) and (4), and set the  
 119 result equal to zero in order to find the maximum:

$$\frac{d\tau_{\text{tot}}}{dt_2} = \frac{d\tau_A}{dt_2} + \frac{d\tau_B}{dt_2} \approx \left(1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}_A}\right) \frac{(t_2 - t_1)}{\tau_A} - \left(1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}_B}\right) \frac{(t_3 - t_2)}{\tau_B} \approx 0 \quad (6)$$

120 From the last approximate equality in (6),

$$\left(1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}_A}\right) \frac{(t_2 - t_1)}{\tau_A} \approx \left(1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}_B}\right) \frac{(t_3 - t_2)}{\tau_B} \quad (7)$$

121 The expression on the left side of (7) depends only on parameters of the  
 122 stone's motion across the Above Frame A; the expression on the right side  
 123 depends only on parameters of the stone's motion across the Below Frame B.  
 124 Hence the value of either side of this equation must be independent of *which*  
 125 adjoining pair of frames we choose to look at: this pair can be *anywhere* along  
 126 the worldline of a stone. Equation (7) displays a quantity that has the same  
 127 value on *every* local inertial frame along the worldline. We have found the  
 128 expression for a quantity that is a constant of motion.

129 Now shrink differences  $(t_2 - t_1)$  and  $(t_3 - t_2)$  in (7) to their differential  
 130 limits. In this process the average  $r$ -coordinate becomes exact, so  $\bar{r} \rightarrow r$ . Next  
 131 use the result to *define* the stone's **map energy per unit mass**:

**Map energy**  
 of a stone in  
 Schwarzschild  
 coordinates

$$\frac{E}{m} \equiv \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) \frac{dt}{d\tau} \quad (\text{map energy of a stone per unit mass}) \quad (8)$$

Far from the black  
 hole, map energy  
 takes special  
 relativity form.

132  
 133  
 134 Why do we call the expression on the right side of (8) *energy* (per unit mass)?  
 135 Because when the mass  $M$  of the center of attraction becomes very small—or  
 136 when the stone is very far from the center of attraction—the limit  $2M/r \rightarrow 0$   
 137 describes a stone in flat spacetime. That condition reduces (8) to  
 138  $E/m = dt/d\tau$ , which we recognize as equation (23) in Section 1.7 for  $E/m$  in  
 139 flat spacetime. Hence we take the right side of (8) to be the general-relativistic  
 140 generalization, near a nonspinning black hole, of the special relativity  
 141 expression for  $E/m$ .

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Map energy  $E$   
same unit as  $m$

142 Note that the right side of (8) has no units; therefore both  $E$  and  $m$  on  
143 the left side must be expressed in the *same* unit, a unit that we may choose for  
144 our convenience. *Both* numerator and denominator in  $E/m$  may be expressed  
145 in kilograms or joules or electron-volts or the mass of the proton, or any other  
146 common unit.

Map energy  
expression valid  
for *any* motion  
of the stone.

147 Our derivation of map energy employs only the  $t$ -coordinate in the metric.  
148 It makes no difference in the outcome for map energy—expression  
149 (8)—whether  $dr$  or  $d\phi$  is zero or not. This has an immediate consequence: The  
150 expression for map energy in Schwarzschild global coordinates is valid for a  
151 free stone moving on *any* orbit around a spherically symmetric center of  
152 attraction, not just along the inward  $r$ -direction. We will use this generality of  
153 (8) to predict the general motion of a stone in later chapters.

### 6.3. ■ UNICORN MAP ENERGY VS. MEASURED SHELL ENERGY

155 *Map energy is like a unicorn: a mythical beast*

Map energy  $E/m$   
is a unicorn:  
a mythical beast.

156 The expression on the right side of equation (8) is like a unicorn: a mythical  
157 beast. Nobody measures directly the  $r$ - or  $t$ -coordinates in this expression,  
158 which are Schwarzschild global map coordinates: entries in the mapmaker's  
159 spreadsheet or accounting form. Nobody measures  $E/m$  on the left side of (8)  
160 either; the map energy is also a unicorn. If this is so, why do we bother to  
161 derive expression (8) in the first place? Because  $E/m$  has an important virtue:  
162 It is a constant of motion of a free stone in Schwarzschild global coordinates; it  
163 has the same value at every event along the global worldline of a stone. The  
164 value of  $E/m$  helps us to predict its global motion (Chapters 8 and 9). But it  
165 does not tell us the value of the energy measured by an observer in a local  
166 inertial frame.

167 What is the stone's energy measured by the shell observer? The special  
168 relativity energy expression is valid for the shell observer. Equation (9) in  
169 Section 5.7 gives us:

$$\Delta t_{\text{shell}} = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}}\right)^{1/2} \Delta t \quad (9)$$

170 Then:

$$\frac{E_{\text{shell}}}{m} = \lim_{\Delta\tau \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta t_{\text{shell}}}{\Delta\tau} = \lim_{\Delta\tau \rightarrow 0} \left(1 - \frac{2M}{\bar{r}}\right)^{1/2} \frac{\Delta t}{\Delta\tau} \quad (10)$$

171 As we shrink increments to the differential calculus limit, the average  
172  $r$ -coordinate becomes exact:  $\bar{r} \rightarrow r$ . The result is:

$$\frac{E_{\text{shell}}}{m} = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{1/2} \frac{dt}{d\tau} \quad (\text{shell energy of a stone per unit mass}) \quad (11)$$

173 Into this equation substitute expression (8) for the stone's map energy to  
174 obtain:

## Section 6.4 Raindrop Crosses the Event Horizon 6-7

$$\frac{E_{\text{shell}}}{m} = \frac{1}{(1 - v_{\text{shell}}^2)^{1/2}} = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1/2} \frac{E}{m} \quad (12)$$

Shell energy

Different shell observers compute same map energy.

How to get inside the event horizon?

175

176

177 where we have added the special relativity expression (23) in Section 1.7.  
178 Equation (12) tells us how to use the map energy—a unicorn—to predict the  
179 frame energy directly measured by the shell observer as the stone streaks past.

180 Expression (12) for shell energy  $E_{\text{shell}}$  applies to a stone moving in any  
181 direction, not just along the  $r$ -coordinate. Why? Energy—including map  
182 energy  $E$ —is a *scalar*, a property of the stone independent of its direction of  
183 motion.

184 The shell observer knows only his local shell frame coordinates, which are  
185 restricted in order to yield a local inertial frame. He observes a stone zip  
186 through his local frame and disappear from that frame; he has no global view  
187 of the stone’s path. However, equation (12) is valid for a stone in *every* local  
188 shell frame and for *every* direction of motion of the stone in that frame. The  
189 shell observer uses this equation and his local  $r$ —stamped on every shell—to  
190 compute the map energy  $E/m$ , then radios his result to every one of his fellow  
191 shell observers, for example, “The green-colored free stone has map energy  
192  $E/m = 3.7$ .” A different shell observer, at different map  $r$ , measures a different  
193 value of shell energy  $E_{\text{shell}}/m$  of the green stone as it streaks through his own  
194 local frame, typically in a different direction. However, armed with (12), every  
195 shell observer verifies the constant value of map energy of the green stone, for  
196 example  $E/m = 3.7$ .

197 In brief, each local shell observer carries out a real measurement of shell  
198 energy; from this result plus his knowledge of his  $r$ -coordinate he derives the  
199 value of the map energy  $E/m$ , then uses this map energy—a constant of  
200 motion—to predict results of shell energy measurements made by shell  
201 observers distant from him. The result is a multi-shell account of the entire  
202 orbit of the stone.

203 The entire scheme of shell observers depends on the existence of local shell  
204 frames, which cannot be built inside the event horizon. Now we turn to the  
205 experience of the diver who passes inward across the event horizon.

#### 6.4 ■ RAINDROP CROSSES THE EVENT HORIZON

207 *Convert  $t$ -coordinate to raindrop wristwatch time.*

208 The Schwarzschild metric satisfies Einstein’s field equations everywhere in the  
209 vicinity of a nonrotating black hole (except on its singularity at  $r = 0$ ). Map  
210 coordinates alone may satisfy Schwarzschild and Einstein, but they do not  
211 satisfy us. We want to make every measurement in a local inertial frame. Shell  
212 frames serve this purpose nicely outside the event horizon, but we cannot  
213 construct stationary shells inside the event horizon. Moreover, the expression  
214  $(1 - 2M/r)^{-1/2}$  in energy equation (12) becomes imaginary inside the event

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215 horizon, which provides one more indication that shell energy does not apply  
216 there.

**Raindrop** defined:  
stone dropped  
from rest far away

217 Yet everyone tells us that an unfortunate astronaut who crosses inward  
218 through the event horizon at  $r = 2M$  inevitably arrives at the lethal central  
219 singularity  $r = 0$ . In the following chapter we build a local frame around a  
220 falling astronaut. To prepare for such a local diving frame, we start here as  
221 simply as possible: We ask the stone wearing a wristwatch that began our  
222 study of relativity (Section 1.1) to take a daring dive, to drop from initial rest  
223 far from the black hole and plunge inward to  $r = 0$ . We call this diving,  
224 wristwatch-wearing stone a **raindrop**, because on Earth raindrops fall from  
225 rest at a great height. By definition, the raindrop has no significant spatial  
226 extent; it has no frame, it is just a stone wearing a wristwatch.

227 **DEFINITION 2. Raindrop**

228 **A raindrop is a stone wearing a wristwatch, that freely falls inward**  
229 **starting from initial rest far from the center of attraction.**

Map energy of  
a raindrop

230 Examine the map energy (8) of a raindrop. Far from the black hole  
231  $r \gg 2M$  so that  $(1 - 2M/r) \rightarrow 1$ . For a stone at rest there,  $dr = d\phi = 0$  and  
232 the Schwarzschild metric tells us that  $d\tau \rightarrow dt$ . As a result, (8) becomes:

$$\frac{E}{m} \equiv \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) \frac{dt}{d\tau} \rightarrow 1 \quad (\text{raindrop: released from rest at } r \gg 2M) \quad (13)$$

233 The raindrop, released from rest far from the black hole, must fall inward  
234 along a radial line. In other words,  $d\phi = 0$  along the raindrop worldline.  
235 Formally we write:

$$\frac{d\phi}{d\tau} = 0 \quad (\text{raindrop}) \quad (14)$$

Shell energy of  
the raindrop

236 The raindrop-stone, released from rest at a large  $r$  map coordinate, begins  
237 to move inward, gradually picks up speed, finally plunges toward the center.  
238 As the raindrop hurtles inward, the value of  $E/m (= 1)$  remains constant.  
239 Equation (12) then tells us that as  $r$  decreases,  $2M/r$  increases, and so  $E_{\text{shell}}$   
240 must also increase, implying an increase in  $v_{\text{shell}}$ . The local shell observer  
241 measures this increased speed directly. Equation (12) with  $E/m = 1$  for the  
242 raindrop yields:

$$\frac{E_{\text{shell}}}{m} = (1 - v_{\text{shell}}^2)^{-1/2} = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1/2} \quad (\text{raindrop}) \quad (18)$$

243 It follows immediately that:

$$v_{\text{shell}} = - \left(\frac{2M}{r}\right)^{1/2} \quad (\text{raindrop shell velocity}) \quad (19)$$

244 where the negative value of the square root describes the stone's inward  
245 motion. Equation (19) shows that the shell-measured speed of the

**Box 2. Slow speed + weak field  $\implies$  Mass + Newtonian KE and PE**

*"If you fall, I'll be there."*—Floor

The map energy  $E/m$  may be a unicorn in general relativity, but it is a genuine race horse in Newtonian mechanics. We show here that the map energy  $E/m$  of a stone moving at non-relativistic speed in a weak gravitational field reduces to the mass of the stone plus the familiar Newtonian energy (kinetic + potential). Rearrange (12) to read:

$$\frac{E}{m} = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{1/2} (1 - v_{\text{shell}}^2)^{-1/2} \quad (15)$$

For  $r \gg 2M$  (weak gravitational field) and  $v_{\text{shell}}^2 \ll 1$  (non relativistic stone speed) use the approximation inside the front cover twice:

$$\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{1/2} \approx 1 - \frac{M}{r} \quad (r \gg 2M) \quad (16)$$

$$(1 - v_{\text{shell}}^2)^{-1/2} \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}v_{\text{shell}}^2 \quad (v_{\text{shell}}^2 \ll 1)$$

Substitute these into (15) and drop the much smaller product  $(M/2r)v_{\text{shell}}^2$ . The result is an approximation:

$$E \approx m + \frac{1}{2}mv_{\text{shell}}^2 - \frac{Mm}{r} \quad (17)$$

$(r \gg 2M, v_{\text{shell}}^2 \ll 1)$

In this equation  $-Mm/r$  is the gravitational potential energy of the stone. (In conventional mks units it would read  $-GM_{\text{kg}}m_{\text{kg}}/r$ .) We recognize in (17) Newtonian's kinetic energy (KE) plus his potential energy (PE) of a stone, with the added stone's mass  $m$ .

As a jockey in curved spacetime, you must beware of riding the unicorn map energy  $E/m$ ; gravitational potential energy is a fuzzy concept in general relativity. Dividing energy into separate kinetic and potential forms works only under special conditions, such as those given in equation (16).

Except for these special conditions, we expect the map constant of motion  $E$  to differ from  $E_{\text{shell}}$ : The local shell frame is inertial and excludes effects of curved spacetime. In contrast, map energy  $E$ —necessarily expressed in map coordinates—includes curvature effects, which Newton attributes to a "force of gravity."

The approximation in (17) is quite profound. It reproduces a central result of Newtonian mechanics without using the concept of force. In general relativity, we can always eliminate gravitational force (see inside the back cover).

246 raindrop—the magnitude of its velocity—increases to the speed of light at the  
 247 event horizon. This is a limiting case, because we cannot construct a  
 248 shell—even in principle—at the exact location of the event horizon.



249 **Objection 3.** *I am really bothered by the idea of a material particle such as*  
 250 *a stone traveling across the event horizon as a particle. The shell observer*  
 251 *sees it moving at the speed of light, but it takes light to travel at light speed.*  
 252 *Does the stone—the raindrop—become a flash of light at the event*  
 253 *horizon?*



254 No. Be careful about limiting cases. No shell can be built at the event  
 255 horizon, because the initial gravitational acceleration increases without  
 256 limit there (Section 6.7). An observer on a shell just outside the event  
 257 horizon clocks the diving stone to move with a speed *slightly less* than the  
 258 speed of light. Any directly-measured stone speed less than the speed of  
 259 light is perfectly legal in relativity. So there is no contradiction.

Raindrop  $dr/dt$  260 Compare the shell velocity (19) of the raindrop with the value of  $dr/dt$  at  
 261 a given  $r$ -coordinate. To derive  $dr/dt$ , solve the right-hand equation in (13) for  
 262  $d\tau$  and substitute the result into the Schwarzschild metric with  $d\phi = 0$ . Result  
 263 for the raindrop:

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**Sample Problems 1. The Neutron Star Takes an Aspirin**

Neutron Star Gamma has a total mass 1.4 times that of our Sun and a map  $r_0 = 10$  kilometers. An aspirin tablet of mass one-half gram falls from rest at a large  $r$  coordinate onto the surface of the neutron star. An advanced civilization converts into useful energy the entire kinetic energy of the aspirin tablet, measured in the local surface rest frame. Estimate how long this energy will power a 100-watt bulb. Repeat the analysis to find the useful energy for the case of an aspirin tablet falling from a large  $r$  coordinate onto the surface of Earth.

**SOLUTION**

From the value of the mass of our Sun (inside the front cover), the mass of the neutron star is  $M \approx 2 \times 10^3$  meters. Hence  $2M/r_0 \approx 2/5$ . Far from the neutron star the total map energy of the aspirin tablet equals its rest energy, namely its mass, hence  $E/m = 1$ . From (18), the shell energy of the aspirin tablet just before it hits the surface of the neutron star rises to the value

$$\frac{E_{\text{shell}}}{m} = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right)^{-1/2} \approx 1.3 \quad (\text{Neutron Star}) \tag{20}$$

The shell *kinetic energy* of the half-gram aspirin tablet is 0.3 of its rest energy. The rest energy is  $m = 0.5$  gram =  $5 \times 10^{-4}$  kilogram or  $mc^2 = 4.5 \times 10^{13}$  joules. The fraction 0.3 of this is  $1.35 \times 10^{13}$  joules. One watt is one joule/second; a 100-watt bulb consumes 100 joules per second. At that rate, the bulb can burn for  $1.35 \times 10^{11}$  seconds on the kinetic energy of the aspirin tablet. One year is about  $3 \times 10^7$  seconds. Result: The kinetic energy of the half-gram aspirin tablet falling to the surface of Neutron Star Gamma from a large  $r$  coordinate provides energy sufficient to light a 100-watt bulb for approximately 4500 years!

What happens when the aspirin tablet falls from a large  $r$  coordinate onto Earth's surface? Set the values of  $M$  and  $r_0$  to those for Earth (inside front cover). In this case  $2M \ll r_E$ , so equation (20) becomes, to a very good approximation:

$$\frac{E_{\text{shell}}}{m} \approx \left(1 + \frac{M}{r_0}\right) \approx 1 + 6.97 \times 10^{-10} \quad (\text{Earth}) \tag{21}$$

Use the same aspirin tablet rest energy as before. The lower fraction of kinetic energy yields  $3.14 \times 10^4$  joules. At 100 joules per second the kinetic energy of the aspirin tablet will light the 100-watt bulb for 314 seconds, or a little more than 5 minutes.

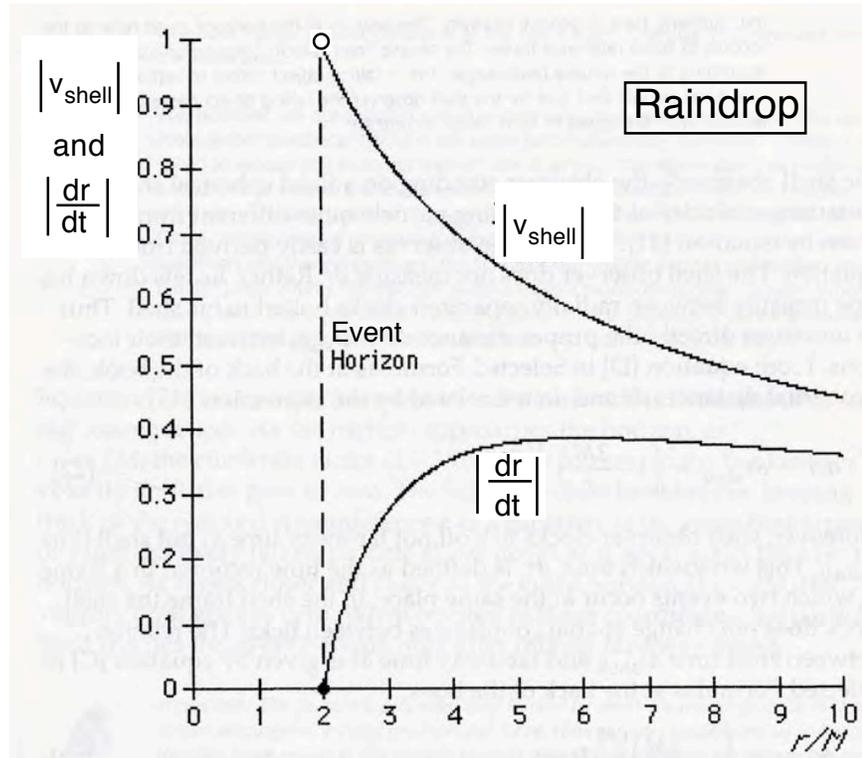
$$\frac{dr}{dt} = - \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) \left(\frac{2M}{r}\right)^{1/2} \quad (\text{raindrop}) \tag{22}$$

Raindrop  $dr/dt$ :  
a unicorn!

264 Equation (22) shows an apparently outrageous result: as the raindrop  
265 reaches the event horizon at  $r = 2M$ , its Schwarzschild  $dr/dt$  drops to zero.  
266 (This result explains the strange spacing of event-dots along the orbit  
267 approaching the event horizon in Figure 3.6.) Does any local observer witness  
268 the stone coasting to rest? No! Repeated use of the word “map” reminds us  
269 that map velocities are simply spreadsheet entries for the Schwarzschild  
270 mapmaker and need not correspond to direct measurements by any local  
271 observer. Figure 2 shows plots of both shell speeds and map  $dr/d\tau$  of the  
272 descending raindrop. Nothing demonstrates more clearly than the diverging  
273 lines in Figure 2 the radical difference between (unicorn) map entries and the  
274 results of direct measurement.

275 Does the raindrop cross the event horizon or not? To answer that question  
276 we need to track the descent with its directly-measured wristwatch time, not  
277 the global  $t$ -coordinate. Use equation (13) to convert global coordinate  
278 differential  $dt$  to wristwatch differential  $d\tau$ . With this substitution, (22)  
279 becomes:

Section 6.4 Raindrop Crosses the Event Horizon 6-11



**FIGURE 2** Computer plot of the speed  $|v_{\text{shell}}|$  of a raindrop directly measured by shell observers at different  $r$ -values, from (19), and its Schwarzschild map speed  $|dr/dt|$  from (22). Far from the black hole the raindrop is at rest, so both speeds are zero, but both speeds increase as the raindrop descends. Map speed  $|dr/dt|$  is not measured but computed from spreadsheet records of the Schwarzschild mapmaker. At the event horizon, the measured shell speed rises to the speed of light, while the computed map speed drops to zero. The upper open circle at  $r = 2M$  reminds us that this is a limiting case, since no shell can be constructed at the event horizon. (Why not? See the Appendix, Section 6.7.)

$$\frac{dr}{d\tau_{\text{raindrop}}} = - \left( \frac{2M}{r} \right)^{1/2} \tag{23}$$

Raindrop crosses the event horizon.

280 Expression (23) combines a map quantity  $dr$  with the differential advance of  
 281 the wristwatch  $d\tau_{\text{raindrop}}$ . It shows that the raindrop's  $r$ -coordinate decreases  
 282 as its wristwatch time advances, so the raindrop passes inward through the  
 283 event horizon. Indeed, inside the event horizon the magnitude of  $dr/d\tau_{\text{raindrop}}$   
 284 becomes greater than one, and increases without limit as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . But this need  
 285 not worry us: Both  $r$  and  $dr$  are map quantities, so  $dr/d\tau$  is just an entry on  
 286 the mapmaker's spreadsheet, not a quantity measured by anyone.

**Comment 1. How do we find the value of  $dr$  inside the event horizon?**

The numerator  $dr$  on the left side of (23) has a clear meaning only *outside* the

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**Box 3. Newton Predicts the Black Hole?**

It's remarkable how well much of Newton's mechanics works—sort of—on the stage of general relativity. One example is that Newton appears to predict the  $r$ -coordinate of the event horizon  $r = 2M$ . Yet the meaning of that barrier is strikingly different in the two pictures of gravity, as the following analysis shows.

A stone initially at rest far from a center of attraction drops inward. Or a stone on the surface of Earth or of a neutron star is fired outward along  $r$ , coming to rest at a large  $r$  coordinate. In either case, Newtonian mechanics assigns the same total energy (kinetic plus potential) to the stone. We choose the gravitational potential energy to be zero at the large  $r$  coordinate, and the stone out there does not move. From (17), we then obtain

$$\frac{E}{m} - 1 = \frac{v^2}{2} - \frac{M}{r} = 0 \quad (\text{Newton}) \quad (24)$$

From (24) we derive the diving (or rising) speed at any  $r$ -coordinate:

$$|v| = \left(\frac{2M}{r}\right)^{1/2} \quad (\text{Newton}) \quad (25)$$

which is the same as equation (19) for the shell speed of the raindrop. One can predict from (25) the  $r$ -value at which the speed reaches one, the speed of light, which yields  $r = 2M$ , the black hole event horizon. For Newton the speed of light is the **escape velocity** from the event horizon.

Newton assumes a single universal inertial reference frame and universal time, whereas (19) applies only to shell separation divided by shell time. A quite different expression (22) describes  $dr/dt$ —map differential  $dr$  divided by map differential  $dt$ —for raindrops.

Does Newton correctly describe black holes? No. Newton predicts that a stone launched radially outward from the event horizon with a speed less than that of light will rise to higher  $r$ , slow, stop without escaping, then fall back. In striking contrast, Einstein predicts that nothing, not even light, can be successfully launched outward from inside the event horizon, and that light launched outward *exactly* at the event horizon hovers there, balanced as on a knife-edge (Box 4).

289 event horizon, where every shell displays the stamped value of  $r$ . Box 7 in  
 290 Section 7.8 describes one practical method by which a descending rain observer  
 291 can measure map  $r$ , both outside and inside the event horizon.

**6.5 ■ GRAVITATIONAL MASS**

293 *A new way to measure total energy*

Mass  $m$  of the stone

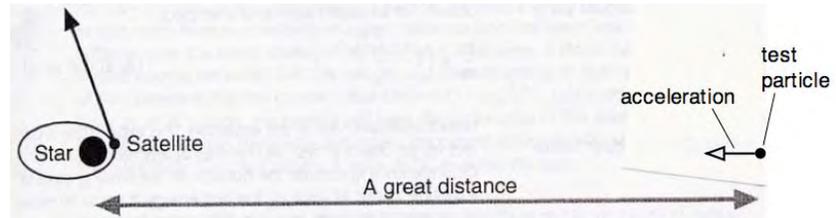
294 This book uses the word *mass* in two different ways. Symbol  $m$  in equations  
 295 (8) and (11) represents the inertial mass of a test particle, which we call a  
 296 *stone*. By definition, the mass of a stone is too small to curve spacetime by a  
 297 detectable amount. Expression (8) measures the stone's map energy  $E$  and  
 298 mass  $m$  in the same units.

Mass  $M$  of the center of attraction

299 The mass  $M$  of the center of attraction is quite different: It is the  
 300 gravitational mass that curves spacetime, as reflected in the global metric  
 301 expression  $(1 - 2M/r)$ .

Drop a stone of mass  $m$  into a star of mass  $M$ .

302 What happens when a stone of mass  $m$  falls into a black hole of mass  $M$ ?  
 303 Does the swallowed mass  $m$  increase the black hole's mass? Our new  
 304 understanding of energy helps us to calculate how much the mass of a black  
 305 hole grows when it swallows matter—and yields a surprising result. To begin,  
 306 start with a satellite orbiting close to a star. How can we measure the total  
 307 gravitational mass of the star-plus-satellite system? We make this  
 308 measurement using the initial acceleration of a distant test particle so remote



**FIGURE 3** Measure the total mass-energy  $M_{\text{total}}$  of a central star-satellite system using the acceleration of a test particle at a large  $r$  coordinate, analyzed using Newtonian mechanics.

309 that Newtonian mechanics gives a correct result (Figure 3). In units of inverse  
 310 meters, Newton’s expression for this acceleration is:

$$a = -\frac{M_{\text{total}}}{r^2} \quad (\text{Newton}) \quad (26)$$

Newton says,  
 “Add  $m$  to  $M_{\text{star}}$ .”

311 What is  $M_{\text{total}}$ ? In Newtonian mechanics total mass equals the mass  $M_{\text{star}}$  of  
 312 the original star plus the mass  $m$  of the satellite orbiting close to it:

$$M_{\text{total}} = M_{\text{star}} + m \quad (\text{Newton}) \quad (27)$$

Birkhoff’s theorem

313 Could this also be true in general relativity? The answer is no, but proof  
 314 requires a sophisticated analysis of Einstein’s equations.

315 A mathematical theorem of general relativity due to G. D. Birkhoff in  
 316 1923 states that the spacetime outside any spherically symmetric distribution  
 317 of matter and energy is completely described by the Schwarzschild metric with  
 318 a *constant* gravitational mass  $M_{\text{total}}$ , no matter whether that spherically  
 319 symmetric source is at rest or, for example, moving inward or outward along  
 320 the  $r$ -coordinate.

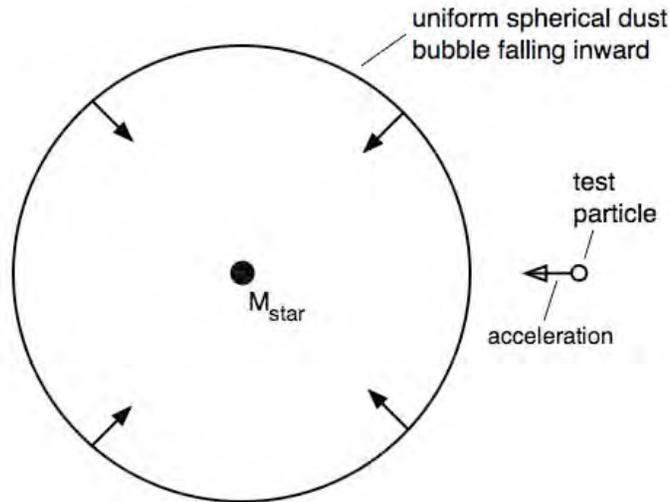
$M_{\text{total}}$  includes  
 contracting bubble  
 of dust.

321 In order to apply Birkhoff’s theorem, we approximate the moving satellite  
 322 of Figure 3 by the inward-falling uniform spherical bubble of Figure 4, a  
 323 bubble composed of unconnected particles—dust—whose total mass  $m$  is the  
 324 same as that of the satellite in Figure 3. (We use the label “bubble” instead of  
 325 “shell” to avoid confusion with the stationary concentric shells we construct  
 326 around a black hole on which we make measurements and observations.) This  
 327 falling uniform dust bubble satisfies the condition of Birkhoff’s theorem, so the  
 328 Schwarzschild metric applies outside this inward-falling bubble.

How does dust  
 bubble increase  
 $M_{\text{total}}$ ?

329 Unfortunately, Birkhoff’s theorem does not tell us how to calculate the  
 330 value of  $M_{\text{total}}$ , only that it is a constant for any spherically symmetric  
 331 configuration of mass/energy. What property of the dust bubble remains  
 332 constant as it falls inward? Its inertial mass  $m$ ? Not according to special  
 333 relativity! Inertial mass is *not* conserved; it can be converted into energy. We  
 334 had better look for a conserved energy for our infalling dust bubble. Equation  
 335 (12) is our guide: At a given  $r$ -coordinate every particle of dust in the  
 336 collapsing bubble falls inward at the same rate, so the measure of the total

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**FIGURE 4** Replace the moving satellite of Figure 3 with an inward-falling uniform spherical bubble of dust that satisfies the condition of Birkhoff’s theorem, so the Schwarzschild metric applies outside the contracting dust bubble.

337 shell energy  $E_{\text{shell}}$  of the bubble at a given  $r$ -coordinate is the sum over the  
 338 individual particles of the dust bubble. Clearly from (12), successive shell  
 339 observers at successively smaller  $r$ -coordinates measure successively higher  
 340 values of  $E_{\text{shell}}$  as the collapsing dust bubble falls past them, so we cannot use  
 341 shell energy in the Birkhoff analysis.

342 However, the Schwarzschild map energy  $E$  *does* remain constant during  
 343 this collapse. So instead of the Newtonian expression (27) we have the trial  
 344 general relativity replacement:

Einstein: “Add dust  
 bubble  $E$  to  $M_{\text{star}}$   
 to find  $M_{\text{total}}$ .”

$$M_{\text{total}} = M_{\text{star}} + E \quad (\text{Einstein}) \quad (28)$$

345

346 How do we know whether or not the total map energy  $E$  of the dust  
 347 bubble is the correct constant to add to  $M_{\text{star}}$  in order to yield the total mass  
 348  $M_{\text{total}}$  of the system? One check is that when the satellite/dust bubble is far  
 349 from the star ( $r \gg 2M_{\text{total}}$ ) but the remote test particle is still exterior to the  
 350 dust bubble, then  $E \rightarrow E_{\text{shell}}$  from (12). In addition, for a slow-moving  
 351 satellite/dust bubble,  $E \rightarrow E_{\text{shell}} \rightarrow m$ , and we recover Newton’s formula (27),  
 352 as we should in the limits  $r \gg 2M$  and  $v_{\text{shell}}^2 \ll 1$ . And when the satellite/dust  
 353 bubble falls inward so that our stationary shell observer measures  $E_{\text{shell}} > m$ ,  
 354 then equation (28) remains valid, because  $E(\approx m)$  does not change. Note that  
 355 Birkhoff’s Theorem is satisfied in this approximation.

Check validity  
 of (28).

Result: Convert  
stone map  $E$   
into gravitational  
mass.

356 If (28) is correct, then general relativity merely replaces Newton's  $m$  in  
357 (27) with total map energy  $E$ , a constant of motion for the satellite/bubble.  
358 Thus the mass of a star or black hole grows by the value of the map energy  $E$   
359 of a stone or collapsing bubble that falls into it. *The map energy of the stone*  
360 *is converted into gravitational mass.* Earlier we called map energy  $E$  "a  
361 unicorn, a mythical beast." Now we must admit that this unicorn can add its  
362 mass-equivalence to the mass of a star into which it falls.

?

363 **Objection 4.** *You checked equation (28) only in the Newtonian limit, where*  
364 *the remote dust bubble is at rest or falls inward with small kinetic energy. Is*  
365 *(28) valid for all values of  $E$ ? Suppose that the dust bubble in Figure 4 is*  
366 *launched inward (or outward) at relativistic speed. In this case does total  $E$*   
367 *still simply add to  $M_{\text{star}}$  to give total mass  $M_{\text{total}}$  for the still more distant*  
368 *observer?*

!

369 Yes it does, but we have not displayed the proof, which requires solution of  
370 Einstein's equations. Let a massive star collapse, then explode into a  
371 supernova. If this process is spherically symmetric, then a distant observer  
372 will detect no change in gravitational attraction in spite of the radical  
373 conversions among different forms of energy in the explosion. Indeed, the  
374 distant observer has no way to know about these transformations before  
375 the outward-blasting bubble of radiation and neutrinos passes her. As they  
376 pass, she detects a decline in the gravitational acceleration of the local test  
377 particle, because some of the original energy of the central attractor is  
378 carried to an  $r$ -value greater than hers.

Gravity waves  
carry off energy.

379 Is the Birkhoff restriction to spherical symmetry important? It can be: A  
380 satellite orbiting around or falling into a star or black hole will emit  
381 gravitational waves that carry away some energy, decreasing  $M_{\text{total}}$ . Chapter  
382 16 notes that a spherically symmetric distribution cannot emit gravitational  
383 waves, no matter how that spherical distribution pulses in or out. As a result,  
384 equation (28) is okay to use only when the emitted gravitational wave energy  
385 is very much less than  $M_{\text{total}}$ . When that condition is met, the cases shown in  
386 Figures 3 and 4 are observationally indistinguishable.

Measuring  $E$   
from far away.

387 As long as gravitational wave emission is negligible and we are sufficiently  
388 far away, we can, in principle, use (28) to measure the map energy  $E$  of  
389 *anything* circulating about, diving into, launching itself away from, or  
390 otherwise interacting with a center of attraction. Simply use Newtonian  
391 mechanics to carry out the measurement depicted in Figure 3, first with the  
392 satellite absent, second with the satellite in orbit near the star. Subtract the  
393 second value from the first for the acceleration (26) and use (28) to determine  
394 the value of  $E = M_{\text{total}} - M_{\text{star}}$ . As in Box 2, this example shows that  $E$  (and  
395 not  $E_{\text{shell}}$ ) includes effects of curved spacetime.

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**Box 4. Event Horizon vs. Particle Horizon**

The *event horizon* around any black hole separates events that can affect the future of observers outside the event horizon from events that cannot do so. Barring quantum mechanics, the event horizon never reveals what is hidden behind it. (For a possible exception, see Box 5 on Hawking radiation.)

We can now define a black hole more carefully: *A black hole is a singularity cloaked by an event horizon.*

In Chapter 14 we learn about another kind of horizon, called a **particle horizon**. Some astronomical objects are so far from

us that the light they have emitted since they were formed has not yet reached us. In principle more and more such objects swim into our distant field of view every day, as our cosmic particle horizon sweeps past them. In contrast to the event horizon, the particle horizon yields up its hidden information to us—gradually!

In order to avoid confusion among these different kinds of horizons, we try to be consistent in using the full name of the *event horizon* that cloaks a black hole.

**6.6 ■ OVER THE EDGE: ENTERING THE BLACK HOLE**

<sup>397</sup> *No jerk. No jolt. A hidden doom.*

<sup>398</sup> Except for the singularity at  $r = 0$ , no feature of the black hole excites more  
<sup>399</sup> curiosity than the event horizon at  $r = 2M$ . It is the point of no return beyond  
<sup>400</sup> which no traveler can find the way back—or even send a signal—to the outside  
<sup>401</sup> world. What is it like to fall into a black hole? No one from Earth has yet  
<sup>402</sup> experienced it. Moreover, we predict that future explorers who do so will not  
<sup>403</sup> be able to return to report their experiences or to transmit messages about  
<sup>404</sup> their experience to us outsiders—so we believe! In spite of the impossibility of  
<sup>405</sup> receiving a final report, there exists a well-developed and increasingly  
<sup>406</sup> well-verified body of theory that makes clear predictions about our experience  
<sup>407</sup> as we approach and cross the event horizon of a black hole. Here are some of  
<sup>408</sup> those predictions.

Predict what  
no one can verify.

We are not sucked  
into a black hole.

<sup>409</sup> **We are not “sucked into” a black hole.** Unless we get close to its  
<sup>410</sup> event horizon, a black hole will no more grab us than our Sun grabs Earth. If  
<sup>411</sup> our Sun should suddenly collapse into a black hole without expelling any mass,  
<sup>412</sup> Earth and the other planets would continue on their courses undisturbed (even  
<sup>413</sup> though, after eight minutes, continuous night would prevail for us on Earth!).  
<sup>414</sup> The Schwarzschild solution (plus the Principle of Maximal Aging) would still  
<sup>415</sup> continue to describe Earth’s worldline around our Sun, just as it does now. In  
<sup>416</sup> Section 6.7 you show that for an orbit at  $r$ -coordinate greater than about  
<sup>417</sup>  $300M$ , Newtonian mechanics predicts gravitational acceleration with an  
<sup>418</sup> accuracy of about 0.3 percent. We also find (Section 8.5) that no stable  
<sup>419</sup> circular orbit is possible at  $r$  less than  $6M$ . Even at an  $r$ -value between  $6M$   
<sup>420</sup> and the event horizon at  $2M$ , we can always escape the grip of the black hole,  
<sup>421</sup> given sufficient rocket power. Only when we reach or cross the event horizon  
<sup>422</sup> are we irrevocably swallowed, our fate sealed.

No jolt as we  
cross the  
event horizon.

<sup>423</sup> **We detect no special event as we fall inward through the event**  
<sup>424</sup> **horizon.** Even when we drop across the event horizon at  $r = 2M$ , we  
<sup>425</sup> experience no shudder, jolt, or jar. True, tidal forces are ever-increasing as we  
<sup>426</sup> fall inward, and this increase continues smoothly as we cross the event horizon.

### Box 5. Escape from the Black Hole? Hawking Radiation

Einstein's field equations predict that nothing, not even a light signal, escapes from inside the event horizon of a black hole. In 1973, Stephen Hawking demonstrated an exception to this conclusion using quantum mechanics. For years quantum mechanics had been known to predict that particle-antiparticle pairs—such as an electron and a positron—are continually being created and recombined in “empty” space, despite the frigidity of the vacuum. These processes have indirect, but significant and well-tested, observational consequences. Never in cold flat spacetime, however, do such events present themselves to direct observation. For this reason the pairs receive the name “virtual particles.” When such a particle-antiparticle pair is produced near, but outside, the event horizon of a black hole, Hawking showed, one member of the pair will occasionally be swallowed by the black hole, while the other one escapes to a large  $r$  coordinate—

now a *real* particle. Escaped particles form what is called **Hawking radiation**. Before particle emission, we had just the black hole; after particle emission, we have the black hole plus the distant real particle outside the event horizon. Where did the energy of this distant particle come from? In order to conserve mass/energy, the mass of the black hole must decrease in this process. This loss of mass causes the black hole to “evaporate.” As the mass of the black hole decreases, the loss rate grows until eventually it becomes explosive, destroying the black hole. For a black hole of several solar masses, however, Hawking's theory predicts that the Earth-time required to achieve this explosive state exceeds the age of the Universe by a fantastic number of powers of ten. For this reason, we ignore Hawking radiation in our description of black holes.

No shell frames  
inside the  
event horizon.

Packages can move  
inward, not outward.

427 We are not suddenly squashed or torn apart at  $r = 2M$ , because the event  
428 horizon is not a *physical* singularity, as explained in Box 3, Section 3.1. There  
429 is no sudden discontinuity in our experience as we pass through the event  
430 horizon.

431 **Inside the event horizon no shell frames are possible.** Outside the  
432 event horizon we have erected, in imagination, a set of nested spherical shells  
433 concentric to the black hole. We say “in imagination” because no known  
434 material is strong enough to withstand the “pull of gravity,” which increases  
435 without limit as we approach the event horizon from outside (Section 6.7).  
436 Locally such a stationary shell can be replaced by a spaceship with rockets  
437 blasting in the inward direction to keep it at the same  $r$  and  $\phi$  coordinates.  
438 Inside the event horizon, however, nothing remains at rest. No shell, no rocket  
439 ship can remain at constant  $r$ -coordinate there, however ferocious the blast of  
440 its engines. The material composing the original star, no matter how strong,  
441 was itself unable to resist the collapse that formed the black hole. The same  
442 irresistible collapse forbids any stationary structure or object inside the event  
443 horizon.

444 **“Outsiders” can send packages to “insiders.”** Inside the event  
445 horizon, different local frames can still move past one another with measurable  
446 relative speeds. Here are some examples. *First local frame:* One traveler may  
447 drop from rest just outside the event horizon. *Second local frame:* An  
448 unpowered spaceship may fall in from far away. *Third local frame:* Another  
449 unpowered spaceship may be hurled inward from outside the event horizon.  
450 Light and radio waves can carry messages inward to us. We who have fallen  
451 inside the event horizon can still see the stars, though with directions, colors,  
452 and intensities that change as we fall (Chapters 11 through 13). Packages and  
453 communications sent inward across the event horizon? Yes. How about moving

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**Box 6. Baked on the Shell?**

As you stand on a spherical shell close to the event horizon of a black hole, you are crushed by an unsupportable local gravitational acceleration directed downward toward the center (Section 6.7). If that is not enough, you are also enveloped by an electromagnetic radiation field. William G. Unruh used quantum field theory to show that the temperature  $T$  of this radiation field (in degrees Kelvin) experienced on the shell is given by the equation

$$T = \frac{hg_{\text{conv}}}{4\pi^2k_{\text{B}}c} \quad (29)$$

Here  $g_{\text{conv}}$  is the local acceleration of gravity expressed in conventional units, meters/second<sup>2</sup>;  $h$  is Planck's constant;  $c$  is the speed of light; and  $k_{\text{B}}$  is **Boltzmann's constant**, which has the value  $1.381 \times 10^{-23}$  kilogram-meters<sup>2</sup>/(second<sup>2</sup>degree Kelvin). The quantity  $k_{\text{B}}T$  has the unit joules and gives the average ambient thermal energy of this radiation field. (The same radiation field surrounds you when you accelerate at the rate  $g_{\text{conv}}$  in flat spacetime.)

Section 6.7 derives an expression for the local gravitational acceleration on a shell at  $r$ . Equation (46) gives the magnitude of this acceleration, expressed in the unit meter<sup>-1</sup>:

$$g_{\text{shell}} = \frac{g_{\text{conv}}}{c^2} = \frac{M}{r^2} \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1/2} \quad (30)$$

Substitute  $g_{\text{conv}}$  from (30) into (29) to obtain

$$T = \frac{hc}{4\pi^2k_{\text{B}}} \frac{M}{r^2} \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1/2} \quad (31)$$

with  $M$  in meters. This temperature increases without limit as you approach the event horizon. Therefore one would expect the radiation field near the event horizon to shine brighter than any star when viewed by a distant observer. Why doesn't this happen? In a muted way it does happen.

Remember that radiation is gravitationally red-shifted as it moves away from any center of attraction. Every frequency is red-shifted by the factor  $(1 - 2M/r)^{1/2}$ , which cancels the corresponding factor in (31). For radiation coming from near the event horizon, let  $r \rightarrow 2M$  in the resulting equation. The distant viewer sees the radiation temperature

$$T_H = \frac{hc}{16\pi^2k_{\text{B}}M} \quad (\text{distant view of event horizon}) \quad (32)$$

with  $M$  in meters. The temperature  $T_H$  is called the **Hawking temperature** and characterizes the Hawking radiation from a black hole (Box 5). Notice that this temperature *increases* as the mass  $M$  of the black hole *decreases*. Even for a black hole whose mass is only a few times that of our Sun, this temperature is extremely low, so from far away such a black hole really looks *almost* black.

The radiation field described by equations (29) through (32), although perfectly normal, leads to strange conclusions. Perhaps the strangest is that this radiation goes entirely undetected by a free-fall observer. The free-fall diving traveler observes no such radiation field, while for the shell observer the radiation is a surrounding presence. This paradox cannot be resolved using the classical general relativity theory presented in this book; see Kip Thorne's *Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy*, page 444.

How realistic is the danger of being baked on a shell near the event horizon of a black hole? In answer, compute the local acceleration of gravity for a shell where the radiation field reaches a temperature equal to the freezing point of water, 273 degrees Kelvin. From (29) you can show that  $g_{\text{conv}} = 6.7 \times 10^{22}$  meters/second<sup>2</sup>, or almost  $10^{22}$  times the acceleration of gravity on Earth's surface. Evidently we will be crushed by gravity long before we are baked by radiation!

454 outward through the event horizon? No. Box 4 tells us—and Section 7.7  
 455 demonstrates—that when a diver fires a light flash radially outward at the  
 456 instant she passes inward through the event horizon, that light flash hovers at  
 457 the same  $r$ -coordinate at the event horizon. Nothing moves faster than light,  
 458 so if light cannot move outward through the event horizon, then packages and  
 459 stones definitely cannot move outward there either.

460 **Inside the event horizon life goes on—for a while.** Make a daring  
 461 dive into an already mature black hole? No. We and our exploration team  
 462 want to be still more daring, to follow a black hole as it forms. We go to a  
 463 multiple-galaxy system so crowded that it teeters on the verge of gravitational  
 464 collapse. Soon after our arrival at the outskirts, it starts the collapse, at first  
 465 slowly, then more and more rapidly. Soon a mighty avalanche thunders

Surf a collapsing galaxy group.

### Box 7. General relativity is a classical (non-quantum) theory.

Newton's laws describe the motion of a stone in flat spacetime at speeds very much less than the speed of light. For higher speeds we need relativity. Newton's laws correctly describe slow-speed motion of a "stone" more massive than, say, a proton. To describe behavior of smaller particles we need quantum physics.

Does this mean that we have no further use for Newton's laws of motion? Not at all! Newton's laws are *classical*, that is non-quantum. In this book we repeatedly use Newton's mechanics as a simple, intuitive first cut at prediction and observation. And with it we check every prediction of relativity in the limit of slow speed and vanishing spacetime curvature. We expect

that Newton's laws of motion will be scientifically useful as long as humanity survives.

General relativity is also a *classical*—non-quantum—theory. General relativity does not predict Hawking radiation (Box 5) or the Hawking temperature (Box 6). These are predictions of quantum field theory, predictions that we mention as important asides to our classical analysis.

General relativity does not correctly represent every property of the black hole, any more than Newton's mechanics correctly predicts the motion of fast-moving particles. We still expect that general relativity—along with Newton's mechanics—will be scientifically useful during the long future of humanity.

466 (silently!) toward the center from all directions, an avalanche of objects and  
467 radiation, a cataract of momentum-energy-pressure. The matter of the  
468 galaxies and with it our group of enterprising explorers pass smoothly across  
469 the event horizon at Schwarzschild  $r = 2M$ .

470 From that moment onward we lose all possibility of signaling to the outer  
471 world. However, radio messages from that outside world, light from familiar  
472 stars, and packages fired after us at sufficiently high shell speed continue to  
473 reach us. Moreover, communications among us explorers take place now as  
"Publish *and* perish."  
474 they did before we crossed the event horizon. We use the familiar categories of  
475 space and time to share our findings. With our laptop computers we turn out  
476 an exciting journal of observations, measurements, and conclusions. (Our  
477 motto: "Publish *and* perish.")

Killer tides.  
478 **Tides become lethal.** Nothing rivets our attention more than the tidal  
479 forces that pull heads up and feet down with ever-increasing tension (Sections  
480 1.11 and 7.9). Before much time has passed on our wristwatch, we can predict,  
481 this differential pull will reach the point where we can no longer survive.  
482 Moreover, we can foretell still further ahead and with certainty the instant of  
483 total crunch. That crunch swallows up not only the stars beneath us, not only  
After crunch there  
is no "after."  
484 we explorers, but time itself. All worldlines inside the event horizon terminate  
485 on the singularity. For us an instant comes after which there is no "after."  
486 Chapters 7 and 21 give more details of life inside the event horizon.

### 6.7 ■ APPENDIX: INITIAL SHELL GRAVITATIONAL ACCELERATION FROM REST

488 *Unlimited gravitational acceleration on a shell near the event horizon.*

Is gravity real  
or fictitious?  
489 When you stand on a shell near a black hole, you experience gravity—a pull  
490 downward—just as you do on Earth. On the shell this gravity can be great:  
491 near the event horizon it increases without limit, as we shall see. On the other  
492 hand, "In general relativity . . . gravity is *always* a fictitious force which we

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493 can eliminate by changing to a local frame that is in free fall . . .” (inside the  
 494 back cover). So is this “gravity” real? Falls kill and injure many people every  
 495 year. Anything that can kill you is definitely real, not fictitious! Here we avoid  
 496 philosophical issues by asking a practical question: “When the shell observer  
 497 drops a stone from rest, what *initial* acceleration does he measure?”

Practical experiment  
to define gravity

498 To begin, we behave like an engineer: Use a thought experiment to define  
 499 what we mean by the initial gravitational acceleration of a stone dropped from  
 500 rest on a shell at  $r_0$ . Use the heavy machinery of general relativity to find the  
 501 magnitude of the newly-defined acceleration experienced by a shell observer.

502 Figure 5 presents our method to measure quantities used to define initial  
 503 gravitational acceleration on a shell. The shell is at map  $r_0$ . At a shell distance  
 504  $|\Delta y_{\text{shell}}|$  below the shell lies a stationary platform onto which the shell observer  
 505 drops a stone. The time lapse  $\Delta t_{\text{shell}}$  for the drop is measured as follows:

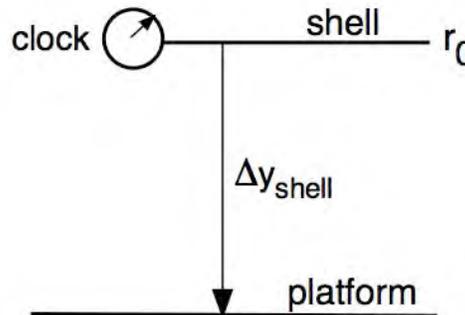
Specific instructions  
for experiment  
to define gravity

- 506 1. The shell observer starts his clock at the instant he drops the stone.
- 507 2. When the stone strikes the platform, it fires a laser flash upward to the  
508 shell clock.
- 509 3. The shell observer determines the shell time lapse between drop and  
510 impact,  $\Delta t_{\text{shell}}$ , by deducting flash transit shell time from the time  
511 elapsed on his clock when he receives the laser flash.

512 To calculate the “flash transit shell time” in Step 3, the shell observer divides  
 513 the shell distance  $|\Delta y_{\text{shell}}|$  by the shell speed of light. (In an exercise of  
 514 Chapter 3, you verified that the shell observer measures light to move at its  
 515 conventional speed—value one—in an inertial frame.)

Define  $g_{\text{shell}}$

516 The shell observer substitutes  $\Delta y_{\text{shell}}$  and  $\Delta t_{\text{shell}}$  into the expression that  
 517 defines uniform acceleration  $g_{\text{shell}}$ :



**FIGURE 5** Notation for thought experiment to define initial gravitational acceleration from rest in a shell frame. The shell observer at  $r_0$  releases a stone from rest and measures its shell time of fall  $\Delta t_{\text{shell}}$  onto a lower stationary platform that he measures to be a distance  $|\Delta y_{\text{shell}}|$  below the shell. From these observations he defines and calculates the value of the stone’s initial acceleration  $g_{\text{shell}}$ , equation (33).

Section 6.7 Appendix: Initial Shell Gravitational Acceleration from Rest **6-21**

$$\Delta y_{\text{shell}} = -\frac{1}{2}g_{\text{shell}}\Delta t_{\text{shell}}^2 \quad (\text{uniform } g_{\text{shell}}) \quad (33)$$

518 Thus far our engineering definition of  $g_{\text{shell}}$  has little to do with general  
519 relativity. The fussy procedure of this thought experiment reflects the care  
520 required when general relativity is added to the analysis, which we do now.

Mapmaker demands  
constant map energy  
for falling stone.

521 What does the Schwarzschild mapmaker say about the acceleration of a  
522 dropped stone? She insists that, whatever motion the free stone executes, its  
523 map energy  $E/m$  must remain a constant of motion. So start with the map  
524 energy of a stone bolted to the shell at  $r_0$ . From map energy equation (15)  
525 with  $v_{\text{shell}} = 0$  and  $r = r_0$ , we have:

$$\frac{E}{m} = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right)^{1/2} \quad (\text{stone released from rest at } r_0) \quad (34)$$

526 Now release the stone from rest. The mapmaker insists that as the stone  
527 falls its map energy remains constant, so equate the right sides of (34) and (8),  
528 square the result, and solve for  $d\tau^2$ :

$$d\tau^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right)^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^2 dt^2 \quad (35)$$

529 Substitute this expression for  $d\tau^2$  into the Schwarzschild metric for radial  
530 motion ( $d\phi = 0$ ), namely

$$d\tau^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) dt^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1} dr^2 \quad (36)$$

531 Divide corresponding sides of equations (36) and (35), then solve the resulting  
532 equation for  $(dr/dt)^2$ :

$$\left(\frac{dr}{dt}\right)^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right)^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^2 \left(\frac{2M}{r} - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right) \quad (\text{from rest at } r_0) \quad (37)$$

533 We want the acceleration of the stone in Schwarzschild map coordinates.  
534 Take the derivative of both sides with respect to the  $t$ -coordinate and cancel  
535 the common factor  $2(dr/dt)$  from both sides of the result to obtain:

$$\frac{d^2r}{dt^2} = -\left(\frac{M}{r^2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{4M}{r_0} + 1 - \frac{6M}{r}\right) \quad (38)$$

536 This equation gives the map acceleration at  $r$  of a stone released from rest at  
537  $r_0$ . This acceleration depends on  $r$ , so is clearly *not* uniform as the stone falls,  
538 but *decreases* as  $r$  gets smaller, going to zero as  $r$  reaches the event horizon.  
539 We know that map acceleration is a unicorn, a result of Schwarzschild map  
540 coordinates, not measured by any inertial observer. We are interested in the

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541 *initial* acceleration at the instant of release from rest. Set  $r = r_0$  in equation  
542 (38), which then reduces to the relatively simple form:

$$\left(\frac{d^2r}{dt^2}\right)_{r_0} = -\frac{M}{r_0^2} \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right) \quad (\text{initial, from rest at } r_0) \quad (39)$$

Acceleration  
in map  
coordinates

543 What is the meaning of this acceleration in Schwarzschild map  
544 coordinates? It is only a spreadsheet entry, an accounting analysis by the  
545 mapmaker, not the result of a direct observation by anyone. Observation  
546 requires an experiment on the shell, which we have already designed, leading  
547 to the expression (33). What is the relation between our engineering definition  
548 of acceleration and acceleration (39) in Schwarzschild coordinates? To compare  
549 the two expressions, expand the Schwarzschild  $r$ -coordinate of the dropped  
550 stone close to the radial position  $r_0$  using a Taylor series for a short lapse  $\Delta t$ :

$$r = r_0 + \left(\frac{dr}{dt}\right)_{r_0} \Delta t + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d^2r}{dt^2}\right)_{r_0} (\Delta t)^2 + \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{d^3r}{dt^3}\right)_{r_0} (\Delta t)^3 + \dots \quad (40)$$

551 Because  $\Delta t$  is small, we disregard terms higher than quadratic in  $\Delta t$ . This  
552 allows us to approximate uniform gravity (constant acceleration) and to  
553 compare mapmaker accounting entries with observed shell acceleration. Since  
554 the stone drops from rest at  $r_0$ , the initial map speed is zero:  $(dr/dt)_{r_0} = 0$ .  
555 With these considerations, insert (39) into (40) and obtain:

$$r - r_0 = \Delta r \approx -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right) \frac{M}{r_0^2} \right] (\Delta t)^2 \quad (41)$$

556 This equation has a form similar to that of our experimental definition  
557 (33) of shell gravitational acceleration, except the earlier equation employs  
558 vertical shell separation  $\Delta y_{\text{shell}}$  and shell time lapse  $\Delta t_{\text{shell}}$ . Convert these to  
559 Schwarzschild quantities using standard transformations—equations (5.8) and  
560 (5.9):

$$\Delta y_{\text{shell}} = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right)^{-1/2} \Delta r \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta t_{\text{shell}}^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right) (\Delta t)^2 \quad (44)$$

561 With these substitutions, and after rearranging terms, equation (33) becomes:

$$\Delta r = -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_0}\right)^{3/2} g_{\text{shell}} \right] (\Delta t)^2 \quad (45)$$

Initial shell  
acceleration

562 As we go to the limit  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$ , the extra terms in (40) become increasingly  
563 negligible, so (41) approaches an equality and we can equate square-bracket  
564 expressions in (41) and (45). Replacing the notation  $r_0$  with  $r$  yields the  
565 magnitude of the initial acceleration of a stone dropped from rest on a shell at  
566 any  $r$ -coordinate:

**Sample Problems 2. Initial Gravitational Acceleration on a Shell**

1. On a shell at  $r/M = 4$  near a black hole, the initial gravitational acceleration from rest is how many times that predicted by Newton?
2. On a shell at  $r/M = 2.1$  near a black hole, the initial gravitational acceleration is how many times that predicted by Newton?
3. What is the minimum value of  $r/M$  so that, at or outside of that  $r$ -coordinate, Newton's formula for gravitational acceleration yields values that differ from Einstein's by less than ten percent? by less than one percent?
4. Compute the weight in pounds of a 100-kilogram astronaut on the surface of a neutron star with mass equal to  $1.4M_{\text{Sun}}$  and  $M/r_0 = 2/5$ .

in error (it will be too low) by less than ten percent. At or outside  $r/M = 100$  Newton's prediction will be too low by less than one percent.

4. The Newtonian acceleration in conventional units is:

$$g_{\text{Newton conv}} = \left( \frac{GM_{\text{kg}}}{c^2 r_0^2} \right) c^2 = \left( \frac{M}{r_0^2} \right) c^2 \quad (42)$$

$$= \left( \frac{M}{r_0} \right)^2 \frac{c^2}{M} = \left( \frac{2}{5} \right)^2 \frac{c^2}{1.4 \times M_{\text{Sun}}}$$

Insert values of  $c^2$  and  $M_{\text{Sun}}$  (in meters) to yield  $g_{\text{Newton conv}} \approx 7.0 \times 10^{12}$  meters/second<sup>2</sup>. From (46),

$$\text{weight} = mg_{\text{shell}} = \left( 1 - \frac{4}{5} \right)^{-1/2} mg_{\text{Newton}} \quad (43)$$

$$\approx 16 \times 10^{14} \text{ Newtons}$$

One Newton = 0.225 pounds, so our astronaut weighs approximately  $3.5 \times 10^{14}$  pounds, or 350 trillion pounds (USA measure of weight). It is surprising that, even at the surface of this neutron star, the general relativity result in (43) is greater than Newton's by the rather small factor  $5^{1/2} = 2.24$ .

**SOLUTIONS**

1. At  $r/M = 4$  the factor  $(1 - 2M/r)^{-1/2}$  in (46) predicts a gravitational acceleration  $2^{1/2} = 1.41$  times that predicted by Newton.
2. Even at  $r/M = 2.1$  the gravitational acceleration is still the relatively mild multiple of 4.6 times the Newtonian prediction.
3. Setting  $(1 - 2M/r)^{-1/2} = 1.1$  yields  $r/M = 11.5$ . At or outside this  $r$ -coordinate, Newton's prediction will be

$$g_{\text{shell}} = \left( 1 - \frac{2M}{r} \right)^{-1/2} \frac{M}{r^2} \quad (\text{initial, drop from rest}) \quad (46)$$

567

568 Sample Problems 2 explore initial shell accelerations under different  
 569 conditions. It is surprising how accurate Newton's expression  $g_{\text{Newton}} = M/r^2$   
 570 is even quite close to the event horizon of a black hole—an intellectual victory  
 571 for Newton that we could hardly have anticipated.

572

**QUERY 1. Gravitational acceleration on Earth's surface**

Use values for the constants  $M_E$  and  $r_E$  for the Earth listed inside the front cover to show that equation (46) correctly predicts the value of the gravitational acceleration  $g_E$  at Earth's surface. Check your calculated values against those also listed inside the front cover.

- A. Show that in units of length this acceleration has the value  $g_E = 1.09 \times 10^{-16}$  meter<sup>-1</sup>.
- B. Show that in conventional units this acceleration has the value  $g_{E,\text{conv}} = 9.81$  meters/second<sup>2</sup>.

579

**6-24** Chapter 6 Diving**A GRAVITYLESS DAY**

580 *I am sitting here 93 million miles from the sun on a rounded rock which*  
 581 *is spinning at the rate of 1,000 miles an hour, and roaring through space*  
 582 *to nobody-knows-where, to keep a rendezvous with nobody-knows-what . .*  
 583 *. and my head pointing down into space with nothing between me and*  
 584 *infinity but something called gravity which I can't even understand, and*  
 585 *which you can't even buy anyplace so as to have some stored away for a*  
 586 *gravityless day . . .*  
 587

—Russell Baker

**6.8 ■ EXERCISES****1. Schwarzschild Metric at Earth's Surface**

590 The Newtonian formula for gravitational acceleration for a non-rotating  
 591 (“stat”) Earth:  $g_{\text{Newton,stat}} = M/r_{\text{Earth}}^2 = 1.09 \times 10^{-16} \text{ meter}^{-1}$  with  
 592  $r_{\text{Earth}} = 6.38 \times 10^6 \text{ meters}$ .  
 593

- 594 A. Use Newton's formula for the centrifugal pseudo-force (“cf”) at the  
 595 equator  $F_{\text{cf}} = mr_{\text{Earth}}\omega^2$ , to calculate the Newtonian correction factor  
 596 to  $g_{\text{Newton,stat}}$  at the equator due to Earth's rotation.  
 597 B. Use (46) and assume a non-rotating Earth to calculate the  
 598 Schwarzschild correction factor to  $g_{\text{Newton,stat}}$ .  
 599 C. Which of the two correction factors – centrifugal force or Schwarzschild  
 600 correction – is larger and by how many orders of magnitude?

**2. Diving from Rest Far Away**

601 Black Hole Alpha has a mass  $M = 10$  kilometers. A stone starting from rest  
 602 far away falls radially into this black hole. In the following, express all speeds  
 603 as a decimal fraction of the speed of light.  
 604

- 605 A. What is the speed of the stone measured by the shell observer at  
 606  $r = 50$  kilometers?  
 607 B. Write down an expression for  $|dr/dt|$  of the stone as it passes  $r = 50$   
 608 kilometers?  
 609 C. What is the speed of the stone measured by the shell observer at  $r = 25$   
 610 kilometers?  
 611 D. Write down an expression for  $|dr/dt|$  of the stone as it passes  $r = 25$   
 612 kilometers?  
 613 E. In two or three sentences, explain why the change in the speed between  
 614 Parts A and C is qualitatively different from the change in  $|dr/dt|$   
 615 between Parts B and D.

616 **3. Maximum Raindrop**  $|dr/dt|$

617 A stone is released from rest far from a black hole of mass  $M$ . The stone drops  
618 radially inward. Mapmaker records show that the the value of  $|dr/dt|$  of the  
619 stone initially increases but declines toward zero as the stone approaches the  
620 event horizon. The value of  $|dr/dt|$  must therefore reach a maximum at some  
621 intermediate  $r$ . Find this  $r$ -value for this maximum. Find the numerical value  
622 of  $|dr/dt|$  at that  $r$ -value. Who measures this value?

623 **4. Hitting a Neutron Star**

624 A particular nonrotating neutron star has a mass  $M = 1.4$  times the mass of  
625 our Sun and  $r = 10$  kilometers. A stone starting from rest far away falls onto  
626 the surface of this neutron star.

- 627 A. If this neutron star were a black hole, what would be the map  $r$ -value  
628 of its event horizon? What fraction is this of the  $r$ -value of the neutron  
629 star?
- 630 B. With what speed does the stone hit the surface of the neutron star as  
631 measured by someone standing (!) on the surface?
- 632 C. With what value of  $|dr/dt|$  does the stone hit the surface?
- 633 D. With what kinetic energy per unit mass does the stone hit the surface  
634 according to the surface observer?

635 Earlier it was thought that astronomical gamma-ray bursts might be caused by  
636 stones (asteroids) impacting neutron stars. Carry out a preliminary analysis of  
637 this hypothesis by assuming that the stone is made of iron. The impact kinetic  
638 energy is very much greater than the binding energy of iron atoms in the  
639 stone, greater than the energy needed to completely remove all 26 electrons  
640 from each iron atom, and greater even than the energy needed to shatter the  
641 iron nucleus into its component 26 protons and 30 neutrons. So we neglect all  
642 these binding energies in our estimate. The result is a vaporized gas of 26  
643 electrons and 56 nucleons (protons and neutrons) per incident iron atom. We  
644 want to find the average energy of photons (gamma rays) emitted by this gas.

- 645 E. Explain briefly why, just after impact, the electrons have very much  
646 less kinetic energy than the nucleons. So in what follows we neglect the  
647 initial kinetic energy of the electron gas just after impact.
- 648 F. The hot gas emits thermal radiation with characteristic photon energy  
649 approximately equal to the temperature. What is the characteristic  
650 energy of photons reaching a distant observer, in MeV?

651 NOTE: It is now understood that astronomical gamma-ray bursts release much  
652 more energy than an asteroid falling onto a neutron star. Gamma ray bursts  
653 are now thought to arise from the birth of new black holes in distant galaxies.

654 **5. A Stone Glued to the Shell Breaks Loose**

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655 A stone of mass  $m$  glued to a shell at  $r_0$  has map energy given by equation  
 656 (34). Later the glue fails so that the stone works loose and drops to the center  
 657 of the black hole of mass  $M$ .

- 658 A. By what amount  $\Delta M$  does the mass of the black hole increase?  
 659 B. A distant observer measures the mass of black hole plus stone at rest at  
 660  $r_0$  using the method of Figure 3. How will the value of this total mass  
 661 change after the stone has fallen into the black hole?  
 662 C. Apply your result of Part A to find the numerical value of the constant  
 663  $K$  in the equation  $\Delta M = Km$  for the three cases: (a)  $r_0 \gg 2M$ , (b)  
 664  $r_0 = 8M$  and (c)  $r_0$  is just outside the event horizon. In all cases the  
 665 observer in Figure 3 is much farther away than  $r_0$ .

666 **6. Wristwatch Time to the Center**

667 An astronaut drops from rest off a shell at  $r_0$ . How long a time elapses, as  
 668 measured on her wristwatch, between letting go and arriving at the center of  
 669 the black hole? If she drops off the shell just outside the event horizon, what is  
 670 her event-horizon-to-crunch wristwatch time?

671 *Several hints:* The first goal is to find  $dr/d\tau$ , the rate of change of  $r$ -coordinate  
 672 with wristwatch time  $\tau$ , in terms of  $r$  and  $r_0$ . Then form an integral whose  
 673 variable of integration is  $r/r_0$ . The limits of integration are from  $r/r_0 = 1$  (the  
 674 release point) to  $r/r_0 = 0$  (the center of the black hole). The integral is

$$\frac{\tau}{M} = -\frac{1}{2^{1/2}} \left(\frac{r_0}{M}\right)^{3/2} \int_1^0 \frac{(r/r_0)^{1/2} d(r/r_0)}{(1-r/r_0)^{1/2}} \quad (47)$$

675 Solve this integral using tricks, nothing but tricks: Simplify by making the  
 676 substitution  $r/r_0 = \cos^2\psi$  (The “angle”  $\psi$  is not measured anywhere; it is  
 677 simply a variable of integration.) Then  $(1-r/r_0)^{1/2} = \sin\psi$  and  
 678  $d(r/r_0) = -2\cos\psi\sin\psi d\psi$ . The limits of integration are from  $\psi = 0$  to  
 679  $\psi = \pi/2$ . With these substitutions, the integral for wristwatch time becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\tau}{M} &= 2^{1/2} \left(\frac{r_0}{M}\right)^{3/2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \cos^2\psi d\psi \\ &= 2^{1/2} \left(\frac{r_0}{M}\right)^{3/2} \left[ \frac{\psi}{2} + \frac{\sin 2\psi}{4} \right] \Big|_0^{\pi/2} \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

680 Both sides of (48) are unitless. Complete the formal solution. For a black hole  
 681 20 times the mass of our Sun, how many seconds of wristwatch time elapse  
 682 between the drop from rest just outside the event horizon to the singularity?

683 **7. Release a stone from rest**684 You release a stone from rest on a shell of map coordinate  $r_0$ .

- 685 A. Derive an expression for  $|dr/dt|$  of the stone as a function of  $r$ . Show  
 686 that when the stone drops from rest far away,  $|dr/dt|$  reduces to the  
 687 expression (22) for a raindrop. Find the  $r$ -value at which map speed is  
 688 *maximum* and the expression for that maximum map speed. Verify that  
 689 in the limit in which the stone is dropped from rest far away, these  
 690 expressions reduce to those found in Exercise 6.2 for the raindrop.
- 691 B. Derive an expression for the *shell velocity* of the stone as a function of  
 692  $r$ . Show that in the limit in which the stone drops from rest far away,  
 693 the shell velocity reduces to the expression (19) for a raindrop.
- 694 C. Sketch graphs of shell speed *vs.*  $r$  similar to Figure 2 for the following  
 695 values of  $r_0$ :
- 696 (a)  $r_0/M = 10$   
 697 (b)  $r_0/M = 6$   
 698 (c)  $r_0/M = 3$

699 **8. Hurl a stone inward from far away**700 You hurl a stone radially inward with speed  $v_{\text{far}}$  from a remote location. (At a  
 701 remote  $r$  where spacetime is flat,  $|dr/dt|$  equals shell speed.)

- 702 A. Derive an expression for  $dr/dt$  of the stone as a function of  $r$ . Show  
 703 that when you launch the stone from rest,  $dr/dt$  reduces to the  
 704 expression (22) for a raindrop. Find the value of  $r$  at which  $|dr/dt|$  is  
 705 *maximum* and the expression for  $|dr/dt|$ . Verify that in the limit in  
 706 which the stone is dropped from rest far away, these expressions reduce  
 707 to those found in Exercise 6.2 for the raindrop.
- 708 B. Derive an expression for the *shell velocity* of the stone as a function of  
 709  $r$ . Show that in the limit in which the stone drops from rest far away,  
 710 the shell velocity reduces to the expression (19) for a raindrop.
- 711 C. Sketch graphs of shell speed *vs.*  $r$  similar to Figure 2 for the following  
 712 values of  $v_{\text{far}}$ :
- 713 (a)  $v_{\text{far}} = 0.20$   
 714 (b)  $v_{\text{far}} = 0.60$   
 715 (c)  $v_{\text{far}} = 0.90$

716 **9. All Possible Shell Speeds**717 Think of a shell observer at any  $r > 2M$ . Consider the following three launch  
 718 methods for a stone that passes him moving radially inward:(a) released at

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rest from a shell at  $r_0 \geq r$ , (b) released from rest far away, and (c) hurled radially inward from far away with initial speed  $0 < |v_{\text{far}}| < 1$ . Show that, taken together, these three methods can result in all possible speeds  $0 \leq |v_{\text{shell}}| < 1$  measured by this shell observer at  $r > 2M$ .

### 10. Only One Shell Speed—with the Value One—at the Event Horizon

Show that the three kinds of radial launch of a stone described in Exercise 8 yield the *same* shell speed, namely  $|v_{\text{shell}}| = 1$ , as a limiting case when the stone moves inward across the event horizon. Your result shows that at the event horizon (as a limiting case): (a) You cannot make the shell-observed speed of a stone *greater* than that of light, no matter how fast you hurl it inward from far away. (b) You cannot make the shell-observed speed of the stone *less* than that of light, no matter how close to the event horizon you release it from rest.

### 11. Energy from garbage using a black hole

Define an **advanced civilization** as one that can carry out any engineering task not forbidden by the laws of physics. An advanced civilization wants to use a black hole as an energy source. Most useful is a “live” black hole, one that spins (Chapters 17 through 21), with rotation energy available for use. Unfortunately the nonrotating black hole that we study in this chapter is “dead:” no energy can be extracted from it (except for entirely negligible Hawking radiation, Box 5). Instead, our advanced civilization uses the dead (nonspinning) black hole to convert garbage to useful energy, as you analyze in this exercise.

A bag of garbage of mass  $m$  drops from rest at a power station located at  $r_0$ , onto a shell at  $r$ ; a machine at the lower  $r$  brings the garbage to rest and converts all of the *shell kinetic energy* into a light flash. Express all energies requested below as fractions of the mass  $m$  of the garbage.

- A. What is the energy of the light flash measured on the shell where it is emitted?
- B. The machine now directs the resulting flash of light radially outward. What is the energy of this flash as it arrives back at the power station?
- C. Now the conversion machine at  $r$  releases the garbage so that it falls into the black hole. What is the increase  $\Delta M$  in the mass of the black hole? What is its increase in mass if the conversion machine is located—as a limiting case—exactly at the event horizon?
- D. Find an expression for the efficiency of the resulting energy conversion, that is (output energy at the power station)/(input garbage mass  $m$ ) as a function of the converter  $r$  and the  $r_0$  of the power station. What is the efficiency when the power station is far from the black hole,  $r_0 \rightarrow \infty$ , and the conversion machine is on the shell at  $r = 3M$ ? (Except for matter-antimatter collisions, the efficiency of

760 mass-to-energy conversions in nuclear reactions on Earth is never  
761 greater than a fraction of one percent.)

762 E. *Optional:* Check the conservation of *map* energy in all of the processes  
763 analyzed in this exercise.

764 **Comment 2. Decrease disorder with a black hole vacuum cleaner?**

765 Suppose that the neighborhood of a black hole is strewn with garbage. We tidy  
766 up the vicinity by dumping the garbage into the black hole. This cleanup reduces  
767 disorder in the surroundings of the black hole. But wait! Powerful principles of  
768 thermodynamics and statistical mechanics demand that the disorder—technical  
769 name: **entropy**—of an isolated system (in this case, garbage plus black hole)  
770 cannot decrease. Therefore the disorder of the black hole itself must increase  
771 when we dump disordered garbage into it. Jacob Bekenstein and Stephen  
772 Hawking quantified this argument to define a measure of the entropy of a black  
773 hole, which turns out to be proportional to the Euclidean-calculated spherical  
774 “area” of the event horizon. See Kip S. Thorne, *Black Holes and Time Warps*,  
775 pages 422–448.

776 **12. Temperature of a Black Hole**

777 A Use equation (32) to find the temperature, when viewed from far away,  
778 of a black hole of mass five times the mass of our Sun.

779 B. What is the mass of a black hole whose temperature, viewed from far  
780 away, is 1800 degrees Kelvin (the melting temperature of iron)?  
781 Express your answer as a fraction or multiple of the mass of Earth.  
782 (Equation (32) tells us that “smaller is hotter,” which leads to  
783 increased emission by a smaller black hole and therefore shorter life. If  
784 this analysis is correct, small black holes created in the Big Bang must  
785 have evaporated by now.)

6.9 ■ REFERENCES

787 Initial quote David Kaiser, personal communication.

788 This chapter owes a large intellectual debt in ideas, figures, and text to  
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791 1973. Other quotations from *A Journey into Gravity and Spacetime* by  
792 John Archibald Wheeler, W. H. Freeman and Company, New York, 1990. In  
793 addition, our treatment was helped by reference to “Nonrotating and  
794 Slowly Rotating Holes” by Douglas A. Macdonald, Richard H. Price,  
795 Wai-Mo Suen, and Kip S. Thorne in the book *Black Holes: The Membrane  
796 Paradigm*, edited by Kip S. Thorne, Richard H. Price, and Douglas A.  
797 Macdonald, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1986.

798 More advanced treatment of the Principle of Maximal Aging in Misner,  
799 Thorne, and Wheeler, page 315 and following.

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- 800 Newton quotation in Box 1: I. Bernard Cohen and Anne Whitman, *Isaac*  
801 *Newton: The Principia*, 1999, University of California Press, page 408
- 802 References for Box 6, “Baked on the Shell?” Historical background in Kip S.  
803 Thorne, Richard H. Price, and Douglas A. MacDonald *Black Holes: The*  
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805 35–36; W. G. Unruh, “Notes on Black-Hole Evaporation”, *Physical Review*  
806 *D*, Volume 14, Number 4, 15 August 1976, pages 870–892; William G.  
807 Unruh and Robert M. Wald, “What Happens When an Accelerating  
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- 810 Russell Baker quotation excerpted from *New York Times*, May 18, 1975, *New*  
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813 Princeton, pages 191-192.