

## 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

Diving

Edmund Bertschinger & Edwin F. Taylor \*

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

—David Kaiser

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

30 *“Go straight!” spacetime shouts at the stone.*  
 31 *The stone’s wristwatch verifies that its path is straight.*

32  
 33 Section 5.7 described how an observer passes through a sequence of local  
 34 inertial frames, making each measurement in only one of these local frames.  
 35 Special relativity describes motion in each local inertial frame. The observer is  
 36 just a stone that acts with purpose. Now we ask how a (purposeless!) free  
 37 stone moves in global coordinates.

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

43 **DEFINITION 1. Principle of Maximal Aging (curved spacetime)**

44 The *Principle of Maximal Aging* states that a free stone follows a  
 45 worldline through spacetime such that its wristwatch time (aging) is a  
 46 maximum when summed across every adjoining pair of local inertial  
 47 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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52  
53

**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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55  
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57  
58  
59

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**

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

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

**6.2.2 MAP ENERGY FROM THE PRINCIPLE OF MAXIMAL AGING**

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

Map energy: a  
constant of motion

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



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



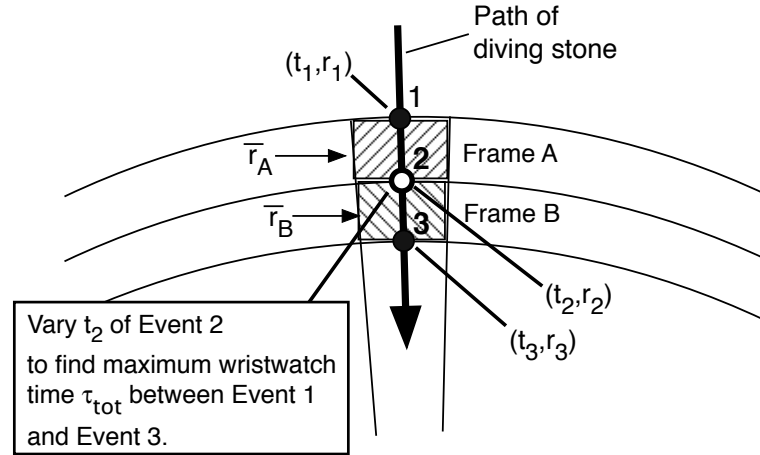
80 Guilty as charged! Our major tool in this book is the metric, which—along  
 81 with the topology of a spacetime region—tells us everything we can know  
 82 about the shape of spacetime in that region. But the shape of spacetime  
 83 revealed by the metric tells us nothing whatsoever about how a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

Find maximal aging:  
find natural motion.

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

97 *Outline of the method:* Fix the *r*- and  $\phi$ -coordinates of all three flash  
 98 emissions and fix the *t*-coordinates of upper and lower events 1 and 3. Next  
 99 vary the *t*-coordinate of the middle flash emission 2 to maximize the total  
 100 *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.

Approximate the Schwarzschild metric for each frame.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maximize aging summed across both frames.

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

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

119 From the last approximate equality in (6),

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

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

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

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

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

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

131  
 132  
 133 Why do we call the expression on the right side of (8) *energy* (per unit mass)?  
 134 Because when the mass  $M$  of the center of attraction becomes very small—or  
 135 when the stone is very far from the center of attraction—the limit  $2M/r \rightarrow 0$   
 136 describes a stone in flat spacetime. That condition reduces (8) to  
 137  $E/m = dt/d\tau$ , which we recognize as equation (28) in Section 1.7 for  $E/m$  in  
 138 flat spacetime. Hence we take the right side of (8) to be the general-relativistic  
 139 generalization, near a nonspinning black hole, of the special relativity  
 140 expression for  $E/m$ .

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Map energy  $E$   
same unit as  $m$

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

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

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

6.3. ■ UNICORN MAP ENERGY VS. MEASURED SHELL ENERGY

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

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

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

166 Remember, we make all measurements with respect to a local inertial  
167 frame, for example the frame perched on a shell around a black hole (Section  
168 5.7). What is the stone’s energy measured by the shell observer? The shell  
169 observer is in an inertial frame, so the special relativity expression is valid,  
170 using shell time. Recall the expression for  $\Delta t_{\text{shell}}$ , equation (9) in Section 5.7:

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

171 Then:

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

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

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

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

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

Shell energy

176 where we have added the special relativity expression (28) in Section 1.7.  
 177 Equation (12) tells us how to use the map energy—a unicorn—to predict the  
 178 frame energy directly measured by the shell observer as the stone streaks past.  
 179

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

Different shell  
 observers compute  
 same map energy.

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

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

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

6.4 ■ RAINDROP CROSSES THE EVENT HORIZON

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

How to get inside  
 the event horizon?

209 The Schwarzschild metric satisfies Einstein’s field equations everywhere in the  
 210 vicinity of a nonrotating black hole (except on its singularity at  $r = 0$ ). Map  
 211 coordinates alone may satisfy Schwarzschild and Einstein, but they do not  
 212 satisfy us. We want to make measurements in local inertial frames. Shell  
 213 frames serve this purpose nicely outside the event horizon, but we cannot



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214 construct stationary shells inside the event horizon. Moreover, the expression  
 215  $(1 - 2M/r)^{-1/2}$  in energy equation (12) becomes imaginary inside the horizon,  
 216 which provides one more indication that shell energy cannot apply there.

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 at  $r = 0$ . 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 rest far  
 223 from the black hole and plunge inward to  $r = 0$ . We call this diving,  
 224 wristwatch-wearing stone a **raindrop**, because on Earth a raindrop also falls  
 225 from rest at a great height. By definition, the raindrop has no significant  
 226 spatial extent; it has no frame, it is just a stone wearing a wristwatch.

**Raindrop defined:**  
 stone dropped  
 from rest at infinity

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:

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

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:

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

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:

Shell energy of  
 the raindrop

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

243 It follows immediately that:

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

**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

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

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

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

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  
 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 (Appendix, Section 6.7). An observer on a shell just above the  
 257 event horizon clocks the diving stone to move with a speed slightly less  
 258 than the speed of light. Any directly-measured stone speed less than the  
 259 speed of light is perfectly legal in relativity. So there is no contradiction.

6-10 Chapter 6 Diving

**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 the entire kinetic energy of the aspirin tablet into useful energy. Estimate how long this energy will power a 100-watt bulb. Repeat the analysis and 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 5.2 minutes.

Raindrop  $dr/dt$

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

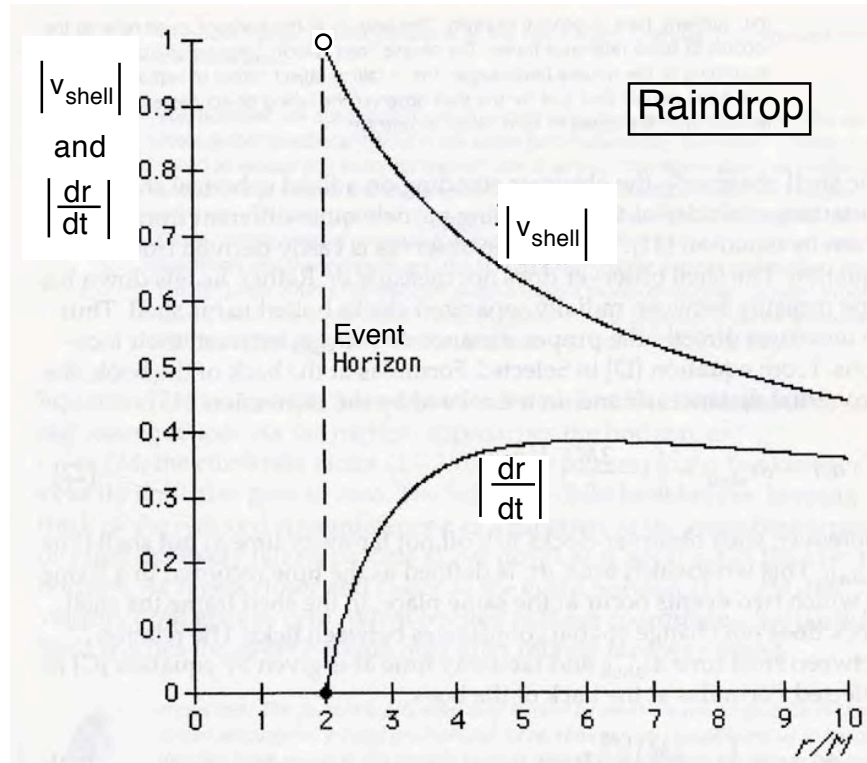
$$\frac{dr}{dt} = - \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) \left(\frac{2M}{r}\right)^{1/2} \quad (\text{raindrop map velocity}) \tag{22}$$

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 trajectory  
 267 approaching the event horizon in Figure 3.5.) 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 speed and  $|dr/d\tau|$  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

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 horizon. (Why not? See the Appendix, Section 6.7.)

278 differential  $dt$  to wristwatch differential  $d\tau$ . With this substitution, (22)  
 279 becomes:

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

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. True, inside the event horizon this "speed" takes on a  
 284 magnitude greater than one, and increases without limit as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . But this  
 285 need not worry us: Both  $r$  and  $dr$  are map quantities, so  $dr/d\tau$  is just an entry  
 286 on the mapmaker's spreadsheet, not a directly-measured observable.

6-12 Chapter 6 Diving

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

It's amazing 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) is true only for 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).

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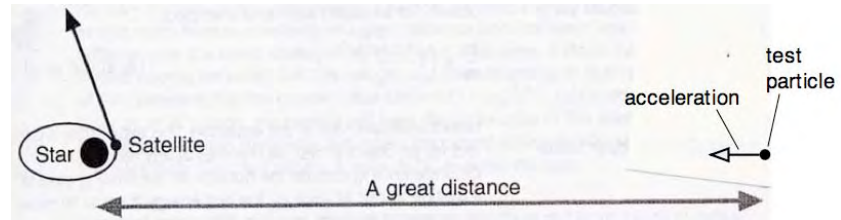
**Comment 1. How do we find the value of  $dr$  inside the horizon?**

There is a problem with equation (23), which is the calculus limit of the ratio  $\Delta r / \Delta \tau$ . The denominator  $\Delta \tau$  has a clear meaning: it is the lapse of time between ticks read directly on the raindrop's wristwatch. But what about the numerator  $\Delta r$  when the raindrop is inside the horizon? *Outside* the horizon the contractor stamps the value of the map  $r$ -coordinate on every shell he constructs. The raindrop rider reads this  $r$ -stamp as she flashes past every shell; she takes the difference in map  $\Delta r$  between adjacent shells as her wristwatch advances by  $\Delta \tau$ .

But we cannot build a stationary shell inside the horizon. How can a rider on the descending raindrop—or anyone else—determine the value of  $\Delta r$  in order to compute the calculus limit  $dr/d\tau$  in equation (23)? In Chapter 7 we build around the zero-size raindrop a local inertial "rain frame" which we ride through the event horizon and onward to the center of the black hole. Box 7.3 in Section 7.3 describes one practical method by which a descending "rain observer" in this local rain frame measures the map  $r$  inside the horizon. This empowers her to determine the value of  $\Delta r$  during the time lapse  $\Delta \tau$  between ticks of her wristwatch—even inside the horizon—so at any  $r$ -coordinate she can compute the expression  $\Delta r / \Delta \tau$ , whose calculus limit is the left side of (23).

**6.5 ■ GRAVITATIONAL MASS**

307 *A new way to measure total energy*



**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.

Mass of a stone

308 This book uses the word *mass* in two different ways. In equations (8) and (11)  
 309 for map energy and shell energy respectively,  $m$  is the inertial mass of a test  
 310 particle, which we call a *stone*. This mass is too small to curve spacetime by a  
 311 detectable amount. We measure the stone’s mass  $m$  in the same units as its  
 312 energy in expression (12).

Add stone’s mass to star mass?

313 The mass  $M$  of the center of attraction is quite different: It is the  
 314 gravitational mass that curves spacetime, as reflected in the expression  
 315  $(1 - 2M/r)$  in the Schwarzschild metric. But are the two definitions of mass  
 316 really so different? What happens when a stone falls into a black hole? Will  
 317 some or all of the stone’s mass  $m$  be converted to gravitational mass?

318 Our new understanding of energy helps us to calculate how much the mass  
 319 of a black hole grows when it swallows matter—and yields a surprising result.  
 320 To begin, start with a satellite orbiting close to a star. How can we measure  
 321 the total gravitational mass of the star-plus-satellite system? We make this  
 322 measurement using the initial acceleration of a distant test particle so remote  
 323 that Newtonian mechanics gives a correct result (Figure 3). In units of inverse  
 324 meters, Newton’s expression for this acceleration is:

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

Newton says, “Yes.”

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

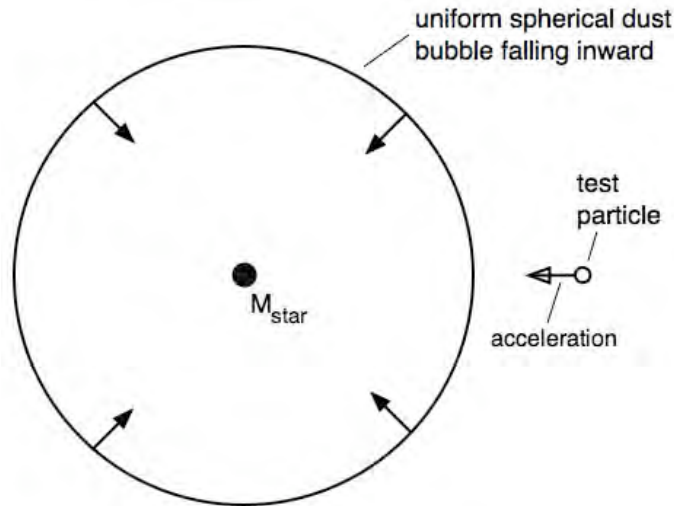
$$M_{\text{total}} = M_{\text{star}} + m \quad (\text{Newton}) \quad (27)$$

Birkhoff’s theorem

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

329 A mathematical theorem of general relativity due to G. D. Birkhoff in  
 330 1923 states that the spacetime outside any spherically symmetric distribution  
 331 of matter and energy is completely described by the Schwarzschild metric with  
 332 a *constant* gravitational mass  $M_{\text{total}}$ , no matter whether that spherically  
 333 symmetric source is at rest or, for example, moving inward or outward along  
 334 the  $r$ -coordinate.

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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.

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

343 Unfortunately, Birkhoff’s theorem does not tell us how to calculate the  
 344 value of  $M_{\text{total}}$ , only that it is a constant for any spherically symmetric  
 345 configuration of mass/energy. What property of the dust bubble remains  
 346 constant as it falls inward? Its inertial mass  $m$ ? Not according to special  
 347 relativity! Inertial mass is *not* conserved; it can be converted into energy. We  
 348 had better look for a conserved energy for our infalling dust bubble. Equation  
 349 (12) is our guide: At a given  $r$ -coordinate every particle of dust in the  
 350 collapsing bubble falls inward at the same rate, so the measure of the total  
 351 shell energy  $E_{\text{shell}}$  of the bubble at a given  $r$ -coordinate is the sum over the  
 352 individual particles of the dust bubble. Clearly from (12), successive shell  
 353 observers at successively smaller  $r$ -coordinates measure successively higher  
 354 values of  $E_{\text{shell}}$  as the collapsing dust bubble falls past them, so we cannot use  
 355 shell energy in the Birkhoff analysis.

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

Einstein says:  
 “Add  $E$  to  $M_{\text{star}}$   
 to get  $M_{\text{total}}$   
 measured from  
 far away.”

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

359

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

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



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



383 Yes it does, but we have not displayed the proof, which requires solution of  
 384 Einstein's equations. Let a massive star collapse, then explode into a  
 385 supernova. If this process is spherically symmetric, then a distant observer  
 386 will detect no change in gravitational attraction in spite of the radical  
 387 conversions among different forms of energy in the explosion. Actually, the  
 388 distant observer has no way of knowing about these transformations  
 389 before the outward-blasting bubble of radiation and neutrinos passes her.  
 390 When that happens she will detect a decline in the gravitational  
 391 acceleration of the local test particle because some of the original energy  
 392 of the central attractor has been carried to an  $r$ -value greater than hers.

Gravity waves  
 carry off energy.

393 Is the Birkhoff restriction to spherical symmetry important? It can be: A  
 394 satellite orbiting around or falling into a star or black hole will emit  
 395 gravitational waves that carry away some energy, decreasing  $M_{\text{total}}$ . Chapter  
 396 16 notes that a spherically symmetric distribution cannot emit gravitational  
 397 waves, no matter how that spherical distribution pulses in or out. As a result,  
 398 equation (28) is okay to use only when the emitted gravitational wave energy



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Measuring  $E$   
from far away.

399 is very much less than  $M_{\text{total}}$ . When that condition is met, the cases shown in  
400 Figures 3 and 4 are observationally indistinguishable.  
401 As long as gravitational wave emission is negligible and we are sufficiently  
402 far away, we can, in principle, use (28) to measure the map energy  $E$  of  
403 *anything* circulating about, diving into, launching itself away from, or  
404 otherwise interacting with a center of attraction. Simply use Newtonian  
405 mechanics to carry out the measurement depicted in Figure 3, first with the  
406 satellite absent, second with the satellite in orbit near the star. Subtract the  
407 second value from the first for the acceleration (26) and use (28) to determine  
408 the value of  $E = M_{\text{total}} - M_{\text{star}}$ . As in Box 2, this example shows that  $E$ —and  
409 not  $E_{\text{shell}}$ —includes effects of curved spacetime.

6.6 ■ OVER THE EDGE: ENTERING THE BLACK HOLE

411 *No jerk. No jolt. A hidden doom.*

Predict what  
no one can verify.

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

We are not sucked  
into a black hole.

422 **We are not “sucked into” a black hole.** Unless we get close to its  
423 event horizon, a black hole will no more grab us than the Sun grabs Earth. If  
424 our Sun should suddenly collapse into a black hole without expelling any mass,  
425 Earth and the other planets would continue on their courses undisturbed (even  
426 though, after eight minutes, perpetual night would prevail for us on Earth!).  
427 The Schwarzschild solution (plus the Principle of Maximal Aging) would still  
428 continue to describe Earth’s worldline around our Sun, just as it does now. In  
429 Section 6.7, the appendix to the present chapter, you show that for an orbit at  
430  $r$ -coordinate greater than about  $300M$ , Newtonian mechanics predicts  
431 gravitational acceleration with an accuracy of about 0.3 percent. We will also  
432 find (Section 9.5) that no stable circular orbit is possible at  $r$  less than  $6M$ .  
433 Even if we find ourselves at an  $r$  between  $6M$  and the event horizon at  $2M$ ,  
434 however, we can always escape the grip of the black hole, given sufficient  
435 rocket power. Only when we reach or cross the event horizon are we  
436 irrevocably swallowed, our fate sealed.

No jolt as we  
cross the  
event horizon.

437 **We detect no special event as we fall inward through the event**  
438 **horizon.** Even when we drop across the event horizon at  $r = 2M$ , we  
439 experience no shudder, jolt, or jar. True, tidal forces are ever-increasing as we  
440 fall inward, and this increase continues smoothly as we cross the event horizon.  
441 We are not suddenly squashed or torn apart at  $r = 2M$ , because the event

### 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.

No shell frames  
inside the  
event horizon.

Packages can move  
inward, not outward.

442 horizon is not a *physical* singularity, as explained in Box 3, Section 3.1. There  
443 is no sudden discontinuity in our experience as we pass through the event  
444 horizon.

445 **Inside the event horizon no shell frames are possible.** Outside the  
446 event horizon we have erected, in imagination, a set of nested spherical shells  
447 concentric to the black hole. We say “in imagination” because no known  
448 material is strong enough to withstand the “pull of gravity,” which increases  
449 without limit as we approach the event horizon from outside (Appendix).  
450 Locally such a stationary shell can be replaced by a spaceship with rockets  
451 blasting in the inward direction to keep it at the same  $r$  and  $\phi$  coordinates.  
452 Inside the event horizon, however, nothing can remain at rest. No shell, no  
453 rocket ship can remain at constant  $r$ -coordinate there, however ferocious the  
454 blast of its engines. The material composing the original star, no matter how  
455 strong, was itself unable to resist the collapse that formed the black hole. The  
456 same irresistible collapse forbids any stationary structure or any motionless  
457 object inside the event horizon.

458 **“Outsiders” can send packages to “insiders.”** Inside the event  
459 horizon, different local frames can still move past one another with measurable  
460 relative speeds. For example, one traveler may drop from rest just outside the  
461 event horizon. An unpowered spaceship may fall in from far away. Another  
462 may be hurled inward from outside the event horizon. Light and radio waves  
463 can carry messages inward as well. We who have fallen inside the event horizon  
464 can still see the stars, though with directions, colors, and intensities that  
465 change as we fall (Chapters 11 through 13). Packages and communications  
466 sent inward across the event horizon? Yes. How about moving outward  
467 through the event horizon? No. Box 4 tells us—and Section 7.6  
468 demonstrates—that when a diver fires a light flash radially outward at the  
469 instant she passes inward through the event horizon, that light flash hovers at  
470 the same  $r$ -coordinate at the event horizon. Nothing moves faster than light,  
471 so if light cannot move outward through the event horizon, then packages and  
472 stones definitely cannot move outward there either.

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**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 horizon. 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.

473                   **Inside the event horizon life goes on—for a while.** Make a daring  
 474                   dive into an already mature black hole? No. We and our exploration team  
 475                   want to be still more daring, to follow a black hole as it forms. We go to a  
 476                   multiple-galaxy system so crowded that it teeters on the verge of gravitational  
 477                   collapse. Soon after our arrival at the outskirts, it starts the actual collapse, at  
 478                   first slowly, then more and more rapidly. Soon a mighty avalanche thunders  
 479                   (silently!) toward the center from all directions, an avalanche of objects and  
 480                   radiation, a cataract of momentum-energy-pressure. The matter of the  
 481                   galaxies and with it our group of enterprising explorers pass smoothly across  
 482                   the event horizon at Schwarzschild  $r = 2M$ .  
 483                   From that moment onward we lose all possibility of signaling to the outer  
 484                   world. However, radio messages from that outside world, light from familiar  
 485                   stars, and packages fired after us at sufficiently high speed continue to reach  
 486                   us. Moreover, communications among us explorers take place now as they did  
 487                   before we crossed the event horizon. We share our findings with each other in  
 488                   the familiar categories of space and time. With our laptop computers we turn  
 489                   out an exciting journal of our observations, measurements, and conclusions.  
 490                   (Our motto: “Publish *and* perish.”)  
 491                   **Tides become lethal.** Nothing rivets our attention more than the tidal  
 492                   forces that pull heads up and feet down with ever-increasing tension (Sections  
 493                   1.11 and 10.2). Before much time has passed on our wristwatch, we can  
 494                   predict, this differential pull will reach the point where we can no longer  
 495                   survive. Moreover, we can foretell still further ahead and with absolute  
 496                   certainty that there will be an instant of total crunch. In that crunch are  
 497                   swallowed up not only the stars beneath us, not only we explorers, but time  
 498                   itself. All worldlines inside the event horizon terminate on the singularity. For  
 499                   us an instant comes after which there is no “after.” Chapters 7 and 21 give  
 500                   more details of life inside the event horizon.

Surf a collapsing galaxy group.

“Publish *and* perish.”

Killer tides.

After crunch there is no “after.”

**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 (Appendix). 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

$$T = \frac{hg_{\text{conv}}}{4\pi^2k_Bc} \tag{29}$$

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  $k_B$  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  $k_B T$  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.)

In the Appendix we derive 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>:

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

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

$$T = \frac{hc}{4\pi^2k_B} \frac{M}{r^2} \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1/2} \tag{31}$$

where  $M$  is in meters. This temperature increases without limit as you approach the event horizon at  $r = 2M$ . 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 horizon, let  $r \rightarrow 2M$  in the resulting equation. The distant viewer sees the radiation temperature

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

where  $M$  is 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 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 used 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!

**6.7.1 ■ APPENDIX: INITIAL SHELL GRAVITATIONAL ACCELERATION FROM REST**

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

Is gravity real or fictitious?

503 When you stand on a shell near a black hole, you experience gravity—a pull  
 504 downward—just as you do on Earth. On the shell this gravity can be great:  
 505 near the event horizon it increases without limit, as we shall see. On the other  
 506 hand, “In general relativity . . . gravity is *always* a fictitious force which we  
 507 can eliminate by changing to a local frame that is in free fall . . .” (inside the  
 508 back cover). So is this “gravity” real? Every year falls kill and injure many  
 509 people. Anything that can kill you is definitely real, not fictitious! Here we  
 510 avoid philosophical issues by asking a practical question: “When the shell  
 511 observer drops a stone from rest, what *initial* acceleration does he measure?”

6-20 Chapter 6 Diving

**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 simpler, more intuitive, and contrasting 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. Still, we expect general relativity—like Newton's mechanics—to be scientifically useful as long as humanity survives.

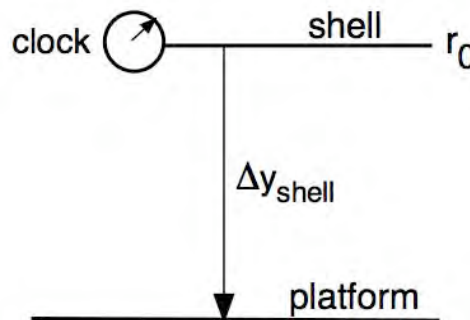
Practical experiment to define gravity

512 To begin, we behave like an engineer: Use a thought experiment to define  
 513 what we mean by the initial gravitational acceleration of a stone dropped from  
 514 rest on a shell at  $r_0$ . Following this definition, wheel up the heavy machinery  
 515 of general relativity to find the magnitude of the newly-defined acceleration  
 516 experienced by a shell observer.

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

Specific instructions for experiment to define gravity

- 522 1. The shell observer starts his clock at the instant he drops the stone.



**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**

- 523 2. When the stone strikes the platform, it fires a laser flash upward to the  
524 shell clock.
- 525 3. The shell observer determines the shell time lapse between drop and  
526 impact,  $\Delta t_{\text{shell}}$ , by deducting flash transit shell time from the time  
527 elapsed on his clock when he receives the laser flash.

528 The shell observer calculates the “flash transit shell time” in Step 3 by  
529 dividing the shell distance  $|\Delta y_{\text{shell}}|$  by the shell speed of light. (In an exercise  
530 of Chapter 3, you verified that the shell observer measures light to move at its  
531 conventional speed—value one—in an inertial frame.)

Define  $g_{\text{shell}}$

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

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

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

Mapmaker demands  
constant map energy  
for falling stone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6-22 Chapter 6 Diving

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

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

552 This equation gives the map acceleration at  $r$  of a stone released from rest at  
 553  $r_0$ . This acceleration depends on  $r$ , so is clearly *not* uniform as the stone falls,  
 554 but *decreases* as  $r$  gets smaller, going to zero as  $r$  reaches the event horizon.  
 555 We know that map acceleration is a unicorn, a result of Schwarzschild map  
 556 coordinates, not measured by any inertial observer. We are interested in the  
 557 *initial* acceleration at the instant of release from rest. Set  $r = r_0$  in equation  
 558 (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

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

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

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

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

572 This equation has a form similar to that of our experimental definition  
 573 (33) of shell gravitational acceleration, except the earlier equation employs  
 574 vertical shell separation  $\Delta y_{\text{shell}}$  and shell time lapse  $\Delta t_{\text{shell}}$ . Convert these to  
 575 Schwarzschild quantities using standard transformations—equations (5.8) and  
 576 (5.9):

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

**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

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

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

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

Initial shell  
acceleration

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

583  
 584 Sample Problems 2 explore shell accelerations under different conditions. It is  
 585 surprising how accurate Newton's expression  $g_{\text{Newton}} = M/r^2$  is even quite  
 586 close to the event horizon of a black hole—an intellectual victory for Newton  
 587 that we could hardly have anticipated.

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



**6-24** Chapter 6 Diving

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>.

596

**A GRAVITYLESS DAY**

597

*I am sitting here 93 million miles from the sun on a rounded rock which is spinning at the rate of 1,000 miles an hour, and roaring through space*

598

*to nobody-knows-where, to keep a rendezvous with nobody-knows-what . .*

599

*. and my head pointing down into space with nothing between me and*

600

*infinity but something called gravity which I can't even understand, and*

601

*which you can't even buy anyplace so as to have some stored away for a*

602

*gravityless day . . .*

603

604

—Russell Baker

**6.8 ■ EXERCISES**

606

**1. Diving from Rest at Infinity**

607

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

608

609

610

A. What is the speed of the stone measured by the shell observer at  $r = 50$  kilometers?

611

612

B. Write down an expression for  $|dr/dt|$  of the stone as it passes  $r = 50$  kilometers?

613

614

C. What is the speed of the stone measured by the shell observer at  $r = 25$  kilometers?

615

616

D. Write down an expression for  $|dr/dt|$  of the stone as it passes  $r = 25$  kilometers?

617

618

E. In two or three sentences, explain why the change in the speed between Parts A and C is qualitatively different from the change in  $|dr/dt|$  between Parts B and D.

619

620

621

**2. Maximum Raindrop  $|dr/dt|$**

622

A stone is released from rest far from a black hole of mass  $M$ . The stone drops radially inward. Mapmaker records show that the the value of  $|dr/dt|$  of the stone initially increases but declines toward zero as the stone approaches the

623

624

625 event horizon. The value of  $|dr/dt|$  must therefore reach a maximum at some  
626 intermediate  $r$ . Find this  $r$ -value for this maximum. Find the numerical value  
627 of  $|dr/dt|$  at that  $r$ -value. Who measures this value?

### 628 3. Hitting a Neutron Star

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

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

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

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

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

### 659 4. A Stone Glued to the Shell Breaks Loose

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

**6-26** Chapter 6 Diving

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

671 **5. Wristwatch Time to the Center**

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

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

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

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

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

685 Both sides of (48) are unitless. Complete the formal solution. For a black hole  
 686 20 times the mass of the Sun, how many seconds of wristwatch time elapse  
 687 between the drop from rest just outside the horizon to the singularity?

688 **6. Release a stone from rest**

689 You release a stone from rest on a shell of map coordinate  $r_0$ .

Section 6.8 Exercises **6-27**

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

704 **7. Hurl a stone inward from far away**

705 You hurl a stone radially inward with speed  $v_{\text{far}}$  from a remote location. (At a  
 706 remote  $r$  where spacetime is flat,  $|dr/dt|$  equals shell speed.)

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

721 **8. All Possible Shell Speeds**

722 Think of a shell observer at any  $r > 2M$ . Consider the following three launch  
 723 methods for a stone that passes him moving radially inward: (a) released at  
 724 rest from a shell at  $r_0 \geq r$ , (b) released from rest at infinity, and (c) hurled  
 725 radially inward from far away with initial speed  $0 < |v_{\text{far}}| < 1$ . Show that,  
 726 taken together, these three methods can result in all possible speeds  
 727  $0 \leq |v_{\text{shell}}| < 1$  measured by this shell observer at  $r > 2M$ .

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728 **9. Only One Shell Speed—with the Value One—at the Event Horizon**

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

737 **10. Energy from garbage using a black hole**

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

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

- 751 A. What is the energy of the light flash measured on the shell where it is  
 752 emitted?
- 753 B. The machine now directs the resulting flash of light radially outward.  
 754 What is the energy of this flash as it arrives back at the power station?
- 755 C. Now the conversion machine at  $r$  releases the garbage so that it falls  
 756 into the black hole. What is the increase  $\Delta M$  in the mass of the black  
 757 hole? What is its increase in mass if the conversion machine is  
 758 located—as a limiting case—exactly at the event horizon?
- 759 D. Find an expression for the efficiency of the resulting energy conversion,  
 760 that is (output energy at the power station)/(input garbage mass  $m$ ) as  
 761 a function of the converter  $r$  and the  $r_0$  of the power station. What is  
 762 the efficiency when the power station is far from the black hole,  
 763  $r_0 \rightarrow \infty$ , and the conversion machine is on the shell at  $r = 3M$ ?  
 764 (Efficiency of mass-to-energy conversions in nuclear reactions on Earth  
 765 is never greater than a fraction of one percent.)
- 766 E. *Optional:* Check the conservation of *map* energy in all of the processes  
 767 analyzed in this exercise.

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

769 Suppose that the neighborhood of a black hole is strewn with garbage. We tidy

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

### 780 **11. Temperature of a Black Hole**

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

## 6.9 ■ REFERENCES

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792 This chapter owes a large intellectual debt in ideas, figures, and text to  
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