

# Lecture 40

Schwarzschild Spacetime:  
It's topological and  
causal structure

In MTW read §31.6, Figure 31.5 } Topological structure } For a Spherical Vacuum Configuration  
" " do Exercise 31.7 } structure  
" " read Box 31.2 } Causal structure }  
" " read Section 32.3 }

## I. The Schwarzschild Spacetime

(40.1)

In 1923 G. Birkhoff showed that

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}} + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2), \quad (40.1)$$

which was first exhibited by K. Schwarzschild, is the only solution to the E.F.E.s in vacuum which is spherically symmetric. The Schwarzschild coordinates relative to which the Schwarzschild solution is a mathematical package deal: a combination of good and non-good; it directs attention to the spatial topological structure while at the same time lacking information about its causal structure. The latter is exposed relative the Eddington-Finkelstein coordinates. But to exhibit both structures requires the representation by means of the globally defined Kruskal-Szekeres coordinates.

### A. Schwarzschild Coordinates: Spatial Topological Structure.

The most eye-catching aspect of the Schwarzschild

metric, Eq. (40.1), is its mathematical behavior at  $r=2M$ .<sup>(40.2)</sup> This, however, is not signal some sort of extreme physical behavior.

1. Indeed, consider using a plumb line to measure the proper distance from some fixed radius ( $r = \sqrt{\frac{2r_0 a}{4\pi}}$ ) down

$$\text{to } r=2M: \int_r^{r=2M} \frac{dr'}{\sqrt{1-\frac{2M}{r'}}} = \text{finite.}$$

2. Second, consider the time of proper time it takes for a particle to plunge from some finite radius down to  $r=2M$ . From Eq. (39.11) one has

$$\tau = \int_r^{r=2M} \frac{dr'}{\left\{ E^2 - \left( \frac{L^2}{r'^2} + m^2 \right) \left( 1 - \frac{2M}{r'} \right) \right\}^{1/2}} = \text{finite}$$

3. Third consider the physical (o.n.) curvature components

$$\hat{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \pm \frac{2M}{r} \\ \pm \frac{M}{r} \end{array} \right\} = \text{finite} \quad (\text{Relative to the Schsch. frame})$$

$$\hat{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \pm \frac{2M}{r} \\ \pm \frac{M}{r} \end{array} \right\} = \text{finite} \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{Relative to any frame} \\ \text{with arbitrary radial} \\ \text{velocity relative to the} \\ \text{Schsch frame.} \end{array} \right)$$

4. The imbedding diagram of the equatorial plane <sup>(40,3)</sup>  
 $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$  at  $t = \text{const}$  in a 3-d imbedding space

for

$$d\sigma^2 = \frac{dr^2}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}} + r^2 d\varphi^2$$

$$= dz^2 + dr^2 + r^2 d\varphi^2$$

yields

$$\left(\frac{dz}{dr}\right)^2 + 1 = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}} \Rightarrow z = \pm \sqrt{8M(r - 2M)}$$

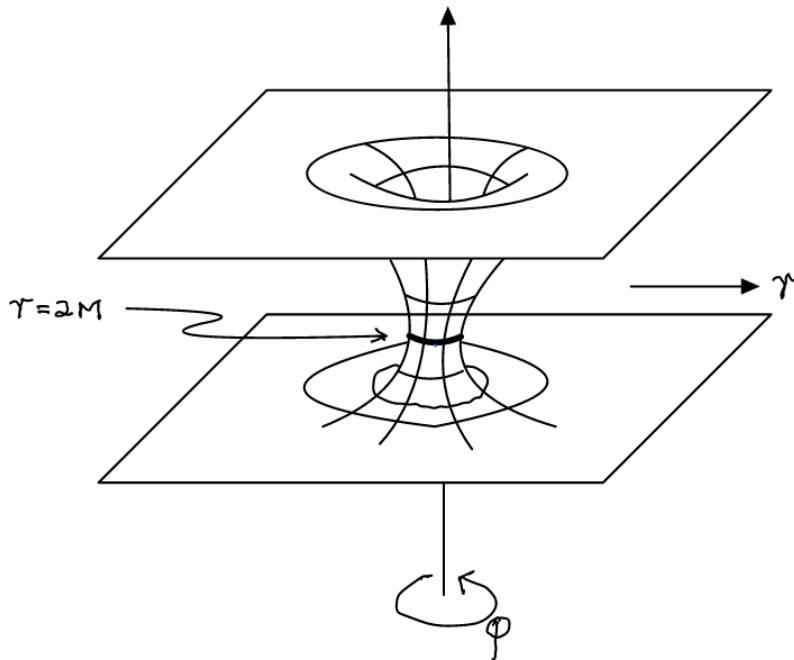


Figure 40.1 The topology of the spatial <sup>Schsch.</sup> equatorial plane is that of two asymptotically flat domains connected by a throat whose minimal radius is  $2M$ .

The two asymptotically flat 3-d spaces are isometric 40.4  
 copies of each other. Indeed, this isometry becomes  
 evident when one changes from the radial Schwarzschild  
 coordinate to the radial conformal coordinate,

$$r \rightarrow \rho,$$

as determined by the condition that

$$d\sigma^2 = -\frac{dr^2}{1-\frac{2M}{r}} + r^2 d\phi^2 = f^2(\rho) [d\rho^2 + \rho^2 d\phi^2].$$

By equating coefficients one obtains

$$\left. \begin{aligned} r &= \rho f(\rho) \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{2M}{r}}} &= f(\rho) \frac{d\rho}{dr} \end{aligned} \right\} \frac{dr}{d\rho} = \frac{r}{\rho} \sqrt{1-\frac{2M}{r}}$$

Consequently,

$$r = \rho \left(1 + \frac{M}{2\rho}\right)^2 \text{ and } f(\rho) = \left(1 + \frac{M}{2\rho}\right).$$

(i) The graph of the Schwarzschild radial coordinate

$$r \equiv \frac{\text{circumference}}{2\pi}$$

in terms of the conformal coordinate  $\rho$  is depicted in Figure 40.2

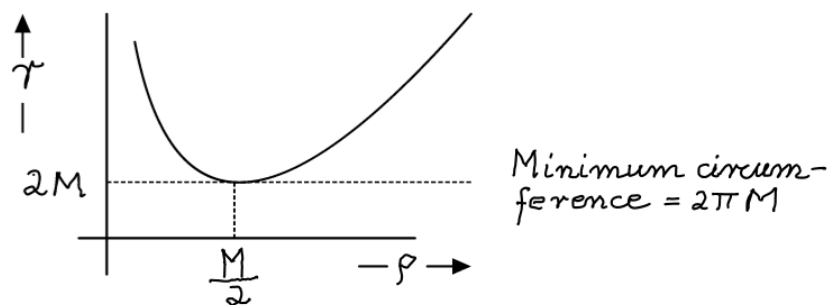


Figure 40.2

(ii) Relative to this conformal radial coordinate  $\textcircled{40.5}$

the Schwarzschild metric is

$$ds^2 = - \frac{\left(1 - \frac{M}{2r}\right)^2}{\left(1 + \frac{M}{2r}\right)^2} dt^2 + \left(1 + \frac{M}{2r}\right)^4 \left[ dr^2 + r^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\varphi^2) \right] \quad (40.2)$$

(iii) This geometry is symmetric around  $r = \frac{M}{2}$

under the isometric transformation

$$\frac{2r}{M} \rightarrow \frac{M}{2r} \quad \left( r = \left(\frac{M}{2}\right)^2 \frac{1}{r} \right) \quad (40.3)$$

This transformation maps the entire manifold  $r > 0$  onto itself with the same metric:

$$ds^2 = - \frac{\left(1 - \frac{M}{2r}\right)^2}{\left(1 + \frac{M}{2r}\right)^2} dt^2 + \left(1 + \frac{M}{2r}\right)^4 \left[ dr^2 + r^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\varphi^2) \right]$$

(iv) Conclusion:

The global static Schwarzschild solution to the EFEs is a mathematization of two asymptotically flat isometric 3-d spaces depicted in Figure 40.1.

## B. Causal Structure: The Eddington-Finkelstein 40.6 coordinatization

The time invariant representation of the Schwarzschild metric, Eq. (40.1) on page 40.1, is deficient. This is because the  $r=2M$  singularity in the time component of the metric hides the causal structure of Schwarzschild spacetime.

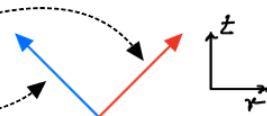
Indeed, consider the causal structure of radial light cones spanned by  $(t, r)$  at  $\theta = \text{const}$ ,  $\phi = \text{const}$  on  $M^2 = M^4/S^2$ :

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}}.$$

The light cones are generated by tangents to the photon world lines (= "null rays")

$$(\Delta s)^2 = 0: \quad \frac{dr}{dt} = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) \quad \text{outgoing} \quad (40.4)$$

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = -\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) \quad \text{ingoing} \quad (40.5)$$



40.7

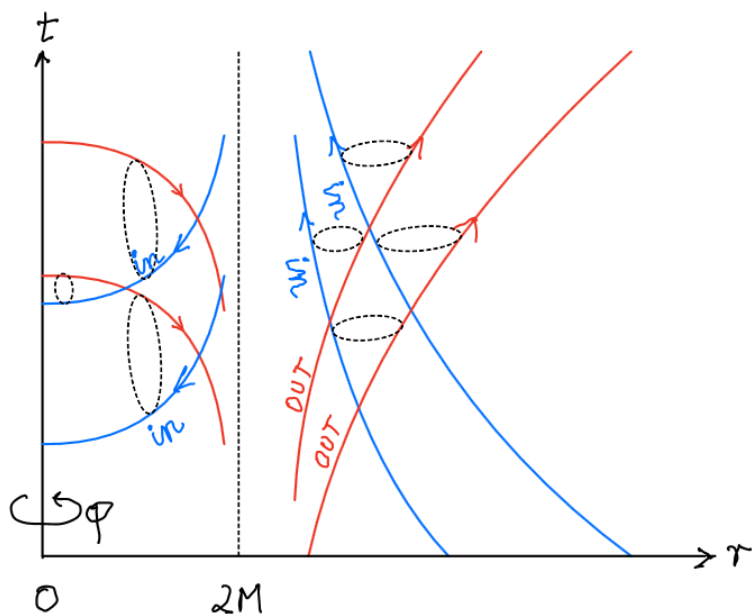


Figure 40.3 Ingoing and outgoing world lines of classical photons

The metric  $r=2M$  singularity exposes the fact that  $t$ -coordinate is a bad coordinate at  $r=2M$ .

This is because there are many ingoing geodesics, all of them governed by

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = -\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) \quad (40.5)$$

They all converge to  $t = \infty, r = 2M$ .

Figure 40.1  
Ingoing null geodesics

Figure 40.4  
and the diff'l Eq. (40.5) does not determine which ingoing null geodesic outside, i.e.



40.8

$2M < r$ , goes with which ingoing null geodesic inside, i.e.  $r < 2M$ .

Furthermore, is  $(t = \infty, r = 2M)$  a single event or is a set of distinct events?

The same ambiguity holds for outgoing radial null geodesics which are mathematized by the d.e.,

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = (1 - \frac{2M}{r}).$$

They all diverge from  $(t = -\infty, r = 2M)$

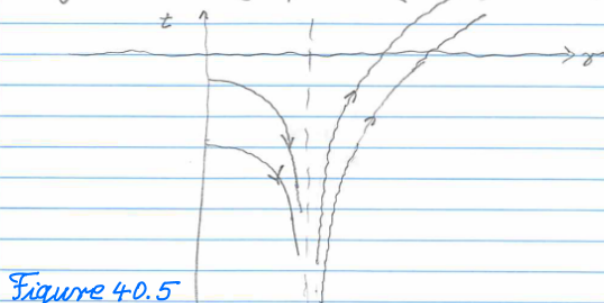


Figure 40.5

These ambiguities have been resolved by Eddington (1924) and Finkelstein (1958). They integrated Eq. (40.5) and introduced the integration constant as a new coordinate function that replaces the "bad" Schwarzschild time coordinate  $t$ . The integrals of

$$0 = dt + \frac{dr}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}} \equiv dt + dr^*$$

are

$$\tilde{v} = t + r + 2M \ln\left(\frac{r}{2M} - 1\right) = \tilde{v}$$

40.9

The isograms of

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{V}(t, r) &= t + r + 2M \ln\left(\frac{r}{2M} - 1\right) = \text{const.} \\ &= t + r^* = \text{const.}\end{aligned}\quad (40.6)$$

are the ingoing null geodesics;

$\tilde{V}$  is their new coordinate function. It is called the advanced

Sch-sch time coordinate,

Similarly, the isograms of

$$\tilde{U}(t, r) = t - r^* = \text{const.}\quad (40.7)$$

are the outgoing null geodesics;

and  $\tilde{U}$  is called the retarded

Sch-sch time coordinate.

The radial variable

$$r^* \equiv r + 2M \ln\left(\frac{r}{2M} - 1\right)\quad (40.8)$$

is called the "tortoise coordinate."

Introduce  $(\tilde{V}, r)$  as the (new) ingoing Eddington-Finkelstein coordinates for the Sch-sch geometry:

$$\left. \begin{aligned}d\tilde{V} &= dt + \frac{dr}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}} \\ dr &= dr\end{aligned} \right\} dt = d\tilde{V} - \frac{dr}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}}\quad (40.9)$$

Relative to these new coordinates

the Sch-sch metric becomes non-diagonal;



40.11

b) Outgoing E-F ("Retarded time") coordinates.

These coordinates

are based on outgoing null geodesics

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = 1 - \frac{2M}{r},$$

the integrals of

$$0 = dt - \frac{dr}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}}$$

$$\text{are } \tilde{t} = t - \left( r + 2M \ln \left( \frac{r}{2M} - 1 \right) \right)$$

The isograms of

$$\tilde{t}(t, r) = t - \left( r + 2M \ln \left( \frac{r}{2M} - 1 \right) \right)$$

are the outgoing null geodesics,

and  $\tilde{t}$  is called the retarded Schwarzschild

time coordinate.

40.12

Relative to the  $(\tilde{U}, r)$  coordinate system  
the Schwarzschild metric has the form

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right) d\tilde{U}^2 - 2d\tilde{U}dr + r^2 d\Omega^2$$

The outgoing null geodesics obey

$$\frac{d\tilde{U}}{dr} = 0$$

while the ingoing null geodesics obey

$$\frac{d\tilde{U}}{dr} = \frac{-2}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}}$$

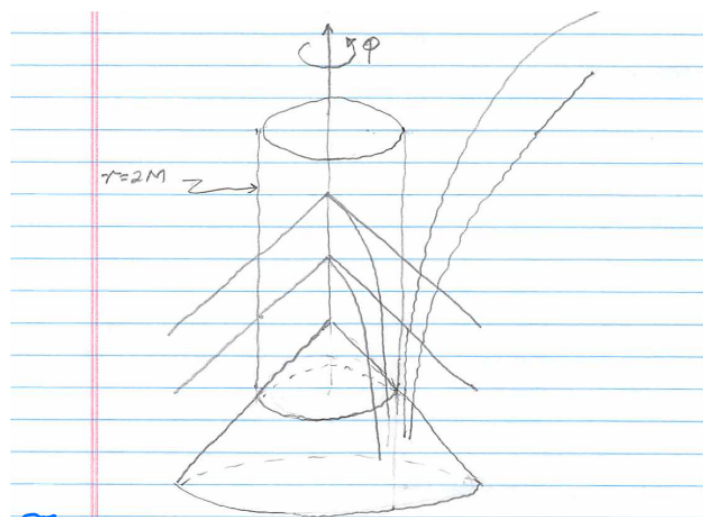


Figure 40.7

INGOING Eddington-Finkelstein coordinates

system  $(\tilde{V}, r)$ .