

The Process of Science

How Do Scientists Think?



CERN HST 2023



Dave



Sean

PERIMETER



INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

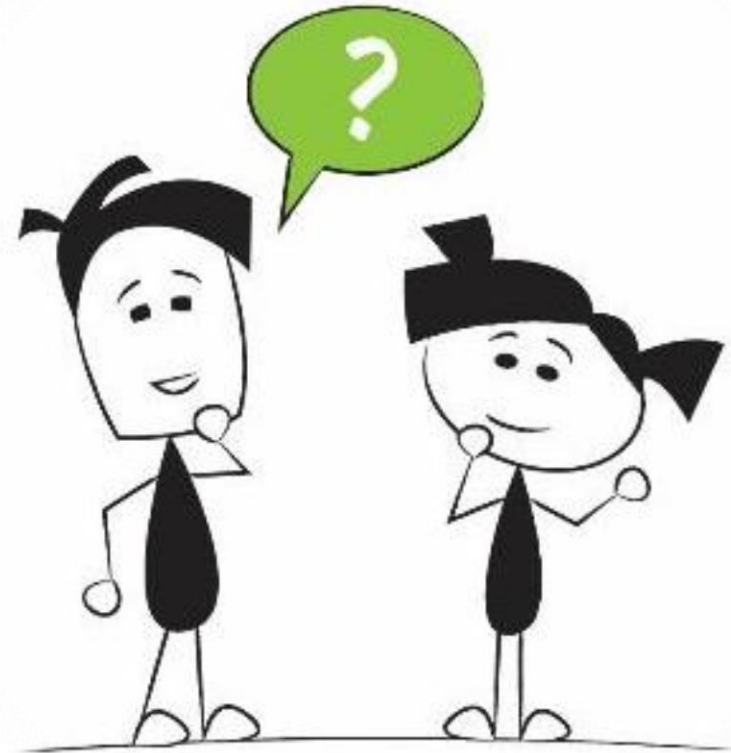
How Do Scientists Think?

Scientists Are
Curious



How Do Scientists Think?

Scientists Ask
Questions



How Do Scientists Think?

Scientists Build
and Revise
Models



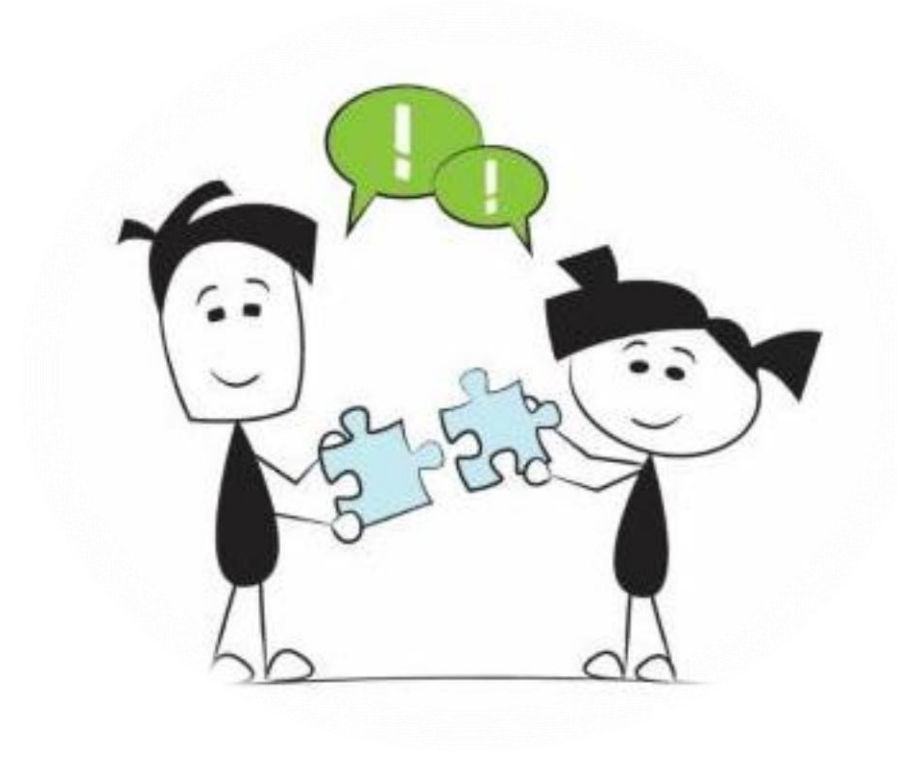
How Do Scientists Think?

Scientists Are
Creative



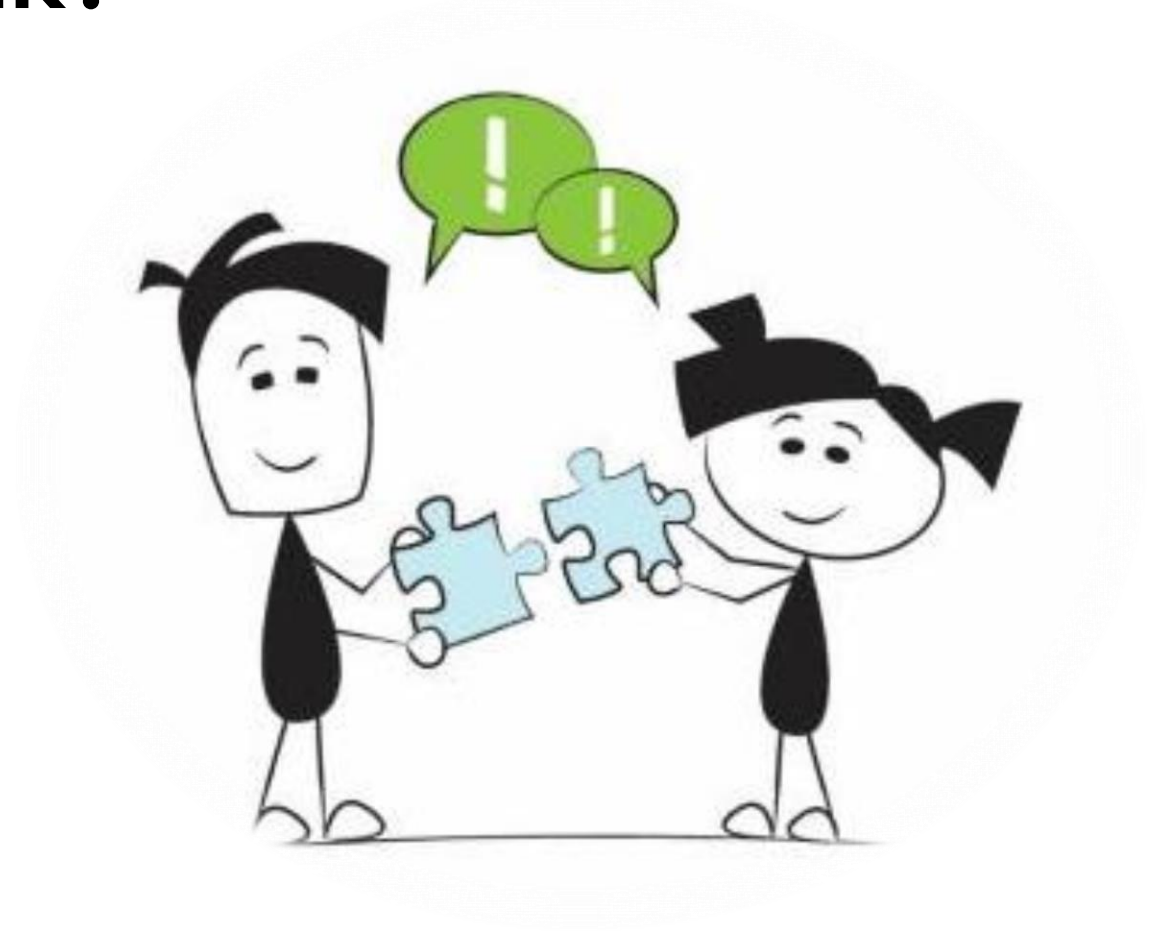
How Do Scientists Think?

Scientists
Collaborate



How Do Scientists Think?

Scientists Look
for Patterns



Looking for patterns

- spin
- electric charge (Q)
- strangeness (S)
- mass
- date

spin 3/2

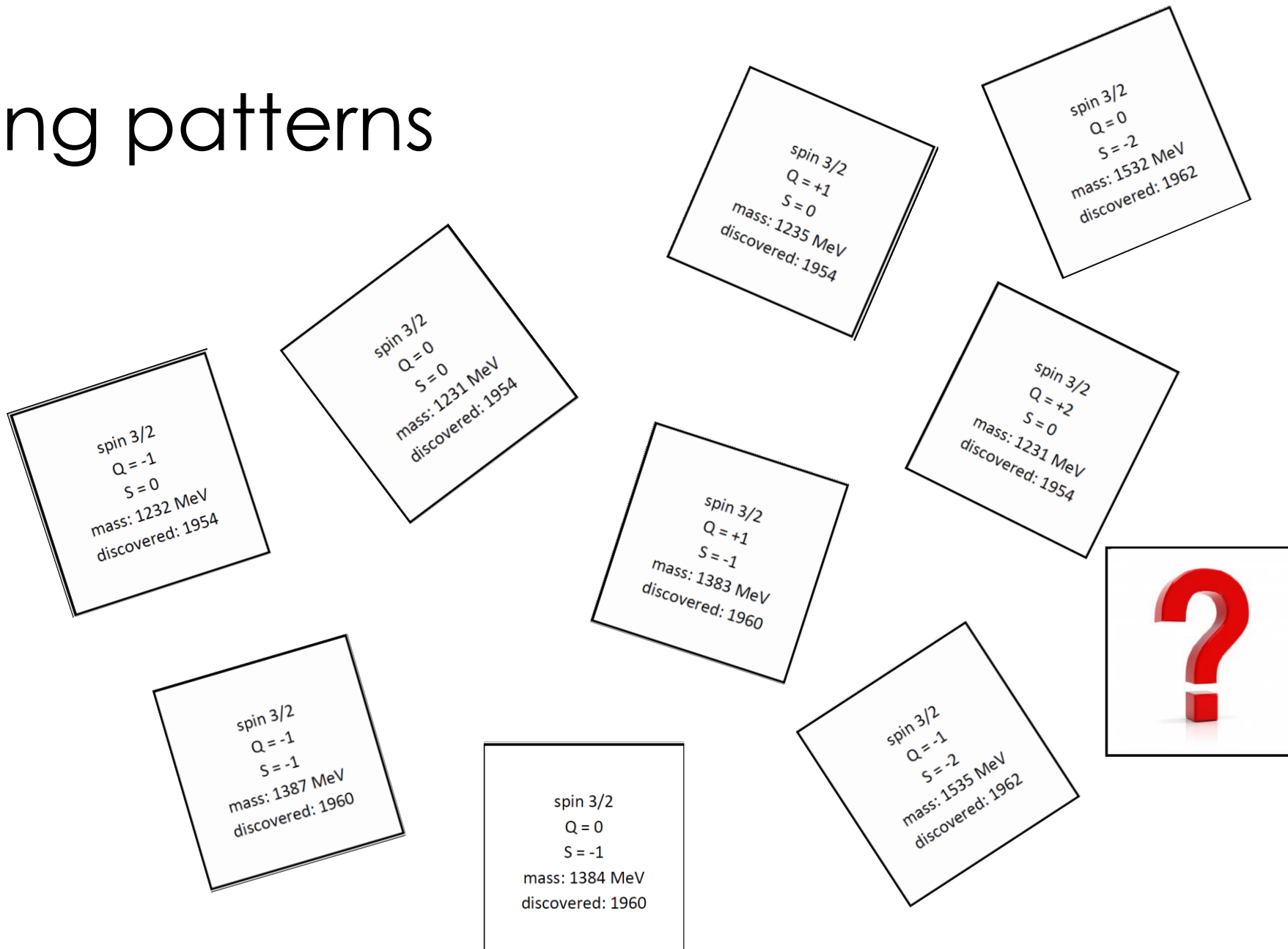
Q = -1

S = 0

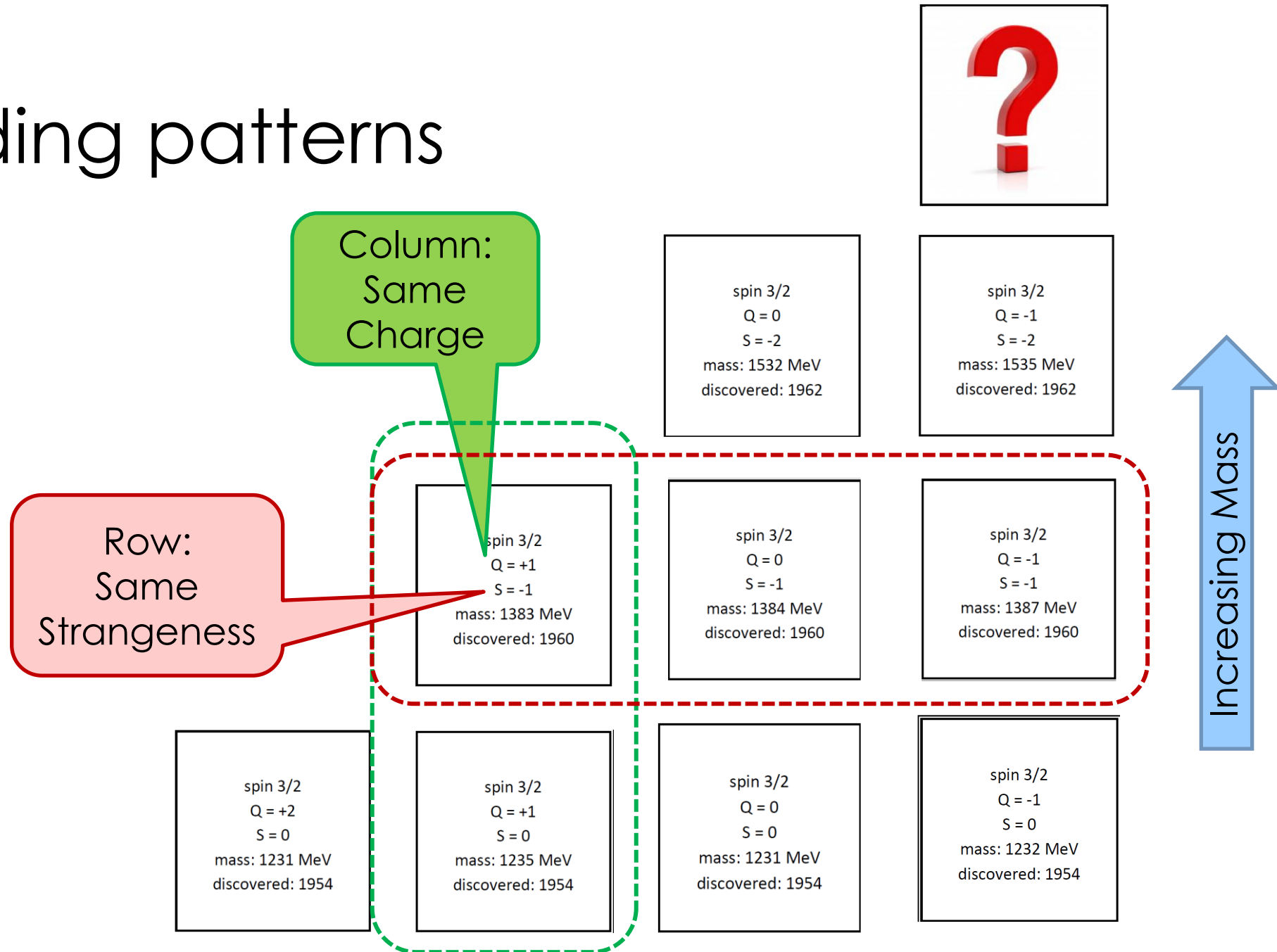
mass: 1232 MeV

discovered: 1954

Finding patterns



Finding patterns



Particle Prediction

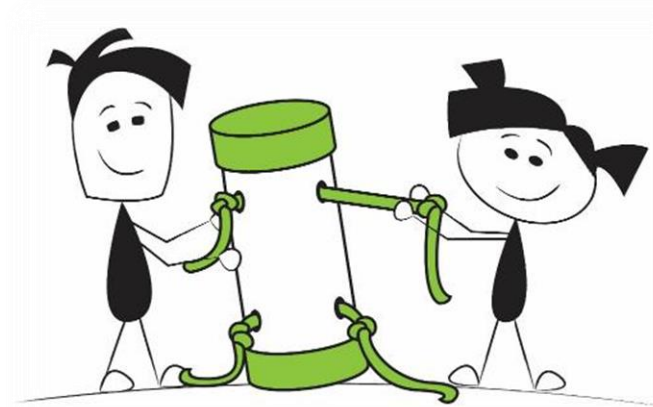
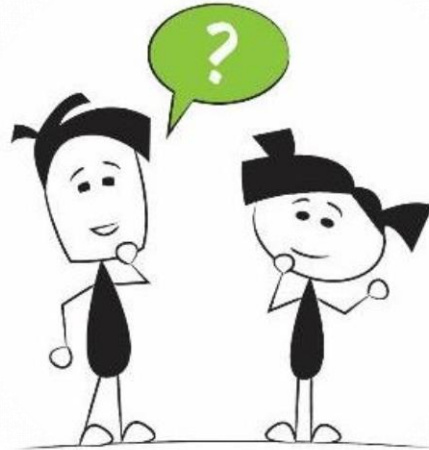
- spin $\frac{1}{2}$
- charge
- strangeness
- mass



1969 NOBEL PRIZE
Murray Gell-Mann

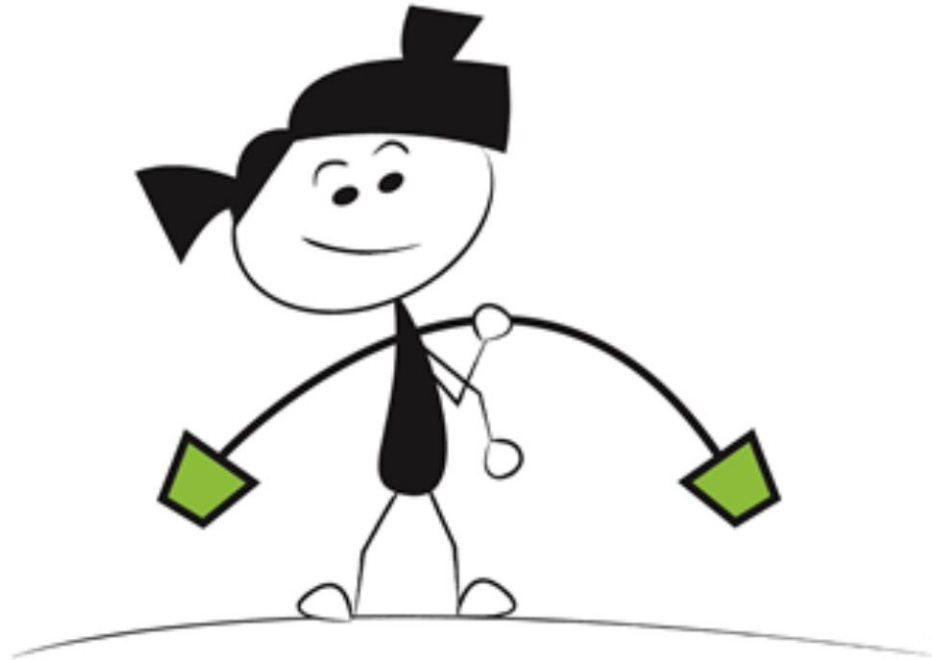
“for his contributions and discoveries concerning the classification of elementary particles and their interactions”

Thinking Like A Scientist



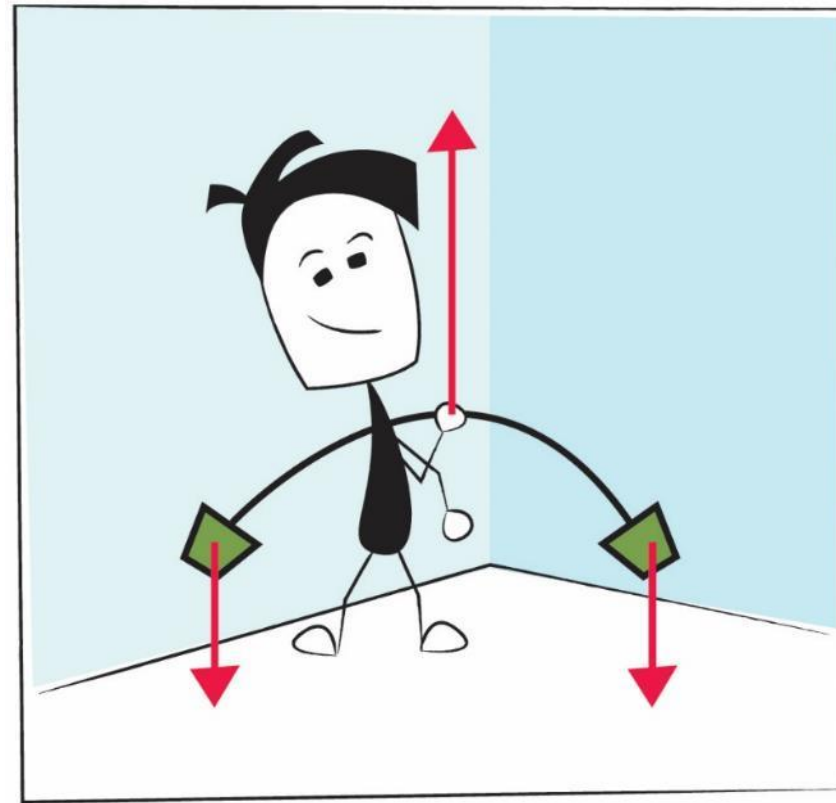
Let's work together to build and revise our model for a simple question.

Why does this rod bend?





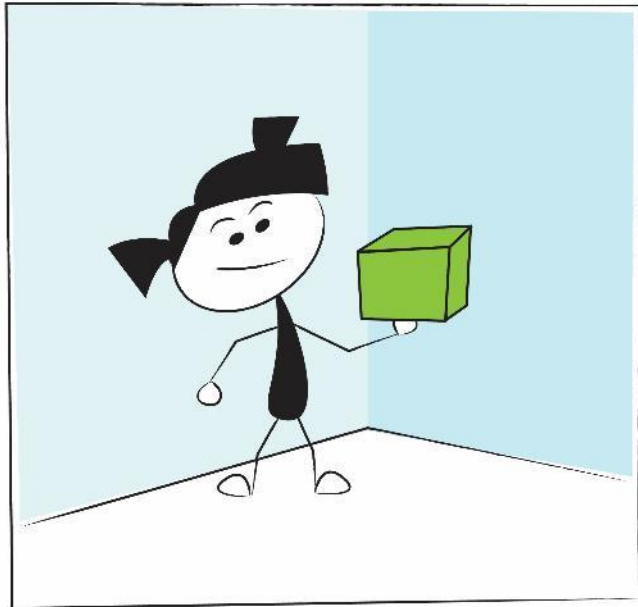
One force pulls down another pushes up



Force Model



Why do objects feel heavy?



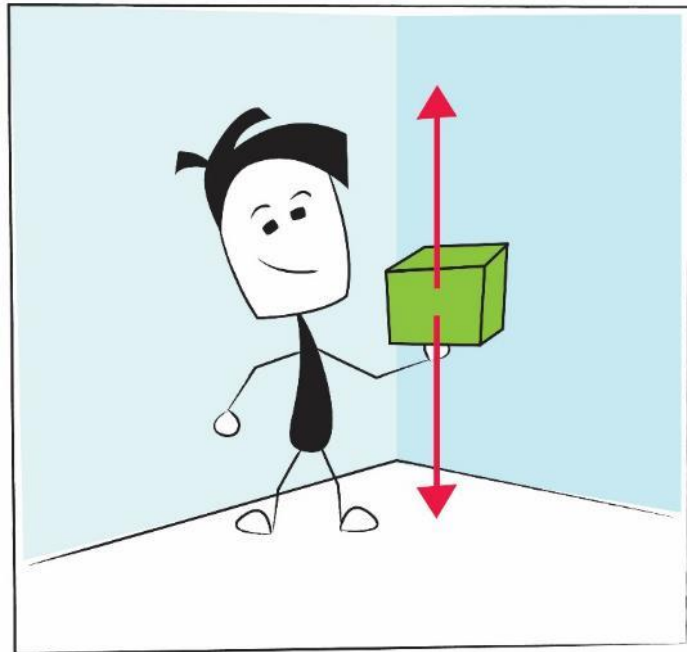
Why do objects fall?



Force Model

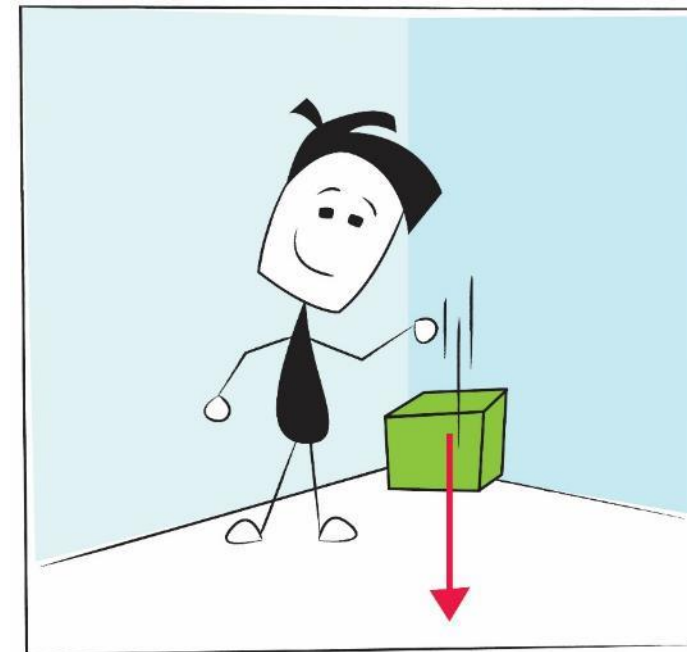


Why do objects feel heavy?



You push up to oppose the force of gravity

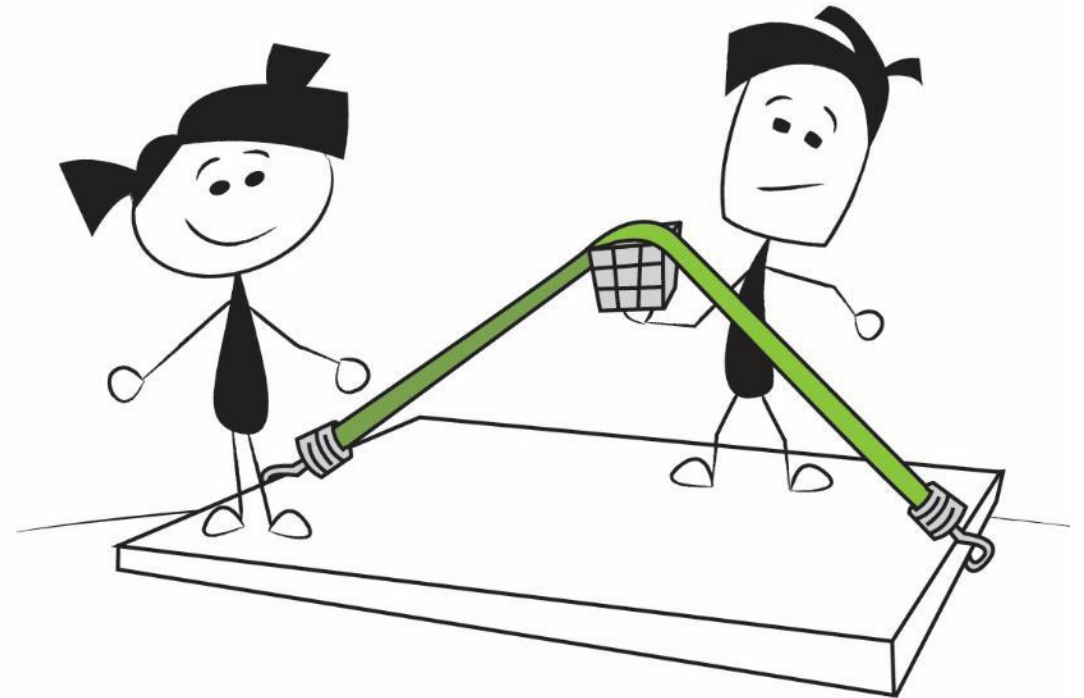
Why do objects fall?



The force of gravity pulls them down

Force Model of Gravity

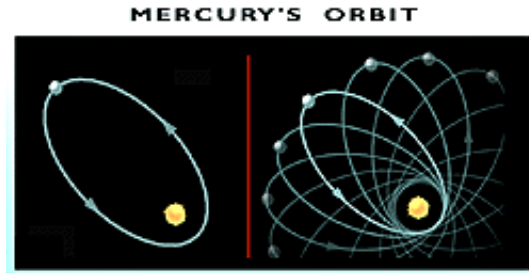
Gravity is like
an Invisible
Bungee Cord



*“That gravity should be innate, inherent, and essential to matter so that one body may act upon another, at a distance through vacuum, without the mediation of anything else...**is to me so great an absurdity**, that I believe no man who has in philosophical matters a competent faculty of thinking, can ever fall into it.”*

- Isaac Newton

Newtonian gravity works...right?



Observations (1859)

Force model predicts the wrong orbits

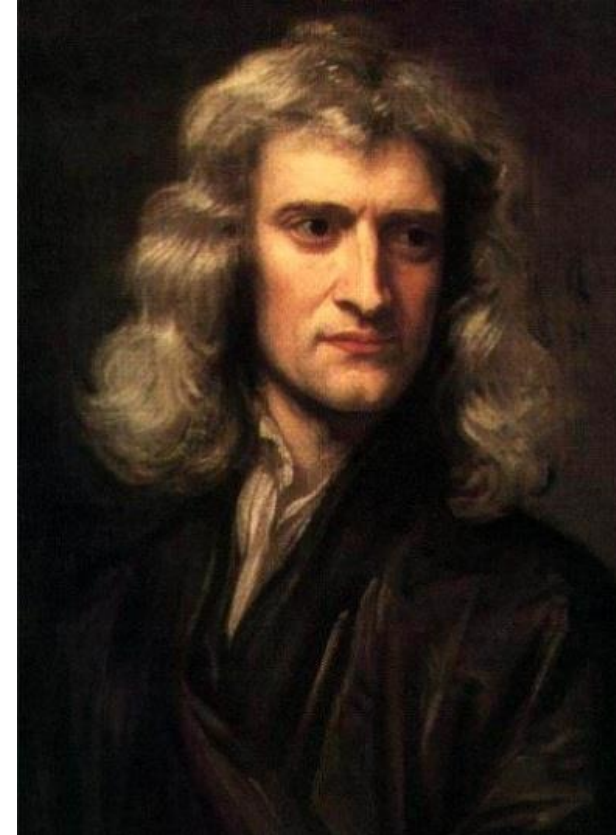


Theory (1905)

Force model violates speed of light limit

Newton: Gravity is a force

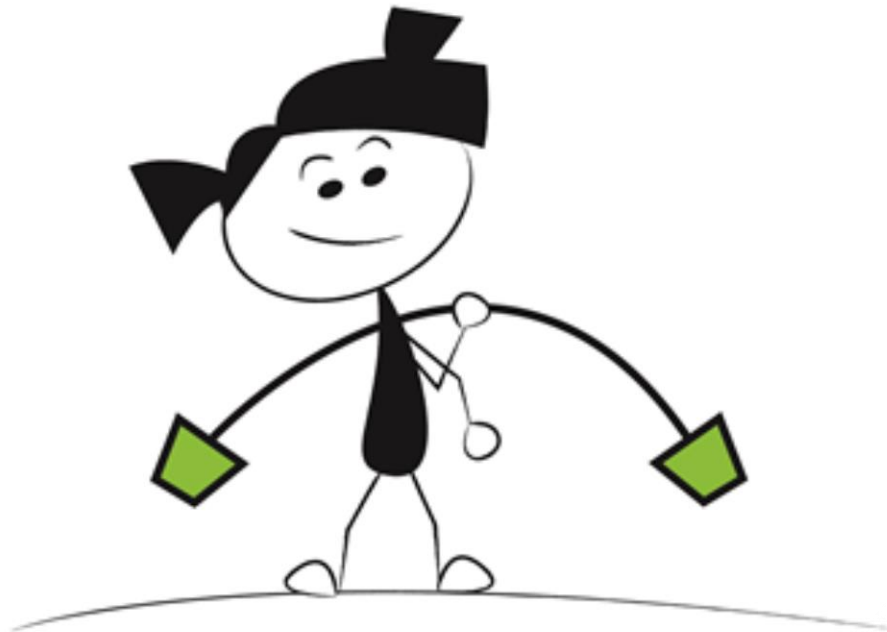
FEELS RIGHT, but
doesn't survive
experimental tests



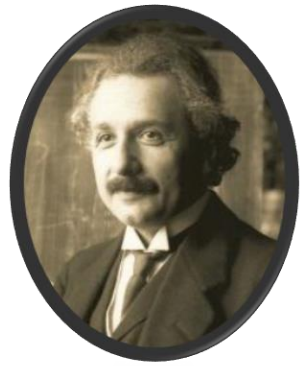
SO....

something is **wrong** with our
force model for GRAVITY

How else can I make this rod bend?



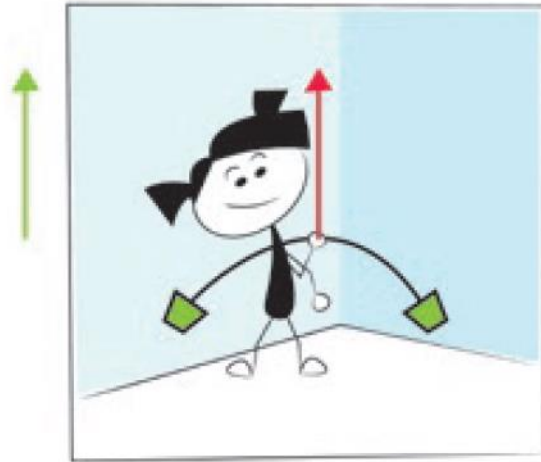
Acceleration Model



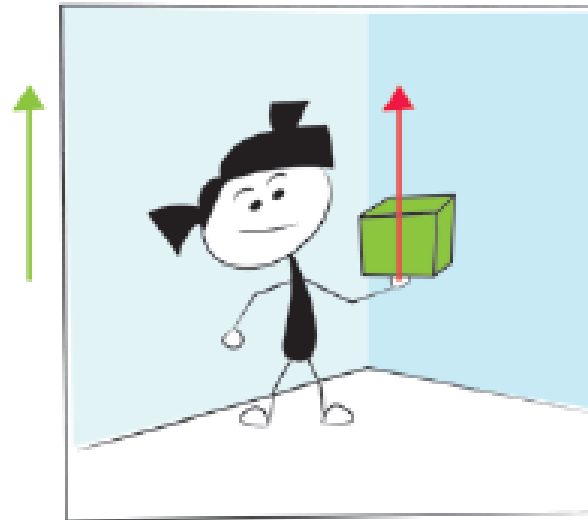
Acceleration Model



Bendy Rod



Weight



Freefall

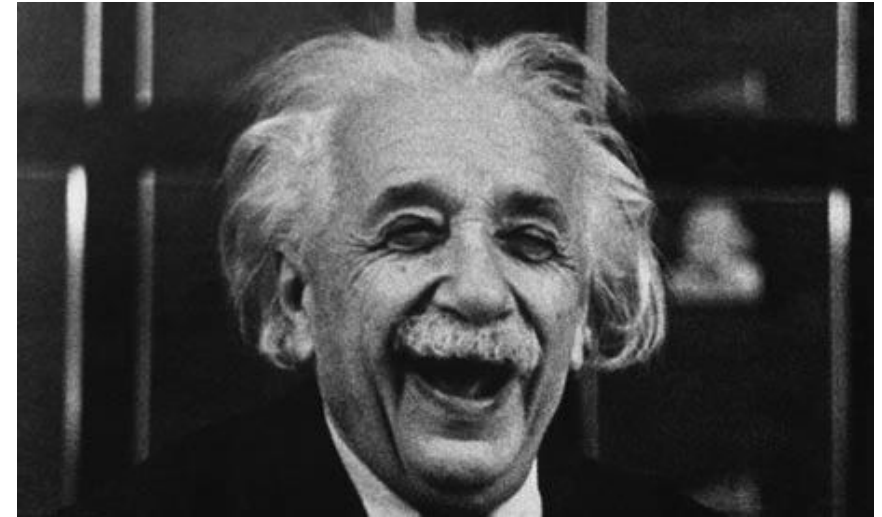


Acceleration Model of Gravity

Acceleration in one direction is identical to a force in the other direction!
-Einstein's "happiest thought"

Gravity isn't a force pulling us down.

We are accelerating UP!



The **BIG** Question

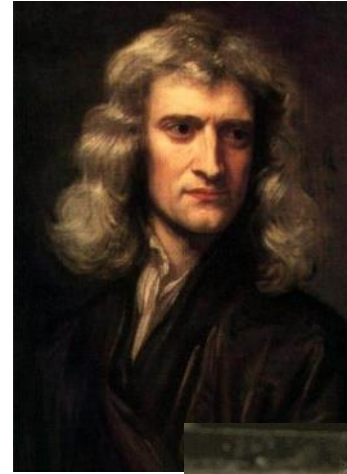
How can the ground be *accelerating* up without *moving* up?



Two Models

Newton: Gravity is a force

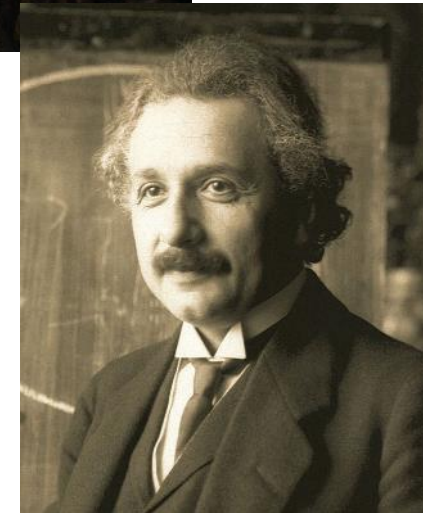
FEELS RIGHT, but doesn't survive experimental tests.



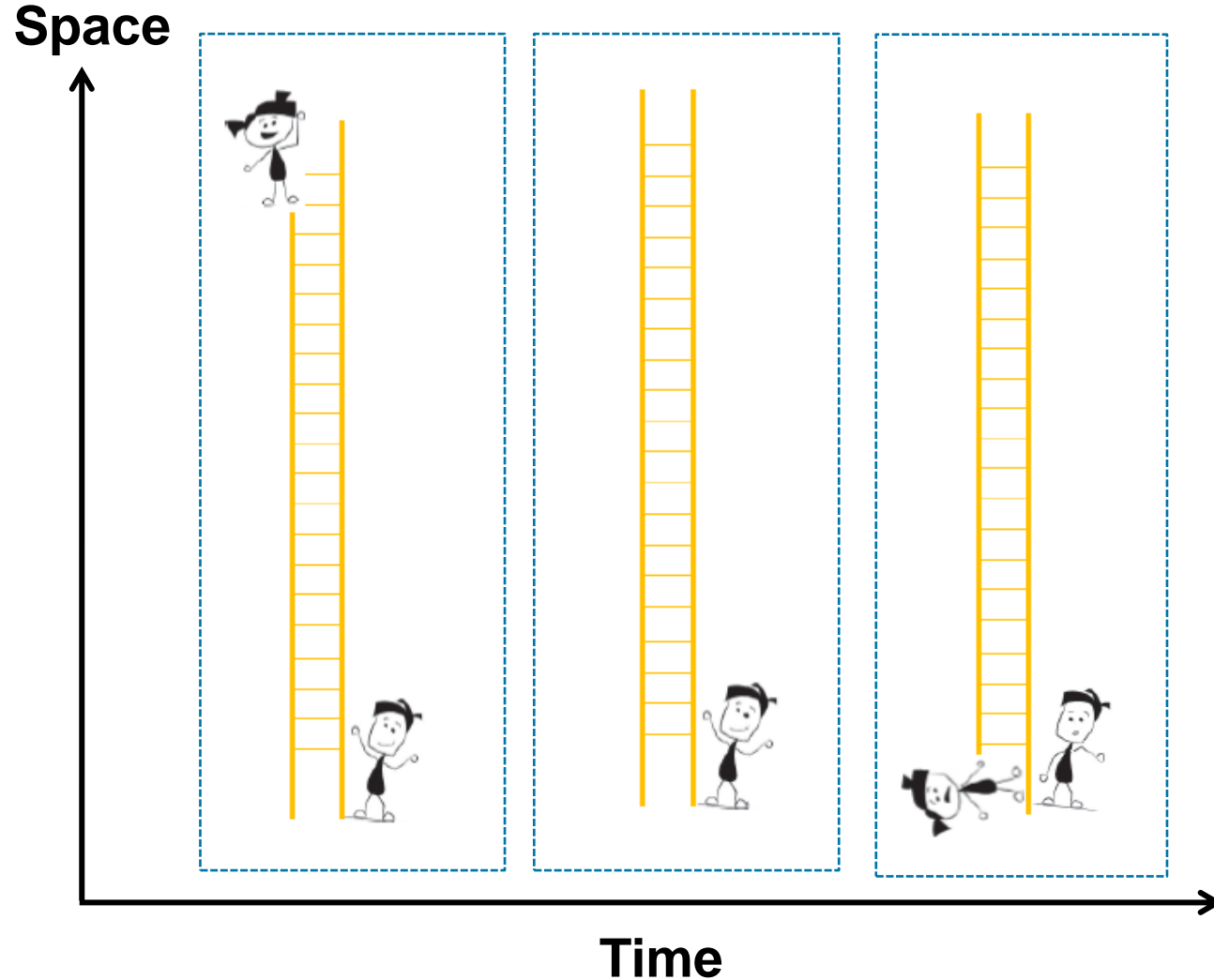
Einstein: Acceleration Model

FEELS WEIRD but could work...

... But earth isn't expanding!

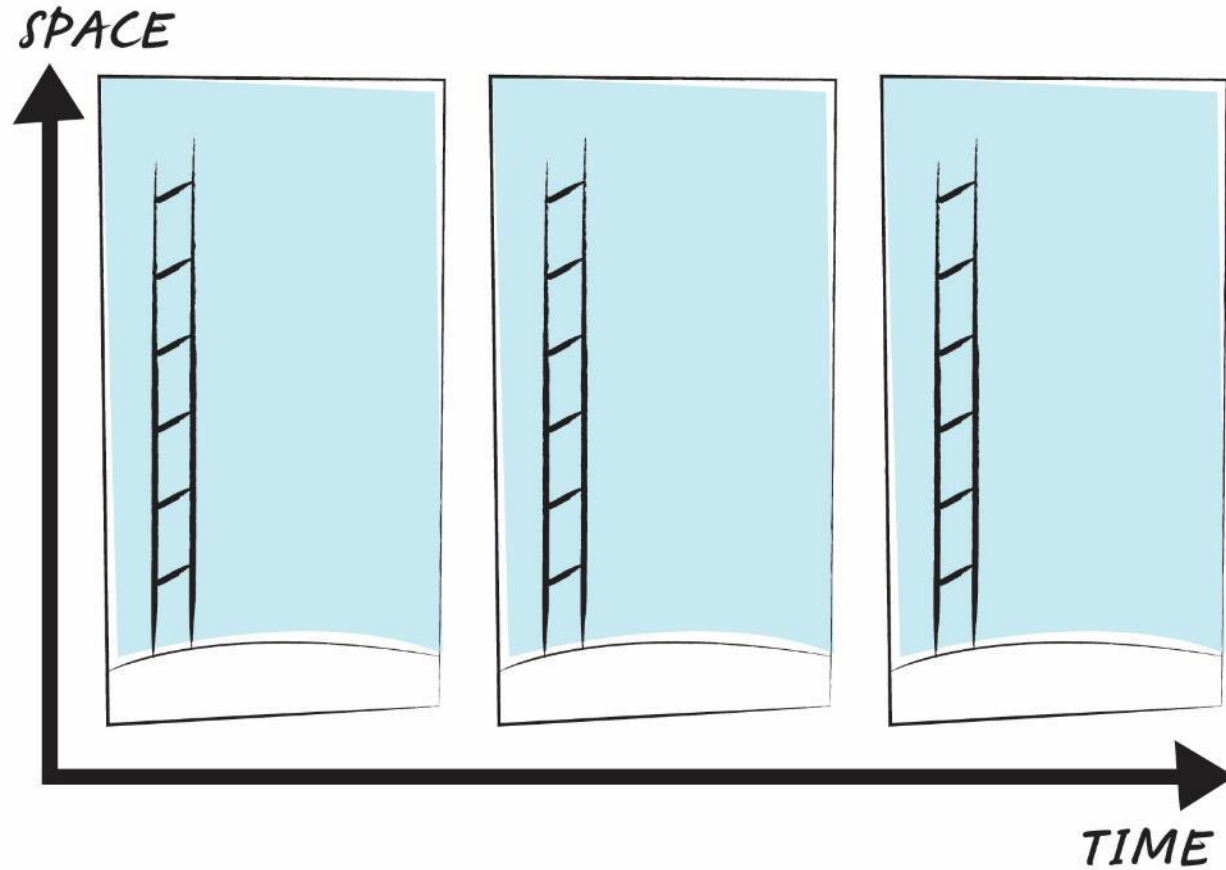


Force Model: Falling Off a Ladder



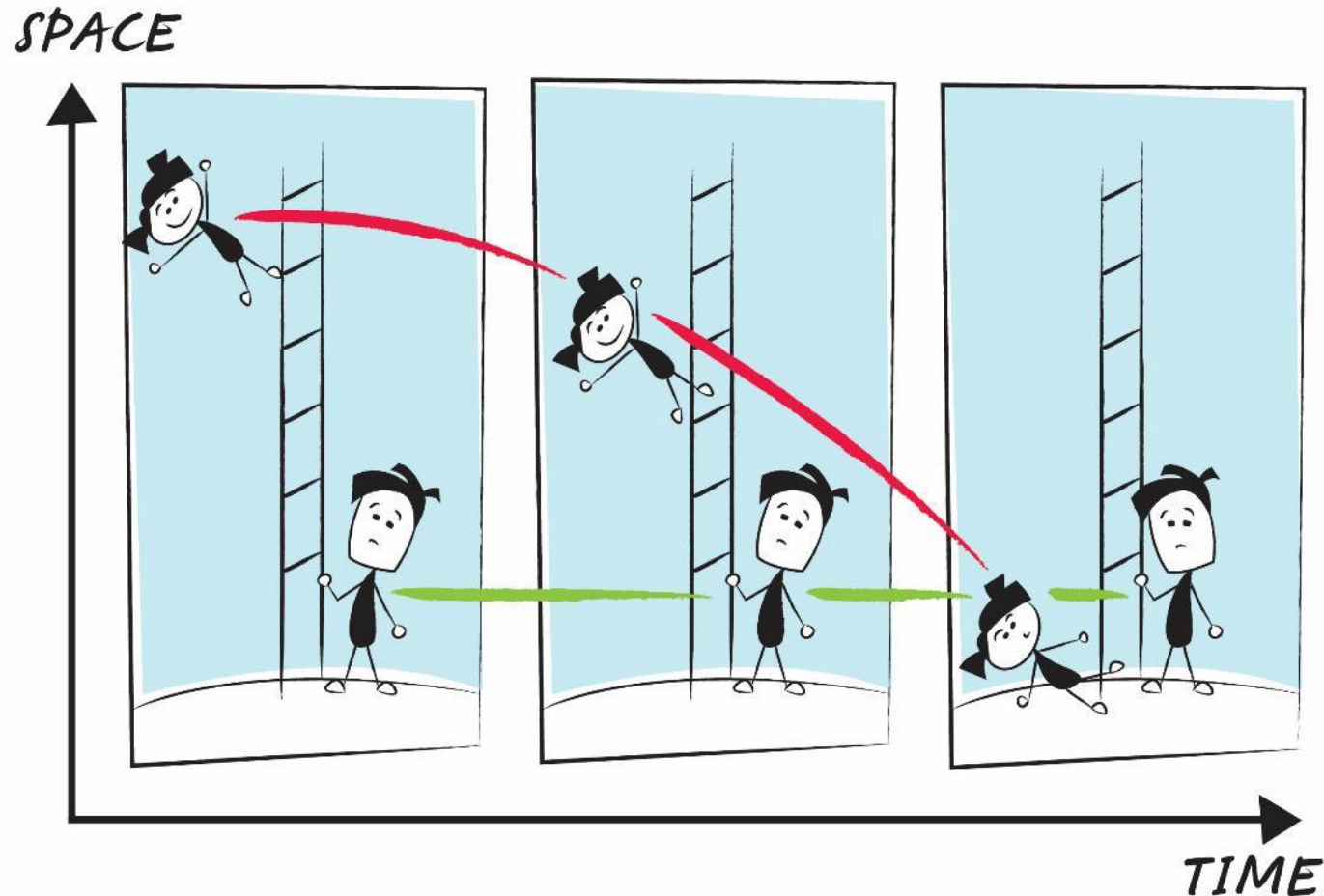
Where will Alice be in the middle frame?

Spacetime Diagram



Plot the lines for Alice and Bob on a whiteboard.

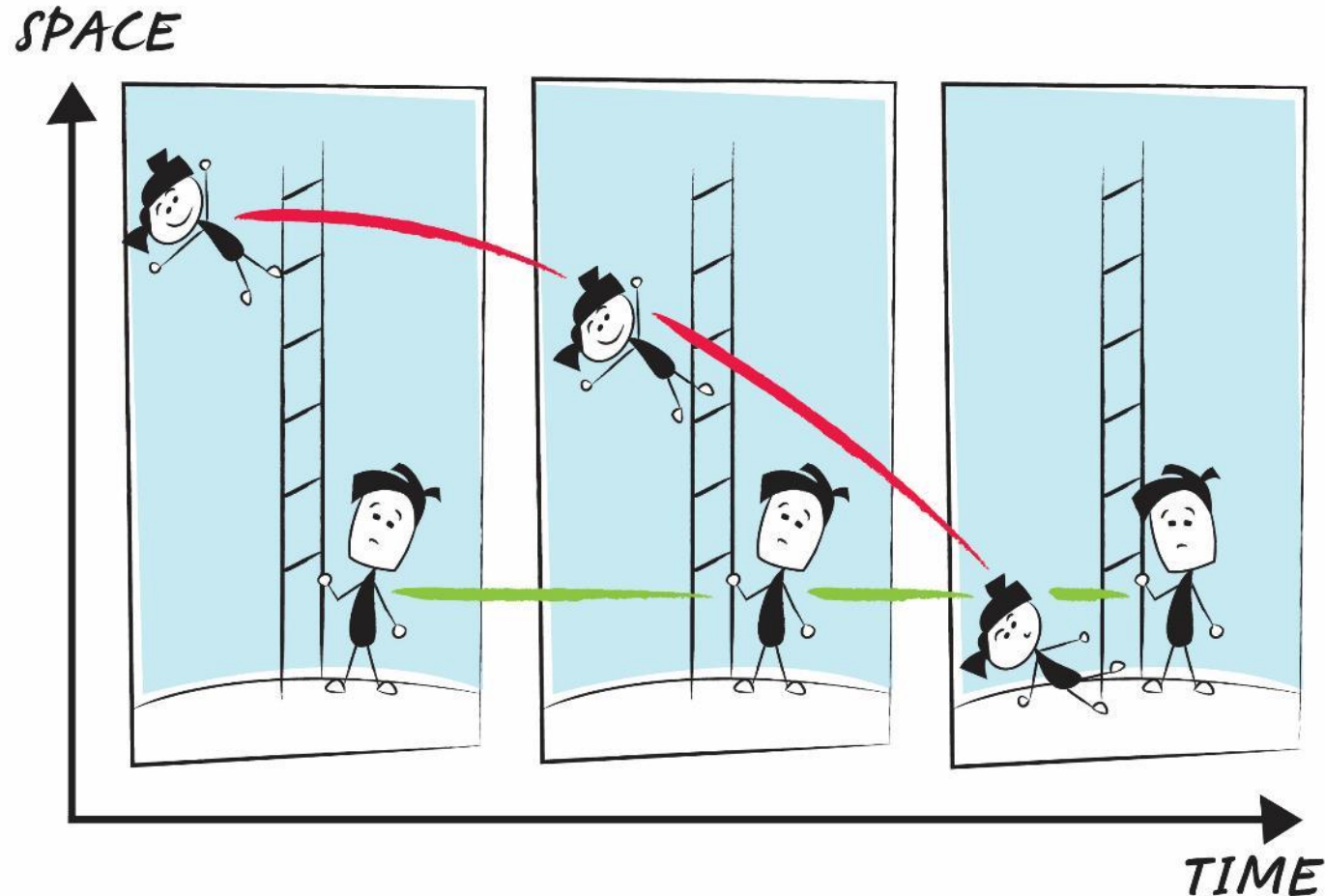
Spacetime Diagram



Curved lines on a spacetime diagram mean the object accelerated.

Now trace the lines using one continuous piece of tape for each.

Spacetime Diagram



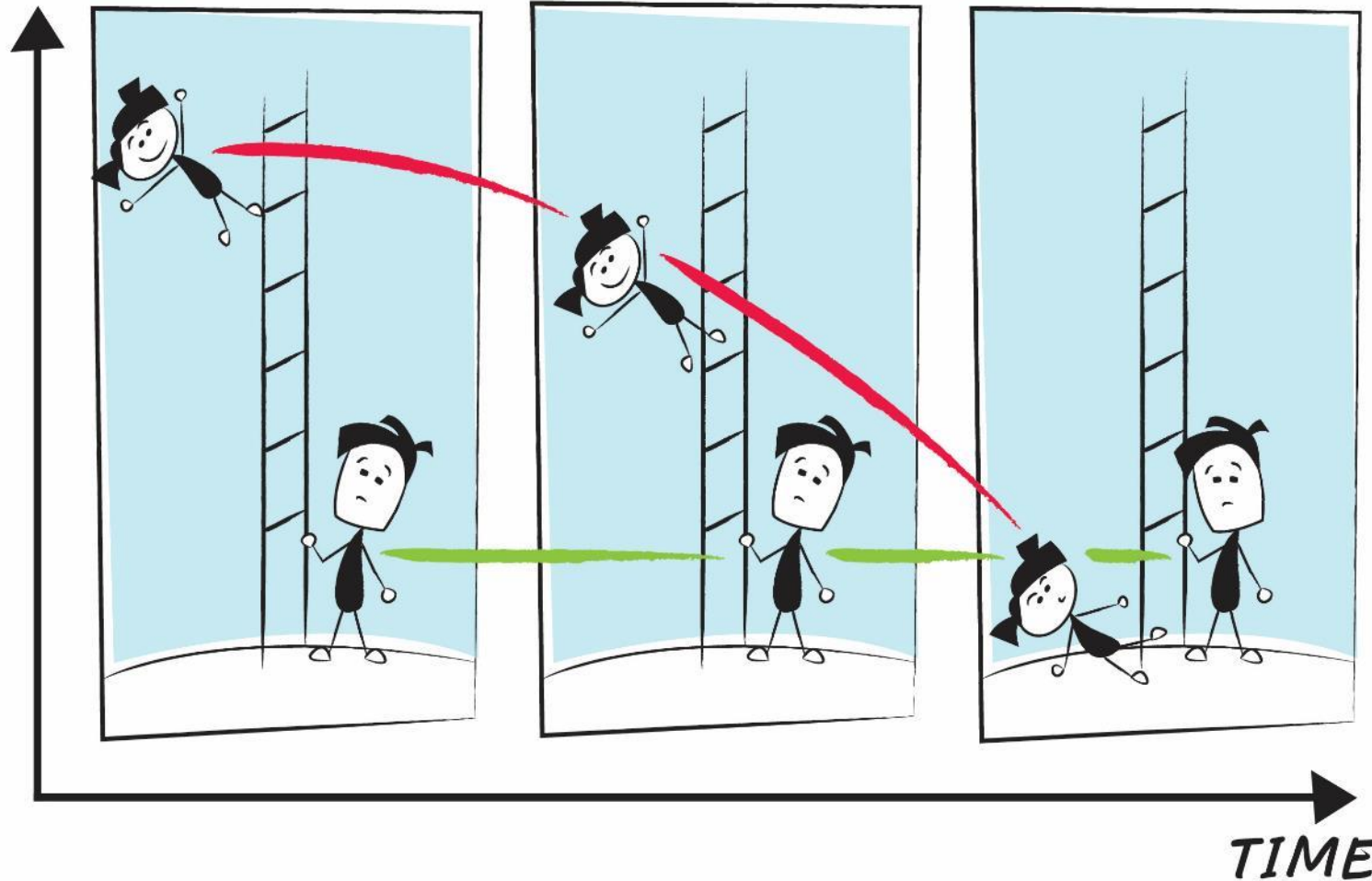
Describe the tape for Alice (accelerating) and Bob (not accelerating).

Crinkled tape means the object accelerated.

Flat tape means the object did not accelerate.

Spacetime Diagram

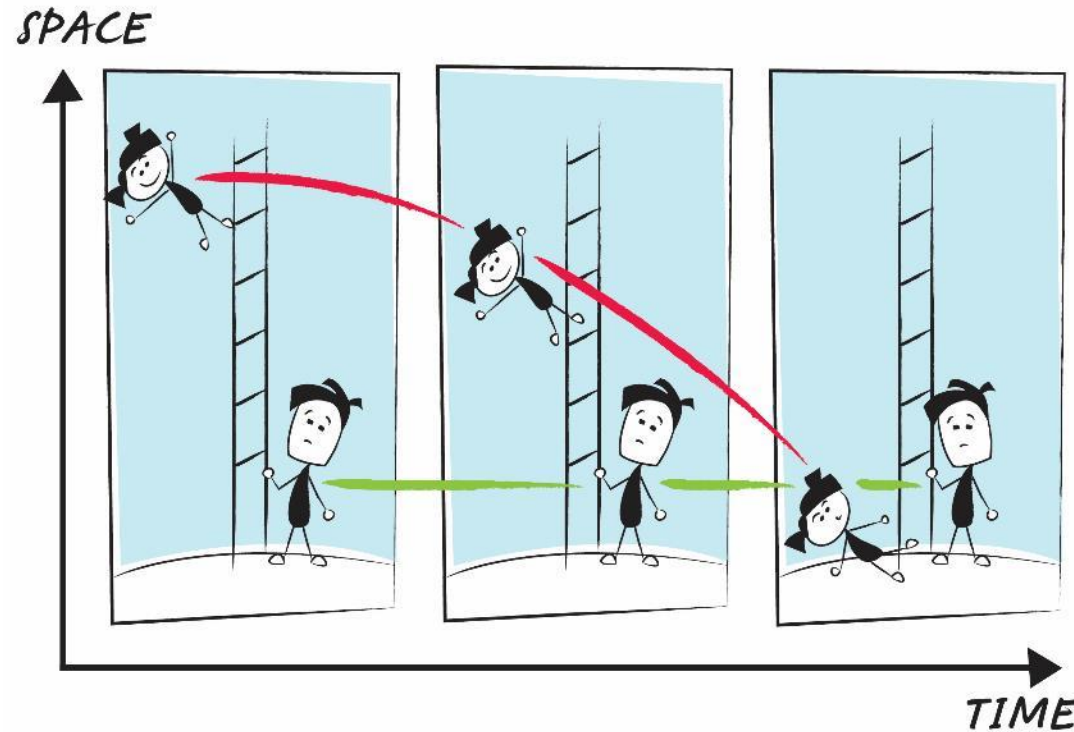
SPACE



According to Einstein, there is **NO FORCE** acting on **Alice** so she should **not accelerate**.

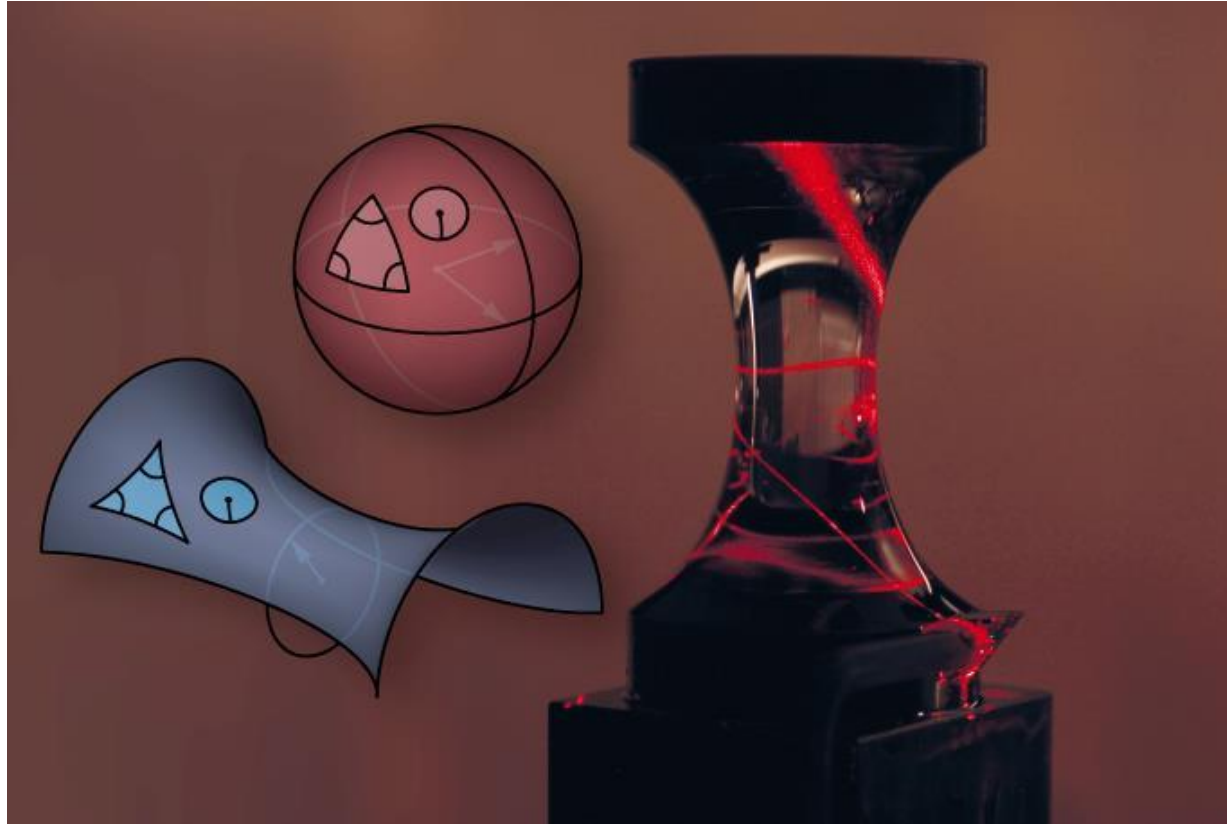
Bob is the one who should **accelerate** because of the normal **force** acting on him.

How can Alice fall without accelerating?

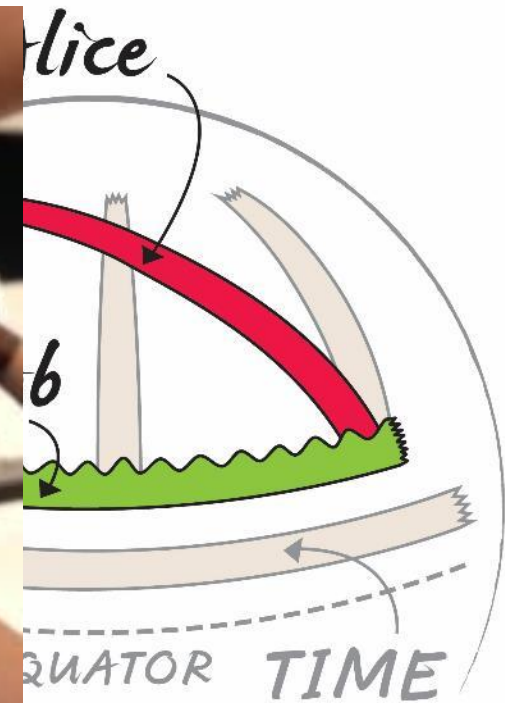
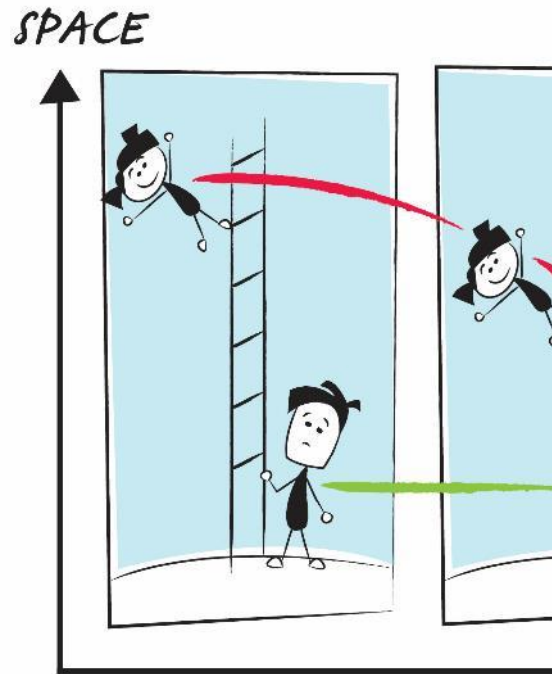


How can Bob accelerate while stationary?

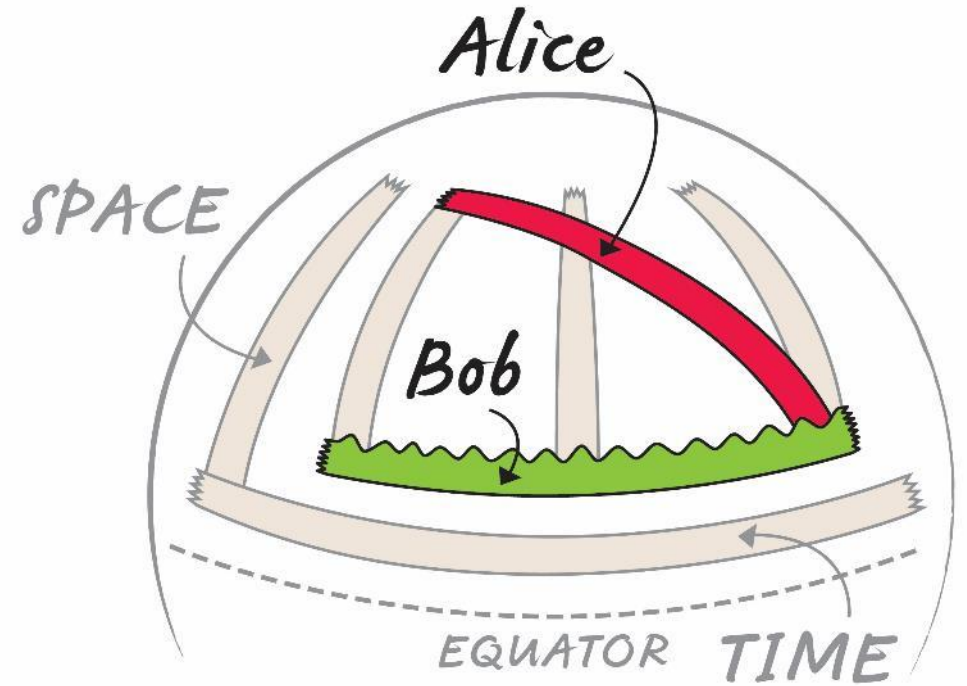
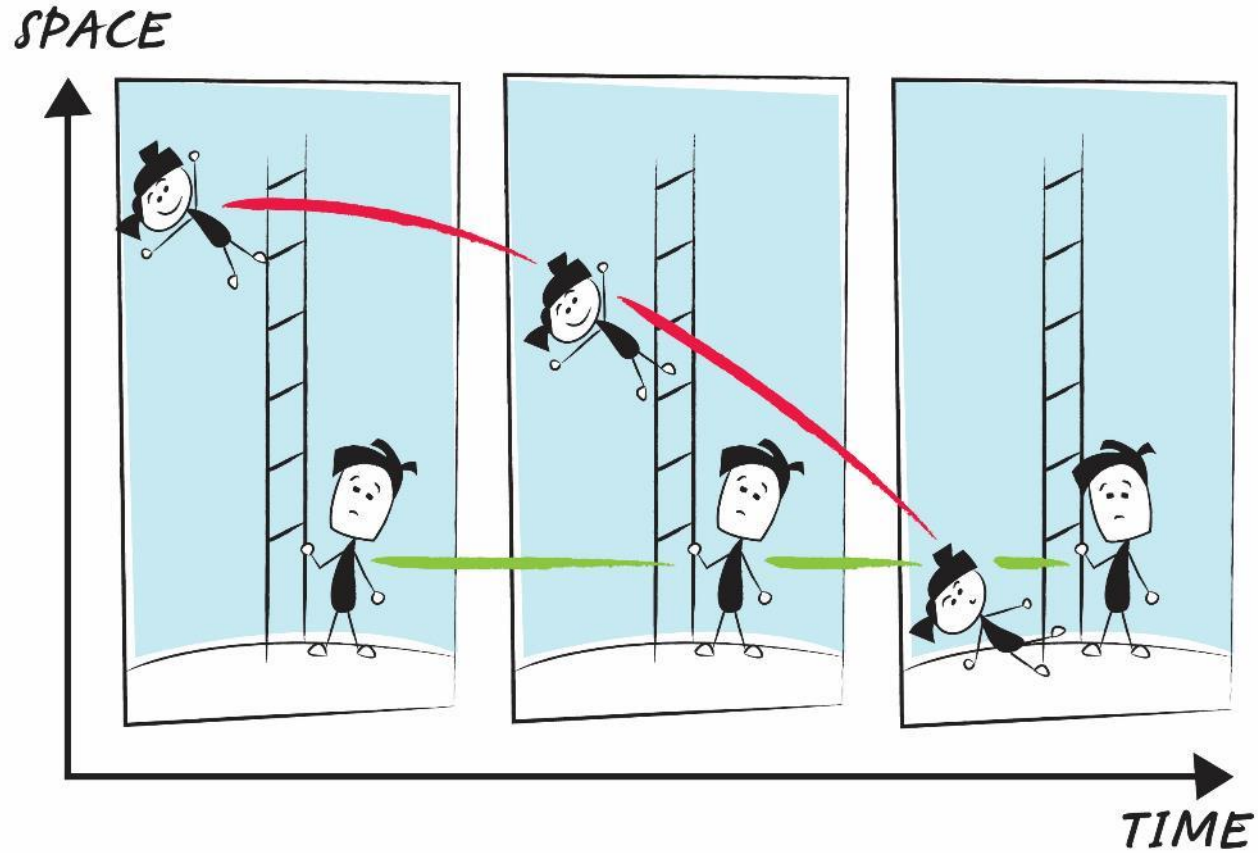
Einstein's Solution: Spacetime is not flat!



“Draw” the plots for Alice and Bob using tape on the balloon.

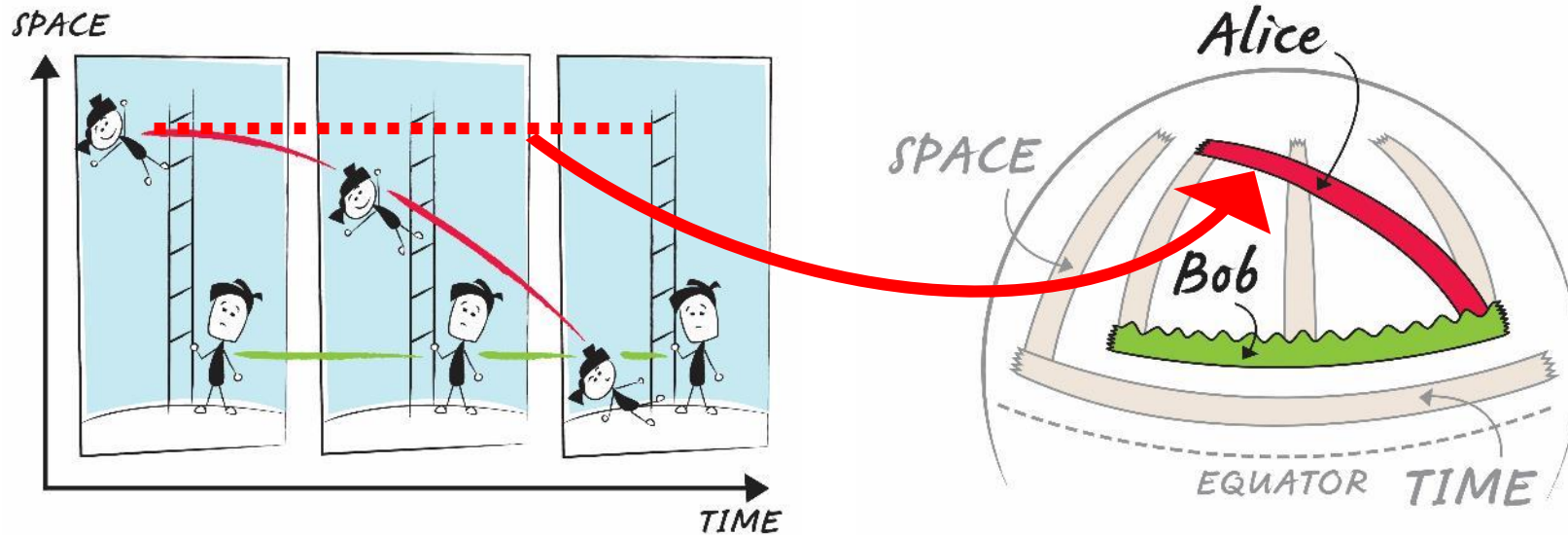


Curved Spacetime

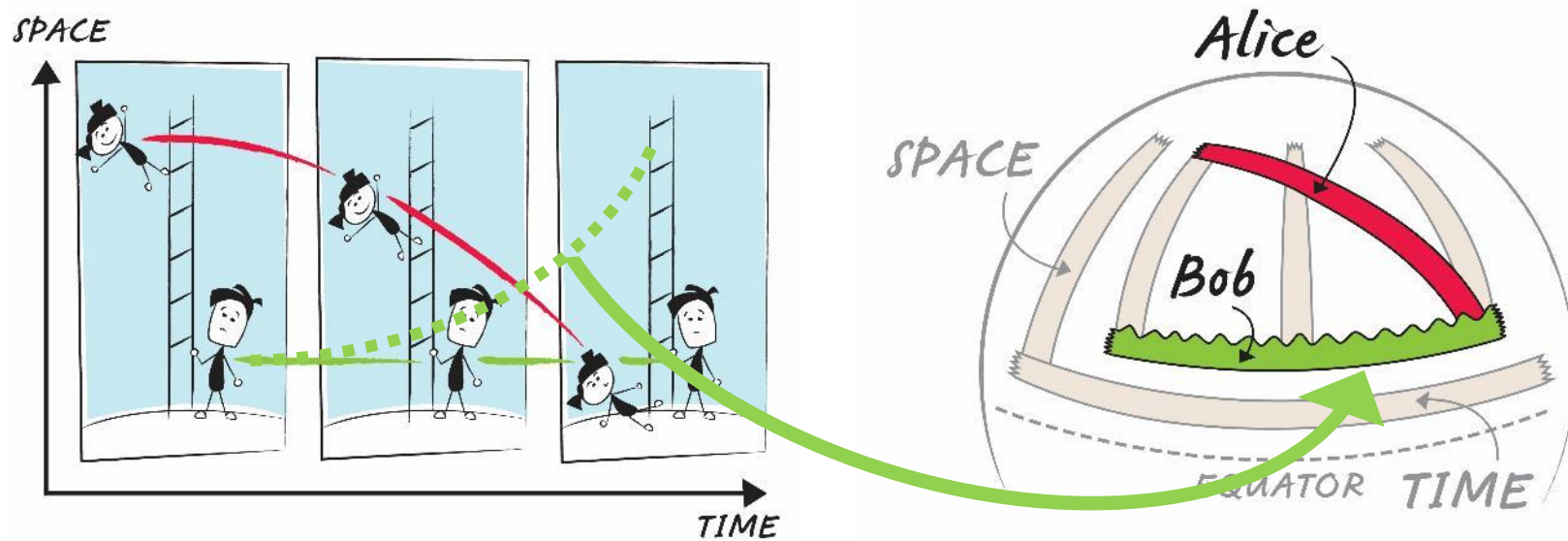


Alice's path stays straight (no force, no acceleration)

...and yet she is falling from the top of the ladder to the bottom!



Bob's path *curves up* (he feels upward force and acceleration)
...and yet he is not *moving up*!



Two Models

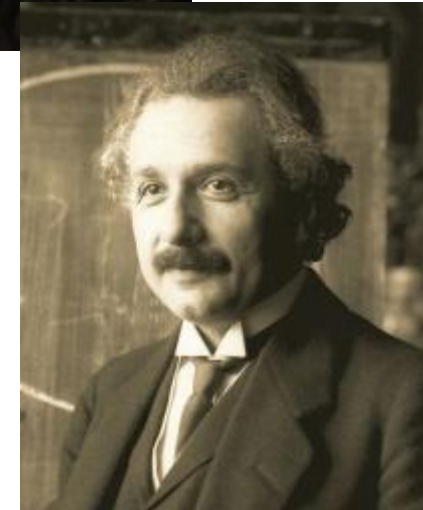
Newton: Gravity is a force

FEELS RIGHT, but doesn't survive experimental tests

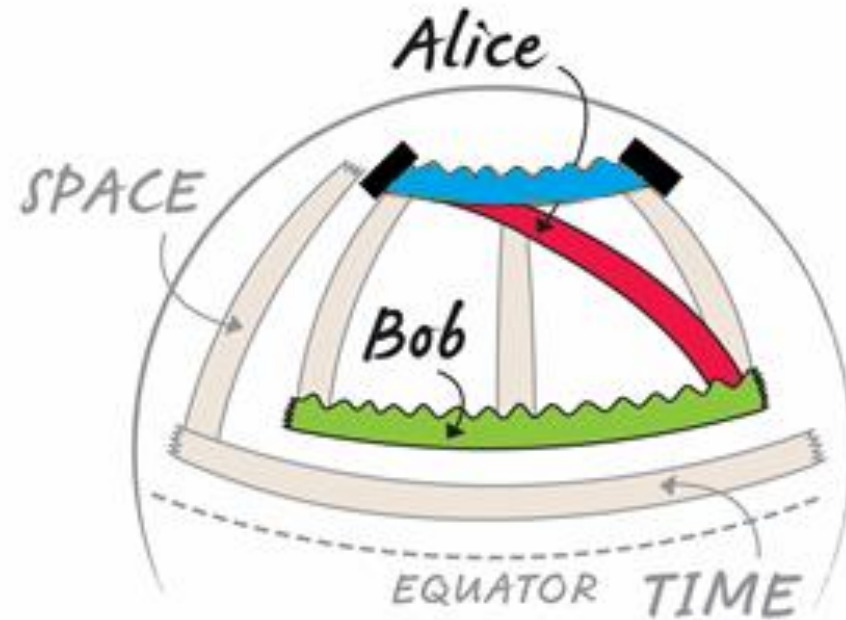
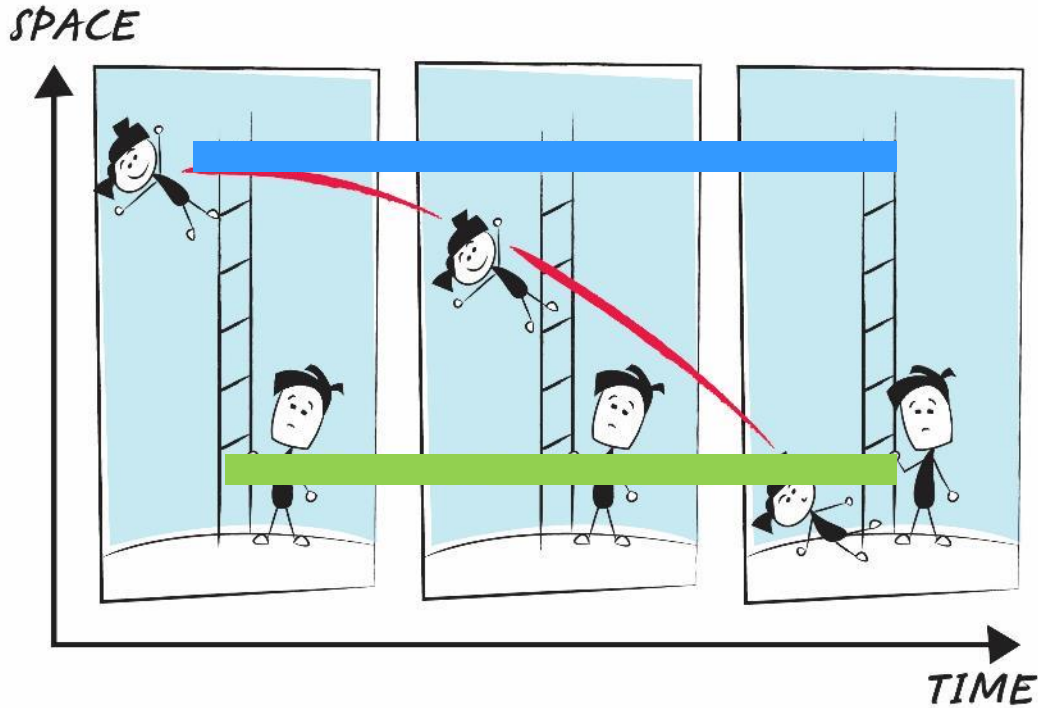


Einstein: Spacetime is curved

FEELS WEIRD but explains what we see (so far)



Models cannot be proven **right**, only **wrong**
Curved spacetime predicts time dilation



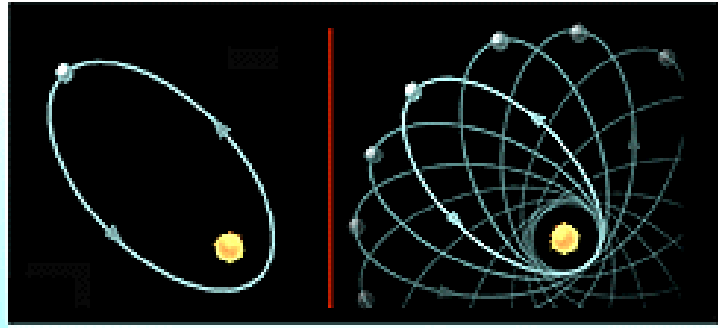
GPS confirms that time dilation is **REAL!**

Time dilation proves
the force model is
WRONG



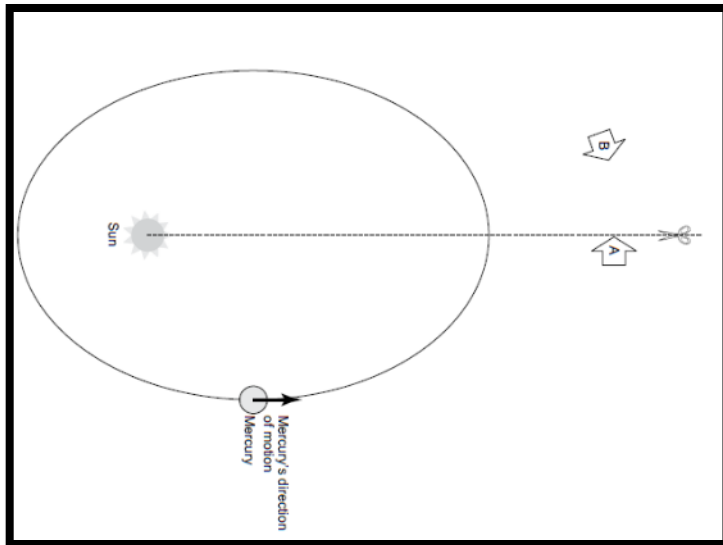
Relativity predicts exact precession

MERCURY'S ORBIT



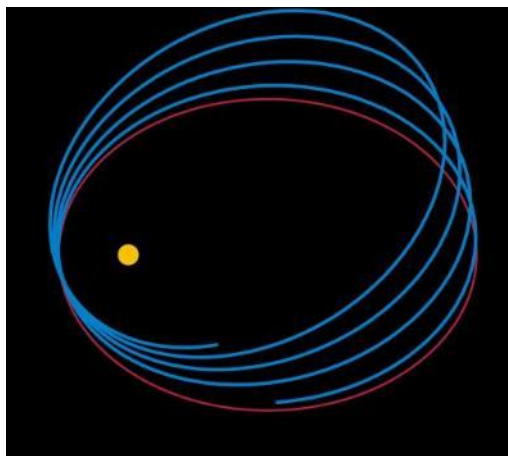
Observations (1859)

Force model predicts the wrong orbits

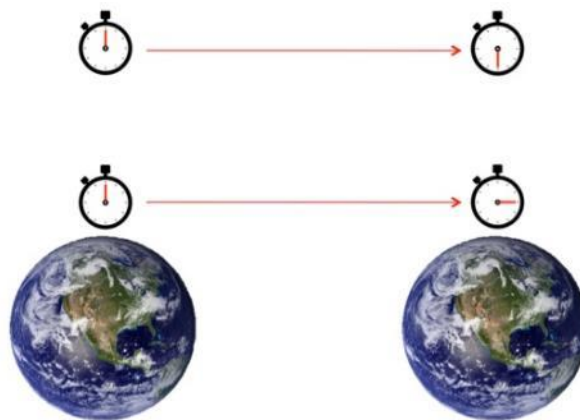


Classroom Activity

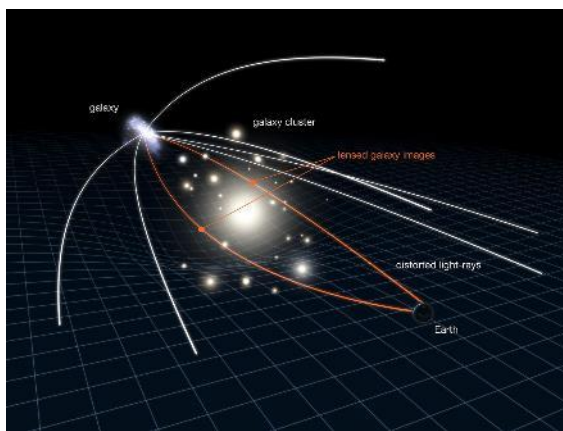
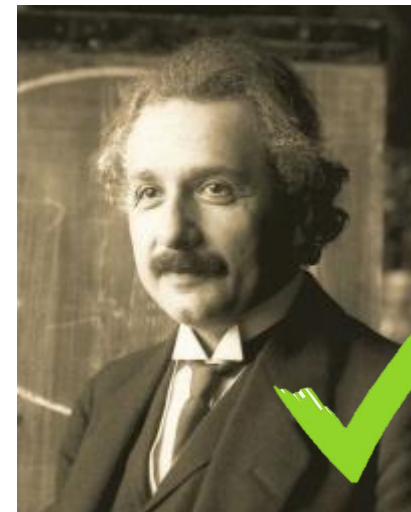
Curved spacetime produces precession



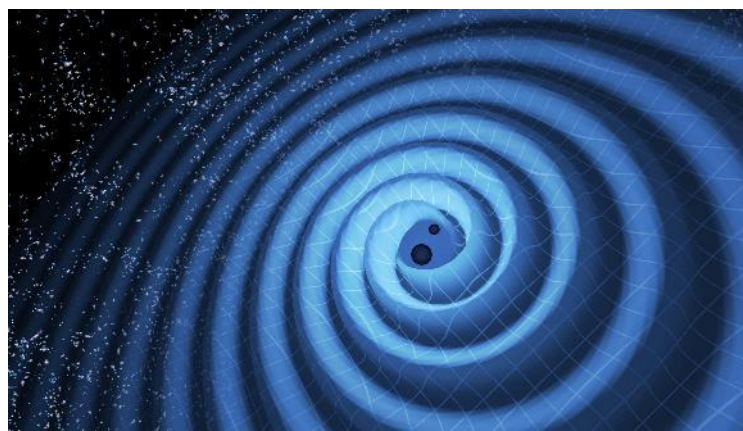
Mercury's Orbit



Time Dilation

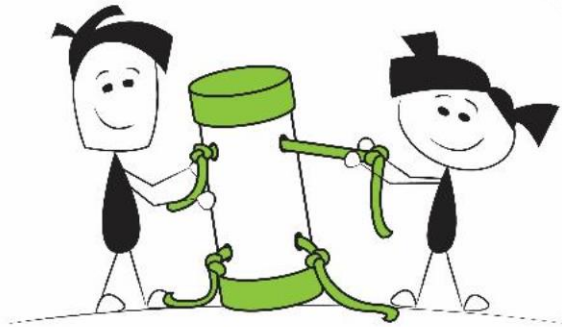


Lensing

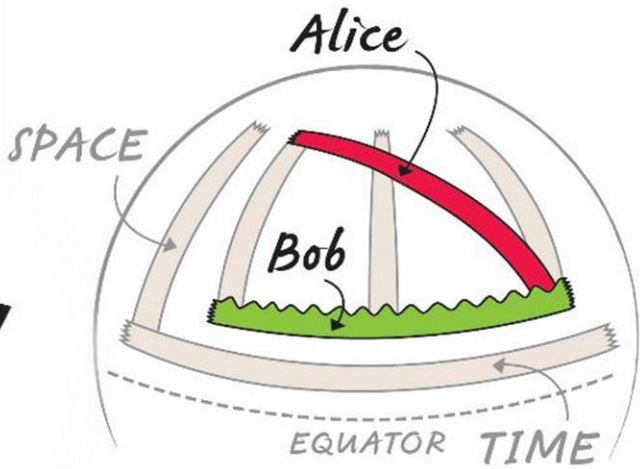


Gravitational Waves

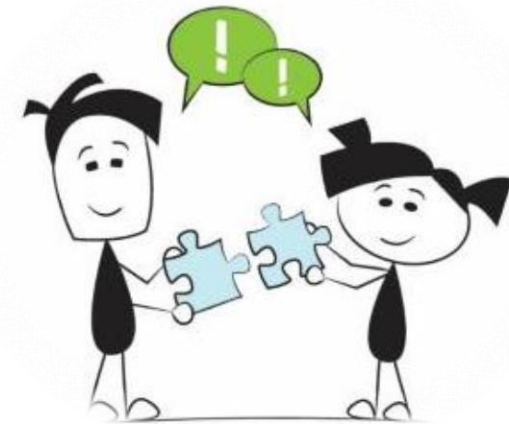
Science is a powerful way of thinking



Curiosity



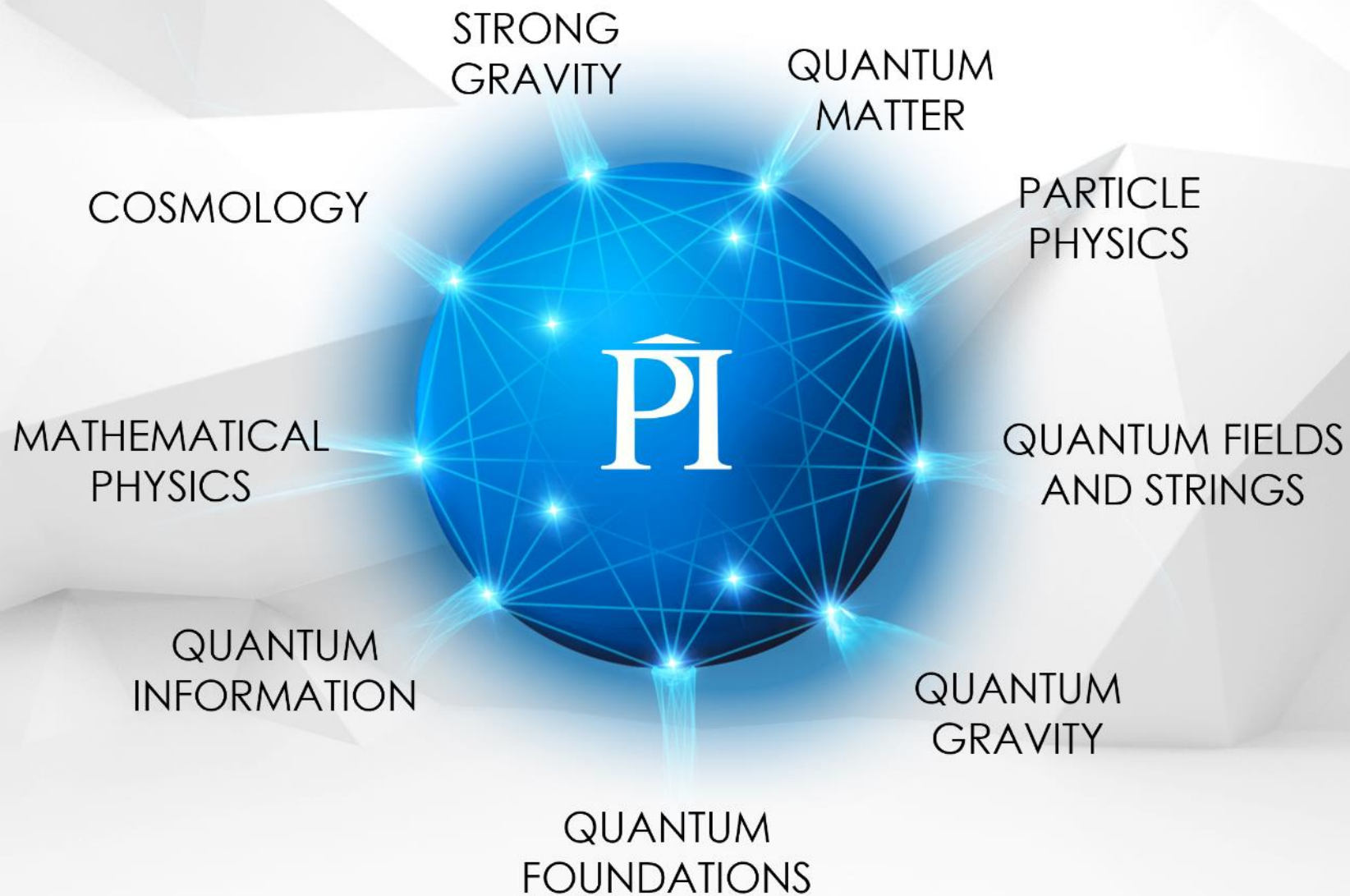
Creativity



Collaboration



PERIMETER RESEARCH AREAS



IN-CLASS RESOURCES



Experienced
teachers

Perimeter
researchers

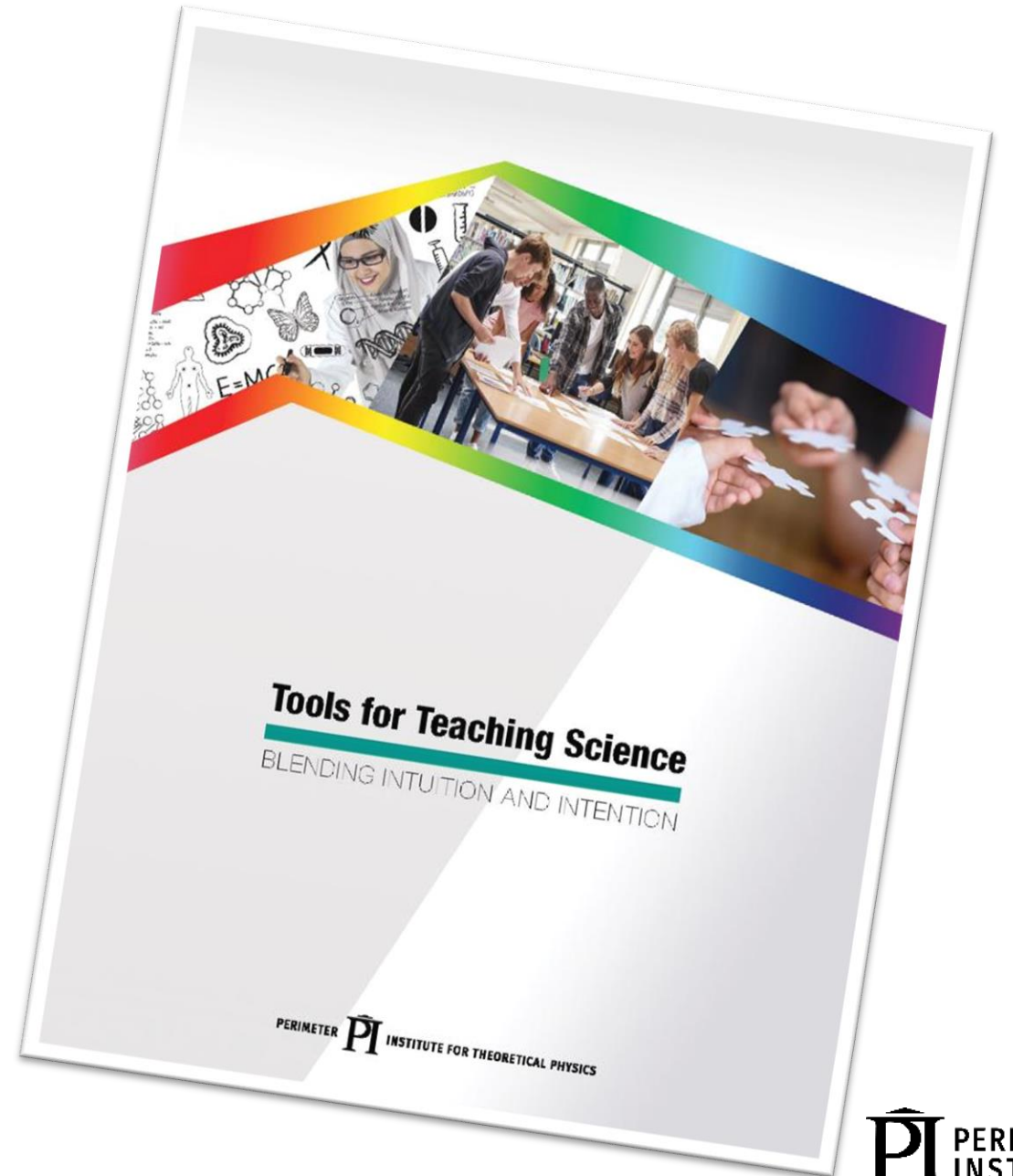
Pedagogy and
teaching strategies

resources.perimeterinstitute.ca



This session:

- Tools for your classrooms
- Teacher collaboration



Tool	ACTIVATING	ESTABLISHING	DEEPENING	REFLECTING/ REVIEWING
Interleaving				
Jigsaw Activity ◆				
Know-Wonder-Learn				
Laboratory Investigati				
Medicine Wheel				
Muddy Cards ◆				
Multiple Representatio (bar charts, free-body and calculations) ◆				
Peer Feedback/Peer E				
Peer Instruction				
Playing Games				
Predict, Explain, Obse				
Processing Feedback				
Ranking Tasks				
Reading for Understar				

Jigsaw Activity ◆

Description By using dynamic group configurations within a class, you allow students to first interpret information and then share what they have learned with the intent of creating a coherent

How to Run a Jigsaw Activity

1 Arrange your class into home groups consisting of five or six students.

about these partnerships.
 ! Jigsaw Activities can take a lot of preparatory work. You will need to prepare and set up several stations. You also need to think about ways to group students. This isn't a last-minute activity, so give yourself time.

Teacher A

DEMONST

Str

Differen

Fram

2 Divide your content into chunks of information. Separate it in the way that best suits your intention. Then, arrange your class into home groups, with the number of students matching the number of chunks of content.




















3 Students "break out" from their home groups into expert groups, where they work together to master their chunk of information. The number of expert groups depends on how you chose to organize your information.

5 Once students have finished completing the assignments in their expert groups, they return to their home groups.

6 Members of the home group now update the other members by sharing their expertise.

TOOLS FOR TEACHING SCIENCE:
THINK-PAIR-SHARE
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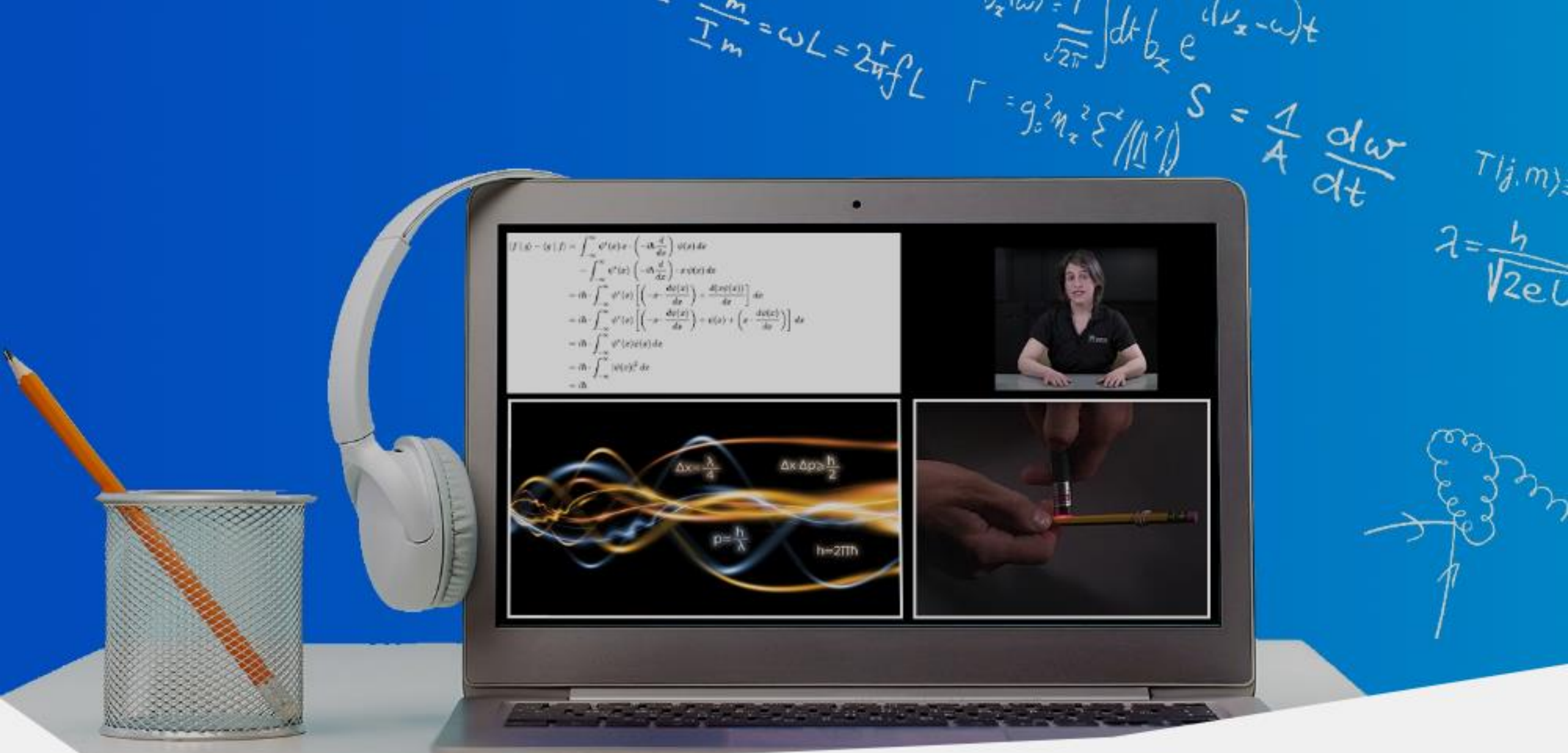
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Tool	Tool	Tool
Brainstorming	Interleaving	Intentional Retrieval
Building and Testing Models (mathematical and physical) 	Jigsaw Activity 	Interactive Demonstration/Discrepant Event
Case Studies	Know-Wonder-Learned (KWL) Chart 	Interactive Lecture 
Coding	Laboratory Investigation/Video Analysis 	Interdisciplinary Projects/Project-based Learning
Designing Games	Medicine Wheel	Snowball Activity
Digital Simulations	Muddy Cards 	Socratic Questioning 
Discussions (small group to full class)	Multiple Representations (e.g., situational diagrams, work-energy bar charts, free-body (force) diagrams, graph shapes, equations, and calculations) 	Sorting Tasks (open, closed, blended) 
Exit Tickets 	Peer Feedback/Peer Editing	Storytelling
Field Trips/Field Studies	Peer Instruction	Strong Writing/Qualitative Writing/Persuasive Writing
Fine Arts (e.g., dance, song, tableau, role playing, mural, poster making a video)	Playing Games	Student Voting (e.g., Pick a Side, Four Corners, Flippity Books, Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down) 
Gallery Walk	Predict, Explain, Observe, Explain (PEOE) 	Team Problem Solving 
Graphic Organizers (e.g., Placemats, Anchor Charts, Mind Maps) 	Processing Feedback/Self-evaluation	Think-Pair-Share (TPS)
Group Work 	Ranking Tasks	Whiteboards (i.e., non-permanent surfaces)
Hands-on Activities (not Investigations)	Reading for Understanding	Worksheets 
Hook	Research (open-ended and closed)	
Independent Work	Rich Problems/Context-rich Problems 	
Intentional Questioning 	Sharing Circle 	

Teacher Programs

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(online and in person)



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dfish@pitp.ca

$$\int_{B \rightarrow} \text{Part of } (the) \sum_{A \leftarrow} \text{action}^2$$