BLACK HOLES: The Most Extreme Laboratories of the Universe

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Artist's View of Black Hole and Companion Star GRO J1655-40

ESA, NASA and F. Mirabel (CEA)
STScI-PRC02-30

What is everything made of ? What holds it all together ?







Where did we come from? Why do we exist?





What is Particle Physics ?

Particle Physics = Study of Fundamental Laws of Nature governed by still-mysterious union of Quantum Mechanics + Spacetime

We are about to take a journey into the world of Black Holes:

They allow us to probe extreme conditions and fundamental physics
 They are influential for formation and evolution of galaxies

The last stars will die out 120 trillion years from now, followed by 10¹⁰⁶ years of just black holes.

Condensed, that's like the universe starting with 1 second of stars and then a billion billion billion billion billion billion years of just black holes.

Stars are basically the immediate after-effects of the Big Bang. A one-second sizzle of brightness before settling into eternal darkness.

We live in that one bright second.

Today's Scientific Challenge



What is Universe made of ?



Brief History of Our Universe and Physics at LHC

The big

15 thousand million years

1 thousand million years

300 thousand years

3 minutes

10⁻⁵ seconds

10⁻¹⁰ seconds

10-34 seconds

10⁻⁴³ seconds

10³² degrees

radiation

particles

quark

e electron

anti-quark

carrying

heavy particles

the weak force

10²⁷ degrees

10¹⁵ degrees

10⁹ degrees

6000 degrees

Electro-weak phase

transition (Higgs,...)

LHC studies the first 10⁻¹⁰ - 10⁻⁵ seconds...

18 degrees

QCD phase transition

(quark gluon plasma)

3 degrees K

positron (anti-electron) proton neutron meson hydrogen deuterium e helium lithium

10¹⁰ degrees

Matter Content of Our Universe → We know only 5% of it ...

✓ Dark Matter (27%) → Can be detected only from its gravitational effects

 ✓ Dark Energy (68%) → Expansion of Universe is faster than "expected" (Big-Bang + relativity)

If, in some cataclysm, all of scientific knowledge were to be destroyed, and only one sentence passed on to the next generation of creatures, what statement would contain the most information in the fewest words? | believe it is the atomic hypothesis that all things are made of atoms —little particles that move around in perpetual motion, attracting each other when they are a little distance apart, but repelling upon being squeezed into one another. In that one sentence, you will see, there is an enormous amount of information about the world, if just a little imagination and thinking are applied.

Richard Feynman

RICHARD FEYNMAN There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom (1959)



"The principles of physics do not speak against the possibility of maneuvering things atom by atom."

The Quantum World of Particle Physics

Квантовый мир физики элементарных частиц очень далек от нашего, поэтому его законы часто кажутся нам странными и контр-интуитивными. У человека существует, видимо, глубокая психологическая потребность сводить все явления окружающего мира к простым, понятным образам. Удивительный факт заключается в том, что предсказания квантовой физики подтверждены экспериментально гораздо точнее, чем классической механики и теории относительности Эйнштейна. В 1959 году величайший физик XX века Ричард Фейнман выступил с докладом «Внизу полнымполно места: приглашение в новый мир физики» («There's Plenty of Room at the Bottom: An Invitation to Enter a New Field of Physics»), где была обрисована перспектива прямого манипулирования индивидуальными атомами и фотонами. Однако реальные очертания эти идеи стали приобретать к началу 80-х, прежде всего, в связи с изобретением сканирующего туннельного микроскопа, отмеченного уже в 1986 г. Нобелевской премией. В этом мире атомы ведут себя совсем не так, как объекты макромира, поскольку они подчиняются законам квантовой физики. Наверное, эти идеи тогда и самому Фейнману казались слишком смелыми, но сегодня квантовые сенсоры, универсальные квантовые компьютеры, квантовые коммуникации (криптография) и даже квантовая телепортация (передача квантового состояния частицы из одного места в другое, без использования прямого переноса квантовой частицы в пространстве) постепенно приоткрывают дверь в нашу жизнь. Это должно стать краеугольным камнем для технологий квантовой связи. При этом конфиденциальность информации, передаваемой с помощью квантовых коммуникаций, гарантируется фундаментальными законами физики. Пока это фантастика... Возможно, фантастикой это останется совсем недолго...

5* Scientific Discoveries of the Last Decade In Fundamental Physics

✓ Higgs Boson
 ✓ Gravitational Waves
 ✓ Black Hole Event Horizon

Image Credit: National Geographic

I. Higgs Discovery at Large Hadron Collider @ CERN (2012)

"As a layman I would now say... I think we have it – It is a Discovery" (Rolf-Dieter Heuer, CERN DG)



Both ATLAS and CMS Collaborations have reported observation of a narrow resonance ~ 125 GeV consistent with long-sought Higgs boson

What did we know on that day: it is most probably "A HIGGS BOSON" → had to establish if it is "THE HIGGS BOSON" of the Standard Model

Abour 50 years and Billion(s) of Dollars – The "God Particle" is no Longer a Theory



THE HIGGS BOSON FINAL PIECE IN THE PUZZLE?

...but there must be a deeper relationship between Higgs / mass / gravity / dark energy

Determine Higgs properties as precisely as possible to address fundamentl questions:

... is it "THE Higgs Boson" (of the Standard Model) ? or one of several ?

... its properties could give information on Dark Matter

... its properties could give first hints on Dark Energy

2000x: Fear and Loathing... Are They Going to End the World?



https://www.forbes.com/sites/startswitha bang/2016/03/11/could-the-lhc-make-anearth-killing-black-hole/#2fe64fd02ed5 Has the new CERN project – the LHC - the potential to create a black hole that swallows our planet earth?

Micro black holes @ LHC: Mass: $M_{BH} \sim 1000 M_{proton}$ Size: $10^{-18} m$ Temperature: $10^{16} K$ Lifetime: $10^{-27} s$



Large Extra Dimensions – A Little Bit of History ...

- Once upon a time (1921), Theodor Kaluza in the hope of unifying gravitation and electromagnetism extended general relativity by including the U(1) symmetry of electromagnetism by adding a 4th spatial dimension.
- In 1926, Oskar Klein proposed that the fourth spatial dimension is curled up (compactified) in a circle of very small radius "R", therefore a particle moving a short distance along that axis would return where it began.



- In the 1970's and 1980's there's been renewed interest in (multiple) extra dimensions: SUSY and string theory.
- From 1998 onwards, new models have surfaced (ADD, RS, etc.) which address the hierarchy problem by exploiting the geometry of spacetime.



Gravity is automatically included in string theory; there is a vibration mode with the properties of the graviton.

One Day at CERN in 2035 ...

complicated

evaporate and emit particles

Complicated Briefly this idea states that spacetime near a hank hold is not a classical vacuum field for the spacetime of the Brienty this idea states that spacetime near a classical vacuum. Energy black hole is not a classical vacuum. Energy antinartirla naire a black hole creates particle. Nuctuations near a black hole creates particle pairs among which the antiparticle with negative energy enter the hlack hole which the antiparticle

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evaporate and emit particles. This phenomena was finally observed in CERN

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arter 33 Years of its proposal in an experiment which created miniature black holes through high anaray aratan anliciane the holes through

Which created miniature black holes through decaved immediately after these black holes through high energy proton collisions. These black holes decayed immediately after their production emitting a snectrum of high multinlicity of

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Ultimate speed in Universe black noies are objects from which no escape is noies are una una commutator changed by a special commutator of the second seco objects from which no escape is possible. However this laca was completely changed by a 1975 which suggested that hlack holes out revolutionary paper by Hawking published in anit radiation via a black holes could Direct exp coming from the temperature of black that spacetime has more four dimensions (length, . height and time) that we perceive n. In recent years, many theoretical assumptions predicted the possibility for the existence of extra dimensions in spacetime, but till now these extra dimensions were not observed since firstly they open up at only very small

distance scales and secondly, the

CAMBRIDGE, 17 November: The Sweedish CAINBRIDGE, LI November: The Sweedsh Royal Academy has announced that the Nobel Drira in Dhursing for this waar will on the Nobel

Royal Academy has announced that the Nobel University of the the Nobel University of the the Nobel University of the the Nobel International Stephan W. Price in Physics for this year will go to stephan will so to stephan will so to stephan will so to stephan within here which is also named "Hawking" Hawking for his theory of particle creation by radiation" after its founder Hawking's theory of the black holes, which is also hamed "Hawking hlark hole derav wie hrowed is also hamed "Hawking" hlark hole derav wie hrowed theory of recently hv the radiation" atter its founder. Hawking"s theory of fammus hlack hole decay was proved recently by the hole nrndurting avgarities theory of the the start the start black hole decay was proved recently by the famous black hole production experiment at the famous black hole production experiment at the Content of Collider (LHC) of CERN (European

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experimentally at CERN after 34 years.

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News

II. Gravitational Waves – LIGO Observatory (2016)



Gravitational Waves Encode Dynamics of Massive Objects

- MBHs are found at the centers of most galaxies
- Most galaxies merge one or more times -> Massive Black Hole (MBH) binaries*
- Final merger of MBHs occurs in the arena of very strong gravity (strong GW sources)
- Observing gravitational waves allows direct tests of GR and probe early stages of structure formation:
 - Requires numerical relativity to calculate dynamics & waveforms
 Waveforms scale w/ masses, spins -> apply to ground-based & LISA





III. M87 Black Hole – Event Horizon Telescope (2019)



Event Horizon Telescope (EHT)

8 telescope array at radio frequency around the Earth



Event Horizon Telescope Array To get a good look at the light show coming from our galaxy's black hole, autonomers will combine the data from telescopes the world over. Here's a sample of the dozen telescopes that

may one day be part of the Event Horizon Telescope.

CSO The Caltech Submillimete Observatory 10.4-mater telescope on Mouna Kea, Nawali

> The Submillimeter Array 8 antennas on Mauna Kea, Hawaii

ARO/SMT The Arizona Radio

Observatory's Submillimeter Tolescope 10-meter telescope near Safford, Artz. The Institute for Radio Astronomy In the Millimater range's 30M scope 30-meter telescope on Pico Veleta, Spain

CARMA The Combined wray for Research Millimeter. Wave Astronomy 15 antenna: near Bishop, Calif.

ALMA

he Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array 5 antennas on the Chajnantor plain of Chile

Atacama Pathfinder EXperiment 12-meter telescop on the Chajnanto olain of Chile

EHT: What the Real Image of Black Hole is (M87)?

Watch the history and the importance of the M87 black hole picture: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omz77qrDjsU

Image of the supermassive black hole at the center of the elliptical galaxy M87, for four different days.



- It was found in a galaxy called M87 and is larger than the size of our entire Solar System.
- The black hole is **500 million trillion km away** and it was captured by the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), a network of eight linked telescopes around the world.
- "It has a mass 6.5 billion times that of the Sun. And it is one of the heaviest black holes that we think exists. It is an absolute monster, the heavy weight champion of black holes in the Universe"

EHT: What the Real Image of Black Hole is (M87)?

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Einstein's General Theory of Relativity Warping of Spacetime Produces the Effects of Gravitational Force

- ✓ Space-time gets curved by masses (mass distorts space). Objects traveling in curved space-time have their paths deflected, as if a force has acted on them.
- "Curvature" of time means that the time flows with a different rate in different points in space



Objects and light moving near the massive object are forced to take a curved path around the object. (Just like the Moon orbiting Earth).



"Matter tells spacetime how to bend and spacetime returns the compliment by telling matter how to move."

A. Einstein (1915): Spacetime is an active player: curves, expands, shrinks, ...

 Aristotle: there are absolute space and absolute time. There is absolute rest different from motion for all observers.

 Galileo-Newton: there are absolute space and absolute time. Motion and rest are relative to an observer. Laws of physics are the same for all uniformly moving observers. Acceleration is absolute.

 Einstein (Special relativity): space and time are relative to an observer. Laws of physics are the same for all uniformly moving observers. Spacetime is a fixed flat background.

✓ Einstein (General relativity):

→ ALL kinds of motion are unified, including accelerated motion
 → Gravity and acceleration are unified and depend on the observer
 → Space-time is not a fixed background anymore. Space-time and matter interact with each other and affect each other.

$$\mathbf{G} = 8\pi\mathbf{T}$$

Describes curvature of space-time

Mass-energy density of matter

Thinking in Terms of Einstein's Theory of General Relativity

- Newton's gravity works well

in most situations (planetary orbits, binary stars) but fails when: → Gravity becomes extremely intense

→ Large masses move rapidly.

 \rightarrow Light is effected by a large mass.

- Einstein's theory says

that the presence of matter warps space and time. Gravity is replaced by warping of space-time.



• GR remains one of the most accurate theories in physics:

- Precession of the perihelion of Mercury
- Light will be bent when passing near large objects
- Time will slow down near a large mass
- Gravitational redshift of light
- Gravitational Waves
- Massive objects will collapse to a singularity (black hole)
 A existence of Black Hole Event Horizon (no one believed in 1915)

Gravitational Lensing is Now a Tool

Gravitational lens - gravity can bend light around a very heavy obstacle (triumph of GR)



Lensing Galaxy



Can be used to estimate the mass of intermediate galaxy





Gravity's Final Victory

Black holes are the evolutionary endpoints of stars at least 10 to 15 times as massive as the Sun.

- ✓ A star more massive than about 18 M_{sun} leaves behind a core larger than 3 M_{sun}
- Neutron degeneracy pressure fails
- Nothing can stop its gravitational collapse.
- Core collapses to a singularity: → zero radius → infinite density
- \checkmark Near the singularity gravity is so strong that not even light can escape.



White Dwarf

Electrons run out of room to move around. Electrons prevent further collapse. Protons & neutrons still free to move around.

Stronger gravity => more compact.



out of room to move around. Neutrons prevent further collapse. Much smaller!

GRAVITY

Neutron Star

Electrons + protons combine

to form neutrons. Neutrons run

Black Hole Gravity wins!

Mass > 3 solar masses

GRAVITY

Nothing prevents collapse.

Hubble image of a supermassive black hole

Photo of the Hubble Space Telescope

Black Hole: A Theoretical Definition (I)

A black hole is a region of space-time from which nothing can escape, even light:

- A black hole is a true "hole" in space: Anything that crosses the edge of the hole - called the "event horizon" - is swallowed forever
- As you get closer to a black hole, the flow of time slows down, compared to flow of time far from the hole.
- At the event horizon, time actually appears to stop. An object falling into the hole would appear frozen in time at the edge of the black hole!
- Our laws of physics break down at the very center of the black hole. Time itself seems to come to an abrupt end there. For this reason, a black hole is sometimes described as the "reverse of creation."
- Einstein's theory of gravity allows the possibility of a black hole forming a link - or wormhole - to another universe, or another part of our universe.

Spacetime should be distorted into an infinite well by a dense black hole





Black Hole: A Theoretical Definition (II)

- The black hole is surrounded by an <u>"event horizon"</u> which is the sphere from which light cannot escape;
- The distance between the black hole and its event horizon is the <u>Schwarzschild radius (R_{Sch}= 2GM/c²);</u>
- The center of the black hole is a point of infinite density and zero volume, called a <u>singularity;</u>
- ✓ The "event horizon" hides the singularity from the outside universe:
 → Events occurring inside are
 - invisible to the outside universe.
 - Anything closer to the singularity can never leave the black hole
 - The important thing is this area can be of any size;





Some Unresolved Problems: What is the Singularity



General relativity breaks down at Planck scale:



$$l_p = \sqrt{\frac{G\hbar}{c^3}} \sim 1.6 \times 10^{-35} \,\mathrm{m}$$

Singularities Clothed and Naked

The singularity is the point of infinite density thought to exist at the center of a black hole. We have no way of understanding what would happen in the vicinity of a singularity, since in essence nature divides our equations by zero at such a point. There is an hypothesis, called the "Law of Cosmic Censorship" that all singularities in the Universe are contained inside event horizons and therefore are in principle not observable (because no information about the singularity can make it past the event horizon to the outside world). However, this is an hypothesis, not proven, so it is conceivable that socalled "Naked Singularities" might exist, not clothed by an event horizon.

Black Holes: "Where God Divided by Zero"

Recipe for a black hole:

Just squeeze a body of mass M below its Schwarzschild's radius

TABLE 11-1

The Schwarzschild Radius

	Mass (M_{\odot})	R _s
Star	10	30 km
Star	3	9 km
Star	2	6 km
Sun	1	3 km
Earth	0.00003	0.9 cm

@ 2004 Thomson/Brooks Cold

Schwazschild radius

 $r_s = 2GM_{WM/BH}/c^3$

GRAVITATIONAL COLLAPSE AND SPACE-TIME SINGULARITIES

Roger Penrose Department of Mathematics, Birkbeck College, London, England (Received 18 December 1964)

(This paper is only 2.5 pages long!!)

Geometry of the spacetime near a BH can be found by solving Einstein's equations for different conditions (spin, charge):

$$\mathsf{R}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}\mathsf{R}\mathsf{g}_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi\mathsf{G}\mathsf{T}_{\mu\nu}$$

Gravitational Redshift of Light



Photons always travel at the speed of light, but they lose energy when traveling out of a gravitational field and appear to be **redder** to an external observer. The stronger the gravitational field, the more energy the photons lose because of this **gravitational redshift.** The extreme case is for photons emitted at event horizon of black hole, gravitational redshift is infinite. The observed frequency is zero, i.e. the **photons loose all their energy are never observed**.

A Plunge into a Black Hole

Modern physics has two basic sets of laws for the universe:

- → General relativity -- macro-scale
- Quantum field theory -- micro-scale
- ✓ The two are <u>not</u> compatible!
- Most problems fall into one category only.

Black holes need both:

- → micro-size and macro-mass
- → the study of black holes helps understand how to combine the two theories.
- Black holes are "simple" objects their structure is defined by three parameters:
 Mass (as measured by the black hole's effect on orbiting bodies, such as another star)
 - Total electric charge (as measured by the strength of the electric force)
 - Spin = angular momentum (how fast the black hole is spinning)
- ✓ Black holes have no hair → All event horizons are spherical, no matter what the mass looked like before collapse
- Black holes have no magnetic field (internal).
- Black holes have entropy (a measure of disorder) that is proportional to the size of the event horizon.

✓ Black holes have a temperature → black body (The heavier a BH, the cooler it is!)

Evaporating Black Holes

BHs can decay via a quantum mechanical process near event horizon of a BH

- ✓ Black Holes evaporate slowly by emitting "Hawking radiation" → particles falling into the BH have negative energy, BH looses mass and energy is conserved.
- The smaller the mass, the faster the evaporation
- ✓ Hawking radiation is equivalent to black body radiation → Each particle carries off a little of the black hole's mass
- Most properties of matter vanish when matter enters a black hole, such as chemical composition, texture, color, shape, size, distinctions between protons and electrons, etc

1. Pairs of virtual particles spontaneously appear and annihilate everywhere in the universe.

2. If a pair appears just outside a black hole's event horizon, tidal forces can pull the pair apart, preventing them from annihilating each other.



energy away from the black hole.

- Questions Remain about Black Holes:
 - Is the information that falls into a Black Hole lost forever? → this contradicts the laws of quantum mechanics, and scientists have been trying to deal with this paradox for decades)
 - What is inside a black hole?
 - Can wormholes be produced to travel in time and/or space?

Black Hole Galore



NASA/CXC/MIT/F.K.Baganoff et al.



NASA/CXC/U.Amsterdam/S.Migliari et al.

NASA/UMD/A.Wilson et al.

NASA/CXC/SAO/H.Marshall et al.

X-ray: NASA/CXC/MIT/UCSB/P. Ogle et al. Optical: NASA/STScI/A.Capetti et al

From the formation of galaxies to the deaths of stars, black holes are an integral part of our universe's history.

A Galaxy Full of Black Holes

There are 200 billion stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way

There are also millions of black holes

Including one giant black hole at the very center.

How have we survived?

So How Do we Survive amid All These Black Holes ?

Great distances between the stars

Everything is orbiting fast enough!

M74 Photo Credit: NOAO

Sun's orbit >

Far away from a black hole:

- Gravity is the same as for a star of the same mass.
- If the Sun became a Black Hole, all the planets would continue in the same orbits. It would however be darker and MUCH colder

Close to a black hole:

 $-R < 3 R_{s}$, there are no stable orbits - all matter eventually gets sucked in.

What a Strange Object a Black Hole is ?

We cannot see black holes directly, but their influence on the matter around them reveals their presence.

Black holes

Singularity: the very centre of a black hole where matter has collapsed in a region of infinite density **Relativistic jet:** when stars are absorbed by black holes, jets of particles and radiation are blasted out at near light speed

Photon sphere:

photons emitted from hot plasma near the black hole which bends their trajectory producing a bright ring Accretion disc

of superheated gas and dust whirls around black hole at immense speeds, producing electromagnetic radiation (x-rays)

Event horizon:

the radius around a singularity where matter and energy cannot escape the black hole's gravity. The point of no return.

AFP PHOTO / NASA / JPL-Caltech Artist rendering Source: eventhorizontelescope.org

Black Holes as Laboratories of Fundamental Physics



Binary Systems with one Black hole and visible Orbits depend on masses of giant star orbit around a center of mass : two obejects:

 Motion of visible companion betrays black hole:

→ Kepler's 3rd law ⇒ total mass of the system;

If the mass of the unseen object is too big for a neutron star or a white dwarf, then it is very likely a black hole!



Black Holes: X-Ray Emission

- Visible star in a binary system loses some of its gas to the black hole
 Gas material forms an accretion disk as it spirals onto the black hole
 - Material in Disk gains energy as it falls into black hole:

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- Gravitational energy is converted into kinetic energy (up to 40% of the mass of infalling material is converted into energy)
 - Gas particles in the disk rub against each and heat up from friction (up to 10⁷ K)
 - Near event horizon, emitting thermal radiation peaking in X-Ray

Black Hole are efficient « Power Factories » when they accrete!



Radio Jets from Black Holes

Radio tells us about motions of particles in magnetic fields:

MANY BLACK HOLES EMIT JETS:

 Magnetic fields surrounding the black hole produce spectacular jets of highenergy particles (B-field comes from the disk of hot gas around the BH, and not BH itself)

 Material in jet moving at 0.9c.

 Jet likely composed of electrons and positrons.

Interaction of jet material with magnetic field gives rise to Radio emission. Optical image of Cen A

But it is also a strong X-ray emitter, and has an X-ray jet.

Magnetic field from surrounding disk funnels material into the jet

Cen A is known to be a peculiar galaxy with strong radio emission.



Chandra image of Con A

How Do We Know Black Hole is There ?

Jets of glowing gas

Hot material falling into the black hole.

"Weird" motions of objects nearby

"Weird" motions of objects nearby

10 light days

Hot material falling into the black hole.

20 light daya 52 4 SgrA# 53 51

Jets of glowing gas

1992

One month

Where do Black Holes Come From ?



Primordial – can be any size, including very small (If <1014 g, they would still exist) → cannot be described only with GR,because they emit Hawking radiation and evaporate</p>

Stellar-mass" black holes – must be at least 3 Mo to 20 Mo (~1034 g) – many examples are known

- Mid-mass black holes range from 100 to 1000 Mo located in normal galaxies – many seen
- Massive black holes about 106 Mo such as in the center of the Milky Way many seen
- Supermassive black holes about 109-10 Mo located in Active Galactic Nuclei, often accompanied by jets – many seen

Where do Supermassive Black Holes Come From ?

- Cores of many other galaxies show compact objects in the centers and accretion disks with possible black holes ;
- Following the orbits of individual stars near the center of the Milky Way, the mass of the central BH is ~ 2.6 million solar masses;
- We don't know which comes first, the galaxy or the black hole

Super-Massive Black Hole Theories:

- From "Lumps" in the early universe (lumps in early Universe could have formed and of matter dense enough that a black hole formed)
 - The "Stellar Seed" Model (giant black hole could result in an initial "stellar seed" of 10 mass of sun produced during a supernova)
 - Collapse of a whole star cluster (stars from a tight cluster in early Universe could form a few Black Holes, causing smaller stars to be absorbed, and black holes to combine)



Our solar system is ha

Sgr A'

Orbit o

star Si

1 light day

Core of Galaxy NGC 426I

Hubble Space Telescope Wide Field / Planetary Camera

Ground-Based Optical/Radio Image



380 Arc Seconds 88 000 LIGHTVEARS HST image of a Gas and Dust Disk.



17 Arc Seconds

Where do <u>Stellar-mass Black Holes</u> Come From ?

- Stellar-mass black holes are made when a massive star, manty (3 20) times the mass of our Sun, dies
- Most of the star's atmosphere is blown into space as a supernova explosion.
- The star's spent core collapses under its own weight.
- If the remaining mass is more than the mass of 3 Suns, it will collapse into a black hole.



Credit: European Southern Observatory



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Stellar-mass BHs

- Masses: \sim 3-100 M_{sun}
- Originated from collapses of massive stars
- Distributed within galaxies
- Shine in X-ray when accreting from a companion star X-ray binary



SMBHs

- Masses: $\sim 10^6$ - $10^{10} M_{sun}$
- Origin???
- Located at the center of galaxies
- Shine in optical/UV when accreting materials near the galactic centers -- AGN

Where do Mid-Mass Black Holes Come From ?



 Black Holes with masses a few hundred to a few thousand times the mass of the sun have been found outside the central regions of a number of galaxies

Often found in Starburst galaxies (in centers of large, dense star clusters)

May be precursors to Active Galaxies

Star cluster, called M15, in our Galaxy:

A New Golden Age for Gravitation



Two orbiting black holes



Gravitational wave detection (interferometer):



Credit: (LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration) Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 061102

- Gravitational physics is entering a new golden age
- A wealth of data, from gravitational waves to EHT observations, is opening new doors for potential discoveries.
- In the coming years, especially with LISA and 3G detectors, we will be doing "precision gravitational-wave physics".
- Plenty of room for unexpected discoveries



Credit: Event Horizon Telescope collaboration