

1a. Gravitational size of a Black Hole

We can use energy conservation to find the size of a black hole. K = kinetic energy, U = potential energy. Find the escape velocity v from an object with mass M and radius R :

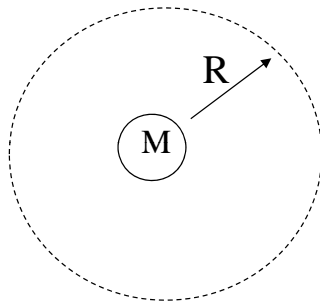
$$K_{\text{initial}} + U_{\text{initial}} = K_{\text{final}} + U_{\text{final}}$$
$$\frac{1}{2} mv^2 - GmM/R = 0 + 0$$

Solve for $v^2 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$



1b. Gravitational size of a Black Hole

For a black hole with mass M , the escape velocity $v=c$ at the event horizon R = Schwarzschild radius



Find R in terms of G , M , and c .

(The exact GR calculation yields $R/2$ of the classical value we just derived.)

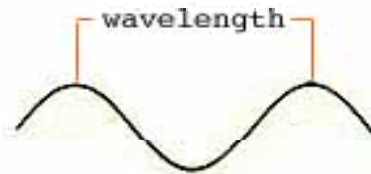
2. Quantum Mechanical size of a Black Hole

Energy E of photon \rightarrow wavelength λ of particle

$$E = \frac{hc}{\lambda} = pc \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{momentum } p = Mc = \frac{h}{\lambda}$$

Solve for wavelength λ in terms of M, c, h :

$$\lambda = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$



The deBroglie wavelength, λ , describes the smallest region of space in which a particle (or a black hole) of mass M can be localized, according to Quantum Mechanics.

3. Find the Planck mass, M_p

Schwartzschild radius = deBroglie wavelength

$$R_{\text{gravity}} = \lambda_{\text{quantum}}$$

$$\frac{GM_p}{c^2} = \frac{h}{M_p c}$$

Solve for the Planck mass:

$$M_p^2 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

If a black hole had a mass less than the Planck mass M_p , its quantum-mechanical size could be outside its event horizon. This wouldn't make sense, so M_p is the smallest possible black hole.

4. Find the Planck length, L_p

Substitute your Planck mass, $M_p = \sqrt{hc/G}$, into either R or λ :

$$R = \frac{GM_p}{c^2} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{M_p c} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

These both yield the Planck length, L_p . Any black hole smaller than this could have its singularity outside its event horizon. That wouldn't make sense, so L_p is the smallest possible black hole we can describe with both QM and GR, our current theory of gravity.

5. Calculate the Planck length and mass

Use these fundamental constants:

$$h \approx 6 \times 10^{-34} \frac{\text{kg m}^2}{\text{s}}, \quad c \approx 3 \times 10^8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}, \quad G \approx \frac{20}{3} \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{m}^3}{\text{kg s}^2}$$

to evaluate the Planck mass, $M_p = \sqrt{\frac{hc}{G}} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

and the Planck length $L_p = \frac{GM_p}{c^2} = \underline{\hspace{4cm}}$

These are smallest scales we can describe with both QM and GR.

6. Calculate the Planck time

Consider the time it would take for light to cross the Planck length:

$$\text{Speed} = \text{distance} / \text{time}$$

$$c = L_p / \tau_p$$

Solve for the Planck time τ_p :