

The line element for a Schwarzschild black hole takes the form:

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

All orbits can be assumed to lie in the equatorial plane ( $\theta = \pi/2$ ).

### 1. SATELLITE ORBITS

- (a) Find the speed of a satellite orbiting a Schwarzschild black hole at constant radius  $r = 6m$ , as measured by a stationary (“shell”) observer at that radius.
- (b) Is a circular orbit at  $r = \frac{5}{2}m$  possible?
- (c) Determine the smallest radius at which a circular orbit is possible, and the (shell) speed of a satellite in such an orbit

### 2. NULL ORBITS

Imagine a beam of light in orbit around a Schwarzschild black hole at constant radius.

- (a) How fast would a shell observer think the beam of light is traveling?  
*Your answer must be supported by an explicit computation!*
- (b) How fast would an observer far away think the beam of light is traveling?  
*Recall that observers far away believe that  $t$  and  $r$  have their usual properties from special relativity. They are not really “observers” so much as “bookkeepers”.*
- (c) At what value(s) of  $r$ , if any, is such an orbit possible?