

Just out of curiosity, you may like to try the following experiment in the sociology of physics.

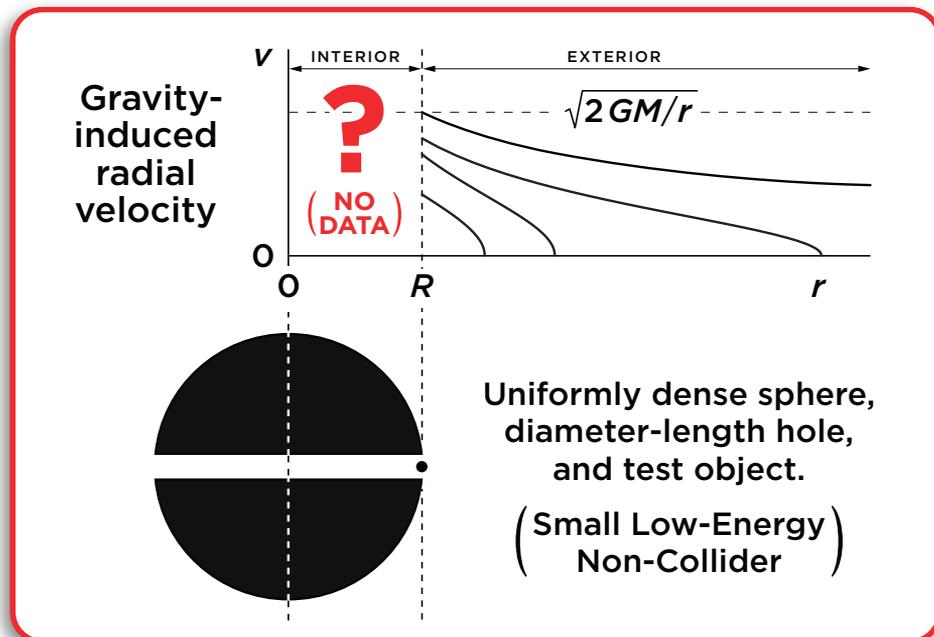
→ **START**
BY ASKING



Can anyone in your local

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

tell you where to **FIND the DATA** to complete the interior region of this graph concerning the basics of gravity?



YOU WILL FIND THE ANSWER TO BE



NO, because the experiment needed to fill in the missing data has not yet been done.

THE OBVIOUS FOLLOW-UP QUESTION BECOMES

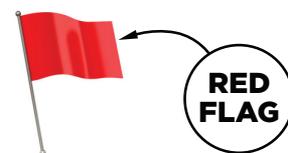


Why doesn't someone in the local Physics Department **DO** the experiment? That is, why don't they build and operate a Small Low-Energy Non-Collider?

STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT THE MAJORITY OF PHYSICISTS WILL RESPOND SOMETHING LIKE THIS



"We already know how to complete the graph for this experiment without actually *DOING* the experiment."



AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE WOULD BE



Isn't that **CHEATING** on the empirical ideals of science? Isn't **GUESSING** by extrapolation an unacceptable substitute for real physical data?

In the sequel, be especially alert for behavior related to: evasion, appeal to popular beliefs or authorities, condescension, arrogance, self-image, group-image, defensiveness, excuses concerning funding, apathy, equivocation, and thinly-veiled embarrassment

The rarest, and so far unobtained response, is that the queried physicist candidly **echoes your curiosity** about the physical question at hand.

What exactly happens to the falling test mass? If you get a response to the effect: *"Hey! Yeah, it looks like we've missed a spot. We've never actually OBSERVED what happens. Let's take care of that right away. Small Low-Energy Non-Collider... the sooner the better!"* then you'll have hit the jackpot. You may then celebrate with exuberant joy and anticipation at the prospect of at last filling a large outstanding gap in our empirical knowledge of gravity

GOOD LUCK!