

Of funnels, rivers, and trampolines: the perils of conveying spacetime curvature to the ininitiated

Roberto Emparan^{a,b}

^a*Departament de Física Quàntica i Astrofísica, Institut de Ciències del Cosmos,
Universitat de Barcelona, Martí i Franquès 1, E-08028 Barcelona, Spain*

^b*Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats (ICREA)
Passeig Lluís Companys 23, E-08010 Barcelona, Spain*

emparan@ub.edu

Abstract

How can we effectively convey the notion of the curvature of space (and even harder, the curvature of time) to lay audiences in a manner that is direct, clear, engaging, and not too inaccurate? I will share my experience in doing this—what works best, and what I won't try again—in a variety of media: talks, press, radio, and full-length book.