

The Laws of Asshole Mechanics

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Alain Connes once told me his secret for enduring yet another talk on black holes, when he had seen them all, heard them all, and they had begun to blend all into one long tedium. Substitute everywhere for ‘black hole’ the word ‘asshole’, and the talk will become, from a barren chore, an amusing edification, for all the propositions will be thereby transformed into truer assertions, strongly confirmed by direct and extensive experimentation (unlike the Laws of Black Hole Mechanics).

1. Once one falls into the sphere of influence of an asshole, there is no escape.
2. The region of spacetime assholes encompass only ever increases.
3. It is impossible, by any physical process, to reduce the effect of assholes to zero.
4. All assholes are essentially the same on the outside, no matter the fine details of their inner constitution.
5. One cannot make an asshole not be an asshole.
6. Once an asshole gets hold of information, it is forever lost.

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