

PLEASE POST

Physics Department Seminar

Friday February 16th, 2001

11:00am in PhSc 105

“Teaching General Relativity in High School

Space is Like Taffy: Stretchy and Delicious”

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Abstract:

At the high school level, the tensor formalism must be studiously avoided! Instead, we must start from something more tangible, such as our early historical attempts at understanding the Principle of Least Action. From here the concept of the spacetime geodesic can be developed and extended until the gravitational lens can be understood. I will present two demonstrations, and audience-participation activity, and even, color overheads (think: Bloom's Taxonomy). The approach will be pedagogical in nature, with emphasis in introductory physics.