

SCHWARZSCHILD RADIUS

This can be obtained by equating the Newtonian escape speed v_N to the speed of light c . To obtain v_N set the initial kinetic energy $KE = \frac{1}{2}mv_N^2$ of a mass m equal to the change in potential energy $PE = GMm/R_s$ in going from a distance R_s (the Schwarzschild radius) to an infinite distance away from a mass M :

$$\frac{1}{2}mv_N^2 = \frac{1}{2}mc^2 = GMm/R_s \Rightarrow R_s = 2GM / c^2. \quad (1)$$

The term $\frac{1}{2}mc^2$ is not relativistic because of the Newtonian derivation. Nevertheless eq. (1) is the same as the general relativity (GR) result(!).

The Schwarzschild radius for a Planck mass $m_p = (\hbar c / G)^{1/2}$ is $R_s = (2Gm_p / c^2)$
 $= 2(\hbar G / c^3)^{1/2}$, twice the Planck length.