

42nd SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) – The  
Next Steps (A4)  
SETI 2: SETI and Society (2)

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BLACK HOLES: ATTRACTORS FOR INTELLIGENCE?

**Abstract**

The Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) has so far been unsuccessful and demands additional methods. To achieve this, we introduce a two-dimensional metric for civilizational development, using the Kardashev scale of energy use and the Barrow scale of inward manipulation. We advance energetic, societal, scientific, computational, and philosophical arguments that black holes are attractors for intelligence. An application of the two-dimensional metric leads to a simple, consistent and observable hypothesis to test the existence of very advanced civilizations. We suggest that some already observed X-Ray Binaries may be unnoticed advanced civilizations, scoring high on both the Kardashev and Barrowscales. The appendix provides an argumentative map of the paper's main thesis.