## Gravity and gravitational waves

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#### 1687 AD

#### PHILOSOPHIÆ NATURALIS PRINCIPIA MATHEMATICA.

A U C T O R E ISAACO NEWTONO, Eq. Aur.

Editio tertia aucta & emendata.

LONDINI. Apud GUIL, & JOH, INNYS, Regiæ Societatis typographos. MDCCXXVI.





Kepler 1571-1630







#### Gravitational waves

- Solution of Einstein's linearized equations
- Transverse waves
- Two polarizations



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Fig. 1.1 The deformation of a ring of test masses due to the + and  $\times$  polarization.

#### The controversy: are GWs real?

- 1920s: Einstein, Rosen, Eddington ("conversations" with Schwarzschild, Born) -- NO
- 1930s: Robertson (referee for PRD who criticised Einstein's paper), Infeld -- YES
- 1956: Pirani -- YES
- 1957: Chapel Hill conference
  - New institute, directed by Bryan DeWitt
  - Inaugural conference
  - Feynmann's sticky bead argument
- 1960: Joe Weber, ideas for detection



Babson 1875-1967

#### Resonant bar detectors

- Joe Weber 1960s
- Many followed in the 60s, 70s, 80s
- Cryogenic detectors
  - Stanford and LSU
  - Rome and CERN
  - U. Western Australia
  - Legnaro
  - Maryland
  - Moskow State U.
  - U. Maryland



#### Interferometers: principle of detection





#### VIRGO

• Failure of conclusive observations with bars



- Late 1970s: Brillet
- 1984: Hulse & Taylor observations
- 1985: Giazotto and Brillet meet at MG meeting in Rome
- 1989: Virgo proposal submitted to CNRS and INFN
- 1993/1994: Project approved
- 2000 EGO was created

## LIGO

- Failure of conclusive observations with bars
- R. Weiss, "Electromagnetically Coupled Broadband Gravitational Antenna", in MIT Research Lab of Electronics Quarterly Progress Report no. 105, April 1972
- 1975 Weiss and Thorne share a hotel room: shortly after, a GW experimental group was established at Caltech
- 1984: Hulse & Taylor observations
- R. E. Vogt, R. W. P. Drever, K. S. Thorne, F. J. Raab and R. Weiss (Caltech & MIT), "Construction, operation, and supporting research and development of a Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory", proposal to NSF, 1989. Approved in 1990.
- NSF started funding LIGO in 1992
- LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC) was born in late 90s.

#### Laser Interferometer GW Observatory

#### H1: Hanford, WA







#### The initial detectors



#### What signals may be detectable ?

## time scales of ms to s, compact objects, high accelerations:



- from inspiraling compact objects
- bursts , typically arising from catastrophic events
- continuous quasi-periodic waves
- stochastic background of gravitational radiation





#### **Scrambling in September 2015**

- Both LIGO detectors were operating pretty well by late August, when Engineering Run 8 began
- Observing run O1 was scheduled to begin on Sept 14 at 15:00 UTC
- Still lots of details to transition to observing:
  - Calibration studies
  - Real-time data stream production
  - Hardware signal injection tests
  - Low-latency data analysis automation and testing
  - Event candidate alerts and rapid response procedures
  - Environmental noise coupling studies
- On Sept 11, start of O1 was delayed to Sept 18
- Calibration stable and well-measured by Sept 12, still working on some of the other things...

#### signal arrived at 9:50 UTC, 11:50 in Hannover, spotted ~ immediately



#### GW150914



#### GW150914





## GW170817

Next session: M. Branchesi's C. Kopper E. Troja C. Fryer H. Van Eerten

Friday: A. Corsi P. Ubertini



#### The yet-to-be seen

#### Stochastic background

#### Persistent GW signal



## Next generation: down in the ground





... and LISA up in the sky

@18:15 today Rita Dolesi



# **GRAVITATIONAL WAVES:** NEW ERA OF ASTRONOMY BEGINS.

V. Fafone's talk, next

## Thank you!