

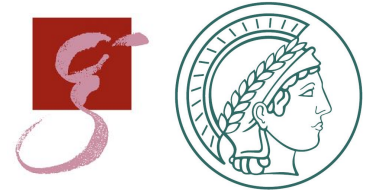
# WG3: Fundamental problems in high energy and gravitational physics



David Keitel, Elisa Maggio

[Universitat de les Illes Balears]

[Max Planck Institute for  
Gravitational Physics (AEI) Potsdam]



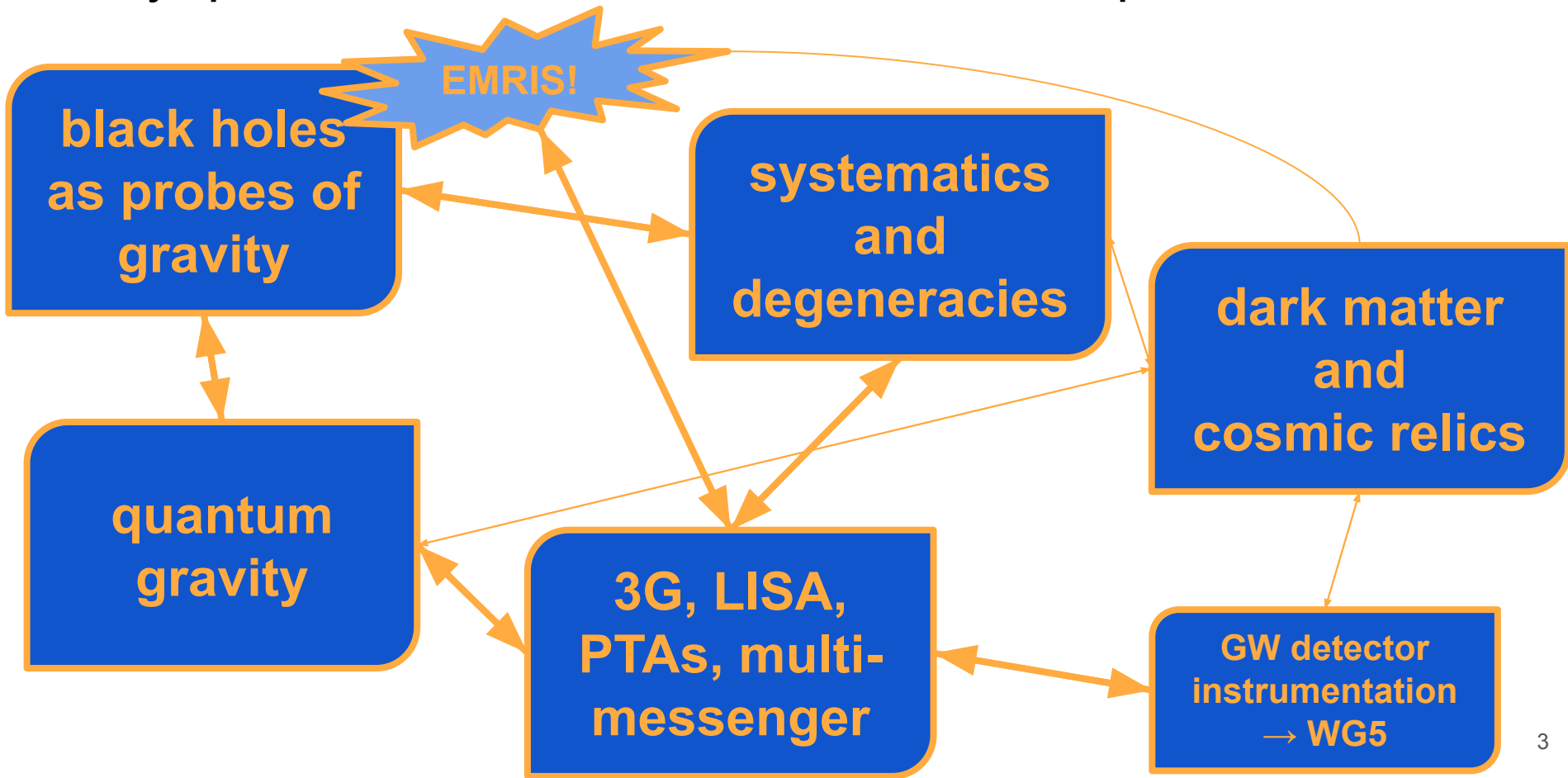
Bottom-Up Cross-Cutting Workshop  
“JENAS Initiative Gravitational Wave Probes of Fundamental Physics”  
(Rome, 13/02/2024)

<https://agenda.infn.it/event/37487>

# scope: WG3 vs the world?

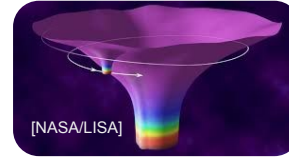
- title of the overall initiative and “workshop:  
“Gravitational Wave *Probes of Fundamental Physics*”
- WG3: “*Fundamental problems* in high energy and gravitational physics”
- Obviously this does not mean that any of the problems discussed in the other 4 WGs are any less “fundamental”! :-)
- We’ll treat this a bit as the “misc” section of the workshop.
- But mainly guided by the 29 WG3 submissions in ["key questions" spreadsheet](#)  
→ let’s try to get these sorted a bit...

# “key questions” from the JENAS initiative spreadsheet



# “key questions”: BHs as probes of gravity

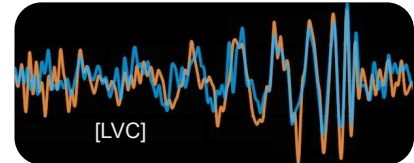
- Tests of BH thermodynamics by GW-BBH observations
- What is the event horizon of a black hole like and how to probe it with gravitational waves?
- Scattering amplitudes and GWs: up to where?
- How does the quantum nature of black holes impact gravitational wave observations?
- Black hole gravitational wave echos
- Are all black holes the same?
- EMRIs as probes of fundamental physics
- Can we model EMRIs to high accuracy in alternative theories of gravity
- Nonlinearities in the black hole ringdown: can we leverage methods from particle physics?
- Numerical relativity beyond GR - how far can we go?
- Waveform generation in modified gravity and efficient confrontation against GW data



→ **focus slides  
by Elisa**

**EMRIs are  
popular!**

# “key questions”: systematics and degeneracies

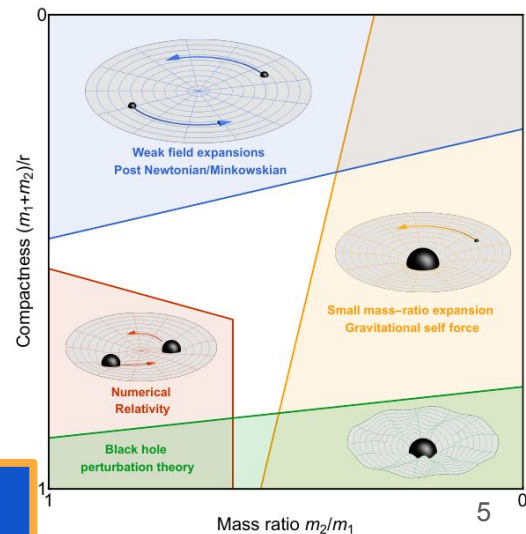


- Can we tell deviations from GR from matter/waveform systematics?
- Tests of gravity vs modelling systematics
- Interplay between Hierarchical Tests of Gravity and Population Inference
- Importance of environmental effects to estimate cosmological parameters and to investigate the nature of dark matter

## comments DK:

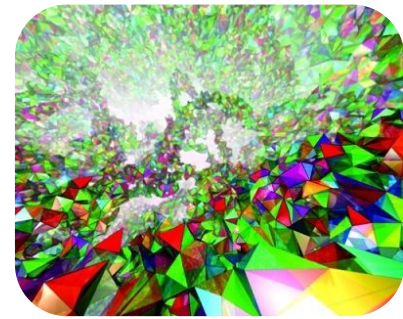
- most tests rely on matched filtering against waveform models (IMRPhenom/SEOBNR/NRSur)
- any other “out of manifold” effect of a given waveform model (HoMs/precession/eccentricity/beyond-GR/lensing/environments/...) can kill your search for a particular one
- extends to “hyper” analyses: population inference, cosmology, stacked searches
- running theme in ongoing LVK work, historically a bit overlooked, but now all sorts of combinations are being actively investigated
- set to be even more important in 3G+LISA

+ slides by Elisa



# “key questions”: quantum gravity

- What is the fundamental nature of gravity?
- GWs probes of quantum gravity
- Imprints of Quantum nature of space time in GW
- Probing the quantum/fine structure of spacetime using gravitational waves
- Can gravitational wave detectors probe the fluctuating nature of the quantum gravity vacuum?
- Quantizing General Relativity and its GW-Signatures



[T.Thiemann / Milde Marketing]

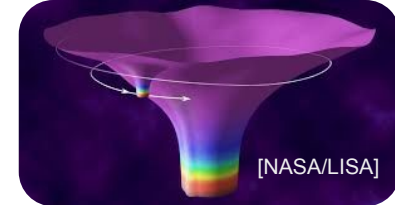
## *comments DK:*

- main avenue 1: modifications to BBH waveforms – see the previous 2 items
- main avenue 2: early universe physics – relics and stochastic backgrounds
- of course this involves the biggest unknowns of theoretical physics
- actual observable signatures often unclear – we need both bright ideas and critical, statistically conservative thinking about the methods

+ slides by Elisa

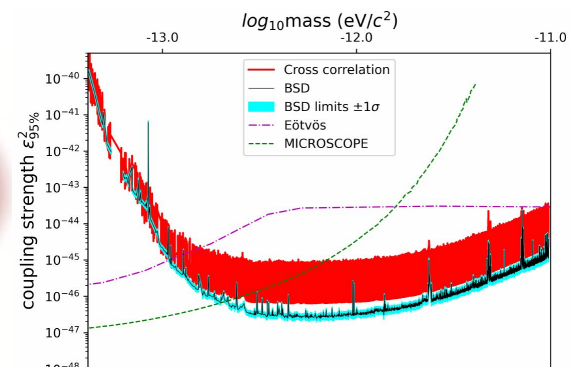
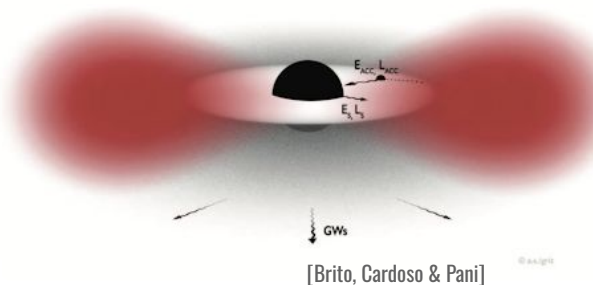
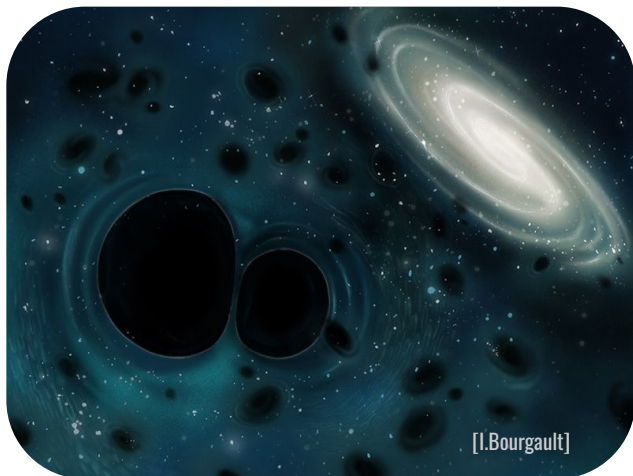
→ also N.  
Afshordi talk

# “key questions”: dark matter & cosmic relics



- Dark Matter Fundamental Nature
- Can we identify the nature of dark matter from its environmental effect on EMRIs?  
[ ← those again! everyone loves EMRIs 💕 ]
- What is the best way to discover PBH, via SSM or IMBH GW detection?

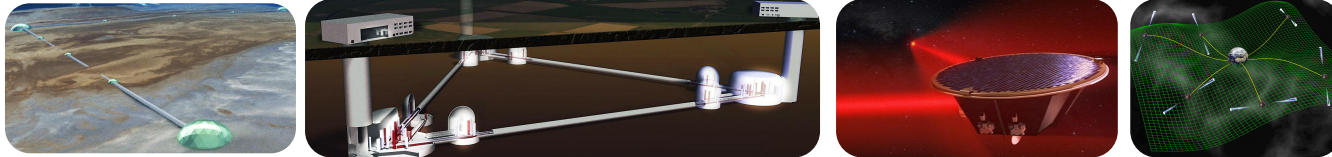
→ a few more slides soon



# “key questions”: 3G, LISA, PTAs, multi-messenger

- Status of the PTA data and their interpretation
- What can we learn about fundamental physics by detecting or constraining any stochastic GW background from the early universe?
- What else do we want to search for that LISA or 3G enables but that will not already be ruled out by the late 2030s?
- Multi-messenger observation of primordial magnetic fields

→ also  
WG2&4



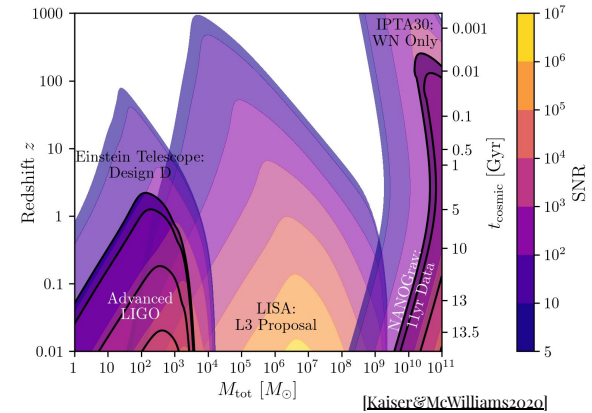
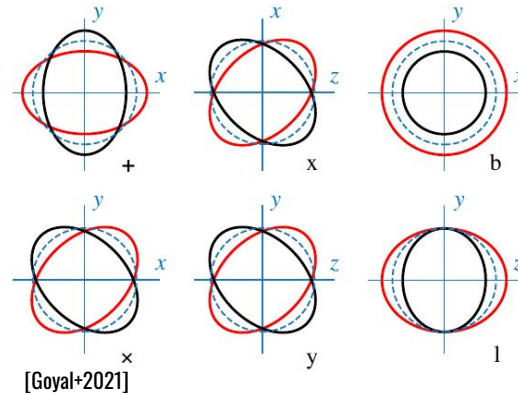
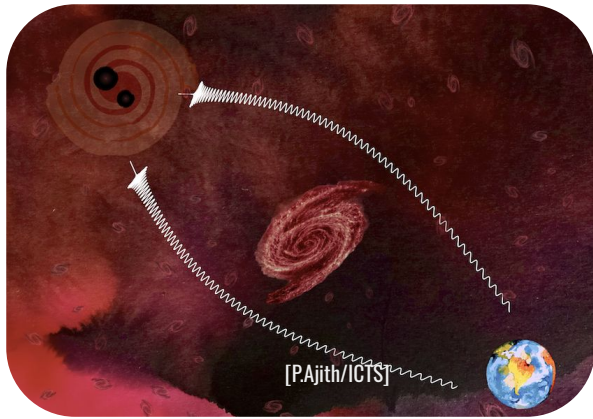
## *comments DK:*

- multi-messenger is not just BNSs
- GWs beyond CBCs: persistent sources, stochastic backgrounds, cosmic relics
- of course, could have pasted here again everything about our friends the EMRIs
- multi-wavelength future of GW observations: PTAs + LISA&friends + 3G on the ground

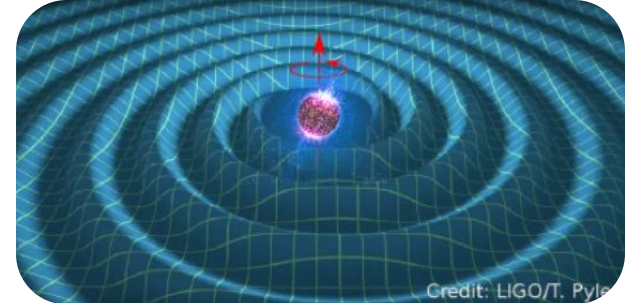


# DK's pet topic I: fundamental physics with lensed GWs

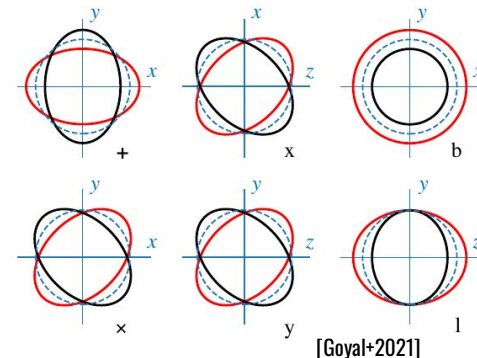
- putting together 2 of the most famous predictions of GR
- first searches: Hannuksela [ApJ874:L2](#) (2019), LVC [ApJ923:14](#) (2021), LVK [arXiv:2304.08393](#)
- expected event rate going up with GW detector redshift reach
- probing fundamental physics via the lensing imprints on GW signals:
  - speed of GWs (in multi-messenger case)
  - beyond-GR polarizations, birefringence, ...  
(but: beware degeneracies!)
  - tool for cosmography
- probes of fundamental physics via finding exotic lenses: IMBHs? MACHOs?



# DK's pet topic II: fundamental physics with Continuous GWs (CWs/CGWs)

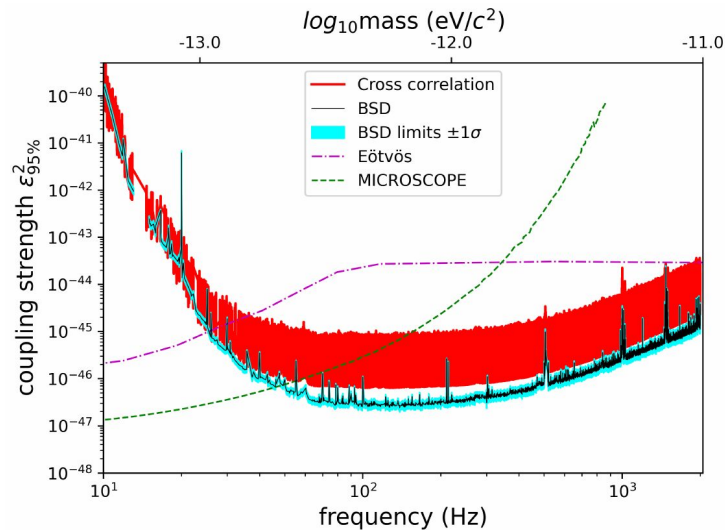
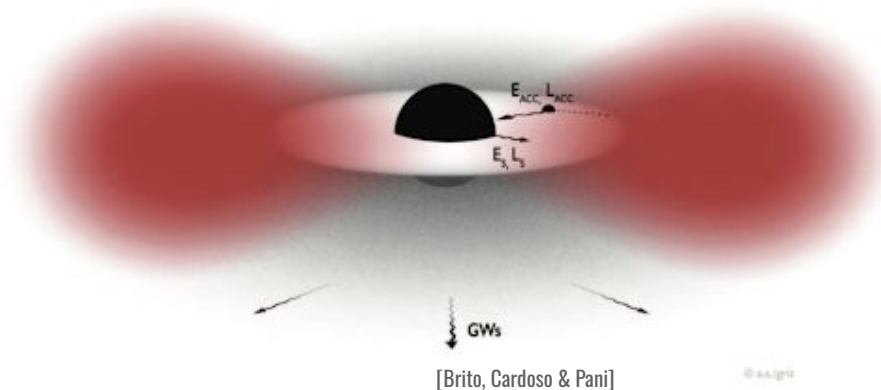


- neutron stars – “low” temperature, extreme density nuclear physics laboratories → extensively covered yesterday
- when we finally detect CWs from a deformed spinning NS: a *persistent* source, we can keep observing it and build up signal-to-noise
- likely to be multimessenger sources: either GW co-detection of a known pulsar (more sensitive search due to small trials factor), or a GW blind detection enabling deep EM follow-up
- beyond nuclear physics: long observing times enable detailed polarization tests of beyond-GR theories
- beyond neutron stars: dark matter, early-inspiral binaries (especially: PBHs for LVK, WD-WD for LISA!)



# dark matter: direct & indirect detection

- dedicated CW-like searches → see R. Brito, C. Palomba talks

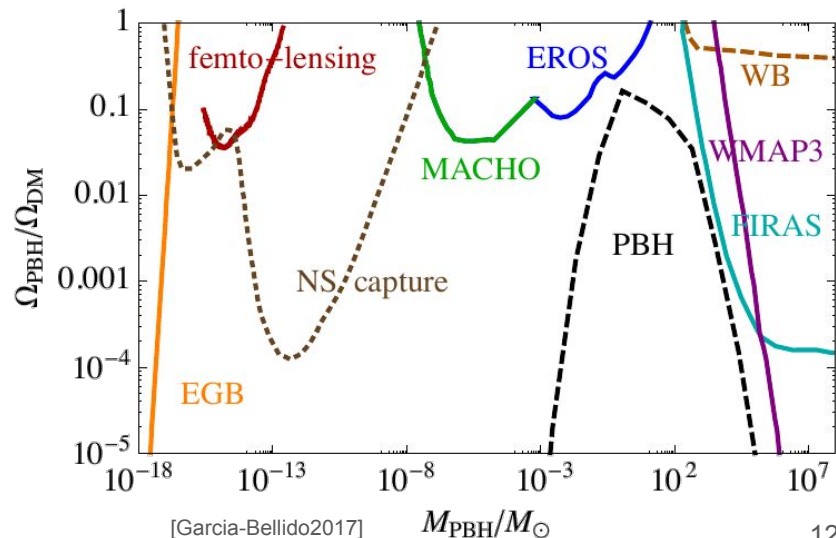
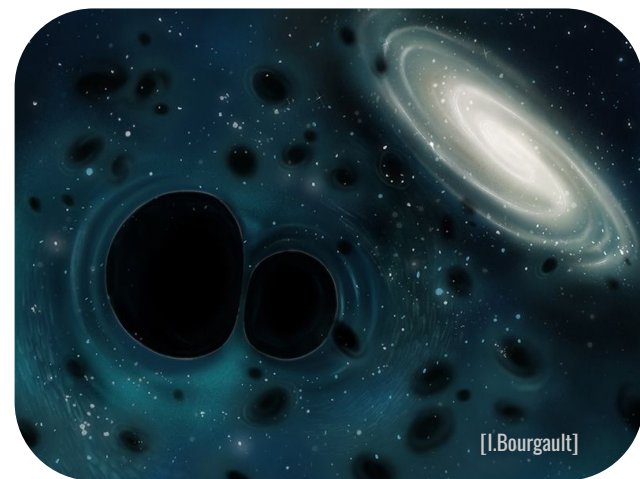


[LVK PRD105.063030, updated in erratum [dcc.ligo.org/P2300439/public](https://dcc.ligo.org/P2300439/public)]

- effects on binary inspirals → e.g. K. Clough, P. Cole talks
- lensing signatures

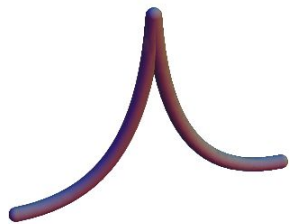
# the early Universe: PBH relics

- depending on formation channel, **primordial black holes** can cover a huge range of masses and number densities
- sensitive probe of early-Universe physics
- GW signatures:
  - features in BBH mass, redshift, spin distributions inconsistent with stellar origins
  - early inspiral phase for sub-solar-mass range: CBC-like or, even lower, CW-like
  - GW lensing
  - stochastic background from unresolved inspirals



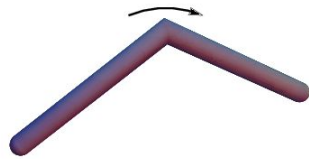
# the early Universe: cosmic strings, domain walls and other relics

- frozen-in “defects”
- burst-like signatures
  - string intersections or kink collisions
  - a domain wall passing Earth
- stochastic backgrounds from strings

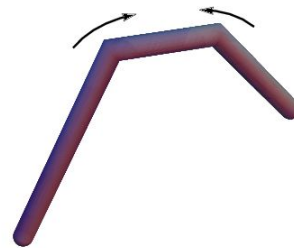


Cusp

[Long, Hyde and Vachaspati]

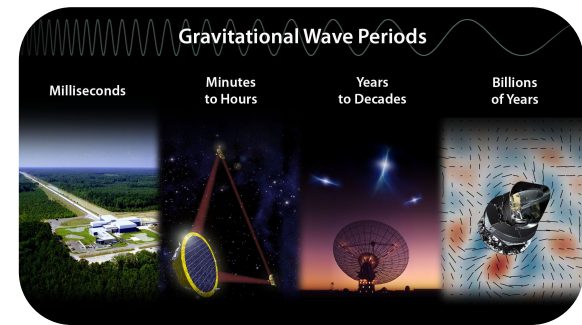
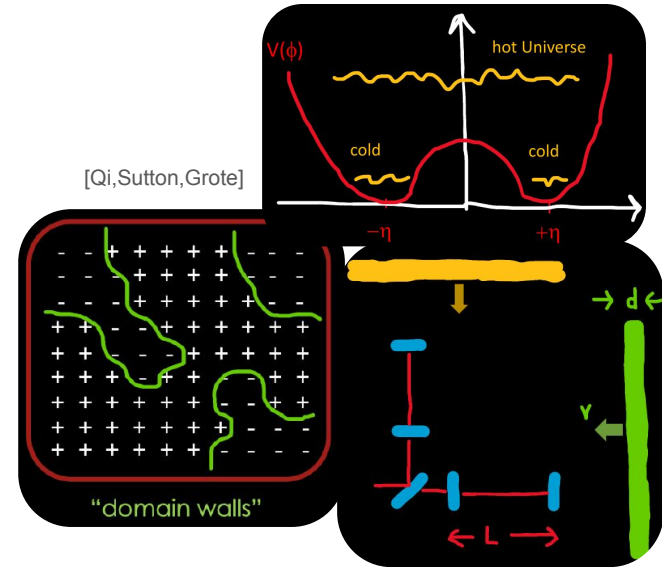


Kink



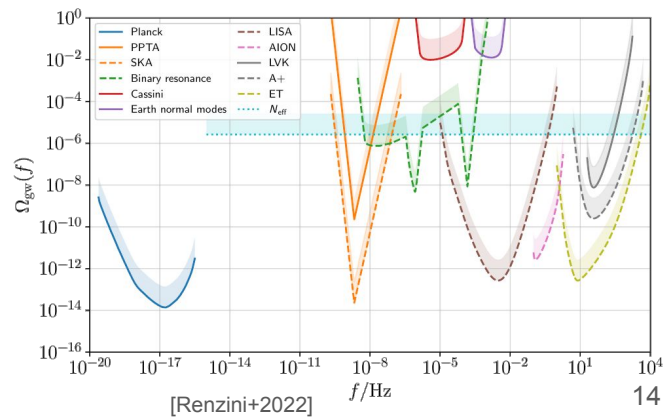
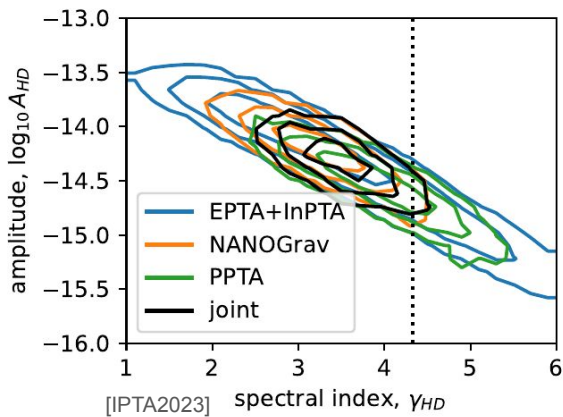
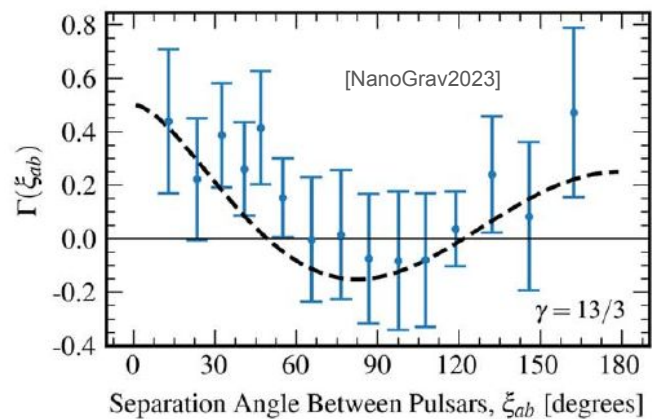
Kink-Kink Collision

what about other wavelengths...? →



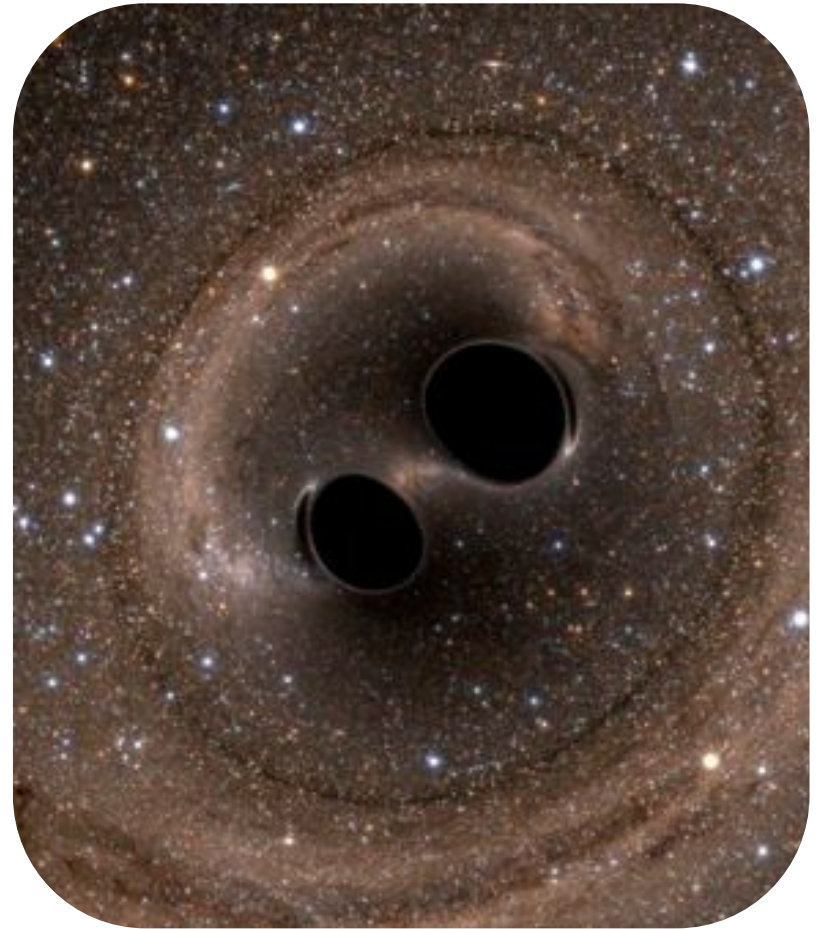
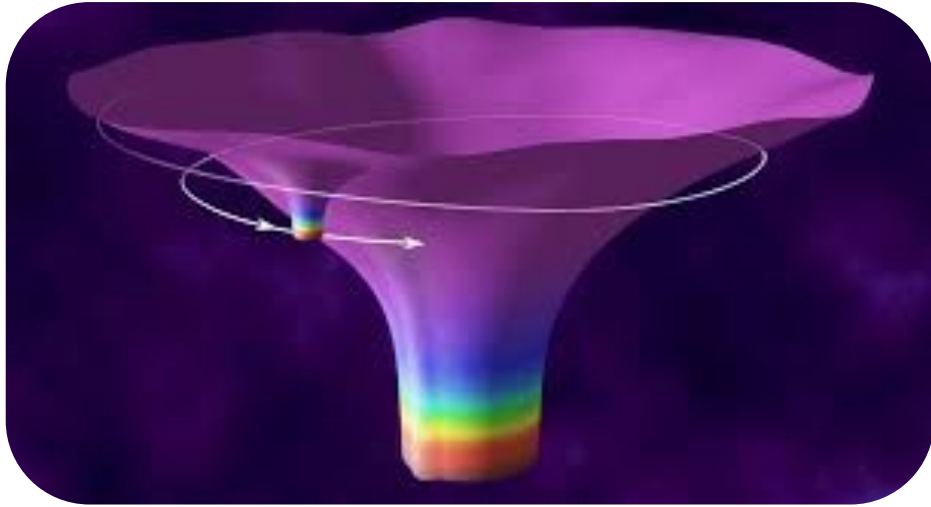
# the early Universe: stochastic GW backgrounds

- in all detector bands: astrophysical vs cosmological backgrounds
- PTAs have likely detected something... most people think unresolved SMBHBs... but cosmological alternatives proliferate on the arXiv.
- More data needed for  $5\sigma$  and for a robust spectral index measurement that informs LVK/3G/LISA detection prospects.
- How to break the “whatever is detected, people will manage to explain it with their favourite pet theory” degeneracy?

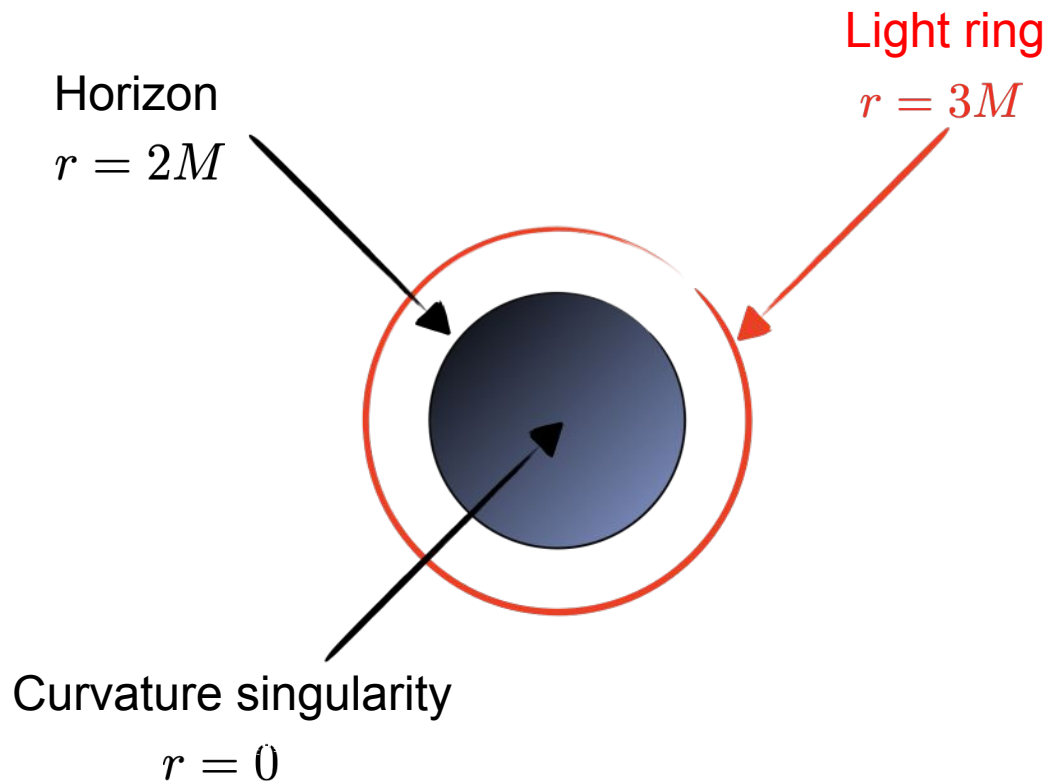


back to:

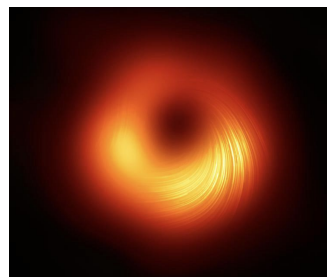
**black holes  
as probes of  
gravity**



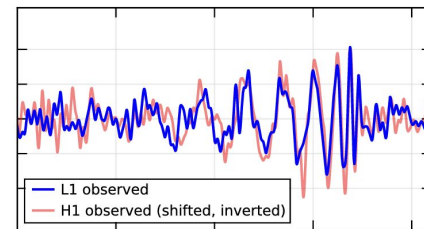
# Probing the horizon of black holes



Current electromagnetic and gravitational observations have probed the black hole spacetime close to the light ring.



EHT, ApJL **910**, L12 (2021)



Abbott+, PRL **116**, 061102 (2016)



# Horizonless compact objects

New physics can prevent the formation of the horizon:

- in quantum-gravity extensions of general relativity  
*e.g., fuzzballs, gravastars, quantum BHs*

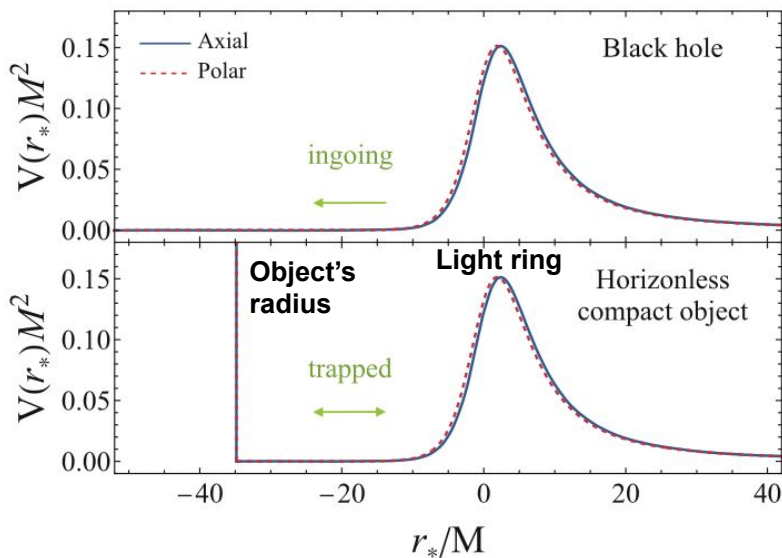
Mathur, Fortsch. Phys. **53**, 793-827 (2005); Mazur+, PNAS **101**, 9545-9550 (2004); Oshita+, JCAP **04** (2020) 016

- in general relativity with dark matter or exotic fields  
*e.g., boson stars, wormholes*

Liebling+, LRR **20**, 5 (2017); Brito+, Phys. Lett. B **752** (2016) 291-295 ; Morris+, Am. J. Phys. **56**, 395-412 (1988)

# The ringdown

The ringdown is dominated by the **quasi-normal modes** (QNMs) of the remnant, which describe the response of a compact object to a perturbation.



$$\frac{d^2\psi(r)}{dr_*^2} + [\omega^2 - V(r)] \psi(r) = 0$$

Regge, Wheeler, Phys.Rev. **108** (1957) 1063-1069  
Zerilli, PRL **24** (1970) 737-738

No horizon  $\rightarrow$  Different QNMs

# Fundamental quasi-normal mode

Schwarzschild black hole:  $M\omega = 0.37 - i0.089$

Perfectly reflecting object with radius at microscopical distance from the horizon:

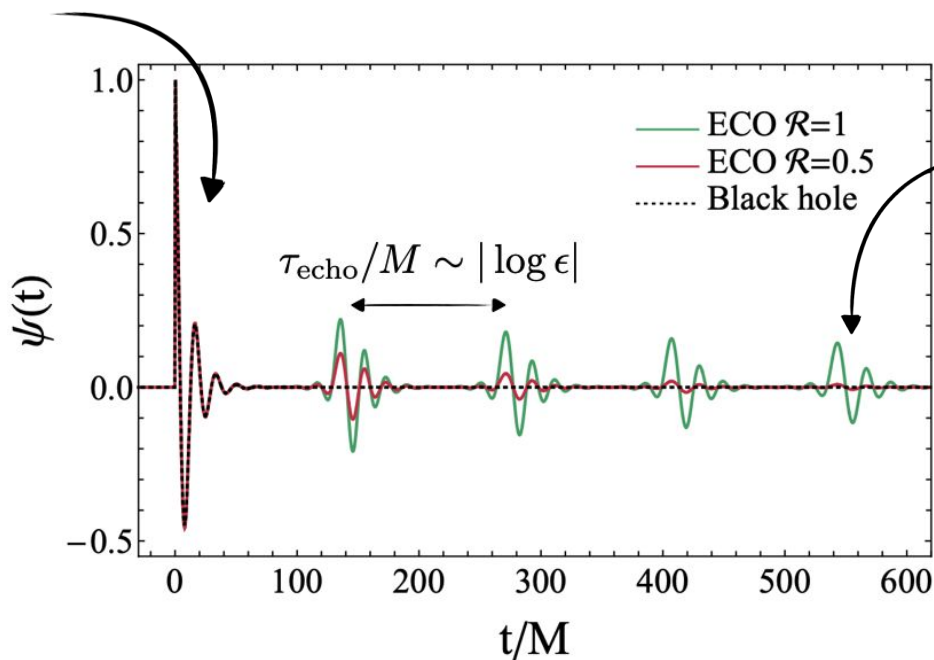
$$M\omega = \begin{cases} 0.07 - i2 \times 10^{-9} & \text{axial} \\ 0.04 - i3 \times 10^{-11} & \text{polar} \end{cases}$$

Horizonless compact objects have low-frequency and long-lived QNMs.

# Postmerger signal

**Same black-hole  
ringdown**

due to the excitation  
of the light ring



**Gravitational-wave  
echoes**

due to trapped modes

# Searches for gravitational-wave echoes

- A tentative evidence for echoes in the GW data has been reported

Abedi+, PRD **96**, 082004 (2017); Conklin+, PRD **98**, 044021 (2018)

- Independent searches argued that the statistical significance for echoes is consistent with noise

Westerweck+, PRD **97**, 124037 (2018); Nielsen+, PRD **99**, 104012 (2019); Uchikata+, PRD **100**, 062006 (2019); Lo+, PRD **99**, 084052 (2019); Tsang+, PRD **101**, 064012 (2020)

- No evidence for echoes by the LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA collaboration

Abbott+, PRD **103**, 122002 (2021); Abbott+, arXiv: 2112.06861 (2021)

- Einstein Telescope will constrain the reflectivity of compact objects at percent level for a GW150914-like remnant. Branchesi+, EM, Pacilio, Pani, JCAP **07** (2023) 068

# Signatures of horizonless objects in the inspiral

- **Tidal heating:** energy absorption by the black-hole horizon is modified as

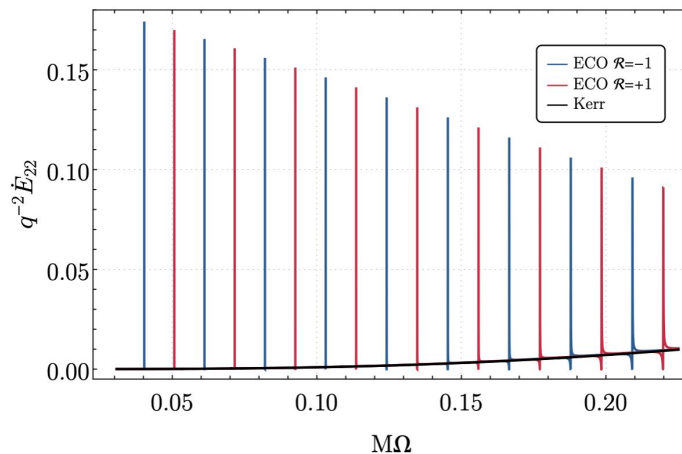
$$\dot{E}_{\text{ECO}} = (1 - |\mathcal{R}|^2) \dot{E}_{\text{H}} \quad \text{Datta+, PRD } \mathbf{101}, 044004 \text{ (2020)}$$

- **Tidal deformability:** Horizonless objects have nonzero tidal Love numbers.

Cardoso+, PRD **95**, 084014 (2017); Chakraborty+, arXiv:2310.06023 (2023); Piovano+, PRD **107**, 024021 (2023)

- **Resonances** are excited when the orbital frequency matches the quasi-normal modes of the central horizonless object.

Cardoso+, PRD **100**, 084046 (2019); EM+, PRD **104**, 104026 (2021)

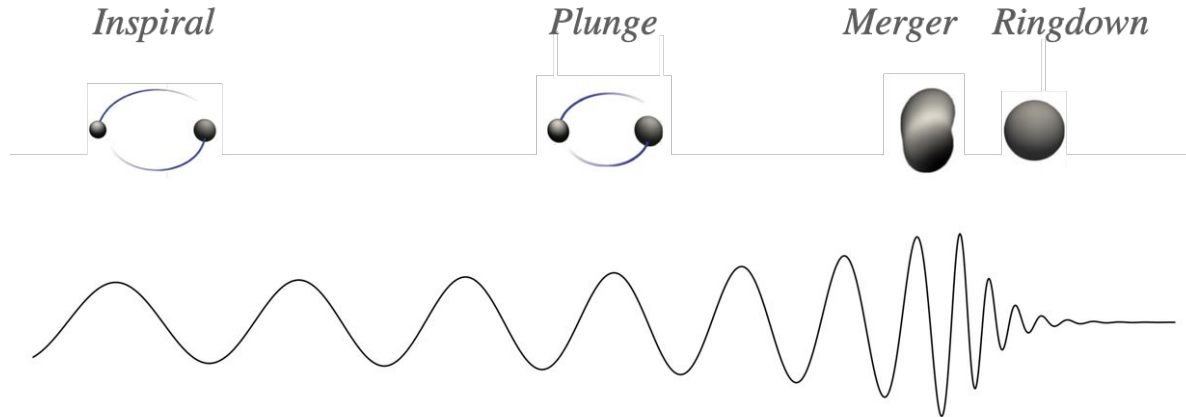


# Parametrised tests of general relativity

Parametrised tests of GR introduce fractional deviations to the GR parameters as

$$\theta_{\text{GR}} \rightarrow \theta_{\text{GR}}(1 + \delta\theta)$$

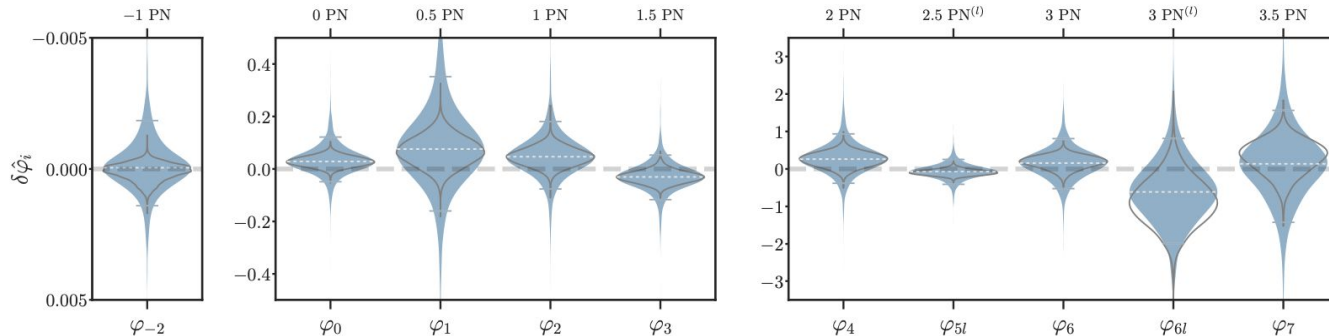
to constrain the degree to which the data agree with GR.



# Parametrised tests of general relativity

- Constraints on post-Newtonian coefficients

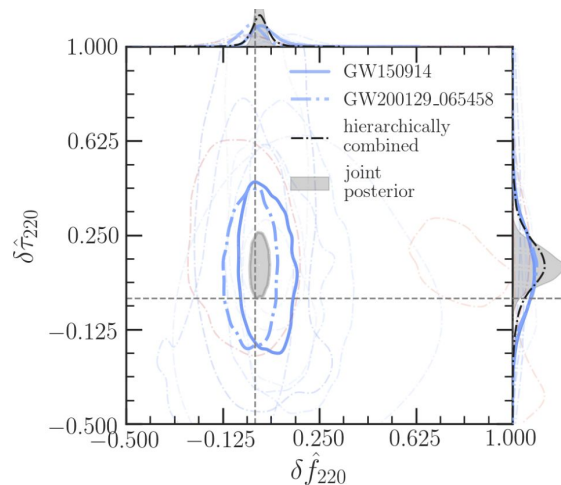
Abbott+, arXiv:2112.06861 (2021); Mehta+, PRD **107**, 044020 (2023); Li+, PRD **85**, 082003 (2012); Agathos+, PRD **89**, 082001 (2014)



- Constraints the fundamental quasi-normal mode in the ringdown

Abbott+, arXiv:2112.06861 (2021); Brito+, PRD **98**, 084038 (2018); Ghosh+, PRD **103**, 124041 (2021); Carullo+, PRD **99**, 123029 (2019); Isi+, arXiv:2107.05609

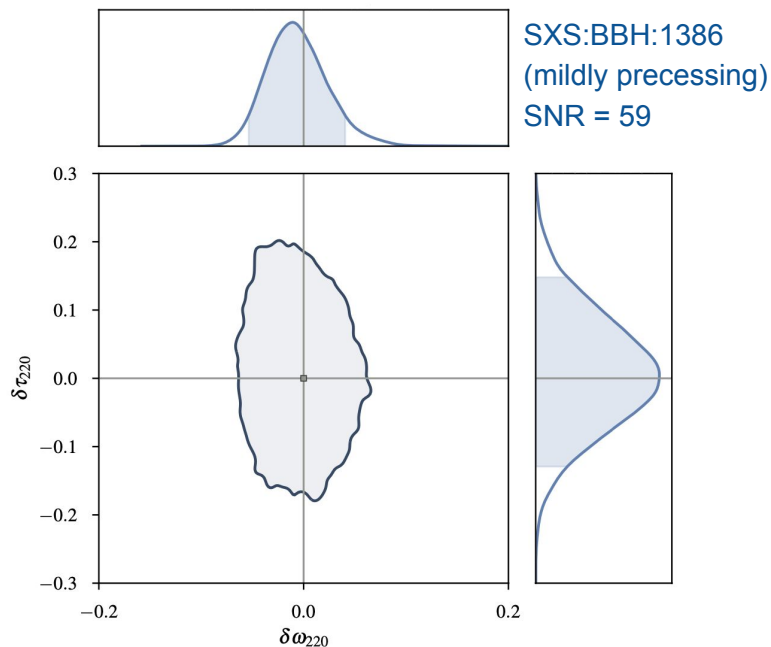
- Can be mapped in modified theories of gravity or models of horizonless objects



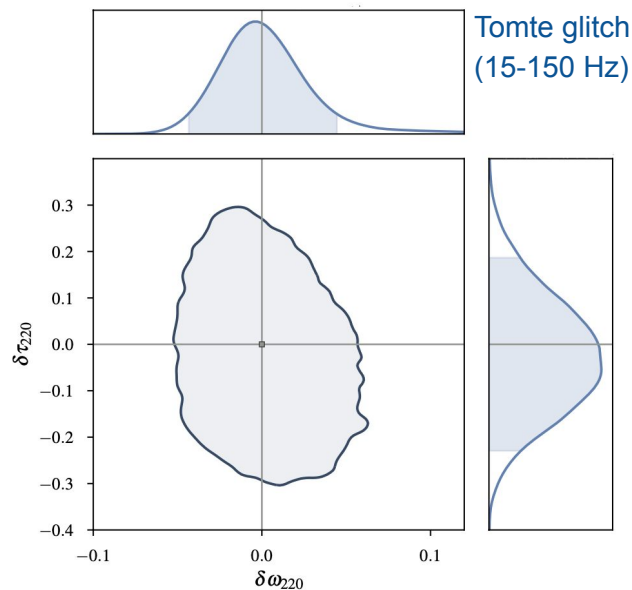


# Biases in tests of general relativity

Waveform systematics and data-quality issues could lead to false violations of GR.



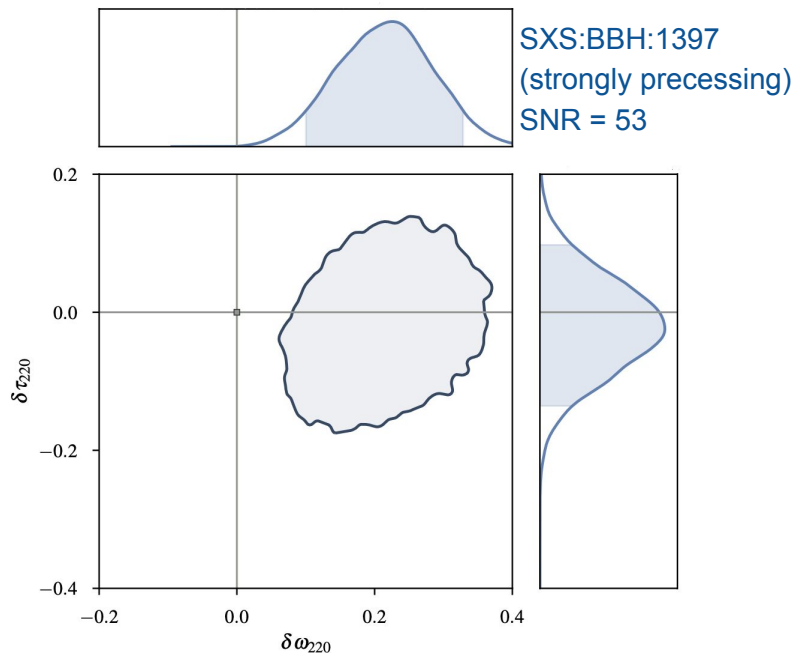
Spin-precession



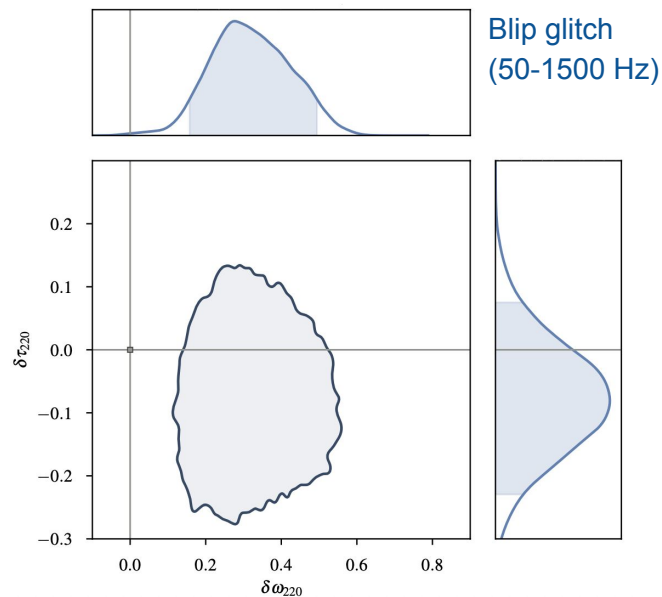
GW150914-like signal + glitch

# Biases in tests of general relativity

Waveform systematics and data-quality issues could lead to false violations of GR.



Spin-precession



GW150914-like signal + glitch

# Open questions

- How to tell a deviation of GR from waveform systematics, noise and environmental effects?
- Numerical relativity beyond GR: how far can we go?
- What can we learn about the remnant from a non-observation of echoes?
- Are simulations of the formation of horizonless compact objects available?
- How to extract fundamental physics from CW observations?
- How will GW detectors compete with other DM detection efforts?
- How to extract detailed information from SGWBs and control model degeneracy?
- What other remnants from the early Universe can we find at very low (or maybe very high!) frequencies?

# WG3: today (Tuesday)

## **Overview by Conveners**

*David Keitel et al.*

*Physics Department - Aula Amaldi (Marconi Building), Sapienza University of Rome*

16:30 - 17:00

## **The ringdown of spinning horizonless compact objects**

*Elisa Maggio*

*Physics Department - Aula Amaldi (Marconi Building), Sapienza University of Rome*

17:00 - 17:25

## **Black holes as point particles: from amplitudes to self-force**

*Riccardo Gonzo*

*Physics Department - Aula Amaldi (Marconi Building), Sapienza University of Rome*

17:25 - 17:50

## **Rotating metrics from scattering amplitudes in arbitrary dimensions**

*Claudio Gambino*

*Physics Department - Aula Amaldi (Marconi Building), Sapienza University of Rome*

17:50 - 18:15

## **Quantum Gravity Effects on Dark Matter and Gravitational Waves**

*Rishav Roshan*

*Physics Department - Aula Amaldi (Marconi Building), Sapienza University of Rome*

18:15 - 18:40

# WG3: Thursday

**Dynamical friction on compact binary systems**

*Vincent Desjacques*

*Physics Department - Aula Amaldi (Marconi Building), Sapienza University of Rome*

14:30 - 14:55

**Podium 2: Report from Conveners of WG3 and WG4 (P2)**

*Carlo Tasillo, Elisa Maggio, Simone Mastrogiovanni*

*Physics Department - Aula Amaldi (Marconi Building), Sapienza University of Rome*

14:55 - 16:25

# Acknowledgments

D. Keitel is supported by the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (ref. BEAGAL 18/00148) and cofinanced by the Universitat de les Illes Balears, and would like to acknowledge additional support by the Spanish Agencia Estatal de Investigación grants CNS2022-135440, PID2022-138626NB-I00, PID2019-106416GB-I00, RED2022-134204-E, RED2022-134411-T, funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033; the MCIN with funding from the European Union NextGenerationEU/PRTR (PRTR-C17.11); Comunitat Autònoma de les Illes Balears through the Direcció General de Recerca, Innovació i Transformació Digital with funds from the Tourist Stay Tax Law (PDR2020/11 - ITS2017-006), the Conselleria d'Economia, Hisenda i Innovació grant numbers SINCO2022/18146 and SINCO2022/6719, co-financed by the European Union and FEDER Operational Program 2021-2027 of the Balearic Islands; and the “ERDF A way of making Europe”.



E. Maggio acknowledges funding from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) - project number: 386119226.

# Backup slides

# Injection studies

- **SXS:BBH:1386** - strongly precessing

$$M = 60 M_{\odot}, q = 1.35$$

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = -0.02, \chi_p = 0.80 \text{ at an } m = 2 \text{ frequency of } 9.6 \text{ Hz}$$

- **SXS:BBH:1397** - mildly precessing

$$M = 60 M_{\odot}, q = 1.56$$

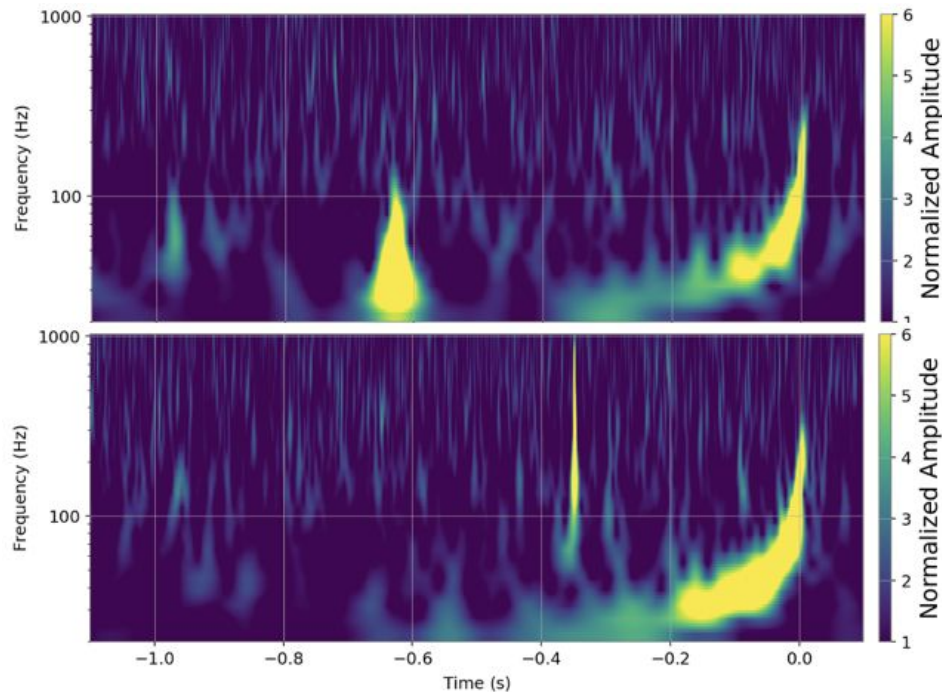
$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = -0.06, \chi_p = 0.28 \text{ at an } m = 2 \text{ frequency of } 8.6 \text{ Hz}$$

The injections are analyzed with the predicted power spectral density for O4 and the detector network of LIGO Hanford, Livingston and Virgo.



# Injection studies

- **Tomte glitch**  
mid duration (0.1-1.0 s)  
low-mid frequency band (50-150 Hz)
- **Blip glitch**  
short duration (<0.1 s)  
mid-high frequency band (>150 Hz)



The injections are analyzed with the predicted power spectral density for O4 and the detector network of LIGO Hanford, Livingston and Virgo.