

S-matrix tools for bound waveform modelling

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String Theory as a Bridge between Gauge Theory and Quantum Gravity (Sapienza, Rome)

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- 1 Why scattering amplitudes? Why Post-Minkowskian expansion?
- 2 Hamiltonian and waveforms from amplitudes
- 3 Novel scatter-to-bound maps for two-body observables
- 4 From scattering to bound waveforms and open problems
- 5 Conclusion and future directions

Motivation and introduction (I)

- The recent discovery of gravitational waves **calls for new analytical techniques** to study **the two-body problem**.

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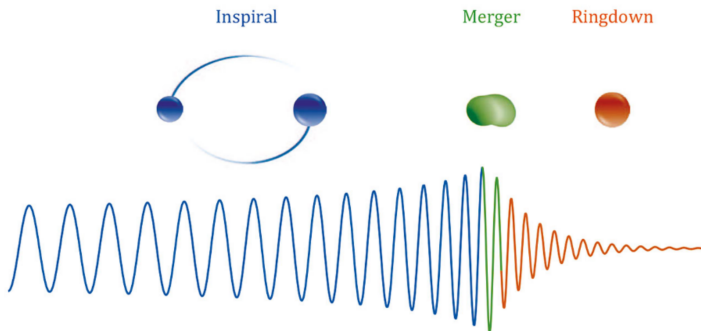


Image credit: 1610.03567 (Antelis, Moreno)

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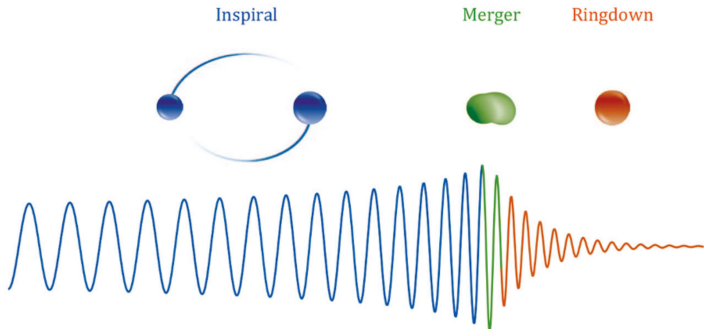


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- Today: focus on the inspiral phase, where we can model compact objects as point particles in the spirit of effective field theory [Goldberger, Rothstein]

Motivation and introduction (II)

- Idea: use **particle field theory tools**

Real world	EFT of point particles
Compact objects of mass M	Point particles of mass M
Spin effects of magnitude a	Spinning particles of classical spin a
Tidal effects, GR curvature corrections	Higher-dimensional operators
Absorption effects	Non-unitary absorption dofs

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- Why scattering amplitudes?** Few years ago someone called our attention to it ...

[Submitted on 29 Oct 2017]

High-energy gravitational scattering and the general relativistic two-body problem

Thibault Damour

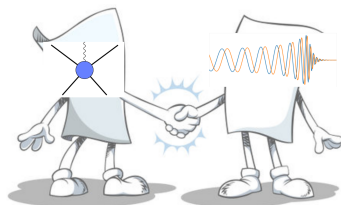
A technique for translating the classical scattering function of two gravitationally interacting bodies into a corresponding (effective one-body) Hamiltonian description has been recently introduced [Phys. Rev. D (to appear), 104015 (2016)]. Using this technique, we derive, for the first time, to second-order in Newton's constant (i.e. one classical loop) the Hamiltonian of two point masses having an arbitrary (possibly relativistic) relative velocity. The resulting (second post-Minkowskian) Hamiltonian is found to have a tame high-energy structure which we relate both to gravitational self-force studies of large mass-ratio binary systems, and to the ultra high-energy quantum scattering results of Amati, Ciafaloni and Veneziano. We derive several consequences of our second post-Minkowskian Hamiltonian: (i) the need to use special phase-space gauges to get a tame high-energy limit; and (ii) predictions about a (rest-mass independent) linear Regge trajectory behavior of high-angular-momenta, high-energy circular orbits. Ways of testing these predictions by dedicated numerical simulations are indicated. We finally indicate a way to connect our classical results to the quantum gravitational scattering amplitude of two particles, and we urge amplitude experts to use their novel techniques to compute the 2-loop scattering amplitude of scalar masses, from which one could deduce the third post-Minkowskian effective one-body Hamiltonian.

Why amplitudes? Why Post-Minkowskian expansion? (I)

- **Why amplitudes?** (adapted to scattering orbits... bound orbits? Stay tuned!)

Amplitudes are gauge-invariant, universal objects which encode in a compact and analytic way the perturbative dynamics for point particles.

New perspective on GR!



Advantages:

- 1) analytic compact expressions
- 2) many physical insights (clean setup)
- 3) scalable and flexible formalism (spin, tidal effects, beyond GR)
- 4) great synergy with PN and GSF

Disadvantages:

- 1) need scatter-to-bound map
- 2) need resummation scheme

Why amplitudes? Why Post-Minkowskian expansion? (II)

- To **model accurately the entire parameter space** of the two-body dynamics, various communities need to **work together**: Gravitational self-force (GSF), Post-Minkowskian (PM), Post-Newtonian (PN) and numerical relativity (NR)

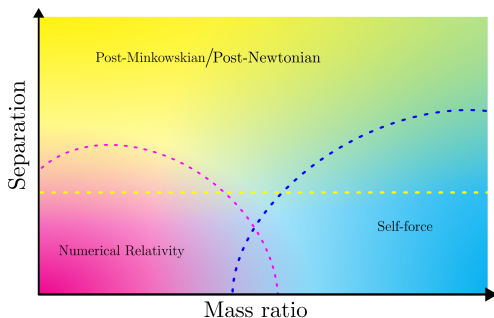
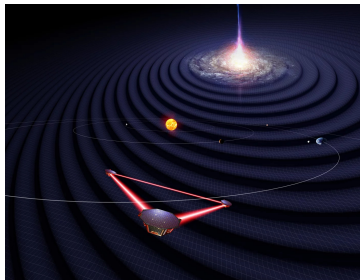


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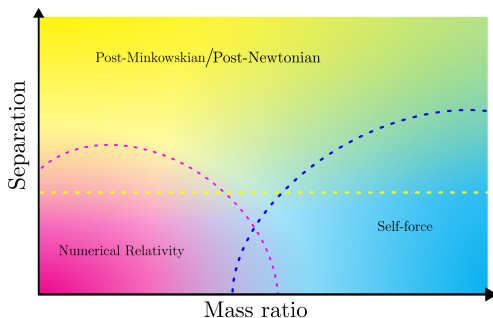
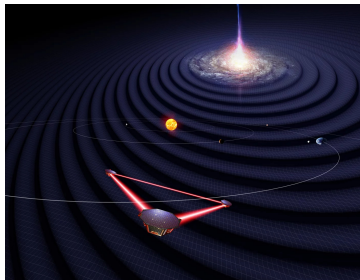
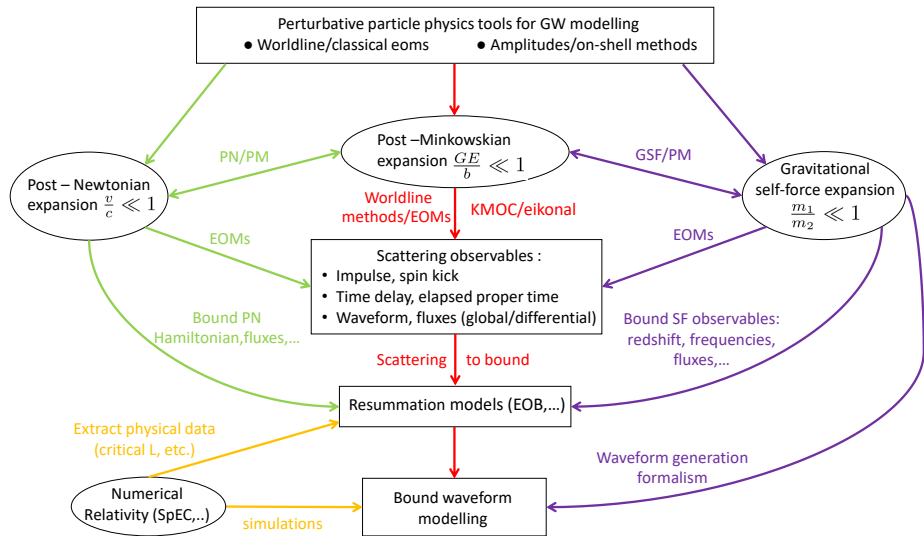


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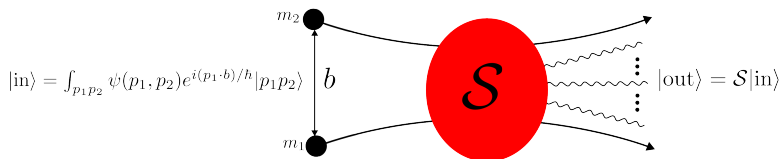
- Important deadline:** being ready for LISA mission's planned launch \sim 2035

Particle physics for GWs modelling: workflow



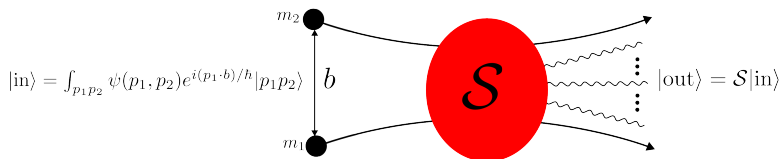
The Post-Minkowskian two-body scattering problem (I)

- **Two-body scattering in GR**: consider as initial state **two massive particles** separated by an **impact parameter** b^μ [Kosower,Maybee,O'Connell=KMOC]



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- The **dynamics of the evolution** is determined by the action

$$S = -\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R + S_{\text{matter}} + S_{\text{GF}}$$

where we perform the perturbative expansion

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \kappa h_{\mu\nu}, \quad \kappa = \sqrt{32\pi G_N} \rightarrow \text{Post-Minkowskian expansion in } G_N.$$

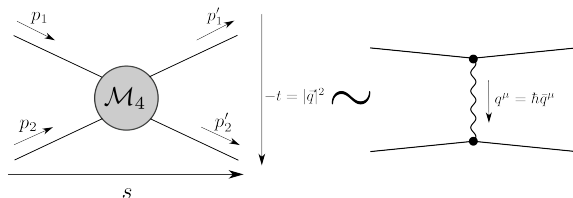


The Post-Minkowskian two-body scattering problem (II)

- Conservative 4-pt amplitude $\mathcal{M}_4(p_1, p_2; p'_1, p'_2)$: in the classical limit $\hbar \rightarrow 0$

$$\begin{aligned} p_1^\mu &:= p_A^\mu + \hbar \frac{\bar{q}^\mu}{2}, & (p'_1)^\mu &:= p_A^\mu - \hbar \frac{\bar{q}^\mu}{2}, & s &= (p_A + p_B)^2, \\ p_2^\mu &:= p_B^\mu - \hbar \frac{\bar{q}^\mu}{2}, & (p'_2)^\mu &:= p_B^\mu + \hbar \frac{\bar{q}^\mu}{2}, & t &= -\hbar^2 |\vec{q}|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where p_A, p_B are the classical momenta and q is the momentum transfer.

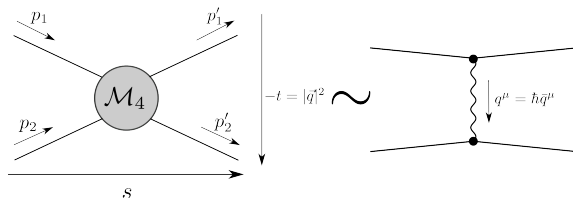


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- Generalization for the $4 + M$ -pt amplitude $\mathcal{M}_{4+M}(p_1, p_2; p'_1, p'_2, k_1, \dots, k_M)$

$$q_{1,2}^\mu = p_{1,2}^\mu - (p'_{1,2})^\mu = \hbar \bar{q}_{1,2}^\mu, \quad k_j^\mu = \hbar \bar{k}_j^\mu, \quad j = 1, \dots, M.$$

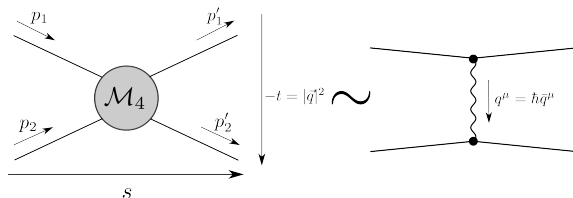
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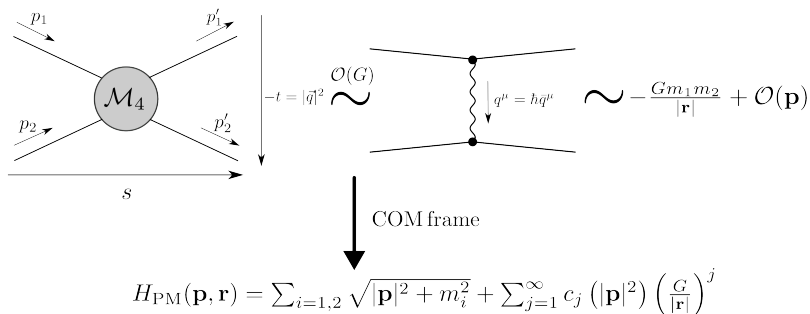
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- Main lesson:** only wavevectors $\bar{q}_{1,2}^\mu, \bar{k}_j$ are classical, need to restore \hbar !

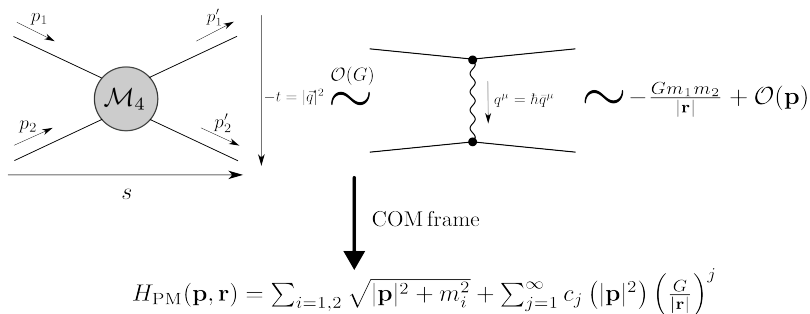
The Post-Minkowskian two-body scattering problem (III)

- A **conservative state-of-art PM Hamiltonian** can be extracted from 4-pt amplitudes [Cheung,Solon,Rothstein;Bern,Parra-Martinez,Roiban,Ruf,Shen,Solon,Zeng] (or equivalently the scattering angle [Di Vecchia, Heissenberg, Russo, Veneziano; Dlapa, Kälin, Liu, Porto; Driesse, Jakobsen, Mogull, Plefka, Sauer, Usovitsch; Damgaard, Hansen, Planté, Vanhove])



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- Relevant to bound orbits**, except for subtle non-local-in-time effects! [Cho, Dlapa,Kälin,Liu,Porto] The EOB implementation is already promising for GW modelling [Buonanno,Mogull,Patil,Pompili;Buonanno,Jakobsen,Mogull]

The Post-Minkowskian scattering waveform (I)

- We can compute **classical observables** \mathcal{O} with in-in expectation values

$$\langle \psi_{\text{in}} | \mathcal{S}^\dagger \mathcal{O} \mathcal{S} | \psi_{\text{in}} \rangle \Big|_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} = 2\Re i \langle \psi_{\text{in}} | \mathcal{O} T | \psi_{\text{in}} \rangle \Big|_{\hbar \rightarrow 0} + \langle \psi_{\text{in}} | T^\dagger \mathcal{O} T | \psi_{\text{in}} \rangle \Big|_{\hbar \rightarrow 0}$$

which the S-matrix $\mathcal{S} = 1 + iT$ gives both contributions **linear in the amplitude** T (and its conjugate T^\dagger) and **quadratic** ones $T^\dagger T$ (unitarity cuts).

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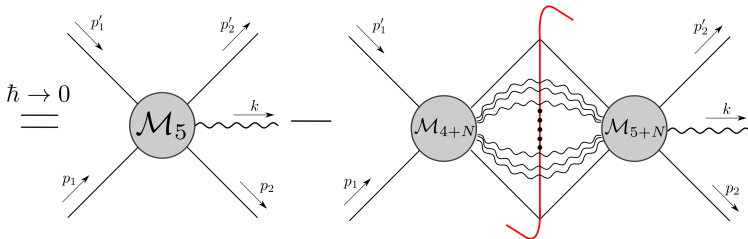
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- The on-shell expectation value of the **time-domain waveform relevant for the inspiral phase** is [Cristofoli,RG,Kosower,O'Connell]

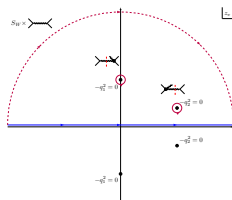
$$h_{\mu\nu}^{\text{hyp}}(x) \equiv \langle \psi_{\text{in}} | \mathcal{S}^\dagger h_{\mu\nu}(x) \mathcal{S} | \psi_{\text{in}} \rangle$$



The Post-Minkowskian scattering waveform (II)

- Use **on-shell tools**:

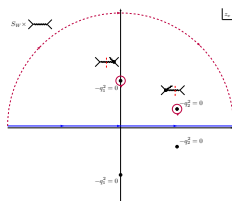
Simplify the **phase space integration** of the 5-pt amplitude using **S-matrix analyticity and unitarity** (factorization into 3-pt and 4-pt amplitudes)



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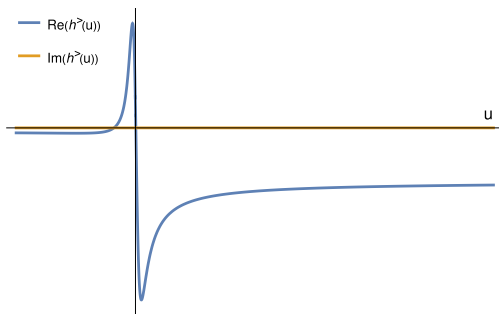


- Result: **new compact representation of the tree-level scattering waveform!** [Kovacs, Thorne; Jakobsen, Mogull, Plefka, Steinhoff; De Angelis, RG, Novichkov]

$$\begin{aligned}
 h^{(0)\>}(x) &= \frac{G_N^2 m_1 m_2}{|\vec{x}| \sqrt{-b^2}} \frac{1}{\bar{w}_1^2 \bar{w}_2^2 \sqrt{1 + T_2^2} \left(\gamma + \sqrt{(1 + T_1^2)(1 + T_2^2)} + T_1 T_2 \right)} \\
 &\times \left(\frac{3\bar{w}_1 + 2\gamma(2T_1 T_2 \bar{w}_1 - T_2^2 \bar{w}_2 + \bar{w}_2) - (2\gamma^2 - 1)\bar{w}_1}{\gamma^2 - 1} f_{1,2}^2 \right. \\
 &- \frac{4\gamma T_2 \bar{w}_2 f_1 + 2(2\gamma^2 - 1) [T_1(1 + T_2^2) \bar{w}_2 f_1 + T_2(T_1 T_2 \bar{w}_1 + \bar{w}_2) f_2]}{\sqrt{\gamma^2 - 1}} f_{1,2} \\
 &\left. + 4(1 + T_2^2) \bar{w}_2 f_1 f_2 - 4\gamma(1 + T_2^2) \bar{w}_2 (f_1^2 + f_2^2) + 2(2\gamma^2 - 1)(1 + 2T_2^2) \bar{w}_2 f_1 f_2 \right) + (1 \leftrightarrow 2)
 \end{aligned}$$

The Post-Minkowskian scattering waveform (III)

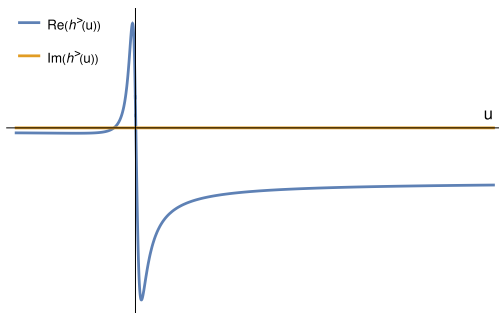
- The tree-level scattering waveform in the equatorial plane looks like



Most of the energy is released during the closest approach (\sim periastron)!

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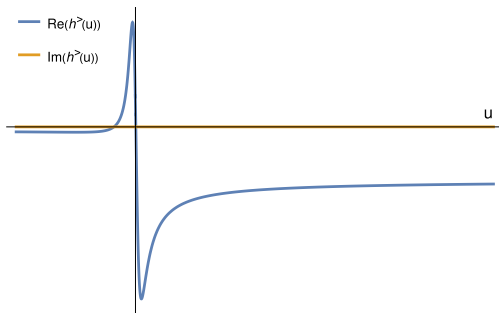


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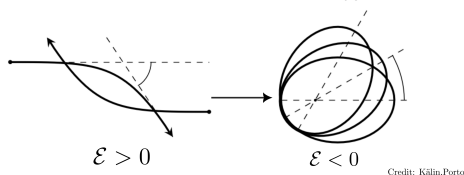
- Relevant for hyperbolic encounters or dynamical capture events (short-duration, burst-like waveform): possible LISA sources?
- Very different compared to (quasi)-periodic bound waveforms for inspiralling compact binaries. . . is it possible to establish a connection?

From scattering to bound dynamics

- Classical **scattering amplitudes** describe **hyperbolic encounters**. If we define

$$\mathcal{E} := \frac{E - m_1 - m_2}{\mu}, \quad p_\infty^2 = -\tilde{p}_\infty^2 = \frac{E^2 - (m_1 + m_2)^2}{2m_1 m_2},$$

we have $\mathcal{E}, p_\infty^2 > 0$ for scattering orbits and $\mathcal{E}, p_\infty^2 < 0$ for bound orbits.

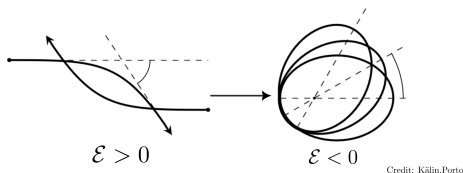


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- Powerful analytic method to extract bound state physics from amplitudes: gauge invariant map between scattering and bound observables:

$$\mathcal{O}^>(\mathcal{E} > 0, J, c_X, a_1, a_2, m_1, m_2) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}^<(\mathcal{E} < 0, J, c_X, a_1, a_2, m_1, m_2).$$

First derived in PM for aligned-spin binaries [Kälin,Porto] (hints in 1985 [Damour, DeRuelle]!), extended to fluxes [Cho,Kälin,Porto;Saketh,Vines,Steinhoff,Buonanno], waveforms [Adamo,RG,Ilderton]; proved recently at geodesic order [RG,Shi;RG,Lewis,Pound]; hints for misaligned spin [RG,Shi]

Warm up: geodesics in Schwarzschild (I)

- Consider the motion of a spinless particle in Schwarzschild with the action

$$S[x^\mu(\tau), p_\mu(\tau)] = \int d\tau p_\mu \dot{x}^\mu - \frac{e}{2} (g^{\mu\nu} p_\mu p_\nu + m^2) ,$$

where (x^μ, p_μ) are canonically conjugate variables and $g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}^{\text{Schw}}$.

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- Using Hamilton-Jacobi theory [Carter], we use the constants of motion $P_i = (m, E, L)$ and we transform to (X^i, P_i) with the generating function

$$W(t, r, \varphi; P_i) = -Et + L\varphi + I_{r,0}(r; P_i), \quad I_{r,0}(r; P_i) = \int_{r_m}^r dr p_{r,0}(r; P_i).$$

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- The new Hamilton's equations are (with the Hamiltonian $H_0 = -m_1^2/2$)

$$X^i = \frac{\partial W}{\partial P_i}, \quad m_1 \frac{dX^i}{d\tau} = \frac{\partial H_0}{\partial P_i} = -m_1 \delta_1^i.$$

Direct connection with observables $(\Delta\varphi, \Delta t, \Delta\tau)$! [RG, Lewis, Pound; Schmidt]

Warm up: geodesics in Schwarzschild (II)

- For **scattering orbits** (hyperbolic trajectory with a single turning point r_m) we define the (ϵ -regularized) **radial action**

$$I_{r,0}^{>,\epsilon}(P_i) = 2 \int_{r_m}^{+\infty} dr r^\epsilon p_{r,0}(r; P_i),$$

while for **elliptic bound orbits** (radial motion constrained between r_- and r_+)

$$I_{r,0}^{<}(P_i) = 2 \int_{r_-}^{r_+} dr p_{r,0}(r; P_i)$$

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- HJ theory** allows to derive a **complete basis** of **scattering** and **bound observables** and the **first law of black hole dynamics** [RG,Lewis,Pound;Le Tiec]

$$\delta I_{r,0}^{>,\epsilon} = -(\pi + \chi_0) \delta L + \Delta t_0^\epsilon \delta E - \Delta \tau_0^\epsilon \delta m_1.$$

$$\delta I_{r,0}^{<} = -(2\pi + \Delta \Phi_0) \delta L + \frac{2\pi}{\Omega_{r,0}} \delta E - \frac{2\pi}{\Omega_{r,0}} \langle z \rangle_0 \delta m_1.$$

Scatter-to-bound map at geodesic order

- Remarkable analytic continuation between scattering and bound planar orbits [Kälin, Porto; Adamo, RG, Ilderton; Di Vecchia, Heissenberg, Russo, Veneziano]

$$\int_{\mathcal{C}_r^>} = 2 \int_{r_m(p_\infty, L)}^\infty, \quad \int_{\mathcal{C}_r^<} = 2 \int_{r_-(\tilde{p}_\infty, L)}^{r_+(\tilde{p}_\infty, L)}, \quad r_\pm(\tilde{p}_\infty, L) \stackrel{\mathcal{E} \leq 0}{=} r_m(\pm i\tilde{p}_\infty, L),$$

with $p_\infty = p_r(r \rightarrow \infty)$ so that at OSF order ($p_r(\tilde{p}_\infty) = \mp p_r(\pm i\tilde{p}_\infty)$) [RG, Shi]

$$I_r^<(\tilde{p}_\infty, L) = I_r^{>, \epsilon}(i\tilde{p}_\infty, L) + I_r^{>, \epsilon}(-i\tilde{p}_\infty, L).$$

Scatter-to-bound map at geodesic order

- Remarkable analytic continuation between scattering and bound planar orbits [Kälin, Porto; Adamo, RG, Ilderton; Di Vecchia, Heissenberg, Russo, Veneziano]

$$\int_{\mathcal{C}_r^>} = 2 \int_{r_m(p_\infty, L)}^\infty, \quad \int_{\mathcal{C}_r^<} = 2 \int_{r_-(\tilde{p}_\infty, L)}^{r_+(\tilde{p}_\infty, L)}, \quad r_\pm(\tilde{p}_\infty, L) \stackrel{\mathcal{E} \leq 0}{=} r_m(\pm i\tilde{p}_\infty, L),$$

with $p_\infty = p_r(r \rightarrow \infty)$ so that at OSF order ($p_r(\tilde{p}_\infty) = \mp p_r(\pm i\tilde{p}_\infty)$) [RG, Shi]

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- Scatter-to-bound maps for gauge-invariant observables [RG, Lewis, Pound]

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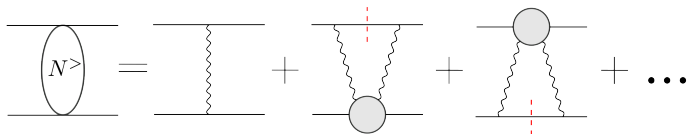
- Connection with the S-matrix? Spin (non-planar motion)? Radiative effects?

Scattering and bound observables from 4-pt amplitudes (I)

- Natural connection between the radial action and the conservative S-matrix

$$\mathcal{S} = \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{N}\right), \quad N(E, q, m_1, m_2) := \langle p'_1 p'_2 | \hat{N} | p_1 p_2 \rangle \Big|_{\hbar \rightarrow 0},$$
$$N^{>, \epsilon}(E, L, \{m_a\}) = \frac{4Ep_\infty}{\hbar} \int \frac{d^{2+2\epsilon}q}{(2\pi)^{2+2\epsilon}} e^{-i(b(L)\cdot q)/\hbar} N(E, q, \{m_a\}),$$
$$N^{>, \epsilon}(p_\infty, L) = \frac{i}{\hbar} \left(\oint_{\mathcal{C}_r^>} dr r^\epsilon p_{r, \text{COM}}(r, p_\infty^2, L) + \pi L \right) = \frac{i}{\hbar} (I_r^{>, \epsilon} + \pi L),$$

where $p_{r, \text{COM}}$ is the center-of-mass radial momentum. This is the “amplitude-action” relation! [Bern et al.; Kol, O’Connell, Telem] A full proof was given recently [Damgaard, Hansen, Plante, Vanhove]



Direct connection of \hat{N} with the classical Bethe-Salpeter kernel [Adamo, RG]

Scattering and bound observables from 4-pt amplitudes (II)

- The **S-matrix** is a **generating functional for classical observables**: in the spinless conservative case (i.e., no on-shell gravitons) [RG,Lewis,Pound]

$$\delta N^{>,\epsilon}(E, L, \{m_a\}) = -\Delta\chi\delta L + \Delta T^\epsilon\delta E - \sum_{a=1,2} \Delta\tau_a^\epsilon \delta m_a$$



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- Can we extend the scatter-to-bound map to spinning binaries? Waveforms?

Scattering and bound observables for spinning binaries

- The motion of **aligned-spin binaries** is still planar: **trivial extension of the spinless case** $I_r^>(E, L, a_1, a_2, \{m_a\})$, same scattering/bound observables!

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$$\Delta\lambda^\mu = \sum_{j=1} \frac{1}{j!} \underbrace{\{\underbrace{I_r^>, \{I_r^>, \dots, \{I_r^>, \lambda^\mu\} \dots\}}_{j \text{ times}}\} \dots\}, \quad \lambda^\mu \in \{v_1^\mu, v_2^\mu, s_1^\mu, s_2^\mu\}.$$

Independently confirmed by [Kim,Kim,Lee]; used to derive state-of-art 2-loop observables! [Apkinar, Febres-Cordero, Kraus, Smirnov, Zeng]

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- For a linear in spin probe in Kerr, we can use again **action-angle variables** and compute the **bound frequencies** $K^{\phi r} = \Delta\Phi, K^{\theta r}, K^{\phi sr}$ [Witzany;RG,Shi]

Type of observable	Position space	Spin space
Scattering	$\Delta v_1^\mu (\Delta\varphi, \Delta\theta)$	Δs_1^μ
Bound	$K^{\phi r}, K^{\theta r}$	$K^{\phi sr}$

At this order **the scatter-to-bound map holds (at the level of the action)**, but **hard to generalize to all orders in spin** for both bodies! More work to do ...

From scattering to bound waveforms (I)

- We propose a **scatter-to-bound map for PM waveforms** [Adamo, RG, Ilderton]

$$h^{<\text{dyn}}(u, \hat{n}; \tilde{p}_\infty, L) = h^{>\text{dyn}}(u, \hat{n}; p_\infty = +i\tilde{p}_\infty, L), \quad \mathcal{E} < 0.$$

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$$h^{>} \left(u = \frac{b}{p_\infty c} \tilde{u}^{>}, \hat{n} \right) = \frac{4G_N}{c^4} \left(W_N^{>} + \frac{1}{c} W_{0.5\text{PN}}^{>} + \frac{1}{c^2} W_{1\text{PN}}^{>} + \dots \right),$$

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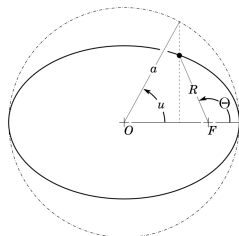
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But **PN multipoles** can be computed independently with the **quasi-Keplerian parametrization** for hyperbolic and elliptic orbits! [Damour,Deruelle]



From scattering to bound waveforms (II)

- We find a **B2B map between radiative multipoles** for hyperbolic and elliptic orbits **up to 1PN** [Adamo, RG, Ilderton; Junker, Schäfer]

$$W^<(u, \tilde{p}_\infty) \Big|_{1\text{PN}} = W^>(u, p_\infty = +i\tilde{p}_\infty) \Big|_{1\text{PN}}, \quad \mathcal{E} < 0$$

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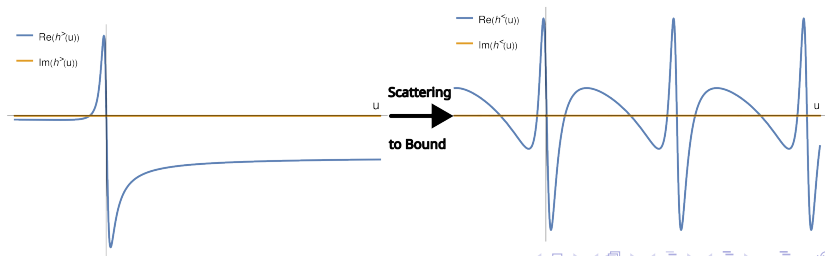
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- We need **a resummation in the eccentricity** to recover the bound waveform periodicity in the time u from PM waveforms

$$n^>t = e_t^> \sinh(v) - v + \mathcal{O}(1/c), \quad n^<t = u - e_t^< \sin(u) + \mathcal{O}(1/c).$$



Elephant in the room: hereditary effects in GR (I)

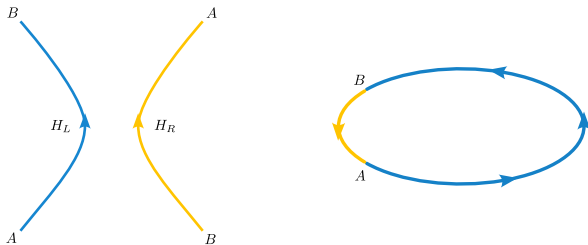
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- What is the **origin of the map**? The OSF (quasi-Keplerian) trajectory

$$r(\pi, \chi) = \frac{pM}{1 + e \cos(\chi)}, \quad \frac{dt}{d\chi} = \mathcal{F}_t(\chi, \pi), \quad (p, e) = \mathcal{F}_\pi(E, L),$$

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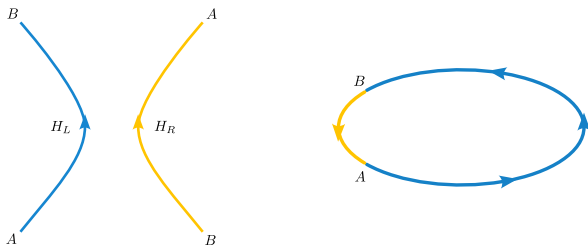


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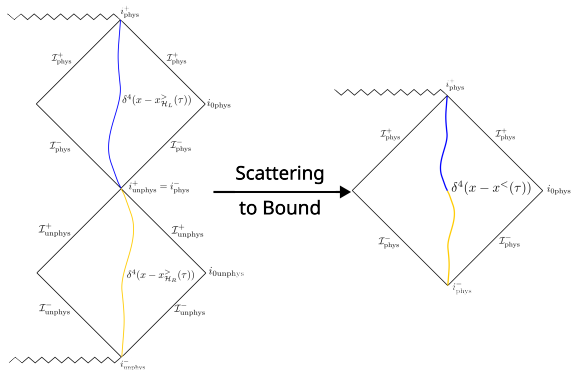
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- Use the **geometry**: **all conics are equivalent in the projective plane**. Therefore, we need the **second branch of the hyperbola (unphysical scattering)** to get a **full periodic scattering system!** [RG,Lewis,Pound]

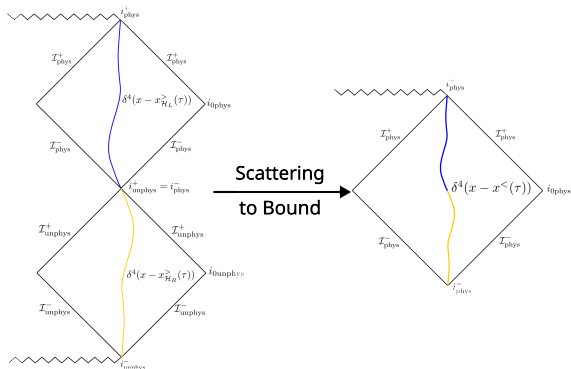
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- New definition of a "periodic scattering" system: potential implementation in the amplitude/worldline formalism! [RG,Lewis,Kavanagh,Pound,Usseglio]

Summary table of the boundary to bound dictionary

- For **aligned-spin binaries** we find a **conjectural scatter-to-bound dictionary** [Kälin, Porto; Saketh, Vines, Steinhoff, Buonanno; Cho, Kälin, Porto; Adamo, RG; Heissenberg; Adamo, RG, Ilderton; Damour, Deruelle; RG, Shi; RG, Lewis, Pound]

Bound observable	Scattering observable
$\Delta\Phi(\tilde{p}_\infty; L, a, c_X)$	$\chi(-i\tilde{p}_\infty; L, a, c_X) + \chi(+i\tilde{p}_\infty; L, a, c_X)$
$\frac{2\pi}{\Omega_r}(\tilde{p}_\infty; L, a, c_X)$	$\Delta t^\epsilon(-i\tilde{p}_\infty; L, a, c_X) + \Delta t^\epsilon(+i\tilde{p}_\infty; L, a, c_X)$
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which is **valid at least up to 3PM/0SF/3PN order for integrated observables** and **tree-level/1PN for waveforms**. **Need to study tail effects** at higher orders!

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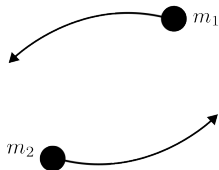
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- Hints towards a **generalization to misaligned spin** [RG,Shi]

(projected-) spin kick $\hat{l}_\mu \Delta s^\mu \leftrightarrow$ intrinsic spin precession $K^{\phi_{s^r}} = \Omega_s / \Omega_r$

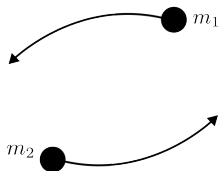
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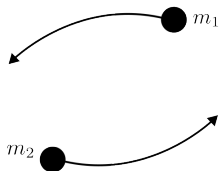
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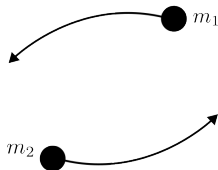
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- Resummation of perturbative methods is needed for direct application to LISA waveform modelling (EOB, GSF, ...) → Exciting direction for the future!

Self-force and amplitudes annual meetings 2025-2026

Excited about Self-force & Amplitudes?

Please join us for the **2nd annual workshop on Self-force & Amplitudes in Southampton on 9-12 September 2025!** <http://indico.global/event/4539/> (with C.Kavanagh,Z.Nasipak,J.Plefka,A.Pound) and/or for the **Nordita program in April 2026** (with L.Cangemi,P.di Vecchia,C.Kavanagh,A.Pound,G.Pratten)



Memories of the 1st Self-force&Amplitudes workshop at the Higgs Centre in 2024!