

Longitudinal gravitational memory and its potential detection by interferometers

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We show that when a spherically symmetric shell of energy passes through, two radially separated geodesics pick up a relative velocity proportional to their separation. This leads to a time-dependent distance increase that is measurable by interferometers. We estimate how close a supernova has to be, such that this effect from its neutrino shell can be detected by future interferometers.

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The recent detection of gravitational waves [?] has proved that gravitational waves leave an oscillating pattern in the amplitude of waveforms measured at detectors such as LIGO. It is also known that this is not the only effect that is potentially detectable; all gravitational waves also carry a non-linear memory effect [?].

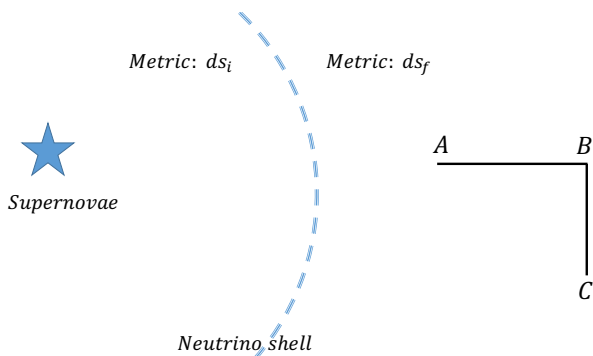


FIG. 1. Schematic of the effect being considered by a neutrino shell passing through the interferometer. The points A, B, C represent ends of the interferometer arm. We call the distance from the SN to point A , r_E and the arm length of the interferometer is d .

A non-linear memory effect is an effect that leaves a permanent displacement in the interferometer after the gravitational wave has passed through it. In this paper we present a similar effect that can also be seen in interferometers and it occurs when a shell of neutrinos (it

doesn't have to be neutrinos, in general it can be any shell of energy) crosses the interferometer. Moreover we show that the effect is linearly growing with time which may make it detectable with future experiments.

During a core collapse Supernova (SN) a fraction of a solar mass's worth of energy is released in a shell of neutrinos travelling at approximately the speed of light. We calculate the displacement seen in an interferometer, which for our purposes is just two geodesics separated by a given distance along the radial direction of the SN, when a shell of neutrinos crosses it (schematic of scenario is shown in figure 1). By assuming that the time it takes for the shell to cross the interferometer is much shorter than any timing measurement we can model the shell as a junction that is a delta function through which we need to connect the geodesics followed by the arms of the interferometer. This is done using the standard technology of the Israel Junction Conditions (IJC) [?].

In section II we derive this change in velocity by explicitly using the IJC for a (1+1) dimension delta function which represents the shell of neutrinos. Since each point A, B and C will have a different velocity the distance between all of them will change and each of these distances is calculated. Since interferometers measure the change in phase of light which is proportional to the proper time traversed by the photons, we calculate the difference in proper time before and after shell crossing in section III. In the final section we discuss potential observation of such an effect by experiments that are currently being planned such as LISA.

II. CHANGE IN RELATIVE VELOCITY

We assume the geometry of the spacetime is governed by the SN and thus is parametrised by the Schwarzschild metric. Before the SN explosion the geometry is

$$ds_i^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2M_i}{r}\right) dt^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2M_i}{r}\right)^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_2^2, \quad (1)$$

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where are working in units with $G = c = 1$. After the SN explosion the i index is replaced by f . Since we are describing the shell as a delta function travelling at roughly the speed of light it will follow a null geodesic. The null vector of the shell can be written in both metrics as follows,

$$\Sigma_\mu^{(i,f)} = \left(\left(1 - \frac{2M_{(i,f)}}{r} \right)^{-1}, 1, 0, 0 \right). \quad (2)$$

We choose a coordinate chart in which the interferometer is initially at rest and is described by the following geodesic

$$\zeta_\mu^{(i)} = \left(\left(1 - \frac{2M_i}{r} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}, 0, 0, 0 \right). \quad (3)$$

The r will be different for points A, B and C as shown in figure 1. After the shell has crossed we expect ζ to have a velocity component. This can be found using the IJC, which states $g_{(i)}^{\mu\nu} \Sigma_\mu^{(i)} \zeta_\nu^{(i)} = g_{(f)}^{\mu\nu} \Sigma_\mu^{(f)} \zeta_\nu^{(f)}$. This gives the final vector for the interferometer

$$\zeta_\mu^{(f)} = \left(\left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}, -\frac{\delta M}{r_{crossing}}, 0, 0 \right). \quad (4)$$

Note that $\frac{\delta M}{r_{crossing}}$ is a coordinate velocity and to convert to proper velocity it will need to be multiplied by a factor of $\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r_{crossing}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$, since this is a higher order correction it is not important here. $\delta M \equiv M_i - M_f$ and $r_{crossing}$ is a fixed distance at which the shell crosses a point. For A it is r_E , for B it is $r_E + d$ and for C it is $\approx r_E + d$ as well¹.

A. Horizontal interferometer

The relative velocity between the ends of a horizontal interferometer, A and B , that is in radial alignment with the SN as shown in figure 1 is given by

$$|\Delta L_{AB}| = |(v_A - v_B)t| = d \frac{\delta M}{r_E^2} t + \mathcal{O}(r_E^{-3}). \quad (5)$$

where v_A and v_B are the velocities picked up by points A and B after shell crossing and t is the time passed after shell crossing.

B. Vertical interferometer

A generic interferometer can be set up in a vertical orientation with respect to the direction of the SN as is shown in figure 2.

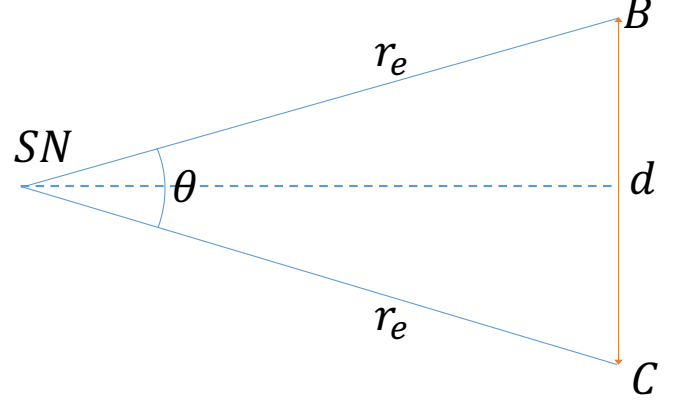


FIG. 2. The geometry of a vertically oriented interferometer.

In this case the velocity picked up by points B and C will have a component along the dotted line in figure 2, $\frac{\delta M}{r_E} \cos \frac{\theta}{2}$, and a component perpendicular to the dotted line, $\frac{\delta M}{r_E} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$. It is easy to see that the components along the dotted line will be the same for both point B and C and therefore there will be relative velocity in that direction. On the other hand, the components in the opposite directions will have the same magnitude but will be in opposite directions. Therefore the total relative velocity between B and C will be

$$|\Delta L_{BC}| = \left(\frac{2\delta M}{r_E} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right) t \quad (6)$$

which, in the small angle limit, reduces to $\frac{\delta M}{r_E^2} d$ as can be seen by the geometry in figure 2. In summary we expect both the horizontal and vertically oriented interferometers to have the signal of the same form.

$ \Delta L_{AB} $	$ \Delta L_{BC} $
$\frac{\delta M d}{r_E^2} t$	$\frac{\delta M d^2}{r_E^3} t$

III. CHANGE IN PROPER TIME

Interferometers like LIGO measure a change in the phase of light. The phase takes the form $\omega\tau$ where ω is

¹ The exact expression is $r_E \left(1 + \frac{2d}{r_E} + \frac{2d^2}{r_E^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ but we are working to leading order so we can make the given approximation.

the frequency of the photon and τ is the proper time traversed by the photon clock. In [?] we showed that there is no change in frequency in the case when the objects are aligned, so that would be in the case when the interferometer is oriented radially such as AB . For simplicity lets just look at the radial case of AB . Since there is no change in frequency, the change in phase will be given by the change in proper time (which is also intuitively pleasing as it corresponds to a change in a physical quantity which is the proper length between the two points). By

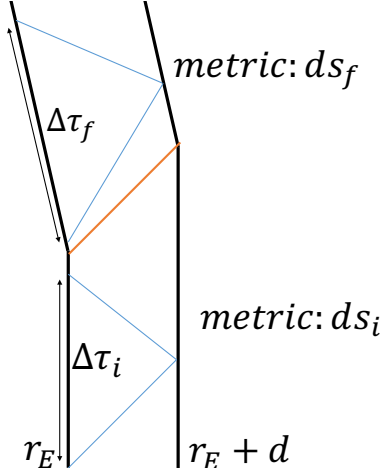


FIG. 3. This is showing the change in proper time before and after shell crossing for an interferometer in the radial direction of the SN, so that would correspond to the points A and B in figure 1. The blue lines represent the motion of photons and the orange line is the neutrino shell.

carefully expanding the equations of motion of a radial photon in a Schwarzschild metric one can find the expressions for proper time before, $\Delta\tau_i$, and after, $\Delta\tau_f$, shell crossing. The full calculation is presented in the appendix, the result we are interested in is the difference in the proper times, $\Delta\tau \equiv \Delta\tau_i - \Delta\tau_f$, and it is given by

$$\Delta\tau = \frac{2d}{r_E^2} \left(\frac{3}{2} (M_i^2 - M_f^2) - \frac{d\delta M}{2} - 3M_f\delta M - \frac{\delta M^2}{2} - t\delta M \right). \quad (7)$$

This shows that there is no change in proper time to $\mathcal{O}(r_E^{-1})$ which is what is expected and there is a term that grows linearly with time at $\mathcal{O}(r_E^{-2})$ which is in agreement with results presented in section II.

IV. DISCUSSION ABOUT FUTURE OBSERVATIONS

Taking the generic form of the change in distance as $\Delta L \sim \frac{\delta M d}{r_E^2} t$ we can estimate the distance a SN would have to be from the interferometer to have an observable change in strain $\frac{\Delta L}{d}$. The major problem for any ground based experiments will be the time the points A, B, C will remain in free fall as they will be held together with experimental apparatus. As examples we use two proposed space based experiments to make estimations. First we look at LISA; at a frequency of $\sim 10^{-3} Hz \sim 3 \times 10^8 km$ it has a strain, $h = \frac{|L|}{d}$, measurement of $\sim 10^{-21}$. Using the expression for $|L_{AB}|$ we find

$$r_E = \left(\frac{d\delta M}{|L_{AB}|} t \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \left(\frac{\delta M}{h} t \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (8)$$

$$= \left(\frac{1km}{10^{-21}} \times 3 \times 10^8 km \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \approx 10^{14} km = 10 ly. \quad (9)$$

If we look at the Big Bang Observer (BBO) instead, it has a strain value of 10^{-24} at a frequency $\sim 0.5 Hz = 6 \times 10^6 km$ and this gives a value for r_E of $\sim 100 ly$. Thus the BBO will have a sensitivity that gives a r_E that is 10 times larger than LISA which corresponds to a factor of 10^3 increase in the volume and therefore significantly improves the chance of observation. Finally, we can estimate what sensitivities would be required to measured effects of SN explosions at a distance comparable to the Galactic diameter of $\sim 10^5 ly$. Re-arranging Eq (8) we find

$$\nu h = \frac{\delta M}{r_E^2} t c, \quad (10)$$

where we have explicitly put in the speed of light c and ν is the frequency. For $r_E = 10^5 ly \approx 10^{18} km$ and $\delta M = 1 km$ we find $h\nu \approx 10^{-30}$ which is not achievable by interferometers that are currently being planned. Therefore it is likely that we will have to wait for the next generation of interferometers before this effect becomes measurable.

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Appendix A: Full calculation change in proper time

We would expect that the any difference in proper times would appear at $\mathcal{O}(r_E^{-2})$ thus all quantities are expanded to this order in the calculation.

1. Before Shell Crossing

We start by defining the metric

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2M_i}{r}\right) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{1 - \frac{2M_i}{r}} + r^2 d\Omega_2^2. \quad (\text{A1})$$

The two end-points of an interferometer arm, $r_1(t), r_2(t)$ are defined as

$$r_1(t) = r_E, \quad r_2(t) = r_E + d. \quad (\text{A2})$$

The equation of motion for outgoing photons travelling radially is obtained from the metric by setting $ds = 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} t - t_0 &= r - r_0 + 2M_i \ln \frac{r - 2M_i}{r_0 - 2M_i} \\ &= d + 2M_i \frac{d}{r_E} - M_i \frac{d}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_i}{r_E} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A3})$$

In the last step we plug in $r_0 = r_E$, $r = r_E + d$. Likewise, an incoming null-ray has an equation of motion

$$\begin{aligned} t - t_0 &= r_0 - r + 2M_i \ln \frac{r_0 - 2M_i}{r - 2M_i} \\ &= d + 2M_i \frac{d}{r_E} - M_i \frac{d}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_i}{r_E} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A4})$$

Here we used $r_0 = r_E + d$, $r = r_E$. Thus the total coordinate time it takes for a light ray to come back at r_1 is

$$\Delta t = 2d + 4M_i \frac{d}{r_E} - 2M_i \frac{d}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_i}{r_E} \right). \quad (\text{A5})$$

The total proper time traversed by the first end of the interferometer arm in the time it takes the photon to travel the length of the arm and come back is

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\tau_i &= \sqrt{1 - \frac{2M_i}{r_E}} \Delta t \\ &= 2d \left(1 - \frac{M_i}{r_E} - \frac{M_i^2}{2r_E^2} \right) \left[1 + \frac{2M_i}{r_E} - \frac{M_i}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_i}{r_E} \right) \right] \\ &= 2d \left(1 + \frac{M_i}{r_E} + \frac{3M_i^2}{2r_E^2} - \frac{M_i d}{r_E^2} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A6})$$

2. After Shell Crossing

The metric after shell crossing comes from the mass M_f ,

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r}\right) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{1 - \frac{2M_f}{r}} + r^2 d\Omega_2^2, \quad (\text{A7})$$

with $(M_i - M_f) = \delta M$ the neutrino shell mass. Assuming that r_1 crosses the shell at $t = 0$, we have²

$$r_1(t) = r_E - \frac{\delta M}{r_E} \left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r_E} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} t, \quad (\text{A8})$$

where $\left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r_E} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is the conversion factor between proper velocity and coordinate velocity, since this will be a higher order effect and will always accompany $\frac{\delta M}{r_E}$ this term will only affect terms of $\mathcal{O}(r_E^{-2})$. On the other hand, r_2 crosses the shell later. We can only derive that by first knowing the outgoing null-ray trajectory,

$$t - t_0 = r - r_0 + 2M_f \ln \frac{r - 2M_f}{r_0 - 2M_f}. \quad (\text{A9})$$

Plugging $t_0 = 0$, $r_0 = r_1(0) = r_E$, $r = r_2 = r_E + d$, we obtain the crossing time,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{t} &= d + 2M_f \ln \frac{r_E + d - 2M_f}{r_E - 2M_f} \\ &= d + 2M_f \frac{d}{r_E} - M_f \frac{d}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_f}{r_E} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A10})$$

Using this we can calculate $r_2(t)$

$$\begin{aligned} r_2(t) &= r_E + d - \frac{\delta M}{r_E + d} \left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r_E + d} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} (t - \tilde{t}) \\ &= r_E + d - \frac{\delta M}{r_E} (t - d) + \frac{\delta M}{r_E^2} ((M_f + d)t + (M_f - d)d) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A11})$$

Now, for a light ray that starts from r_1 at a later time t_0 , we solve where r_2 crosses the null ray by substituting $r_0 = r_1(t_0) = r_E - \frac{\delta M}{r_E} t_0$ and $r = r_2(t) = r_E + d - \frac{\delta M}{r_E} (t - d) + \frac{\delta M}{r_E} \frac{d}{r_E} (t - d + 2M_f)$ into Eq (A9). A further approximation we may use is $t_0 \gg d \approx (t - t_0)$. Thus when a term is already second order, we ignore the difference between t and t_0 . We can then start to solve the crossing time at r_2 , while carefully keeping all the expansions up to the second order.

² In theory there is also the acceleration of the interferometer however that will be a higher order effect thus we ignore it.

and the time it takes for an incoming photon to cross the arm,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta t_{out} &\equiv t - t_0 = d - \frac{\delta M}{r_E}(t - t_0 - d) + \frac{\delta M M_f}{r_E^2}(t - t_0 - d) \\
&+ \frac{\delta M}{r_E} \frac{d}{r_E}(t - d + 2M_f) \\
&+ 2M_f \ln \left(1 + \frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{2M_f}{r_E} - \frac{\delta M(t-d)}{r_E^2} \right) \\
&- 2M_f \ln \left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r_E} - \frac{\delta M t_0}{r_E^2} \right) \\
&= d - \frac{\delta M}{r_E}(t - t_0 - d) + \frac{M_f \delta M d}{r_E^2} + \frac{\delta M t_0}{r_E^2}(d - M_f) \\
&+ 2M_f \left[\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{2M_f}{r_E} - \frac{\delta M(t-d)}{r_E^2} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{2M_f}{r_E} \right)^2 \right] \\
&- 2M_f \left(-\frac{2M_f}{r_E} - \frac{\delta M t_0}{r_E^2} - \frac{2M_f^2}{r_E^2} \right) + \frac{\delta M M_f t}{r_E^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta t_{in} &\equiv t - t_0 = d + \frac{\delta M}{r_E}(t - t_0 + d) \\
&+ \frac{\delta M}{r_E^2}(-M_f t + t_0(M_f + d) + d(M_f - d)) \\
&+ 2M_f \ln \left(1 + \frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{2M_f}{r_E} - \frac{\delta M}{r_E^2}(t_0 - d) \right) \\
&- 2M_f \ln \left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r_E} - \frac{\delta M}{r_E^2} t \right)
\end{aligned}$$

Compare this with Eq. (A12), the log terms are identical up to the higher order difference in t and t_0 which we can ignore.

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta t_{in} &\left(1 - \frac{\delta M}{r_E} + \frac{M_f \delta M}{r_E^2} \right) = d + 2M_f \frac{d}{r_E} \\
&- M_f \frac{d}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_f}{r_E} \right) + \frac{\delta M}{r_E} d \\
&+ \frac{\delta M d}{r_E^2}(t_0 - d + 2M_f). \tag{A15}
\end{aligned}$$

Combining them, the total duration in coordinate time is

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta t &= \Delta t_{out} + \Delta t_{in} \\
&= d \left(1 - \frac{\delta M}{r_E} + \frac{\delta M^2}{r_E^2} \right) \\
&\times \left[1 + \frac{2M_f}{r_E} + \frac{\delta M}{r_E} - \frac{M_f}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_f}{r_E} \right) + \frac{\delta M(t_0 + 2M_f)}{r_E^2} \right] \\
&+ d \left(1 + \frac{\delta M}{r_E} + \frac{\delta M^2}{r_E^2} \right) \\
&\times \left[1 + \frac{2M_f}{r_E} + \frac{\delta M}{r_E} - \frac{M_f}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_f}{r_E} \right) + \frac{\delta M(t_0 - d + 2M_f)}{r_E^2} \right] \\
&= 2d \left[1 + \frac{2M_f}{r_E} + \frac{\delta M}{r_E} - \frac{M_f}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_f}{r_E} \right) \right. \\
&\left. + \frac{\delta M(t_0 + 2M_f - d/2)}{r_E^2} + \frac{\delta M^2}{r_E^2} \right]. \tag{A16}
\end{aligned}$$

Next we convert this coordinate time into proper time,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta \tau_f &= \int_{t_0}^{t_0 + \Delta t} \sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r_1} \right) dt^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r_1} \right)^{-1} dr^2} \\
&= \int_{t_0}^{t_0 + \Delta t} \sqrt{\left(1 - \frac{2M_f}{r_E - \frac{\delta M}{r_E} t} \right) - \frac{\delta M^2}{r_E^2}} dt \\
&= \left(1 - \frac{M_f}{r_E} - \frac{\delta M^2}{2r_E^2} - \frac{M_f^2}{2r_E^2} \right) \Delta t \\
&= 2d \left(1 + \frac{M_f}{r_E} + \frac{\delta M}{r_E} - \frac{\delta M M_f}{r_E^2} + \frac{M_f d}{r_E^2} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{M_f^2}{r_E^2} \right. \\
&\left. + \frac{\delta M(t_0 + 2M_f - d/2)}{r_E^2} + \frac{\delta M^2}{2r_E^2} \right). \tag{A17}
\end{aligned}$$

This leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta t_{out} &\left(1 + \frac{\delta M}{r_E} - \frac{\delta M M_f}{r_E^2} \right) = d + 2M_f \frac{d}{r_E} \\
&- M_f \frac{d}{r_E} \left(\frac{d}{r_E} - \frac{4M_f}{r_E} \right) \\
&+ \frac{\delta M}{r_E} d + \frac{\delta M d}{r_E^2}(t_0 + 3M_f). \tag{A12}
\end{aligned}$$

Compare this to Eq. (A4), there are only three differences, and two of them have clear physical meanings. The last term on the right-hand-side is the total extra distance between the two end-points, since their velocities are slightly different. The extra factor on the left-hand-side comes from the fact that both end-points are falling toward the center with roughly identical velocity, so it takes a light ray less time to go from inside to outside. On the other hand, the outside endpoint did not pick up this velocity at $t = 0$, but at $t \sim d$. That leads to the second last term which will cancel the previous factor at the leading order. The last two things will of course be reversed in the reflection, while the distance increase stays the same. An incoming null-ray has the trajectory

$$t_0 - t = r - r_0 + 2M_f \ln \frac{r - 2M_f}{r_0 - 2M_f}. \tag{A13}$$

This allows us to calculate the radial coordinates of the end points of the interferometer arms

$$\begin{aligned}
r_0 &= r_2(t_0) = r_E + d - \frac{\delta M}{r_E}(t_0 - d) \\
&+ \frac{\delta M}{r_E^2}(d(M_f - d) + t_0(M_f + d)), \\
r &= r_1(t) = r_E - \frac{\delta M}{r_E} t - \frac{M_f \delta M}{r_E^2}. \tag{A14}
\end{aligned}$$

Finally, we arrive at the difference in proper time,
 $\Delta\tau = \Delta\tau_i - \Delta\tau_f$,

$$\Delta\tau = \frac{2d}{r_E^2} \left(\frac{3}{2}(M_i^2 - M_f^2) - \frac{d\delta M}{2} - 3M_f\delta M - \frac{\delta M^2}{2} - t\delta M \right). \quad (\text{A18})$$