

TESTING THE SPEED OF GRAVITY  
WITH  
BLACK HOLE RINGDOWN

UKCOSMO - QMUL - NOVEMBER 2023

SERGI SIRERA



# TESTING GRAVITY

- SO WHY SHOULD WE TEST GR ?

- DARK ENERGY
- SINGULARITIES
- NOT QUANTIZABLE
- ...
- WHY NOT?

# TESTING GRAVITY

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 4D \\ g_{\mu\nu} \\ \text{LOCAL} \\ 2^{\text{nd}} \text{order EOM} \end{array} \right\} \text{GR} \quad \rightarrow \quad S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R[g_{\mu\nu}]$$

(LOVELOCK'S THEOREM)

# TESTING GRAVITY

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 4D \\ g_{\mu\nu} \\ \text{LOCAL} \\ \text{2}^{\text{nd}} \text{order EOM} \end{array} \right\} \text{GR} \rightarrow S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R[g_{\mu\nu}]$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 4D \\ g_{\mu\nu} + \phi \\ \text{LOCAL} \\ \text{2}^{\text{nd}} \text{order EOM} \end{array} \right\} \text{HORNDESKI} \rightarrow S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} H[g_{\mu\nu}, \phi]$$

# TESTING GRAVITY

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} (\mathcal{L}_2 + \mathcal{L}_3 + \mathcal{L}_4 + \mathcal{L}_5)$$

HORNDESKI GRAVITY

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = G_2(\phi, X)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = G_3(\phi, X) \square \phi$$

$$\mathcal{L}_4 = G_4(\phi, X) R + G_{4X}(\phi, X) [(\square \phi)^2 - (\phi_{\mu\nu})^2]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_5 = G_5(\phi, X) G_{\mu\nu} \phi^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{6} G_{5X}(\phi, X) [(\square \phi)^3 - 3(\phi_{\mu\nu})^2 \square \phi + 2(\phi_{\mu\nu})^3]$$

WHERE  $X = -\frac{1}{2} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi$ ,  $\phi_\mu := \nabla_\mu \phi$ ,  $\phi_{\mu\nu} := \nabla_\nu \nabla_\mu \phi$ , ...

$$G_{4X} := \partial_X G_4 \quad (\phi_{\mu\nu})^2 := \phi_{\mu\nu} \phi^{\mu\nu}$$

$$(\phi_{\mu\nu})^3 := \phi_{\mu\nu} \phi^{\mu\sigma} \phi_{\sigma}^{\nu}$$

# TESTING GRAVITY

THEORY  
↓  
OBSERVABLE

$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R$   
↓  
 $\alpha = 0$

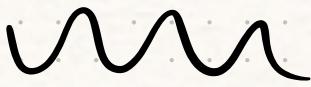
$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} H$   
↓  
 $\alpha \neq 0$

"SMOKING  
GUN SIGNAL"

# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

GR

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R \longrightarrow G_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu} \xrightarrow[\text{WEAK FIELD}]{g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}} \square h_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}$$



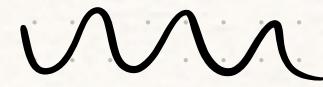
# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

GR

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R \longrightarrow G_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \xrightarrow{\text{WEAK FIELD}}$$

$$\square h_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}$$

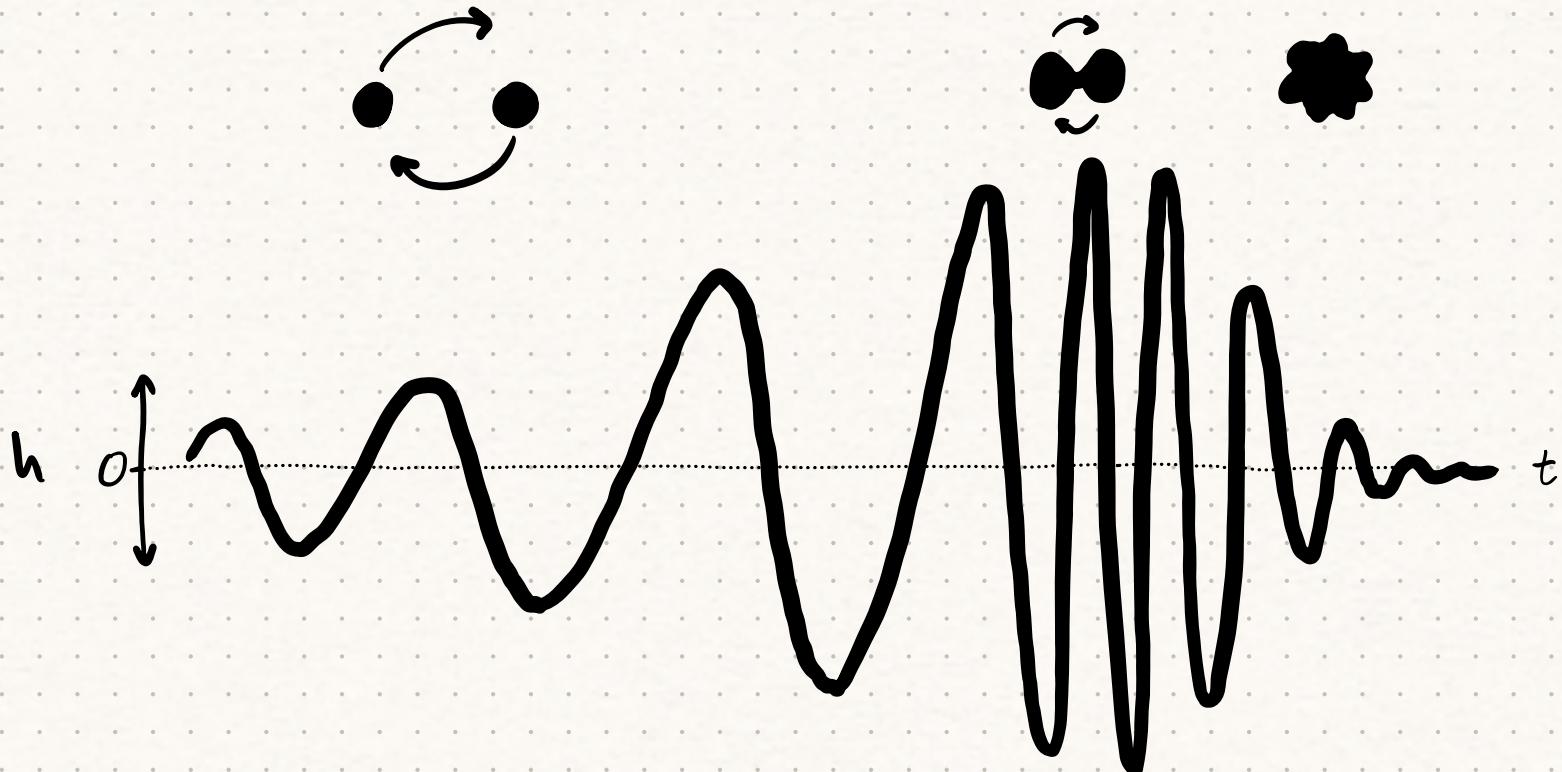


ASTROPHYSICAL SOURCES : MERGERS ( BLACK HOLES / NEUTRON STARS )

INSPIRAL

MERGER

RINGDOWN



# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

GR

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R \longrightarrow G_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \xrightarrow{\text{WEAK FIELD}}$$

$$\square h_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}$$

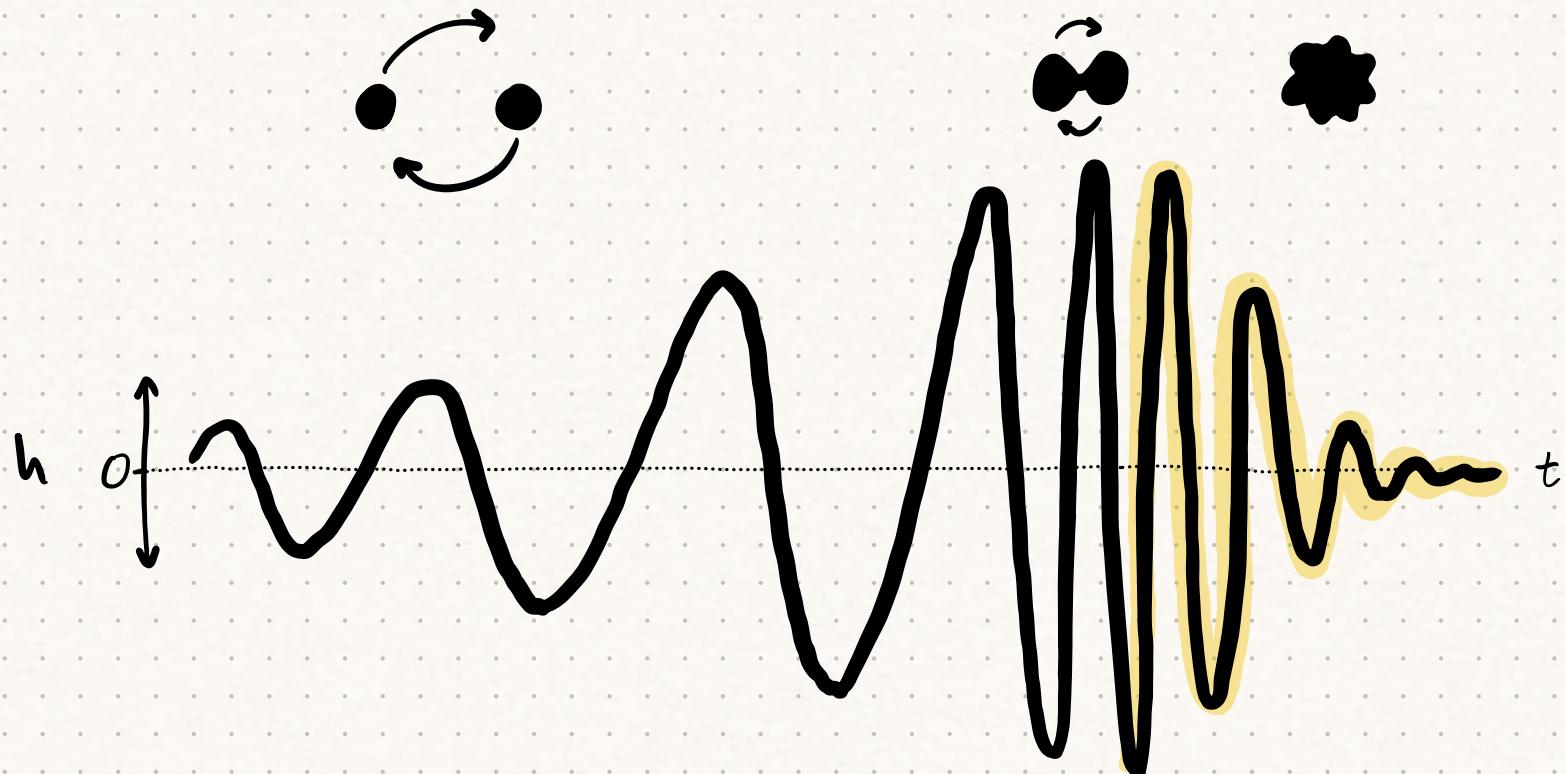


ASTROPHYSICAL SOURCES : MERGERS ( BLACK HOLES / NEUTRON STARS )

INSPIRAL

MERGER

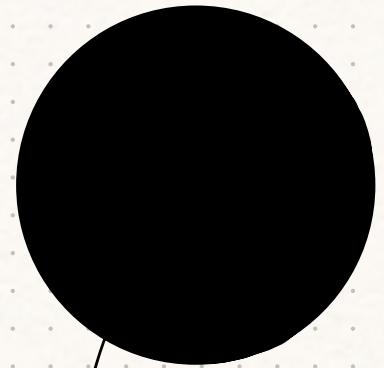
RINGDOWN



# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

GR

RINGDOWN : BLACK HOLE PERTURBATION THEORY



$$g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$$

A hand-drawn equation showing the metric tensor  $g_{\mu\nu}$  equated to its background value  $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ . A wavy line connects the two terms.

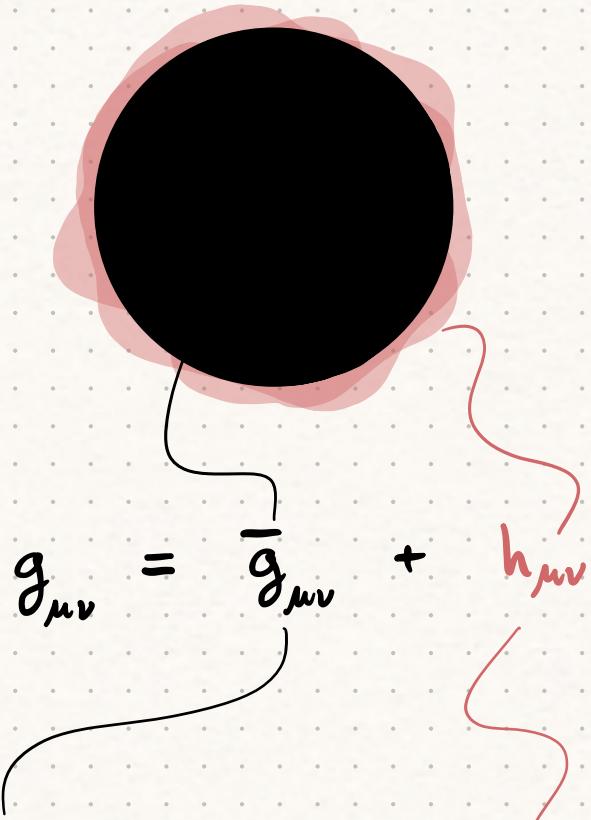
## BACKGROUND

- SCHWARZSCHILD
- KERR
- REISSNER-NORDSTRÖM
- ...

# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

GR

RINGDOWN : BLACK HOLE PERTURBATION THEORY



$$g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$$

BACKGROUND

- SCHWARZSCHILD
- KERR
- REISSNER-NORDSTRÖM
- ...

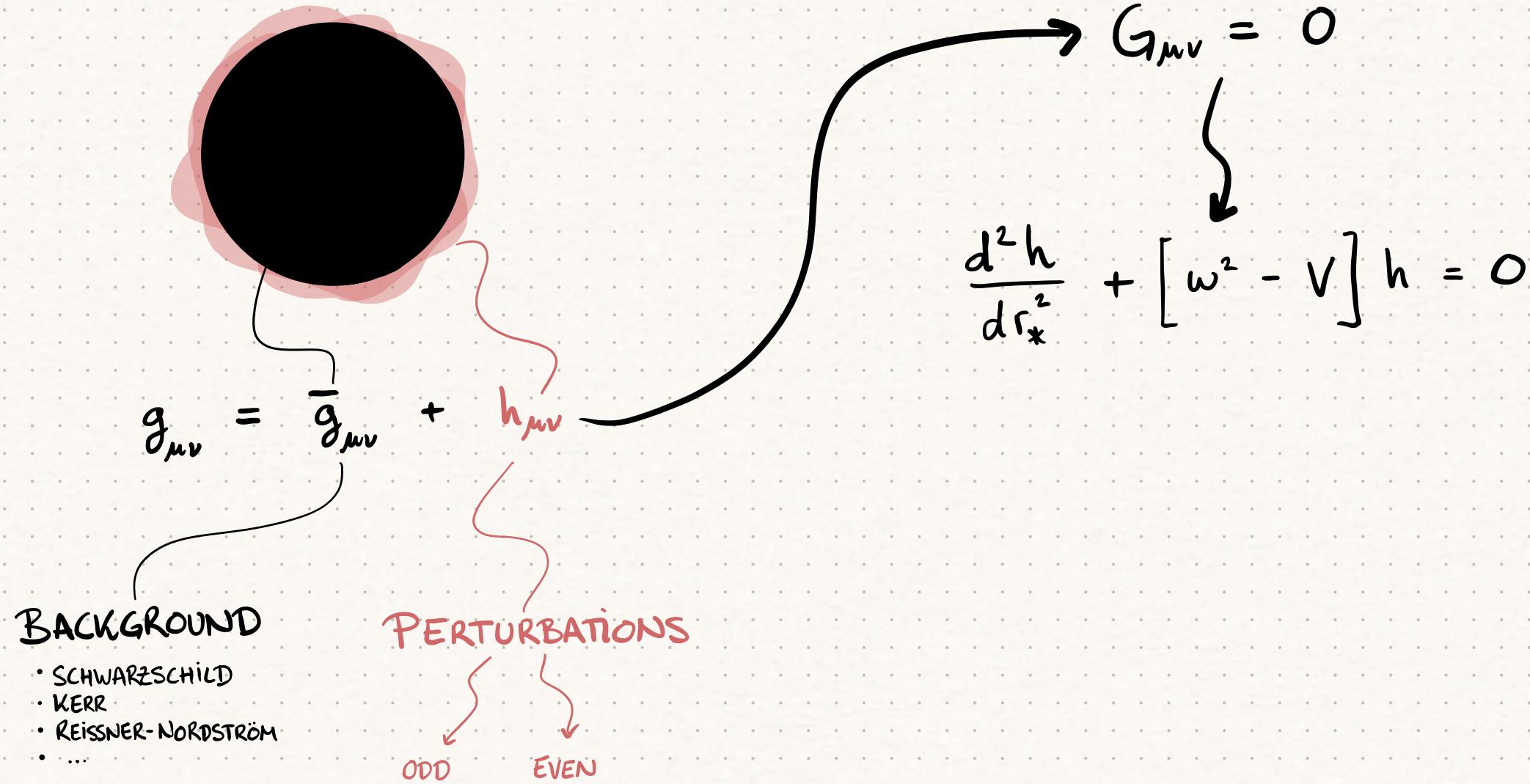
PERTURBATIONS

ODD EVEN

# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

GR

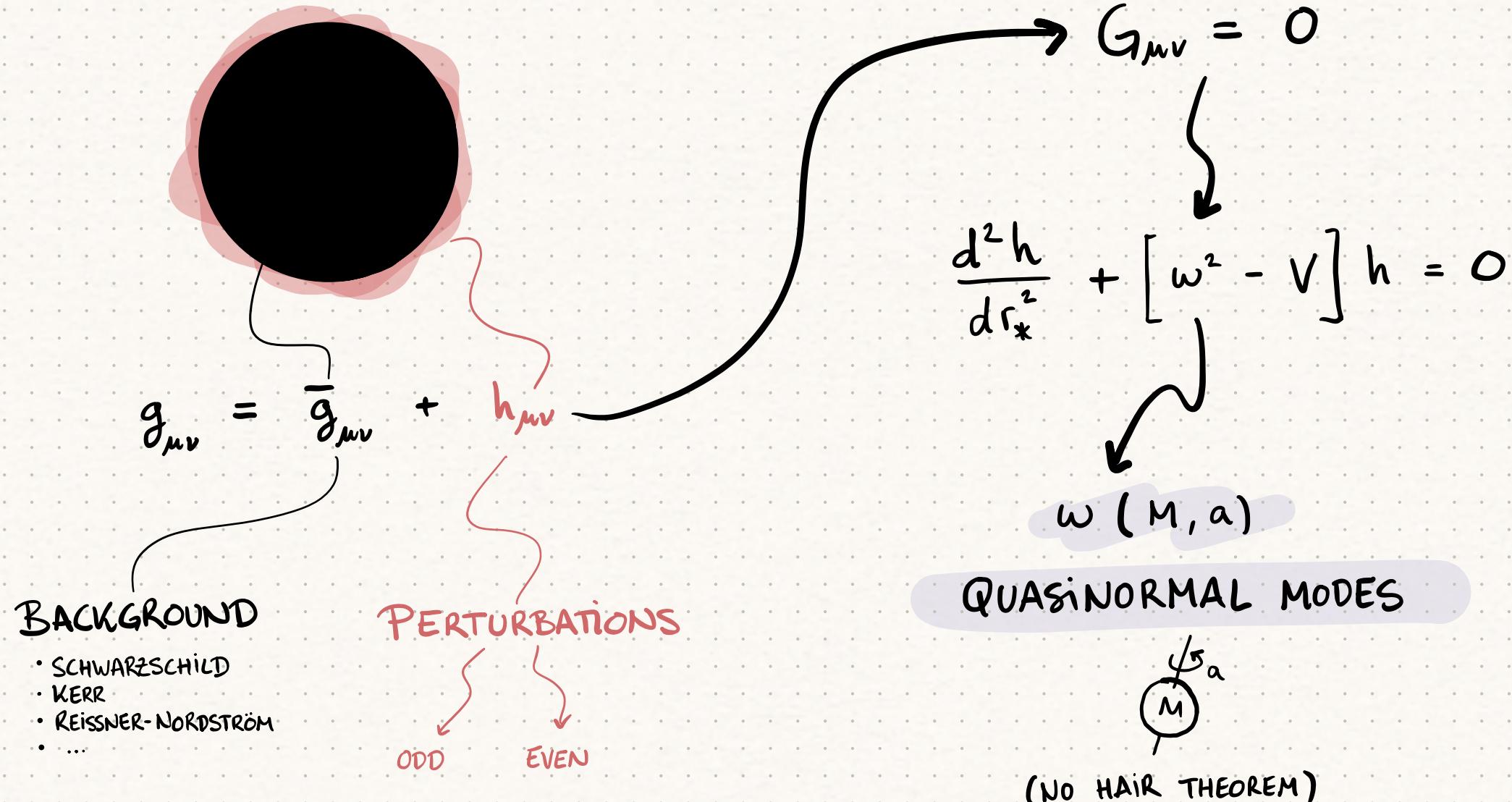
RINGDOWN : BLACK HOLE PERTURBATION THEORY



# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

GR

RINGDOWN : BLACK HOLE PERTURBATION THEORY



# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

## BLACK HOLE SPECTROSCOPY

$\omega(M, a)$

- 1st QNM sets  $M$



# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

## BLACK HOLE SPECTROSCOPY

$\omega(M, a)$

- 1st QNM sets  $M$
- 2nd QNM sets  $a$

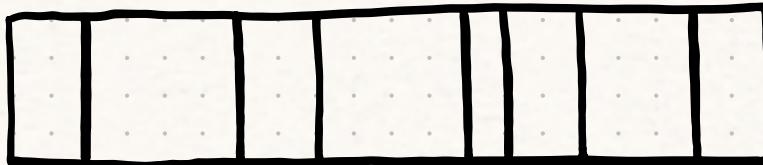


# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

## BLACK HOLE SPECTROSCOPY

$\omega(M, a)$

- 1st QNM sets  $M$
- 2nd QNM sets  $a$
- All other QNMs are fixed in GR

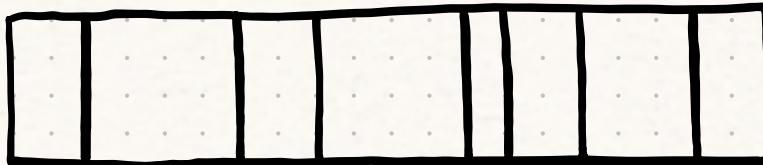


# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

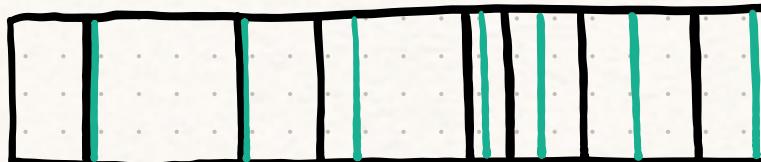
## BLACK HOLE SPECTROSCOPY

$\omega(M, a)$

- 1st QNM sets  $M$
- 2nd QNM sets  $a$
- All other QNMs are fixed in GR



MEASURING QNMs PROVIDES CLEAN TESTS OF  
BACKGROUND GEOMETRY AND UNDERLYING THEORY



GR       $\omega(M, a)$   
MG       $\omega(M, a, \alpha)$

# SPEED OF GRAVITY

GR

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R(g_{\mu\nu})$$



$$\frac{d^2 h}{dr_*^2} + [w^2 + V] h = 0$$



$$\omega(M, a)$$

$$\alpha_T = 0$$

HORNDENSKI

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} H(g_{\mu\nu}, \phi)$$



$$\frac{d^2 h}{dr_*^2} + [w^2(1 + \alpha_T) + V + \alpha_T \delta V] h = 0$$



$$\omega(M, a, \alpha_T)$$

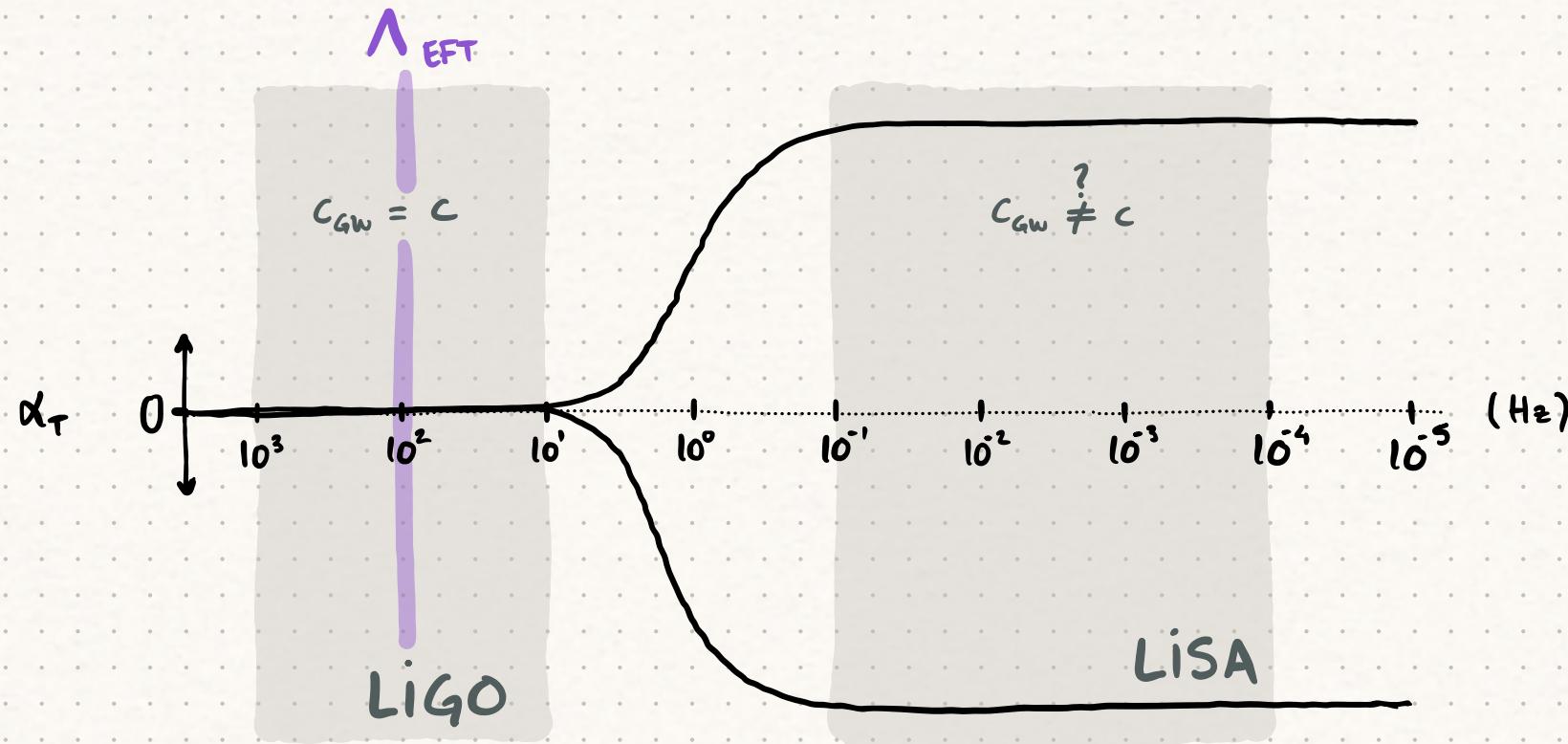
$$\alpha_T = \frac{c_{GW} - c}{c} \neq 0$$

GRAVITATIONAL WAVE SPEED EXCESS

# SPEED OF GRAVITY

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT  $\alpha_T$ ?

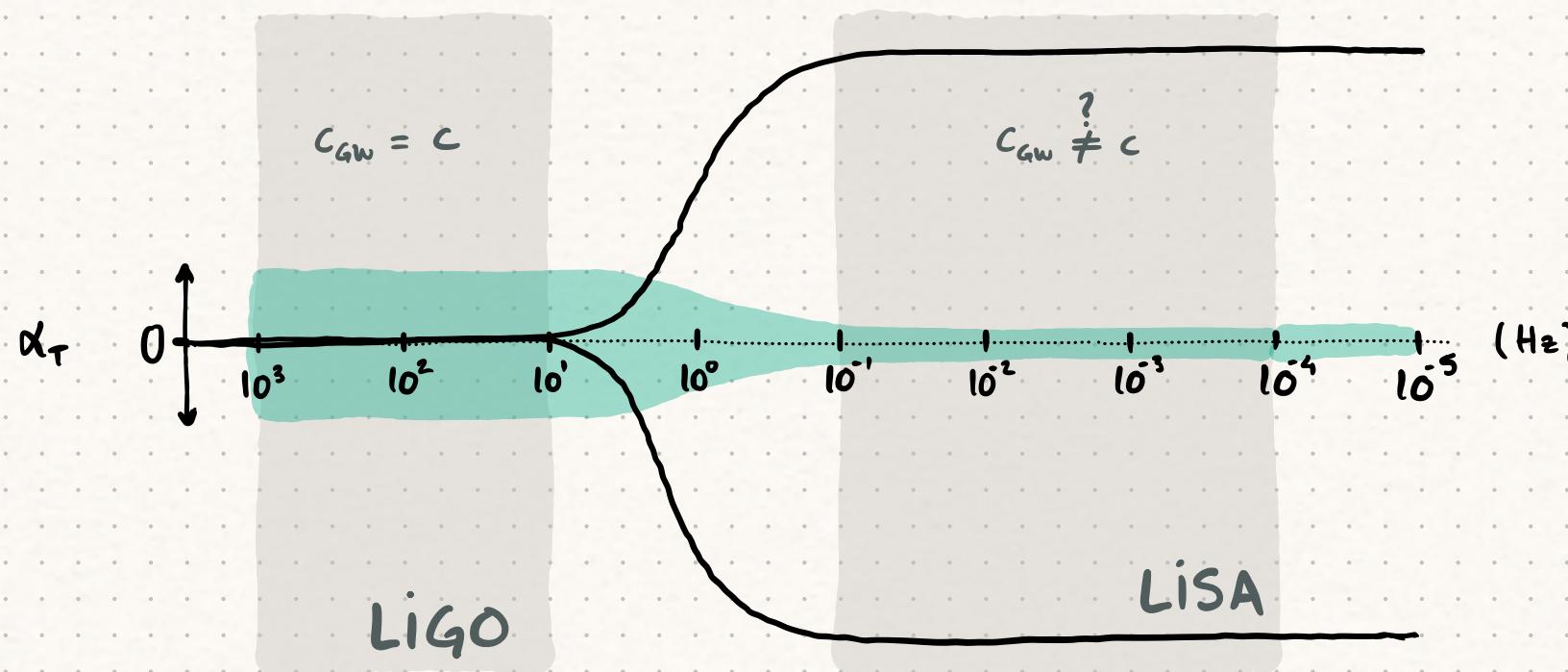
- LIGO :  $\alpha_T \lesssim 10^{-15}$  (GW170817)
- DARK ENERGY EFTs : CUTOFF AT  $\sim 10^2$  Hz



# SPEED OF GRAVITY

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT  $\alpha_T$ ?

- LIGO :  $\alpha_T \lesssim 10^{-15}$  (GW170817)
- DARK ENERGY EFTs : CUTOFF AT  $\sim 10^2$  Hz



## FISCHER FORECASTS:

FOR 1 LOUD MERGER :

- LISA :  $\alpha_T \lesssim 10^{-4}$
- LIGO/ET  $\alpha_T \lesssim 10^{-1}$

[2301.10272]

↳ SS, JOHANNES NOLLER



[sergilis/ringdown-calculations](#) Public

# SPEED OF GRAVITY

[2301.10272] SS, JOHANNES NOLLER

## BACKGROUND:

$$\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = -f dt^2 + f^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_2^2, \quad f = 1 - \frac{2M}{r}$$

$$\bar{\phi} = \hat{\phi} + \varepsilon \delta\phi(r), \quad \delta\phi = \varphi_c \frac{2M}{r}$$



[sergilsl/ringdown-calculations](#) Public

# SPEED OF GRAVITY

[2301.10272] SS, JOHANNES NOLLER

## BACKGROUND:

$$\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = -f dt^2 + f^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_2^2, \quad f = 1 - \frac{2M}{r}$$

$$\bar{\phi} = \hat{\phi} + \varepsilon S\phi(r), \quad S\phi = \varphi_c \frac{2M}{r}$$

## THEORY:

HORNDESKI WITH  $G_{4\phi} = 0$



[sergilsl/ringdown-calculations](#) Public

# SPEED OF GRAVITY

[2301.10272] SS, JOHANNES NOLLER

## BACKGROUND:

$$\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = -f dt^2 + f^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_2^2, \quad f = 1 - \frac{2M}{r}$$

$$\bar{\phi} = \hat{\phi} + \varepsilon S\phi(r), \quad S\phi = \varphi_c \frac{2M}{r}$$

## THEORY:

HORNDESKI WITH  $G_{4\phi} = 0$

## MODIFIED REGGE - WHEELER EQUATION

$$\frac{d^2 h}{dr_*^2} + [w^2(1 + \alpha_T) + V + \alpha_T S V] h = 0$$

$$\alpha_T = -f(2M)^2 G_T S\phi'^2$$

$$G_T = \frac{G_{4x} - G_{5\phi}}{G_4}$$



[sergilsl/ringdown-calculations](#) Public

# SPEED OF GRAVITY

[2301.10272] SS, JOHANNES NOLLER

## BACKGROUND:

$$\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = -f dt^2 + f^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_2^2, \quad f = 1 - \frac{2M}{r}$$

$$\bar{\phi} = \hat{\phi} + \varepsilon \delta\phi(r), \quad \delta\phi = \varphi_c \frac{2M}{r}$$

## THEORY:

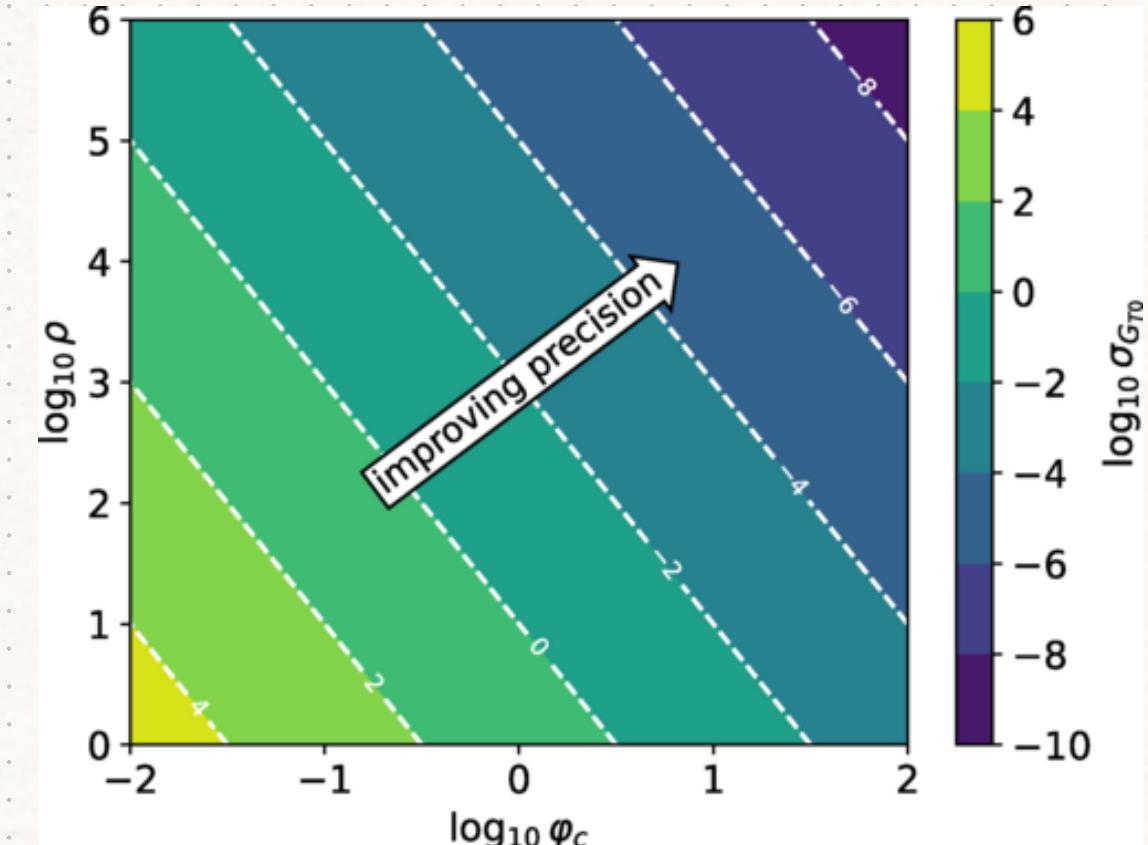
HORNDESKI WITH  $G_{4\phi} = 0$

## MODIFIED REGGE - WHEELER EQUATION

$$\frac{d^2 h}{dr_*^2} + [\omega^2(1 + \alpha_T) + V + \alpha_T \delta V] h = 0$$

$$\alpha_T = -f(2M)^2 G_T \delta\phi'^2$$

$$G_T = \frac{G_{4x} - G_{5\phi}}{G_4}$$



[sergilsl/ringdown-calculations](#) Public

# SUMMARY

- QNMs CAN BE USED TO TEST NEW GRAVITATIONAL PHYSICS
- SPEED OF GWs  $\neq$  SPEED OF LIGHT IN SOME HORNDESKI THEORIES
- QNMs ARE  $\alpha_T$ -DEPENDENT IF  $\exists$  SCALAR HAIR
- LISA CAN CONSTRAIN  $|\alpha_T| \lesssim 10^{-4}$  WITH RINGDOWN OF ONE SMBH MERGER

## ONGOING WORK:

- RINGDOWN OF BHs IN EXPANDING UNIVERSE WITH TIMELIKE SCALAR  
WITH JOHANNES NOLLER
- IMPLEMENT SOME MODIFIED GRAVITY PARAMETERS IN LIGO ANALYSIS PIPELINE (PYRING)  
WITH JOHANNES NOLLER, GREGORIO CARULLO, GIADA CANEVA SANTORO & WALTER DEL POZZO

THANKS!

@sergisirera

BACKUP SLIDES

# BLACK HOLE PERTURBATIONS IN REGGE - WHEELER GAUGE

$$h_{\mu\nu} = h_{\mu\nu}^{\text{odd}} + h_{\mu\nu}^{\text{even}}$$

$$h_{\mu\nu}^{\text{odd}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -h_0 \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \partial_\phi Y_{lm} & h_0 \sin\theta \partial_\theta Y_{lm} \\ 0 & 0 & -h_1 \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \partial_\phi Y_{lm} & h_1 \sin\theta \partial_\theta Y_{lm} \\ -h_0 \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \partial_\phi Y_{lm} & -h_1 \frac{1}{\sin\theta} \partial_\phi Y_{lm} & 0 & 0 \\ h_0 \sin\theta \partial_\theta Y_{lm} & h_1 \sin\theta \partial_\theta Y_{lm} & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$h_{\mu\nu}^{\text{even}} = \begin{pmatrix} fH_0 & H_1 & 0 & 0 \\ H_1 & \frac{1}{f}H_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & r^2 K & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & r^2 \sin^2\theta K \end{pmatrix} Y_{lm}$$

## QUADRATIC ACTION IN GR

$$S^{(2)} = \frac{1}{4} \int \sqrt{-g} d^4x \left[ -h_{\mu\nu} h^{\mu\nu} + \nabla_\nu h \nabla^\nu h - \nabla_\mu h_{\nu\sigma} \nabla^\mu h^{\nu\sigma} + 2 \nabla_\mu h^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\nu h_\nu^\sigma - 2 \nabla^\mu h \nabla_\nu h_\mu^\nu + 2(h_\sigma^\nu h^{\sigma\mu} - h h^{\mu\nu}) R_{\mu\nu} - (h_{\mu\nu} h^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} h^2) R + 2 h^{\mu\nu} h^{\sigma\lambda} R_{\mu\nu\sigma\lambda} \right]$$

## QUADRATIC ACTION HORNDESKI ODD SECTOR IN COMPONENTS

$$S^{(2)} = \int dt dr \left[ a_1 h_o^2 + a_2 h_i^2 + a_3 (h_i^2 + h_o'^2 - 2h_o' h_i + \frac{4}{r} h_i h_o) \right]$$

$$\downarrow \\ a_1 = \frac{l(l+1)}{2r^2} \left[ (r f)^l + \frac{(l-1)(l+2)F}{2B} + \frac{r^2}{B} \epsilon_A \right]$$

$$a_2 = -\frac{l(l+1)}{2} B \left[ \frac{(l-1)(l+2)G}{2r^2} + \epsilon_B \right]$$

$$a_3 = \frac{l(l+1)}{4} H$$

$$F = 2(G_4 + \frac{1}{2}B\phi' X' G_{5X} - X G_{5\phi})$$

$$G = 2 \left[ G_4 - 2X G_{4X} + X \left( \frac{B'}{2} \phi' G_{5X} + G_{5\phi} \right) \right]$$

$$H = 2 \left[ G_4 - 2X G_{4X} + X \left( \frac{B}{r} \phi' G_{5X} + G_{5\phi} \right) \right]$$

$$S^{(2)} = \frac{l(l+1)}{4(l-1)(l+2)} \int dt dr_* \left[ \frac{F}{G} \dot{Q}^2 - \left( \frac{dQ}{dr_*} \right)^2 - V(r) Q^2 \right]$$

$$h_o = -\frac{(r^2 a_3 q)^l}{r^2 a_1 - 2(r a_3)^l}$$

$$h_i = \frac{a_3}{a_2} \dot{q}$$

$$q = \frac{\sqrt{F}}{r H} Q$$

# EXISTING & UPCOMING $\alpha_T$ CONSTRAINTS

$|\alpha_T| \lesssim 10^0$

$f \sim 10^{-18} - 10^{-14}$  Hz

CMB & LSS

$|\alpha_T| \lesssim 10^{-2}$

$f \sim 10^{-5}$  Hz

HULSE - TAYLOR BINARY [1507.05047] BELTRAN SIMENEZ ET. AL.

$|\alpha_T| \lesssim 10^{-12}$

$f \sim 10^1 - 10^4$  Hz

ECLIPSING WHITE-DWARF BINARY [1908.00678] LITTENBERG ET. AL.

$|\alpha_T| \lesssim 10^{-4}$

$f \sim 10^1 - 10^4$  Hz

REDSHIFT-INDUCED  $f$ -DEPENDENCE [2203.00566] BAKER ET. AL.

$|\alpha_T| \lesssim 10^{-7}$

$f \sim 10^1 - 10^4$  Hz

$f$ -DEPENDENT WAVEFORMS [2207.10096] HARRY AND NOLLER

$|\alpha_T| \lesssim 10^{-15}$

$f \sim 10^3 - 10^4$  Hz

MULTIBAND [2209.14398] BAKER ET. AL. [1602.06951] SESANA

[2207.10096] HARRY AND NOLLER

$|\alpha_T| \lesssim 10^{-15}$

$f \sim 10^2$  Hz

GW170817