

Title: Gyroscopic gravitational memory from binary systems

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Series: Quantum Gravity

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Abstract: I will review the "gyroscopic gravitational memory", the permanent effect of gravitational waves on freely-falling gyroscopes far from the source of gravitational radiation. Then, I will compute the effect created by binary systems in the post-Newtonian approximation. The discussion naturally involves the helicity of gravitational waves and gravitational electric-magnetic duality.

Zoom link



Gyroscopic gravitational memory from binary systems

Ali Seraj

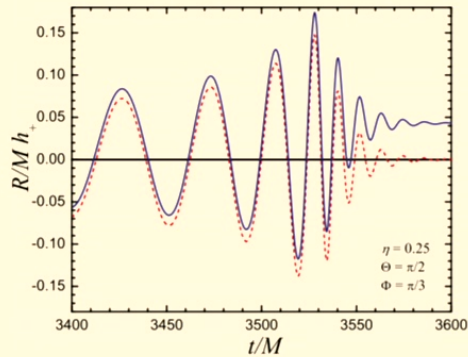
Physique Théorique et Mathématique, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

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Perimeter Institute - 9 May 2024

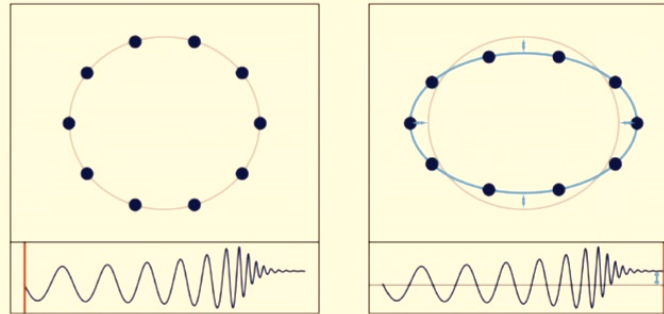
Based on
Work in preparation with **Guillaume Faye**
and PRL 129 (2022) 6, 061101, 2112.04535 (JHEP) with **Blagoje Oblak**

Intro: Gravitational memory effects [Polnarev, Zeldovich, Braginsky, Thorne, Christodoulou, Blanchet, Damour, ...]

Gravitational memory effects: Non-oscillatory part of gravitational waves



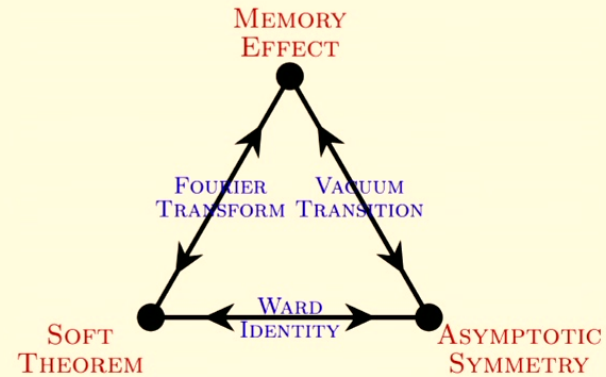
[Credit: M. Favata]



[Credit: K Mitman]

Motivations to study it?

- ✓ Observable effect of GR
- ✓ Low energy structure of quantum gravity



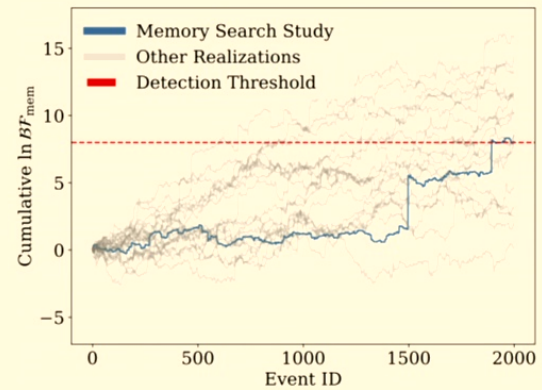
[Credit: A. Strominger]

Prospects for detection: LIGO/Virgo

Not possible to detect in single event

Bayesian model selection: Is a memoryful waveform preferred by data? [Lasky+ '16]

Order 2000 signals for detection or 5 years of data collection [Hubner+'19,Boersma+'20, Grant+'22]



[P. Lasky et al.]

Prospects for detection: LISA

The Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) has sufficient sensitivity to observe memory in the GW signal from **supermassive black hole mergers**

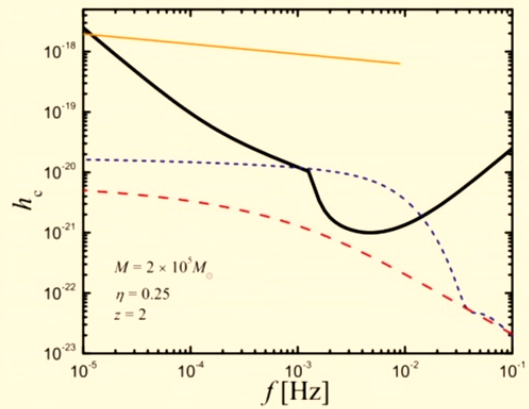


Figure 1: GW signal from supermassive mergers. **Black:** Sensitivity curve of LISA, **Orange:** inspiral signal amplitude, **Blue:** memory contribution [Favata '10]

Subleading memory effects

Low-frequency expansion of the waveform

$$h(\omega) = \frac{1}{\omega} A + B \log \omega + C + \dots, \quad \omega \rightarrow 0$$

Which observables capture subleading effects?

1. Displacement memory [Polnarev, Zel'dovich '74]

$$\Delta \vec{X} = \vec{X}(t_f) - \vec{X}(t_0)$$

2. Kick (velocity) memory [Flanagan+'19]

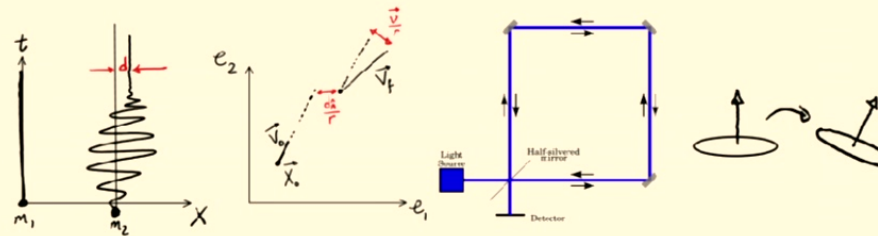
$$\Delta \vec{V} = \vec{V}(t_f) - \vec{V}(t_0)$$

3. Spin memory [Pasterski+'16]

$$\Delta T = T^+ - T^-$$

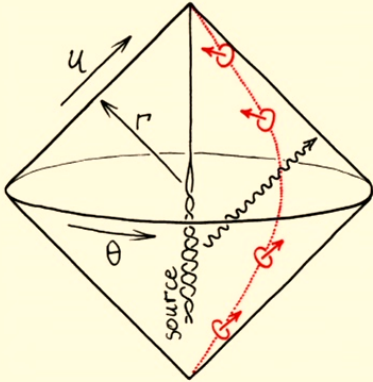
4. Gyroscope memory [AS, Oblak '21]

$$\Delta \vec{S} = \vec{S}(t_f) - \vec{S}(t_0)$$





Gyroscopic Memory effect



Gyroscope dynamics

A (small) gyroscope with four velocity $V = V^\mu \partial_\mu$ and spin $S = S^\mu \partial_\mu$ obeys **Fermi-Walker transport equation** preserving $S \cdot u = 0$.

$$V^\nu \nabla_\nu S^\mu = (V^\mu a^\nu - V^\nu a^\mu) S_\nu$$

An observer measures S in a **local frame** $e_{\hat{\mu}} = e_{\hat{\mu}}^\nu \partial_\nu$, $e_{\hat{\mu}} \cdot e_{\hat{\nu}} = \eta_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}$

In a **comoving frame** $e_{\hat{0}} = V$, spin is spatial $S = S^{\hat{i}} e_{\hat{i}}$,

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} S^{\hat{i}} = \Omega^{\hat{i}\hat{j}} S^{\hat{j}}, \quad \Omega^{\hat{i}\hat{j}} = -V^\mu (\omega_\mu^{\hat{i}\hat{j}} - \bar{\omega}_\mu^{\hat{i}\hat{j}})$$

where $\frac{d}{d\tau} \equiv V^\mu \bar{D}_\mu$ and $\bar{D}_\mu S^{\hat{i}} = \partial_\mu S^{\hat{i}} + \bar{\omega}_\mu^{\hat{i}\hat{j}} S^{\hat{j}}$ wrt Minkowski connection

This covariant form requires **background structure**. However, an asymptotic observer has access to this structure, e.g. by referring to **distant stars**.

GR in Bondi gauge

Asymptotically flat spacetime in Bondi coordinates (u, r, θ^A) with $g_{rr} = g_{rA} = 0$

$$ds^2 = -du^2 - 2du dr + r^2 q_{AB} d\theta^A d\theta^B + \frac{2m}{r} du^2 + r C_{AB} d\theta^A d\theta^B + D^B C_{AB} du d\theta^A + \text{subleading}$$

$q_{AB}(\theta^A)$ round metric on celestial sphere: background structure

$C_{AB}(u, \theta^A)$ Bondi shear (measures GW),

$m(u, \theta^A)$ Bondi mass

$\ell = -du = e^{-2\beta} \partial_r$ tangent to outgoing null geodesics



Building the frame [AS, Oblak '21]

Build an orthonormal tetrad $(e_{\hat{0}}, e_{\hat{r}}, e_{\hat{\theta}}, e_{\hat{\phi}})$ as follows

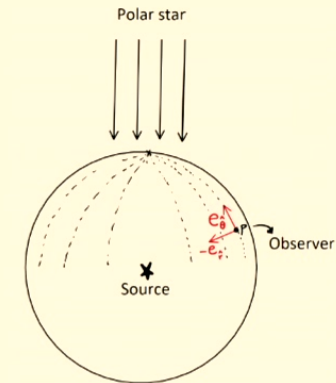
Comoving: $e_{\hat{0}} = V$ along geodesic.

Source-oriented: $e_{\hat{r}}^\mu$ along outgoing null rays

Transverse basis vectors $e_{\hat{a}}$

$$e_{\hat{a}} = \frac{1}{r} E_{\hat{a}}^A \partial_A + \text{subleading fixed by } E_{\hat{a}}^a \text{ and metric}$$

where $E_{\hat{a}}^A(\theta^A)$ orthonormal **dyad on celestial sphere** $q_{AB} E_{\hat{a}}^A E_{\hat{b}}^B = \delta_{\hat{a}\hat{b}}$



Gyroscopic memory effect

Precession rate $\Omega^{\hat{i}}_{\hat{j}} = -V^\mu (\omega_\mu^{\hat{i}}_{\hat{j}} - \bar{\omega}_\mu^{\hat{i}}_{\hat{j}})$ of distant freely-falling gyroscope

$$\Omega_{\hat{a}\hat{b}} = \frac{\epsilon_{\hat{a}\hat{b}}}{r^2} \hat{\Omega}, \quad \hat{\Omega}(u, \theta^A) = \frac{c}{4} D_A D_B \tilde{C}^{AB} - \frac{1}{8} \dot{C}_{AB} \tilde{C}^{AB}$$

where $\tilde{C}_{AB} \equiv \epsilon_{CA} C^C_B$ is the dual shear. $\hat{\Omega} = \text{dual covariant mass} = \text{Im}\psi_2^0$ in NP formulation [Freidel, Pranzetti]

Gyroscopic memory is a net transverse rotation after the passage of the wave

$$\Delta S^{\hat{a}} = \Delta\Phi \epsilon^{\hat{a}\hat{b}} S_{\hat{b}}^{\text{initial}} + \mathcal{O}(r^{-3}),$$

$$\Delta\Phi(\theta^A) \equiv \frac{1}{4r^2} \left(D_A D_B \int du \tilde{C}^{AB} - \frac{1}{2} \int du \dot{C}_{AB} \tilde{C}^{AB} \right).$$

First term is the **spin memory** [Pasterski et al. '15] related to superrotations

Second term is the **helicity of radiation** $N_+ - N_-$ at a given point on celestial sphere.

Complex basis on the sphere

Null dyad (m, \bar{m}) on the celestial sphere $m^A = E_1^A + i E_2^A$

$$m \cdot \bar{m} = 1, \quad m_A \bar{m}_B = q_{AB} - i \varepsilon_{AB}$$

$m_{A_1 \dots A_s} = m_{A_1} \dots m_{A_s}$ complete basis for symmetric trace-free (STF) tensors

$$T_{A_1 \dots A_s} = m_{A_1 \dots A_s} T + \bar{m}_{A_1 \dots A_s} \bar{T}, \quad \text{where } T = \bar{m}^{A_1 \dots A_s} T_{A_1 \dots A_s}.$$

(T, \bar{T}) have **spin-weight** $-s, +s$, as they transform under $m \rightarrow e^{i\eta} m$ as

$$T \rightarrow e^{-is\eta} T, \quad \bar{T} \rightarrow e^{is\eta} \bar{T}$$

Eth $\bar{\delta}$ operator [Newman, Penrose '66]

$$\bar{\delta} T = \bar{m}^{A_1 \dots A_s} m^{A_{s+1}} D_{A_{s+1}} T_{A_1 \dots A_s}, \quad \delta \bar{T} = \bar{m}^{A_1 \dots A_{s+1}} D_{A_{s+1}} T_{A_1 \dots A_s}$$

$\bar{\delta}, \delta$ change the spin-weight by $+1, -1$.

Precession in complex basis

Precession rate

$$\hat{\Omega}(u, \theta^A) = \underbrace{\frac{c}{4} D_A D_B \tilde{C}^{AB}}_{\hat{\Omega}_{(S)}} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{8} \dot{C}_{AB} \tilde{C}^{AB}}_{\hat{\Omega}_{(H)}}$$

In the complex basis, the total precession rate is given by

$$\hat{\Omega} = \frac{1}{4} \text{Im}(2c \delta^2 C + \dot{C} \bar{C}), \quad C = \bar{m}^{AB} C_{AB}$$

The result is of spin-weight 0, and therefore frame-independent.

Spin-weighted spherical harmonics

Spin-weighted spherical harmonics ($0 \leq s \leq \ell$)

$${}_s Y^{\ell m} = (-\sqrt{2})^s \sqrt{\frac{(\ell-s)!}{(\ell+s)!}} \bar{\partial}^s Y^{\ell m}, \quad -{}_s Y^{\ell m} = (\sqrt{2})^s \sqrt{\frac{(\ell-s)!}{(\ell+s)!}} \bar{\partial}^s Y^{\ell m},$$

Properties

Transform nicely under $\bar{\partial}$ derivative

$$\bar{\partial} {}_s Y^{\ell m} = -\sqrt{\frac{(\ell-s)(\ell+s+1)}{2}} {}_{s+1} Y^{\ell m}, \quad \bar{\partial} {}_s Y^{\ell m} = \sqrt{\frac{(\ell+s)(\ell-s+1)}{2}} {}_{s-1} Y^{\ell m}.$$

Complete basis

$$\int_S {}_s Y^{\ell_1 m_1} \bar{{}_s Y}^{\ell_2 m_2} = \delta_{\ell_1 \ell_2} \delta_{m_1 m_2}$$

$$\int_S {}_{s_1} Y^{\ell_1 m_1} {}_{s_2} Y^{\ell_2 m_2} {}_s Y^{\ell m} = \sqrt{\frac{(2\ell_1+1)(2\ell_2+1)(2\ell+1)}{4\pi}} \begin{pmatrix} \ell_1 & \ell_2 & \ell \\ m_1 & m_2 & m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \ell_1 & \ell_2 & \ell \\ -s_1 & -s_2 & -s \end{pmatrix}$$

Multipole expansion

Bondi shear can be expanded into parity definite scalars $U(u, \theta^A), V(u, \theta^A)$

$$C_{AB} = D_{\langle A} D_{B \rangle} U + \varepsilon^C{}_{(A} D_{B)C} V .$$

Therefore

$$C = \bar{\delta}^2 \bar{Z}, \quad Z = U + iV .$$

Multipole expansion (normalized to match [Thorne '80])

$$C = \sum_{\ell m} C_{\ell m} {}_{-2}Y^{\ell m} \quad C_{\ell m} = \frac{G}{\sqrt{2}c^{\ell+2}} \left(U_{\ell m} - i \frac{V_{\ell m}}{c} \right) ,$$
$$\bar{C} = \sum_{\ell m} C_{\ell m}^* {}_2Y^{\ell m} \quad C_{\ell m}^* = \frac{G}{\sqrt{2}c^{\ell+2}} \left(U_{\ell m} + i \frac{V_{\ell m}}{c} \right) ,$$

$U_{\ell m}, V_{\ell m}$ mass, spin radiative multipoles.

Multipole expansion of precession rates

Soft term $\hat{\Omega}_{(S)} = \frac{c}{2} \text{Im } \partial^2 C$

$$\hat{\Omega}_{(S)} = -\frac{G}{4c^2} \sum_{\ell m} \sqrt{\frac{(\ell+2)!}{2(\ell-2)!}} \frac{V_{\ell m}}{c^\ell} Y^{\ell m}$$

Hard term

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\Omega}_{(H)} = & \frac{G^2}{16i c^4} \sum_{\ell_1, m_1} \sum_{\ell_2, m_2} \sum_{\ell=|\ell_1-\ell_2|}^{\ell_1+\ell_2} \sum_{|m|\leq\ell} \frac{1}{c^{\ell_1+\ell_2}} \mathcal{G}_{\ell m}^{\ell_1 m_1, \ell_2 m_2} Y^{\ell m} \\ & \times \left[(\dot{U}_{\ell_1 m_1} U_{\ell_2 m_2} + \frac{1}{c^2} \dot{V}_{\ell_1 m_1} V_{\ell_2 m_2}) (1 - (-1)^{\ell_1+\ell_2+\ell}) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{i}{c} (\dot{U}_{\ell_1 m_1} V_{\ell_2 m_2} - \dot{V}_{\ell_1 m_1} U_{\ell_2 m_2}) (1 + (-1)^{\ell_1+\ell_2+\ell}) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{G}_{\ell m}^{\ell_1 m_1, \ell_2 m_2} = (-1)^m \sqrt{\frac{(2\ell_1+1)(2\ell_2+1)(2\ell+1)}{4\pi}} \begin{pmatrix} \ell_1 & \ell_2 & \ell \\ m_1 & m_2 & -m \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \ell_1 & \ell_2 & \ell \\ 2 & -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Total helicity flux

$$\text{Total helicity flux} = \int_{S^2} \hat{\Omega}_{(H)}$$

Integrating over the sphere kills all harmonics except $\ell = 0$.

The triangular property of $3j$ -symbols imply that $\ell_1 = \ell_2$. As a result $\ell_1 + \ell_2 + \ell$ is even, which kills UU, VV terms.

$$\int_{S^2} \hat{\Omega}_{(H)} = \frac{G^2}{8c^5} \sum_{\ell, m} \frac{(-1)^m}{c^{2\ell}} (\dot{U}_{\ell m} V_{\ell - m} - \dot{V}_{\ell m} U_{\ell - m}).$$

For planar orbits, it can be proven in general that [Faye et al. '12]

$$\begin{aligned} U_{\ell m} &= 0, & \ell + m &= \text{odd}, \\ V_{\ell m} &= 0, & \ell + m &= \text{even}. \end{aligned}$$

Total helicity flux vanishes for planar orbits (bound or unbound).

Post-Newtonian expansion

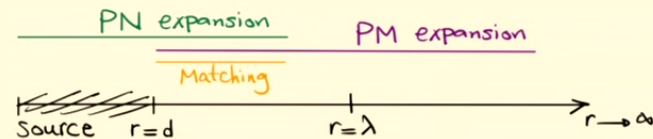
Make a nonrelativistic expansion (in powers of $1/c$)

At leading order

$$\hat{\Omega}_{(H)} = \frac{G^2}{8i} \frac{1}{c^8} \sum_{\ell=1,3} Y^{\ell m} \sum_{|s| \leq \lfloor \ell/2 \rfloor} \mathcal{G}_{\ell,m}^{2-s,m_1, 2+s,m_2} \dot{U}_{2-s,m_1} U_{2+s,m_2} + O(c^{-9})$$

Blanchet-Damour formalism [Blanchet, Damour '86]

Compact nonrelativistic source has two length scales: size d and typical wavelength λ with $d/\lambda \sim v/c \ll 1$,



Einstein equations in harmonic gauge $\partial_\mu h^{\mu\nu} = 0$ where $h^{\mu\nu} = \sqrt{g}g^{\mu\nu} - \eta^{\mu\nu}$

$$\square_\eta h^{\mu\nu} = \frac{16\pi G}{c^4} \tau^{\alpha\beta}, \quad \tau^{\alpha\beta} = (-g)T^{\mu\nu} + \frac{c^4}{16\pi G} \Lambda^{\mu\nu}(h^2, h^3, \dots)$$

Near zone $r \ll \lambda$: post-Newtonian expansion $\square_\eta = -\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial t^2} + \Delta$

$$h^{\mu\nu} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{c^n} {}^{(n)}\bar{h}^{\mu\nu}, \quad \Delta {}^{(n)}\bar{h}^{\mu\nu} = 16\pi G {}^{(n-4)}\tau^{\mu\nu} + \partial_t^{2(n-2)} \bar{h}^{\mu\nu}$$

Outside source $r > d$: post-Minkowskian expansion

$$h^{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} G^n h_n^{\alpha\beta}, \quad \square h_n^{\alpha\beta} = \Lambda_n^{\alpha\beta} [h_1, h_2, \dots, h_{n-1}]$$

Radiation in PN formalism

Radiative vs. source multipole moments

$$U_{\ell m} = \frac{\partial^\ell}{\partial u^\ell} I_{\ell m} + O(c^{-3}), \quad V_{\ell m} = \frac{\partial^\ell}{\partial u^\ell} J_{\ell m} + O(c^{-3})$$

Source multipoles are determined in terms of the stress tensor [Blanchet '06]

$$I_L(u) = \mathcal{FP} \int d^3x \int_{-1}^1 dz \left\{ \delta_l(z) \hat{x}_L \Sigma - \frac{4(2l+1)\delta_{l+1}(z)}{c^2(l+1)(2l+3)} \hat{x}_{iL} \Sigma_i^{(1)} + \frac{2(2l+1)\delta_{l+2}(z)}{c^4(l+1)(l+2)(2l+5)} \hat{x}_{ijL} \Sigma_{ij}^{(2)} \right\} (u + z|\mathbf{x}|/c, \mathbf{x})$$

$$J_L(u) = \mathcal{FP} \int d^3x \int_{-1}^1 dz \epsilon_{ab\langle i_l} \left\{ \delta_l(z) \hat{x}_{L-1\rangle a} \Sigma_b - \frac{(2l+1)\delta_{l+1}(z)}{c^2(l+2)(2l+3)} \hat{x}_{L-1\rangle ac} \Sigma_{bc}^{(1)} \right\} (u + z|\mathbf{x}|/c, \mathbf{x})$$

where $\Sigma = \frac{\bar{\tau}^{00} + \bar{\tau}^{ii}}{c^2}$, $\Sigma_i = \frac{\bar{\tau}^{0i}}{c}$, $\Sigma_{ij} = \bar{\tau}^{ij}$.

Quasi-circular binary systems

For a quasi-circular binary system [Blanchet et al. '08]

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} U_{20} &\rightarrow -\frac{4}{7} c^2 M \sqrt{\frac{5\pi}{3}} x \nu, \quad U_{21} \rightarrow 0, \quad U_{22} \rightarrow \frac{4}{21} c^2 e^{-2i\psi} M \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{5}} x \nu (42 + 84\pi x^{3/2} + x(-107 + 55\nu)), \\ U_{30} &\rightarrow 0, \quad U_{31} \rightarrow 0, \quad U_{32} \rightarrow -\frac{8}{3} c^3 e^{-2i\psi} M \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{7}} x^2 \nu (-1 + 3\nu), \quad U_{33} \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} V_{20} &\rightarrow 0, \quad V_{21} \rightarrow -\frac{2}{21} c^3 e^{-i\psi} M \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{5}} x^{3/2} \Delta \nu (28 + x(-17 + 20\nu)), \quad V_{22} \rightarrow 0, \quad V_{30} \rightarrow \frac{32}{5} c^4 M \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{35}} x^{7/2} \nu^2, \\ V_{31} &\rightarrow \frac{2}{9} c^4 e^{-i\psi} M \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{35}} x^{3/2} \Delta \nu (-3 + 2x(4 + \nu)), \quad V_{32} \rightarrow 0, \quad V_{33} \rightarrow 6c^4 e^{-3i\psi} M \sqrt{\frac{3\pi}{7}} x^{3/2} \Delta (1 + 2x(-2 + \nu)) \nu \end{aligned} \right\}$$

where $M = m_1 + m_2$, $\Delta = \frac{m_1 - m_2}{M}$, $\nu = \frac{m_1 m_2}{M^2}$

Quasi-circular binary systems

Quasi-circular planar binary described by $(R(t), \psi(t))$, slow and fast variables respectively.

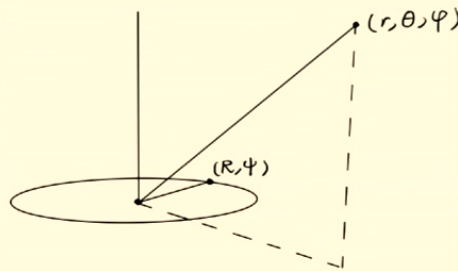
Due to Kepler's law $\omega = \dot{\psi}$ satisfies $\omega^2 R^3 = GM$

More convenient variable is

$$x = \left(\frac{GM\omega}{c^3}\right)^{2/3} = (v/c)^2 = \frac{r_s}{2R}, \quad r_s = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

Its evolution is determined by the Energy flux-balance equation

$$\dot{x} = \frac{64}{5} \frac{c^3}{GM^2} \mu x^5 [1 + O(c^{-2})]$$



Precession at leading PN order

Precession rates: Non-axisymmetric modes

The precession rate is dominated by the soft term

$$\hat{\Omega}_{(S)} = \frac{GM\Delta\nu}{c} x^{3/2} \left(\frac{1}{4} \cos(\phi - \psi) \sin \theta (65 \cos 2\theta - 16 \cos \theta - 69) + 45 \cos^3(\phi - \psi) \sin^3 \theta \right) + O(c^{-6}),$$

This is 2PN effect = $O(c^{-4})$

$\hat{\Omega}_{(H)}$ starts at 4PN = $O(c^{-8})$

Not axisymmetric: contains $m = 1, 3$

Precession rates: axisymmetric modes

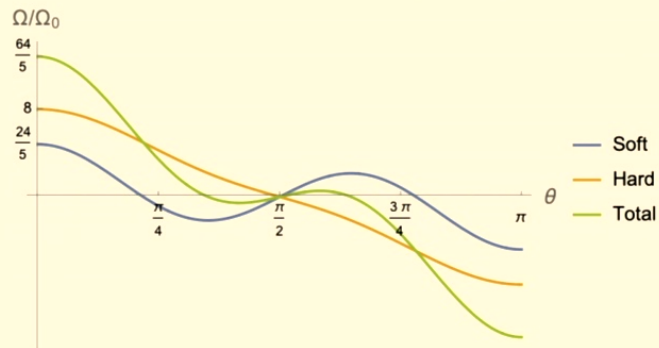
Precession from quasi-circular binary at leading order

$$\hat{\Omega}_{(S)} = \frac{12}{5}(-3 \cos \theta + 5 \cos^3 \theta)\Omega_0, \quad \hat{\Omega}_{(H)} = 4(\cos \theta + \cos^3 \theta)\Omega_0$$
$$\hat{\Omega}_{\text{tot}} = \hat{\Omega}_{(S)} + \hat{\Omega}_{(H)} = \frac{16}{5}(-\cos \theta + 5 \cos^3 \theta)\Omega_0$$

which contains $\ell = 1, 3$ modes and the size is given by

$$\Omega_0 \equiv -\frac{GM\nu^2}{c}x^{7/2} + O(c^{-9})$$

This is a 4PN effect



Gyroscopic memory

Accumulation of DC effects: As a result of time integration

$$\int du x^n = \int dx \frac{x^n}{\dot{x}} = \frac{5}{64} \frac{GM}{c^3 \nu} \frac{1}{n-4} x^{n-4} \left(1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{c^2}\right)\right), \quad n \neq 4.$$
$$\int du x^n e^{-i m \psi(t)} = \frac{GMi}{c^3} \frac{\text{sgn } m}{|m|} x^{\alpha - \frac{3}{2}} e^{-i m \psi(t)}$$

No enhancement in non-axisymmetric modes

$\frac{1}{c^3 x^4} \sim c^5$ enhancement in axisymmetric modes

Gyroscopic memory

$$\Delta\Phi = \frac{1}{r^2} \int du \hat{\Omega} = \left(\frac{r_s}{r}\right)^2 \frac{\nu}{8\sqrt{x}} (5 \cos^3 \theta - \cos \theta)$$

Gyroscopic memory is a 1.5 PN sourced by the accumulation of subleading effects

IR divergence from past infinity: $u \rightarrow -\infty \implies x \rightarrow 0$

We assume an IR cutoff and integrate from x_0 to the ISCO $x = r_s/R = 2/3$

Summary and outlook

How big is it $\Delta\Phi \sim \left(\frac{r_s}{r}\right)^2 \frac{\nu}{8\sqrt{x}}$?

SGR J1745-2900 closest known pulsar (magnetar) to Sgr A* ($M \sim 10^6 M_\odot$)

$$\left(\frac{r_s}{r}\right)^2 \sim 10^{-11}$$

Memory after 10 years $1/\sqrt{x} \sim 100$. Therefore, $\Delta\Phi \sim 10^{-9}\nu$

Elliptic or hyperbolic binaries? Spinning binaries? (in progress)

Contribution from merger and ring down?

Correlation effect on a cluster of pulsars ? Relevant for PTA?

Sagnac interferometer and gyroscopic memory

Thank you for your attention