

Probing scalar-tensor theories with highly compact neutron stars

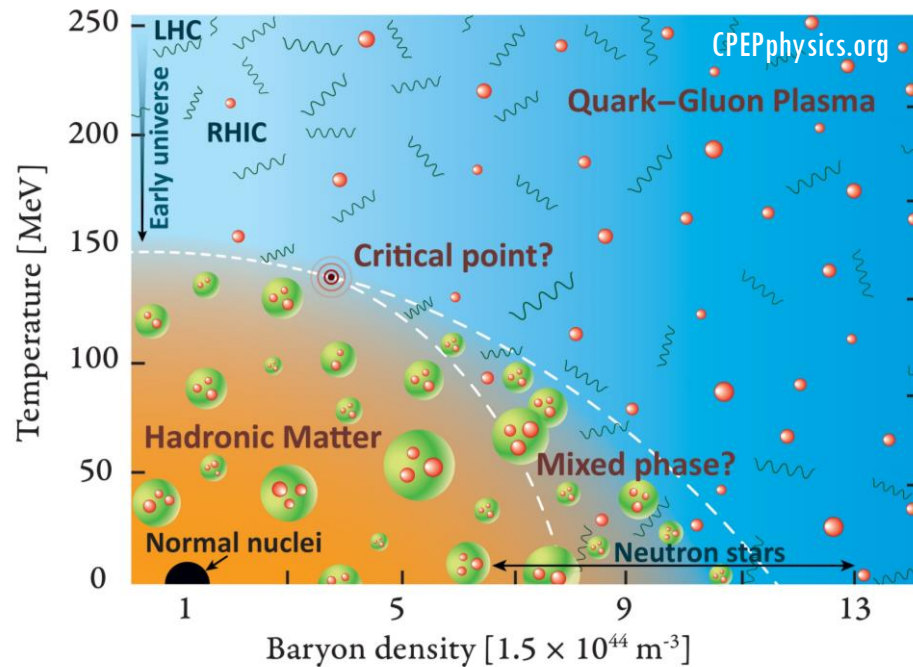
Raissa F. P. Mendes

UFF – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Neutron stars: most compact (material) objects in Nature

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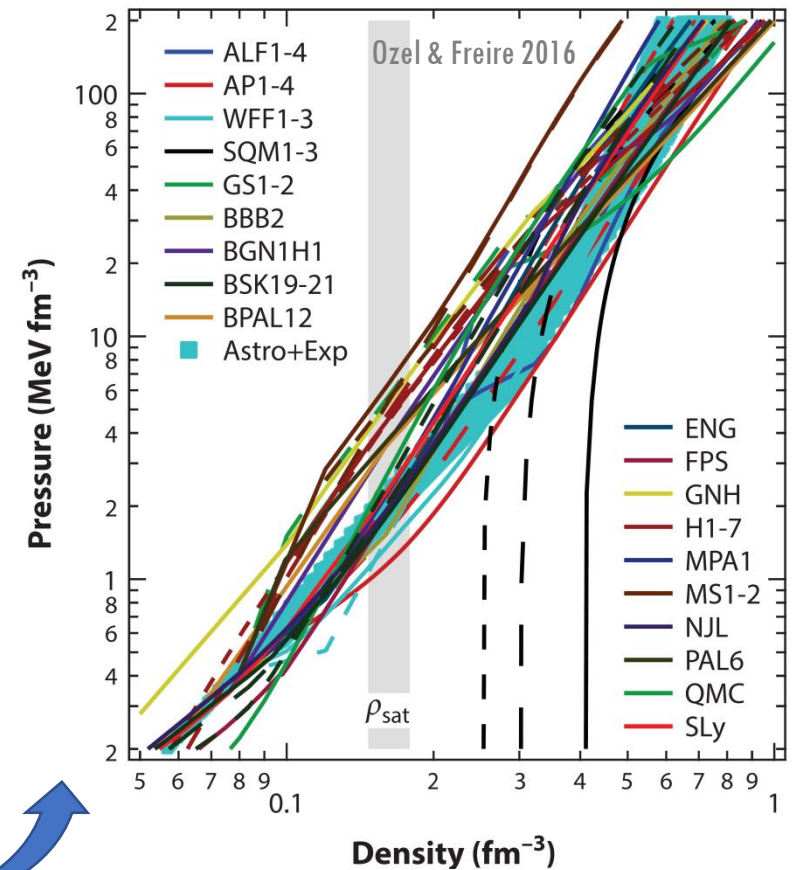
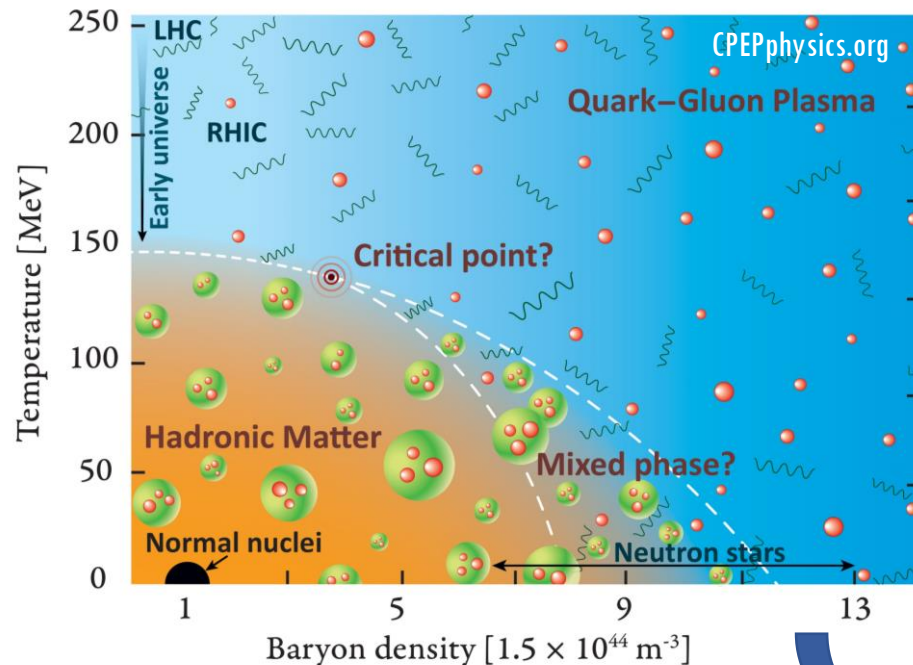
Rich microphysics



Neutron stars: most compact (material) objects in Nature

Rich microphysics

- NS as labs for nuclear physics



nuclear physics modeling

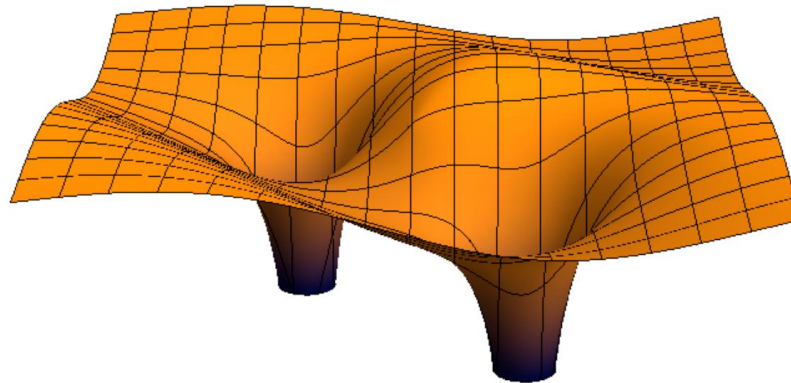
Neutron stars: most compact (material) objects in Nature

Rich microphysics

- NS as labs for nuclear physics

Strong gravity

- NS as labs for fundamental physics and testing GR



Nuclear physics *vs* modified gravity

PART 1: THE CURSE OF NS MICROPHYSICS

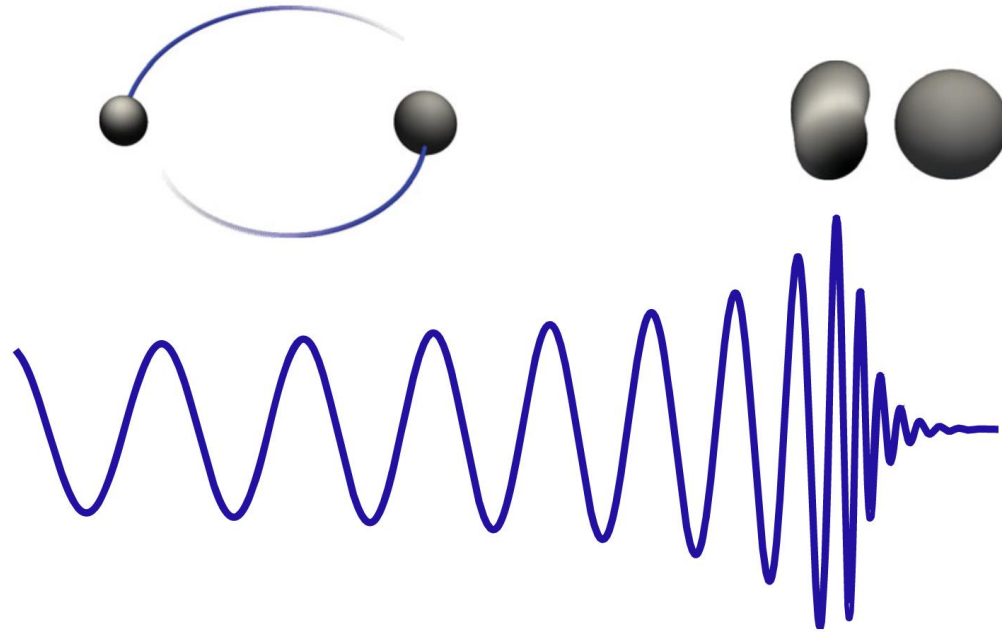
And how to circumvent it

PART 2: THE BOONS OF NS MICROPHYSICS

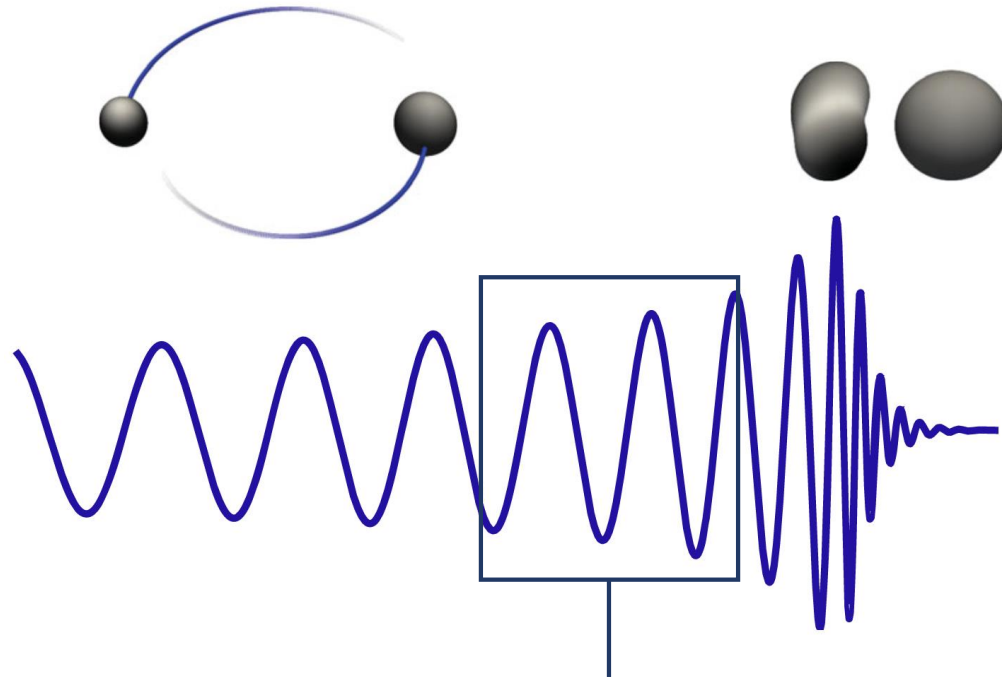
And how to harness them

PART 1: The 'curse' of neutron star microphysics

Gravity/EOS degeneracies

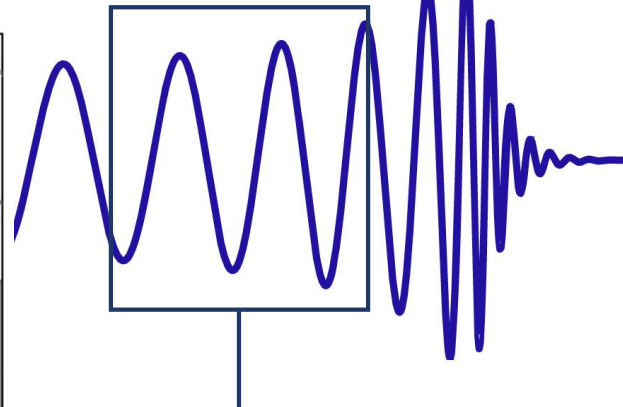
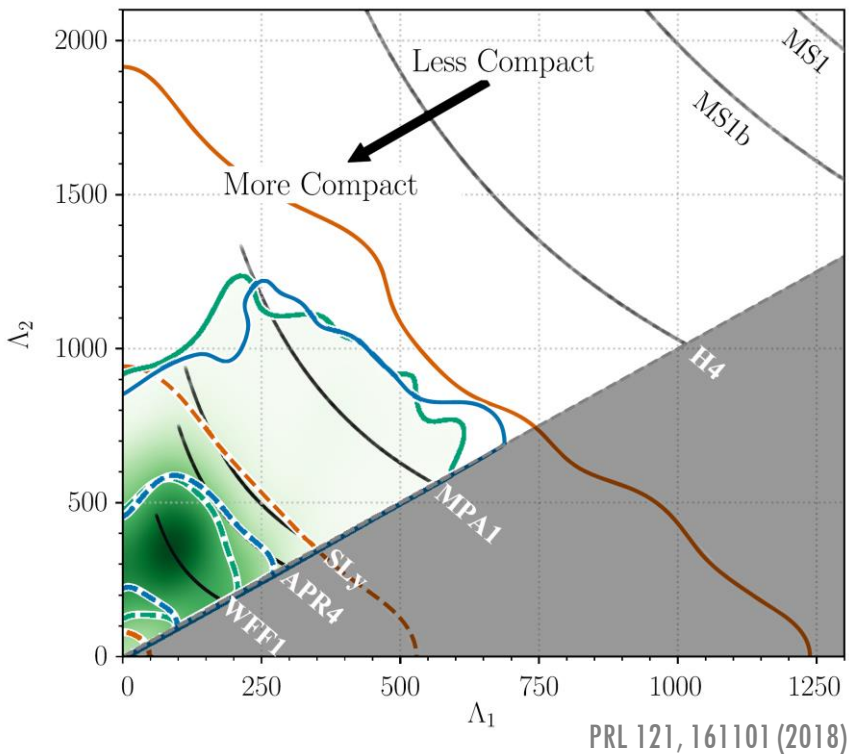


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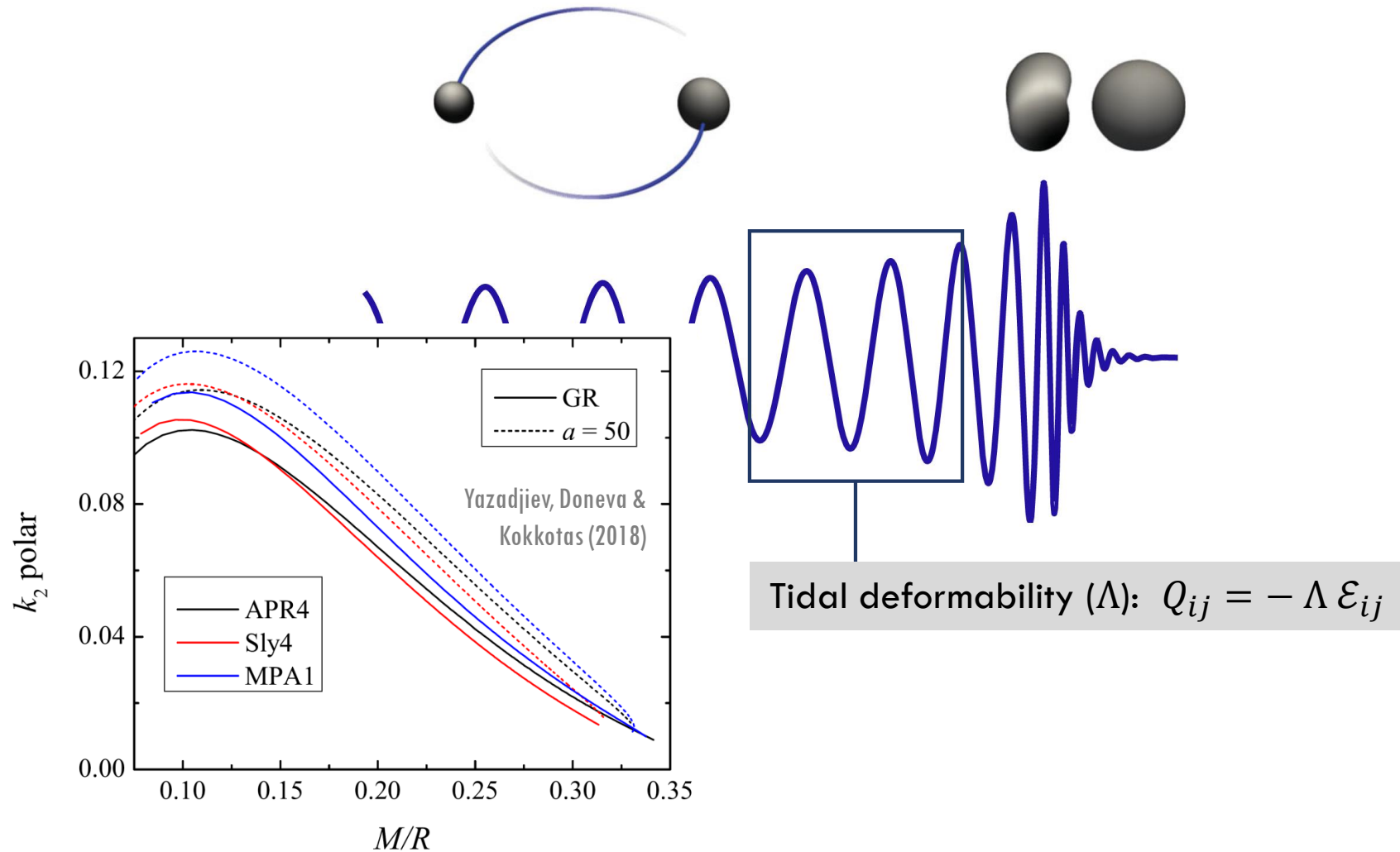
Tidal deformability (Λ): $Q_{ij} = -\Lambda \varepsilon_{ij}$

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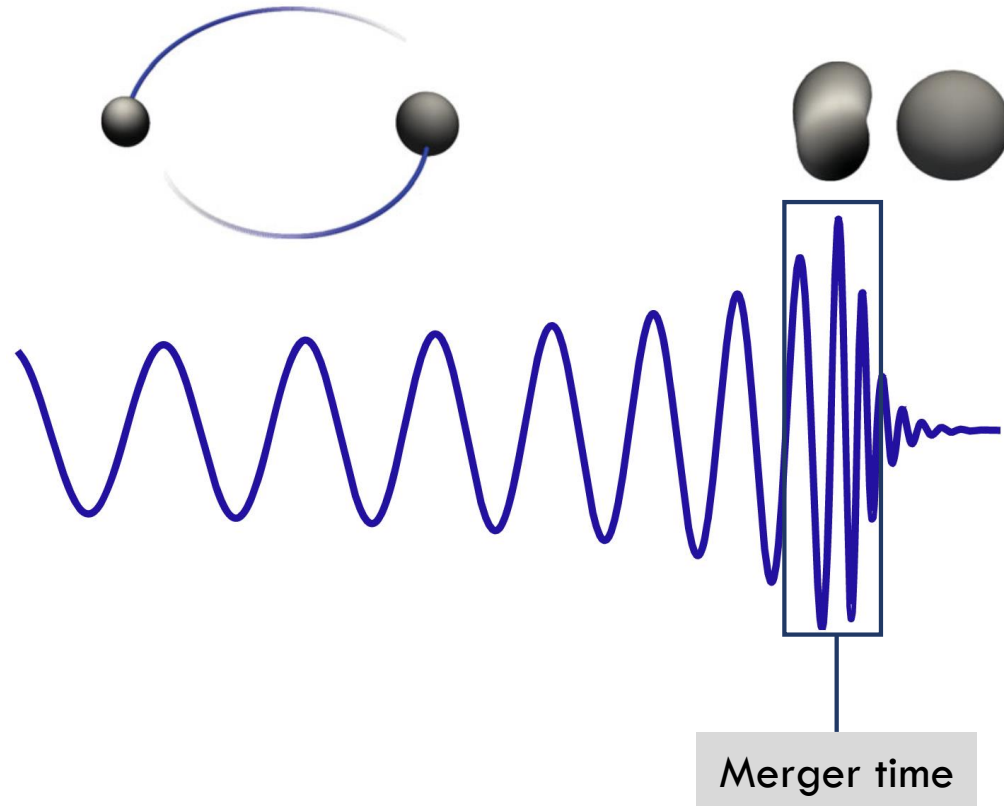


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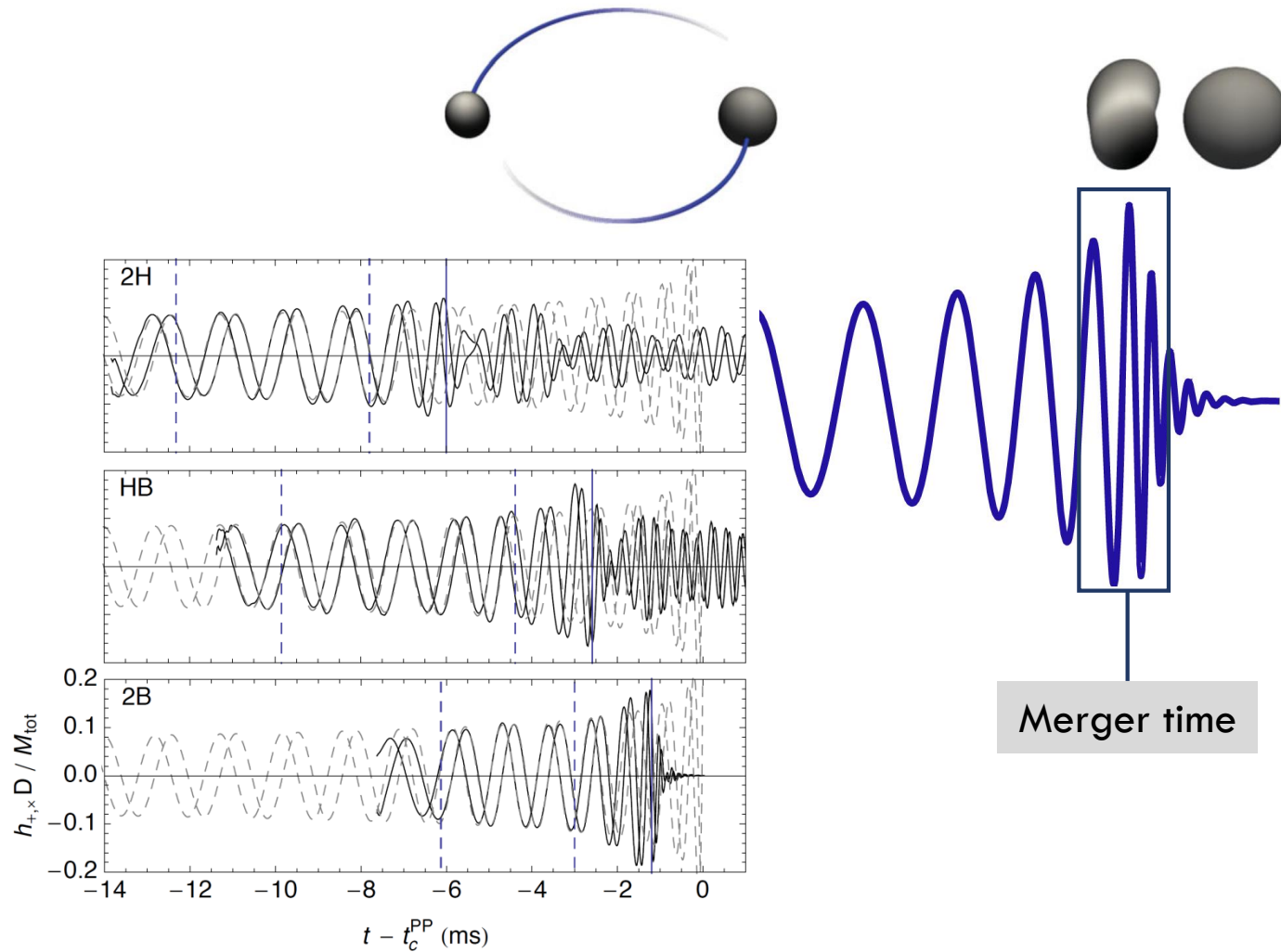
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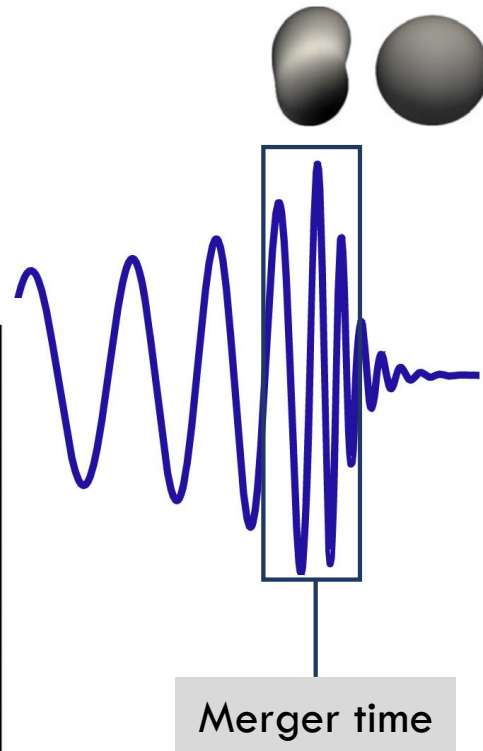
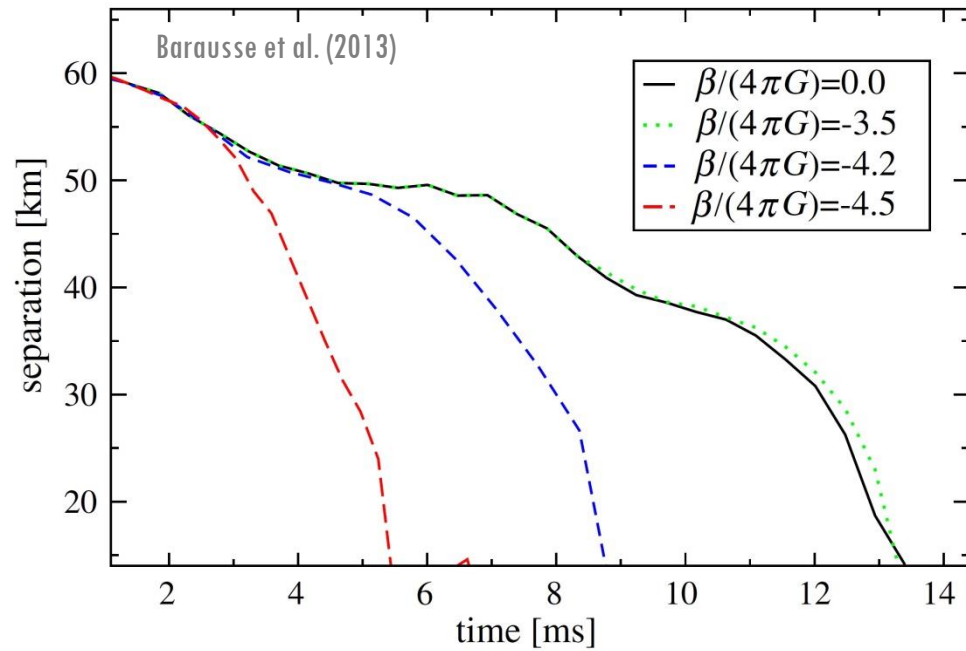
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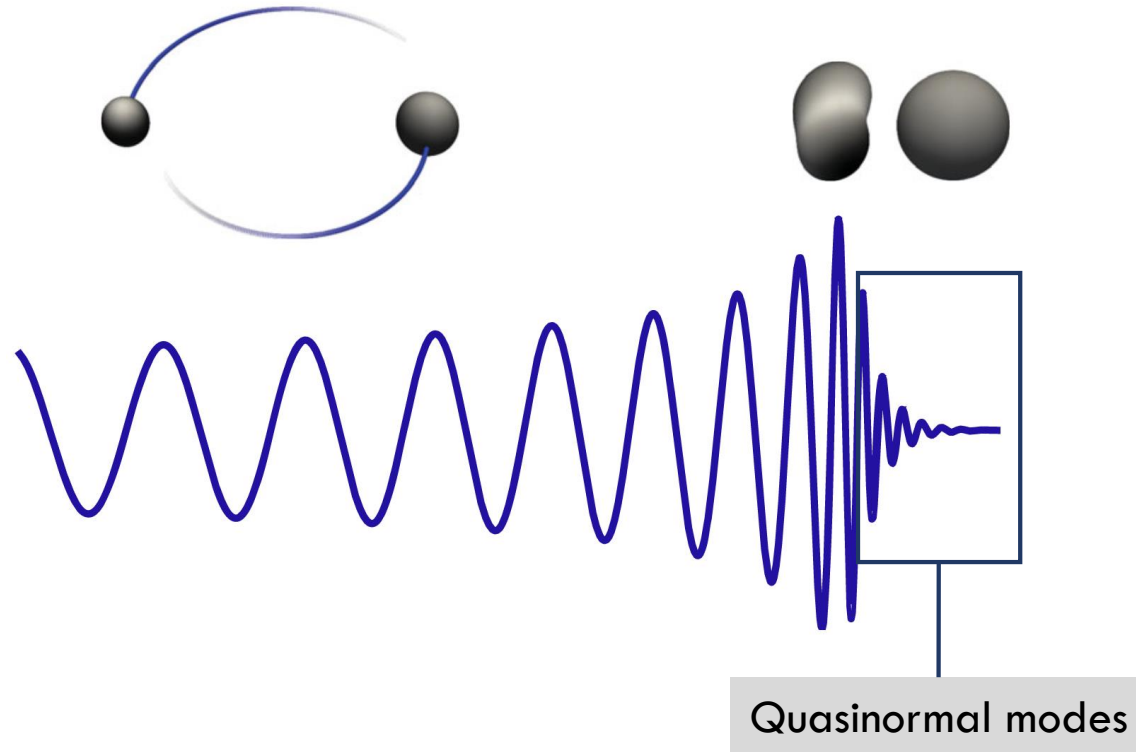
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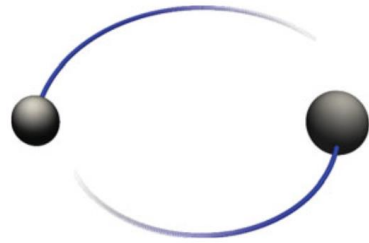
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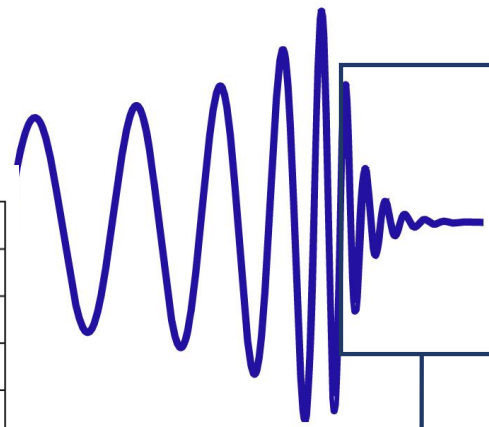
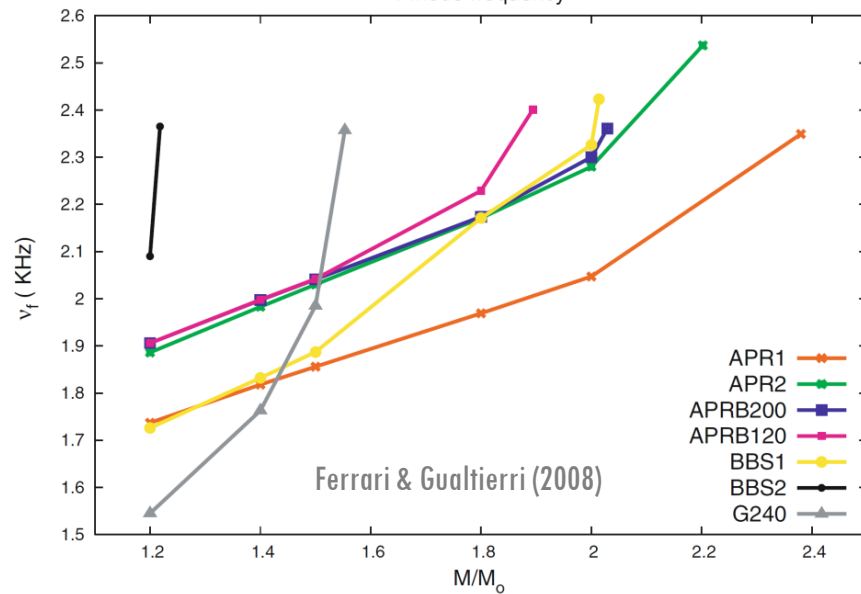
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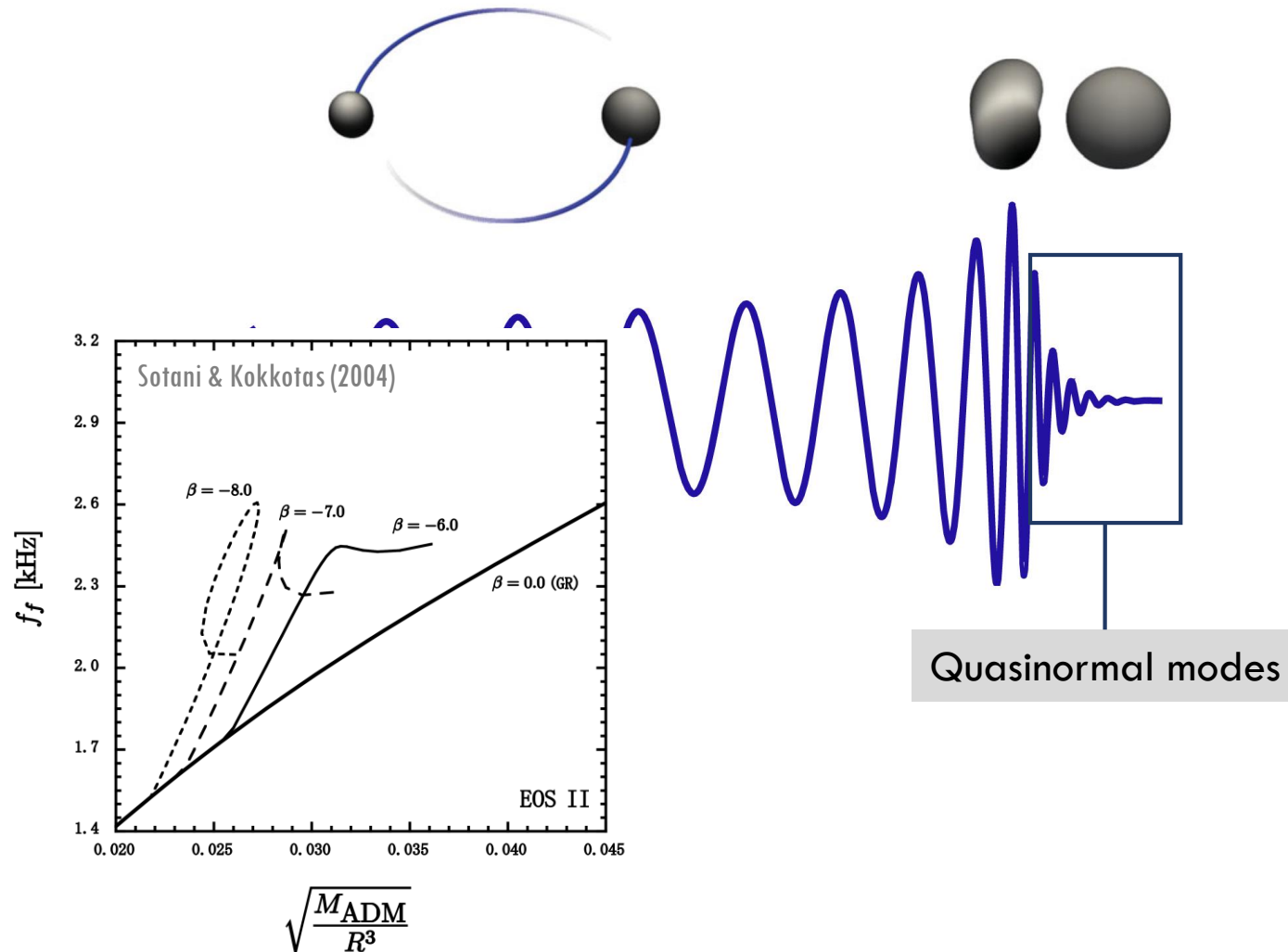


f-mode frequency



Quasinormal modes

Gravity/EOS degeneracies



Gravity/EOS degeneracies: a way to circumvent them

Mendes & Ortiz, PRL 120, 201104 (2018)

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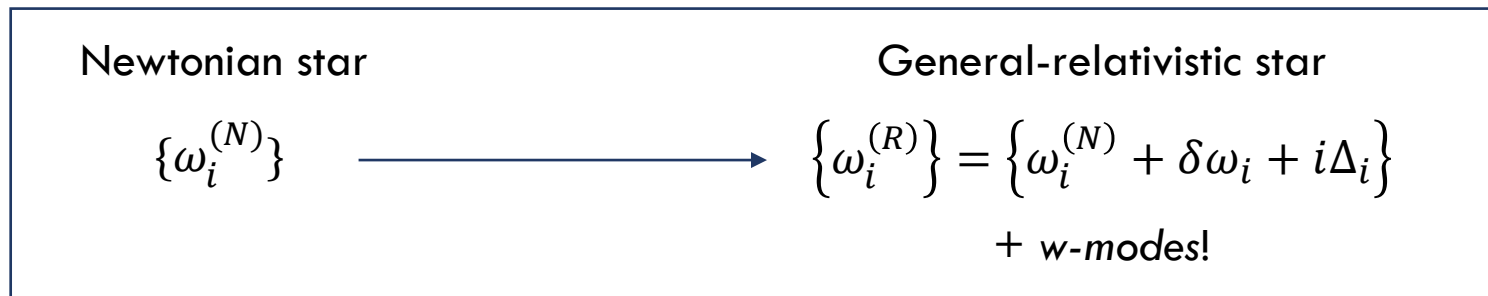
Modified theories of gravity may not only *shift* the frequencies of NS QNMs, but also *introduce entirely new families of modes*, with no counterpart in GR, and which may be sufficiently well-resolved in frequency as to allow for a clear detection.

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* Expected!



Set-up: scalar-tensor theories (STTs)

- Natural, mathematically consistent and simple extensions to GR

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} [\textcolor{red}{F}(\Phi) \tilde{R} - Z(\Phi) \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \Phi \partial_\nu \Phi] + S_m[\Psi_m; \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}] \quad (Jordan)$$

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- Examples:

- Jordan-Brans-Dicke: $F(\Phi) = \Phi$, $Z(\Phi) = \omega_{BD}/\Phi$.
- “Standard” NMC scalar: $F(\Phi) = 1 - \xi\Phi^2$, $Z(\Phi) = 8\pi$.

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$$g_{\mu\nu} = \textcolor{red}{F}(\Phi) \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = \textcolor{red}{a}(\phi)^{-2} \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$$
$$\phi = \phi(\Phi)$$

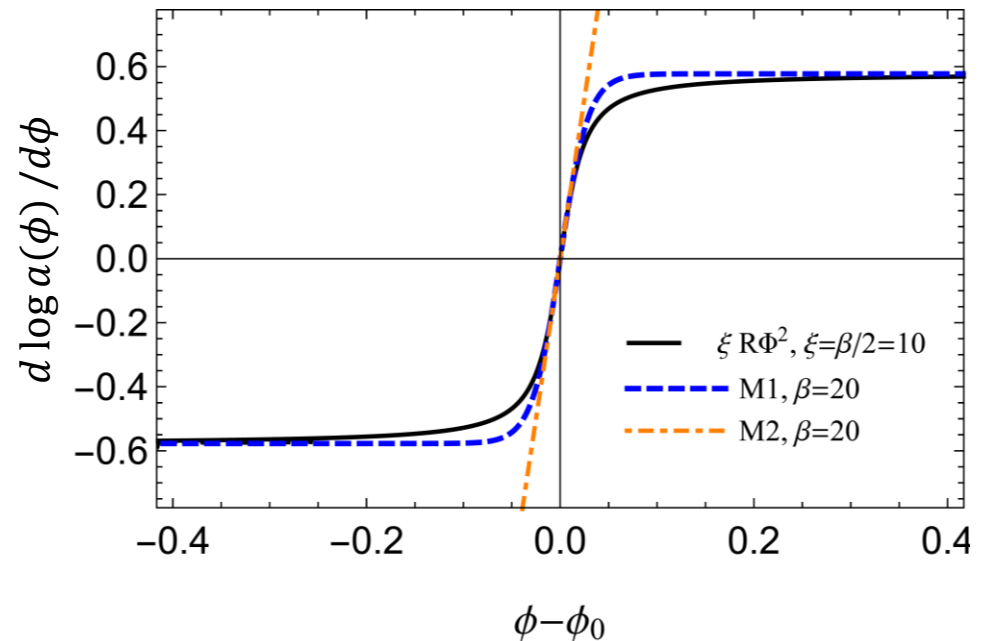
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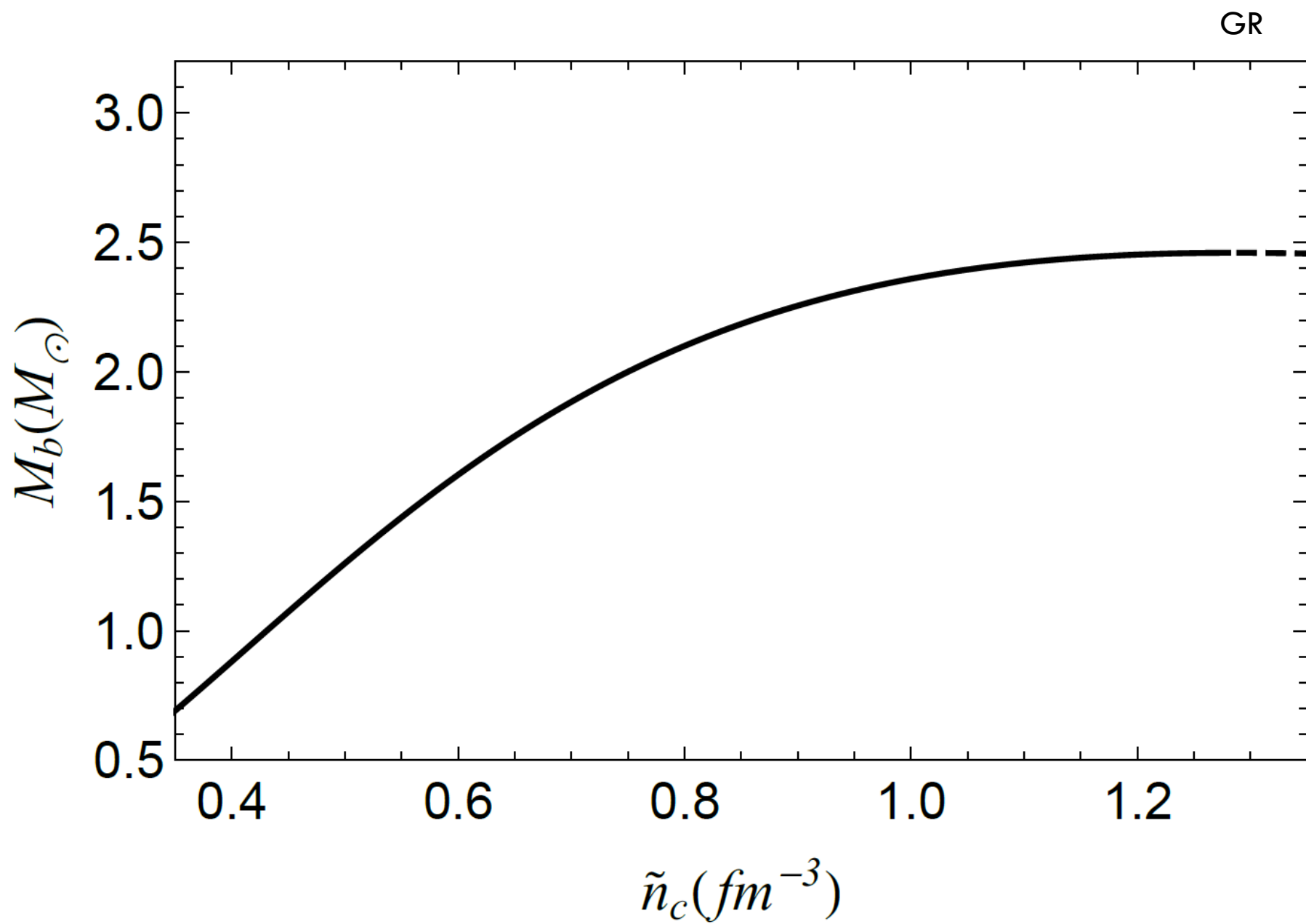
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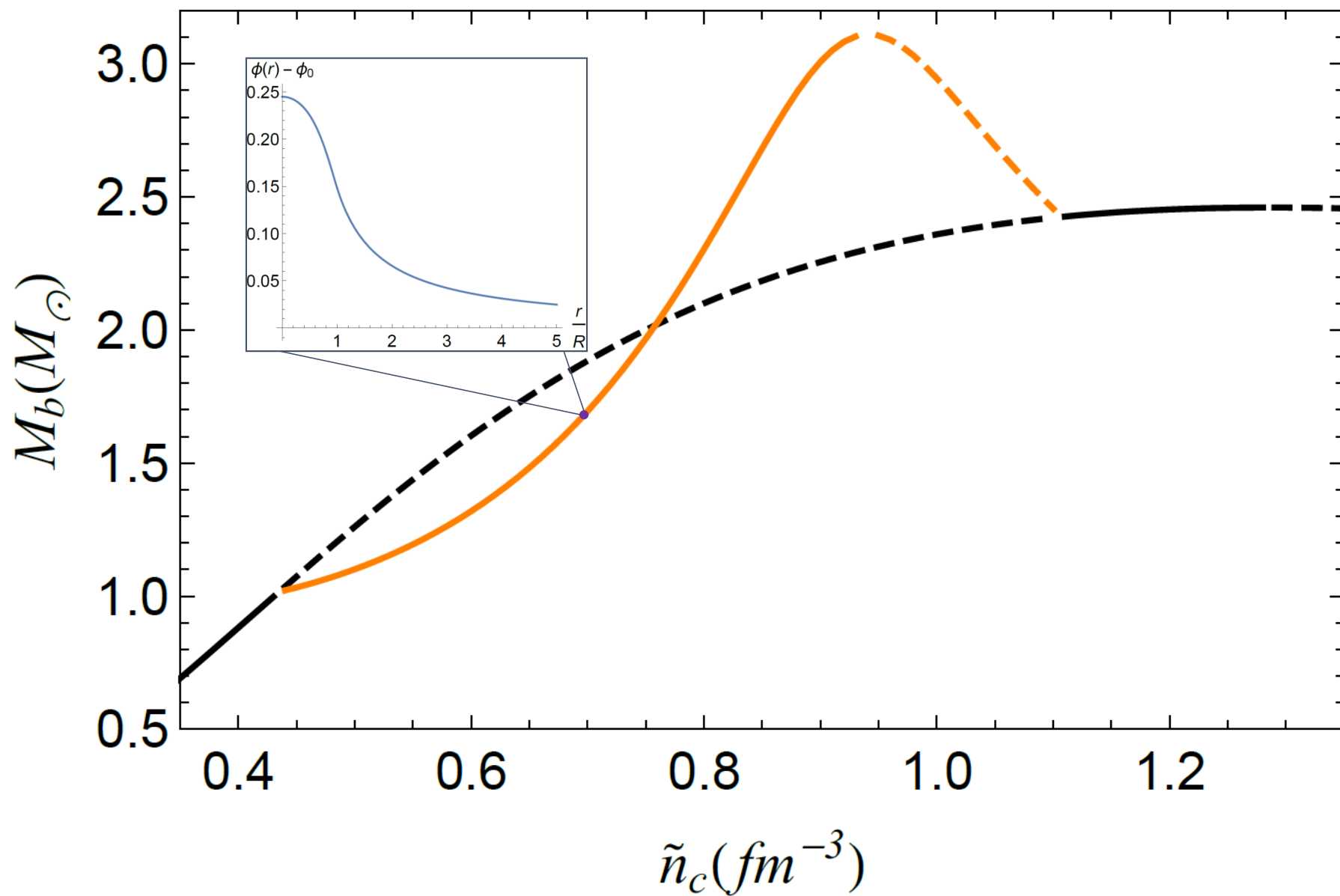
Model 1: $a(\phi) = \cosh[\sqrt{3} \beta (\phi - \phi_0)]^{1/(3\beta)}$

Model 2: $a(\phi) = \exp\left[\beta \frac{(\phi - \phi_0)^2}{2}\right]$

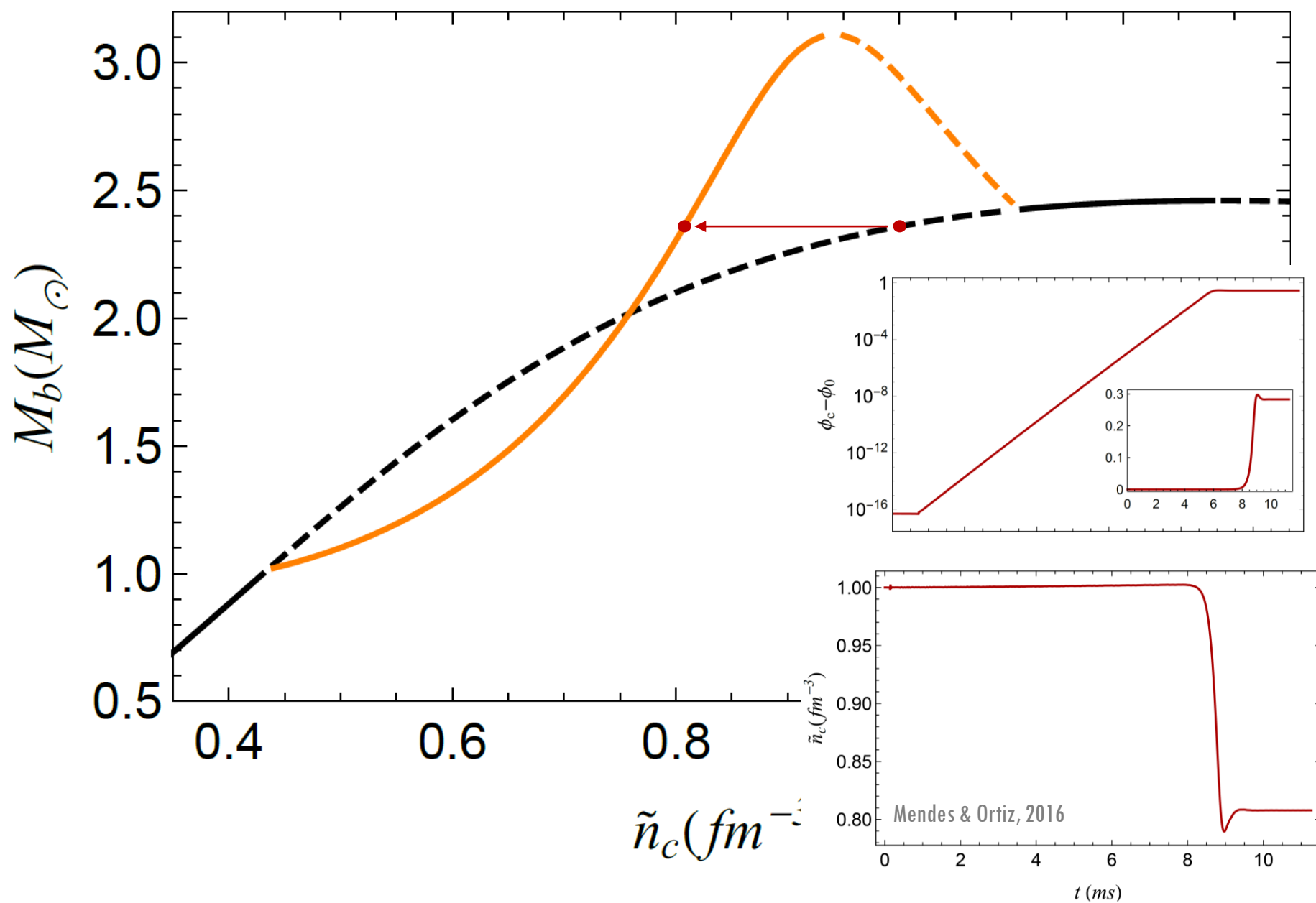




$M2$ with $\beta = -6$



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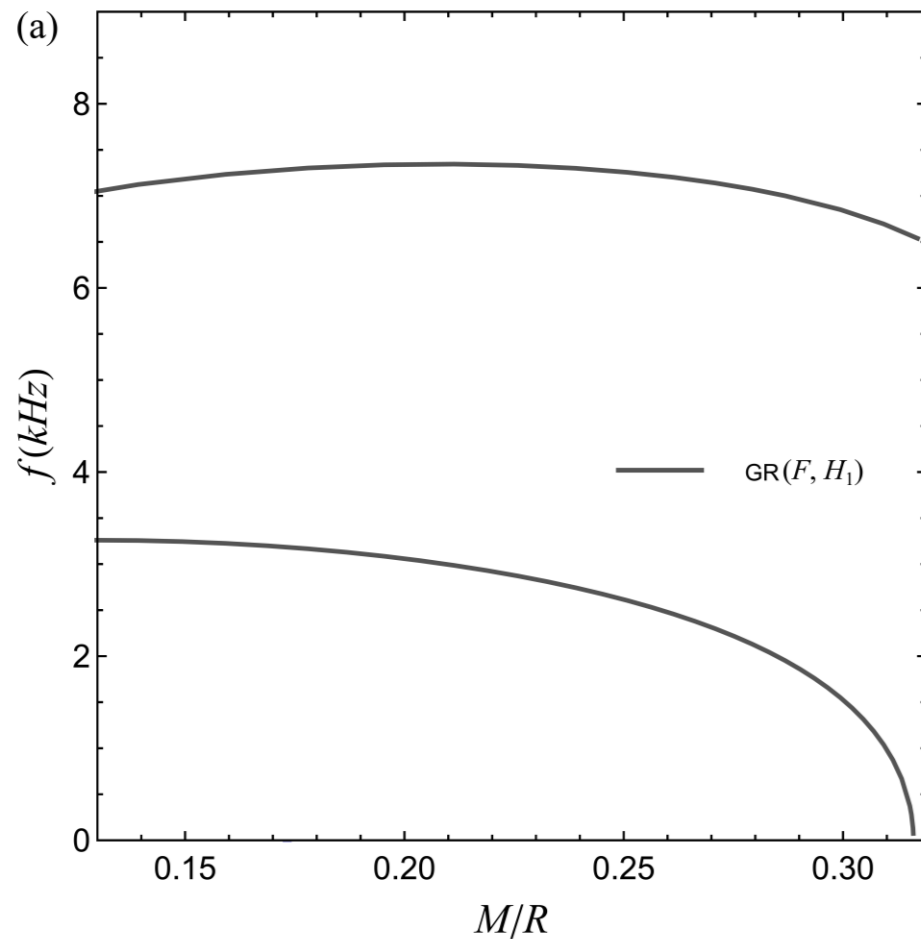
Set-up: scalar-tensor theories (STTs)

Radial perturbations

- Information about stability
- In STTs: scalar sector is dynamical even in spherical symmetry
 - General approach: no Cowling approximation (ex.: Sotani 2014)

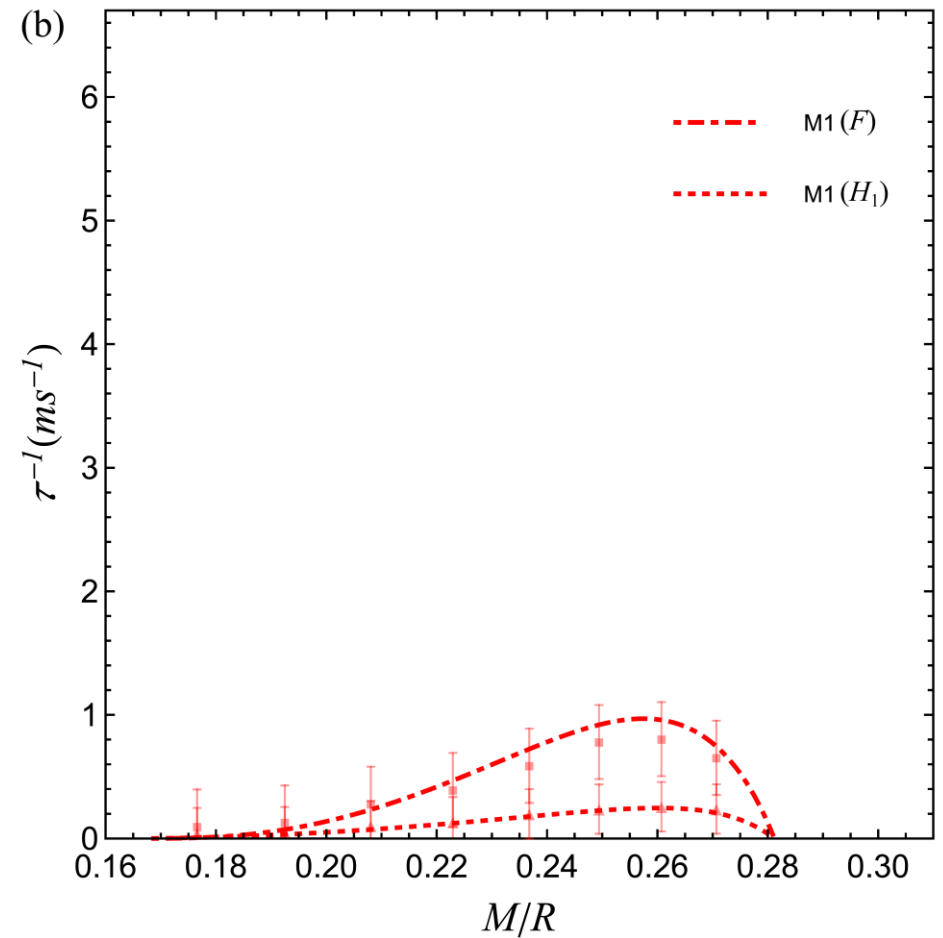
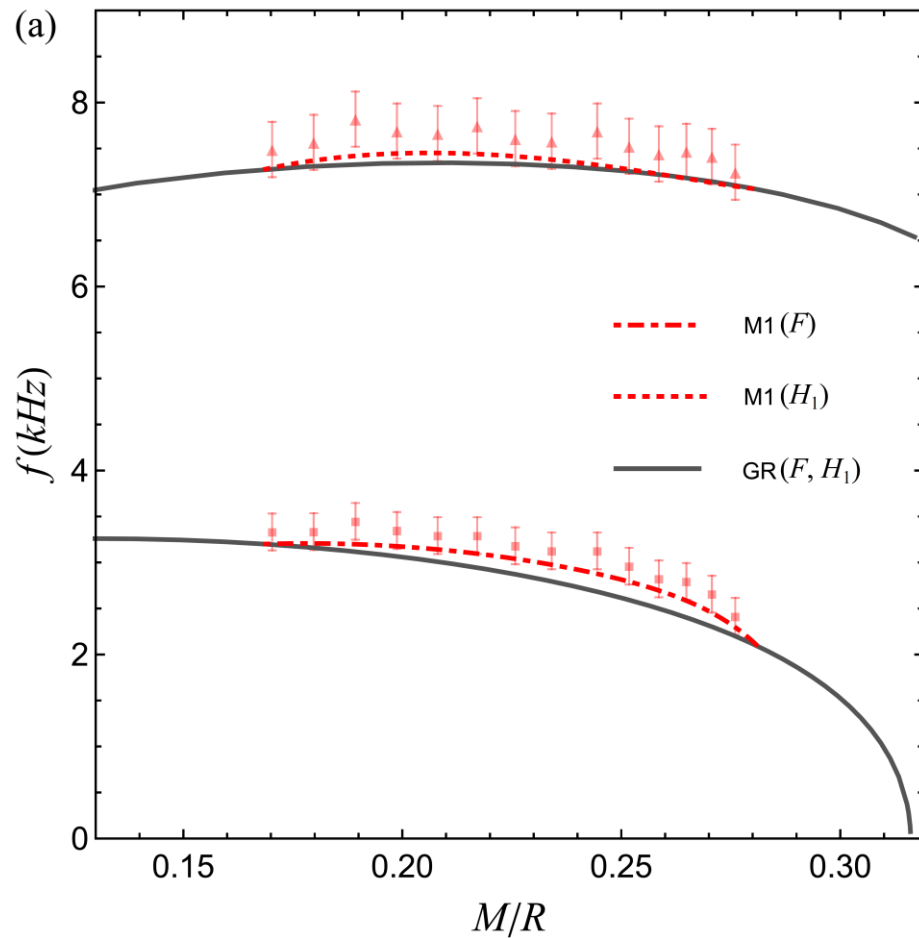
Radial NS QNM in STTs

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R + S_m[\Psi_m; g_{\mu\nu}]$$



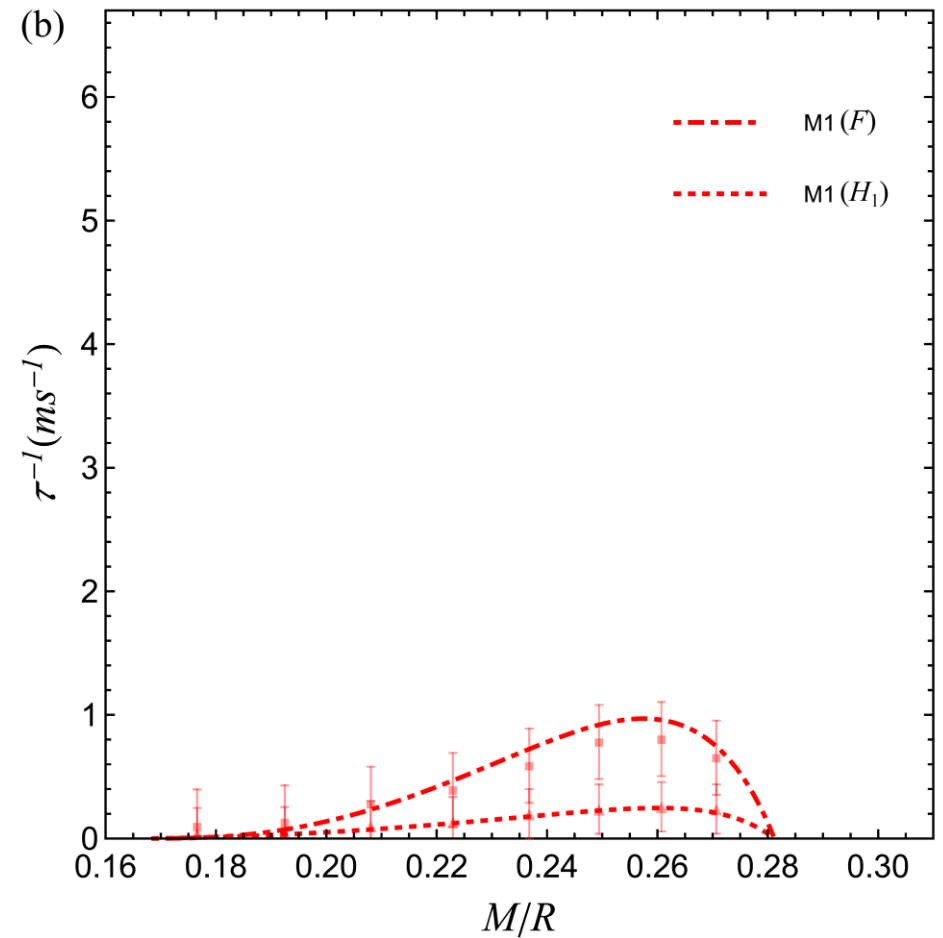
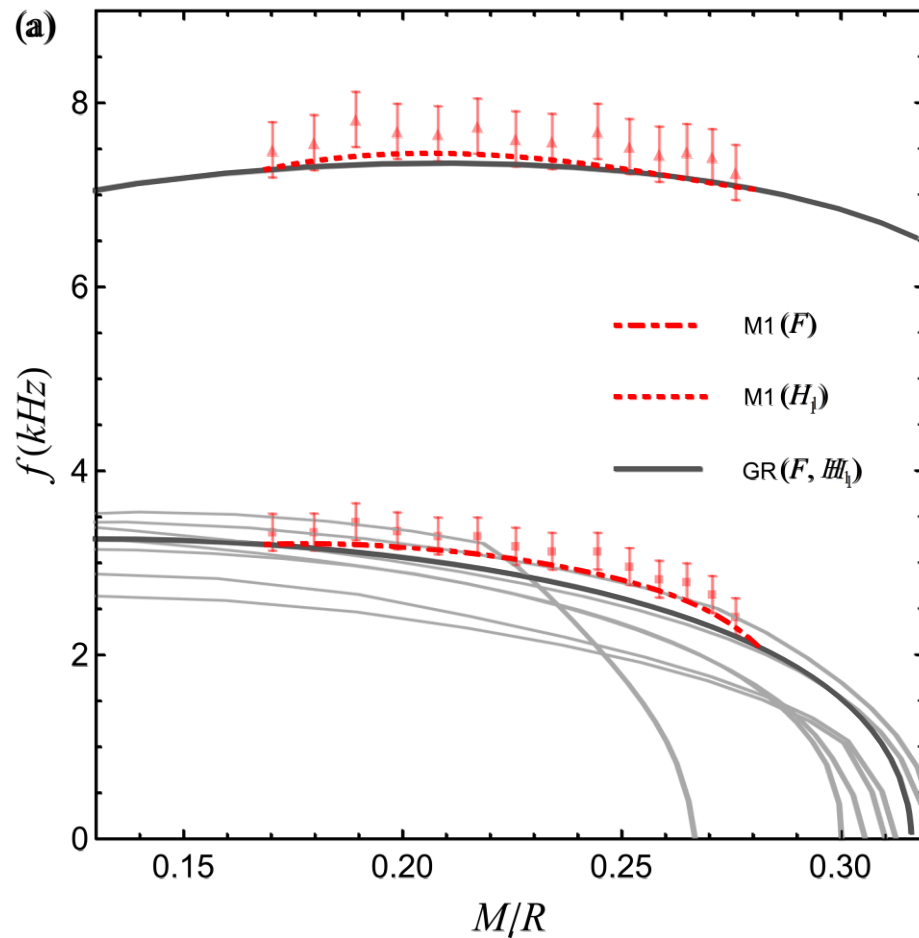
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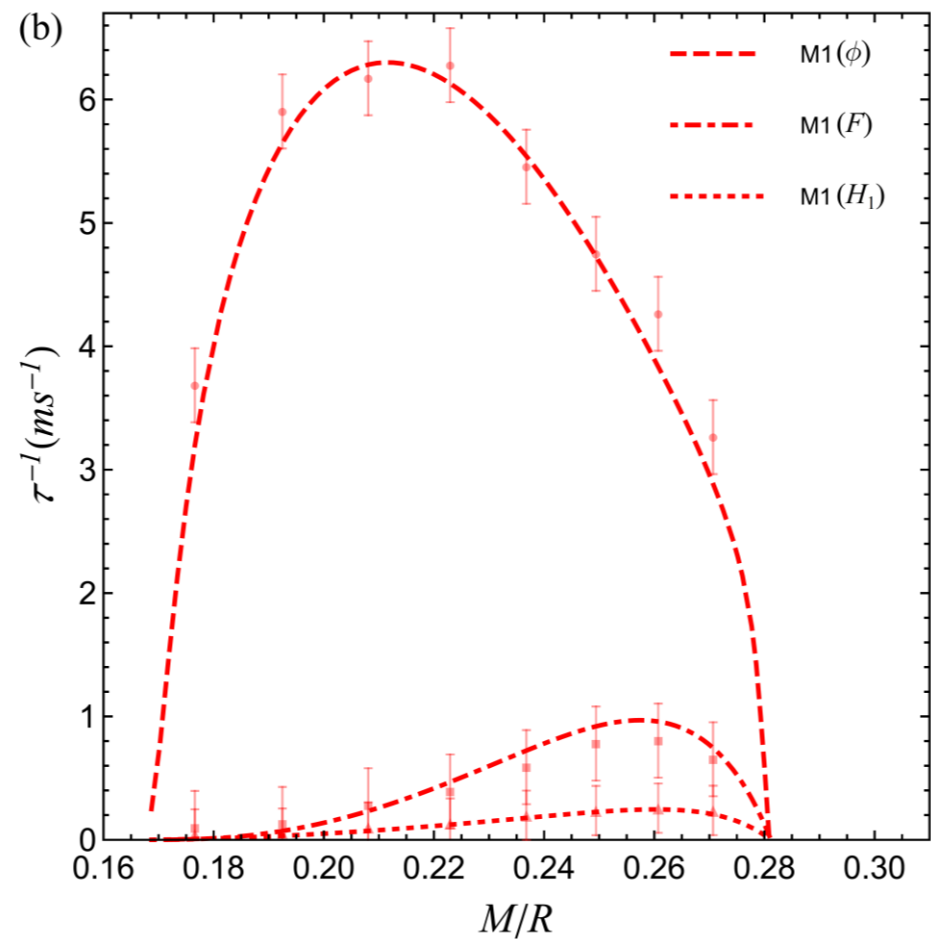
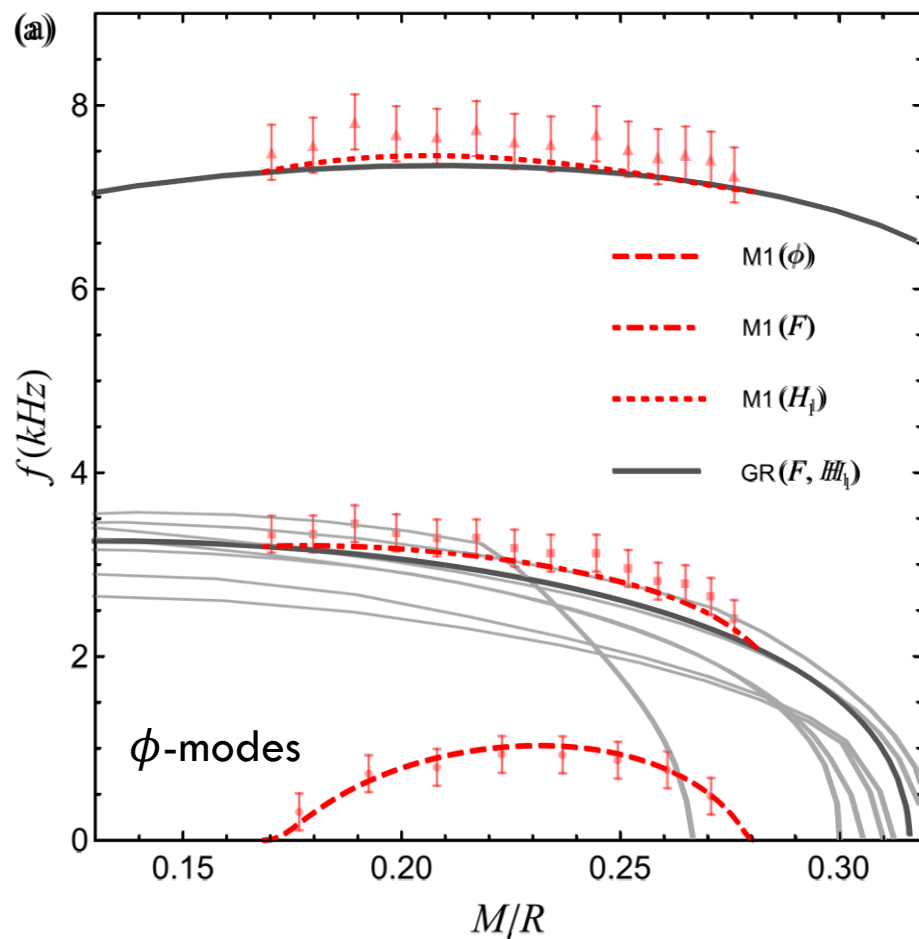
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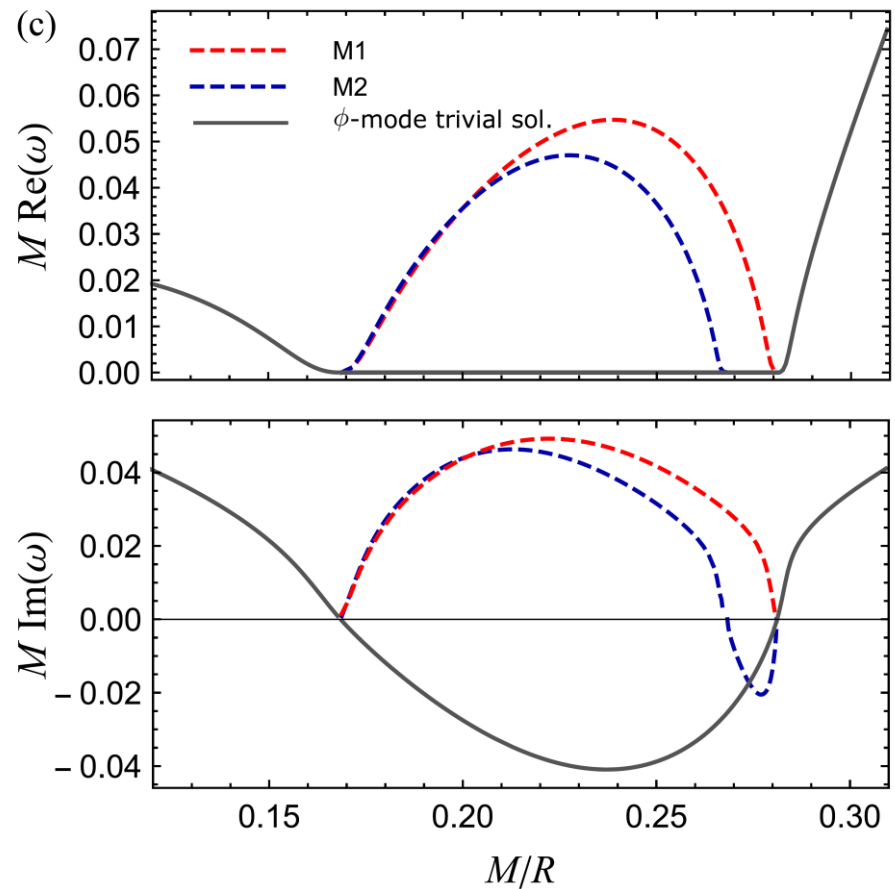
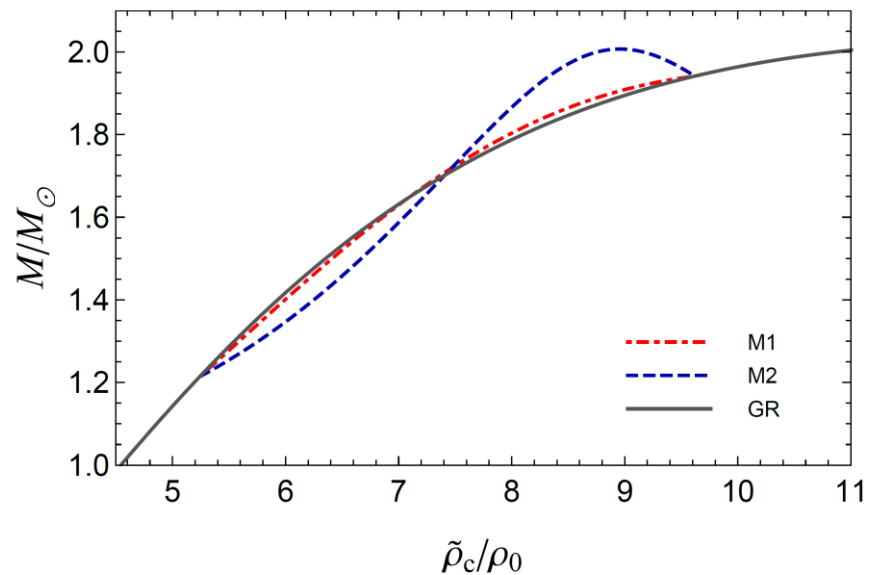
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Radial NS QNM in STTs

Remarks

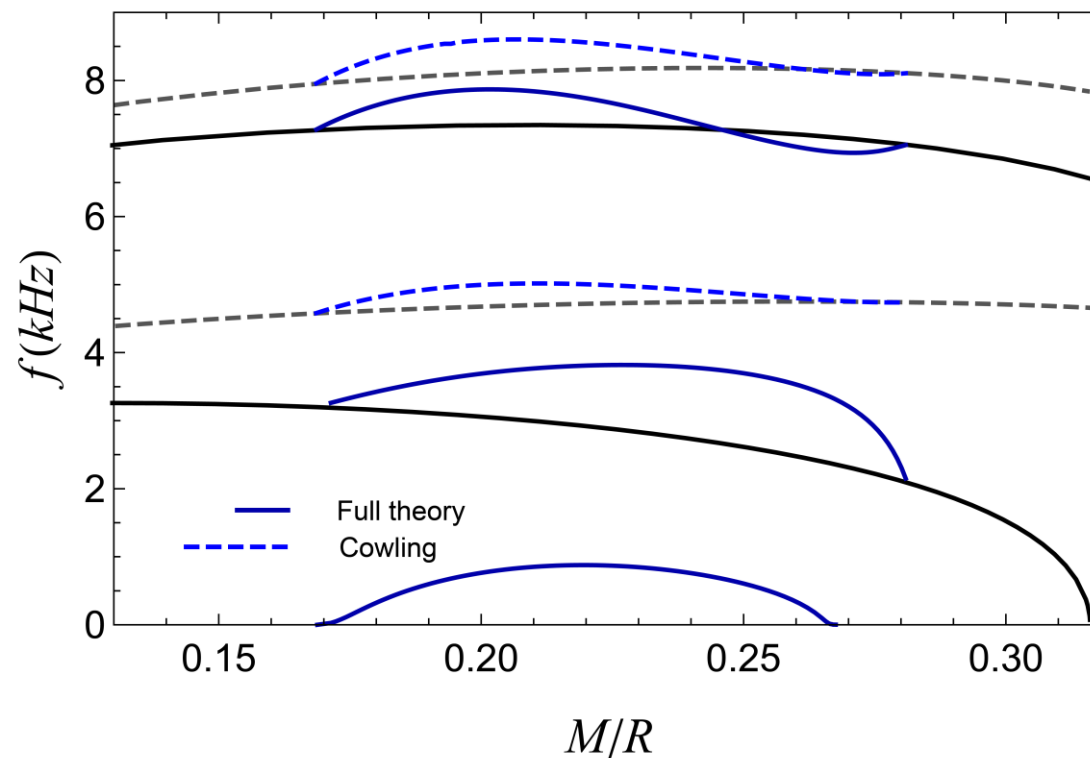
- Role in stability



Radial NS QNM in STTs

Remarks

- Role in stability
- Unsuitability of the Cowling approximation



Radial NS QNM in STTs

Remarks

- Role in stability
- Unsuitability of the Cowling approximation
- Need for more suitable integration methods

- Perturbation variables: $\xi(t, r)$ and $\delta\phi(t, r)$

- Frequency domain calculation:

$$\xi(t, r) = \xi(r)e^{i\omega t}, \quad \delta\phi(t, r) = \delta\phi(r)e^{i\omega t}$$

- Boundary conditions: regularity, outgoing BC for $\delta\phi$:

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \delta\phi(t, r) \rightarrow e^{i\omega(t-r)}$$

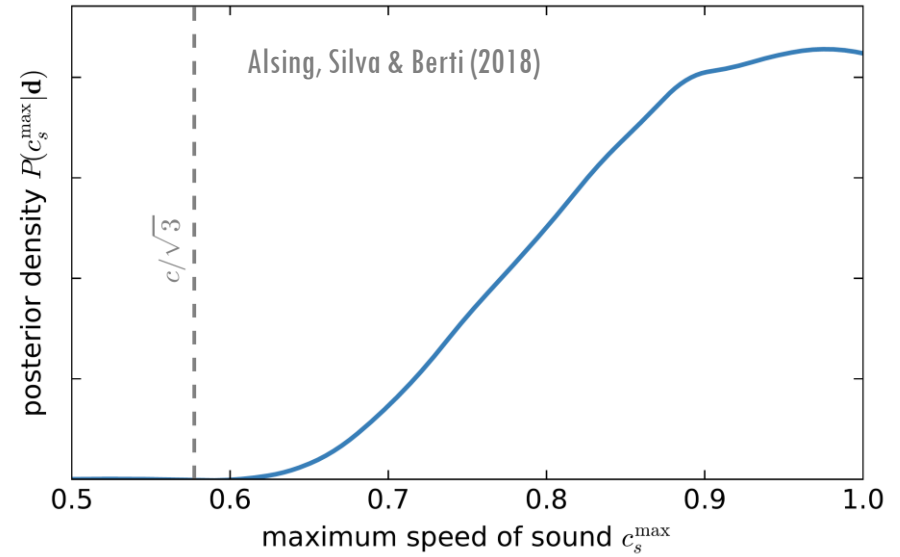
PART 2: The 'boons' of neutron star microphysics

Extreme properties inside NS

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Exceedingly large sound velocities

$$c_s^2 = \frac{dp}{d\epsilon} > \frac{1}{3}$$



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Exceedingly large sound velocities

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Pressure-dominated phase

$$T = 3p - \epsilon > 0$$

- Is it physical?

“It is generally assumed [e.g. Landau & Lifshitz] that already from special theory of relativity there follows the inequality $3p \leq \epsilon$, where p is the pressure and ϵ the energy density, and ϵ includes the rest masses of the particles. The grounds advanced for this are that for the electromagnetic field $3p = \epsilon$ and for free noninteracting particles with non-vanishing rest masses $3p < \epsilon$. We shall construct below an example of a relativistically invariant theory in which $3p > \epsilon$ is possible (...).”
(Zel’dovich, 1962)

Extreme properties inside NS

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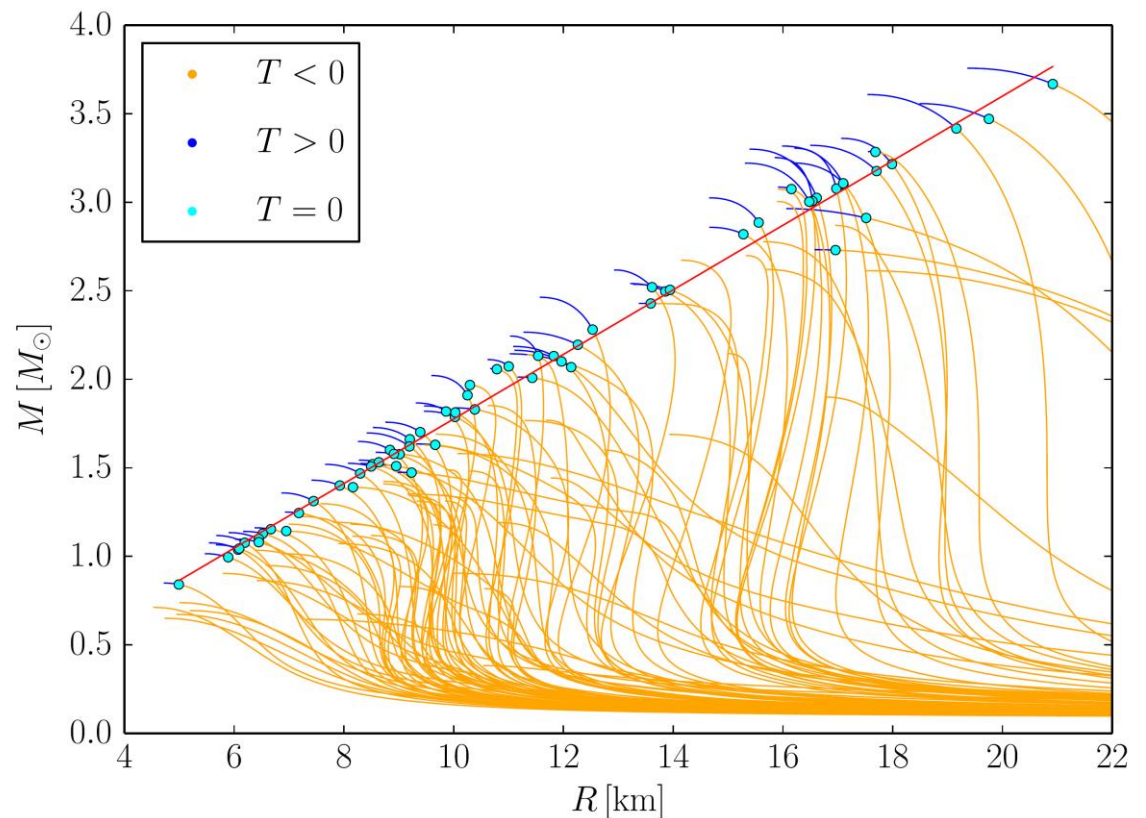
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- Is it realized in Nature?

D. M. Podkowka, R. F. P. Mendes, E. Poisson, Phys. Rev. D 98, 064057 (2018)



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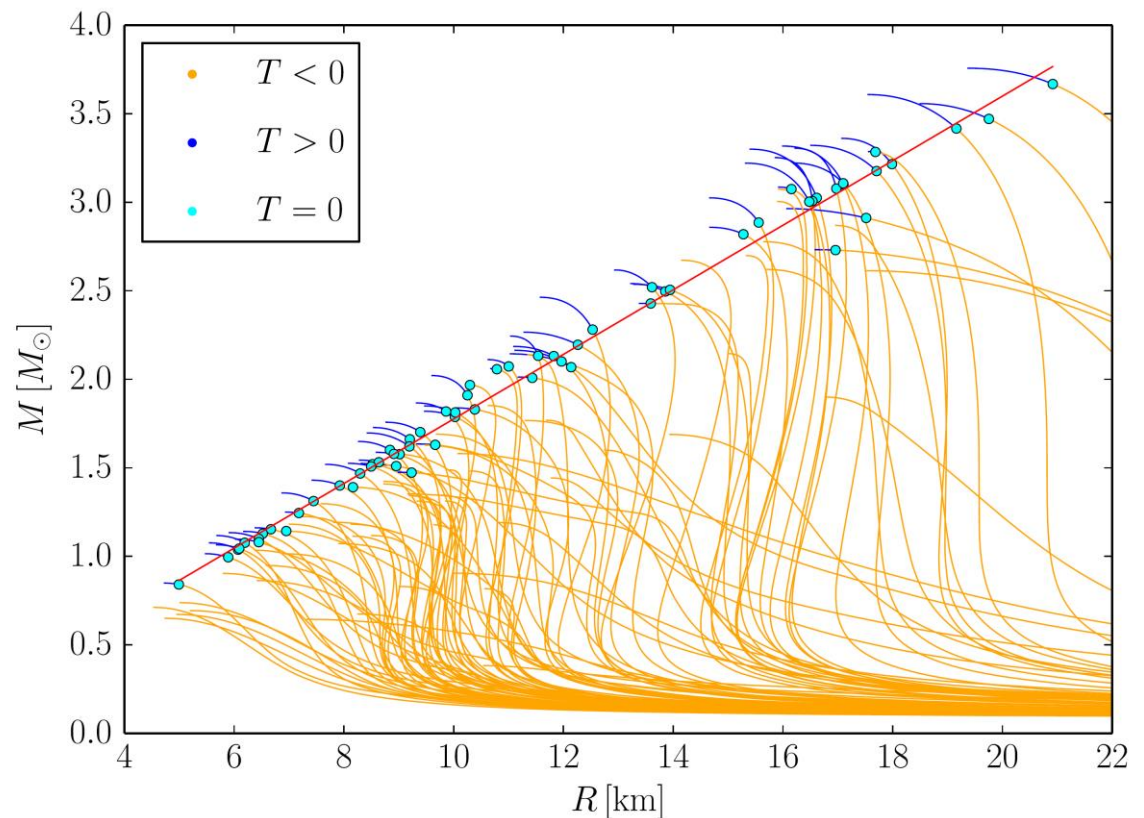
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$$C = \frac{GM}{Rc^2} = 0.262^{+0.011}_{-0.017}$$

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Pressure domination: Consequences for STTs

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [R - 2g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - V(\phi)] + S_m[\Psi_m; a(\phi)^2 g_{\mu\nu}]$$



$$\nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{4} \frac{dV(\phi)}{d\phi} = -4\pi \frac{d \log a(\phi)}{d\phi} T$$

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STTs of Bergmann-Wagoner type

- $V(\phi) = 0$, $a(\phi)$ nontrivial

Screened modified gravity

- $V(\phi)$, $a(\phi)$ nontrivial

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Pressure domination: Consequences for STTs

$$\nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu \phi = -4\pi \frac{d \log a(\phi)}{d\phi} T$$

- Expand ($\phi_0 = \phi(\tau_0) = cte$):

$$\alpha(\phi) = \frac{d \log a(\phi)}{d\phi} = \alpha_0 + \beta_0(\phi - \phi_0) + O[(\phi - \phi_0)^2]$$

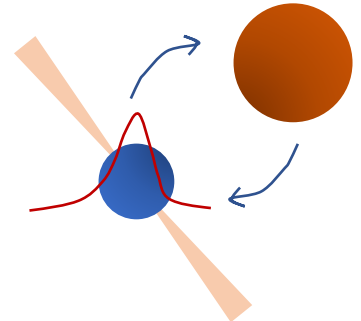
- GR: $\alpha_0 = \beta_0 = \dots = 0$;
- FJBD: $\beta_0 = \dots = 0, \alpha_0 \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\omega_{BD}}}$;
- SNMC: $\alpha_0 = 0, \beta_0 = 2\xi, \beta'_0 = 0, \beta''_0 = 8(1 - 12\xi)\xi^2, \dots$

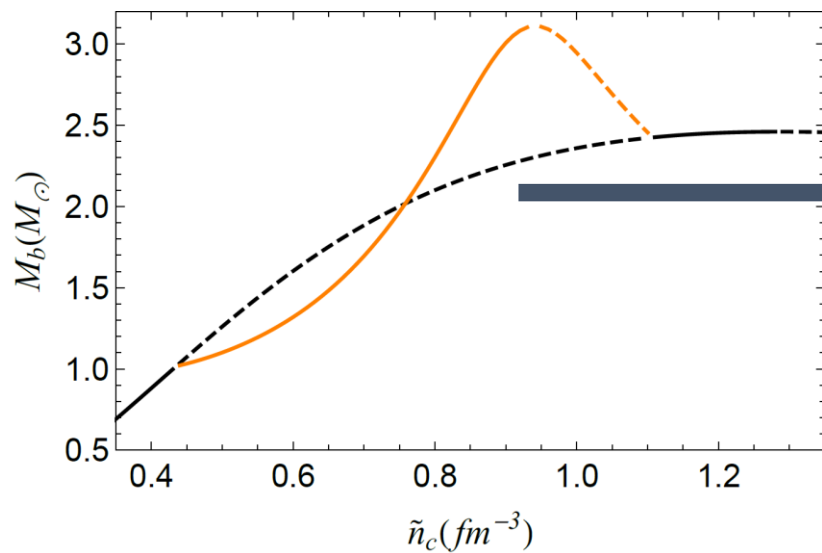
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Constrained by pulsar timing

Constrained by solar system
experiments

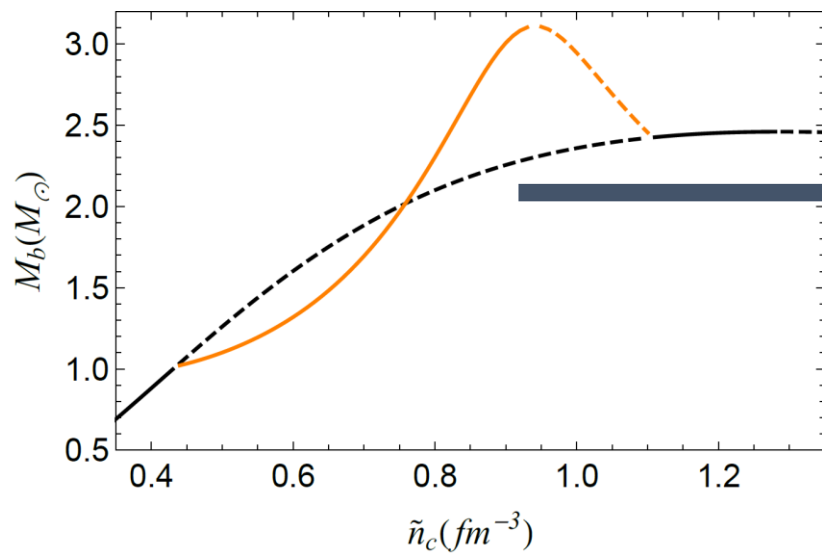




Instability of the GR solution

$$\nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu \delta\phi = -4\pi\beta_0 T \delta\phi$$

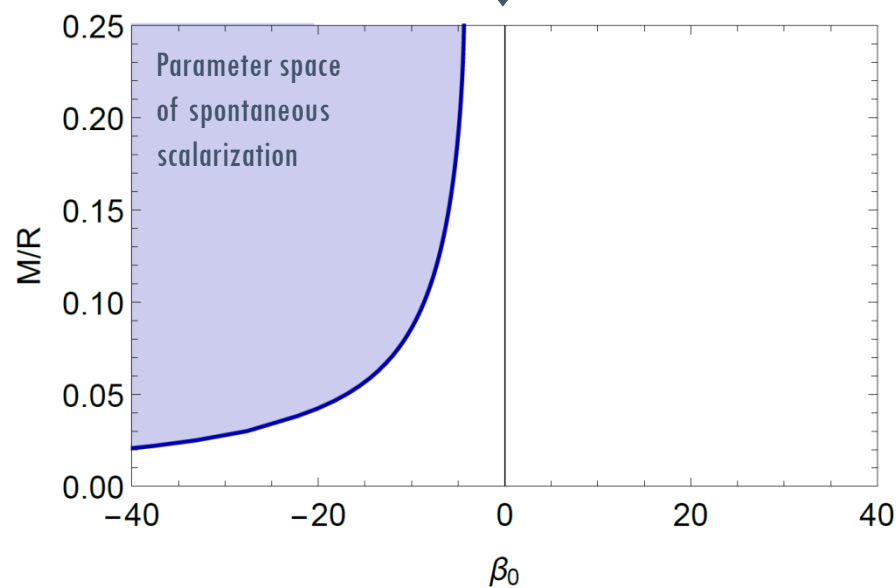
Unstable modes if
 $m_{\text{eff}}^2 = -4\pi\beta_0 T$
 sufficiently negative

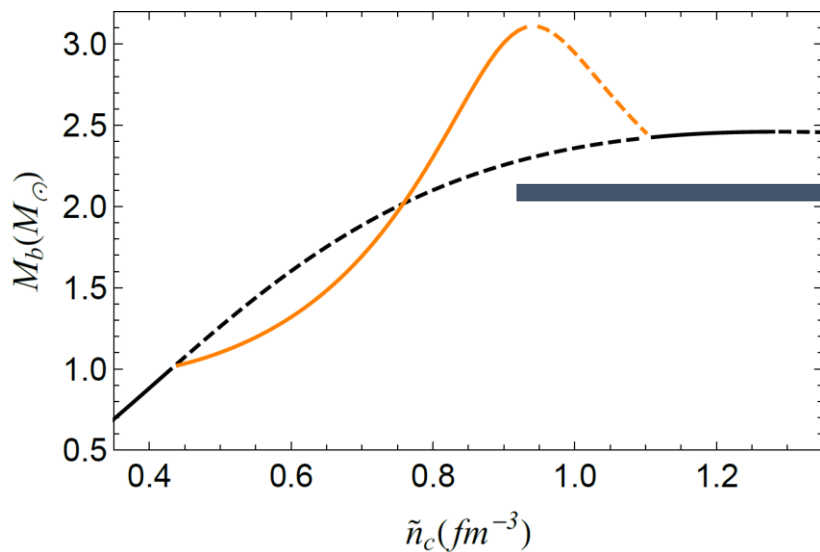


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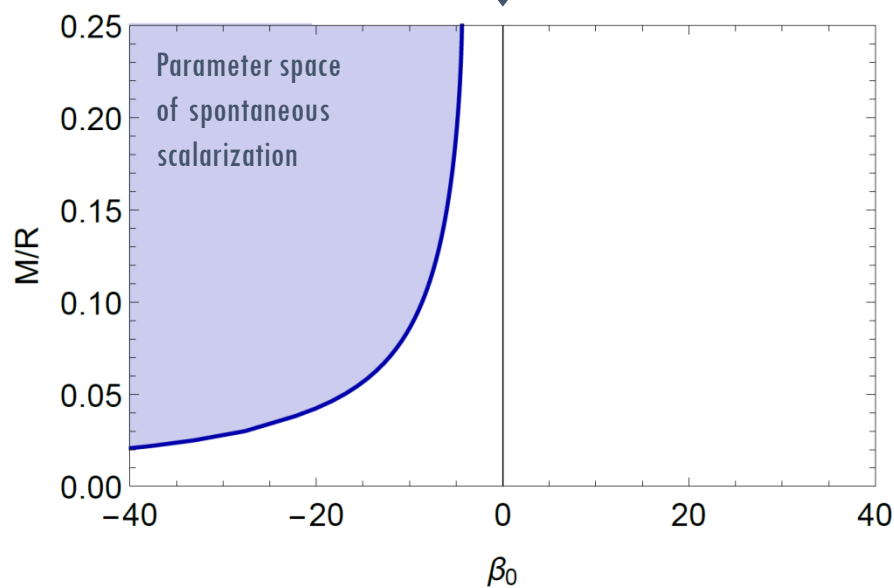
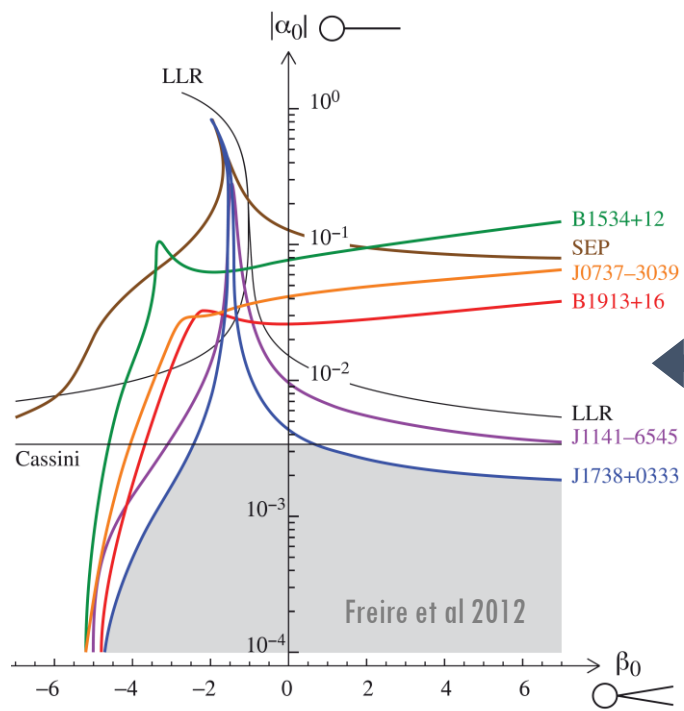


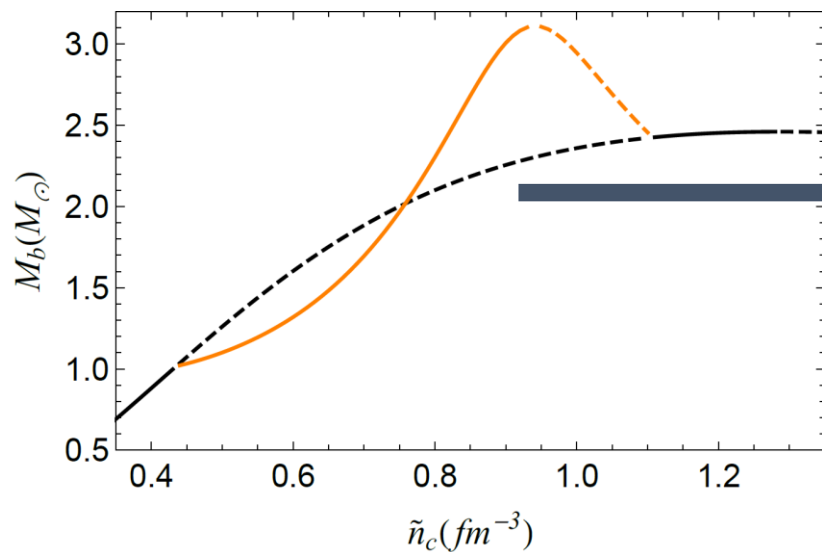


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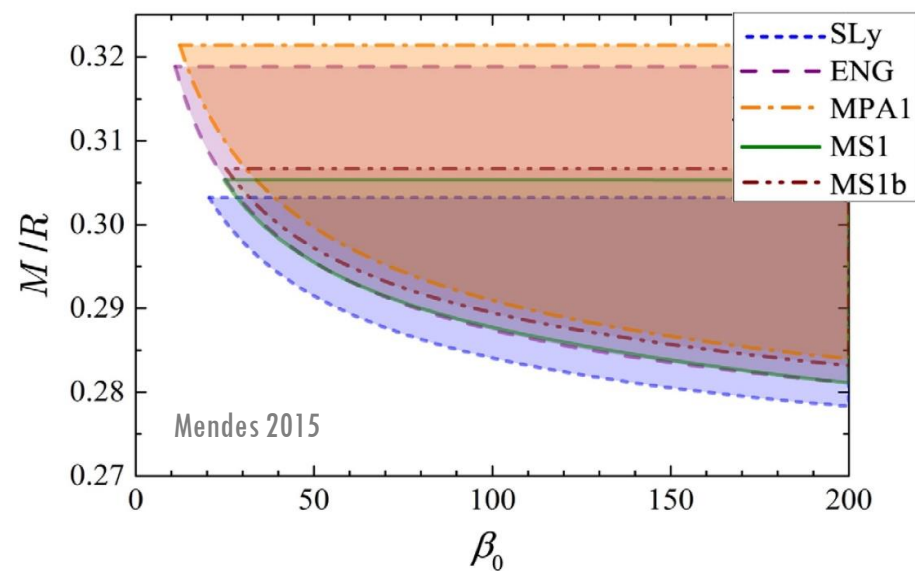




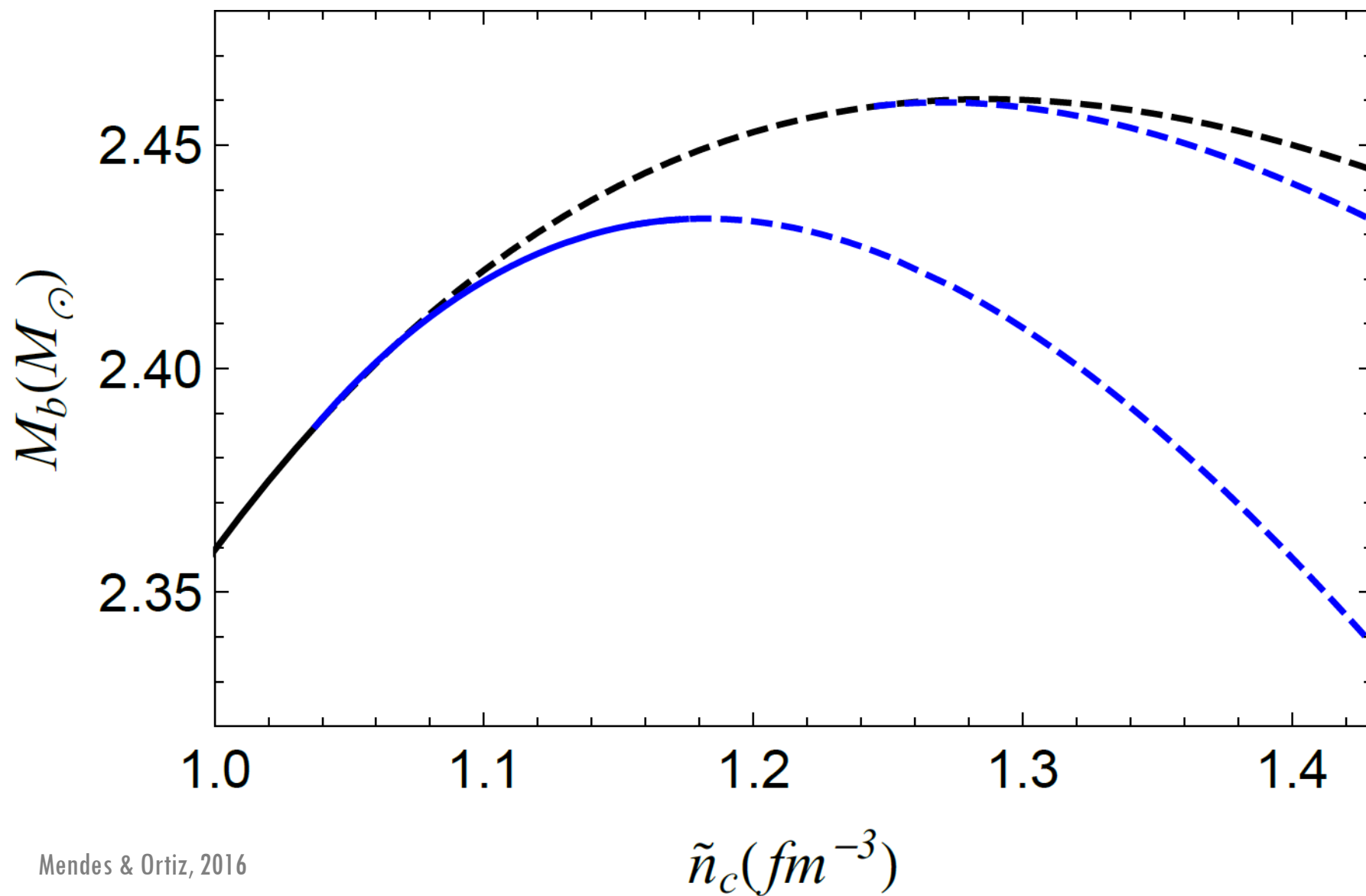
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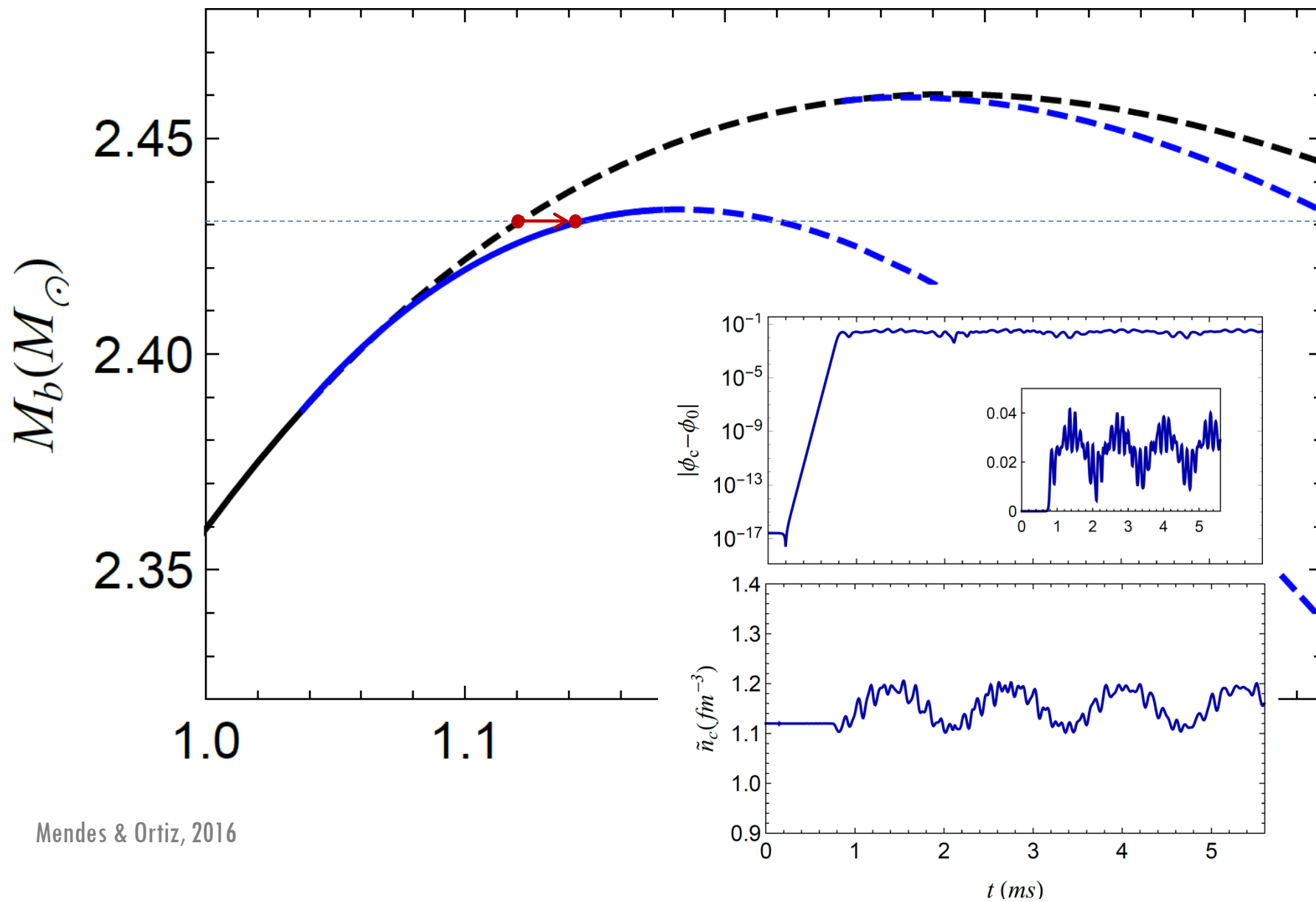
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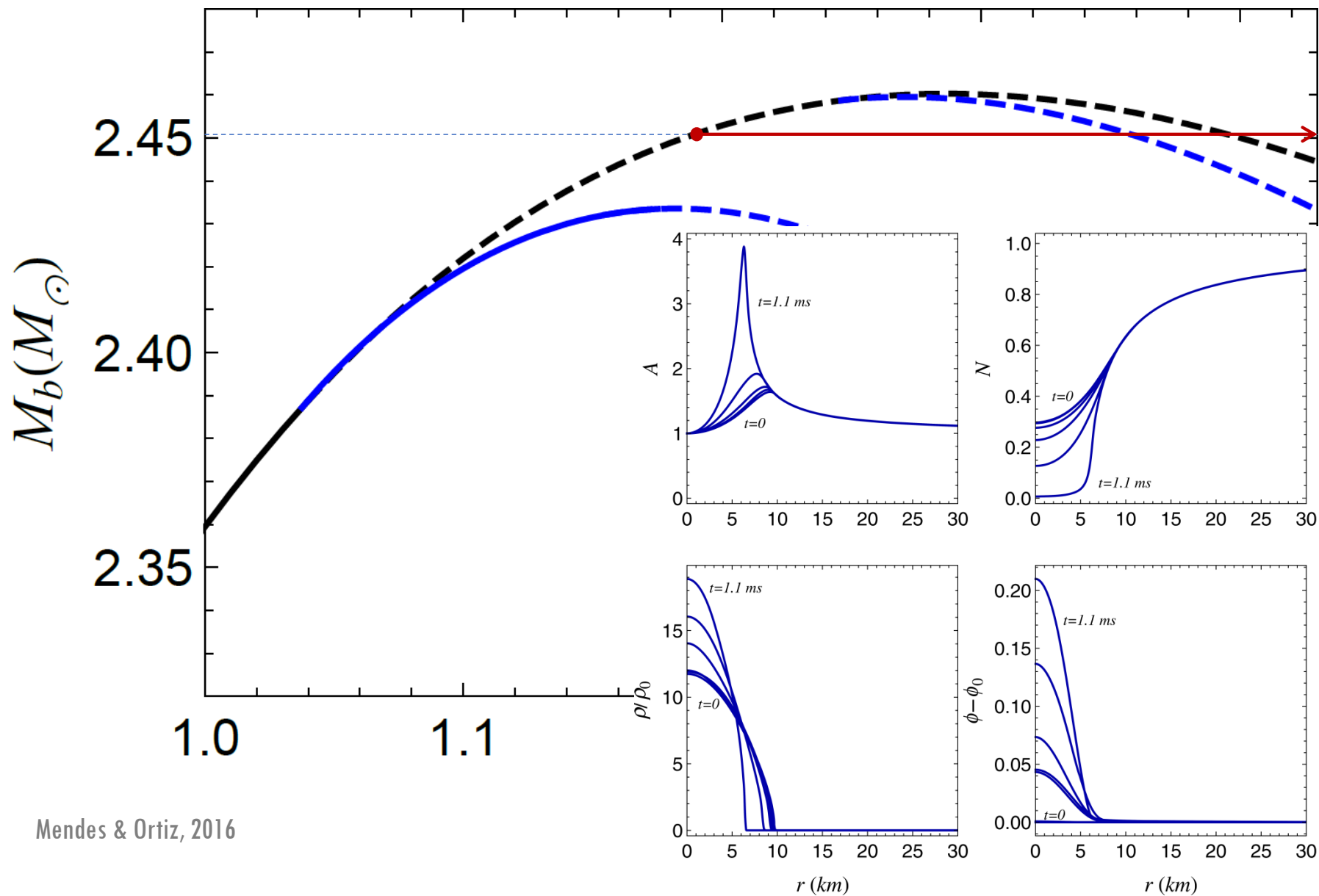
$M1$ with $\beta = 100$



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Pulsar timing constraints to STTs with $\beta_0 > 0$?

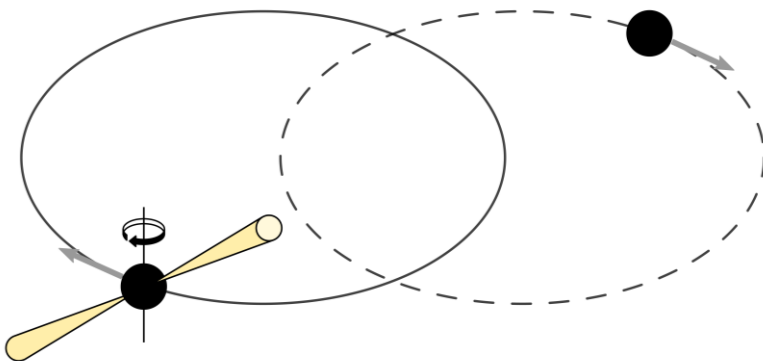
R. Mendes & T. Ottoni, PRD 99, 124003 (2019)

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Pulsar-timing observables ($\dot{\omega}, \gamma, \dot{P}_b, \dots$)
depend on scalar charges



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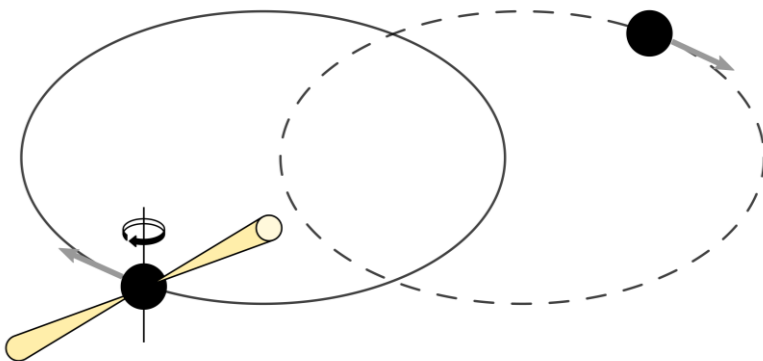
$$S_m = - \sum_{A=1}^N \int m_A(\varphi_A) d\tau_A$$

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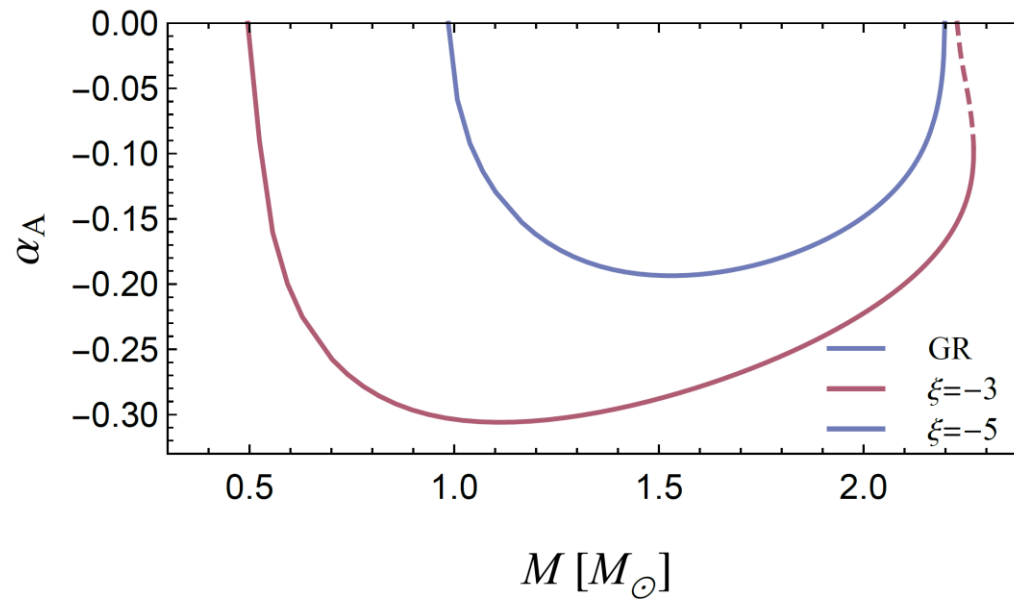
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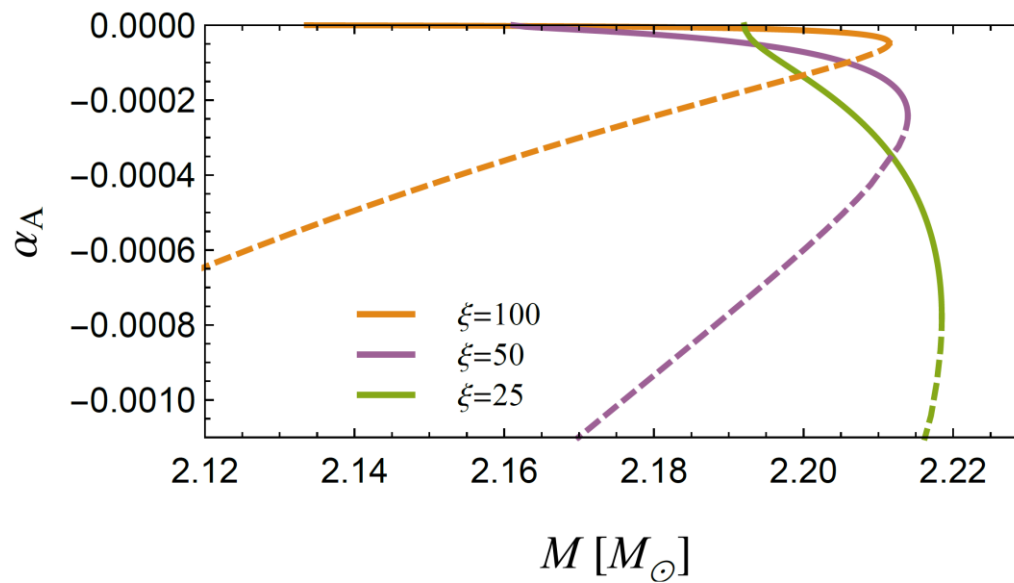
$$S = S_{EH} + S_{\varphi} + S_m$$

$$S_m = - \sum_{A=1}^N \int m_A(\varphi_A) d\tau_A$$

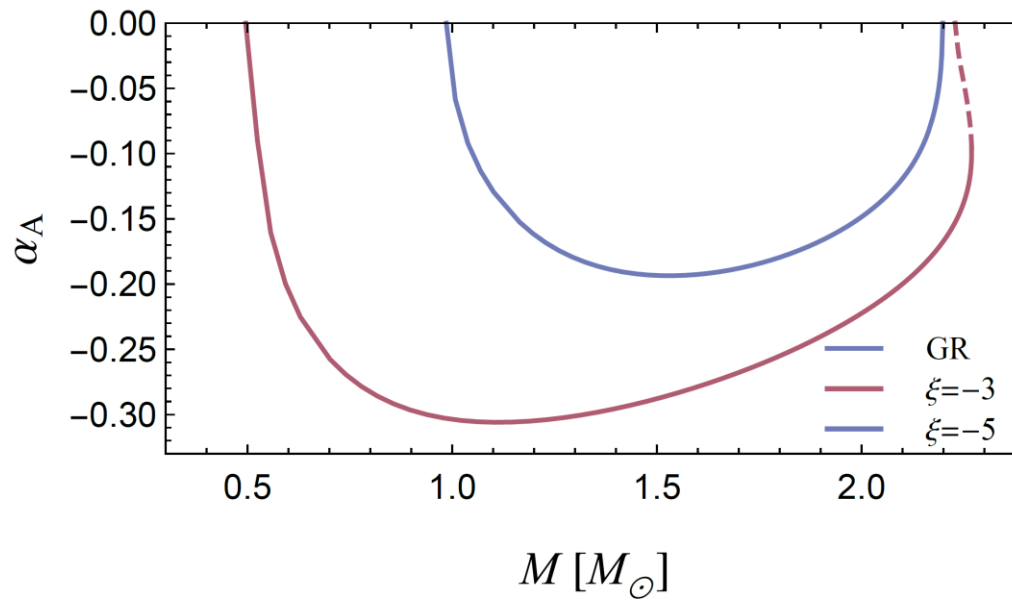
$$\alpha_A = \left. \frac{d \log m_A}{d \varphi_A} \right|_{\varphi_0}, \beta_A = \left. \frac{d \alpha_A}{d \varphi_A} \right|_{\varphi_0}, k_A = - \left. \frac{d \log I_A}{d \varphi_A} \right|_{\varphi_0}$$



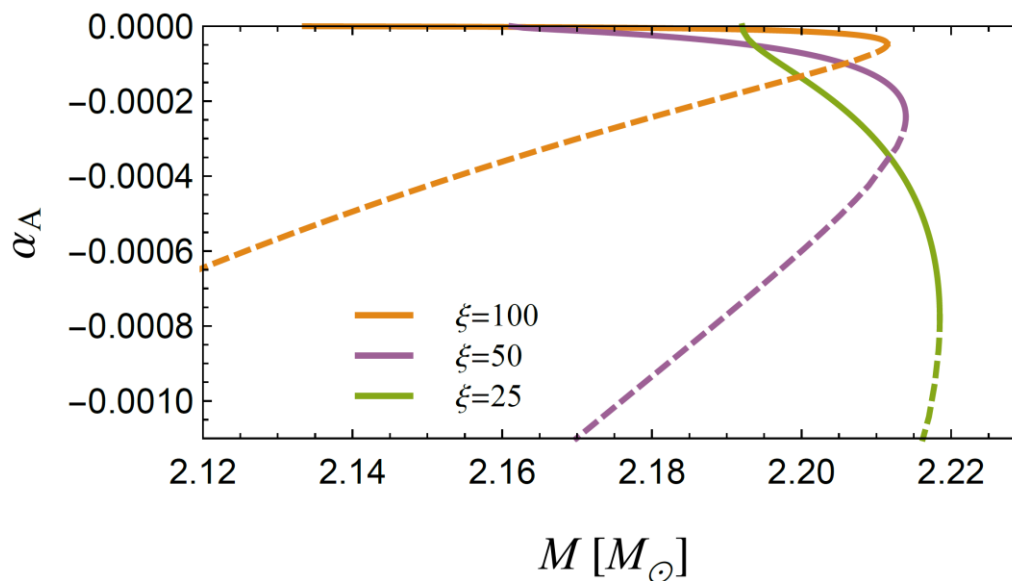
$\xi < 0$



$\xi > 0$



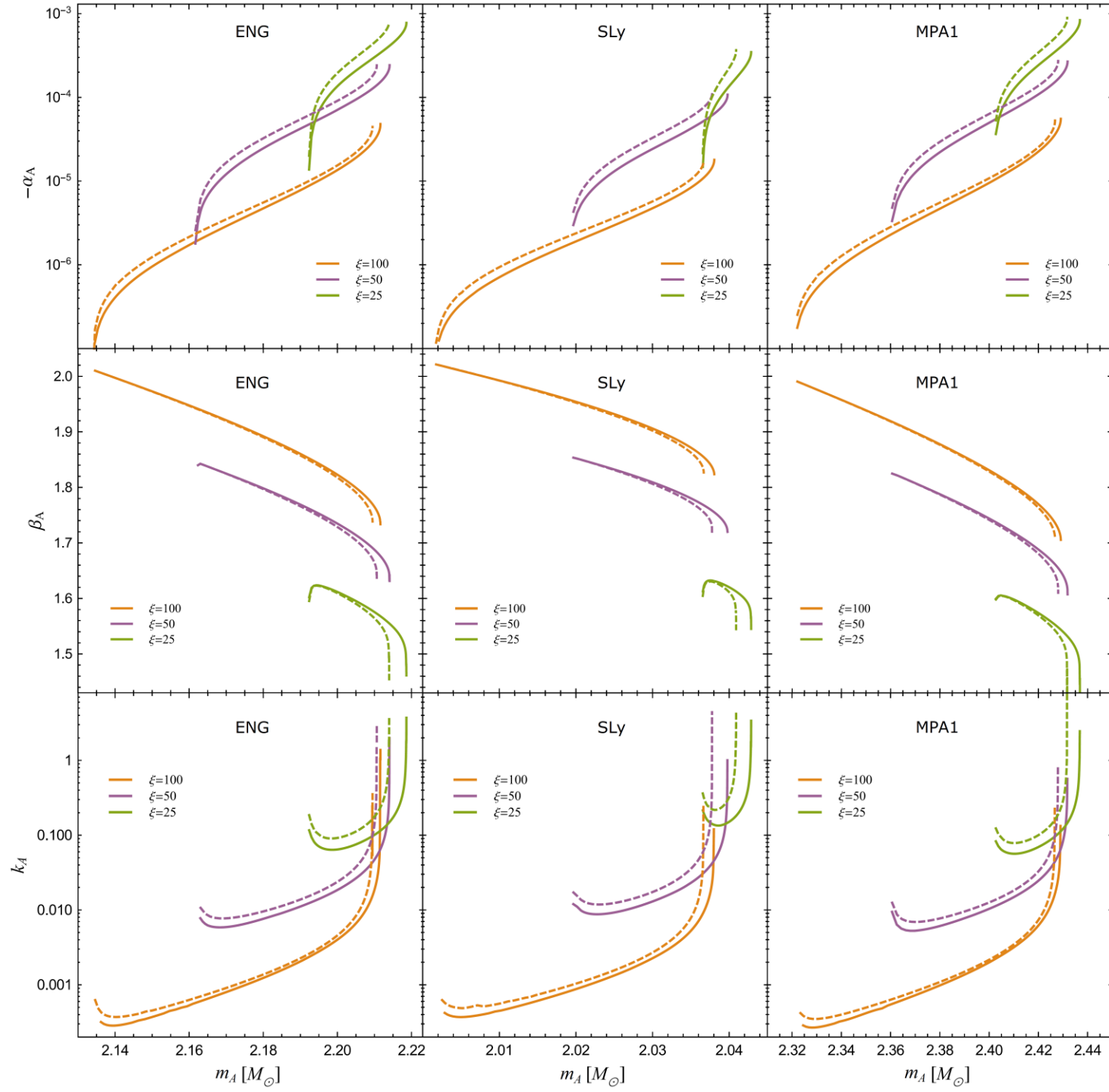
$\xi < 0$



$\xi > 0$

Dipole radiation (\dot{P}_ϕ^{dip}):

- dominates by $(c/v_b)^2$
- suppressed by $(\alpha_p - \alpha_c)^2$



Pressure domination: Consequences for STTs

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [R - 2g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - V(\phi)] + S_m[\Psi_m; a(\phi)^2 g_{\mu\nu}]$$



$$\nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{4} \frac{dV(\phi)}{d\phi} = -4\pi \frac{d \log a(\phi)}{d\phi} T$$

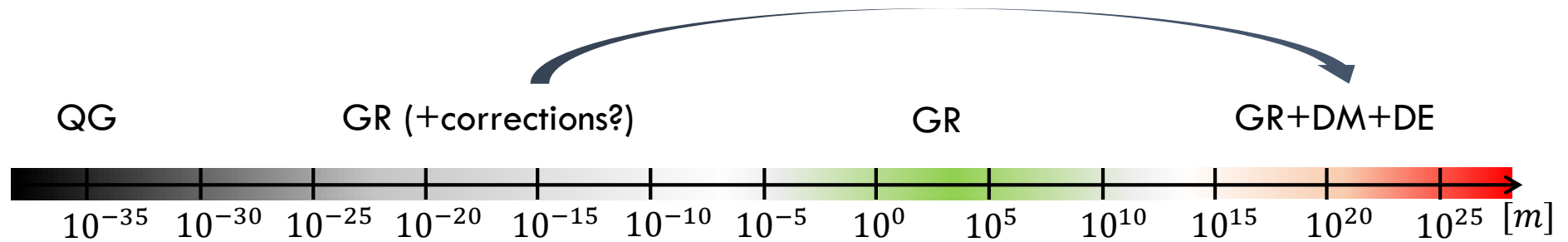
STTs of Bergmann-Wagoner type

- $V(\phi) = 0$, $a(\phi)$ nontrivial

Screened modified gravity

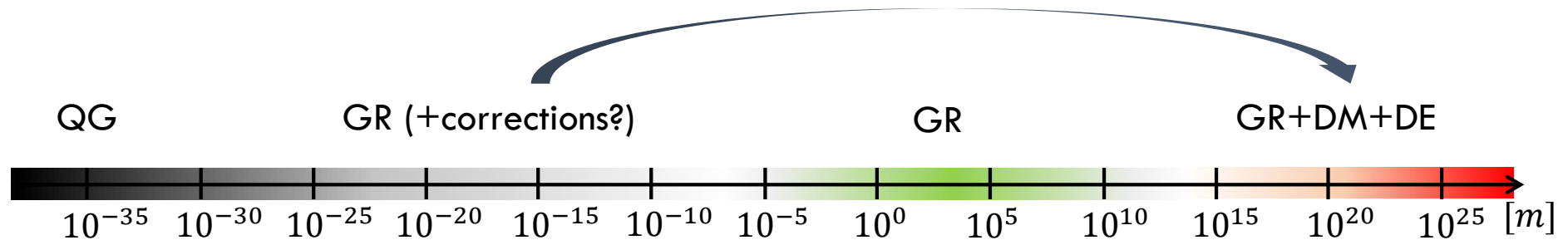
- $V(\phi)$, $a(\phi)$ nontrivial

STTs with screening effects



Screening mechanisms: evade solar system tests with environmental dependence of field properties

STTs with screening effects



Screening mechanisms: evade solar system tests with environmental dependence of field properties

Chameleon

- m_{eff} depends on ρ_{local}
- Light in deep space; heavy near Earth

Vainshtein

- Derivative self-couplings
- Strong self-coup. near sources \rightarrow weak coupling to matter

Symmetron

- VEV depends on ρ_{local}
- ϕ_{VEV} large in deep space; low near Earth
- Coupling to matter proportional to VEV

STTs with screening effects

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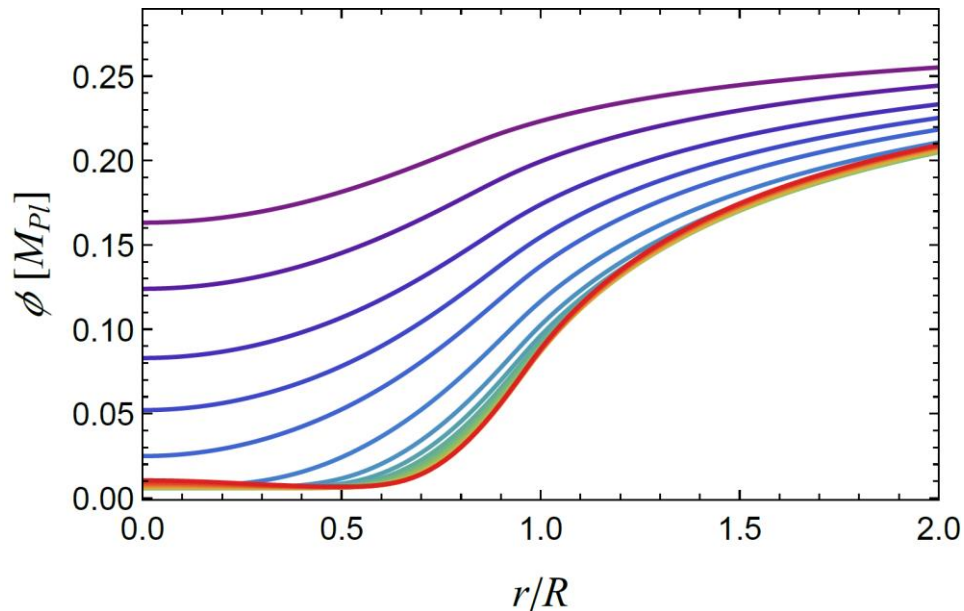
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Unscreening in NS interior?

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Chameleons: $V(\phi) = \mu\phi^{-1}$, $a(\phi) = \exp(\phi/M_c)$

H4: no pressure domination

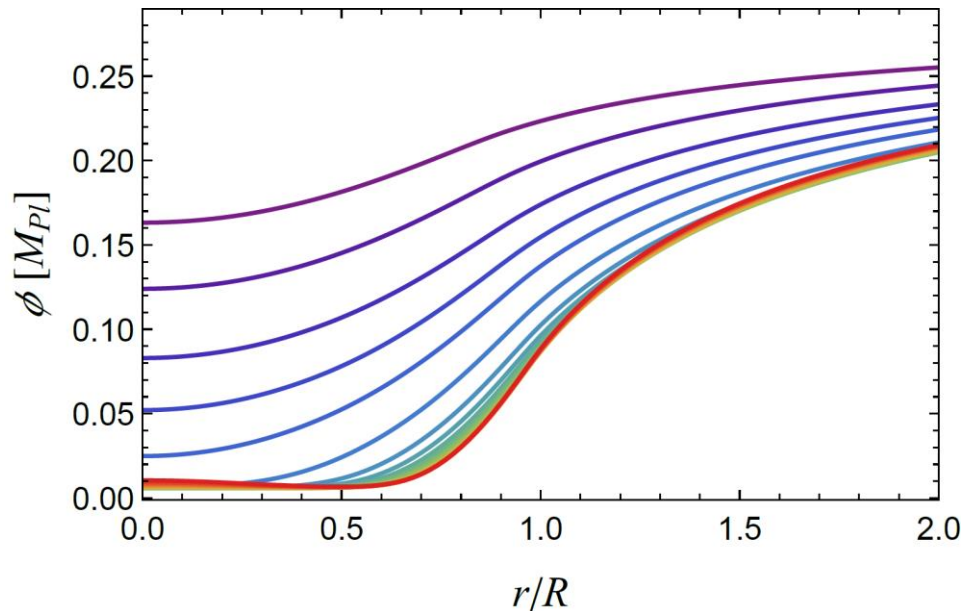


Unscreening in NS interior?

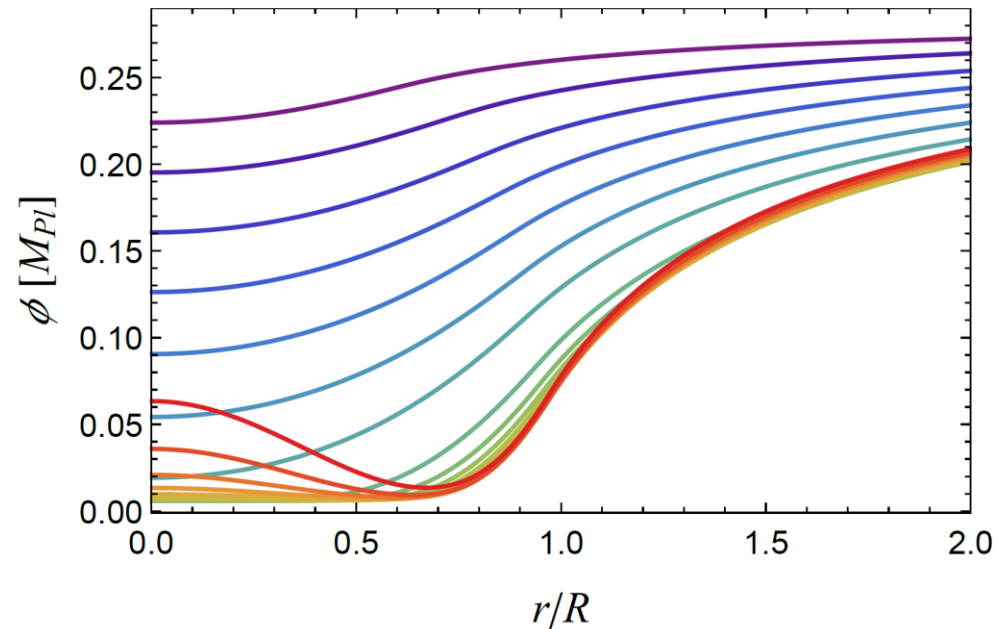
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ENG: pressure dominated phase

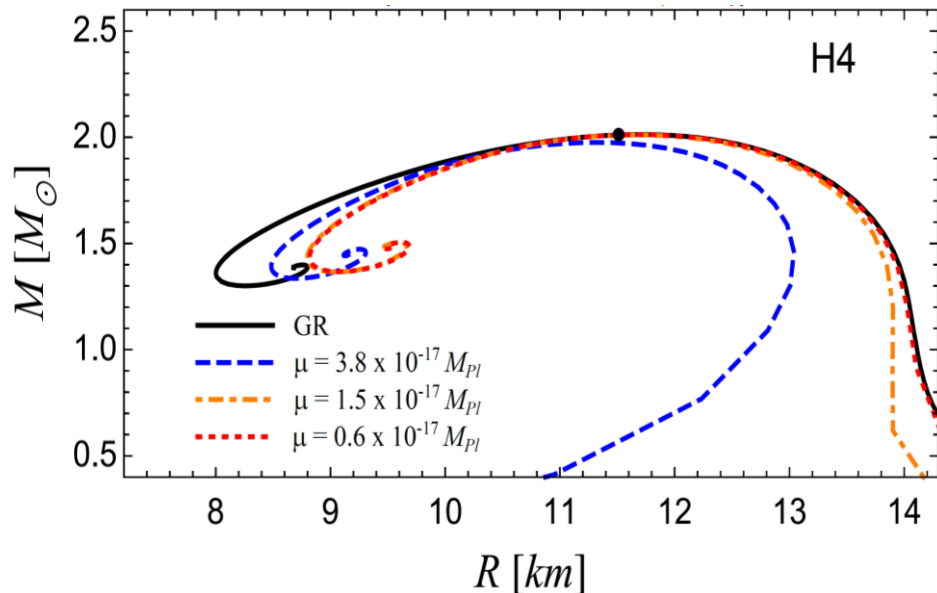


Unscreening in NS interior?

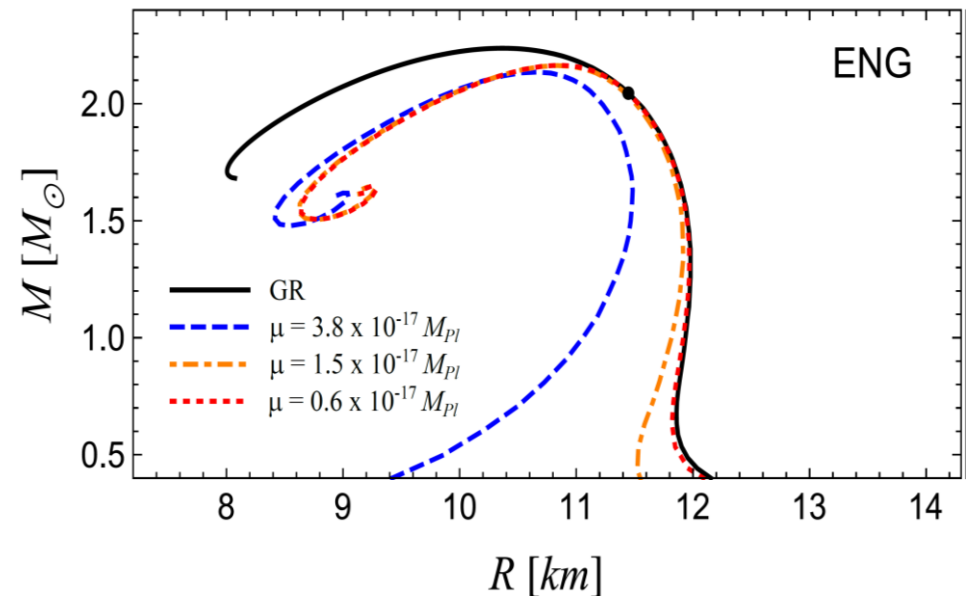
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H4: no pressure domination



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CONCLUSIONS

Nuclear physics *vs* modified gravity

THE CURSE OF NS MICROPHYSICS

How to circumvent it?

THE BOONS OF NS MICROPHYSICS

How to harness them?



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