

Fundamental Physics III

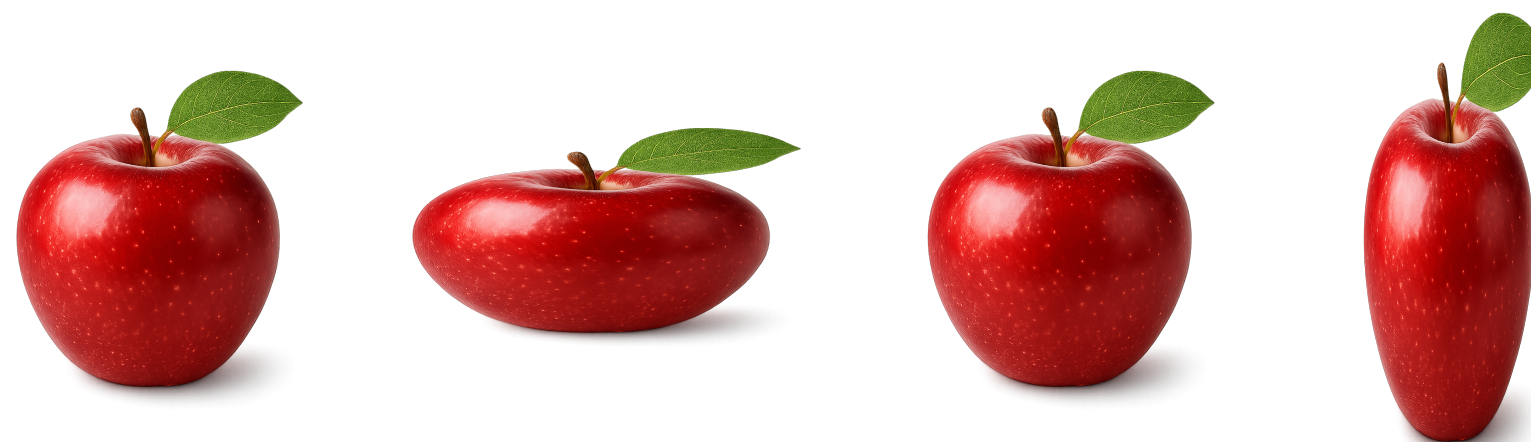
Richard Brito

CENTRA, Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisboa, Portugal

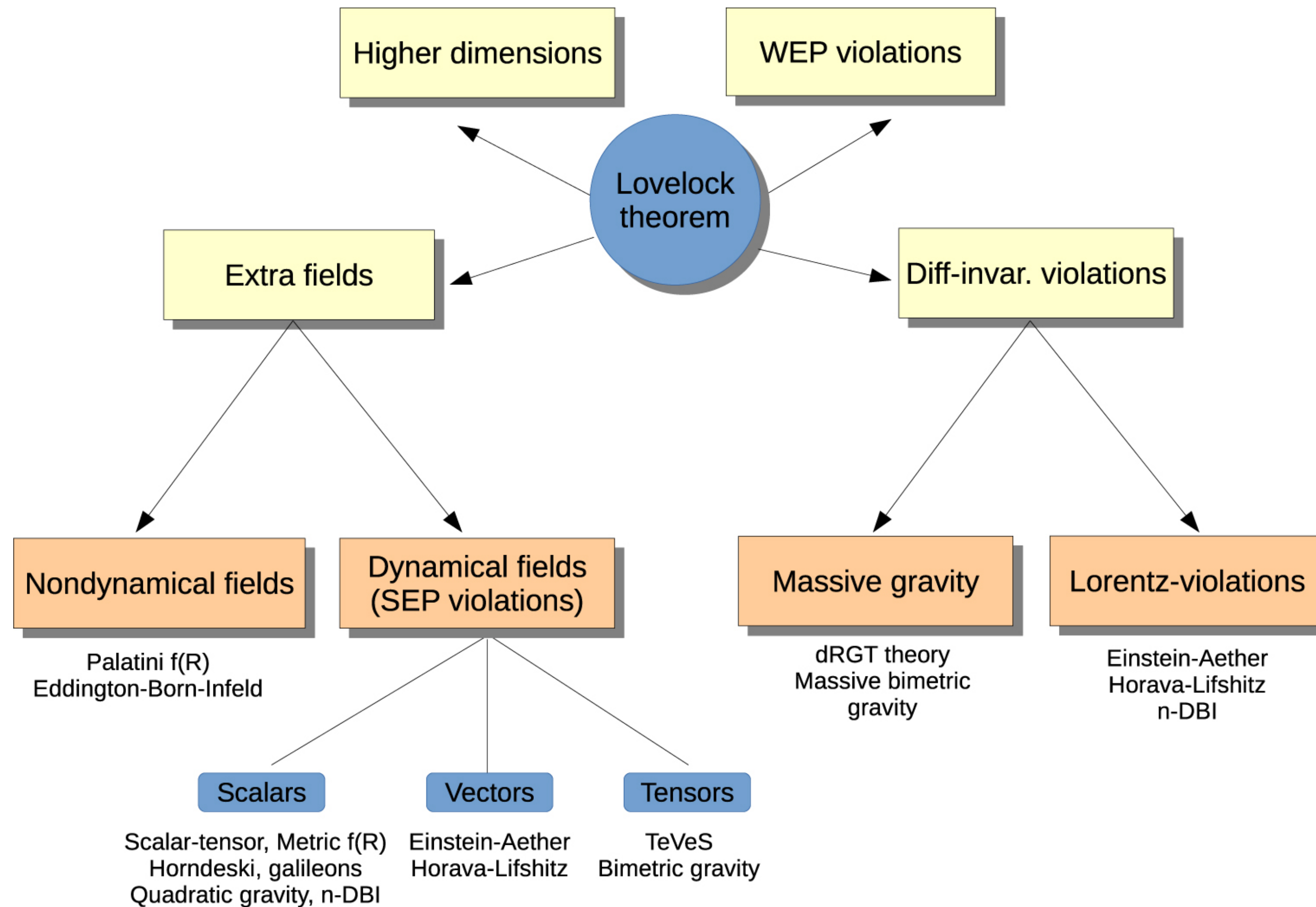


Outline

- Alternative theories of gravity (**FP I**)
- Testing beyond GR theories with EMRIs (**FP I**)
- Tests of the no-hair theorem and nature of compact objects (**FPII**)
- Parametrised tests of GR (**FPIII, this lecture**)
- *Beyond vacuum GR*: environmental effects & searches for dark matter (**FP III, this lecture**)

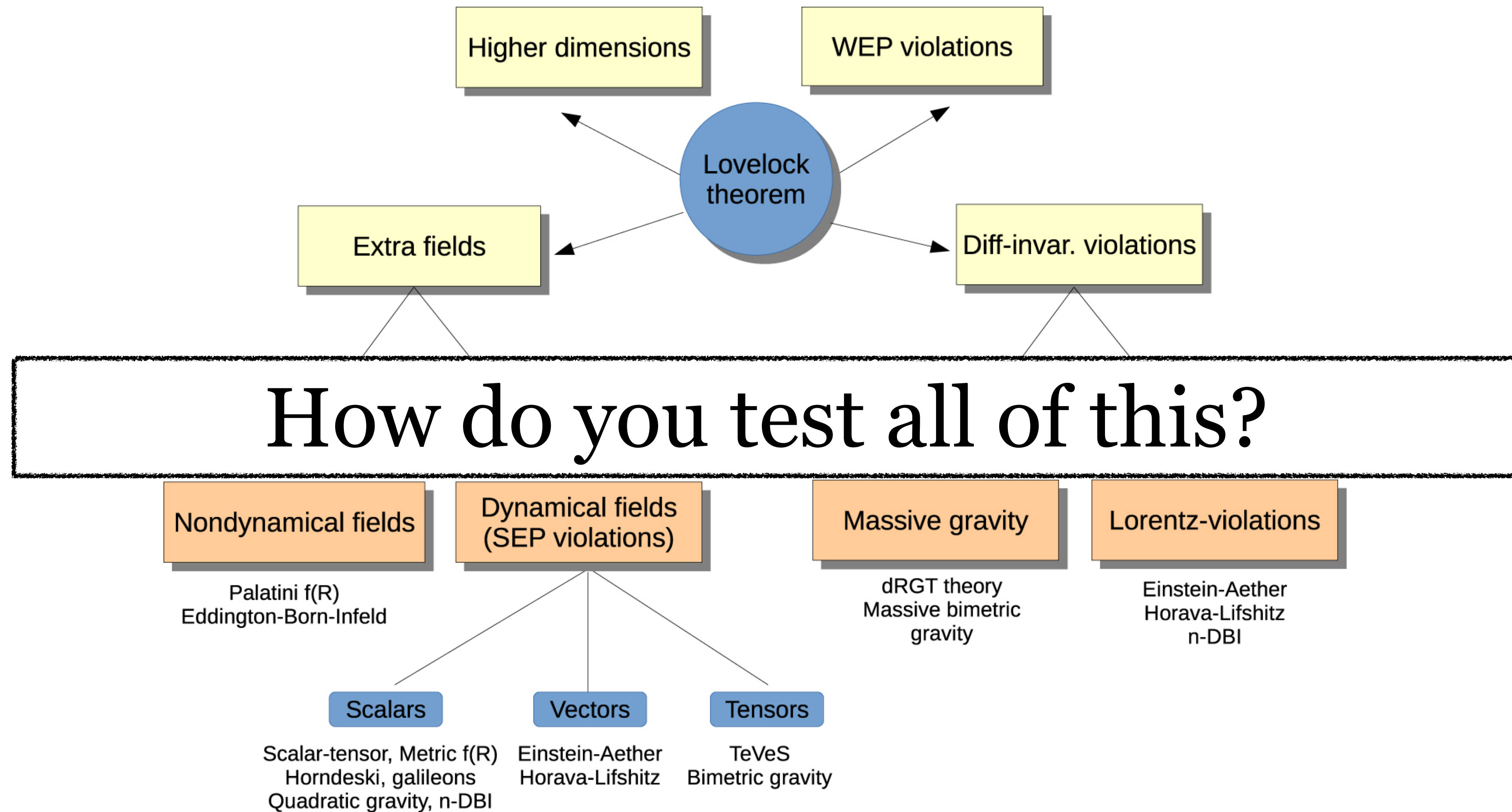


Parametrised tests of GR



From: E. Berti *et al*, Class. Quantum Grav. 32 243001 (2015)

Parametrised tests of GR



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How to test gravity?

Theory-specific

- Pick a theory, make predictions and test it.
- **Advantages:**
 - Might get stronger constraints on the parameter(s) of interest.
 - Possibility of considering clear smoking-gun deviations from GR.
 - Easy to combine information from different tests.
- **Disadvantages:**
 - Too many theories; no real motivation to choose one over others
 - Challenging to build complete waveform models.

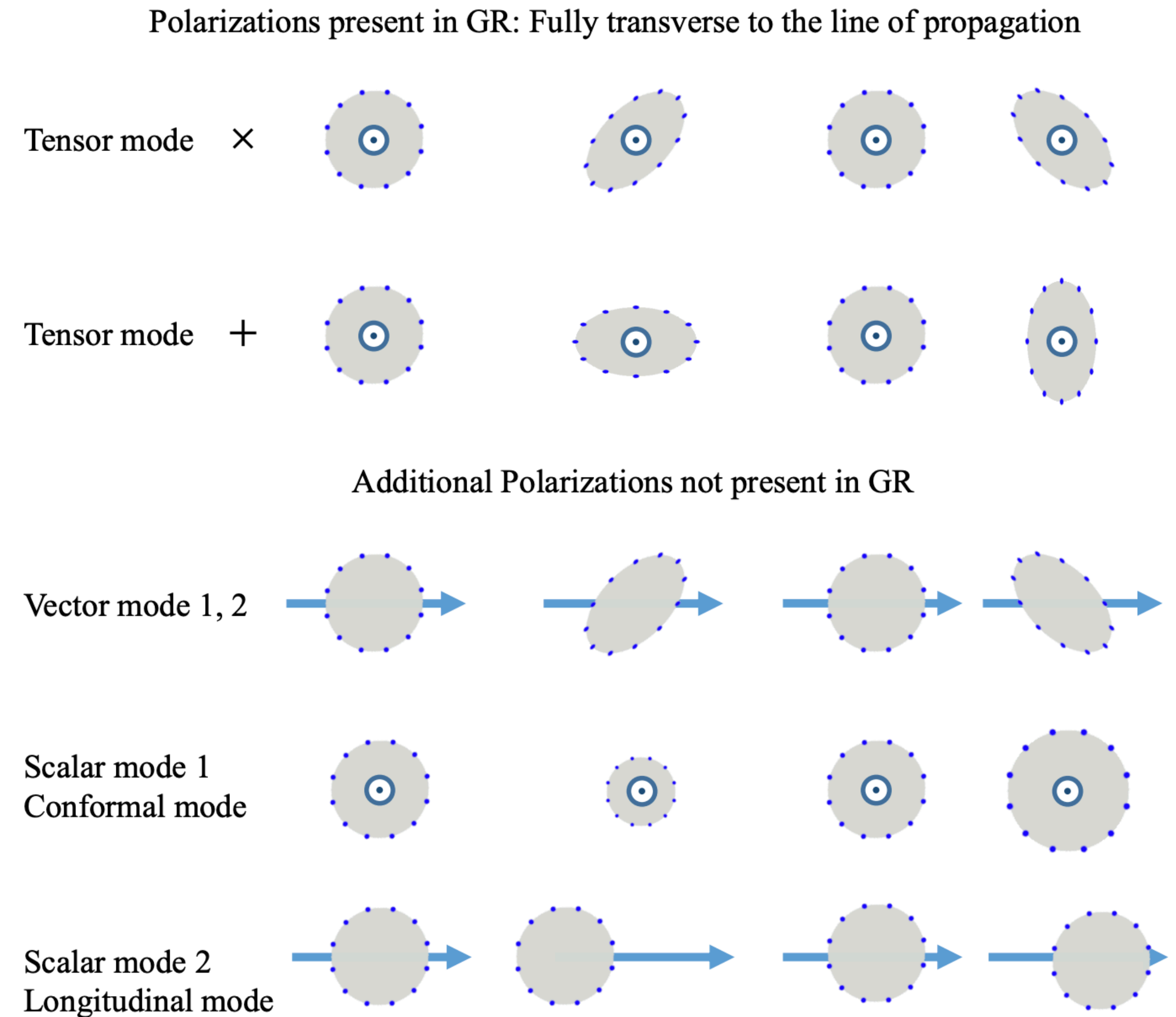
Theory-agnostic

- Consider model-independent deviations from GR (ppN, ppE, EFT approach...).
- **Advantages:**
 - “Easy” to model/implement.
 - *Ideally*: generic enough to encompass several theories/effects
- **Disadvantages:**
 - Too many parameters.
 - For most cases only focuses on part of the waveform.
 - Doesn't always capture all effects

Beyond GR phenomenology

LISA FP WG, Living Rev. Rel. (2022) 25:4

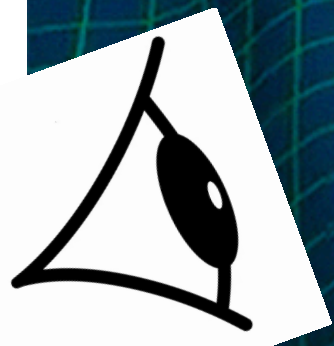
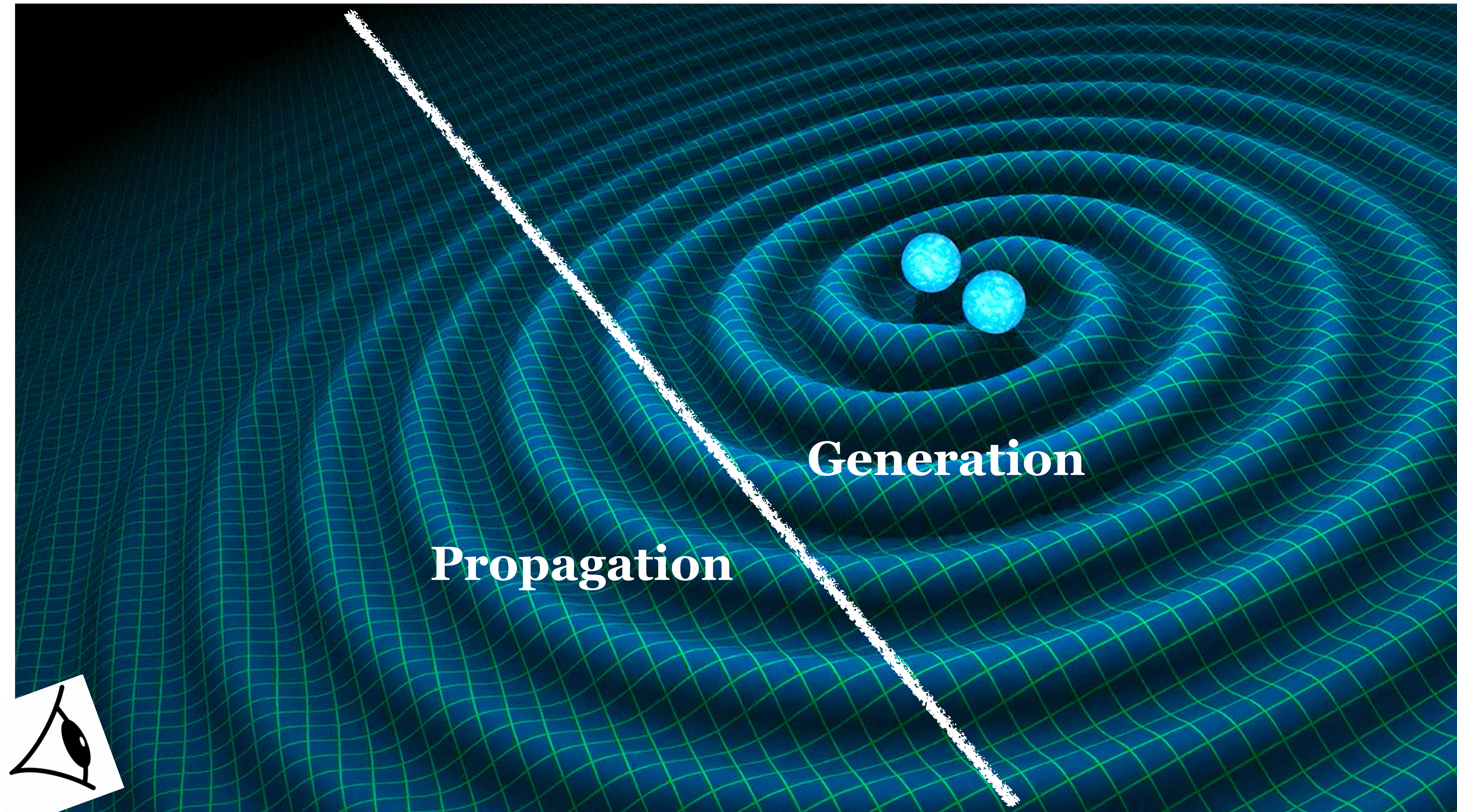
- Additional polarizations (up to 6 independent polarizations for a metric theory)
- Additional channels for energy loss, e.g. extra scalar field
- Modified graviton dispersion relation (graviton mass; Lorentz violations)
- Parity violations (amplitude birefringence)
- Hairy BHs
- Different BH ringdown and new families of QNMs
- Non-zero tidal Love numbers
- ...



From: C. Rham, Living Rev. Relativity 17 (2014), 7

Propagation vs Generation

Slide Credit: Nico Yunes



Generation example: dipole radiation

Conservation laws ***do not allow dipole radiation in GR***, but in some beyond GR theories you can have dipole radiation (e.g. scalar-tensor theories)

$$E_{\text{orb}} \approx -Gm_1m_2/(2r_{\text{orb}}), \quad r_{\text{orb}} = (GM/\omega_{\text{orb}}^2)^{1/3}$$

$$\dot{E}_{\text{orb}} = - (P_{\text{GW}} + P_{\text{nGR}})$$

$$P_{\text{GW}} \approx \frac{1}{5} \langle \ddot{Q}_{ij} \ddot{Q}^{ij} \rangle \sim \left(\frac{v}{c} \right)^{10}, \quad P_{\text{nGR}} \approx \frac{2}{3} \langle \ddot{D}_i \ddot{D}^i \rangle \sim \left(\frac{v}{c} \right)^8$$

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Dipolar radiation forces binary to inspiral faster
(notice also $P_{\text{nGR}} \gg P_{\text{GW}}$ for $v/c \ll 1$)

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GW phase is sensitive to rate of inspiral:

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \left(\frac{dE_{\text{orb}}}{df}\right)^{-1} \dot{E}_{\text{orb}}, \quad \Psi_{\text{GW}} \sim \int^t \int^{t'} \frac{df}{dt''} dt'' dt' \sim (\pi M f)^{-5/3} + \beta_{\text{nGR}} (\pi M f)^{-7/3}$$

Propagation example: massive graviton

“Massive” tensor propagating in FLRW cosmological background:

$$h_A'' + 2\mathcal{H}h_A' + \left[c^2 k^2 + a^2 m_g^2 \right] h_A = 0, \quad A = + / \times, \quad m_g \rightarrow 0 \implies \text{GR}$$

$$\frac{v_g}{c} \approx 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{c}{\lambda_g f} \right)^2, \quad \lambda_g = \frac{h}{m_g c}$$

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Modified dispersion relation affects GW phase [C. Will '97]:

$$\delta\Psi_{\text{GW}}^{\text{mg}} \approx \beta_{\text{mg}} (\pi \mathcal{M} f)^{-1}, \quad \beta_{\text{mg}} = \frac{\pi^2 D_L \mathcal{M}}{\lambda_g^2}$$

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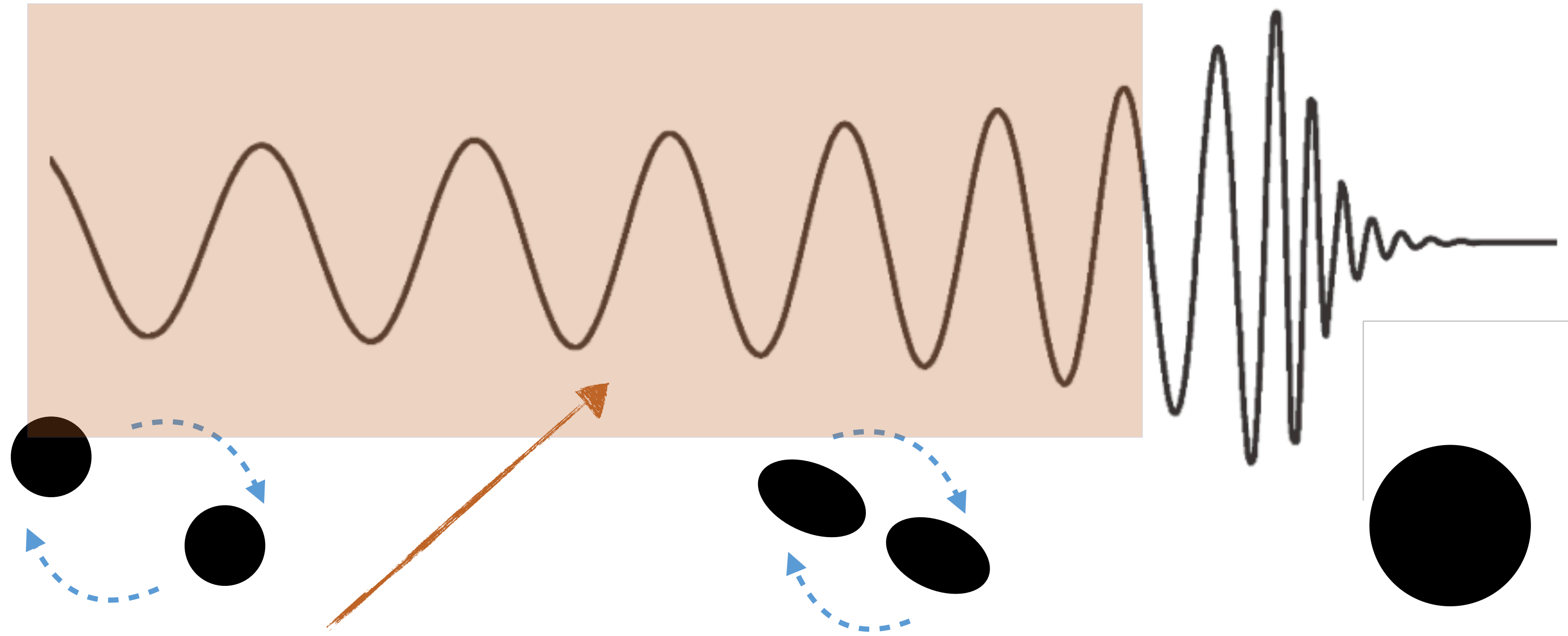
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Effect stronger the larger the luminosity distance D_L .

Parametrized post-Einsteinian (ppE) framework

Yunes & Pretorius, PRD 2009

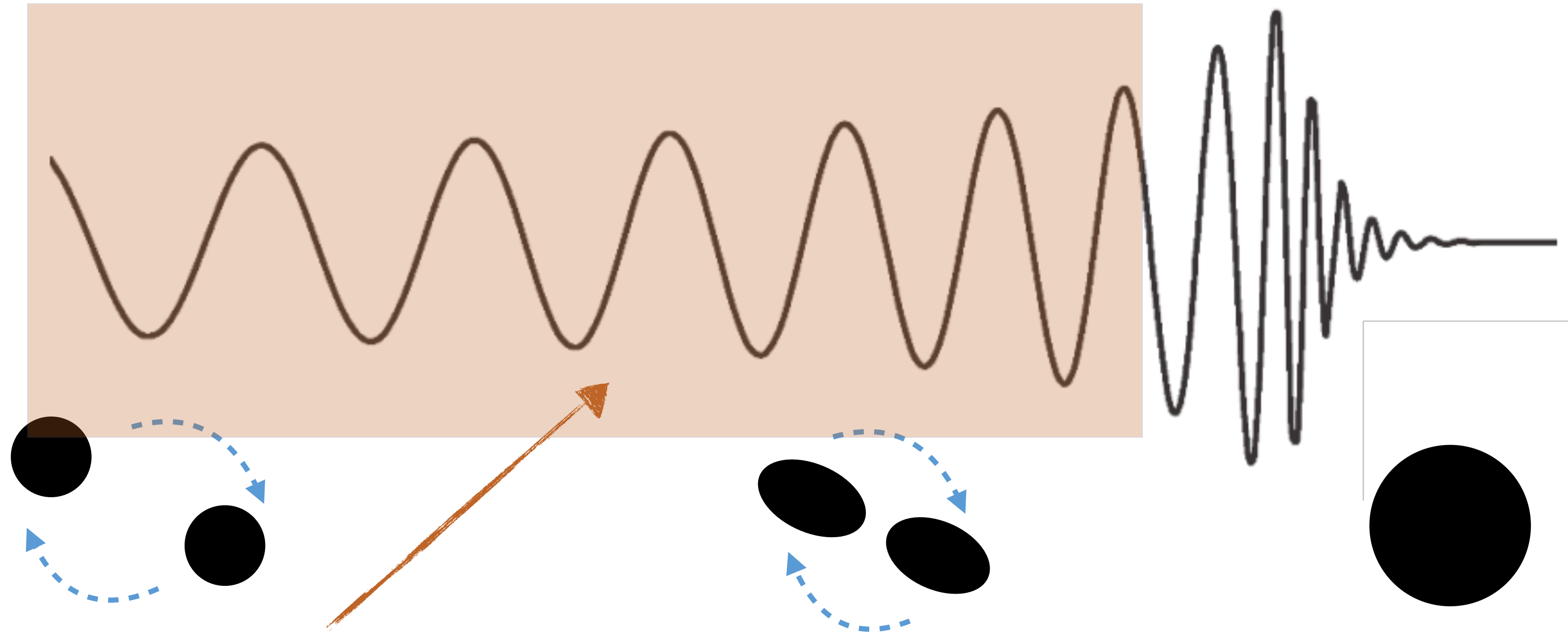


$$\tilde{h}(f) \approx \mathcal{A} e^{i[2\pi f t_c - \varphi_c - \pi/4 + \Psi(f)]}, \quad \Psi(f) = \frac{3}{128} (\mathcal{M} \pi f)^{-5/3} \left[\cdots + \psi_{-1} x^{-1} + \psi_0 + \psi_1 x + \psi_{3/2} x^{3/2} + \psi_2 x^2 + \cdots \right]$$

$$x \equiv v^2 = (\pi f M)^{2/3}$$

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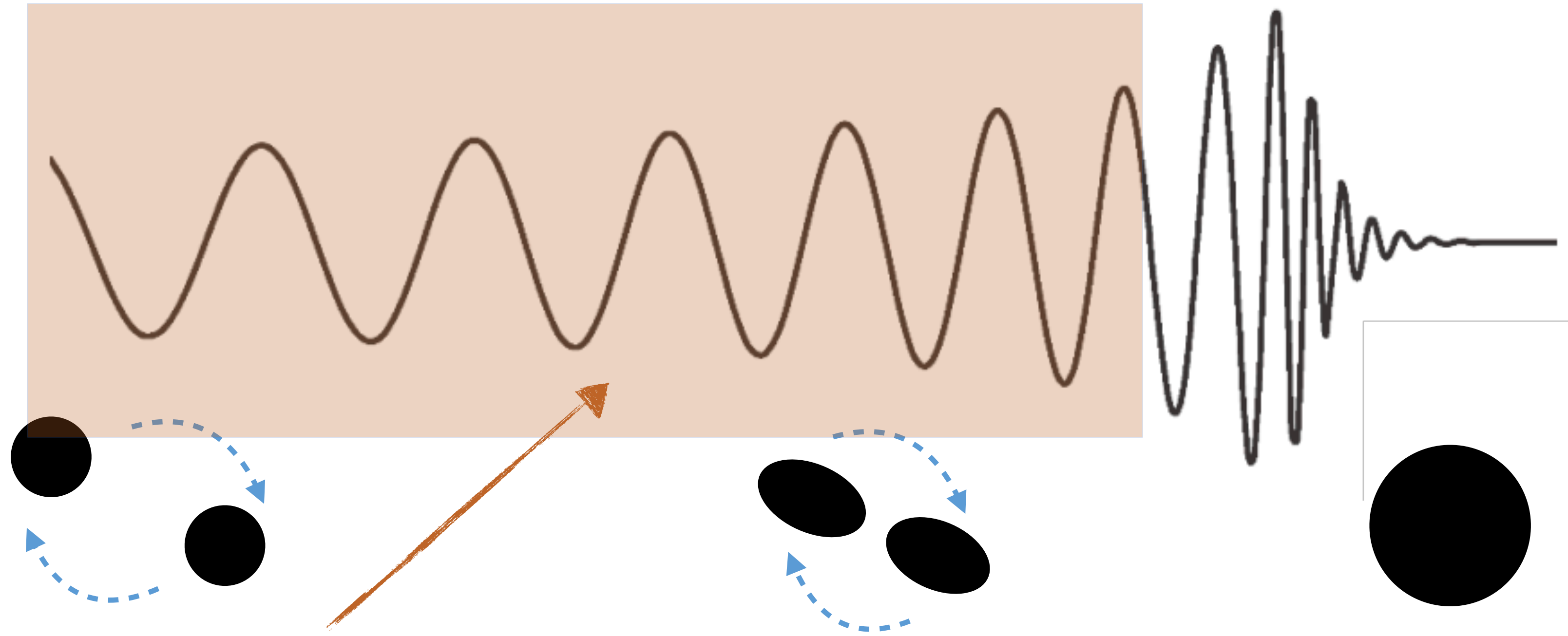
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Necessarily new physics
(e.g. dipole emission) or
non-vacuum environments

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$$x \equiv v^2 = (\pi f M)^{2/3}$$

$$\tilde{h}(f) = \tilde{h}_{GR}(f) \left[1 + \alpha_i (\pi \mathcal{M} f)^{a_i} \right] e^{i \beta_j (\pi \mathcal{M} f)^{b_j/3}}$$

Mapping ppE to different theories

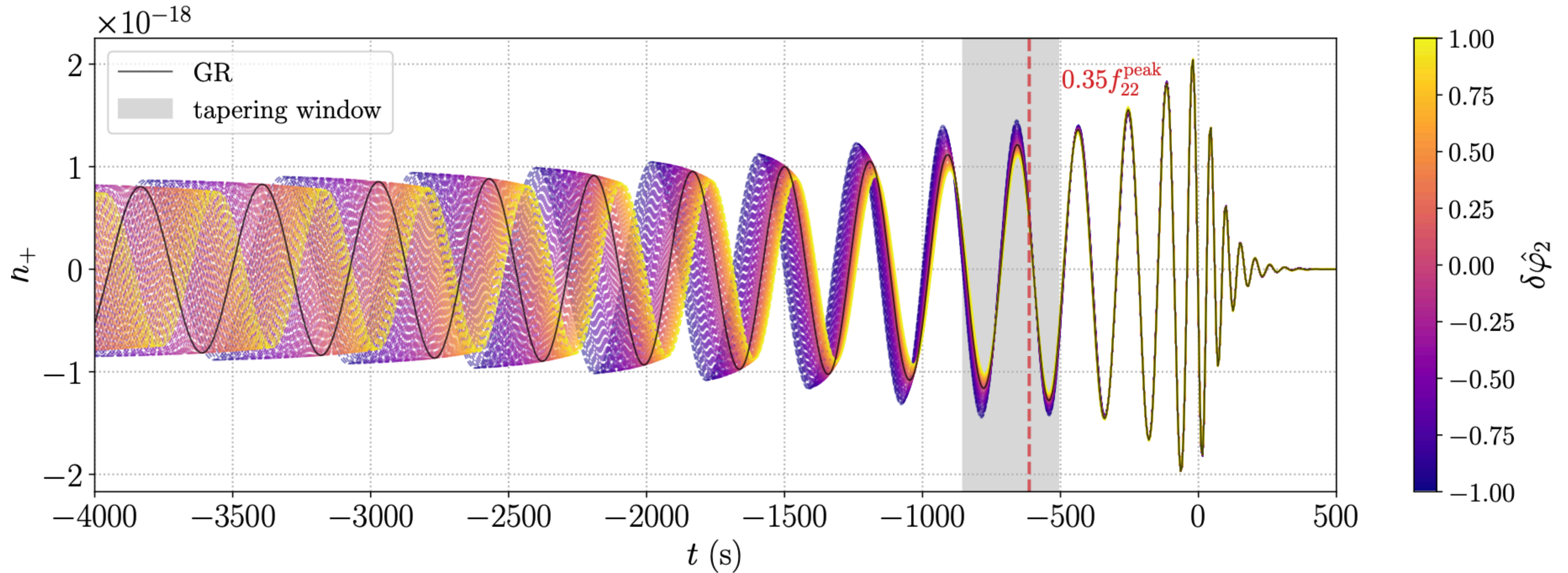
$$\tilde{h}(f) = \tilde{h}_{GR}(f) e^{i\beta(\pi\mathcal{M}f)^{b/3}}$$

Theoretical Effect	Theoretical Mechanism	Theories	ppE b	Order	Mapping
Scalar Dipolar Radiation	Scalar Monopole Activation	EdGB [143, 145, 152, 153]	−7	−1PN	β_{EdGB} [143]
	BH Hair Growth	Scalar-Tensor Theories [60, 154]	−7	−1PN	β_{ST} [60, 154]
Anomalous Acceleration	Extra Dim. Mass Leakage	RS-II Braneworld [155, 156]	−13	−4PN	β_{ED} [144]
	Time-Variation of G	Phenomenological [140, 157]	−13	−4PN	$\beta_{\dot{G}}$ [140]
Scalar Quadrupolar Radiation Scalar Dipole Force Quadrupole Moment Deformation	Scalar Dipole Activation due to Grav. Parity Violation	dCS [143, 158]	−1	+2PN	β_{dCS} [149]
Scalar/Vector Dipolar Radiation Modified Quadrupolar Radiation	Vector Field Activation due to Lorentz Violation	EA [111, 112], Khronometric [113, 114]	−7 −5	−1PN 0PN	$\beta_{\text{AE}}^{(-1)}, \beta_{\text{KG}}^{(-1)}$ [115] $\beta_{\text{AE}}^{(0)}, \beta_{\text{KG}}^{(0)}$ [115]
Modified Dispersion Relation	GW Propagation	Massive Gravity [159–162] Double Special Relativity [163–166] Extra Dim. [167], Horava-Lifshitz [168–170] gravitational SME ($d = 4$) [82] gravitational SME ($d = 5$) [82] gravitational SME ($d = 6$) [82] Multifractional Spacetime [171–173]	−3 +6 +9 +3 +6 +9 3–6	+1PN +5.5PN +7PN +4PN +5.5PN +7PN 4–5.5PN	β_{MDR} [148, 159]

From: N. Yunes, K. Yagi & F. Pretorius, PRD94 (2016) 084002

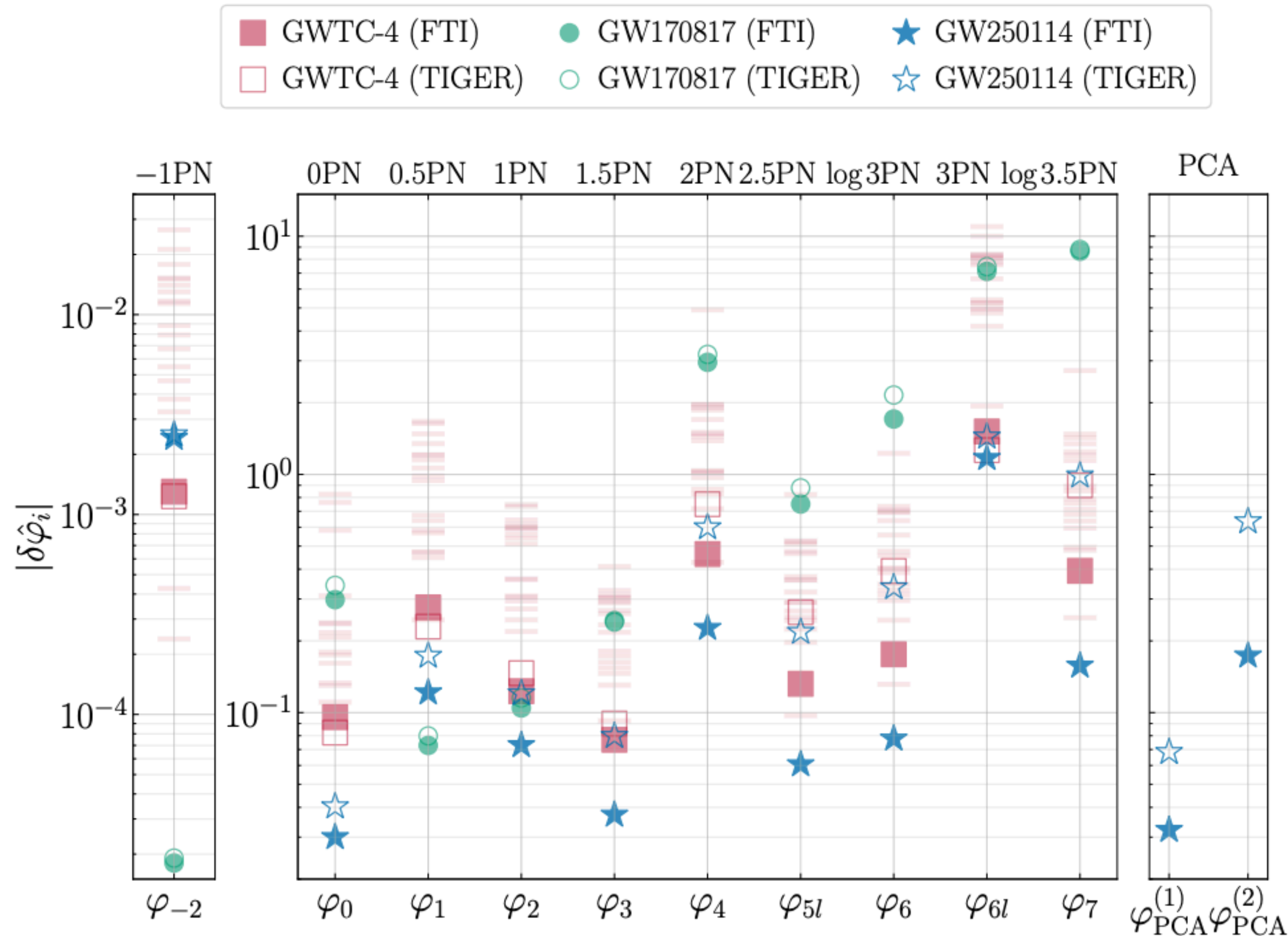
Impact on waveform: example

Note: example shows impact on waveform when adding a “non-GR” 1PN correction (such as massive graviton effect) to inspiral



From: Piarulli+, 2510.06330

Parametrized tests: LVK Constraints



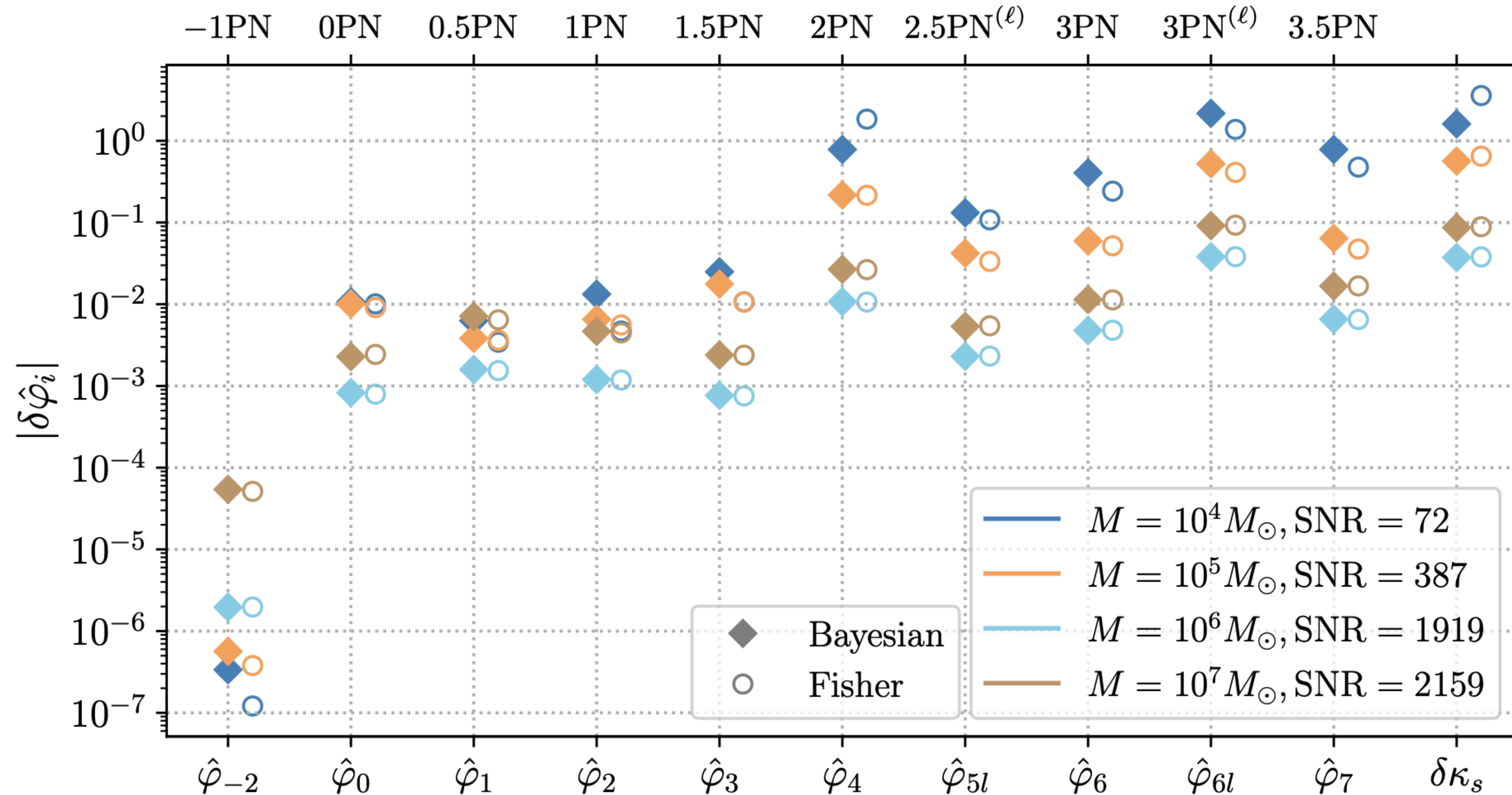
$$\Psi_i \rightarrow (1 + \delta\varphi_i)\Psi_i^{\text{GR}}$$

Note 1: for -1PN and 0.5PN should be interpreted as absolute deviations (since those terms are identically zero in GR)

Note 2: analysis varies one $\delta\varphi_i$ varied at a time

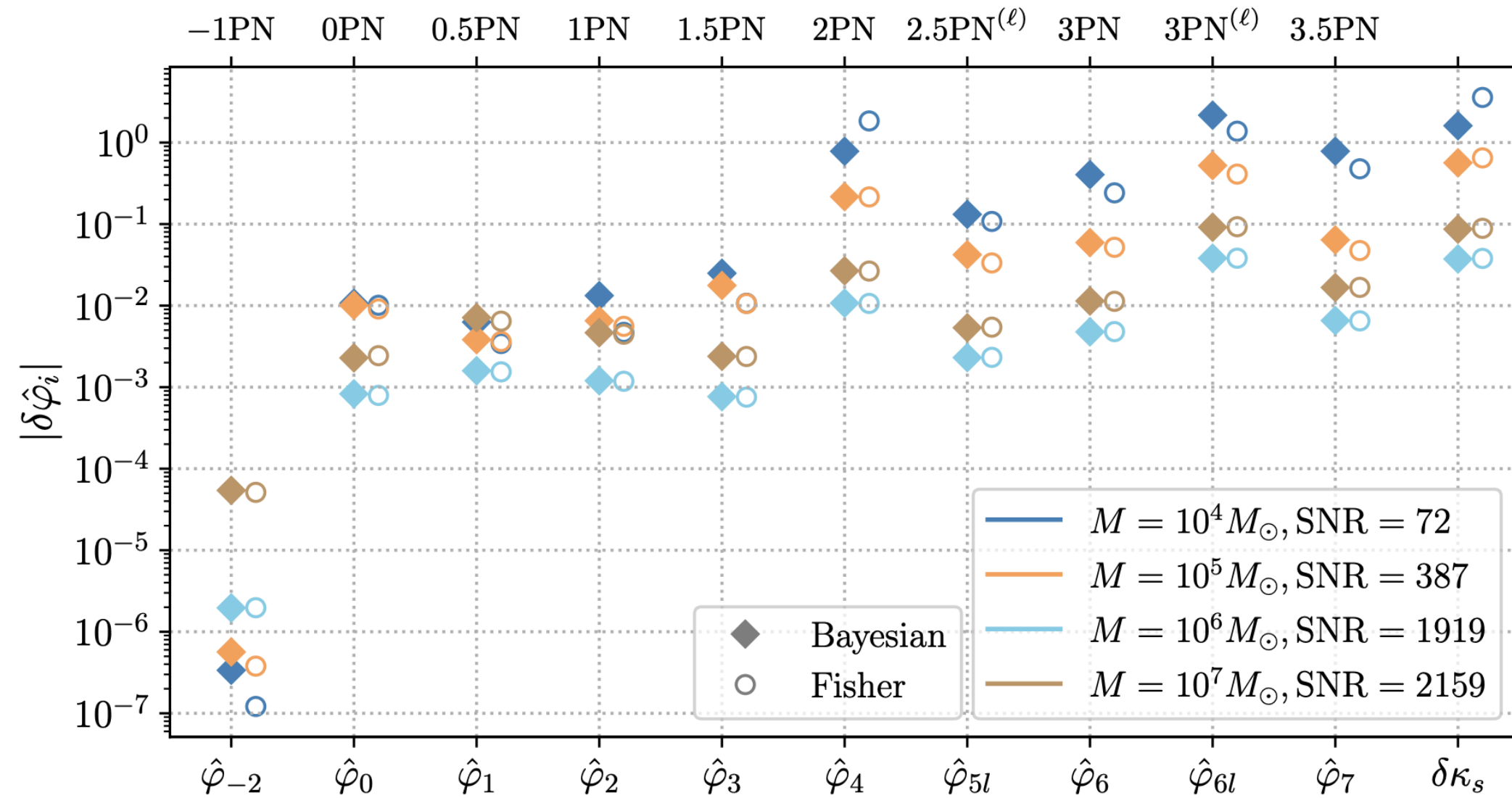
From: LVK Collaboration, 2509.08099

LISA prospective constraints



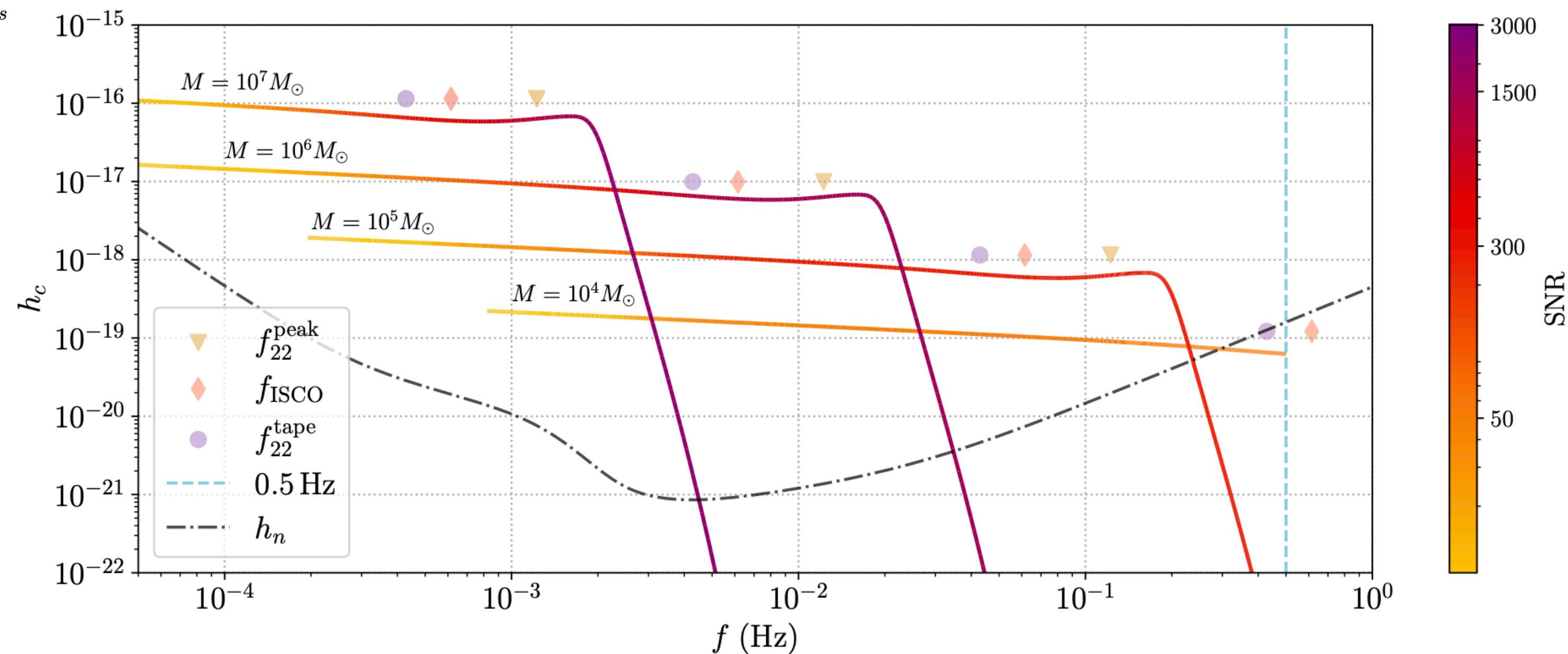
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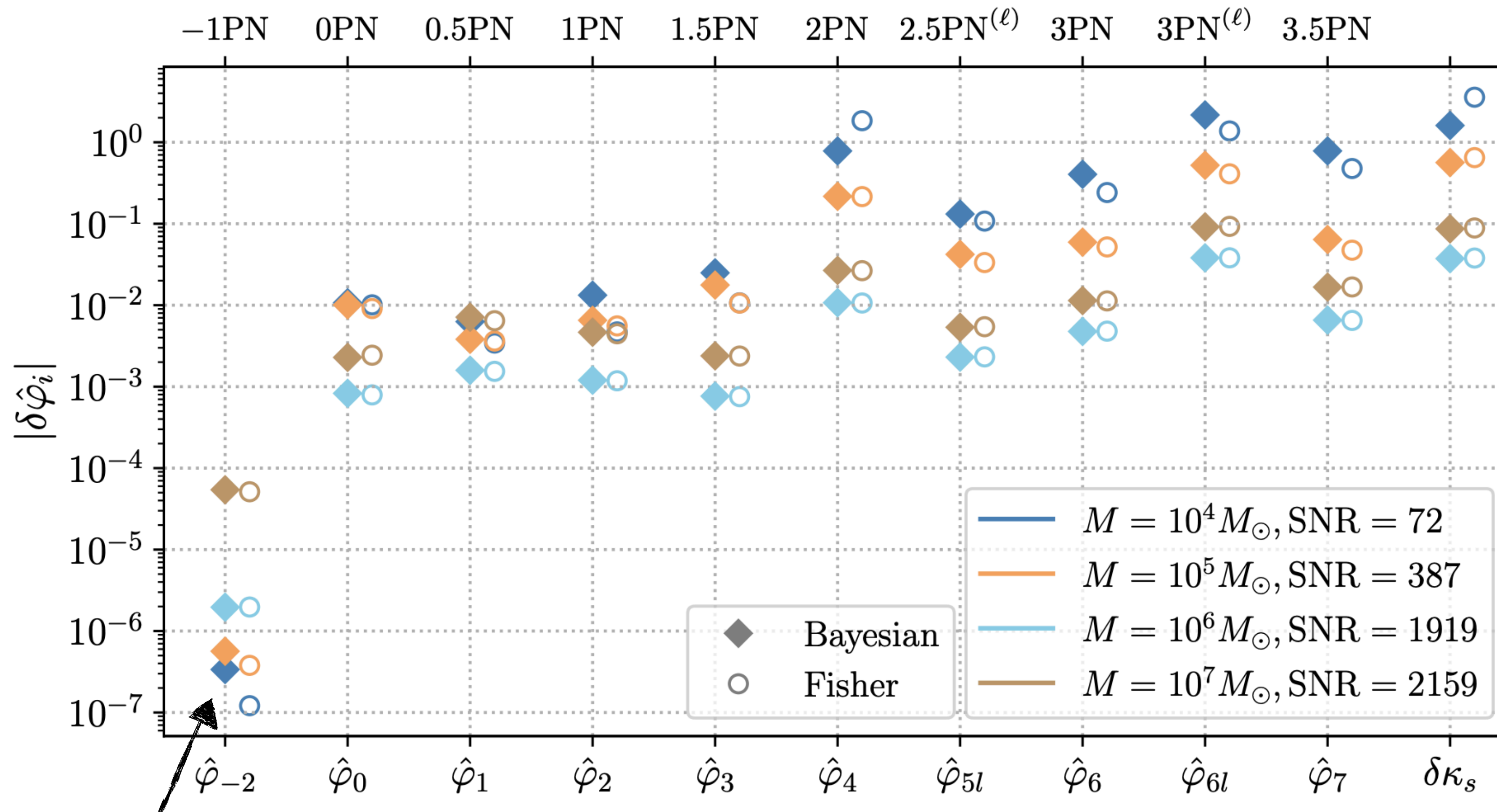


Inspiral dominated events
 $M = 10^4 - 5 M_\odot$ binaries better at
 constraining lower PN terms

Merger dominated events
 $M = 10^6 - 7 M_\odot$ binaries
 better at constraining high
 PN terms



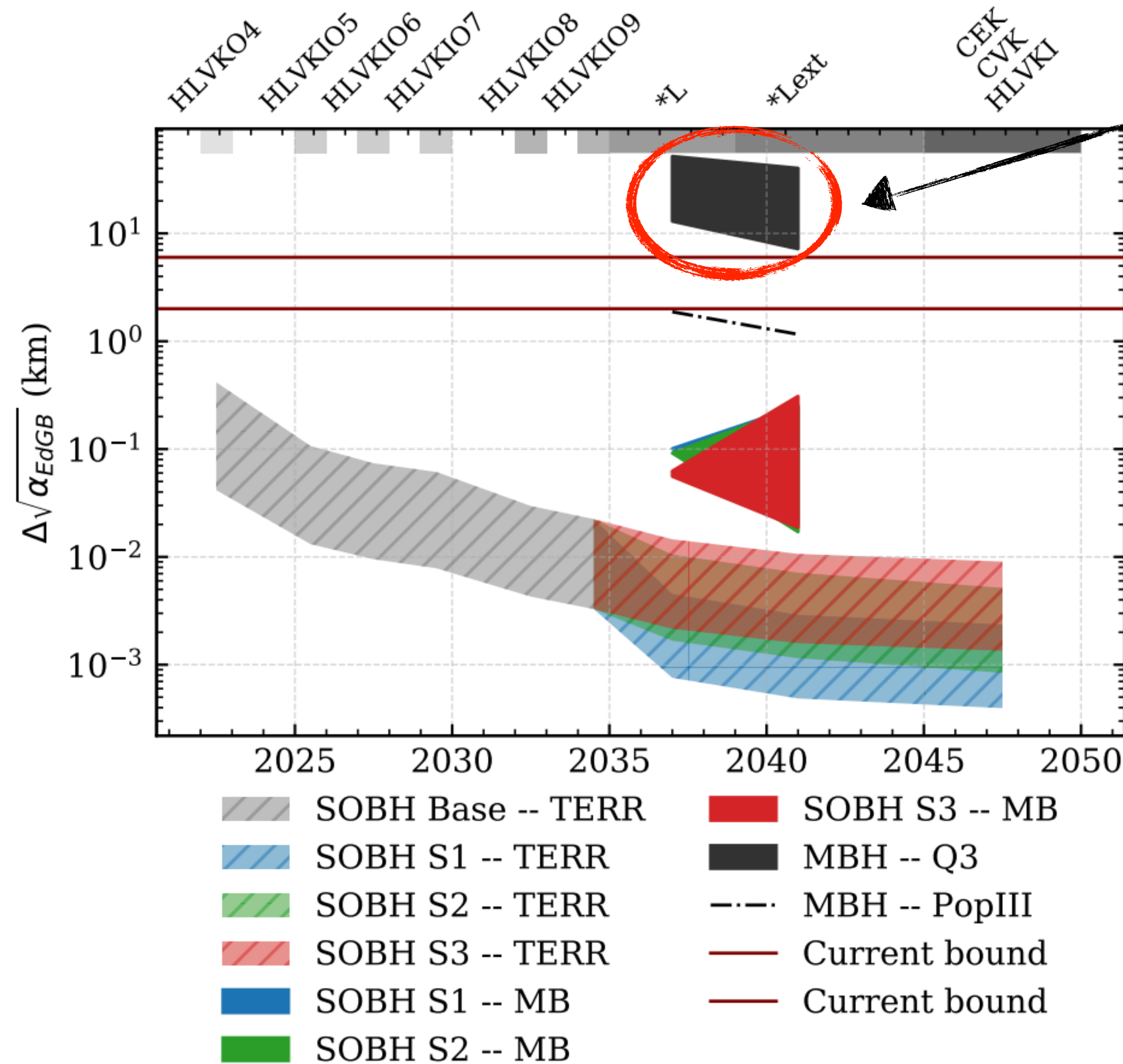
LISA prospective constraints



~4 orders of magnitude
better than current LVK
(with BBHs)

From: M. Piarulli+, 2510.06330

But... mapping to specific theory



Massive black hole binaries with LISA

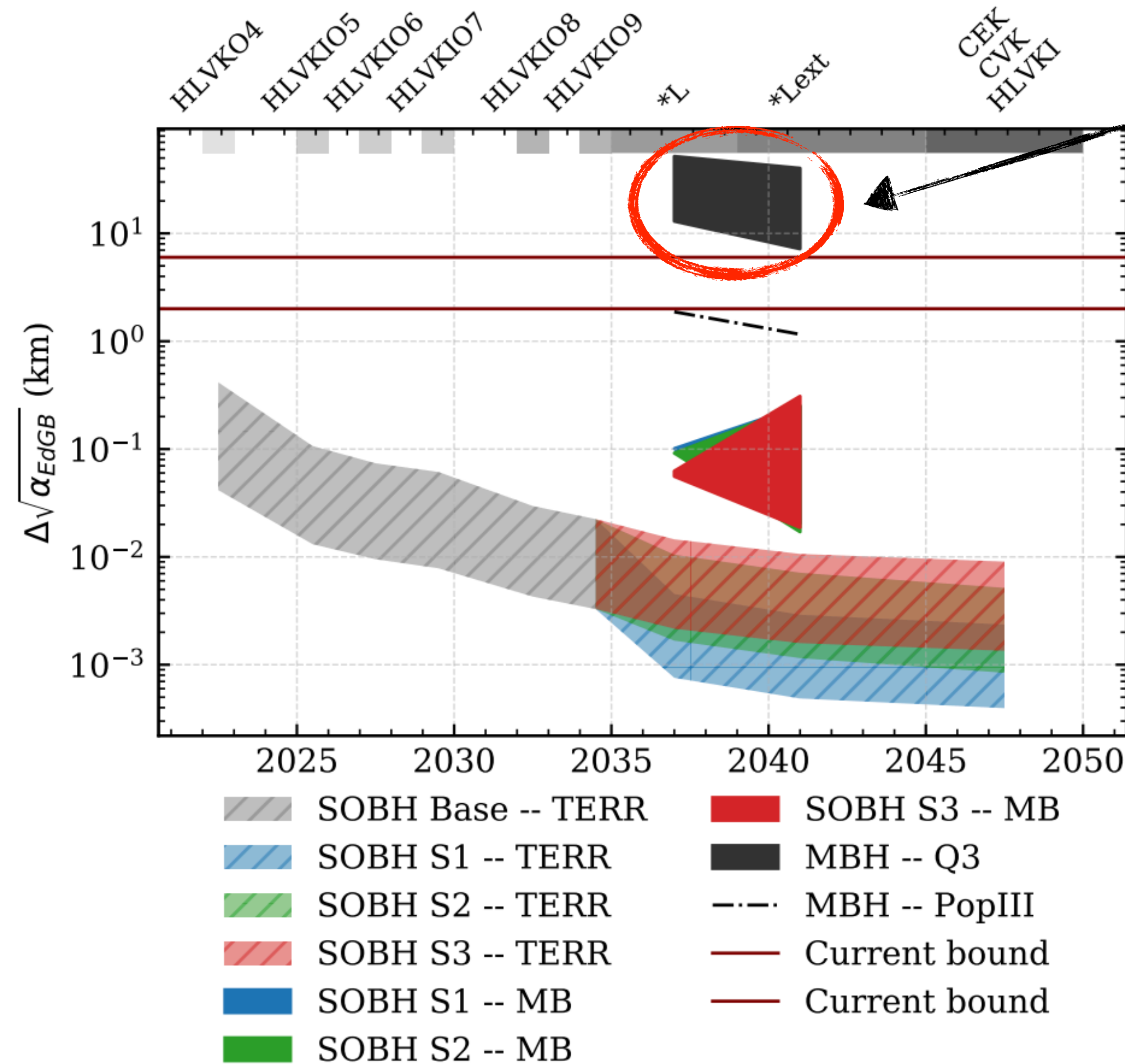
Current LVK bounds

$$\tilde{h}(f) = \tilde{h}_{GR}(f) e^{i\beta_{EdGB}(\pi \mathcal{M} f)^{-7/3}}$$

$$\beta_{EdGB} \propto \alpha_{EdGB}^2 / M^4$$

Bounds on $\sqrt{\alpha_{EdGB}}$ are **weaker with massive BH binaries detected with LISA** because total masses higher in LISA than in ground-base detectors.

But... mapping to specific theory



Massive black hole binaries with LISA

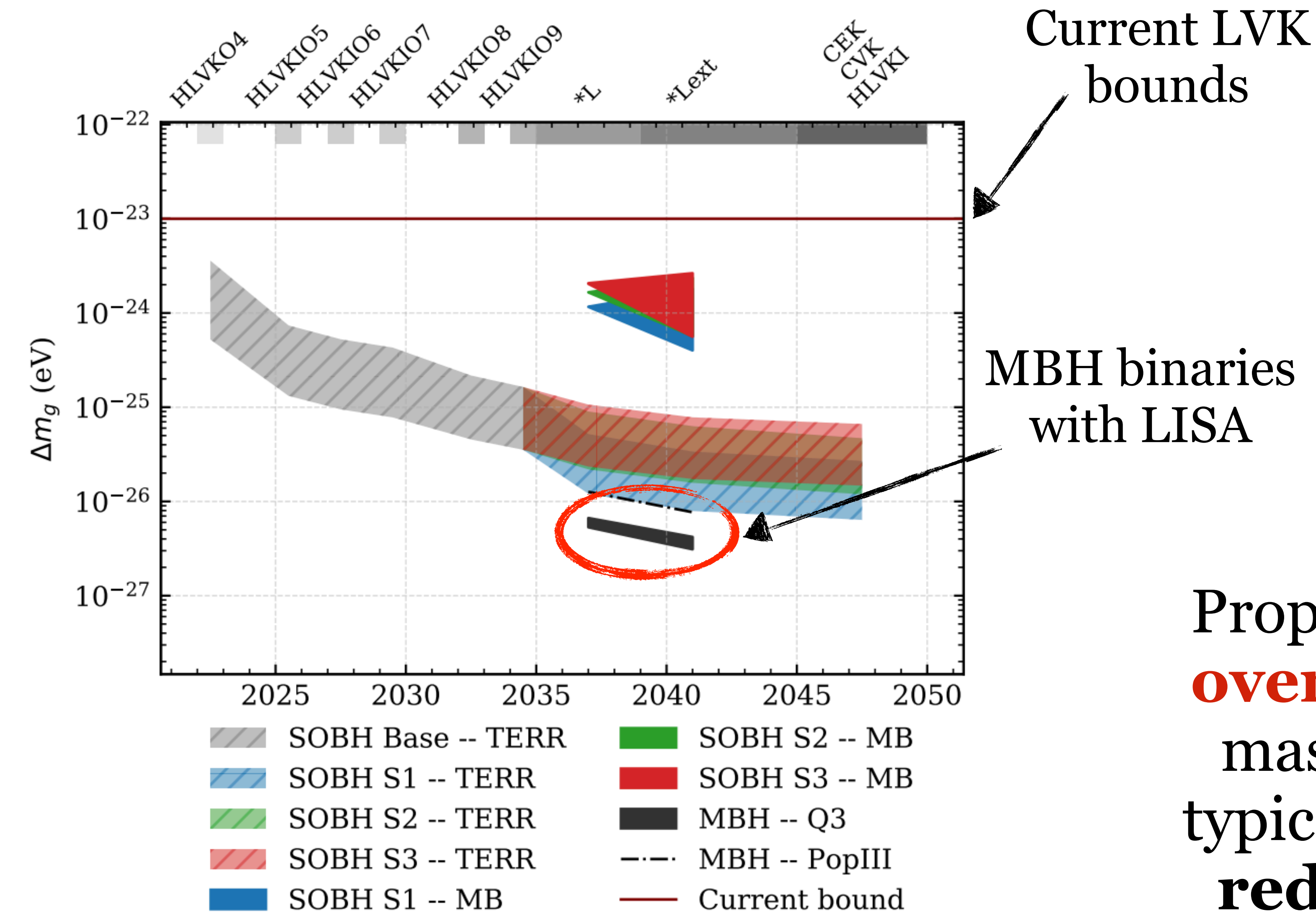
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Constraints on ppE parameters **only meaningful when mapping to specific theories.**

Constraints on graviton mass with LISA



$$\tilde{h}(f) = \tilde{h}_{GR}(f) e^{i\beta_{EdGB}(\pi\mathcal{M}f)^{-1}}$$

$$\beta_{mg} = \frac{\pi^2 D_L \mathcal{M}}{\lambda_g^2}$$

Propagation effects **build up over large distances**: LISA massive black hole binaries typically **observed at larger redshifts** than LVK events

Beyond *vacuum* GR

Black holes **do not live in vacuum**.

Can environmental effects (accretion disks, third bodies, dark matter, etc...) spoil precision GW physics?

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Can environmental effects spoil precision gravitational-wave astrophysics?

Enrico Barausse,^{1,2,*} Vitor Cardoso,^{3,4,†} and Paolo Pani^{3,5,‡}

¹*CNRS, UMR 7095, Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris, 98bis Bd Arago, 75014 Paris, France*

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³*CENTRA, Departamento de Física, Instituto Superior Técnico,*

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⁴*Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 2Y5, Canada.*

⁵*Institute for Theory and Computation, Harvard-Smithsonian CfA, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge MA 02138, USA*

(Dated: May 27, 2014)

No, within a broad class of scenarios. Gravitational-wave (GW) astronomy will open a new window on compact objects such as neutron stars and black holes (BHs). It is often stated that large signal-to-noise detections

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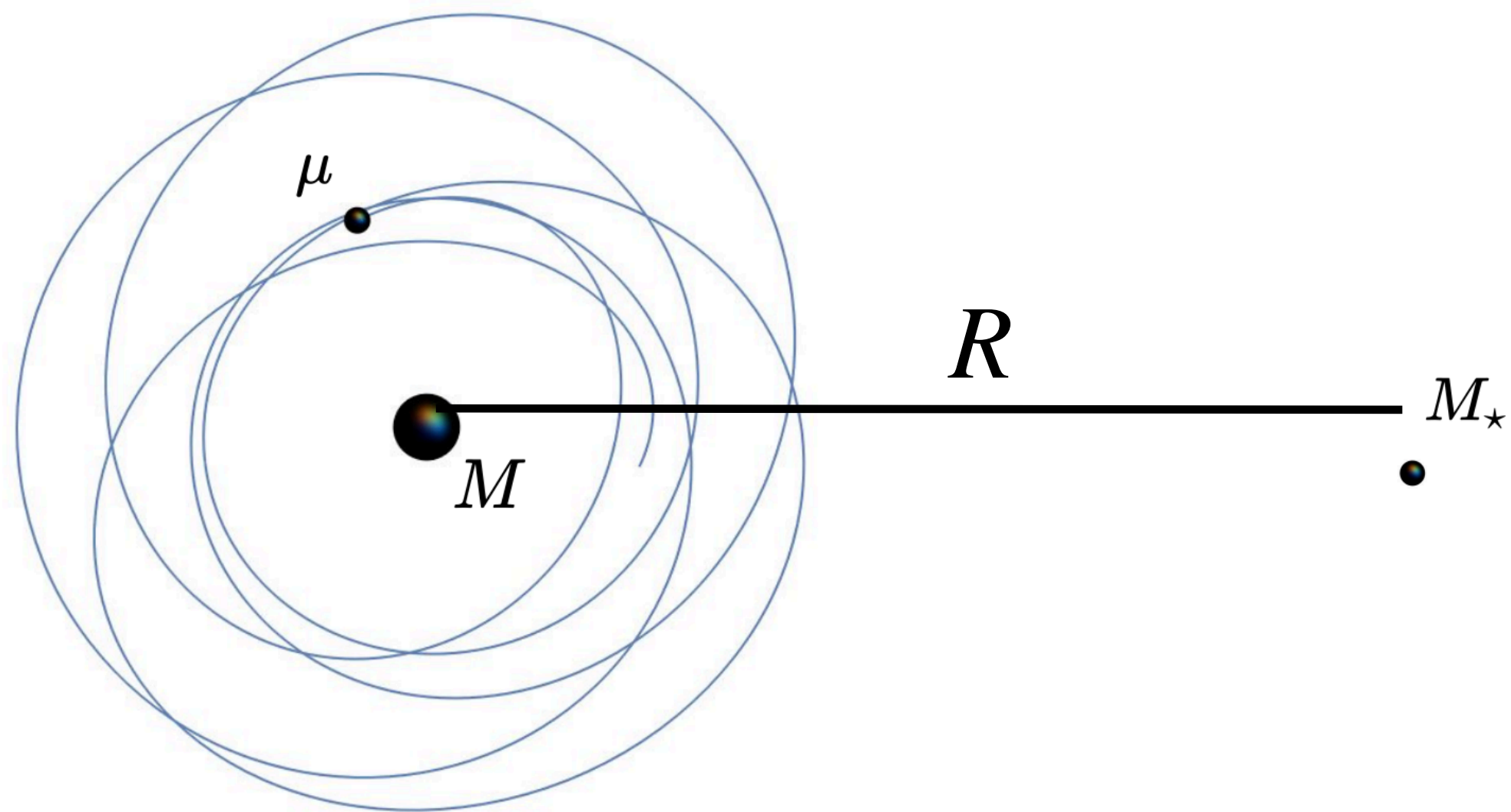
But that doesn't mean environmental effects will not be detectable.

General conclusion from Barausse+ '14:

- Environmental effects *likely* to be uncommon/too small for nearly equal mass massive black hole binaries detected in LISA band (but could be important in PTA band for example).
- For E/IMRIs *could* be detectable in *some* events. Large number of cycles in E/IMRIs helps detecting small effects.

“Non-exotic” black hole environments

Perturbations from third bodies
(main effect: **tidal resonances**)

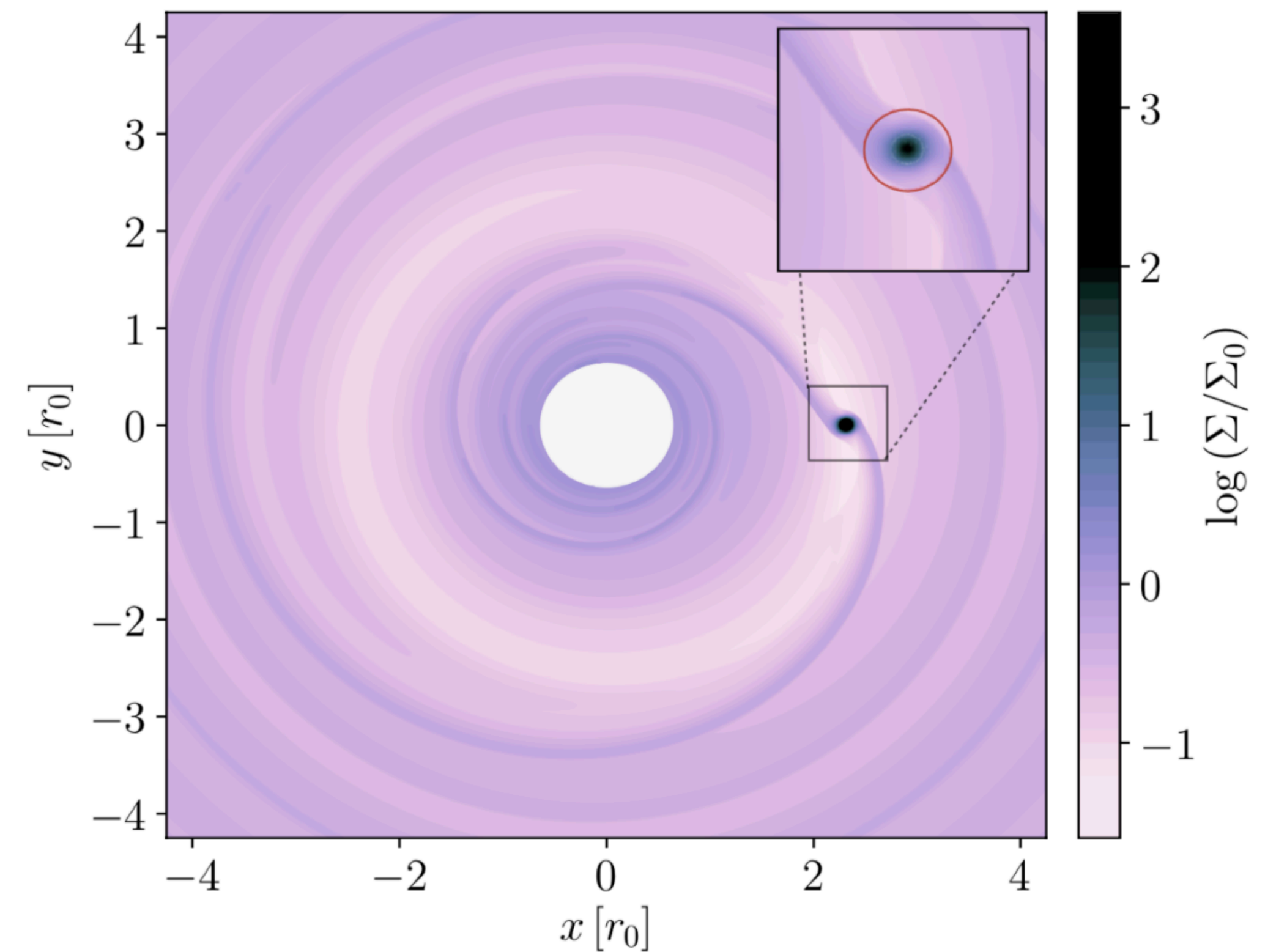


$$\Delta\Psi_{\text{GW}} = 1.4 \text{ rad} \left(\frac{\mu}{10M_\odot} \right)^{-1/2} \left(\frac{M}{4 \times 10^6 M_\odot} \right)^{7/2} \left(\frac{M}{10M_\odot} \right) \left(\frac{R}{4.3 \text{ AU}} \right)^{-3}$$

Credit: Bonga, Yang & Hughes '19,
PRL123, 101103

Accretion disks
(main effect: **planetary migration**)

$$\dot{L}_{\text{orb}} = -\dot{L}_{\text{GW}} - \dot{L}_{\text{mig}}$$



Credit: Derdzinski+ '21,
MNRAS501, 3540

“Exotic” black hole environments

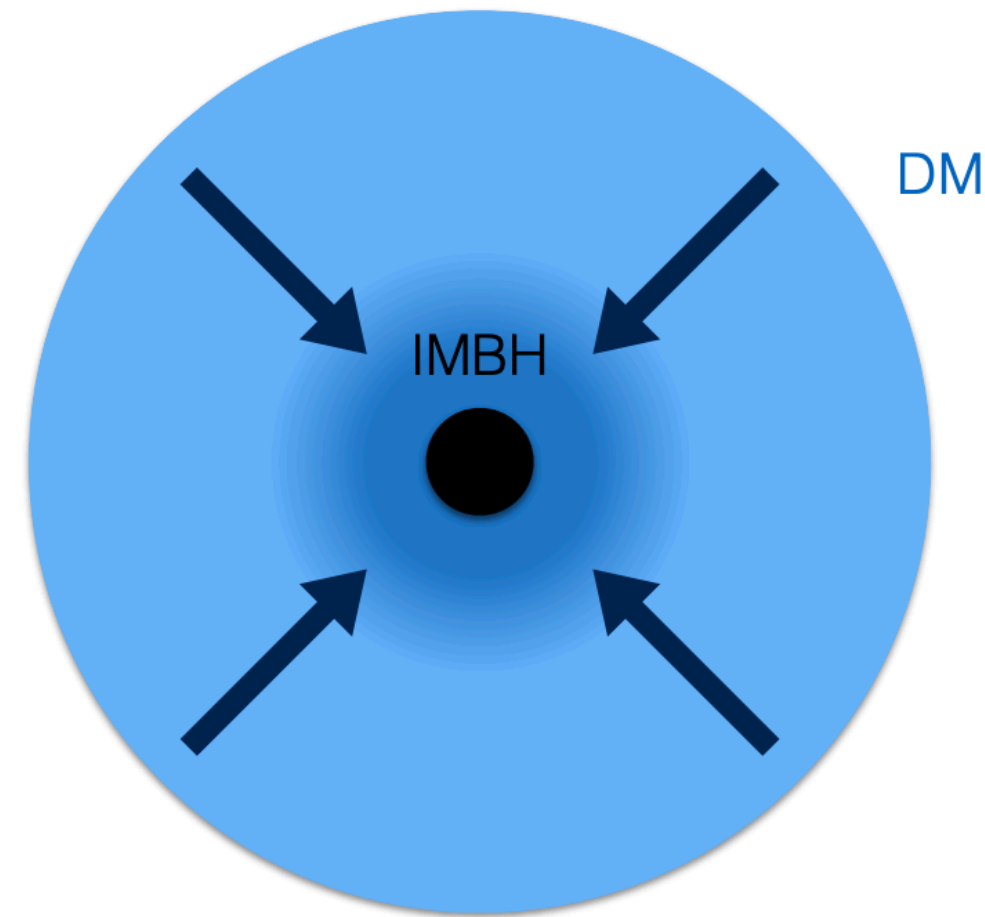
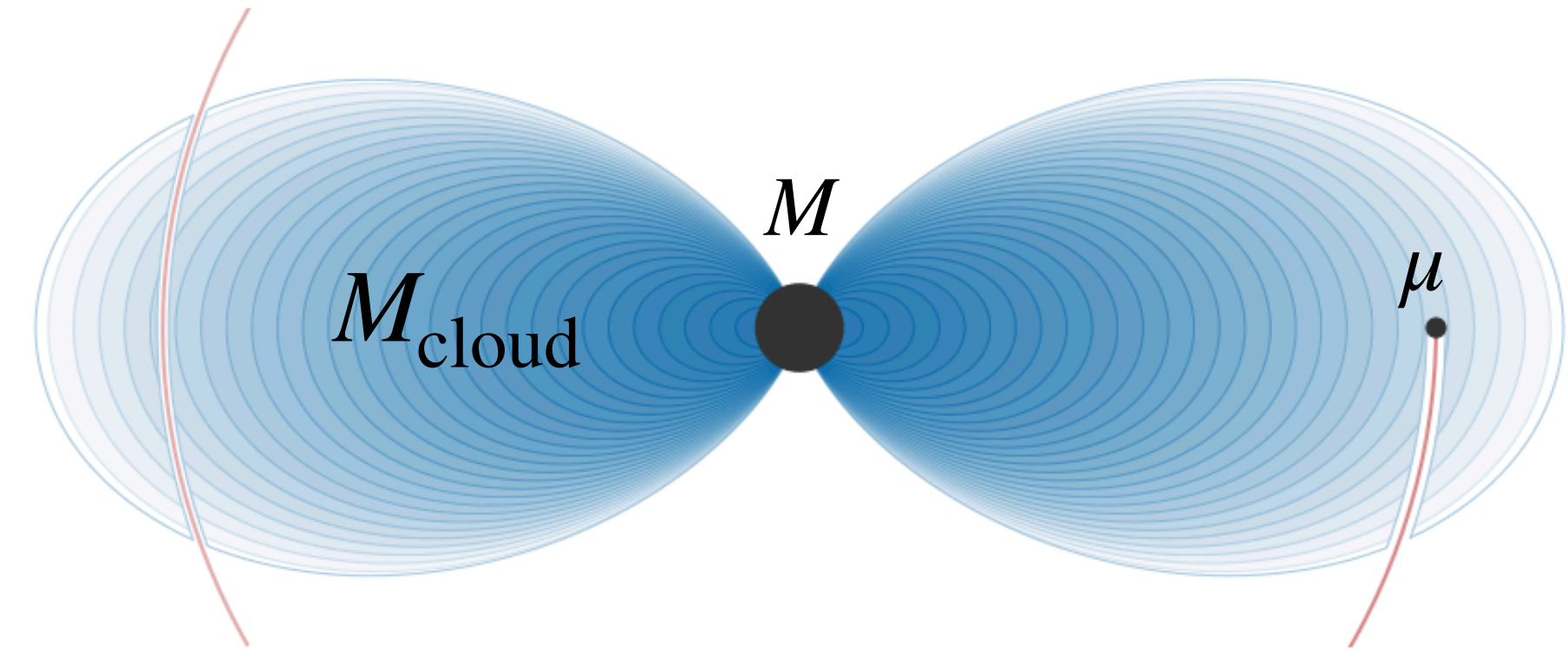


Image: Bradley J. Kavanagh

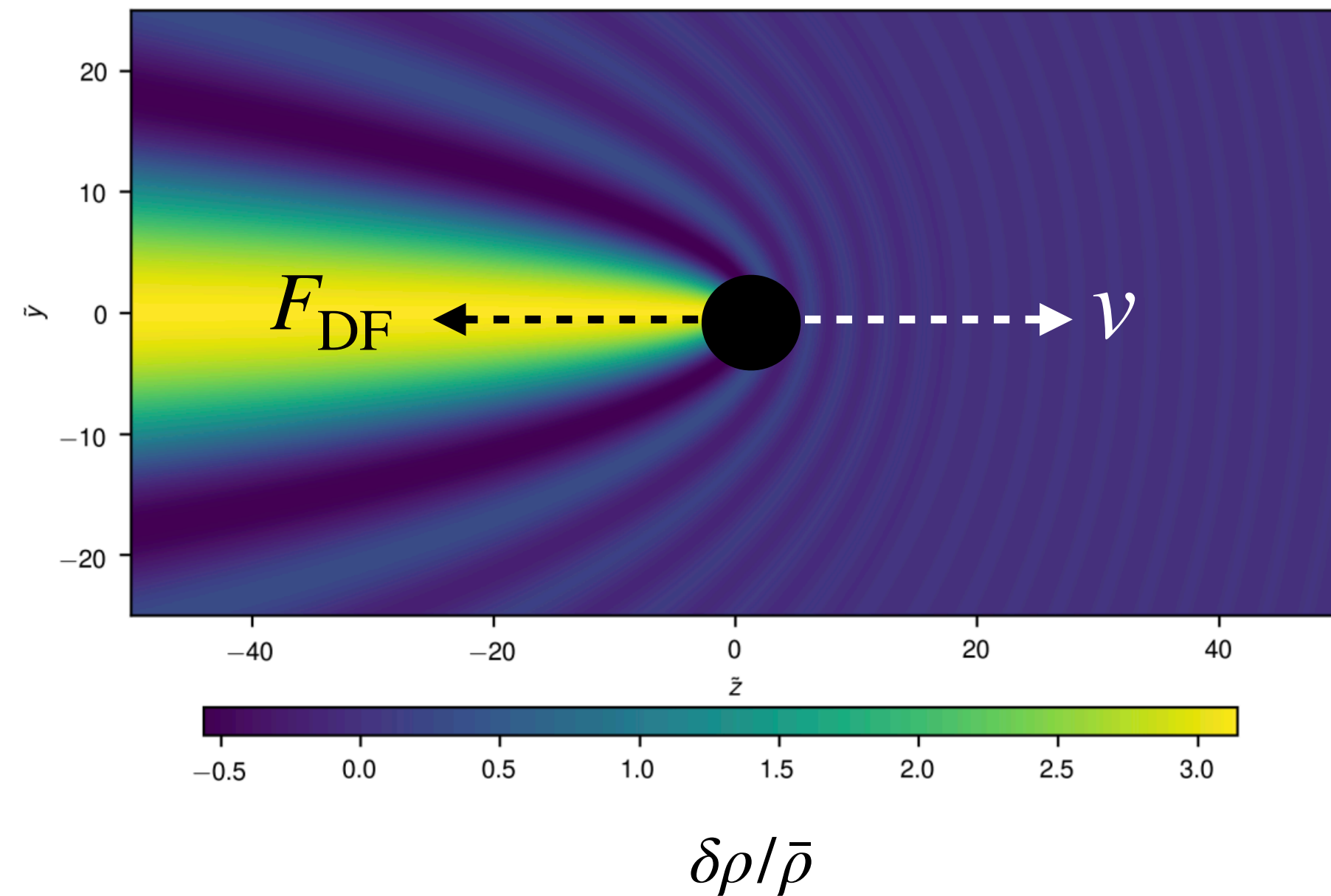


From: Baumann+, PRD105, 115036 (2022)

- **Dark matter spikes** formed through the adiabatic growth of a massive BH at the center of a dark matter halo [Gondolo & Silk '99]
- **Boson clouds** (a.k.a. gravitational atoms) formed through superradiant instabilities [Review on superradiance: RB, Cardoso & Pani '20]

Dynamical friction

S. Chandrasekhar, '43



Physical intuition: as the object moves through the environment, its gravitational potential induces density perturbations whose backreaction on the object cause it to slow down

Adapted from: Lancaster+, JCAP01(2020)001

For non-relativistic velocities (assumes asymptotically uniform medium):

$$\dot{E}_{\text{DF}} \approx \frac{4\pi\mu^2\rho_{\text{DM}}}{v}\mathcal{J}(v) \quad \frac{\dot{r}_{\text{DF}}}{\dot{r}_{\text{GW}}} \sim 3 \times \left(\frac{M}{10^5 M_{\odot}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{r_{\text{orb}}}{100M}\right)^{11/2} \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{DM}}}{\text{kg/m}^3}\right) \mathcal{J}(v)$$

$\mathcal{J}(v)$ - slowly-varying function of v

$$\dot{r}_{\text{GW}} \equiv \dot{E}_{\text{GW}}/(dE_{\text{orb}}/dr)$$

Accretion

➤ Form a small black hole with mass μ moving with constant velocity v in a *collisionless* dark matter medium:

$$\dot{m}_p \approx \sigma \rho_{\text{DM}} v \approx \pi r_c^2 \rho_{\text{DM}} v \approx \frac{4\pi\mu^2}{v} \rho_{\text{DM}} \quad \sigma \approx \pi r_c^2 \text{ - cross section}$$

$$r_c \approx \frac{2\mu}{v^2} \text{ - "effective capture radius"}$$

Accretion acts on the orbit as an ***effective force*** that slows down moving object (ignoring other effects for the sake of simplicity):

$$L_{\text{orb}} = m_p r^2 \Omega_{\text{orb}} \approx m_p r^2 \sqrt{M/r^3} \quad \dot{L}_{\text{orb}} = 0 \implies \dot{r} \approx -2 r \dot{m}_p / m_p$$

$$\frac{\dot{r}_{\text{acc}}}{\dot{r}_{\text{RR}}} \sim 3 \times 10^{-2} \left(\frac{M}{10^5 M_{\odot}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{r_{\text{orb}}}{100 M} \right)^{9/2} \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{DM}}}{\text{kg/m}^3} \right)$$

Impact of environment in waveform

- Orbit is affected by GW radiation-reaction, dynamical friction and accretion :

$$\dot{r} = -\dot{r}_{\text{GW}} - \dot{r}_{\text{DF}} - \dot{r}_{\text{acc}}$$

$$E_{\text{orb}} = \frac{m^2}{2}v^2 + \Phi_{\text{grav}}, \quad \Phi_{\text{grav}} = -\frac{M}{r} + \Phi_{\text{DM}}(r)$$

$$\Omega_{\text{orb}} = \sqrt{\Phi'_{\text{grav}}(r)/r}$$

- Assuming density profile of the form $\rho_{\text{DM}} \approx \rho_0 (R/r)^\gamma$, impact on GW phase :

$$x = (\pi f M)^{2/3}$$

$$\delta\Psi_{\text{DF}} \propto -\rho_0 x^{\gamma-11/2}$$

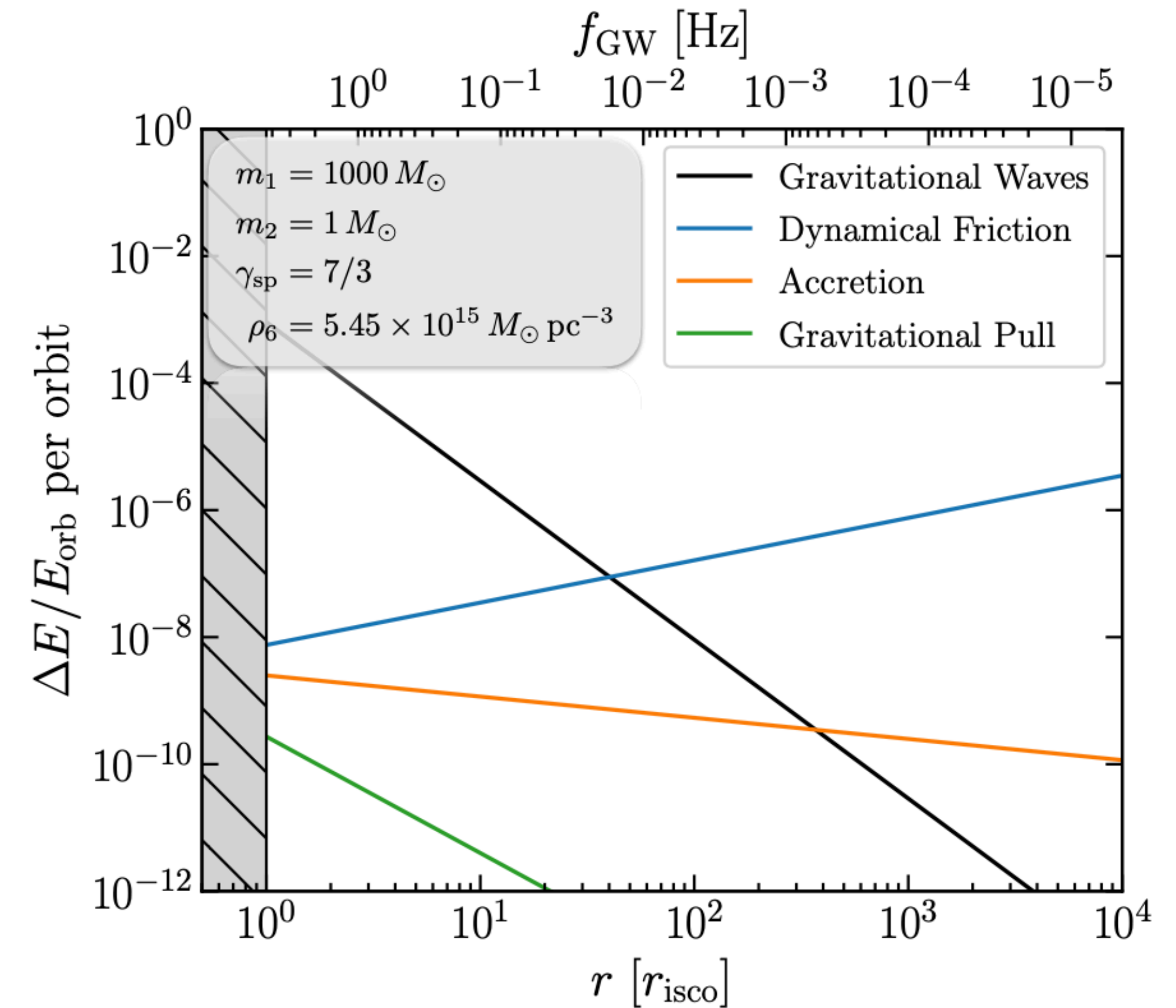
$$(-5.5 + \gamma) \text{ PN}$$

$$\delta\Psi_{\text{acc}} \propto -\rho_0 x^{\gamma-9/2}$$

$$(-4.5 + \gamma) \text{ PN}$$

$$\delta\Psi_{\text{grav pull}} \propto \rho_0 x^{\gamma-3}$$

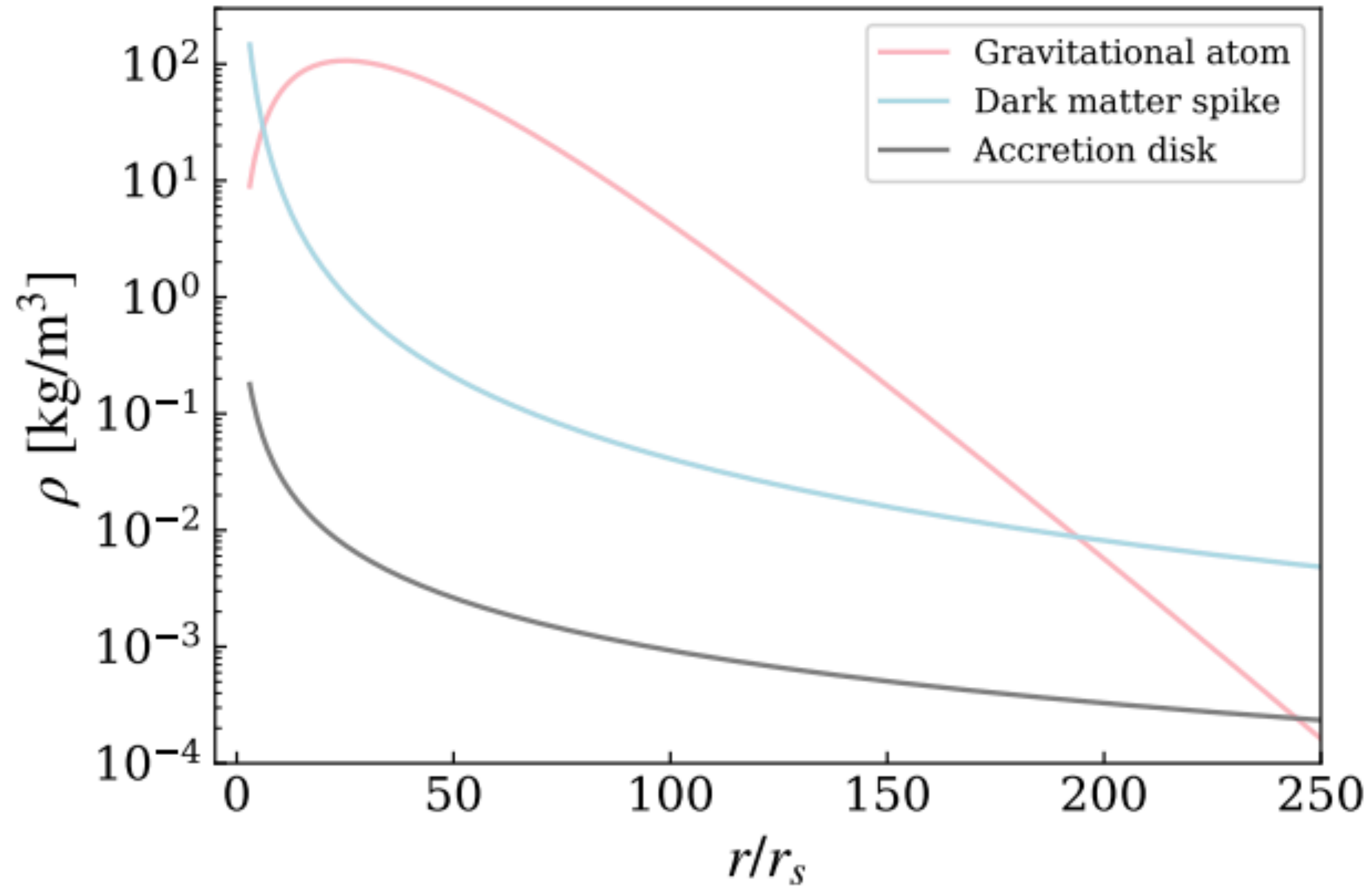
$$(-3 + \gamma) \text{ PN}$$



Credit: Bradley J. Kavanagh

Distinguishing black hole environments

From: P. Cole + '23, Nat. Astron. 7, 943-950



(Non-spinning) EMRI with
 $M = 10^5 M_\odot$, $\mu = 10 M_\odot$, SNR = 15

Hints that different environments can be distinguished.

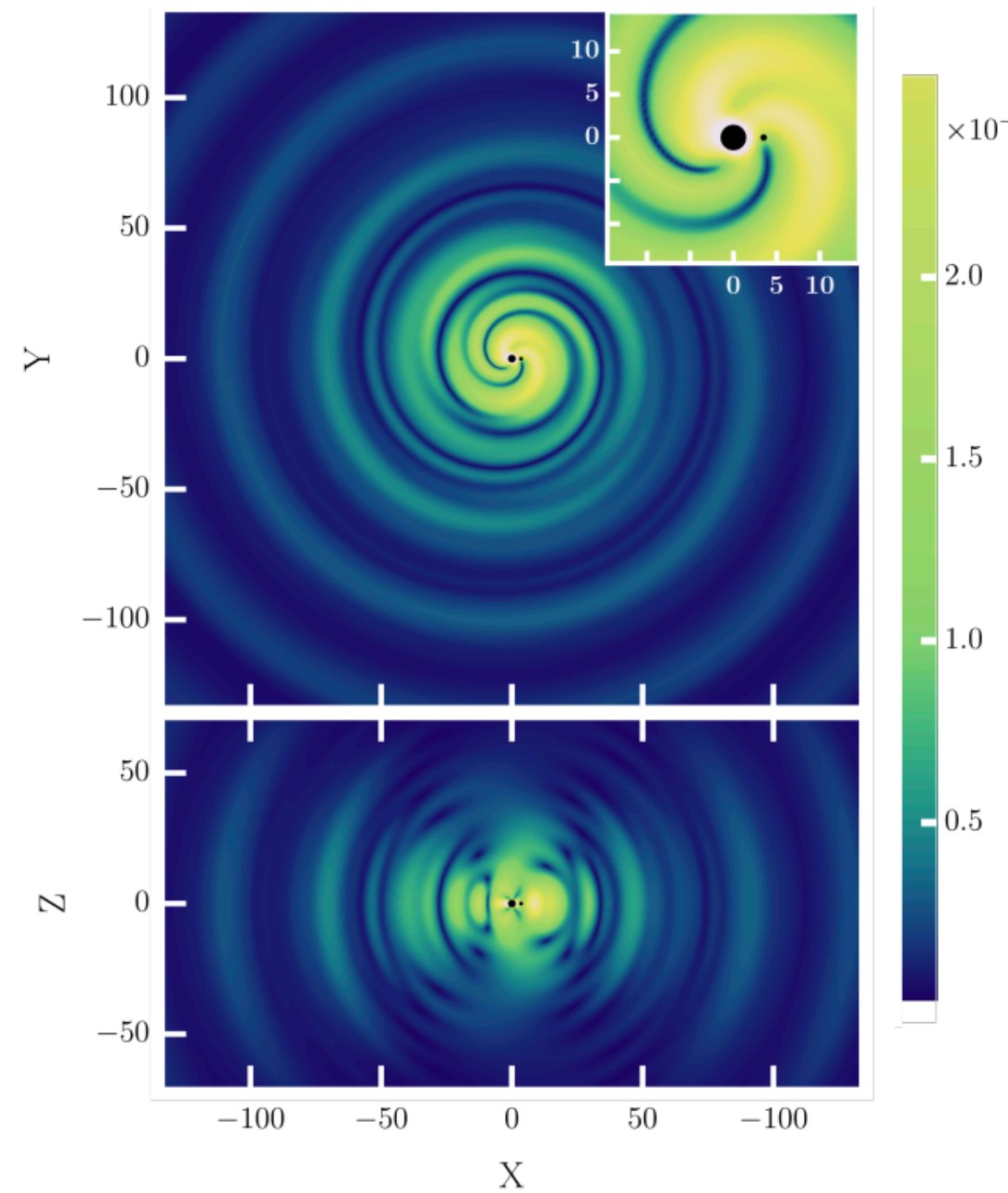
Caveats: study used “Newtonian” order waveforms, neglected spins, circular equatorial orbits...

	Dark dress signal	Accretion disk signal	Gravitational atom signal
Vacuum template	34	6	39
Dark dress template	-	3	39
Accretion disk template	17	-	33
Gravitational atom template	24	6	-

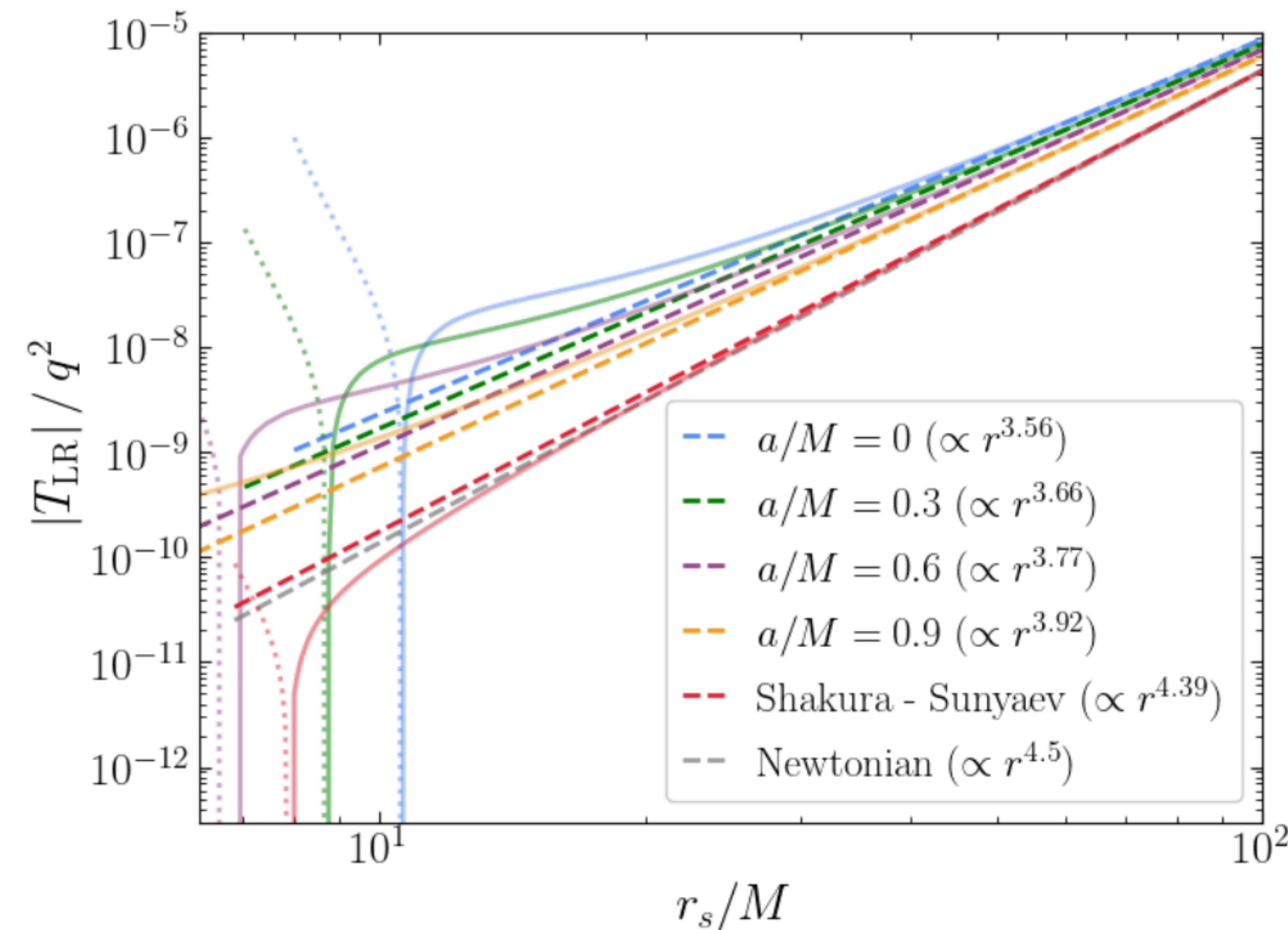
TABLE II. Logarithm of the Bayes factors, $\log_{10} \mathcal{B}$, comparing the evidence for the correct template that fits the signal, with an incorrect template.

Environmental effects: current effort

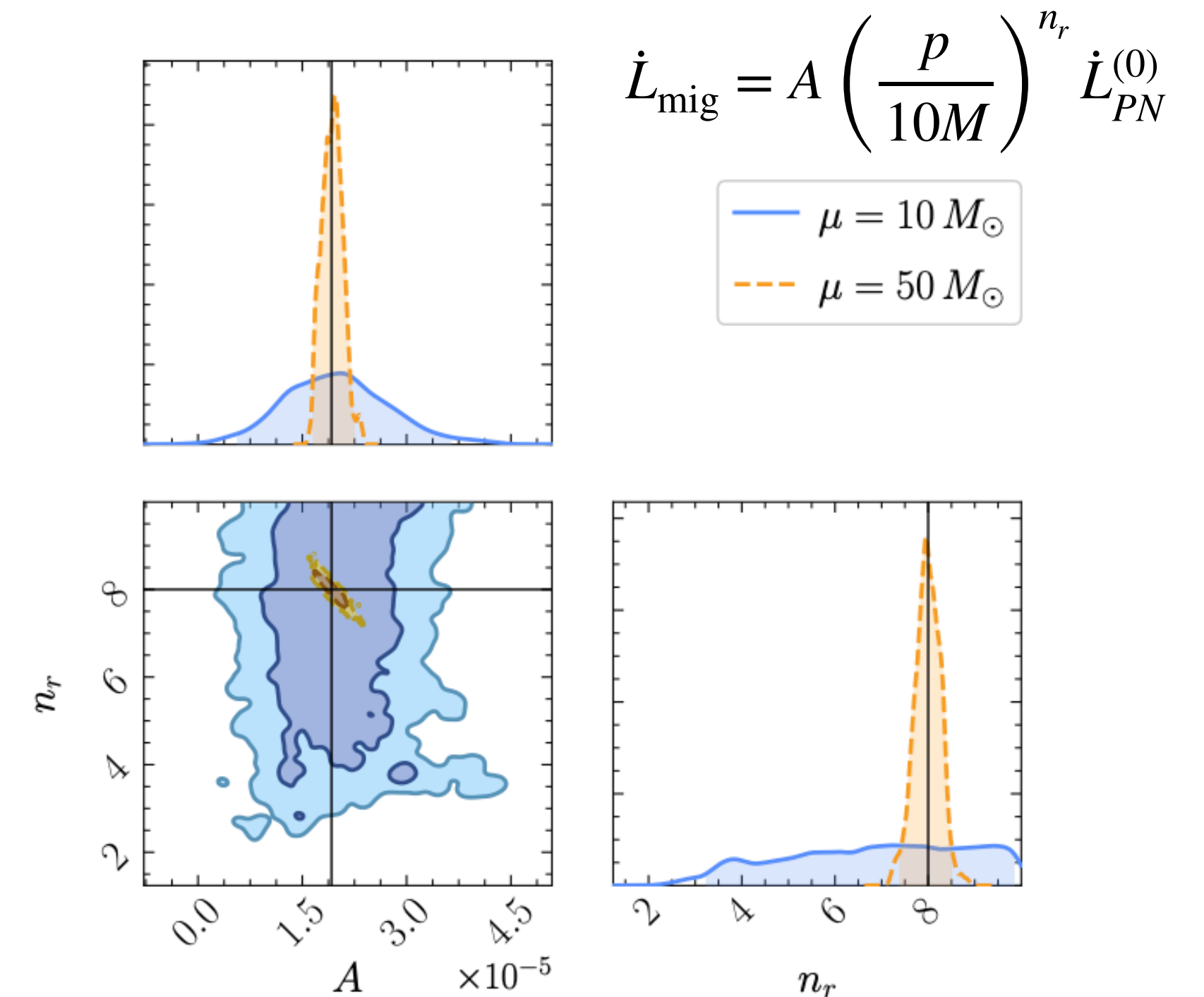
- Compute environmental effects in a **fully relativistic setup** using BH perturbation theory [Cardoso+ '22; RB & Shah '23; Duque+ '24; Conor+ '25; Li+ '25; Duque+ '25; Hegade+ '25; ...]
- **Challenges to be worked on:** How well do we need to model environmental effects? Degeneracies of environments with beyond GR effects? Beyond GR and environmental effects in the context of the global fit?



Dyson+, 2501.09806



Duque+, 2510.02433



Khalvati+, 2410.17310

The next decimal place

“But the history of science shews that even during that phase of her progress in which she devotes herself to ***improving the accuracy of the numerical measurement of quantities with which she has long been familiar***, she is preparing the materials for the ***subjugation of new regions, which would have remained unknown*** if she had contented with the rough guide of the earlier pioneers.” -

*James Clerk Maxwell, Introductory Lecture on Experimental Physics,
October 25th, 1871*