Anna Chrysostomou **Gravitational waves as probes of black hole physics and beyond**

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« quasinormal modes » dominate post-merger signal

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black hole spectroscopy

« quasinormal modes » dominate post-merger signal « quasinormal modes » hint at behaviour beyond horizons

Gravitational waves as probes of black hole physics and beyond

Anna Chrysostomou

charged + asymptotically de Sitter (Λ > 0)

Initiative Physique des Infinis Alliance Sorbonne Université

What can we learn from observing gravitational waves?

Types of gravitational wave sources

Types of gravitational wave sources

spontaneous symmetry breaking from a symmetric phase (false vac.) to a broken phase (true vac.) as universe cools. Bubble nucleation generates GWs through the collision & merging of expanding bubbles + resultant sound waves propagating through primordial plasma

Types of gravitational wave sources

Types of gravitational wave sources

Black hole quasinormal modes: the basics

Stationary, neutral, spherically-symmetric black hole

$$
g_{\mu\nu}dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu} = -f(r)dt^2 + f(r)^{-1}dr^2 + r^2\left(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2\right)
$$

Einstein field equations

$$
R_{\mu\nu}-\frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R+\underline{\Lambda g_{\mu\nu}}= \underline{16}\pi T_{\mu\nu}
$$

for flat space-time, in vacuum

The "no-hair" conjecture

$$
f(r) = 1 - \frac{2N}{r}
$$

event horizon: $r_+ = 2M$
length scale: $M = Gm_{BH}c^{-2}$ $(G = c = 1)$

Black hole perturbation theory

$$
g_{\mu\nu} \to g'_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \quad (g_{\mu\nu} \gg h_{\mu\nu})
$$

 $[m_{BH}] = M$

Stationary, neutral, spherically-symmetric black hole

$$
g_{\mu\nu}dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu} = -f(r)dt^2 + f(r)^{-1}dr^2 + r^2\left(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2\right)
$$

Black hole perturbation theory

$$
g_{\mu\nu} \to g'_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \quad (g_{\mu\nu} \gg h_{\mu\nu})
$$

 $[G] = M^{-1}L^{3}T^{-2}$, $[c] = LT^{-1}$

 $[m_{BH}] = M$

Black hole quasinormal modes

Quasinormal mode (QNM)

$$
\Psi(x^{\mu}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\ell,m} \frac{\psi_{sn\ell}(r)}{r} e^{-i\omega t} Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi)
$$

s: spin of perturbing field *m*: azimuthal number for spherical harmonic decomposition in θ , ϕ

 ℓ : angular/multipolar number for spherical harmonic decomposition in θ , ϕ

n: overtone number labels ω by a monotonically increasing $|\mathfrak{Im}\{\omega\}|$

Quasinormal frequency (QNF)

 $\omega_{sn\ell}=\omega_R-i\omega_I$

 $\mathfrak{Re}\{\omega\}$: physical oscillation frequency $\rightarrow \mathfrak{Re}\{\omega\} \propto \ell$
 $\mathfrak{Im}\{\omega\}$: damping \rightarrow dissipative, "quasi" $\rightarrow \lim_{\ell \rightarrow \infty} |\mathfrak{Im}\{\omega\}| = constant$

Black hole wave equation

$$
\frac{d^2}{dr_*^2}\varphi + \left[\omega^2 - V(r)\right]\varphi = 0 , \quad \frac{dr}{dr_*} = f(r)
$$

e.g.
$$
V_s(r) = f(r) \left[\frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{r^2} + \frac{f'(r)}{r} \left(1 - s^2 \right) \right], \quad s = 0, 1, 2
$$

Subjected to QNM boundary conditions:

purely ingoing:
$$
\varphi(r) \sim e^{-i\omega r}
$$
 $r \to r_+$
purely outgoing: $\varphi(r) \sim e^{+i\omega r}$ $r \to +\infty$

Waves escape domain of study at the boundaries \Rightarrow dissipative

Black hole quasinormal excitation factors: identifying modes in the superposition

Higher harmonics and overtones

"the fundamental $(\ell, m, n) = (2, 2, 0)$ mode dominates ringdown"

a multimodal analysis of the GW150914 data using PYRING, see [Carullo et al.](https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.07527) first 10 overtones for s = 0 QNFs for increasing n

3.5

 \times $\ell = 0$

 \times $\ell = 1$

 \times $\ell = 2$

 \times $\ell = 3$

 \underline{n}

 $\overline{3.0}$

 2.5

a multimodal analysis of the GW150914 data using pyRing, see [Carullo et al.](https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.07527) first 10 overtones for s = 0 QNFs for increasing n

In the GW context, strain is a function of the « excitation coefficient »

[Oshita, Phys. Rev. D 104 \(2021\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/2109.09757)

$$
h_+ + ih_\times = \sum_{\ell mn} C_{\ell n} Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi) \frac{\psi_{\ell n}}{r} e^{-i\omega_{\ell n}t} ,
$$

which is a product of a source factor (initial data) \times an independent « quasinormal excitation factor »

Formally, we model the QNM contribution to the black hole response through a Green's function analysis. This requires explicit expressions for the wavefunction, evaluated at the QNF.

> *[S. Detweiler, Proc. R. Soc. A 352 \(1977\)](https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspa.1977.0005) [E. W. Leaver, Phys. Rev. D 34 \(1986\)](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.34.384) [N. Andersson, Phys. Rev. D 51 \(1995\)](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.51.353)*

A scattering problem

We require two linearly-independent solutions,

at the horizon:

$$
\psi_{r+} \sim \begin{cases} e^{-i\omega r_{\star}} & r_{\star} \to -\infty \\ A_{\ell\omega}^{-} e^{-i\omega r_{\star}} + A_{\ell\omega}^{+} e^{+i\omega r_{\star}} & r_{\star} \to +\infty \end{cases}
$$

at spatial infinity:

$$
\psi_{\infty} \sim e^{+i\omega r_{\star}} \qquad r_{\star} \to +\infty
$$

$$
W(\ell,\omega) = \psi_{r+} \frac{d\psi_{\infty}}{dr_{\star}} - \psi_{\infty} \frac{d\psi_{r+}}{dr_{\star}} = 2i\omega A_{\ell\omega}^{-}
$$

$$
\beta_{\ell n} \equiv \left[\frac{A_{\ell\omega}^+}{2\omega} \left(\frac{\partial A_{\ell\omega}^-}{\partial \omega}\right)^{-1}\right]_{\omega = \omega_{\ell n}}
$$

Challenges:

- ★ Non-Hermitian Operator: complex eigenvalues; QNMs do not form a complete set of eigenfunctions
- ★ Boundary conditions: dissipative system requiring semi-classical/ numerical treatment
- \star Spectral instability: highly sensitive - small perturbations alter, even destabilise QNM spectrum

Challenges:

★ Non-Hermitian Operator: complex eigenvalues; QNMs do not form a complete set of eigenfunctions

 \star Boundary conditions: dissipative system requiring semi-classical/ numerical treatment

 \star Spectral instability: highly sensitive - small perturbations alter, even destabilise QNM spectrum

Dolan-Ottewill multipolar expansion method

[Class. Quant. Grav. 26 \(2009\),](https://arxiv.org/abs/0908.0329) [Phys. Rev. D 84 \(2011\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1106.4318)

A new computation method for BH QNMs through a novel ansatz based on

null geodesics + expansion of the QNF in inverse powers of $L = \ell + 1/2$

$$
\Phi(r) = e^{i\omega z(r_*)}v(r) , \quad \omega = \sum_{k=-1}^{\infty} \omega_k L^{-k}
$$

- \star iterative procedure best performed in the eikonal limit
- \star more efficient means of calculating detectable QNMs?
- \star can extend to compute QNM wavefunctions ϕ rare find!

Managing breakdowns in the DO method: QNM solutions

$$
V(r) = f(r) \left[\frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{r^2} + \frac{f'(r)}{r} \right]
$$
\n
$$
\sum_{\substack{5 \\ \text{Exterior} \\ \text{Exterior}}} \frac{\left[\text{Exterior} \right] \text{Interior}}{\left[\frac{r}{6} + 342\omega_0^2 + 12\sqrt{3}\omega_1 \right] L^{-2} + ...}
$$
\n
$$
\sum_{\substack{2 \\ \text{Exterior} \\ \text{Exerior}}} \frac{r_{\star} \times r_{\star}^{peak}}{r_{\star} \times r_{\star}^{peak}} \times \frac{r_{\star} \times r_{\star}^{peak}}{r_{\star} \times r_{\star}^{peak}}}
$$
\n
$$
\sum_{\substack{2 \\ \text{Exerior} \\ \text{Exerior}
$$

$$
V(r) = f(r) \left[\frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{r^2} + \frac{f'(r)}{r} \right]
$$

[Iyer and Will, Phys. Rev. D 35, 3621 \(1987\).](https://journals.aps.org/prd/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevD.35.3621)

Managing breakdowns: QNM solutions

Managing breakdowns: QNM solutions

Managing breakdowns: QNM solutions

Recall: (i) the QNEF definition

$$
\mathcal{B}_{\ell n} \equiv \left[\frac{A_{\ell \omega}^+}{2\omega} \left(\frac{\partial A_{\ell \omega}^-}{\partial \omega} \right)^{-1} \right]_{\omega = \omega_{\ell n}}
$$

(ii) the boundary conditions at the event horizon

$$
\psi_{r+} \sim \begin{cases} e^{-i\omega r_{\star}} & r_{\star} \to -\infty \\ \frac{A_{\ell\omega}^{-}e^{-i\omega r_{\star}} + A_{\ell\omega}^{+}e^{+i\omega r_{\star}}}{A_{\ell\omega}^{+}e^{+i\omega r_{\star}} + A_{\ell\omega}^{+}e^{+i\omega r_{\star}}}\n\end{cases}
$$
\n
$$
\mathcal{A}_{\ell\omega}^{-} \propto \frac{D_{\omega}}{C_{\omega}}\bigg|_{\omega \to \widetilde{\omega}, \epsilon \to 0} = 0
$$

Schwarzschild QNEFs for various ℓ and increasing *n*

Schwarzschild QNEFs for $n = 0$ and increasing ℓ

Black hole quasinormal frequencies: identifying violations in cosmic censorship

Stationary, neutral, spherically-symmetric black hole

$$
g_{\mu\nu}dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu} = -f(r)dt^2 + f(r)^{-1}dr^2 + r^2\left(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2\right)
$$

$$
R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu}
$$

= $16\pi \left[F_{\mu\rho}F_{\nu}^{\ \rho} - \frac{1}{4}g_{\mu\nu}F_{\rho\sigma}F^{\rho\sigma}\right]$

$$
\nabla^{\nu}F_{\mu\nu} = 0, \nabla_{[\mu}F_{\nu\rho]=0}
$$

in de Sitter space-time

Black hole perturbation theory

$$
g_{\mu\nu} \to g'_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \quad (g_{\mu\nu} \gg h_{\mu\nu})
$$

The "no-hair" conjecture

$$
f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \frac{Q^2}{r^2} - \frac{r^2}{L_{dS}^2}
$$

horizons:

 $r_-, r_+, r_c; r_0$ length scale: $M = Gm_{BH}c^{-2}$ $Q = G^{1/2} q_{BH} c^{-2}$ $L_{dS} = (3/\Lambda)^{1/2} = 1$

$$
r_{\pm} \neq M^2 \pm \sqrt{M^2 - Q^2}
$$

Stationary, neutral, spherically-symmetric black hole $g_{\mu\nu}dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu} = -f(r)dt^2 + f(r)^{-1}dr^2 + r^2\left(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2\right)$ The "no-hair" α Einstein-Maxwell field equations *Recall: unknown boundary conditions past* $R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu}$
= $16\pi \left[F_{\mu\rho}F_{\nu}{}^{\rho} - \frac{1}{4}g_{\mu\nu}F_{\rho\sigma}F^{\rho\sigma} \right]$
 $\nabla^{\nu}F_{\mu\nu} = 0$, $\nabla_{[\mu}F_{\nu\rho]=0}$ *r = r_ modify g non-uniquely Loss in determinism threatens GR*horizons: $r_-, r_+, r_c; r_0$ length scale: $M = Gm_{BH}c^{-2}$ in de Sitter space-time $Q = G^{1/2} q_{BH} c^{-2}$ $L_{dS} = (3/\Lambda)^{1/2} = 1$ Black hole perturbation theory $r_{\pm} \neq M^2 \pm \sqrt{M^2 - Q^2}$ $g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow g'_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$ $(g_{\mu\nu} \gg h_{\mu\nu})$

For our purposes: SCC requires that the metric *(M, g)*, as a well-defined solution to the vacuum Einstein field equations, cannot be extended past the Cauchy horizon (CH)

Different SCC versions distinguished by smoothness level required at CH

C° version (strongest SCC): generically no continuous extension exists across CH \Rightarrow singularity exists before Cauchy horizon forms

Christodoulou version: generically no weak extension (with loc. sq. integrable Christoffel sym.)

 \Rightarrow Cauchy surface is a weak null singularity

C² version: generically no extension in C²

For Einstein-Maxwell(-massless scalar) theory, with $\Lambda = 0$: C° version is false [*Christodoulou*; *Dafermos-Luk]* Christodoulou version believed to be true [*Dafermos-Rothman*; *Luk-Oh*]

Scalar field is used as a proxy for the full nonlinear solution

strength

Reissner-Nordström de Sitter black hole: blueshift vs redshift

For Λ = 0, consider two time-like observers: A: remains in I → reaches ∞ at infinite proper time B: falls into II → reaches CH at finite proper time

If observer sends periodic (in 's time) signals to observer , observer will perceive them as incoming with greater frequency [⇒] *energy of an oscillating Φ entering the black hole will increase infinitely as it approaches* $r = r$

In GR, infinite energy \Rightarrow curvature divergence "Blueshift instability" rescues SCC [Penrose, 1970s]

For Λ > 0*, perturbations decay rapidly (exponentially) Is there enough energy to lead to blueshift instability?*

Reissner-Nordström de Sitter black hole: blueshift vs redshift

Two competing behaviours $(\Lambda > 0 \Rightarrow \exp \cos \exp)$: Asymptotic decay at r_+ , $\psi \sim e^{3m\{\omega_{n=0}\}t}$ [quasinormal modes] Blueshift at $r_$, $\psi \sim e^{\kappa_- t}$

A blueshift amplification phenomenon characterises the dynamics of infalling fields as they accumulate along the inner Cauchy horizon

$$
-\frac{\Im m\{\omega_{n=0}\}}{|\kappa_-|}<\frac{1}{2}\quad [Hints & Vasy]
$$

where $\Im m\{\omega\} < 0$ is a necessary condition for black hole stability

SCC violations in RNdS

SCC violations in RNdS

Thanks!

Any questions?

Or write to me via chrysostomou@lpthe.jussieu.fr

Vue du Panthéon à Paris Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot (1796-1875)

To reach beyond « visible » cosmological history of the universe,

Black hole wave equation:

$$
\frac{d^2}{dr_*^2}\varphi + \left[\left(\omega - \frac{qQ}{r}\right)^2 - V(r)\right]\varphi = 0 , \quad \frac{dr}{dr_*} = f(r)
$$

$$
e.g. \ V_{s=0} = f(r) \left(\frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{r^2} + \frac{f'(r)}{r} + \mu^2 \right)
$$

$$
\mu = \frac{m_s}{\hbar}, \ q \propto e \ \ ([\mu] = L^{-1}, \ [q] = 1)
$$

Subjected to QNM boundary conditions:

purely ingoing:
$$
\varphi(r) \sim e^{-i\left(\omega - \frac{qQ}{r_+}\right)r}
$$
 $r \to r_+$
purely outgoing: $\varphi(r) \sim e^{+i\left(\omega - \frac{qQ}{r_c}\right)r}$ $r \to r_c$

Waves escape domain of study at the boundaries \Rightarrow dissipative

Reissner-Nordström de Sitter black hole

Schwarzschild modes (I) & de Sitter modes (II):

photon-sphere modes: beneath line $M = Q$, approaching NU large $\Im m\{\omega\}$, $\Re e\{\omega\} \sim \mathcal{O}(0.01)$ for $Q < 0.1$ $\Im m\{\omega_{PS}\}\approx -i\left(n+\frac{1}{2}\right)\kappa_+$ on NU (*I.ii*) near-extremal modes: branch *OU* ($r_{-} \sim r_{+}$) $\omega_{NE} \approx -i(\ell+n+1)\kappa_- = -i(\ell+n+1)\kappa_+$; dS modes: along branch OU ($\kappa_c \sim 1/L_{dS}$) $\omega_{dS_{n=0}} \approx -i\ell\kappa_c$, $\omega_{dS_{n\neq 0}} \approx -i(\ell+n+1)\kappa_c$;

DO method: details

Components of the ansatz

$$
v(r) = \exp \left\{ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} S_k(r) L^{-k} \right\}, \quad z(r_*) = \int^{r_*} \rho(r) dr_* = \int^{r_*} b_c k_c(r) dr_*
$$

$$
r_c = \frac{2f(r)}{\partial_r f(r)}\bigg|_{r=r_c} , \quad b_c = \sqrt{\frac{r^2}{f(r)}}\bigg|_{r=r_c} , \quad k_c(r)^2 = \frac{1}{b^2} - \frac{f(r)}{r^2}
$$

We generalise the consequent ODE

$$
f(r)\frac{d}{dr}\left(f(r)\frac{dv}{dr}\right) + 2i\omega\rho(r)\frac{dv}{dr} + \left[i\omega f(r)\frac{d\rho}{dr} + (1-\rho(r)^2)\,\omega^2 - V(r)\right]v(r) = 0
$$

We solve iteratively for ω_k and $S'_k(r)$ and sub into ω

DO method: details

Components of the ansatz

 $+...$

$$
r_c = 3 \ , \ b_c = \sqrt{27} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \rho(r) = \left(1 - \frac{3}{r}\right)\sqrt{1 + \frac{6}{r}}
$$

For a scalar field $s = 0$, $N = n + 1/2$, and $L = \ell + 1/2$,

$$
\sqrt{27}\omega_{\ell n} = L - iN + \left[\frac{1}{3} - \frac{5N^2}{36} - \frac{15}{432}\right]L^{-1} - iN\left[\frac{1}{9} + \frac{235N^2}{3888} - \frac{1415}{15552}\right]L^{-2} \n+ \left[-\frac{1}{27} + \frac{204N^2 + 211}{3888} + \frac{854160N^4 - 1664760N^2 - 776939}{40310784}\right]L^{-3} \n+ iN\left[\frac{1}{27} + \frac{1100N^2 - 2719}{46656} + \frac{11273136N^4 - 52753800N^2 + 66480535}{2902376448}\right]
$$

For
$$
L = \sqrt{\ell(\ell+1)}
$$
, as a series expansion $\omega = \sum_{k=-1} \omega_k L^{-k}$
\n
$$
\omega_k = \sqrt{V(r_k^{max}) - 2iU}, \quad U \equiv U(V^{(2)}, V^{(3)}, V^{(4)}, V^{(5)}, V^{(6)})
$$
\n
$$
V^j = \frac{d^j V(r_k^{max})}{dr^j} = f(r) \frac{d}{dr} \left[f(r) \frac{d}{dr} \left[\dots \left[f(r) \frac{dV(r)}{dr} \right] \dots \right] \right]_{r \to r_k^{max}}
$$
\n
$$
r_k^{max} \approx r_0 + r_1 L^{-2} + \dots,
$$
\n
$$
V(r_k^{max}) \approx V_0 + V_1 L^{-2} + \dots
$$

 $q \neq 0 \Rightarrow$ two sets of solutions:

 ω_{+} (black-hole family) & ω_{c} (cosmological-horizon family) For a fixed q, $|\Re\{\omega_+\}| < |\Re\{\omega_c\}| \& \|\Im\mathfrak{m}\{\omega_+\}| < |\Im\mathfrak{m}\{\omega_c\}|$