# The scientific potential of Gravitational Waves

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http://physics.aps.org/ featured-article-pdf/ 10.1103/ PhysRevLett.116.061102

# Far-reaching scientific potential

- GW direct detection from Earth is a great theoretical and experimental achievement, providing observational access to many new physical phenomena
- Astrophysics:
  - Discovery of new astrophysical objects (black hole binaries...)
  - Provide information on their population and characteristics
  - Enlighten astrophysical phenomena (fast gamma-ray bursts, Active Galactic Nuclei, supernovae explosions...)
  - Probe the galaxy and galactic centres environment
- Fundamental physics:
  - Test General Relativity in the strong field regime (Post Newtonian terms, tests of the horizon, GW polarisations, space-time around black holes...)
  - Test of General Relativity at cosmological scales (GW propagation, GW lensing...)
  - High energy and beyond the standard model physics (phase transitions: Electroweak scale, QCD scale, cosmic strings; Inflation...)
  - Matter in extreme conditions (neutron stars equation of state, elements synthesis...)
- Cosmology:
  - Expansion of the universe, dark energy
  - Nature of Dark Matter (Primordial Black Holes, black holes accretion...)
  - Cosmological structure formation, galaxy mergers
  - Early universe before recombination in general
- Data Analysis (Matched filtering, noise and foreground subtraction, machine learning...)
- Detectors (stabilisation, cryogeny, quantum limits, free fall, atom interferometry...)

### GW emission from the inspiral of a binary system



$$M_c = \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{3/5}}{(m_1 + m_2)^{1/5}} \qquad f(\tau) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{G M_c}{c^3}\right)^{-5/8} \left(\frac{5}{256 \tau}\right)^{3/8}$$

chirp mass

 $\tau$  time to coalescence

GW emission from the inspiral of a binary system

$$M_c = 25 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot} \quad \tau = 0.2 \,\mathrm{sec} \quad \longrightarrow \quad f = 37 \,\mathrm{Hz}$$
  
 $M_c = 1.2 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot} \quad \tau = 30 \,\mathrm{sec} \quad \longrightarrow \quad f = 38 \,\mathrm{Hz}$ 

$$f(\tau) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{G M_c}{c^3}\right)^{-5/8} \left(\frac{5}{256 \tau}\right)^{3/8}$$

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 $M_c = 25 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$   $\tau = 10 \,\mathrm{year}$   $\longrightarrow$   $f = 0.01 \,\mathrm{Hz}$  $M_c = 10^6 \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$   $\tau = 1 \,\mathrm{hour}$   $\longrightarrow$   $f = 1 \,\mathrm{mHz}$ 

 $M_c = 10^9 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$   $\tau = 10^5 \,\mathrm{year}$   $\longrightarrow$   $f = 7 \cdot 10^{-9} \,\mathrm{Hz}$ 

$$f(\tau) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{G M_c}{c^3}\right)^{-5/8} \left(\frac{5}{256 \tau}\right)^{3/8}$$

# The Gravitational Wave Spectrum



# Observables

The gravitational wave strain from the inspiral and merger of compact binaries

$$h(t) \sim \frac{\Delta L}{L}$$

- Compact binaries inspiral, merger (ringdown)
  - Black holes, neutron stars, white dwarfs...
  - In the galaxy or beyond
- Extreme mass ratio inspirals
- Rotating neutron stars
- ...





# Observables

#### The stochastic gravitational wave background

the superposition of sources that cannot be resolved individually

- binaries too numerous and with too low SNR to be identified
- signals from the primordial universe with too small correlation scale (typically horizon at the time of production) with respect to the detector resolution



GWs can bring direct information from very early stages of the universe evolution, to which we have no direct access through em radiation

amazing discovery potential, linked to high energy physics Which energy scales in the universe can we access with GWs compared to usual cosmological observables?



# The Gravitational Wave Spectrum



#### Advanced LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA interferometers + LIGO India? Einstein Telescope? Cosmic Explorer?

arm length: few km

frequency range of detection:  $10 \,\mathrm{Hz} < f < 5 \,\mathrm{kHz}$ 

TARGET SOURCES:

- Coalescing black hole binaries of few to hundred solar masses
- Neutron Star and NS-BH binaries
- Possibly: SN explosions, rotating NS, stochastic GW background from astrophysical and cosmological sources



GWTC 3 catalogue, LIGO/Virgo website

Properties of the compact binaries: population, merger rates -> origin, formation channels...



Unusual events, which challenge astrophysical models and/or enlighten them, allowing for new discoveries

GW190521



arXiv:2009.01075

arXiv:2006.12611

Unusual events, which challenge astrophysical models and/or enlighten them, allowing for new discoveries



GW170817: the birth of multi messenger astronomy

 $m_1 = 1.36 - 1.60 M_{\odot}$  $m_2 = 1.17 - 1.36 M_{\odot}$  $M_c = 1.188^{+0.004}_{-0.002} M_{\odot}$  $d_L = 40^{+8}_{-14} \text{ Mpc}$ 

- Associate gamma-ray bursts and neutron star mergers
- Constrain GW propagation speed and in turn modified gravity theories
- Probe the expansion of the universe

•

arXiv:1710.05833

#### Tests of General Relativity

- GW generation: post Newtonian terms
- GW speed vs speed of light -> constraints on cosmological theories
- Polarisations
- Dispersion relation
- Ring-down and echoes



arXiv:2112.06861

#### Tests of the expansion of the universe

- GW170817: luminosity distance from GW and redshift from EM counterpart
- Assuming a mass distribution with features -> get the true mass -> get the redshift
- Cross-correlating with galaxy surveys



### LISA: Laser Interferometer Space Antenna

- no seismic noise
- much longer arms than on Earth: 2.5 million km

frequency range of detection:  $10^{-4} \text{ Hz} < f < 1 \text{ Hz}$ 

#### TARGET SOURCES:

- Coalescing massive BH binaries: 10<sup>4</sup> to 10<sup>7</sup> solar masses
- Inspiralling black hole binaries of few to hundred solar masses
- Inspiralling galactic binaries (white dwarfs, neutron stars...)
- Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals
- Stochastic GW background from astrophysical and cosmological sources









EM counterparts are few and cluster at redshift 2 < z < 5their number depends heavily on the astrophysical generation model and on the possible EM detection channel



	Rubin SKA+ELT			Athena+ELT					
		Isotropic flare		Г10	Catalogue		Eddington		
			12		$F_{\rm X,lim} = 4e-17$	$F_{\rm X,lim} = 2e-16$	$F_{\rm X,lim} = 4e-17$	$F_{\rm X,lim} = 2e-16$	
	$\Delta\Omega=10{ m deg}^2$			$\Delta\Omega=0.4{\rm deg}^2$	$\Delta\Omega=2{\rm deg}^2$	$\Delta\Omega=0.4{\rm deg}^2$	$\Delta\Omega=2{\rm deg}^2$		
No-obsc.	0.84	6.4	1.51	0.04	0.49	0.27	1.02	0.84	Pop3
	3.07	14.8	2.71	0.04	2.67	1.38	3.87	2.13	Q3d
	0.53	20.3	3.2	0.04	0.58	0.31	4.4	3.24	Q3nd
Obsc.	0.13	6.4	1.51	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.13	0.17	Pop3
	0.75	14.8	2.71	0.04	0.22	0.13	0.18	0.09	Q3d
	0.35	20.3	3.2	0.04	0.18	0.04	0.27	0.31	Q3nd

Tamanini et al, arXiv:1601.07112; Mangiagli et al, arXiv:2207.10678







#### Possibly: Stochastic GW background

- Signal from the very early universe
- Vey challenging to detect: how to separate it from the detector noise?
- Possible access to many interesting phenomena and fundamental physics constraints, high potential for discoveries
- LISA frequency band -> EW symmetry breaking!



### One example of GW signal from the EW phase transition "Higgs portal" scenario

Can be probed both at LISA and at the High Luminosity LHC



Strength of the first order EW phase transition

### Pulsar timing array

frequency range of detection:  $10^{-9} \text{ Hz} < f < 10^{-7} \text{ Hz}$ 

OBSERVABLE:

correlated shifts in time of arrivals of radio pulses due to GW propagation between Pulsar and Earth

#### TARGET SOURCE:

Super Massive BH binaries (masses of order 10<sup>9</sup> solar masses): stochastic background from inspirals and/or resolved signals

# Recent discovery of correlated noise in all Pulsar networks!

(NanoGrav, Parkes, European, International)

Z. Arzoumanian et al, arXvi: 2009.04496, B. Goncharov et al, arXiv:2107.12112, S. Chen et al, arXiv:2110.13184



#### Pulsar timing array

- There is a strong statistical support for the presence of a common red noise
- There is no evidence yet for a quadrupolar signal
- Possible explanation: background from SMBHBs



#### Pulsar timing array

**PTA** (nHz) are sensitive to energy scales around the **QCD scale**, so they can probe physical processes connected to the QCDPT IF it is first order





T. Boekel and J. Schaffner-Bielich, arXiv:1105.0832D. Schwarz and Stuke, arXiv:0906.3434M. Middeldorf-Wygas et al, arXiv:2009.00036

A. Neronov et al, arXiv:2009.14174

# "Indirect" GW detection with the CMB

frequency range of detection:  $10^{-18} \text{ Hz} < f < 10^{-16} \text{ Hz}$ 

**OBSERVABLE:** Temperature anisotropies and B-polarisation in CMB spectrum

TARGET SOURCE: GW generated by quantum metric fluctuations during Inflation

PRESENT SITUATION: Upper bound on the tensor to scalar ratio

$$r = \mathcal{P}_h / \mathcal{P}_\mathcal{R} < 0.032$$



 $\frac{\delta T}{T} = -\int_{t_{\text{def}}}^{t_0} \dot{h}_{ij} \, n^i n^j dt$ 

Tristram et al 2112.07961

# "Indirect" GW detection with the CMB

The signal in the standard slow roll scenario is too low for direct GW detection

There is the possibility to **enhance the signal going beyond the standard scenario**: adding extra fields, modifying the inflaton potential, modifying the gravitational interaction, adding a phase with stiff equation of state...



Thank you for your attention

# Backup

### Characteristic frequency of the GW signal

A GW source acting at time t\* in the early universe cannot produce a signal correlated on length/time scales larger than the causal horizon at that time

$$\ell_* \le H_*^{-1}$$

 $\ell_*$  characteristic length/time-scale of the source, i.e. typical size/time of the tensor anisotropic stresses

characteristic frequency of the GW signal

$$f_* = \frac{1}{\ell_*} \ge H_*$$

 $\ell_*H_*$  Ratio of the typical length/time-scale of the GW sourcing process to the Hubble scale at the generation time

characteristic  
frequency today 
$$f = f_* \frac{a_*}{a_0} = \frac{1.65 \times 10^{-7}}{\ell_* H_*} \left(\frac{g(T_*)}{100}\right)^{1/6} \frac{T_*}{\text{GeV}} \text{Hz}$$

### Potential of GW detectors to probe the very early universe



**Observational landscape:** 

what is/will be known about a stochastic GW background



Characteristic frequency of the GW signal today

Can we populate the previous diagram with signals?

# Possible sources of a stochastic GW background

- Foreground from astrophysical sources (galactic binaries, stellar origin BHB...)
- Background from the very early universe
  - Inflation:
    - quantum tensor fluctuations (at first and second order)
    - tensor modes from additional fields (scalar, gauge...)
    - GWs linked to primordial BHs
    - preheating
    - modifications of gravity
    - ...
  - Other phase transitions:
    - stable topological defects (in particular strings)
    - *first order* phase transitions
      - bubble wall collisions
      - bulk fluid motion (compressional and vortical)
      - magnetic fields

Sources of tensor anisotropic stress at a first order phase transition:

GW sourcing process

$$\ddot{h}_{ij} + 3H \,\dot{h}_{ij} + k^2 \,h_{ij} = 16\pi G \,\Pi_{ij}^{TT}$$





- Bubble collision (scalar field gradients)
- Bulk fluid motion
- Electromagnetic fields
- $\Pi_{ij}^{TT} \sim [\partial_i \phi \partial_j \phi]^{TT}$  $\Pi_{ij}^{TT} \sim [\gamma^2 (\rho + p) v_i v_j]^{TT}$  $\Pi_{ij}^{TT} \sim [-E_i E_j B_i B_j]^{TT}$

**Electroweak phase transition**: phase transition of the Higgs field, driven by the temperature decrease as the universe expands

Standard Model of particle physics: Cross-over Negligible GW production



Temperature

M. Hindmarsh et al, arXiv:2008.09136 Beyond the Standard Model: First order phase transition Possibly observable GW production

Examples of scenarios leading to observable signals:

- singlet/multiplet extensions of SM or MSSM (SUSY motivated or not)
- SM plus dimension six operator (EFT approach)
- Dark Matter sector uncoupled to the SM
- Warped extra dimensions

- ...

#### One example of GW signal from the EW phase transition "Higgs portal" scenario



#### QCD phase transition and Pulsar Timing Array noise excess?

- In the Standard Model at zero baryon chemical potential it is a cross-over, negligible GW production
- It depends on the (uncertain) conditions of the early universe
  - D. Schwarz and Stuke, arXiv:0906.3434 M. Middeldorf-Wygas et al, arXiv:2009.00036



- **PTA** (nHz) are sensitive to energy scales around the **QCD scale**, so they can probe physical processes connected to the QCDPT IF it is first order
- PTA observatories (NANOGrav, Parkes, European) have recently measured common noise excess
- It is compatible with the GW generated by fully developed MHD turbulence at the QCD scale A. Neronov et al. arXiv:2009.14174

#### QCD phase transition and Pulsar Timing Array noise excess?



• The noise excess can be explained by MHD turbulence at the QCD scale if the PT temperature scale is 2 MeV < T\* < 200 MeV, the magnetic field energy density is close to 10% of the radiation energy density and the magnetic correlation scale is close to the horizon

# Overview of GW detection

• cosmic microwave background (indirect)

frequency range of detection:  $10^{-18} \text{ Hz} < f < 10^{-16} \text{ Hz}$ 

- target: temperature fluctuations and B polarisation

#### Results

• upper bound on stochastic background:

 $r \leq 0.12$ 

Ade et al 1502.00612



### Cosmic microwave background

frequency range of detection:  $10^{-18}$  Hz < f <  $10^{-16}$  HZ

$$\frac{\delta T}{T} = -\int_{t_{\rm dec}}^{t_0} \dot{h}_{ij} n^i n^j dt$$

• polarisation: BB spectrum measured by BICEP2 and Planck generated at photon decoupling time, from Thomson scattering of electrons by a quadrupole temperature anisotropy in the photons

polarisation patterns





generated only by primordial tensor perturbations or by foregrounds



B mode

### Cosmic microwave background



Planck collaboration: arXiv:1807.06205

### GW signal from inflation

Amplification of tensor metric vacuum fluctuations by the exponential expansion

$$h_r''(\mathbf{k},\eta) + 2\mathcal{H}h_r'(\mathbf{k},\eta) + k^2h_r(\mathbf{k},\eta) = 16\pi G a^2 \Pi_r(\mathbf{k},\eta)$$

- ✓ canonically normalised free field  $v_{\pm} = a M_{Pl} h_{\pm}$
- ✓ quantisation
- ✓ homogeneous wave equation: harmonic oscillator with *time dependent* frequency

$$v_{\pm}''(t) + (k^2 - a^2 H^2) v_{\pm}(t) = 0$$

$$k \gg a H \text{ sub-Hubble modes} \qquad k \ll a H \text{ super-Hubble modes}$$

$$\omega^2(t) = k^2 \qquad \qquad \omega^2(t) = -a^2 H^2$$

free field in vacuum zero occupation number

super-Hubble modes have very large occupation number

• tensor spectrum

$$\mathcal{P}_{h} = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{H^{2}}{m_{Pl}^{2}} \left(\frac{k}{aH}\right)^{-2\epsilon} \quad \epsilon \equiv \frac{M_{P}^{2}}{2} \left(\frac{V'}{V}\right)^{2} \ll 1$$

 transfer function from inflation to today, as modes re-enter the Hubble horizon



• tensor spectrum  $\mathcal{P}_h = \frac{2}{\pi} \frac{H^2}{m_{Pl}^2} \left(\frac{k}{aH}\right)^{-2\epsilon} \quad \epsilon \equiv \frac{M_P^2}{2} \left(\frac{V'}{V}\right)^2 \ll 1$ 

$$\Omega_{\rm GW}(f) = \frac{3}{128} \,\Omega_{\rm rad} \, r \, \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^* \left(\frac{f}{f_*}\right)^{n_T} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{f_{\rm eq}}{f}\right)^2 + \frac{16}{9}\right]$$

- tensor to scalar ratio  $r = \mathcal{P}_h / \mathcal{P}_R$
- scalar amplitude at CMB pivot scale  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^* \simeq 2 \cdot 10^{-9}$   $k_* = \frac{0.05}{Mpc}$
- GW signal extended in frequency:  $H_0 \leq f \leq H_{inf}$

continuous sourcing of GW as modes re-enter the Hubble horizon

Gw detectors offer the amazing opportunity to probe the inflationary power spectrum (and the model of inflation) down to the tiniest scales

BUT! The signal in the standard slow roll scenario is too low



Gw detectors offer the amazing opportunity to probe the inflationary power spectrum (and the model of inflation) down to the tiniest scales

(P)reheating generates a signal, but unfortunately at very high frequencies



### GW signal from (non-standard) inflation

There is the possibility to enhance the signal going beyond the standard inflationary scenario: adding extra fields, modifying the inflaton potential, modifying the gravitational interaction, adding a phase with stiff equation of state...



#### just one example: inflaton-gauge field coupling





OTHER SIGNATURES: non-gaussianity, chirality

N. Bartolo et al, arXiv:1610.06481 N. Bartolo et al, arXiv:1806.02819 Using GW emission by compact binaries to test the background expansion of the universe

$$d_L(z) = (1+z) \mathcal{G}\left(\int_0^z \frac{dz'}{H(z')}\right)$$

### Measurement of d<sub>L</sub>: standard sirens

- Measurement of the luminosity distance: no calibration needed, EASY AND DIRECT
- Measurement of the redshift: IMPOSSIBLE!



B. Schutz, Nature 323, 310 (1986)

### Inspiral of compact binaries at cosmological distance

$$h_{+}(\tau,\theta,\varphi) = \frac{4}{d_{L}(z)} (G\mathcal{M}_{c})^{5/3} [\pi f(\tau)]^{2/3} \left(\frac{1+\cos^{2}\theta}{2}\right) \cos(2\Phi(\tau))$$
$$h_{\times}(\tau,\theta,\varphi) = \frac{4}{d_{L}(z)} (G\mathcal{M}_{c})^{5/3} [\pi f(\tau)]^{2/3} \cos\theta \sin(2\Phi(\tau))$$

$$\mathcal{M}_c = (1+z)M_c$$
 dege

Redshifted chirp mass degeneracy among the redshift and the true chirp mass

Assuming that the redshift is constant

$$\dot{f_O} = \frac{96\pi^{8/3}}{5} (G\mathcal{M}_c)^{5/3} f_O^{11/3}$$

### Measurement of $d_L(z)$

 $\mathcal{M}_c = (1+z)M_c$ 

How can we break this degeneracy and use GW emission to build the Hubble diagram  $d_L(z)$ ?

There are a few methods to obtain the redshift information, depending on the nature of the source and on the detector

- Direct method: directly identify the galaxy hosting the event, via the measurement of a (transient) electromagnetic counterpart
- Statistical method: cross-correlate the sky position given by the GW measurement with galaxy catalogues
- Assume that one knows or constrains the intrinsic mass of the object

### Direct method with LISA: massive BH binaries

- Massive BH binaries mergers are expected to have counterparts if they occur in gaseous disks at the centre of galaxies (the rate of these events is uncertain)
- One must select events with good sky localisation (few!)
- Weak lensing (and peculiar velocity) error affect the measurement of  $d_L$

#### Our approach

- Step 0: simulated catalogues of massive BH binaries (E. Barausse)
- Step 1: LISA parameter estimation (error on sky localisation and d<sub>L</sub>)
  - Bayesian code LISAbeta (S. Marsat)
- Step 2: model of the EM counterpart and detection strategy (redshift error)
  - Detection of the host galaxy with LSST
  - Localisation of a radio counterpart with SKA and detection of the host galaxy with ELT
  - Localisation of a X-ray counterpart with Athena and detection of the host galaxy with ELT
- Step 3: construction of the Hubble diagram

Tamanini et al, arXiv:1601.07112 Mangiagli et al, in preparation

### Direct method with LISA: massive BH binaries

- The number of standard sirens is quite low
- The events cluster at high redshift 2 < z < 5



### Direct method with LISA: massive BH binaries

The number of standard sirens depends heavily on the astrophysical generation model and on the EM detection channel

	LSST	SKA+ELT			Athena+ELT				
		Isotropic	Г2	Γ10	Catalog		Eddington		
					$F_{\rm X,lim} = 4e-17$	$F_{\rm X,lim} = 2e-16$	$F_{\rm X,lim} = 4e-17$	$F_{\rm X,lim} = 2e-16$	
	$\Delta\Omega=10{\rm deg}^2$				$\Delta\Omega=0.4{\rm deg^2}$	$\Delta\Omega=2{\rm deg}^2$	$\Delta\Omega=0.4{\rm deg}^2$	$\Delta\Omega=2{\rm deg}^2$	
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	3.07	14.84	2.71	0.04	2.67	1.38	3.87	2.09	Q3d
	0.53	20.0	3.07	0.04	0.58	0.31	4.22	2.98	Q3nd
Obsc.	0.4	6.8	1.51	0.04	0.18	0.04	0.31	0.18	Pop3
	0.89	14.84	2.71	0.04	0.18	0.09	0.18	0.09	Q3d
	0.27	20.0	3.07	0.04	0.09	0.04	0.27	0.18	Q3nd

Some events are multi-modal in the sky position and need to be treated separately



### Inspiral of compact binaries at cosmological distance

$$h_{+}(\tau,\theta,\varphi) = \frac{4}{d_{L}(z)} (G\mathcal{M}_{c})^{5/3} [\pi f(\tau)]^{2/3} \left(\frac{1+\cos^{2}\theta}{2}\right) \cos(2\Phi(\tau))$$
$$h_{\times}(\tau,\theta,\varphi) = \frac{4}{d_{L}(z)} (G\mathcal{M}_{c})^{5/3} [\pi f(\tau)]^{2/3} \cos\theta \sin(2\Phi(\tau))$$

$$\mathcal{M}_c = (1+z)M_c$$

Redshifted chirp mass degeneracy among the redshift and the true chirp mass



$$\dot{f_O} = \frac{96\pi^{8/3}}{5} (G\mathcal{M}_c)^{5/3} f_O^{11/3}$$

### Environmental effects on waveforms of SOBHBs in LISA

LISA can measure the dephasing in SOBHBs waveforms due to Doppler modulation and Shapiro time delay if the binary orbits a MBH



This can provide access to the central MBH parameters

