GWs for cosmology

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Lecture 2

Danièle Steer





- Lecture I: Overview on early- and late-time cosmology with GWs; current and future experiments,
 orders of magnitude
- Lecture 2: Late-time cosmology: GWs and $d_L(z)$
 - GWs in theories beyond GR, $d_L^{GW}(z)$
 - standard sirens I: Measuring H_0 with GWs and O3 results of LVK
 - Back to early-time universe: an example of what physics we can probe.
- Lecture 3 (Chiara Caprini):
 - cosmological stochastic GW background: early-universe cosmology with GWs Solutions of the GW propagation equation in FLRW; its calculation for different sources (inflation, topological defects, first order phase transitions)
- Lecture 4 (Nicola Tamanini):

- Standard sirens II: more details, statistical methods, future prospects

- Lecture 5 (Tania Regimbau):
 - astrophysical stochastic GW background: Definition/statistical properties, pulsar timing arrays and background from supermassive BH binaries, LVK results, prospects for the future.

Gravitational waves for cosmology

late-time universe

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Individual resolvable astrophysical sources and populations of sources

at cosmological distances

e.g. binary neutron stars (BNS), binary black holes (BBH), neutron star-black-hole binary (NS-BH) Rotating asymmetric neutron stars supernova explosions...

- Expansion rate H(z)

– Hubble constant H_0

 $-\Omega_m$

. . . .

- beyond ΛCDM , dark energy w(z)
- late-time modified gravity (modified GW propagation)
- astrophysics; eg populations of BBHs

 $\ \ \, t\gtrsim t_{Pl}$

Very early universe until today

Stochastic GW background

astrophysical and cosmological origin

$$\Omega_{\rm gw}(t_0, f) = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{\rm gw}}{df}(t_0, f)$$

- population of BH, white dwarfs..
- inflationary GWs
- Ist order Phase transitions
- topological defects
- scalar induced GWs
- primordial black holes
- axions
- early modified gravity...

More speculative. Early universe sources beyond standard model of particle physics!





 $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} + \dots$

 $v/c \ll 1$

- The *merger phase* generally requires numerical relativity other other techniques such as effective one-body techniques, see e.g. (Deruelle and Uzan 2018) for an introduction.
- The *ringdown phase* can also be approached with perturbative methods, namely BH perturbation theory, see e.g. (Kokkotas and Schmidt 1999; Santoni 2024).

We estimated orders of magnitude for the inspiral phase

[assumptions (i) lowest order order PN expansion; (ii) point particles of mass m1 and m2, no tidal effects, (iii) no spins, (iv) Circular orbits, (v) and ignoring cosmology (assumed a flat space-time)

$$- \text{Frequency:} \quad f_{GW}(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{G\mathcal{M}}{c^3} \right)^{-5/8} \left(\frac{5}{256} \right)^{3/8} (t - t_c)^{-3/8}$$
with chirp mass $\mathcal{M} \equiv \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{3/5}}{(m_1 + m_2)^{1/5}}$

$$- \text{merger frequency:} \quad f_{\text{merger}} \simeq \frac{1}{6^{3/2}} \left(\frac{c^3}{G(m_1 + m_2)} \right)$$

-Time in detector band
$$f_{\text{low}}$$
: $T \sim 10^{-3} f_{\text{low}}^{-8/3} \left(\frac{c^3}{G \mathscr{M}} \right)$ (assuming $f_{\text{low}} \ll f_{\text{merger}}$)

- gravitational wave polarisations : $h_{+,\times} \sim \frac{4}{R} \left(\frac{GM}{c^2}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{\rm GW}}{c}\right)^{2/3}$



different phenomenological waveform models, calibrated to numerical-relativity simulations, including spins, eccentricity, higher order modes, ringdown....

- The *inspiral phase* can be understood with perturbation theory (the "post-Newtonian (PN) expansion" of the Einstein equations) presented below, more details in (Thorne 1980; Blanchet 2006; Poisson and Will 2014).
- The *merger phase* generally requires numerical relativity other other techniques such as effective one-body techniques, see e.g. (Deruelle and Uzan 2018) for an introduction.
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- gravitational wave polarisations :
$$h_{+,\times} \sim \frac{4}{R} \left(\frac{G\mathcal{M}}{c^2}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{\rm GW}}{c}\right)^{2/3}$$
 (inclination angle factors)

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$$h_{+} = \frac{4}{R} \left(\frac{GM}{c^{2}}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{\text{GW}}(t_{R})}{c}\right)^{2/3} \frac{1 + \cos^{2} \iota}{2} \cdot \cos(2\Phi(t_{R}))$$
with $\Phi(t) = \int_{t_{c}}^{t} 2\pi f_{\text{GW}}(t')dt' + \Phi(t_{c})$

$$h_{\times} = \frac{4}{R} \left(\frac{GM}{c^{2}}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{\text{GW}}(t_{R})}{c}\right)^{2/3} \cos\iota \cdot \cos(2\Phi(t_{R}))$$

$$= -2 \left(\frac{t_{R}}{5GM}\right)^{5/8} + \Phi(t_{c})$$

- gravitational wave polarisations : $h_{+,\times} \sim \frac{4}{R} \left(\frac{G\mathcal{M}}{c^2}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{\rm GW}}{c}\right)^{2/3}$ (inclination angle factors)

Inspiral of compact binaries at cosmological distances

Turn on expansion, FRWL universe.

$$ds^{2} = -dt^{2} + a^{2}(t)d\vec{x}^{2} = a^{2}(\eta)[-d\eta^{2} + d\vec{x}^{2}]$$



Idea:

• in local wave-zone of the source (scales large relative to source, small relative to Hubble), have previous solution

• then propagate it in FRWL space-time to observer

- Standard time dilation

$$dt = \frac{a(t_0)}{a(t_s)} dt_s = (1+z)dt_s$$
 $f = \frac{f_s}{1+z}$

- GW amplitude scales as
$$a^{-1}$$
: why?



From source to observer:

• Perturbed FRWL metric (ignoring scalars and vectors):

$$ds^{2} = -dt^{2} + a^{2}(t) \left[(\delta_{ij} + h_{ij}^{\text{TT}}) dx^{i} dx^{j} \right] \qquad \qquad |h_{ij}| \ll 1$$
$$h_{i}^{i} = \partial_{j} h_{i}^{j} = 0$$

• Linearised Einstein equations $\prod h_{ij}^{TT} = \bar{\nabla}_{\mu} \bar{\nabla}^{\mu} h_{ij}^{TT} = 0$, away from the source

$$\ddot{h}_{ij}^{\text{TT}}(t,\vec{x}) + 3H\dot{h}_{ij}^{\text{TT}}(t,\vec{x}) - \frac{\overrightarrow{\nabla}^2}{a^2}h_{ij}^{\text{TT}}(t,\vec{x}) = 0$$

• In conformal time ($' = d/d\eta$) and Fourier space

$$h_{ij}^{\prime\prime \mathrm{TT}}(\eta,\vec{k}) + 2\mathcal{H}h_{ij}^{\prime \mathrm{TT}}(t,\vec{k}) - k^2 h_{ij}^{\mathrm{TT}}(t,\vec{k}) = 0 \qquad \text{with } \mathcal{H} = \frac{a'}{a}$$

• Change of variable

$$h = \frac{Q}{a} \quad \Rightarrow \quad Q'' + \left(k^2 - \frac{a''}{a}\right)Q = 0$$

- On subHubble scales $Q'' + k^2 Q \sim 0 \Rightarrow Q \sim e^{\pm i k \eta}$
- Thus for sub-Hubble modes

$$h(\vec{k},\eta) = \frac{A(\vec{k})}{a(\eta)}e^{ik\eta} + \frac{B(\vec{k})}{a(\eta)}e^{-ik\eta}$$

Redshifting amplitude

at source

$$h_{+}(t_{s},\vec{x}) = \frac{4}{R} \left(\frac{G\mathcal{M}}{c^{2}}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{\mathrm{GW}}(t_{R}^{s})}{c}\right)^{2/3} \frac{1+\cos^{2}\iota}{2} \cdot \cos(2\Phi(t_{R}^{s}))$$
$$h_{\times}(t_{s},\vec{x}) = \frac{4}{R} \left(\frac{G\mathcal{M}}{c^{2}}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{\mathrm{GW}}(t_{R}^{s})}{c}\right)^{2/3} \frac{\cos\iota \cdot \cos(2\Phi(t_{R}^{s}))}{c}$$

$$\Phi(t_R^s) = -2\left(\frac{t_R^s}{5G\mathcal{M}}\right)^{5/8} + \Phi(t_c)$$

Becomes at the observer

$$h_{+}(t,\vec{x}) = \frac{4}{d_{L}} \left(\frac{G\mathcal{M}_{z}}{c^{2}}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{\rm GW}(t_{R})}{c}\right)^{2/3} \frac{1+\cos^{2}\iota}{2} \cdot \cos(2\Phi(t_{R}))$$
$$h_{\times}(t,\vec{x}) = \frac{4}{d_{L}} \left(\frac{G\mathcal{M}_{z}}{c^{2}}\right)^{5/3} \left(\frac{\pi f_{\rm GW}(t_{R})}{c}\right)^{2/3} \cos\iota \cdot \cos(2\Phi(t_{R}))$$

Amplitude depends on the **luminosity distance**
$$d_L = a(t_0)R(1 + z)$$

$$d_L(z) = \frac{c(1+z)}{H_0} \int_0^z \frac{dz'}{\left[\Omega_m (1+z')^3 + \Omega_\Lambda (1+z')^{3(1+w(z'))}\right]^{1/2}}$$

$$\Phi(t_R^s) = -2\left(\frac{t_R}{5G\mathcal{M}_z}\right)^{5/8} + \Phi(t_c)$$

• Phase depends on redshifted chirp mass

$$m_{1,2}^{\det}(z) = (1+z)m_{1,2}$$
$$\mathcal{M}_z = (1+z)\mathcal{M}$$

redshifted / detector frame masses

Cosmological setting

 $(m_1, \vec{\chi_1})$



dominant quadrupole mode: degeneracy between distance and inclination gives large, even up to 40% errors on luminosity distance.

Cosmological setting



dominant quadrupole mode: degeneracy between distance and inclination gives large, up to -40% errors on luminosity distance.



 $(m_1, \vec{\chi}_1)$



 $d_L(z) = \frac{c(1+z)}{H_0} \int_0^z \frac{dz'}{\left[\Omega_m (1+z')^3 + \Omega_\Lambda (1+z')^{3(1+w(z'))}\right]^{1/2}}$

• But for point sources, perfect degeneracy between source masses, redshift, spins. Some extra non gravitational information necessary to determine z.

 $d_L = rac{cz}{H_0} - rac{\Delta H_0}{H_0} \sim rac{\Delta z}{z} + rac{\Delta D_L}{D_L}$

Crux of doing late-time cosmology with GWs is to determine redshift of the sources.

Reminder..



$h(t, \alpha, \delta, \dots) = F_+(t, \alpha, \delta, \psi)h_+(t) + F_x(t, \alpha, \delta, \psi)h_x(t)$



•=GW170817





- OI \circ 3 BBHs
- **O2** \circ 7 BBHs
 - I BNS with EM counterpart GW170817
- O3 \circ 4 events compatible with NSBH masses • 2 events compatible with BNS masses ○ ~80 BBHs.

• O4a ; O4b and since end January O4c

Public alerts: https://gracedb.ligo.org/ https://emfollow.docs.ligo.org/ https://gwosc.org/



For all of these events LVK provides the SNR and posterior distributions for the different parameters redshifted masses, luminosity distances, sky localisation, spins...



GWTC-I catalogue events



Fig. 3 Left panel: 90% confidence level intervals for luminosity distance and ι (indicated as θ_{jn}) for the ten BBH events in [32]. Right panel: 90% confidence level intervals for luminosity distance and chirp mass for the ten BBH events in [32]

• Typically have 10-40% error on the distance measurement due to degeneracy with incliation. Reduces marginally by having more detectors, but even for very loud sources and with HLVKI the minimum is ~10% depending on position on the skyunless.....



14.4%

12.6%

e.g. can measure higher order modes

- Two polarisation modes generally decomposed into spin -2 weighted spherical harmonics: $h_+ - ih_{\times} = \sum_{\ell=2} \sum_{m=-\ell} Y_{\ell m}(i, \varphi) h_{\ell m},$
- So far discussed the dominant quadrupolar mode.
- Higher order modes generally depend on the mass difference, and scale differently with inclination. •

$$\Delta = \frac{(m_1 - m_2)}{(m_1 + m_2)},$$



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 $m_1 \sim 30 M_{\odot}, m_2 \sim 8 M_{\odot}$

Fig. 4 GW190412: Posterior distribution for the luminosity distance and inclination. The central plot shows the 90% confidence level for different waveform approximants namely: the dominant multipole (and no precession), higher multipoles and no precession; and higher multipoles and precession. The impact of higher multipoles on constraining the inclination and distance is clear. The top and side plots show the marginal posteriors of ι and d_L respectively. Figure from [37]

Late time cosmology (H_0, Ω_m) with GWs: results + future

• The hope: GWs can say something about the ~5-sigma tension between measurements that calculate the sound horizon at decoupling (+assumption of Lambda CDM) and those that do not?



GW results with LVK observations

Determining the redshift

Reminder: for point sources, there's a perfect degeneracy between source masses, redshift, spins. <u>Some extra non gravitational information necessary to determine z.</u>

- Bright siren method, requires EM counterparts. [B.Schutz, '86]

Potentially most accurate for cosmological parameters.

- LVK: only one seen so far, GW170817, with optical identification of host galaxy.
- ET: how many are expected?
- LISA. SMBHB mergers may be accompanied by an electromagnetic counterpart (generated by gas accreting on the binary or on the remnant BH). Expected rate: ~7-20 per year! [Mangiagli et al 2207.16078]

- **Spectral siren** method

Requires knowledge of underlying astrophysical properties At sounder Das Faribaility SIRENS

- Dark siren method = spectral sirens + information from galaxy catalogues. (But often these may not be complete, and will definitely in the sate of t

- NS, a measure of the tidal deformability + equation of state

S.Mastrogiovanni & DAS, "Handbook of Gravitational Wave Astronomy" (2022)



Bright sirens

(NS-NS or NS-BH mergers).



Figure 1. Summary of potential electromagnetic counterparts of NS-NS/ NS-BH mergers discussed in this paper, as a function of the observer angle, θ_{obs} . Following the merger a centrifugally supported disk (blue) remains around the central compact object (usually a BH). Rapid accretion lasting ≤ 1 s powers a collimated relativistic jet, which produces a short-duration gammaray burst (Section 2). Due to relativistic beaming, the gamma-ray emission is restricted to observers with $\theta_{obs} \leq \theta_j$, the half-opening angle of the jet. Non-thermal afterglow emission results from the interaction of the jet with the surrounding circumburst medium (pink). Optical afterglow emission is observable on timescales up to \sim days–weeks by observers with viewing angles of $\theta_{\rm obs} \leq 2\theta_i$ (Section 3.1). Radio afterglow emission is observable from all viewing angles (isotropic) once the jet decelerates to mildly relativistic speeds on a timescale of weeks-months, and can also be produced on timescales of years from sub-relativistic ejecta (Section 3.2). Short-lived isotropic optical emission lasting \sim few days (kilonova; yellow) can also accompany the merger, powered by the radioactive decay of heavy elements synthesized in the ejecta (Section 4).

For GW170817:

- 30 deg2 localisation area, SNR ~ 30
- measure redshift from optical identification of the host galaxy (NGC4993 in the Hydra constellation)



[LVC+, ApJL (2017)]

[Metzger&Berger, ApJ (2012)]

Bright sirens: Cosmology with GW170817

source distance ~ 40 Mpc • [LVK+, ApJL, 848 (2017)]. 50 50 40 40 30 qr[Mpc] 20 30 30 dL[Mpc] 20 50% CI 10 10 90% CI Median 0 0 -0.015 0.010 0.000 0.005 0.020 0.005 0.000 Z 50

BNS detected by LIGO and Virgo.

lacksquare

40 30 d_L[Mpc] 20 10 $H_0 = 70^{+12}_{-8}$ $\rm km\,s^{-1}\,Mpc^{-1}$ GW170817 нфн 0 0.000 0.005 0.010 0.015 0.020 z

 Short Gamma-ray burst and Kilonova allowed the identification of the source host galaxy NGC4993.

-

GW170817





Errors:

/ peculiar velocities

$$v_H = 3017 \pm 166 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}.$$

2/ distance $d = 43.8^{+2.9}_{-6.9} \,\mathrm{Mpc}$ ~15% error

3/ statistical measurement error from noise in detectors instrumentation calibration

uncertainties



Initial intuitions

• Uncertainty largely due to degeneracy distance/ inclination

$$h_+ \propto \frac{1 + \cos^2 \iota}{D_L} \qquad h_{\times} \propto \frac{\cos \iota}{D_L}$$



• Any sky location where distance uncertainty is smaller? "Golden spots" for H0 measurement?

Abbott et al. Phys. Rev. X 9, 011001 2019

10 oct 2019

Assemblée Générale GdR OG

3



• radio band observations with VLBI ==> estimate of inclination $15 < \iota (d_L/41 \text{Mpc}) < 25$ [Hotokezaka, 2019]



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Uncertainty largely due to degeneracy distance/ inclination

$$h_+ \propto \frac{1 + \cos^2 \iota}{D_L} \qquad h_{\times} \propto \frac{\cos \iota}{D_L}$$

Two polarizations may help to resolve the degeneracy Ex: GW170817 with significant SNR in LIGO HL and Virgo

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with counterparts, depending on EM facilities operating at the time

Spectral siren method = prior knowledge of source frame mass distribution.

• Phase of GW signal depends on the "detector frame" masses which are redshifted relative to the "source frame" masses

$$m_{1,2}^{\text{det}} = [1 + z(d_L, H_0, \dots)]m_{1,2}$$

• knowledge of source mass (for a population or individual source), together with observed "detector" mass can infer z-distribution.



Spectral siren method = prior knowledge of source frame mass distribution.

 $p(m_1)$

• Phase of GW signal depends on the "detector frame" masses which are redshifted relative to the "source frame" masses

 $m_{1,2}^{\text{det}} = [1 + z(d_L, H_0, ...)]m_{1,2}$

• knowledge of source mass (for a population or individual source), together with observed "detector" mass can infer z-distribution.

 Cosmological parameters jointly inferred with source-frame population parameters

[Mastrogiovanni et al 2103.14663]





Merger Ring-

Inspiral

Does it really work and how well? Simulated data

[Mastrogiovanni et al 2103.14663]

• Simulated a set of BBH GW events (*power-law* + *gaussian peak model*, *described by* 8 *parameters*) detected in LVK data assuming sensitivities comparable to the O2 and O3 observing runs



FIG. 1. Simulated population of 1024 observed events, showing the mass distributions (in the detector and source frames) and redshift distribution. Use hierarchical Bayesian inference scheme to <u>estimate</u> jointly the source-frame mass model parameter and cosmological parameters H₀, Ω_m, ...



• tight correlation between estimation of source frame mass spectrum + cosmo parameters.



- If one FIXES the underlying mass model rather than varying to be estimated together with cosmological parameters —- then leads to big errors.
- e.g. $m_{\rm max}$ fixed to incorrect values in a range around its true value



FIG. 6. Posterior distribution on the H_0 , m_{max} and μ_g for 64 BBH events detected with LIGO and Virgo at current sensitivities. The blue lines show the true parameters. The contours indicate the 1σ and 2σ confidence level intervals.

FIG. 7. Posterior distribution for H_0 obtained by fixing m_{max} and μ_g in a range around their true values $m_{\text{max}} = 85M_{\odot}$ and $\mu_g = 40M_{\odot}$. The black dashed line indicates the true value of H_0 .

Applied to GWTC3 :

LVK: arXiv:2111.03604

Representative figure of the 42 BBH events with SNR>11 in GWTC3. For the figure, COSMOLOGY HAS BEEN FIXED TO PLANCK VALUES!



Applied to GWTC3 :

• 3 parametric mass models considered (assumed to be independent of redshift, see Nicola's lectures)



Applied to GWTC3 :

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- galaxy catalogues working in optical and IR bands measure billions of galaxies, $z + \delta z$; sky position;....
- How can these be combined with GW observations?



$$p(\Xi_0|\mathcal{D}_{\rm GW}) \propto \frac{\pi(\Xi_0)}{\beta(\Xi_0)^{N_{\rm obs}}} \prod_{i=1}^{N_{\rm obs}} \int dz d\Omega \, p(\mathcal{D}_{\rm GW}^i|d_L(z;\Xi_0),\hat{\Omega}) \, p_0(z,\hat{\Omega})$$

Thursday 28 January 21

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The idea: given some GW event :



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Thursday 28 January 21

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0.000

 $H_0 = 75^{+40}_{-32} \,\mathrm{km} \,\mathrm{s}^{-1}\mathrm{Mpc}^{-1}$

20

40

60

 $H_0 \; (\mathrm{km \; s^{-1} \; Mpc^{-1}})^{10}$

100

120

(Flat H_0 prior, range [20, 140])

140



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The idea: given some GW event :



Ra



Thursday 28 January 21

STATISTICAL METH Dark sirens = **Spectral siren** with galaxy catalogue info.

- galaxy catalogues working in optical and IR bands measure billions of galaxies $z + \delta z$; sky position;
- How can these be combined with GW observations?

The idea: given some GW event :



100

Dark sirens = **Spectral siren** with galaxy catalogue info.

Applied to O3 data:

- Galaxy catalogues:
 - I/ Glade+ all sky
 - 22 million galaxies,
 - 20% completeness up to 800 Mpc since flux limited..
 - photometric redshifts with relative errors

2/ **DES** catalogue

• Include all galaxies in 99.9% estimated sky area of each GW event.

- BUT method not so powerful yet as :

I/ bad localisation of most GW events (best is NS-BH GW190814)

redshift distribution of galaxies in catalogue Distribution constant in comoving volume

2/ many events are outside the range of the galaxy catalogue [galaxies too faint to be observed]



=> this method must be combined with the previous one. For O3, results dominated by the population; no significant information from the catalogue.



Figure 1. The probability that the host galaxy is inside the galaxy catalog, shown for GLADE (gray curves) and DES-Y1 (orange curve), as a function of redshift. For GLADE, this quantity is calculated for each individual event, using the completeness estimated within each event's sky localization. For DES-Y1, the curve is only valid in the patch of sky covering GW170814. Each curve is independent of the value of H_0 . The vertical lines show the median redshift (assuming a Planck 2015 cosmology) for each event as in Table 1. These lines are thick and solid up to the intercept with the galaxy catalog they are used with, and thin and dashed above.



Power LAW + Peak

Prospects for cosmological parameter measurements: See Nicola's lecture!



with **ET/CE**

Assuming galaxy catalogues will be complete up to z = l

- best constraints: ET+CEI+CE2 network, $H_0 \sim 0.7\%$ and Ω_m at 9.0% and 90% confidence level
- -Assuming Ω_m known perfectly a priori, a ET+CEI => 0.3% precision in H_0

[arXiv: 2303.10693]



b) Assume friction term is linked to dark energy content of the universe [1404.3713...]

$$\alpha_M(z) = c_M \frac{\Omega_{\Lambda}(z)}{\Omega_{\Lambda}(0)},$$

$$d_L^{\text{GW}} = d_L^{\text{EM}} \exp\left[\frac{c_M}{2\Omega_{\Lambda,0}} \ln \frac{1+z}{\Omega_{m,0}(1+z)^3 + \Omega_{\Lambda,0}}\right]$$

c) Model an extra dimensional universe with screening scale, motivated from e.g. [0709.0003,

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Results using O3 data :

• Comparing Bayes factors: GR with multi-peak model is preferred!



Blue: SNR >11, Orange SNR >12, green SNR >10

 For all modified gravity models, values of parameters are compatible with their GR values at 90% confidence level!

O4 will constrain these models...see set of papers due to come out in the summer.

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 orders of magnitude
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Early universe cosmology, a few more details on the cosmological SGWB from cosmic strings

Examples of cosmological SGWB signals: Next generation detectors (SKA, LISA and ET/CE)





- Models A and B are meant to describe exactly the same physics!
- If Model B is the unique source of the SGWB signal in PTA then LVK constraints actually already exclude it! $\log_{10}(G\mu) = -10.63^{+0.24}_{-0.22}$.
- Model A would lead to an extremely loud signal in ET, with SNR $\sim 10^3$

 $G\mu \gtrsim (4.0 - 6.3) \times 10^{-15}$

Cosmic strings

• Line-like topological defects which may be formed in symmetry breaking phase transitions.... [Symmetry group G, unbroken symmetry subgroup H =>vacuum manifold $\mathcal{M} = G/H$; strings formed if $\Pi_1(\mathcal{M}) \neq 1$]

in condensed matter systems (He3, He4, superconductors, BEC, NLC...), quantum field theories, in soft matter, and in cosmology

[Physics Reports 1075 (2024) 1–137]

 $G\mu \sim 10^{-6} \left(\frac{\eta}{10^{16} \text{ GeV}}\right)^2$

[TWB Kibble 1976]

e.g. – grand unification phase transition

- Peccei-Quinn transition (to explain smallness

of CP violations in QCD), a global U(1) symmetry is broken.)

• If formed, a string network cannot disappear. It will still exist today, and source GWs today

• One parameter only: string tension, and this fixes all gravitational properties

• Most well studied strings are local
$$U(1)$$
 strings, CMB: $G\mu \lesssim 1.7 \times 10^{-1}$







- a network of strings forms at the phase transition, and evolves as the universe expands.

- string width $w \sim 1/\eta \ll$ macroscopic string size => simplified dynamics (Nambu-Goto action = equivalent of the geodesic equation for a particle)

- and when strings collide



[Shellard et al,...] [Achucarro and de Putter '06]

- in particular that means loops form







- So have all the ingredients to understand the evolution of the network, but difficult because it's highly non-linear, and a wide range of scales in the problem.
- Some things are clear. It's the relativistic loops that source GWs
 - -They oscillate periodically in time $T \sim 1/\ell$
 - they emit GWs in harmonics n = 1, 2, 3... of the fundamental mode: loops lose length $\ell = -\Gamma G \mu$

- most emission in the lowest modes. Except...



- Some things are not clear.

- How many loops of length ℓ are there at time *t*; i.e. the loop density distribution $n(\ell, t)$?
- depends on how many loops (what initial size at time t) are produced via intercommutation
- and here is where the disagreements start!
- To cut a very long story short, there's agreement that loops
 "scale" (their total energy density is a fixed fraction of the energy density of the universe, and this is an attractor solution)
- and there's agreement on the shape of $n(\ell, t)$ on scales $\ell \gg \Gamma G \mu$ (which can be probed with numerical simulations that have no GWs)
- but there's disagreement on the shape of $n(\ell, t)$ on scales $\ell \ll \Gamma G \mu$



Small loops = high frequencies GWs = Different predictions for SGWB at high frequencies.





[Caprini et al, 2406.02359]



SGWB : sum over GW emission produced from all oscillating loops produced during the evolution of the string network to today; redshift the frequency; and remove the rare bursts

Rare bursts: none detected by LVK, putting upper constraints on the string tension, but these less stringent than the SGWB constraints from LVK.

- Not a totally crazy thing to think about: in the Peccei-Quinn mechanism (to explain smallness of CP violations in QCD), a global U(1) symmetry is broken.

In some realisations, both strings and domain walls form.

Phenomenological consequences (dark matter, GWs etc) require understanding the evolution of these defect networks.

[Ferreira et al 2107.07542, Franciolini, Racco, Rompineve, Rompineve, Pujolas et al Buchmann et al, 2108.05368, Servant et al 2307.03121; and many others. Also many others from the '80s Sikivie et al, Battye and Shellard; AMR simulations A.Drew et al]



- Lecture I: Overview on early- and late-time cosmology with GWs; current and future experiments,
 orders of magnitude
- Lecture 2: Late-time cosmology: GWs and $d_L(z)$
 - GWs in theories beyond GR, $d_L^{GW}(z)$
 - standard sirens I: Measuring H_0 with GWs and O3 results of LVK
 - Back to early-time universe: an example of what physics we can probe.
- Lecture 3 (Chiara Caprini):
 - cosmological stochastic GW background: early-universe cosmology with GWs Solutions of the GW propagation equation in FLRW; its calculation for different sources (inflation, topological defects, first order phase transitions)
- Lecture 4 (Nicola Tamanini):

- Standard sirens II: more details, statistical methods, future prospects

- Lecture 5 (Tania Regimbau):
 - astrophysical stochastic GW background: Definition/statistical properties, pulsar timing arrays and background from supermassive BH binaries, LVK results, prospects for the future.