Simplicity of Binary Black Hole Coalescence and its Implications for Detection

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Welcome to the Center for Relativistic Astrophysics

The Center for Relativistic Astrophysics (CRA) is devoted to interdisciplinary research and education linking astrophysics, astroparticle physics, numerical relativity and gravitational wave physics. Our research focuses on extreme astrophysics such as mergers of black holes and neutron stars, central engines of active galactic nuclei, gamma ray bursts, and sources of the high energy cosmic rays and neutrinos.

CRA News

Multiple postdoctoral positions available for 2009! Details here

Faculty

- David Ballantyne
- Pablo Laguna (Director)
- Deirdre Shoemaker
- James Sowell
- Ignacio Taboada
- Paul Wiita

Research Areas

- Gravitational Wave Astronomy
- Numerical Relativity
- Particle Astrophysics
- <u>High-energy Astrophysics</u>

The Universe Today





Binary Black Hole Coalescence

- Numerical Relativity
 - extreme gravity, where no approximations currently hold
 - solves the Einstein equation for dynamical spacetime
 - requires computational and theoretical innovations
- Goals are to
 - unveil gravity in its strongest regime
 - inform gravitational wave detection
 - determine characteristics of final black hole
- BBH Stages
 - insprial
 - merger
 - ringdown
- Major Breakthroughs 2005 Pretorius, RIT Team, GSFC Team



Collaboration ...

arXiv:0807.3292 [ps, pdf, other]

Superkicks in Hyperbolic Encounters of Binary Black Holes

James Healy, Frank Herrmann, Ian Hinder, Deirdre M. Shoemaker, Pablo Laguna, Richard A. Matzner Comments: 4 pages, 5 figures, 1 table Subjects: General Relativity and Quantum Cosmology (gr-qc); Astrophysics (astro-ph)

arXiv:0802.2520 [ps, pdf, other]

Binary Black Hole Encounters, Gravitational Bursts and Maximum Final Spin

M. C. Washik, J. Healy, F. Herrmann, I. Hinder, D. M. Shoemaker, P. Laguna, R. A. Matzner Comments: Replaced with version to appear in PRL Subjects: General Relativity and Quantum Cosmology (gr-gc); Astrophysics (astro-ph)

arXiv:0706.2541 [ps, pdf, other]

Binary Black Holes: Spin Dynamics and Gravitational Recoil

Frank Herrmann, Ian Hinder, Deirdre M. Shoemaker, Pablo Laguna, Richard A. Matzner Comments: 15 pages, 10 figures, replaced with version accepted for publication in PRD Subjects: General Relativity and Quantum Cosmology (gr-qc); Astrophysics (astro-ph)

arXiv:gr-qc/0701143 [ps, pdf, other]

Gravitational recoil from spinning binary black hole mergers Frank Herrmann, Ian Hinder, Deirdre Shoemaker, Pablo Laguna, Richard A. Matzner Comments: 8 pages, 8 figures, replaced with version accepted for publication in ApJ Subjects: General Relativity and Quantum Cosmology (gr-qc); Astrophysics (astro-ph)

Binary Black Holes in Eccentric Orbits

- Eccentric Binaries in the non-linear phase
- Comparing with post-Newtonian [Hinder, Herrmann, Laguna, Shoemaker arXiv:0806:1037 (2008)]
- How does the binary approach its final state? [Hinder, Vaishnav, Herrmann, Laguna, Shoemaker PRD 77, 081502 (2008)]
- Are ground-based detectors blind to eccentric, intermediate mass black hole binaries?

[Vaishnav, Hinder, Herrmann, Shoemaker in preparation]



Binary Black Holes in Eccentric Orbits



Ranger, TACC





- Cactus & Carpet (Schnetter)
- Moving punctures approach (RIT & NASA)
- Kranc (Husa, Hinder, Lechner)
- 6th order finite differencing
- Initial Data: PN parameters in puncture approach and TwoPuncture Code (Ansorg)

Gravitational Waveform





During the merger, at least 3% of the mass of the binary is converted to energy.

$$E = \epsilon 20 M_{\odot} c^2$$
$$L = \frac{E}{t} = 7 \times 10^{41} \text{ergs/s}$$



Early Stage: Post-Newtonian

Binary Black Hole Codes Today



Comparisons with Post-Newtonian: Finding the limits of validity!

Merger waveforms: Making the most of LIGO data!



NR and PN Comparisons

Circular Comparisons: equal-mass, non-spinning comparisons agree up to 2-3 orbits before merger.



- Baker et al (2006) and (2007)
- Buonanno et al (2006)
- Boyle et al (2007) and (2008)
- Berti et al (2007)
- Pan et al (2008)
- Hannam et al (2007) and (2008)
- Damour et al (2008)



Based on Ian Hinder et al arXiv:0806.1037

PN Waveforms

3 PN conservative quasi-Keplerian expressions [Memmesheimer, Gopakumar and Schaefer, 2004]

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \left((2\pi + \Delta \phi)/P \right)^{2/3} \\ r/M &= \left[1 - e_t \cos u \right] x^{-1} + r_{1\text{PN}} + r_{2\text{PN}} x + r_{3\text{PN}} x^2 + \mathcal{O} \left(x^3 \right) \\ M \dot{\varphi} &= \frac{1\sqrt{1 - e_t^2}}{\left[1 - e_t \cos u \right]^2} x^{3/2} + \dot{\varphi}_{1\text{PN}} x^{5/2} + \dot{\varphi}_{2\text{PN}} x^{7/2} + \dot{\varphi}_{3\text{PN}} x^{9/2} + \mathcal{O} \left(x^{11/2} \right) \\ l &= u - e_t \sin u + l_{2\text{PN}} x^2 + l_{3\text{PN}} x^3 + \mathcal{O} \left(x^4 \right) \\ M \dot{l} &= M n = x^{3/2} + n_{1\text{PN}} x^{5/2} + n_{2\text{PN}} x^{7/2} + n_{3\text{PN}} x^{9/2} + \mathcal{O} \left(x^{11/2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Supplemented by adiabatic 2 PN radiation reaction expressions [Koenigsdoerffer and Gopakumar, 2006]

$$\begin{split} M\dot{x} &= \frac{2\eta}{15(1-e_t^2)^{7/2}} \left(96+292e_t^2+37e_t^4\right) x^5 + \dot{x}_{1\text{PN}} x^6 + \dot{x}_{1.5\text{PN}} x^{13/2} + \dot{x}_{2\text{PN}} x^7 + \mathcal{O}\left(x^{15/2}\right) \\ M\dot{e} &= \frac{-e\eta}{15(1-e_t^2)^{5/2}} \left(304+121e_t^2\right) x^4 + \dot{e}_{1\text{PN}} x^5 + \dot{e}_{1.5\text{PN}} x^{11/2} + \dot{e}_{2\text{PN}} x^6 + \mathcal{O}\left(x^{13/2}\right) \end{split}$$

We then construct restricted waveforms (Newtonian accurate in the amplitude) for the purpose of comparison with NR.

Likely require higher than 2 PN radiation reaction to match better towards end of simulation; circular case is matched using 3.5 PN.

Parameters to Fit

Nonlinear Least Squares fit of PN Parameters $y_0 \equiv [x_0, e_0, l_0, \phi_0]$ NR and PN match in the limit as $t \to -\infty$, extrapolate





for the first 8 cycles (=1000M), and grows to ~0.8 radians at $M\omega_{gw}=0.1$



The difference between NR and PN of 0.8 radians could be due to the 2PN radiation reaction, comparisons for the circular case using only 2PN radiation reaction gave similar results.

Late Phase: The Ringdown

The Approach to Kerr: How black holes loose their hair

- Black Holes in isolation:
- mass (M), angular momentum (J) and charge (Q)
- Information Lost Through:
 - Radiation
 - Horizon (Hawking radiation)
- Can NR reveal how info gets radiated in last stages?





Frequency = 54.38 Hz





• Ringdown is completely describable by damped sinusoidal functions.

 $h(t) \propto e^{-t/\tau} \sin(2\pi f t)$

• The black hole "rings" in tones given by a set of unique complex frequencies.

 $f(M,a) \quad \tau(a)$







Detection



Matched Filter



We are dominated by phase errors

$$\langle a|b\rangle = \int_{f_{low}}^{f_{max}} \frac{\tilde{a}(f)\tilde{b}^*(f)}{S_n(f)} df$$

Informing Gravitational Wave Detection



- Create Hybrid Waveforms and test analytic and hybrid template banks [Ajith et al arXiv.org:0704.376, Pan et al arXiv:0704.1964, Ajith 0710.2335, Buonanno et al 0706.3732]
- Test NR Waveforms in Matched Filtering [Buonanno et al PRD 75 (2007), Baumgarte et al gr-qc/0612100, Vaishnav et al PRD 76 (2007), Shoemaker et al 0802.4427]
- Build Template Banks & Conduct Parameter Estimation [NINJA]
- Eccentric Binaries with post-Newtonian [Martel and Poisson (1999), Tessmer, A. Gopakumar (2008)]

Are eccentric BBHs interesting for Detection of Gravitational Waves?

- BBHs circularize before they reach the LIGO band. [Gultekin, Miller, Hamilton ApJ 640 (2006) and Mandel, Brown, Gair, Miller arXiv 0705:0285]
- Some scenarios for eccentric binaries within ground based detector's reach have been suggested. [Kozai 1962, Miller and Hamilton 2002, Wen 2003, Campanelli et al 2008, ...]









At low e, error decreases with increasing mass. At high e, error increases with increasing mass.

Computational Challenges

Scalability and Bandwidth

- The most serious problem is with the AMR:
 - Cactus-Carpet
 - Samrai
 - Hahndol-Paramesh
 - BAM
- Most of current BH codes need to improve their scaling
- Memory bandwidth is already a bottleneck



Multi-messenger Astronomy Center for Relativistic Astrophysics



Photons + High Energy Particles + Gravitational waves







Conclusions for Binary Black Holes in Eccentric Orbits

- How does the binary approach its final state?
 - eccentricity sheds quickly during merger
 - peak spin of 0.72 for non-spinning, eccentric, equal-mass binaries
 - e<0.4 same final black hole formed
- Comparing with post-Newtonian
 - good agreement between NR and PN
 - phase difference less than 0.1 for first 8 cycles
 - good news for hybrid templates
- Are ground-based detectors blind to eccentricity for intermediate mass binaries?
 - yes for e<0.1 when including only dominant mode
 - chance to use LIGO to distinguish between astro models
- Computational Challenges and Future Simulations
 - Scalability
 - Multi-messenger astronomy