Gravitational Waves from the Dark Side of the Universe

Laura Sagunski

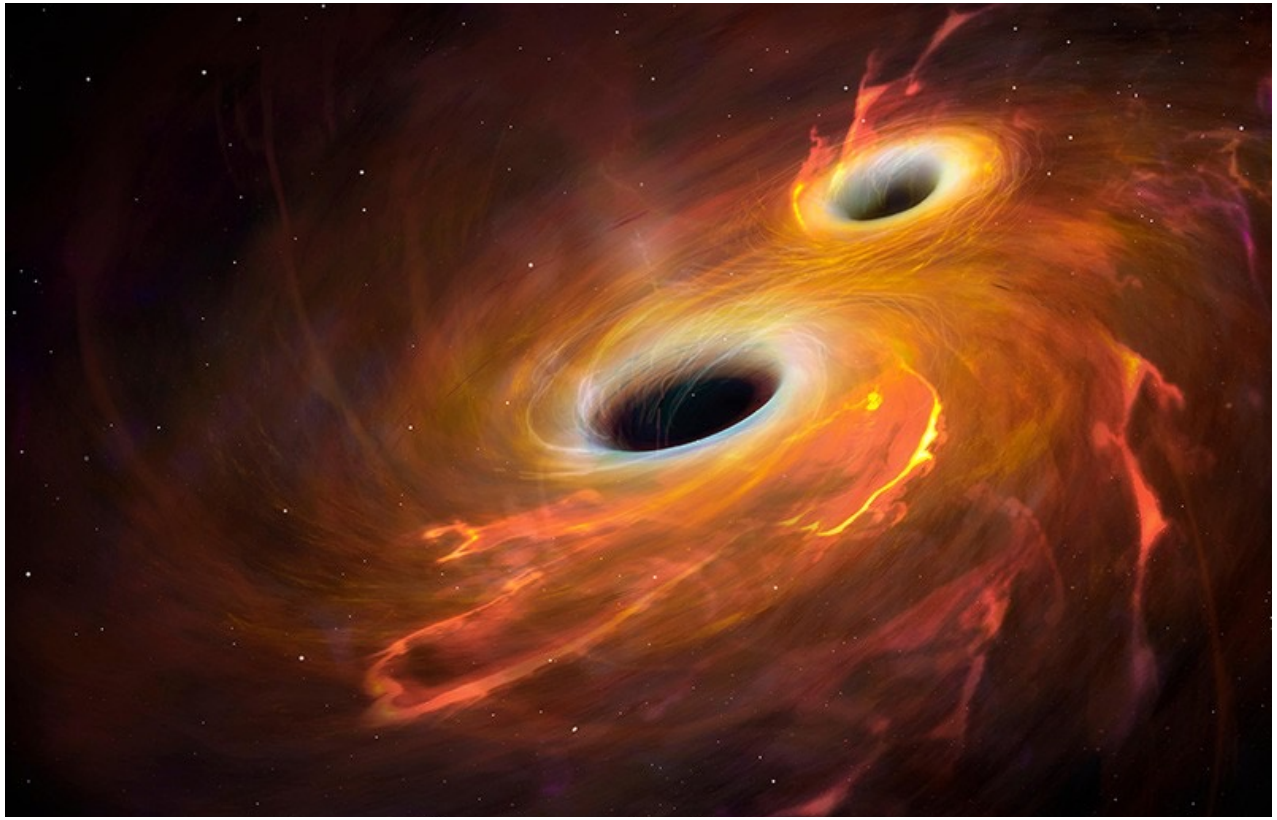
Goethe University Frankfurt

GOETHE UNIVERSITÄT

D | M | G | W Dark Matter Modified Gravity Gravitational Waves

ITP

On Sep 14, 2015, a dramatic event has taken place...

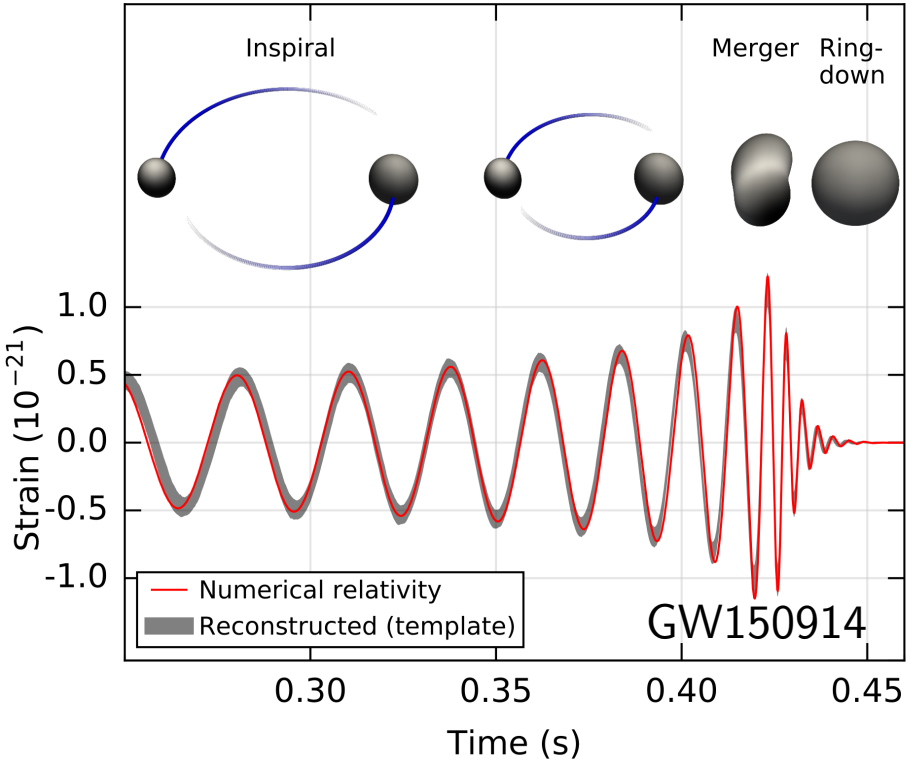


[nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03047-0]

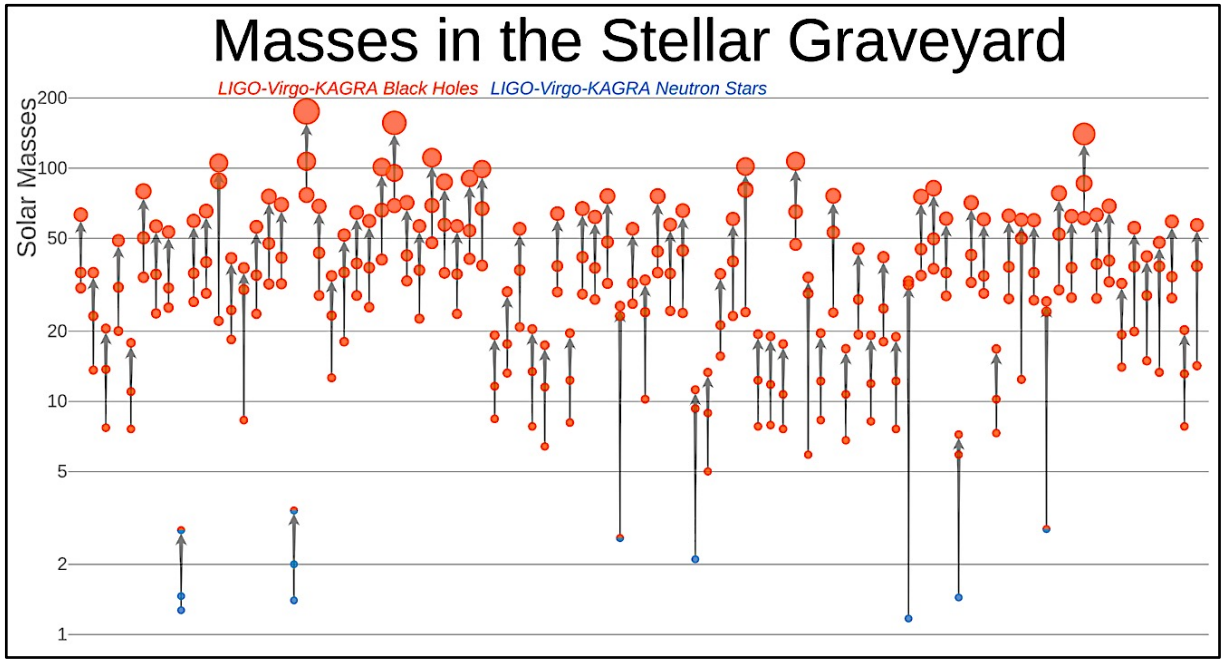
→ GW150914: first ever direct detection of GWs!

GWs from binary mergers

= Target of GW detectors such as LIGO and Virgo



[www.ligo.org/science/faq.php]



Adapted from: [LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA, Aaron Geller]

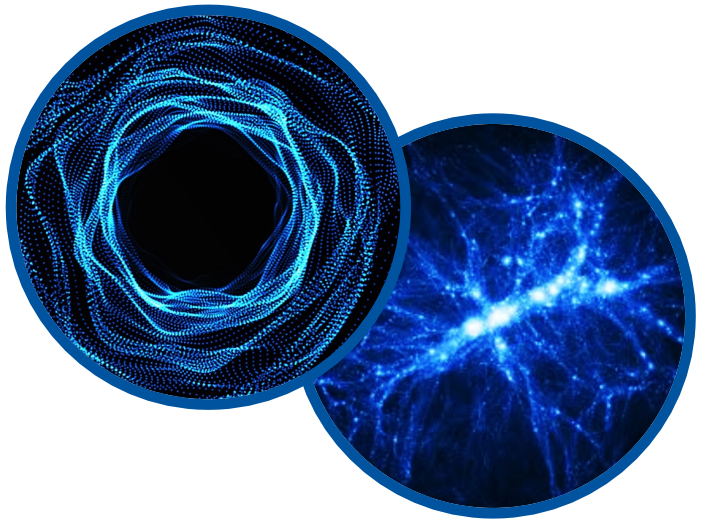
GWs from binary mergers

The GW era has just begun...

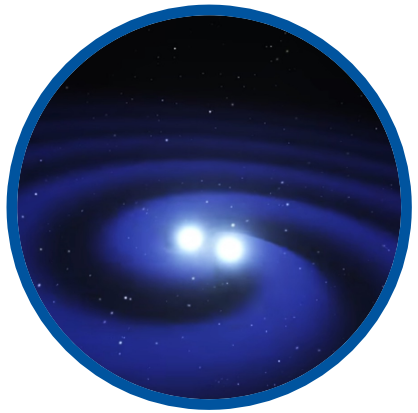
... and a whole new incredible Universe is waiting out there to be explored!

Binary mergers
= cosmic labs

New physics!



GWs
= smoking-gun signals



GWs from binary mergers

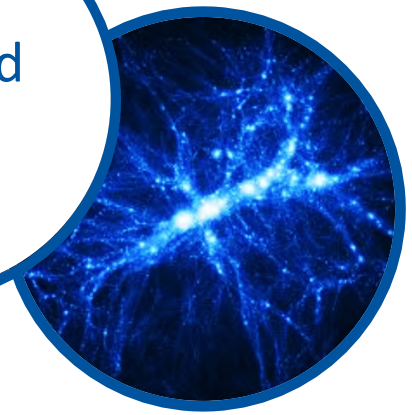
The GW era has just begun...

... and a whole new incredible Universe is waiting out there to be explored!

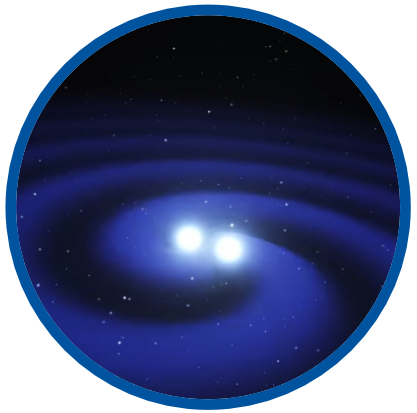
Binary mergers
= cosmic labs

New physics!

Modified gravity



GWs
= smoking-gun signals



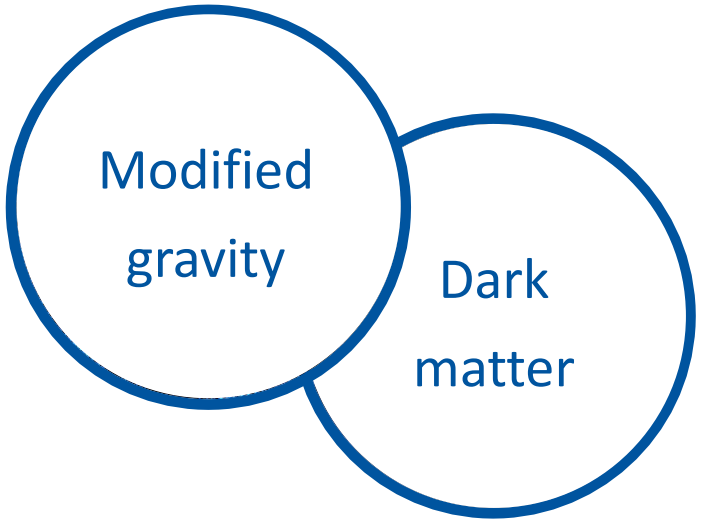
GWs from binary mergers

The GW era has just begun...

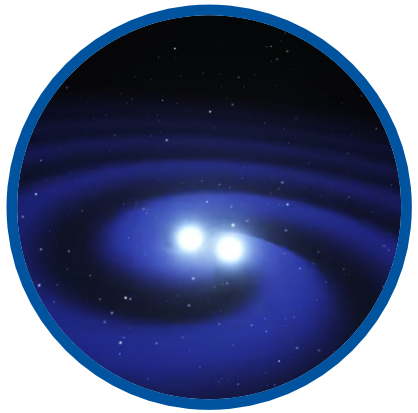
... and a whole new incredible Universe is waiting out there to be explored!

Binary mergers
= cosmic labs

New physics!



GWs
= smoking-gun signals



Modified

gravity

Why $f(R)$ gravity?

- Important role in cosmology:

  $\rightarrow$ Scalar field models of inflation e.g., [Starobinsky, '80]

  $\rightarrow$ Accelerated expansion of the Universe

  [Boisseau et al., '00][Carroll et al., '04][Hu, Sawicki, '07]

  $\rightarrow$ Viable dark matter candidate e.g., [Cembranos, '08]

- One of the simplest extensions of GR

$f(R)$ gravity

- Generalizes Einstein-Hilbert action of GR: [Sotiriou, Faraoni, '08]

$$S \sim \int d^4x \sqrt{-g}\, f(R) + S^M$$

- Dynamically equivalent to GR + a scalar field φ:

$$\varphi \sim \ln f'(R)$$

$$\rightarrow \tilde{S} \sim \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left[\tilde{R} - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\varphi\, \partial^\mu\varphi - V(\varphi)\right] + \tilde{S}^M[\varphi]$$

R^2 gravity

Function in the generalized action: [Staykov et al., '14]

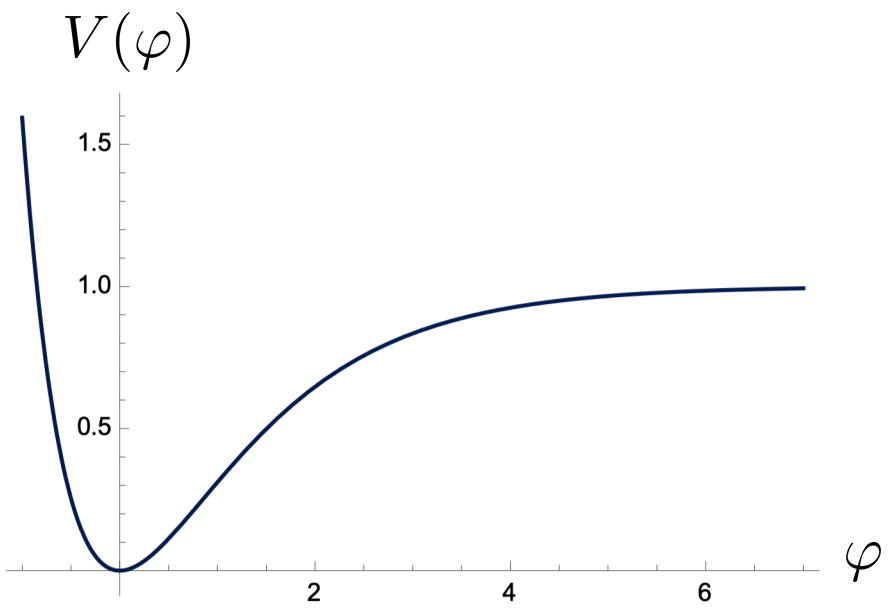
$$f(R) = R + a_2 R^2$$

→ Scalar potential:

$$V(\varphi) \sim \frac{1}{a_2}\left(1 - e^{-b\varphi}\right)^2$$

→ Scalar mass:

$$m_\varphi = \sqrt{\frac{1}{6a_2}}$$



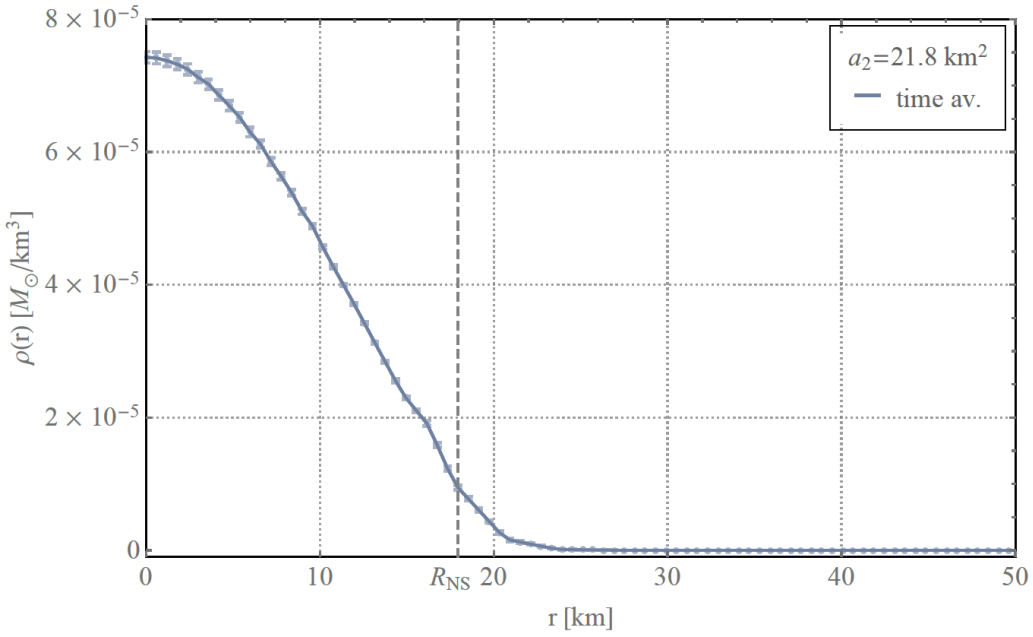
R^2 gravity

Equation of motion for φ:

Gravity + neutron star ρ, p

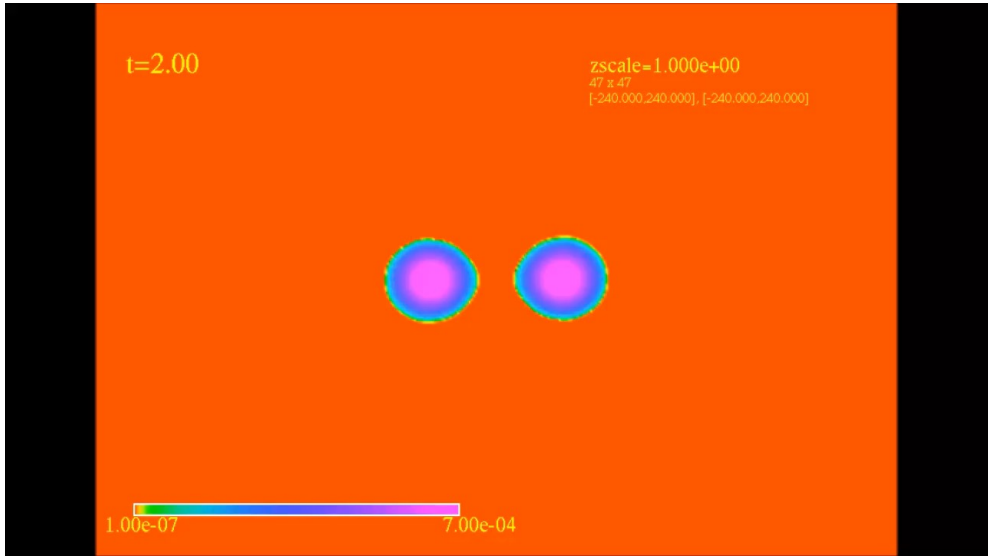
$$\Box\varphi = V'(\varphi) + \frac{1}{2} b \tilde{T}^{\mu}_{\mu}$$

[LS, Zhang, Johnson, Lehner, Sakellariadou, Liebling, Palenzuela, Neilsen, '18]

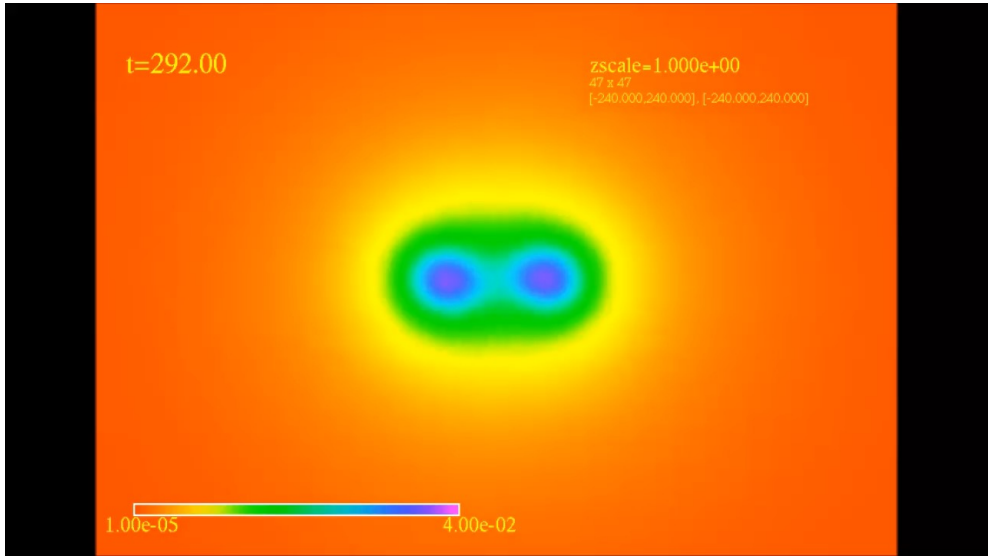


Numerical simulations

Neutron star density ρ



Scalar field φ



$$M_1 = M_2 \equiv 1.2 M_\odot,\ a_2 = 1.09 \cdot 10^9\,\mathrm{m}^2$$

[LS, Zhang, Johnson, Lehner, Sakellariadou, Liebling, Palenzuela, Neilsen, '18]

[www.had.liu.edu/][www.lorene.obspm.fr]

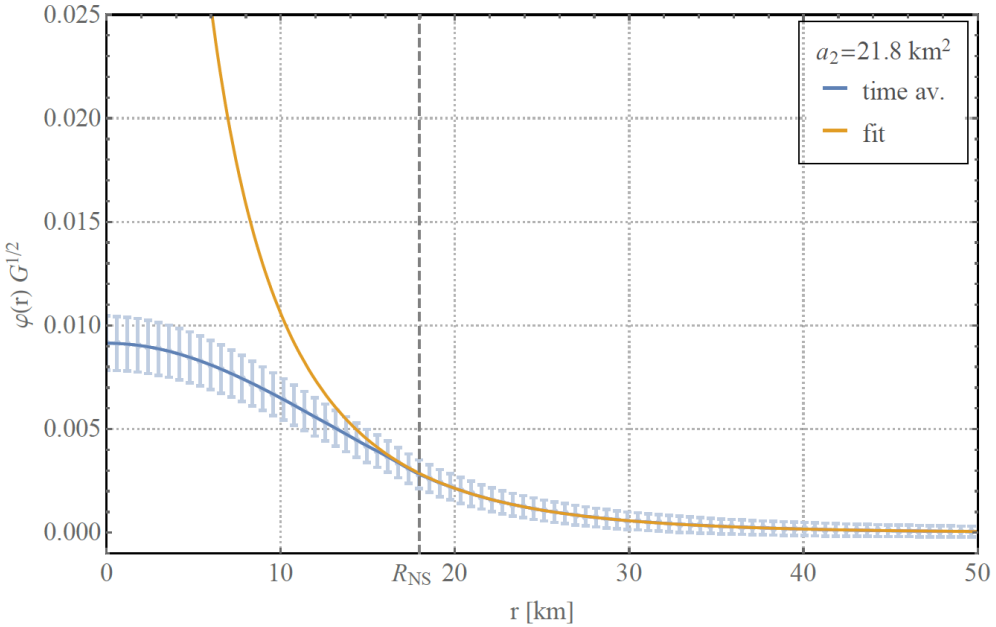
R^2 gravity

Scalar field profile:

Scalar charge

$$\varphi \sim \alpha M \frac{e^{-m_\varphi r}}{r}$$

[LS, Zhang, Johnson, Lehner, Sakellariadou, Liebling, Palenzuela, Neilsen, '18]



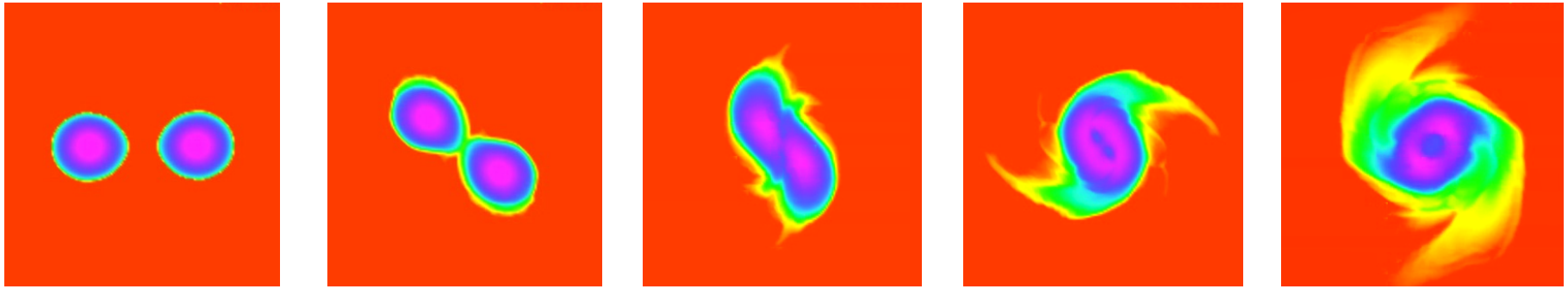
R^2 gravity

Scalar field induces a fifth force:

$$\boldsymbol{F}_\varphi = -\alpha M \nabla \varphi$$

$\longrightarrow$ Scalar force accelerates merger

$\longrightarrow$ Changes GW signal



[LS, Zhang, Johnson, Lehner, Sakellariadou, Liebling, Palenzuela, Neilsen, '18]

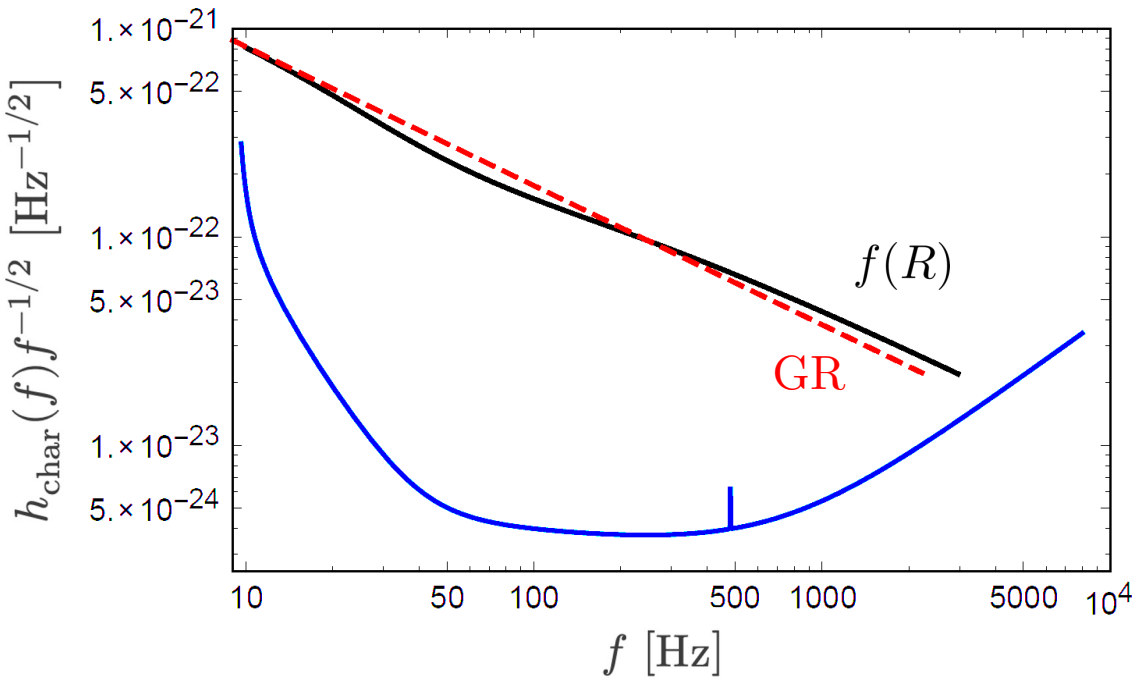
GW signal

Energy emitted in gravitational + scalar radiation:

$$-\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{dE_{\rm GW}}{dt} + \frac{dE_\varphi}{dt}$$

$\longrightarrow$ Characteristic strain:

$$h_{\rm char}^2 \sim \frac{1}{f^2}\left|\frac{dE}{df}\right|$$



$m_\varphi = 3.98 \cdot 10^{-6}\,{\rm m}^{-1}$,

$\alpha \equiv \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0.89,\ M_1 = M_2 \equiv 1.25 M_\odot$

[dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-T0900288/public]

GW signal

Signal-to-noise ratio:

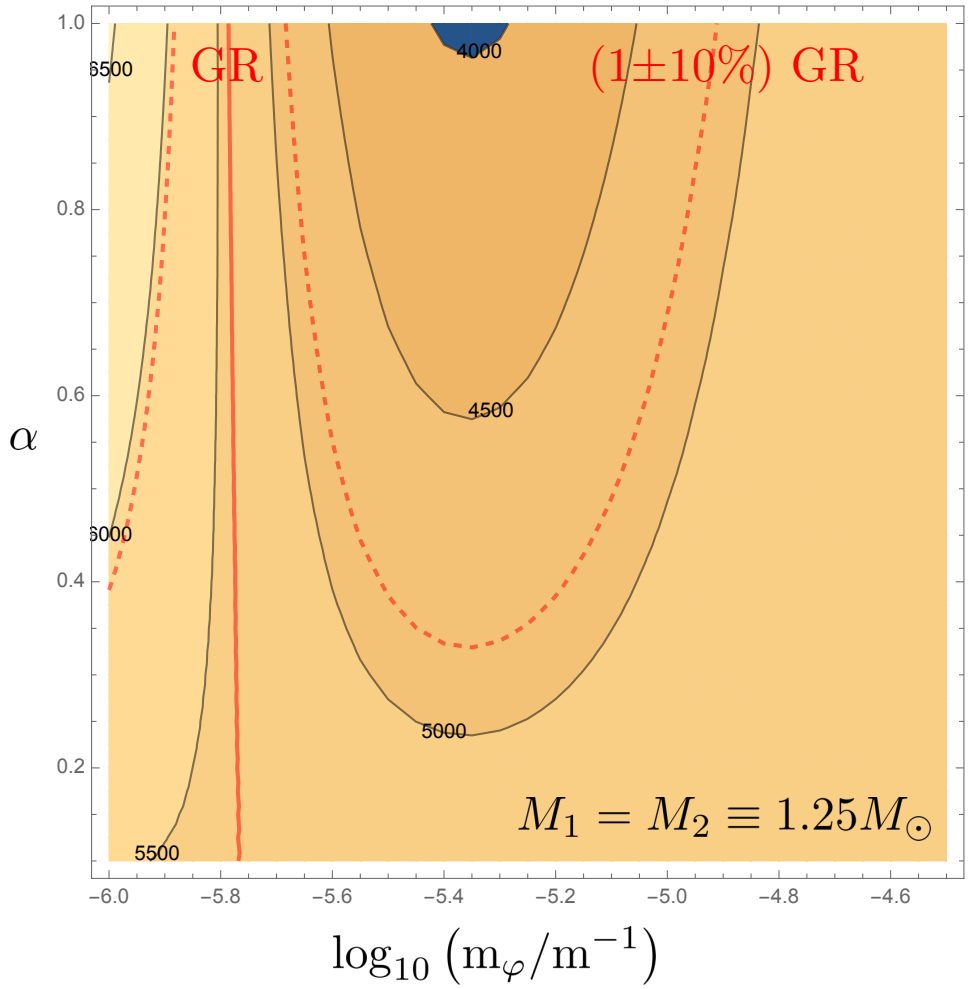
$$\langle \mathrm{SNR}^2 \rangle = 4 \int_0^\infty \frac{|h_{\mathrm{char}}(f)|^2}{S_n(f)} \, df$$

[Allen et al., '14]

→ Clear deviations from GR in a wide range of parameter space!

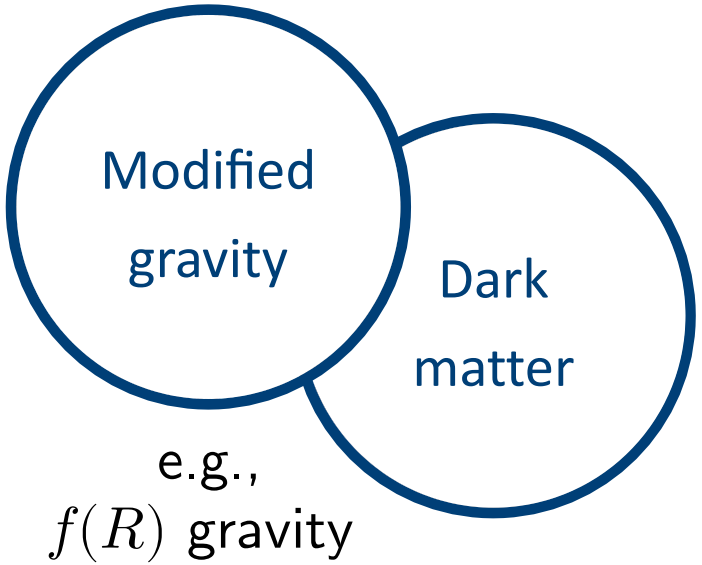
→ Constrain with LIGO/Virgo data!

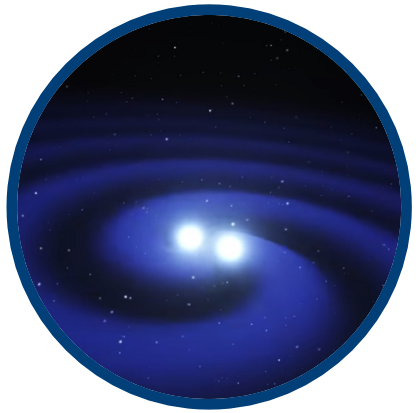
[Becker, Diedrichs, Genoud-Prachex, Lyu, LS, Schmitt, Zhang, in prep.]



GWs from binary mergers

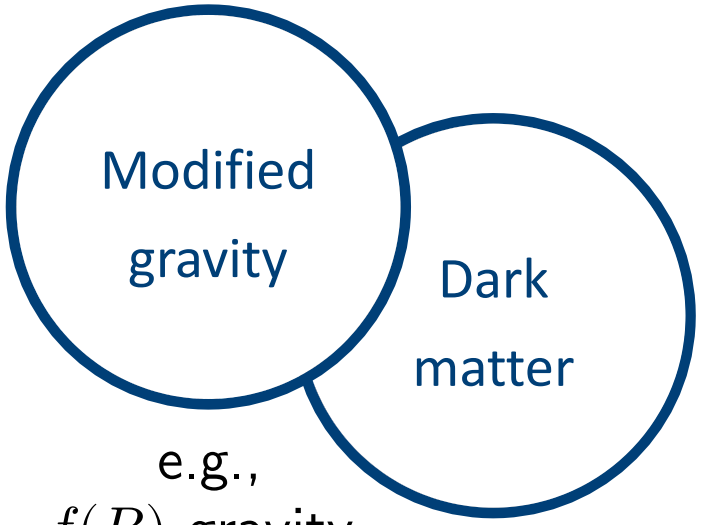
= Powerful probes of new physics!





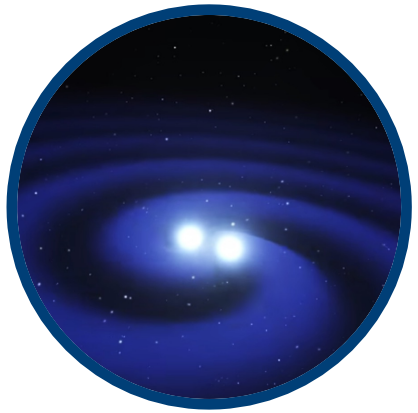
GWs from binary mergers

= Powerful probes of new physics!



e.g.,
$f(R)$ gravity

e.g.,
axions,
self-interacting DM,
...



Axions

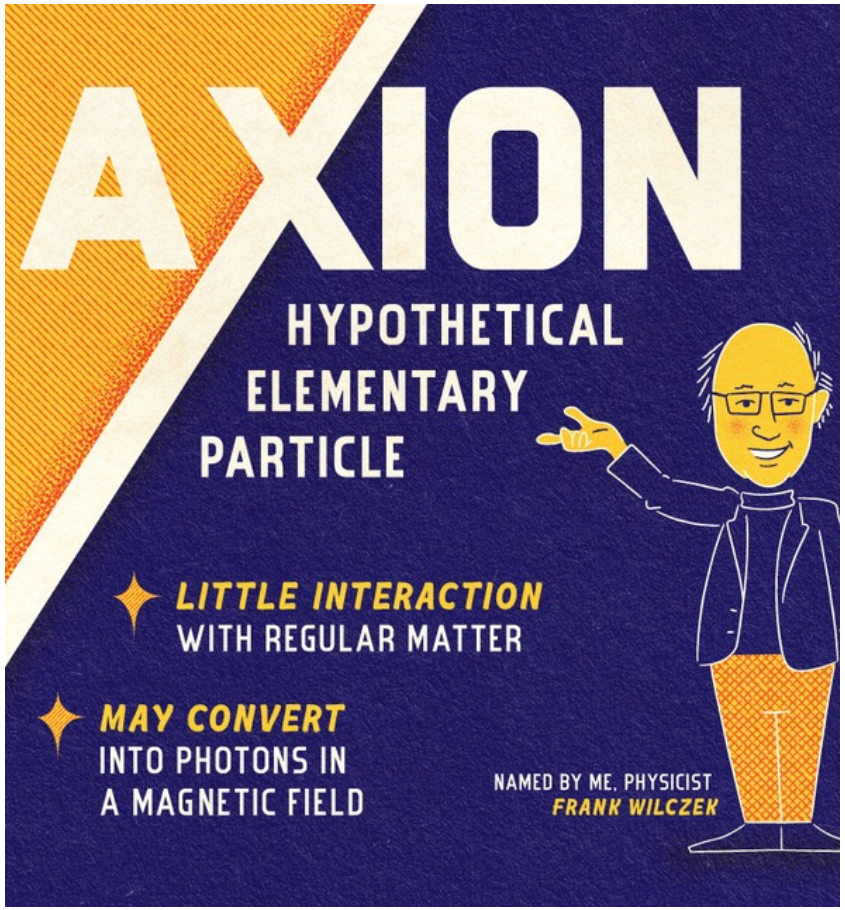
Axions

= Hypothetical particles beyond SM
+ promising dark matter candidates

- Scalar potential from axion coupling to gluons
- Axion-mediated dark fifth force

  → Constrain axion parameters (mass m_a + decay constant f_a) with GWs!

[Huang, Johnson, LS, Sakellariadou, Zhang, '21]



[www.symmetrymagazine.org]

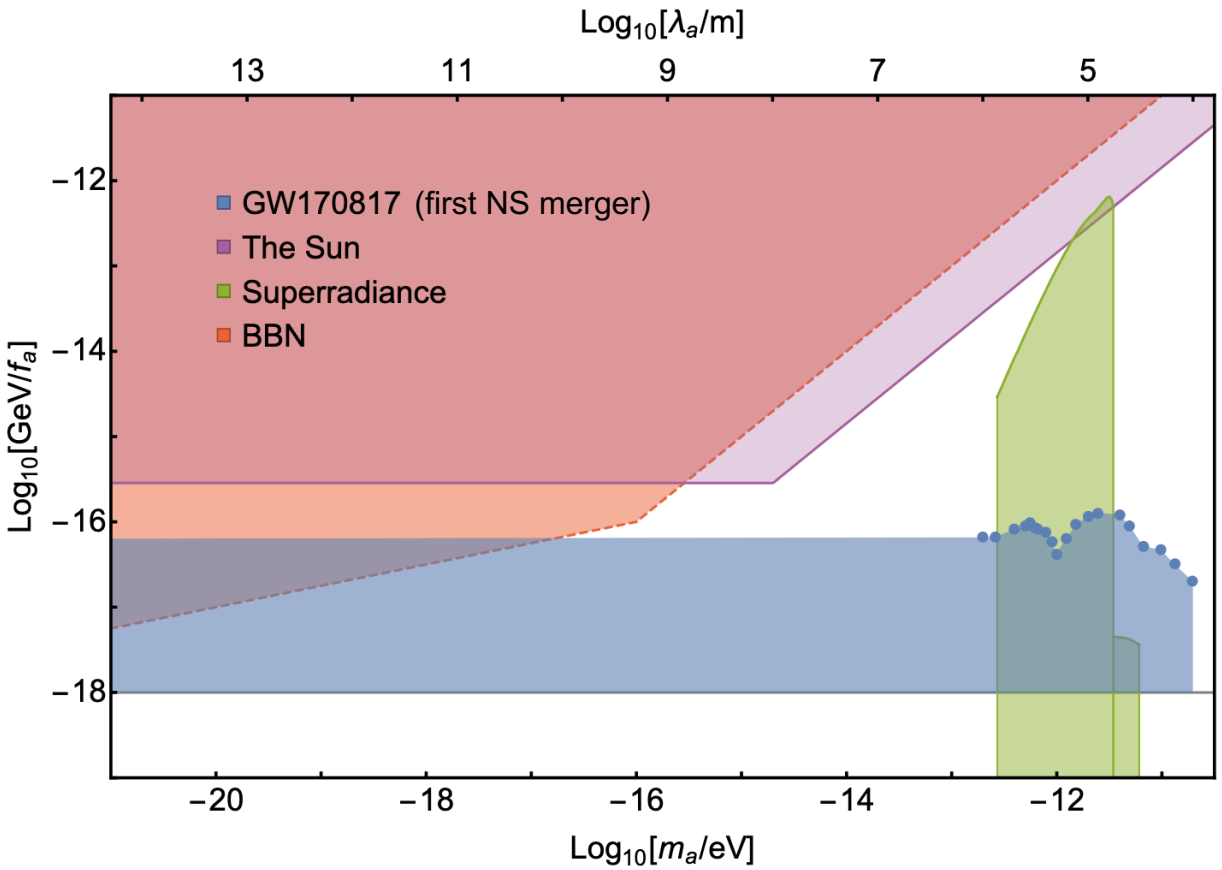
Constraining axions with gravitational waves

[Zhang, Lyu, Huang, Johnson, LS, et al., '21]

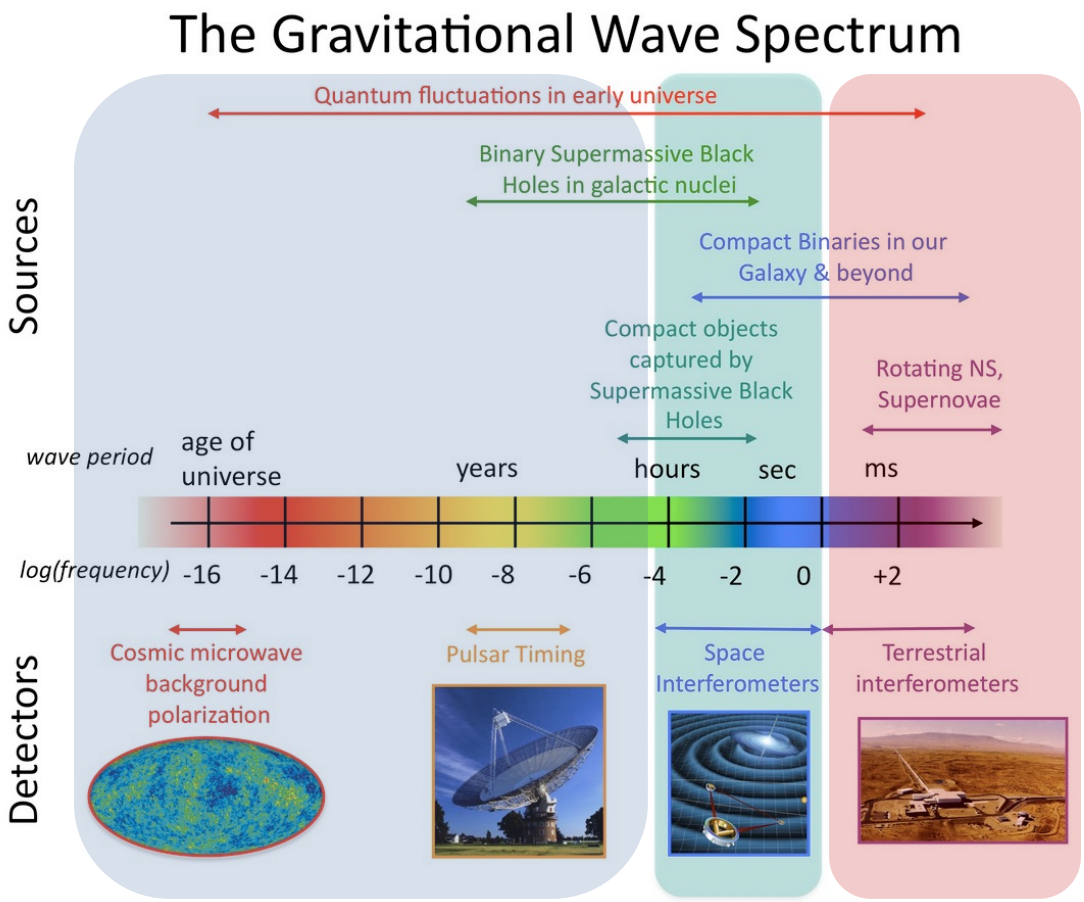
→ First constraints:

LIGO data excludes axions with:

$$m_a \lesssim 10^{-11}\,\mathrm{eV}\,,$$
$$f_a \sim (10^{16} - 10^{18})\ \mathrm{GeV}$$

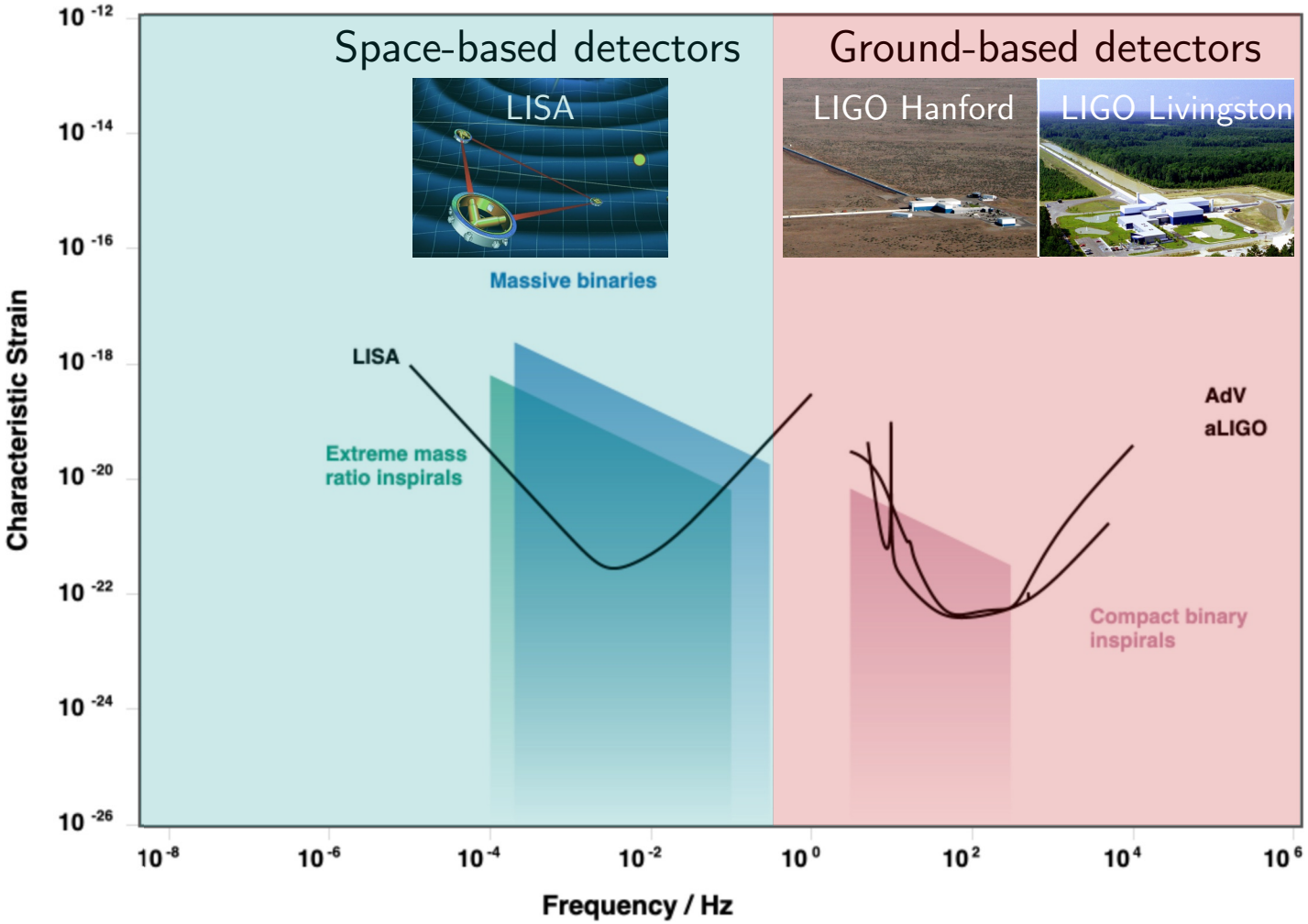


The GW era has just begun!



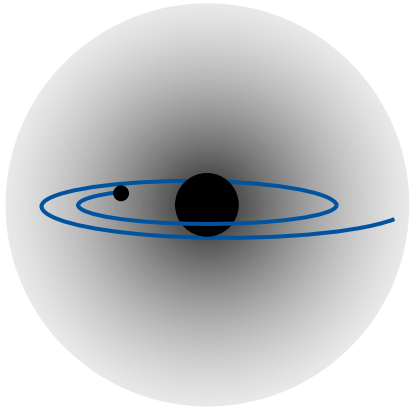
[science.gsfc.nasa.gov/663/research/index.html]

The GW era has just begun!



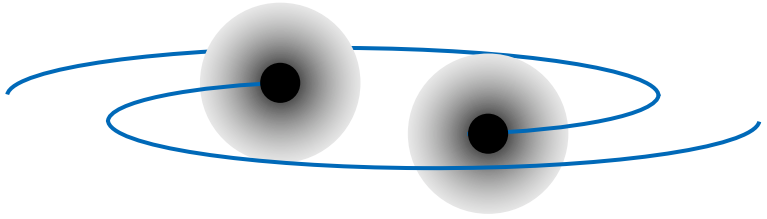
New GW probes of DM

Extreme mass-ratio inspirals (EMRIs)



[Eda et al., '13]
[Becker, LS, Prinz, Rastgoo, '21]

Merging black holes + neutron stars

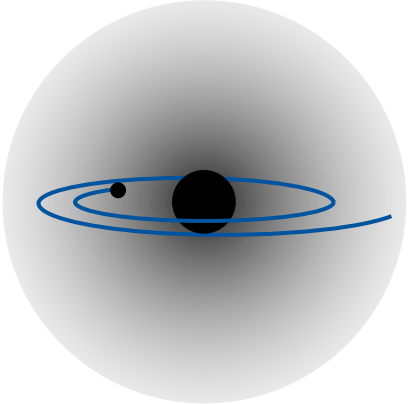


Much to explore:

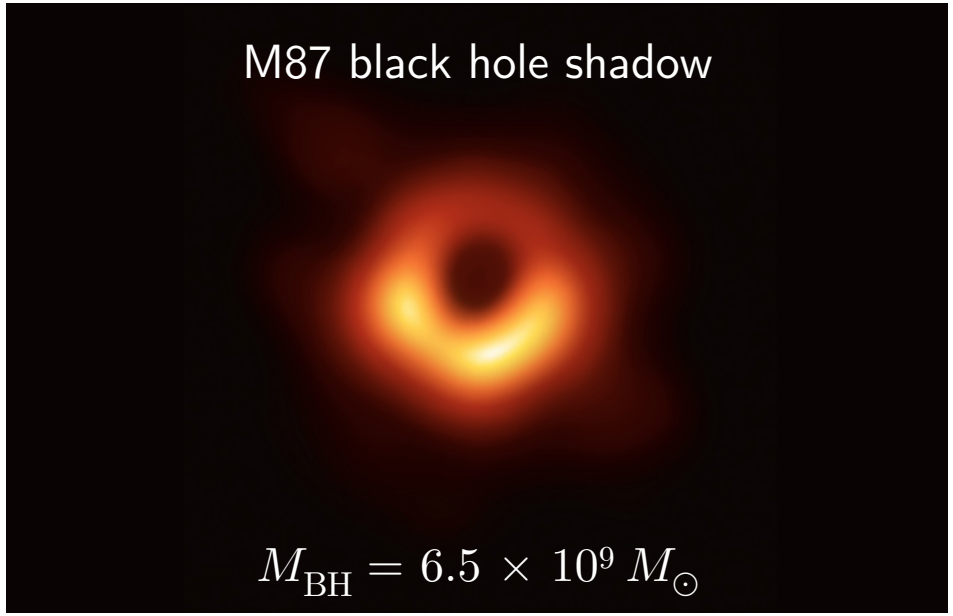
- Precise dynamics (so far: only Newtonian estimates)
- Particle nature of DM!

New GW probes of DM

Extreme mass-ratio inspirals (EMRIs)



[Eda et al., '13]
[Becker, LS, Prinz, Rastgoo, '21]



[EHT Collaboration, '19]

Much to explore:

- Precise dynamics (so far: only Newtonian estimates)
- Particle nature of DM!

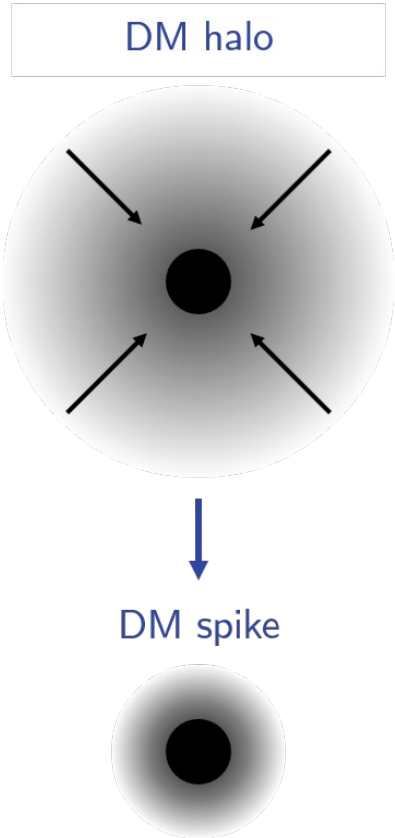
New GW probes of DM

DM density spikes

- "Dressed" black hole in dark matter halo
- Creates dark matter spike with extremely high density

  → Violent environment

  → Binary dynamics drastically affected



[Gondolo, Silk, '99][Eda et al., '13]

Extreme mass-ratio inspirals (EMRIs)

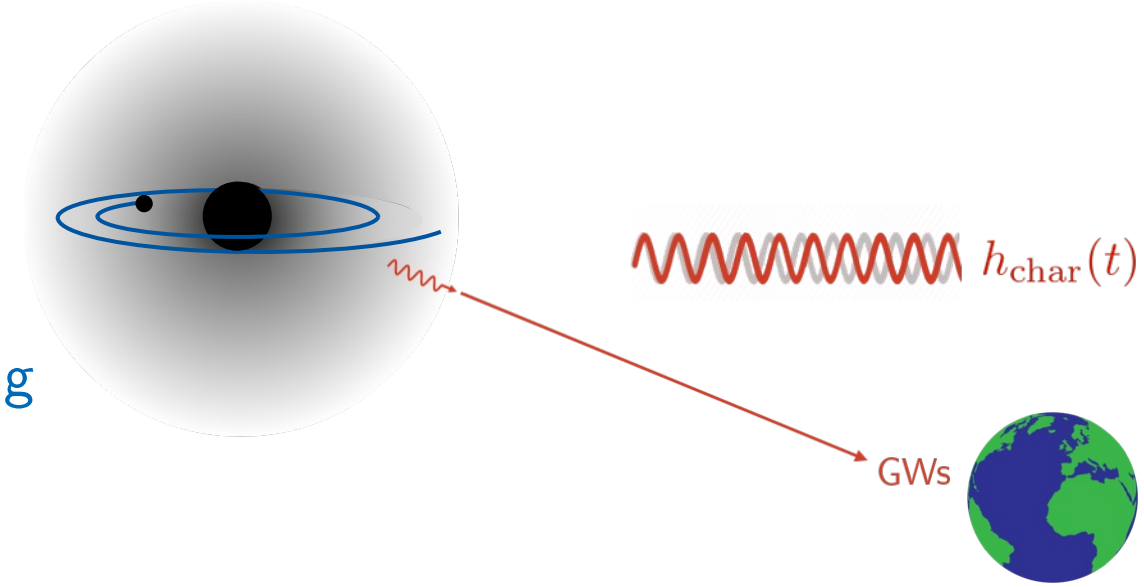
- Additional energy loss through dynamical friction:

$$-\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{dE_{\rm GW}}{dt} + \frac{dE_{\rm friction}}{dt}$$

- Accelerated dynamics: dephasing of GW signal

  → Depends on DM properties

  → Probe DM with GWs: CDM, self-interacting DM,...



[Becker, LS, Prinz, Rastgoo, '21]

The GW era has just begun!

New GW probes of dark matter

Dark fifth forces
- $f(R)$ modified gravity
- Axions
- ...

More ideas!

Dark matter density spikes
- CDM
- Self-interacting dark matter

Exotic objects:
- Boson stars
- NSs with DM cores

Phase transitions:
- Hidden sectors
- Supercooling

Primordial black holes

Conclusions

Conclusions

GWs from binary mergers
= powerful probes of new physics:

- Extensions of general relativity, e.g., $f(R)$ gravity
- Particle physics beyond SM = dark matter, e.g. axions, self-interacting dark matter, ...

→ Much to explore in the future!

Thank you for your attention!