

# Tidal Deformation and Dissipation of Rotating Black Holes

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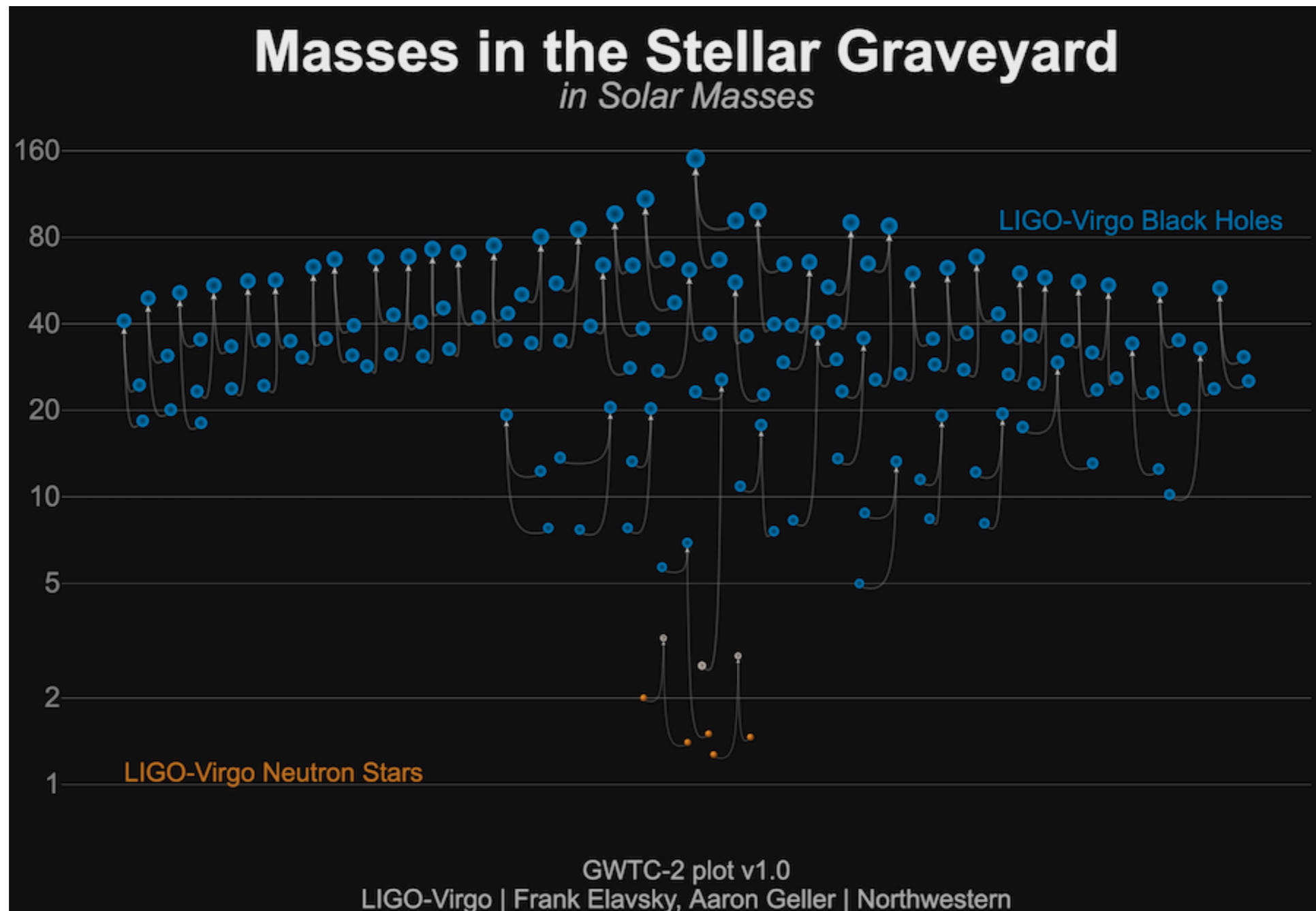
Institute for Advanced Study

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Gravitational Scattering, Inspiral, and Radiation Workshop

GGI, May 2021

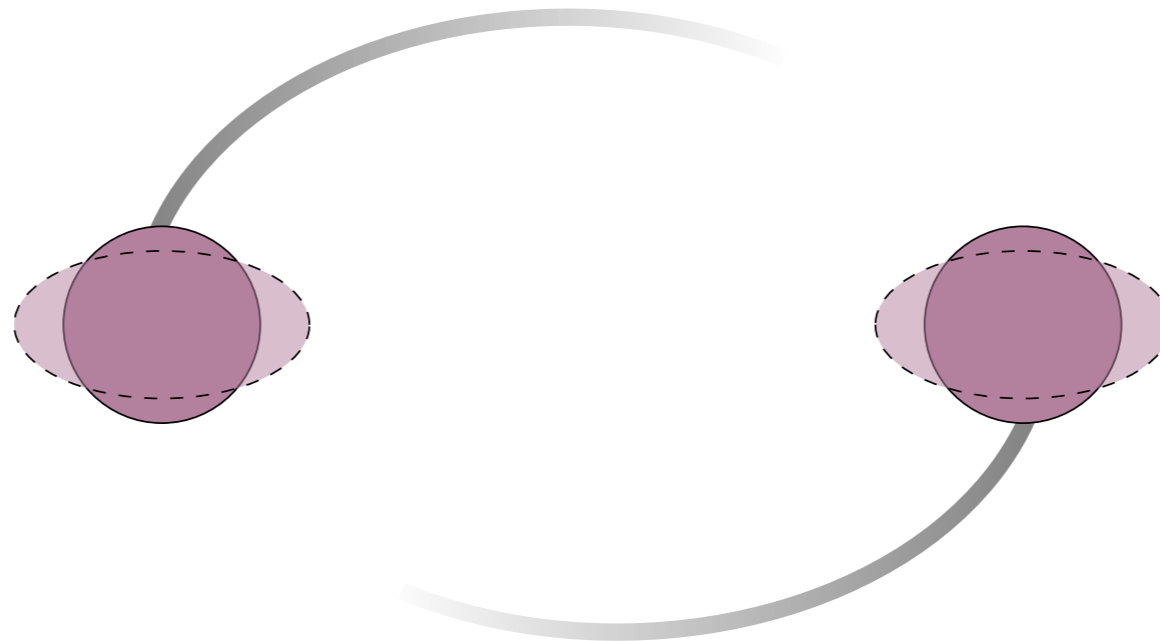
# Golden Era of Black Hole Astronomy



# Tidal Deformation

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Astrophysical objects would **deform** when they are perturbed by external tidal fields.



The tidal deformability of an object is quantified by its **Love numbers**, whose values depend on the internal structure of the object.

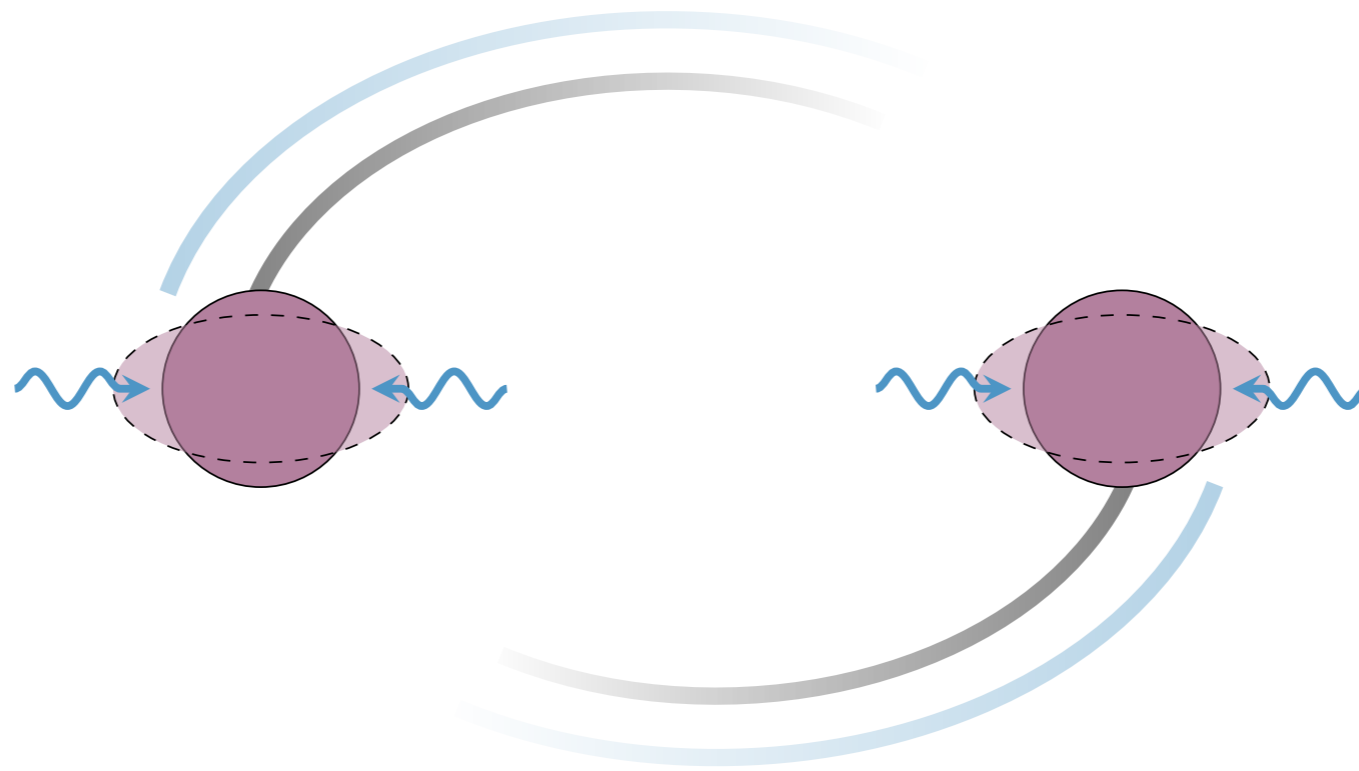
Love (1912)

Poisson, Will (Gravity Textbook)

# Tidal Dissipation

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The **viscosity** of the object would result in a transfer of energy and angular momentum between the external tidal field and the object.

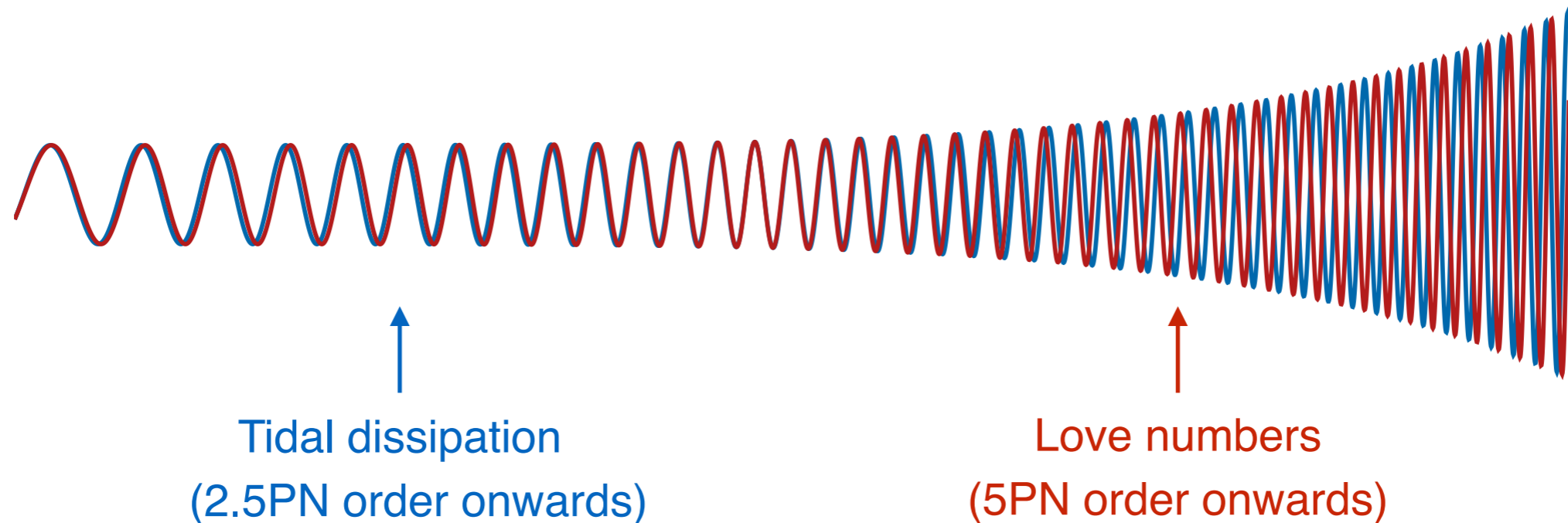


This tidal effect leads to **tidal heating/torquing/acceleration** of two-body systems. E.g. the gradual spin down of Earth along with the recession of the Moon.

# Tidal Effects in Waveforms

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These responses leave distinct imprints in the phase of the gravitational waves emitted by binary systems.

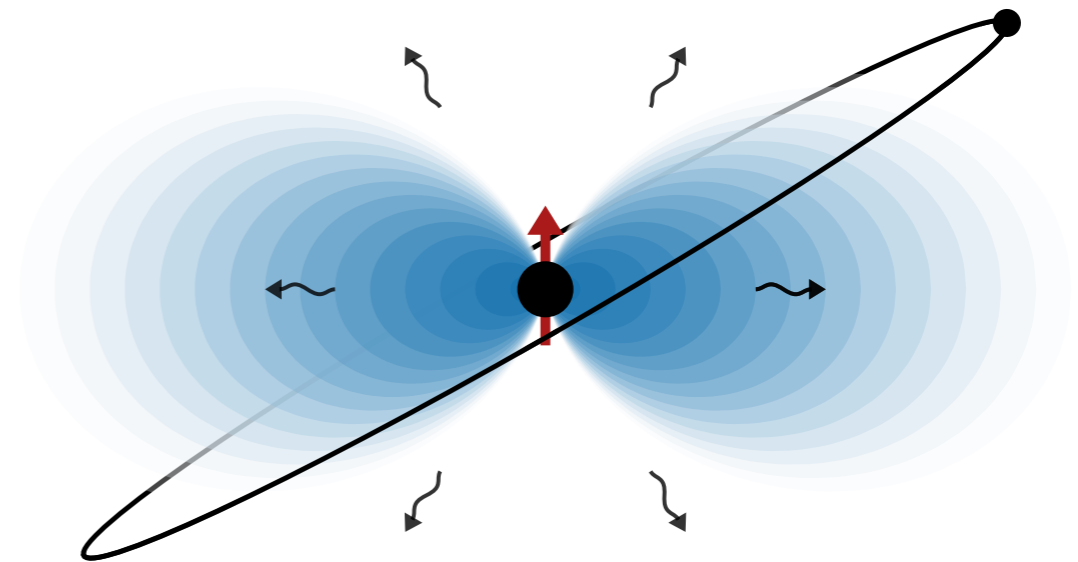
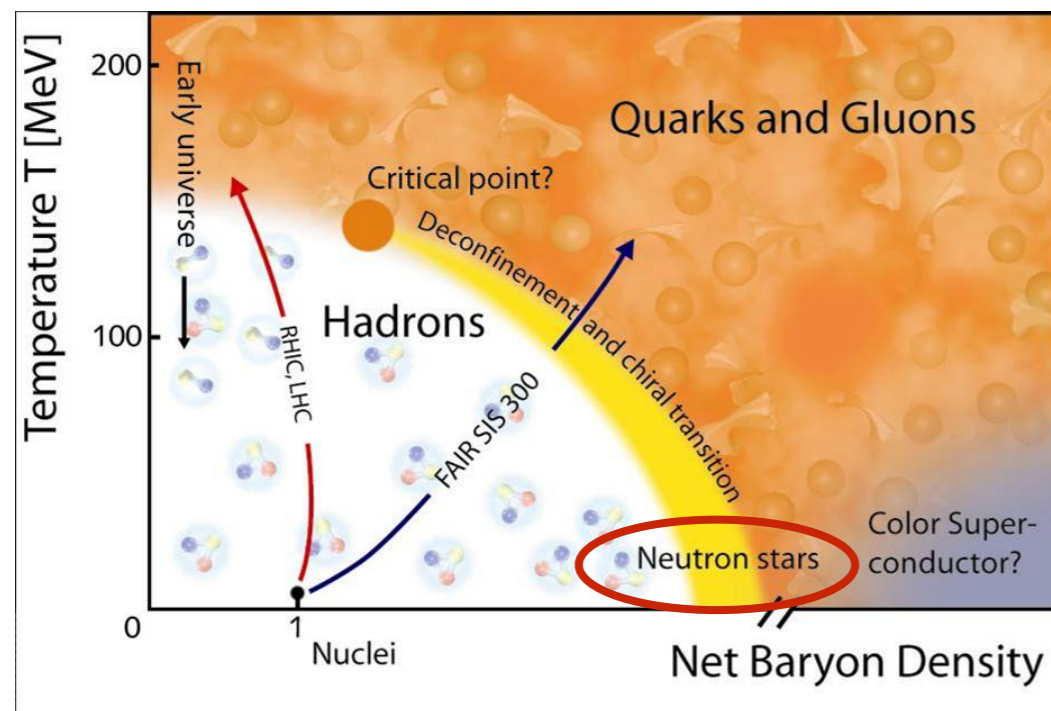


A precise measurement of these phase imprints would allow us to probe the nature of the binary constituents.

Poisson, Sasaki [9412027]  
Tagoshi, Mano, Takasugi [9711072]  
Flanagan, Hinderer [0709.1915]

# Probing Binary Constituents with Tidal Effects

For binary **neutron stars**, these tidal effects probe the high-density and low-temperature regime of the QCD phase diagram.

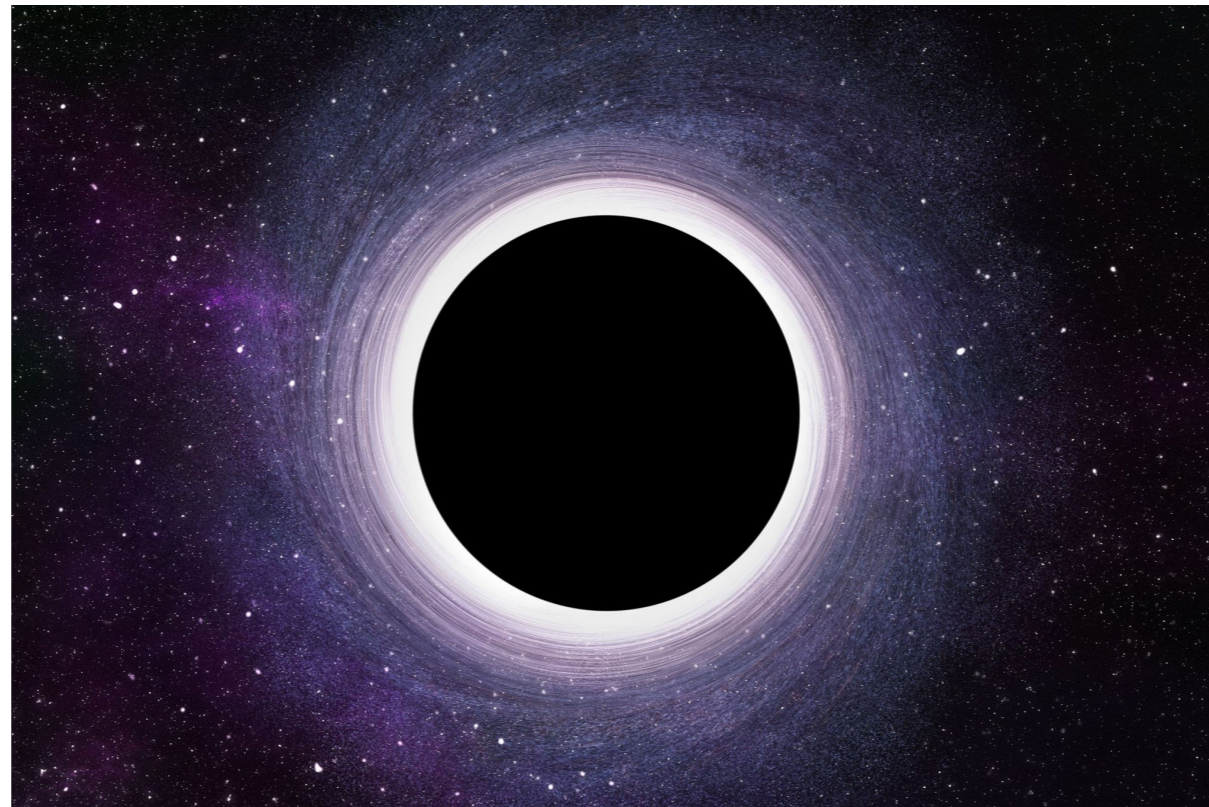


Measurements of these tidal effects could also provide hints for the existence of **new types of compact objects**, e.g. superradiant clouds, boson stars, etc.

# Tidal Response of Black Holes

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Black holes are the **simplest** and **most abundant** compact objects that are detected by the LIGO and Virgo observatories.



A detailed understanding of their **tidal deformation and dissipation** is a key goal in gravitational astrophysics and fundamental physics.

Kerr (1963)

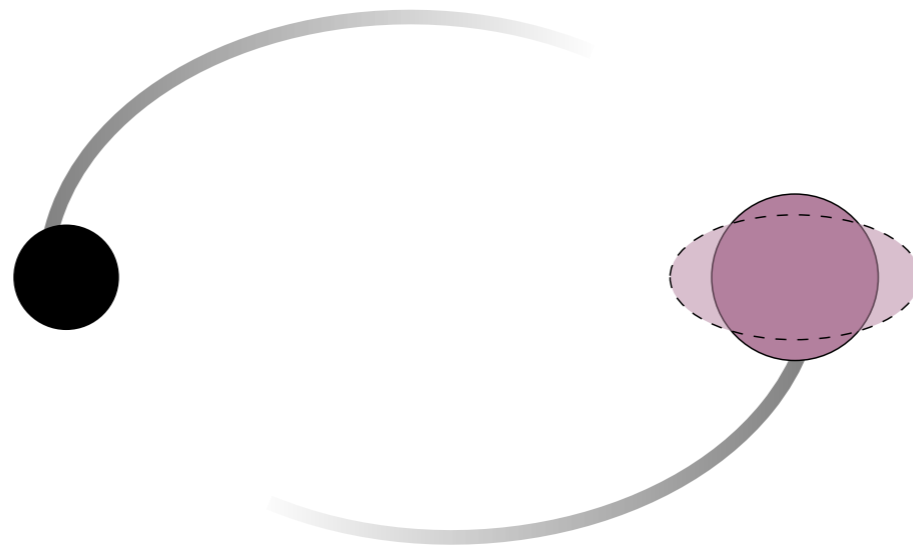
Carter (1971)

Robinson (1975)

# Black Holes do not Fall in Love

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Black holes **do not deform** when they are perturbed by a static tidal field.

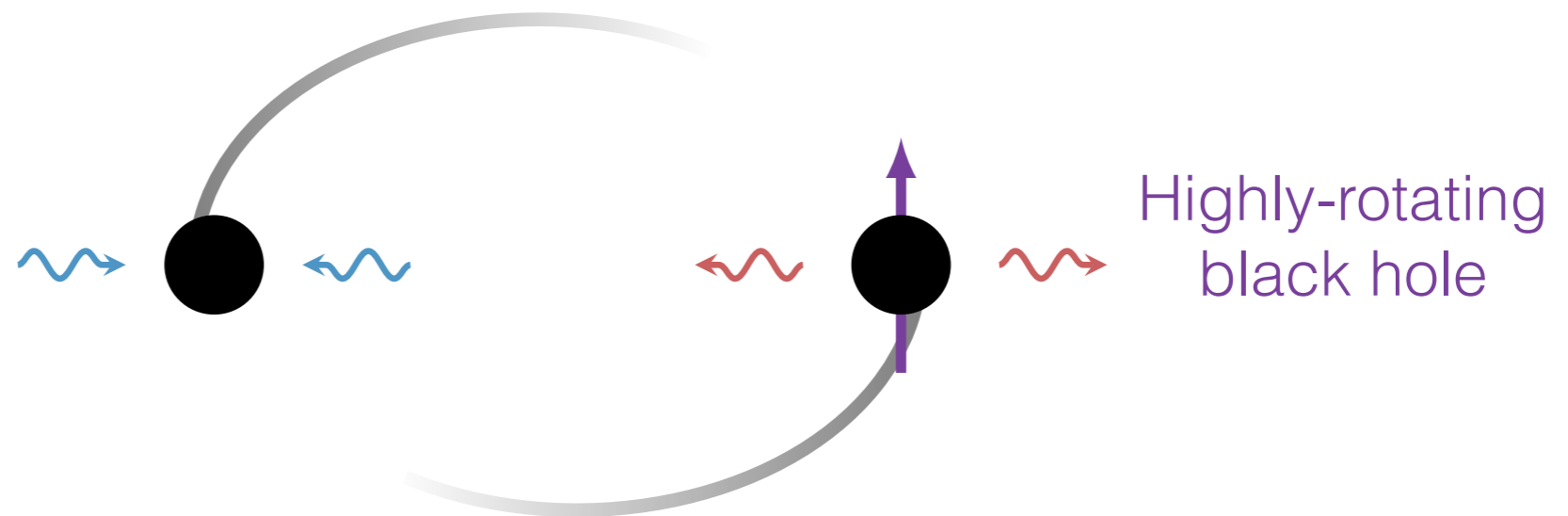


This conclusion holds for all values of black hole spin, ranging from Schwarzschild black holes to extremal Kerr black holes.

# Black Hole Dissipation

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In general, energy and angular momentum are **absorbed** into the black hole.



For **highly-rotating black holes**, the dissipative response would trigger **mode amplification**, which is a phenomenon known as superradiance.

# Plan

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## **I. A Brief Recap on .....**

- Susceptibilities in electromagnetism
- Tidal responses in Newtonian gravity
- Black hole perturbation theory

## **II. Tidal Response of Schwarzschild Spacetimes**

- Spherically symmetric object (Birkhoff's theorem)
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- Comments on “Spinning black holes fall in Love” claim
- Love is unambiguous

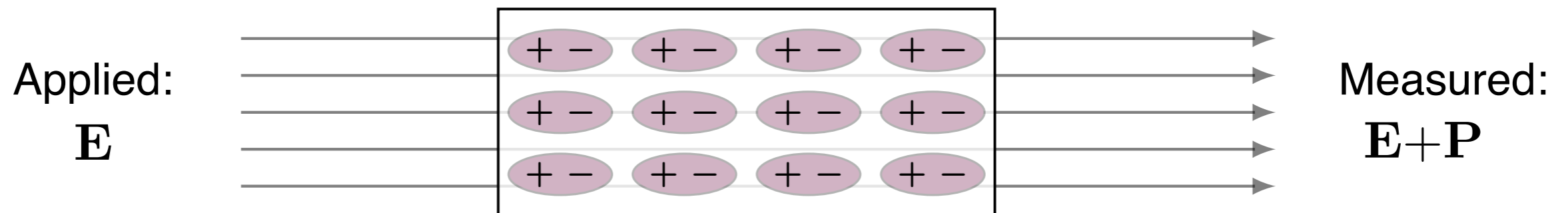
# Electrostatic Response

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In electromagnetism, a dielectric medium would respond to its external **electrostatic** field  $\mathbf{E}$  by acquiring an induced polarization:

$$\mathbf{P} = \chi_E \mathbf{E},$$

where  $\chi_E$  is the **electric susceptibility** of the medium.



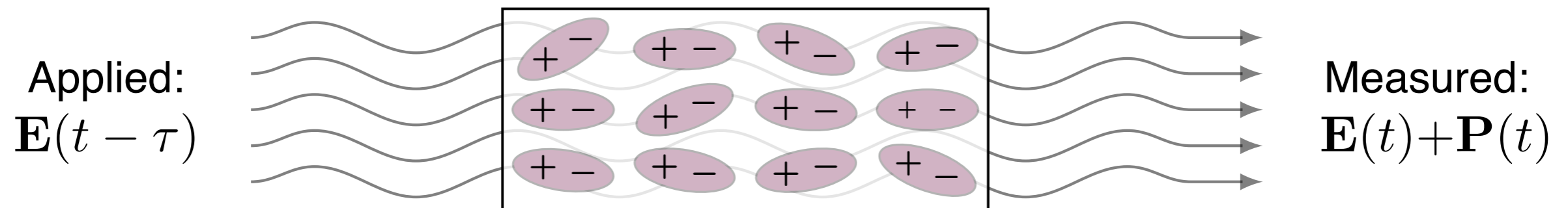
For a static external field, the material **polarizes instantaneously**.

# Electrodynamic Response

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In general, the external electric field **varies with time** and the material **does not polarize instantaneously**. For a slowly-varying external field,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(t) &= \int_0^\infty d\tau \chi_E(\tau) \mathbf{E}(t - \tau), \\ &= \chi_E^{(0)} \mathbf{E}(t) - \tau_0 \chi_E^{(1)} \dot{\mathbf{E}}(t) + \cdots,\end{aligned}$$



where overdot denotes time derivative, and  $\tau_0$  is the typical time lag.

# Conservative and Dissipative Effects

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In Fourier space, the electrodynamic response reads

$$\mathbf{P}(\omega) = \chi_E(\omega) \mathbf{E}(\omega)$$

where  $\omega$  is the frequency of the external electric field, and

$$\chi_E(\omega) = \chi_E^{(0)} + i\omega\tau_0\chi_E^{(1)} + \dots$$

**real part =**  
**conservative effect**



**imaginary part =**  
**dissipative effect**



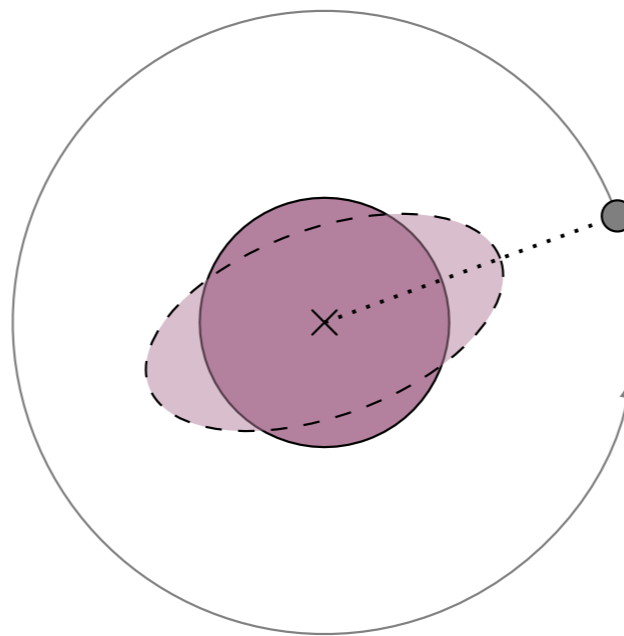
# Static Tidal Response

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In Newtonian gravity, a non-rotating body would respond to a **static** external tidal field by acquiring induced mass-type moments:

$$\delta Q_{\ell m} \propto 2k_{\ell m} \mathcal{E}_{\ell m}$$

where the proportionality constants  $k_{\ell m}$  are called the **Love numbers**.



Love (1912)

Poisson, Will (Gravity textbook)

# Time-Dependent Tidal Response

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For a **slowly-varying** external tidal field, the induced response is

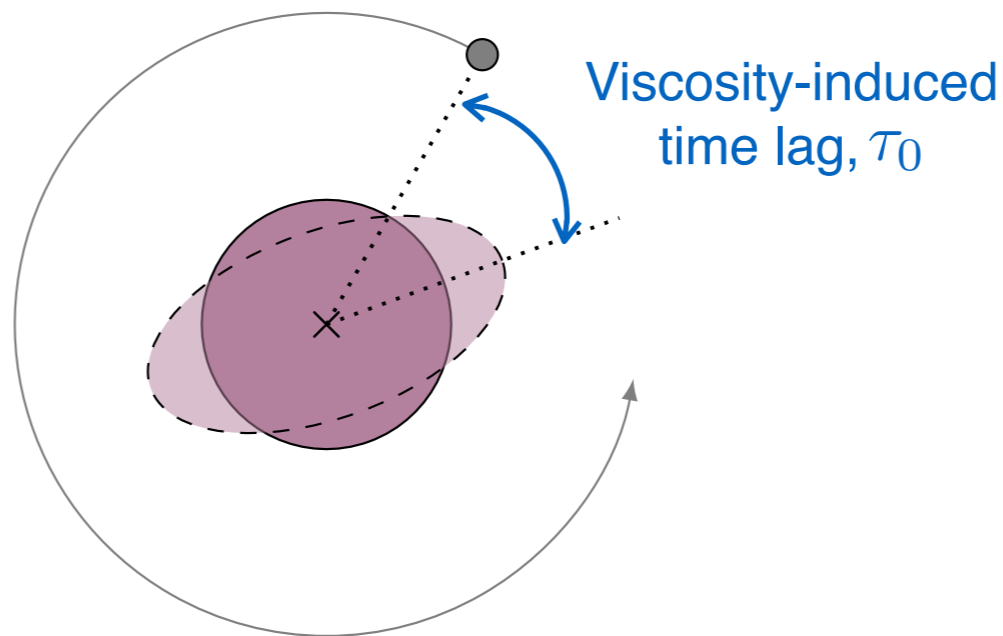
$$\delta Q_{\ell m}(t) \propto \textcolor{red}{2k_{\ell m}} \mathcal{E}_{\ell m}(t) - \tau_0 \textcolor{blue}{\nu_{\ell m}} \dot{\mathcal{E}}_{\ell m}(t) + \cdots ,$$

**static tides**

**tidal dissipation**

dynamical tides  
(subleading)

where  $\nu_{\ell m}$  are the **dissipation numbers** associated to the object's **viscosity**.



# Tidal Response of a Non-rotating Body

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In Fourier space, the tidal response of a non-rotating body is

$$\delta Q_{\ell m}(\omega) = F_{\ell m}(\omega) \mathcal{E}_{\ell m}(\omega) ,$$

where  $\omega$  is the frequency of the external tidal field, and

$$F_{\ell m}(\omega) = 2k_{\ell m} + i\omega\tau_0\nu_{\ell m} + \dots$$

**real** part =  
**conservative** effect



**imaginary** part =  
**dissipative** effect



# Tidal Response of a Rotating Body

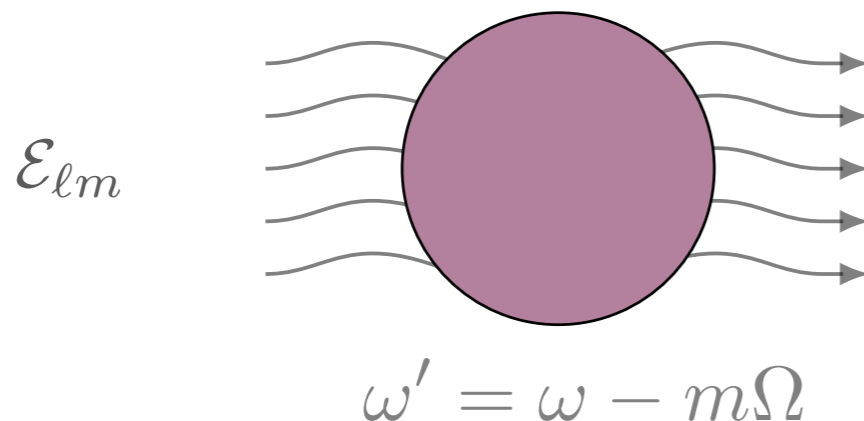
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For a rotating body, the functional form

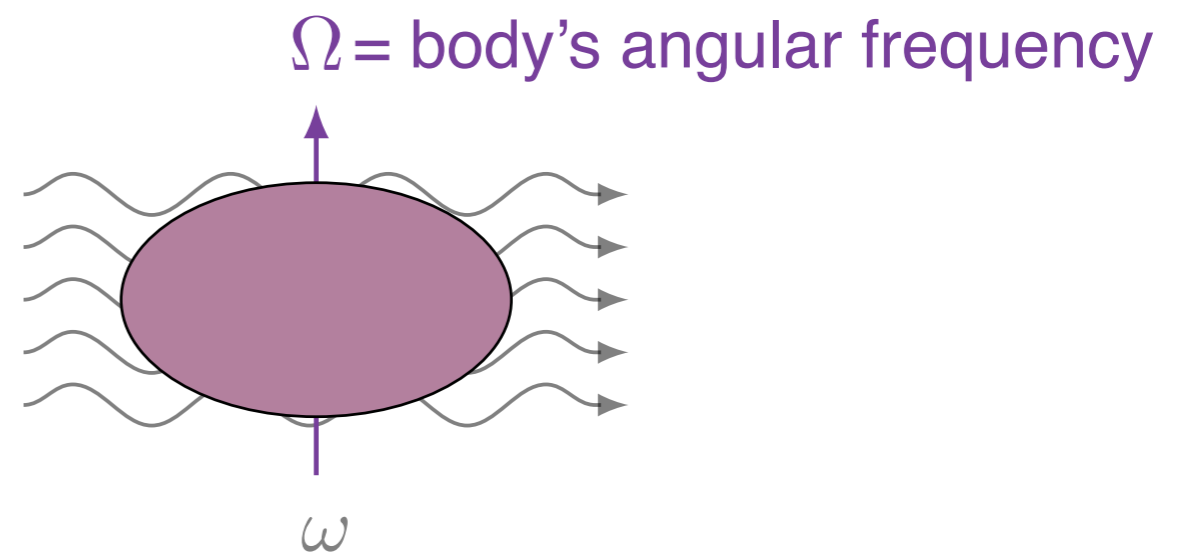
$$F_{\ell'm'}(\omega') = 2k_{\ell'm'} + i\omega'\tau_0\nu_{\ell'm'} + \dots$$

holds in the **co-rotating frame**, in which case  $\omega'$  and  $\{\ell', m'\}$  are tidal field's frequency and angular momentum numbers as perceived in this frame.

Co-rotating frame



Observer's frame



For a rotating body, tidal dissipation can still occur in a static tidal field,  $\omega = 0$ , due to the **presence of relative motion** between the body and the external field.

# Measuring the Response Function

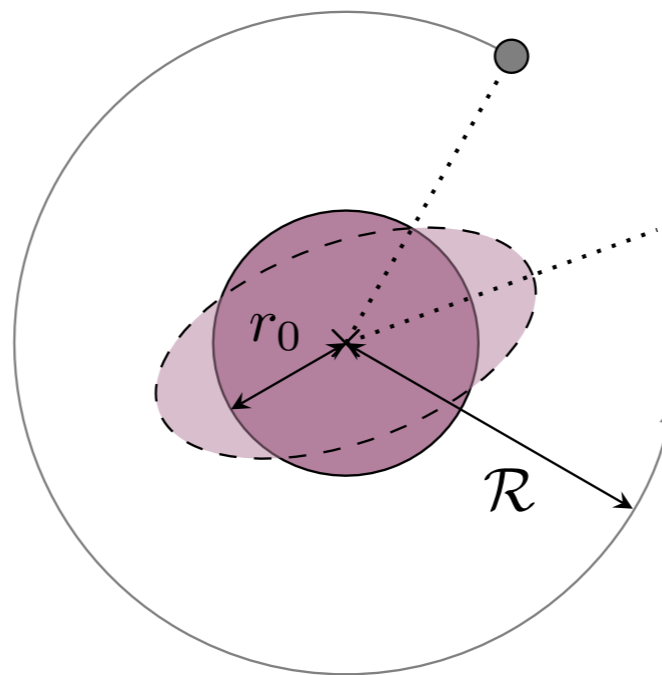
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In Fourier space, the total potential of the perturbed non-rotating body is

$$U = -\frac{M}{r} + \sum_{\ell m} \frac{\mathcal{E}_{\ell m} r^\ell}{\ell(\ell-1)} \left[ 1 + \underbrace{F_{\ell m}(\omega)}_{\sim r^{-\ell-1} \text{ "decaying term" (object's response)}} \left( \frac{r_0}{r} \right)^{2\ell+1} \right] Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi)$$

$\sim r^\ell$  “growing term”  
(applied external tidal field)

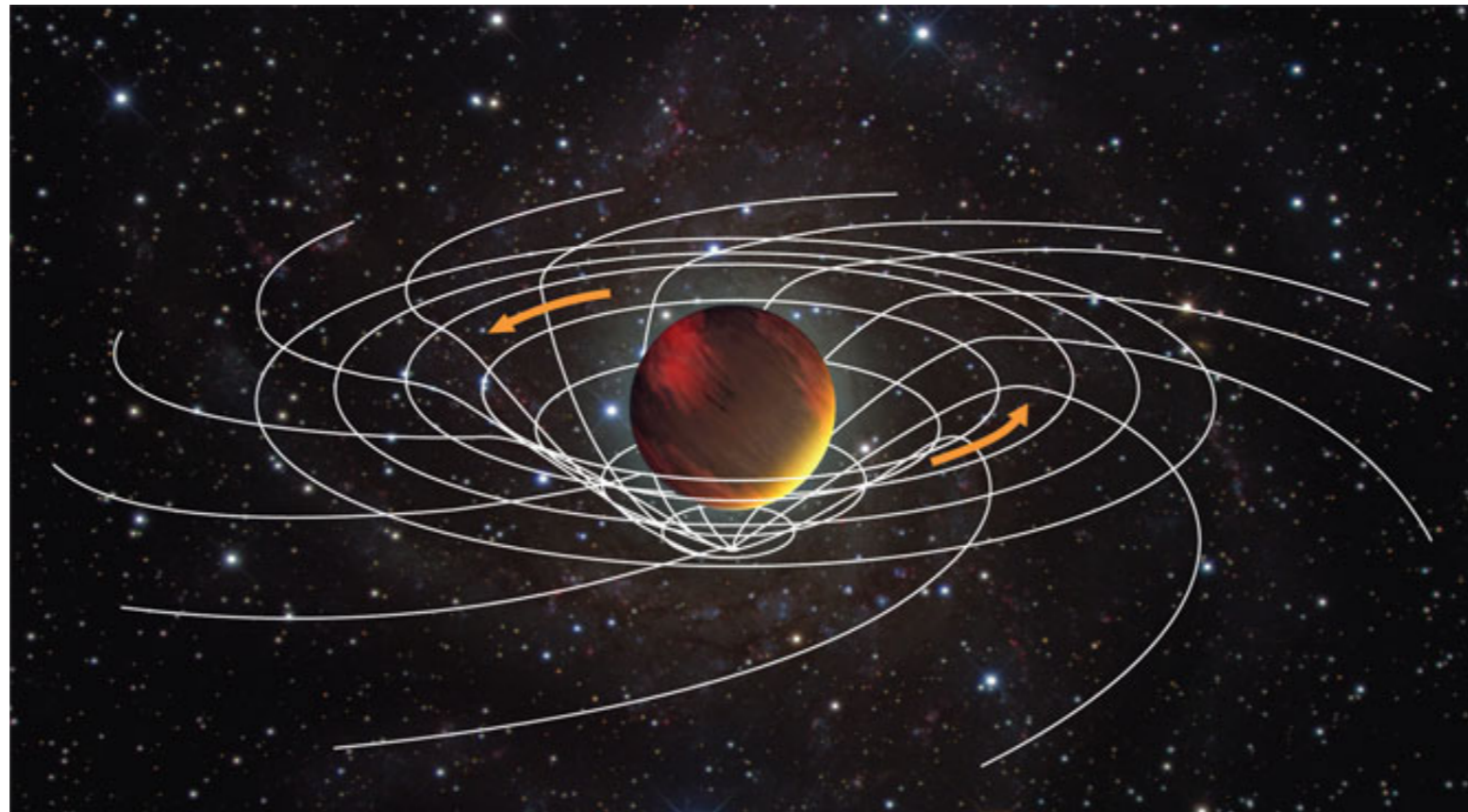
$\sim r^{-\ell-1}$  “decaying term”  
(object’s response)



# Relativistic Tides

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In addition to the **electric-type tides**  $\mathcal{E}_{\ell m}$ , tidal perturbations in General Relativity are also described by the **magnetic-type tides**  $\mathcal{B}_{\ell m}$



These magnetic-type tides source induced current-type moments, and the tidal response is analogous to **magnetic susceptibilities** in electromagnetism.

Zhang (1986)

Binnington Poisson [0906.1366], Damour Nagar [0906.0096]

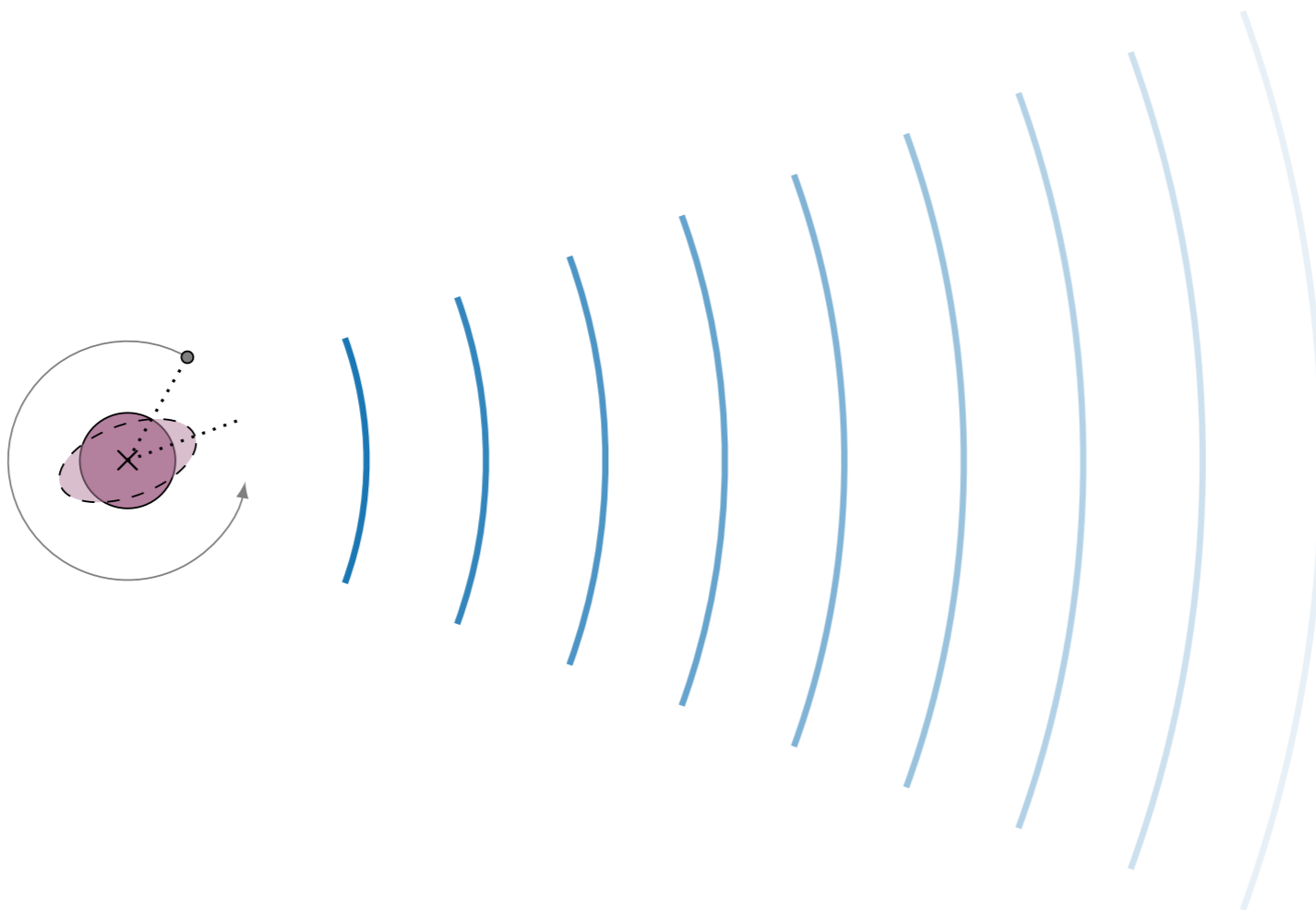
# Weyl Scalars

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For various practical reasons, it is convenient to decompose the Weyl tensor into five complex **Weyl scalars** in the Newman-Penrose formalism:

$$\{\psi_0, \psi_1, \psi_2, \psi_3, \psi_4\}$$

The “**peeling theorem**” states that  $\psi_n \sim \mathcal{O}(r^{-5+n})$  at  $r \rightarrow \infty$ .



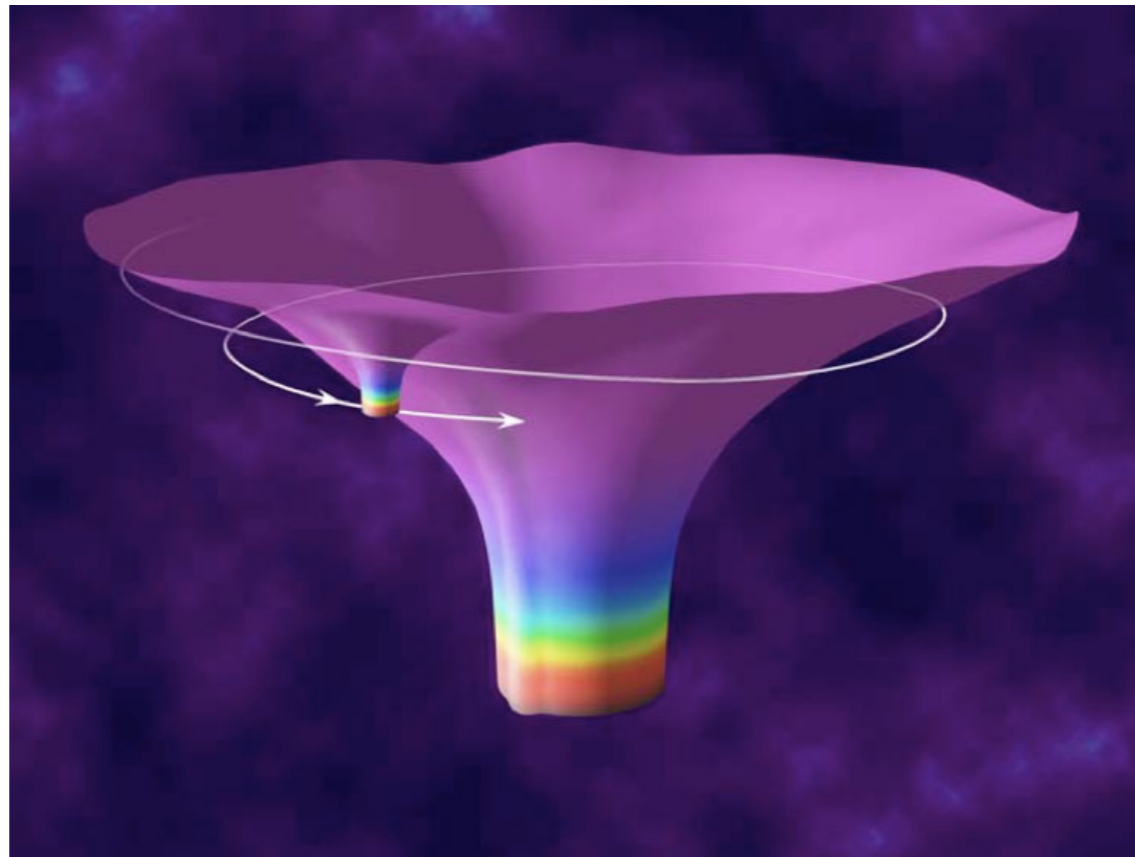
Measured:

$$\psi_4 \propto \ddot{h}_+ - i\ddot{h}_\times$$

# Black Hole Perturbation Theory

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For **Kerr black holes**, the linear perturbations of  $\psi_4$  (and  $\psi_0$ ) can be solved relatively easily through the **Teukolsky equation**.



Using this method, the **gravitational wave fluxes** emitted by extreme mass ratio inspirals have been computed to high perturbative orders.

Teukolsky (1972, 1973)

Press and Teukolsky (1973, 1974)

Sasaki, Tagoshi (Living Review)

# Tidal Moments as Amplitude Modulations

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The Teukolsky equation separates  $\psi_4$  into a set of coupled ordinary differential equations. This is achieved through the separable form

$$\rho^4 \psi_4 = \sum_{\ell m} e^{-i\omega v + im\phi} R_{\ell m}(r) {}_{-2}S_{\ell m}(\theta) \times \mathcal{M}_{\ell m},$$

where  $\{v, r, \theta, \phi\}$  are the spacetime coordinates,  ${}_sS_{\ell m}$  is the spin-weighted spheroidal harmonic, and  $\mathcal{M}_{\ell m}$  are **amplitude constants**.

One can show that the **tidal moments modulate the amplitudes** via

$$\text{Re}(\mathcal{M}_{\ell m}) \propto \mathcal{E}_{\ell m}, \quad \text{Im}(\mathcal{M}_{\ell m}) \propto \mathcal{B}_{\ell m}$$

Teukolsky (1972, 1973)

Chatziioannou, Poisson, Yunes [1211.1686]

HSC [2010.07300]

# The Radial Teukolsky Equation

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The radial Teukolsky equation is\*

Dominates  
as  $r \rightarrow r_+$

$$\frac{d^2 R}{dr^2} + \left( \frac{2iP_+ - 1}{r - r_+} - \frac{2iP_- + 1}{r - r_-} - 2i\omega \right) \frac{dR}{dr} + \left( \frac{4iP_-}{(r - r_-)^2} - \frac{4iP_+}{(r - r_+)^2} + \frac{A_- + iB_-}{(r - r_-)(r_+ - r_-)} - \frac{A_+ + iB_+}{(r - r_+)(r_+ - r_-)} \right) R = \frac{T}{\Delta},$$

where we have organised the radial equation in terms of its poles at  $r_{\pm}$ ,  $\infty$ , and

$$P_+ = \frac{am - 2r_+ M\omega}{r_+ - r_-} \propto m\Omega_H - \omega$$

The  $P_+$  “superradiance factor” captures all of the physics of the event horizon.

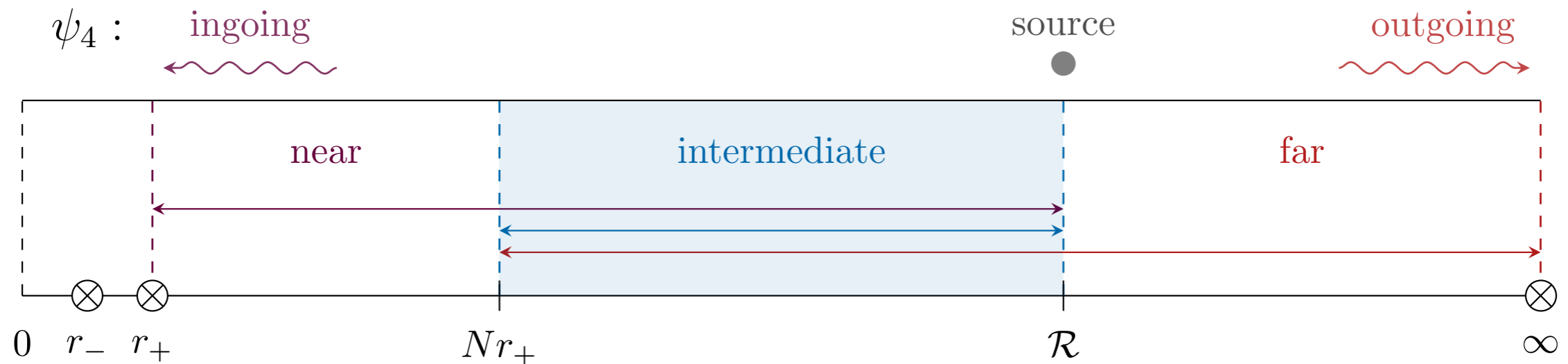
\*In the the ingoing-Kerr coordinates and the Kinnersley null tetrad

Press and Teukolsky (1974)

HSC [2010.07300]

# Boundary Conditions

The Teukolsky equation allows for the easy incorporation of the boundary conditions at the outer horizon,  $r = r_+$ , and at asymptotic infinity,  $r \rightarrow \infty$ .



The asymptotic radial behaviours at these locations are

$$\psi_4 \sim Y_{\text{in}}(r - r_+)^2 + Y_{\text{out}}(r - r_+)^{-2iP_+}, \quad r \rightarrow r_+,$$

$$\psi_4 \sim Z_{\text{in}}/r^5 + Z_{\text{out}}e^{2i\omega(r+2M \log r)}/r, \quad r \rightarrow \infty,$$

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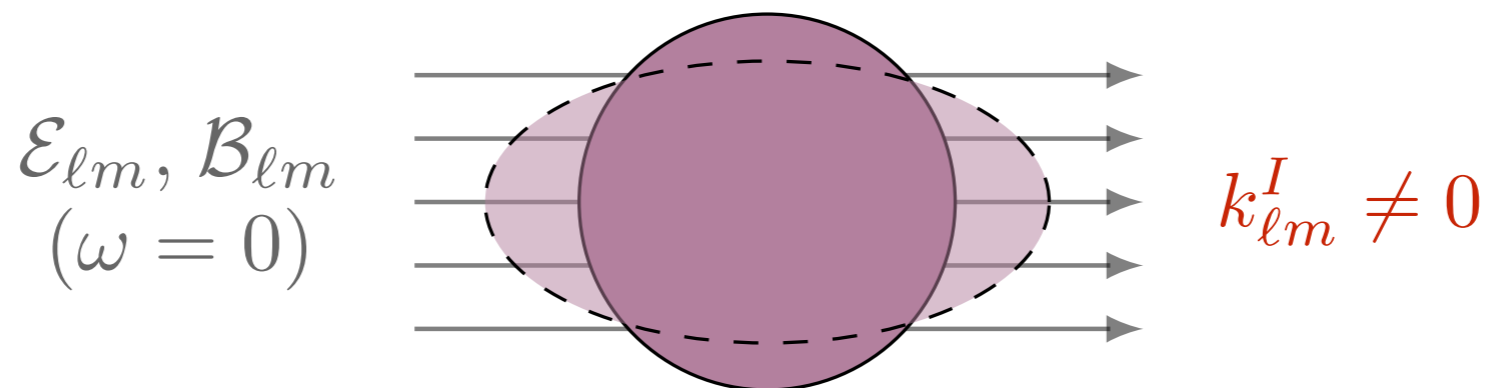
# Perturbed Spherical Star: Metric

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The metric of a perturbed relativistic spherical star has been computed in the literature for the **static limit**,  $\omega = 0$  (no information about dissipation). E.g.

$$g_{vv} = - \left( 1 - \frac{2M}{r} \right) - \frac{2\mathcal{E}_{\ell m}}{\ell(\ell-1)} \left[ r^\ell A(r) + 2k_{\ell m}^E r^\ell \left( \frac{r_0}{r} \right)^{2\ell+1} B(r) \right] Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi),$$

where  $k_{\ell m}^E$  are the electric-type Love numbers. Other metric components depend on the magnetic-type Love numbers,  $k_{\ell m}^B$ , as well.



# Perturbed Spherical Star: Weyl Scalar

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We can condense all information of the perturbed metric into the Weyl scalar:\*

$$\psi_4^{\text{Sph}}(\omega = 0) = \sum_I \sum_{\ell m} \mathcal{M}_{\ell m}^I {}_{-2}Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi) \\ \times \left[ r^{\ell-2} G_\ell(r) + 2k_{\ell m}^I r^{\ell-2} \left( \frac{r_0}{r} \right)^{2\ell+1} D_\ell(r) \right],$$

$\sim r^{\ell-2}$  “growing term”  
(applied external tidal field)



$\sim r^{-\ell-3}$  “decaying term”  
(object’s response)



where  $I = \{E, B\}$  label quantities of electric- and magnetic-type characters:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\ell m}^E \propto \mathcal{E}_{\ell m}, \quad \mathcal{M}_{\ell m}^B \propto i\mathcal{B}_{\ell m},$$

HSC [2010.07300]

\*Recall the analogous  $\sim r^\ell$  and  $\sim r^{-\ell-1}$  scalings in the Newtonian potential

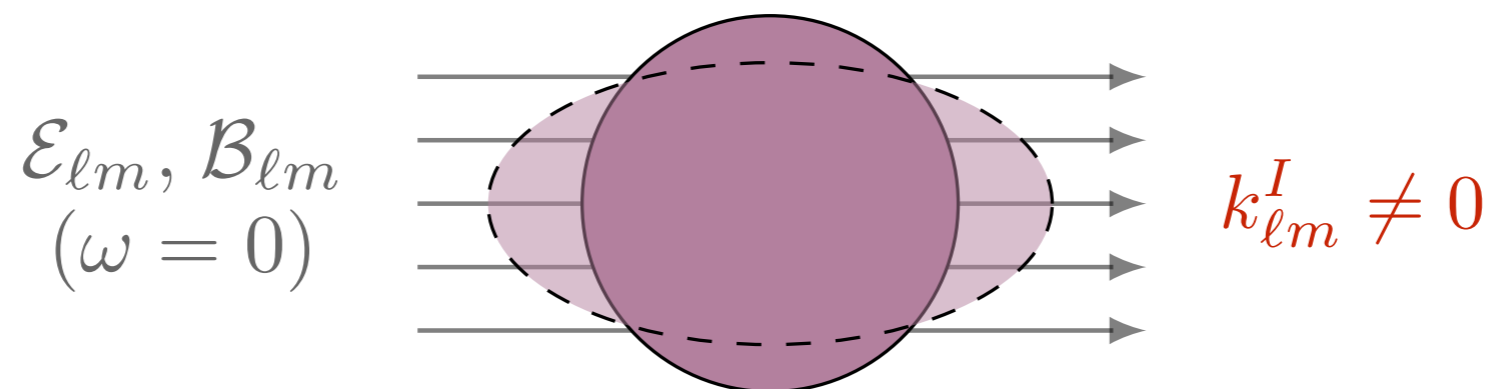
# Spherical Star: Love Numbers

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The Love numbers are determined by matching the exterior metric with the boundary condition at the star's surface,  $r = r_0$ .

$$\psi_4^{\text{Sph}}(\omega = 0) \propto r^{\ell-2} G_\ell(r) + 2k_{\ell m}^I r^{\ell-2} \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right)^{2\ell+1} D_\ell(r).$$

For a general star,  $r_0 > 2M$ . In addition, one would need to specify an equation of state for the star's interior region to obtain boundary condition.



# Schwarzschild Black Hole: Love Numbers

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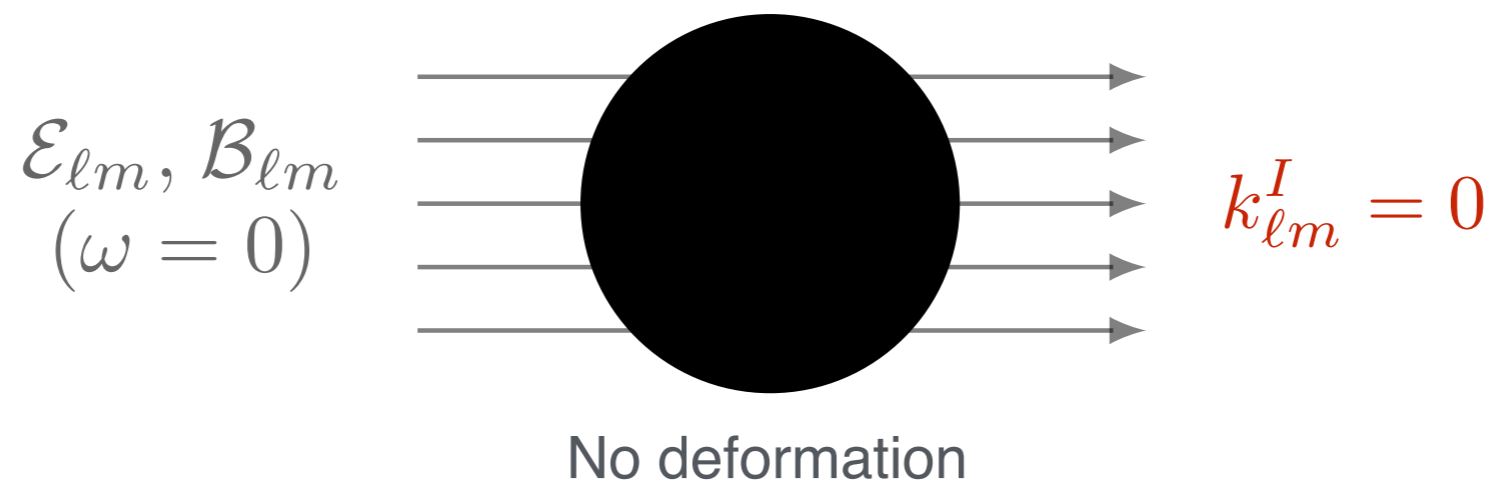
For a Schwarzschild black hole,  $r_0 = 2M$ .

$$\psi_4^{\text{Sph}}(\omega = 0) \propto r^{\ell-2} G_\ell(r) + 2k_{\ell m}^I r^{\ell-2} \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right)^{2\ell+1} D_\ell(r).$$

Furthermore, as we approach the event horizon,

$$r^{\ell-2} G_\ell(r) \sim (r - 2M)^2, \quad r \rightarrow 2M,$$

while  $D_\ell$  diverges logarithmically. The boundary condition at the event horizon\* forces the decaying terms to vanish identically, which is only possible if  $k_{\ell m}^I = 0$ .



Binnington, Poisson [0906.1366], Damour, Nagar [0906.0096], Kol, Smolkin [1110.3764]

\*Recall that the purely ingoing wave scales as  $\psi_4 \sim (r - r_+)^2$

# Schwarzschild Black Hole: Solution

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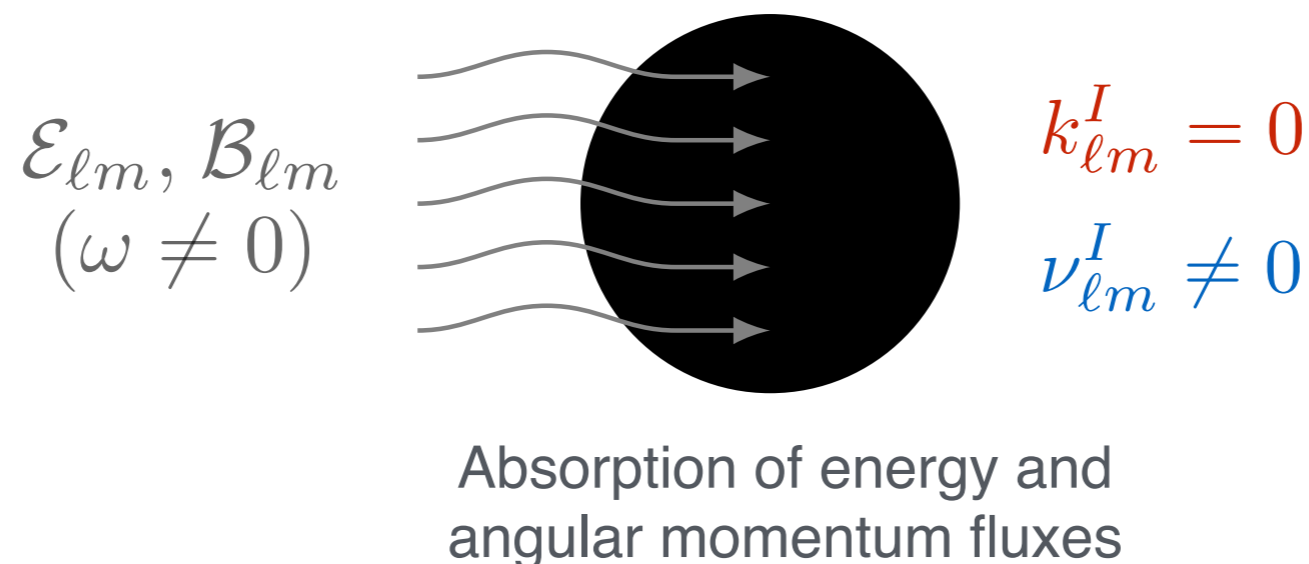
The discussion above was restricted to the **static limit**.

$$\psi_4^{\text{Schw}}(\omega = 0) \propto {}_2F_1(2 - \ell, \ell + 3; 3; 1 - r/2M).$$

To derive the dissipative response of the Schwarzschild black hole, we solve the Teukolsky equation perturbatively in  $M\omega \ll 1$ . At leading order, we find

$$\psi_4^{\text{Schw}}(M\omega \ll 1) \propto {}_2F_1(2 - \ell, \ell + 3; 3 + 2i\tilde{P}_+; 1 - r/2M).$$

where  $i\tilde{P}_+ = -i\omega(2M)$  is the zero-spin limit of the superradiance factor.



# Schwarzschild Black Hole: Total Response

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The tidal response is obtained by expanding the Weyl scalar at large distances:

$$\psi_4^{\text{Schw}} \propto r^{\ell-2} \left[ (1 + \dots) + F_{\ell m}^{I, \text{Schw}} \left( \frac{2M}{r} \right)^{2\ell+1} (1 + \dots) \right], r \gg 2M$$

$$F_{\ell m}^{I, \text{Schw}}(\omega) = 0 + i\omega(2M)\nu_{\ell m}^{\text{Schw}} + \dots$$

Well-known result in the literature

We obtain the **general expression** for the **dissipation numbers**  $\nu_{\ell m}^{\text{Schw}}$ , which recovers known results for the first few orders of  $\ell$  in the literature.

HSC [2010.07300]

Binnington, Poisson [0906.1366], Damour, Nagar [0906.0096], Kol, Smolkin [1110.3764]

Goldberger, Rothstein [0511133]

# Newtonian vs Schwarzschild Response

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Non-rotating body in Newtonian gravity:

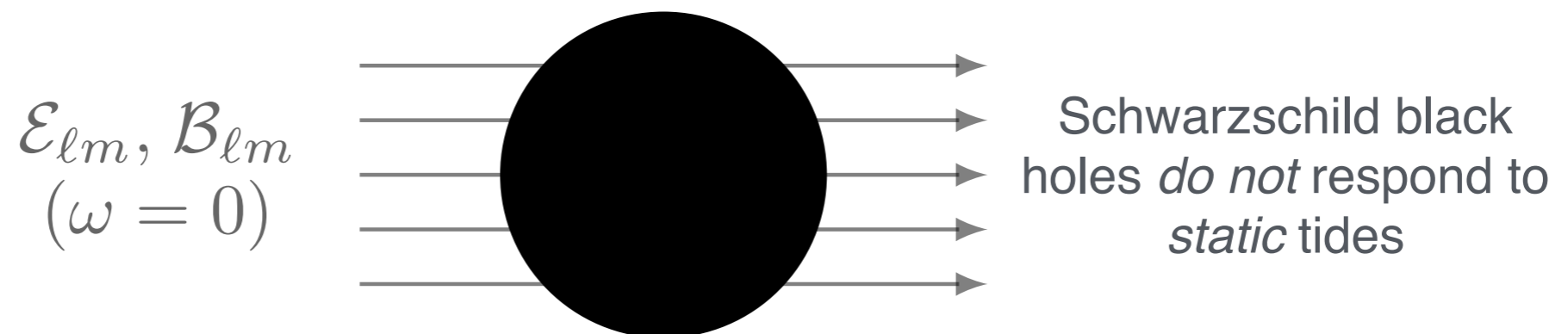
$$F_{\ell m}(\omega) = 2k_{\ell m} + i\omega\tau_0\nu_{\ell m} + \dots$$

Schwarzschild black hole:

$$F_{\ell m}^{I,\text{Schw}}(\omega) = 0 + i\omega(2M)\nu_{\ell m}^{\text{Schw}} + \dots$$

where  $\tau_0 = 2M$  is the black hole light crossing time.

At  $\omega = 0$ , tidal dissipation and all higher order terms of the Schwarzschild response function vanish identically.



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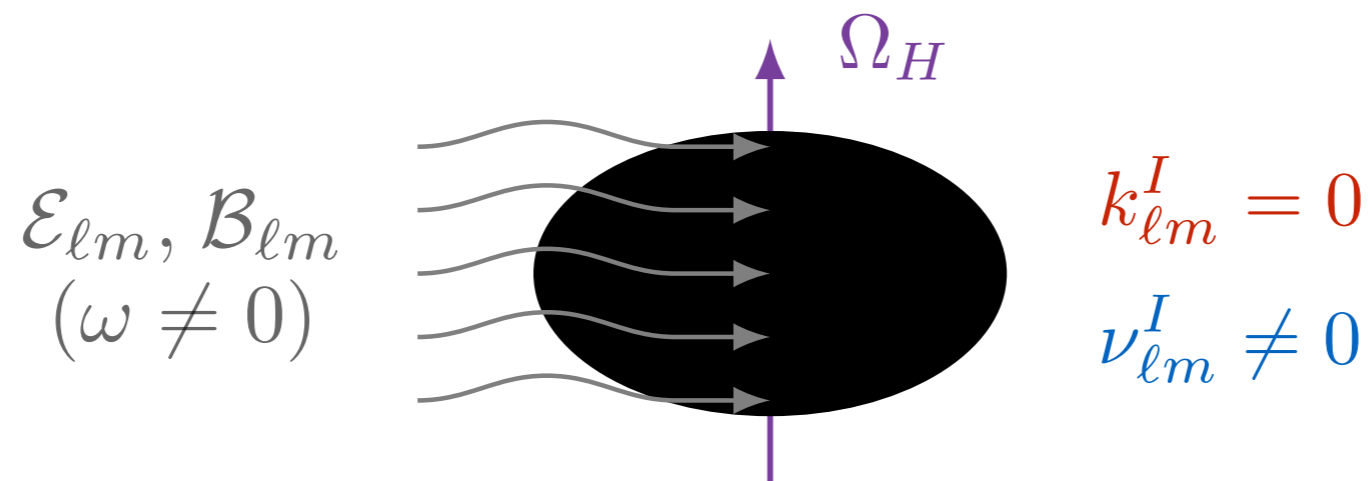
# Kerr Black Hole: Solution

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Repeating the same exercise as above, we can derive the tidal response of Kerr black hole's tidal response through the Teukolsky equation:

$$\psi_4^{\text{Kerr}}(M\omega \ll 1) \propto {}_2F_1(2 - \ell, \ell + 3; 3 + 2iP_+; (r_+ - r)/(r_+ - r_-)) .$$

Easy to check that this reduces to the Schwarzschild solution at  $a = 0$ .



Deformation is spin-induced,  
*not* tidally-induced!

# Kerr Black Hole: Tidal Response

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We also solve for the response function of the Kerr black hole:

$$F_{\ell m}^{I,\text{Kerr}}(\omega, \Omega_H) = 0 - i(m\Omega_H - \omega) [2Mr_+ / (r_+ - r_-)] \nu_{\ell m}^{\text{Kerr}} + \dots$$

- **Rotating black holes *do not* fall in Love**
  - true for all spins, all  $\{\ell, m\}$ , and both electric-type and magnetic-type tides
  - generalizes partial results known in the literature
- **Tidal dissipation** is proportional to the so-called **superradiance** factor

$$\propto m\Omega_H - \omega$$

which can either be **negative** (energy loss) or **positive** (energy extraction)

HSC [2010.07300]

Poisson [1411.4711], Pani, Gualtieri, Maselli, Ferrari [1503.07365]

Goldberger, Li, Rothstein [2012.14869], Charalambous, Dubovsky, Ivanov [2102.08917, 2103.01234]

# Schwarzschild vs Kerr Response

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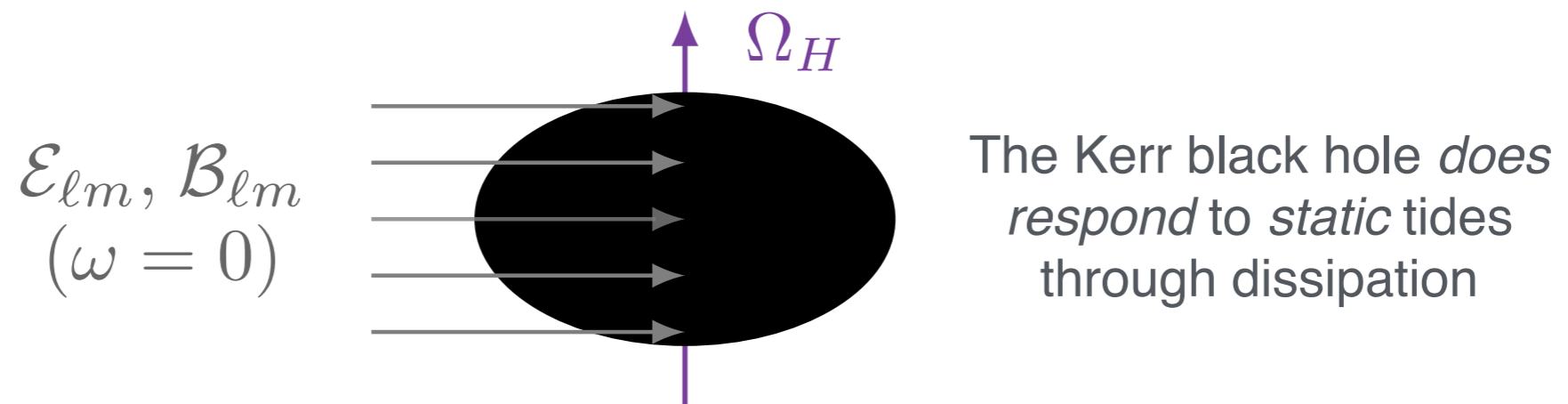
Schwarzschild black hole:

$$F_{\ell m}^{I,\text{Schw}}(\omega) = 0 + i\omega(2M)\nu_{\ell m}^{\text{Schw}} + \dots$$

Kerr black hole:

$$F_{\ell m}^{I,\text{Kerr}}(\omega, a) = 0 - i(m\Omega_H - \omega) [2Mr_+ / (r_+ - r_-)] \nu_{\ell m}^{\text{Kerr}} + \dots$$

Unlike the Schwarzschild black hole, the Kerr black hole still experiences dissipation at  $\omega = 0$  due to the **relative motion** between the black hole's rotation and the static tidal field.



HSC [2010.07300]

Goldberger, Li, Rothstein [2012.14869]

Charalambous, Dubovsky, Ivanov [2102.08917]

# Claims of “Spinning Black Holes Fall in Love”

Le Tiec, Casals [2007.00214] (PRL) + Franzin [2010.15795]:

Featured in Physics

Editors' Suggestion

## Spinning Black Holes Fall in Love

Alexandre Le Tiec and Marc Casals

Phys. Rev. Lett. **126**, 131102 – Published 30 March 2021

$$k_{\ell m} = -\frac{i}{4\pi} \sinh(2\pi m\gamma) |\Gamma(\ell+1+2im\gamma)|^2 \frac{(\ell-2)!(\ell+2)!}{(2\ell)!(2\ell+1)!} \quad (22)$$

↑  $\omega = 0$

$$F_{\ell m}^{I, \text{Kerr}}(\omega, \Omega_H) = 0 - i(m\Omega_H - \omega) [2Mr_+ / (r_+ - r_-)] \nu_{\ell m}^{\text{Kerr}} + \dots$$

In the revised version of the draft, the authors redefined what they mean by “Love numbers”. They also added:

*Speculation.*—As suggested by this tidal lag and as argued in Ref. [66], the purely imaginary TLNs (8) may give rise to dissipative effects *only*, such as the Kerr tidal torquing discussed in Ref. [41]. However, under the assumption that the induced quadrupole moments (13) also give rise to conservative effects, there is the exciting

In the first version of the arXiv paper, the authors claimed that the non-vanishing term is the conservative tidal Love numbers. Instead, those are **dissipation numbers at the static limit**, which are **non-vanishing due to frame dragging**.

HSC [2010.07300]

Poisson [1411.4711], Pani, Gualtieri, Maselli, Ferrari [1503.07365]

Goldberger, Li, Rothstein [2012.14869], Charalambous, Dubovsky, Ivanov [2102.08917, 2103.01234]

# Black Holes do not Fall in Love

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The GW community commonly refers to  $k_{\ell m}$ , not  $F_{\ell m}$ , as **Love numbers**

↓

$$F_{\ell m}^{I, \text{Kerr}}(\omega, \Omega_H) = \textcolor{red}{0} - i(m\Omega_H - \omega) [2Mr_+ / (r_+ - r_-)] \nu_{\ell m}^{\text{Kerr}} + \dots$$

Regardless of difference in definitions/nomenclatures, the **physical imprints** of those tidal effects on waveforms are **unambiguous**.

- **Tidal deformation** (first appears at **5PN** in waveform phase):  $\textcolor{red}{0}$
- **Tidal dissipation** (first appears at **2.5PN** in waveform phase):  $\propto m\Omega_H - \omega$

HSC [2010.07300]

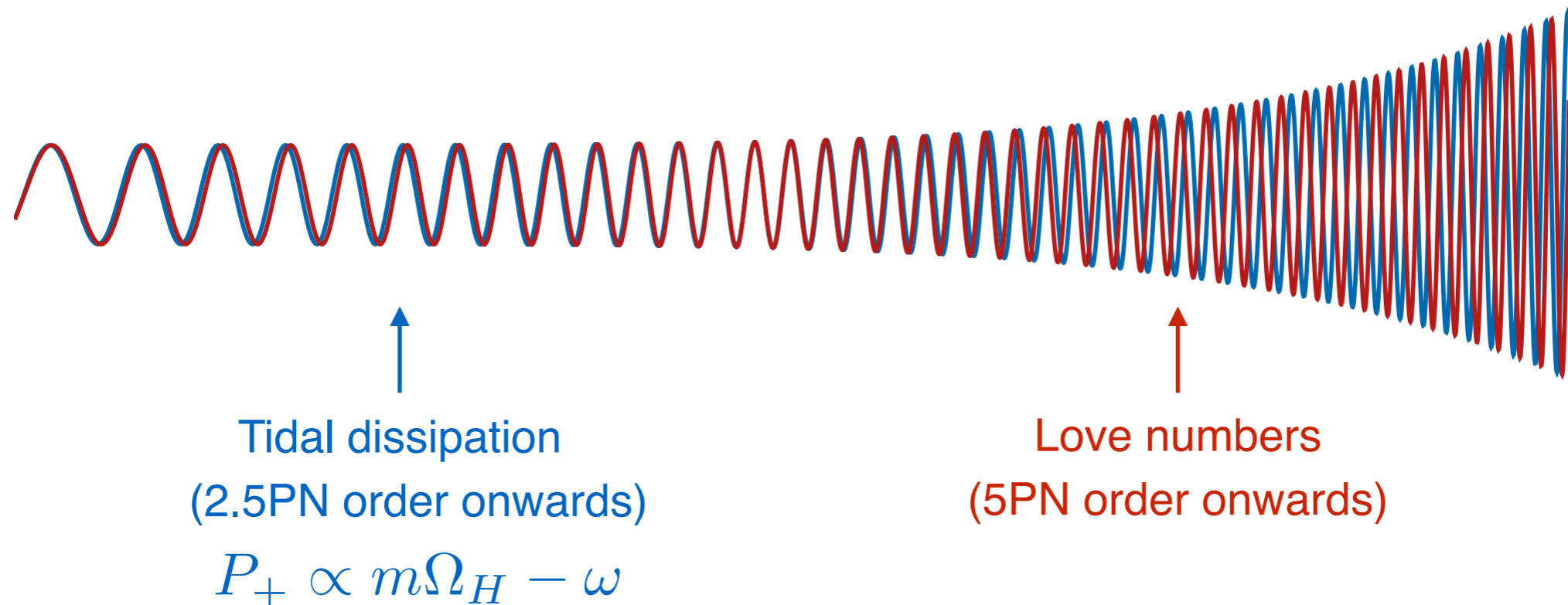
Poisson [1411.4711], Pani, Gualtieri, Maselli, Ferrari [1503.07365]

Goldberger, Li, Rothstein [2012.14869], Charalambous, Dubovsky, Ivanov [2102.08917, 2103.01234]

# Tidal Dissipation in Schwarzschild vs Kerr BHs

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The superradiance factor is responsible for an enhancement of tidal dissipation in rotating black holes, compared to Schwarzschild black holes.

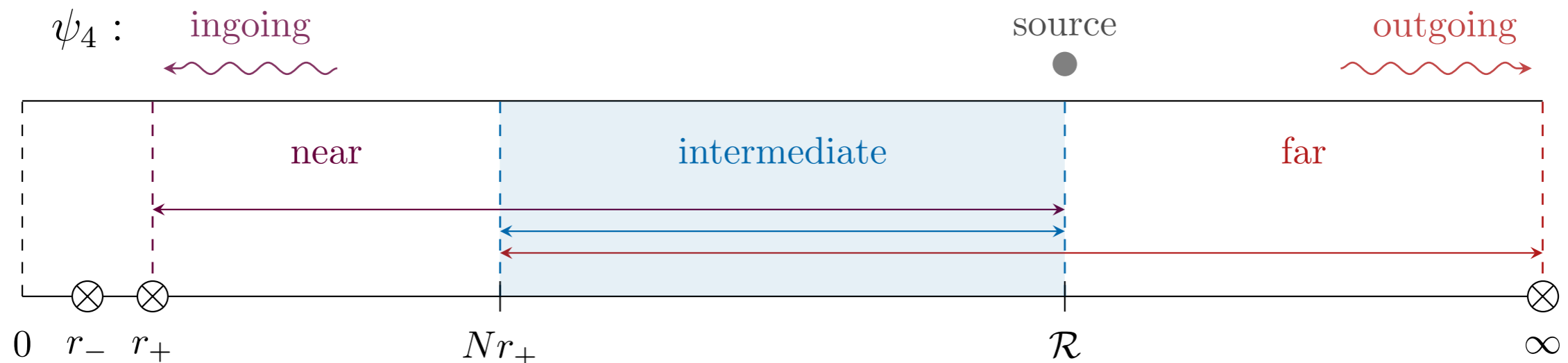


In the PN expansion,  $M\omega \sim v^3$ , where  $v$  is the typical binary velocity. For a Schwarzschild black hole, where  $\Omega_H = 0$ , tidal dissipation is suppressed by an additional factor of  $v^3$  and therefore first appears at 4PN order.

Poisson, Sasaki [9412027]  
Tagoshi, Mano, Takasugi [9711072]  
Flanagan, Hinderer [0709.1915]

# Love is Unambiguous

There are also claims in the literature that Love numbers are “ambiguous” in General Relativity (related to coordinate transformation arguments)



However, this is a red-herring and can be resolved by performing a **matched asymptotic expansion** between the solutions in the regions of spacetime.

Gralla [1710.11096]

HSC [2010.07300]

Charalambous, Dubovsky, Ivanov [2102.08917]

# Why is Love only Vanishing at $D=4$ ?

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It is known for some time that Love numbers of (Schwarzschild black holes) are only zero at four spacetime dimensions, but not at higher dimensions.

From a field theory perspective:

**Vanishing Love number  $\leftrightarrow$  Symmetry?**

Recent work has found a remarkable **hidden  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  symmetry** and a **ladder symmetry** associated to the black hole horizon, which is responsible for vanishing Love only at  $D=4$ .

Kol, Smolkin [1110.3764]

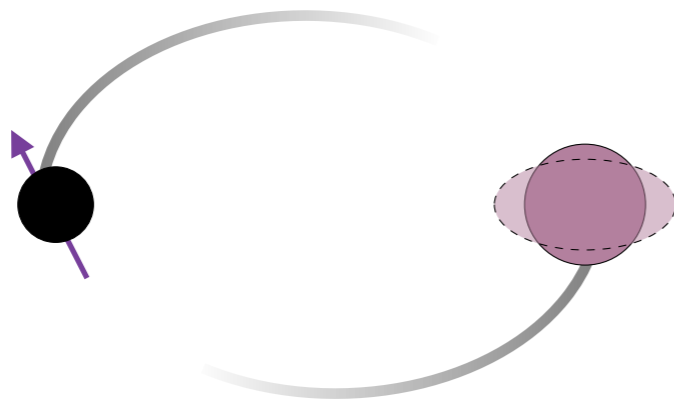
Hui, Joyce, Penco, Santoni, Solomon [2010.00593, 2105.01069 ]

Charalambous, Dubovsky, Ivanov [2103.01234]

# Thank you for your attention!

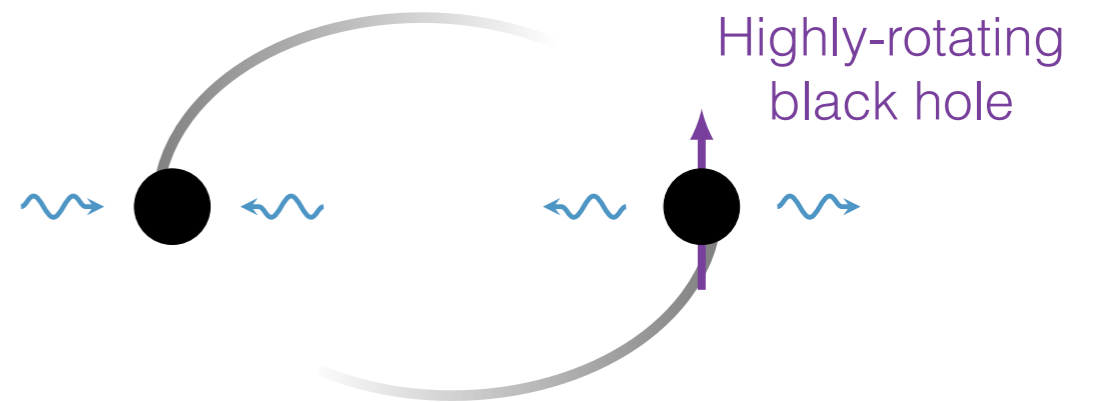
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Tidal deformation



Rotating black holes  
***do not fall in Love***

Tidal dissipation



Black hole dissipation can induce  
**mode absorption** and **amplification**

# **Supplementary Slides**

# Relativistic Tides

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In General Relativity, the tidal perturbations are characterised by both the **electric-type** and **magnetic-type** tidal moments

$$\mathcal{E}_L \propto \left[ u^\alpha u^\beta C_{\alpha\mu_1\beta\mu_2;\mu_3\cdots\mu_\ell} \right]^{\text{STF}},$$
$$\mathcal{B}_L \propto \left[ u^\alpha u^\beta \epsilon^{\lambda\sigma}{}_{\beta\mu_2} C_{\alpha\mu_1\lambda\sigma;\mu_3\cdots\mu_\ell} \right]^{\text{STF}},$$

where  $C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$  is the Weyl tensor, and  $u^\mu$  is the time-like unit vector of a Fermi comoving observer.

The tidal moments in the STF representation can be rewritten in terms of the spherical harmonic representation:

$$\mathcal{E}_L x^L \propto r^\ell \sum_{\ell m} \mathcal{E}_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi),$$
$$\mathcal{B}_L x^L \propto r^\ell \sum_{\ell m} \mathcal{B}_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}(\theta, \phi),$$

# Newman-Penrose Weyl Scalars

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In the Newman-Penrose formalism, the Weyl tensor can be decomposed into five complex Weyl scalars through a set of null tetrad:

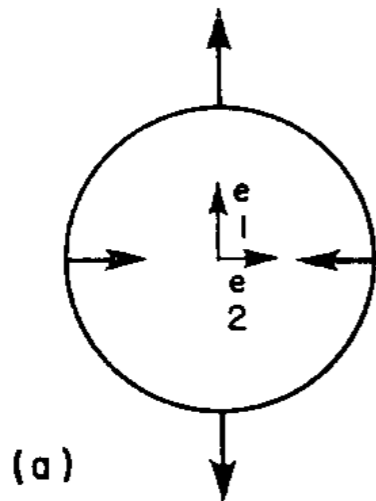
$\psi_0 = C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} l^\mu m^\nu l^\rho m^\sigma ,$	Ingoing transverse wave
$\psi_1 = C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} l^\mu n^\nu l^\rho m^\sigma ,$	Ingoing longitudinal wave
$\psi_2 = C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} l^\mu m^\nu \bar{m}^\rho n^\sigma ,$	“Coulomb” field
$\psi_3 = C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} l^\mu n^\nu \bar{m}^\rho n^\sigma ,$	Outgoing longitudinal wave
$\psi_4 = C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} n^\mu \bar{m}^\nu n^\rho \bar{m}^\sigma ,$	Outgoing transverse wave

where  $l, n$  are real,  $\bar{m}$  is the complex conjugate of  $m$ , and they obey  $l^\mu n_\mu = -m^\mu \bar{m}_\mu = -1$ , with all other inner products vanish.

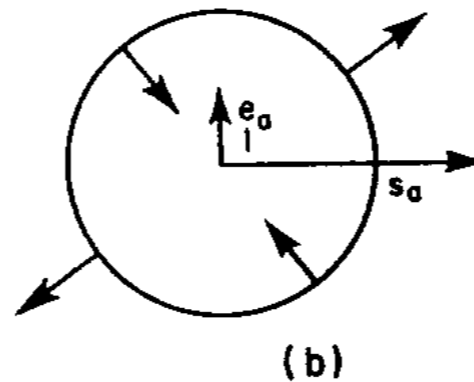
# “Shearing” Forces of the Weyl Scalars

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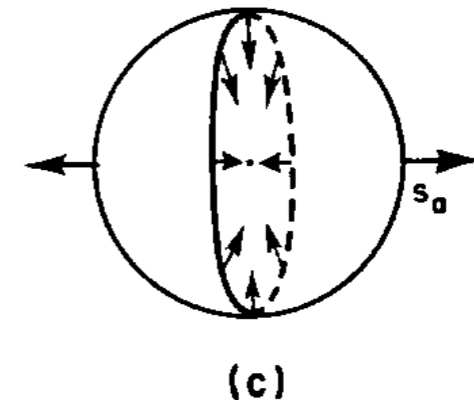
Each of the Weyl scalars represents different “shearing” forces:



$\psi_0, \psi_4$   
transverse



$\psi_1, \psi_3$   
longitudinal



$\psi_2$   
“Coulomb”

For a “star”, such as the Kerr black hole, only  $\psi_2$  is non-vanishing.  
For gravitational waves, only  $\psi_0, \psi_4$  are non-vanishing.

# The Peeling Theorem

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The “peeling theorem” states that each of these Weyl scalars decays as

$$\psi_n \sim \mathcal{O}(r^{-5+n}) , \quad r \rightarrow \infty$$

For example:

- the  $\psi_2 \sim \mathcal{O}(r^{-3})$  scaling of the “Coulomb” field represents the dominant tidal force that are sourced by stars;
- the  $\psi_4 \sim \mathcal{O}(r^{-1})$  scaling implies that the outgoing transverse waves dominate the gravitational field at large distances.

For an outgoing plane wave,  $\psi_0 = \psi_1 = \psi_2 = \psi_3 = 0$  , while  $\psi_4$  encodes the two independent GW polarizations that we measure at large distances

$$\psi_4 = -\ddot{h}_+ + i\ddot{h}_\times , \quad r \rightarrow \infty$$

where dot denotes time derivative.