

Overview of Black Hole Superradiance

Hong Zhang (张宏)

Shandong University, Qingdao

Outline

- ✧ Introduction
- ✧ The fast-growing cloud
- ✧ Evolution of BH-cloud system
- ✧ Observables
- ✧ Summary

Outline



✧ **Introduction**

✧ The fast-growing cloud

✧ Evolution of BH-cloud system

✧ Observables

✧ Summary

Kerr Metric

- Describing a rotating black hole

$$ds^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2 r_g r}{\Sigma}\right) dt^2 + \frac{4 a r_g r}{\Sigma} \sin^2 \theta dt d\varphi - \frac{\Sigma}{\Delta} dr^2 \\ - \Sigma d\theta^2 - \left[(r^2 + a^2) \sin^2 \theta + 2 \frac{r_g r}{\Sigma} a^2 \sin^4 \theta \right] d\varphi^2.$$

with $a = J/M, r_g = G M$

$$\Delta = r^2 - 2 r_g r + a^2$$

$$\Sigma = r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta$$

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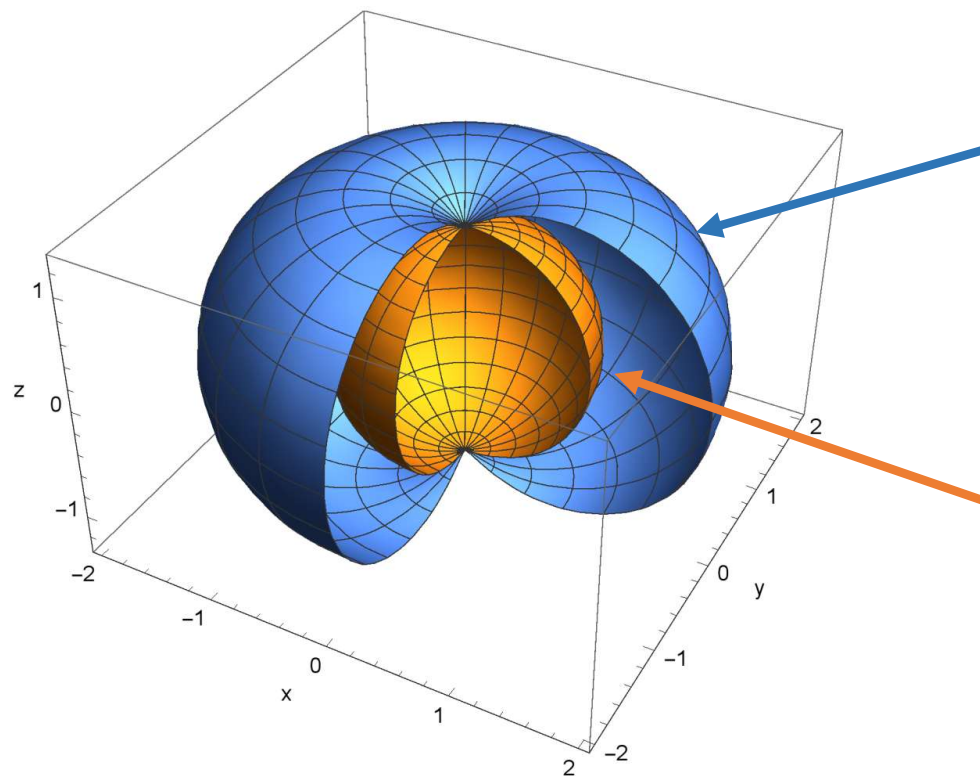
$$\Sigma = r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta$$

Horizons: $\Delta = 0 \longrightarrow r_{\pm} = r_g \pm \sqrt{r_g^2 - a^2}$

Ergo-sphere: $1 - \frac{2r_g r}{\Sigma} = 0 \longrightarrow r_{E,\pm} = r_g \pm \sqrt{r_g^2 - a^2 \cos^2 \theta}$

Ergo-region

- Region between outer horizon and outer ergo-sphere



outer ergosphere

$$r_{E,+} = r_g + \sqrt{r_g^2 - a^2 \cos^2 \theta}$$

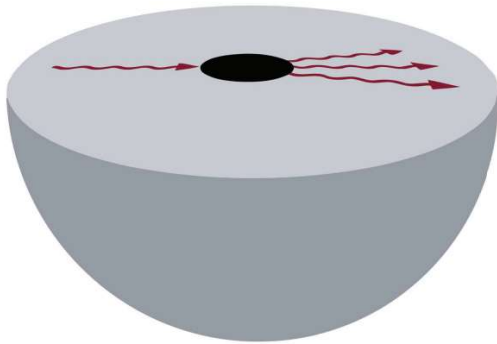
outer horizon

$$r_+ = r_g \pm \sqrt{r_g^2 - a^2}$$

- In the ergoregion, energy can be negative.
- Penrose process: extracting energy and angular mom. From BH

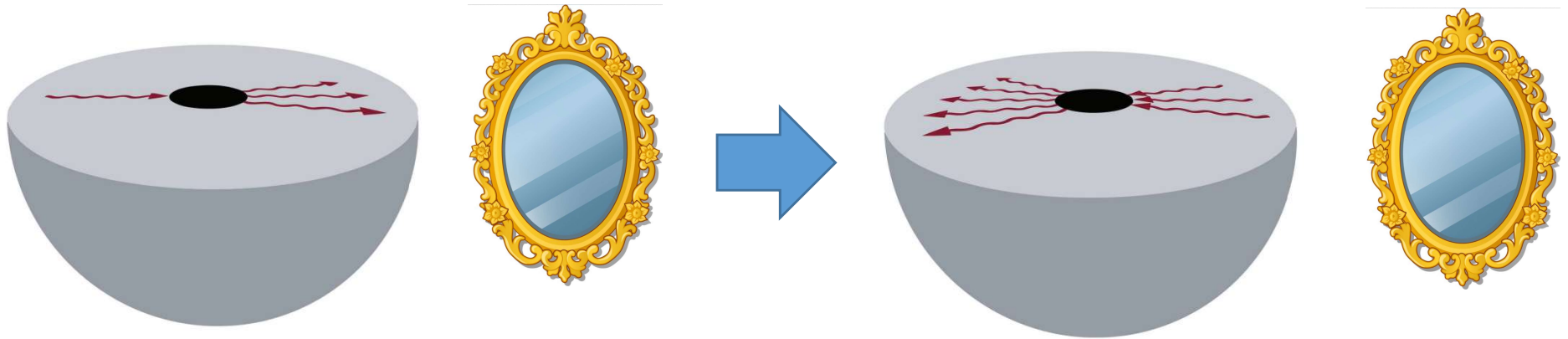
Superradiance

- A wave shining on a Kerr BH could be enhanced in magnitude.



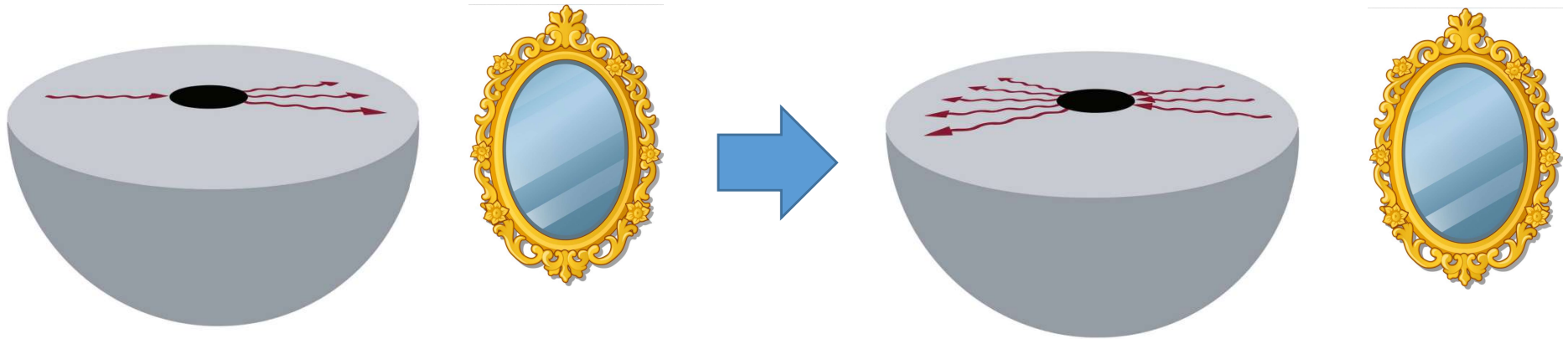
Superradiance

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Superradiance

- A wave shining on a Kerr BH could be enhanced in magnitude.



- With a BH wrapped with mirrors, the wave grows exponentially with time, until the mirror breaks.



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Letter | Published: 28 July 1972

Floating Orbits, Superradiant Scattering and the Black-hole Bomb

[WILLIAM H. PRESS](#) & [SAUL A. TEUKOLSKY](#)

[Nature](#) **238**, 211–212 (1972) | [Cite this article](#)

Superradiance with a Bound State

- If the wave can from a **bound state** around the BH, the wave cannot propagate to infinity.
 - A natural “mirror”.
 - Requires **de Broglie wavelength $\approx$ BH horizon**
 - Continuously extracting energy and angular mom. from BH.

$$M_{\odot} \sim 10^{-10} \text{ eV}$$

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- Physics at the outer horizon r_+

Use tortoise coordinate, $r_* = r - \frac{r_+ + r_-}{r_+ - r_-} \left[r_- \log \left(\frac{r - r_-}{2M} \right) - r_+ \log \left(\frac{r - r_+}{2M} \right) \right]$

The wave close to the outer horizon is $\propto e^{-i\omega t + i(\omega - m\Omega_H)r_*}$

angular velocity of the outer horizon: $\Omega_H = a/2r_g r_+$

The **group velocity and phase velocity are in different direction**

if $\omega < m\Omega_H$ **Superradiance condition!**

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Non-interacting Real Scalar Field

- Simplest example: non-interacting massive real scalar
- Assume small energy density  can still use Kerr metric
- Klein-Gordon equation in Kerr metric

$$(\nabla^\nu \nabla_\nu + \mu^2)\Phi = 0 \quad \mu: \text{scalar mass}$$

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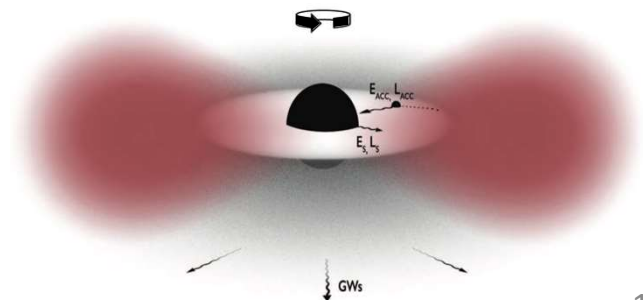
- The **bound state** eigen-energy is **complex** $\omega_{n\ell m} = \omega_{n\ell m}^{(R)} + i\omega_{n\ell m}^{(I)}$

Three indices: $(n \geq 0, l, m)$, similar to hydrogen atom

- The condensate mass and angular momentum grow exponentially

$$M_s \propto \exp(2\omega_{nlm}^{(I)} t)$$

If $\omega_{nlm}^{(I)} > 0$, called superradiance rate



Superradiance Rate

$$M_s \propto \exp(2\omega_{nlm}^{(I)} t)$$

- Analytic approximation at LO of $\alpha = M\mu$
- M : BH mass
 μ : axion mass

KLEIN-GORDON EQUATION AND ROTATING BLACK HOLES

#3

Steven L. Detweiler (Yale U.) (1980)

Published in: *Phys.Rev.D* 22 (1980) 2323-2326

[DOI](#) [cite](#) [claim](#)

[reference search](#) [559 citations](#)

- Complicated numerical solution

Instability of the massive Klein-Gordon field on the Kerr spacetime

#4

Sam R. Dolan (University Coll., Dublin) (May, 2007)

Published in: *Phys.Rev.D* 76 (2007) 084001 • e-Print: [0705.2880](#) [gr-qc]

[pdf](#) [DOI](#) [cite](#) [claim](#)

[reference search](#) [444 citations](#)

NLO Calculation

- We confirm a mistake in the LO calculation of $\omega_{nlm}^{(I)}$, and calculate the **NLO contribution for the first time.**

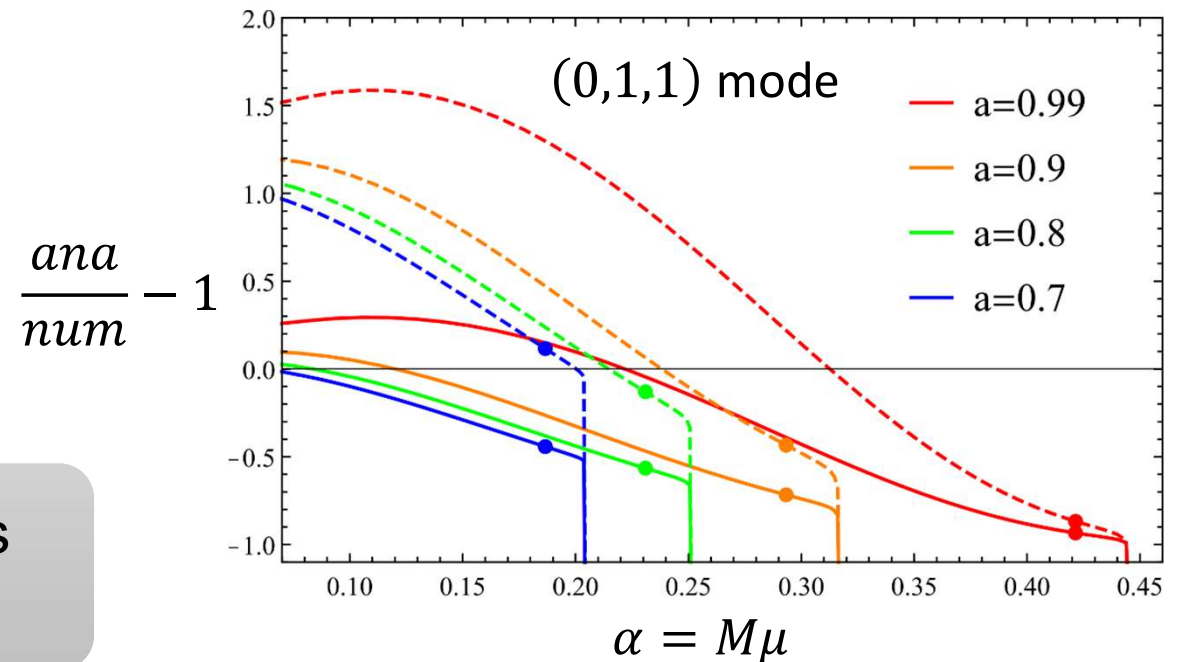
- Leading order

At small α with $a = 0.99$,

Err. of original result $\sim 150\%$

Err. of corrected result $\sim 30\%$

Analytic and numerical results
do not converge at $\alpha \rightarrow 0$!



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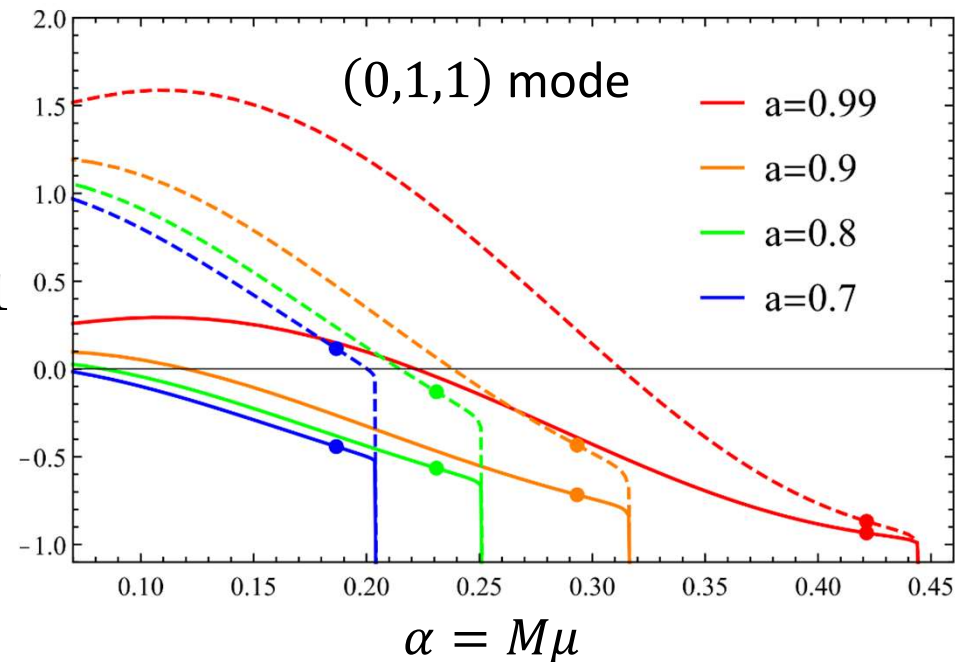
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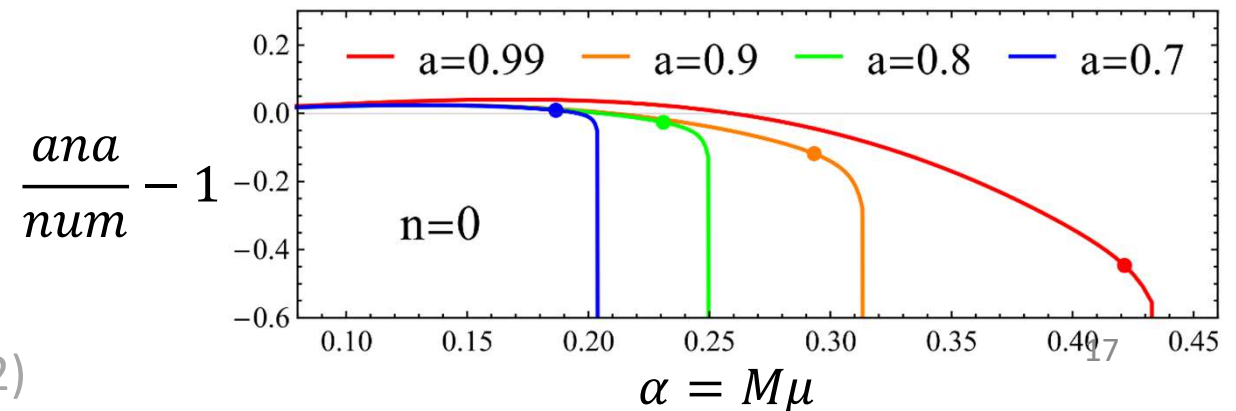
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- Next-to-leading order

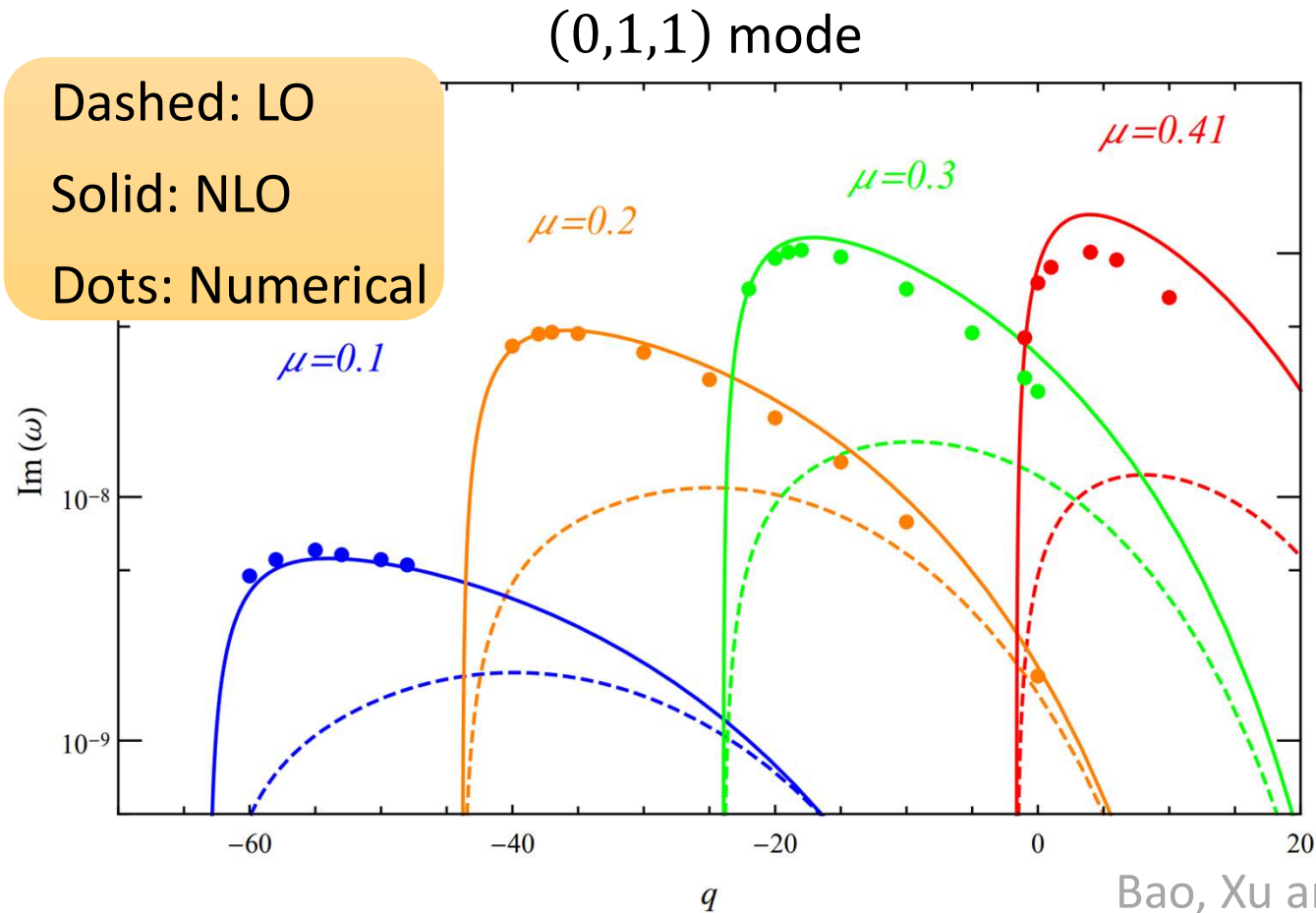
At small α , **err. < 5%**



NLO Sol. of KNBH

- NLO solution greatly improves the precision

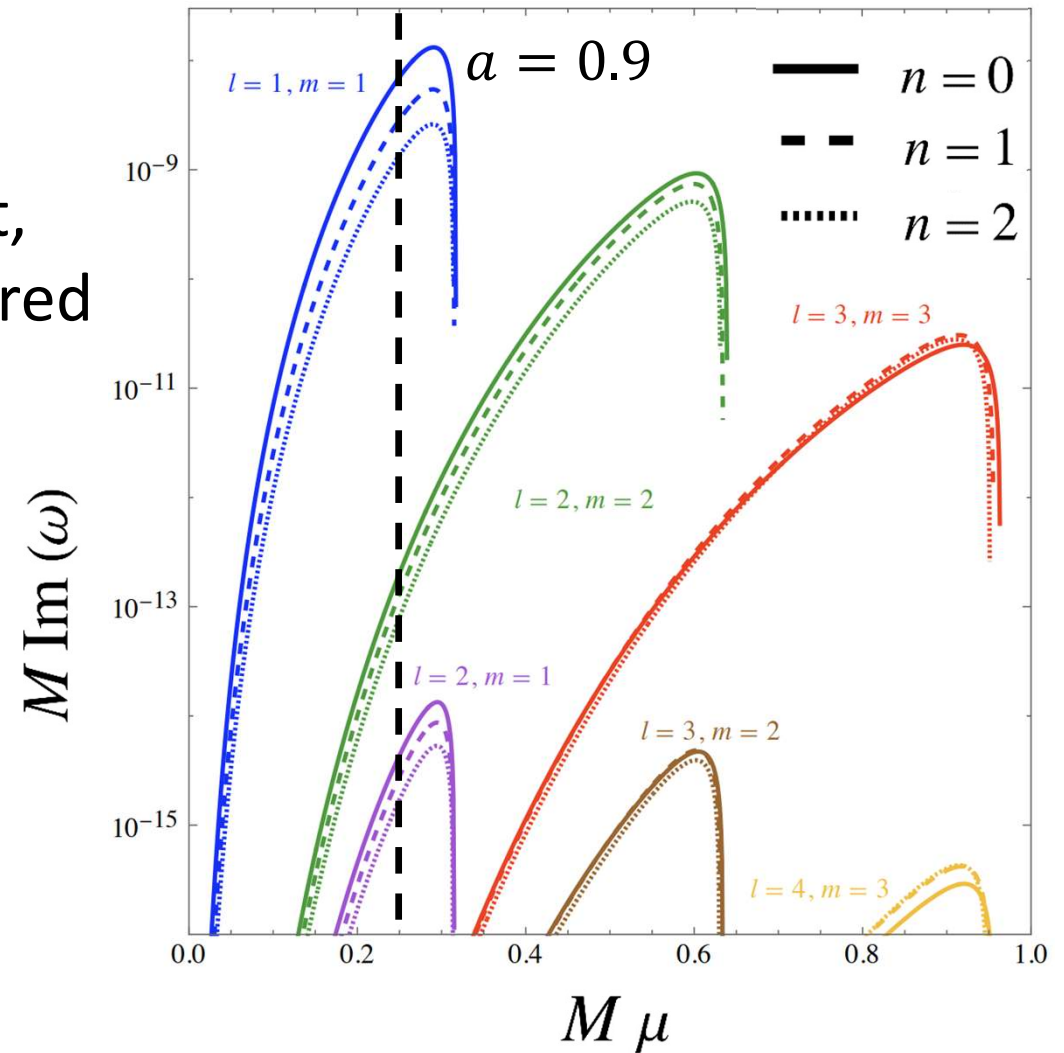
BH mass is normalized to 1, BH charge $Q = 0.02$



- In the rest of this part, I focus only on Kerr BH.

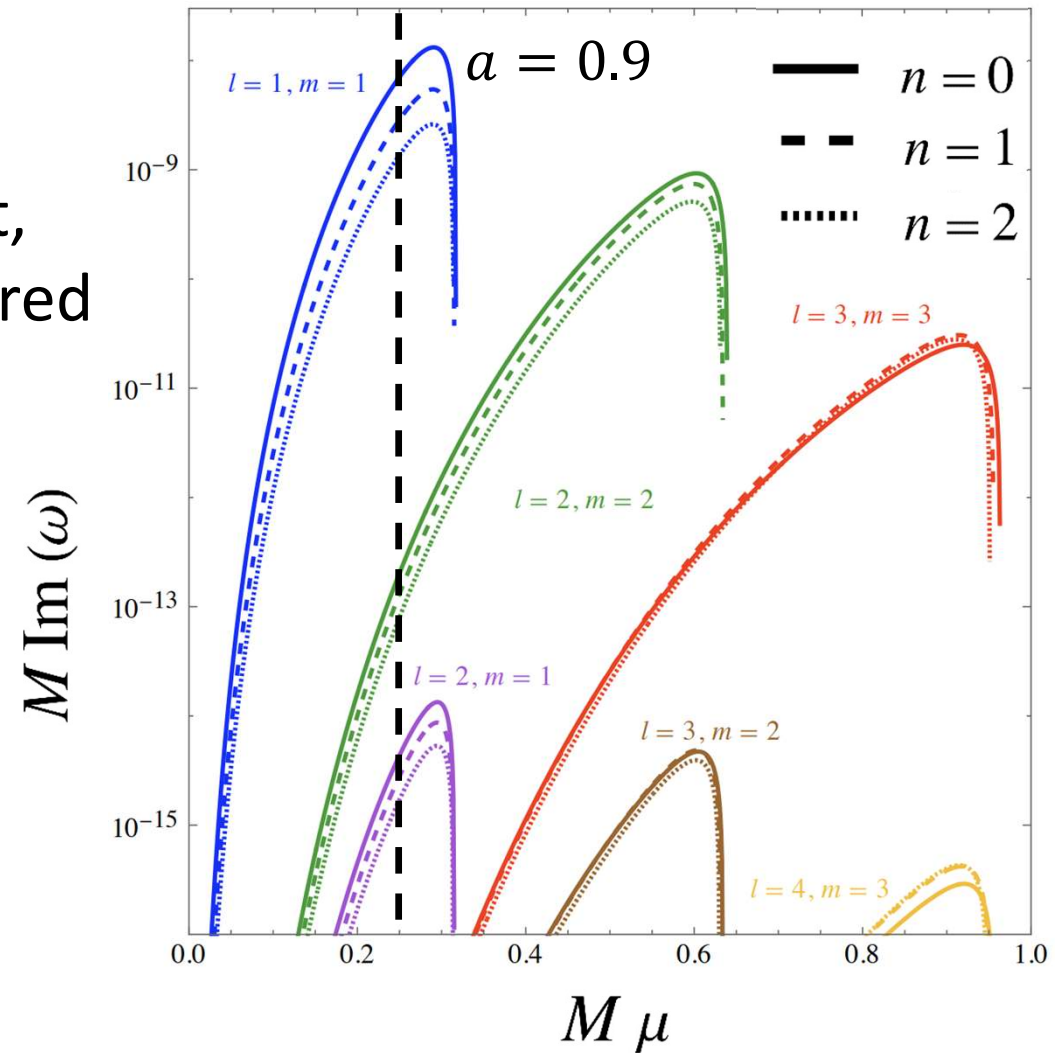
Important Modes

- Three indices ($n \geq 0, l, m$)
- (n, l, l) are the most important, modes with $m \neq l$ can be ignored



Important Modes

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- (n, l, l) are the most important, modes with $m \neq l$ can be ignored
- (n, l, l) modes with different l have very different rates
 - Very different time scales
 - Can consider a single l in each time range
- In each l -stage, $(0, l, l)$ is the fastest, followed by $(1, l, l)$



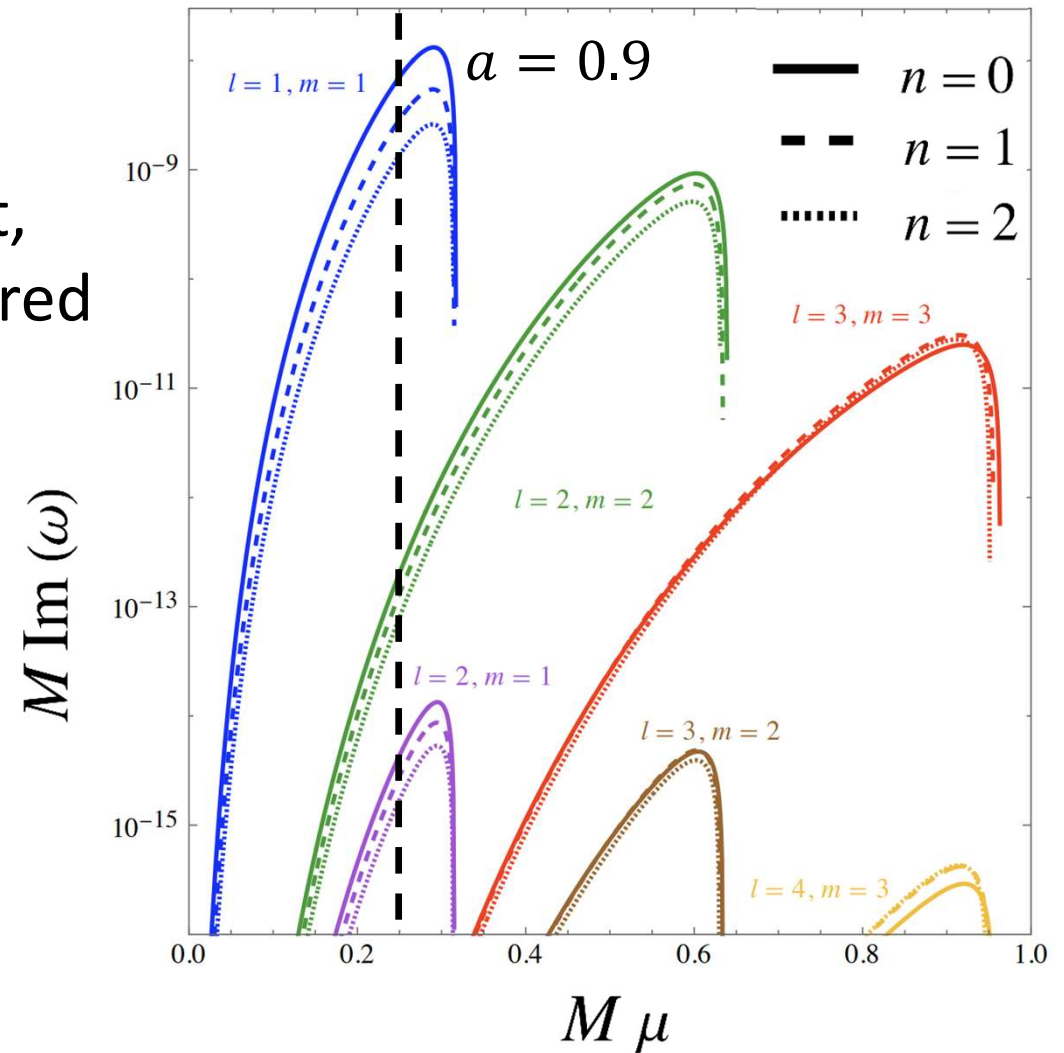
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→ Very different time scales
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- In each l -stage, $(0, l, l)$ is the fastest, followed by $(1, l, l)$

- Superradiance condition $\mu \sim \omega_R < m \Omega_H$ gives the max. of $M\mu$
 $\Omega_H = a/2r_+$ is the angular velocity of the BH outer horizon.



Fields with Nonzero Spin

$$M_s \propto \exp(2\omega_{nlm}^{(I)} t)$$

- Complex scalar: same eigenvalue as the real scalar.

Strongest mode $\omega^{(I)} \sim \mu(M\mu)^9$

- Fermion: free Dirac field in Kerr metric always have $\omega_{nlm}^{(I)} < 0$

Iyer, Kumar, Phys. Rev. 1978

- No superradiance when cloud density is small!
- Not clear with the cloud's contribution to the metric.
- Not clear with self-interaction.

- Vector: strongest mode has $\omega^{(I)} \sim \mu(M\mu)^7$ Baumann, Chia, Stout, ter Haar, JCAP 2019

- Rank-2 Tensor: strongest mode has $\omega^{(I)} \sim \mu(M\mu)^3$

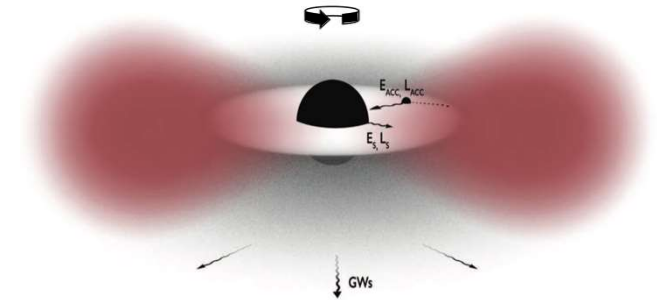
Brito, Cardoso, Pani, PRD 2013

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Isolated BH-cloud Evolution

- Consider non-interacting real scalar field in a Kerr metric
- Evolution equation of real scalar field



M : BH mass

J : BH angular mom.

$M_s^{(nlm)}$: mass of mode (nlm)

$J_s^{(nlm)}$: angular mom. of mode (nlm)

$$\dot{M} = - \sum_{nlm} 2M_s^{(nlm)} \omega_I^{(nlm)},$$

$$\dot{J} = - \sum_{nlm} 2mM_s^{(nlm)} \omega_I^{(nlm)} / \omega_R^{(nlm)}$$

$$\dot{M}_s^{(nlm)} = 2M_s^{(nlm)} \omega_I^{(nlm)} - \dot{E}_{\text{GW}}^{(nlm)}$$

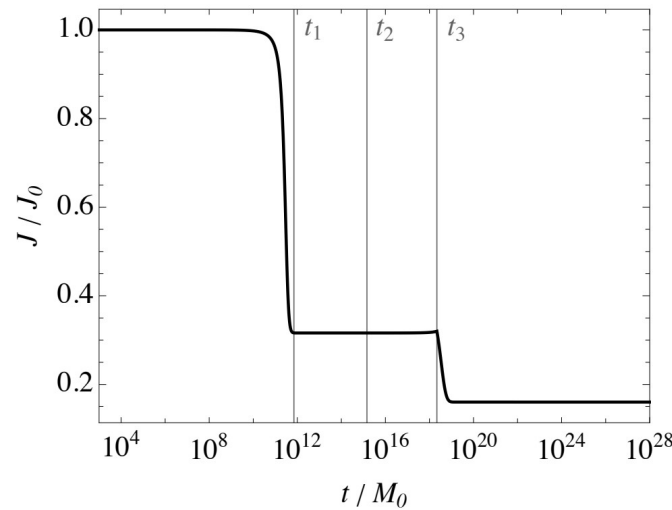
$$\dot{J}_s^{(nlm)} = 2mM_s^{(nlm)} \omega_I^{(nlm)} / \omega_R^{(nlm)} - m \dot{E}_{\text{GW}}^{(nlm)} / \omega_R^{(nlm)}$$

Energy and angular mom.
radiated by GW

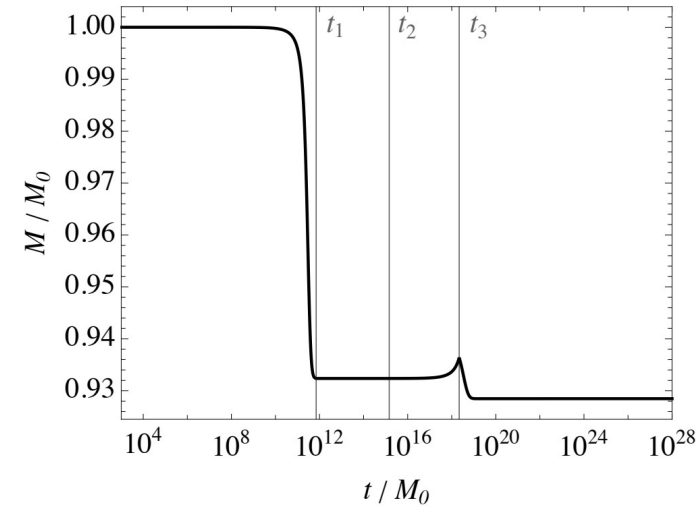
Isolated BH-condesate Evolution

- Keep four $(n, l, m = l)$ modes: $(0,1,1)$, $(1,1,1)$, $(0,2,2)$, $(1,2,2)$
- Evolution can be split into $l = 1$ and $l = 2$ stages

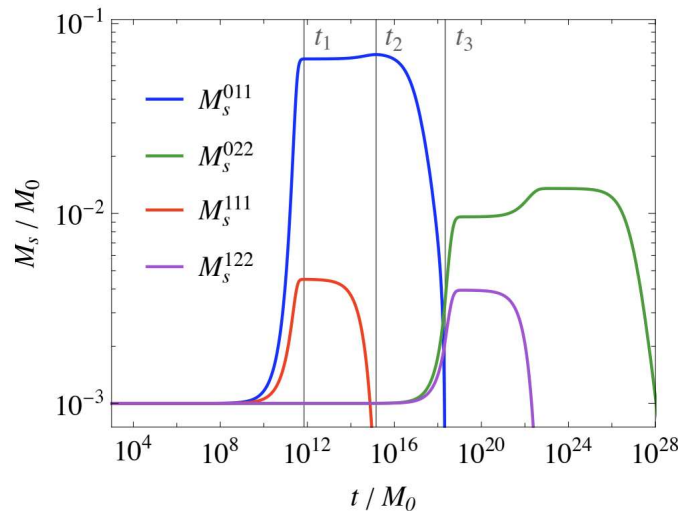
BH angular
momentum



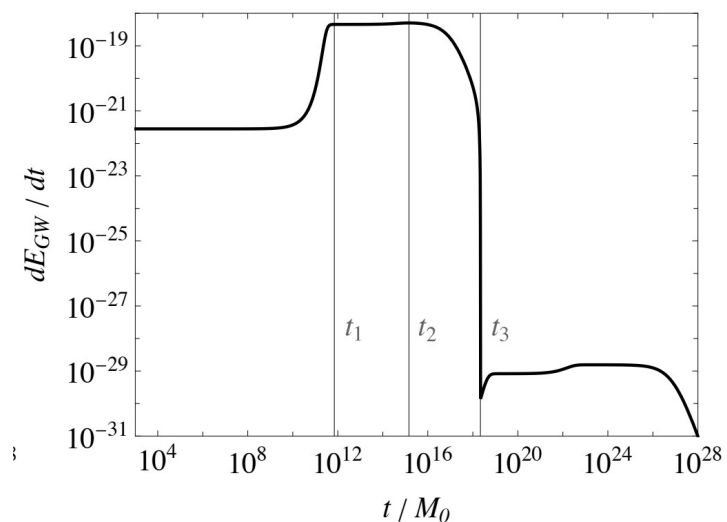
BH
mass



Condensate
mass



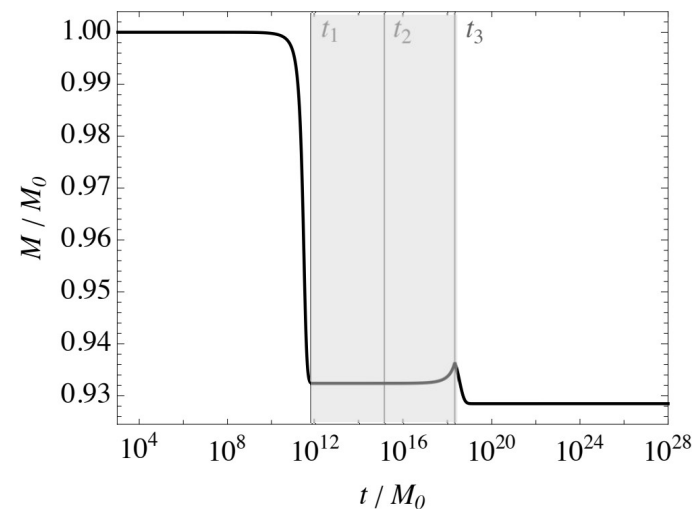
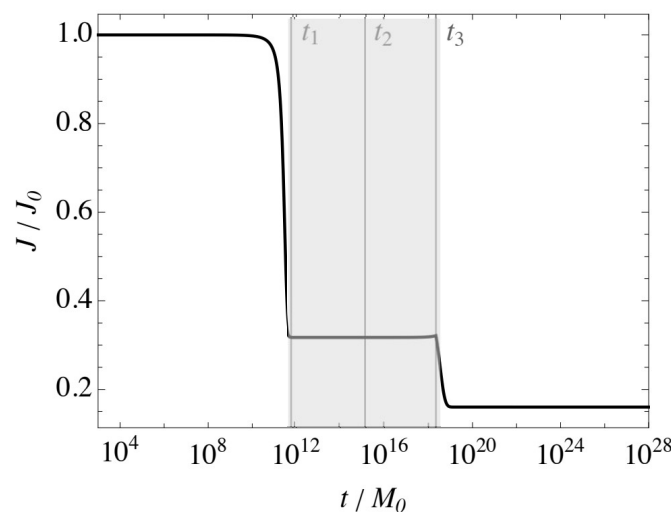
GW
flux



Isolated BH-condesate Evolution

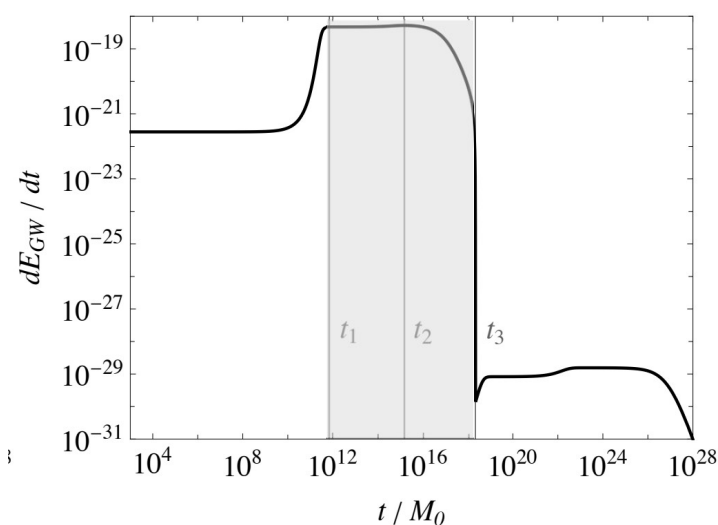
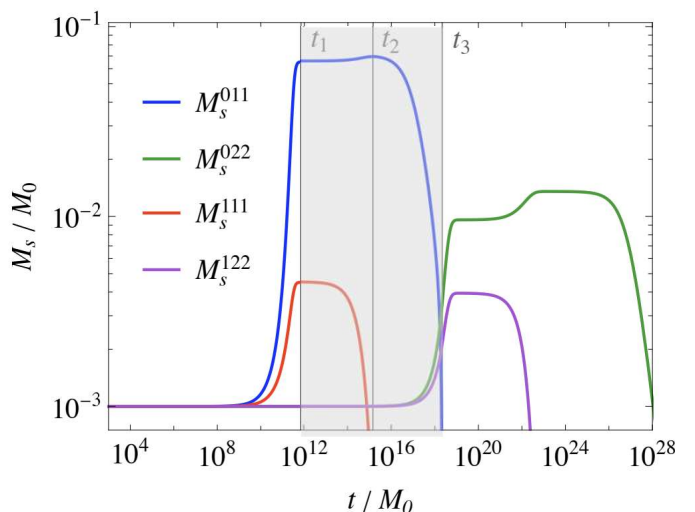
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BH angular
momentum



BH
mass

Condensate
mass

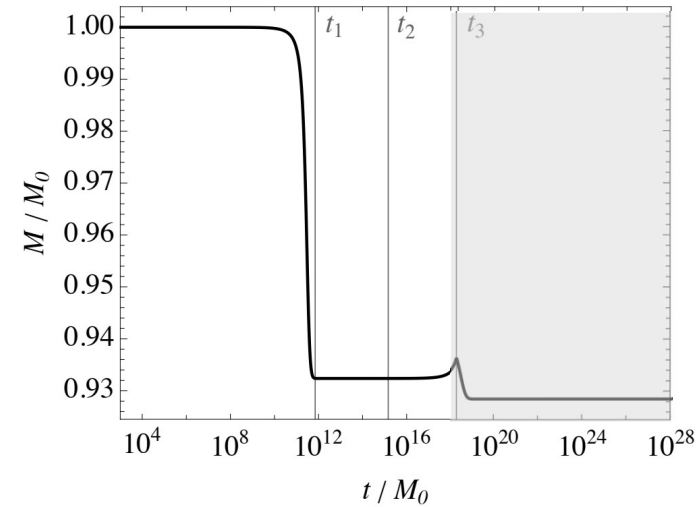
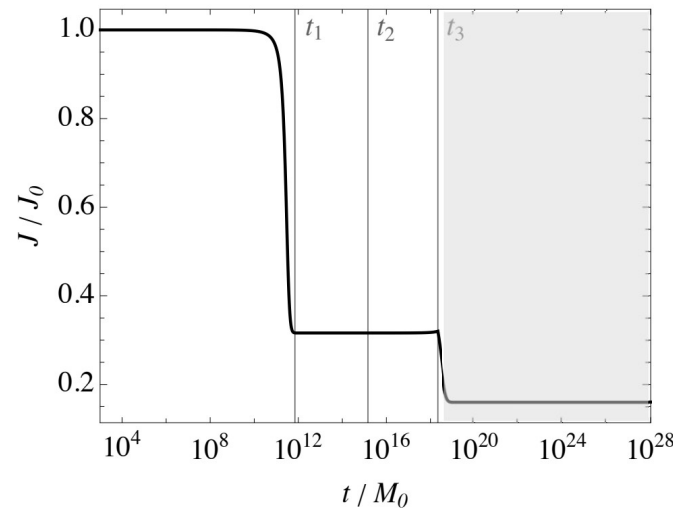


GW
flux

Isolated BH-condesate Evolution

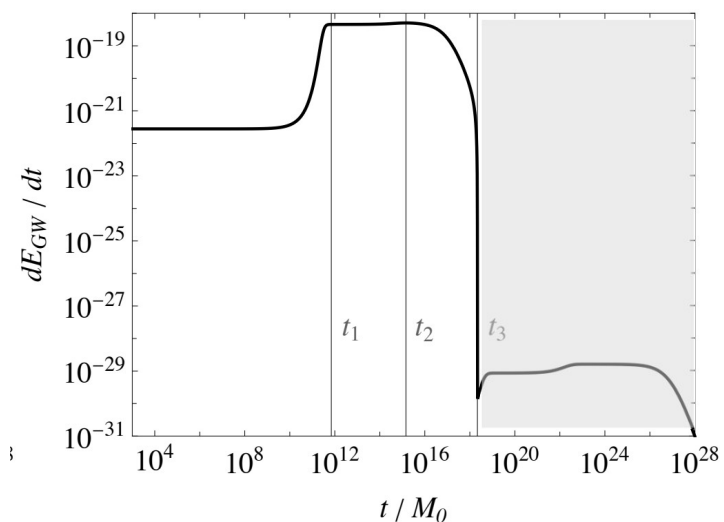
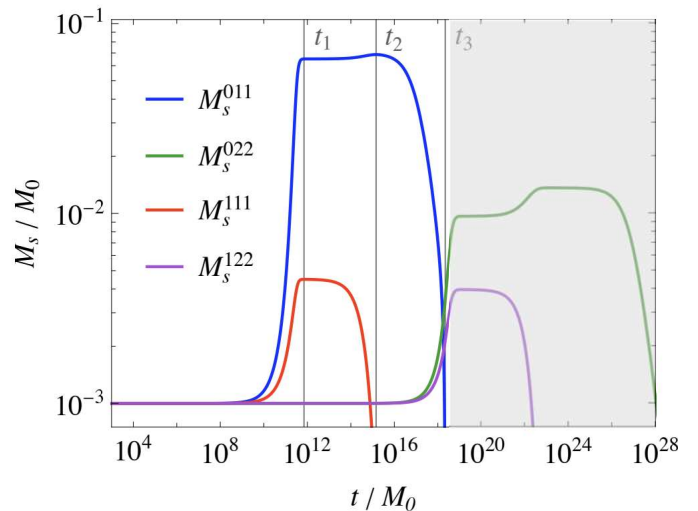
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BH angular
momentum



BH
mass

Condensate
mass

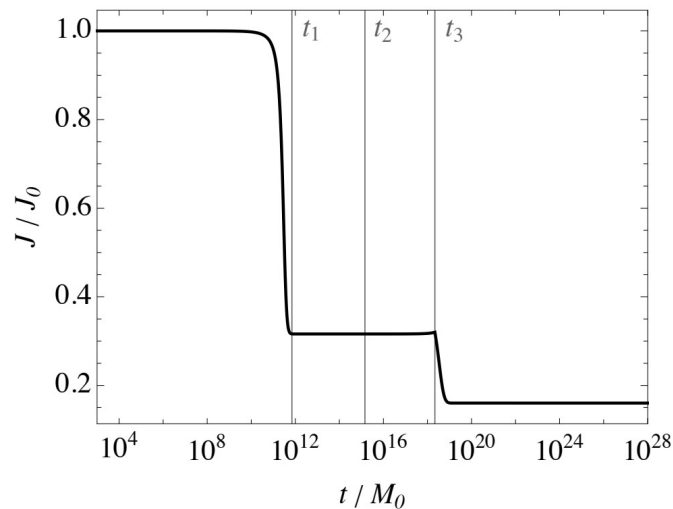


GW
flux

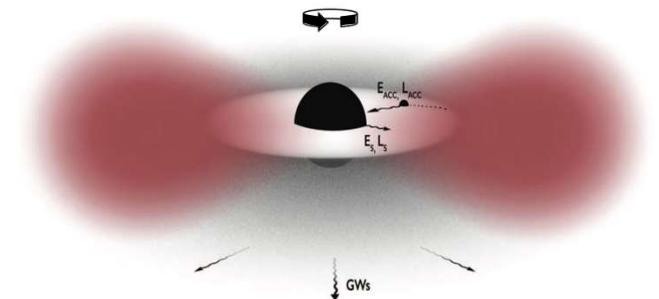
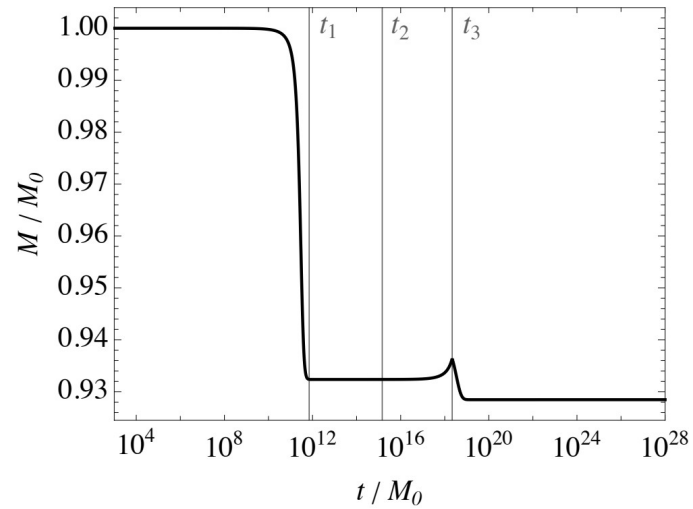
BH Evolution

- When transiting between stages, the **BH spin drops a lot (~50%)** and the BH mass decreases slightly (a few percent)

BH angular mom.



BH mass



BH Evolution

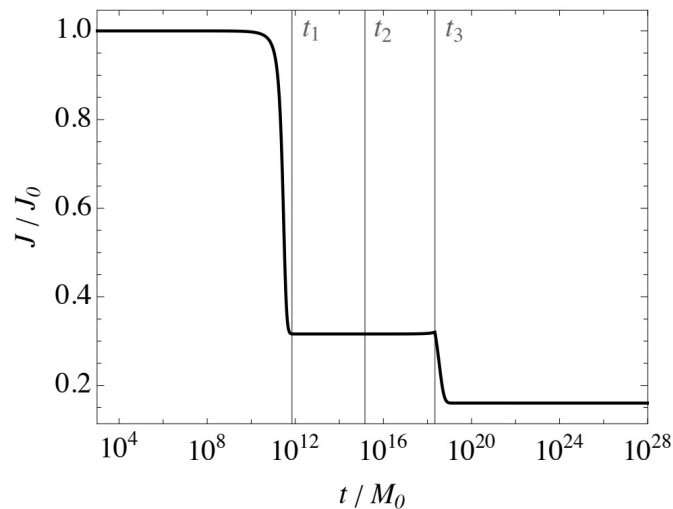
- When transiting between stages, the **BH spin drops a lot (~50%)** and the BH mass decreases slightly (a few percent)
- In each l stage, the BH spin and mass are almost **constants**

If **BH spin increases** a little, E and J flow **from BH to condensate**

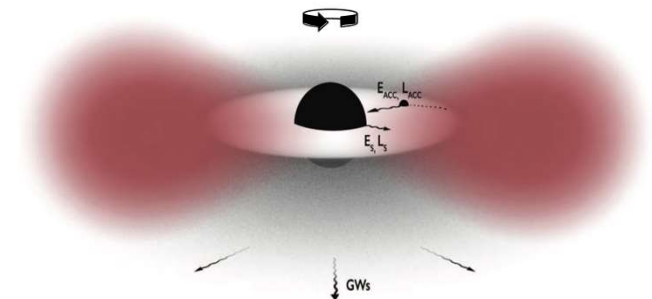
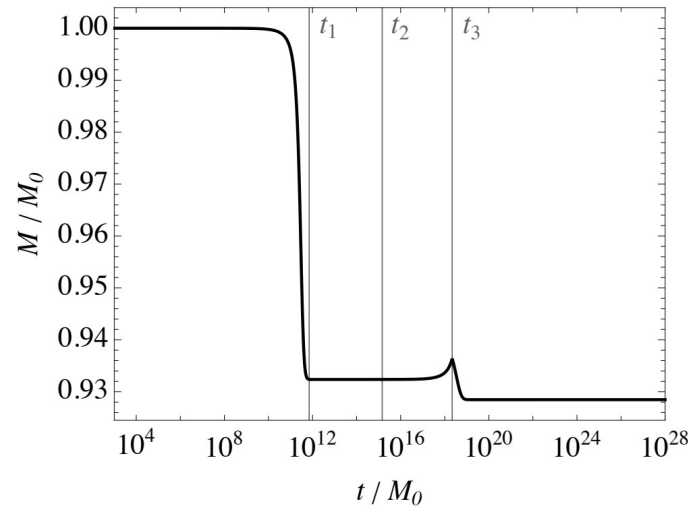
If **BH spin drops** a little, E and J flow **from condensate to BH**

The condensate is a “angular momentum reservoir” $\rightarrow$ **Attractor!**

BH angular mom.

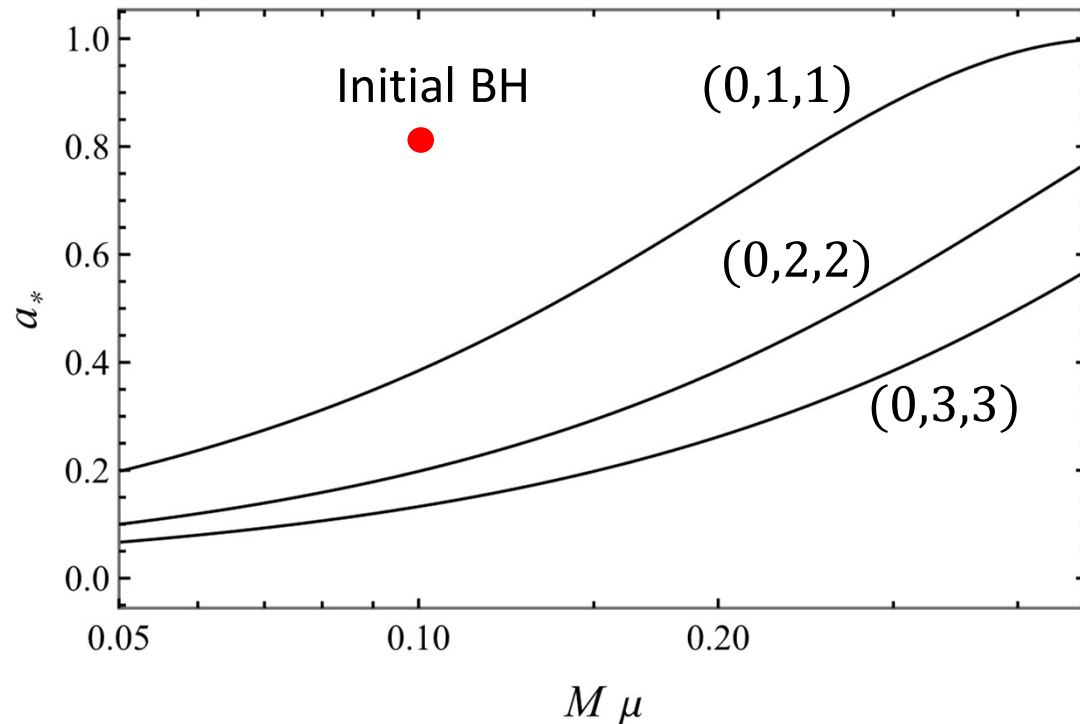


BH mass



Evolution on the Regge Plot

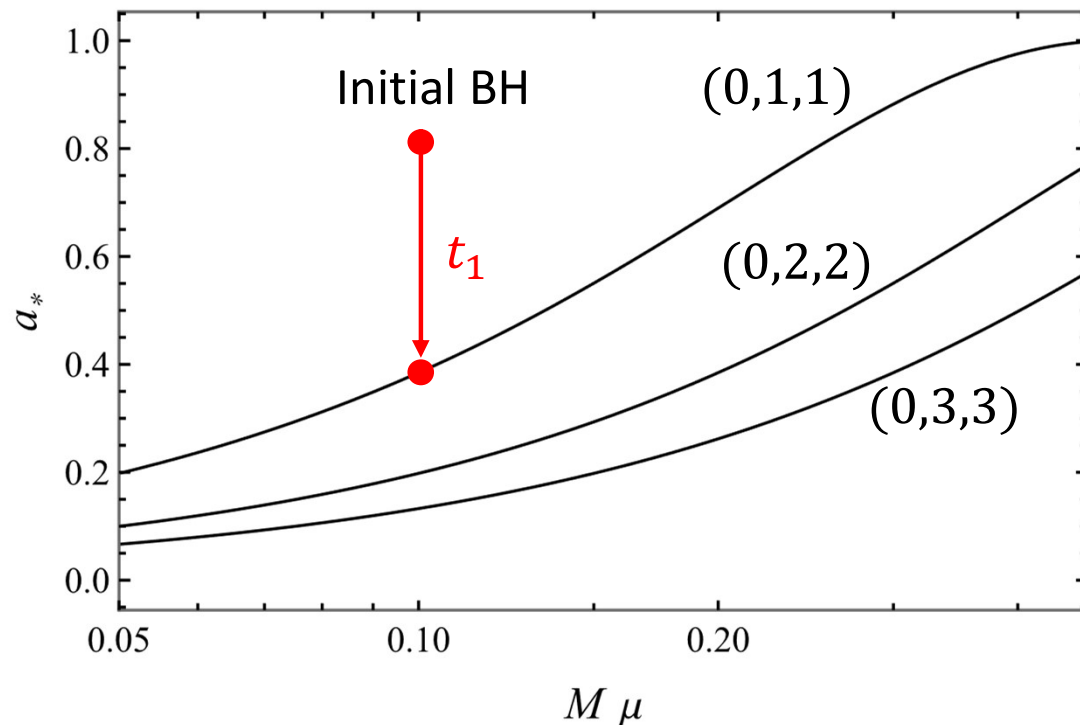
- A Kerr BH is characterized by its **angular momentum J** and **mass M**
- Regge plot: a plot of BH spin $a_* \equiv J/M^2$ vs. BH mass



Evolution on the Regge Plot

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- With superradiance, the BH **steps down on each Regge trajectory**

Regge trajectory is determined by superradiance condition

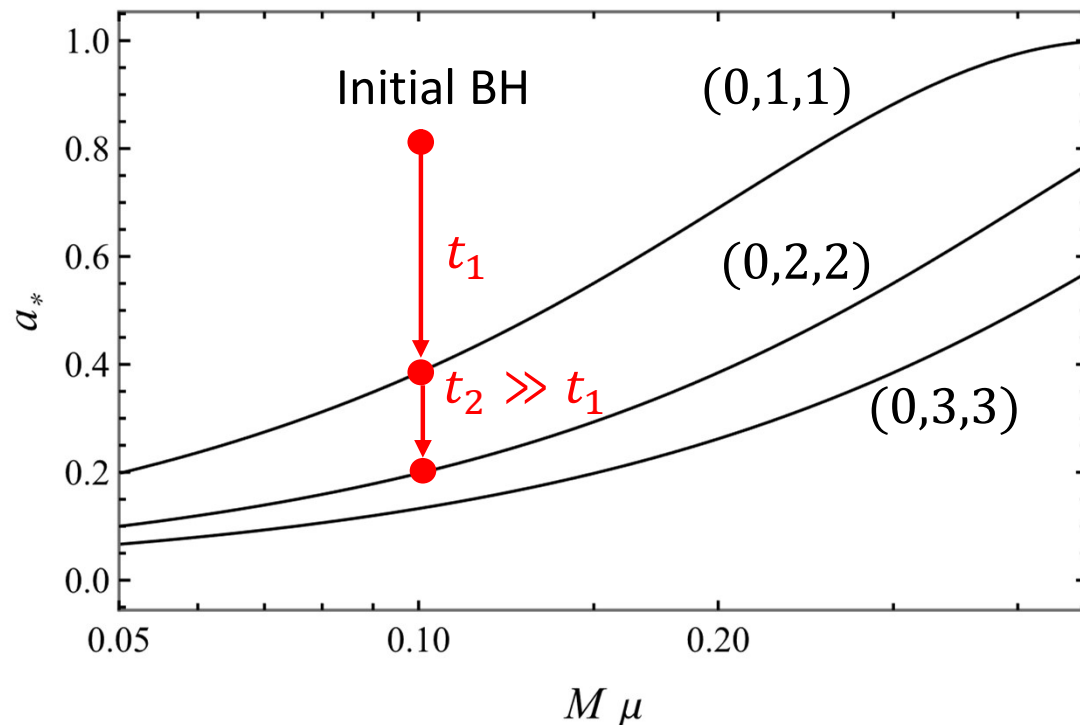


$$a_*^{(nlm)} \approx \frac{4m M\mu}{m^2 + 4(M\mu)^2}$$

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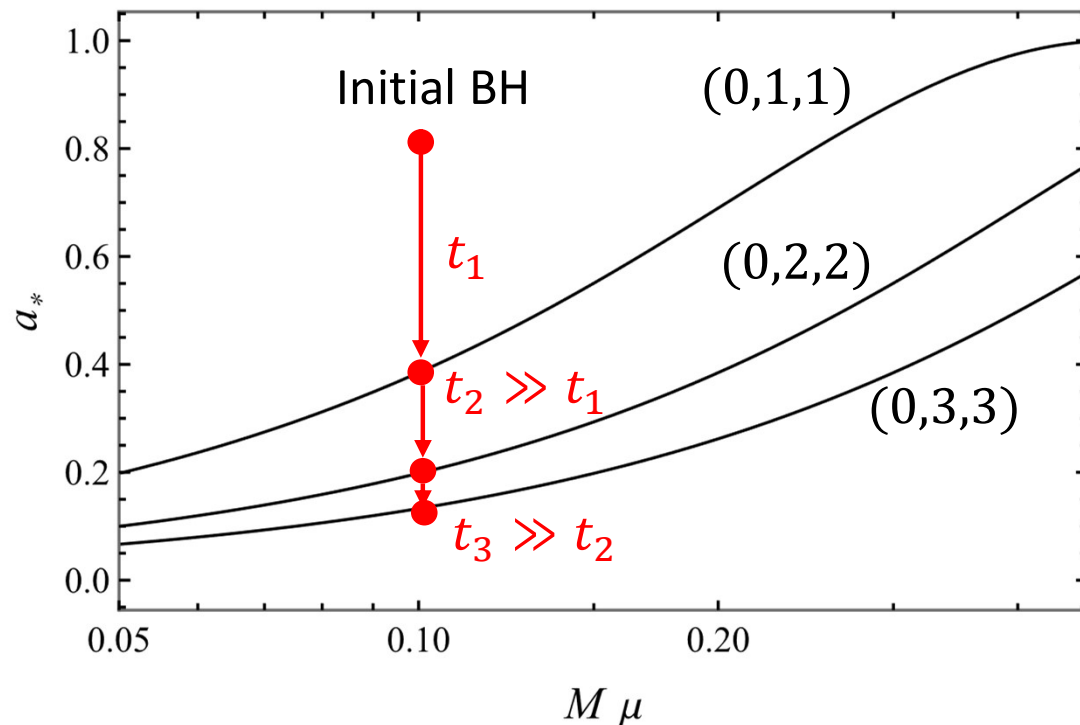


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Important quantities
can be estimated with
simple analytic expressions.

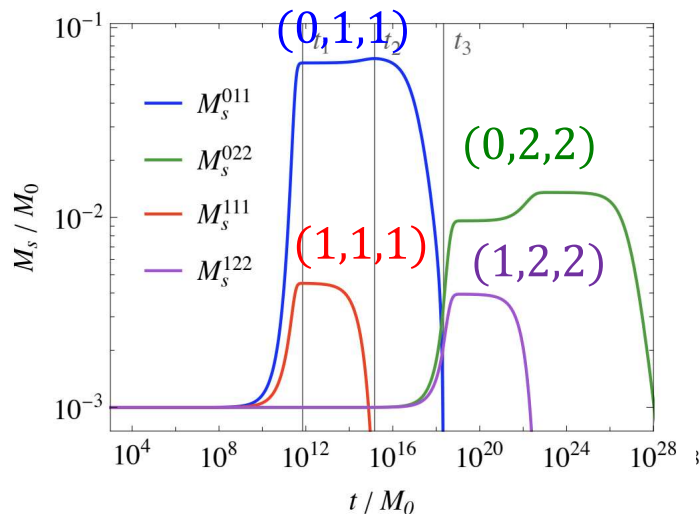
Guo, Bao, and HZ, PRD (2023)

- High-spin BHs are very rare with superradiance

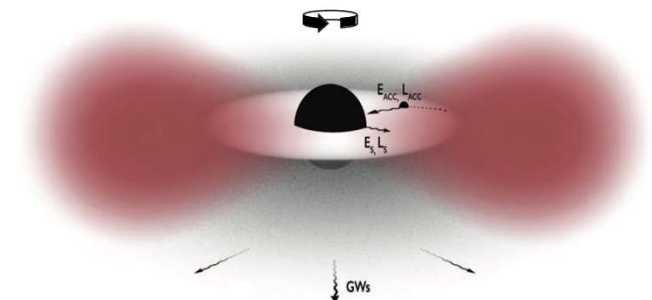
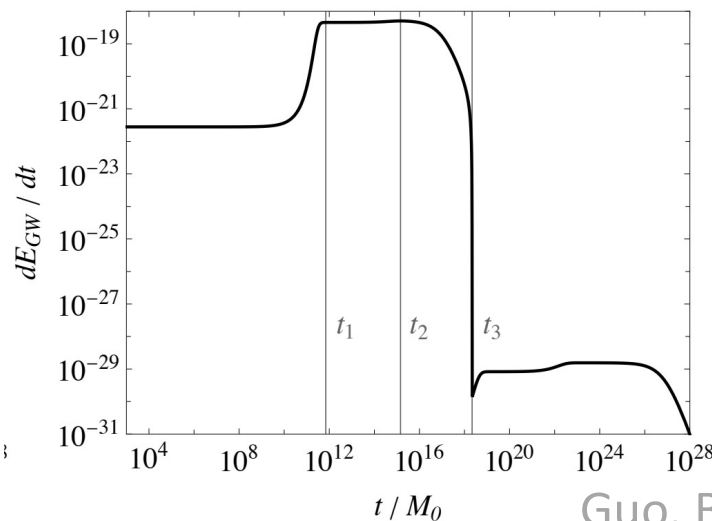
Condensate Evolution

- At the beginning of each l stage, the modes with the same l **grow exponentially**
- The modes lose energy via GW emission $\rightarrow$ **GW signal!**

Condensate mass



GW flux

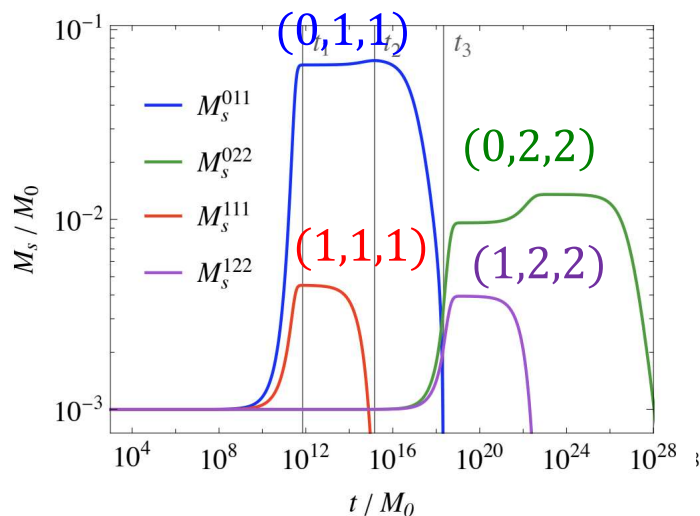


Condensate Evolution

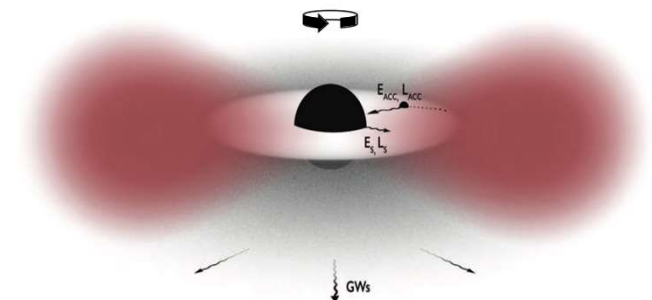
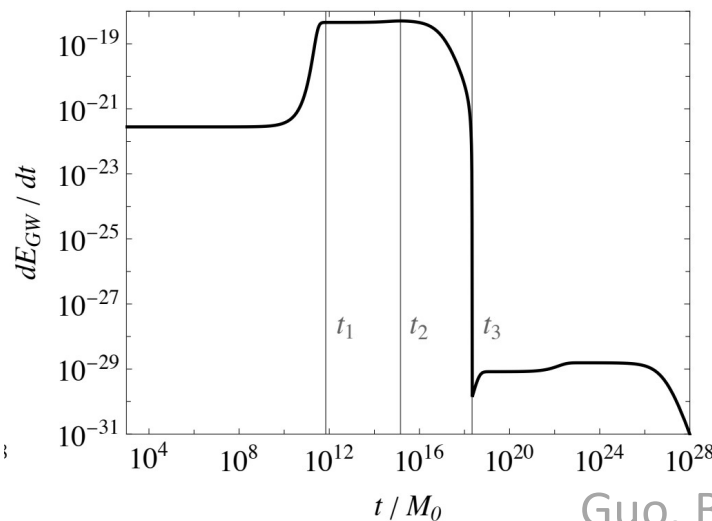
- At the beginning of each l stage, the modes with the same l **grow exponentially**
- The modes lose energy via GW emission $\rightarrow$ **GW signal!**
- The coexistence of $(0, l, l)$ and $(1, l, l)$ modes produces **an unique GW beat signal**

$$\cos[(\omega + \Delta\omega)t] + \cos[(\omega - \Delta\omega)t] = 2 \cos(\Delta\omega t) \cos(\omega t)$$

Condensate mass



GW flux



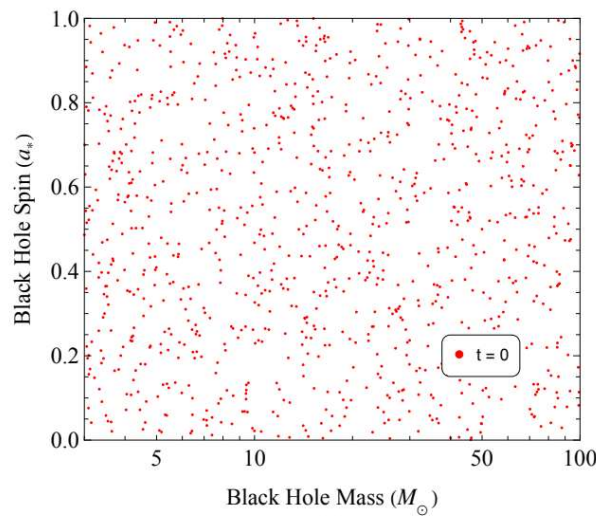
Outline



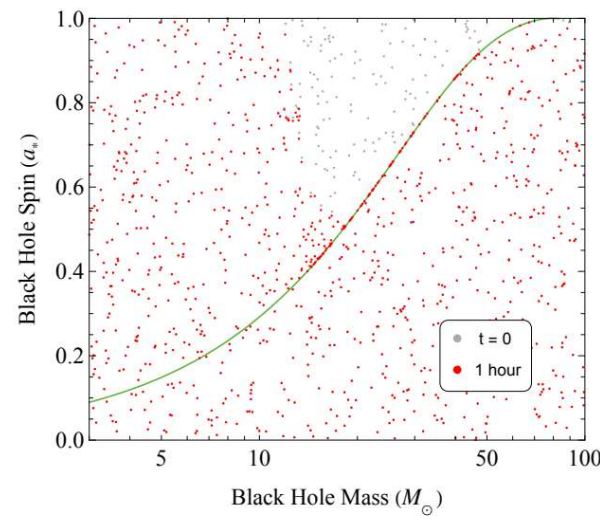
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High-spin BHs are Rare

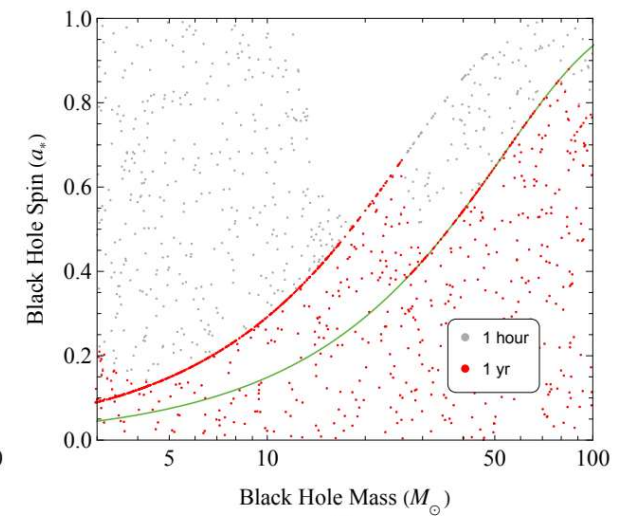
Guo, Bao and HZ, PRD 2023



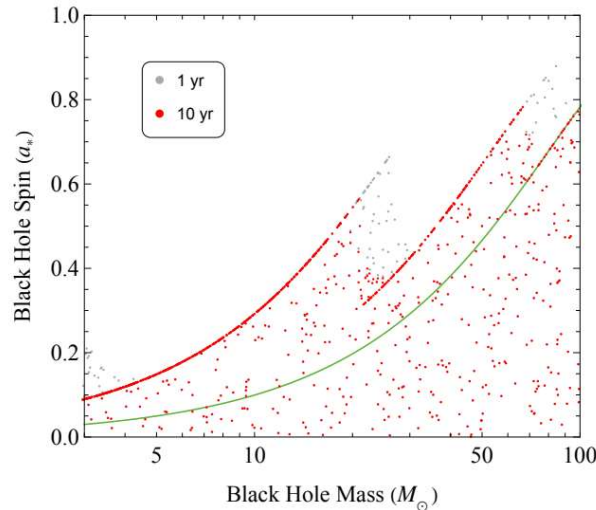
(a)



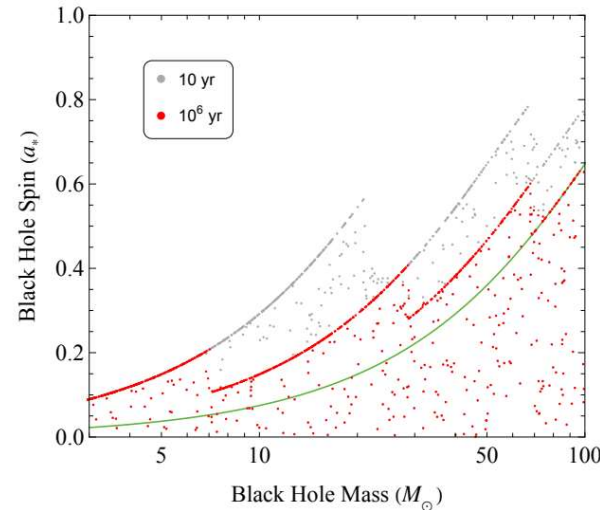
(b)



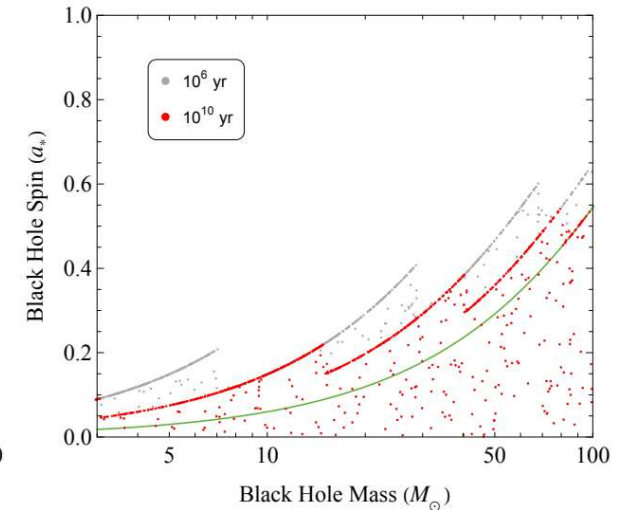
(c)



(d)



(e)



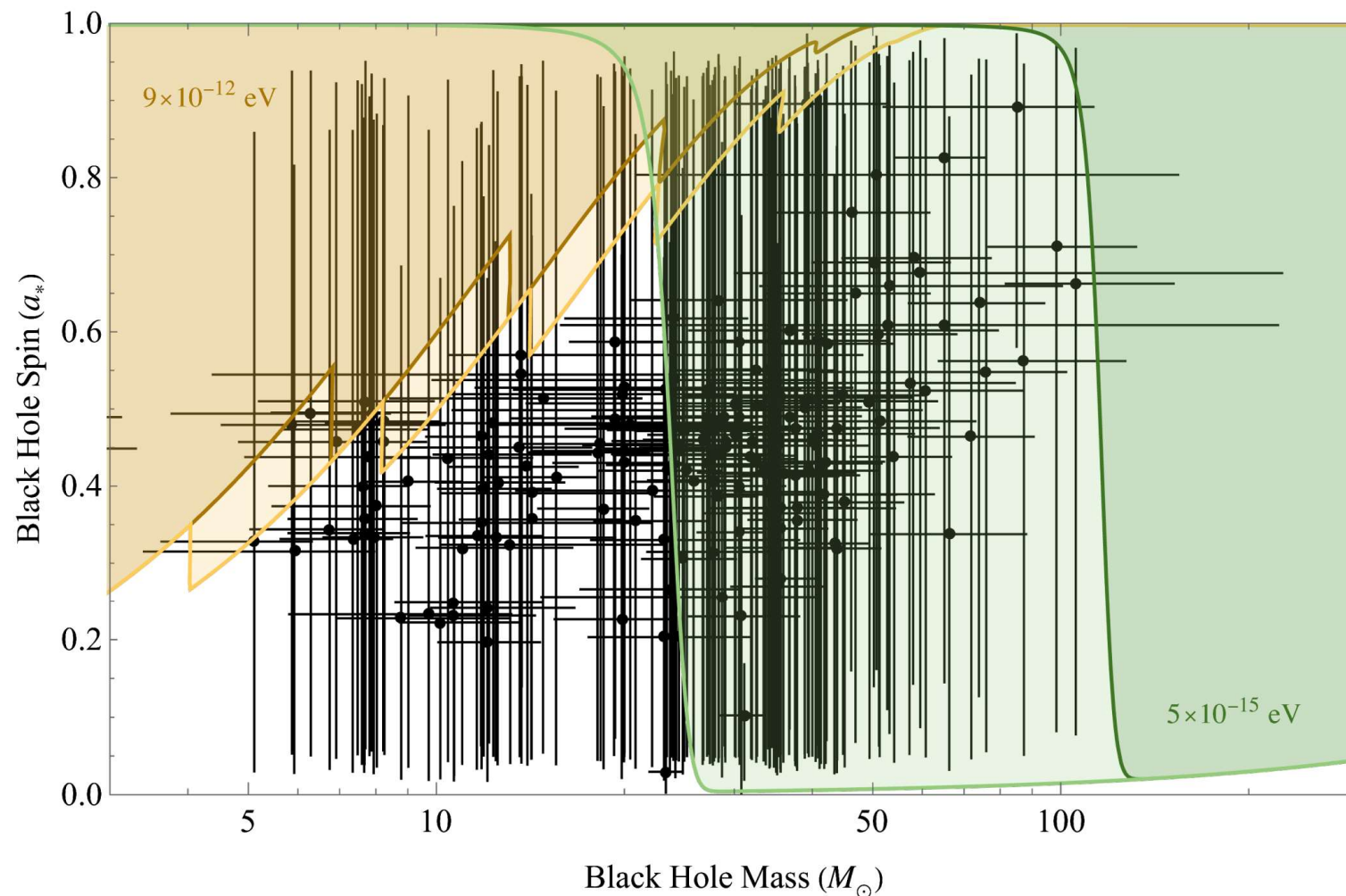
(f)

- Angular mom. transfers from BH to the cloud.
- BHs prefer to reside on Regge trajectories.

BH Spin Measurement

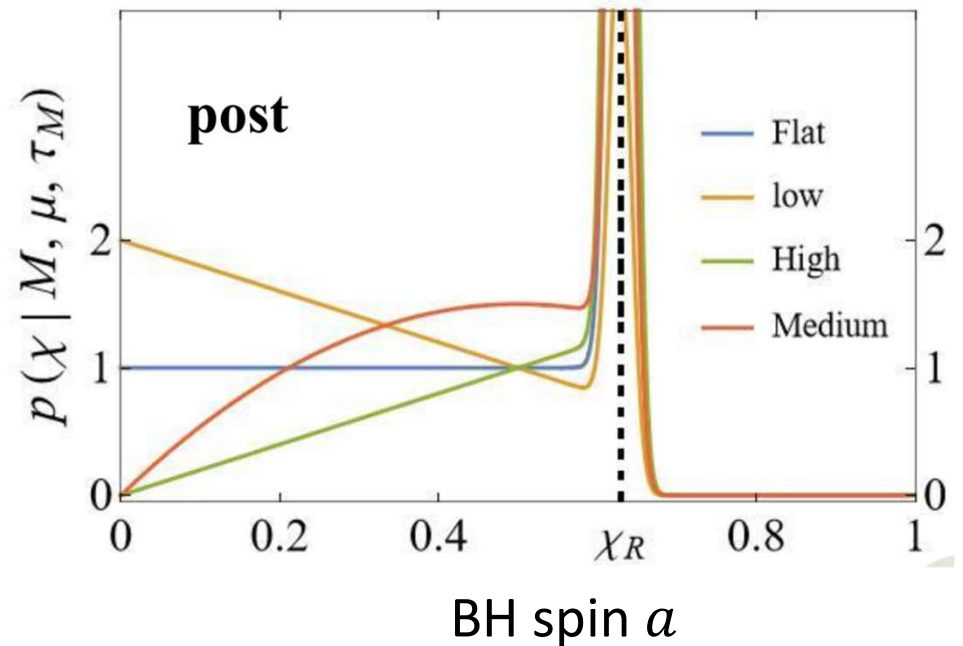
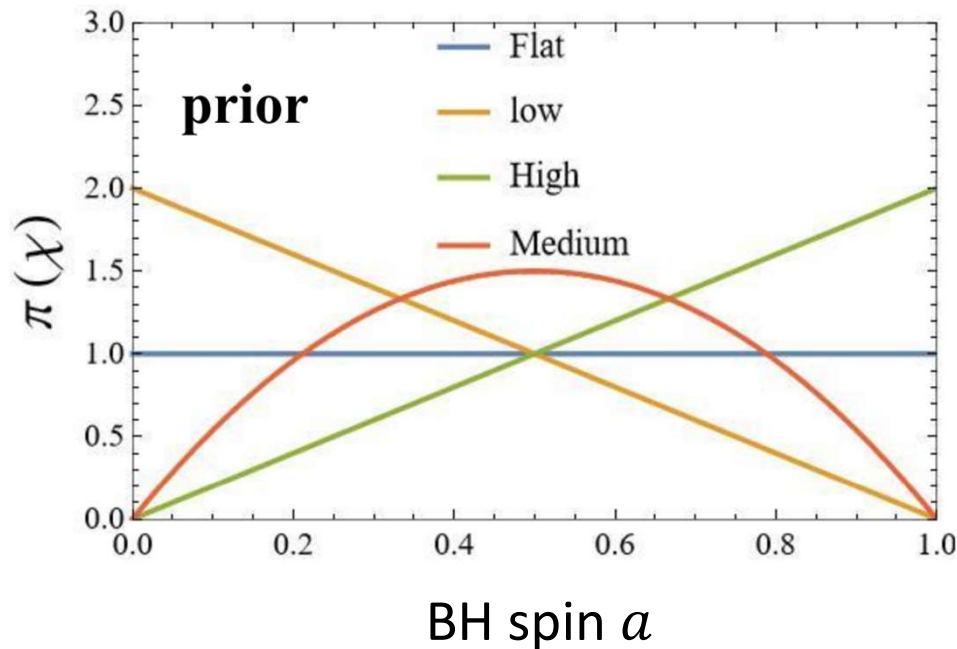
- LVK can measure the individual BH spin, with huge error.
- The error can be reduced to $\sim 30\%$ in the future

LIGO, Virgo, PRX 2016



Survive with the Current Data

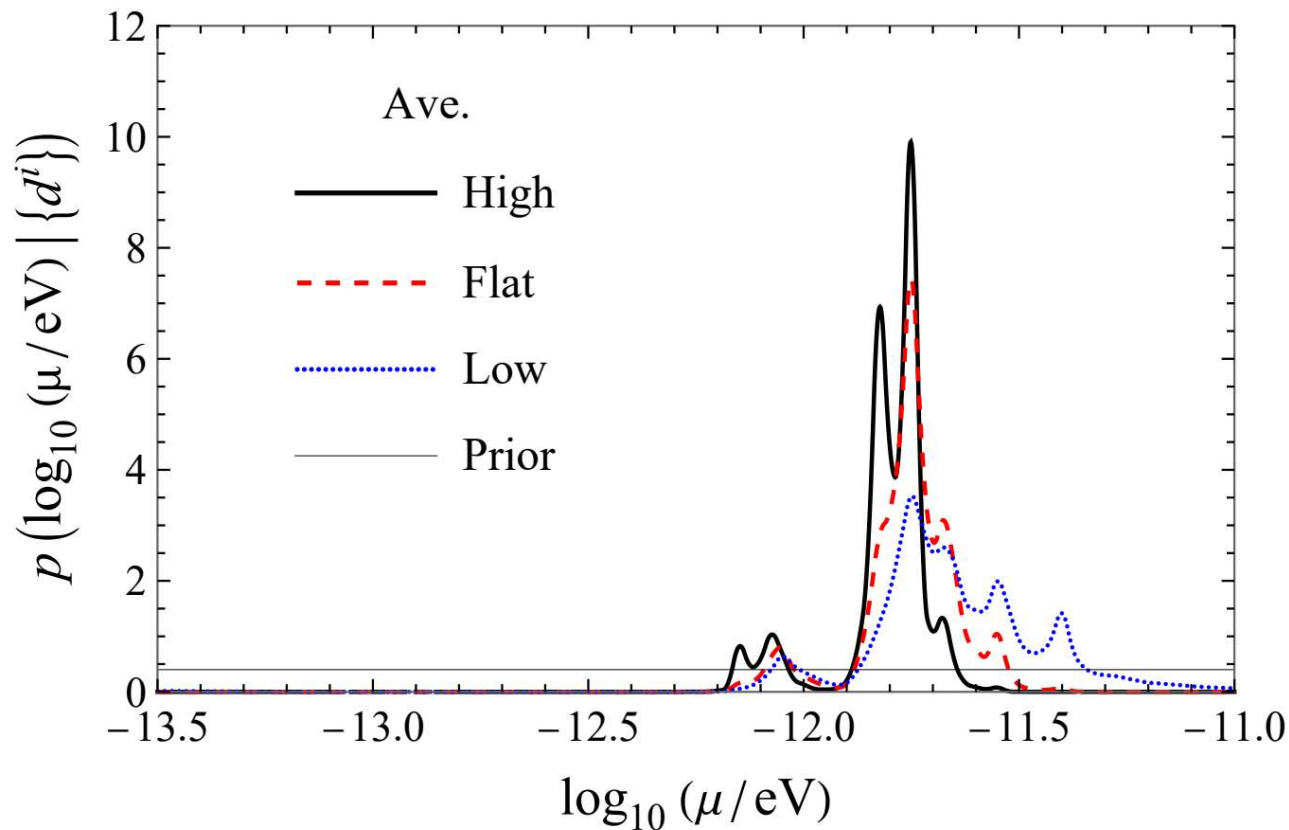
- Consider 3 scenarios: **high**, **flat**, **low** to estimate the effect of the initial BH spin.



- Assume the Lifetime of BHs distributes log-uniformly between 10^6 to 10^{10} years

Constrain Scalar Mass

- Include all BBHs in three phases of GTWC data reported by LVK collaboration, only excluding the events with neutron.
- scalar mass prior is log-uniform between $10^{-13.5}$ to 10^{-11} eV.

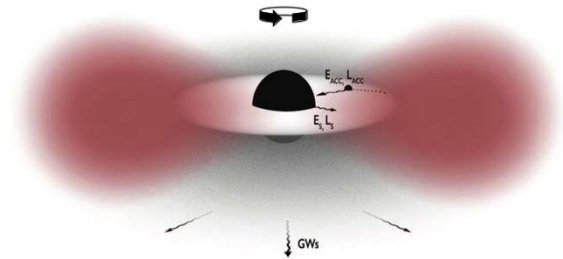


Cheng, Bao and HZ, PRD 2023

- Two slightly favored ranges are identified, but evidence is weak.

GW Emission from Real Fields

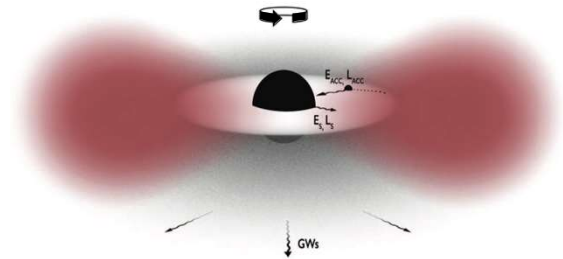
- Previous calculation only consider the $(n = 0, l = 1, m = 1)$ mode



Monochromatic, constant energy flux,
Cannot distinguish from neutron stars

GW Emission from Real Fields

- Previous calculation only consider the $(n = 0, l = 1, m = 1)$ mode



Monochromatic, constant energy flux,
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- Different modes have slightly different angular speeds

$$\phi(t, \vec{r}) = \sum_{l,m} \int d\omega \left[e^{i(m\varphi - \omega t)} R_{lm}(r) S_{lm}(\theta) + \text{c.c.} \right]$$

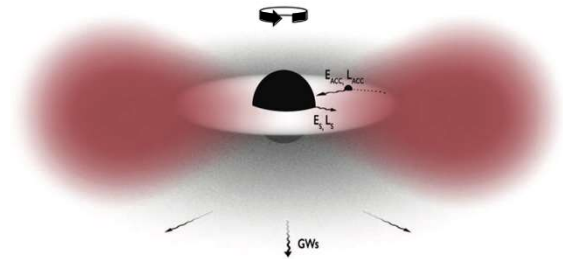
$$\omega_R^{nlm} \approx \mu \left[1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{2(n+l+1)^2} \right] + O(\alpha^4)$$

e.g. $\cos[(\omega + \Delta\omega)t] + \cos[(\omega - \Delta\omega)t] = 2 \cos(\Delta\omega t) \cos(\omega t)$

.

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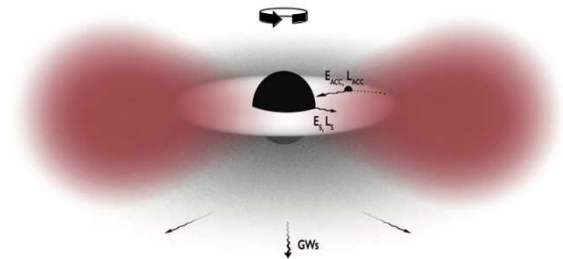
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Modulation of amp. and energy flux. **Beat!**

GW Emission from Real Fields

- Previous calculation only consider the $(n = 0, l = 1, m = 1)$ mode



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Cannot distinguish from neutron stars

- Different modes have slightly different angular speeds

$$\phi(t, \vec{r}) = \sum_{l,m} \int d\omega \left[e^{i(m\varphi - \omega t)} R_{lm}(r) S_{lm}(\theta) + \text{c.c.} \right] \quad \omega_R^{nlm} \approx \mu \left[1 - \frac{\alpha^2}{2(n+l+1)^2} \right] + O(\alpha^4)$$

e.g. $\cos[(\omega + \Delta\omega)t] + \cos[(\omega - \Delta\omega)t] = 2 \cos(\Delta\omega t) \cos(\omega t)$

- Strength of the beat signal.

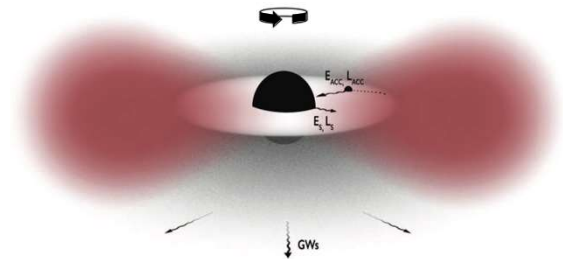
Two $(0,1,1)$ axions $\longrightarrow$ graviton: $\text{Amp.} \propto N_{011}$, $\text{freq.} = 2\omega^{011}$

$(0,1,1) + (1,1,1) \longrightarrow$ graviton: $\text{Amp.} \propto \sqrt{N_{011}N_{111}}$, $\text{freq.} = \omega^{011} + \omega^{111}$

Energy flux $\propto \text{Amp}^2$, so beat Amp. $\propto \sqrt{\frac{N_{111}}{N_{011}}}$, with freq. $\omega^{111} - \omega^{011}$

GW Emission from Real Fields

- Previous calculation only consider



**Mor
Can**

- Different modes have slightly dif

$$\phi(t, \vec{r}) = \sum_{l,m} \int d\omega \left[e^{i(m\varphi - \omega t)} R_{lm}(r) S_{lm} \right]$$

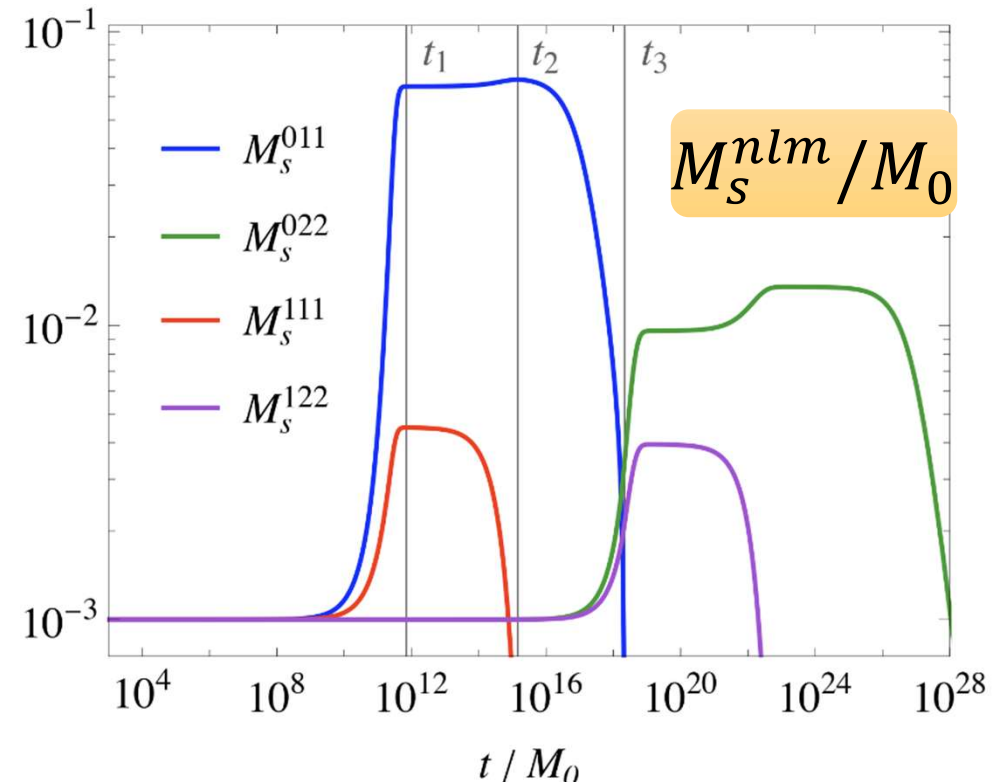
e.g. $\cos[(\omega + \Delta\omega)t] + \cos[(\omega - \Delta\omega)t]$

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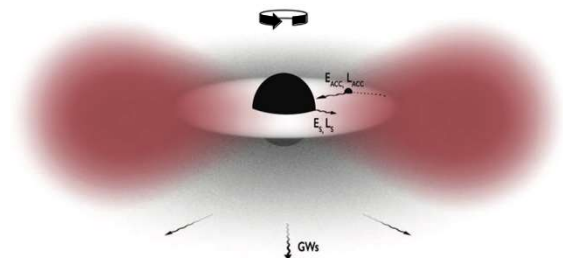
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GW Emission from Real Fields

- Previous calculation only consider



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- Different modes have slightly dif

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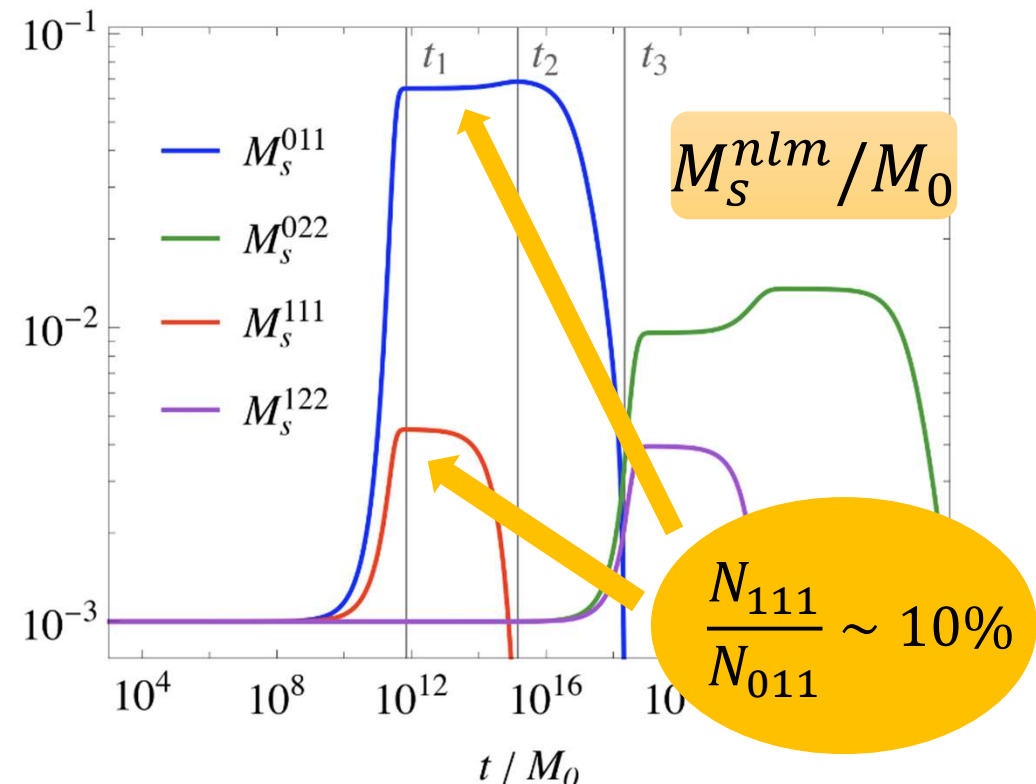
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- Strength of the beat signal.

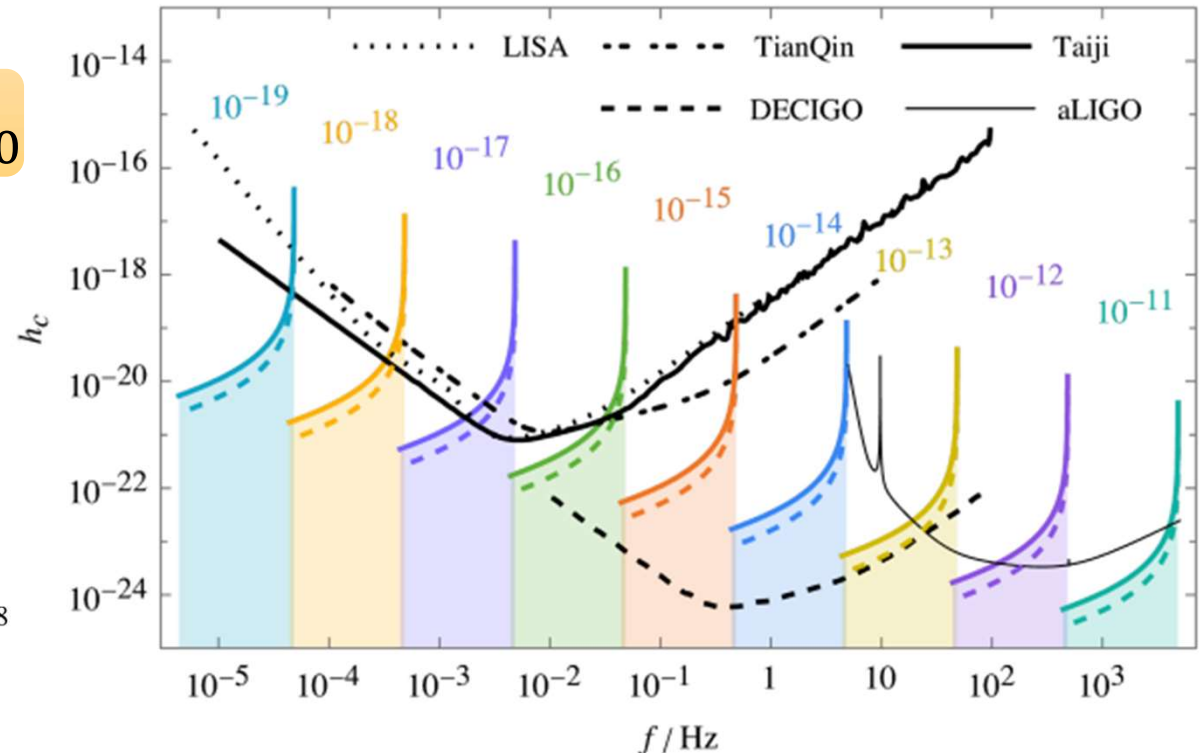
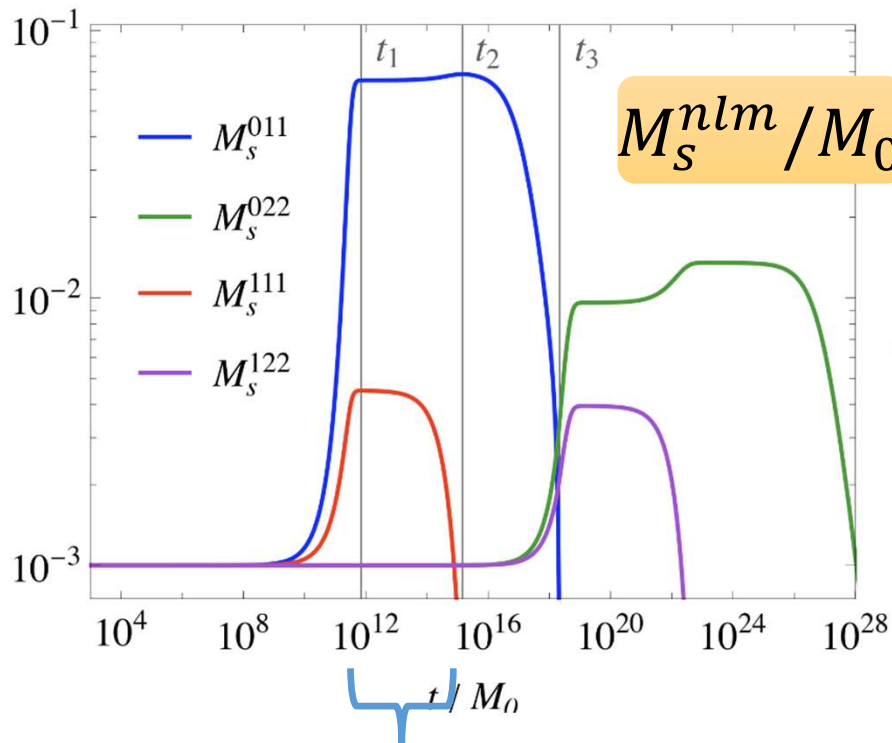
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GW Beat: Observation



Guo, Bao and HZ, PRD (2023)

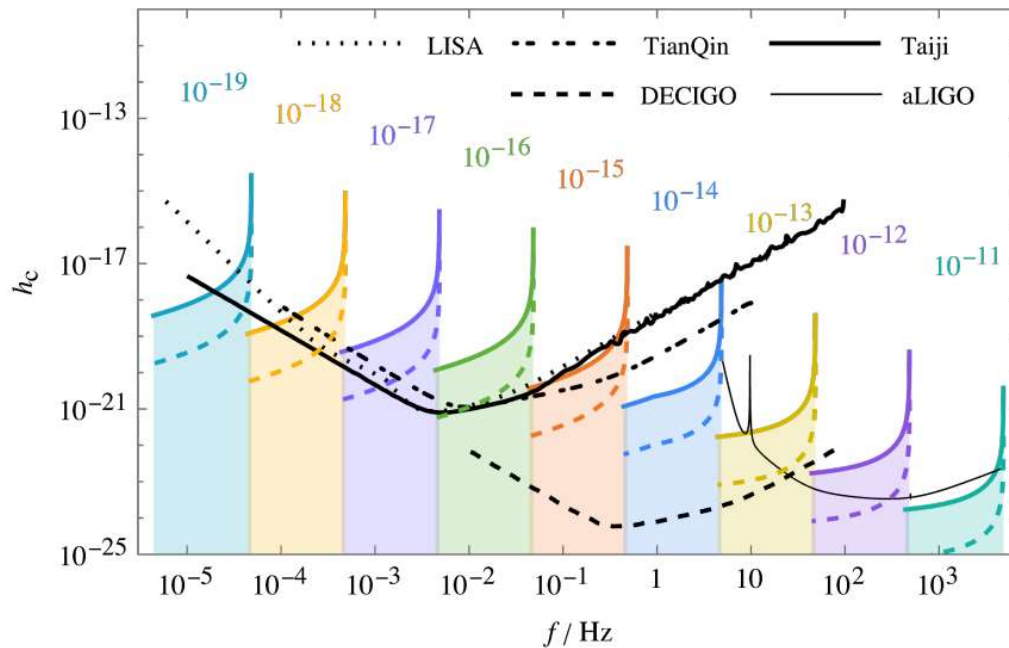
The BH spin here is determined by $M\mu$

- Parameters: $M\mu = 0.17$ (so $a_c = 0.6$), $M_s/M = 0.1$, $N_{111}/N_{011} = 0.1$
- The red shift ranges from 0.001 to 10
- The current and future GW telescope can cover a large range of scalar mass.

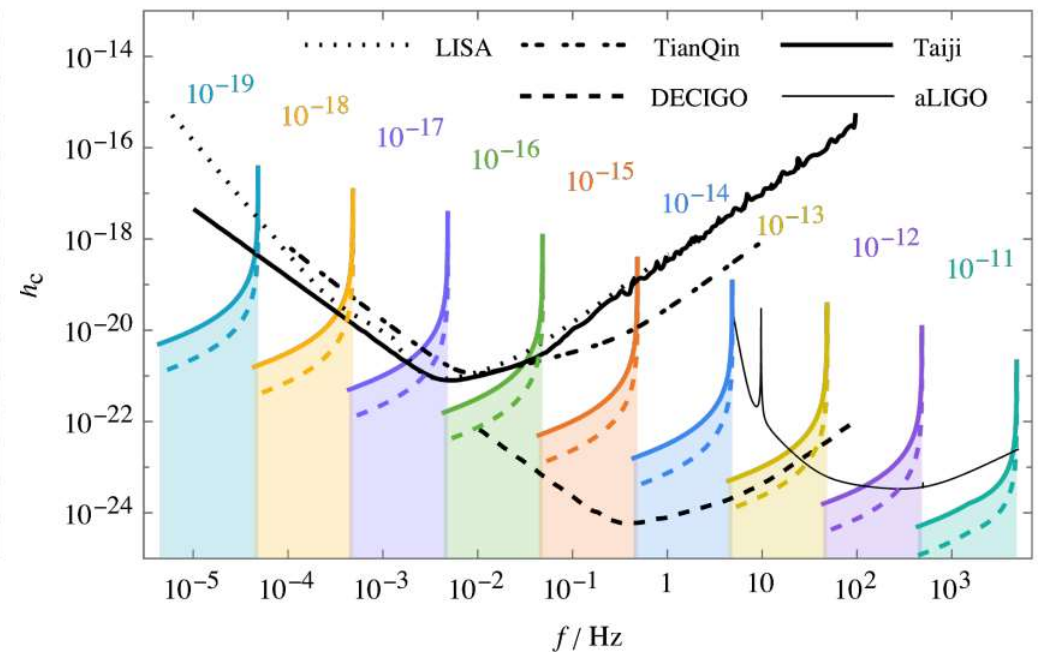
Fields with Other Spins

- Real vector

$J=m=1$ stage



$J=m=2$ stage



Guo, Jia, Bao, HZ, Zhang, Accepted by PRD

- Real tensor field: unknown
- Complex field does not radiate GW. Then BHs reside on the first Regge trajectory for very long time.

Other Gravitational Observables

- Since real vector and tensor fields grow very fast, one could search the GW right after BH merger events.

Arvanitaki, Baryakhtar, Dimopoulos, Dubovsky, and Lasenby, PRD 2017

. Baryakhtar, Lasenby, and Teo, PRD 2017

- With perturbation (e.g. self-interaction or a companion star), the transitions between different modes radiate GW.

Scalar: Yoshino and Kodama, Class Quant. Grav. 2015

Vector: Siemonsen and East, PRD 2020

- Stochastic GW background Brito, Ghosh, Barausse, Berti, Cardoso, Dvorkin, Klein, and Pani, PRL 2017

- GW burst in bosonova Yoshino and Kodama, Prog. Theor. Phys. 2012
Arvanitaki, Baryakhtar, and Huang, PRD 2015

- Floating orbit of companion stars

Kavic, Liebling, Lippert, and Simonetti, JCAP 2020

Optical Observables

- BH shadow from lensing

Cunha, Herdeiro, Radu, and Runarsson, PRL 2015

Cunha, Herdeiro, Radu, and Runarsson, Int. J. Mod. Phys. 2016

Vincent, Gourgoulhon, Herdeiro, and Radu, PRD 2016

- If assuming coupling between the boson field and photon

- birefringence causes time-dependent polarization

Plascencia and Urbano, JCAP 2018

Chen, Shu, Xue, Yuan, and Zhao, PRL 2020

- BH laser: oscillating charged field generates photon field

Ikeda, Brito, and Cardoso, PRL 2019

Boskovic, Brito, Cardoso, Ikeda, and Witek, PRD 2019

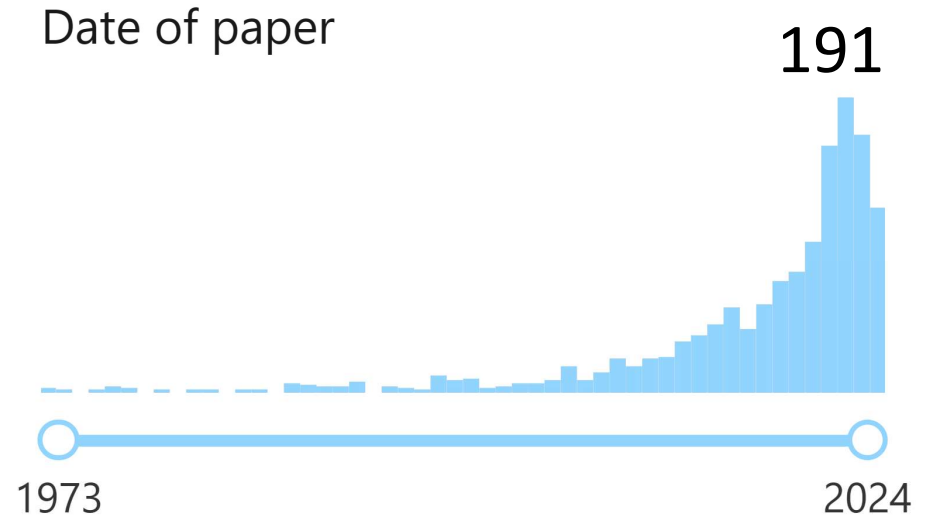
Summary

- If **boson de Broglie wave length** $\sim$ BH horizon size, the boson field could grow **exponentially** around Kerr BHs.
- With the same parameters, the tensor field has the largest superradiance rate, while the scalar has the smallest rate.
- The superradiance can be detected without assuming the coupling between the boson field and the SM.
 **Model-independent search of new boson field.**
- The superradiance can also test the strong field region of GR.
Jia, Guo, Liang, Mai, Zhang, arXiv:2309.05108
- **Very rich phenomenology** if assuming coupling between the boson field and the SM.

Sorry if I have Missed Your Work...

- New ideas emerge quickly.

Number of papers with
“superradiance” in the title



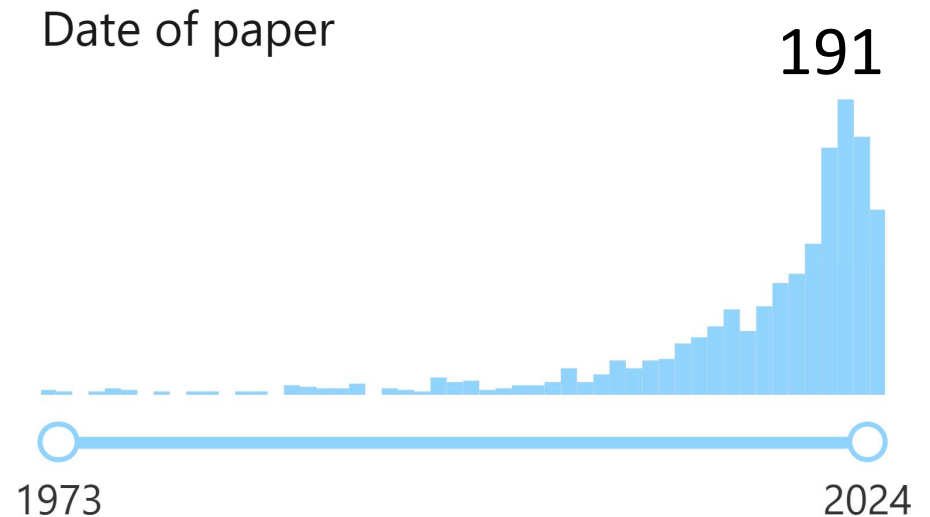
Good reviews and lecture notes:

- Brito, Cardoso and Pani, Lect.Notes Phys. 906 (2015)
- Brack, Cardoso, Nissanke, Sotiriou, and Askar, Class.Quant.Grav. 36 (2019) 14, 143001
- Cardoso and Pani, Living Rev. Rel. 22 (2019) 1

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Thank you!