#### International Conference on Space Optics—ICSO 2020

Virtual Conference

30 March-2 April 2021

Edited by Bruno Cugny, Zoran Sodnik, and Nikos Karafolas



#### LISA: Observing Universe with Gravitational Waves from space



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### Outline

- Introduction to gravitational waves
- Gravitational wave sources
- Gravitational waves observatories
- LISA mission
- LISAPathfinder
- LISA status
- LISA scientific performances
- Conclusion

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### Some history

Albert Einstein (1905/1916) :

there is no gravity force...

- Mass deforms geometry of space-time.
- Bodies are moving in a curve space.
- Gravitational information propagates at the speed of light.
- Dissipation of energy through deformation of space-time => gravitational waves







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### **Emission of GWs**

- ► A gravitational wave is created during the non-spherical acceleration of one or several massive objects (variation of quadrupolar moment) :
  - emission: asymetric collapse, bodies in orbits or coalescing, ...
  - no emission: isolated, spherical body possibly in rotation



# Effects of GWs

- Modification of distance between 2 objects:
  - Elastic deformation proportional to the distance between the 2 obj.,
  - **Transverse** deformation: perpendicular to the direction of propagation (different from ripples on water !),
  - Two components of polarisation :  $h_+$  and  $h_X$



# Waveform for equal mass binaries

- Computing waveform for Gravitational Wave:
  - inspiral phase: analytic (Post-Newtonian)
  - merger: numerical relativity
  - ringdown (oscillation of the resulting BH): semi-analytic



# Example: black hole binaries

- Black hole binaries are very "simple" systems described by only 17 parameters:
  - Intrinsic parameters:
    - masses (m<sub>1</sub> et m<sub>2</sub>)
    - frequency and phase
    - spins (amplitude and direction)
    - eccentricity (value et position of periastron)
  - Extrinsic parameters: position source with respect to observer
    - sky position (2 angles)
    - orientation (2 angles)
    - time reference (time at coalescence)

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9

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## Compact solar mass binaries

- Large number of stars are in binary system.
- Evolution in white dwarf (WD) and neutron stars (NS).
  - => existence of WD-WD, NS-WD and NS-NS binaries
- Estimation for the Galaxy: 60 millions.
- Gravitational waves:
  - most part in the slow inspiral regime (quasi-monochromatic): GW at mHz
  - few are coalescing: GW event of few seconds at f > 10 Hz (LIGO/Virgo)
- Several known system emitting around the mHz
  - => guaranteed sources

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### **Black Hole Binaries**

- Binaries with 2 black holes of masses between few M<sub>Sun</sub> and 100 M<sub>Sun</sub>, so called "Stellar mass BH Binaries"
- ▶ Inspiral: emission in the mHz band 🛛 🗐
- Merger: powerful emission around few tens Hz
  => many sources already observed
- Fast evolution: few years from tens mHz to tens Hz
   => multi-observatories observations



#### **Supermassive Black Holes**

- Observations:
  - Sgr A\* :  $4.5 \times 10^{6}$  M<sub>Sun</sub> at the center of the Milky Way (VLT Gravity)
  - M87: 6.5x10<sup>9</sup> M<sub>Sun</sub> (picture EHT)
- Supermassive Black Hole are indirectly observed in the centre of a large number of galaxies (Active Galactic Nuclei).
- Observations of galaxy mergers =>
  - => SuperMassive BH Binaries (SMBHB) should exist.





Antennae galaxies



Dec (")

© Vincent, Paumard, Gourgoulhon,

Perrin (2011



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#### What can we learn ?

- The nature of gravity (testing the basis of general relativity)
- > Fundamental nature of black hole: existence of horizon, ...
- Black holes as a source of energy,
- Nonlinear structure formation: seed, hierarchical assembly, accretion,
- > Understanding the end of the life of massive stars,
- > Dynamic of galactic nuclei,
- ▶ The very early Universe: Higgs TeV physics, topological defects, ...
- Constraining cosmological models,
- ...

=> New observational window on the Universe (with all the unexpected !): looking at dark side of the Universe !

19









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### Pulsar Timing Array

- Millisecond pulsar = high precision clock
- Series of extremely regular pulses are perturbed by GWs
- By timing an array of milliseconds pulsars we can detect GWs at nHz
- Several collaborations (European PTA, NANOGrav, PPTA, ...) grouped in IPTA
- Future: Square Kilometre Array







# Pulsar Timing Array

- ▶ In the nanoHz band, we are expecting:
  - Close (z<2) massive (>10<sup>7</sup> M<sub>Sun</sub>)
    SuperMassive Black Hole Binaries during their inspiral phase
    - Individual sources
    - Stochastic background formed by the sum of a large number of SMBHB
  - Cosmological background
- Recent detection of a correlated red noise in the data of NANOGrav, EPTA & PPTA: investigation to identify if it's GW or not.



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30



S<sub>2</sub>

S/C 2

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2.5 millions +

60°

S/C 1

S<sub>4</sub>

# **LISA** mission

- Laser Interferometer Space Antenna
- > 3 spacecrafts on heliocentric orbits and distant from
  - 2.5 millions kilometers
- ▶ Goal: detect relative distance changes of 10<sup>-21</sup>: few picometers





- Spacecraft (SC) should only be sensible to gravity:
  - the spacecraft protects test-masses (TMs) from external forces and always adjusts itself on it using micro-thrusters
  - Readout:
    - interferometric (sensitive axis)
    - capacitive sensing





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- Acceleration noise (see LPF)
- Read-out noises
- Optical path noises

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© M. Otto, PhD thesis (2016)



# LISA technology requirements

- Free flying test mass subject to very low parasitic forces:
  - Drag free control of spacecraft (non-contacting) with low noise microthruster
  - Large gaps, heavy masses with caging mechanism
  - High stability electrical actuation on cross degrees of freedom
  - Non contacting discharging of test-masses
  - High thermo-mechanical stability of spacecraft
  - Gravitational field cancellation
- Precision interferometric, local ranging of test-mass and spacecraft:
  - pm resolution ranging, sub-mrad alignments
  - High stability monolithic optical assemblies
- Precision million km spacecraft to spacecraft precision ranging:
  - High accuracy laser frequency stabilization + noise suppression with TDI
  - $\bullet$  "Tilt to length" coupling (control of alignement + ground correction)
  - Low level of stray-light
  - High stability telescopes
  - High accuracy phase-meter and frequency distribution
  - Constellation acquisition
  - Precision attitude control of spacecraft

36

20 - 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 🕋



Proc. of SPIE Vol. 11852 1185205-20



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39

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40

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- Noise in 1–10 mHz: brownian noise due to residual pressure:
  - Molecules within the housing hitting the test-masses

• Possible residual outgassing

#### • Evolution:

48

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 Pressure decreases with time => constant improvement



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53

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# History of LISA

- ▶ 1978: first study based on a rigid structure (NASA)
- ▶ 1980s: studies with 3 free-falling spacecrafts (US)
- ▶ 1993: proposal ESA/NASA: 4 spacecrafts
- ▶ 1996-2000: pre-phase A report
- > 2000-2010: LISA and LISAPathfinder: ESA/NASA mission
- ▶ 2011: NASA stops => ESA continue: reduce mission
- ▶ 2012: selection of JUICE L1 ESA
- > 2013: selection of ESA L3 : « The gravitational Universe »
- > 2015-2016: success of LISAPathfinder + detection GWs

Call for mission at ESA





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# Super Massive Black Hole Binaries

- Gravitational wave:
  - Inspiral: Post-Newtonian,
  - Merger: Numerical relativity,
  - Ringdown: Oscillation of the resulting MBH.
- Inspiral Merger Ringdown
- > Duration: between few hours and several months
- Signal to noise ratio: until few thousands
- Event rate: 10-100/year

62





66

Frequency [Hz]



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## LISA science objectives

- SO1: Study the formation and evolution of compact binary stars in the Milky Way Galaxy.
- SO2: Trace the origin, growth and merger history of massive black holes across cosmic ages
- SO3: Probe the dynamics of dense nuclear clusters using EMRIs
- > SO4: Understand the astrophysics of stellar origin black holes
- > SO5: Explore the fundamental nature of gravity and black holes
- ▶ SO6: Probe the rate of expansion of the Universe
- SO7: Understand stochastic GW backgrounds and their implications for the early Universe and TeV-scale particle physics
- > SO8: Search for GW bursts and unforeseen sources
- 69

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#### Summary

- Gravitational waves are new way to observe the Universe:
  - Huge scientific potential: physic, astrophysics, cosmology, ...
- **LISA:** space-based interferometer
  - Success of the technological demonstration with LISAPathfinder
  - ESA mission with a large scientific Consortium
  - In phase A for a launch 2034
  - Very integrated system: the instrument includes spacecrafts and part of the ground segment
  - Requires an extremely high precision in metrology
  - Will observe a large number and variety of GW sources in the frequency band 10<sup>-5</sup> to 1 Hz
    - => will bring a new vision of our Universe

70

