

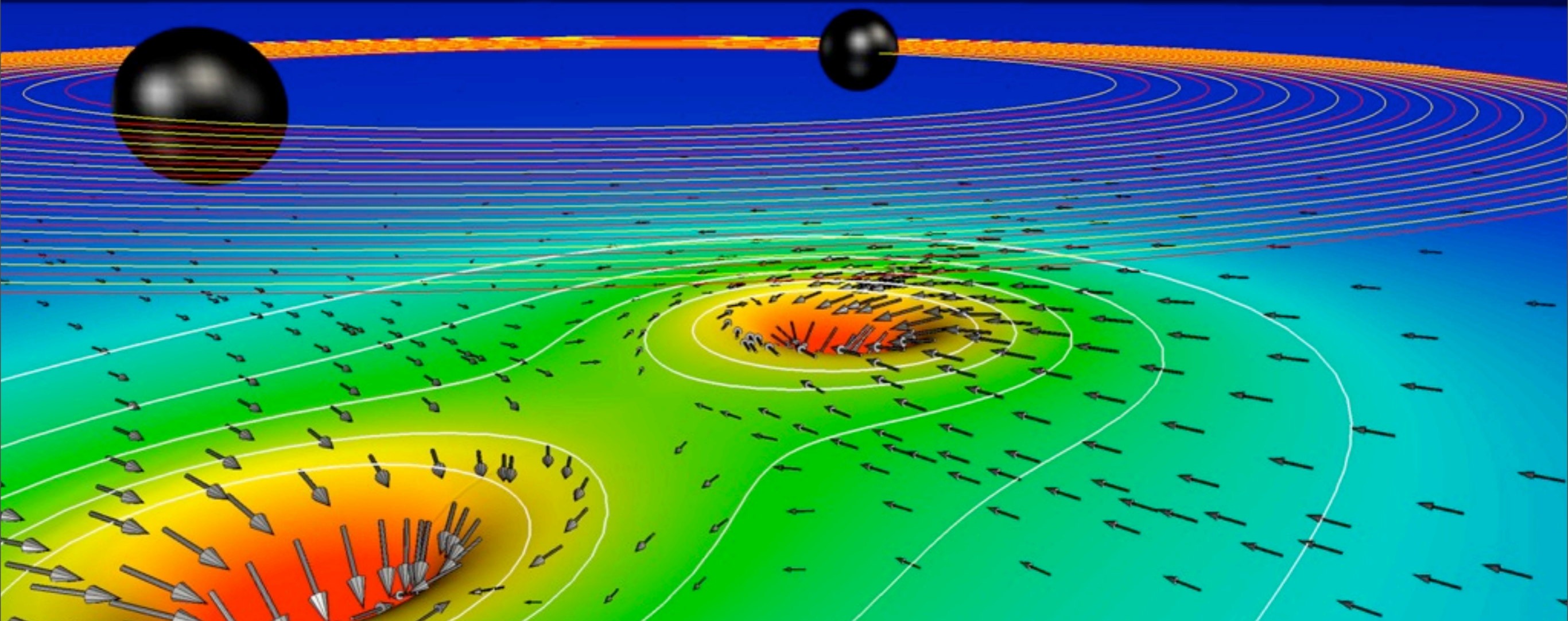
# Numerical simulations of binary black holes

Harald Pfeiffer

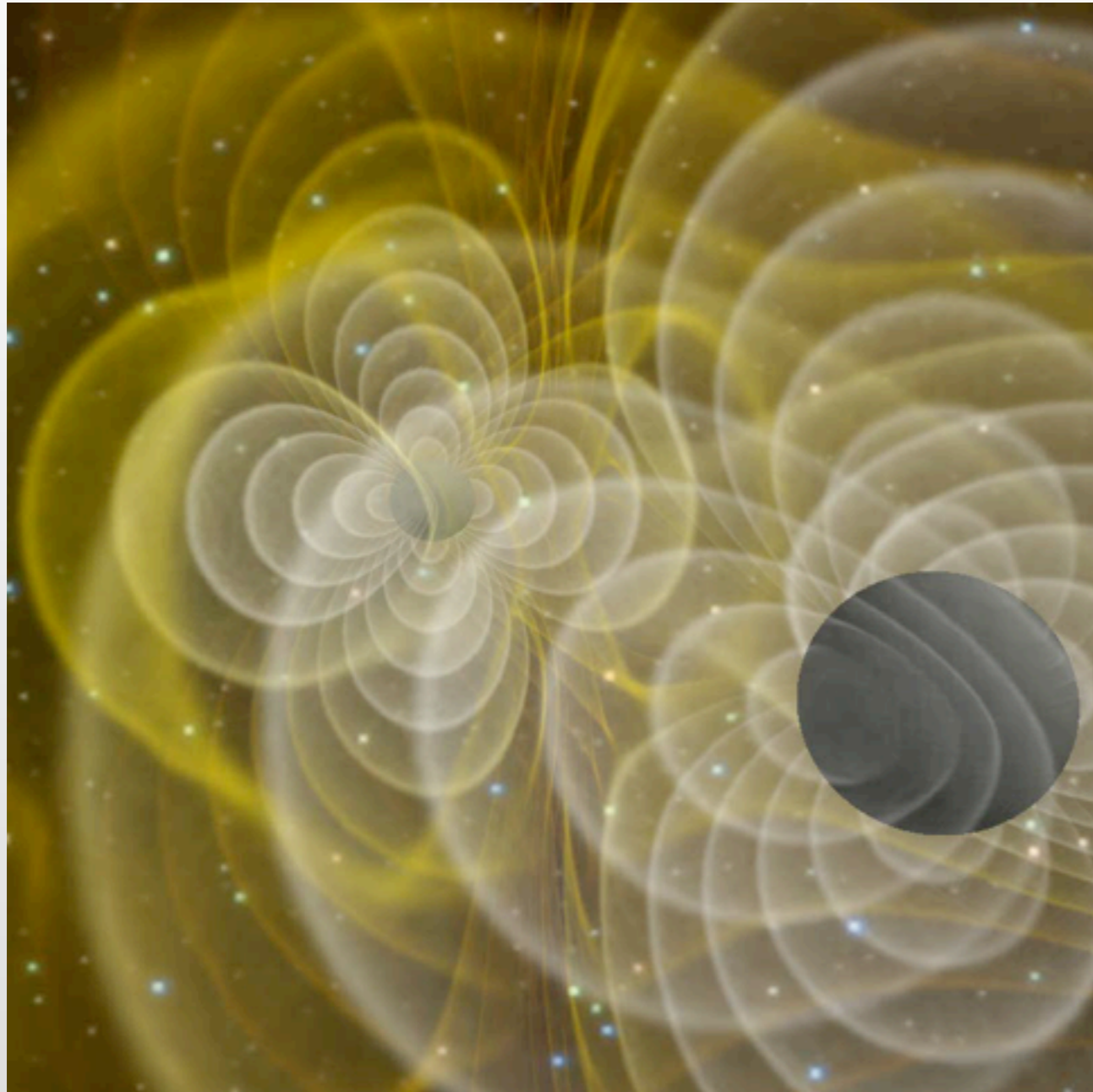
Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics

ICTS Colloquium

ICTS/TIFR Bengaluru Jul 4, 2013



# Binary Black Holes



(Courtesy J. Centrella, Goddard)

$$L_{\max} = 10^{23} L_{\odot} \sim L_{\text{universe}}$$

❖ at distance 10Gpc

$$\Phi_{\max} \sim 10^4 \Phi_{\text{Moon}}$$

❖ No electro-magnetic emission

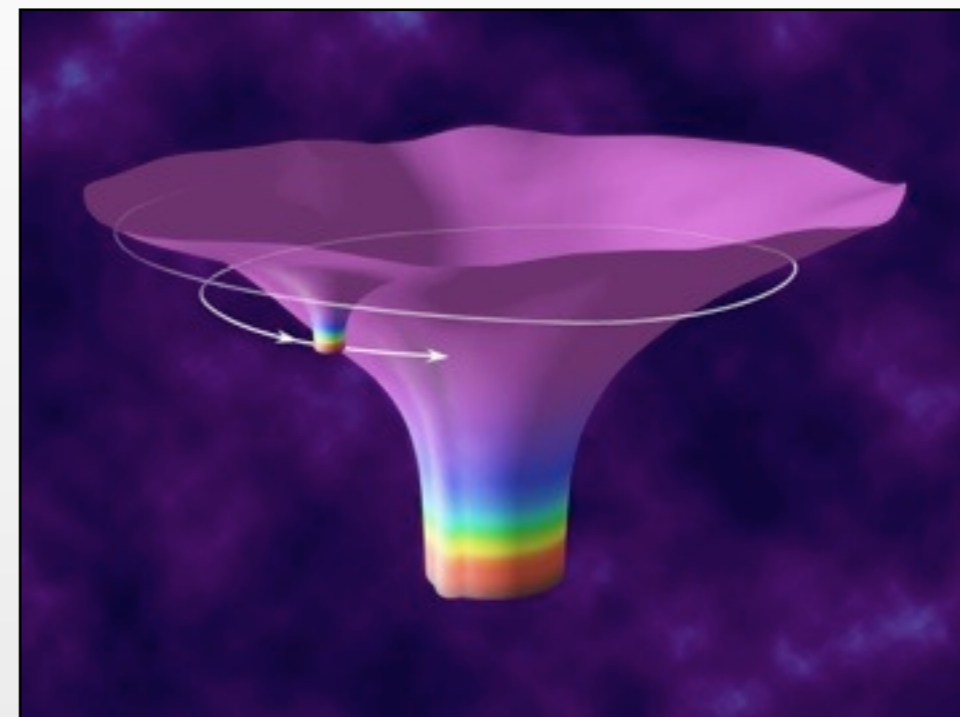
- Only gravitational radiation



# Black hole

## ❖ Made entirely of warped space-time

- Curvature of space
- Slowing of flow of time
- Dragging of space around BH

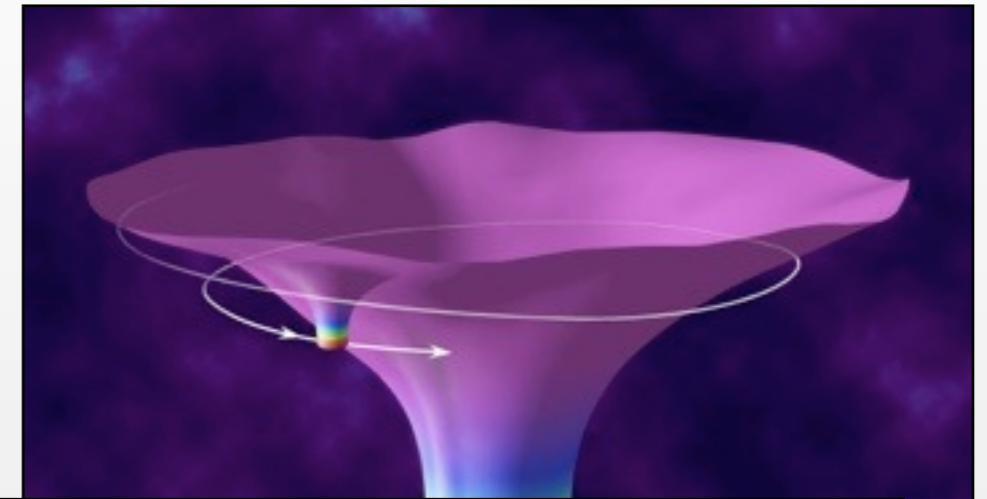


Courtesy Kip Thorne

# Black hole

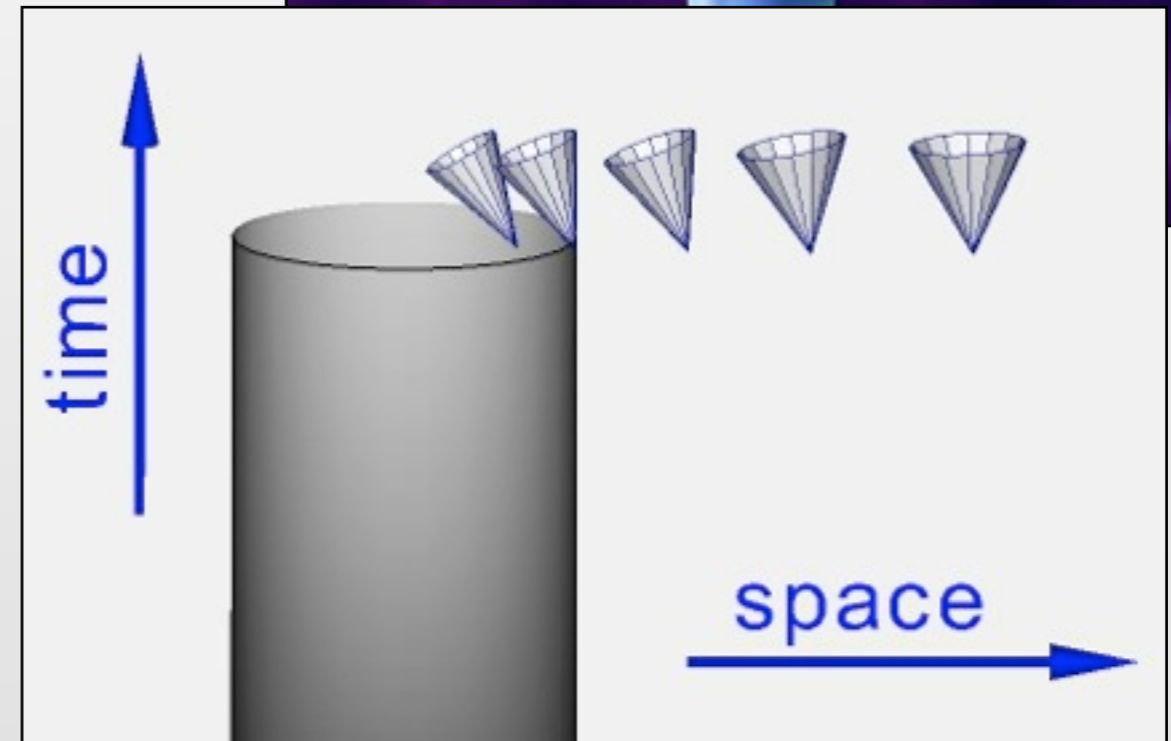
## ❖ Made entirely of warped space-time

- Curvature of space
- Slowing of flow of time
- Dragging of space around BH



## ❖ Causal structure changes

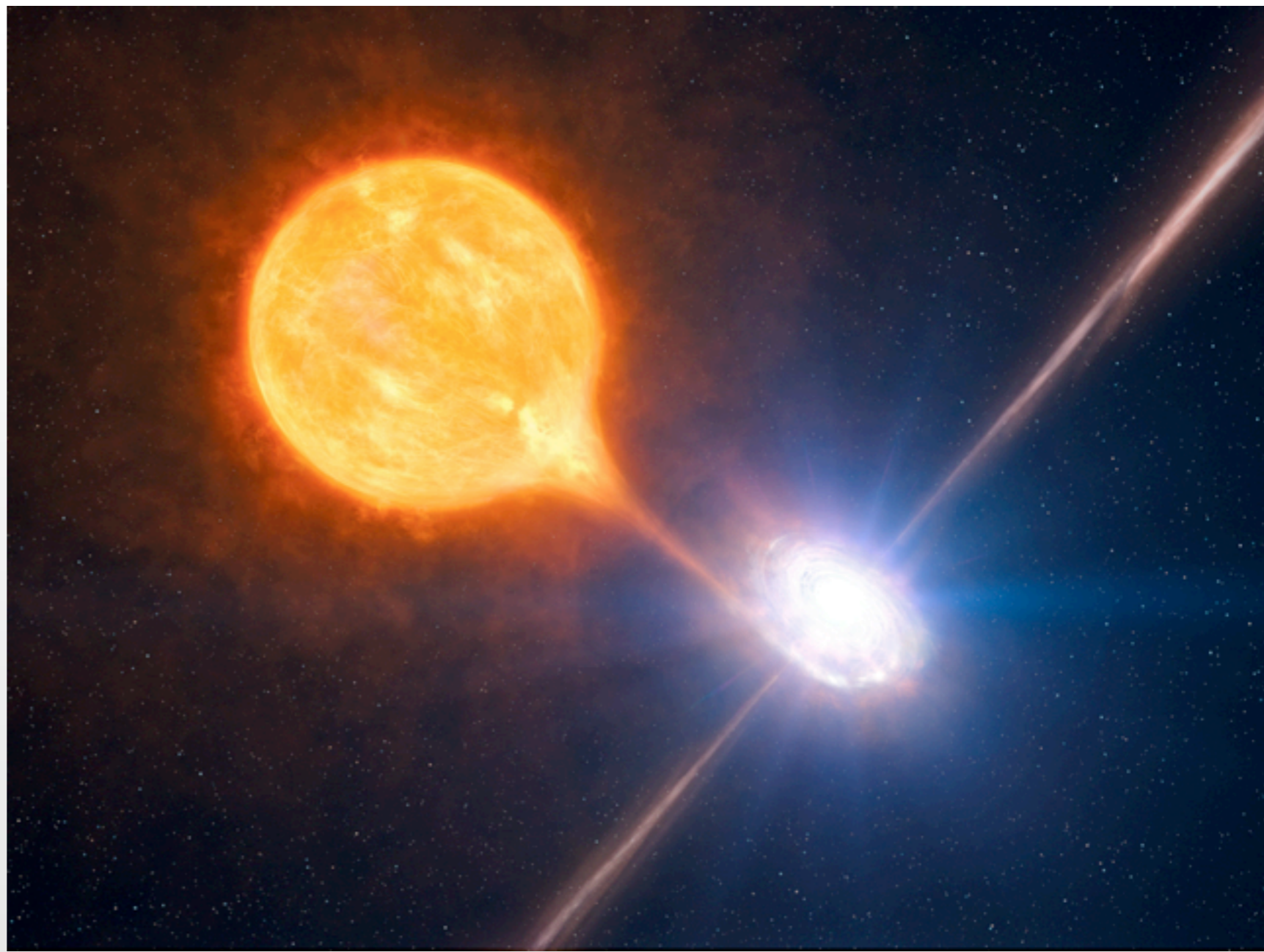
- Tipping of light-cones
- Event horizon



$$A_{\text{EH}} = 4\pi r_S^2, \quad r_S = \frac{2GM}{c^2} = 3 \frac{M}{M_\odot} \text{ km}$$



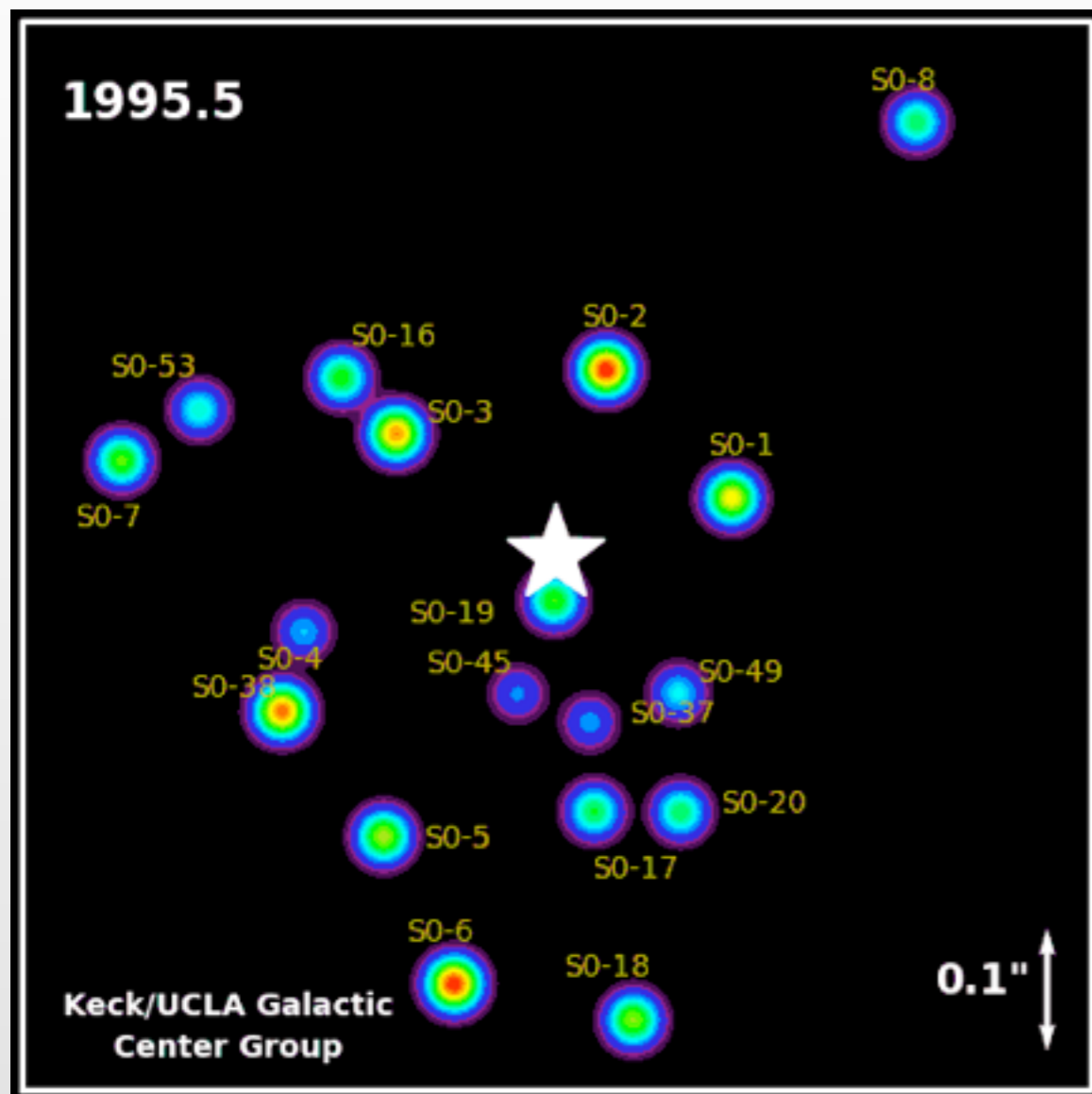
# X-ray binaries



ESO/L. Calçada/M.Kornmesser

- ❖  $M_{\text{partner}} = 5 - 30 M_{\text{Sun}}$
- ❖ Orbit too tight for star, object too massive for Neutron star.  
**Stellar mass Black Hole.**

# Center of the Milky Way



Ghez et al.

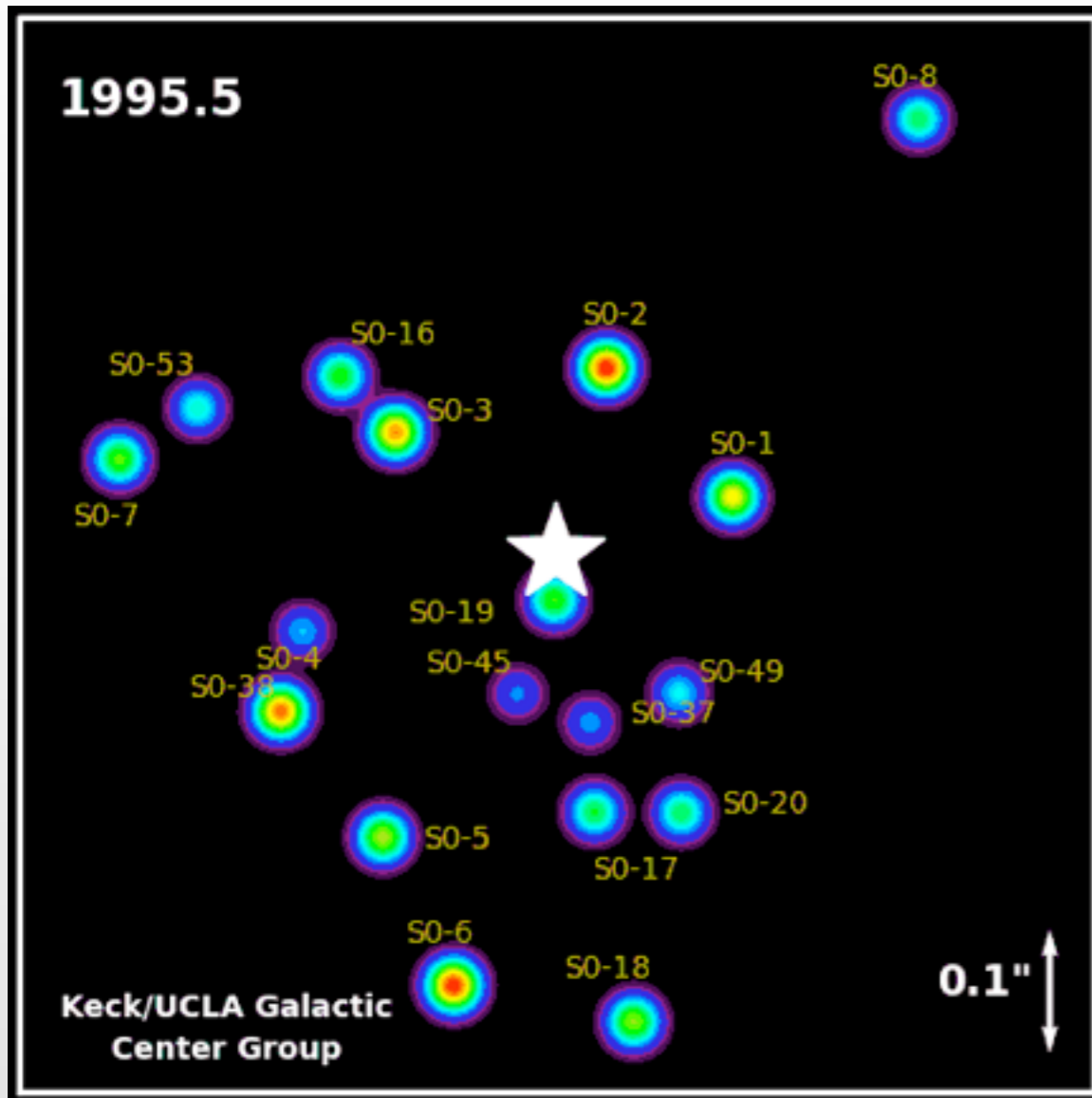


ESO/S. Gillessen et al.

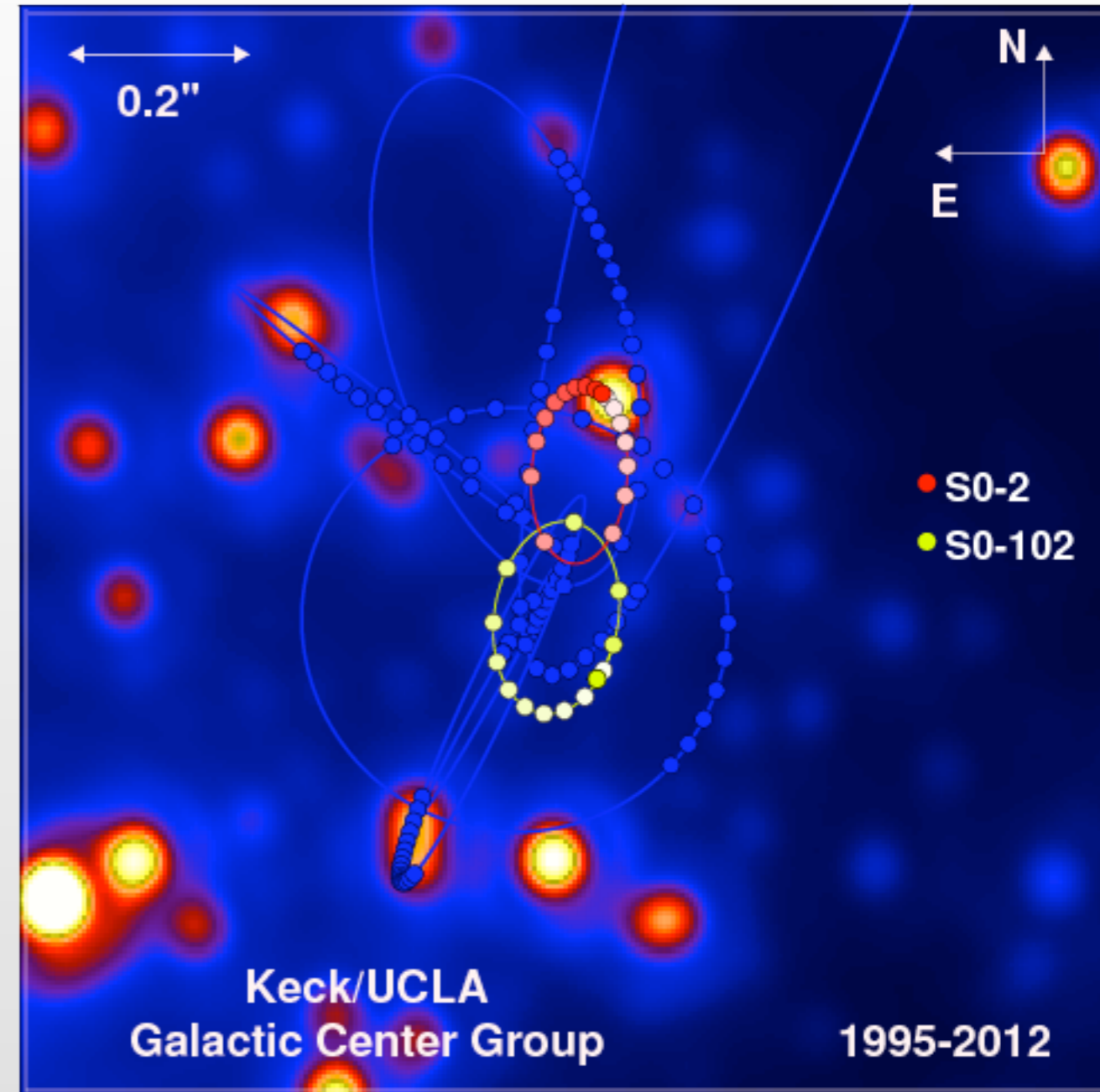
❖  $4.1 \times 10^6 M_{\text{sun}}$  within size of solar system



# Center of the Milky Way



Ghez et al.

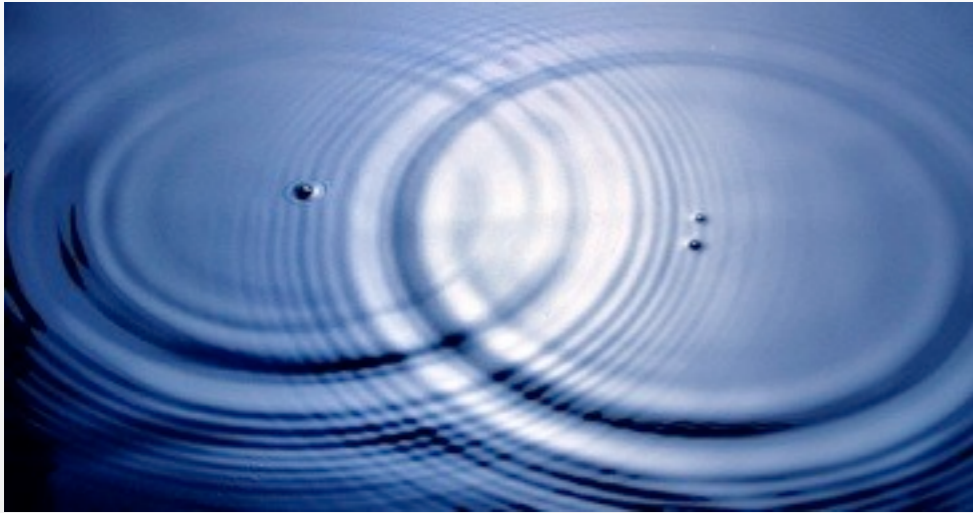


❖  $4.1 \times 10^6 M_{\text{sun}}$  within size of solar system

S0-102  $P = 11.5\text{yr}$  Meyer et al 12



# Gravitational waves



- ❖ Perturbations of space-time itself, traveling at speed of light



# Gravitational waves

- ❖ Generated by time-varying quadrupole moments

$$Q_{ij} = \sum_A x_A^i x_A^j M_A$$

$$h_{ij} \sim \frac{2G}{c^4 r} \ddot{Q}_{ij} \sim \frac{G}{c^4 r} E_{\text{kin,bulk}}$$

- Large masses. Fast, asymmetric motion



- ❖ Black Hole binaries

$$h_{ij} \sim 4 \times 10^{-22} \left( \frac{r}{100 \text{Mpc}} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{v}{0.3c} \right)^2 \left( \frac{M}{10 M_{\odot}} \right)$$



# Ground-based GW detectors





# Stellar mass black hole binaries

- ❖  $(10+10)M_{\text{sun}}$
- ❖  $(3 \times 10^6 + 3 \times 10^6)M_{\text{Earth}}$
- ❖  $d \sim 500 \text{ km}$
- ❖  $f = 25 \text{ Hz}$
- ❖  $v = 40,000 \text{ km/s}$

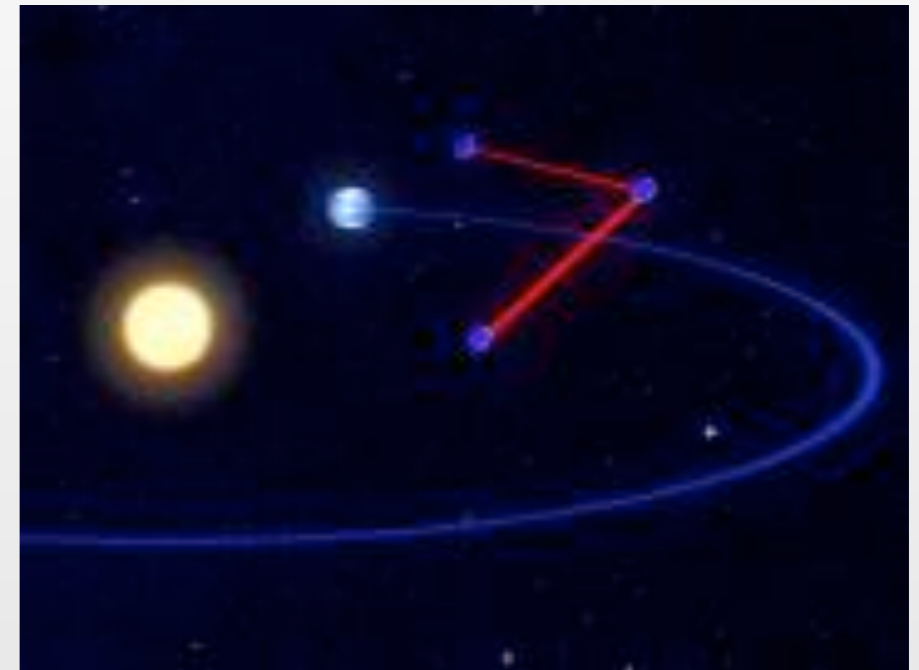


# Supermassive black hole binaries

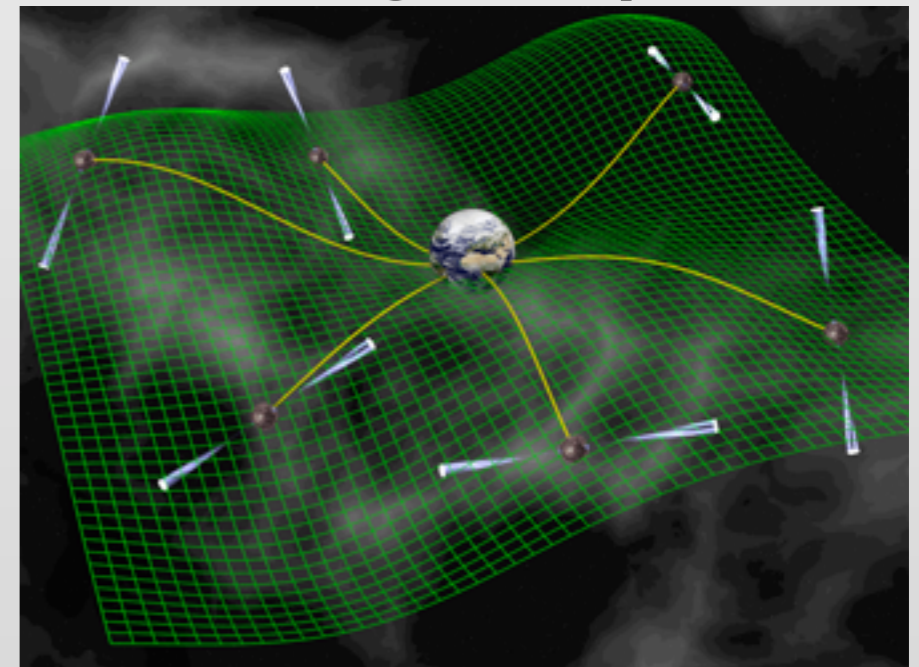


Colliding Galaxies Arp 157  
ESO

eLISA



Pulsar timing arrays

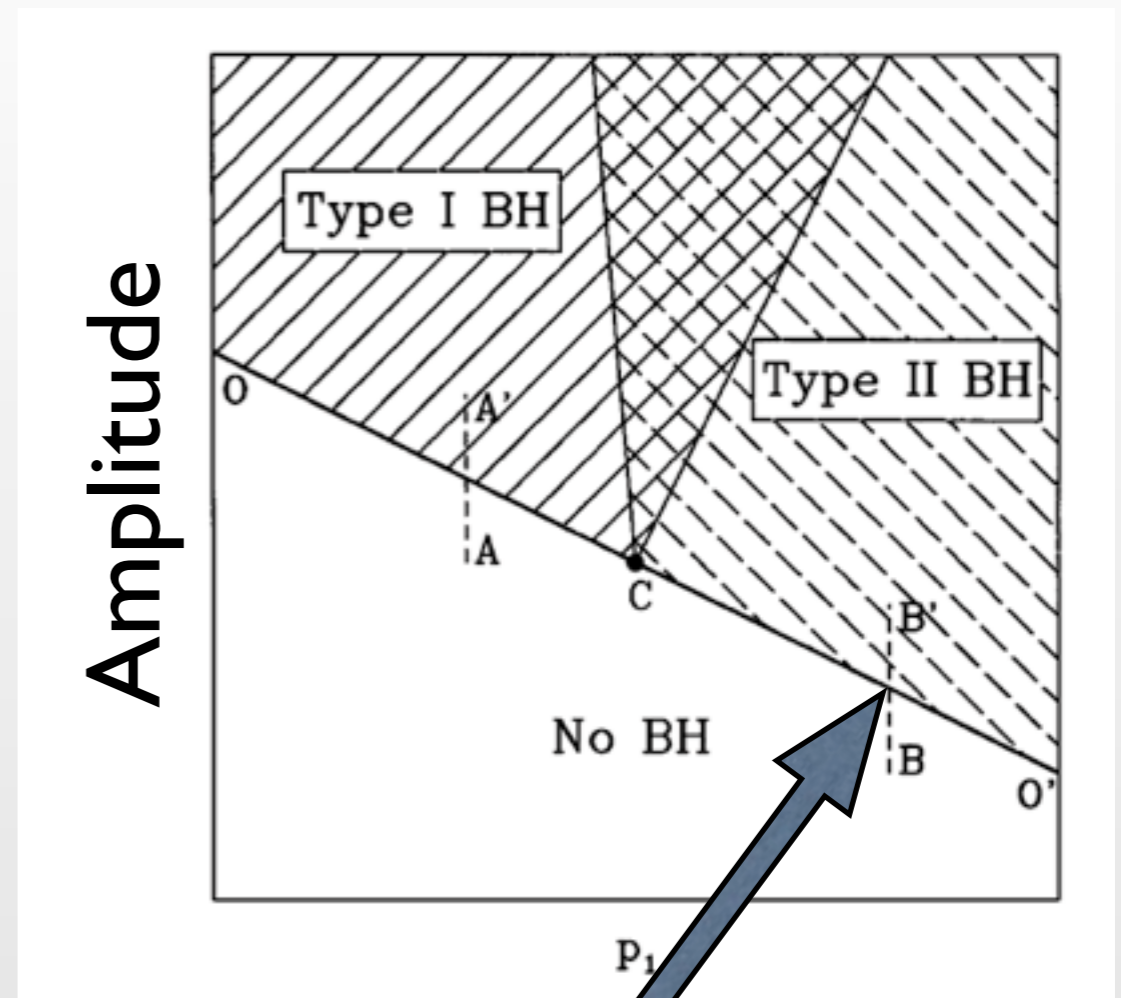


# Numerical Relativity



# Motivation

- ❖ **Astrophysics: What happens when**
  - ... stars collapse?
  - ... compact objects collide?
- ❖ **Elucidate Properties of GR**
  - critical collapse
  - higher-dimensional gravity
- ❖ **Aid GW detectors**



Naked Singularity

Choptuik, Chmaj, Bizon 96

# LIGO's many numerical relativity needs



## ❖ Signal detection

- Template bank for searched parameter-space  
*state-of-the-art: aligned spin binaries*
- signal characteristics to inform  $\chi^2$  vetoes

## ❖ Detection efficiency (event rates)

- Some waveforms elsewhere in parameter space  
*e.g. precessing systems; eccentric systems*

## ❖ Parameter estimation

- Especially accurate waveform models in all parameters being estimated

$$M_1, M_2, \vec{S}_1, \vec{S}_2, e, \dots, \text{RA}, \text{dec}$$

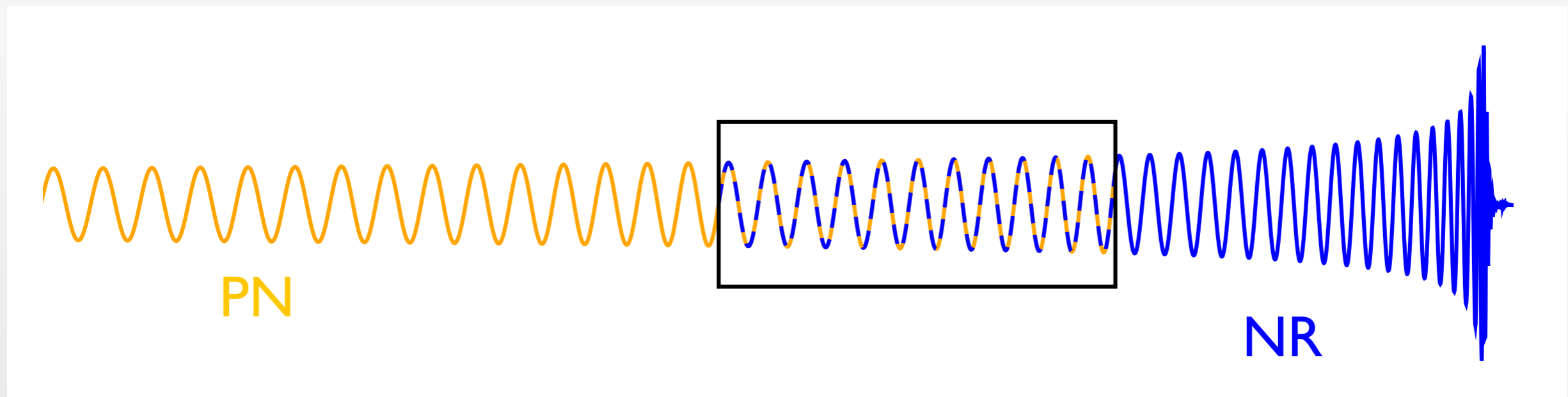
## ❖ Properties of **EM & v counterparts**

- What should telescopes look for?



Primary input of NR:  
Accurate waveforms

# Tools for computing waveforms



## ❖ Early inspiral

- Post-Newtonian calculations

## ❖ Late inspiral & Merger

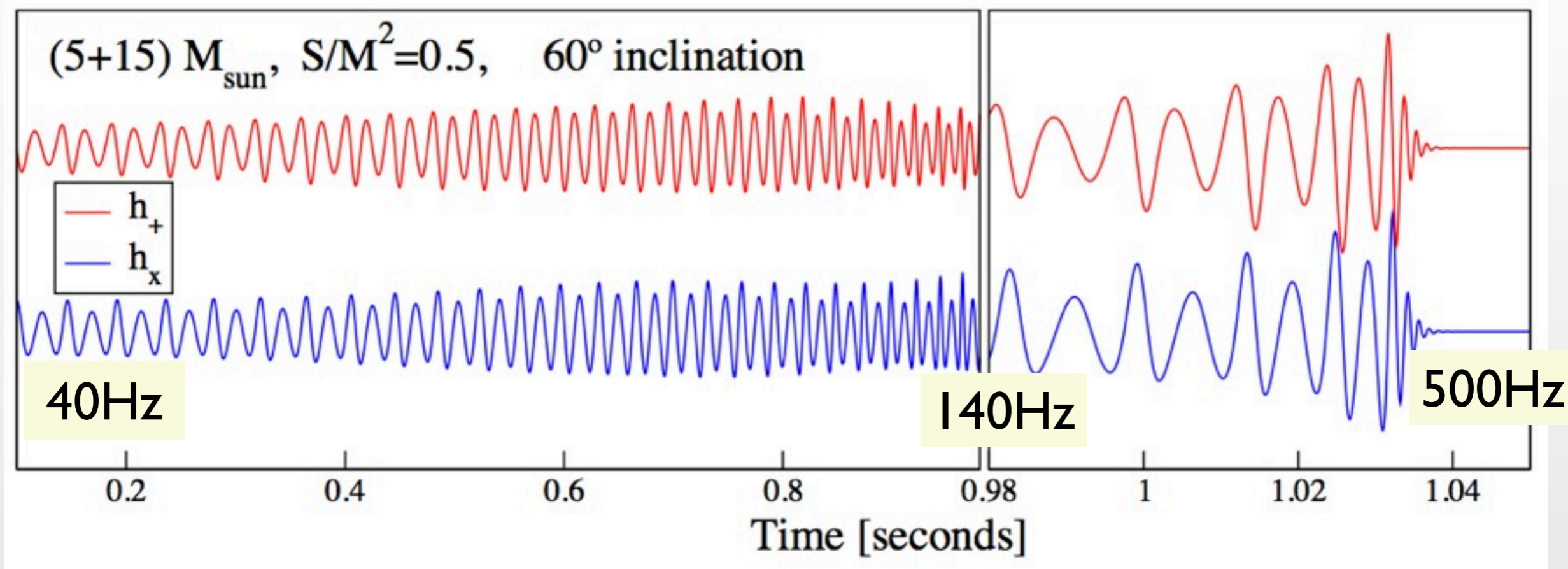
- Computer simulations

## ❖ Ringdown

- Perturbation theory
- Computer simulations

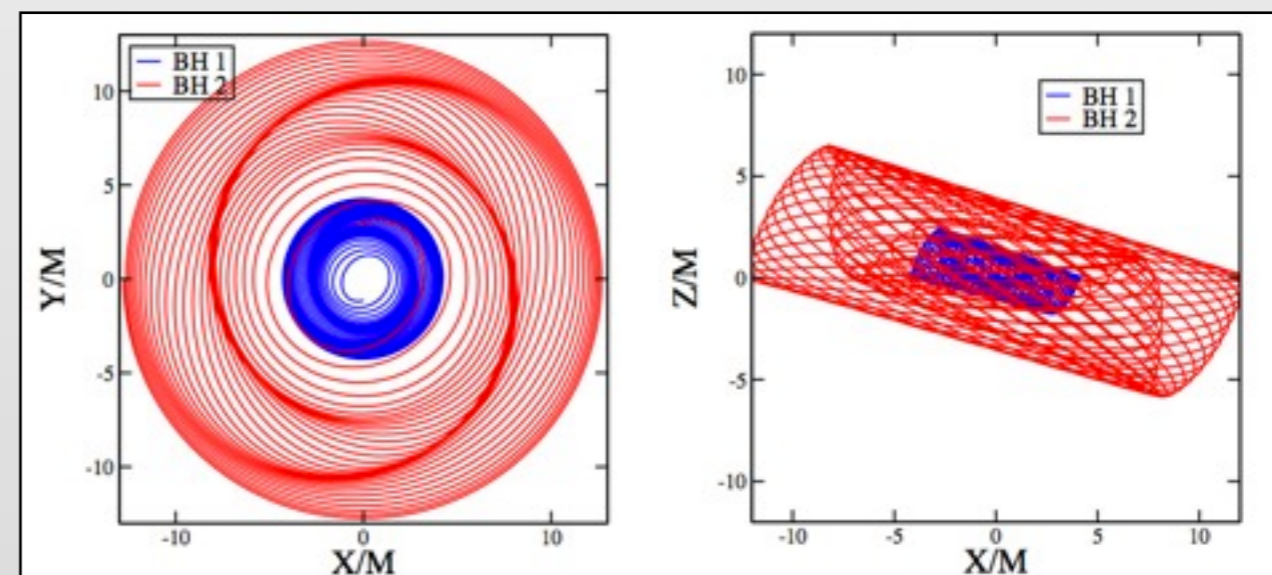


# Anatomy of a waveform



Mroue, ... HP 1204.6077

- ❖ Modulated amplitude
- ❖ Higher temporal harmonics
- ❖ Dependence on inclination
- ❖ Modified phasing



# A brief history of black hole simulations



# Solving Einstein Equations - Basic idea



- ❖ Goal: Space-time metric  $g_{ab}$  satisfying

$$R_{ab}[g_{ab}] = 0$$

- ❖ Split spacetime into space *and* time

- ❖ Evolution equations

$$\partial_t g_{ij} = \dots$$

$$\partial_t K_{ij} = \dots$$

- ❖ Constraints

$$R[g_{ij}] + K^2 - K_{ij}K^{ij} = 0$$

$$\nabla_j (K^{ij} - g^{ij}K) = 0$$



cf. Maxwell's equations

$$\partial_t \vec{E} = \nabla \times \vec{B}$$

$$\partial_t \vec{B} = -\nabla \times \vec{E}$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = 0$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

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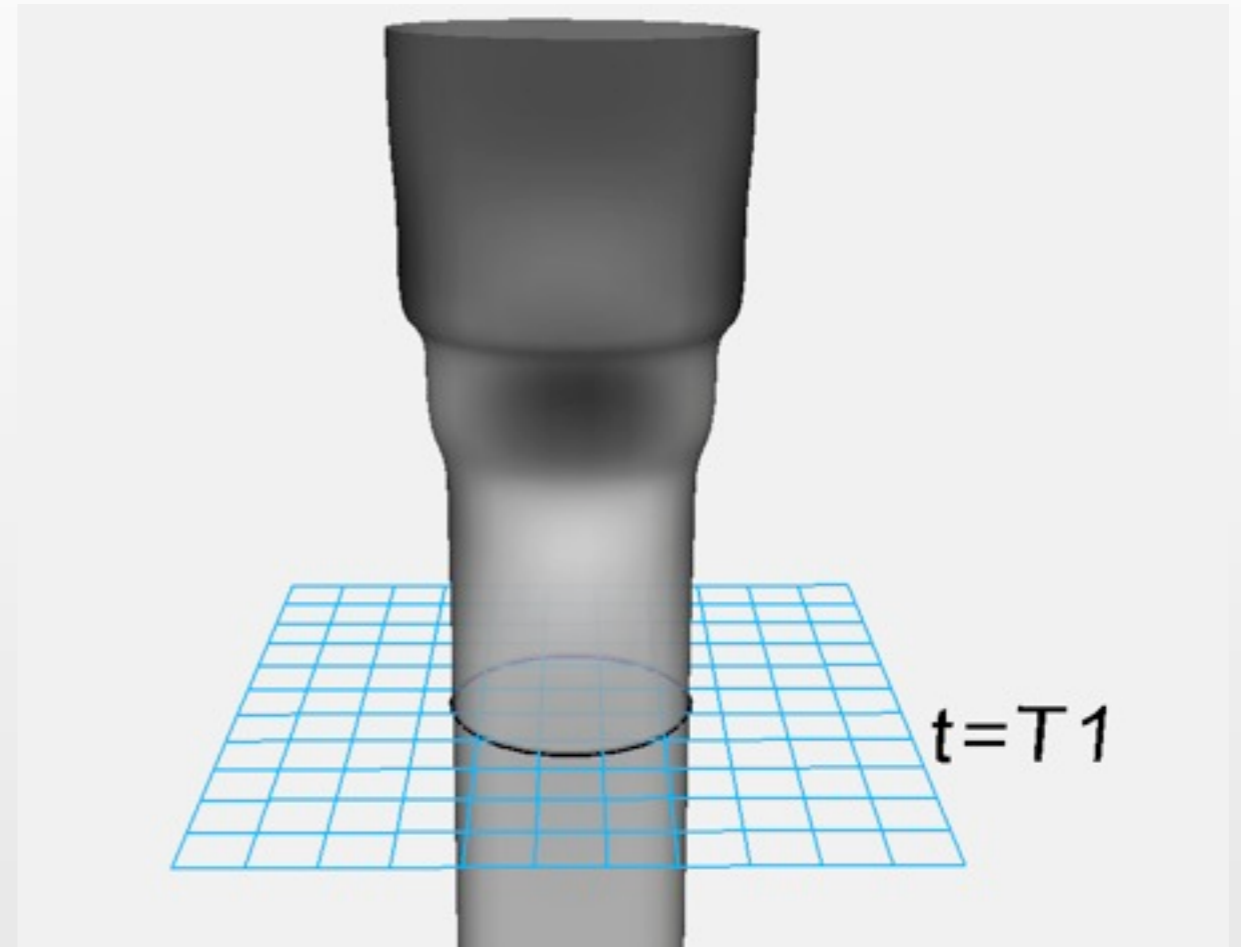
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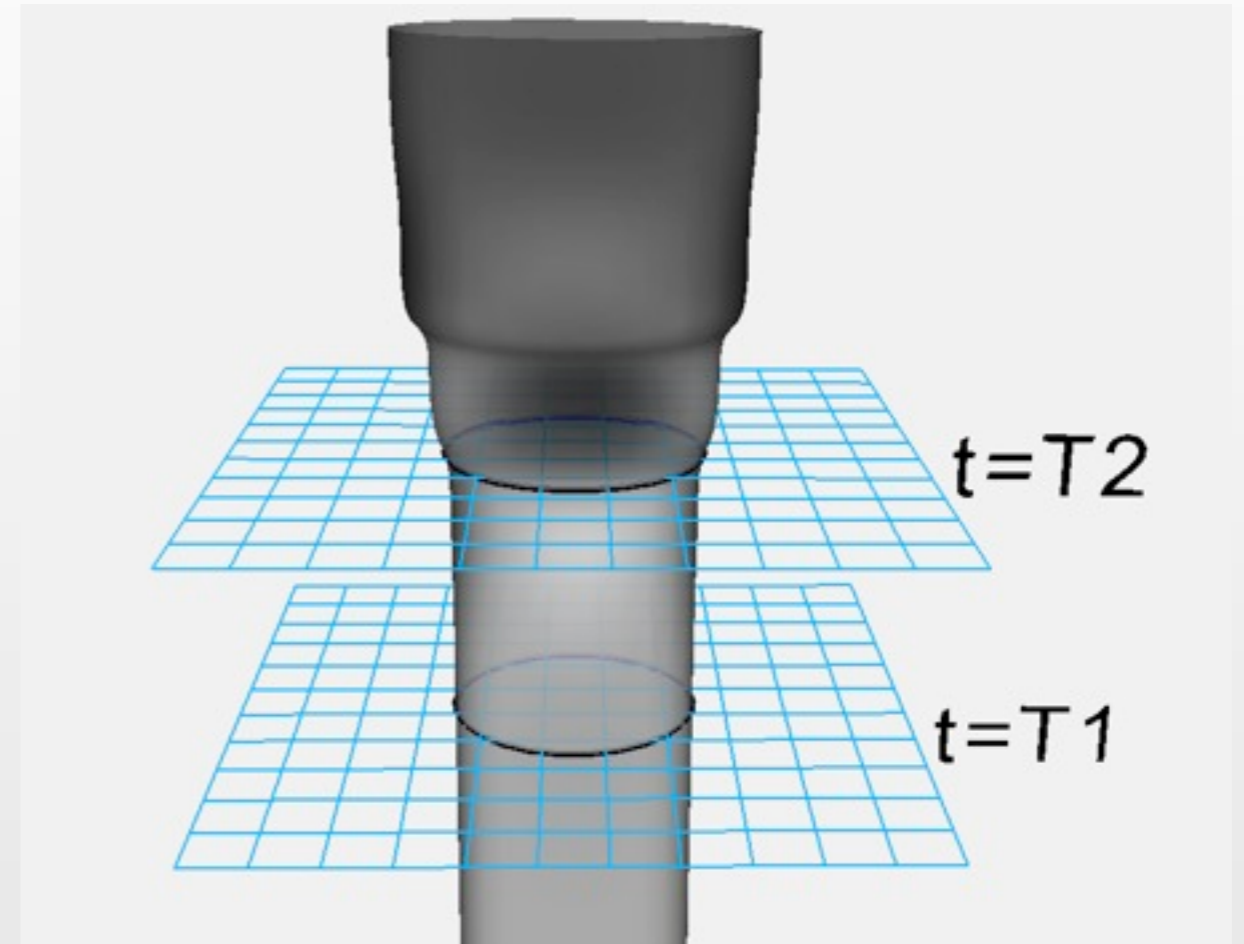
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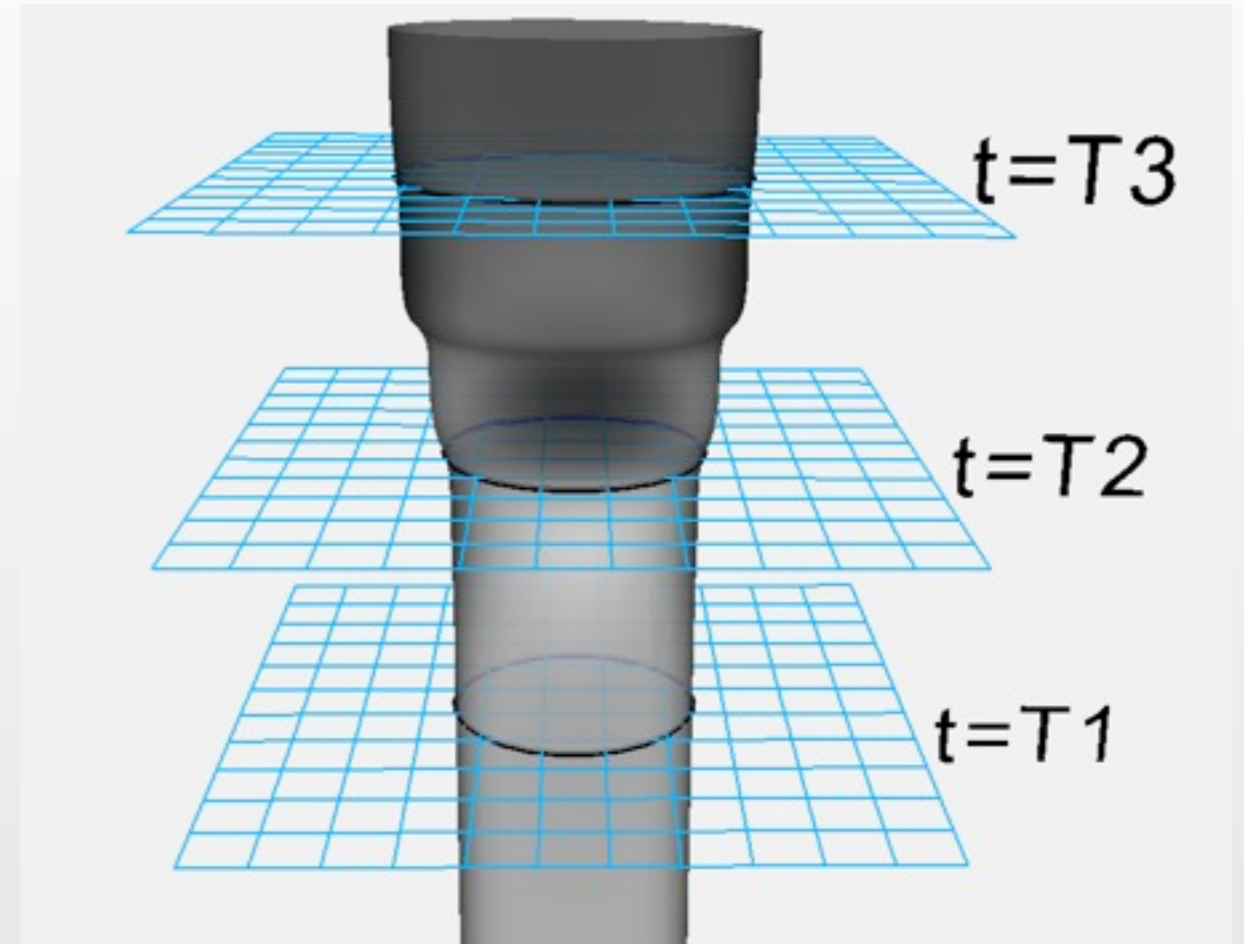
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$$\nabla \cdot \vec{E} = 0$$

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$



# Why is this hard?

- ❖ Singularities inside Black holes
- ❖ Constraints difficult to preserve
- ❖ Coordinate freedom
  - How does one choose coordinates for a space-time one does not know yet?
- ❖ Challenging numerical issues
  - 20-50 variables
  - 10,000 FLOP / grid-point / time-step
  - Different length scales, high accuracy requirements

## The Two-Body Problem in Geometrodynamics

SUSAN G. HAHN

*International Business Machines Corporation, New York, New York*

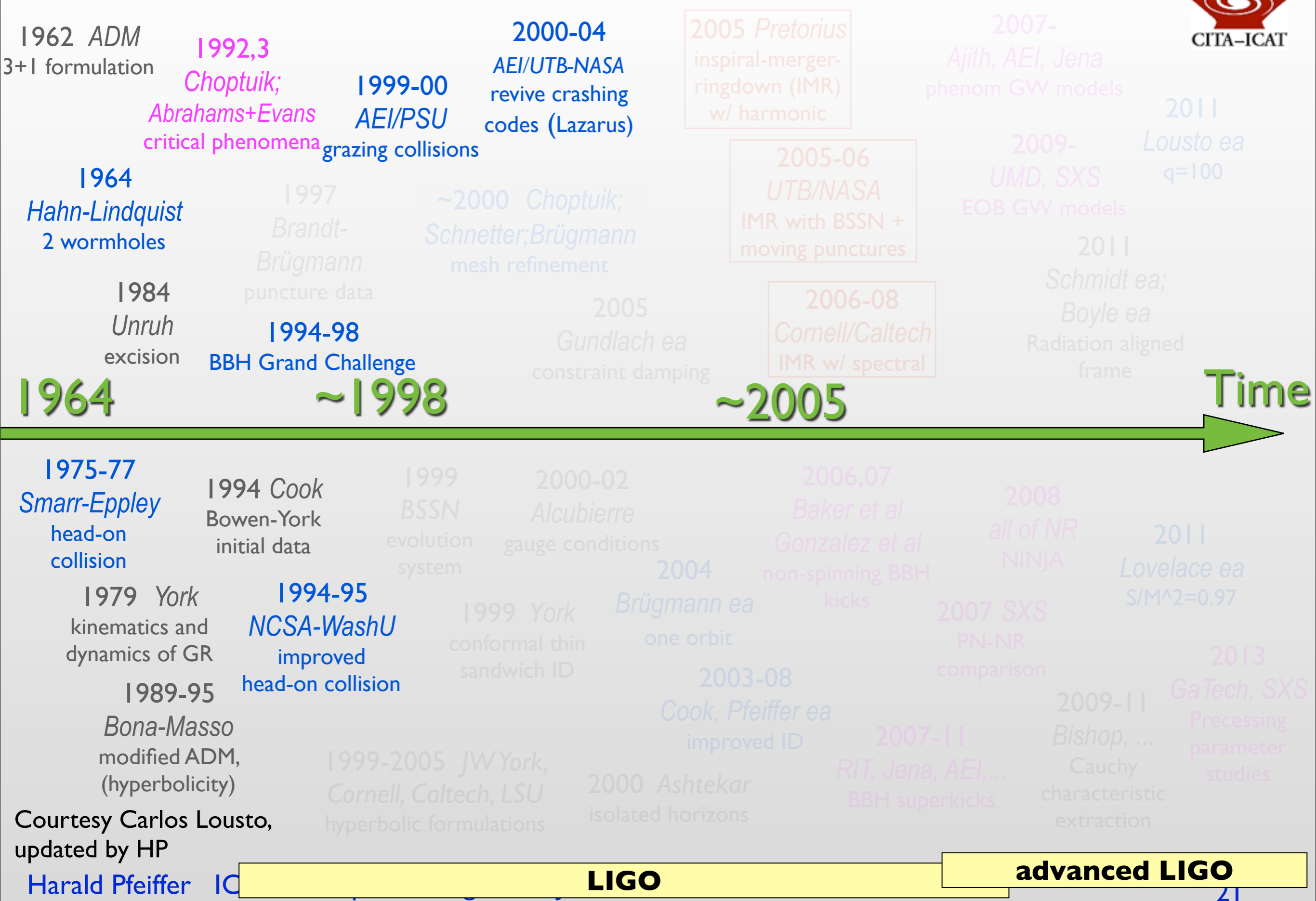
AND

RICHARD W. LINDQUIST

The numerical calculations were carried out on an IBM 7090 electronic computer. The parameters  $a$  and  $\mu_0$  were both set equal to unity; the mesh lengths were assigned the values  $h_1 = 0.02$ ,  $h_2 = \pi/150 \approx 0.021$ , yielding a 51  $\times$  151 mesh. The calculations of all unknown functions, including a great number of input-output operations and some built-in checking procedures, took approximately four minutes per time step. Different check routines indicated that results close to the point  $\mu = 0$ ,  $\eta = 0$  lost accuracy fairly quickly. Since these would, in the long run, influence meshpoints further away, the computations were stopped after the 50th time step, when the total time elapsed was approximately 1.8. Some of the results are shown in Table I.



# 50 Years of BBH: The beginnings



# BBH Grand Challenge 1994-98



VOLUME 80, NUMBER 12

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

23 MARCH 1998

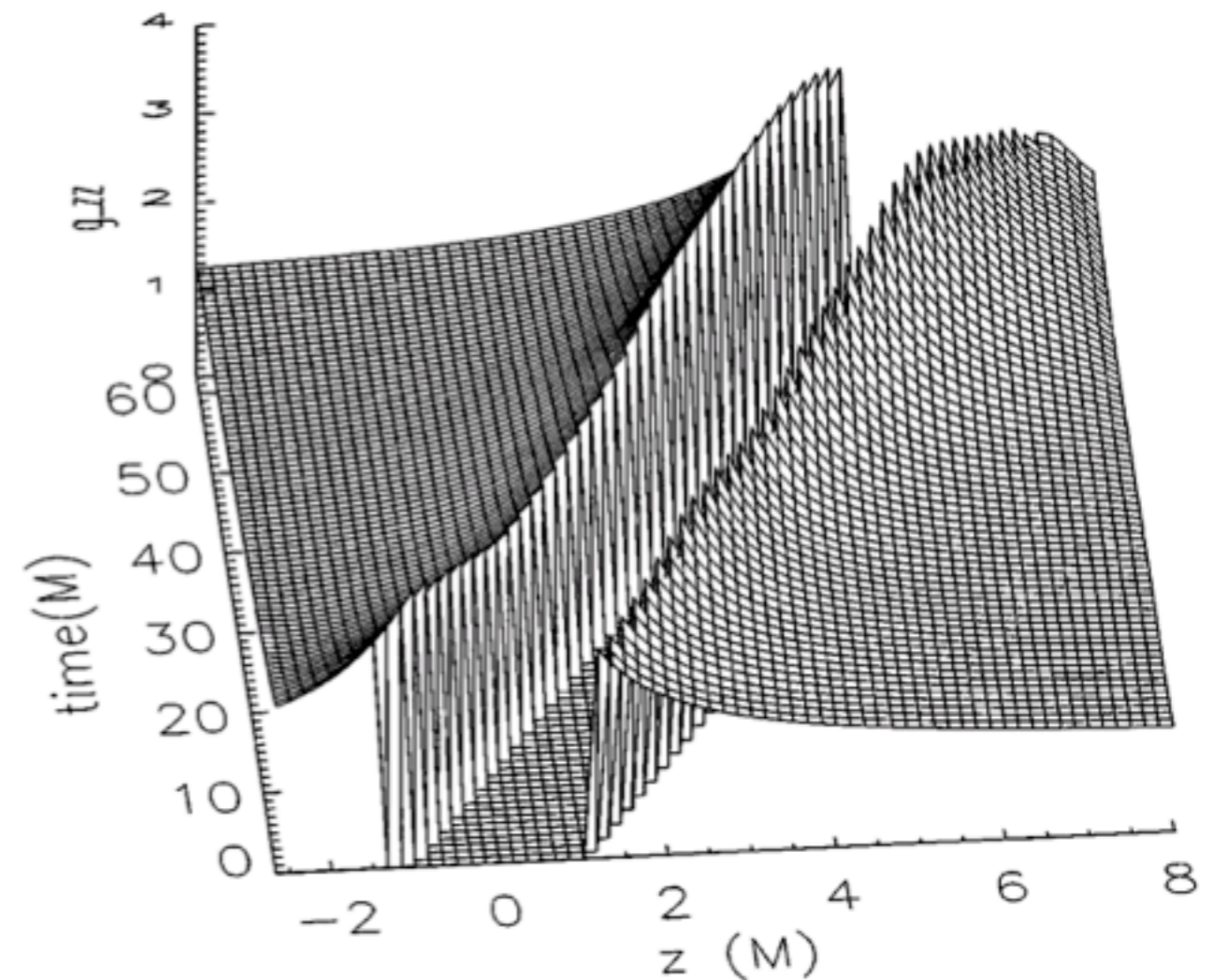
## Boosted Three-Dimensional Black-Hole Evolutions with Singularity Excision

G.B. Cook,<sup>1</sup> M.F. Huq,<sup>2</sup> S.A. Klasky,<sup>3</sup> M.A. Scheel,<sup>1</sup> A.M. Abrahams,<sup>4,5</sup> A. Anderson,<sup>6</sup> P. Anninos,<sup>4</sup>  
T.W. Baumgarte,<sup>4</sup> N.T. Bishop,<sup>7</sup> S.R. Brandt,<sup>4</sup> J.C. Browne,<sup>2</sup> K. Camarda,<sup>8</sup> M.W. Choptuik,<sup>2</sup> R.R. Correll,<sup>2,9</sup>  
C.R. Evans,<sup>6</sup> L.S. Finn,<sup>10</sup> G.C. Fox,<sup>3</sup> R. Gómez,<sup>11</sup> T. Haupt,<sup>3</sup> L.E. Kidder,<sup>10</sup> P. Laguna,<sup>8</sup> W. Landry,<sup>1</sup> L. Lehner,<sup>11</sup>  
J. Lenaghan,<sup>6</sup> R.L. Marsa,<sup>2</sup> J. Masso,<sup>4</sup> R.A. Matzner,<sup>2</sup> S. Mitra,<sup>2</sup> P. Papadopoulos,<sup>8</sup> M. Parashar,<sup>2</sup> L. Rezzolla,<sup>4</sup>  
M.E. Rupright,<sup>6</sup> F. Saied,<sup>4</sup> P.E. Saylor,<sup>4</sup> E. Seidel,<sup>4</sup> S.L. Shapiro,<sup>4</sup> D. Shoemaker,<sup>2</sup> L. Smarr,<sup>4</sup> W.M. Suen,<sup>12</sup>  
B. Szilágyi,<sup>11</sup> S.A. Teukolsky,<sup>1</sup> M.H.P.M. van Putten,<sup>1</sup> P. Walker,<sup>4</sup> J. Winicour,<sup>11</sup> and J.W. York, Jr.<sup>6</sup>

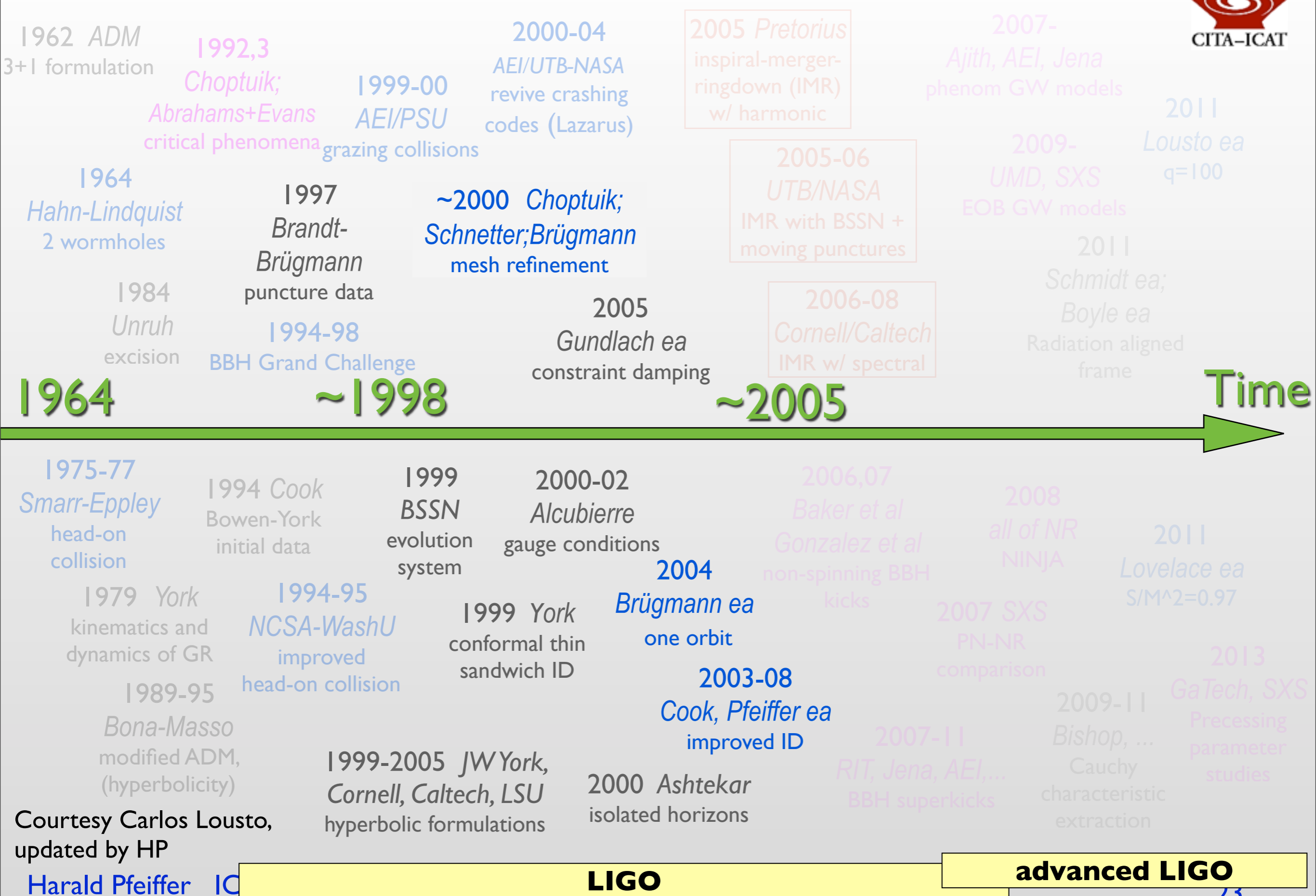
(Binary Black Hole Grand Challenge Alliance)

### ❖ Single Black Hole

- 60M in time
- 6M motion in space



# 50 Years of BBH: Foundations for success

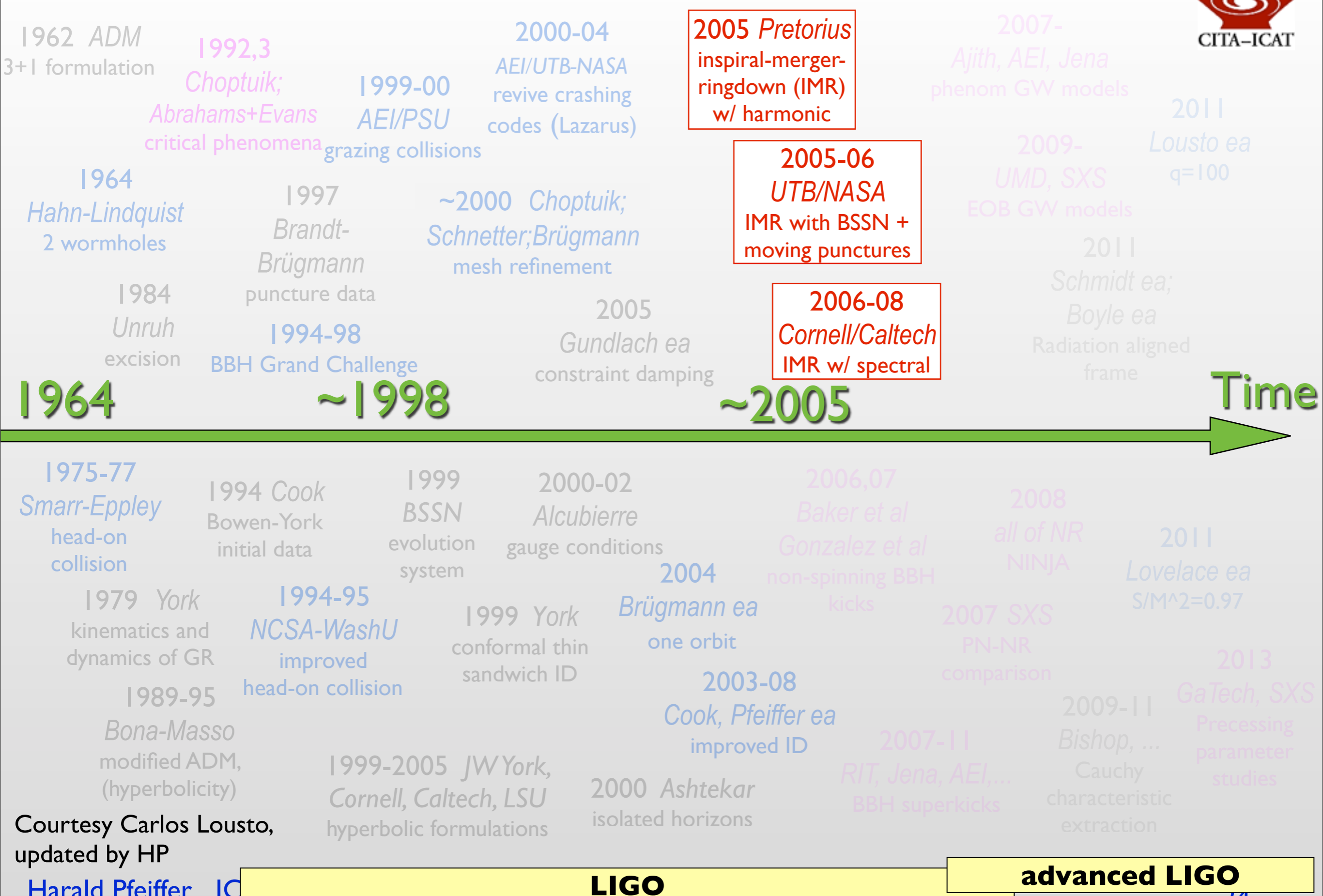


Courtesy Carlos Lousto,  
updated by HP

Harald Pfeiffer IC



# 50 Years of BBH: The breakthroughs



Courtesy Carlos Lousto,  
updated by HP  
Harald Pfeiffer IC



## Evolution of Binary Black-Hole Spacetimes

Frans Pretorius<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Theoretical Astrophysics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125, USA*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Physics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2J1 Canada*

(Received 6 July 2005; published 14 September 2005)

We describe early success in the evolution of binary black-hole spacetimes with a numerical code based on a generalization of harmonic coordinates. Indications are that with sufficient resolution this scheme is capable of evolving binary systems for enough time to extract information about the orbit, merger, and gravitational waves emitted during the event. As an example we show results from the evolution of a binary composed of two equal mass, nonspinning black holes, through a single plunge orbit, merger, and ringdown. The resultant black hole is estimated to be a Kerr black hole with angular momentum parameter  $a \approx 0.70$ . At present, lack of resolution far from the binary prevents an accurate estimate of the energy emitted, though a rough calculation suggests on the order of 5% of the initial rest mass of the system is radiated as gravitational waves during the final orbit and ringdown.

## Accurate Evolutions of Orbiting Black-Hole Binaries without Excision

M. Campanelli,<sup>1</sup> C. O. Lousto,<sup>1</sup> P. Marronetti,<sup>2</sup> and Y. Zlochower<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of*

We present a new algorithm for evolving binary black holes without excision. Our algorithm is based on a new gauge condition, the corotating shift. Our algorithm is stable and accurate. This system, based on the Einstein equations, when used to evolve binary black holes, remains nonsingular and remains nonsingular throughout the merger and remains nonsingular throughout the merger. We use this technique to fully resolve the merger and ringdown. We show fourth-order convergence of the horizon area and angular momentum.

## Gravitational-Wave Extraction from an Inspiring Configuration of Merging

John G. Baker,<sup>1</sup> Joan Centrella,<sup>1</sup> Dae-Il Choi,<sup>1,2</sup> Michael Koppitz,<sup>1</sup> and James van M

<sup>1</sup>*Gravitational Astrophysics Laboratory, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, 8800 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt,*

<sup>2</sup>*Universities Space Research Association, 10211 Wincopin Circle, Suite 500, Columbia, Maryland*

(Received 15 November 2005; published 22 March 2006)

We present new ideas for evolving black holes through a computational grid without excision.

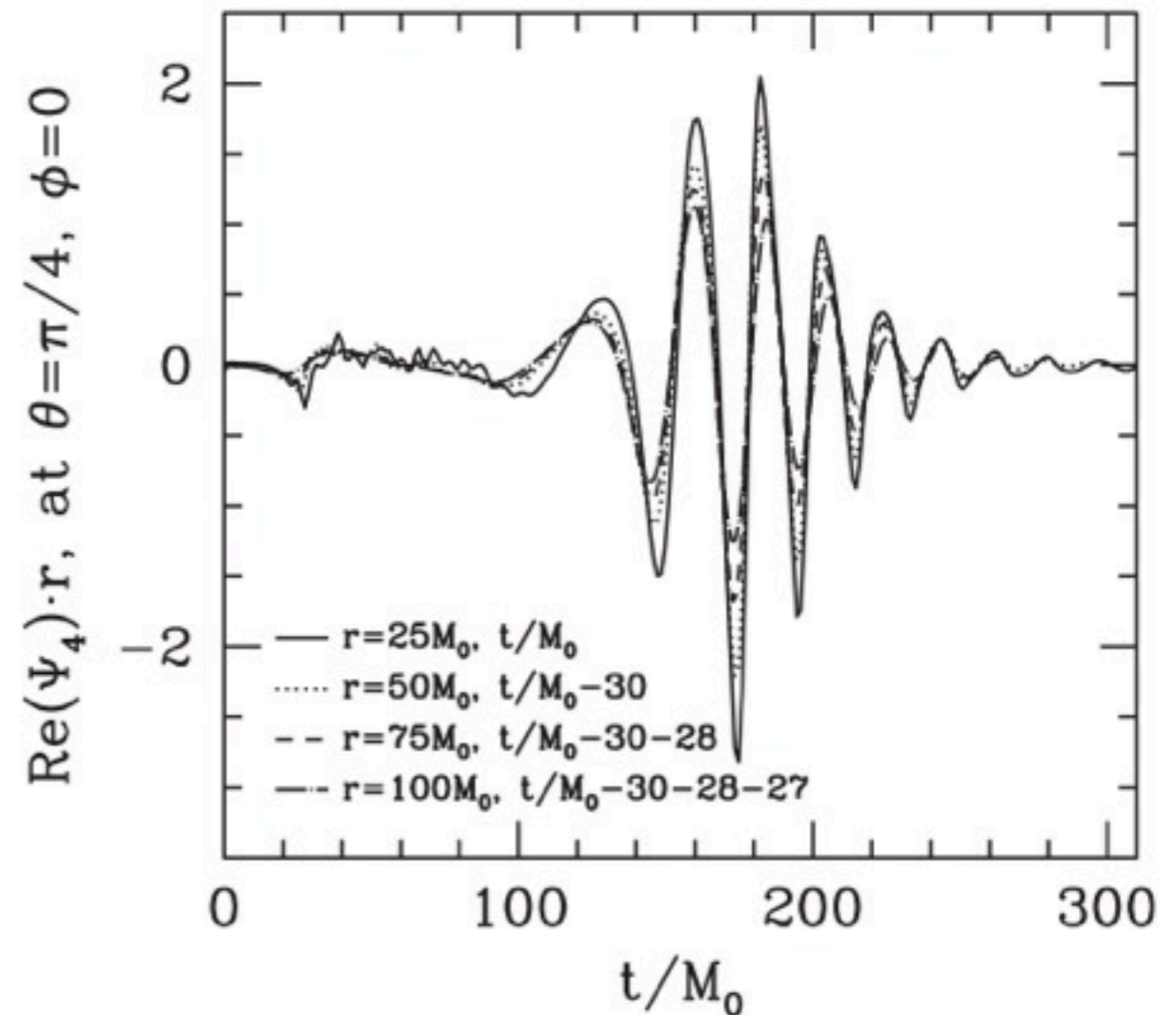
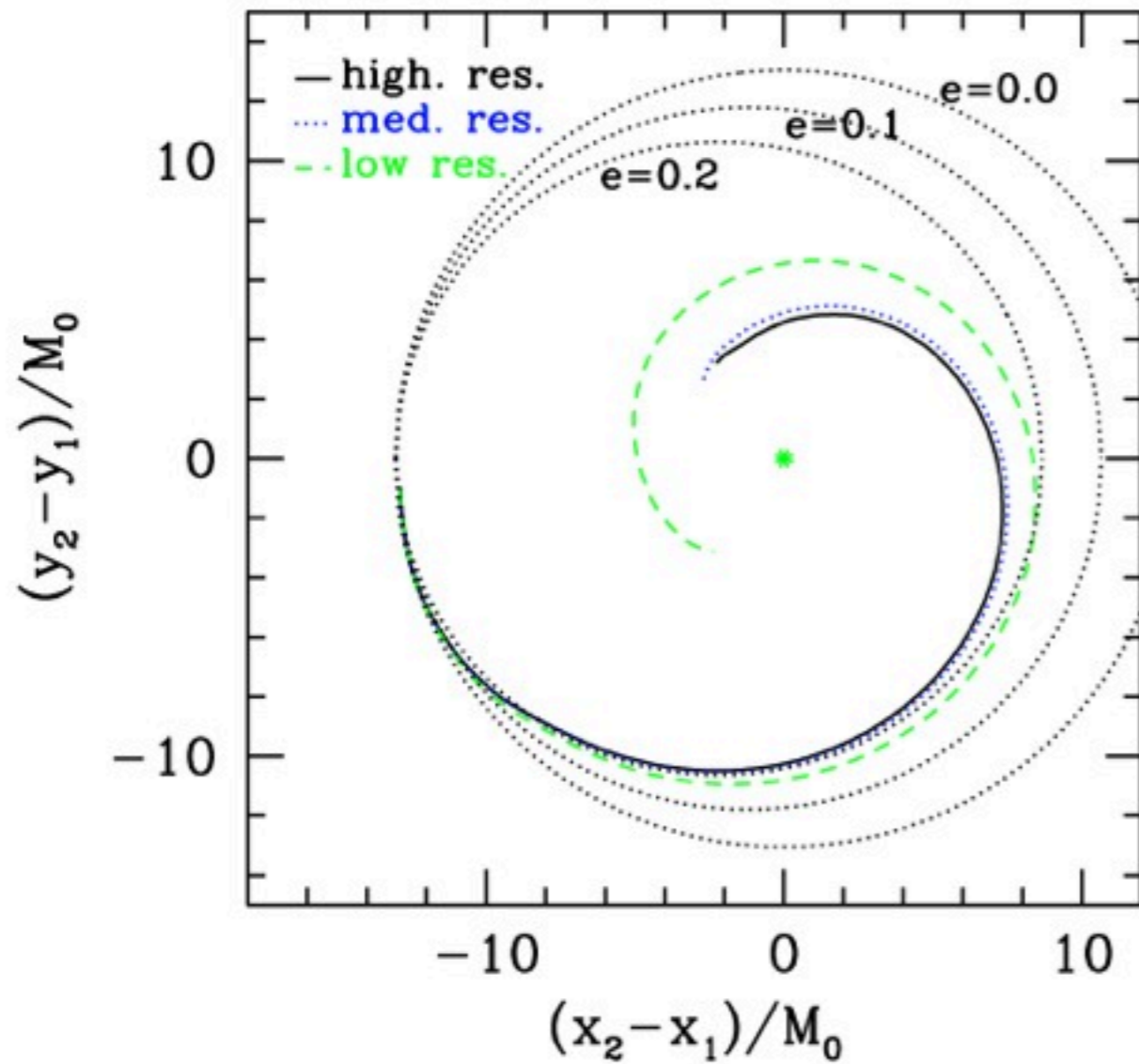


# Evolution of Binary Black-Hole Spacetimes

Frans Pretorius<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

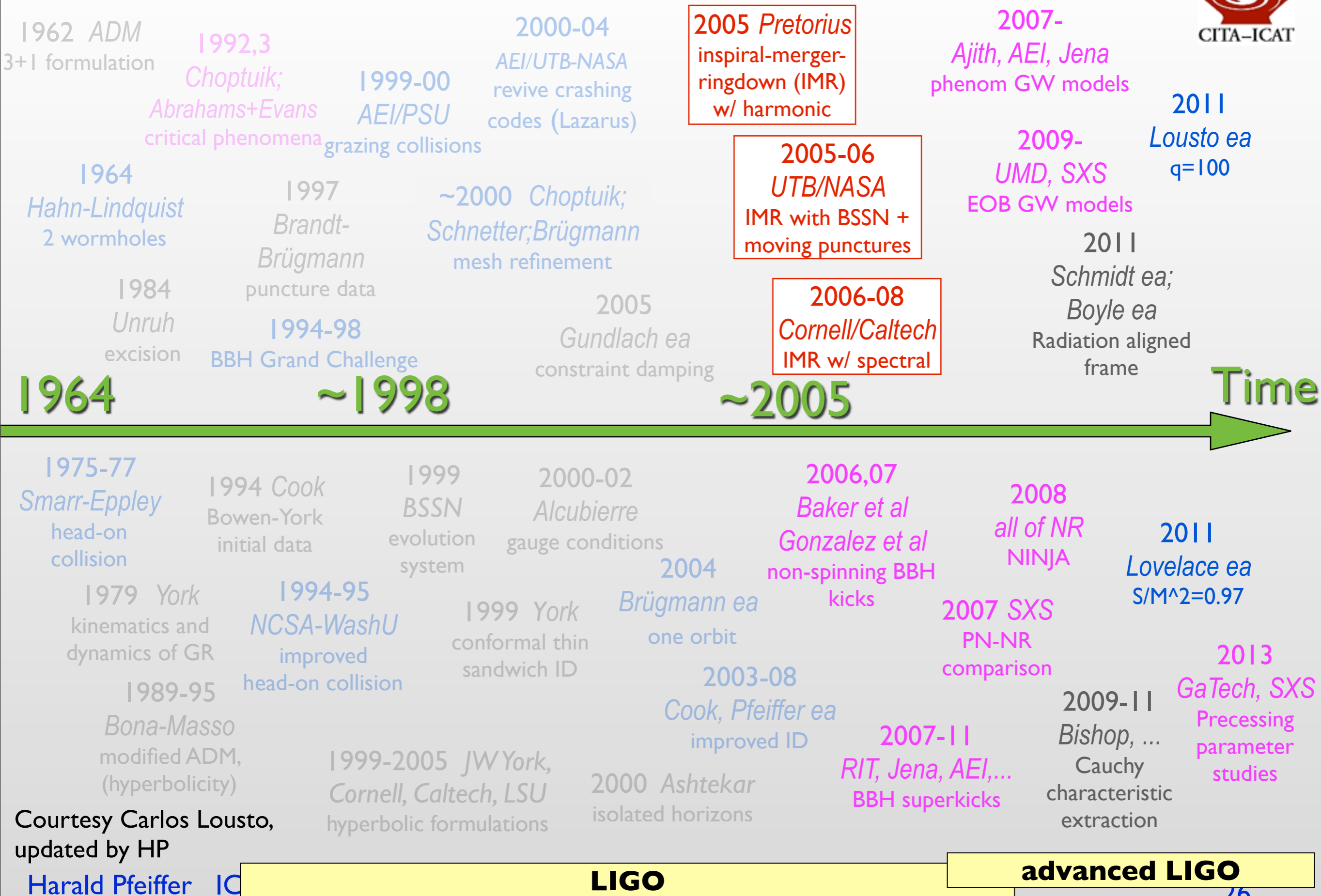
<sup>1</sup>California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91125, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2J1 Canada  
 (Received 14 September 2005)

Binary black-hole spacetimes with a numerical code based on the Newman-Penrose formalism. One of the main concerns is that with sufficient resolution this scheme is



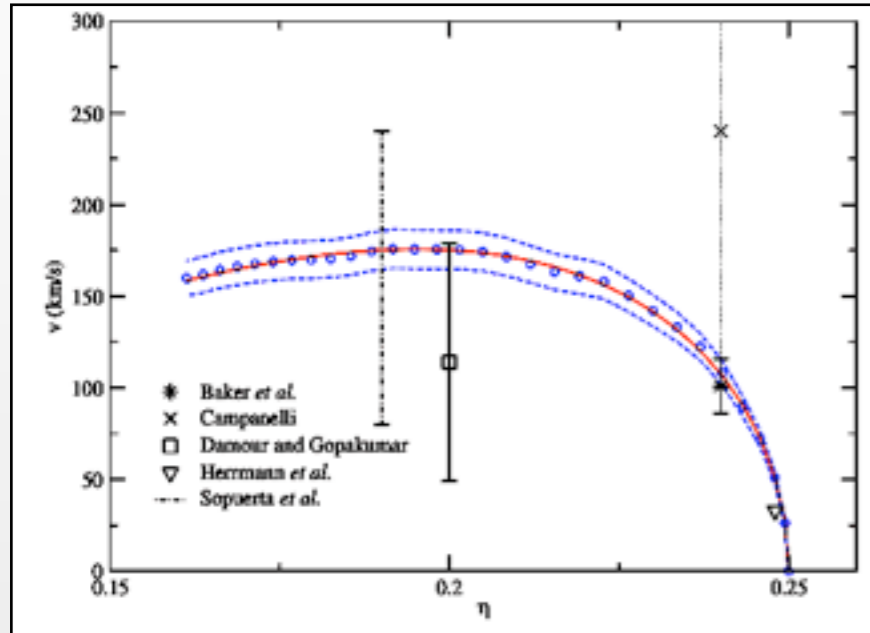


# 50 Years of BBH: Modern age

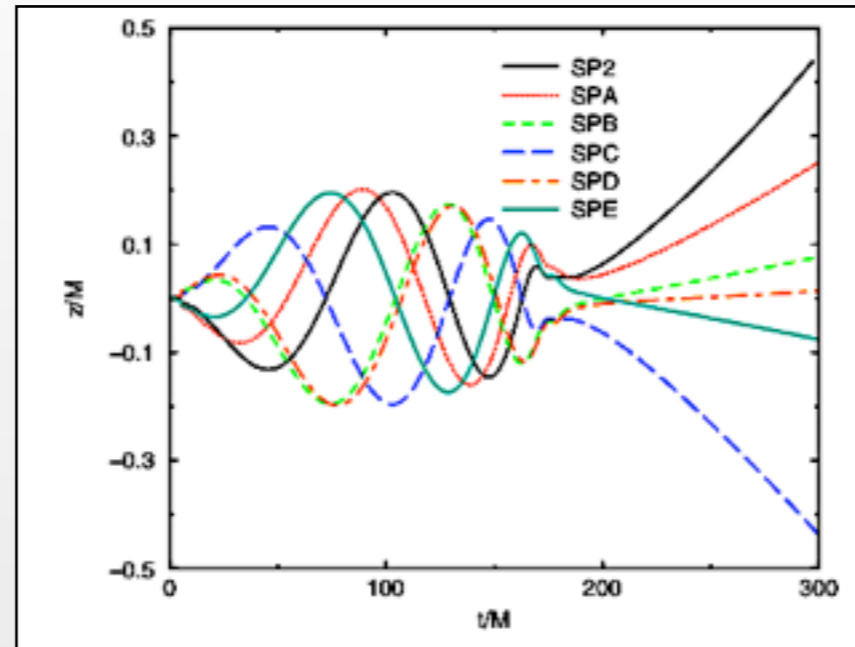


Courtesy Carlos Lousto, updated by HP  
Harald Pfeiffer IC

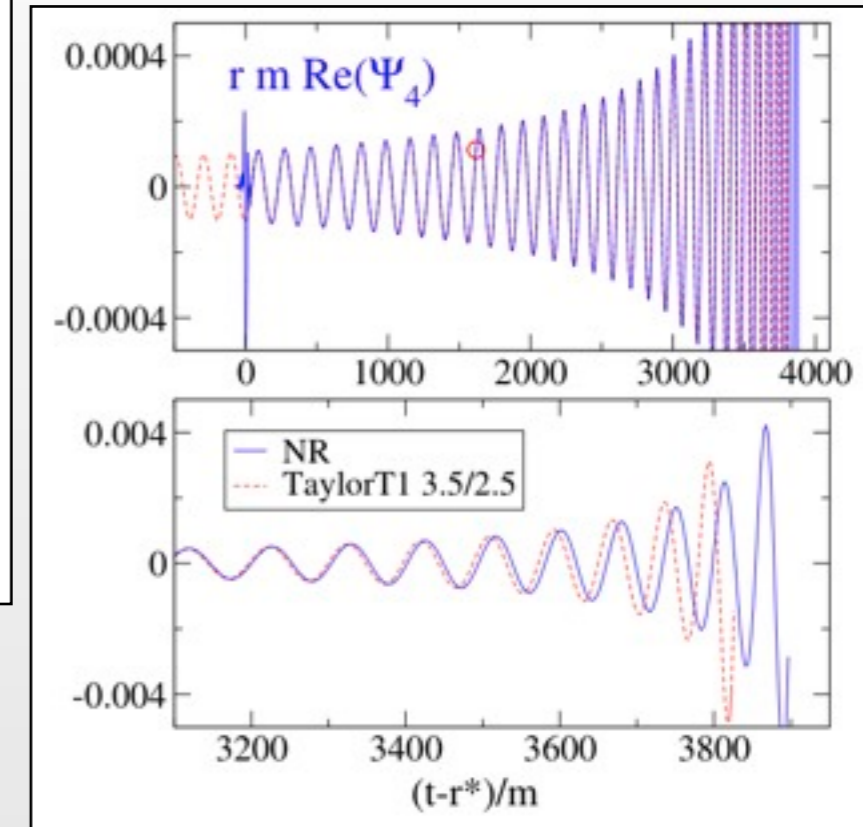
# Early days of BH-BH sims



**Spin=0 BH-BH kicks**  
 Gonzalez, Sperhake, Brüggemann, Hannam, Husa 07  
 $v_{\max} = 130 \text{ km/sec}$



**BH-BH superkicks**  
 Campanelli ea 07  
 $v_{\max} \sim 3500 \text{ km/sec}$



(in-)validating PN  
 Boyle...HP ea 07

# The two approaches to BH-BH

## Puncture initial-data

(Brandt&Brügmann 97)

## BSSN w/

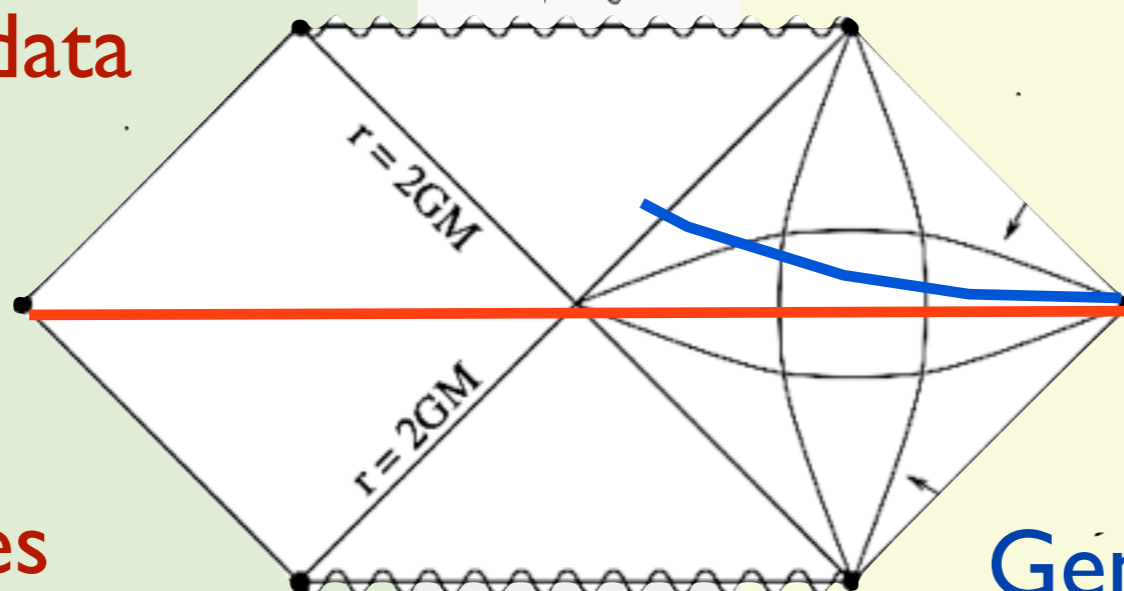
## moving punctures

(Campanelli ea 06, Baker ea 06)

$$\begin{aligned}
 g_{ij} &= e^{4\phi} \tilde{g}_{ij}, \\
 \tilde{\Gamma}^i &= \tilde{g}^{jk} \tilde{\Gamma}_{jk}^i \\
 \partial_t \phi &= \dots \\
 \partial_t \tilde{g}_{ij} &\approx -\tilde{A}_{ij} \\
 \partial_t \tilde{A}_{ij} &\approx -\Delta \tilde{g}_{ij} \\
 \partial_t \tilde{\Gamma}^i &= \partial_t (\tilde{g}^{jk} \tilde{\Gamma}_{jk}^i)
 \end{aligned}$$

## Finite differences w/ AMR

(RIT, AEI, GATech,  
Goddard, Jena, Palma,  
Cardiff, Perimeter)



## Quasi-equilibrium excision initial-data

(Cook 02, Cook&HP 04)

## Generalized Harmonic w/ constraint damping

(Gundlach ea 05, Pretorius 05)

$$\square g_{ab} = -2\nabla_{(a} H_{b)} + \gamma_0 \left[ t_{(a} C_{b)} - \frac{1}{2} g_{ab} t^c C_c \right] + \text{lower order terms}$$

## Multi-domain spectral methods SpEC

SXS collaboration (Cornell-Caltech-CITA-Washington State Univ-California State Univ Fullerton)



# The two approaches to BH-BH

## Finite differences w/ AMR

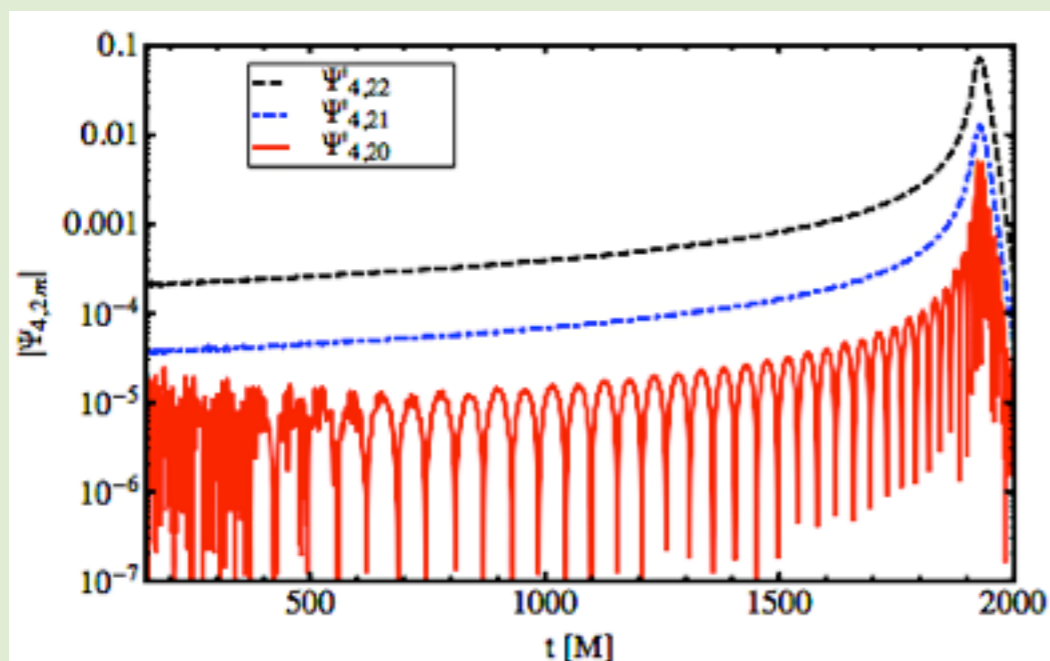
(RIT, AEI, Georgia Tech, Jena, Palma, Cardiff, Perimeter)

Conventional wisdom:

- Robust, "easy"
- Many short simulations
- Lower accuracy, higher cost

More recent:

- longer and more accurate sims



Schmidt ea 1012.2879

## Multi-domain spectral methods

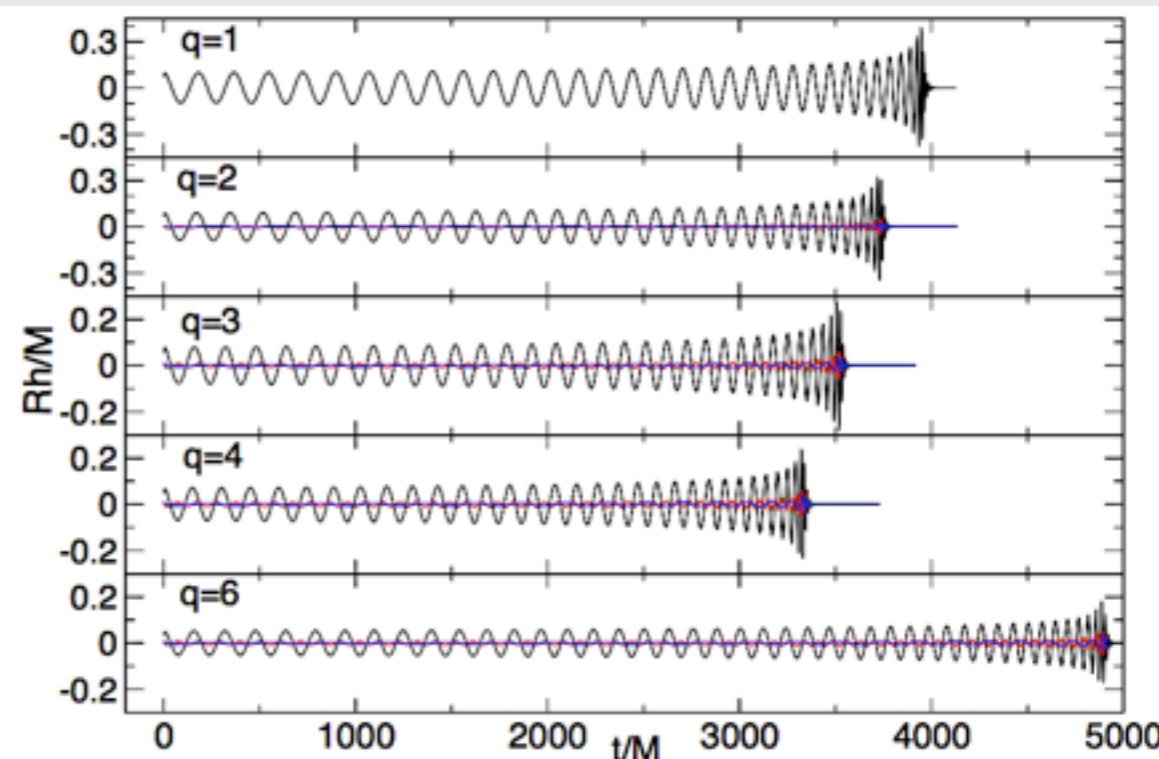
SpEC (Cornell-Caltech-CITA-WSU-CSUF)

Conventional wisdom:

- Less robust, "difficult"
- Few long simulations
- Higher accuracy, lower cost

More recent:

- mergers becoming routine



Buchman ea 1206.3015

# Some recent BH–BH technical advances

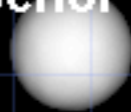
# Mass-ratio 1:100

**Simulation:**  
Carlos Lousto  
Yosef Zlochower

**Visualization:**  
Hans-Peter Bischof

**CCRG**  
**RIT**

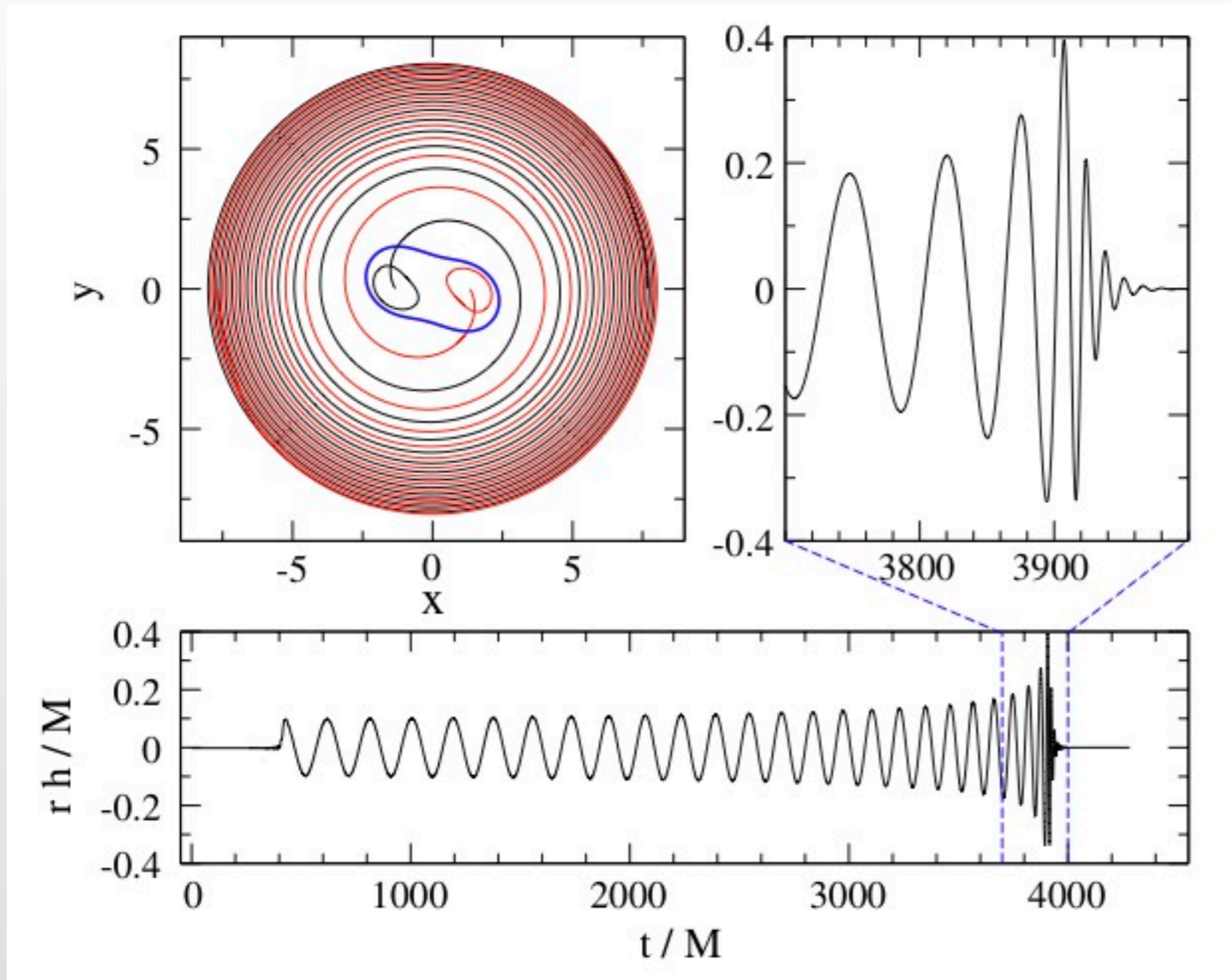
Copyright - CCRG - 2010



Two orbits, starting @ ISCO  
Lousto, Zlochower II



# Spins above the Bowen-York limit



- ❖ Puncture-data limit:  
 **$S/M^2 < 0.93$**
- ❖ First complete BBH simulation above 0.93 limit!
  - Equal mass, equal spins anti-parallel to orbital L

Lovelace, Scheel, Szilagyi I I,  
Lovelace ea I I

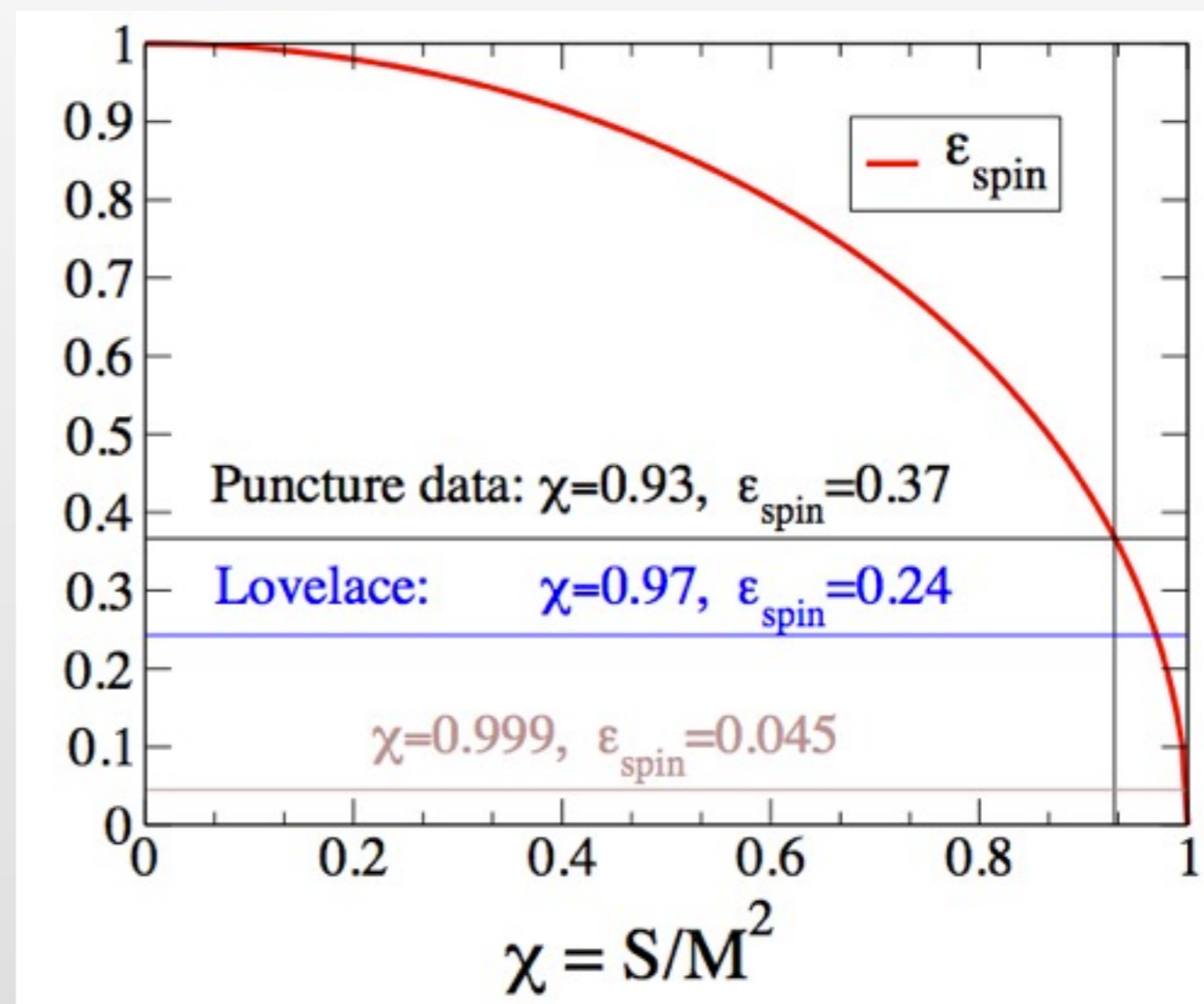
# Importance of $S/M^2 > 0.93$

❖ Observational evidence for BH's with  $S/M^2 \sim 0.998$

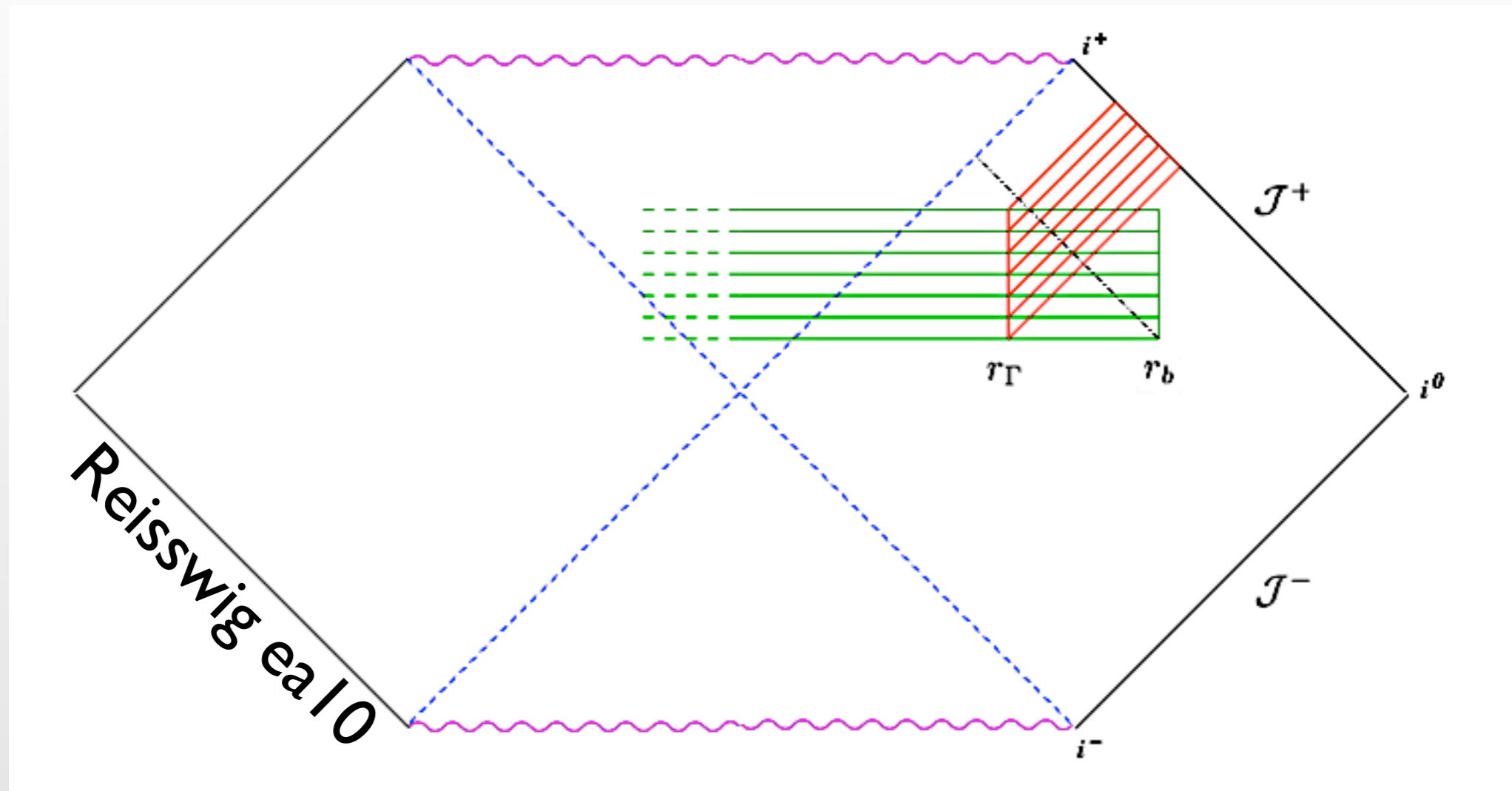
❖ Expansion parameter around extremality

$$\varepsilon_{\text{spin}} \equiv \sqrt{1 - \chi^2}$$

- 0.93 is far from extremal!



# Cauchy-characteristic Extraction



❖  $h(t)$  at  $\mathcal{Scri}^+$

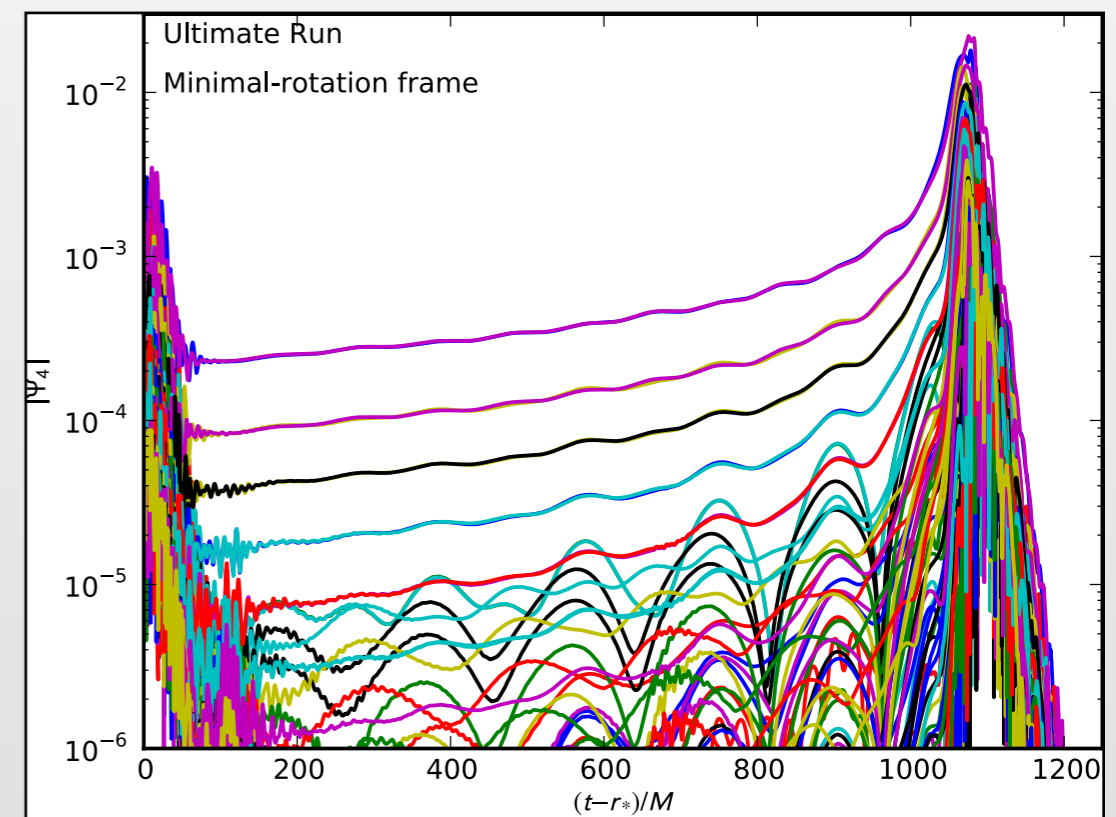
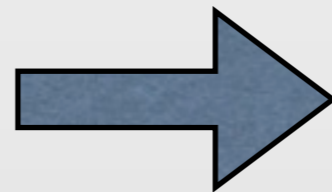
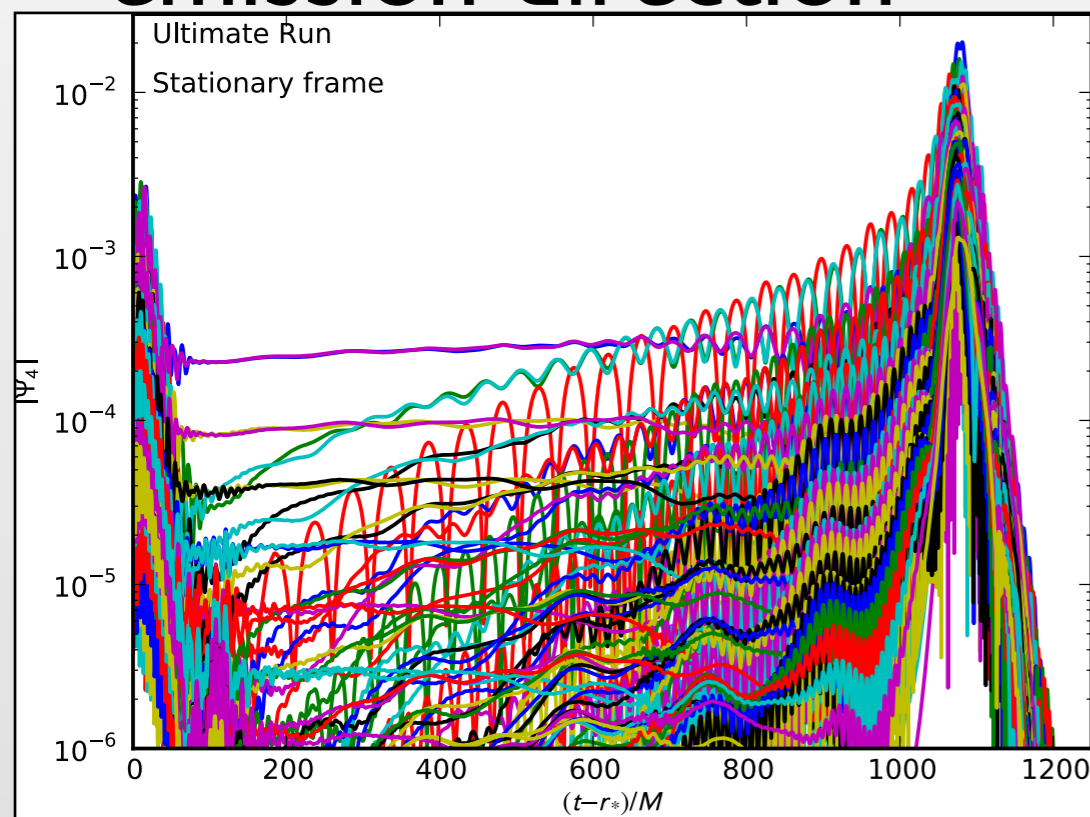
❖ Post-processing tool for any Cauchy evolution (open source)

Reisswig ea 09, Reisswig ea 10, Babiuc ea 1011.4223, Babiuc ea 1106.4841



# Radiation-aligned minimally-rotating frame

- ❖ Decompose radiation in a good frame, not an inertial frame
- ❖ Schmidt ea 2011, O'Shaughnessy ea 2011, Boyle ea 2011:
  - Polar axis of Ylm-decomposition along dominant emission direction



$q=6$ ,  $\square A=0.9$ ,  $\square B=0.3$ , 8 orbits

Figures courtesy Mike Boyle & Larry Kidder

# SXS collaboration

## *Simulation of eXtreme Spacetimes*

- Solve Einstein's equations accurately enough for LIGO's needs
- Cornell, Caltech, CITA, Fullerton, Oberlin, WSU
- Work presented here involves:

Numerics: L. Buchman<sup>1</sup>, T. Chu<sup>2</sup>, L. Kidder<sup>3</sup>, S. Lau<sup>4</sup>, G. Lovelace<sup>5</sup>,  
A. Mroue<sup>2</sup>, S. Ossokine<sup>2</sup>, R. Owen<sup>6</sup>, M. Scheel<sup>1</sup>,  
B. Szilagyi<sup>1</sup>, N. Taylor<sup>1</sup>, S. Teukolsky<sup>2</sup>

Analysis: M. Boyle<sup>3</sup>, D. Brown<sup>7</sup>, A. Buonanno<sup>8</sup>, I. MacDonald<sup>2</sup>,  
S. Nissanke<sup>1</sup>, Y. Pan<sup>8</sup>, A. Taracchini<sup>8</sup>

*1 Caltech, 2 CITA, 3 Cornell, 4 Albuquerque, 5 Fullerton,  
6 Oberlin, 7 Syracuse, 8 Maryland*

# Techniques I: Generalized Harmonic

- Einstein's equations

$$0 = R_{ab}[g_{ab}] = -\frac{1}{2}\square g_{ab} + \nabla_{(a}\Gamma_{b)} + \text{lower order terms}, \quad \Gamma_a = -g_{ab}\square x^b.$$

- Generalized harmonic coordinates  $g_{ab}\square x^b \equiv H_a(x^a, g_{ab})$   
(Friedrich 1985, Pretorius 2005;  $H = 0$  used since 1920's)

$$\square g_{ab} = \text{lower order terms.}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Constraint } C_a \equiv H_a - g_{ab}\square x^b = 0$$

- **Constraint damping** (Gundlach, et al., Pretorius, 2005)

$$\square g_{ab} = \gamma \left[ t_{(a} C_{b)} - \frac{1}{2} g_{ab} t^c C_c \right] + \text{lower order terms}$$

$$\partial_t C_a \sim -\gamma C_a.$$



# Techniques II: Spectral methods

- ❖ Expand in basis-functions, solve for coefficients

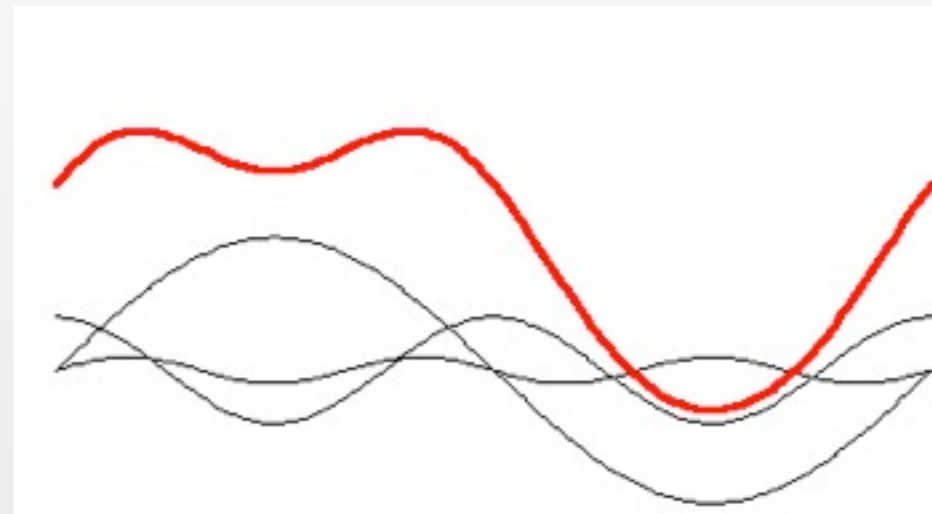
$$u(x, t) = \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{u}(t)_k \Phi_k(x)$$

- ❖ Compute derivatives *exactly*

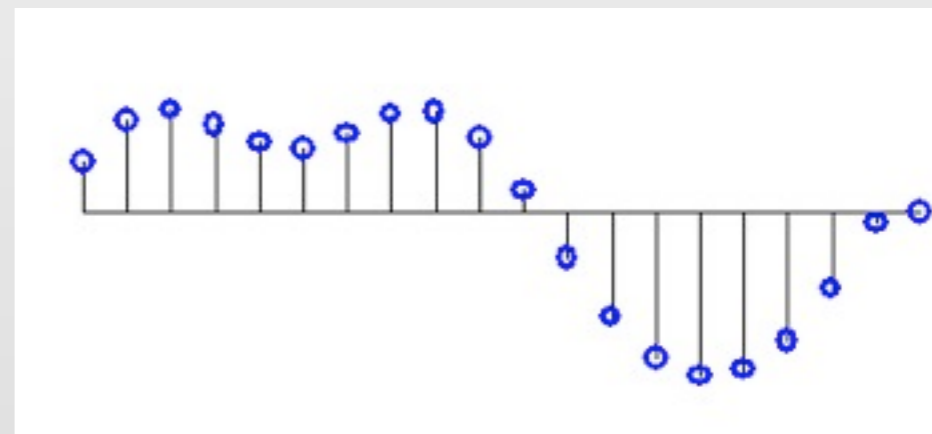
$$u'(x, t) = \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{u}(t)_k \Phi'_k(x)$$

- ❖ Compute nonlinearities in physical space

## Spectral

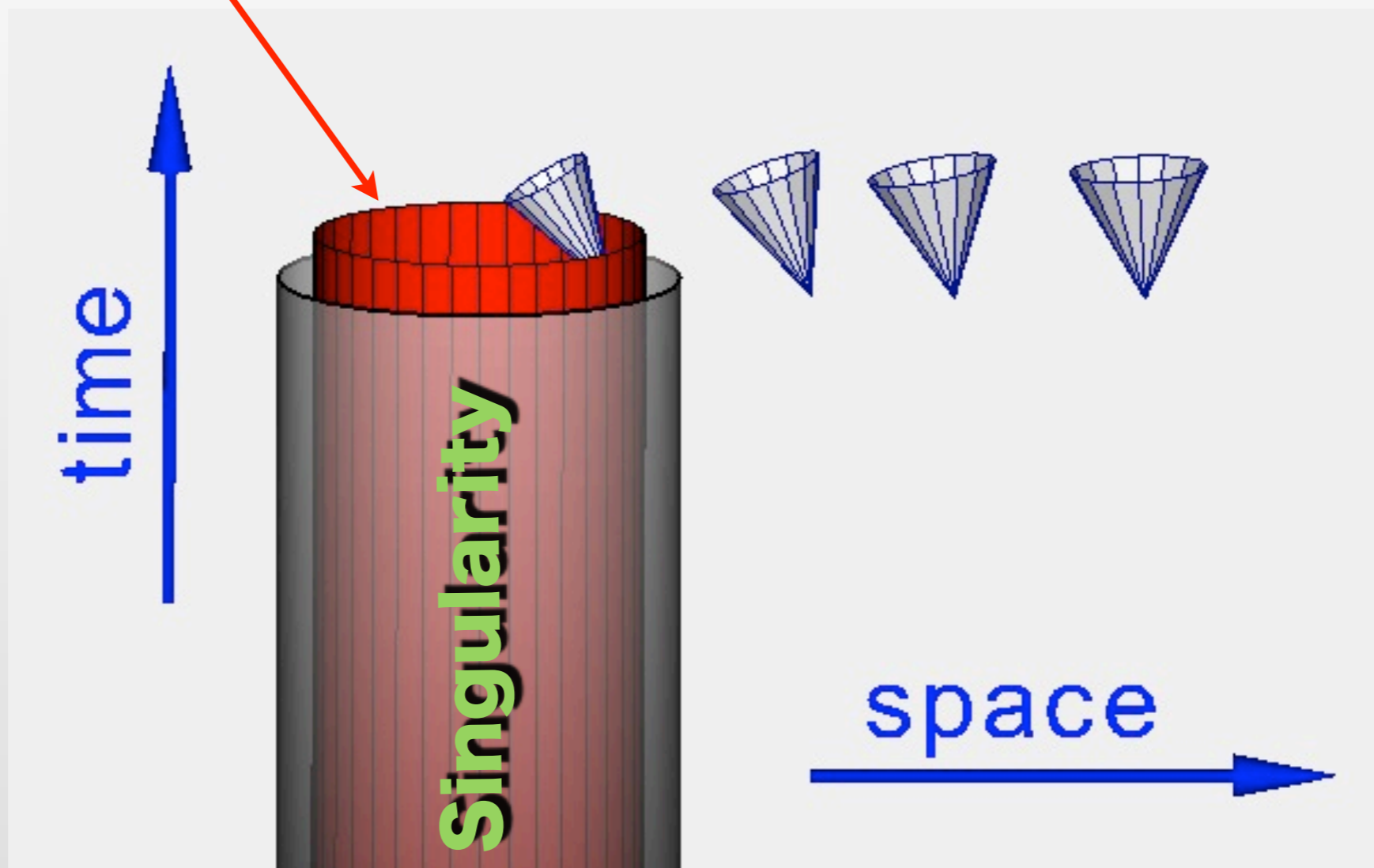


## Finite differences

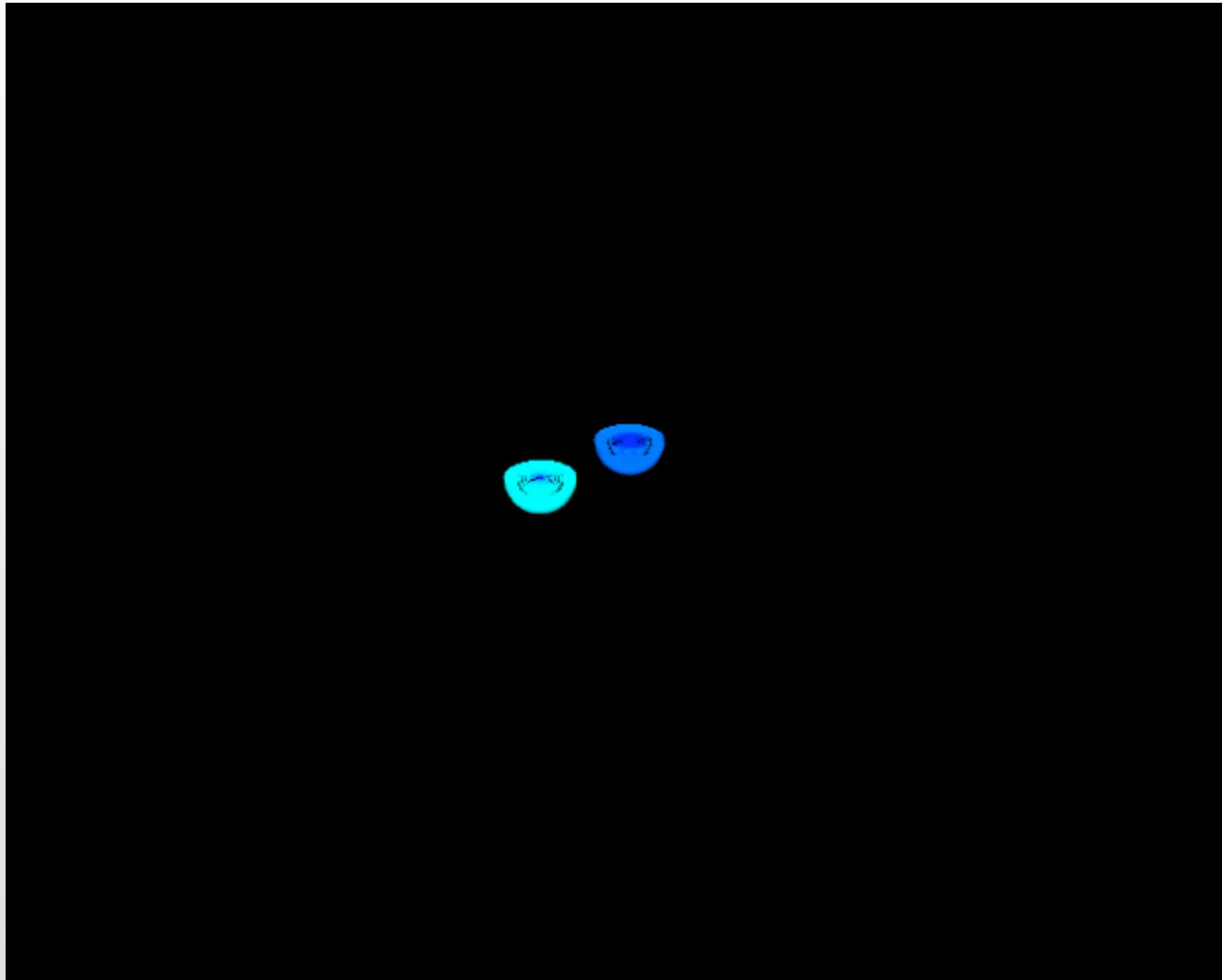


# Numerics III: Black Hole Excision

Artificial boundary  
inside horizon



# Techniques IV: Domain-decomposition

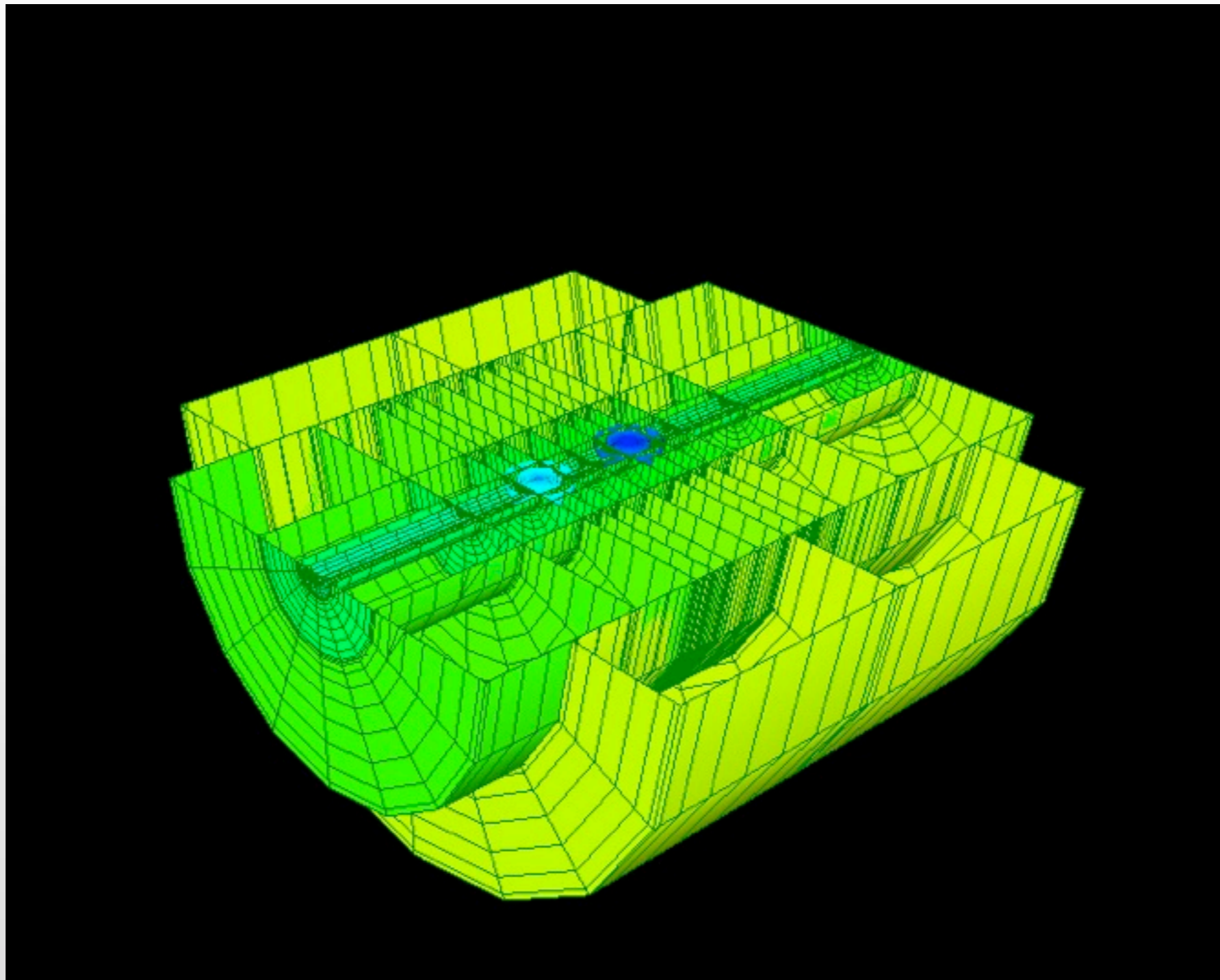


Spectral Einstein Code *SpEC* (Caltech-Cornell-CITA)

<http://www.black-holes.org/SpEC.html>



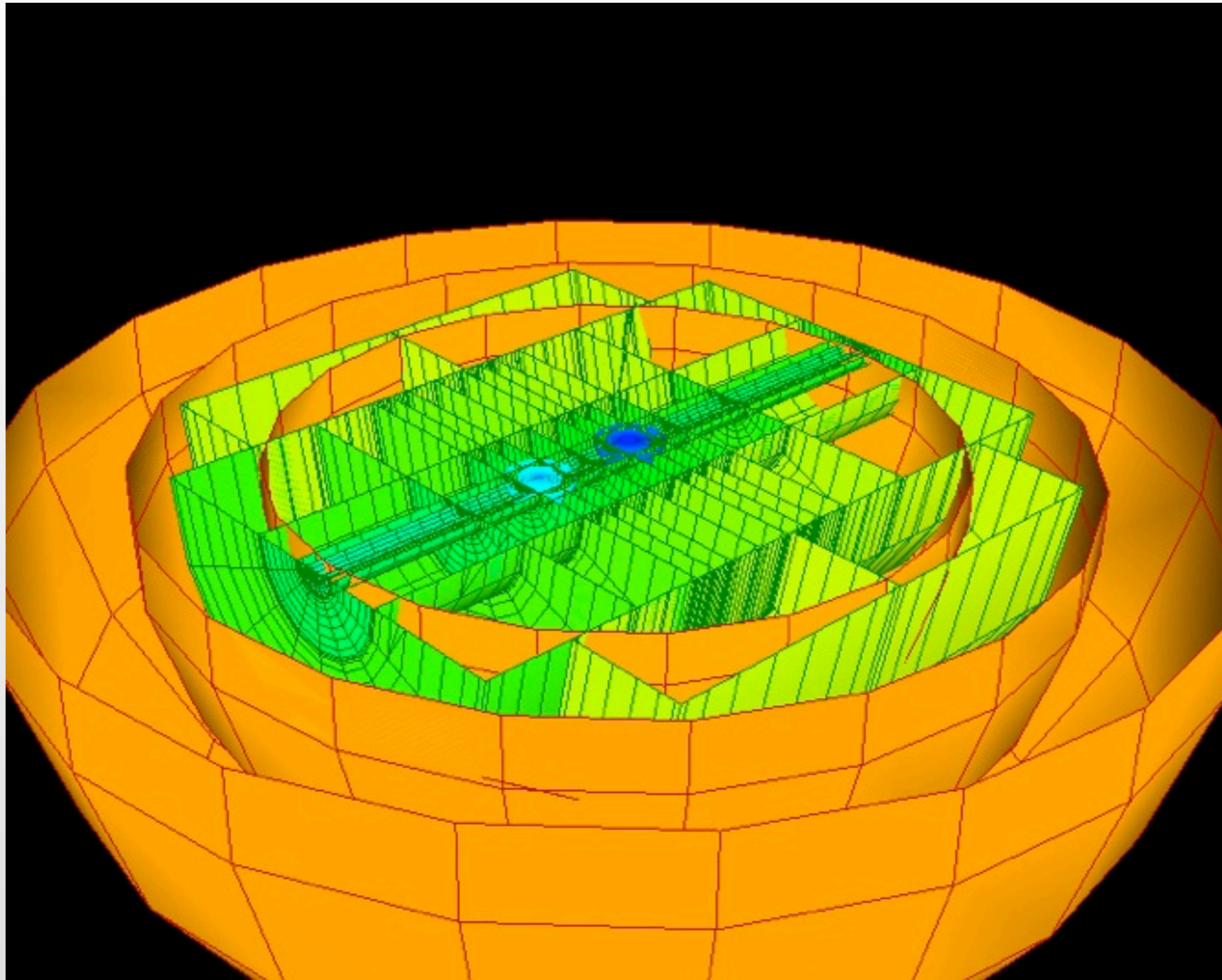
# Techniques IV: Domain-decomposition



Spectral Einstein Code *SpEC* (Caltech-Cornell-CITA)

<http://www.black-holes.org/SpEC.html>

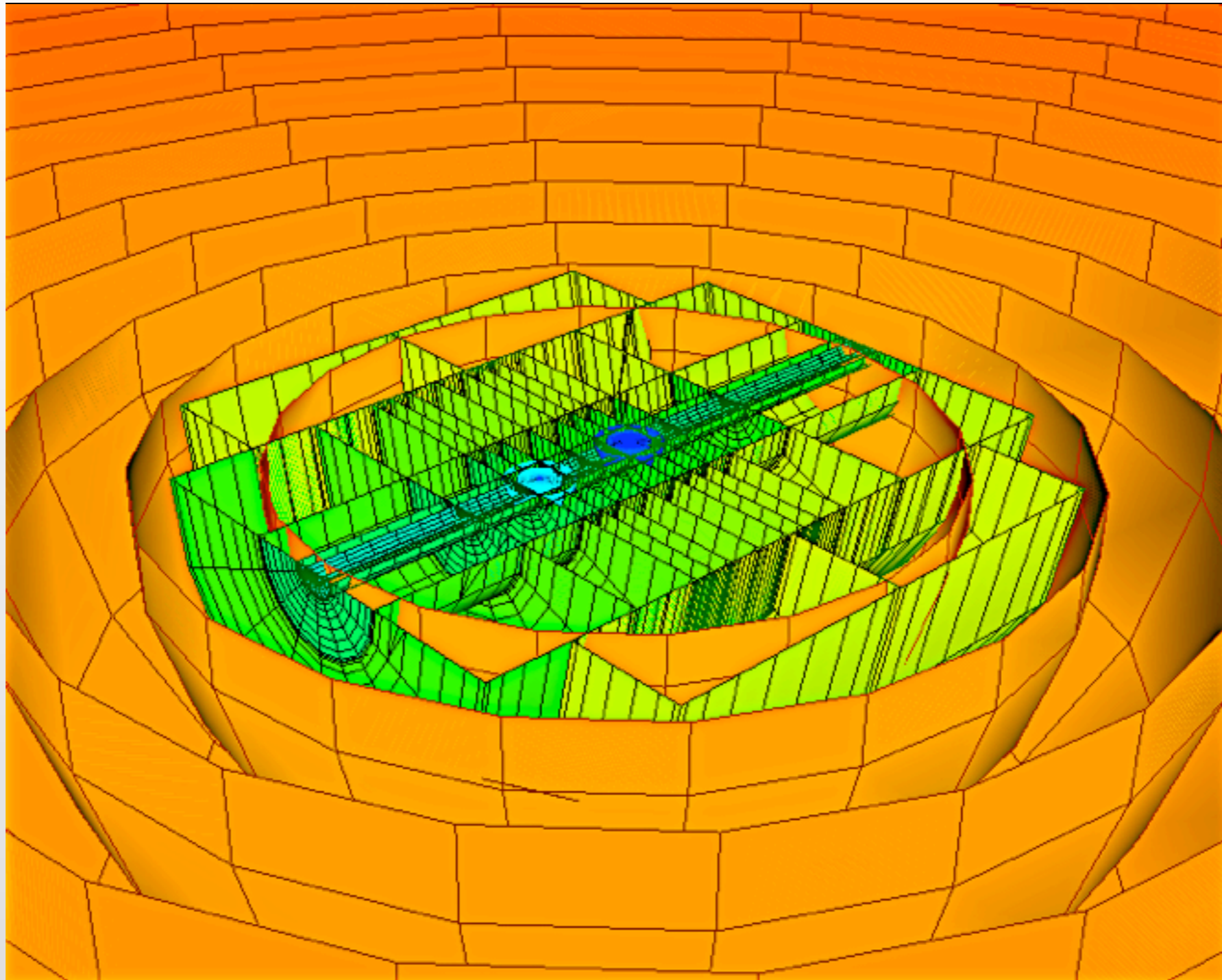
# Techniques IV: Domain-decomposition



Spectral Einstein Code *SpEC* (Caltech-Cornell-CITA)  
<http://www.black-holes.org/SpEC.html>



# Techniques IV: Domain-decomposition



Spectral Einstein Code *SpEC* (Caltech-Cornell-CITA)  
<http://www.black-holes.org/SpEC.html>

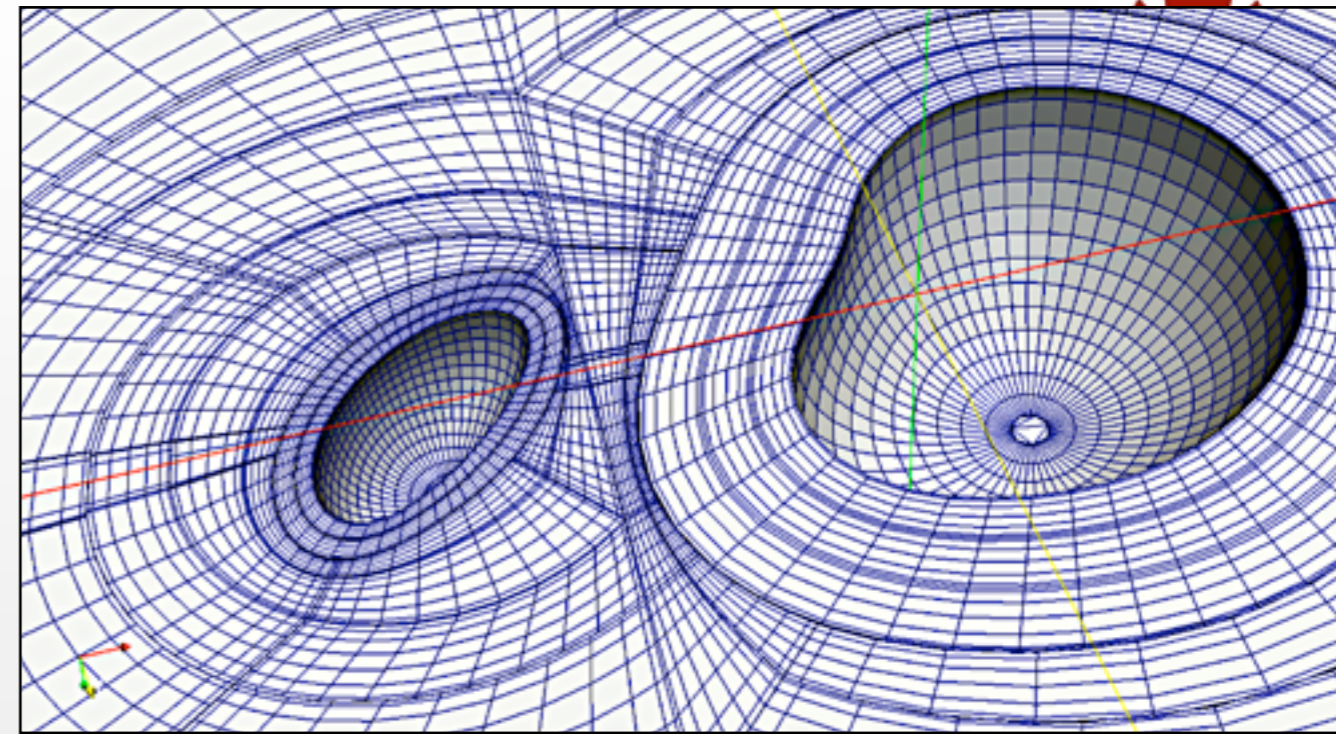


# IV: Merger & Ringdown

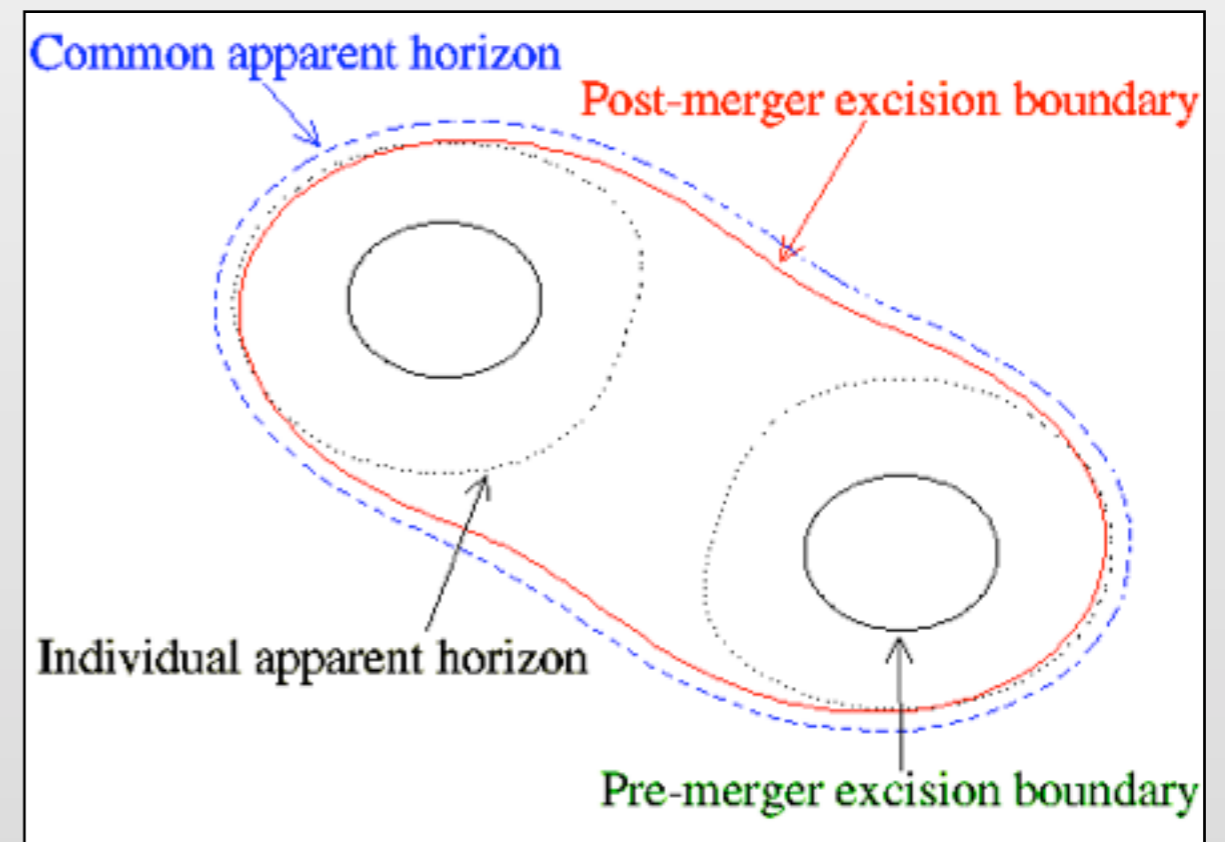
## ❖ **Mark Scheel, Bela Szilagyi**

Szilagyi, Lindblom, Scheel 08.  
Many additions since then

- Hemberger et al., 1211.6079
- ❖ **Close to merger**
  - Switch domain-decomposition
  - Active gauge conditions
  - Adaptive Mesh Refinement
- ❖ **After common horizon**
  - Switch to distorted concentric shells



Bela Szilagyi



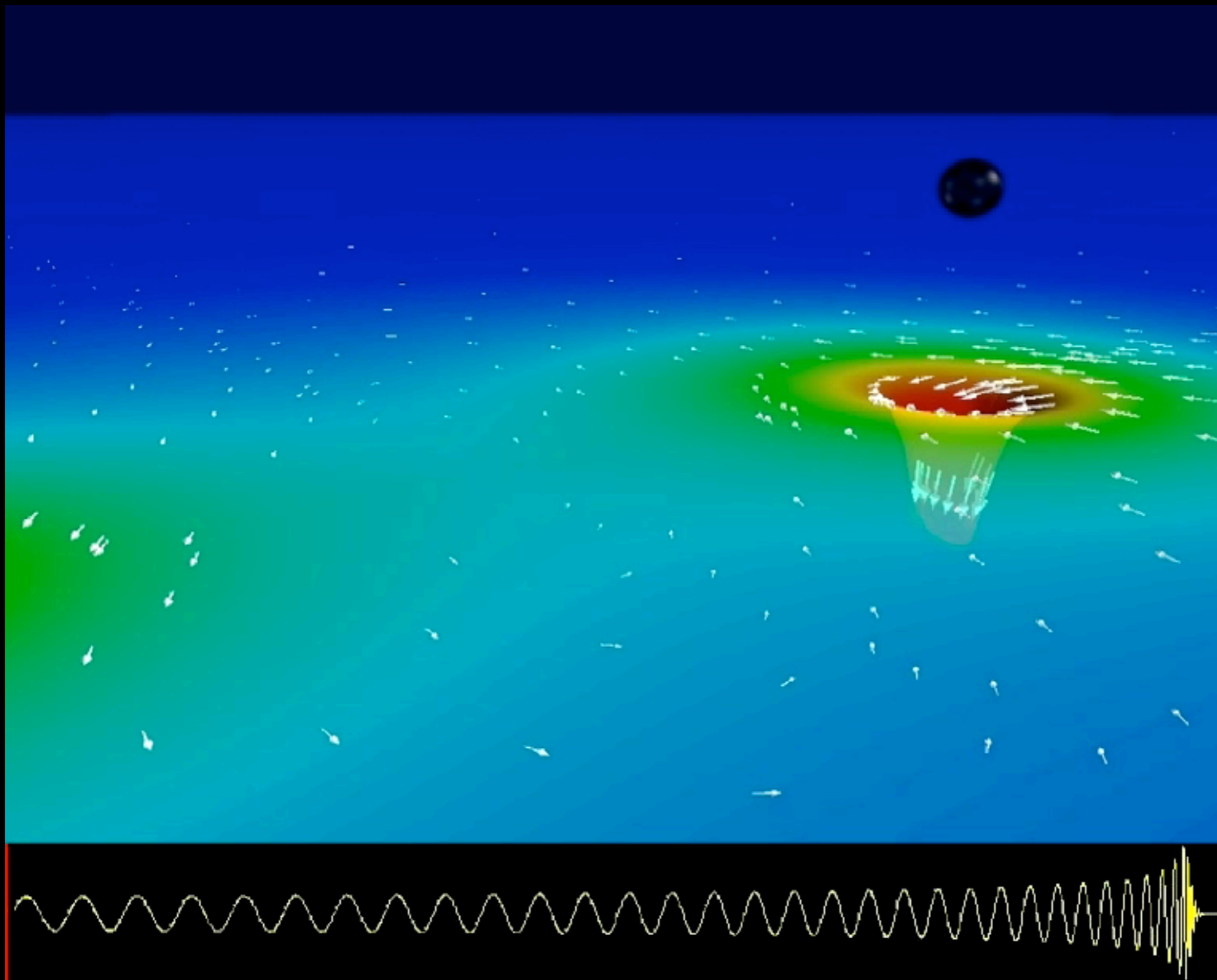
Mark Scheel

## ❖ Spectral Einstein Code

- 500,000 lines
- In development since 2000
- ~50 person years
- Used in ~80 publications

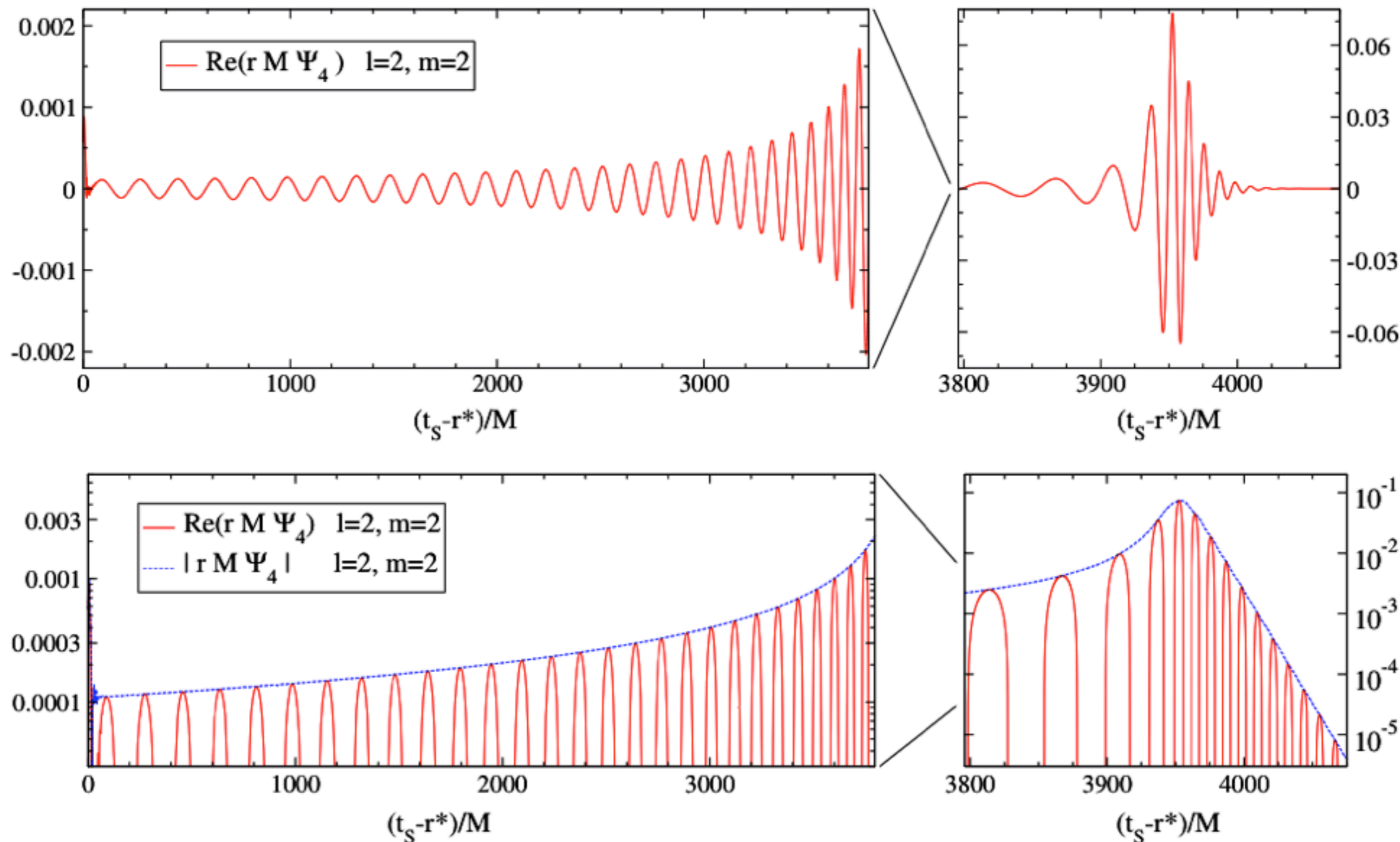
## ❖ Per simulation

- tens of CPU-years (100,000 CPU-hours)
- months of wall-clock time



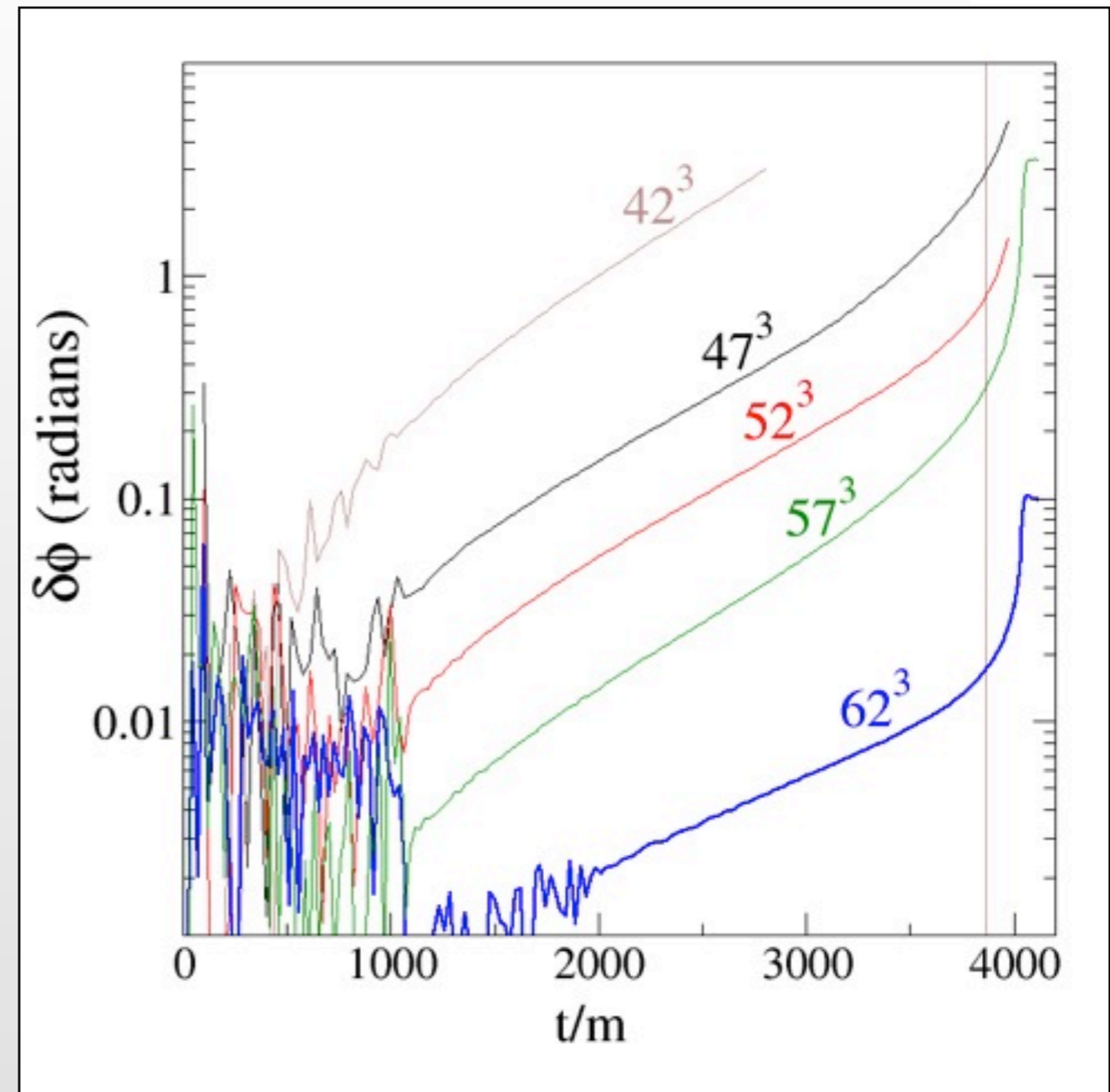
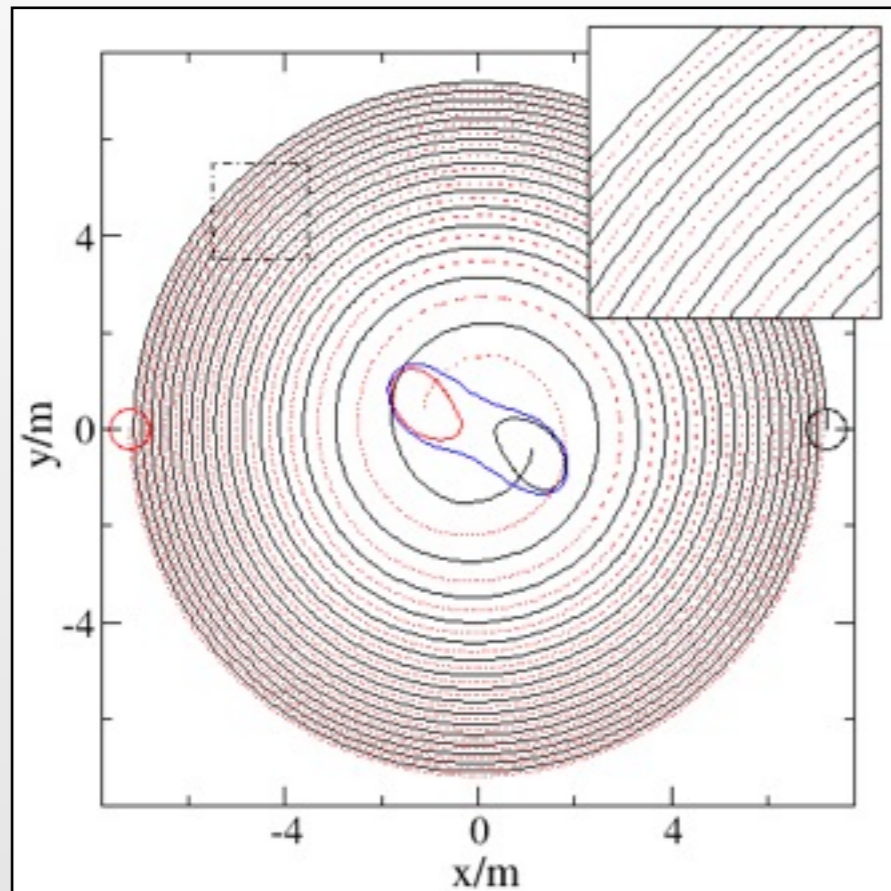


# A waveform, at last!



Boyle ea 07, Scheel ea 09

# Phase accuracy

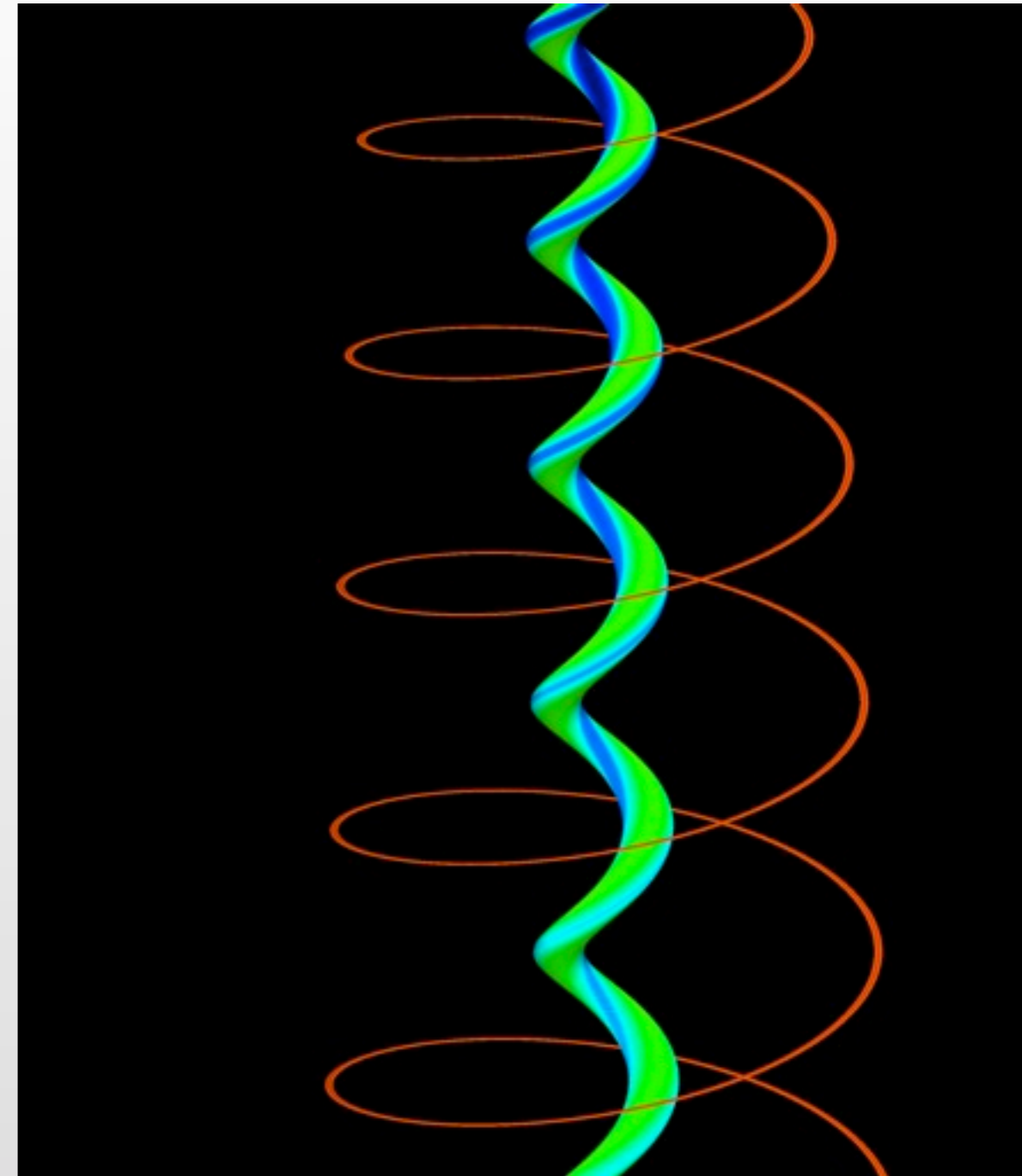
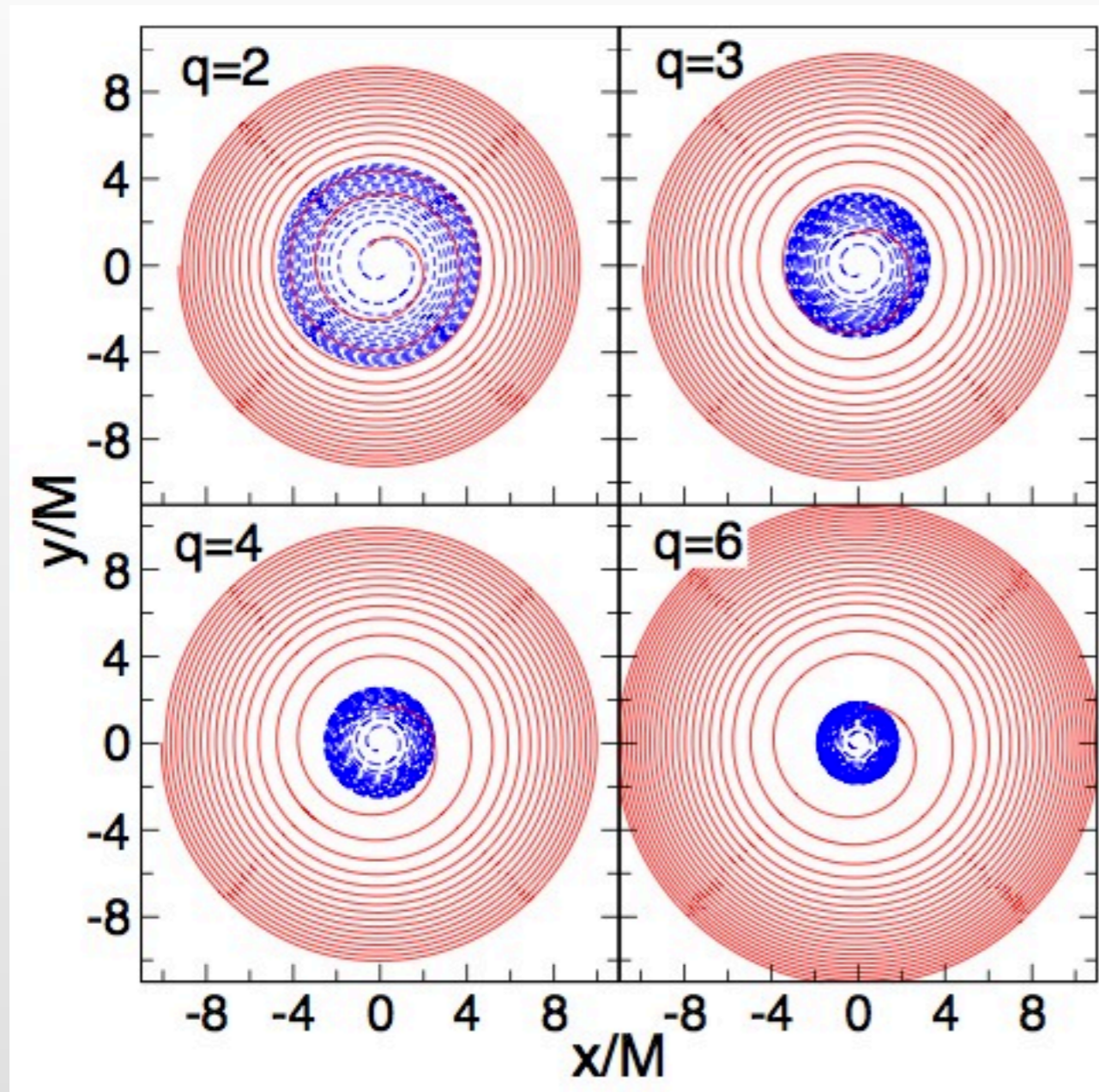


- Rapid convergence due to spectral methods
- Allows long & numerous simulations

Boyle ea 07, Scheel ea 09



# Unequal masses, no spin

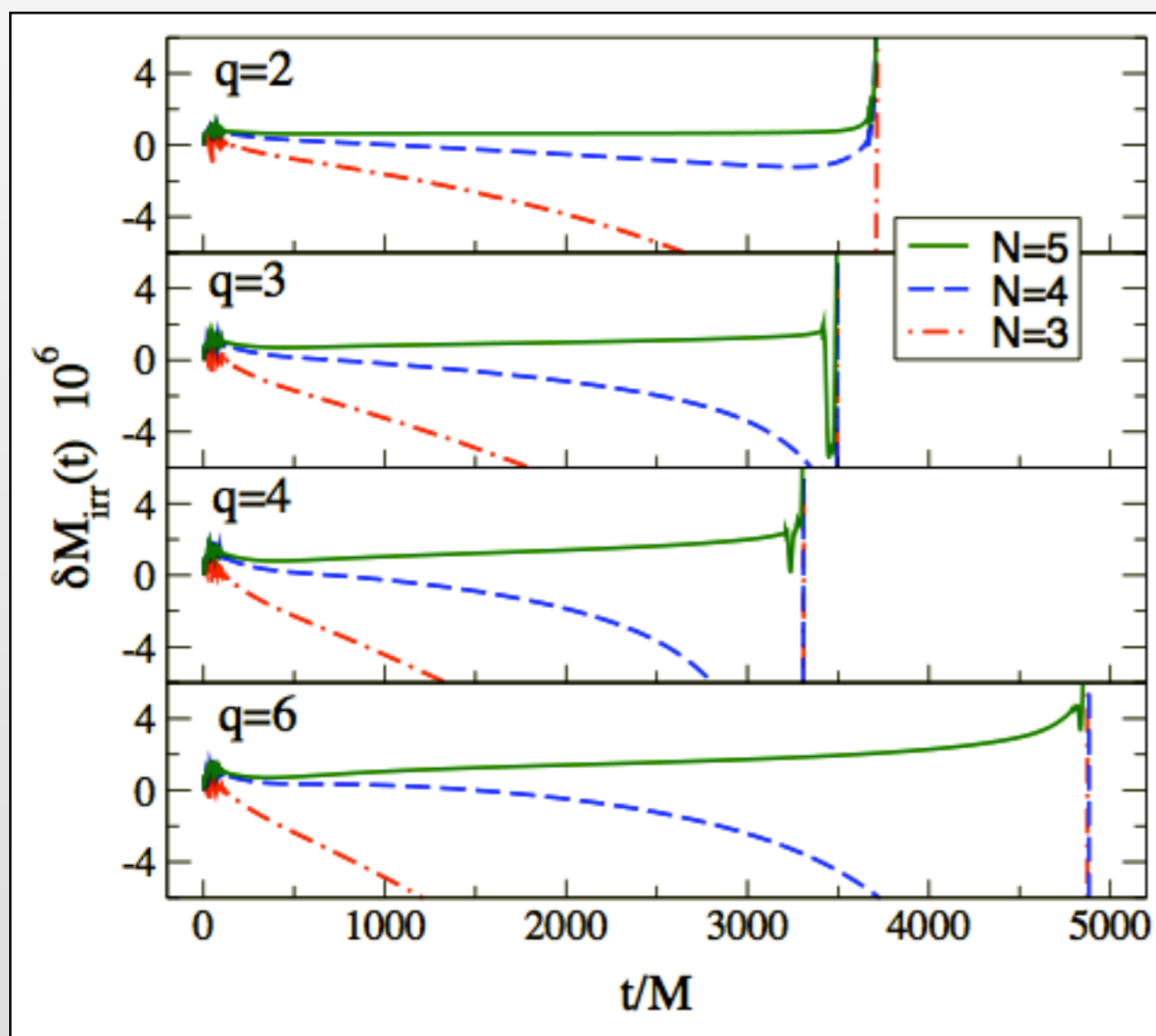


Buchman, HP, Scheel, Szilagyi, 2012

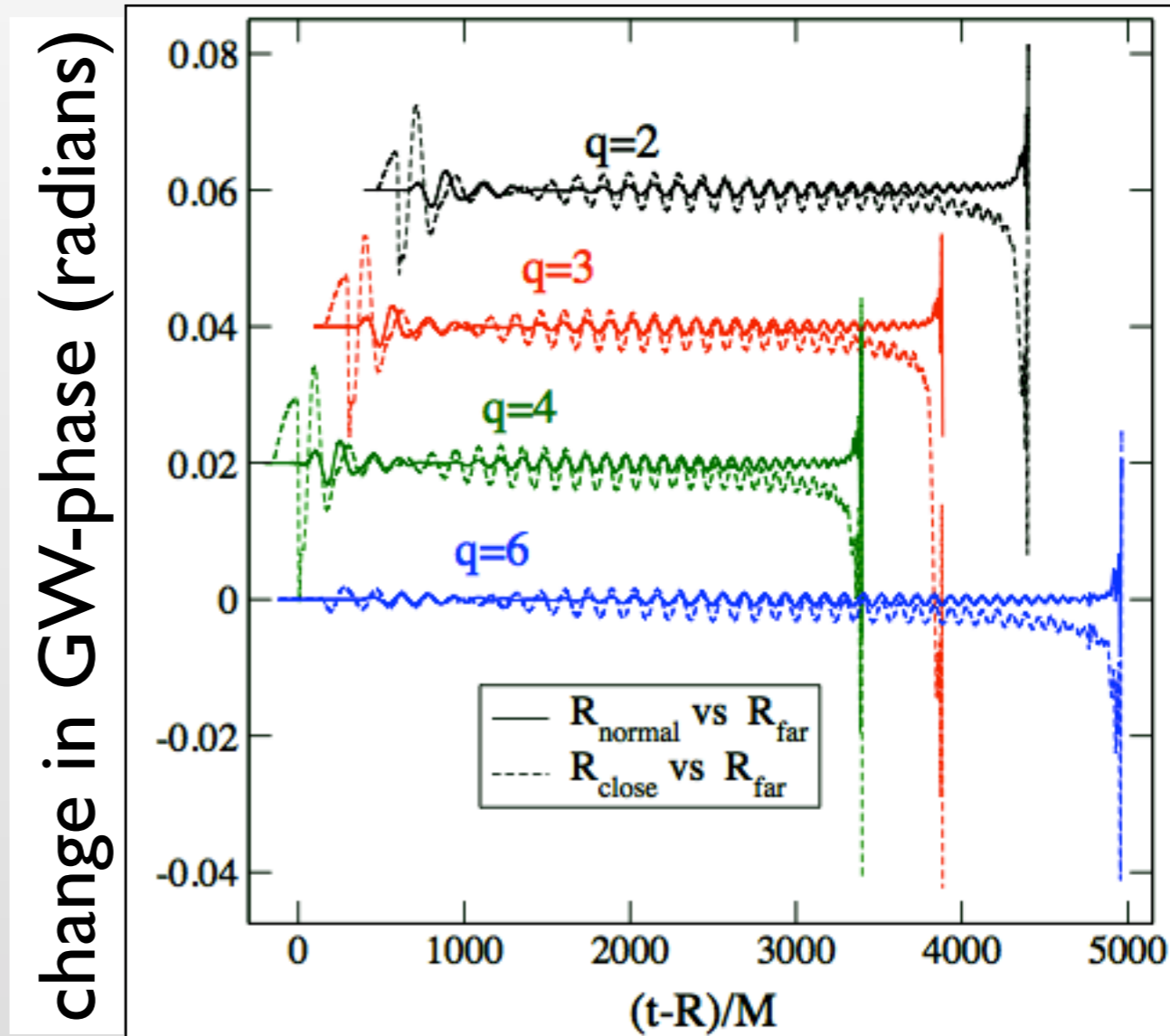


# Accuracy

- ❖ Sum of irreducible masses  $\sim 1$  part in  $10^6$



- ❖ (non-)effect of artificial outer boundary

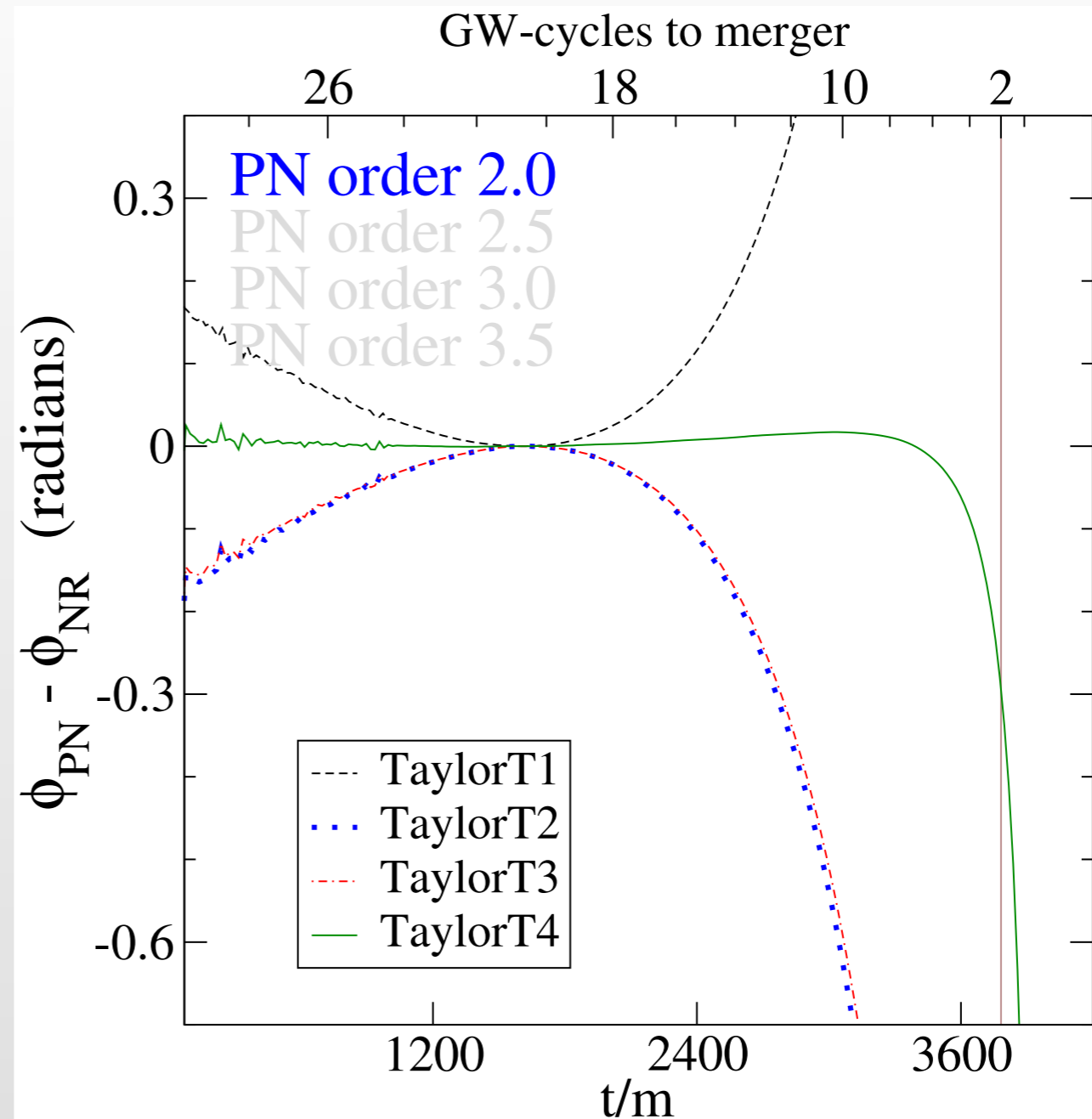


Buchman, HP, Scheel, Szilagyi, 2012

# Validate post-Newtonian



❖ NR & PN agree!

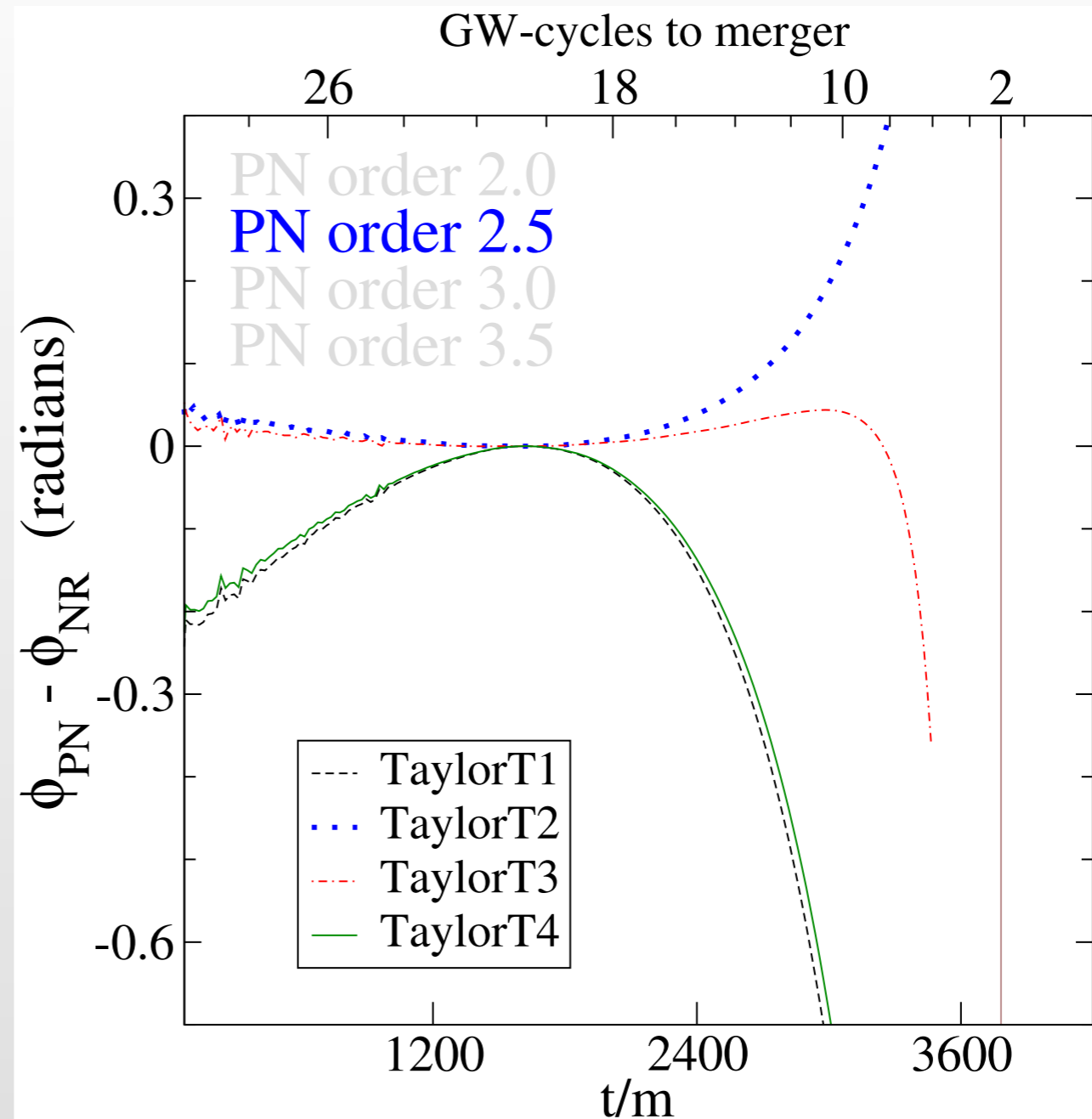


Boyle, ... HP ea, 2007

# Validate post-Newtonian



❖ NR & PN agree!



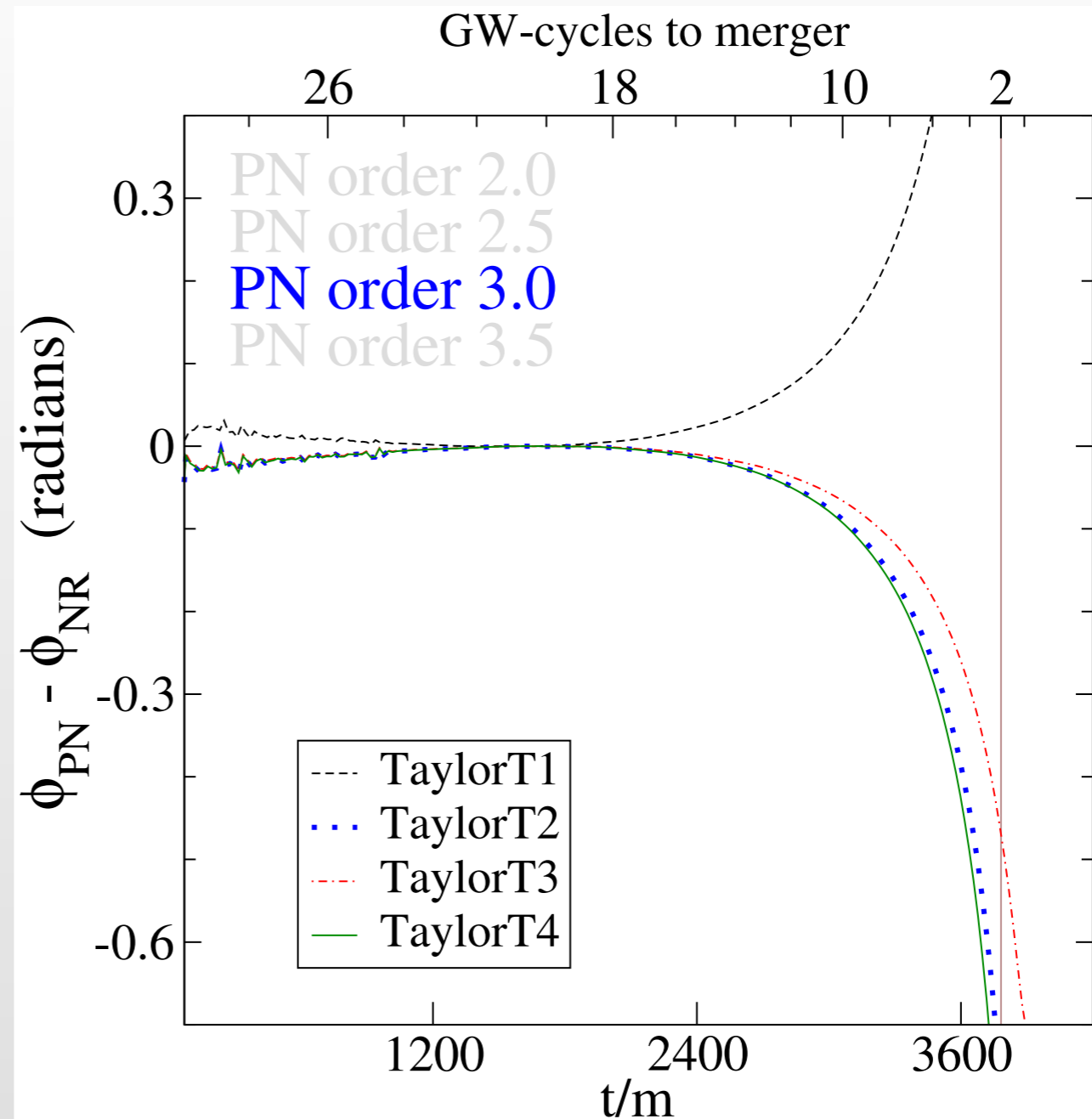
Boyle, ... HP ea, 2007



# Validate post-Newtonian



❖ NR & PN agree!

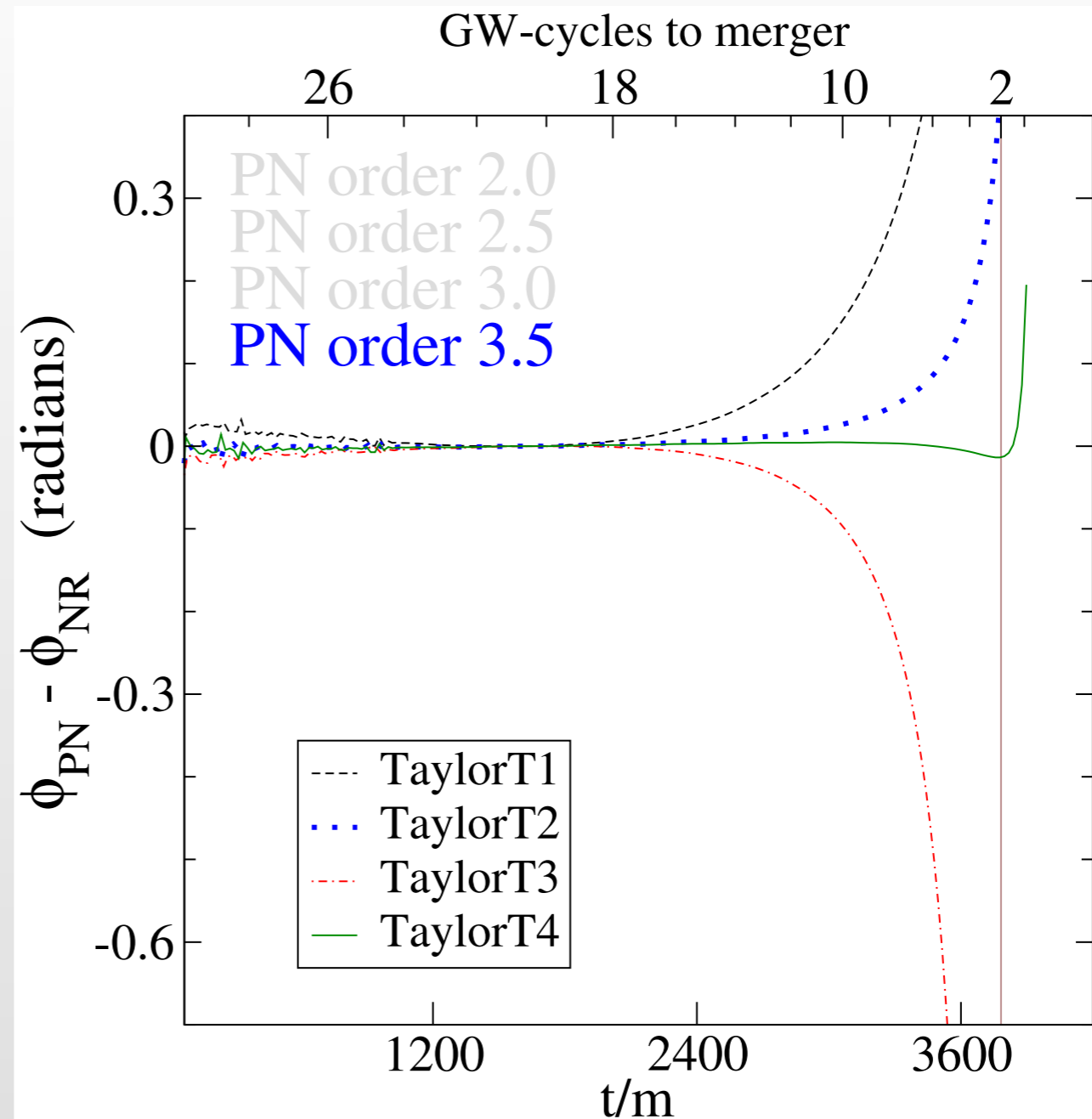


Boyle, ... HP ea, 2007

# Validate post-Newtonian



❖ NR & PN agree!



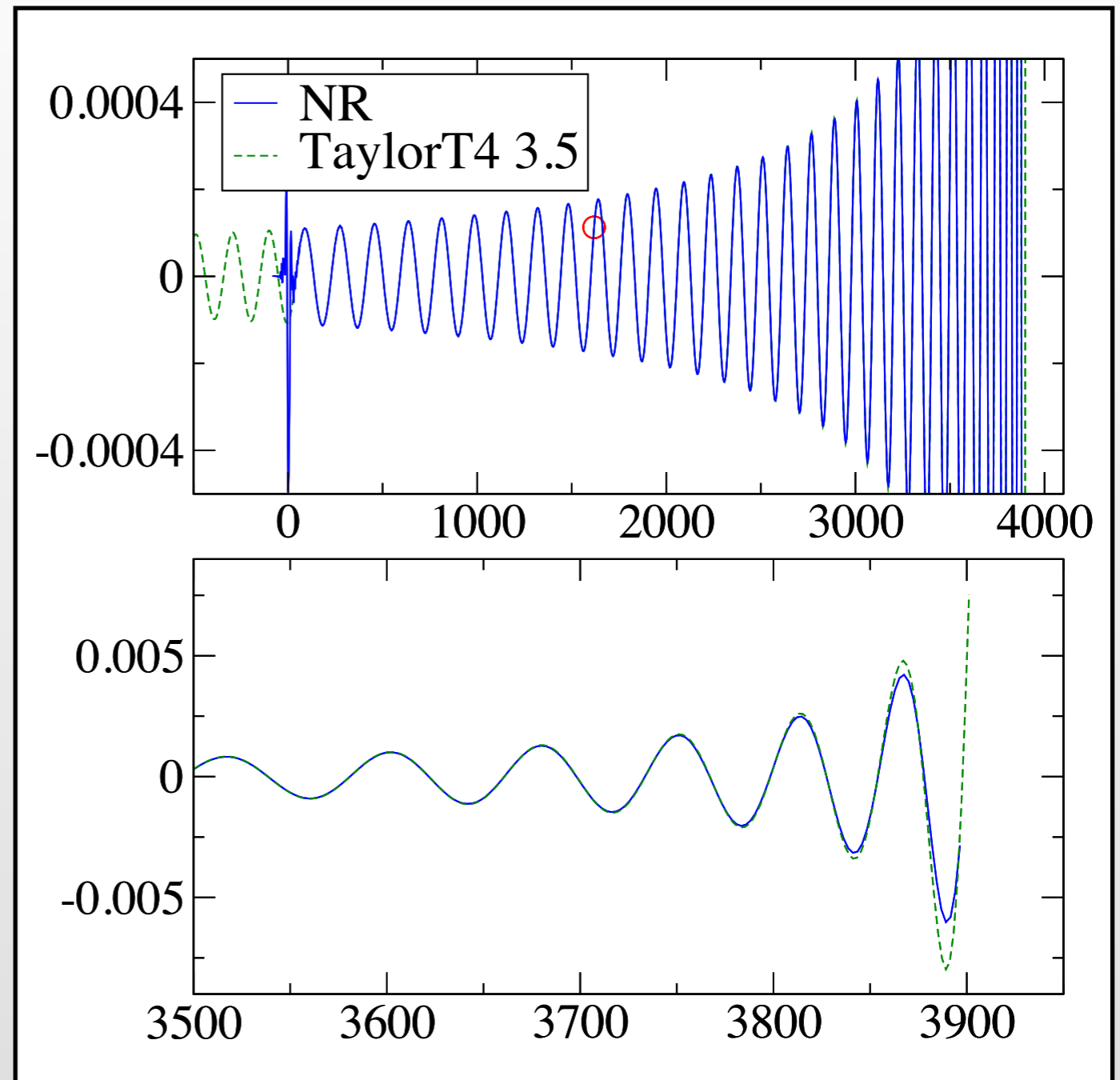
Boyle, ... HP ea, 2007

# Validate post-Newtonian

❖ NR & PN agree!

❖ Or do they?

- SOME versions of PN match very well
- NO a priori knowledge which ones work (if any)



Boyle, ... HP ea, 2007

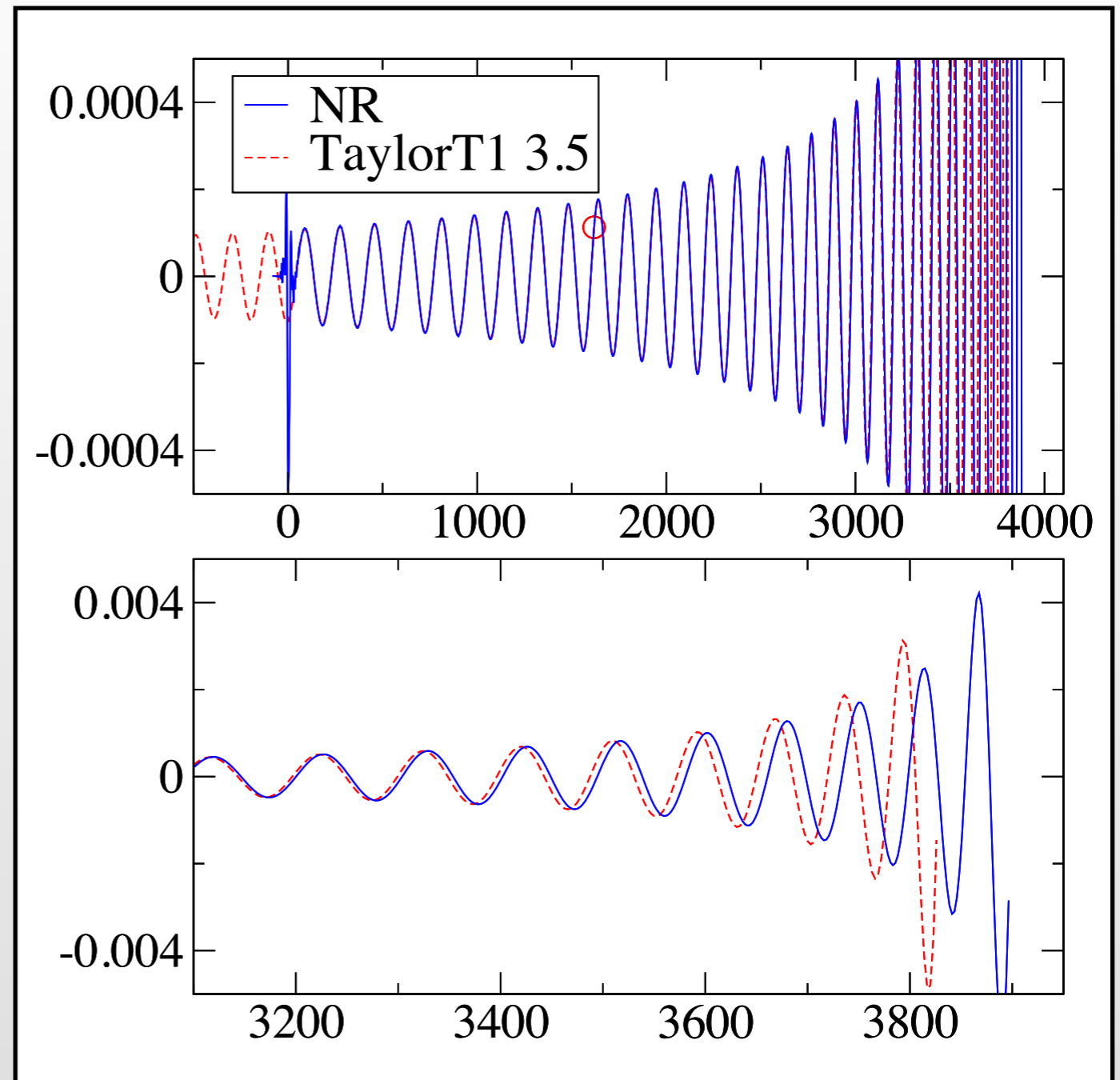


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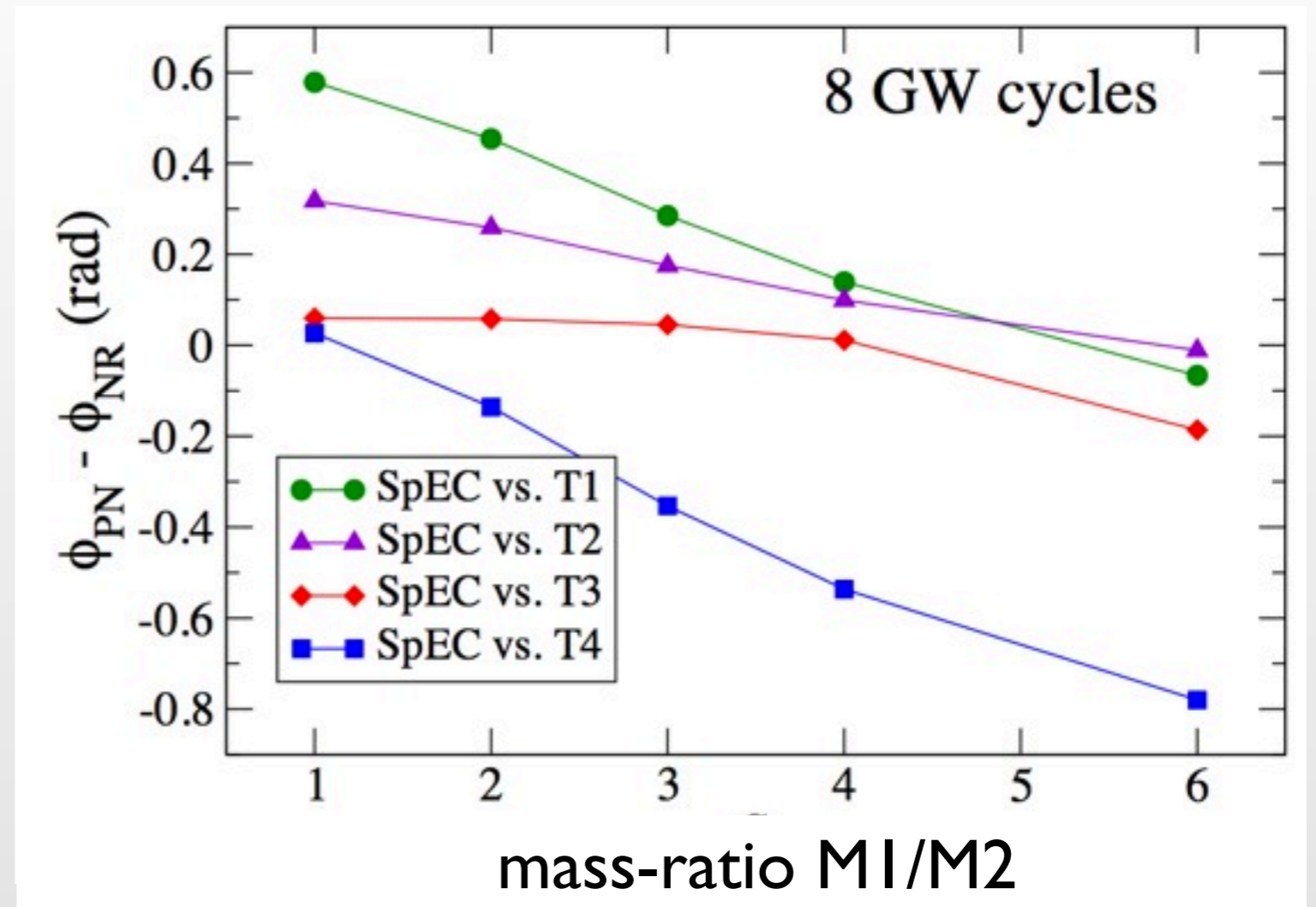
Boyle, ... HP ea, 2007

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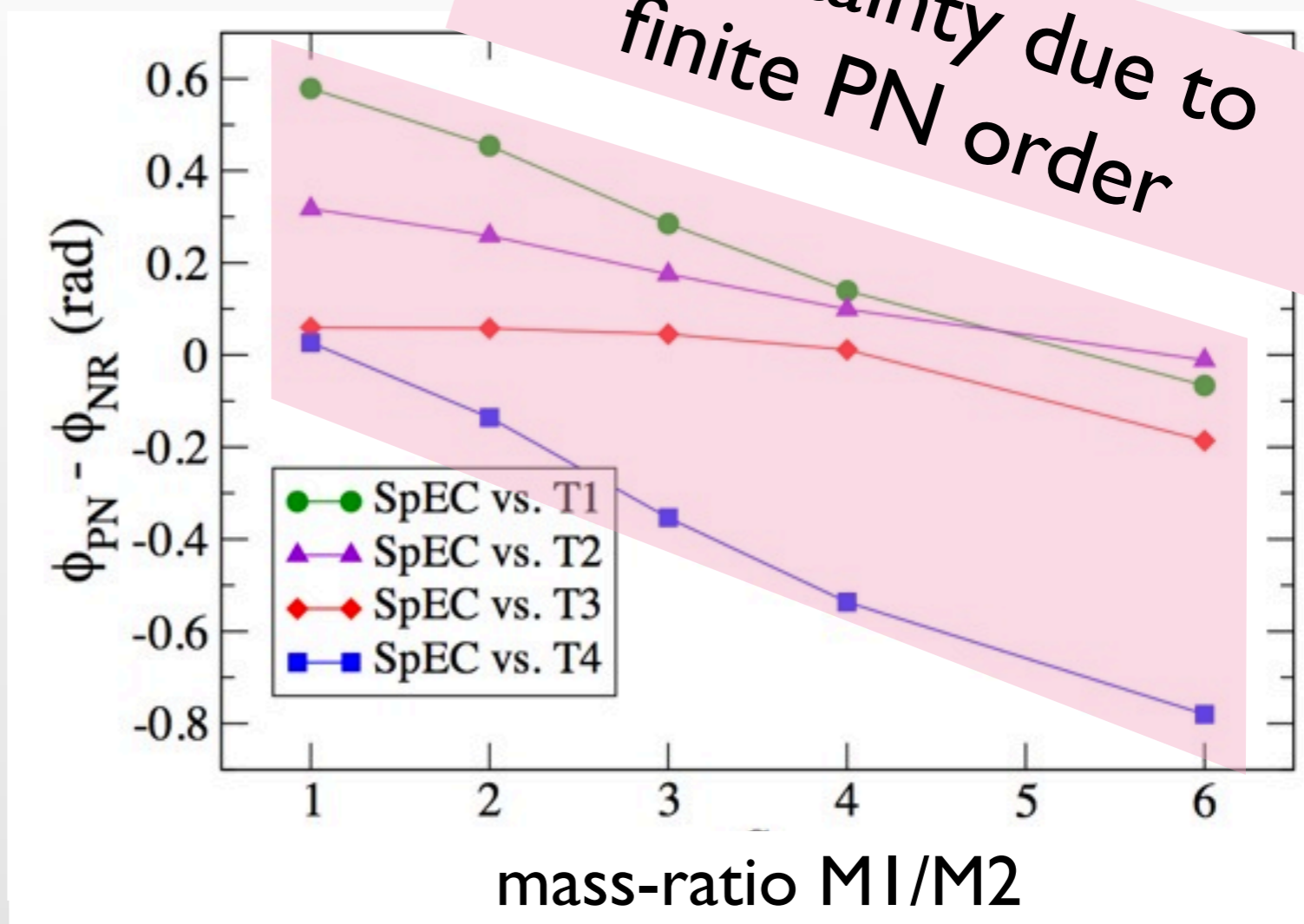
MacDonald, Mroue, HP ea, 2012

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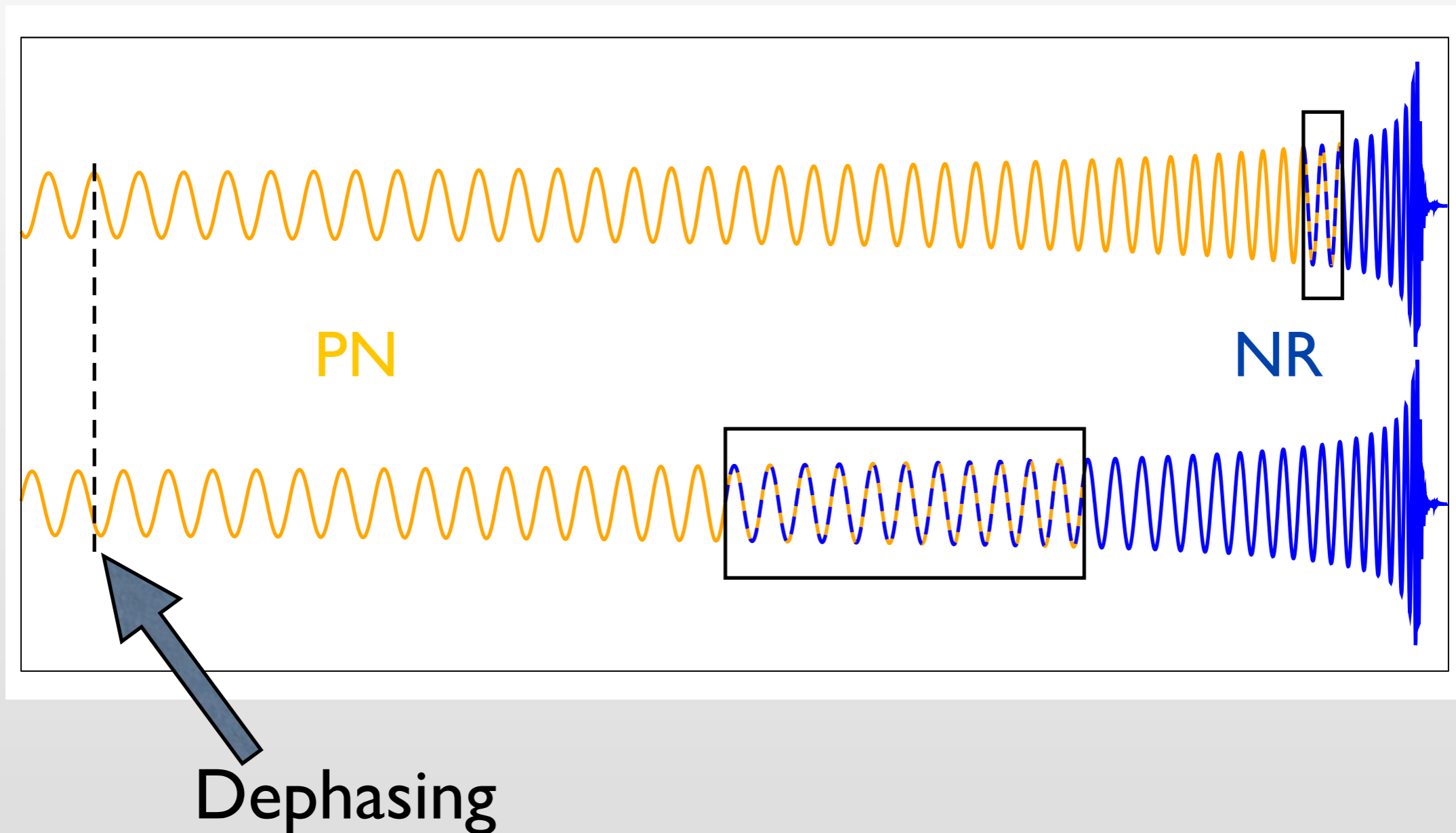


MacDonald, Mroue, HP ea, 2012



# Length of NR simulations

- ❖ Must switch to NR early enough to avoid large PN errors



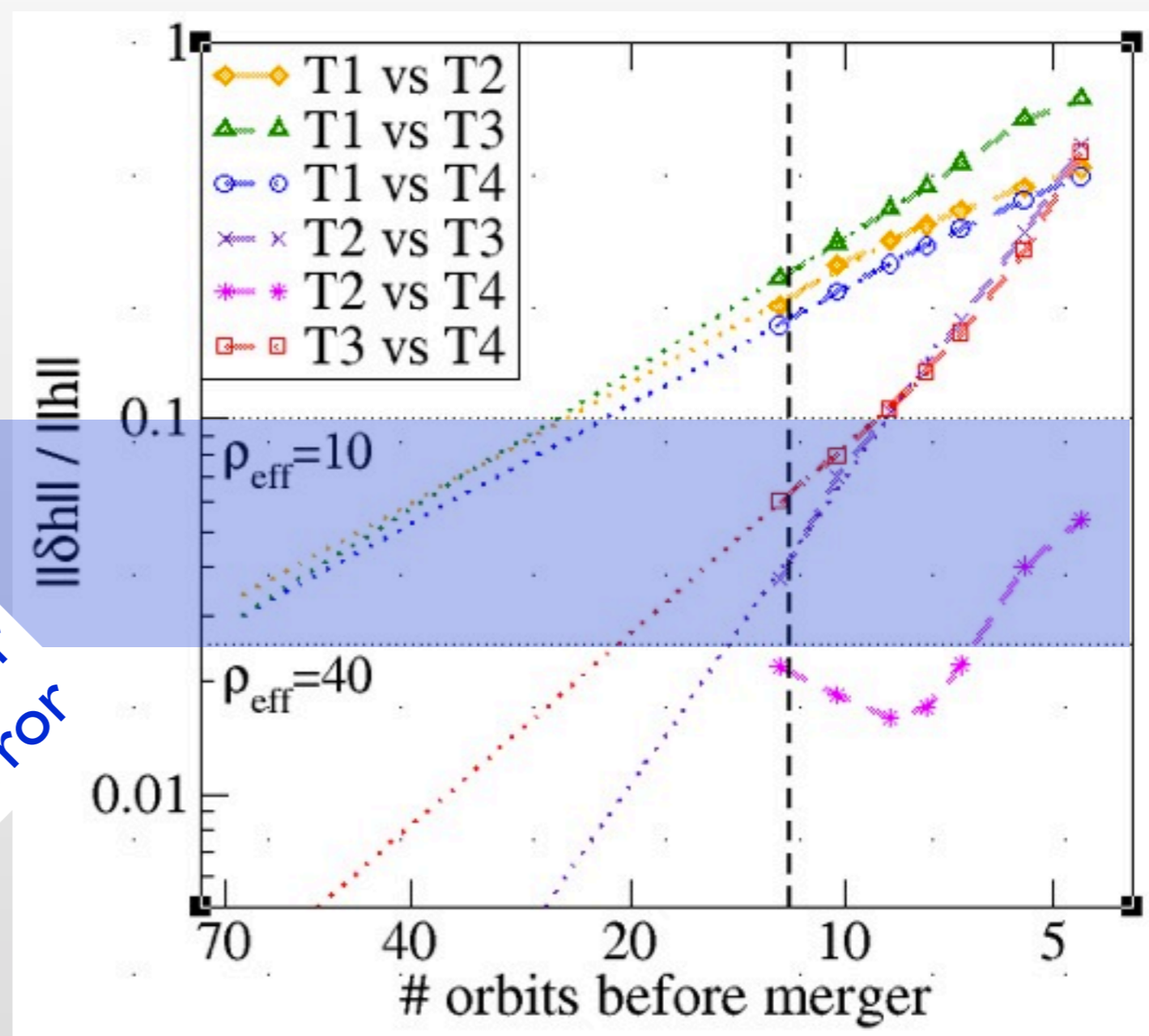
# Length of NR simulations

❖ Desire: Start NR so early that different PN versions cannot be distinguished by LIGO

❖ need *much* longer NR waveforms

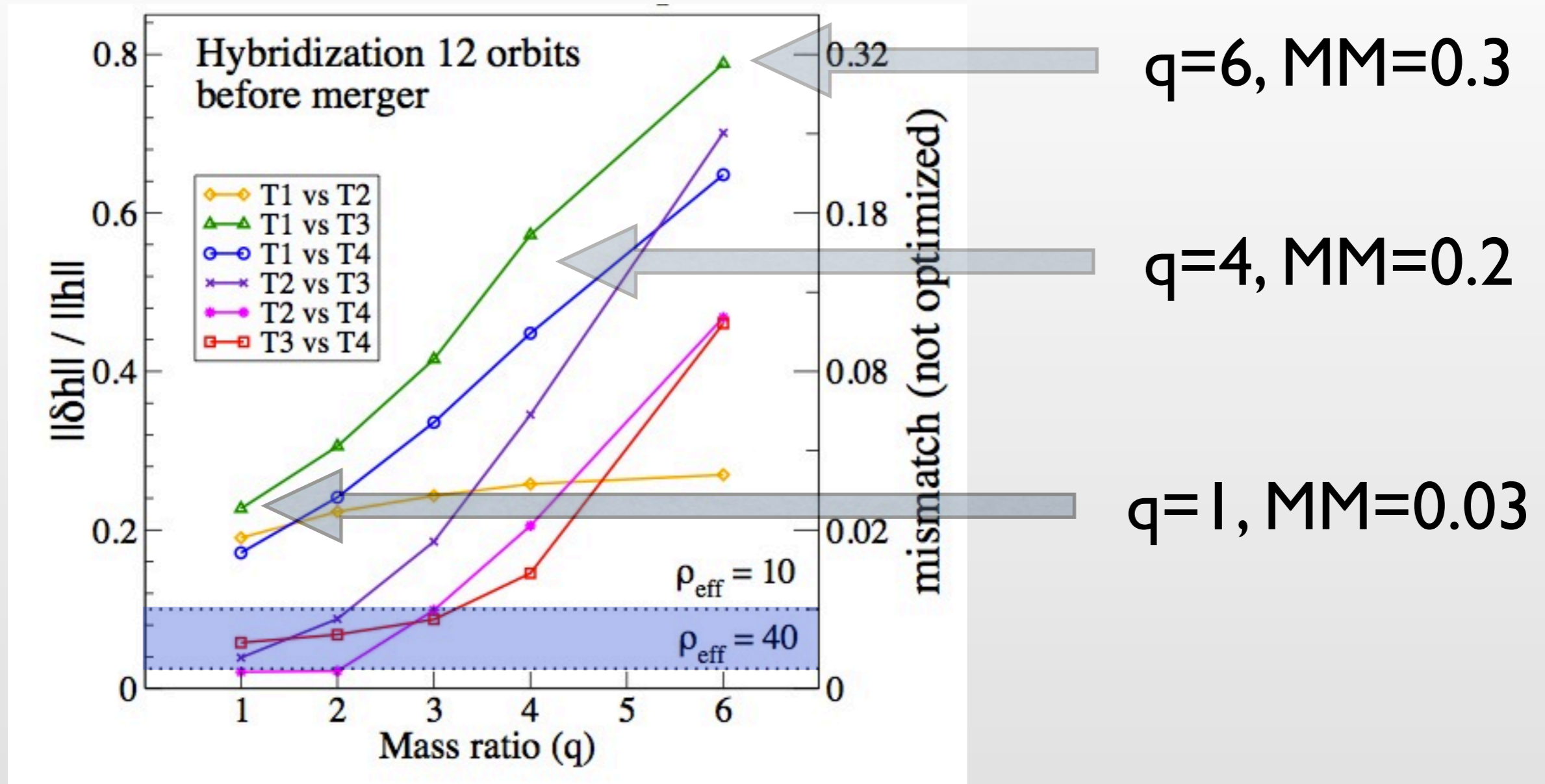
- Hannam ea 2010
- Ohme ea 2011
- Boyle 2011
- MacDonald ea 2011
- Damour ea 2011

Systematic error  
 $\approx$  statistical error



MacDonald, Nissanke, HP 2011

# Non-spinning, unequal masses



MacDonald, Mroue, HP ea 2012  
(similar results in Ohme ea, 2011)



# Exploring Parameter Space & Precession

# Completed Waveform Catalog Efforts



## Ninja I (2008)

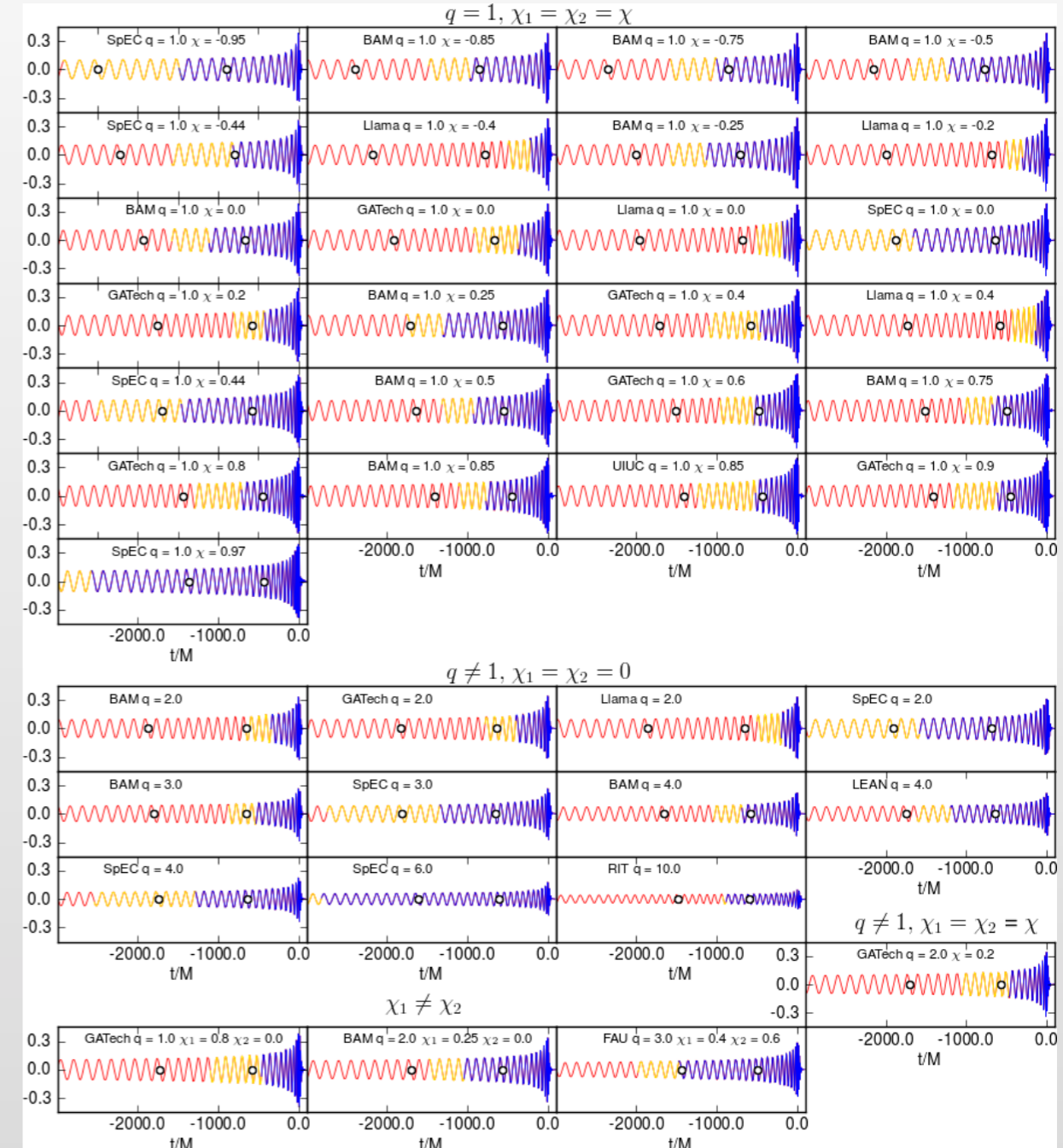
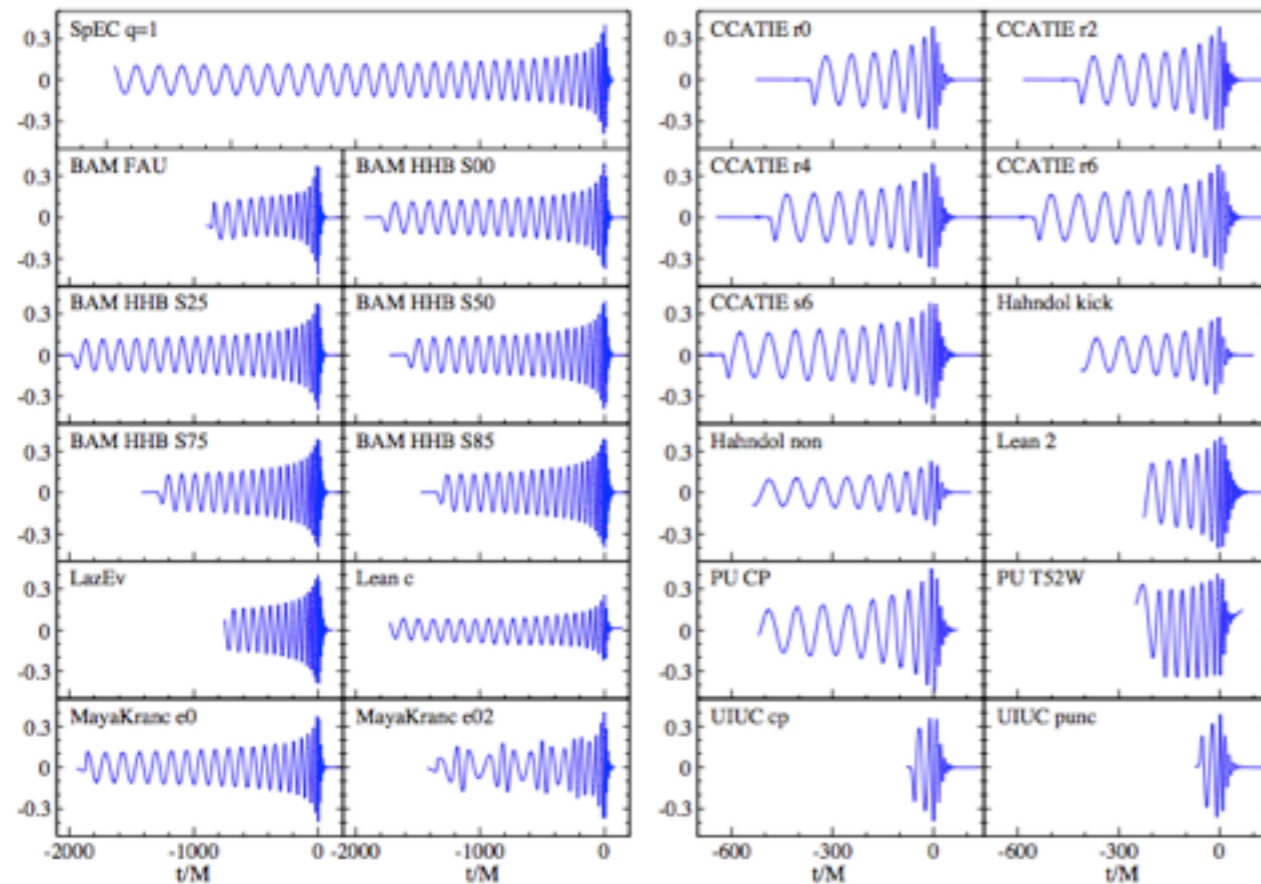
Ailott + 77 co-authors

## Ninja2 (2012)

Ajith + 47 co-authors

Results from the first NINJA project

8

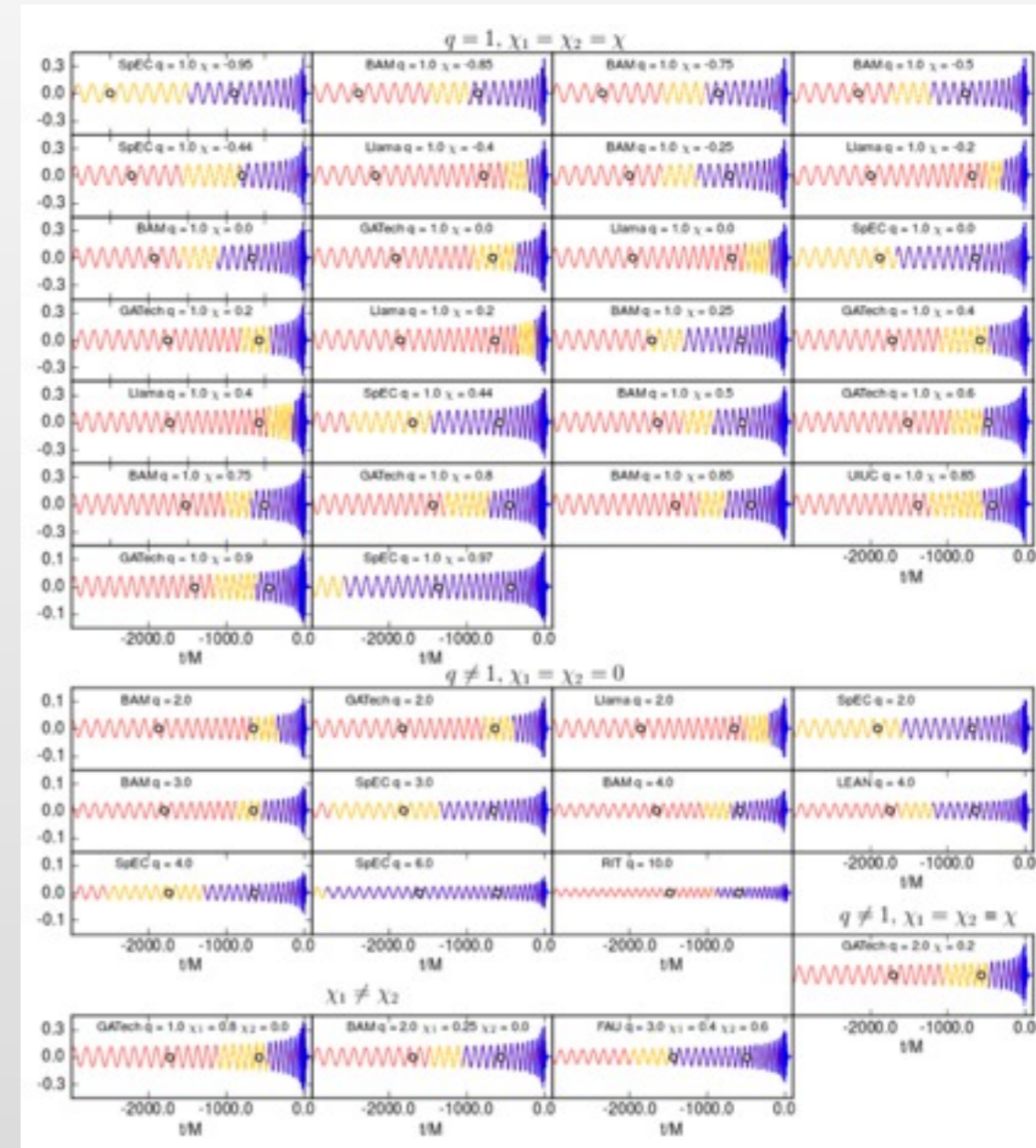
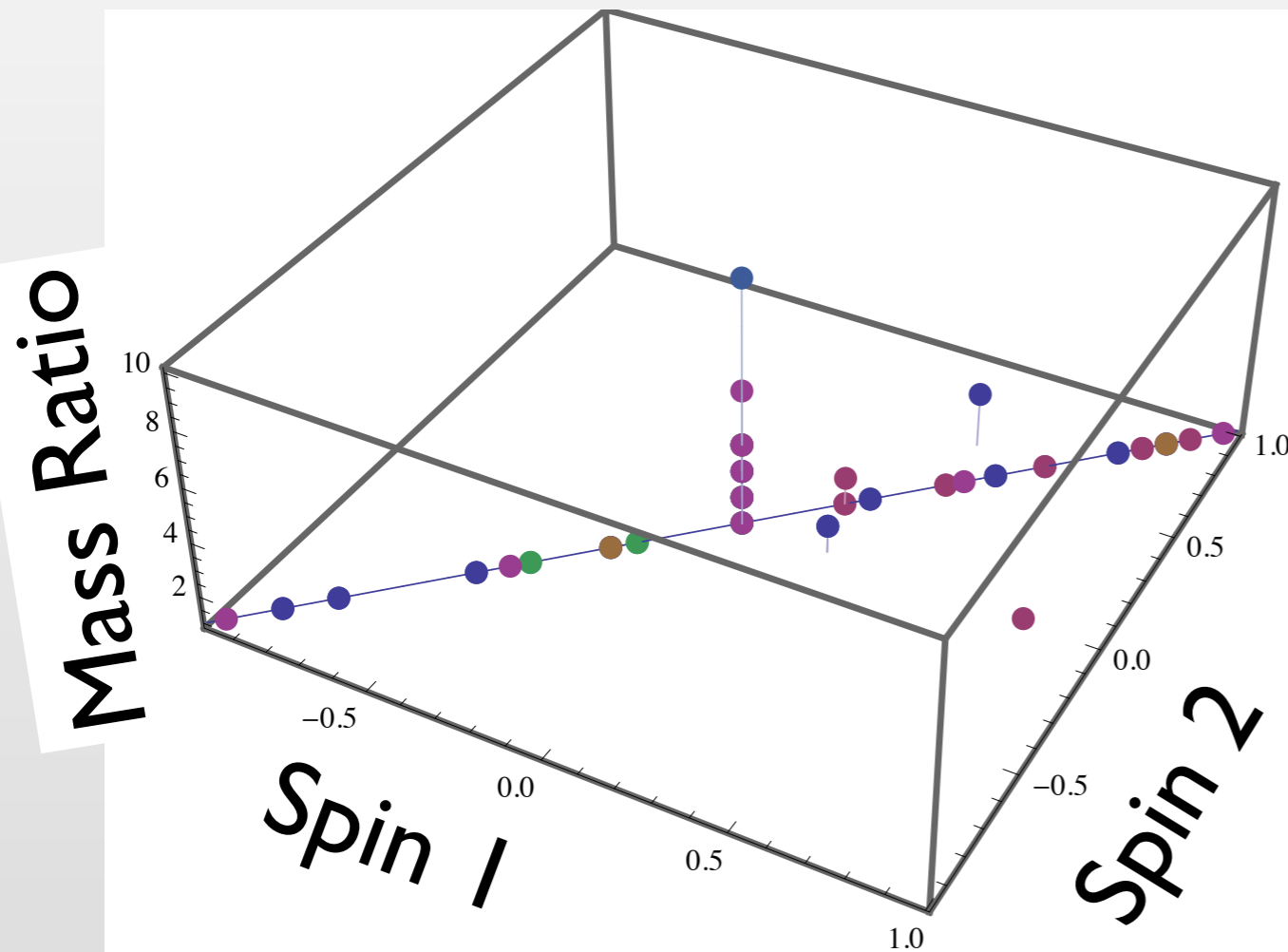


# Lack of parameter space coverage



## ❖ BH-BH simulations are hard

- World-wide NINJA-2 collaboration computed 40 spin-aligned systems (no precession at all)



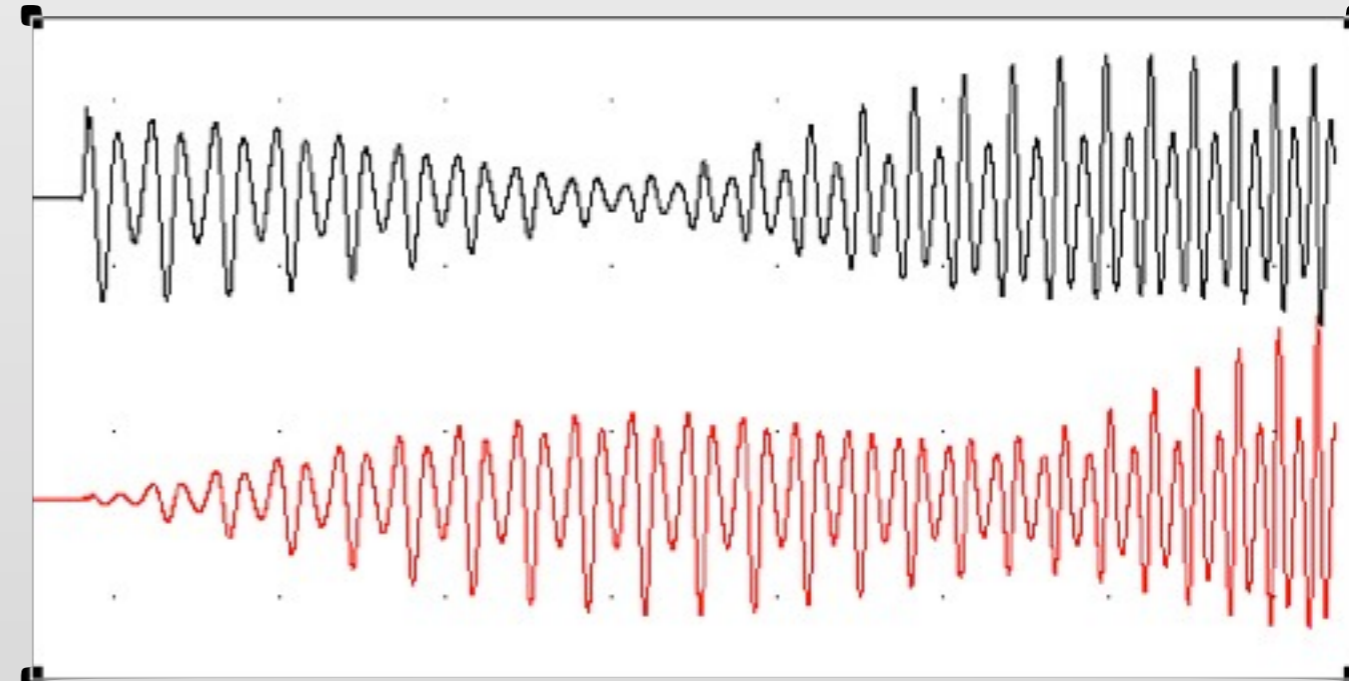
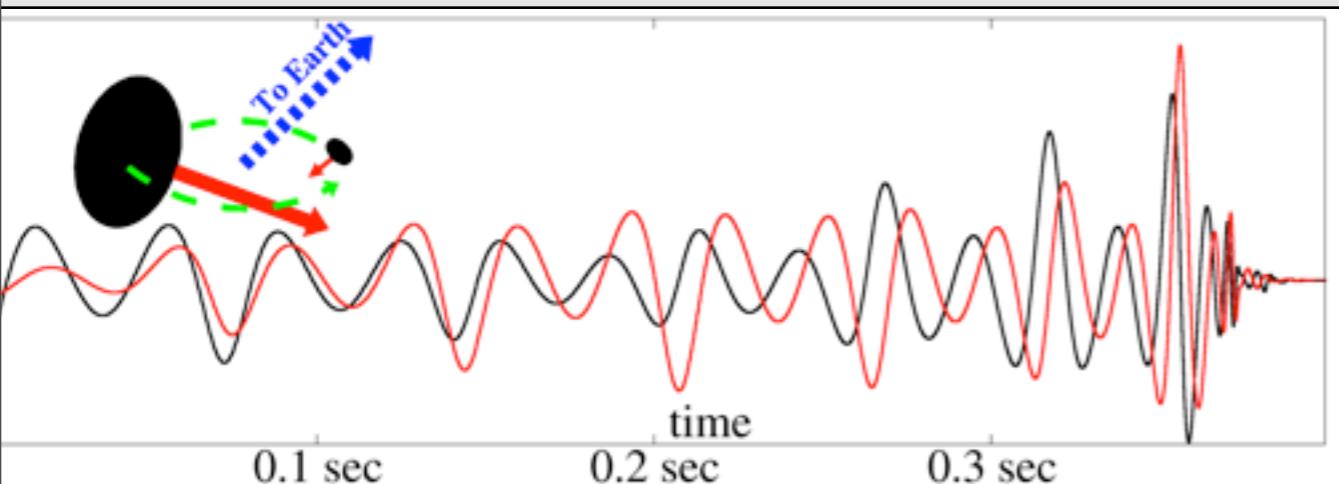
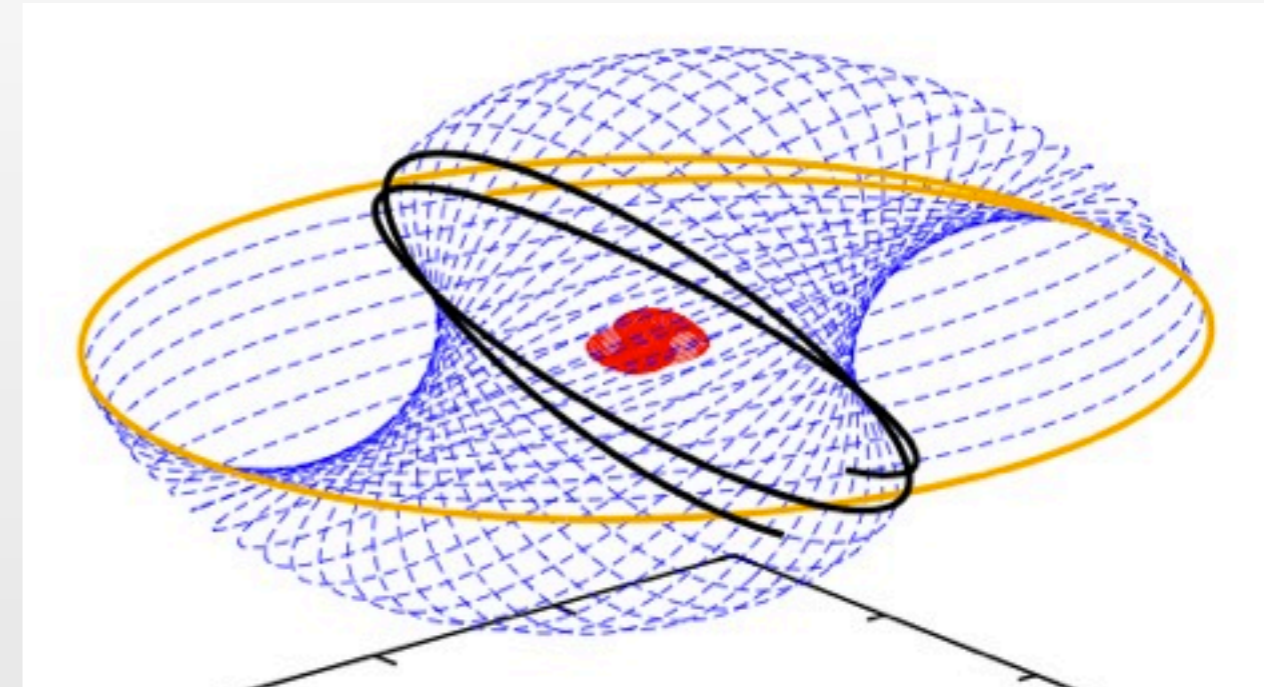
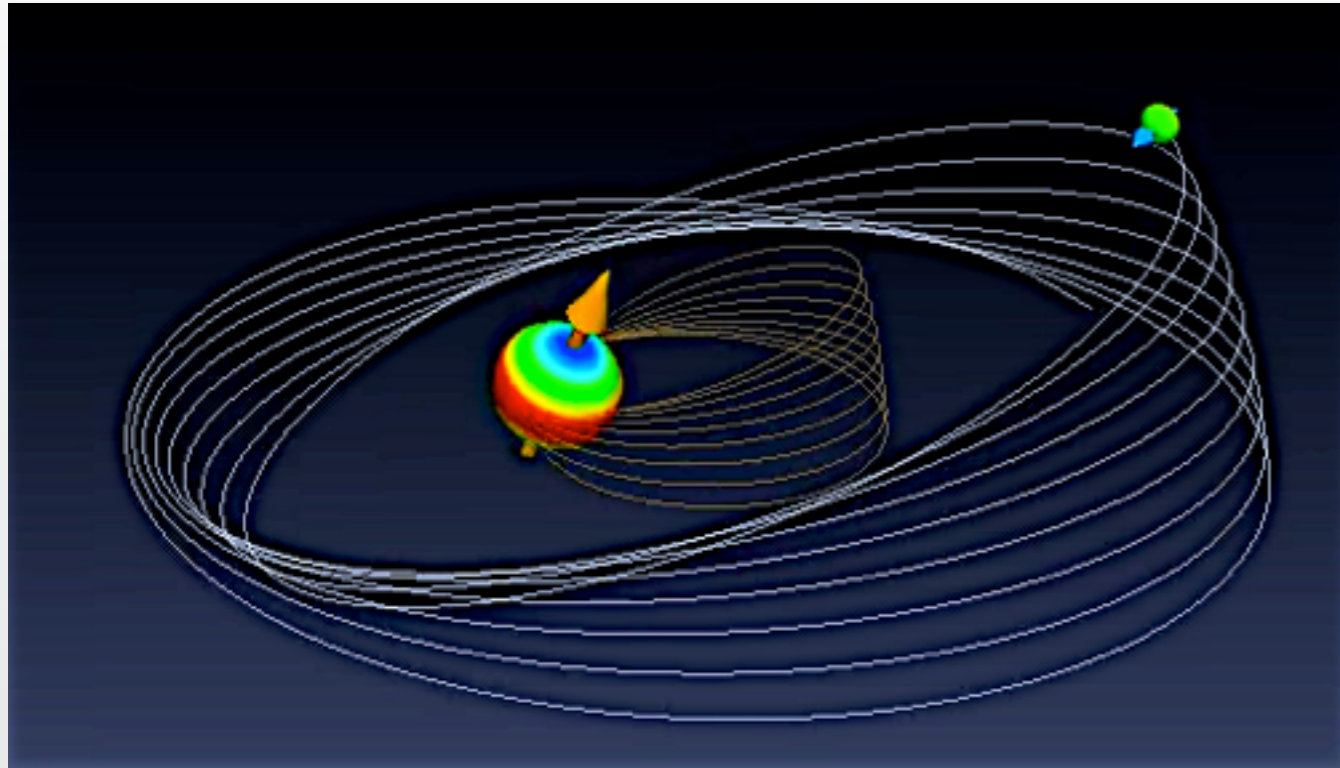
Ajith ea, 1211.5319



# Preprocessing waveforms

Code improvements  
(Quaternions)

Ossokine, Kidder, HP 1304.3067

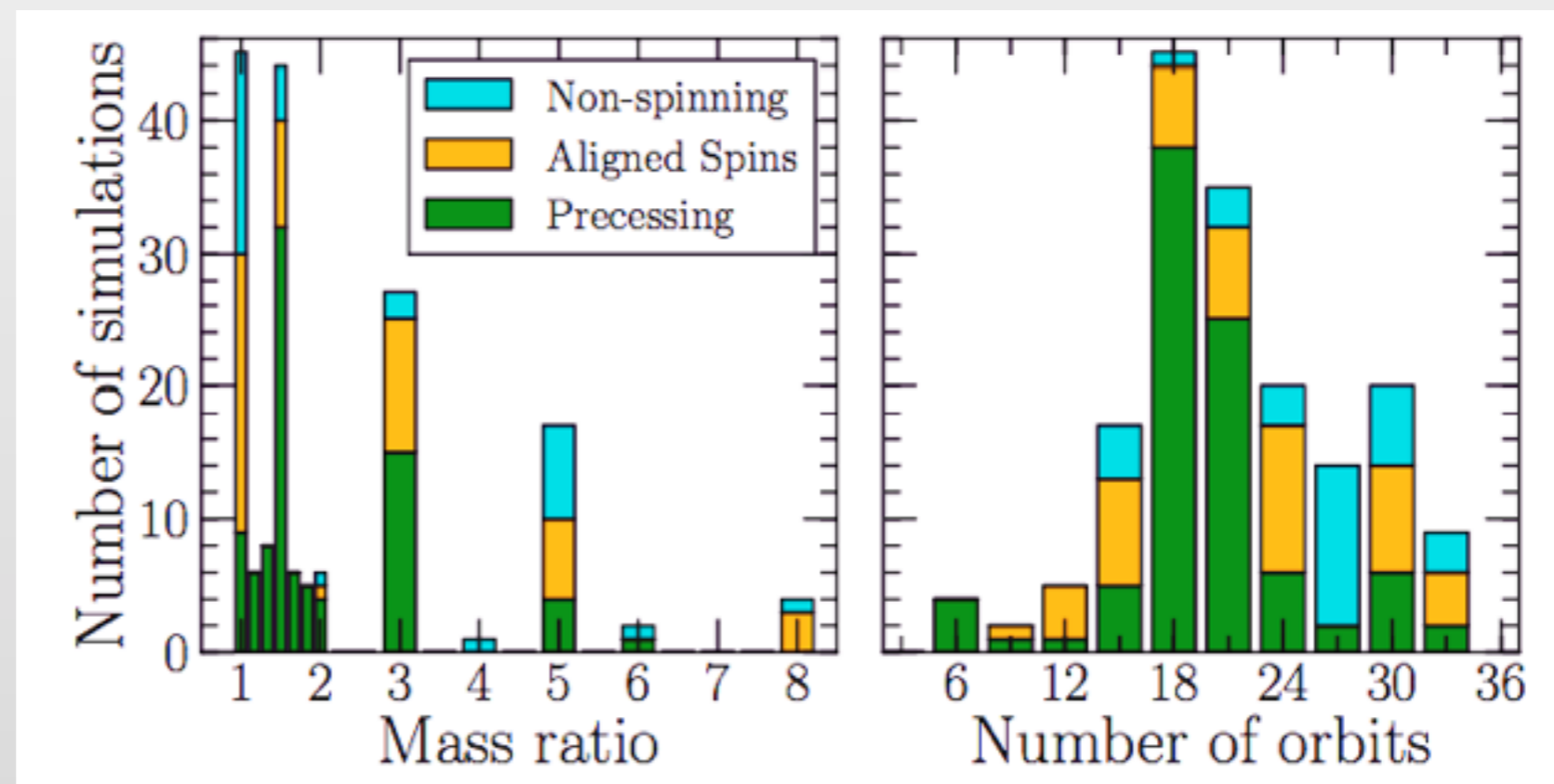


Kidder & SXS

# Exploring parameter space

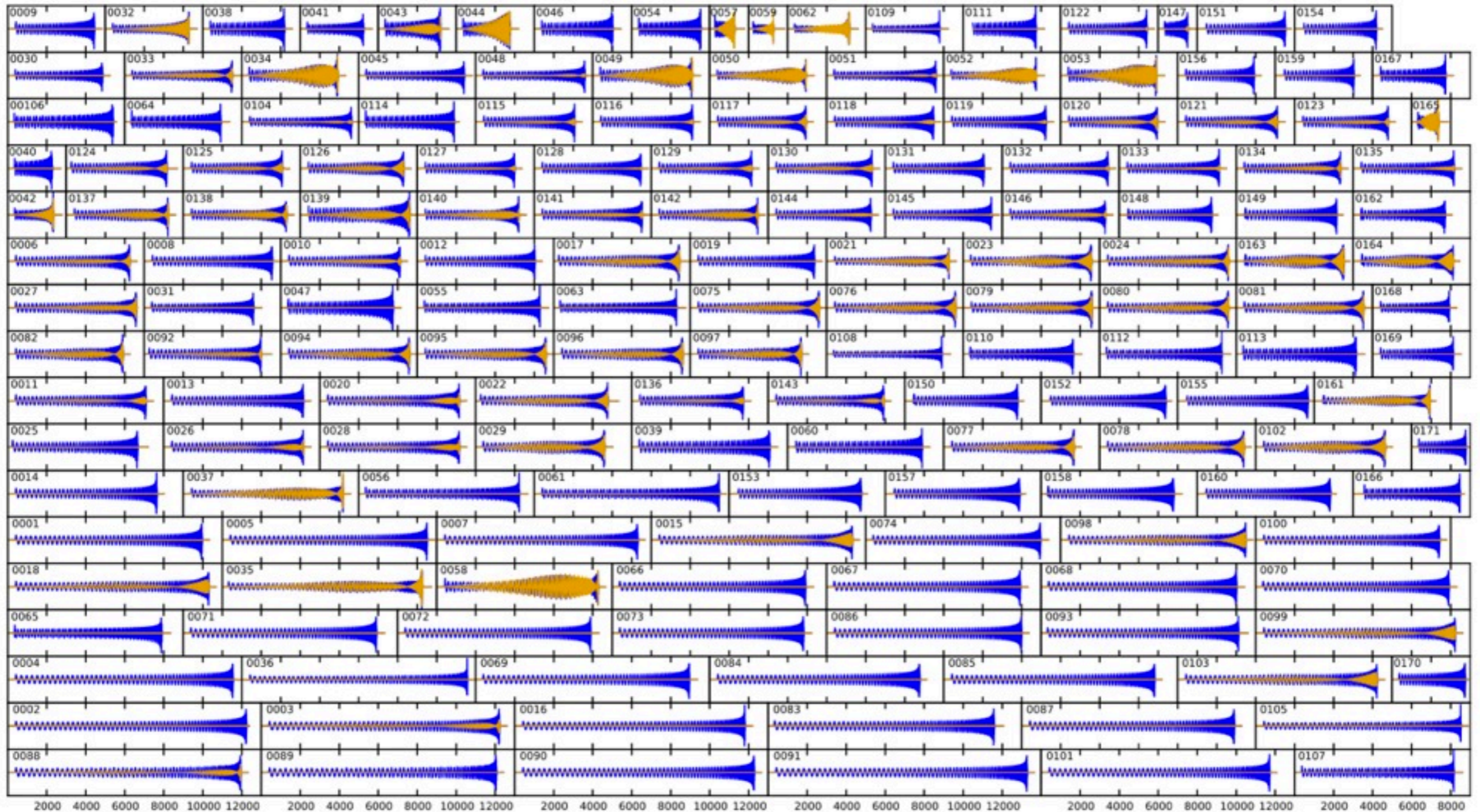
- ❖ 700 configurations quasi-circularized (Mroue, HP 1210.2958)
- ❖ 171 simulations completed
  - Mroue ea, arXiv:1304.6077

Abdul H. Mroué,<sup>1</sup> Mark A. Scheel,<sup>2</sup> Béla Szilágyi,<sup>2</sup> Harald P. Pfeiffer,<sup>1,3</sup> Michael Boyle,<sup>4</sup> Daniel A. Hemberger,<sup>4</sup> Lawrence E. Kidder,<sup>4</sup> Geoffrey Lovelace,<sup>5,2</sup> Serguei Ossokine,<sup>1,6</sup> Nicholas W. Taylor,<sup>2</sup> Anıl Zenginoğlu,<sup>2</sup> Luisa T. Buchman,<sup>2</sup> Tony Chu,<sup>1</sup> Evan Foley,<sup>5</sup> Matthew Giesler,<sup>5</sup> Robert Owen,<sup>7</sup> and Saul A. Teukolsky<sup>4</sup>





# I71 waveform catalog



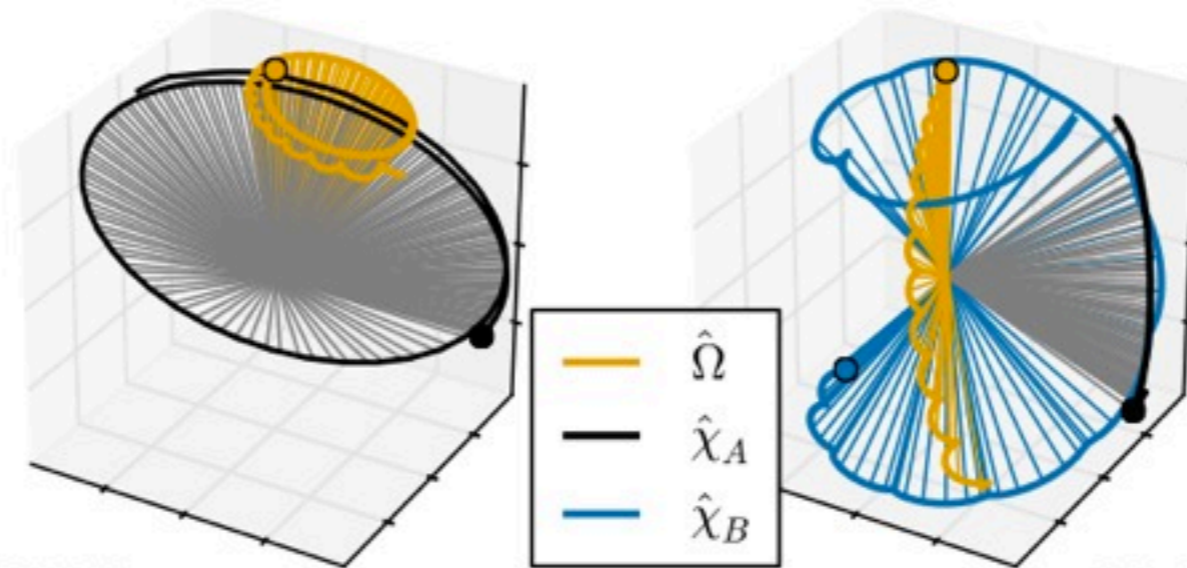
3 years, 50 Mio CPU-hours

Mroue ea, arXiv:1304.6077

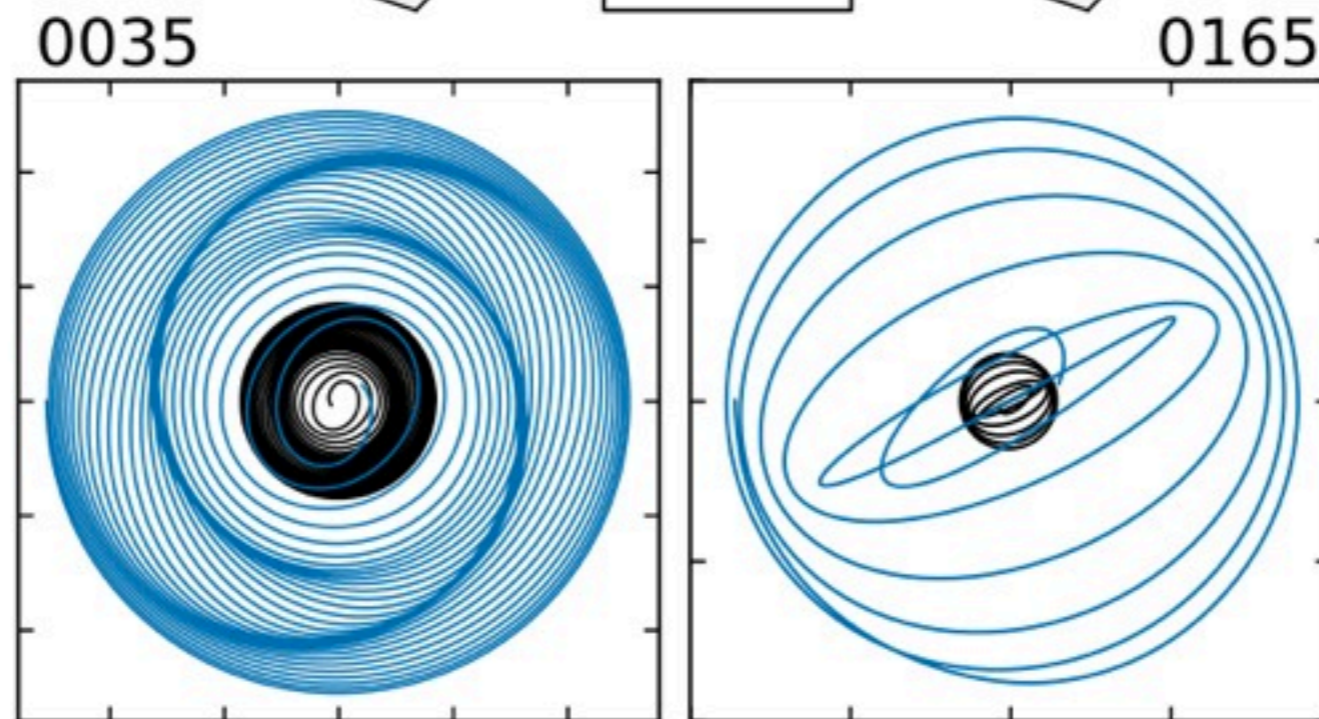


# Examples of precessing binaries

Mass-ratio 3  
spins 0.5 & 0

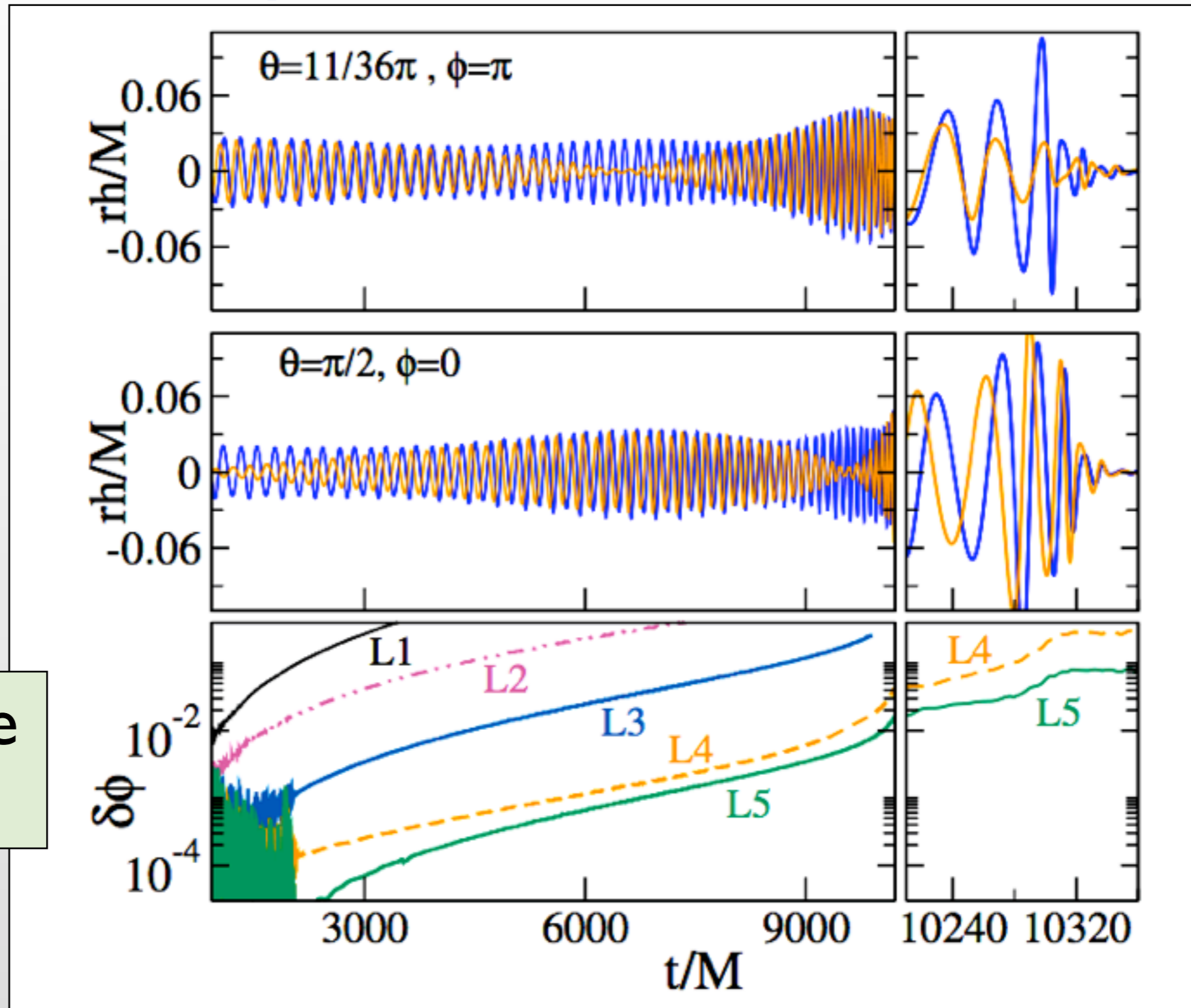


Mass-ratio 6  
spins 0.9 & 0.3



Mroue et al., arXiv:1304.6077

# Orientation-dependence of waveform



Good phase accuracy

Mroue et al, arXiv:1304.6077

# Alternative study: Georgia Tech



## ❖ Pekowsky ea 1304.3176, continuing sequence of papers

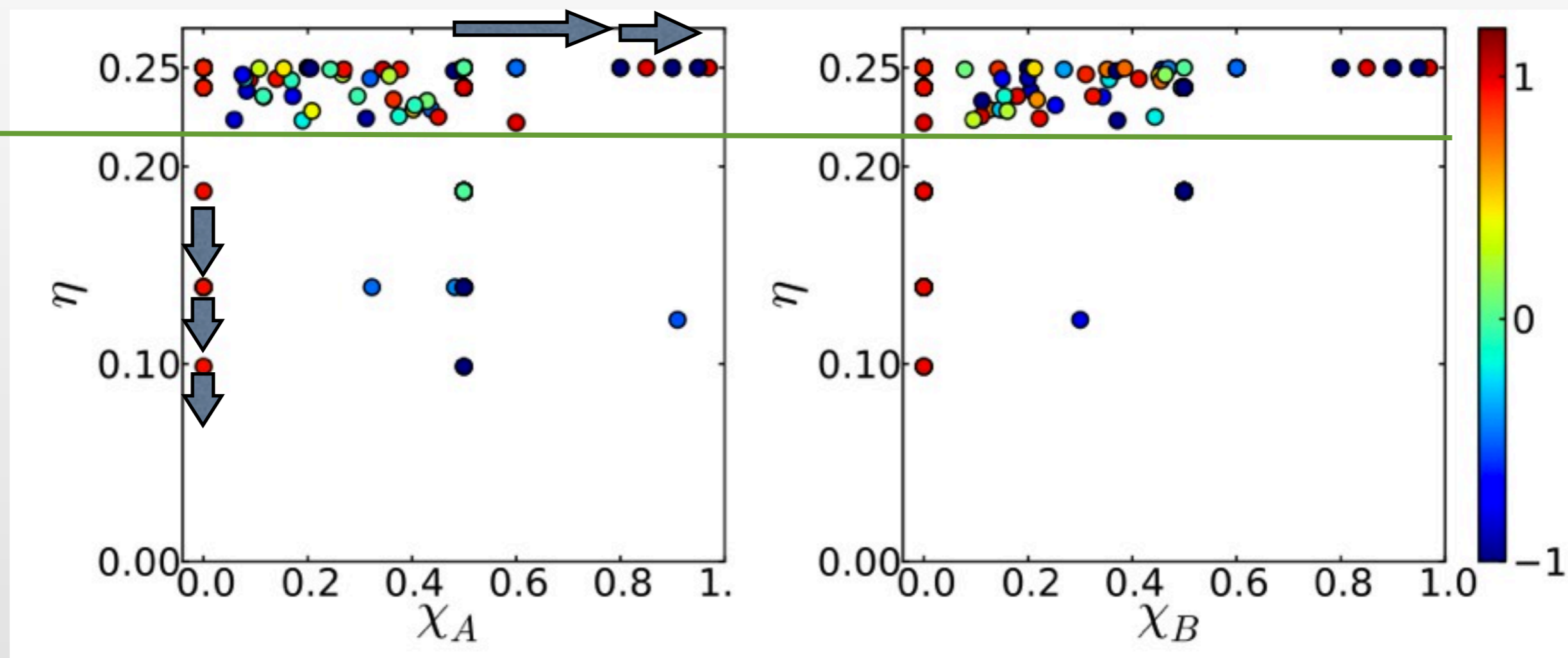
- 191 generic BBH waveforms
- precessing waveform = [non-precessing waveform] × [Rotation]
- IMRPhenomB fits to better than 95% for  $200M_{\text{sun}} < M < 2500M_{\text{sun}}$
- At low masses, GW's can measure BH-BH properties
- At high masses, GW's can measure remnant properties



# Expanding parameter space coverage

❖ Most spinning runs at  $q < 2$

$q=2$

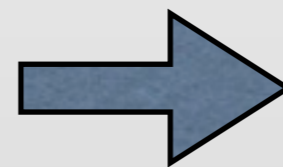
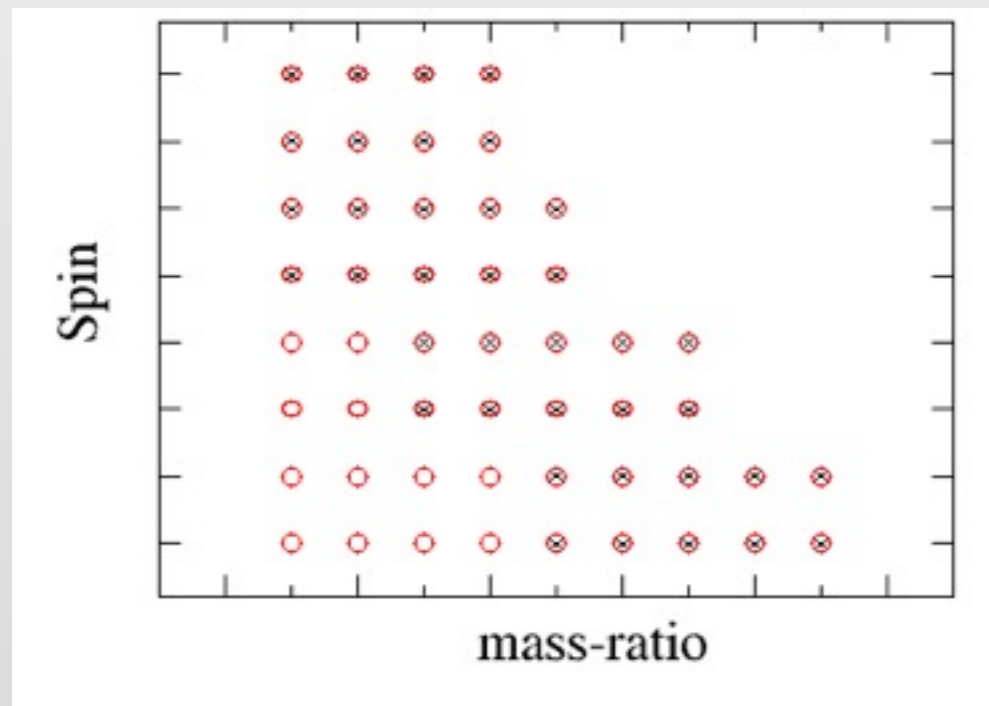


❖ So far, pushing parameters was always difficult

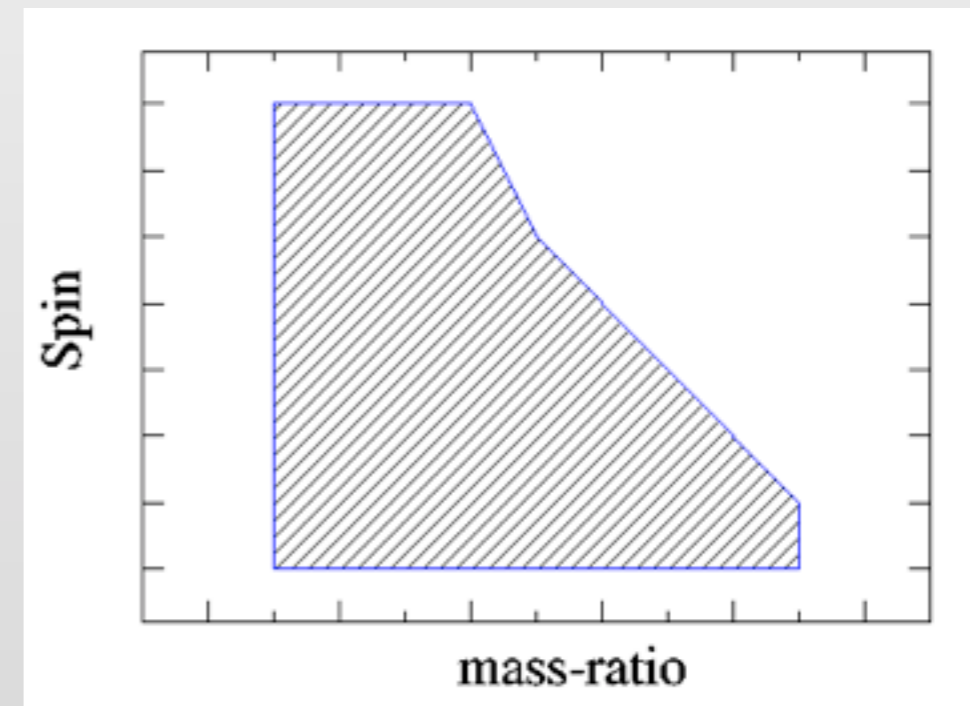
- Each arrow 1-2 years hard work

# Waveform modeling

Discretely spaced NR



Continuous model



# Phenomenological, aligned spins

## ❖ Unequal-mass, aligned spins (Ajith et al 2011) “IMRPhenomC”

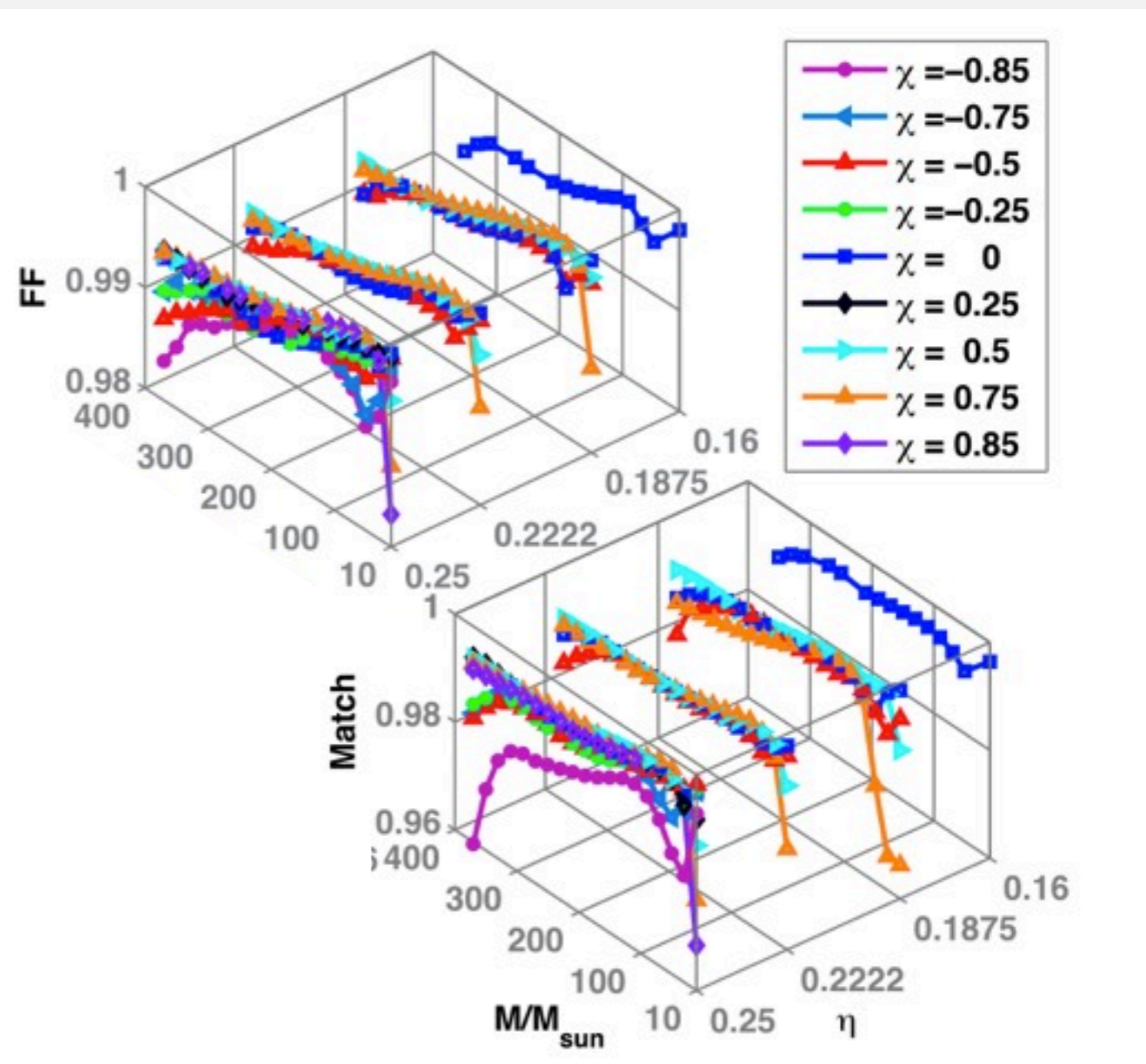
- 2-dim waveform family (mass-ratio, effective spin)
- (2,2) mode calibrated against 24 sims (BAM, Ccatie, Llama)

## ❖ Two stages:

1. construct TaylorT1+NR hybrids
2. fit model to hybrids

$$A(f) \equiv C f_1^{-7/6} \begin{cases} f^{l-7/6} (1 + \sum_{i=2}^3 \alpha_i v^i) & \text{if } f < f_1 \\ w_m f^{l-2/3} (1 + \sum_{i=1}^2 \epsilon_i v^i) & \text{if } f_1 \leq f < f_2 \\ w_r \mathcal{L}(f, f_2, \sigma) & \text{if } f_2 \leq f < f_3, \end{cases}$$

$$\Psi(f) \equiv 2\pi f t_0 + \varphi_0 + \frac{3}{128\eta v^5} \left( 1 + \sum_{k=2}^7 v^k \psi_k \right). \quad (1)$$





## ❖ Effective one body

- Buonanno, Damour 1999; many papers since

## ❖ Inspiral-Merger-Ringdown waveform model based on

- Effective Hamiltonian to capture conservative dynamics

$$H = \mu \sqrt{p_r^2 + A(r) \left[ 1 + \frac{p_r^2}{r^2} + 2(4 - 3\nu)\nu \frac{p_r^4}{r^2} \right]}, \quad A(r) = \sum_{k=0}^4 \frac{a_k(\nu)}{r^k} + \frac{a_5(\nu)}{r^5}$$

- Radiation reaction terms

$$\frac{dp_r}{dt} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial p_r} + a_{\text{RR}}^r \frac{\dot{r}}{r^2 \Omega} \hat{\mathcal{F}}_\phi$$

$$\frac{dp_\phi}{dt} = 0 - \frac{v_\Omega^3}{\nu V_\phi^6} F_4^4(V_\phi; \nu, v_{\text{pole}}), \quad \text{using 4-PN term } \mathcal{F}_{8,\nu=0} + \nu A_8$$

- Attach ringdown modes

## ★ Fit parameters to NR simulations

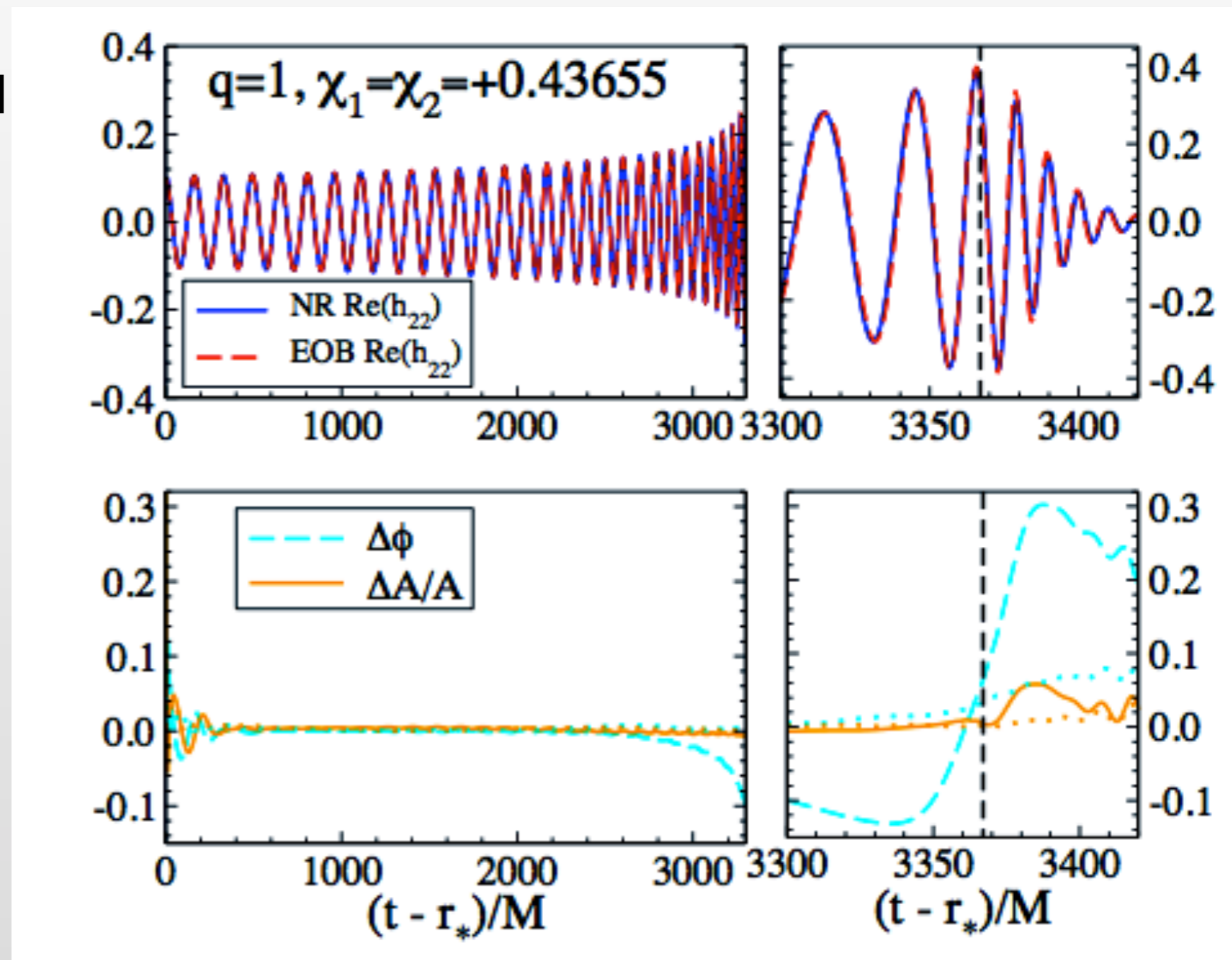
# EOB for aligned spins

## ❖ EOB w/ aligned spins “SEOBNRv1”

- Taracchini ea 2012
- (2,2) mode calibrated against
  - 7x SpEC
  - Teukolsky code

## ❖ Prototype-model:

- Recalibration with more NR sims



Taracchini ea 2012

# Precessing EOB model

- ❖ Pan, Buonanno, Tarracchini, & SpEC (in prep)
- ❖ Evolve EOB orbital dynamics w/ precession

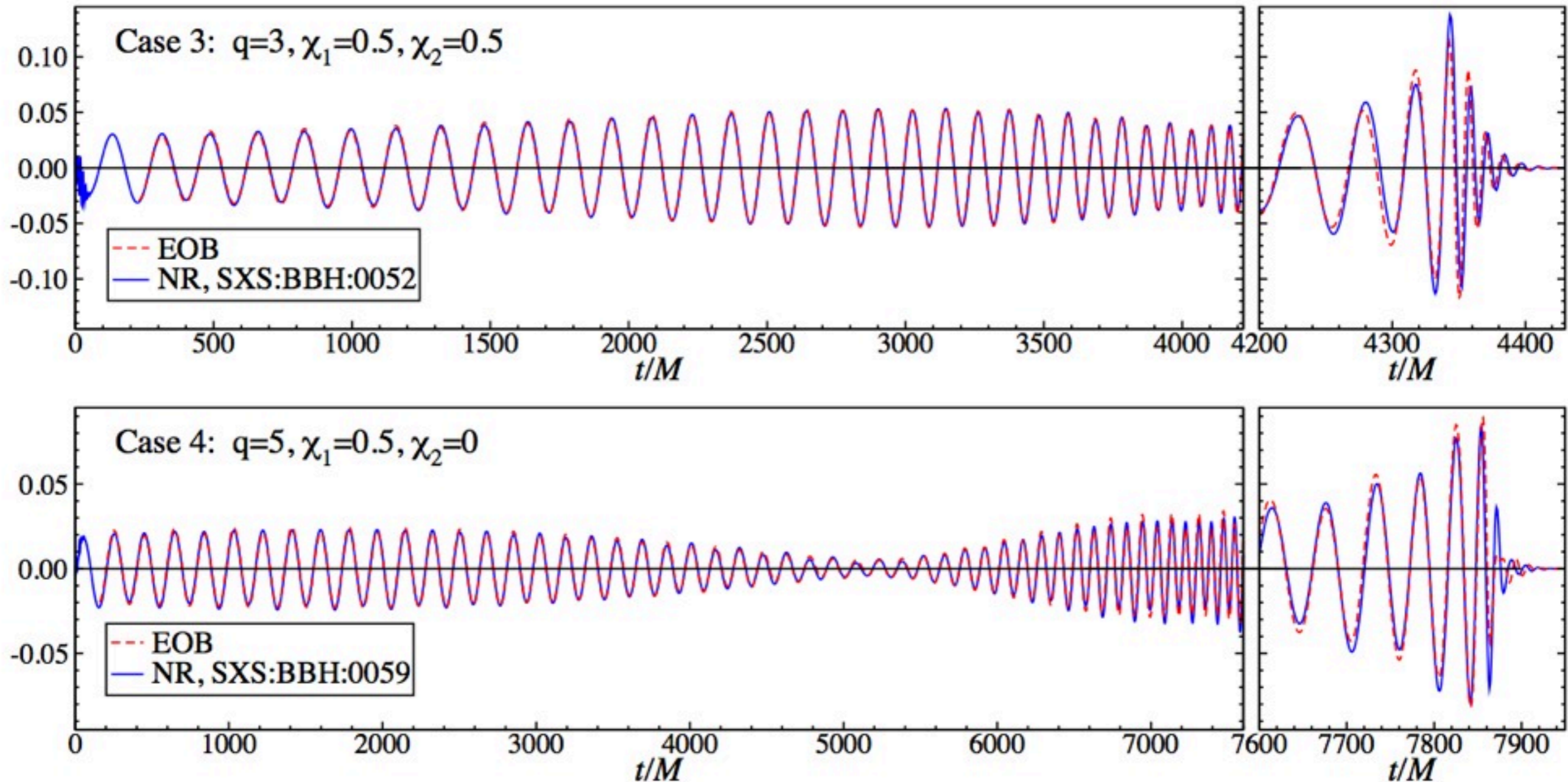
$$\Phi(t), \vec{L}(t), \vec{S}_1(t), \vec{S}_2(t)$$

- ❖ Compute aligned-spin SEOBNRv1 waveforms
- ❖ Rotate into precessing frame

- Note: EOB tuned only with
  - Non-spinning  $q=1,2,3,4,6$  and Teukolsky code
  - Equal-mass, aligned spins:  $(\chi_1, \chi_2)=(0.44,0.44), (-0.44, 0.44)$

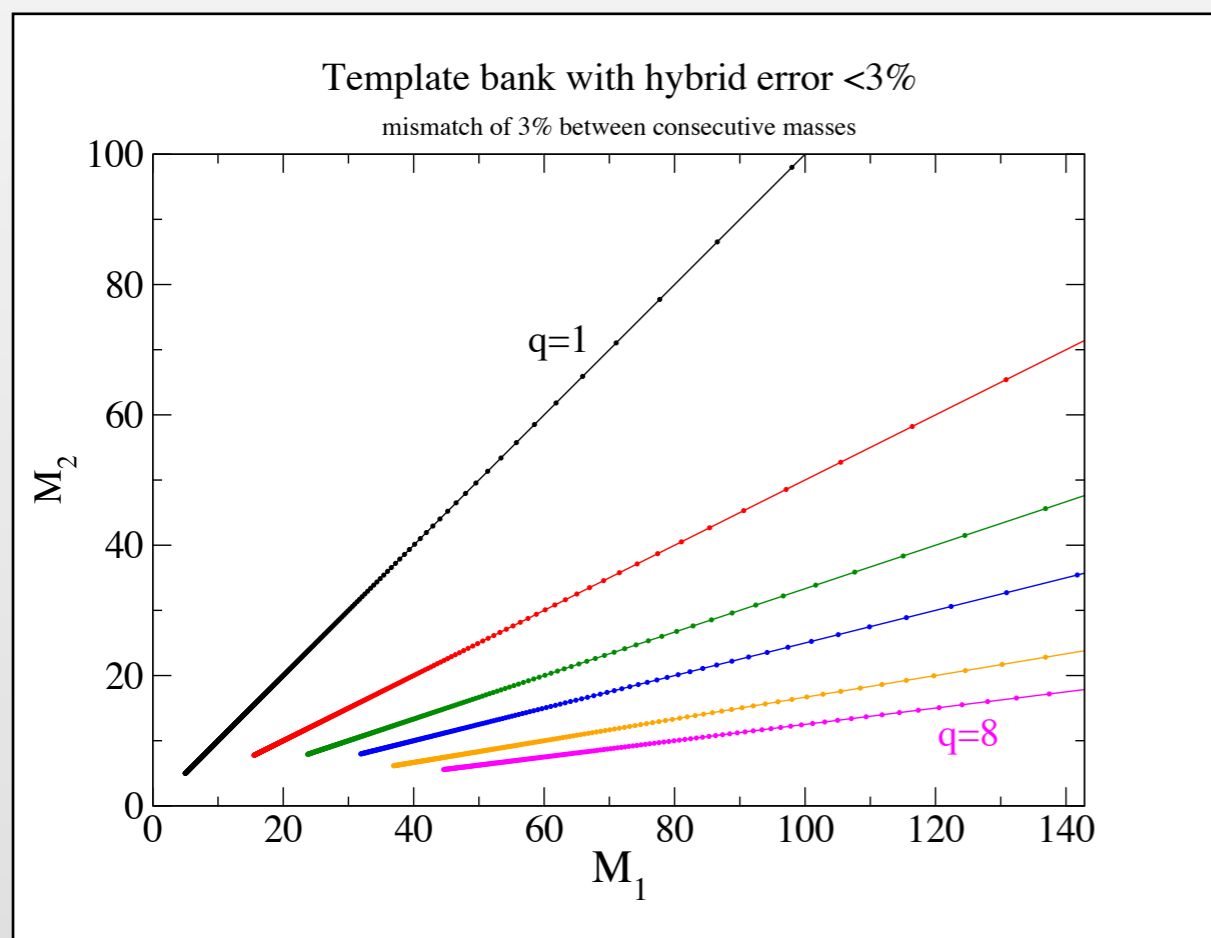


# Precessing EOB model: NR comparison

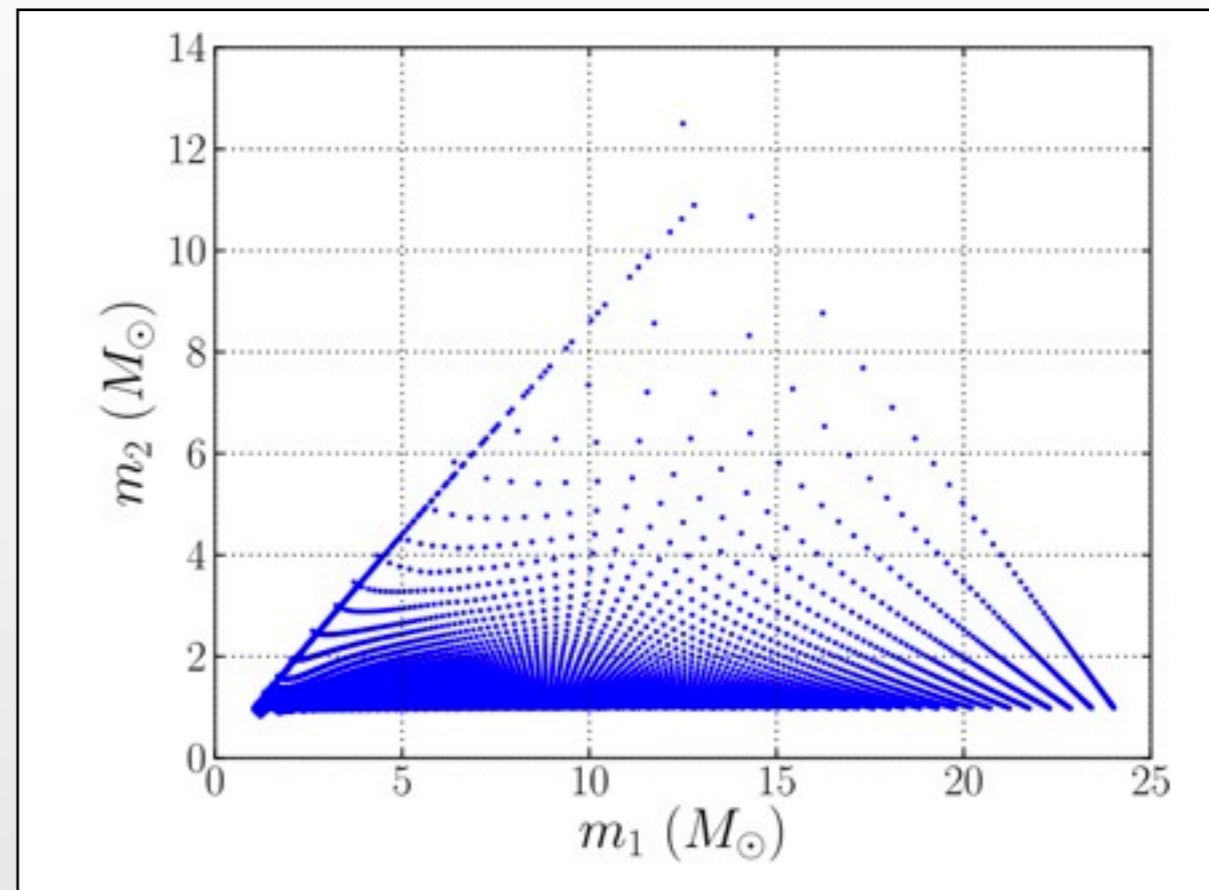


# Purely NR template bank

- ❖ BH-BH waveforms scale invariant



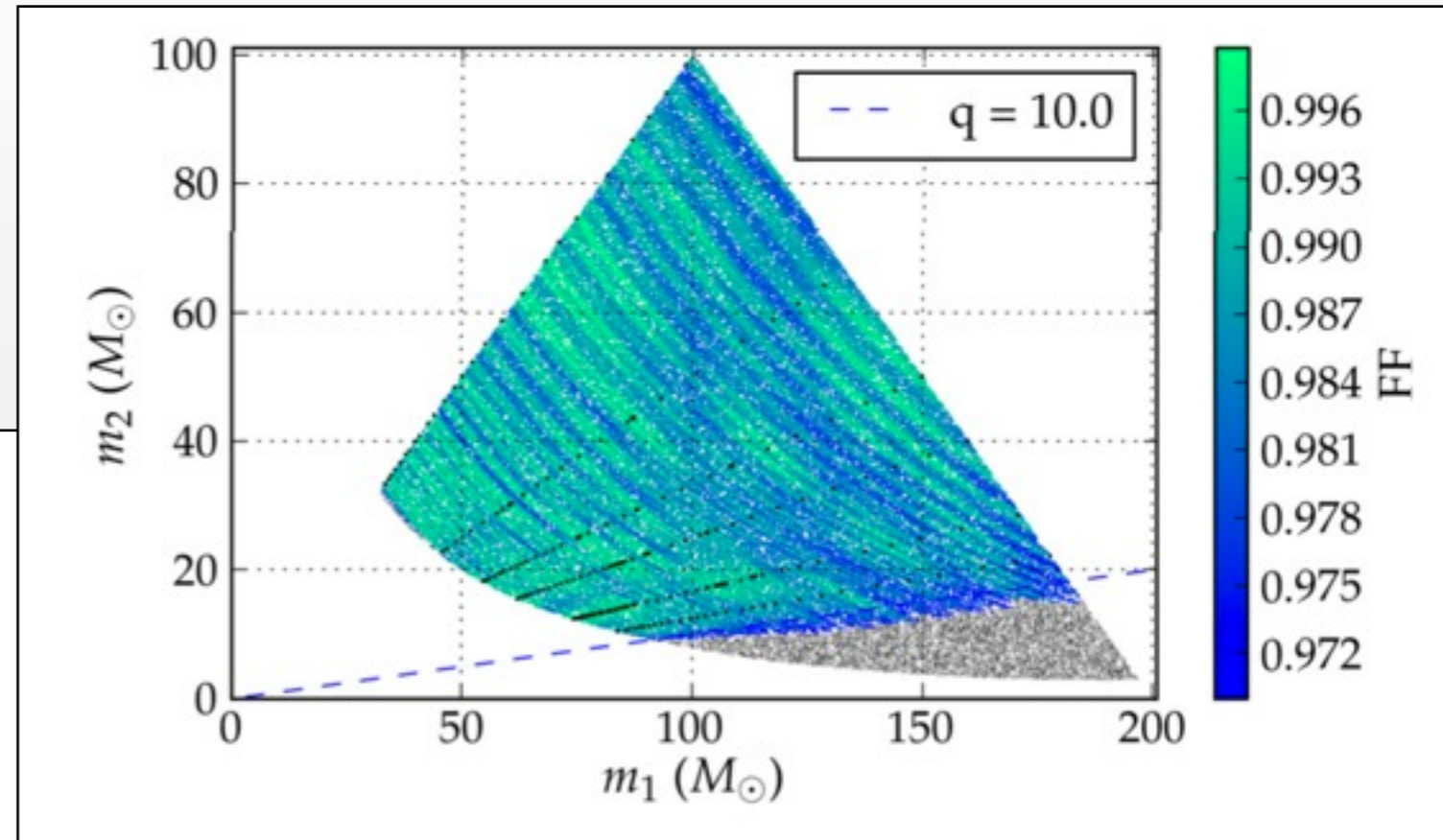
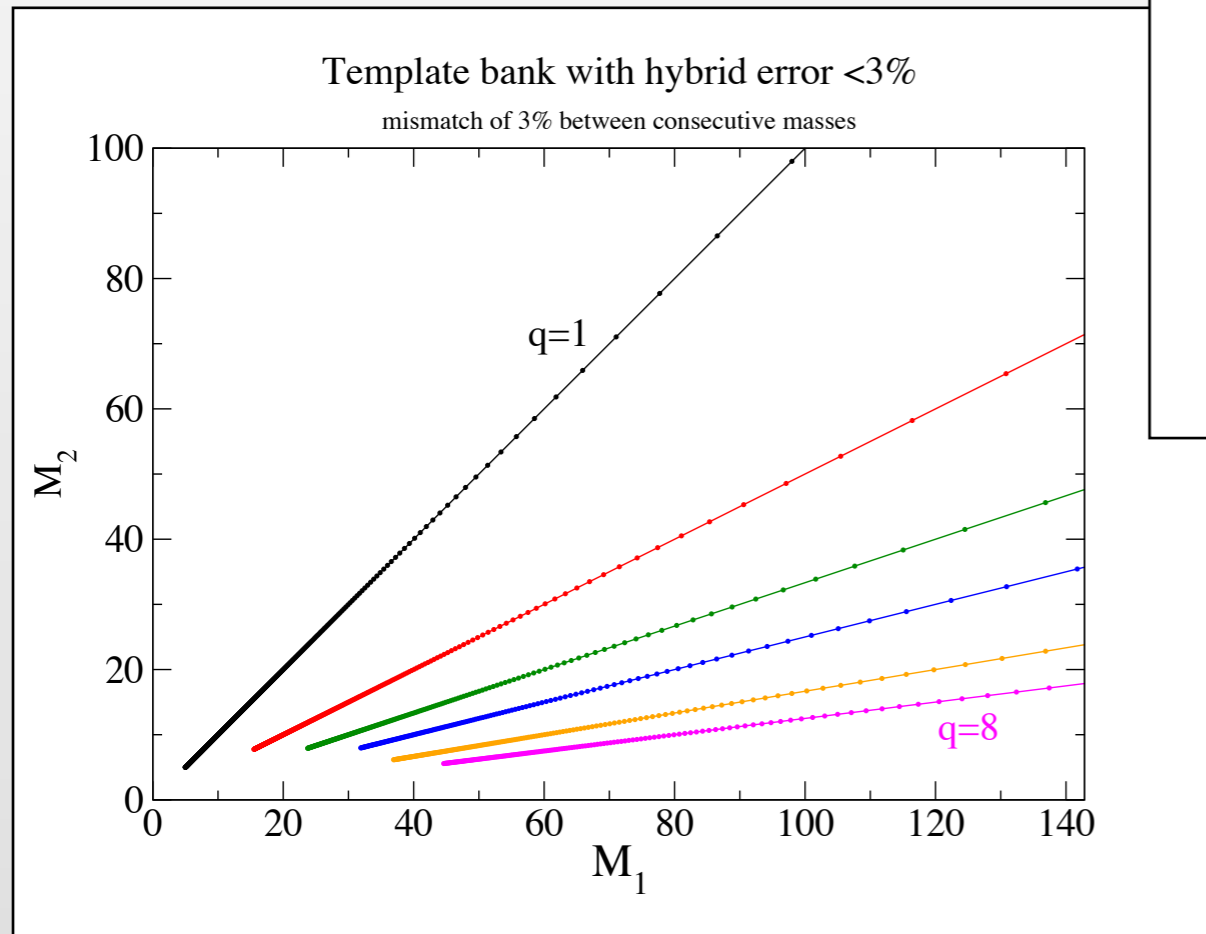
NR-only template bank  
MacDonald



Standard template bank

# Purely NR template bank

❖ BH-BH waveforms  
scale invariant



NR-only template bank  
MacDonald

With 26 NR runs, each 40 orbits:  
Cover  $M > 12 M_{\text{sun}}$   
Kumar, MacDonald, ea (in prep)



# The end. Thank you!

