

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

Probes of strong gravity using gravitational waves

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Probes of strong gravity using Advanced LIGO and Virgo



[arXiv:1903.09221]

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Detection of GW signals that are broadly consistent with GR predictions!

Probes of strong gravity using Advanced LIGO and Virgo

- Detection of GW signals that are broadly consistent with GR predictions!
- In the absence of reliable predictions from alternative theories, the current philosophy is to test the degree of consistency of the data with GR (and black holes in GR).
 - Signal consistency tests, GW generation & propagation, nature of GW polarizations, probes of horizons, etc.

Signal consistency tests: Testing residuals

 Residuals of the data after subtracting the best-fit templates are consistent with noise.



[LVC+ PRD 100, 104036 (2019)]

Signal consistency tests: Inspiral-merger-ringdown consistency

 Test the consistency of mass & spin of the final black hole estimated from the inspiral/ post-inspiral parts of the observed signal [Ghosh et al 2016].





[LVC+ PRL 116, 221101 (2016)]

Signal consistency tests: Inspiral-merger-ringdown consistency

• Test the consistency of mass & spin of the final black hole estimated from the inspiral/ post-inspiral parts of the observed signal [Ghosh et al 2016].

Future Test of black hole area theorem [Cabero et al 2018], measurement of the energy loss [Hughes et al 2004], etc.



Tests of waveform generation: Parameterized tests

Introduce deviations in the coefficients describing the GR waveform's phase

 $p_i \rightarrow (1 + \delta \hat{p}_i) p_i$

Analogous to binary pulsar tests using the post-Keplerian formalism



Tests of waveform generation: Parameterized tests

0.00004

0.00003 -

 Introduce deviations in the coefficients describing the GR waveform's phase

$$p_i \to (1 + \delta \hat{p}_i) p_i$$
 0.00002
 $\delta_{0.00002}$

Estimate posteriors on deviation
 parameters along with the parameters
 in GR [Arun et al 2006, Yunes & Pretorius
 2009, Li et al 2011, Sennett et al]



Tests of waveform generation: Parameterized tests

 $|\delta\hat{arphi}_n|$

 Introduce deviations in the coefficients describing the GR waveform's phase

$$p_i \to (1 + \delta \hat{p}_i) p_i$$

- Estimate posteriors on deviation parameters along with the parameters in GR [Arun et al 2006, Yunes & Pretorius 2009, Li et al 2011, Sennett et al]
- Bounds on deviation parameters
 could be interpreted in terms of specific theories [e.g, Nair et al 2019]

[LVC+ PRL 123, 011102 (2019)]



Tests of GW propagation: Modified dispersion relation

• In GR, GWs propagate at the speed of light and are non-dispersive. However, one can consider a more general dispersion relation...

$$E^2 = p^2 c^2 + A_\alpha p^\alpha c^\alpha$$

GR part + Phenomenological modification

 $[A_{\alpha}]$ [peV^{2- α}]

 10^{-21}



Tests of GW propagation: Modified dispersion relation

In GR, GWs propagate at the speed of light and are non-dispersive. However, one can consider a more general dispersion relation...

$$E^2 = p^2 c^2 + A_\alpha p^\alpha c^\alpha$$

• Special case Massive graviton (A > 0), $\alpha = 0$ [Will 1998]. Current constraint $m_g \le 5 \times 10^{-23} \,\mathrm{eV}/c^2$.

• $\alpha = 2.5, 3, 5$ correspond to specific theories.

$$|A_{\alpha}|$$
 [peV^{2- α^{-1}]}



Tests of GW propagation: EM-GW comparison

- Arrival time difference between GWs & γ -rays.
 - Speed of GWs.
 - Test of the equivalence principle.
 - Tests of Lorentz violation.

Tight constraints on f(R)/scalar-tensor theories from the speed of GW measurement. 13

[ApJ 848:L13, 27 (2017)]

$$-3 \times 10^{-15} \leqslant \frac{\Delta v}{v_{\rm EM}} \leqslant +7 \times 10^{-16}$$

Fractional difference between speed of GWs & light

Tests of GW propagation: EM-GW comparison

• Arrival time difference between GWs & γ -rays.



Viable after GW170817

Non-viable after GW170817

[ApJ 848:L13, 27 (2017)]

$$-3 \times 10^{-15} \leqslant \frac{\Delta v}{v_{\rm EM}} \leqslant +7 \times 10^{-16}$$

eons [13, 14]
5]
ski [49]
ss-Bonnet [52]
LPV [18]
with
$$A_1 \neq 0$$

[23]

Tight constraints on f(R)/scalar-tensor theories from the speed of GW measurement.

Tests of GW propagation: EM-GW comparison

- Comparison of distance estimates from GW & EM observations.
 - If non-compact extra dimensions exist, GWs could leak into them, producing a systematic bias in the luminosity distance estimated from GW observations.



Nature of GW polarizations

• Generic metric theories of gravity allow up to six GW polarizations. Only two tensor modes are permitted in GR.



Nature of GW polarizations

- Generic metric theories of gravity allow up to six GW polarizations. Only two tensor modes are permitted in GR.
 - Current tests using CBC signals: A tensor-only model is preferred over scalar-only or vector-only model.
 - Similar possible constraints from CWs [Isi et al 2014] and stochastic background [Nishizawa 2009]

Future Better constraints with 5detector advanced network?







Evidence of quasi-normal modes

- Late stages of the post-merger signal from a BBH coalescence should be described by a QNM spectrum.
- Data following the peak of GW150914 consistent with the least-damped QNM inferred from the mass & spin of the remnant BH.



QNM decay time (ms)

[PRL 116, 221101 (2016)]

Evidence of quasi-normal modes

- Late stages of the post-merger signal from a BBH coalescence should be described by a QNM spectrum.
- Data following the peak of GW150914 consistent with the least-damped QNM inferred from the mass & spin of the remnant BH.
- Claims of a confident QNM detection considering multiple "overtones."

Future Tests of no-hair theorem based on the consistency of multiple QNMs [Dreyer et al 2003, Carullo et al 2018].



Evidence of (lack of) horizons: Echoes

• For an ultra compact object, BH horizon is replaced by a partly outgoing boundary condition.



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 - Modes (semi) trapped between the photon ring and the boundary can reach the outside observer, producing a series of echoes.



Evidence of (lack of) horizons: Echoes

- For an ultra compact object, BH horizon is replaced by a partly outgoing boundary condition.
 - Modes (semi) trapped between the photon ring and the boundary can reach the outside observer, producing a series of echoes.
- Claims of weak evidence in LIGO-Virgo events [Abedi et al 2016, Conklin et al 2017]. Contested by other groups [Westerweck et al 2018, Nielsen et al 2019]





er-Volkoff pfin-Induced deformations symmetri r several tidal field ind that, formabili rmability ment Q_{ij} to the ext

The coefficient λ is tidal Love number

The star's quadr tidal field \mathcal{E}_{ii} are de

Accurate modeling of GW signals in alternative theories

If accurate GW signal predictions are available in alternative theories, straightforward to do Bayesian model selection.

$$\frac{P(\mathcal{H}_{alt} \mid d)}{P(\mathcal{H}_{GR} \mid d)}$$

Several challenges (e.g. well-posedness of the initial value problem). Interesting new approaches in solving the problem, e.g., [Okounkova et al 2017]

Summary

- GW observations have enabled the first tests of GR in the highly relativistic, strong-field regime.
- In the absence of accurate signals predictions in alternative theories, current tests only
 probe the consistency of the data with GR.
- Interesting theoretical work in predicting GW signals from alternative theories and exotic objects.
- Considerable reduction statistical errors can be expected in near future. Soon, we will
 reach a regime where the error budget is dominated by systematic errors!