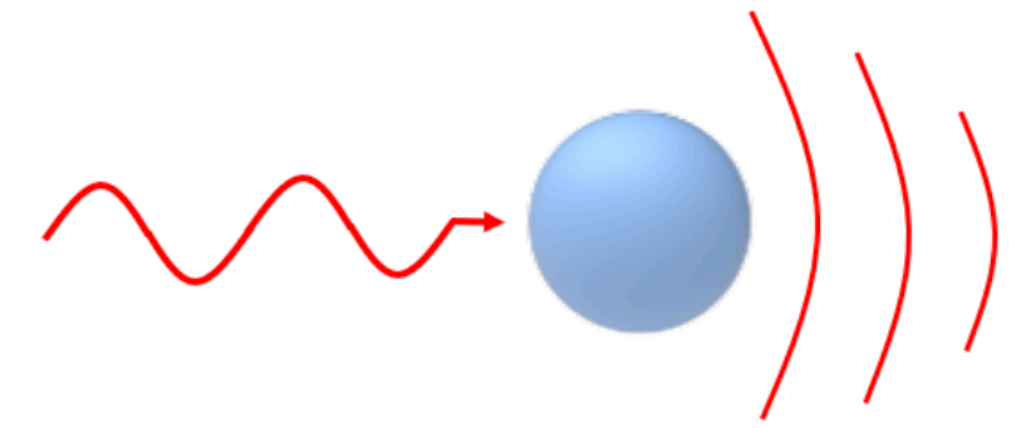


Καλώς ορίσατε!



Perturbative Solutions of Einstein's Equations: Recursive Techniques and Multipole Expansions

Tabasum Rahnuma

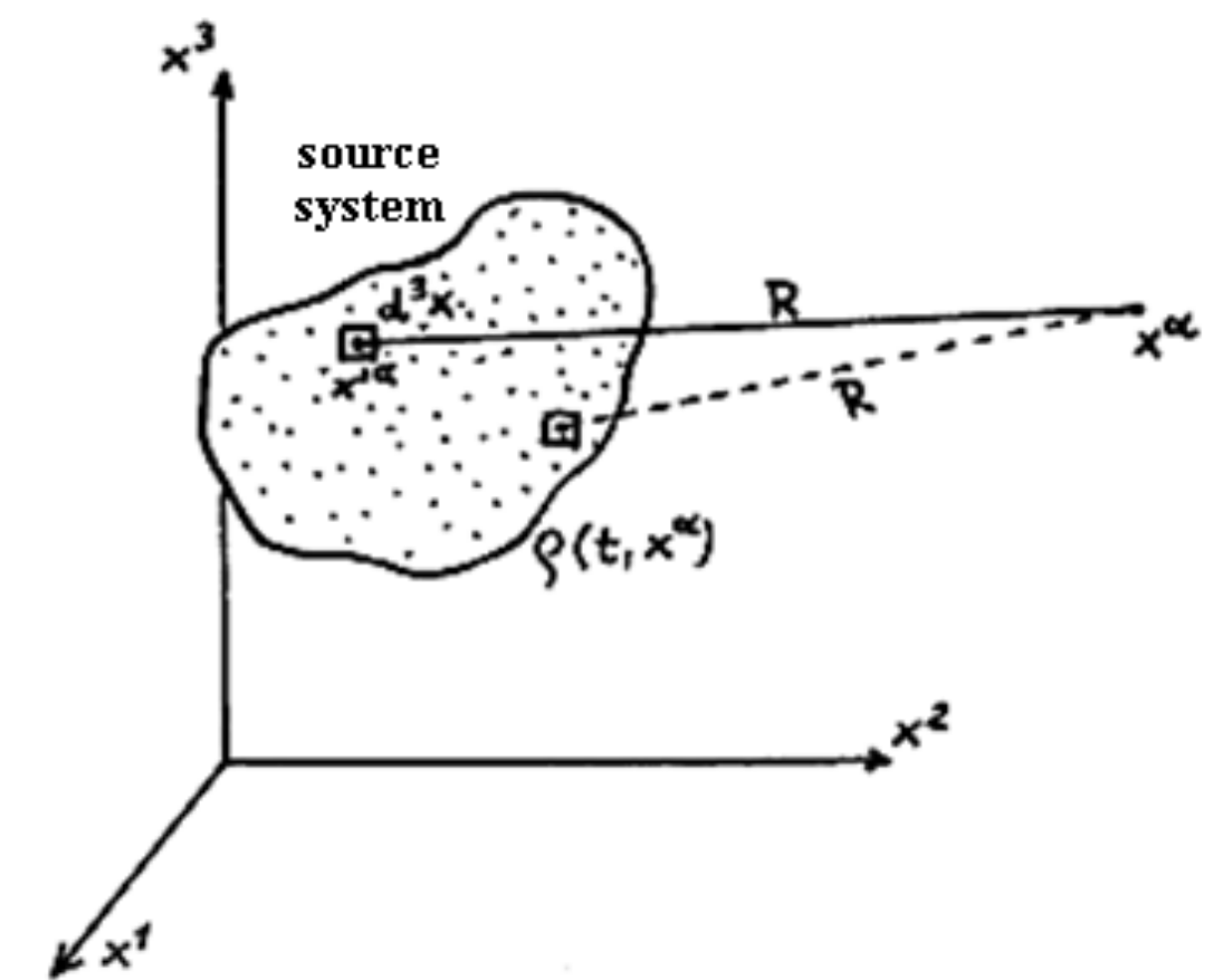
APCTP and Postech University, Pohang, South Korea

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APCPT, Pohang

28th August, 2025

Work in progress - in collaboration with Prof. Poul Henrik Damgaard and Prof. Kanghoon Lee

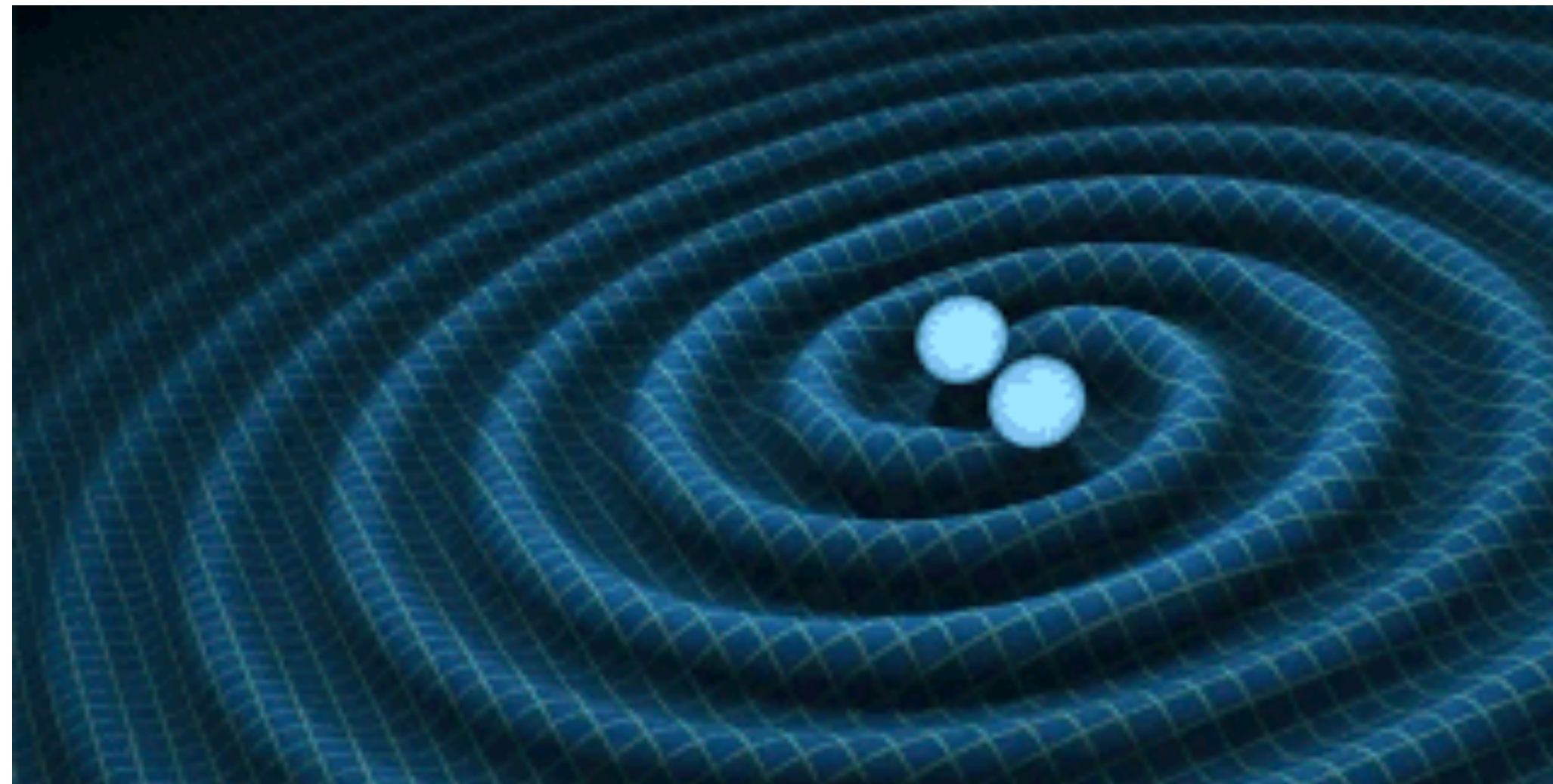


All gravitational waves, no matter how strong or weak, can be completely characterized by a set of multipole moments of the source.

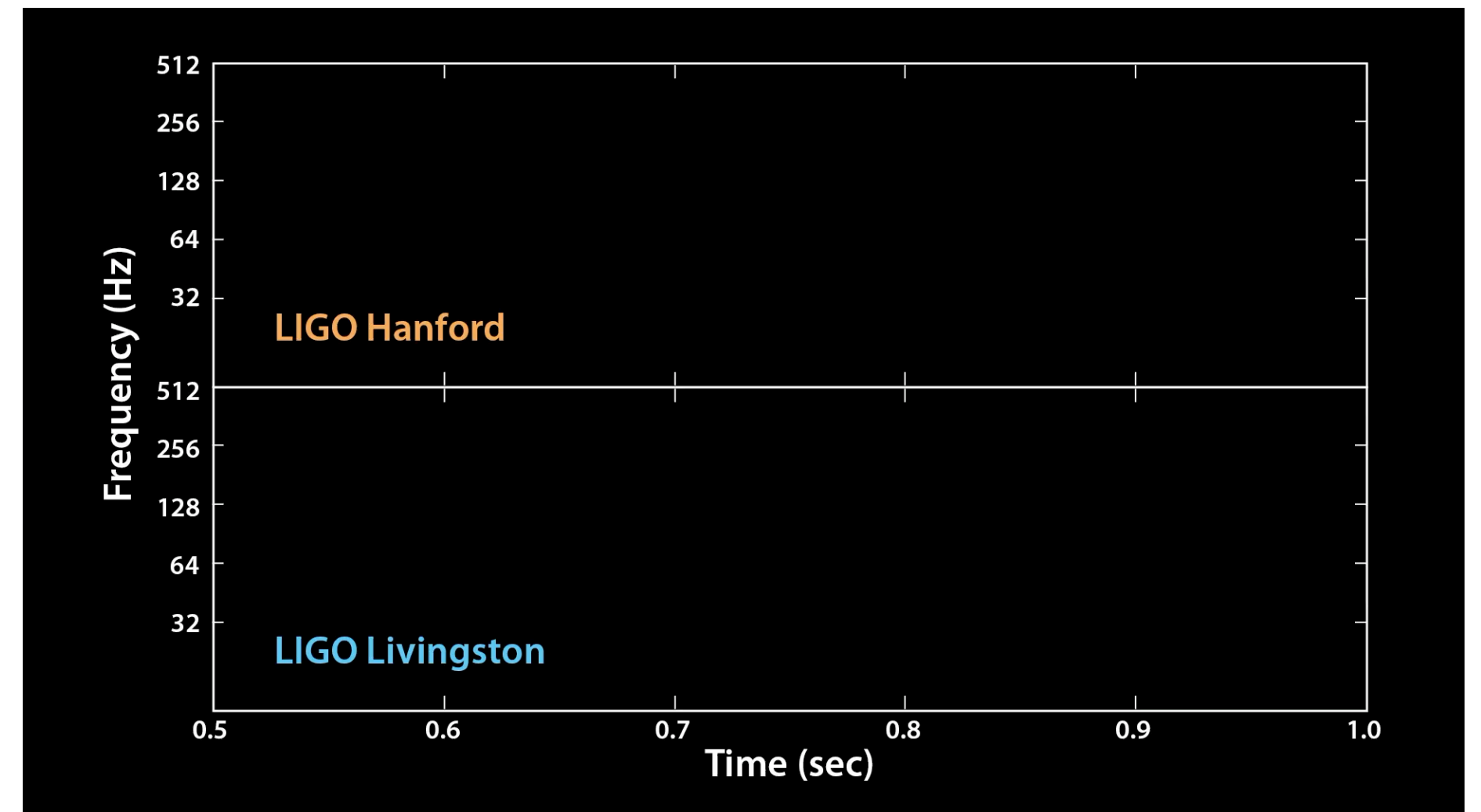
Outline

- ◆ Introduction and Motivation
- ◆ Multipolar Post-Minkowskian Expansion (MPM Formalism)
- ◆ Classical Perturbative Techniques in solving Gravity perturbatively
- ◆ Applications to Perturbative in MPM expansions for Stationary Sources
- ◆ Summary and Outlook

Music of the spheres to Gravitational waves ...



Animation Credit: LIGO

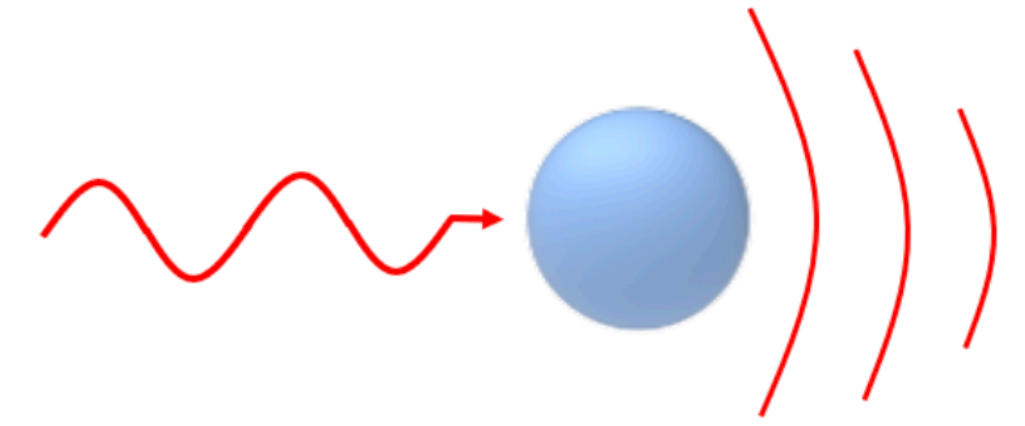


The Sound of Two Black holes colliding (On September 14, 2015)

Audio Credit: Caltech/MIT/LIGO Lab



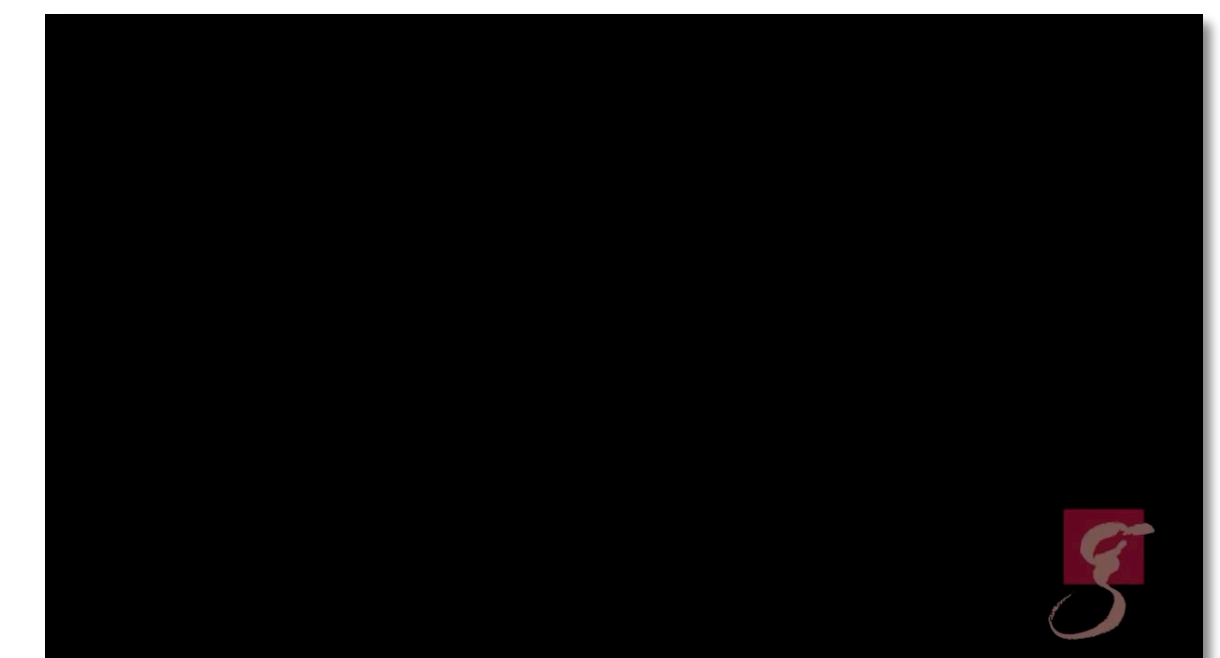
Why Multipole Expansions?



Studying gravitational multipoles gives us the language to connect source dynamics with the ripples we detect in spacetime.

- ◆ **Far-field simplification:** Einstein equations are nonlinear, but in the weak-field wave zone the field can be written as a superposition of multipole moments (spherical harmonics).
- ◆ **Source–radiation connection:** Links source dynamics to the radiation detected at infinity.
- ◆ **Universality:** Any isolated system (binaries, neutron stars, supernovae) can be described by *its multipole moments* $\{M_L, S_L\}$.
- ◆ **Observational relevance:** The detector-frame strain $h_+(t), h_\times(t)$ is a sum of (ℓ, m) modes, with higher multipoles encoding spins-induced moments, tidal deformations, and asymmetries, motivating their inclusion in LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA analyses and future LISA detectors.

$$g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{ext}} \longleftrightarrow \{M_L, S_L\}_{\ell=0}^{\infty}$$



Multipolar Post-Minkowskian Expansion (MPM)

[Blanchet, Damour, Iyer (1980-90)]

- Gravitational waveform is derived in expansion based on successive approximations in powers of G_N , namely **post-Minkowskian (PM)** expansion.

Weak Field + Any Velocity expansion

$$g^{\mu\nu}(x^\mu) := \sqrt{g} g^{\mu\nu} = \eta^{\mu\nu} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} G^n h_{(n)}^{\mu\nu}, \quad \dots \text{general gothic perturbation}$$

Expansion:
$$h^{\mu\nu} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} G^n h_{(n)}^{\mu\nu} [M_L, S_L]$$

$$M^L(t) = (-1)^\ell r^\ell \int d^3x T^{00}(t, \mathbf{x}) \hat{n}^L,$$

$$S^L(t) = \text{STF}_L \int d^3x \hat{x}_{L-1} \epsilon_{ijk} x^j T^{0k}$$

Mass and current as multipole moments

$\propto T^{\mu\nu}$ (Stress-energy tensor of matter)

Pseudo tensor for Gravitational field

$$h_{\mu\nu}(x) \sim \int d^4x' G(x-x') T_{\mu\nu}(x')$$

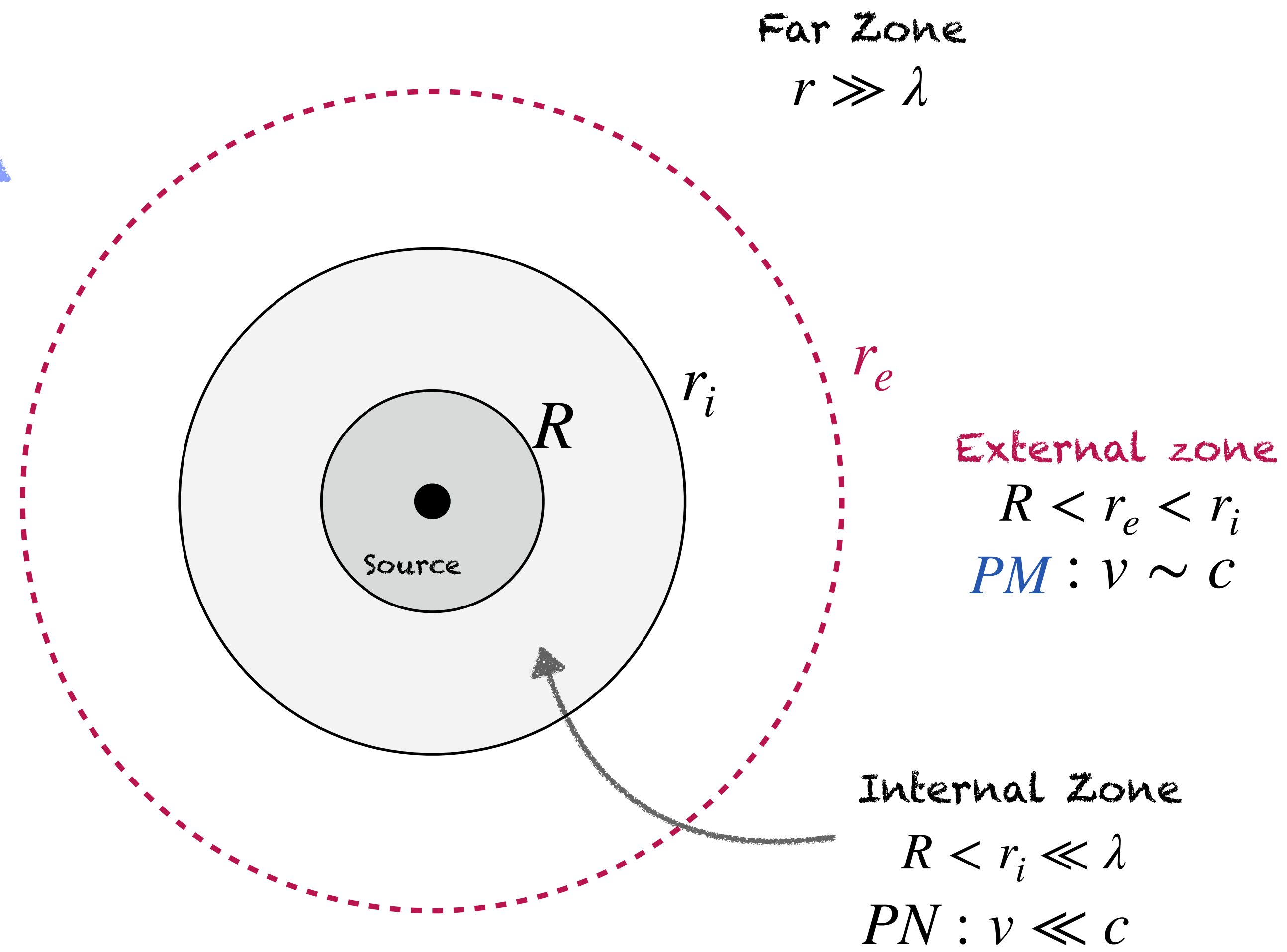
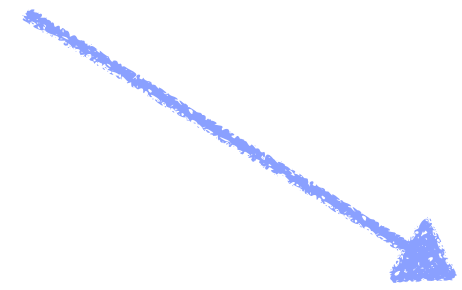
$$\frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^\ell}{\ell!} x'_L \partial_L \left(\frac{1}{r} \right)$$

$$\hat{n} = \frac{\hat{x}}{r}$$

- Exact Field Equation:
$$\square h^{\mu\nu} = -\frac{16\pi G}{c^4} (\tau^{\mu\nu} + t^{\mu\nu})$$

...solve it perturbatively in G

MPM Zones



Far Zone C External zone

MPM expansion for Stationary Sources

◆ **PM** expansion:
$$h^{\mu\nu} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} G^n h_{(n)}^{\mu\nu} [M_L, S_L], \quad \tau^{\alpha\beta} = T^{\alpha\beta} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} G^n \tau_{(nPM)}^{\alpha\beta}, \quad t^{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} G^n t_{(nPM)}^{\alpha\beta}$$

◆ Expand the EOM in powers of G and solve iteratively:

$$\begin{aligned} \square h_{(1PM)}^{\alpha\beta} &= -\frac{16\pi}{c^4} T^{\alpha\beta}, \\ \square h_{(2PM)}^{\alpha\beta} &= -\frac{16\pi}{c^4} \left(\tau_{(1PM)}^{\alpha\beta} + t_{(1PM)}^{\alpha\beta} \right), \\ &\vdots \\ \square h_{(nPM)}^{\alpha\beta} &= -\frac{16\pi}{c^4} \left(\tau_{((n-1)PM)}^{\alpha\beta} + t_{((n-1)PM)}^{\alpha\beta} \right). \end{aligned}$$

$\underbrace{\{M_L, S_L\}}_{= \text{const}}$

◆ **1PM** Solution in terms of multipoles of Stationary Sources:

$$h^{(1)00} = 4G \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\ell!} \partial_L \frac{M_L}{r}, \quad h^{(1)0i} = -4G \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ell}{(\ell+1)!} \epsilon_{iab} \partial_{aL-1} \frac{S_{bL-1}}{r}, \quad h^{(1)ij} = 0$$

Perturbative Expansion → Recursion Pipeline

[Rosly, Selivanov(1996-98)]

...in search of approximate methods to solve Einstein Equation by means of power series expansion

- ◆ Due to the complexity of gravitational Feynman rules, deriving recursion relations from diagrams is impractical; instead, the *Perturbative expansion* provides a powerful framework for constructing off-shell recursions (**Berends Giele Recursion**).

Sum over ordered set of external particles

[Berends, Giele (1988)]

$$\Phi^A(x) = \sum_P J^A(P) e^{ik_P \cdot x}; \quad k_P = \sum_{i \in P} k_i \quad \leftarrow \text{Perturbative Ansatz}$$

Says, how particles combine through interactions to behave like one off-shell particle carrying momentum k_P

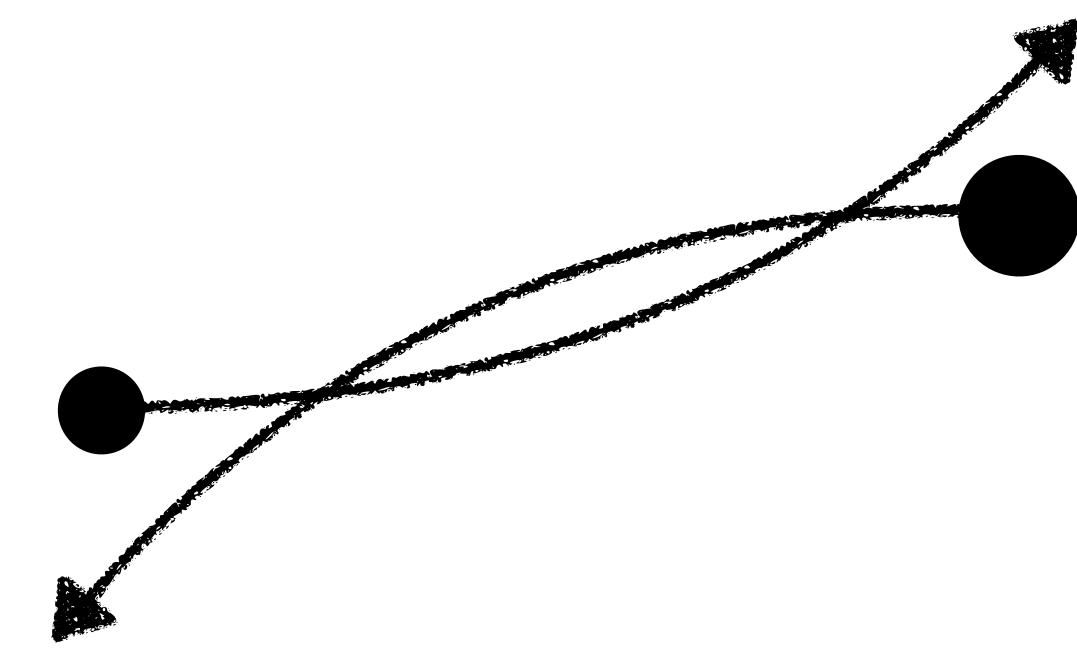
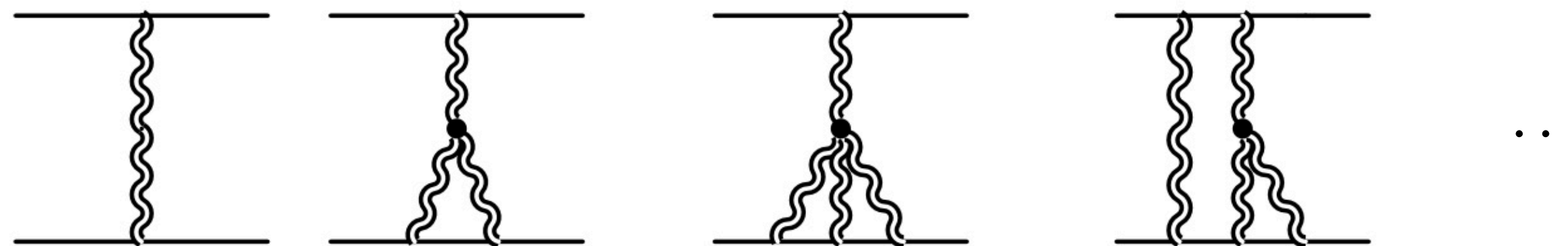
- ◆ Plug in the ansatz in the EOM: $K_{AB} \Phi^B = \mathcal{N}_A(\Phi) \longrightarrow K_{AB}(ik_P) J^B(P) = \sum_{P=P_1 \cup P_2 \dots \cup P_m} \underbrace{\mathcal{V}_{A;B_1 \dots B_m}(K_{P_1} \dots K_{P_m})}_{\text{Momentum space vertex}} J^{B_1}(P_1) \dots J^{B_m}(P_m)$

- ◆ Inverting K gives recursion: $J^A(P) = \underbrace{[K(ik_P)]^{-1}}_{\text{Propagator}}{}^{AB} \sum_{P=P_1 \cup P_2 \dots \cup P_m} \mathcal{V}_{A;B_1 \dots B_m}(K_{P_1} \dots K_{P_m}) J^{B_1}(P_1) \dots J^{B_m}(P_m)$

Application to Perturbative Gravity

- ◆ Perturbative fits well with the PM expansion in gravity. Complexity arises in expanding the Einstein-Hilbert action beyond leading order in coupling G_N .

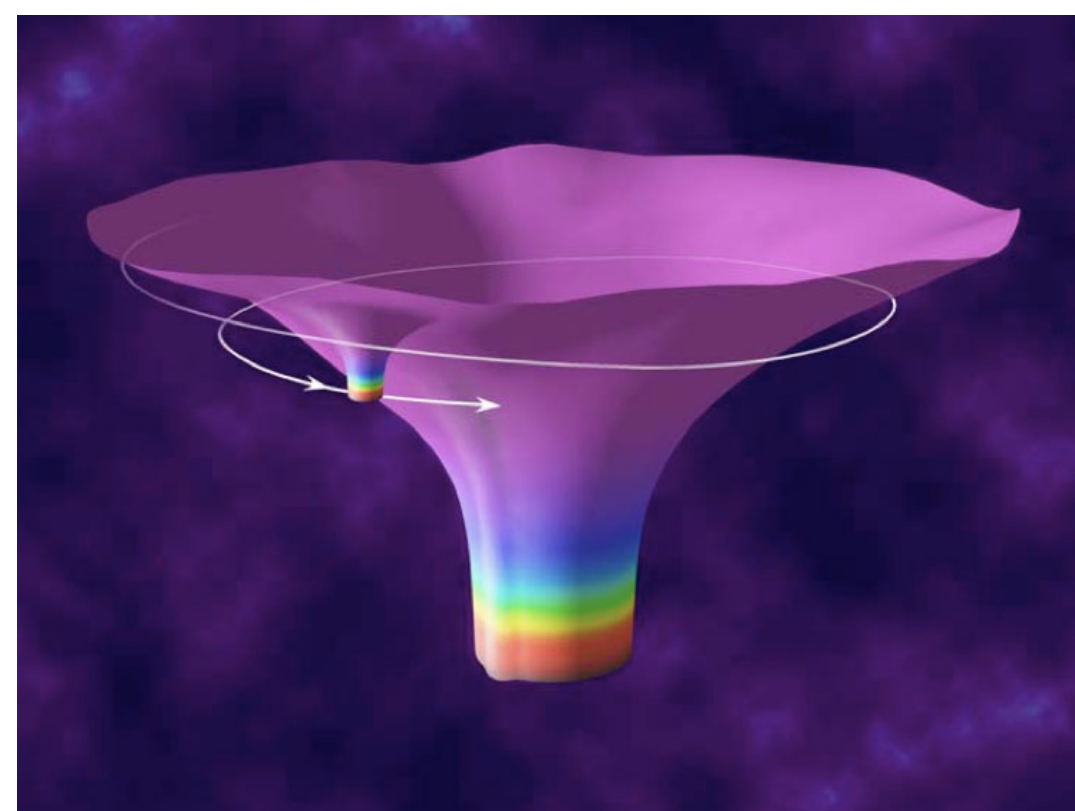
$\mathcal{O}(G^n) \equiv nPM :$



Recent state-of-the-art shows the 5PM 1SF result, which took **several thousand computing hours** in clusters...

...in short, we need to compute loops efficiently!

- ◆ The overwhelming complexity of perturbative gravity is solved using the iterative systematics of perturbative expansions of gravitational EOM combined with the *recursive structure of iterative loop integrals*.



Credit: LIGO

- Perturbative approach provides a natural framework for EMRIs (Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals)-key source for LISA.
- Simplification for the relativistic two-body problem.

MPM Expansion using Classical Perturbiner

Classical Perturbiner solves classical Einstein equation of motion recursively to all orders in perturbation theory!

[Damgaard, Lee (PRL 2024)]

Solutions of classical EOM $\xleftrightarrow{\text{Classical Perturbiner Method}}$ Metric for a source of matter with the full multipole structure

$$h_{(n)}^{\mu\nu} [M_L, S_L] \equiv \int_{\mathcal{L}} e^{i\ell \cdot x} \underbrace{\mathcal{J}_{(n)|\ell}^{\mu\nu} [M_L, S_L]}_{\text{Off-shell Graviton Current}} \leftarrow \text{Perturbiner Ansatz}$$

(classical) loop integrations have to be performed when we calculate the J -currents!

- ◆ Metric perturbation for one body at rest with full multipole structure in harmonic coordinates at **1PM** is given by,

$$h^{(1)00} = 4G \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\ell!} \partial_L \frac{M_L}{r}, \quad h^{(1)0i} = -4G \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \frac{\ell}{(\ell+1)!} \epsilon_{iab} \partial_{aL-1} \frac{S_{bL-1}}{r}, \quad h^{(1)ij} = 0 \quad \square h_{(1PM)}^{\alpha\beta} = -16\pi T^{\alpha\beta}$$

...will be initial conditions for Recursions

MPM Expansion of stationary metric at 2PM

$$h_{(n)}^{\mu\nu} [M_L, S_L] \equiv \int_{\mathcal{V}} e^{i\ell \cdot x} \mathcal{J}_{(n)|\ell}^{\mu\nu} [M_L, S_L]$$

Here, we consider expansions to the mass quadrupole term $\ell = 0, 2$ ($\because M_a = 0$),

$$\square h_{(1PM)}^{\alpha\beta} = -16\pi T^{\alpha\beta}$$

$$h^{(1)00} = 4\frac{GM}{r} + 6\frac{a^2 GM_{ab}}{r^3} \hat{n}_{ab} \implies \mathcal{J}_{(1)|k}^{00} = \int_x \left(4\frac{GM}{r} + 6\frac{GM_{ab}}{r^3} \hat{n}_{ab} \right) e^{-ik \cdot x} = 16\pi G \left(\frac{M}{|k|^2} - \frac{M_{ab} \hat{k}^a \hat{k}^b}{2|k|^2} \right); \mathcal{J}_{(1)|k}^{ij} = 0$$

$$h^{(1)0i} = -2G\epsilon_{iab} n^a \frac{S^b}{r^2} \implies \mathcal{J}_{(1)|-k}^{0i} = -i\epsilon_{iab} \frac{8\pi G S^b k^a}{|k|^2}$$

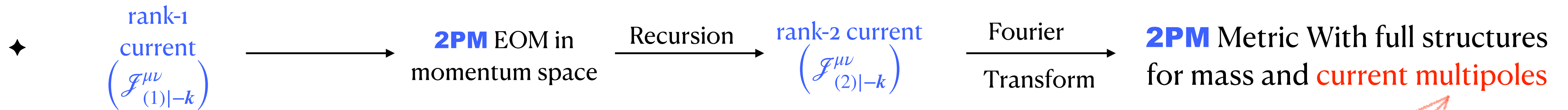
◆ 2PM EOM: $\square h_{(2PM)}^{\alpha\beta} = -\frac{16\pi}{c^4} \left(\tau_{(1PM)}^{\alpha\beta} + t_{(1PM)}^{\alpha\beta} \right)$

$$\partial^2 h_{(2)}^{00} = \frac{7}{8} \partial_i h_{(1)}^{00} \partial_i h_{(1)}^{00} + \frac{5}{4} h_{(1)}^{00} \partial^2 h_{(1)}^{00} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_i h_{(1)}^{0j} \partial_i h_{(1)}^{0j} - \frac{3}{2} \partial_i h_{(1)}^{0j} \partial_j h_{(1)}^{0i} - h_{(1)}^{0i} \partial^2 h_{(1)}^{0i}$$

Recursive EOM in terms of currents

$$\mathcal{J}_{(2)|-k_1}^{00} = \frac{1}{|k_1|^2} \int_{k_2} \left[-\frac{7}{8} \mathbf{k}_{12} \cdot \mathbf{k}_2 + \frac{5}{4} |\mathbf{k}_2|^2 \right] \mathcal{J}_{(1)|-k_{12}}^{00} \mathcal{J}_{(1)|k_2}^{00} + \left[\left(\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{k}_{12} \cdot \mathbf{k}_2 - |\mathbf{k}_2|^2 \right) \mathcal{J}_{(1)|-k_{12}}^{0i} \mathcal{J}_{(1)|k_2}^{0i} + \frac{3}{2} k_2^i k_{12}^j \mathcal{J}_{(1)|-k_{12}}^{0i} \mathcal{J}_{(1)|k_2}^{0j} \right]$$

Results: Multipoles at 2PM and higher



$$h_{(2PM)}^{00} = \frac{7G^2 M^2}{r^2} + 21 \frac{G^2 M M_{ab}}{r^4} \hat{n}_{ab} + \frac{G^2}{r^6} \left(\frac{63}{4} M_{ab} M_{cd} \hat{n}^{abcd} + 9 M_{ab} M_{cb} \hat{n}^{ac} + \frac{21}{10} M_{ab} M_{ab} \right) - \frac{5G^2 S^2}{3 r^4} + \frac{7G^2 S^a S^b}{r^4} \hat{n}^{ab}$$

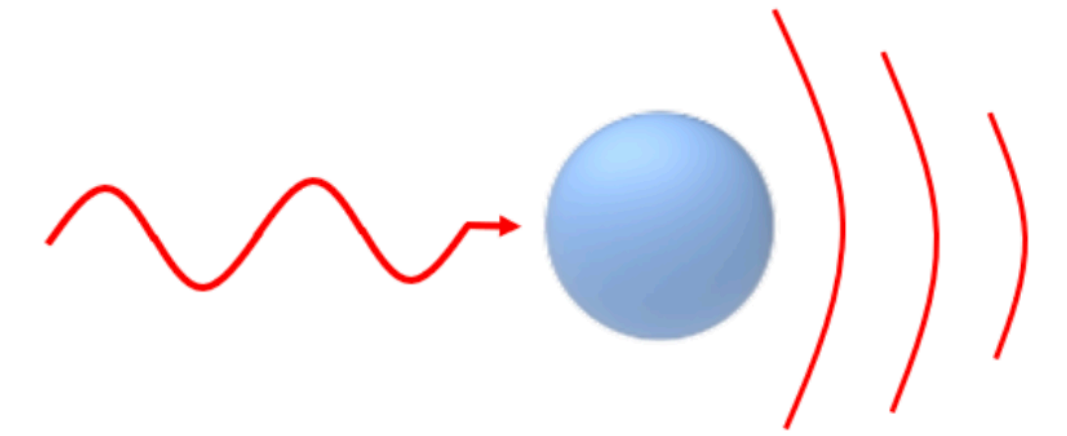
$$h_{(2PM)}^{0i} = G^2 \left[8M \epsilon_{iab} S^b \frac{n^a}{r^3} + \frac{3}{2} M_{cd} \epsilon_{iab} S^b \frac{\hat{n}^{acd}}{r^5} + \frac{21}{10} M_{cd} \epsilon_{icb} S^b \frac{n^d}{r^5} + \frac{1}{2} M_{ij} \epsilon_{jab} S^b \frac{n^a}{r^5} \right]$$

$$h_{(2PM)}^{ij} = G^2 \left[\frac{M^2}{r^2} \left(\hat{n}^{ij} + \frac{1}{3} \eta^{ij} \right) + \frac{M}{r^4} \left(\frac{15}{2} M^{ab} \hat{n}_{ab}^{ij} - \frac{12}{7} M^{a(i} \hat{n}_a^{j)} + \frac{11}{7} \eta^{ij} M_{ab} \hat{n}^{ab} \right) + \dots \right]$$

$$+ \frac{1}{r^4} \left(\frac{9}{2} \hat{n}^{ijab} S_a S_b - \hat{n}^{cd} S^a S^b \epsilon_{ac}^{(i} \epsilon_{bd}^{j)} + \frac{1}{7} \eta^{ij} \hat{n}^{ab} S_a S_b + \frac{32}{7} S^a \hat{n}_a^{(i} S^{j)} - \frac{S^i S^j}{15} - S^2 \left(\frac{20}{7} \hat{n}^{ij} + \frac{1}{5} \eta^{ij} \right) \right)$$

Long expressions of Mass quadrupole terms [Blanchet (1998)]

Towards Fully Multipolar Post-Minkowskian Gravity



New Recursive Formalism

- ◆ Solves Classical EOMs recursively
- ◆ MPM using this formalism incorporates **Current-multipole** structures at 2PM completely
- ◆ Valid up to **all orders** of multipoles
- ◆ Spin effects handled cleanly and systematically

Applications

- ◆ Lays foundation for a **fully time-dependent MPM expansion**
- ◆ Matching to all-order perturbed **Kerr metric** in harmonic gauge*
- ◆ Building a complete and systematic radiation zone metric
- ◆ Matching to EFT Wilson Coefficients.

**work in progress*

감사합니다 and Dhanyabad!