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Numerical simulations and analytical modeling of precessing binary black holes

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Advanced Gravitational Wave Detectors like Advanced-LIGO are expected to commence searches for gravitational waves as early as 2015. One of the prime sources for these instruments is the in spiral and coalescence of binary black holes. Numerical simulations of binary black holes play an integral role in this effort, and have matured now sufficiently to begin to address the most general case of spinning, precessing binary black holes. In this talk, I will describe recent successes of the SXS collaboration (CITA, Caltech, Cornell) to numerically simulate these systems, and to analytically model the resulting gravitational waveforms.

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