Systematic biases on parameterized test of GR due to neglect of orbital eccentricity

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Test of general relativity with gravitational waves

- Gravitational waves probe the dynamical, strong-field regime of gravity.
- Curvature is at least four orders of magnitude larger for GW events than for binary pulsar.

Sathyaprakash+2019







• In post-Newtonian theory, inspiral phase is expressed as a series in v/c

$$\Phi(\mathbf{v}) = \left(\frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{c}}\right)^{-5} \left[\varphi_{-2}\left(\frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{c}}\right)^{-2} + \varphi_0 + \varphi_2\left(\frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{c}}\right)^2 + \dots + \varphi_{51}\ln\left(\frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{c}}\right)\left(\frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{c}}\right)^5 + \dots + \varphi_7\left(\frac{\mathbf{v}}{\mathbf{c}}\right)^7\right]$$
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• In parameterized test, non-GR deviations are introduced at each PN order.

$$\varphi_{i} \rightarrow \varphi_{i} \left(1 + \delta \hat{\varphi}_{i} \right)$$

$$\tag{2}$$

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Arun+2006, Yunes+2009, Li+2011

2/12

Current status of parameterized test



GWTC-3: 90% upper bounds on the fractional deviations with respect to their GR value.

Abbott+2021

Eccentricity as a function of GW frequency

- Eccentricity is a sharply decreasing function of gravitational wave frequency
- $\bullet \ \ \, e_t \ / \ \, e_0 \sim \big(f \ / \ \, f_0 \big)^{-19 \ / \ 18}.$
- Current gravitational searches employ quasi-circular waveform



Astrophysical expectations of eccentric BBHs

- Dynamical formation of compact binaries can lead to non-negligible eccentricity when they enter the frequency band of ground based detectors (Samsing+2018, Rodriguez+2018, Antonini+2014).
- Using circular waveform for parameter estimation, may lead to significant systematic bias.
- Systematic bias on deformation parameters may mimic deviations from GR.



Star cluster Messier 15

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• $\Delta \theta_{\rm a}$ can be approximated by the following expression (Cutler and Vallisneri (2007))

$$\Delta \theta_{\rm a} \approx \Sigma^{\rm ab} \left[\left(\Delta \mathcal{A}^{\rm ecc} + i \ \mathcal{A}_{\rm AP} \ \Delta \Psi^{\rm ecc} \right) \ e^{i\Psi_{\rm AP}} \ \left| \ \partial_{\rm b} \widetilde{\rm h}_{\rm AP} \right] \right] \tag{6}$$

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• We use TaylorF2Ecc waveform model.

$$\Psi(\mathbf{f}) = 2\pi \mathbf{f} \mathbf{t}_{c} + \phi_{c} + \frac{3}{128\eta v^{5}} \left(\Delta \Psi_{3.5\mathrm{PN}}^{\mathrm{circ}} + \Delta \Psi_{3\mathrm{PN}}^{\mathrm{ecc}} \right)$$
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• The structure of $\Delta \Psi_{3PN}^{ecc}$ can be seen from the following expression (Blake Moore et al. (2016))

$$\begin{split} \Delta\Psi_{\rm 3PN}^{\rm ecc} &= -\frac{2355}{1462} \,\, {\rm e}_0^2 \left(\frac{{\rm v}_0}{{\rm v}}\right)^{19/3} \Biggl[1 + \left(\frac{299076223}{81976608} + \frac{18766963}{2927736} \eta\right) {\rm v}^2 + \left(\frac{2833}{1008} - \frac{197}{36} \eta\right) {\rm v}_0^2 \\ &- \frac{2819123}{282600} \pi {\rm v}^3 + \frac{377}{72} \pi {\rm v}_0^3 + \ldots {\rm O}({\rm v}^6) \Biggr] \qquad \qquad \text{where} \ \, {\rm v}_0 = (\pi {\rm Mf}_0)^{1/3} \end{split}$$

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• The waveform is valid in the small eccentricity limit $e_0 \sim 0.2$.

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- Sources are fixed at a luminosity distance of 500 Mpc with mass ratio 1:2.
- Initial eccentricity is defined at a reference frequency of 10 Hz.

Results: Systematic and Statistical errors



Results: Systematic and statistical errors in aLIGO



Results: Systematic and statistical errors in Cosmic Explorer



- A fraction of the BBHs may have non-negligible eccentricity while observed by GW detectors.
- Systematic bias on non-GR deviations exceeds statistical errors at $e_o\sim4\times10^{-2}$ at 10Hz for $M=15~M_{\odot}$ in aLIGO band.
- For CE, systematic bias dominates at very low eccentricity $\sim 5\times$ 10^{-3} at 10 Hz.
- Eccentricity induced systematic bias on non-GR modifications may mimic deviation from GR.