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Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali

Problem of motion in GR & post-Newtonian theory

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Kepler's three laws [1609 & 1619]



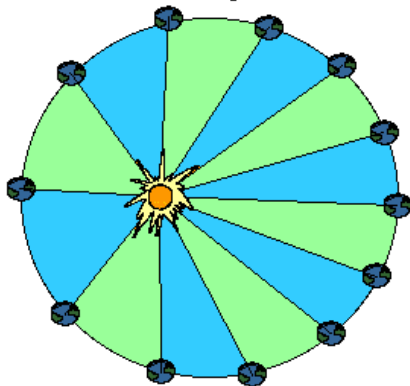
- ① Law of Ellipses
- ② Law of Equal Areas

$$\ell = u - e \sin u \quad (\text{Kepler's equation})$$

- ③ Law of Harmonies

$$\frac{P^2}{a^3} = \text{constant}$$

The Law of Equal Areas



An imaginary line drawn from the sun to any planet sweeps out equal areas in equal amounts of time.

Newton's universal law of gravitation [1687]

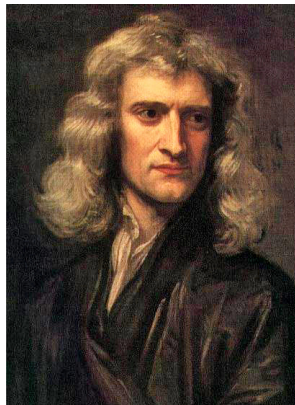
- Newton's gravitational law

$$\frac{d^2 \mathbf{r}_A}{dt^2} = - \sum_{B \neq A} \frac{G m_B}{r_{AB}^2} \mathbf{n}_{AB}$$

- Poisson's equation

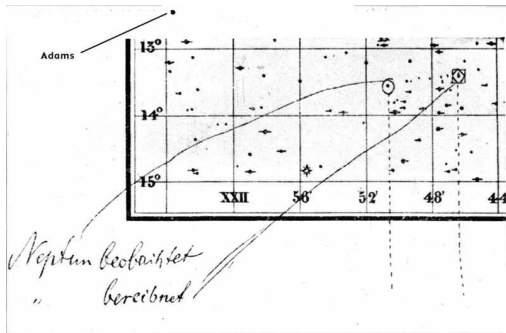
$$\Delta U = -4\pi G \rho$$

- Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formalisms
- Celestial mechanics and perturbation theory
- Non integrability of the three body problem
- Ergodicity and theory of chaotic systems
- Problem of the stability of the Solar System
- ...

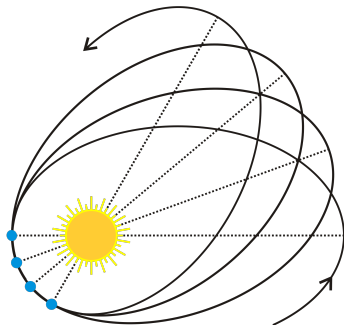


The triumph of Newtonian mechanics

Le Verrier [1846] predicts the position of the planet Neptune

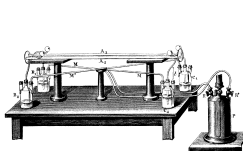
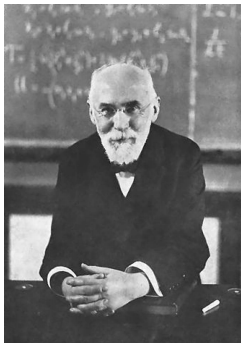


Mercury's periastron precession [Le Verrier 1859]

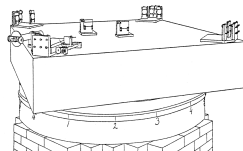


- Planet Vulcain located between Sun and Mercury?
- Presence of a ring of dust particles located in the ecliptic plane?
- Modification of Newton's law $1/r^2 \rightarrow 1/r^\alpha$?

Special relativity's revolution [1905]



[Fizeau 1851]



[Michelson & Morley 1887]

Einstein's equivalence principle [1911]



- ① **Weak equivalence principle.** All test bodies have the same acceleration in a gravitational field, independently of their mass and internal structure

$$m_i = m_g$$

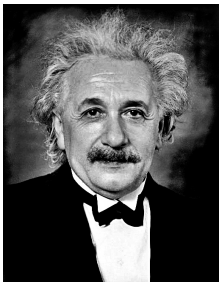
- ② **Local Lorentz invariance.** The result of any non gravitational experiment performed in a freely falling frame is independent of the velocity of the frame
- ③ **Local position invariance.** The result of any non gravitational experiment in a freely falling frame is independent of the position in space and time

EEP is equivalent to a universal coupling of matter to the metric [Will 1993]

$$g_{\mu\nu}$$

which reduces to the Minkowski metric $\eta_{\alpha\beta}$ in freely falling frames

GR: the perfect theory [Einstein, November 1915]



[Einstein & Grossmann 1912]

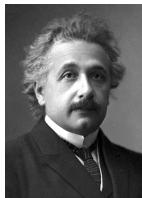
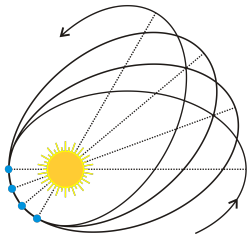


[Hilbert 1915]

$$S_{\text{GR}} = \underbrace{\frac{c^3}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R}_{\text{Einstein-Hilbert action}} + \underbrace{S_{\text{m}}[g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi]}_{\text{matter fields}}$$

- Field equations imply by **Bianchi's identity** the matter equation of motion
- General covariance implies at linear order the **gauge invariance** of a massless spin-2 field (the “graviton”)
- System of equations is a well-posed problem (“**problème bien posé**”) in the sense of Hadamard [Choquet-Bruhat 1952]

Mercury's abnormal precession explained [1915]



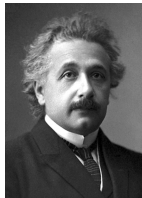
- ① First relativistic corrections to Newtonian gravity imply

$$\Delta\omega = \frac{6\pi G M_{\odot}}{c^2 a(1-e^2)} \left(\frac{2+2\gamma-\beta}{3} \right) + 3\pi J_2 \left(\frac{R_{\odot}}{a(1-e^2)} \right)^2$$
$$= 43''/\text{century} \left[\frac{2+2\gamma-\beta}{3} + 2 \cdot 10^{-4} \left(\frac{J_2}{10^{-7}} \right) \right]$$

- ② PPN parameters ($\gamma = \beta = 1$ in GR) [Eddington 1922, Nordtvedt 1968, Will 1972]

- γ measures the spatial curvature
- β measures the amount of non-linearity

Einstein's quadrupole formula [1916]



- ① The GW amplitude is given by the first quadrupole formula

$$h_{ij}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{2G}{c^4 r} \left[\frac{d^2 Q_{ij}}{dt^2} \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) \right]^{\text{TT}} + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{1}{r^2} \right)$$

- ② The total GW energy flux is given by the Einstein quadrupole formula

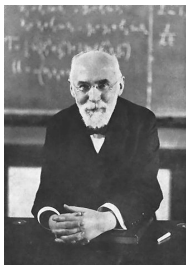
$$\left(\frac{dE}{dt} \right)^{\text{GW}} = \frac{G}{5c^5} \frac{d^3 Q_{ij}}{dt^3} \frac{d^3 Q_{ij}}{dt^3}$$

- ③ The radiation reaction force is given by the third quadrupole formula

[Chandrasekhar & Esposito 1970; Burke & Thorne 1971]

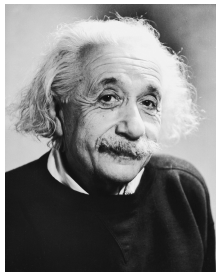
$$\mathcal{F}_i^{\text{RR}} = \frac{2G}{5c^5} \rho x^j \frac{d^5 Q_{ij}}{dt^5}$$

Post-Newtonian equations of motion [Lorentz & Droste 1917]



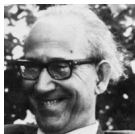
- Obtain the equations of motion of N bodies at the $1\text{PN} \sim (v/c)^2$ order
- Even derive the 1PN Lagrangian!

Einstein-Infeld-Hoffmann equations [1938]



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2 \mathbf{r}_A}{dt^2} = & - \sum_{B \neq A} \frac{Gm_B}{r_{AB}^2} \mathbf{n}_{AB} \left[1 - 4 \sum_{C \neq A} \frac{Gm_C}{c^2 r_{AC}} - \sum_{D \neq B} \frac{Gm_D}{c^2 r_{BD}} \left(1 - \frac{\mathbf{r}_{AB} \cdot \mathbf{r}_{BD}}{r_{BD}^2} \right) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{c^2} \left(\mathbf{v}_A^2 + 2\mathbf{v}_B^2 - 4\mathbf{v}_A \cdot \mathbf{v}_B - \frac{3}{2}(\mathbf{v}_B \cdot \mathbf{n}_{AB})^2 \right) \right] \\ & + \sum_{B \neq A} \frac{Gm_B}{c^2 r_{AB}^2} \mathbf{v}_{AB} [\mathbf{n}_{AB} \cdot (3\mathbf{v}_B - 4\mathbf{v}_A)] - \frac{7}{2} \sum_{B \neq A} \sum_{D \neq B} \frac{G^2 m_B m_D}{c^2 r_{AB} r_{BD}^3} \mathbf{n}_{BD} \end{aligned}$$

Post-Newtonian theory developing [1930s to 1970s]

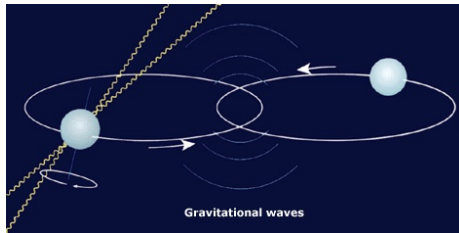
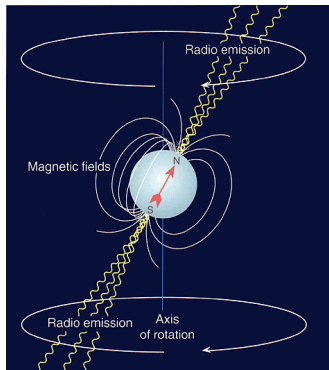


[Fock 1939; Papapetrou 1951; Chandrasekhar 1965; Ehlers 1976; Thorne 1975; Will 1972; Damour 1980]

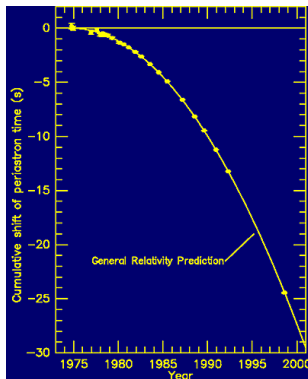
The binary pulsar PSR 1913+16



[Hulse & Taylor 1974]



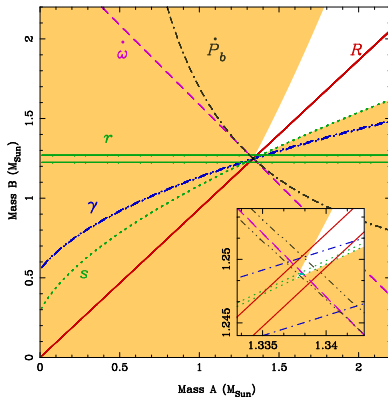
Orbital decay of the binary pulsar [Taylor & Weisberg 1982]



$$\dot{P} = -\frac{192\pi}{5c^5} \frac{\mu}{M} \left(\frac{2\pi G M}{P} \right)^{5/3} \frac{1 + \frac{73}{24}e^2 + \frac{37}{96}e^4}{(1 - e^2)^{7/2}} \approx -2.4 \times 10^{-12}$$

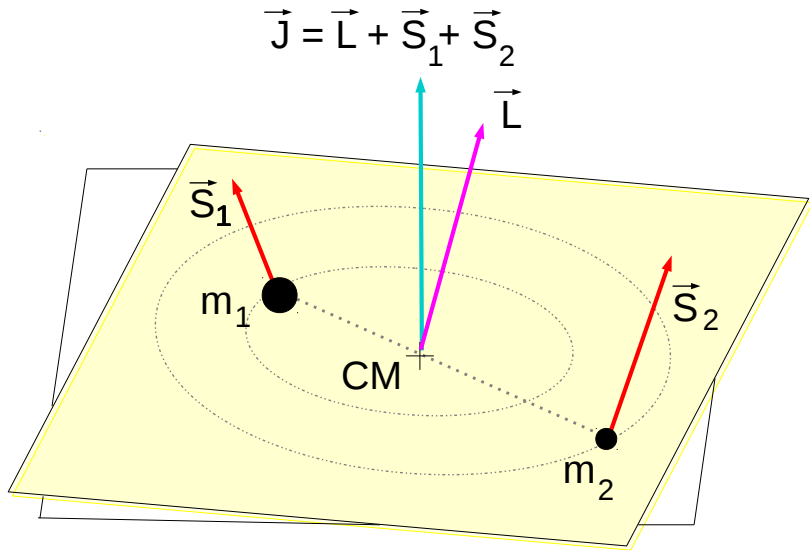
[Peters & Mathews 1963, Esposito & Harrison 1975; Wagoner 1975; Damour & Deruelle 1983]

30 years of GR effects in binary pulsars [e.g. Stairs 2003]

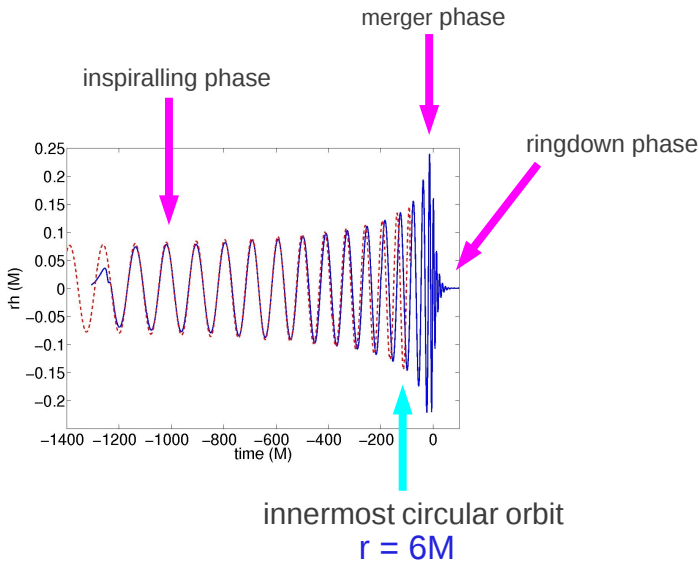


- ① $\dot{\omega}$ relativistic advance of periastron
- ② γ gravitational red-shift and second-order Doppler effect
- ③ r and s range and shape of the Shapiro time delay
- ④ $\dot{P}$ secular decrease of orbital period

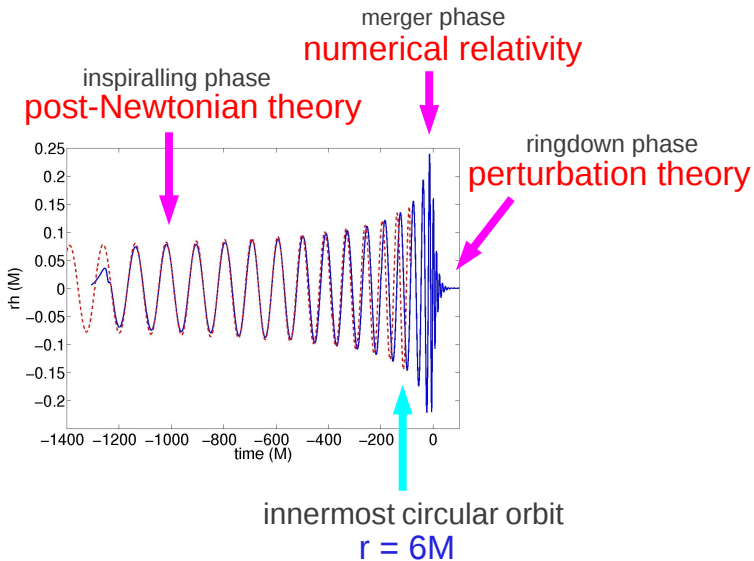
Modelling the compact binary inspiral



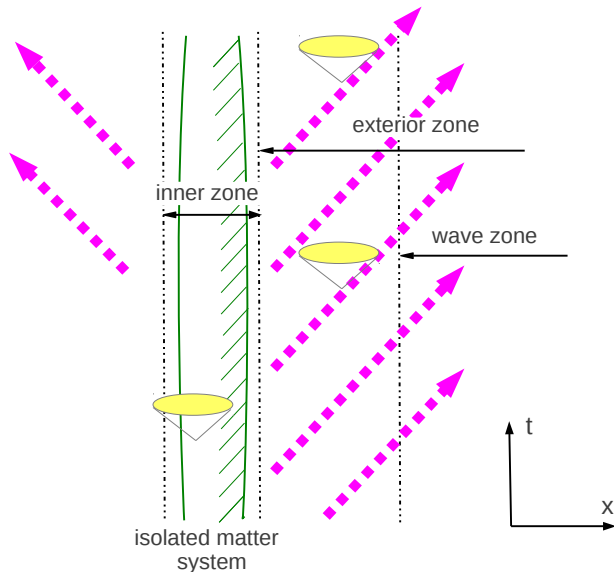
The gravitational chirp of compact binaries



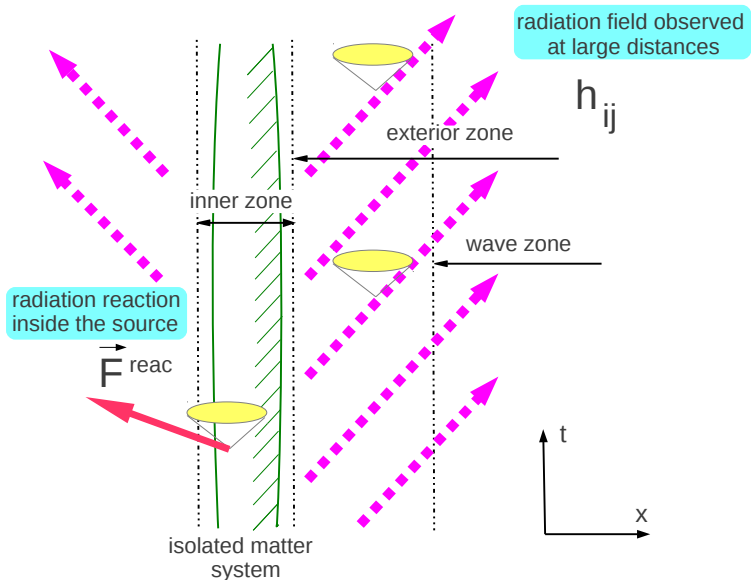
The gravitational chirp of compact binaries



Isolated matter system in general relativity



Isolated matter system in general relativity



Isolated matter system in general relativity

1 Generation problem

- What is the gravitational radiation field generated in a detector at large distances from the source?

2 Propagation problem

- Solve the propagation effects of gravitational waves from the source to the detector, including non-linear effects

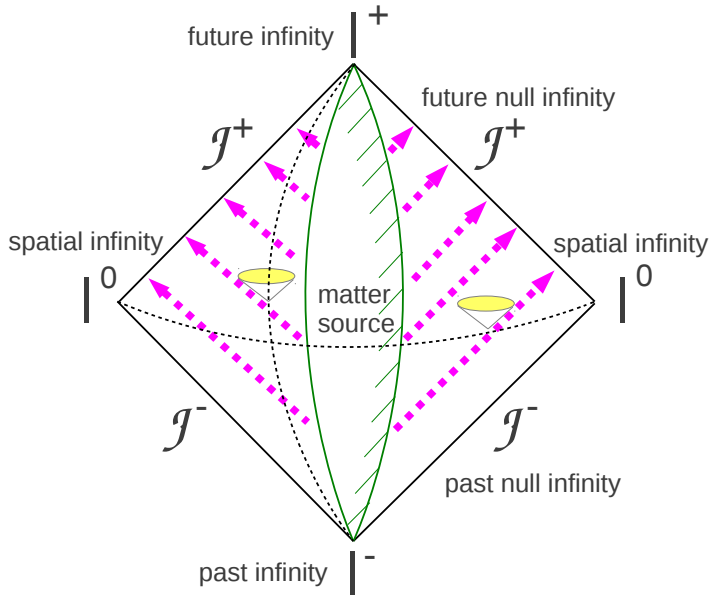
3 Motion problem

- Obtain the equations of motion of the matter source including all conservative non-linear effects

4 Reaction problem

- Obtain the dissipative radiation reaction forces inside the source in reaction to the emission of gravitational waves

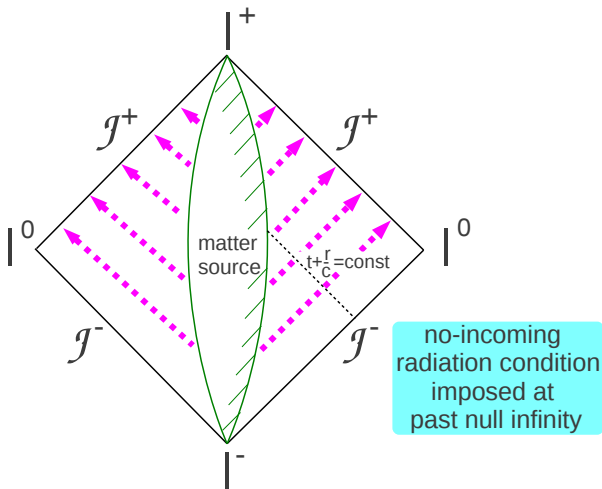
Conformal picture [Penrose 1963]



Asymptotic structure of space-time

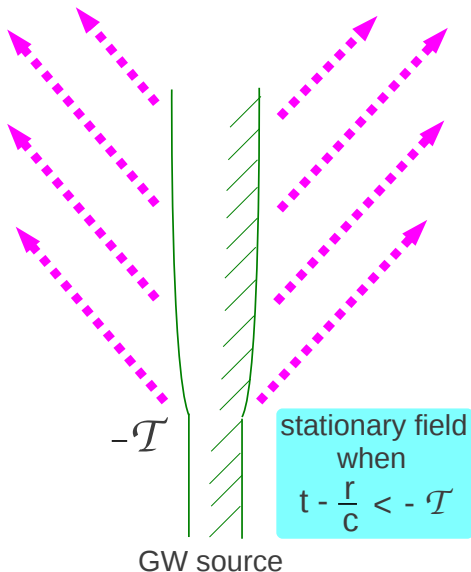
- ① What is the structure of space-time far away from an isolated matter system?
- ② Does a general radiating space-time satisfy rigorous definitions [Penrose 1963, 1965] of asymptotic flatness in general relativity?
- ③ How to relate the asymptotic structure of space-time [Bondi *et al.* 1962, Sachs 1962] to the matter variable and dynamics of an actual source?
- ④ How to impose rigorous boundary conditions on the edge of space-time appropriate to an isolated system?

No-incoming radiation condition



$$\lim_{\substack{r \rightarrow +\infty \\ t + \frac{r}{c} = \text{const}}} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial}{c \partial t} \right) (r h^{\alpha\beta}) = 0$$

Hypothesis of stationarity in the remote past



In practice all GW sources observed in astronomy (e.g. a compact binary system) will have been formed and started to emit GWs only from a finite instant in the past $-\mathcal{T}$

Post-Minkowskian expansion

[Bertotti & Plebanski 1960; Thorne & Kovács 1975; Damour & Esposito-Farèse 1997]

For a **weakly self-gravitating** isolated matter source

$$\gamma_{\text{PM}} \equiv \frac{GM}{c^2 a} \ll 1 \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} M \text{ mass of source} \\ a \text{ size of source} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\sqrt{-g}g^{\alpha\beta} = \eta^{\alpha\beta} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} G^n h_{(n)}^{\alpha\beta}}_{G \text{ labels the PM expansion}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \square h_{(n)}^{\alpha\beta} &= \frac{16\pi G}{c^4} |g| T_{(n)}^{\alpha\beta} + \overbrace{\Lambda_{(n)}^{\alpha\beta} [h_{(1)}, \dots, h_{(n-1)}]}^{\text{know from previous iterations}} \\ \partial_\mu h_{(n)}^{\alpha\mu} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

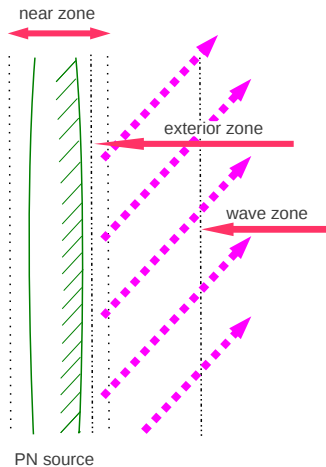
Multipolar-post-Minkowskian expansion

[Blanchet & Damour 1986; Blanchet 1987; Damour & Iyer 1991]

- Starts with the solution of the linearized equations outside an isolated source in the form of multipole expansions [Thorne 1980]
 - An **explicit MPM algorithm** is constructed out of it by induction at any order n in the post-Minkowskian expansion
 - A finite-part (FP) regularization based on analytic continuation is required in order to cope with the divergency of the multipolar expansion when $r \rightarrow 0$
- ① The MPM solution is the **most general solution** of Einstein's vacuum equations outside an isolated matter system
 - ② It is **asymptotically simple** in the sense of [Penrose 1963, 1965] and recovers the known asymptotic structure of radiative space-times at future null infinity [Bondi et al. 1962, Sachs 1962]

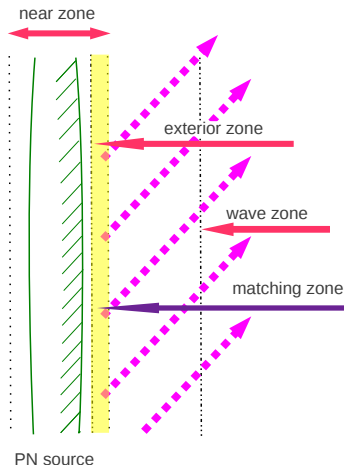
The MPM-PN formalism [Blanchet, Damour & Iyer 1995]

A multipolar post-Minkowskian (MPM) expansion in the exterior zone is matched to a general post-Newtonian (PN) expansion in the near zone



The MPM-PN formalism [Blanchet, Damour & Iyer 1995]

A multipolar post-Minkowskian (MPM) expansion in the exterior zone is matched to a general post-Newtonian (PN) expansion in the near zone



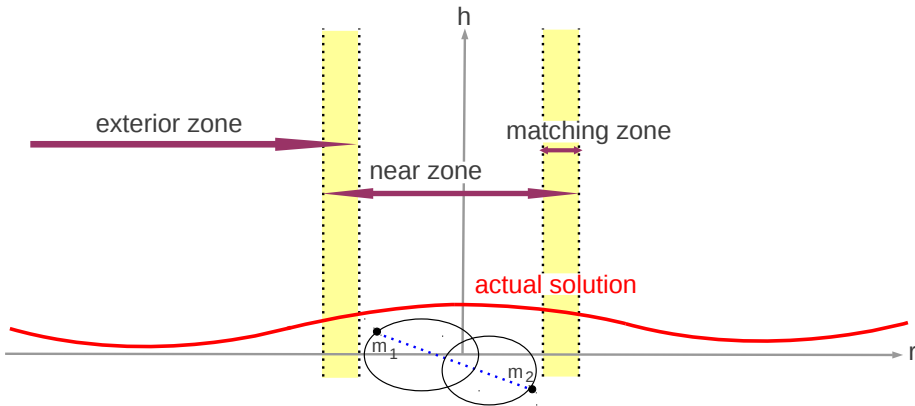
The matching equation

- This is a variant of the **theory of matched asymptotic expansions**
[Lagerström *et al.* 1967; Kates 1980; Anderson *et al.* 1982]

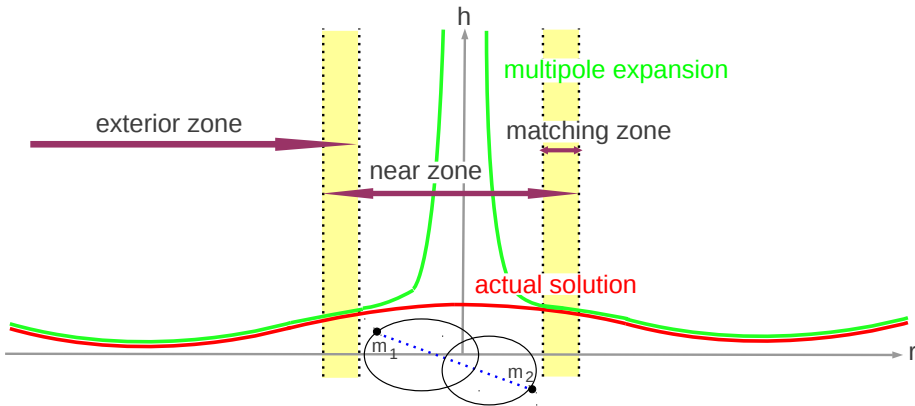
$$\overline{\mathcal{M}(h^{\alpha\beta})} = \mathcal{M}(\bar{h}^{\alpha\beta})$$

- Left side is the NZ expansion ($r \rightarrow 0$) of the exterior MPM field
 - Right side is the FZ expansion ($r \rightarrow \infty$) of the inner PN field
- The matching equation has been implemented at any post-Minkowskian order in the exterior field and any PN order in the inner field
- It gives a unique (formal) multipolar-post-Newtonian solution valid everywhere inside and outside the source

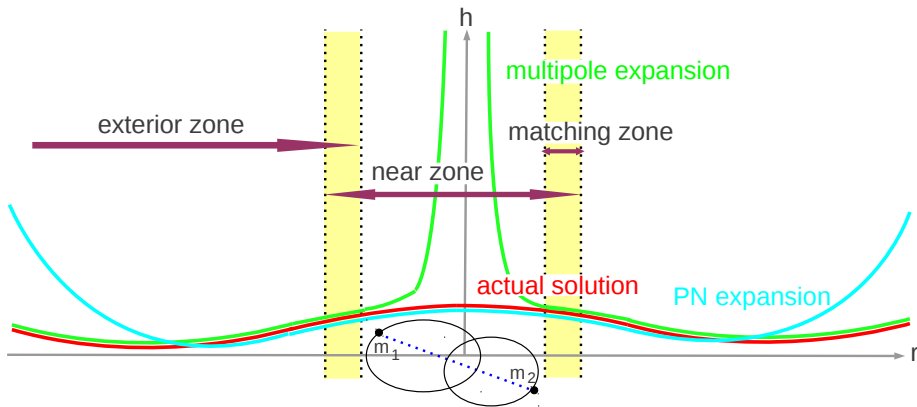
The matching equation



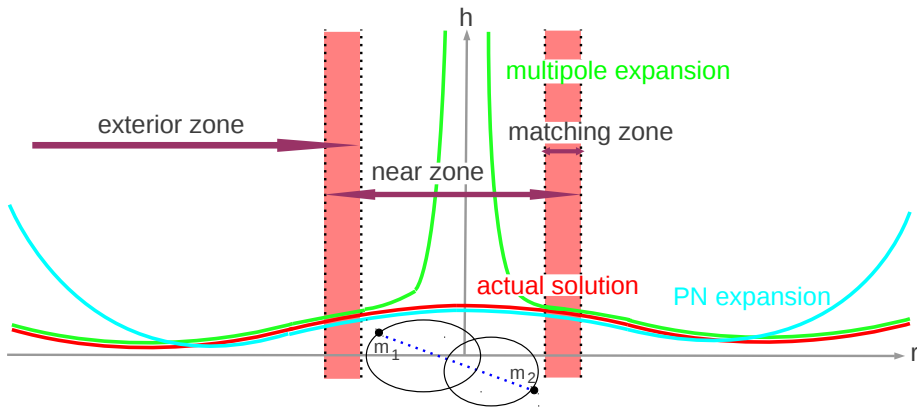
The matching equation



The matching equation



The matching equation



General solution for the multipolar field

$$\mathcal{M}(h^{\mu\nu}) = \text{FP} \square_{\text{ret}}^{-1} \mathcal{M}(\Lambda^{\mu\nu}) + \underbrace{\sum_{\ell=0}^{+\infty} \partial_L \left\{ \frac{M_L^{\mu\nu}(t - r/c)}{r} \right\}}_{\text{homogeneous retarded solution}}$$

where

$$M_L^{\mu\nu}(t) = \text{FP} \int d^3\mathbf{x} \hat{x}_L \int_{-1}^1 dz \delta_\ell(z) \underbrace{\bar{\tau}^{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}, t - zr/c)}_{\text{PN expansion of the pseudo-tensor}}$$

- The **FP** procedure plays the role of an **UV regularization** in the non-linearity term but an **IR regularization** in the multipole moments
- From this one obtains the multipole moments of the source at any PN order solving the wave generation problem
- This is a **formal PN solution** *i.e.* a set of rules for generating the PN series regardless of the exact mathematical nature of this series

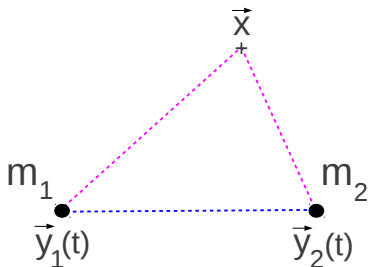
General solution for the inner PN field

$$\bar{h}^{\mu\nu} = \text{FP} \square_{\text{ret}}^{-1} \bar{\tau}^{\mu\nu} + \underbrace{\sum_{\ell=0}^{+\infty} \partial_L \left\{ \frac{R_L^{\mu\nu}(t - r/c) - R_L^{\mu\nu}(t + r/c)}{r} \right\}}_{\text{homogeneous antisymmetric solution}}$$

where $R_L^{\mu\nu}(t) = \text{FP} \int d^3\mathbf{x} \hat{x}_L \int_1^\infty dz \gamma_\ell(z) \underbrace{\mathcal{M}(\tau^{\mu\nu})(\mathbf{x}, t - zr/c)}_{\text{multipole expansion of the pseudo-tensor}}$

- The **radiation reaction effects** starting at 2.5PN order appropriate to an isolated system are determined to any order
- In particular nonlinear radiation reaction effects **associated with tails** are contained in the second term and start at 4PN order

Problem of point particles



$$U(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{Gm_1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_1(t)|} + \frac{Gm_2}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_2(t)|}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \mathbf{y}_1}{dt^2} = (\nabla U)(\mathbf{y}_1(t), t) \stackrel{?}{=} -Gm_2 \frac{\mathbf{y}_1 - \mathbf{y}_2}{|\mathbf{y}_1 - \mathbf{y}_2|^3}$$

- For extended bodies the self-acceleration of the body cancels out by Newton's action-reaction law
- For point particles one needs a **self-field regularization** to remove the infinite self-field of the particle

Dimensional regularization [t'Hooft & Veltman 1972; Bollini & Giambiagi 1972]

- Einstein's field equations are solved in d spatial dimensions (with $d \in \mathbb{C}$) with distributional sources. In Newtonian approximation

$$\Delta U = -4\pi \frac{2(d-2)}{d-1} G\rho$$

- For two point-particles $\rho = m_1\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_1) + m_2\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_2)$ where δ is the d -dimensional Dirac function we get

$$U(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{2(d-2)k}{d-1} \left(\frac{Gm_1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_1|^{d-2}} + \frac{Gm_2}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}_2|^{d-2}} \right) \quad \text{with} \quad k = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{d-2}{2}\right)}{\pi^{\frac{d-2}{2}}}$$

- Computations are performed when $\Re(d)$ is a large negative complex number so as to kill all self-terms, and the result is **analytically continued** for any $d \in \mathbb{C}$ except for poles occurring at integer values of d

3.5PN energy flux of compact binaries

[Blanchet, Faye, Iyer & Joguet 2002; Arun *et al.* 2004]

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}^{\text{GW}} = & -\frac{32c^5}{5G}\nu^2x^5\left\{1+\left(-\frac{1247}{336}-\frac{35}{12}\nu\right)x+\overbrace{4\pi x^{3/2}}^{1.5\text{PN tail}}\right. \\ & +\left(-\frac{44711}{9072}+\frac{9271}{504}\nu+\frac{65}{18}\nu^2\right)x^2+\underbrace{[\dots]x^{5/2}}_{2.5\text{PN tail}} \\ & +\underbrace{[\dots]x^3}_{\substack{3\text{PN} \\ \text{includes a tail-of-tail}}}+\underbrace{[\dots]x^{7/2}}_{3.5\text{PN tail}}+\mathcal{O}(x^4)\Big\}\end{aligned}$$

The orbital frequency and phase for quasi-circular orbits are deduced from an energy balance argument

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\mathcal{F}^{\text{GW}}$$

3.5PN dominant gravitational wave modes

[Faye, Marsat, Blanchet & Iyer 2012; Faye, Blanchet & Iyer 2014]

$$h_{22} = \frac{2G m \nu x}{R c^2} \sqrt{\frac{16\pi}{5}} e^{-2i\psi} \left\{ 1 + x \left(-\frac{107}{42} + \frac{55\nu}{42} \right) + 2\pi x^{3/2} \right. \\ \left. + x^2 \left(-\frac{2173}{1512} - \frac{1069\nu}{216} + \frac{2047\nu^2}{1512} \right) \right. \\ \left. + \underbrace{[\dots] x^{5/2}}_{2.5\text{PN}} + \underbrace{[\dots] x^3}_{3\text{PN}} + \underbrace{[\dots] x^{7/2}}_{3.5\text{PN}} + \mathcal{O}(x^4) \right\} \\ h_{33} = \dots \\ h_{31} = \dots$$

Tail contributions in this expression are factorized out in the phase variable

$$\psi = \phi - \frac{2GM\omega}{c^3} \ln \left(\frac{\omega}{\omega_0} \right)$$

4PN spin-orbit effects in the orbital frequency

[Marsat, Bohé, Faye, Blanchet & Buonanno 2013]

$$\frac{\dot{\omega}}{\omega^2} = \frac{96}{5} \nu x^{5/2} \left\{ \overbrace{1 + x [\dots] + x^{3/2} [\dots] + x^2 [\dots] + x^{5/2} [\dots] + x^3 [\dots]}^{\text{non-spin terms}} \right. \\
+ \underbrace{[\dots] x^{3/2}}_{\text{1.5PN SO}} + \underbrace{[\dots] x^2}_{\text{2PN SS}} + \underbrace{[\dots] x^{5/2}}_{\text{2.5PN SO}} + \underbrace{[\dots] x^3}_{\text{3PN SO}_{\text{tail}} \& \text{SS}} \\
+ \underbrace{[\dots] x^{7/2}}_{\text{3.5PN SO}} + \underbrace{[\dots] x^4}_{\text{4PN SO}_{\text{tail}} \& \text{SS}} + \mathcal{O}(x^4) \Big\}$$

Leading SO and SS terms due to [Kidder, Will & Wiseman 1993; Kidder 1995]

Summary of current PN results

Method	Equations of motion	Energy flux	Waveform
Multipolar-post-Minkowskian & post-Newtonian (MPM-PN) [BDI, Faye, Arun]	4PN non-spin 3.5PN (NNL) SO 3PN (NL) SS 3.5PN (L) SSS	3.5PN non-spin 4PN (NNL) SO 3PN (NL) SS 3.5PN (L) SSS	3PN non-spin 1.5PN (L) SO 2PN (L) SS
Canonical ADM Hamiltonian [Jaranowski, Schäfer, Damour] [Steinhoff, Hergt, Hartung]	4PN non-spin 3.5PN (NNL) SO 4PN (NNL) SS 3.5PN (L) SSS		
Effective Field Theory (EFT) [Goldberger, Rothstein] [Porto, Foffa, Sturani, Ross, Levi]	3PN non-spin 2.5PN (NL) SO 4PN (NNL) SS	2PN non-spin 3PN (NL) SS	
Direct Integration of Relaxed Equations (DIRE) [Will, Wiseman, Kidder, Pati]	2.5PN non-spin 1.5PN (L) SO 2PN (L) SS	2PN non-spin 1.5PN (L) SO 2PN (L) SS	2PN non-spin 1.5PN (L) SO 2PN (L) SS
Surface Integral [Itoh, Futamase, Asada]	3PN non-spin		

Summary of current PN results

Method	Equations of motion	Energy flux	Waveform
Multipolar-post-Minkowskian & post-Newtonian (MPM-PN) [BDI, Faye, Arun]	4PN non-spin 3.5PN (NNL) SO 3PN (NL) SS 3.5PN (L) SSS	3.5PN non-spin 4PN (NNL) SO 3PN (NL) SS 3.5PN (L) SSS	3PN non-spin 1.5PN (L) SO 2PN (L) SS
Canonical ADM Hamiltonian [Jaranowski, Schäfer, Damour] [Steinhoff, Hergt, Hartung]	4PN non-spin 3.5PN (NNL) SO 4PN (NNL) SS 3.5PN (L) SSS		
Effective Field Theory (EFT) [Goldberger, Rothstein] [Porto, Foffa, Sturani, Ross, Levi]	3PN non-spin 2.5PN (NL) SO 4PN (NNL) SS	2PN non-spin 3PN (NL) SS	
Direct Integration of Relaxed Equations (DIRE) [Will, Wiseman, Kidder, Pati]	2.5PN non-spin 1.5PN (L) SO 2PN (L) SS	2PN non-spin 1.5PN (L) SO 2PN (L) SS	2PN non-spin 1.5PN (L) SO 2PN (L) SS
Surface Integral [Itoh, Futamase, Asada]	3PN non-spin		

THE 4PN EQUATIONS OF MOTION

Based on a collaboration with

Laura Bernard, Alejandro Bohé, Guillaume Faye & Sylvain Marsat

4PN equations of motion of compact binaries

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{dv_1}{dt} = & - \frac{Gm_2}{r_{12}^2} \mathbf{n}_{12} \\
 & \underbrace{\quad}_{\text{1PN Lorentz-Droste-Einstein-Infeld-Hoffmann term}} \\
 & + \frac{1}{c^2} \left\{ \left[\frac{5G^2 m_1 m_2}{r_{12}^3} + \frac{4G^2 m_2^2}{r_{12}^3} + \dots \right] \mathbf{n}_{12} + \dots \right\} \\
 & + \underbrace{\frac{1}{c^4} [\dots]}_{\text{2PN}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{c^5} [\dots]}_{\text{2.5PN radiation reaction}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{c^6} [\dots]}_{\text{3PN}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{c^7} [\dots]}_{\text{3.5PN radiation reaction}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{c^8} [\dots]}_{\text{4PN conservative \& radiation tail}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{c^9}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

3PN	{	[Jaranowski & Schäfer 1999; Damour, Jaranowski & Schäfer 2001]	ADM Hamiltonian
		[Blanchet & Faye 2000; de Andrade, Blanchet & Faye 2001]	Harmonic equations of motion
		[Itoh, Futamase & Asada 2001; Itoh & Futamase 2003]	Surface integral method
		[Foffa & Sturani 2011]	Effective field theory
4PN	{	[Jaranowski & Schäfer 2013; Damour, Jaranowski & Schäfer 2014]	ADM Hamiltonian
		[Bernard, Blanchet, Bohé, Faye & Marsat 2015]	Fokker Lagrangian

Fokker action of N particles [Fokker 1929]



Start with the **gauge-fixed action** for a system of N point particles

$$S = \frac{c^3}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\overbrace{g^{\mu\nu} \left(\Gamma_{\mu\lambda}^\rho \Gamma_{\nu\rho}^\lambda - \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\rho \Gamma_{\rho\lambda}^\lambda \right)}^{\text{Landau-Lifchitz form of the action}} \underbrace{- \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} \Gamma^\mu \Gamma^\nu}_{\text{Gauge-fixing term}} \right] + S_m$$

$$S_m = - \sum_A m_A c^2 \underbrace{\int dt \sqrt{-(g_{\mu\nu})_A v_A^\mu v_A^\nu / c^2}}_{N \text{ point particles without spin}}$$

Fokker action of N particles [Fokker 1929]



The Fokker action is obtained by inserting an **explicit PN solution** of the relaxed Einstein field equations

$$g_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}, t) \longrightarrow \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{y}_B(t), \mathbf{v}_B(t), \dots)$$

$$S_F[\mathbf{y}_B(t), \mathbf{v}_B(t), \dots] = \int d^4x \bar{\mathcal{L}}_g[\mathbf{x}; \mathbf{y}_B(t), \mathbf{v}_B(t), \dots] \\ - \sum_A m_A c^2 \int dt \sqrt{-\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{y}_A(t); \mathbf{y}_B(t), \mathbf{v}_B(t), \dots) v_A^\mu v_A^\nu / c^2}$$

Fokker action of N particles [Fokker 1929]



The PN equations of motion of the N particles in the field generated by the particles themselves (**self-gravitating system**) are obtained as

$$\frac{\delta S_F}{\delta \mathbf{y}_A} \equiv \frac{\partial L_F}{\partial \mathbf{y}_A} - \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{\partial L_F}{\partial \mathbf{v}_A} \right) + \dots = 0$$

Fokker action in the PN approximation

- The Fokker action is split into a PN (**near-zone**) term plus a contribution involving the multipole (**far-zone**) expansion

$$S_F^g = \text{FP}_{B=0} \int d^4x \left(\frac{r}{r_0} \right)^B \bar{\mathcal{L}}_g + \text{FP}_{B=0} \int d^4x \left(\frac{r}{r_0} \right)^B \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{L}_g)$$

- The multipole term gives zero for any “**instantaneous**” term

$$\int d^4x \left(\frac{r}{r_0} \right)^B \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{L}_g)|_{\text{inst}} = 0$$

thus only “**hereditary**” terms contribute and they are at least 5.5PN

- Finally we obtain

$$S_F^g = \text{FP}_{B=0} \int d^4x \left(\frac{r}{r_0} \right)^B \bar{\mathcal{L}}_g$$

where the constant r_0 represents an **IR cut-off scale** and plays a crucial role at the 4PN order

Gravitational wave tail effect at the 4PN order

- At 4PN order there is an imprint of gravitational wave tails in the local (near-zone) dynamics of the source
- This leads to a non-local-in-time contribution in the Fokker action

$$S_F^{\text{tail}} = \frac{G^2 M}{5c^8} \text{Pf}_{s_0} \iint \frac{dt dt'}{|t - t'|} I_{ij}^{(3)}(t) I_{ij}^{(3)}(t')$$

- The constant s_0 is *a priori* different from the IR scale r_0 but posing

$$s_0 = r_0 e^{-\alpha}$$

we find that r_0 finally cancels out so the **result is IR finite**

- The remaining parameter α is a pure number and turns out to be an “**ambiguity**” in the present formalism

The method “ $n + 2$ ”

- Adopt as basic gravitational variables

$$\bar{h} \equiv (\bar{h}^{00}, \bar{h}^{ii}, \bar{h}^{0i}, \bar{h}^{ij})$$

- Suppose that $\bar{h}$ is **known up to order $1/c^{n+2}$** thus

$$\bar{h} = \bar{h}_n + \delta\bar{h}_n \quad \text{where} \quad \delta\bar{h}_n = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{c^{n+3}}\right)$$

- Expand the Fokker action around the known solution

$$S_F[\bar{h}] = S_F[\bar{h}_n] + \underbrace{\int d^4x \frac{\delta S_F}{\delta \bar{h}}[\bar{h}_n] \delta\bar{h}_n}_{\text{is at least of order } \mathcal{O}(1/c^{2n+2})} + \mathcal{O}(\delta\bar{h}_n^2)$$

- Thus the Fokker action is **known up to $1/c^{2n}$** i.e. n PN order

Conserved energy for circular orbits at 4PN order

- The energy for circular orbits at the 4PN order in the **small mass ratio limit** is known from **self-force calculations** of the redshift variable [Detweiler 2008]
- This permits to **fix the ambiguity parameter α** and to complete the 4PN equations of motion
- For instance the 4PN invariant energy for circular orbits reads

$$\begin{aligned}
 E^{4\text{PN}} = & -\frac{\mu c^2 x}{2} \left\{ 1 + \left(-\frac{3}{4} - \frac{\nu}{12} \right) x + \left(-\frac{27}{8} + \frac{19}{8}\nu - \frac{\nu^2}{24} \right) x^2 \right. \\
 & + \left(-\frac{675}{64} + \left[\frac{34445}{576} - \frac{205}{96}\pi^2 \right] \nu - \frac{155}{96}\nu^2 - \frac{35}{5184}\nu^3 \right) x^3 \\
 & + \left(-\frac{3969}{128} + \left[-\frac{123671}{5760} + \frac{9037}{1536}\pi^2 + \frac{896}{15}\gamma_E + \frac{448}{15}\ln(16x) \right] \nu \right. \\
 & \left. \left. + \left[-\frac{498449}{3456} + \frac{3157}{576}\pi^2 \right] \nu^2 + \frac{301}{1728}\nu^3 + \frac{77}{31104}\nu^4 \right) x^4 \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

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