

### **Dynamical space-time and gravitational waves**

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### Gravity

- Universality:

all bodies are subject to gravity independent of their nature or composition

Equivalence principle:
 all bodies fall with the
 same gravitational acceleration



#### Discussion in Discorsi by Galilei (1638)



Experiment by Simon Stevin and Jan de Groot (1586)





Newton: gravitational acceleration by instantaneous action at a distance absolute space and time



Einstein: geometrical interpretation of gravity gravitational effects propagate at finite speed (c in vacuum) dynamical space and time

### Dynamical geometry:

- cosmology: expansion of the universe
- astrophysics: gravitational collapse
  - black holes/horizons
- cosmic messengers: gravitational waves

### Gravity as space-time geometry

fundamental ingredients: metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$ , connection  $\Gamma^{\ \lambda}_{\mu\nu}$ , curvature  $R^{\ \lambda}_{\mu\nu\kappa}$ 

• The metric converts co-ordinate intervals into space-time intervals (c = 1):



• The connection defines geodesics (free fall) by parallel transport of 4-velocity:

$$D_{\tau}u^{\mu} = \dot{u}^{\mu} + \Gamma_{\lambda\nu}^{\ \mu}(x) u^{\lambda}u^{\nu} = 0$$

• The curvature gives the relative  
covariant acceleration of geodesics:  
$$D_{\tau}^{2} n^{\mu} = R_{\kappa\nu\lambda}^{\ \mu}(x) u^{\kappa} u^{\lambda} n^{\nu}$$
$$\sum_{x_{2}=x_{1}+n}^{x_{1}+n} \sum_{x_{1}}^{n} \sum_{x_{1}=x_{1}+n}^{x_{1}+n} \sum_{x_{1}=x_{1}+n}^{n} \sum_{x_{1}=x_{1}+n}^{n}$$

### Einstein equations

$$G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R = -\kappa^2 T_{\mu\nu}$$

where

$$\kappa^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} = 2.1 \times 10^{-41} \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-1} \text{ s}^2$$

and  $T_{\mu\nu}$  is the energy-momentum tensor of matter and radiation

The dynamics of matter and radiation follows from the consistency condition

$$\nabla^{\mu} T_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

Geometry of empty space-time Large number of vacuum solutions:  $R_{\mu\nu} = 0$ 

A. Minkowski space-time: no curvature  $R_{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda}=0$ 

B. Vacuum solutions with curvature: decompose Riemann curvature in traceless components (Weyl tensor)

$$\begin{split} R_{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda} &= W_{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda} + \frac{1}{(d-2)} \left( g_{\mu\kappa}W_{\nu\lambda} - g_{\nu\kappa}W_{\mu\lambda} - g_{\mu\lambda}W_{\nu\kappa} + g_{\kappa\lambda}W_{\mu\nu} \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{d(d-1)} \left( g_{\mu\kappa}g_{\nu\lambda} - g_{\mu\lambda}g_{\nu\kappa} \right) R \\ \text{with} \qquad W_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{d} g_{\mu\nu}R \\ \text{properties:} \qquad W_{\mu\lambda\nu}^{\ \lambda} = 0 , \quad W_{\mu}^{\ \mu} = 0 \end{split}$$

$$W_{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda} = -W_{\mu\nu\lambda\kappa} = W_{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu}, \quad W_{[\mu\nu\kappa]\lambda} = 0$$

#### Number of components

$$N \left[ R_{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda} \right] = \frac{d^2(d^2 - 1)}{12} \to 20$$
  
=  $\frac{1}{12} d(d + 1)(d + 2)(d - 3) + \frac{1}{2} d(d + 1)$   
=  $N \left[ W_{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda} \right] + N \left[ W_{\mu\nu} \right] + 1 \to 10 + 9 + 1$ 

Non-vanishing Weyl tensor implies non-vanishing curvature:

$$W_{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda} \neq 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad R_{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda} \neq 0$$

is consistent with  $R_{\mu\nu} = W_{\mu\nu} = 0$ 

Curvature in the absence of matter

#### Example: PP-waves

Exact gravitational-wave solution; in light-cone co-ordinates u = t - z, v = t + z

$$d\tau^2 = dudv - \Phi(u, x, y)du^2 - dx^2 - dy^2$$

# Non-vanishing components of Riemann and Ricci tensors

$$R_{uiuj} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial x^i \partial x^j} \qquad R_{uu} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2 \right) \Phi$$

Regular vacuum solutions  $R_{uu} = 0$ :

$$\Phi = h_{+}(u)(x^{2} - y^{2}) + 2h_{\times}(u) xy$$

$$R_{uxux} = -R_{uyuy} = h_+(u) \quad R_{uxuy} = h_\times(u)$$

#### Small-curvature waves

reduction of GR to field theory of massless spin-2 fields

- symmetric tensor field  $h_{\mu\nu} = h_{\nu\mu}$
- free field equation in Minkowski space-time

$$\Box h_{\mu\nu} - \partial_{\mu}\partial^{\lambda}h_{\lambda\nu} - \partial_{\nu}\partial^{\lambda}h_{\lambda\mu} + \partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}h_{\lambda}^{\lambda} = 0$$

local gauge invariance

$$h'_{\mu\nu} = h_{\mu\nu} + \partial_{\mu}\xi_{\nu} + \partial_{\nu}\xi_{\mu}$$

 unique consistent extension with self-interactions (no ghosts, no tachyons)

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + 2\kappa h_{\mu\nu}$$
 with  $R_{\mu\nu}[g] = 0$ 

[Feynman, Fronsdal, Veltman]

### Gauge fixing

Use local gauge invariance to impose\*

$$\partial^{\lambda} h'_{\lambda\mu} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\mu} h'_{\lambda}{}^{\lambda} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Box h'_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

massless wave equation; (1+1)-dimensional reduction

$$\left(\partial_z^2 - \partial_t^2\right)h = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad h = h_+(z+t) + h_-(z-t)$$

waves propagating at the speed of light (c = 1) in the +z or -z direction

\* by taking  $-\Box \xi_{\mu} = \partial^{\lambda} h_{\lambda\mu} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\mu} h_{\lambda}^{\lambda}$ 

#### Reformulation

Field redefinition 
$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu} = h_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \eta_{\mu\nu} h_{\lambda}^{\ \lambda}$$

field equation and gauge condition for the redefined field:

$$\Box \bar{h}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \eta_{\mu\nu} \Box \bar{h}_{\lambda}^{\ \lambda} = 0 \qquad \partial^{\lambda} \bar{h}_{\lambda\mu} = 0$$
$$\Box \bar{h}_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

redefined gauge transformations:

$$\bar{h}'_{\mu\nu} = \bar{h}_{\mu\nu} + \partial_{\mu}\xi_{\nu} + \partial_{\nu}\xi_{\mu} - \eta_{\mu\nu}\partial_{\nu}\xi$$

gauge condition respected if  $\Box \xi_{\mu} = 0$ 

#### Momentum representation

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}(x) = \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^2} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(k) e^{-ik\cdot x} \qquad \varepsilon^*_{\mu\nu}(k) = \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(-k)$$

#### Field equations:

$$k^2 \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(k) = 0$$
  $k^\lambda \varepsilon_{\lambda\mu} = 0$ 

solution:

$$\varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(k) = e_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k})\,\delta(k^2)$$

implying  $k^{\mu} = (\omega_k, \mathbf{k})$  with  $\omega_k = \sqrt{\mathbf{k}^2}$ 

$$\rightarrow \quad h_{\mu\nu}(x) = \int \frac{d^3k}{8\pi^2\omega_k} \left( e_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k})e^{-i(\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}-\omega_k t)} + e^*_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k})e^{i(\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}-\omega_k t)} \right)$$

with  $\omega_k e_{0\mu} = k_i e_{i\mu}$ 

The amplitudes  $e_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k})$  are defined up to a final gauge transformation with  $\Box \xi_{\mu} = 0$  ( $k^2 = 0$ ):

$$\xi_{\mu} = i \int \frac{d^3k}{8\pi^2 \omega_k} \left( a_{\mu}(\mathbf{k}) e^{-i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} - \omega_k t)} - a_{\mu}^*(\mathbf{k}) e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} - \omega_k t)} \right)$$

These gauge transformations take the form

$$e_{00}' = e_{00} + \omega_k a_0 + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{a}$$

$$e_{0i}' = e_{0i} + \omega_k a_i + k_i a_0$$

$$e'_{ij} = e_{ij} + k_i a_j + k_j a_i - \delta_{ij} \left( \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{a} - \omega_k a_0 \right)$$

with the following choice:

$$a_0 = -\frac{1}{4\omega_k} \left( e_{00} + \sum_j e_{jj} \right) \qquad a_i = -\frac{1}{\omega_k} e_{0i} + \frac{k_i}{\omega_k} \left( e_{00} + \sum_j e_{jj} \right)$$

this results in  $e'_{00} = e'_{0i} = 0$ ,  $\sum_j e'_{jj} = 0$ ,  $\sum_j k_j e'_{ji} = 0$ 

#### Example:

Monochromatic wave with wave vector  $k^{\mu} = (k, 0, 0, k)$ travelling in the z-direction implies

$$e_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{k}) = A_{+}(k)\varepsilon_{\mu\nu}^{+} + A_{\times}(k)\varepsilon_{\mu\nu}^{\times}$$

with transversely polarised amplitudes

$$\varepsilon_{\mu\nu}^{+} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}^{\times} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$





#### Space-time representation

TT-gauge:

$$h_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_{ij} \end{pmatrix} \qquad \sum_{j} h_{jj} = 0 \qquad \sum_{j} \nabla_{j} h_{ji} = 0$$

Energy and momentum density

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial h_{ij}}{\partial t} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \nabla h_{ij} \right)^2 \qquad \Pi = \frac{\partial h_{ij}}{\partial t} \nabla h_{ij}$$

Equation of continuity:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{E}}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot \Pi$$
$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \iint d^2 \sigma \, \Pi_n$$

Integral form:

energy flux through spherical surface with radius D:

$$\Phi = \frac{dE}{4\pi D^2 dt} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \iint d^2 \Omega \left( \frac{\partial h_{ij}}{\partial t} \frac{\partial h_{ij}}{\partial r} \right)_D$$

$$h_{ij} = \operatorname{Re}\left[\left(A_{+}\varepsilon_{ij}^{+} + A_{\times}\varepsilon_{ij}^{\times}\right)e^{i2\pi f(z-t)}\right]$$
$$\kappa h = \sqrt{A_{+}^{2} + A_{\times}^{2}}$$



### Sources of gravitational waves

- There are no laboratory sources of gravitational waves
- The only plausible sources are astrophysical or cosmological

They can be classified in 3 broad categories

- a. periodic: millisecond pulsars, compact binaries
- b. transient: supernovae, stellar collisions
- c. stochastic: background of galactic binaries,

early universe



### Generation of gravitational waves Small curvature: inhomogeneous wave equation

 $\Box h_{\mu
u} = -\kappa T_{\mu
u} \qquad \partial^{\lambda} T_{\lambda\mu} = 0 \mod \mathcal{O}(\kappa)$ 

Propagating physical components

$$h_{ij} = -\frac{\kappa}{4\pi} \int d^3x' \frac{T_{ij}(\mathbf{x}', t - |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}$$

$$\approx -\frac{\kappa}{4\pi r} \int d^3x' T_{ij}(\mathbf{x}', t - r) \qquad \text{(compact sources)}$$

$$\left( \partial_t T_{00} = \partial'_k T_{k0} \right) = -\frac{\kappa}{8\pi r} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \int d^3x' x'_i x'_j T_{00}(\mathbf{x}', t - r) \equiv \ddot{Q}_{ij}(t - r)$$

implying 
$$\frac{\partial h_{ij}}{\partial r} = -\frac{\partial h_{ij}}{\partial t} = -\ddot{Q}_{ij}$$

#### Non-relativistic limit:

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\langle \ddot{Q}_{ij}\ddot{Q}_{ij}\rangle \to -\frac{G}{5c^5} \left|\frac{d^3I_{ij}}{dt^3}\right|^2$$

with quadrupole moment

$$I_{ij}(t) = \int d^3x \left( x_i x_j - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \mathbf{x}^2 \right) \rho(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

Observe that in mks units

$$\frac{G}{5c^5} = 0.55 \times 10^{-53} \,\mathrm{kg}^{-1} \,\mathrm{m}^{-2} \,\mathrm{s}^3$$

#### Newtonian binaries



#### Circular orbits:

$$\mathbf{r}_1 = \frac{m_2 r}{M} (\cos \omega t, \sin \omega t, 0)$$
  $\mathbf{r}_2 = -\frac{m_1 r}{M} (\cos \omega t, \sin \omega t, 0)$ 

#### Quadrupole moment:

$$I_{ij} = \frac{\mu r^2}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \cos 2\omega t + \frac{1}{3} & \sin 2\omega t & 0\\ \sin 2\omega t & -\cos 2\omega t + \frac{1}{3} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \left| \frac{d^3 I_{ij}}{dt^3} \right|^2 = 32\mu^2 r^4 \omega^6$$



$$f = \frac{\omega}{\pi} = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r^3}}$$
$$h \simeq \frac{R_S^2}{rD} = \frac{G^2 \mu M}{c^4 rD}$$

#### Binary pulsar 1913+16



Expect frequency  $f = 0.7 \times 10^{-4}$  Hz and dimensionless amplitude  $h = 0.6 \times 10^{-22}$ 

### Beyond flat space-time: waves in a curved background

Background metric  $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ local true metric  $g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\lambda} \left( \delta^{\lambda}_{\nu} + 2\kappa h^{\lambda}_{\nu} \right)$ 

Use background metric for raising/lowering indices; expand Einstein tensor in powers of  $\kappa$ :

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \bar{G}_{\mu\nu} - \kappa \bar{R}h_{\mu\nu} + \kappa \left(\bar{R}_{\mu\lambda}h_{\nu}^{\lambda} + \bar{R}_{\nu\lambda}h_{\mu}^{\lambda}\right) - 2\kappa \bar{R}_{\mu\kappa\nu\lambda}h^{\kappa\lambda} + \kappa \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}\bar{R}_{\kappa\lambda}h^{\kappa\lambda} + \kappa \left[\bar{D}^{\lambda}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\mu\nu} - \bar{D}_{\mu}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\nu}^{\lambda} - \bar{D}_{\nu}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\mu}^{\lambda} + \bar{D}_{\mu}\bar{D}_{\nu}h_{\lambda}^{\lambda} + \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}\left(\bar{D}_{\kappa}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h^{\kappa\lambda} - \bar{D}^{\lambda}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\kappa}^{\kappa}\right)\right]$$

In vacuum background space-time:  $\bar{G}_{\mu\nu} = \bar{R}_{\mu\nu} = 0$ 

 $-\bar{D}^{\lambda}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\mu\nu} + \bar{D}_{\mu}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\nu}^{\lambda} + \bar{D}_{\nu}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\mu}^{\lambda} - \bar{D}_{\mu}\bar{D}_{\nu}h_{\lambda}^{\lambda} + 2\bar{R}_{\mu\kappa\nu\lambda}h^{\kappa\lambda} = \kappa T_{\mu\nu}$ 

#### Gauge transformations

$$\delta g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{D}_{\mu}\xi_{\nu} + \bar{D}_{\nu}\xi_{\mu}$$
  
$$\delta h_{\mu\nu} = \xi^{\lambda}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\lambda}\bar{D}_{\nu}\xi^{\lambda} + h_{\nu\lambda}\bar{D}_{\mu}\xi^{\lambda}$$

After the gauge choice

$$\bar{D}_{\mu}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\nu}^{\lambda} + \bar{D}_{\nu}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\nu}^{\lambda} - \bar{D}_{\mu}\bar{D}_{\nu}h_{\lambda}^{\lambda} = 0$$

the wave equation becomes

$$-\bar{D}^{\lambda}\bar{D}_{\lambda}h_{\mu\nu}+2\bar{R}_{\mu\kappa\nu\lambda}h^{\kappa\lambda}=\kappa T_{\mu\nu}$$

the curvature acts as an (anisotropic) index of refraction e.g. lensing of gravitational waves; e.g.

$$\bar{R}_{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda} = \frac{1}{12} \left( g_{\mu\kappa}g_{\nu\lambda} - g_{\mu\lambda}g_{\nu\kappa} \right) R \quad \rightarrow \quad \left( -\bar{D}^{\lambda}\bar{D}_{\lambda} + \frac{1}{3}R \right) h_{\mu\nu} = \kappa T_{\mu\nu}$$

#### Extreme mass-ratio binaries



These images/animations were created by Prof. Andrea Ghez and her research team at UCLA and are from data sets obtained with the W. M. Keck Telescopes.

Supermassive black hole in galactic center  $M_{BH}\simeq 4 imes 10^6\,M_{\odot}$ 





#### 

Background space-time: Schwarzschild metric

$$ds^{2} = -\left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)dt^{2} + \frac{dr^{2}}{1 - \frac{2M}{r}} + r^{2}d\theta^{2} + r^{2}\sin^{2}\theta \,d\varphi^{2}$$

Perturbation by orbiting compact companion: white dwarf, neutron star, stellar-mass black hole

$$T_{\mu\nu}(x) = m \int d\tau \, u_{\mu} u_{\nu} \, \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \, \delta^4 \left( x - X(\tau) \right)$$

As before  $u^{\mu}(\tau)$  is the 4-velocity  $u^{\mu} = \frac{dX^{\mu}}{d\tau}$ 

**Observe:** 
$$\nabla_{\mu}T^{\mu\nu} = m \int d\tau \, \frac{Du^{\nu}}{D\tau} \, \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \, \delta^4 \left( x - X(\tau) \right) = 0$$

by equation of motion



n/periastron
`icity

1 modes

#### Evolution of inspiralling orbit (e = 0.15)





#### Merger phase:

 $h_+(-,-)$ 



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## Chirp signal of equal-mass binary neutron star





### Detection

Energy transfer between wave and detector

Resonant detection:
 GW changes the length of a spring





- Interferometric detection:

GW changes the armlength of an interferometer





### Detection in space

 eLISA space craft with laser tracking in solar orbit



 Pulsar timing: tracking timing variations of an array of pulsars in our region of the galaxy



### CMB



#### CMB temperature map measured by PLANCK

#### Spectrum of density fluctuations



#### Tensor modes







(Keating & Miller)

### The Gravitational Wave Spectrum

