

Black Holes: A New Golden Age Kip Thorne





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First Golden Age of Black-Hole Research 1963 - 1977

- Driven by observational discoveries:
 » quasars, compact X-ray sources
- Theoretical discoveries
 - » singularity at BH center
 - » BHs dynamical: spin, vibrate
 - » laws of BH mechanics
 - » Hawking radiation
 - » BH thermodyamics
 - Bifurcation of BH theory

» classical: Astrophysical Black Holes

» quantum





Astrophysical Black Hole Status in 2009



Black Hole Status in 2006



The nonlinear dynamics of curved space-time John Wheeler's "geometrodynamics"



A New Golden Age: 2007 - ??

• Driven by *Numerical Simulations* of Colliding Black Holes



A dozen research teams in Europe, US, Canada

 Driven by *Observations* of Colliding Black Holes via *Gravitational Waves*



Numerical Simulations (numerical relativity)

• Under development since 1960s

Big success in past several years

Numerical Relativity: How is it Done?

- Evolve the geometry of spacetime not fields in spacetime
- Choose an initial spacelike 3-dimensional surface S
 - » Put a coordinates on S



- Specify: 3-metric g_{ij} and Extrinsic Curvature K_{ij} of S
 - » Subject to constraint equations [analogues of Div B = 0]
- Lay out coordinates to future by specifying Lapse function α and Shift function βⁱ
- Integrate 3-metric forward in time via dynamical equations $ds^{2} = -\alpha^{2} dt^{2} + g_{ij} (dx^{i} - \beta^{i} dt) (dx^{j} - \beta^{j} dt)$

Two Mature Approaches



- Finite-difference description of spatial geometry
- Spectral description [Cornell/Caltech/CITA/WSU]
 » More complicated; was slower to mature
 - but exponential convergence \Rightarrow High accuracy & speed



Numerical Relativity Research Groups

• Simulating Generic Black-Hole Binaries:

- » Princeton (Pretorius),
- » Rochester Institute of Technology (Campanelli, ...),
- » Goddard Spaceflight Center (Centrella, ...),
- » U. Illinois (Shapiro, ...),
- » Albert Einstein Instititute & LSU (Pollney, ...),
- » U. Jena (Bruegmann, ...),
- » Georgia Tech (Laguna, ...),
- » U. Texas (Matzner, ...),
- » Perimeter/Guelph (Lehner, ...)
- » U. Maryland (Tiglio, ...),
- » Florida Atlantic U. (Tichy, ...),
- » Barcelona (Sperhake, ...),
- » Cornell/Caltech/CITA (Teukolsky, Kidder, Scheel, Pfeiffer, Szilagyi), ...





Old Way to Visualize Geometrodynamics





Caltech/Cornell/CITA - Kidder, Pfeiffer, Scheel, Teukolsky, Lindblom, ... Spectral Einstein Code: SpEC



Caltech/Cornell/CITA - Kidder, Pfeiffer, Scheel, Teukolsky, Lindblom, ... Spectral Einstein Code: SpEC

PROBLEM:

Too little of the spacetime curvature is depicted this way!

New Ways to Visualize Curvature of Spacetime

Cornell Caltech NITheP

Rob Owen Jeandrew Brink Yanbei Chen Jeff Kaplan Geoffrey Lovelace Keith Matthews David Nichols Mark Scheel Fan Zhang **Aaron Zimmerman Kip Thorne**

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South Africa

Tidal Field & Frame-Drag Field

- Slice spacetime into space plus time
- EM field tensor F → Electric field and magnetic field; visualize with field lines

• Weyl curvature tensor (in vacuum, same as Riemann tensor) "electric" part \mathcal{E}_{jk} and "magnetic" part \mathcal{B}_{jk} $\mathcal{B}_{jk} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{jpq} C^{pq}{}_{k0}$ Symmetric, Trace-Free (STF) tensors

• \mathcal{E}_{jk} describes tidal accelerations $\Delta a_j = -\mathcal{E}_{jk} \xi^k$ We call \mathcal{E}_{jk} the *tidal field*

• \mathcal{B}_{jk} describes differential frame dragging: Gyroscope at P $\Delta \Omega$ precesses relative to inertial frames at Q with angular velocity

$$\Delta\Omega_j = \mathcal{B}_{jk}\xi^k$$

We call \mathcal{B}_{jk} the *frame-drag field*

Visualizing \mathcal{E}_{ij} : Tendex Lines and their Tendicities

- Any STF tensor is completely characterized by three orthogonal eigenvectors, and their eigenvalues.
- For the tidal field \mathcal{E}_{jk} , the **integral curve of an eigenvector** \boldsymbol{n} is called its *Tendex Line*; its **eigenvalue** \mathcal{E}_{nn} is its *Tendicity*

Tendexes around Black Holes



Vizualizing \mathcal{B}_{ij} : Vortex Lines and Their Vorticities

• For the frame-drag field \mathcal{B}_{jk} , **integral curve of eigenvector** field *n* is called its *Vortex Line*; its **eigenvalue** \mathcal{B}_{nn} is *Vorticity*

Fast-spinning hole, a=0.95

positive-vorticity vortex lines $\mathcal{B}_{mm} > 0$

- •Head sees feet dragged clockwise
- •Feet see head dragged clockwise

Vortex: a collection of vortex lines with large vorticity

Horizon	Vorticity:	\mathcal{B}_{NN}
•	•	

Horizon Vortex: region of large \mathcal{B}_{NN}

negative-vorticity vortex lines $\mathcal{B}_{nn} < 0$

Head sees feet dragged counter-clockwiseFeet see head dragged counter-clockwise

Head-On Collision of Spinning Black Holes



Head-On Collision of Spinning Black Holes



Time: 50.0

-0.05

Sloshing Ejects Vortexes





Sloshing Ejects Vortexes

gravitational







Sloshing Ejects Vortexes gravitational



Orbiting Collision



gravitational waves



Vortexes Attached to Black Hole



 Vortexes Travel around hole

Near-zone vortexes generate gravitational waves



Orbiting Collision



gravitational waves

Tendexes



Orbiting Collision









Gravitational Waves Gamma Rays Neutrinos Multimessenger Astronomy

Gravitational Wave Observations

Ground-based Interferometers	Wave Frequencies 10 Hz to 10,000 Hz	Black holes: 2 to one thousand solar masses
Space-based Interferometers	Wave Frequencies 0.0001 Hz to 0.1 Hz Wave Periods 10 sec to 3 hours	Black holes: 10 thousand to 10 million solar masses
Pulsar Timing	Wave Periods A month to 30 years	Black holes: 100 million to 10 billion solar masses



Dictionary of Gravitational Waveforms



0.6

1:1

0.6

0.6

1:1

0.6

0.6

Gravitational Wave Interferometer



Network of Ground Based GW Interferometers

High-frequency band: 10 to 10,000 Hz

BHs: 2 to 1,000 Solar Masses

Network Required for:

Detection Confidence

Waveform Extraction

Direction by Triangulation



LIGO: Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory

Collaboration of ~850 scientists at ~75 institutions in 13 nations [D. Reitze, Director; G. Gonzalez, Spokesperson] USA, UK, Germany, Spain, Australia, Canada, China, Hungary, India, Japan, Korea, Poland, Russia





Sequence of Interferometers in LIGO

- 1989 Proposal for LIGO: 2-step strategy:
 - » Initial interferometers plausible but not likely to see GWs
 - » Advanced interferometers likely to see GWs from a variety of sources
- Initial interferometers, 2005-10:
 - » BH/BH out to 300 million light years
 - » none seen yet interesting limits
- Advanced interferometers: installation began 2010. Searches near design sensitivity 2017 - ...
 - » BH/BH out to 4 billion light years: ~3/yr 1/day
 - » Many other sources

Initial LIGO Noise



Initial LIGO Noise



Expect: BH/BH mergers - 3/d to 1/2yr; neutron star binaries 6/d-1/2yr; pulsars; LMXBs; central engines of supernovae & gamma ray bursts;...

Conclusion







- Highly dynamical Black Holes show an amazing richness of structure and behaviors
- Numerical Relativity has become a powerful tool for probing this richness
- Gravitational Waves will bring this rich physics into the realm of observations
- A new golden age of black hole research