

# The adventures of black holes: The case of quadratic gravity

Helvi Witek

Department of Physics & Illinois Center for Advanced Studies of the Universe  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- H.O. Silva, **HW**, M. Elley, N. Yunes [PRL 127 (2021); 2012.10436]  
B. Shiralilou, T. Hinderer, S. Nissanke, N. Ortiz, **HW** [PRD 103 (2021); 2012.09162]  
B. Shiralilou, T. Hinderer, S. Nissanke, N. Ortiz, **HW** [arXiv:2105.13972]

Workshop I: Computational Challenges in Multi-Messenger Astrophysics,  
IPAM / UCLA, 7 October 2021



# Nature's mysteries

High-energy physics  
Quantum gravity

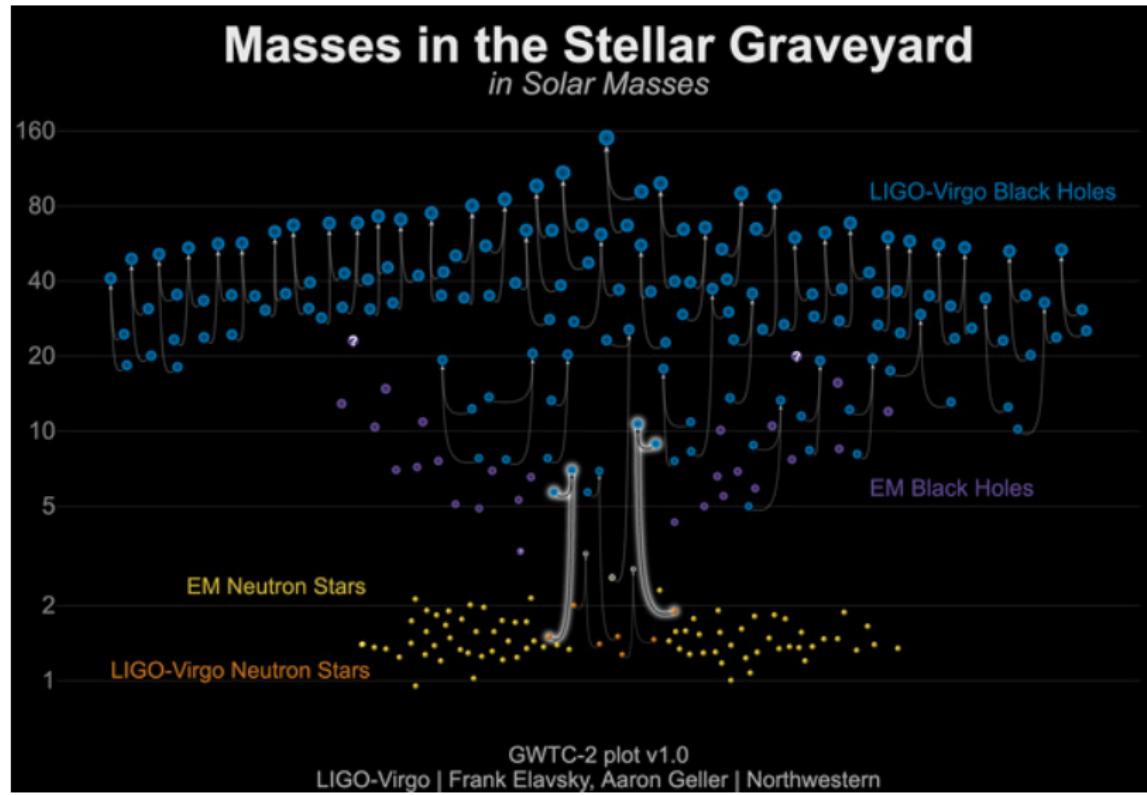
- Beyond-standard model particle physics
  - Extensions of general relativity
  - Test general relativity in new regimes

Cosmology  
Dark energy

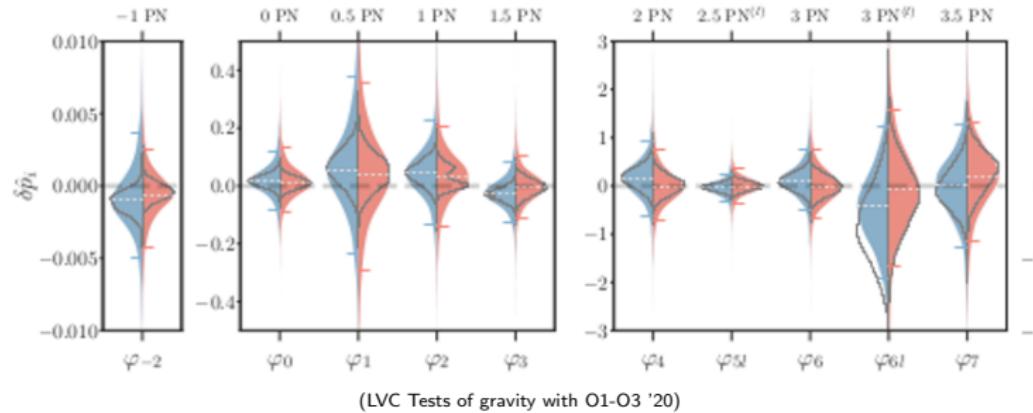
Particle physics  
Dark matter

Black holes and gravitational waves as “gravity detectives” for new physics

# We have data!



# Strong field tests of gravity



Caveats:

- testing null hypothesis “GR”
- vary 1 ppN parameter at a time – consistent?
- match theory-agnostic tests to specific gravity theories?  
⇒ need theory-specific modelling *including the merger*

Do we have theories?

Yes, plenty . . .

But:  
Concrete observable predictions?

Do we have theories?

Yes, plenty . . .

But:

Concrete observable predictions?

Do we have theories?

Yes, plenty . . .

But:

Concrete observable predictions?

# A concrete class of theories:

## Scalar Gauss–Bonnet gravity (aka “curvature<sup>2</sup>”)

High-energy physics

- higher curvature corrections  
relevant in strong-curvature regime
- low-energy limit of some string theories  
(Gross & Sloan '87, Kanti et al '95, Moura & Schiappa 06)
- compactification of Lovelock gravity  
(Charmousis '14)
- representative for theory-class w/ quadratic curvature terms



# Scalar Gauss–Bonnet gravity in a nutshell

Action

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( R + \frac{\alpha_{\text{GB}}}{4} f(\Phi) \mathcal{G} - \frac{1}{2} (\nabla\Phi)^2 \right)$$

- Gauss–Bonnet invariant:  $\mathcal{G} = R_{abcd}R^{abcd} - 4R_{ab}R^{ab} + R^2$
- Coupling function  $f(\Phi)$  selects subclass (Antoniou et al'17)

Type I:

- $f'(\Phi_0) \neq 0$
- E.g.:  $f \sim \Phi$ ,  $f \sim \exp(\Phi)$
- hairy black holes

Type II:

- $f'(\Phi_0) = 0$
- E.g.:  $f \sim \Phi^2$ ,  $f \sim \exp(\Phi^2)$
- spontaneous scalarization

# Scalar Gauss–Bonnet gravity in a nutshell

Action

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( R + \frac{\alpha_{\text{GB}}}{4} f(\Phi) \mathcal{G} - \frac{1}{2} (\nabla\Phi)^2 \right)$$

- Gauss–Bonnet invariant:  $\mathcal{G} = R_{abcd}R^{abcd} - 4R_{ab}R^{ab} + R^2$
- Coupling function  $f(\Phi)$  selects subclass (Antoniou et al'17)

Type I:

- $f'(\Phi_0) \neq 0$
- E.g.:  $f \sim \Phi$ ,  $f \sim \exp(\Phi)$
- hairy black holes

Type II:

- $f'(\Phi_0) = 0$
- E.g.:  $f \sim \Phi^2$ ,  $f \sim \exp(\Phi^2)$
- spontaneous scalarization

# Scalar Gauss–Bonnet gravity in a nutshell

Action

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( R + \frac{\alpha_{\text{GB}}}{4} f(\Phi) \mathcal{G} - \frac{1}{2} (\nabla\Phi)^2 \right)$$

- Gauss–Bonnet invariant:  $\mathcal{G} = R_{abcd}R^{abcd} - 4R_{ab}R^{ab} + R^2$
- Coupling function  $f(\Phi)$  selects subclass (Antoniou et al'17)

Type I:

- $f'(\Phi_0) \neq 0$
- E.g.:  $f \sim \Phi$ ,  $f \sim \exp(\Phi)$
- hairy black holes

Type II:

- $f'(\Phi_0) = 0$
- E.g.:  $f \sim \Phi^2$ ,  $f \sim \exp(\Phi^2)$
- spontaneous scalarization

# Type I: Hairy black holes

- Coupling function  $f'(\Phi_0) \neq 0$
- Examples: shift-symmetric  $f \sim \Phi$ , dilatonic  $f \sim \exp(\Phi)$
- Scalar field equation for shift-symmetric coupling

$$\square\Phi = -\frac{\alpha_{\text{GB}}}{4} f'(\Phi) \mathcal{G} = -\frac{\alpha_{\text{GB}}}{4} \mathcal{G}$$

- Black holes **always** have scalar hair

(Kanti et al '95, Torii et al '96, Pani et al '09, '11, Yunes & Stein '11, Sotiriou & Zhou '14, Ayzenberg & Yunes '14, Maselli et al '15, ...)

- Black holes can exceed the Kerr bound (Kleinhans et al '11, '14)
- Scalar hair forms dynamically (Benkel et al '16, Witek et al '18, Ripley & Pretorius '19)

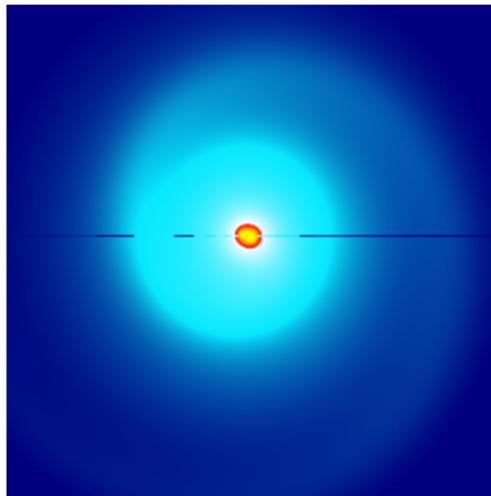


# Type I: Black hole binary dynamics – merger

- Evolution of hairy black holes  $\Rightarrow$  scalar dipole radiation
- implemented in EINSTEIN TOOLKIT & CANUDA @decoupling  
<https://bitbucket.org/canuda/> (Witek, Zilhão, Elley, Ficarra, Silva '20)



einstein toolkit.org  
CANUDA

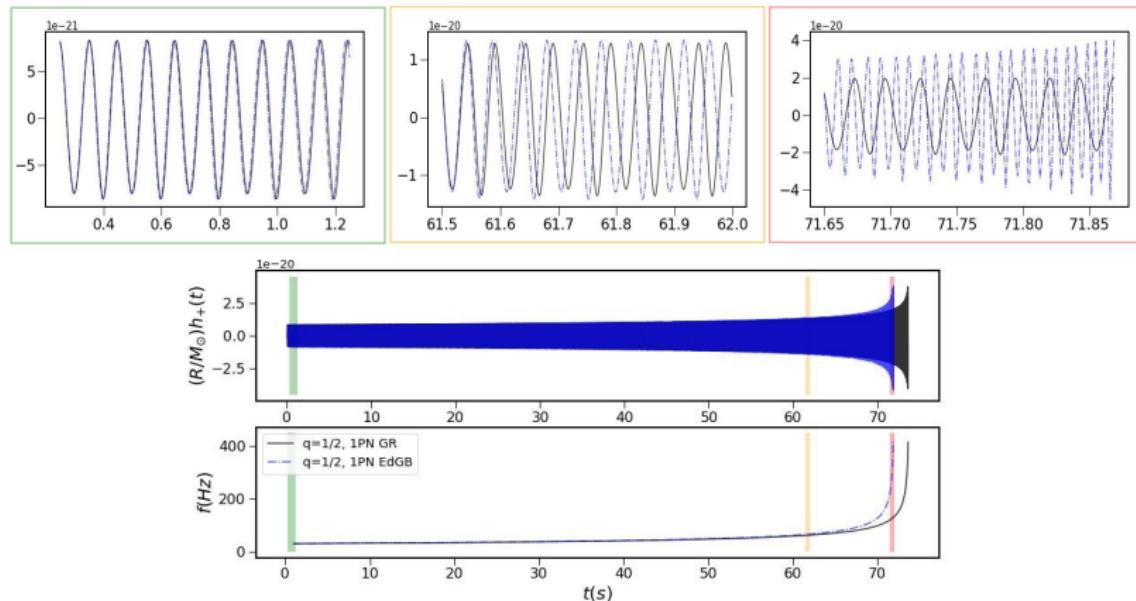


(Binary with  $q = 1/2$ ,  $M = 1$ , decoupling) (HW , Gualtieri, Pani, Sotiriou '19)

(Recent NR in quadratic gravity: sGB: Witek et al '18, '20; Okounkova '20; East & Ripley '20, '21; dCS: Okounkova et al '17 - '19, Rab<sup>2</sup>: Held et '21)

# Type I: Black hole binary dynamics – inspiral

- Energy fluxes from post-Newtonian approach for small  $\alpha_{\text{GB}}/M^2 \ll 1$  (Yagi et al '11)
- Two-body Lagrangian and sensitivities up to  $\mathcal{O}((\alpha_{\text{GB}}/M^2)^4)$  (Julié & Berti '19)
- Gravitational waveforms for general coupling (Shiralilou et al '20, '21)



(Binary with  $q = 1/2$ ,  $M = 15M_\odot$ ,  $\alpha_{\text{GB}}/M^2 = 0.03$ ) (Shiralilou, Hinderer, Nissanke, Ortiz, HW '20, '21)

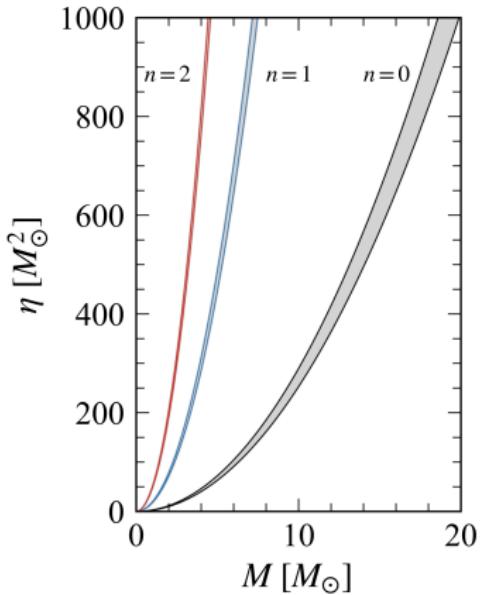
# Type II: Spontaneous black hole scalarization

- Coupling function  $f(\Phi_0) \sim \Phi^2$
- Scalar field equation

$$0 = \square\Phi + \frac{\eta}{4}f'(\Phi_0)\mathcal{G} = (\square - m_{\text{eff}}^2)\Phi$$

- GR solutions exist if  $f'(\Phi_0) = 0$
- Kerr solution is unique iff  $m_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim -f''(\Phi)\mathcal{G} > 0$
- tachyonic instability if  $m_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim -f''\mathcal{G} < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  spontaneous scalarization of black holes
- rotating black holes:  $\mathcal{G} < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  spin-induced scalarization if  $f'' < 0$

Phase-space of nonlinear solutions



(Silva et al '17)

(Silva et al '17, Doneva et al '17, Antoniou et al '17, Macedo et al '19, Ripley & Pretorius '20)

(Stability of scalarized black holes: Silva et al '19, Blazquez-Salcedo et al '18, '20)

(Spin-induced scalarization: Dima et al '20, Hod '20, Doneva et al '20, Herdeiro et al '20, Berti et al '20)

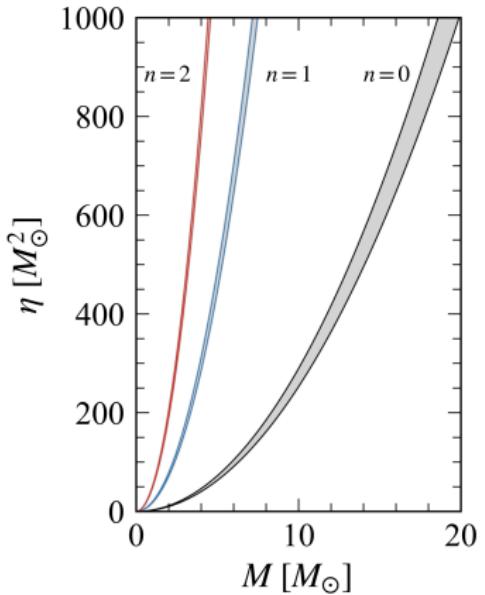
# Type II: Spontaneous black hole scalarization

- Coupling function  $f(\Phi_0) \sim \Phi^2$
- Scalar field equation

$$0 = \square\Phi + \frac{\eta}{4}f'(\Phi_0)\mathcal{G} = (\square - m_{\text{eff}}^2)\Phi$$

- GR solutions exist if  $f'(\Phi_0) = 0$
- Kerr solution is unique iff  
 $m_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim -f''(\Phi)\mathcal{G} > 0$
- tachyonic instability if  $m_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim -f''\mathcal{G} < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  spontaneous scalarization of black holes
- rotating black holes:  $\mathcal{G} < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  spin-induced scalarization if  $f'' < 0$

Phase-space of nonlinear solutions



(Silva et al '17)

(Silva et al '17, Doneva et al '17, Antoniou et al '17, Macedo et al '19, Ripley & Pretorius '20)

(Stability of scalarized black holes: Silva et al '19, Blazquez-Salcedo et al '18, '20)

(Spin-induced scalarization: Dima et al '20, Hod '20, Doneva et al '20, Herdeiro et al '20, Berti et al '20)

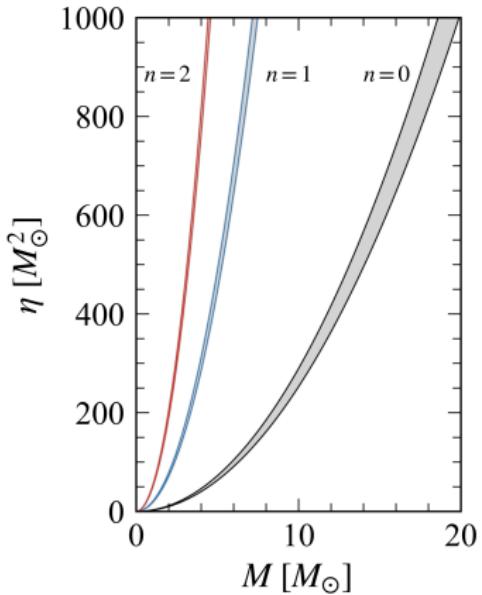
# Type II: Spontaneous black hole scalarization

- Coupling function  $f(\Phi_0) \sim \Phi^2$
- Scalar field equation

$$0 = \square\Phi + \frac{\eta}{4}f'(\Phi_0)\mathcal{G} = (\square - m_{\text{eff}}^2)\Phi$$

- GR solutions exist if  $f'(\Phi_0) = 0$
- Kerr solution is unique iff  
 $m_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim -f''(\Phi)\mathcal{G} > 0$
- tachyonic instability if  $m_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim -f''\mathcal{G} < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  spontaneous scalarization of black holes
- rotating black holes:  $\mathcal{G} < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  spin-induced scalarization if  $f'' < 0$

Phase-space of nonlinear solutions



(Silva et al '17)

(Silva et al '17, Doneva et al '17, Antoniou et al '17, Macedo et al '19, Ripley & Pretorius '20)

(Stability of scalarized black holes: Silva et al '19, Blazquez-Salcedo et al '18, '20)

(Spin-induced scalarization: Dima et al '20, Hod '20, Doneva et al '20, Herdeiro et al '20, Berti et al '20)

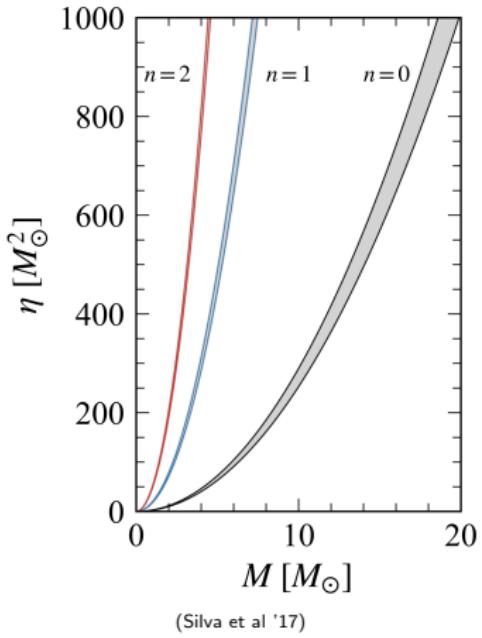
## Type II: Spontaneous black hole scalarization

- Coupling function  $f(\Phi_0) \sim \Phi^2$
- Scalar field equation

$$0 = \square\Phi + \frac{\eta}{4}f'(\Phi_0)\mathcal{G} = (\square - m_{\text{eff}}^2)\Phi$$

- GR solutions exist if  $f'(\Phi_0) = 0$
- Kerr solution is unique iff  
 $m_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim -f''(\Phi)\mathcal{G} > 0$
- tachyonic instability if  $m_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim -f''\mathcal{G} < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  spontaneous scalarization of black holes
- rotating black holes:  $\mathcal{G} < 0$   
 $\Rightarrow$  spin-induced scalarization if  $f'' < 0$

Phase-space of nonlinear solutions



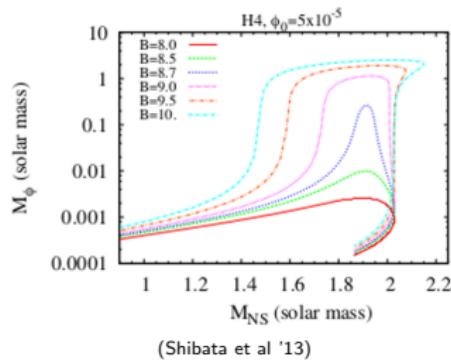
(Silva et al '17)

(Silva et al '17, Doneva et al '17, Antoniou et al '17, Macedo et al '19, Ripley & Pretorius '20)

(Stability of scalarized black holes: Silva et al '19, Blazquez-Salcedo et al '18, '20)

(Spin-induced scalarization: Dima et al '20, Hod '20, Doneva et al '20, Herdeiro et al '20, Berti et al '20)

# Interludium: neutron stars in scalar-tensor theories

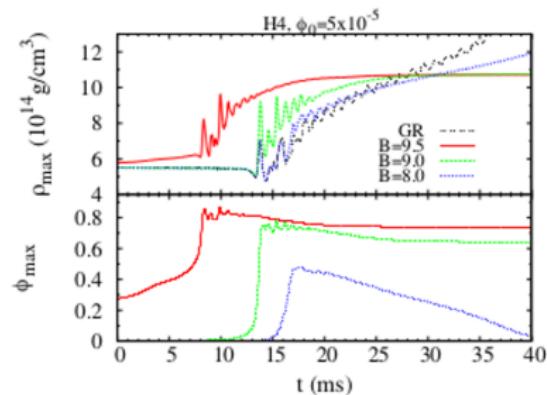


(Shibata et al '13)

- in scalar-tensor theories

$$\square \Phi \sim -B\Phi T$$

- isolated neutron stars spontaneously scalarize

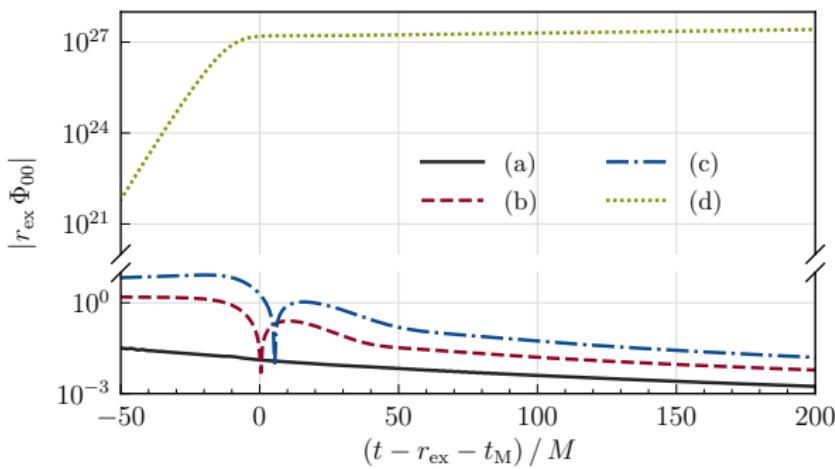
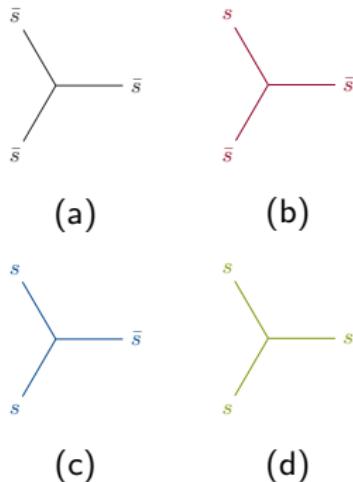


(Shibata et al '13)

(Damour & Esposito-Farése '93, '96; Shibata et al '13; Barausse, Palenzuela, Lehner et al '12, Palenzuela et al '13; ...  
In general EFTs: Khalil et al '19)

# Type II: Black hole head-on collisions

- first study in decoupling limit (Silva, Witek, Elley, Yunes '20; also East & Ripley '21)
- background: head-on collisions and inspiralling black holes
- remain scalarized or **dynamical descalarization**



Website: <https://bhscalarization.bitbucket.io/>

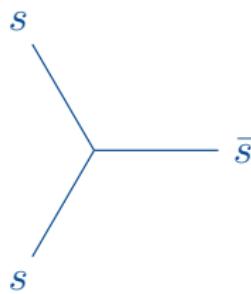
Youtube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_417F40VkJyQd48VHkZeDA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_417F40VkJyQd48VHkZeDA)

# Type II: black hole inspiral

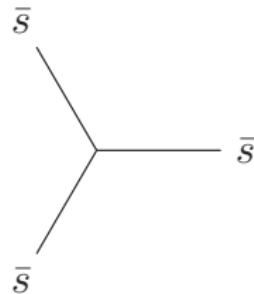
(in prep. with M. Elley, H.O. Silva and N. Yunes)

- inspiral with  $q = 1$ ,  $M = 2m = 1$ ,  $D = 10M$ , vary spin,  $r_{\text{ex}} = 50M$
- choose negative coupling  $\rightarrow$  spin-induced (de)scalarization

Dynamical desclarization



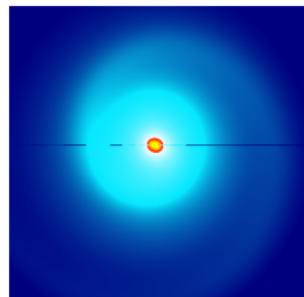
Spin-induced scalarization



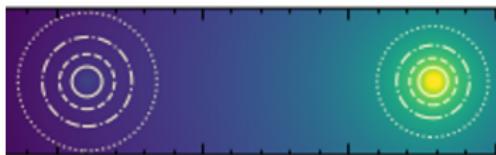
# Observational implications

Type I:  $s + s \rightarrow s$

- pre-merger: scalar radiation  
 $\Rightarrow$  dephasing of gravitational wave
- merger+postmerger: hairy BH  $\Rightarrow$  modify ringdown
- observational bound  $\sqrt{\alpha_{\text{GB}}} \lesssim 1.7 \text{ km}$   
(Yagi '12, Nair et al '19, Wang et al '21, Perkins et al '21)



(HW, Gualtieri, Pani, Sotiriou '19)



(Silva, HW, Elley, Yunes '20)

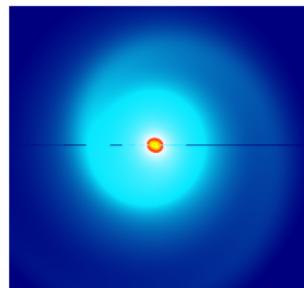
Type II: unconstrained

- $s + s \rightarrow \bar{s}$  or  $s + \bar{s} \rightarrow \bar{s}$ 
  - pre-merger: scalar radiation  
 $\Rightarrow$  dephasing of gravitational wave
  - merger + postmerger: discharging  
 $\Rightarrow$  final object = GR black holes
- $\bar{s} + \bar{s} \rightarrow s$ 
  - pre-merger: identical to GR evolution
  - post-merger: spin-induced scalar
  - “hidden” beyond-GR effects

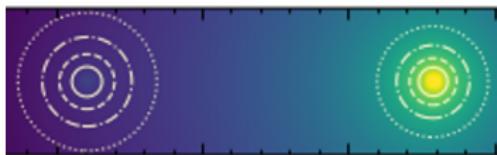
# Observational implications

Type I:  $s + s \rightarrow s$

- pre-merger: scalar radiation  
 $\Rightarrow$  dephasing of gravitational wave
- merger+postmerger: hairy BH  $\Rightarrow$  modify ringdown
- observational bound  $\sqrt{\alpha_{\text{GB}}} \lesssim 1.7 \text{ km}$   
(Yagi '12, Nair et al '19, Wang et al '21, Perkins et al '21)



(HW, Gualtieri, Pani, Sotiriou '19)



(Silva, HW, Elley, Yunes '20)

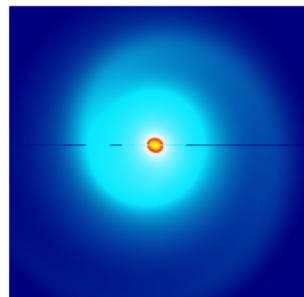
Type II: unconstrained

- $s + s \rightarrow \bar{s}$  or  $s + \bar{s} \rightarrow \bar{s}$ 
  - pre-merger: scalar radiation  
 $\Rightarrow$  dephasing of gravitational wave
  - merger + postmerger: discharging  
 $\Rightarrow$  final object = GR black holes
- $\bar{s} + \bar{s} \rightarrow s$ 
  - pre-merger: identical to GR evolution
  - post-merger: spin-induced scalar
  - “hidden” beyond-GR effects

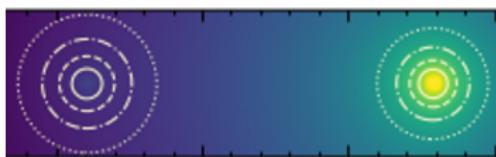
# Observational implications

Type I:  $s + s \rightarrow s$

- pre-merger: scalar radiation  
 $\Rightarrow$  dephasing of gravitational wave
- merger+postmerger: hairy BH  $\Rightarrow$  modify ringdown
- observational bound  $\sqrt{\alpha_{\text{GB}}} \lesssim 1.7 \text{ km}$   
(Yagi '12, Nair et al '19, Wang et al '21, Perkins et al '21)



(HW, Gualtieri, Pani, Sotiriou '19)



(Silva, HW, Elley, Yunes '20)

Type II: unconstrained

- $s + s \rightarrow \bar{s}$  or  $s + \bar{s} \rightarrow \bar{s}$ 
  - pre-merger: scalar radiation  
 $\Rightarrow$  dephasing of gravitational wave
  - merger + postmerger: discharging  
 $\Rightarrow$  final object = GR black holes
- $\bar{s} + \bar{s} \rightarrow s$ 
  - pre-merger: identical to GR evolution
  - post-merger: spin-induced scalar
  - "hidden" beyond-GR effects

# Summary and Outlook

## Summary

- coupling to higher curvature  $\Rightarrow$  hairy or scalarized black holes (similar for dCS gravity)
- pre-merger: scalar radiation and gravitational wave phase shift
- post-merger:
  - Type I: hairy black hole
  - Type II: dynamical descalarization  
spin-induced dynamical scalarization
- beyond-GR effects may remain “hidden”

## Outlook

- nonlinear evolution  $\Rightarrow$  dynamical scalarization? merger & endstate?
- extension to other quadratic theories, e.g., dynamical Chern-Simons  
(in progress with A.Dima and C. Richards)
- Observational constraints

Thank you!



# Some advertisement for NR enthusiasts

- NR community calls (initiated by Nils Fischer):
  - every first Monday of the month @ 9am PT / 11am CDT / 6pm CEST
  - <https://github.com/sxs-collaboration/nr-community-call/wiki>
- Workshop: “New frontiers in strong gravity”
  - 3 - 16 July 2022 @ Benasque Science Center (Spain)
- Workshop: “NR-community meetup 2022”
  - mid-August 2022 @ ICERM (Brown University)

Thank you!





# On hairy black holes in scalar GB gravity

## Proving hairy-ness in shift-symmetric Horndeski gravity – an outline

(Hui & Nicolis '12; Sotiriou & Zhou '13, '14, Maselli et al '15)

- consider vacuum, static, spherically symmetric, asymptotically flat spacetimes

$$ds^2 = A(r)dt^2 + B(r)^{-1}dr^2 + r^2d\Omega^2$$

- shift-symmetry  $\Phi \rightarrow \Phi + c \Rightarrow \exists$  conserved current  $\nabla_a J^a = 0$

① assume  $\Phi = \Phi(r) \rightarrow$  only  $J^r \neq 0$

② regularity of norm  $J^a J_a = \frac{(J^r)^2}{B} @ r = r_h$  and  $B|_{r_h} = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow J^r|_{r_h} = 0$

③ conservation eq.  $\nabla_a J^a = \partial_r J^r + 2\frac{J^r}{r} = 0 \Rightarrow J^r r^2 = c$   
(ii) implies  $c = 0 \Rightarrow J^r = 0 \quad \forall r$

④ schematically  $J^r = B\Phi' F(g, g', g'', \Phi')$  (Hui & Nicolis '12)

- asymptotic flatness implies  $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} B = 1, \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \Phi' = 0, F = k \neq 0$
- if  $\Phi' \neq 0$  for  $r$  finite: contradiction to  $J^r = 0 \Rightarrow \Phi' = 0 \quad \forall r$   
 $\Rightarrow \Phi = \Phi_0 = 0$

⑤ loophole in sGB: (Sotiriou & Zhou '13, '14)

- then  $J^r = -B\Phi' - 4\alpha_{\text{GB}} \frac{A'}{A} \frac{B(B-1)}{r^2} = 0 \Rightarrow \Phi'$  can be non-trivial
- scalar charge  $P$  depends on BH mass  $M \Rightarrow$  "hair of second kind"

▶ back