



Residual eccentricity of binary orbits at the gravitational wave detection threshold: estimates using post-Newtonian theory

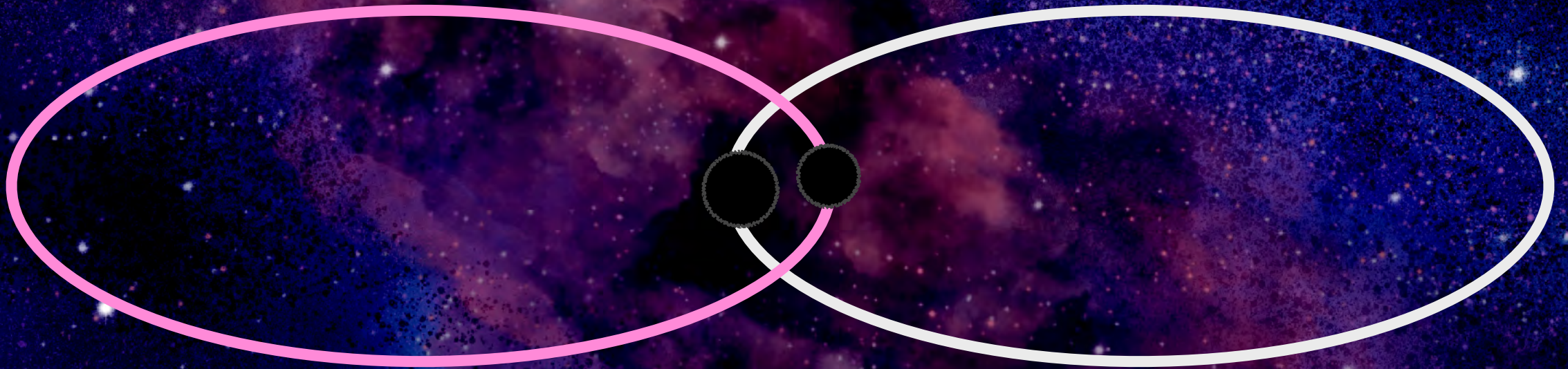
Alexandria Tucker

Clifford M. Will

University of Florida



Eccentricity



Eccentricity

A diagram illustrating a gravitational well. Two black spheres representing masses are positioned at the center, creating a depression in the space. Concentric, glowing rings of purple and blue light radiate outwards from the center, representing the potential energy surface. The rings are more densely packed near the center and become more widely spaced as they move outwards. The background is a dark, starry space with a nebula-like glow in shades of purple and blue.
$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{dL}{dt}$$



Eccentricity

Example:

Hulse-Taylor binary pulsar B1913+16

Current eccentricity = 0.617

Crosses LIGO-Virgo threshold in 390 million years

By this time, eccentricity will have decreased to

$$5 \times 10^{-6}$$



Eccentricity

Reasons for residual eccentricities



not enough time to circularize



three-body processes



direct capture

globular clusters



active galactic nuclei



Eccentricity

Implications

The detection and measurement of eccentric inspiral events could serve to **confirm or distinguish among various proposed formation channels!**



Eccentricity

Eccentric binary detection

Current waveform templates used for LIGO-Virgo are **based on quasi-circular models.**

This may **reduce their efficiency** to detect eccentric binaries.

Considerable effort in this direction is ongoing.

preliminary evidence of a highly eccentric merger in GW190521

Our work

Residual eccentricity of inspiralling orbits at the gravitational-wave detection threshold: Accurate estimates using post-Newtonian theory

Alexandria Tucker^{1,*} and Clifford M. Will^{1,2,†}

Tucker & Will, in Press, *Phys. Rev. D* arXiv:2108.12210

We develop an **accurate map** from the initial parameters of an arbitrarily eccentric binary orbit to the eccentricity when the gravitational wave frequency reaches a detection threshold for a given detector.

Scope and approach

Initial eccentricity ≈ 0.999

Arbitrary mass ratios η

Schwarzschild limit (spin = 0)

post-Newtonian theory

Osculating orbit elements

Two-timescale analysis

post-Newtonian Theory

(Blanchet, Iyer 2003)

$$\vec{a} = -\frac{Gm}{r^2} \hat{n} + \frac{Gm}{r^2} \left(\mathcal{A}_c \hat{n} + \frac{1}{\dot{r}} \mathcal{B}_c \vec{v} \right) + \frac{8}{5} \eta \frac{Gm}{r^2} \frac{Gm}{rc^3} \left(\dot{r} \mathcal{A}_{\text{rr}} \hat{n} + \mathcal{B}_{\text{rr}} \vec{v} \right) + \vec{a}_{\text{Tail}}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_c^{(N)} = \sum_{l,m,n} a_{lmn}^{(N)} \frac{\delta_{l+m+n,N}}{c^{2N}} \left(\frac{Gm}{r} \right)^l (\dot{r}^2)^m (v^2)^n$$

$$\mathcal{B}_c^{(N)} = \sum_{l,m,n} b_{lmn}^{(N)} \frac{\delta_{l+m+n,N}}{c^{2N}} \left(\frac{Gm}{r} \right)^l (\dot{r}^2)^m (v^2)^n$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{rr}}^{(N)} = \sum_{l,m,n} c_{lmn}^{(N)} \frac{\delta_{l+m+n,N}}{c^{2N}} \left(\frac{Gm}{r} \right)^l (\dot{r}^2)^m (v^2)^n$$

$$\mathcal{B}_{\text{rr}}^{(N)} = \sum_{l,m,n} d_{lmn}^{(N)} \frac{\delta_{l+m+n,N}}{c^{2N}} \left(\frac{Gm}{r} \right)^l (\dot{r}^2)^m (v^2)^n$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A} = \frac{1}{c^2} & \left\{ -\frac{3\dot{r}^2 v}{2} + v^2 + 3vv^2 - \frac{m}{r}(4+2v) \right\} + \frac{1}{c^4} \left\{ \frac{15\dot{r}^4 v}{8} - \frac{45\dot{r}^4 v^2}{8} - \frac{9\dot{r}^2 v v^2}{2} \right. \\ & + 6\dot{r}^2 v^2 v^2 + 3vv^4 - 4v^2 v^4 + \frac{m}{r} \left(-2\dot{r}^2 - 25\dot{r}^2 v - 2\dot{r}^2 v^2 - \frac{13vv^2}{2} + 2v^2 v^2 \right) \\ & + \frac{m^2}{r^2} \left(9 + \frac{87v}{4} \right) \left. \right\} + \frac{1}{c^5} \left\{ -\frac{24\dot{r} v v^2 m}{5 r} - \frac{136\dot{r} v m^2}{15 r^2} \right\} \\ & + \frac{1}{c^6} \left\{ \frac{35\dot{r}^6 v}{16} + \frac{175\dot{r}^6 v^2}{16} - \frac{175\dot{r}^6 v^3}{16} + \frac{15\dot{r}^4 v v^2}{2} - \frac{135\dot{r}^4 v^2 v^2}{4} + \frac{255\dot{r}^4 v^3 v^2}{8} \right. \\ & - \frac{15\dot{r}^2 v v^4}{2} + \frac{237\dot{r}^2 v^2 v^4}{8} - \frac{45\dot{r}^2 v^3 v^4}{2} + \frac{11vv^6}{4} - \frac{49v^2 v^6}{4} + 13v^3 v^6 \\ & + \frac{m}{r} \left(79\dot{r}^4 v - \frac{69\dot{r}^4 v^2}{2} - 30\dot{r}^4 v^3 - 121\dot{r}^2 v v^2 + 16\dot{r}^2 v^2 v^2 + 20\dot{r}^2 v^3 v^2 \right. \\ & + \frac{75vv^4}{4} + 8v^2 v^4 - 10v^3 v^4 \left. \right) + \frac{m^2}{r^2} \left(\dot{r}^2 + \frac{32573\dot{r}^2 v}{168} + \frac{11\dot{r}^2 v^2}{8} - 7\dot{r}^2 v^3 \right. \\ & + \frac{615\dot{r}^2 v \pi^2}{64} - \frac{26987vv^2}{840} + v^3 v^2 - \frac{123v\pi^2 v^2}{64} - 110\dot{r}^2 v \ln \left(\frac{r}{r_0'} \right) \\ & \left. + 22vv^2 \ln \left(\frac{r}{r_0'} \right) \right) + \frac{m^3}{r^3} \left(-16 - \frac{41911v}{420} + \frac{44\lambda v}{3} - \frac{71v^2}{2} + \frac{41v\pi^2}{16} \right) \left. \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B} = \frac{1}{c^2} & \left[-4\dot{r} + 2\dot{r}v \right] + \frac{1}{c^4} \left\{ \frac{9\dot{r}^3 v}{2} + 3\dot{r}^3 v^2 - \frac{15\dot{r} v v^2}{2} - 2\dot{r} v^2 v^2 + \frac{m}{r} \left(2\dot{r} + \frac{41\dot{r}v}{2} + 4\dot{r}v^2 \right) \right\} \\ & + \frac{1}{c^5} \left\{ \frac{8vv^2 m}{5 r} + \frac{24v m^2}{5 r^2} \right\} + \frac{1}{c^6} \left\{ -\frac{45\dot{r}^5 v}{8} + 15\dot{r}^5 v^2 + \frac{15\dot{r}^5 v^3}{4} + 12\dot{r}^3 v v^2 \right. \\ & - \frac{111\dot{r}^3 v^2 v^2}{4} - 12\dot{r}^3 v^3 v^2 - \frac{65\dot{r} v v^4}{8} + 19\dot{r} v^2 v^4 + 6\dot{r} v^3 v^4 \\ & + \frac{m}{r} \left(\frac{329\dot{r}^3 v}{6} + \frac{59\dot{r}^3 v^2}{2} + 18\dot{r}^3 v^3 - 15\dot{r} v v^2 - 27\dot{r} v^2 v^2 - 10\dot{r} v^3 v^2 \right) \\ & \left. + \frac{m^2}{r^2} \left(-4\dot{r} - \frac{18169\dot{r}v}{840} + 25\dot{r}v^2 + 8\dot{r}v^3 - \frac{123\dot{r}v\pi^2}{32} + 44\dot{r}v \ln \left(\frac{r}{r_0'} \right) \right) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

post-Newtonian Theory

- * near zone $r \ll \lambda$
- * weak-field
- * slowly moving

expansion in $\frac{GM}{c^2 r}$

$(c^{-2})^n \iff n\text{-PN}$

Scope and approach

post-Newtonian theory

$$\vec{a} = -\frac{Gm}{r^2} \hat{n} + \frac{Gm}{r^2} \left(\mathcal{A}_c \hat{n} + \frac{1}{\dot{r}} \mathcal{B}_c \vec{v} \right) + \frac{8}{5} \eta \frac{Gm}{r^2} \frac{Gm}{rc^3} \left(\dot{r} \mathcal{A}_{rr} \hat{n} + \mathcal{B}_{rr} \vec{v} \right) + \vec{a}_{\text{Tail}}$$

Conservative to 3PN

Radiation reaction (RR)
2.5PN, 3.5PN, & 4.5PN

Lowest order tail - 4PN
(Pati & Will, 2018)

Scope and approach

Initial eccentricity ≈ 0.999

Arbitrary mass ratios η

Schwarzschild limit (spin = 0)

post-Newtonian theory

Osculating orbit elements

Two-timescale analysis

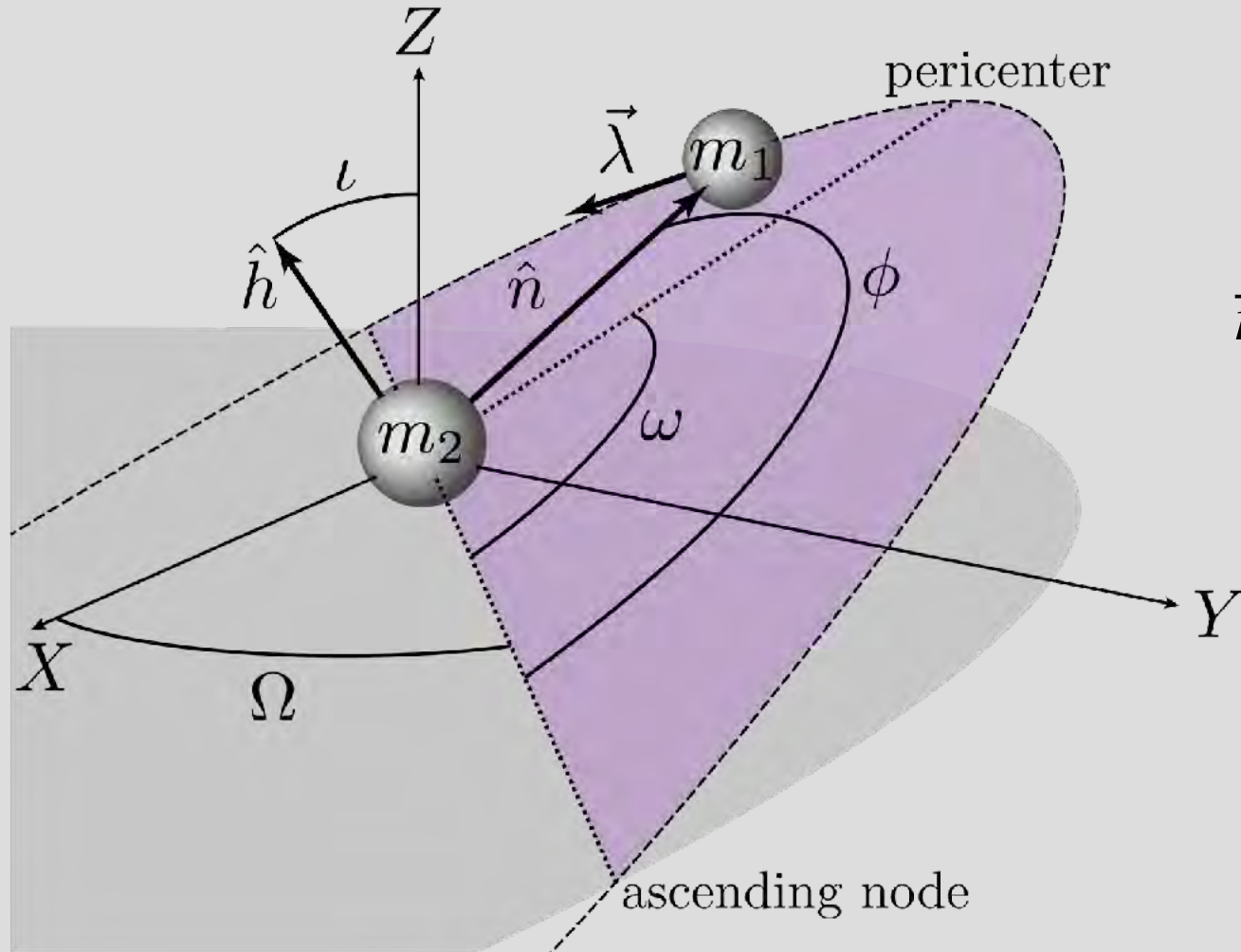
$$\vec{a} = -\frac{Gm}{r^2} \hat{n} + \frac{Gm}{r^2} \left(\mathcal{A}_c \hat{n} + \frac{1}{\dot{r}} \mathcal{B}_c \vec{v} \right) + \frac{8}{5} \eta \frac{Gm}{r^2} \frac{Gm}{rc^3} \left(\dot{r} \mathcal{A}_{rr} \hat{n} + \mathcal{B}_{rr} \vec{v} \right) + \vec{a}_{\text{Tail}}$$

$\delta \vec{a}$

Osculating orbit elements

$$\delta \vec{a} = \mathcal{R} \hat{n} + \mathcal{S} \hat{\lambda} + \mathcal{W} \hat{h}$$

radial cross-track out of plane



Schwarzschild

$$i \rightarrow 0 \quad \Omega \rightarrow 0 \quad \mathcal{W} \rightarrow 0$$

Effective one body problem

$$\vec{r} \equiv \vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2 \quad m \equiv m_1 + m_2 \quad \eta = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m^2}$$

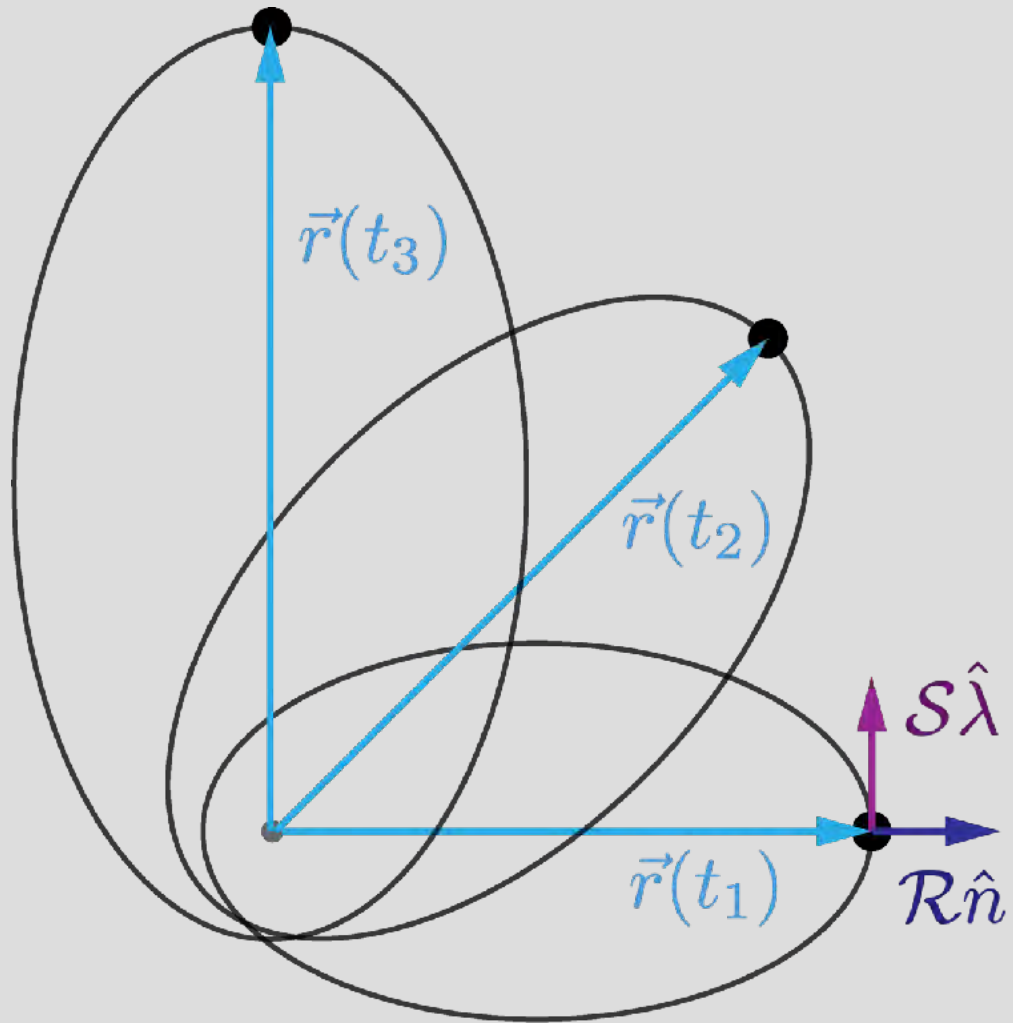
Orbital Elements

$$\vec{r} \equiv \frac{p}{1 + e \cos(\phi - \omega)} \hat{n} \quad \vec{h} \equiv \sqrt{Gmp} \hat{h}$$

$$p = a(1 - e^2)$$

Osculating orbit elements

$$\delta \vec{a} = \mathcal{R} \hat{n} + \mathcal{S} \hat{\lambda} + \mathcal{W} \hat{h}$$



Lagrange planetary equations

$$\left. \begin{array}{cc} \frac{dp}{d\phi} & \frac{de}{d\phi} \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\frac{dX_\gamma(\phi)}{d\phi} = \epsilon Q_\gamma(X_\delta(\phi), \phi)$$

Scope and approach

Initial eccentricity ≈ 0.999

Arbitrary mass ratios η

Schwarzschild limit (spin = 0)

post-Newtonian theory

Osculating orbit elements

Two-timescale analysis

Two-timescale analysis

$$\frac{dX_\gamma(\phi)}{d\phi} = \epsilon Q_\gamma(X_\delta(\phi), \phi)$$

Two-scale Ansatz

$$\theta \equiv \epsilon\phi$$

$$X_\gamma(\theta, \phi) \equiv \tilde{X}_\gamma(\theta) + \epsilon Y_\gamma(\tilde{X}_\delta(\theta), \phi)$$

Periodic

$$\langle Y_\gamma(\tilde{X}_\delta(\theta), \phi) \rangle = 0$$

$$\partial Y_\gamma / \partial \phi$$

Secular

$$\tilde{X}_\gamma(\theta) = \langle X_\gamma(\theta, \phi) \rangle$$

$$d\tilde{X}_\gamma / d\theta$$

Scope and approach

Initial eccentricity ≈ 0.999

Arbitrary mass ratios η

Schwarzschild limit (spin = 0)

post-Newtonian theory

Osculating orbit elements

Two-timescale analysis

→ **coupled secular evolution equations for p & e**
↳ evolve numerically with respect to time
↳ terminate when p crosses LIGO-Virgo detectable threshold
↳ find analytic fit for $e(p)$

Evolution equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{de}{d\theta} = & -\frac{1}{15}\eta e x^{-5/2}(304 + 121e^2) \\ & + \frac{1}{30}\eta e x^{-7/2} \left[\frac{1}{28}(144392 - 34768e^2 - 2251e^4) + (1272 - 1829e^2 - 538e^4)\eta \right] \\ & - \frac{1}{34560}\eta \pi e x^{-4}(4538880 + 6876288e^2 + 581208e^4 + 623e^6) \\ & - \frac{1}{120}\eta e x^{-9/2} \left[\frac{1}{252}(43837360 + 4258932e^2 - 1211290e^4 + 77535e^6) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{14}(1239608 - 3232202e^2 + 898433e^4 + 13130e^6)\eta - (9216 + 24353e^2 + 45704e^4 + 4304e^6)\eta^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{d\theta} = & -\frac{8}{5}\eta x^{-3/2}(8 + 7e^2) \\ & + \frac{1}{15}\eta x^{-5/2} \left[\frac{1}{14}(22072 - 6064e^2 - 1483e^4) + 4(36 - 127e^2 - 79e^4)\eta \right] \\ & - \frac{1}{360}\eta \pi x^{-3}(18432 + 55872e^2 + 7056e^4 - 49e^6) \\ & - \frac{1}{15}\eta x^{-7/2} \left[\frac{1}{756}(8272600 + 777972e^2 - 947991e^4 - 4743e^6) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{84}(232328 - 1581612e^2 + 598485e^4 + 6300e^6)\eta - (384 + 1025e^2 + 5276e^4 + 632e^6)\eta^2 \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$x \equiv \frac{c^2 p}{Gm}$$

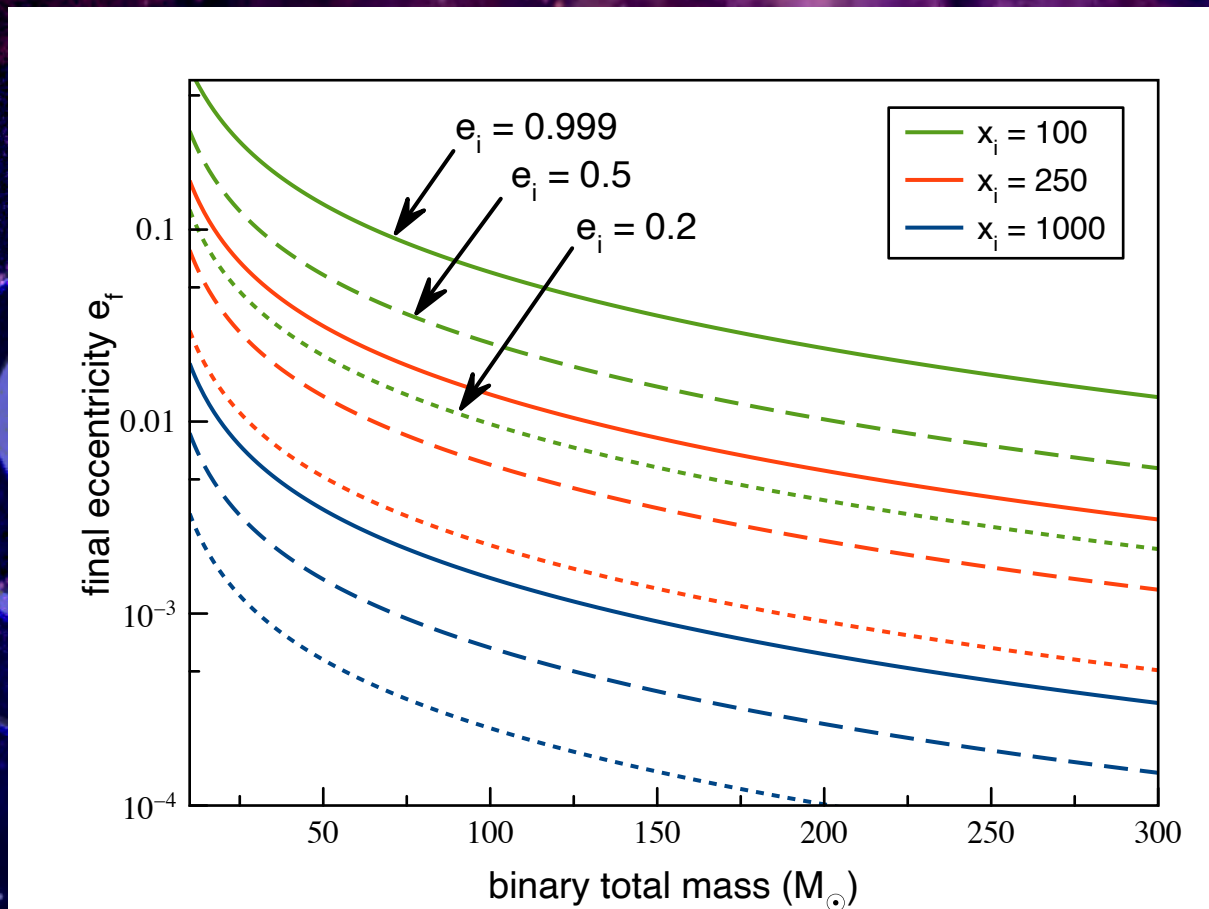
LIGO-Virgo threshold

$$f_{GW} \approx \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\sqrt{Gm}}{p^{3/2}}$$

$$p_f = 47.12 \left(\frac{20M_{\odot}}{m} \frac{10 \text{ Hz}}{f} \right)^{2/3}$$

Final eccentricity vs. total mass

$$x \equiv \frac{c^2 p}{Gm}$$



Takeaway

- *The **smaller** the initial values of p , the **larger** the residual e — less time to circularize
- *The **smaller** the mass, the **larger** the residual e — lower mass crosses 10 Hz threshold at larger p — less time to circularize

Mass ratio dependence

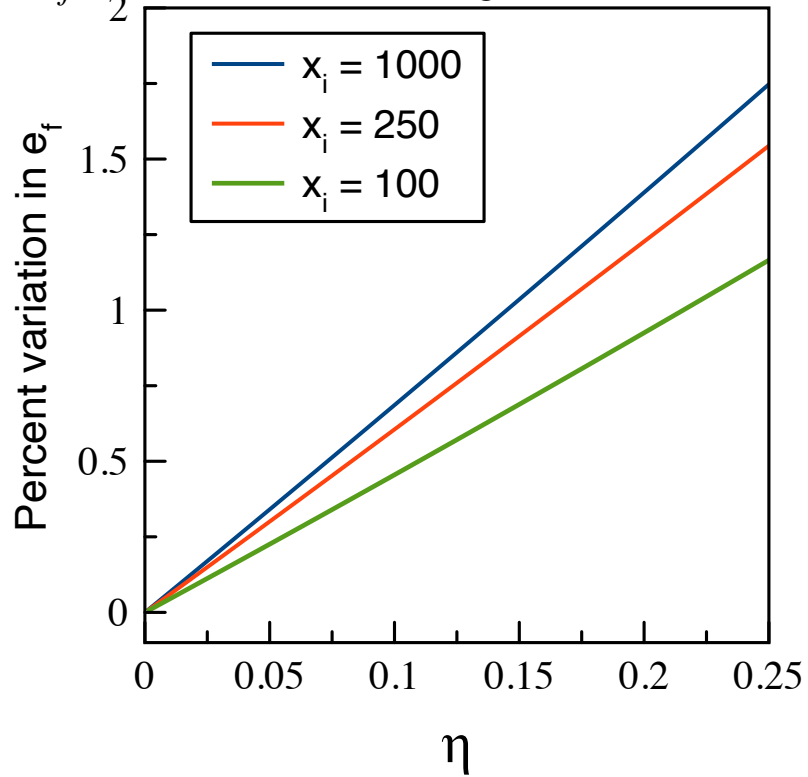
$$\eta = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

· test mass limit: $\eta \rightarrow 0$

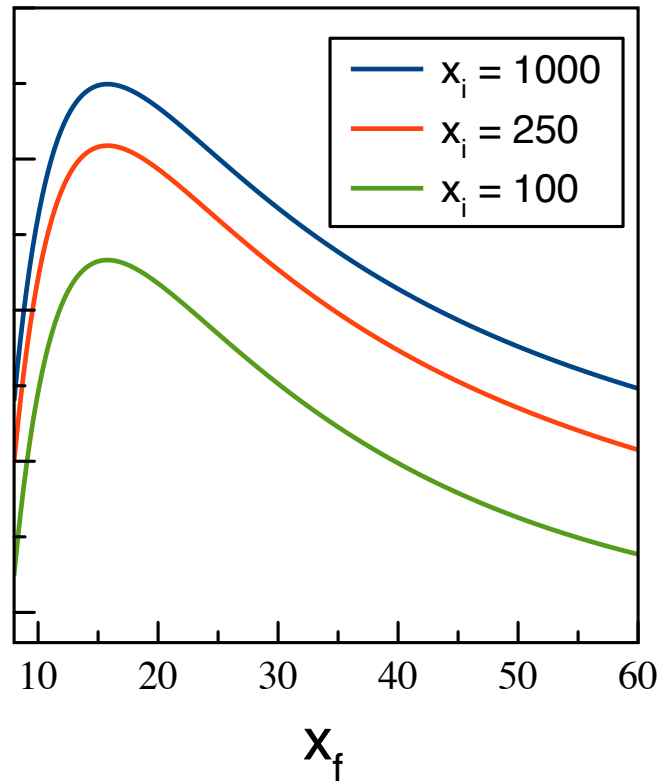
· equal masses: $\eta = 1/4$

$$x \equiv \frac{c^2 p}{Gm}$$

$x_f = \frac{16}{2} \rightarrow m = 100 \odot$ & $f = 10$ Hz



for equal-mass and test mass limit



Takeaway

* e_f independent of η to better than 2%

* Choose $\eta = 5 \times 10^{-5}$

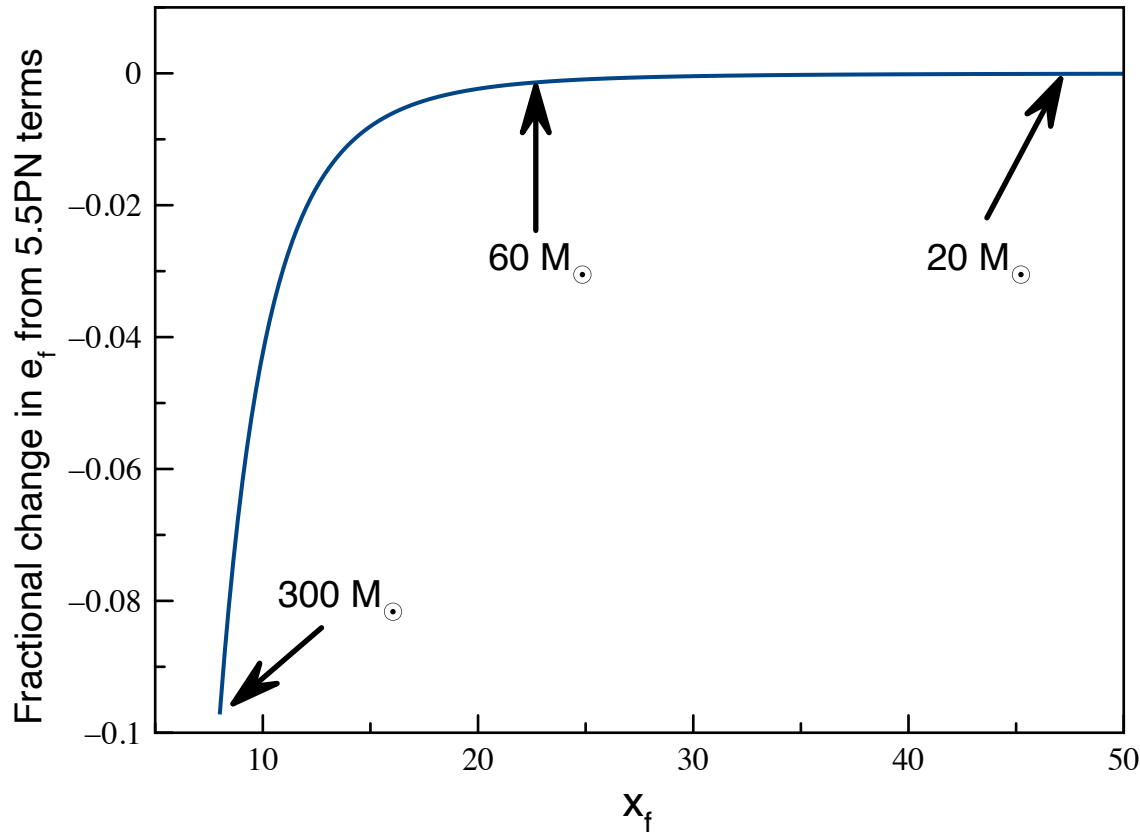
5.5 PN convergence

$$\left. \frac{dx}{d\theta} \right|_{5.5} = \frac{\eta x^{-9/2}}{87318000} (294262221896 - 621776393808e^2 - 658790352267e^4 - 277665065676e^6)$$

Sago & Fujita 2015

$$\left. \frac{de}{d\theta} \right|_{5.5} = \frac{\eta e x^{-11/2}}{349272000} (1790315545528 - 6186148025656e^2 - 4964186588931e^4)$$

$x_i = 1000$



Takeaway

Small effect except for the most massive systems which are very relativistic when they cross the threshold

Eccentricity map

Lowest order textbook solution (Peters & Mathews 1963)

$$x = x_i \frac{g(e)}{g(e_i)} \quad \text{with} \quad g(e) = e^{12/19} (304 + 121e^2)^{870/2299}$$

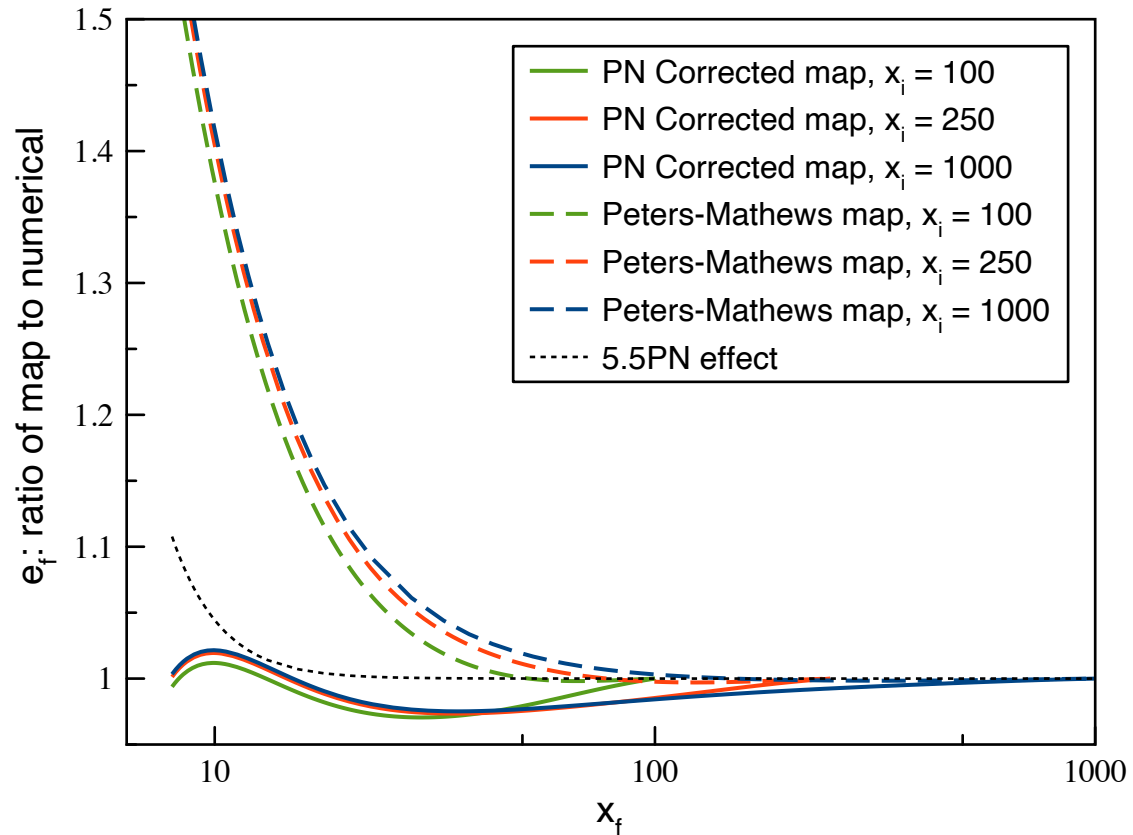
PN-corrected

$$x = x_i \left(\frac{1 + 2/x_i}{1 + 2/x} \right) \left(\frac{1 - 4/x_i}{1 - 4/x} \right)^{12/19} \frac{g(e)}{g(e_i)}$$

$$e = g^{-1} \left[\frac{x}{x_i} \left(\frac{1 + 2/x}{1 + 2/x_i} \right) \left(\frac{1 - 4/x}{1 - 4/x_i} \right)^{12/19} g(e_i) \right]$$

Analytic fits

$$x \equiv \frac{c^2 p}{Gm}$$



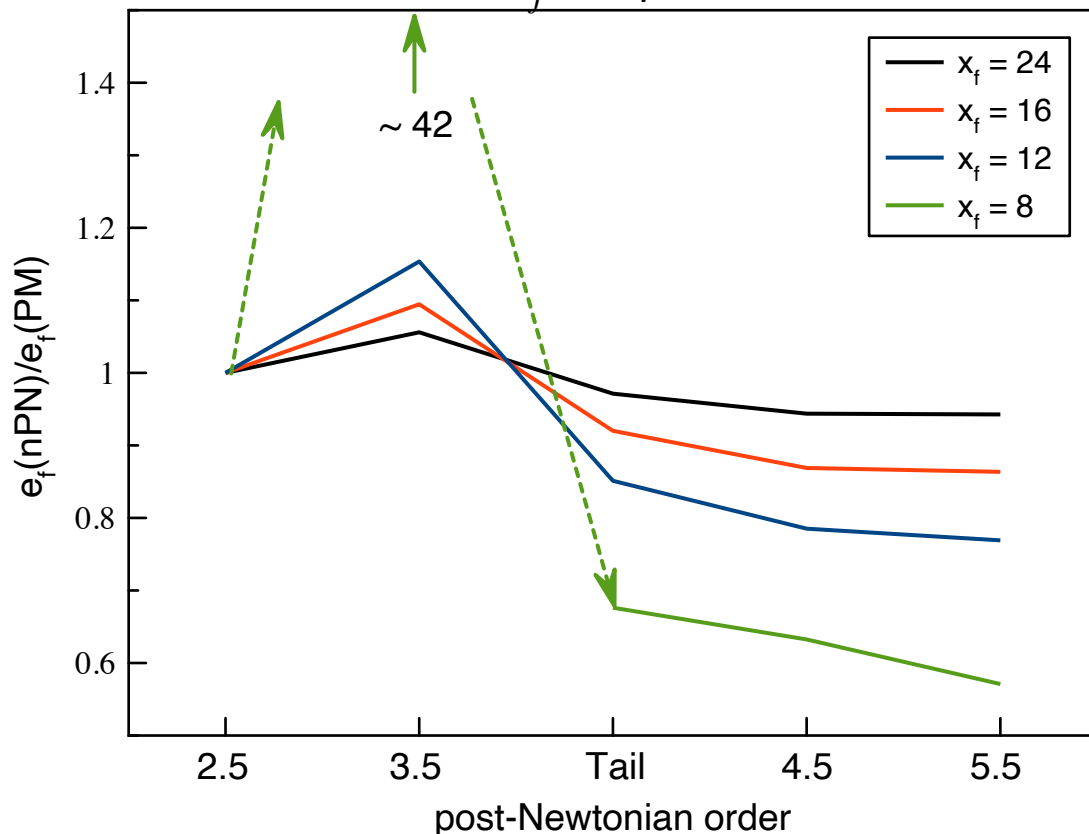
Takeaway

- * PN-corrected map better than 2% agreement with numerical solutions
- * PN-corrected values systematically smaller than Peters-Mathews by as much as 30% for $60 M_{\odot}$ crossing LIGO-Virgo threshold at 10 Hz.

Accuracy of PN

$$x \equiv \frac{c^2 p}{Gm}$$

PN corrections on values of e_f compared to Peters-Mathews



Takeaway

- * 2.5PN order numerical results agree with PM values
- * 3.5PN order has a sign difference, causing e to grow, especially at highly relativistic distances
- * adding additional PN terms mitigates this behavior

Conclusion

Summary

- *Used PN equations of motion including RR to 4.5PN to analyse late-time eccentricities of non-spinning binaries of arbitrary masses
- *Found that final eccentricities are essentially independent of η
- *Found a PN-corrected analytic map for final eccentricities that produces consistently smaller values than lowest order map by as much as 60% and agrees with numerically generated values to a few percent

Potential application

- *Assessing the levels of orbital eccentricity that must be incorporated into GW templates
- *Relating measured late-time eccentricities to astrophysical origins of compact binary inspirals

Future work

- *Extend work to include **spin-orbit**
- *Derive a **probability distribution** of final eccentricity as a function of the initial astrophysical environment