

Astrophysics with

The Laser Interferometer Space Antenna



Elena Maria Rossi Leiden Observatory the Netherlands

LISA Dutch Community Day, Leiden 1st October 2021

Constellation of 3 satellites



LISA current status

- NASA is minority partner
- LISA currently in Phase A (study phase, with mission formulation review this fall)
- Adoption in 2024 (consolidation of the mission design, and science management plan)



• 2034 nominal launch

Gravitational Waves

 Mass in non spherical, nonuniform motion produces ripples of curved spacetime which propagate away from the source at the speed of light, as transverse waves



- Two independent polarisations
- Deform space periodically



• Carry away energy from the source

A binary system:

$$P_{\rm GW} \sim \frac{c^5}{G} \left(\frac{GM}{c^2L}\right)^5 < \frac{c^5}{G} \approx 3.6 \times 10^{59} \text{ erg/s}$$

When the compactness is >0.001 the Luminosity exceeds that of the Milky Way

Note: all galaxies in visible light in the visible universe emit $L_{\rm visible} \approx 10^{56} \ {\rm erg/s}$

- GWs can be detected by the change in proper time between pairs of free-falling test masses
- These changes are inferred by the time of flight of photons exchanged between test masses
- Laser interferometry: change in the interferometric pattern
- LISA: test masses in satellites, arm of the interferometer= distance between satellites



• But measurement is challenging, because the relative displacement between test masses is of the order of

$$h \sim \frac{G}{c^4} \frac{M^{5/3} f^{2/3}}{r} = dL/L \sim 10^{-27}$$

+ Noise, + source confusion...

A binary system: frequency $f_{\rm GW} \approx \left(\frac{GM}{R^3}\right)^{1/2}$



Sathyaprakash and Schutz 2009

Barack, Cardoso, Nissanke et al (inc. EMR) 2018



Binary system separation or Period

LISA Astro Sources

1.SMBH binaries*
2.Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals
3.Stellar Origin Black Holes binaries
4.Stellar Mass Compact binaries (mainly white dwarfs)*
5.Planets

Supermassive black holes



- merging binaries*
- week to months in LISA band
- high mass/high redshift —> low f

*wave form for all merger phases is needed

Supermassive black holes



Mayer et al. 2007

merging binaries

- week to months in LISA band
- high mass/high redshift —> low f
- Galaxy formation and evolution

through cosmic times (high z)

- Hydro-dynamics in galactic centre
- magneto-hydrodynamics in highly

curved, changing space-time

NL: Joop Schaye's Group

e.g. Khan+2018; Pfister+19; Bonetti+19; Bortolas+20; Munoz+21, Cattorini+2021...

SMBHB: the loudest sources



Source-frame mass, q=0.5

LISA detection rates in 4yr: ~10 to 300 yr⁻¹

- Detections peak 5<z<10, with 10⁴< $M_{sun}<10^7$
- Several high SNR detections at z < 2, with $M_{sun} > 3 \times 10^5$

e.g. Katz + 2019 Dayal+ 2019 DeGraf & Sijacki 2019 Latif et al. 2019 Bonetti et al. 2019 Ricarte & Natarajan 2018 Hartwig, Agarwal & Regan, 2018 Colpi 2018



Athena-LISA

How: Athena as follow-up instrument for LISA, when source is localised down to~ Athena Wide Field Imager (0.4 deg²);



Athena-LISA Synergy Working Group's paper in prep.; McGee+20; Mangiagli + 20

~last 2 hr to merger

X-ray emission may be modulated in time with characteristic frequencies linked to orbital motion and/or surrounding fluid patterns



e.g. Roedig+14; Farris+ 2014; Tang + 2017; Bowen + 17,18, Yike+18; D'Ascoli+18; Kelley+19

Astro of pre-merger phase

We can learn: magneto-hydrodynamics in dynamic spacetimes

Astro of post-merger phase

We can learn:

- perturbed disc dynamics
- turned-on AGN as accretion resumes
- formation of X-ray corona and jet





Lippai+ 08; Shields & Bonning 08; Schnittman & Krolik 08; Megevand+ 09; de Mink & King 17

Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals



Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals



credit: J. Gair

stellar mass object (black hole, brown

dwarf) around SMBHs

- ~yrs in LISA band, 10⁴-10⁵ cycles
- Resolved sources + background in LISA
- complex wave form*
- Detections mainly at 0.5<z <2 around

SMBHs with masses : 3×10^4 - 3×10^6

- Detection rate: a few to 1000s per yr
- sky loc. ~ 1 deg²; DL/L ~1%; SMBH mass

and Spin measurements < 10⁻⁴ !!!!

Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals



- Occupation fraction of SMBH
- Stellar dynamics in galactic centre

(connection to TDEs, HVSs..)

- Compact object central cusp
- Hydrodynamics of black-hole disc gas interaction (e.g. EMRIs in AGN disc)
- Galactic Center: low mass star/brown

dwarf EMRIs~1-20 in LISA band

e.g. Freitag 03; Hopman&Alexander 05; Marritt +11; kocsis +11; Fouvry & Or 18; Generozov +18; Amaro-Seoane 19,20; Gourgoulhon+19; McGee +20; Bonetti & Sesana 20;Derdzinsk+21; Pan&Yan 21

Stellar Origin black hole binaries



- persistent source in LISA
- tens of events ~10 yr before merger
- high f
- GW multi-band observations
- Advanced merger localisation within

0.1 deg² and < 10 s

- E.M. Counterparts in LISA and LIGO/ VIRGO
- Unknown Origin that can be unveiled in LISA by measuring the eccentricity

Sesana 2016

Solar mass compact object binaries



- in spiralling binaries
- persistent source in LISA
- high f —> resolved binary
- low f—> foreground
- verification binary for instrument calibration
- simple, almost monochromatic, waveform

solar mass compact object binaries



- White dwarf tides and internal structure (B. Bonga and T. Hinderer in NL)
- Stellar binary evolution theory (Nelemans, Toonen,

Nissanke, Portegies-Zwart)

- Accretion theory in CVs (Groot)
- Stellar population studies (e.g. SN la progenitors)
- and...

Nelemans + 2001, 2004, Nissanke +2012, Shah et al. 2012;

Ruiter et al. 2010, Toonen + 2012, Korol, EMR et al. 2017, Breivik +17; Kremer+2017, Lamberts +2019

The Local Group's structure and properties

LMC Gaia eDR3 (White) + LISA (Orange)



Keim, Korol & EMR in prep.

The Local Group's structure and properties

Recovering structure from GW only:

- from background signal
- from resolved binaries' signal



Korol, ERM & Barausse 2019

cit: Benacquista & Holley-Bockelmann 2006; Adams & Cornish 2012, 2014; Korol +2019; Breivik+2020

The Local Group's structure and properties

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Korol, ERM & Barausse 2019

Why DW binaries are so powerful?

- Abundant: 10-40 thousands in LISA and ~200 Gaia+LSST
- Trace parent population's position (no-kick)
- Trace large range of stellar ages

cit: Benacquista & Holley-Bockelmann 2006; Adams & Cornish 2012, 2014; Korol +2019; Breivik+2020

GW+EM: excellent synergy

• GW:

- seen through dust and stellar crowding
- one distance measurement method
- tracing low mass stars

• EM:

- tracing motion (proper motion and radial velocity)
- tracing stars with low (nearby) and high (out to large distances) mass
- precise position



Korol, ERM & Barausse 2019

Planets and Brown Dwarfs around white dwarf binaries



Danielski & Tamanini 2020 Tamanini & Danielski 2019 Steffen et al. 2019

- Gravitational pull of 3rd object puts centre of mass on a Keplerian orbit
- Measuring a period Doppler modulation in signal
- frequency shift is measurable if mass> Jupiter and position < 10 au

 Learning about DDW and planet formation histories

Planets and Brown Dwarfs around white dwarf binaries



back-up

The Milky Way in GW



Athena-LISA

→ HOW CAN LISA AND ATHENA WORK TOGETHER?



Imager (WFI)

the source, witnessing the final inspiral

and merger of the black holes

'active galaxy'

· eesa



Masses, Distances with fractional error< 20%

GW + EM

