

Kick Off Workshop of the ET Observational Science Board

21-22 September 2021 -Online



ET OSB

Division 1:

Fundamental Physics

Coordinators: Paolo Pani, Rafael A. Porto, Chris Van Den Broeck

# Fundamental Physics & Gravity

---

Several of the deepest questions in fundamental physics involve gravity:

- **The nature of gravity.** Is Einstein (still) right? What building-block principles and symmetries invoked by General Relativity (GR) can be challenged? Extra degrees of freedom in the gravitational interaction?
- **The nature of neutron stars.** How does nuclear matter behave in the extreme conditions present in the inner core of neutron stars? Does exotic physics show up in these objects? [synergy with nuclear/atomic physics]
- **The nature of black holes.** How well classical BHs in GR describe observations? Do exotic species of compact objects exist? Signatures of quantum gravity near event horizons?
- **The nature of dark matter.** Is dark matter composed of particles, compact objects, or modified gravity? How to constrain the properties of dark matter using GWs? [synergy with particle physics and cosmology]

# The science goals of our Division

- **Fundamental Physics objectives of ET:**  
*tests of GR, the nature of compact objects, and of matter and particle physics at the most extreme conditions*
- Potentially **groundbreaking goals** with profound implications for cosmology, nuclear and particle physics, dark-matter searches, as well as for certain quantum-gravity programs.
- The discovery potential in GW science has reinvigorated the ongoing efforts to construct **high-accuracy waveforms**, in particular using sophisticated computational methods from particle physics that have been instrumental to search for “new physics” at colliders through precision data.

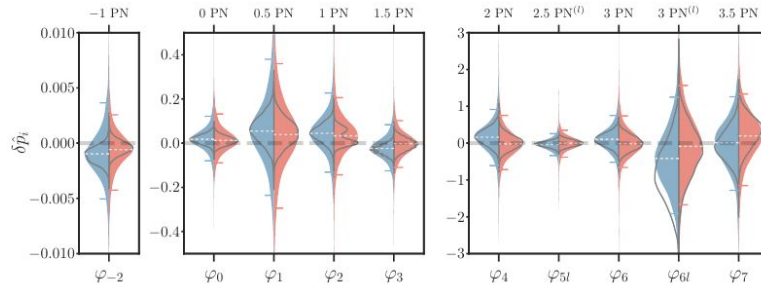
## Key Science Questions:

- Testing the fundamental principles of the gravitational interaction
- Identifying the origin of merging binaries across cosmic history (synergy with **Population Division**)
- Testing the nature of compact objects
- Probing near-horizon physics
- Develop GW-based searches for dark-matter candidates
- Improve current waveforms to match ET requirements (synergy with **Waveform Division**)
- Identify science goals that are *unique* for ET

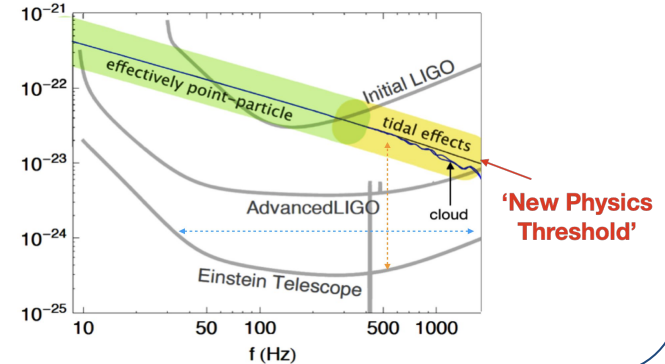
**Groundbreaking discoveries rather than incremental improvement compared to LIGO/Virgo**

# Fundamental Physics with GWs

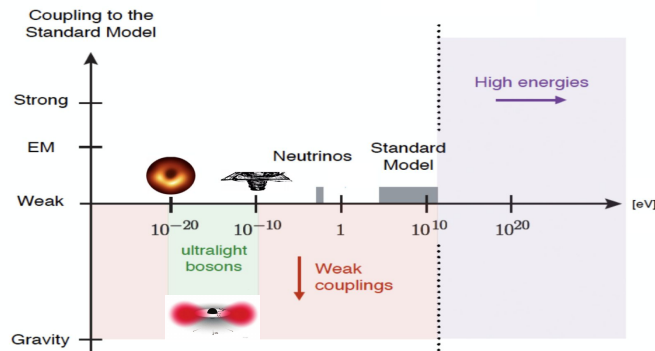
## Tests of gravity



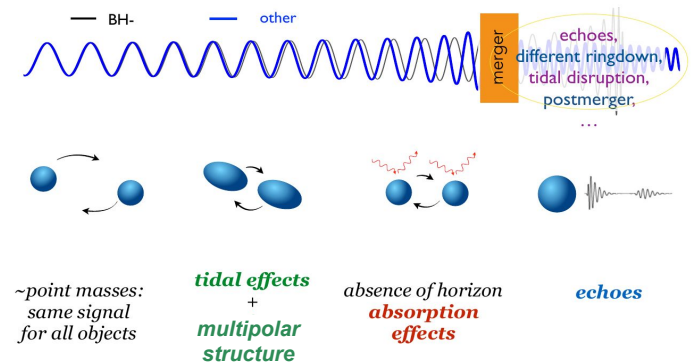
## Precision Gravity Frontier



## Dark-matter searches & new fields

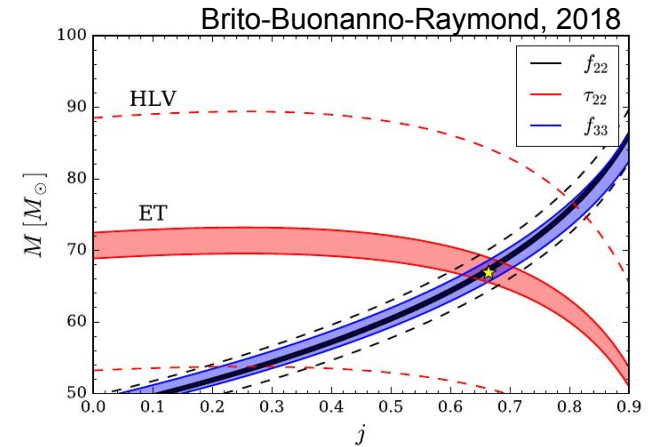


## Tests of compact objects



# Testing the nature of gravity with ET

- **Parametrized post-Newtonian/Einsteinian tests**
- **GW propagation tests** (synergy with Cosmo Div)
- **Extra polarizations**
- **No-hair theorem tests**
  - ET:  $O(100)$  events/yr allows for BH spectroscopy
  - Deformed QNMs, new modes, different amplitudes
- **Inspiral-merger-ringdown tests:**
  - Numerical simulations beyond GR under development
  - Needed for model selection in case of anomalies



## Challenges:

- Improve IMR waveforms to meet ET requirements (with Div8)
- Modelling modified gravity at the same level of GR

# Testing compact objects with GWs

---

- **Near-horizon physics:** The *late-inspiral*, *merger*, and *ringdown* provide smoking guns for deviations from the classical BH picture.
- **Quantum gravity effects (?)** Various quantum gravity models predict  $O(1)$  corrections at the horizon of astrophysical BHs
- **Exotic compact objects (ECOs):**
  - *Are there compact sources other than BHs and NSs?*
  - Dark matter objects (e.g. *boson stars*)?
  - Puzzling events (e.g. *GW190521*, *GW190814*) might suggest exotic explanations
  - ...

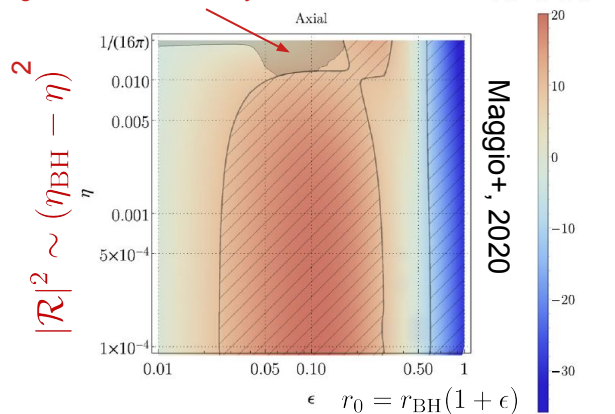
## Challenges:

- Better theoretical understanding
- Consistent, first-principle ECO models
- Bring onboard new ideas from hep community

Current sensitivity not enough to rule out many models

# Testing compact objects with ET: QNMs & echoes

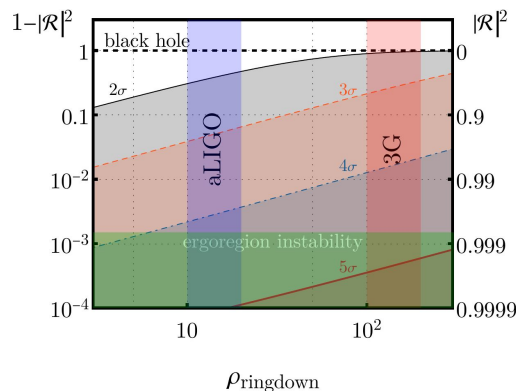
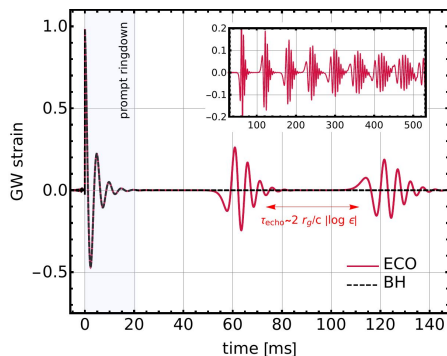
Region NOT excluded by GW150914



## QNM spectrum of an ECO vs BH:

- Deformed
- New modes
- Different amplitudes (simulations?)

## GW echoes: a smoking gun of near-horizon “structure”

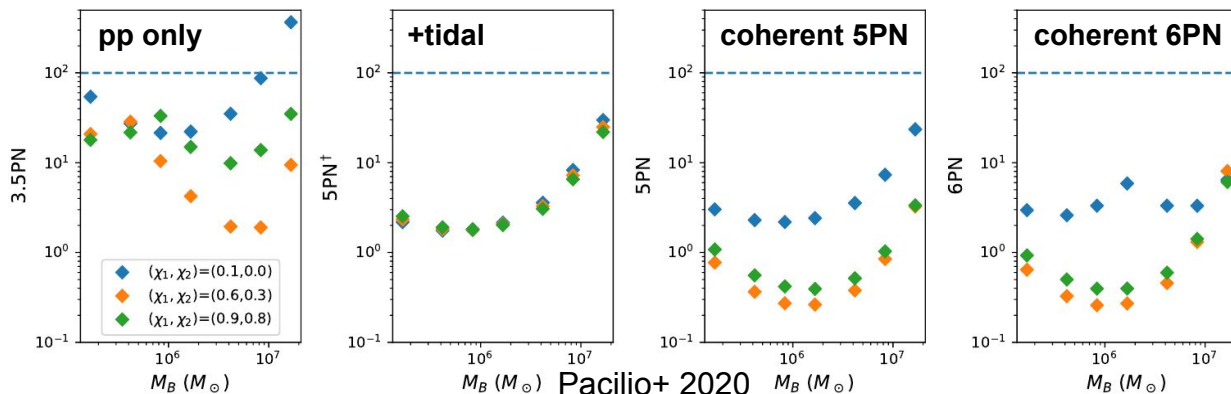


## Challenges:

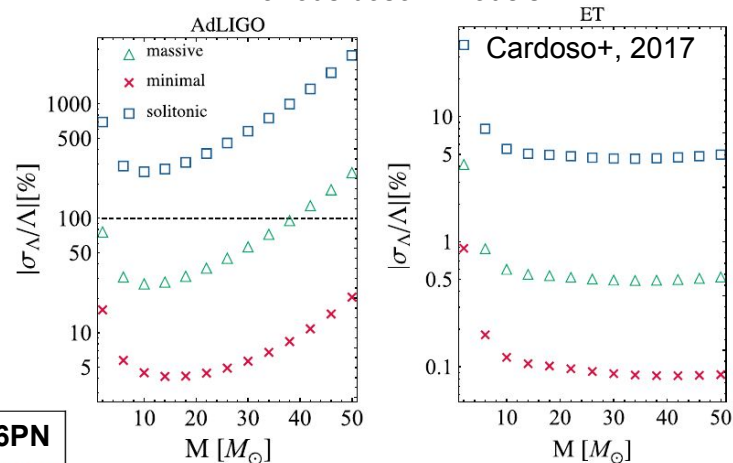
- QNMs for spinning objects beyond Kerr
- ECO coalescence simulations
- High-accuracy boson-star mergers
- Echo waveform modelling

# Testing compact objects with ET: tidal Love numbers

- BHs in GR: zero tidal deformability in the GW signal
- Anything else (nonBH or nonGR): nonzero tidal Love number
- “Anomalous” Love would exclude “ordinary” BHs
- Higher-order PN terms are crucial:



Measurability of the Love numbers of various boson- models



## Challenges:

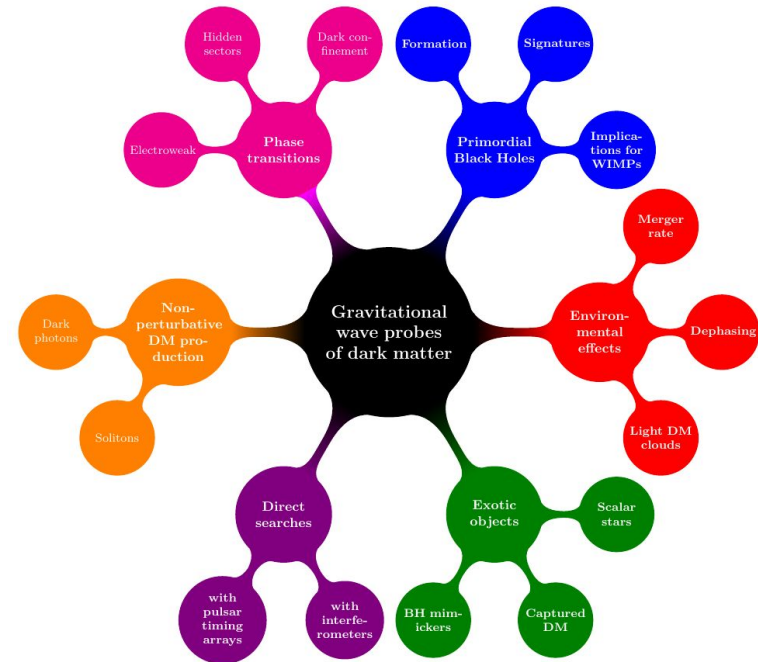
- High-accuracy waveforms
- IMR-Phenom for ECOs?
- Tidal response of consistent models



# Searching for dark matter with GWs

Various DM candidates and beyond-standard-model scenarios can be tests with GWs:

- **Ultralight bosons** (mass  $< 1e-11$  eV) would produce macroscopic clouds around spinning BHs due to superradiance
- **Ordinary particle dark-matter** can produce small environmental effects in binary waveforms
- **ECOs** in various mass ranges might be dark matter
- **Primordial BHs** might account for a subpopulation of GW mergers (collaboration with Div3)



Bertone+, 2019

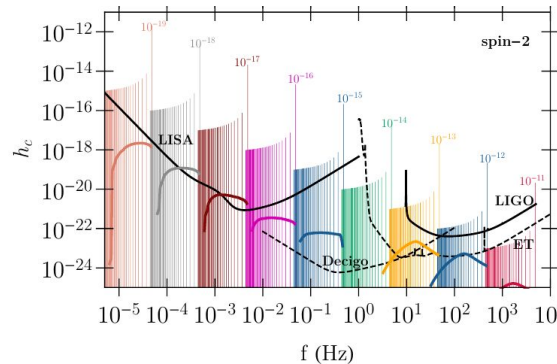
# Searching for ultralight fields with ET

- Light bosonic fields & superradiance:

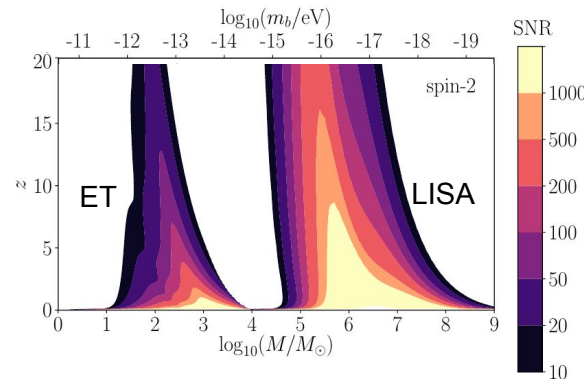
$$\frac{G}{\hbar c} M \mu \sim \left( \frac{M}{10 M_{\odot}} \right) \left( \frac{\mu c^2}{10^{-11} \text{ eV}} \right) \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$

Coupling parameter

- Indirect constraints from BH mass-spin
- IMBH detections could fill gap between stellar and supermassive BHs
- ET-LISA ranges are complementary
- Potentially detectable to  $z > 20$
- Several effects in binaries (dephasing, floating orbits, disruption, tidal effects)



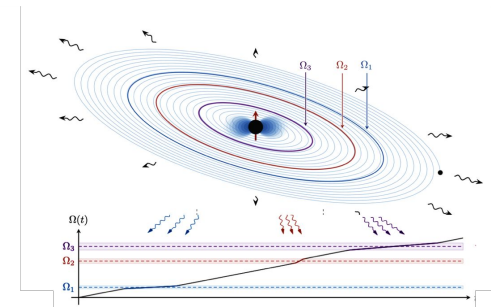
[Brito+ 2020]



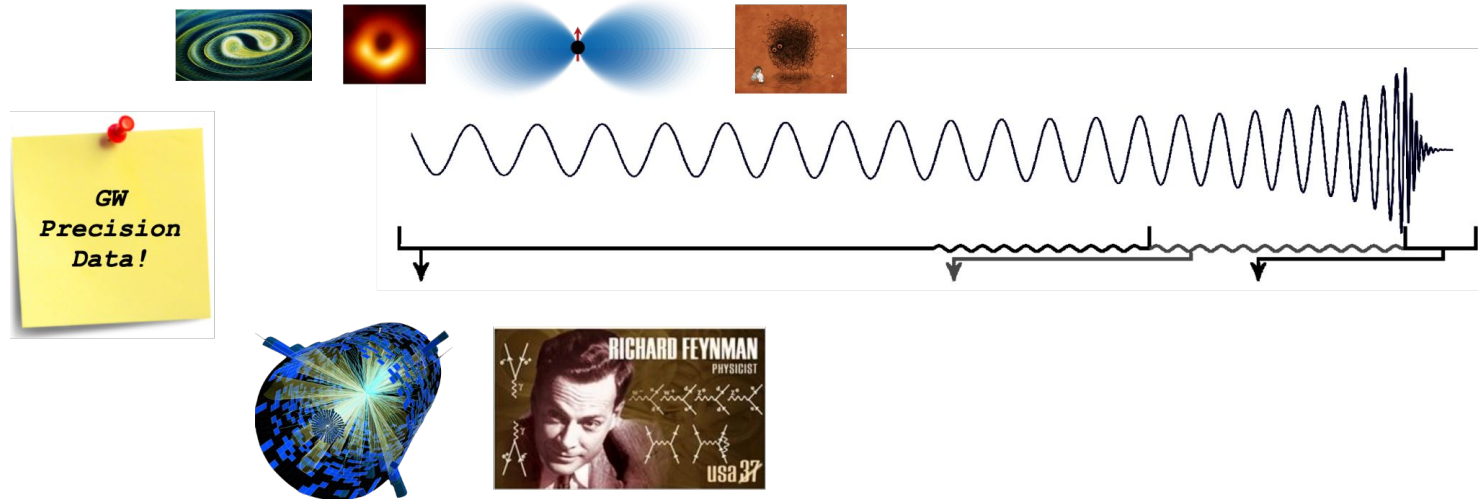
## Challenges:

- Pipelines for generic (spin-0,1,2) massive bosons
- Improve waveforms for cloud effects in binaries (e.g. tides & dynamics)

[Baumann+ 2020]



# Discovery Potential = Accuracy



state  
of the  
art

Not GOOD  
ENOUGH

$$\frac{\dot{\omega}}{\omega^2} = \frac{96}{5} \nu x^{5/2} \left\{ 1 + \dots + [\dots] x^{7/2} \right\}$$



*“Waveforms will be far more complex and carry more information than expected. Improved modeling will be needed for extracting the GW’s information”*

# Summary & Challenges

---

- Scientific goals of Div1:

- In short: *testing Fundamental Physics with ET*
- Speculative, ambitious, high-gain/high-risk, potentially groundbreaking goals
- Get ready to meet ET precision standards also for FP tests
- Explore complementary with other communities (e.g. particle/nuclear physics, cosmo, theory)

- Organizational goals:

- *Organize a community*: facilitate communication and collaborations, ... (esp. for early-career scientists)
- *Serve the ET OSB*: preparatory studies related to FP, blue book, projected bounds, forecasts...
- *Develop synergies* with most other Divisions (e.g. Cosmo, Populations, Multimessenger, Nuclear Physics, Data Analysis, Waveforms, ...)

- *Many challenges ahead: we need an **active** and **enthusiastic** group of people!*