Effective-One-Body and numerical gravitational waveforms of coalescing black hole binaries

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AEI (L. Rezzolla et al.) and Jena (B. Bruegmann et al.) numerical relativity groups

Extreme mass ratio limit: Nagar Damour Tartaglia 2006
Damour Nagar 2006
Damour Nagar 2007a

Comparable mass case: Damour Nagar 2007a, 2007b, 2007c
Damour Nagar Dorband, Pollney, Rezzolla 2007
Damour Nagar Hannam, Husa, Bruegmann 2008
Introduce the problem: detect Gravitational Waves

A network of ground-based interferometric gravitational wave (GW) detectors (LIGO/VIRGO/GEO) is now taking data near its planned sensitivity.

Coalescing (stellar-mass, $M \sim 30M_{\text{sun}}$) binary black hole systems (BBHs) are among the most promising GW sources for these detectors.

Most useful part of the waveform is emitted in the last 5 orbits of the inspiral and during the plunge that takes place after the crossing of the Last Stable Orbit (LSO).

To successfully detect GWs from BBHs coalescence one needs to know in advance the shape of the signal.

Detection and data analysis is made by means of templates that accurately represent the gravitational waveforms emitted by the source.

State-of-the-art Numerical Relativity (NR) simulations can now merge black-holes, but are not sufficiently efficient to densely sample the parameter space. One needs analytical methods to produce thousands of templates (possibly in real time).
The binary black hole (BBH) coalescence process

- The BBH coalescence problem (for comparable masses) has been studied numerically until the mid 90s.

- Numerical Relativity (NR) solves Einstein's equations numerically on supercomputers.

- In 2005, Frans Pretorius made the breakthrough, being the first to compute the merger of two (non-spinning) BHs.

- All the others NR groups followed: many important results (kicks, spin, different mass ratios, three-BHs evolutions...)

- Nowadays, computation of inspiralling and merging (spinning) BHs has become almost everyday routine.

- The computational cost is still huge for template banks-building purposes!

\[ m_1 = m_2 \]
Aim of EOB formalism

- To provide an *accurate analytical* description of the motion and radiation of binary black holes, which covers inspiral, plunge, merger and ringdown.

- Idea: to extend the domain of validity of perturbation theory (PN, BH-pert) so as to approximately cover non-perturbative features.

- (Expected) Utility of EOB formalism:
  - provide accurate GW templates for the multi-parameter space \((m_1, m_2, S_1, S_2, \ldots)\) which is difficult to densely cover with NR.
  - gives us a physical understanding of dynamics and radiation.
  - can be extended to BH-NS or NS-NS systems up to tidal disruption.
Structure of EOB formalism

**PN dynamics**
- DD81, D82, DJS01, IF03, BDIF04

**PN rad losses**
- BDIWW95, BDEFI05

**PN waveform**
- BD89, B95, 05, ABIQ04, BCGSHHB07, DN07, K07

**BH perturbation**
- RW57, Z70, T72

**EOB Hamiltonian** $H_{EOB}$

**EOB Rad reac Force** $F_{\phi}$

**EOB Dynamics**
- $\frac{dr}{dt} = \left( \frac{A}{B} \right)^{1/2} \frac{\partial H_{EOB}}{\partial p_r}$
- $\frac{dp_r}{dt} = -\left( \frac{A}{B} \right)^{1/2} \frac{\partial H_{EOB}}{\partial r}$
- $\Omega \equiv \frac{d\phi}{dt} = \frac{\partial H_{EOB}}{\partial p_\varphi}$
- $\frac{dp_\varphi}{dt} = \mathcal{F}_\varphi$

**QNM spectrum**
- $\sigma_N = \alpha_N + i\omega_N$

**EOB Waveform**

$h_{22}^{EOB}(t) = \theta(t_m - t) h_{22}^{insplunge}(t) + \theta(t - t_m) h_{22}^{ringdown}(t)$
Historical roots of EOB

- $H_{\text{EOB}}$: Quantum Hamiltonian $H(l_a)$ [Sommerfeld 1916, Damour-Schäfer 1988]
  QED positronium states [Brezin, Itzykson, Zinn-Justin 1970]

- $F_\phi$: Padé resummation [DIS 1998]

- $h(t)$: [Davis, Ruffini, Tiomno 1972]
  CLAP [Price-Pullin 1994]

Discovery of the structure:
Precursor (plunge)-Burst (merger)-Ringdown

Burst: the particle crosses the “light ring”, $r=3M$

Ringdown, quasi-normal mode (QNMs) tail.
Spacetime oscillations

Precursor: Quadrupole formula (Ruffini-Wheeler approximation)
Successful predictions from EOB

i. Importance of nonadiabatic effects at the end of inspiral

ii. Blurred transition from inspiral to a “plunge” that is just a smooth continuation of the inspiral

iii. First estimate of a complete GW waveform [BD00]

iv. Estimates of the radiated energy and of the spin of the final black hole, e.g. $J/M^2 \sim 0.795$ [2PN, LSO, BD00]; 0.77 [3PN, >LSO, BCD06]

V. Parallel spins imply larger radiated energy (tighter orbits), and $J/M^2 < 1$ [D01, BCD06]

vi. Qualitative recoil versus time [DG06]

Damour, Nagar, PRD 76, 044003 (2007)
However, the EOB approach, far from being a rigid structure, is extremely flexible. One can modify the basic functions [such as $A(u)$] determining the EOB dynamics by introducing new parameters corresponding to (yet) uncalculated higher PN effects. [These terms become important only for orbits closer than $6GM$, and/or for fast-spinning holes.] Therefore, when either higher-accuracy analytical calculations are performed or numerical relativity becomes able to give physically relevant data about the interaction of (fast-spinning) black holes, we expect that it will be possible to complete the current EOB Hamiltonian so as to incorporate this information. As the parameter space of two spinning black holes (with arbitrarily oriented spins) is very large, numerical relativity will never be able, by itself, to cover it densely. We think, however, that a suitable "numerically fitted" (and, if possible, "analytically extended") EOB Hamiltonian should be able to fit the needs of upcoming GW detectors.

(Damour 2001)
EOB flexibility parameters

- $a_5$ [a.k.a. $a_5(\nu)$, $b_5$, $\lambda$, $a_5^1$] (D01, DGG02)
- $v_{\text{pole}}$, $a_{\text{RR}}$, ... (DIJS03)
- $a, b$: non-quasi-circular corrections to waveform (DN07a, DN07b)
- $\rho, \delta$: matching “comb” (DN07a)

Effective One Body  \quad Synergy  \quad Numerical Relativity

NR-improved EOB  \quad Calibrating EOB flexibility parameters  \quad Select sample of NR results  

Accurate “analytical” waveform templates  \quad “Analytical” predictions
Defining $H_{EOB}$ by thinking quantum-mechanically (Wheeler)

Real 2-body system ($m_1$, $m_2$) (in the c.o.m. frame)

an effective particle of mass $\mu$ in some effective metric $g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{eff}}(M)$

$E = f(E)$

$E_{\text{real}} = Mc^2$

$E_{\text{eff}} = \mu c^2$

$n+1, \ell$ to $n+1, \ell +1$

$n, \ell$

$\ell = \hbar \frac{2\pi}{2\pi} \int p_\varphi \, d\varphi$

$N = n\hbar = I_r + J$

$I_r = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int p_r \, dr = I_r + J$

Damour, Schäfer '88
Damour, Jaranowski, Schäfer, '00

Sommerfeld “Old Quantum Mechanics”:
2-body Taylor-expanded 3PN Hamiltonian \([JS98, DJS00, 01]\)

\[
H(x_a, p_a) = \sum_a m_a c^2 + H_N(x_a, p_a) + \frac{1}{c^6} H_{1PN}(x_a, p_a) + \frac{1}{c^4} H_{2PN}(x_a, p_a) + \frac{1}{c^2} H_{3PN}(x_a, p_a) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{c^8}\right)
\]

1PN

\[
H_N(x_a, p_a) = \sum_a m_a \frac{p_a^2}{2 m_a} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a \neq b} \sum_{a \neq b} G m_a m_b \frac{p_a^2}{r_{ab}}
\]

\[
H_{1PN}(x_a, p_a) = -\frac{1}{8} \frac{(p_a^2)^2}{m_a^2} + \frac{1}{8} G m_1 m_2 \left[ -\frac{12}{r_{12}} \frac{p_1^2}{m_1} + 14 \frac{(p_1 \cdot p_2)}{m_1 m_2} + 2 \frac{(m_1 \cdot p_1)(m_1 \cdot p_2)}{m_1 m_2} \right] + \frac{1}{12} G m_1 m_2 \frac{(m_1 + m_2)}{r_{12}} + (1 \rightarrow 2).
\]

2PN

\[
H_{2PN}(x_a, p_a) = -\frac{1}{16} \frac{(p_a^2)^4}{m_a^4} + \frac{1}{8} G m_1 m_2 \left[ 11 \frac{(p_1 \cdot p_2)}{m_1^2} \frac{(p_1 \cdot p_2)}{m_1^2} + 6 \frac{(m_2 \cdot p_2)}{m_1^2} \frac{(m_2 \cdot p_2)}{m_1^2} \right] \frac{3}{m_1 m_2} + \frac{1}{4} G^2 m_1 m_2 \frac{(m_1 + m_2)}{r_{12}} + (1 \rightarrow 2).
\]

3PN

\[
H_{3PN}(x_a, p_a) = -\frac{5}{128} \frac{(p_a^2)^4}{m_a^4} + \frac{1}{32} G m_1 m_2 \left[ -\frac{14}{r_{12}} \frac{(p_1 \cdot p_2) + 4 (p_1 \cdot p_2) p_1 + 6 (p_1 \cdot p_2) p_1}{m_1 m_2} \right] + \frac{1}{16} G^2 m_1 m_2 \frac{(m_1 + m_2)}{r_{12}} + (1 \rightarrow 2).
\]
The 2-body Hamiltonian [at 2PN for clarity]

The 2-body Hamiltonian in the c.o.m frame at 2PN:

\[ H_{2\text{PN}}^{\text{relative}}(q, p) = H_0(q, p) + \frac{1}{c^2} H_2(q, p) + \frac{1}{c^4} H_4(q, p) \]

The Newtonian limit:

\[ H_0(q, p) = \frac{1}{2\mu} p^2 + \frac{G M \mu}{|q|} \]

4 additional terms at 1PN
7 additional terms at 2PN
11 additional terms at 3PN

Rewrite the c.o.m. energy using action variables (à la Sommerfeld):

obtain the “quantum” energy levels [from Damour&Schaefer 1988]

\[ E_{2\text{PN}}^{\text{relative}}(n, \ell) = -\frac{1}{2} \mu \frac{\alpha^2}{n^2} \left[ 1 + \frac{\alpha^2}{c^2} \left( \frac{c_{11}}{n \ell} + \frac{c_{20}}{n^2} \right) \right. \]

\[ + \frac{\alpha^4}{c^4} \left( \frac{c_{13}}{n \ell^3} + \frac{c_{22}}{n^2 \ell^2} + \frac{c_{31}}{n^3 \ell} + \frac{c_{40}}{n^4} \right) \]

“Delaunay Hamiltonian”

- Dependence on \( \nu \equiv \mu / M \)
- PN correction: open orbits
- Degeneracy removed

\[ J = \ell \hbar = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint p \varphi \, d\varphi \]

\[ N = n \hbar = I_r + J \]

\[ I_r = \frac{1}{2\pi} \oint p_r \, dr \]
Dictionary between real and effective dynamics

- **Unknowns:** $\mu, M, f(E), g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{eff}}(M) + \text{Finslerian corrections}$

  $$ds^2 = -A(r)dt^2 + B(r)dr^2 + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\varphi^2).$$

  $$A(R) = 1 + a_1 \frac{GM}{c^2 R} + a_2 \left(\frac{GM}{c^2 R}\right)^2 + a_3 \left(\frac{GM}{c^2 R}\right)^3 + \cdots;$$

  $$B(R) = 1 + b_1 \frac{GM}{c^2 R} + b_2 \left(\frac{GM}{c^2 R}\right)^2 + \cdots,$$

- **Dictionary:**

  $I_a^{\text{real}} = I_a^{\text{effective}}$

  $M = m_1 + m_2$

  $\mu = m_1 m_2 / M$

  $\nu \equiv m_1 m_2 / M^2$

  $$\frac{E_{\text{eff}}}{\mu c^2} = 1 + \frac{E_{\text{relative}}}{\mu c^2} \left(1 + \frac{\nu}{2} \frac{E_{\text{relative}}}{\mu c^2}\right)$$
Explicit form of the effective metric

The effective metric at 3PN + a 4PN correction

\[ ds^2 = -A(r)dt^2 + B(r)dr^2 + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\varphi^2). \]

where the coefficients are a \( \nu \)-dependent “deformation” of the Schwarzschild ones:

\[ (BA)^{3\text{PN}}(r) \equiv D^{3\text{PN}}(r) \equiv 1 - \frac{6\nu}{r^2} + \frac{2(3\nu - 26)}{r^3}, \]

\[ A^{\text{Taylor}}(u) = 1 - 2u + 2\nu u^3 + \left(\frac{94}{3} - \frac{41}{32}\pi^2\right)\nu u^4 + a_5 \nu u^5 \quad u = 1/r \]

\[ + \mathcal{O}(\nu u^6), \]

- Extremely compact representation of PN dynamics
- Bad behaviour at 3PN. Padé resummation of \( A(r) \) is needed to ensure that an effective horizon exists.
- Impose, by continuity with the Schwarzschild case, that \( A(r) \) has a simple zero at \( r \sim 2 \).
- The \( a_5 \) constant parametrizes (yet) uncalculated 4PN corrections
The EOB Hamiltonian

The effective Hamiltonian (+quartic-in-momenta non-geodesic contribution at 3PN)

\[ \hat{H}_{\text{eff}} \equiv \sqrt{p_{r*}^2 + A \left( 1 + \frac{p_\varphi^2}{r^2} + \frac{p_{r*}^4}{r^2} \right)} \]

\[ \frac{dr_\ast}{dr} = \sqrt{\frac{B}{A}} \]

\[ p_{r*} = \left( \frac{A}{B} \right)^{1/2} p_r \]

The real EOB Hamiltonian of the binary system (from the energy map)

\[ \hat{H}_{\text{EOB}} = \frac{1}{\nu} \sqrt{1 + 2\nu \left( \hat{H}_{\text{eff}} - 1 \right)} \]

The Hamiltonian (and the related dynamics) depends, through the “potential” \( A(u) \), on the 4PN parameter \( a_5 \). \( a_5 \) is a “free” parameter that needs to be fixed via comparisons with NR simulations.
Hamilton's equation + radiation reaction

\[
\frac{dr}{dt} = \left( \frac{A}{B} \right)^{1/2} \frac{\partial \hat{H}_{EOB}}{\partial p_{r_+}},
\]

\[
\frac{dp_{r_+}}{dt} = - \left( \frac{A}{B} \right)^{1/2} \frac{\partial \hat{H}_{EOB}}{\partial r},
\]

\[
\Omega \equiv \frac{d\varphi}{dt} = \frac{\partial \hat{H}_{EOB}}{\partial p_\varphi},
\]

\[
\frac{dp_\varphi}{dt} = \hat{F}_\varphi.
\]

Angular momentum loss due to GW emission: start from the PN expression for radiation reaction that is explicitly known during the quasi-circular adiabatic inspiral (3.5PN + 4PN correction)

\[
\hat{F}^{\text{Taylor}}_{\varphi} = -\frac{32}{5} \nu \Omega^5 \dot{r}_\omega \hat{F}^{\text{Taylor}}(v_\varphi)
\]

\[
\hat{F}^{\text{Taylor}}(v) = 1 + A_2(v) v^2 + A_3(v) v^3 + A_4(v) v^4 + A_5(v) v^5 + A_6(v, \log v) v^6 + A_7(v) v^7 + A_8(v = 0, \log v) v^8
\]
Needs resummation of energy flux!

The PN expansions are non-uniformly and non-monotonically convergent in the strong-field regime. One needs to “resum” them in some form in order to extend their validity during the late-inspiral and plunge.

- Factorize a simple pole in the GW energy flux
- Resum using near-diagonal Padé approximants (DIS98)

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**FIG. 1.** Various representations of \( \frac{dE}{dt}/(dE/dt)_N \) as a function of orbital velocity \( v = (M/r)^{1/2} = (\pi M f)^{1/3} \). The solid curve represents the exact result \( P(v) \), as calculated numerically. The various broken curves represent the post-Newtonian approximations \( P_n(v) \), for \( n = \{4, 5, 6, 7, 8\} \). The smallest value of \( v \) corresponds to an orbital radius \( r \) of \( 175M \); the largest value of \( v \) corresponds to \( r = 6M \), the innermost stable circular orbit.

**FIG. 3.** Newton-normalized gravitational wave luminosity in the test particle limit: (a) \( T \)-approximants and (b) \( P \)-approximants.
Resumming radiation reaction

Padé resummation of
\[ \hat{F}_{\varphi}^{\text{Taylor}} = -\frac{32}{5} \nu \Omega^5 r_\omega^4 \hat{F}_{\varphi}^{\text{Taylor}}(v_\varphi) \]

- factorize a pole parametrized by \( v_{\text{pole}} \)
- consider logarithms as coefficients
- use comparable-mass 3.5PN+test-mass 4PN flux
- choose \( P_4 \) which has no spurious poles
- add non-quasi-circular correction parametrized by \( a^{\text{RR}} \) [with \( \varepsilon=0.12 \)]
- choose argument \( v=\nu \Omega \psi^{1/3} \)

\[
\hat{F}_{\text{resummed}}(v_\varphi) = \left(1 - \frac{v_\varphi}{v_{\text{pole}}}\right)^{-1} P_4 \left[\left(1 - \frac{v_\varphi}{v_{\text{pole}}}\right) \hat{F}_{\varphi}^{\text{Taylor}}(v_\varphi)\right] \left(1 + \frac{a^{\text{RR}}}{(r \Omega)^2 + \varepsilon} \right)^{-1}
\]

\( v_{\text{pole}}, a^{\text{RR}} \) are (in addition to \( a_5 \) in \( H_{\text{EOB}} \)) “free” parameters that need to be fixed via comparisons with NR simulations.
Comparing Taylor and (tuned) Padé in test-mass case

Maximum difference on interval \( v < 0.4 \):

- Taylor(2PN): 0.039
- Taylor(3PN): 0.130
- Taylor(4PN): 0.189
- Padé(2PN): 0.0069
- Padé(3PN): 0.0033
- Padé(4PN): 0.0035

Henri Padé, 1863-1953
Resummed EOB *metric* gravitational waveform: inspiral+plunge

- Zerilli-Moncrief normalized (even-parity) waveform (*Real part gives* $h_+ \&$ *imaginary part gives* $h_\times$).

- Multipolar decomposition (expansion on spin-weighted spherical harmonics) here, $l=m=2$.

\[
\left(\frac{c^2}{GM}\right) \Psi_{22}^{\text{insplunge}}(t) = -4\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{30}} \nu (r\omega \Omega)^2 f_{22}^{\text{NQC}} F_{22} e^{-2i\Phi}
\]

New PN-resummed (3+2PN) correction factor (*DN07a, 07b*): 3PN comparable mass + up to 5PN test-mass

\[
F_{22}(t) = \hat{H}_{\text{eff}} T_{22} f_{22}(x(t)) e^{i\delta_{22}(t)}
\]

- $H_{\text{eff}}$: resums an infinite number of binding energy contributions

\[
T_{\ell m} = \frac{\Gamma(\ell + 1 - 2i\hat{k})}{\Gamma(\ell + 1)} e^{\pi \hat{k}} e^{2i\hat{k} \log(2k\rho_0)}
\]

resums an infinite number of leading logarithms in tail effects (both amplitude and phase) obtained from exact solution of Coulomb wave problem

- Padé-resummed remaining PN-corrected amplitude [flexibility in choice of argument $x(t)$]

\[
f_{22}(x; \nu) = P_2^3 \left[ f_{22}^{\text{Taylor}}(x; \nu) \right]
\]

- $\delta_{22}$: computed at 3.5PN

Non-quasi-circular corrections to waveform amplitude and phase:

\[
f_{22}^{\text{NQC}} = \left[ 1 + a \frac{p_{r*}^2}{(r\Omega)^2 + \epsilon} \right] \exp \left( +ib \frac{p_{r*}}{r\Omega} \right)
\]

$b=0$; $a$ is fixed by requiring that the maximum of the modulus of the waveform coincides with the maximum of the orbital frequency
**EOB metric gravitational waveform: merger and ringdown**

EOB approximate representation of the merger (DRT1972 inspired):

- sudden change of description around the “EOB light-ring” $t=t_m$ (maximum of orbital frequency)
- “match” the insplunge waveform to a superposition of QNMs of the final Kerr black hole
- matching on a 5-teeth comb *(found efficient in the test-mass limit, DN07a)*
- comb of width 7M centered on the “EOB light-ring”
- use 5 positive frequency QNMs (found to be near-optimal in the test-mass limit)
- Final BH mass and angular momentum are computed from a fit to NR ringdown *(5 eqs for 5 unknowns)*

$$\Psi_{22}^{\text{ringdown}}(t) = \sum_{N} C_N^+ e^{-\sigma}$$

---

**Total EOB waveform covering inspiral-merger and ringdown**

$$h_{22}^{\text{EOB}}(t) = \theta(t_m - t) h_{22}^{\text{insplunge}}(t) + \theta(t - t_m) h_{22}^{\text{ringdown}}(t)$$
Accurate EOB-NR comparisons (and calibration)

NR, reduced eccentricity data used (non-spinning black holes only):

- **very accurate inspiral only** data \(m_1=m_2\), 30 GW-cycles \(\nu_4\) curvature waveform Caltech-Cornell [Boyle et al. 07]
  used up to GW frequency 0.1

- Albert-Einstein-Institute, 12 GW-cycles *metric (Zerilli)* waveform, inspiral+merger data \(m_1=m_2\) [DNDPR,08]

- Jena, about 20 GW-cycles \(\nu_4\) curvature waveform,
  inspiral+merger data \(m_1=m_2; m_1=2m_2; m_1=4m_2\) [DNHHB,08]

- Getting the *metric waveform* by twice integrating the curvature waveform and subtracting linear floors.

![Graph showing waveform comparison](image)
Methodology for fitting EOB to NR data

Need to calibrate 3 EOB-flexibility parameters \((a_5, v_{pole}, a_{RR})\)

- Use two phase differences [\textit{curvature waveforms}] from published Caltech-Cornell data to have two equations to determine \(v_{pole}(a_5)\) and \(a_{RR}(a_5)\)

Impose that the phase Differences T4-EOB and T4-CC agree at these two points

Then constrain \(a_5\) by comparing the phases of EOB and Jena (+AEI) data.

Residual phase difference EOB-NR [\textit{curvature waveforms}]
Correlating EOB flexibility parameters

- Use the CC data to express the two free parameters as functions of $a_5$.

- Done here with points measured from a published figure. Checked to be consistent with actual Caltech-Cornell NR data (courtesy of Boyle et al.)

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Use late-plunge Jena data to constrain the $a_5$ parameter

Use “plunge and merger” data that are more sensitive to the effect of $a_5$.

Accurate simulations from Jena group for several mass ratios. For 1:1, $D=12$ and 20 GW-cycles waveform. [Double time-integration to get metric waveform]

Diagnostics: $L_\infty$ norm of the [metric waveform] phase difference in the late plunge: from -10.5 to -1.2 GW-cycles before merger, i.e., frequency $0.059<\omega<0.19$)

- Presence of a clear minimum (0.01) for the 1:1 mass ratio case
- Consistency with 2:1 mass ratio (where the minimum is more shallow)

**current best-bet value:** $a_5 \sim 25$

- Range of allowed values of $a_5$ depending on error level in NR data (? $14<a_5<37$ ?)
Curvature-waveform phase difference EOB-CC (actual data) for $a_5=25$

- Close up (black): maximum phase difference 0.002 radians up to GW frequency 0.1 (OK with DN07b, which used published data)
- Full range (blue, inset): maximum phase difference 0.018 radians accumulated between frequency 0.1 and 0.156
- Two “pinching-times” indicated
Comparing *curvature* phase acceleration curves: CC (actual data), TaylorT4, adiabatic, untuned and tuned EOB

- Most “intrinsic” curve (OK with DN07b, which used published data)
- Evident presence of nonadiabatic effects [DN07b]
- T4: strongly deviates from NR after GW frequency 0.1
(Fractional) curvature amplitude difference EOB-CC (actual data) for $a_5=25$

- Nonresummed: fractional differences start at the 1% level and build up to more than 10%.
- New resummed EOB amplitude: fractional differences start at the 0.04% level and build up to only 2%.
- Resummation: factor ~20 improvement!
Comparing EOB-NR *metric* waveforms 1:1 case: Jena data

- Metric waveforms from double time-integration of NR curvature waveforms
- $-0.025 < \Delta \phi_{22} < +0.025$ radians ($=0.004$ GW cycles) over 730 M [1200M-1930M]
- At merger, phase jump of only 0.15 radians [$=0.02$ GW cycles].
- We use the same values of flexibility parameters for CC and Jena data: consistency achieved!
Comparing EOB-NR *metric* waveforms 4:1 case: Jena data

4:1 mass ratio
- Larger accumulated dephasing
- The accuracy of the simulation can be further improved (truncation error is still dominant during the early-inspiral phase)

Comparing EOB-NR *metric* amplitudes: Jena data

Good agreement between the amplitudes:
- Best fractional agreement [equal-mass]: 0.005 during late inspiral
- The NR waves are extracted at finite radius (r=90M)
- The agreement improves for smaller $\nu$
- Maximum difference of 20% due to the rather coarse (but still accurate in phasing) matching procedure.
Comparing EOB-NR *metric* waveforms 2:1 case: Jena data

- Metric waveforms from double time-integration of NR curvature waveforms
- 
  $$-0.05 < \Delta \phi_{22} < +0.05 \text{ radians (} = 0.008 \text{ GW cycles)} \text{ over } 957M \text{ [143M-1100M]}$$
- At merger, phase jump of only 0.06 radians [ = 0.009 GW cycles].
- We use the same values of flexibility parameters for CC and Jena data: consistency achieved!
Consistency with AEI *metric* waveform 1:1 data

- NR metric waveforms [no need of double time-integration from curvature waveforms]
- $-0.015 < \Delta \phi_{22} < 0.05$ radians ($=0.008$ GW cycles) over 600M [900M-1500M]
- At merger, phase jumps by 0.18 radians ($=0.028$ GW cycles).
- We use the same values of flexibility parameters for CC and AEI data: consistency achieved!
Conclusions

- The EOB formalism made several (qualitative and semi-quantitative) predictions that have been broadly confirmed by NR.

- The natural *flexibility* of the EOB parameters leads to a constructive *synergy with NR* results.

- The EOB formalism can provide high-accuracy *parameter free* templates \( h(m_1,m_2) \) for GWs from BBH coalescence, with unprecedented agreement with NR data, and for any mass ratio.

- Even without using the full flexibility, and without using the resummed 3PN waveform, EOB provides *faithful* templates [Buonanno et al. 2007].

- It is predictive and can give us a physical understanding of dynamics and radiation: energy loss, final spin, recoil,…

- EOB dynamics can help to reduce eccentricity in numerical simulations (as originally suggested BD99,00).