

Gravitational waves from twisted light

Based on arXiv:2309.04191

Main collaborators:

Eduard Atonga, Ramy Aboushelbaya and Peter Norreys (Univ. of Oxford) ,
Aurélien Barrau (LPSC Grenoble), Chunshan Lin (Jagiellonian Univ.)

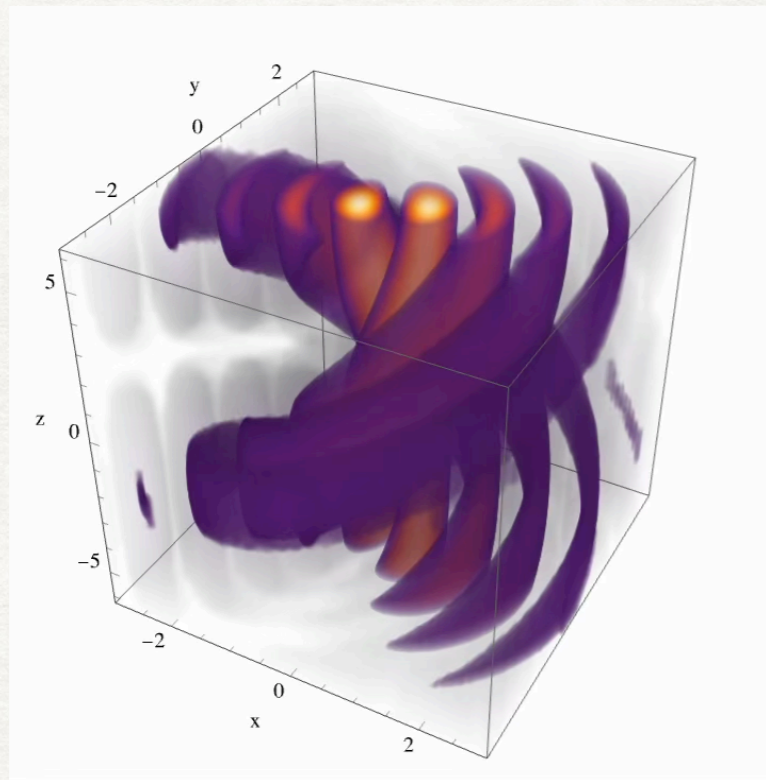
*The action of gravity on light is well known but the converse
- i.e. the way light acts as a source of gravity -
remains, to a large extent, unexplored.*

On twisted light

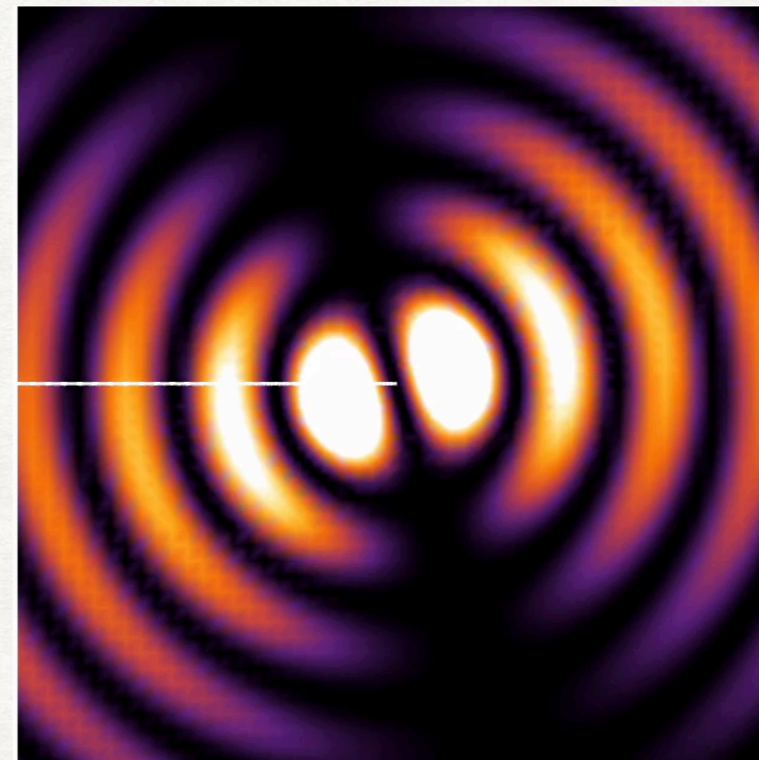
- Light can carry orbital angular momentum (OAM)

The OAM is characterized by an azimuthal phase dependence of the electromagnetic field.

$$E(x^\mu) \propto e^{il\phi}, l \in \mathbb{Z}$$



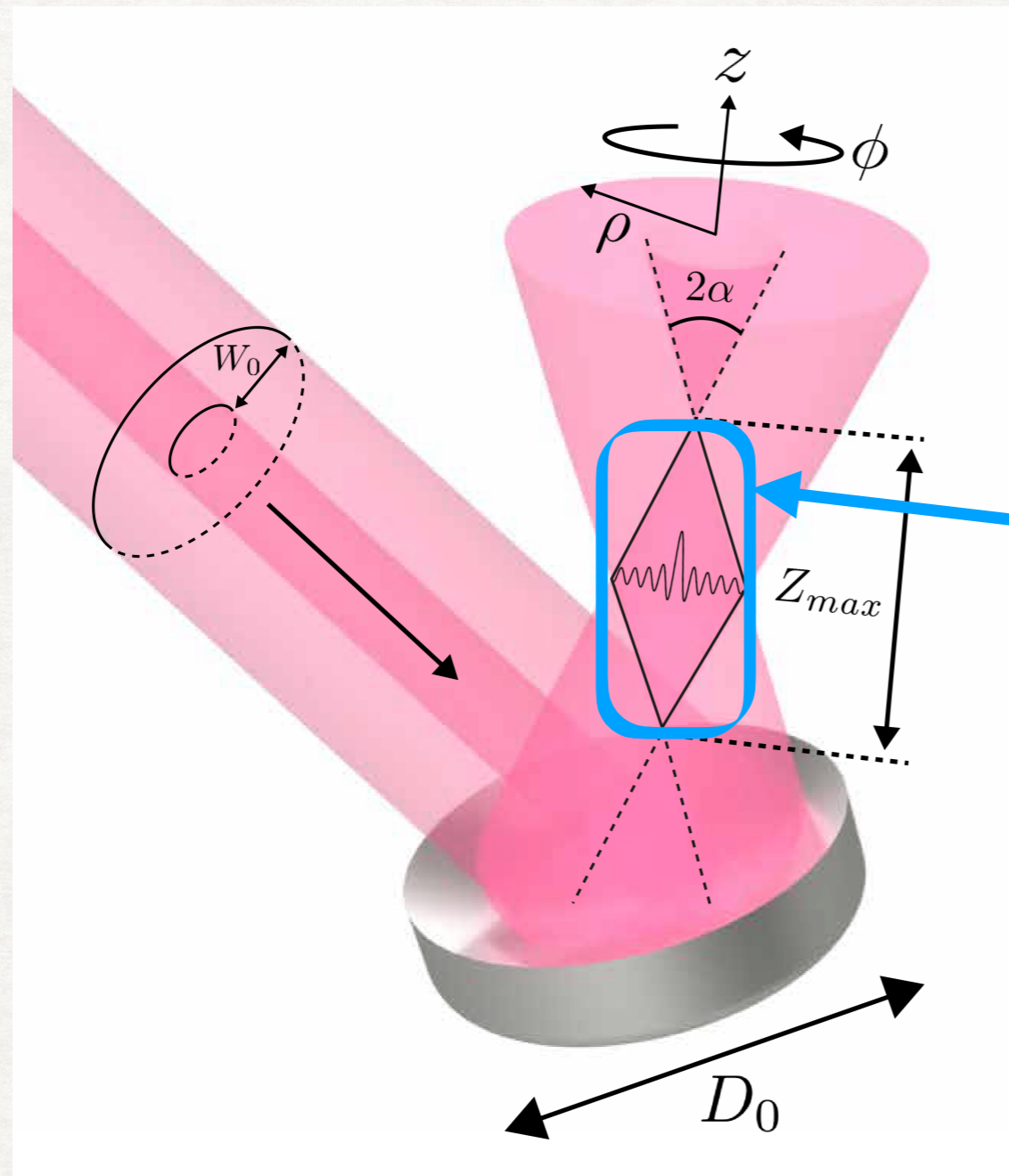
*l = 1 twisted light
propagating along the z-axis*



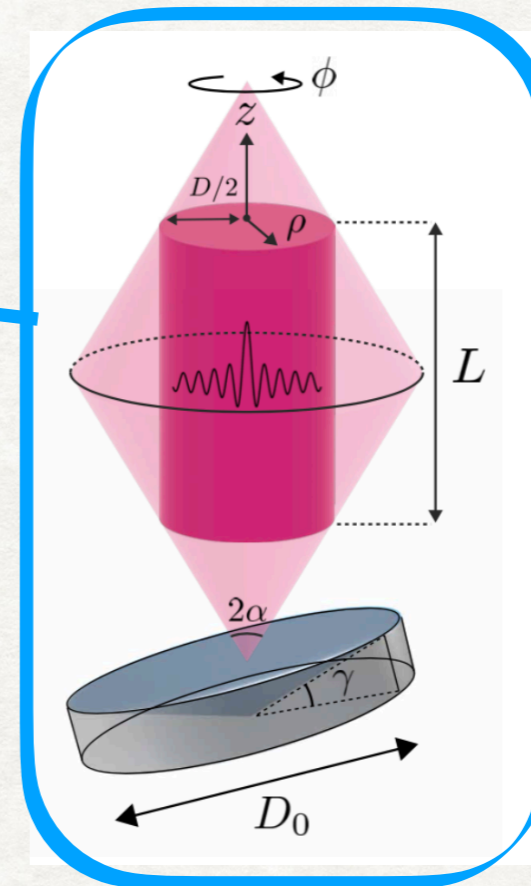
Projection onto the azimuthal plane

- Different types of twisted beams: - Laguerre-Gaussian beams
- Bessel beams

Generation of Bessel modes



Region over which
twisted light is generated



Characterization of the Bessel modes

- Bessel modes can be modeled as an infinite superposition of plane waves:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} i^l E_0 e^{i(k_\mu(\phi)x^\mu + l\phi)} \hat{n}(\phi) d\phi$$

$\phi \equiv \arctan(y/x)$
*Azimuthal position on
the conical surface*

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- Bessel mode E-field orbital angular momentum

$$\vec{J} = \iint \frac{\epsilon_0 E_0}{c} \frac{l}{k} J_l^2(\beta\rho) \hat{z} dS$$

l : OAM parameter
 J_l : Bessel functions

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- Fields components

$$E_x = \frac{E_0}{2} [J_{l+1}(\beta\rho) \sin(\omega t - k_z z + (l+1)\phi) - J_{l-1}(\beta\rho) \sin(\omega t - k_z z + (l-1)\phi)]$$
$$E_y = -\frac{E_0}{2} [J_{l+1}(\beta\rho) \cos(\omega t - k_z z + (l+1)\phi) + J_{l-1}(\beta\rho) \cos(\omega t - k_z z + (l-1)\phi)]$$
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β : Beam
waist

Associated spacetime deformations

- Stress-energy tensor of the system *E. Atonga, K.M, R. Aboushelbaya, A. Barrau et. al.. 2309.04191*

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} u & \vec{N}/c \\ \vec{N}/c & -\sigma_{i,j} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$u = \frac{\epsilon_0 c}{2} (E^2 + c^2 B^2)$$

EM field energy density

$$\vec{N} = \frac{\vec{E} \times \vec{B}}{\mu_0}$$

Poynting vector

$$\sigma_{ij} = \epsilon_0 c (E_i E_j + c^2 B_i B_j) - u \delta_{i,j}$$

Maxwell tensor

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EM field energy density *Poynting vector* *Maxwell tensor*

- Associated spacetime deformations

In the compact source approximation:

$$\bar{h}^{\mu\nu}(t, \vec{x}) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{4G}{c^4} \int_{\mathcal{V}} T^{\mu\nu} \left(t - \frac{r}{c} + \frac{\vec{x}' \cdot \hat{n}}{c}, \vec{x}' \right) d^3 x'$$

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- Projection into the TT gauge

$$\bar{h}_{ij}^{TT} = \Lambda(\hat{n})_{ij,kl} \bar{h}^{kl}$$

Spacetime deformations in the TT gauge

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{TT} = \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{D,TT} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{ZZ,TT} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{+,TT} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{\times,TT}$$

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$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{D,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] & 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] \\ 0 & 0 & \cos(2\theta) - 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] & 0 & \sin^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_D$$

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$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{+,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \cos^2(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos^2(\theta)] & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_+$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{\times,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cos^2(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) & 0 & -\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) \\ 0 & 0 & -\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_\times$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_+ &\equiv 2\bar{h}_+^{(2)} + \bar{h}_+^{(l+1)} + \bar{h}_+^{(l-1)}, \\ \bar{h}_\times &\equiv 2\bar{h}_\times^{(2)} + \bar{h}_\times^{(l+1)} + \bar{h}_\times^{(l-1)}, \\ \bar{h}_{XZ} &\equiv \bar{h}_{XZ}^{+, (1)} + \bar{h}_{XZ}^{-, (1)} + \bar{h}_{XZ}^{+, (2l+1)} + \bar{h}_{XZ}^{-, (2l-1)} \\ \bar{h}_{YZ} &\equiv \bar{h}_{YZ}^{+, (1)} - \bar{h}_{YZ}^{-, (1)} + \bar{h}_{YZ}^{+, (2l+1)} - \bar{h}_{YZ}^{-, (2l-1)} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_D &\equiv \frac{1}{2} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q), \\ \bar{h}_{ZZ} &\equiv 2\bar{h}_0(r) [1 + \cos^2(\alpha)] \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \\ &\quad \times \cos(\psi_q), \\ \bar{h}_+^{(Q)} &\equiv \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_Q(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q), \\ \bar{h}_\times^{(Q)} &\equiv \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_Q(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q), \\ \bar{h}_{XZ}^{\pm, (s)} &\equiv \frac{1}{4} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin(2\alpha) \Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q) \\ \bar{h}_{YZ}^{\pm, (s)} &\equiv \frac{1}{4} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin(2\alpha) \Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q) \\ \bar{h}_N &\equiv 2\bar{h}_0(r) \cos(\alpha) \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q). \end{aligned}$$

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$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{ZZ,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] & 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] \\ 0 & 0 & \cos(2\theta) - 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] & 0 & \sin^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_{ZZ}$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{+,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \cos^2(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos^2(\theta)] & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_+$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{\times,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cos^2(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) & 0 & -\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) \\ 0 & 0 & -\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_\times$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_+ &\equiv 2\bar{h}_+^{(2)} + \bar{h}_+^{(l+1)} + \bar{h}_+^{(l-1)}, \\ \bar{h}_\times &\equiv 2\bar{h}_\times^{(2)} + \bar{h}_\times^{(l+1)} + \bar{h}_\times^{(l-1)}, \\ \bar{h}_{XZ} &\equiv \bar{h}_{XZ}^{+, (1)} + \bar{h}_{XZ}^{-, (1)} + \bar{h}_{XZ}^{+, (2l+1)} + \bar{h}_{XZ}^{-, (2l-1)} \\ \bar{h}_{YZ} &\equiv \bar{h}_{YZ}^{+, (1)} - \bar{h}_{YZ}^{-, (1)} + \bar{h}_{YZ}^{+, (2l+1)} - \bar{h}_{YZ}^{-, (2l-1)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{h}_D \equiv \frac{1}{2} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q),$$

$$\bar{h}_{ZZ} \equiv 2\bar{h}_0(r) [1 + \cos^2(\alpha)] \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \times \cos(\psi_q),$$

$$\bar{h}_+^{(Q)} \equiv \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_Q(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q),$$

$$\bar{h}_\times^{(Q)} \equiv \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_Q(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q),$$

$$\bar{h}_{XZ}^{\pm, (s)} \equiv \frac{1}{4} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin(2\alpha) \Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q)$$

$$\bar{h}_{YZ}^{\pm, (s)} \equiv \frac{1}{4} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin(2\alpha) \Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q)$$

$$\bar{h}_N \equiv 2\bar{h}_0(r) \cos(\alpha) \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q).$$

$$\bar{h}_0(r) \equiv \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 c E_0^2 G L}{\beta^2 c^5 r},$$

$$\psi_q(t, r) \equiv 2\omega(t - r/c) + 2q(\phi - \pi/2),$$

$$\Gamma_q(\theta) \equiv \int_0^{\frac{D\beta}{2}} \tau J_q^2(\tau) J_{2q} \left(\frac{\omega\tau}{c\beta} \sin(\theta) \right) d\tau,$$

$$\Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \equiv \int_0^{\frac{D\beta}{2}} \tau J_l(\tau) J_{l\pm 1}(\tau) J_s \left(\frac{\omega\tau}{c\beta} \sin(\theta) \right) d\tau$$

$$\eta(\theta) \equiv \frac{\omega L}{c} [\cos(\theta) - \cos(\alpha)],$$

Spacetime deformations in the TT gauge

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{TT} = \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{D,TT} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{ZZ,TT} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{+,TT} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{\times,TT}$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{D,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] & 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] \\ 0 & 0 & \cos(2\theta) - 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] & 0 & \sin^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_D$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{ZZ,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] & 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] \\ 0 & 0 & \cos(2\theta) - 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] & 0 & \sin^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_{ZZ}$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{+,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \cos^2(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos^2(\theta)] & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_+$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{\times,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cos^2(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) & 0 & -\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) \\ 0 & 0 & -\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_\times$$

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$$\bar{h}_D \equiv \frac{1}{2} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q),$$

$$\bar{h}_{ZZ} \equiv 2\bar{h}_0(r) [1 + \cos^2(\alpha)] \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \times \cos(\psi_q),$$

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$$\bar{h}_0(r) \equiv \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 c E_0^2 G L}{\beta^2 c^5 r},$$

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$$\eta(\theta) \equiv \frac{\omega L}{c} [\cos(\theta) - \cos(\alpha)],$$

L : Interaction length

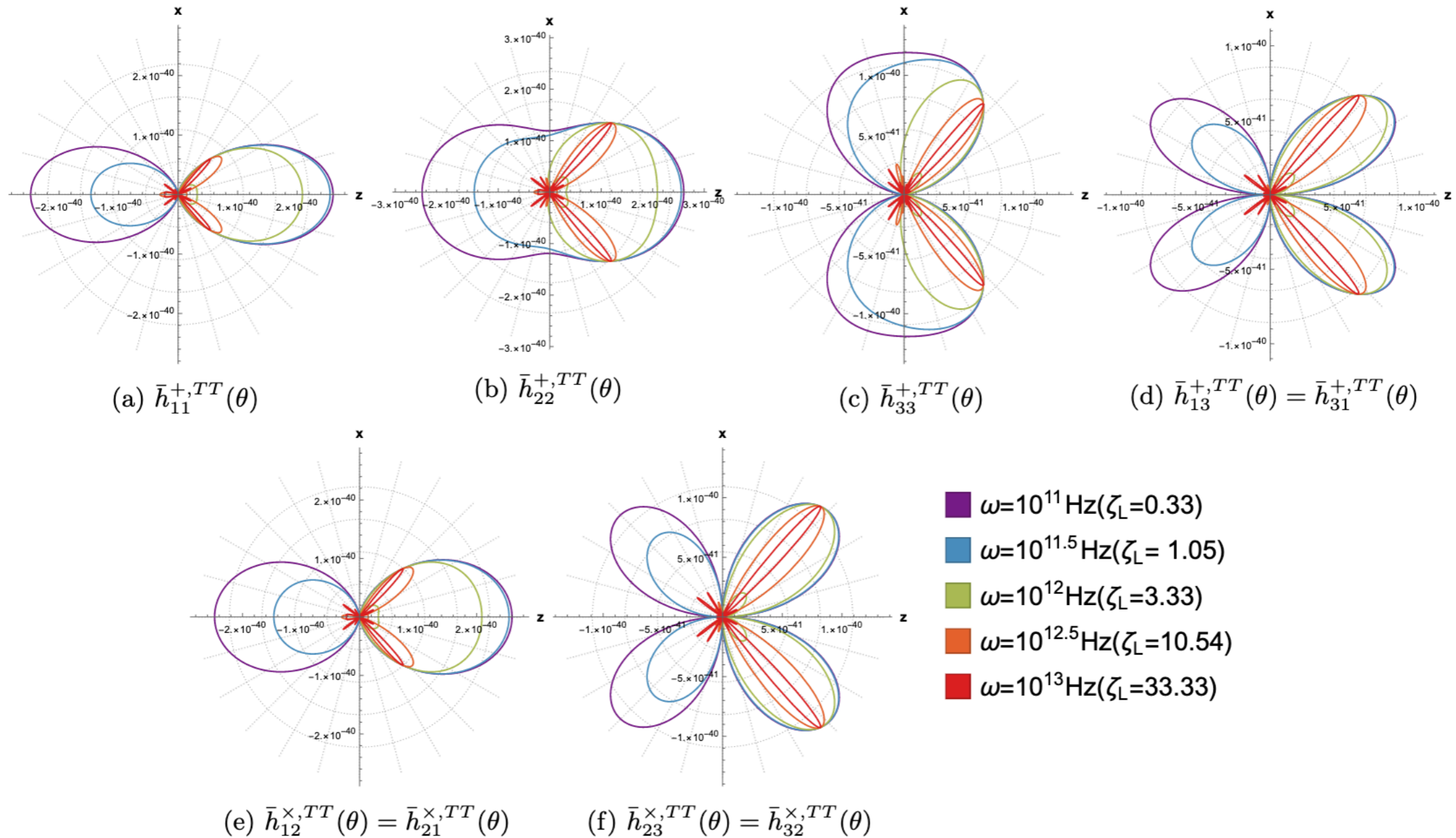
ω : Pulse frequency

α : Half-cone angle

β : Beam waist

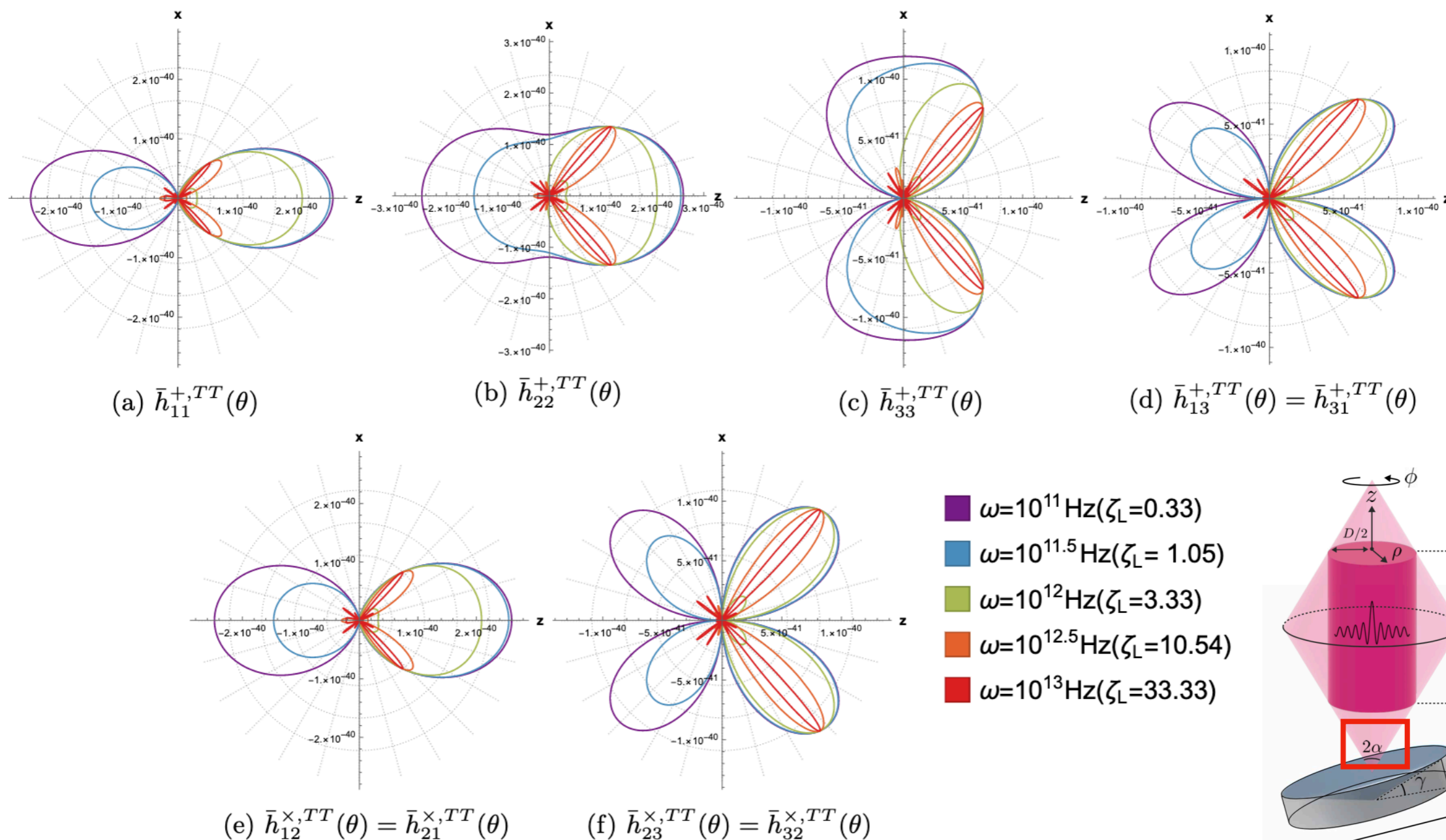
D : Interaction region width

Spacetime deformations in the TT gauge



When $\zeta_L \equiv \omega L/c > 1 \longrightarrow$ Beaming effect

Spacetime deformations in the TT gauge



When $\zeta_L \equiv \omega L/c > 1$ \longrightarrow Beaming effect towards the half-cone angle α

Main characteristics of the GW signal

- Frequency

$$\omega_{GW} = 2\omega_{\text{pulse}} \simeq 8.55 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$$

For a NIF's 351 nm laser pulse

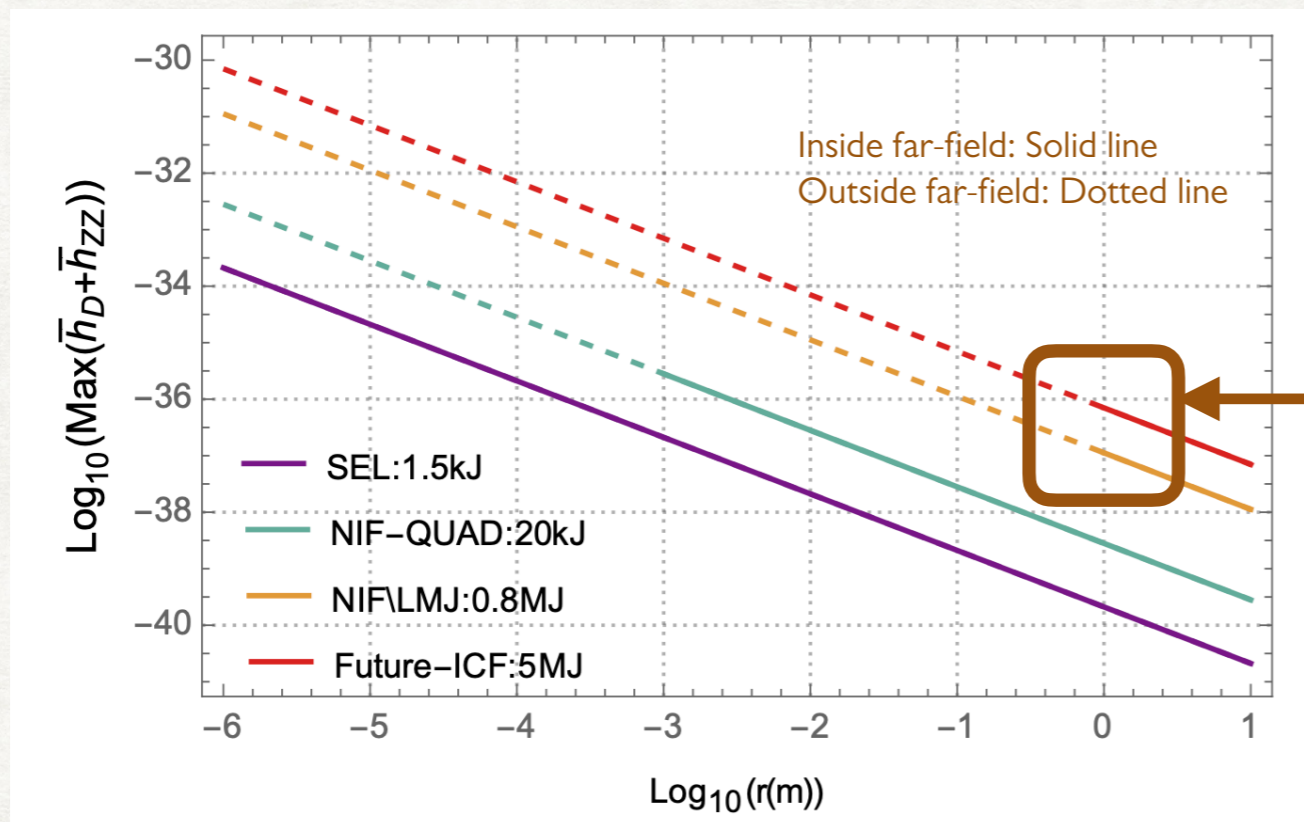
Main characteristics of the GW signal

- Frequency

$$\omega_{GW} = 2\omega_{\text{pulse}} \simeq 8.55 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$$

For a NIF's 351 nm laser pulse

- Strain



$h \sim 10^{-36}$ at best!
One meter away from the source

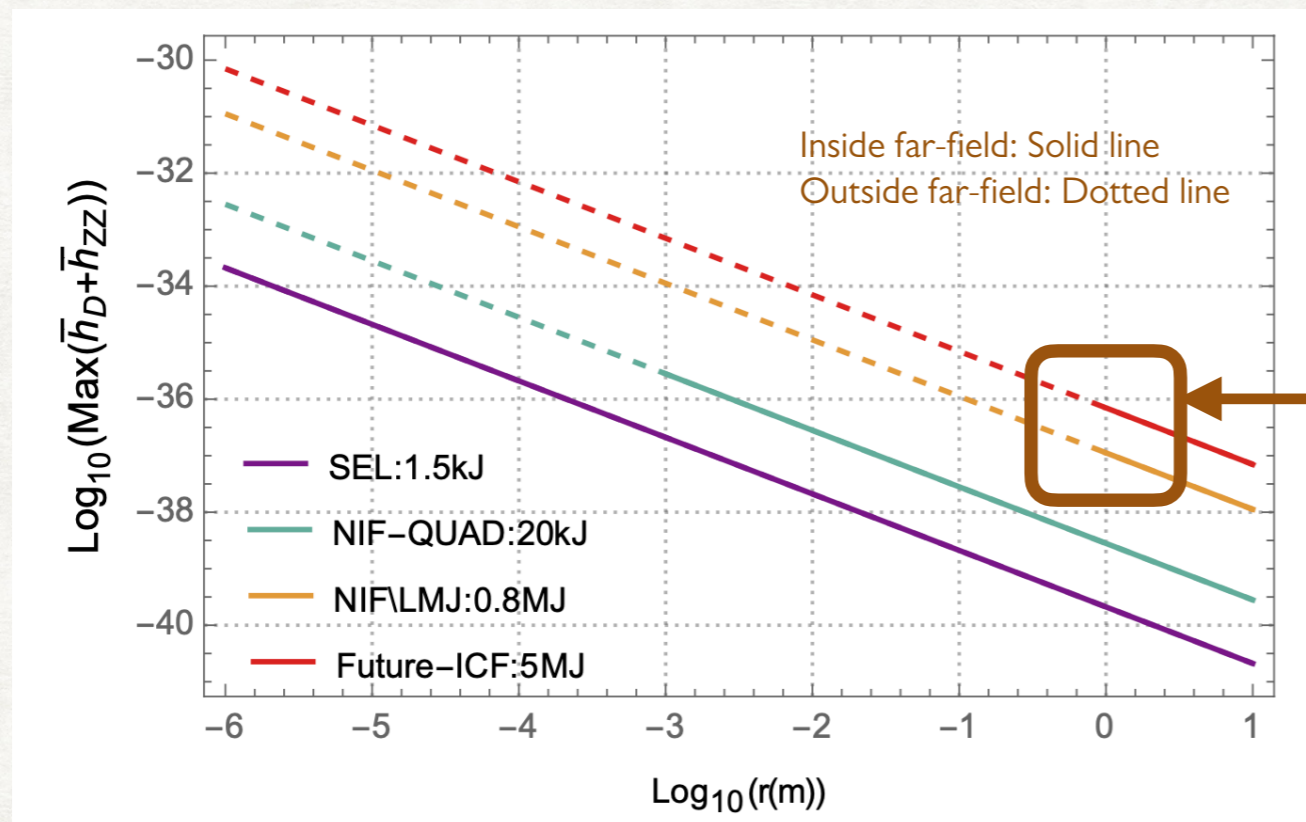
Main characteristics of the GW signal

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For a NIF's 351 nm laser pulse

- Strain



$h \sim 10^{-36}$ at best!
One meter away from the source

- Power

- Excellent control on the direction of emission

- $P \sim 9.4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ W.m}^{-2} > P_{GW15094} \sim 3.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ W.m}^{-2}$ Powers evaluated at the detector location

Gravitational waves from high-power twisted beams

In definitive

- ✓
 - The optical setup provides a very good control over the GWs properties (frequency, direction of emission, polarisation states)
 - Subtle and unexpected effects do appear (Beaming effect towards the half-cone angle α , ...)
- ✗
 - Generated strains are too low

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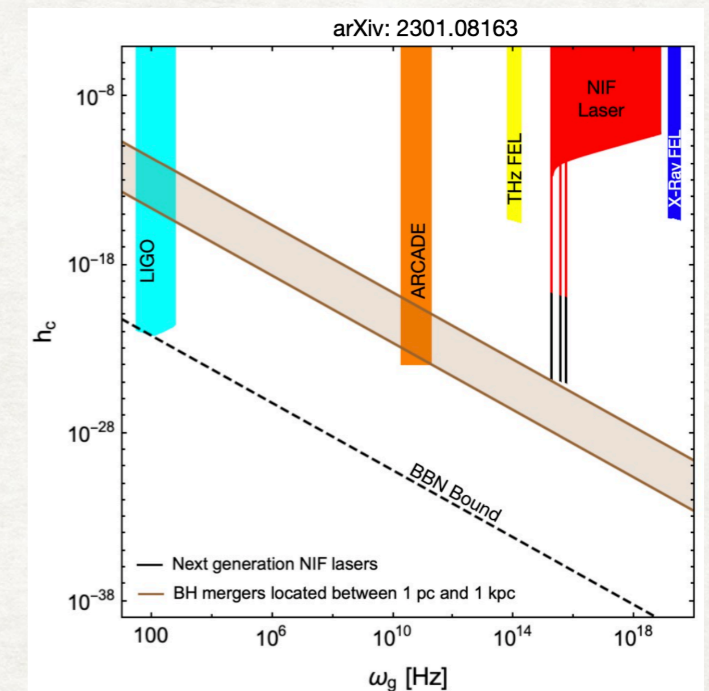
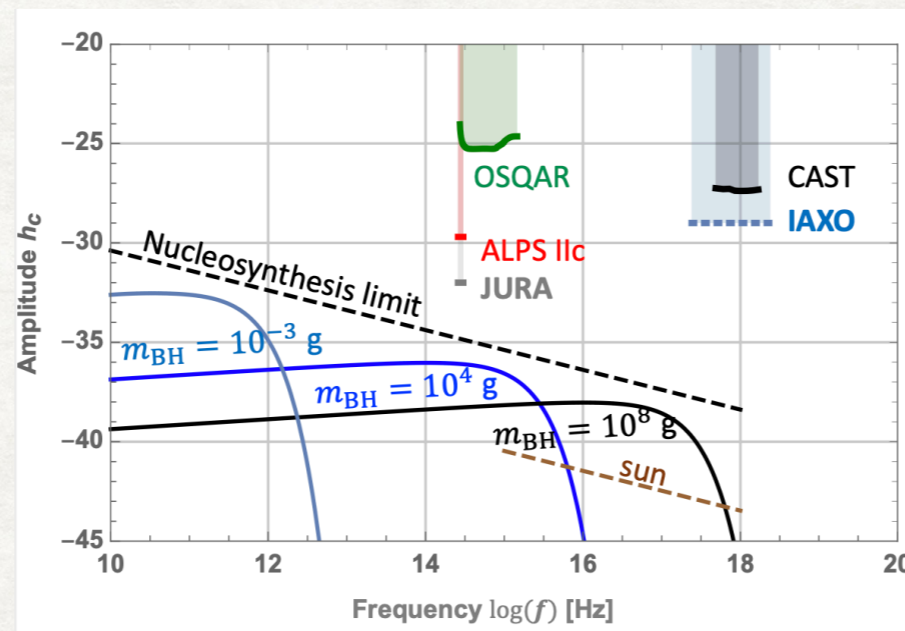
Regular Article - Theoretical Physics

Upper limits on the amplitude of ultra-high-frequency gravitational waves from graviton to photon conversion

A. Ejlli^{1,a}, D. Ejlli³, A. M. Cruise², G. Pisano¹, H. Grote¹

¹ School of Physics and Astronomy, Cardiff University, The Parade, Cardiff CF24 3AA, UK
² School of Physics and Astronomy, Birmingham University, Edgbaston Park Rd, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK
³ Department of Physics, Novosibirsk State University, 2 Pirogova Street, Novosibirsk 630090, Russia

Borrowed from Aldo's talk



Borrowed from Georgios's talk

Possibilities to boost the signal?

*Beyond any possible application,
the question of the gravitational field created by light is, in itself,
fascinating and largely unexplored.
A lot remains to be understood.*

Thank you!