



# Lighthouses in the sky – Superradiant instabilities in astrophysical systems

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HW, V. Cardoso, A. Ishibashi, U. Sperhake, Phys. Rev. D 87, 043513 (2013),  
H. Okawa, HW, V. Cardoso, (work in progress)

BritGrav 2013, University of Sheffield, 04 April 2013

# Outline

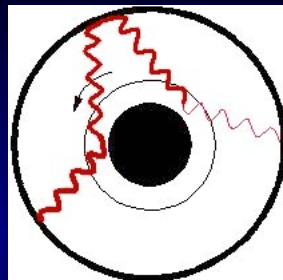
- 1 Motivation
- 2 Massive scalar fields in BH background
- 3 Lighthouses in the sky – scalar clouds around black holes
- 4 Summary and Outlook

# Superradiant scattering and the BH bomb

- superradiant scattering (Misner '72, Zeldovich '71):
  - scattering of wave packet off Kerr BH
  - superradiance condition

$$0 < \omega_R < m\Omega_H = m\frac{a}{2Mr_+}$$

- ⇒ amplification of wave packet
- ⇒ extraction of energy and angular momentum off BH



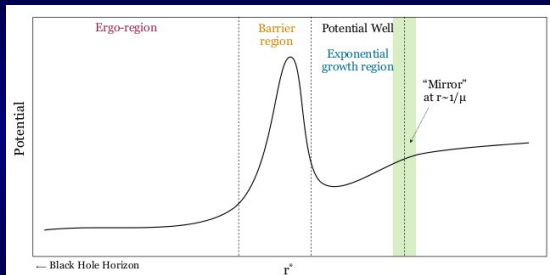
credit: A. Sousa

- “Black Hole bomb”  
(Press & Teukolsky '72, Zeldovich '71, Cardoso et al '04, Rosa '10, Dolan '12, ...)
  - Kerr BH enclosed by mirror
  - multiple scattering
    - ⇒ exponential growth of modes
    - ⇒ destruction of mirror – “BH bomb”

# Superradiant instability in physical systems

natural mirror provided by

- anti-de Sitter spacetimes (Hawking & Reall '00, Cardoso & Dias '04, ... )
  - fields with mass  $\mu$  (Damour et al. '76, Detweiler '80, Zouros & Eardley '79, ...)
- $\Rightarrow$  "mirror" if:  $\omega_R \lesssim \mu$



Arvanitaki & Dubovsky '11

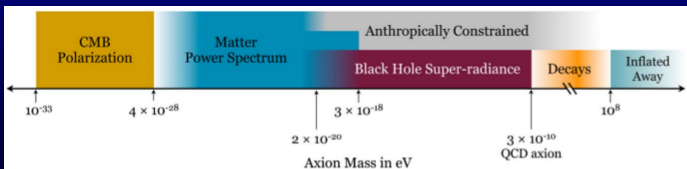
- most promising mass coupling:  $M\mu \sim 1/2$
- for astrophysical BHs and known standard-model particles:  $M\mu \sim 10^{18}$

$$\tau \sim 10^7 \exp(1.84 M\mu) \left( \frac{GM}{c^3} \right) \quad (\text{Zouros \& Eardley '79})$$

$\Rightarrow$  insignificant for astrophysical systems?

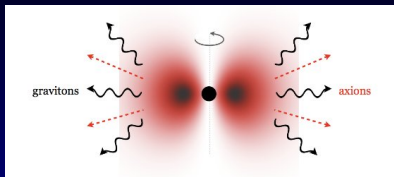
# Superradiance instability in physical systems

- candidates:
  - QCD axion with  $\mu_a \sim 6 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ eV} \left( \frac{10^{16} \text{ GeV}}{f_a} \right)$   
(proposed to solve strong CP problem in QCD (Peccei & Quinn '77) )
  - ultralight bosons emerging in string theory compactification  
⇒ plethora of ultralight axion-like particles  
⇒ “string axiverse” with  $10^{-33} \text{ eV} \leq \mu \leq 10^{-10} \text{ eV}$   
(Arvanitaki & Dubovsky '10, '11, Kodama & Yoshino '11)
- bosonic clouds around BHs ( $3M_\odot \lesssim M \lesssim 10^9 M_\odot$ ) if  $10^{-21} \text{ eV} \leq \mu \leq 10^{-8} \text{ eV}$



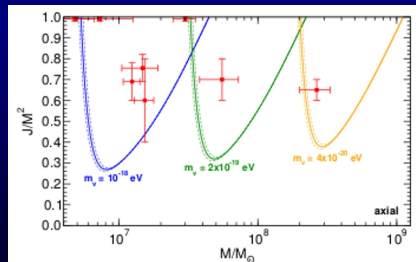
(Arvanitaki et al '10)

# Superradiance instability in physical systems



- formation of bound states around BHs  
⇒ “gravitational atom”
- graviton emission from axion cloud
- modified gravitational wave emission
- “gravitational wave pulsar”

- gaps in Regge plot  
⇒ probe of photon mass:  
upper bound  $\mu_\gamma \sim 10^{-20} \text{ eV}$   
(Pani et al'12)
- non-linear self-interaction  
⇒ “bosonova”-like particle bursts  
(Yoshino & Kodama '12)



Pani et al '12

⇒ study beyond-SM particles by precision BH physics

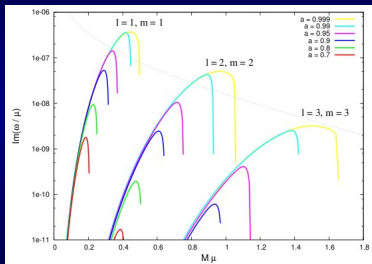
# Scalar clouds around black holes

# Massive scalar fields - what do we know?

- Klein-Gordon equation (in fixed Kerr background)

$$(\square - \mu^2)\Phi = 0, \quad \text{with} \quad \Phi = \exp(-i\omega t) \exp(im\phi) S_{lm}(\theta) R_{lm}(r)$$

solutions: quasi-normal modes or bound states



Dolan '07

- frequency domain:  
maximum instability growth rate for bound states with  
(Dolan '07, Cardoso & Yoshida '05, Berti et al '09)

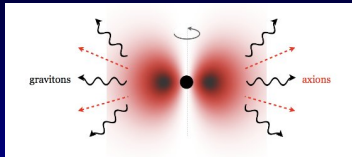
$$l = m = 1, \quad a/M = 0.99, \quad M\mu = 0.42 :$$

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \omega_I \sim 1.5 \cdot 10^{-7} \left( \frac{GM}{c^3} \right)^{-1}$$

- time domain:
  - Strauss & Khanna '05 (Gaussian initial data):  $M\omega_I \sim 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$
  - Kodama & Yoshino '12 (bound state initial data):  $M\omega_I \sim 3.2 \cdot 10^{-7}$
  - Dolan '12, Witek et al '12 (Gaussian initial data):  $M\omega_I \sim 1.5 \cdot 10^{-7}$ ,  
beating and space dependent mode excitation



# Scalar clouds around black holes



Arvanitaki et al '10

- in dynamical regime – final state?
- “BH bomb” vs. gravitational atom?
- emission of scalar and gravitational waves?  
⇒ include backreaction onto spacetime

- consider full GR - scalar field system

$${}^{(4)}G_{\mu\nu} + 4\pi [g_{\mu\nu} (\Phi^*_{,\lambda} \Phi^{,\lambda} + \mu_S^2 \Phi^* \Phi + 2V) - 2\partial_{(\mu} \Phi^* \partial_{\nu)} \Phi] = 0,$$

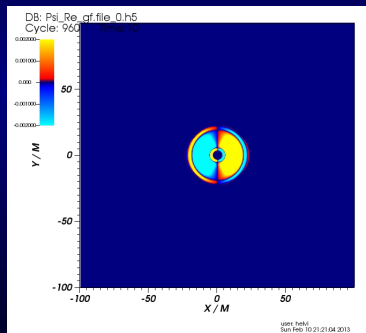
$$(\square - \mu_S^2)\Phi = 0$$

- formulation as time evolution problem ⇒ solve numerically

# Scalar cloud around Schwarzschild – Setup

- consider Schwarzschild BH and scalar field with  $\mu = 0.0$  or  $\mu = 0.42$
- initialize scalar field as Gaussian wave packet

$$\Pi_0 \sim \exp\left(-\frac{(r-r_0)^2}{w^2}\right) \sum_{lm} Y_{lm}(\theta, \varphi)$$

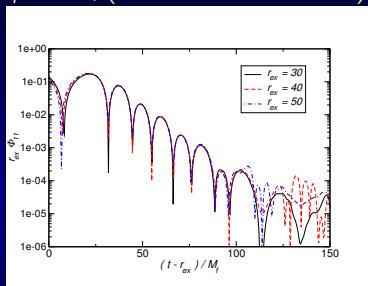


Evolution of a scalar field with  $\mu = 0.42$ ,  $r_0 = 12$ ,  $w = 0.5$ ,  $Y = Y_{1-1} - Y_{11}$

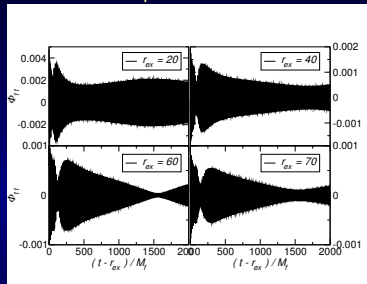
# Scalar cloud around Schwarzschild – Results I

Time evolution of  $l = m = 1$  mode of scalar field  $\Phi$

$\mu = 0.0, (M\omega_{11} = 0.291 - i0.095)$



$\mu = 0.42$



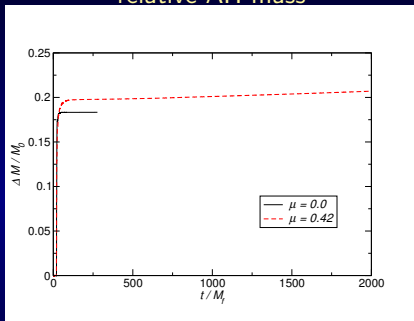
- beating between overtone modes  $\omega_{R,1} = \omega_{R,0} + \delta_{10}, \delta_{10} \ll 1$

$$\psi \sim (A_0 - A_1) \sin(\omega_{R,0}t) + A_1 \sin(\omega_{R,0}t) \cos(\delta_{10}/2t)$$

- variation of modulation with location of measurement  
⇒ space dependent excitation of modes
- good agreement with linear evolutions (Dolan '12, Witek et al '12)

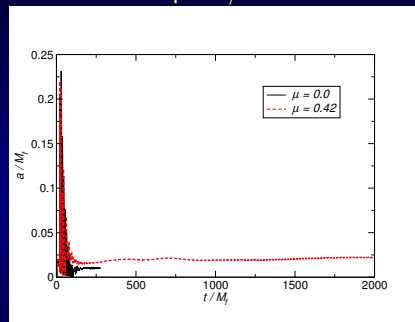
# Scalar cloud around Schwarzschild – Results II

relative AH mass



- increase in AH horizon mass
- $\mu = 0.0$ :  $\Delta M/M_0 = 18.3\%$
- $\mu = 0.42$ :  $\Delta M/M_0 = 20.9\%$   
(after  $t \sim 2000M$ )

spin  $a/M$

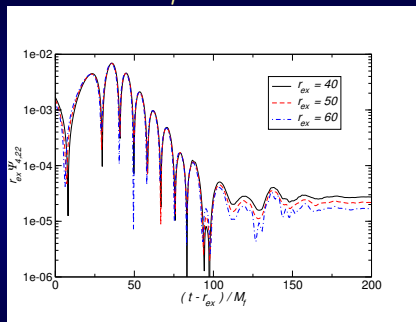


- $\mu = 0.0$ :  $a_{\max}/M \sim 0.20$   
 $\mu = 0.42$ :  $a_{\max}/M \sim 0.19$
- settles down to Kerr BH with larger mass and small spin

# Scalar cloud around Schwarzschild – Results III

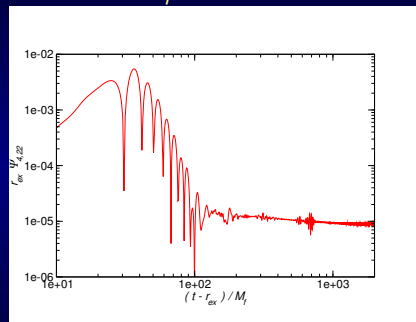
time evolution of  $l = 2, m = 2$  mode of Newman Penrose scalar  $\Psi_4$

$\mu = 0.0$



- quasi-normal ringdown with  $M\omega = 0.361 - i0.083$
- settles down to Schwarzschild BH

$\mu = 0.42$



- quasi-normal ringdown with  $M\omega = 0.371 - i0.084$
- long-lived GW emission with  $\Psi_{4,2,2} \sim t^{-0.25} \sin(0.823t)$

# Summary and Outlook

- access beyond SM particle physics through precision BH physics
- consider Schwarzschild BH and scalar field with  $\mu = 0$ 
  - absorption of SF by BH
  - QN ringdown measured in GW and scalar field
- consider Schwarzschild BH and scalar with  $\mu = 0.42$ 
  - scalar cloud around BH
  - long-lived, slowly decaying scalar modes
  - beating and space dependent mode excitation
  - long-lived GW with  $\omega \sim \text{const.}$
- “final” state: Kerr BH with larger mass and small spin

## ToDo:

- extension to Kerr BH coupled to scalar field
- final state of superradiant instability in dynamical regime
- astrophysical implications?

# Thank you

<http://blackholes.ist.utl.pt>