

# Stochastic Gravitational Waves and Pulsar Timing Arrays

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## Abstract

This lecture introduces a basic theory for stochastic gravitational waves (GWs). Pulsar timing arrays

## 1 Gravitational Waves

Let us consider gravitational waves (GWs) in the transverse-traceless (TT) gauge with a globally inertial coordinate system  $\{t, \vec{x}\}$  as

$$h_{ab}(t, \vec{x}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega, \kappa) e^{iP(t, \vec{x}; \omega, \kappa)}, \quad (1)$$

where  $\omega$  is the frequency,  $\kappa$  is the unit spatial vector for the propagation, and  $P$  is the phase, a function of spacetime with parameters  $(\omega, \kappa)$ , given by

$$P(t, \vec{x}; \omega, \kappa) \equiv \omega(-t + \kappa \cdot \vec{x}). \quad (2)$$

The wave vector for GWs is defined by

$$k^a \equiv \nabla^a P = \omega(n^a + \kappa^a), \quad (3)$$

where  $n^a \equiv -g^{ab}(dt)_b = (\partial/\partial t)^a$ . The TT gauge condition gives

$$\tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega, \kappa) n^b = 0, \quad (4)$$

$$\tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega, \kappa) \kappa^b = 0, \quad (5)$$

$$\tilde{h}^a_a(\omega, \kappa) = 0. \quad (6)$$

Because  $h$  is real, we have

$$\tilde{h}_{ab}(-\omega, \kappa) = \tilde{h}_{ab}^*(\omega, \kappa). \quad (7)$$

When we introduce two parameters  $(\theta, \phi)$  for  $\kappa$  as

$$\kappa^a(\theta, \phi) = \sin\theta \cos\phi \hat{x}^a + \sin\theta \sin\phi \hat{y}^a + \cos\theta \hat{z}^a, \quad (8)$$

where  $\{\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}\}$  is the orthonormal basis in a Cartesian coordinate system, the integration for  $d^2\kappa$  becomes

$$\int d^2\kappa = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^\pi d\theta \sin\theta = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos\theta) \quad (9)$$

## 2 Polarization

Let us consider a vector space  $\mathcal{S}$  for symmetric traceless rank (0, 2) tensors orthogonal to  $\kappa$ . The GW amplitude  $\tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega, \kappa)$  belongs to  $\mathcal{S}$ . We choose a basis  $\{e_A : A = +, \times\}$  for  $\mathcal{S}$  as

$$e_{ab}^+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(u_a u_b - v_a v_b), \quad (10)$$

$$e_{ab}^\times = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(u_a v_b + v_a u_b). \quad (11)$$

where  $\{u, v, \kappa\}$  is a right-handed orthonormal basis that is the rotation of the orthonormal basis  $\{\hat{x}, \hat{y}, \hat{z}\}$  in the Cartesian coordinate system by the Euler angle  $(\theta, \phi, \psi)$  as

$$\begin{bmatrix} u^a \\ v^a \\ \kappa^a \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos\psi & \sin\psi & 0 \\ -\sin\psi & \cos\psi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & 0 & -\sin\theta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \sin\theta & 0 & \cos\theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos\phi & \sin\phi & 0 \\ -\sin\phi & \cos\phi & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}^a \\ \hat{y}^a \\ \hat{z}^a \end{bmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

Note that the  $1/\sqrt{2}$  factors in eqs. (10) and (11) ensure the normalization as

$$e_{ab}^A e_{cd}^B g^{ac} g^{bd} = \delta^{AB}. \quad (13)$$

Then,  $\tilde{h}_{ab}$  is decomposed into

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{h}_{ab} &= \tilde{h}_+ e_{ab}^+ + \tilde{h}_\times e_{ab}^\times \\ &= \tilde{h}_A e_{ab}^A, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where  $\tilde{h}_A$  are components in the basis and we introduced the Einstein summation convention for the index  $A$ .

Let us consider the projection operator from general vectors to vectors orthogonal to  $n$  and  $\kappa$  defined by

$$P_b^a \equiv \delta_b^a + n^a n_b - \kappa^a \kappa_b. \quad (15)$$

Then, the projection operator from general rank  $(0, 2)$  tensors to  $\mathcal{S}$  is given by

$$\Lambda^{ab}{}_{cd} \equiv P^a{}_{(c} P^b{}_{d)} - \frac{1}{2} P^{ab} P_{cd}. \quad (16)$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda^{ab}{}_{ab} &= \frac{1}{2} P^a{}_a P^b{}_b + \frac{1}{2} P^a{}_b P^b{}_a - \frac{1}{2} P^{ab} P_{ab} \\ &= 2 + 1 - 1 \\ &= 2. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

The dual basis  $\{e^A : A = +, \times\}$  uniquely exists such that

$$e_{ab}^A e_B^{ab} = \delta^A{}_B. \quad (18)$$

Since the basis is complete, we obtain

$$e_A^{ab} e_{cd}^A = \Lambda^{ab}{}_{cd}. \quad (19)$$

### 3 Stochastic Gravitational Waves

We assume that  $h_{ab}$  of stochastic gravitational waves (SGWs) is Gaussian such that its statistical status is fully described by the expectation value and the correlations. The expectation value is given as

$$\langle h_{ab}(t, \vec{x}) \rangle = 0, \quad (20)$$

which implies

$$\langle \tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega, \kappa) \rangle = 0. \quad (21)$$

We also assume that  $h$  of SGWs is temporally stationary and spatially homogeneous. Then, its correlations  $R_{abcd}^h$  are given by

$$R_{abcd}^h(\tau, \vec{y}) = \langle h_{ab}(t, \vec{x}) h_{cd}(t + \tau, \vec{x} + \vec{y}) \rangle. \quad (22)$$

Note that it only depends on the time difference  $\tau$  and the position difference  $\vec{y}$ . The correlation has properties as

$$R_{abcd}^h = R_{cdab}^h, \quad (23)$$

$$\begin{aligned} R_{abcd}^h(-\tau, -\vec{y}) &= \langle h_{ab}(t, \vec{x}) h_{cd}(t - \tau, \vec{x} - \vec{y}) \rangle \\ &= \langle h_{ab}(t' + \tau, \vec{x}' + \vec{y}) h_{cd}(t', \vec{x}') \rangle \\ &= R_{cdab}^h(\tau, \vec{y}) \\ &= R_{abcd}^h(\tau, \vec{y}). \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

The wave equation for  $R^h$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \square_{(\tau, \vec{y})} R_{abcd}^h &= \langle h_{ab}(t, \vec{x}) \square_{(\tau, \vec{y})} h_{cd}(t + \tau, \vec{x} + \vec{y}) \rangle \\ &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

where  $\square_{(\tau, \vec{y})}$  is the D'Alembertian operator with partial derivatives with respect to  $(\tau, \vec{y})$ . Then,  $R^h$  has wave solution as

$$R_{abcd}^h(\tau, \vec{y}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa S_{abcd}^h(\omega, \kappa) e^{i\omega(-\tau + \kappa \cdot \vec{y})}, \quad (26)$$

where  $S_{abcd}^h(\omega, \kappa)$  is the power spectral density having properties

$$S_{abcd}^h = S_{cdab}^h, \quad (27)$$

$$S_{abcd}^h(-\omega, \kappa) = S_{abcd}^h(\omega, \kappa), \quad (28)$$

$$S_{abcd}^h(-\omega, \kappa) = S_{abcd}^{h*}(\omega, \kappa). \quad (29)$$

The first equation is derived by eq. (23), the second is deduced from eq. (24), and the third comes from that  $R^h$  is real. Therefore, we conclude that  $S^h$  is also real. From eq. (22), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa S_{abcd}^h(\omega, \kappa) e^{i\omega(-\tau + \kappa \cdot \vec{y})} \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa' \langle \tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega', \kappa') \tilde{h}_{cd}(\omega, \kappa) \rangle e^{i\omega'(-t + \kappa' \cdot \vec{x})} e^{i\omega(-t - \tau + \kappa \cdot (\vec{x} + \vec{y}))} \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa' \langle \tilde{h}_{ab}^*(\omega', \kappa') \tilde{h}_{cd}(\omega, \kappa) \rangle e^{i(\omega' - \omega)t} e^{i(\omega\kappa - \omega'\kappa') \cdot \vec{x}} \right] e^{i\omega(-\tau + \kappa \cdot \vec{y})}. \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

Note that the expression inside the square bracket has nothign to do with  $t$  and  $\vec{x}$ . Therefore, we obtain

$$\langle \tilde{h}_{ab}^*(\omega, \kappa) \tilde{h}_{cd}(\omega', \kappa') \rangle = 2\pi \delta(\omega' - \omega) \delta^2(\kappa' - \kappa) S_{abcd}^h(\omega, \kappa) \quad (31)$$

For  $\kappa(\theta, \phi)$ , the factor  $\delta^2(\kappa' - \kappa)$  is explictly written as

$$\delta^2(\kappa' - \kappa) = \delta(\cos \theta' - \cos \theta) \delta(\phi' - \phi). \quad (32)$$

Assuming no preference to SGW polarization, we get

$$S_{abcd}^h(\omega, \kappa) = \frac{1}{2} S_h(\omega, \kappa) \Lambda_{abcd}(\kappa), \quad (33)$$

where  $S_h$  is a scalar function of  $(\omega, \kappa)$ . In addition, we assume the isotropy of SGW. Then,

$$S_h(\omega, \kappa) = \frac{1}{4\pi} S_h(\omega), \quad (34)$$

where  $S_h(\omega)$  is the scalar function of  $\omega$ . The factors  $1/2$  in eq. (33) and  $1/4\pi$  in eq. (34) are chosen such that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle h_{ab}(t, \vec{x}) h^{ab}(t, \vec{x}) \rangle &= R_{abcd}^h(0, 0) g^{ac} g^{bd} \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa S_{abcd}^h(\omega, \kappa) g^{ac} g^{bd} \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \frac{1}{2} S_h(\omega, \kappa) \Lambda_{abcd}(\kappa) g^{ac} g^{bd} \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa S_h(\omega, \kappa) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \frac{1}{4\pi} S_h(\omega) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} S_h(\omega). \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

Therefore,  $S_h(\omega)$  becomes the power spectral density for  $\langle h_{ab} h^{ab} \rangle$ . In these assumptions, we have

$$\langle \tilde{h}_{ab}^*(\omega, \kappa) \tilde{h}_{cd}(\omega', \kappa') \rangle = 2\pi \delta(\omega' - \omega) \frac{1}{4\pi} \delta^2(\kappa' - \kappa) \frac{1}{2} \Lambda_{abcd}(\kappa) S_h(\omega). \quad (36)$$

## 4 Energy density of GW background

The energy density of GWB is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
\rho_{\text{gw}} &= \frac{1}{32\pi} \langle \partial_t h_{ab} \partial_t h^{ab} \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{32\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa' (-i\omega) (-i\omega') \langle \tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega, \kappa) \tilde{h}^{ab}(\omega', \kappa') \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{32\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa' (i\omega) (-i\omega') \langle \tilde{h}_{ab}^*(\omega, \kappa) \tilde{h}^{ab}(\omega', \kappa') \rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{32\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa' \omega \omega' 2\pi \delta(\omega' - \omega) \frac{1}{4\pi} \delta^2(\kappa' - \kappa) S_h(\omega) \\
&= \frac{1}{32\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \int d^2\kappa' \omega^2 \frac{1}{4\pi} \delta^2(\kappa' - \kappa) S_h(\omega) \\
&= \frac{1}{32\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \omega^2 S_h(\omega) \\
&= \frac{1}{32\pi} \int_0^{\infty} df (2\pi f)^2 S_h^{\text{one-sided}}(f) \\
&= \frac{1}{32\pi} \int_0^{\infty} df (2\pi f)^2 S_h^{\text{one-sided}}(f).
\end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

Let us define  $\Omega_{\text{gw}}$  as the log frequency density for the cosmological parameter of GWB:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\rho_{\text{gw}}}{\rho_c} &= \int_0^{\infty} d \ln f \Omega_{\text{gw}}(f) \\
&= \frac{1}{12H_0^2} \int_0^{\infty} df (2\pi f)^2 S_h^{\text{one-sided}}(f) \\
&= \frac{\pi^2}{3H_0^2} \int_0^{\infty} d \ln f f^3 S_h^{\text{one-sided}}(f)
\end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

where  $\rho_c = 3H_0^2/8\pi$  is the critical density. Therefore,  $\Omega_{\text{gw}}$  is related to  $S_h^{\text{one-sided}}$  as

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}}(f) = \frac{\pi^2}{3H_0^2} f^3 S_h^{\text{one-sided}}(f). \tag{39}$$

## 5 Detector Output Correlation

Detector output is given by

$$s(t) = h(t) + n(t). \tag{40}$$

GW signal  $h$  is given by

$$h(t) = D^{ab} h_{ab}(t, \vec{x}_0), \tag{41}$$

where  $D^{ab}$  is the detector tensor and  $\vec{x}_0$  is the position of detector. We assume that the noise  $n$  is Gaussian and stationary as

$$\langle n(t) \rangle = 0 \tag{42}$$

$$\langle n(t) n(t + \tau) \rangle = R_n(\tau) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} S_n(\omega) e^{-i\omega\tau}, \tag{43}$$

where  $R_n(\tau)$  is the auto-correlation depends only on the time difference  $\tau$  and  $S_n(\omega)$  is the noise spectral density.

Let us define a correlation measurement from two detector outputs as

$$Y \equiv \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' s_1(t) s_2(t') Q(t' - t), \tag{44}$$

where  $Q$  is the real filter function. We assume the noises of each detector are not correlated as

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle n_1(t) n_2(t') \rangle &= \langle n_1(t) \rangle \langle n_2(t') \rangle \\
&= 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

Then, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle s_1(t) s_2(t') \rangle &= \langle h_1(t) h_2(t') \rangle + \langle h_1(t) n_2(t') \rangle + \langle n_1(t) h_2(t') \rangle + \langle n_1(t) n_2(t') \rangle \\
&= \langle h_1(t) h_2(t') \rangle + \langle h_1(t) \rangle \langle n_2(t') \rangle + \langle n_1(t) \rangle \langle h_2(t') \rangle + \langle n_1(t) \rangle \langle n_2(t') \rangle \\
&= \langle h_1(t) h_2(t') \rangle.
\end{aligned} \tag{46}$$

The signal  $S$  for the measurement is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
S &\equiv \langle Y \rangle \\
&= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' \langle s_1(t) s_2(t') \rangle Q(t' - t) \\
&= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' D_1^{ab} D_2^{cd} \langle h_{ab}(t, \vec{x}_1) h_{cd}(t', \vec{x}_2) \rangle Q(t' - t) \\
&= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' D_1^{ab} D_2^{cd} R_{abcd}^h(t' - t, \vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1) Q(t' - t) \\
&= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' D_1^{ab} D_2^{cd} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa S_{abcd}^h(\omega, \kappa) e^{i\omega(-(t'-t)+\kappa \cdot (\vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1))} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \tilde{Q}(\omega') e^{-i\omega'(t'-t)} \\
&= D_1^{ab} D_2^{cd} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int d^2\kappa \frac{1}{4\pi} S_h(\omega) \frac{1}{2} \Lambda_{abcd}(\kappa) e^{i\omega(\kappa \cdot (\vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1))} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \tilde{Q}^*(\omega') \delta_T(\omega' - \omega) \delta_T(\omega' - \omega) \\
&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} S_h(\omega) \tilde{\Gamma}(\omega) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \tilde{Q}^*(\omega') \delta_T(\omega' - \omega) \delta_T(\omega' - \omega) \\
&\simeq T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} S_h(\omega) \tilde{\Gamma}(\omega) \tilde{Q}^*(\omega)
\end{aligned} \tag{47}$$

where  $\delta_T$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta_T(\omega) &\equiv \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt e^{i\omega t} \\
&= T \text{sinc}(\omega T/2),
\end{aligned} \tag{48}$$

and  $\tilde{\Gamma}(\omega)$  is the overlap reduction function given by

$$\tilde{\Gamma}(\omega) \equiv \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2\kappa \frac{1}{2} \Lambda_{abcd}(\kappa) D_1^{ab} D_2^{cd} e^{i\omega(\kappa \cdot (\vec{x}_2 - \vec{x}_1))}. \tag{49}$$

The noise  $N$  for the measurement is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
N^2 &\equiv \text{Var}([Y]_{h=0}) \\
&= \langle [Y^2]_{h=0} \rangle - \langle [Y]_{h=0} \rangle^2 \\
&= \langle [Y^2]_{h=0} \rangle - \left( \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' \langle n_1(t) n_2(t') \rangle Q(t' - t) \right)^2 \\
&= \langle [Y^2]_{h=0} \rangle - \left( \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' \langle n_1(t) \rangle \langle n_2(t') \rangle Q(t' - t) \right)^2 \\
&= \langle [Y^2]_{h=0} \rangle \\
&= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt'' \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt''' \langle n_1(t) n_2(t') n_1(t'') n_2(t''') \rangle Q(t' - t) Q(t''' - t'') \\
&= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt'' \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt''' \langle n_1(t) n_1(t'') \rangle \langle n_2(t') n_2(t''') \rangle Q(t' - t) Q(t''' - t'') \\
&= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt'' \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt''' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega''}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'''}{2\pi} \\
&\quad \times S_1^n(\omega) e^{-i\omega(t''-t)} S_2^n(\omega') e^{-i\omega'(t'''-t')} \tilde{Q}(\omega'') e^{-i\omega''(t'-t)} \tilde{Q}(\omega''') e^{-i\omega'''(t'''-t'')} \\
&= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt' \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt'' \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt''' \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega''}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'''}{2\pi} \\
&\quad \times S_1^n(\omega) S_2^n(\omega') \tilde{Q}(\omega'') \tilde{Q}^*(\omega''') e^{-i\omega(t-t'')} e^{-i\omega'(t'''-t')} e^{-i\omega''(t'-t)} e^{-i\omega'''(t'''-t'')} \\
&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega''}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'''}{2\pi} \\
&\quad \times S_1^n(\omega) S_2^n(\omega') \tilde{Q}(\omega'') \tilde{Q}^*(\omega''') \delta_T(\omega'' - \omega) \delta_T(\omega'' - \omega') \delta_T(\omega''' - \omega) \delta_T(\omega''' - \omega') \\
&\simeq T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} S_1^n(\omega) S_2^n(\omega) \left| \tilde{Q}(\omega) \right|^2
\end{aligned} \tag{50}$$

Then, the signal to noise ratio (SNR) is given by

$$\frac{S}{N} \simeq \sqrt{T} \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} S_h(\omega) \tilde{\Gamma}(\omega) \tilde{Q}^*(\omega)}{\sqrt{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} S_1^n(\omega) S_2^n(\omega) \left| \tilde{Q}(\omega) \right|^2}} \tag{51}$$

$$= \sqrt{T} \frac{\langle S_h \tilde{\Gamma} / S_1^n S_2^n, \tilde{Q} \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle \tilde{Q}, \tilde{Q} \rangle}} \tag{52}$$

where the inner product is defined by

$$\langle A, B \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} S_1^n(\omega) S_2^n(\omega) A(\omega) B^*(\omega). \tag{53}$$

The SNR is maximized when we choose the filter  $Q$  as

$$\tilde{Q} \propto \frac{S_h \tilde{\Gamma}}{S_1^n S_2^n}. \tag{54}$$

In this case,

$$\frac{S}{N} = \sqrt{T} \sqrt{\left\langle \frac{S_h \tilde{\Gamma}}{S_1^n S_2^n}, \frac{S_h \tilde{\Gamma}}{S_1^n S_2^n} \right\rangle} \tag{55}$$

$$= \sqrt{T} \sqrt{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \frac{S_h^2(\omega)}{S_1^n(\omega) S_2^n(\omega)} \left| \tilde{\Gamma}(\omega) \right|^2} \tag{56}$$

## 6 Detection of Gravitational Waves by Light

### 6.1 Maxwell's Equations

Maxwell equation for 4-potential  $A$  is given by

$$2\nabla^b \nabla_{[a} A_{b]} = 4\pi J_a, \tag{57}$$

where  $J$  is the electromagnetic 4-current and we introduce Gaussian unit,  $\epsilon_0 = 1/4\pi$  and  $\mu_0 = 4\pi$ . Using Lorenz gauge,

$$\nabla^a A_a = 0, \quad (58)$$

we get

$$\nabla^b \nabla_b A_a = R^b_a A_b - 4\pi J_a. \quad (59)$$

Exercise: As you know, Maxwell's equations consist of 4 equations. However, with 4-potential  $A$ , we only need Gauss's law and Ampère's law as in eq. (57). Why?

Exercise: Prove that the conservation of electric charge,  $\nabla^a J_a = 0$ .

## 6.2 Geometrical Optics

Let us consider a local Lorentz frame  $\{t, \vec{x}\}$ . In the frame,  $\mathcal{L}$  is defined as a typical length over which the waves vary and  $\mathcal{R}$  is defined as a typical components of the Riemann curvature tensor. When the frequency of electromagnetic waves  $\omega$  is much larger than  $1/L$  where  $L \equiv \min(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{R})$ , geometrical optics is valid. Let us consider electromagnetic waves given by

$$A_a(t, \vec{x}) = 2\Re \left[ \left\{ \tilde{A}_a + \omega^{-1} \tilde{B}_a + O(\omega^{-2}) \right\} e^{i\omega q(t, \vec{x})} \right], \quad (60)$$

such that  $\hat{l}^a \equiv \nabla^a q$  is future-directed. In vacuum, eq. (59) becomes the wave equation for  $A$  as

$$\nabla^b \nabla_b A_a = 0 \quad (61)$$

Through,

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_b A_a &= 2\Re \left[ \left\{ i\omega \hat{l}_b \left( \tilde{A}_a + \omega^{-1} \tilde{B}_a \right) + \nabla_b \tilde{A}_a + O(\omega^{-1}) \right\} e^{i\omega q} \right] \\ &= 2\Re \left[ \left\{ i\omega \hat{l}_b \tilde{A}_a + i\hat{l}_b \tilde{B}_a + \nabla_b \tilde{A}_a + O(\omega^{-1}) \right\} e^{i\omega q} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

$$\nabla^a A_a = 2\Re \left[ \left\{ i\omega \left( \hat{l} \cdot \tilde{A} \right) + i \left( \hat{l} \cdot \tilde{B} \right) + \nabla^a \tilde{A}_a + O(\omega^{-1}) \right\} e^{i\omega q} \right], \quad (63)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_c \nabla_b A_a &= 2\Re \left[ \left\{ i\omega \hat{l}_c \left( i\omega \hat{l}_b \tilde{A}_a + i\hat{l}_b \tilde{B}_a + \nabla_b \tilde{A}_a \right) + i\omega \nabla_c \left( \hat{l}_b \tilde{A}_a \right) + O(1) \right\} e^{i\omega q} \right] \\ &= 2\Re \left[ \left\{ -\omega^2 \hat{l}_c \hat{l}_b \tilde{A}_a + \omega \left( -\hat{l}_b \hat{l}_c \tilde{B}_a + i\hat{l}_c \nabla_b \tilde{A}_a + i\nabla_c \left( \hat{l}_b \tilde{A}_a \right) \right) + O(1) \right\} e^{i\omega q} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

$$\nabla^b \nabla_b A_a = 2\Re \left[ \left\{ -\omega^2 \left( \hat{l} \cdot \hat{l} \right) \tilde{A}_a + \omega \left( -\left( \hat{l} \cdot \hat{l} \right) \tilde{B}_a + 2i\hat{l}^b \nabla_b \tilde{A}_a + i\tilde{A}_a \nabla_b \hat{l}^b \right) + O(1) \right\} e^{i\omega q} \right], \quad (65)$$

we get

$$0 = \hat{l} \cdot \hat{l}, \quad (66)$$

in the leading-order of  $\omega$  and

$$0 = \hat{l} \cdot \tilde{A}, \quad (67)$$

$$0 = 2\hat{l}^b \nabla_b \tilde{A}_a + \tilde{A}_a \nabla_b \hat{l}^b \quad (68)$$

in the next-to-leading-order. Rewriting results in  $Q \equiv \omega q$  and  $l \equiv \omega \hat{l}$ , we obtain the evolution equations along  $l$  as

$$\begin{aligned} l^a \nabla_a Q &= l \cdot l \\ &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (69)$$

$$\begin{aligned} l^b \nabla_b l^a &= g^{ac} l^b \nabla_b \nabla_c Q \\ &= g^{ac} l^b \nabla_c \nabla_b Q \\ &= \frac{1}{2} g^{ac} \nabla_c (l \cdot l) \\ &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (70)$$

in the leading-order and

$$l^b \nabla_b \tilde{A}_a = -\frac{1}{2} \tilde{A}_a \nabla_b l^b \quad (71)$$

$$l \cdot \tilde{A} = 0 \quad (72)$$

in the next-to-leading-order. Introducing the real amplitude  $\mathcal{A} \equiv \sqrt{\tilde{A} \cdot \tilde{A}^*}$  and polarization vector  $\tilde{f}_a \equiv \tilde{A}_a / \mathcal{A}$ , we get

$$0 = \nabla_b (\mathcal{A}^2 l^b), \quad (73)$$

$$0 = l^b \nabla_b \tilde{f}_a, \quad (74)$$

$$0 = l \cdot \tilde{f}. \quad (75)$$

The first equation is conservation of the number of light rays, the second equation is the parallel transport of polarization, and the third equation is the transverse condition of polarization.

### 6.3 Perturbation of Rays

We introduce the Minkowski background spacetime and monochromatic plane electromagnetic wave given by

$$A_a = 2\Re \left[ \tilde{A}_a e^{iQ} \right], \quad (76)$$

where  $\tilde{A}$  and  $l_a \equiv \nabla_a Q$  are constant over spacetime. We impose Lorenz gauge and radiation gauge as

$$0 = \nabla^a A_a, \quad (77)$$

$$0 = u \cdot A, \quad (78)$$

implies

$$0 = \tilde{A} \cdot l, \quad (79)$$

$$0 = \tilde{A} \cdot u. \quad (80)$$

Meanwhile, GWs are in the TT gauge given by

$$0 = k^a \tilde{h}_{ab}(k), \quad (81)$$

$$0 = \tilde{h}^a_a(k), \quad (82)$$

$$0 = u^a \tilde{h}_{ab}(k), \quad (83)$$

for all  $k \in \mathcal{N}$ .

Perturbed phase is given by

$$\tilde{Q}(\epsilon) = Q + \epsilon S + O(\epsilon^2). \quad (84)$$

The linear perturbation of  $l$  becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_v l^a &= \mathcal{L}_v (g^{ab} \nabla_b Q) \\ &= -h^{ab} l_b + \nabla^a S. \end{aligned} \quad (85)$$

Then, eq. (69) provides

$$0 = (-h^{ab} l_b + \nabla^a S) l_a + l^a \nabla_a S, \quad (86)$$

implies

$$l^a \nabla_a S = \frac{1}{2} h_{ab} l^a l^b. \quad (87)$$

The general solution of  $S$  is decomposed into the particular solution and the homogeneous solution as

$$S = S^p + S^h. \quad (88)$$

The particular solution can be solved using

$$S^p = \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N}(k) \tilde{S}^p(k) e^{iP(\cdot; k)}. \quad (89)$$

Plugging it into eq. (87), we get

$$\tilde{S}^p = -\frac{1}{2} i \frac{1}{(k \cdot l)} \tilde{h}_{ab}(k) l^a l^b. \quad (90)$$

The homogeneous solution have to be satisfied

$$l^a \nabla_a S^h = 0, \quad (91)$$

implies  $S^h(t, x, y, z) = X(q = -t + x, y, z)$ .

Let us consider the frequency as

$$\omega \equiv -u^a \nabla_a Q. \quad (92)$$

Its perturbed value becomes

$$\tilde{\omega}(\epsilon) = \omega + \epsilon \alpha + O(\epsilon^2), \quad (93)$$



where

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= -v^a l_a - u^a \nabla_a S \\ &= -u^a \nabla_a S.\end{aligned}\tag{94}$$

Note that  $\alpha$  is gauge-invariant because  $\omega$  is constant on  $\mathcal{M}_0$ . We give boundary condition at the 3-dimensional timelike plane  $\mathcal{P}$  that is the congruence of emitters as

$$0 = [\alpha]_{\mathcal{P}}\tag{95}$$

$$= [-u^a \nabla_a S^{\text{p}} - u^a \nabla_a S^{\text{h}}]_{\mathcal{P}}\tag{96}$$

$$= \left[ -u^a \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N}(k) i k_a \left( -\frac{1}{2} i \frac{1}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{bc} l^b l^c \right) e^{iP(;k)} + \partial_q X(q = -t + x, y, z) \right]_{\mathcal{P}},\tag{97}$$

$$= \left[ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N}(k) \frac{1}{\hat{k} \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab} l^a l^b e^{i\omega_g(-t + \kappa \cdot (y\hat{y} + z\hat{z}))} + \partial_q X(q = -t, y, z) \right]_{\mathcal{P}},\tag{98}$$

implies

$$\partial_q X(q, y, z) = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N}(k) \frac{1}{\hat{k} \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab} l^a l^b e^{i\omega_g(q + \kappa \cdot (y\hat{y} + z\hat{z}))},\tag{99}$$

$$X(q, y, z) = \frac{1}{2} i \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N}(k) \frac{1}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab}(k) l^a l^b e^{i\omega_g(q + \kappa \cdot (y\hat{y} + z\hat{z}))} + C(y, z)\tag{100}$$

$$S^{\text{h}}(t, \vec{x}) = \frac{1}{2} i \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N}(k) \frac{1}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab}(k) l^a l^b e^{i\omega_g(-t + \lambda \cdot \vec{x} + \kappa \cdot (\vec{x} - (\lambda \cdot \vec{x})\lambda))} + C(y, z).\tag{101}$$

We conclude that

$$S = -\frac{1}{2} i \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{1}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab}(k) l^a l^b \left( 1 - e^{iD(;k,l)} \right) e^{iP(;k)} + C(y, z),\tag{102}$$

where

$$D(t, \vec{x}; k, l) = \omega_g(1 - \kappa \cdot \lambda)(\lambda \cdot \vec{x}).\tag{103}$$

Before arrival of GWs, we assume no perturbation as  $S(t < t_0, 0 < x < L, y, z) = C(y, z) = 0$ . Therefore,

$$S = -\frac{1}{2} i \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{1}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab} l^a l^b \left( e^{iP(;k)} - e^{i(P+D)(;k,l)} \right),\tag{104}$$

where

$$(P + D)(t, \vec{x}; k, l) = P(t - \lambda \cdot \vec{x}, \vec{x} - \lambda(\lambda \cdot \vec{x}); k).\tag{105}$$

Perturbed amplitude is given by

$$\tilde{\tilde{B}}_a(\epsilon) = \tilde{A}_a + \epsilon \tilde{B}_a + O(\epsilon^2).\tag{106}$$

The evolution of the amplitude, eq. (71), provides

$$l^b \nabla_b \tilde{B}_a - \dot{C}_{ab}^c \tilde{A}_c l^b = -\frac{1}{2} \tilde{A}_a \left\{ \nabla_b (-h^{bc} l_c + \nabla^b S) + l^c \dot{C}_{cb}^b \right\},\tag{107}$$

$$l^b \nabla_b \tilde{B}_a = -\frac{1}{2} \tilde{A}_a \nabla_b \nabla^b S + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla_a h^c_b + \nabla_b h^c_a - \nabla^c h_{ab}) \tilde{A}_c l^b.\tag{108}$$

It gives

$$\tilde{\tilde{B}}_a = \frac{1}{2(k \cdot l)} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{k \cdot l} \tilde{A}_a \tilde{h}_{bc} l^b l^c \left\{ k - (k \cdot \hat{l}) \lambda \right\} \cdot \left\{ k - (k \cdot \hat{l}) \lambda \right\} e^{iD(;k,l)} + (k_a \tilde{h}^c_b + k_b \tilde{h}^c_a - k^c \tilde{h}_{ab}) \tilde{A}_c l^b \right] e^{iP(;k)}\tag{109}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2(k \cdot l)} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \tilde{A}_a \tilde{h}_{bc} l^b \hat{l}^c k \cdot (u - \lambda) e^{iD(;k,l)} + (k_a \tilde{h}^c_b + k_b \tilde{h}^c_a - k^c \tilde{h}_{ab}) \tilde{A}_c l^b \right] e^{iP(;k)}\tag{110}$$

$$\tilde{B}_a = \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{1}{2(k \cdot l)} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \tilde{A}_a \tilde{h}_{bc} l^b \hat{l}^c k \cdot (u - \lambda) e^{iD(;k,l)} + (k_a \tilde{h}^c_b + k_b \tilde{h}^c_a - k^c \tilde{h}_{ab}) \tilde{A}_c l^b \right] e^{iP(;k)} + \tilde{C}_a,\tag{111}$$

where  $\tilde{C}_a(t, x, y, z) = \tilde{Y}_a(q = -t + x, y, z)$  is quantity satisfying  $l^b \nabla_b \tilde{C}_a = 0$ . The Lorenz gauge, eq. (72), provides

$$0 = (-h^{ab} l_b + \nabla^a S) \tilde{A}_a + l \cdot \tilde{B} \quad (112)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \left[ -h^{ab} l_b + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{1}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{bc}(k) l^b l^c \left\{ k^a e^{iP(;k)} - \left( k^a - (k \cdot \hat{l}) \lambda^a \right) e^{i(P+D)(;k,l)} \right\} \right] \tilde{A}_a \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \tilde{h}_{ab} \left( \tilde{A}^a - \frac{k \cdot \tilde{A}}{2(k \cdot l)} l^a \right) l^b e^{iP(;k)} + l \cdot \tilde{C} \end{aligned} \quad (113)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{k \cdot \tilde{A}}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab}(k) l^a l^b e^{i(P+D)(;k,l)} + l \cdot \tilde{C} \quad (114)$$

$$\tilde{C}_a = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{k \cdot \tilde{A}}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab} l^b e^{i(P+D)(;k,l)} + C(q = -t + x, y, z) \hat{l}_a \quad (115)$$

The radiation gauge provides

$$0 = (\tilde{B} + iS\tilde{A}) \cdot u \quad (116)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{k \cdot u}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab} \tilde{A}^a l^b e^{iP(;k)} - C(q = -t + x, y, z) \quad (117)$$

$$C = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{k \cdot u}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab} \tilde{A}^a l^b e^{iP(;k)} \quad (118)$$

As a result,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{B}_a &= \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{1}{2(k \cdot l)} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \tilde{A}_a \tilde{h}_{bc} l^b \hat{l}^c k \cdot (u - \lambda) e^{i(P+D)(;k,l)} + \left( k_a \tilde{h}^c_b + k_b \tilde{h}^c_a - k^c \tilde{h}_{ab} \right) \tilde{A}_c l^b e^{iP(;k)} \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{k \cdot \tilde{A}}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{ab}(k) l^b e^{i(P+D)(;k,l)} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{k \cdot u}{k \cdot l} \tilde{h}_{bc} \tilde{A}^b l^c e^{iP(;k)} \hat{l}_a \\ &= \int_{\mathcal{N}} d^3 \mathcal{N} \frac{1}{2(k \cdot l)} \left[ \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \tilde{A}_a \tilde{h}_{bc} l^b \hat{l}^c k \cdot (u - \lambda) + (k \cdot \tilde{A}) \tilde{h}_{ab} l^b \right\} e^{i(P+D)(;k,l)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left\{ (k_a \tilde{h}^c_b + k_b \tilde{h}^c_a - k^c \tilde{h}_{ab}) \tilde{A}_c l^b + \hat{l}_a (k \cdot u) \tilde{h}_{bc} \tilde{A}^b l^c \right\} e^{iP(;k)} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (119)$$

## 7 Pulsar Timing Array

Pulsar Timing:

$$h(t) \equiv \frac{\delta T}{T} \quad (120)$$

$$= \frac{\delta \omega_e}{\omega_e} \quad (121)$$

$$= \int d^2 \kappa_g \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega_g}{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega_g, \kappa_g) \kappa_e^a \kappa_e^b}{1 - \kappa_g \cdot \kappa_e} \left( e^{iP(t, \vec{x}_0; \omega_g, \kappa_g)} - e^{iP'(t, \vec{x}_0; \omega_g, \kappa_g)} \right) \quad (122)$$

$$= \int d^2 \kappa_g \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega_g}{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega_g, \kappa_g) \kappa_e^a \kappa_e^b}{1 - \kappa_g \cdot \kappa_e} e^{iP(t, \vec{x}_0; \omega_g, \kappa_g)} \left( 1 - e^{i\omega_g L(1 - \kappa_g \cdot \kappa_e)} \right) \quad (123)$$

where

$$P(t, \vec{x}; \omega_g, \kappa_g) = \omega_g(-t + \kappa_g \cdot \vec{x}) \quad (124)$$

$$P'(t, \vec{x}; \omega_g, \kappa_g) = P(t - L, \vec{x} - L\kappa_e; \omega_g, \kappa_g) \quad (125)$$

$$= \omega_g(-t + \kappa_g \cdot \vec{x}) + \omega_g L(1 - \kappa_g \cdot \kappa_e) \quad (126)$$

Correlation:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle h_1(t) h_2(t + \tau) \rangle &= \int d^2 \kappa_g \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega_g}{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\kappa_{e,1}^a \kappa_{e,1}^b}{1 - \kappa_g \cdot \kappa_{e,1}} e^{iP(t, \vec{x}_0; \omega_g, \kappa_g)} \left( 1 - e^{i\omega_g L_1(1 - \kappa_g \cdot \kappa_{e,1})} \right) \\ &\quad \times \int d^2 \kappa'_g \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega'_g}{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\kappa_{e,2}^c \kappa_{e,2}^d}{1 - \kappa'_g \cdot \kappa_{e,2}} e^{iP(t + \tau, \vec{x}_0; \omega'_g, \kappa'_g)} \left( 1 - e^{i\omega'_g L_2(1 - \kappa'_g \cdot \kappa_{e,2})} \right) \\ &\quad \times \langle \tilde{h}_{ab}(\omega_g, \kappa_g) \tilde{h}_{cd}(\omega'_g, \kappa'_g) \rangle \end{aligned} \quad (127)$$