



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

Wave optics lensing of GW :

Theory and phenomenology of triple
systems in the LISA band

Martin Pijnenburg – PhD student

In collaboration with Giulia Cusin, Cyril Pitrou, Jean-Philippe Uzan

arXiv:2404.07186 , published in Phys. Rev. D

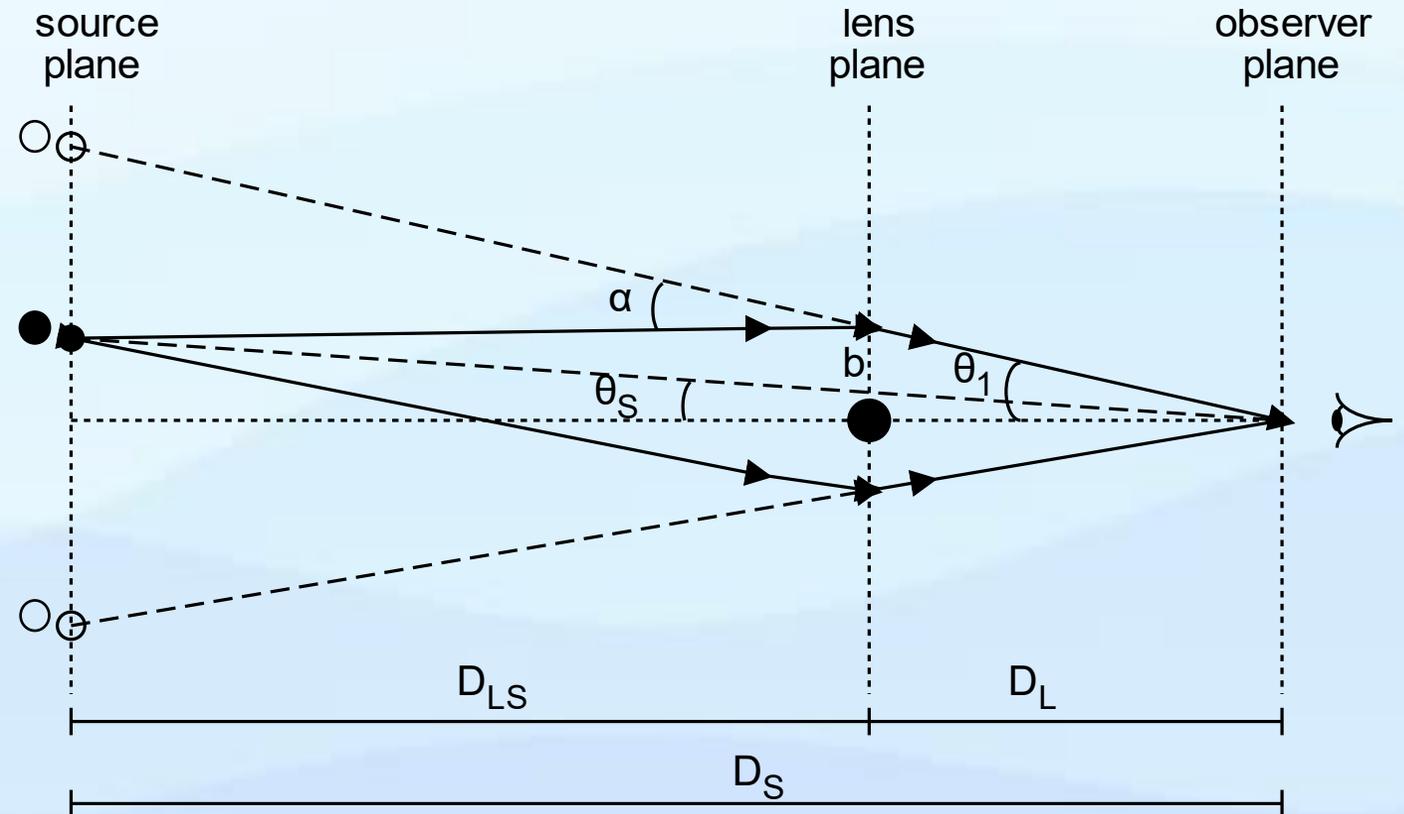
Outline

1. Gravitational lensing : geometric vs wave optics
2. GW lensing, wave optics in the *usual* way
3. **Our contribution** : GW lensing in wave optics considering the tensorial structure
4. Application to LISA-band hierarchical triple systems

GW lensing: geometrical optics

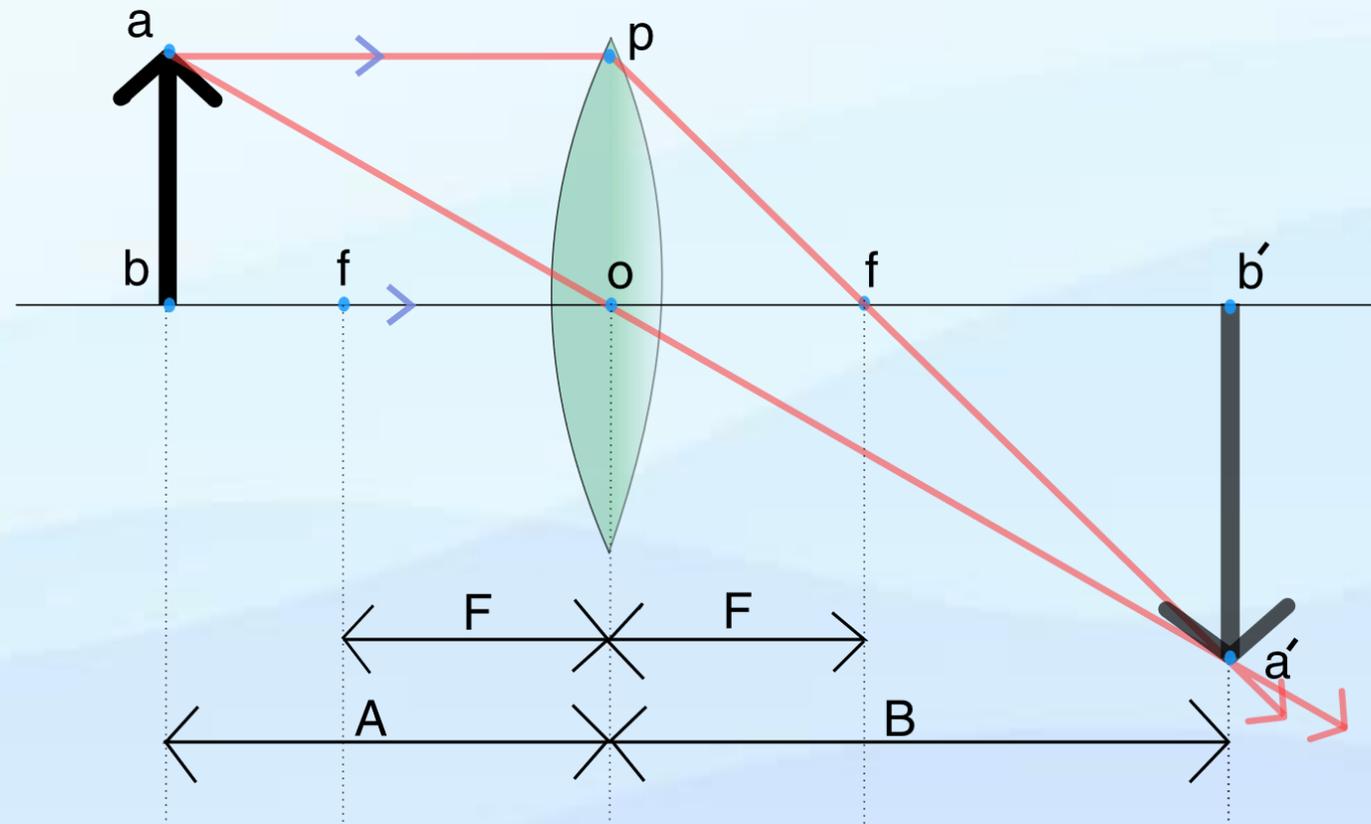
Assume you have a notion of *ray* :

→ Usual lensing picture
(deflection angle, etc.)



Gravitational lensing: geometrical optics

Conceptually similar to (my) undergraduate lab optics



GW lensing: wave optics

But just as EM radiation, GW are ... **waves** !

Geometrical optics is just a high frequency approximation, which **breaks down** when

$$\lambda_{\text{wave}} \gtrsim (\text{lens size}) .$$

At the fundamental level, signal obeys a wave equation

→ allows for diffraction, interference, ...

Wave optics features

Criterion

$$\lambda_{\text{wave}} \gtrsim (\text{lens size})$$

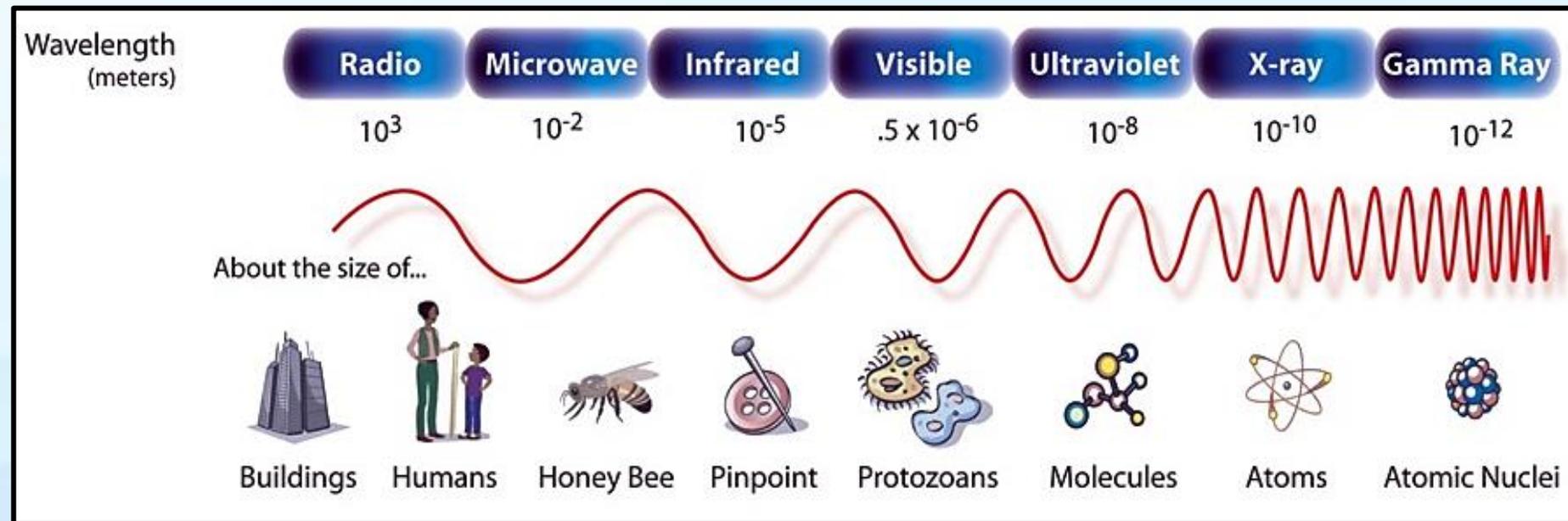
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EM spectrum:

Credits : NASA

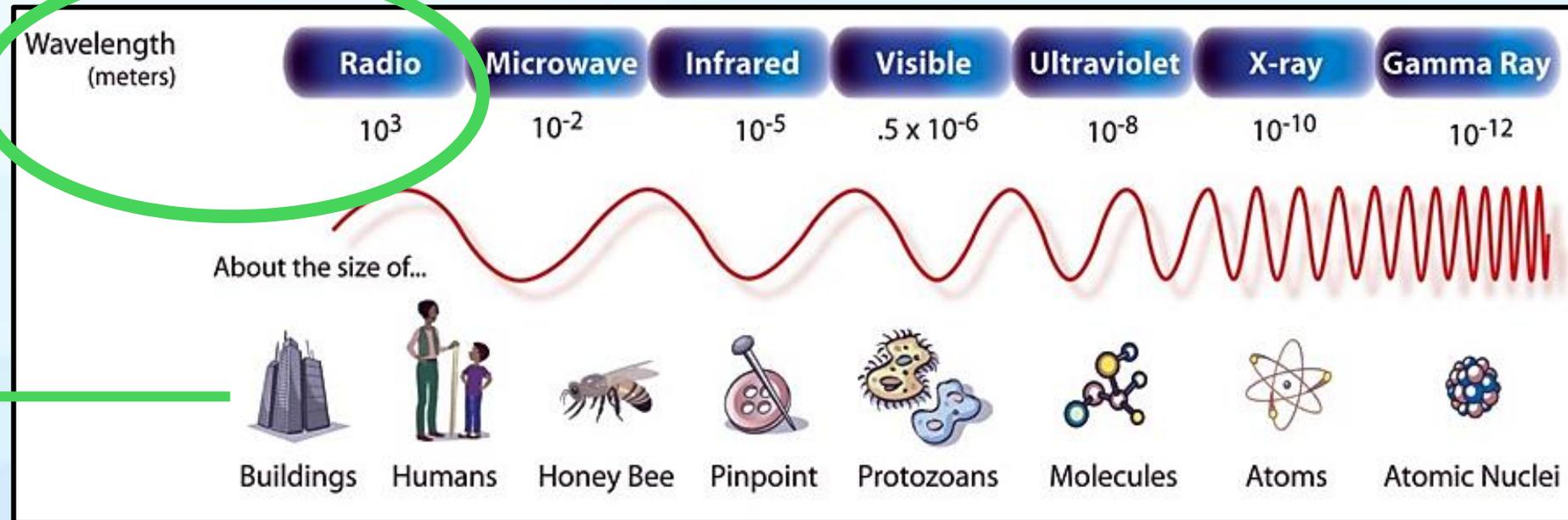


Wave optics features

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EM spectrum:



Credits : NASA

Rather irrelevant for astro/cosmo

→ **Wave effects very subdominant in practice**

GW lensing: wave optics

LISA has a best sensitivity around 10^{-3} Hz.

GW lensing: wave optics

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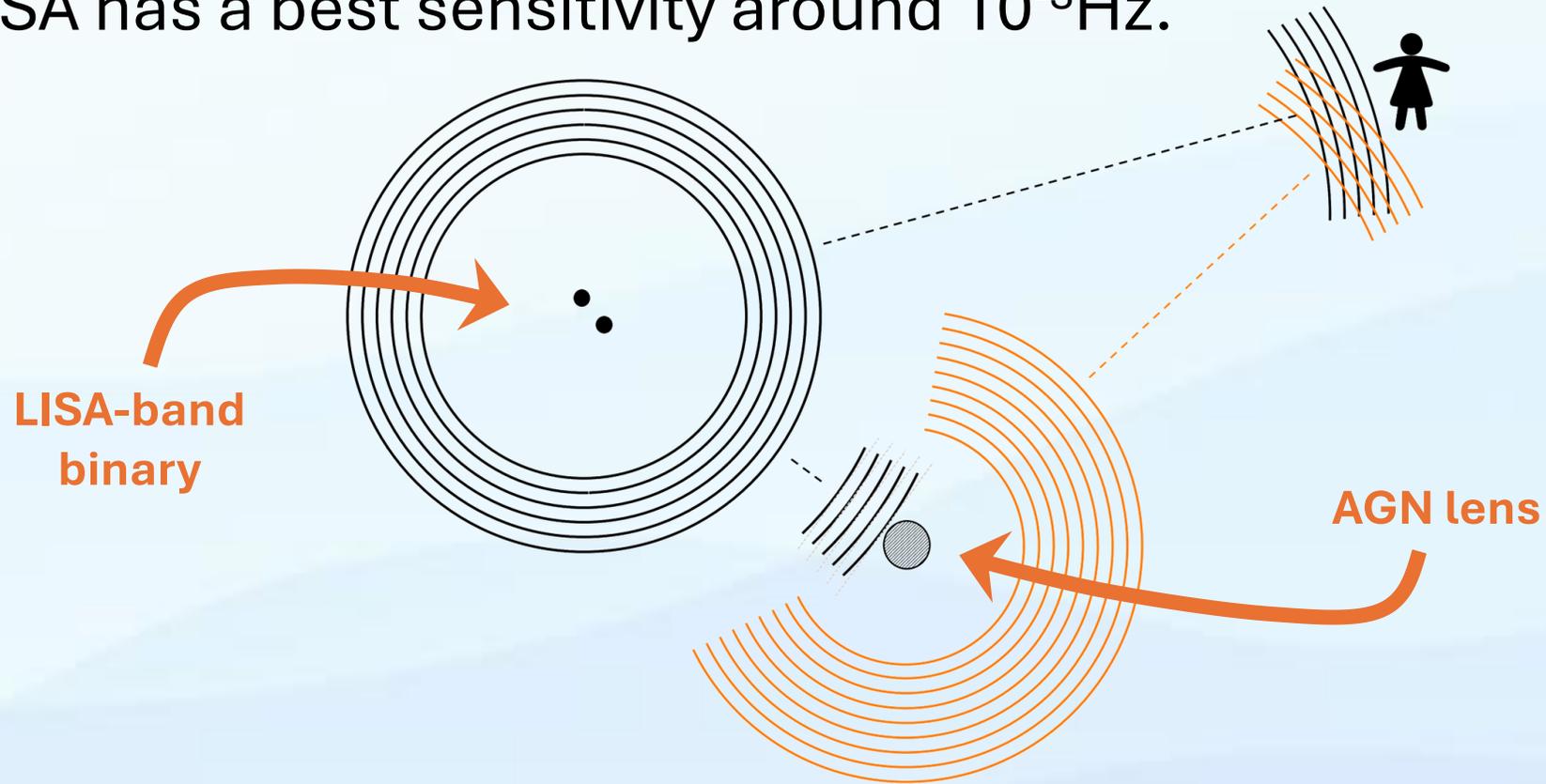
At this frequency, **low mass AGN** with $M \sim \mathcal{O}(10^6)M_{\odot}$ fulfil the wave optics requirement

$$\lambda_{GW} > \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

Equivalently: $\omega M < 1$ (natural units)

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Equivalently: $\omega M < 1$ (natural units)

How to capture wave effects ?

GW lensing: wave optics

Start with : $ds^2 = (\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu})dx^\mu dx^\nu$

E.g. gauge fixing : $h^\nu_{\mu;\nu} = 0, \quad h^\mu{}_\mu = 0$

→ Wave equation :

$$h_{\mu\nu;\alpha}{}^{;\alpha} + 2\bar{R}_{\alpha\mu\beta\nu} h^{\alpha\beta} = 0, \quad \text{with} \quad h_{\mu\nu;\alpha}{}^{;\alpha} \equiv \square h_{\mu\nu}.$$

GW lensing: wave optics

BH lenses, historical works, at the formal level :

- Matzner (1968)
- Peters (1976)
- Chrzanowski *et al.* (1976)
- De Logi, Kovacs (1977)
- Futterman *et al.* (1988)
- ...

More recently: Dolan (2018)

GW lensing: wave optics

Reference work for phenomenology :

Wave effects in gravitational lensing of gravitational waves from chirping binaries

Ryuichi Takahashi (Kyoto U.), Takashi Nakamura (Kyoto U.)

May, 2003

28 pages

Published in: *Astrophys.J.* 595 (2003) 1039-1051

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Scalar wave optics

Usual process : scalar wave Ansatz $h_{\mu\nu} = \phi \cdot e_{\mu\nu}$

Takahashi, Nakamura (2003), ...

Assume known behaviour for $e_{\mu\nu}$ (parallel transport)

Scalar wave optics

Usual process : scalar wave Ansatz $h_{\mu\nu} = \phi \cdot e_{\mu\nu}$

Takahashi, Nakamura (2003), ...

Assume known behaviour for $e_{\mu\nu}$ (parallel transport)

Specify the lens background $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ (in our case : Schwarzschild)

Decompose ϕ in multipoles : $\phi = e^{-i\omega t} \sum_{\ell} \frac{u_{\ell}(r)}{r (1 - 2M/r)^{1/2}} P_{\ell}(\cos(\theta))$

Scalar wave optics

Differential equation is

$$\left[\frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \omega^2 + \frac{4M\omega^2}{r} - \frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{r^2} + \frac{12M^2\omega^2}{r^2} + \mathcal{O}(r^{-3}) \right] u_\ell = 0$$

Scalar wave optics

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Schrödinger in $1/r$ Coulomb potential (Rutherford): $\Psi = e^{-i\omega t} \sum_\ell \frac{u_\ell}{r} P_\ell$

$$\left[\frac{d^2}{dr^2} + \omega^2 - \frac{2\omega\gamma}{r} - \frac{l(l+1)}{r^2} \right] u_\ell = 0 \quad , \quad \gamma \propto \text{charges}$$

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deep wave optics

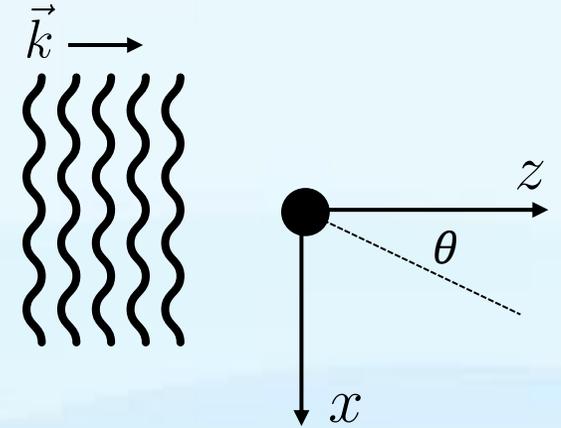
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Insights from quantum mechanics

QM problem has exact solution:

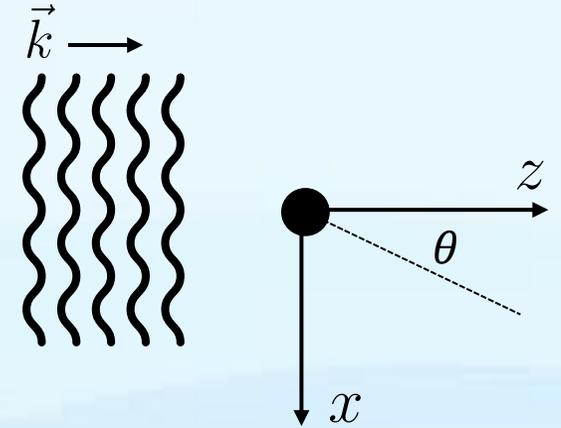
$$\Psi \propto e^{-i\omega t} e^{ikz} {}_1F_1[-i\gamma, 1; ikr(1 - \cos(\theta))]$$



Insights from quantum mechanics

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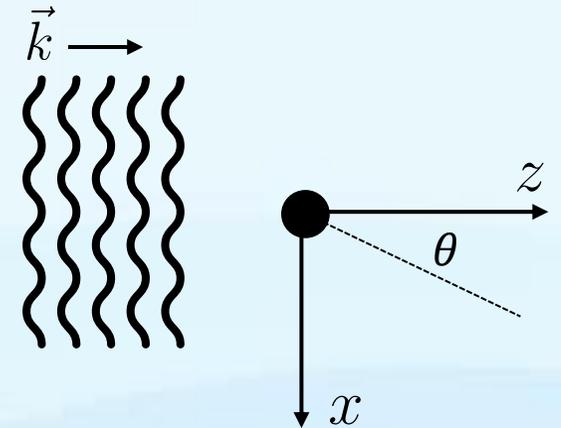
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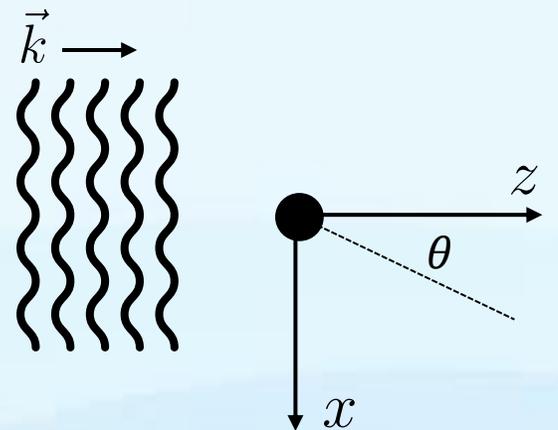


Solution decouples for $kr(1 - \cos(\theta)) \gg 1$:

$$e^{i\omega t} \Psi \sim e^{ikz + i\gamma \ln(kr(1 - \cos \theta))} - \frac{\tilde{\gamma}}{1 - \cos(\theta)} \frac{e^{ikr - i\gamma \ln(kr(1 - \cos \theta))}}{kr}$$

Insights from quantum mechanics

QM problem has exact solution:

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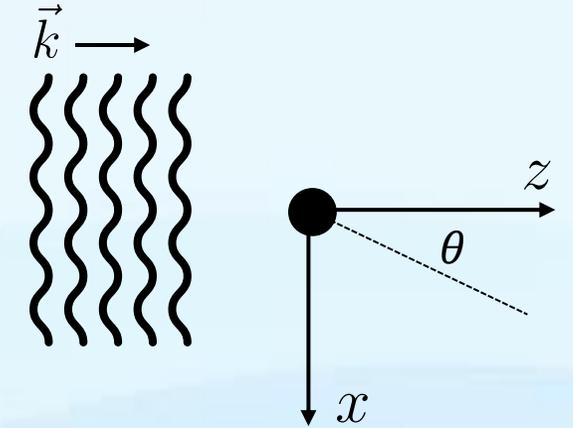
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$$e^{i\omega t} \Psi \sim \underbrace{e^{ikz + i\gamma \ln(kr(1 - \cos \theta))}}_{\text{Plane wave}} - \frac{\tilde{\gamma}}{1 - \cos(\theta)} \underbrace{\frac{e^{ikr - i\gamma \ln(kr(1 - \cos \theta))}}{kr}}_{\text{Spherical wave}}$$

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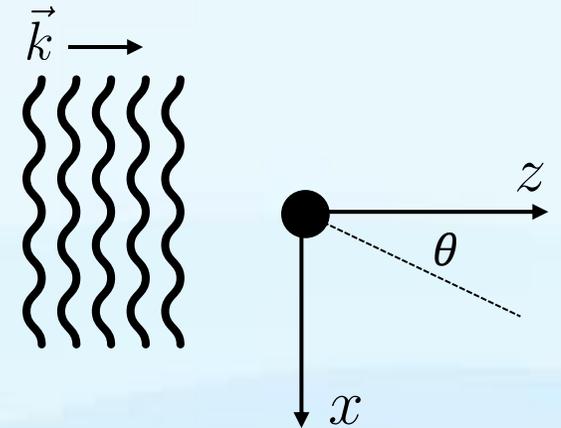
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Plane wave "amplitude" Spherical wave

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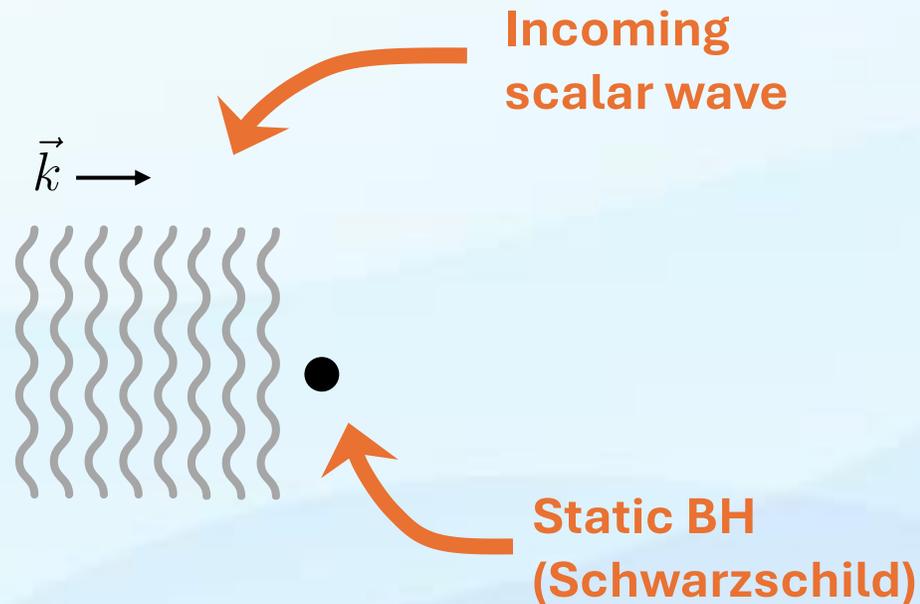
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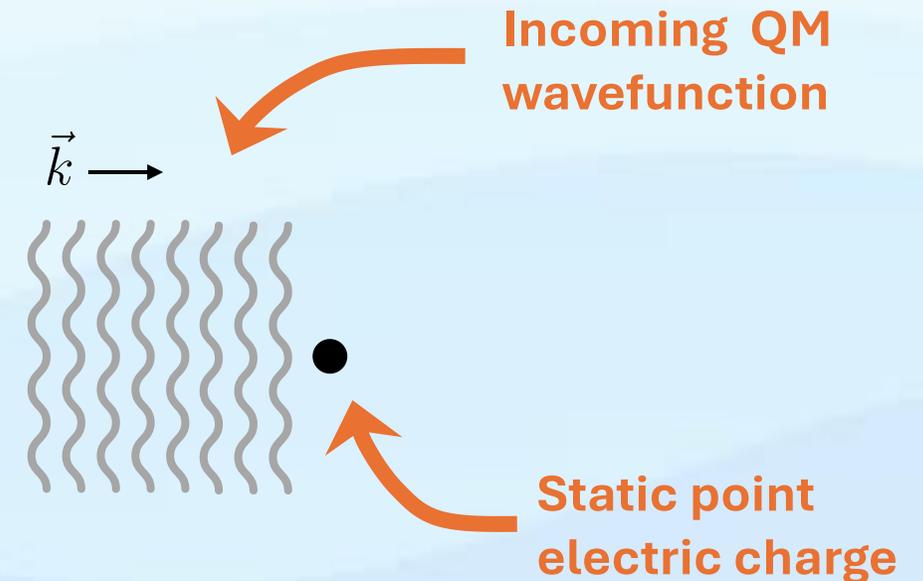
Phase corrections

Insights from quantum mechanics

GR scalar wave, NR simulation

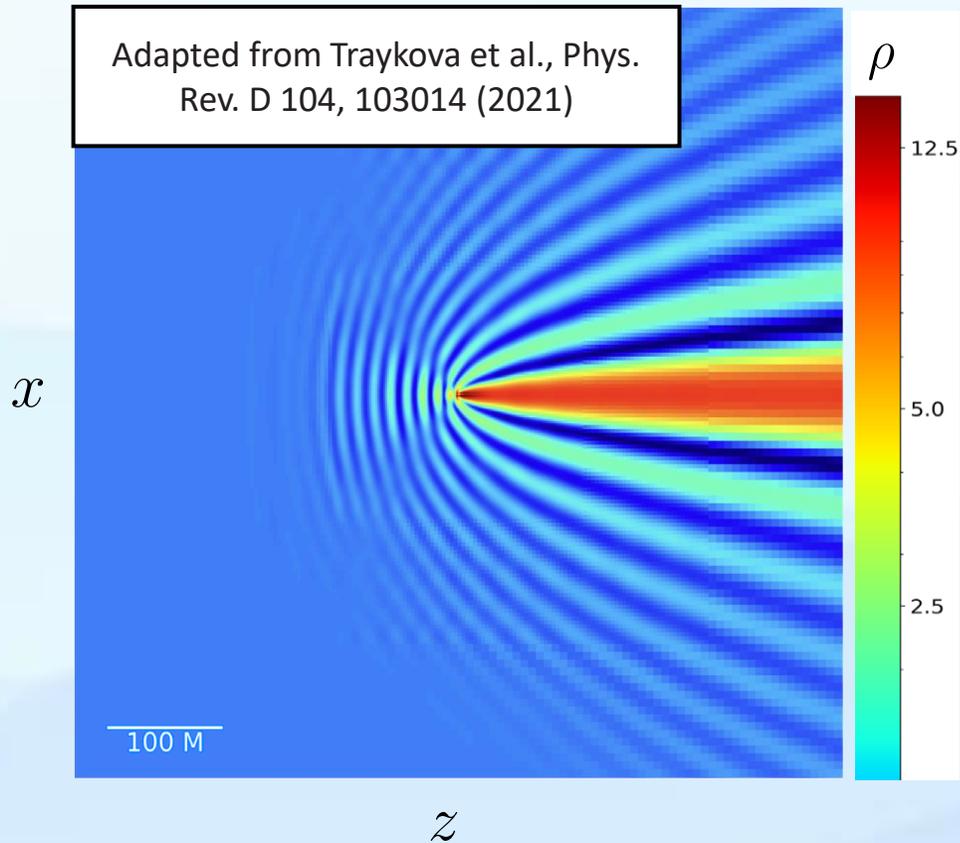


QM, analytical solution

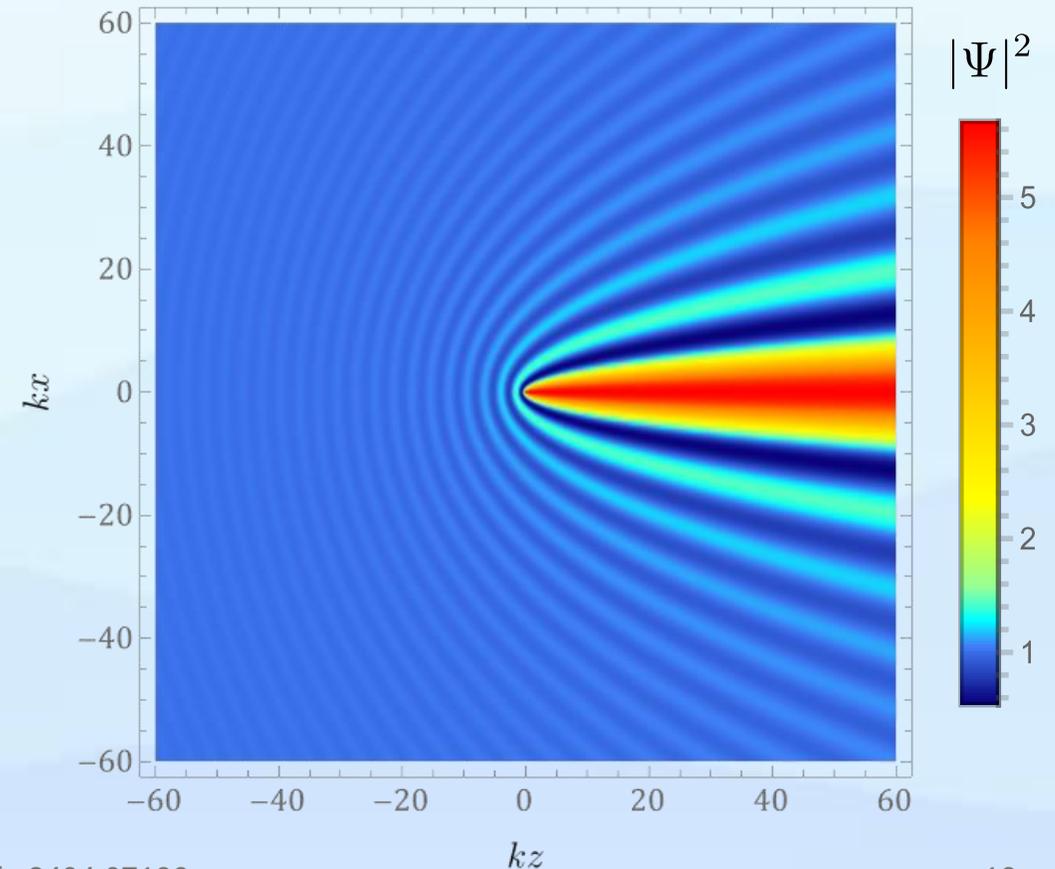


Insights from quantum mechanics

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QM, analytical solution



Tensorial wave optics : our work

Start again with : $ds^2 = (\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu})dx^\mu dx^\nu$

... but **avoid** extra assumption $h_{\mu\nu} = \phi \cdot e_{\mu\nu}$

Tensorial wave optics : our work

Start again with : $ds^2 = (\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu})dx^\mu dx^\nu$

... but **avoid** extra assumption $h_{\mu\nu} = \phi \cdot e_{\mu\nu}$

Rather treat $h_{\mu\nu}$ with tools of black hole perturbation theory (BHPT),

to keep track of the full polarisation structure

Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

Project $h_{\mu\nu}$ on basis functions on the sphere with even (Y) and odd (X) parity :

$$h_{rr} = \sum_{\ell m} h_{rr}^{\ell m} Y^{\ell m}, \quad (\text{radial})$$

$$h_{rA} = \sum_{\ell m} h_r^{\ell m} X_A^{\ell m} + j_r^{\ell m} Y_A^{\ell m}, \quad A = \theta, \phi, \quad (\text{radial/angular})$$

$$h_{AB} = \sum_{\ell m} h_2^{\ell m} X_{AB}^{\ell m} + r^2 G^{\ell m} Y_{AB}^{\ell m} + r^2 K^{\ell m} \Omega_{AB} Y^{\ell m}, \quad A, B = \theta, \phi, \quad (\text{angular})$$

Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

From metric multipoles, define two **gauge invariant** master functions:

$$\Psi_{\text{odd}}^{lm} = \frac{2r}{(\ell - 1)(\ell + 2)} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial r} \hat{h}_t^{lm} - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{h}_r^{lm} - \frac{2}{r} \hat{h}_t^{lm} \right)$$

$$r^{-1} \Psi_{\text{even}}^{lm} \propto \hat{K}^{lm} + \frac{2(1 - 2M/r)}{(\ell - 1)(\ell + 2) + 6M/r} \left((1 - 2M/r) \hat{h}_{rr}^{lm} - r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \hat{K}^{lm} \right)$$

Martel, Poisson. *Physical Review. D* 71.10 (2005)

Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

$\Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m}$ obey Zerilli & Regge-Wheeler equations, $\bullet = \text{even, odd}$

$$\frac{d^2 \Psi_{\bullet}}{dr_*^2} + (\omega^2 - V_{\bullet}) \Psi_{\bullet} = 0, \quad \text{with } r_*(r) = r - 2M \ln \left(\frac{r}{2M} - 1 \right)$$

Schrödinger-like, for given potentials $V_{\bullet}(\ell, r, M)$

Poisson, Sasaki. *Physical Review D* 51.10 (1995)

Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

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Schrödinger-like, for given potentials $V_{\bullet}(\ell, r, M)$

For the scattering problem:

Asymptotic solutions for $\omega M \ll 1$ are known, expect $\Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m} \sim \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{plane}} + \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{sph}}$

Poisson, Sasaki. *Physical Review D* 51.10 (1995)

Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

Assume initial
 $h_{\mu\nu}^{\text{source}}$
(absence of lens)



Derive
corresponding
 $\Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{source}}$



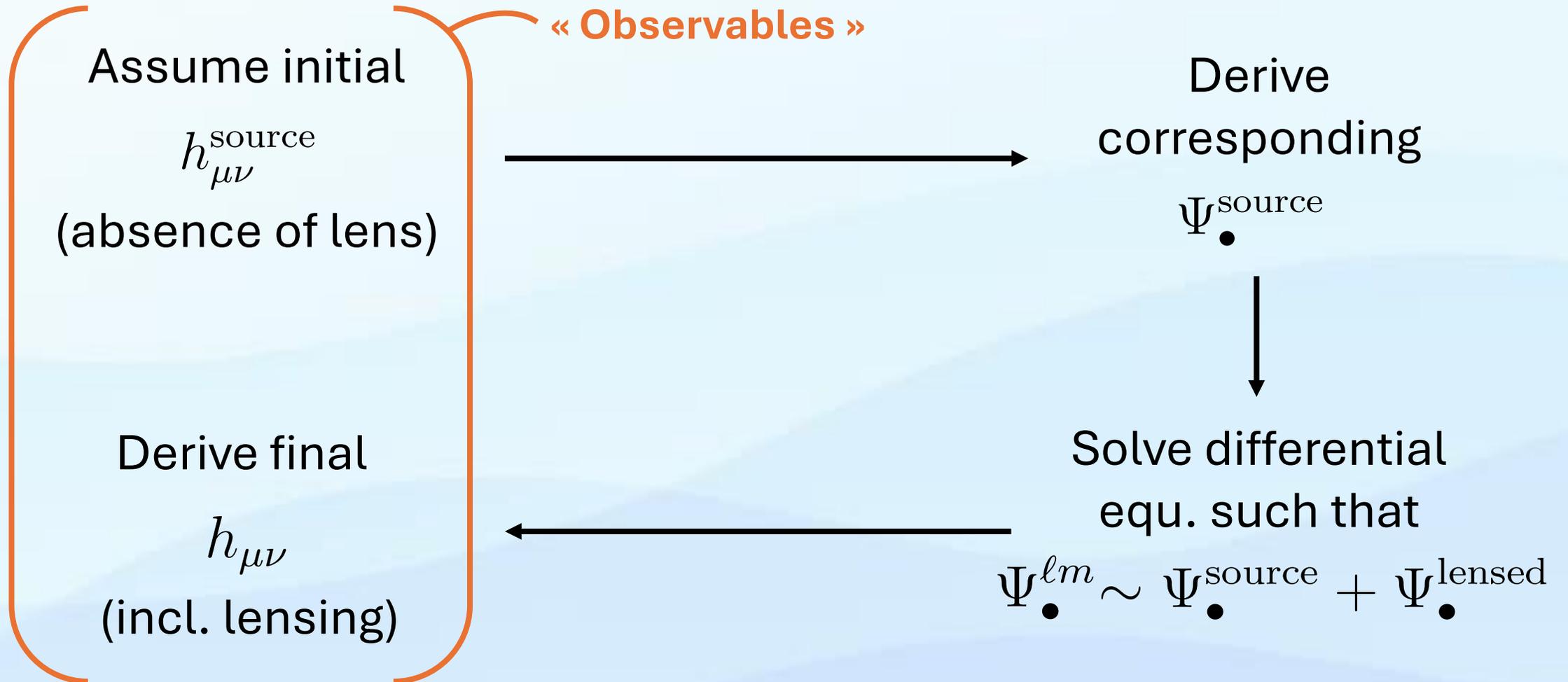
Solve differential
equ. such that

$$\Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m} \sim \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{source}} + \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{lensed}}$$

Derive final
 $h_{\mu\nu}$
(incl. lensing)



Tensorial wave optics : BHPT



Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

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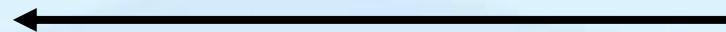
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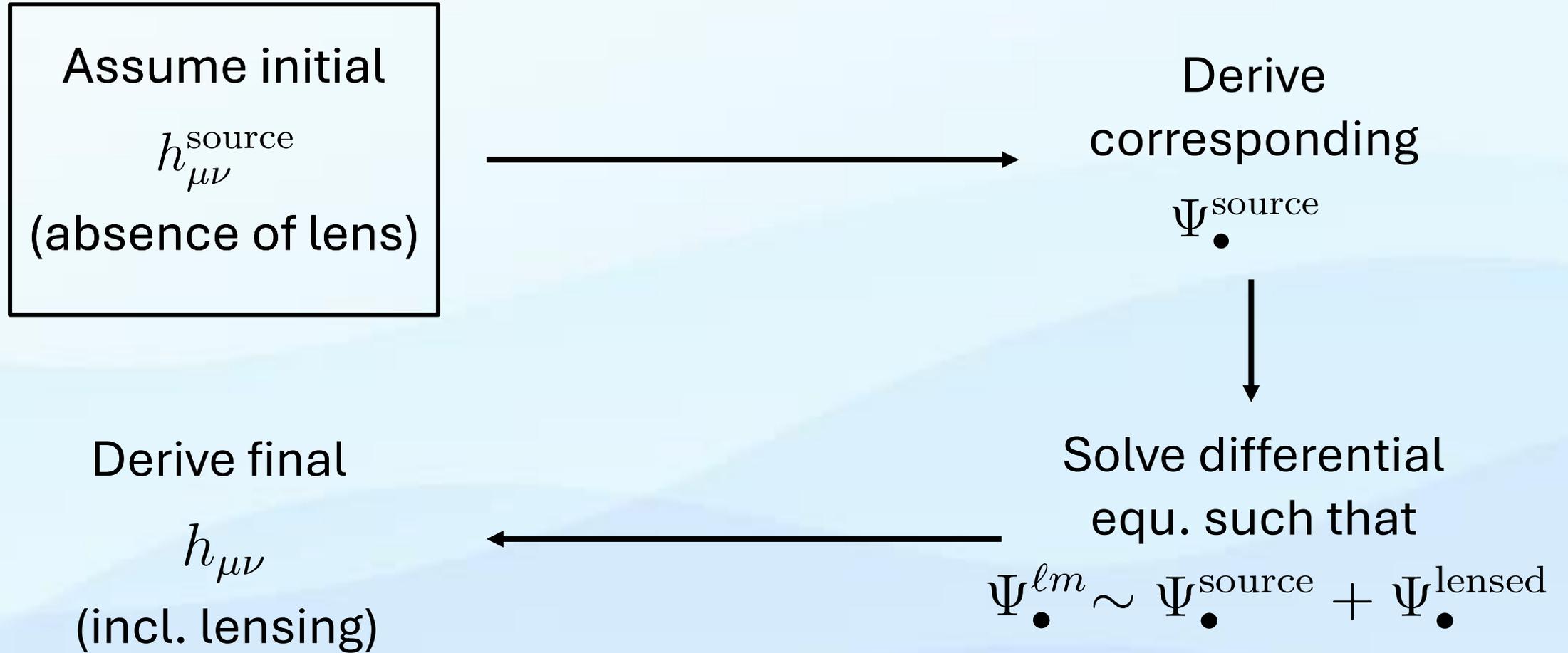
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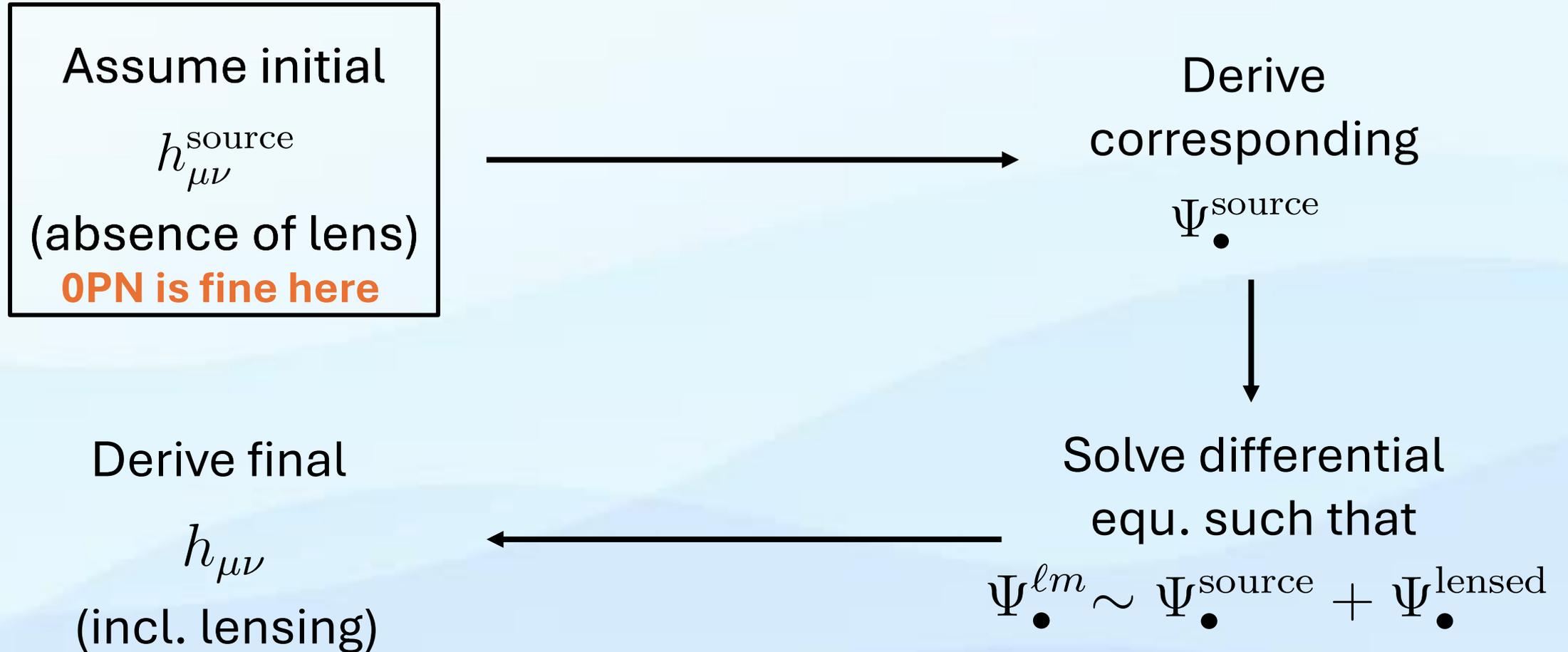
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Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

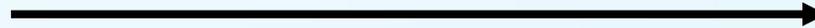


Tensorial wave optics : BHPT



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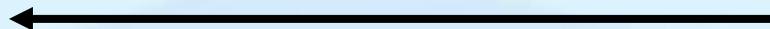


Derive
corresponding
 $\Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{source}}$



Solve differential
equ. such that

$$\Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m} \sim \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{source}} + \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{lensed}}$$



Derive final
 $h_{\mu\nu}$
(incl. lensing)

Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

Assume initial
 $h_{\mu\nu}^{\text{source}}$
(absence of lens)

Project on
sphere

Derive
corresponding
 $\Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{source}}$

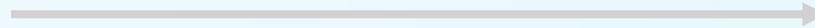
Derive final
 $h_{\mu\nu}$
(incl. lensing)

Solve differential
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$$\Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m} \sim \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{source}} + \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{lensed}}$$

Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

Assume initial
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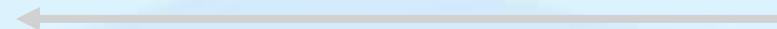


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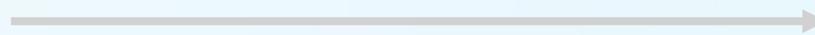
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Derive final
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Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

Assume initial
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(absence of lens)



Derive
corresponding
 $\Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{source}}$

Using scattering
phase shifts



Solve differential
equ. such that

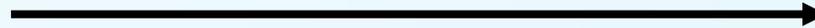
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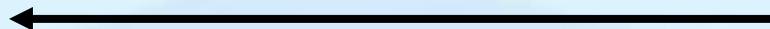


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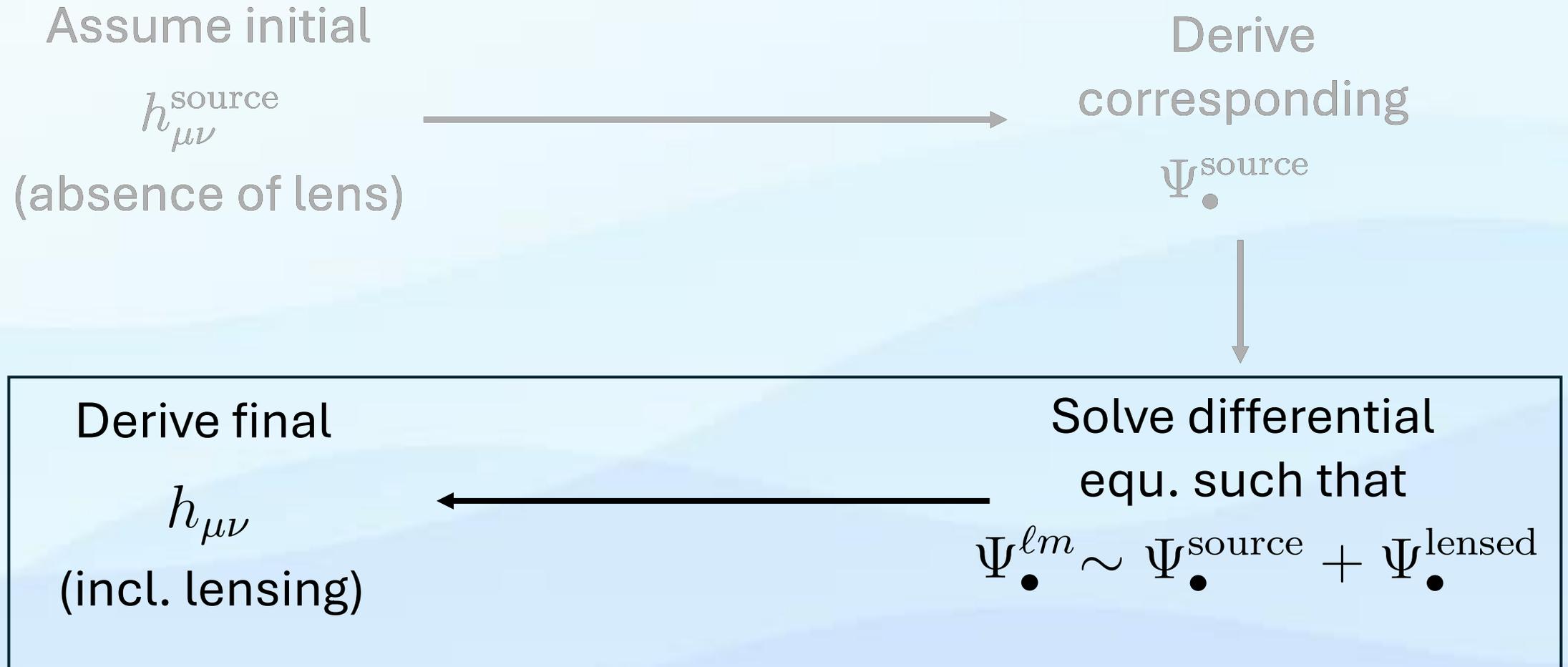
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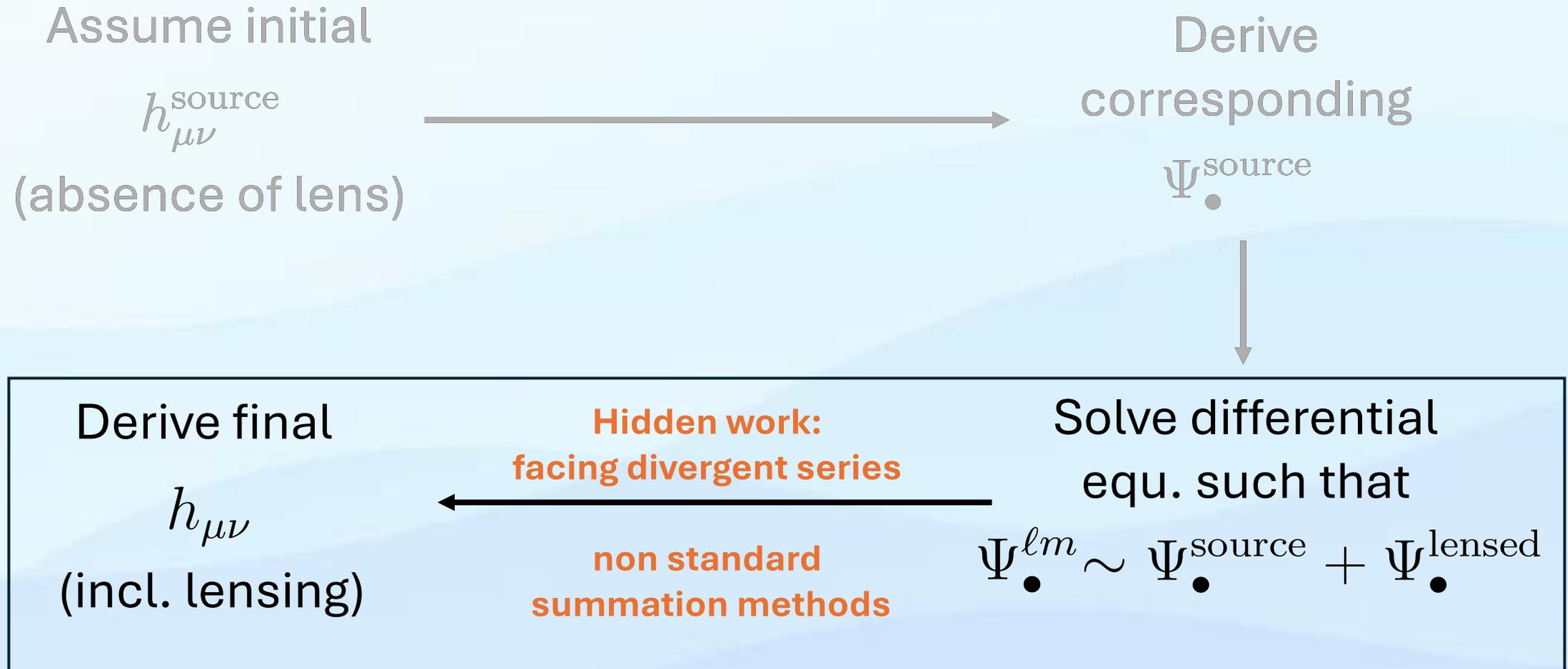


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Tensorial wave optics : BHPT



Tensorial wave optics : BHPT



Familiar features recovered

Scalar QM problem had closed form solution:

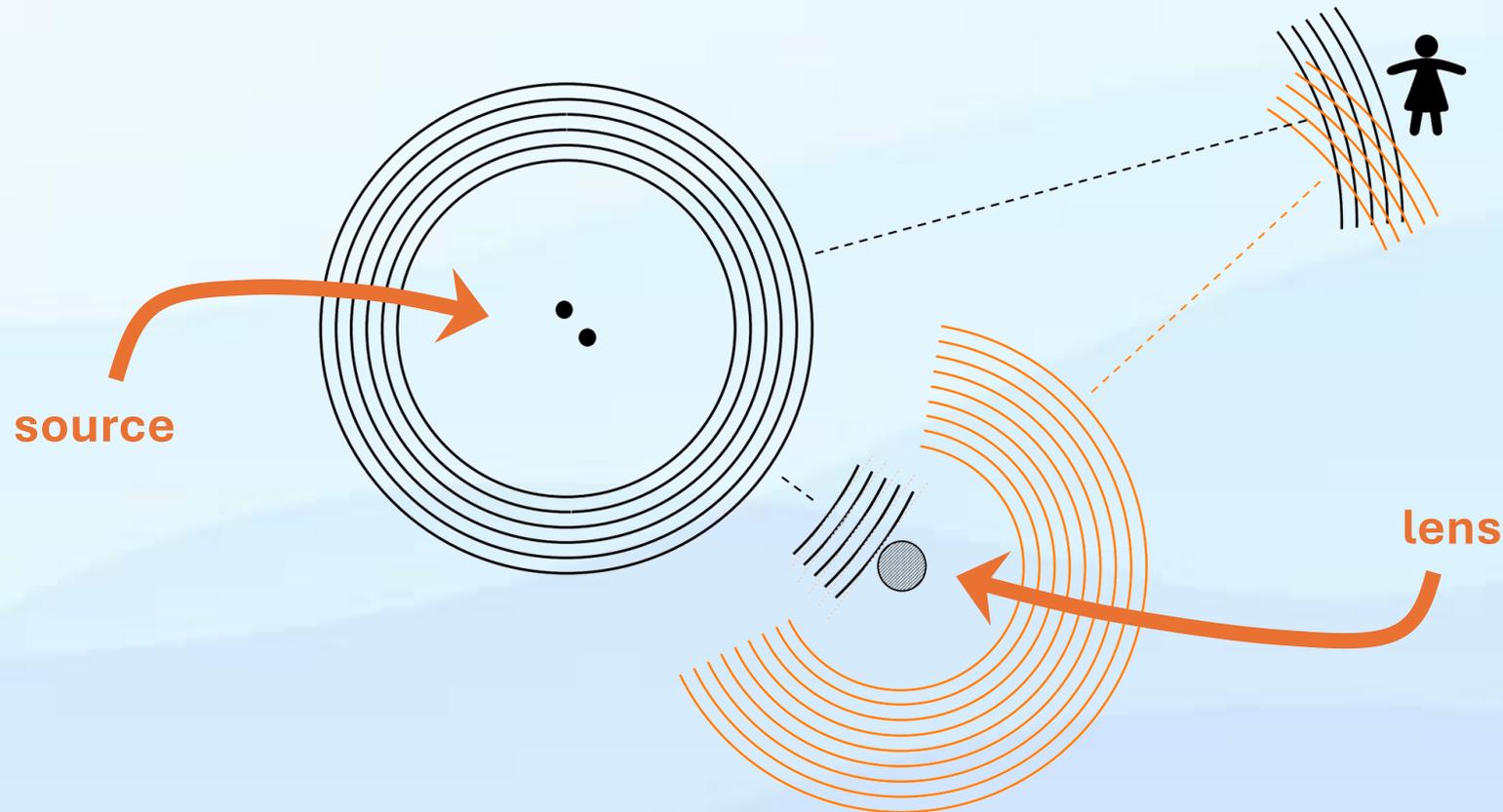
$$\Psi \propto e^{-i\omega t} e^{ikz} {}_1F_1[-i\gamma, 1; ikr(1 - \cos(\theta))]$$

Our *asymptotical* GW solution shares asymptotic features with the latter ...

... **Extending them in a spin-2 version** (full expressions in arXiv:2404.07186)

Tensorial wave optics : interference

Full wave solution is a **superposition** of lensed and original wave



Polarisation

Quantifying the signal polarisation content $\mathcal{V} \in [-1, 1]$:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{V} &\equiv \frac{2\text{Im}[\tilde{h}_+ \tilde{h}_\times^*]}{|\tilde{h}_+|^2 + |\tilde{h}_\times|^2} = V/I \quad \text{in terms of the Stokes parameters } V, I. \\ &= \frac{|\tilde{h}^{(2)}|^2 - |\tilde{h}^{(-2)}|^2}{|\tilde{h}^{(2)}|^2 + |\tilde{h}^{(-2)}|^2}\end{aligned}$$

constant in geometric optics and scalar wave optics

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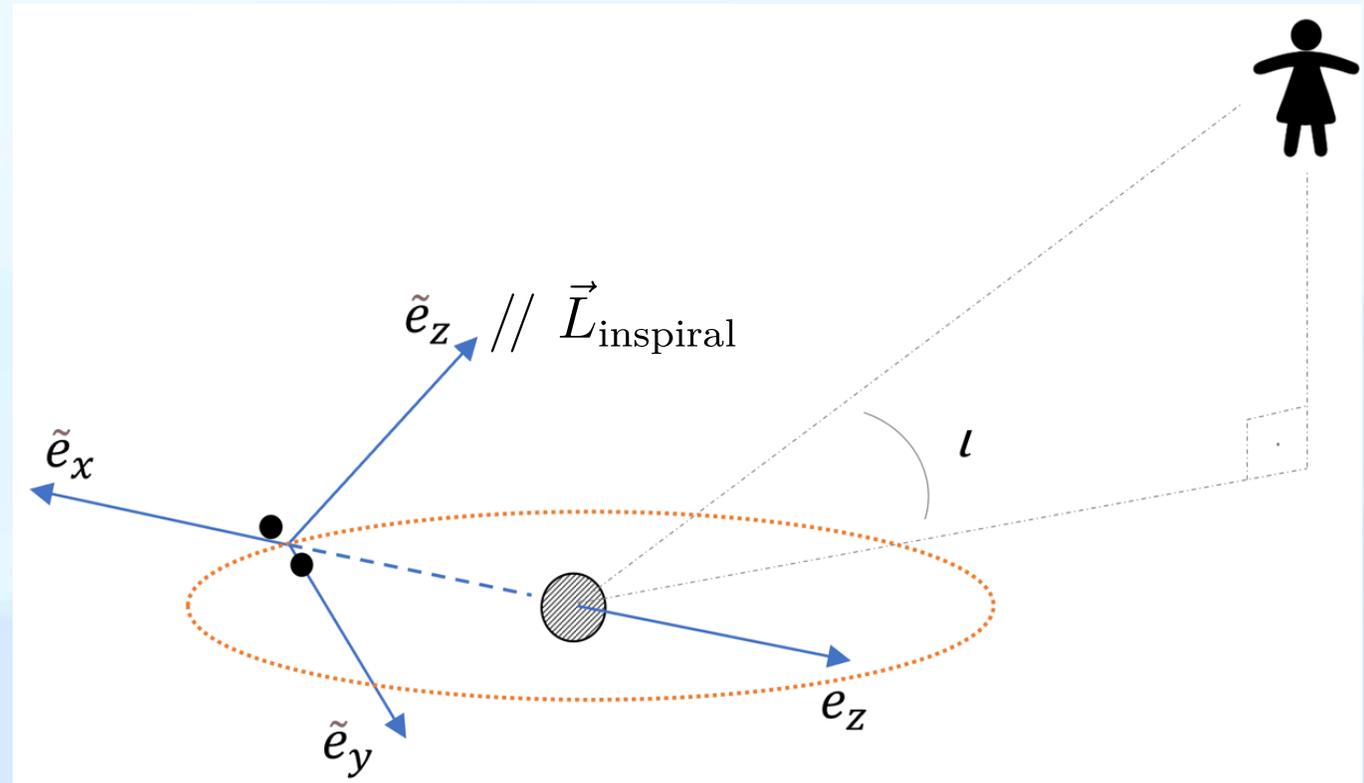
constant in geometric optics and scalar wave optics

in general **not constant** tensorial wave optics

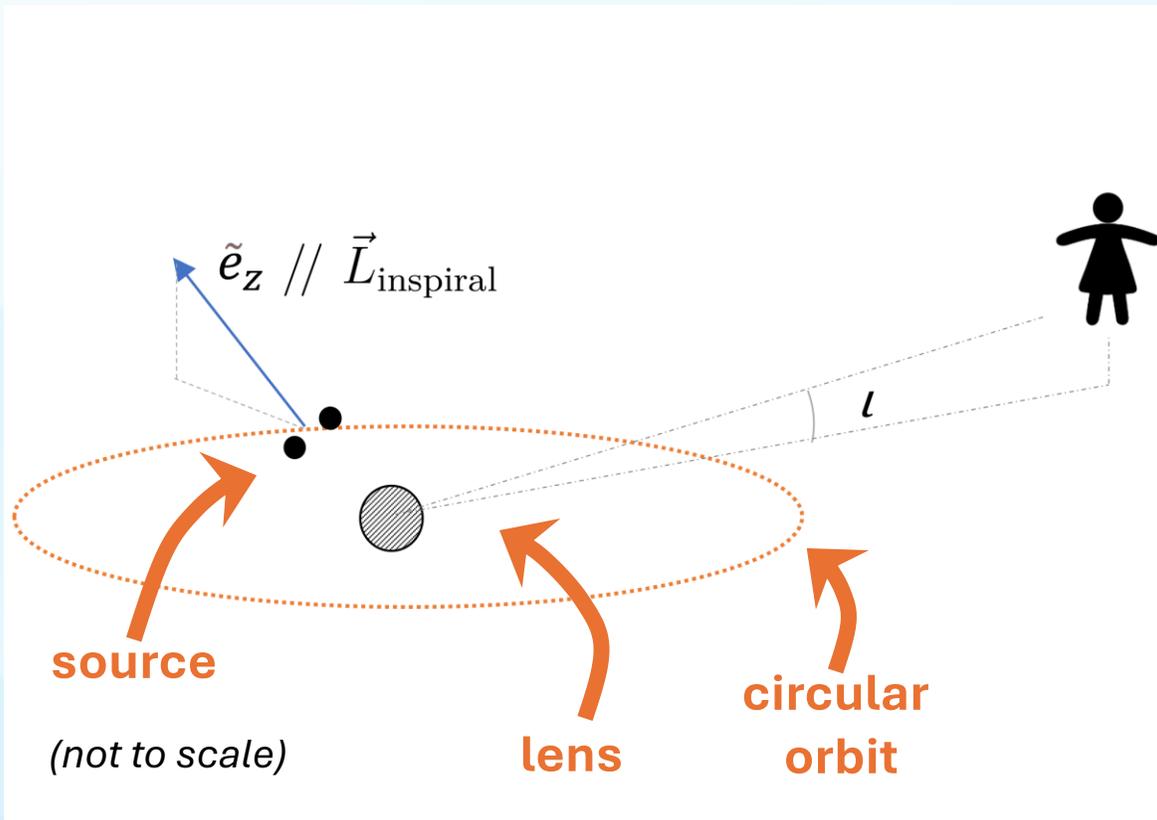
Wave optics lensing in triple systems: towards a phenomenology

Illustration:

- For simple circular orbits (disk migration traps, alike GW190521 ?)
- Considering a time-varying alignment (*explicitly ignoring other velocity dependent terms, e.g. Doppler*)

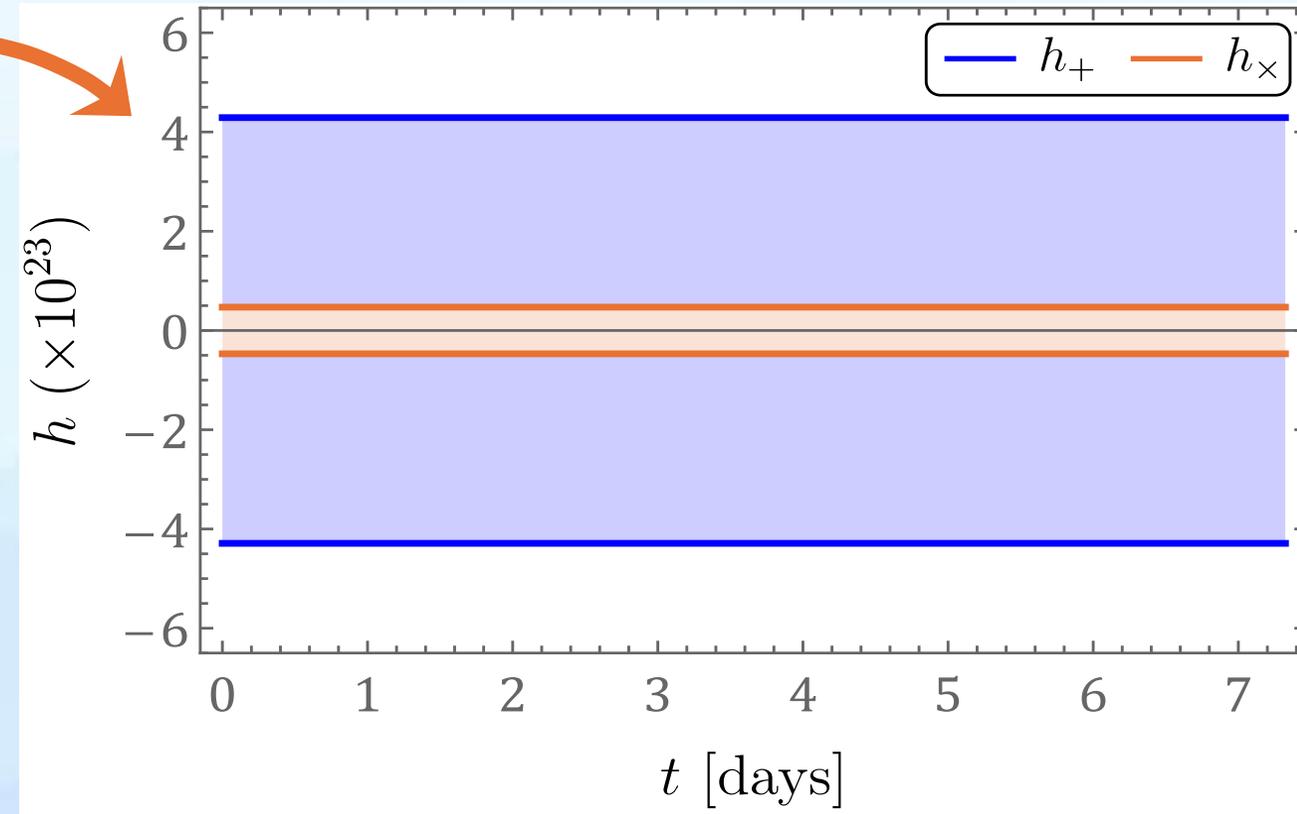
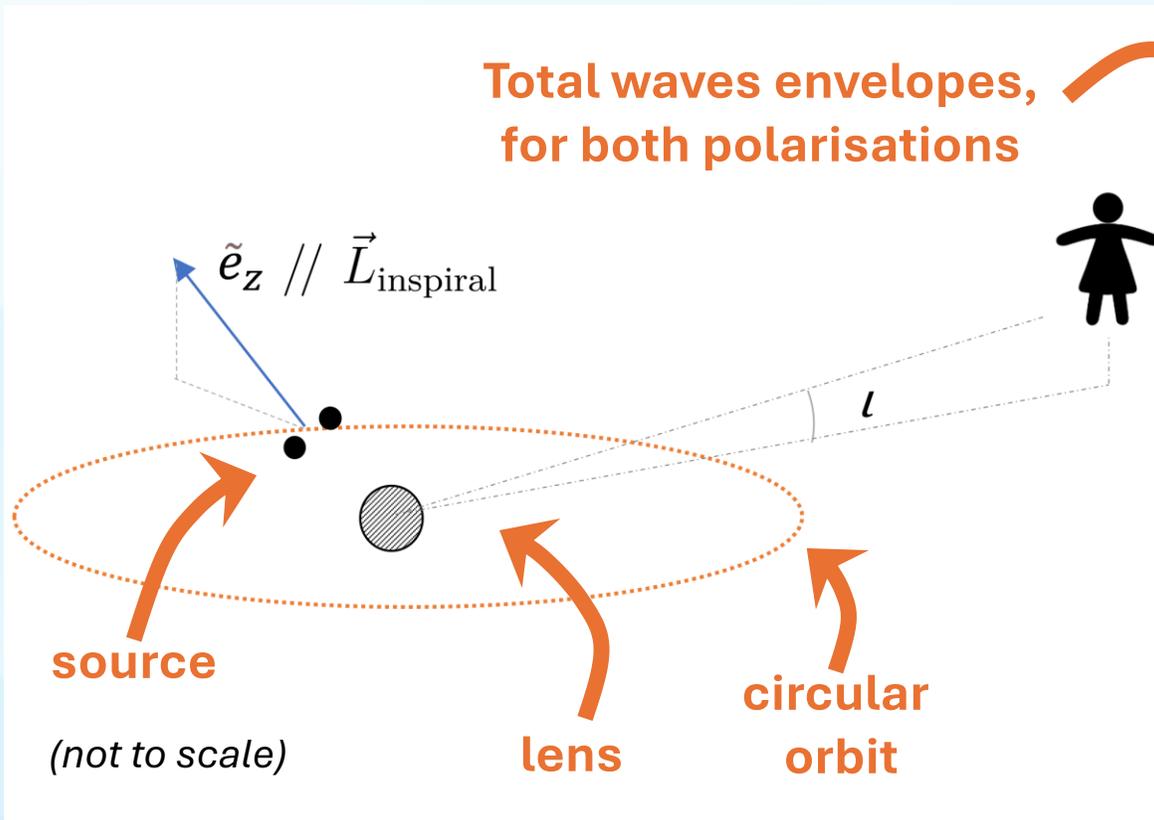


Wave optics lensing in triple systems: towards a phenomenology



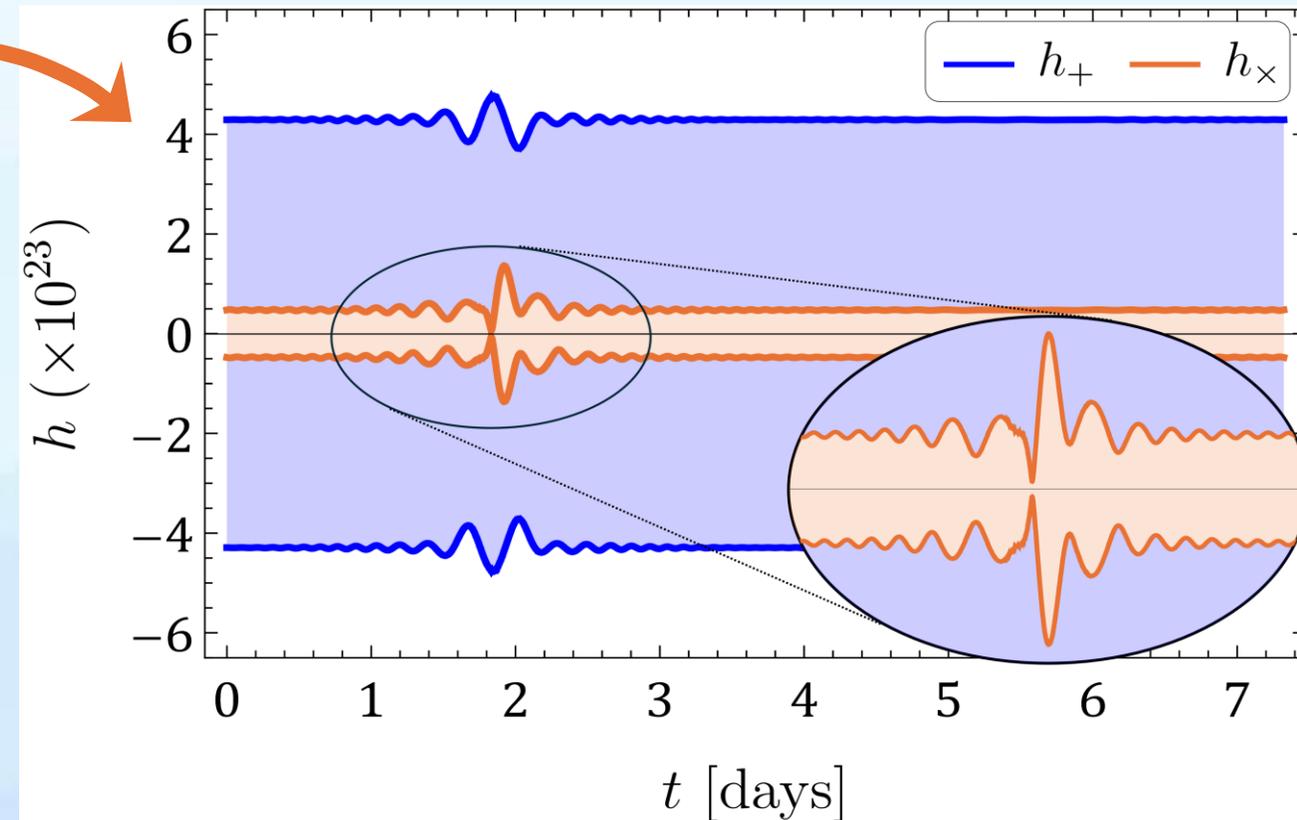
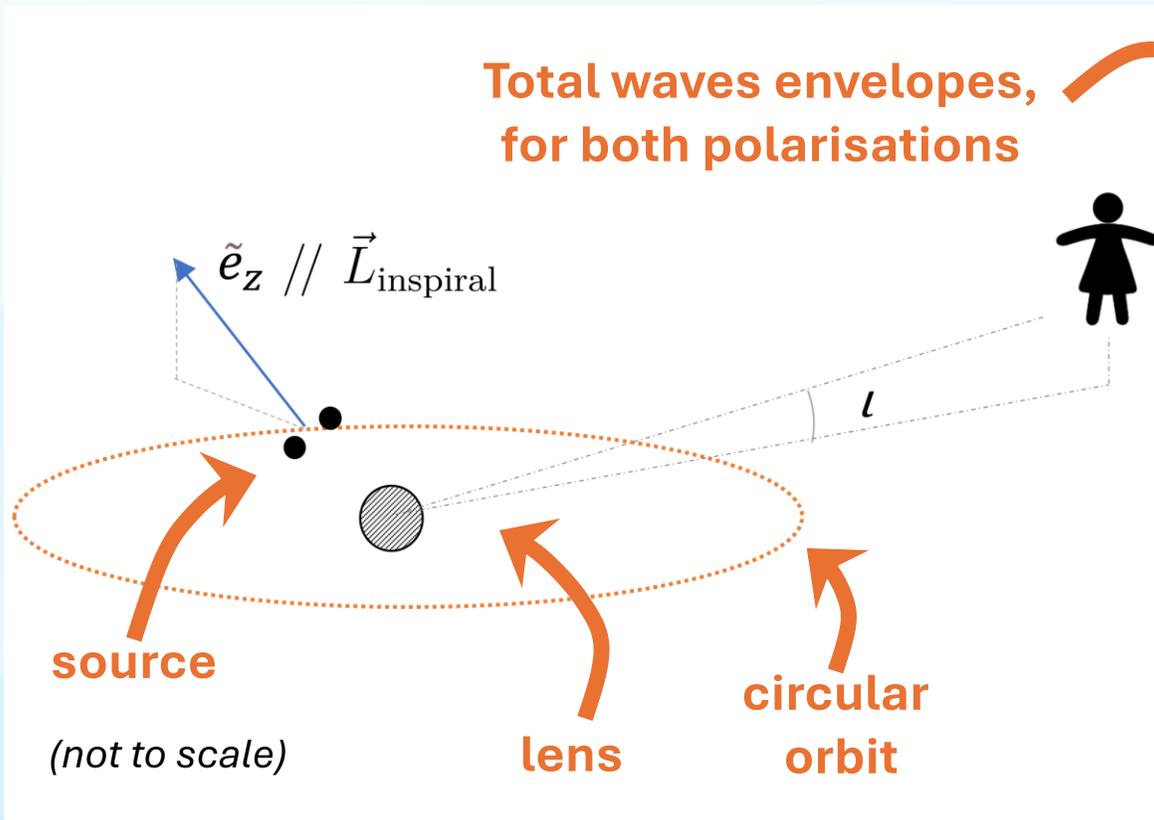
Wave optics lensing in triple systems: towards a phenomenology

Inspiral phase *without lens*



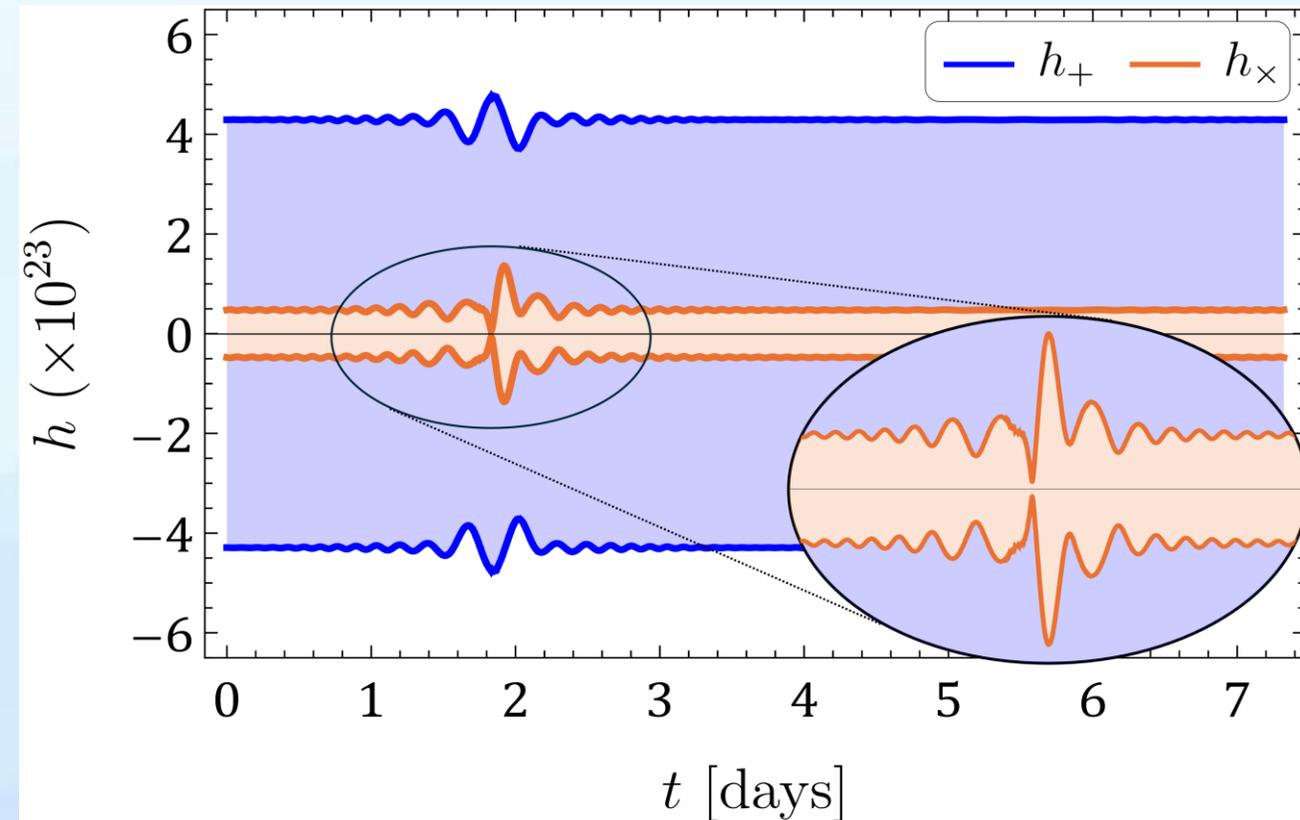
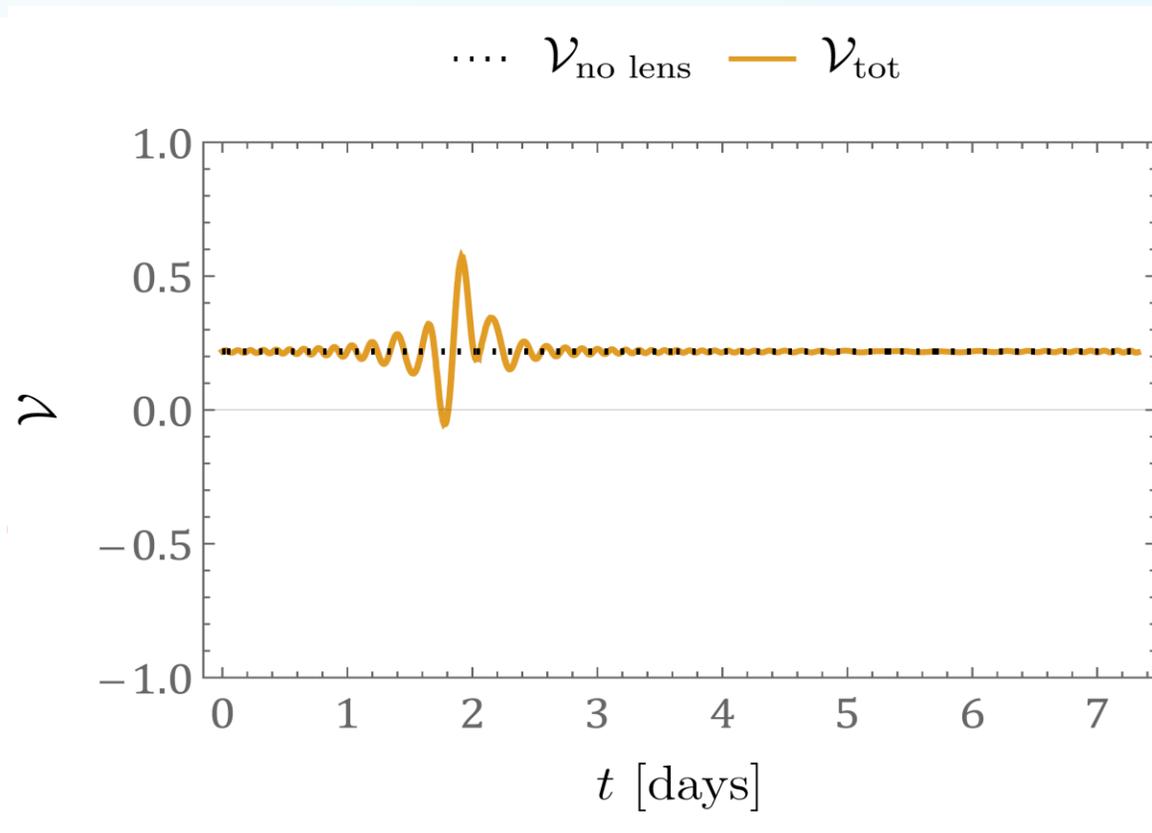
Wave optics lensing in triple systems: towards a phenomenology

Toy GW190521-inspired source, in LISA- « optimal » wave optics



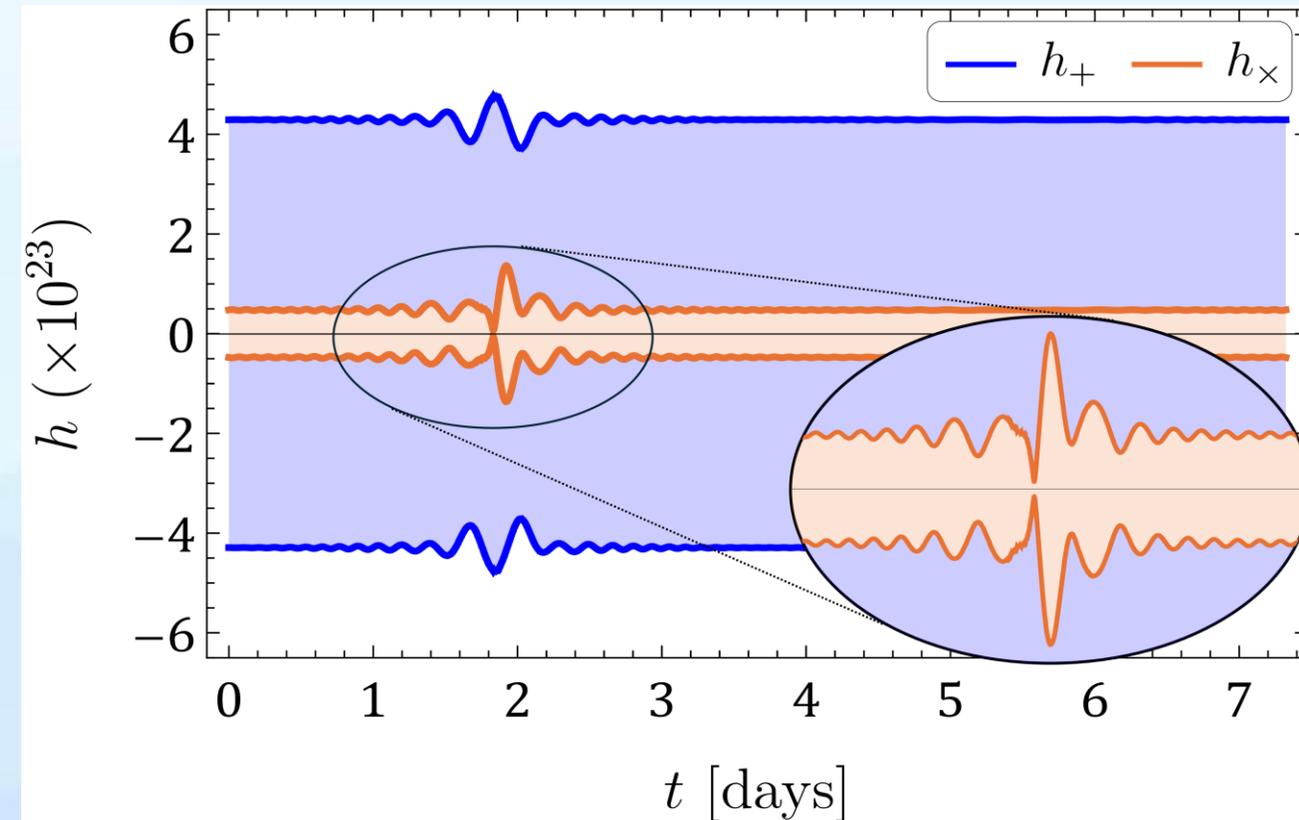
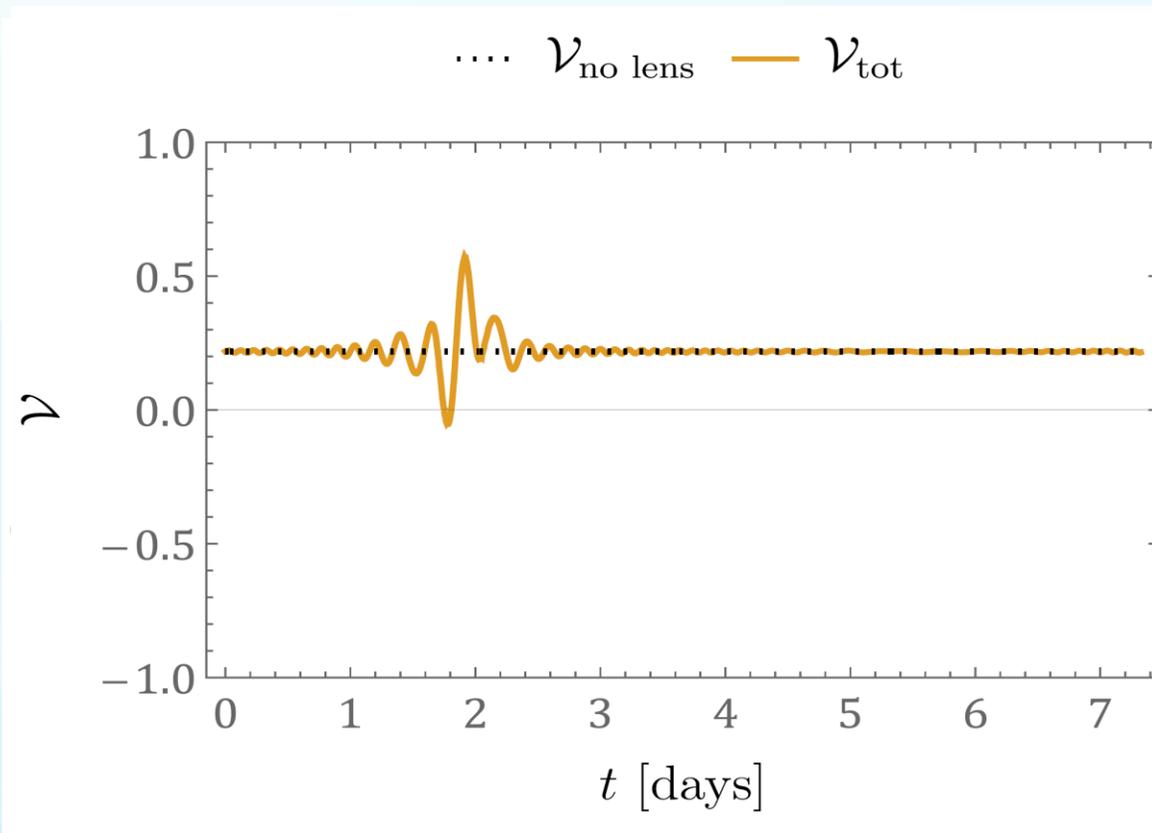
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Wave optics lensing in triple systems: towards a phenomenology

LISA **detectable** with $\text{SNR} > 100$ if at $z \sim 0.01$ (closest AGN)



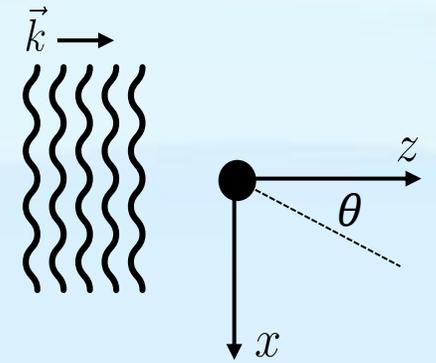
Conclusions

- **Wave optics** is a regime in the range of future observations (LISA)
- **Triple systems** exhibit a rich dynamical lensing phenomenology
- In wave optics, GW lensing is a **fully tensorial** process:
 - Results go beyond a simple scalar amplification factor
 - **The polarisation/helicity structure is not preserved by lensing**

Polarisation

Quantifying the signal polarisation content $\mathcal{V} \in [-1, 1]$:

$$\mathcal{V} \equiv \frac{2\text{Im}[\tilde{h}_+ \tilde{h}_\times^*]}{|\tilde{h}_+|^2 + |\tilde{h}_\times|^2} = V/I$$



Wave optics lensing is **polarisation dependent**, e.g. :

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = M^2 \frac{\cos^8\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) + \sin^8\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)}{\sin^4\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)} + 2M^2 \sqrt{1 - \mathcal{V}_{\text{incident}}^2} \cos^4\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \cos(4\phi)$$

Wave optics lensing in triple systems: towards a phenomenology

- LISA-band system : $\omega = 2\pi f = 2\pi \times 3 \times 10^{-3}\text{Hz}$

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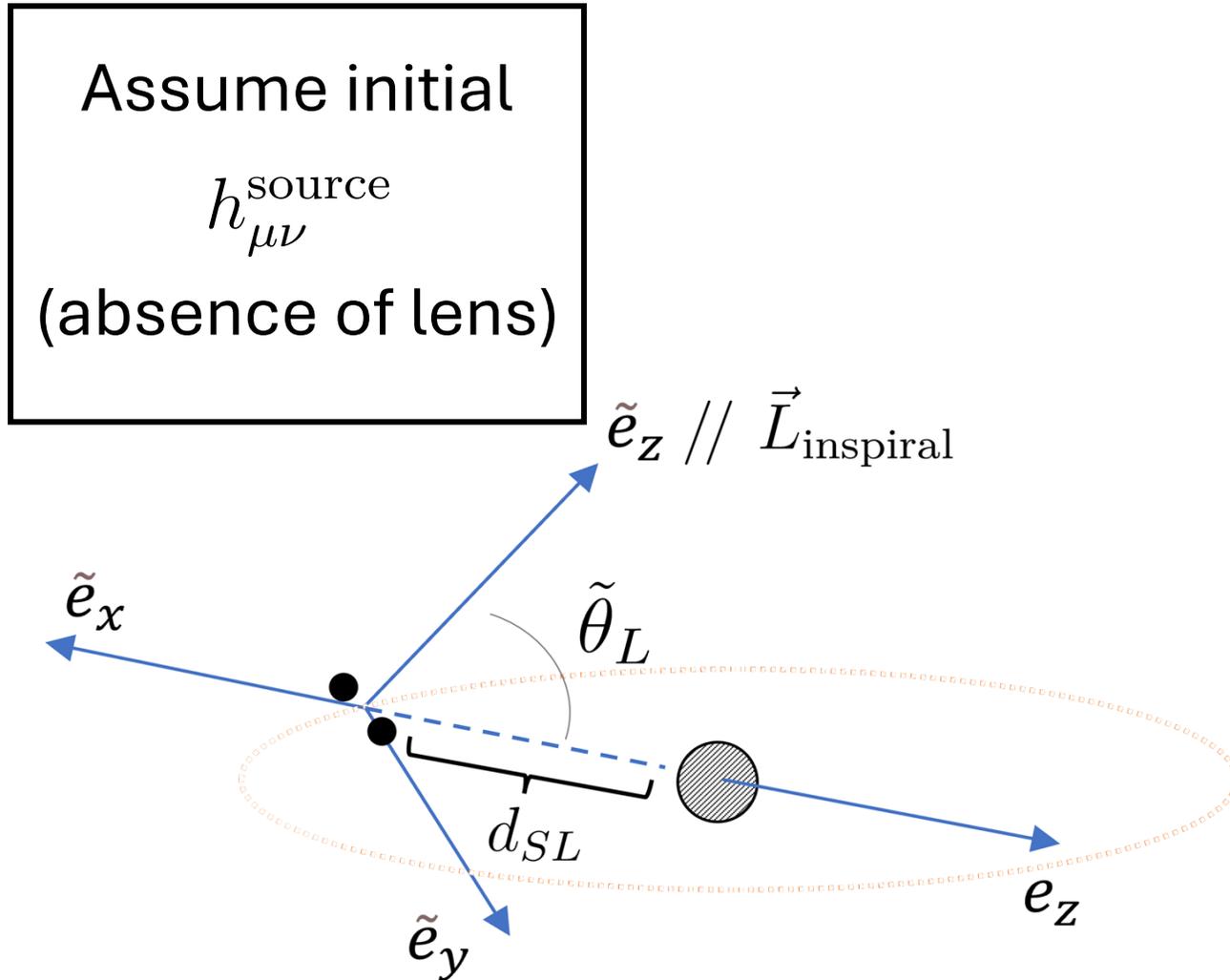
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LISA detectable with $\text{SNR} > 100$ if at $z \sim 0.01$ (nearest AGNs)

Tensorial wave optics : BHPT



TT gauge, propagation along e_z :

$$h_{ij}^{\text{source}} = \begin{pmatrix} h_+ & h_\times & 0 \\ h_\times & -h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{ij}$$

$$h_+ = \frac{A_{\text{in}}}{\tilde{r}} \frac{1 + \cos^2 \tilde{\theta}_L}{2} \cos[\omega(t - \tilde{r}) - 2\tilde{\phi}_L]$$

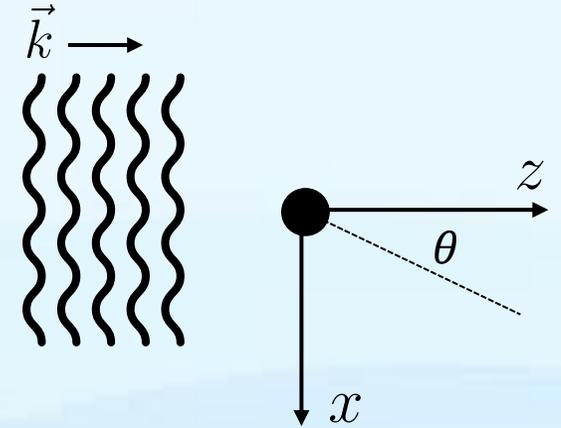
$$h_\times = \frac{A_{\text{in}}}{\tilde{r}} \cos \tilde{\theta}_L \sin[\omega(t - \tilde{r}) - 2\tilde{\phi}_L]$$

(locally plane wave)

Insights from quantum mechanics

QM problem has exact solution:

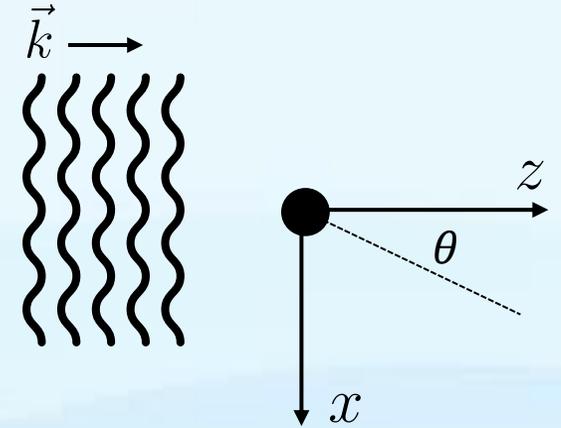
$$\Psi \propto e^{-i\omega t} e^{ikz} {}_1F_1[-i\gamma, 1; ikr(1 - \cos(\theta))]$$



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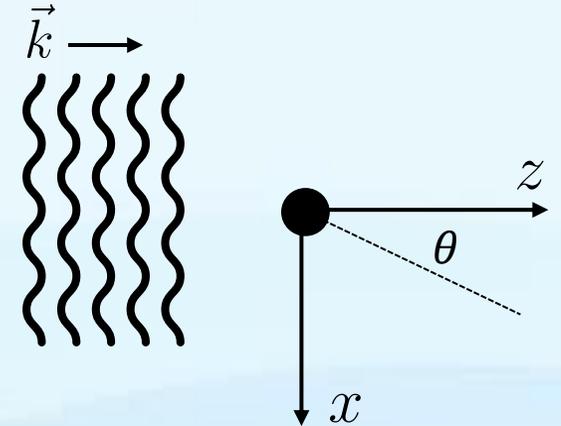


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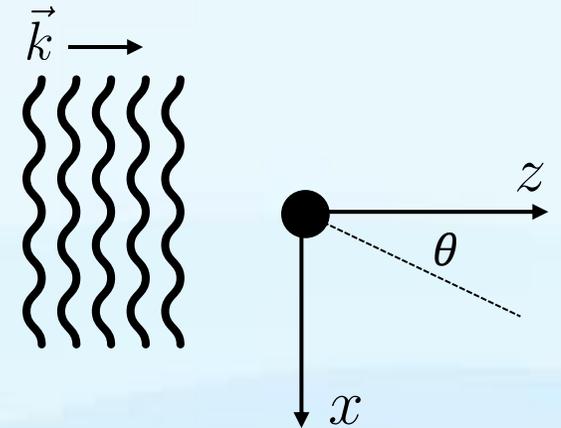
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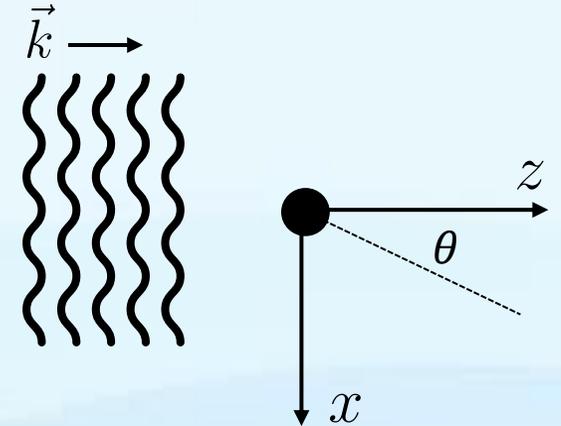
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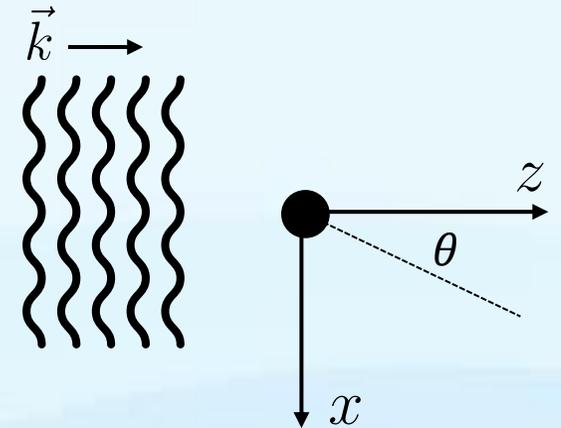
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apparent divergence
as $\theta \rightarrow 0$

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\swarrow
 \swarrow
log phase corrections

Familiar features recovered

Scalar QM problem had solution:

$$e^{i\omega t} \Psi \sim e^{ikz + i\gamma \ln kr(1 - \cos(\theta))} - \frac{\tilde{\gamma}}{kr(1 - \cos(\theta))} e^{ikr - i\gamma \ln kr(1 - \cos(\theta))}$$

Diagram annotations:

- A red oval highlights the phase term $i\gamma \ln kr(1 - \cos(\theta))$ in the first exponential, with a red arrow pointing to the text "log phase corrections".
- A green oval highlights the denominator $kr(1 - \cos(\theta))$ in the fraction, with a green arrow pointing to the text "apparent divergence as $\theta \rightarrow 0$ ".
- A red oval highlights the phase term $-i\gamma \ln kr(1 - \cos(\theta))$ in the second exponential, with a red arrow pointing to the text "log phase corrections".

Our **asymptotical GW solution recovers a spin-2 version** of these features (full expressions in arXiv:2404.07186)

Tensorial wave optics : results

Recovering familiar features:

$$h_+ - h_+^{\text{source}} \simeq \frac{A_{\text{in}}}{r} \frac{2M}{d_{\text{SL}}} \frac{1 + \cos^2 \theta}{2} \frac{1}{1 - \cos \theta} \left(\cos^4 \left(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_L}{2} \right) \cos(\varphi - 2\phi) + \sin^4 \left(\frac{\tilde{\theta}_L}{2} \right) \cos(\varphi + 2\phi) \right)$$

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TT gauge projection
of a quadrupole
(cf source)

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lensing features

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Natural *expected* validity range : $kr(1 - \cos(\theta)) \gg 1$

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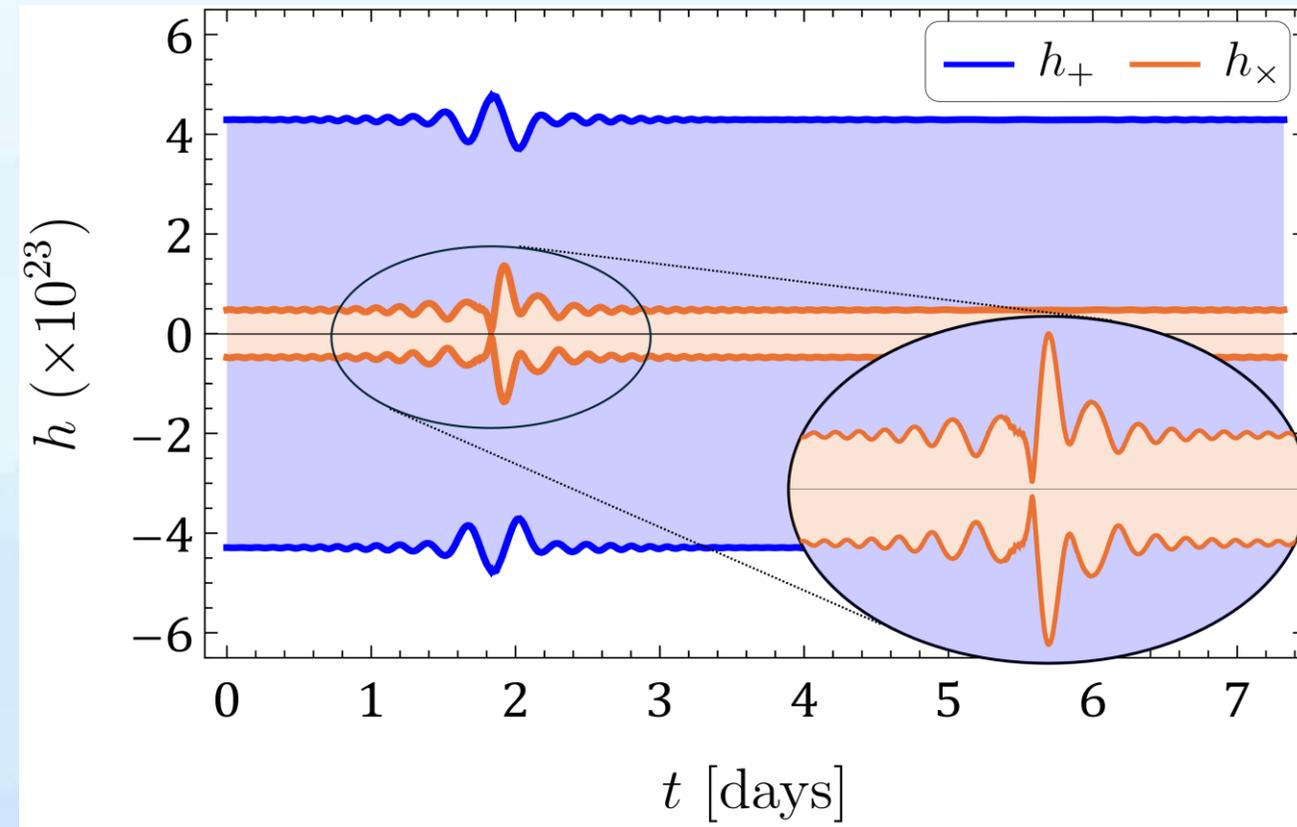
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log phase corrections

Wave optics lensing in triple systems: towards a phenomenology

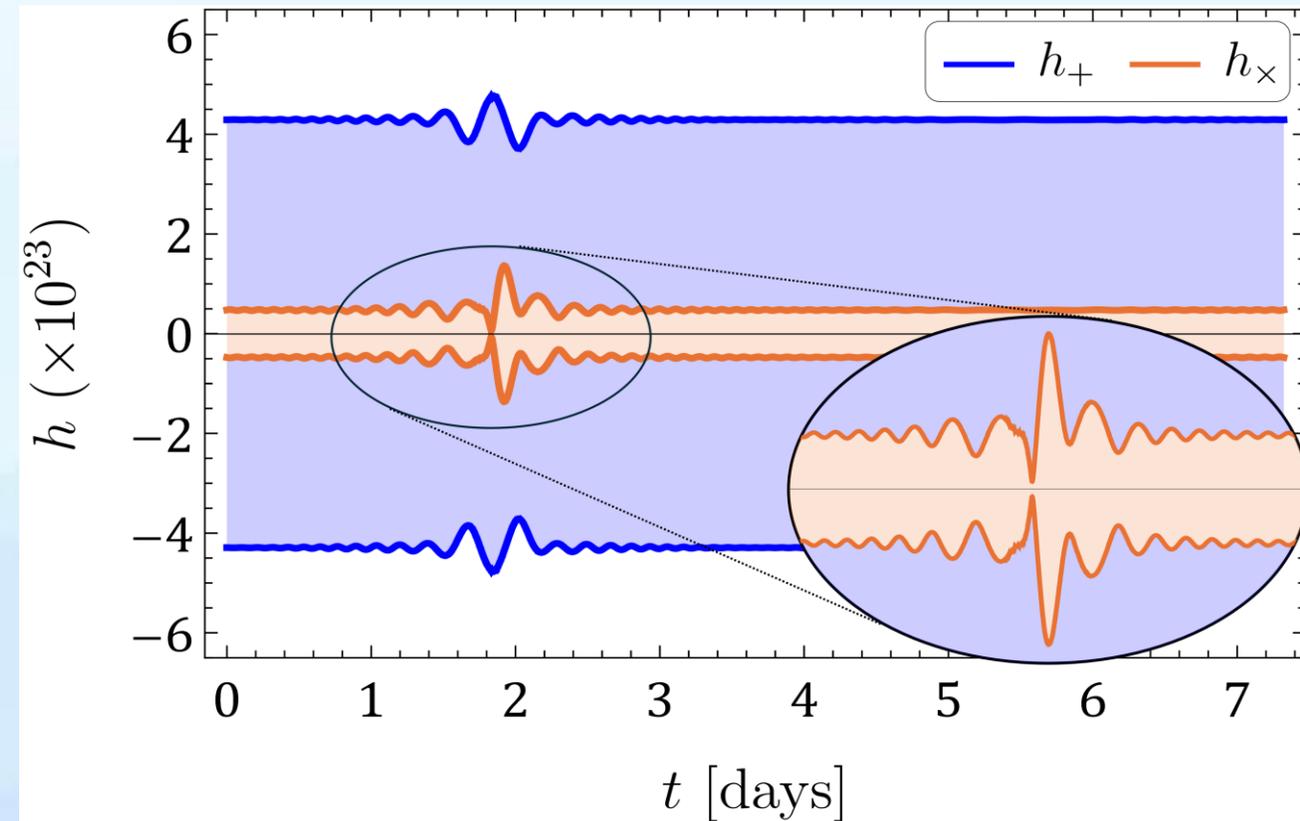
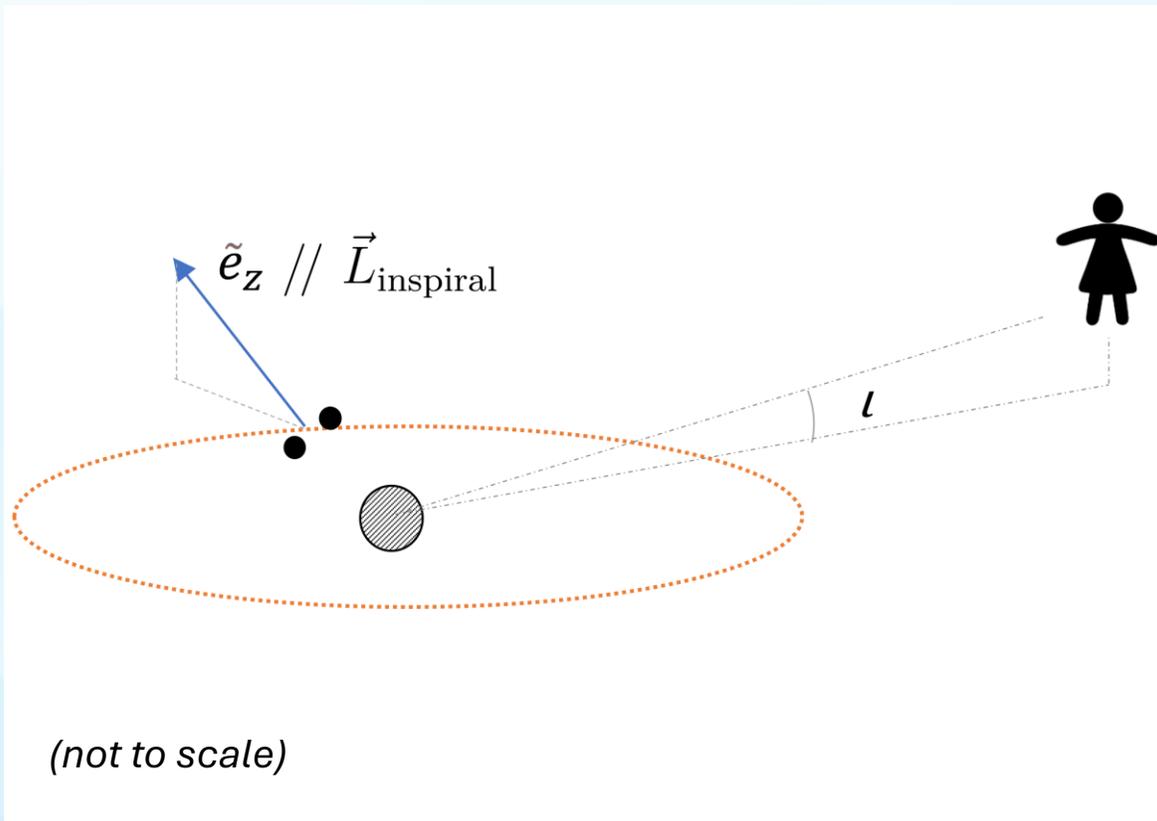
Toy GW190521-inspired source, in LISA- « optimal » wave optics

Total waves envelopes,
for both polarisations



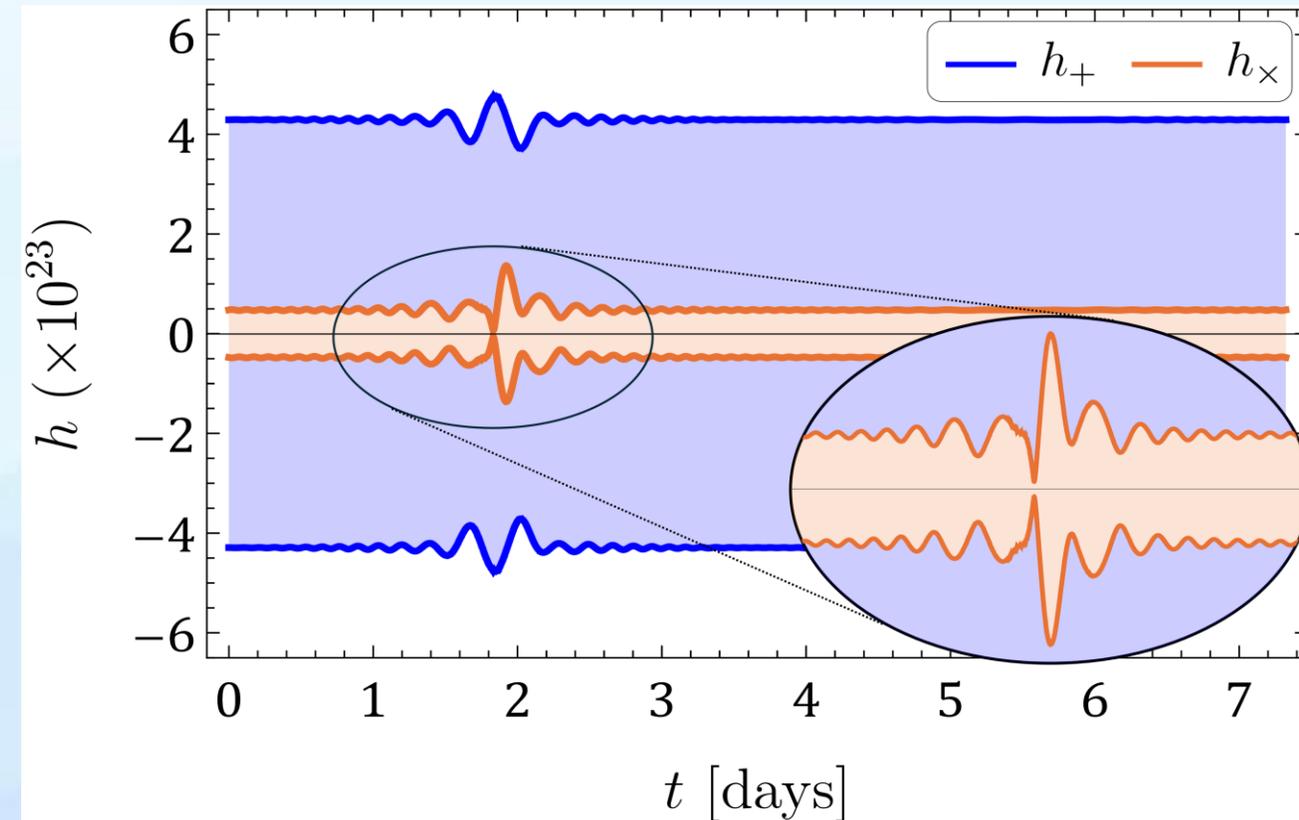
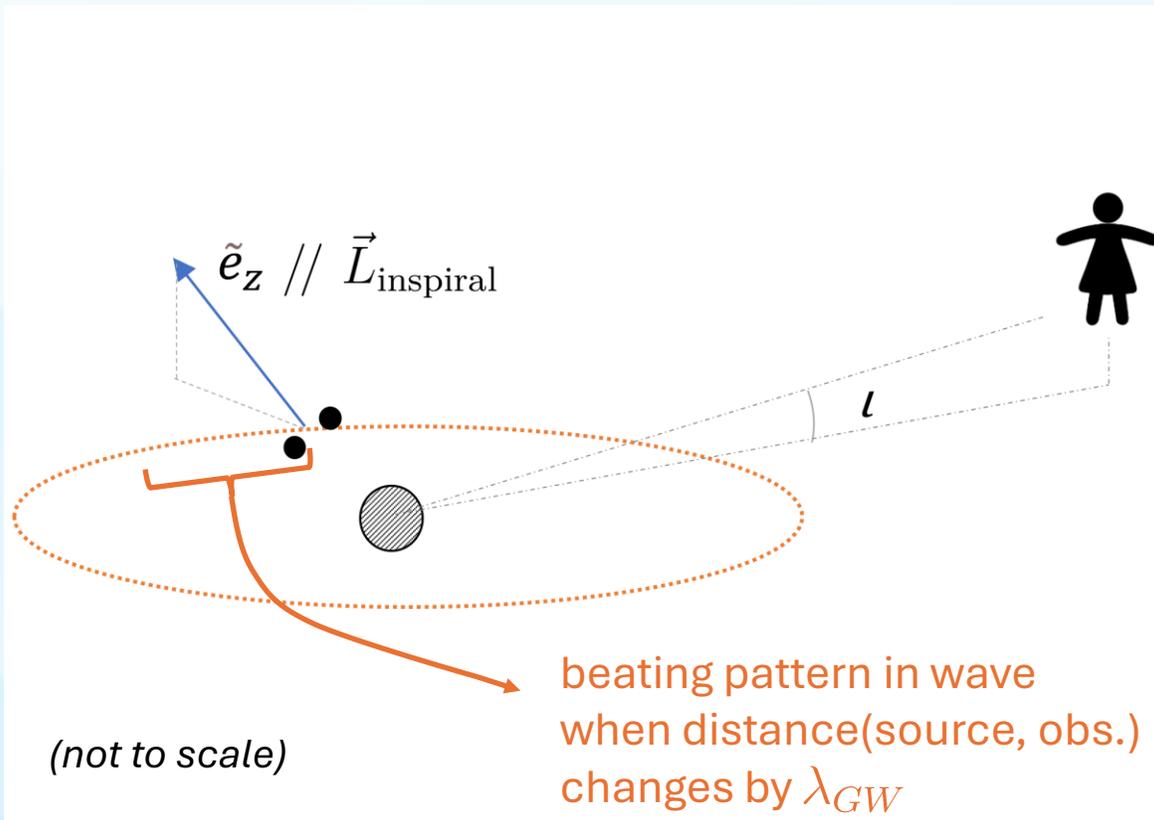
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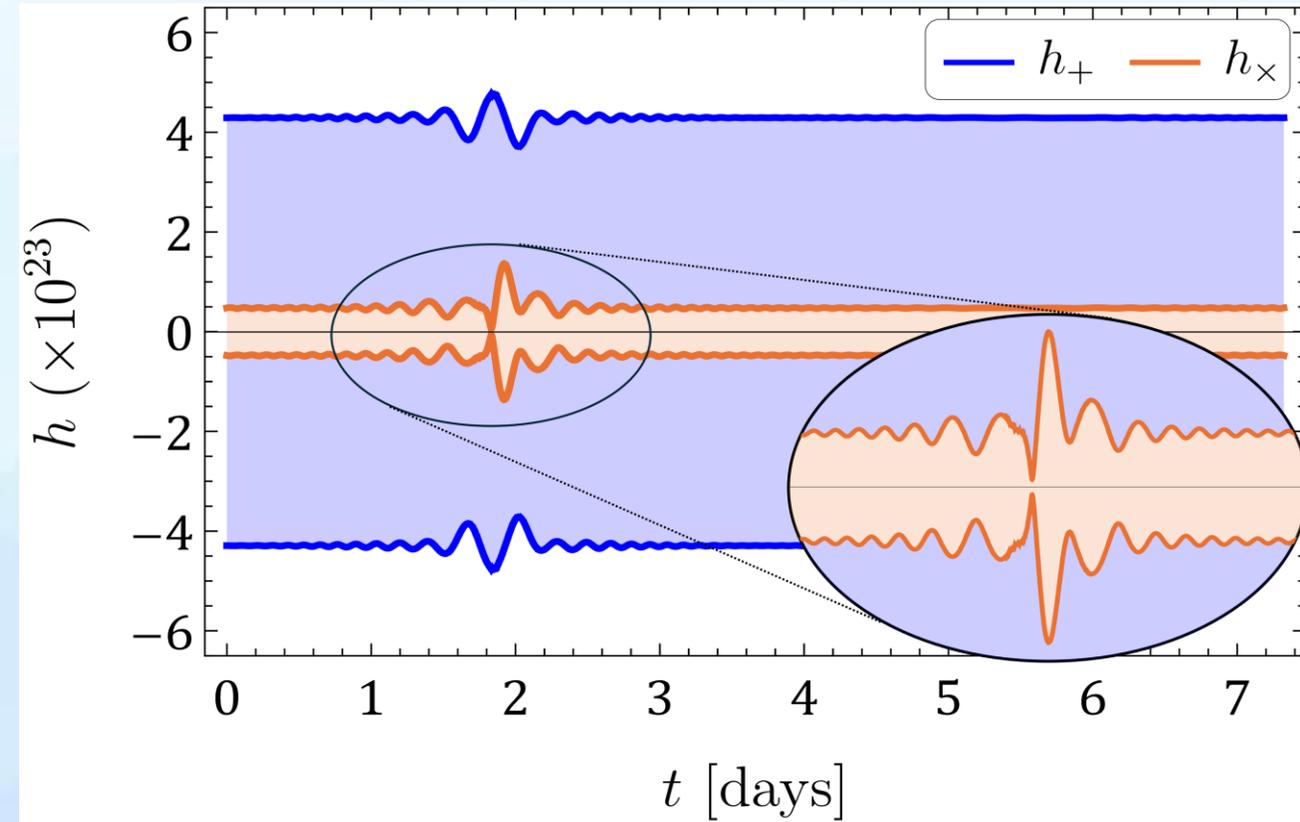
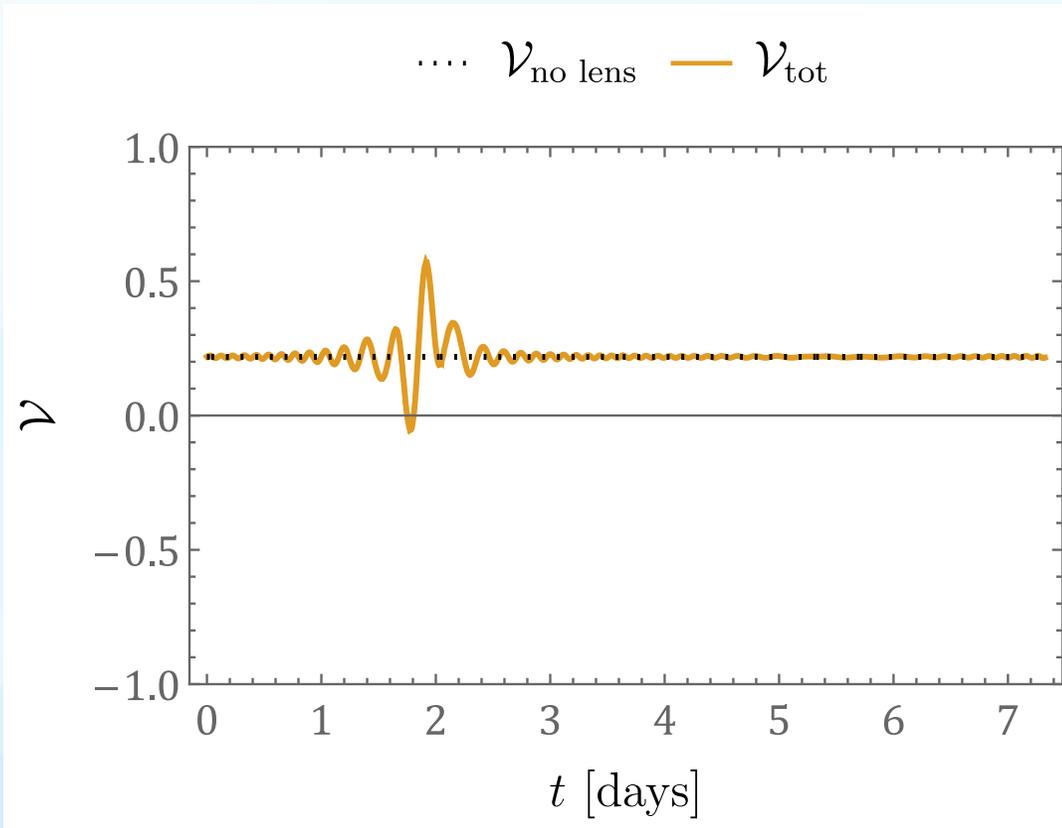
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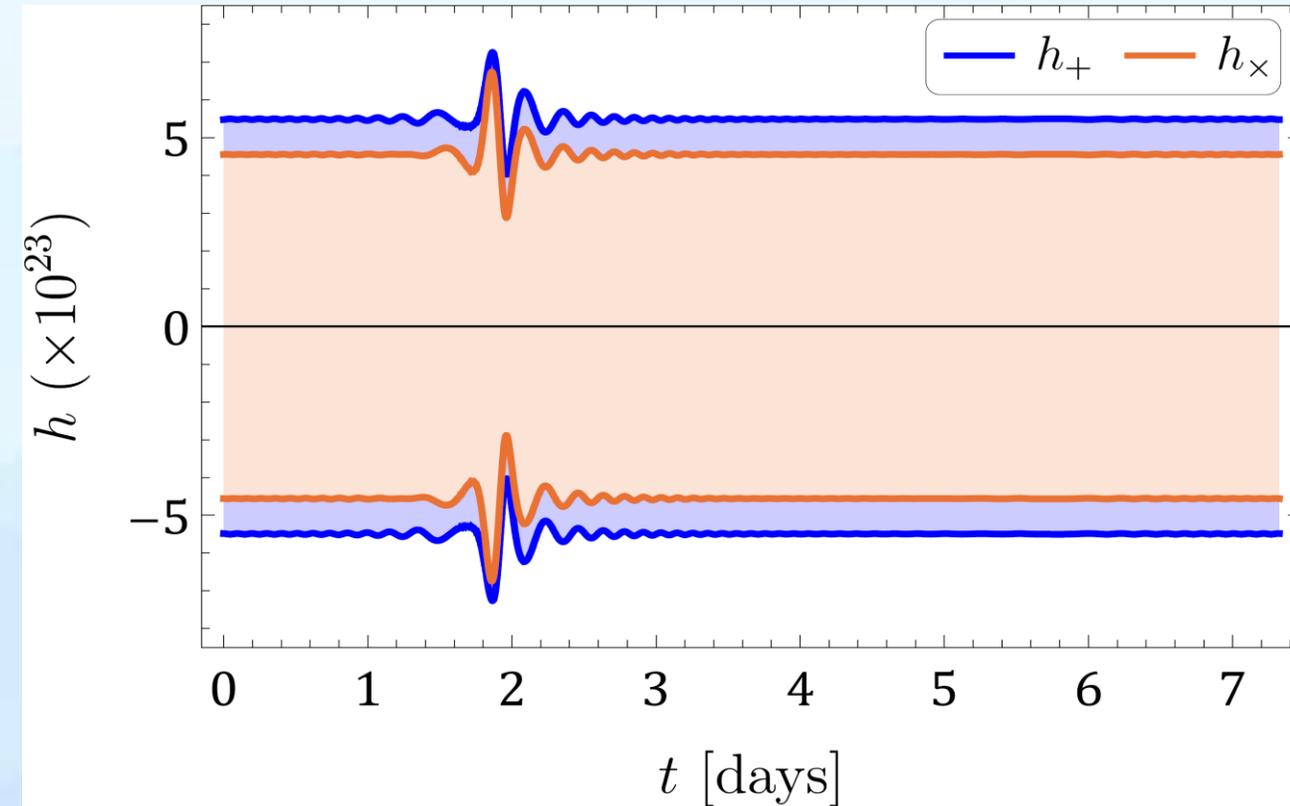
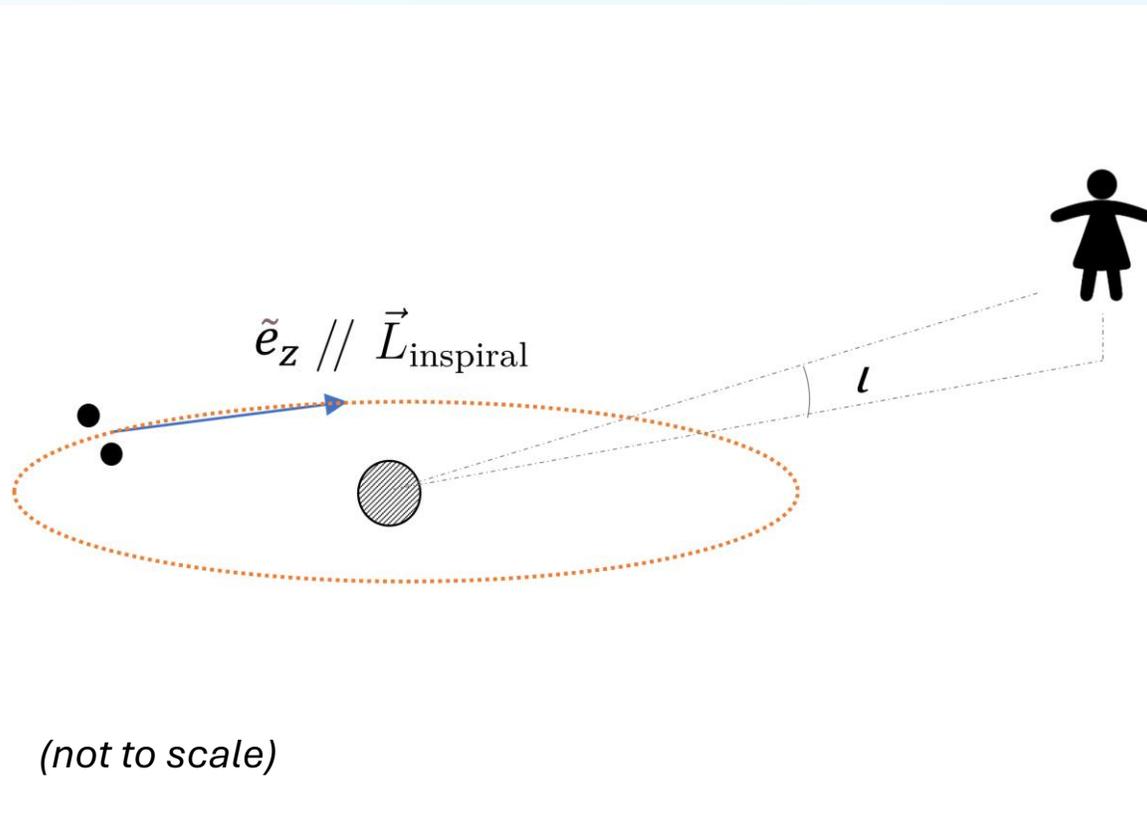
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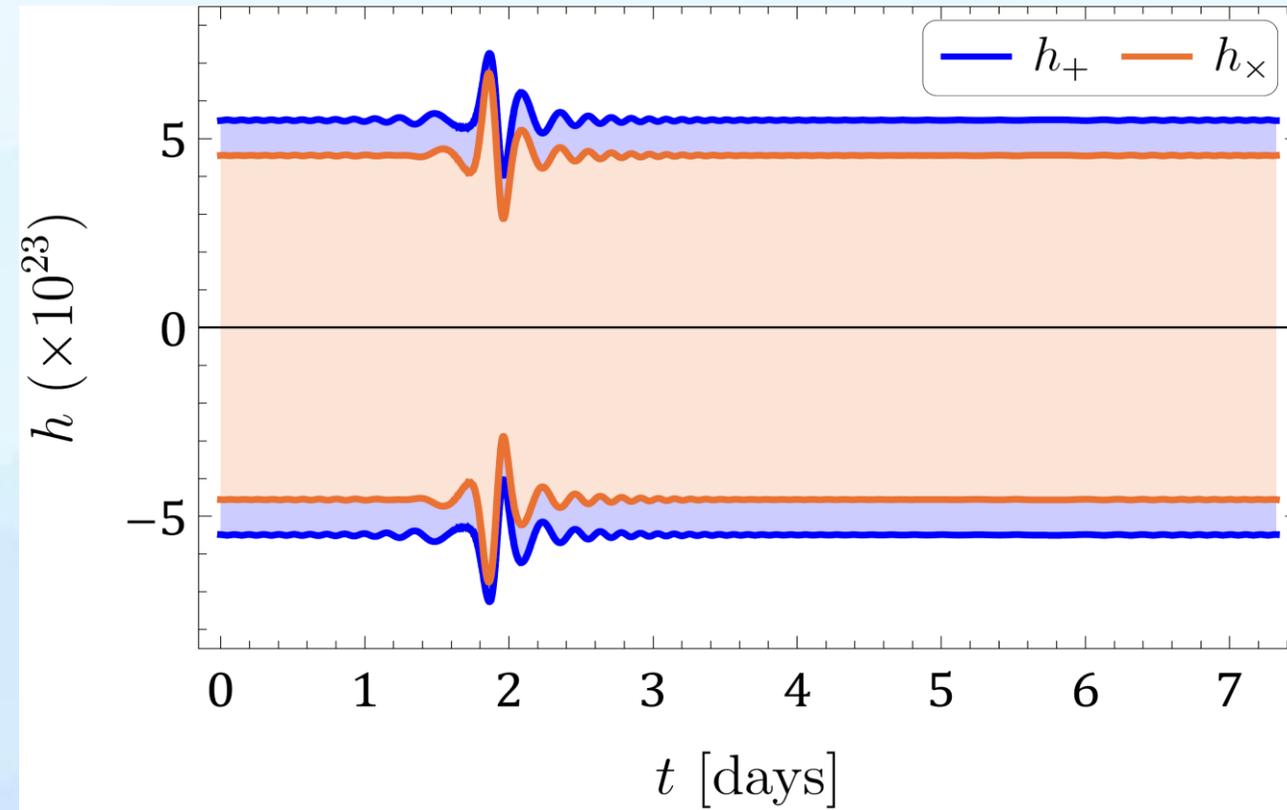
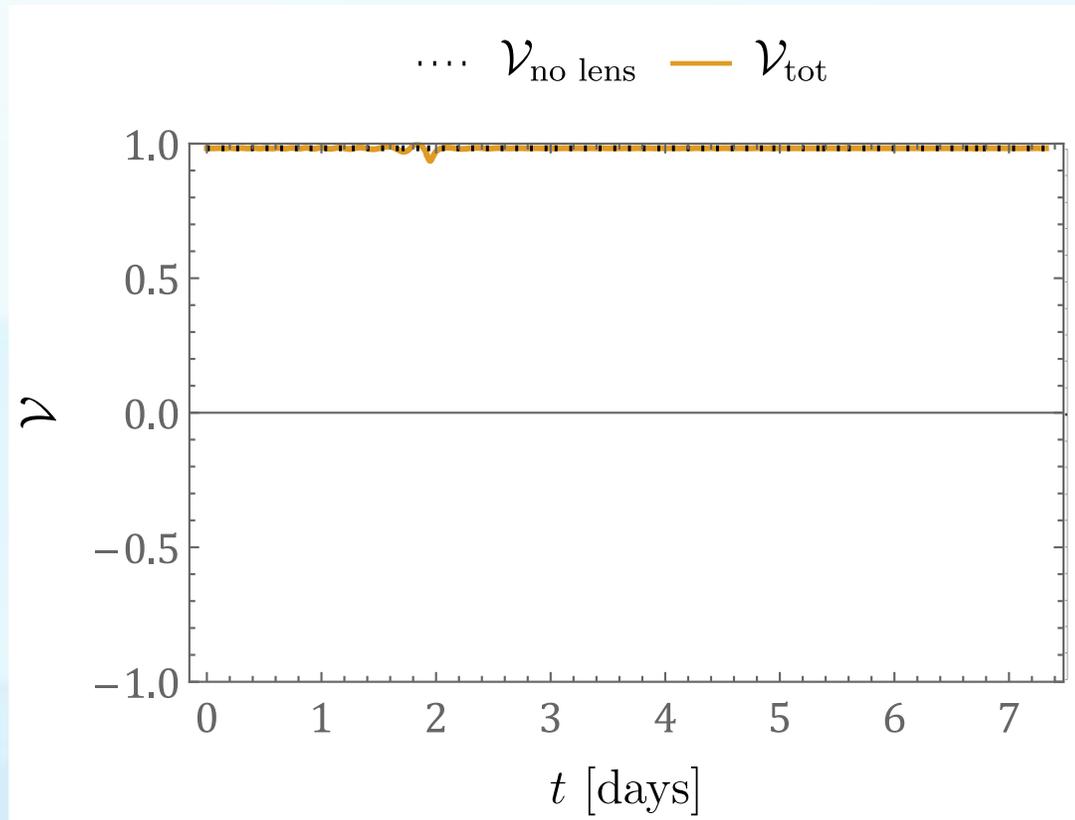
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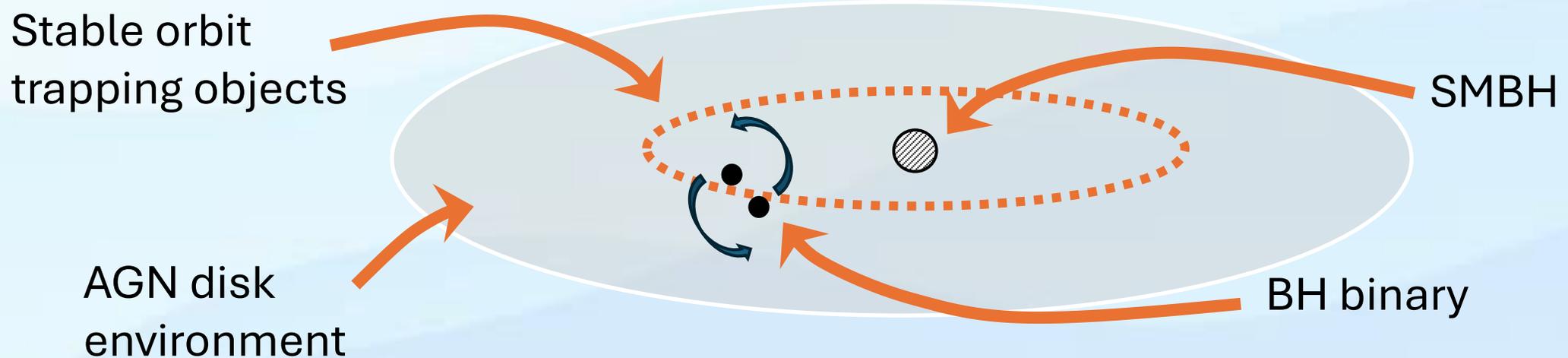
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Hierarchical triple systems : GW190521 ?

- 34 days later: AGN signal from the “same” location
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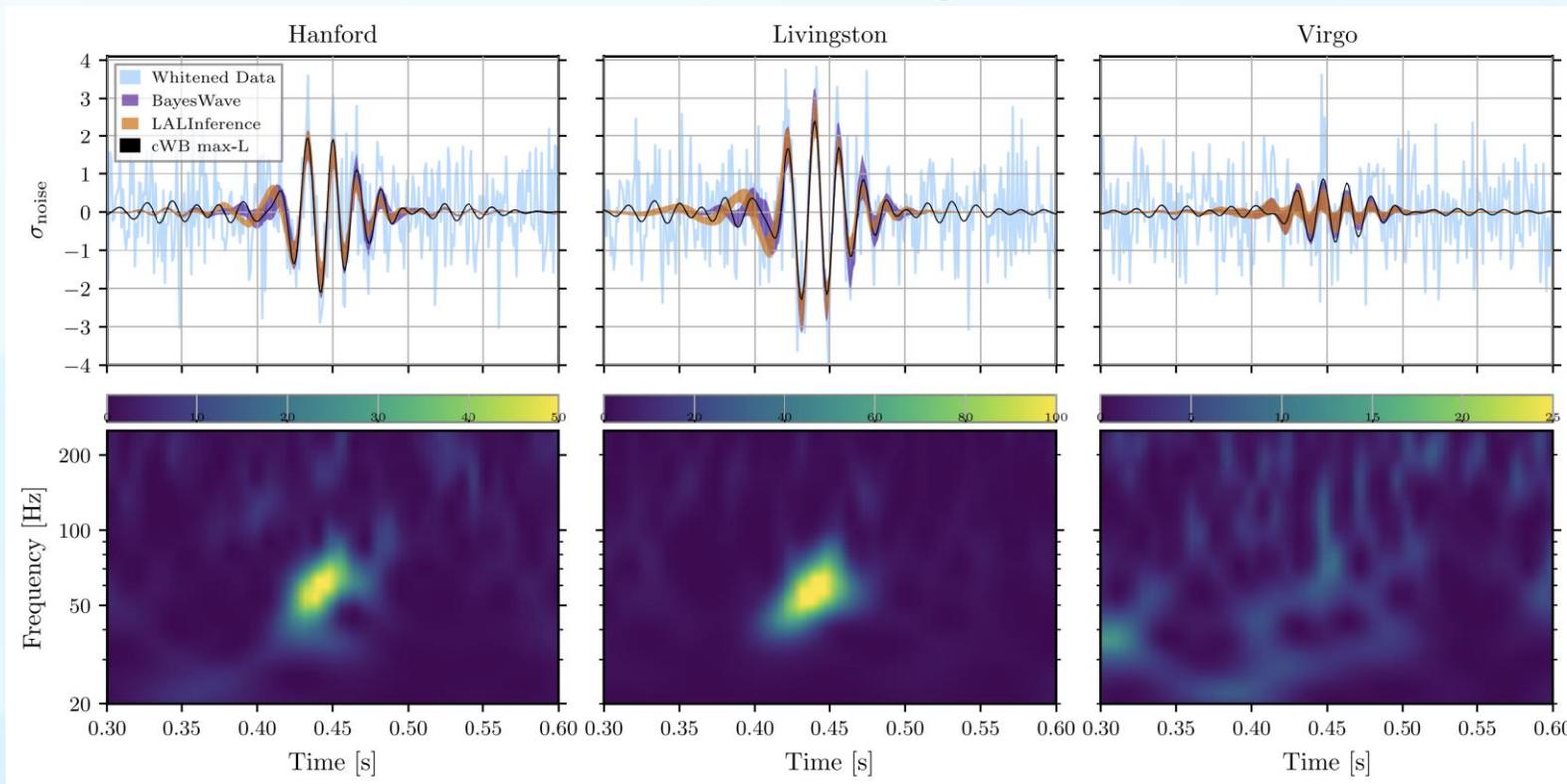
Considering **both GW & EM** signals, **evidence** for hierarchical triple:

marginal Ashton *et al.* (2021), Palmese *et al.* (2021)

confident Graham *et al.* (2020), Morton *et al.* (2023)

Hierarchical triple systems : GW190521 ?

Observational fact: 5 years ago ...



Best fit masses:

$$m_1 = 85M_{\odot},$$
$$m_2 = 66M_{\odot}$$

(heavy !)

R. Abbott *et al.* (LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration),
GW190521: A Binary Black Hole Merger with a Total Mass of $150 M_{\odot}$
Phys. Rev. Lett. **125**, 101102, 2020

Martin Pijenburg - arXiv:2404.07186

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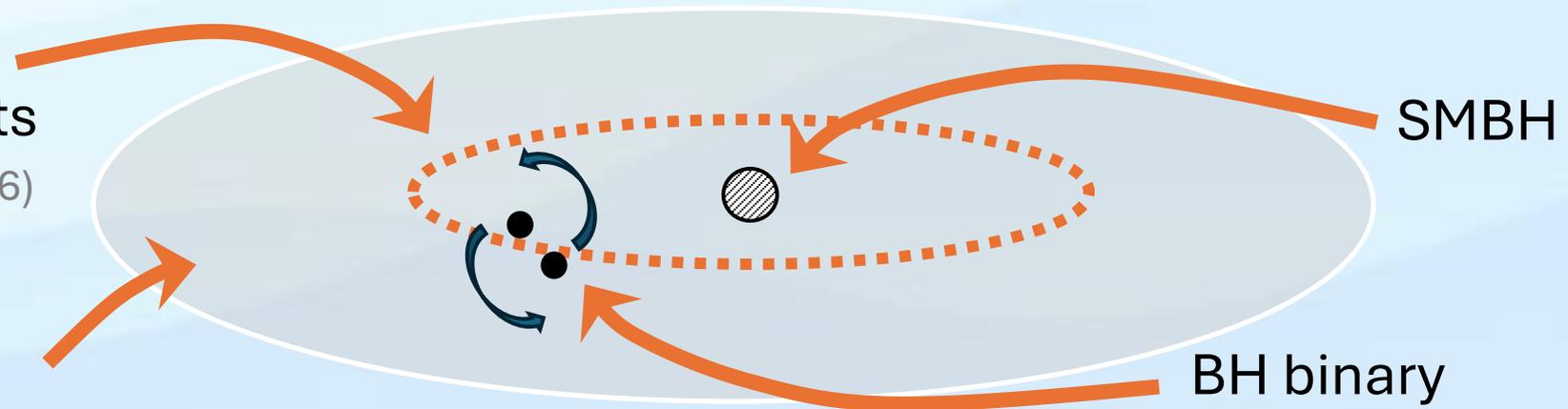
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Stable orbit
trapping objects
Bellovary *et al.* (2016)

AGN disk
environment



GW lensing: wave optics

LISA has a best sensitivity around 10^{-3} Hz.

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At this frequency, **low mass AGN** with $M \sim \mathcal{O}(10^6)M_{\odot}$ fulfil the wave optics requirement

$$\lambda_{GW} > \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

Equivalently: $\omega M < 1$ (natural units)

GW lensing: wave optics

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LISA-band
(stellar mass)
binary



AGN lens



GW lensing: wave optics

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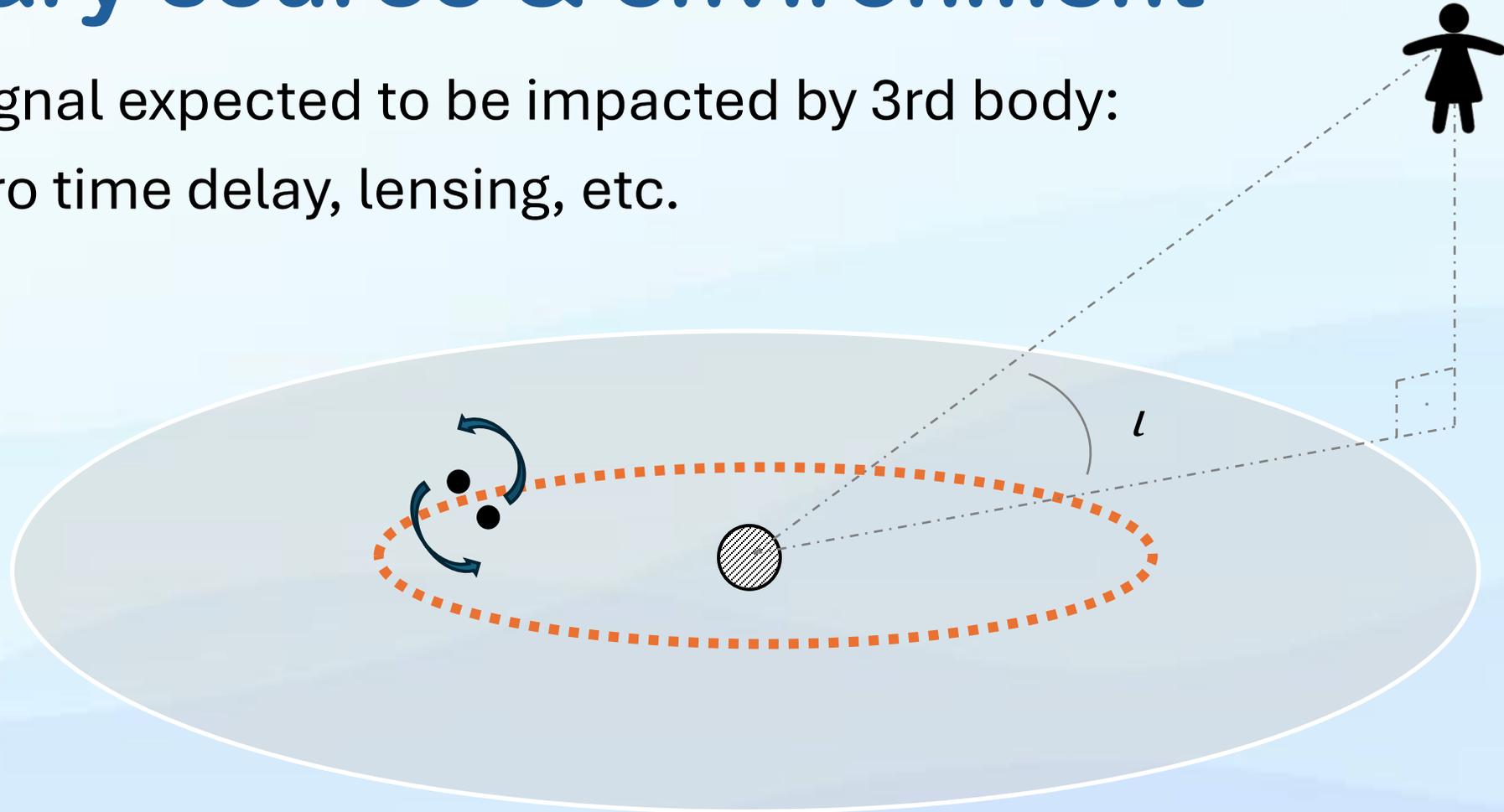
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How to capture wave effects ?

Hierarchical triple systems : binary source & environment

GW signal expected to be impacted by 3rd body:
Shapiro time delay, lensing, etc.



GW lensing: wave optics

BH lenses, historical works, at the formal level :

- Matzner (1968)
- Peters (1976)
- Chrzanowski *et al.* (1976)
- De Logi, Kovacs (1977)
- Futterman *et al.* (1988)
- ...

More recently: Dolan (2018)

GW lensing: wave optics

Reference work for phenomenology :

Wave effects in gravitational lensing of gravitational waves from chirping binaries

Ryuichi Takahashi (Kyoto U.), Takashi Nakamura (Kyoto U.)

May, 2003

28 pages

Published in: *Astrophys.J.* 595 (2003) 1039-1051

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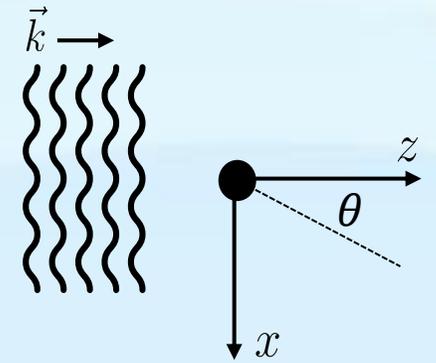
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Polarisation

Quantifying the signal polarisation content $\mathcal{V} \in [-1, 1]$:

$$\mathcal{V} \equiv \frac{2\text{Im}[\tilde{h}_+ \tilde{h}_\times^*]}{|\tilde{h}_+|^2 + |\tilde{h}_\times|^2} = V/I$$



Wave optics lensing is **polarisation dependent**, e.g. :

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = M^2 \frac{\cos^8\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) + \sin^8\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)}{\sin^4\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)} + 2M^2 \sqrt{1 - \mathcal{V}_{\text{incident}}^2} \cos^4\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \cos(4\phi)$$

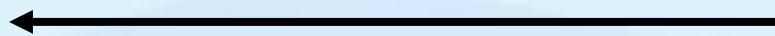
Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

Technicality : in principle, should sum $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{\ell m} \Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m}$

In practice : $\sum_{\ell m} \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m}$

Derive final

$h_{\mu\nu}$
(incl. lensing)



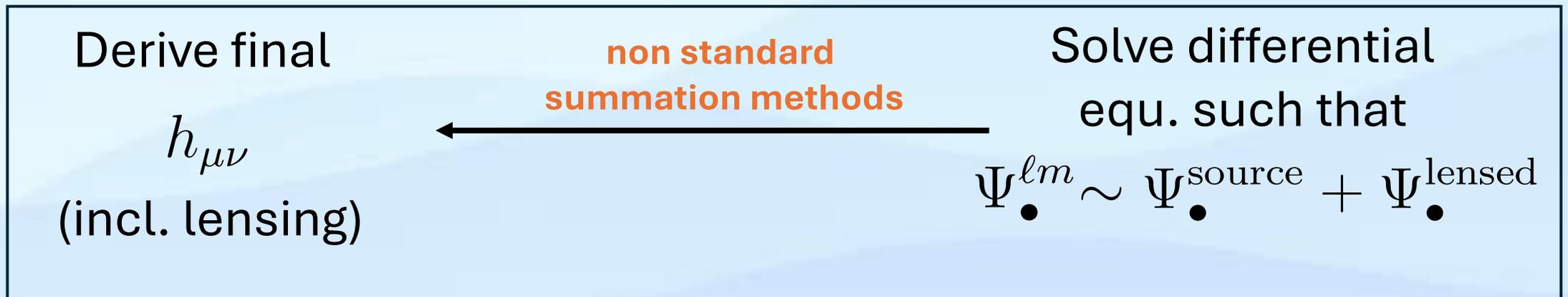
Solve differential
equ. such that

$$\Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m} \sim \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{source}} + \Psi_{\bullet}^{\text{lensed}}$$

Tensorial wave optics : BHPT

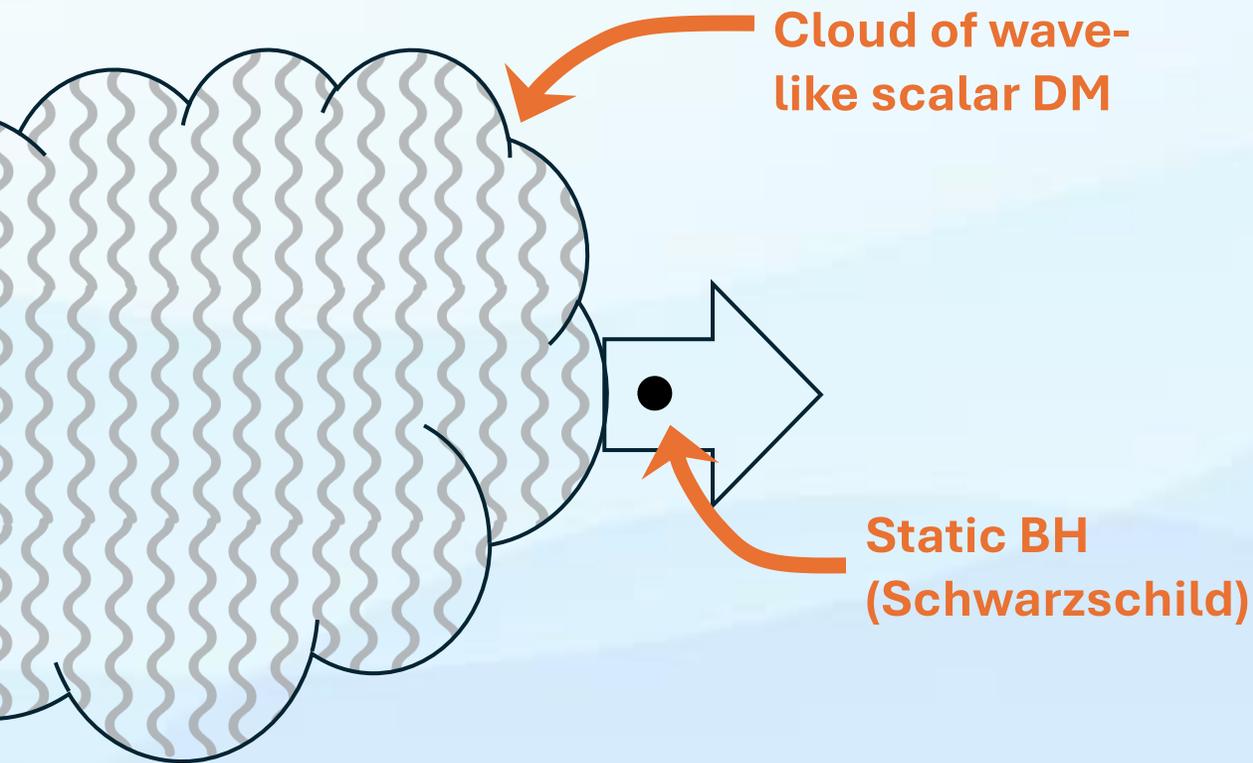
Technicality : in principle, should sum $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{\ell m} \Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m}$

In practice : $\sum_{\ell m} \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \Psi_{\bullet}^{\ell m}$... **diverges** analytically & numerically

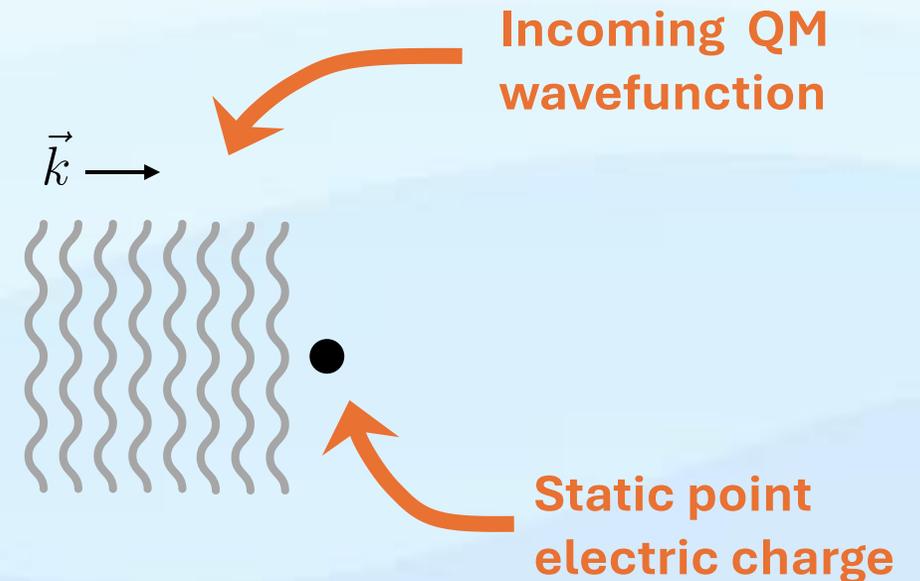


Insights from quantum mechanics

GR scalar wave, NR simulation



QM, analytical solution



Insights from quantum mechanics

If one doesn't know the exact solution :

Possible to solve the differential equation in multipole space, by

- Taking $kr \gg 1$ limit
- Requiring $\Psi \sim \Psi_{\text{plane}} + \Psi_{\text{spherical}}$

→ **Correctly** recover $\Psi_{\text{spherical}} = - \frac{\tilde{\gamma}}{kr(1 - \cos(\theta))} e^{ikr - i\gamma \ln kr(1 - \cos(\theta))}$

Insights from quantum mechanics

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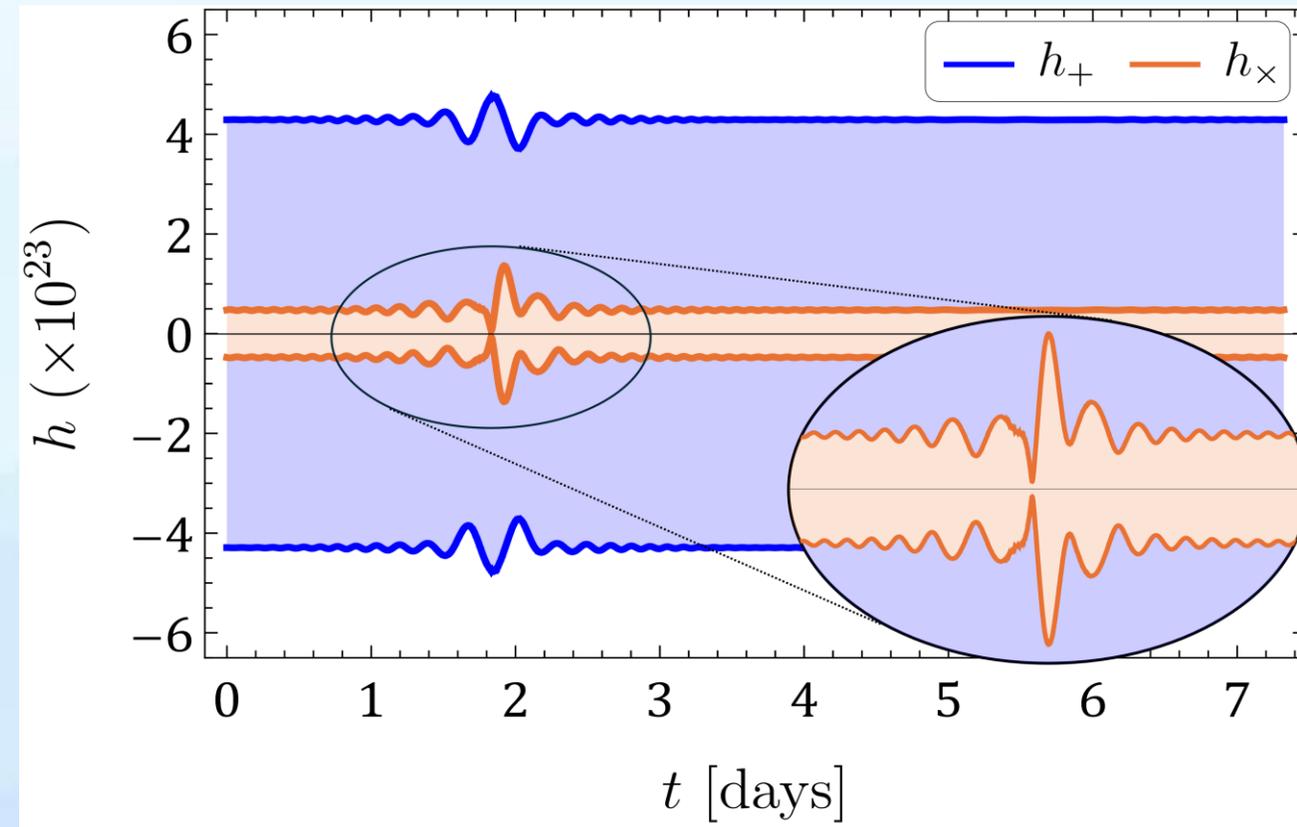
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Wave optics lensing in triple systems: towards a phenomenology

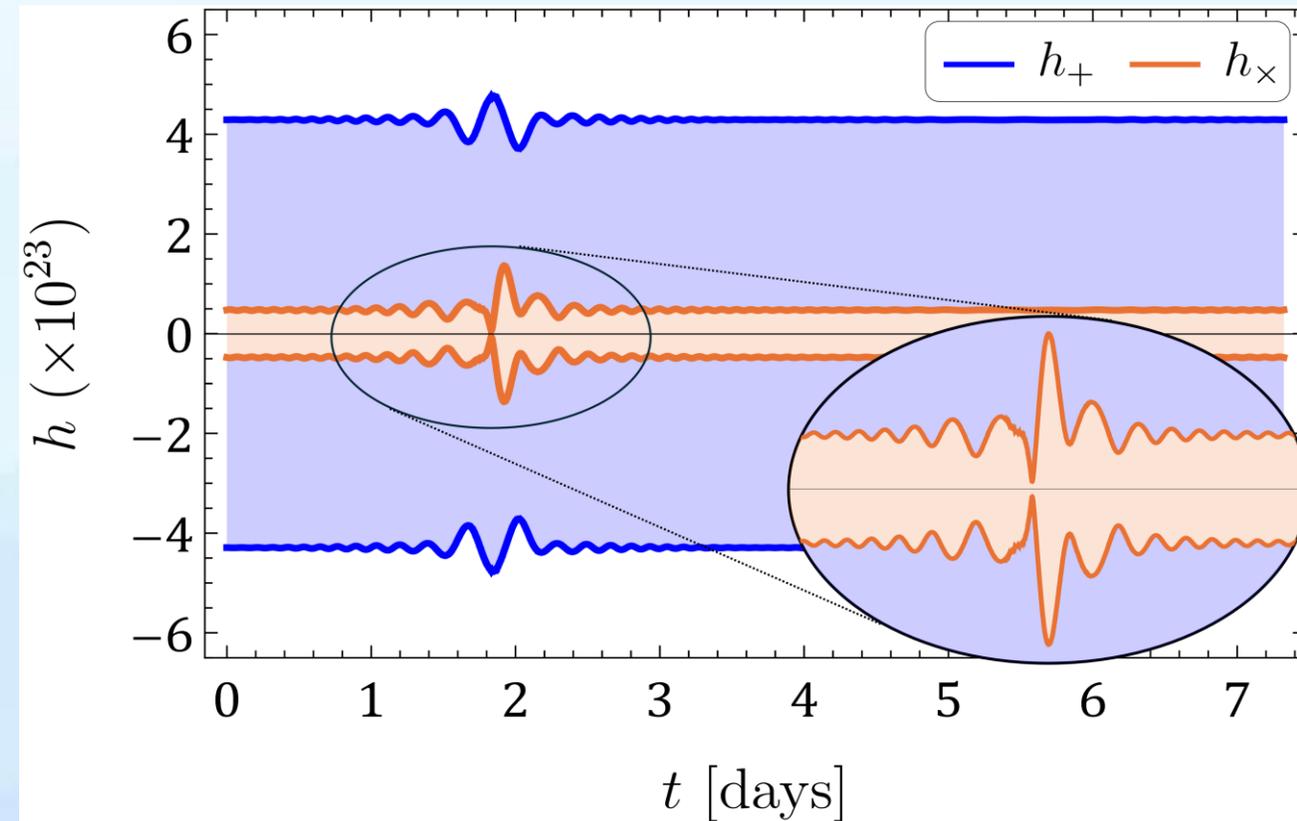
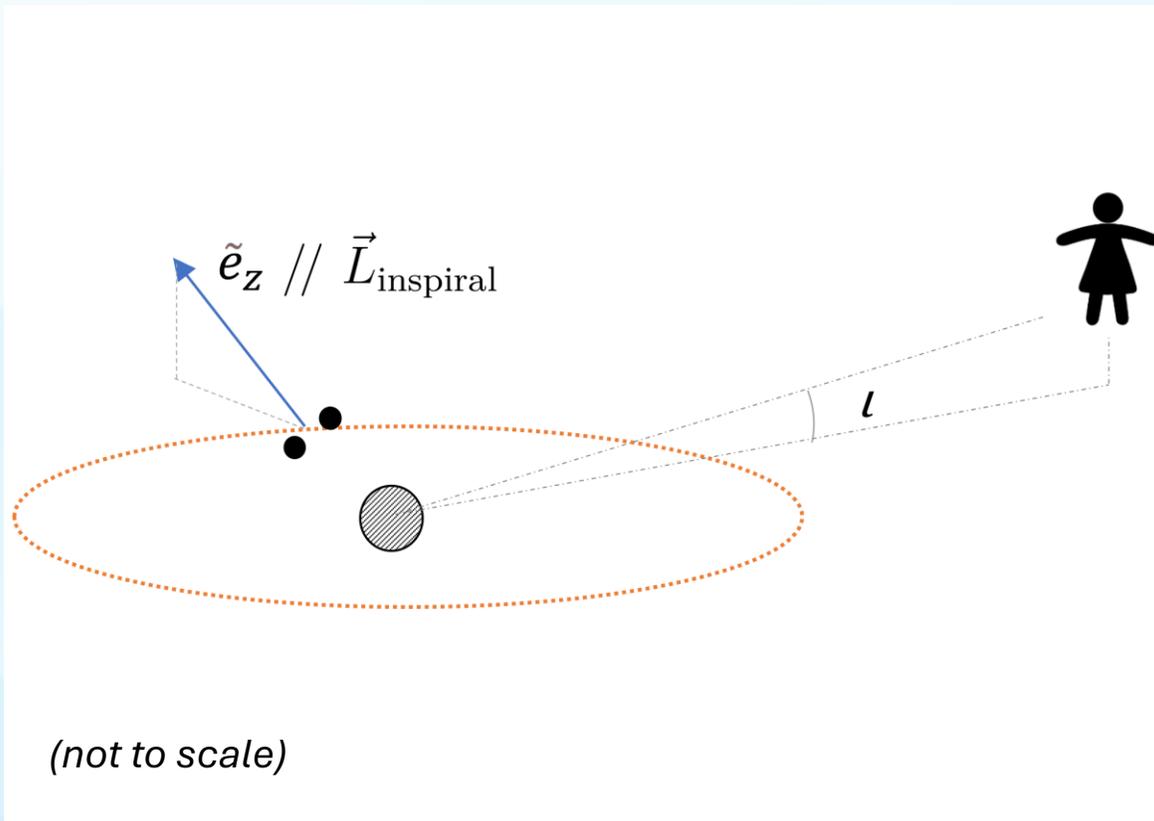
Toy GW190521-inspired source, in LISA- « optimal » wave optics

Total waves envelopes,
for both polarisations



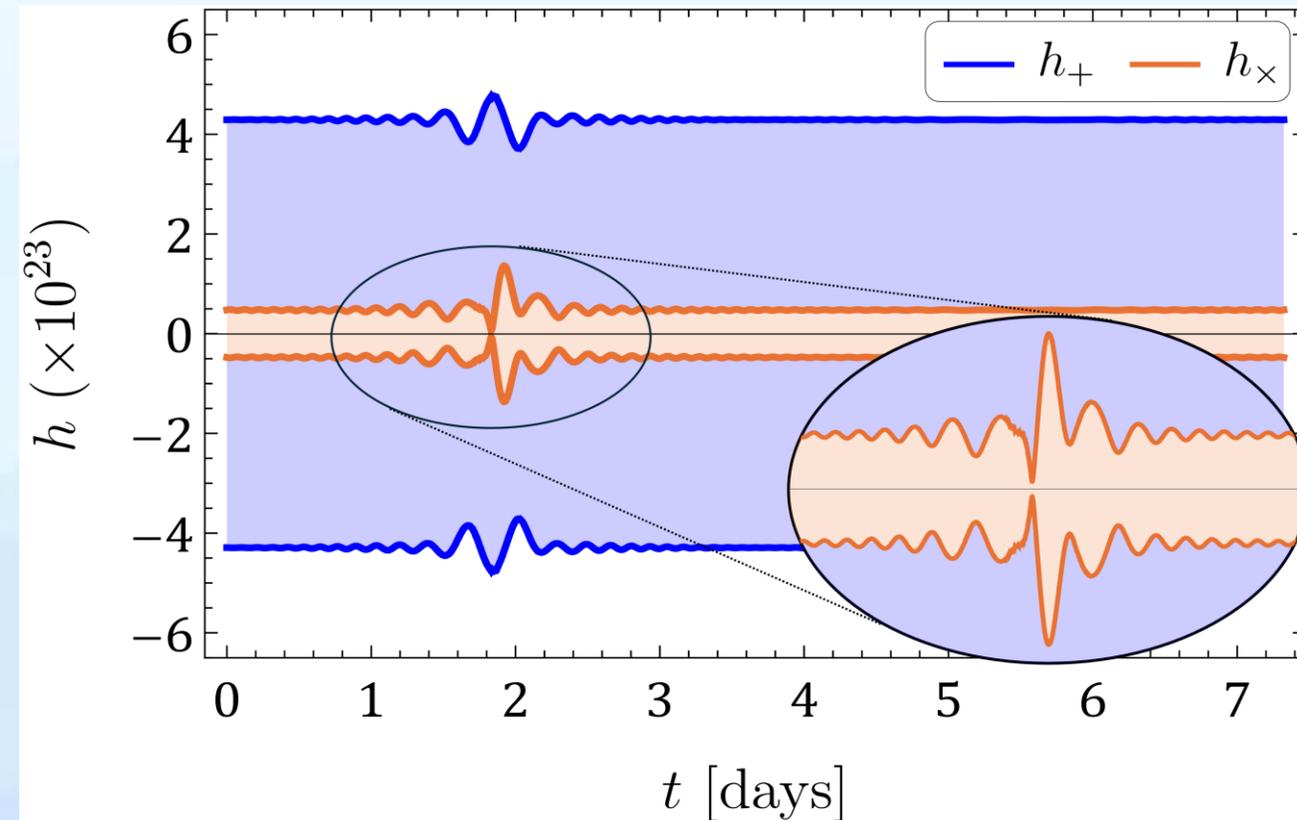
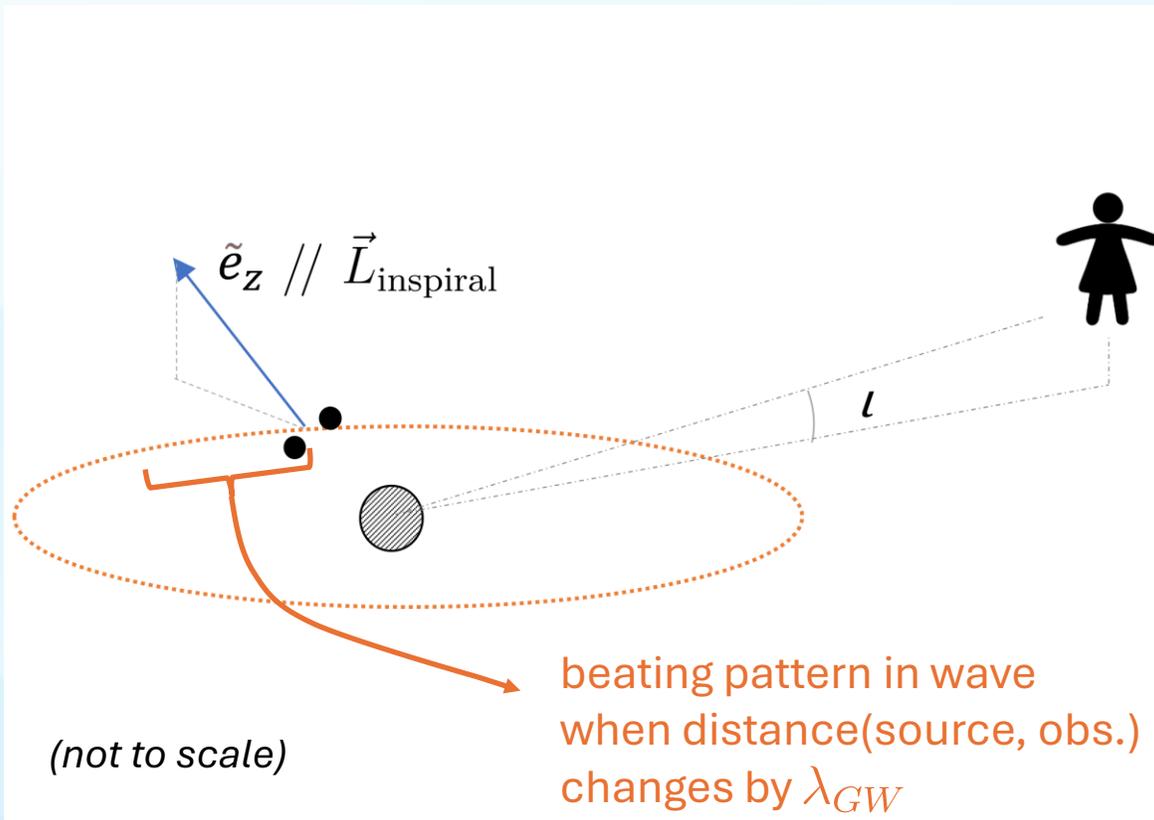
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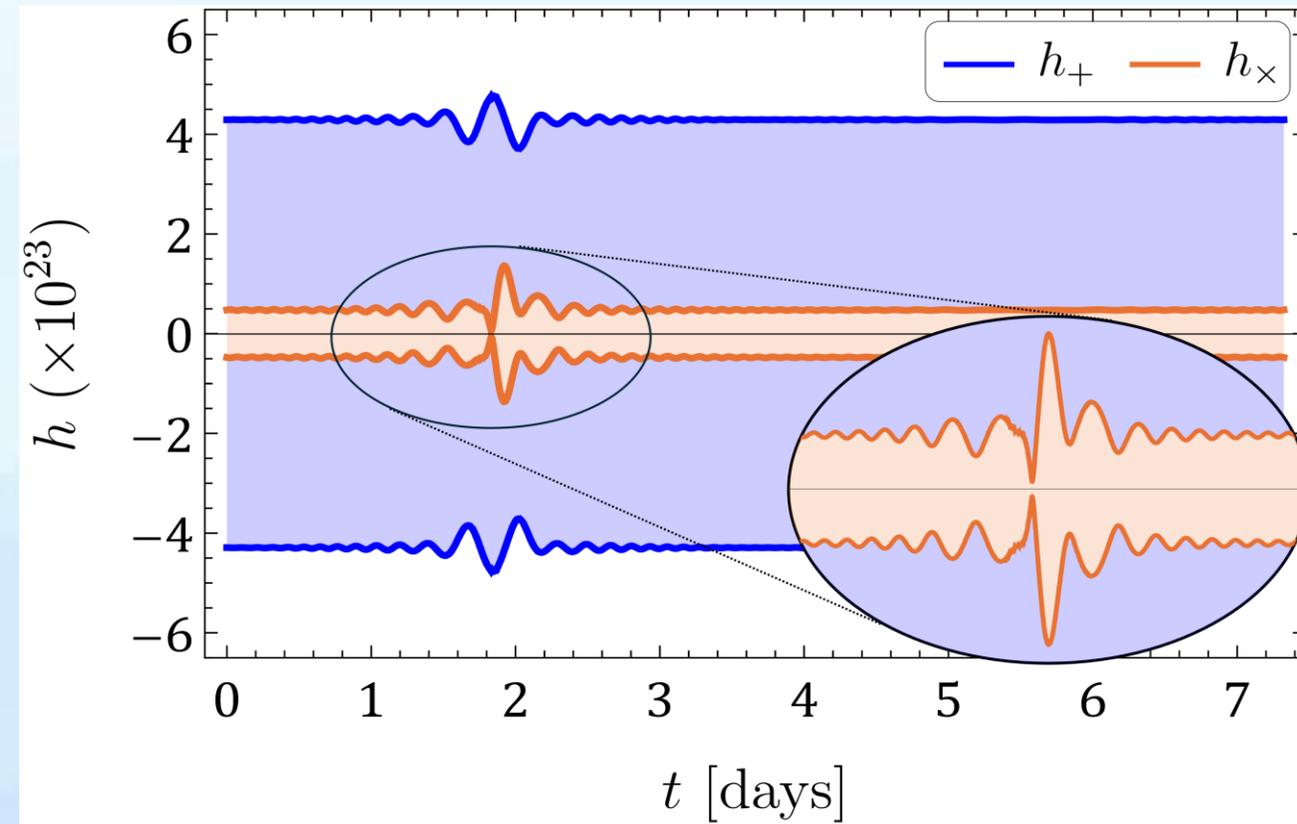
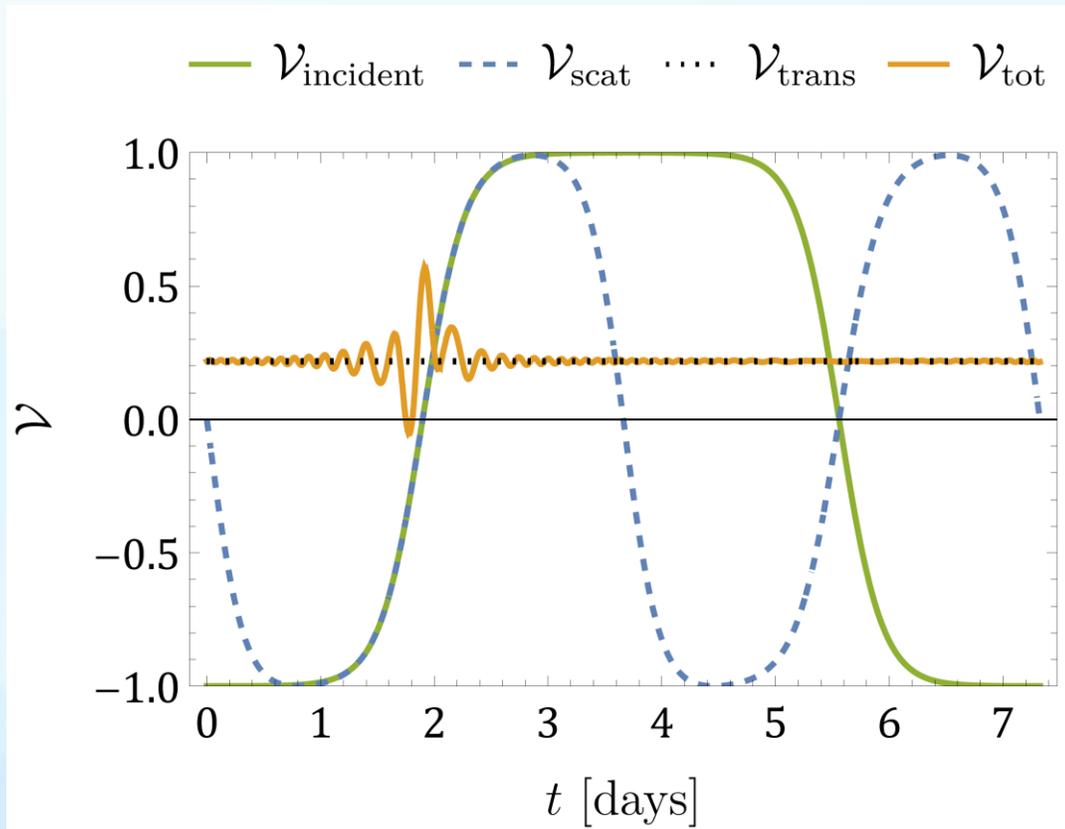
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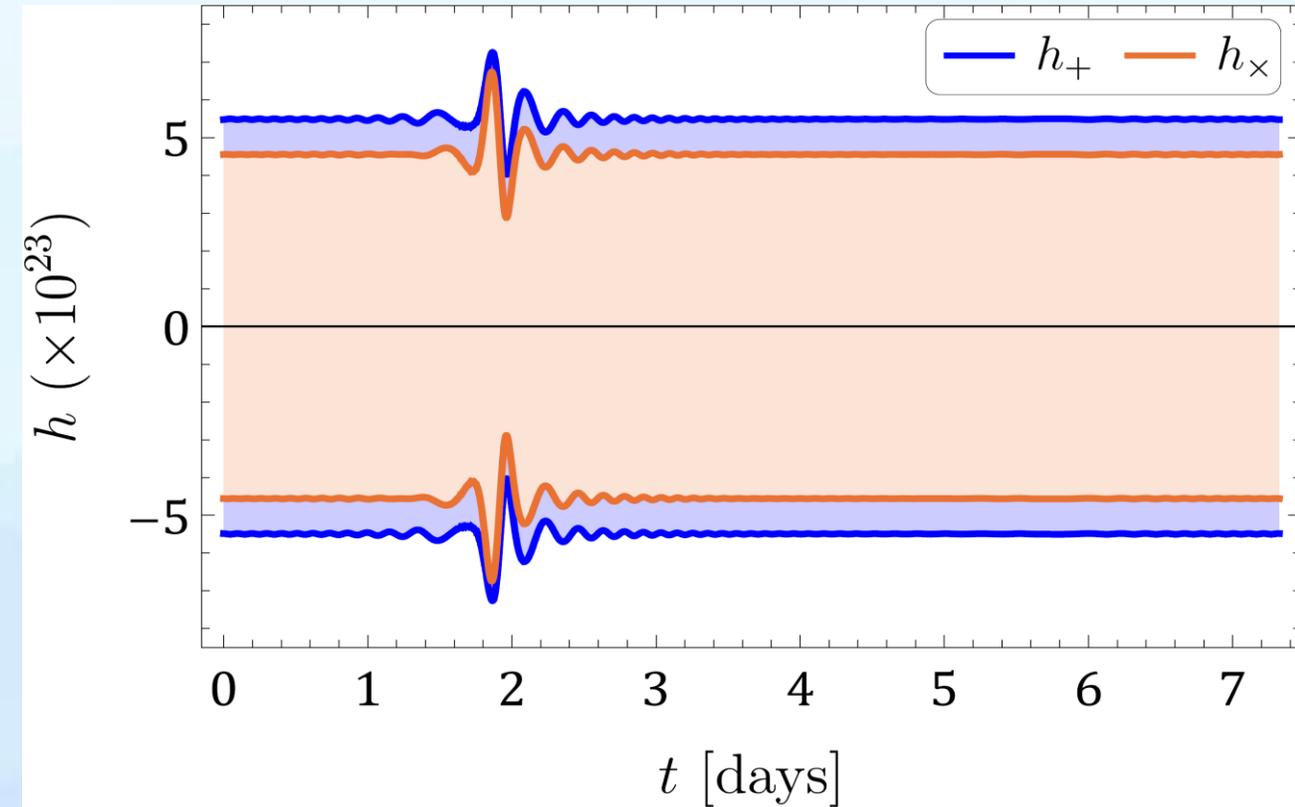
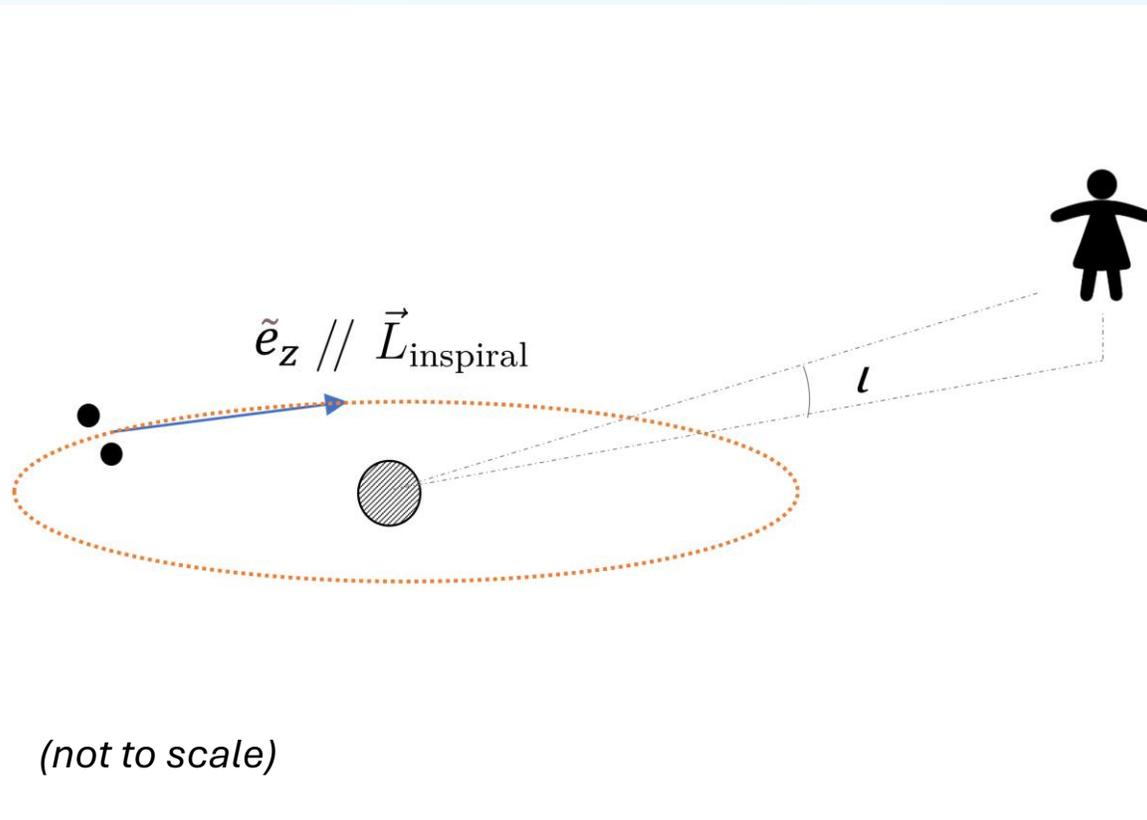
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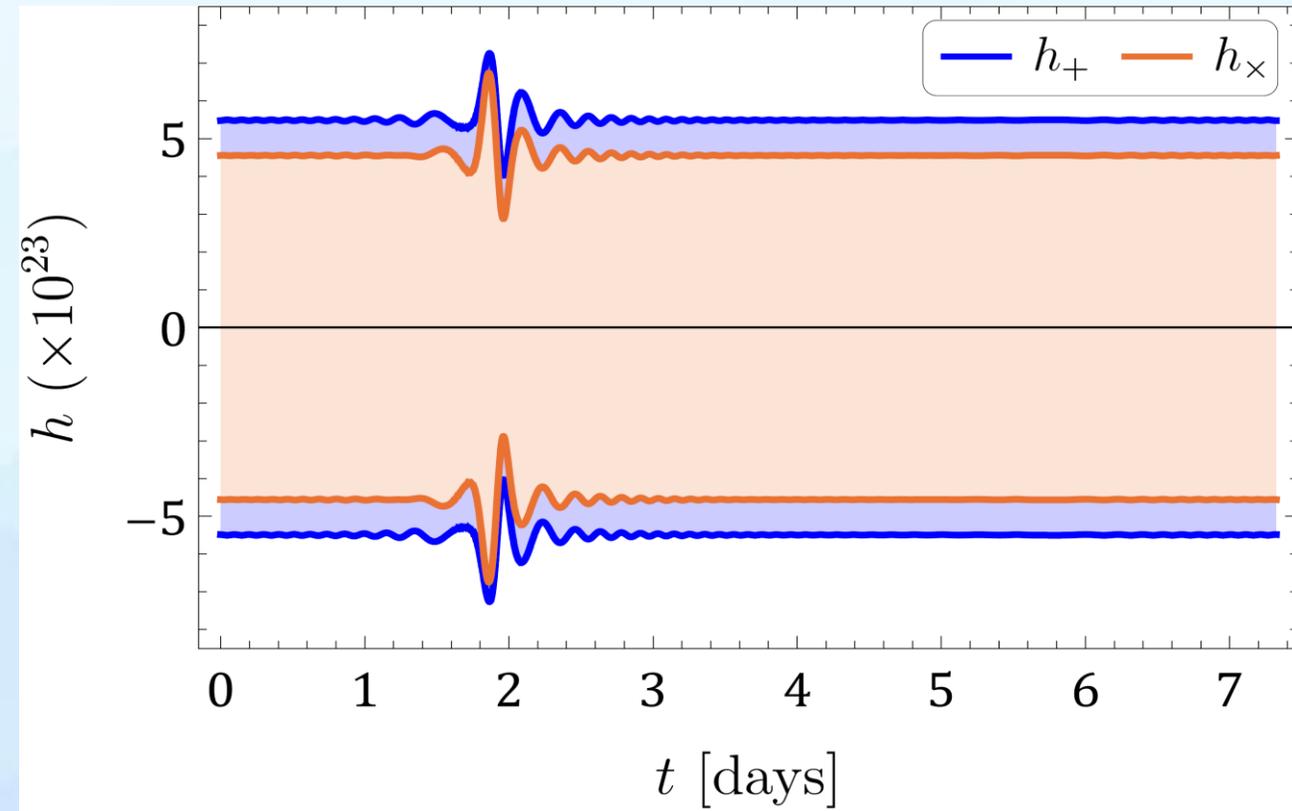
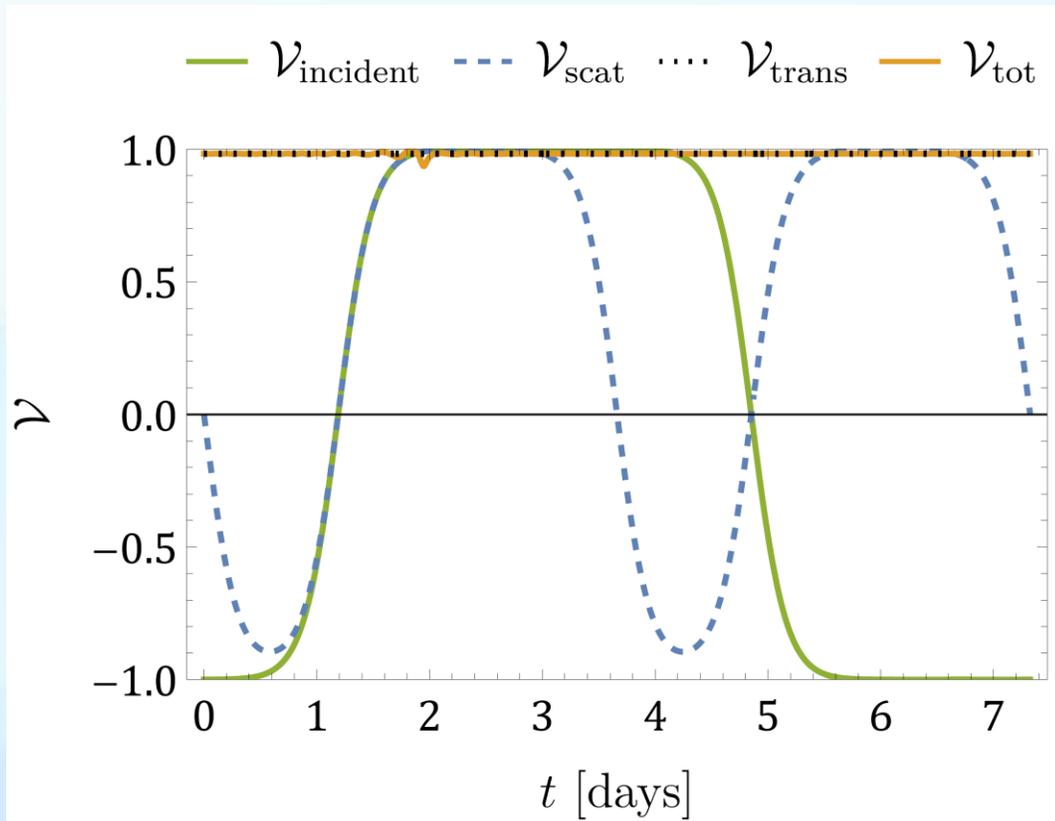
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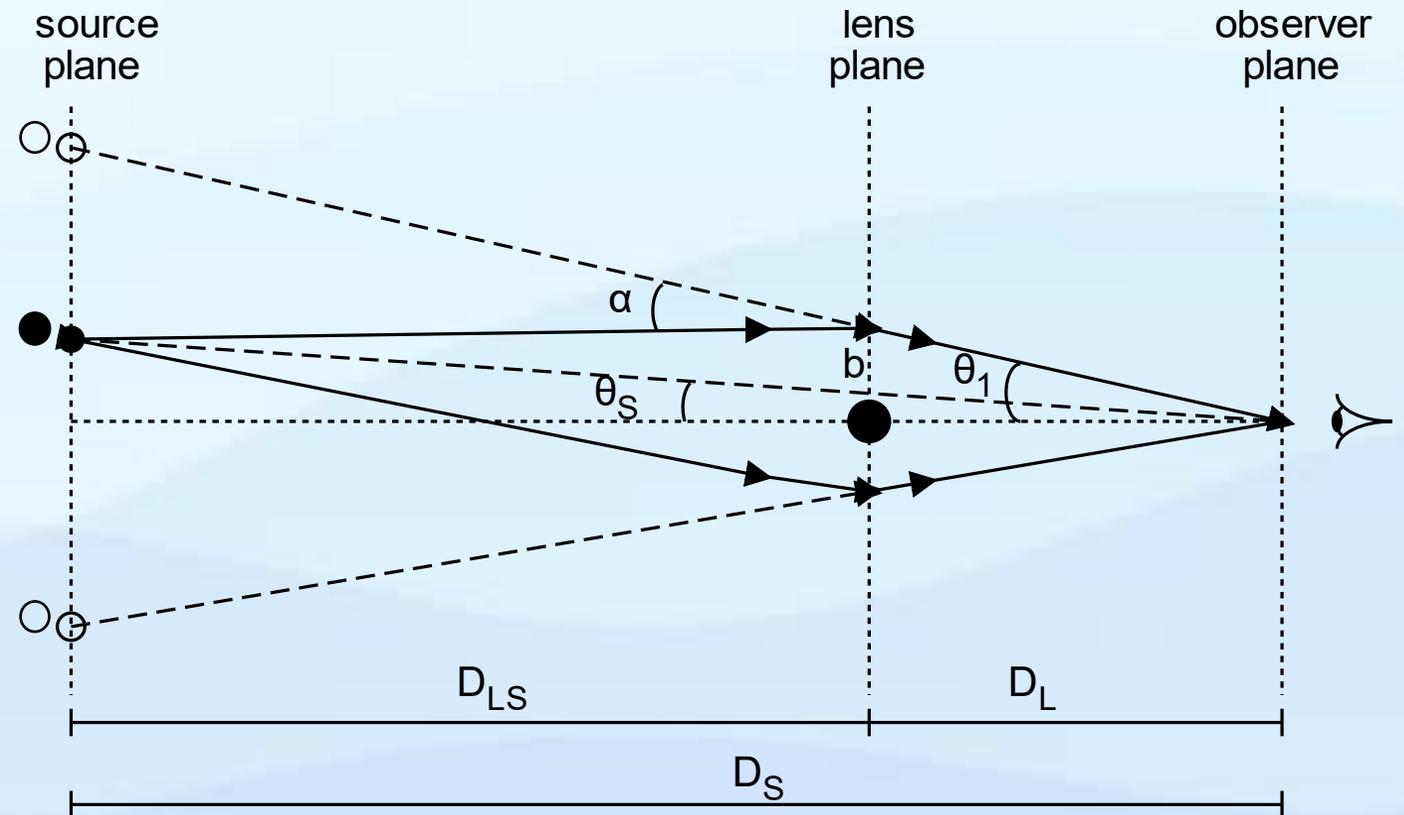
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GW lensing: geometrical optics

Assume you have a notion of *ray* :

→ Usual lensing picture
(deflection angle, etc.)



GW lensing: geometrical optics

Conceptually similar to (my) undergraduate lab optics

