

# Measuring eccentricity from gravitational waveform

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Need for Eccentric Waveforms

Current state of eccentric waveform models

Standardizing Eccentricity Definition

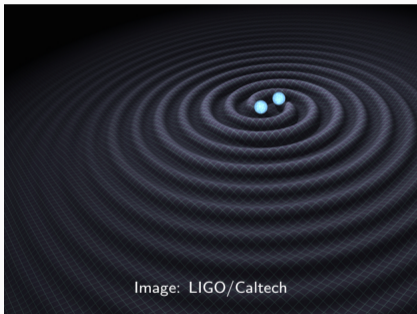
Implementation and demo

Summary and Remarks

## **Need for Eccentric Waveforms**

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## So far GW data analysis use quasicircular waveforms

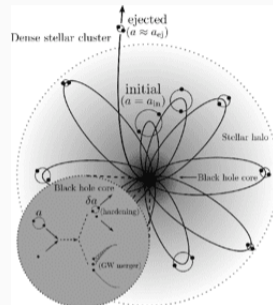


- About 90 CBCs have been detected.
- Analysed using quasicircular waveform models → eccentricity = 0
- Assuming that binaries circularize before entering detector band
- Binary lose eccentricity as it inspirals

[Peters and Mathews, 1963, Peters, 1964]

# The case for eccentricity

- Binaries formed in **galactic fields** → **isolated evolution** → **circularization**
- **Dynamical formation** → **highly eccentric binary** [Mapelli, 2020]
  - **globular cluster** via **direct capture** [Rodriguez et al., 2019, Rodriguez et al., 2018, Rodriguez et al., 2016, Samsing et al., 2014, Samsing et al., 2018]
  - **galactic center** [Antonini and Rasio, 2016]
  - Field triples via **Kozai-Lidov oscillation** [Naoz, 2016, Antonini et al., 2017]
- Require **eccentric** model for detection and analysis of these signals.



J. Samsing (2017)

## **Current state of eccentric waveform models**

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- **Post-Newtonian**
  - EccentricTD [Tanay et al., 2016]
  - EccentricFD [Huerta et al., 2014]
- **Effective One Body**
  - SEOBNRE [Cao and Han, 2017, Liu et al., 2020] SEOBNREHM [Liu et al., 2022]
  - SEOBNRv4EHM [Ramos-Buades et al., 2022a]
  - TEOBResumS [Nagar et al., 2021, Chiamarello and Nagar, 2020, Nagar et al., 2018]
- **Numerical Relativity**
  - SpEC [SXS Collaboration, ]
  - RIT [Healy and Lousto, 2022]
- **Numerical Relativity Surrogate** → NRSur2dq1Ecc [Islam et al., 2021]  
NRSur3dq4Ecc (ongoing)

- Non-LIGO works **claiming** evidence  
eccentricity [Gayathri et al., 2022, Romero-Shaw et al., 2022b, Romero-Shaw et al., 2020, Romero-Shaw et al., 2019]
- **Degeneracy** between eccentricity and precession or **correlation** with other  
parameters [Romero-Shaw et al., 2022a, O'Shea and Kumar, 2021]
- **Test of GR Bias** due to neglecting eccentricity.

## A few issues with current models

- **Incompatible** definitions of eccentricity → **model dependence** [Knee et al., 2022]
- **No unique definition** of eccentricity in GR → **gauge dependence**
- **Neglecting mean anomaly** as a free parameter [Islam et al., 2021, Clarke et al., 2022]
- **Lack of a standardized definition** → **ambiguity** in PE inference.

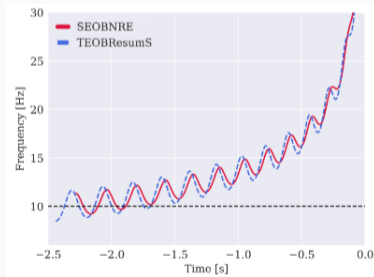


Image: A. Knee (2022)

## **Standardizing Eccentricity Definition**

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## Features of eccentric orbit

- Requires two additional parameters, **eccentricity**  $e$  and **mean anomaly**  $l$ .
- Intrinsic parameters  $\rightarrow$  masses, spins, eccentricity, mean anomaly.
- Maximum (minimum) radiation of GW at pericenter (apocenter)  $\rightarrow$  **modulations** in amplitude and frequency.
- In GR, **precession of pericenter**  $\rightarrow$  binary orbits are no longer closed ellipse.

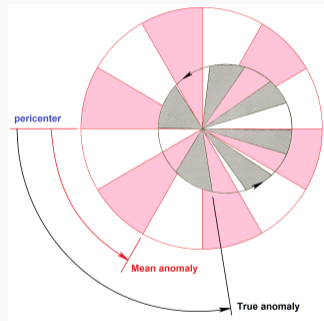


Image: Wikipedia

## Defining Eccentricity: required features

- Three parameters: eccentricity  $e$  and mean anomaly  $l$  at given reference frequency  $f_{\text{ref}}$ .
- Gauge independent and model independent
- Reduces to Keplerian eccentricity in Newtonian limit
- Applicable to full range of eccentricity  $(0 - 1)$  for bound orbits.
- Applicable to waveforms of different origins.
- Computationally cheap.

## Attempt 1: Using orbital frequency

Defining eccentricity using **orbital frequency** [Mora and Will, 2002, Lewis et al., 2017]

$$e_{\Omega_{\text{orb}}}(t) = \frac{\sqrt{\Omega_{\text{orb}}^{\text{p}}(t)} - \sqrt{\Omega_{\text{orb}}^{\text{a}}(t)}}{\sqrt{\Omega_{\text{orb}}^{\text{p}}(t)} + \sqrt{\Omega_{\text{orb}}^{\text{a}}(t)}} \rightarrow \frac{r^{\text{a}} - r^{\text{p}}}{r^{\text{a}} + r^{\text{p}}} \quad \text{reduces to correct Newtonian limit.} \quad (1)$$

$\Omega_{\text{orb}}^{\text{p}}/\Omega_{\text{orb}}^{\text{a}}$  and  $r^{\text{p}}/r^{\text{a}}$   $\rightarrow$  orbital frequency and separation at peri-/apocenter.

$e_{\Omega_{\text{orb}}}$  is **coordinate dependent** since  $\Omega_{\text{orb}}^{\text{p}}/\Omega_{\text{orb}}^{\text{a}}$  are obtained from the trajectories.

## Attempt 2: Using waveform frequency

To remove coordinate dependence, substitute  $\Omega_{\text{orb}}$  with  $\omega_{22}$

[Ramos-Buades et al., 2020, Islam et al., 2021, Ramos-Buades et al., 2022a, Bonino et al., 2022]

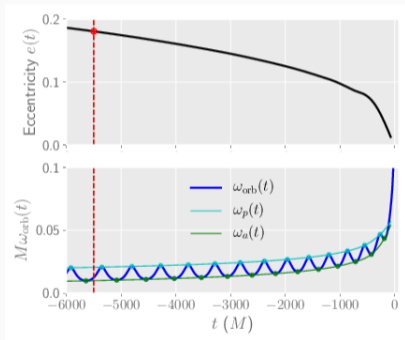


Image: Islam (2021)

$$h_+ - ih_\times = \sum_{l=2}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^{m=l} f_{lm}(\lambda, t) Y_{-2}^{lm} \quad (2)$$

$$e_{\omega_{22}} = \frac{\sqrt{\omega_{22}^p(t)} - \sqrt{\omega_{22}^a(t)}}{\sqrt{\omega_{22}^p(t)} + \sqrt{\omega_{22}^a(t)}} \quad (3)$$

$$\omega_{22} = \frac{d\phi_{22}}{dt} \quad (4)$$

$$f_{22} = A_{22} e^{-\phi_{22}} \quad (5)$$

However, it does not give correct Newtonian limit  $e_{\omega_{22}} = (3/4)e_t$  [Ramos-Buades et al., 2022b]

## Proposed definition of eccentricity

- To get the correct limit, we define  $e_{\text{gw}}$  [Ramos-Buades et al., 2022b]

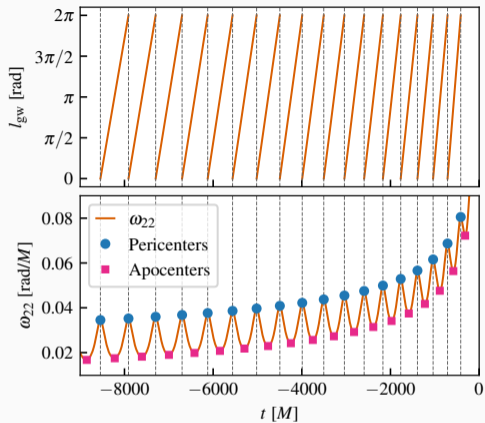
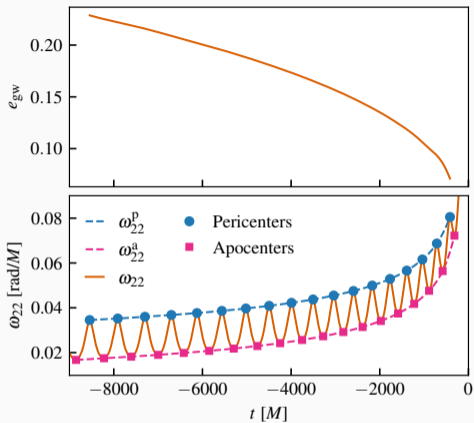
$$e_{\text{gw}} = \cos(\Psi/3) - \sqrt{3} \sin(\Psi/3), \quad \Psi = \arctan \left( \frac{1 - e_{\omega 22}^2}{2 e_{\omega 22}} \right). \quad (6)$$

$e_{\text{gw}}$  reduces to correct Newtonian definition in the Newtonian limit and it is coordinate-independent.

- Mean anomaly  $l_{\text{gw}}$  can be defined as

$$l_{\text{gw}}(t) = 2\pi \frac{t - t_p}{t_{p+1} - t_p}, \quad t_p \leq t < t_{p+1}, \quad (7)$$

where  $t_p/t_{p+1} \rightarrow$  time of previous/next pericenter passage.



**Figure 1:** Standardizing eccentricity and mean anomaly definition. Shaikh+ (2023)

## **Implementation and demo**

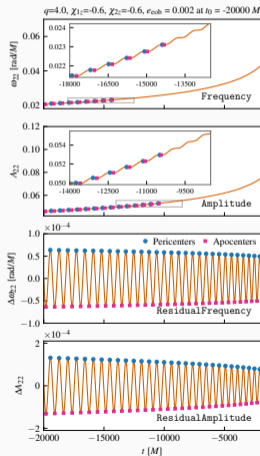
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## Implementation package: `gw_eccentricity`

- **Public** Python package `gw_eccentricity` to measure eccentricity and mean anomaly from GW waveform.
- **Available in PyPi**
- **6** different methods to compute eccentricity.
- Will undergo LIGO review for possible use in case of eccentric GW detection.

# Eccentricity measurement methods: Amplitude and Frequency

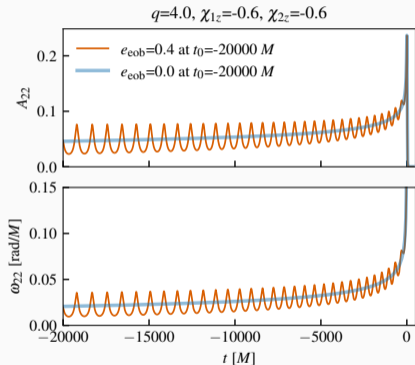
Each method is named after the data  $U(t)$  it uses for finding the pericenter/apocenter.



- **Amplitude** or **Frequency** uses  $U(t) = A_{22}$  or  $\omega_{22}$
- Works for only **relatively large** eccentricity  $\gtrsim 10^{-3}$

$$e_{\text{gw}} \gtrsim \frac{192}{15} \nu \left( \frac{M\omega_{22}}{2} \right)^{5/3}. \quad (8)$$

## ResidualAmplitude and ResidualFrequency



- Uses residual data
- For ResidualFrequency

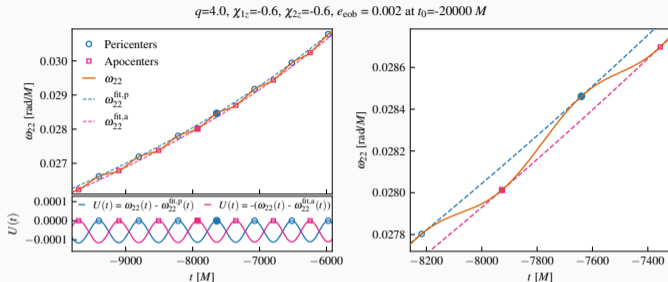
$$U(t) = \Delta\omega_{22}(t) \equiv \omega_{22}(t) - \omega_{22}^{\text{circ}}(t), \quad (9)$$

and likewise for the ResidualAmplitude

$$U(t) = \Delta A_{22}(t) \equiv A_{22}(t) - A_{22}^{\text{circ}}(t), \quad (10)$$

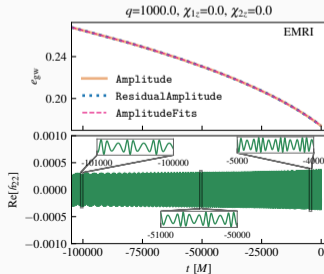
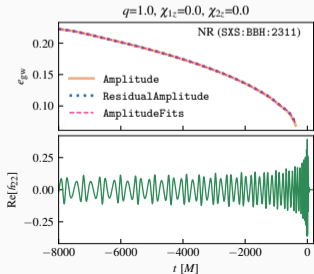
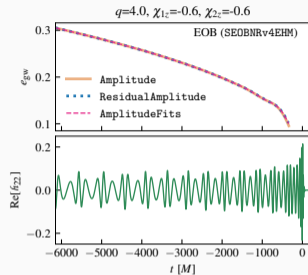
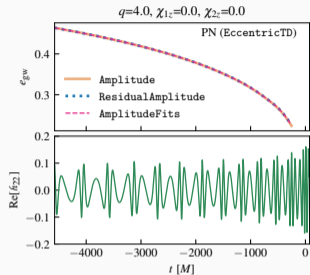
- Works for full range of  $e_{\text{gw}} \in (0 - 1)$

# AmplitudeFits and FrequencyFits

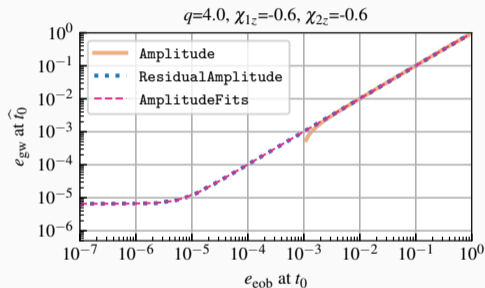


- It uses **residual** data  $U(t) = \omega_{22}(t) - \omega_{22}^{\text{fit,p}}(t)$ , where  $\omega_{22}^{\text{fit,p}}(t; A, n, t_{\text{merg}}) = A(t_{\text{merg}} - t)^n$
- **Works** for full range (0 – 1)
- **Less reliable** than **ResidualAmplitude** or **ResidualFrequency**.

# Applicable to different waveform models



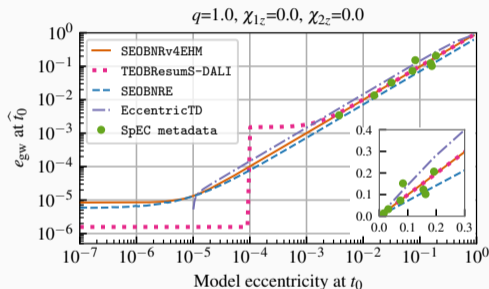
# Applicable to full range of eccentricity



Shaikh+ (2023)

- **Residual/Fits** Can measure eccentricity  
 $e_{\text{gw}} \approx 10^{-5}$  to  $e_{\text{gw}} \approx 1.0$
- **Amp/Freq** fails for  $e_{\text{gw}} \lesssim 10^{-3}$
- **Highlights** that waveform model no longer producing distinguishable waveforms below  $e_{\text{cob}} \lesssim 10^{-5}$ .

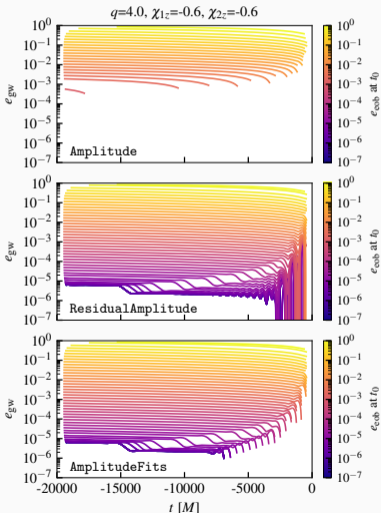
# Measured eccentricity $e_{\text{gw}}$ vs model eccentricity



- The models differ significantly at low eccentricity.
- TeOBResumS-DALI has a minimum eccentricity  $10^{-4} \rightarrow e_{\text{gw}} > 10^{-3}$
- EccentricTD has a minimum eccentricity  $10^{-5}$
- SEOBv4EHM and SEOBv4RE has  $e_{\text{gw}} \gtrsim 10^{-5}$

Shaikh+ (2023)

# Evolution of measured eccentricity $e_{\text{gw}}$



- Using a set of  $\approx 20,000M$  long SEOBNRv4EHM waveforms.
- $e_{\text{gw}}$  varies smoothly with time.
- The colors represent the initial  $e_{\text{eob}}$  at  $t_0 = -20,000M$
- Amplitude works for only  $e_{\text{gw}} \gtrsim 10^3$
- For smaller  $e_{\text{eob}}$ , Amplitude stops far from the merger.
- The jumps in ResidualAmplitude and AmplitudeFits highlights issues in the waveform model.

Apply `gw_eccentricity` to measure eccentricity directly from waveforms at the sample parameters and `reconstruct` the posterior on eccentricity.

## Summary and Remarks

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## Summary

- We implement a standardized definition of eccentricity and mean anomaly.
- This definition is model-independent, gauge-independent.
- Reduces to the well known Keplerian definition of eccentricity in the Newtonian limit.
- We provide public package `gw_eccentricity` with several methods to measure eccentricity.
- Our implementation is robust and applies to different waveform models.

**Thank you!**

## General Relativity and Quantum Cosmology

[Submitted on 22 Feb 2023]

### Defining eccentricity for gravitational wave astronomy

Md Arif Shaikh, Vijay Varma, Harald P. Pfeiffer, Antoni Ramos-Buades, Maarten van de Meent

Eccentric compact binary mergers are significant scientific targets for current and future gravitational wave observatories. To detect and analyze eccentric signals, there is an increasing effort to develop waveform models, numerical relativity simulations, and parameter estimation frameworks for eccentric binaries. Unfortunately, current models and simulations adopt different internal parameterisations of eccentricity in the absence of a unique natural definition of eccentricity in general relativity, which can result in incompatible eccentricity measurements. In this paper, we present a standard definition of eccentricity and mean anomaly based solely on waveform quantities. This definition is free of gauge ambiguities, has the correct Newtonian limit, and can be applied as a postprocessing step when comparing eccentricity measurements from different models. This standardization puts all models and simulations on the same footing and enables direct comparisons between eccentricity estimates from gravitational wave observations and astrophysical predictions. We demonstrate the applicability of our definition for waveforms of different origins, including post-Newtonian theory, effective one body, extreme mass ratio inspirals, and numerical relativity simulations. We focus on binaries without spin-precession in this work, but possible generalizations to spin-precessing binaries are discussed. We make our implementation publicly available through an easy-to-use Python package, `gw_eccentricity`.

Comments: Python implementation available at [this https URL](https://github.com/ArifShaikh/gw_eccentricity).

Subjects: **General Relativity and Quantum Cosmology (gr-qc)**; High Energy Astrophysical Phenomena (astro-ph.HE)

Cite as: arXiv:2302.11257 [gr-qc]

(or arXiv:2302.11257v1 [gr-qc] for this version)

#### Submission history

From: Arif Shaikh Md [[view email](#)]

[v1] Wed, 22 Feb 2023 10:10:45 UTC (3,547 KB)

## gw-eccentricity 1.0.0

Latest version

```
pip install gw-eccentricity
```

Released: Feb 24, 2023

Defining eccentricity for gravitational wave astronomy.

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Release history

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#### Project description





Defining eccentricity for gravitational wave astronomy



[GitHub: gw-eccentricity](#) [pip package: 1.0.0](#) [Source: 107](#) [Python: 3.10.0](#)



#### Project links



Homepage


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