

Gravitational wave lensing beyond General Relativity

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(to appear soon) with Miguel Zumalacárregui



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Testing cosmo GW propagation

- Around FRW background, parametrized modified GW propagation

$$h''_{ij} + (2 + \nu)\mathcal{H} h'_{ij} + (c_g^2 k^2 + a^2 m_g^2) h_{ij} = \Pi_{ij}$$

Amplitude

Speed

Dispersion

Source

[review [Ezquiaga&Zumalacárregui'18](#)]

[see also [Beltran, Ezquiaga, Heisenberg'19](#)]

Pros

- **Decoupling** of scalar, vector and tensor modes
- **Simple** evolution equations
- Tight **constrains** on cosmological modifications.
E.g. [GW170817](#) $|\alpha_T| < 10^{-16}$

Cons

- Only probes GW **mixing** with **tensor** modes
- Only **reduced sector** of the gravity theory is tested
- Most tests require **EM counterparts**

GW lensing in GR

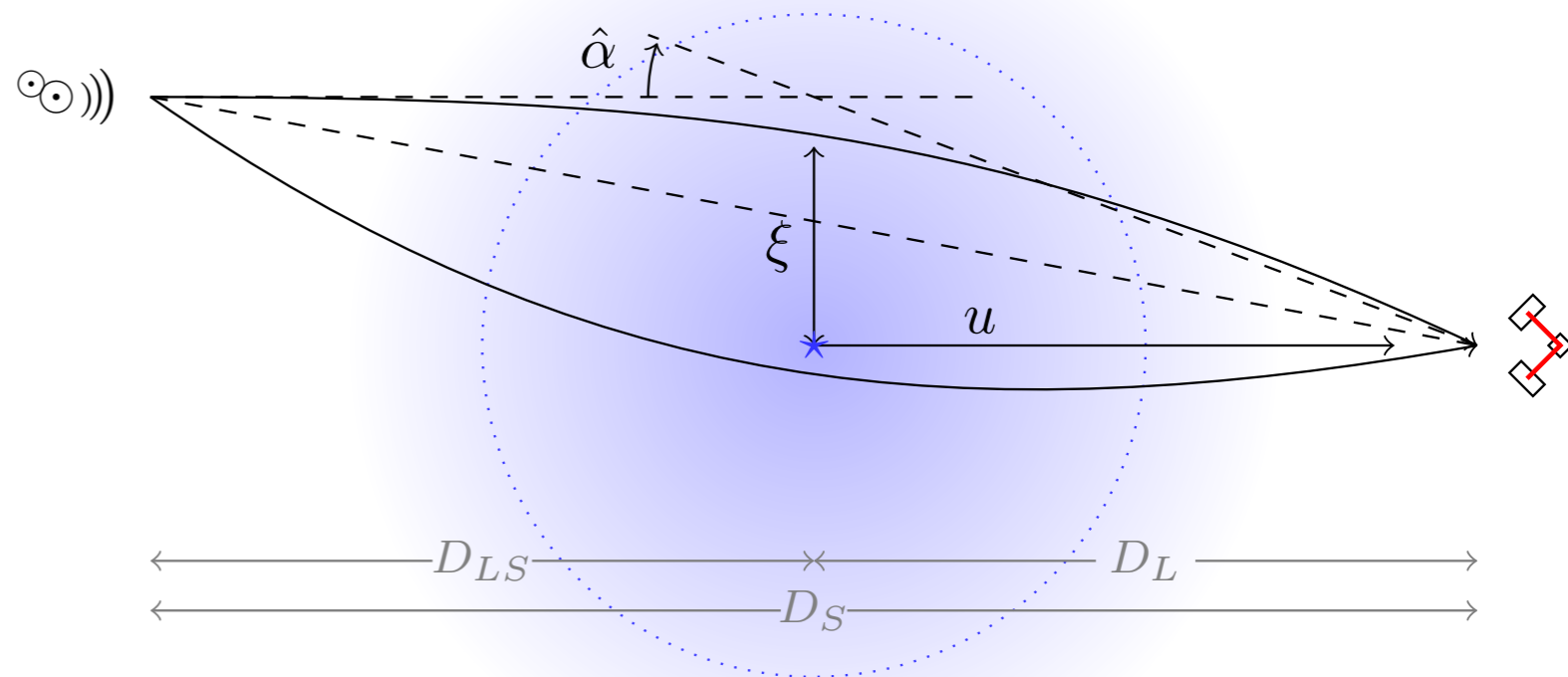
- Local gravitational potential modifies GW trajectory

$$\vec{\hat{\alpha}} \approx -\frac{1}{2} \int du \vec{\nabla}_{\perp} c_{\text{gw}}^2(\vec{x}) \approx 2 \int du \vec{\nabla}_{\perp} \Phi(\vec{x})$$

- And arrival time

$$\Delta t = \Delta t_{\text{Shapiro}} + \Delta t_{\text{geom}}$$

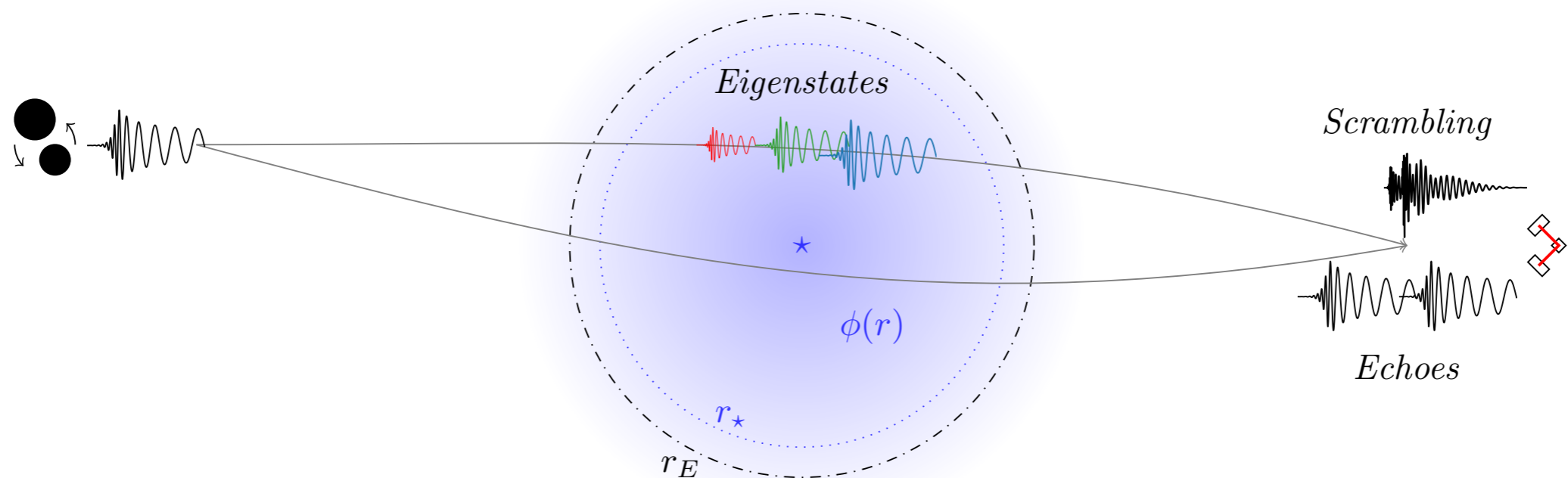
$$\Delta t_{\text{Shapiro}} \approx \int du c_{\text{gw}}^{-1}(x)$$



In **strong lensing** regime, **multiple images** of the same source arrive at the detector with different **time delays**

GW lensing beyond GR

- Beyond GR the background of the additional fields $\phi(r)$ modify propagation (besides the change in gravitational potential)
- The relevant scale for the modifications r_* might be different from the Einstein radius r_E



GWs can **mix** with the additional fields. The propagation **eigenstates** may have different speeds, **splitting** or **distorting** each image

Diagonalizing the propagation

- We will concentrate in scalar-tensor theories

$$g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{tot}} = g_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \qquad \phi^{\text{tot}} = \phi + \varphi$$

- Solving the propagation implies diagonalizing an 11x11 set of equations

$$\mathcal{D}_{ab}V_b = 0, \quad V_b = (h_{\mu\nu}, \varphi)$$

- Locally one can solve the constraint equations to arrive at 3x3 system

Leading derivative eqs.

Mixing matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} G_{hh} & 0 & G_{+s} \\ 0 & G_{hh} & G_{\times s} \\ G_{+s} & G_{\times s} & G_{ss} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h_+ \\ h_\times \\ \varphi \end{pmatrix} = 0 \qquad \begin{pmatrix} H_1 \\ H_2 \\ H_3 \end{pmatrix} = \hat{\mathcal{M}} \begin{pmatrix} h_+ \\ h_\times \\ \varphi \end{pmatrix}$$

Propagation basis

Interaction basis

Diagonalizing the propagation

- Mixing terms: $G_{+s} = M_\phi \cos(2\beta)\square$, $G_{\times s} = M_\phi \sin(2\beta)\square$

- Pure metric:*

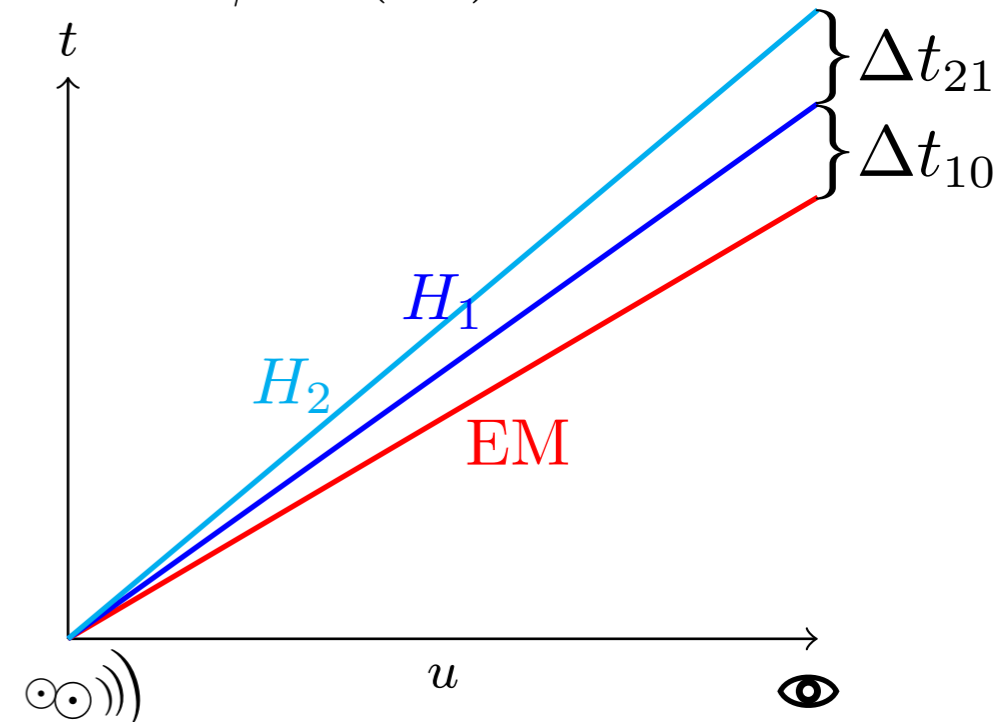
$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -\sin(2\beta) \\ \cos(2\beta) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad c_1^2 = c_h^2$$

- Mostly-metric:*

$$\vec{v}_2 \approx \begin{pmatrix} \cos(2\beta) \\ \sin(2\beta) \\ M_\phi \frac{c^2 - c_h^2}{c_h^2 - c_s^2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad c_2^2 \approx c_h^2 + M_\phi^2 \frac{(c_h^2 - c^2)^2}{c_h^2 - c_s^2}$$

- Mostly-scalar:*

$$\vec{v}_3 \approx \begin{pmatrix} M_\phi \cos(2\beta) \\ M_\phi \sin(2\beta) \\ \frac{c_s^2 - c_h^2}{c^2 - c_s^2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad c_3^2 \approx c_s^2 - M_\phi^2 \frac{(c_s^2 - c^2)^2}{c_h^2 - c_s^2}$$



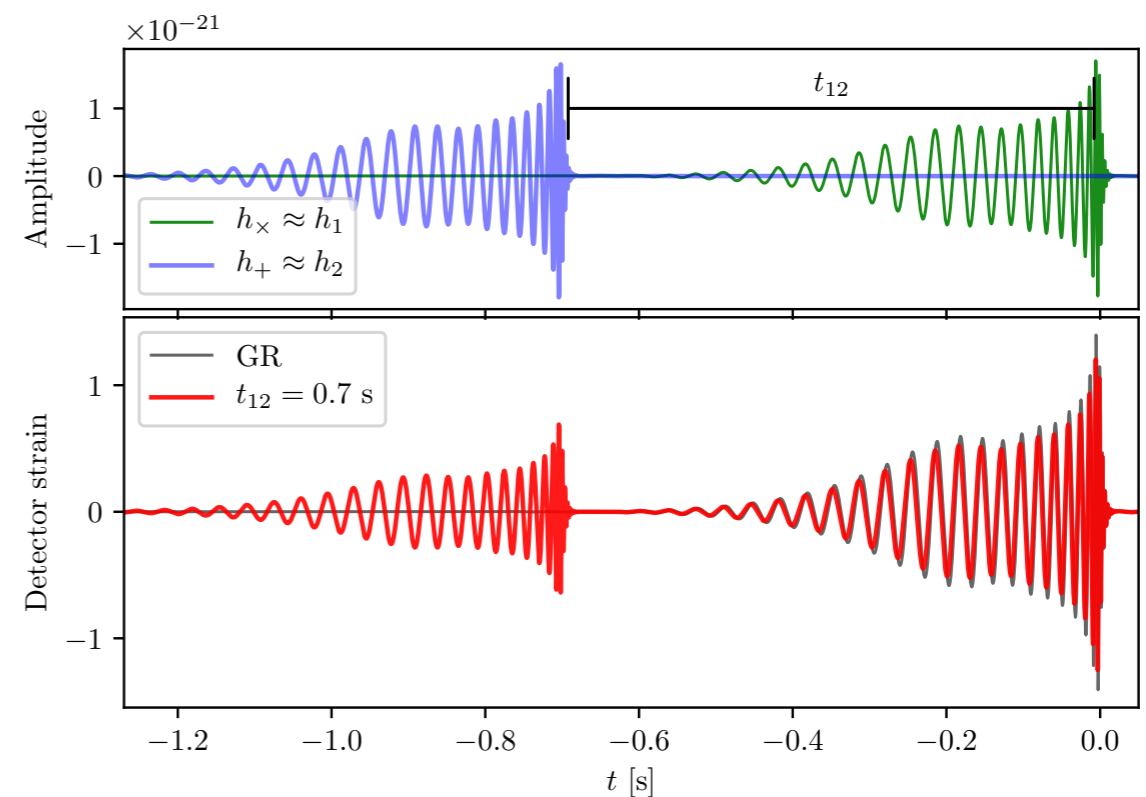
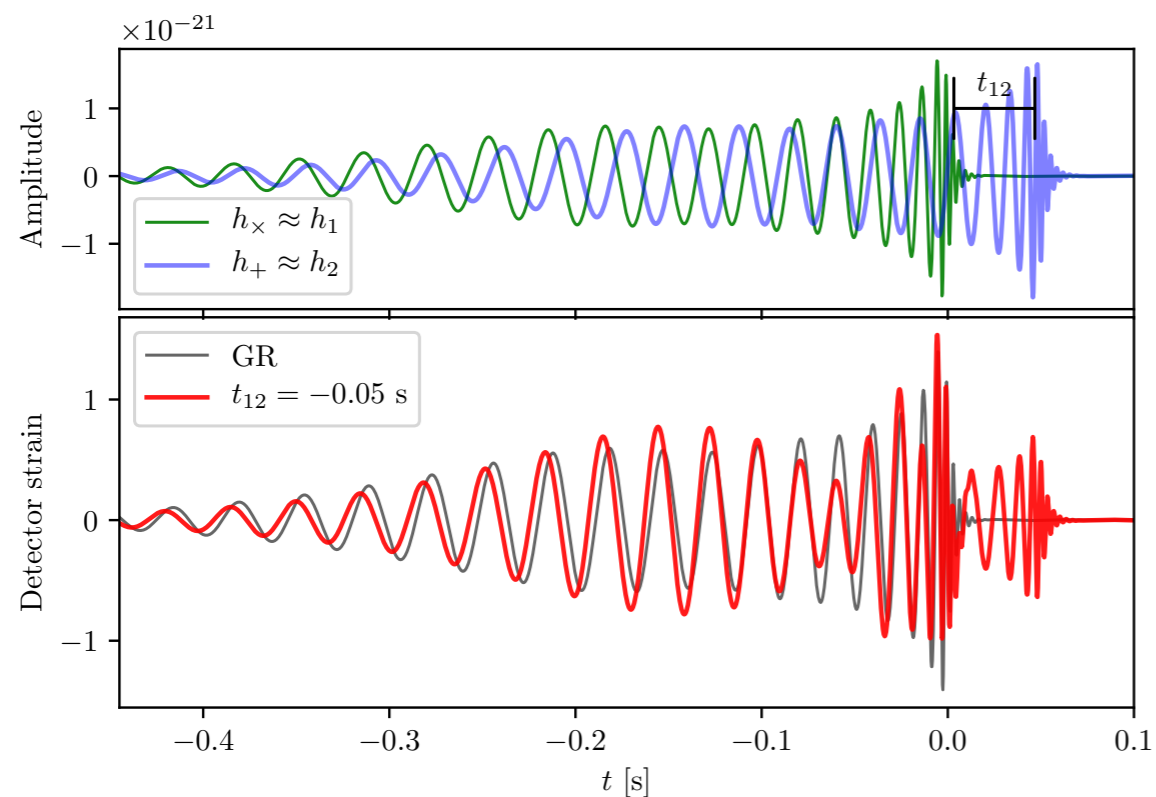
Main effects

Modified effective metric for each eigenstate and polarization mixing

Time delays

Birefringence

- For each lensed image there could be scrambling or echoes
- No need of EM counterpart!



Screening in Horndeski

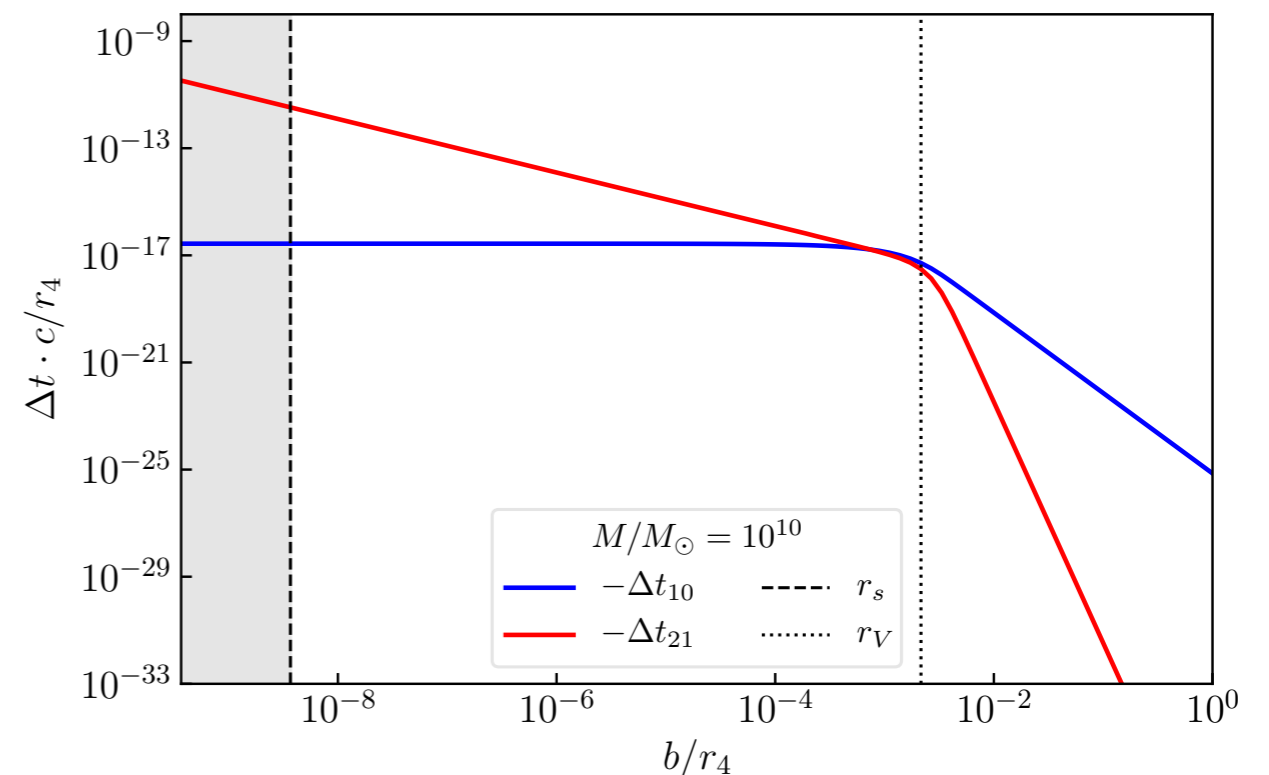
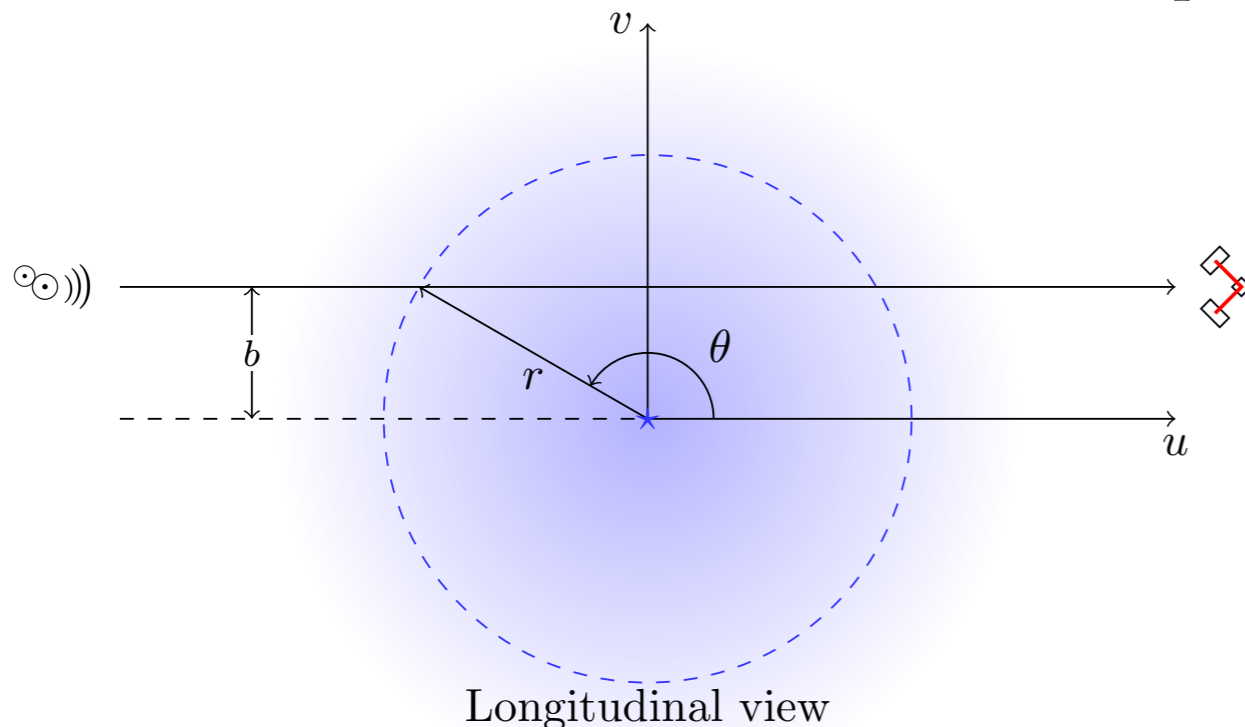
- Let us consider the effect of screening in the GW propagation for a quartic Horndeski theory

$$\mathcal{L} \sim \mathcal{L}_{\text{shift-sym}} + p_{4\phi} \phi M_{\text{Pl}} R \quad G_4 \sim \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{2} \left(1 + p_{4X} \frac{(\partial\phi)^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \Lambda_4^2} \right)$$

- Relevant scales: quartic term length scale and Vainshtein radius

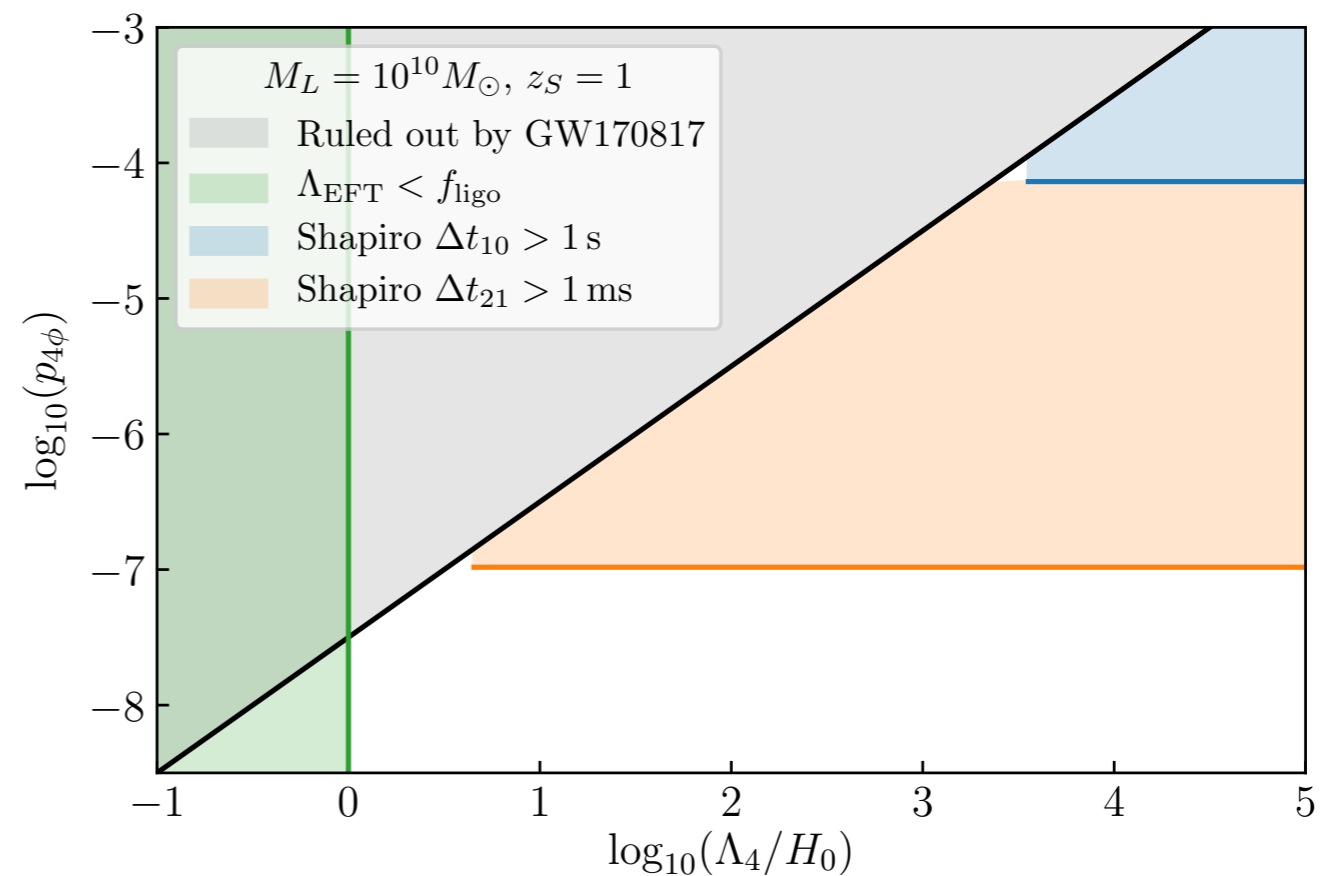
$$(r_4)^3 = \frac{r_s}{2\Lambda_4^2}$$

$$r_V = p_{4\phi}^{1/3} r_4$$



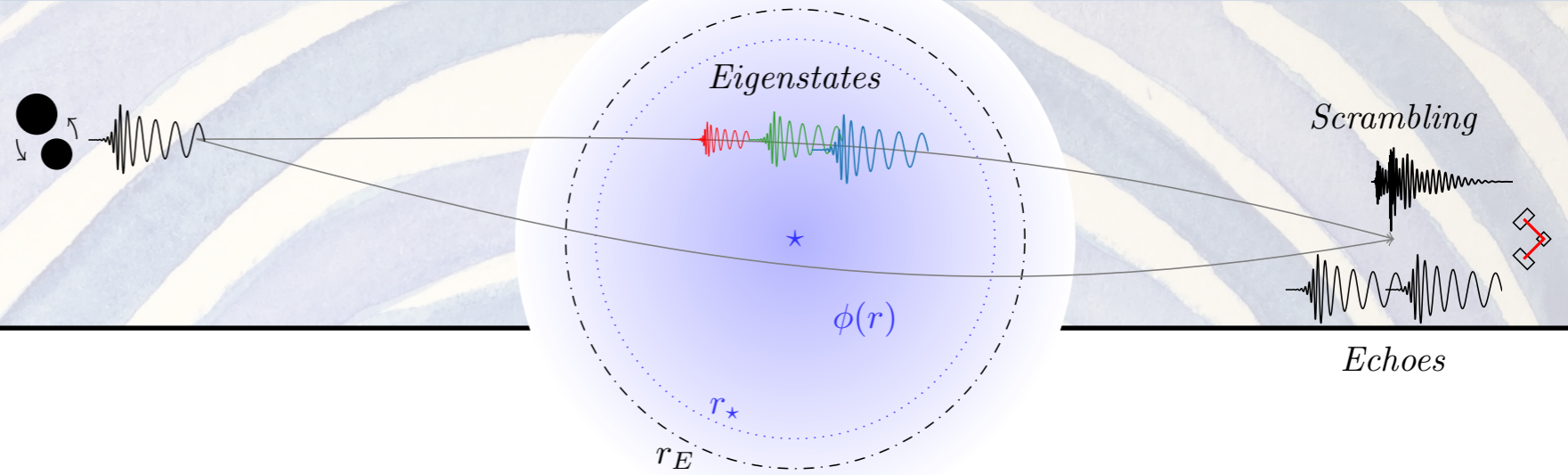
Screening in Horndeski

- Screening can be probed through the multi-messenger time delay Δt_{10} or the birefringent time delay Δt_{21}
- Shapiro delay is independent of the source-lens distances
- Most probable, largest delay occurs for impact parameters around the Vainshtein



GW lensing beyond GR can probe regions of the parameter space
unconstrained by GW170817

Summary



- Beyond General Relativity additional fields may **mix** with GWs while they propagate near a gravitational lens: **new effects beyond FRW!**
- Diagonalizing the evolution at leading order in derivatives one can obtain the **propagation eigenstates**, their **velocities** and **polarization composition**
- Without EM counterparts, **birefringent time delay** could probe models with **screening** and **unconstrained** by GW170817
- Plenty of room for **future work**: beyond leading order, prob. crossing multiple lenses, additional polarizations constraints, other theories...