

Efficient methods for wave-optics lensing

Hector Villarrubia-Rojó

June 23, 2025



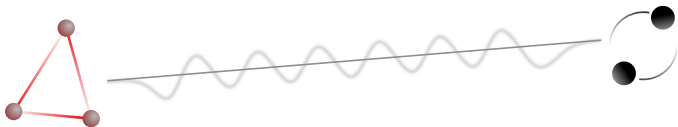
Funded by the
European Union
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with G. Brando, L. Choi, S. Goyal,
S. Savastano, G. Tambalo and
M. Zumalacárregui

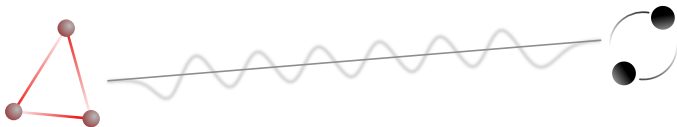


MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
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(Albert-Einstein-Institut)

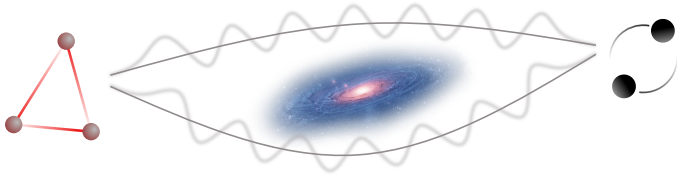


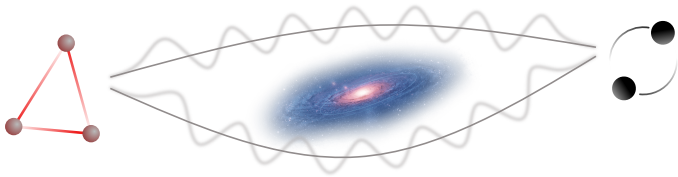


- Hard to detect but very clean (good models)
- Propagate through ‘opaque’ regions
- Poor source localization
- Direct measurement of distance, redshift unknown
- Measure of amplitude rather than intensity (amplitude²)

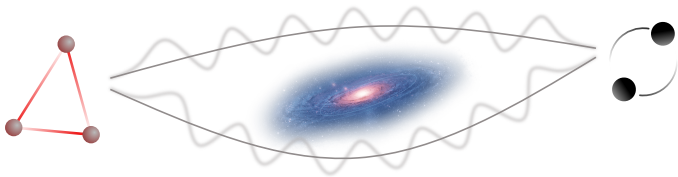


GW lensing



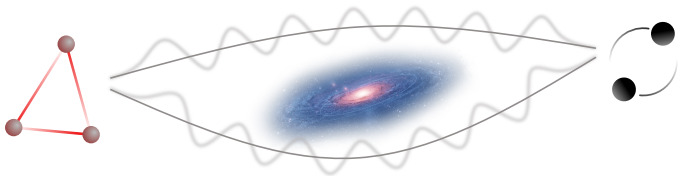


Why should we care?



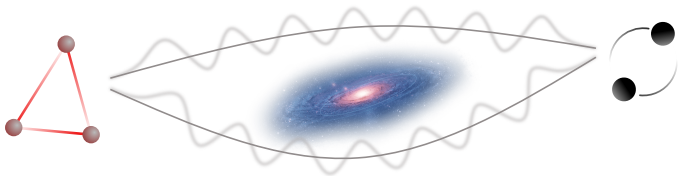
Why should we care?

- We will see lensed events



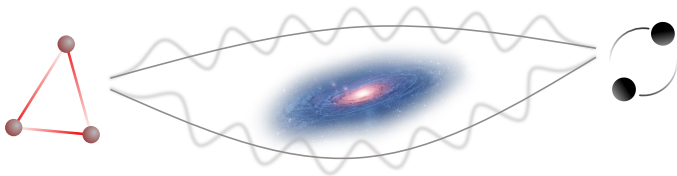
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Why should we care?

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- GWs complement electromagnetic lensing



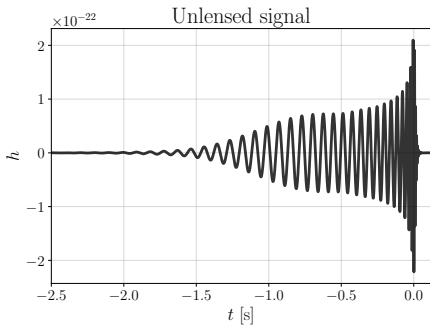
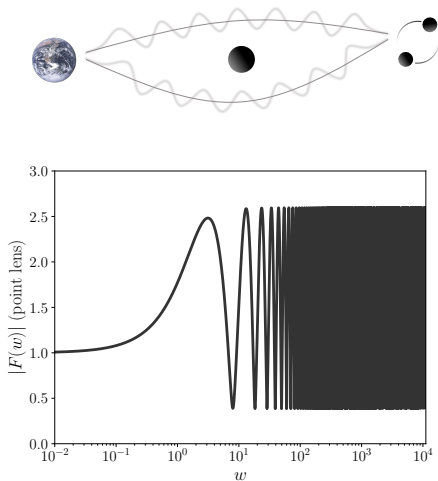
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Lensing effects are encapsulated in the amplification factor:

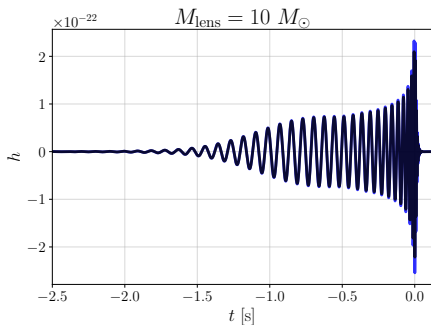
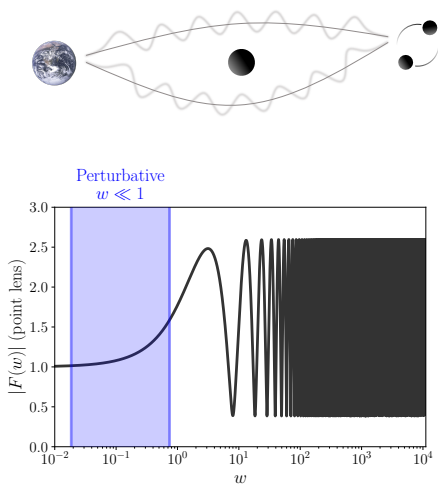
$$h_L(w) = F(w)h_0(w)$$

Strong lensing with LVK/ET



$30 + 30 M_{\odot}$ BBH at $z = 1$

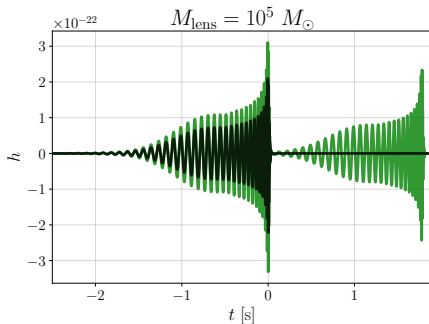
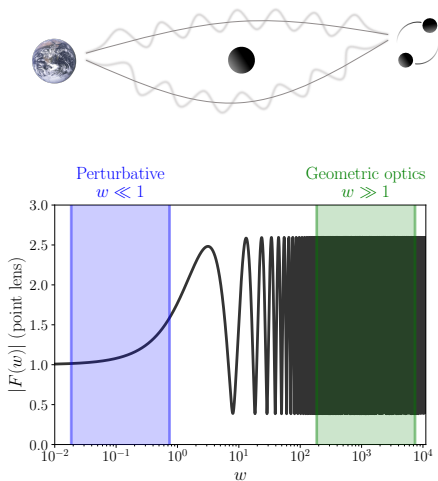
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$$h_L(w) = F(w)h_0(w)$$

$$F(w) = 1 + \mathcal{O}(w)$$

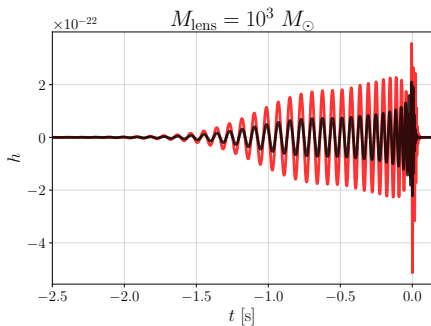
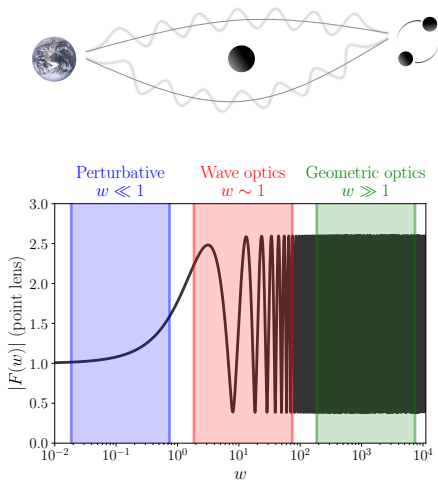
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$$h_L(w) = F(w)h_0(w)$$

$$F(w) = \sum_I \sqrt{\mu_I} e^{iw\Delta\tau_I + i\pi n_I} + \mathcal{O}(w^{-1})$$

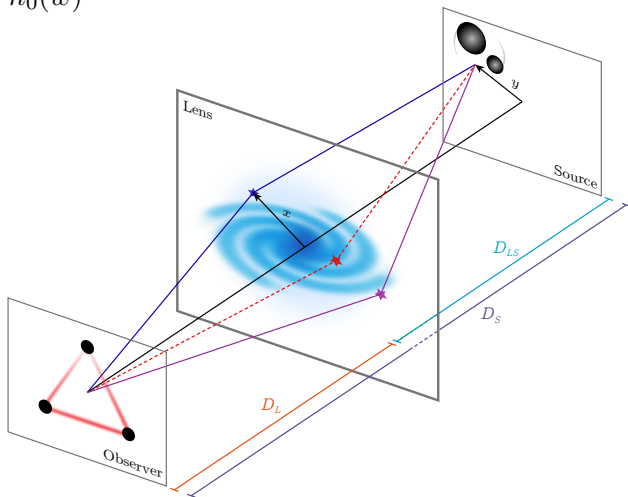
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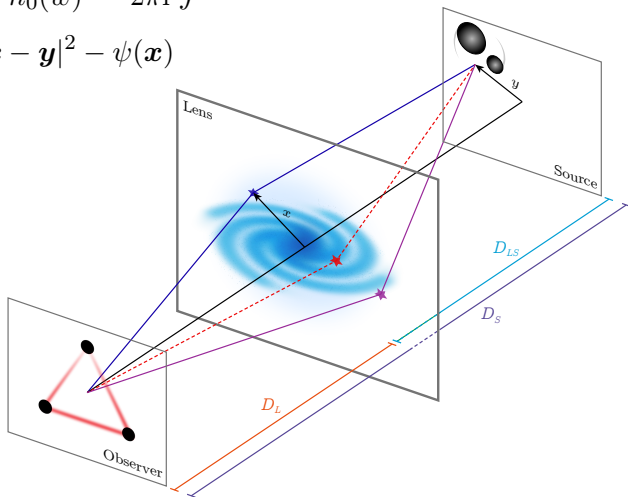
$$F(w) = ?$$

$$F(w) = \frac{h_L(w)}{h_0(w)}$$



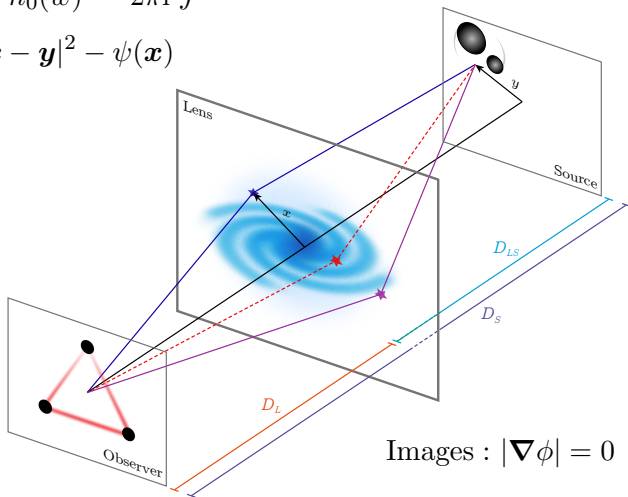
$$F(w) = \frac{h_L(w)}{h_0(w)} = \frac{w}{2\pi i} \int d^2x \exp(iw\phi)$$

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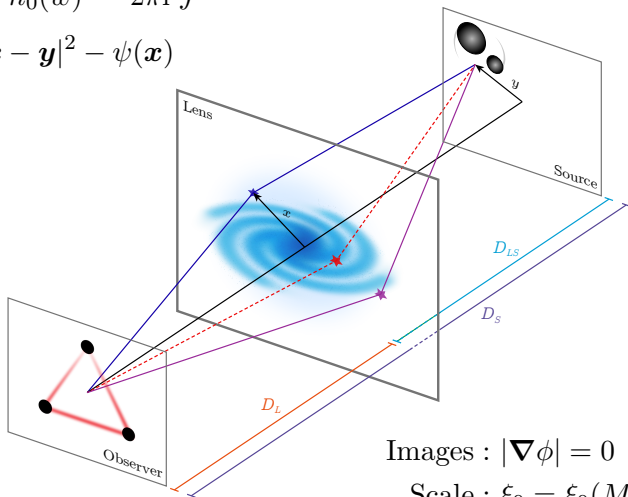
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Images : $|\nabla\phi| = 0$

Scale : $\xi_0 = \xi_0(M, z_L, z_S, \dots)$

$y = y_{\text{phys}}/\xi_0$

$w = \xi_0 f_{\text{phys}}$

Simplest approach: geometric optics

Amplification factor:

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Compute the critical points $|\nabla\phi| = 0$ and use the stationary phase approximation

$$F(w) \simeq \sum_i \sqrt{\mu_i} e^{iw\tau_i + i\pi n_i} + \mathcal{O}(1/w)$$

This is the *geometric optics* (GO) result.

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✓ Very simple and fast

✗ Misses completely the wave-optics effects ($w \sim 1$)

Our approach: time-domain

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$$F(w) = \frac{w}{2\pi i} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau e^{iw\tau} I(\tau)$$
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Grid method

- J.M. Diego+ 2019
- X. Shan+ 2023, 2024, `Microlensing_Wave_Effect`
- S.M.C. Yeung+ 2024, `wolensing`

Contour method

- Ulmer, Goodman 1994
- Tambalo+ 2022, 2023
- M.H.-Y. Cheung 2023, `glworia`

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✗ Hard to implement in full generality

✓ Already implemented → GLoW

Contour method

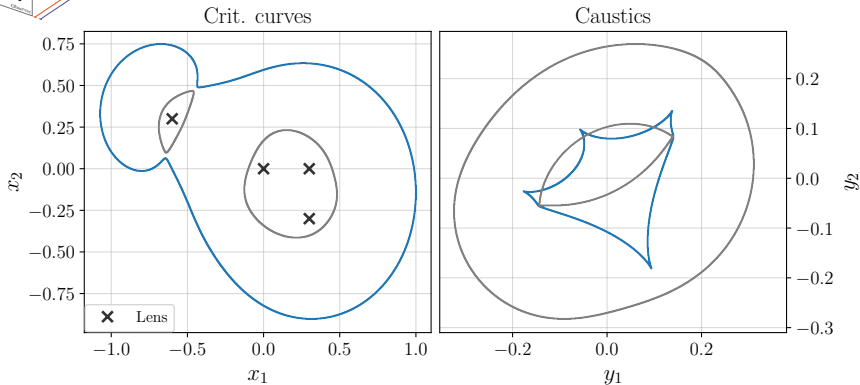
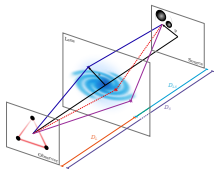
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Contour method: Step by step

- (1) Choose a lens, $\psi(\boldsymbol{x})$
- (2) Choose a source position, $\boldsymbol{y}$
- (3) Find critical points, $|\nabla\phi| = 0$
- (4) Compute the time-domain amplification factor, $I(\tau)$
- (5) Transform to the frequency-domain, $F(w)$

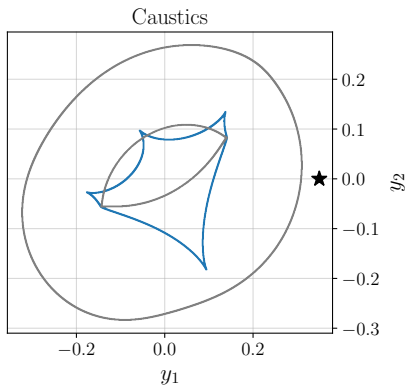
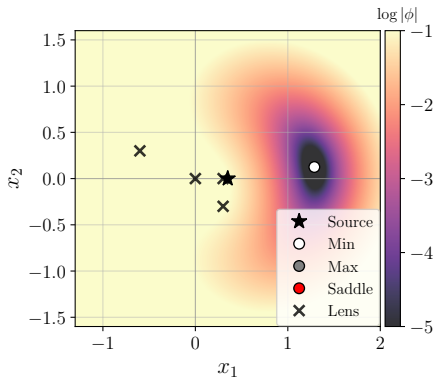
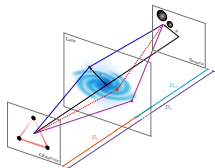
-
- (6) Choose a source, $h_0(f)$
 - (7) Compute the lensed waveform, $h_L(f) = F(f)h_0(f)$

(1) Lens choice: 4 CISs



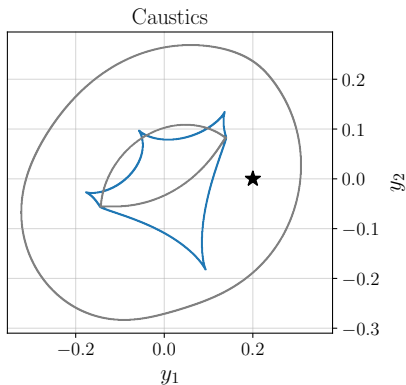
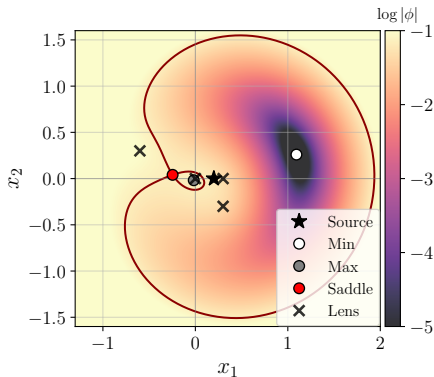
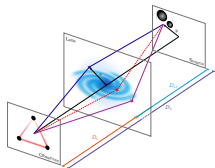
$$\psi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i \psi_{\text{CIS}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0^i), \quad \text{CIS : Cored Isothermal Sphere}$$

(2), (3) Find images



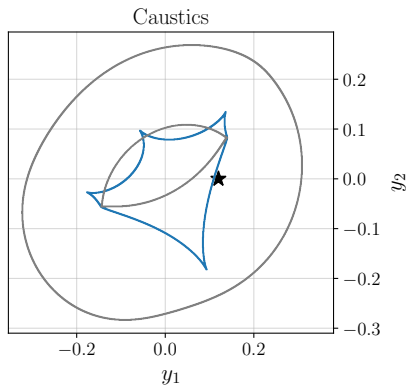
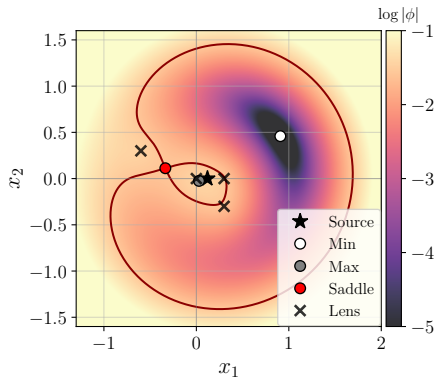
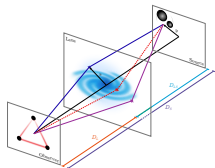
$$\phi = \frac{1}{2}|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|^2 - \psi(\mathbf{x}) \quad \rightarrow \quad |\nabla \phi| = 0$$

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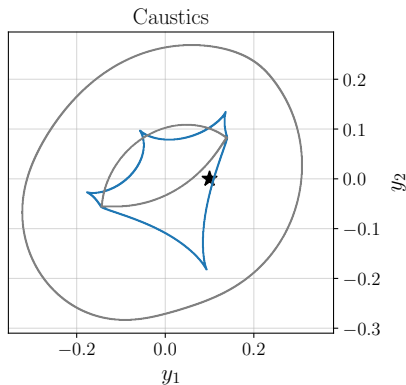
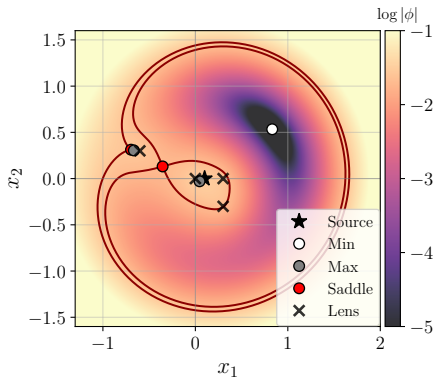
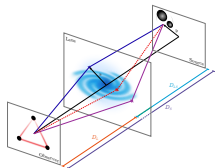
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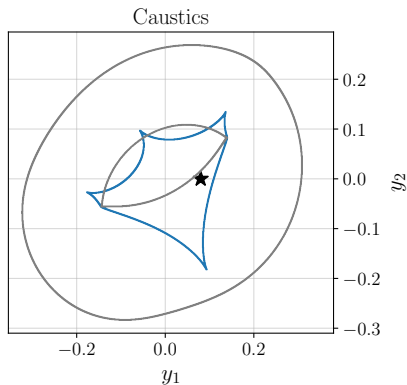
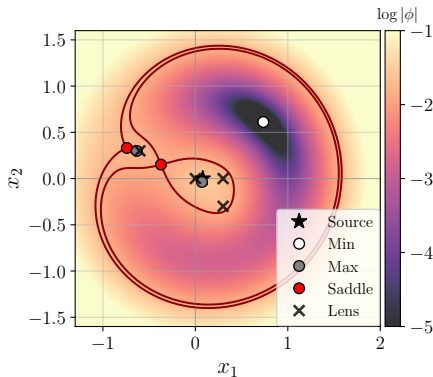
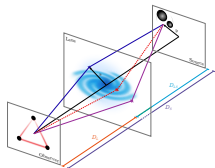
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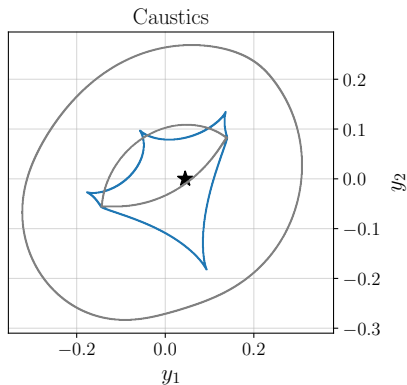
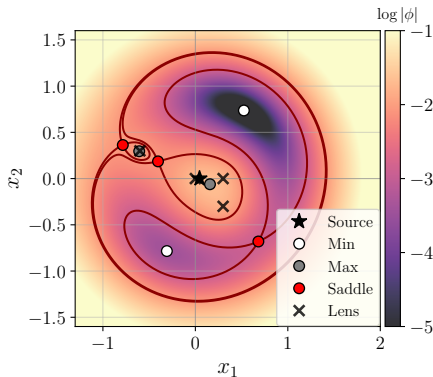
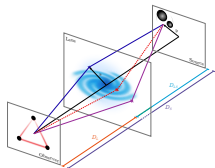
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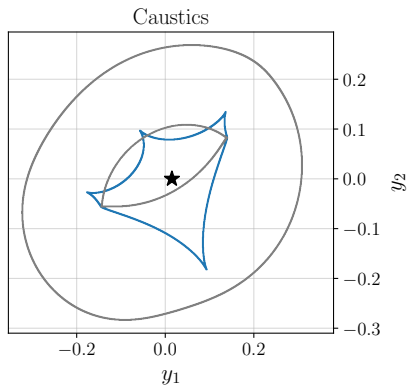
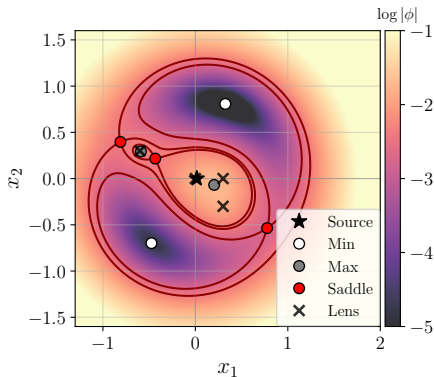
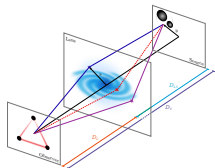
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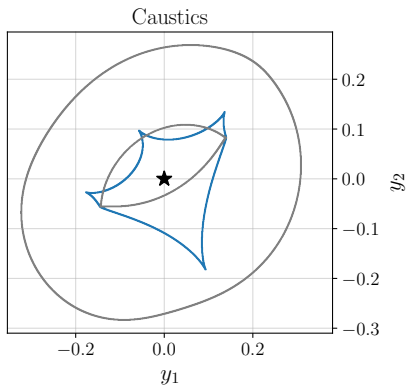
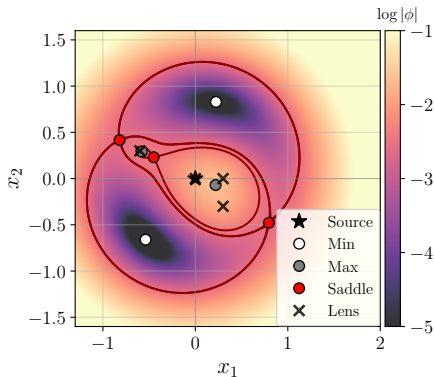
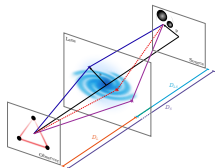
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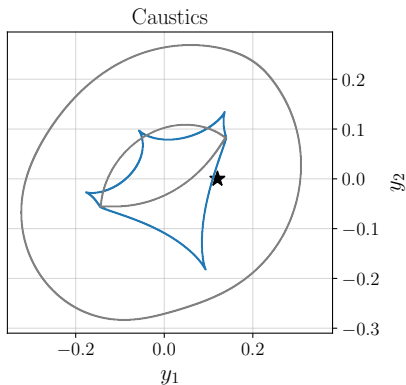
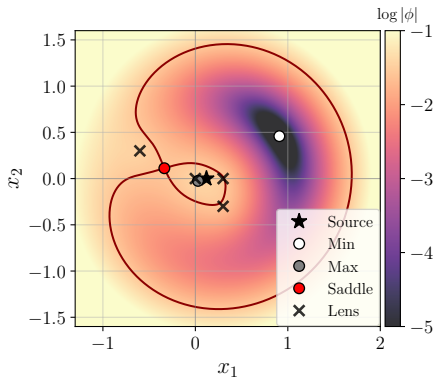
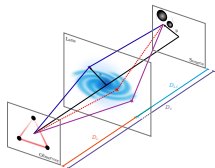
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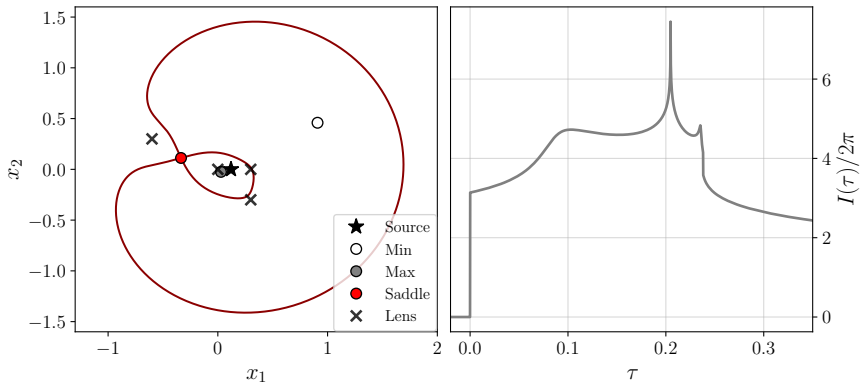
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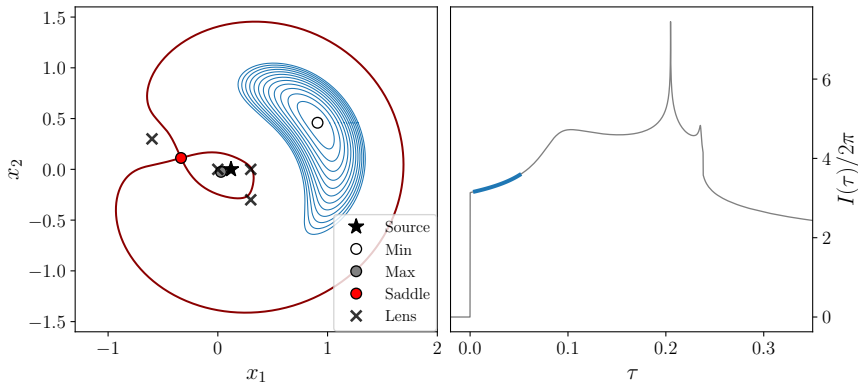
(4) Contour computation

$$I(\tau) = \int dx_1 dx_2 \delta(\phi(\mathbf{x}) - \tau)$$



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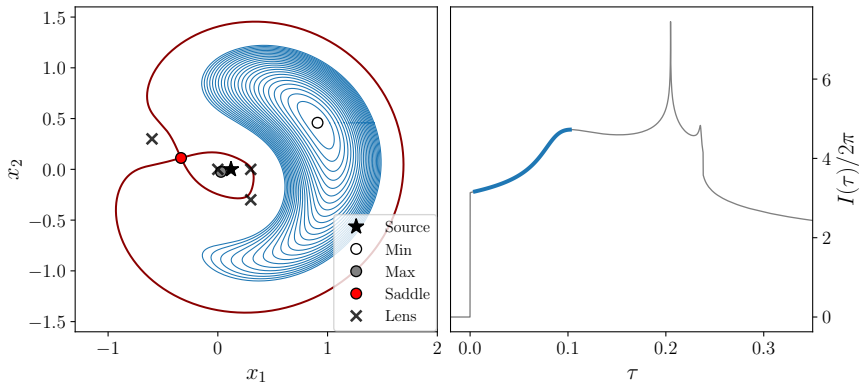
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$$\frac{dI}{d\sigma} = R, \quad \frac{dR}{d\sigma} = -\partial_{\theta}\phi, \quad \frac{d\theta}{d\sigma} = \partial_R\phi \quad \begin{cases} x_1 = x_1^0 + R \cos \theta \\ x_2 = x_2^0 + R \sin \theta \end{cases}$$

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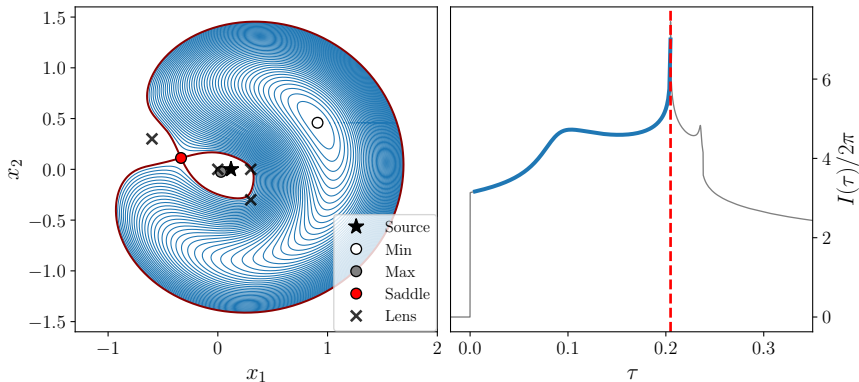
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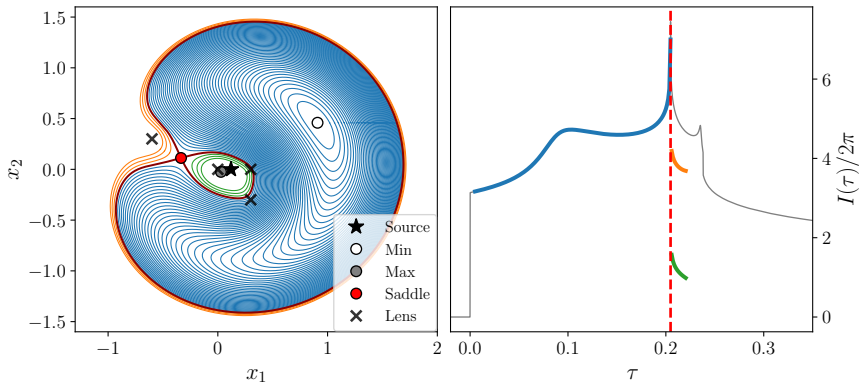
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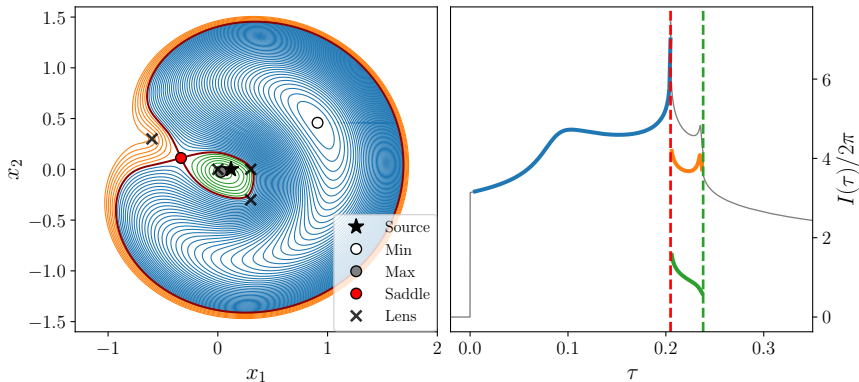
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(4) Contour computation

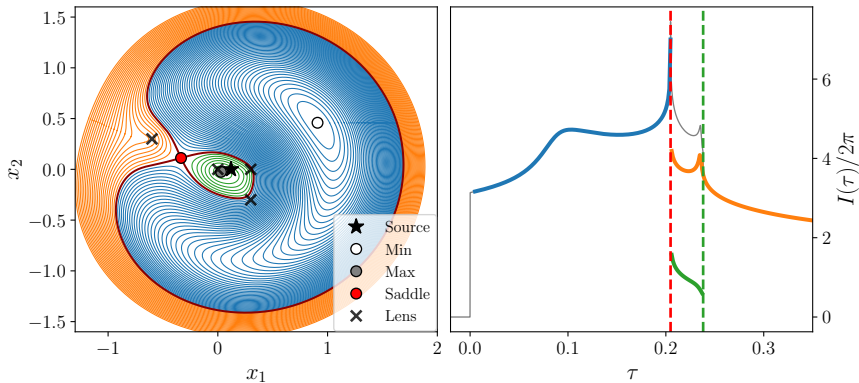
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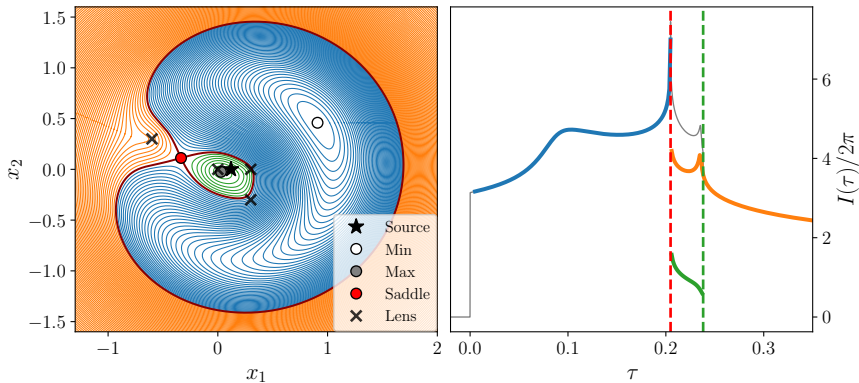
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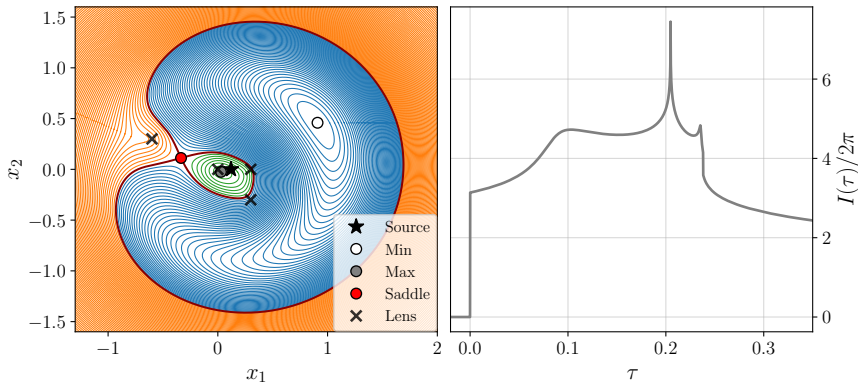
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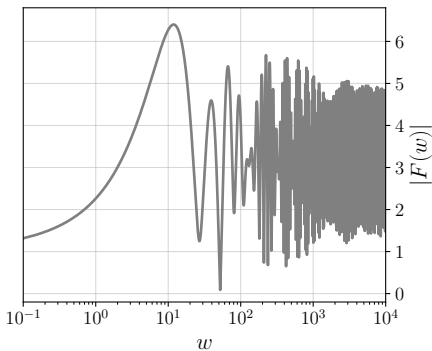
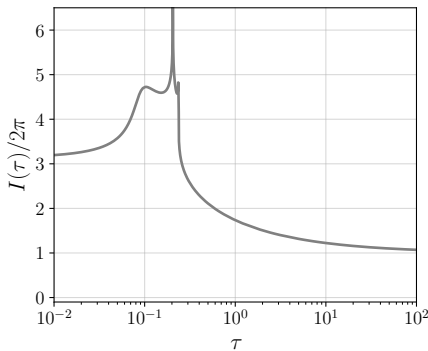
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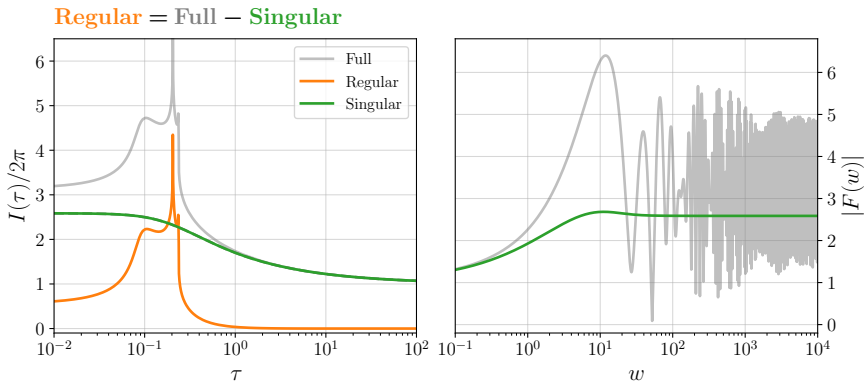
(5) Regularization

$$F(w) = \frac{w}{2\pi i} \int d\tau \, e^{iw\tau} I(\tau)$$



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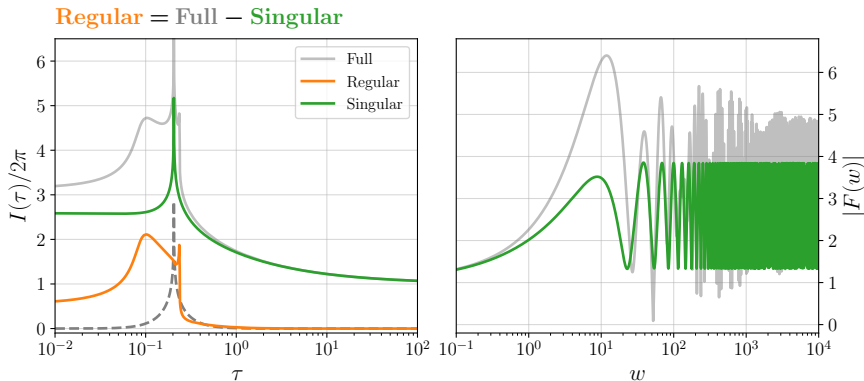
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$$\text{Tail} \sim 1/\tau^\alpha \quad + \quad \text{Minimum} \sim \sqrt{\mu_0} \, \Theta(\tau - \tau_0)$$

(5) Regularization

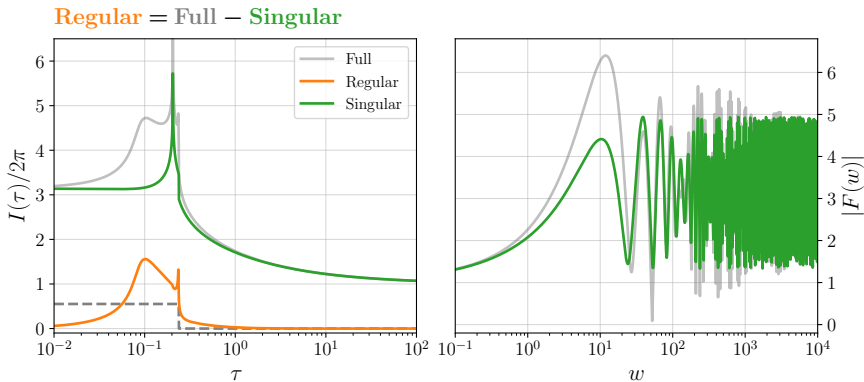
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$$\text{Saddle} \sim \sqrt{\mu_0} \log |\tau - \tau_0|$$

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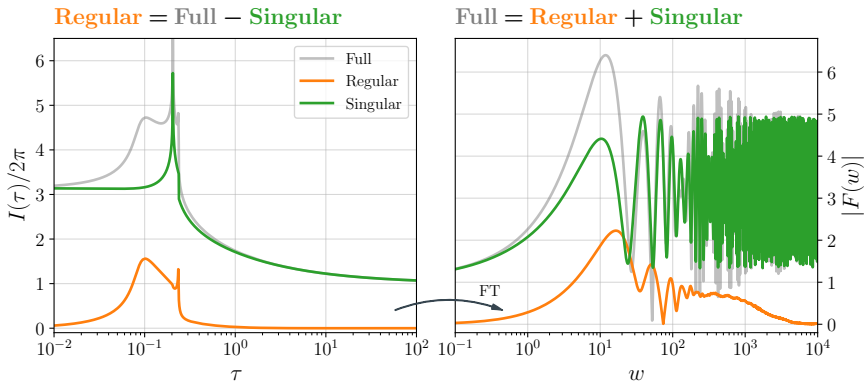
$$F(w) = \frac{w}{2\pi i} \int d\tau \, e^{iw\tau} I(\tau)$$



$$\text{Maximum} \sim \sqrt{\mu_0} \Theta(\tau_0 - \tau)$$

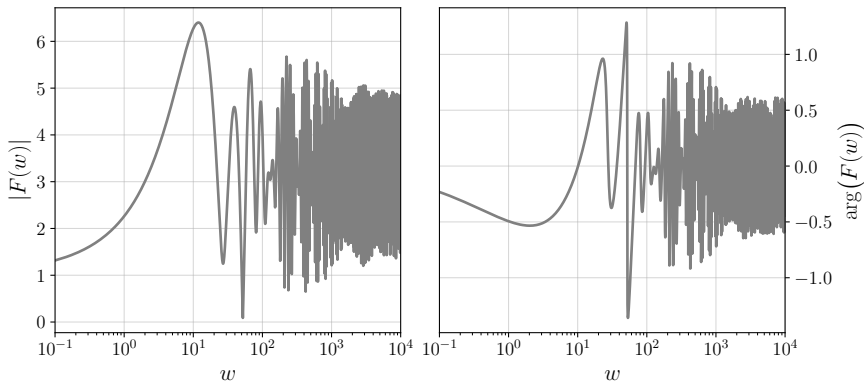
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Analytic F_{sing} + Fourier Transform of $I_{\text{reg}} = F(w)$

(6) Compute lensed waveform



Lensed waveform: $h_L(w) = F(w)h_0(w)$

Gravitational Lensing of Waves (GLOW)

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scripts	paper info updated & added missing ...	3 months ago	
sensitivities	first full release	3 months ago	
sphinx_doc	first full release	3 months ago	
tests	first full release	3 months ago	
wrapper	first full release	3 months ago	
.gitattributes	first full release	3 months ago	
.gitignore	first full release	3 months ago	
LICENSE	Initial commit	last year	
Makefile	first full release	3 months ago	
README.md	paper info updated & added missing ...	3 months ago	
init.py	preliminary release of glow core	5 months ago	
configure.py	first full release	3 months ago	
freq_domain.py	first full release	3 months ago	

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Packages

No packages published

Contributors 3

hectorvrj

miguelzuma Miguel Zumalacárregui

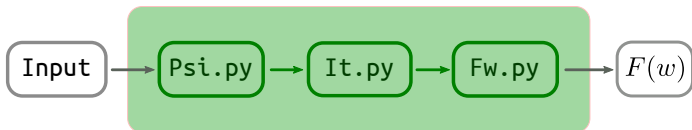
stefanosavastano Stefano Savastano

File/Folder	Description	Last Commit
notebooks	first full release	3 months ago
scripts	paper info updated & added missing script f...	3 months ago
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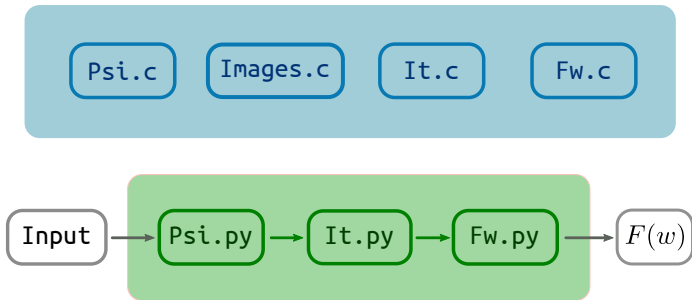
GLOW paper: 2409.04606

HVR
S. Savastano
M. Zumalacárregui
L. Choi
S. Goyal
L. Dai
G. Tambalo

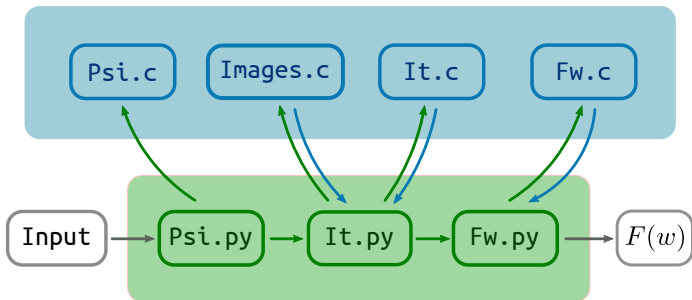
miguelzuma/GLOW_public



- *General*: non-symmetric lenses, strong and weak lensing
- *Flexible*: can be used as a Python module (also as a C lib)
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```
[1]: import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

from glow.lenses import Psi_offcenterCIS, CombinedLens
from glow import time_domain_c, freq_domain_c

[2]: # create the lens
xs = [(0.3, 0), (-0.6, 0.3), (0.3, -0.3), (0, 0)]
Psis = [Psi_offcenterCIS({'psi0':0.25, 'rc':0.05, 'xc1':x1, 'xc2':x2}) for x1, x2 in xs]
Psi = CombinedLens({'lenses':Psis})

# compute the amplification factor
It = time_domain_c.It_MultiContour_C(Psi, y=0.12)
Fw = freq_domain_c.Fw_FFT_C(It, p_prec={'wmin':1e-1, 'wmax':1e4})

[3]: ws = np.geomspace(1e-1, 1e4, 2000)

plt.semilogx(ws, np.abs(Fw(ws)));
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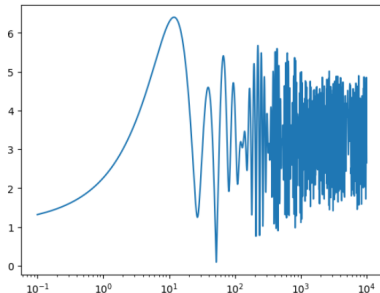
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Summary of GLoW's features

- Computation of the diffraction integral in the time and frequency domains, for generic (analytic) lenses and arbitrary frequencies
- New optimized method for symmetric lenses
- New regularization scheme
- New expressions for the SIS, with an analytical $I(\tau)$ and semi-analytical $F(w)$
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Approach 2: brute force

Amplification factor:

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$$F(w) = -iw e^{iwy^2/2} \int_0^\infty dx x J_0(wyx) e^{iw(x^2/2 - \psi(x))}$$

Then integrate this expression with arbitrary-precision software (Mathematica, ARB). E.g. [Wright, Hendry, 2022, GRAVELAMPS]

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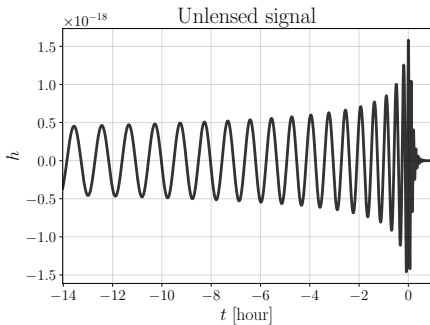
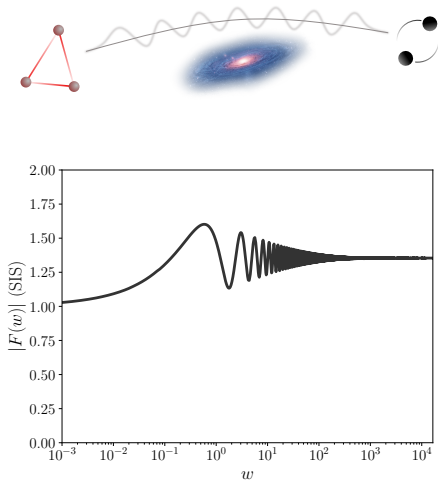
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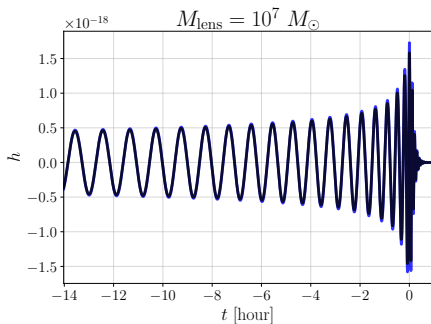
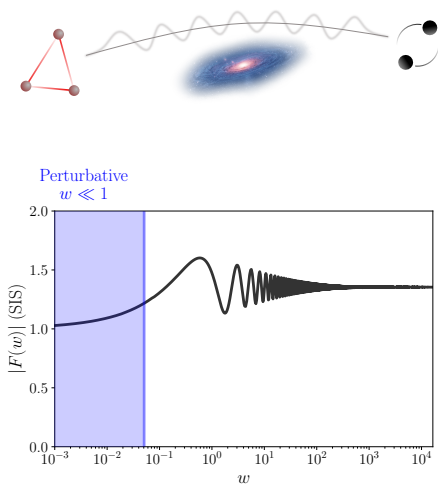
- ✓ Simple to implement
- ✗ Restricted to symmetric lenses
- ✗ Slow (too slow for parameter estimation)

(2) Weak lensing with LISA



$10^6 + 10^6 M_{\odot}$ BBH at $z = 5$

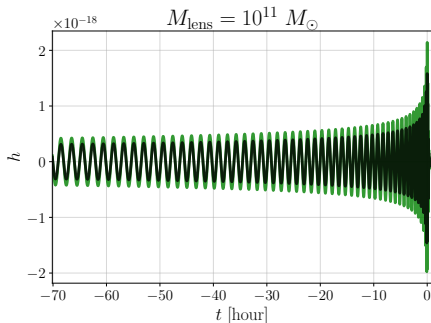
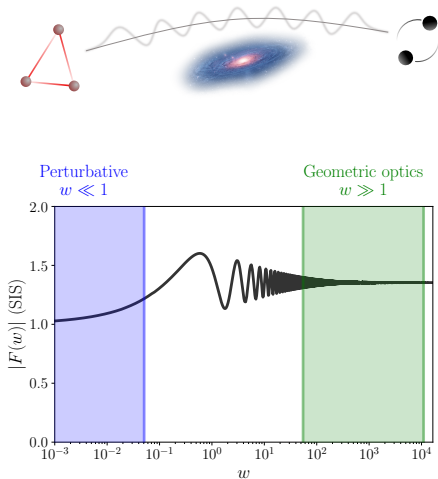
(2) Weak lensing with LISA



$$h_L(w) = F(w)h_0(w)$$

$$F(w) = 1 + \mathcal{O}(w)$$

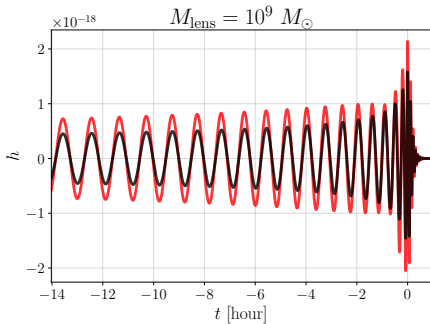
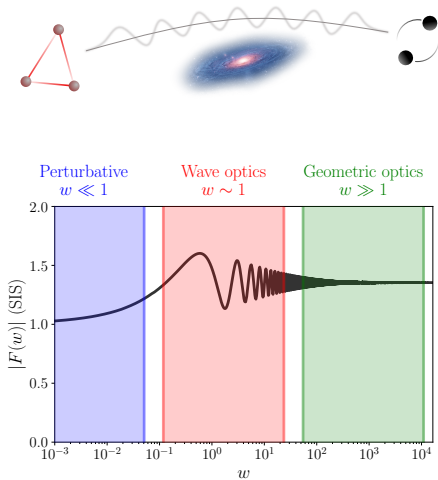
(2) Weak lensing with LISA



$$h_L(w) = F(w)h_0(w)$$

$$F(w) = \sqrt{\mu} e^{i w \Delta \tau} + \mathcal{O}(w^{-1})$$

(2) Weak lensing with LISA



$$h_L(w) = F(w)h_0(w)$$

$$F(w) = ?$$

Time-domain amplification factor

$$F(w) = \frac{w}{2\pi\mathrm{i}} \int \mathrm{d}\tau \, \mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}w\tau} I(\tau)$$

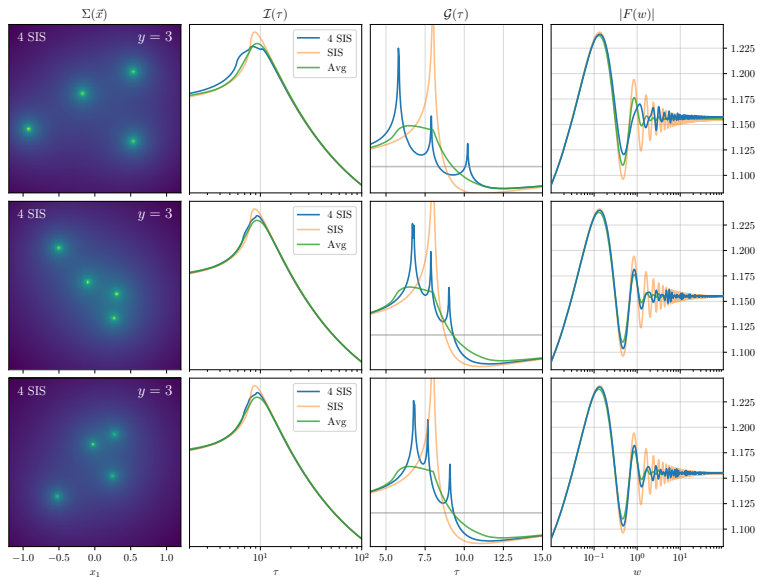
$$I(\tau) = \int \mathrm{d}^2x \, \delta(\phi(\boldsymbol{x} - \tau))$$

$$G(\tau) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\mathrm{d}I}{\mathrm{d}\tau}$$

$$h_L(w) = F(w)h_0(w)$$

$$h_L(\tau) = \int \mathrm{d}\tau' G(\tau' - \tau) h_0(\tau')$$

Example: varying distribution of lenses



Example: varying number of lenses

