



International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific 国际理论物理中心-亚太地区

Hearing the Sound from Cosmic Phase Transitions

Huaike Guo

Jan. 1, 2025

Hearing beyond the standard model with cosmic sources of Gravitational Waves: theories and challenges in this era





From Theory to Experiment



LIGO, LISA/Taiji/Tianqin, PTA, ...



Phenomenological Studies

Detection of early-universe gravitational-wave signatures and fundamental physics

Robert Caldwell, Yanou Cui, Huai-Ke Guo [□], Vuk Mandic, Alberto Mariotti, Jose Miguel No, Michael J. Ramsey-Musolf, Mairi Sakellariadou [□], Kuver Sinha, Lian-Tao Wang, Graham White, Yue Zhao, Haipeng An, Ligong Bian, Chiara Caprini, Sebastien Clesse, James M. Cline, Giulia Cusin, Bartosz Fornal, Ryusuke Jinno, Benoit Laurent, Noam Levi, Kun-Feng Lyu, Mario Martinez, Andrew L. Miller, Diego Redigolo, Claudia Scarlata, Alexander Sevrin, Barmak Shams Es Haghi, Jing Shu, Xavier Siemens, Danièle A. Steer, Raman Sundrum, Carlos Tamarit, David J. Weir, Ke-Pan Xie, Feng-Wei Yang & Siyi Zhou □ Show fewer authors

General Relativity and Gravitation 54, Article number: 156 (2022) Cite this article

$\exists \mathbf{r} \times \mathbf{i} \mathbf{V} > hep-ph > arXiv:2203.08206$

High Energy Physics - Phenomenology

[Submitted on 15 Mar 2022]

Probing the Electroweak Phase Transition with Exotic Higgs Decays

Marcela Carena, Jonathan Kozaczuk, Zhen Liu, Tong Ou, Michael J. Ramsey-Musolf, Jessie Shelton, Yikun Wang, Ke-Pan Xie

arxiv > hep-ph > arXiv:2203.10046

High Energy Physics - Phenomenology

Submitted on 18 Mar 2022

Scalar-mediated dark matter model at colliders and gravitational wave detectors -- A White paper for Snowmass 2021

Jia Liu, Xiao-Ping Wang, Ke-Pan Xie

Snowmass 2021 White papers

Models	Strong 1 st order phase transition	GW signal	Cold DM	Dark Radiation and small scale structure
SM charged				
Triplet [20–22]	1	1	1	×
complex and real Triplet [23]	1	1	1	×
(Georgi-Machacek model)				
Multiplet [24]	1	1	1	
2HDM [25-30]	1	1		×
MLRSM [31]	1	1	×	×
NMSSM [32–36]	1	1	1	×
SM uncharged				
S _r (xSM) [37–49]	1	1	×	×
2 S _r 's [50]	1	1	1	×
Sc (cxSM) [49, 51–54]	1	1	1	×
$U(1)_D$ (no interaction with SM) [55]	1	1	1	×
U(1) _D (Higgs Portal) [56]	1	1	1	
U(1) _D (Kinetic Mixing) [57]	1	1	1	
Composite SU(7)/SU(6) [58]	1	1	1	
$U(1)_{L}$ [59]	1	1	1	×
$SU(2)_D \rightarrow global SO(3)$			1	×
by a doublet [60–62]				23
$SU(2)_D \rightarrow U(1)_D$			1	1
by a triplet [63–65]				-
$SU(2)_D \rightarrow Z_2$			1	×
by two triplets [66]				
$SU(2)_D \rightarrow Z_3$			1	×
by a quadruplet [67, 68]				
$SU(2)_D \times U(1)_{B-L} \rightarrow Z_2 \times Z_2$			1	×
by a quintuplet and a S_c [69]				20 C
${\rm SU(2)_D}$ with two dark Higgs doublets [70]	1	1	×	×
${\rm SU(3)_D} \rightarrow Z_2 \times Z_2$ by two triplets [62, 71]			1	×
${\rm SU(3)_D}$ (dark QCD) (Higgs Portal) [72, 73]	1	1	1	
$G_{\rm SM} \times G_{\rm D,SM} \times Z_2$ [74]	1	1	1	
$G_{\rm SM} \times G_{\rm D,SM} \times G_{\rm D,SM} \cdots$ [75]	1	1	1	
Current work				
$SU(2)_D \rightarrow U(1)_D$ (see the text)	1	1	1	1

Ghosh,HG,Han,Liu, JHEP [2012.09758]

Collider and GW Complementarity

First order EWPT achievable in simplest SM+Singlet model

Correlation and complementarity between collider and GW probes

h1: the Higgs h2: heavier scalar



See also

Huang, Long,Wang, PRD [1608.06619], and many others

Alves, Ghosh, HG, Sinha, Vagie, JHEP [1812.09333]

Gravitational Wave Sources







Bubble Collisions

fluid kinetic energy

Sound Waves

turbulent fluid + magnetic field



Magnetohydrodynamic Turbulence







Basic Properties





Cai, Pi, Sasak, PRD [1909.13728]

Hubble size: 1/H*

EPTA

nHz (~100MeV) QCD scale

~mHz: (~100GeV) weak scale

~100Hz (~PeV - EeV) high scale End-station @ 4 km LIGO Mid-station @ 2 km OGrav ** **PPTA** 中国脉冲星测时阵列(CPTA) ligo.caltech.edu LISA, Taiji, Tianqin Taiji

Multiband Searches

NANOGrav, ApjL [2306.16219] EPTA [2306.16227] Xue,Bian,Shu,Yuan,Zhu, et al, PRL [2110.03096] Bian et al [2307.02376] Wu, Chen, Huang [2307.03141] Boileau et al, MNRAS [2105.04283] LISA: Caprini et al [2403.03723] Network: Wang, Han, PRD [2108.11151] ... TDI optimization: Wang, Li, Xu, Fan, PRD [2201.10902]

Romero,Martinovic,Callister,HG,Martínez,Sakellaria dou, Yang,Zhao, PRL [2102.01714] Badger, ..., HG, ..., PRD [2209.14707] Jiang, Huang, JCAP [2203.11781] Yu, Wang, PRD [2211.13111]

nHz (~100MeV) QCD scale

1.1



~mHz : (~100GeV) weak scale



~100Hz (~PeV - EeV) high scale



Detection at LIGO



✓ Gaussian, Stationary, Isotropic, Unpolarized

$$\langle h_A^*(f,\Omega)h_{A'}(f',\Omega')\rangle = \frac{3H_0^2}{32\pi^3}\delta^2(\Omega,\Omega')\delta_{AA'}\delta(f-f')f^{-3}\Omega_{\rm GW}(f)$$



solution: cross-correlation







stochastic GWs: noise-like

Detection at LIGO

O1+O2+O3@LIGO (H1, L1), Virgo

- No Evidence for Broken Power Law Signal
- No Evidence for Bubble Collision Domination Signal
- No Evidence for Sound Waves Domination Signal Bubble Collision

P	henomenologi	cal model (bu	ibble collision	ns)
		$\Omega^{95\%}_{coll}(25~Hz)$		
$\beta/H_{\rm pt} \setminus T_{\rm pt}$	10 ⁷ GeV	10 ⁸ GeV	10 ⁹ GeV	10 ¹⁰ GeV
0.1	9.2×10^{-9}	8.8×10^{-9}	1.0×10^{-8}	7.2×10^{-9}
1	1.0×10^{-8}	8.4×10^{-9}	5.0×10^{-9}	
10	4.0×10^{-9}	6.3×10^{-9}	•••	
			o o poitivit	,

See also Jiang, Huang, JCAP[2203.11781], Yu, Wang, PRD[2211.13111]

Broken Power Law
95% CL UL (CBC+BPL)

$$Ω_{ref} = 6.1 \times 10^{-9}$$

 $Ω_* = 5.6 \times 10^{-7}$
 $Ω_{BPL}(25 \text{ Hz}) = 4.4 \times 10^{-9}$

Sound Waves
95% CL UL
$$\Omega_{\rm sw}(25~{\rm Hz})$$
 5.9×10^{-9}
 $\beta/H_{\rm pt} < 1$ and $T_{\rm pt} > 10^8~{\rm GeV}$

Detection in Space

Electroweak-scale PT

Detection with a single detector

- Complicated, and correlated noise
- Complications from time-delay interferometry
- Solution: null channel method, or with a network



Gowling et al, JCAP [2209.13551, 2106.05984] Caprini, Jinno, Lewicki, ..., JCAP [2403.03723] Hindmarsh, Hooper, Minkkinen, Weir [2406.04894] galactic foreground + astro background + cosmic background

SGWB detectable down to $\Omega_{GW} \sim O(10^{-13})$

Boileau et al, MNRAS [2105.04283]



The LISA–Taiji network

Ruan, Liu, Guo, Wu, Cai, Nature Astron [2002.03603] Cai et al [2305.04551]

Detection in Space Cosmological Astrophysical

- Inflation
- Phase transitions (EW, GUT, etc)
- Cosmic strings, Domain walls
- SIGW
- PBH



Boileau et al, MNRAS [2105.04283]



14

Galactic DWD

BBH, BNS, etc

SMBH binary

EMRI

Detection with PTA

QCD-scale PT



Detection with PTA

QCD-scale PT



Problem: uncertainties

Finite T	effective pote	ential calculat	tions		
Phase tr	ransition para	imeter calcul	ations (vw)		
 GW spe 	ctra calculati	ons (simulati	ons, modelling	js)	
		V			
Uncertainty	pre-factor1	pre-factor2	pre-factor3		4
$T_{\rm p}$	0.003%	0.003%	0.002%		Effect (fixed wall
βR^*	8.1%	7.9%	5.9%		
$N_{ m tot}$	11.4%	11.0%	9.8%		Transition tempe
$f^{ m peak}_{eta R^*}$	11.8%	12.0%	14.1%		Mean bubble sep
$\Omega_{ m GW} h_{eta R^*}^2$	37.6%	36.5%	28.9%		Fluid velocity

35.1%

336.7%

$\Delta\Omega_{ m GW}/\Omega_{ m GW}$	4d approach	3d approach
RG scale dependence	$O(10^2 - 10^3)$	$O(10^0 - 10^1)$
Gauge dependence	$\mathcal{O}(10^1)$	$\mathcal{O}(10^{-3})$
High- T approximation	$\mathcal{O}(10^{-1}-10^0)$	$O(10^0 - 10^2)$
Higher loop orders	unknown	$\mathcal{O}(10^0-10^1)$
Nucleation corrections	unknown	$O(10^{-1} - 10^{0})$
Nonperturbative corrections	unknown	unknown
Croon, Gould, Schicho, Ten	kanen, White, JHE	P [2009.10080]

Effect(fixed wall velocity	Range of error (medium)	Range of error (low)	Type of error
Transition temperature	${\cal O}(10^{-4}\!-\!10^1)$	${\cal O}(10^{-1} ext{} 10^0)$	Random
Mean bubble separation	$\mathcal{O}(010^{-1})$	${\cal O}(10^{-1}\!\!-\!\!10^0)$	Suppression
Fluid velocity	$\mathcal{O}(10^{-2}10^{0})$	$\mathcal{O}(10^{-2} 10^0)$	Random
Finite lifetime	$\mathcal{O}(10^{-3} - 10^{-1})$	$\mathcal{O}(10^1 ext{} 10^3)$	Enhancement
Vorticity effects	${\cal O}(10^{-1}\!-\!10^0)$	-	Random

HG, Sinha, Vagie, White, JHEP [2103.06933]

HG, Xiao, Yang, Zhang, PRD [2310.04654]

36.4%

334.0%

36.4%

330.8%

 $f_{
m sim}^{
m peak}$

 $\Omega_{\rm GW} h_{\rm sim}^2$

Problem: uncertainties



Athron, Balazs, Fowlie, Morris, White, JHEP [2403.03769]

Lewicki, Merchand, Sagunski, Schicho, Schmitt, PRD [2403.03769]

The Picture

Precise calculation of PT parameters:

Minkowski spacetime: Hindmarsh, Hijazi, JCAP [1909.10040] Expanding universe: HG, Sinha, Vagie, White, JCAP [2007.08537], JHEP [2103.06933]





Hindmarsh et al, 2015



New phenomena?

Sound Waves

Analytical Modelling

- Refine the sound shell model
- Synergy with simulations

Sound Shell Model

Hindmarsh, PRL [1608.04735] Hindmarsh, Hijazi, JCAP [1909.10040] HG, Sinha, Vagie, White, JCAP [2007.08537] Cai, Wang, Yuwen, PRD Letter [2305.00074] Pol, Procacci, Caprini, PRD [2308.12943] Sharma, Dahl, Brandenburg, Hindmarsh [2308.12916]



Numerical Simulation

- Suppression found for strong transitions with small vw
- Need to cover more parameter space (very strong PT)

$$h^2 \Omega_{\rm sw}(f) = 2.65 \times 10^{-6} \left(\frac{100}{g_*}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \left(\frac{H_*}{\beta}\right) \left(\frac{\kappa_{\rm sw}\alpha}{1+\alpha}\right)^2 v_w S_{\rm sw}(f) \Upsilon(\tau_{\rm sw})$$



Hybrid approach: Jinno, Konstandin, Rubira, JCAP [2010.00971]

Sound Waves

Hindmarsh, Huber, Rummukainen, Weir, PRL [1304.2433]

$$T^{ij} \propto (p+e)v^i v^j$$

$$h^2 \Omega_{\rm sw}(f) = 2.65 \times 10^{-6} \left(\frac{100}{g_*}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \left(\frac{H_*}{\beta}\right) \left(\frac{\kappa_{\rm sw}\alpha}{1+\alpha}\right)^2 v_w S_{\rm sw}(f) \Upsilon(\tau_{\rm sw})$$

$$S_{\rm sw}(f) = \left(\frac{f}{f_{\rm sw}}\right)^3 \left[\frac{7}{4+3(f/f_{\rm sw})^2}\right]^{7/2} \qquad f_* = \frac{2\beta}{\sqrt{3}v_w} \approx \frac{3.4}{R_*}$$

Hindmarsh, Huber, Rummukainen, Weir, PRD [1504.03291]

Slight different fit obtained by the same group, PRD [1704.05871]

$$\Upsilon = 1 - (1 + 2\tau_{\rm sw}H_{\rm pt})^{-1/2}$$
 (radiation domination)

HG, Sinha, Vagie, White, JCAP [2007.08537]



Sound Waves: the Upsilon factor

Why an overall factor (largely f-independent)?

- Gaussian
- Stationary
- Autocorrelation time much smaller than Hubble time (|y-| << y+)

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{P}_{\rm GW}(y,kR_{*c}) &= \frac{[16\pi G\,(\tilde{\epsilon}+\tilde{p})\,\bar{U}_{f}^{2}]^{2}}{24\pi^{2}H^{2}H_{s}^{2}}\frac{1}{y^{4}}(kR_{*c})^{3} \\ &\times \int dy_{-}\tilde{\Pi}^{2}\,(kR_{*c},\beta_{c}|\eta_{1}-\eta_{2}|) \underbrace{\left[\int dy_{+}\frac{\mathcal{G}_{2}(\tilde{y},\tilde{y}_{1},\tilde{y}_{2})}{\tilde{k}^{2}}\left\{\frac{y_{1}^{-2}y_{2}^{-2}}{y_{1}^{-3/2}y_{2}^{-3/2}}\right\}\right]}{\mathbf{factorization}} \\ &\left[\int dy_{+}\cdots\right] = \frac{1}{2}\Upsilon(y)\cos\left(\tilde{k}y_{-}\right) \\ h^{2}\Omega_{\rm sw}(f) &= 2.65\times10^{-6}\left(\frac{100}{g_{*}}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}\left(\frac{H_{*}}{\beta}\right)\left(\frac{\kappa_{\rm sw}\alpha}{1+\alpha}\right)^{2}v_{w}S_{\rm sw}(f)\Upsilon(\tau_{\rm sw}) \end{split}$$

$$h_{ij}(\tilde{y},\mathbf{q}) = \int_{\tilde{y}_s}^{\tilde{y}} d\tilde{y}' G(\tilde{y},\tilde{y}') \frac{16\pi Ga(\tilde{y}')^2 \pi_{ij}^T(\tilde{y}',\mathbf{q})}{q^2}$$

y: a/a* (a: scale factor)

radiation domination: y- = y1-y2 y+=(y1+y2)/2

Sound Waves: the Upsilon factor

A generic formula to describe a wide class of scenarios:



A universal factor in all similar stochastic sources.

Sound Waves: Forced Collisions

Cai, Wang, Yuwen, PRD Letter [2305.00074]



Sound Waves: Generalized Upsilon Factor?

- New slopes found for low frequency ranges (k^3 -> k -> k^9)
- Growth rate becomes f-dependent



Pol, Procacci, Caprini, PRD [2308.12943] Sharma, Dahl, Brandenburg, Hindmarsh [2308.12916]

Dissipative Effects

GW depends on (large) bulk velocity of the system

$$h \sim 10^{-22} \frac{M/M_{\odot}}{r/100 \text{Mpc}} \left(\frac{v}{c} \right)^2$$

Dissipative effects dissipate away the bulk kinetic energy (leaves imprint)

$$\rho\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{v}\right) = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla^2 \mathbf{v} + (\zeta + \frac{1}{3}\mu)\nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v})$$

Navier-Stokes equations



So far, it has largely been neglected, especially in connection with new physics.

Effects of Dissipation

Disturbed fluid comes into rest eventually

$$v^{i}(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = \int \frac{d^{3}q}{(2\pi)^{3}} \left[v^{i}_{\mathbf{q}} e^{-i\omega\eta + i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{x}} + c.c. \right]$$

 $v^i_{f q}(\eta) \propto \exp\left[-\int \Gamma(\mu,\zeta,\xi) d\eta
ight]$

 $\Gamma \propto q^2$



shear viscosity bulk viscosity
$$\Delta T^{ij} = -\mu \left(\frac{\partial U_i}{\partial x^j} + \frac{\partial U_j}{\partial x^i} - \frac{2}{3} \delta_{ij} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{U} \right) - \zeta \delta_{ij} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{U},$$

$$\Delta T^{i0} = -\chi \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial x^i} + T \dot{U}_i \right). \qquad (1)$$
Weinberg, ApJ, 1971
thermal conduction
Euler equation -> Navier-Stokes equations

Effects of Dissipation with the Sound Shell Model



Effects of Dissipation: Damping of GW Spectrum

- Peak frequency in strongly dissipative systems
- Upsilon factor might not appear



Dissipative Effects as New Observables

- Probe very weak interactions (analog: Silk damping)
- Break parameter degeneracy
- Can be searched for at LIGO, PTA, LISA/Taiji/Tianqin ...



Dissipative Effects: Lifetime of Sound Waves

- Expansion of the universe provides an effective lifetime
- Dissipation effects, when strong, provide a shorter effective lifetime
- Onset of MHD turbulence serves as a cut-off (dissipation causes changes)

Realistic cases: intertwining of these effects (makes GW spectrum model dependent)

Model dependent spectrum carries information about each model (break parameter degeneracy)



> Phase transition is an important target for all GW experiments

Precision studies now become high priority

Progress in GW spectrum from sound waves (slope, growth rate)

Dissipative effects can serve as new observables

