

# HEARING THE NATURE OF COMPACT OBJECTS

**Sebastian H. Völkel**

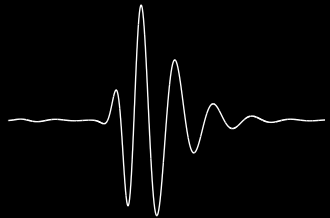
in collaboration with **Kostas D. Kokkotas**

Theoretical Astrophysics  
University of Tübingen, Germany

**Gravitational Waves, Black Holes  
and Fundamental Physics**

21-24 January 2019  
Athens, Greece

- 1 COMPACT OBJECTS
- 2 MODE CALCULATIONS AND INVERSE PROBLEM
- 3 SIGNIFICANCE OF EIGENVALUES/QNMs



# PART I

## Compact Objects and the Horizon Scale

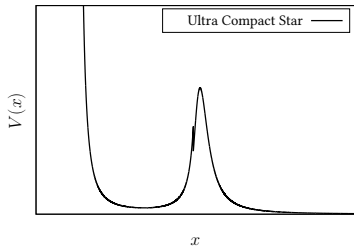
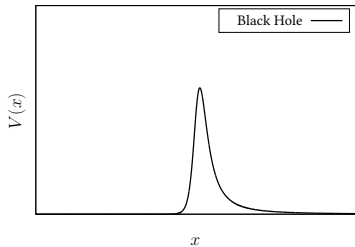
# PART I

## Compact Objects and the Horizon Scale

GW Echoes  $\Leftrightarrow$  Exotic Horizon Scale Physics?

## PART I

## Compact Objects and the Horizon Scale



## GRAVITATIONAL WAVE ECHOES: PHENOMENOLOGY

- Simplest scenario: spherically symmetric and non-rotating objects

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<sup>1</sup>axial perturbations in general relativity

Kokkotas and Schmidt (1999); Nollert (1999); Berti et al. (2009) Maggiore (2018)

<sup>2</sup>along with proper boundary conditions

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- $V(r) \Rightarrow \omega_n^2$  characteristic for the object<sup>2</sup>

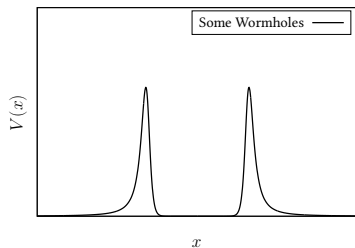
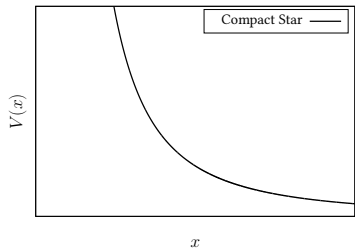
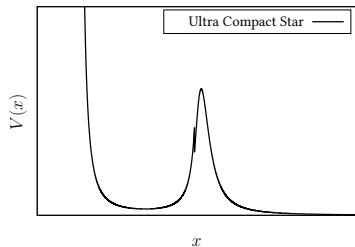
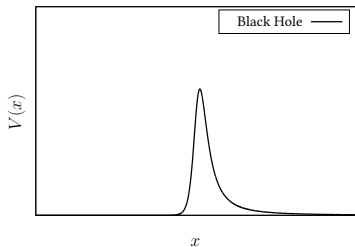
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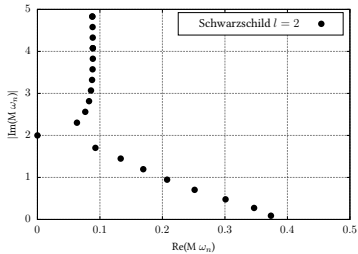
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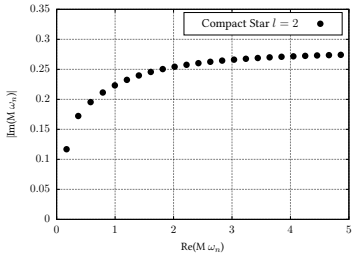
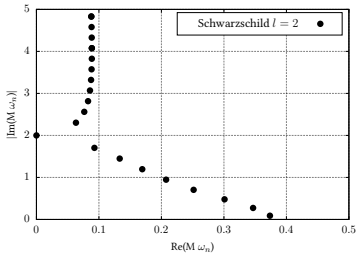
## PERTURBATION POTENTIALS OF COMPACT OBJECTS



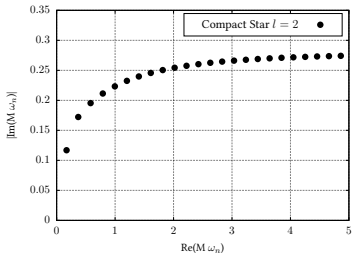
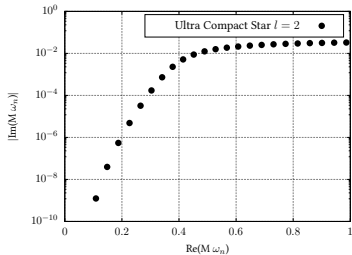
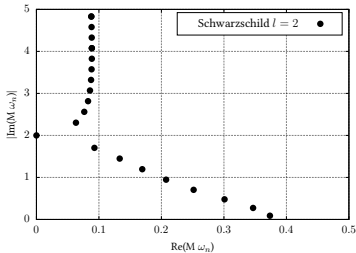
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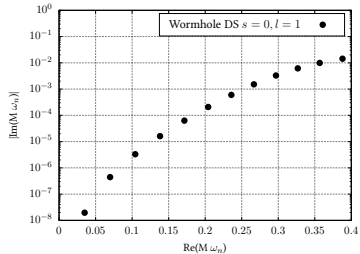
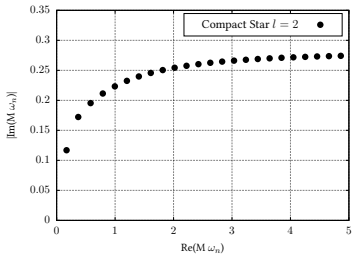
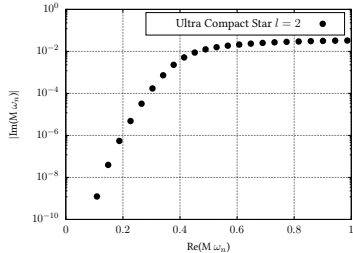
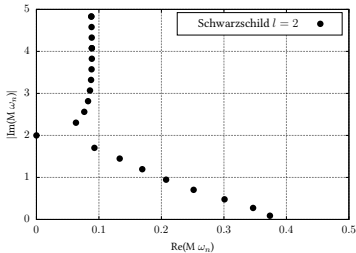
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## PART II

## Mode Calculations and Inverse Problem

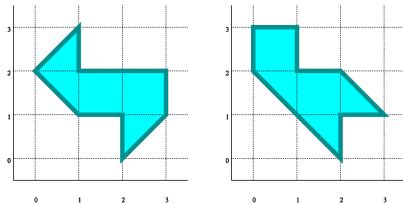
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*Can one hear the shape of a drum?*<sup>3</sup>



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## WKB METHOD AND BOHR-SOMMERFELD RULES

- Methods for **direct** QNM calculations:  
Continued fraction, Green's functions, Time-evolution, . . .

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$$\int_{x_0}^{x_1} \sqrt{E_n - V(x)} dx = \pi \left( n + \frac{1}{2} \right) - \frac{i}{4} \exp \left( 2i \int_{x_1}^{x_2} \sqrt{E_n - V(x)} dx \right) \quad (2)$$

---

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## INVERT BS RULES

- Known for **single** wells and **single** barriers (**classical BS rule**)<sup>5</sup>

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$$\mathcal{L}_1(E) = x_1 - x_0 = 2 \frac{\partial}{\partial E} \int_{E_{\min}}^E \frac{n(E') + 1/2}{\sqrt{E - E'}} dE' \quad (3)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_2(E) = x_2 - x_1 = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_E^{E_{\max}} \frac{dT(E')/dE'}{T(E')\sqrt{E' - E}} dE' \quad (4)$$

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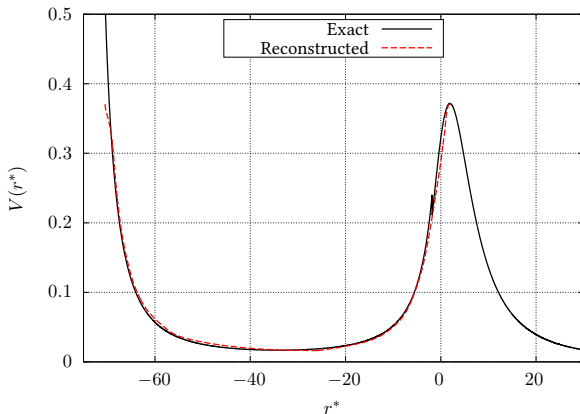
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## ULTRA COMPACT STARS

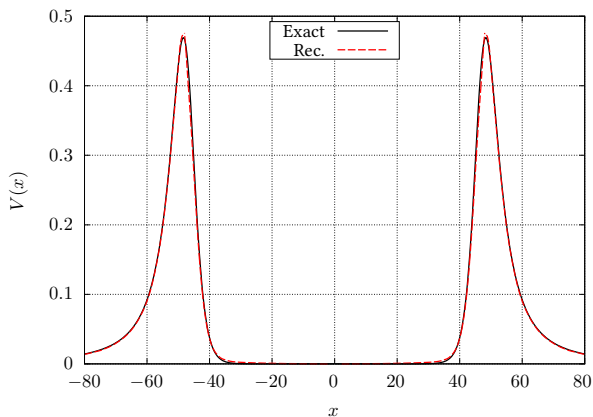
Example for ultra compact constant density star  $C \approx 0.44$



Reconstructed axial perturbation potential, constant density star,  $l = 3$ , taken from Völkel and Kokkotas (2017,2).

## DAMOUR-SOLODUKHIN WORMHOLE

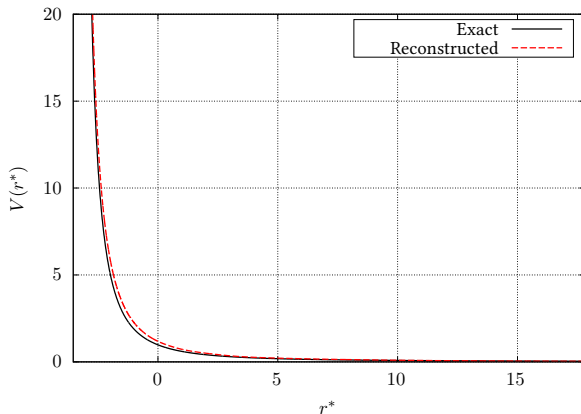
Example for Damour-Solodukhin wormhole  $C \approx 0.5$



Reconstructed scalar perturbation potential, Damour-Solodukhin wormhole,  $l = 3$ , taken from Völkel and Kokkotas (2018,2).

## NEUTRON STARS

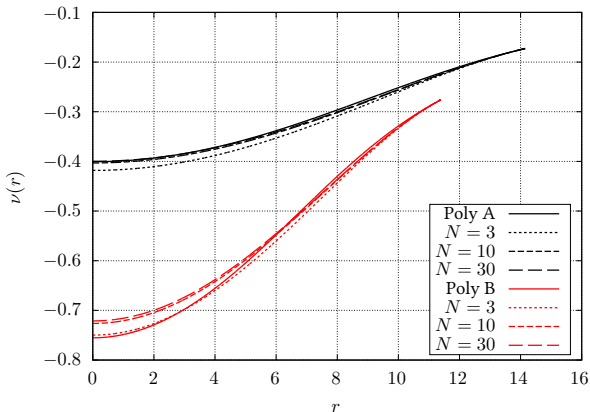
Example for neutron star polytrope  $C \approx 0.15$



Reconstructed axial perturbation potential, neutron star polytrope,  $l = 3$ ,  
Völkel and Kokkotas (2019 TBS).

## NEUTRON STARS

Fit spectrum to analytic model potential for neutron star  
Bohr-Sommerfeld rule to reconstruct internal space-time



Reconstructed metric function  $v(r)$ , for two neutron star polytropes,  $l = 3$ ,  
Völkel and Kokkotas (2019 TBS).

## PART III

Significance of Eigenvalues/QNMs

Eigenvalue Spectrum vs. Waveform

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- **QNMs** are imprinted in the **waveform** (e.g. ringdown)
- Waveform depends on initial perturbation, **eigenvalues do not**
- How strong **eigenvalues** are **excited** depend on the **initial perturbation**

## SIGNIFICANCE OF EIGENVALUES/QNMs

**Be careful:**

- **“Discrepancy”** with respect to **time-evolution** possible  
(Scattering with black hole barrier + reflection close to horizon  
Cardoso et al. (2016); Abedi et al. (2017))

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(Nollert (1996); Nollert and Price (1999) Schwarzschild step potential)
- **“Environmental effects”** can change QNM spectrum, but might only slightly modify time-evolution  
(Barausse et al. (2014); Konoplya et al. (2019))

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- **Reconstruction** of **perturbation potential** can be possible
- **Potentials** imprint **space-time** and **equation of state**
- **Exotic objects** templates are “**more involved**” than black holes/neutron stars (**unknown physics**)



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