

# Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit



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Advances in Computational Relativity,  
ICERM, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

[bhptoolkit.org](http://bhptoolkit.org)



# Workshop outline

- Overview of the toolkit (~30 minutes)
- Tutorial: Getting started with the Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit (~45 minutes)
- Tutorial: Black hole scattering and absorption (~30 minutes)
- Tutorial: Gravitational wave fluxes from extreme mass-ratio inspirals (~60 minutes)

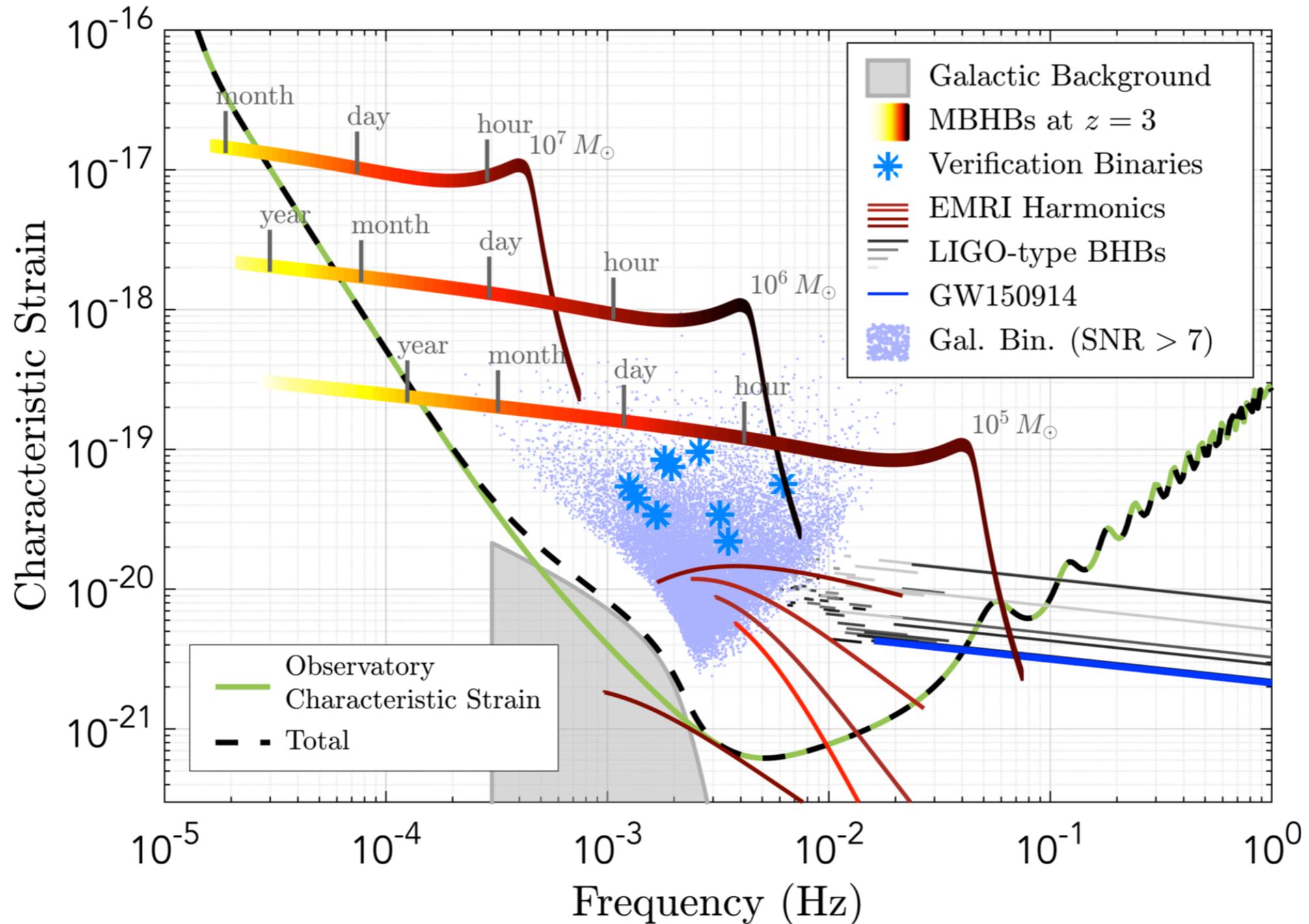
**Please ask questions during this workshop on Zoom chat and/or in the workshop Slack channel**

[https://join.slack.com/t/icermfall2020/shared\\_invite/zt-h5qv0ij6-OAVgEOrz7S3ihXpEz6JJnA](https://join.slack.com/t/icermfall2020/shared_invite/zt-h5qv0ij6-OAVgEOrz7S3ihXpEz6JJnA)

**If you are interested in the long term, please feel free to join the the Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit Slack channel**

[https://join.slack.com/t/bhptoolkitworkspace/shared\\_invite/zt-hejyvhpX-6r\\_rjQk9wwLca34Eg~Ev9g](https://join.slack.com/t/bhptoolkitworkspace/shared_invite/zt-hejyvhpX-6r_rjQk9wwLca34Eg~Ev9g)

# Black Hole Perturbation Theory: why do we need it?



Detect and estimate parameters for extreme mass-ratio inspirals (EMRIs) using LISA

# Black Hole Perturbation Theory: what is it?

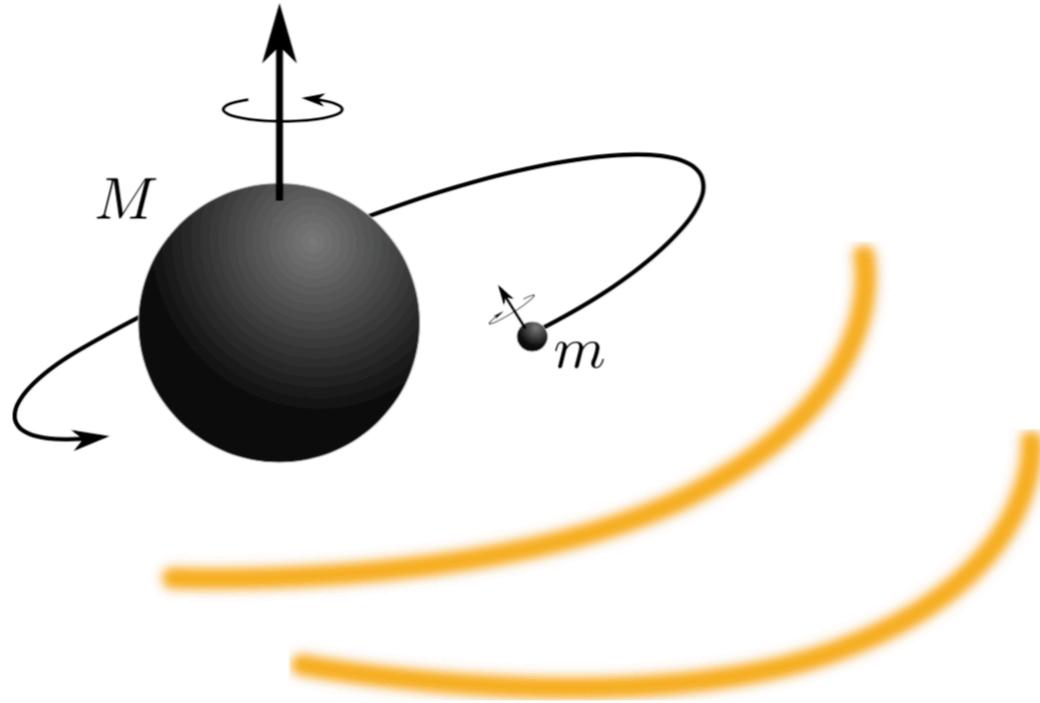


Image credit: A. Pound

- Both bodies spinning with spins not aligned, high eccentricity
- Highly relativistic, strong fields: cannot use post-Newtonian theory
- Wide separation of length- and time-scales: cannot use numerical relativity
- Use the mass ratio,  $\epsilon = m/M$ , as a small parameter in perturbation theory

$$g_{\alpha\beta} = \bar{g}_{\alpha\beta} + \epsilon h_{\alpha\beta}^{(1)} + \epsilon^2 h_{\alpha\beta}^{(2)} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3)$$

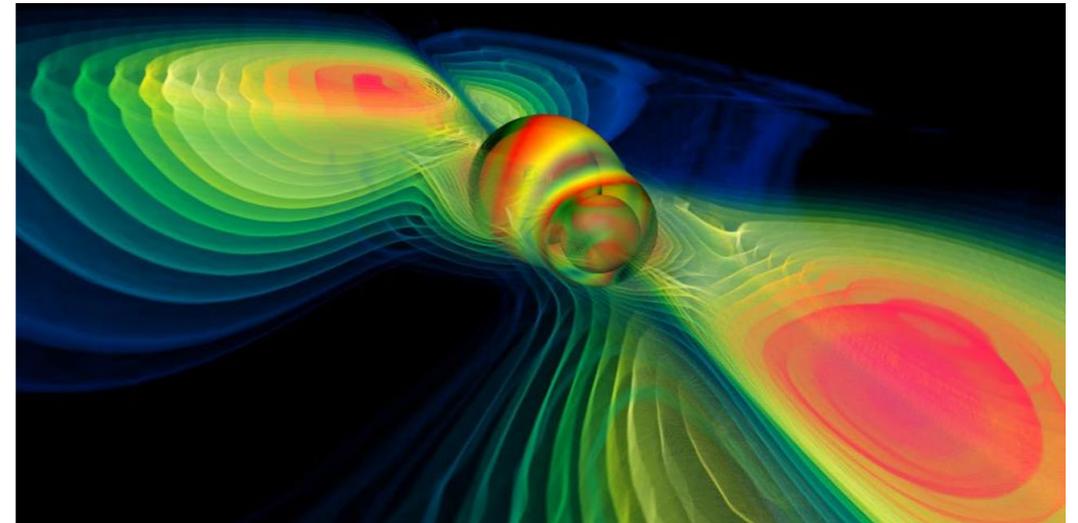
$$\Phi(t) = \epsilon^{-1} \Phi_0 \left[ \langle h^1_{\mathbf{diss}} \rangle \right] + \Phi_1 \left[ h^1_{\mathbf{diss,osc}} + h^1_{\mathbf{cons}} + \langle h^2_{\mathbf{diss}} \rangle \right] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$$

**Key observation:** writing a first-order generic Kerr Teukolsky code is already well beyond the scope of a PhD student project

# Black Hole Perturbation Theory: analogy with NR

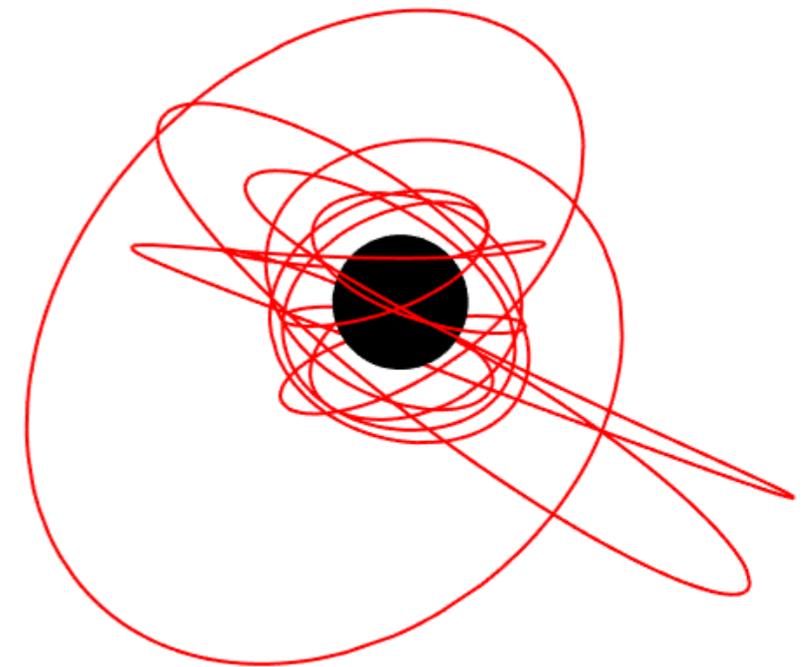
## NR:

- 2005 was the breakthrough year
- first detection was 10 years later
- models just ready in time
- key: successful software collaborations



## BHPTtheory:

- first post-adiabatic waveform in 2020
- LISA launch in ~12-14 years
- need to get models ready
- key: successful software collaborations



# Introducing the Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit

<http://bhptoolkit.org>

“Our goal is for **less researcher time to be spent writing code and more time spent doing physics**. Currently there exist multiple scattered black hole perturbation theory codes developed by a wide array of individuals or groups over a number of **decades**. This project aims to bring together some of the core elements of these codes into a Toolkit that can be used by all.

Additionally, we want to provide easy, open access to **data** from black hole perturbation codes and calculations.”

Community driven, led by

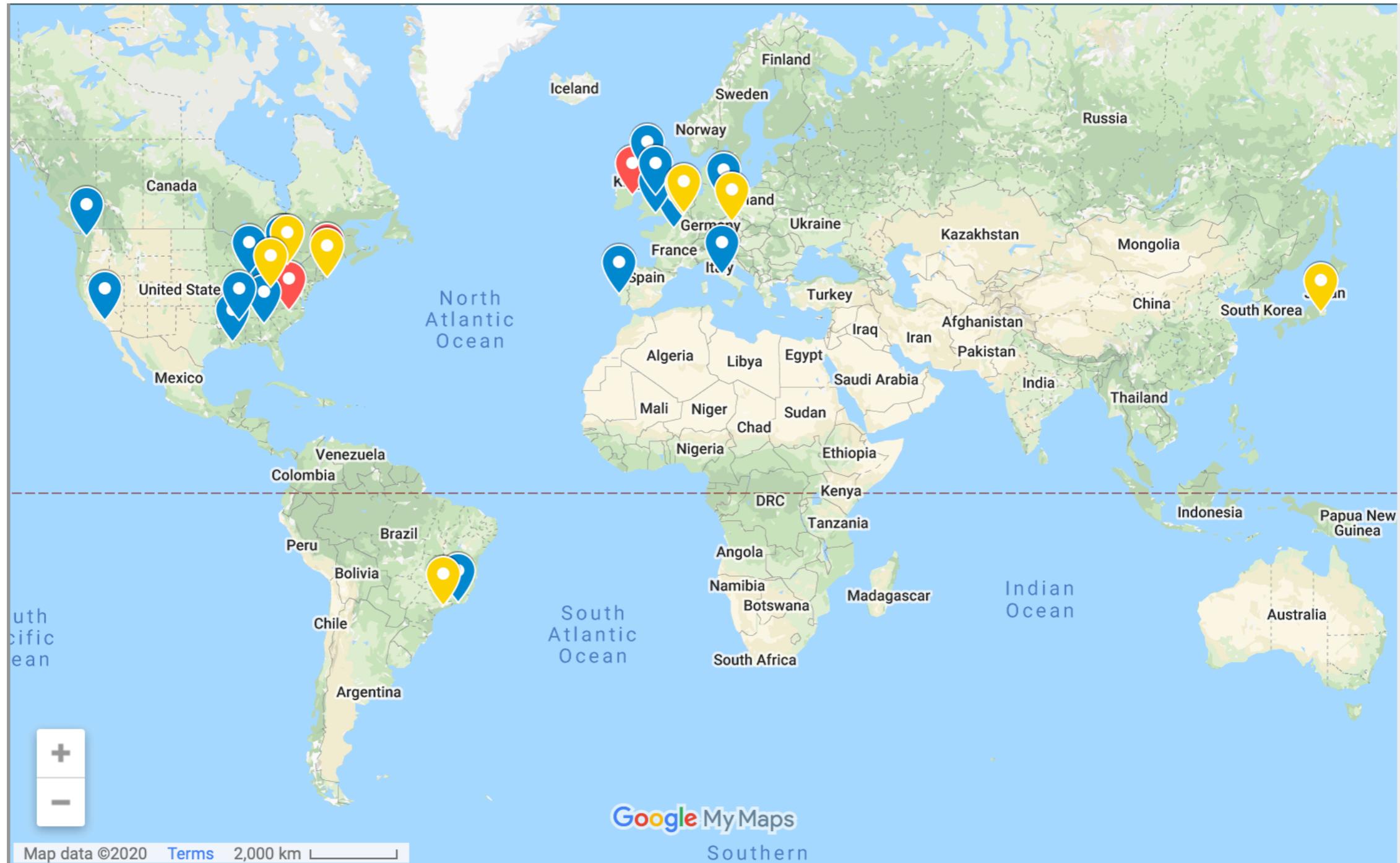


THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* NORTH CAROLINA  
*at* CHAPEL HILL



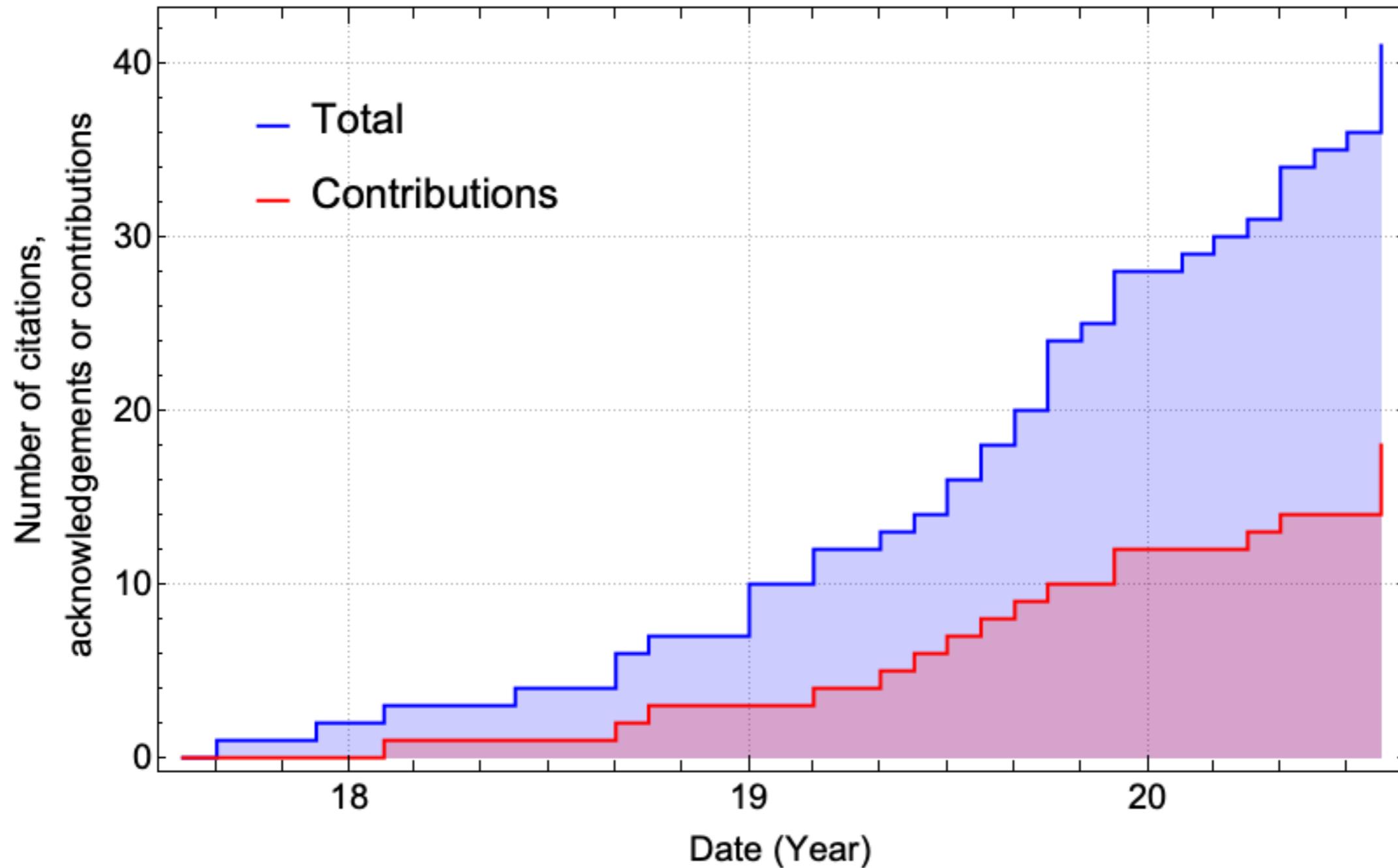
but many other individuals and groups have also contributed...

# Contributors and users



<http://bhptoolkit.org/users.html>

# Contributors and users



Since August 2017: 41 papers cite the Toolkit and 18 have contributed code or data

# Current components

## Code

Target 3 main languages:

- Mathematica
- Low-level (C/C++/Fortran)
- Python

but happy to include high-quality, documented code in any language.

Most code released under MIT or GPL licences.

## Data

- Fluxes
- Local invariants
- High-order PN series
- Regularisation parameters

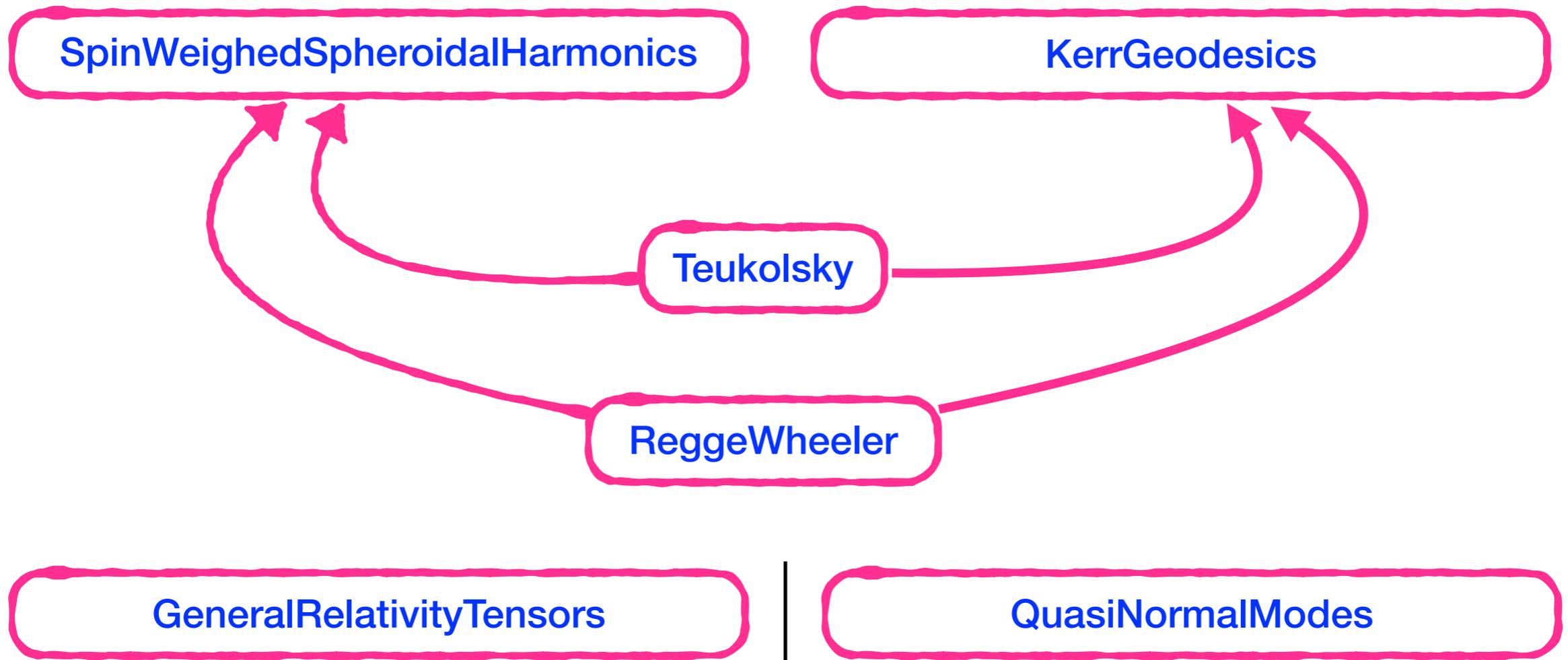
Currently most of the data is for circular, equatorial orbits

But eccentric, generic data coming online

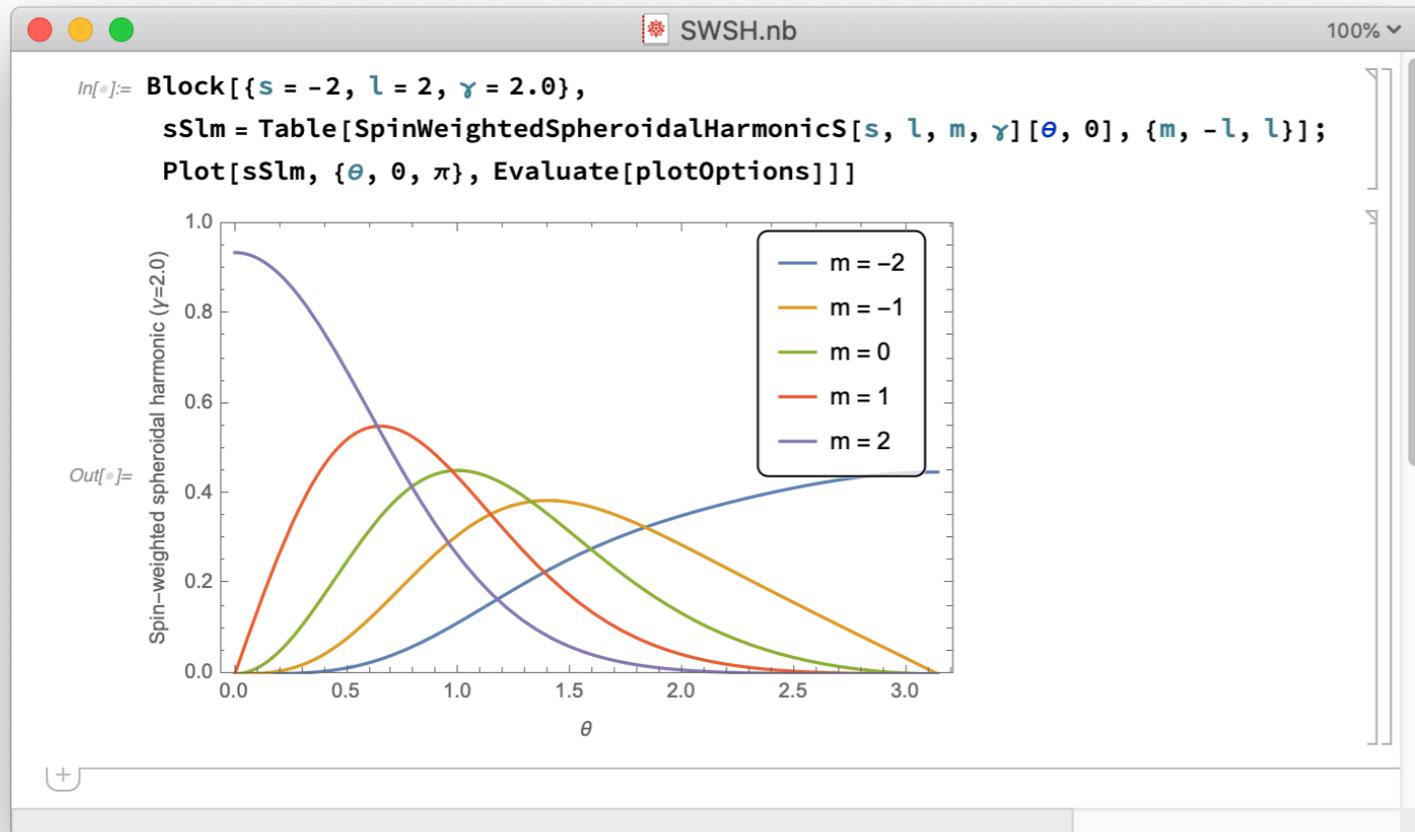
Store large datasets in Google Drive initially. Later transition to Zenodo for finalised dataset

# Current components

Code: Mathematica



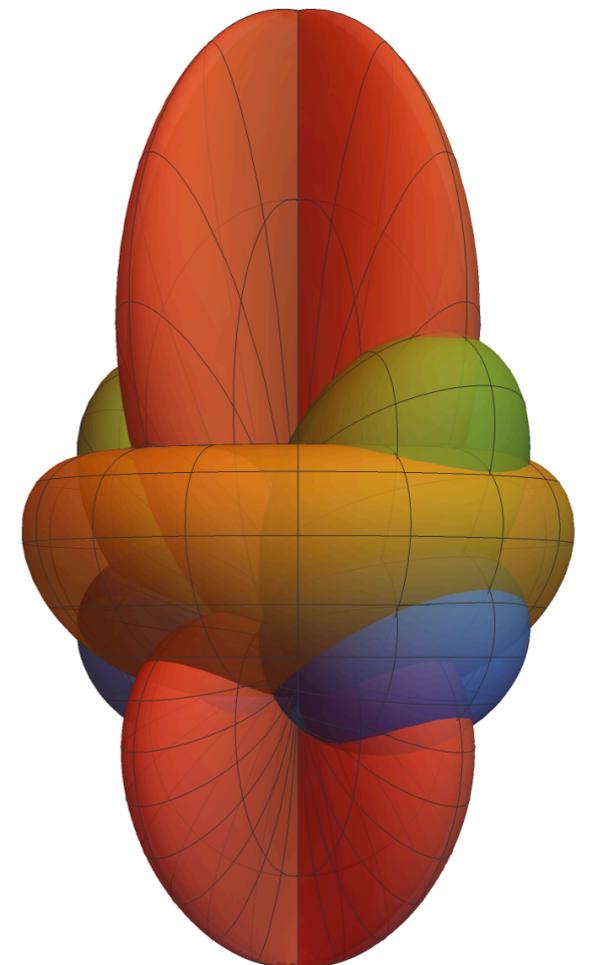
# Mathematica: Spin-weighted Spheroidal Harmonics



Arbitrary precision and  
analytics functions for:

- eigenvalues
- harmonics

Spin-weighted spheroidal harmonic ( $\gamma=2.0$ )

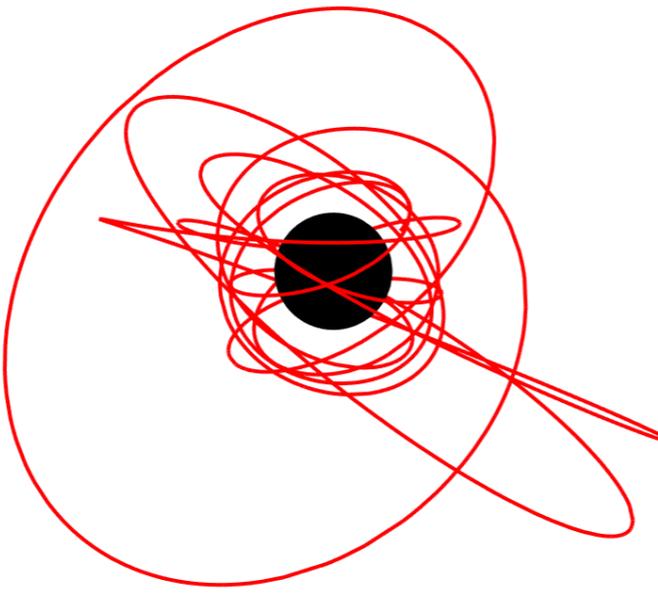


`Series[SpinWeightedSpheroidalEigenvalue[s, l, m, γ], {γ, 0, 1}]`

$$(l^2 + l - s(s + 1)) + \gamma \left( -\frac{2ms^2}{l(l + 1)} - 2m \right) + O(\gamma^2)$$

Can also perform series expansion about  $\gamma = \infty$

# Mathematica: Kerr Geodesics

```
KerrGeoExample.nb 100%  
  
In[1]:= << KerrGeodesics`  
  
In[7]:= a = 0.998; p = 3; e = 0.6; x = Cos[ $\pi/4$ ];  
orbit = KerrGeoOrbit[a, p, e, x];  
{t, r,  $\theta$ ,  $\varphi$ } = orbit["Trajectory"];  
  
In[10]:= Show[ParametricPlot3D[{r[ $\lambda$ ] Sin[ $\theta$ [ $\lambda$ ] Cos[ $\varphi$ [ $\lambda$ ]}, r[ $\lambda$ ] Sin[ $\theta$ [ $\lambda$ ] Sin[ $\varphi$ [ $\lambda$ ]},  
r[ $\lambda$ ] Cos[ $\theta$ [ $\lambda$ ]}, { $\lambda$ , 0, 20}, ImageSize  $\rightarrow$  600, Boxed  $\rightarrow$  False,  
Axes  $\rightarrow$  False, PlotStyle  $\rightarrow$  Red, PlotRange  $\rightarrow$  All],  
Graphics3D[{Black, Sphere[{0, 0, 0}, 1 + Sqrt[1 - a^2]]}]]  
  
Out[10]=  

```

Compute properties of bound timelike geodesics of Kerr spacetime

- constants of motion
- orbital frequencies
- special orbits (ISCO, ISSO, separatrix)
- orbital trajectory

Also recently added sub-package for parallel transport calculations

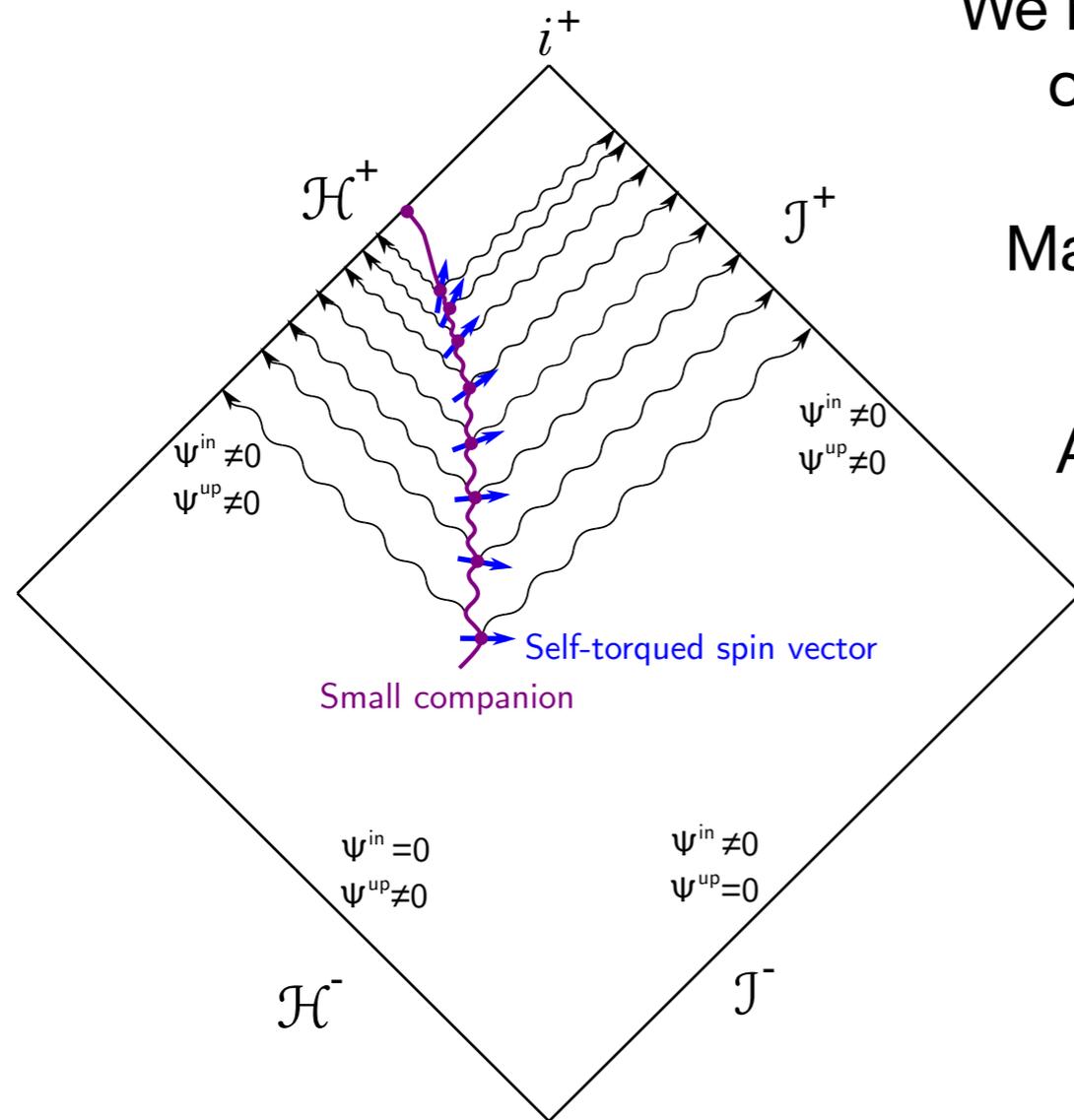
# Mathematica: Teukolsky equation

```
Fluxes.nb 100%
In[1]:= << Teukolsky`
In[2]:= With[{a = 0.9`16, p = 10.0`16, e = 0, x = 1},
  orbit = KerrGeoOrbit[a, p, e, x]]
Out[2]= KerrGeoOrbitFunction[
  a: 0.9000000000000000 p: 10.000000000000000 e: 0 x: 1
  Parametrization: Mino
]
In[3]:= With[{s = -2, l = 2, m = 2},
   $\psi_4[l, m] = \text{TeukolskyPointParticleMode}[s, l, m, 0, 0, \text{orbit}]$ ]
Out[3]= TeukolskyMode[
  s: -2 l: 2 m: 2 a: 0.9000000000000000  $\omega$ : 0.06149536444485709
  Type: PointParticleCircular
]
In[4]:=  $\psi_4[2, 2][\text{"Fluxes"}]$ 
Out[4]= <| Energy  $\rightarrow$  <|  $I \rightarrow 0.000022273, \mathcal{H} \rightarrow -5.984 \times 10^{-8}$  |>,
  AngularMomentum  $\rightarrow$  <|  $I \rightarrow 0.0007244, \mathcal{H} \rightarrow -1.9461 \times 10^{-6}$  |> |>
```

Extremely easy to compute fluxes to arbitrary precision

Point particle source implemented for circular orbits for  $s=\{-2,-1,0\}$ . Fully generic orbits coming soon.

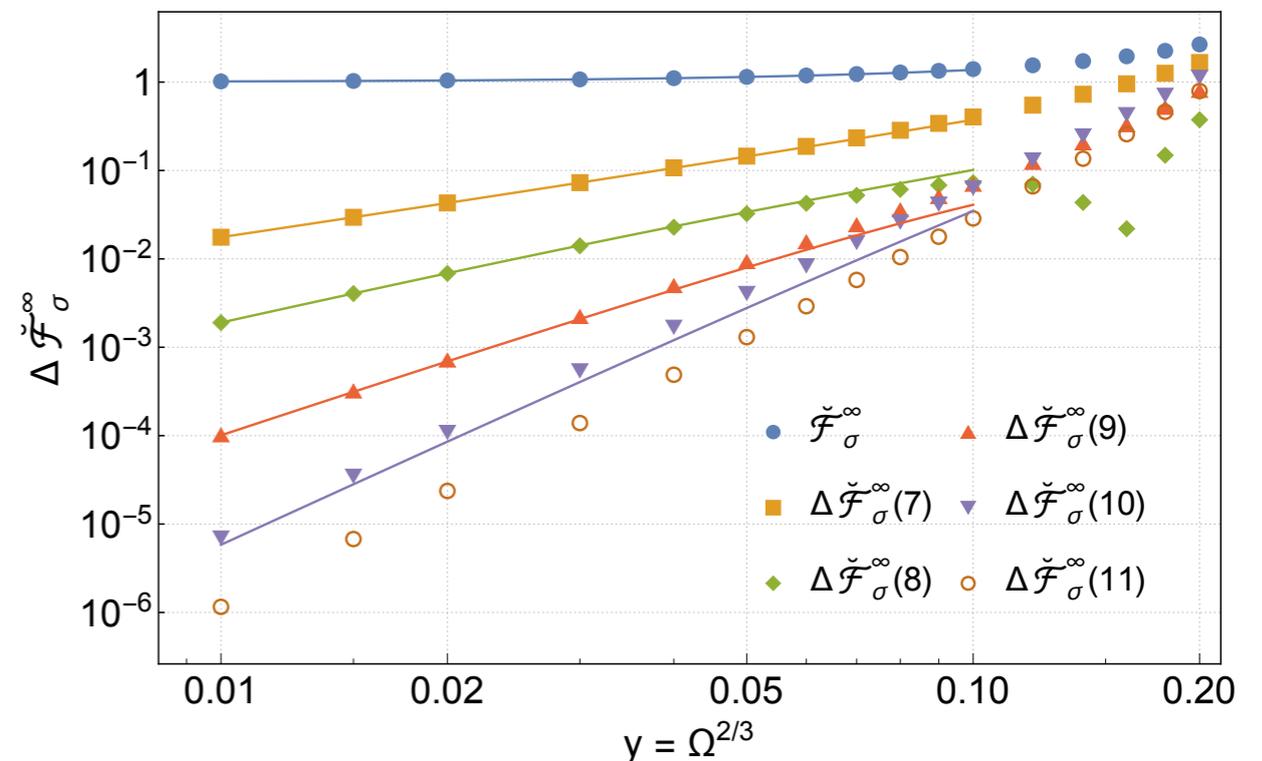
# Mathematica: complete calculation



We recently computed the flux from a spinning body on a circular orbit in Schwarzschild spacetime

Many long hours spent writing and debugging code

At the end, the Toolkit was mature enough that we calculated the same flux in an afternoon



# Current components

## Code: C/C++/Fortran

EMRI Kludge Suite

Kludge waveforms by Alvin Chua +

Gremlin

Teukolsky solver from Scott Hughes +

Fast Self-forced Inspirals

Self-force inspirals from Niels Warburton +

selfforce-1d

Time domain self-force

## Code: Python/Sage Math

EMRISurrogates

Surrogate model for quasi-circular inspirals  
by Rifat +

kerrgeodesic\_gw

GWs for circular orbits by Eric Gourgoulhon +

qnm

Quasi-normal modes from Leo Stein

# Python Example: EMRISurrogate

Latest addition to the Toolkit following  
Rifat+, arXiv:1910.10473

This paper both used and then  
extended the Toolkit



Surrogate model for EMRI  
waveforms

Implementation within Python,  
with example notebooks in the  
repository

Surrogate data stored in

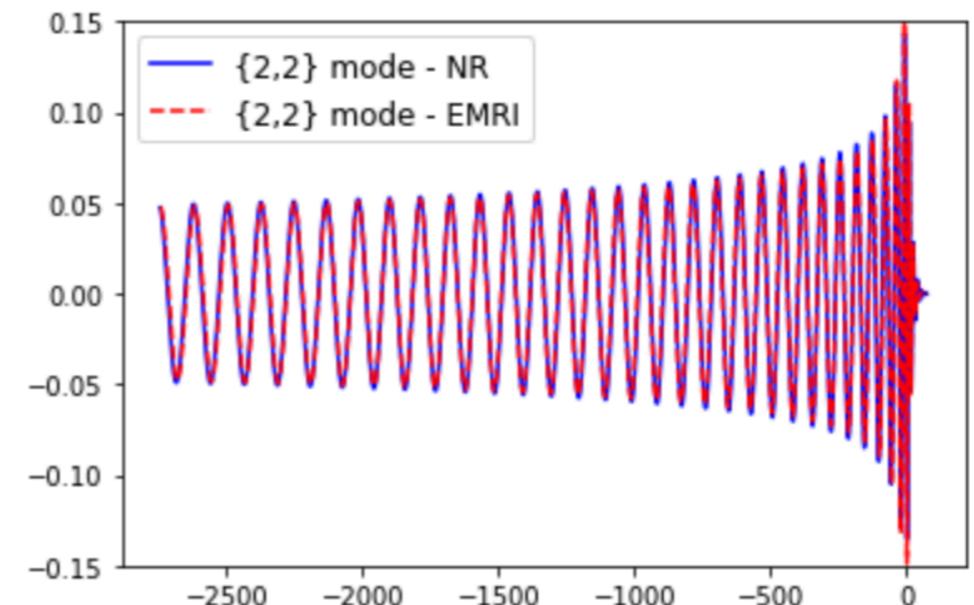
```
# generate a q=8 EMRI and NR waveform
q=8
time_emri, h_emri = emriSur.generate_surrogate(...)

modes_spec, times_spec, hp_spec, hc_spec = s[...]
h_spec = hp_spec + 1.0j*hc_spec
h_spec = modes_list_to_dict(modes_spec, h_spec)
```

```
# plot waveforms after minimizations
plt.figure(1)
plt.plot(common_times, np.real(h_nr_aligned), 'b')
plt.plot(common_times, np.real(h_emri_aligned), 'r')
plt.legend(fontsize=12)
plt.ylim(-0.15, 0.15)

plt.figure(2)
plt.plot(common_times, np.imag(h_nr_aligned), 'b')
plt.plot(common_times, np.imag(h_emri_aligned), 'r')
plt.legend(fontsize=12)
plt.ylim(-0.15, 0.15)
```

(-0.15, 0.15)



# Current components

## Data:

**CircularOrbitData**

Flux, local invariants, etc for circular orbits

**PostNewtonianSelfForce**

Mathematica module to load high-order Post-Newtonian series

**Regularisation Parameters**

Mathematica notebooks containing regularisation parameters

**Mathematica Toolkit Examples**

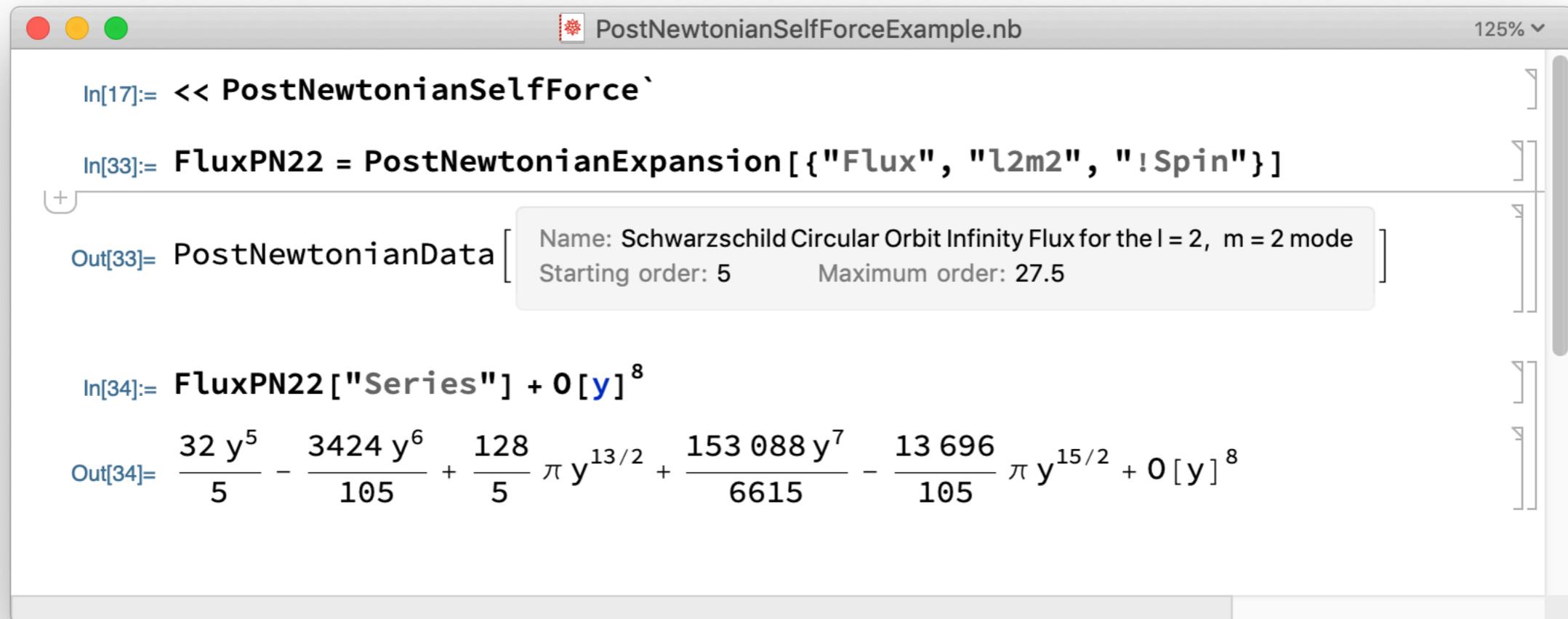
Mathematica notebooks showing example usage of various modules

These are all small datasets and thus stored in GitHub

# Data examples: PostNewtonianSelfForce

Combining PN and self-force techniques leads to very high order series (e.g., 22PN)

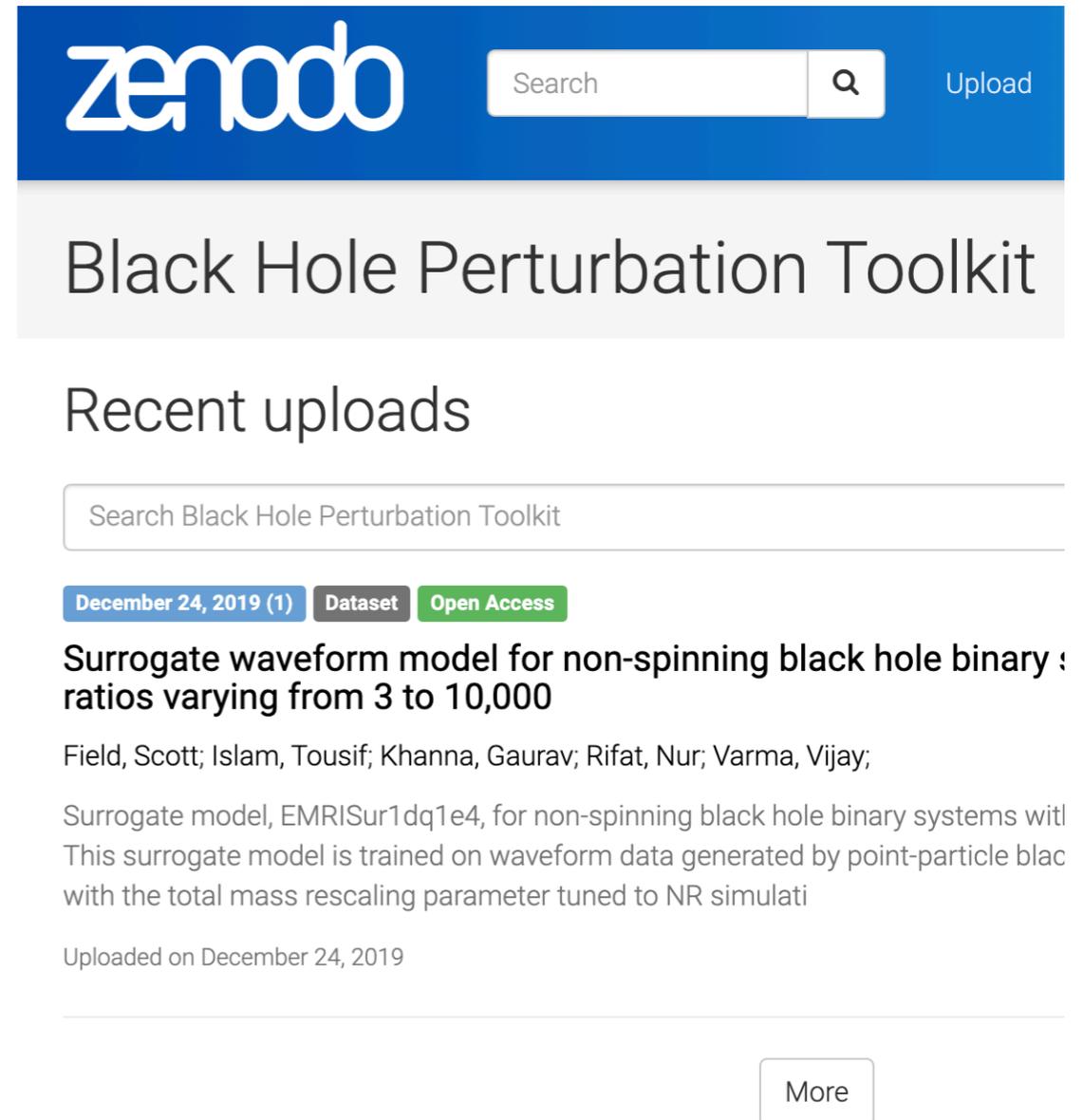
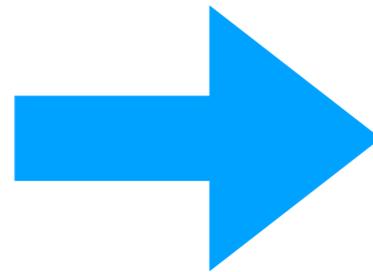
Currently have **57** PN series in the Toolkit and a package to search through and manipulate them



```
In[17]:= << PostNewtonianSelfForce`  
In[33]:= FluxPN22 = PostNewtonianExpansion[{"Flux", "l2m2", "!Spin"}]  
Out[33]= PostNewtonianData [ Name: Schwarzschild Circular Orbit Infinity Flux for the l = 2, m = 2 mode  
Starting order: 5 Maximum order: 27.5 ]  
In[34]:= FluxPN22["Series"] + 0[y]^8  
Out[34]=  $\frac{32 y^5}{5} - \frac{3424 y^6}{105} + \frac{128}{5} \pi y^{13/2} + \frac{153\,088 y^7}{6615} - \frac{13\,696}{105} \pi y^{15/2} + 0[y]^8$ 
```

# Data storage

Data testing and storage

A screenshot of the Zenodo website. The header is blue with the "zenodo" logo, a search bar, and an "Upload" button. Below the header, the title "Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit" is displayed. Underneath, there is a section for "Recent uploads" with a search bar. A specific upload is listed with the date "December 24, 2019 (1)", the type "Dataset", and the status "Open Access". The title of the upload is "Surrogate waveform model for non-spinning black hole binary ratios varying from 3 to 10,000". The authors are listed as "Field, Scott; Islam, Tousif; Khanna, Gaurav; Rifat, Nur; Varma, Vijay;". A brief description follows: "Surrogate model, EMRISur1dq1e4, for non-spinning black hole binary systems with This surrogate model is trained on waveform data generated by point-particle black with the total mass rescaling parameter tuned to NR simulati". The upload date "Uploaded on December 24, 2019" is shown at the bottom of the entry. A "More" button is located at the bottom right of the screenshot.

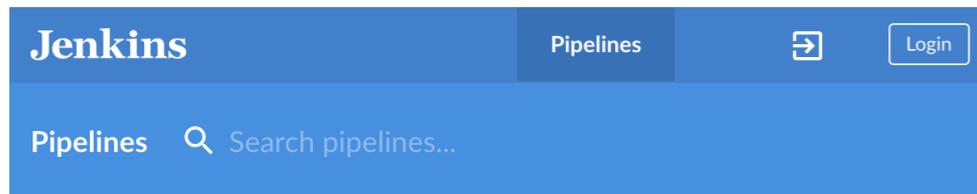
1. Data shared on a Google Drive with other Toolkit users but without warranty

2. Verified and/or published data stored on Zenodo for longevity. Data gets a unique DOI

# Hosting and continuous integration testing

BHPToolkit is hosted on GitHub

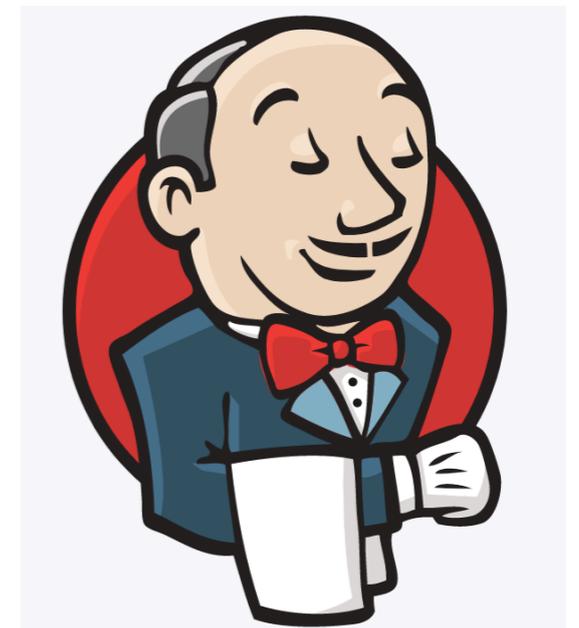
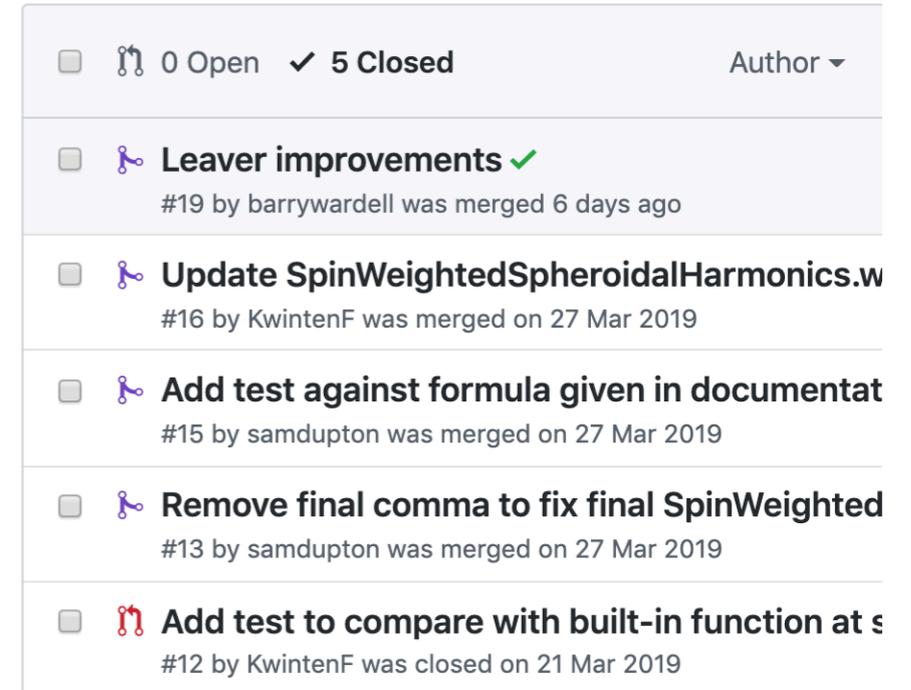
- website designed in gh-pages
- built-in issue tracker
- continuous integration testing with Jenkins
- Jenkins integration with GitHub



NAME	HEALTH	BRANCHES	PR
BlackHoleAnalysis		1 passing	-
GeneralRelativityTensors		2 passing	-
GremlinEq		1 passing	-
kerrgeodesic_gw		2 passing	-
KerrGeodesics		1 passing	-
ReggeWheeler		-	-
SpinWeightedSpheroidalHa		2 passing	-
Teukolsky		1 passing	-

Jenkins ([jenkins.io](http://jenkins.io)) runs unit tests every time code is committed

<http://build.bhptoolkit.org/blue>  
(password protected)



# How to get involved

1. Download and use the code



Install this package!

## Teukolsky

A Mathematica package for computing solutions to the Teukolsky equation. Note this package depends upon the [SpinWeightedSpheroidalHarmonics](#) and the [KerrGeodesics](#) package to run.

Explicitly the package computes solutions to:

$$\Delta^{-s} \frac{d}{dr} \left[ \Delta^{s+1} \frac{dR}{dr} \right] + \left[ \frac{K^2 - 2is(r-M)K}{\Delta} + 4is\omega r - \lambda \right] R = \mathcal{T}$$

2. Submit issues to the **issue** tracker

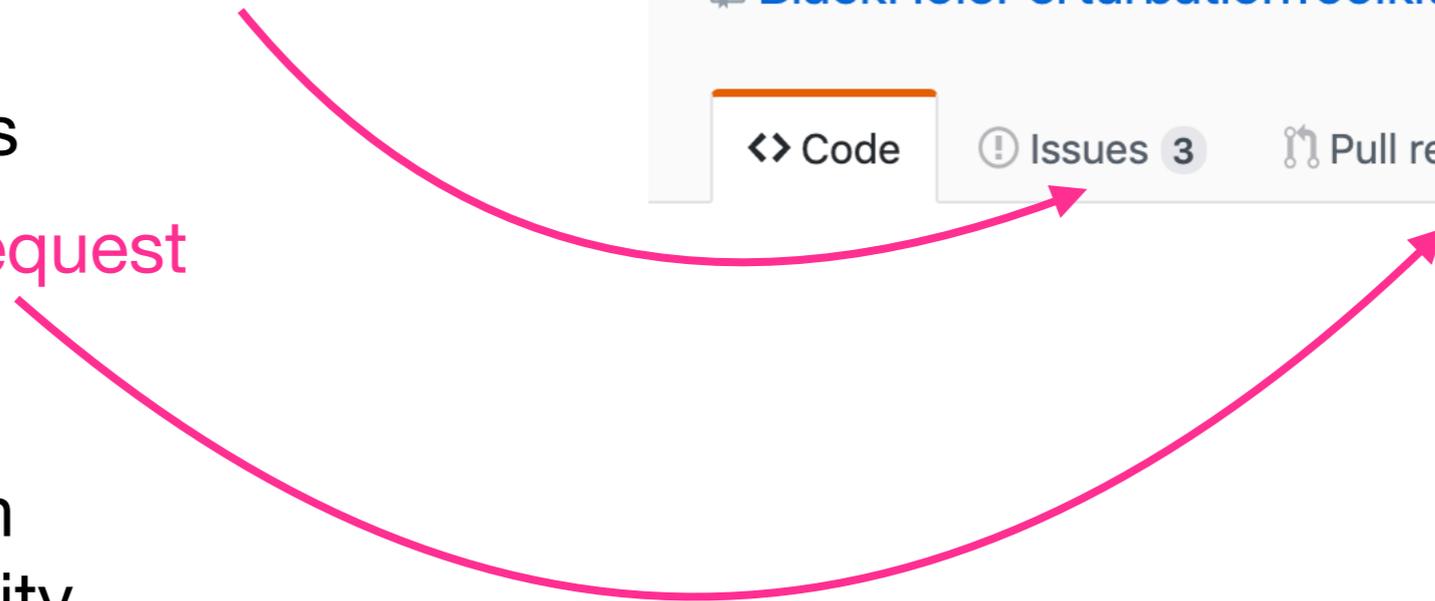
- Bugs
- Enhancements

 [BlackHolePerturbationToolkit / Teukolsky](#)

 Code  Issues **3**  Pull requests **1**  Actions

3. Submit a **pull request**

- bug fix
- new unit tests
- documentation
- new functionality



# How to get involved



## Toolkit workshops



- First public workshop in Prague in March 2020 (funded by **COST**)
- Second workshop part of the **ICERM** meeting in Brown (this workshop)
- Workshops offer training for new users coming to the Toolkit, also an opportunity for developers to come together

## Paper

- Currently preparing a draft of a BHPToolkit paper
- Aiming to have it out before the end of the year
- All contributors to the Toolkit will be invited to co-author

# How to cite

Until the paper is published please acknowledge usage of the Toolkit via

## Citation Guideline

If you make use of any of the Toolkit in your research please acknowledge using:

█ This work makes use of the Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit.

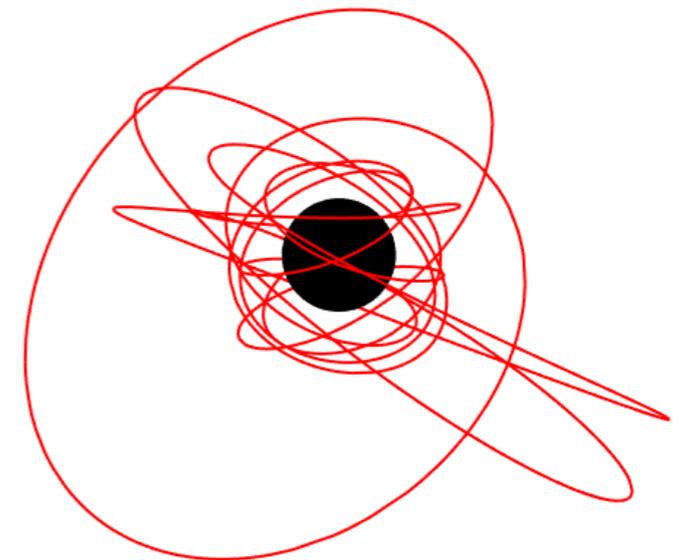
To cite the Toolkit please use this [BibTeX entry](#) (or similar). Some modules also request additional citations. Please check the documentation for individual modules.

Knowing who is using the Toolkit helps us prioritise work and helps us secure funding for workshops etc.

# Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit: the future

## Near term:

- Writing an introductory paper
- Effective communication (google groups, email, etc)
- Run Toolkit workshops
- Standardising on good data formats
- Formalize how to make Toolkit contributions



## Longer term:

- Grow the community
- Encourage other researchers to tackle second order Self-force
- Compute fluxes for leading-order inspirals
- Make accurate waveforms for LISA

1. Add the Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit server to Mathematica's list of paclet servers:

```
If[$VersionNumber >= 12.1,  
  PacletSiteRegister["https://pacletserver.bhptoolkit.org",  
    "Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit Paclet Server"],  
  PacletSiteAdd["http://pacletserver.bhptoolkit.org",  
    "Black Hole Perturbation Toolkit Paclet Server"]  
]
```

2. Get an updated list of packages available on the server:

```
If[$VersionNumber >= 12.1,  
  PacletSiteUpdate["https://pacletserver.bhptoolkit.org"],  
  PacletSiteUpdate["http://pacletserver.bhptoolkit.org"]  
]
```

3. Install the paclets:

```
PacletInstall["GeneralRelativityTensors"];  
PacletInstall["KerrGeodesics"];  
PacletInstall["SpinWeightedSpheroidalHarmonics"];  
PacletInstall["ReggeWheeler"];  
PacletInstall["Teukolsky"];  
PacletInstall["PostNewtonianSelfForce"];
```

If a new version of a package is released and you would like to update, just run steps 2 and 3 above again and the latest available version will be installed.

**<https://bhptoolkit.org/mathematica-install>**