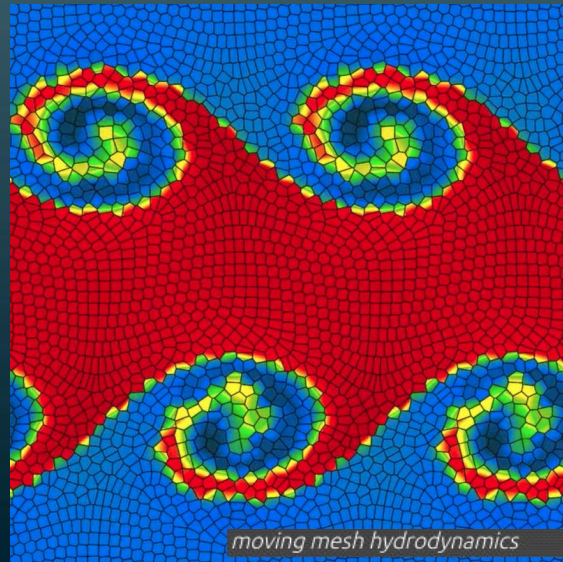
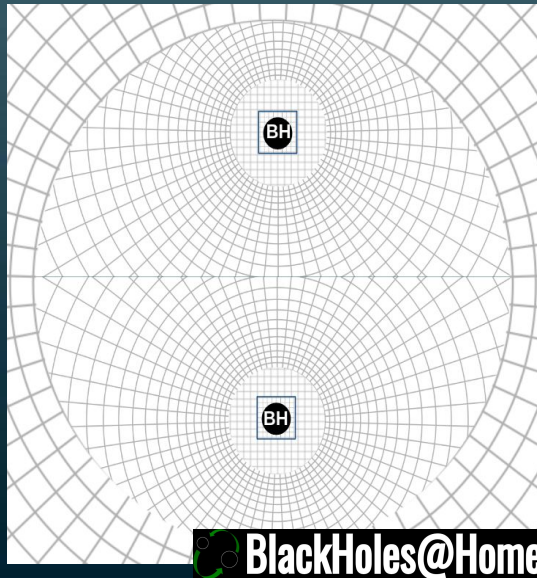


# New Techniques in Numerical Relativity

*Zachariah Etienne*

Department of Physics



*Disclaimer: Not a review talk*

Funding Acknowledgements

PHY-2110352 (Grav theory, 2021-2024)

AST-2108072 (WoU-MMA, 2021-2024)



# New Techniques in Numerical Relativity

## Why we need new techniques in numerical relativity

- Current codes don't have all the physics we need for BNS
  - GR solver
  - Neutrino physics with advanced EOSs, nuclear physics
  - GRMHD
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# New Techniques in Numerical Relativity

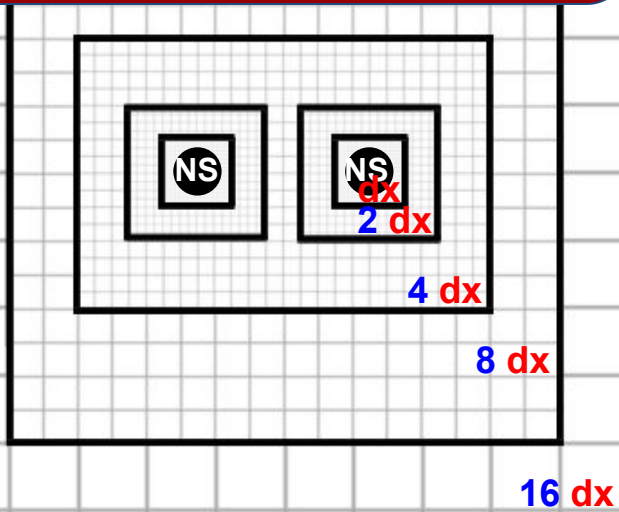
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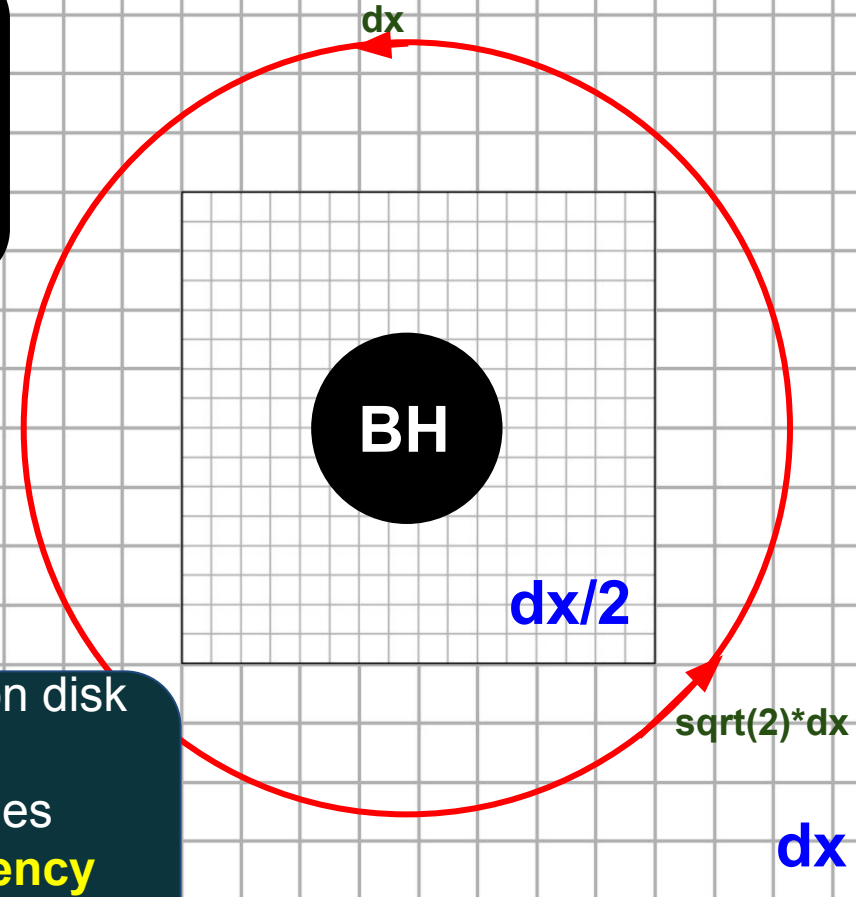
# Most NR codes use Cartesian AMR Grids

## AMR Grids

*Adaptive Mesh Refinement  
(Most Popular Method in NR)*



**Most important MMA system:  
BH accretion disk in full 3D**  
Comparison of Cartesian AMR  
vs spherical grids



Red circle: path of fluid element in BH accretion disk  
Resolution changes by 1.4x over path  
Induces artificial high-order multipole modes  
Azimuthal resolution  $\sim 1.4x$  lower:  **$\sim 2x$  inefficiency  
(over spherical grids)**  
 $\sim 2x$  jumps in  $dr$  vs smooth  $dr$ :  **$\sim 2x$  inefficiency**

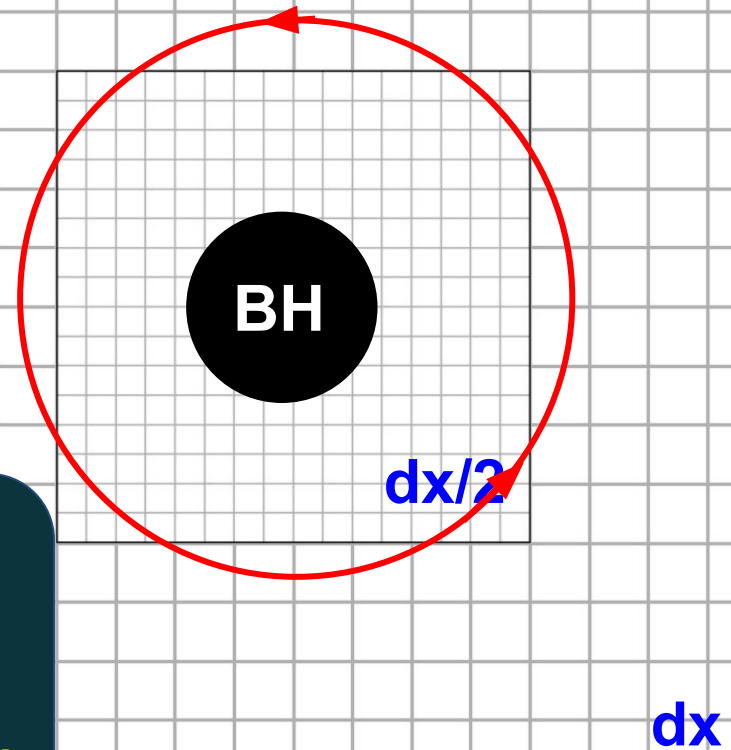
**Most important MMA system:  
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Situation becomes far worse if angular momentum transport causes fluid element to orbit more closely!

Sharp AMR corners *wasted*: **~2x inefficiency**

Coarse grid underneath fine grid: **~1.2x inefficiency**

Fine grids' wide AMR boundary: **~1.5x inefficiency**



**Summary:**  
**Cart AMR ~15x inefficient**

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- Current-gen codes too inefficient to survey needed BNS parameter space
  - *All else being the same, cost ~ # of gridpoints*
  - Cartesian AMR: ~15x more gridpoints than needed
    - Next-gen AMR: maybe ~1.5x improvement at best
    - *Thinking outside the box* is probably optimal

# New Techniques in Numerical Relativity: Next-Generation NR Codes

Core need for next-gen NR:  
*Move beyond proof-of-principle simulations &  
into realm of connecting with observations*



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Keys to unlocking next-gen NR

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2. Efficiency
3. Efficiency

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2. Efficiency, so we can span param space
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  - a. *OSS & good documentation!*

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*Higher order methods  
(Higher effective resolution)  
DG, WENO, high-order FD*

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*AI/ML? Probably  
next-next-gen NR*

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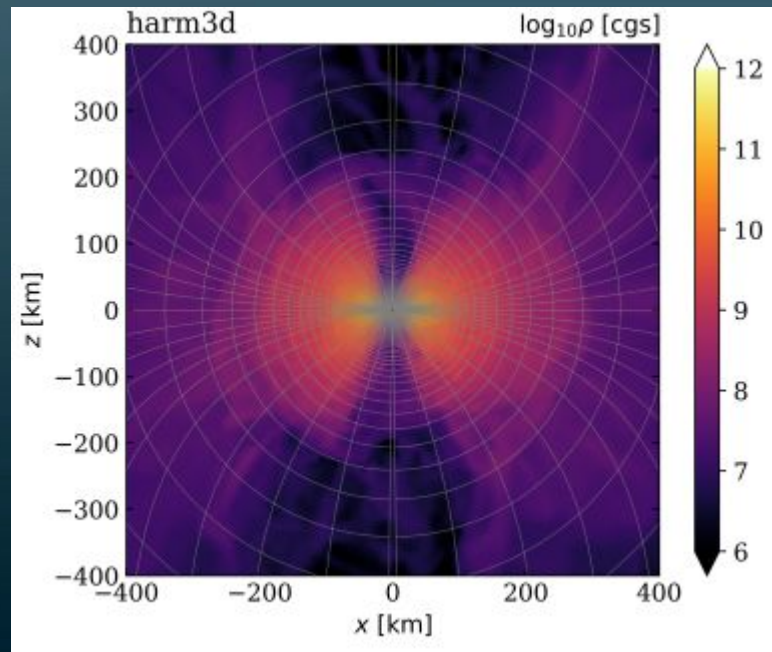
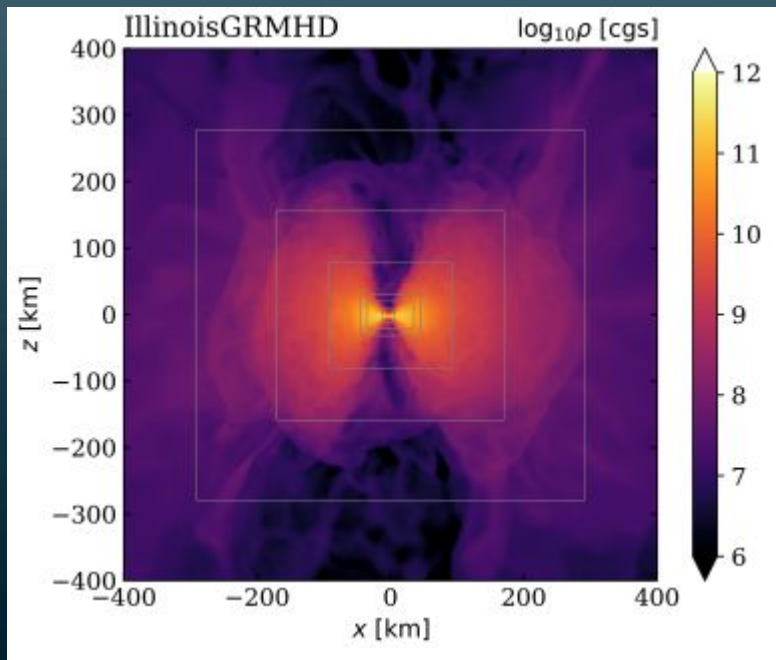
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# Improved post-merger BNS simulations: Inspiral+merger using Cartesian AMR GRMHD Very long post-merger using spherical GRMHD

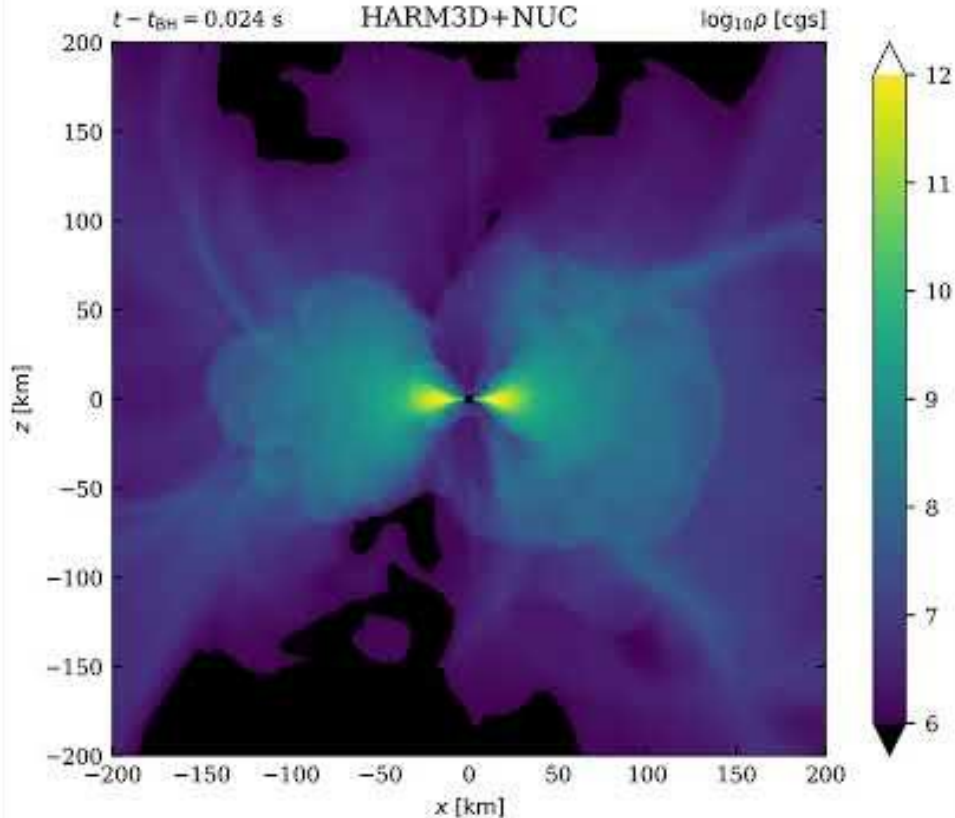
Lopez Armengol, ZBE, *et al.* <https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.09817>

Compact-binaries.org



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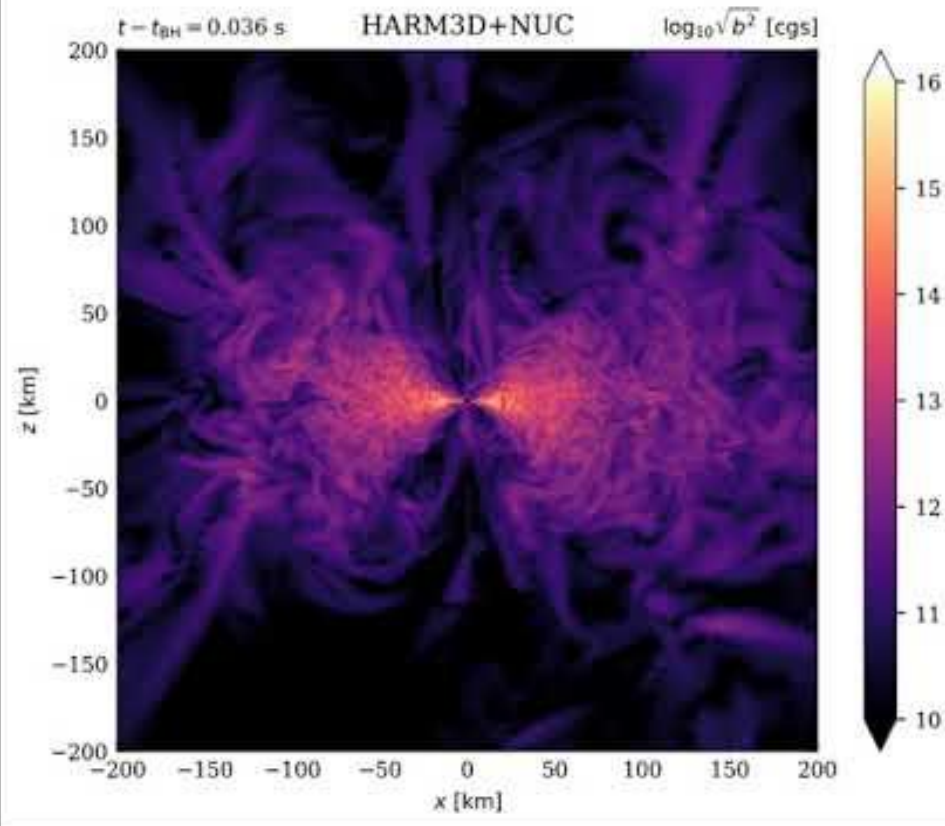
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Trial run:  
Magnetized BNS:  
q=1  
LS220/SLy4 +  
postmerger neutrino  
leakage

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**Answer:**

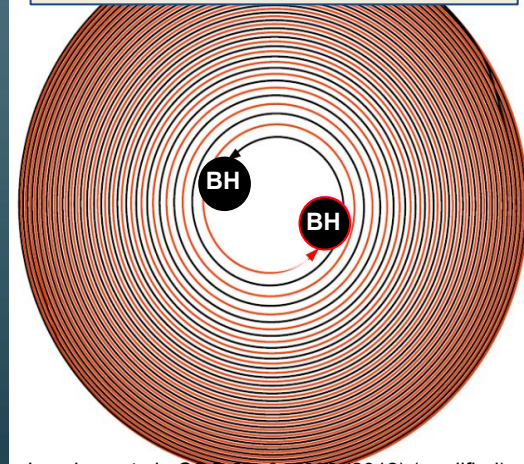
**Yes, BlackHoles@Home grids provide one path forward**



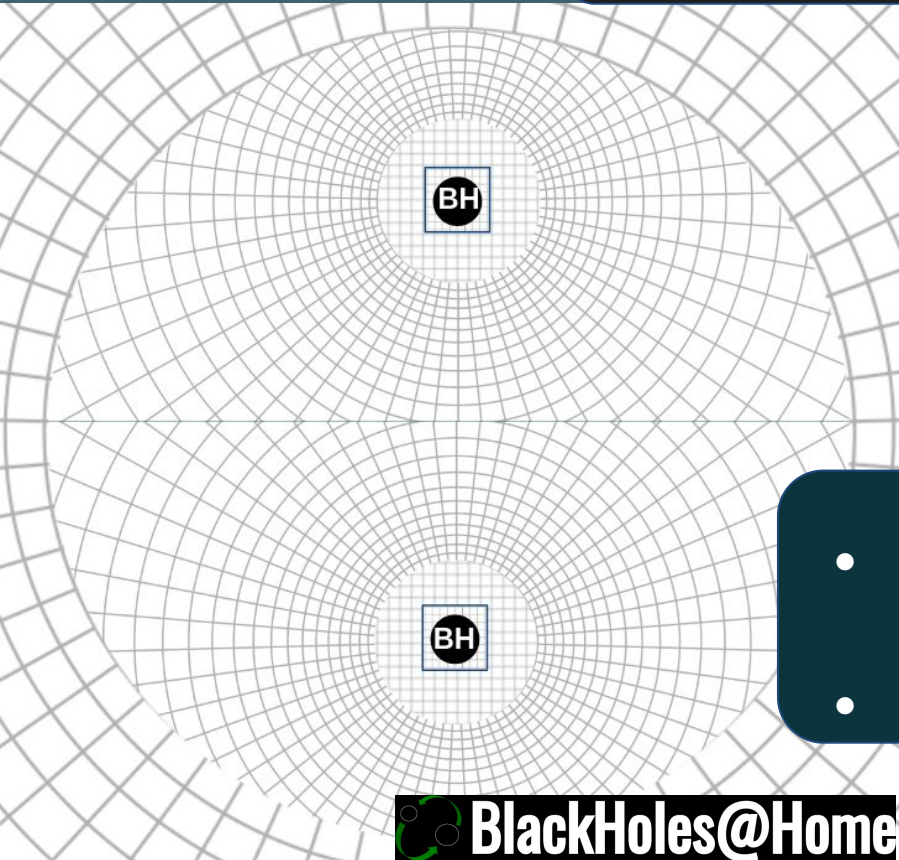
# BlackHoles@Home

<https://blackholesathome.net>

**Binary Black Hole (BBH):**  
Orbiting, colliding black holes



Lovelace et al., CQG 29, 045003 (2012) (modified)

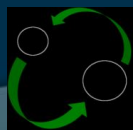


## BlackHoles@Home

- Proposed volunteer computing/citizen science project
  - a. Fit full-NR BBH sims on consumer desktops
  - b. Generate large-scale GW follow-ups & catalogs
- Code behind the volunteer computing project



# BlackHoles@Home



## *What is it?*

- A **NRPy+**-based numerical relativity code

**NRPy+**: Python-based C code generation framework for NR

*Tensorial expressions in Einstein-like notation ⇒ Highly optimized C-code kernels (with FDs)*



"Nerpy", the NRPy+ mascot. Photo CC2.0 [Pacific Environment](#) (modified).

<https://nrpyplus.net>



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### NR in Spherical coordinates

- Brown (PRD 79, 104029, **2009**)
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### NR in spherical-like, cylindrical-like, etc.

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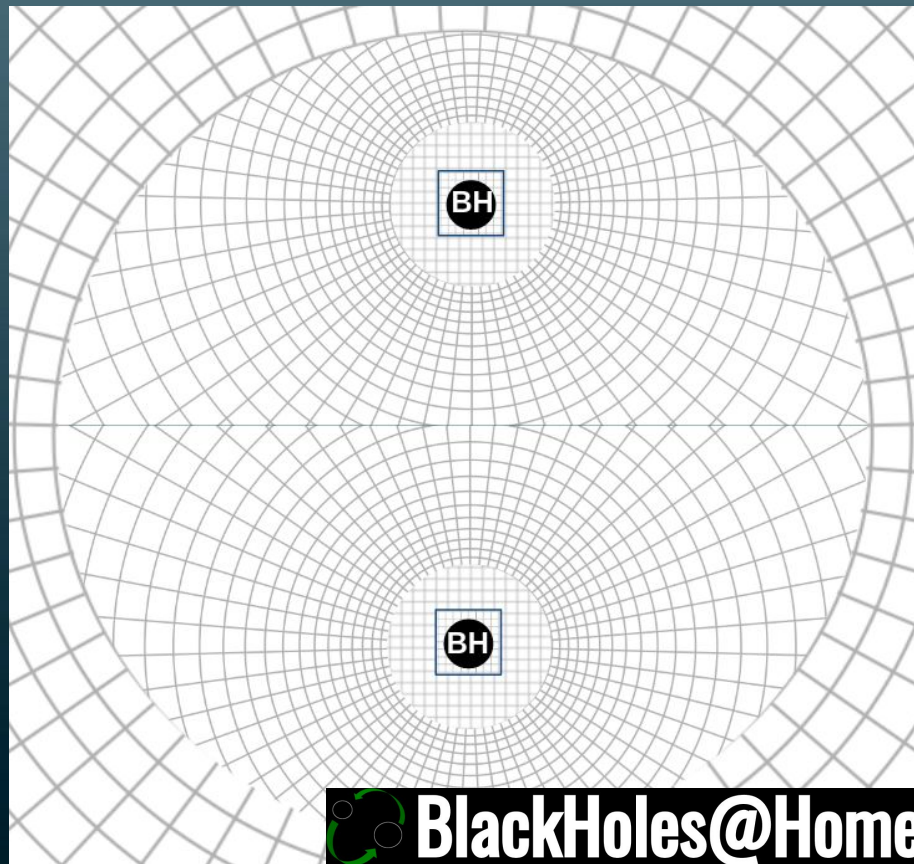
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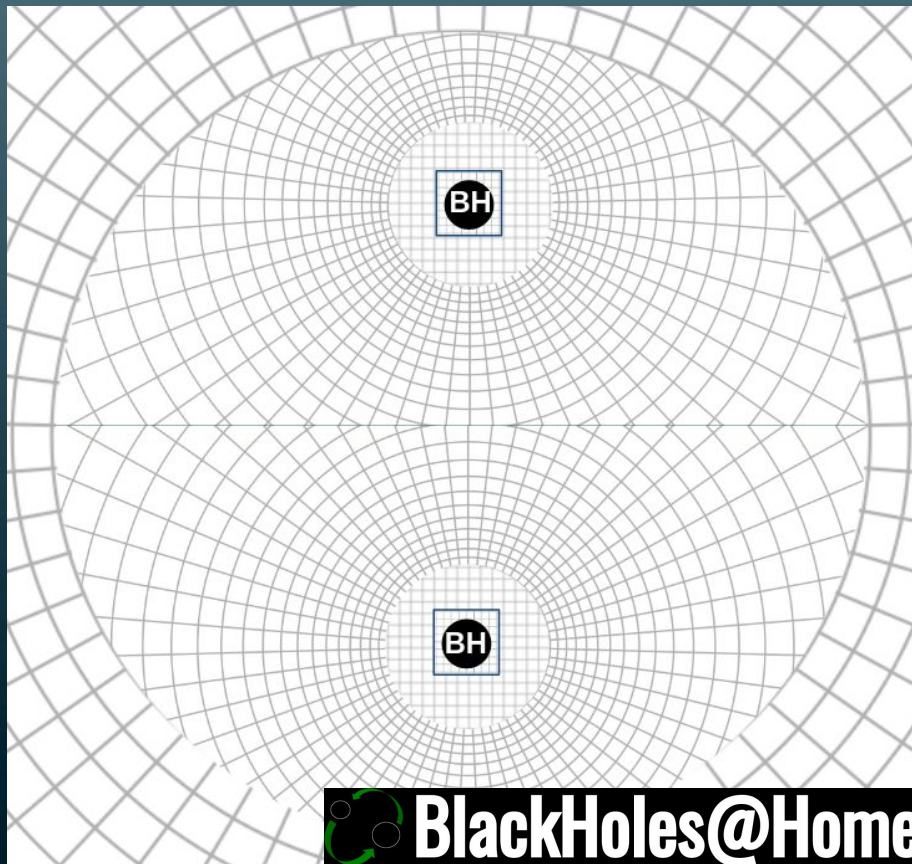


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## Why use it?

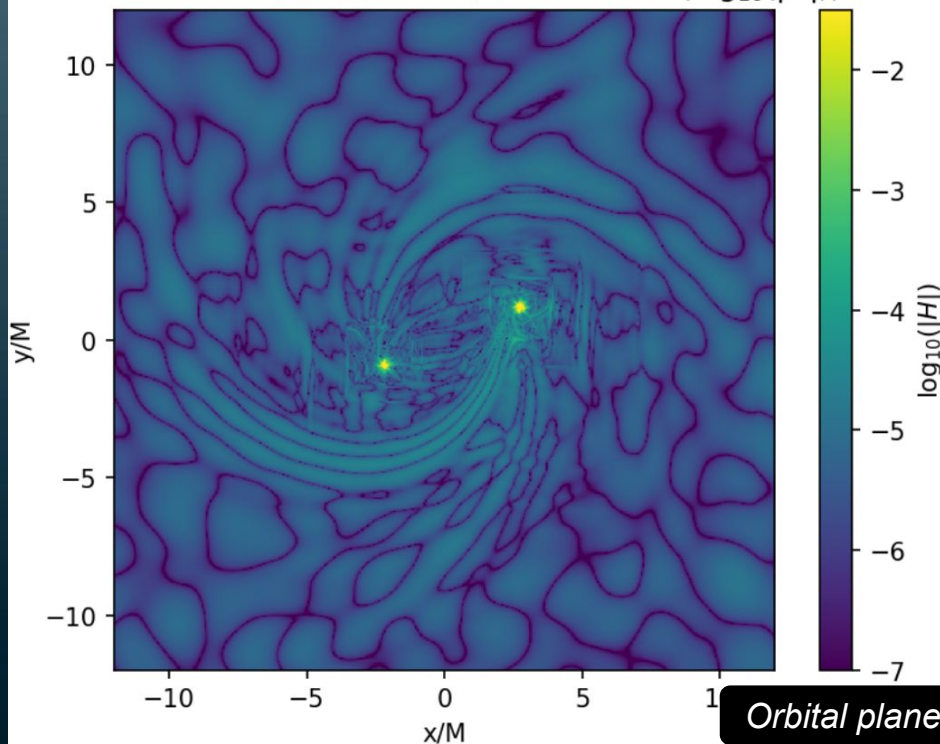
- **Super efficient**: Number of gridpoints:  
BH@H < ~1% Cartesian AMR
  - Binary BHs on desktop computers
- **Super accurate**: better grids -> less numerical noise than *any other code*; far cleaner convergence than Cart AMR



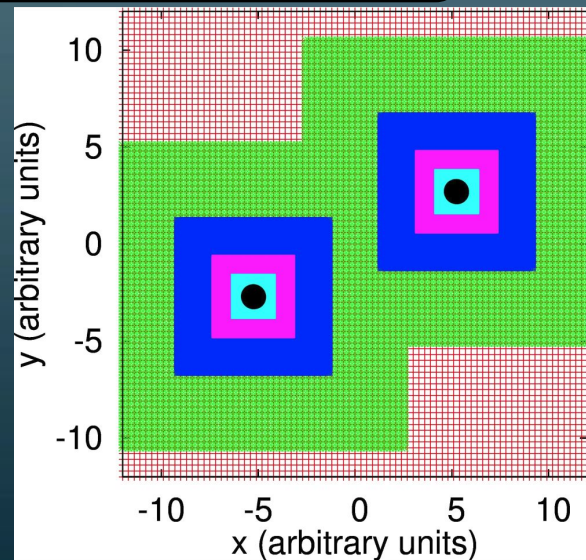
# BH@H Code Validation against Einstein Toolkit (ET): GW150914 Gallery Example

Num. Errors ( $\text{Log}_{10}|\text{Ham. constraint}|$ ) @ 4.8 orbits

Einstein Toolkit, 203GB RAM,  $t=0824.921$  ( $\text{log}_{10}(|H|)$ )



Cartesian AMR grids: 203GB of RAM



## Simulation details

### Physical parameters

Initial separation  $D$  10 M

Mass ratio  $q = m_1/m_2$  36/29  $\sim$  1.24

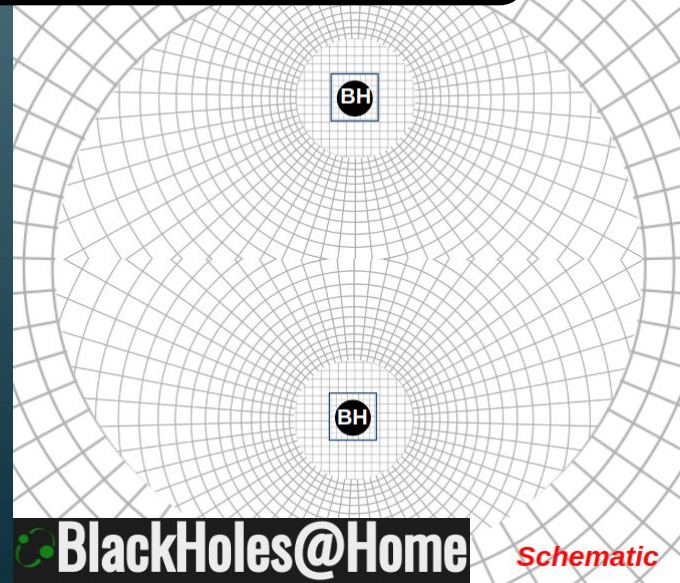
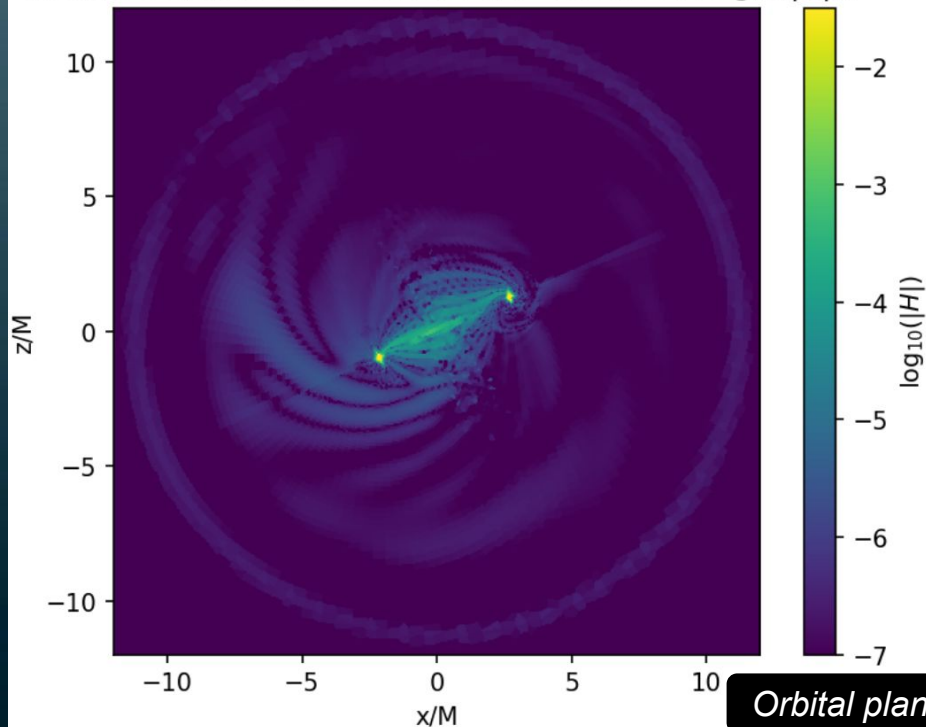
Spin  $\chi_1 = a_1/m_1$  0.31

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# BH@H Code Validation against Einstein Toolkit (ET): GW150914 Gallery Example

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BlackHoles@Home, 1.78GB RAM,  $t=0824.686$  ( $\text{log}_{10}(|H|)$ )



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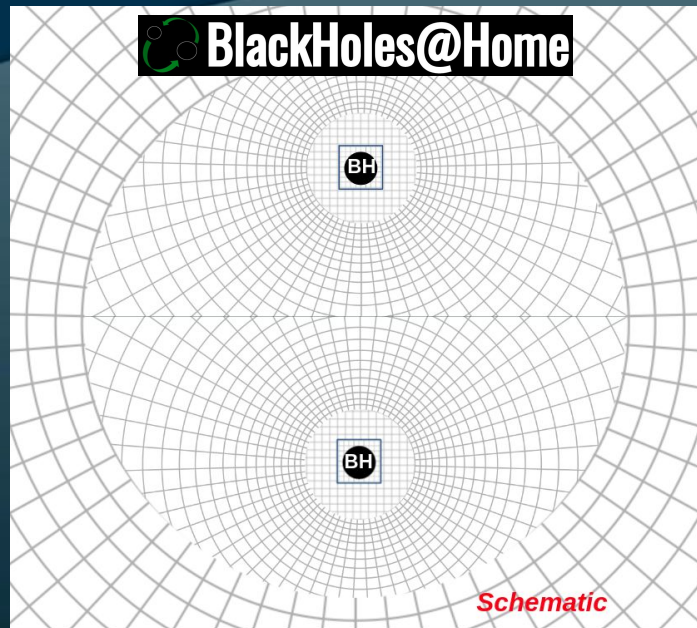
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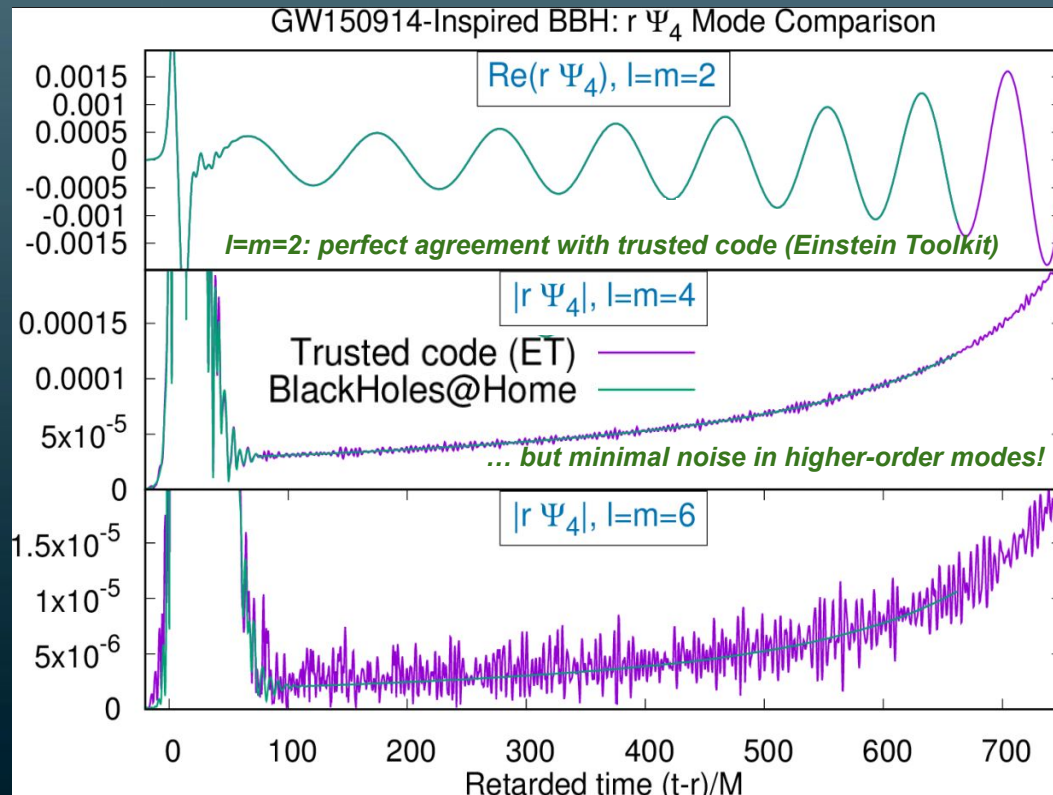
BlackHoles@Home grids: 1.78 of RAM

# BlackHoles@Home

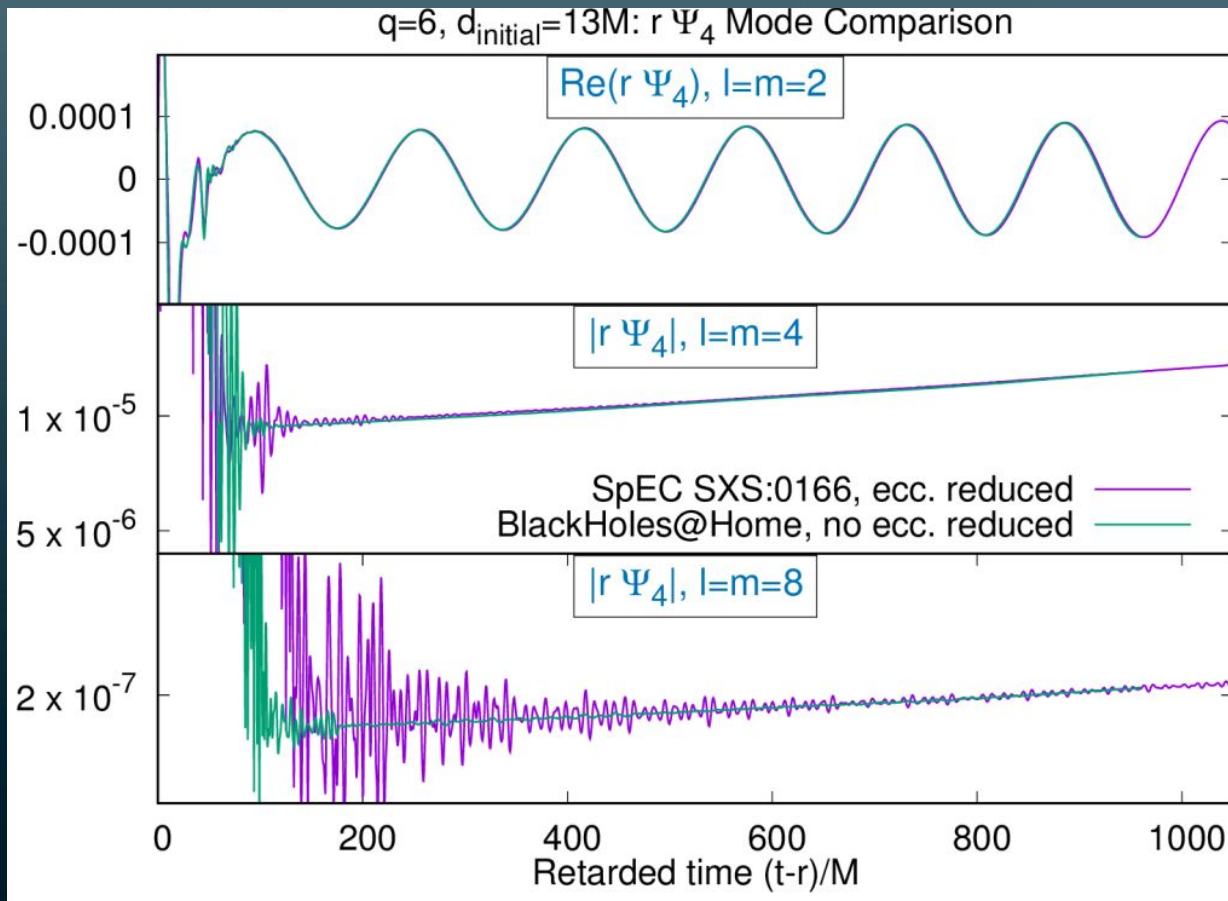
BlackHoles@Home



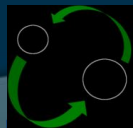
- GW noise in AMR references:
1. Zlochower, Ponce, & Lousto, PRD 86, 104056 (2012)
  2. Etienne, Baker, Paschalidis, Kelly, Shapiro, Phys. Rev. D 90, 064032 (2014)



# BH@H Code Validation against SpEC: q=6 Example







# BlackHoles@Home

12-month update

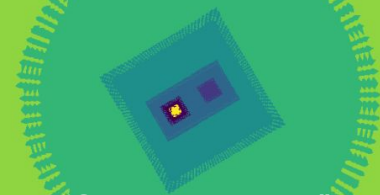
- **BH@H** completely rewritten
  - Can do mergers!
    - New grids: Months → minutes

Cart-like inside  
Cyl-like



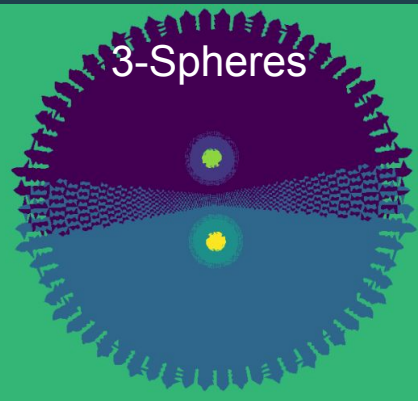
Cyl-like inside  
Sph-like

Cartesian AMR:  
Cart.-like in Cart.-like



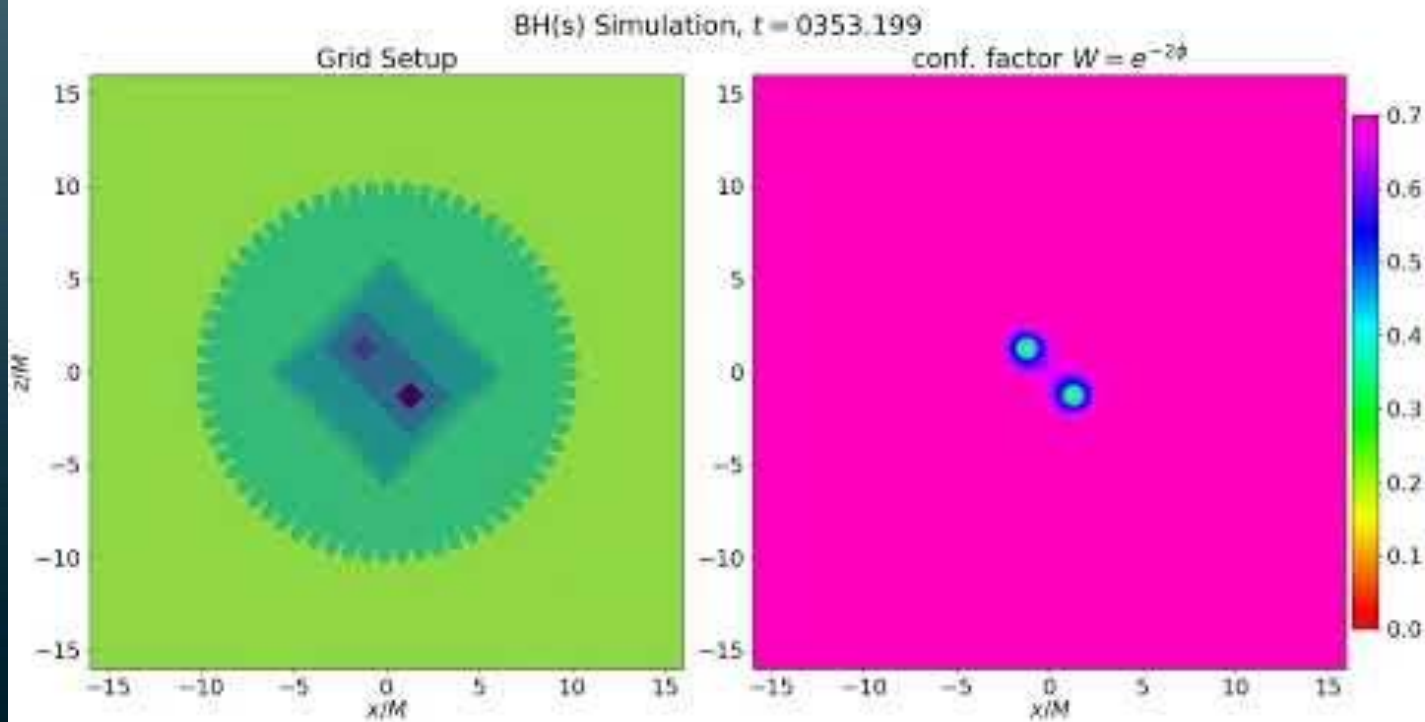
“Spherical AMR”:  
Sph-like in Sph-like

3-Spheres



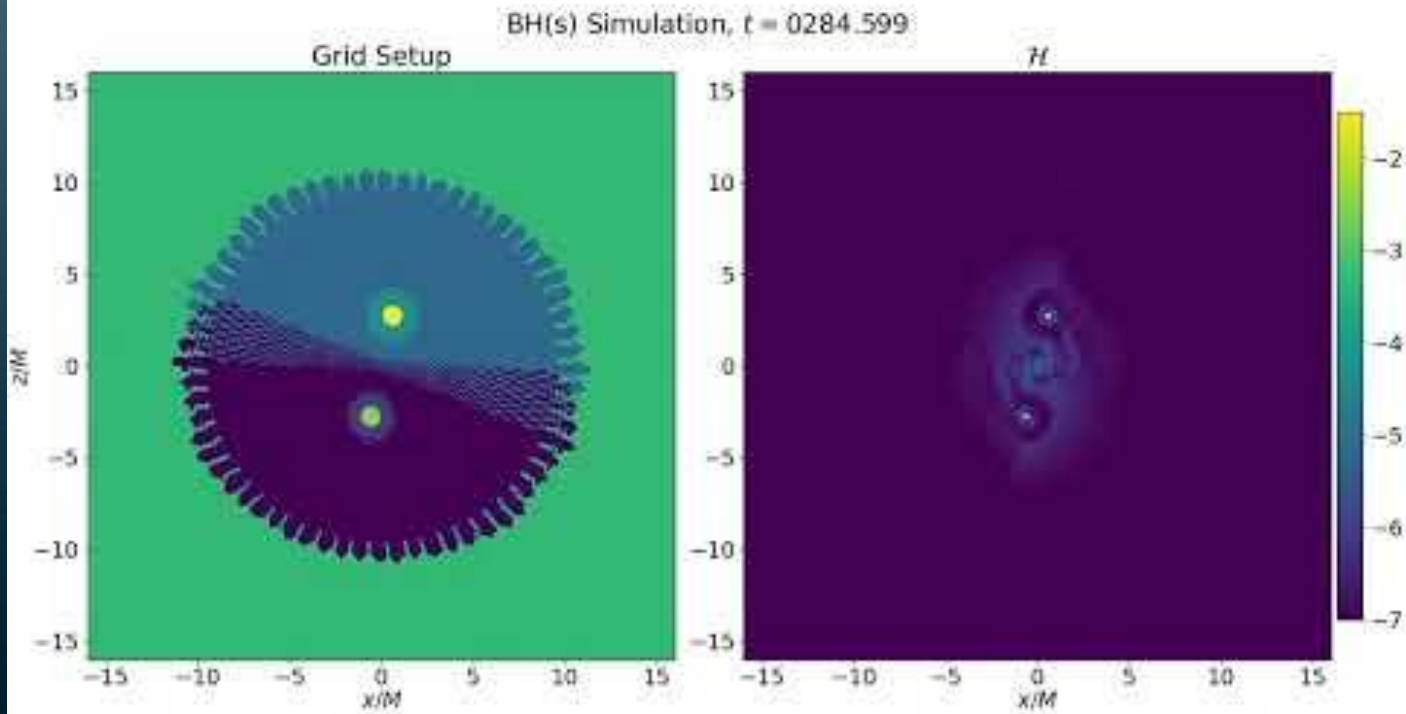
# New grid structures example

## $q=1$ nonspinning, initial sep= $8M$ BBH

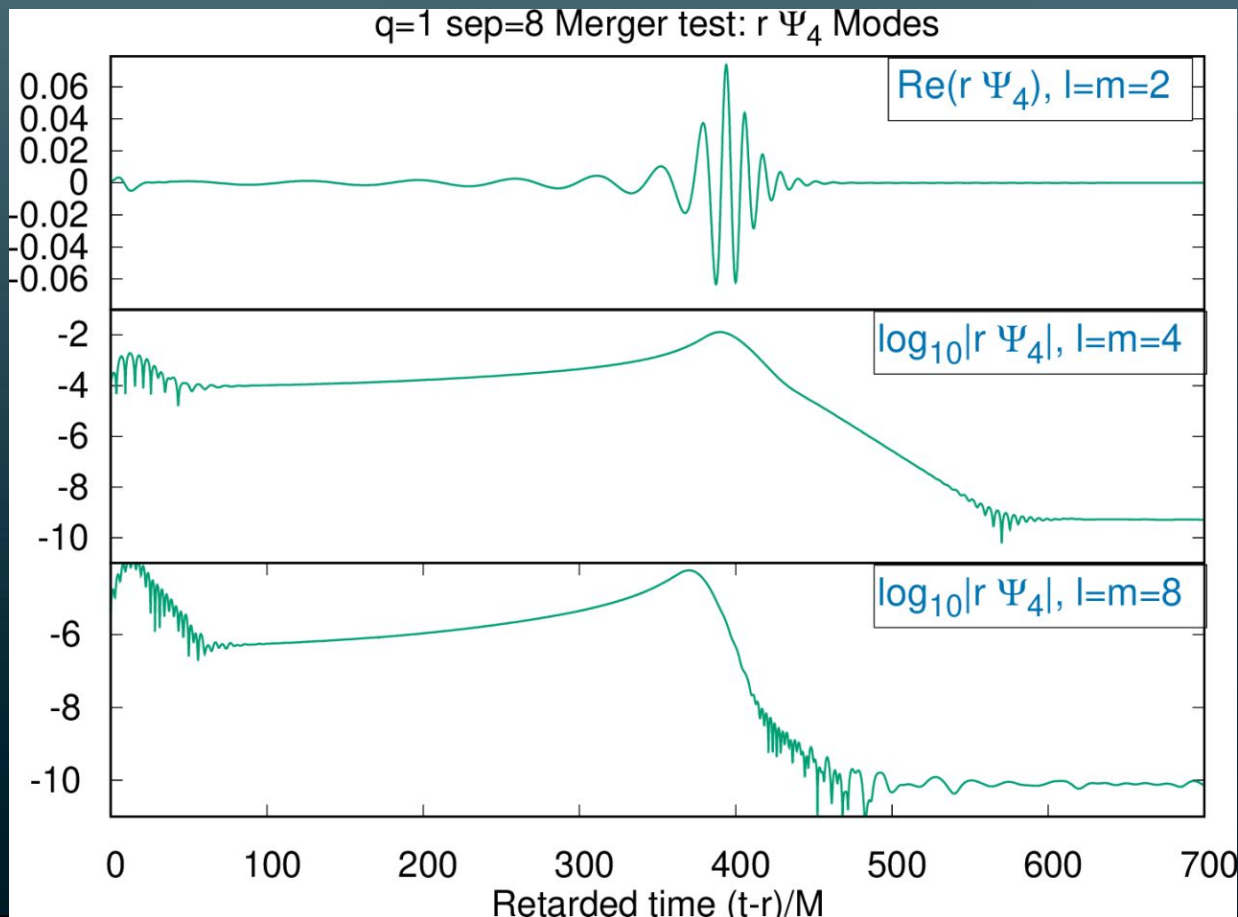


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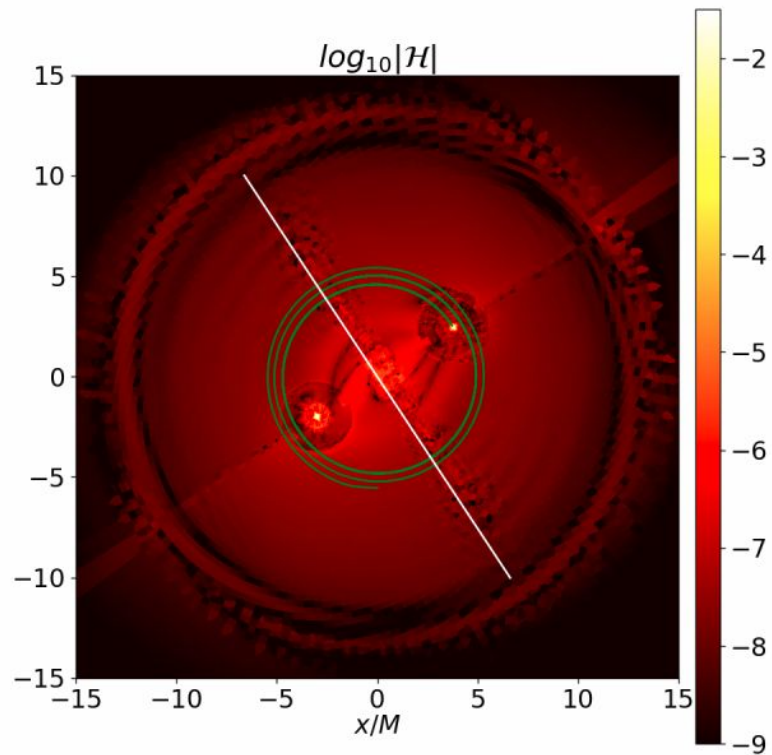
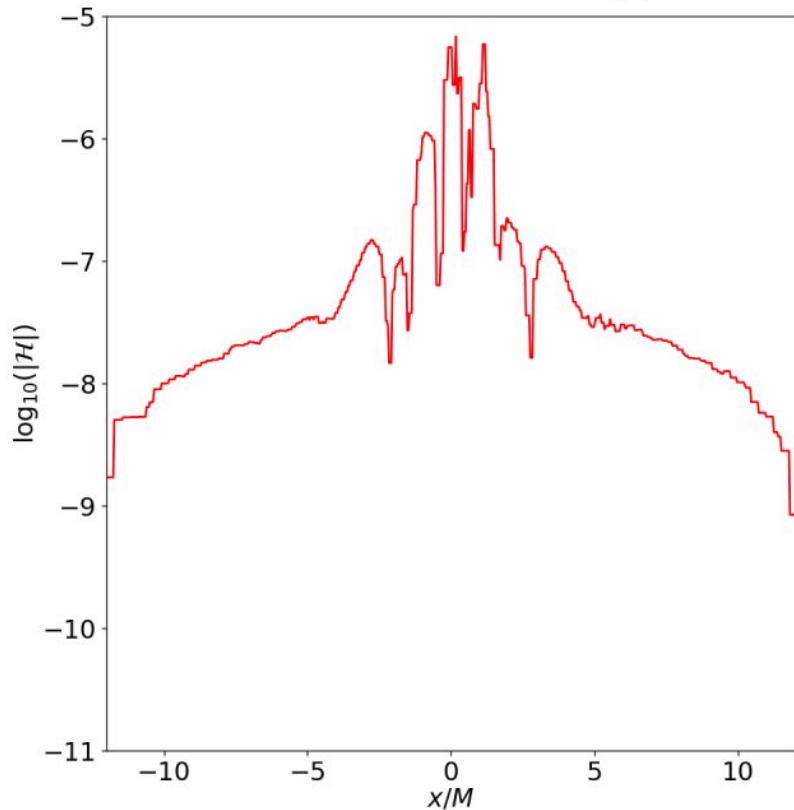


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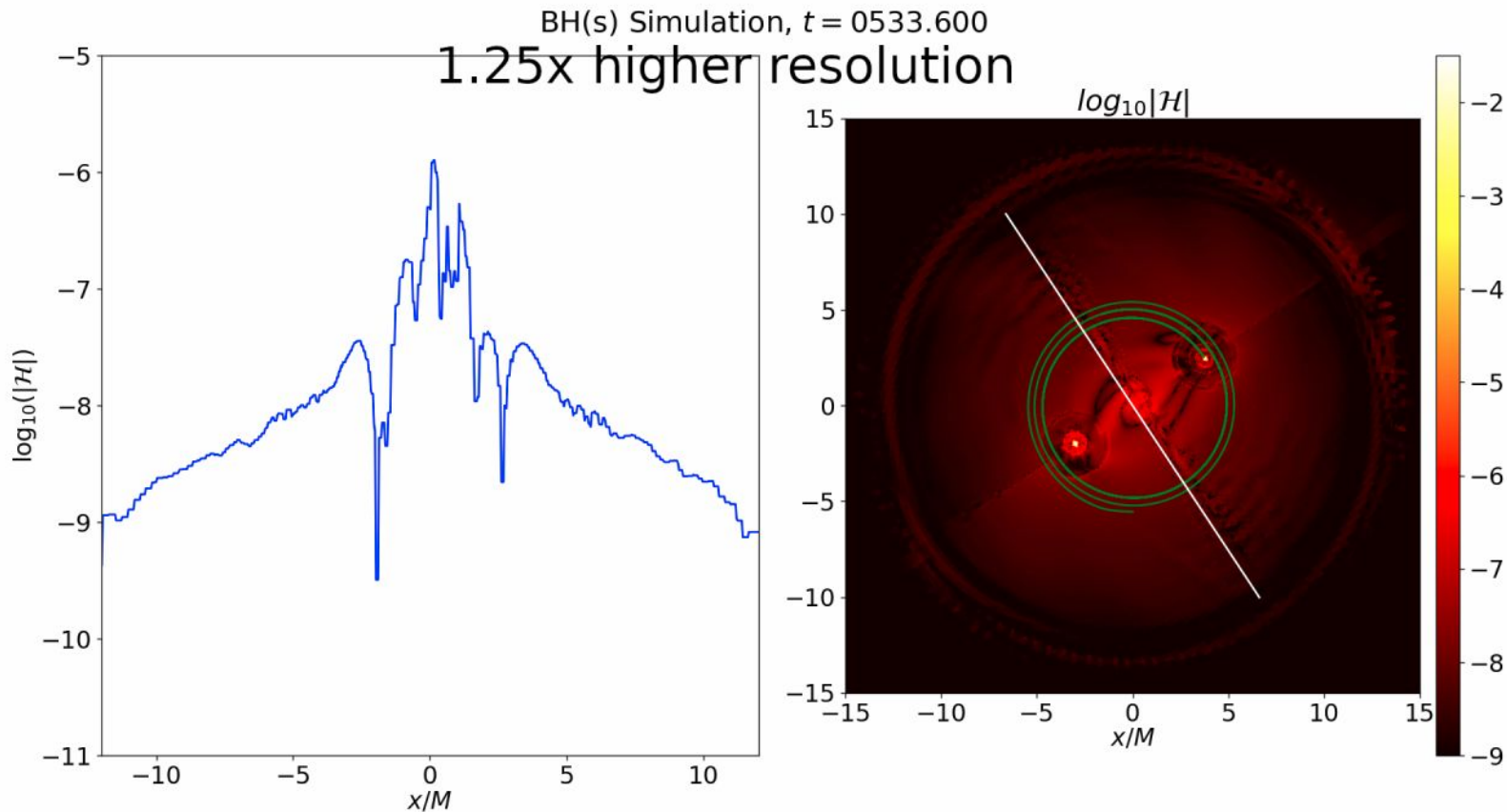


# GW150914 ET Gallery example: BlackHoles@Home convergence study

BH(s) Simulation,  $t = 0533.601$

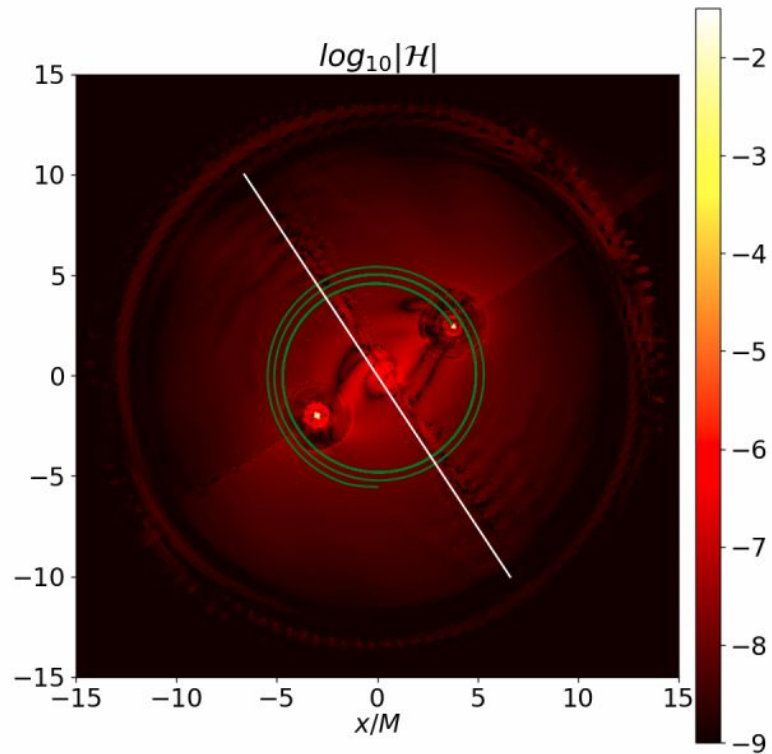
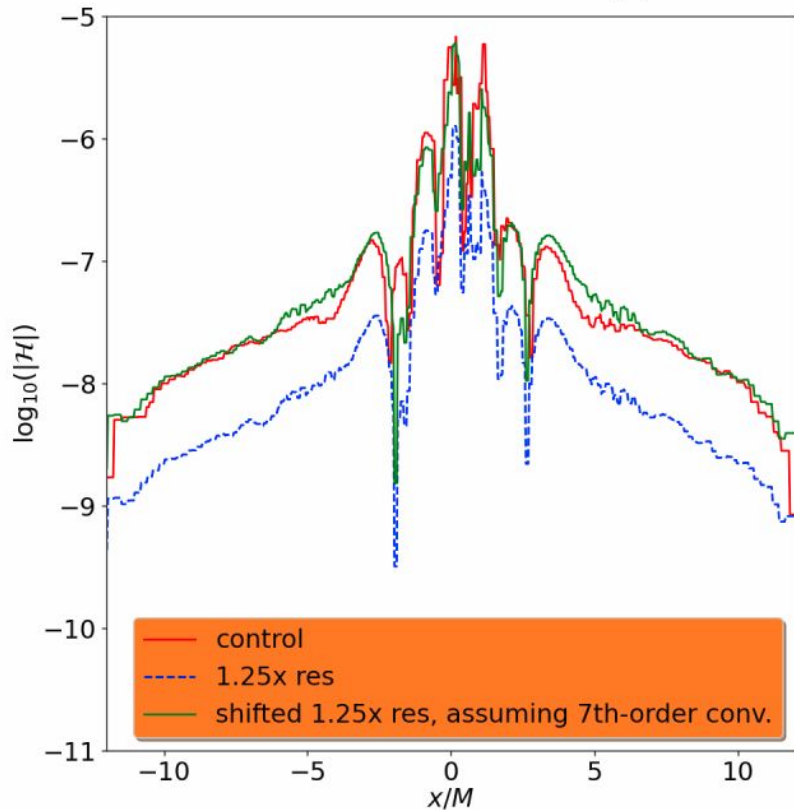


# GW150914 ET Gallery example: BlackHoles@Home convergence study



# GW150914 ET Gallery example: BlackHoles@Home convergence study

BH(s) Simulation,  $t = 0533.600$



## Summary

- Code rewritten to handle mergers
- Extracted GWs, constraints look amazing!
- Goal: launch BH@H when it's ready  
<https://blackholesathome.net>



## To-do List

1. Finish tuning grids;  $q=8$  on the desktop seems possible?!
2. BOINC server/client (*in progress*)
3. MPI parallelize codebase, add IllinoisGRMHD support -> next-gen BNS code *superB*





## Lessons for the multimessenger era

### 1. Diversity in numerical techniques is essential

... to building confidence in predictions

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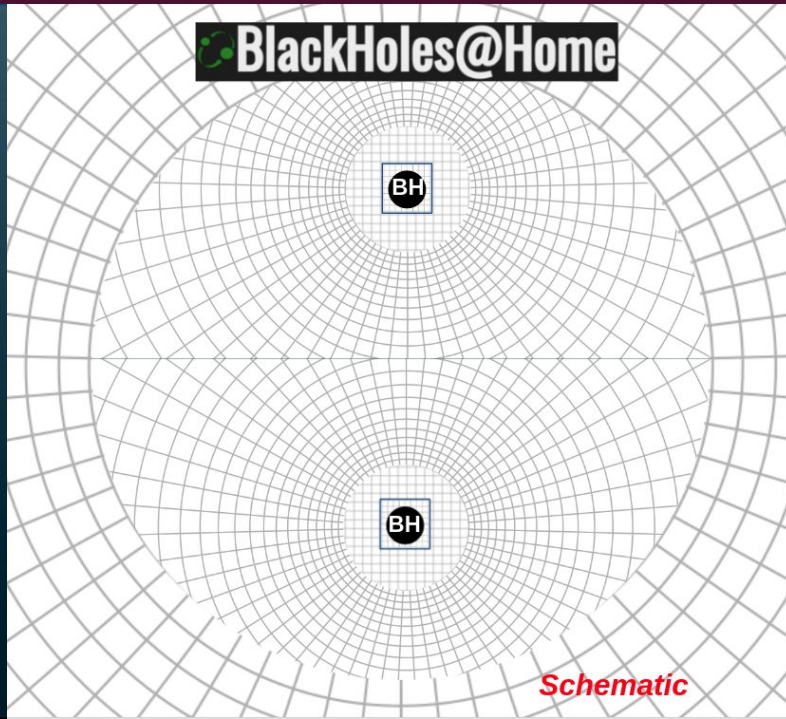
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**BlackHoles@Home** +

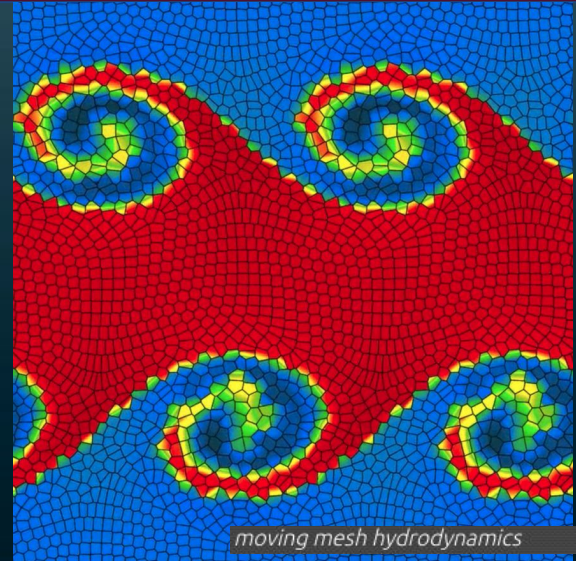
**MANGA**

NR code with highly efficient grids  
(NR = the cheap part)



## Moving-mesh Voronoi code

- Has been used to study
  - Common envelope evolution
  - Tidal disruptions
- Supports advanced EOSs, radiation hydro, GRHD in progress!



# Pros and Cons of Voronoi Hydrodynamics

## Pros

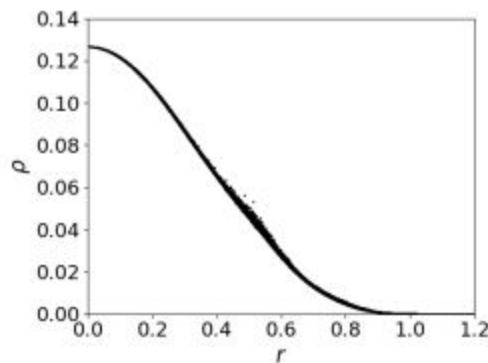
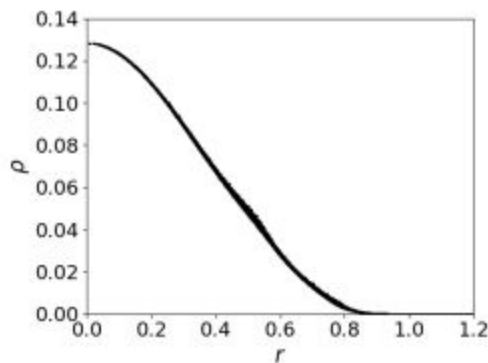
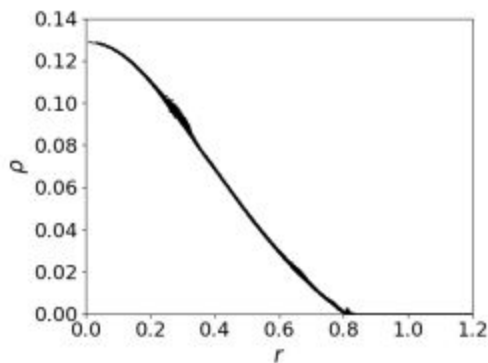
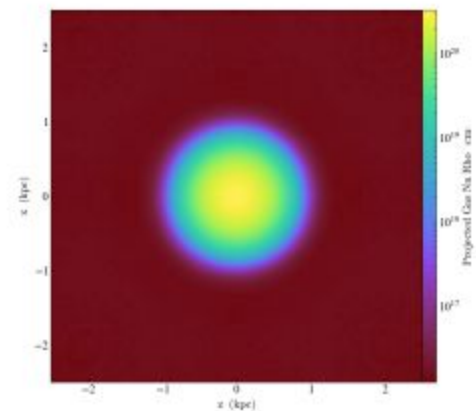
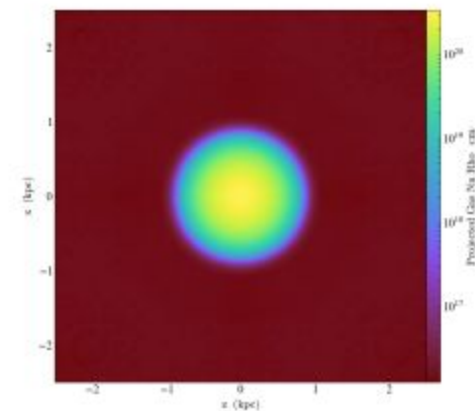
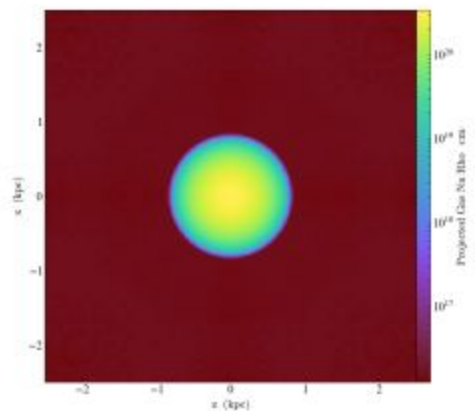
- Far better advection than Eulerian.
- Superior conservation of momentum and angular momentum compared to Eulerian schemes
- Superior shock capturing compared to SPH.
- Better capture of interface instabilities in principle.
- Continuously varying resolution – no factor of 2 or 4 jumps as in AMR.
- Almost anything solvable on Eulerian grids map to Voronoi methods.

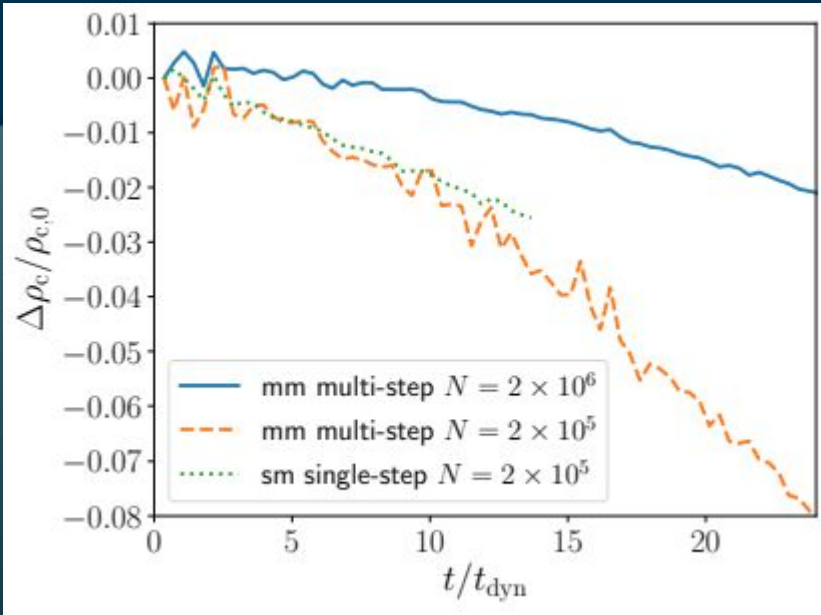
## Cons

- Much more complex – combination of SPH and Eulerian + computational geometry
- Have to think about the grid (on top of everything else).
- “slower”
- MHD is divergence cleaning or vector potential based – no “staggered” CT scheme exists.
- Might be overkill for many problems

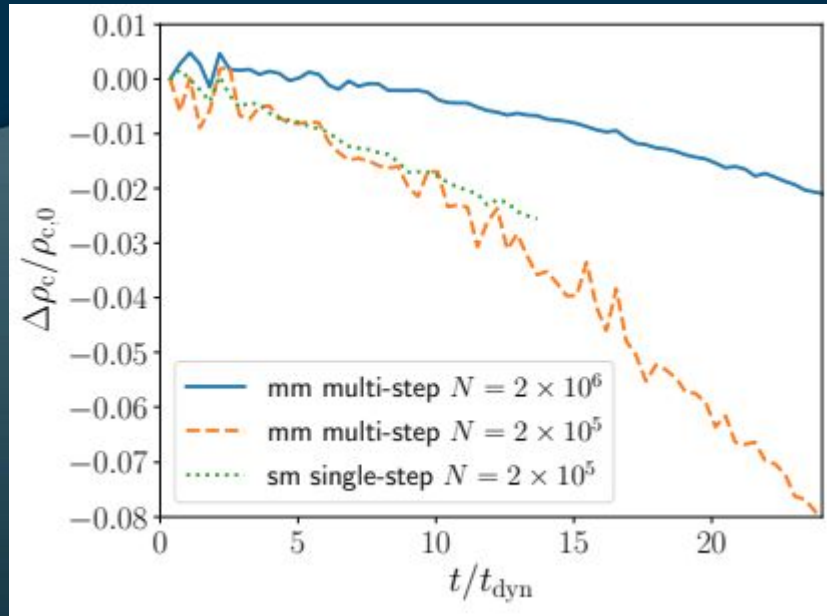
Slide courtesy Phil Chang, lead author of MANGA

# General Relativistic Hydrodynamics on a Moving-mesh I: Static Spacetimes





- Code converges as expected with increased number of mesh generating points
  - conv order of  $\sim 1.75$



- Code converges as expected with increased number of mesh generating points
  - conv order of  $\sim 1.75$

- Current work:
  - Evolve spacetime with NRPy+
- Future work:
  - Couple to BH@H & perform BNS evolutions on moving mesh!
  - BNS with GRMHD, radiation, & advanced EOS



