

What's so Extreme About Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals?

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Abstract

I present a broad overview of extreme mass ratio inspirals with a particular focus on what makes them so challenging to model and detect. We'll look at a range of theoretical and numerical approaches, the astrophysical population, and upcoming GW detectors poised to observe these unique systems. I'll also discuss my own work on tidal heating, a phenomenon whose importance to late-stage, high-spin EMRIs could help us distinguish exotic compact objects from black holes.