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Discriminating between different scenarios for the formation and evolution of massive black holes with LISA

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Inferring the MBH population



Credits: NASA/ESA/ Hubble Space Telescope

- Massive black hole (MBH) binaries are LISA main target
- Inform us on MBH formation and evolution, e.g. seeding mechanism and "final parsec problem"
- Use MBHs to trace the history of their host galaxies

Semi-analytic models

- Use Press-Schechter formalism to build dark matter merger tree
- Evolve black holes and baryonic components with semi-analytic prescriptions
- Computationally "cheap"
- Bonetti, Sesana, Haardt, Barausse, Colpi 2018:
 - Light (Pop III star remnants, $M_{\rm seed} \sim 300 M_{\odot}$) vs heavy seeds (collapse of protogalactic disks, $M_{\rm seed} \sim 10^5 M_{\odot}$)
 - Binary merger triggered by interaction with gas, stars or triplet interactions

z = 0 $z \sim 15 - 20$

Model mixing

Pure models:
- M₁: Light seed
- M₂: Heavy seed

Sesana, Berti Gair,Volonteri 2010

• Mixing scheme:

 $M = \lambda M_1 + (1 - \lambda)M_2$ $R = \lambda R_1 + (1 - \lambda)R_2$

Distributions



$$\chi_{+,-} = \frac{m_1\chi_1 \pm m_2\chi_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

Distributions



$$\chi_{+,-} = \frac{m_1\chi_1 \pm m_2\chi_2}{m_1 + m_2}$$

SNR cut, threshold=10



Hierarchical Bayesian analysis

$$p(\lambda|d) = \pi(\lambda)\pi(N_{\text{int}})e^{-N_{\text{det}}(\lambda)}N_{\text{det}}(\lambda)^{N_{\text{obs}}}\prod_{i=1}^{N_{\text{obs}}}\int \frac{p_i(\theta|d)}{\pi_i(\theta)}\frac{p_{\text{pop}}(\theta|\lambda)}{\int p_{\text{pop}}(\theta|\lambda)p_{\text{det}}(\theta)}d\theta$$

 $\log(p(\lambda|d)) = \text{geometric} - \text{selection} + \text{poisson}$

Marginalising over the rate:

$$p(\lambda|d) \propto \pi(\lambda) \prod_{i=1}^{N_{\text{obs}}} \int \frac{p_i(\theta|d)}{\pi_i(\theta)} \frac{p_{\text{pop}}(\theta|\lambda)}{\int p_{\text{pop}}(\theta|\lambda) p_{\text{det}}(\theta)} d\theta$$

Improvement with number of ⁹ events



Improvement with number of¹⁰ events

Parameters: $\mathcal{M}_c + z$



Posterrior predictive distribution

$\left| \text{PPD}(\theta | d) = \int d\lambda \ p(\theta | \lambda) p(\lambda | d) \right|$







Worse case

Average cases

11

- Use different models for pipeline and data
- E.g. model from Barausse, Dvorkin, Tremmel, Volonteri, Bonetti 2020
- Same seeding mechanisms but consider SN feedback and additional delays





Robustness (SN delays)

Observable



Intrinsic



 $\lambda_0 = 0$

Data=Heavy new model



Conclusions

- We have introduced mixing scheme between "pure" models
- Allow to infer the MBH population self-consistently
- But not robust to the "unknown"
- Currently developing model agnostic approach

Thank you for your attention!



Credits: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

KDE

$$\hat{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} K_{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_{i}) \quad \mathbf{H}: \text{bandwith}$$
$$K_{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{-\mathbf{d}/2}} |\mathbf{H}|^{-1/2} \mathbf{e}^{-\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{y}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{H}^{-1}\mathbf{y}}$$





Integ

Integrated square error:
$$\int d\theta (f(\theta) - f(\theta))^2$$

Minimize: $CV = \int d\theta \hat{f}(\theta)^2 - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{f}_{-i}(\theta_i)$

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 $\lambda_0 = 0.2$

PPD

Biased to the left

Biased to the right

25

Results

Obs

PPD

 $\log_{10}(\mathcal{M}_{c})$ $= \int_{PPD} \int_{PD} \int_{PD}$

 $\overline{\lambda_0} = 0.5$

Biased to the right

Biased to the left

Obs

PPD

Biased to the left

 $\lambda_0 = 0.8$

Biased to the right

PP plot

Robustness (SN delays)

29