Simulations of gravitational waves from core collapse events in general relativity

Jérôme Novak
Laboratoire de l’Univers et de ses THéories
Meudon, France,
Harald Dimmelmeier
Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik
Garching, Germany
and
José-Antonio Font
Departamento d’Astronomìa y Astrofìsica
Valencia, Spain
Gravitational radiation from *supernovæ*

VIRGO, in Pisa, Italy (CNRS/INFN)
Freq. range: 10 Hz → 10 kHz

Main sources for high-frequency interferometric GW detectors: coalescing binaries (black holes, neutrons stars) and *supernovæ*.

⇒ need to know waveforms with the highest possible precision.

Within this framework, we are looking for waveforms, not for explosion scenarios. Available results only in 2D: “approximate” (Dimmelmeier *et al.*, 2001) of full General Relativity (Shibata & Sekiguchi, 2004)
Physical model

- General Relativity for gravitational field $\Rightarrow$ hydrodynamics in a curved space-time;
- Perfect fluid model with hybrid ideal gas equation of state: polytropic pressure (stiffening as the density increases) and thermal pressure (after the bounce);
- Neutrinos and radiation transfers are not taken into account.

Initial model is a rotating polytrope with an effective adiabatic index $\gamma \lesssim 4/3$. During the collapse, when the density reaches the nuclear level, $\gamma \rightarrow \gamma_2 \gtrsim 2$ (Van Riper, 1978).

General relativistic hydrodynamics are written as a flux-conservative first order hyperbolic system:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \left[ \frac{\partial \sqrt{\gamma} U}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \sqrt{-g} F^i}{\partial x^i} \right] = Q,$$

with $U = (\rho W, \rho h W^2 v_i, \rho h W^2 - P - D)$ the conserved variables.
Approximation for the gravitational field

3+1 decomposition:

\[ ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + \gamma_{ij} (dx^i + N^i dt)(dx^j + N^j dt) \]

IWM approximation: \( \gamma_{ij} = \psi^4 f_{ij} \)

IWM approximation is exact in spherical symmetry or at first post-newtonian order but inhibits any gravitational radiation! \( \Rightarrow \) GW are extracted using standard quadrupole formula.

\( \Rightarrow \) set of 5 coupled Poisson-like non-linear equations (instead of \( \sim 7 - 10 \)): we are neglecting the two dynamical degrees of freedom of the gravitational field.

neglecting acoustic waves...
Numerical techniques

- General relativistic simulations of core collapses were limited to 2D because of computational power ⇒ the equations for gravitational field are difficult to solve in 3D using finite differences.

- Group of numerical relativity at LUTH uses spectral methods for Einstein equations with much less CPU and memory ⇒ unable to handle shocks in hydrodynamics.

⇒ use of Godunov-type methods (shock-capturing) for hydro equations and spectral techniques for Einstein equations (grav. field is always smooth enough).

Use of two numerical grids (spectral and finite-difference) with sophisticated interpolation procedures, but the overall code can run in 3D on “reasonable” computers.
Spectral methods

Multidomain spectral methods + spherical coordinates (and tensor components), implemented in the numerical library Lorene

Decomposition:
Chebyshev polynomials for $\xi$, Fourier or $Y^m_l$ for the angular part $(\theta, \phi)$, use of symmetries and regularity conditions of the fields at the origin and on the axis of spherical coordinate system.

Use of compactified variable $\Rightarrow$ boundary conditions are well imposed (grav. field is also a source of gravity)
The new 3D code is able to reproduce the axisymmetric results by Dimmelmeier et al. (2001) obtained with pure finite-differences code; we retrieve the correct values for the relativistic oscillation modes for rotating neutron stars.
Long term evolution of 3D perturbed star

Initial model: uniformly rotating neutron star + non-axisymmetric ($l = 2, m = 2$, at 10% level) perturbation in density.
Summary and future work

Stable, accurate and not too CPU-consuming 3D code for the simulation of stellar core collapses and the prediction of the resulting gravitational radiation, which could be used to:

- explore 3D runs where bar-mode instabilities may occur, for strongly rotating stellar cores;
- study neutron star oscillations in General Relativity (some of which are unstable) and the resulting gravitational waves;
- add more “micro-physics” to the model: realistic equations of state, neutrino transport, ...
- ... and eventually study the supernova phenomenon.

But then, the computers might not be powerful enough again!!