

ASTR 680 Practice questions for lecture 26: The LIGO detections

1. The first LIGO detection had a peak strain amplitude of $\approx 10^{-21}$. If we assume that the frequency at this time was 100 Hz (rounding), how did the energy flux from that event, at its peak, compare with the energy flux we get from Sirius (the brightest star in the night sky)?
2. Look up some references regarding tests of theories of extreme gravity. What information could we get from a BH-NS or NS-NS coalescence that we *cannot* get from a BH-BH coalescence?