Quasi-5.5PN TaylorF2 approximant for compact binaries: point-mass phasing and impact on the tidal polarizability inference

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We derive a point-mass (nonspinning) frequency-domain TaylorF2 phasing approximant at quasi-5.5 post-Newtonian (PN) accuracy for the gravitational wave from coalescing compact binaries. The new approximant is obtained by Taylor-expanding the effective-one-body (EOB) resummed energy and angular momentum flux along circular orbits with all the known test-particle information up to 5.5PN. The -yet uncalculated- terms at 4PN order and beyond entering both the energy flux and the energy are taken into account as free parameters and then set to zero. We compare the quasi-5.5PN and 3.5PN approximants against full EOB waveforms using gauge-invariant phasing diagnostics \(Q_\omega = \dot{\omega}^2/\dot{\omega}^2\), where \(\dot{\omega}\) is the dimensionless gravitational-wave frequency. The quasi-5.5PN phasing is found to be systematically closer to the EOB one than the 3.5PN one. Notably, the quasi-5.5PN (3.5PN) approximation accumulates a EOB–PN dephasing of \(\Delta \Psi^\text{EOBPN} \sim 10^{-3}\) rad (0.13 rad) up to frequency \(\dot{\omega} \simeq 0.06\), 6 orbits to merger, \(\dot{\omega} \simeq 0.086\), 2 orbits to merger) for a fiducial binary neutron star system. We explore the performance of the quasi-5.5PN approximant on the measurement of the tidal polarizability parameter \(\Lambda\) using injections of EOB waveforms hybridized with numerical relativity merger waveforms. We prove that the quasi-5.5PN point-mass approximant augmented with 6PN-accurate tidal terms allows one to reduce (and in many cases even eliminate) the biases in the measurement of \(\Lambda\) that are instead found when the standard 3.5PN point-mass baseline is used. Methodologically, we demonstrate that the combined use of \(Q_\omega\) analysis and of the Bayesian parameter estimation offers a new tool to investigate the impact of systematics on gravitational-wave inference.

I. INTRODUCTION

The data-analysis of GW170817 [1] relied on gravitational waveform models that incorporate tidal effects. The latter allow one to extract information about the neutron star equation of state (EOS) via the inference of the mass-weighted averaged tidal polarizability parameter \(\Lambda\) [2–6]. The understanding of the systematic uncertainties on the measurement of \(\Lambda\) due to the waveform model/approximants have been the subject of intensive investigation in recent years. For example, building on the work of Favata [7], Wade et al. [8] investigated the performance of different PN inspiral approximant within a Bayesian analysis framework for the advanced detectors and found that the choice of approximate significantly biases the recovery of tidal parameters. Later, a similar Bayesian analysis in the case of LIGO and advanced LIGO detectors was carried out by Dudi et al. [9] who concluded that the TaylorF2 3.5PN waveform model can be used to place an upper bound on \(\Lambda\). The same conclusion was drawn also by the study of the LIGO-Virgo collaboration [5].

Beside interesting per se’ because done in the precise setup that is relevant for data analysis, these studies collectively stress the paramount need of having an analytically reliable description of the phasing up to merger. The tidal extension of the effective-one-body (EOB) [10,11] description for coalescing compact binaries was introduced in [12] and developed during the last ten years [13–18] with the goal of providing robust binary neutron stars (BNS) waveforms to be used in gravitational-wave inference. While analytically more accurate, EOB waveform generation is usually slower than PN. Different routes have been explored to speedup EOB approximants. One possibility is to construct surrogate waveform models [19,20]. Another possibility is to conjugate the efficiency of a PN approximant with the physical completeness of the EOB model; the NRTidal family of approximants partly answers to this question [21,22]. A third approach relies on the development of fast approximations for the solution of EOB equations, for example using the high-order post-adiabatic approach of Ref. [23] (See also [17,18].) However, none of the methods described above provide us with waveform generation algorithms faster than PN. Although it is well known that inspiral PN approximants might be problematic, they retain the advantage of being the most efficient for Bayesian inference.

One important source of systematics in BNS inspiral waveforms resides in the description of the non-tidal part (see e.g. [24]). The practice that became common after the observation of GW170817 is to augment standard point-mass model with the tidal part of the phasing. A natural step is thus to improve the accuracy point-mass PN approximant beyond the current available. In this paper we introduce a nonspinning, point-mass, closed-
form frequency-domain TaylorF2 waveform approximant at quasi-5.5PN order (Sec. III). The new approximant is obtained by PN-expanding the adiabatic EOB dynamics along circular orbits. As such, it delivers a phasing representation that improves the currently known 3.5PN one. We show that, when applied in the GW data analysis context, the new phasing description allows one to strongly reduce the biases in the recovery of the tidal parameters that are usually present with the 3.5PN TaylorF2 point-mass (Sec. III).

In the following, the total gravitational mass of the binary is $M = m_1 + m_2$, with the two bodies labeled as $(1, 2)$. We adopt the convention that $m_1 \geq m_2$, so to define the mass ratio $q \equiv m_1/m_2 \geq 1$ and the symmetric mass ratio $\nu \equiv m_1 m_2/M^2$, that ranges from 0 (test-particle limit) to $\nu = 1/4$ (equal-mass case). The dimensionless spins are addressed as $\chi_i \equiv S_i/m_i^2$. We also define the quantities $X_i \equiv m_i/M$ and $X_{12} \equiv X_1 - X_2 = \sqrt{1 - 4\nu}$, which yields $X_1 = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \sqrt{1 - 4\nu})$ and $X_2 = 1 - X_1$. Following Refs. [16, 18, 25], it is also convenient to use the following spin variables or spin-related quantities: $\tilde{a}_i \equiv S_i/(m_i M) = X_i \chi_i$; $\tilde{a}_0 \equiv \tilde{a}_1 + \tilde{a}_2$ and $\tilde{a}_{12} \equiv \tilde{a}_1 - \tilde{a}_2$. If not otherwise specified, we use geometric units $c = G = 1$. To convert from geometric to physical units we have $GM_\odot/c^3 = 4.925491 \times 10^{-6}$ sec.

II. QUASI-5.5PN-ACCURATE ORBITAL PHASING

Building upon Damour et al. [2], Ref. [25] illustrated how to formally obtain a high-order PN approximant by PN-expanding the EOB energy $E_{\text{EOB}}$ and energy flux $F_{\text{EOB}}$ along circular orbits. Stopping the expansion at 4.5PN, allowed one to obtain a consistent 4.5PN approximant with a few parameters needed to formally take into account the yet uncalculated $\nu$-dependent terms in the waveform amplitudes at 4PN. Here we follow precisely that approach, but we extend it to 5.5PN accuracy. To get the waveform phase in the frequency domain along circular orbits, we start with the gauge-invariant description of the adiabatic phasing given by the function

$$Q_{\omega} \equiv E_{\text{EOB}}(x) \left( \frac{dF_{\text{EOB}}}{dx} \right)^{-1},$$

where $x \equiv (M \Omega)^{2/3}$, with $\Omega$ the orbital frequency along circular orbits. The high-order phasing approximant is obtained by Taylor-expanding the above equation and then by solving the equation

$$\frac{d^2 \Psi_{5.5PN}}{d^2 \hat{f}} = \frac{Q_{\omega}(\hat{f})}{\hat{f}^2},$$

where $\hat{f} \equiv M \dot{f} \equiv \Omega/2\pi$. The double integration of Eq. (2) delivers $\Psi_{5.5PN}(\hat{f})$ modulo an affine part of the form $p + q \hat{f}$, where $(p, q)$ are two arbitrary integration constants that are fixed to be consistent with the usual conventions adopted in the literature for the 3.5 PN approximant [26].

We consider here only nonspinning binaries (the reader is referred to Appendix [3] for the discussion of the spin case). The corresponding, circularized, EOB Hamiltonian reads $H_{\text{EOB}} = M \sqrt{1 + 2\nu (\dot{H}_{\text{eff}} - 1)}$ where $\dot{H}_{\text{eff}} \equiv H_{\text{eff}}/\mu = \sqrt{A(u)(1 + u^2/2)}$, where $j$ is the orbital angular momentum along circular orbits, $u \equiv M/R$ the inverse radial separation and $A(u)$ is the EOB interaction potential kept with a 5PN term $\nu(a_0^\nu + a_0^{\nu} \ln u)u^6$ with $a_0^\nu$ an analytically unknown coefficient. The orbital angular momentum along circular orbits $j$ is obtained solving $\partial_x \dot{H}_{\text{eff}} = 0$. By PN-expanding one of Hamilton’s equations, $M \ddot{\theta} \equiv \partial_r H_{\text{EOB}}$, one obtains $\dot{x}(u)$ as a 5PN truncated series in $u$, that, once inverted, allows to obtain the (formal) 5.5 PN accurate energy flux as function of $x$ by PN-expanding its general EOB expression $F = \sum_{t=2}^\infty \sum_{m=-m}^m \mathcal{F}_{t \ell m}$, where $\mathcal{F}_{t \ell m}$ is the Newtonian (leading-order) contribution and $F_{\text{rel}}$ is the relativistic correction. Each multipolar contribution within the EOB formalism comes written in factorized and resummed form as

$$\hat{F}_{\text{rel}} = \left( \hat{S}_{\text{eff}}^{(c)} \right)^2 |T_{\ell m}|^2 \rho_{m e}^{2\ell}.$$  

Here, $\hat{S}_{\text{eff}}^{(c)}$ is the effective source, that is the effective EOB energy $E_{\text{eff}}(x) \equiv E_{\text{eff}}/\mu$ when $\epsilon = 0$ ($\ell + m =$ even) or the Newton-normalized orbital angular momentum when $\epsilon = 1$ ($\ell + m =$ odd). The square modulus of the tail factor $T_{\ell m}$ resums an infinite number of PN hereditary logarithmic terms $\mathcal{F}_{t \ell m}$. We use the relativistic residual amplitude $(\rho_{m e})$ information reported in Eqs. (7)-(18) of Ref. [25], where the unknown high-PN coefficients (polynomials in $\nu$) have been parametrized by some coefficients $c_{\ell m}$. We include for consistency all the coefficients to go up to the $\ell = 7, m = \text{even multipoles}$.

From Eq. (1) one obtains the following PN-expanded expression

$$\hat{Q}_{\omega}^{\text{PN}} = 1 + b_2 x + b_3 x^{3/2} + b_4 x^2 + b_5 x^{5/2} + b_6 x^3 + b_7 x^{7/2} + b_8 x^4 + b_9 x^{9/2} + b_{10} x^5 + b_{11} x^{11/2}.$$  

The coefficients of this expression, that are reported in full in Appendix [3] have the structure $b_i \equiv b_i^0 + b_i(\nu)$, where $b_i^0$ is the $\nu$-independent (test-particle) part, fully known analytically, while the $b_i(\nu)$ encode the $\nu$-dependence that is completely known at 3PN, while only partially known at 4PN because the corresponding waveform calculation is not completed yet. The $\nu$-dependence beyond 3PN is formally incorporated by extending the analytically known $\rho_{m e}$ function with additional $\nu$-dependent coefficients and then reflects in the
the computation are depend on the parameters that we have introduced in coefficients $b_i(\nu)$. Among these coefficients, those that depend on the parameters that we have introduced in the computation are

\begin{align}
 b_0 &= b_0(c_{21}^{3PN}, c_{22}^{4PN}) \\
 b_1 &= b_1(c_{21}^{3PN}, c_{22}^{4PN}, c_{22}^{5PN}) \\
 b_2 &= b_2(c_{21}^{3PN}, c_{22}^{4PN}) .
\end{align}

In the following analysis, we fix to zero $a_6^i$ as well as all the yet uncalculated $\nu$-dependent, PN waveform coefficients entering Eq. (4) above. This entitles us to use the definition of quasi-5.5PN approximant (this PN-order choice is discussed in Appendix A and resumed in Fig. 5). Note however that in the NR-informed EOB model, that we shall use to check the reliability of this quasi-5.5PN approximant, all the waveform coefficients are equally fixed to be zero; on the contrary, $a_6^i$ is informed by NR simulations and, as such, effectively takes into account, to same extent, all this missing analytical information. The importance of the $\nu$-dependent waveform coefficients is, a priori, expected to be low, as suggested in Table II of [29]. This is in accord with the fact that an eventual tuning of some free parameters is better when they tend to be small (see Appendix A).

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
$\hat{\omega}_0 \times 10^4$ & $\hat{\omega}_1$ & $f_0[Hz]$ & $f_1[Hz]$ & $\Delta Q^{EOB}_{5.5PN}$ & $\Delta \phi^{EOB}_{5.5PN}$ \\
\hline
8.35 & 0.086 & 10 & 1024 & 0.2718 & 0.1364 \\
8.35 & 0.060 & 10 & 718 & -0.1916 & 1.45 $\times 10^{-3}$ \\
16.7 & 0.086 & 20 & 1024 & 0.3009 & 0.1354 \\
16.7 & 0.060 & 20 & 718 & -0.1625 & 4.54 $\times 10^{-4}$ \\
20.0 & 0.086 & 24 & 1024 & 0.3110 & 0.1348 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{EOB/PN phase difference accumulated between $[f_0, f_1]$. It is obtained by integrating the $\Delta Q^{EOB}_{\nu}$'s in Fig. 1 between the corresponding values of $\log(\hat{\omega})$. The limits of integration are denoted in Hz as we want to ideally refer to the fiducial $(1.35 + 1.35)M_\odot$ binary system.}
\end{table}

A. Assessing the 5.5PN phasing accuracy

Let us now study the performance of TaylorF2 at 5.5PN versus the full EOB phasing. We do so by comparing the corresponding $Q_\nu$ functions and taking the differences, similarly to what was done in Ref. [22] for isolating the tidal part of the EOB phasing and in Ref. [18] for isolating the quadratic-in-spin part. Since we have in mind an application to a paradigmatic BNS system, Fig. 1 only focuses on the $q = 1$ case. We show our results in terms of differences between the EOB and the PN curves, $Q^{EOB}_{\nu} - Q^{PN}_{\nu}$. The top panel of the figure illustrates the full phasing acceleration evolution, up to the peak of the EOB orbital frequency that is identified with the merger. The bottom panel is a close up on the inspiral part. The vertical lines corresponds (from left to right) to $10Hz$, $20Hz$, $718Hz$ and $1024Hz$ for a fiducial equal-mass BNS system with $(1.35 + 1.35)M_\odot$. The $718Hz$ line corresponds to $\hat{\omega} = 0.06$, that roughly corresponds to the NR contact frequency $\tilde{\Lambda}$. The figure highlights that the quasi-5.5PN approximant delivers a rather good representation of the point-mass EOB phasing precisely up to $\hat{\omega} = 0.06$. Table I reports the phase difference

\begin{equation}
\Delta \phi(\hat{\omega}_0, \hat{\omega}_1) = \int_{\hat{\omega}_0}^{\hat{\omega}_1} \Delta Q_\nu d \log(\hat{\omega}),
\end{equation}

accumulated between the frequencies $[\hat{\omega}_0, \hat{\omega}_1]$ (or equivalently $[f_0, f_1]$ in physical units) marked by vertical lines in the plots. The numbers in the table illustrate quantitatively how the 5.5PN phasing approximant delivers a phasing description that is, by itself, more EOB compatible than the standarily used 3.5PN one. Note that this is achieved even if the EOB incorporates the effective, NR-informed, $a_6^i(\nu)$ parameter, that is not included in the TaylorF2 approximant.

III. APPLICATION TO A INFERENCE

We focus now on a BNS system to study the implication of changing the PN-accuracy of the point-mass
FIG. 2. $1.35M_\odot + 1.35M_\odot$ binary with Sly EOS. Inference of $\tilde{\Lambda}$ with different waveform model on different frequency intervals $[f_{\text{min}}, f_{\text{max}}]$ with different SNR. The vertical line corresponds to the injected value $\tilde{\Lambda}_{\text{SLy}} = 392.231$. Irrespectively of the value of SNR, the 3.5PN baseline introduces a strong bias (and spread) in the measure of $\tilde{\Lambda}$. By contrast this is practically reabsorbed when using the quasi-5.5PN point-mass baseline. The dashed vertical lines corresponds to 90% confidence level.

baseline on the estimate of the tidal polarizability parameter

$$\tilde{\Lambda} = \frac{16}{13} \left( m_1 + 12m_2 \right) m_1^4 \Lambda_1 + \left( m_2 + 12m_1 \right) m_2^4 \Lambda_2 \frac{m_1}{M_5},$$

where $\Lambda_i \equiv 2/3k_2^5 \left[ C_i^2 / (GC_i) \right]^{5/3}$ where $C_i \equiv m_i / R_i$ is the compactness of each star and $k_2$ the corresponding quadrupolar Love number.

We construct equal-mass EOBNR hybrid BNS waveforms by matching the TEOBResumS EOB tidal model to state-of-the-art NR simulations of the CoRe collaboration. Note that the version of TEOBResumS used here does not incorporate the analytical developments of Refs. [17] [18]. Two fiducial waveforms are consid-
The injected waveform is recovered with three approximants: (i) IMRPhenomD,NRTidal [22], where the point-mass orbital phasing is obtained by a suitable representation of hybridized EOB/NR BBH waveforms, the PhenomD approximant [37]; (ii) TaylorF2 where the 3.5PN orbital phase is augmented by the 6PN (next-to-leading) tidal phase [38]; (iii) the same as above where the 3.5PN orbital, nonspinning, phase is replaced by the quasi-5.5PN one. The models are implemented in the LSC Algorithm Library Suite (LALSuite). The LIGO-Virgo parameter-estimation algorithm LALInference [39]) is then employed to extract the binary properties from the signal. We use a uniform prior distribution in the interval \([1, 5000]\) for the component masses, and a uniform prior between \([-1, 1]\) for both dimensionless aligned spins. We also pick a uniform prior distribution for the individual tidal parameters \(\Lambda_{1,2}\) between 0 and 5000.

The outcome of the analysis is illustrated in Fig. 2 for the SLy EOS and in Fig. 3 the H4 EOS. We compare the inference of the tidal parameter done on two nonspinning, equal-mass \((1.35M_\odot + 1.35M_\odot)\) BNS models described by the SLy and H4 EOS. The corresponding values of the tidal parameters are \(\hat{\Lambda} = 392.231\) (SLy EOS) and \(\hat{\Lambda} = 1110.5\) (H4 EOS) [For equal masses \(\Lambda = \Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2\).] The waveforms are injected at SNR of 30 and 100 into a fiducial data stream of the LIGO detectors [35]. We assume the projected noise curve for the Advanced LIGO detectors in the zero-detuned high-power configuration (ZDHP) [36] and no actual noise is added to the data.

Let us finally heuristically explain why the effect of the 3.5PN-accurate orbital baseline is to bias the value of \(\hat{\Lambda}\) towards values that are larger than the theoretical expectation. Inspecting Fig. 1 one sees that the \(Q_{\text{EOB}} - Q_{\text{5.5PN}}\) is negative. This means that the PN phase accelerates less than the EOB one, namely the inspiral occurs more slowly in the 3.5PN phasing description than in the EOB one. Loosely speaking, one may think that the gravitational interaction behind the 3.5PN-accurate orbital phasing is less attractive than what predicted by the EOB model. Evidently, this effect might be compensated by additional part in the total PN phasing that stems for a part of the dynamics that is intrinsically attractive and that could compensate for the inaccurate behavior of the 3.5 PN. Since eventually the phase difference is given by an integral, two effects of opposite sign can mutually compensate and thus generate a PN-based frequency phase that is compatible with the EOB one.

Since tidal interactions are attractive, the corresponding part of the phasing is naturally able to compensate the repulsive character of the orbital phasing. For this compensation to be effective, it may happen that \(\hat{\Lambda}\) has to be larger than the theoretically correct one that accounts for the tidal interaction (at leading order) in the EOB waveform.
TABLE II. Data behind Figs. 4 and 5. For each measured quantity, chirp mass $\mathcal{M}$, symmetric mass ratio $\nu$ and tidal polarizability $\Lambda$, the columns report: the injected value; the minimum value of frequency considered, either 24Hz or 32Hz; the combination EOS-SNR; finally, the last three columns list the median values measured with the three different waveform approximants with the 90% credible interval. The last row of the table shows the average waveform generation time for each approximant, assuming starting frequency of 24 Hz.

|Injected Value| $f_{\text{min}}$| EOS| SNR| TaylorF2 3.5PN| TaylorF2 5.5PN| IMFPhenomD NRTidal|
|--------------|----------------|----|----|---------------|---------------|----------------|
|              |                |    |    |               |               |                |
| $\mathcal{M}$| 1.1752         | 24H| SLy| 1.1753$^{+1.755}_{-1.751}$| 1.1753$^{+1.755}_{-1.751}$| 1.1753$^{+1.755}_{-1.751}$|
|              | 0.25           | 32H| SLy| 1.1754$^{+1.757}_{-1.751}$| 1.1754$^{+1.757}_{-1.751}$| 1.1754$^{+1.757}_{-1.751}$|
| $\Lambda$    | 0.117524       | 24H| SLy| 0.246495$^{+2.2496}_{-2.2414}$| 0.24550$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24895}$| 0.246365$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24995}$|
|              | 0.24695$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24995}$| 32H| SLy| 0.2458$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24895}$| 0.2450$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24995}$| 0.2470$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24995}$|
| $\nu$        | 0.392          | 24H| SLy| 0.2487$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24895}$| 0.2470$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24995}$| 0.2470$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24995}$|
|              | 0.392          | 32H| SLy| 0.246$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24995}$| 0.2450$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24995}$| 0.2450$^{+0.24995}_{-0.24995}$|
| Average Time |                | 22.9 ms | 32.68 ms | 60.13 ms |

Such intuitive explanation is put on more solid ground in Fig. 4. The figure refers to the SLy model and compares two EOB-PN $Q_\omega$ differences $\Delta Q_\omega^{\text{EOBPN}} = Q_\omega^{\text{EOB}} - Q_\omega^{\text{PN}}$, where the $Q_\omega^{\text{EOB}}$ is the complete function, while $Q_\omega^{\text{PN}}$ is obtained summing together the 3.5PN orbital phase and the 6PN-accurate tidal phase $Q_\omega^{\text{PN}}$. When we use the theoretically correct value of $\Lambda = \Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2 = 392.231$ the phase difference in the interval $\omega \in [\omega_0, \omega_1] = [0.002, 0.006]$, corresponding to $f \in [20, 718]$ Hz (dotted vertical line in the figure) for this binary, is $\Delta \phi(\omega_0, \omega_1) \simeq -0.276$ rad. By contrast, if the value of $\Lambda$ is progressively increased, the accumulated phase difference between $[\omega_0, \omega_1]$ gets reduced up to $\Delta \phi(\omega_0, \omega_1) \simeq 2.429 \times 10^{-4}$ for $\Lambda = 442.987$. Note however that such analytically predicted “bias” in $\Lambda$ depends on the frequency interval considered: if we extended the integration up to $\omega_1 \simeq 0.08$ (corresponding to 957.4 Hz) one finds that a similarly small accumulated phase difference $\Delta \phi(0.002,0.08) \simeq 5.0 \times 10^{-5}$ is obtained for $\Lambda = 424.08$, i.e. the analytical bias is reduced. This fact looks counterintuitive: a result obtained with a PN approximant is not, a priori, expected to improve when including higher frequencies. By contrast, the fact that the analytic bias is (slightly) reduced increasing $\omega_1$ just illustrates the lack of robustness as well as the lack of predictive power of the approximant in the strong-field regime. Generally speaking, one sees that the combination of 3.5PN orbital phase with 6PN tidal phase may result in a waveform that is effectual with respect the EOB one, in the sense that the noise-weighted scalar product will be of order unity, but with an incorrect value of the tidal parameter. This simple example is helpful to intuitively understand how the incorrect behavior of the point-mass nonspinning phasing can eventually result in a bias towards larger values of $\Lambda$. Interestingly, this value is close to the value obtained with SNR=100 (see left-bottom panel of Fig. 2). Although the analysis of Fig. 2 certainly cannot replace an injection-recovery study, it should be kept in mind as a complementary tool to interpret its outcome within a simple, intuitive but quantitative, framework.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Our results can be summarized as follows:

1. Starting from the EOB resummed expressions for the energy flux and energy along circular orbits, we have computed a TaylorF2 point-mass, nonspinning, approximant at formal 5.5PN order. Such quasi-5.5PN approximant depends on some, yet uncalculated, $\nu$-dependent, PN parameters that are set to zero.

2. Among various truncations of the 5.5PN approxi-
manted (3.5PN, 4PN, 4.5PN, 5PN, see Appendix A) we have found that the 5.5PN phasing performs best when compared with the complete point-mass phasing obtained with TEOBResumS. Such phasing comparison was done exploiting its gauge-invariant description through the $Q_{\omega} = \dot{\omega}^2 / \ddot{\omega}$ function. The main outcome of this analysis is that the EOB-derived quasi-5.5PN approximant is remarkably close to the complete EOB phasing up to the late inspiral (e.g. $\dot{\omega} \simeq 0.06$) and performs better than the standard (analytically complete) 3.5PN one. We tested that the performances remain robust for unequal masses up to $q = 2$ and aligned spin cases with dimensionless spin magnitudes up to $\chi \sim \pm 0.1$.

3. To assess the use of the 5.5PN approximant in GW parameter estimations, we considered injection studies with hybrid waveforms of GW170817-like sources. The improved TaylorF2 point-mass baseline reduces (or even eliminates) the biases on the measurability of the tidal polarizability parameter $\hat{\Lambda}$ instead produced by the use the standard 3.5PN point-mass baseline. Therefore, the new 5.5PN approximant can be faithfully and effectively used in matched filtered searches and Bayesian parameter estimation.

We recommend to use the new quasi-5.5PN approximant to improve the performance of the TaylorF2 and substitute it to the 3.5PN in searches/parameter estimation. The performances of the 5.5PN approximant could be further improved towards higher frequencies by carefully tuning some of the free parameters. A preliminary investigation based on a equal masses nonspinning BNS is presented at the end of Appendix A. We find that by tuning the 5PN parameter $a_5^c$ and the 4PN coefficient $c^{4PN}_{22}$ entering the $\ell = m = 2$ waveform amplitude, the phase difference between such flexed PN approximant and the EOB phasing is negligible essentially up to merger. This indicates that, while the PN series keeps oscillating even when high order terms come into play, future work might be devoted to effectively minimize such oscillations by suitably tuning such parameters.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We are grateful to T. Damour for discussions and comments at the very beginning of this work, and for a careful reading of the manuscript. The original ideas that eventually led to this study were elaborated in discussions between T. Damour, A. N. and L. Villain. In this respect, A. N. especially acknowledges discussions with L. Villain that helped identifying several technical problems related to the efficient generation of EOB waveforms from the early-frequency regime. We also thank S. Khan and A. Samajdar for helping in implementing the approximant in LALSuite. F. M. thanks IHES for hospitality at various stages during the development of this work. R. D. was supported in part by DFG grants GK 1523/2 and BR 2176/5-1. S. B. acknowledges support by the EU H2020 under ERC Starting Grant, no. BinGraSp-714626.
Appendix A: Why quasi-5.5PN?

Post-Newtonian expansion are truncated asymptotic series, so it is not a priori granted that by increasing the PN order one will automatically get a better approximation to the exact result. The choice of using the quasi-5.5PN TaylorF2 for the injection study of Sec. III was made after having carefully analyzed all the previous quasi-PN orders beyond 3.5PN and having compared each PN-truncation of the $Q_a$ function to the corresponding outcome of TEOBResumS. The result of this analysis is shown in Fig. 5 that illustrates how the quasi-5.5PN $Q_{EOB}^{5.5PN} - Q_{PN}^{5.5PN}$ difference remains consistently close to zero for a frequency interval that is much longer than for any other lower-PN truncation. This finding justifies our choice of focalizing specifically on the quasi-5.5PN approximant in the main text.

With this PN order, the first natural question that follows is whether there is some simple way to improve the accuracy of the approximant just by tuning some of its (many) free parameters. Before entering this discussion, the simplest thing to do is to incorporate more analytical information e.g. instead of using $a^c_0 = 0$ incorporating either the analytical gravitational self-force value $a^c_0(0)$, that was obtained in Refs. [41][42]

$$a^c_0(0) = -\frac{1066621}{1575} - \frac{14008\gamma}{105} + \frac{246367\pi^2}{3072} - \frac{31736\log(2)}{105} + \frac{243\log(3)}{7},$$ (A1)

or even the numerical-relativity informed one [43]

$$a^c_{5, NR}(\nu) = 3097.3\nu^2 - 1330.6\nu + 81.38.$$ (A2)

Although these two functions encode physically correct effect (though only effectively for $a^c_{5, NR}(\nu)$) they turn out, both, to increase the repulsive character of the approximant, without any real advantage. In practice, when the values above are used, one get an acceptable EOB/PN agreement only up to $\omega \approx 0.02$.

From the PN point of view, we expect from Table II of [29] that the order of magnitude of the various $c_{i,PN}$ coefficient is small. This is the rational behind our conservative choice of simply setting them to zero. Still, one could think to use some of these coefficients, as well as $a^c_0$ as tunable parameter and investigate whether it is possible to flex the quasi-5.5PN TaylorF2 approximant so as to reduce the EOB/PN disagreement even to frequencies higher than 0.06.

As a proof of principle, we explored that this is the case considering the $q = 1$ case and flexing, at the same time, both $a^c_0$ and $c^c_{22}$, that are, in sense, the lowest-order unknown coefficients in the model. One easily finds that fixing $a^c_0 = 49$ and $c^c_{22} = 10.45$ the integrated EOB/PN
phase difference in the point-mass sector accumulated on the interval \([\hat{\omega}_0, \hat{\omega}_1] = [0.002, 0.08]\) can be reduced from 0.085 rad to \(\simeq 10^{-4}\) rad.

**Appendix B: Mass ratio and spin**

Increasing the mass ratio or the spins (to mild values) of the binary does not affect the robustness of the quasi-5.5PN, untuned, approximant. In Fig. 6 we see that the difference between the “exact” numerical \(Q_{\omega}\) and the analytical one is still approximately flat for a qualitatively wide range of frequencies. Beyond that, for what concerns the spin, we show in Figs. 7 a qualitative point-mass BNS case with realistic positive and negative spins. In this case we put to zero the quadrupole-monopole interaction terms, \(C_{Q1} = C_{Q2} = 0\), removing the quadratic-in-spin PN corrections both in the numerical TEOBResumS model and in the analytical approximant. So contribution of the mixed \(\chi_{1,2}\) terms and the spin-orbit interaction is tested, including for completeness also the new 4PN spin-orbit Taylor-F2 term computed in Ref. [18], i.e. the \(Q_{\omega}\) analogue of Eq. (48) there. While the spin-orbit terms are already contained in TEOBResumS in a resummed form, we neglect the spin cube and spin quartic PN corrections (see [18]) for simplicity, since their effect does not affect our preliminary robustness test.

**Appendix C: Quasi-5.5PN phasing coefficients**

We report in this appendix the explicit expressions for the coefficients entering Eq. (4). For simplicity, we put to zero all the \(c_{\ell m}^{P N}\)’s except \(c_{22}^{4 P N}\) and \(c_{21}^{3 P N}\). We have:

\[
\begin{align*}
    b_2 &= \frac{11\nu}{4} + \frac{743}{336} \\
    b_3 &= -4\pi \\
    b_4 &= \frac{617\nu^2}{144} + \frac{5429\nu}{1008} + 3058673 \\
    b_5 &= \pi \left(\frac{13\nu}{8} - 7729\right) \\
    b_6 &= \frac{25565\nu^3}{5184} - \frac{15211\nu^2}{6912} + \left(\frac{-451\pi^2}{48} + \frac{3147553127}{12192768}\right)\nu \\
    &+ \frac{856\log(x)}{105} + \frac{3424\log(2)}{105} + \frac{32\pi^2}{3} + \frac{1712\gamma}{105} - \frac{10817850546611}{93884313600} \\
    b_7 &= \pi \left(\frac{14809\nu^2}{3024} - \frac{75703\nu}{6048} - \frac{15419335}{1016064}\right) \\
    b_8 &= c_{21}^{3 P N} \left(\frac{4\nu^2}{9} - \frac{1}{9}\nu\right) + \frac{73893895655\nu^4}{14239120896} - \frac{102008296205\nu^3}{11650189824} + \left(\frac{79909\pi^2}{24192} - \frac{30060673165997}{2563041761280}\right)\nu^2 \\
    &+ \left(-4c_{22}^{4 P N} + \frac{332683\log(x)}{2205} - \frac{1860443\pi^2}{48384} + \frac{6252765829828087}{5695648358400}\right)\nu \\
    &+ \gamma \left(\frac{665366\nu}{2205} + \frac{9203}{210}\right) + \frac{9203\log(x)}{420} + \left(\frac{47385}{1568} - \frac{47385\nu}{392}\right)\log(3) \\
    &+ \left(\frac{177586\nu}{245} + \frac{50551}{882}\right)\log(2) + \frac{9049\pi^2}{252} - \frac{2496799162103891233}{3690780136243200}
\end{align*}
\]
\[ b_9 = \pi \left[ \frac{2064751 \nu^3}{399168} + \frac{9058667 \nu^2}{250416} + \left( \frac{451 \pi}{12} - \frac{298583452147}{268240896} \right) \nu \right. \\
- \frac{3424}{105} \log(x) - \frac{13696}{105} \log(2) - \frac{64 \pi}{3} - \frac{684 \gamma}{105} + \frac{900366656746376}{187768627200}, \tag{C7} \]

\[ b_{10} = \frac{1}{-1 + 3 \nu} \left[ \frac{\nu}{189} - \frac{2815}{756} \nu^2 + \frac{599}{252} \nu^3 + \frac{191}{21} \nu^4 \right] + \left( -12 \frac{\nu^2}{54} + 54 \gamma_6 + \frac{349 e_{3P}^{4}}{42} \right) \nu^2 \\
- \frac{415795517 \pi^2}{3612672} + \frac{9923919211 \gamma}{18336780} + \frac{3592581205992768897549}{292602096577251901440} + \frac{21952}{21647229376092734400} \right] \nu^2 \\
- \frac{117340379713 \log(2) \nu^2}{18336780} \right) \nu^2 + \left( -18 a_6 + \frac{311 e_{22}^{3P}}{42} + 4 e_{22}^{5P} + \frac{5451429547 \pi^2}{32514048} \right) \nu^2 \\
- \frac{63784707527 \gamma}{36773560} - \frac{274923117735819921781277}{12544} - \frac{892475 \log(3) \nu^2}{73347120} - \frac{159943397077 \log(2) \nu^2}{73347120}. \tag{C8} \]

\[ b_{11} = \pi \left[ \frac{c_{21}^{3P}}{128} \left( -\frac{8}{3} \nu^2 + \frac{2}{3} \nu \right) + \frac{131525414689 \nu^4}{64076044032} - \frac{21619565695 \nu^3}{11650189824} + \left( -\frac{2129581 \pi^2}{16128} + \frac{5120314955146397}{1398022778800} \right) \nu^2 \\
+ \left( -\frac{673331 \log(x)}{1200} + \frac{9003157 \pi^2}{64512} + 16 e_{22}^{4P} \right) \nu \right] \left( -\frac{673331 \nu}{630} - \frac{3558011}{17640} - \frac{3558011 \log(x)}{35280} + \left( \frac{47385 \nu}{196} - \frac{47385 \log(3)}{784} \right) \log(3) \\
+ \left( -\frac{10504813 \nu}{4410} - \frac{862549}{2520} \right) \log(2) - \frac{9439 \pi^2}{126} + \frac{17955051436433771}{61513002270200} \right]. \tag{C9} \]
\[ \begin{align*}
\varphi_0 &= 1 \\
\varphi_1 &= 0 \\
\varphi_2 &= \frac{3715}{756} + \frac{55}{9} \nu \\
\varphi_3 &= -16\pi \\
\varphi_4 &= \frac{3085\nu^2}{72} + \frac{27145\nu}{504} + \frac{15293365}{508032} \\
\varphi_5 &= \pi \left( \frac{38645}{756} - \frac{65\nu}{9} \right) \left[ 1 + \log(\pi fM) \right] \\
\varphi_6 &= -\frac{6848}{63} \log(\pi fM) - \frac{127825\nu^3}{1296} + \frac{76055\nu^2}{1728} + \left( \frac{2255\pi^2}{12} - \frac{15737765635}{3048192} \right) \nu - \frac{640\pi^2}{3} - \frac{6848\gamma}{21} \\
&\quad + \frac{11583231236531}{4694215680} - \frac{13696 \log(2)}{21} \\
\varphi_7 &= \pi \left( -\frac{74045\nu^2}{756} + \frac{378515\nu}{1512} + \frac{77096675}{254016} \right) \\
\varphi_8 &= [1 - \log(\pi fM)] \left( \frac{3^{\frac{\gamma}{21}}}{21} \right) \left( \frac{40\nu}{81} - \frac{160\nu^2}{81} \right) + \frac{160\nu^3}{229} \nu^2 - \frac{369469478275\nu^4}{16019011008} + \frac{510041481025\nu^3}{13106463552} \\
&\quad + \left( \frac{300600673165997}{576684396288} - \frac{69945\pi^2}{27216} \right) \nu^2 + \left( -\frac{567987228950357}{1281520880640} - \frac{5322928\gamma}{3969} + \frac{9302215\pi^2}{54432} \right) \nu \\
&\quad - \frac{1420688 \log(2)}{441} + \frac{26325 \log(3)}{49} \nu - \frac{90490\pi^2}{567} - \frac{36812\gamma}{189} + \frac{2550713843998885153}{830425530654720} - \frac{26325 \log(3)}{196} \\
&\quad - \frac{1011020 \log(2)}{3969} + \left( \frac{2661464\nu}{11907} + \frac{18406}{567} \right) \log^2(\pi fM) \\
\varphi_9 &= \pi \left[ -\frac{13696}{63} \log(\pi fM) + \frac{10323755\nu^3}{199584} + \frac{4529335\nu^2}{127008} + \left( \frac{2255}{6} \pi^2 - \frac{1492917260735}{134120448} \right) \nu \\
&\quad - \frac{640\pi^2}{3} - \frac{13696\gamma}{21} + \frac{105344279473163}{18776862720} - \frac{27392 \log(2)}{21} \right]
\end{align*} \]
\[
\varphi_{10} = \frac{1}{1 - 3\nu} \left[ a_c^\phi (72\nu - 216\nu^2) + c_{32}^{3\text{PN}} \left( \frac{764\nu^4}{21} - \frac{599\nu^3}{63} + \frac{2815\nu^2}{189} - \frac{484\nu}{189} \right) + c_{42}^{4\text{PN}} \left( \frac{2564\nu^3}{7} - \frac{698\nu^2}{21} - \frac{622\nu}{21} \right) \right]
\] (C12)

\[
+ c_{22}^{5\text{PN}} (48\nu^2 - 16\nu) + \left( \frac{12863780362\nu^3}{4584195} + \frac{13849493129\nu^2}{13752585} - \frac{24279431641\nu}{27505170} + \frac{6470582647}{82515510} \right) \log(\pi f M)
\]

\[
+ \frac{242506655140205297979\nu^6}{857232704816167680} - \frac{12721434740371951621\nu^5}{676317715831296} + \left( \frac{1116081080066315149913}{27213736608307200} \right) \nu^4
\]

\[
- \frac{9434797\nu^3}{18816} + \left( \frac{8571040765530806504851}{3249308192646707200} - \frac{1647793142\gamma}{1528065} - \frac{9923912119\gamma}{1536} \right) \nu^3
\]

\[
- \frac{431117976688 \log(2) + 1279395 \log(3)}{1528065} + \frac{18736399363805057301105217}{36575262072156487800} - \frac{9923912119\gamma}{1536} \nu^2
\]

\[
+ \frac{415795517\nu^2}{903168} - \frac{117340379713 \log(2) - 58330935 \log(3)}{5488} + \left( \frac{5699351812596674781113}{10837114688046366720} \right) \nu^2
\]

\[
+ \frac{63787407527\gamma}{9168390} - \frac{5451429547\gamma^2}{18336780} + \frac{159493397077 \log(2) + 892475 \log(3)}{3136} + \frac{578223155\gamma}{3048192} \nu
\]

\[
+ \frac{6470582647\gamma}{127630669795878400} - \frac{1433006523295407125659}{21952} - \frac{5512455 \log(3) + 53992839431 \log(2)}{55010340}
\]

\[
\varphi_{11} = \pi \left[ c_{32}^{3\text{PN}} \left( \frac{160\nu^2}{27} + \frac{40\nu}{27} + \frac{320c_{32}^{4\text{PN}}\nu}{9} - \left( \frac{1346662\nu}{1701} + \frac{3558011}{23814} \right) \right) \log(\pi f M)
\]

\[
+ \frac{67627073445\nu^4}{144117090972} - \frac{1085097828475\nu^3}{26212927104} + \frac{5120314955146397\nu^2}{629110250496} + \pi^2 \left( \frac{10647905\nu}{36288} + \frac{45015785\nu}{145152} \right) \nu^2
\]

\[
- \frac{94390}{567} + \left( \frac{1346662\gamma}{567} - \frac{430383707398397047}{3460106377280} + \frac{26325}{49} \right) \log(3) - \frac{21090626 \log(2) + 3969}{3969} \nu - \frac{3558011}{7938} \gamma
\]

\[
+ \frac{1857541407236594411}{276808510218240} - \frac{26325 \log(3) - 862549 \log(2)}{196} - \frac{1134}{196}
\]

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