

Numerical-relativity-informed effective-one-body model for black-hole–neutron-star mergers with higher modes and spin precession

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We present the first effective-one-body model for generic-spins quasicircular black-hole–neutron-star (BHNS) inspiral-merger-ringdown gravitational waveforms (GWs). Our model is based on a new numerical-relativity (NR) informed expression of the BH remnant and its ringdown. It reproduces the NR $(\ell, m) = (2, 2)$ waveform with typical phase agreement of $\lesssim 0.5$ rad ($\lesssim 1$ rad) to merger (ringdown). The maximum (minimum) mismatch between the $(2, 2)$ and the NR data is 4% (0.6%). Higher modes (HMs) $(2, 1)$, $(3, 2)$, $(3, 3)$, $(4, 4)$, and $(5, 5)$ are included, and their mismatch with the available NR waveforms are up to (down to) a 60% (1%) depending on the inclination. Phase comparison with a 16 orbit precessing simulation shows differences within the NR uncertainties. We demonstrate the applicability of the model in GW parameter estimation by performing the first BHNS Bayesian analysis with HMs (and nonprecessing spins) of the event GW190814, together with new $(2, 2)$ -mode analysis of GW200105 and GW200115. For the GW190814 study, the inclusion of HMs gives tighter parameter posteriors. The Bayes factors of our analyses on this event show decisive evidence for the presence of HMs, but no clear preference for a BHNS or a binary black hole source. Similarly, we confirm GW200105 and GW200115 show no evidence for tidal effects.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The recent gravitational wave (GW) observations GW200105 and GW200115 can be interpreted as the first detections of black-hole–neutron-star (BHNS) mergers [1]. These observations allow to estimate a merger rate of $45 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, for masses consistent with the ones of these observed signals, and $130 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ for a broader BHNS mass distribution [1]. For typical neutron star masses $1.4M_{\odot} \lesssim M_{\text{NS}} \lesssim 3M_{\odot}$ [2,3] and masses from currently observed populations of binary black holes (BBH), BHNSs are expected to have mass ratios $q = m_1/m_2$ ($m_1 \geq m_2$) in the range $3 \lesssim q \lesssim 100$ [4,5]. Hence, ground-based GW interferometers will observe not only their inspiral but also the last stages of the coalescence, including the merger. These binary systems are also promising engines of gamma-ray bursts [6] and kilonovae [7], which are expected electromagnetic counterparts to future GW events.

The merger process can be quantitatively studied only by means of numerical relativity (NR) simulations [8–19]. The tidal disruption of the neutron star (NS) companion plays a key role in the merger dynamics and for determining the GW morphology [10,11]. The phenomenology observed in

simulations indicates the existence of three main the scenarios: in the first, the NS is tidally disrupted before merging with the BH; in the second the NS plunges directly into the BH without getting tidally disrupted; in the third the BH's tidal field induces unstable mass transfer from the NS during mass shedding [20]. Kyutoku *et al.* tentatively classified these cases as mergers of type I, II, and III, respectively, and highlighted their different imprint in the ringdown part of the GW spectra [10,21]. Direct plunges produce gravitational waveforms that are similar to binary black hole ones. The fate of the NS has the largest impact on the morphology of the GW signal. In particular, mass shedding or tidal disruption causes partial suppression of quasi-normal-modes (QNMs), producing waveforms that deviate from binary black hole ones.

Whether the NS gets tidally disrupted or plunges directly into the BH depends, in the Kerr test-mass approximation, on the mass ratio of the binary and on the location of the BH's last stable orbit (LSO) [22]. In this case, the ratio between the tidal disruption radius (r_{TD}) and the LSO radius (r_{LSO}) scales approximately as $\xi = r_{\text{TD}}/r_{\text{LSO}} \propto C^{-1} q^{-2/3} f(a_{\text{BH}})^{-1}$, where $C = GM_{\text{NS}}/(c^2 R_{\text{NS}})$ is the compactness of the NS of radius R_{NS} and $f(a_{\text{BH}})$ encodes the well-known behavior of the Kerr LSO as a function of the

BH dimensionless and mass-rescaled spin, a_{BH} [23]. Hence, significant mass shedding and tidal disruption ($\xi > 1$) is expected for mass ratios approaching one and large NS compactness, while direct plunges ($\xi < 1$) will occur in the opposite cases [19].

Large initial BH spins aligned (antialigned) to the orbital angular momentum, as well as small (large) NS compactnesses favor (disfavor) mass shedding and tidal disruption [10,24,25]. Mass shedding and tidal disruption lead to the formation of an accretion disk surrounding the remnant BH [22,26–28]. A fraction of the matter is expected to be ejected on dynamical timescales from the remnant disk, undergoing r -process nucleosynthesis and thus producing a kilonova signal [19,29–31]. The remnant BH properties have been shown to depend sensitively on the binary properties and to be related to disk formation [4,32].

Waveform templates are a necessary ingredient for modeled searches and analyses of GW data. Lackey *et al.* [33,34] designed inspiral-merger-ringdown BHNS waveforms by calibrating the phenomenological BBH model PhenomC [35] with data from BHNS NR waveforms. Following a similar approach, Pannarale *et al.* [36] developed a phenomenological waveform model for nonspinning binaries that corrects the GW amplitude to account for the three possible merger dynamics described above. The amplitude correction is based on an analytical model of the merger remnant by Pannarale [26]. This model estimates the final BH’s mass and spin using the expressions for the LSO of a test-mass orbiting a Kerr BH and NR fits of the remnant disk baryon mass. It was later extended to model the $(\ell, m) = (2, 2)$ mode of BHNSs with nonprecessing spins using a larger number of NR simulations. Pannarale *et al.* [21,37] further classify the mergers as disruptive, nondisruptive, and mildly disruptive with and without a disk. More recently, Thompson *et al.* [38] applied the same approach of the above mentioned Pannarale *et al.* to develop the PhenomNSBH approximant that employs a NR-informed closed-form expression for the GW phase contributions due to tidal interactions [39,40]. The same approach was used to build SEOBNR_NSBH by Matas *et al.* [41], in which the PhenomC baseline is replaced with an effective-one-body (EOB) model [40,42]. In contrast to PhenomNSBH, SEOBNR_NSBH makes use of additional NR data available for their fitting of amplitude corrections, as well as the remnant BH fits of Zappa *et al.* [4]. Steinhoff *et al.* [43] developed another EOB model as well that additionally accounts for f -mode excitations of the NS through an effective Love number.

In this paper, we propose a new waveform model for waveforms from quasicircular BHNS systems that we incorporate within the EOB model TEOBResumS, previously developed for BBH [44–48] and binary neutron stars (BNS) mergers [49,50]. Our model differs from the above BHNS waveform approximants in the use of NR data. Specifically, TEOBResumS does not make use of

remnant disk fits from NR but relies on (i) a NR-informed remnant BH model that updates the one from Zappa *et al.* [4], (ii) next-to-quasicircular (NQC) corrections to the waveform that are specifically designed using NR BHNS simulation data, and (iii) a ringdown model based on TEOBResumS’ ringdown model for BBH [51]. The latter is suitably “deformed” to include the BHNS ringdown in cases of significant tidal disruption, using a set of pseudo-quasi-normal modes [52] extracted from the numerical simulations. Tidal effects are included following the gravitational-self-force resummation prescription for the tidal radial potential of TEOBResumS [49,50]. Higher modes beyond the dominant quadrupole, $(\ell, m) = (2, 2)$, are included when constructing the nonprecessing model baseline. These are relevant for the description of unequal-mass binaries (as expected for BHNSs), we additionally include a straightforward prescription to account for precessing binaries using the recipe of Ref. [53]. We present here the first BHNS waveform model that incorporates higher modes (HMs) and includes spin precession.

The plan of the paper is as follows. Section II describes the new design choices and the implementation of our model with the available NR simulation data, showing how TEOBResumS for BHNSs robustly provides waveforms for a large parameter space spanning mass ratio $q \in [1, 20]$ and BH spins as high as $a_{\text{BH}} = 0.99$. The waveforms are validated in Sec. III against NR data as well as other available models. Good agreement with NR data is found with a similar performance to other available models, but significant phasing improvements especially, in the merger ringdown of challenging configurations. Additionally, a phasing agreement at a similar level holds even against the only available precessing configuration [54,55], a comparison which is performed here for the first time against our model. Section IV demonstrates the application of TEOBResumS to both artificial and real data, including that from the recent BHNS observations [1]. Using this model with the $(2, 2)$ mode in the analysis of simulated signals gives results very close to the injected values, within statistical errors, even for signals with low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR). This confirms the self-consistency of the model. For real events, results of the inference are also consistent with the ones computed by the LIGO-Virgo-Kagra Collaboration (LVK). We do not find decisive evidence on the binary’s origin for the analysis on GW190814 and GW200105. However, we are able to significantly constrain the parameters’ values by employing a BHNS model with HMs. Similarly for GW200115, we find no evidence of tidal effects. Finally, in Sec. V we discuss the improvements that new NR data would bring to the model’s accuracy and suggest the region of the BHNS binary parameter space that should be numerically explored to this aim.

Notation.—In this work we use M for the binary mass, $q = m_1/m_2 \geq 1$ for the mass ratio, $\nu = q/(1+q)^2$ for the

symmetric mass ratio, M_{BH} , a_{BH} for the mass and dimensionless spin of the initial BH in the binary system, similarly, M_{NS} , a_{NS} for the NS, and M_* , a_* for the mass and dimensionless spin of the remnant BH. The quadrupolar tidal polarizability parameter of the NS is $\Lambda = \frac{2}{3} \frac{k_2}{c^5}$, where k_2 corresponds to the gravitoelectric Love number k_ℓ with $\ell = 2$, and $C = M_{\text{NS}}/R_{\text{NS}}$ is the compactness of the star. The tidal coupling constant parametrizing the leading order tidal interactions is $\kappa_2^{\text{T}} = \frac{3}{16} \tilde{\Lambda}$ for BHNSs, where $\tilde{\Lambda}$ is the reduced tidal deformability defined as [56]

$$\tilde{\Lambda} = \frac{8}{13} [1 + 7\nu - 31\nu^2 - \sqrt{1 - 4\nu(1 + 9\nu - 11\nu^2)}] \Lambda. \quad (1)$$

The Regge–Wheeler–Zerilli normalized multipolar waveforms are $\Psi_{\ell m} = h_{\ell m} / \sqrt{(\ell + 2)(\ell + 1)\ell(\ell - 1)}$, with the strain multipoles

$$h_+ - ih_\times = \frac{1}{R} \sum_{\ell=2}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-\ell}^{\ell} h_{\ell m-2} Y_{\ell m}, \quad (2)$$

where R is the luminosity distance, and $_{-2}Y_{\ell m}$ are the $s = -2$ spin-weighted spherical harmonics. We plot waveforms in terms of the retarded time $u = t - r_*$ typically shifted by the merger time t_{mrg} . The latter is conventionally defined as the time corresponding to the peak amplitude of the (2, 2) mode.

We employ geometric units $c = G = 1$ and solar masses M_\odot , unless explicitly indicated, and use log to indicate the natural logarithm.

II. TEOBResumS MODEL

TEOBResumS is a waveform model based on the EOB formalism [44,57–61]. This approximant produces gravitational waveforms from spinning coalescing compact binaries including higher modes and tidal effects [45–48,50,62]. Fast waveform generation is obtained using the postadiabatic approximation to the EOB Hamiltonian dynamics [63].

The postmerger part of the waveform is characterized by the properties of the final BH, the QNMs driving the relaxation towards equilibrium and the time evolution of modes, amplitudes, and phases. Due to the different physics close to merger, where finite-size effects start to become relevant, a BHNS ringdown differs with respect to the one resulting from a binary black hole coalescence. The implementation of BHNS coalescences into TEOBResumS thus consists of two main parts: the remnant BH characterization and the ringdown model. The idea behind the BHNS modeling is to employ NR fitting formulas describing the deviation of a given quantity compared to the binary black hole case.

A. Remnant BH model

Accurate models for the mass M_* and dimensionless spin a_* of the remnant BH are required to construct an EOB model of the BHNS merger gravitational waveforms. As further discussed in Sec. II B, the remnant’s mass and spin enter the computation of QNMs and other ringdown properties of the GW in the postmerger phase. In addition, the remnant mass is also employed to distinguish among different NS tidal disruption cases.

Fitting formulas for both M_* and a_* have been developed in [4] using the data from 86 NR simulations of BHNS mergers published in [9,10,13]. Those models consist of maps of the type

$$F: (\nu, a_{\text{BH}}, \Lambda) \rightarrow (M_*, a_*), \quad (3)$$

which allow to calculate the properties of the remnant BH from the binary symmetric mass-ratio ν , the initial BH spin a_{BH} , and the NS’ tidal polarizability Λ . These formulas reduce by construction to the binary black hole case in the $\Lambda = 0$ limit, and to the test-mass case in the $\nu \rightarrow 0$ limit.

In this paper, we update the models of Ref. [4] by including 19 additional simulations of nonspinning BHNSs presented in [19]. These new simulations further explore the parameter region of low mass-ratio binaries ($q \lesssim 3$) for which the NS tidal disruption is more likely to occur. Clearly, this addition makes the remnant formulas more accurate in this regime. Also, the fitting formula for M_* employed here is different from that of Ref. [4]; the reason for this choice is to use a simpler and smoother function in the region of large Λ and small ν , where no NR data are available. The remnant’s fitting model [Eq. (B1a) for a_* and Eq. (B2a) for M_* with $\lambda = \Lambda$] and the updated coefficients are reported in Appendix B.

Representative plots of the M_* rescaled remnant mass M_*/M are shown in Fig. 1 for different values of spin a_{BH} . The lowest values of M_*/M are attained in the high Λ -high ν regime, where tidal effects play a significant role in the dynamics. Consequently, the NS mass does not contribute much to the final BH mass, due to disk formation through tidal disruption. On the other hand, a clear mass peak is present at low values of Λ and all values of ν . Since tidal interactions are negligible in this region, there is no disk formation, and the NS mass gets swallowed by the BH. With increasing spin a_{BH} , the parameter ξ that controls the onset of tidal disruption increases, due to the repulsive spin-orbit interaction. Indeed, lower values of M_*/M are attained when the spin is large, and the mass peak in the low Λ region is suppressed.

B. Ringdown model

The ringdown emission in BHNS mergers must account for the NS tidal disruption that, in certain binary parameter regions, significantly suppresses QNM excitation. In these

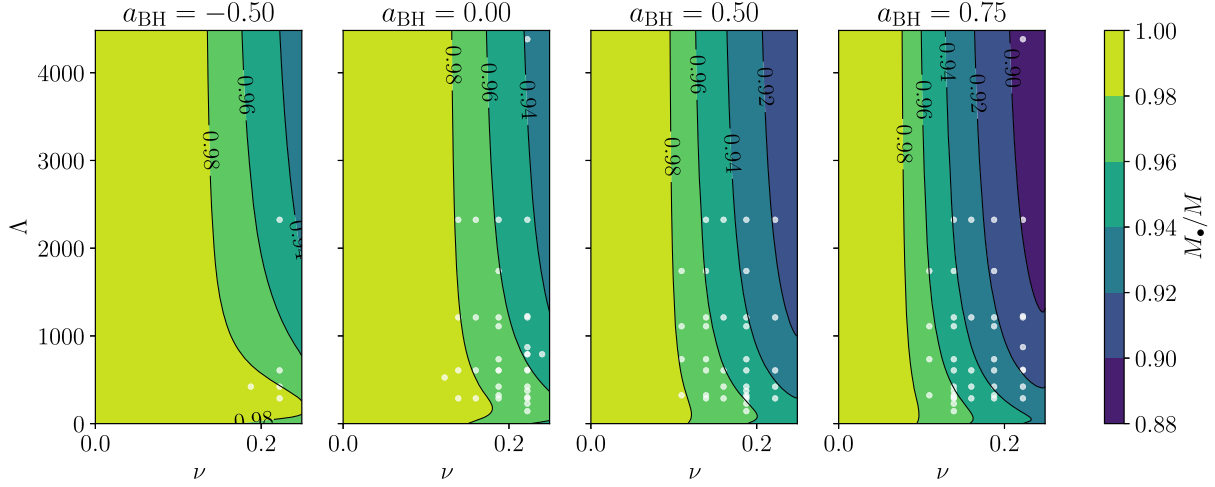


FIG. 1. BH remnant mass fit $M_*/M(\nu, \Lambda, a_{\text{BH}})$ for representative values of the BH spin a_{BH} . NR data points are shown as white dots.

regions, the binary black hole ringdown representation is no longer accurate. The BHNS ringdown model is constructed as a deformation of the EOB ringdown for BBHs proposed in Ref. [51]. The ringdown of a GW mode is analytically modeled by the multiplicative ansatz,

$$\bar{h}_{\ell m}(\tau) = e^{\sigma_1 \tau + i\phi_0} h(\tau) \equiv A_{\bar{h}(\tau)} e^{i\phi_{\bar{h}(\tau)}}, \quad (4)$$

where $\sigma_1 = \alpha_{\ell m 1} + i\omega_{\ell m 1}$ is the dimensionless complex frequency of the fundamental QNM ($n = 1$) with the inverse damping time α_1 and frequency ω_1 [hereafter the (ℓ, m) indices are often omitted], and $\tau = (t - t_0)/M$ is a dimensionless time parameter. The quantities $A_{\bar{h}(\tau)}$ and $\phi_{\bar{h}(\tau)}$ are written as

$$A_{\bar{h}(\tau)} = c_1^A \tanh(c_2^A \tau + c_3^A) + c_4^A, \quad (5a)$$

$$\phi_{\bar{h}(\tau)} = -c_1^\phi \ln \left(\frac{1 + c_3^\phi e^{-c_2^\phi \tau} + c_4^\phi e^{-2c_2^\phi \tau}}{1 + c_3^\phi + c_4^\phi} \right). \quad (5b)$$

A set of physical constraints are imposed to the parameters $c_i^{A,\phi}$ [51],

$$c_2^A = \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{21}, \quad (6a)$$

$$c_4^A = \hat{A}^{\text{peak}} - c_1^A \tanh(c_3^A), \quad (6b)$$

$$c_1^A = \hat{A}^{\text{peak}} \alpha_1 \frac{\cosh^2(c_3^A)}{c_2^A}, \quad (6c)$$

$$c_1^\phi = \frac{1 + c_3^\phi + c_4^\phi}{c_2^\phi (c_3^\phi + 2c_4^\phi)} (\omega_1 - M_{\text{BH}} \omega^{\text{peak}}), \quad (6d)$$

$$c_2^\phi = \alpha_{21}, \quad (6e)$$

with $\alpha_{21} \equiv \alpha_2 - \alpha_1$, where α_2 corresponds to the inverse damping time of the first overtone ($n = 2$). Therefore, three free parameters remain: $c_3^A, c_3^\phi, c_4^\phi$.

The ringdown model of Eq. (4) thus requires (for each multipole) the QNM frequencies $(\omega_1, \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$, the peak (or maximum) values of the amplitude \hat{A}^{peak} and frequency ω^{peak} entering Eq. (6), and the parameters $(c_3^A, c_3^\phi, c_4^\phi)$. The latter are fit to BBH NR data in [48] for both the (2, 2) and higher modes, while the set

$$(\omega_1, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \hat{A}^{\text{peak}}, \omega^{\text{peak}}) \quad (7)$$

is modeled using the BHNS NR data available to us, see Appendix A. The quantities in (7) are modeled similarly to the BH remnant properties in Sec. II A. The QNM quantities $(\omega_1, \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$ are fit using Eq. (B1a) with $\lambda = \Lambda$ and correspond to pseudo-QNMs [52]. The quantities $(\hat{A}^{\text{peak}}, \omega^{\text{peak}})$ are modeled with Eq. (B2a) and employ the tidal coupling constant $\lambda = \kappa_2^T$ instead of Λ . The underlying binary black hole values for the above parameters are those of Ref. [48], to which the model exactly reduces for $\lambda = 0$ and $\nu \rightarrow 0$. Table IX summarizes the results for all the fitting parameters for the $(\ell = 2, m = 2)$ mode. Our model also includes HMs to account for their significant contribution to the waveform morphology for increasing mass ratio. Due to the lack of enough simulations including HMs, we apply the corrections obtained for the (2, 2) mode to the corresponding binary black hole fits for subdominant modes. The current available modes for our BHNS model are: (2, 1), (2, 2), (3, 2), (3, 3), (4, 4), and (5, 5).

Figure 2 shows $A_{22}^{\text{peak,BHNS}}/A_{22}^{\text{peak,BBH}}$ (top), $\omega_{22}^{\text{peak,BHNS}}/\omega_{22}^{\text{peak,BBH}}$ (middle), and $M\omega_{221}^{\text{BHNS}}/M\omega_{221}^{\text{BBH}}$ (bottom) for representative values of a_{BH} (in the latter, the indices correspond to ℓ, m , and the n th overtone). For a progenitor BH with $a_{\text{BH}} = 0$, tidal disruption significantly suppresses

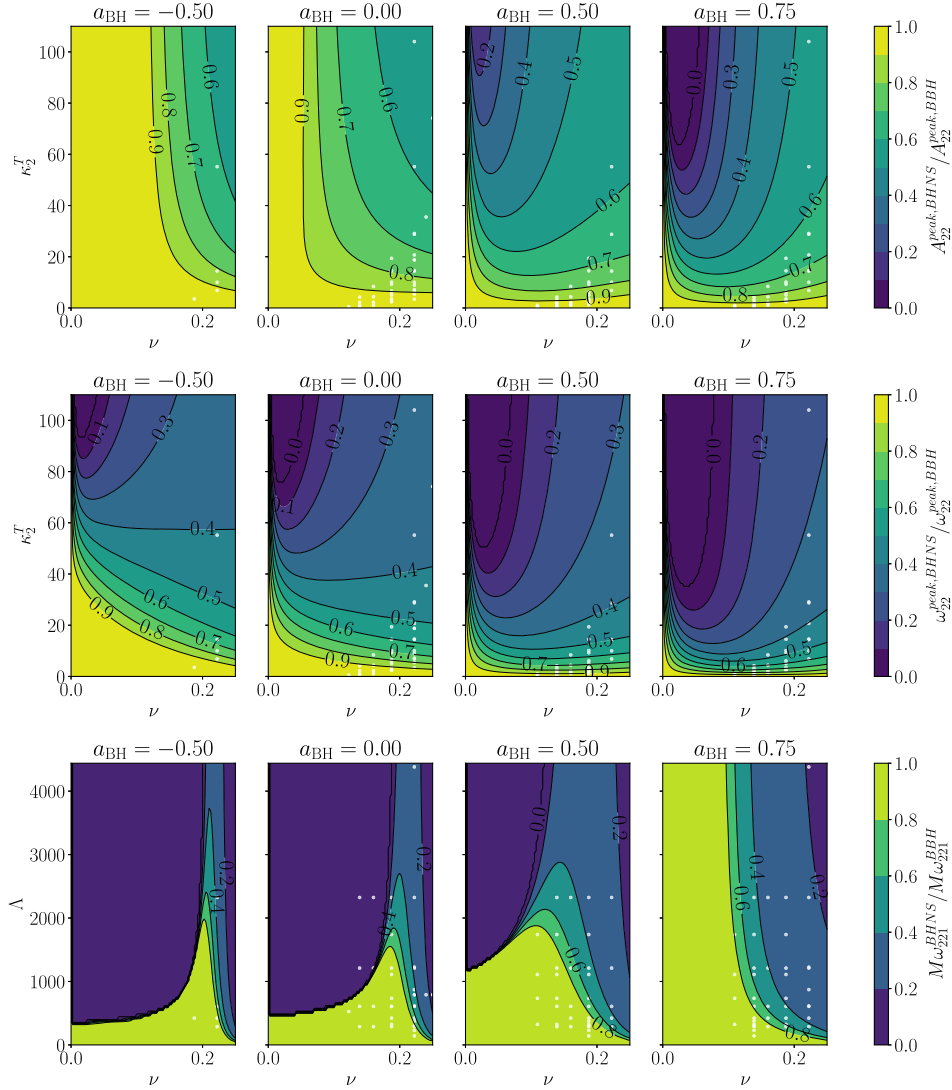


FIG. 2. Two-dimensional plots of the fits for the BHNS ringdown quantities, relative to the binary black hole values: $A_{22}^{\text{BHNS}}/A_{22}^{\text{BBH}}$ (top), $\omega_{22}^{\text{BHNS}}/\omega_{22}^{\text{BBH}}$ (middle), and $M\omega_{221}^{\text{BHNS}}/M\omega_{221}^{\text{BBH}}$ (bottom). These are plotted with representative values of the progenitor BH spin a_{BH} (see text). The NR data employed in the fits are represented with white dots.

the peak amplitude for $\nu > 0.18$, whereas for $\nu < 0.16$ and low κ_2^{T} values, it is well represented by the binary black hole model. When the spin increases, we observe a stronger suppression for a wider range of mass ratios. This is a consequence of the repulsive spin-orbit terms in the dynamics that effectively reduce the radius of the black hole's innermost stable circular orbit (ISCO) for increasing spin. Therefore, the onset of tidal disruption ξ occurs before the NS gets swallowed by the BH. For this reason, BHNS coalescences with a high spinning BH cannot be faithfully described by a binary black hole model. For the peak frequency $\omega_{22}^{\text{peak}}$, we observe a similar behavior with increasing a_{BH} . Only for very low values of $\kappa_2^{\text{T}} \lesssim 10$ we obtain peak frequencies that mimic those of the binary black hole case. The QNM frequency $M\omega_{221}$ shows a

different behavior, which however we believe is due to the lack of data in the low ν region. Indeed, for high ν values, we obtain a behavior consistent with the other quantities, with increasing a_{BH} suppressing the frequency due to tidal disruption.

Figure 3 shows the fits for the inverse damping time. To recognize the tidally disrupted NS (black dots) from the others (white dots), a criterion based on the contours of this figure is discussed in Sec. II C. The tidal disruption cases are identified by the lack of excited QNMs in their frequency after merger, in contrast to BBH. The BHNS QNM fits developed ($\omega_1, \alpha_1, \alpha_2$) are used only for BHNS binaries where the NS is tidally disrupted, whereas the original QNM fits from [48] are employed for the rest of the binaries (see also Sec. II C).

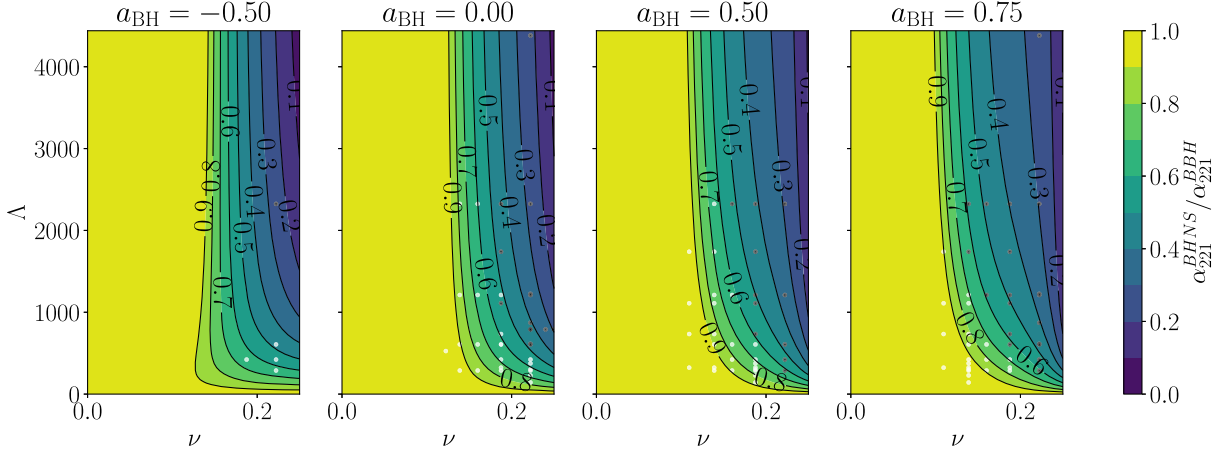


FIG. 3. Two-dimensional plots of the fits for the inverse damping time $\alpha_{221}(\nu, \Lambda, a_{\text{BH}})$. The white dots represent the NR data; the ones marked in black are the tidally disrupted cases (see text).

C. Inspiral-merger-ringdown waveforms

TEOBResuMS inspiral-merger-ringdown waveforms (IMR) for BHNSs are constructed exactly as binary black hole waveforms, but using: (i) the GSF3 model of [49] for gravitoelectric tidal effects and the post-Newtonian model of [50] for gravitomagnetic tidal effects, (ii) the remnant model described in Sec. II A, and (iii) the ringdown model described in Sec. II B. In addition, NQC to the waveform differ from the BBH case, and are computed for each multipole. The NQC extraction points from [48] are employed, with additional BHNS fits for

$$(A_{22}^{\text{NQC}}, \dot{A}_{22}^{\text{NQC}}, \omega_{22}^{\text{NQC}}, \dot{\omega}_{22}^{\text{NQC}}) \quad (8)$$

for the cases that deviate sufficiently from the binary black hole case. The BHNS NQC fits were modeled in the same manner as the ringdown fits of the previous section. The model employed for the quantities $(\dot{A}_{22}^{\text{NQC}}, \dot{\omega}_{22}^{\text{NQC}})$ is Eq. (B1a), while for $(A_{22}^{\text{NQC}}, \omega_{22}^{\text{NQC}})$ Eq. (B2a) is used, with $\lambda = \kappa_2^{\text{T}}$ in both cases. More details on the fits can be found in Appendix B. Tidal disruption in BHNS mergers can be roughly classified in three types [10]: (I) the NS is tidally disrupted far away from the ISCO, and the ringdown is strongly suppressed; (II) the NS is not tidally disrupted, and the ringdown is very similar to the binary black hole case; (III) the NS is tidally disrupted close to the ISCO, and the ringdown is present but significantly altered by the tidal disruption. Given the scarcity of NR data required to develop remnant and ringdown models on the entire BHNS parameter space, the TEOBResuMS BHNS model currently implements the above classification.

The three cases (I–III) are quantitatively identified in the parameter space using the QNM damping time model of Sec. II B and are shown in Fig. 3. Among all the fits developed for the BHNS model, this parameter is the one that better allows to distinguish the tidal disruption cases

from the rest. The QNMs damping times allow to capture the impact on the BHNS ringdown morphology induced by the reduced postmerger emission. Additionally, these fits also show a more physical behavior throughout the parameter space, e.g., closer to BBHs for low ν and a growing tidally disrupted region with increasing ν and Λ .

Type I binaries are shown as black markers in Fig. 3. The contour around $\alpha^{\text{BHNS}}/\alpha^{\text{BBH}} < 0.6$ for nonspinning binaries is adopted as a criterion for identifying type I binaries. These types of binaries make use of all fits developed for BHNS as described in Sec. II B. Type II binaries have a ringdown that is practically indistinguishable from BBH and are identified through the contour $\alpha^{\text{BHNS}}/\alpha^{\text{BBH}} > 0.9$. For these binaries the EOB model simply employs the binary black hole baseline with the remnant BH model of Sec. II A. Type III binaries are the intermediate cases for which we find sufficient to use a binary black hole ringdown model, where initial conditions are modified by the presence of the NS. Hence, the corrections to the peak quantities $(\hat{A}^{\text{peak}}, \omega^{\text{peak}})$ developed in Sec. II B are employed for the values and the BHNS NQC parameters described above. The QNM quantities $(\omega_1, \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$ are instead modeled as in the binary black hole case [48]. Figure 4 shows examples of the different BHNS ringdown types against their BBH equivalent. Type I binaries (top) show an almost completely suppressed ringdown. The QNM fits developed for these cases in Sec. II B are in good agreement with the NR waveform, especially at the dampened end. For type II binaries (middle) the binary black hole fits capture already quite accurately the NR ringdown, confirming the validity of our approach. A slight deformation from the binary black hole case can be observed and is due to the different values of the remnant parameters employed. In type III cases (bottom), the BHNS corrections to their respective binary black hole fits improve the waveform morphology compared to NR. Since these cases use the QNM fits for BBH, they show a small deviation from the BBH ringdown. Appreciable differences can, however, be

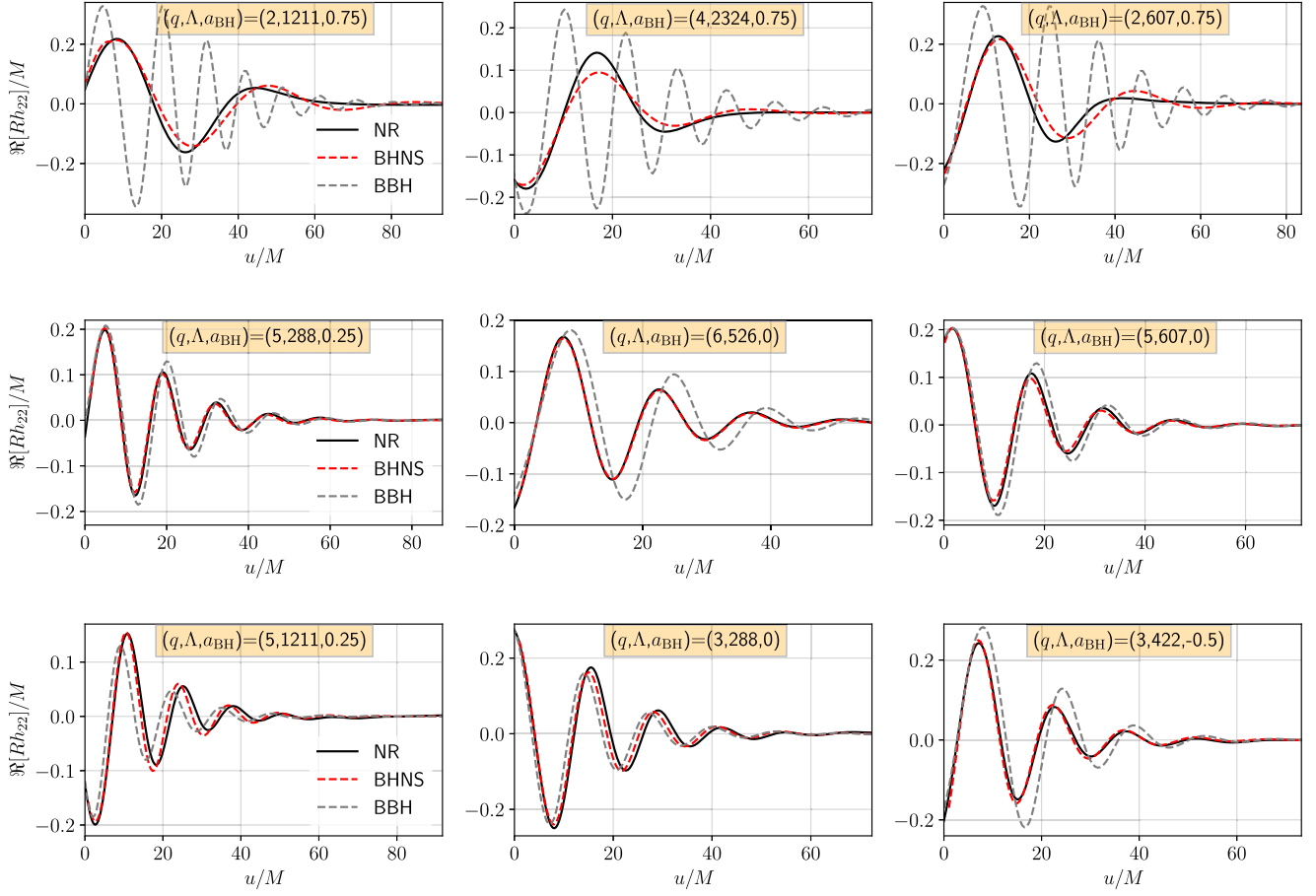


FIG. 4. Ringdown alignment at merger for different models with parameters $(q, \Lambda, a_{\text{BH}})$, corresponding to type I (top), type II (middle), and type III (bottom) of our classification (see text). The binary black hole ringdown model (gray dashed line) is compared directly against our BHNS model (red dashed line), illustrating how the BHNS ringdown is deformed from the binary black hole one to account for tidal effects.

noted especially around the merger time, where the impact of our modeling choices is stronger.

III. WAVEFORM MODEL VALIDATION

In this section we assess the accuracy of our model by comparing it directly to available NR simulations, as well as to other BHNS models, namely PhenomNSBH [38] and SEOBNR_NSBH [41], in addition to SEOBNRNRv4T [43] for relevant cases. The comparisons are performed through waveform phasing and unfaithfulness calculations.

Moreover, the robustness of the model was tested by successfully generating 10^6 waveforms in a large parameter space. Taking into account TEOBResumS's own regime of validity and expected NS masses, we determine the model's validity to lie within the ranges $q \in [1, 20]$, $M_{\text{NS}} \in [1, 3]$, $\Lambda \in [2, 5000]$, and $a_{\text{BH}} \in [-0.99, 0.99]$.

A. NR phasing

The alignment procedure is carried out as proposed in [64]. For two given NR and EOB waveforms, we define a

function $\Xi^2(\delta t, \delta \phi)$ of the NR and EOB waveform phases ϕ_{NR} and ϕ_{EOB} , respectively,

$$\Xi^2(\delta t, \delta \phi) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} [\phi_{\text{NR}}(t) - \phi_{\text{EOB}}(t + \delta t) + \delta \phi]^2 dt, \quad (9)$$

where t_i and t_f define the alignment window and time range in which the waveforms are compared. One seeks to minimize this function by finding the optimal values for δt and $\delta \phi$. The latter are then used to shift the EOB waveform as

$$h_{\text{EOB}}(t) = A_{\text{EOB}}(t + \delta t) e^{-i[\phi_{\text{EOB}}(t + \delta t) + \delta \phi]}, \quad (10)$$

in order to compare it directly to the NR waveform $h_{\text{NR}}(t)$.

Figures 5–7 show the phasing of the model against the NR simulations SXS:BHNS:0001 (type II), SXS:BHNS:0002 (type I), and SXS:BHNS:0003 (type III) for the dominant (2,2) mode. The gray shaded region marks the time window used for alignment. The alignment was done up to merger for all approximants. The NR error is shown as a light blue band

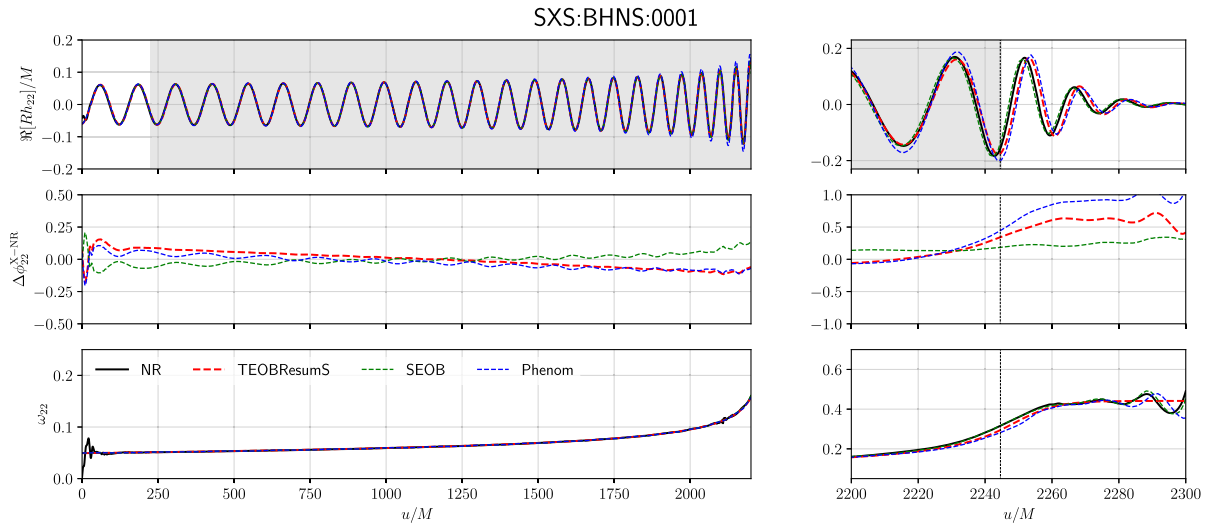


FIG. 5. Phasing analysis of the $\ell = m = 2$ mode of SXS:BHNS:0001 against our TEOBResumS model and other available approximants: SEOBNR_NSBH and PhenomNSBH. In our classification, this is considered as a type II binary. Since the NR error of this model is not available, it is not shown. The plot consists on the waveform (top), the phase difference with NR in radians (middle), and the frequency (bottom). The black dashed line indicates the point of merger. The alignment is done by minimizing the phase difference in the gray shaded time window.

in the middle panel of each figure reporting the dephasing error. This is computed as the difference between the phases of the two highest resolutions available. For the case of SXS:BHNS:0001 only one resolution is available, thus the error is not shown in the plot. For SXS:BHNS:0001 and SXS:BHNS:0002, the phase difference between NR and TEOBResumS is sufficiently small through all inspiral until merger, where the dephasing occurs. SXS:BHNS:0003 being a much shorter waveform shows slight dephasing through the inspiral phase but an overall good agreement with NR even after merger, in contrast to the other approximants. Overall, both SEOBNR_NSBH and PhenomNSBH show a greater

dephasing even during the late inspiral. On the other hand, the recent tidal approximant SEOBNRv4T shown in Fig. 6 shows a slight dephasing towards merger similar to SEOBNR_NSBH, but a larger disagreement after merger.

Table I shows the dephasing for all SXS BHNS models with TEOBResumS. With the exception of SXS:BHNS:0005 and SXS:BHNS:0008, the phase difference at merger stays within less than a radian for all cases. The large phase difference observed in those simulations may be attributed to the presence of a spinning neutron star or a highly spinning black hole, both of which are not well represented in the simulations used for calibrating the model.

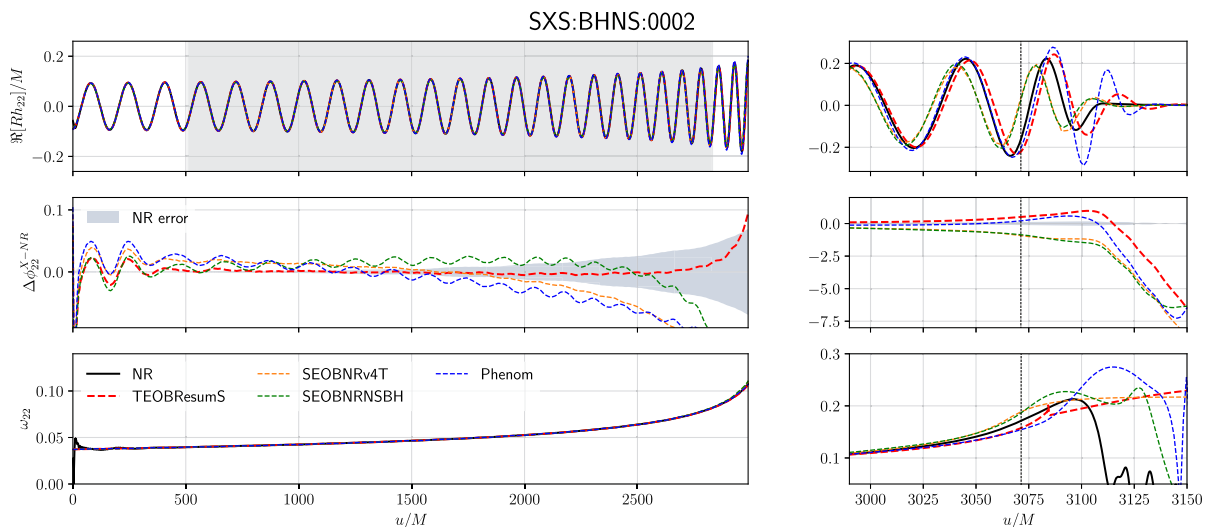


FIG. 6. Same as Fig. 5 but for SXS:BHNS:0002 and including the recent SEOBNRv4T approximant. In our classification, this is considered as a type I binary. The NR phase error is shown as a light blue band.

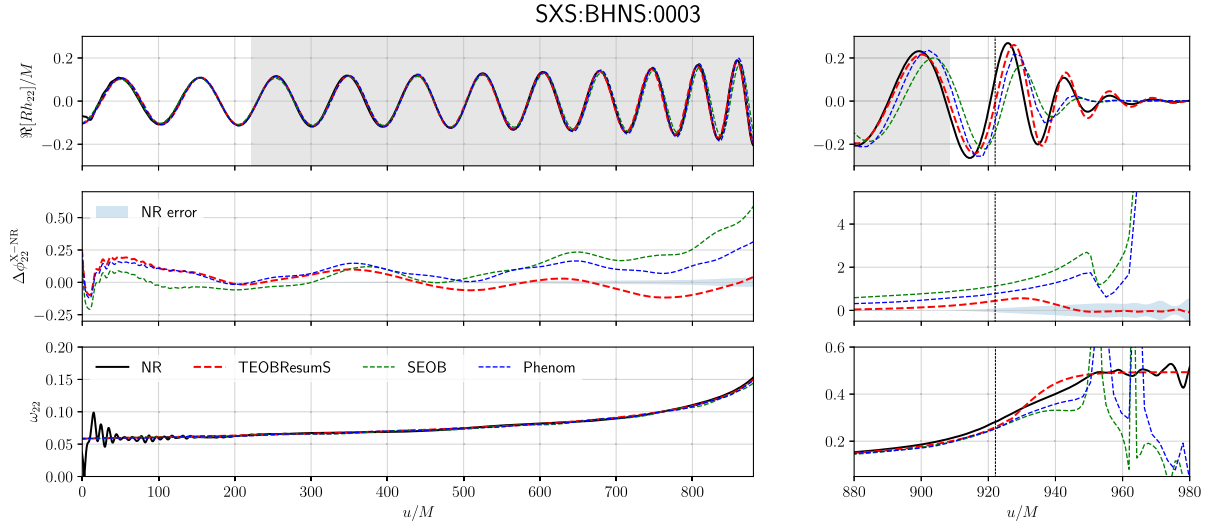


FIG. 7. Same as Fig. 5 but for SXS:BHNS:0003. In our classification, this is considered as a type III binary. The NR phase error is shown as a light blue band.

In addition to the above, we also compare NR with TEOBResumS HMs waveforms: (2, 1), (3, 2), (3, 3), (4, 4), and (5, 5) at $N = 3$ extrapolation order. Examples are shown in Fig. 15 of Appendix C. In general, our model shows good agreement throughout all inspiral for most cases. However, given the low resolution of these simulations, one can notice some dephasing before merger and a large NR error towards the ringdown.

B. Faithfulness

For a direct comparison with NR, we compute the unfaithfulness defined between EOB and NR waveforms as

$$\bar{\mathcal{F}} \equiv 1 - \mathcal{F} = 1 - \max_{t_0, \phi_0} \frac{\langle h^{\text{EOB}}, h^{\text{NR}} \rangle}{\|h^{\text{EOB}}\| \|h^{\text{NR}}\|}, \quad (11)$$

where t_0 and ϕ_0 denote the initial time and phase, and $\|h\| \equiv \sqrt{\langle h, h \rangle}$. The inner product in Eq. (11) is defined as

TABLE I. Accumulated phase difference between TEOBResumS and NR simulations. Note that the error for SXS:BHNS:0001 is not reported since only one simulation is available.

Model	At merger	Total	NR error
SXS:BHNS:0001	-0.339	-0.640	...
SXS:BHNS:0002	-0.530	-0.406	0.118
SXS:BHNS:0003	-0.472	0.110	-0.091
SXS:BHNS:0004	-0.901	-1.346	0.014
SXS:BHNS:0005	-2.224	-6.179	-0.063
SXS:BHNS:0006	-0.583	-0.001	-0.604
SXS:BHNS:0007	0.029	1.063	-0.438
SXS:BHNS:0008	-1.402	-0.376	0.046
SXS:BHNS:0009	-0.362	-1.220	-0.062

$$\langle h_1, h_2 \rangle \equiv 4\Re \int \frac{\tilde{h}_1(f) \tilde{h}_2^*(f)}{S_n(f)} df, \quad (12)$$

where $S_n(f)$ is the power spectral density (PSD) of the detector and $\tilde{h}(f)$ the Fourier transform of $h(t)$. The unfaithfulness, computed both until merger ($f_{\text{high}} = f_{\text{mrg}}$) and throughout the coalescence ($f_{\text{high}} = 2048$ Hz), was obtained for each of the (2,2) mode BHNS models available and is shown in Fig. 8 and in Table XI of Appendix D.

We use the initial frequencies f_0 shown in the table and the rest of the binary's parameters for each model taken from the NR data. The unfaithfulness was obtained using the zero-detuned high-power Advanced LIGO [65] noise curve. The results shown in the figure show that the performance of the TEOBResumS BHNS model is comparable to the other approximants, especially before merger.

In addition, for all simulations we compute the unfaithfulness for higher modes of TEOBResumS for different inclinations until merger, employing the same PSD as before. These results are obtained using the sky-maximized faithfulness defined in Ref. [53], i.e., maximizing over the effective polarizability κ , in addition to t_0 and ϕ_0 , and averaging over the sky localization (we do not need to maximize the faithfulness over the rotations due to precession). Results are reported in Fig. 9 and in Table XII of Appendix D. We notice that for $\iota = 0$, the unfaithfulness deviates slightly in comparison to the ones obtained for the (2, 2) only waveforms. This is expected with the inclusion of HMs and the use of a different method to compute the unfaithfulness. Moreover, the low quality of the few available NR data with HMs has a negative effect on the computed faithfulness, especially for cases such as SXS:BHNS:0005.

In previous works [14,15], and most recently [43], BHNS models including the effects of f -mode tidal resonances

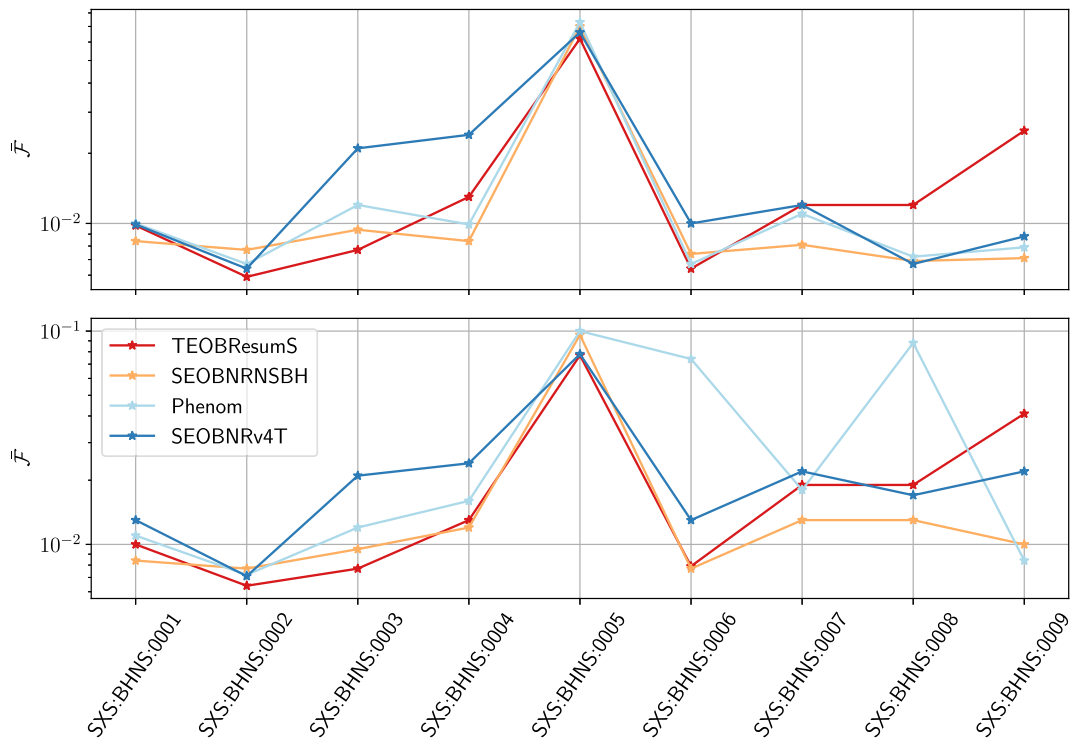


FIG. 8. Unfaithfulness computed until merger (top) and throughout all waveforms (bottom) for (2, 2) mode only. Each color represents a different BHNS model used.

were developed. In these models the fundamental oscillation modes of the NS (f -mode) resonates with the orbital motion frequency, thus accelerating towards the end of the coalescence. The works in Foucart *et al.* [15] and Steinhoff *et al.* [43] claim that the contribution on the dynamics is significant enough in low mass ratio cases to be included in BHNS waveform models. We find that the phasing and unfaithfulness for the SEOBNRv4T model of Steinhoff *et al.* [43] show comparable performance to our BHNS model in the relevant cases and, therefore, we find no need to add this effect to our model. Nevertheless, the f -mode is available in TEOBResumS [66].

C. Precession

In the past observing runs of LIGO and Virgo, there have been a fraction of binaries that exhibit precession [67–69]. This effect originates when one of the spin vectors is misaligned with respect to the orbital angular momentum, causing the spin and orbital plane to precess. Based on [70], Gamba *et al.* [53] presented an EOB model for precessing BBH implemented in the newest version of TEOBResumS GIOTTO [53,62]. This version models quasicircular precessing and nonprecessing BBH, BNS, and (using the model introduced here) BHNSs, all including subdominant modes. To the best of our knowledge, GIOTTO is also the only model incorporating precession effects for BHNS binaries.

Within TEOBResumS GIOTTO one can thus produce precessing BHNS waveforms, such as the one shown in

Fig. 10. In this plot we compare the NR simulation SXS: BHNS:0010 [54,55] with our model. This simulation is currently the only available BHNS NR model with a precessing BH spin. It corresponds to a binary with $q = 3$, $M_{\text{NS}} = 1.4M_{\odot}$, and $a_{\text{BH}} = 0.75$ with an initial inclination of 45° . TEOBResumS shows good agreement through all waveforms. The dephasing is comparable to the NR error, especially during and after merger. Specifically, we obtain a phase difference of -0.06 rad and -2.01 rad at merger and in total, respectively, with a NR error of -0.33 . The combination of the precession and BHNS models allows the EOB waveform to adequately reproduce the NR waveform’s morphology without any additional tuning.

IV. APPLICATION TO GW INFERENCE

In this section we put the model to the test through parameter estimation (PE) on both artificial and available observational data. We employ the `bajes` pipeline [71] with the `dynesty` nested sampling algorithm [72], used to compute posterior probabilities for model parameters and the corresponding Bayesian evidence, see, e.g., Refs. [71,73,74] for more details. In Sec. IV A we present simulation studies for two different types of BHNS waveforms. A simulated GW signal generated with our model is added on top of Gaussian and stationary noise (this procedure is referred to as “injection”), generated from LIGO and Virgo design sensitivity, and analyzed to obtain the posterior distribution of the binary’s parameters. Instead, Secs. IV B,

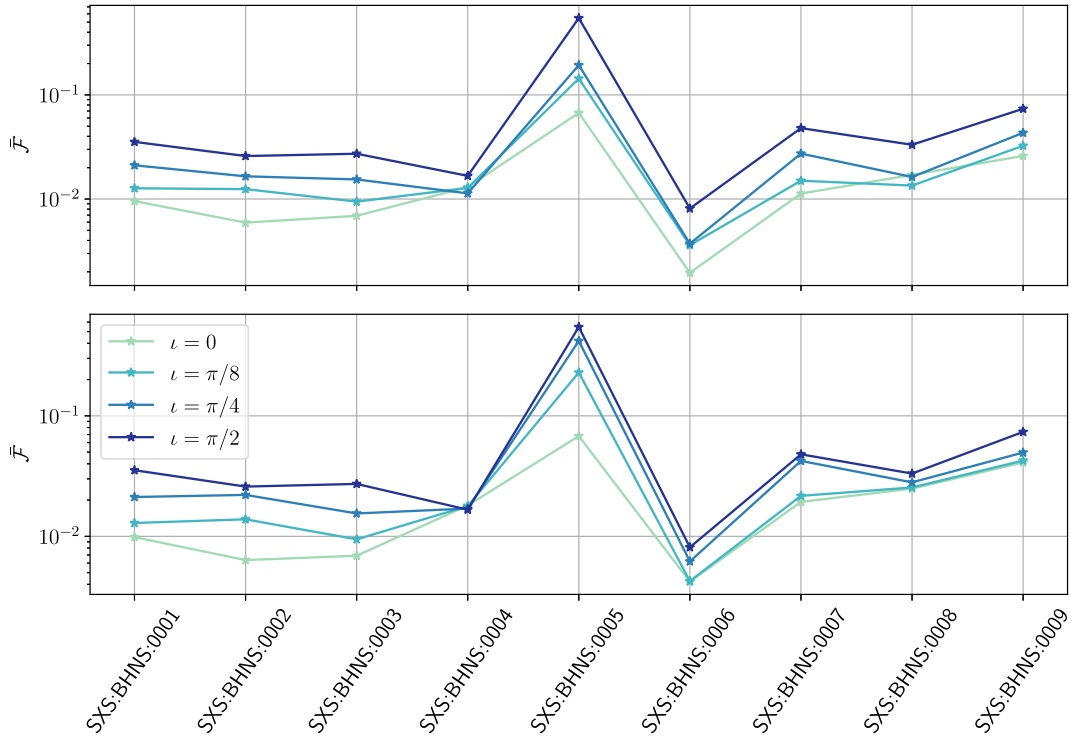


FIG. 9. Computed unfaithfulness until merger (top) and for the full waveform (bottom) with subdominant modes employing TEOBResumS. This is obtained for different inclination values ι .

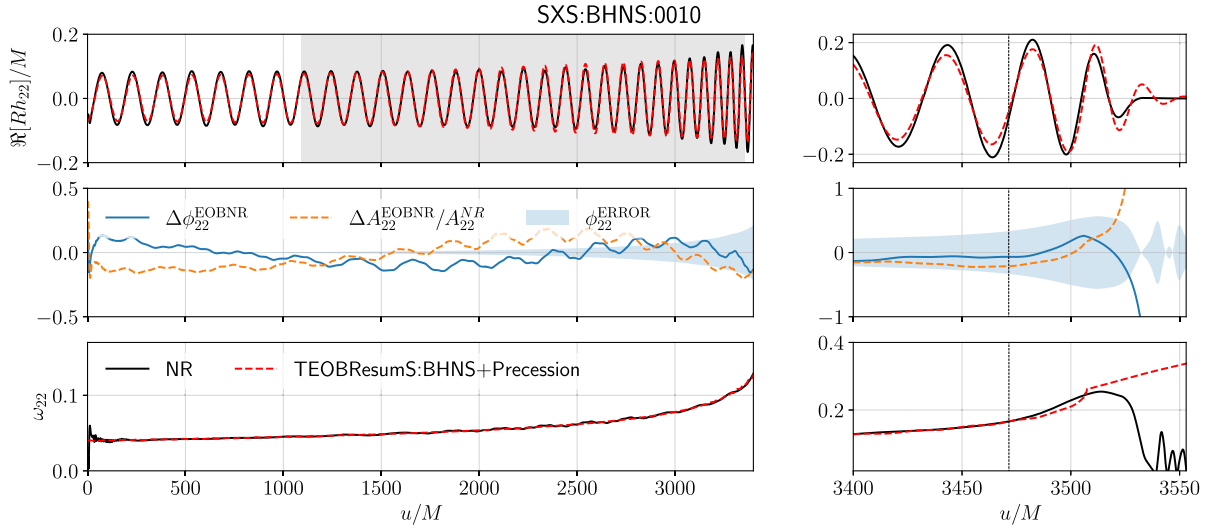


FIG. 10. Phasing analysis of the $\ell = m = 2$ mode of SXS:BHNS:0010 against our TEOBResumS model including precession. The plot shows the waveform (top), the phase and amplitude difference with NR (middle), and the frequency (bottom). SXS:BHNS:0010 is the only NR simulation available with a precessing BH spin.

IV C, and IV D report on PE of GW signals recently observed by the LIGO-Virgo interferometers: GW190814 [75], GW200105, and GW200115 [1]. To reduce computational costs, throughout this section we employ the aligned-spin version of the model, neglecting precession effects. An extension of these studies, including precessional degrees of freedom, will be reported in future work.

Priors used in all inference studies correspond to the range of validity of the model, detailed in Sec. III. We sample on all intrinsic and extrinsic parameters, choosing: flat priors on the component masses, an isotropic prior for aligned spins, and a volumetric prior for the luminosity distance. For more details about the functional forms of these and the rest of the parameter's priors, we refer to

Sec. V B of [71]. For the PE of the GW events, we repeat our studies under different hypotheses: BHNS and binary black hole binaries, assuming in turn the presence of the (2, 2) mode or HMs for GW190814 and the (2, 2) mode only for GW200105 and GW200115. We compare these hypotheses directly through their relative Bayes factors. Also, to compare with LVK results, in the analyses of the real events we use the same low spin prior for the NS spin ($a_{\text{NS}} < 0.05$). Note that in this section we use D_L instead of R to denote the luminosity distance.

A. Injections

Two different injected nonprecessing signals are analyzed, with low and high mass ratios and different values of total mass and tidal deformabilities, to account for the different types of BHNS mergers. The injected values of the intrinsic parameters are reported in Table II. Each binary parameter set was injected with zero noise in the (2, 2) mode only and HMs. Each of these realizations is recovered with both (2, 2) and HM models for a consistency test. The injected inclination angle is set to $\iota = 0$ for all cases, while the sky position parameters are set to the location of maximum sensitivity for the H1 detector ($\alpha = 0.372$, $\delta = 0.811$). The luminosity distance value is chosen as to set the SNRs of the injections to the desired values, i.e., 14 and 21. The injected signals have a sampling rate of 4096 Hz and a length of 64 seconds. The inference is carried out with 7000 live points within a frequency range of 20 Hz to 2048 Hz. Three detectors are used: H1, L1, and V1, with LIGO-Virgo design sensitivity P1200087 [76,77]. The results are reported in Table II for the quadrupolar injections and Table III for the ones injected with HMs.

The first injection (I1) corresponds to a low mass ratio BHNS binary, for which tidal disruption occurs, i.e., a type I BHNS, with a SNR of 14. Injection 2 (I2) is instead a high mass ratio BHNS binary with SNR 21 for which no disruption occurs, corresponding to a type II BHNS. As

expected, all source parameters are correctly recovered in all injections. The chirp mass is recovered very precisely (with a 0.14% error), and the spin of the BH is always more constrained than the NS one, due to its larger mass, in all cases. Notably, we recover a value for the inclination ι for the HMs recovery on both injections of I2. However, the injected value does not lie within the 90% credibility interval of our measurement.

For Λ the priors are recovered, which means that the SNRs we consider do not allow precise measurements of the tidal polarizability.

As a consistency check, we compute the Bayes factors between the two recoveries for each injection, as seen in Table IV. The results are coherent: in all cases, the Bayes factors favor the recovery done with the corresponding injected modes or show no decisive evidence for the other recovery, thus confirming the model can correctly infer the source parameters.

B. GW190814

We apply our model to the observed signal GW190814. This transient corresponds to a peculiar GW source, composed of a $23.2 M_{\odot}$ BH and a compact object of $2.59 M_{\odot}$, according to the LVK analysis [75]. The secondary component of this system could be either the lightest BH or the heaviest NS ever observed. The analysis is performed with 2500 live points. Results can be seen in Table V, where we compare our BHNS estimated parameters to LVK's BHNS data recovered with the SEOB model. We find that the our results employing the (2, 2) mode BHNS model are consistent with LVK's ones. However, the addition of HMs to the analysis recovers a smaller median value for the mass of the primary binary component and a slightly higher value for the secondary component. This is reflected in Fig. 11, which compares the mass ratio posteriors with the LVK result. In this figure, we also compare to results obtained with binary black hole models,

TABLE II. Parameter estimation results for zero noise (2, 2) mode injections and recoveries with (2, 2) mode and HMs. In the table, "I" stands for injected values. The values not shown correspond to cases where the prior was recovered.

Parameters	Injection 1			Injection 2		
	I	(2, 2) recovery	HMs recovery	I	(2, 2) recovery	HMs recovery
\mathcal{M} [M_{\odot}]	1.703	$1.704^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$1.704^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	2.78	$2.779^{+0.005}_{-0.008}$	$2.778^{+0.006}_{-0.007}$
q	2	$2.09^{+1.04}_{-0.67}$	$1.70^{+0.82}_{-0.45}$	6	$5.84^{+0.98}_{-1.38}$	$5.34^{+0.95}_{-1.79}$
m_1 [M_{\odot}]	2.8	$2.87^{+0.71}_{-0.53}$	$2.57^{+0.61}_{-0.38}$	8.4	$8.27^{+0.78}_{-1.18}$	$7.86^{+0.78}_{-1.62}$
m_2 [M_{\odot}]	1.4	$1.37^{+0.27}_{-0.23}$	$1.51^{+0.24}_{-0.25}$	1.4	$1.42^{+0.17}_{-0.09}$	$1.47^{+0.28}_{-0.10}$
a_{BH}	0	$0.03^{+0.17}_{-0.13}$	$-0.01^{+0.13}_{-0.12}$	0	$0.00^{+0.08}_{-0.15}$	$-0.05^{+0.08}_{-0.33}$
a_{NS}	0	$-0.01^{+0.28}_{-0.19}$	$-0.01^{+0.17}_{-0.14}$	0	$-0.10^{+0.22}_{-0.33}$	$0.02^{+0.30}_{-0.37}$
ι [rad]	0	...	...	0	...	$0.33^{+0.27}_{-0.16}$
D_L [Mpc]	400	297^{+157}_{-97}	309^{+88}_{-99}	400	292^{+82}_{-81}	390^{+26}_{-38}
Λ	791	...	...	526	...	...
SNR	14	$13.69^{+0.31}_{-0.47}$	$13.57^{+0.57}_{-0.82}$	21	$20.75^{+0.29}_{-0.44}$	$20.62^{+0.38}_{-0.91}$

TABLE III. Same as Table II but for zero noise HMs injections with (2, 2) and HMs recovery.

Parameters	Injection 1			Injection 2		
	I	(2, 2) recovery	HMs recovery	I	(2, 2) recovery	HMs recovery
\mathcal{M} [M_\odot]	1.703	$1.704^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	$1.704^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	2.78	$2.779^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$	$2.781^{+0.007}_{-0.004}$
q	2	$2.05^{+0.98}_{-0.64}$	$1.96^{+1.08}_{-0.60}$	6	$5.56^{+1.25}_{-1.13}$	$6.45^{+2.07}_{-0.71}$
m_1 [M_\odot]	2.8	$2.84^{+0.67}_{-0.51}$	$2.77^{+0.75}_{-0.48}$	8.4	$8.04^{+1.00}_{-0.98}$	$8.76^{+1.54}_{-0.57}$
m_2 [M_\odot]	1.4	$1.38^{+0.27}_{-0.23}$	$1.41^{+0.27}_{-0.26}$	1.4	$1.45^{+0.15}_{-0.12}$	$1.36^{+0.07}_{-0.15}$
a_{BH}	0	$0.02^{+0.16}_{-0.13}$	$0.02^{+0.16}_{-0.10}$	0	$-0.02^{+0.10}_{-0.14}$	$0.02^{+0.17}_{-0.04}$
a_{NS}	0	$-0.005^{+0.81}_{-0.36}$	$-0.002^{+0.376}_{-0.382}$	0	$0.11^{+0.20}_{-0.32}$	$-0.12^{+0.30}_{-0.25}$
i [rad]	0	...	...	0	...	$0.34^{+0.25}_{-0.18}$
D_L [Mpc]	400	288^{+162}_{-94}	326^{+73}_{-98}	400	298^{+78}_{-86}	387^{+30}_{-41}
Λ	791	...	...	526	...	...
SNR	14	$13.68^{+0.32}_{-0.48}$	$13.58^{+0.38}_{-0.79}$	21	$20.74^{+0.30}_{-0.41}$	$20.58^{+0.41}_{-0.86}$

 TABLE IV. Bayes factors $\log(\mathcal{B})$ for the different recoveries done for the HMs injections 1 and 2. The recovery columns represent the different SNRs that were injected, in addition, to the modes used for recovery. Each entry is computed as the difference between the (logarithmic) evidence $\log Z$ of the column hypothesis and the row hypothesis, i.e., $\log(\mathcal{B}^{(2,2)\text{inj}}) = \log Z^{(2,2)\text{rec}} - \log Z^{\text{HMs rec}} = -2.73 \pm 0.19$.

Injection 1			
(2, 2) injected HMs recovery	(2, 2) recovery	HMs injected HMs recovery	(2, 2) recovery
	-2.73 ± 0.19		-3.29 ± 0.19
Injection 2			
(2, 2) injected HMs recovery	(2, 2) recovery	HMs injected HMs recovery	(2, 2) recovery
	0.36 ± 0.23		-0.19 ± 0.27

namely TEOBResuMS BBH and LVK's combined BBH, which show a slight preference towards higher mass ratios. From the recovered parameters in Table V and from the above mentioned plot, one can also observe that, as expected, the addition of HMs to the model helps to further constrain the recovered values. We also note that one can recover a measurement of the inclination in contrast to the

(2, 2) mode only analysis. Since the Λ posteriors coincide with the prior, no tidal parameters are measured using the BHNS model. We obtain a slightly higher SNR value when considering HMs, recovering $23.2^{+0.3}_{-0.4}$ and $24.1^{+0.5}_{-1.3}$ for (2, 2) and HMs, respectively. These results lie close to the one obtained by LVK with BHNS (2, 2) mode model, $23.8^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$. In LVK's analysis, including BBH waveform

 TABLE V. Parameter estimation of GW events using the BHNS TEOBResuMS model, with the dominant $(\ell, m) = (2, 2)$ mode and HMs. We compare our results with those obtained by the LVK Collaboration with BHNS waveform models employing the only available $(\ell, m) = (2, 2)$ mode. The values not shown correspond to cases where the prior was recovered.

Parameters	GW190814			GW200105		GW200115	
	(2, 2)	HMs	LVK	(2, 2)	LVK	(2, 2)	LVK
\mathcal{M} [M_\odot]	$6.39^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$	$6.39^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$	$6.41^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$	$3.62^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$3.62^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$2.583^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	$2.582^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$
q	$8.98^{+3.57}_{-2.60}$	$8.50^{+0.44}_{-0.92}$	$9.18^{+1.83}_{-1.00}$	$4.67^{+1.26}_{-1.69}$	$4.53^{+1.37}_{-1.20}$	$5.81^{+0.76}_{-0.72}$	$4.99^{+1.21}_{-1.48}$
m_1 [M_\odot]	$24.37^{+2.27}_{-2.25}$	$23.61^{+0.71}_{-1.54}$	$24.73^{+2.88}_{-1.63}$	$9.48^{+1.39}_{-2.12}$	$9.32^{+1.53}_{-1.48}$	$7.66^{+0.56}_{-0.56}$	$7.02^{+0.94}_{-1.26}$
m_2 [M_\odot]	$2.71^{+0.19}_{-0.16}$	$2.78^{+0.13}_{-0.06}$	$2.69^{+0.13}_{-0.19}$	$2.03^{+0.44}_{-0.20}$	$2.06^{+0.30}_{-0.22}$	$1.32^{+0.08}_{-0.07}$	$1.41^{+0.23}_{-0.12}$
χ_{eff}	$-0.02^{+0.09}_{-0.09}$	$-0.05^{+0.03}_{-0.06}$	$-0.01^{+0.10}_{-0.07}$	$0.0^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	$-0.01^{+0.11}_{-0.13}$	$0.02^{+0.05}_{-0.06}$	$-0.04^{+0.09}_{-0.16}$
i [rad]	...	$0.89^{+1.34}_{-0.12}$	...	...	...	...	...
D_L [Mpc]	239^{+113}_{-93}	232^{+44}_{-53}	280^{+43}_{-66}	348^{+145}_{-117}	280^{+74}_{-81}	500^{+212}_{-154}	293^{+90}_{-77}
Λ	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SNR	$23.2^{+0.3}_{-0.4}$	$24.1^{+0.5}_{-1.3}$	$23.8^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$13.2^{+0.2}_{-0.3}$	$13.3^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	$10.62^{+0.2}_{-0.4}$	$11.0^{+0.2}_{-0.3}$

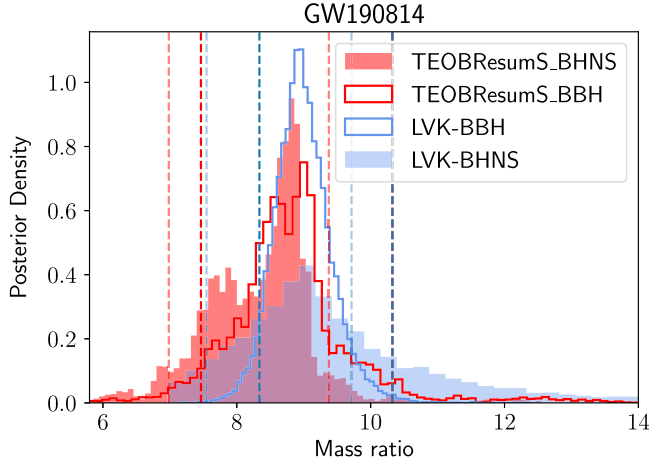


FIG. 11. Posterior distribution of the mass ratio q . Inference runs were made for two hypotheses (BHNS and BBH) with TEOBResumS and HMs. We add for comparison the publicly available combined posterior from LVK’s studies using BBH with HMs models and BHNSs with (2, 2) mode.

templates with precession, in addition to HMs, allows to recover a significantly higher value of $25.0^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$ [75]. We expect future analysis with our BHNS mode including precession (as implemented in the newest TEOBResumS version GIOTTO) to improve the match with the data.

The TEOBResumS Bayes factors \mathcal{B} for each hypothesis considered for this event at the beginning of this section. In both BHNS and binary black hole cases, the presence of HMs is strongly favored compared to the (2, 2) only hypothesis. This finding extends the LVK result, which only derived such preference for the HM hypothesis in the BBH case. When comparing the BHNS vs binary black hole hypotheses, in the (2, 2) only case we obtain a weak preference for a binary black hole origin,

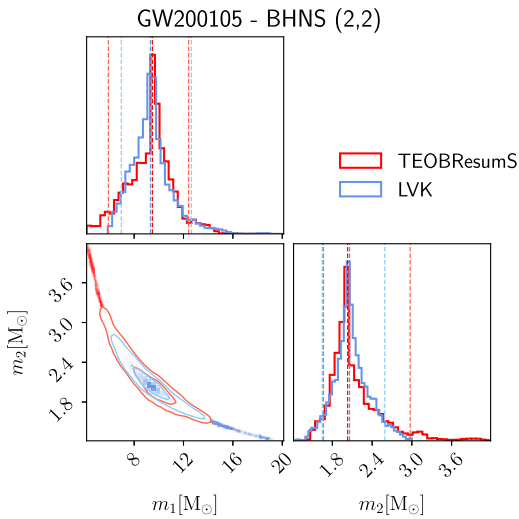


FIG. 12. Posterior density for the components’ masses of GW200105. Comparison of our results with (2, 2) mode together with the LVK results.

TABLE VI. Bayes factors $\log(\mathcal{B})$ for the different PE analysis done. Each entry is computed as the difference between the (logarithmic) evidence of the column hypothesis and the row hypothesis.

GW190814		
	BHNS (2, 2)	BBH HMs
BHNS HMs	-23.33 ± 0.27	0.13 ± 0.33
BBH (2,2)	-0.58 ± 0.21	22.87 ± 0.27
GW200105		
	BHNS (2, 2)	BBH HMs
BHNS HMs	...	...
BBH (2,2)	-0.19 ± 0.23	...
GW200115		
	BHNS (2, 2)	BBH HMs
BHNS HMs	...	...
BBH (2, 2)	-2.71 ± 0.25	...

$\log \mathcal{B}_{\text{BBH}(2,2)}^{\text{BHNS}(2,2)} = -0.58 \pm 0.21$. In the HMs case we find $\log \mathcal{B}_{\text{BHNS,HM}}^{\text{BBH,HM}} = 0.13 \pm 0.33$, which means that the BHNS and binary black hole hypotheses have comparable evidence, within statistical uncertainty.

C. GW200105

Next, we analyze the first BHNS observed by the LIGO/Virgo interferometers. The analysis is carried out with 4096 live points and considering the dominant mode only. The inclusion of subdominant modes is left to future work. Results are shown in Table V.

Our (2, 2) mode analysis is broadly consistent with the results obtained by LVK. This can be seen in the component masses shown in Fig. 12. We recover again the prior for Λ , therefore, no tidal parameter measurements are possible.

The Bayes factors are reported in Table VI. The binary black hole hypothesis is only slightly favored compared to the BHNS one $\log \mathcal{B}_{\text{BBH}(2,2)}^{\text{BHNS}(2,2)} = -0.19 \pm 0.23$.

Future work, including for instance subdominant modes and precession, may help to better understand the source of this GW event.

D. GW200115

Finally, we perform PE on GW200115, the second observed BHNS. As in the previous section, the analysis is carried out using the (2, 2) mode only and 4096 live points. The analysis including HMs will be presented in future work. The analysis is carried out similarly as above, with 4096 live points. The results are collected in Table V.

Agreement with LVK results is found within statistical errors. We find a higher value of the mass ratio stemming from the underlying binary black hole model to which our

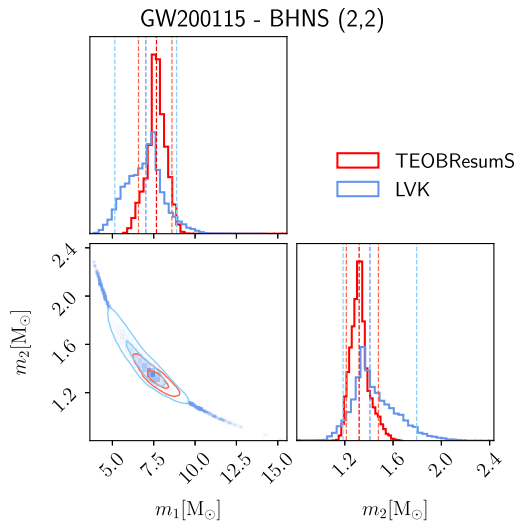


FIG. 13. Posterior density for the components' masses of GW200115. The results obtained using the (2, 2) mode obtained with our model are compared to the LVK ones.

BHNS model is based [44–48,62]. This implies a slightly smaller value for the NS mass and a more massive BH, as displayed in Fig. 13. The recovered posterior of Λ coincides with the prior as well for this case. The Bayes factor comparing the BHNS vs binary black hole hypothesis, $\log \mathcal{B}_{\text{BBH},(2,2)}^{\text{BHNS},(2,2)} = -2.71 \pm 0.25$, indicates no evidence for the presence of tidal effects in the signal. A similar analysis including the subdominant modes will be presented in future work.

V. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, we presented the first complete (IMR) model for quasicircular BHNS waveforms with HMs and precessing spins [53]. The model extends and completes the TEOBResumS framework for circular compact binaries (GIOTTO). The main novelties with respect to other models are: (i) a new NR-informed remnant BH model that updates the one from Zappa *et al.* [4], (ii) the use of NQC to the waveform specifically designed from NR BHNS simulation data, and (iii) a NR-informed ringdown model based on [51], suitably deformed for BHNSs. The waveform model has been informed and tested against 131 NR simulations available to us and has been thoroughly tested in the parameter ranges $q \in [1, 20]$, $M_{\text{NS}} \in [1, 3]$, $\Lambda \in [2, 5000]$, and $a_{\text{BH}} \in [-0.99, 0.99]$. The former spin range also applies to the spin of the NS, thus expanding the validity range of other available models from $[-0.9, 0.9]$ to $[-0.99, 0.99]$.

We developed and validated our model against the NR simulations of Refs. [8–19]. This comparison is done through waveform phasings and unfaithfulness computations. The phase agreement with NR lies, in most cases, within numerical error throughout the inspiral, with a maximal phase difference of 0.5 rad up to merger. Right

after merger some larger dephasing might occur, which usually remains within 1 rad. These results are reflected in the EOB/NR unfaithfulness. The latter shows a good quantitative agreement for the entire waveform between our model and NR. Finally, for the first time we present a comparison to SXS:BHNS:0010 [54,55], the only available BHNS simulation including spin precession, finding an agreement comparable to the spin-aligned case. Furthermore, we also compare the model with other available approximants. With respect to the other models, TEOBResumS shows comparable performance through the inspiral and merger, with enhanced NR agreement in specific cases. Differently from previous work, we do not find evidence for the need of including f -mode resonances to faithfully represent the same NR data.

We demonstrated the use of TEOBResumS for the BHNS in Bayesian PE using both artificial (injections) and real data, focusing on nonprecessing spins. The injections provided validation of the model through target signals of type I and II. In addition, the events GW190814, GW200105, and GW200115 were analyzed and the results compared against those obtained by LVK, which employed BHNS models with the (2, 2) mode only. We also performed the first PE with BHNSs, including HMs for GW190814, and compared these results to the dominant mode analysis and to their equivalent using BBH with or without HMs, through the computation of Bayes factors. Due to the large mass ratio of all the considered events, no informative measurement of the NS tidal parameter is possible. The inclusion of HMs considerably tightens parameters constraints; it will thus be essential in future observing runs to rely on BHNS waveform models including HMs. With subdominant modes, it was also possible to measure the inclination of the binary system. When assuming the dominant mode, our BHNS inferences on all events showed broadly consistent results to those obtained by LVK, within statistical uncertainty. Due to its large mass ratio, the analysis of GW190814 reinforced the presence of subdominant modes even under the BHNS hypothesis (extending an equivalent result by LVK when using binary black hole models), with a Bayes factor of $\log \mathcal{B}_{\text{BHNS},(2,2)}^{\text{BHNS, HM}} = 23.33 \pm 0.27$.

We intend to extend our analyses of these GW events using the BHNS model, including spin precession, and plan to report on them in a future publication.

A limitation of this study stems from the availability of a small set of NR data.¹ Model testing would benefit from extra NR waveforms of sufficient length for a robust alignment ($\gtrsim 10$ orbits), a clean ringdown emission, and the inclusion of HMs. Such additional data would significantly enhance our model. Figure 2 and Fig. 14 show that

¹This is common to all BHNS waveform models, and constitutes the main reason why BHNS templates are less sophisticated than BBH or BNS templates.

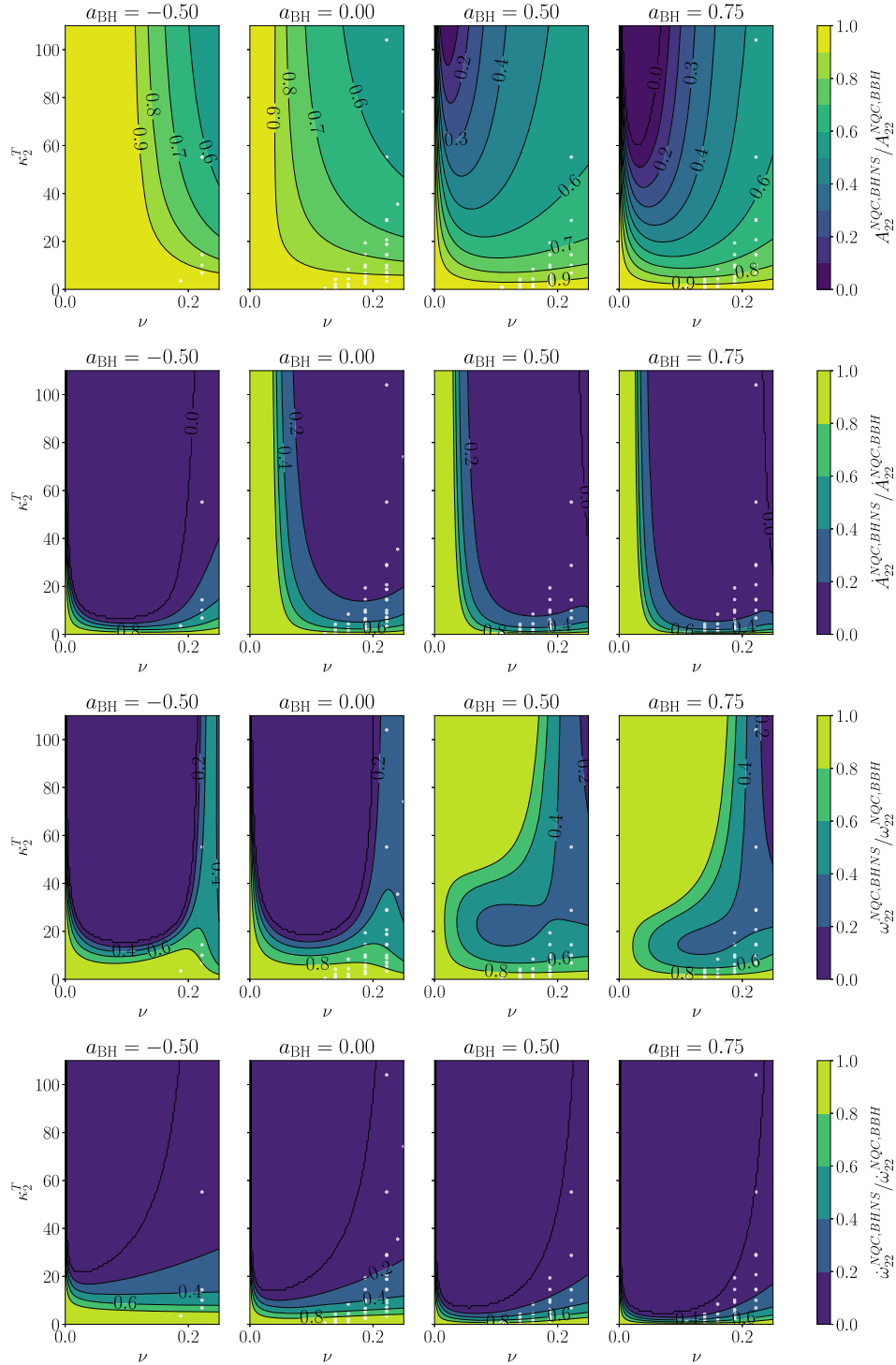


FIG. 14. Two-dimensional plots of the NQC quantities' fits: A_{22} , \hat{A}_{22} , ω_{22} , $\hat{\omega}_{22}$. The fits are developed as functions of $(\nu, \kappa_2^T, a_{\text{BH}})$ (see text). The NR data employed in the fits are represented with white dots.

both the ringdown model and the NQC parameters would benefit from a finer coverage of the parameter space, in particular, for mass ratios $q \lesssim 10$ throughout the whole BH spin parameter range. Finally, exploring large values of the tidal polarizability parameter Λ is particularly interesting for modeling purposes (though not necessarily from the

astrophysical point of view) since it would help to better understand and constrain the tidal disruptive mergers.

The supporting data for this article are openly available from [78]. The BHNS model in this work is also implemented in TEOBResumS GIOTTO publicly available [79].

For reproducibility, the results presented in this paper are done with the BHNS branch. `bayes` is publicly available at [80]. This research has made use of data, software and/or web tools obtained from the Gravitational Wave Open Science Center [81], a service of LIGO Laboratory, the LIGO Scientific Collaboration and the Virgo Collaboration.

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APPENDIX A: NR DATE EMPLOYED

A list of the NR simulations employed in this work is shown in Table VII. In addition to these, we use the simulations shown in Table II of [4].

TABLE VII. Numerical relativity simulations employed for the ringdown model. The rest of the simulations are described in Table II of [4]. The SimulAstor for Compact objects in Relativistic Astrophysics (SACRA) simulations shown in this table were used only for the updated remnant fits of Sec. II A. Simulations SXS:BHNS:0005 and SXS:BHNS:0007 have a spinning NS with $a_{\text{NS}} = -0.2$.

Name	Code	q	$M_{\text{NS}}[M_{\odot}]$	a_{BH}	Modes Available	Ref.
SXS:BHNS:0001	SpEC	6	1.4	0	(2,1), (2,2), (3,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)	[83]
SXS:BHNS:0002	SpEC	2	1.4	0	(2,1), (2,2), (3,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)	[84]
SXS:BHNS:0003	SpEC	3	1.4	0	(2,1), (2,2), (3,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)	[85]
SXS:BHNS:0004	SpEC	1	1.4	0	(2,1), (2,2), (3,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)	[86]
SXS:BHNS:0005	SpEC	1	1.4	0	(2,1), (2,2), (3,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)	[87]
SXS:BHNS:0006	SpEC	1.5	1.4	0	(2,1), (2,2), (3,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)	[88]
SXS:BHNS:0007	SpEC	2	1.4	0	(2,1), (2,2), (3,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)	[89]
SXS:BHNS:0008	SpEC	3	1.4	0.9	(2,1), (2,2), (3,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)	[17]
SXS:BHNS:0009	SpEC	4	1.4	0.9	(2,1), (2,2), (3,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5)	[18]
125H-Q15	SACRA	1.5	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
125H-Q19	SACRA	1.9	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
125H-Q22	SACRA	2.2	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
125H-Q26	SACRA	2.6	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
125H-Q30	SACRA	3.0	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
125H-Q37	SACRA	3.7	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
125H-Q44	SACRA	4.4	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
H-Q15	SACRA	1.5	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
H-Q19	SACRA	1.9	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
H-Q22	SACRA	2.2	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
H-Q26	SACRA	2.6	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
H-Q30	SACRA	3.0	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
H-Q37	SACRA	3.7	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
H-Q44	SACRA	4.4	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
HB-Q15	SACRA	1.5	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
HB-Q19	SACRA	1.9	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
HB-Q22	SACRA	2.2	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
HB-Q26	SACRA	2.6	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]
HB-Q30	SACRA	3.0	1.35	0	(2,2)	[19]

APPENDIX B: FIT MODELS

All the fits developed in this work are based either on Eq. (B1a) or Eq. (B2a). In these equations, λ can be either κ_2^T or Λ . The expression chosen to construct the model, as well as the choice of tidal parameter to use, relies on the performance of the model and how well it captures the numerical results. The performance is measured by computing the coefficient of determination R^2 . The BHNS NQC fits were developed in a similar way to the ringdown fits reported in Sec. II B as described in the main text. The results of the fits can be seen in Fig. 14, displaying a similar

behavior to the ringdown fits of Fig. 2. Table VIII shows the updated parameters for the fitting models of the remnant BH's mass M_* and spin a_* . The coefficients for the ringdown and NQC quantities are shown in Tables IX and X, respectively.

$$\frac{F(\nu, \lambda, a_{\text{BH}})}{F^{\text{BBH}}(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})} = \frac{1 + p_1(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})\lambda + p_2(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})\lambda^2}{(1 + [p_3(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})]^2\lambda)^2}, \quad (\text{B1a})$$

where the polynomials $p_k(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})$ are

TABLE VIII. Fitting parameters for a_* and M_* with $R^2 = 0.9421$ and $R^2 = 0.9209$, respectively.

F	k	P_{k10}	P_{k11}	P_{k20}	P_{k21}
a_*	1	-5.8066×10^{-3}	8.0478×10^{-3}	2.5417×10^{-2}	2.3044×10^{-2}
	2	-7.8856×10^{-7}	-2.7420×10^{-6}	6.8245×10^{-6}	4.1155×10^{-5}
	3	-2.8968×10^{-2}	2.5204×10^{-1}	1.4410×10^{-1}	-4.2267×10^{-1}
M_*	1	8.2702×10^{-3}	3.0234×10^{-2}	-9.061×10^{-3}	9.4941×10^{-3}
	2	-1.0096×10^{-7}	1.9646×10^{-6}	1.0412×10^{-4}	2.2787×10^{-4}
	3	3.4965×10^{-3}	1.5633×10^{-2}	...	...

TABLE IX. Fitting parameters for ω_{221} , α_{221} , A_{22}^{peak} and $\omega_{22}^{\text{peak}}$.

F	k	P_{k10}	P_{k11}	P_{k20}	P_{k21}	R^2
ω_{221}	1	-21886.6904	32671.7651	69276.4427	-104816.638	0.96038
	2	109.213126	-73.4308665	-484.535259	373.904119	
	3	28.8600443	-8.14222943	-126.930553	73.1681672	
α_{221}	1	0.08540533	0.05952267	-0.38077744	-0.20439610	0.94241
	2	9.9329×10^{-6}	4.8199×10^{-5}	-2.9158×10^{-5}	-1.9268×10^{-4}	
	3	0.21840792	0.48995965	-0.92644561	-1.14839419	
A_{22}^{peak}	1	-0.81310963	1.02856956	3.04419224	1.47499715	0.96953
	2	-0.05335408	0.01359198	0.25160138	0.14790936	
	3	0.02646178	0.65802460	...	...
$\omega_{22}^{\text{peak}}$	1	-3.70312833	2.39550440	12.2538726	-0.80366536	0.96712
	2	0.02073814	-0.05079978	-0.13570448	0.50407406	
	3	-0.03175737	1.04051247	...	...

TABLE X. Fitting parameters for A_{22}^{NQC} , $\dot{A}_{22}^{\text{NQC}}$, ω_{22}^{NQC} , and $\dot{\omega}_{22}^{\text{NQC}}$.

F	k	P_{k10}	P_{k11}	P_{k20}	P_{k21}	R^2
A_{22}^{NQC}	1	-0.76398122	0.95760404	2.43443187	1.11346679	0.97241
	2	-0.04517669	0.00812775	0.19502087	0.13476967	
	3	-0.00976985	0.59799088	...	...
$\dot{A}_{22}^{\text{NQC}}$	1	13.9833426	3.82718022	-58.3833150	-11.2910418	0.85271
	2	0.20546684	0.04017721	-0.93252149	-0.19883111	
	3	8.11227525	6.42747644	-32.2236022	-18.4991142	
ω_{22}^{NQC}	1	-1.13450258	-0.52105826	4.90257111	3.03849913	0.97336
	2	0.11582820	-0.03543851	-0.50986874	0.16892437	
	3	2.58632126	-0.41023648	-10.8545425	6.17597785	
$\dot{\omega}_{22}^{\text{NQC}}$	1	-10.1666881	3.09188560	16.2933259	26.7556682	0.91437
	2	0.04433317	-0.54327998	-0.38812308	2.25541552	
	3	-0.53282251	2.63236115	...	...

$$p_k(\nu, a_{\text{BH}}) = p_{k1}(a_{\text{BH}})\nu + p_{k2}(a_{\text{BH}})\nu^2, \quad (\text{B1b})$$

$$q(\nu, a_{\text{BH}}) = p_{31}\nu, \quad (\text{B2d})$$

$$p_{kj}(a_{\text{BH}}) = p_{kj0}a_{\text{BH}} + p_{kj1}, \quad (\text{B1c})$$

$$\frac{F(\nu, \lambda, a_{\text{BH}})}{F^{\text{BBH}}(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})} = \frac{1 + p_1(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})\lambda + p_2(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})\lambda^2}{(1 + q(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})\lambda)^2}, \quad (\text{B2a})$$

where the polynomials $p_k(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})$ and $q(\nu, a_{\text{BH}})$ are

$$p_k(\nu, a_{\text{BH}}) = p_{k1}(a_{\text{BH}})\nu + p_{k2}(a_{\text{BH}})\nu^2, \quad (\text{B2b})$$

$$p_{kj}(a_{\text{BH}}) = p_{kj0}a_{\text{BH}} + p_{kj1}, \quad (\text{B2c})$$

APPENDIX C: PHASING OF HMs WAVEFORMS

The accuracy of the BHNS HMs waveforms is additionally evaluated through the waveform phasing. Figure 15 shows the alignment of different multipoles from two simulations, SXS:BHNS:0001 (top) and SXS:BHNS:0008 (bottom), against our model. The latter corresponds to a $q = 3$ binary with a high spinning BH, $a_{\text{BH}} = 0.9$. Our model shows good agreement through the inspiral and starts dephasing towards and after merger. The phase difference stays, however, approximately within numerical error after merger for the spinning case.

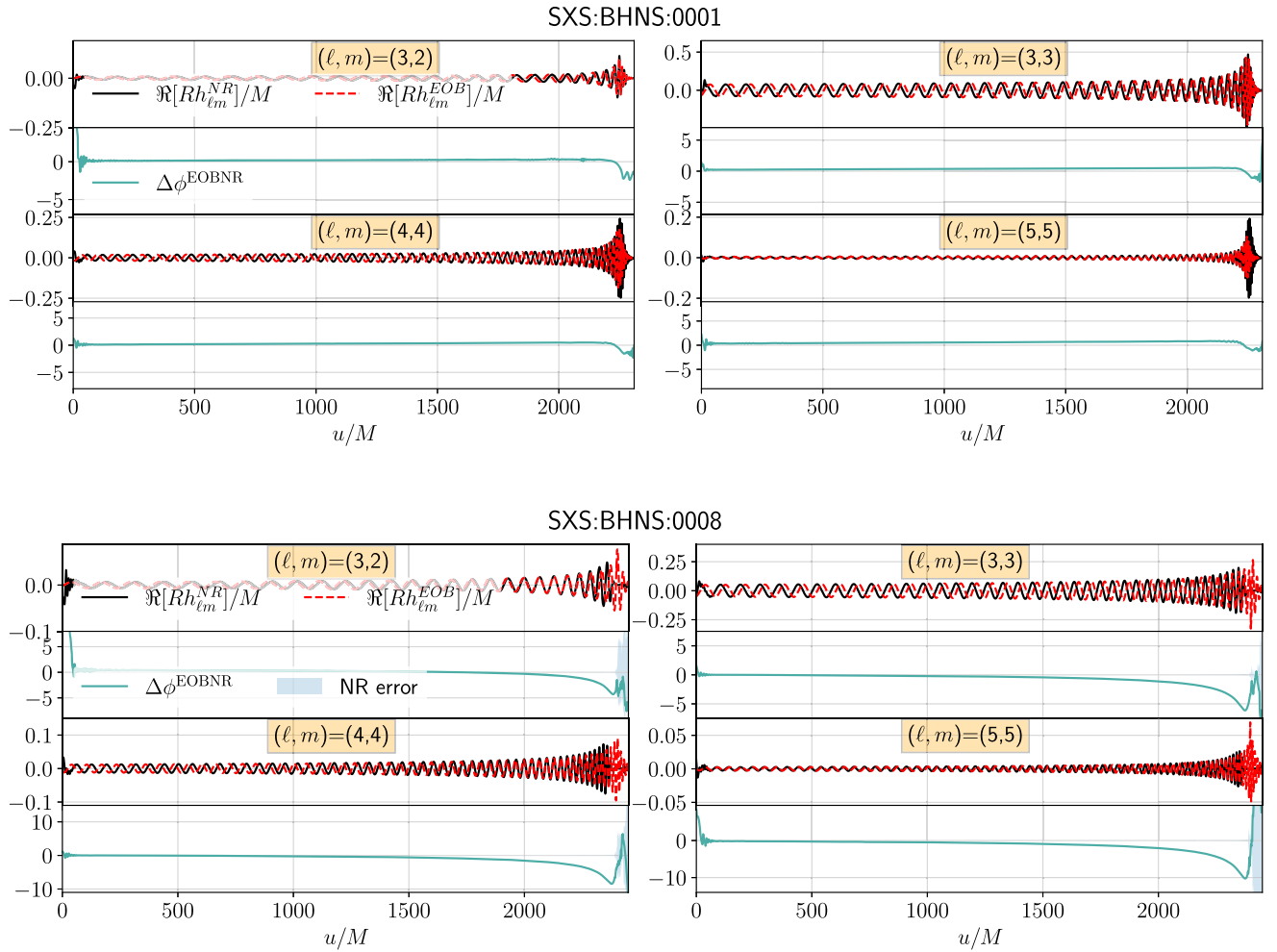


FIG. 15. Phasing analysis of SXS:BHNS:0001 (top) and SXS:BHNS:0008 (bottom) with TEOBResumS. Light blue bands report the NR resolution error, which is not available for the former.

APPENDIX D: UNFAITHFULNESS TABLES

In addition to showing the unfaithfulness in figures as in the main text, we report the obtained values in Tables XI and XII below.

TABLE XI. Unfaithfulness of available (2,2) mode BHNS models with long SXS NR waveforms. The results are obtained using the Advanced LIGO zero-detuning high-power noise curve. Here “UM” stands for “until merger” and “FW” for “full waveform.”

Model	f_0 [Hz]	TEOBResumS		SEOBNR_NSBH		PhenomNSBH		SEOBNRNRv4T	
		UM	FW	UM	FW	UM	FW	UM	FW
SXS:BHNS:0001	169	9.8×10^{-3}	1.0×10^{-2}	8.4×10^{-3}	8.4×10^{-3}	1.0×10^{-2}	1.1×10^{-2}	9.9×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0002	315	5.9×10^{-3}	6.4×10^{-3}	7.7×10^{-3}	7.7×10^{-3}	6.7×10^{-3}	7.2×10^{-3}	6.4×10^{-3}	7.1×10^{-3}
SXS:BHNS:0003	407	7.7×10^{-3}	7.7×10^{-3}	9.4×10^{-3}	9.5×10^{-3}	1.2×10^{-2}	1.2×10^{-2}	2.1×10^{-2}	2.1×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0004	447	1.3×10^{-2}	1.3×10^{-2}	8.4×10^{-3}	1.2×10^{-2}	9.9×10^{-3}	1.6×10^{-2}	2.4×10^{-2}	2.4×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0005	448	6.2×10^{-2}	7.7×10^{-2}	7.0×10^{-2}	9.6×10^{-2}	7.3×10^{-2}	1.0×10^{-1}	6.6×10^{-2}	7.8×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0006	314	6.4×10^{-3}	7.9×10^{-3}	7.4×10^{-3}	7.7×10^{-3}	6.7×10^{-3}	7.4×10^{-2}	1.0×10^{-2}	1.3×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0007	315	1.2×10^{-2}	1.9×10^{-2}	8.1×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-2}	1.1×10^{-2}	1.8×10^{-2}	1.2×10^{-2}	2.2×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0008	300	1.2×10^{-2}	1.9×10^{-2}	6.9×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-2}	7.2×10^{-3}	8.8×10^{-2}	6.7×10^{-3}	1.7×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0009	238	2.5×10^{-2}	4.1×10^{-2}	7.1×10^{-3}	1.0×10^{-2}	7.9×10^{-3}	8.4×10^{-3}	8.8×10^{-3}	2.2×10^{-2}

TABLE XII. Unfaithfulness of TEOBResumS including HMs with long SXS NR waveforms for different inclinations ι , until merger (top) and for the full waveform (bottom). The results are obtained using the Advanced LIGO zero-detuning high-power noise curve.

Until merger				
Model	$\iota = 0$	$\iota = \pi/8$	$\iota = \pi/4$	$\iota = \pi/2$
SXS:BHNS:0001	9.6×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-2}	2.1×10^{-2}	3.5×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0002	5.9×10^{-3}	1.2×10^{-2}	1.7×10^{-2}	2.6×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0003	6.9×10^{-3}	9.4×10^{-3}	1.5×10^{-2}	2.7×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0004	1.3×10^{-2}	1.3×10^{-2}	1.1×10^{-2}	1.7×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0005	3.8×10^{-2}	9.7×10^{-2}	1.6×10^{-1}	6.4×10^{-1}
SXS:BHNS:0006	1.9×10^{-3}	3.6×10^{-3}	3.7×10^{-3}	8.1×10^{-3}
SXS:BHNS:0007	1.1×10^{-2}	1.5×10^{-2}	2.7×10^{-2}	4.8×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0008	1.7×10^{-2}	1.3×10^{-2}	1.6×10^{-2}	3.3×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0009	2.6×10^{-2}	3.2×10^{-2}	4.3×10^{-2}	7.4×10^{-2}
Full waveform				
SXS:BHNS:0001	9.9×10^{-3}	1.3×10^{-2}	2.1×10^{-2}	3.5×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0002	6.4×10^{-3}	1.4×10^{-2}	2.2×10^{-2}	2.6×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0003	6.9×10^{-3}	9.4×10^{-3}	1.5×10^{-3}	2.7×10^{-3}
SXS:BHNS:0004	1.8×10^{-2}	1.8×10^{-2}	1.7×10^{-2}	1.7×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0005	4.2×10^{-2}	3.2×10^{-1}	5.3×10^{-1}	6.3×10^{-1}
SXS:BHNS:0006	4.2×10^{-3}	4.3×10^{-3}	6.2×10^{-3}	8.1×10^{-3}
SXS:BHNS:0007	1.9×10^{-2}	2.2×10^{-2}	4.2×10^{-2}	4.8×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0008	2.5×10^{-2}	2.5×10^{-2}	2.8×10^{-2}	3.3×10^{-2}
SXS:BHNS:0009	4.1×10^{-2}	4.3×10^{-2}	4.9×10^{-2}	7.4×10^{-2}

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