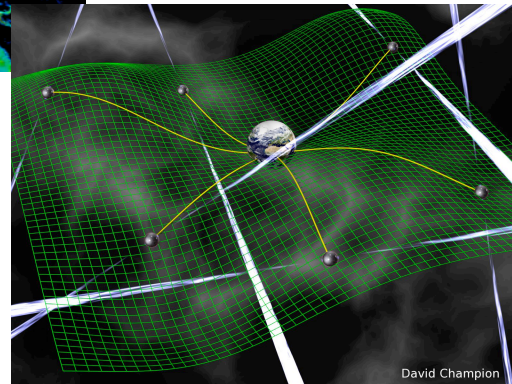
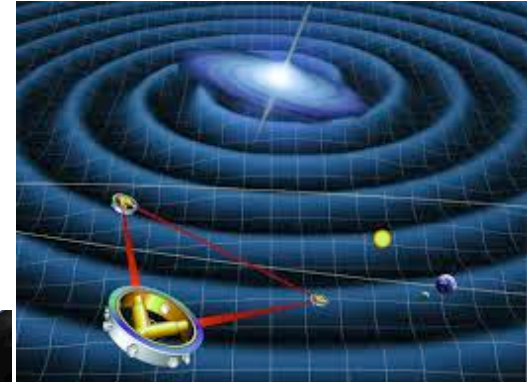
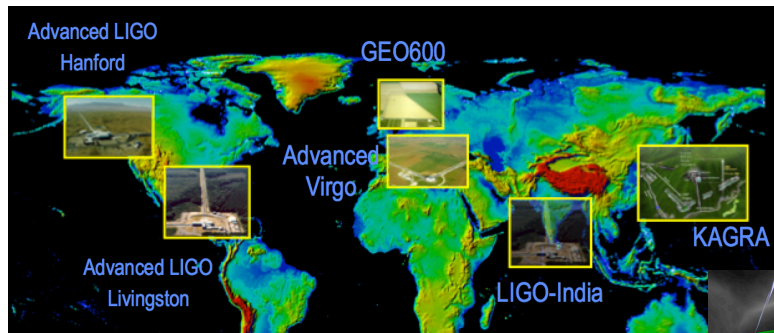


# Searching for – and finding! gravitational waves

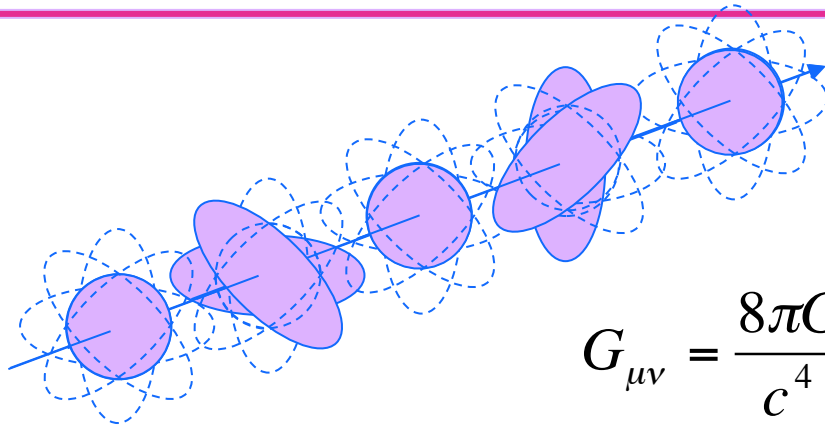
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Gabriela González  
Louisiana State University

International School of Cosmic Ray Physics  
Erice, Italy, August 4-5, 2018



# Gravitational waves

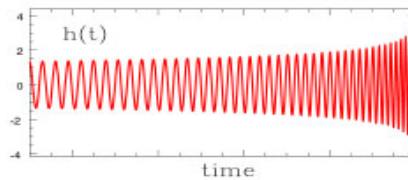
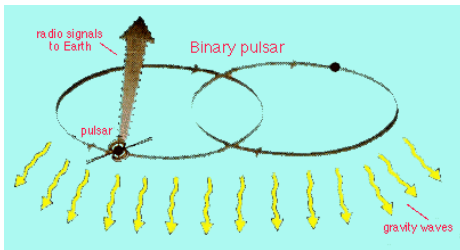


Gravitational waves are quadrupolar distortions of distances between freely falling masses. They are produced by time-varying mass quadrupoles.

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu} (= 0 \text{ in vacuum})$$

$$h_{\mu\nu} \sim \frac{2G}{c^4 r} \ddot{I}_{\mu\nu}$$

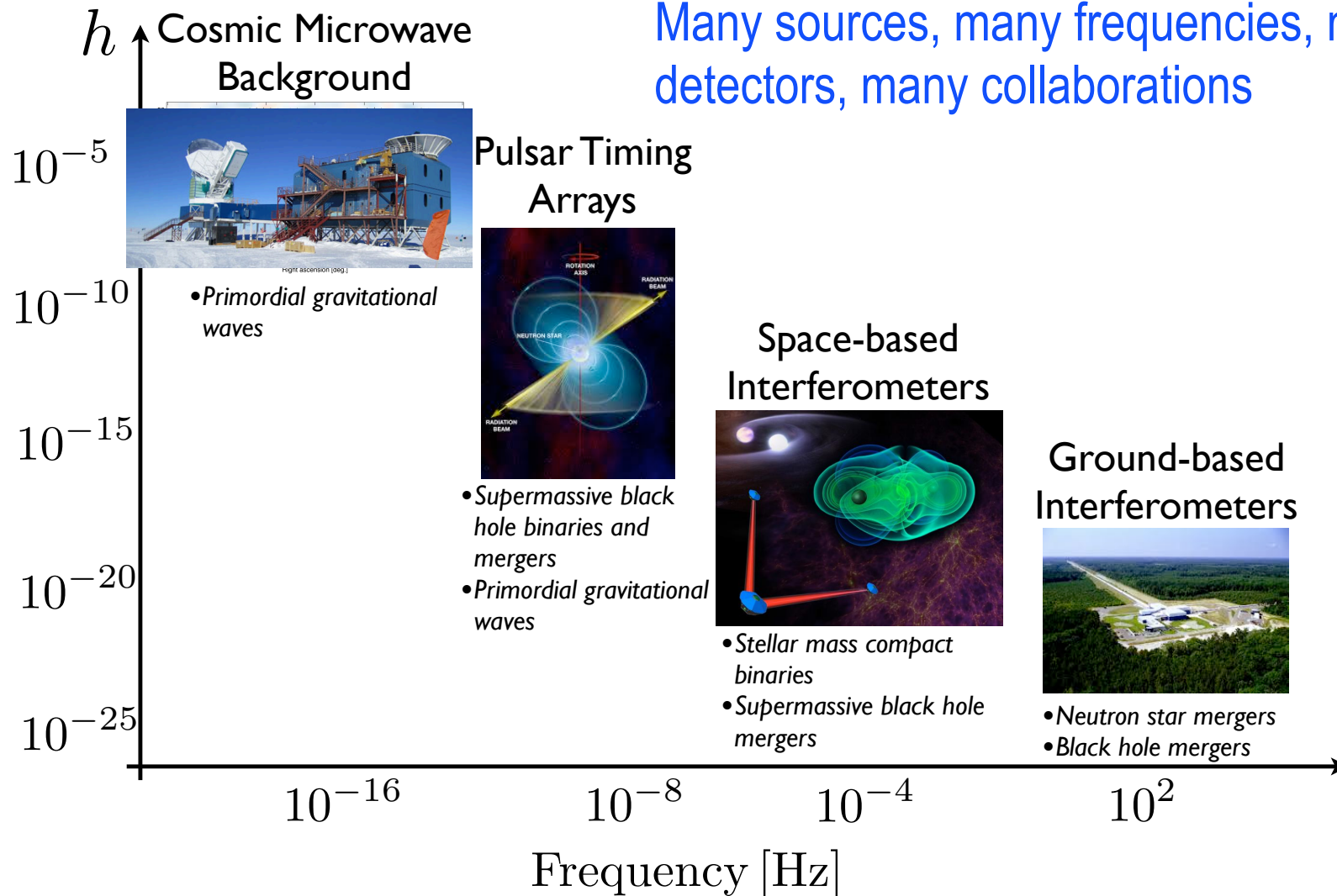
$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \quad h = 2 \frac{\Delta L}{L}$$



GWs from a NS-NS coalescence in the Virgo cluster has  $h \sim 10^{-21}$  near Earth, and happens ~once every 50 years.

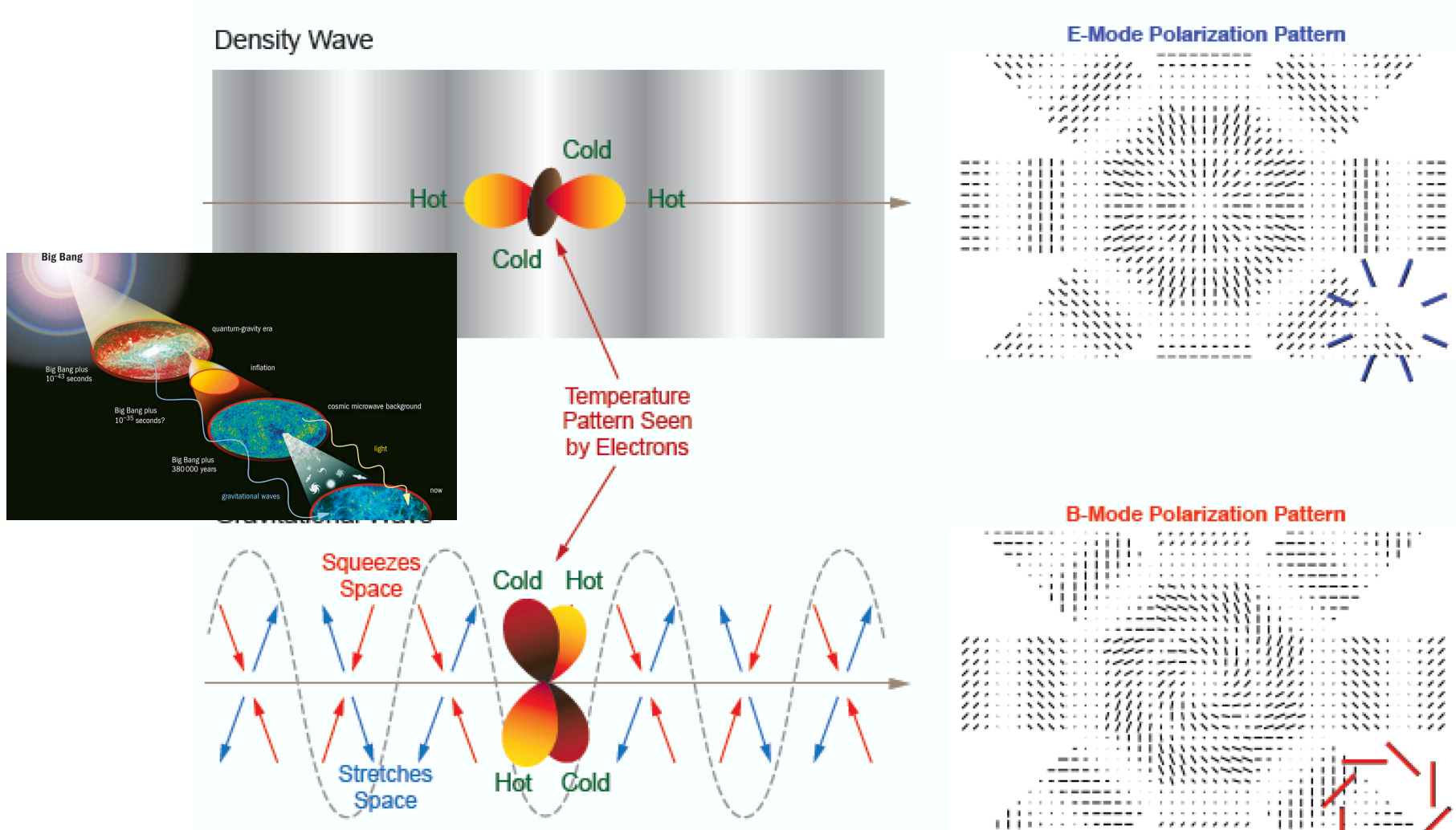
# GW landscape

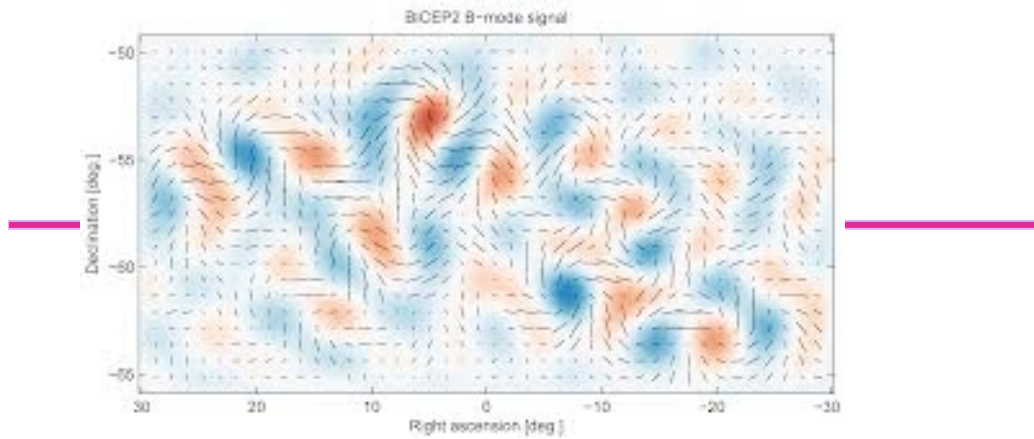
Many sources, many frequencies, many detectors, many collaborations



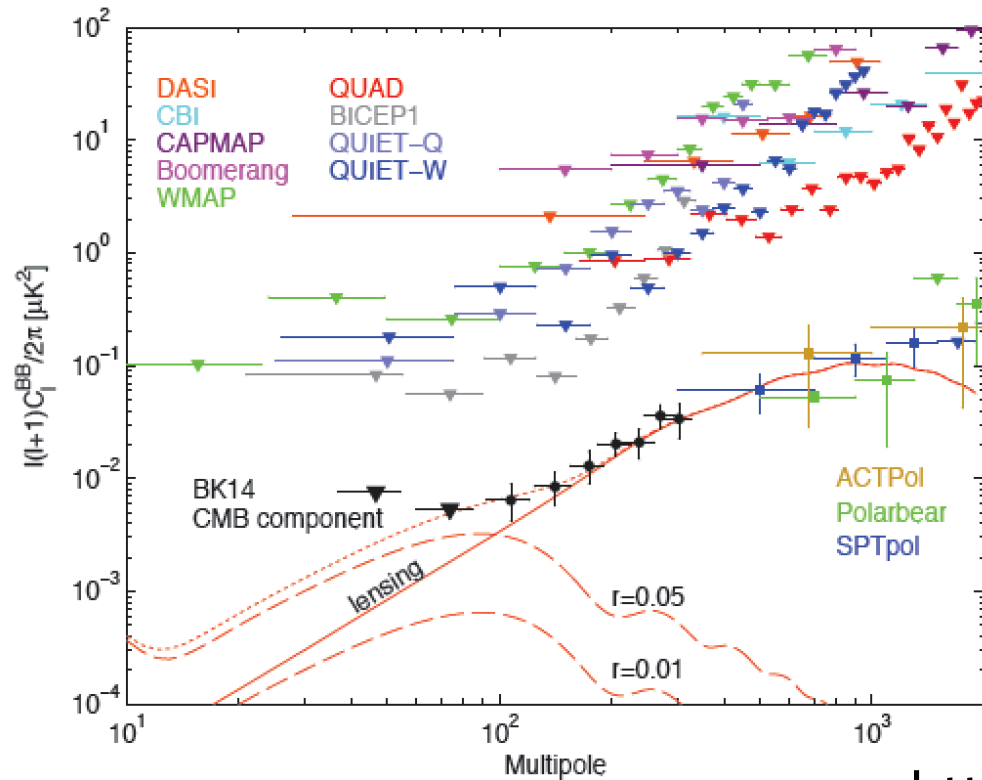
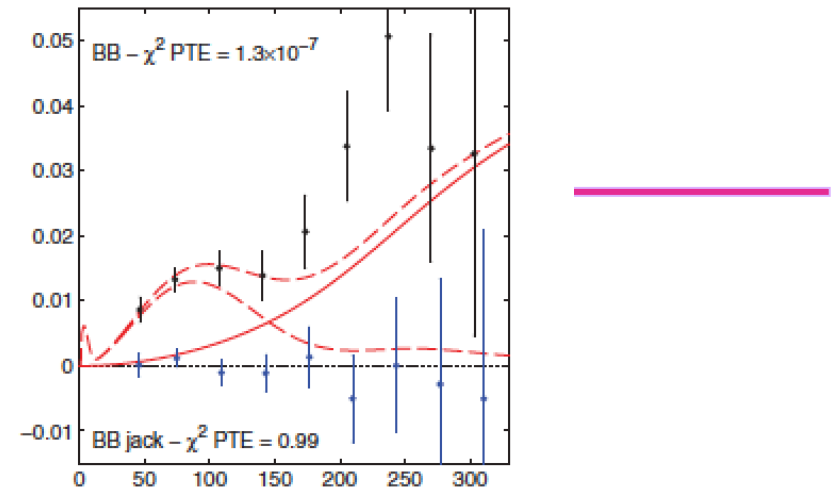
Credit: Nanograv/Bicep2

# Primordial GWs: Cosmological Microwave Background





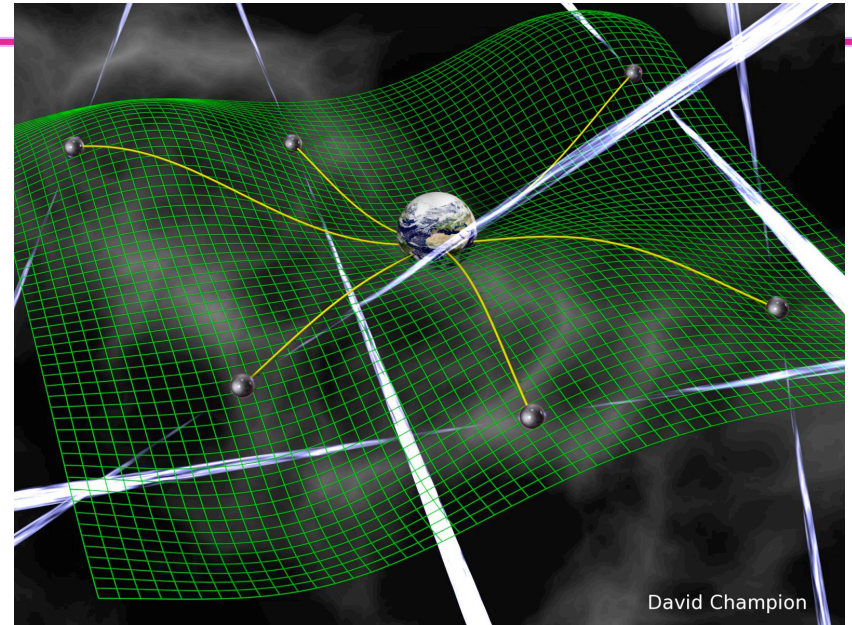
PRL 112, 241101 (2014)



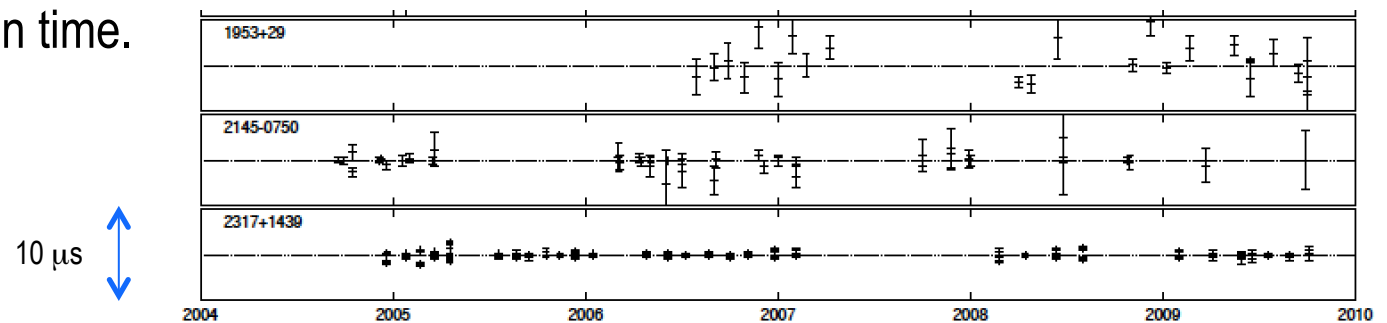
	arXiv	$\sigma(r)$
DASI	0409357	7.5
BICEP1 2yr	0906.1181	0.28
WMAP 7yr	1001.4538	1.1
QUIETQ	1012.3191	0.97
QUIETW	1207.5034	0.85
BICEP1 3yr	1310.1422	0.25
BICEP2	1403.3985	0.10
BK13/ <i>Planck</i>	1502.00612	0.034
BK14/W/P	1510.09217	0.024
ABS	1801.01218	0.7



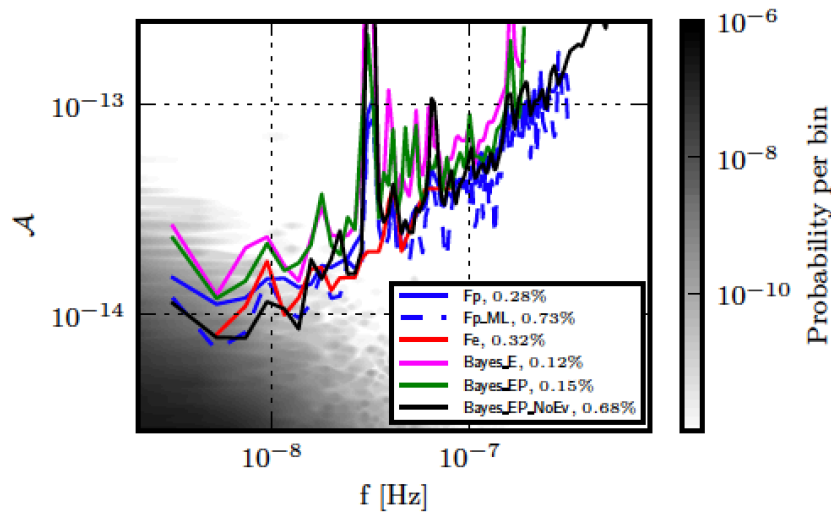
# Pulsar timing



Measuring changes in phase of pulsar radio beams on Earth, we have a “galactic scale interferometer” measuring gravitational waves with periods of several years (nHz frequencies): mergers of super-massive black holes (galaxies!). They are limited by noise in the time of arrival of radio beams, number of pulsars and integration time.

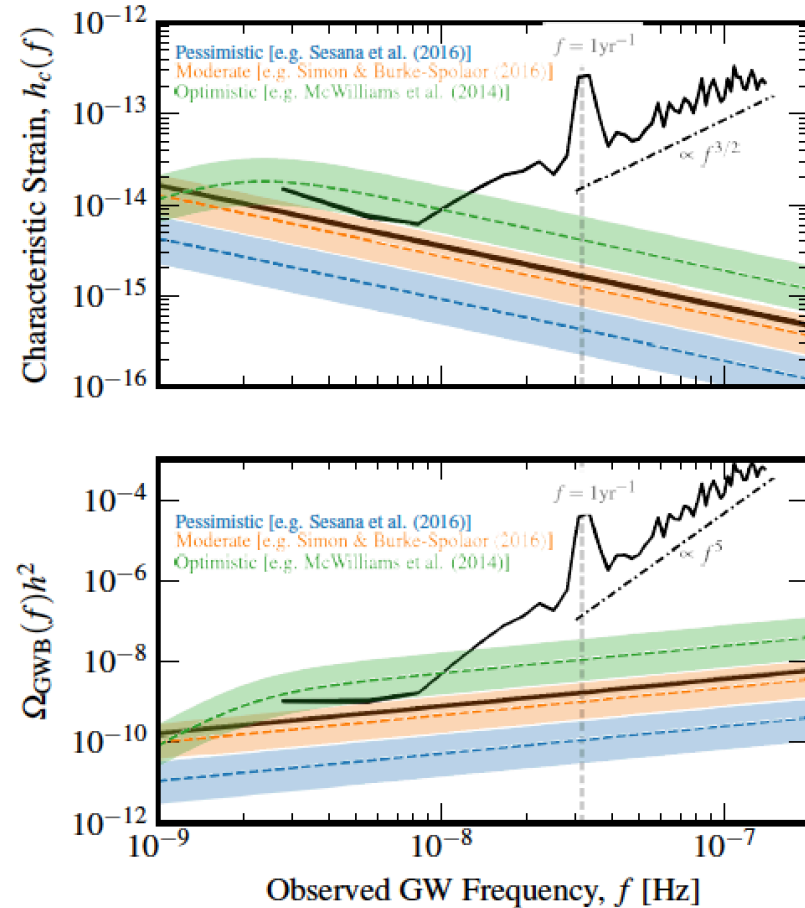


# Pulsar timing results



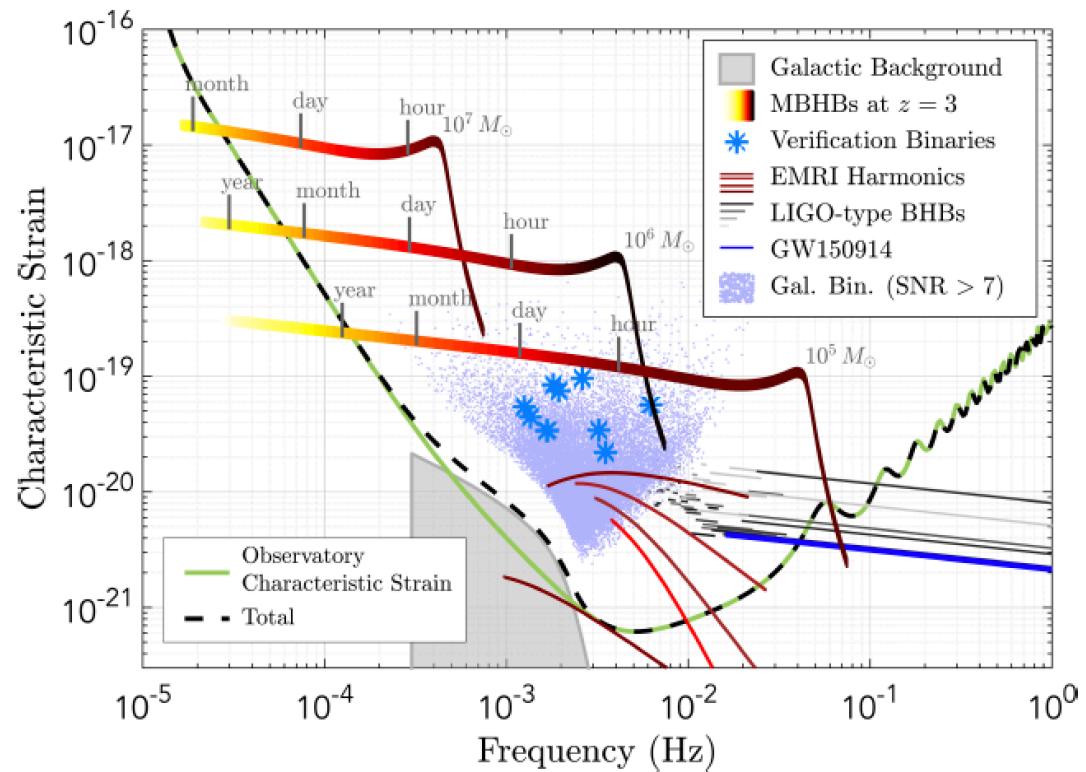
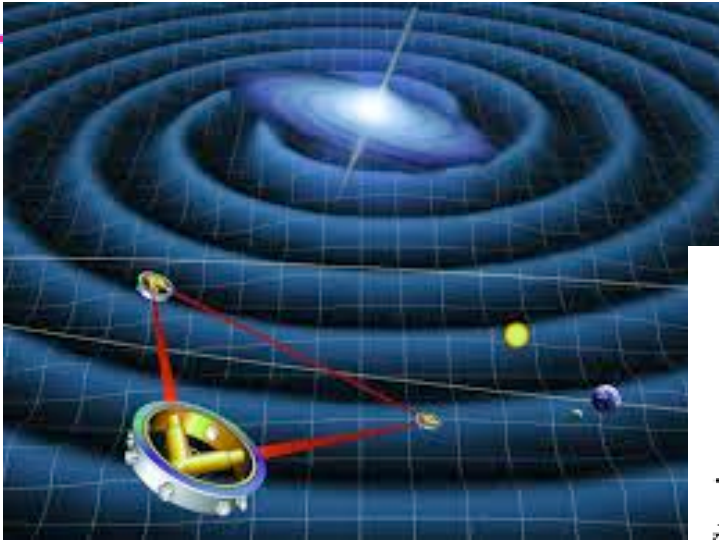
**Figure 10.** GW strain amplitude versus GW observed frequency. The coloured lines represent the different upper limits presented in this work. The shading gives the probability of detecting a SMBHB in a particular interval of strain and frequency. That detection probability increases towards lower frequencies and smaller values of strain (on the lower-left corner). In the legend, the percentage of detection probability is given for each of the upper limits.

Babak et. al  
MNRAS 455, 1665-1679, 2016



THE NANOGRV COLLABORATION)  
arXiv:1801.02617

# Space-based detector: LISA



ESA large L3 mission,  
launch date 2034,  
Mission design call 2016

LISA L3 study

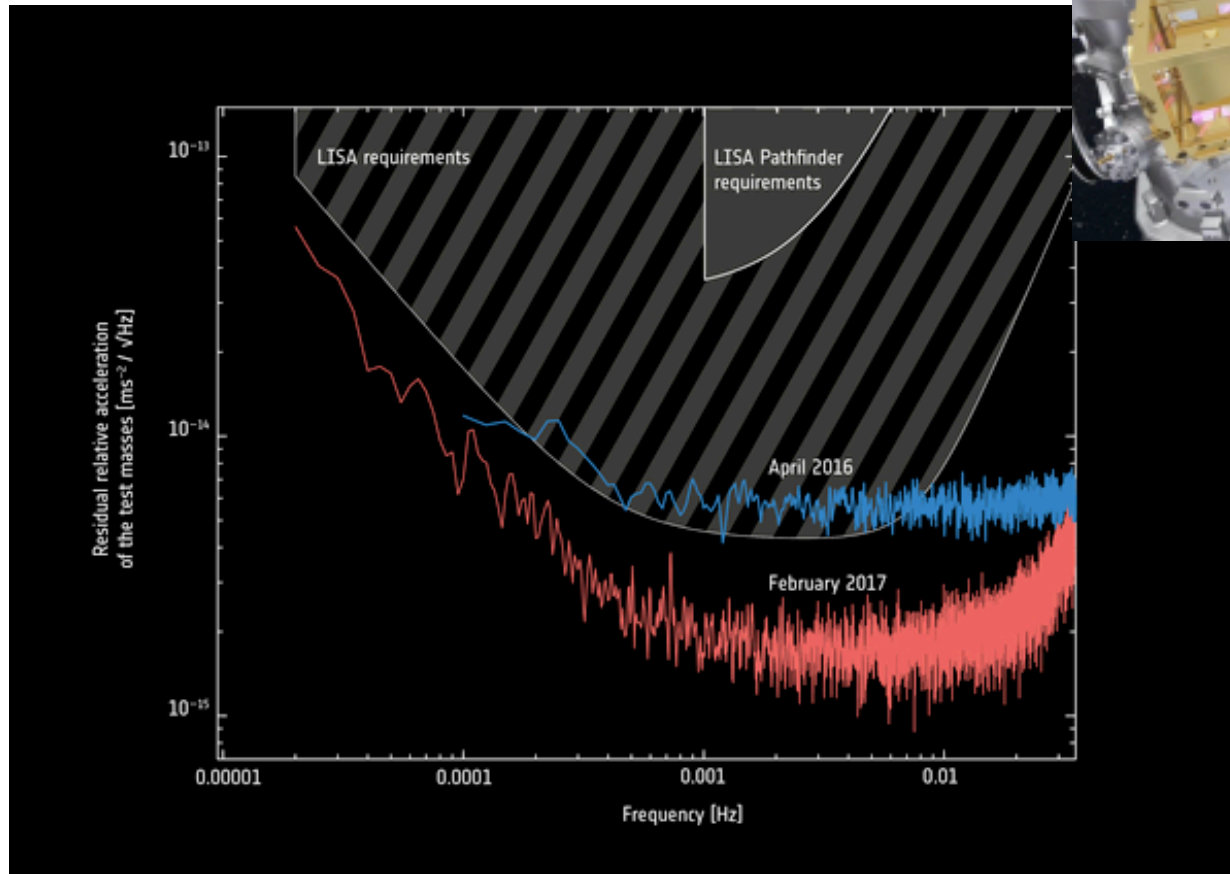
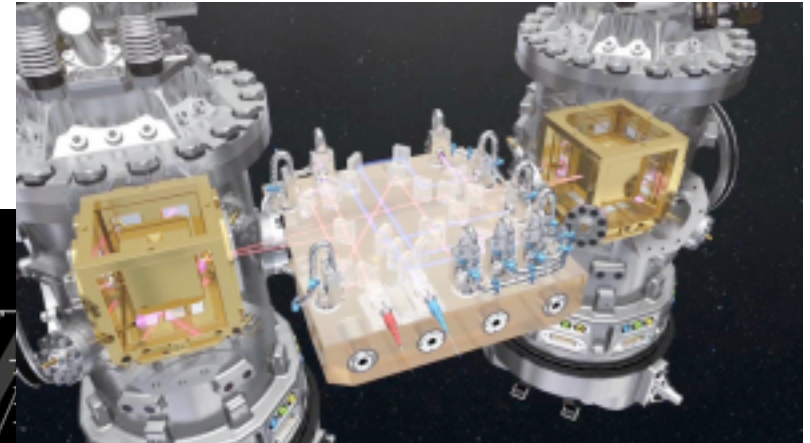
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1702.00786>





# LISA Pathfinder

## the quietest place in space



LISA Pathfinder performance analysis. *Credit: ESA/LISA Pathfinder Collaboration*



# The LIGO Observatories



LIGO Hanford Observatory (LHO)

H1 : 4 km arms

H2 : 2 km arms

10 ms

LIGO Livingston Observatory (LLO)

L1 : 4 km arms



Adapted from "The Blue Marble: Land Surface, Ocean Color"

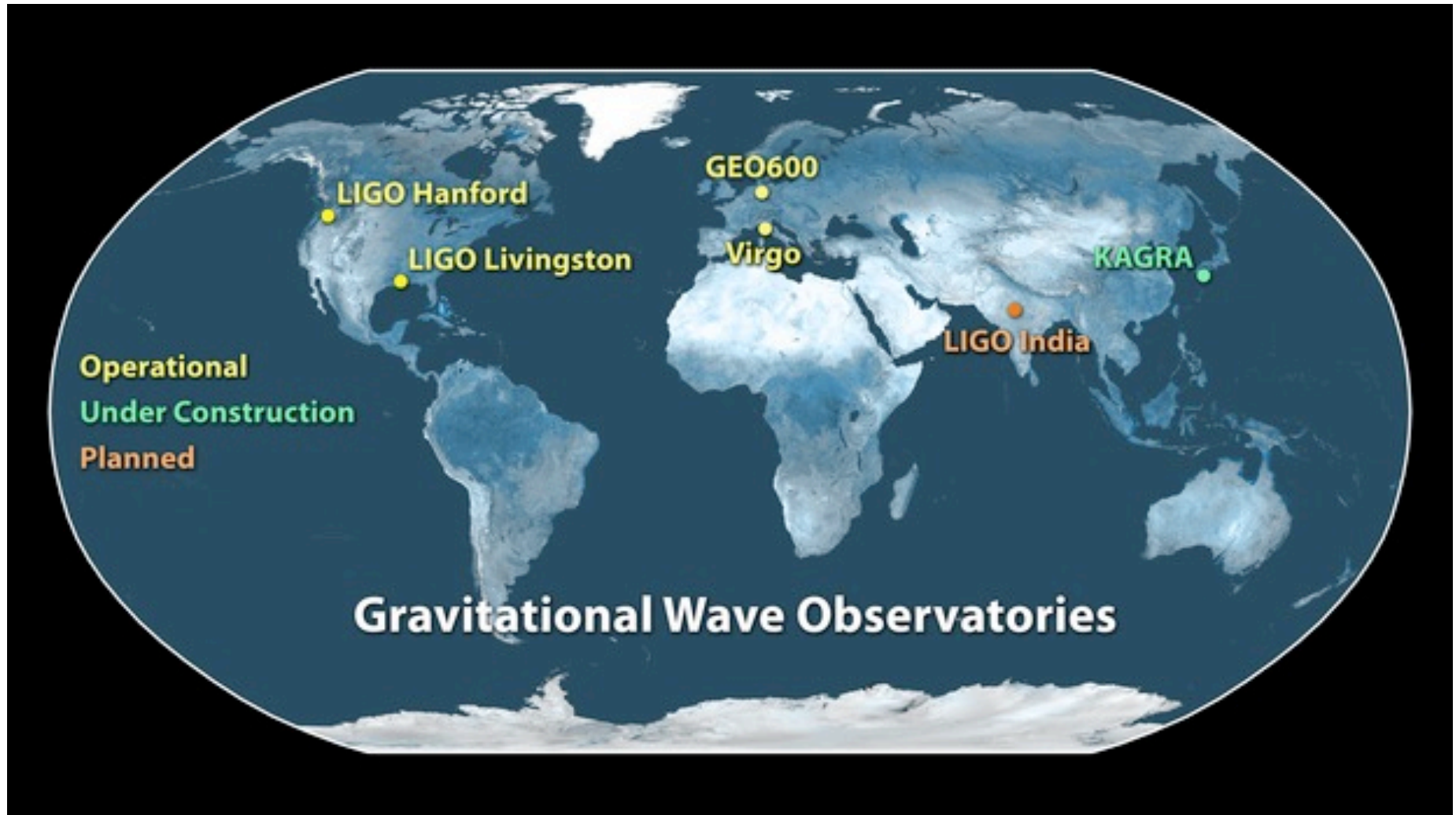
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Image by Reto Stöckli (land surface, shallow water color, compositing, 3D globes, animation). Data and technical support: MODIS Land (Atmosphere Group; MODIS Ocean Group Additional data: USGS EROS Data Center (Field Center (Antarctica); Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (city lights).

nasa.gov

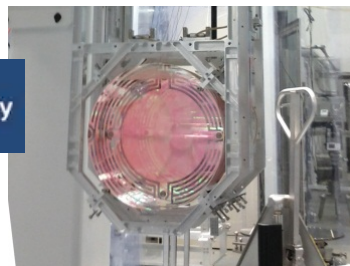
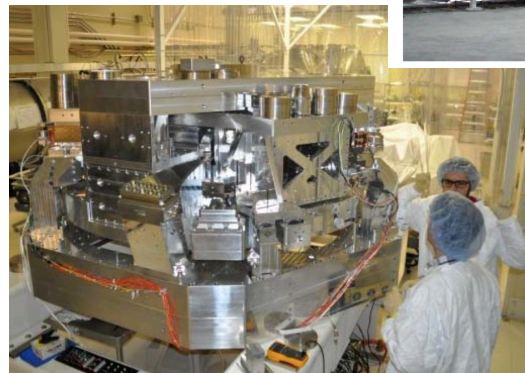
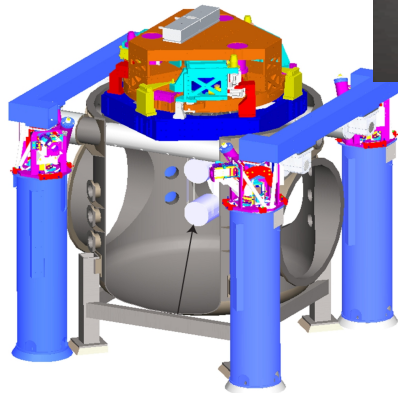
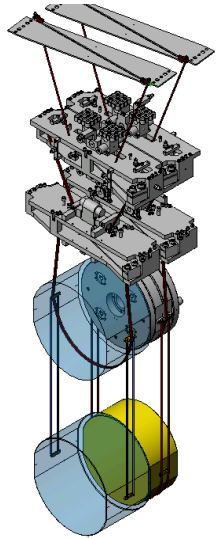
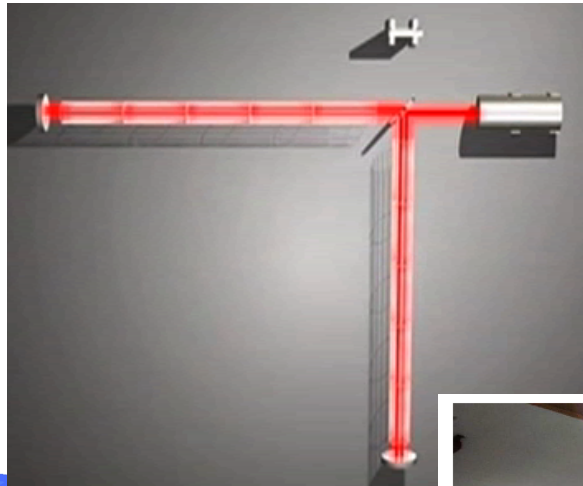
Common (ocean  
n; MODIS  
ensing Flagstaff

# Ground-based network

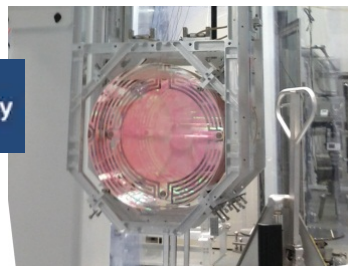
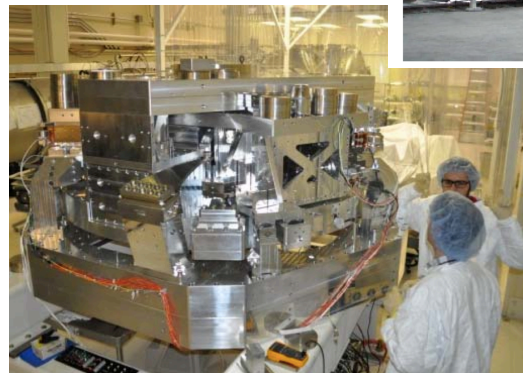
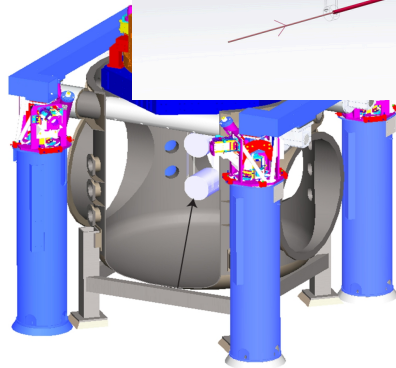
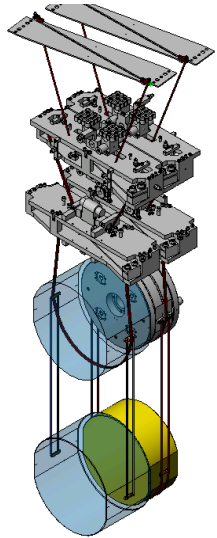
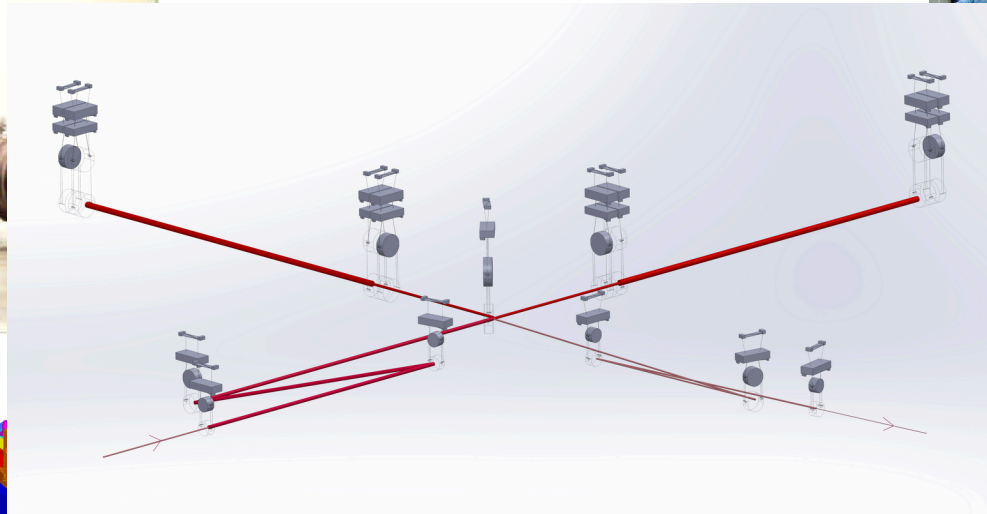
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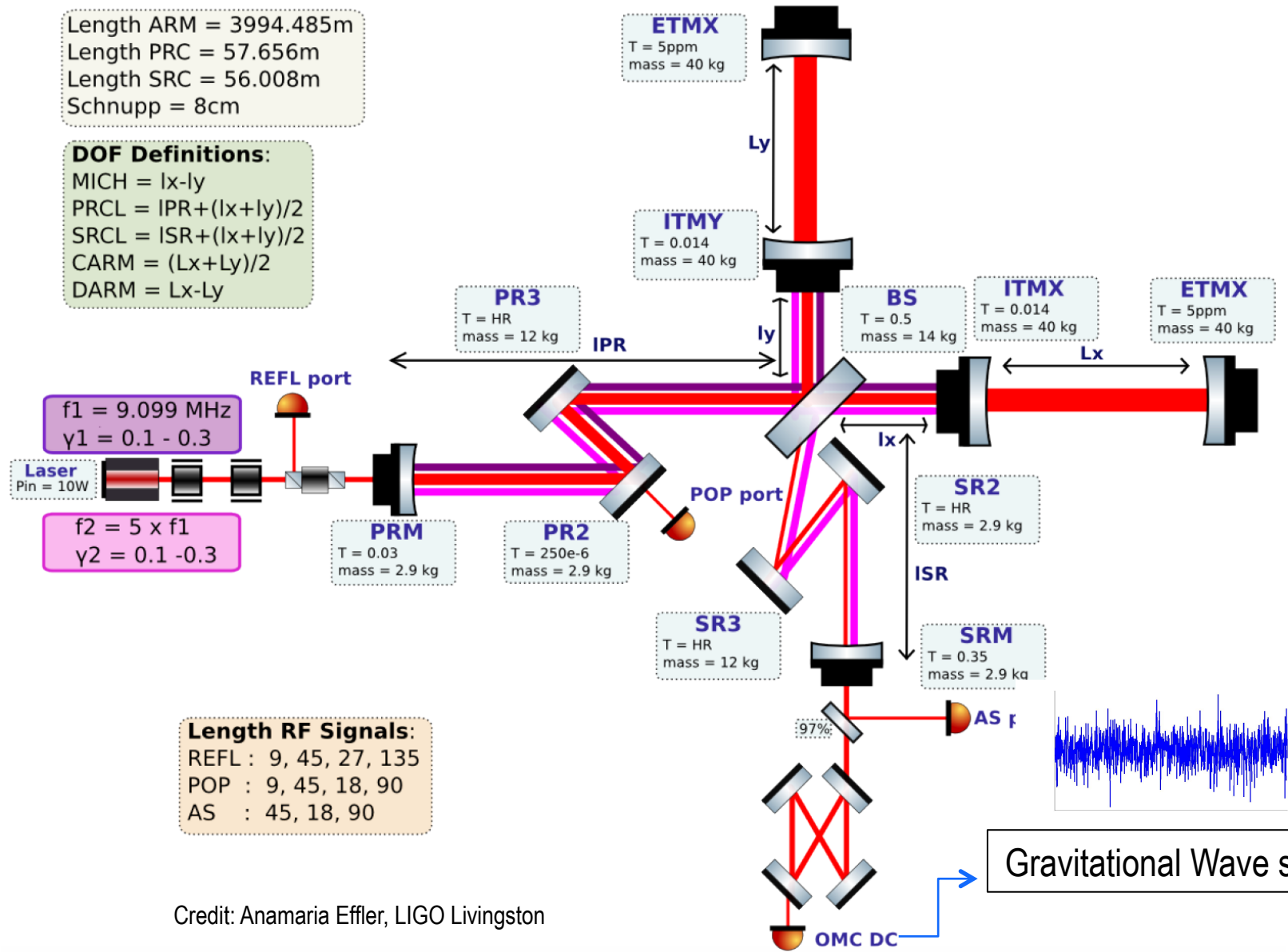
# 2008+: Advanced LIGO detectors



# 2008+: Advanced LIGO detectors



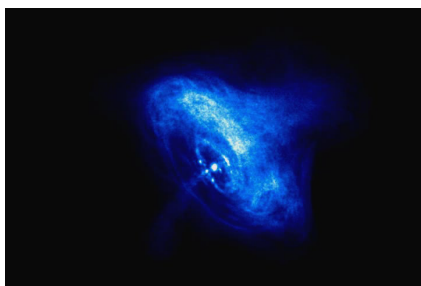
# Advanced LIGO = (Servo Control)<sup>N>>1</sup>



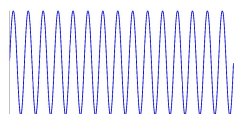
Gravitational Wave signal

Credit: Anamaria Effler, LIGO Livingston

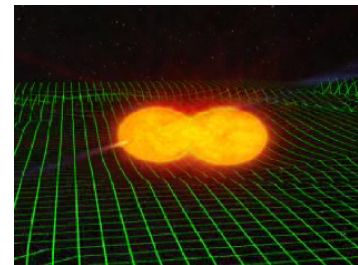
# Searching for gravitational waves



Crab pulsar (NASA, Chandra Observatory)

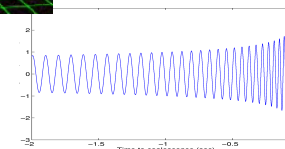


Periodic, continuous waves

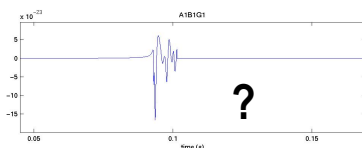


Credit: John Rowe

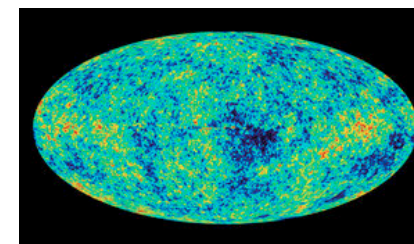
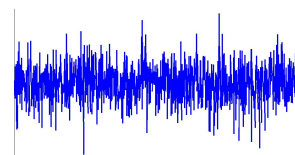
Binary systems with neutron stars and/or black holes



Short transients from supernova explosions or other sources



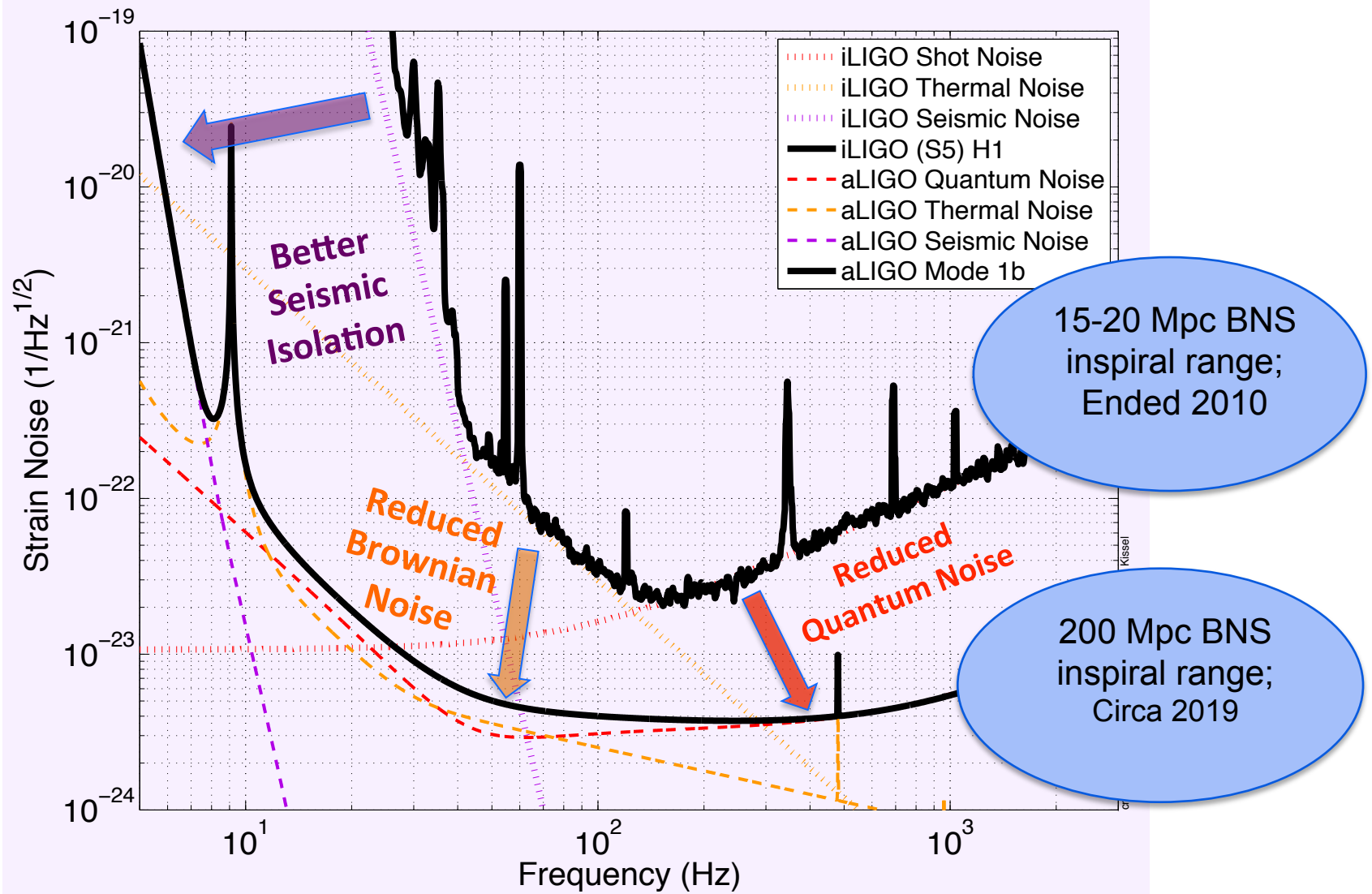
Stochastic background from many unresolved sources, or from the beginning of the Universe



NASA, WMAP

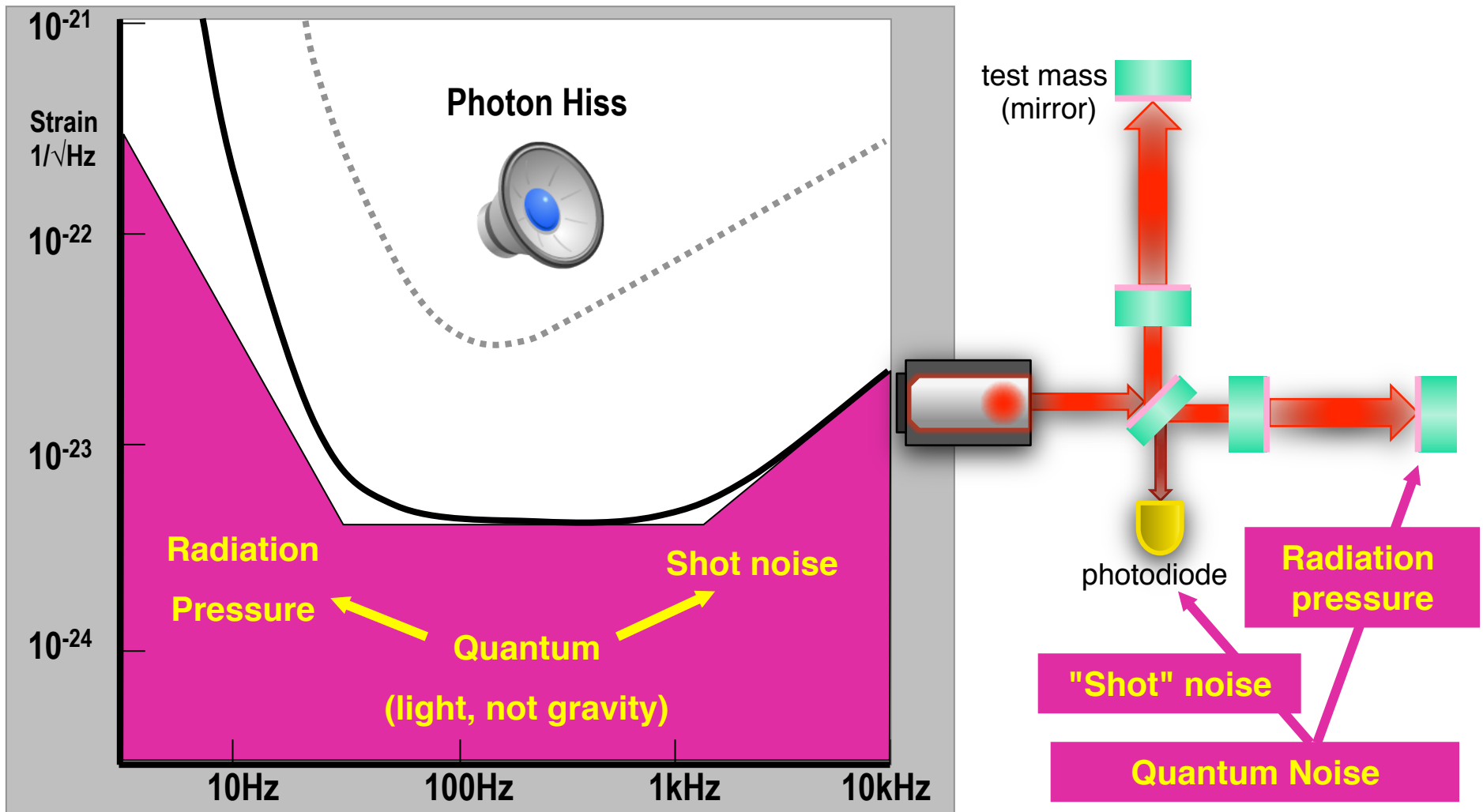
W49B composite;  
X-ray: NASA/CXC/MIT/L.Lopez et al.;  
Infrared: Palomar; Radio: NSF/NRAO/VLA

# Initial (2001-2010) and advanced (2015+) LIGO



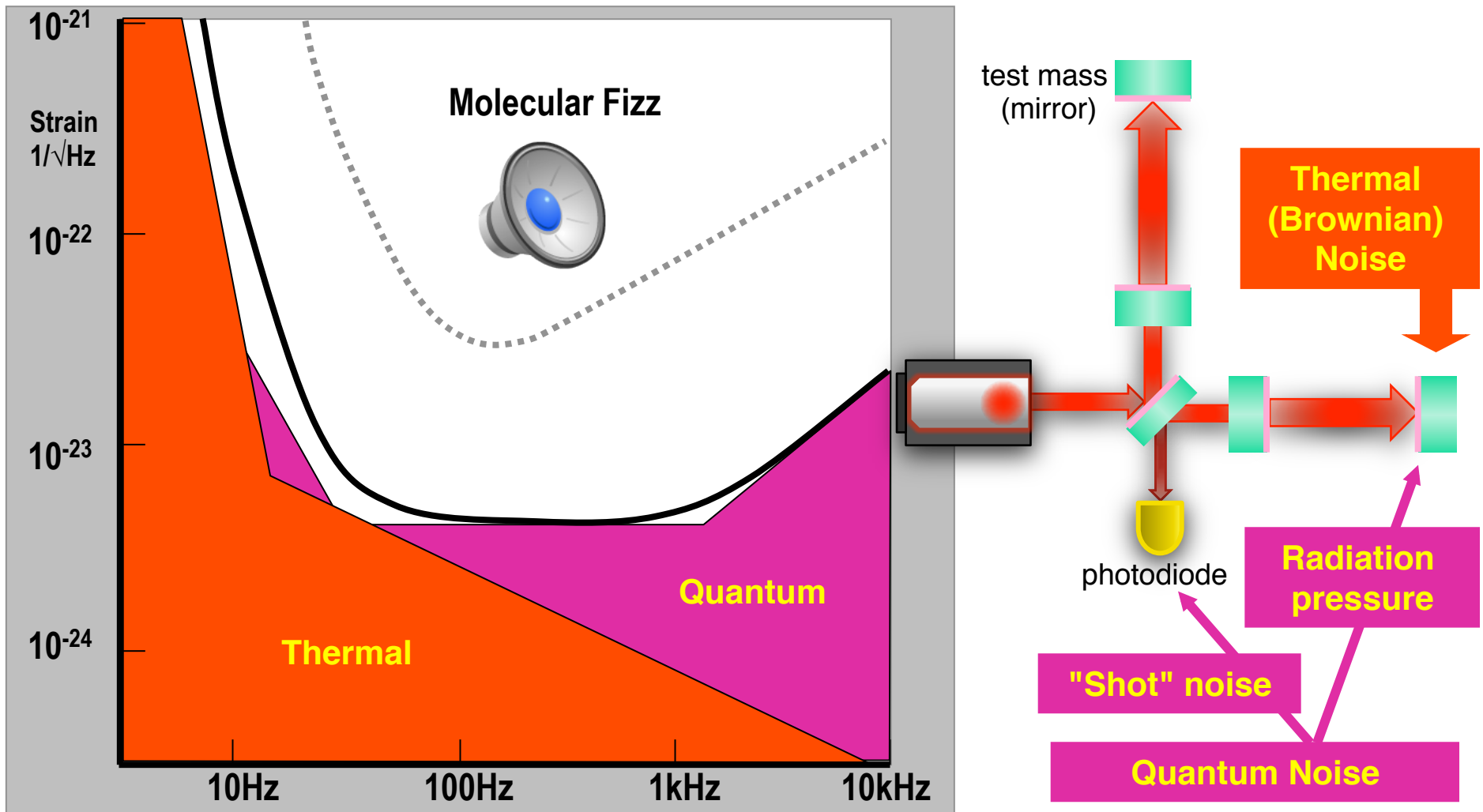


# Advanced LIGO Noise



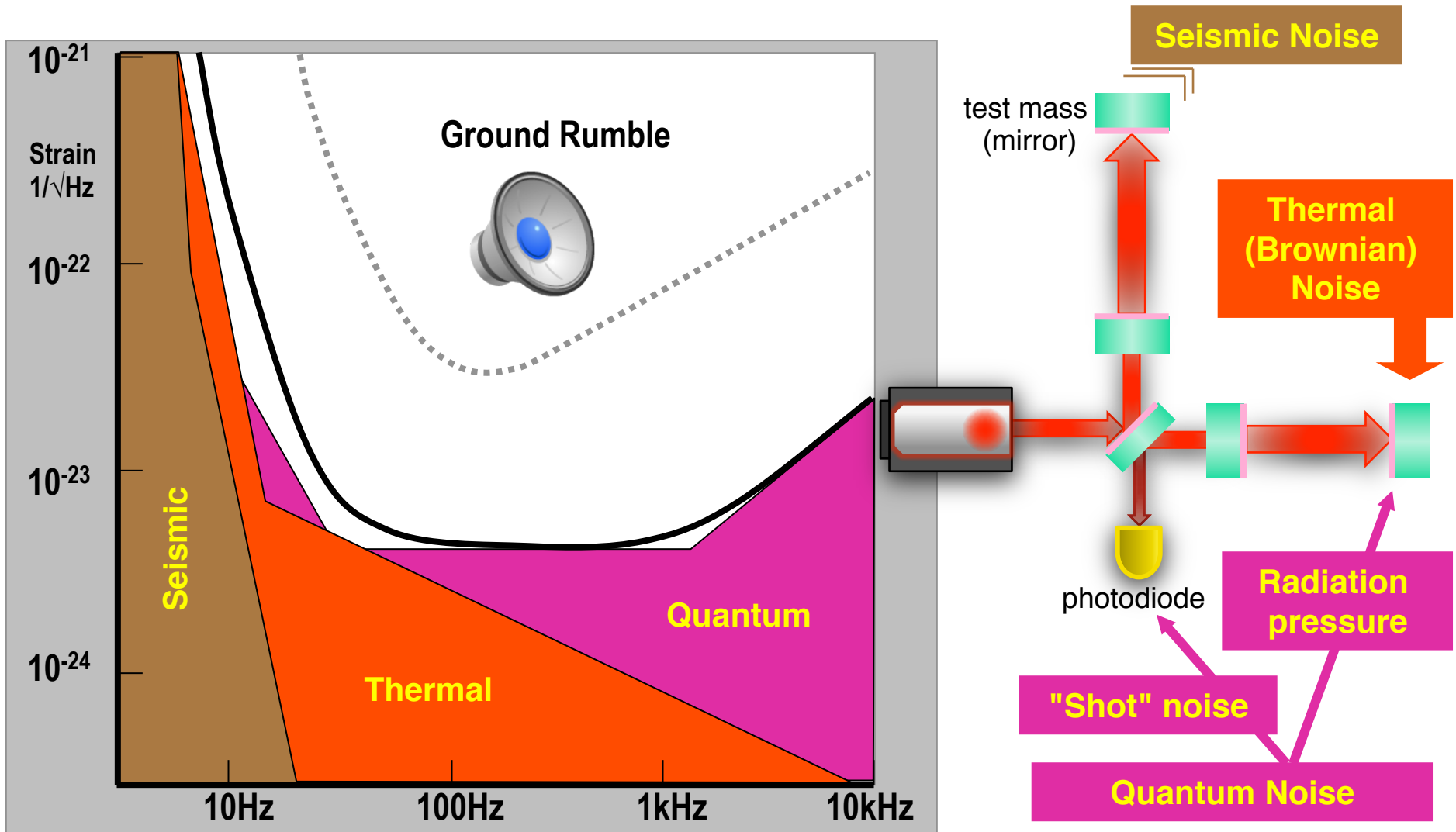
25 April 2016

# Advanced LIGO Noise



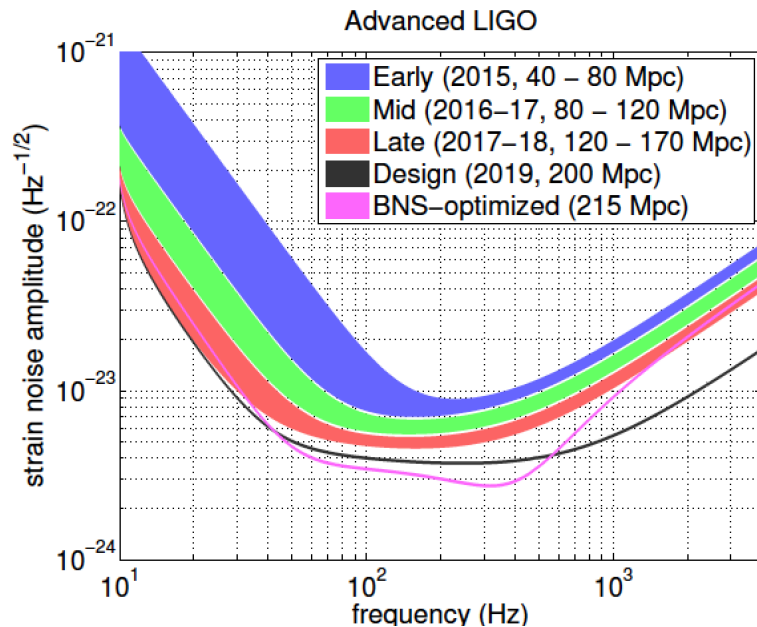
25 April 2016

# Advanced LIGO Noise



25 April 2016

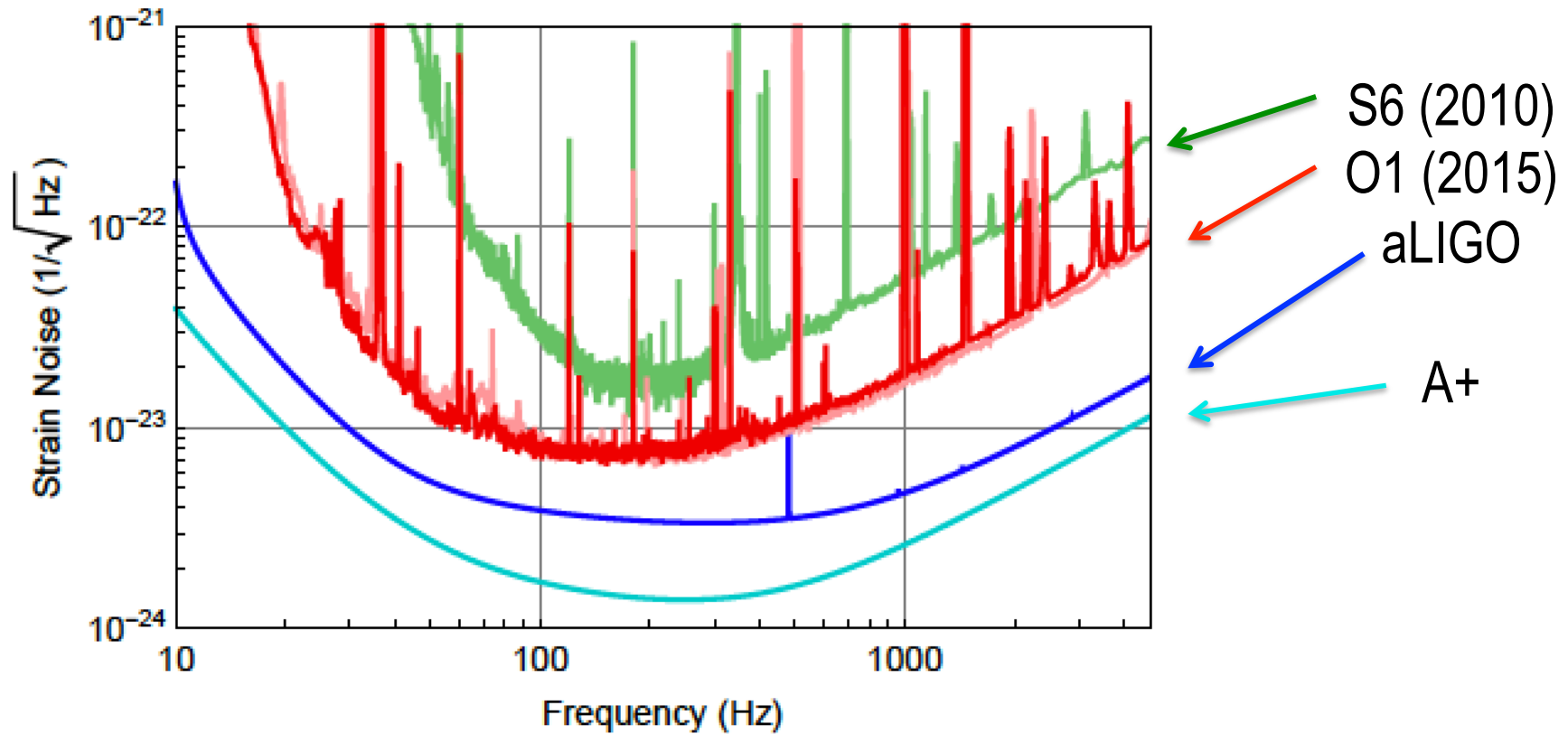
# Projections, plans: 2013



<https://arxiv.org/abs/1304.0670v1>

Epoch	Estimated Run Duration	$E_{GW} = 10^{-2} M_{\odot} c^2$ Burst Range (Mpc)		BNS Range (Mpc)	
		LIGO	Virgo	LIGO	Virgo
2015	3 months	40 – 60	–	40 – 80	–
2016–17	6 months	60 – 75	20 – 40	80 – 120	20 – 60
2017–18	9 months	75 – 90	40 – 50	120 – 170	60 – 85
2019+	(per year)	105	40 – 80	200	65 – 130
2022+ (India)	(per year)	105	80	200	130

# Sensitivity progress



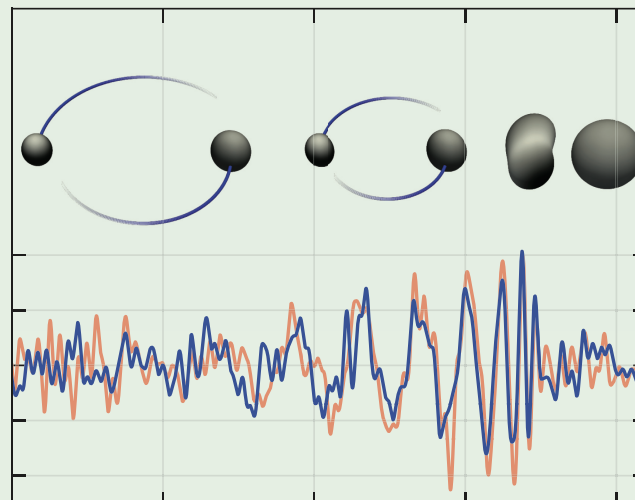


# Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger

B. P. Abbott *et al.*\*

(LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)

(Received 21 January 2016; published 11 February 2016)



Published by  
American Physical Society™

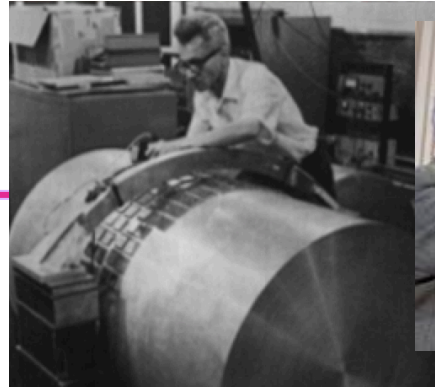
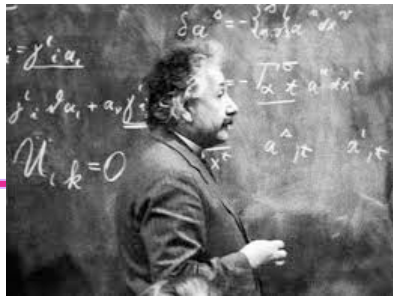


Volume 116, Number 6



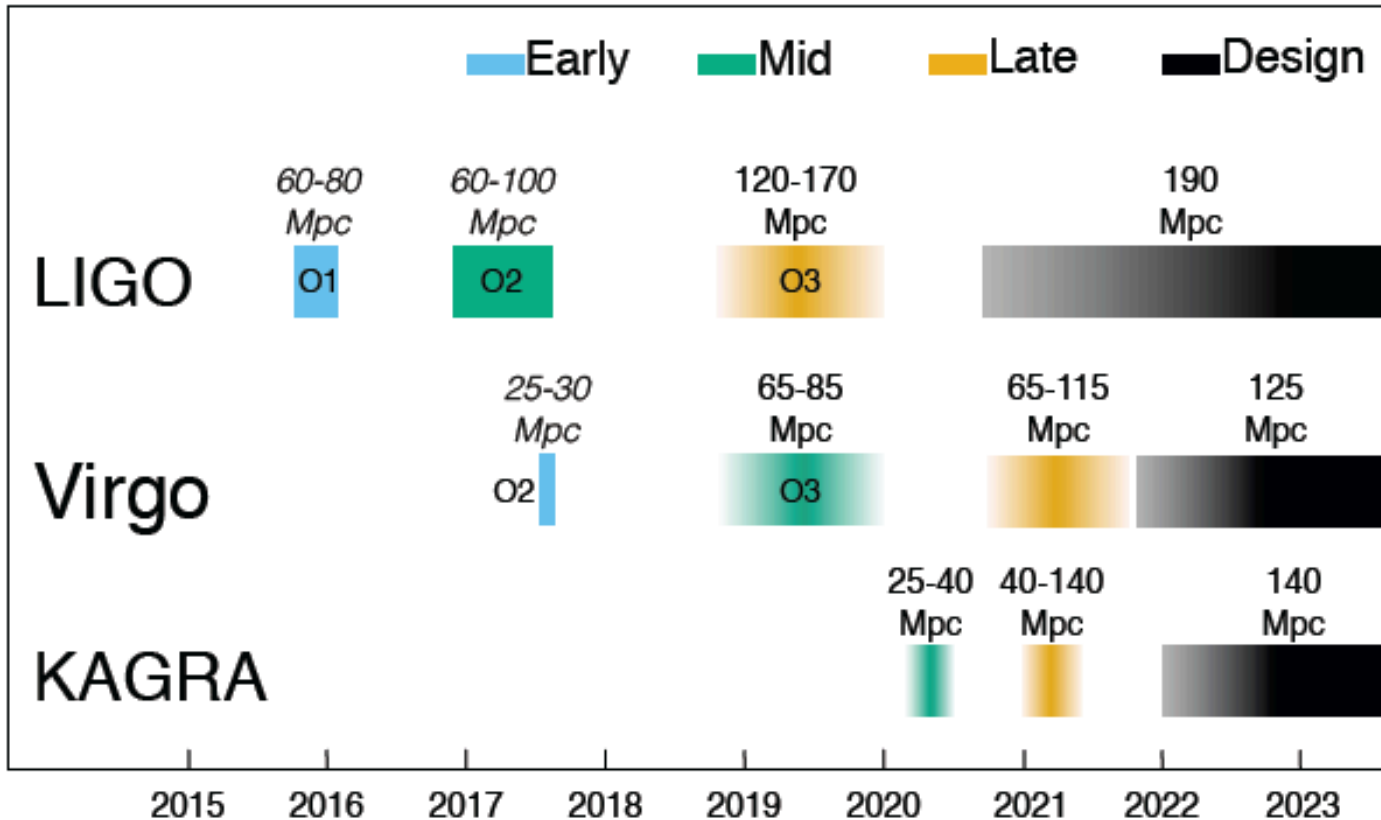
# LIGO Scientific Collaboration







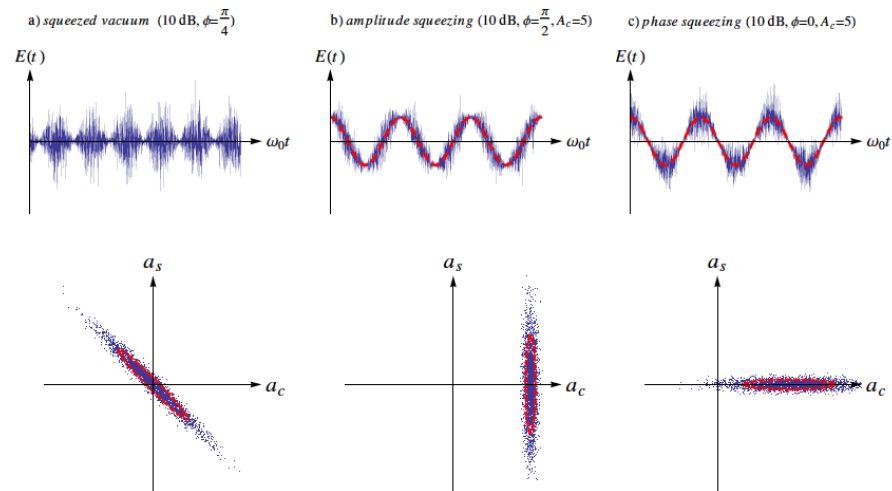
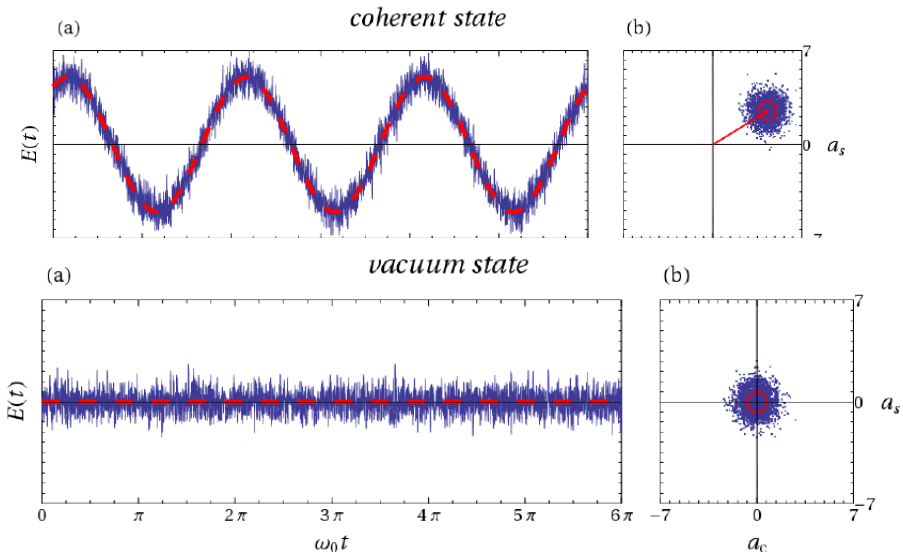
# The next few years



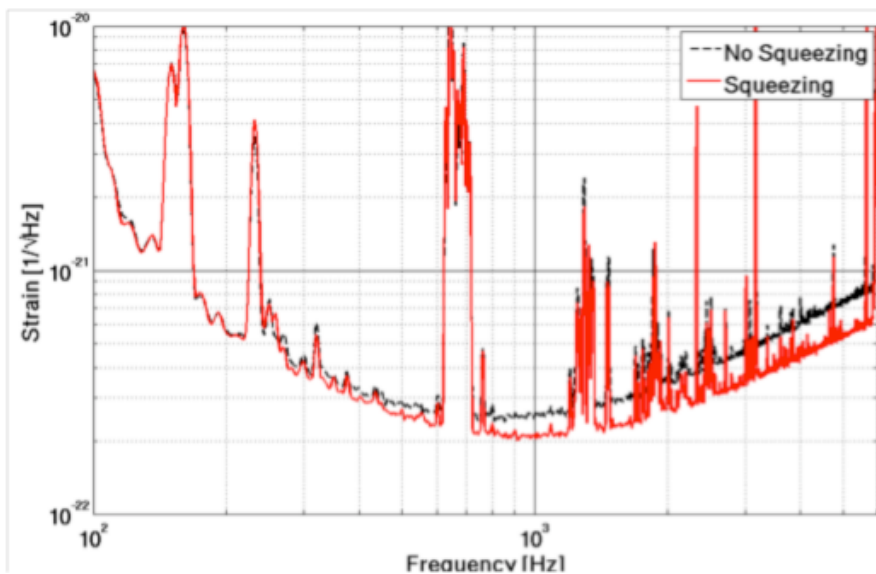
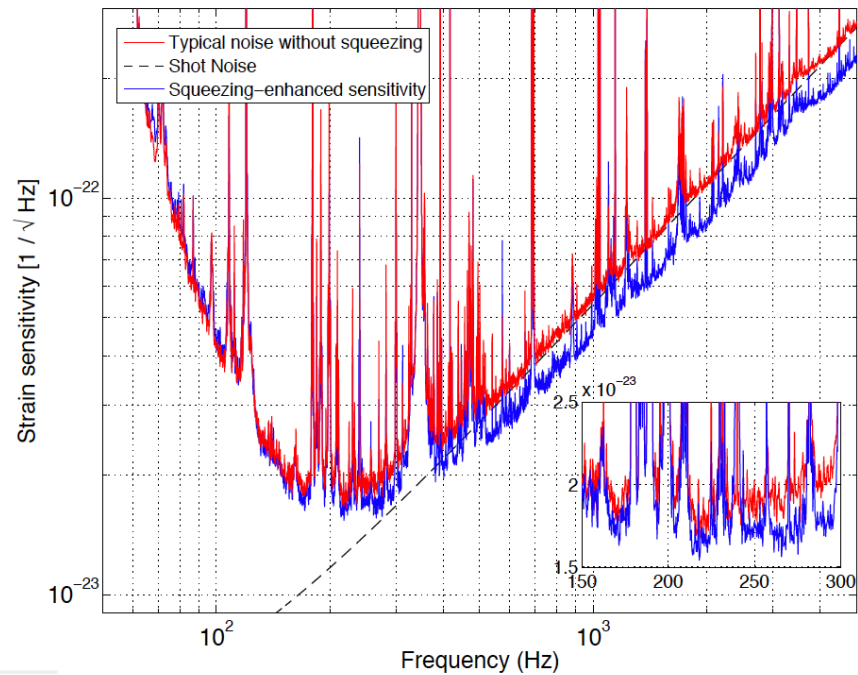
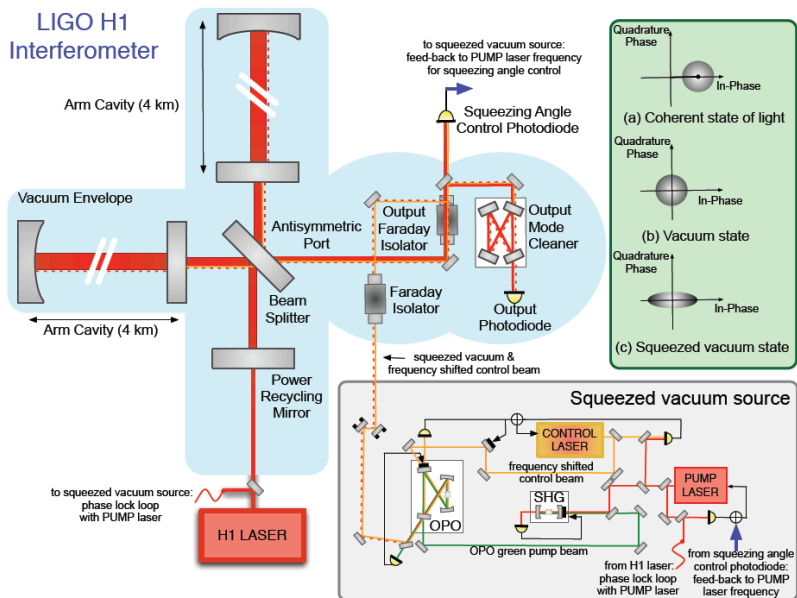
Prospects for Observing and Localizing Gravitational-Wave Transients with Advanced LIGO, Advanced Virgo and KAGRA

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1304.0670>

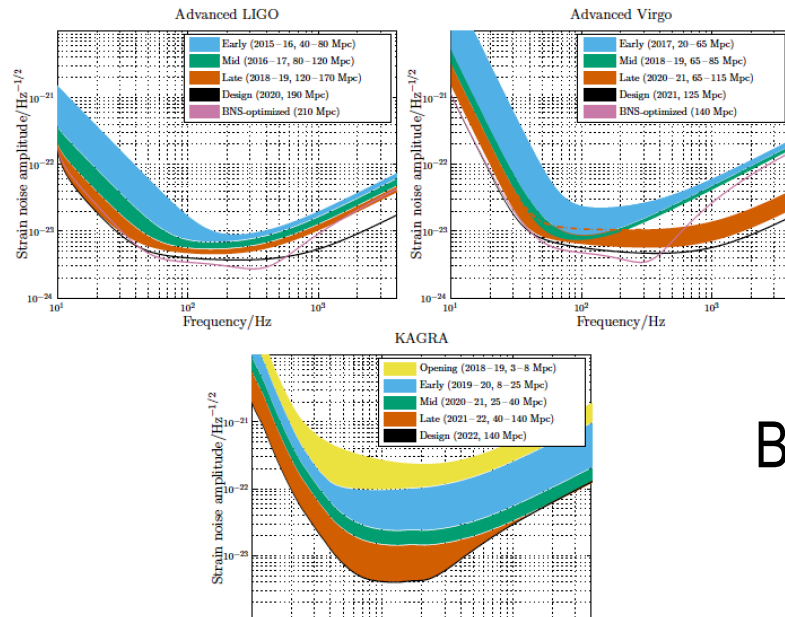
# Shot noise: quantum noise!



# Squeezing en iLIGO and GEO600



# Projections, plans: 2018



<https://arxiv.org/abs/1304.0670v6>

BNS coalescence rate: 320 – 4740 /Gpc<sup>3</sup>/yr  
 BBH coalescence rate: 12 – 200 /Gpc<sup>3</sup>/yr

**Table 1** Plausible target detector sensitivities. The different phases match those in Fig. 1. We quote the range, the average distance to which a signal could be detected, for a  $1.4M_{\odot}+1.4M_{\odot}$  binary neutron star (BNS) system and a  $30M_{\odot}+30M_{\odot}$  binary black hole (BBH) system.

	LIGO		Virgo		KAGRA	
	BNS range/Mpc	BBH range/Mpc	BNS range/Mpc	BBH range/Mpc	BNS range/Mpc	BBH range/Mpc
Early	40 – 80	415 – 775	20 – 65	220 – 615	8 – 25	80 – 250
Mid	80 – 120	775 – 1110	65 – 85	615 – 790	25 – 40	250 – 405
Late	120 – 170	1110 – 1490	65 – 115	610 – 1030	40 – 140	405 – 1270
Design	190	1640	125	1130	140	1270

# Past, present and (near) future

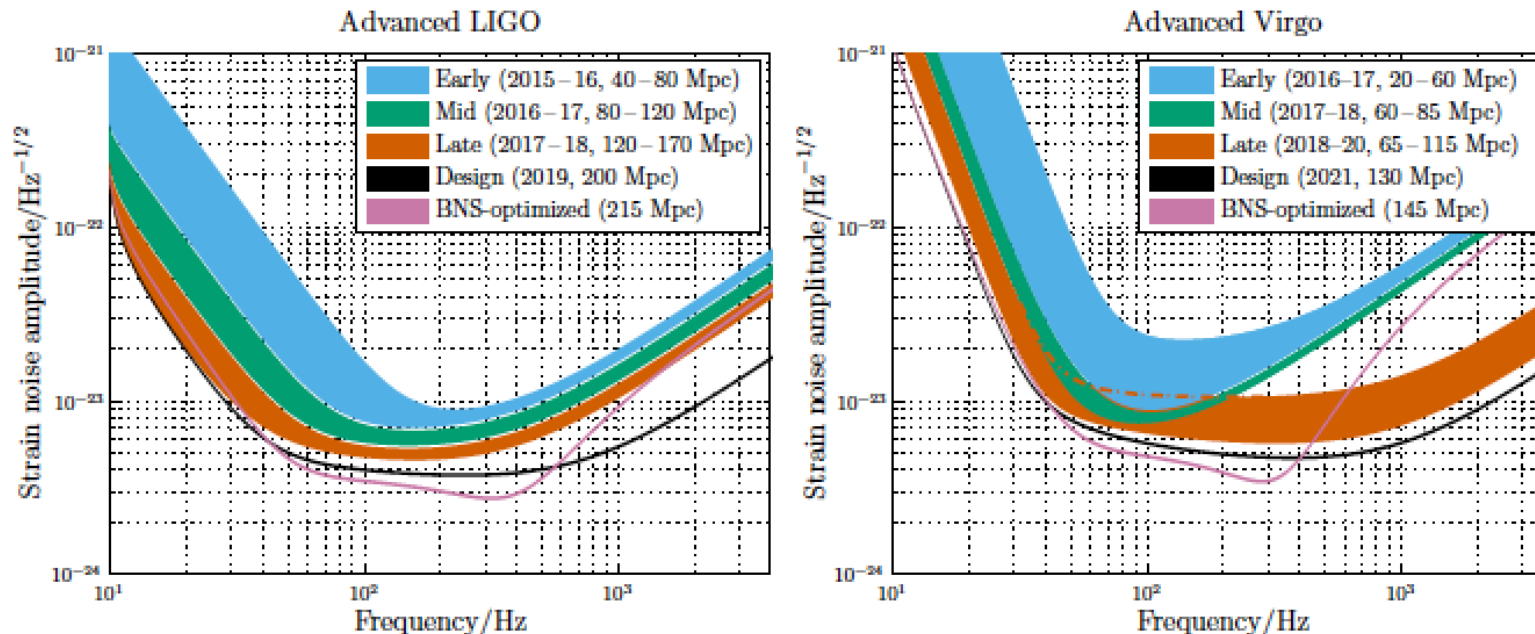
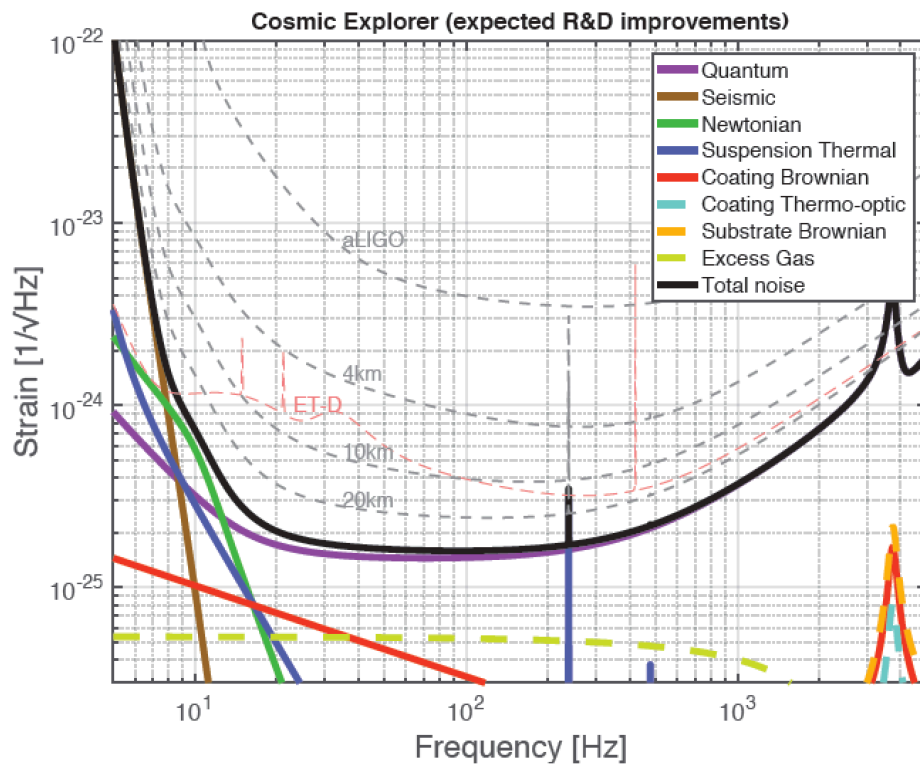
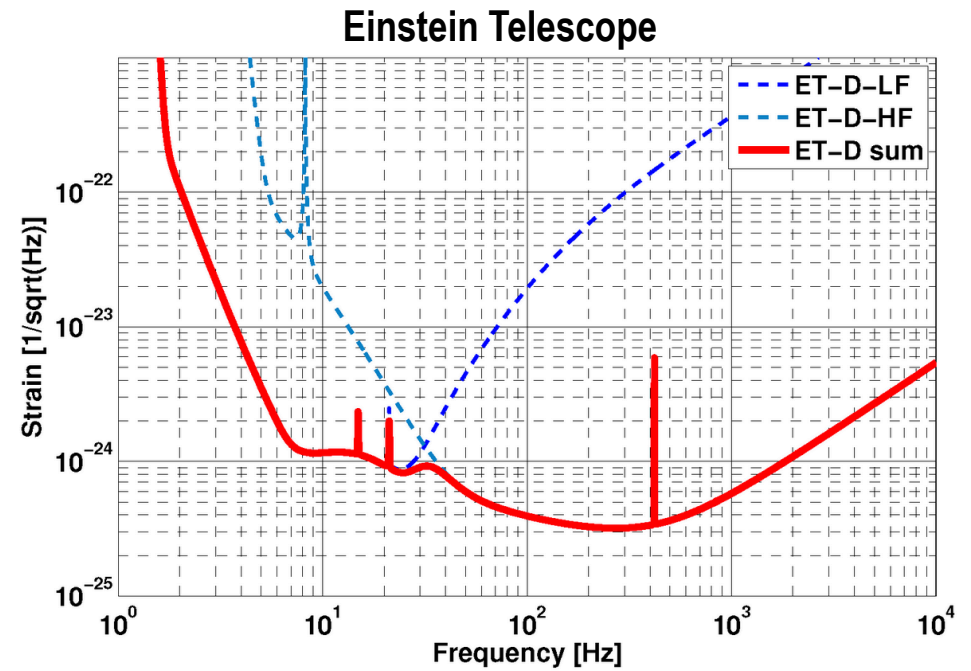


Figure 1: aLIGO (*left*) and Adv (*right*) target strain sensitivity as a function of frequency. The binary neutron-star (BNS) range, the average distance to which these signals could be detected, is given in megaparsec. Current notions of the progression of sensitivity are given for early, mid and late commissioning phases, as well as the final design sensitivity target and the BNS-optimized sensitivity. While both dates and sensitivity curves are subject to change, the overall progression represents our best current estimates.

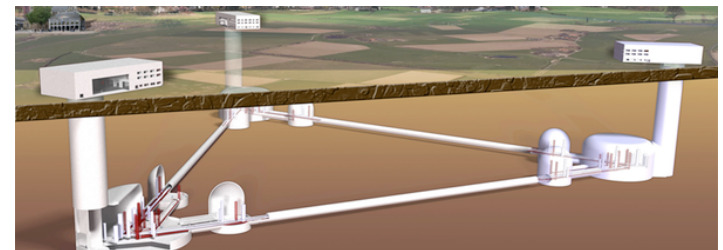
# The future: 3<sup>rd</sup> generation detectors



Class. Quantum Grav. 34 (2017) 044001



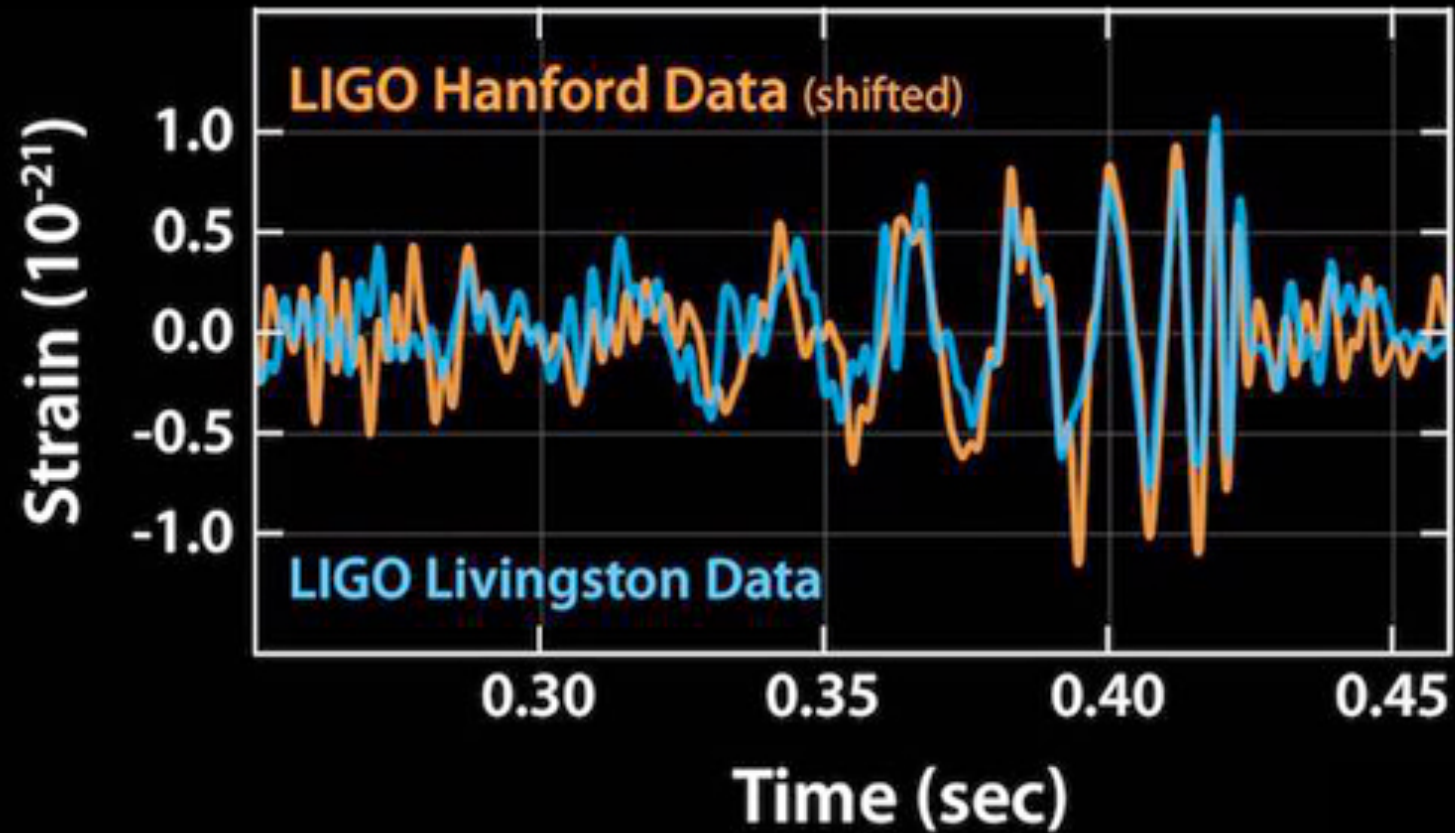
S.Hild et al., Classical and Quantum Gravity, 28 094013, 2011



<http://www.et-gw.eu/>

# Tomorrow: GW astronomy

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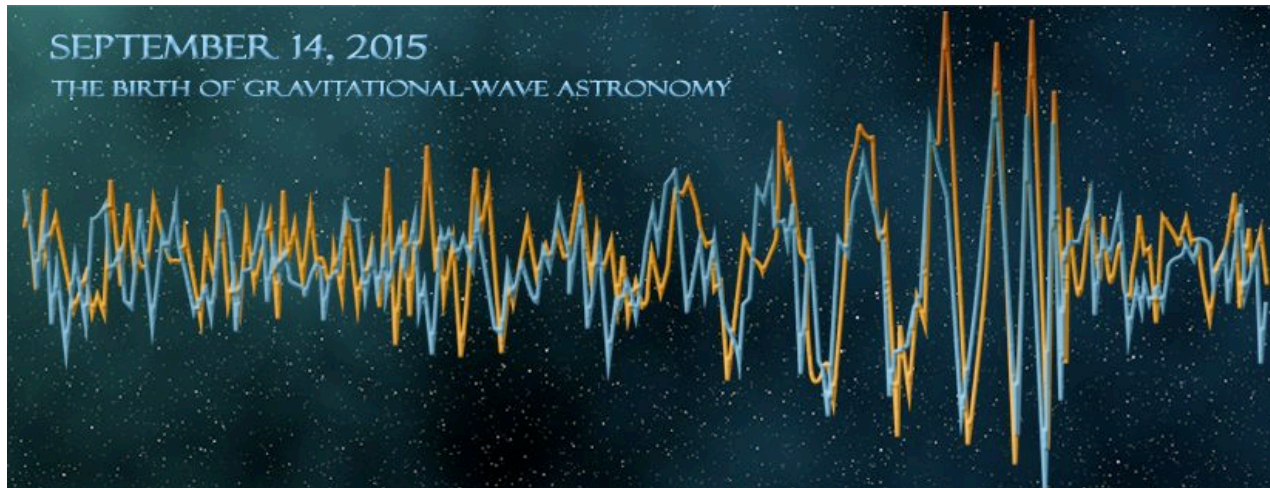


# Searching for – and finding! gravitational waves

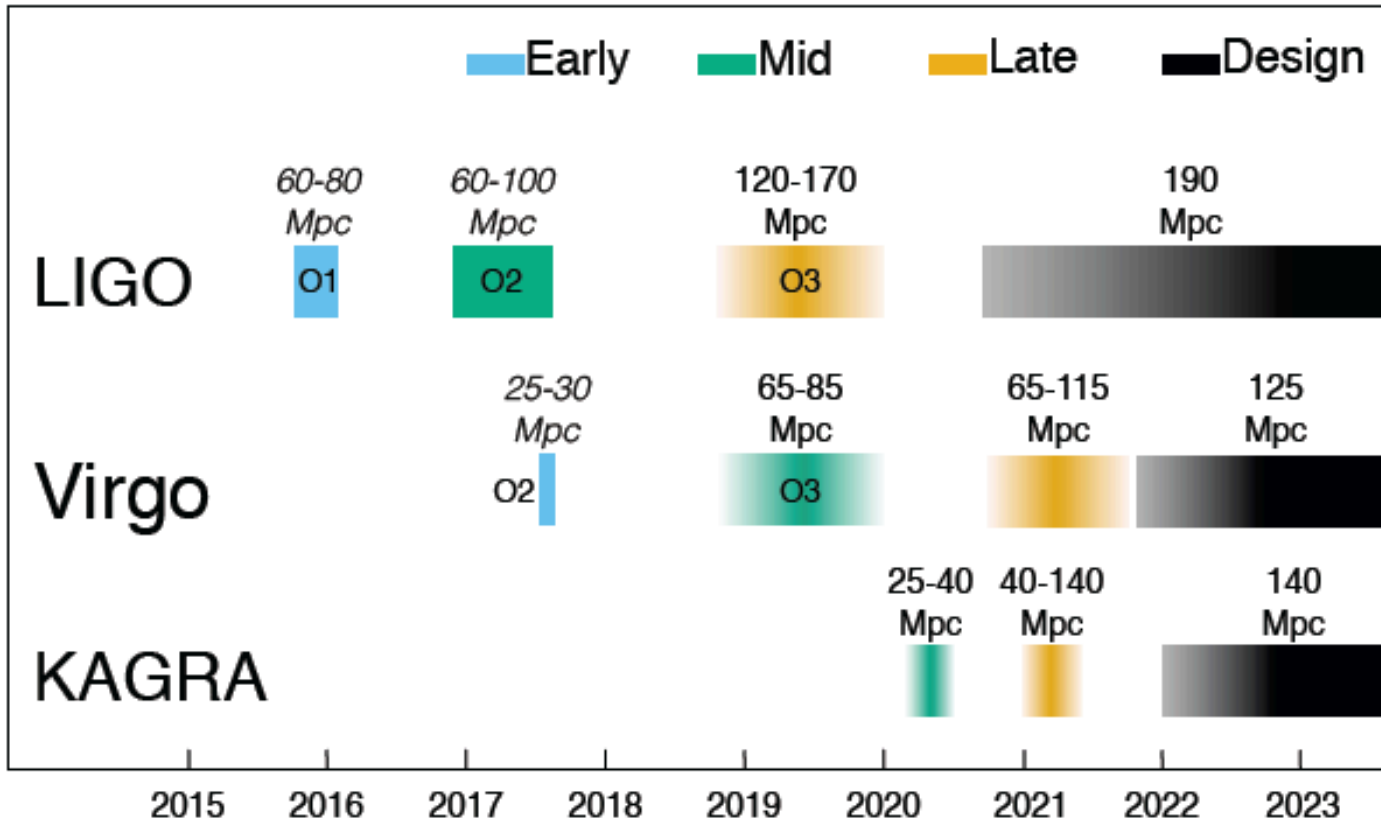
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Gabriela González  
Louisiana State University

International School of Cosmic Ray Physics  
Erice, Italy, August 5, 2018



# The next few years

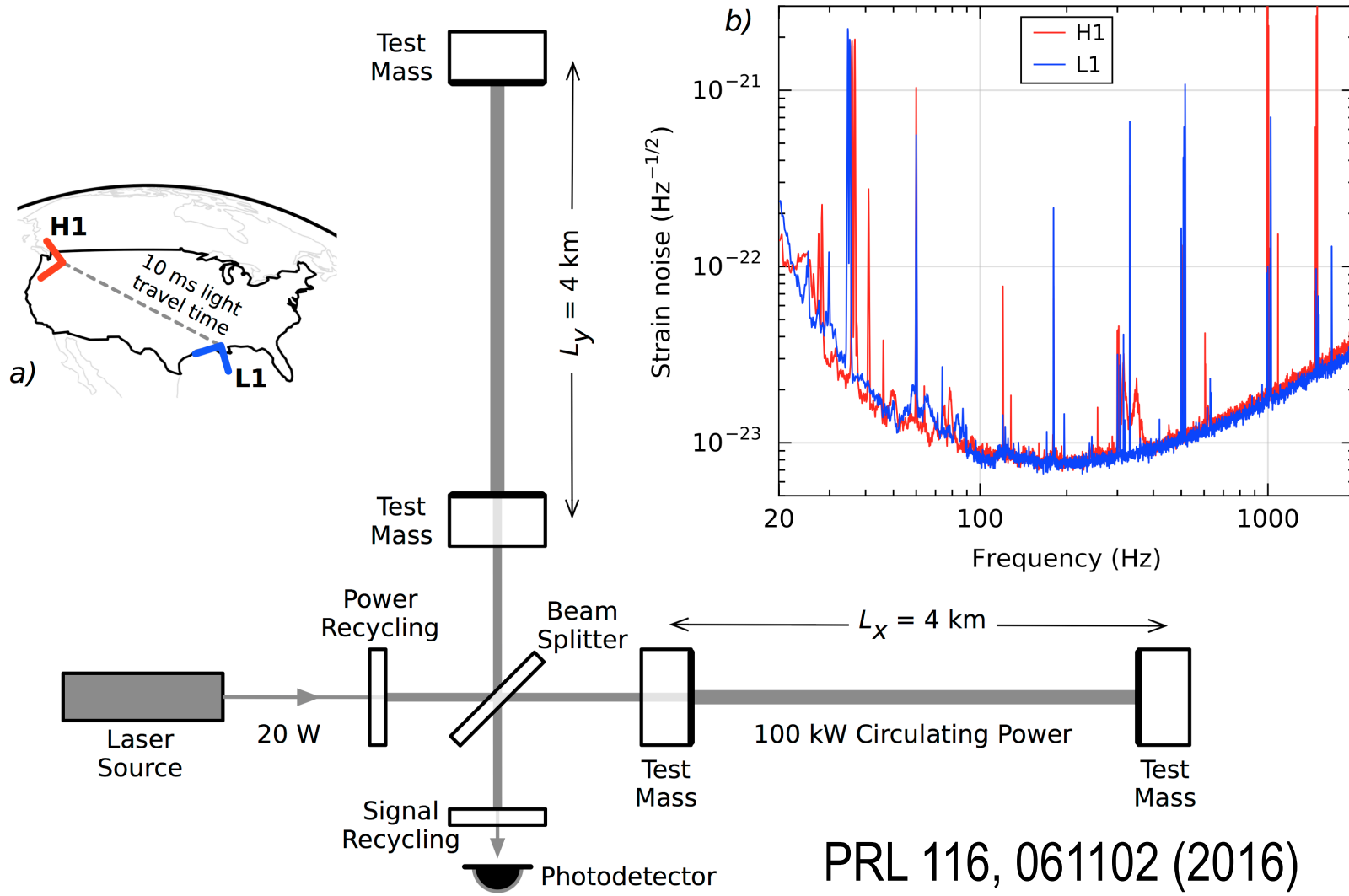


Prospects for Observing and Localizing Gravitational-Wave Transients with Advanced LIGO, Advanced Virgo and KAGRA

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1304.0670>

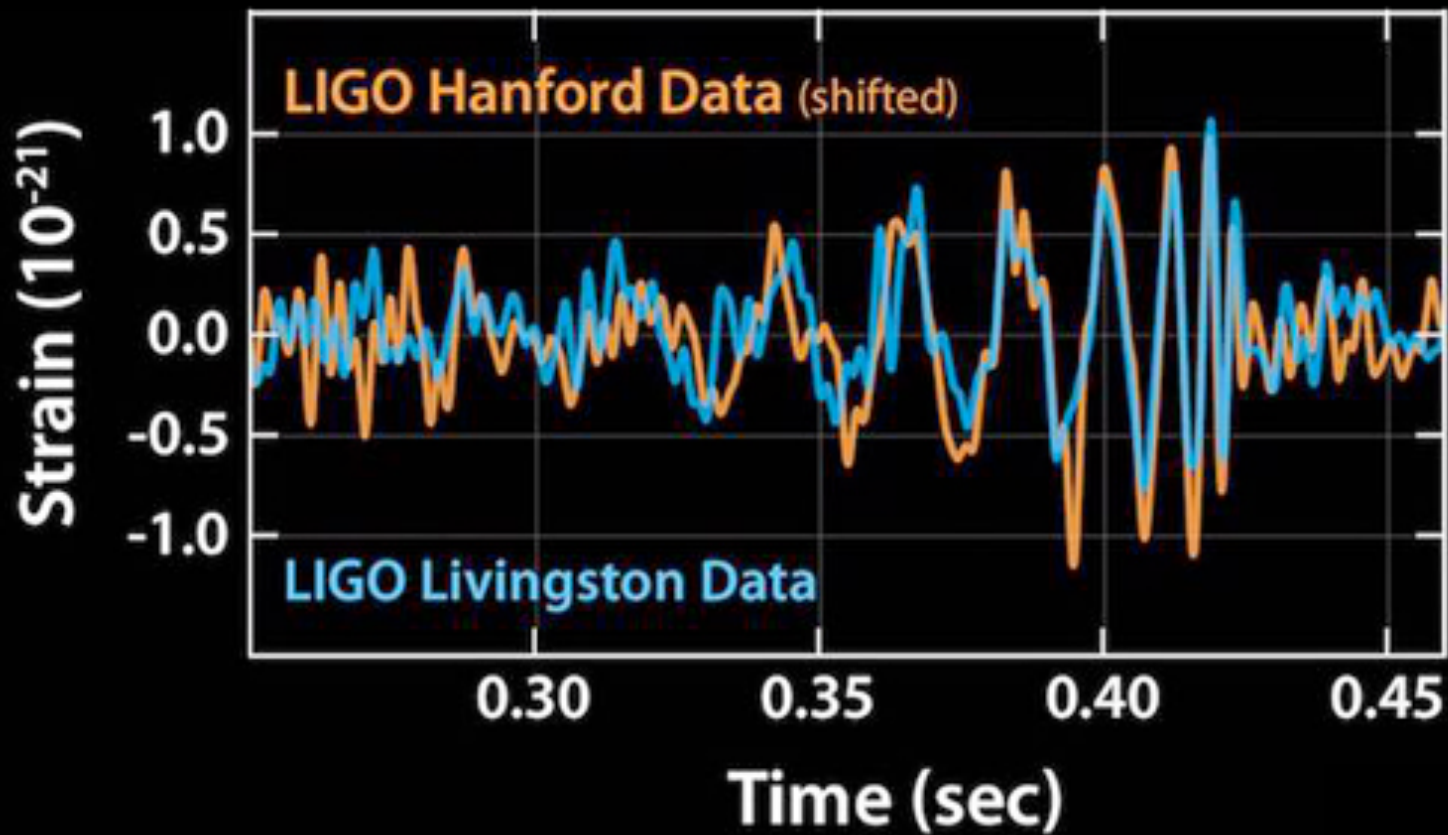
# Advanced LIGO detectors

## September 2015



On Sept 14 2015...

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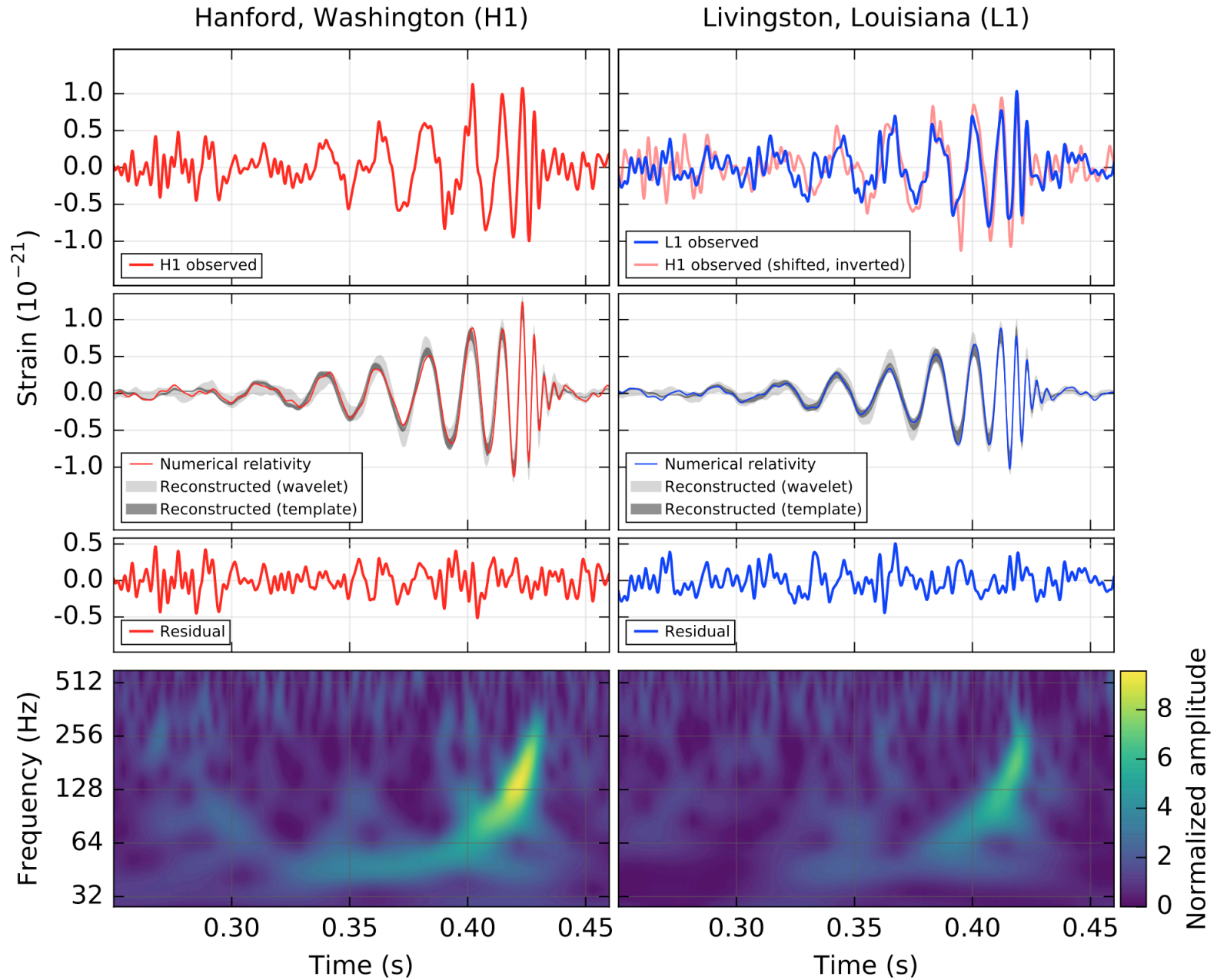


# 11 de Febrero, 2016: ¡We did it!



**International Day of Women and Girls in Science  
11 February**

# PRL 116, 061102 (2016)



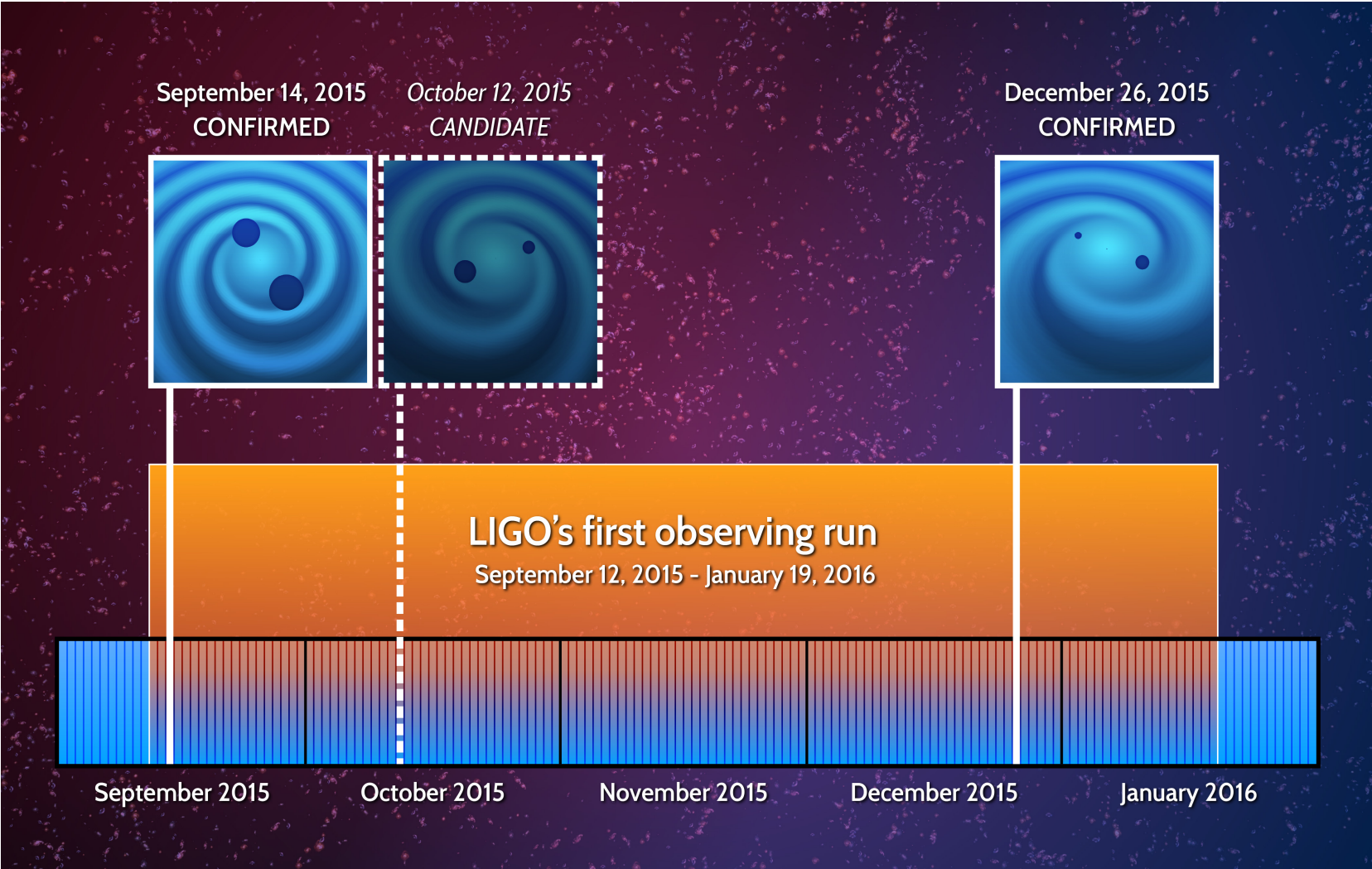
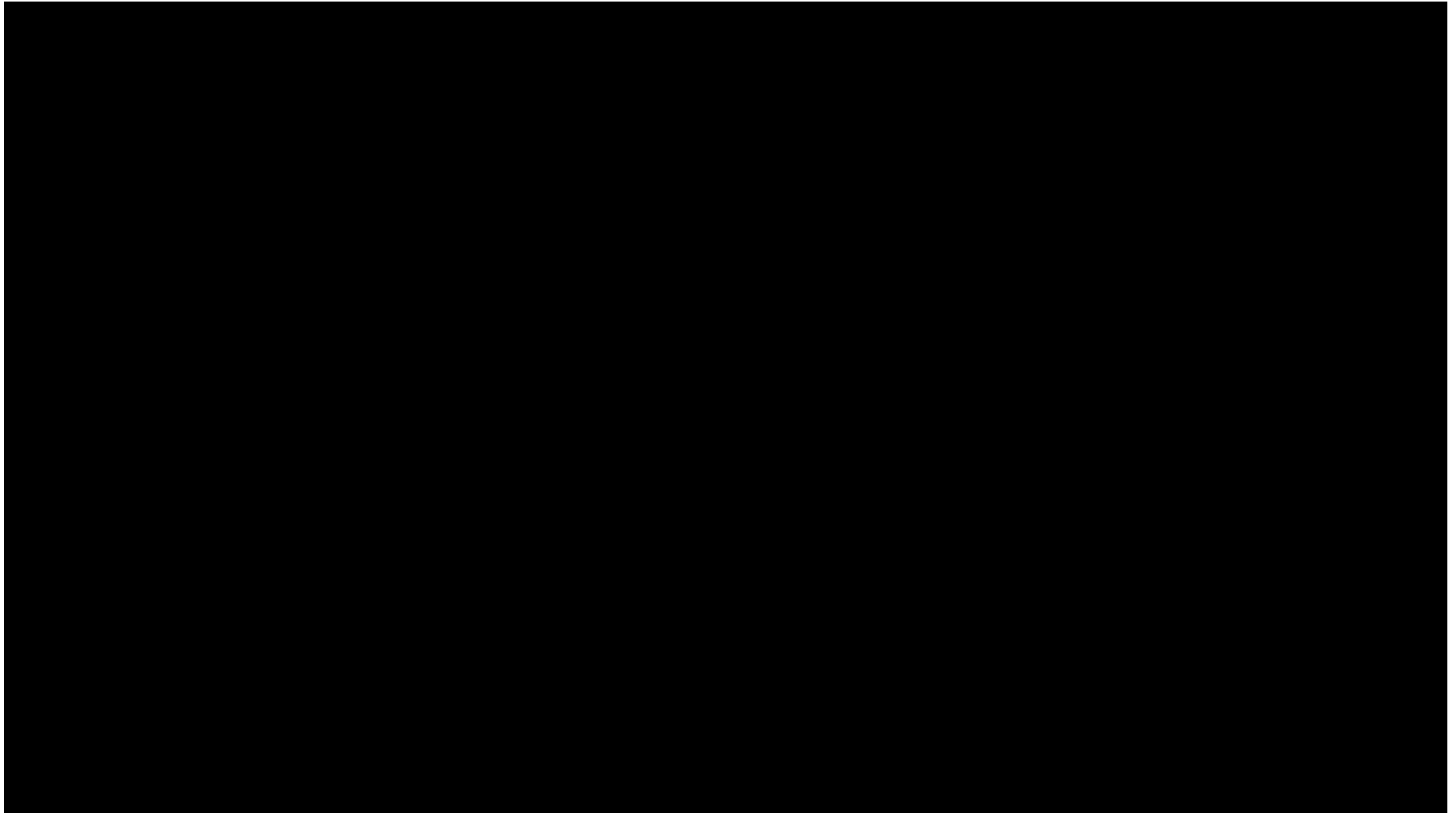


Image credit: LIGO

# Gravity's music

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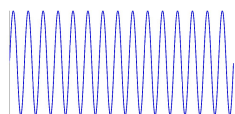




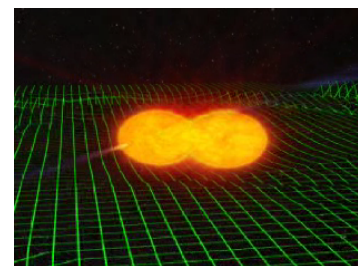
# Searching for gravitational waves



Crab pulsar (NASA, Chandra Observatory)

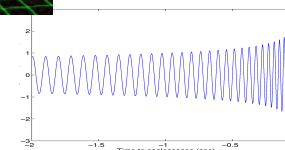


Periodic, continuous waves

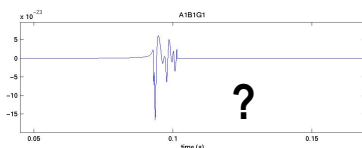


Credit: John Rowe

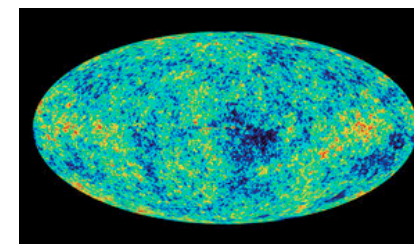
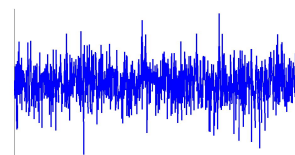
Binary systems with neutron stars and/or black holes



Short transients from supernova explosions or other sources



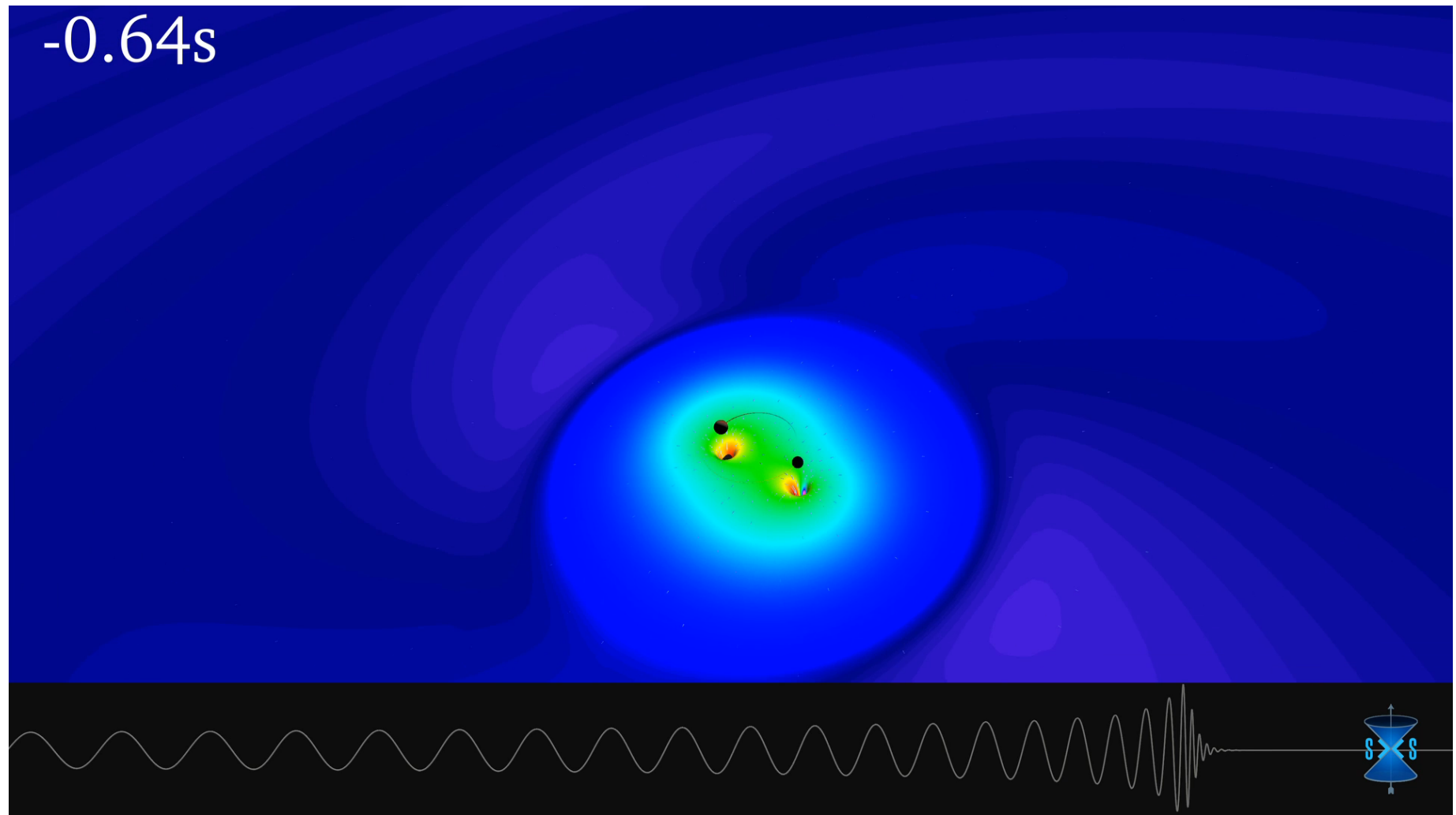
Stochastic background from many unresolved sources, or from the beginning of the Universe



NASA, WMAP

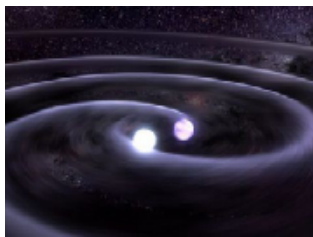
W49B composite;  
X-ray: NASA/CXC/MIT/L.Lopez et al.;  
Infrared: Palomar; Radio: NSF/NRAO/VLA

# A solution to Einstein's equations

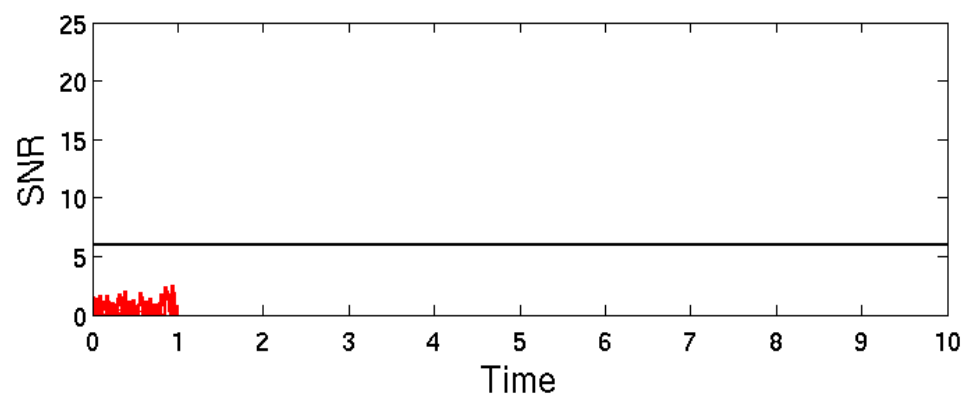
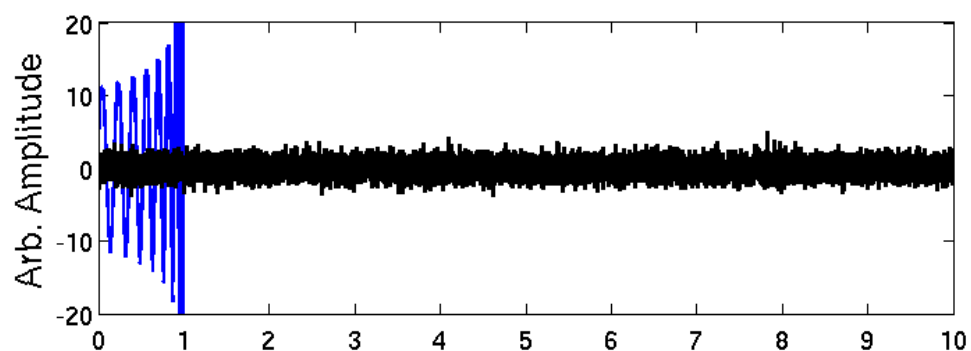


Animation created by SXS, the Simulating eXtreme Spacetimes (SXS) project (<http://www.black-holes.org>)

# Matched filtering in action

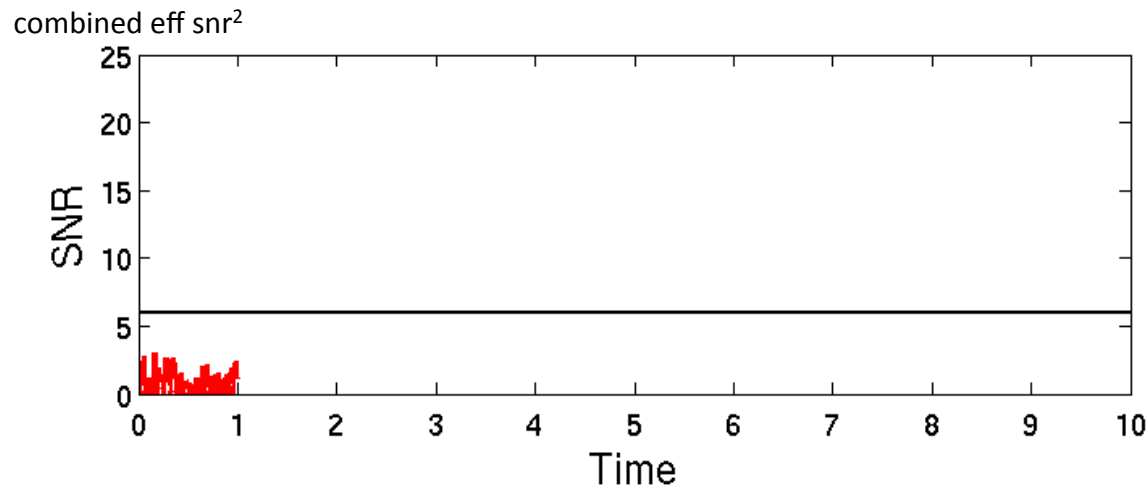
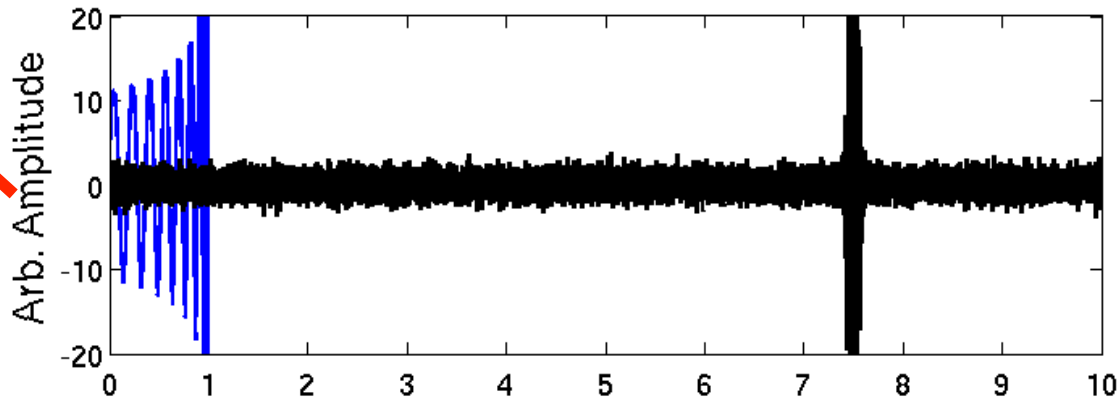


A signal with SNR 20 is not obvious in time series –  
but it is huge in matched filtering :



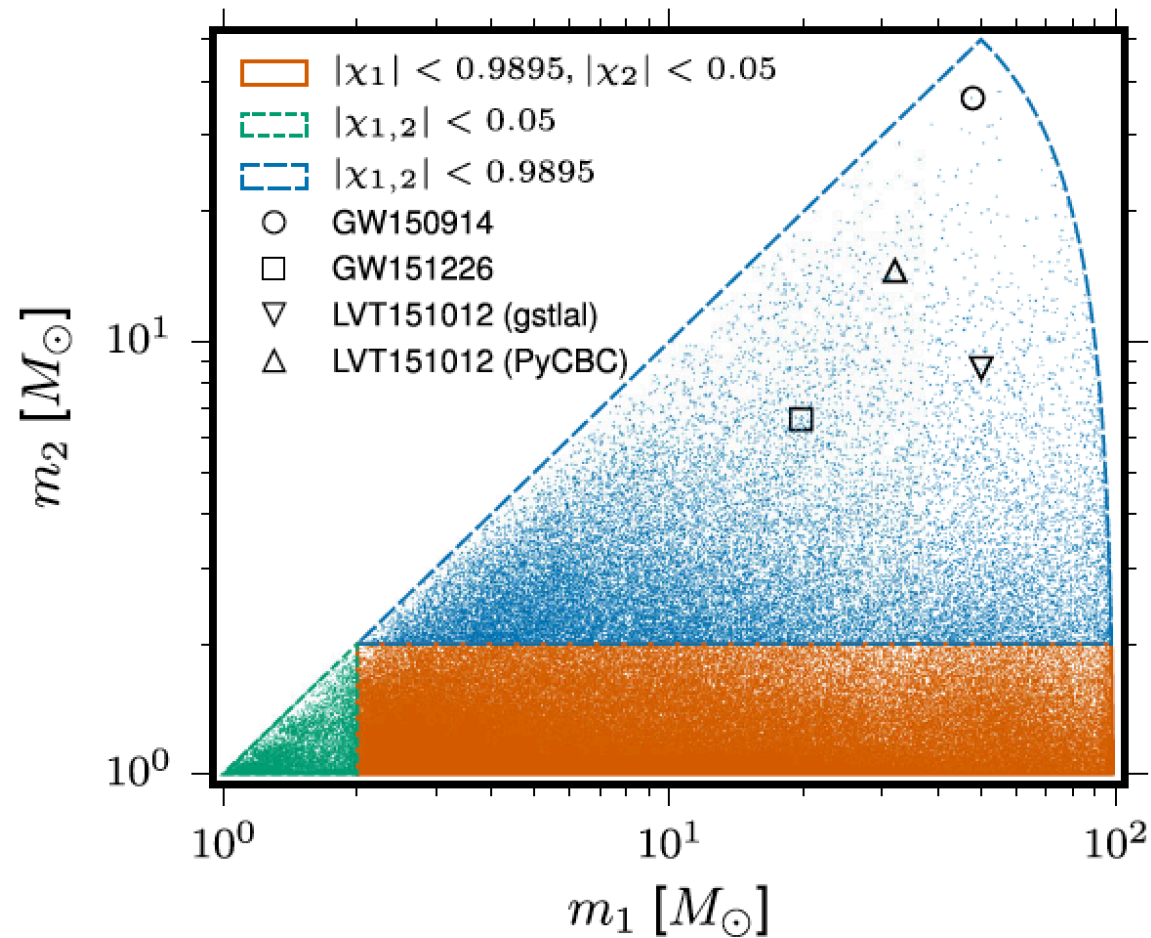
Animation by Chad Hanna

# How to get misled by matched filtering in non-gaussian noise



Animation by Chad Hanna

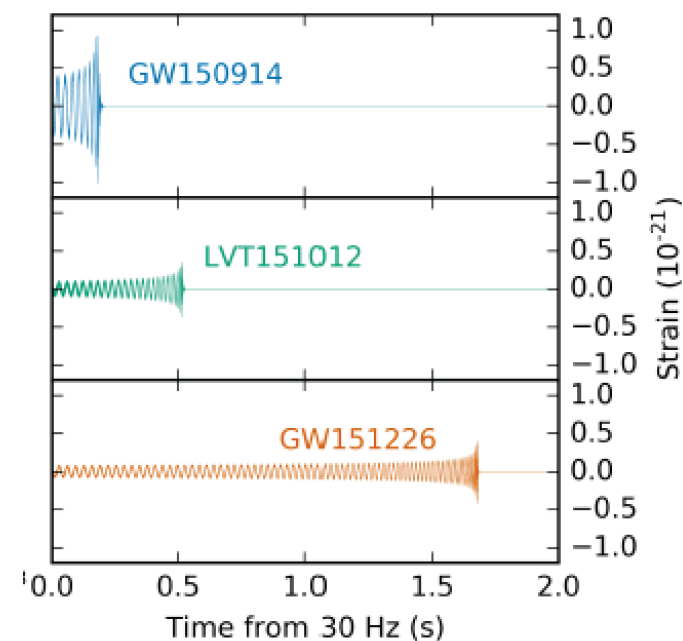
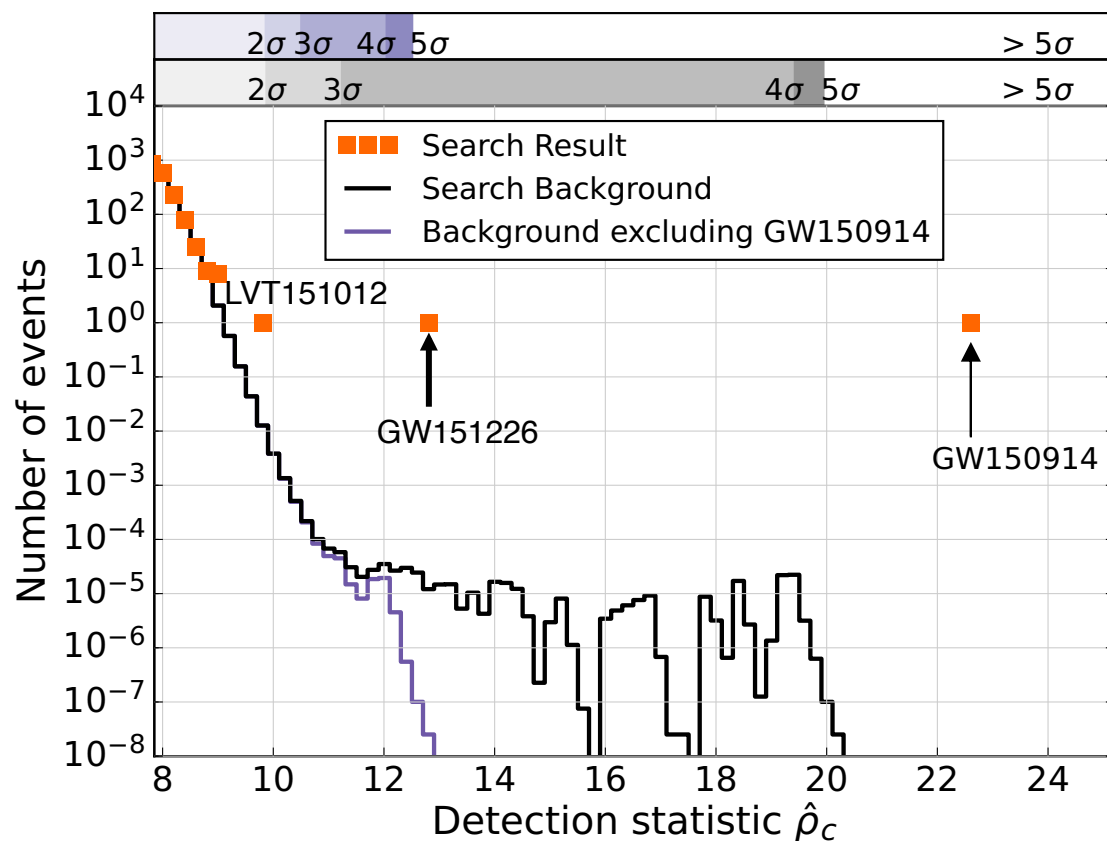
# Searching and finding waveforms



[Phys. Rev. X 6, 041015 \(2016\)](#)

# O1 BBH search

Search for binary black holes systems with black holes larger than  $2 M_{\odot}$  and total mass less than  $100 M_{\odot}$ , in O1 (Sep 12, 2015-Jan 19, 2016,  $\sim 48$  days of coincident data)



[Phys. Rev. X 6, 041015 \(2016\)](#)

# GW150914: also found as a “burst”

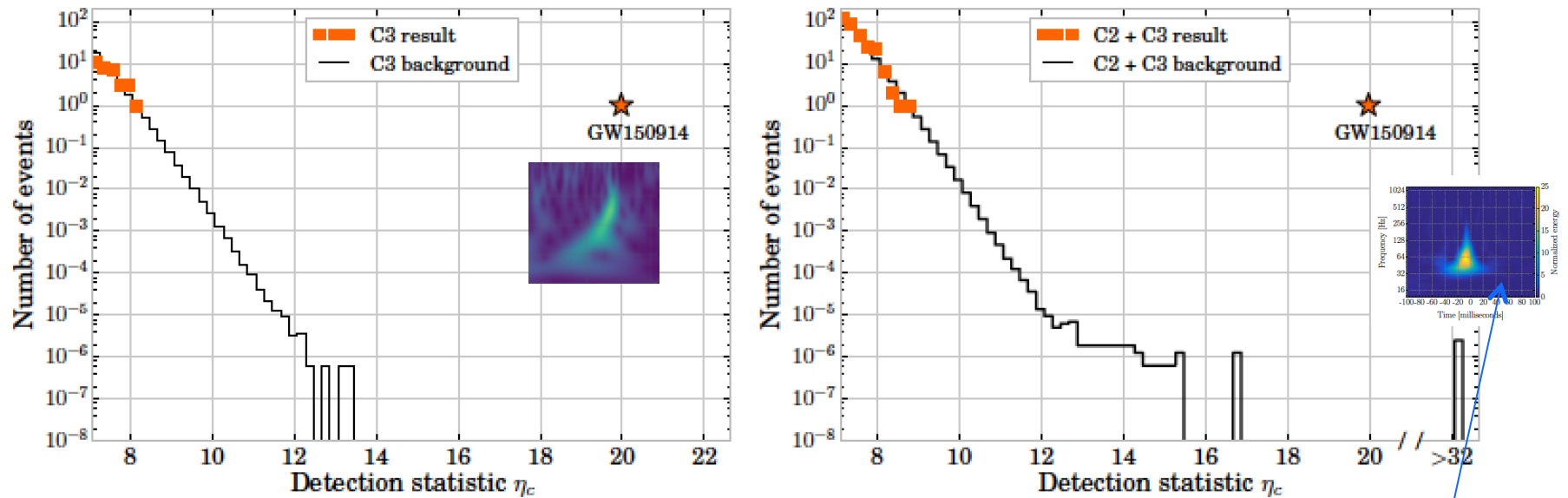


FIG. 2. Search results (in orange) and expected number of background events (black) in 16 day of the observation time as a function of the cWB detection statistic (bin size 0.2) for the  $C3$  search class (left) and  $C2 + C3$  search class (right). The black curve shows the total number of background events found in 67 400 years of data, rescaled to 16 days of observation time. The orange star represents GW150914, found in the  $C3$  search class.

“blip glitch”

Classical and Quantum Gravity  
33, 134001 (2016)

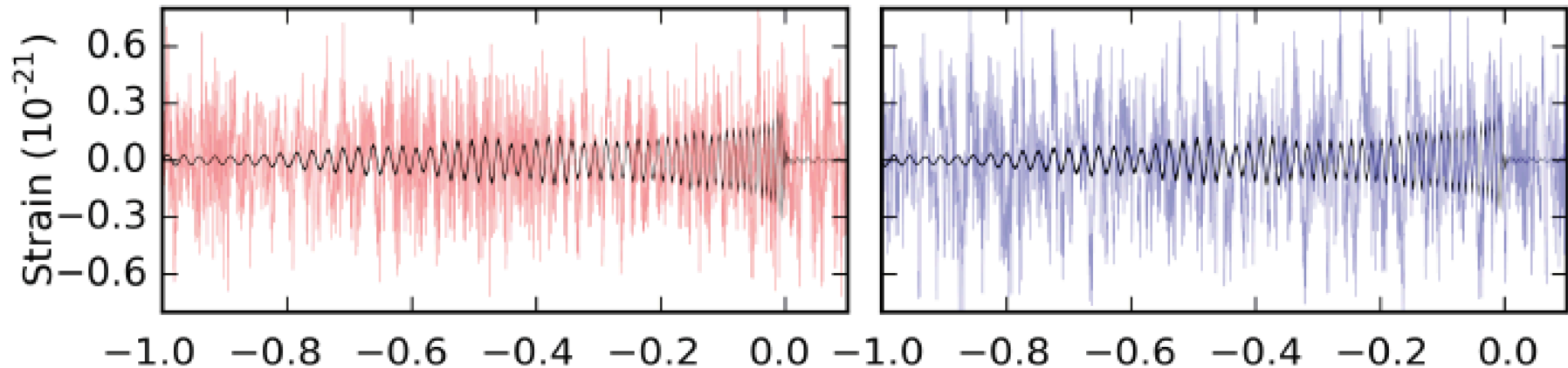
Phys. Rev. D 93, 122004 (2016)

# GW151226: not so obvious!

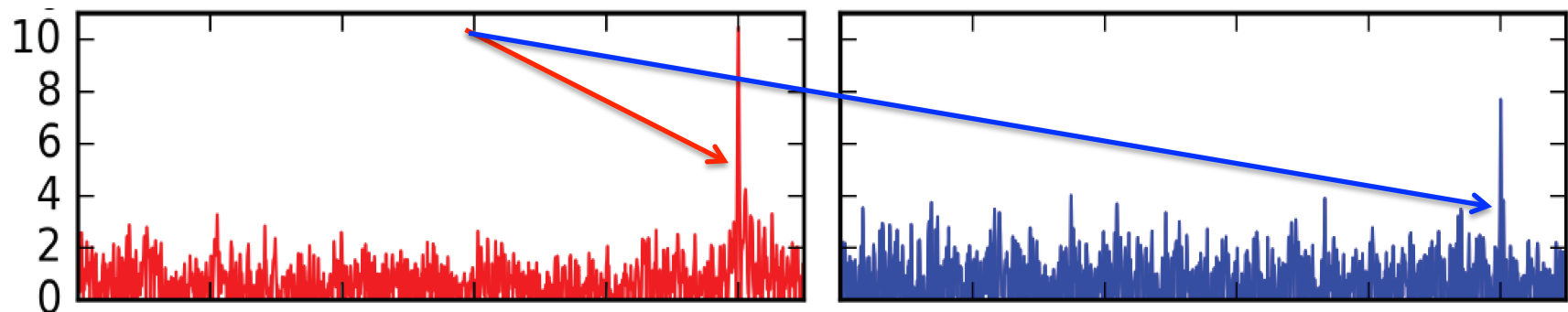
Filtered detector output and filtered best matching waveform

Hanford

Livingston



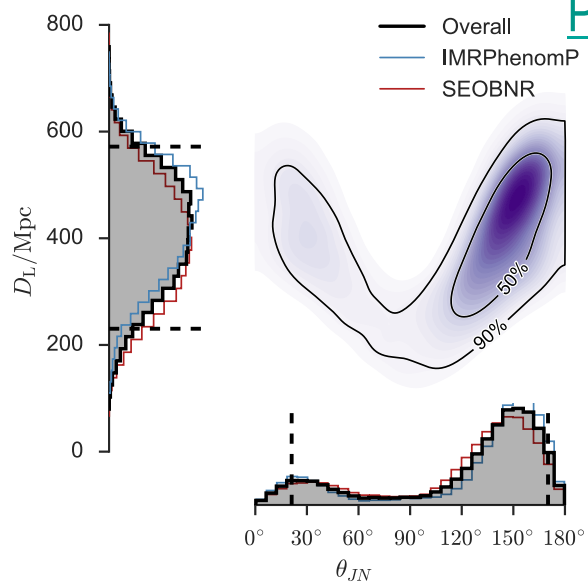
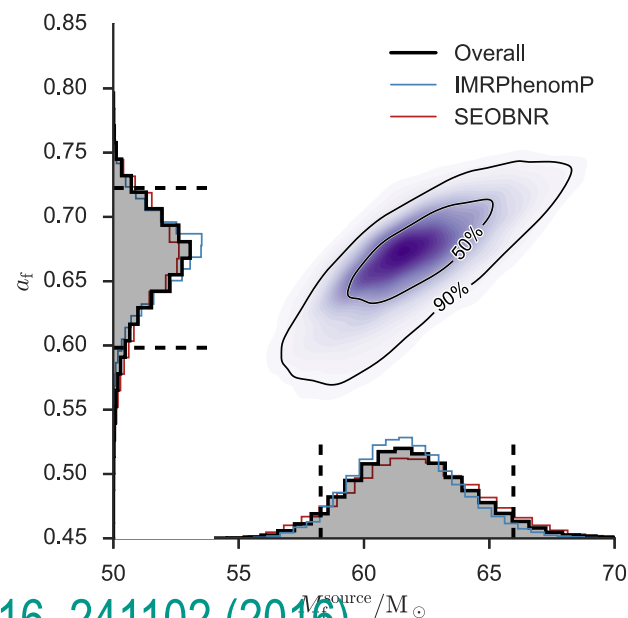
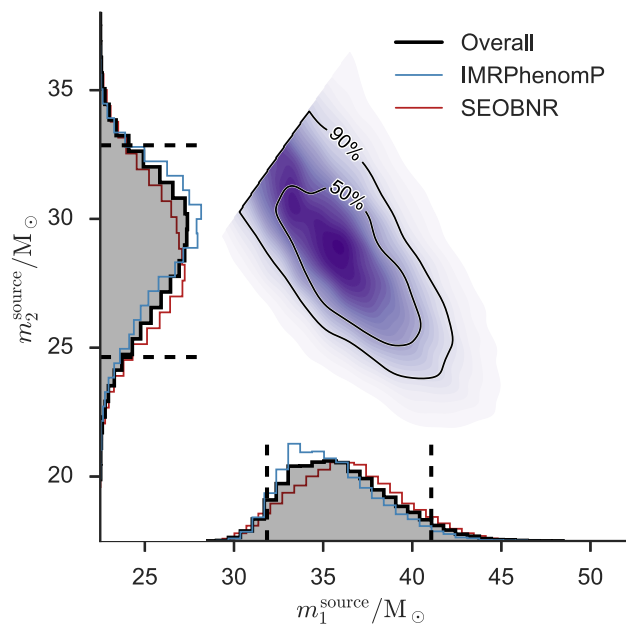
Signal-to-noise (SNR) when best template matches at coalescence time



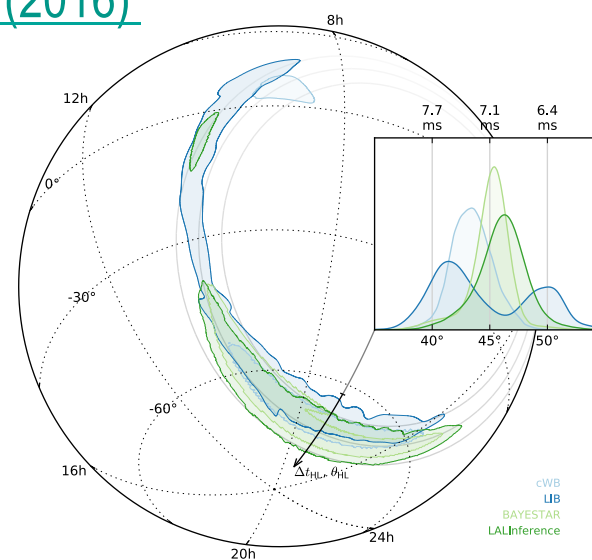
Phys. Rev. Lett. **116**, 241103 (2016)



# Finding parameters: GW150914



[Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 241102 \(2016\)](#)



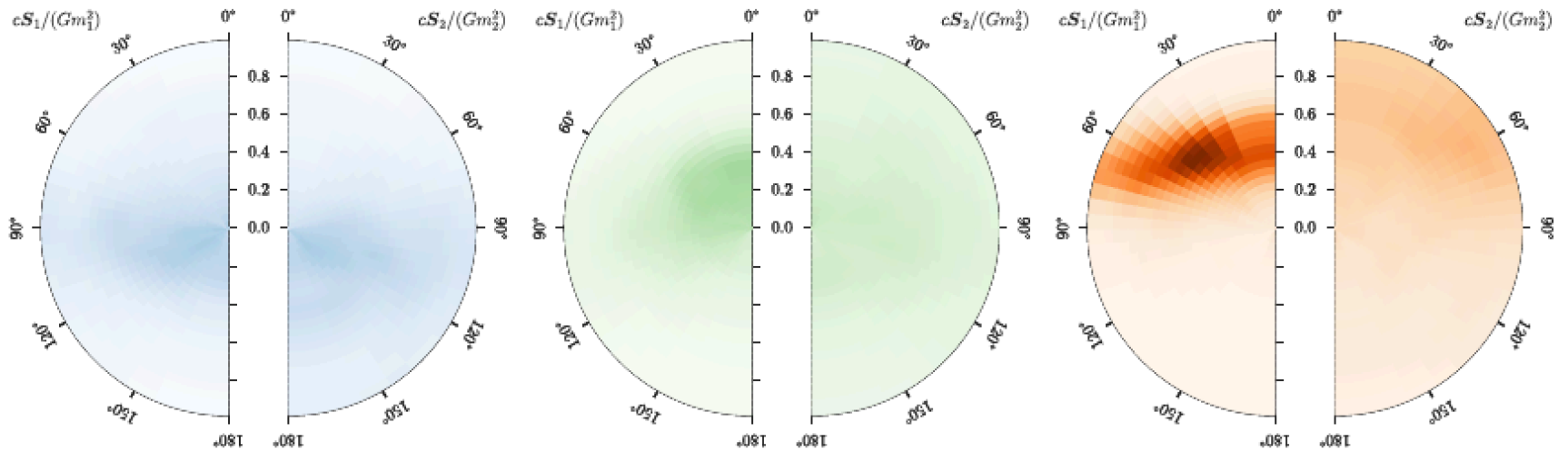
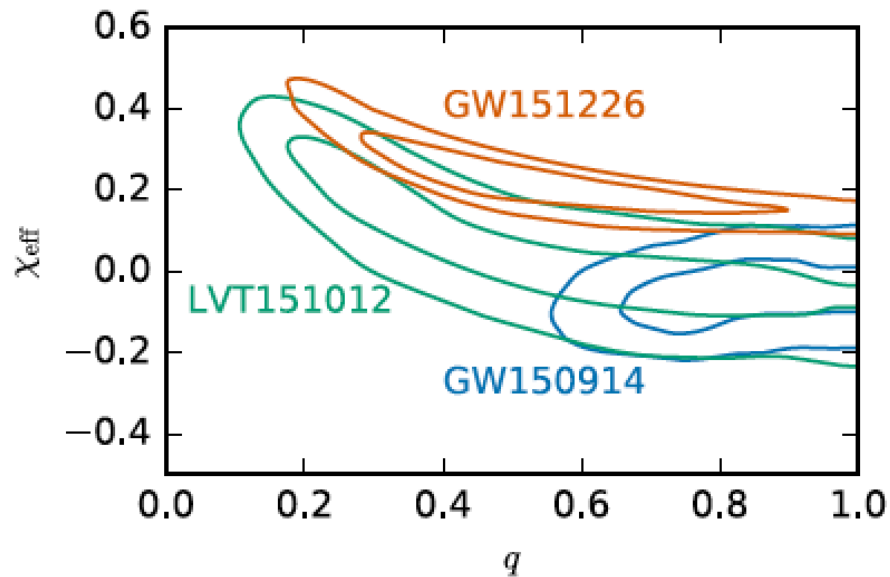
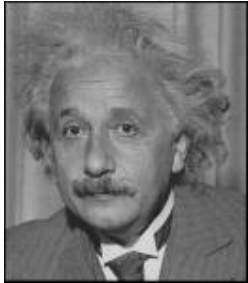


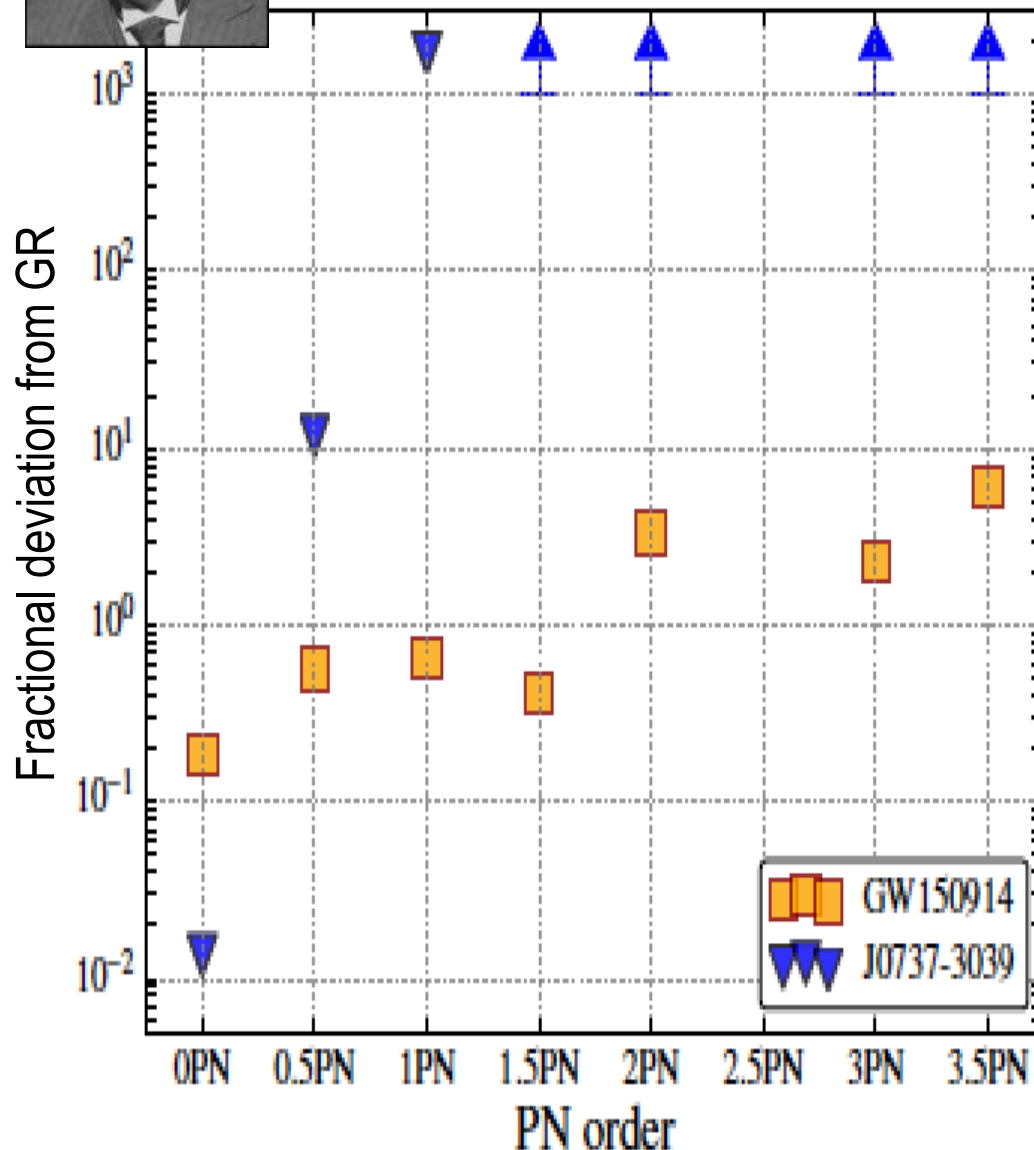
FIG. 5. Posterior probability distributions for the dimensionless component spins  $cS_1/(Gm_1^2)$  and  $cS_2/(Gm_2^2)$  relative to the normal to the orbital plane  $L$ , marginalized over the azimuthal angles. The bins are constructed linearly in spin magnitude and the cosine of the tilt angles, and therefore have equal prior probability. The left plot shows the distribution for GW150914, the middle plot is for LVT151012, and the right plot is for GW151226.



$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \left( \frac{\mathbf{S}_1}{m_1} + \frac{\mathbf{S}_2}{m_2} \right) \cdot \left( \frac{\hat{\mathbf{L}}}{M} \right)$$



# Testing General Relativity



[Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 221101 \(2016\)](#)

Binary pulsars tests:

$$\dot{P} \sim -10^{-14} - 10^{-12}$$

$$v/c \sim 2 \times 10^{-3}$$

BBH coalescence:

$$\dot{P} \sim -0.1 - 1.0$$

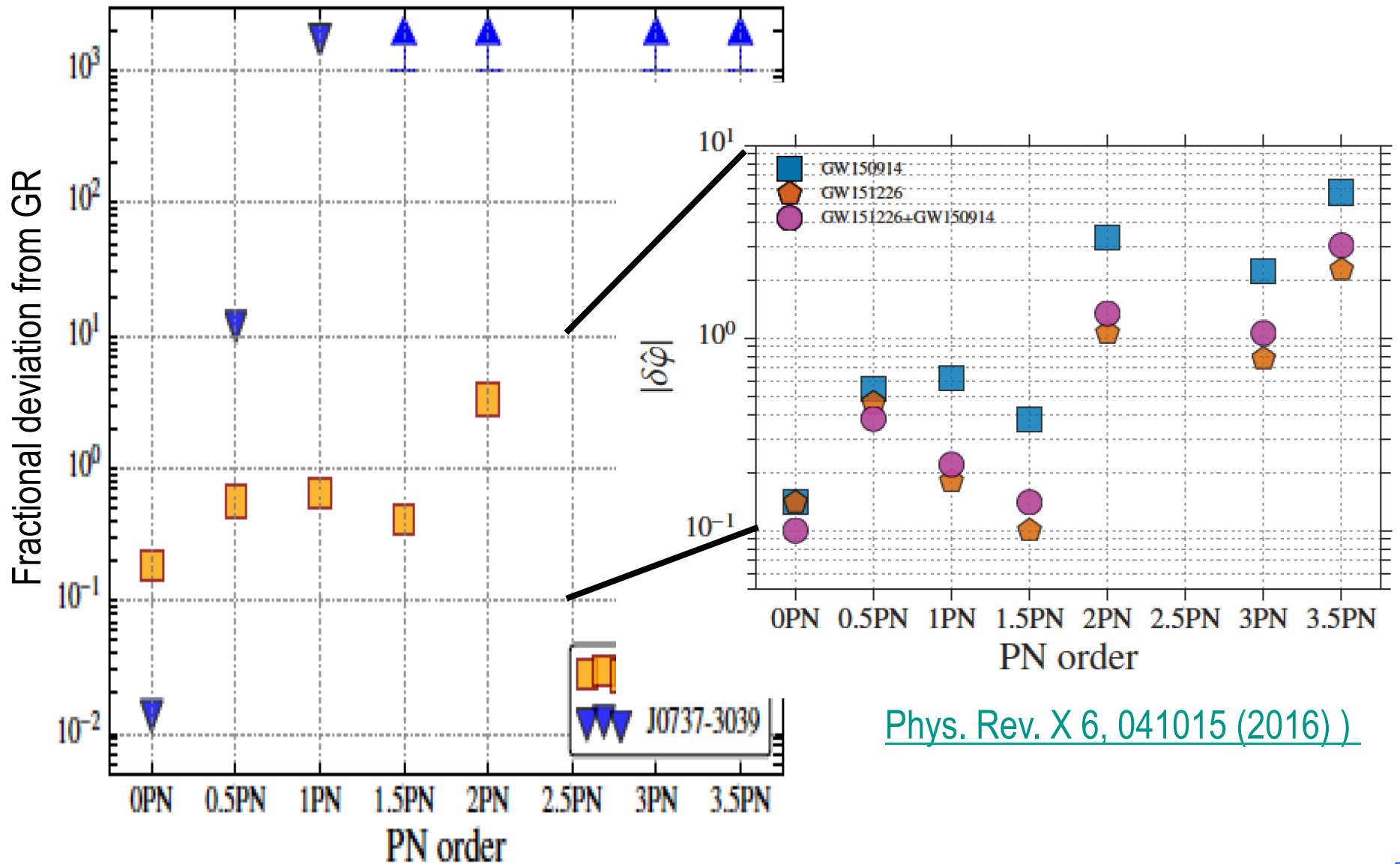
$$v/c \sim 0.5$$

$$\tilde{h}(f) = \mathcal{A}(f)e^{i\varphi(f)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(f) = & \varphi_{\text{ref}} + 2\pi f t_{\text{ref}} + \varphi_{\text{Newt}}(Mf)^{-5/3} \\ & + \varphi_{0.5\text{PN}}(Mf)^{-4/3} + \varphi_{1\text{PN}}(Mf)^{-1} \\ & + \varphi_{1.5\text{PN}}(Mf)^{-2/3} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

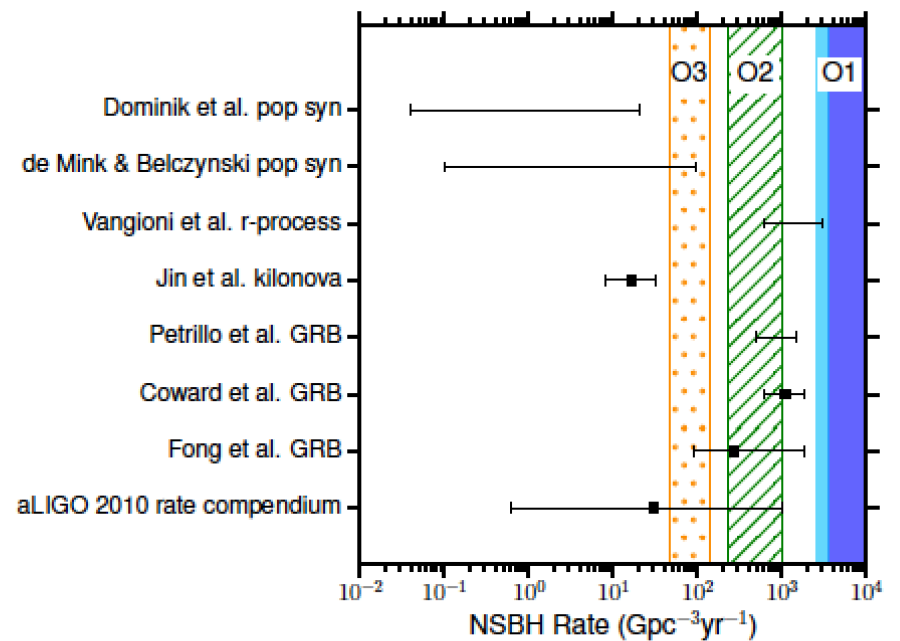
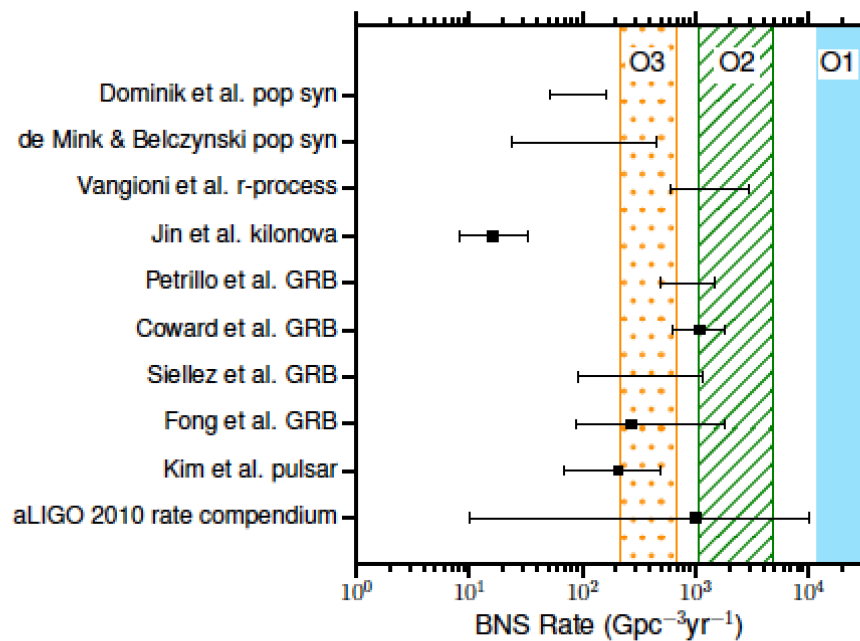
(Arun et al. 06 , Mishra et al. 10,  
Yunes & Pretorius 09, Li et al. 12)

# Testing General Relativity



[Phys. Rev. X 6, 041015 \(2016\)](#)

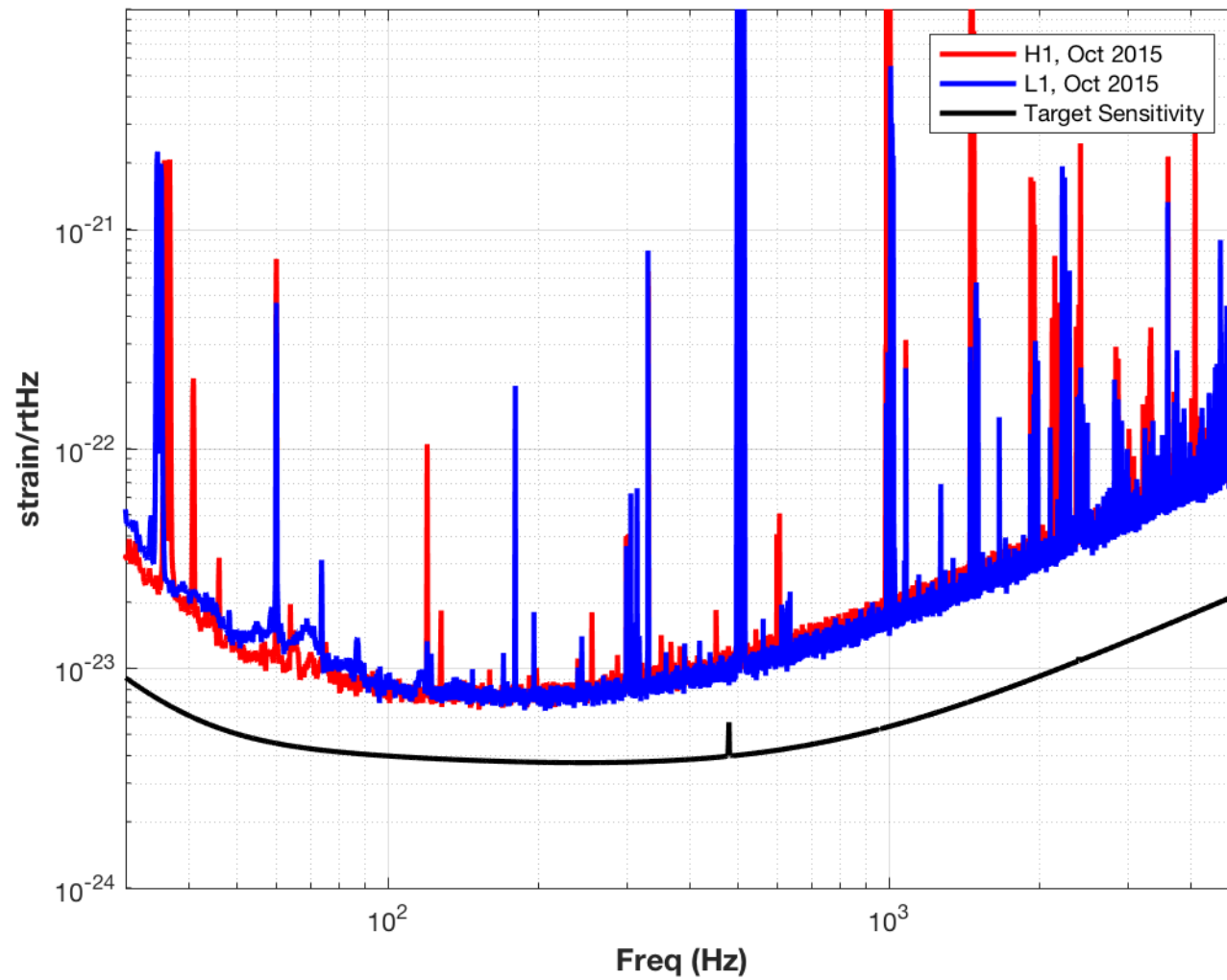
# BNS/NSBH (null) O1 searches



[ApJL, L21 \(2016\)](#)

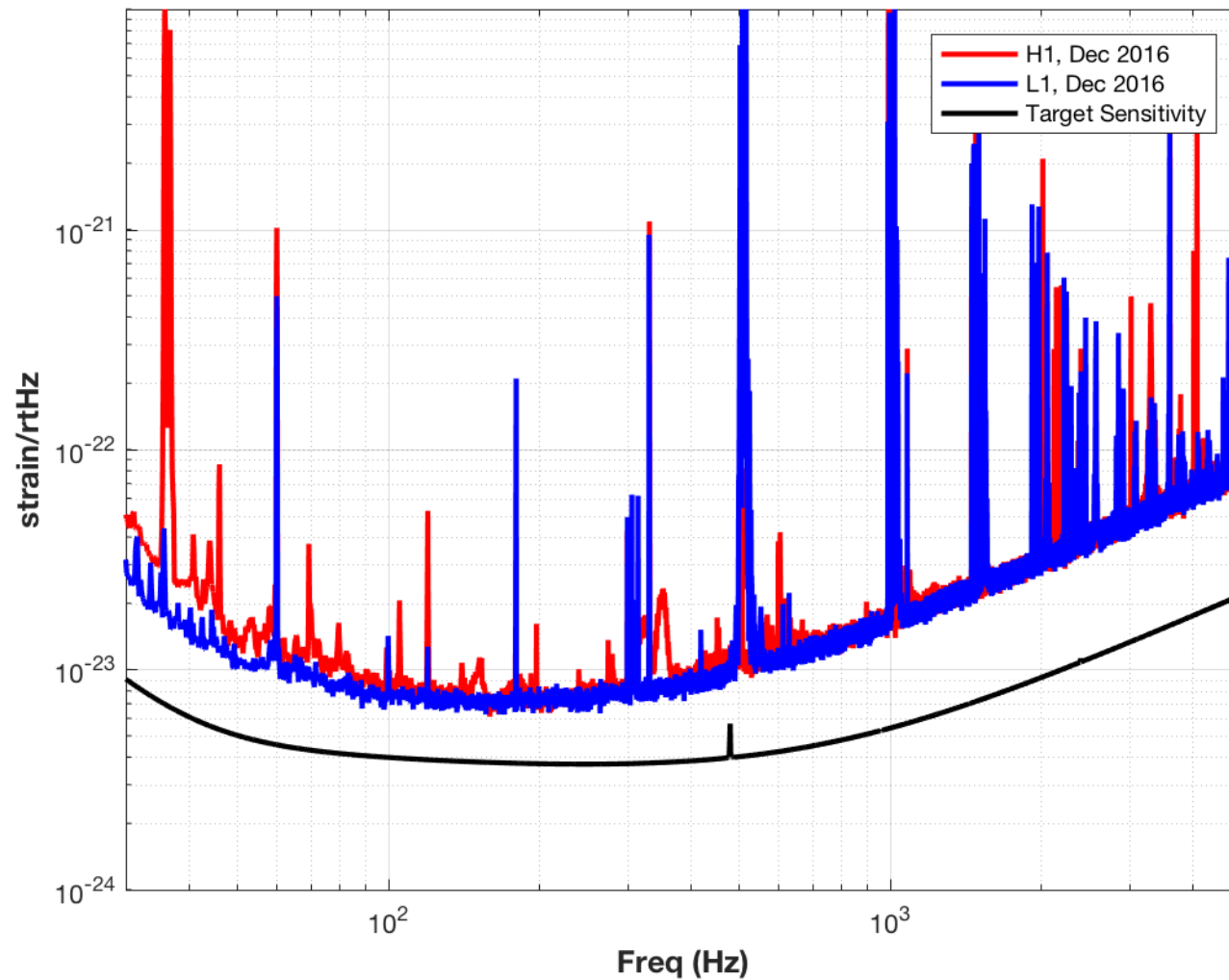
# Noise where the signal hides: 01-02

---

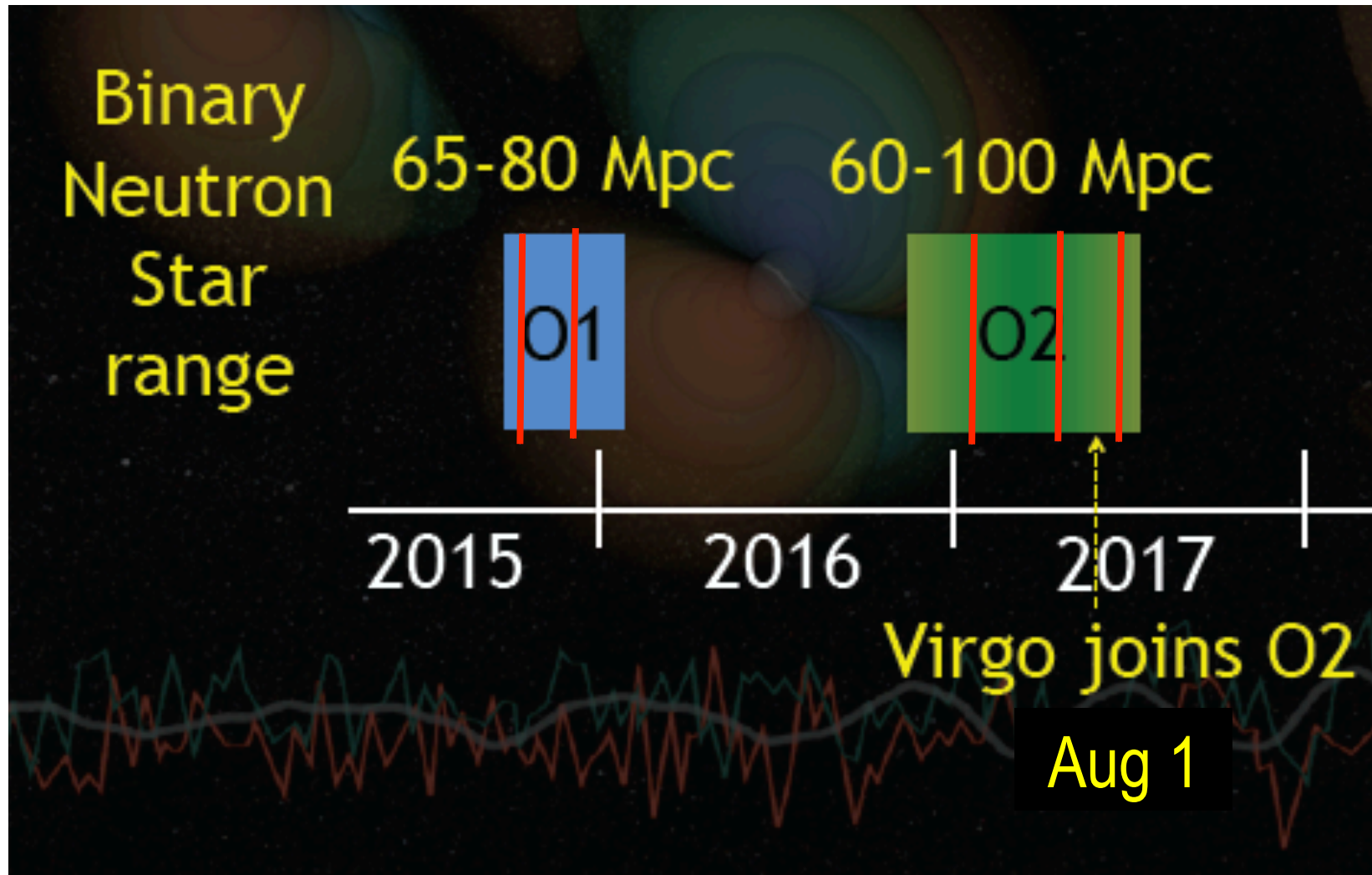


# Noise where the signal hides: O1-O2

---

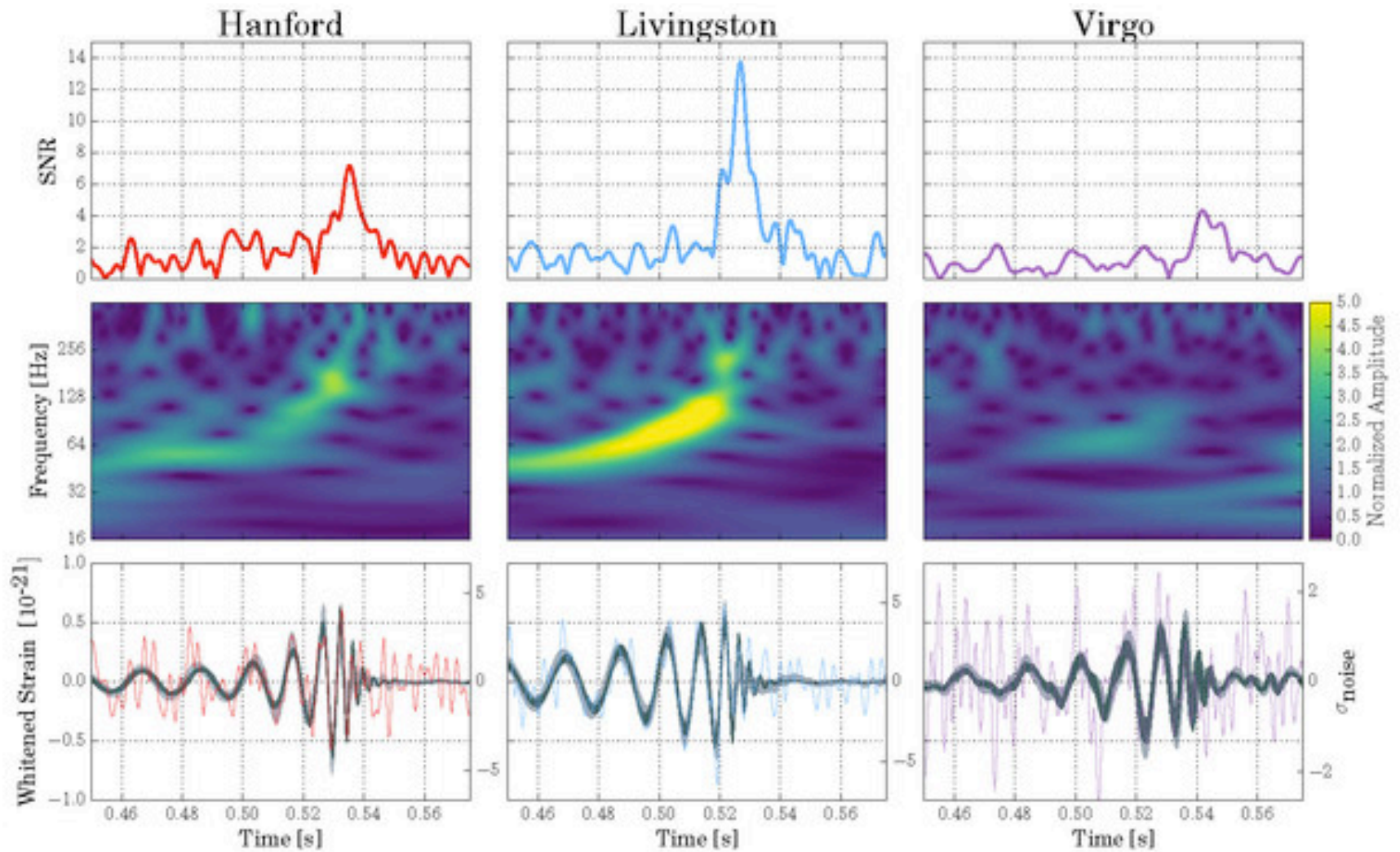


# Second Observing run: started Nov 30, 2016





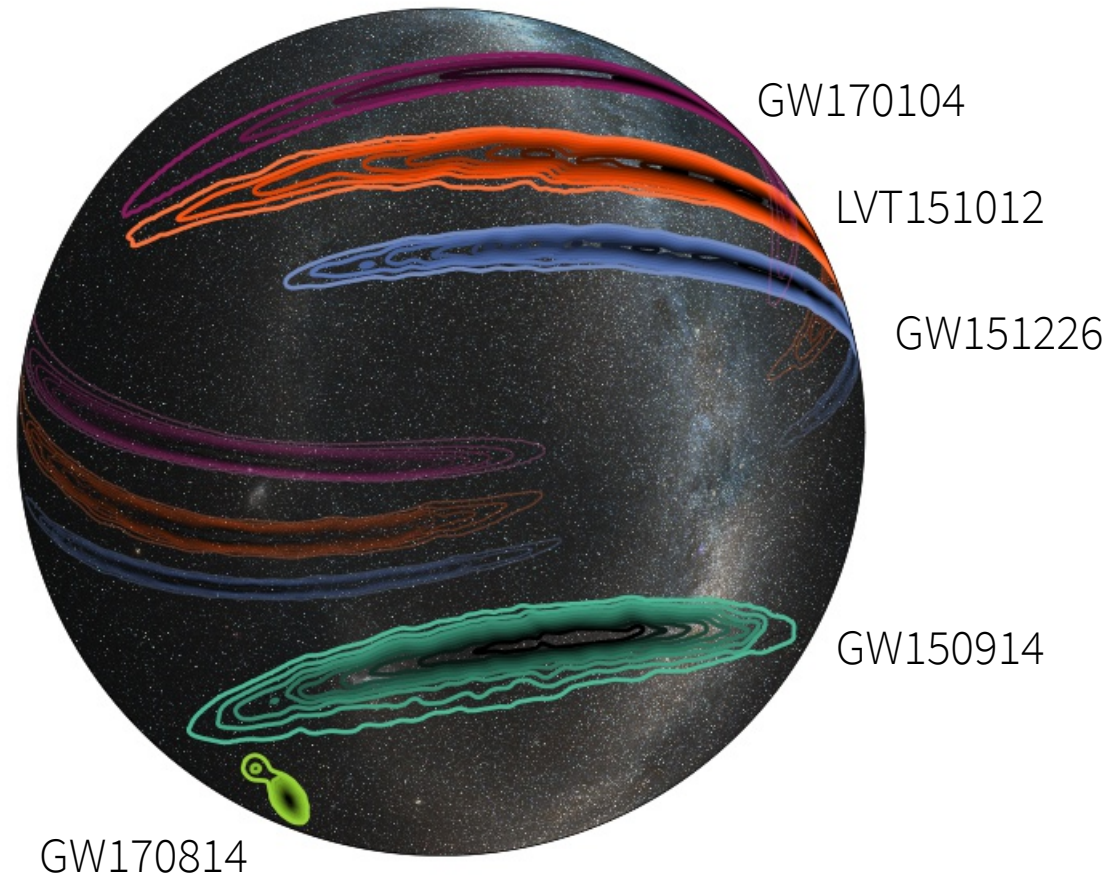
# GW170814



[Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 141101 \(2017\)](#)

# Sky localization

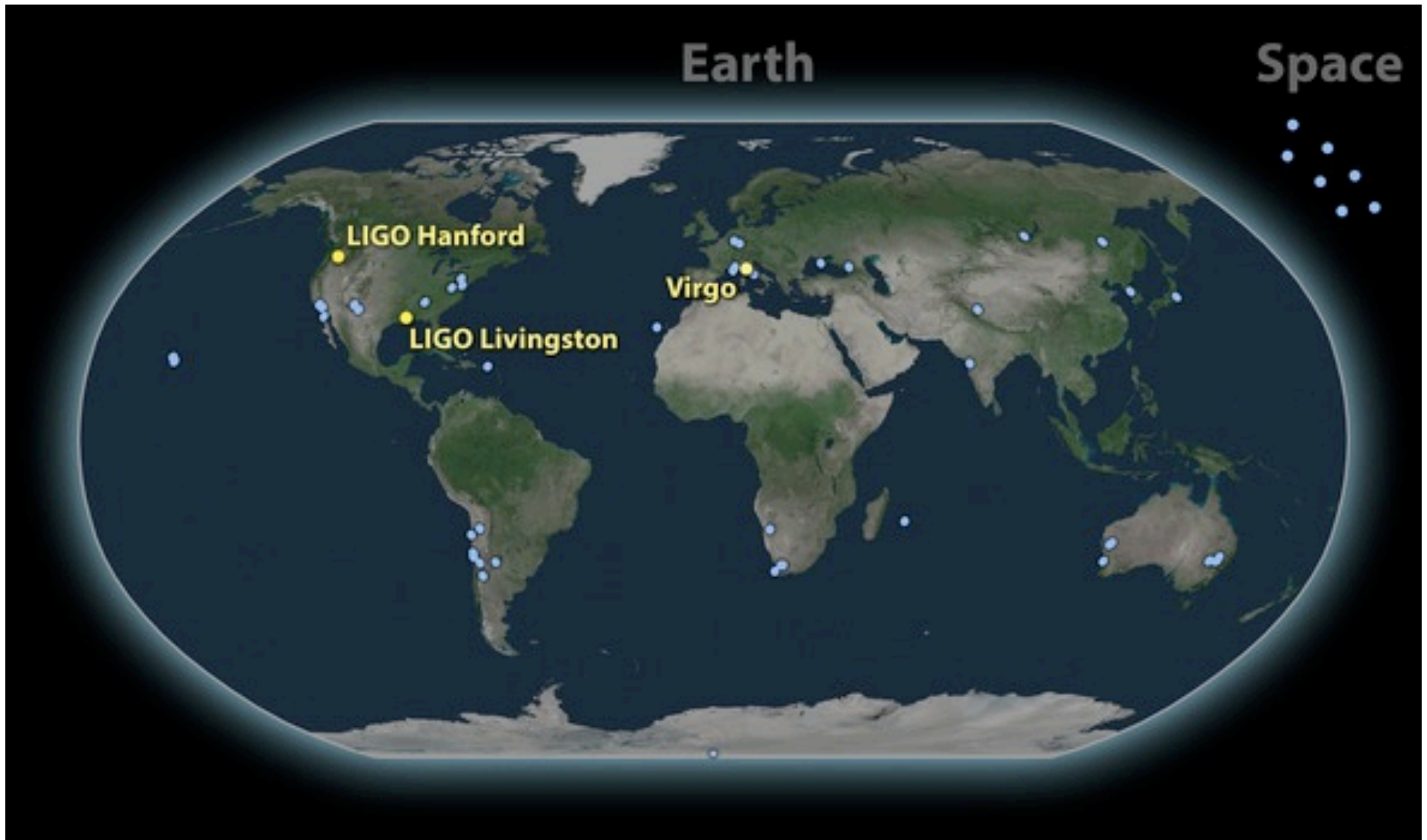
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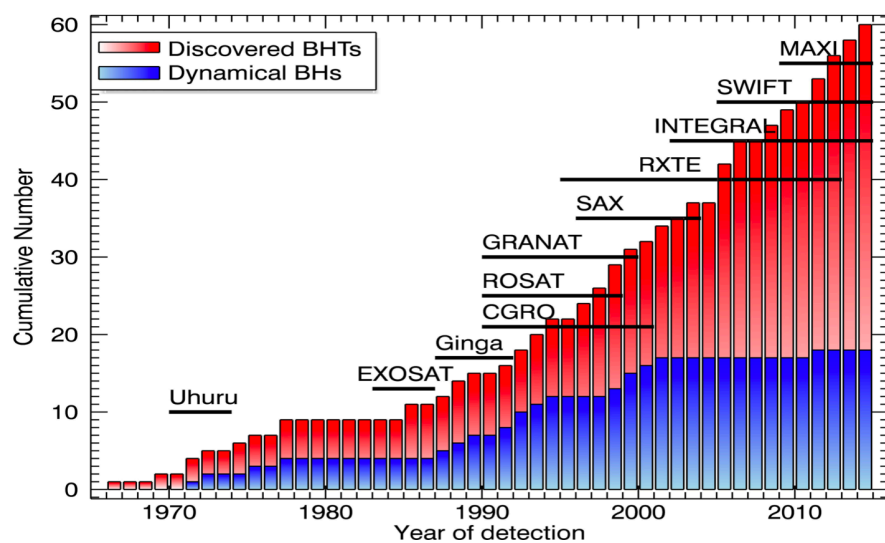
Credit: LIGO/Virgo/NASA/Leo Singer  
(Milky Way image: Axel Mellinger)

# Multi-messenger astronomy

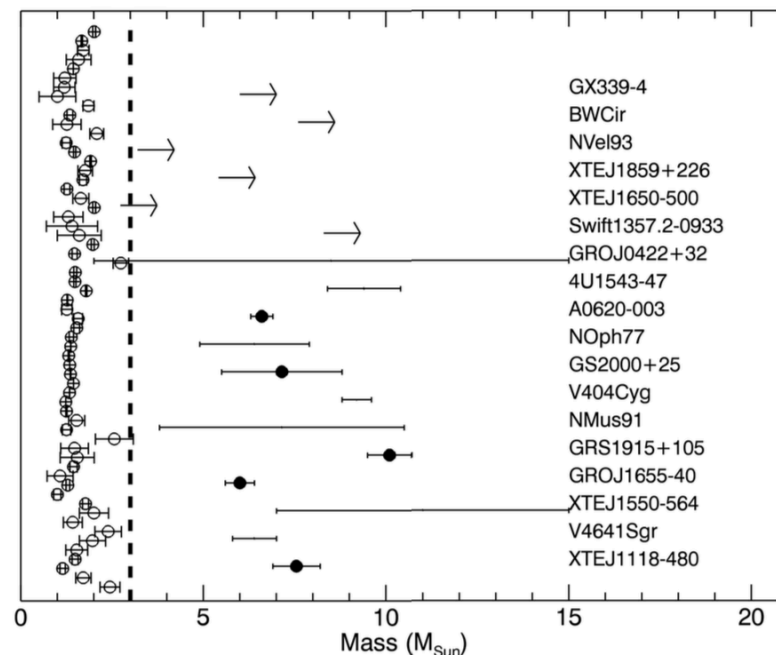
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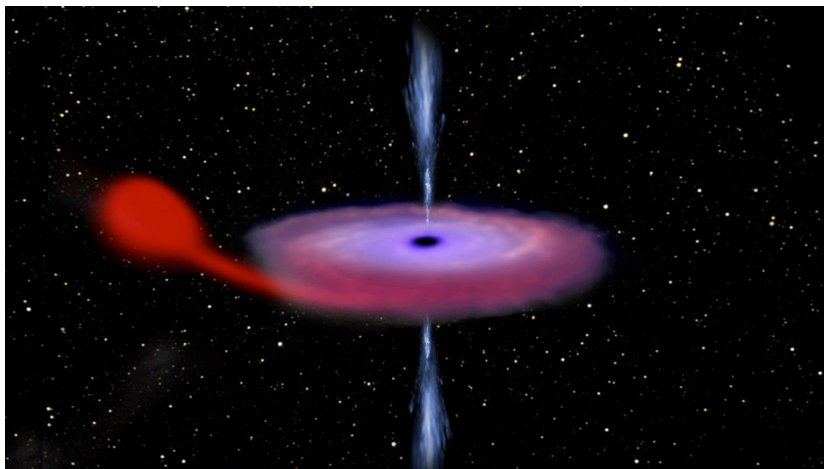
# X-ray black holes



A&A 587, A61 (2016), Corral-Santana



**Fig. 8.** Distribution of observed compact object masses. The vertical dashed line represents the maximum mass allowed for NS (Fryer & Kalogera 2001). Open circles below that limit represent the masses of the NS compiled by Lattimer & Prakash (2005), extended with updated data from Özel et al. (2012) and Antoniadis et al. (2013). The solid circles indicate reliable BH masses (adopting the values favoured by Casares & Jonker 2014), while arrows indicate lower limits based on mass functions and upper limits to the inclination.



Getting Started

Data

Events

Bulk Data

Tutorials

Software

Detector Status

Timelines

My Sources

GPS ↔ UTC

About the detectors

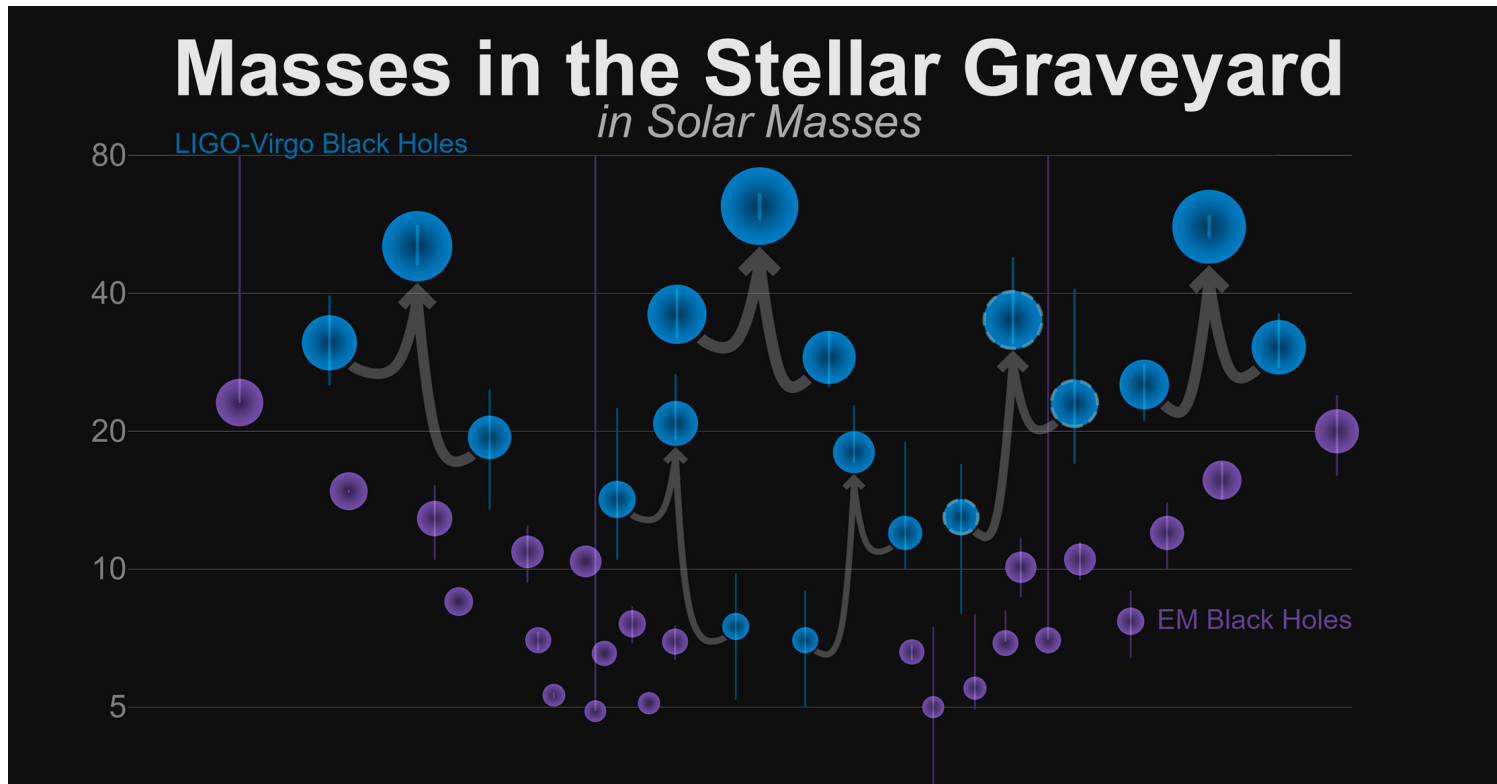
Projects

Acknowledge LOSC

**Data Releases for Observed Transients**

**Data Releases: Compact Object Mergers**

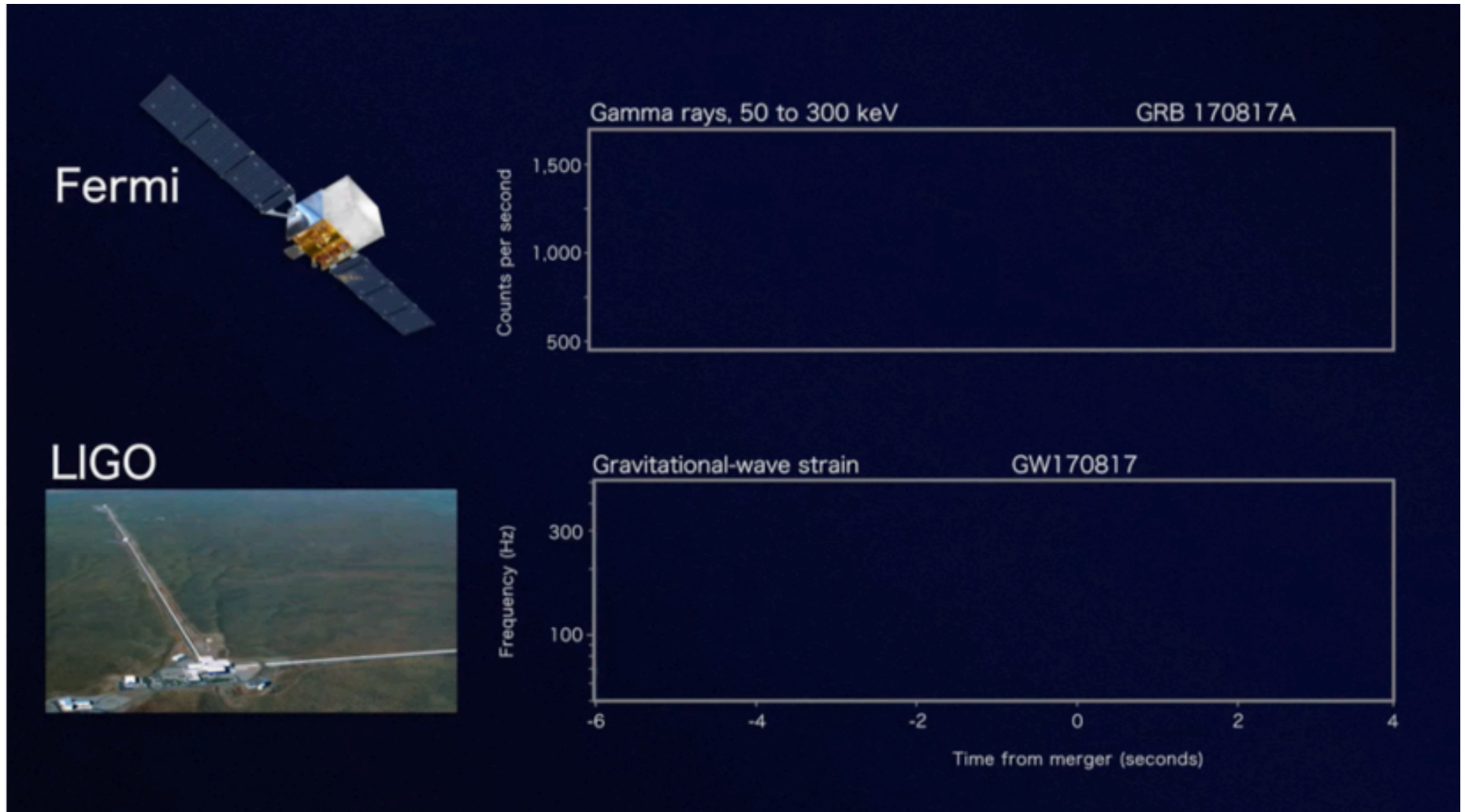
Click icons below for data and documentation:



Credit: Visualization: LIGO/Frank Elavsky/Northwestern

EM Black Holes: <https://stellarcollapse.org/sites/default/files/table.pdf> | LIGO-Virgo Data: <https://losc.ligo.org/events/>

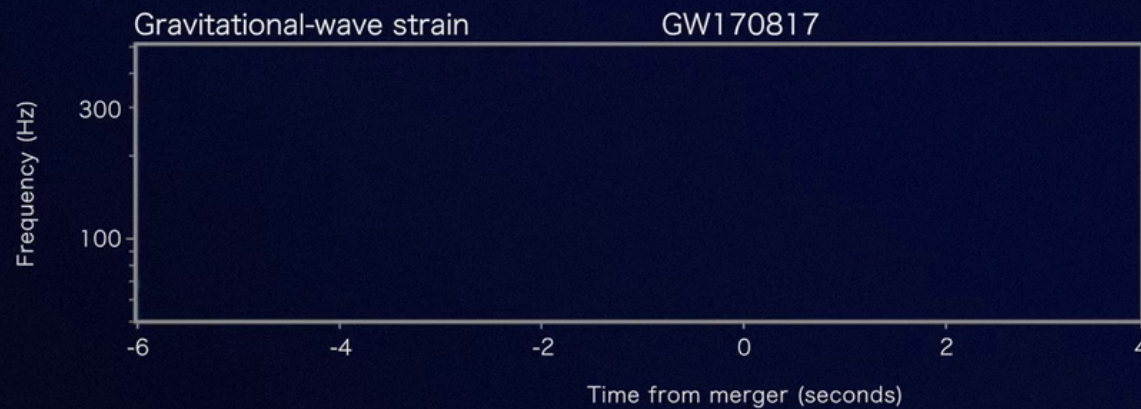
# August 17, 2017



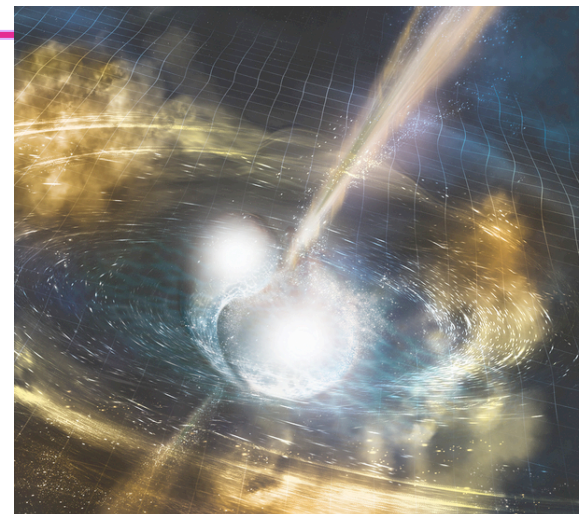
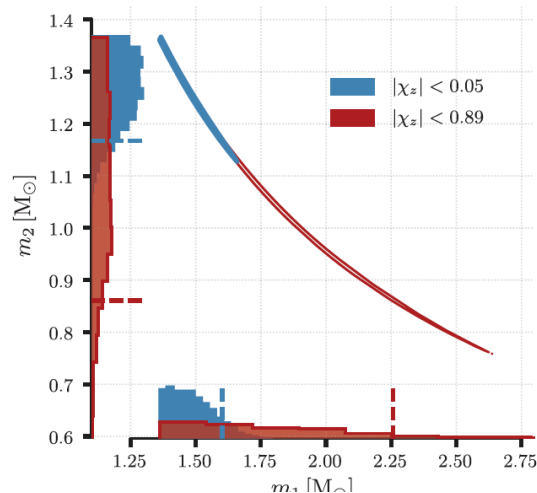
# August 17, 2017



LIGO



# GW170817



PRL 119, 161101 (2017)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

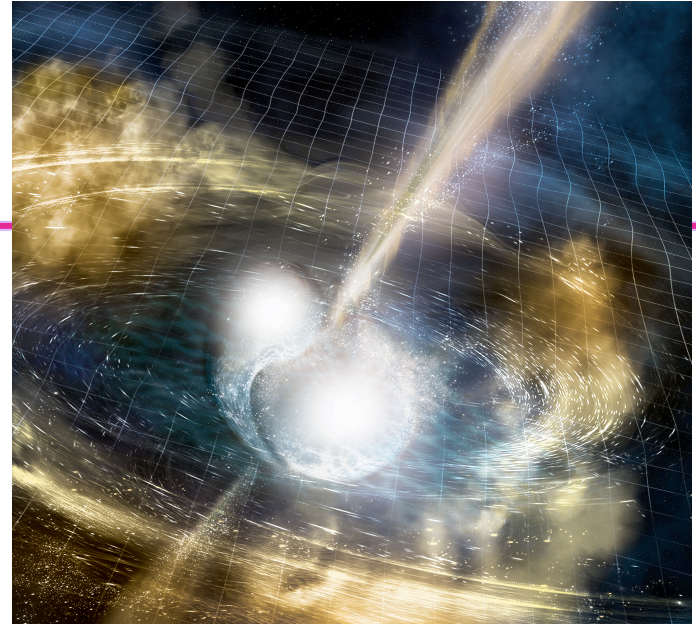
week ending  
20 OCTOBER 2017

TABLE I. Source properties for GW170817: we give ranges encompassing the 90% credible intervals for different assumptions of the waveform model to bound systematic uncertainty. The mass values are quoted in the frame of the source, accounting for uncertainty in the source redshift.

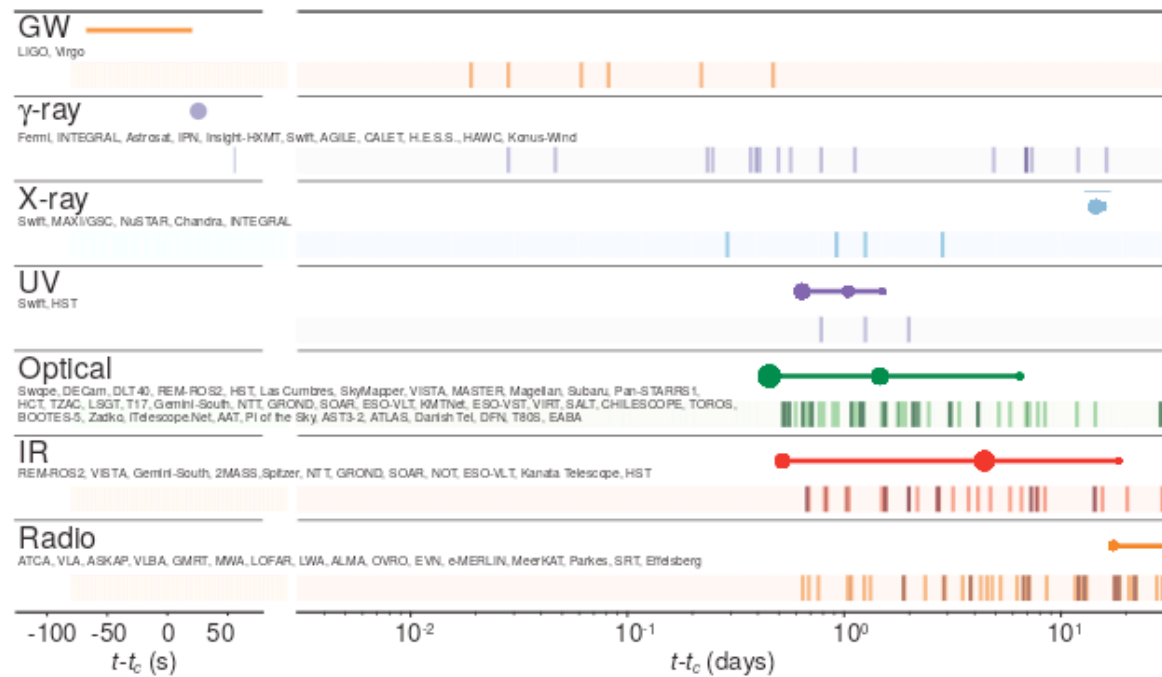
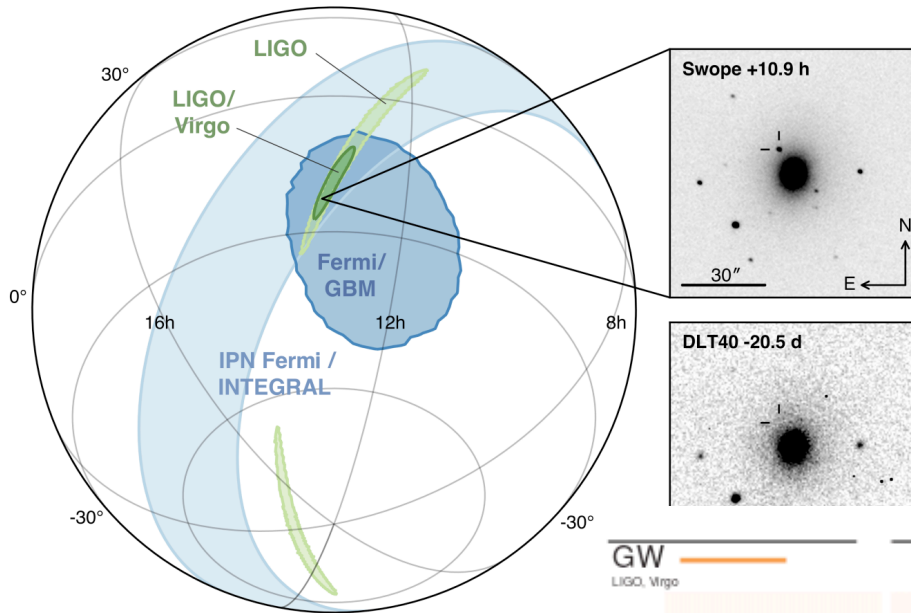
	Low-spin priors ( $ \chi  \leq 0.05$ )	High-spin priors ( $ \chi  \leq 0.89$ )
Primary mass $m_1$	1.36–1.60 $M_\odot$	1.36–2.26 $M_\odot$
Secondary mass $m_2$	1.17–1.36 $M_\odot$	0.86–1.36 $M_\odot$
Chirp mass $\mathcal{M}$	1.188 $^{+0.004}_{-0.002}$ $M_\odot$	1.188 $^{+0.004}_{-0.002}$ $M_\odot$
Mass ratio $m_2/m_1$	0.7–1.0	0.4–1.0
Total mass $m_{\text{tot}}$	2.74 $^{+0.04}_{-0.01}$ $M_\odot$	2.82 $^{+0.47}_{-0.09}$ $M_\odot$
Radiated energy $E_{\text{rad}}$	$> 0.025 M_\odot c^2$	$> 0.025 M_\odot c^2$
Luminosity distance $D_L$	40 $^{+8}_{-14}$ Mpc	40 $^{+8}_{-14}$ Mpc
Viewing angle $\Theta$	$\leq 55^\circ$	$\leq 56^\circ$



# A kilonova rainbow




Credit: NSF/LIGO/Sonoma State University/A. Simonnet



Astrophys. J. Lett. 848, L12 (2017)

# Gravitational *and* Electromagnetic waves!

PRL 119, 161101 (2017)

 Selected for a Viewpoint in *Physics*  
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
20 OCTOBER 2017



## GW170817: Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Neutron Star Inspiral

B. P. Abbott *et al.*\*

(LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)

(Received 26 September 2017; revised manuscript received 2 October 2017; published 16 October 2017)

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 848:L12 (59pp), 2017 October 20  
© 2017. The American Astronomical Society. All rights reserved.

<https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/aa91c9>

**OPEN ACCESS**



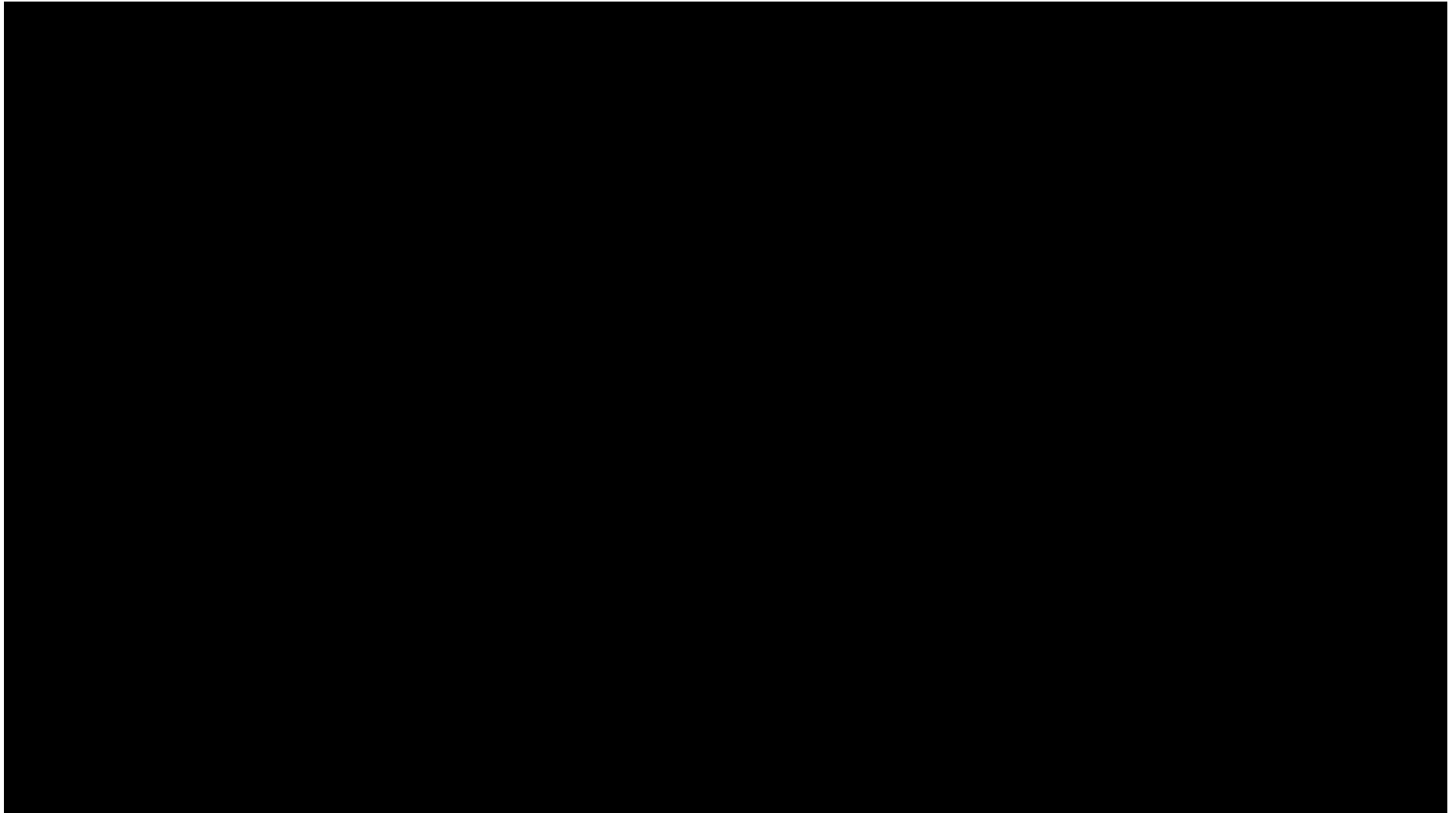
### Multi-messenger Observations of a Binary Neutron Star Merger

LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration, Fermi GBM, INTEGRAL, IceCube Collaboration, AstroSat Cadmium Zinc Telluride Imager Team, IPN Collaboration, The Insight-Hxmt Collaboration, ANTARES Collaboration, The Swift Collaboration, AGILE Team, The 1M2H Team, The Dark Energy Camera GW-EM Collaboration and the DES Collaboration, The DLT40 Collaboration, GRAWITA: GRAVitational Wave Inaf TeAm, The Fermi Large Area Telescope Collaboration, ATCA: Australia Telescope Compact Array, ASKAP: Australian SKA Pathfinder, Las Cumbres Observatory Group, OzGrav, DWF (Deeper, Wider, Faster Program), AST3, and CAASTRO Collaborations, The VINROUGE Collaboration, MASTER Collaboration, J-GEM, GROWTH, JAGWAR, Caltech-NRAO, TTU-NRAO, and NuSTAR Collaborations, Pan-STARRS, The MAXI Team, TZAC Consortium, KU Collaboration, Nordic Optical Telescope, ePESSTO, GROND, Texas Tech University, SALT Group, TOROS: Transient Robotic Observatory of the South Collaboration, The BOOTES Collaboration, MWA: Murchison Widefield Array, The CALET Collaboration, IKI-GW Follow-up Collaboration, H.E.S.S. Collaboration, LOFAR Collaboration, LWA: Long Wavelength Array, HAWC Collaboration, The Pierre Auger Collaboration, ALMA Collaboration, Euro VLBI Team, Pi of the Sky Collaboration, The Chandra Team at McGill University, DFN: Desert Fireball Network, ATLAS, High Time Resolution Universe Survey, RIMAS and RATIR, and SKA South Africa/MeerKAT  
(See the end matter for the full list of authors.)

Received 2017 October 3; revised 2017 October 6; accepted 2017 October 6; published 2017 October 16

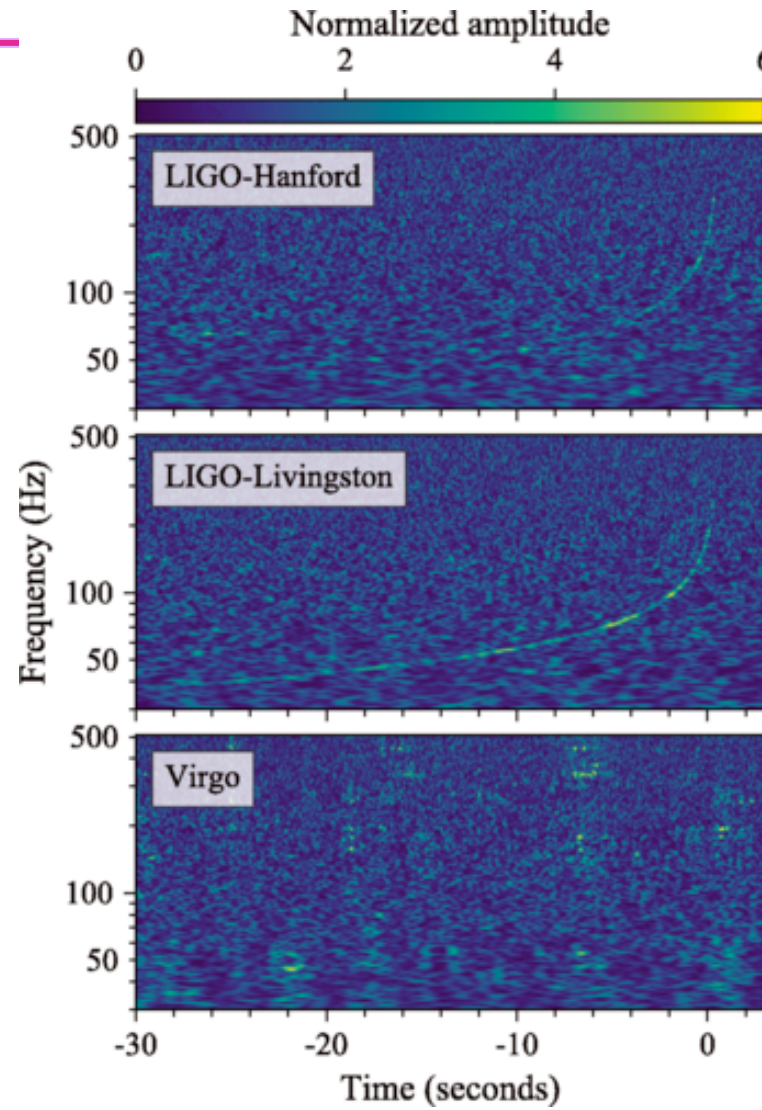
# Binary Neutron Star merger: the movie

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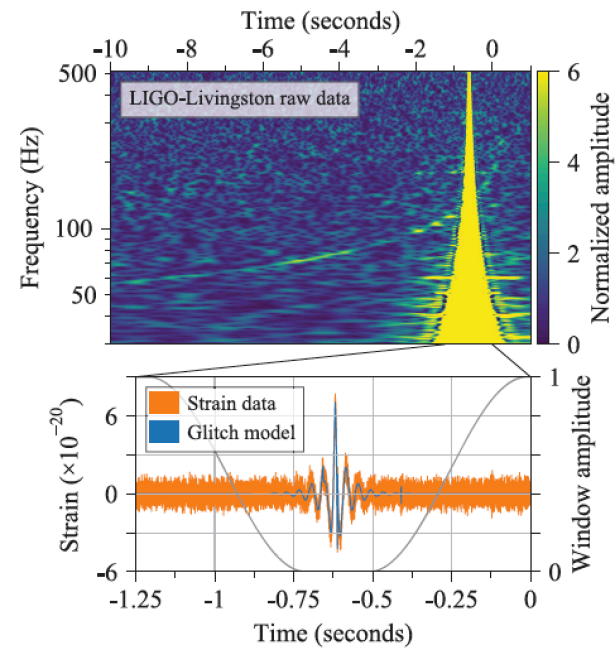
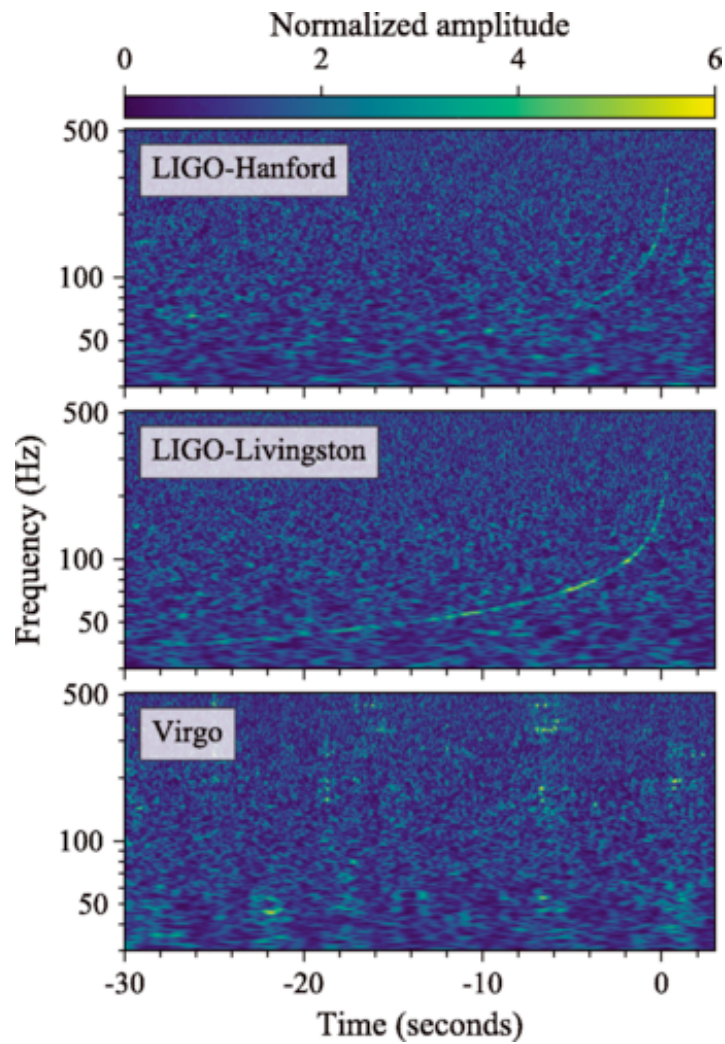
Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

# GW170817



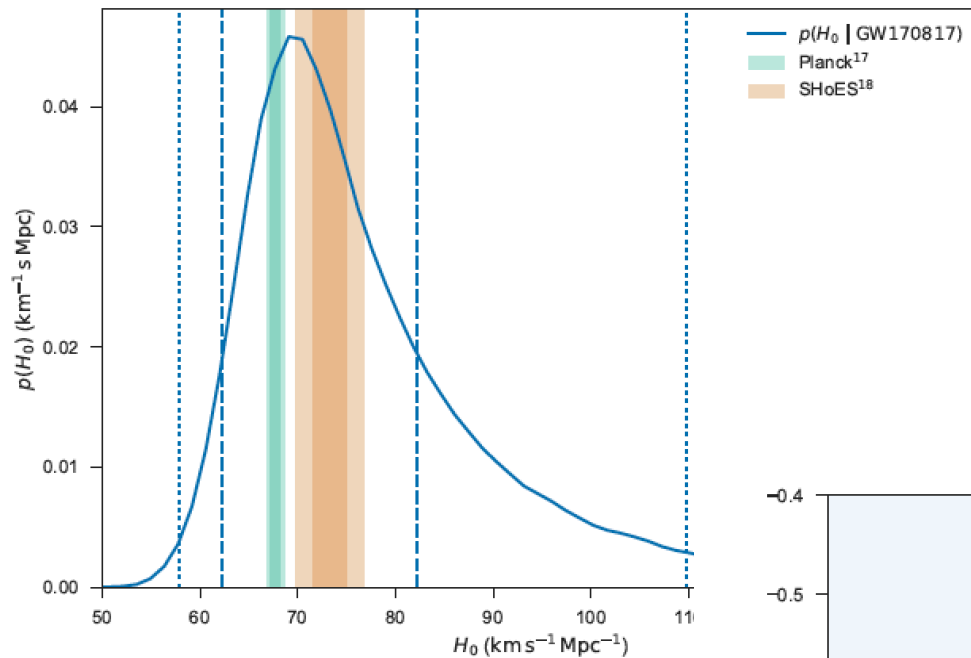
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 161101 \(2017\)](#)

# GW170817

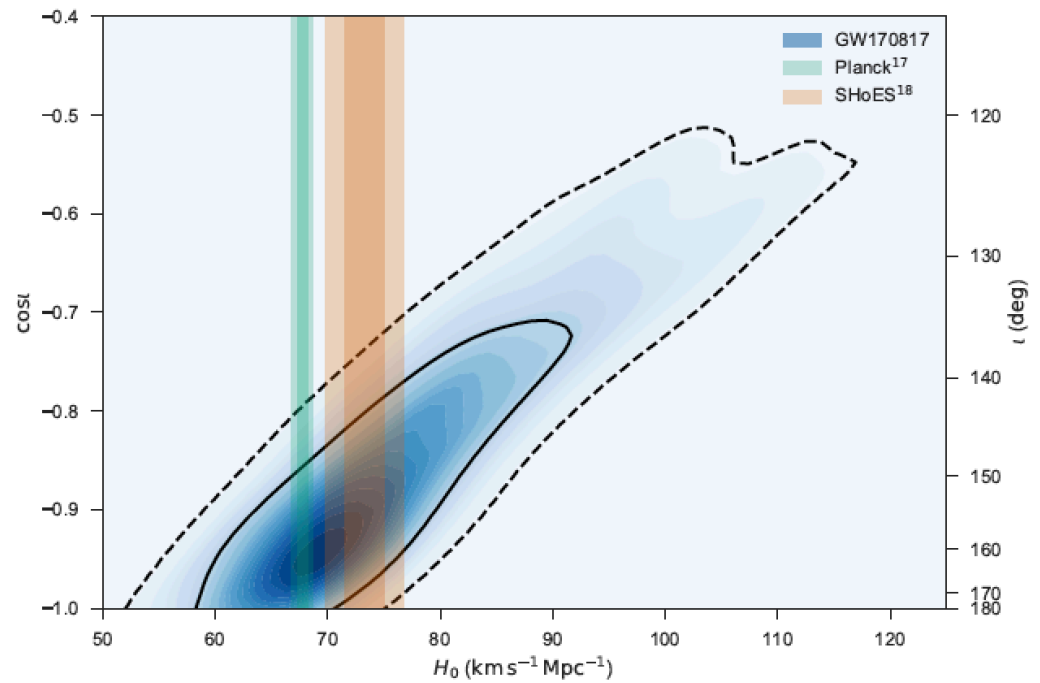


[Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 161101 \(2017\)](#)

# Cosmology with GWs



Nature 551, 85 (2017)

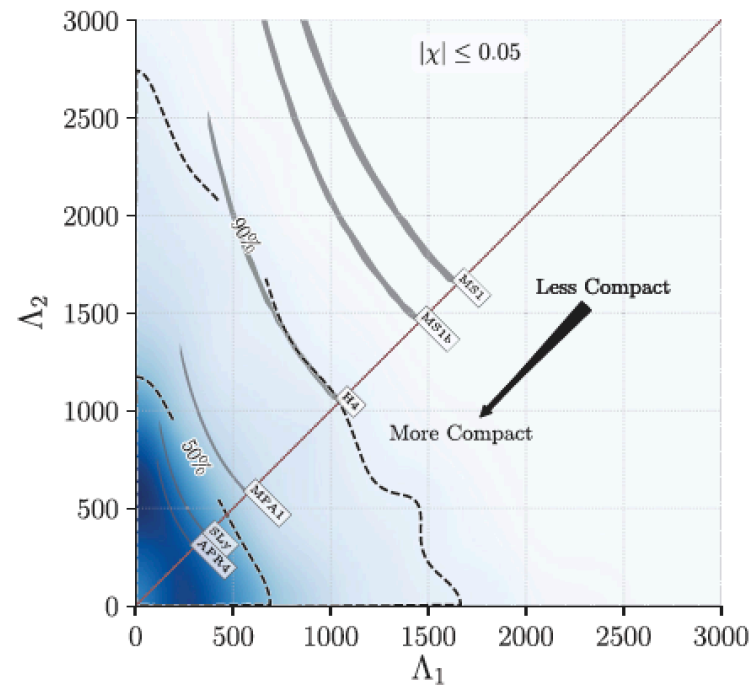
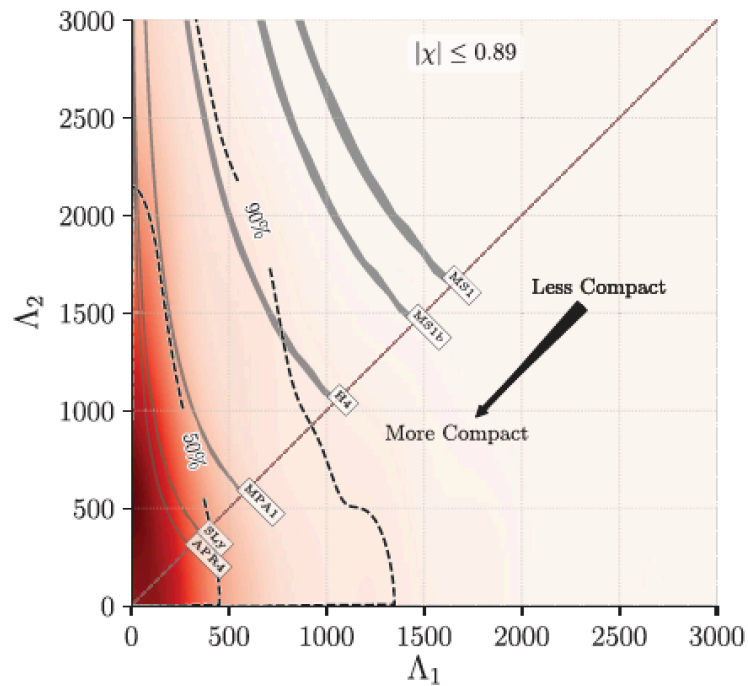


# Nuclear physics with GWs

PRL 119, 161101 (2017)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending  
20 OCTOBER 2017

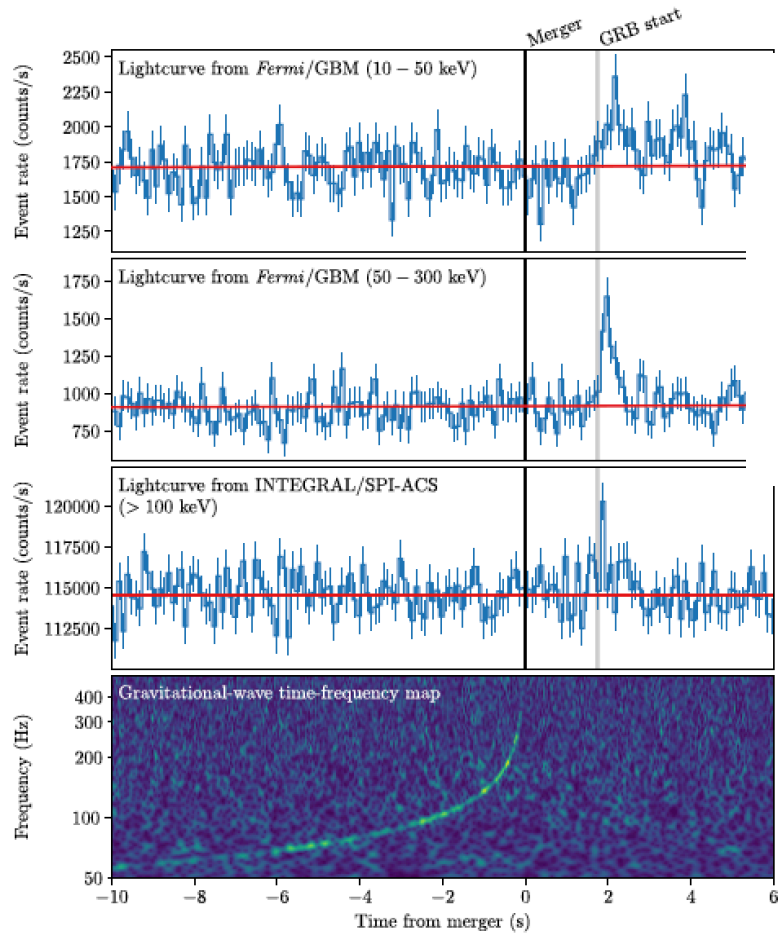


$$\Lambda = \frac{2}{3} k_2 \left( \frac{R}{m} \right)^5$$

# GW-GRB joint observation: sGRB models

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 848:L13 (27pp), 2017 October 20

Abbott et al.



THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 848:L13 (27pp), 2017 October 20

Abbott et al.

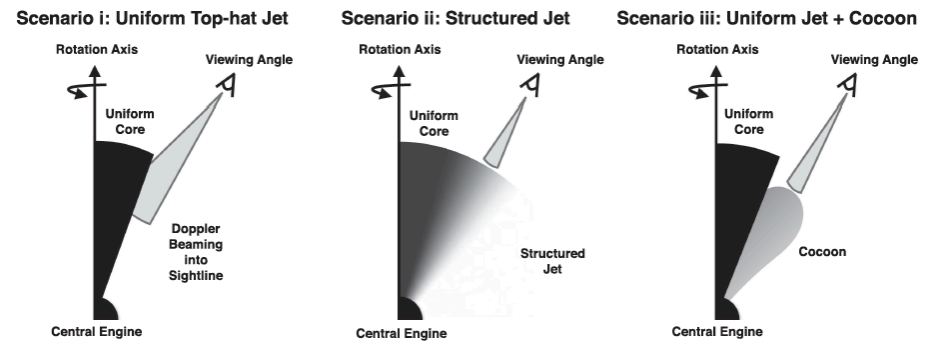
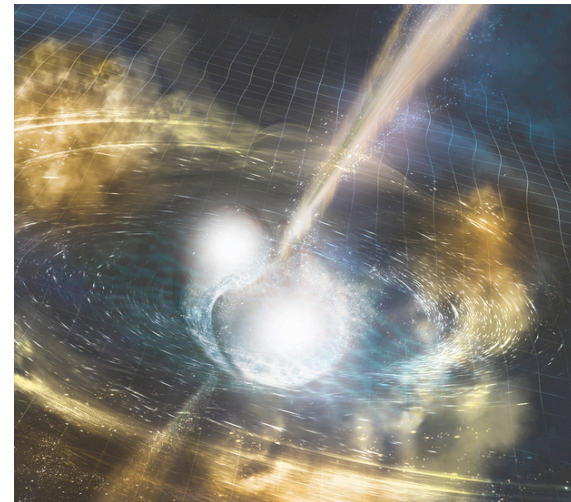


Figure 5. Three potential jet viewing geometries and jet profiles that could explain the observed properties of GRB 170817A, as described by scenarios (i)–(iii) in Section 6.2.



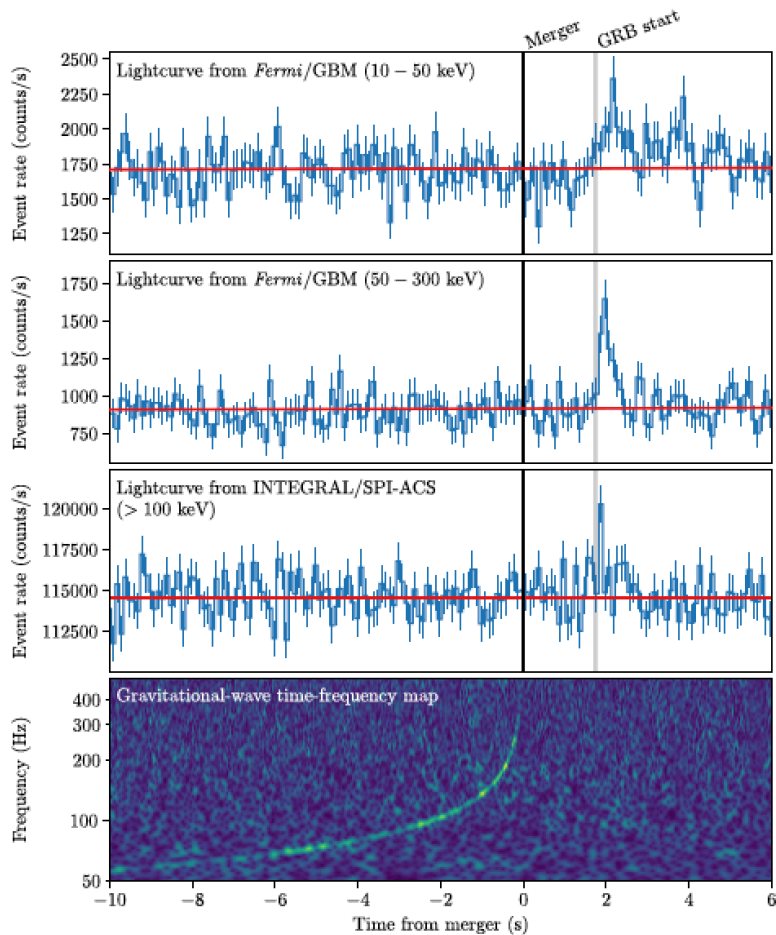
ApJL, 848:L13, 2017



# GW-GRB observation: Fundamental physics

THE ASTRONOMICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 848:L13 (27pp), 2017 October 20

Abbott et al.



$$-3 \times 10^{-15} \leq \frac{\Delta v}{v_{\text{EM}}} \leq +7 \times 10^{-16}.$$

$$-2.6 \times 10^{-7} \leq \gamma_{\text{GW}} - \gamma_{\text{EM}} \leq 1.2 \times 10^{-6}. \quad (4)$$

The best absolute bound on  $\gamma_{\text{EM}}$  is  $\gamma_{\text{EM}} - 1 = (2.1 \pm 2.3) \times 10^{-5}$ , from the measurement of the Shapiro delay (at radio wavelengths) with the Cassini spacecraft (Bertotti et al. 2003).

ApJL, 848:L13, 2017

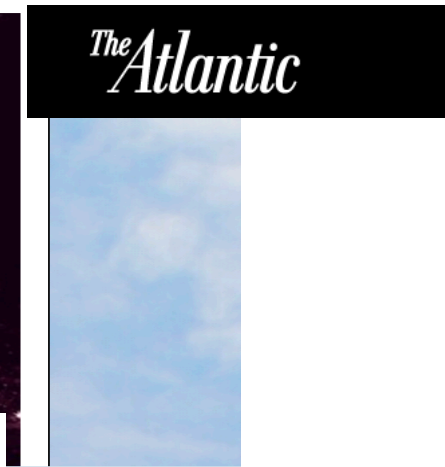
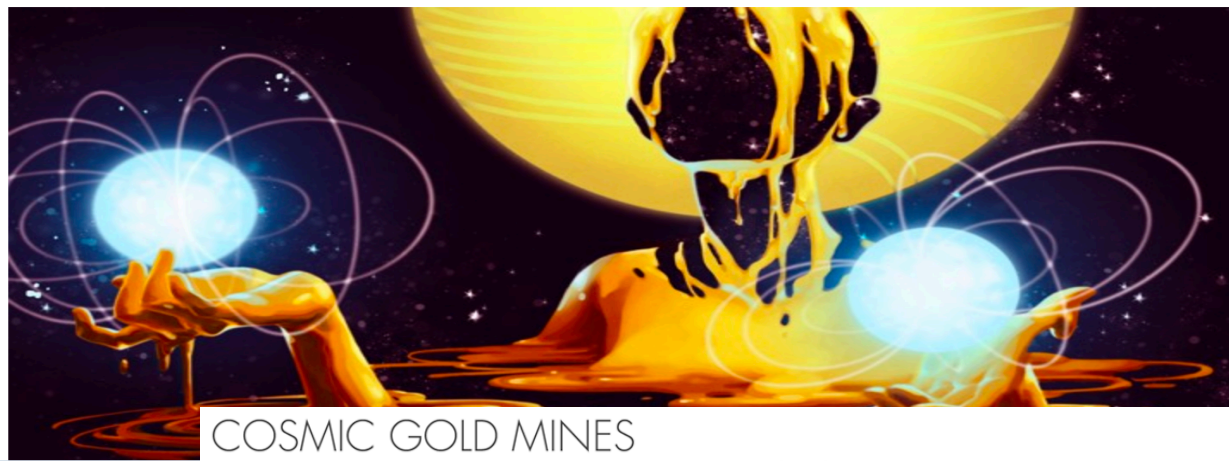
# We (and our jewelry) are made of star dust

SCIENCE

## The Mysterious Origin of Our Galaxy's Gold

After long believing that exploding stars forged the coveted metal, researchers are now divided over which extraordinary cosmic event is truly responsible.

JOSHUA SOKOL AND QUANTA MAR 27, 2017

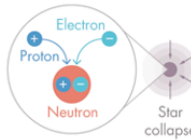


### COSMIC GOLD MINES

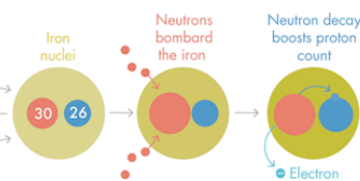
To make a heavy element such as gold, you need three things: seed nuclei such as iron, a flood of neutrons, and an explosion that launches the material out into the cosmos. Where might this happen? Astrophysicists have two main ideas.

#### Supernova Explosions

1 When a massive star can no longer create enough energy, its atmosphere collapses. Protons and electrons combine to form neutrons. The gravitational rebound blows the material outward.



2 Seed nuclei such as iron, with its 26 protons, rapidly catch neutrons in the "r process." Some of these neutrons decay into protons and electrons (which escape), increasing the atomic number to form new elements. Yet some scientists worry that the conditions in the supernova wind aren't as optimal as had once been hoped.



3 These events produce a moon's worth of gold and occur about once per century per galaxy, leading to a relatively even spread of r-process elements throughout the universe.

#### Orbiting Neutron Stars

1 As two neutron stars collide, neutrons and seed nuclei splash out. Everything is heated to billions of degrees.



2 Hot neutrons combine with the seed nuclei via the r process, forming heavy elements in about a second.

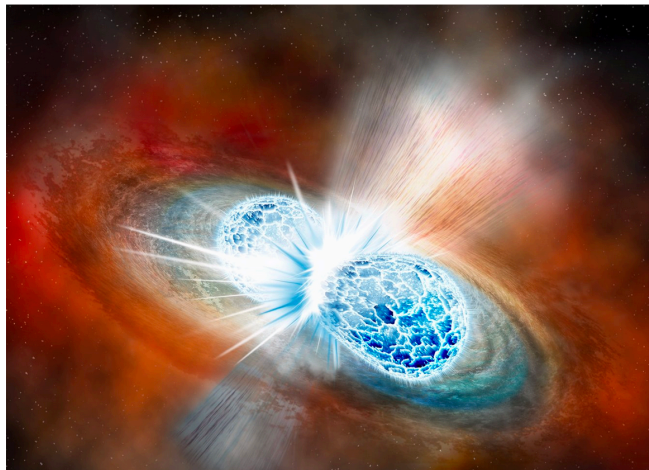
3 A neutron star collision produces thousands of times more gold than a supernova, but occurs for less often, which should lead to a universe clumpy with heavy elements.

# We (and our jewelry) are star dust ...

BUSINESS  
INSIDER

## Astronomers just proved the incredible origin of nearly all gold, platinum, and silver in the universe

Dave Mosher Oct. 16, 2017, 10:35 AM



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Cosmic alchemy: Colliding neutron stars show us how the universe creates gold

October 24, 2017 4:18pm EDT

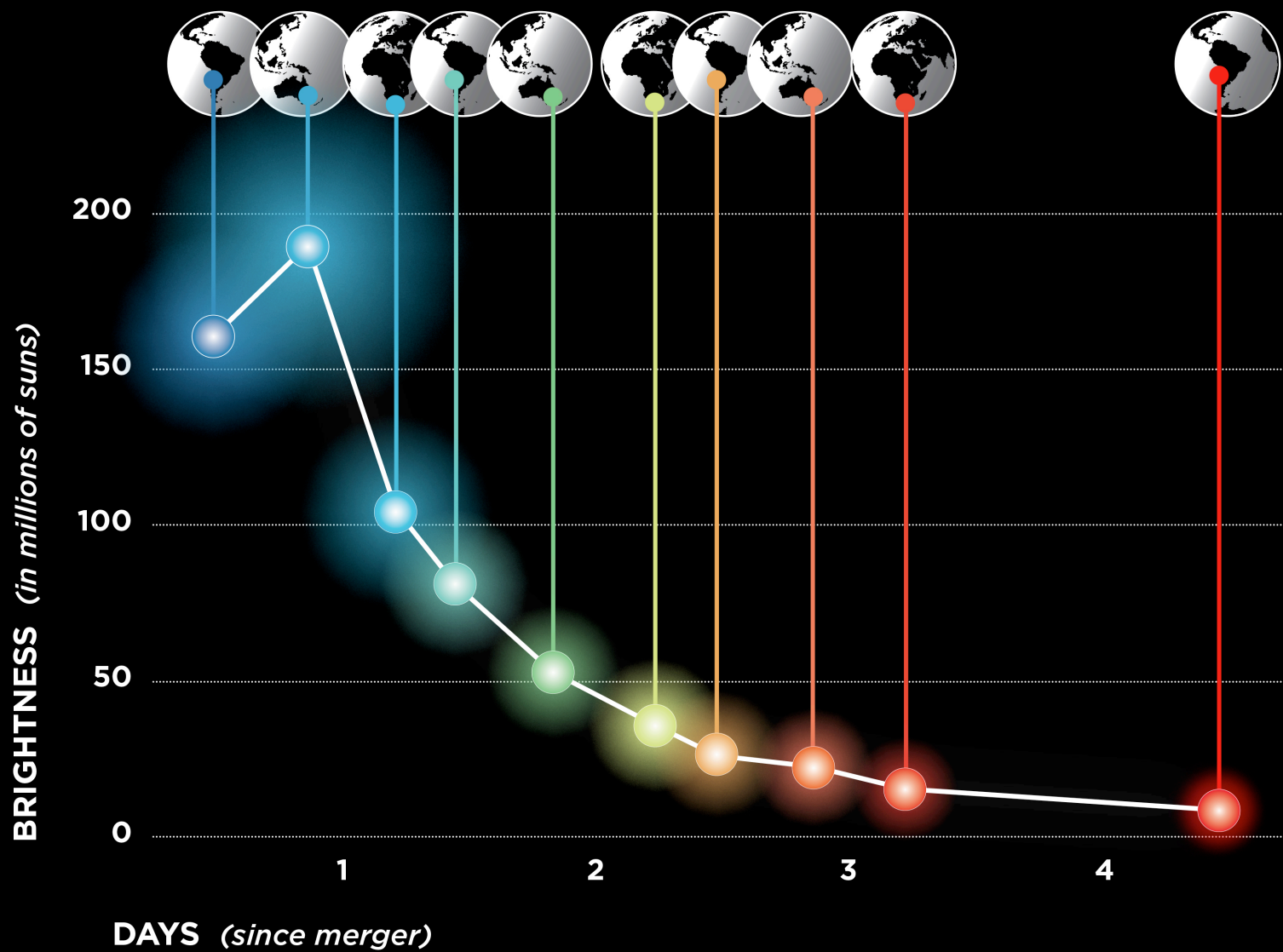


nature

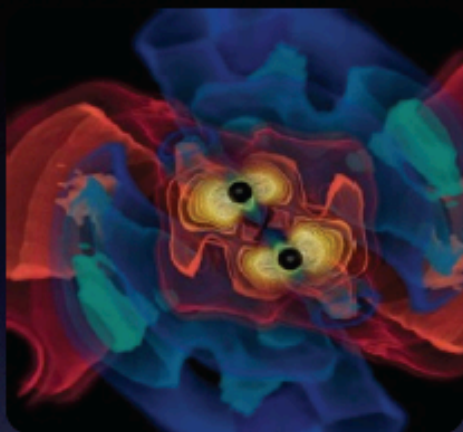
International journal of science

News & Views | Published: 15 October 2017

## Gravitational waves: A golden binary



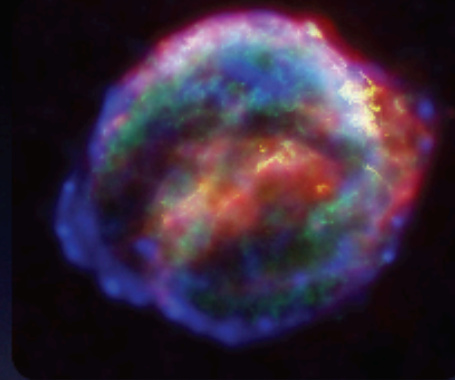
# Other gravitational waves to come...



## **Coalescing Binary Systems**

Neutron Stars,  
Black Holes

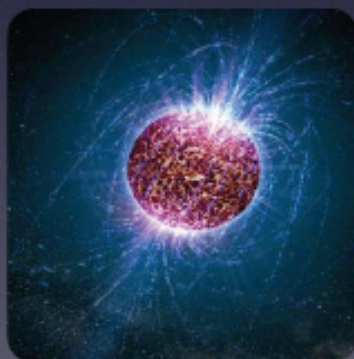
Credit: AEI, CCT, LSU



## **'Bursts'**

asymmetric core  
collapse supernovae  
cosmic strings  
???

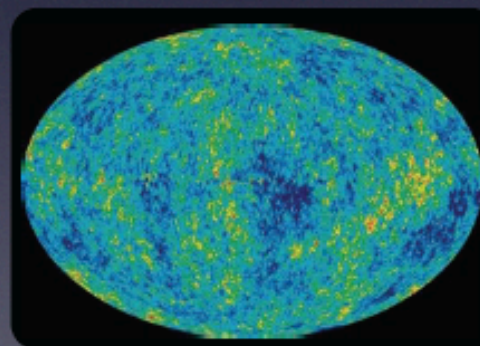
Credit: Chandra X-ray Observatory



## **Continuous Sources**

Spinning neutron stars  
crustal deformations,  
accretion

Casey Reed, Penn State



## **Astrophysical or Cosmic GW background**

stochastic,  
incoherent  
background

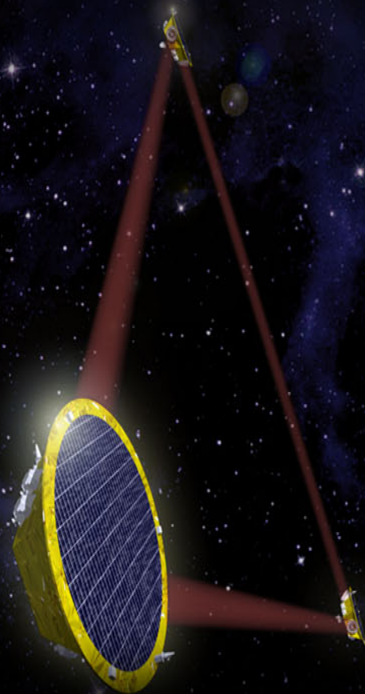
NASA/WMAP Science Team

# Gravitational Wave Periods

Milliseconds



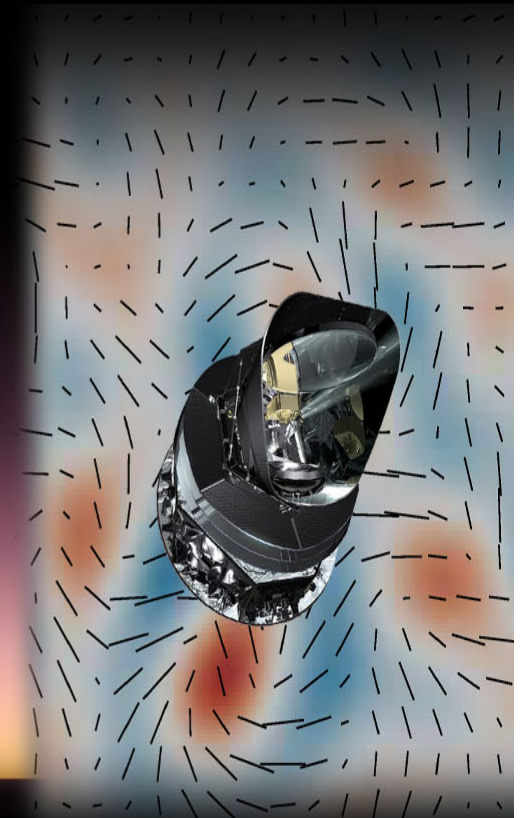
Minutes  
to Hours



Years  
to Decades



Billions  
of Years



# The era of GW astronomy here!

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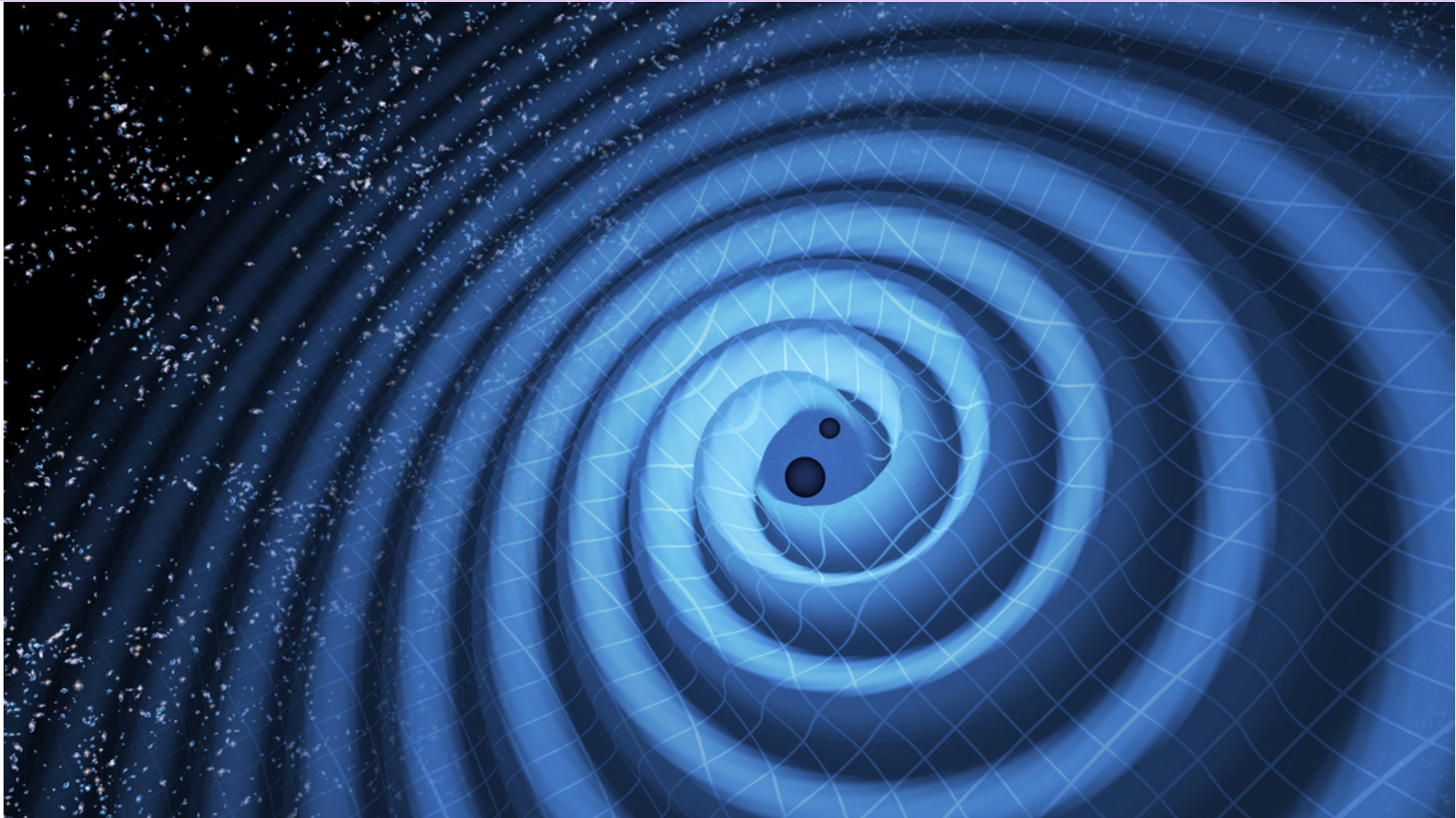


Image credit: LIGO/T. Pyle

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