

Advanced LIGO and Advanced Virgo O1 and O2 Results and Future Plans

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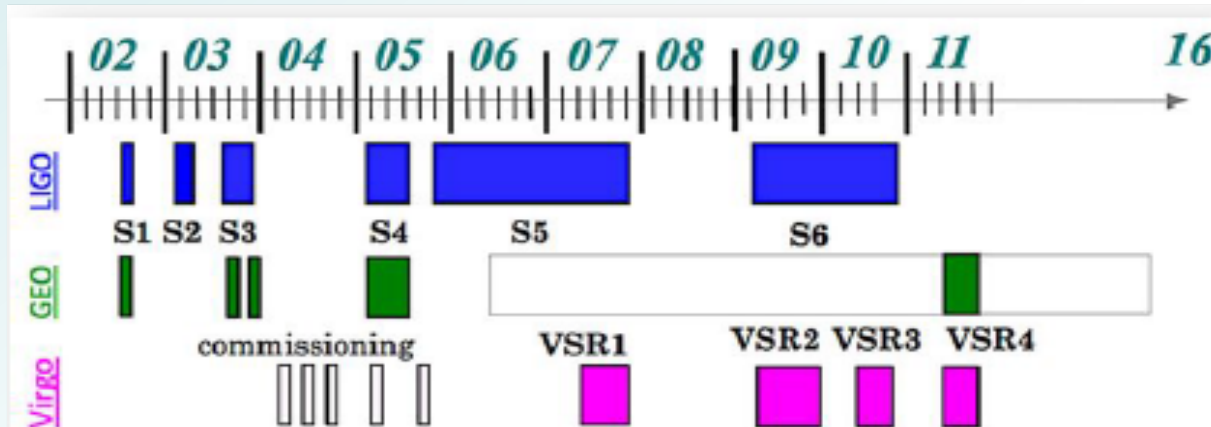
SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



1st generation LIGO, Virgo and GEO600 operated for about one decade

Demonstrated a reliable technology

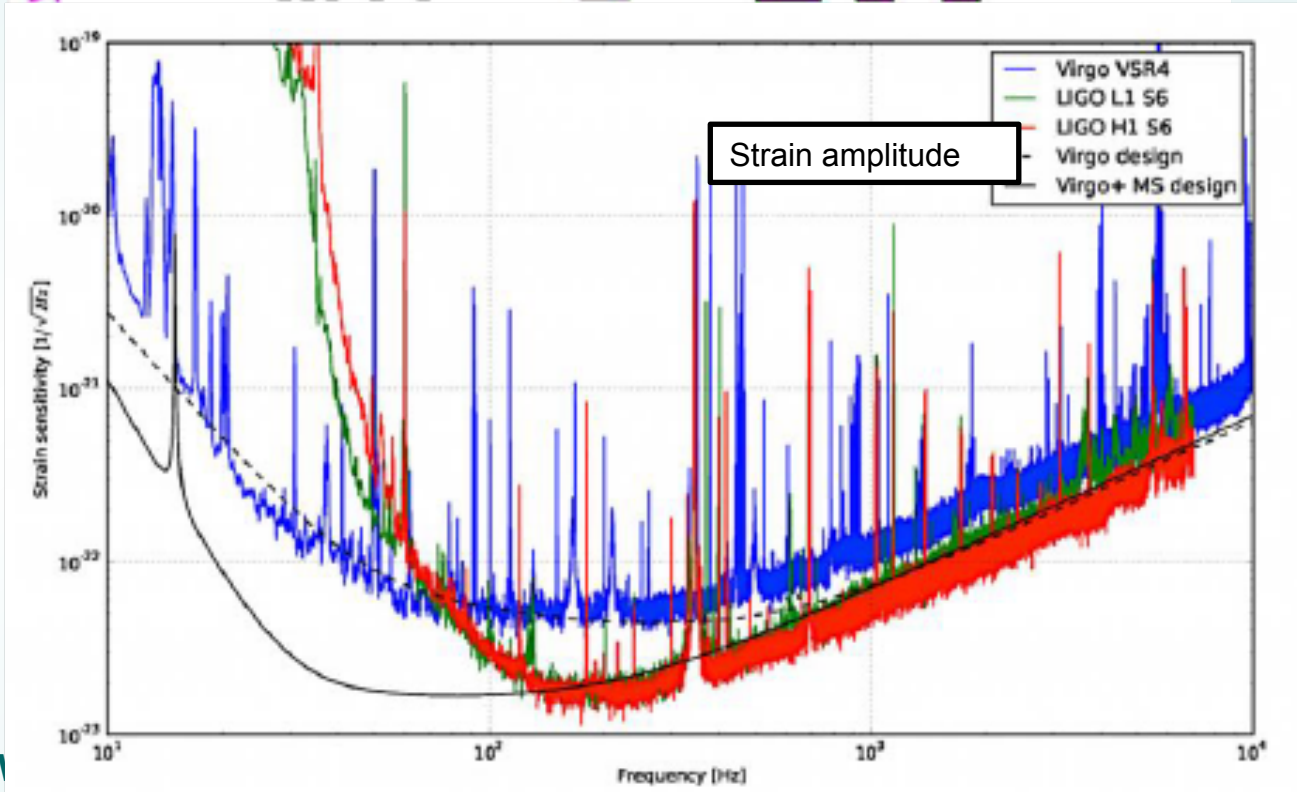
- ▶ duty cycle up to 80%, good stationarity of noise
- ▶ good knowledge of limiting noise sources



No detections

(expected detection rate ~0.01 ev/yrs) but:

- ▶ lots of science produced meanwhile!
- ▶ clear path towards 2nd generation antennas



Beyond first generation, towards Advanced Detectors: noise reduction

Strain Spectral
Amplitude (Hz)^{-1/2}

Seismic

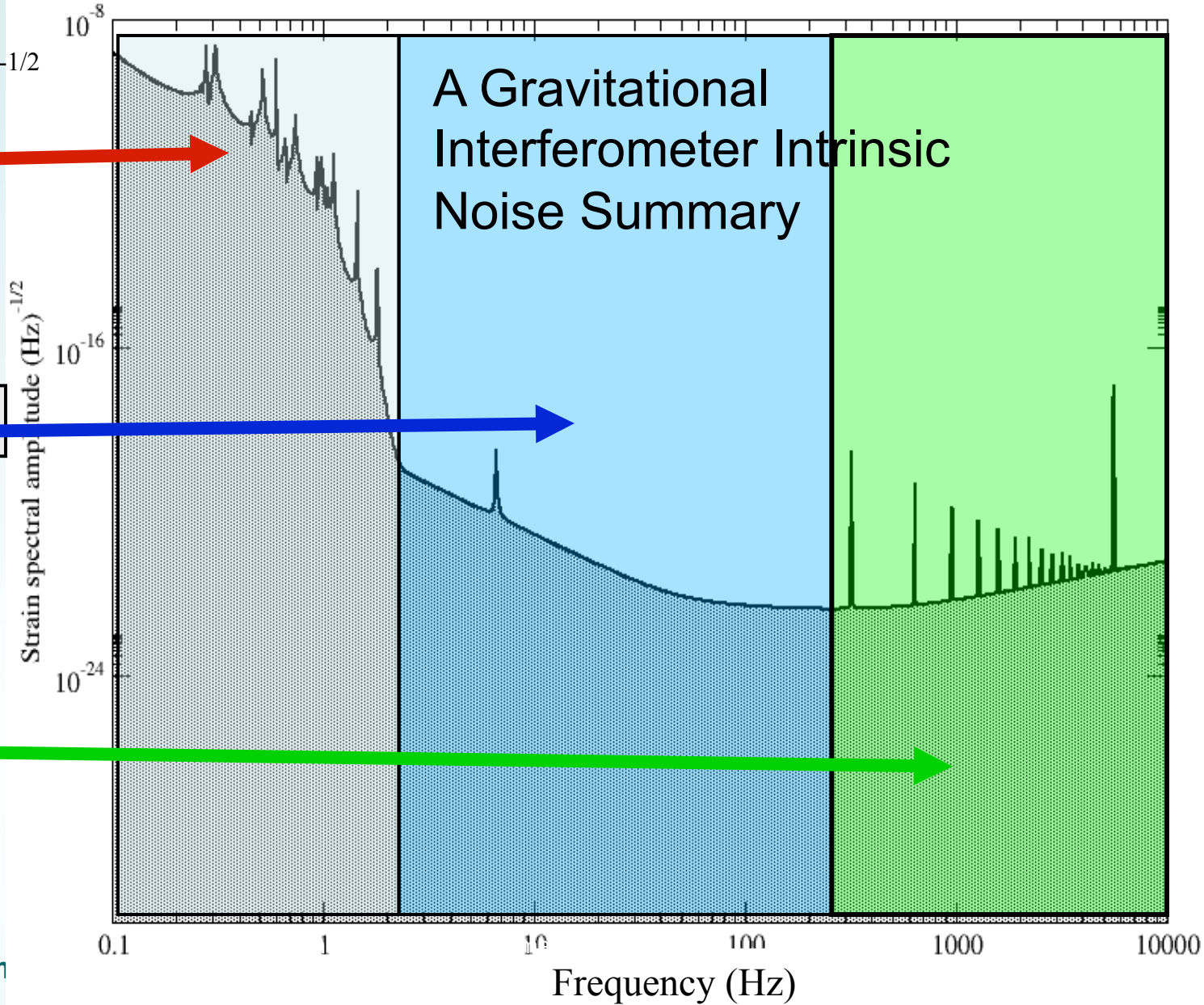
Passive and
Active
Attenuators

Thermal

Low
dissipation
materials for
coatings,
mirrors and
suspensions

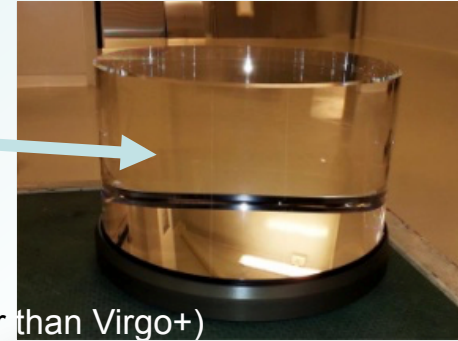
Shot

High Laser
Power,
Signal
Recycling
Techniques



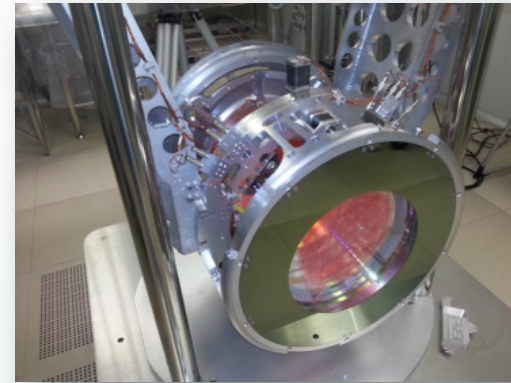
Reducing thermal noise:

- ▶ **Increased beam size @ input TM (2.5 x larger)**
- ▶ **Larger Mirror Masses (2x larger, 42 kg instead of 21 kg)**
- ▶ Improved mirrors' planarity (16 x better)
- ▶ Improved coatings for lower losses (7 x better)



Reducing quantum noise:

- ▶ Increased finesse of arm cavities (9 x larger than iVirgo, 3 x larger than Virgo+)
- ▶ High power laser (16 x more input power)
- ▶ Heavier test masses (2 x heavier)



Seismic isolation:

- ▶ iVirgo superattenuators compatible with AdV specs
- ▶ adapted for new payload (added mass and complexity)
- ▶ new electronics

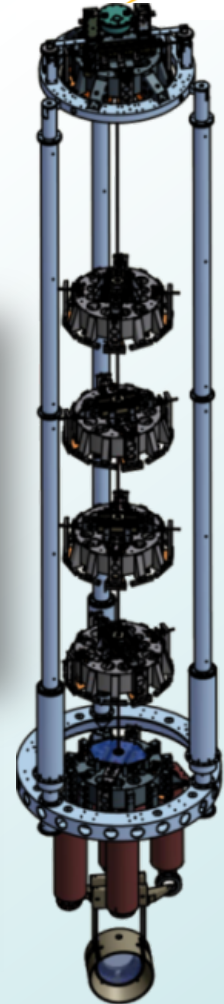
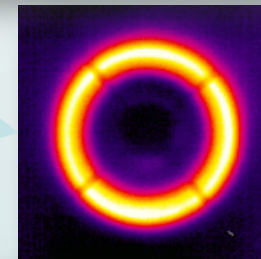
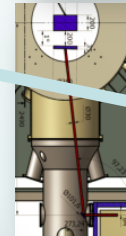
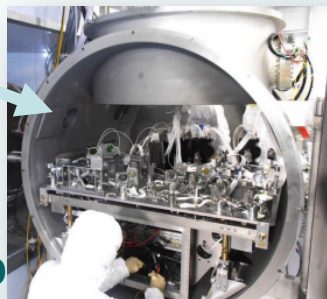
Thermal compensation (100 x higher power on TM):

- ▶ ring heaters
- ▶ double axicon CO₂ actuators
- ▶ CO₂ central heating

Better vacuum (10⁻⁹ mbar instead of 10⁻⁷)

Stray light control

- ▶ Suspended external optical benches in vacuum
- ▶ New set of baffles



Crossing the desert:

Advanced Virgo integration

- Approved in Dec 2009 (~2 yrs after Advanced LIGO)
- TDR released in Apr 2012
- Integration started in 2013
- **Many issues encountered during integration:**

- Super-attenuator (>10-years-old) maraging blade failures: inspection of the status of all the blades and replaced 40% of all of them (as a precaution)
- One of the suspended optics (compensation plate) was found damaged: dismantled and replaced
- ...
- On November 15th 2015, we had the first failure of a monolithic suspension under vacuum.** After that, we had many other failures, whenever we the monolithic suspensions spent some time (days or months) in vacuum...

...meanwhile, in September 2015, LIGO had started O1, its first run

O1 summary

September 12, 2015 - January 19, 2016



GW150914: FACTSHEET

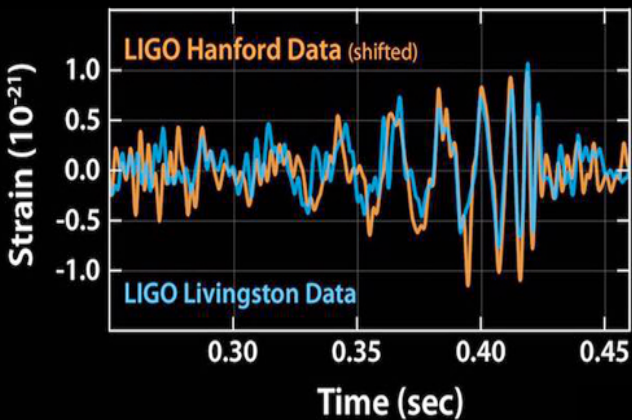
BACKGROUND IMAGES: TIME-FREQUENCY TRACE (TOP) AND TIME-SERIES (BOTTOM) IN THE TWO LIGO DETECTORS; SIMULATION OF BLACK HOLE HORIZONS (MIDDLE-TOP), BEST FIT WAVEFORM (MIDDLE-BOTTOM)

The first event

Schwarzschild radii
170 km - 210 km

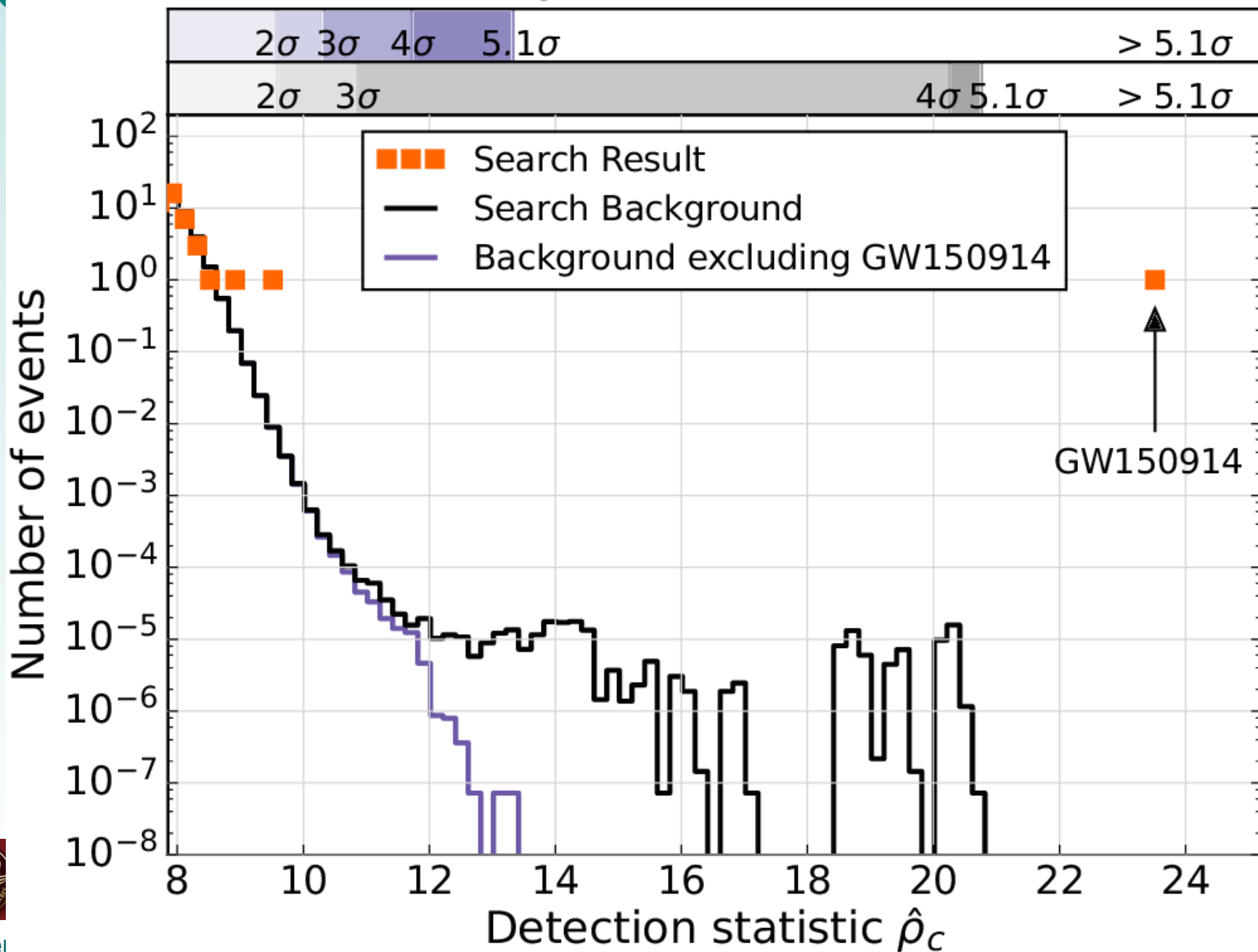
first direct detection of gravitational waves (GW) and first direct observation of a black hole binary

observed by	LIGO L1, H1	duration from 30 Hz	~ 200 ms
source type	black hole (BH) binary	# cycles from 30 Hz	~10
date	14 Sept 2015	peak GW strain	1×10^{-21}
time	09:50:45 UTC	peak displacement of interferometers arms	± 0.002 fm
likely distance	0.75 to 1.9 Gly 230 to 570 Mpc	frequency/wavelength at peak GW strain	150 Hz, 2000 km
redshift	0.054 to 0.136	peak speed of BHs	~ 0.6 c
signal-to-noise ratio	24	peak GW luminosity	3.6×10^{56} erg s ⁻¹
false alarm prob.	< 1 in 5 million	radiated GW energy	2.5-3.5 M _⊙
false alarm rate	< 1 in 200,000 yr	remnant ringdown freq.	~ 250 Hz
Source Masses	M _⊙	remnant damping time	~ 4 ms
total mass	60 to 70	remnant size, area	180 km, 3.5×10^5 km ²
primary BH	32 to 41	consistent with general relativity?	passes all tests performed
secondary BH	25 to 33	graviton mass bound	< 1.2×10^{-22} eV
remnant BH	58 to 67	coalescence rate of binary black holes	2 to 400 Gpc ⁻³ yr ⁻¹
mass ratio	0.6 to 1	online trigger latency	~ 3 min
primary BH spin	< 0.7	# offline analysis pipelines	5
secondary BH spin	< 0.9	CPU hours consumed	~ 50 million (=20,000 PCs run for 100 days)
remnant BH spin	0.57 to 0.72	papers on Feb 11, 2016	13
signal arrival time delay	arrived in L1 7 ms before H1	# researchers	~1000, 80 institutions in 15 countries
likely sky position	Southern Hemisphere		
likely orientation resolved to	face-on/off ~600 sq. deg.		



Detector noise introduces errors in measurement. Parameter ranges correspond to 90% credible bounds.
Acronyms: L1=LIGO Livingston, H1=LIGO Hanford; Gly=giga lightyear= 9.46×10^{12} km; Mpc=mega parsec=3.2 million lightyear, Gpc= 10^3 Mpc, fm=femtometer= 10^{-15} m, M_⊙=1 solar mass= 2×10^{30} kg

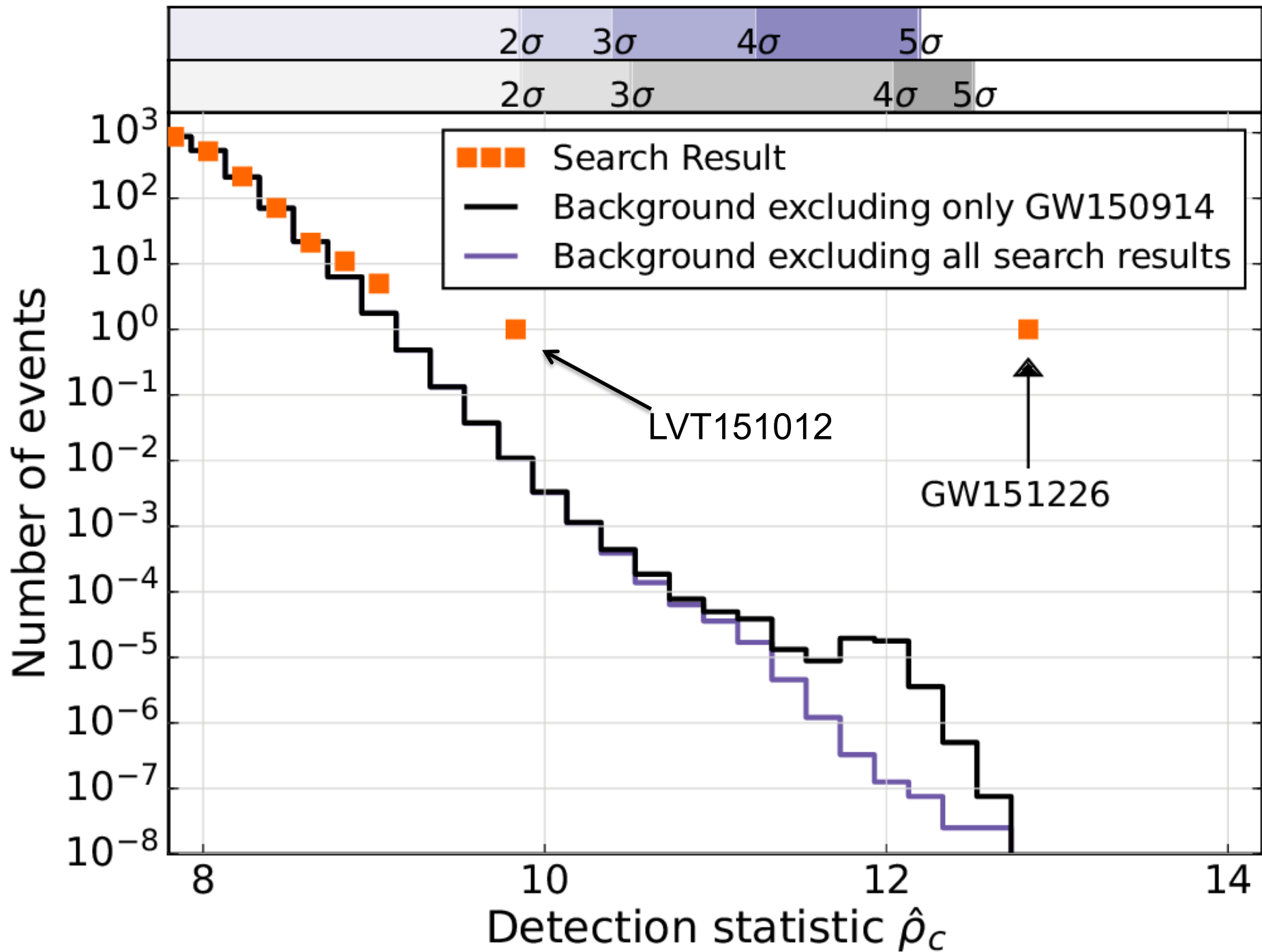
Binary coalescence search



October 12, 2015 at 09:54:43.44 UTC.

Quantity	Value	Upper/Lower error estimate	Unit
Primary mass	23	+18 -6	M sun
Secondary mass	13	+4 -5	M sun
Chirp mass	15.1	+1.4 -1.1	M sun
Total mass	37	+13 -4	M sun
Final mass	35	+14 -4	M sun
Final spin	0.66	+0.09 -0.10	
Radiated gravitational-wave energy	1.5	+0.3 -0.4	M sun c ²
Peak luminosity	3.1	+0.8 -1.8	10 ⁵⁶ erg/s
Luminosity distance	1000	+500 -500	Mpc
Source redshift z	0.20	+0.09 -0.09	

Quantity	Value	Upper/Lower error estimate	Unit
Primary mass	14.2	+8.3 -3.7	M sun
Secondary mass	7.5	+2.3 -2.3	M sun
Chirp mass	8.9	+0.3 -0.3	M sun
Total mass	21.8	+5.9 -1.7	M sun
Final mass	20.8	+6.1 -1.7	M sun
Final spin	0.74	+0.06 -0.06	
Radiated gravitational-wave energy	1.0	+0.1 -0.2	M sun c ²
Peak luminosity	3.3	+0.8 -1.6	10 ⁵⁶ erg/s
Luminosity distance	440	+180 -190	Mpc
Source redshift z	0.09	+0.03 -0.04	



O1 summary of BBH Physics



Sharp cut due to the assumption $m_1^{\text{source}} \geq m_2^{\text{source}}$

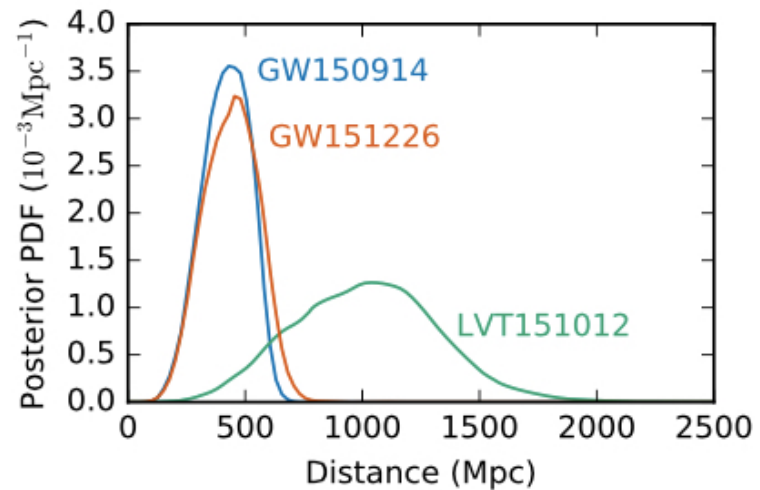
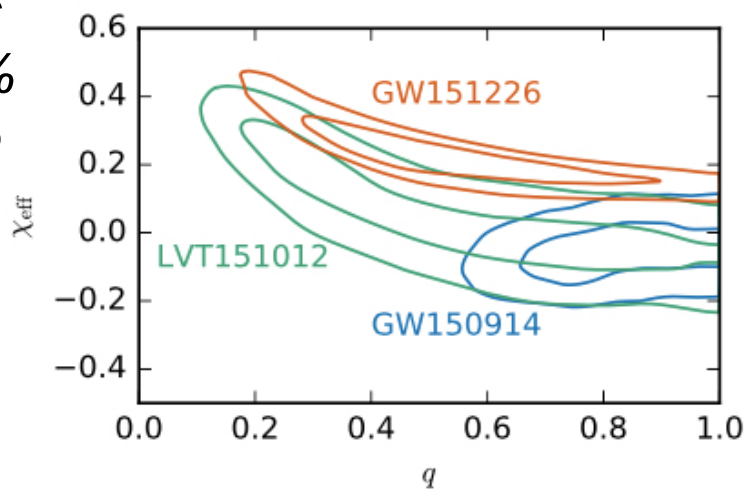
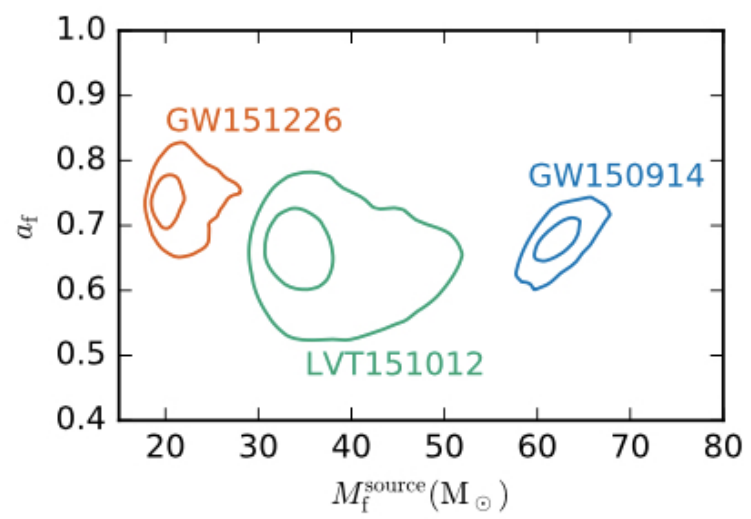
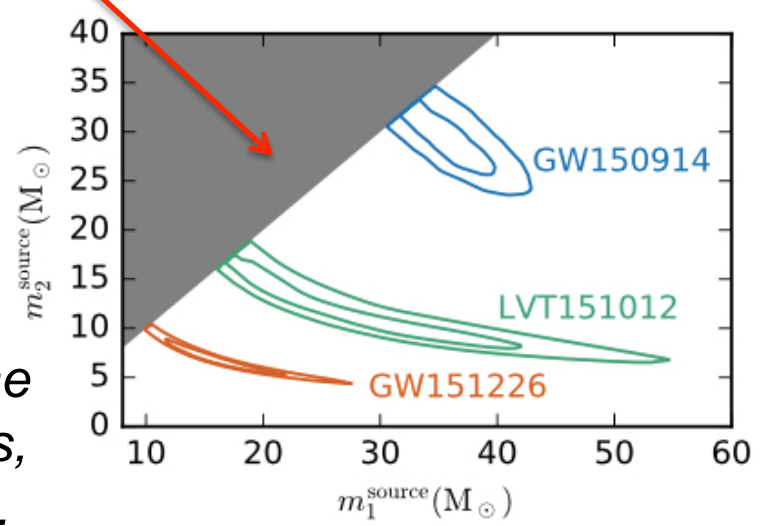
$$a_{1,2} = \frac{c}{Gm_{1,2}^2} |S_{1,2}|$$

a_f and m_f spin and mass of the final BH

$$\chi_{1,2} = \frac{c}{Gm_{1,2}^2} S_{1,2} \cdot \hat{L}$$

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{m_1 \chi_1 + m_2 \chi_2}{M}$$

Posterior probability densities of the masses, spins, and distance. Contour plots at 50 and 90% of confidence level



CW signal search in O1

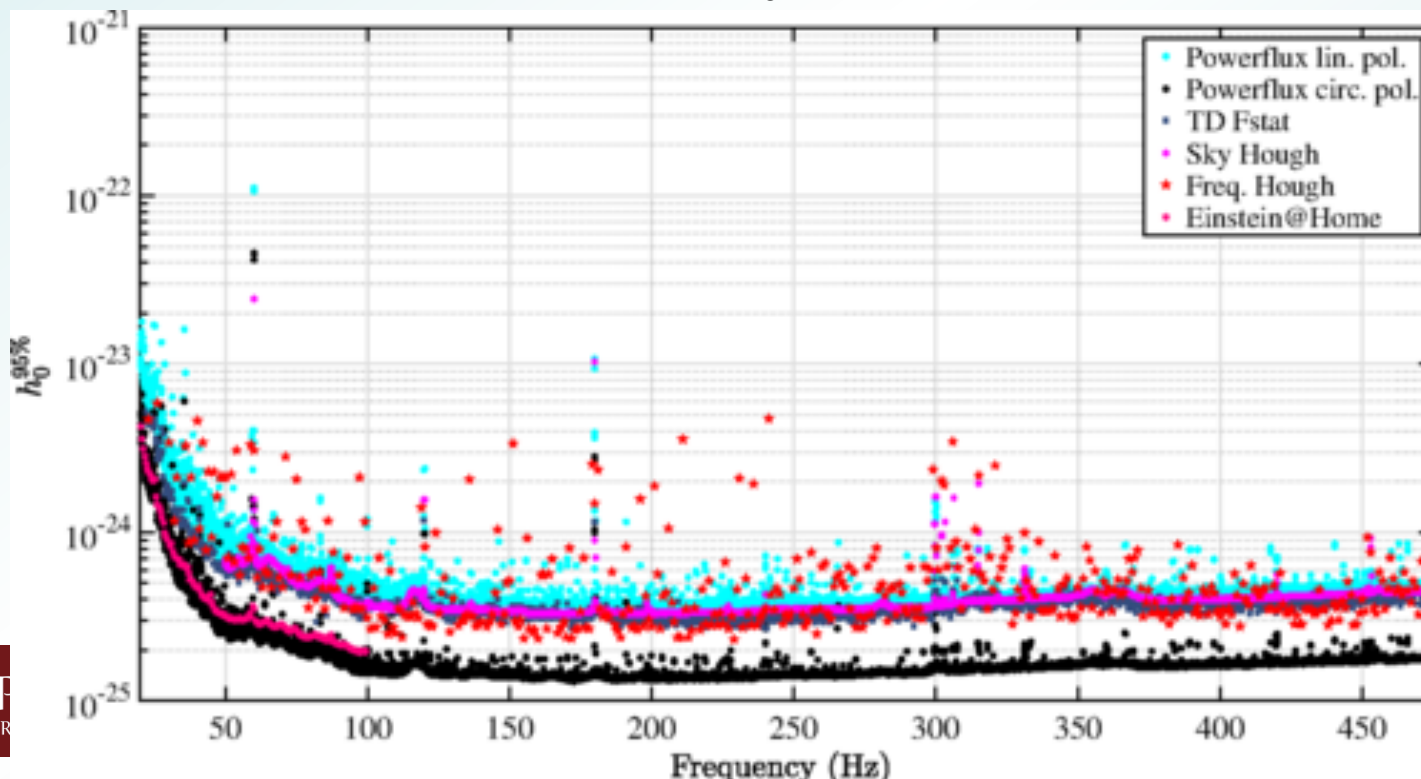
Abbott et al. Phys. Rev. D 96, 062002

All-sky search for periodic gravitational waves in the frequency band 20 - 475 Hz and with a frequency time derivative in the range of $[- 1.0 + 0.1] \times 10^{-8}$ Hz/s

Best upper limits:

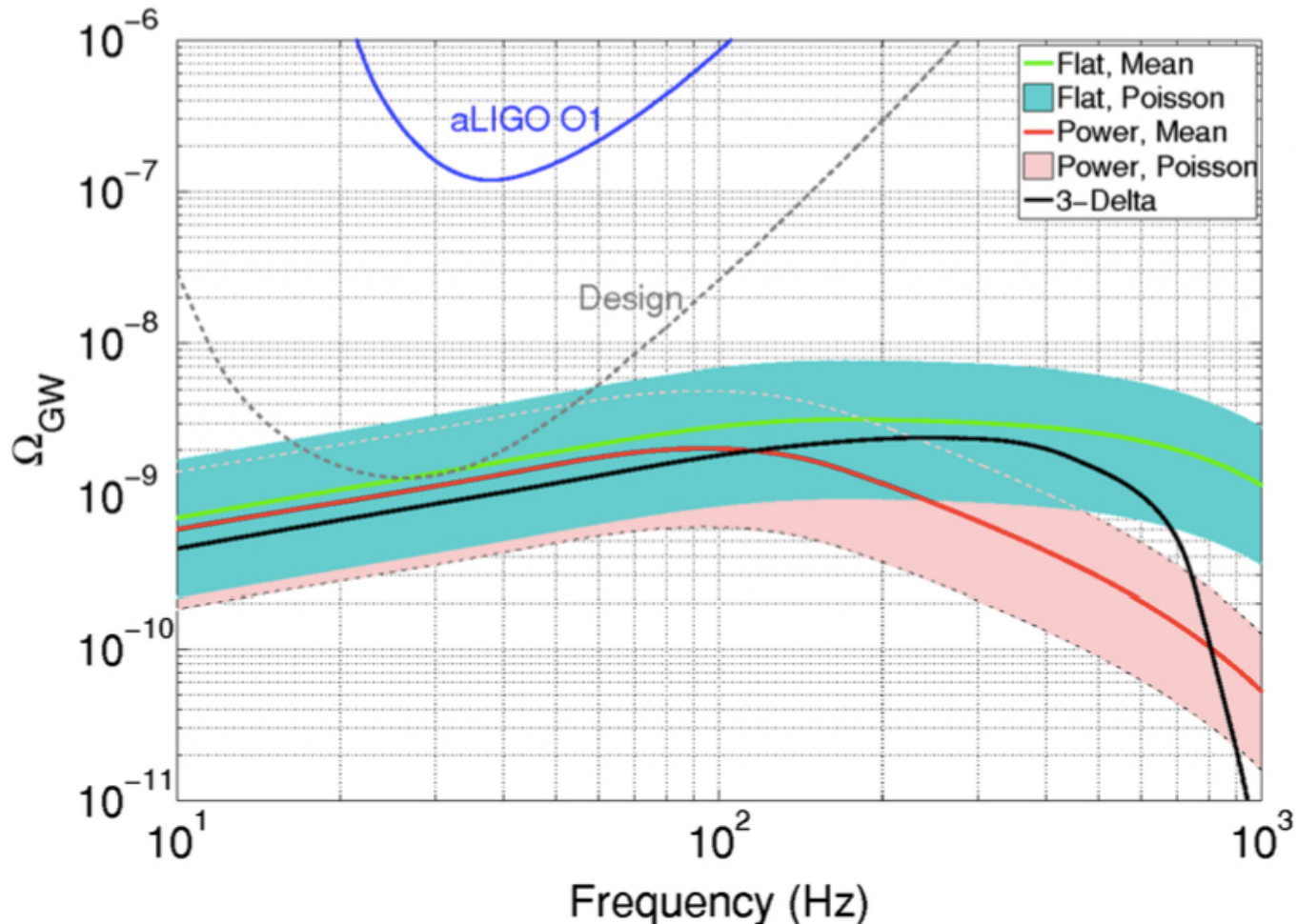
Linear polarization @170 Hz $\rightarrow h_o \simeq 4 \times 10^{-25}$

Circular polarization @170 Hz $\rightarrow h_o \simeq 1.5 \times 10^{-25}$



Potential spectra for a BBH background, using the flat-log, power-law, and three-delta mass distribution with the local rate inferred from the O1 detections

Upper Limits on the Stochastic Gravitational-Wave Background from Advanced LIGO's First Observing Run - LIGO Scientific and Virgo Collaborations (Abbott, Benjamin P. et al.) Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121101, Erratum: Phys.Rev.Lett. 119 (2017) no.2, 029901 arXiv:1612.02029 [gr-qc]



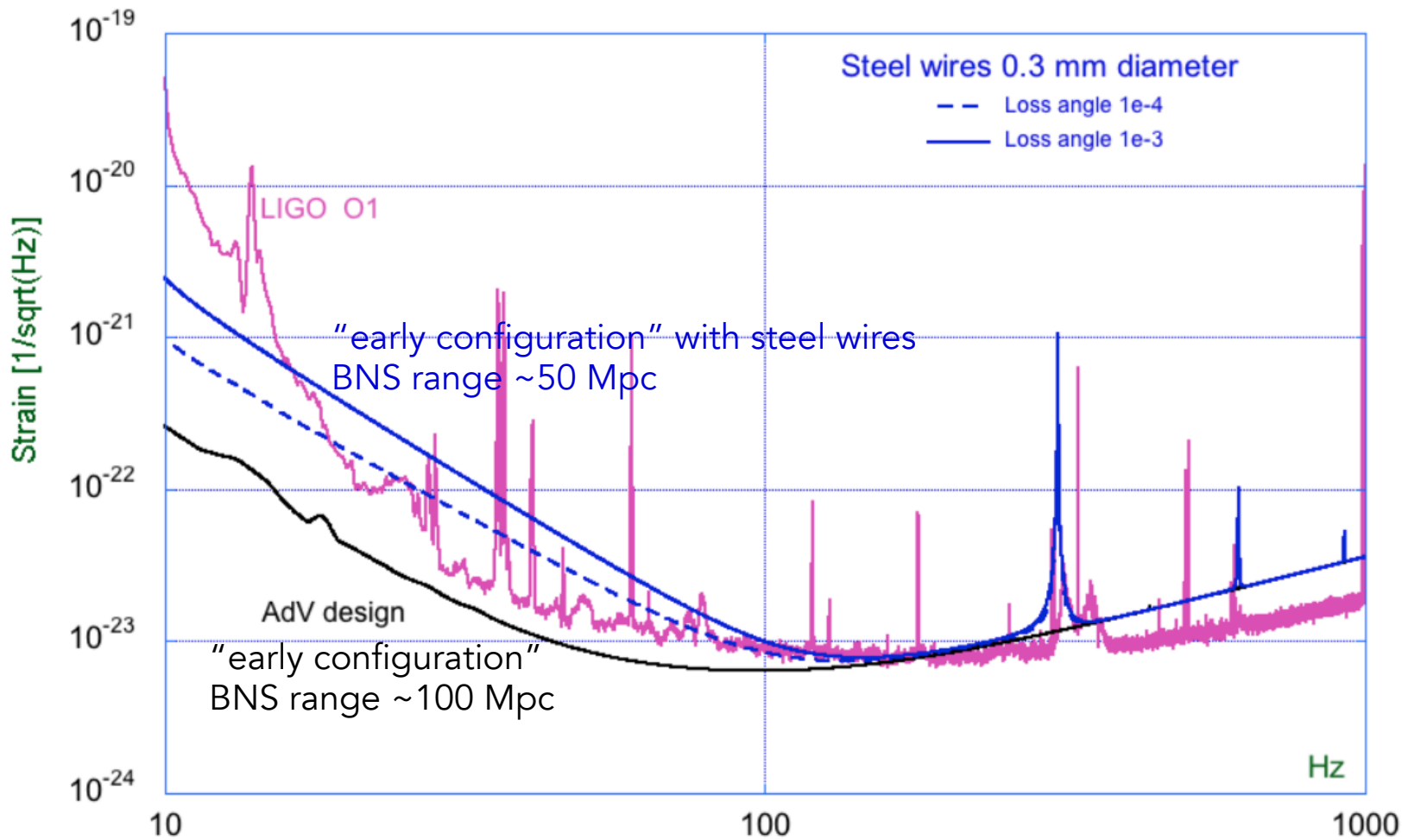
During and after O1, the integration activity in Advanced Virgo continued...

Monolithic suspensions were tested successfully in Virgo from 2008 to 2010, the first large interferometer to use them: *we did not expect problems.*

But in 2016 we had other 4 failures of monolithic suspensions under vacuum, until, in June 2016, we had to decide to fall back to initial Virgo technology and use steel wires to suspend the mirrors.



During and after O1, the integration activity in Advanced Virgo continued



In this way we could still reach the sensitivity goal of the early phase of Advanced Virgo.

In parallel, we made an extensive and intense research to understand the cause:

Eventually, in november 2016, the culprit was found: *dust particle generated by scroll pumps and blown towards the fibers during ventings of the vacuum chamber.*

Risk mitigation action plan implemented:

- upgrade of the vacuum system: scroll pumps replacement, modifications of the venting piping

- installation of “fiber guards”

After O2, test masses are now being suspended again with fused silica fibers.

December 13th 2017

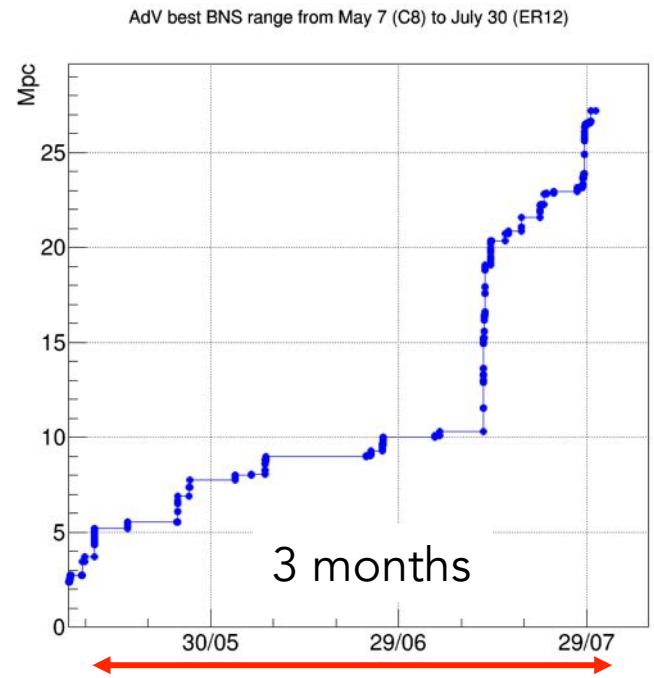
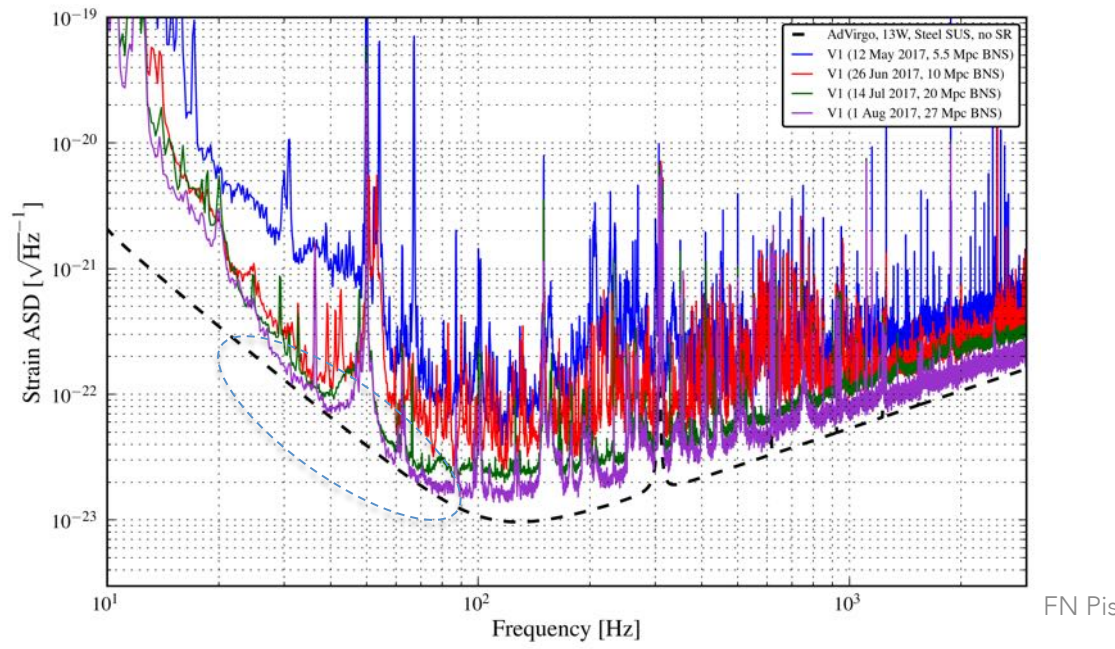
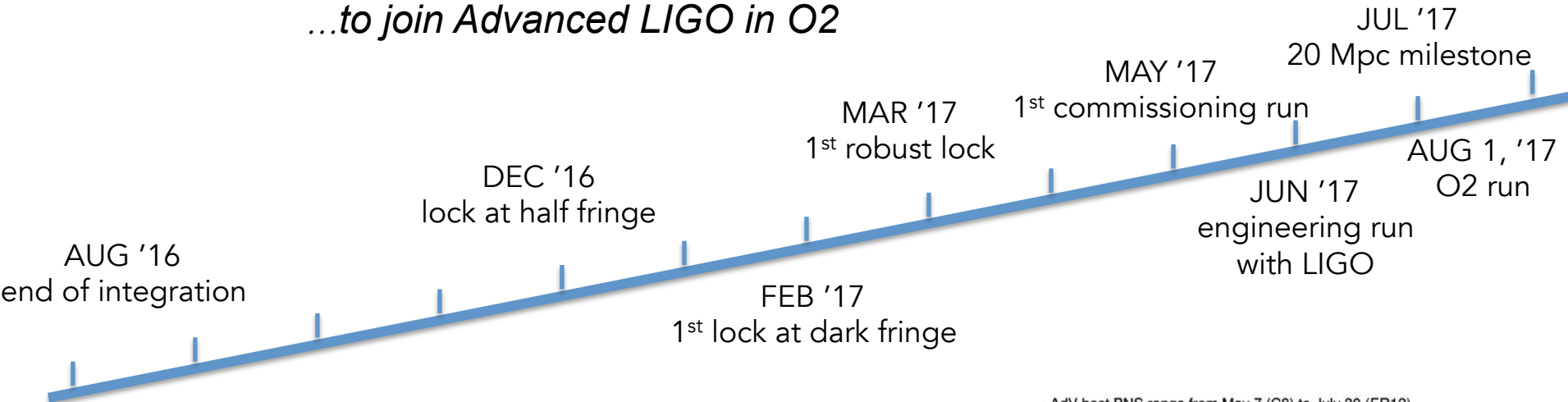
13.12.2017 21:27



N.END.
reassembled
with monolithic
suspension

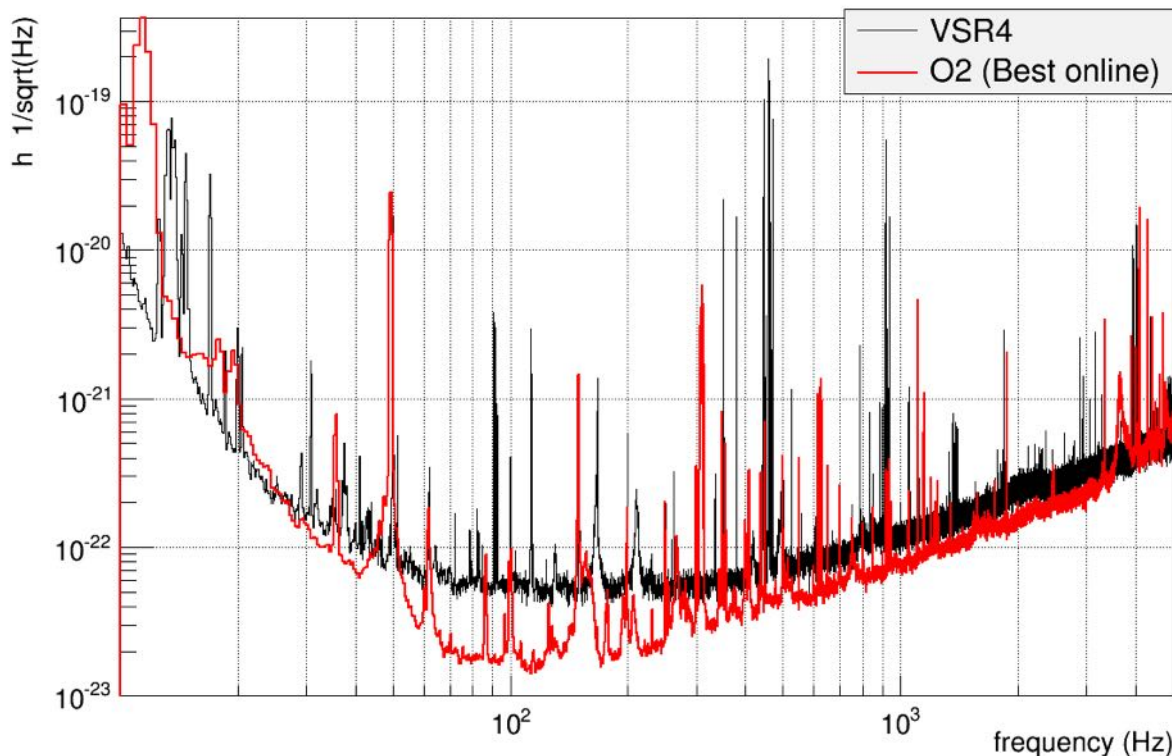
The Commissioning Rush

...to join Advanced LIGO in O2



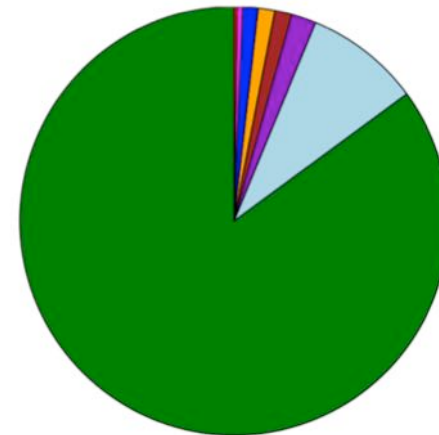
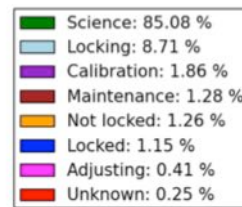
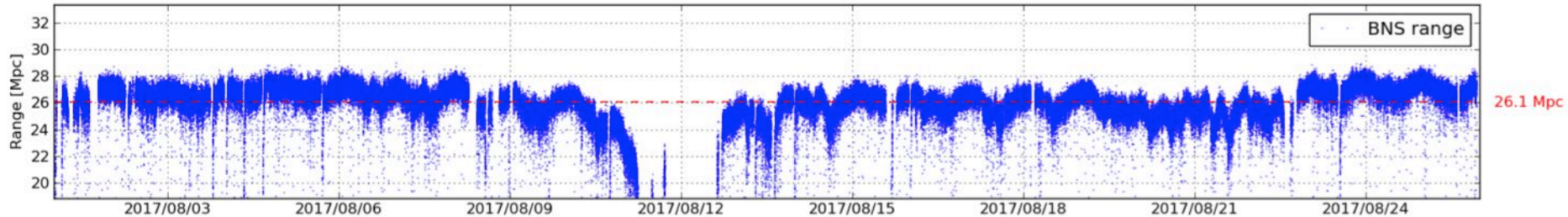
On August 1st 2017 Advanced Virgo joined Advanced LIGO in O2.

O2 had started in November 2016, and was due to end on August 25th 2017.



- ❑ VIRGO+ (2011): BNS range of 12 Mpc
- ❑ AdV (O2): 28 Mpc, ~12x larger volume of universe reached
 - now further improved: >30 Mpc

Virgo ranges: 2017/08/01 -> 2017/08/25 -- now: 2017/08/26 21:55:13 UTC



DUTY CYCLE: 85% (!!)

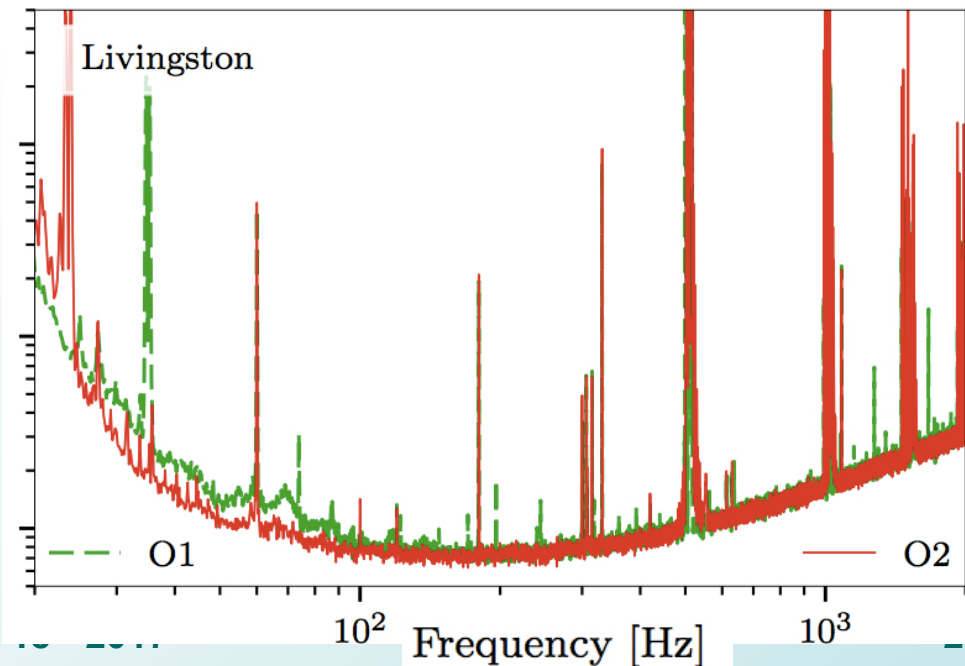
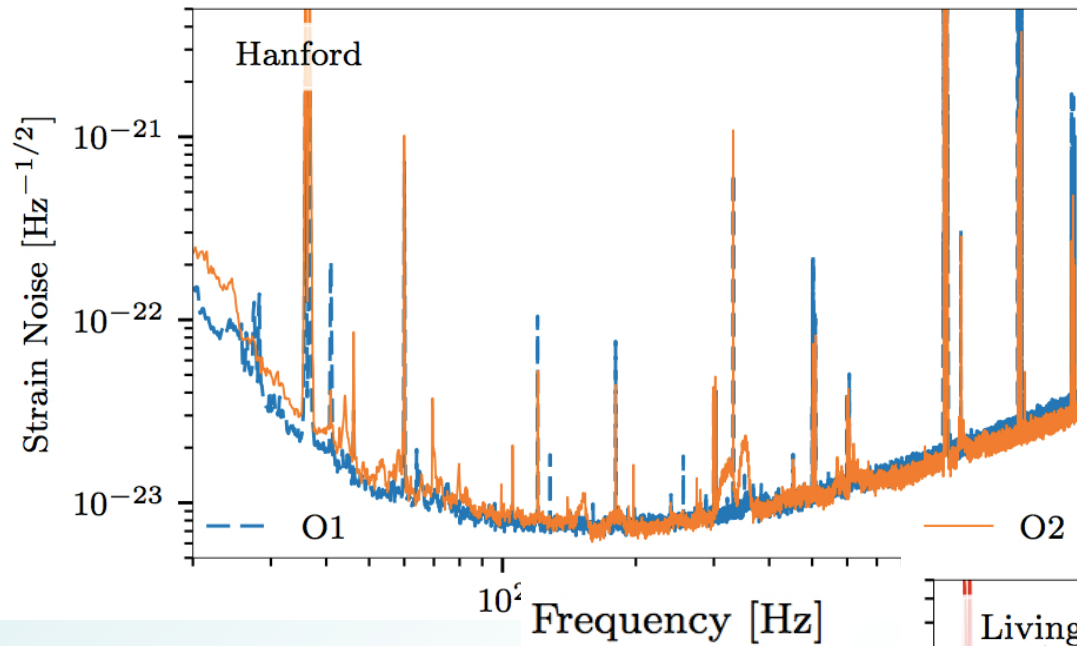
LONGEST LOCK STRETCH: 69 hours

HIGHEST BNS RANGE: 28.2 Mpc

AVERAGE RANGE: BNS 26 - BBH₁₀ 134 - BBH₃₀ 314 Mpc

O2 summary
November 30, 2016
August 25, 2017
(with Christmas break)

LIGO Sensitivity during O2



Again a BBH

January 04 2017, 10:11:58.6 UTC

Primary mass	31.2 +8.4 -6.0	Msun
Secondary mass	19.4 +5.3 -5.9	Msun
Chirp mass	21.1 +2.4 -2.7	Msun
Total mass	50.7 +5.9 -5.0	Msun
Final mass	48.7 +5.7 -4.6	Msun
Radiated energy	2.0 +0.6 -0.7	Msun c ²
Peak luminosity	3.1 +0.7 -1.3	10 ⁵⁶ erg s ⁻¹
Effective inspiral spin	-0.12 +0.21 -0.30	
Final spin	0.64 +0.09 -0.20	
Luminosity distance	880 +450 -390	Mpc
Source redshift	0.18 +0.08 -0.07	
False alarm rate	< 1.4e-05	yr ⁻¹
Signal to Noise Ratio	13	
Sky localization	1200	deg ²

Network signal-to-noise ratio of 13 and a false-alarm-rate of once per 7×10^4 years

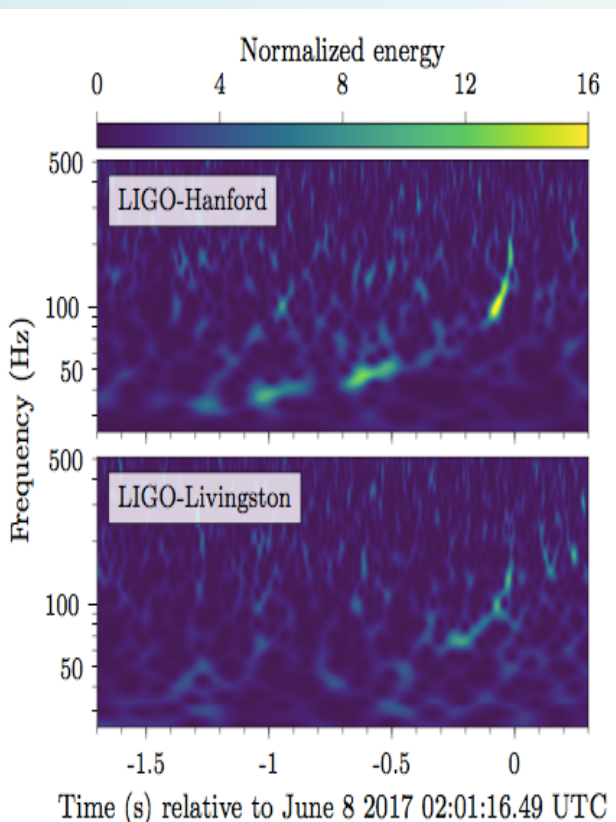
Abbott et al.

GW170608: OBSERVATION OF A 19-SOLAR-MASS BINARY BLACK HOLE COALESCENCE

COALESCENCE

arXiv:1711.05578 sub.to APJ

June 8, 2017 at 02:01:16.49 UTC

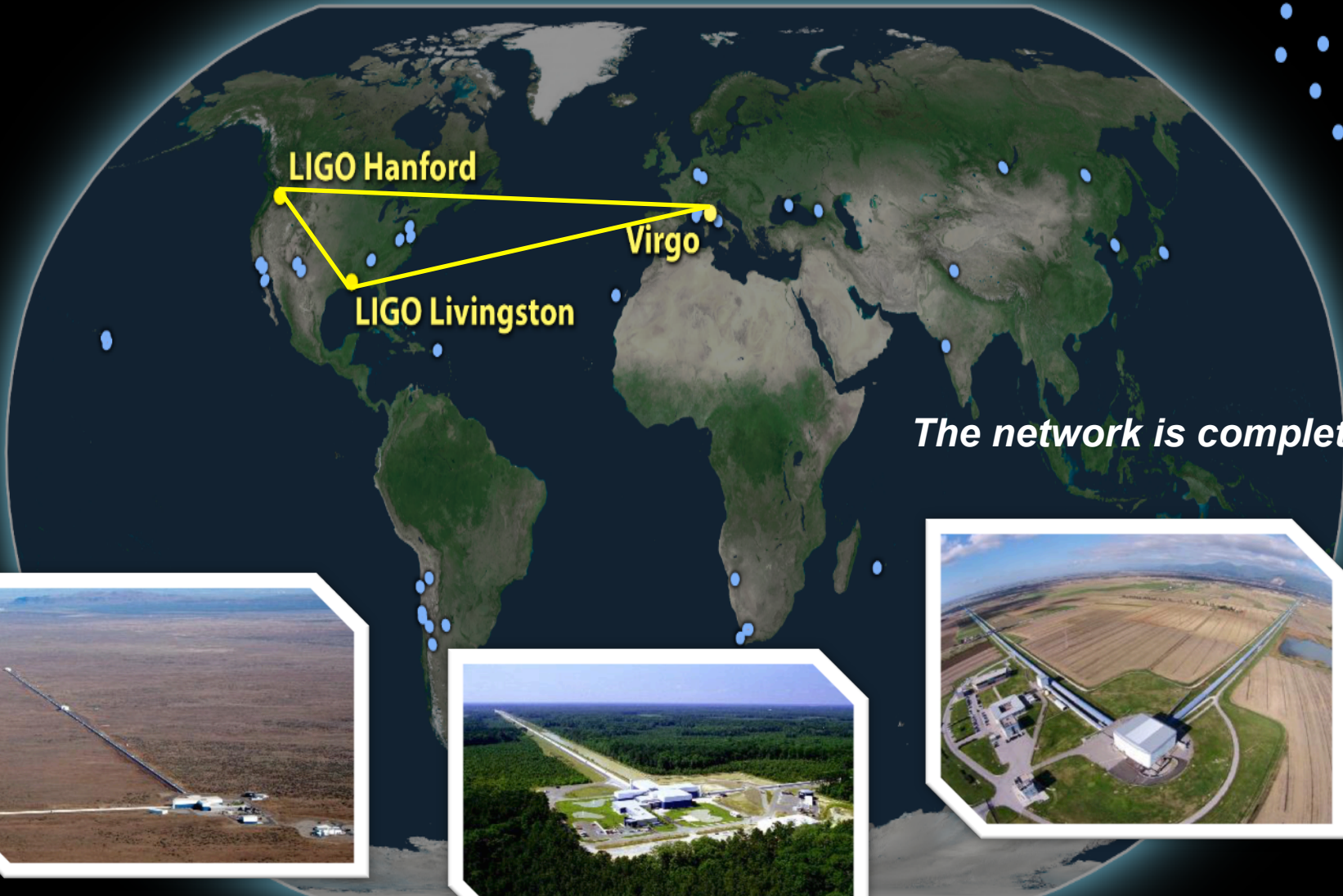


Chirp mass \mathcal{M}	$7.9^{+0.2}_{-0.2} M_{\odot}$
Total mass M	$19^{+5}_{-1} M_{\odot}$
Primary black hole mass m_1	$12^{+7}_{-2} M_{\odot}$
Secondary black hole mass m_2	$7^{+2}_{-2} M_{\odot}$
Mass ratio m_2/m_1	$0.6^{+0.3}_{-0.4}$
Effective inspiral spin parameter χ_{eff}	$0.07^{+0.23}_{-0.09}$
Final black hole mass M_f	$18.0^{+4.8}_{-0.9} M_{\odot}$
Final black hole spin a_f	$0.69^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$
Radiated energy E_{rad}	$0.85^{+0.07}_{-0.17} M_{\odot} c^2$
Peak luminosity ℓ_{peak}	$3.4^{+0.5}_{-1.6} \times 10^{56} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$
Luminosity distance D_L	$340^{+140}_{-140} \text{ Mpc}$
Source redshift z	$0.07^{+0.03}_{-0.03}$

Network signal-to-noise ratio of 13

August 1st, 2017

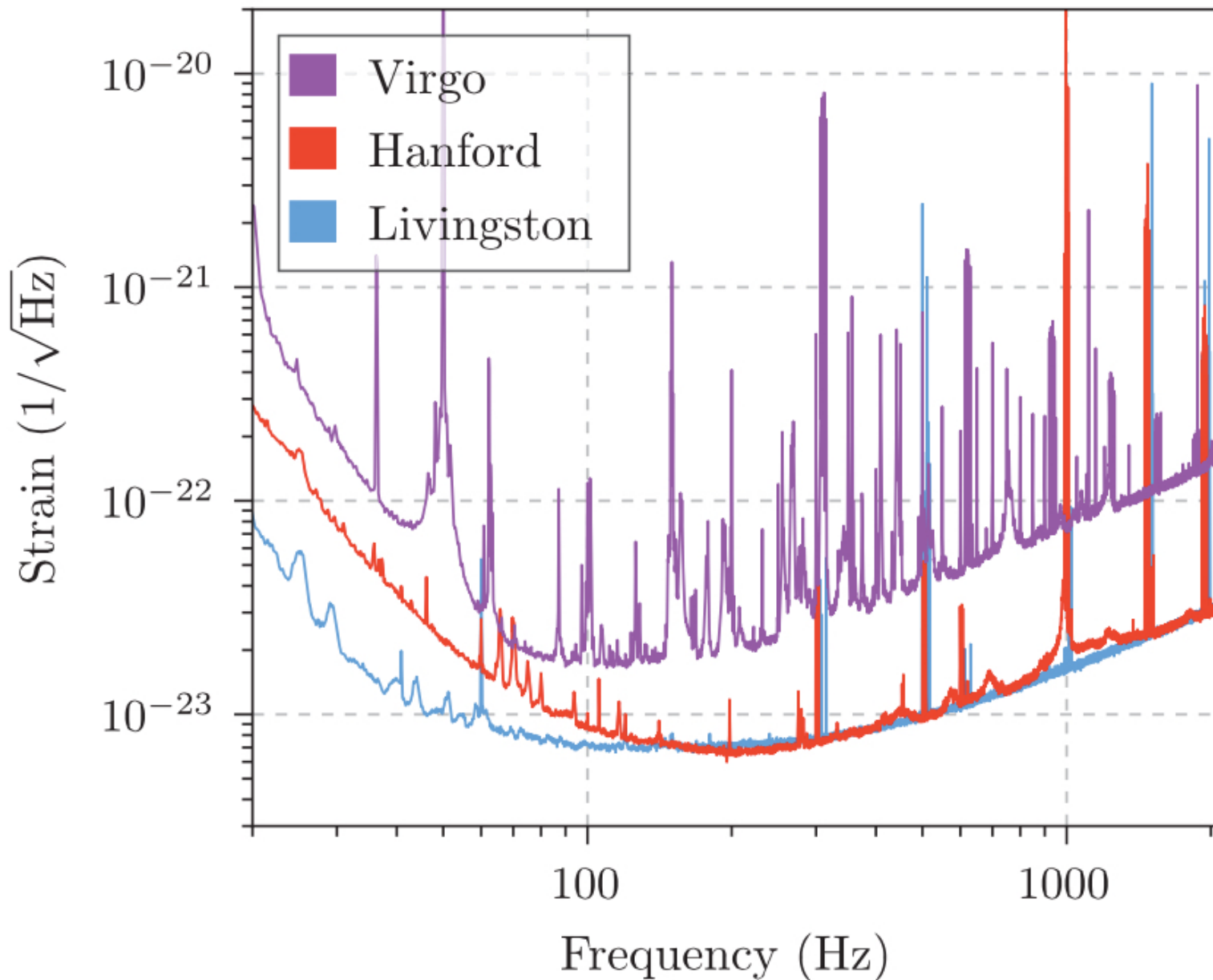
Space

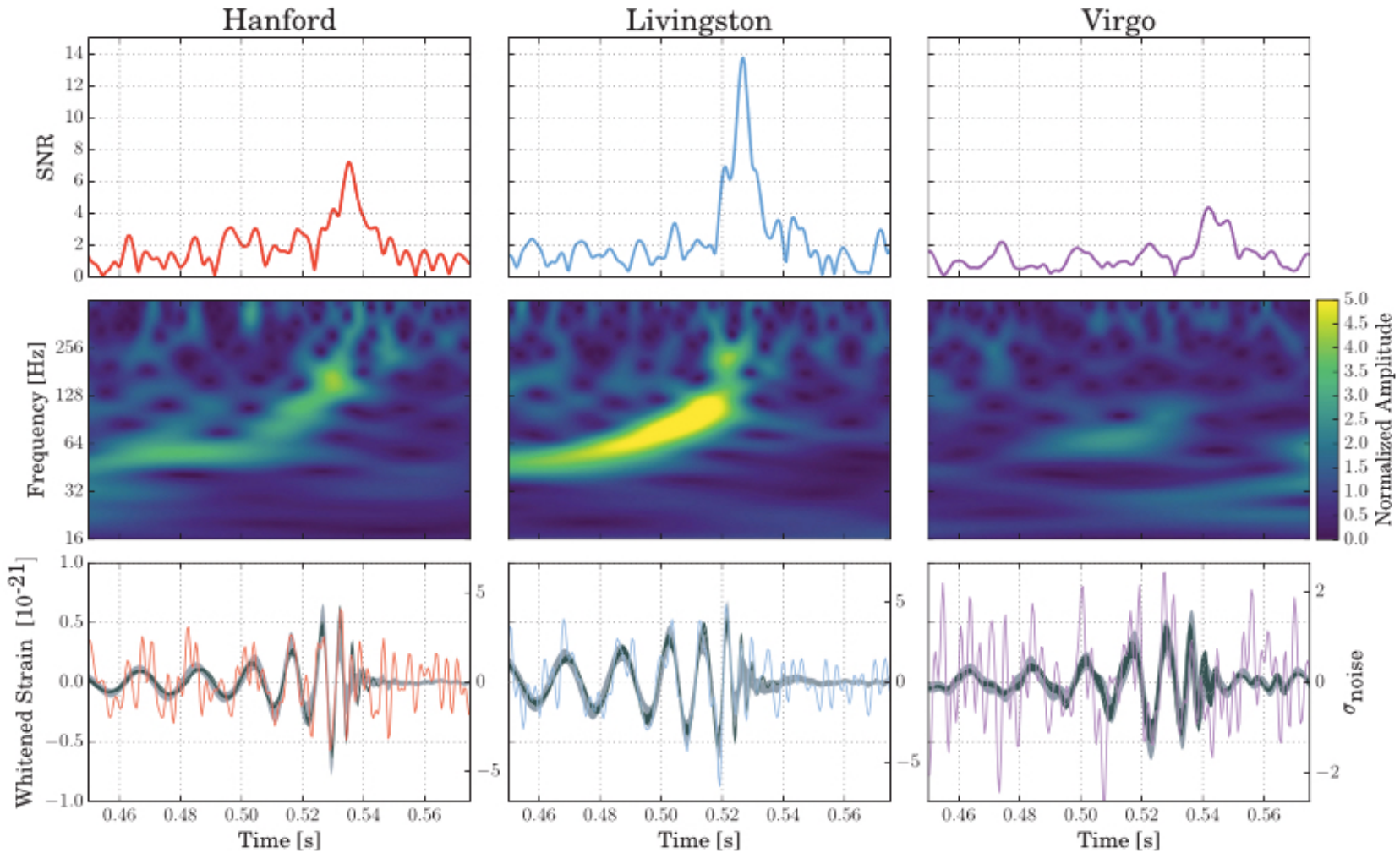


The network is completed



Triple sensitivity





nt

GW170814 : A three-detector observation of gravitational waves from a binary black hole coalescence, available from [doi:10.1103/PhysRevLett.119.141101](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.119.141101).

*False-alarm rate of $\lesssim 1$ in 27 000 years
3-detector network matched-filter SNR=18*

Primary black hole mass m_1	$30.5^{+5.7}_{-3.0} M_{\odot}$
Secondary black hole mass m_2	$25.3^{+2.8}_{-4.2} M_{\odot}$
Chirp mass \mathcal{M}	$24.1^{+1.4}_{-1.1} M_{\odot}$
Total mass M	$55.9^{+3.4}_{-2.7} M_{\odot}$
Final black hole mass M_f	$53.2^{+3.2}_{-2.5} M_{\odot}$
Radiated energy E_{rad}	$2.7^{+0.4}_{-0.3} M_{\odot} c^2$
Peak luminosity ℓ_{peak}	$3.7^{+0.5}_{-0.5} \times 10^{56} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$
Effective inspiral spin parameter χ_{eff}	$0.06^{+0.12}_{-0.12}$
Final black hole spin a_f	$0.70^{+0.07}_{-0.05}$
Luminosity distance D_L	$540^{+130}_{-210} \text{ Mpc}$
Source redshift z	$0.11^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$

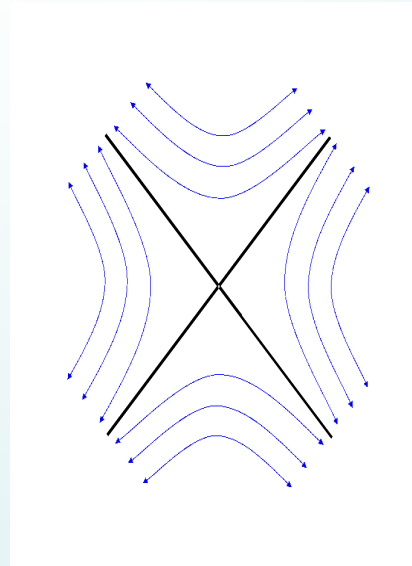
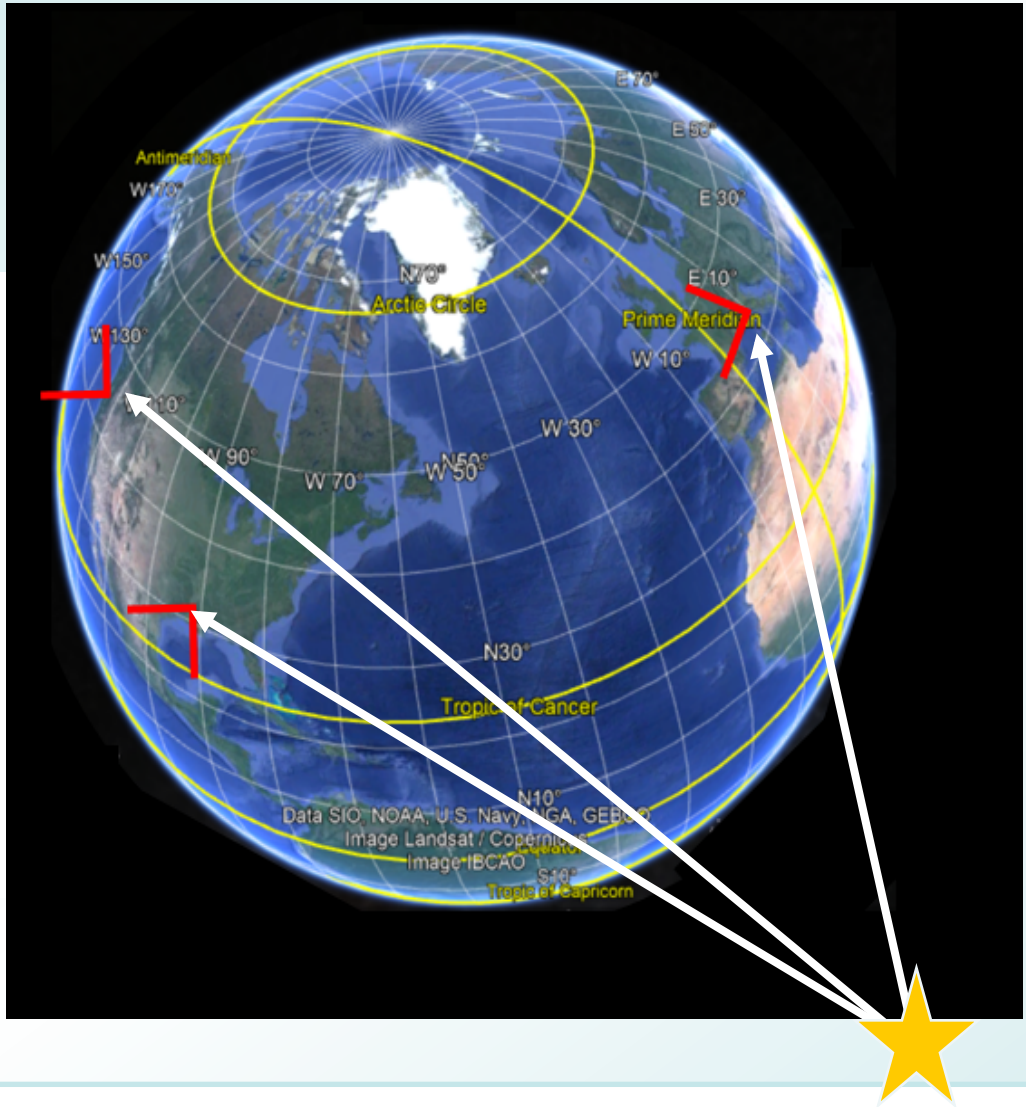
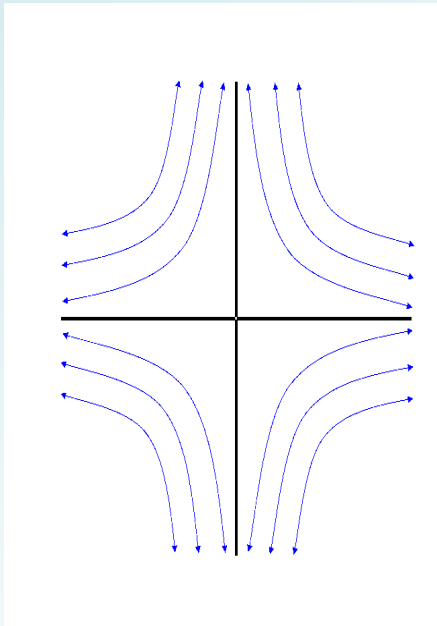
GR predicts that metric perturbations has 2 tensor degrees of freedom → Spin 2

This is a subset of 6 independent modes predicted by the generic metric theories of gravity → Spin 0 , Spin 1 , Spin 2

Spin2 → evidence from measurements of the rate of orbital decay of binary pulsars

The 3 detector operation → probe of the GW polarizations

by studying the wave geometry directly through the projection of the metric perturbation onto the network of the 3 detectors not aligned.



With its orientation, Virgo allows to access the second polarization in addition to the polarization accessible with the LIGO detectors

Preliminary Bayesian analysis on polarization

Coherent Bayesian analysis done comparing
antenna response functions with tensor polarization

- response for scalar polarizations
- response for vector polarization

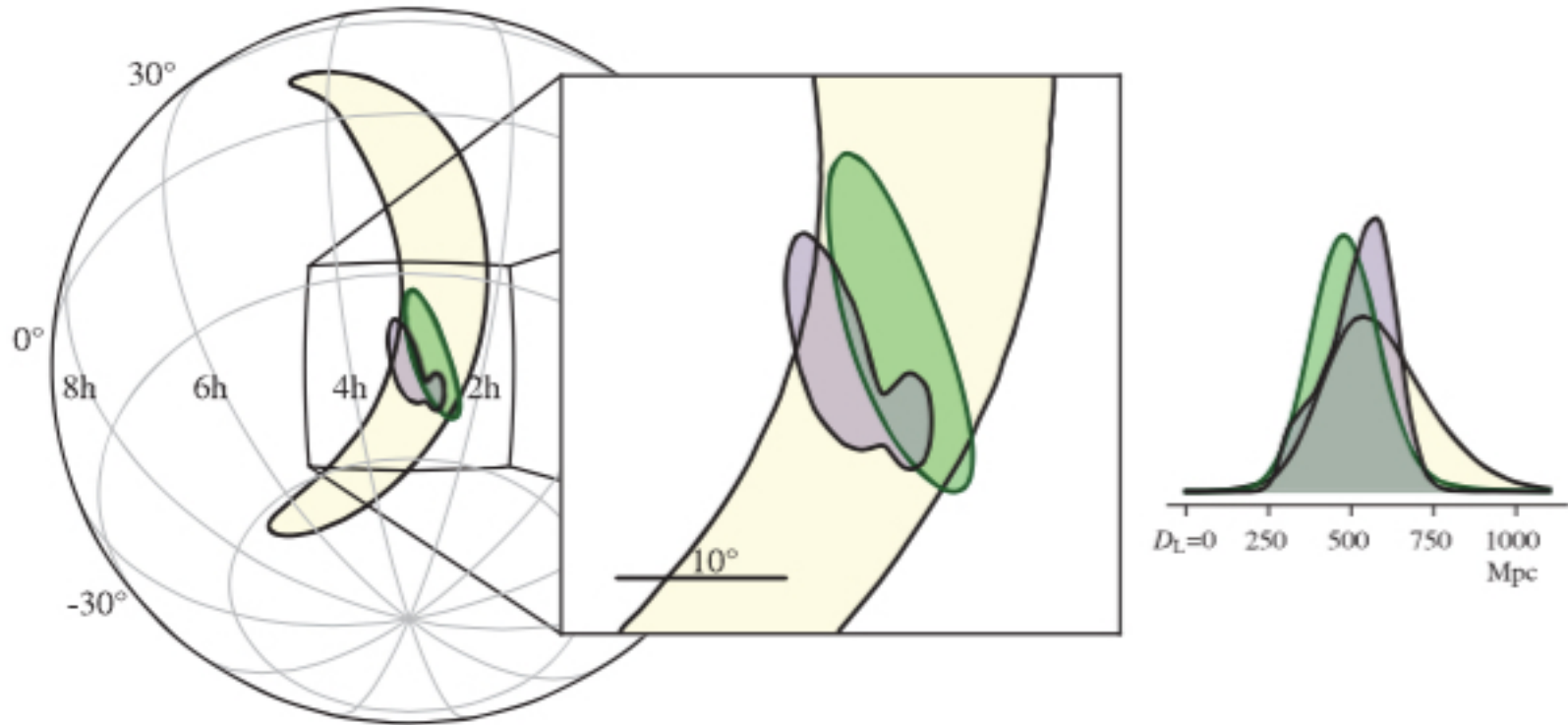
Bayes' factor of the purely tensor polarization

200 against purely vector

1000 against purely scalar

Preliminary study

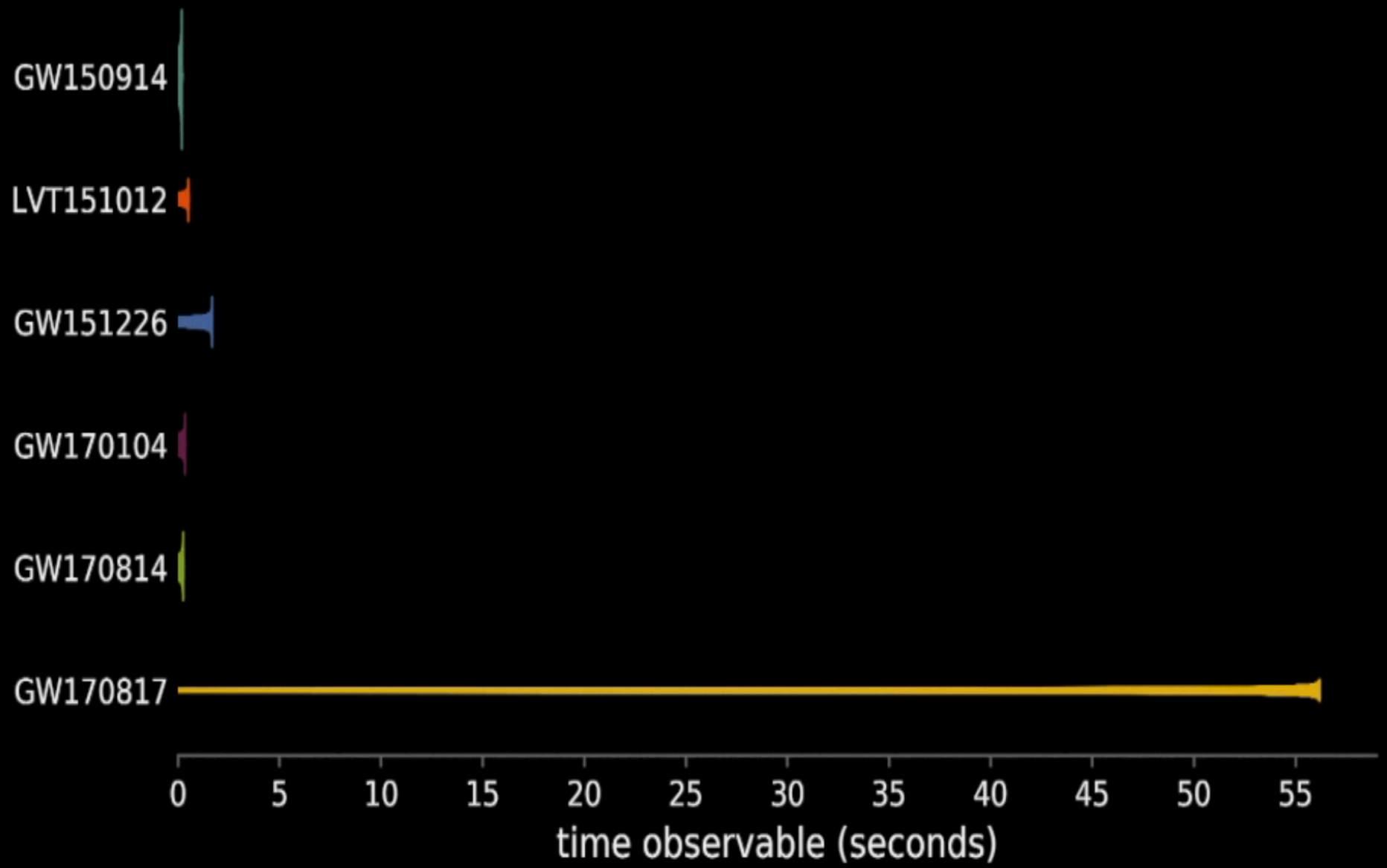
90% credible region → 1160 deg² using only the two LIGO detectors
 → 60 deg² using all three detectors



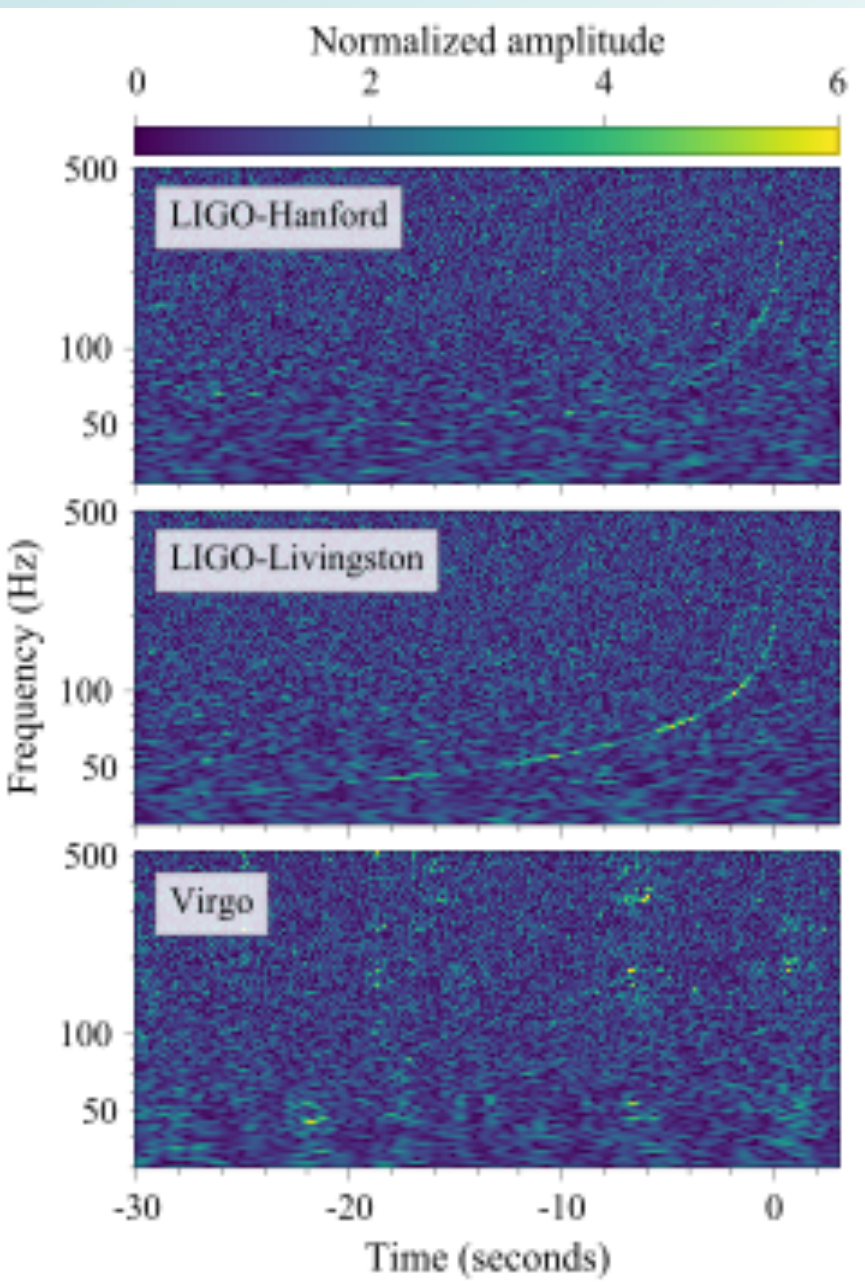
Localization of GW170814. The rapid localization using data from the two LIGO sites is shown in yellow, with the inclusion of data from Virgo shown in green. The full Bayesian localization is shown in purple. The contours represent the 90% credible regions. The left panel is an orthographic projection and the inset in the center is a gnomonic projection; both are in equatorial coordinates. The inset on the right shows the posterior probability distribution for the luminosity distance, marginalized over the whole sky.

August 17th 2017





GW170817



LIGO and the Virgo detectors were operational at the time of the binary neutron star inspiral **12:41:04.4 UTC**

GW170817 swept through the detectors' sensitive band in ~100s.

$f_{\text{start}} \sim 24\text{Hz}.$

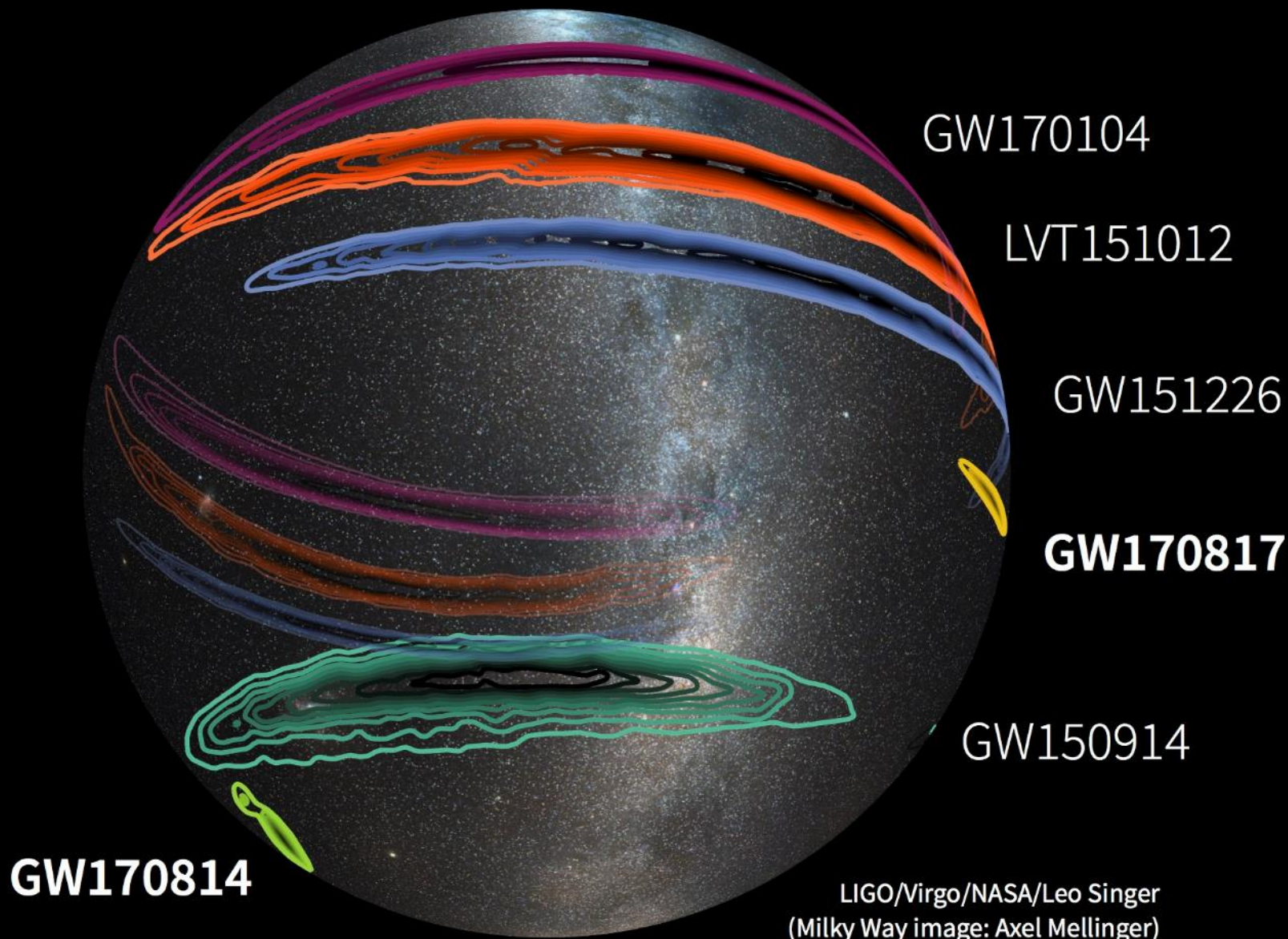
Loudest (network SNR of **32.4**), closest and best localized signal signal ever observed by LIGO and Virgo

Sky position localization for GW170817 is within an area of **$\sim 30 \text{ deg}^2$**
 Radiated energy **$> 0.025 M_{\odot} c^2$**

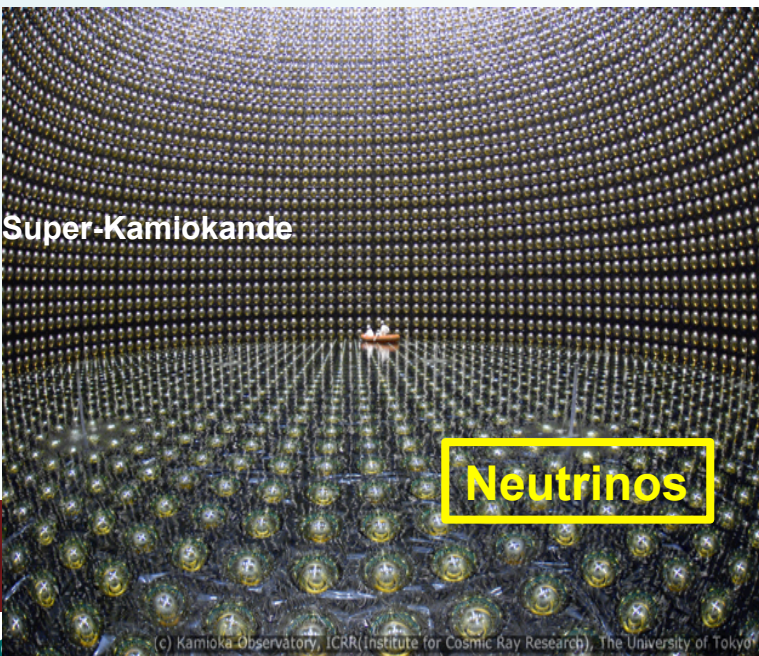
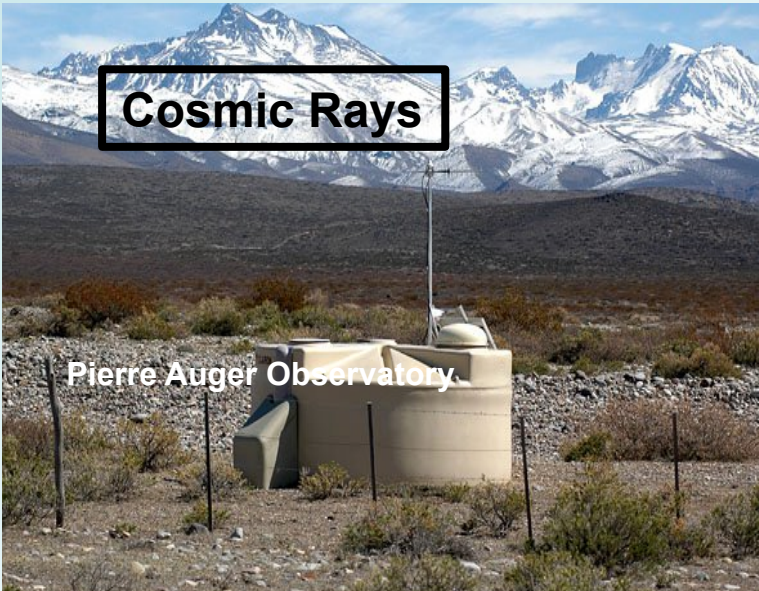
observed by	H, L, V	inferred duration from 30 Hz to 2048 Hz**	~ 60 s
source type	binary neutron star (NS)	inferred # of GW cycles from 30 Hz to 2048 Hz**	~ 3000
date	17 August 2017	initial astronomer alert latency*	27 min
time of merger	12:41:04 UTC	HLV sky map alert latency*	5 hrs 14 min
signal-to-noise ratio	32.4	HLV sky area†	28 deg ²
false alarm rate	< 1 in 80 000 years	# of EM observatories that followed the trigger	~ 70
distance	85 to 160 million light-years	also observed in	gamma-ray, X-ray, ultraviolet, optical, infrared, radio
total mass	2.73 to 3.29 M _⊙	host galaxy	NGC 4993
primary NS mass	1.36 to 2.26 M _⊙	source RA, Dec	13 ^h 09 ^m 48 ^s , -23°22'53"
secondary NS mass	0.86 to 1.36 M _⊙	sky location	in Hydra constellation
mass ratio	0.4 to 1.0	viewing angle (without and with host galaxy identification)	≤ 56° and ≤ 28°
radiated GW energy	> 0.025 M _⊙ c ²	Hubble constant inferred from host galaxy identification	62 to 107 km s ⁻¹ Mpc ⁻¹
radii of NSs	likely ≈ 15 km		
effective spin parameter	-0.01 to 0.17		
effective precession spin parameter	unconstrained		
GW speed deviation from speed of light	< few parts in 10 ¹⁵		

The inferred local coalescence rate density of BNS systems is

$$\bar{R} = 1540_{-1220}^{+3200} \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$



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



Hubble constant: $v_H = H_0 D$

“A Gravitational-Wave Standard Siren Measurement of the Hubble Constant”,
Nature [<https://doi.org/10.1038/nature24471>]

- CBC signals are “**standard sirens**”:

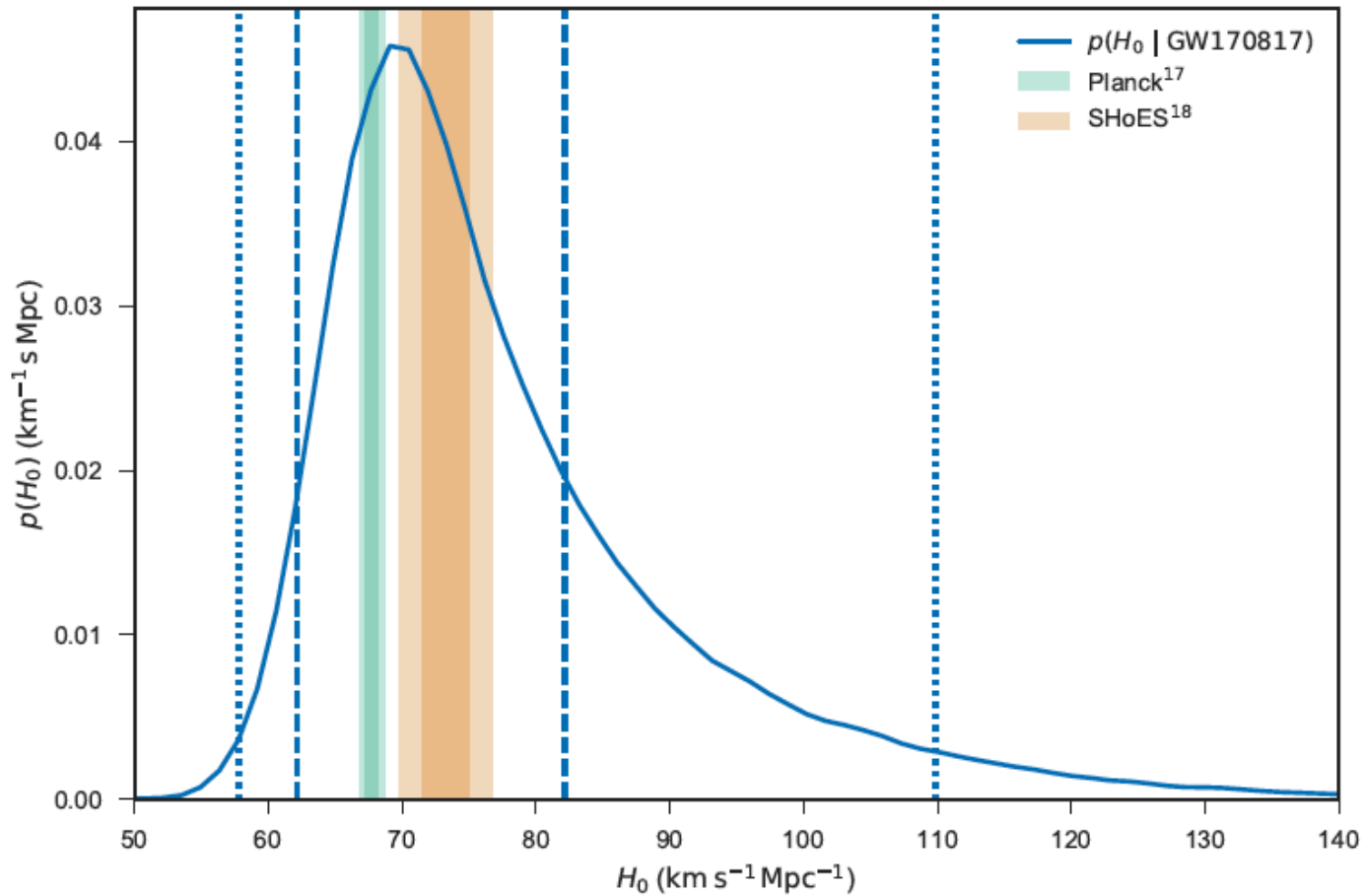
$$h_+(t) = \frac{1 + \cos^2 \iota}{2} \frac{GM}{c^2 D} \left(\frac{5GM}{c^3} \right)^{1/4} \cos \left(\int 2\pi f dt \right) \quad \mathcal{M} = \mu^{3/5} M^{2/5} \quad \text{: measured from the “chirp”}$$

$$h_\times(t) = \cos \iota \frac{GM}{c^2 D} \left(\frac{5GM}{c^3} \right)^{1/4} \sin \left(\int 2\pi f dt \right)$$

- From GW data compute the joint posterior distribution of $\cos(\iota)$ and D . At least a 3-detector network is needed.
- Estimate the local “Hubble flow” using association with NGC 4993 and correcting for the local peculiar motions ($\sim 10\%$)

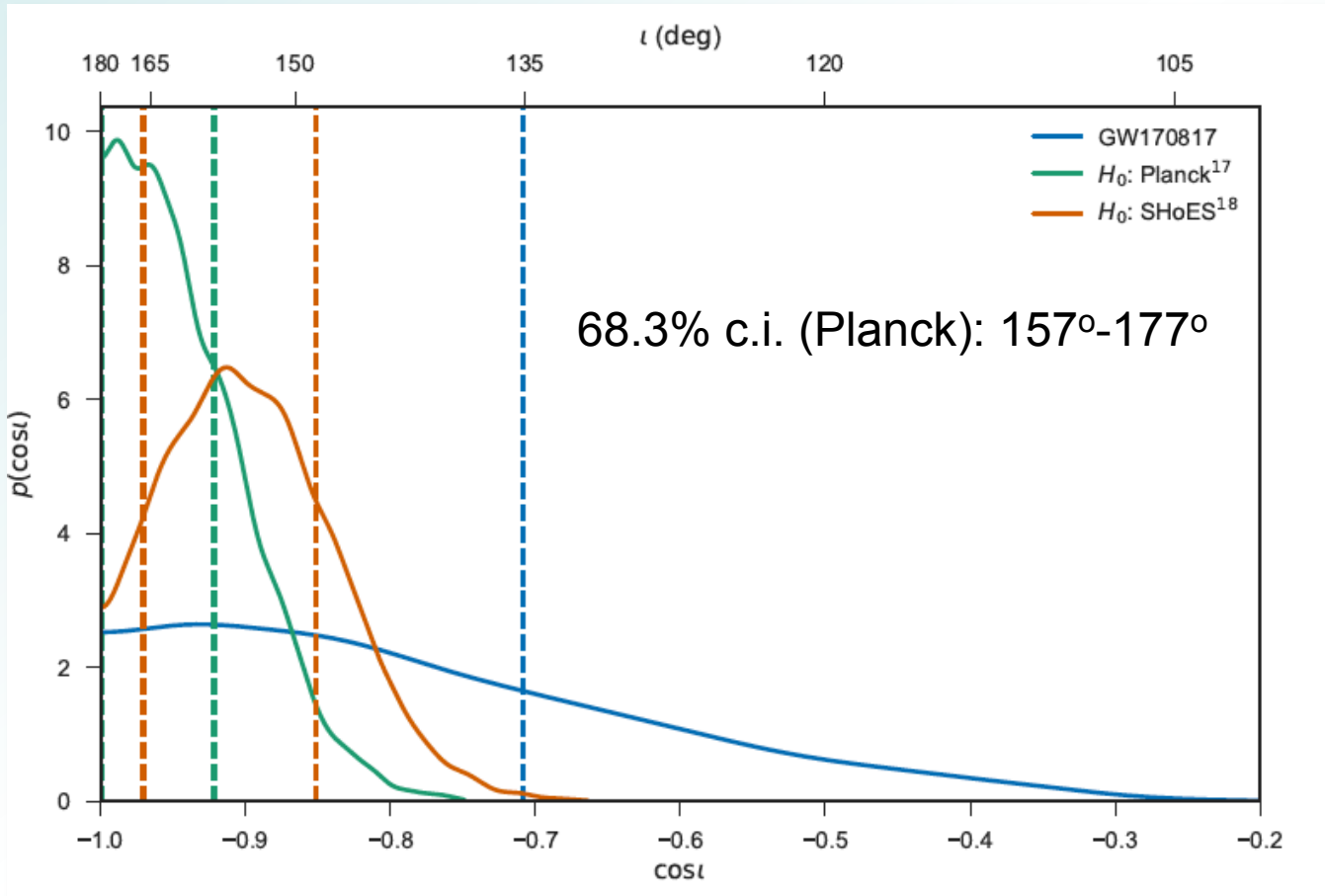
=> Obtain an estimation of H_0 independent on any “cosmic ladder”

$$H_0 = 70.0^{+12.0}_{-8.0} \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$$



- Compatible with both Planck and SHoES results
- Combining analysis of future CBC signals will improve H_0 estimation to %-level precision

- On the other hand, by using EM estimations of H_0 a measure of the binary system inclination angle can be obtained



- Impact on GRB modeling (energetics, beaming,...)

“Gravitational Waves and Gamma-Rays from a Binary Neutron Star Merger: GW170817 and GRB170817A”, *Astrophys. J. Lett.* [<https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/aa920c>]

- ✓ **Einstein Equivalence Principle**: use the Shapiro delay to test if GW and EM waves are affected by the background gravitational potential in the same way

$$\delta t_S = -\frac{1 + \gamma}{c^3} \int_{r_e}^{r_o} U(\mathbf{r}(l)) dl$$

observation position r_o
 gravitational potential $U(\mathbf{r}(l))$
 emission position r_e

$\gamma_{GW} = \gamma_{EM} = 1$ for GR-Maxwell Theory

$$-1.2 \times 10^{-6} \leq \gamma_{GW} - \gamma_{EM} \leq 2.6 \times 10^{-7}$$

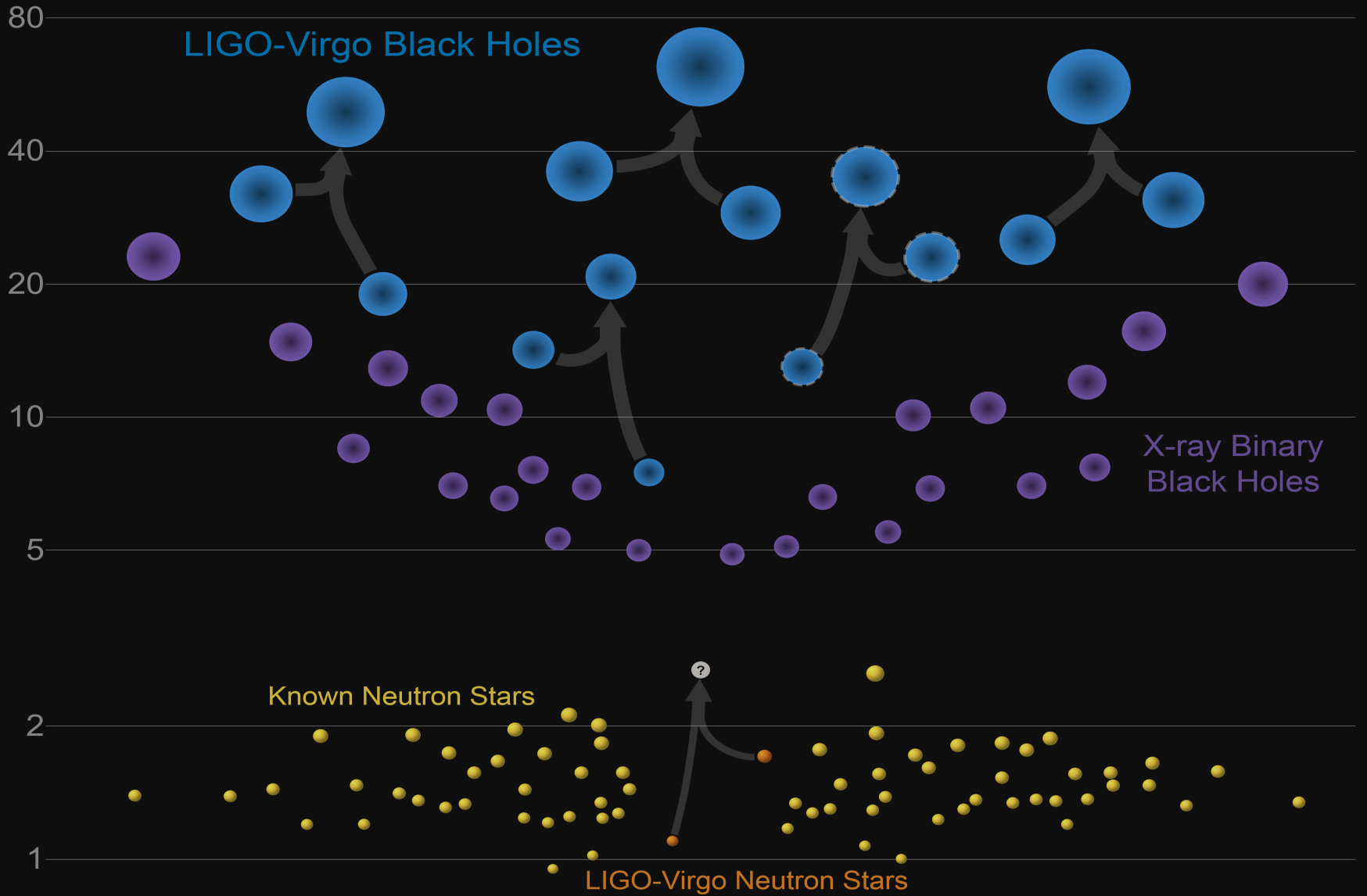
- ✓ **Upper limit on the difference between graviton and photon velocity**

$$-3 \times 10^{-15} \leq (v - c_{em})/c_{em} \leq 7 \times 10^{-16}$$

Pierro (lower bound assuming the EM signal was emitted 10 s after the GW signal)

Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

in Solar Masses



What Next?

Fall 2018 ==> start of O3 with 3 detectors in operation

Main improvements

LIGO

- mirror cleaning
- increased light power
- squeezed light in one interferometer
- vacuum leak repaired

Virgo

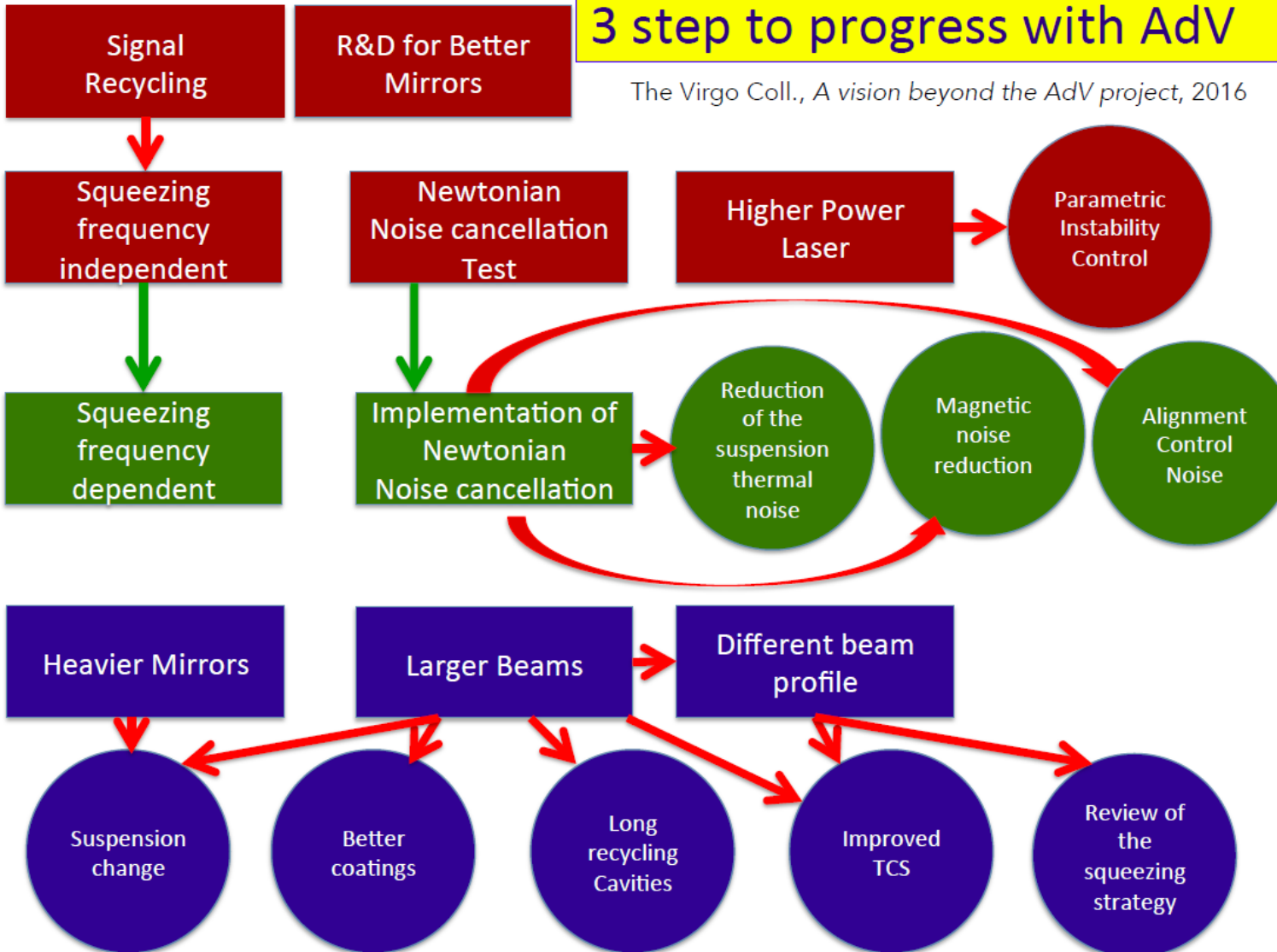
- vacuum cleaning
- mirror cleaning
- monolithic suspension**
- electronics improvement
- new powerful laser
- frequency independent squeezing
- sensor deployment to test the Newtonian noise cancellation

Data taking duration ~ 1/(1.5?) year

Beyond Advanced Virgo

3 step to progress with AdV

The Virgo Coll., A vision beyond the AdV project, 2016



UNIVERSITA DI ROMA

Title of the project

The Future of Virgo: AdV+

a roadmap to transition from Advanced Virgo to Third Generation Detectors

The AdV+ proposal

Applicants

The Virgo Collaboration
December 2017

Increase of sensitivity up to 200 – 250 Mpc range:

- Increase the size of the test mass mirrors to 550 mm \varnothing , 400 mm thickness
weight ~ 120 kg => reduction of thermal noise.
- Implement Signal Reclining and Frequency Dependent Squeezing

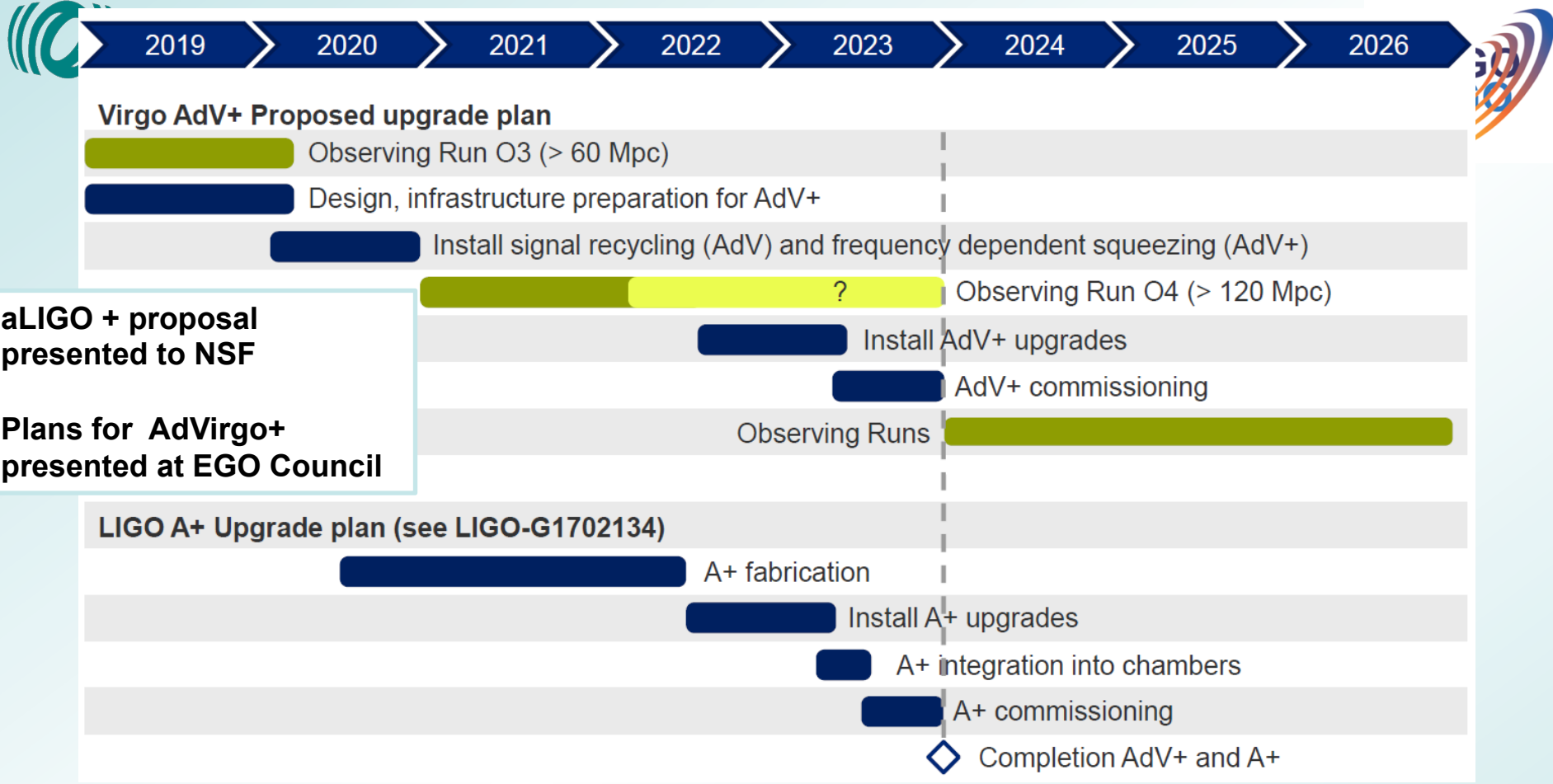
Cost ~ 25 MEuro, time ~ 5 years

Contact person:

Prof.dr Jo van den Brand
Spokesperson of Virgo

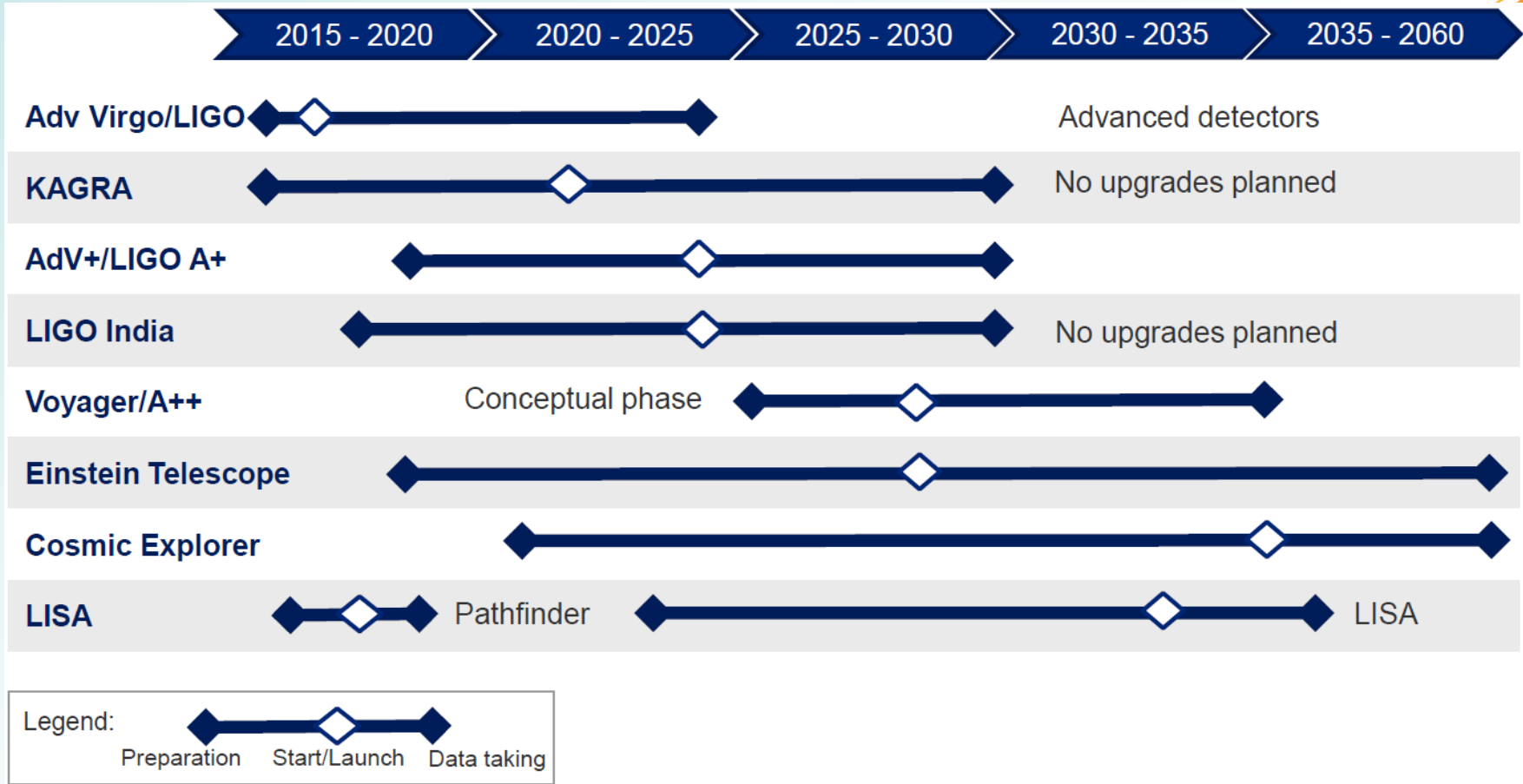
Subatomic Physics Group, VU University Amsterdam
539 484

Tel.: +31 (0)620



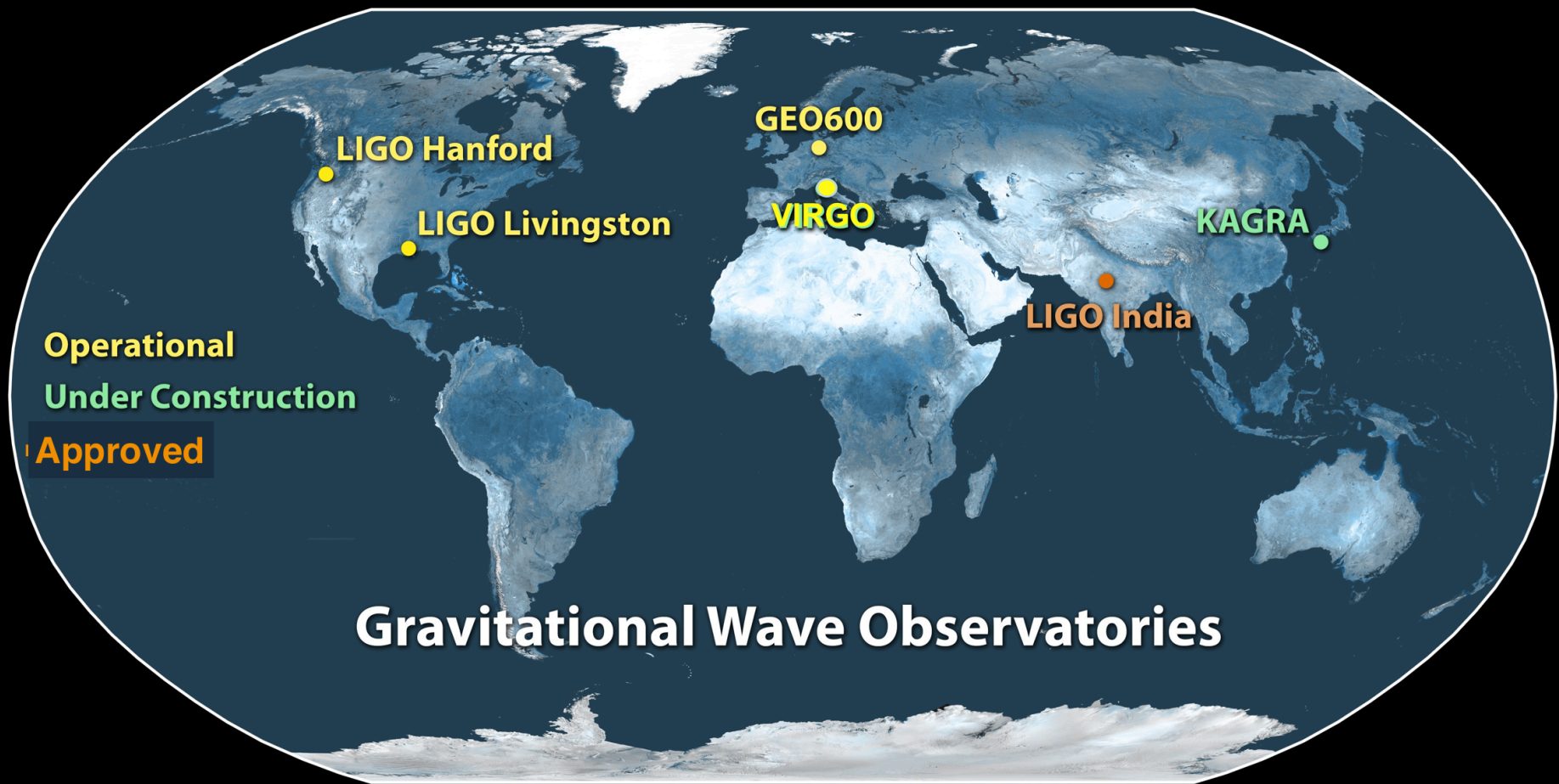
Timeline of AdV+ upgrade project. Observing runs are indicated in green, while AdV+ activities are shown in blue. Note that AdV+ is as much as possible synchronous with the LIGO A+ upgrade. Both projects aim to complete their work at the beginning of 2024. Note that at this moment the completion of the O4 science run has not been defined.

Evolution of GW Detectors



Advanced LIGO started operation in September 2015, together with GEO-HF. Advanced Virgo joined in 2017. Upgrade plans A+ and AdV+ are planned for LIGO and Virgo, respectively. KAGRA is under construction in Japan and will join the network in 2020. LIGO India is expected to join in 2024. Einstein Telescope could be operational as early as 2028. Cosmic Explorer is a third generation interferometer now under study in the USA. LISA is a space-based interferometer with a launch data in 2034 that is expected to run in parallel with ET and Cosmic Explorer.

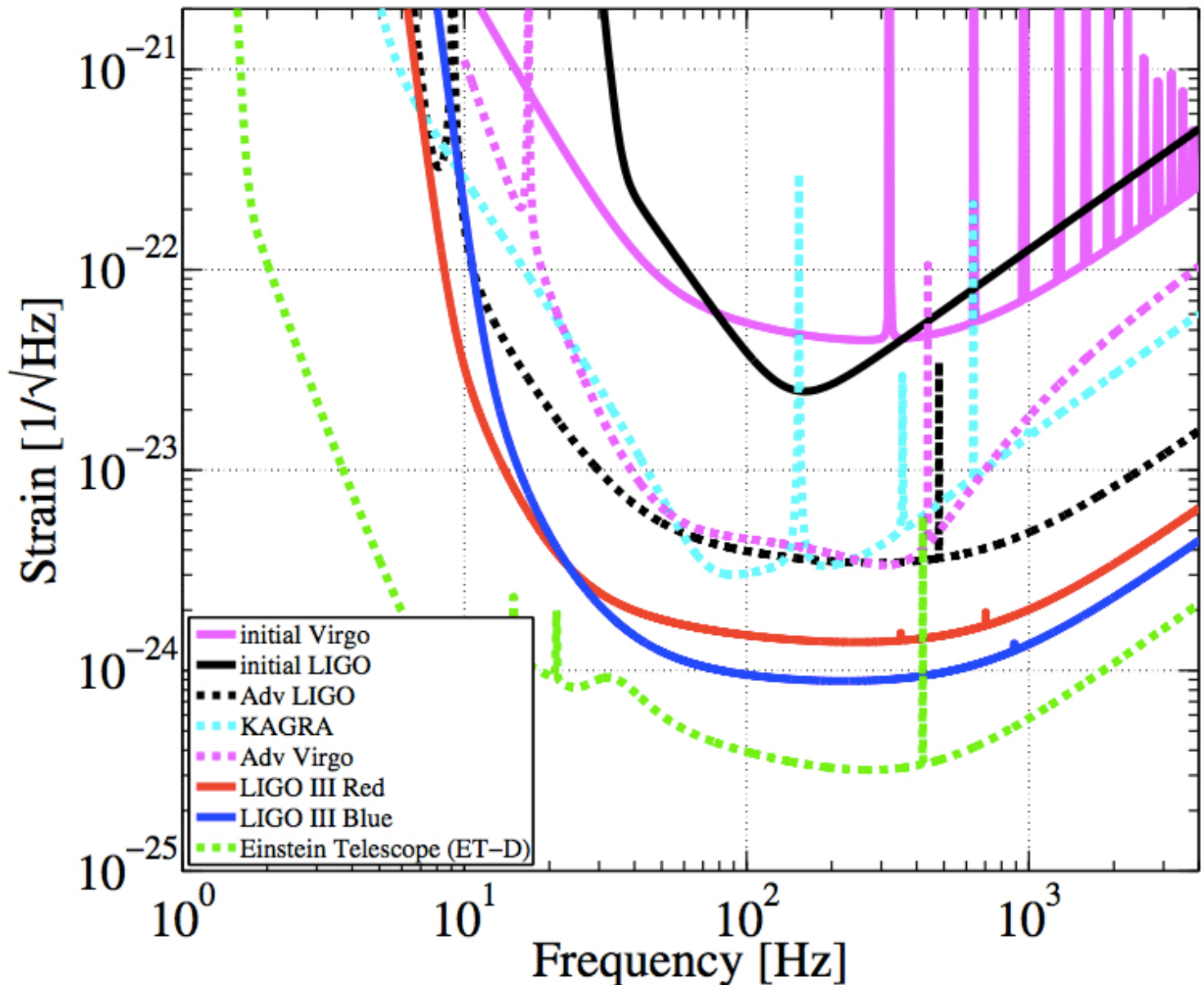
Network of the second generation of detectors



Gravitational Wave Observatories

Astrophysical Motivations for Third Generation Interferometers

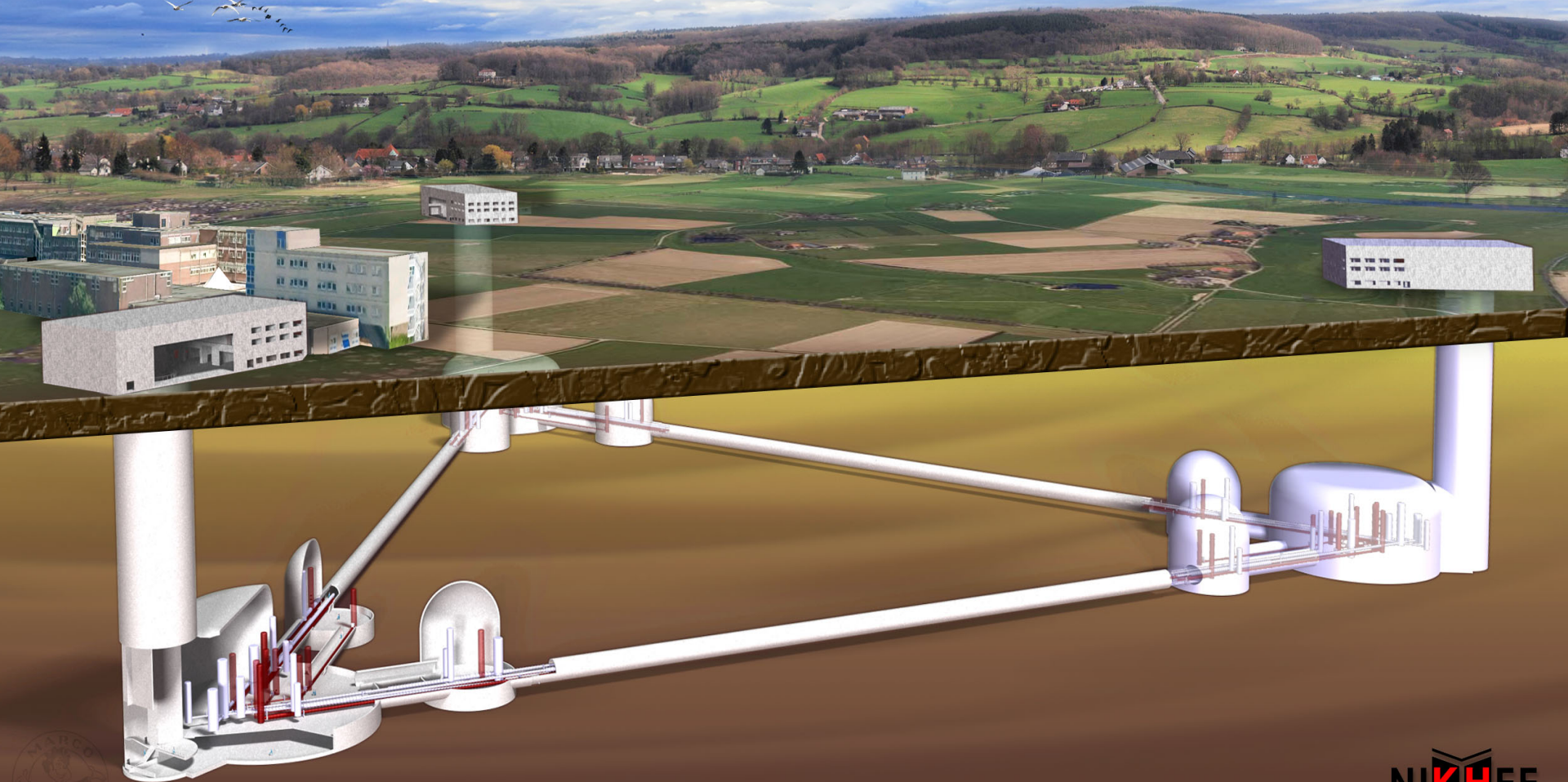
s
R. X Adhikari, Y. Chen, P. Ajith, J. Clark, V. Dergachev, N. Fotopoulos, S. E. Gossan, I. Mandel, M. Okounkova, V. Raymond, J. Read, J. G. Rollins



Einstein Telescope

The next gravitational wave observatory

Project study started ~2010, with good progress



The ET infrastructure in Sardinia

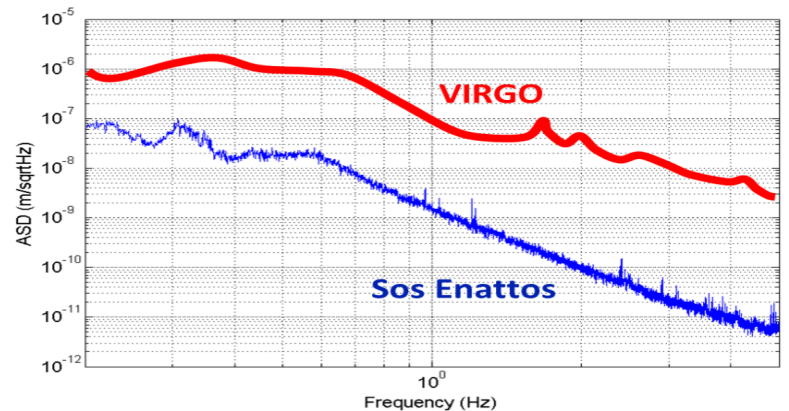
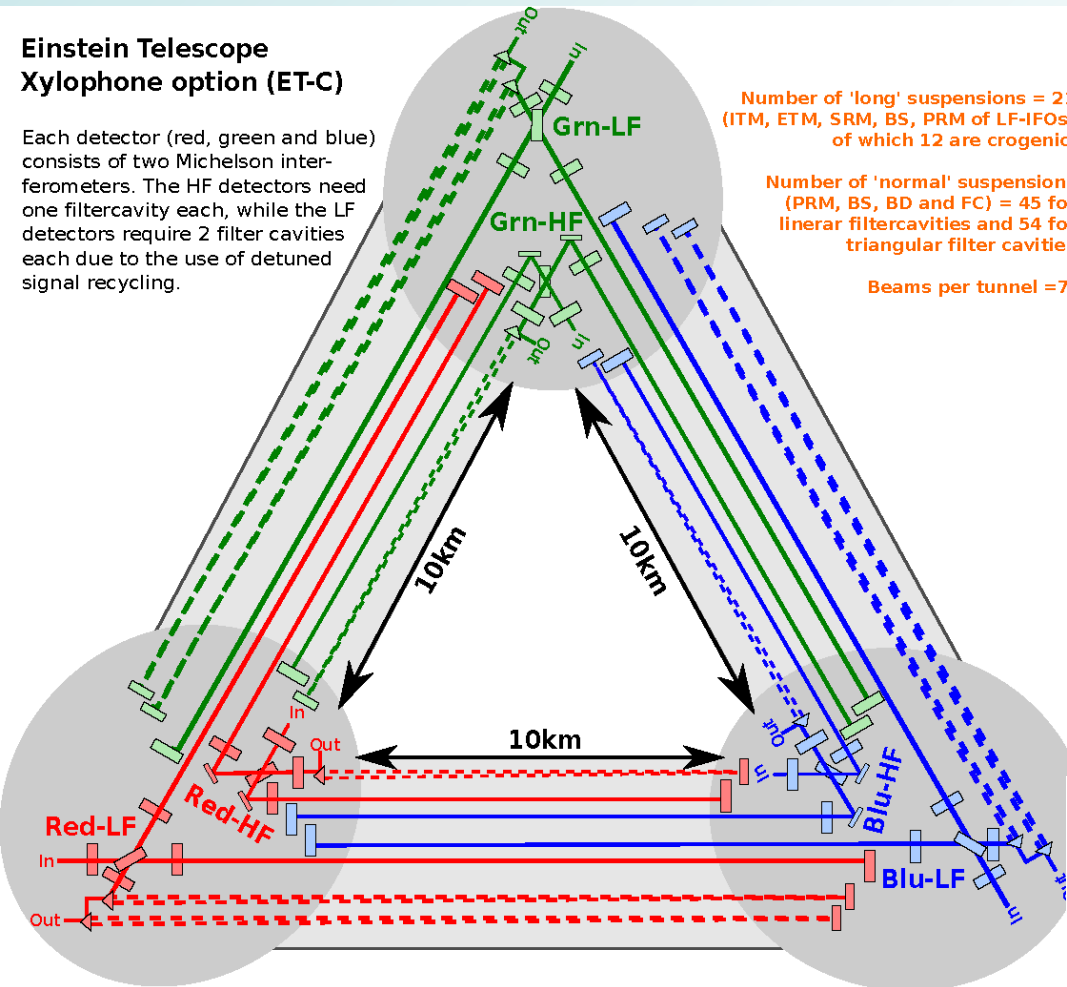
Einstein Telescope Xylophone option (ET-C)

Each detector (red, green and blue) consists of two Michelson interferometers. The HF detectors need one filtercavity each, while the LF detectors require 2 filter cavities each due to the use of detuned signal recycling.

Number of 'long' suspensions = 21
(ITM, ETM, SRM, BS, PRM of LF-IFOs)
of which 12 are crogenic.

Number of 'normal' suspensions
(PRM, BS, BD and FC) = 45 for
linear filtercavities and 54 for
triangular filter cavities

Beams per tunnel = 7



Concluding Remarks

VIRGO is a *key player* in the starting era of the multi-messenger observation of the universe: a lot of science will come out of that.

- ❑ **The sensitivity of the detectors will keep growing and the science outcome will get richer and richer**

- ❑ **VIRGO (and its community) must remain a key player in the field**
 - **fill the sensitivity gap with LIGO**
 - **prepare the detector upgrades**
 - **prepare for a new 3G detector**

- ❑ **A bright future for the GW field and the multi-messenger astronomy (i.e. astrophysics/cosmology/fundamental physics)**

A landscape photograph featuring a bright blue sky filled with numerous small, white, fluffy clouds. In the foreground, a long, straight, blue-painted metal pipe or canal runs through a green field. The background shows a range of blue mountains under the sky.

End...
...of the beginning