

# Coalescing Compact Binaries: From first discoveries to populations

John Veitch  
University of Glasgow

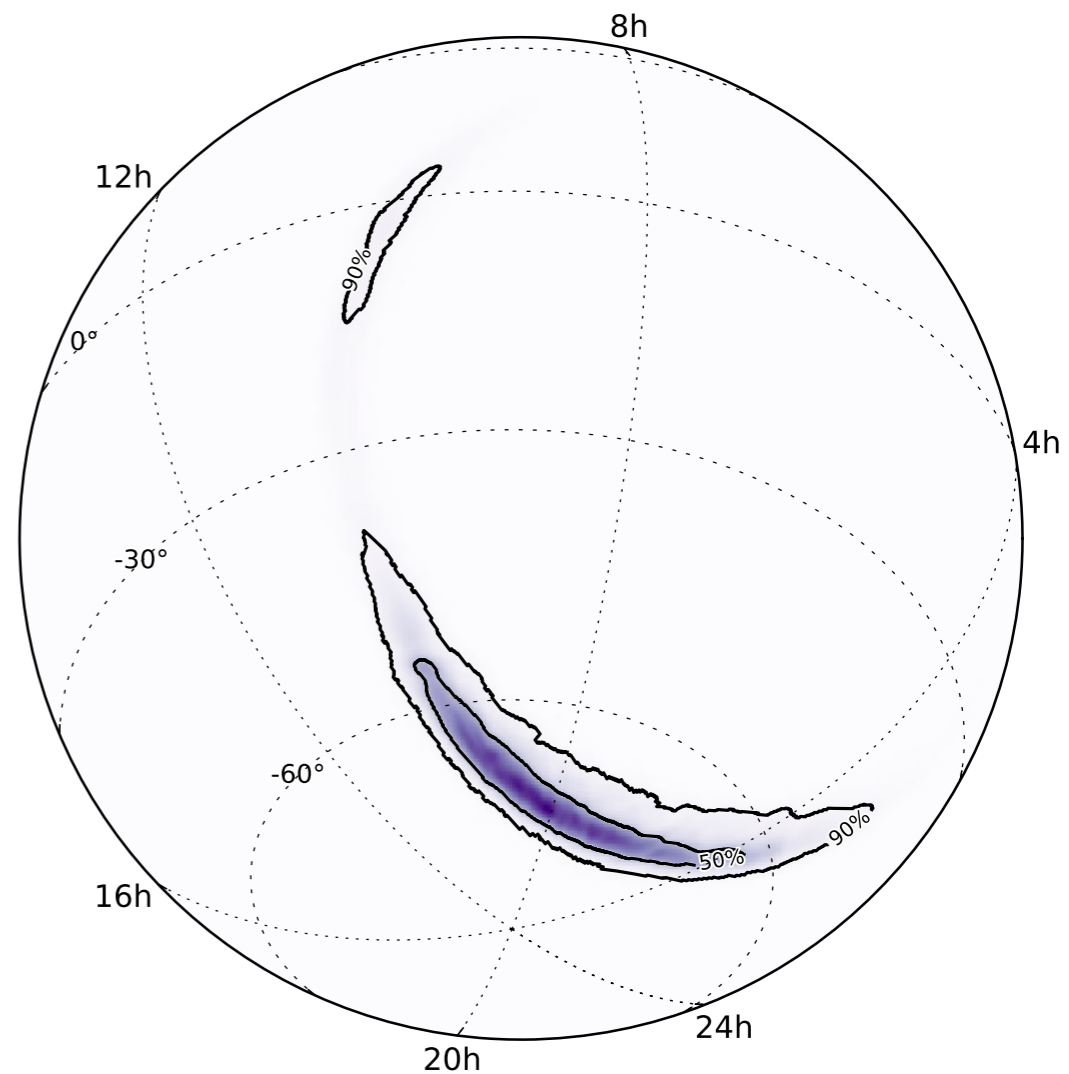
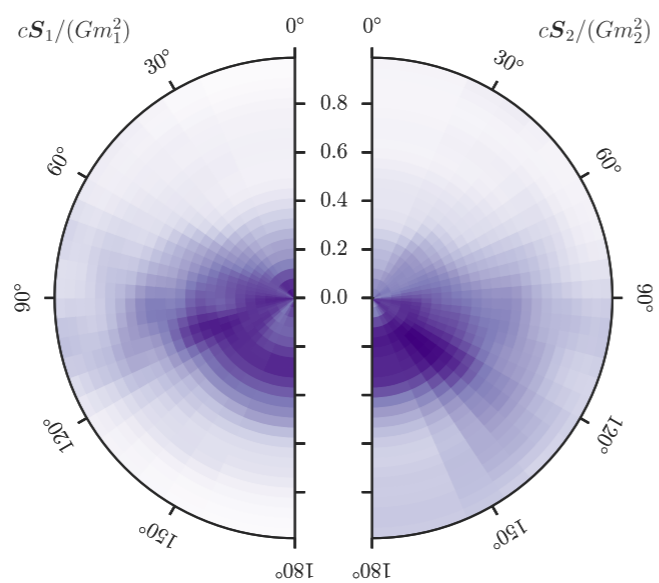
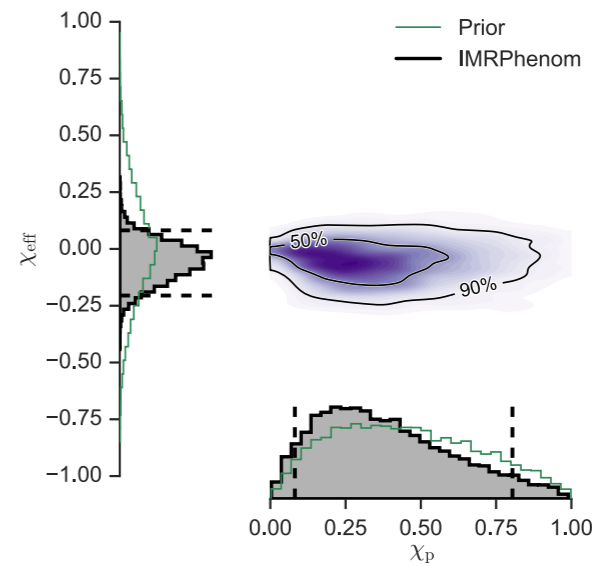
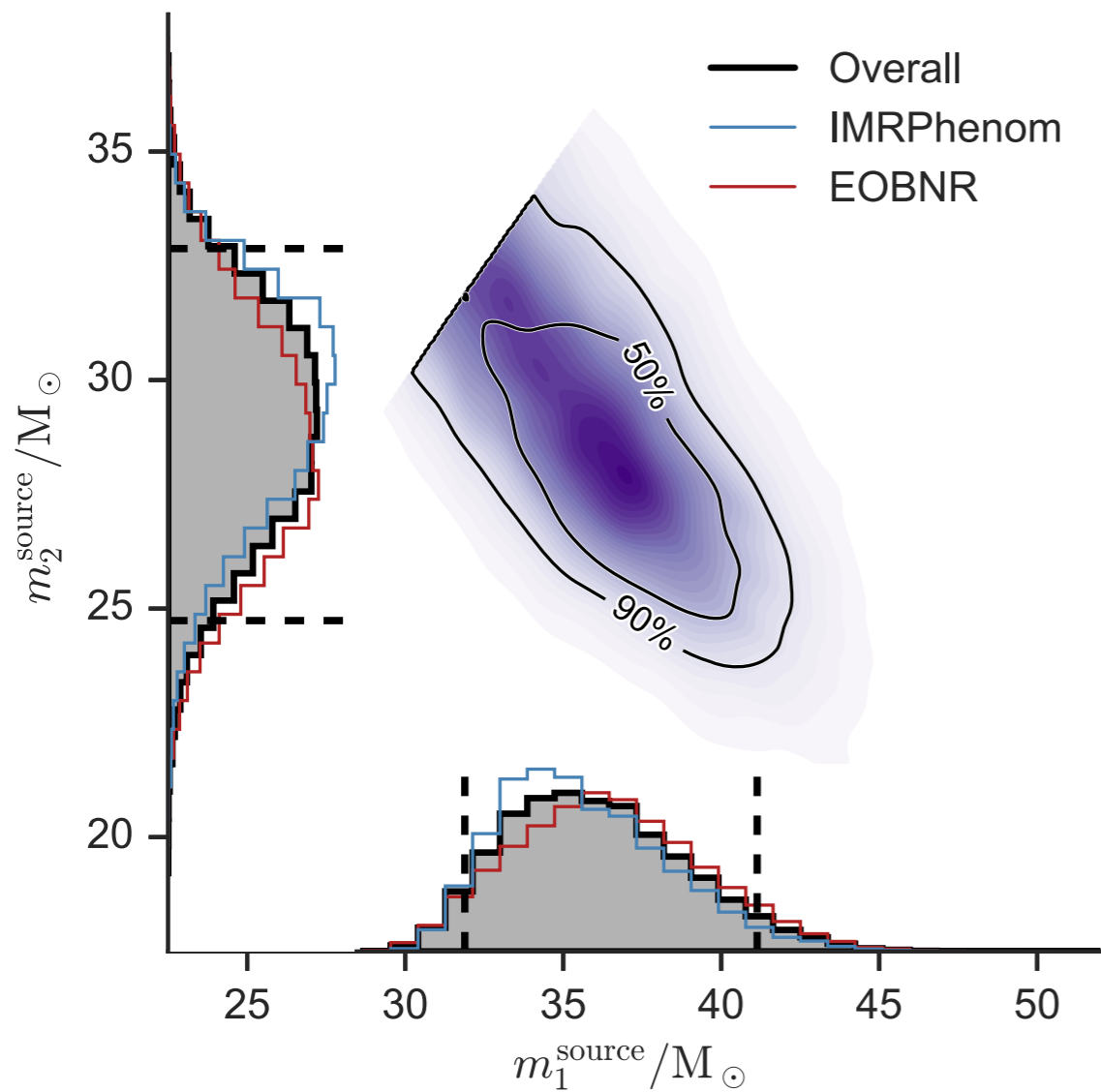
Pisa Seminar  
2018-08-05



# Contents

- Extracting source parameters from GW data
- Results from O1 and O2 to date
- Population analyses

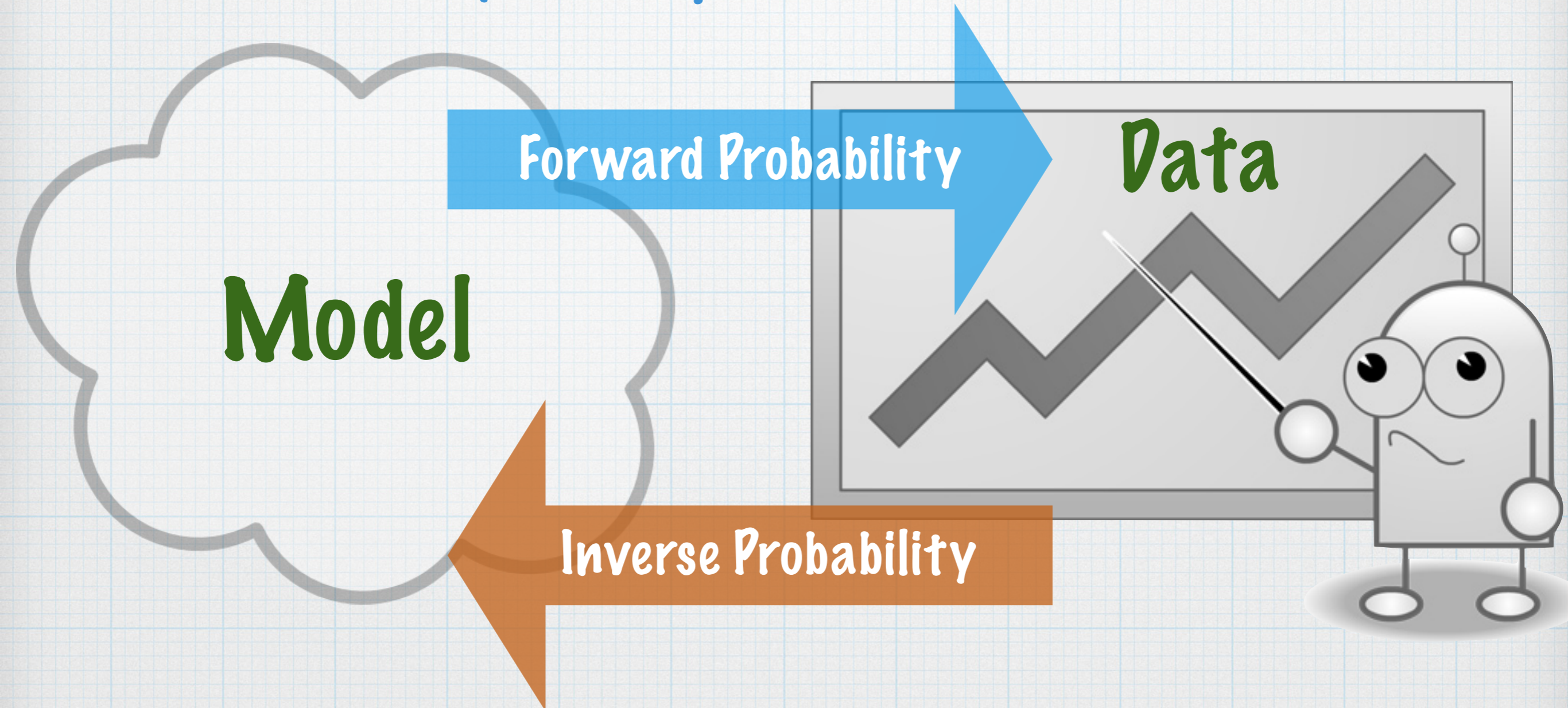






# Forward and Inverse Probability

Forward Probability - make predictions about data from a model



Inverse Probability - Learn about a model from data



# Bayes' Theorem

- What we need is a method to update our beliefs given new information
- From product rule comes Bayes's theorem

$$P(\text{theory}|\text{new data}) = \frac{P(\text{theory})P(\text{new data}|\text{theory})}{P(\text{new data})}$$

- Together with the axioms gives us an algorithmic method for updating our state of knowledge given some new information



# Parameter Estimation

- We express knowledge about a parameter's value through a *probability density function*.
- $p(x|I)$  = probability density of the parameter  $x$

- Normalised:  $\int p(x|I)dx = 1$

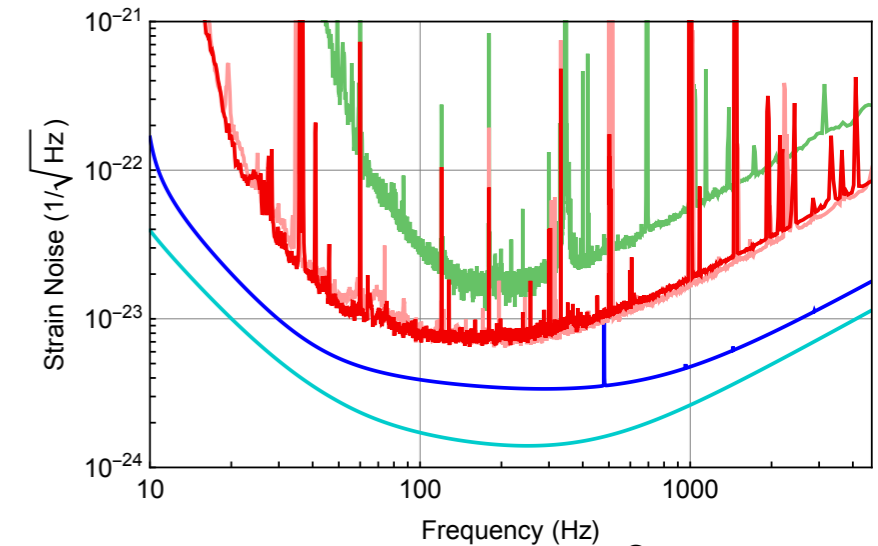
- $P(A < x < B|I) = \int_A^B p(x|I)dx$



# GW noise model

- Simplest noise model makes a few assumptions:

- zero mean:  $\langle n_i \rangle = 0$
- known variance:  $\langle n_i^2 \rangle = S_h(f_i)/\Delta f = \sigma_i^2$



- Maximum entropy distribution is Gaussian, i.e.  $p(n_i|\sigma_i) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} \exp\left[-\frac{n^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]$

- Assuming stationarity implies independence in each frequency bin:

$$p(\{n_i\}|\{\sigma_i\}) = \prod_i p(n_i|\sigma_i) = \prod_i \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} \exp\left[-\frac{n^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]$$

- And independence in each detector:

$$p(\vec{n}_H, \vec{n}_L, \vec{n}_V | \vec{\sigma}_H, \vec{\sigma}_L, \vec{\sigma}_V) = p(\vec{n}_H | \vec{\sigma}_H) p(\vec{n}_L | \vec{\sigma}_L) p(\vec{n}_V | \vec{\sigma}_V)$$

- Terminology: the “likelihood” of the noise given  $\sigma$



# Likelihood function

- For additive noise,  $d_i = h_i + n_i$ , the mean of the data distribution becomes the prediction of the signal model for given parameters  $\theta$ :  $\langle d_i \rangle = h(f_i, \theta)$ , whereas variance remains the same.
- If we then observe a specific set of data, we can infer the parameters of the signal by calculating the posterior probability distribution (PDF):

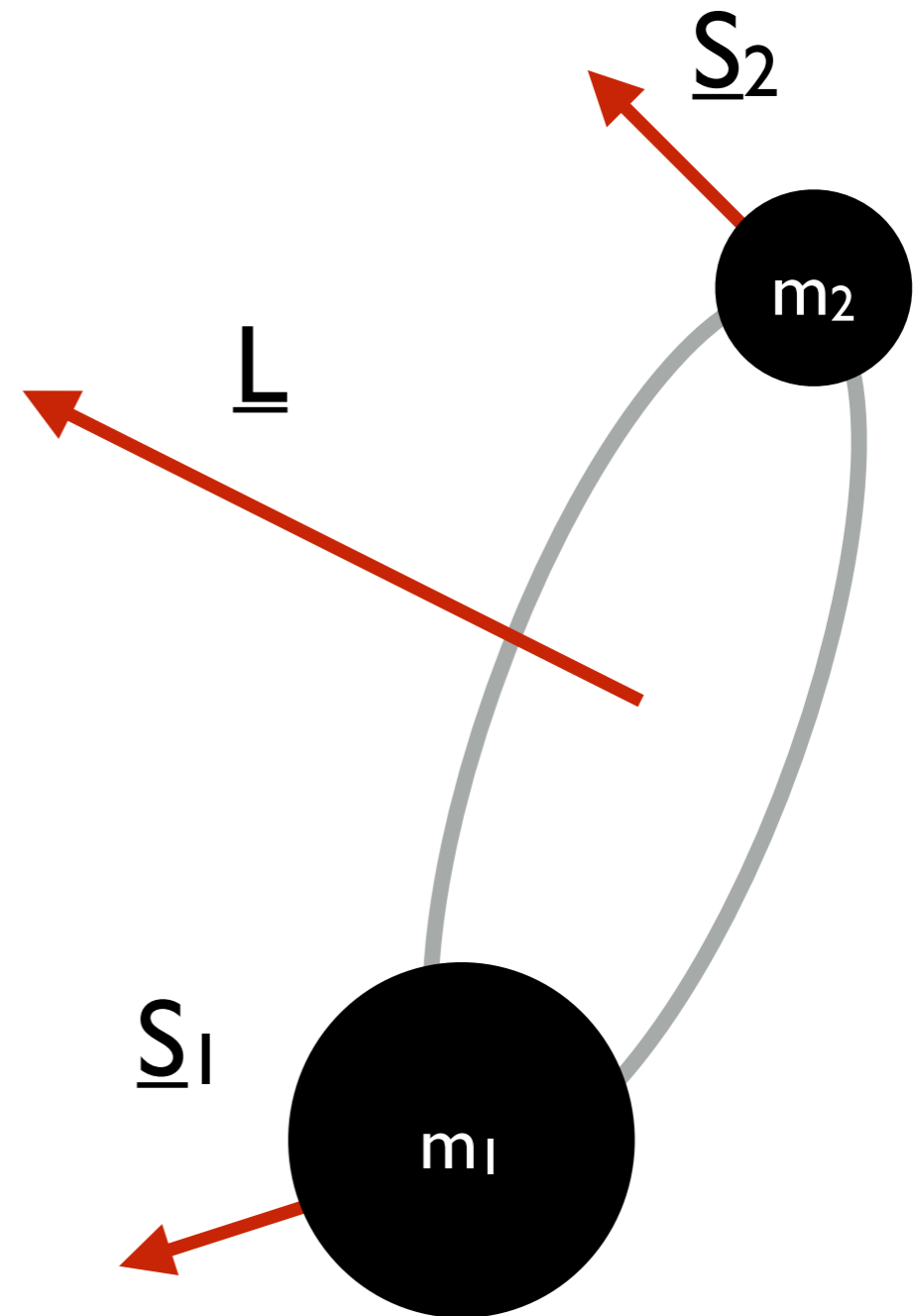
$$p(\vec{\theta} | \vec{d}, \vec{\sigma}, H_S) = \frac{p(\vec{d} | \vec{\theta}, \vec{\sigma}, H_S) p(\vec{\theta} | \vec{\sigma}, H_S)}{p(\vec{d} | \vec{\sigma}, H_S)}$$

- where  $p(\vec{d} | \vec{\sigma}, H_S) = \int d^N \vec{\theta} p(\vec{d} | \vec{\theta}, \sigma, H_S) p(\vec{\theta} | \vec{\sigma}, H_S)$  is the *evidence* or marginal likelihood of the model.



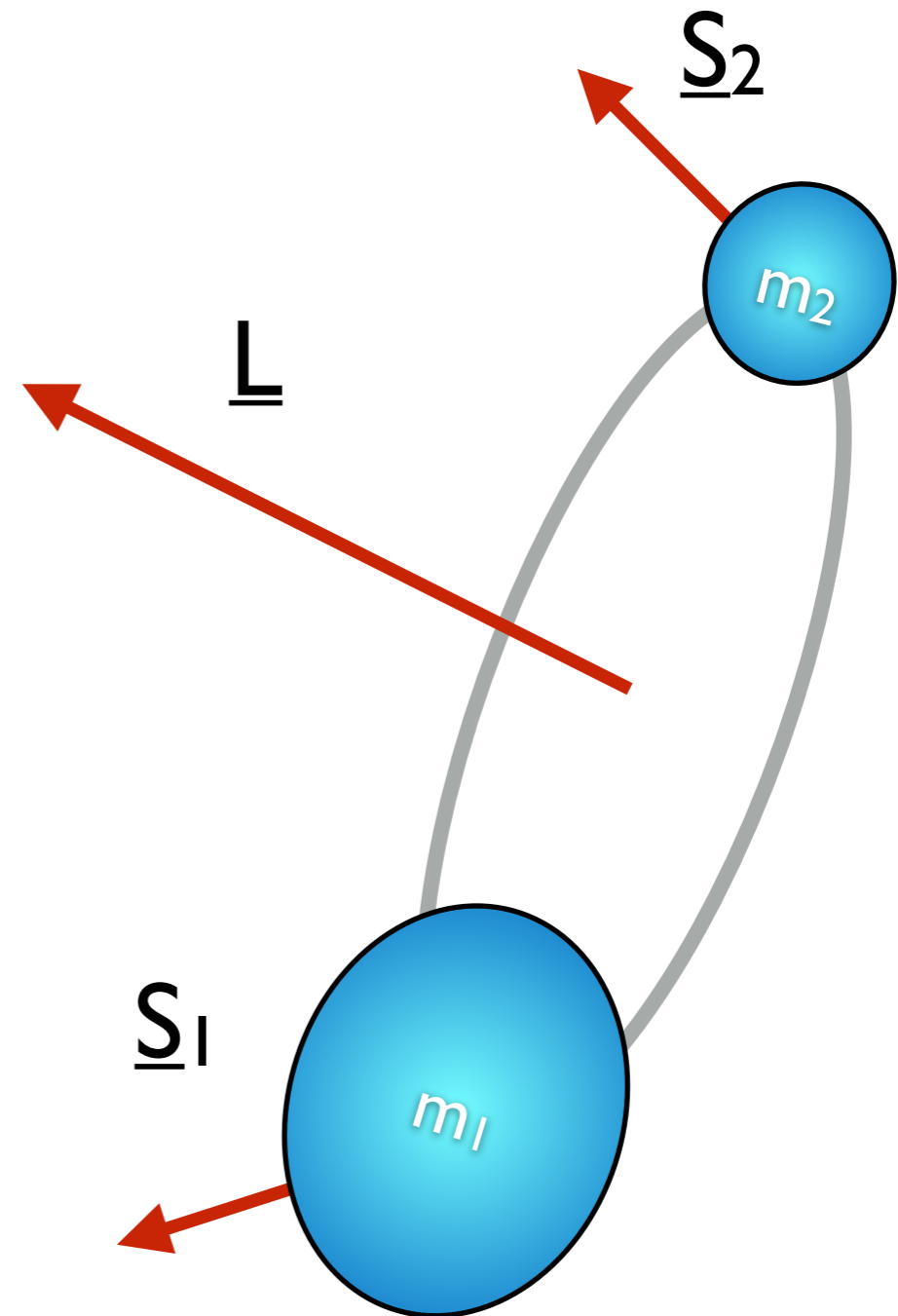
# What is there to measure?

- Intrinsic Parameters
  - masses
  - spins
- Extrinsic Parameters
  - Inclination
  - Orientation
  - Polarisation
  - Sky position
  - luminosity distance
  - time



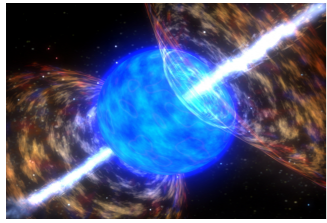
# What is there to measure?

- **Subtler effects**
- NS Equation of state
  - tidal deformation
- Deviations from GR
- eccentricity





# Speed vs complexity



minutes

hours

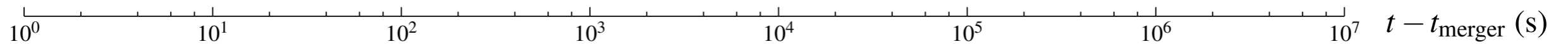
days

← GRB

X-ray/optical afterglow

Kilonova

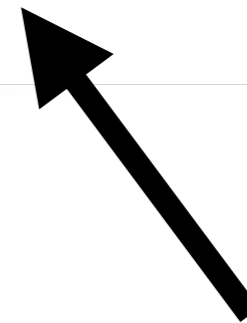
Radio afterglow →



Detection

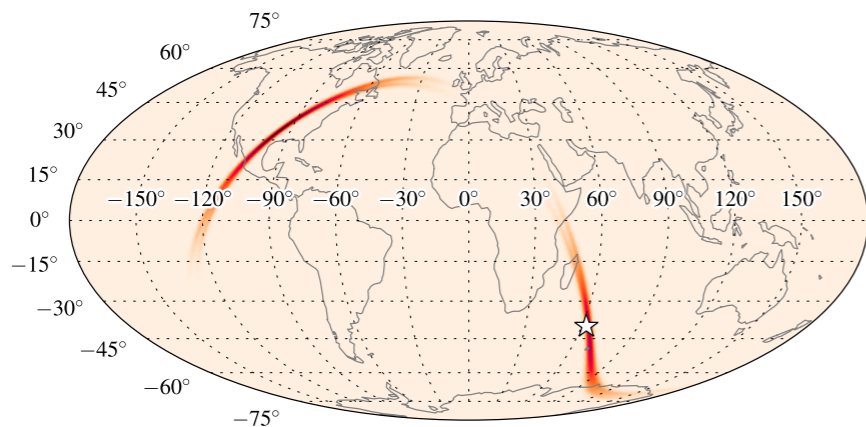
Rapid localization

Full parameter estimation



rapid localization fast, non-spinning

slow, fully spinning



[ Singer+ 2014 ApJ 795 105 ]  
 [ Berry+ arXiv:1411.6934 ]

# Rapid Localisation

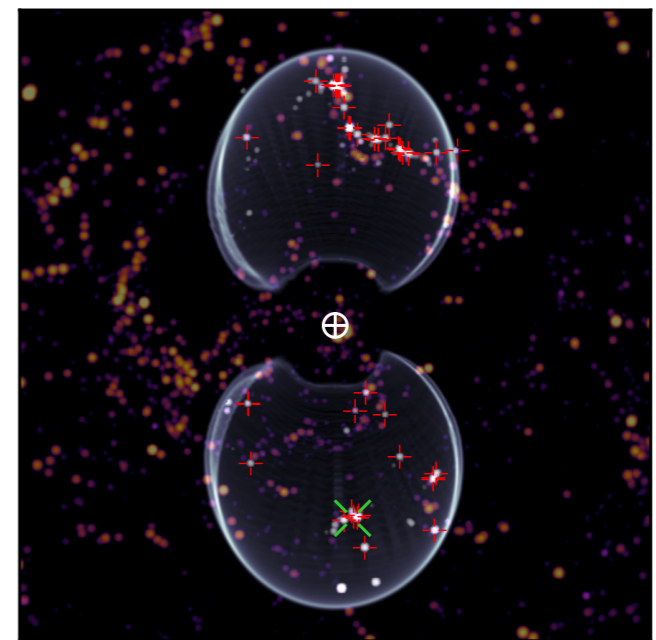
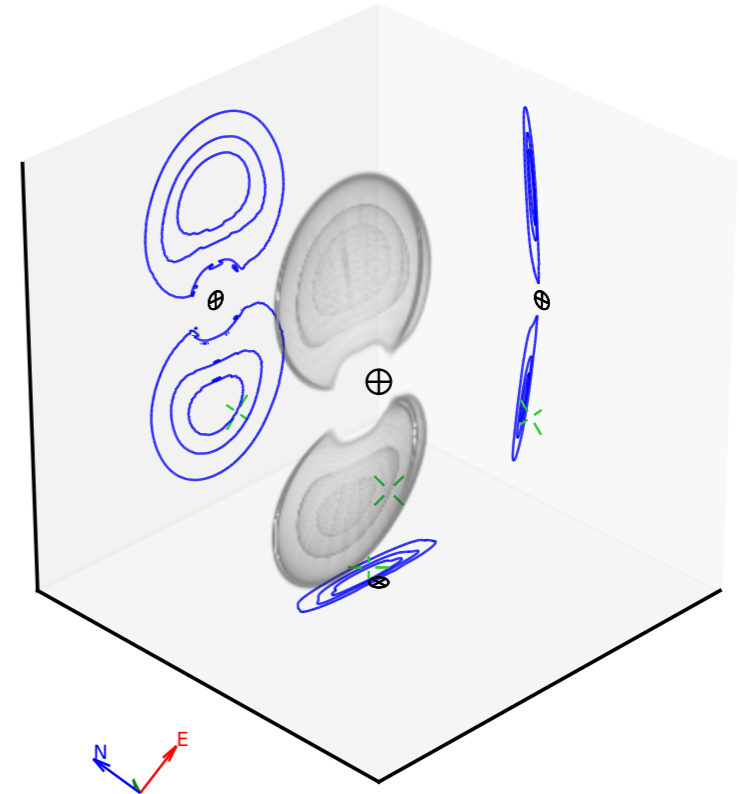
- BAYESTAR [Singer+ ApJ 795 (2014), Singer+ ApJ. L15 829 2016] algorithm fixes masses to best fit template from search - reduces parameter space dimension to extrinsic

$$p(\alpha, \delta, \psi, \phi_0, \iota, d_L | m_1, m_2, \vec{s}_1, \vec{s}_2)$$

- Marginalisation over inclination, polarisation, phase to localise in area and volume using numerical integration and lookup tables

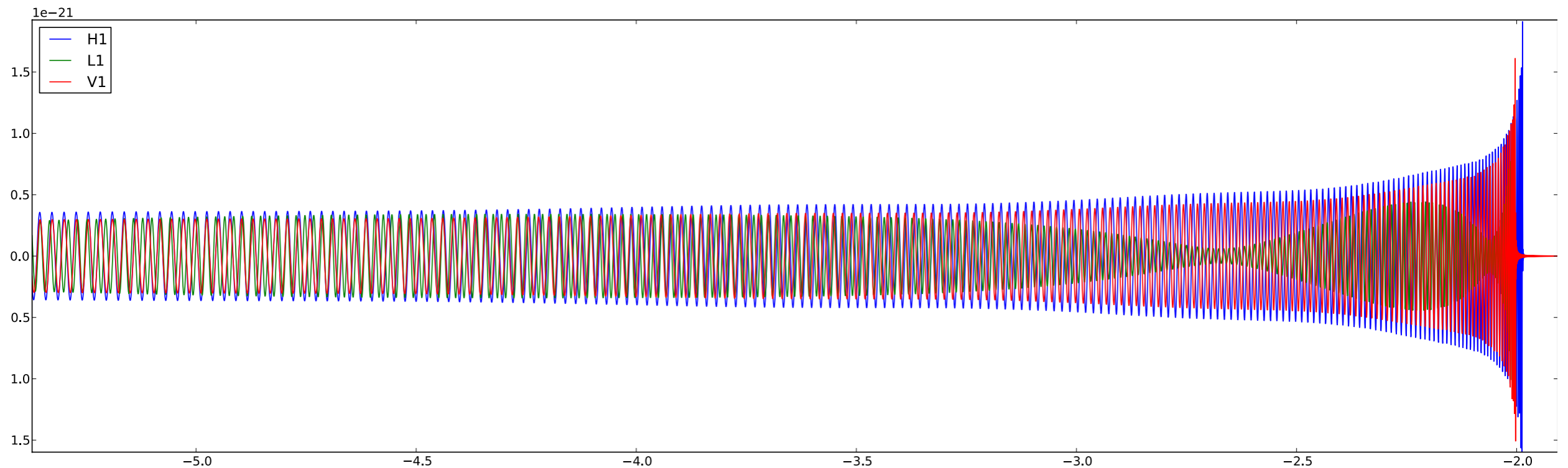
$$p(\alpha, \delta, d_L | d, m_1, m_2, \vec{s}_1, \vec{s}_2) = \int p(\alpha, \delta, \psi, \phi_0, \iota, d_L | d, m_1, m_2, \vec{s}_1, \vec{s}_2) d\psi d\phi_0 d\iota$$

- Rapid identification of EM counterpart!





# Full PE



- For full parameter estimation, need to explore 9 (non-spinning), 11 (aligned spin), 15 (precessing spin) or more (tidal, non-GR) parameters
- A typical signal can contain ~30-40 bits of information
  - Test  $2^{30}$  points in parameter space to find peak of PDF!
- Non-linear signal model makes general linear solution impossible
- Use stochastic sampling techniques to draw *samples* from the posterior distribution function

# LALInference

- LALInference library developed by LIGO-Virgo collaboration [Veitch+ 2015] for stochastic sampling
  - Free software <https://git.ligo.org/lscsoft/lalsuite>
  - Makes use of state of the art waveforms in LALSimulation
  - Reviewed and robust waveforms, likelihoods, priors, samplers.
- Uses MCMC and Nested Sampling for parameter estimation & model selection



# Markov Chain Monte Carlo

- MCMC is a technique to draw samples from a target distribution  $p(x|d)$  (in our case the posterior distribution) sequentially
- Given a starting point  $x_0$ , a new sample is drawn from a proposal distribution  $q(x'|x_0)$  which can depend only on the last point (forgets its history)

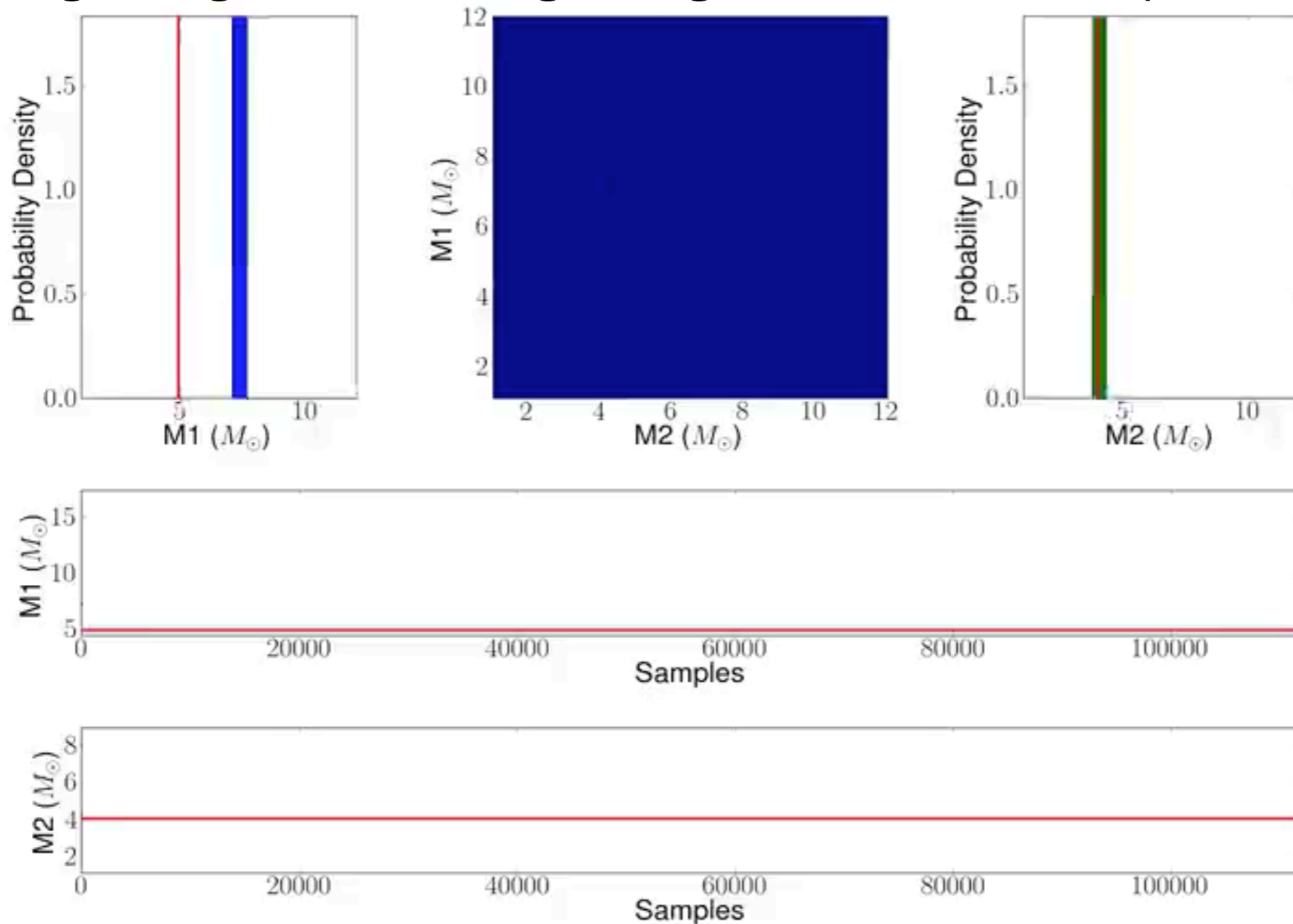
- It is then accepted with acceptance probability

$$\alpha(x'|x_0) = \min \left[ 1, \frac{p(x'|d)q(x_0|x')}{p(x_0|d)q(x'|x_0)} \right]$$

- or otherwise the previous value  $x_0$  is repeated
- This is the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm

# MCMC

Random walk around parameter space with Metropolis-Hastings algorithm targeting the 2D mass posterior





# Extensions to MCMC algorithm

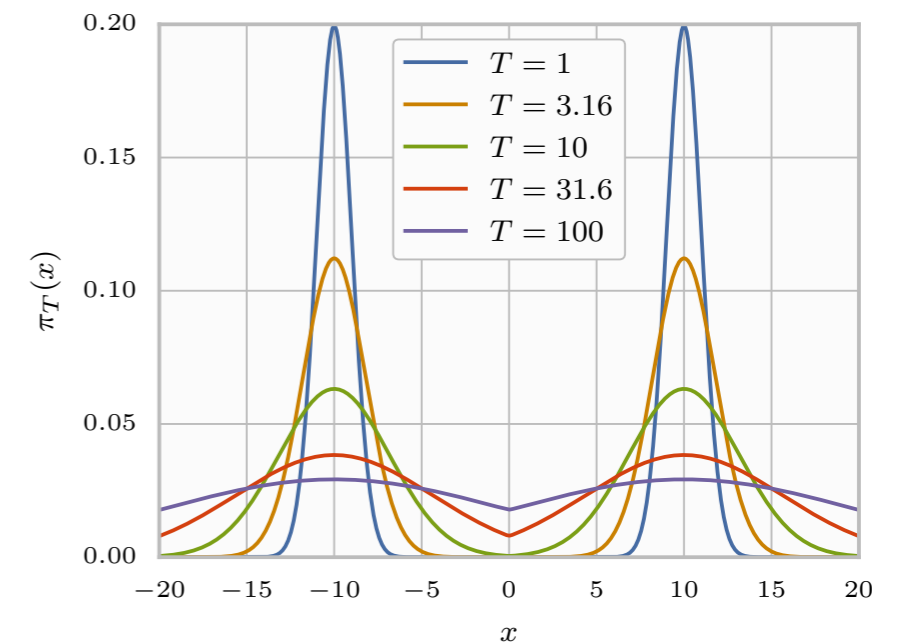
- Enhanced algorithms can dramatically improve the efficiency by better exploring parameter space
- A few examples used by LALInference...

# Parallel Tempering

- If posterior is sharply peaked can be difficult to find high probability region

$$\pi_T(\vec{\theta}) \propto L(\vec{\theta})^{1/T} p(\vec{\theta})$$

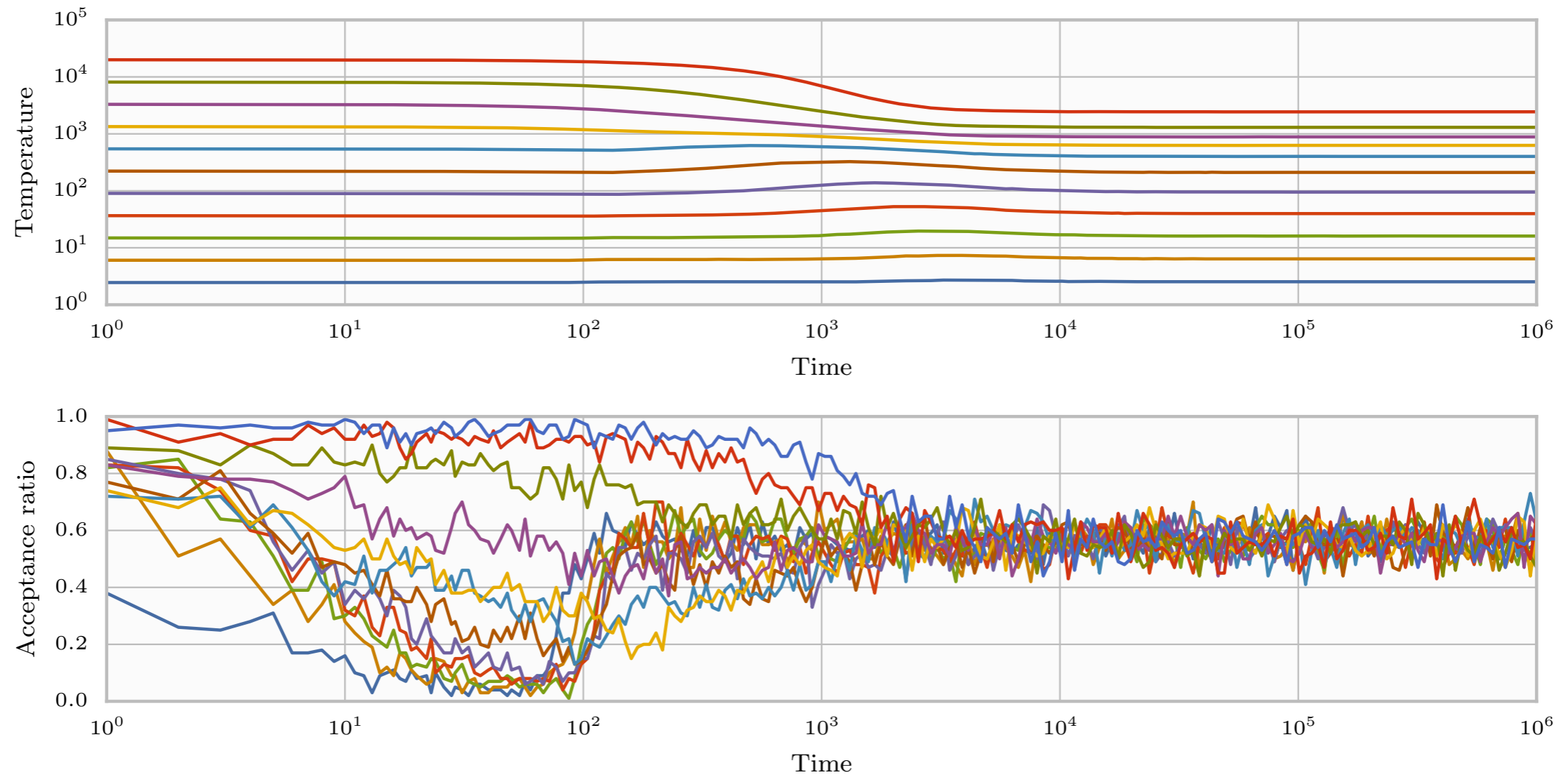
- *Anneal* the likelihood function



- Run multiple chains at different temperatures and allow jump proposals between them

$$A_{i,j} = \min \left\{ \left( \frac{L(\vec{\theta}_i)}{L(\vec{\theta}_j)} \right)^{\beta_j - \beta_i}, 1 \right\}$$

# Adaptive Parallel Tempering

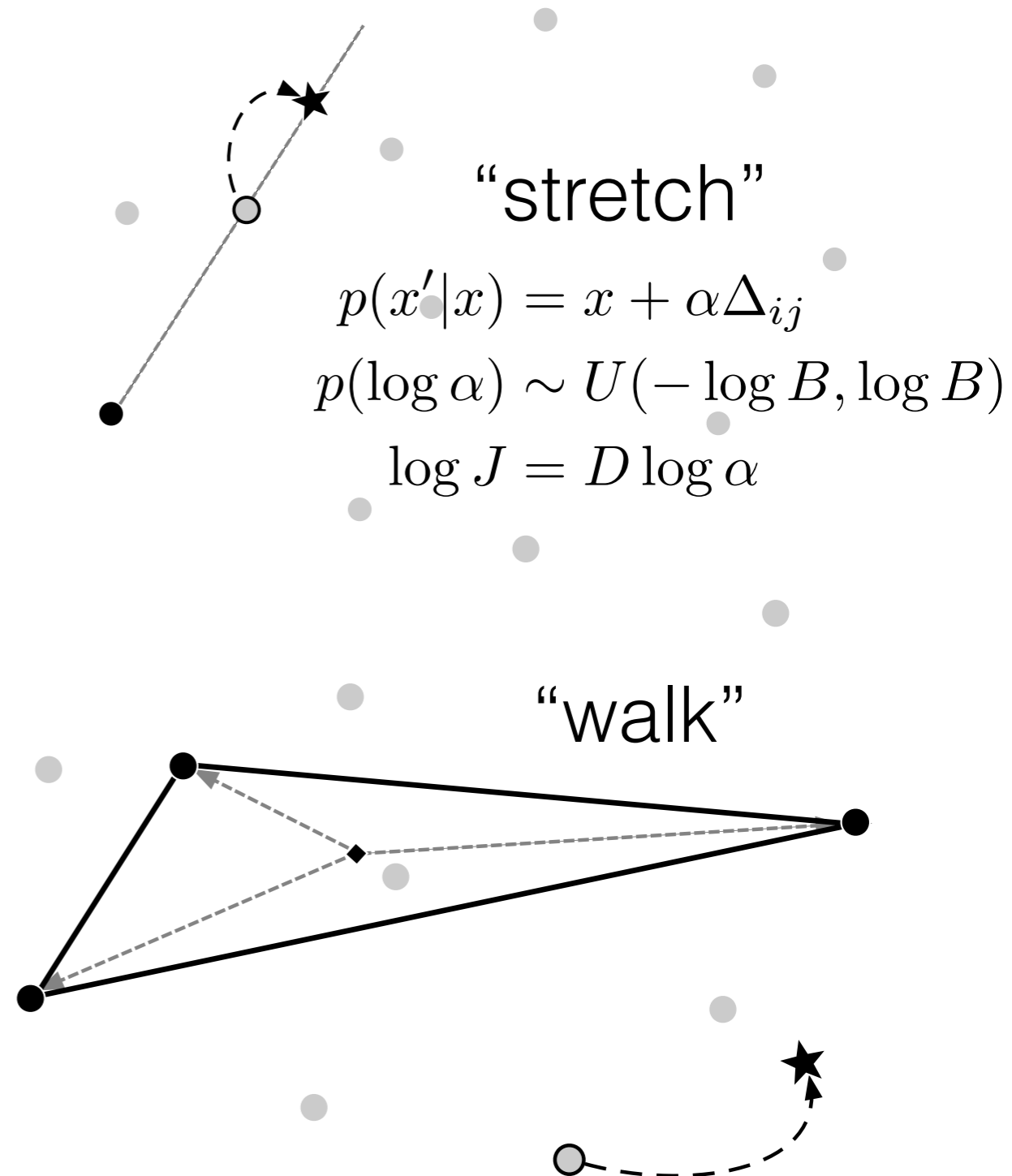


Vousden+ 1501.05823



# Ensemble Samplers

- Goodman & Weare 2009 - also Emcee
- Evolve a collection of samples instead of single point
- At each iteration, collection is a sample from the target distribution
- This is also useful for Nested Sampling method!



# Model Selection

- \* To test different hypotheses we can compute the ratio of their probabilities  $P(A)/P(B)$ , known as the “odds ratio”
- \* Given some experimental data we can update our relative belief in two models

$$\frac{P(A|d)}{P(B|d)} = \frac{P(A) P(d|A)}{P(B) P(d|B)}$$

- \* The evidence ratio is also known as the “Bayes Factor”

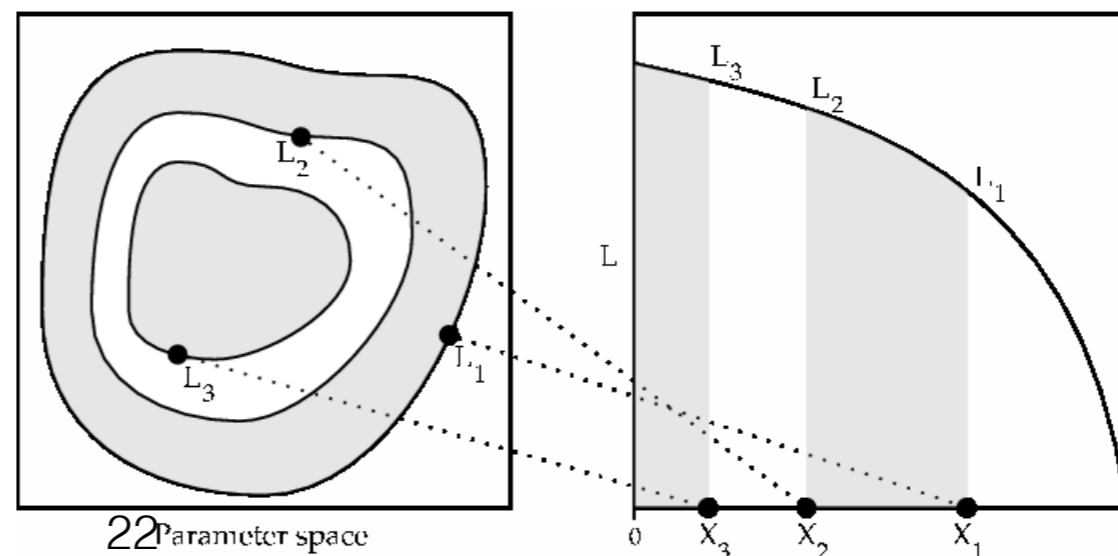
$$\frac{P(d|A)}{P(d|B)} = \frac{\int_X p(d, x|A) dx}{\int_Y p(d, y|B) dy}$$

- \* Allows comparison of models of different parameter spaces  $X$  and  $Y$

# Nested Sampling

- We use Nested Sampling to evaluate the integral probabilistically.
- From product rule, get  $p(d|\vec{\theta}, H, I)p(\vec{\theta}|H, I)d\vec{\theta} = P(d|H, I)p(\vec{\theta}|d, H, I)d\vec{\theta}$
- Write element of prior as  $dX = p(\vec{\theta}|H, I)d\vec{\theta}$  and note
- Evidence is then given  $Z = P(d|H, I) = \int p(d|\vec{\theta}, H, I)dX = \int LdX$
- Define  $X(\lambda) = \int_{L(\vec{\theta}) > \lambda} dX$  as the prior probability mass covering the regions of parameter space with likelihood  $> \lambda$ . As  $\lambda$  increases, enclosed probability  $X$  shrinks from 1 to 0. Using inverse function evidence is

- Now to do 1-D integral....





# Nested Sampling

- If we had a collection of  $m$  points from the prior, we could approximate the integral as

Riemann sum  $Z = \sum_{i=1}^m L_i w_i$  where  $w_i = \Delta X$

- But how do we get from  $\theta$  to  $X$ ? Sample  $m$  points  $X_i$  randomly from the parameter space, and calculate their likelihoods  $L_i$ , then sort them by  $L$ . Lowest  $L$  corresponds to highest  $X$ .

- At each iteration, replace lowest point ( $L_{\min}$ ,  $X_{\max}$ ) by another sampled from within the limited prior  $X(L_{\min})$ . At each iteration  $X$  therefore decreases geometrically,

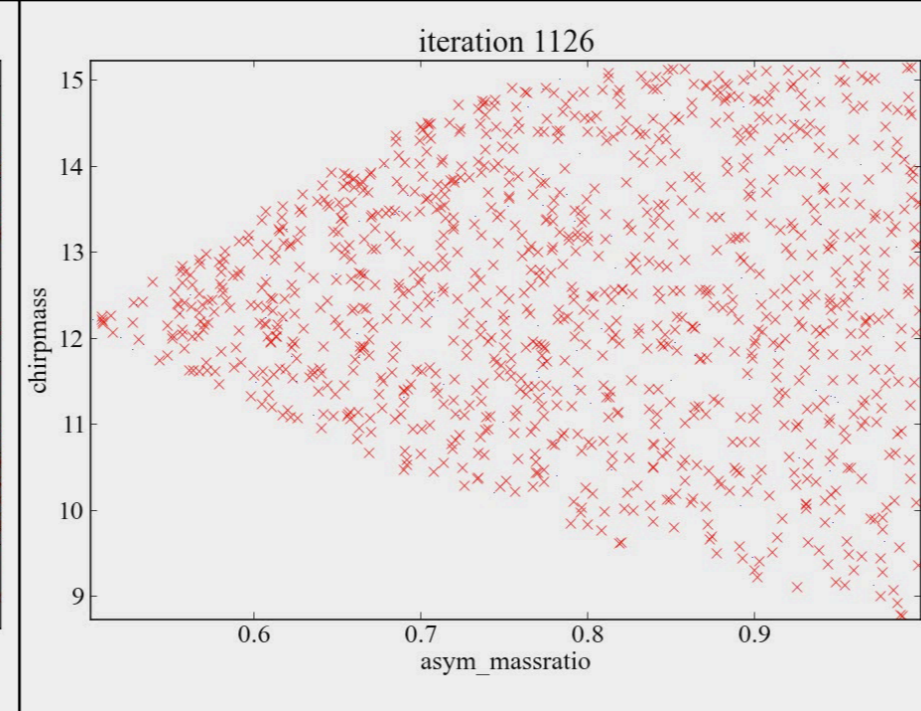
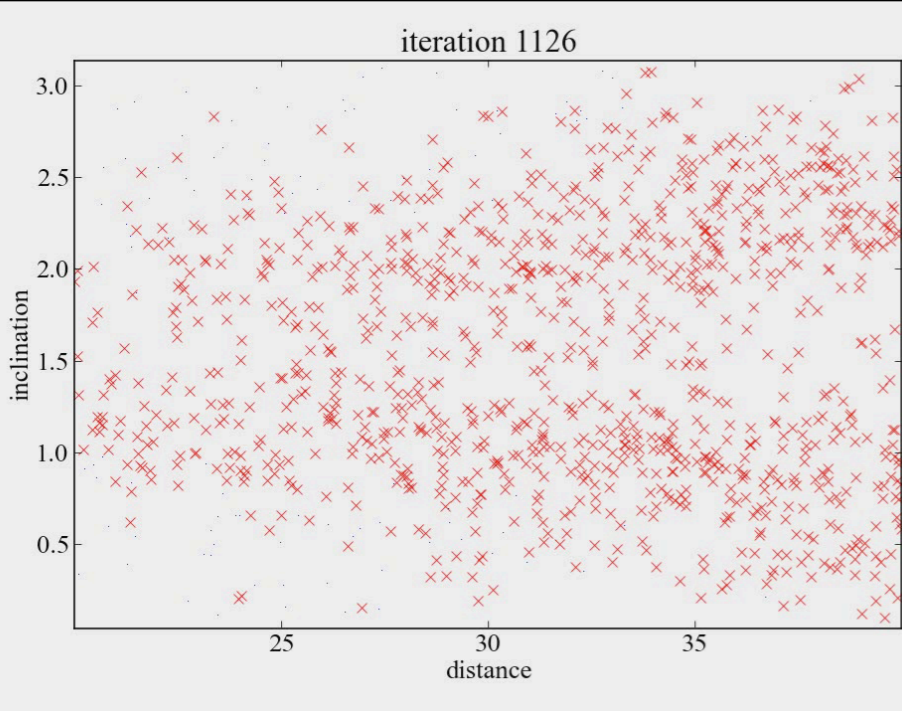
$$X_i = t_i X_{i-1}, \quad \langle \log t_i \rangle = -m^{-1}$$

- To sample the limited prior, design a special MCMC routine - we can use the output samples to do parameter estimation too!

- Recalling that  $X_0=1$ , we can now evaluate the above sum by iterating the process, and find the evidence!

# Nested Sampling

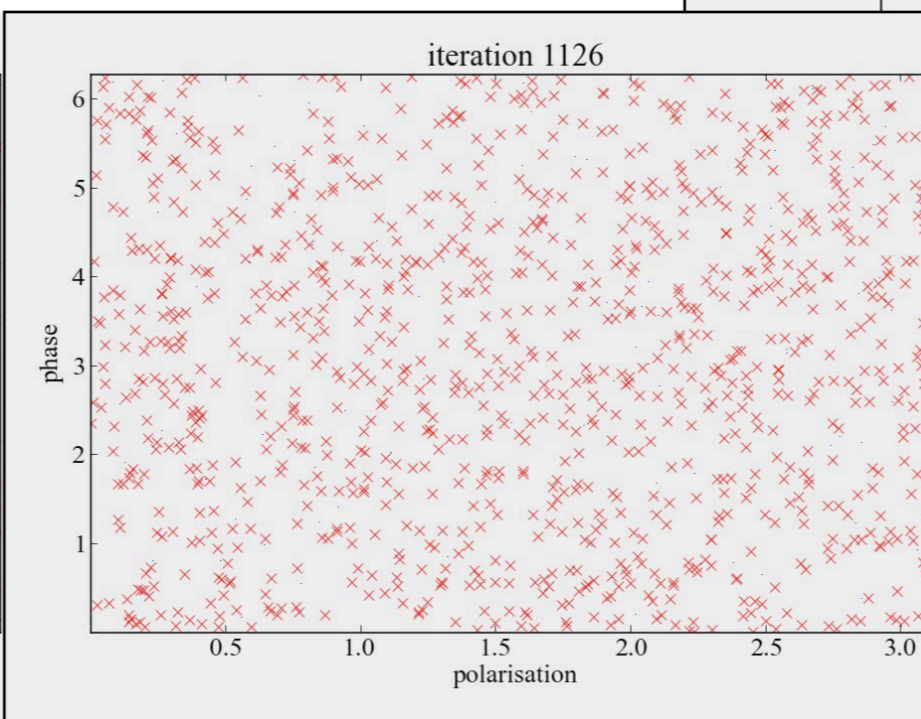
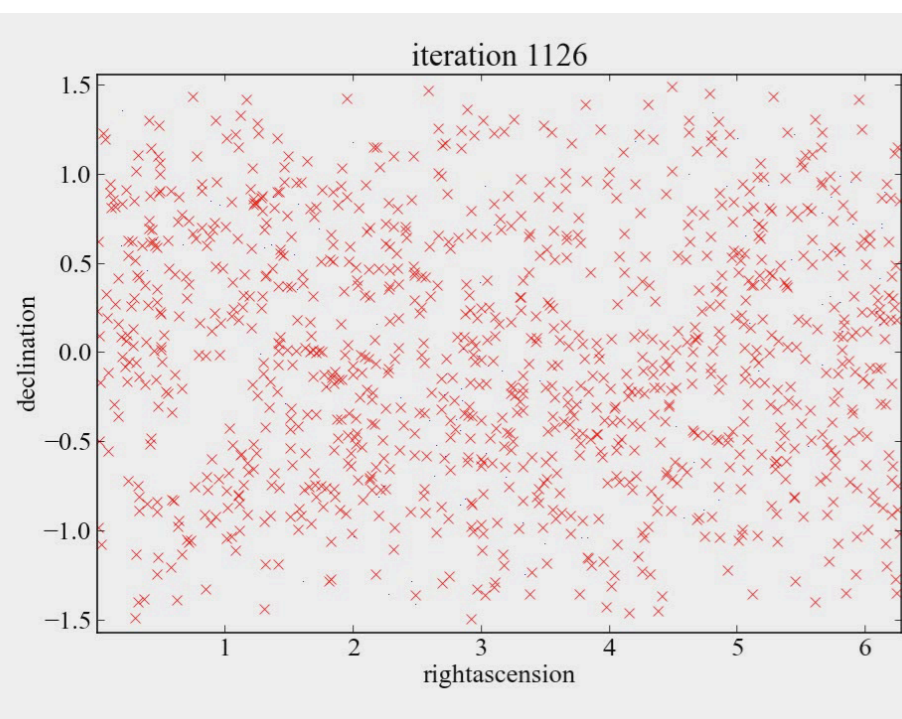
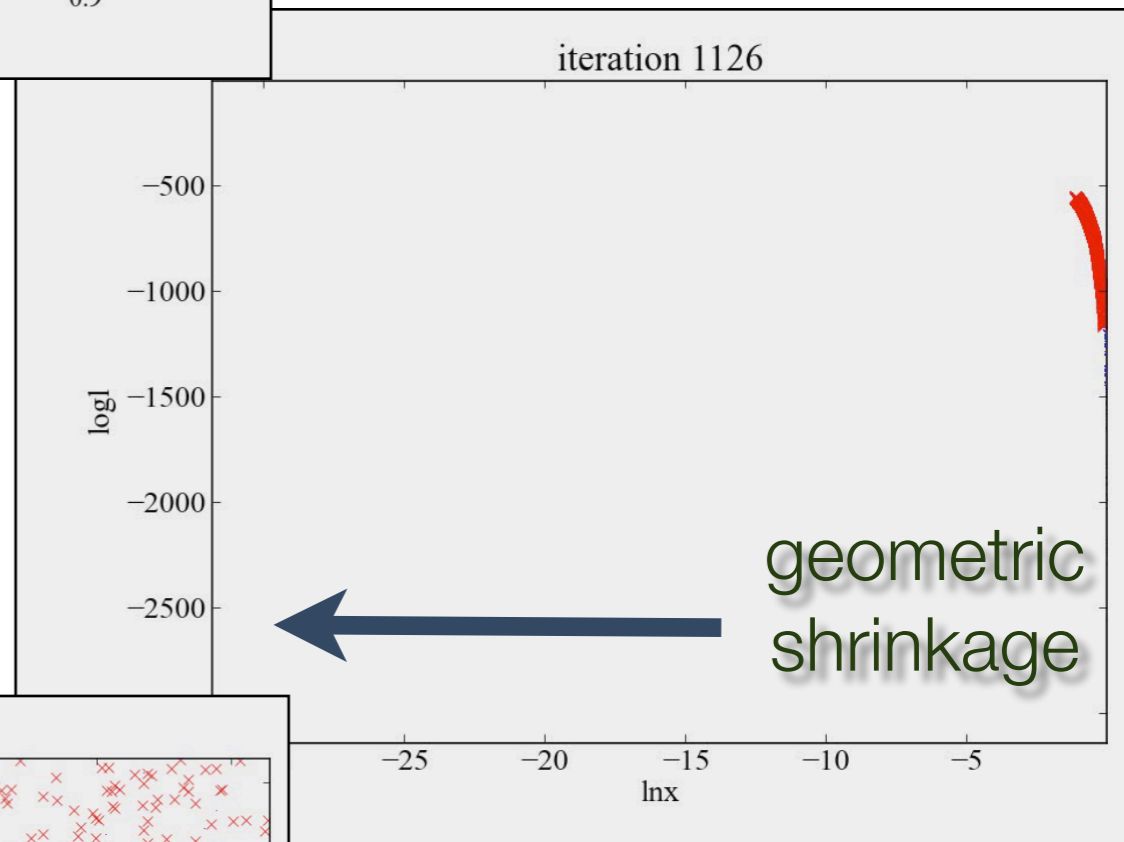
[Veitch & Vecchio PRD 81 (2010)]



Live points (located inside a contour of constant likelihood)

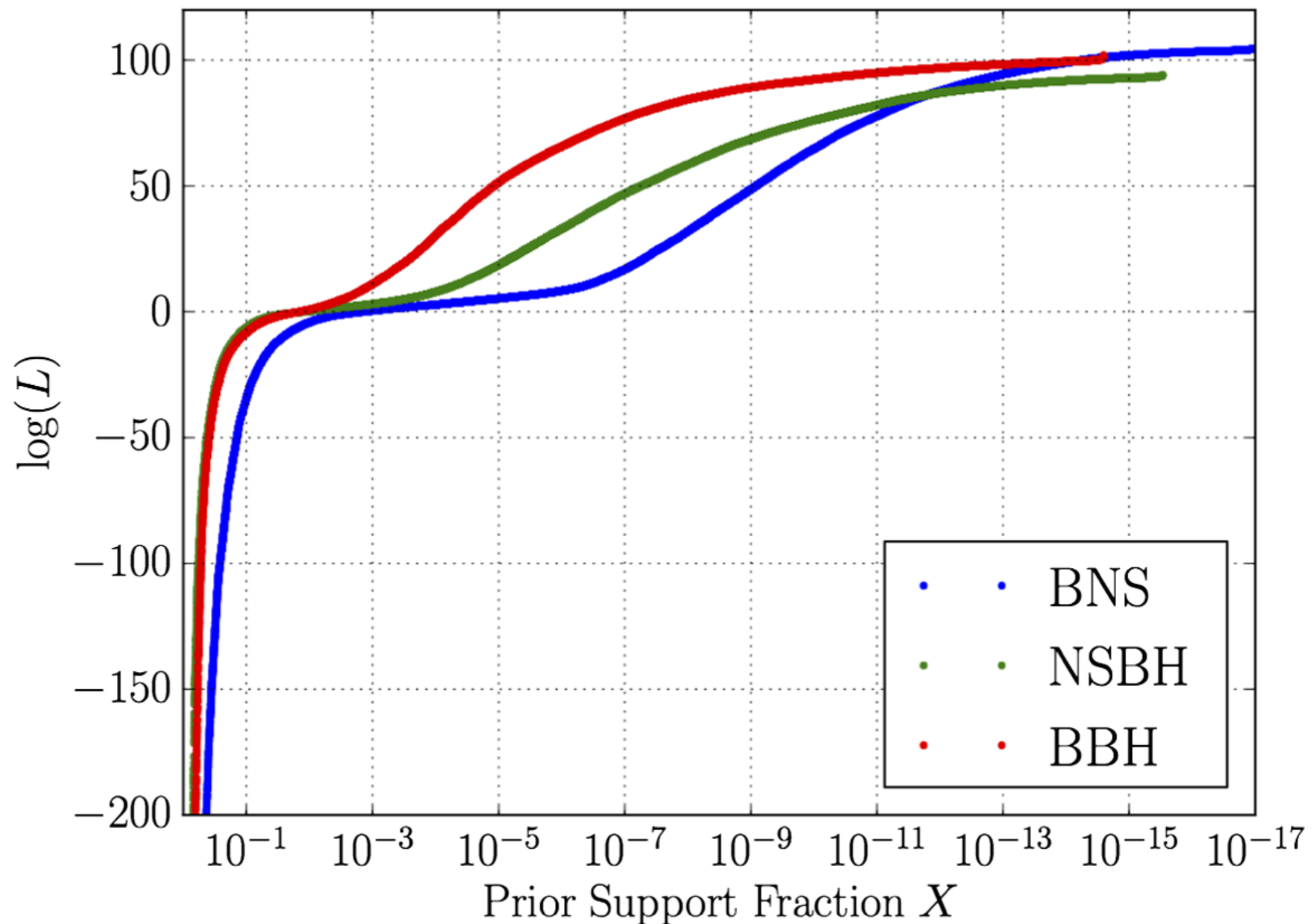
Used points

As the contours shrink, replacement samples are drawn from inside the contour using MCMC or rejection sampling



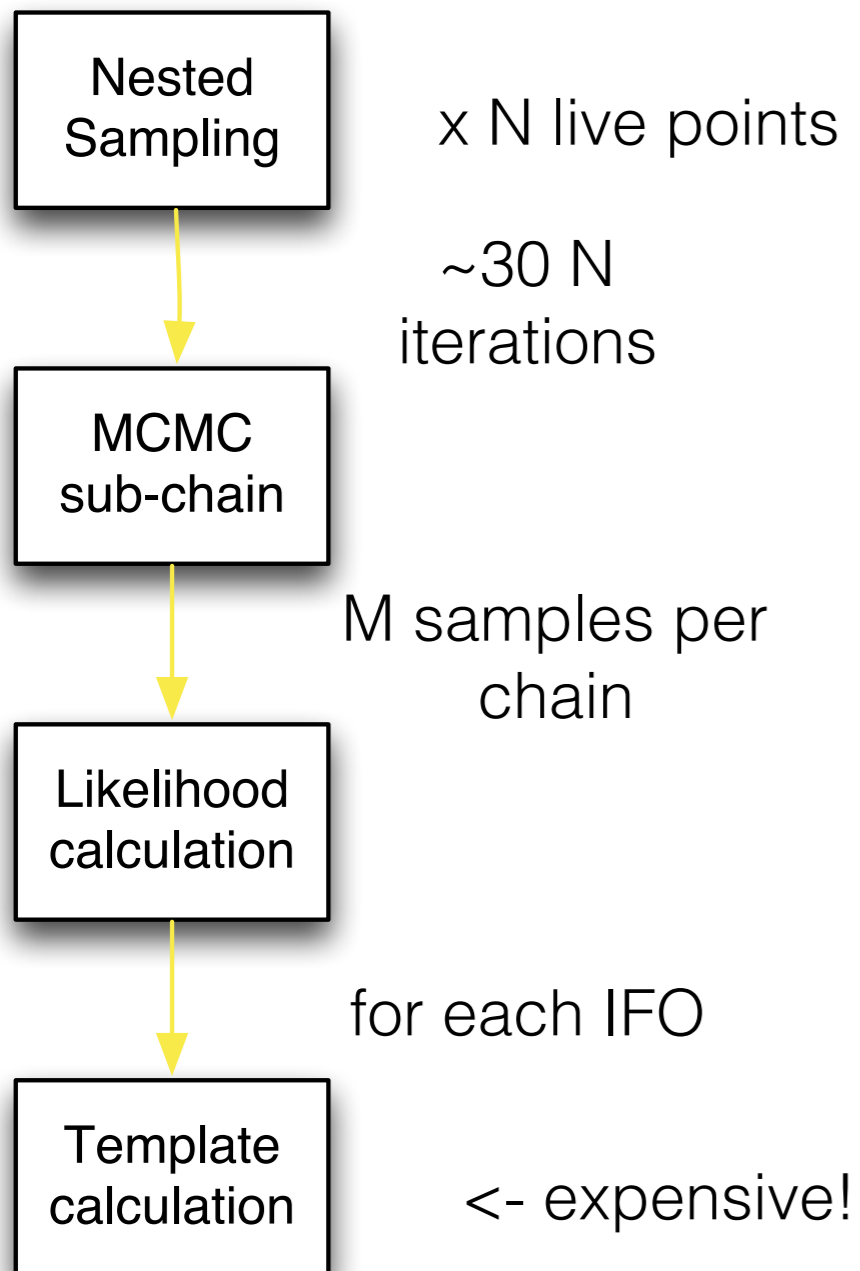
# Example CBCs

BBH easier to sample than BNS!





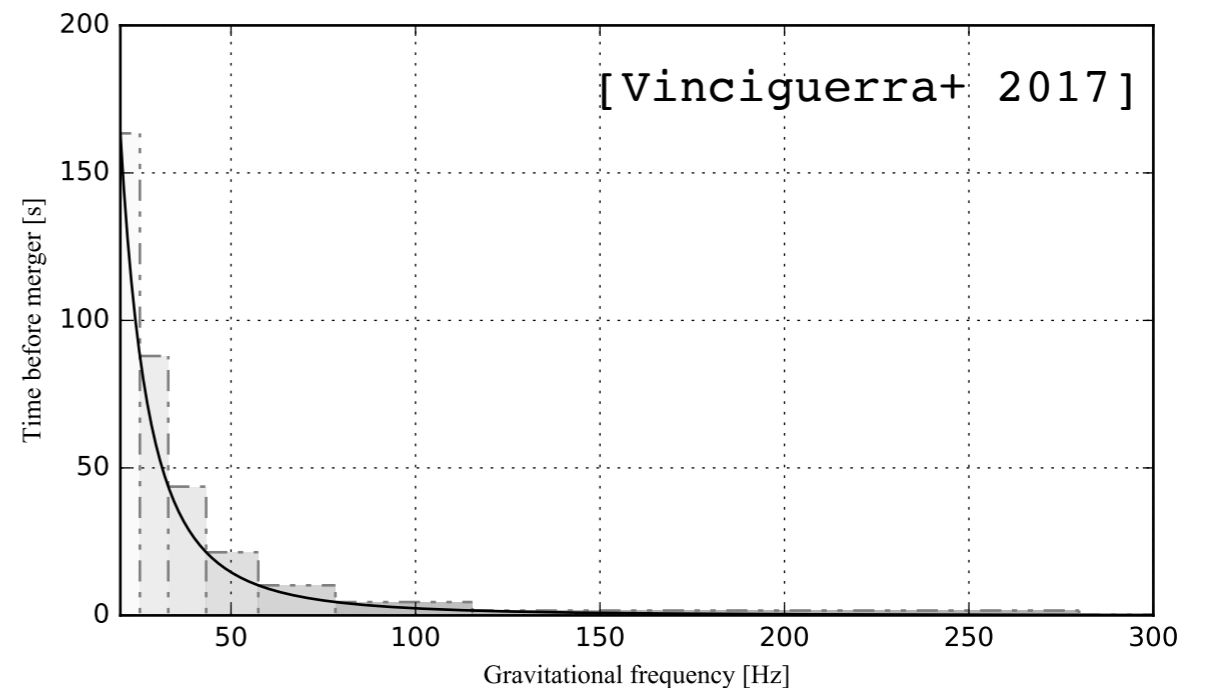
# Computational Cost



- Run-time is dominated by
  - Template calculation (60-99% run-time)
    - including FFT for time-domain signals (rarely used in practice)
    - scales as length of template x sampling frequency
  - Overlap calculation (remainder of run-time)
    - Once per detector
    - Uses accelerated trigonometry approximation
- Reduce number of likelihoods needed
- Parallelise multiple runs across cores to reduce wall clock time
- Improve computational efficiency of vector ops (SIMD extensions)
- Use of custom hardware? GPUs, Xeon Phi, ...

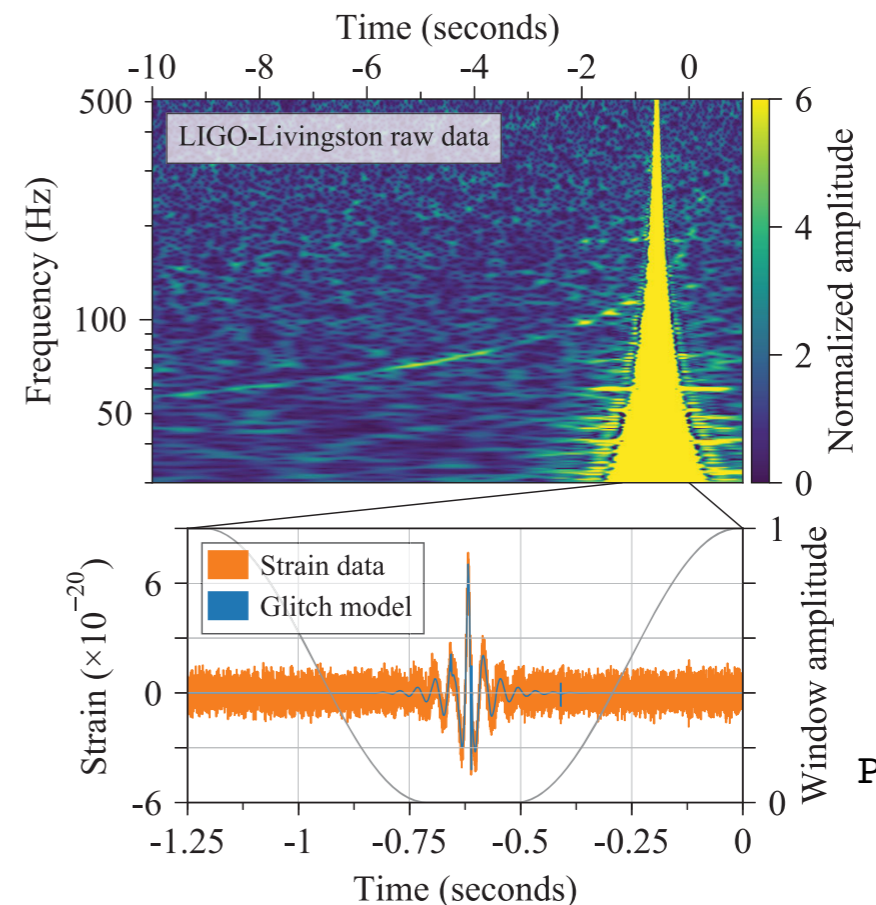
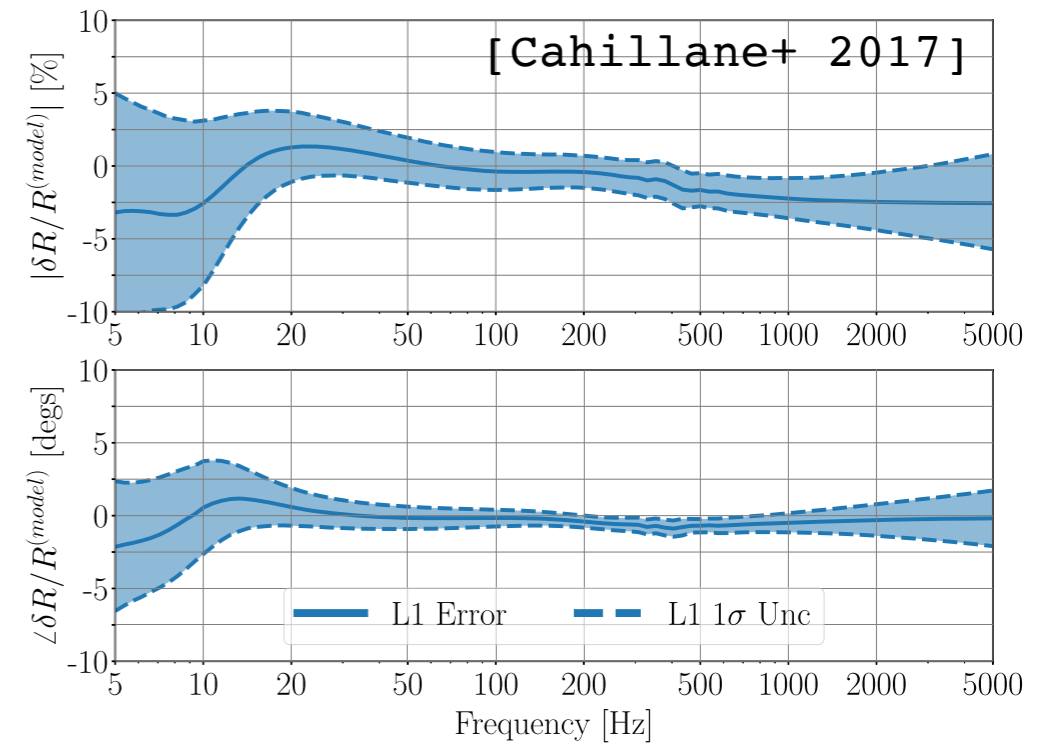
# Waveform acceleration

- Dominant cost is generation of  $\sim 10\text{M}$  waveforms while exploring parameter space
- Most sophisticated inspiral-merger-ringdown waveforms are slow to generate
  - Surrogate models to approximate full waveform [Pürrer 2014]
  - Multi-band analysis [Vinciguerra+ 2017]
- Use basis other than Fourier frequencies for likelihood integrals “Reduced Order Quadrature” [Canizares+ 2014, Smith+ 2016]



# Reducing systematics

- Systematic errors caused by...
- detector calibration [Cahillane+ 2017]:
  - Include calibration uncertainty as parametrised model [vitale+ 2012, LVC LVC PRL 116 2 (2016)]
- Imperfect templates [LVC 1611.07531]
  - Gaussian process modelling of waveform uncertainties [Moore+ 2014, 2015]
- Varying noise floor (PSD estimation)
  - On-source PSD estimation [Littenberg+ 2014]
- Glitches in data! [e.g. LVC, PRL 119 (2017)]
  - Fit glitch model along with GW [Cornish+ 2014]



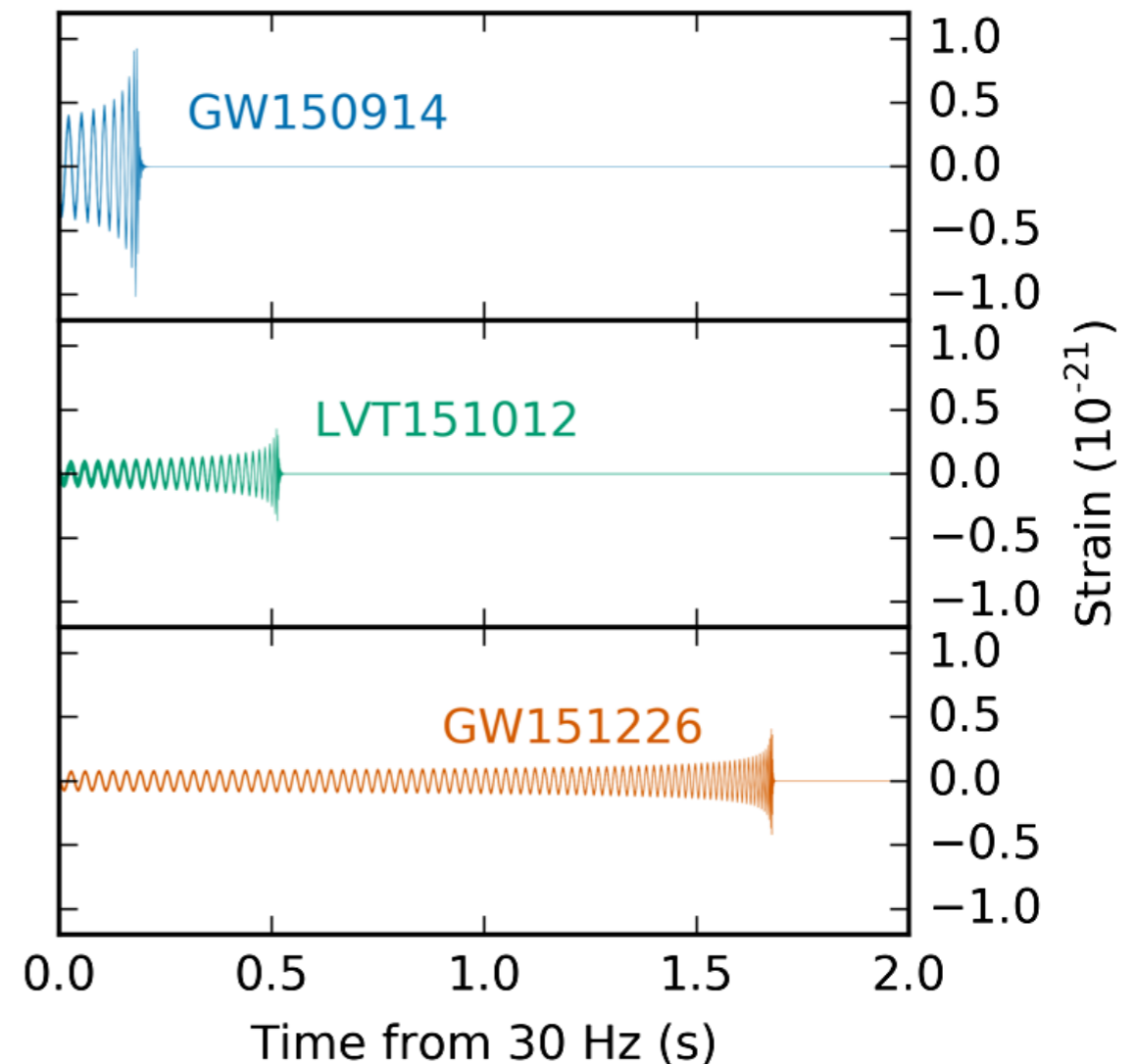
PRL 119 (2017)



# Detected Compact Binary Mergers

# BBHs in O1

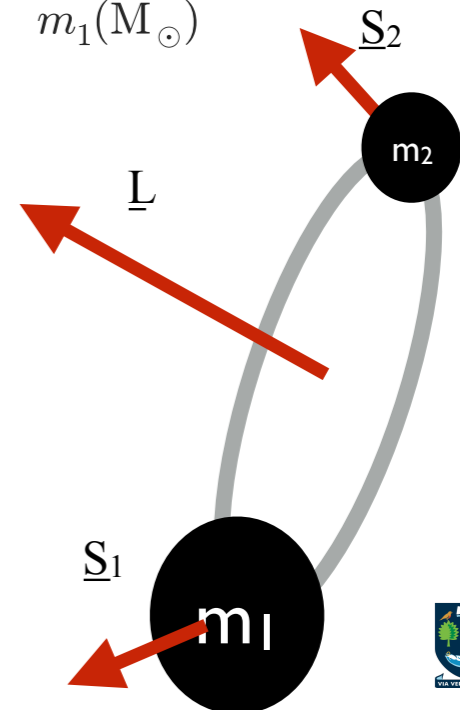
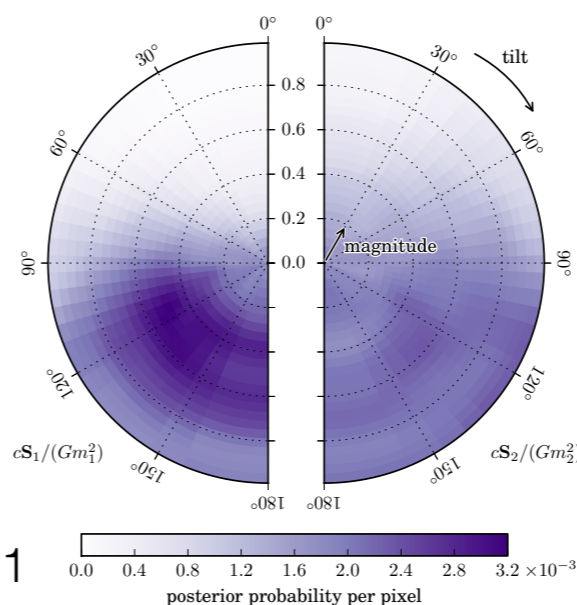
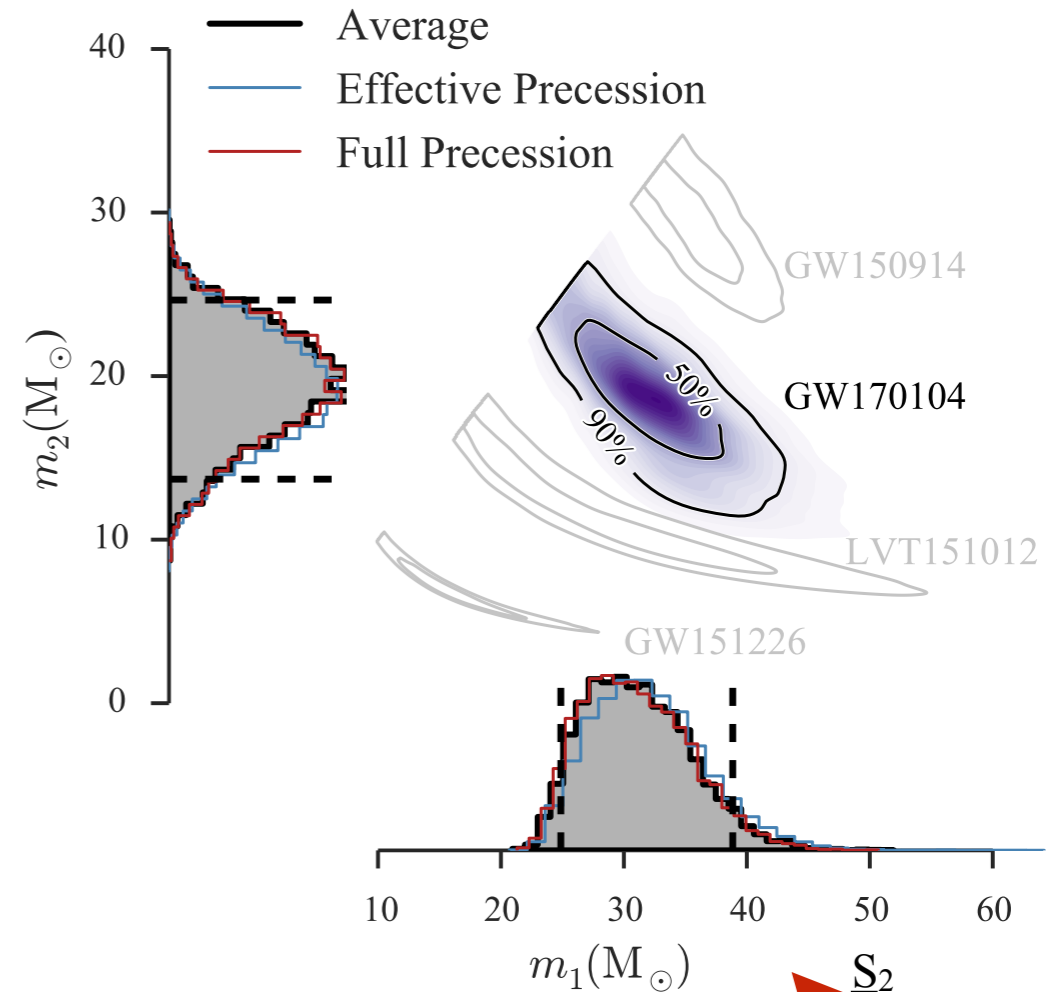
- 2 clear detections and a likely third (LVT)
- Established population of coalescing BBH with component masses up to  $\sim 36 M_{\odot}$ 
  - Clear these would form a large fraction of GW detections
- Enabled novel EM followups, population studies, tests of GR, ...
- Prompted development of waveforms, NR, ...
- But let's focus on O2 events!



Abbott+ Phys. Rev. X 6, 041015

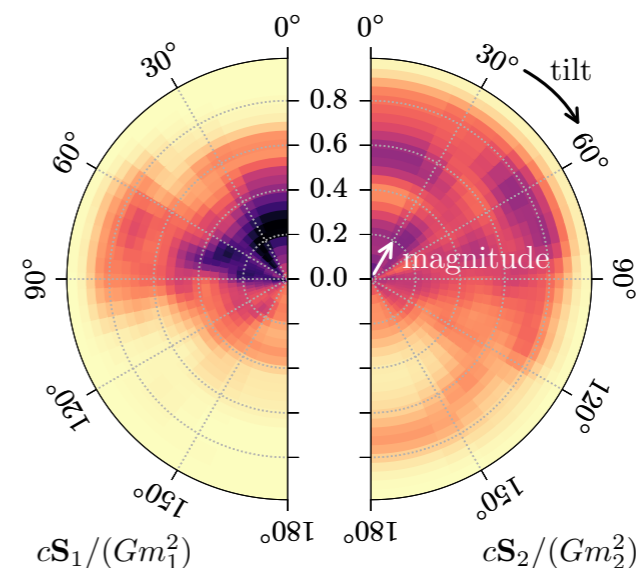
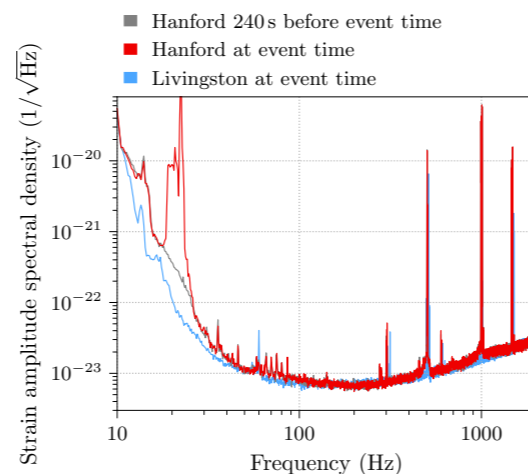
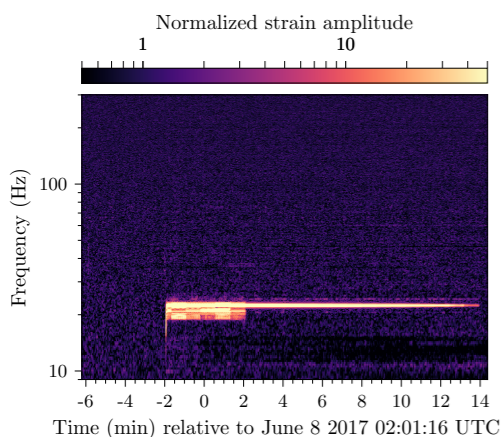
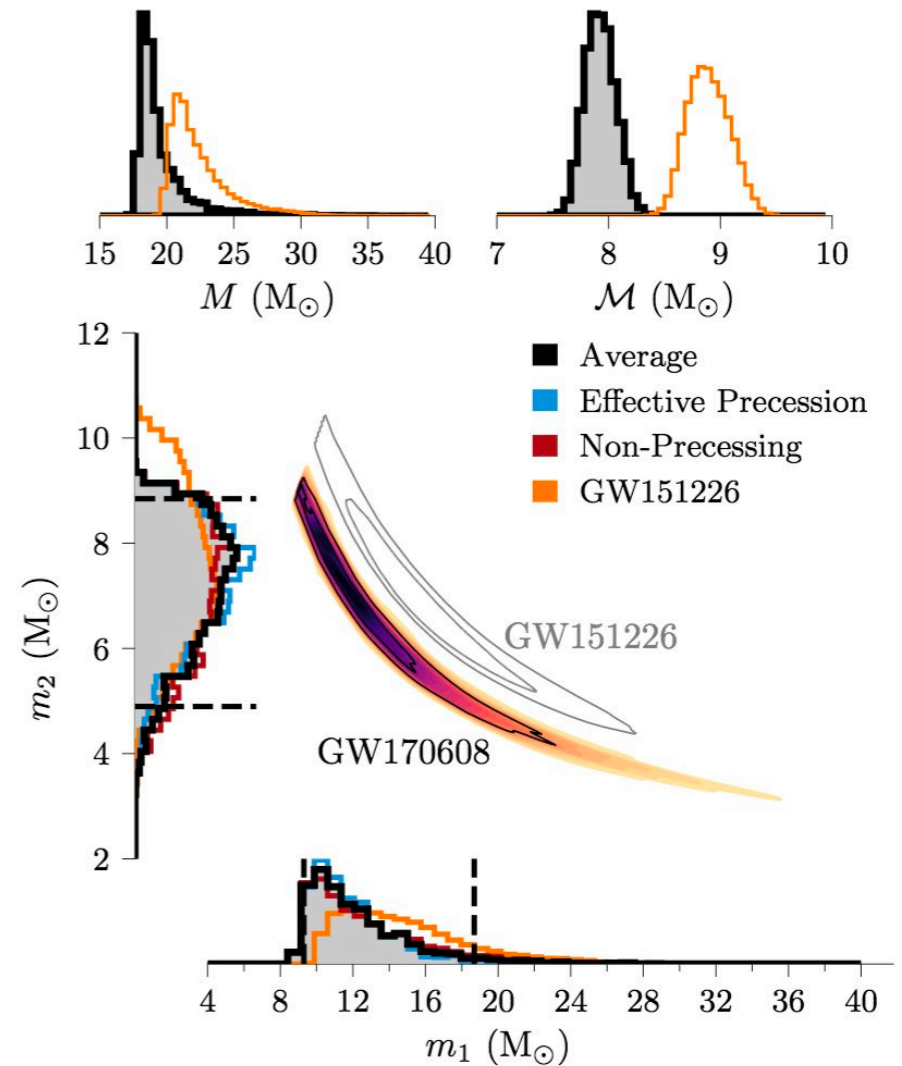
# GW170104

- 50  $M_{\odot}$  total mass
  - sits between masses of O1 events
- 880Mpc ( $z \sim 0.2$ )
  - most distant BBH
  - stringent tests of  $m_{\text{graviton}}$  through dispersion
- Spins likely not positively aligned (although could be non-spinning)
- LVC 2017 1706.01812



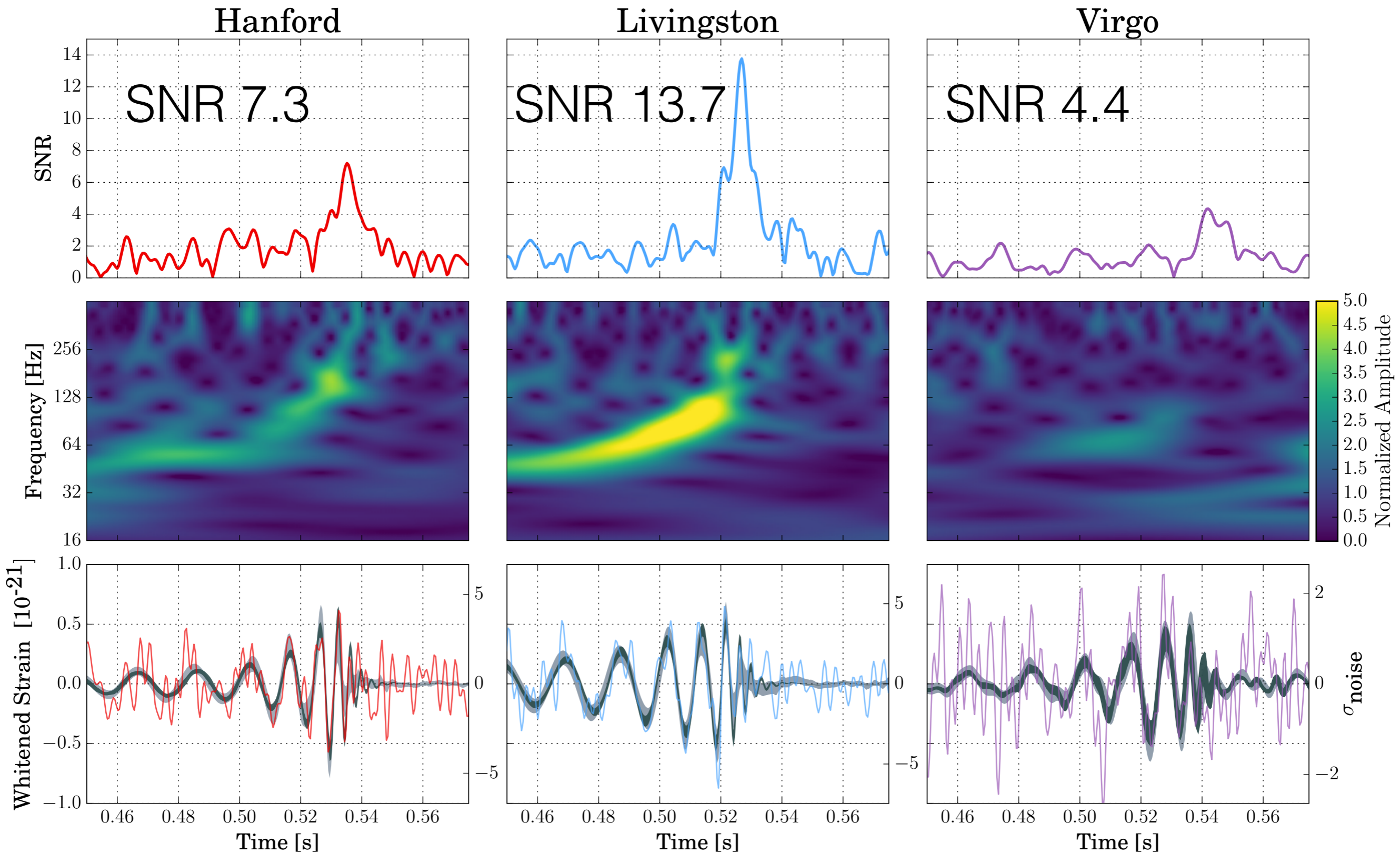
# GW170608

- Lightest binary BH yet discovered
  - $\sim 12 + 7 M_{\odot}$
  - *Comparable with galactic BH systems known from X-ray observations*
- $\sim 1 M_{\text{sun}}$  radiated as GW energy
- Distance: 340 Mpc ( $z \sim 0.07$ )
- Detected during time when Hanford being commissioned
- See [arXiv:1711.05578](https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.05578) for details



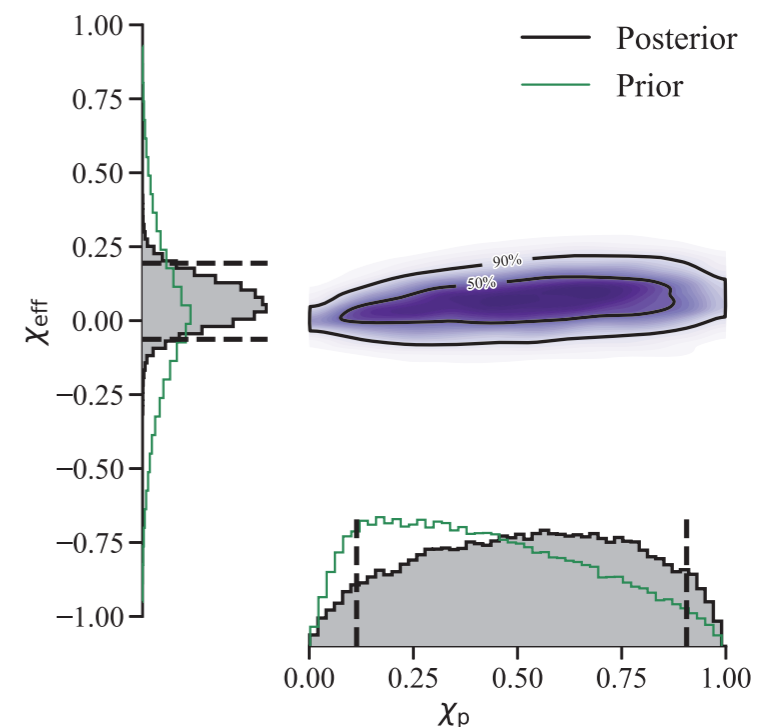
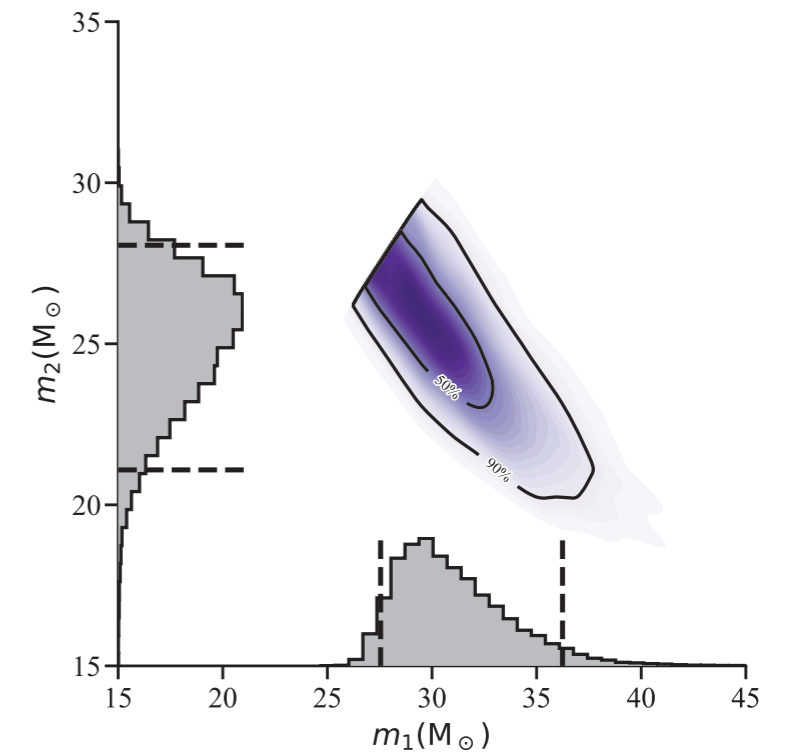


# GW170814

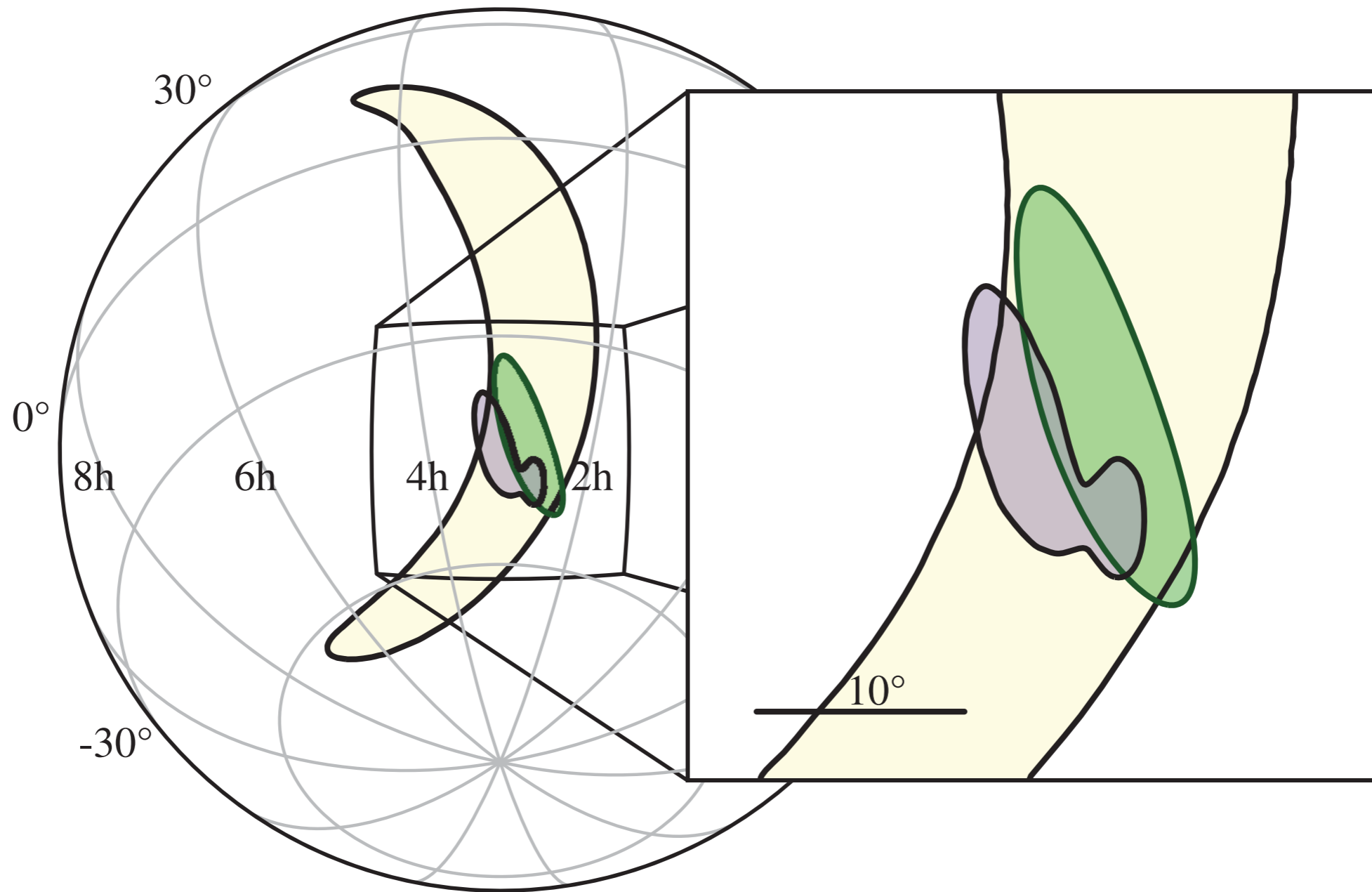


# GW170814

- $M_{\text{tot}} \sim 56 M_{\odot}$
- $d_L \sim 540 \text{Mpc}$  ( $z \sim 0.11$ )
- Poor constraint on spin tilts
- But novel checks of GW polarisation states
- LVC PRL 119 (2017)



# GW170814





LIGO Hanford

GW170817

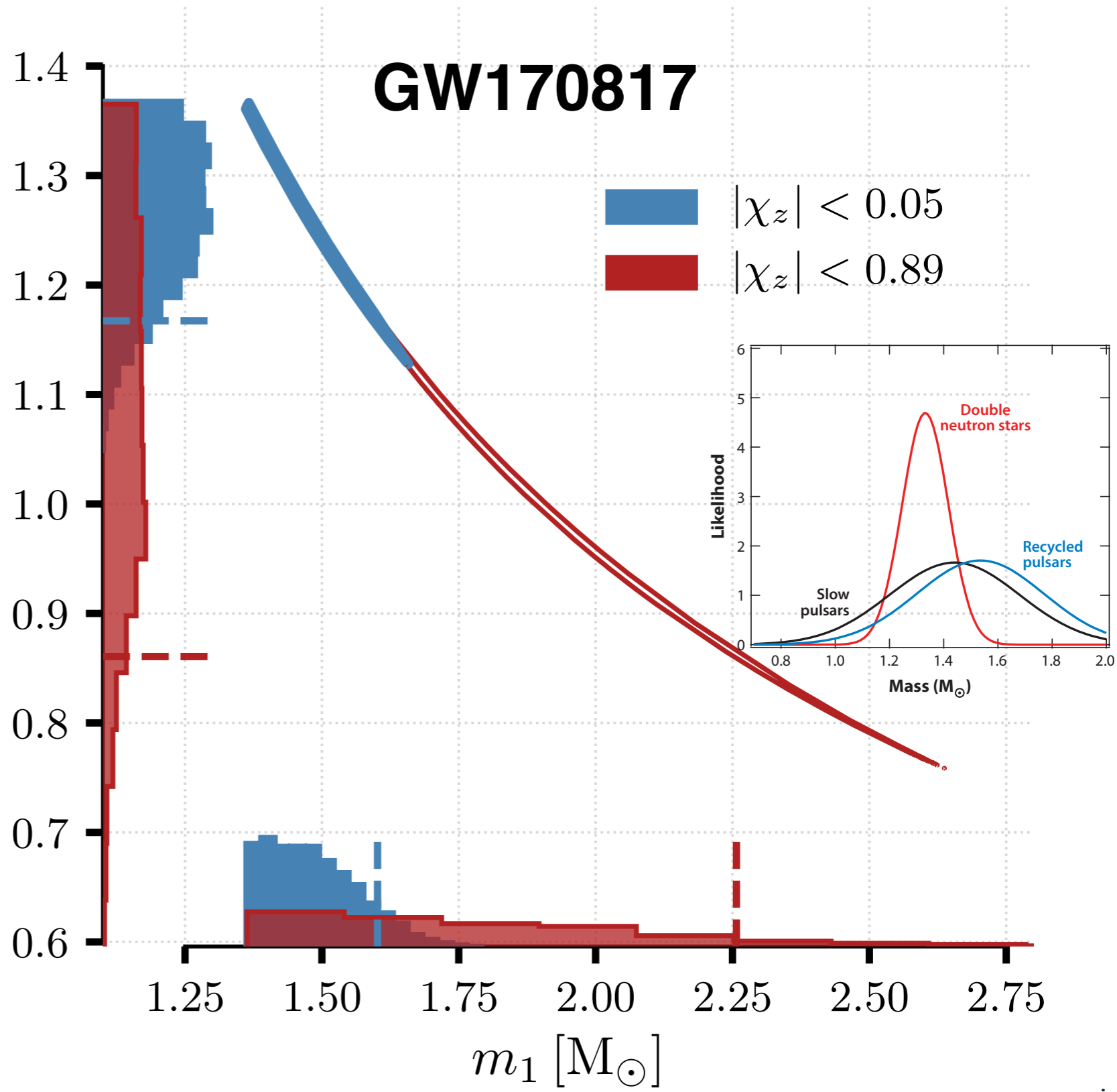
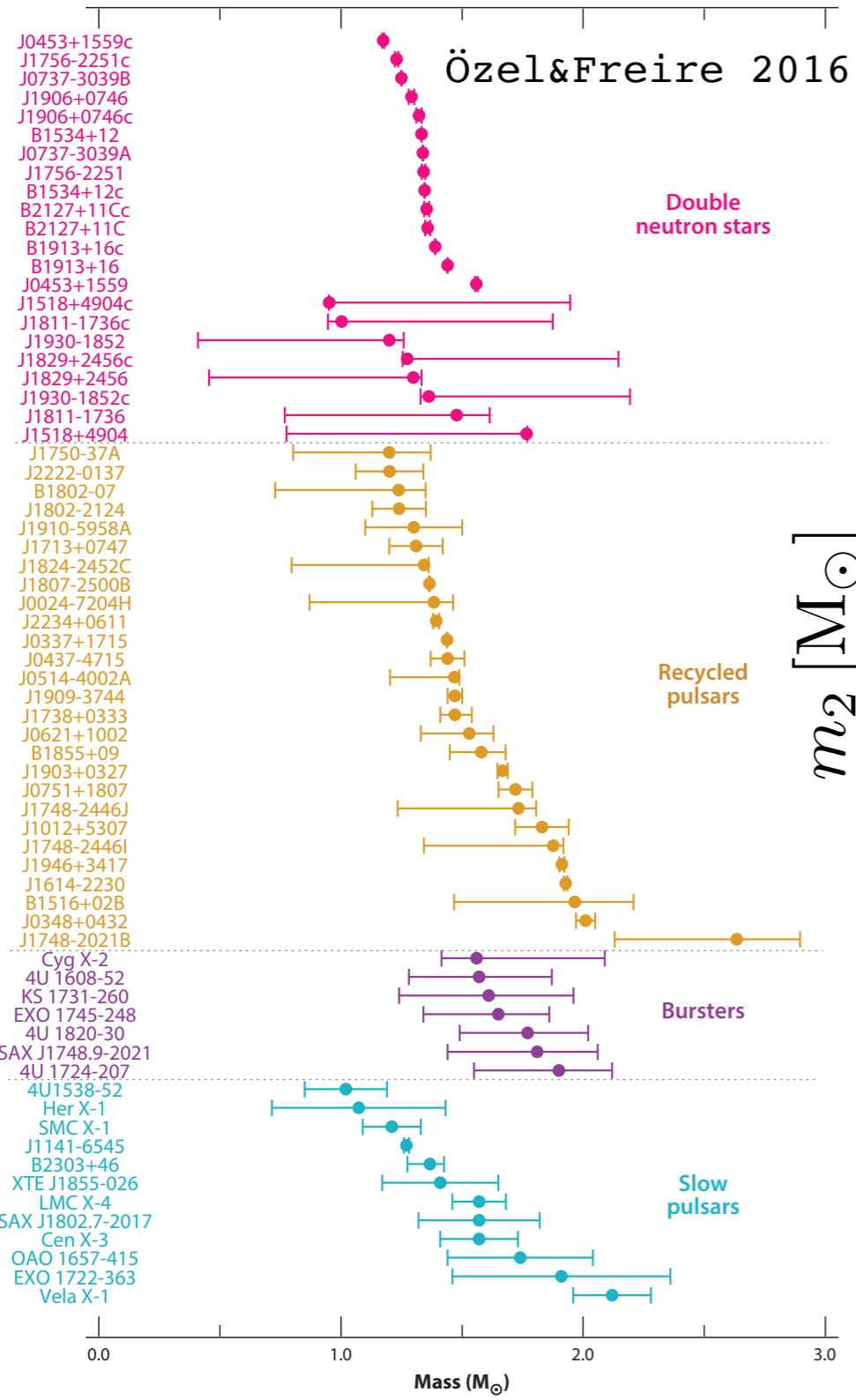
LIGO Livingston

Virgo

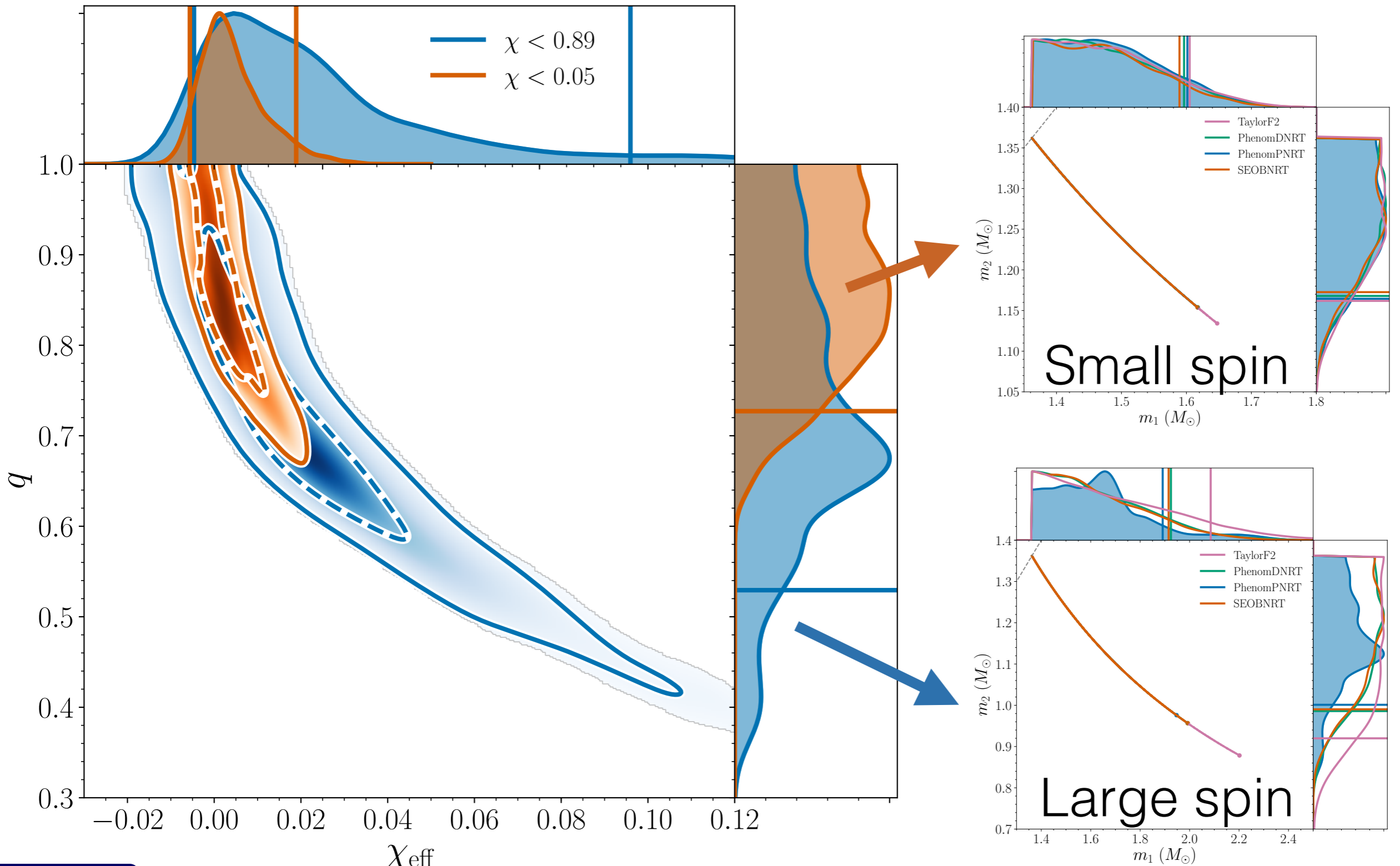
**BINARY NEUTRON STAR**



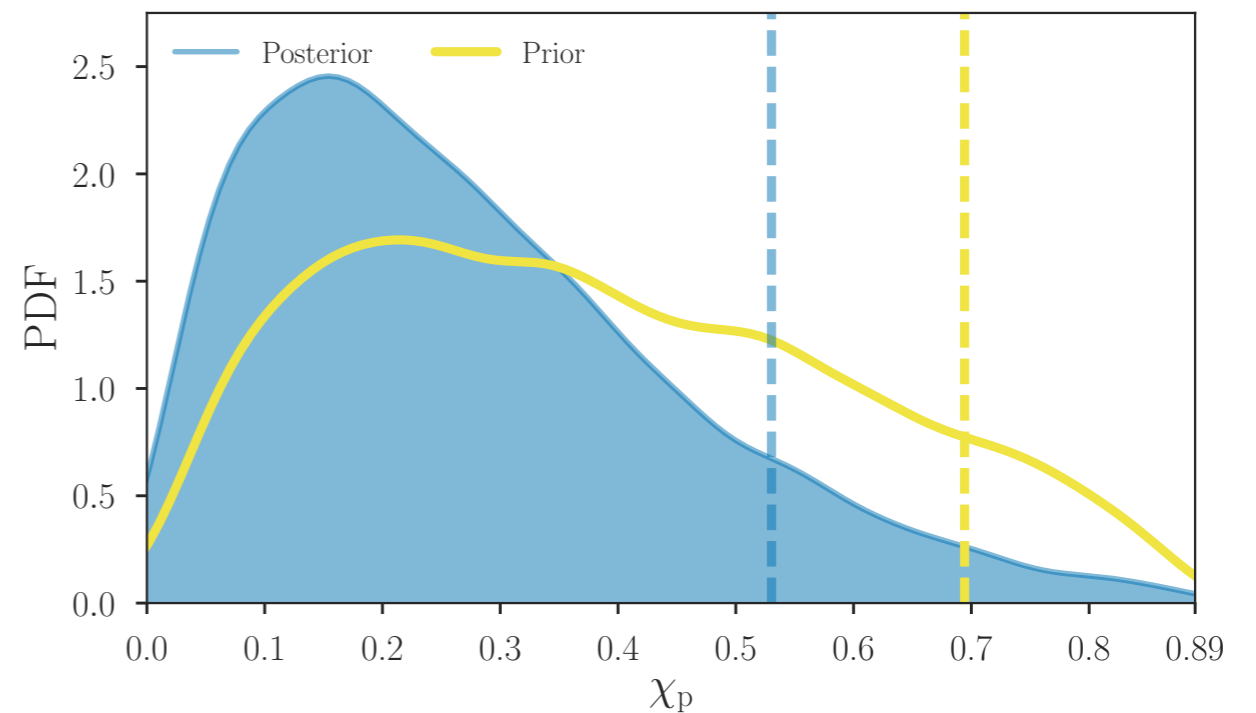
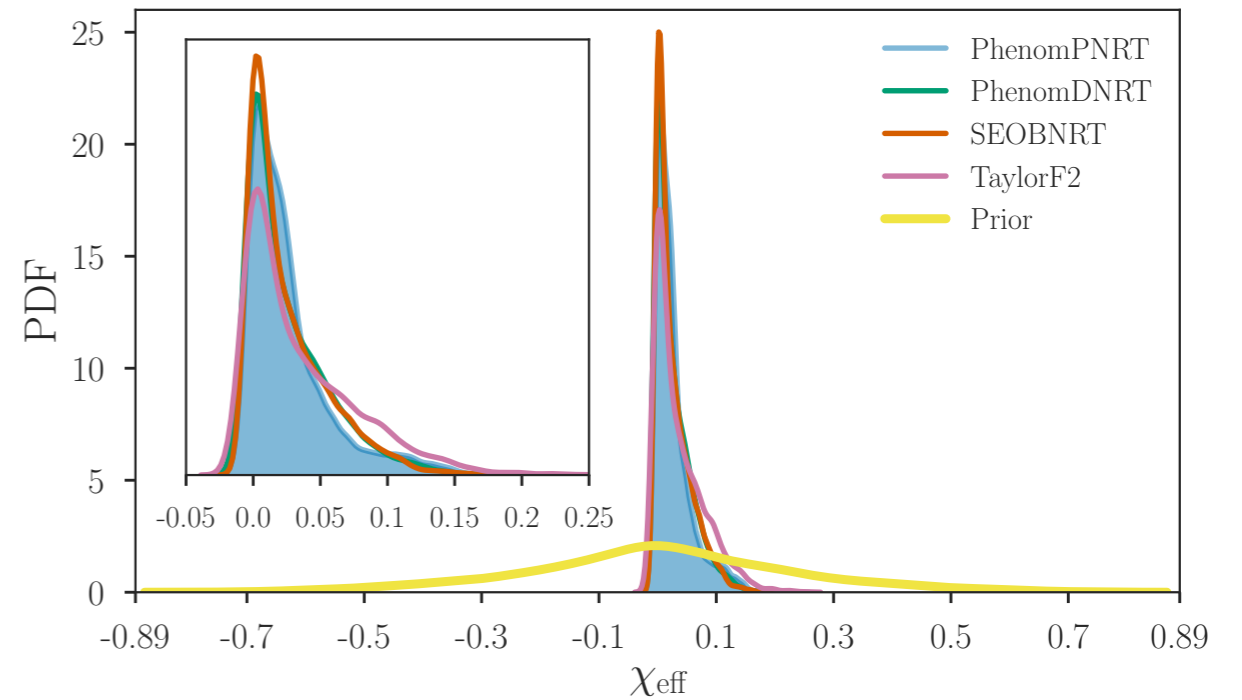
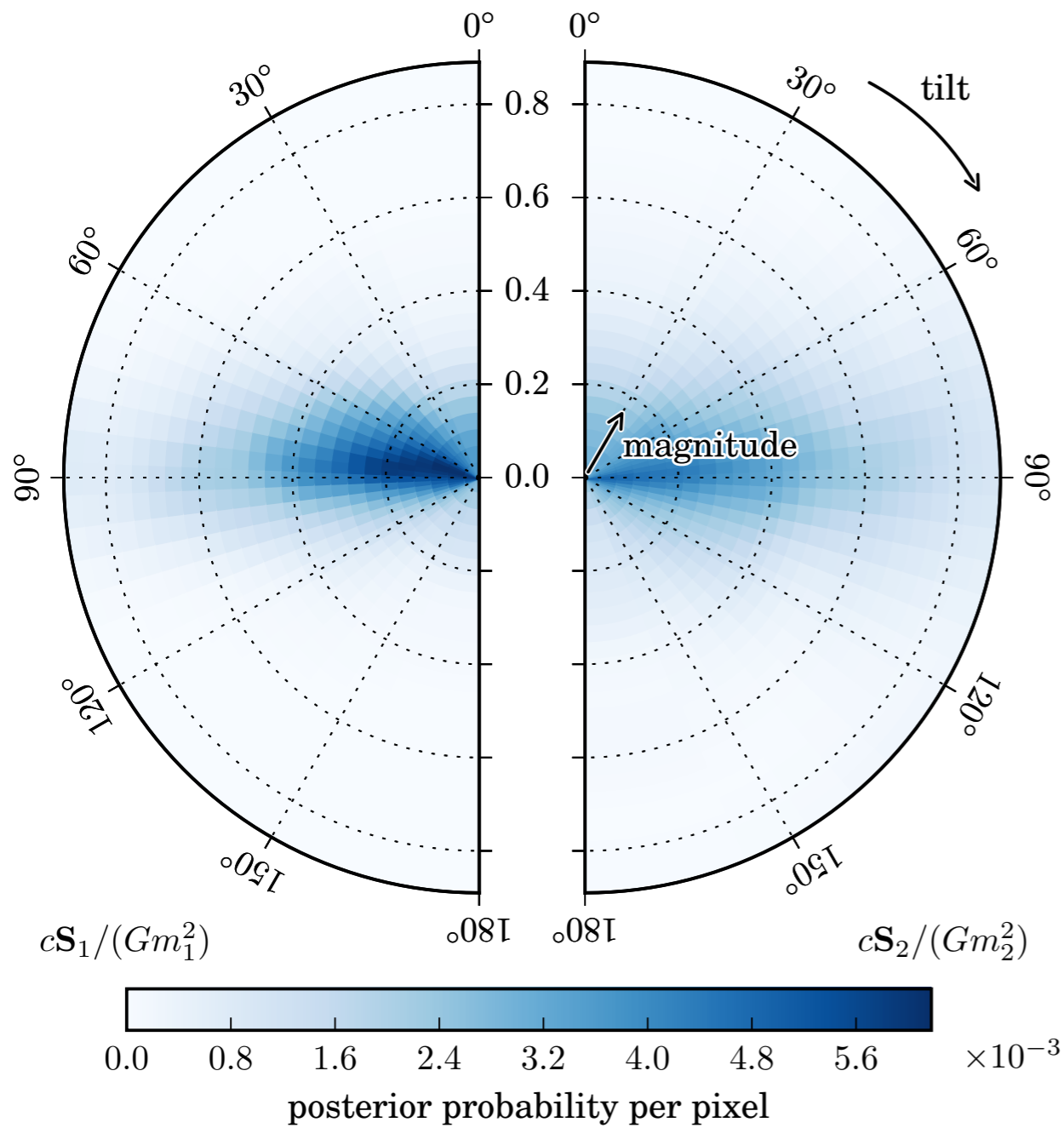
# Neutron star masses



# Mass, mass ratio, spin

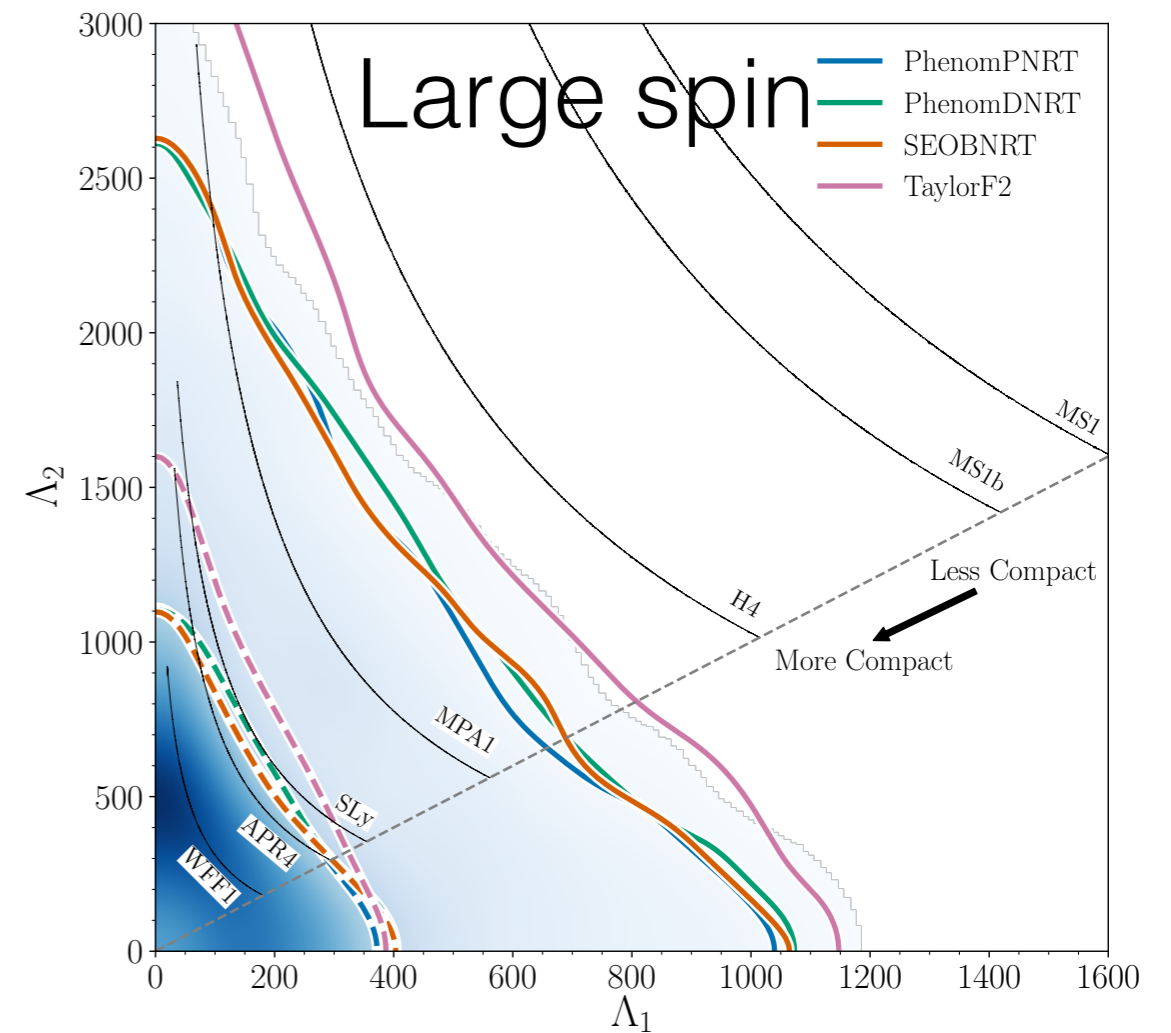
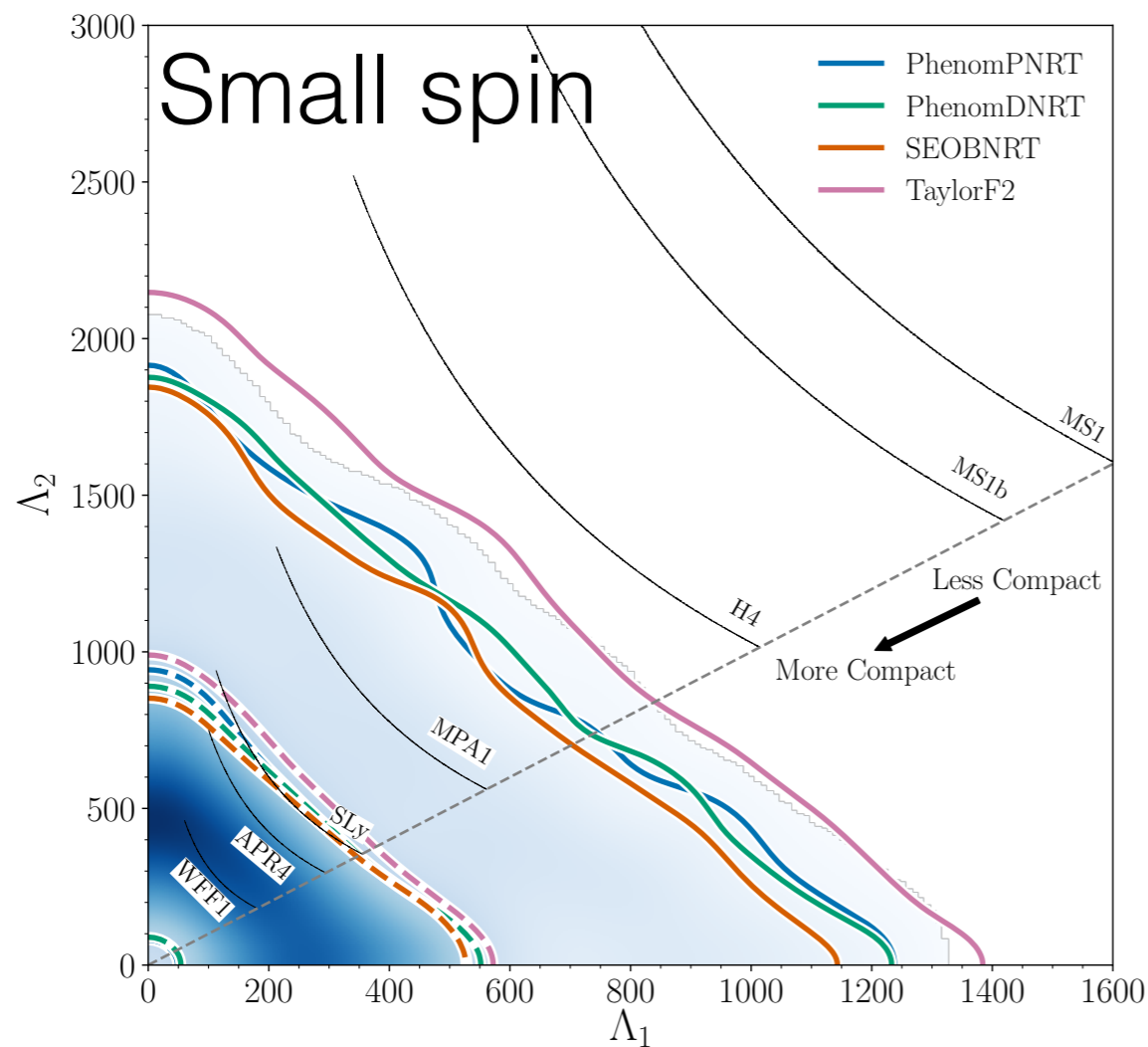


# BNS Spins



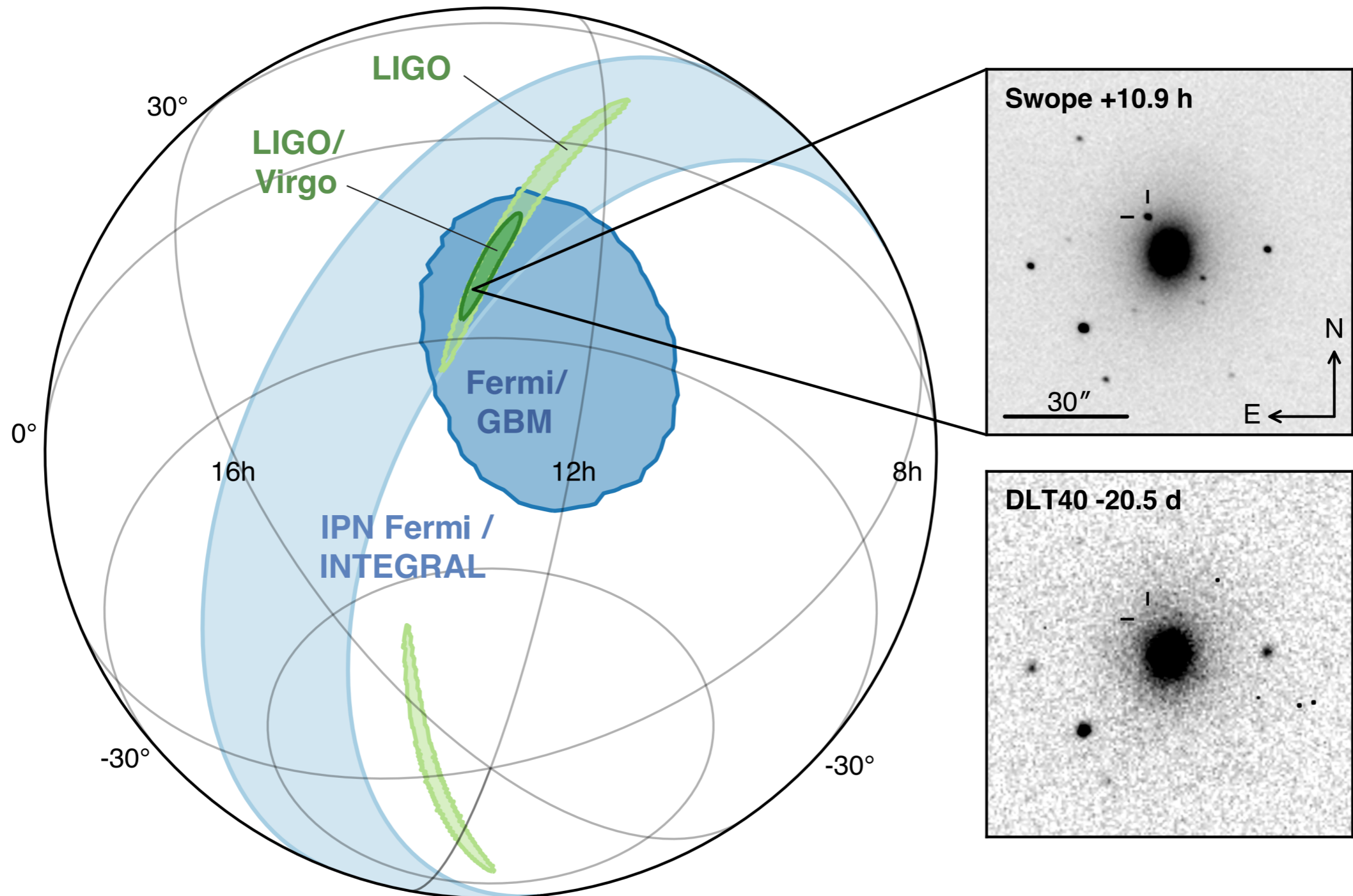
# Tidal deformability

- New analysis with cleaned data, better waveforms [LVC 1805.11579]
- Tighter constraints on tidal deformability
- Spin prior feeds into mass uncertainty -> different masses and compactness results
- See 1805.11581 for further analysis of EOS and compactness





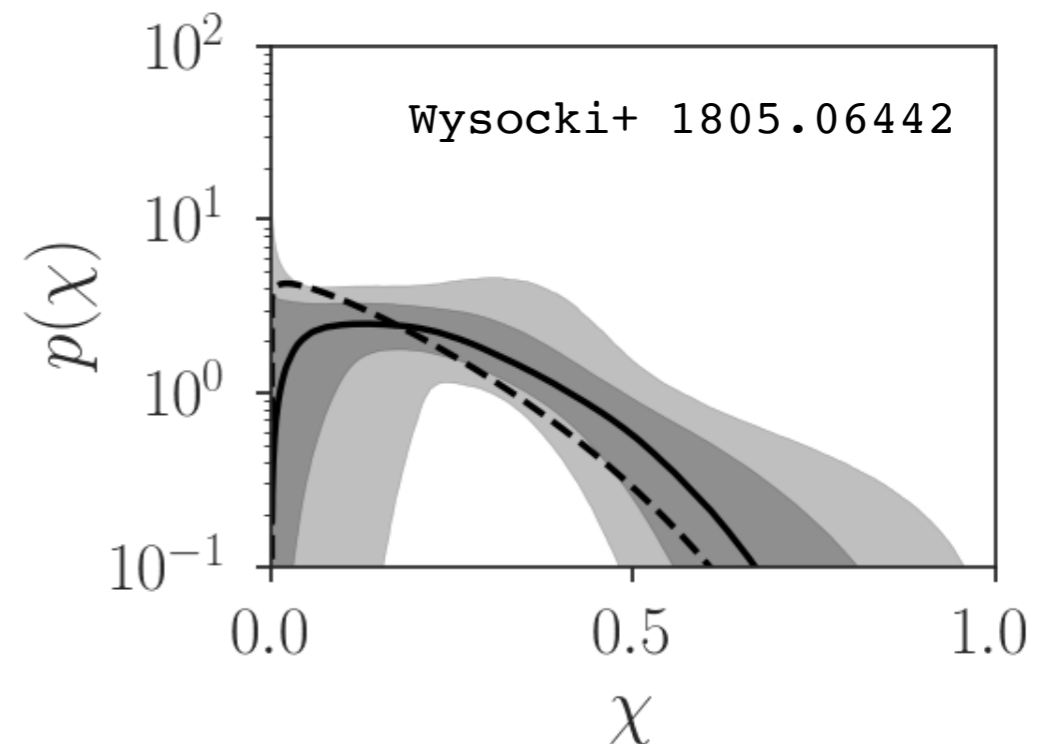
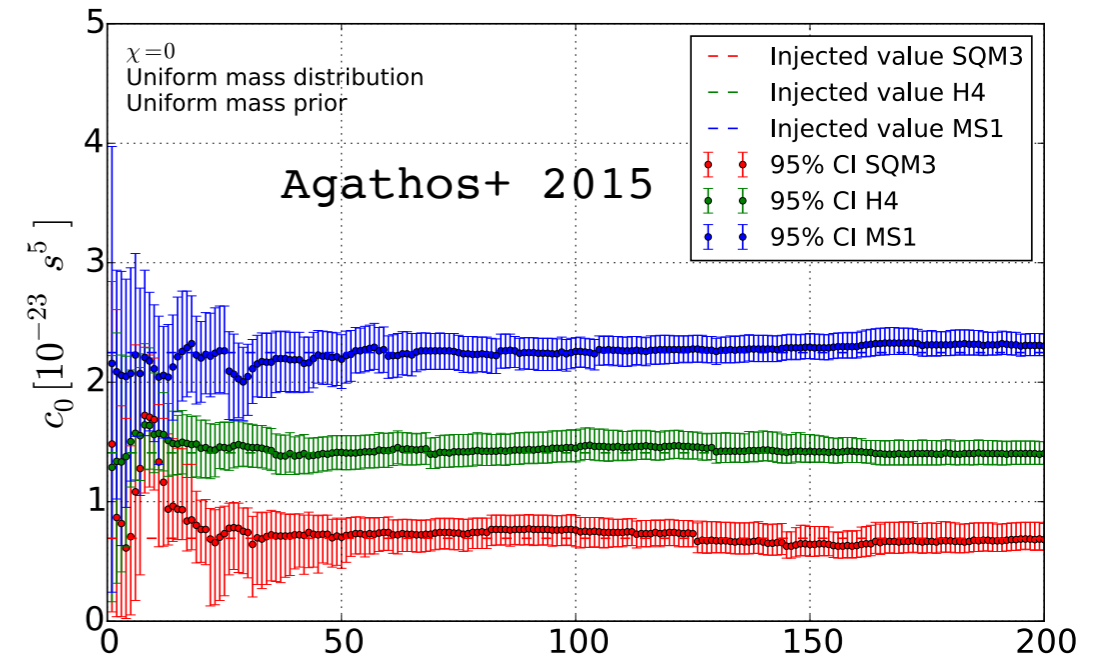
# Sky localisation



# Hierarchical models: combining events

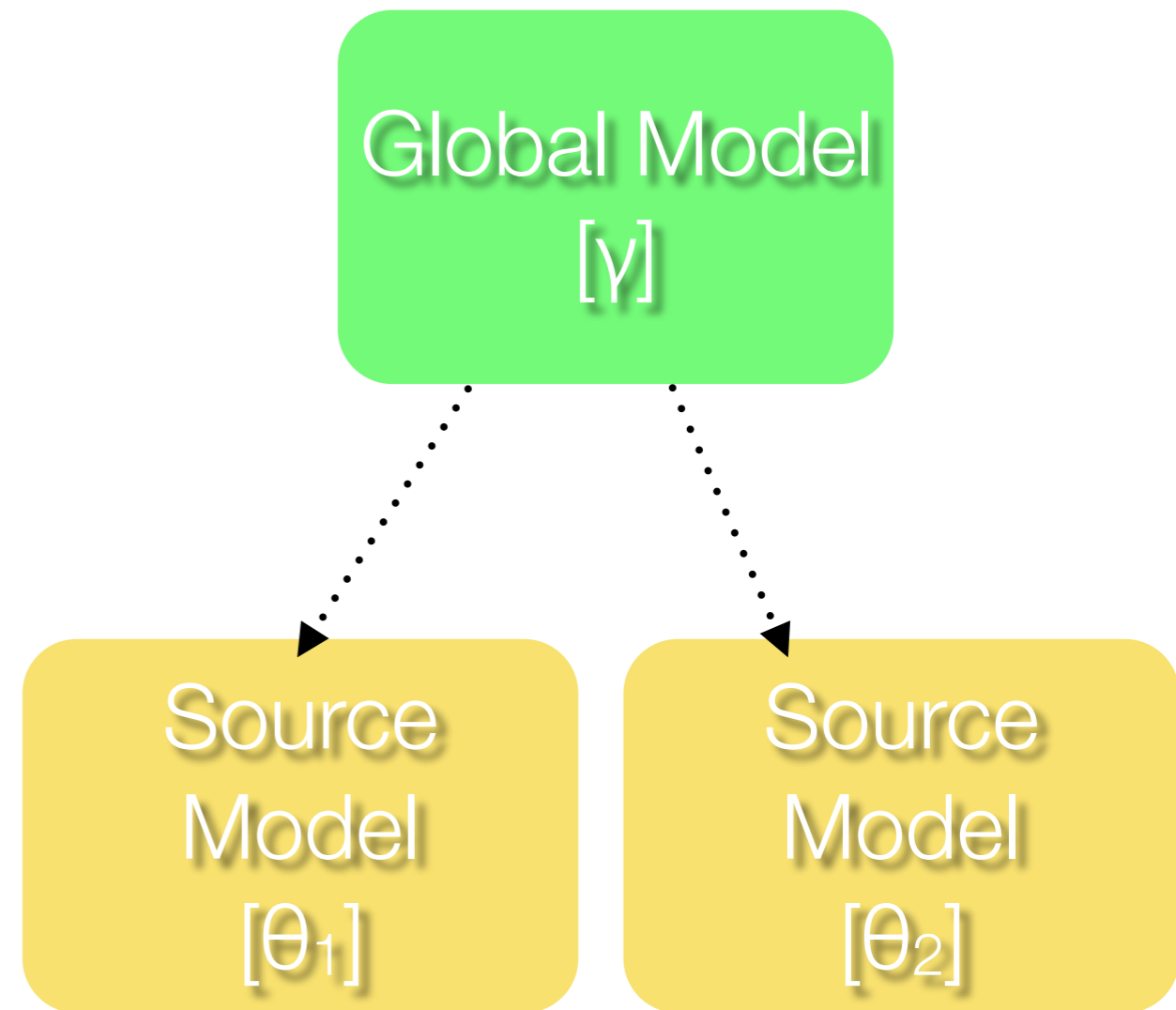
# Hierarchical Models

- Inference from multiple events about parameters affecting all events, e.g.
- Common parameters: Tests of General Relativity, Neutron Star EOS
- Population parameters: Rate, BH mass function, spin distributions, ...
- Selection effects are important!



# Hierarchical Models

- Goal: Extract information about some **population parameter**  $\gamma$  from  $N$  detected events with data  $d$  and nuisance parameters  $\theta$



- $$p(\gamma|N, \{d_1, d_2, \dots\}) \propto p(\gamma|I)p(N|\gamma) \prod_i^N p(d_i|\gamma, \text{detection})$$



# Selection effects

- In general, the number of detected sources  $N$  can be affected by the source properties
  - e.g. Large masses  $\rightarrow$  larger distances
- We are interested in the astrophysical distribution not the observed distribution
  - Must account for selection effects!

$$p(N|\gamma) = p(N|\hat{N})p(\hat{N}|\gamma) = \frac{\hat{N}(\gamma)^N e^{-\hat{N}(\gamma)}}{N!}$$

Poisson statistics on  
observed number  $N$

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{N} &= \int \frac{\partial^k \hat{N}(\gamma)}{\partial \vec{\theta}^k} d\vec{\theta} \\ &= \int \frac{\partial^k N_{astro}(\gamma)}{\partial \vec{\theta}^k} p(\text{detection}|\theta) d\theta\end{aligned}$$

Observed distribution  
is astrophysical  
distribution filtered  
by detection probability

# Use of single event samples

- Global event likelihood factorises into single-event likelihoods

$$p(\{d_1, d_2, \dots\}|\gamma) = \prod_i^N p(d_i|\gamma)$$

- Each event has nuisance parameters  $\theta$  which may depend on the population parameters  $\gamma$

$$p(d_i|\gamma) = \int p(d_i|\theta)p(\theta|\gamma)d\theta$$

- Can use samples from *likelihood* to evaluate the integral

$$p(d_i|\gamma) = \langle p(\theta|\gamma) \rangle_{p(d_i|\theta)}$$
$$\approx \frac{1}{N_{\text{samps}}} \sum_i^{N_{\text{samps}}} p(\theta_i|\gamma)$$

# Example: Anisotropy of BBHs?

- Question: How are BBHs distributed over the sky?

- Isotropic:  $p(\Omega|I)=1/(4\pi)$

- Anisotropic:  $p(\Omega \in \text{pixel}_i | a_i) \propto a_i$

- Need to know:

$$P(x_j | \vec{a}, \mathcal{D}, I) = P(\mathcal{D} | x_j, \vec{a}, I) \frac{\int d\Omega \int p(x_j | \Omega, \mathcal{D}, I) p(\Omega, \mathcal{D} | \vec{a}, I) d\mathcal{D}}{\int d\Omega \int p(\mathcal{D} | \Omega, \mathcal{D}, I) p(\Omega, \mathcal{D} | \vec{a}, I) d\mathcal{D}}$$

- Source locations: PE samples

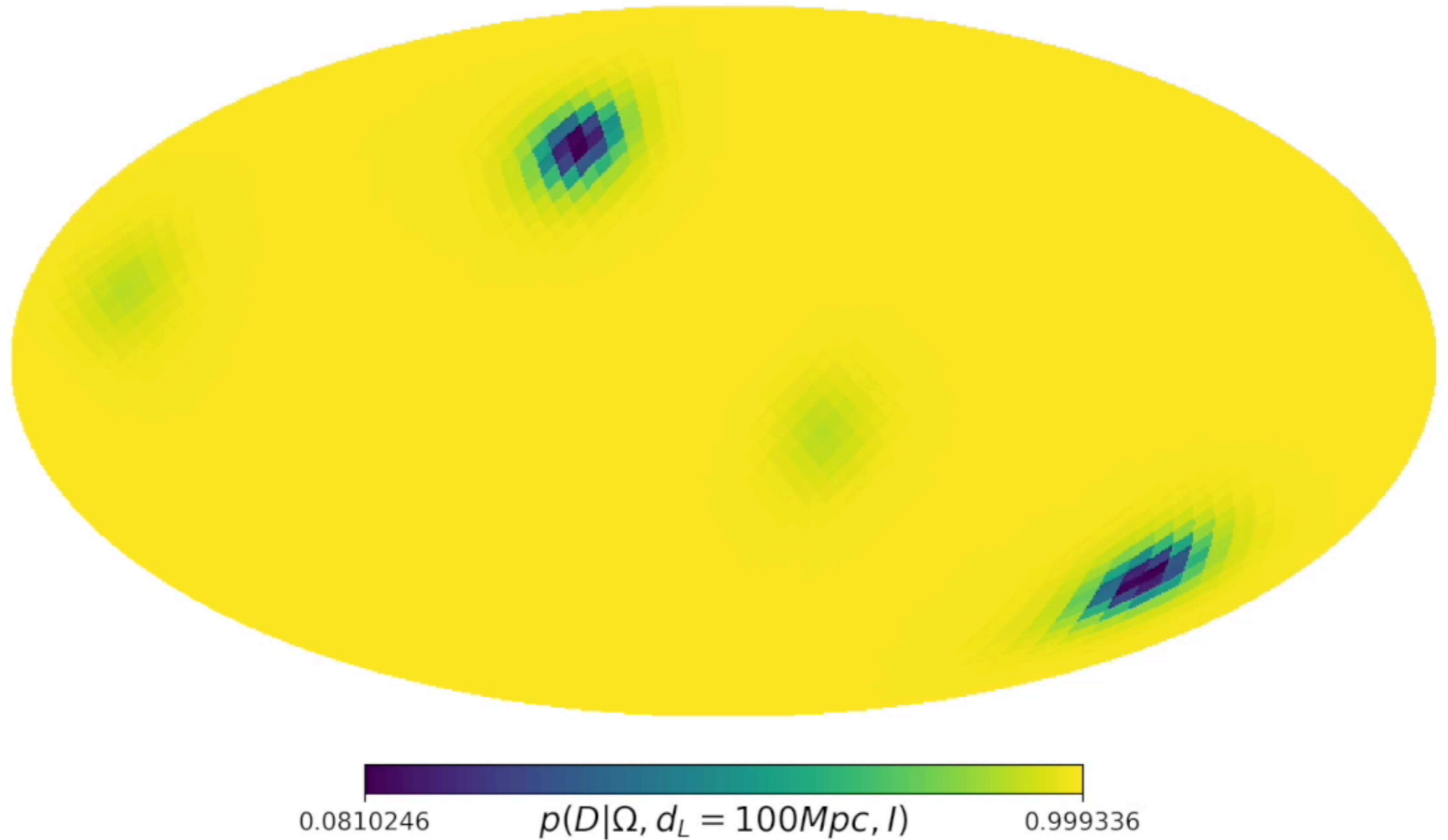
$$\approx \frac{\frac{1}{N} \sum_j^N p(\Omega_j, \mathcal{D}_j | \vec{a}, I)}{\int p(\mathcal{D} | \Omega, I) p(\Omega | \vec{a}, I) d\Omega}$$

- Selection function: Detector sensitivity (time-dependent)

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{N}(\vec{a}) &= N_{\text{merg}} \iint \frac{\partial^2 N_{\text{obs}}}{\partial \Omega \partial \mathcal{D}} d\mathcal{D} d\Omega \\ &= RVT \iint p(\mathcal{D} | \Omega, \mathcal{D}, I) p(\Omega, \mathcal{D} | \vec{a}, I) d\mathcal{D} d\Omega \\ &= RVT \int p(\mathcal{D} | \Omega, I) p(\Omega | \vec{a}, I) d\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

# O2 selection function

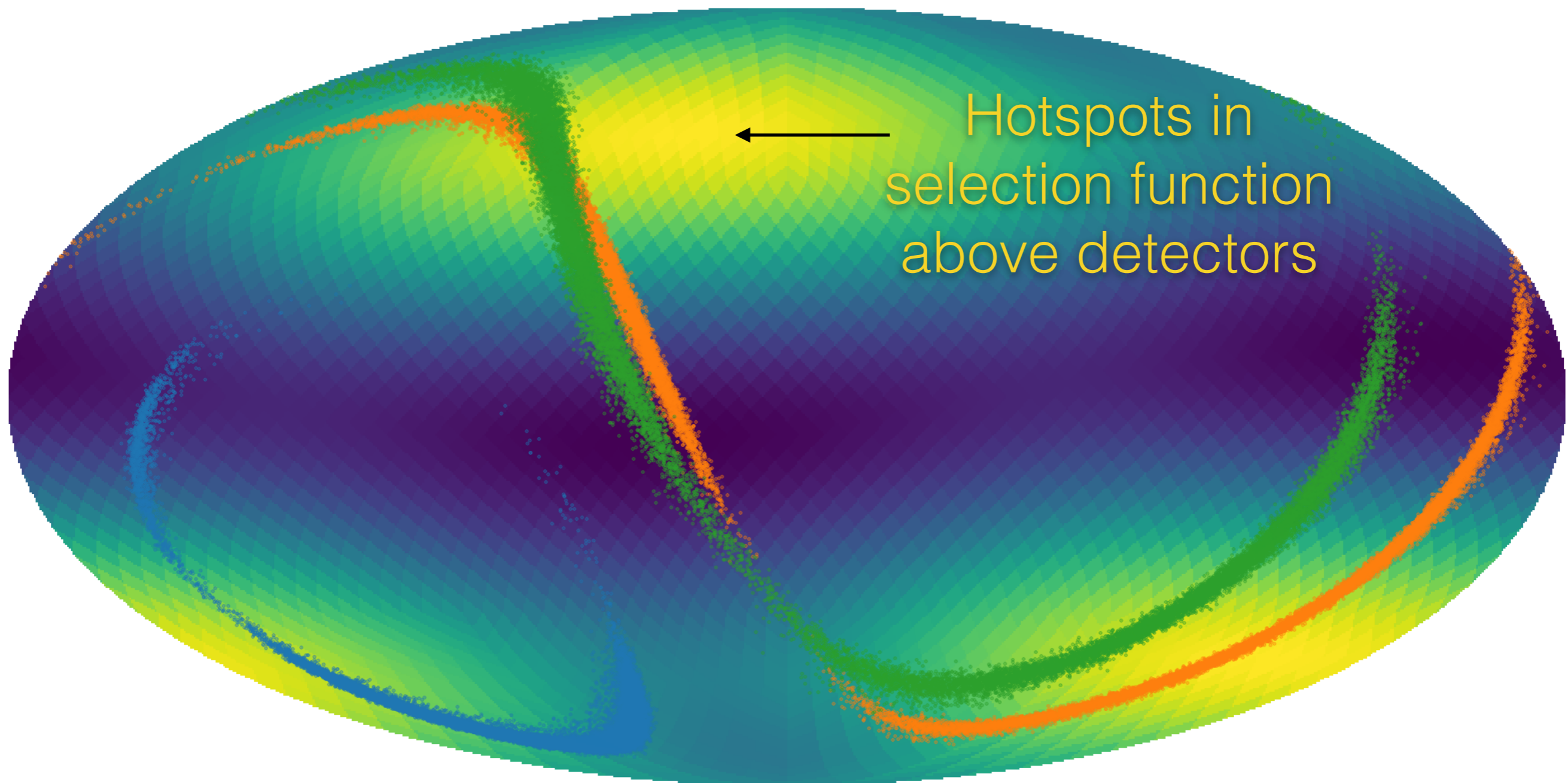
Mollview probability of detection, run O2





# O1 data

Mean  $p(D|\Omega)$  for O1

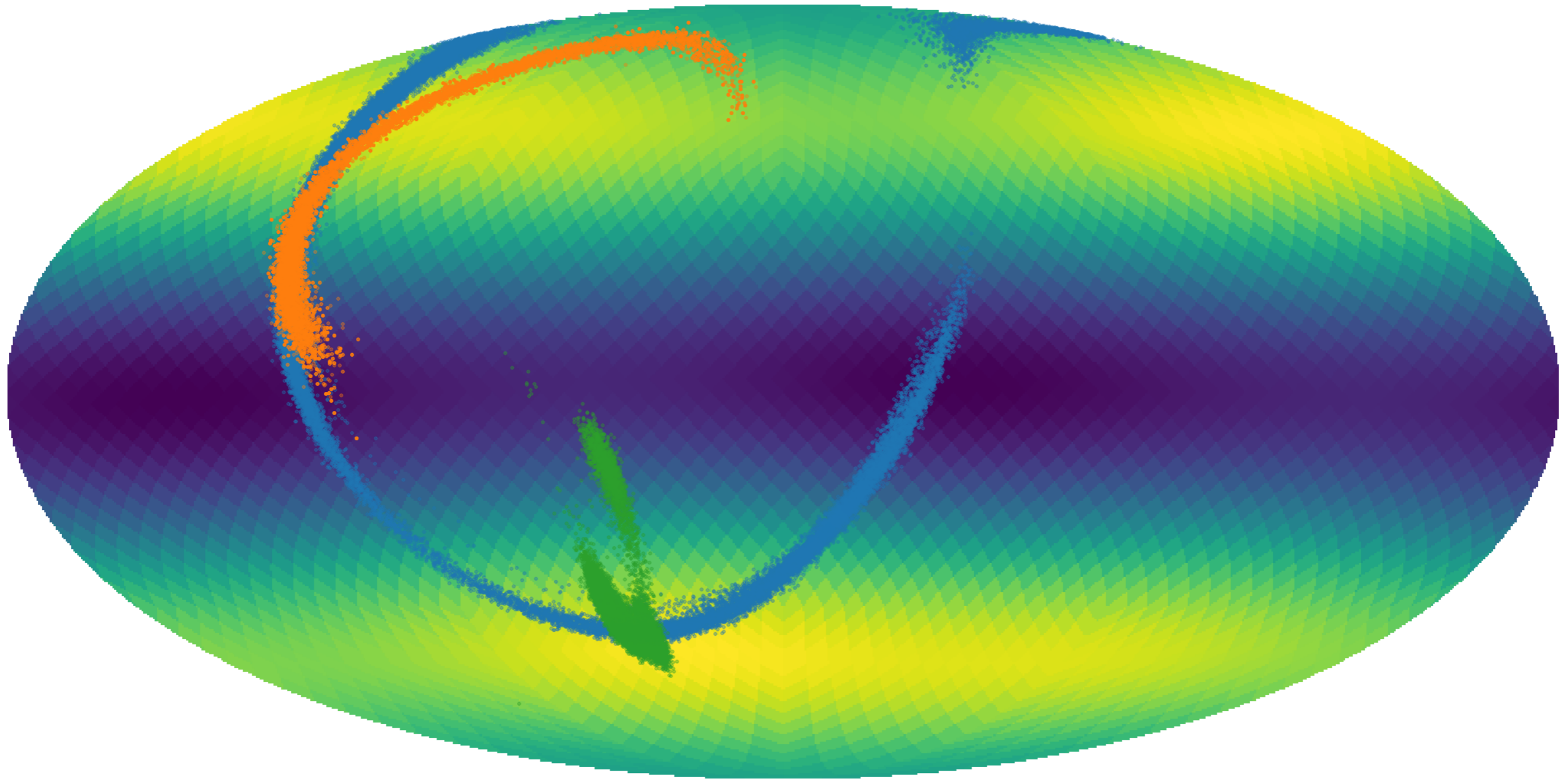


3.73173e-05

5.64215e-05

# O2 data

Mean  $p(D|\Omega)$  for O2



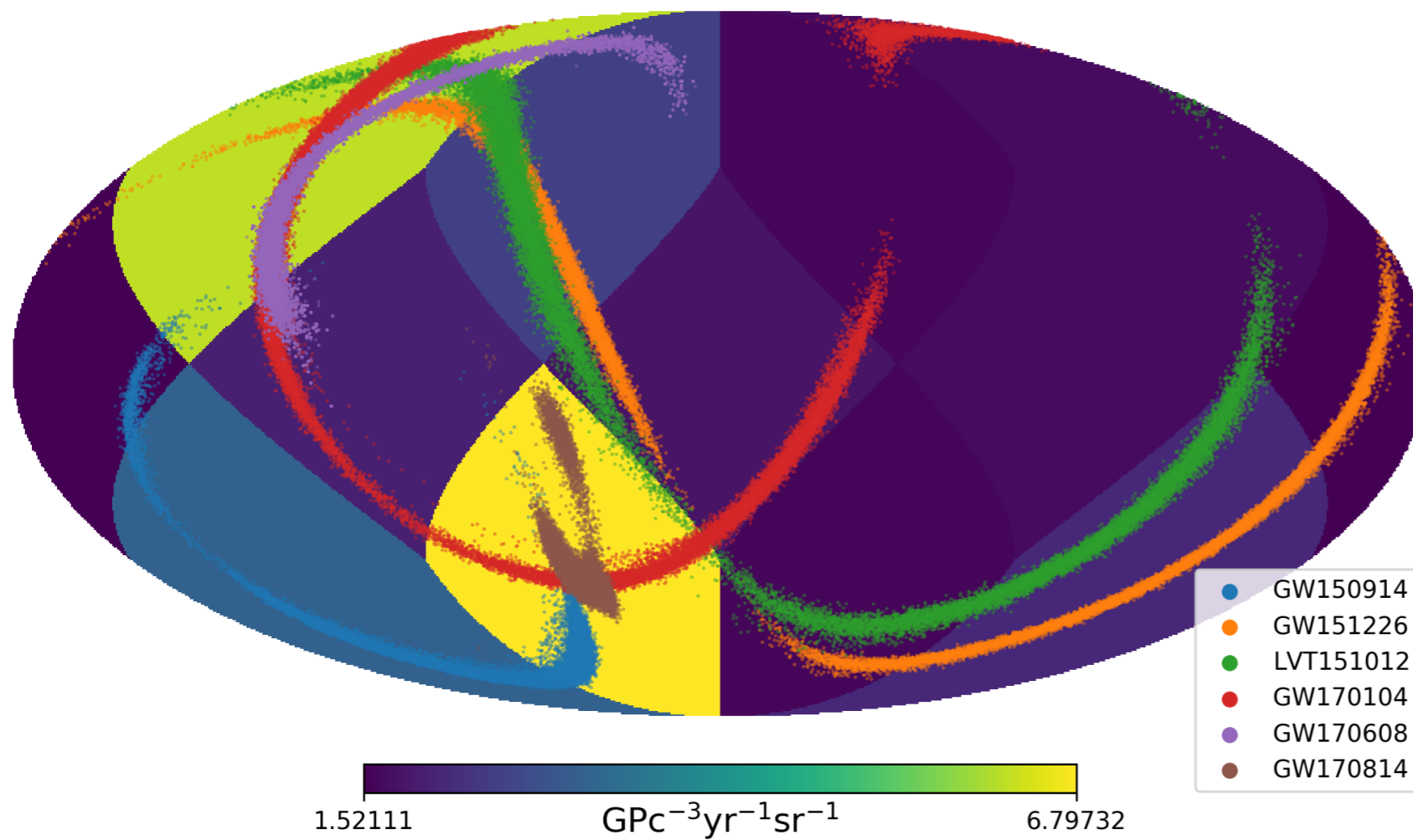
0.000481608

0.000668657

# Results

## Posterior on pixel intensity

Map of mean pixel values across all sets of samples



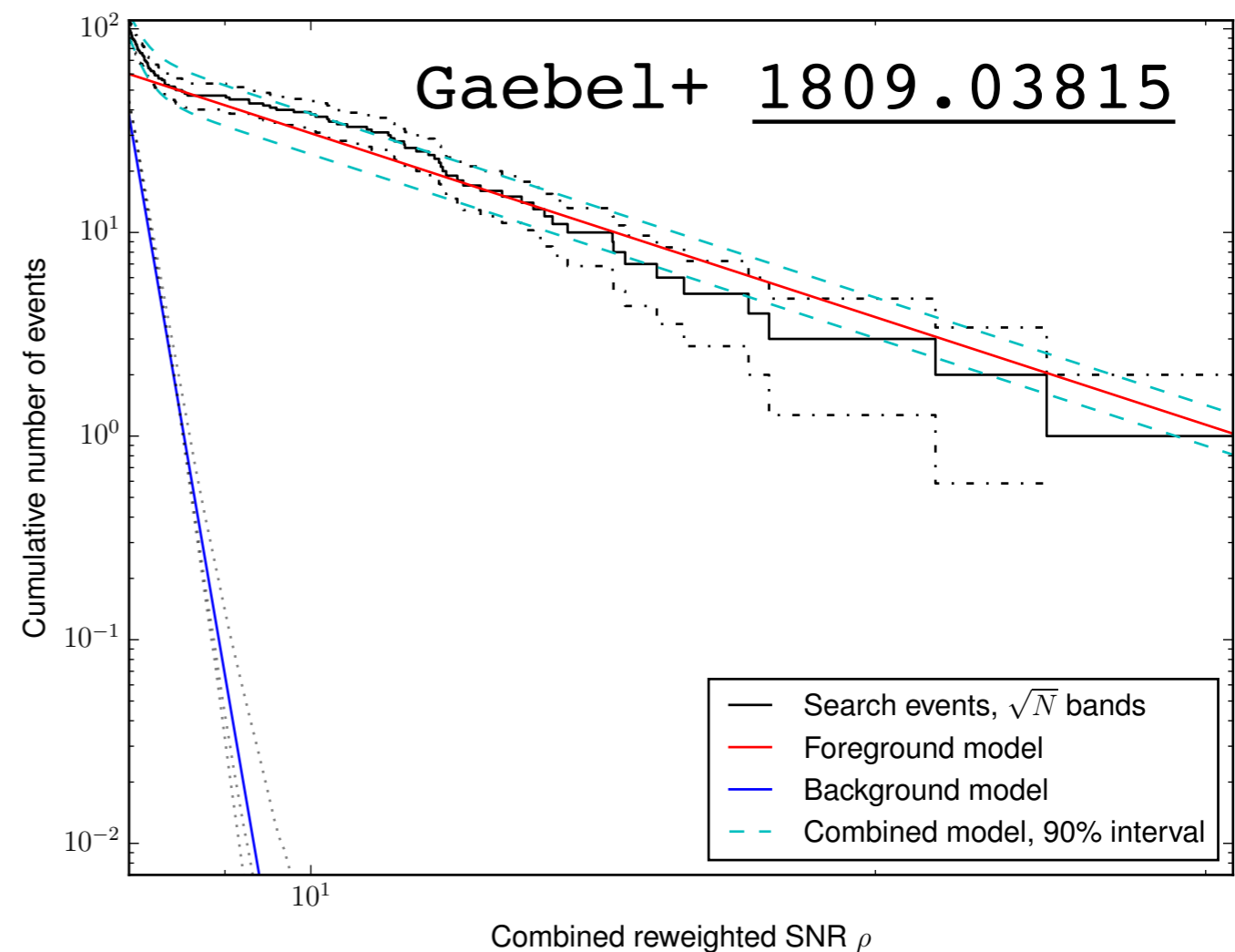
log Z	
Isotropic	-44.6
Anisotropic	-56.1
log Bayes Factor ISO/ANISO	11.5

Isotropic:Pixel = 100,000:1

# Mass distribution with background

- Can we distinguish two populations with a hierarchical model?
  - Astrophysical distribution (F) + noise triggers (B)
  - Use SNR  $\rho$  and mass posterior samples  $m$
- Mixture model sums components in likelihood for each event

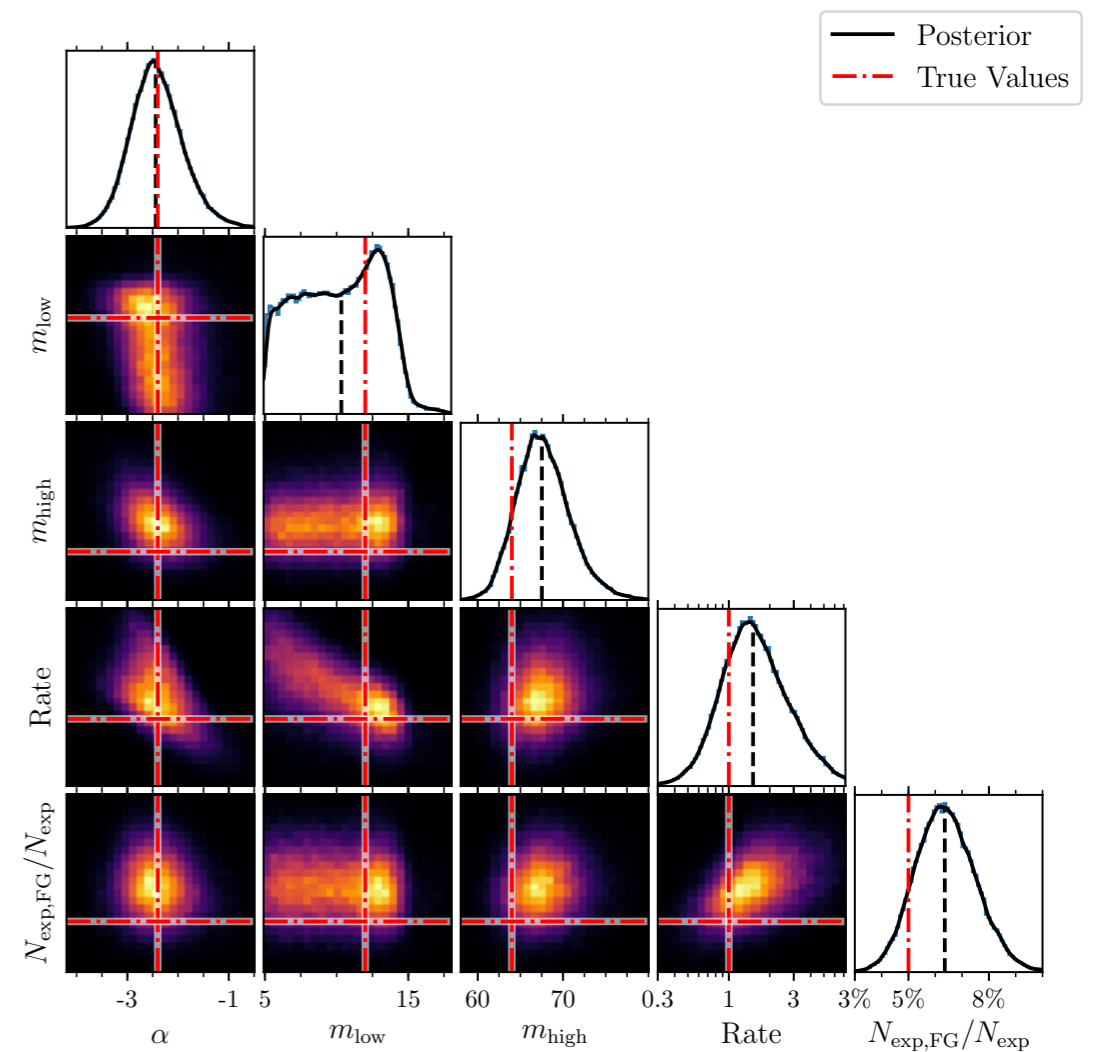
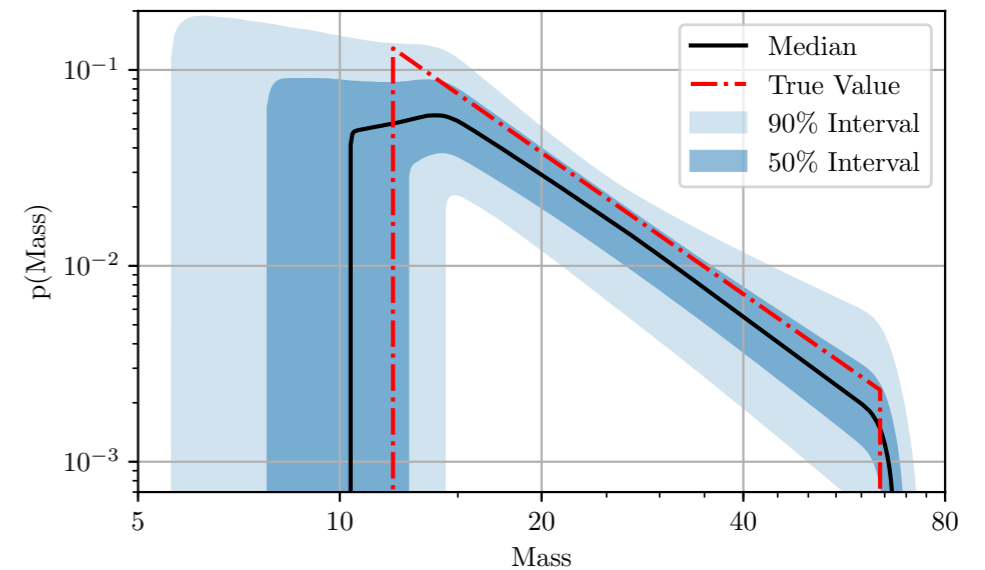
$$p(\rho_i, \vec{m}_i | N_{F,\text{exp}}, N_{B,\text{exp}}, \theta_F, \theta_B) = p(\rho_i, \vec{m}_i | \theta_F, \eta_i = F) p(\eta_i = F | N_{F,\text{exp}}, N_{B,\text{exp}}) + p(\rho_i, \vec{m}_i | \theta_B, \eta_i = B) p(\eta_i = B | N_{F,\text{exp}}, N_{B,\text{exp}})$$





# Truncated power law mass distribution

- Astrophysical mass distribution modelled as power law with min, max cutoff and unknown slope
- Selection function  $\propto M^3$
- Estimate rate, slope, cutoffs in presence of noise background

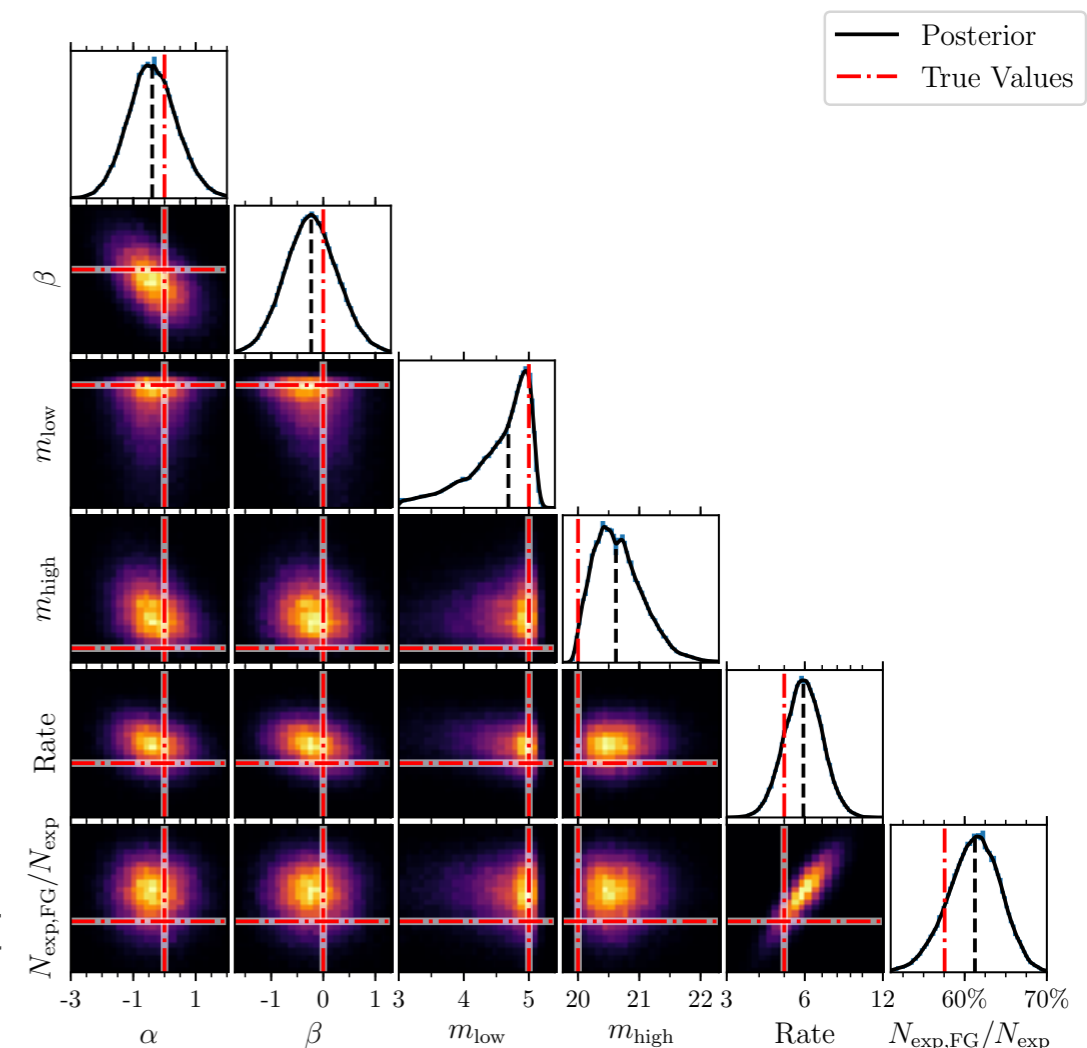


# Application to realistic data (ER4)

- As a more realistic case, consider ER4 data with known set of BBH injections
- Include two mass parameters, use real PE posterior samples
- Truncated dual power law foreground mass model

$$p(m_1, m_2 | \theta_F, \eta = F) \propto \begin{cases} m_1^\alpha m_2^\beta & \text{if } m_{\text{low}} < m_2 \leq m_1 < m_{\text{high}} \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

- Background power law in SNR and rate estimated from time-slides, mass from 2D fit to timeslide trigger masses
- Estimation performs well despite imperfect assumptions - could be applied to O1 and O2



# Outlook

- Parameter estimation succeeded beautifully in characterising first BBH and BNS detections
- Spurred development of hierarchical models for population analyses
  - Understanding selection functions essential in GW astronomy
- O3 will deliver many more events:
  - ~1 BBH / week
  - BNS every month or two?
- Keeping up with data will be challenging!
  - Computational improvements in waveforms, inference algorithms
  - We are still analysing O2 data...
- Precision GW astronomy with populations will reveal systematics...

