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Big Data and Quantum Computing



Centro Nazionale di Ricerca in HPC,  
Big Data and Quantum Computing

# Algorithm optimization to improve continuous gravitational-wave searches WP3 – Flagship Use Case 2.3.1

Lorenzo Pierini

Spoke 2 annual meeting, CINECA, 19/12/2023



# Introduction

## About me:

Lorenzo Pierini

PhD in physics, defended in May 2023

INFN technologist 100% ICSC since May 2023

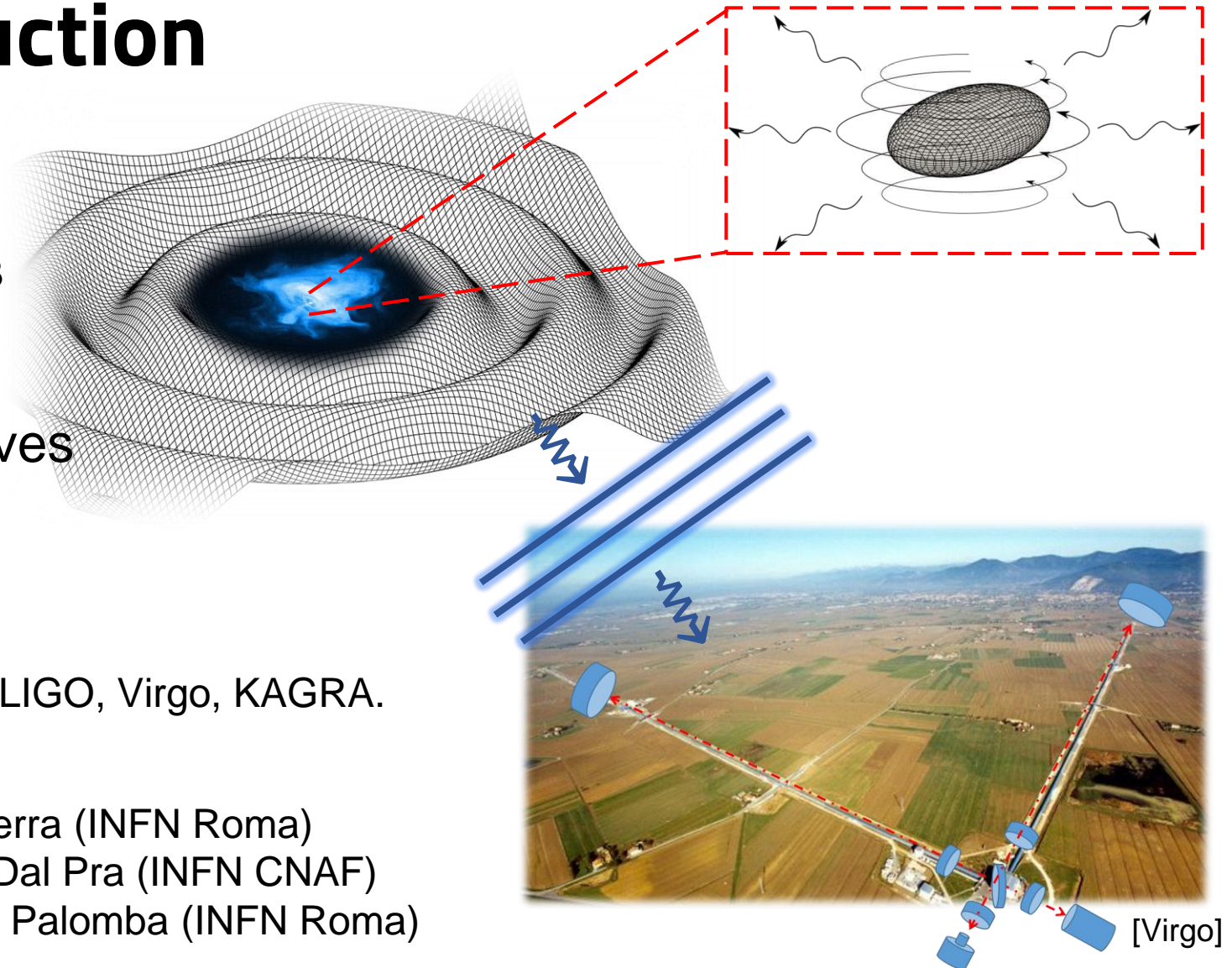
## About us: Virgo Rome group

### Topic: Continuous gravitational waves

- Perturbations of the space-time, predicted by General Relativity.
- Emitted by rotating, deformed neutron stars (and more exotic sources).
- Can be detected by Earth-based detectors: LIGO, Virgo, KAGRA.
- Not yet detected so far.

### People involved:

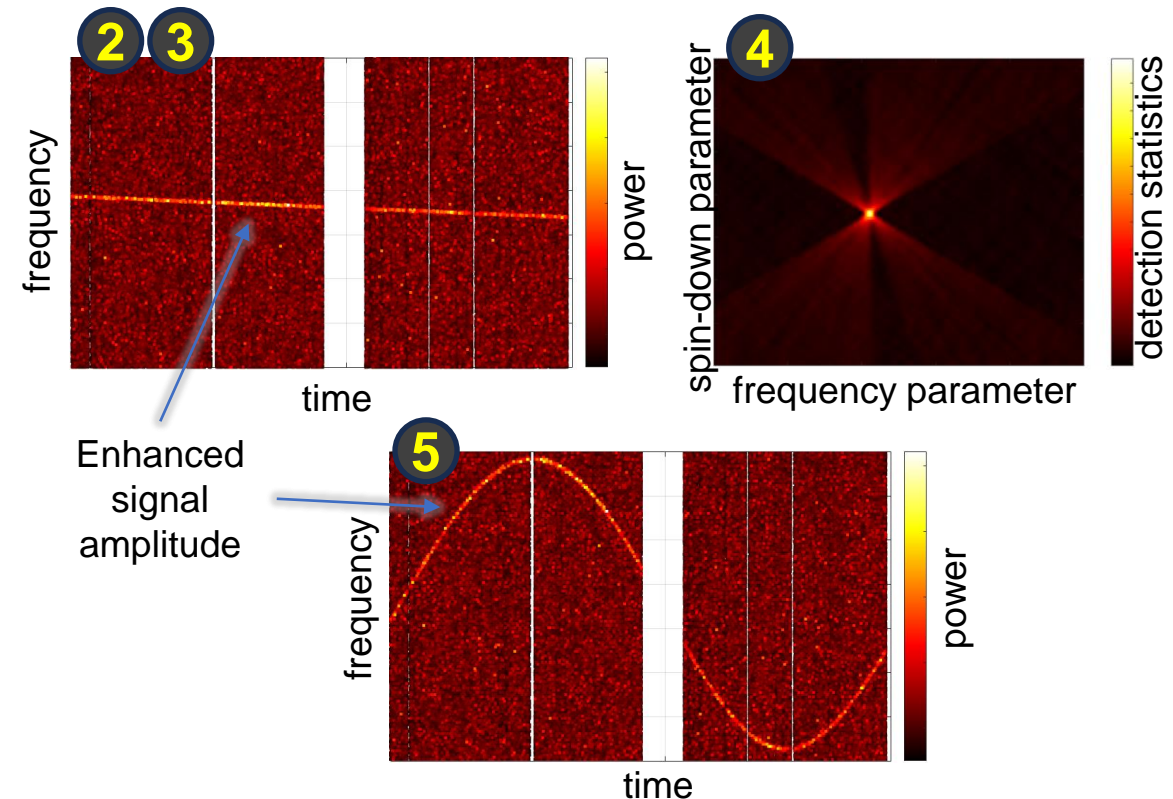
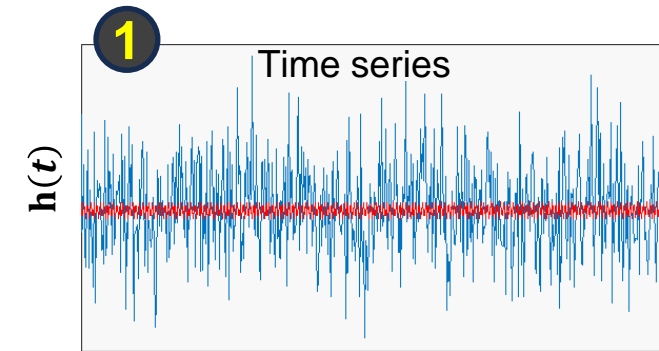
- Pia Astone (PI) (INFN Roma)
- Lorenzo Pierini (INFN Roma)
- Marco Serra (INFN Roma)
- Stefano Dal Pra (INFN CNAF)
- Cristiano Palomba (INFN Roma)



[Virgo]

# How do we search those signals?

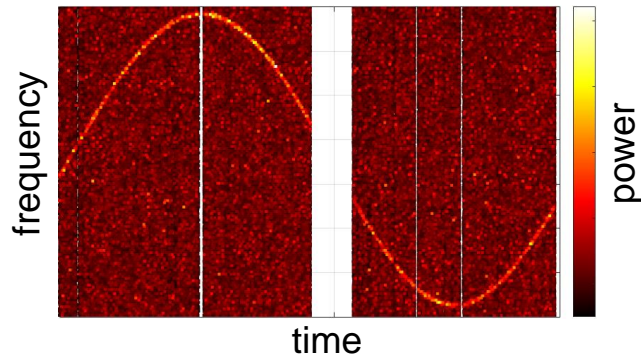
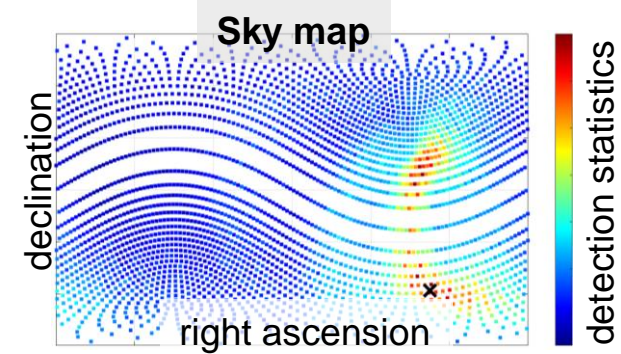
- 1) Detector output: calibrated time series. Weak signals deeply embedded in noise.
- 2) Data processed to obtain time-frequency maps.
- 3) The expected signal is nearly monochromatic, with a slow frequency variation (spin-down).
- 4) To recover the signal parameters, we apply the Hough transform to the map. Most significant outliers identify a possible signal.
- 5) However, the observed signal is distorted by the Doppler effect due to the Earth motion! This distortion changes for any sky location.



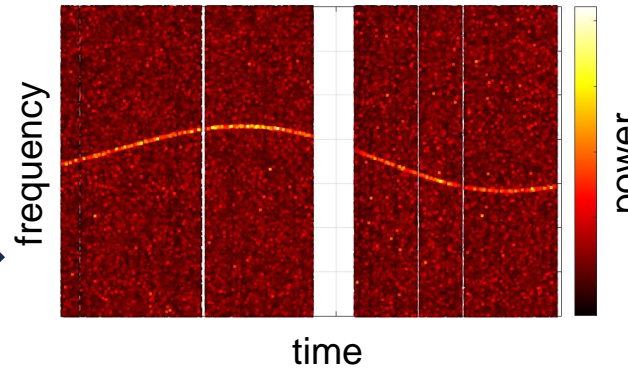


# The computational problem

- 1) According to a discretized sky map, we correct the Doppler effect for ANY POINT in that map.
- 2) Only the correction that matches the right position of the source maximizes the detection statistics.
- 3) The number of sky patches is up to  $10^5$ !
- 4) To cover the full parameter space, we need  $\sim 10^7$  core-hours for 1-year data for each detector (3-4)!



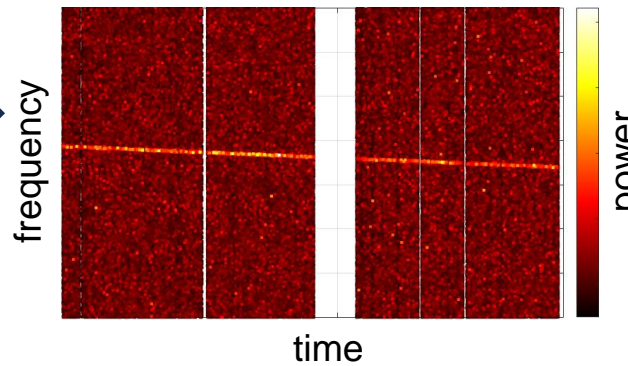
WRONG correction



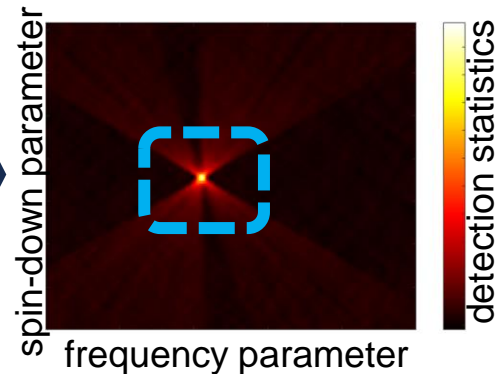
Hough transform



RIGHT correction

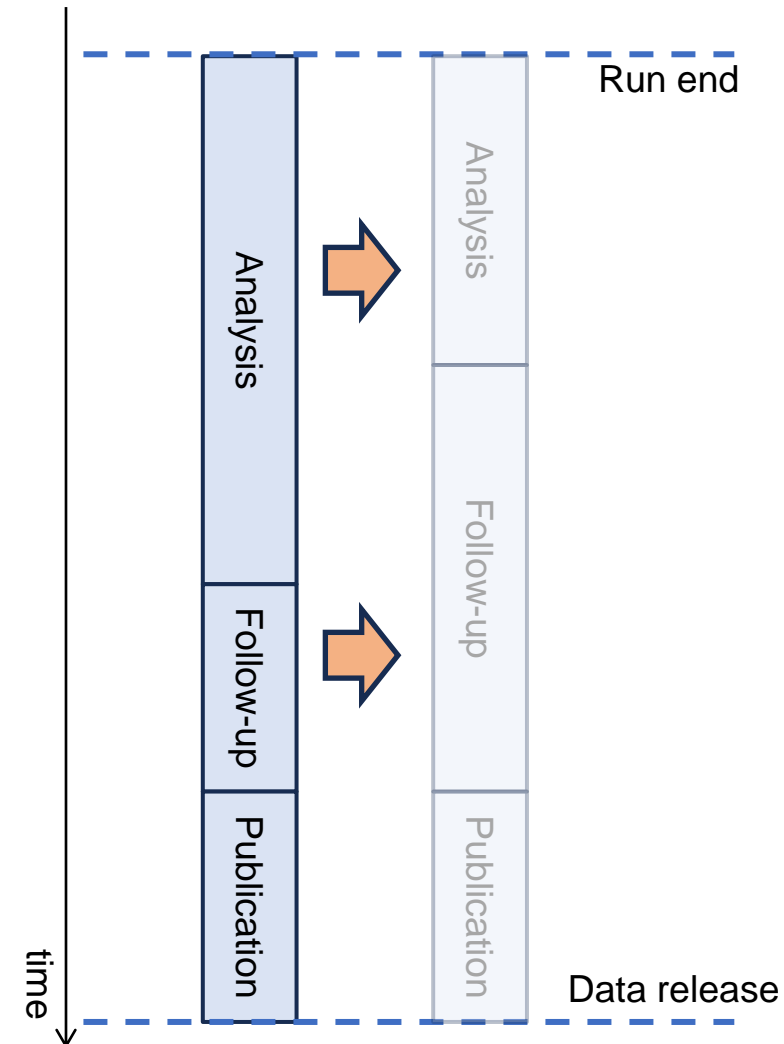


Hough transform



# The computing bounds

- 1) An all-sky & all-frequencies search on 1-year data for 3 detectors requires  $\sim 30 \cdot 10^6$  core hours.  
(A typical 10-14 HS06/core is considered)
- 2) Follow-up: the goal is to select up to  $10^9$  signal candidates from the Hough maps, to be further processed and verified.
- 3) The follow-up itself is a refined search based on the Hough transform: another computationally heavy step!
- 4) There is a tight schedule to publicly release the data too: long computing time limits the number of signal candidates that we are able to verify.
- 5) Optimizing the algorithm is crucial: shortening the computing time leaves room to analyze a higher number of candidates, thus increasing the overall search sensitivity.



# The opportunity of ICSC

## ➤ First part: code optimization.

- The heavy part of the algorithm is the calculation of the Hough transform.
- The Hough transform is implemented and optimized in a serial code that avoids parallelization.
- The main goal is to implement different versions of the Hough transform that exploit parallel architectures, in particular GPU devices.
- Then, to adapt the analysis code to fully run on GPUs and CPUs.

## ➤ Second part: extensive tests.

- The large scale of ICSC is an exceptional opportunity to test the new algorithms: the amount of available resources matches the typical infrastructure needed to obtain results according to our tight time scales.
- Extensive tests: perform long timescale analysis to test the stability of the code running on a high number of cores and for long jobs.
- We hope that in future the ICSC resources will be available for next years research: gravitational wave searches are planned to go on with new detectors!

The background is a deep blue gradient. On the left side, there is a vertical column of light trails and dots that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a data stream or a fiber optic cable. The text is centered on the right side of the image.

**Spare slides**

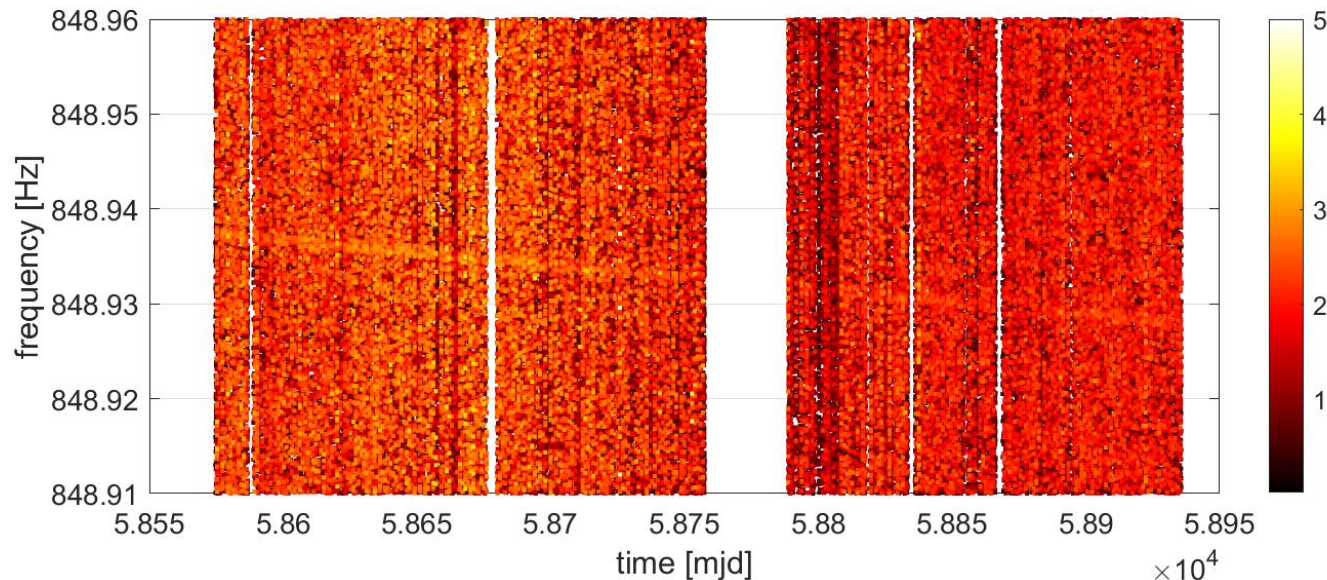
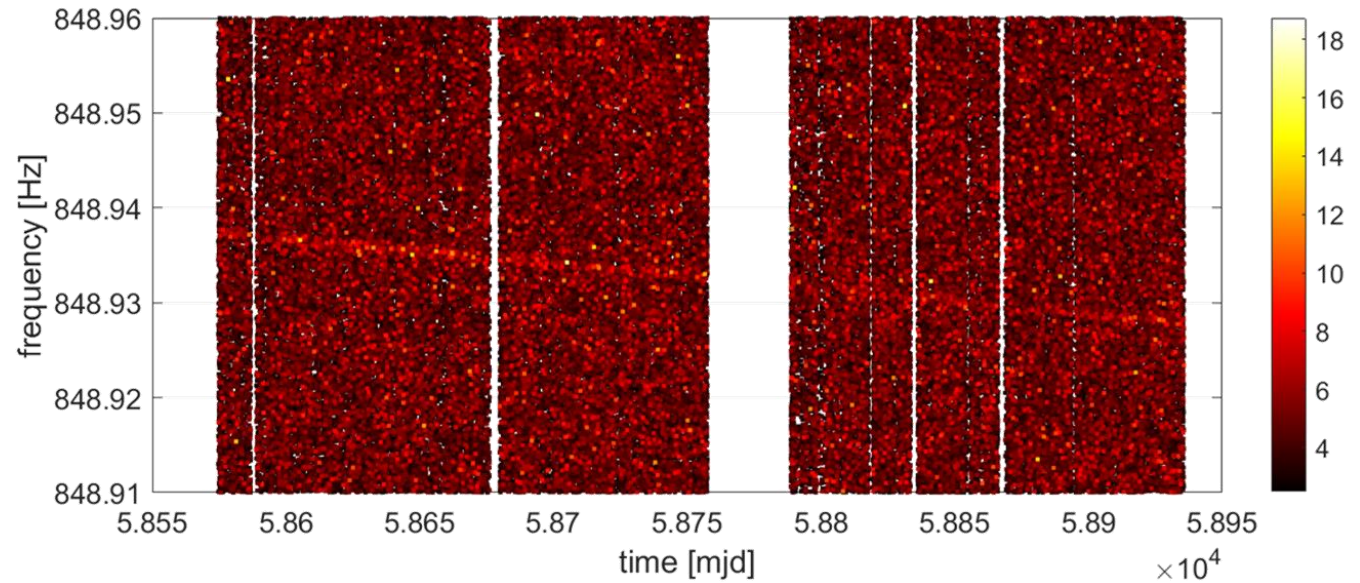
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**Technical details**



# Input: peakmap (sparse time-frequency map)

Normalized power spectral density:  
**NOT USED**  
Not robust with respect to spectral lines

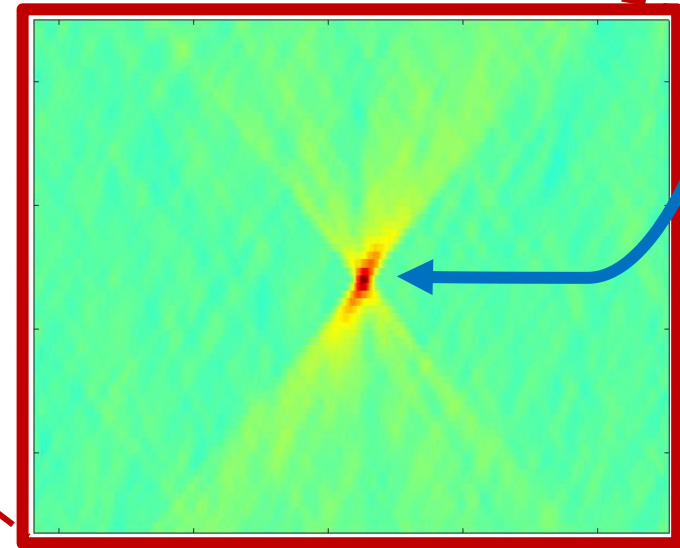
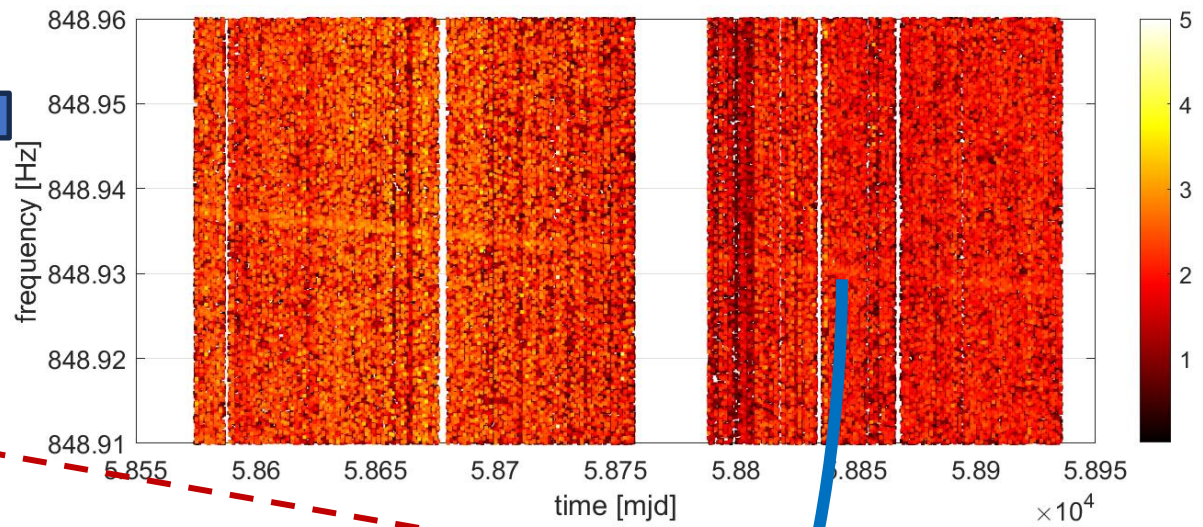
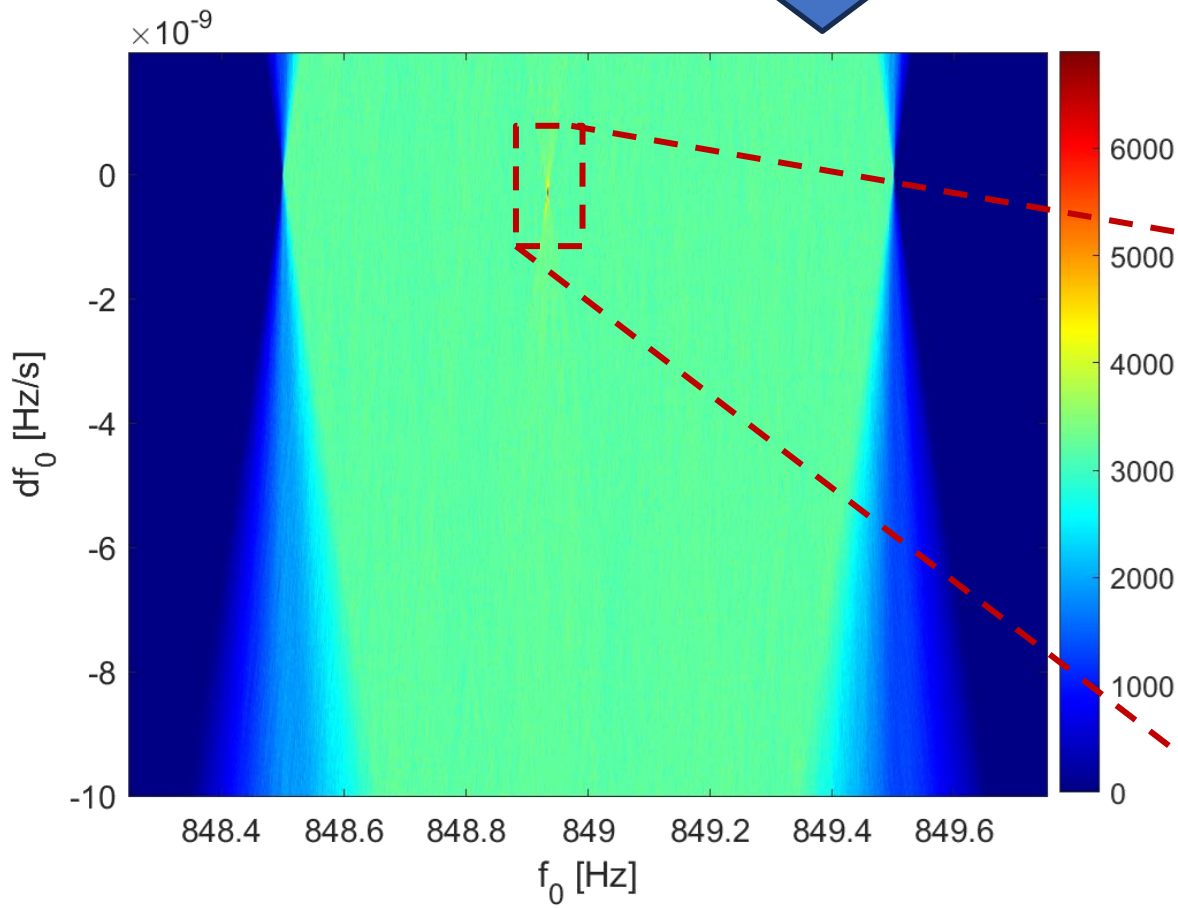


Instead, typically used  
**WEIGHTS**  
$$w_i \propto \frac{F(\text{sky}; t_i)}{n(\nu; t_i)}$$

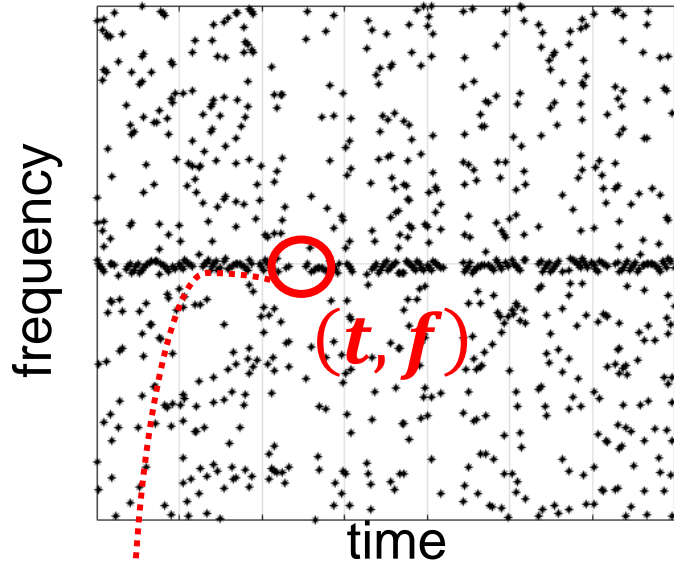
$F(\text{sky}; t_i)$ : detector power response for a given sky position at a given time  $t_i$ .  
 $n(\nu; t_i)$ : noise power at the frequency  $\nu$  at the given time  $t_i$ .



# Output: Hough map



# FH idea (single point)



Searched pattern:

$$f = f_0 + \dot{f}_0(t - t_0)$$

Input coordinates:  $\{t_k ; f_k \pm \frac{\delta f_H}{2}\} \rightarrow$  output space  $(f_0, \dot{f}_0)$

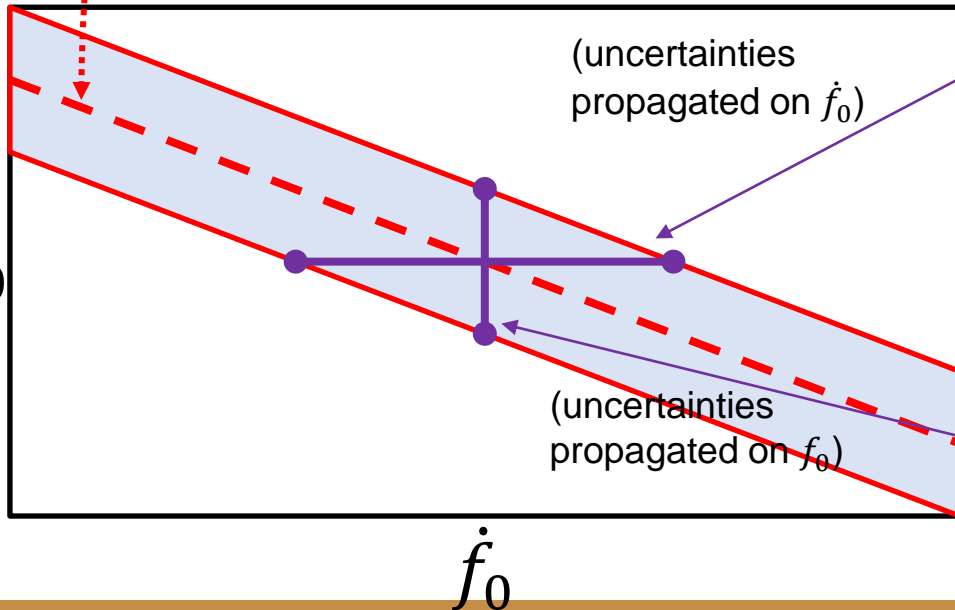
$$\dot{f}_0 = -\frac{f_0}{t - t_0} + \frac{f}{t - t_0}$$

$$-\frac{f_0}{t - t_0} + \frac{f + \delta f_H/2}{t - t_0} < \dot{f}_0 < -\frac{f_0}{t - t_0} + \frac{f - \delta f_H/2}{t - t_0}$$

Actually implemented:

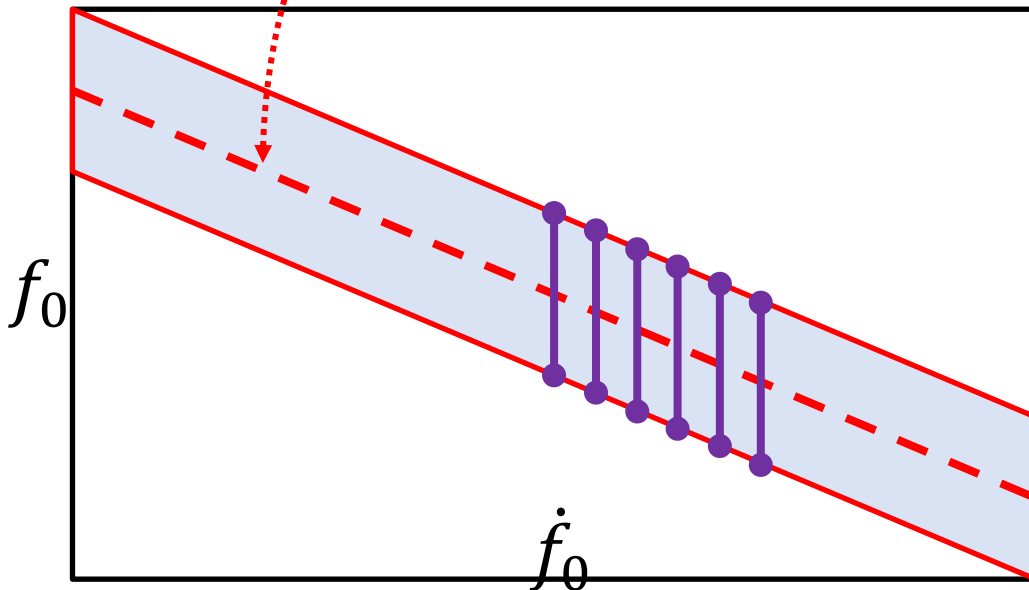
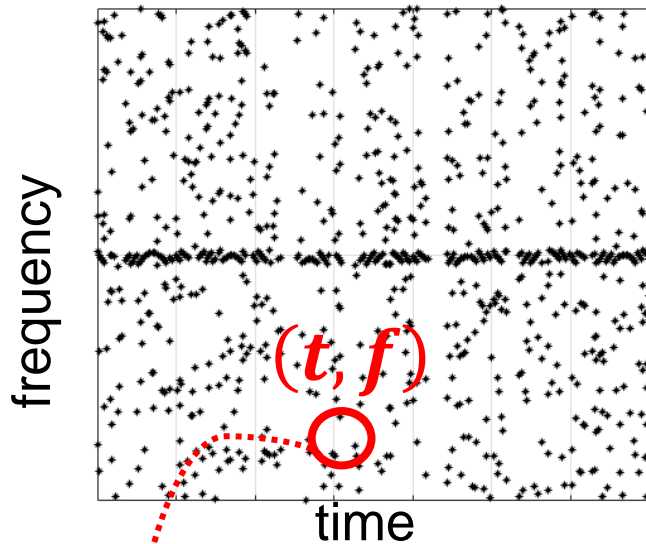
$$f_0 = f - \dot{f}_0(t - t_0)$$

$$f - \dot{f}_0(t - t_0) - \frac{\delta f_H}{2} < f_0 < f - \dot{f}_0(t - t_0) + \frac{\delta f_H}{2}$$





# FH CPU implementation (single point)

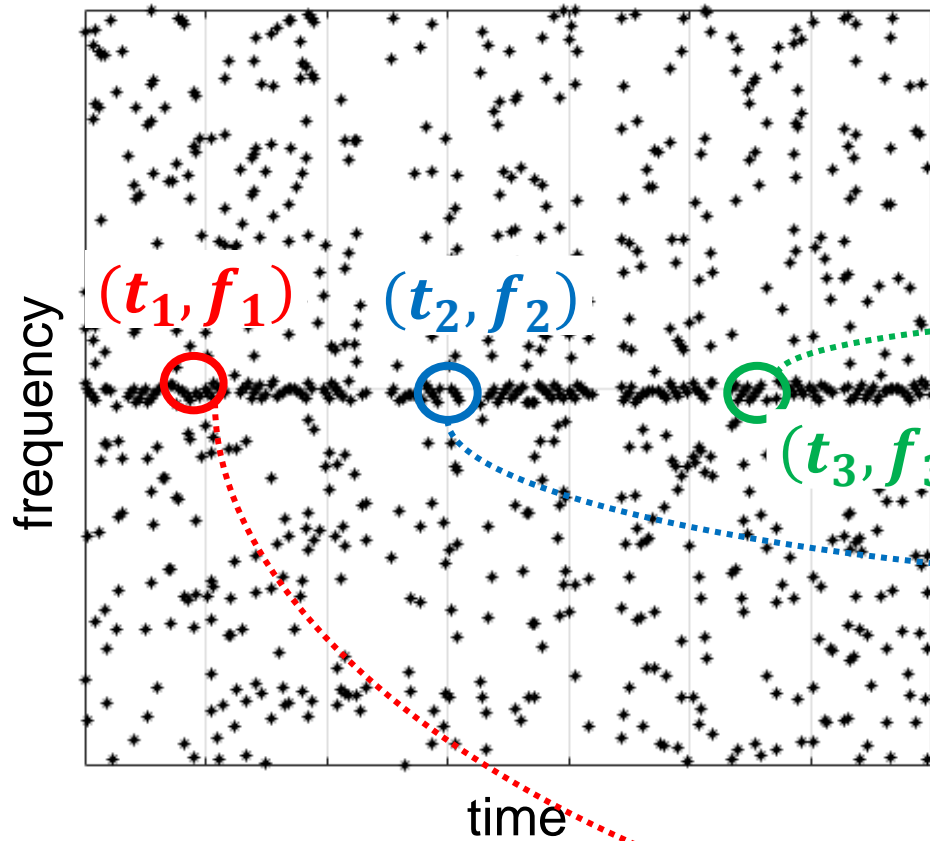


$$f_0 = f - \dot{f}_0(t - t_0)$$

- Loop over the whole spin-down grid
- For each s-d value  $\dot{f}_0^*$  compute the frequency indexes in  $f_0$  such that

$$f - \dot{f}_0^*(t - t_0) - \frac{\delta f_H}{2} < f_0 < f - \dot{f}_0^*(t - t_0) + \frac{\delta f_H}{2}$$

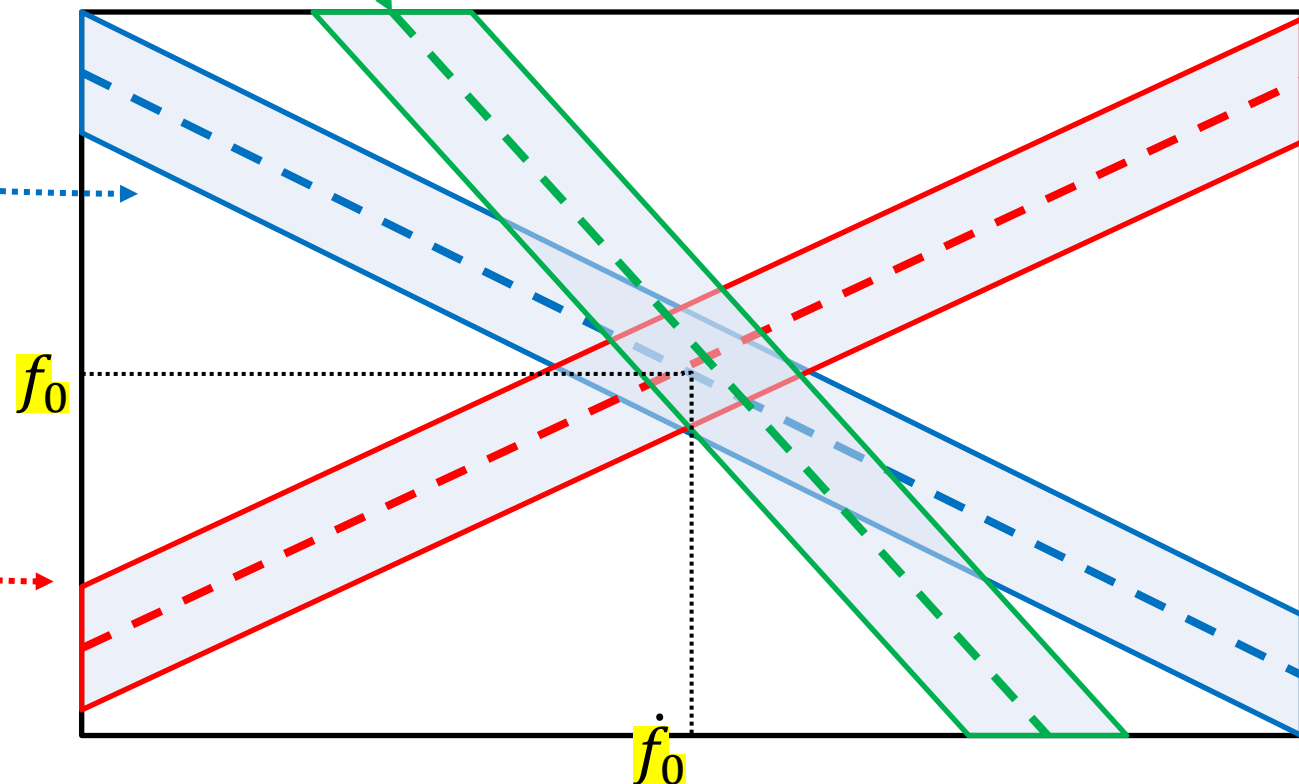
- Increase by 1 (or by the weight) the corresponding points in the Hough map
- A single  $(t, f)$  point corresponds to a uniformly-valued stripe in the Hough map



## FH CPU implementation (single point)

Different points from a same line produce stripes that intersect all on the “true” signal parameters

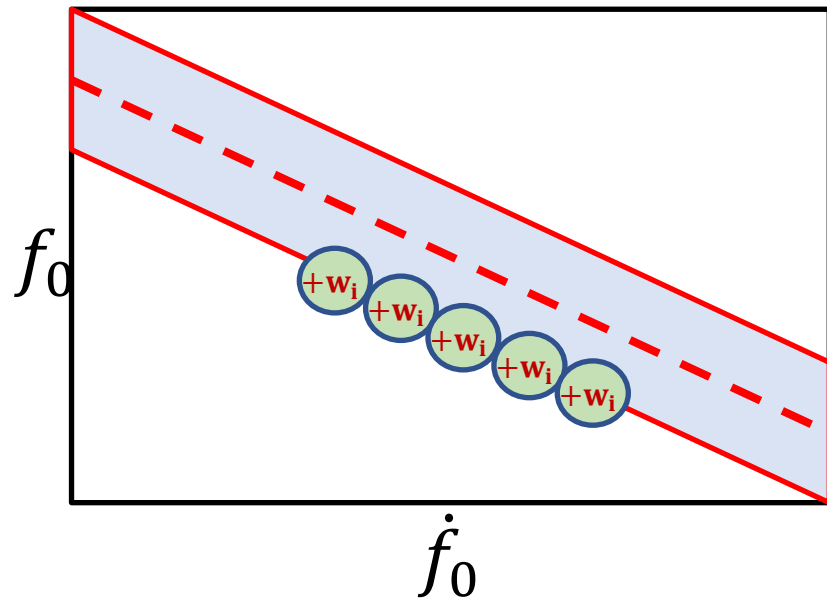
$$(\dot{f}_0, f_0) \rightarrow f = f_0 + \dot{f}_0(t - t_0)$$



The area where the stripes intersect gets an excess of counts/weights



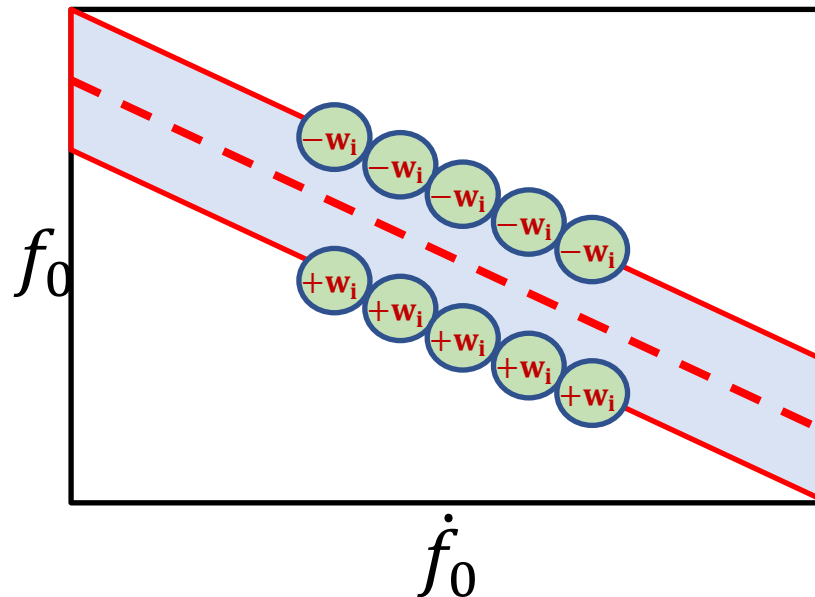
# Differential FH: Carl Sabottke idea to deal with over-resolution



In the loop, only the pixels on the lower bound of the stripe are increased by the weights.

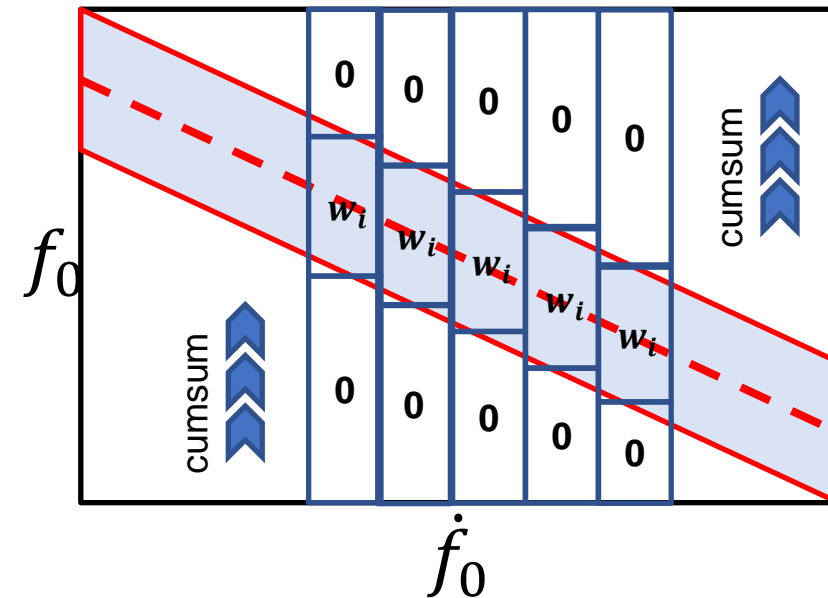
$$f_0 = f - \dot{f}_0(t - t_0) - \frac{\delta f_H}{2}$$

= half differential map



After the loop, the values at the lower bound are symmetrically subtracted at the upper bound.

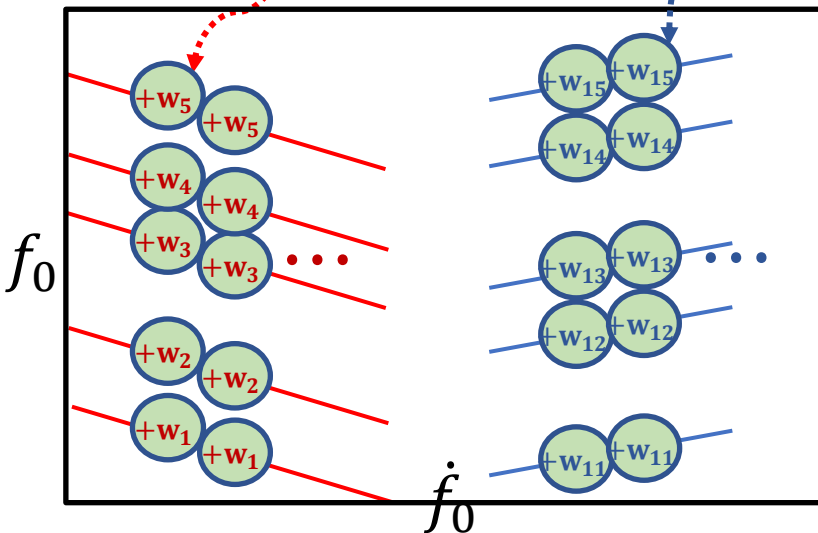
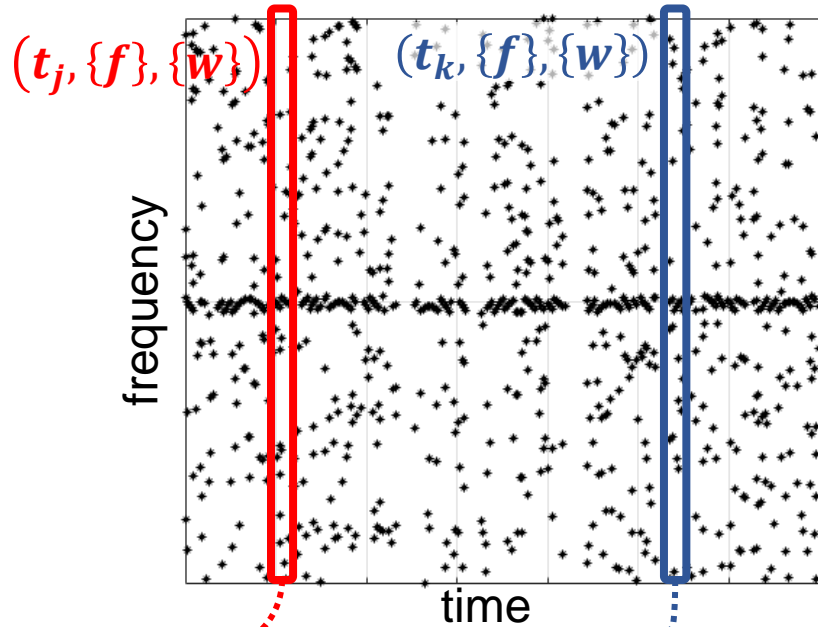
= full differential map



Then, the map is integrated through cumulative sum from low to high frequencies.

➤ The whole stripe is valued with the weights.

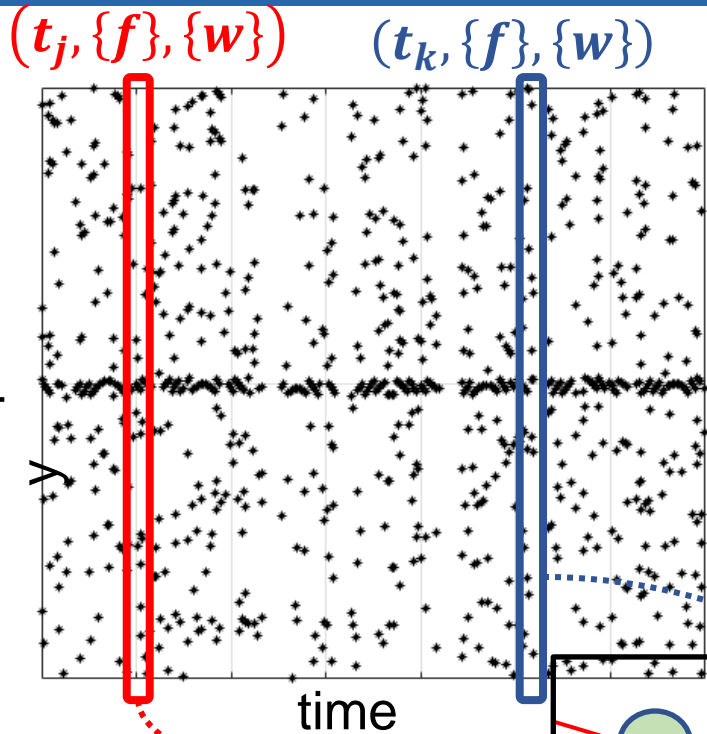
= Hough map



## FH CPU full implementation

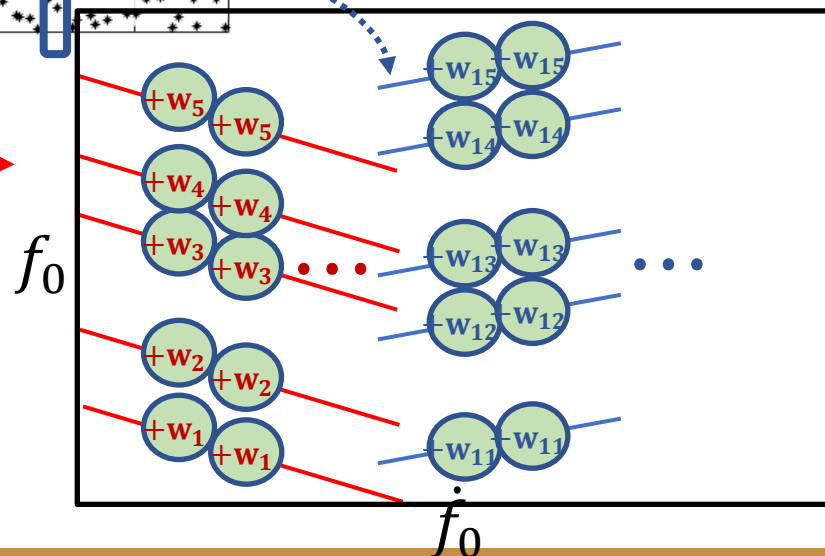
- ❖ Loop over different times  $\{t_i\}$ .  
For each time  $t_k$  select the vectors of all frequencies  $\{f_k\}$  and the weights  $\{w_k\}$ .
  - ❖ Loop over the whole spin-down grid.
    - For each s-d value  $f_0^*$  compute the frequency indexes of the lower bounds of the stripes in  $f_0$  such that
 
$$\{f_0\} = \{f\} - f_0^*(t_k - t_0) - \frac{\delta f_H}{2}$$
    - Increase by  $\{w_k\}$  the corresponding points in the Hough map.
- ❖ After the loops completion: subtract symmetrically the values shifted by  $\delta f_H$  and then perform the cumulative sum.





## “Standard” FH limitation

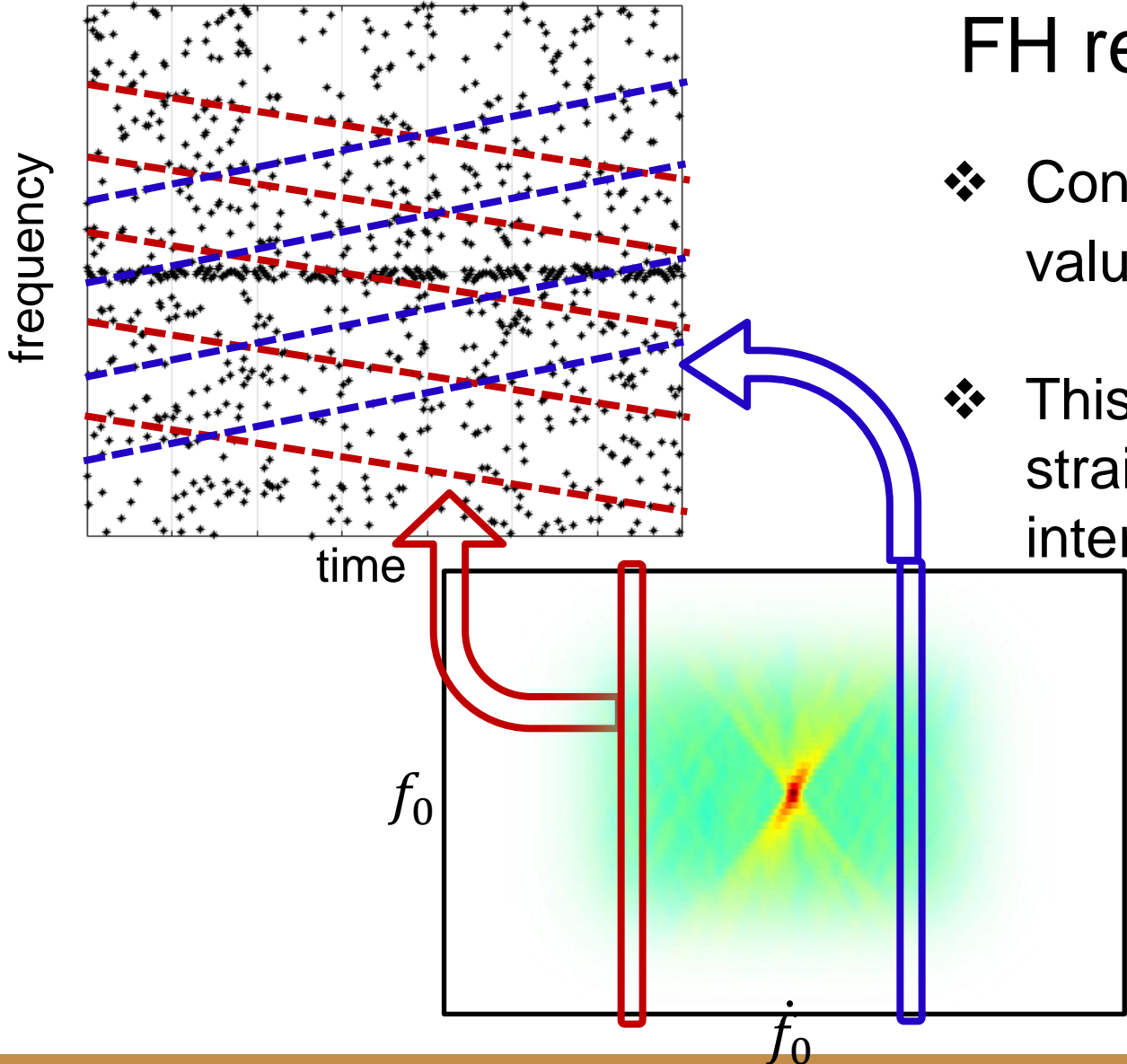
- ❖ The loop is done over different times  $\{t_i\}$
- ❖ Each column  $(t_k, \{f\}, \{w\})$  is transformed over the same hough map.
- ❖ Different columns are likely to write partially on the same memory locations.



➤ The loop cannot be parallelized!

OR: it could be parallelized at a strong memory cost (each column writes on one hough map copy, then sum all together)

# FH reformulation: loop inversion

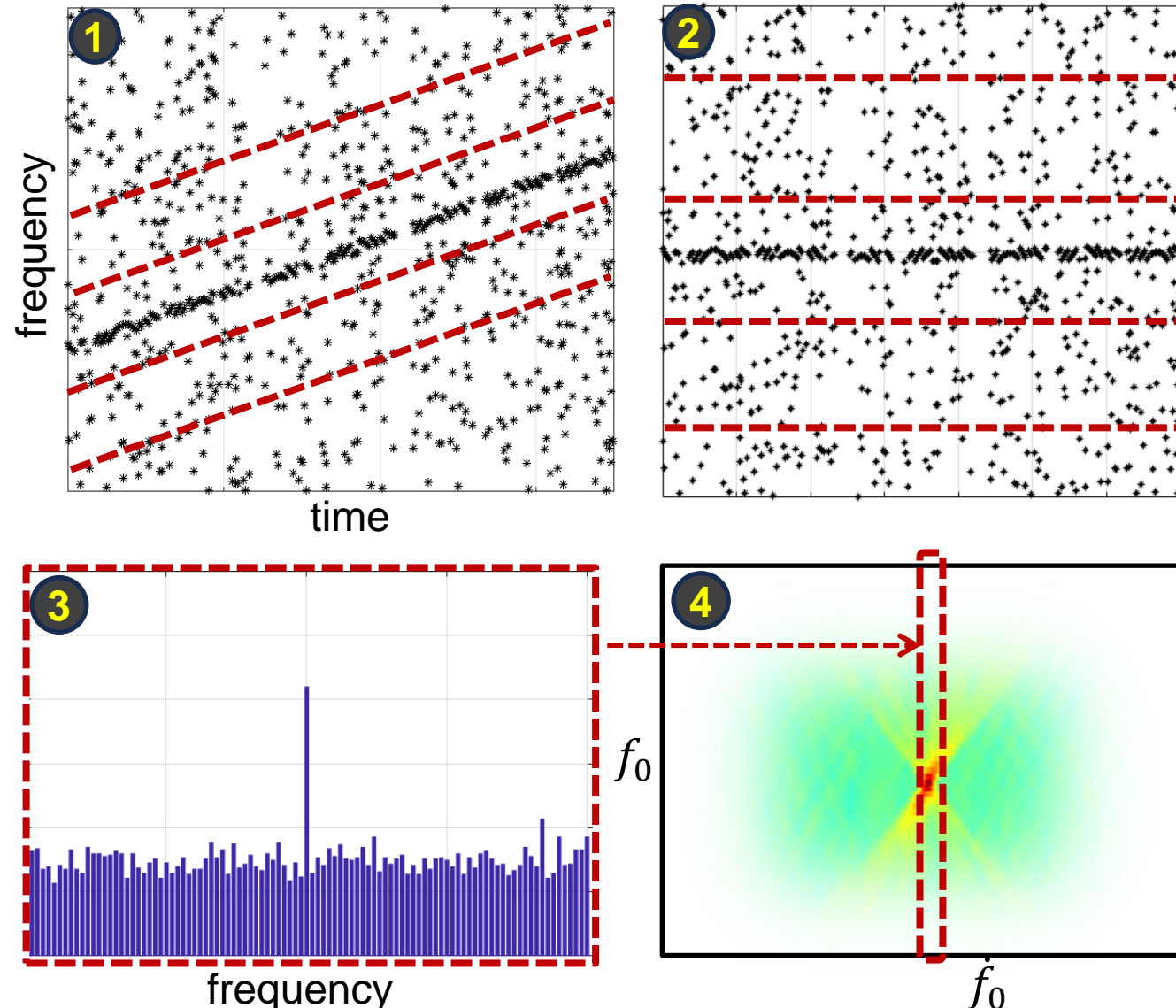


- ❖ Consider a column in the hough map: one s-d value  $\dot{f}_0$  and all the initial frequencies  $\vec{f}_0$ .

- ❖ This column corresponds to a set of parallel straight lines with same slope and different intercept:  $(\dot{f}_0, \vec{f}_0) \rightarrow \vec{f} = \vec{f}_0 + \dot{f}_0(t - t_0)$

- By inverting the relation, the whole peakmap can be mapped on a hough column for a given s-d value  $\dot{f}_0$ :

$$\vec{f}_0 = \vec{f} - \dot{f}_0(t - t_0)$$



## Loop inversion implementation

- 1) Select a single s-d value  $f_0$ : it corresponds to a given slope in the peakmap.
  - 2) Shift the peaks depending on their time value according to 
$$\vec{f}_0 = \vec{f} - \dot{f}_0(t - t_0) - \frac{\delta f_H}{2}$$
  - 3) Compute the (weighted) histogram of the shifted peakmap.
  - 4) Put the result in the Hough map at the  $f_0$  column.
- Repeat for all  $\{f_0\}$  values of the Hough map **(in parallel!)**



The background features a vibrant blue color with a dynamic, abstract pattern of light trails and particles. These elements create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a digital or data-driven environment. The light trails are composed of numerous thin, curved lines that converge towards the center, while the particles are small, bright blue dots scattered throughout the scene.

**Thank you for  
your attention!**