



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

GRAVITATIONAL  
WAVE ASTRONOMY



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

THE  
ROYAL  
SOCIETY

# THE FUTURE OF GW ASTRONOMY

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GEMMA2 @ ROME  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024



# OUTLINE

- ▶ Where are we now
- ▶ Prospects for the nearish future: Post-O5 science
- ▶ Science with 3G detectors
- ▶ NEMO - a dedicated high-frequency detector
- ▶ A new frontier: LISA

## Disclaimer:

By no means a complete overview but rather a selection of science examples

Heavy personal bias towards compact binaries

I am a LIGO member





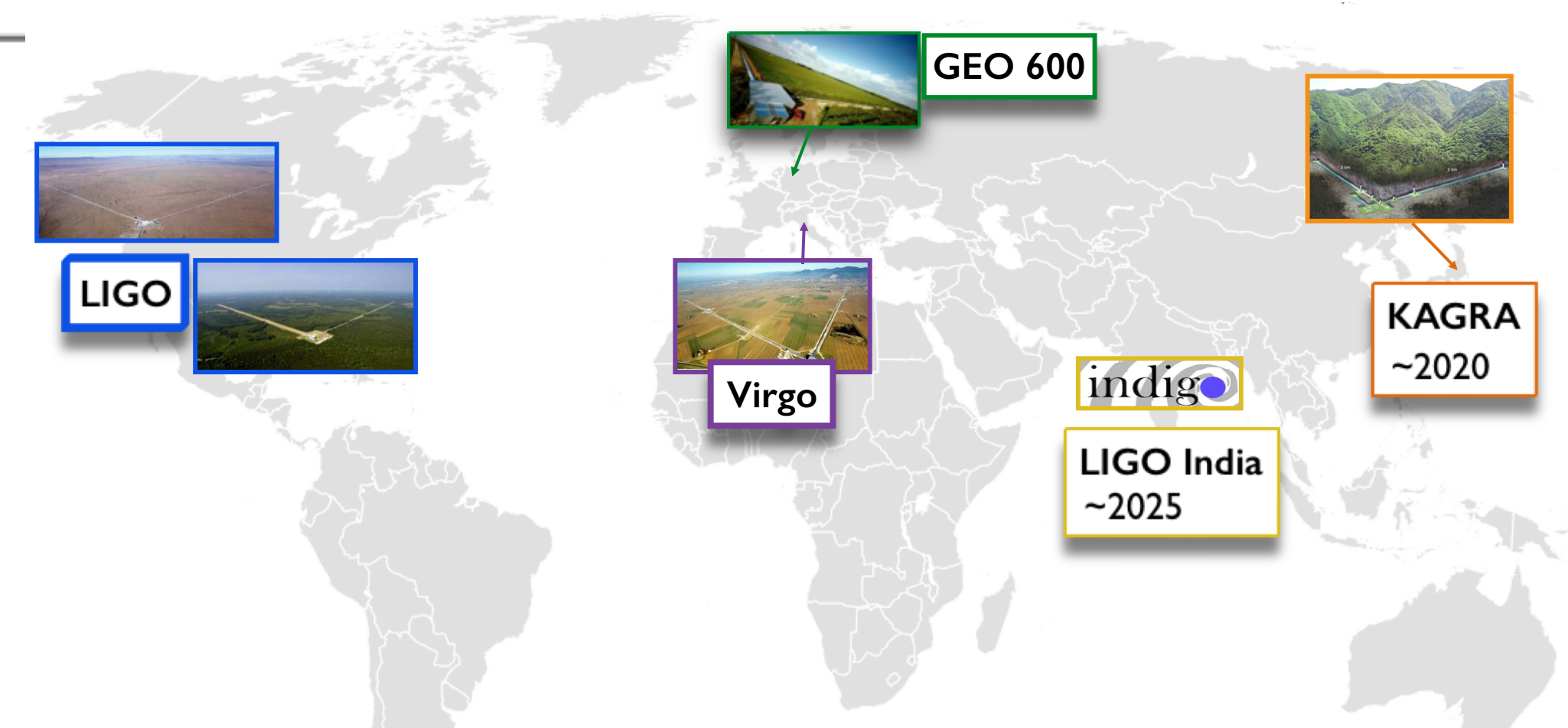
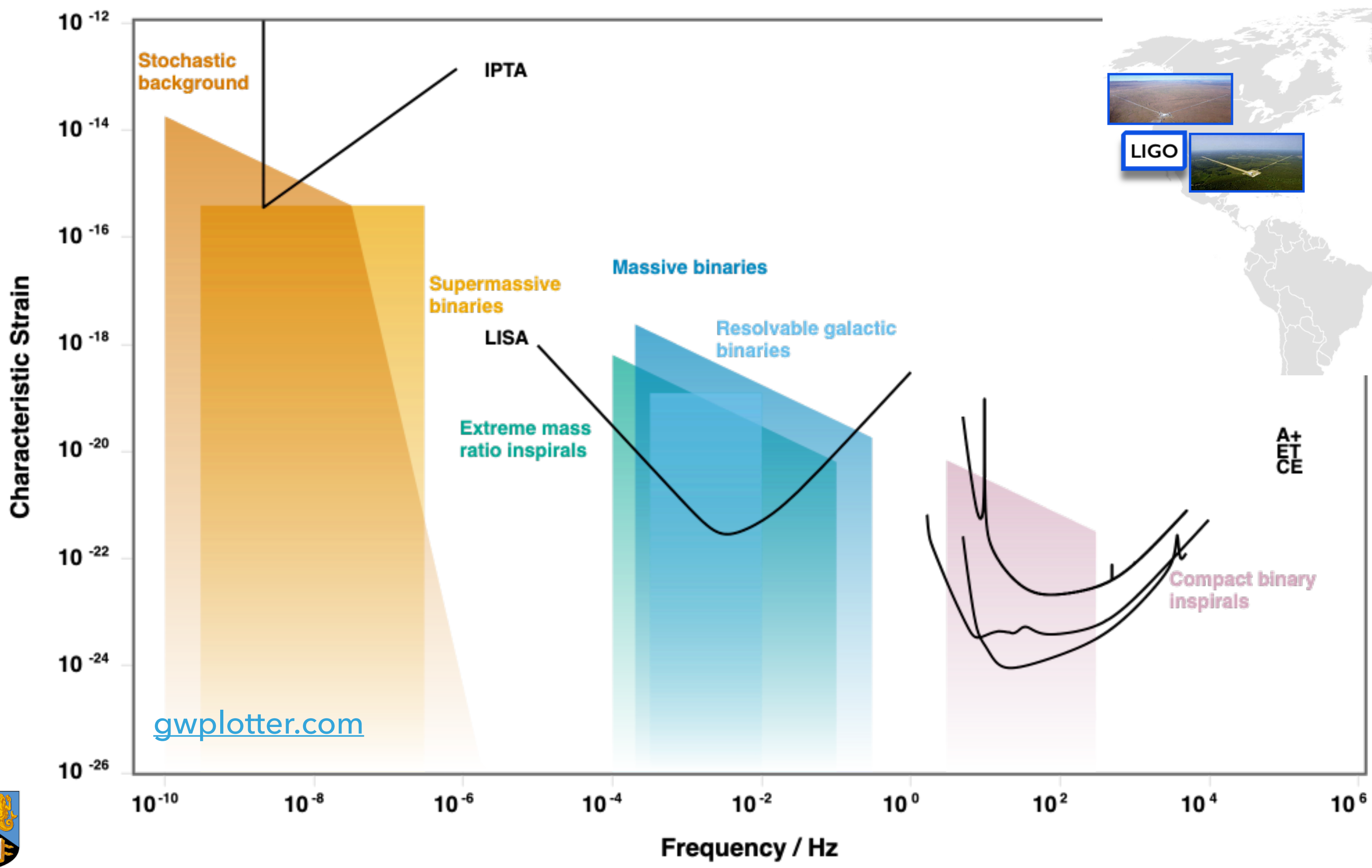
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# SCIENCE CASE REFERENCES

- ▶ LSC Post-O5 report, Fritschel et al. (inc. PS): <https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-T2200287/public>
- ▶ CE Horizon Study, Evans et al.: <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2109.09882>
- ▶ Cosmic Explorer: A submission to the NSF MPSAC ngGW Subcommittee, Evans et al.: [https://dcc.cosmicexplorer.org/public/0163/P2300018/003/CE\\_WP\\_v3.pdf](https://dcc.cosmicexplorer.org/public/0163/P2300018/003/CE_WP_v3.pdf)
- ▶ COBA study, Branchesi et al.: <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1475-7516/2023/07/068>
- ▶ CE Trade Study, Gupta et al.: <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2307.10421>
- ▶ NEMO, Ackley et al.: <https://doi.org/10.1017/pasa.2020.39>
- ▶ LISA Science Definition Report, ESA: [https://www.cosmos.esa.int/documents/15452792/15452811/LISA\\_DEFINITION\\_STUDY\\_REPORT\\_ESA-SCI-DIR-RP-002\\_Public+%281%29.pdf](https://www.cosmos.esa.int/documents/15452792/15452811/LISA_DEFINITION_STUDY_REPORT_ESA-SCI-DIR-RP-002_Public+%281%29.pdf)

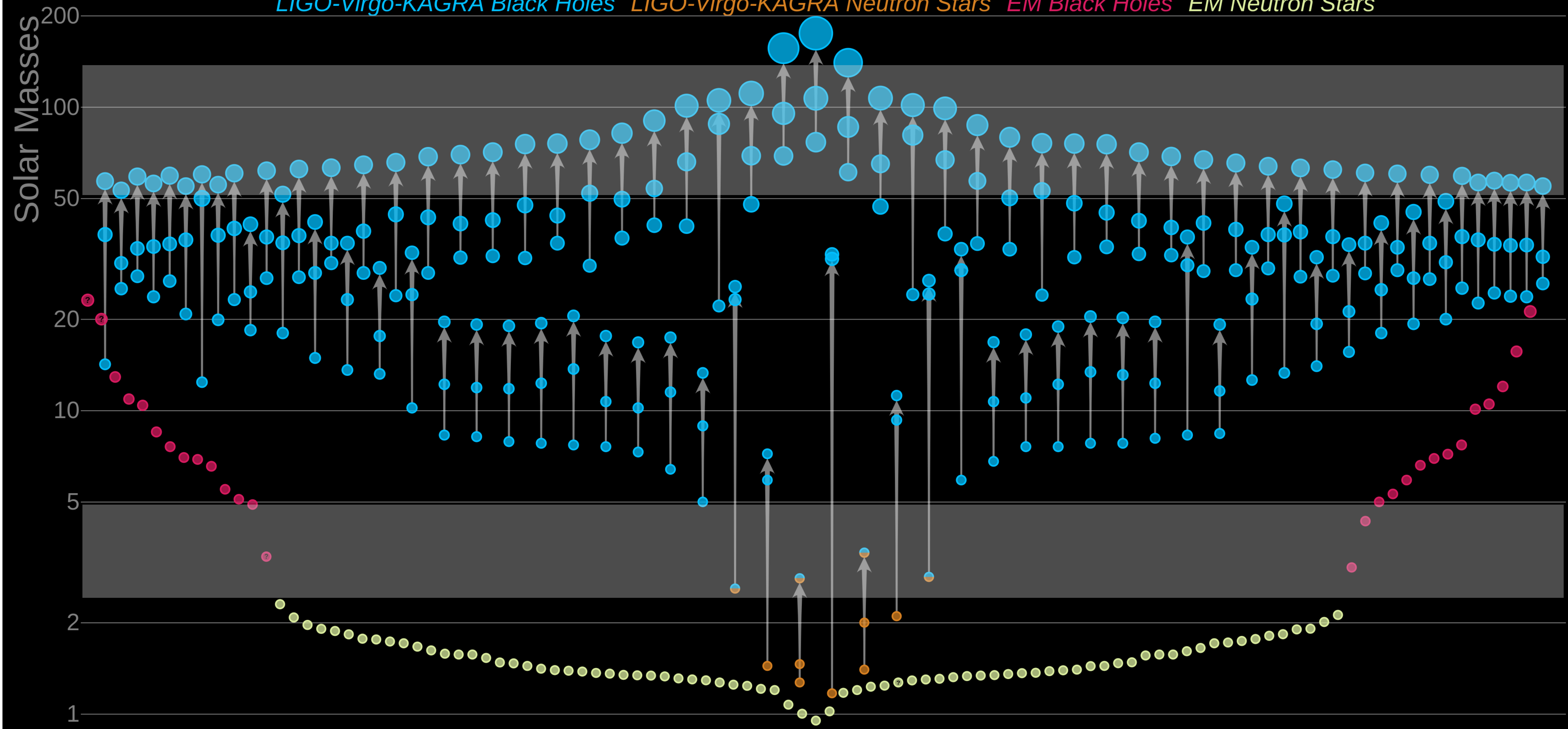


# OBSERVATORY LANDSCAPE



# Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

*LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Black Holes*   *LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA Neutron Stars*   *EM Black Holes*   *EM Neutron Stars*





# SOME THINGS WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR

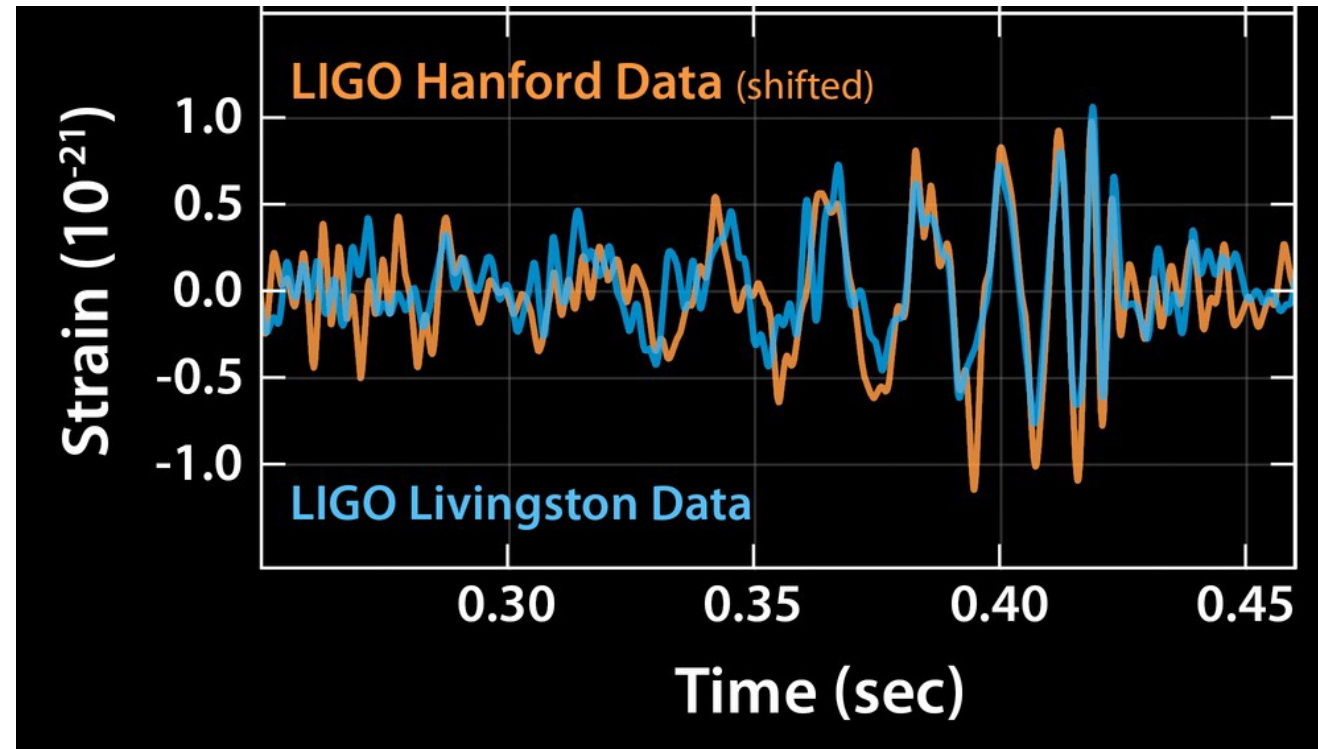
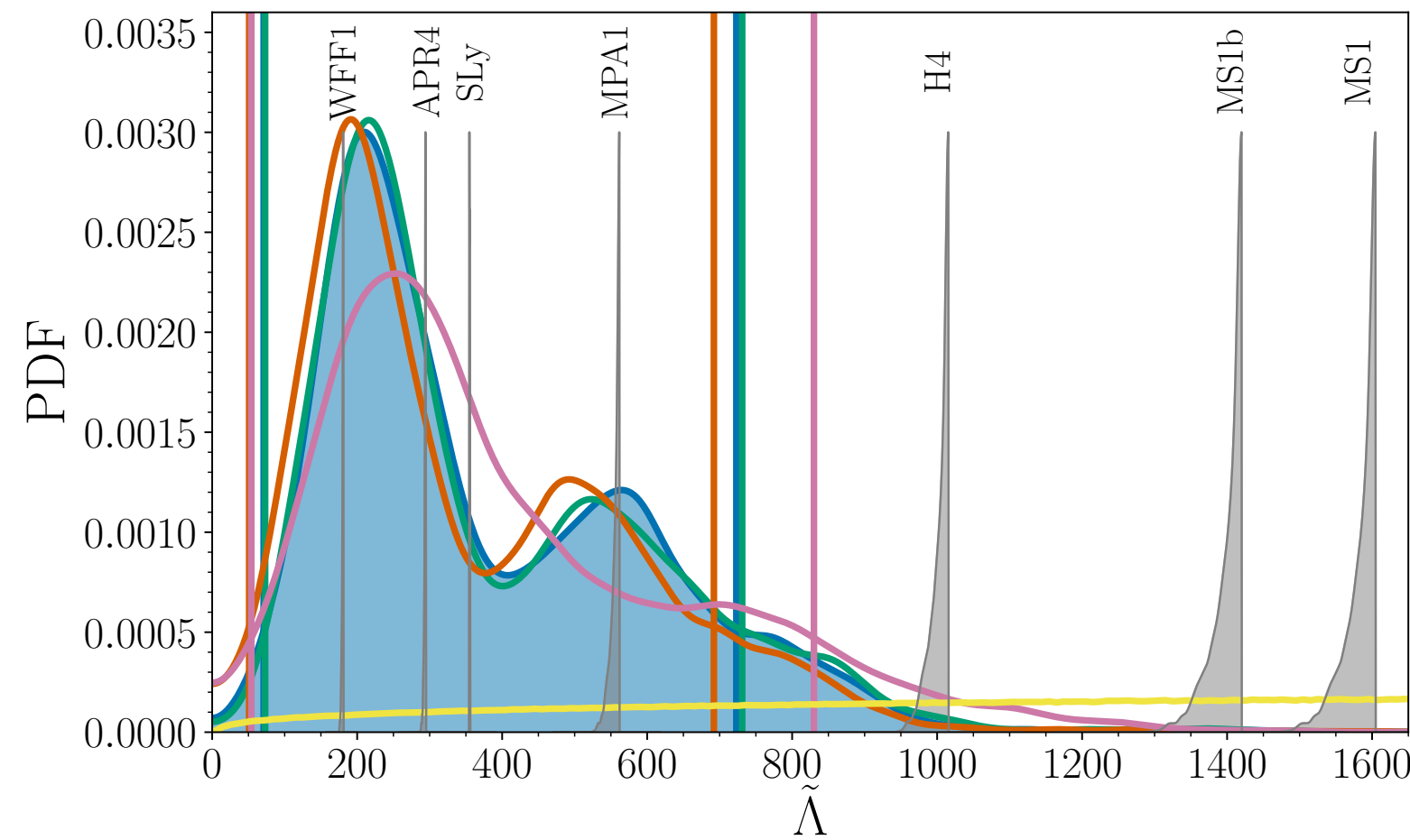
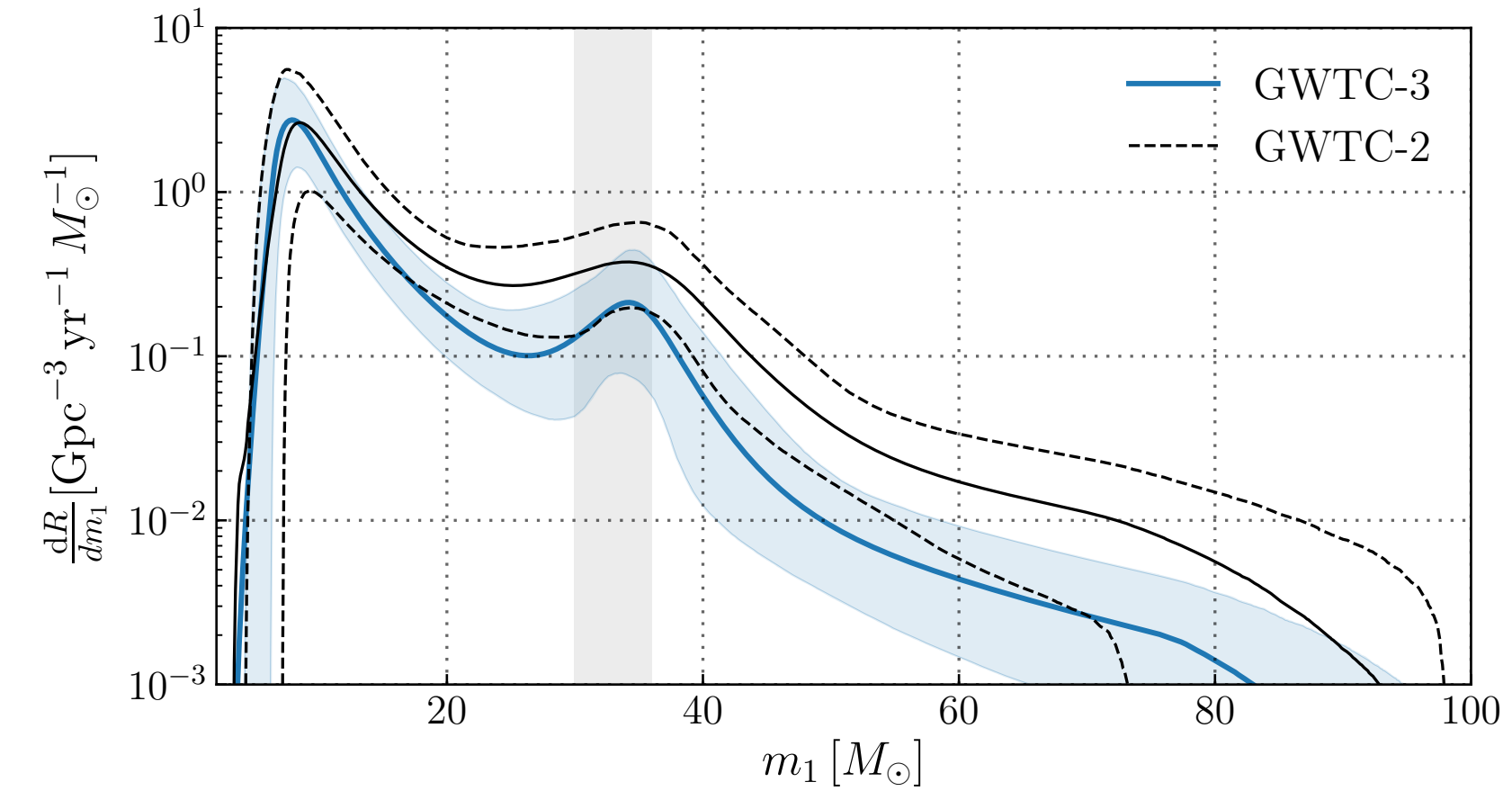


Image Credit: Caltech/MIT/LIGO Lab.

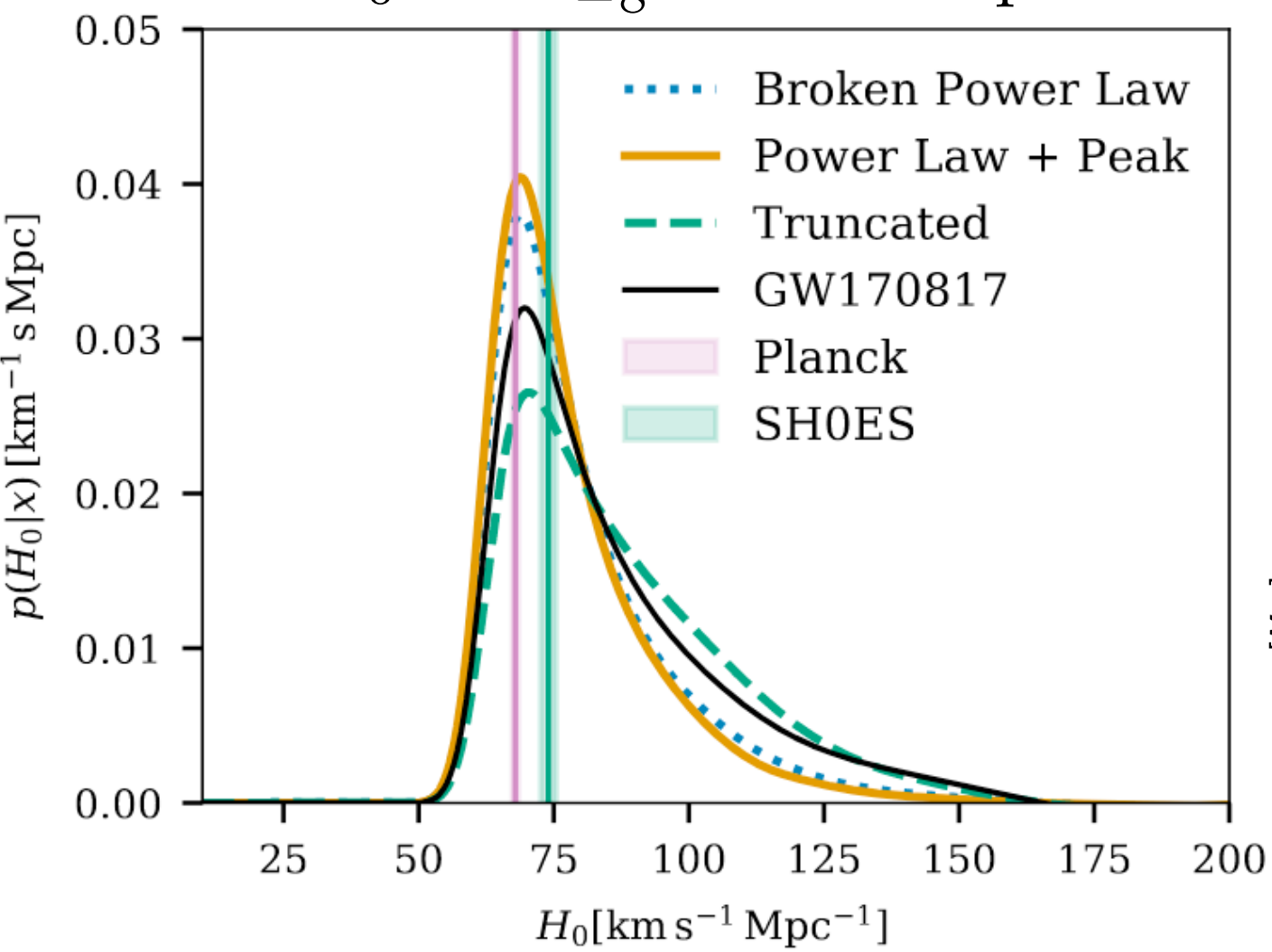


[LVC, PRX 9, 031040 (2019)]

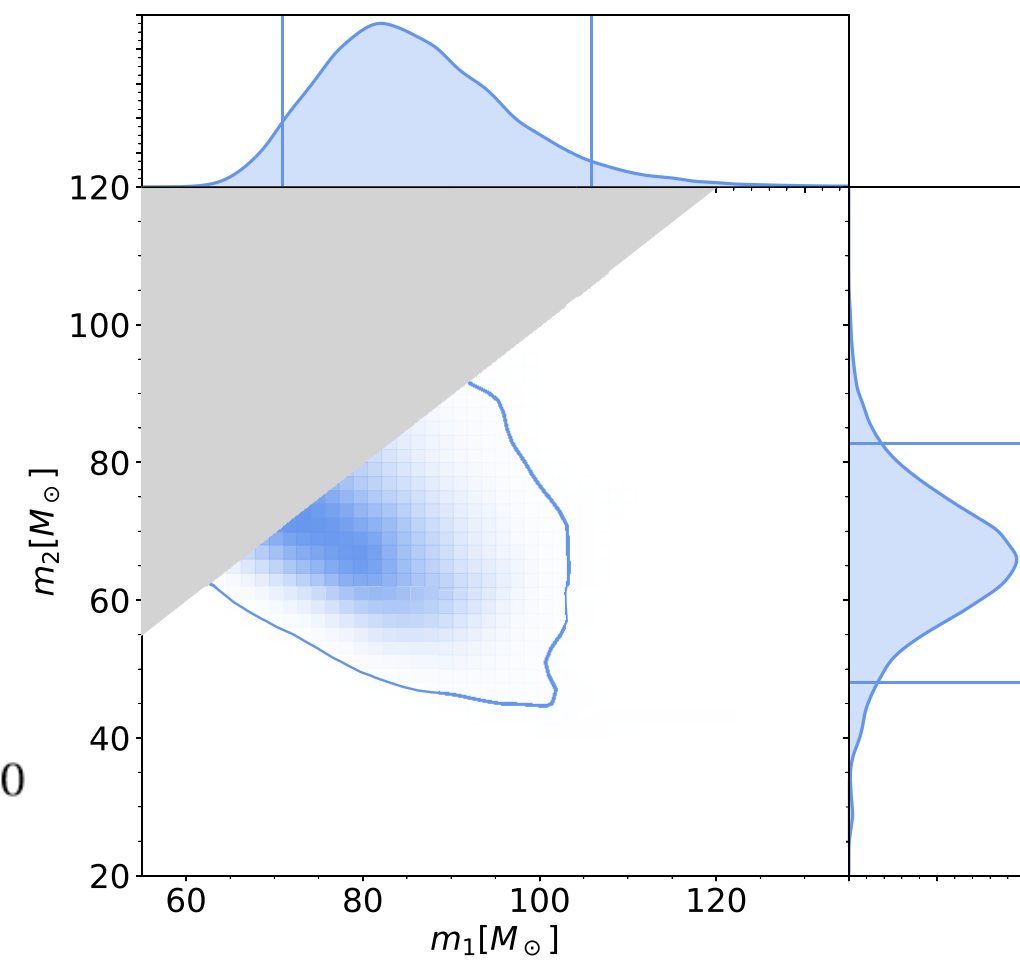


[LVK, arXiv 2111.03634 (2021)]

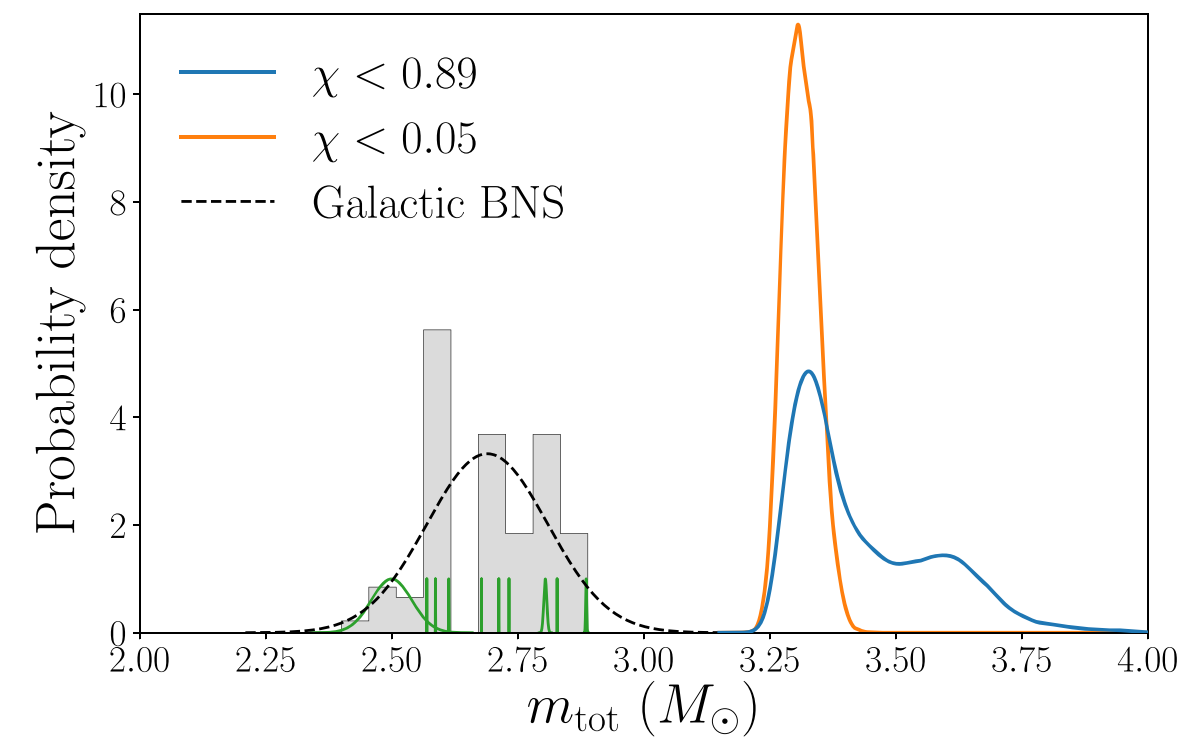
$$H_0 = 68^{+12}_{-8} \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$$



[LVK, arXiv:2111.03604]

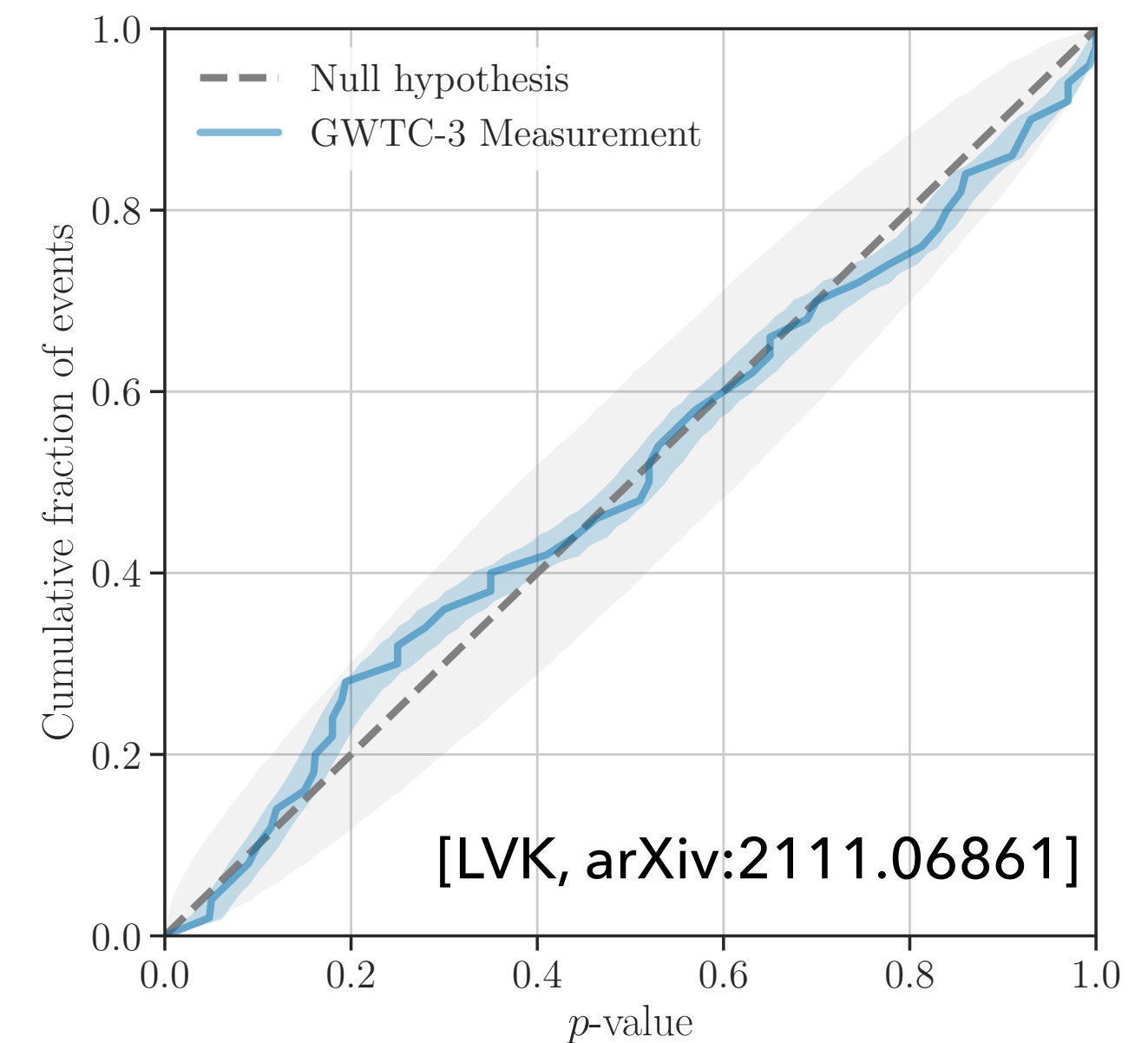


[LVK, PRL 125, 101102 (2020)]



[LVK, ApJ L 892:L3 (2020)]

$$m_g \leq 1.27 \times 10^{-23} \text{ eV}/c^2$$

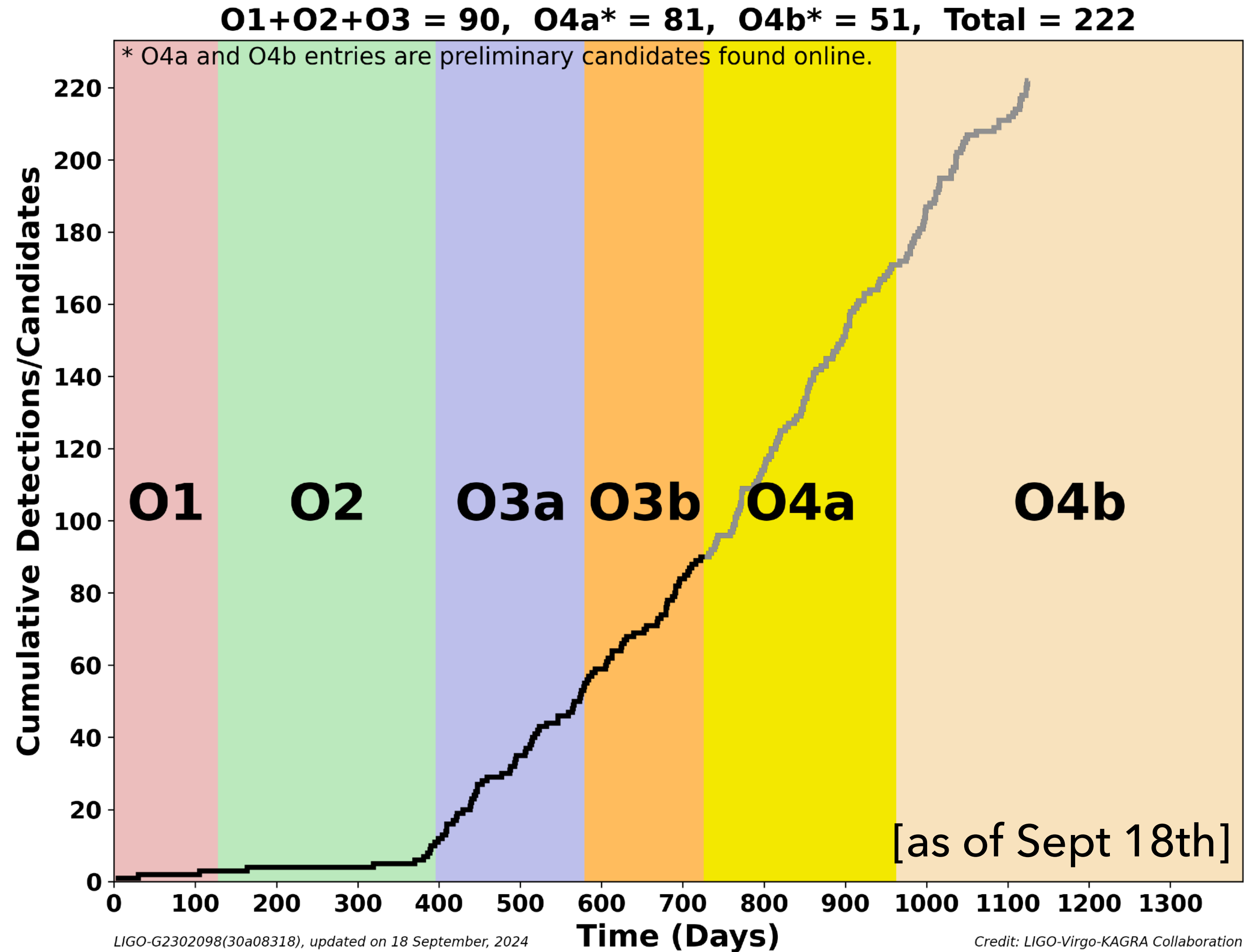
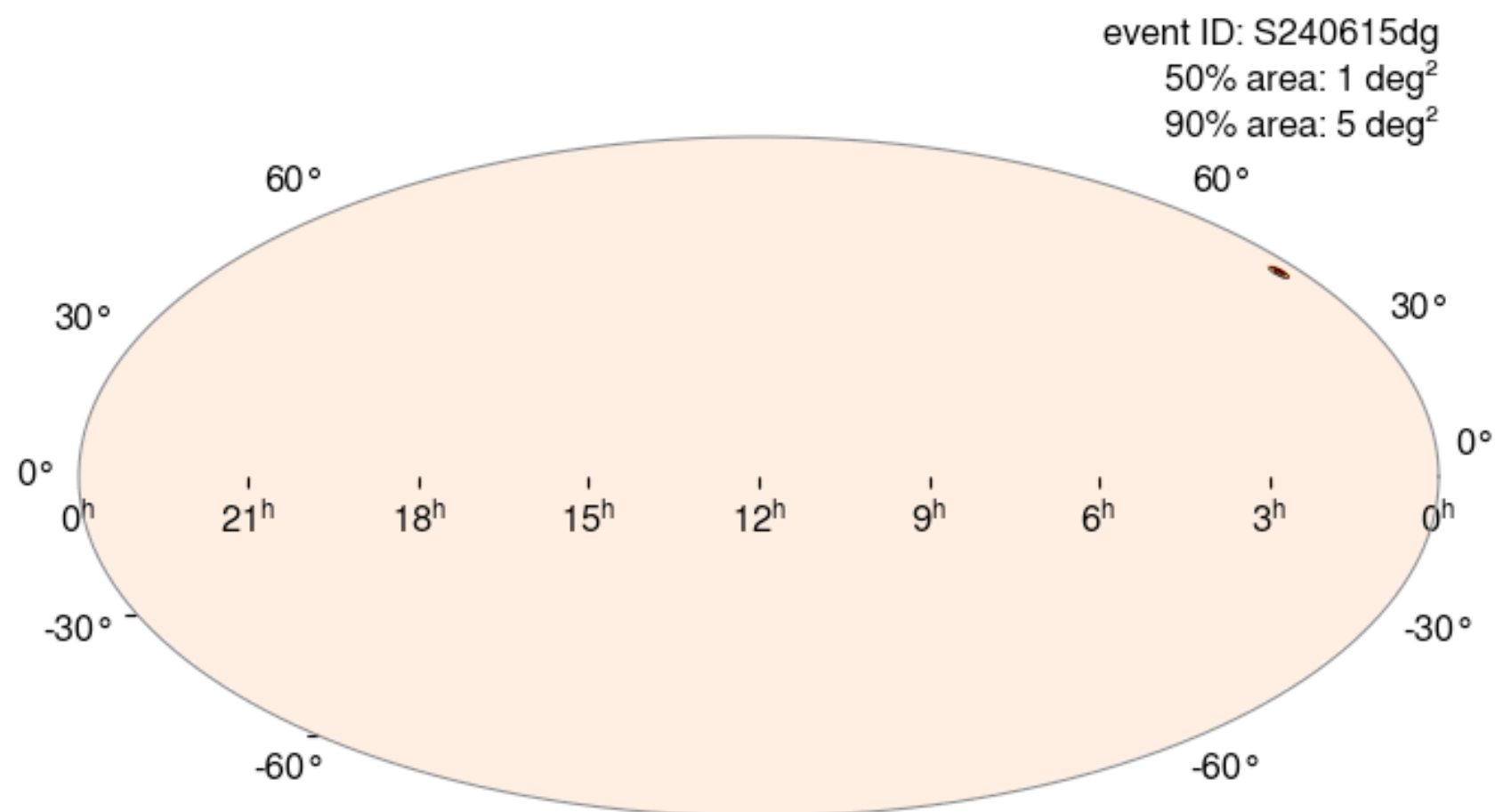


[LVK, arXiv:2111.06861]



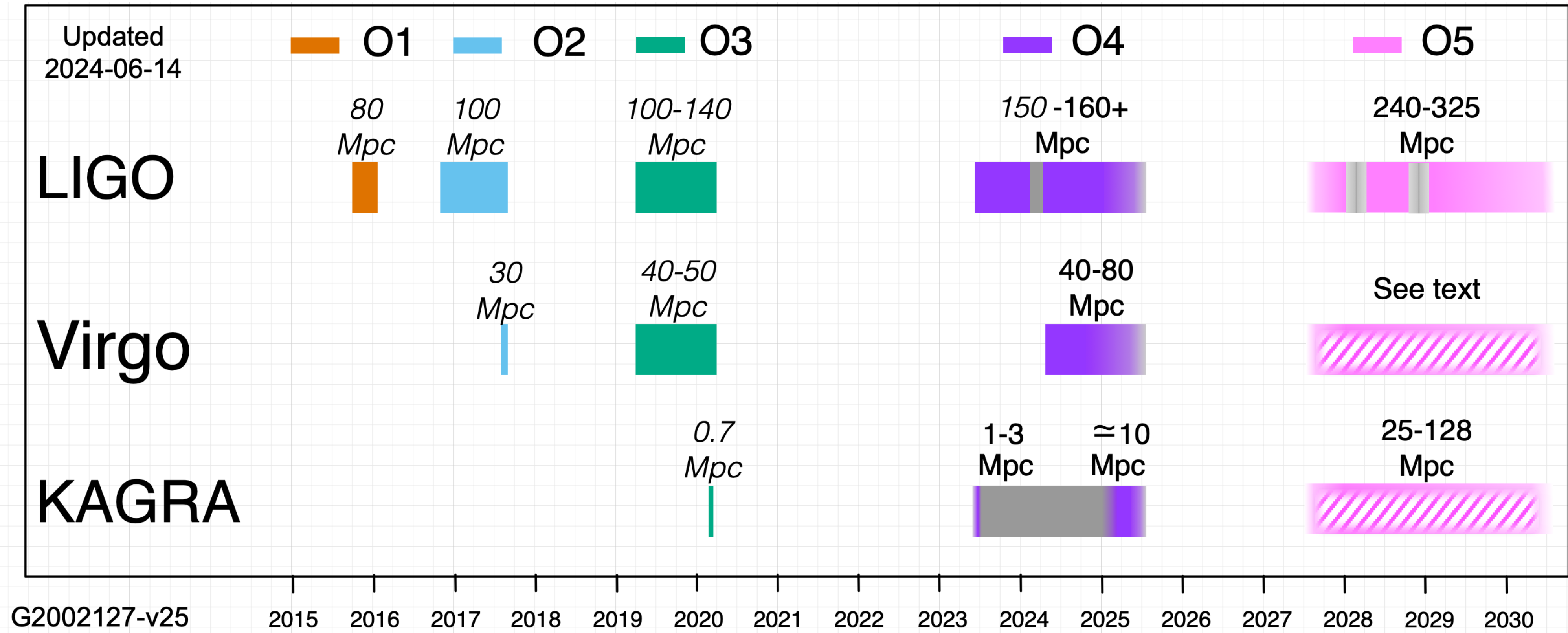
# FOURTH OBSERVING RUN

- ▶ As of Sept 18th @ 11.45 CEST:
  - ▶ **132 significant detection candidates**
  - ▶ 2389 low-significance detection candidates
- ▶ Binary detection rate:
  - ▶ **~a few events per week**
- ▶ Public alerts now also for
  - ▶ Low-significance triggers
  - ▶ Early warning



# RUN EXTENSION & O5

▶ **O4 extended until June 9th, 2025**



See <https://observing.docs.ligo.org/plan/>

Virgo target sensitivity and entry date for O5 are currently being assessed

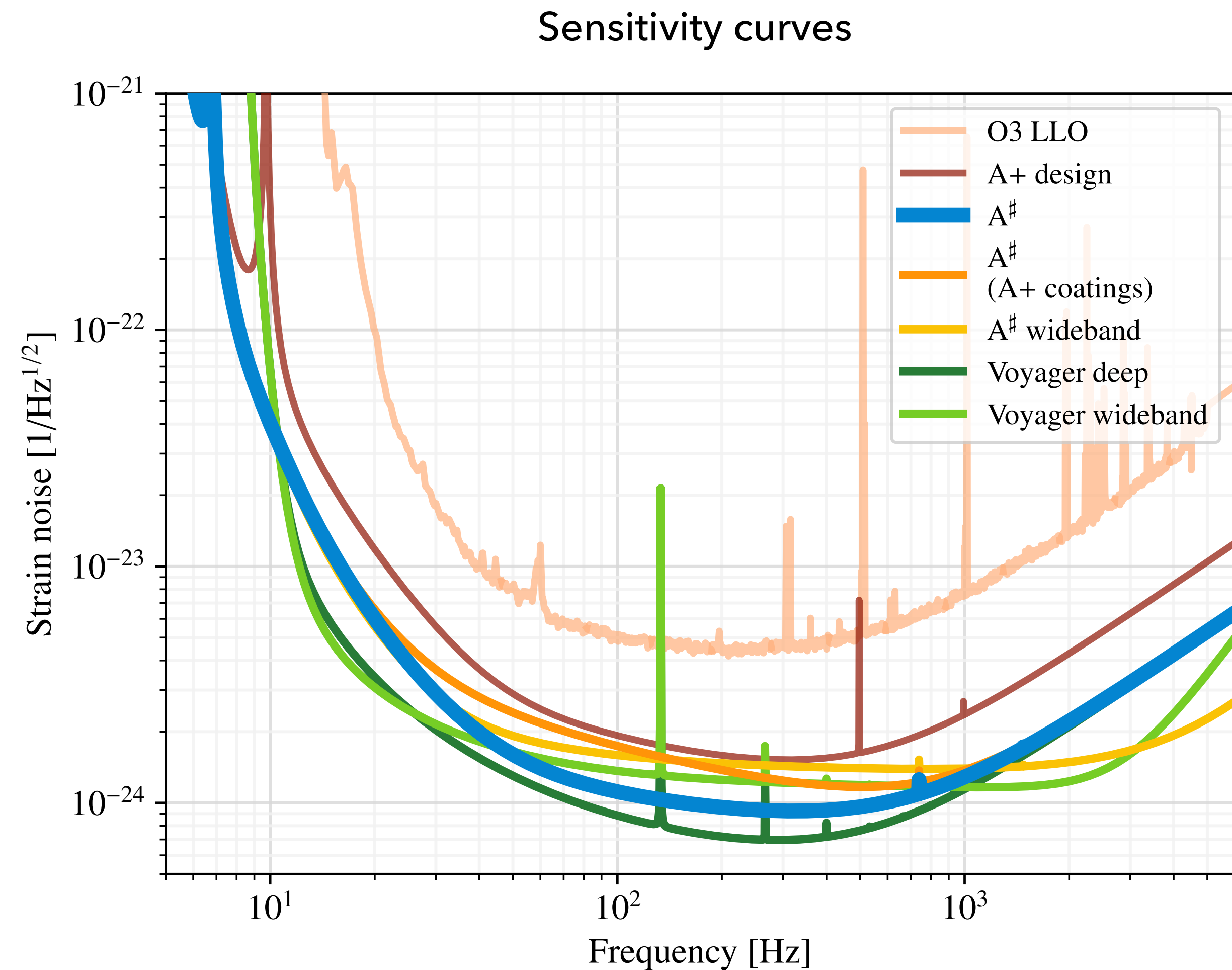
[See talk by G. Losurdo]





# POST O5

- ▶ **LIGO Aundha Observatory (LAO)** to be constructed in India
  - ▶ To be run as part of LIGO in the ~2030s
- ▶ **A#** – a *possible* targeted upgrade to the existing LIGO facilities
  - ▶ LSC Post-O5 study group chaired by Peter Fritschel (inc. PS)
  - ▶ Report: <https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-T2200287/public>
  - ▶ **A factor 2 improvement in sensitivity** (larger test masses, improved seismic isolation & mirror coatings, higher laser power, etc.)
  - ▶ Pathfinder for next-gen technology
- ▶ Similar upgrade proposal for Virgo (**V\_nEXT**)



[Post-O5 report]

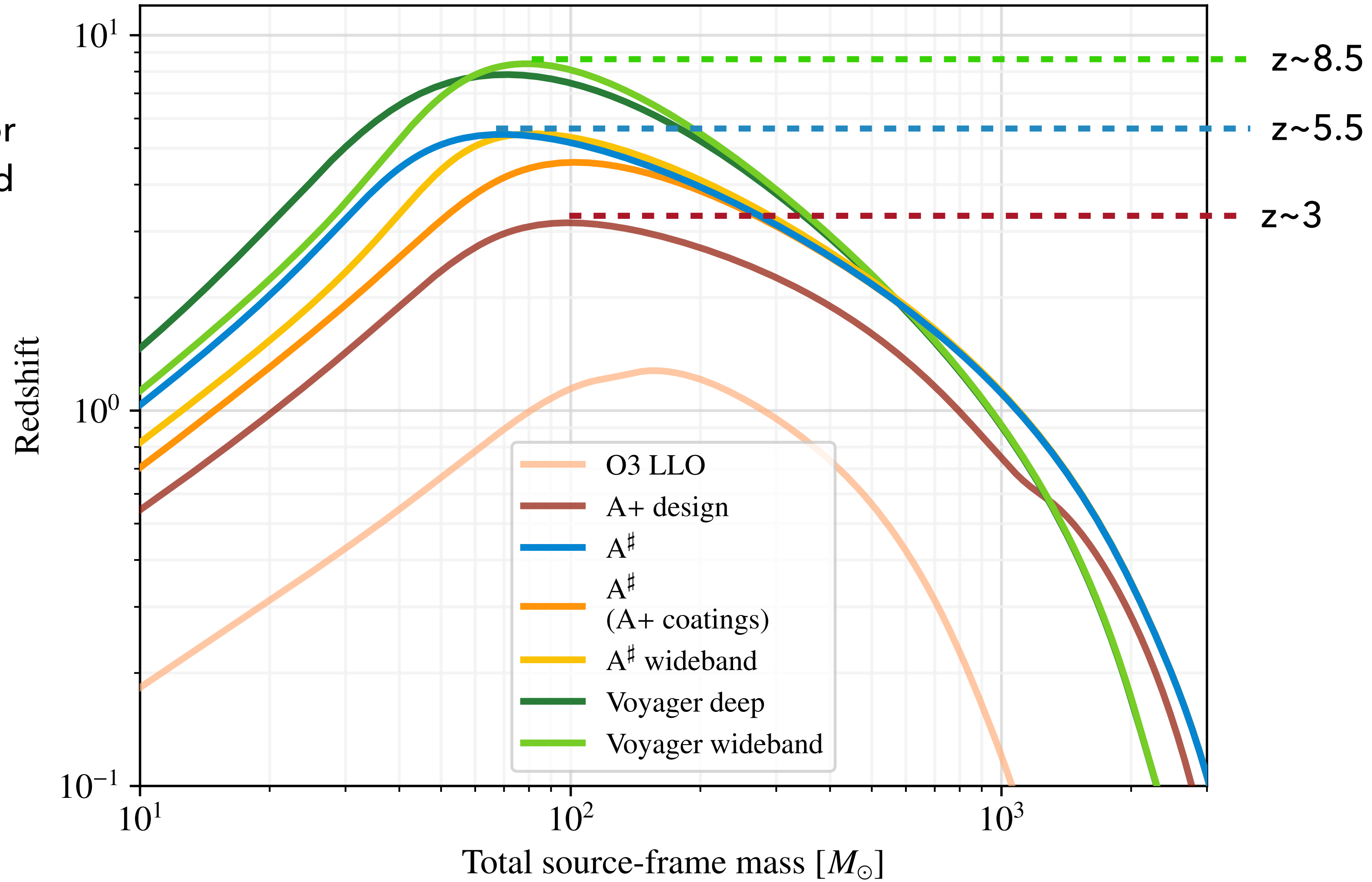




# REACHING FURTHER

horizon distance

Farthest possible detections: Horizon for optimally oriented and located equal-mass binaries

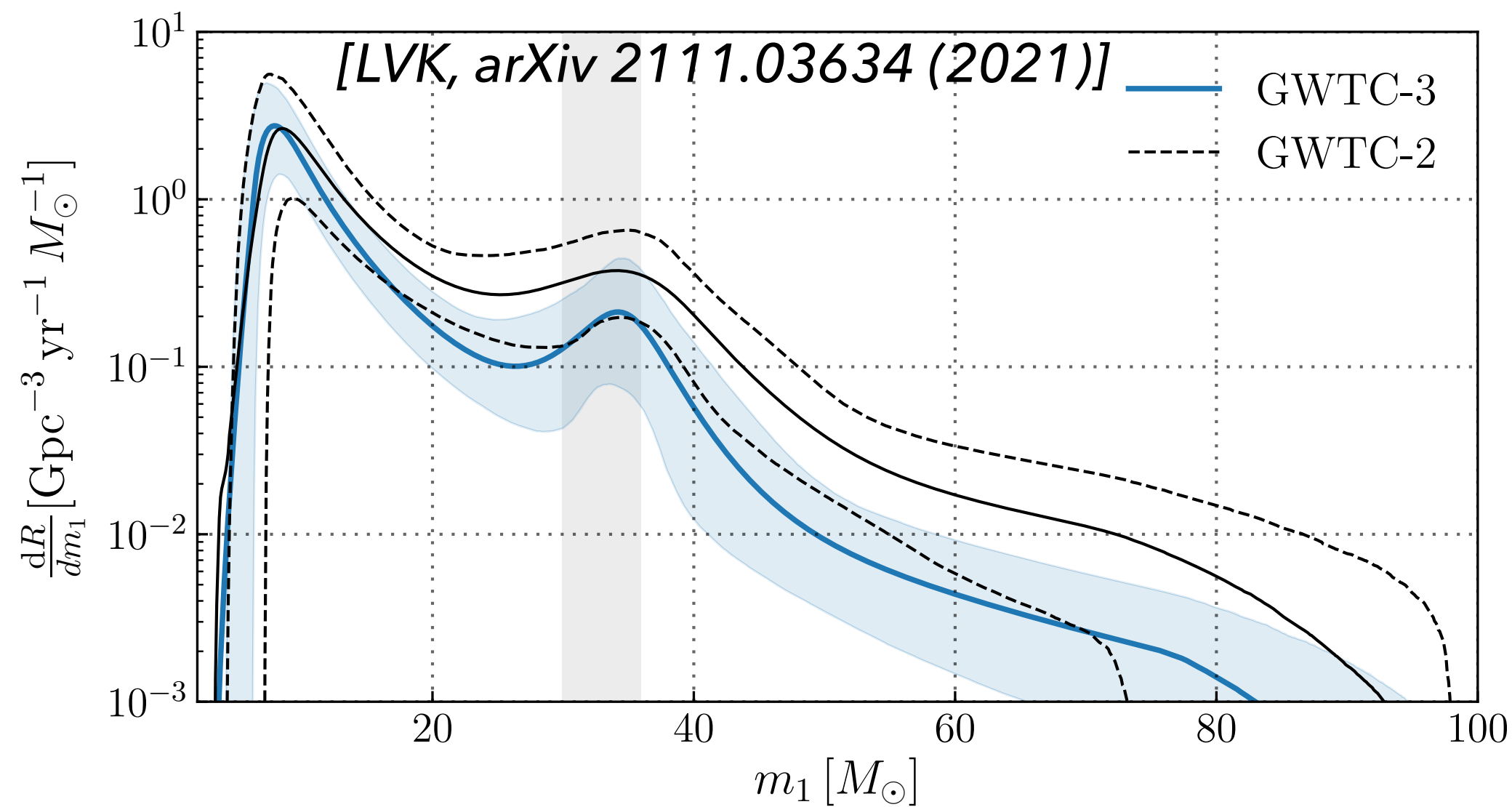


[Post-O5 report]



# POST O5 - DETECTIONS

- ▶ H#L#V+ network, 70% duty cycle
- ▶ O3 binary merger rates (note: assumed to be non-evolving):
  - ▶ BBH: 16-61 Gpc<sup>-3</sup>yr<sup>-1</sup>
  - ▶ BNS: 10-1700 Gpc<sup>-3</sup>yr<sup>-1</sup>
  - ▶ NSBH: 7.8 - 140 Gpc<sup>-3</sup>yr<sup>-1</sup>



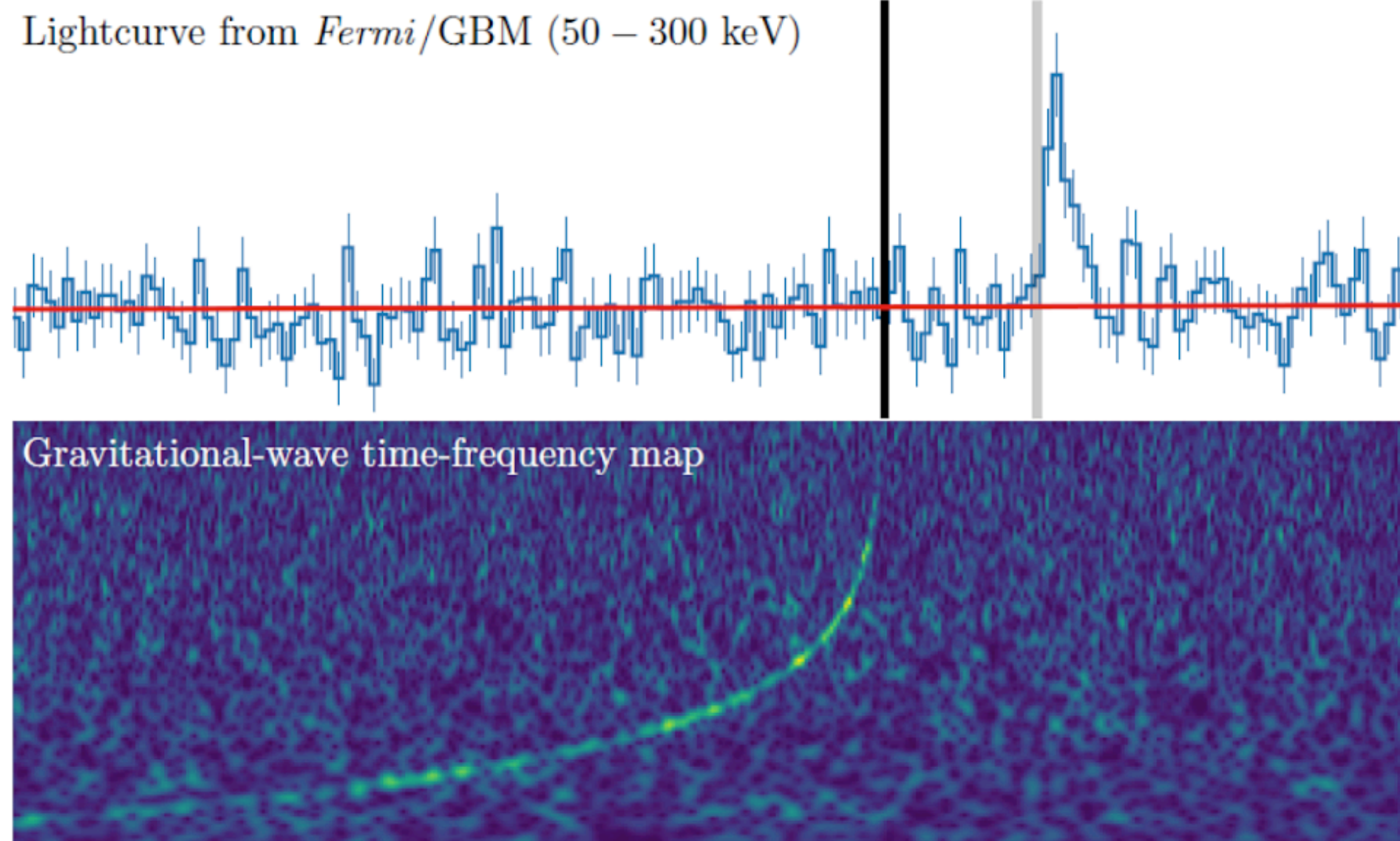
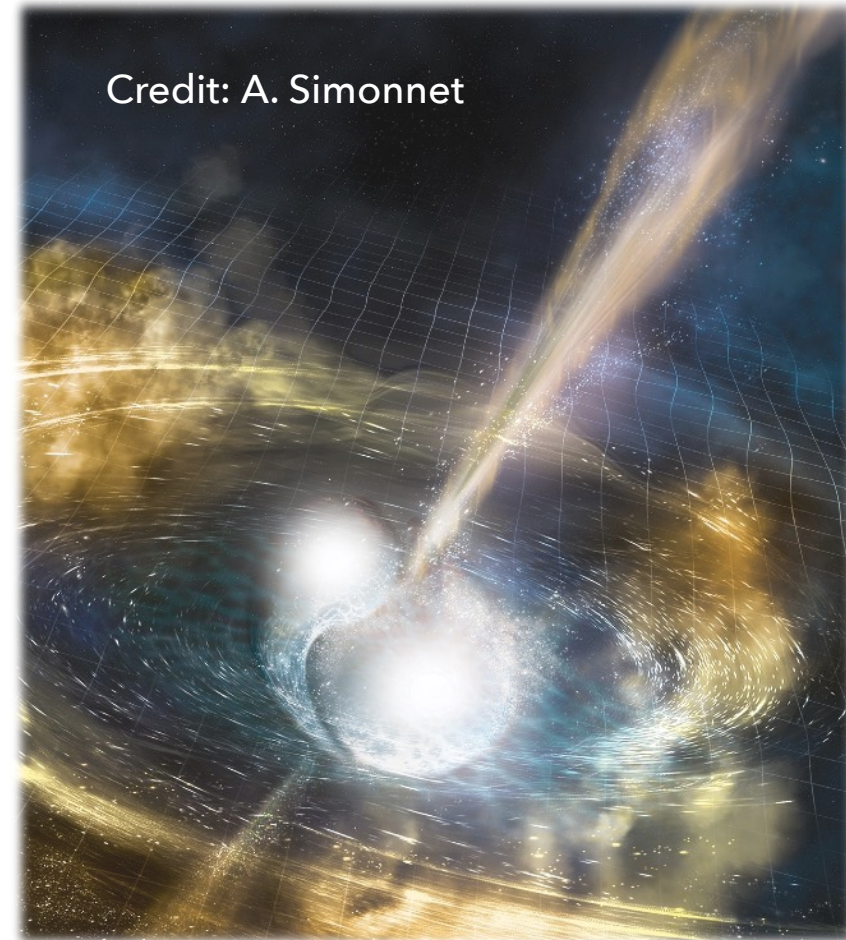
Configuration	Annual Detections		
	BNS	NSBH	BBH
A+	135 <sup>+172</sup> <sub>-78</sub>	24 <sup>+34</sup> <sub>-16</sub>	740 <sup>+940</sup> <sub>-420</sub>
A#	630 <sup>+790</sup> <sub>-350</sub>	100 <sup>+128</sup> <sub>-58</sub>	2100 <sup>+2600</sup> <sub>-1100</sub>
A# (A+ coatings)	260 <sup>+320</sup> <sub>-140</sub>	45 <sup>+60</sup> <sub>-27</sub>	1150 <sup>+1450</sup> <sub>-640</sub>
A# Wideband (A+ coatings)	200 <sup>+250</sup> <sub>-110</sub>	40 <sup>+54</sup> <sub>-25</sub>	970 <sup>+1220</sup> <sub>-540</sub>
Voyager Deep	1280 <sup>+1610</sup> <sub>-710</sub>	190 <sup>+240</sup> <sub>-110</sub>	3100 <sup>+3900</sup> <sub>-1700</sub>
Voyager Wideband	730 <sup>+920</sup> <sub>-410</sub>	129 <sup>+165</sup> <sub>-74</sub>	2300 <sup>+2900</sup> <sub>-1300</sub>

Catalogues of this size across a range of redshifts will allow for **detailed analyses** of the astrophysical population:

- ◆ Mass distributions incl. substructures
- ◆ Spin distributions
- ◆ Branching ratio for different formation scenarios

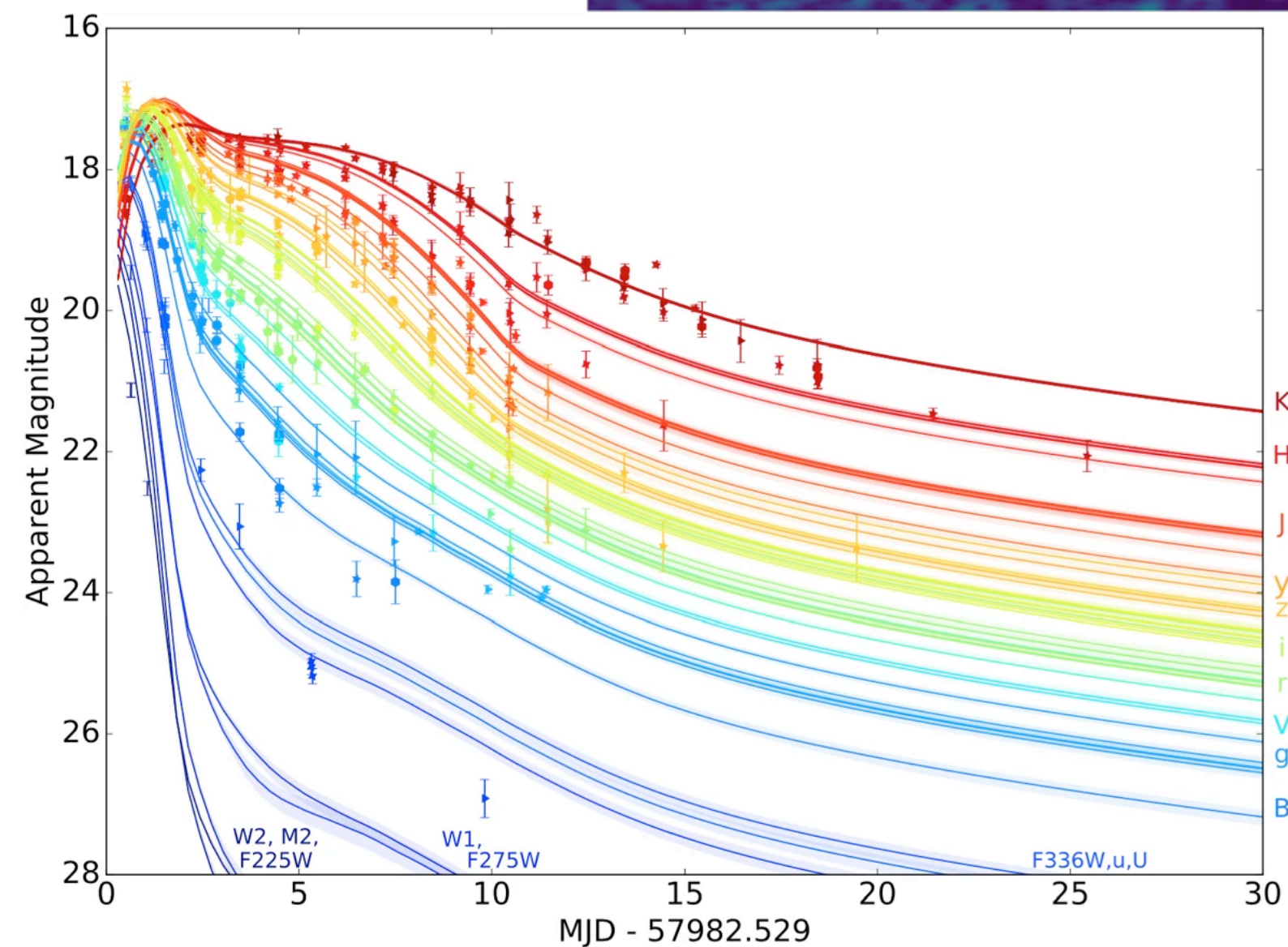






Early warning:

Configuration	BNS Range [Mpc]	$t_{\text{early}}$ [min]
O3 LLO	130	0.3
A+ design	350	2.7
A <sup>#</sup> (A+ coatings)	440	6.1
A <sup>#</sup>	600	6.2
A <sup>#</sup> wideband	490	6.8
Voyager deep	780	9.0
Voyager wideband	630	9.3



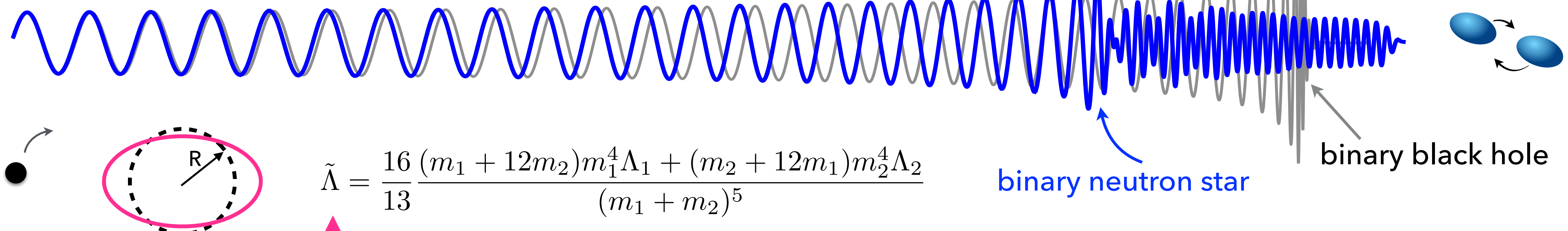
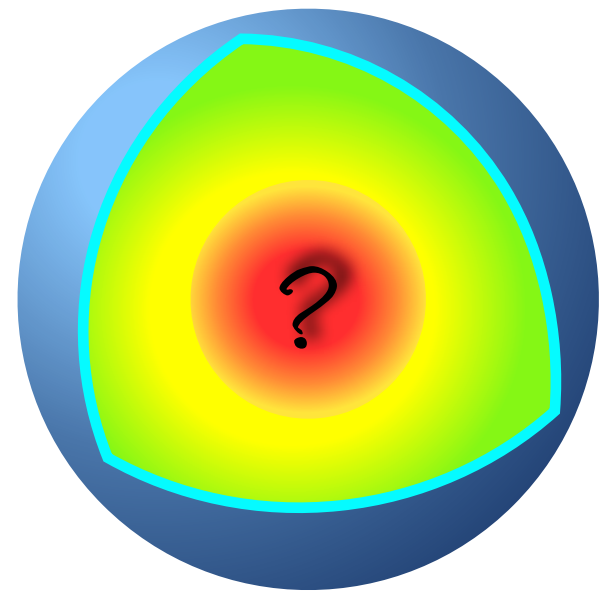
Villar+, *Astrophys.J.Lett.* 851 (2017) 1, L21

- ◆ Greatly enhanced prospects for **joint multi-messenger observations**
- ◆ Prompt EM emission
- ◆ Potential precursor EM signals
- ◆ Average sky area  $O(10\text{s}) \text{ deg}^2$  for an A<sup>#</sup> + Virgo\_nEXT detector network
- ◆ Percent-level  $H_0$  measurement with bright sirens

[Post-O5 report]



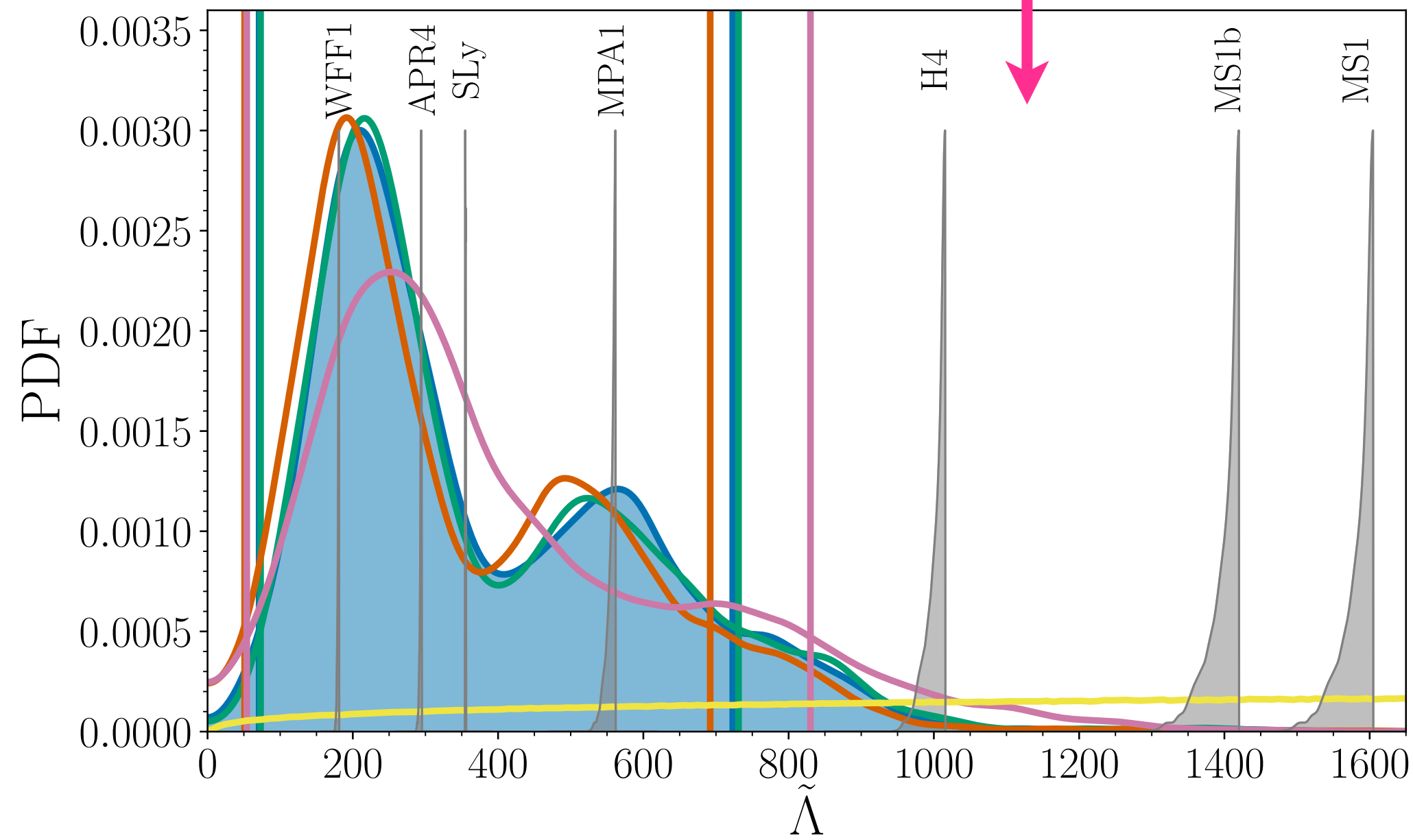




$$\tilde{\Lambda} = \frac{16 (m_1 + 12m_2)m_1^4\Lambda_1 + (m_2 + 12m_1)m_2^4\Lambda_2}{(m_1 + m_2)^5}$$

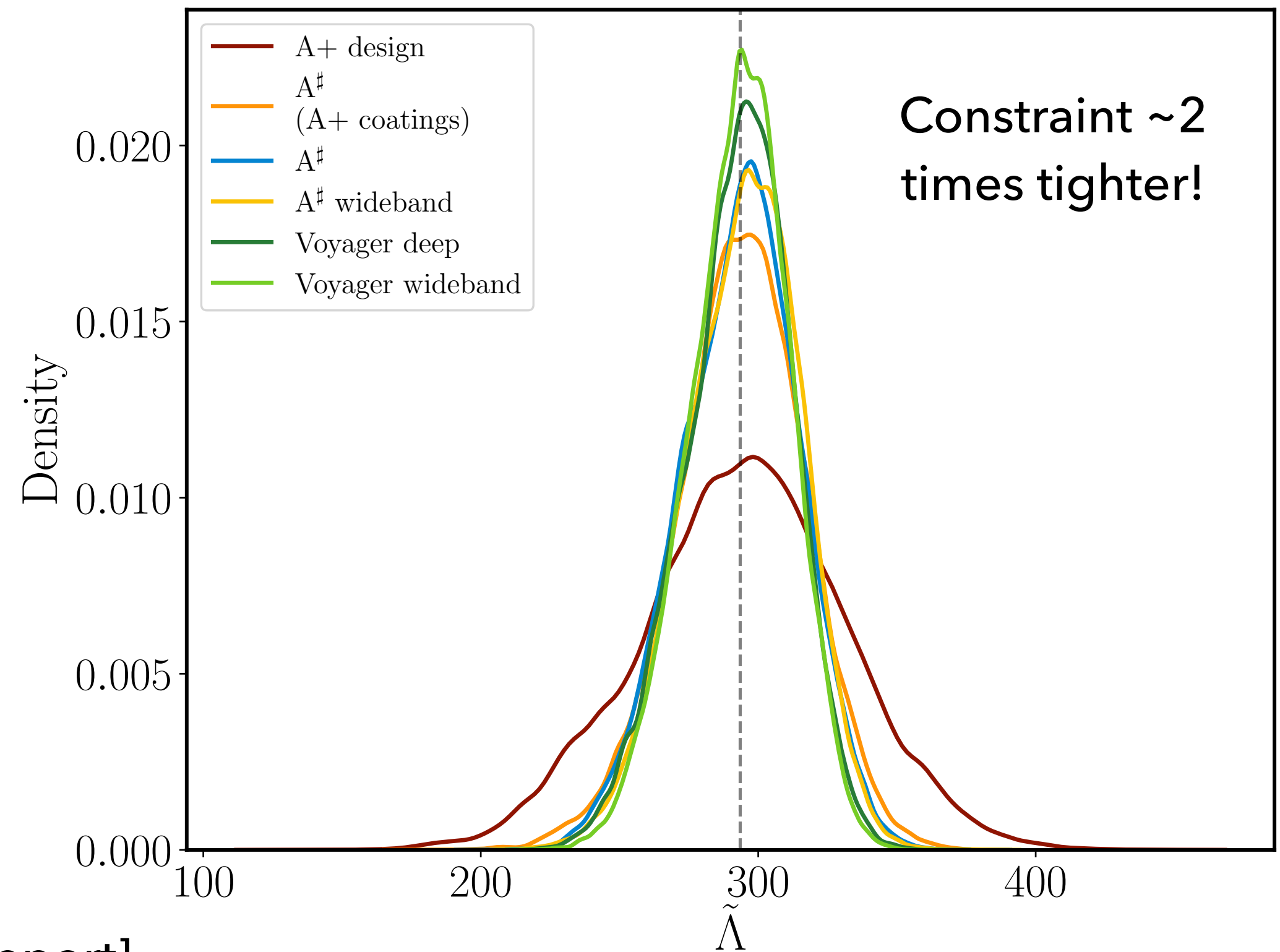
equation of state

GW170817



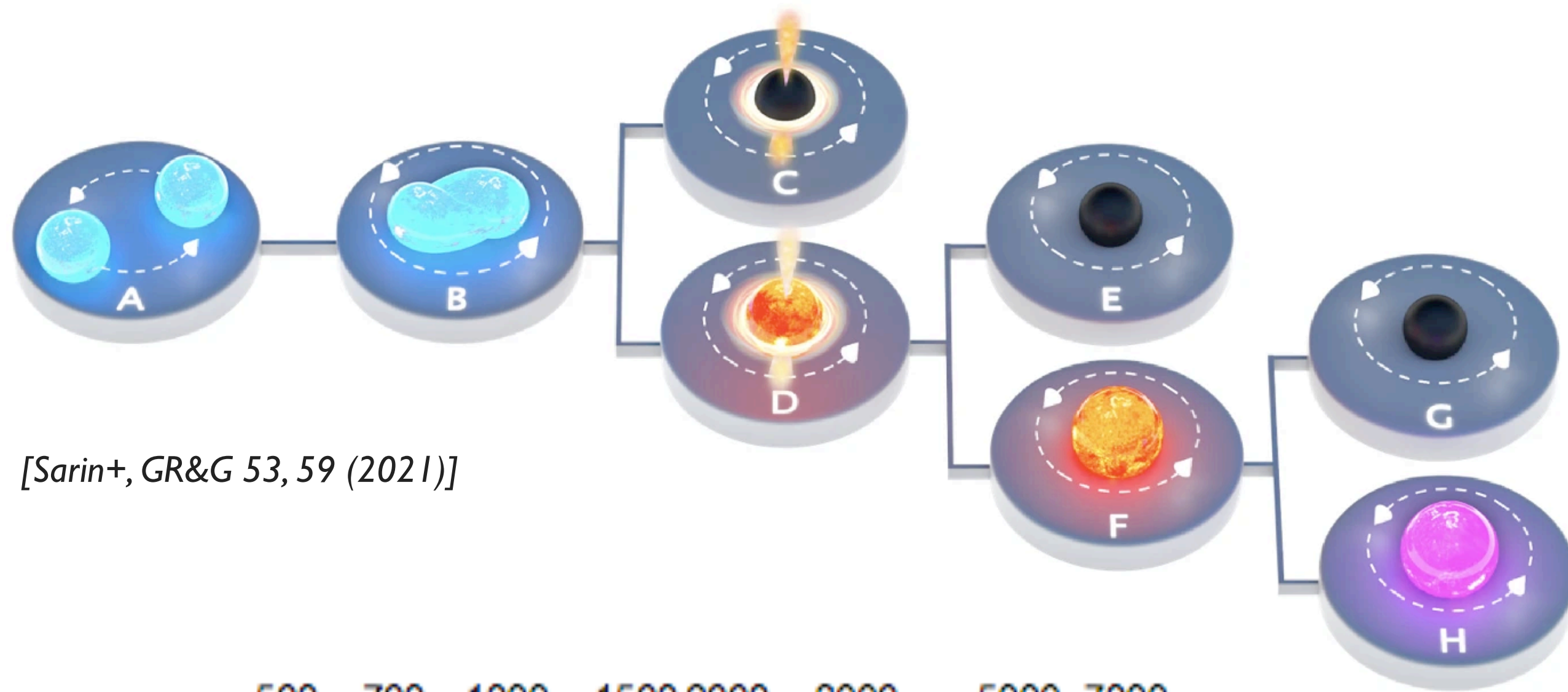
[LVC - Abbott et al., PRX (9) 2019]

GW170817-like BNS at 100 Mpc



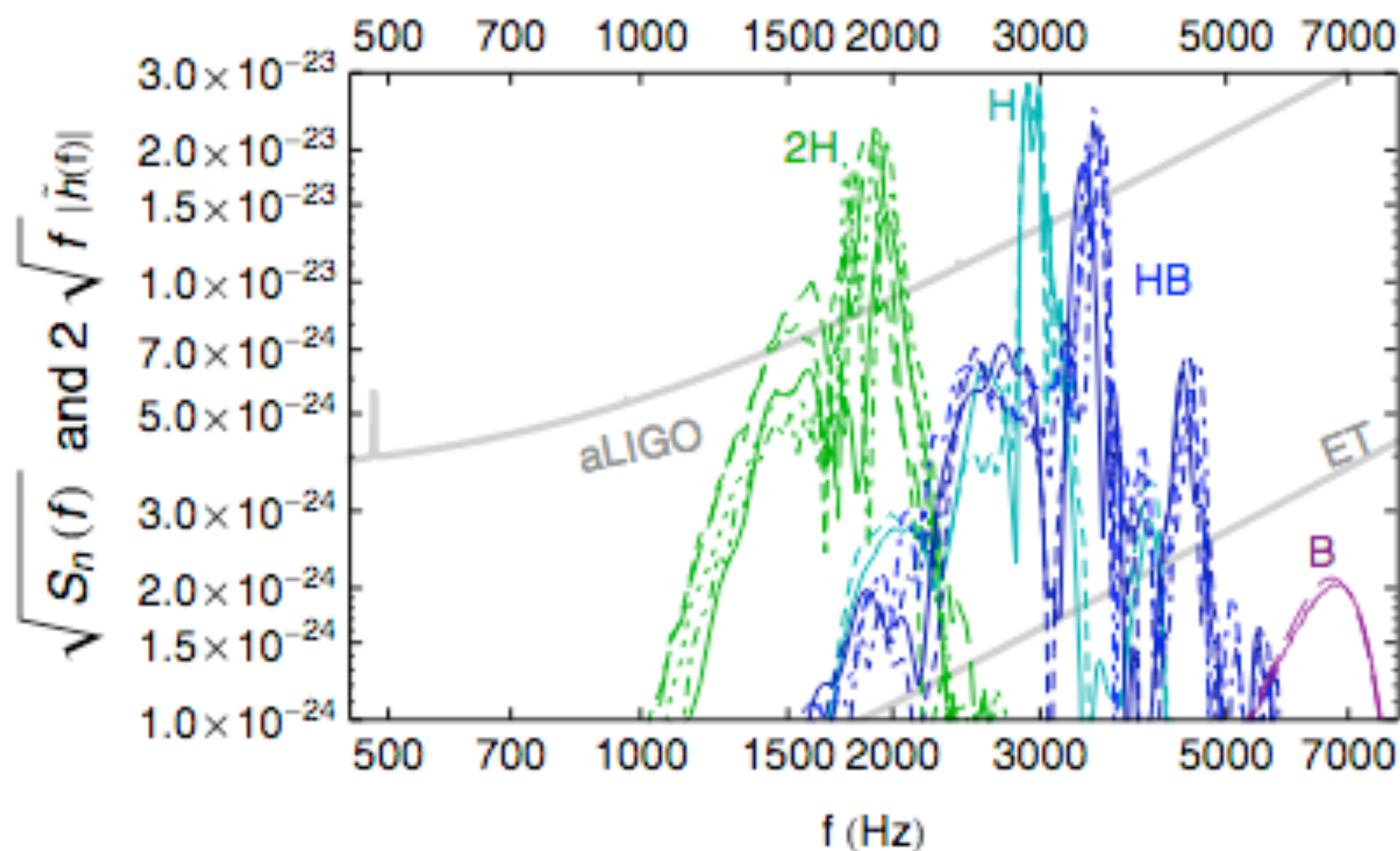
[Post-O5 report]





[Sarin+, GR&G 53, 59 (2021)]

- ◆ Nature of the remnant
- ◆ Hot equation of state
- ◆ Phase transitions



[Read+, PRD 88, 044042 (2013)]

SNR of an optimally oriented BNS at 100 Mpc:

Configuration	BNS Range [Mpc]	$\rho_{\text{pm}}^{(10)}$	$\rho_{\text{pm}}^{(\text{max})}$
O3 LLO	130	0.4	0.6
A+ design	350	1.4	2.0
A <sup>#</sup> (A+ coatings)	440	2.7	3.4
A <sup>#</sup>	600	2.7	3.7
A <sup>#</sup> wideband	490	4.8	5.6
Voyager deep	780	2.8	4.1
Voyager wideband	630	5.2	5.9

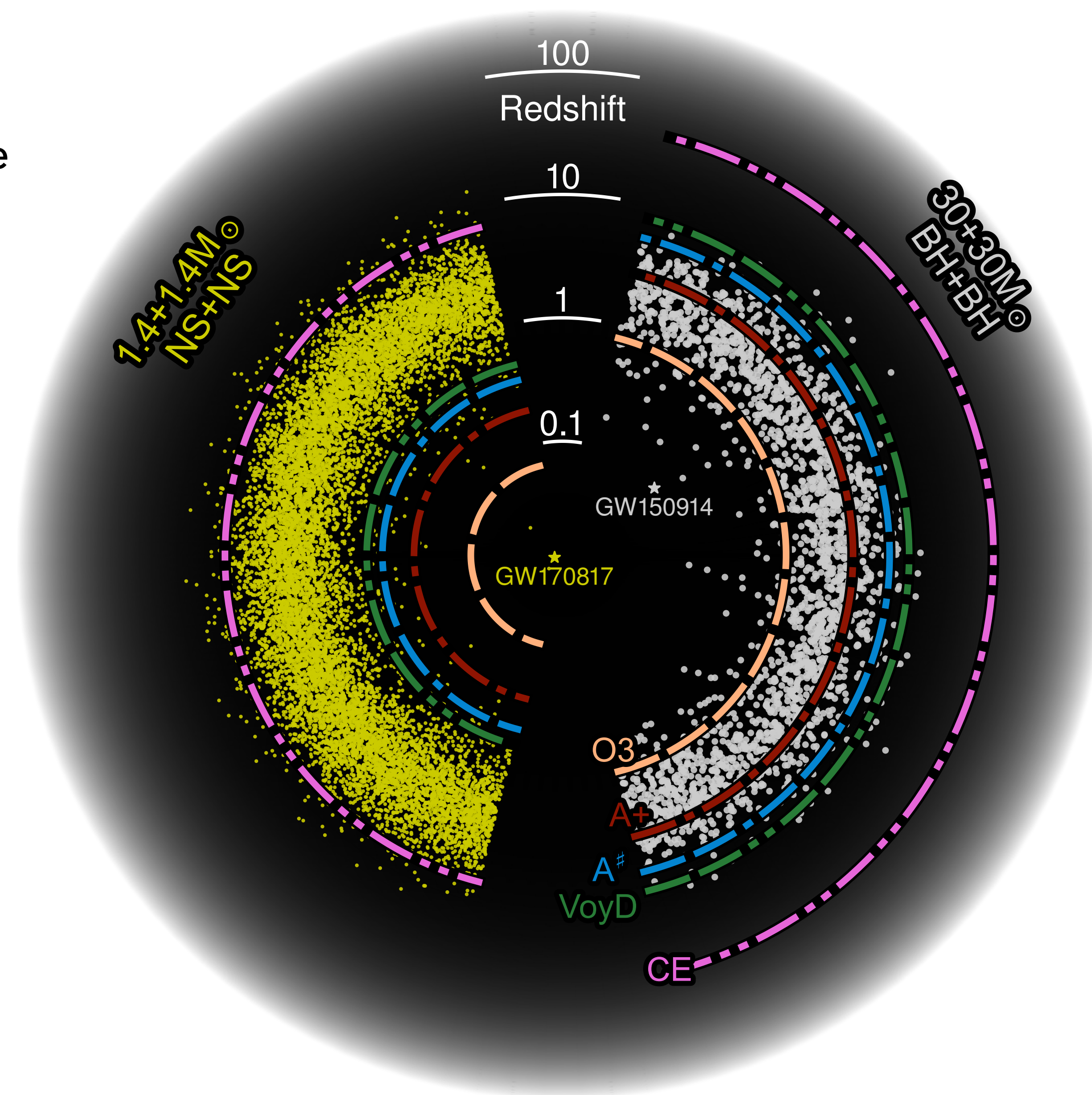
[Post-O5 report]





# SOME THINGS WE CAN'T LEARN ...YET

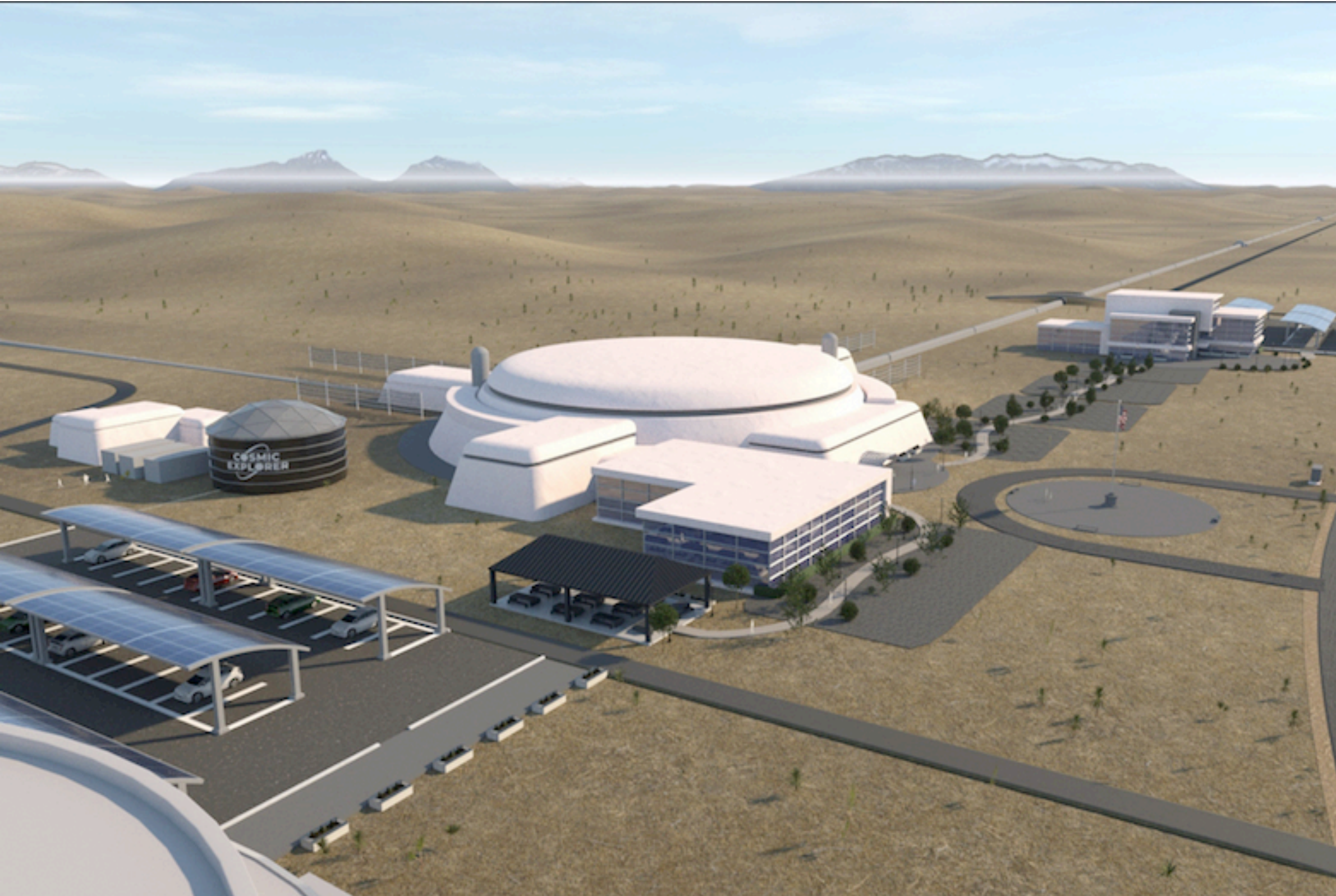
- ▶ Binary neutron star mergers beyond the very local universe
- ▶ Precise measurement of the nuclear equation of state
- ▶ Observing the fate of neutron star collisions
- ▶ Precision tests of the Kerrness of black holes
- ▶ Observing the GW memory
- ▶ BBH mergers in the high redshift universe
- ▶ Cosmological GW background
- ▶ ...



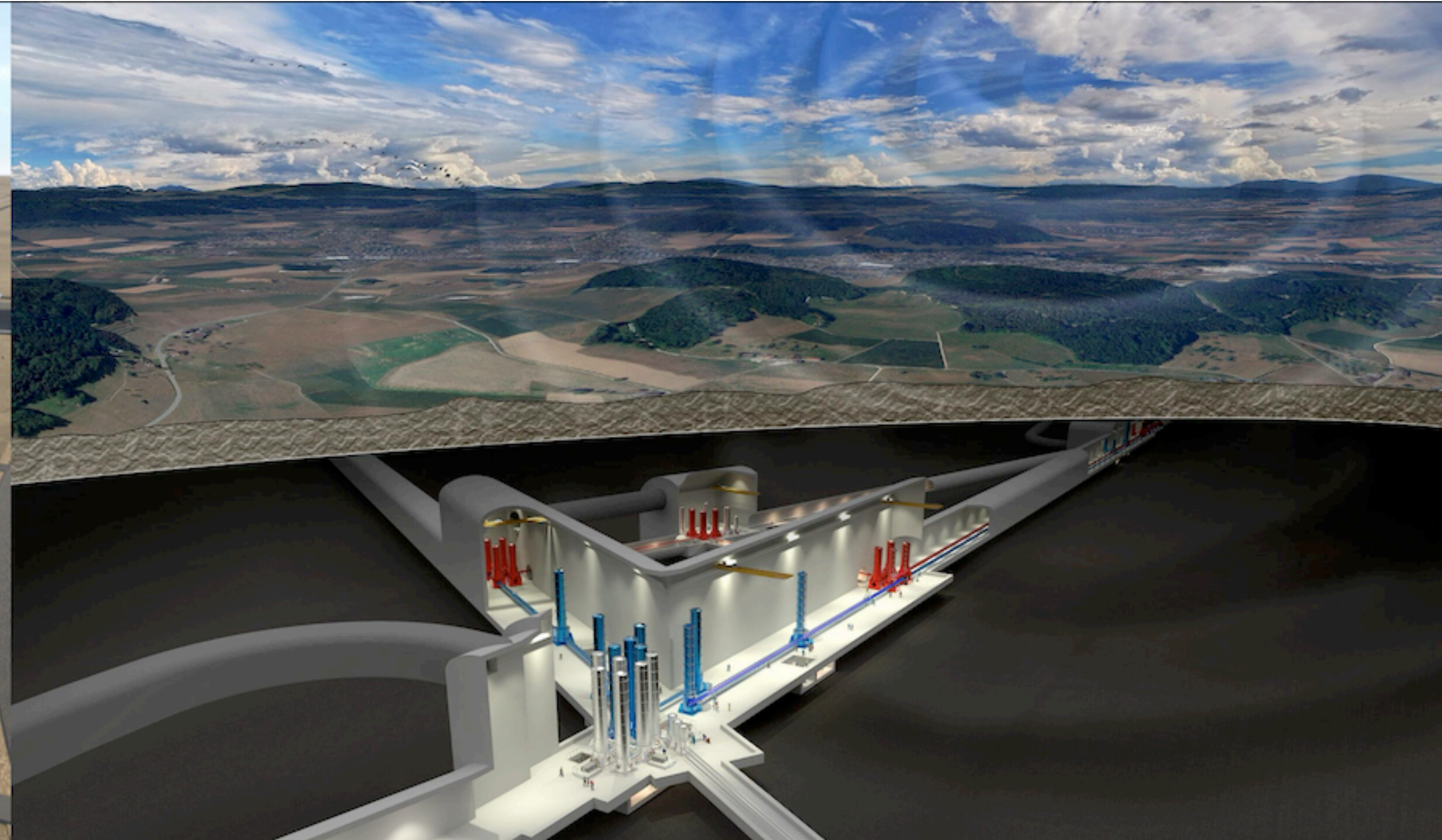


# THE NEXT GENERATION OF GROUND-BASED GW DETECTORS

Cosmic Explorer (CE)



Einstein Telescope (ET)



Artists' impressions of the Cosmic Explorer (left) and Einstein Telescope (right) projects. Cosmic Explorer credits: A. Nguyen, V. Kitchen, E. Anaya, California State University Fullerton / Einstein Telescope credits: M. Kraan, Nikhef

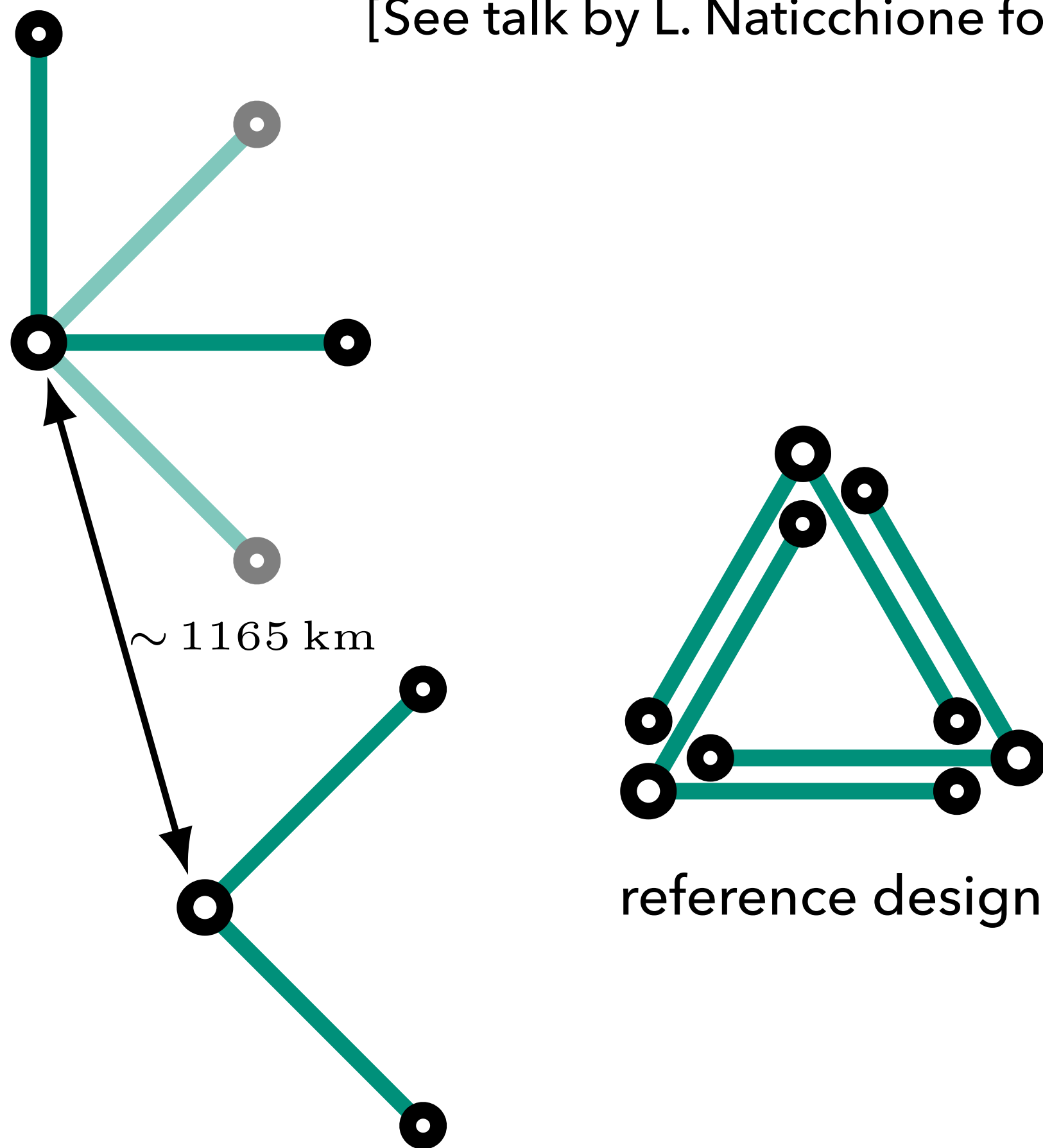




# EINSTEIN TELESCOPE

- ▶ Reference design: 10km triangular “xylophone” configuration with cryogenic cooling (ET-D)
- ▶ Alternative: 2 15km L-shaped detectors

[See talk by L. Naticchione for more details]

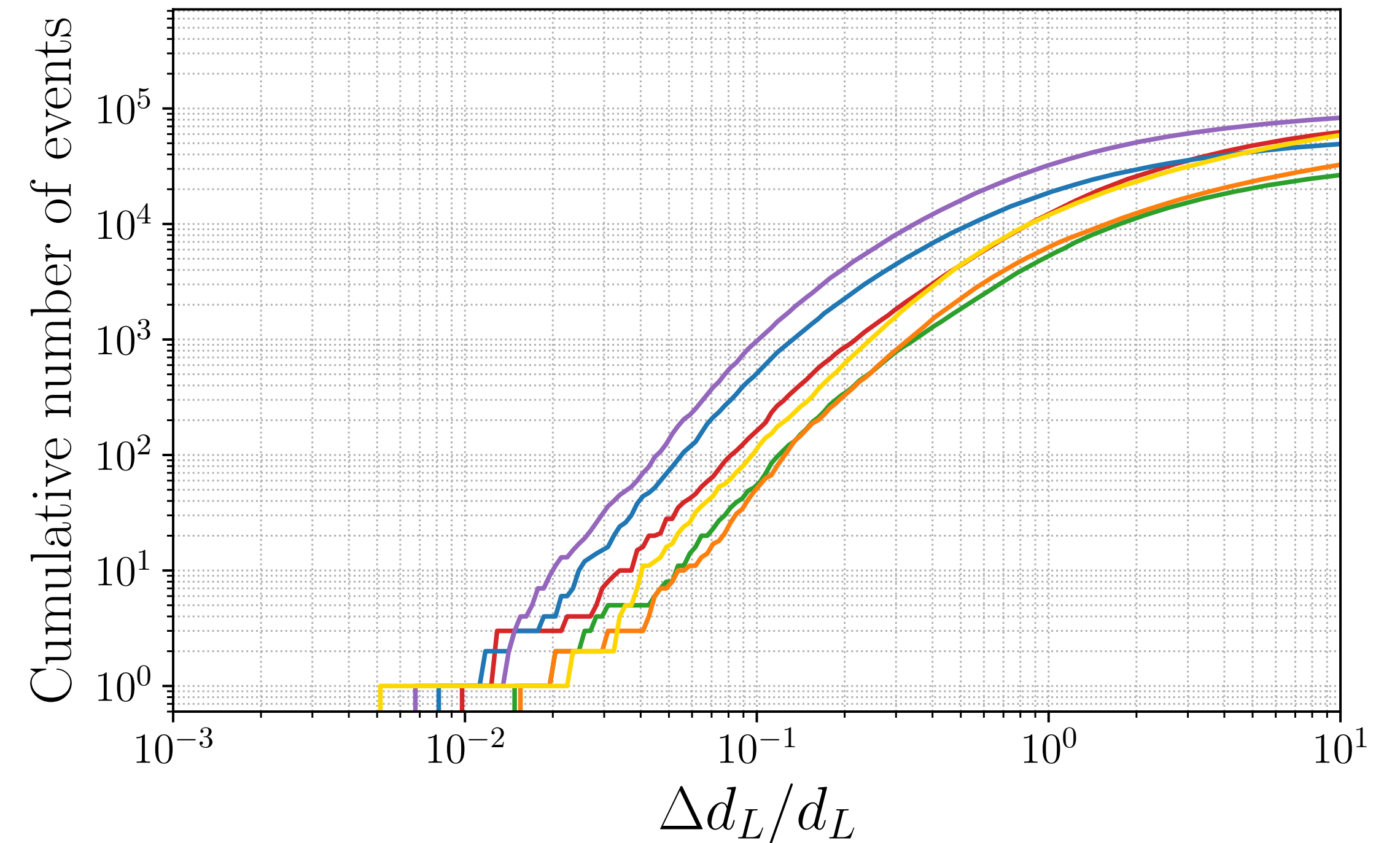
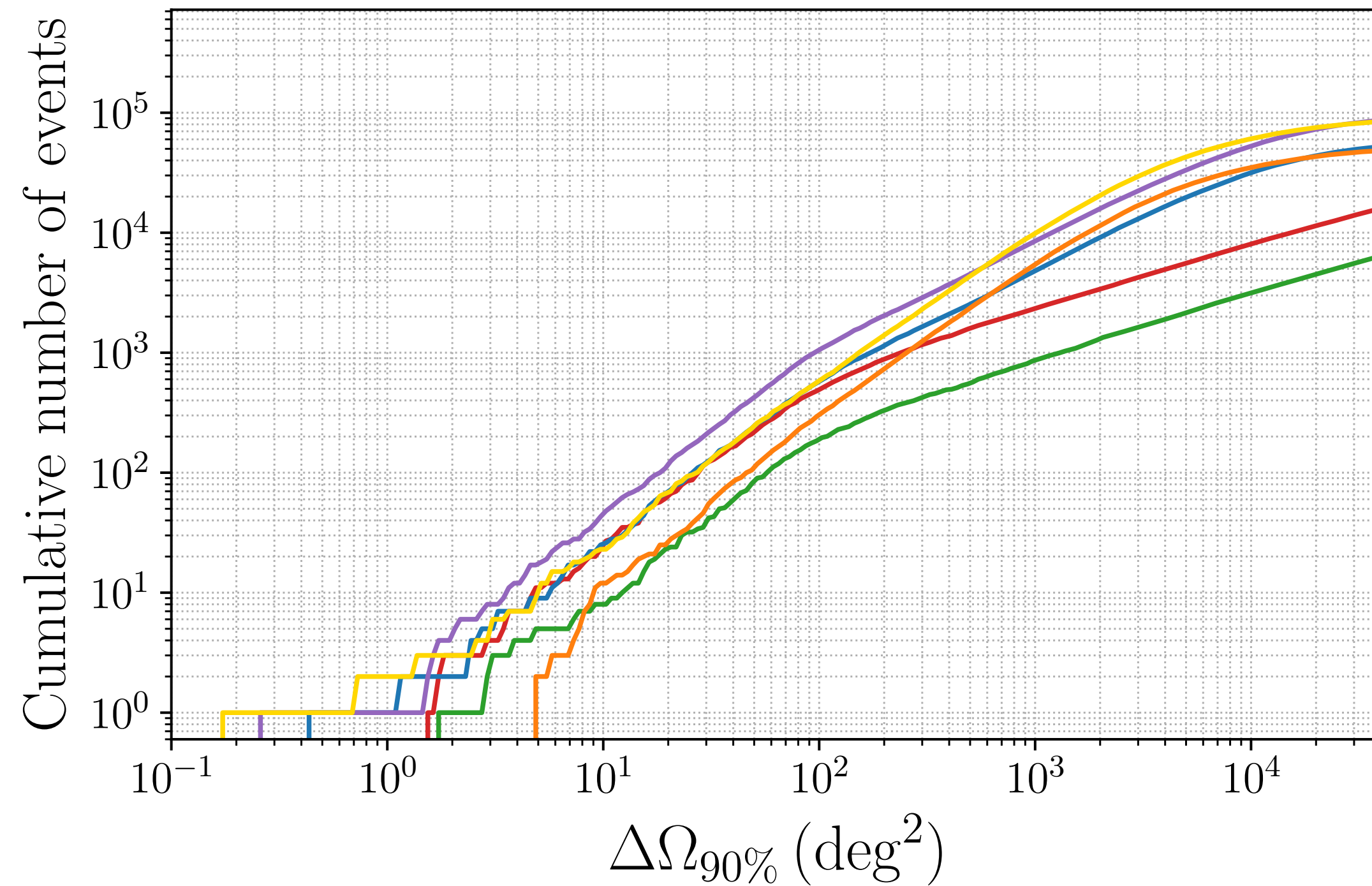
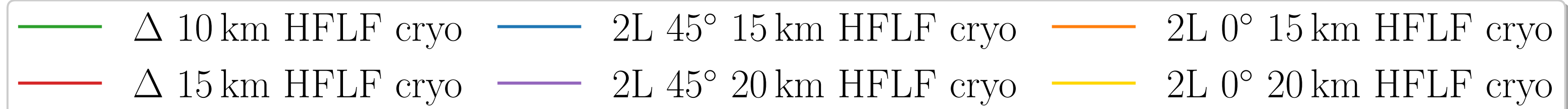




# GEOMETRY IMPACTS MEASUREMENT ACCURACY

## ► Example: BNS localisation

### BNS



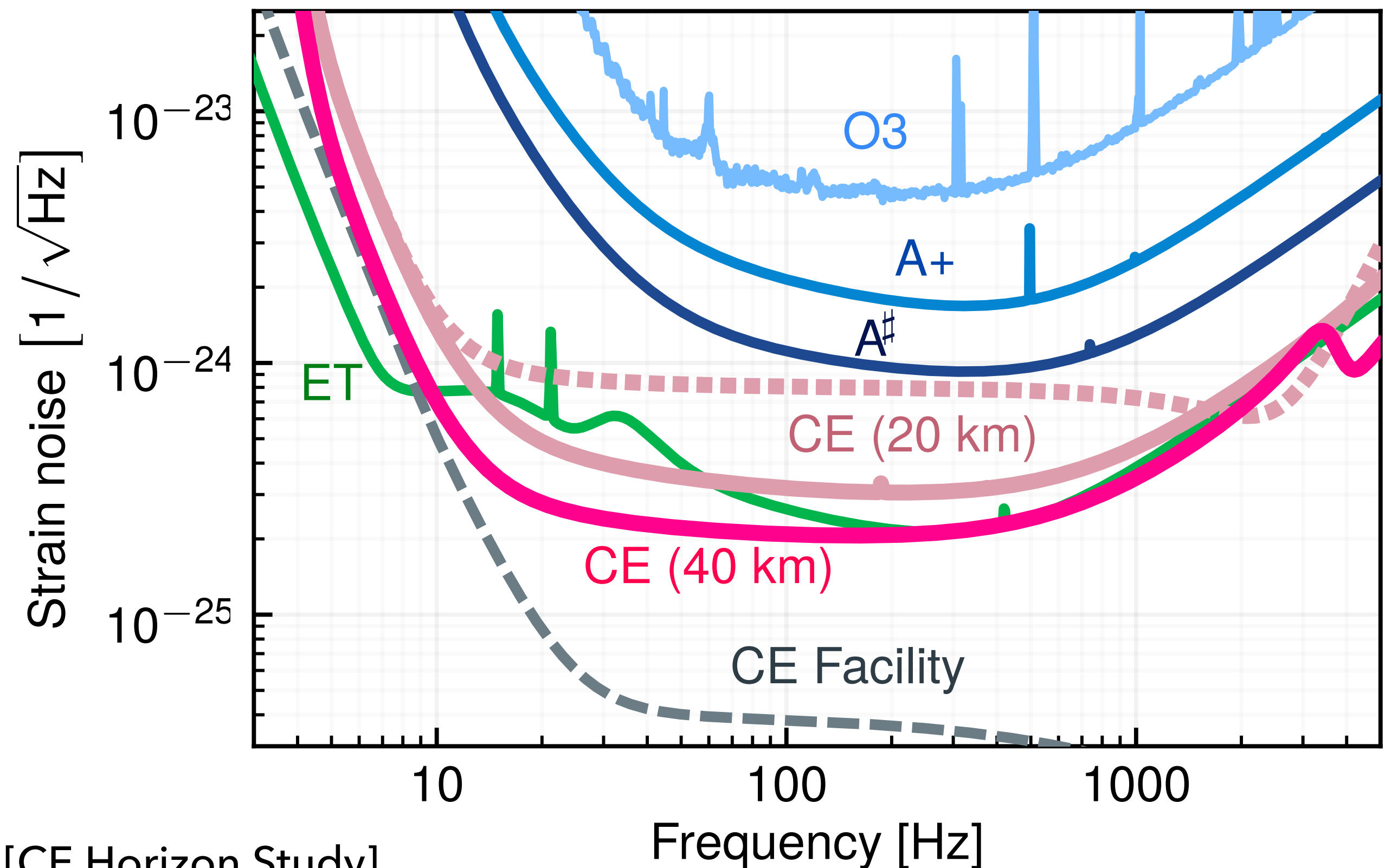
[COBA study]



# COSMIC EXPLORER

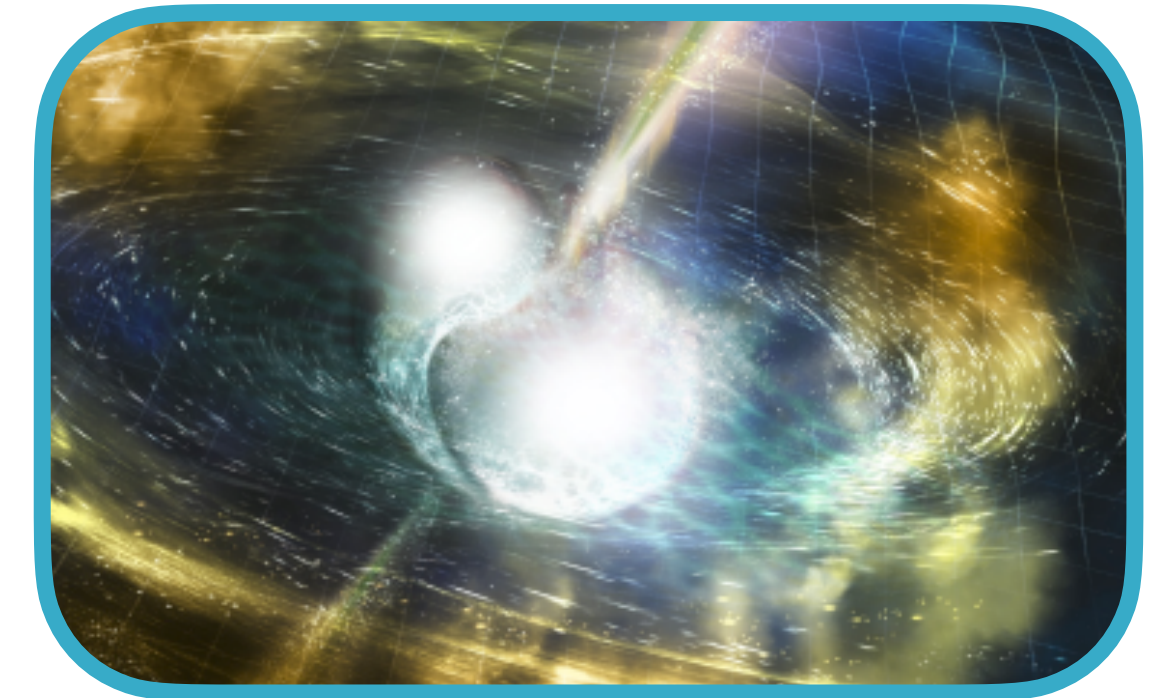
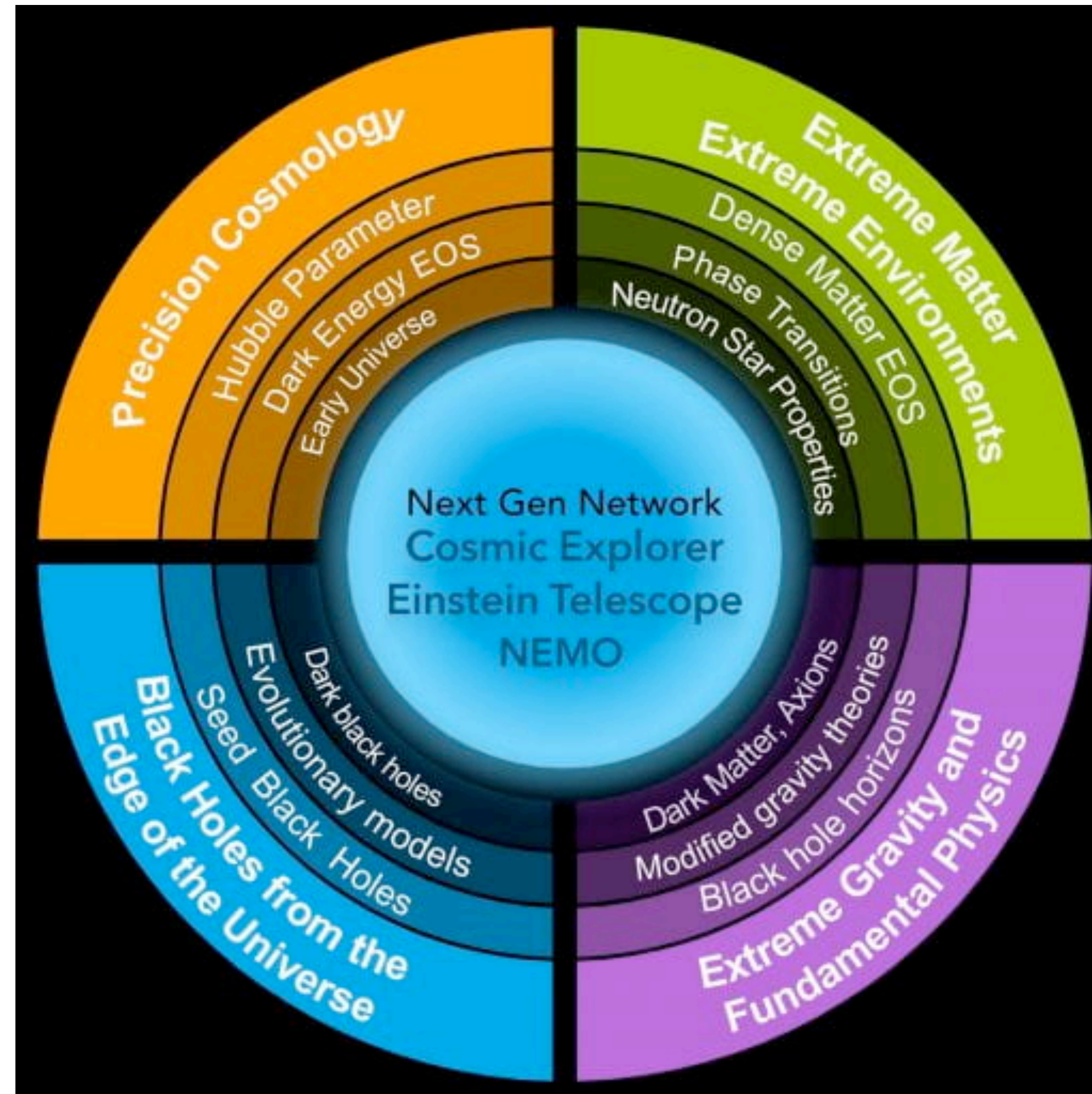
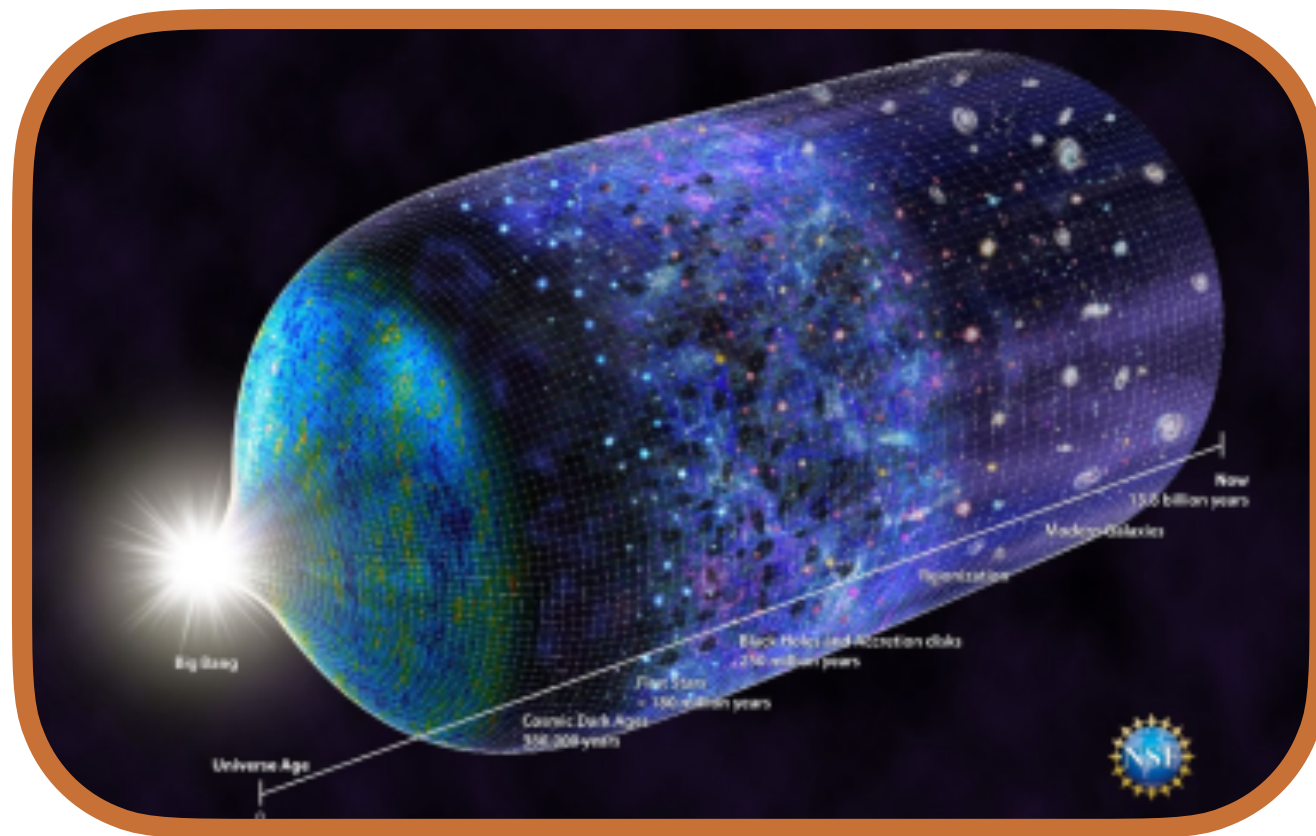
- ▶ Reference design: 2 L-shaped detectors with 20km and 40km
- ▶ An order of magnitude strain improvement
  - ▶ Equivalent to an order of magnitude increase in the diameter of a telescope

Design parameter	A+	A <sup>#</sup>	CE
Arm length	4 km	4 km	20 km, 40 km
Arm power	750 kW	1.5 MW	1.5 MW
Squeezing level	6 dB	10 dB	10 dB
Test mass mass	40 kg	100 kg	320 kg
Test mass coatings	A+	A+/2	A+
Suspension length	1.6 m	1.6 m	4 m
Newtonian mitigation	0 dB	6 dB	20 dB





# KEY SCIENCE OBJECTIVES

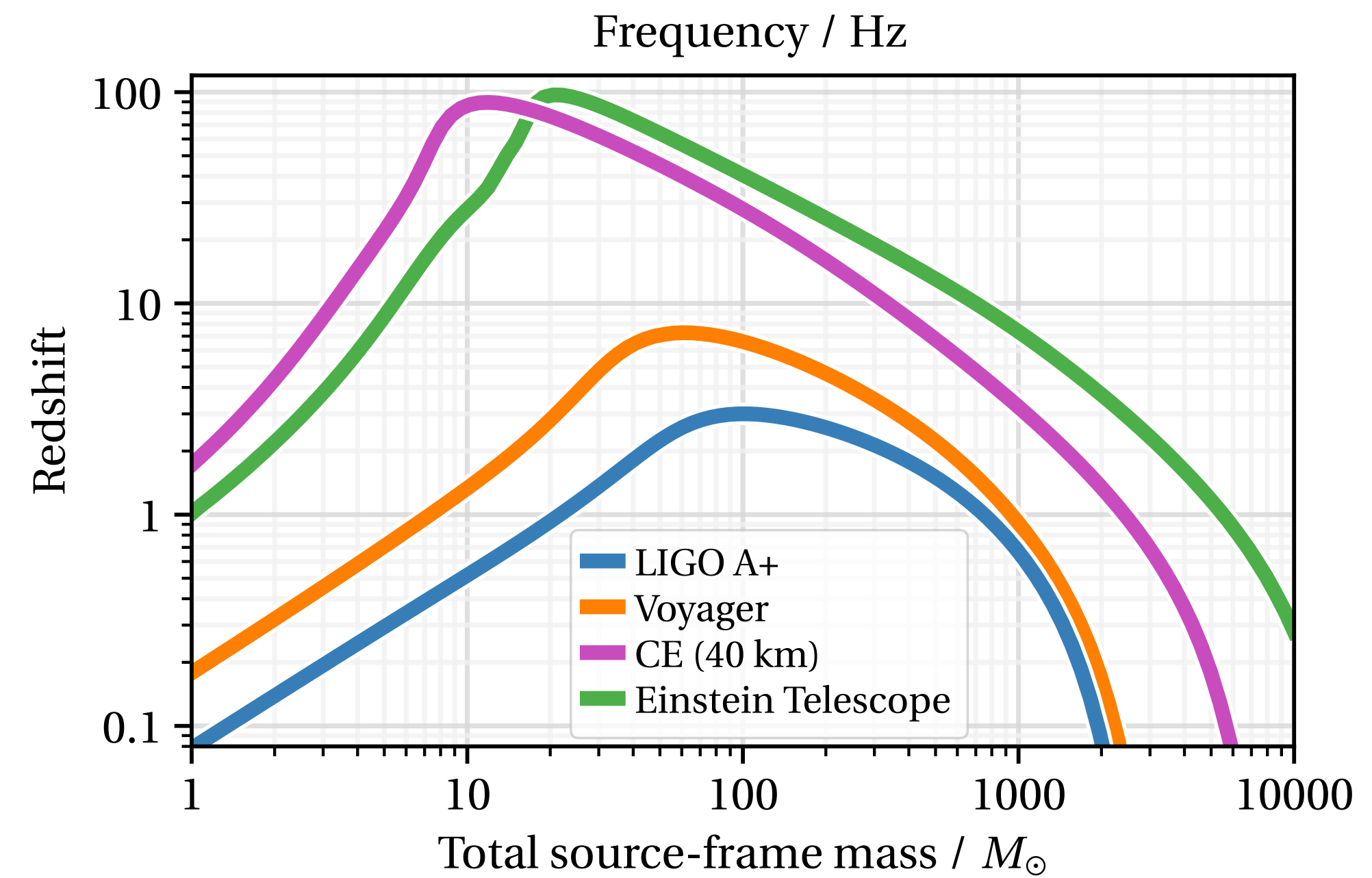
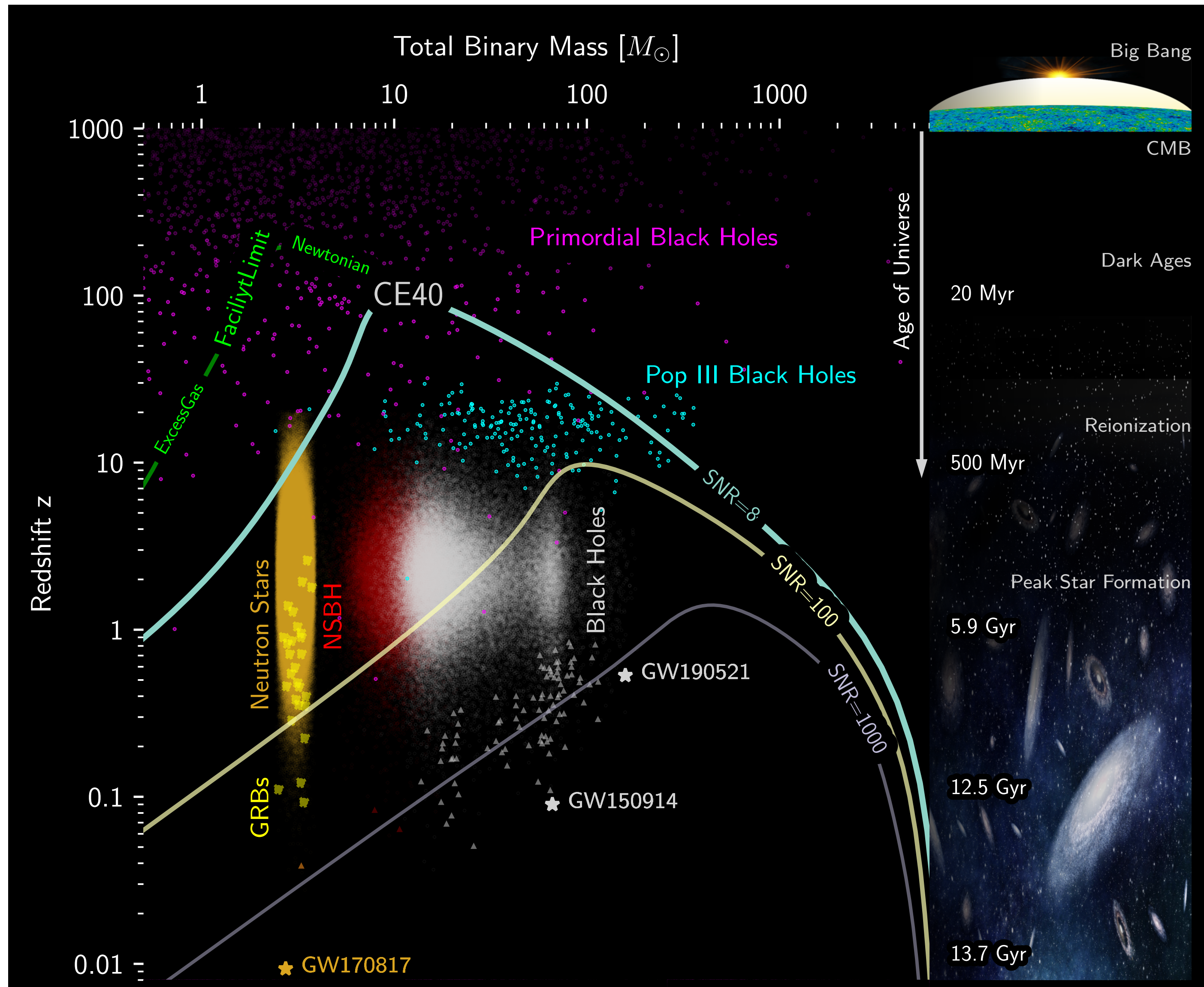


[CE Horizon Study, ET Science case]





# BLACK HOLES & NEUTRON STARS THROUGH COSMIC TIME

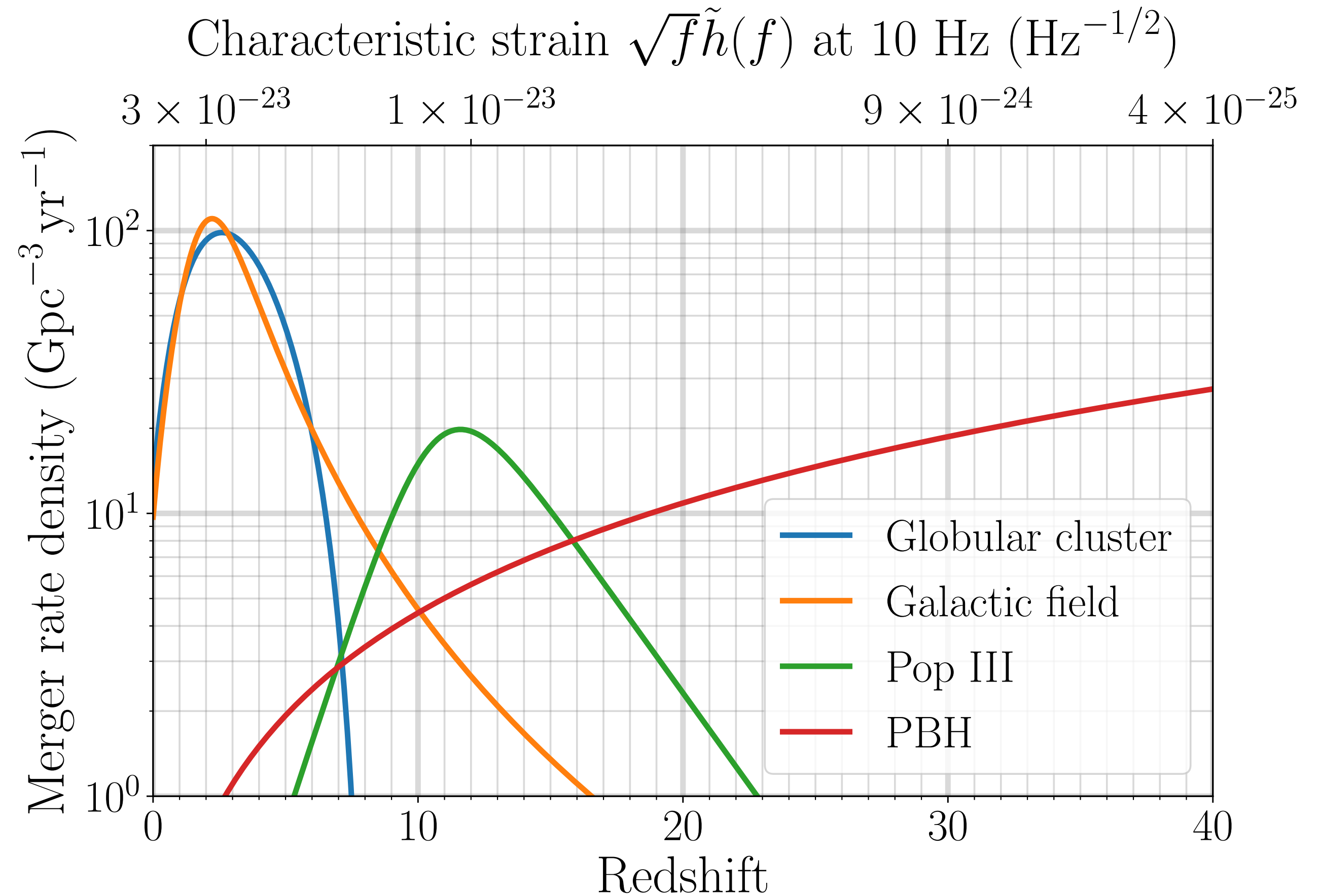


[CE Horizon Study/MPSAC]



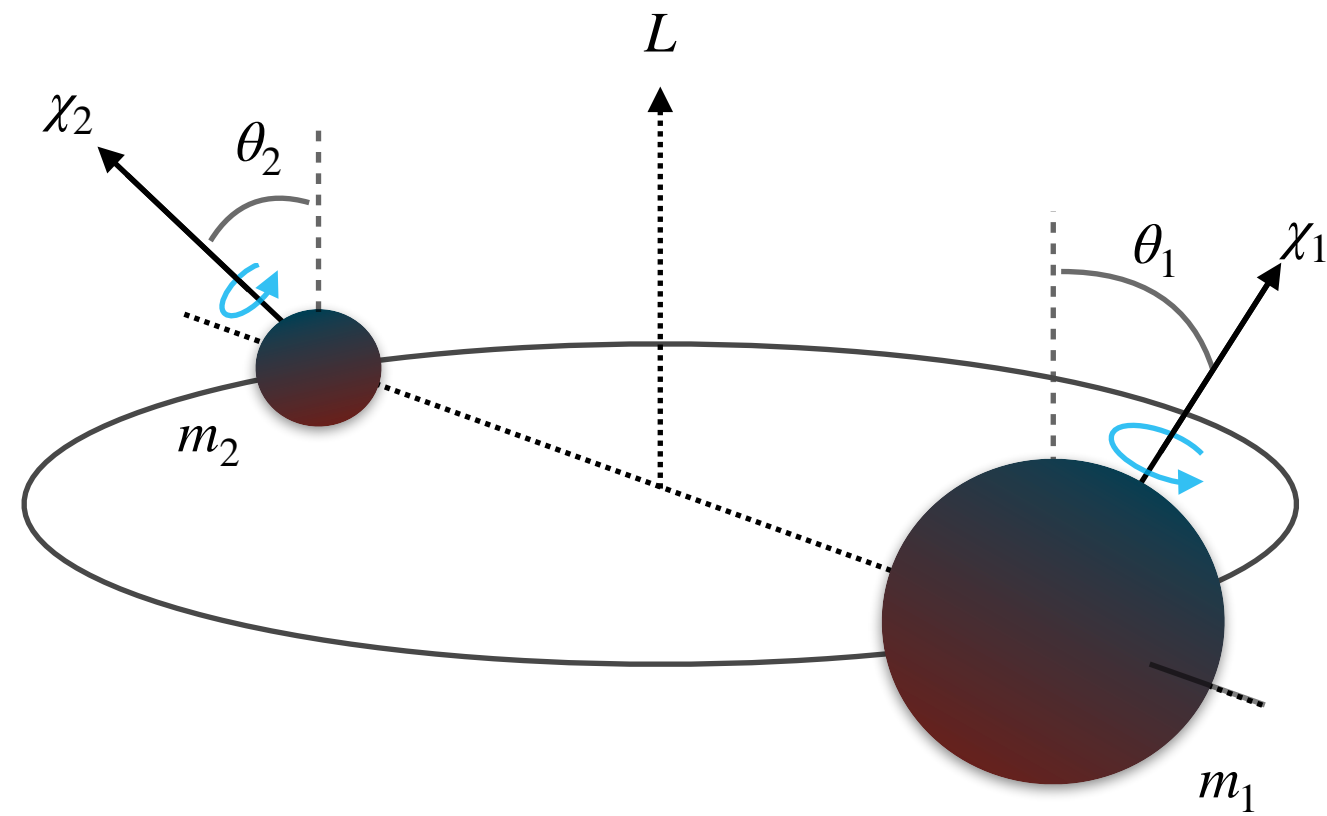
# BLACK HOLES & NEUTRON STARS THROUGH COSMIC TIME

- ▶ **Access to the high-z universe**
- ▶ Remnants of Population III stars
- ▶ Seed black holes & hierarchical growth of supermassive black holes
- ▶ Evolution of the merger rate as a function of time
- ▶ **Low-frequency performance is crucial**
- ▶ **Accurate localisation (sky & distance) is key**
  - ▶ **Requires 2 3G detectors due to mass-redshift degeneracy**

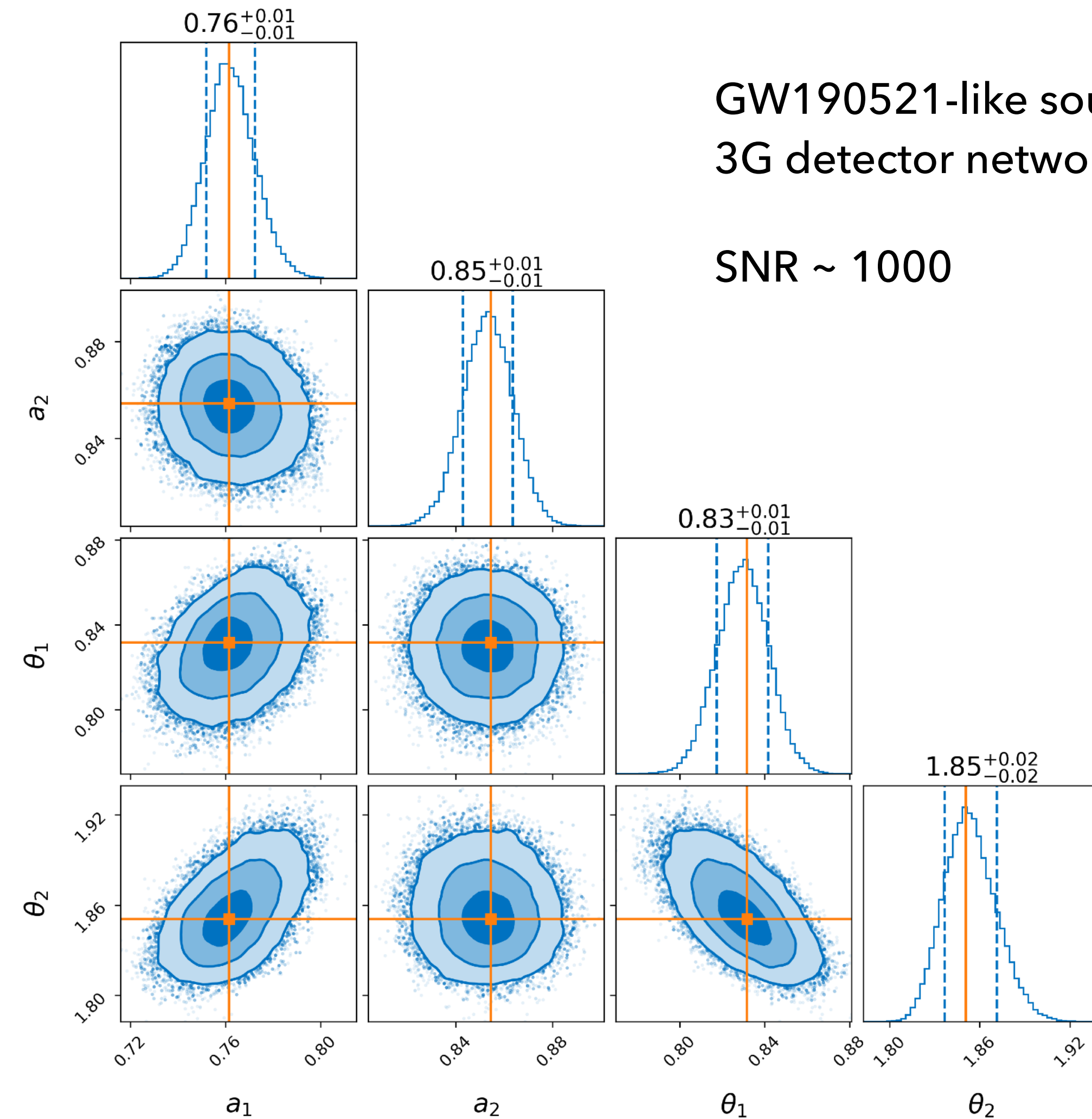




# BLACK HOLES & NEUTRON STARS THROUGH COSMIC TIME



- ▶ Precision measurement of BH properties
  - ▶ Degree-level precision of spin tilts
  - ▶ Percent-level measurement of individual spin magnitudes
  
- ▶ Implications for astrophysics, populations and formation scenarios

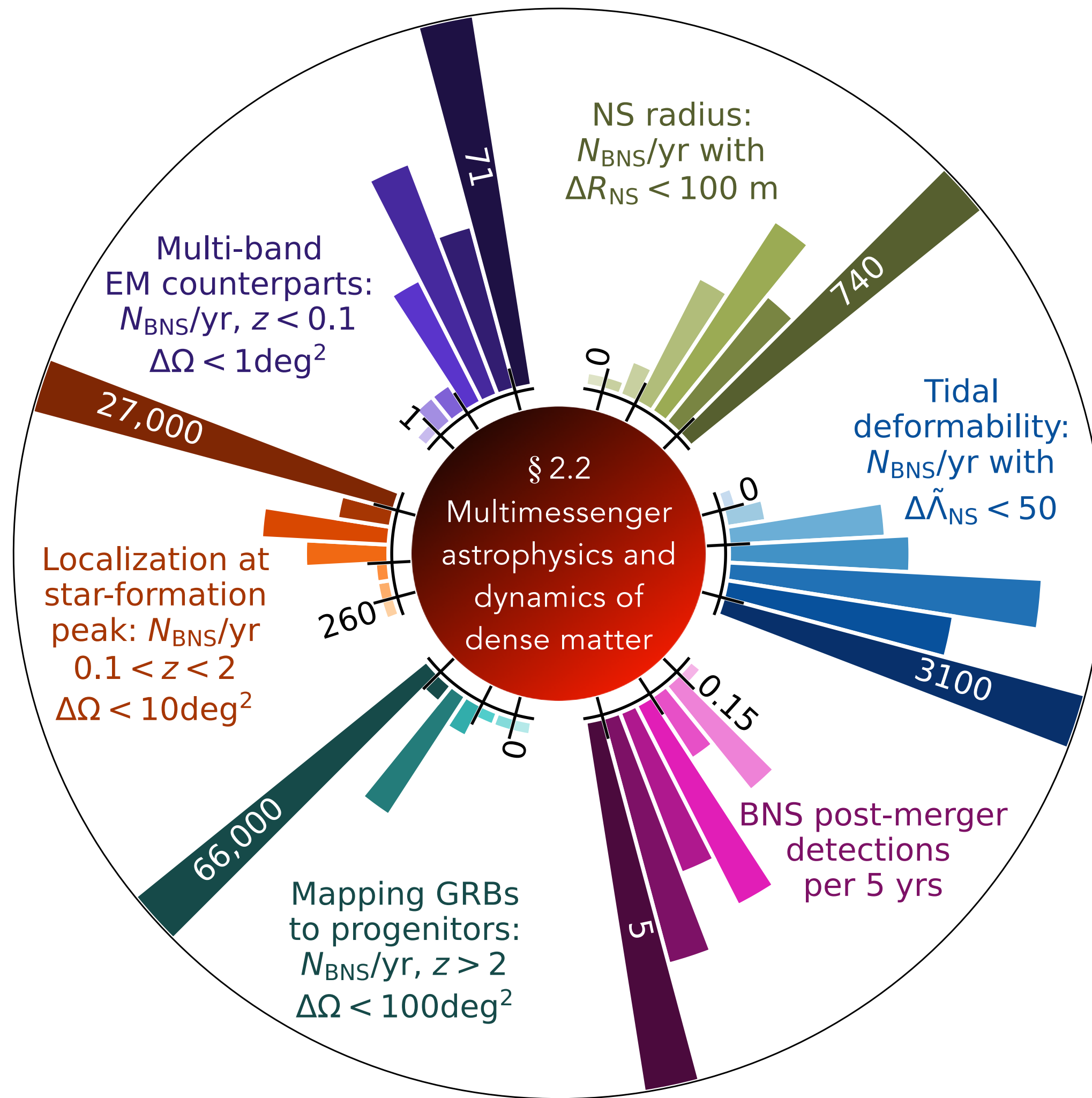
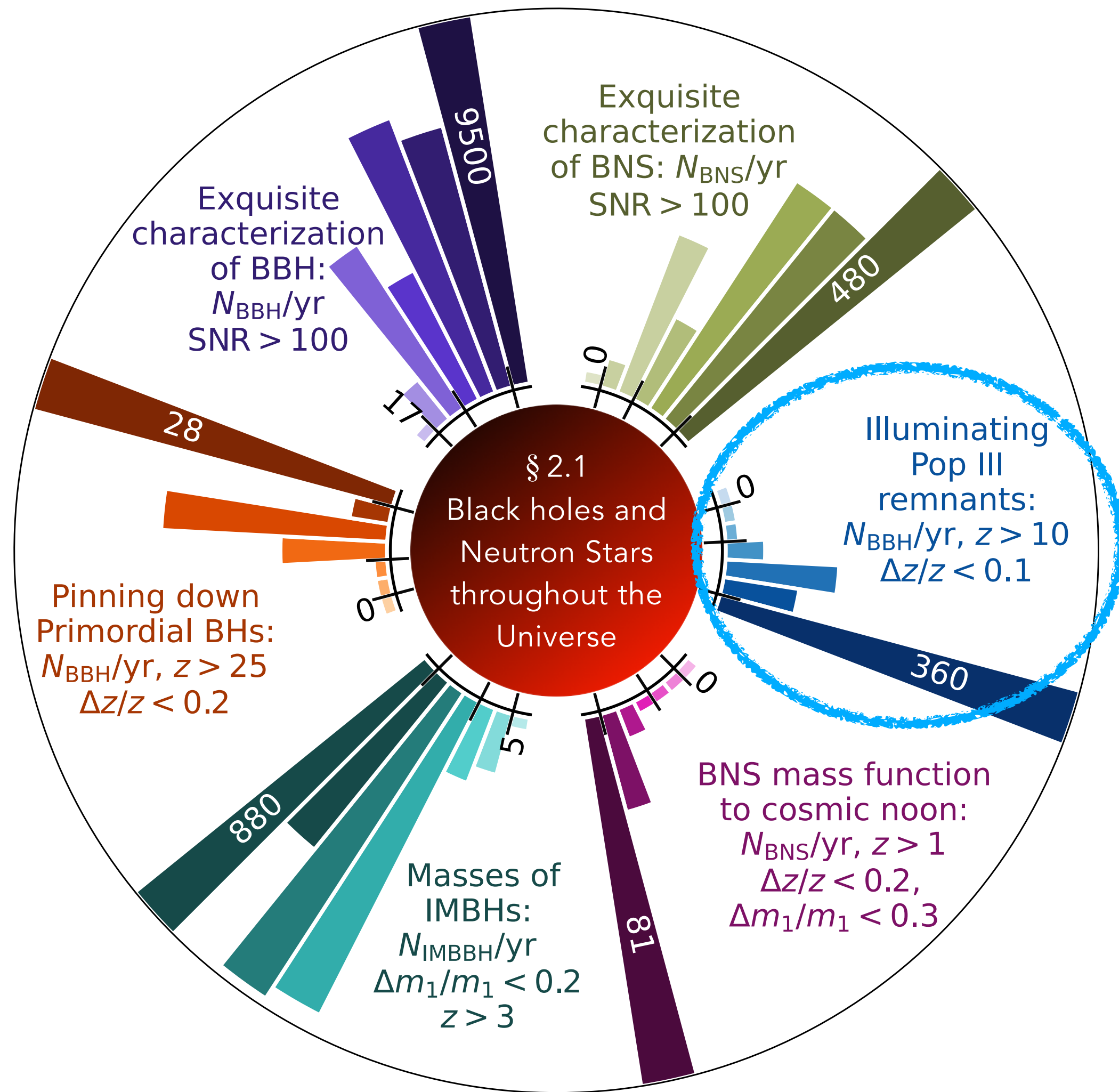


GW190521-like source in  
3G detector network

SNR  $\sim$  1000

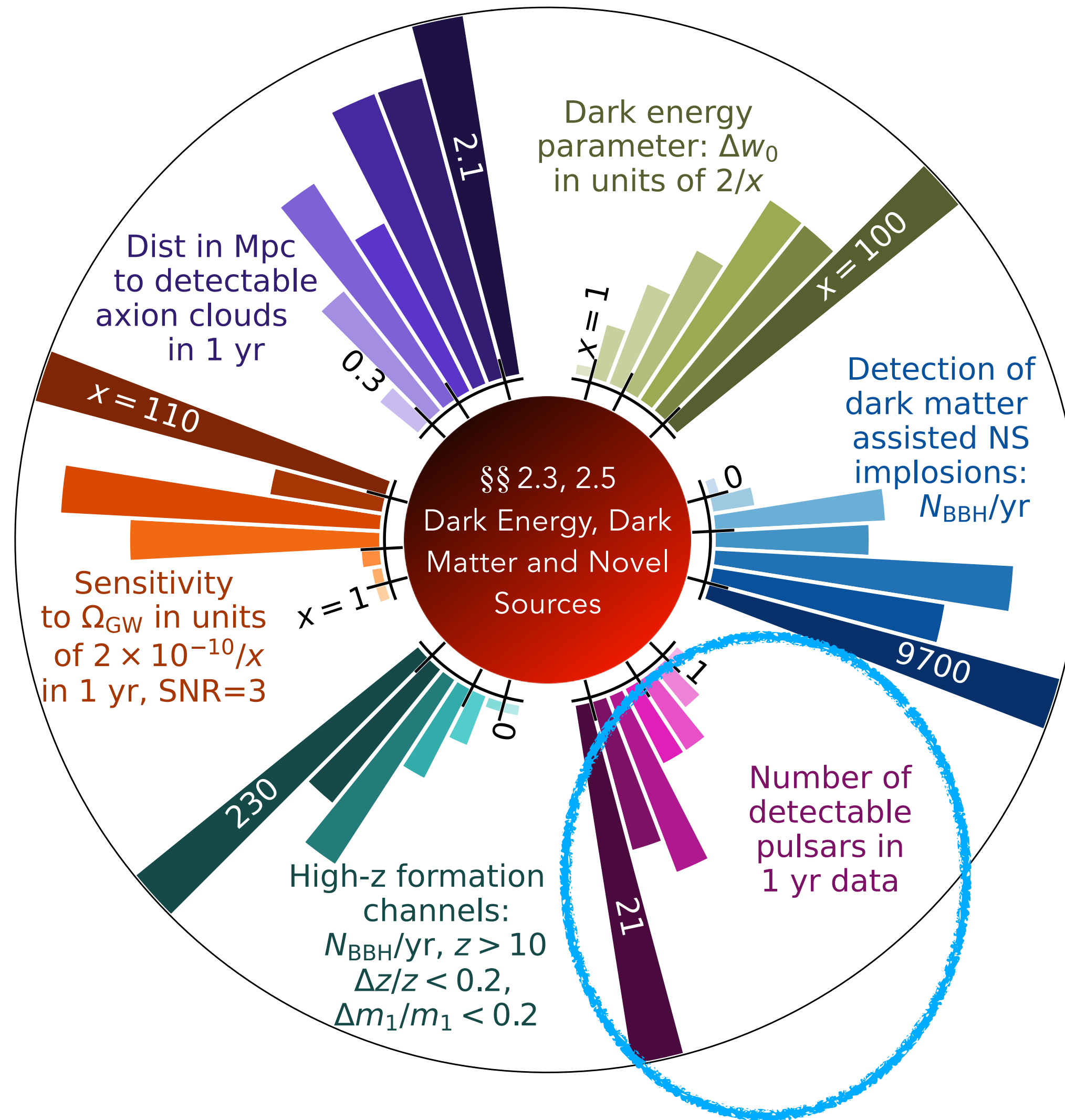
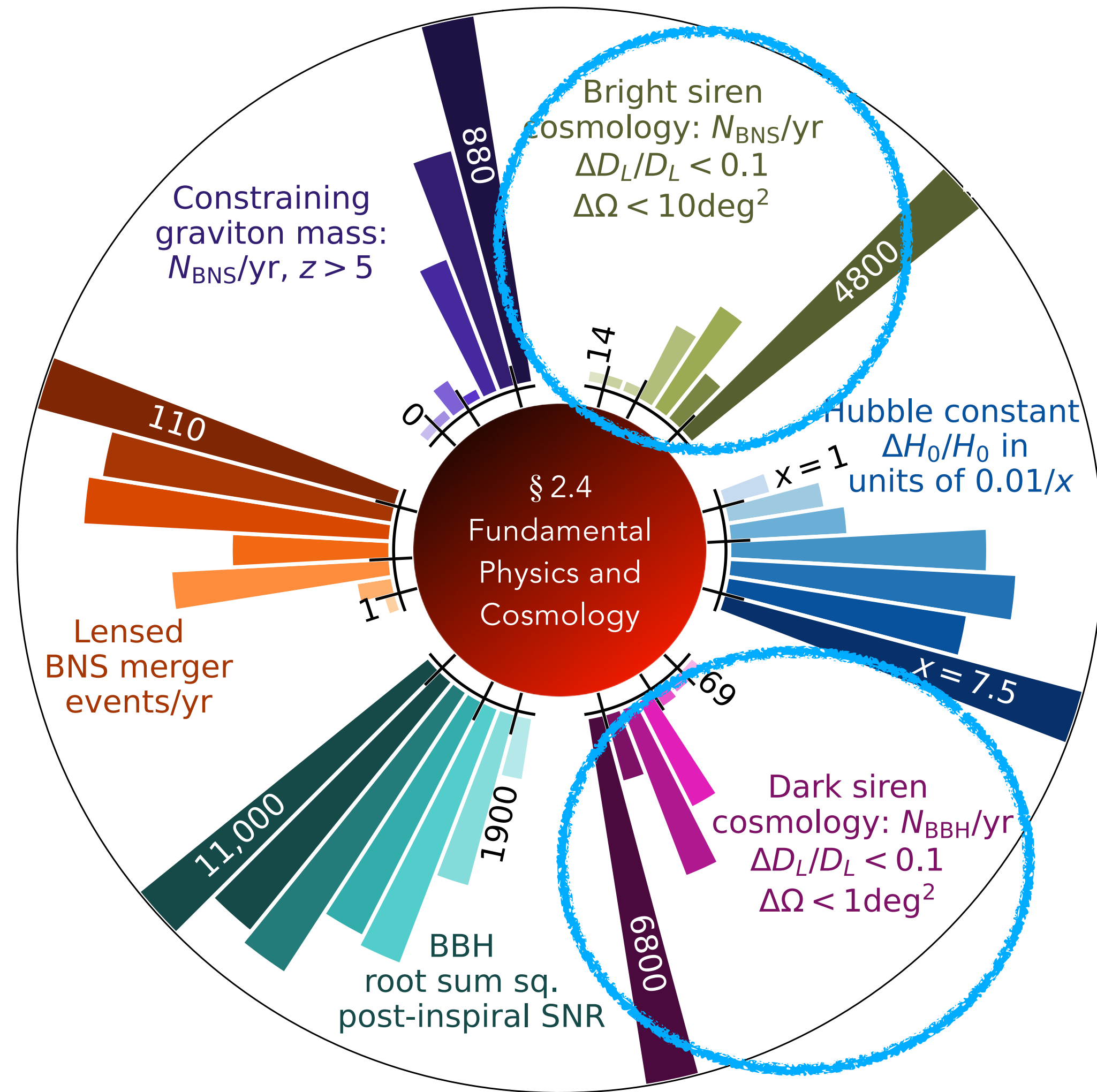






0 XG	HLA
1 XG	20LA
	40LA
2 XG	20LET
	40LET
	4020A
3 XG	4020ET





0 XG	HLA
1 XG	20LA 40LA
2 XG	20LET 40LET 4020A
3 XG	4020ET

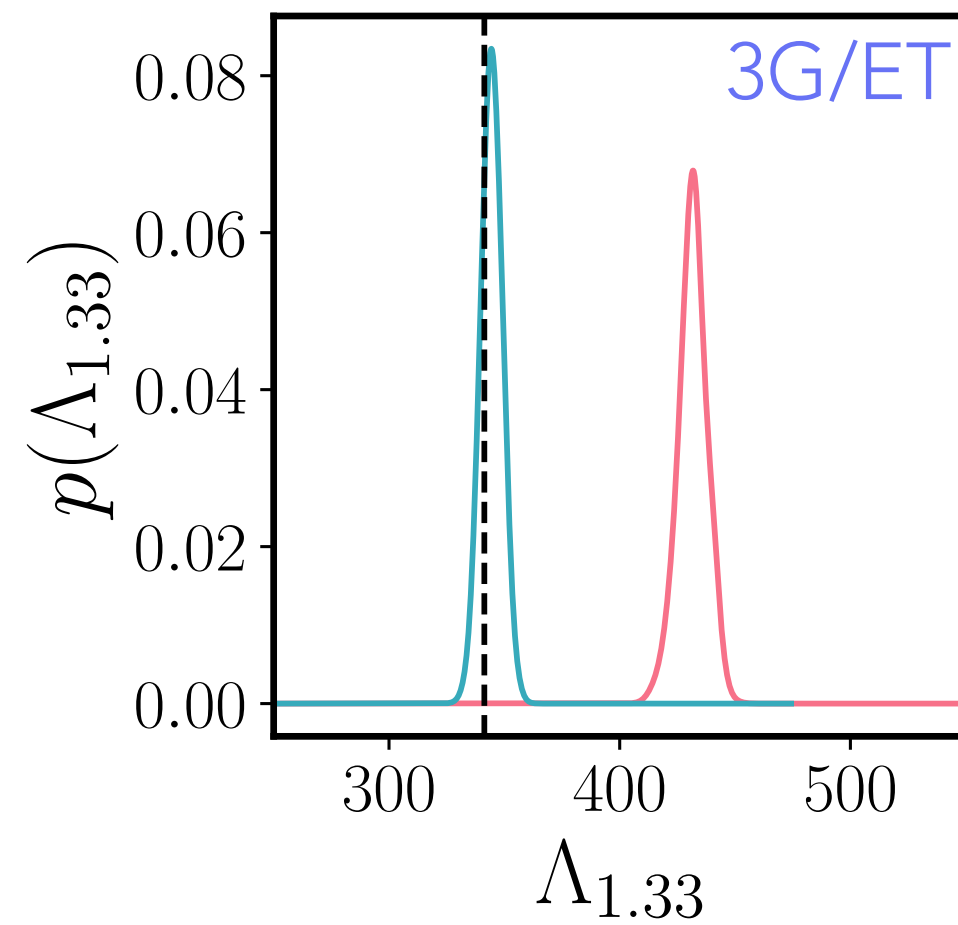
[MPSAC]



# DYNAMICS OF DENSE MATTER

- ▶ Error on neutron star radius < 100m for O(10-100) of detections

- ▶ **On the population level: ~10m**

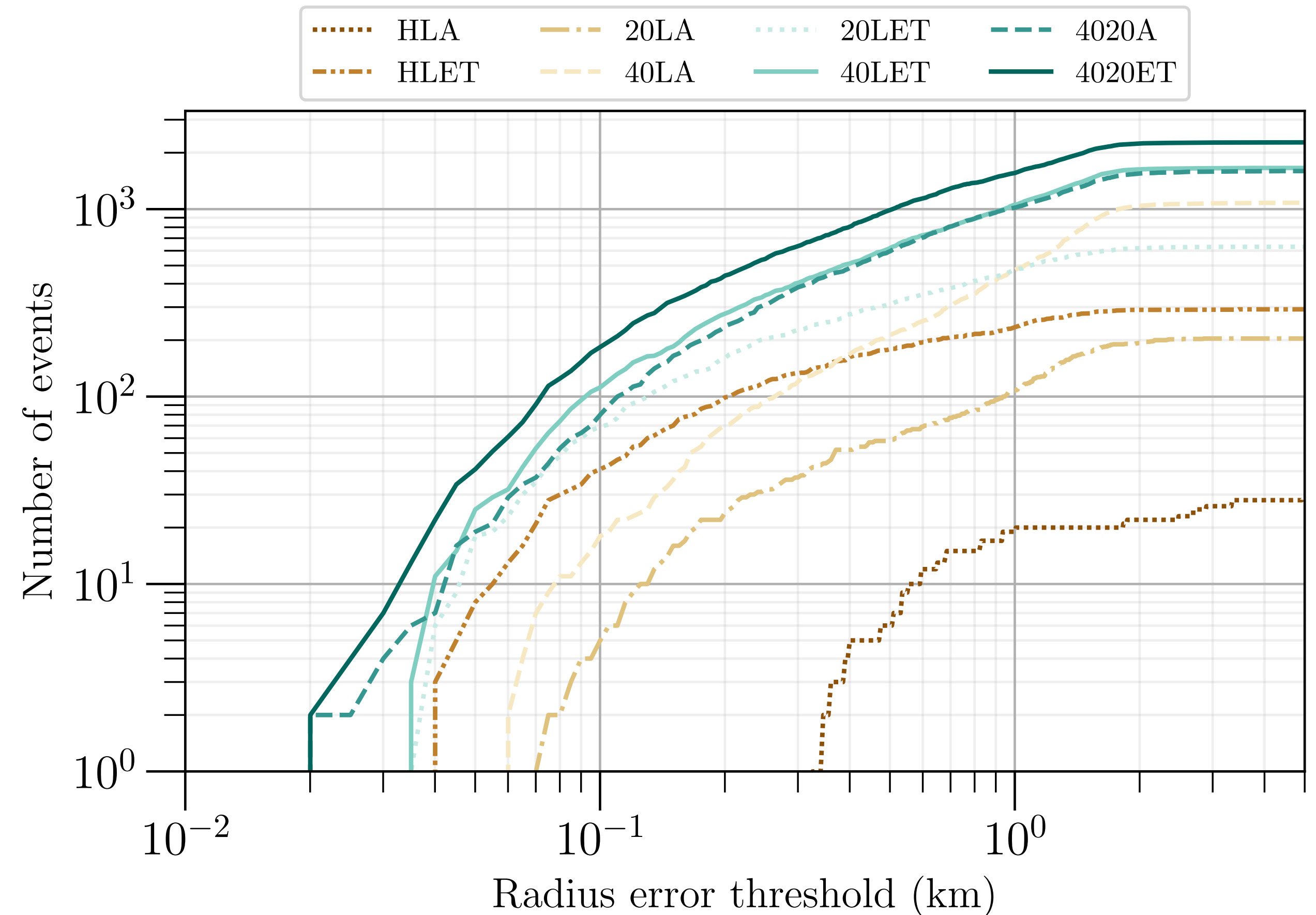


**Caution: Systematics matter!**

[Pratten+ inc. PS, PRL]

- ▶ Detection of ~1 BNS post-merger per year
  - ▶ High frequency performance is crucial

- ▶ Supernova detection in Milky Way or satellite galaxy (caution: low rate) [Gossan+]



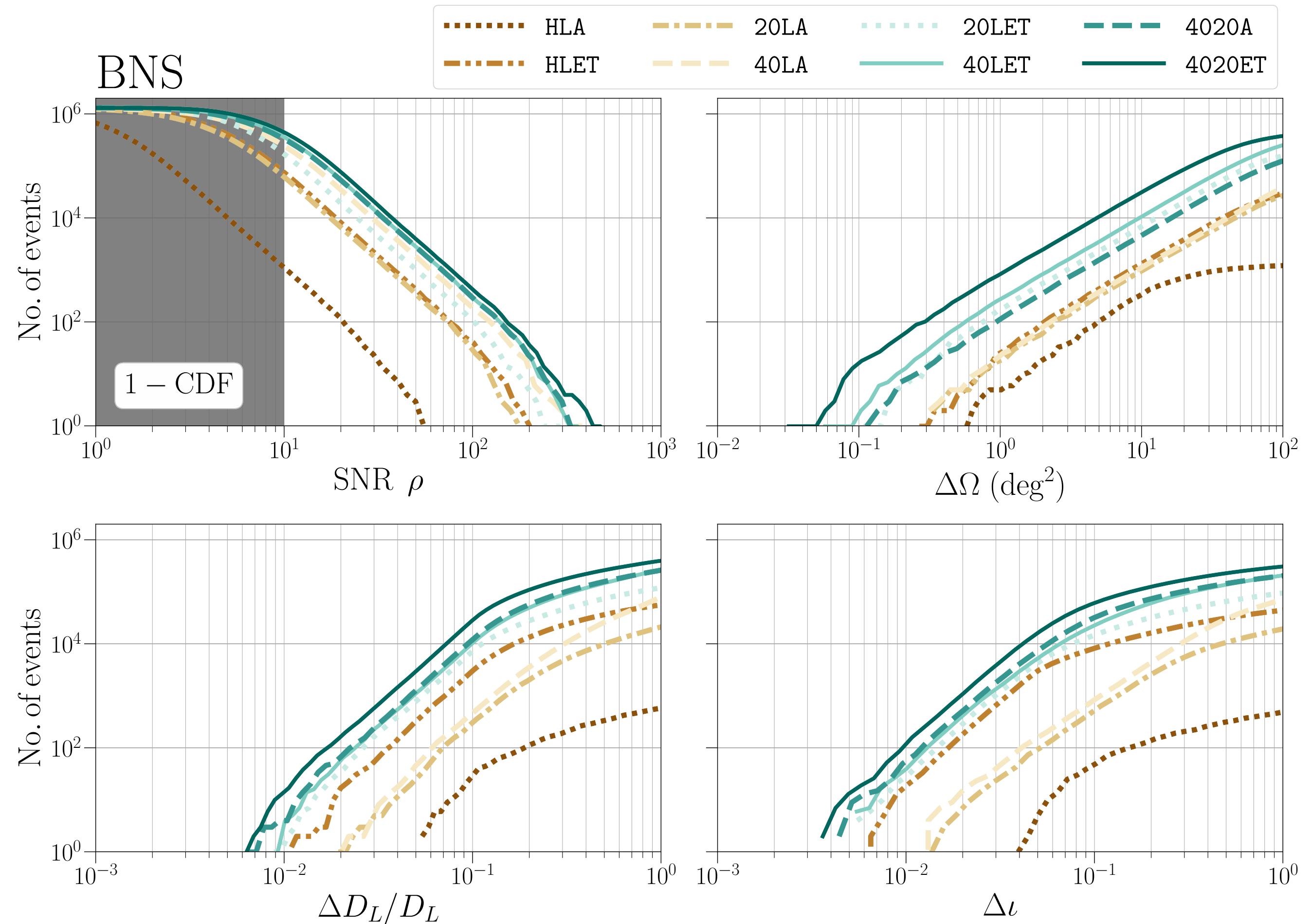
[CE Trade Study]





# MULTI-MESSENGER ASTRONOMY

- ▶ BNS detections out to the **peak of the SFR ( $z \sim 2$ )**
  - ▶ Map GRB progenitors
  - ▶ Measure delay times
- ▶ 1 3G detector in the network increases the annual BNS detection rate by  $O(100)$
- ▶ 2 3G detectors allow for the localisation of BNS to  $O(10 \text{deg}^2)$ 
  - ▶ Almost all BNS & NSBH up to  $z=0.5$  localised to within  $100 \text{deg}^2$
  - ▶  $O(100)$  events with  $\Delta\Omega \leq 1 \text{deg}^2$ : kilonova detection

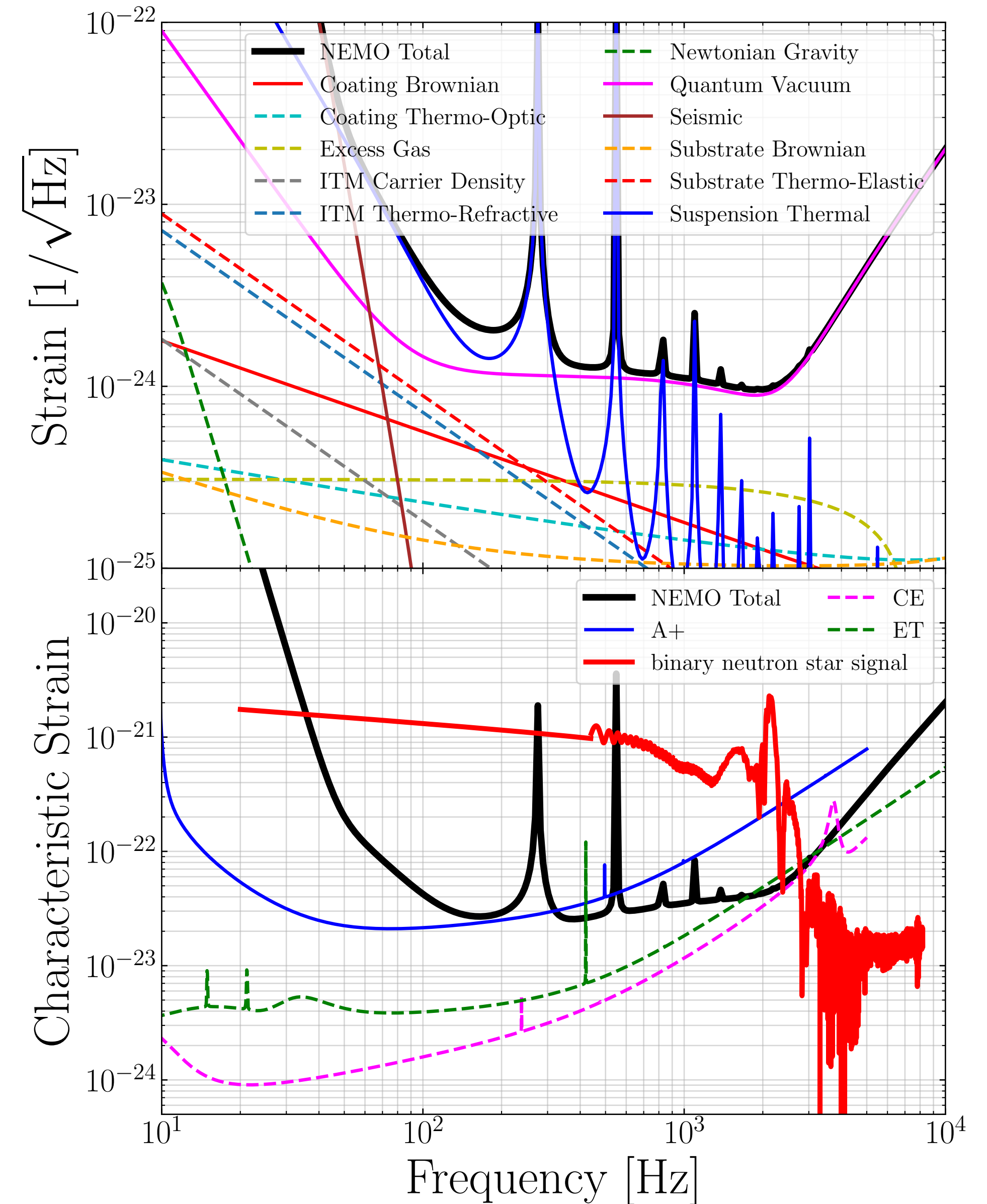


[CE Trade Study]



# A SCIENCE CASE FOR 2-4 KHZ

- ▶ NEMO = neutron star extreme matter observatory
- ▶ Australian proposal
- ▶ Design concept optimised for to study nuclear matter in neutron star mergers
- ▶ 4km L-shape
- ▶ Above 1kHz - comparable sensitivity to ET/CE
- ▶ Characteristic peak frequency ( $f_2$ ) can be constrained to within 10s of Hz



[NEMO]







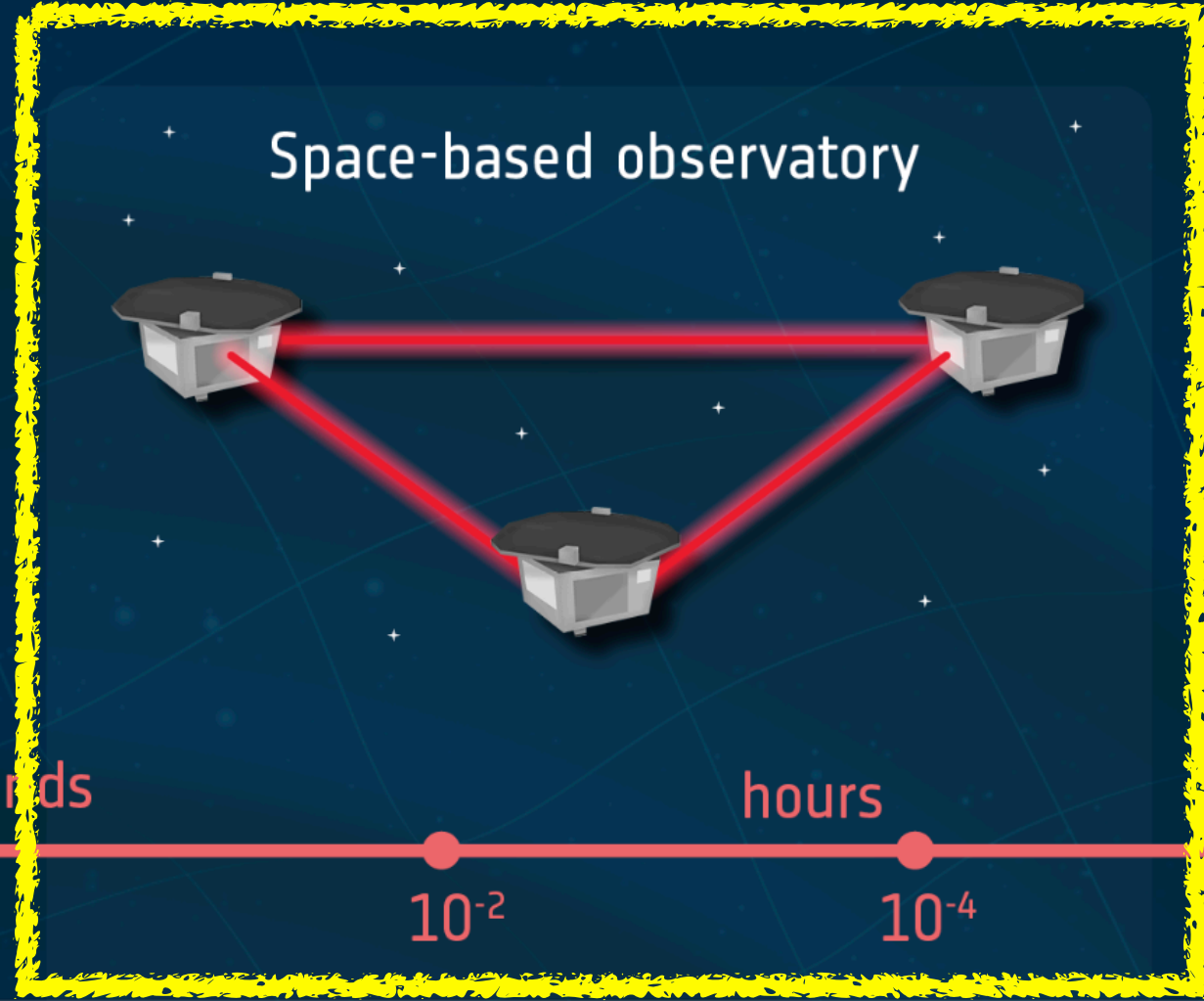
# THE SPECTRUM OF GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

Observatories & experiments

Ground-based experiment



Space-based observatory



Pulsar timing array



Cosmic microwave background polarisation



Timescales

milliseconds

seconds

hours

years

billions of years

Frequency (Hz)

100

1

$10^{-2}$

$10^{-4}$

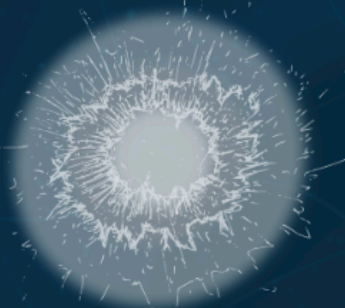
$10^{-6}$

$10^{-8}$

$10^{-16}$

Cosmic fluctuations in the early Universe

Cosmic sources



Supernova



Pulsar



Compact object falling onto a supermassive black hole



Merging supermassive black holes



Merging neutron stars in other galaxies



Merging stellar-mass black holes in other galaxies



Merging white dwarfs in our Galaxy

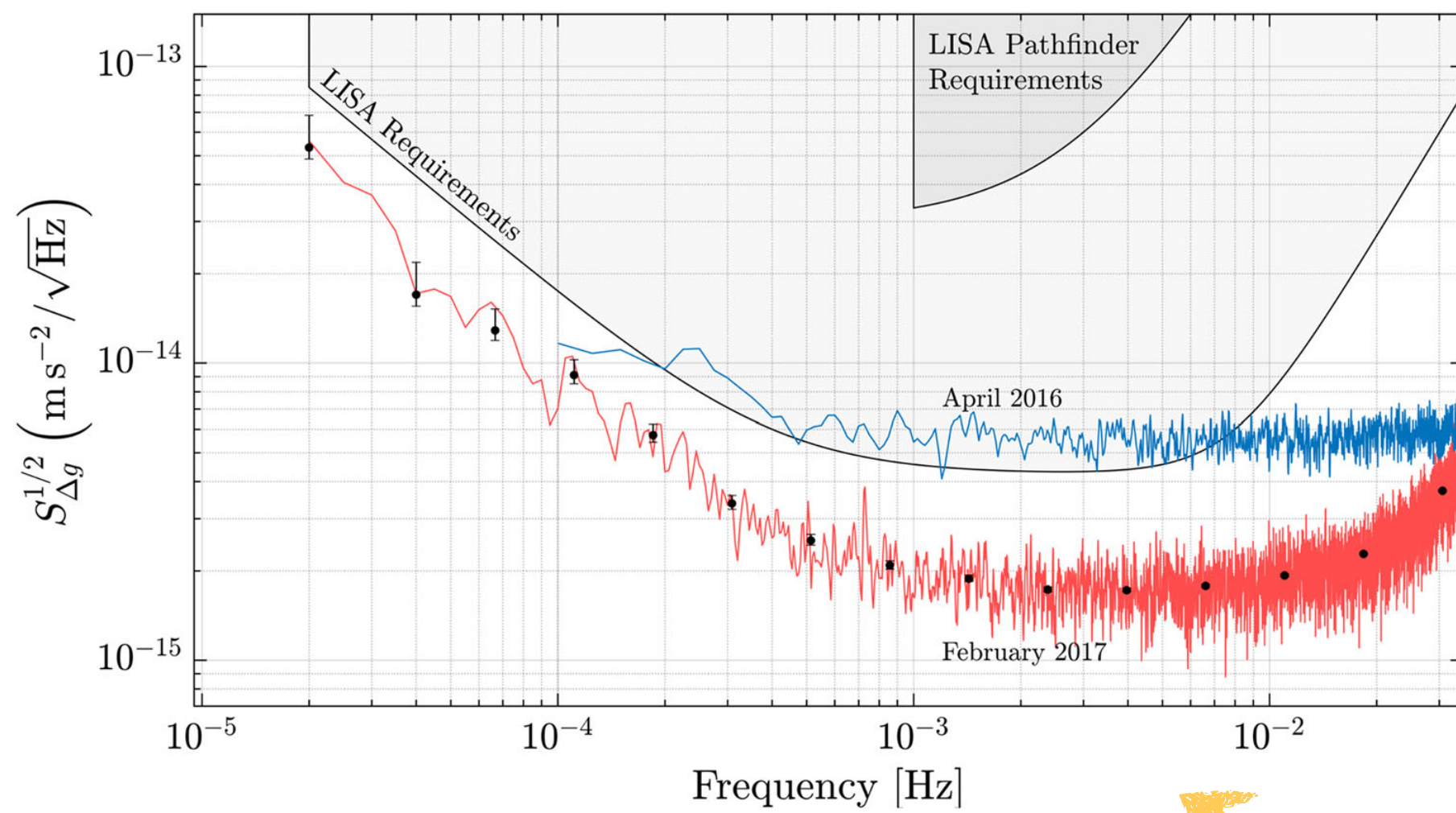
#lisa





# INTO SPACE: LISA

- ▶ ESA-led space-based mission
- ▶ Adopted in January 2024
- ▶ Now in implementation phase
- ▶ Planned launch: ~2035
- ▶ Range: 0.1 mHz - 1 Hz
- ▶ Duration: at least 4 years



## LISA - LASER INTERFEROMETER SPACE ANTENNA

Gravitational waves are ripples in spacetime that alter the distances between objects. LISA will detect them by measuring subtle changes in the distances between **free-floating cubes** nestled within its three spacecraft.

3 identical spacecraft exchange **laser beams**. Gravitational waves change the distance between the **free-floating cubes** in the different spacecraft. This tiny change will be measured by the laser beams.

Powerful events such as **colliding black holes** shake the fabric of spacetime and cause gravitational waves

Free-floating golden cubes

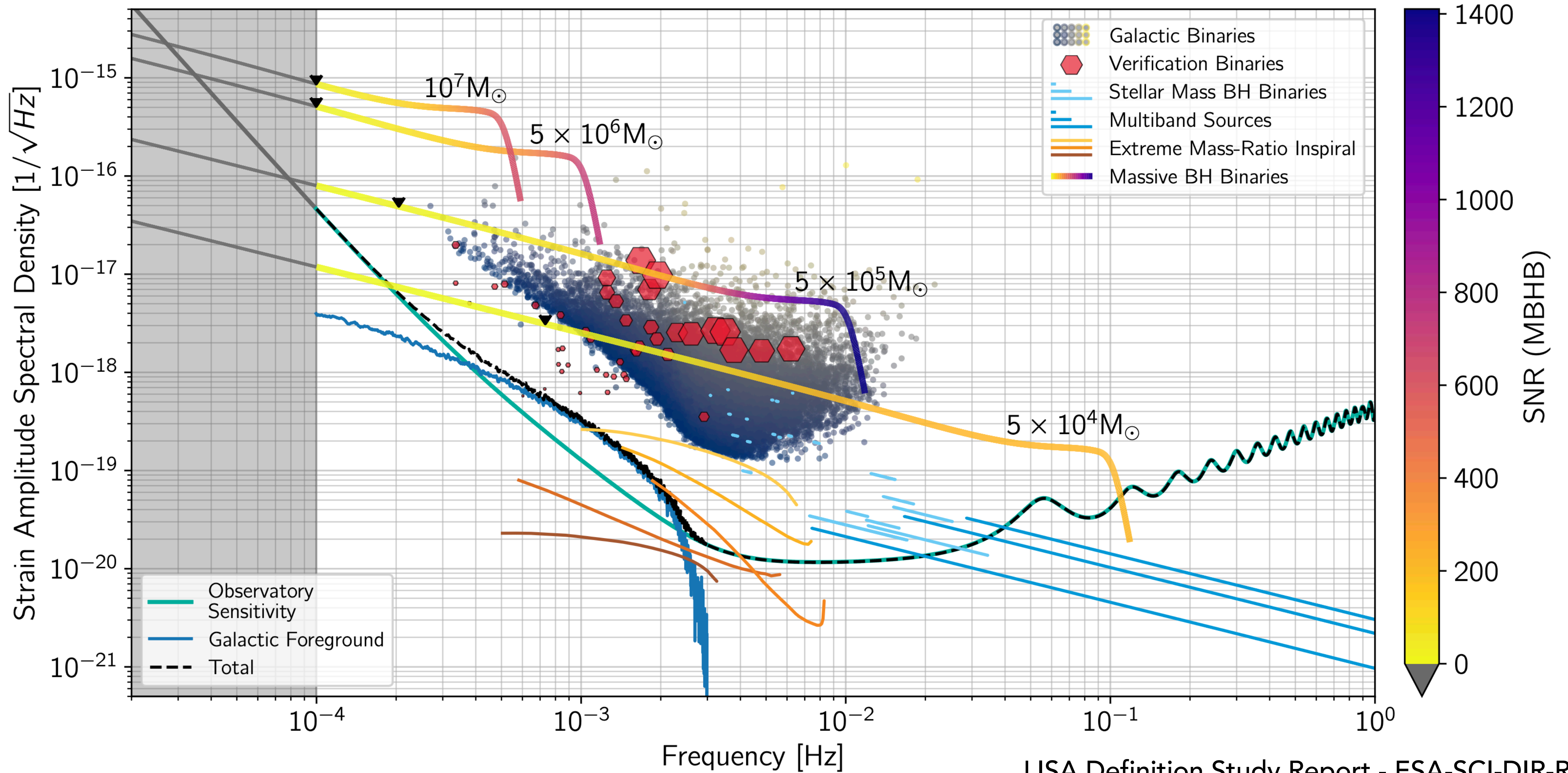
\* Changes in distances travelled by the laser beams are not to scale and extremely exaggerated

Successful demonstration of realisation of freely falling test masses and low-frequency sensitivity with LISA Pathfinder mission [Armano et al. PRL]





# SOURCES



## KEY SCIENCE GOALS

Observing the **growth & merger history** of massive black holes throughout the Universe

Understanding the dynamics & characteristics of the **environments** surrounding black holes

Precisely mapping thousands of **double compact objects** (DCOs) in the Milky Way

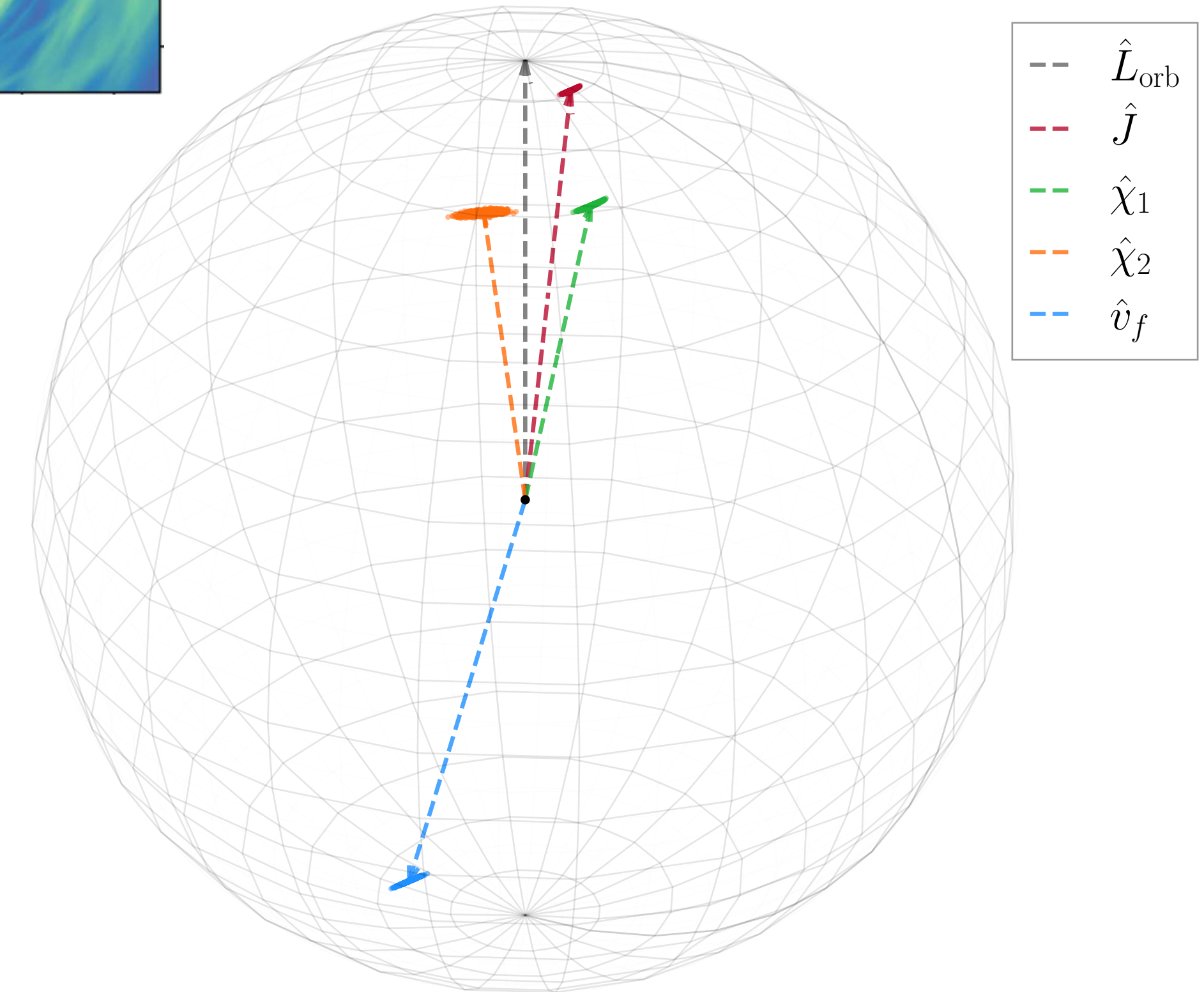
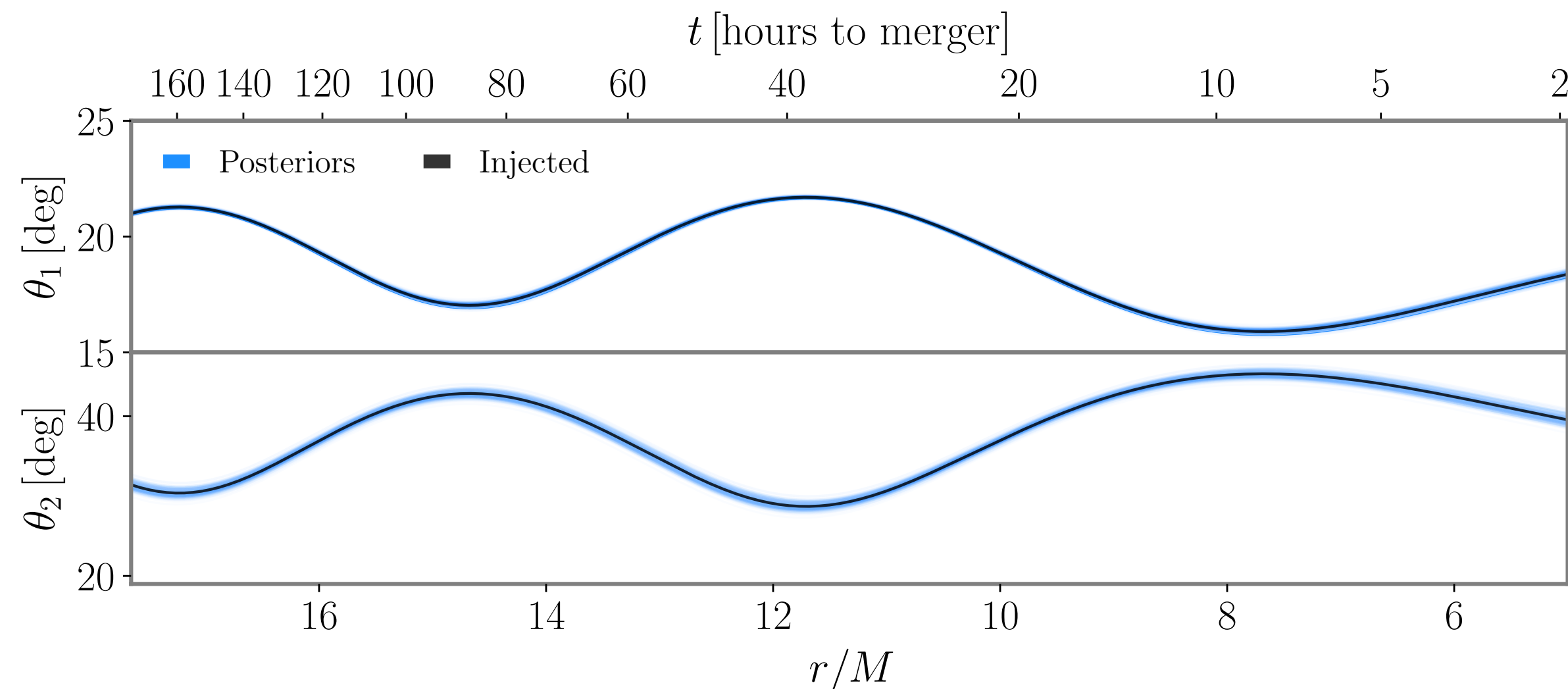
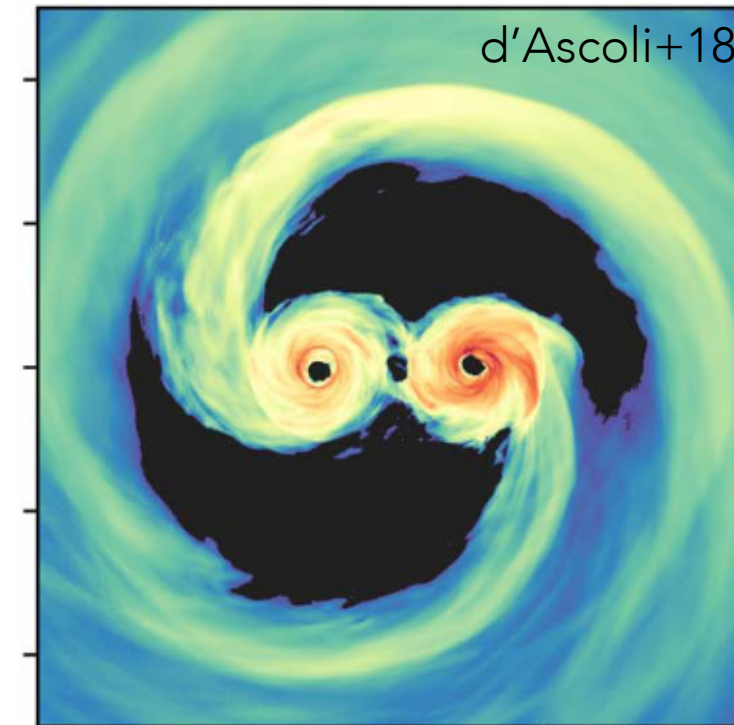
Probing the early universe via **primordial GWs** from the time of inflation





# EM BRIGHT MBHB MERGERS?

- ▶ Expect MBHB in gaseous environments
  - ▶ Distinct pre- and post-merger EM signals
  - ▶ BH spins are key tracers of environmental interactions
  
- ▶ Exquisite sky localisation for EM follow-up
  - ▶ Synergies with X-ray/optical/radio



Track spin evolution at sub-degree accuracy through merger

Determine merger geometry with high precision

[Pratten, PS+, PRD (2023)]



# SUMMARY

- ▶ Proposal for upgrades to the current LIGO and Virgo facilities (A#, V\_nEXT)
- ▶ Mature plans for LIGO Aundha Observatory (formerly LIGO India)
  
- ▶ 3G detector network with CE and ET will enable:
  - ▶ Detailed study of the high-z BBH population
  - ▶ Measurement of neutron star radii to within 10m (CAUTION: systematics!)
  - ▶ Measurement BH spins to degree-level precision (CAUTION: systematics!)
  - ▶ BNS localisation with  $\Delta\Omega \leq 1\text{deg}^2$  for hundreds of events per year (MMA!!)
  - ▶ New discoveries!
  
- ▶ Design concept for high-frequency detector to observe BNS post-merger
  
- ▶ LISA adopted by ESA to launch ~2035
  - ▶ Opens a new GW window
  - ▶ Probes of BH growth & merger environments

