

Individual neutron stars as GW sources: continuous and long-transient signals



Universitat
de les Illes Balears

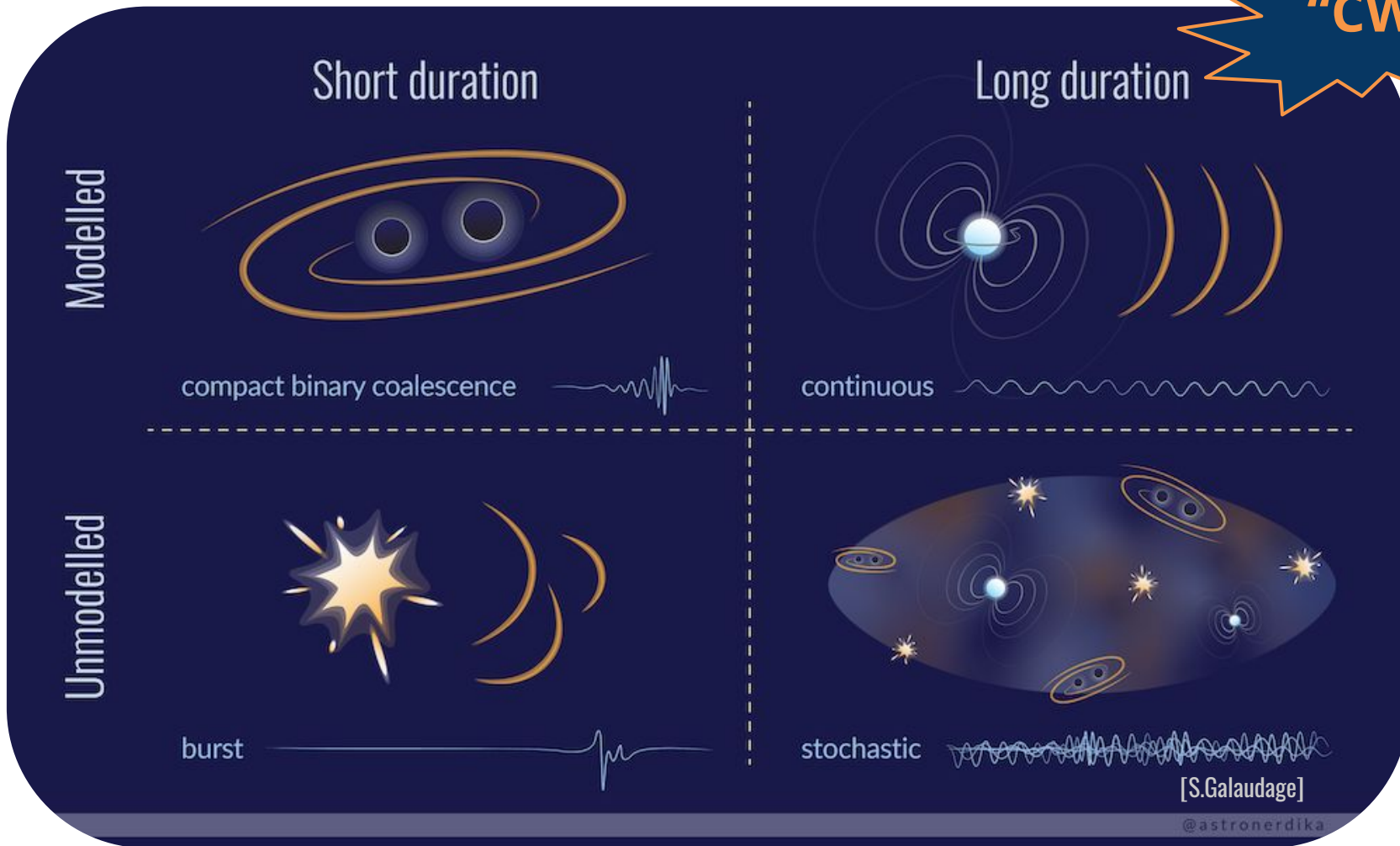
David Keitel

(IAC3 / Universitat de les Illes Balears)

IAC3 Institute of Applied Computing
& Community Code.

LVK search types

"CWs"

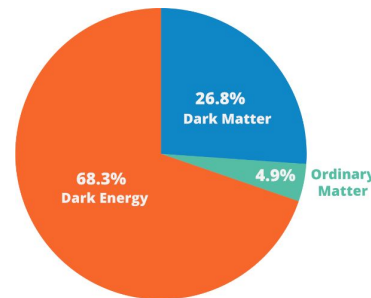
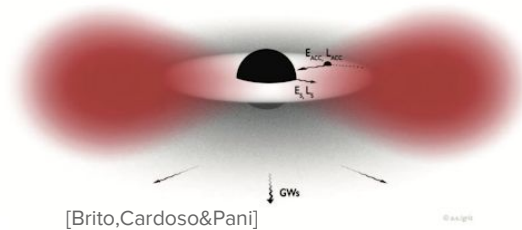
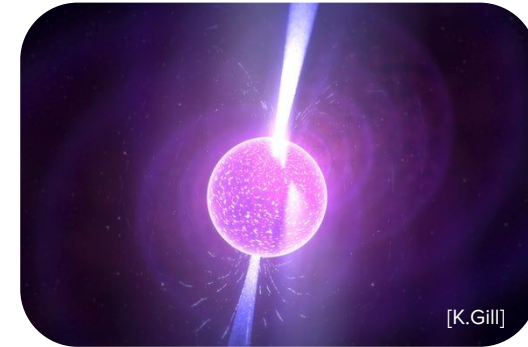


[S.Galaudage]

@astronerdika

Continuous Waves: persistent, quasi-monochromatic GWs

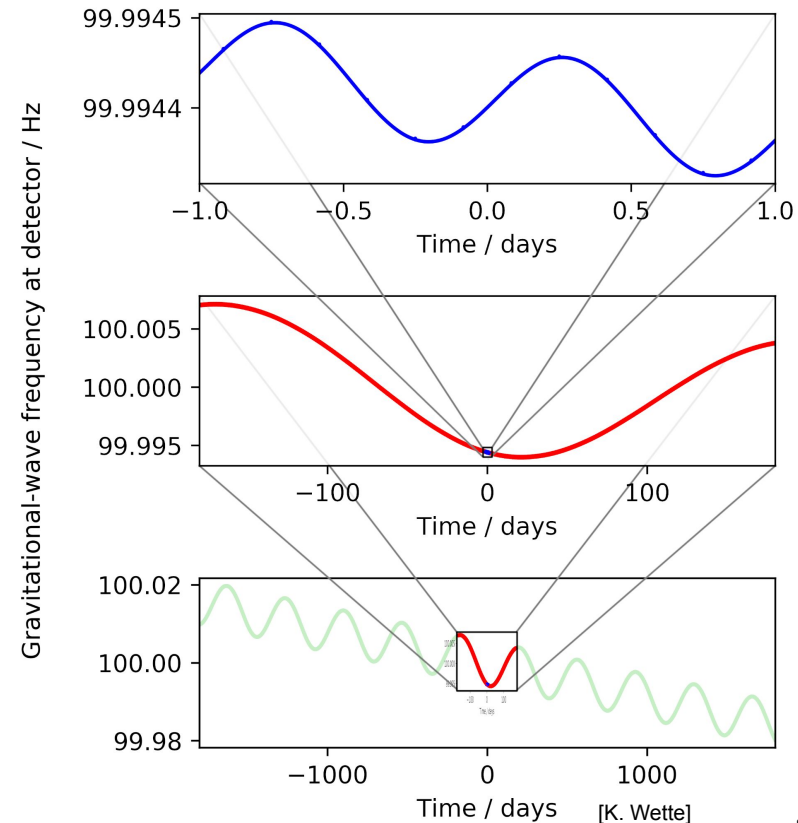
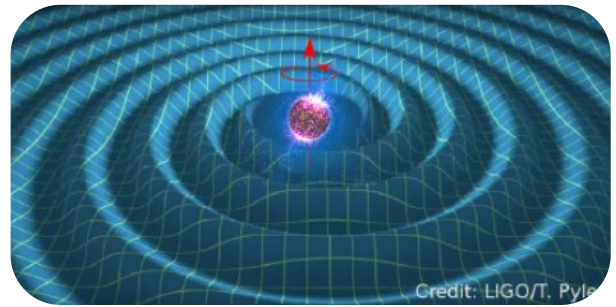
- A completely new GW signal type: first detection will be another revolution.
- No “blink and it’s gone” – once we’ve detected a CW, we can keep observing it, learning more and more about the source.
- **Neutron star** science: probing dense, “cold” nuclear matter, studying the “dark” majority of the galactic population.
- Exotic sources: constraints on **dark matter** under various models; of high interest to wider physics community.



- No guarantee of detection in any given run, but we’ve started pushing deep into physically allowed parameter ranges: → a first detection could be around the corner!

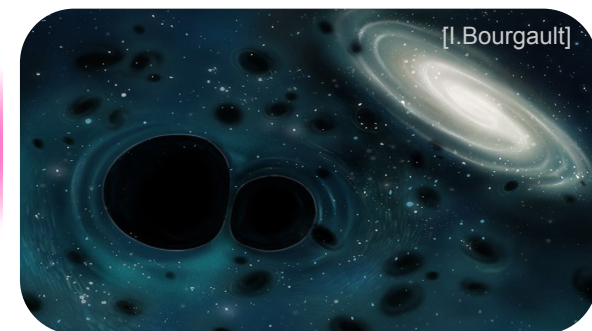
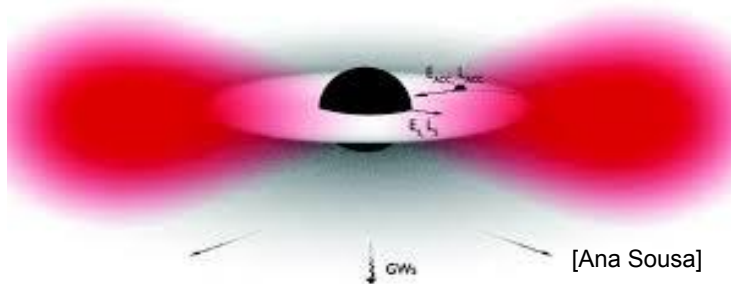
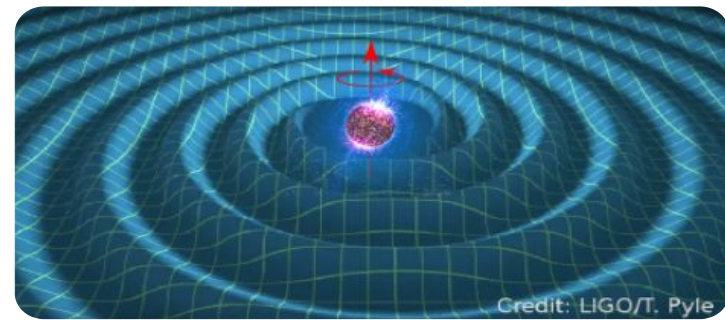
Continuous Waves

- extremely weak (strain: GW150914 $\sim 10^{-21}$, CW $\lesssim 10^{-25}$)
- signal duration $>$ observing time
- quasi-monochromatic signals:
very slow evolution of frequency and amplitude
- measured strain $h(t)$ depends on intrinsic spin-down, Doppler effect between source and Earth, antenna response $\Rightarrow h(t, h_0, f, df/dt, \dots, \alpha, \delta)$
(+extra parameters for sources in binaries)
- Matched-filter searches are effective, but need to sample the parameter space very finely.
- Signal-to-noise increases with $\sqrt{T_{\text{obs}}}$,
but computing cost grows much faster.



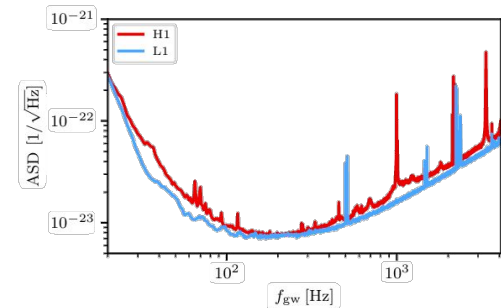
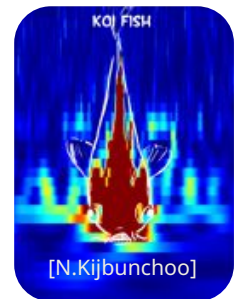
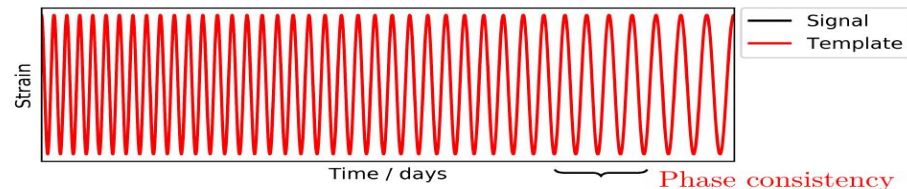
CWs – what are they good for?

- first detection can be one of the next breakthroughs of GW astronomy
- prime targets: spinning deformed neutron stars
 - cold nuclear matter at extreme densities: “celestial laboratories”
 - once detected, we can keep observing and do long-term astrophysics studies
 - $>10^8$ neutron stars in our galaxy, only ~ 3000 known
 - can we find the “dark” ones?
- new physics searches:
 - modified gravity
 - dark matter: indirect & direct detection
 - primordial black holes

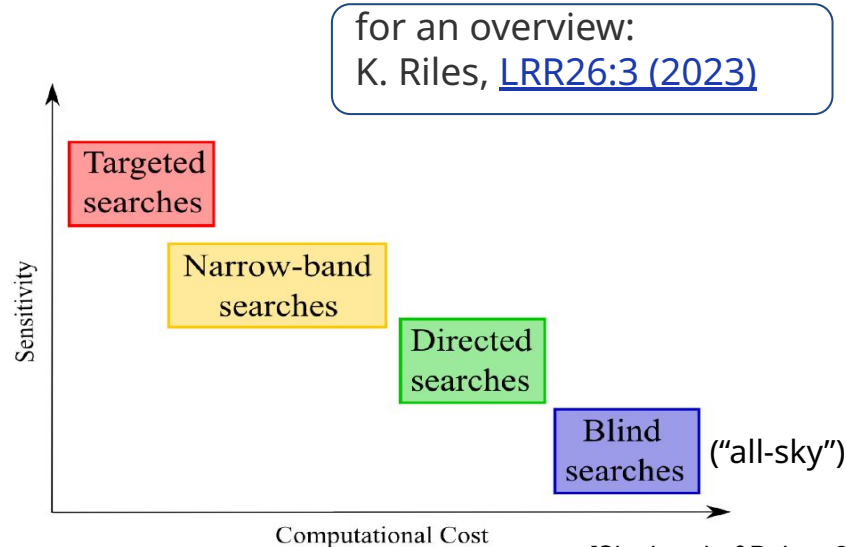


CW data analysis

- simple, deterministic templates → matched filter
- precise frequency resolution from long-term phase coherence
- precise sky localisation, *even with a single detector* (the Earth moves – “*E pur si muove*”)
- real data challenges:
 - loud but short glitches → require time-domain cleaning/gating
 - narrow spectral lines → require identification and mitigation



searches classified by
amount of prior
information:



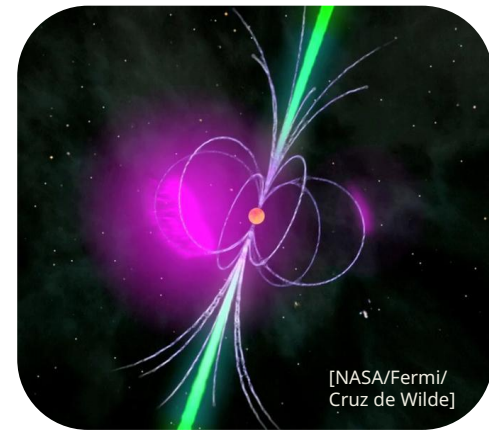
known pulsar searches

- detailed EM pulsar ephemerides
→ **fully-coherent** matched filter across full GW observing runs

- indirect **spin-down upper limit**
assumes all energy loss into GWs:

$$h_0 \leq \frac{1}{d} \sqrt{\frac{5GI_{zz}}{2c^3} \frac{|\dot{f}_{\text{rot}}|}{f_{\text{rot}}}}$$

- for **Crab** and **Vela** (nearby energetic young pulsars with great timing cadence):
already “beaten” this limit with initial LIGO/Virgo in the 2000s.



THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 683: L45–L49, 2008 August 10
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BEATING THE SPIN-DOWN LIMIT ON GRAVITATIONAL WAVE EMISSION FROM THE CRAB PULSAR

In the single-template search the joint (i.e., multidetector) posterior probability distribution for the gravitational wave amplitude peaks at zero, indicating that no signal is visible at our current sensitivity. The joint **95% upper limit** on the gravitational wave amplitude, using uniform priors on all the parameters, is $h_0^{95\%} = 3.4 \times 10^{-25}$. In terms of the pulsar's ellipticity, given by $\epsilon = 0.237 h_{-24} r_{\text{kpc}} \nu^{-2} I_{38}$ (Abbott et al. 2007c), where h_{-24} is h_0 in units of 1×10^{-24} , this gives $\epsilon = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$ using the canonical moment of inertia and $r = 2$ kpc. This is **4.1 times lower than the spin-down upper limit** and also 1.6

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 737:93 (16pp), 2011 August 20
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doi:10.1088/0004-637X/737/2/93

BEATING THE SPIN-DOWN LIMIT ON GRAVITATIONAL WAVE EMISSION FROM THE VELA PULSAR



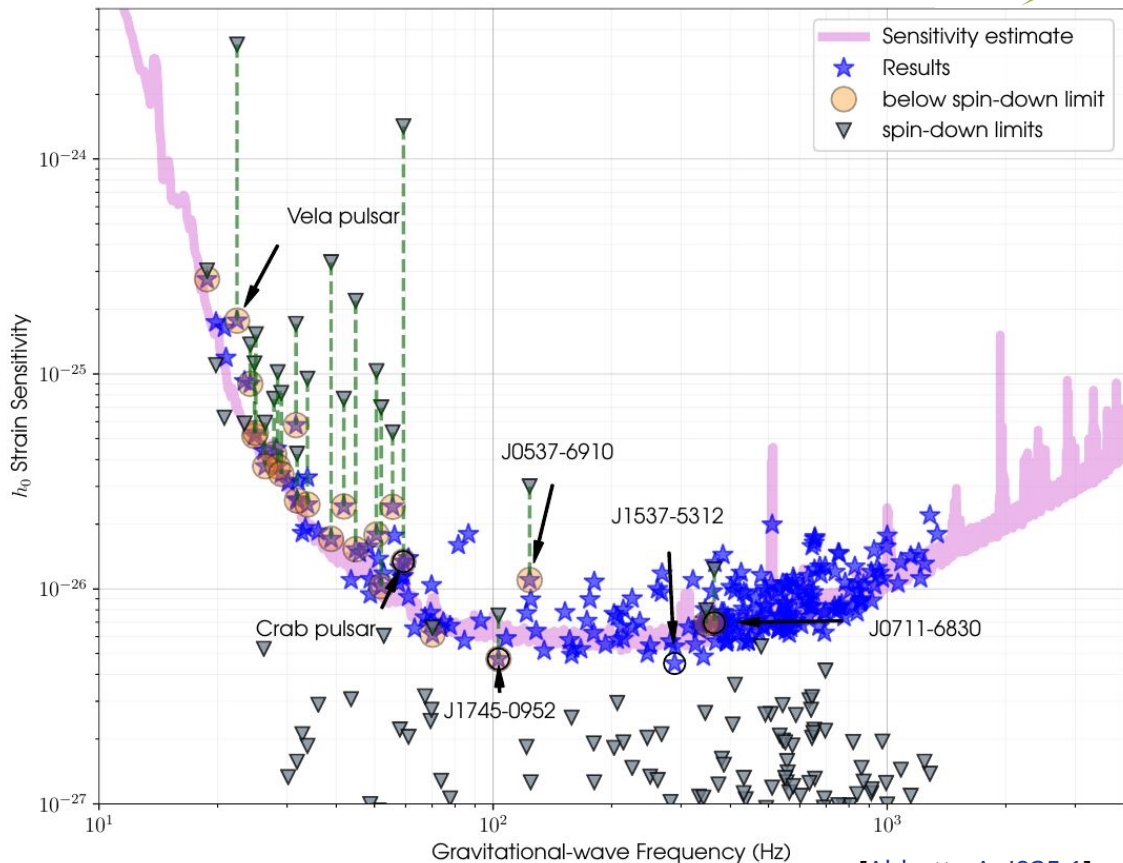
known pulsars: selected O3 results

“Fully targeted” searches:

- [Abbott+ ApJ935:1 \(2021\)](#)
- 236 targets, 23 below spin-down limit
- searched at both $f_{\text{gw}} = 2f_{\text{spin}}$, $f_{\text{gw}} = f_{\text{spin}}$

“Narrowband” searches:

- relax EM–GW frequency lock
→ small template banks $\sim <O(10^6)$
- [Abbott+ ApJ932:133 \(2022\)](#)
- 18 targets, 7 below spin-down limit



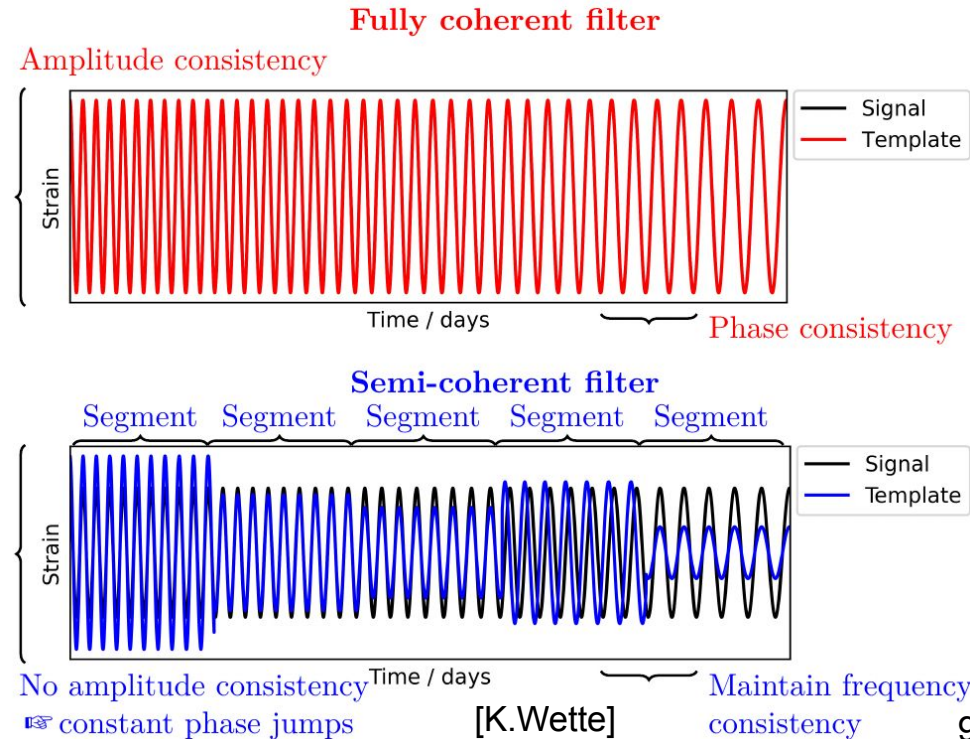
[Abbott+ ApJ935:1]



Bright 3G outlook: SNRs up to 10^5 possible with ET! [Pitkin MNRAS415,1849 (2011)]

directed & all-sky searches

- cover a large parameter space at affordable computational cost
- simple signal model, per-template evaluation $\sim O(\text{ms})$
- broad ranges in frequency, spin-downs, sky location; curved and highly structured space
- long observing times \rightarrow high resolution:
a blessing for PE,
a curse for searches (dense banks)
- need to break steep computational cost scaling
(at least $\propto T_{\text{obs}}^6 f^2$ for blind all-sky searches)
- semi-coherent methods:
statistically “suboptimal”,
but best sensitivity at fixed cost



O3 all-sky searches

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **103**, 064017 (2021)

[\[2012.12128\]](#)

All-sky search in early O3 LIGO data for continuous gravitational-wave signals from unknown neutron stars in binary systems

R. Abbott *et al.**

(The LIGO Scientific Collaboration and the Virgo Collaboration)



PHYSICAL REVIEW D **106**, 102008 (2022)

[\[2201.00697\]](#)

All-sky search for continuous gravitational waves from isolated neutron stars using Advanced LIGO and Advanced Virgo O3 data

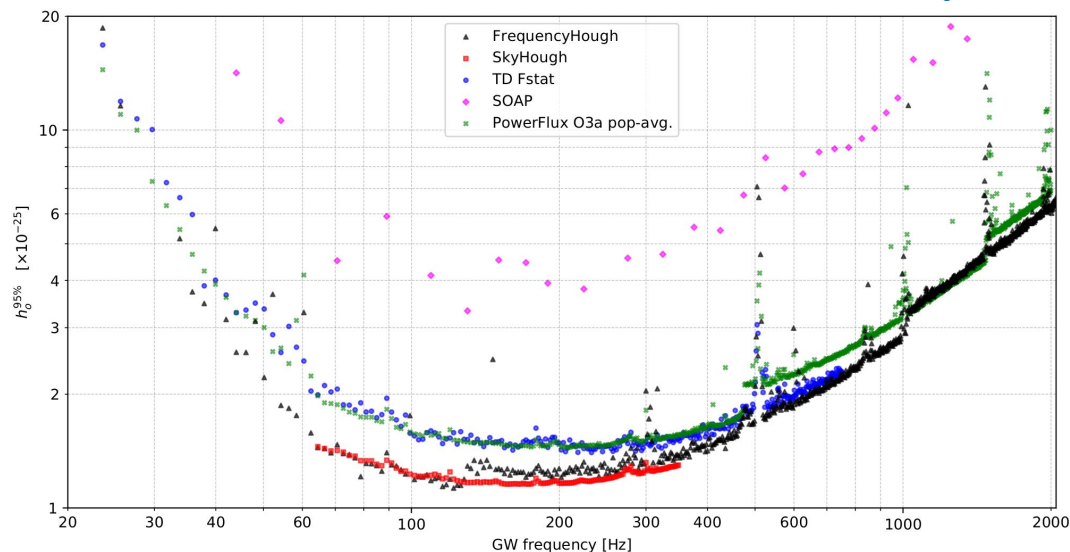
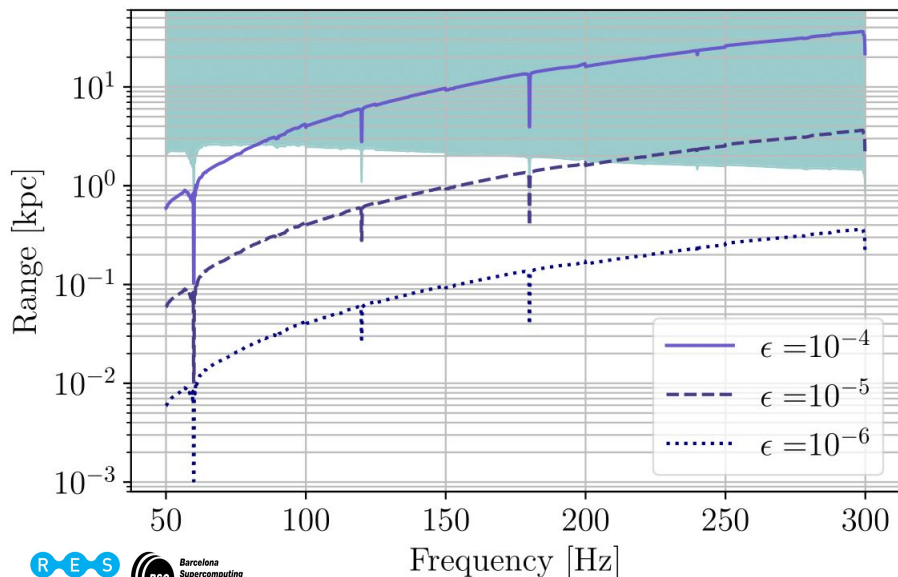
R. Abbott *et al.**

(LIGO Scientific Collaboration, Virgo Collaboration, and KAGRA Collaboration)



“BinarySkyHough” with GPU optimisations @

4 pipelines, incl. “SkyHough” @

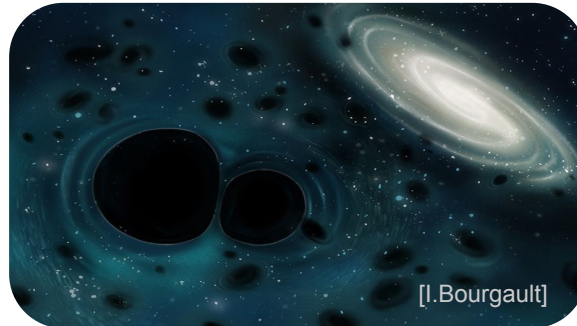
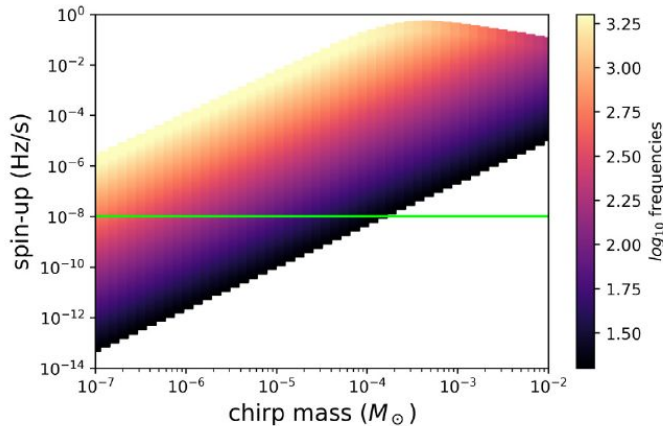
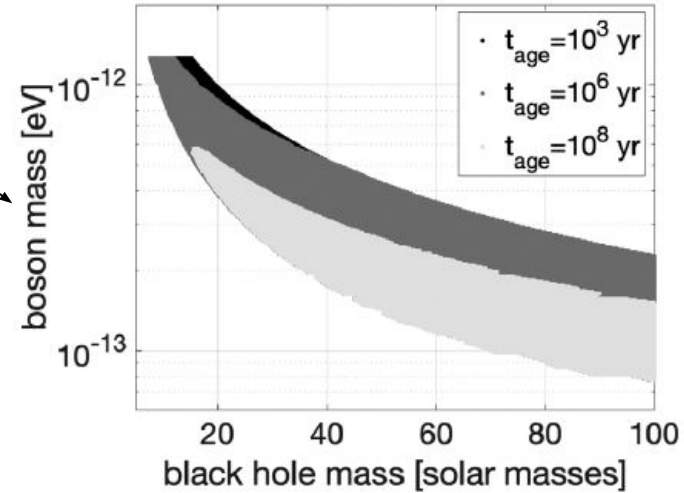


CWs beyond neutron stars: new physics

- **Boson clouds** around spinning black holes: superradiant energy extraction and CW-like emission, frequency related to particle mass
→ O3 search: [Abbott+ PRD105,102001 \(2022\)](#)

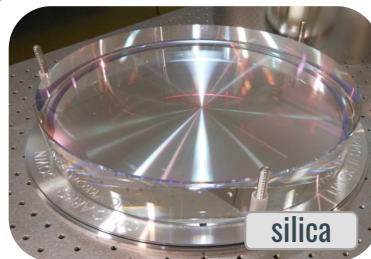
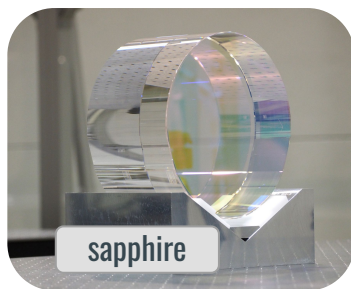
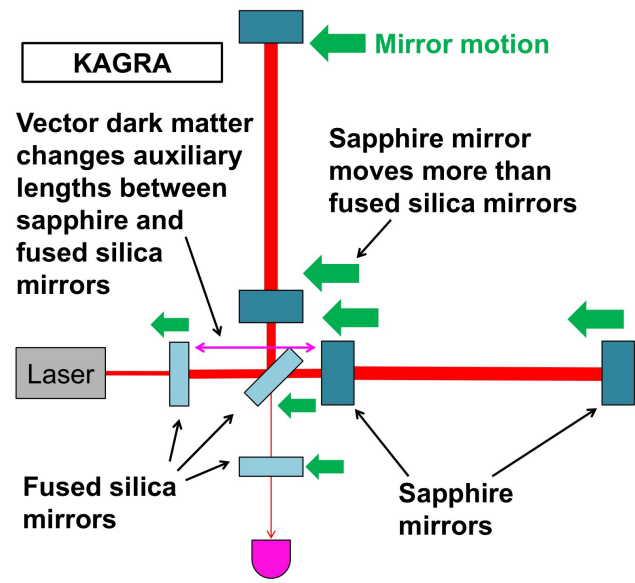
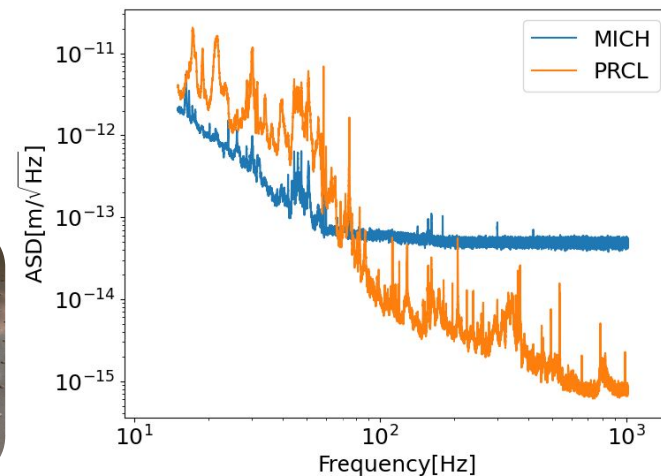
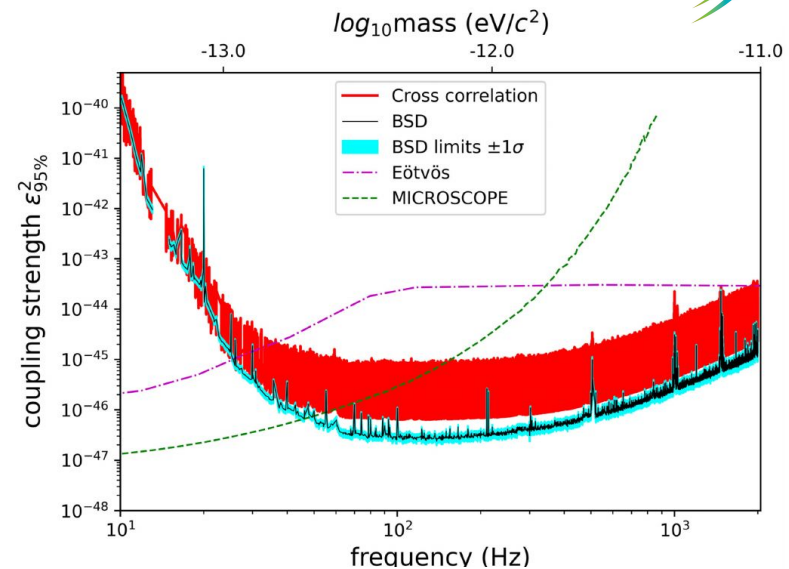


- low-mass compact binaries: CW-like early inspiral, e.g. **primordial black holes** [[Miller+ PhDU32,100836 \(2021\)](#)].

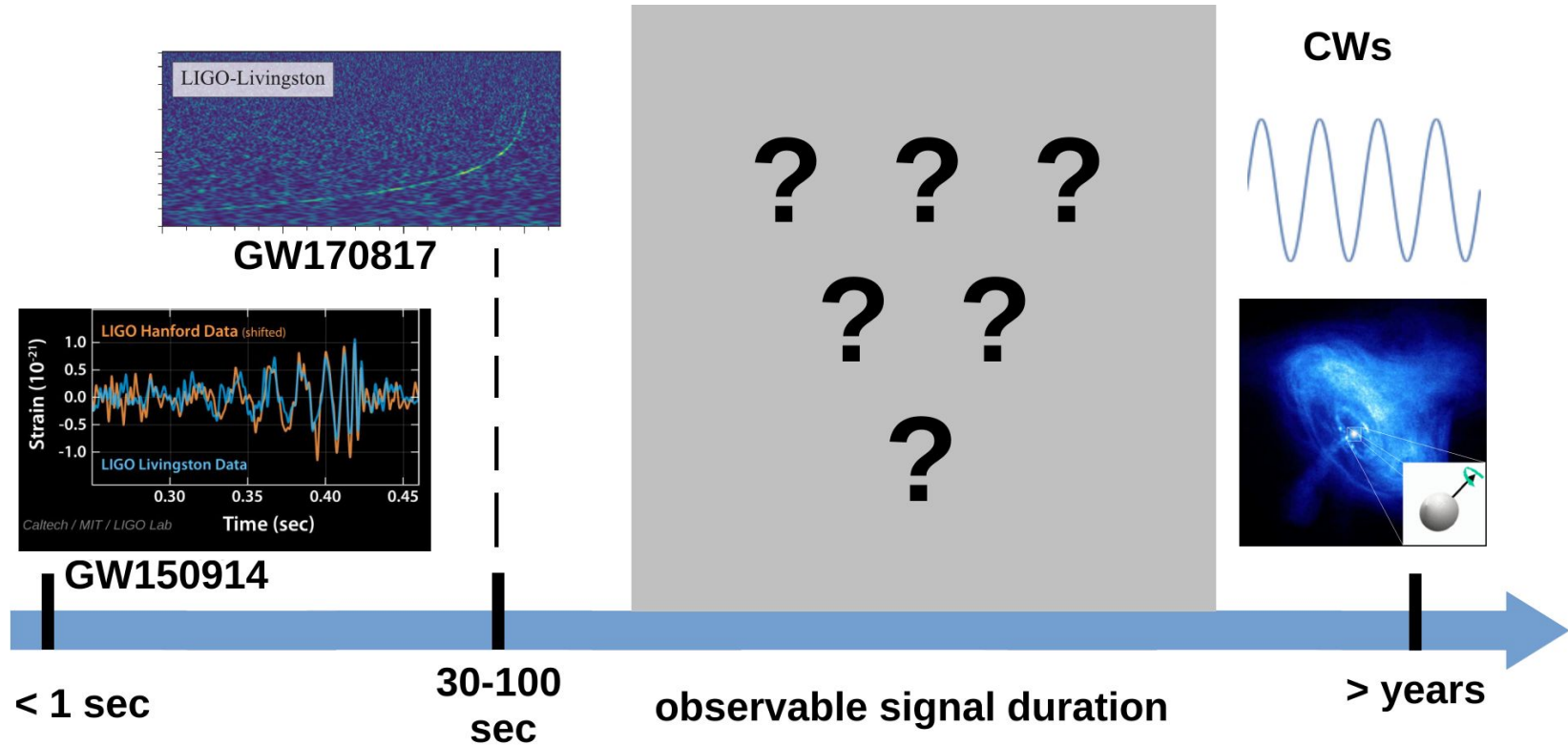


CWs beyond neutron stars: new physics

- direct **dark matter** interaction with GW detectors
- no actual GWs involved
- “dark photon” search in O3 LIGO data:
[Abbott+ PRD105,063030 \(2022\)](#)
- “B-L” coupling vector DM search in O3 KAGRA data:
[Abac+ PRD110,042001 \(2024\)](#)



long-duration CW-like transients

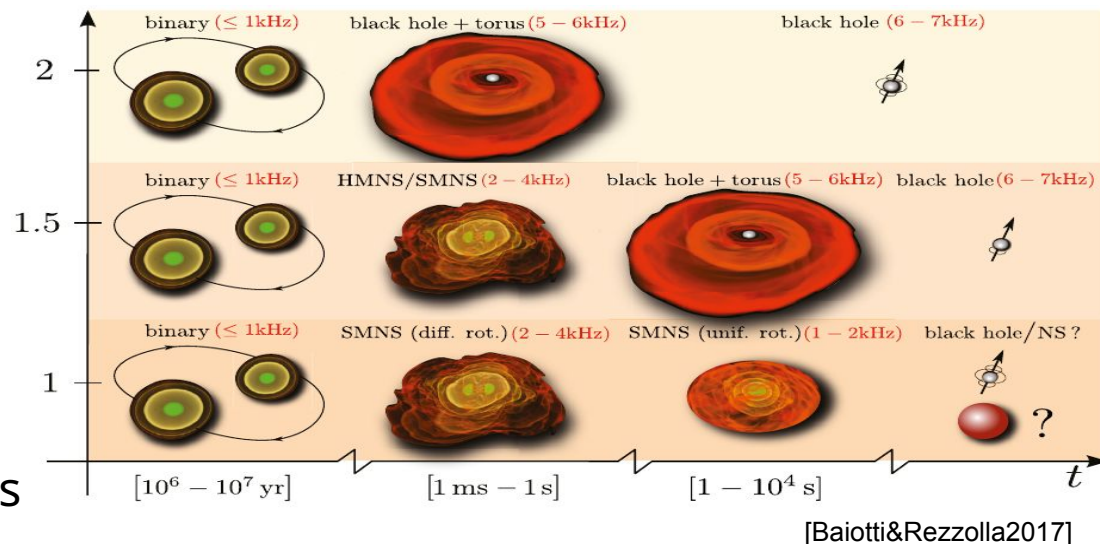
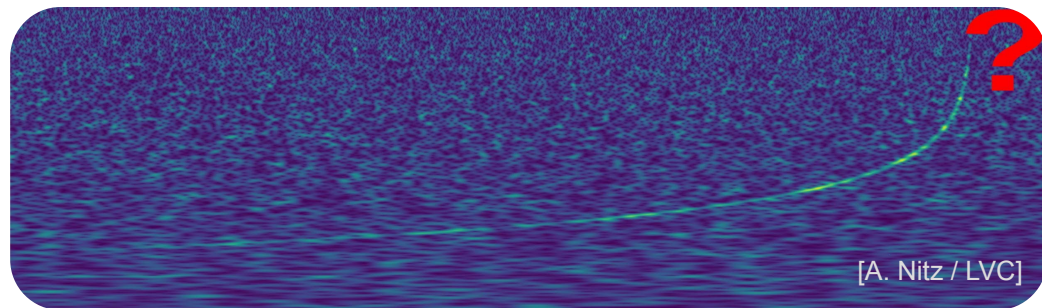


- binary neutron star merger remnants
- pulsar glitches

- magnetar and X-ray pulsar bursts
- vector boson clouds around spinning black holes

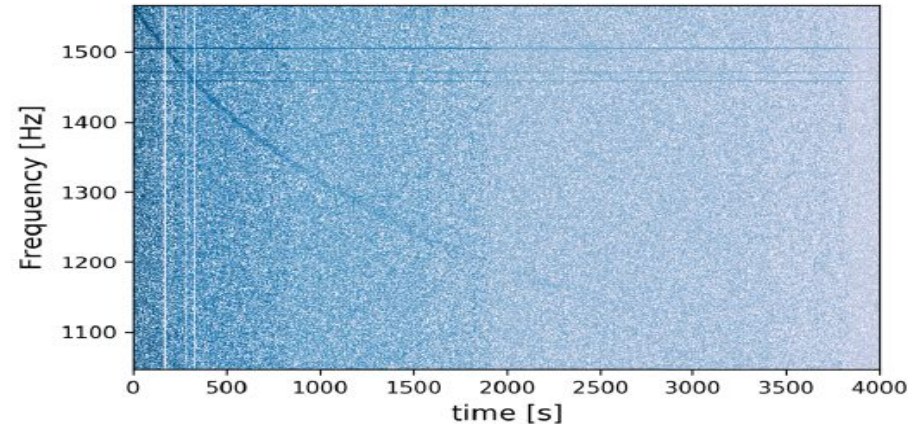
long transients: BNS remnants

- GW170817: BNS merger at ≈ 40 Mpc [[Abbott+ PRL119,161101 \(2017\)](#)]
- What was the remnant?
 - direct collapse to BH?
 - [H/S]MNS \rightarrow BH?
 - stable NS?
- answer would tighten EoS constraints
- indirect EM evidence for 2), but no direct measurement
- LVC searches for short [[ApJL851:L16 \(2017\)](#)] and long-duration [[ApJ875:160 \(2019\)](#)] signals
- long-duration CW-like signals from HM / stable NS remnant \rightarrow only sensitive to < 1 Mpc in O2

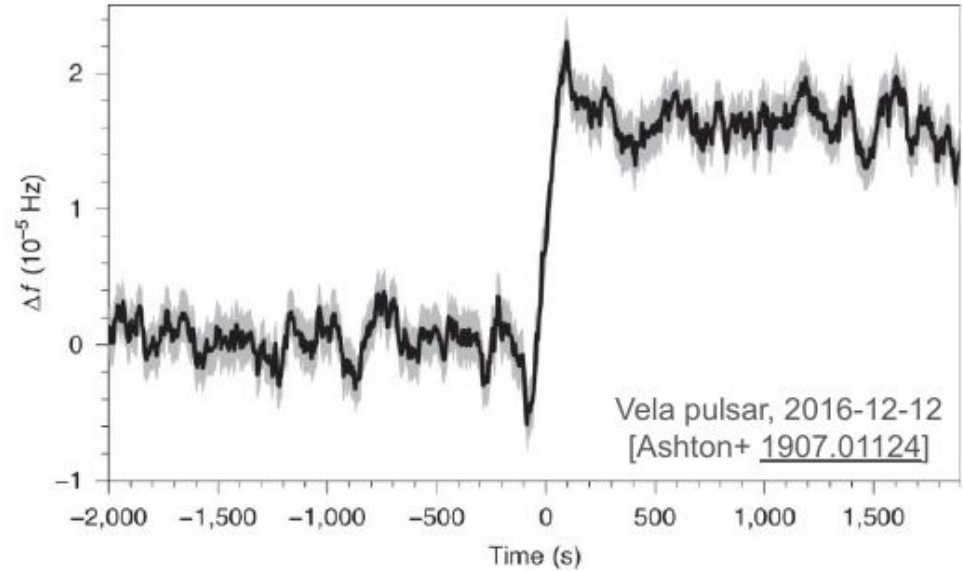
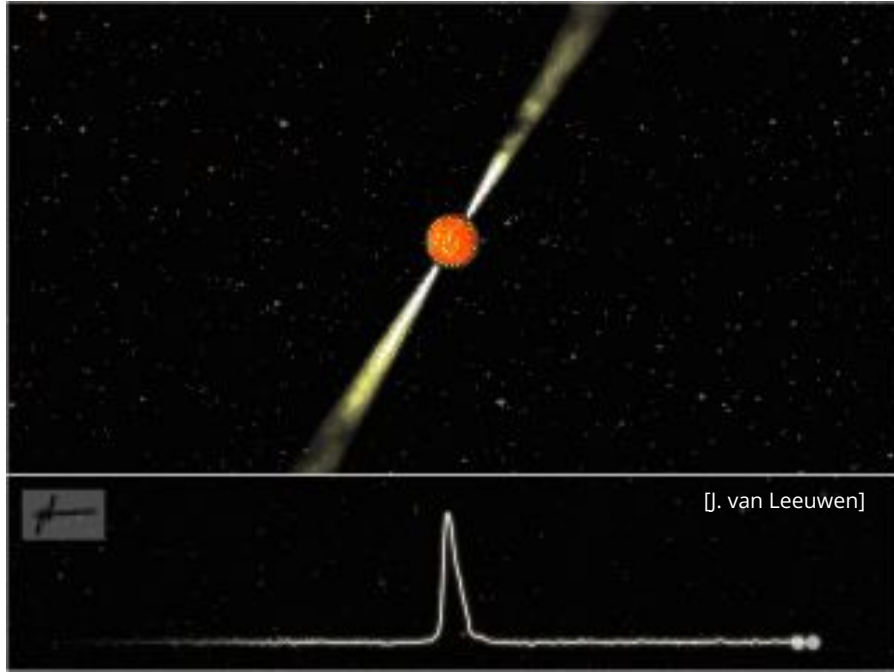


long transients: BNS and supernovae remnants

- BNS remnants: heavy and might have higher ellipticities, but rare at low distances
- regular newborn NSs from core-collapse supernovae: a bit more common
- shared signal model: rapid “power-law” spindown, but still monochromatic
- with LVK, limited to ~few Mpc,
3G detectors: ~dozens Mpc
- various semi-coherent CW search methods
have been adapted,
including @UIB “AdaptiveTransientHough” pipeline:
Oliver, Keitel & Sintès [PRD99,104067 \(2019\)](#)
- used in GW170817 remnant search [Abbott+ [ApJ875:160 \(2019\)](#)]



long transients: pulsar glitches

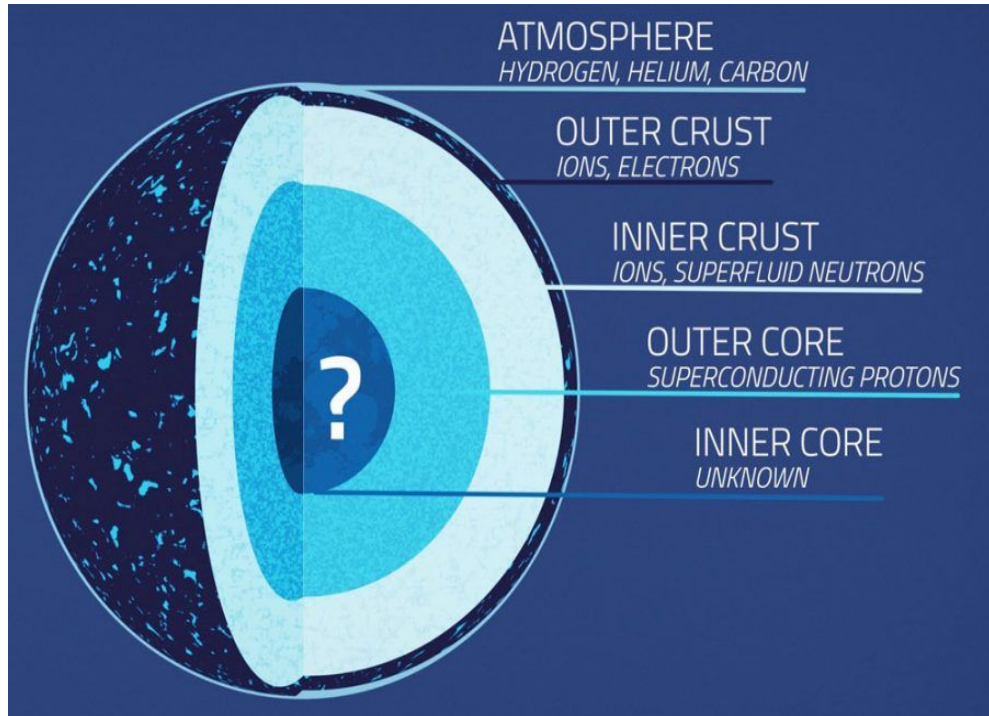


- > 3000 known pulsars [ATNF]

$$f_{\text{glitch}}(t) = \Theta(t - T_{\text{gl}}) \left[\sum_{k=0}^M \frac{\Delta f_{\text{gl}}^{(k)} (t - T_{\text{gl}})^k}{k!} + \delta f_{\text{R}} e^{-(t - T_{\text{gl}})/\tau_{\text{R}}} \right]$$

- > 740 known glitches
(as of 2022)

long transients: pulsar glitches



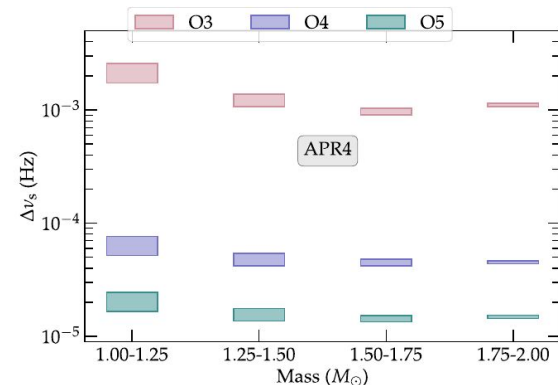
[[NASA/Goddard/Conceptual Image Lab](#)]

- pulsars lose energy by EM and GW emission
→ slow spin-down
- glitches: sudden **spin-up**, followed by relaxation phase with timescale (hours – months)
- energy transfer from internal superfluid
- and/or crustal “starquakes”
- accompanying change in quadrupole moment (e.g. Yim & Jones [MNRAS498,3138 \(2020\)](#)
→ GW emission

→ How can we search for such GWs from glitching pulsars?

long transients: pulsar glitches

1) short-duration bursts from f-modes excited at the glitch:
Lopez+ [PRD106.103037 \(2022\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.10303) → search with e.g. cWB

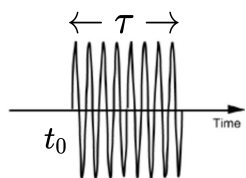


2) long-duration transient GWs: “**tCWs**” [Prix+ [PRD84,023007 \(2011\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/1102.0230)]

standard CW model, but in addition to **phase** and **amplitude parameters**, also consider **transient parameters** defining a **window** in time:

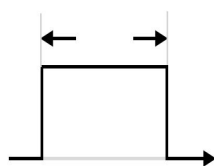
$$\lambda = \{\alpha, \delta, f, \dot{f}, \ddot{f} \dots\} \quad \mathcal{A} = \{h_0, \cos \iota, \psi, \phi_0\} \quad \mathcal{T} = \{t_0, \tau\}$$

$$h(t, \lambda, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{T}) = \omega(t; \mathcal{T}) h(t, \lambda, \mathcal{A})$$



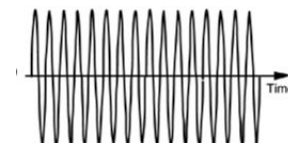
transient CW

=



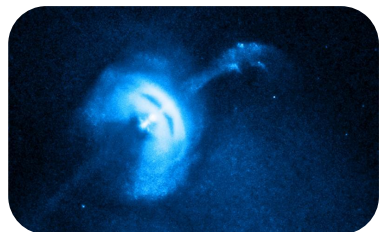
window function

•



standard CW signal model

tCW searches so far – O2 open data



[Chandra/NASA]

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **100**, 064058 (2019)

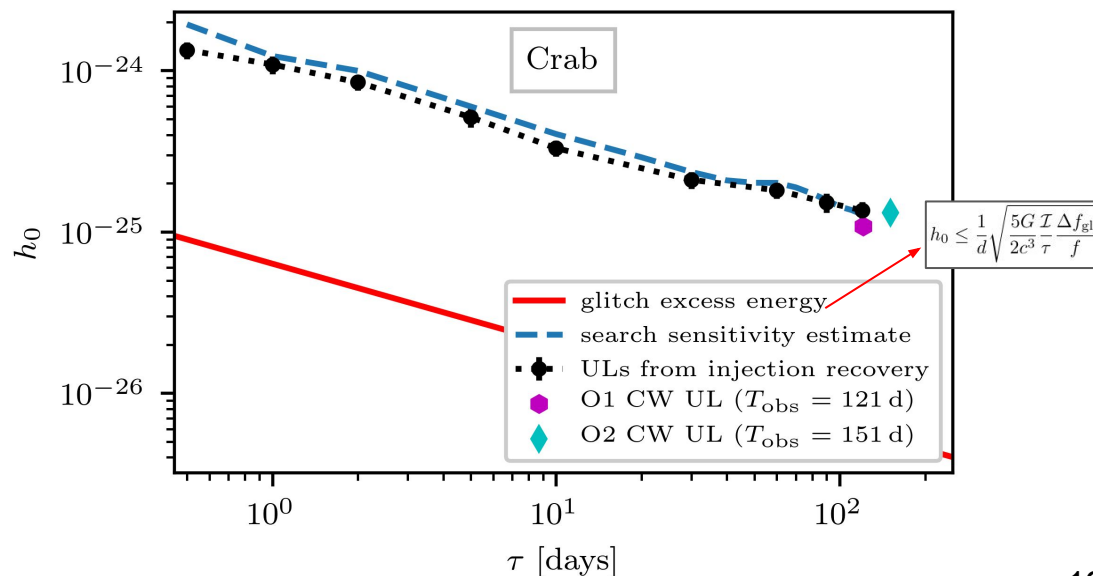
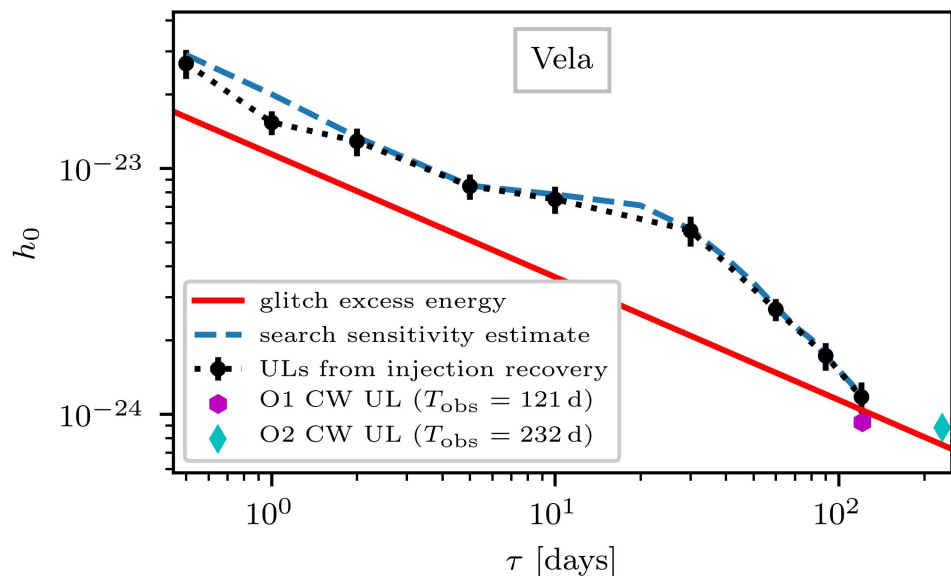
[\[1907.04717\]](#)

First search for long-duration transient gravitational waves after glitches in the Vela and Crab pulsars

David Keitel^{1,2,*}, Graham Woan², Matthew Pitkin², Courtney Schumacher³, Brynley Pearlstone², Keith Riles⁴, Andrew G. Lyne⁵, Jim Palfreyman⁶, Benjamin Stappers⁵, and Patrick Weltevrede⁵



[Chandra/NASA]



tCW searches so far – O3 LVK search

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[\[2112.10990\]](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac6ad0)

<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac6ad0>



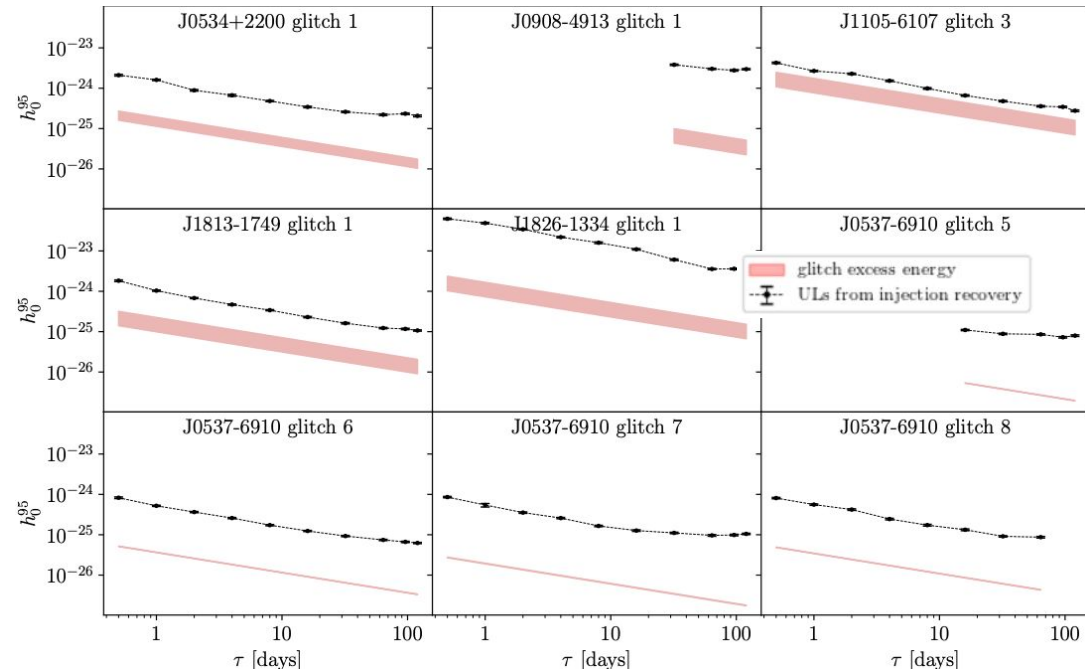
With
contributions
from



Narrowband Searches for Continuous and Long-duration Transient Gravitational Waves from Known Pulsars in the LIGO-Virgo Third Observing Run

- improved version of O2 search: better setup [*] of template banks, BtS/G statistic [**], “distromax” method [***] for setting thresholds

<p>J0534+2200</p> <p>$f_{GW} \sim 60$ Hz</p> <p>glitched on 2019/07/23</p>	<p>J0537-6910</p> <p>$f_{GW} \sim 123$ Hz</p> <p>3 glitches in 2019, 1 glitch in 2020</p>	<p>J0908-4913</p> <p>$f_{GW} \sim 19$ Hz</p> <p>glitched ~ 2019/10/09</p>
<p>J1105-6107</p> <p>$f_{GW} \sim 31$ Hz</p> <p>glitched ~ 2019/04/09</p>	<p>J1813-1749</p> <p>$f_{GW} \sim 45$ Hz</p> <p>glitched ~ 2019/08/03</p>	<p>J1826-1334</p> <p>$f_{GW} \sim 20$ Hz</p> <p>glitched on 2020/01/31</p>



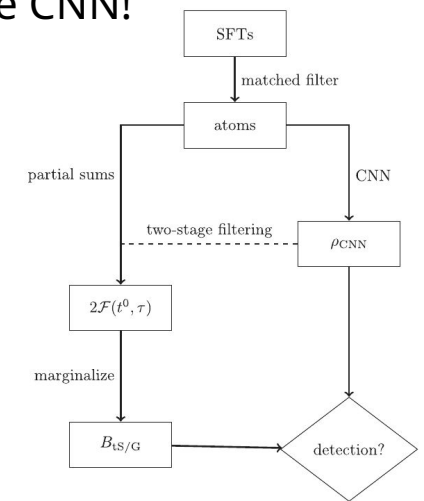
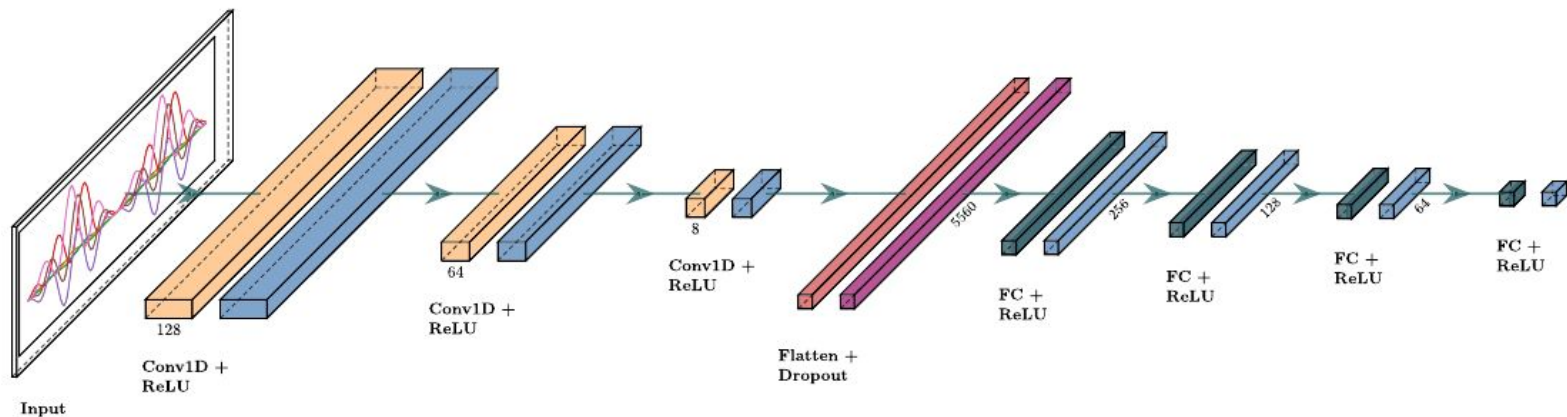
[*] [2201.08785](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac6ad0); [**] [1104.1704](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac6ad0); [***] [2111.12032](https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac6ad0)

tCWs with CNNs

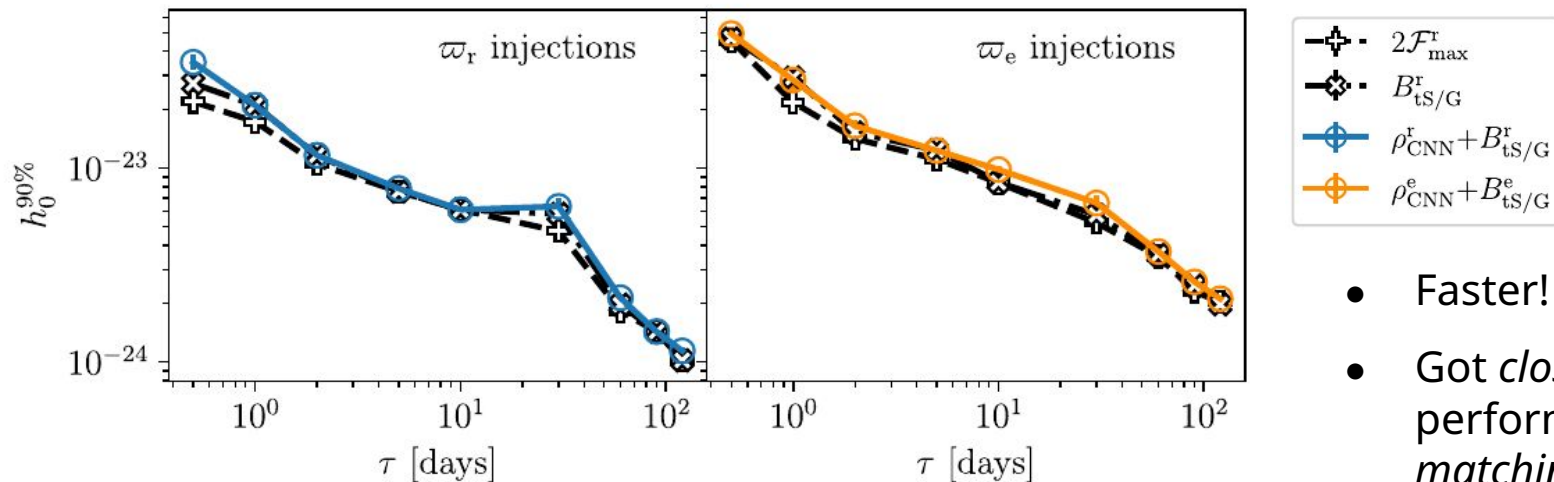
Convolutional neural network search for long-duration transient gravitational waves from glitching pulsars

Luana M. Modafferi¹,* Rodrigo Tenorio¹,[†] and David Keitel¹,[‡]

- transient \mathcal{F} -stat searches are computationally limited, mainly from trying many (t_0, τ) combinations
- finding a (t)CW in time-frequency data is basically *pattern recognition*
- Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are great at doing that fast. (At least for cats and dogs.)
- But actually limited in finding the very weak, narrow, long tracks. (see Joshi&Prix [2305.01057](#))
→ our hybrid approach: feed matched-filter intermediate data products to the CNN!



CNN upper limits on O2 Vela glitch



- Faster!
- Got *close* to pure F -stat performance, but *not quite matching* it.

Limitations:

- Allowing for flexible amplitude evolution, but fixed to tCW frequency evolution model.
- Faster than pure transient F -stat, but still far too slow for going beyond known pulsars.

→ new approach needed for
 “All-Sky All-Frequency All-Time”
 searches for unknown glitchers!

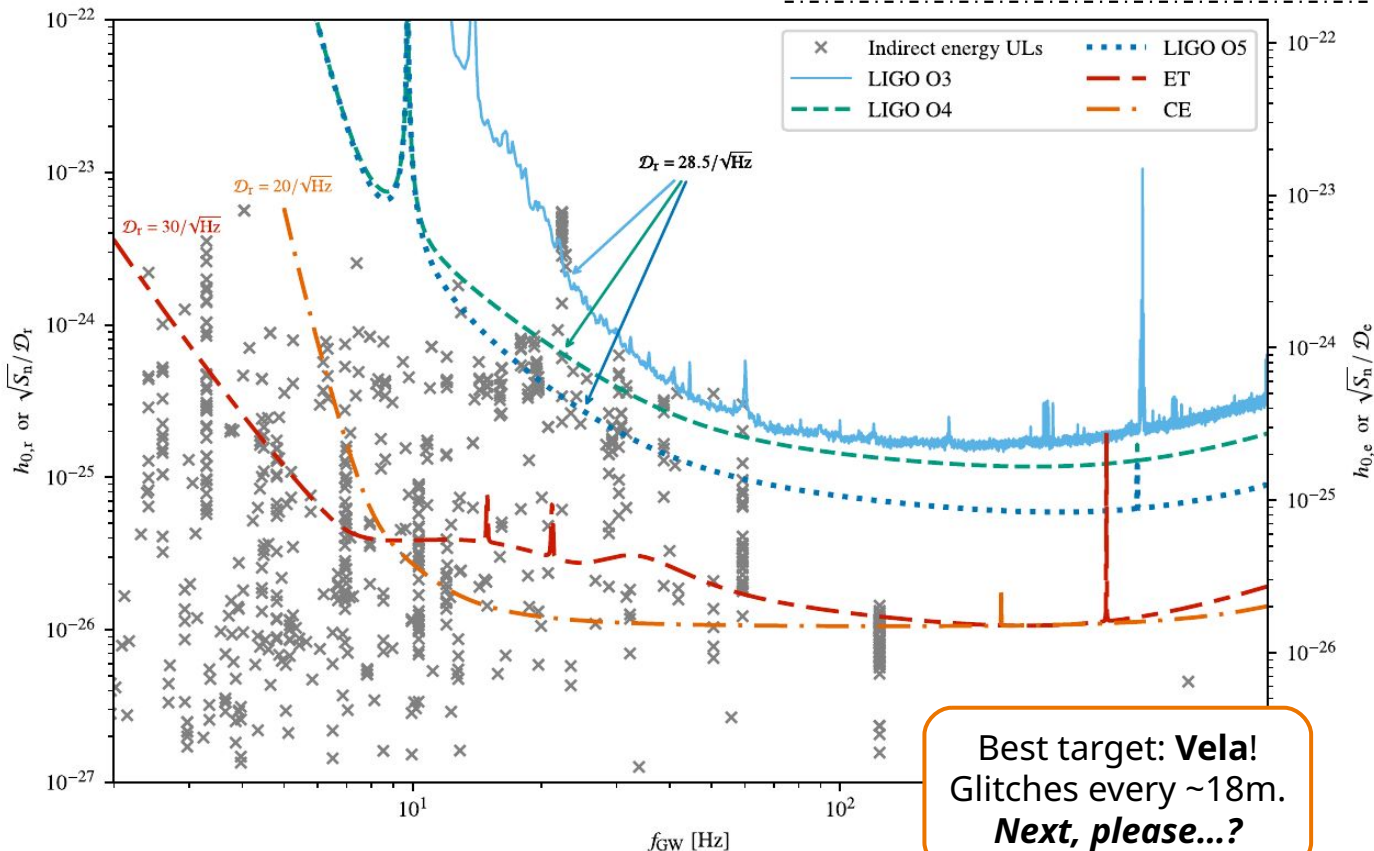
tCWs: prospects

- ATNF + Jodrell glitch catalogues
- 740 known glitches (2022/10/11)
- extrapolate future prospects

Prospects for detecting transient quasi-monochromatic gravitational waves from glitching pulsars with current and future detectors

Joan Moragues *, Luana M. Modafferi , Rodrigo Tenorio  and David Keitel *

Departament de Física, Universitat de les Illes Balears, IAC3–IEEC, Crta. Valldemossa km 7.5, E-07122 Palma, Spain



- Sensitivity depth $\mathcal{D} \equiv \sqrt{S_n}/h_0$
[Behnke+2014, Dreissigacker+2018]
estimated for *realistic* searches

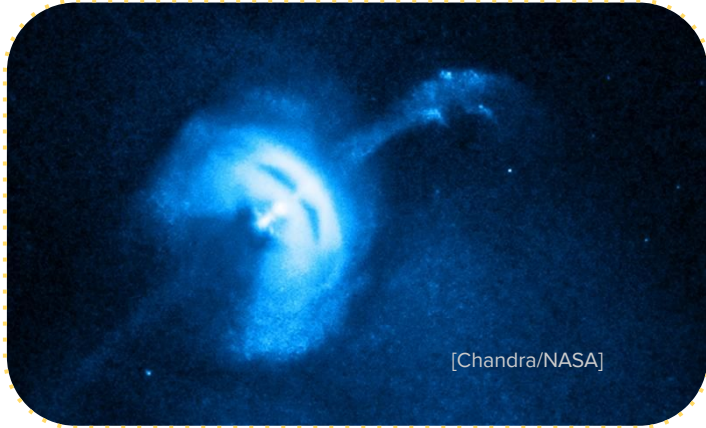
- compare indirect energy UL:

$$h_0 \leq \frac{1}{d} \sqrt{\frac{5G \mathcal{I} \Delta f_{gl}}{2c^3 \tau} \frac{1}{f}}$$

- plot for duration $\tau = 10$ d
- longer/shorter τ :
push *both* markers *and* curves
down/up by $\sqrt{\tau}$
→ same detectability

Best target: **Vela!**
Glitches every ~18m.
Next, please...?

...2024: Vela glitched again!



- Vela pulsar: nearby (287pc), $f_{\text{rot}} \sim 11 \text{ Hz} \rightarrow f_{\text{gw}} \sim 22 \text{ Hz}$
- strong glitches ($\Delta f / f \sim 10^{-6}$) every 1.5 years or so.
- first LSC search for short bursts from 2006 glitch [[Abadie+2011b](#)].
- first tCW search on O2 open data for 2016 glitch [[Keitel+2019](#)].
- no glitch during O3, last in 2021, then got lucky in O4!



E. Zubieta+,
Argentine Institute of Radio
astronomy
[\[www.astronomerstelegam.org/
?read=16608\]](http://www.astronomerstelegam.org/?read=16608)

*We observed a glitch occurring
between MJD 60428.96 (2024-04-28 23h UTC)
and MJD 60431.84 (2024-05-01 20h UTC). [...] change
in the pulsar rotation period of $dF_0/F_0 = 2.3E-6$ [...]*



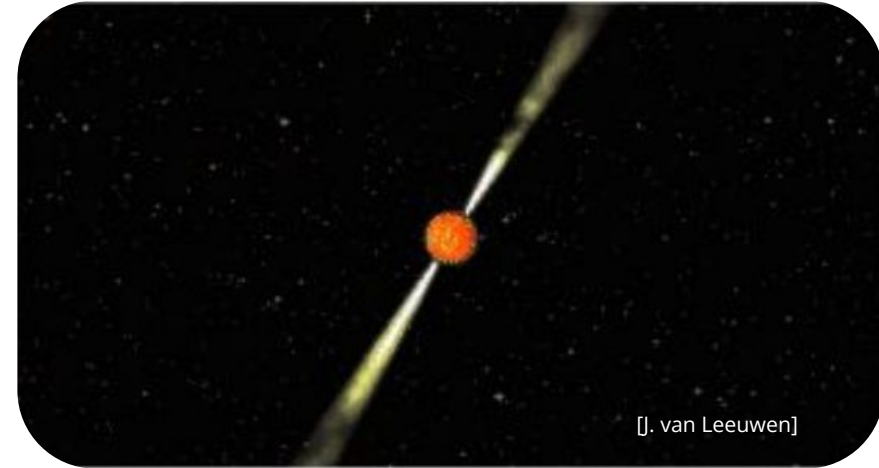
(also confirmed by other
radio telescopes and FERMI)

J. Palfreyman,
Mt. Pleasant Telescope,
Tasmania
[\[www.astronomerstelegam
.org/?read=16615\]](http://www.astronomerstelegam.org/?read=16615)

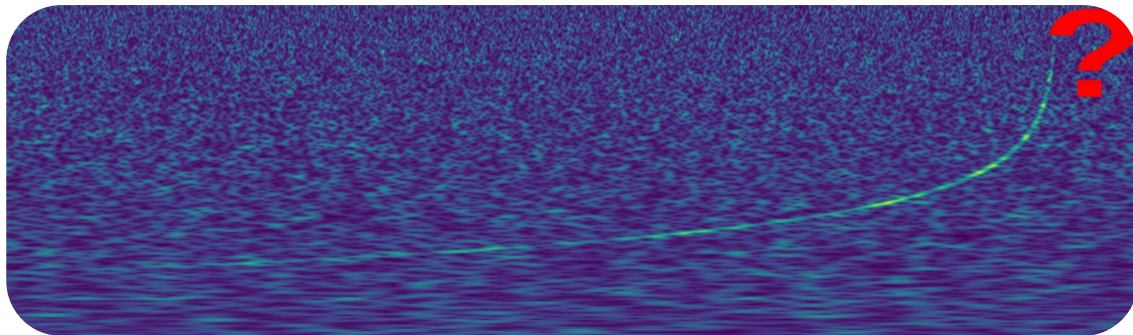
*glitch epoch of MJD 60429.869615 +/- 3.84691e-05
 dF_0/F_0 of 2.40976e-06 +/- 4.88083e-10*

Conclusions: the next first detection?

- continuous waves from known pulsars?
- continuous waves from unknown neutron stars in our galaxy?
- continuous waves from exotic objects (PBHs, boson clouds)?
- CW-style dark matter direct detection?
- long transients from glitching pulsars?
- long transients from newborn neutron stars (supernovae / BNS remnants)?



- Either way: rich potential for astrophysics, nuclear physics, and fundamental physics



Acknowledgments

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