

# Fundamental Physics and Cosmology with the Einstein Telescope

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**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

**FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES**

Département de physique théorique



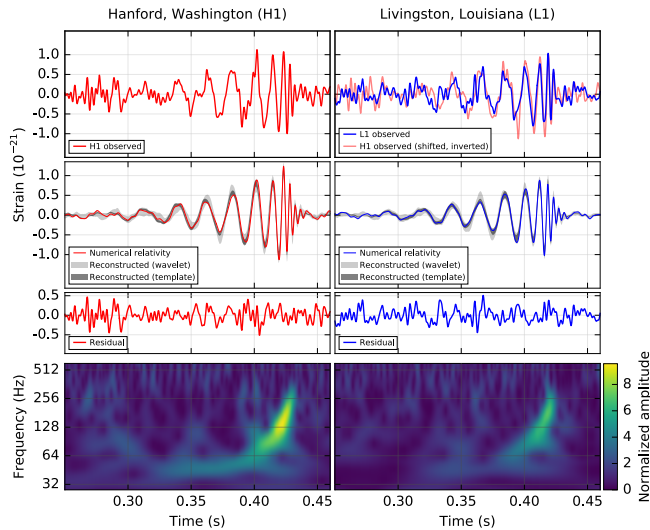
**GWSC** | GRAVITATIONAL  
WAVE  
SCIENCE  
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# Exploring the Universe with gravitational waves

- first direct detection of GWs in 2015 after 50+ yr of developments



# First detection of a BH-BH coalescence, Sept. 14, 2015



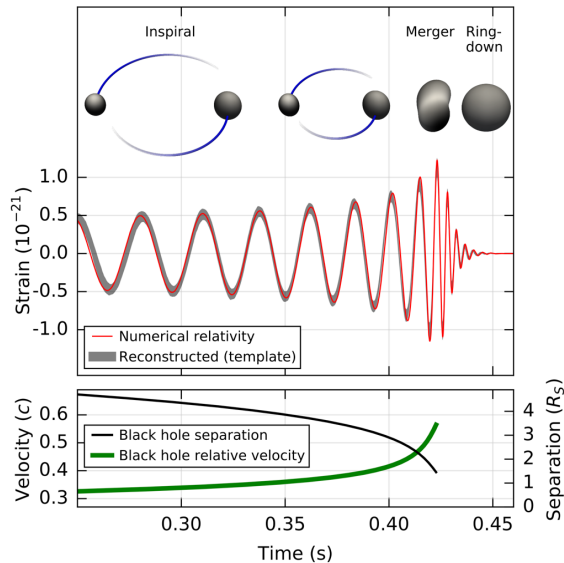
parameter estimation from  
matched filtering:

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primary BH mass	$36_{-4}^{+5} M_{\odot}$
secondary BH mass	$29_{-4}^{+4} M_{\odot}$
final BH mass	$62_{-4}^{+4} M_{\odot}$
final BH spin $\hat{a} \equiv Jc/(GM^2)$	$0.67_{-0.07}^{+0.05}$
luminosity distance	$410_{-180}^{+160}$ Mpc
source redshift	$0.09_{-0.04}^{+0.03}$

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3 solar masses  
radiated in  
GWs in a few ms !!

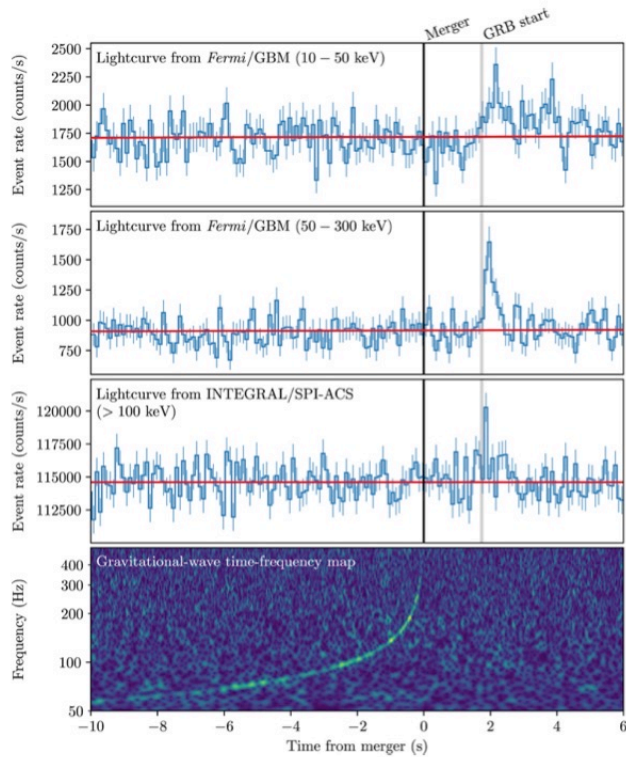


$v/c \sim 0.4$  at merger !

Weiss, Barish, Thorne,  
Nobel Prize 2017



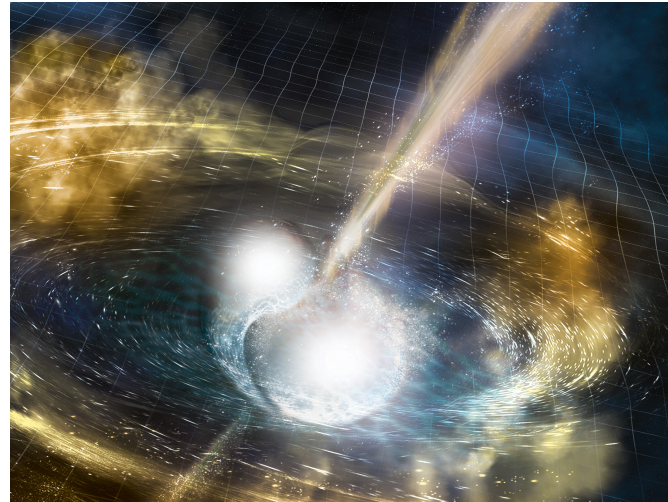
# Another milestone was the first NS-NS binary, GW170817



Observed in coincidence with a GRB

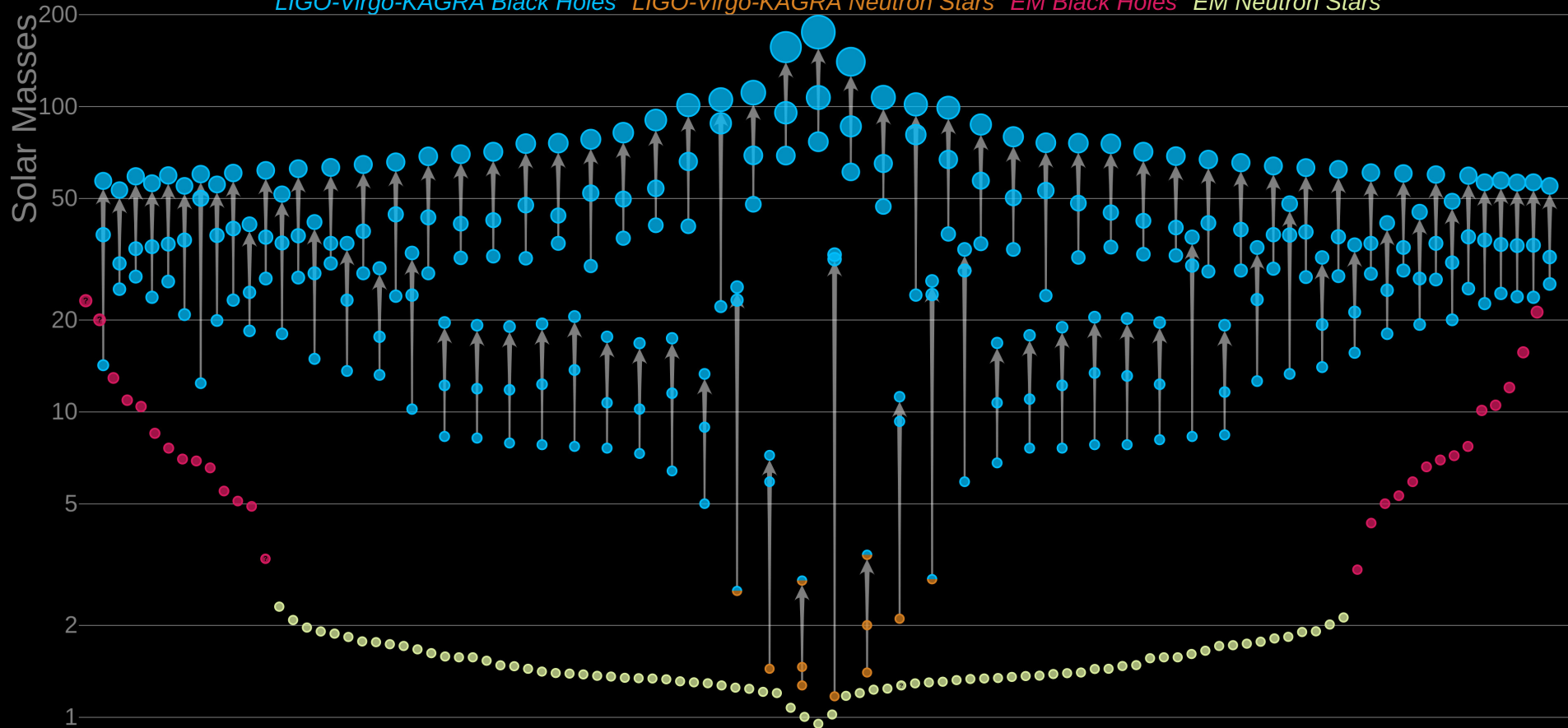
detection and follow-up of the counterpart  
in all wavelengths of the EM spectrum

opened the field of multi-messenger astronomy



# Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

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



LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA | Aaron Geller | Northwestern

After 3 observing runs, about 90 BBHs, 2 BNS and 2 NS-BH  
During O3, detections made every few days

# What have we learned ? Some highlights:

## Astrophysics

- GW170817 solved the long-standing problem of the origin of (at least some) short GRB
- NS-NS mergers are a site for the formation of some of the heaviest elements through r-process nucleosynthesis
- BH-BH binaries exist and merge within the age of the Universe
- discovered a new population of stellar-mass BHs, much heavier than those detected through X-ray binaries

# Cosmology/fundamental physics

- speed of GWs equal to speed of light (1:10<sup>15</sup>)
- first measurement of the Hubble constant with GWs
- the tail of the waveform of GW150914 consistent with the prediction from General Relativity for the quasi-normal modes of the final BH
- deviations from GR (graviton mass, post-Newtonian coefficients, modified dispersion relations, etc.) could be tested and bounded

Still, 2G detectors lack the sensitivity to make really stringent tests of fundamental physics/cosmology

2G detectors have opened a new window

3G ground-based detectors (ET, CE) will look deeply into this window

We will focus on the science that can be done with ET

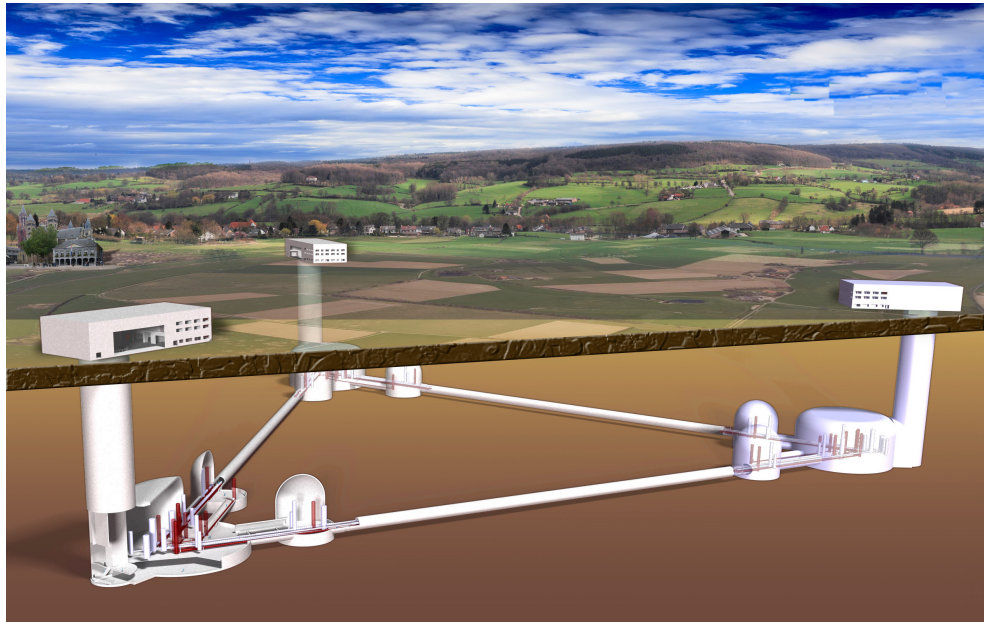
based on

- MM et al “Science Case for the Einstein Telescope”, JCAP, 1912.02622  
(written for the ESFRI RoadMap)
- Iacovelli, Mancarella, Foffa, Maggiore, ApJ, 2207.02771



# Einstein Telescope: the (current) concept and status

- Triangular shape (three nested interferometers)
- Arms: 3 → 10 km
- Underground
- Cryogenic
- increase laser power
- Xylophone
- ...

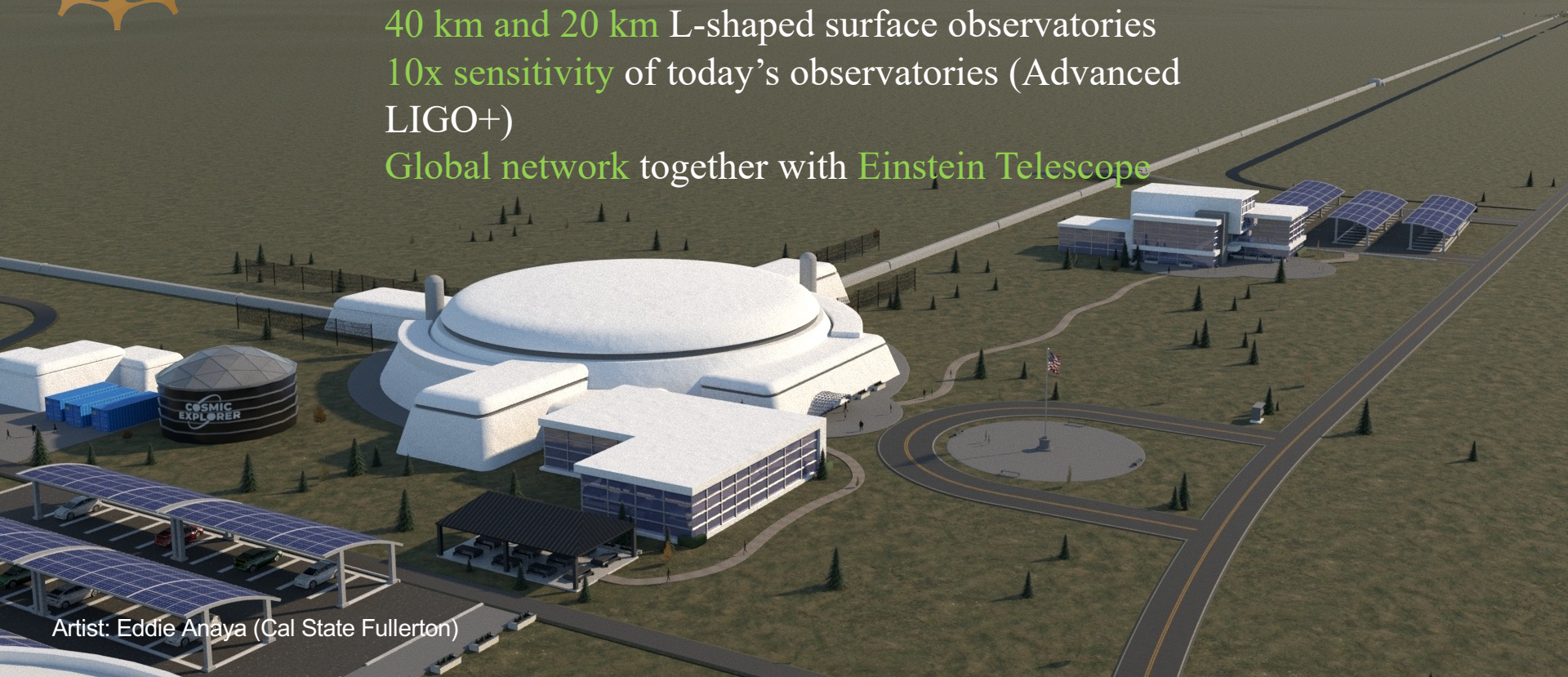


currently being re-examined ('CoBA study')

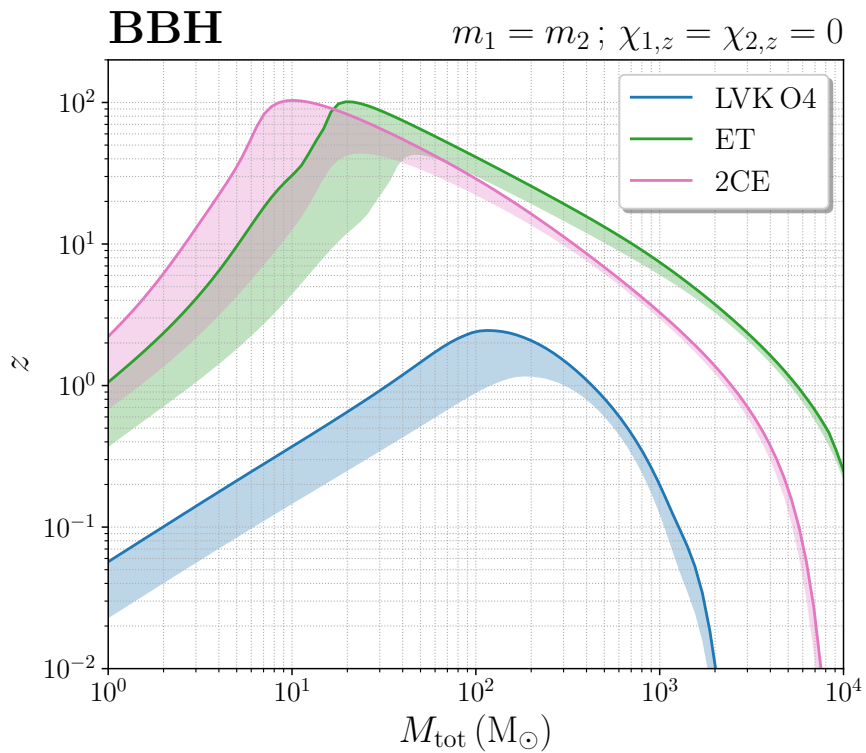
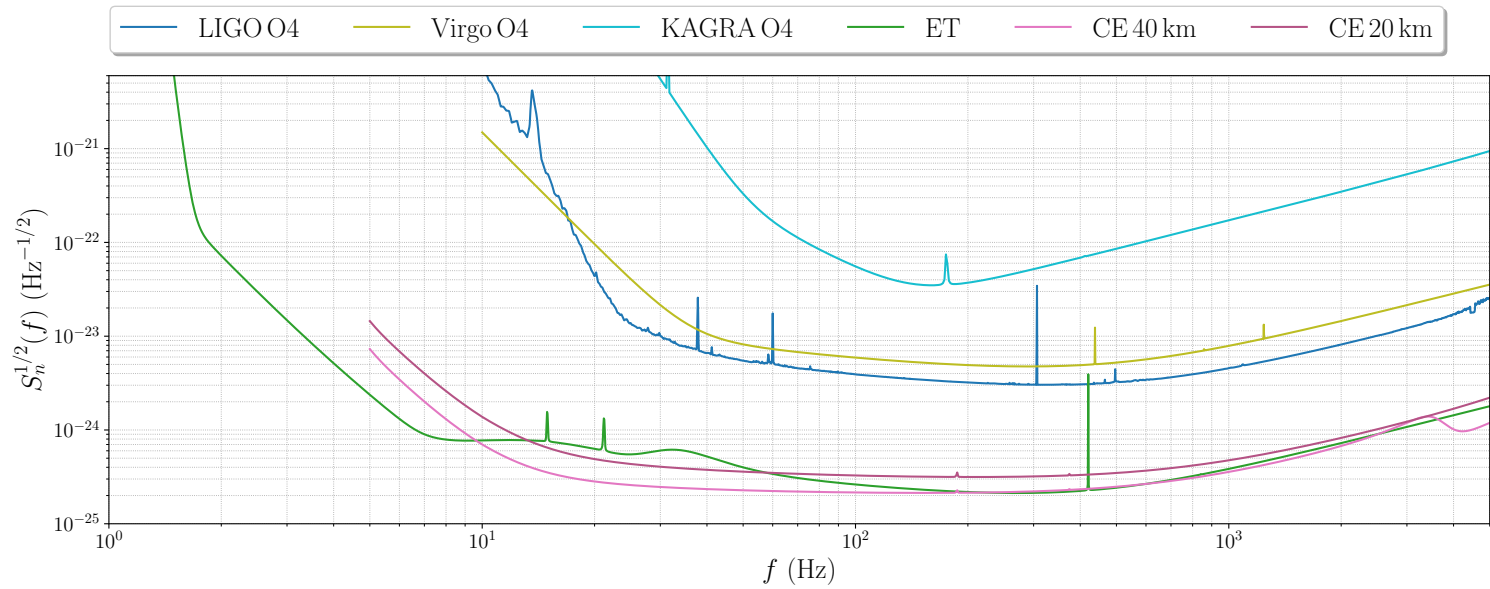
Science case with alternative geometries and designs: recent work coordinated by M. Branchesi and MM, (75 authors), 2303.15923



40 km and 20 km L-shaped surface observatories  
10x sensitivity of today's observatories (Advanced LIGO+)  
Global network together with Einstein Telescope



Artist: Eddie Anaya (Cal State Fullerton)



BBH up to  $z=O(50-100)$  !!

BNS up to  $z \sim 3$

# Detection distance of BBHs

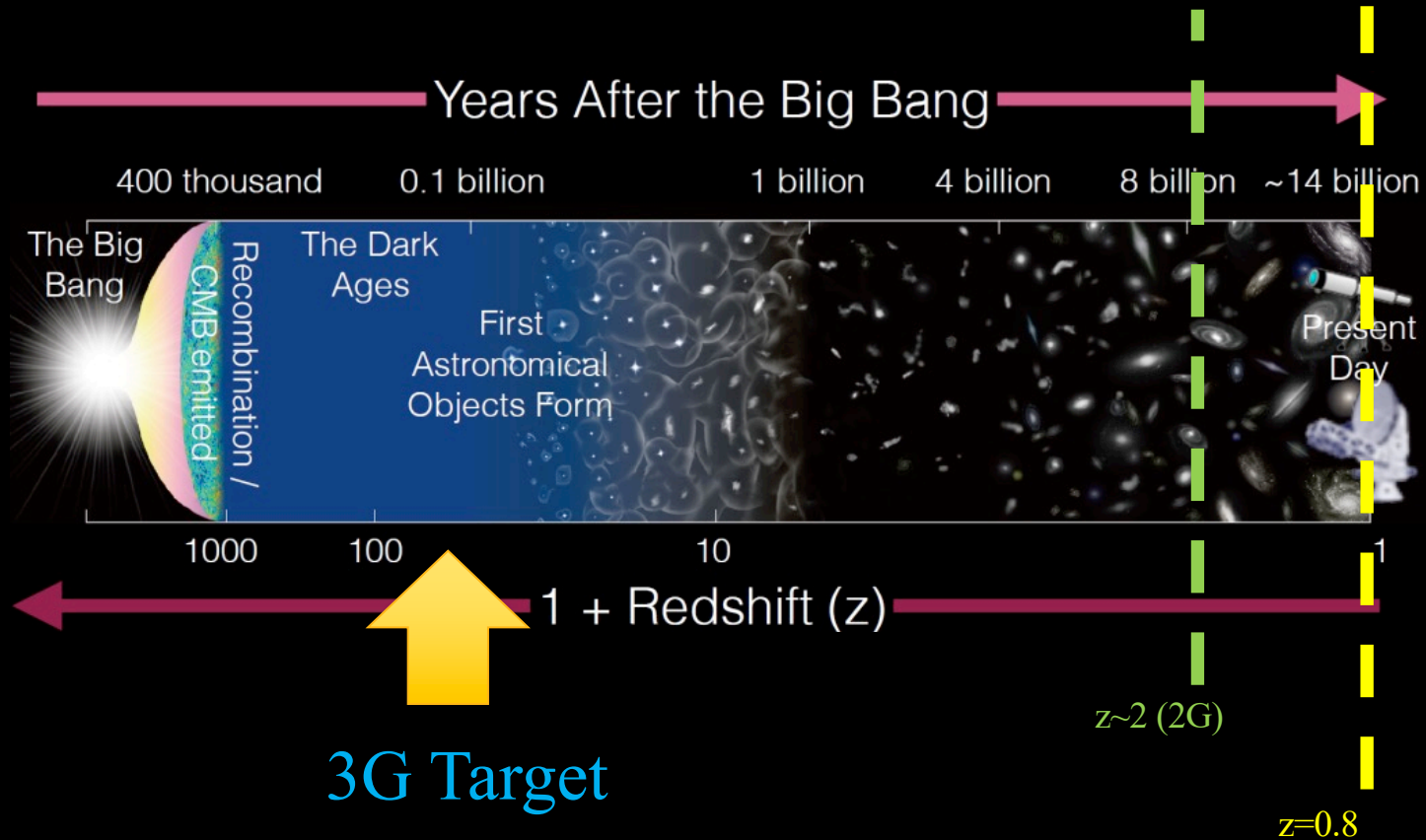
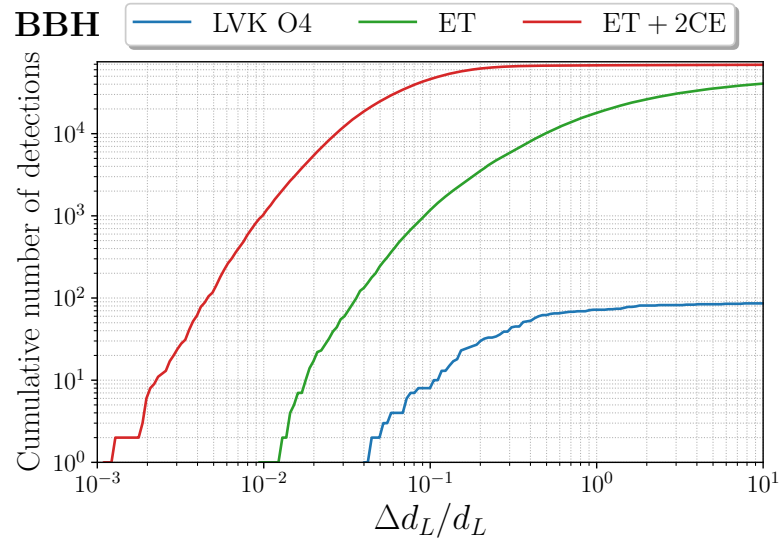
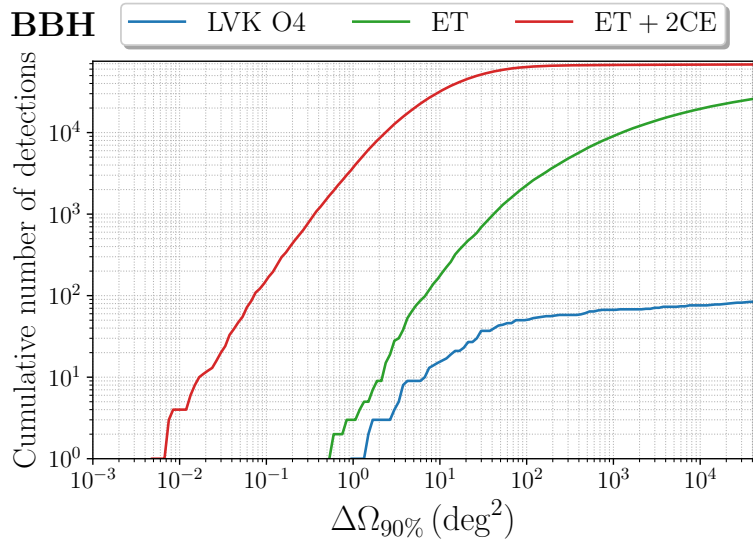
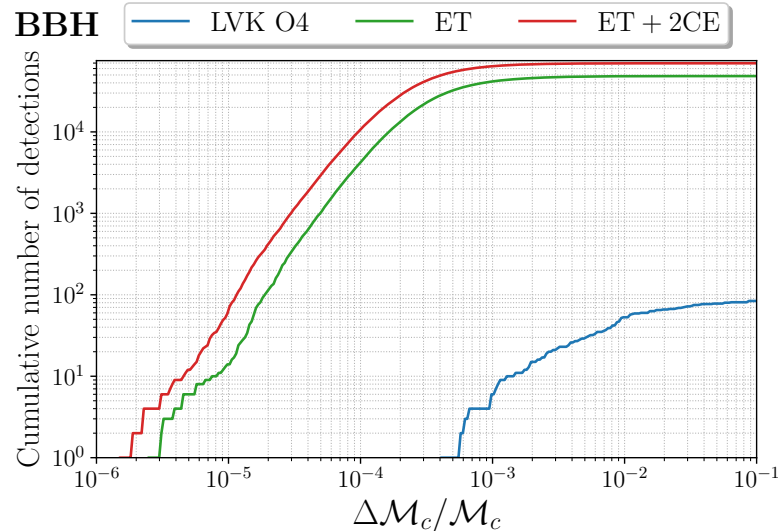
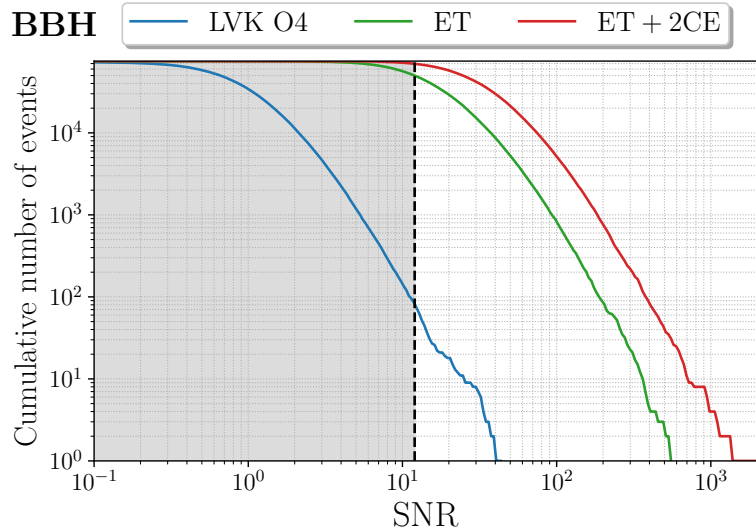
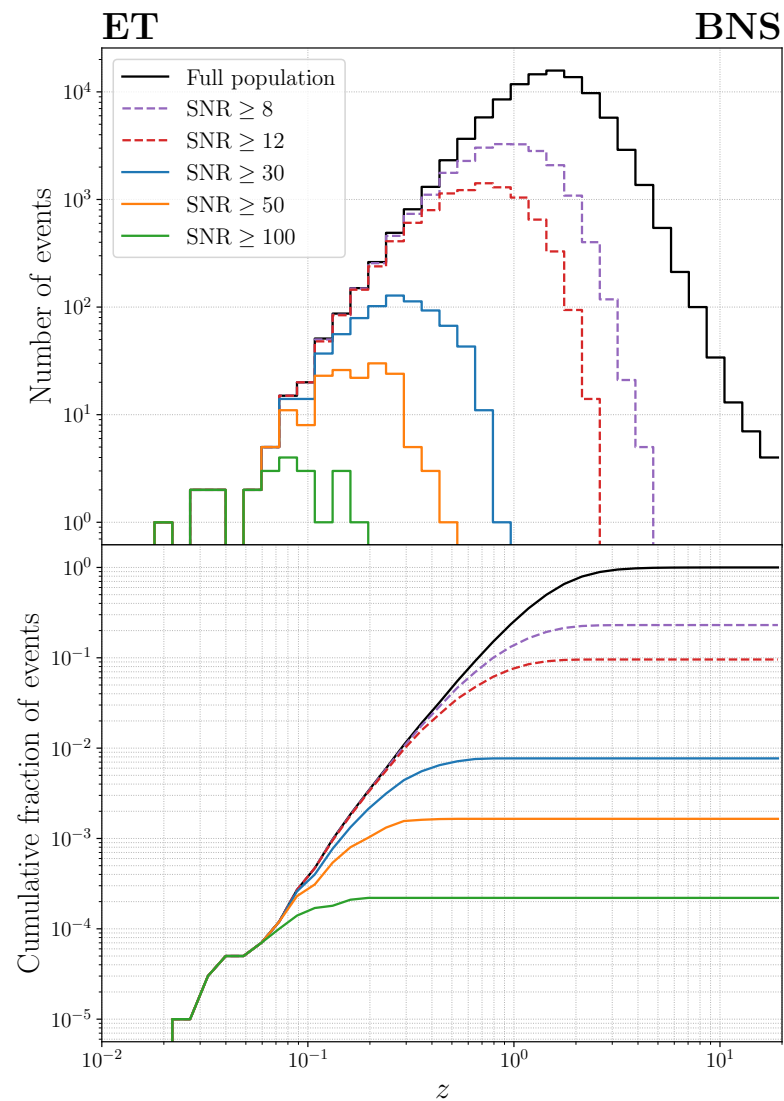
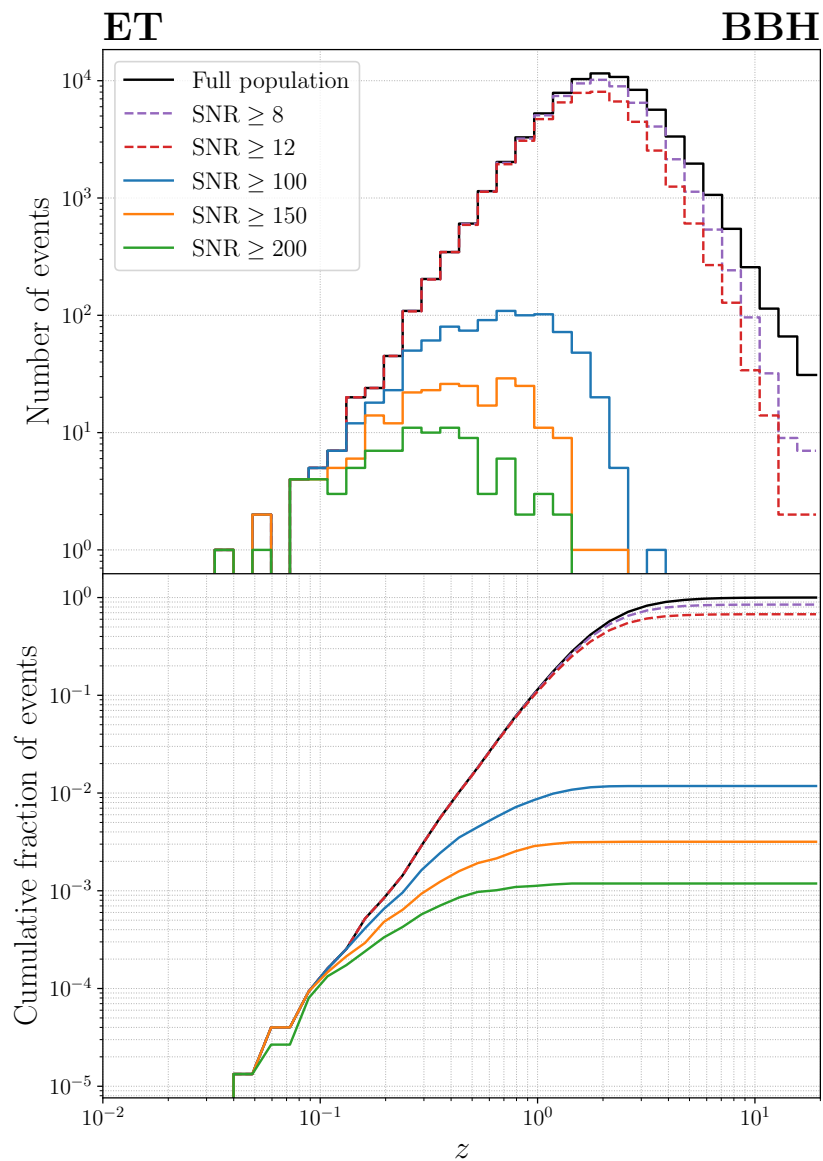


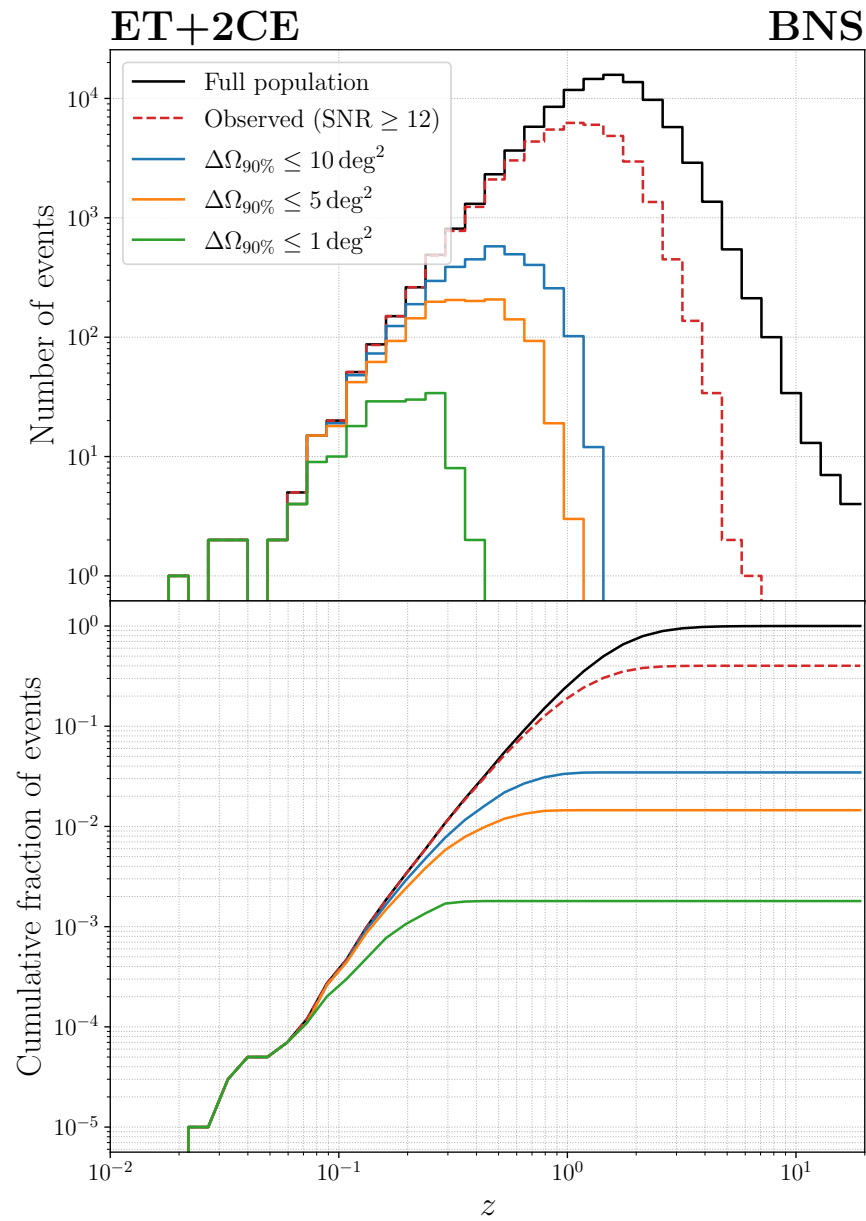
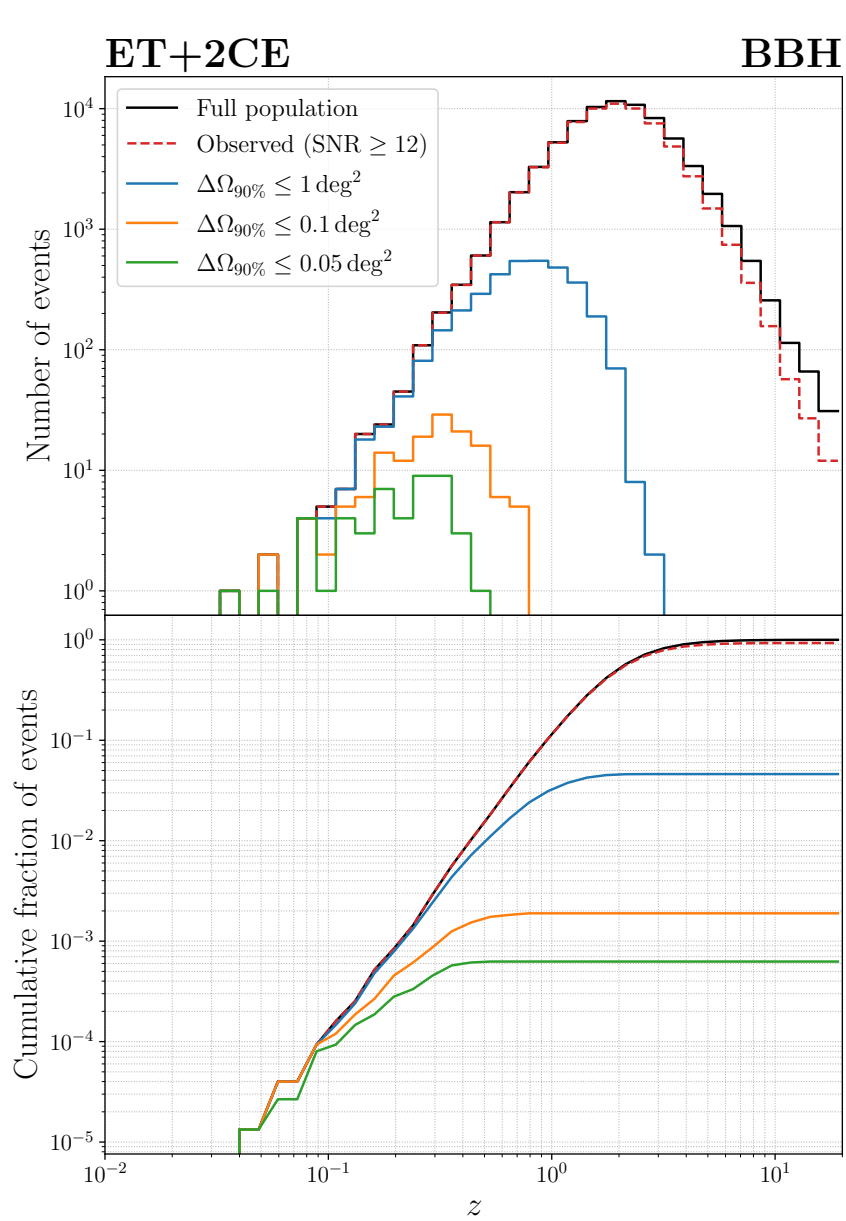
Image credit: NAOJ/ALMA <http://alma.mtk.nao.ac.jp/>

# SNR distribution and examples of parameter reconstruction (BBH) Iacovelli et al. 2022

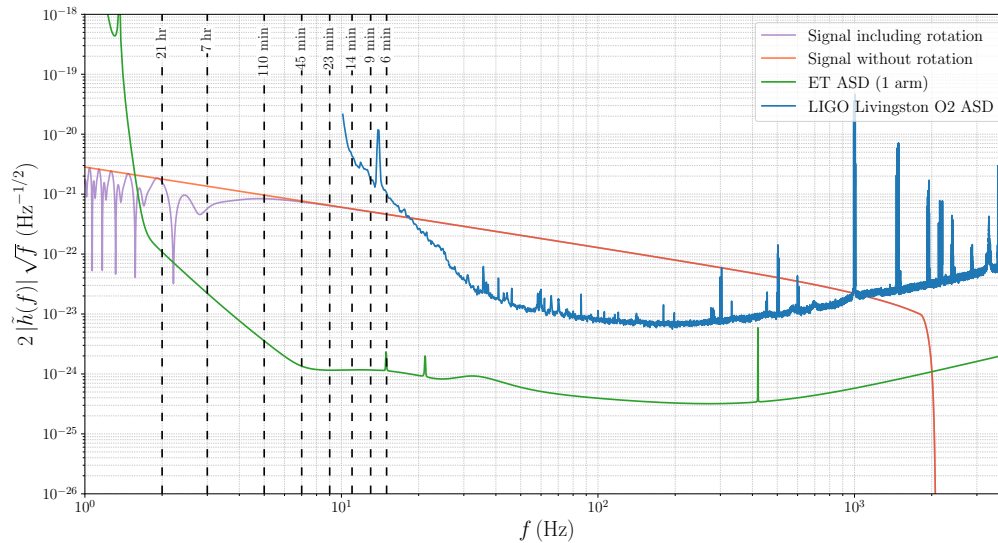


# 'golden events'



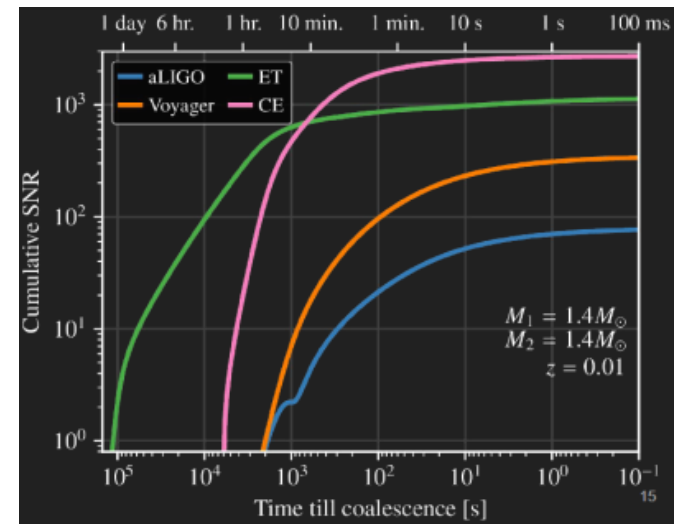


# GW170817 at LVC-O2 and at ET



If we are able to cumulate enough SNR before the merging phase, we can trigger e.m. observations before the emission of photons

Keyword: low frequency sensitivity





The combination of

- distances and masses explored
- number of detections
- detections with very high SNR

will provide a wealth of data that have the potential of triggering revolutions in astrophysics, cosmology and fundamental physics

# A summary of the Science of ET

## Astrophysics

- **Black hole properties**
  - origin (stellar vs. primordial)
  - evolution, demography
- **Neutron star properties**
  - demography, equation of state
- **Multi-messenger astronomy**
  - joint GW/EM observations (GRB, kilonova,...)
  - multiband GW detection (LISA)
- **Detection of new astrophysical sources**
  - core collapse supernovae
  - isolated neutron stars
  - stochastic background of astrophysical origin

# Fundamental physics and cosmology

- testing the nature of gravity
  - perturbative regime
    - inspiral phase of BBH, post-Newtonian expansion
  - strong field regime
    - physics near BH horizon
    - exotic compact objects
- QCD
  - interior structure of neutron stars probe:
    - QCD at ultra-high temperatures and densities
    - exotic states of matter

- Dark matter/new particles
  - primordial BHs
  - axions, dark matter accreting on compact objects
  
- Dark energy and modifications of gravity on cosmological scales
  - DE equation of state
  - modified GW propagation

- Stochastic backgrounds of cosmological origin and connections with high-energy physics
  - inflation
  - phase transitions
  - cosmic strings
  - ...

and we should not forget that ET will be a 'discovery machine': expect the unexpected!

In the following, we elaborate just on some  
'selected highlights'

# 1. The nature of Gravity

BHs are one of the most extraordinary predictions of GR

(e.g.  $10M_{\odot}$  concentrated in 30 km)

how can we be sure that the compact objects observed by LIGO/Virgo are the BHs predicted by GR?

- can we 'quantify' the existence of horizons?
- can we test the existence of Exotic Compact Objects?

no shortage of proposals in the literature:

boson stars (self-gravitating fundamental fields)

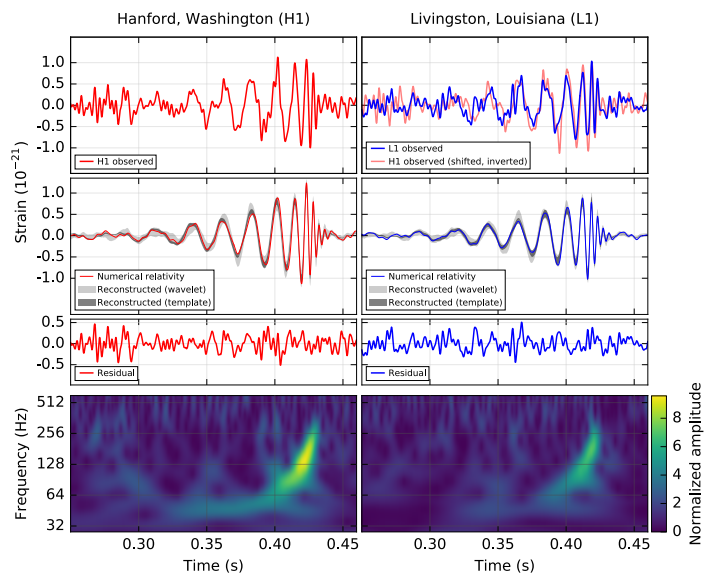
firewalls, fuzzballs... (quantum effects near the horizon motivated by the Hawking information loss problem):

# BH quasi-normal modes (QNM)

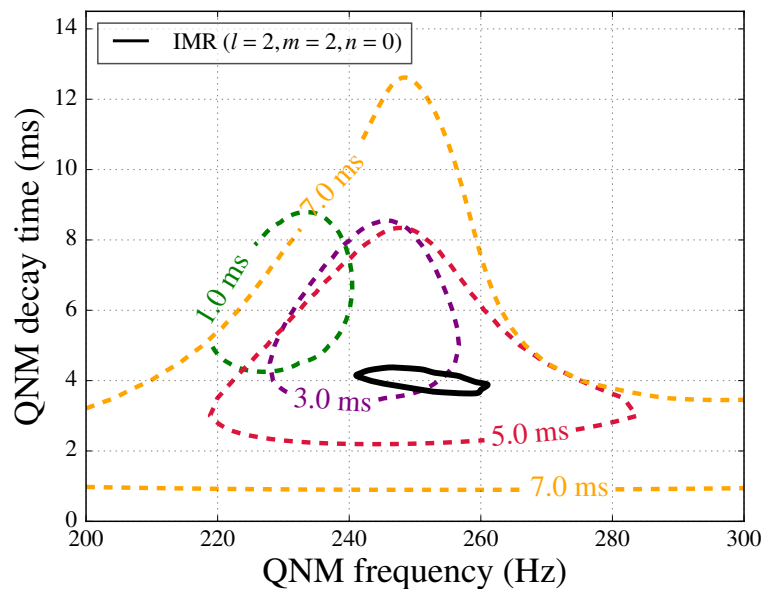
the elasticity of space-time in the regime of strong gravity!

GR predicts frequency and damping time as a function of mass and spin

classic chapter of GR: Regge-Wheeler, Chandrasekhar, Teukolsky...

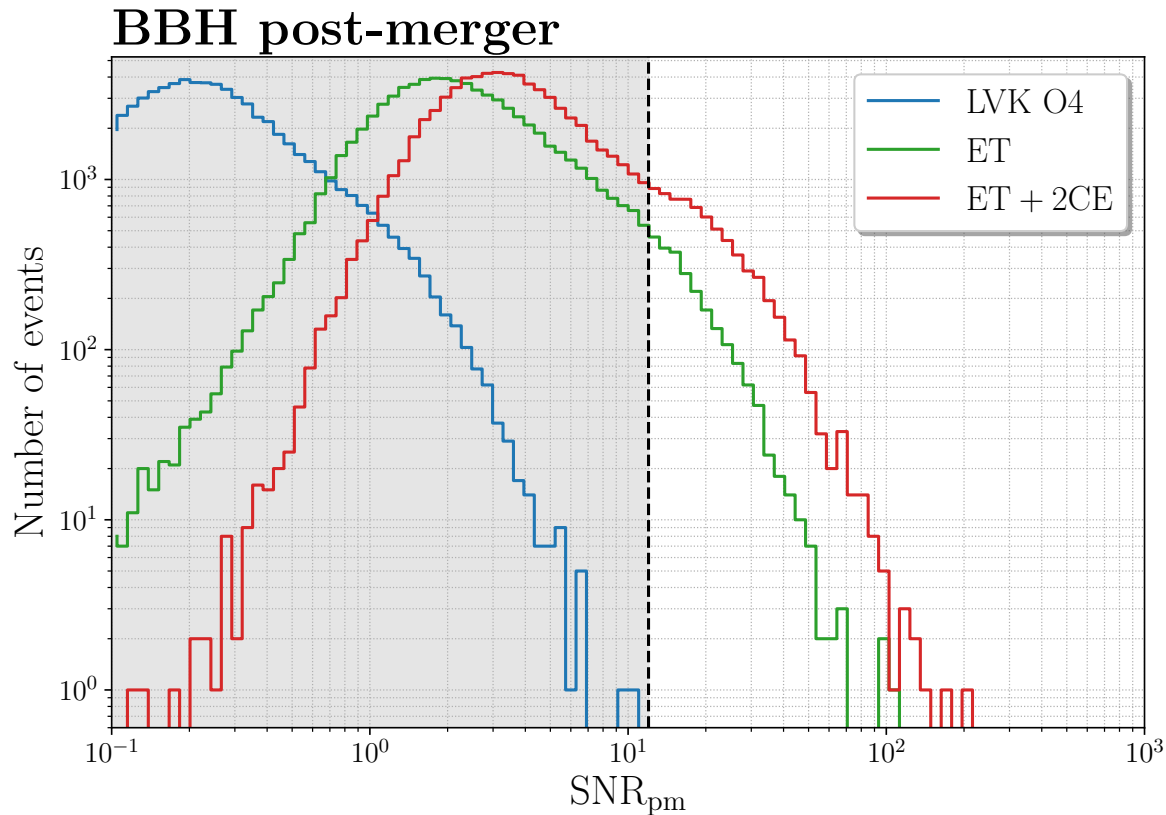


already observed in GW150914 (LVC)



consistent with GR, but we cannot say much more

# BBH post-merger at ET

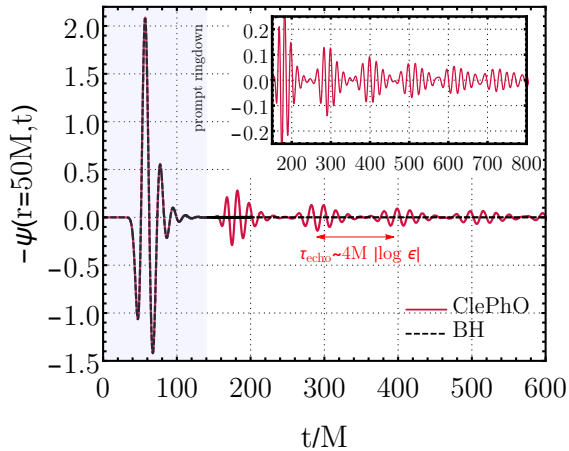


Iacovelli et al. 2022

- accurate BH spectroscopy already from single events
- $10^3$  events/yr with detectable ringdown
- 20-50 events/yr with detectable higher multipoles or overtones



# Echoes from Exotic Compact Object



Cardoso, Franzin, Pani 2016

$$\tau_{\text{echo}} = (2R_S/c) \log(R_S/\ell_{\text{new physics}})$$

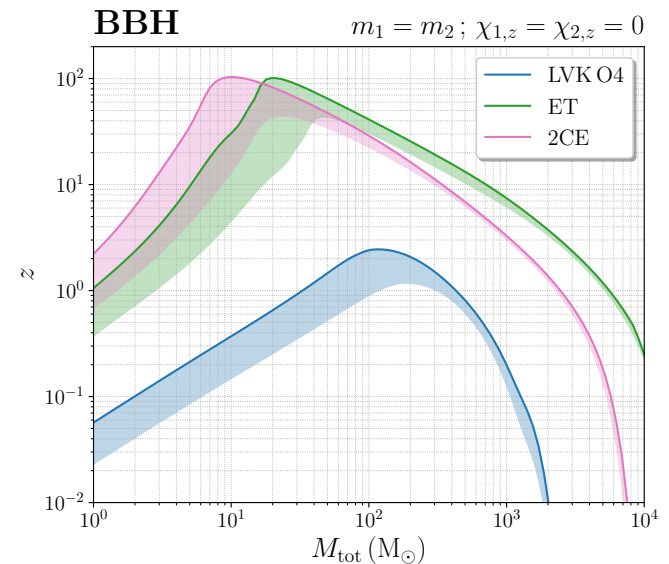
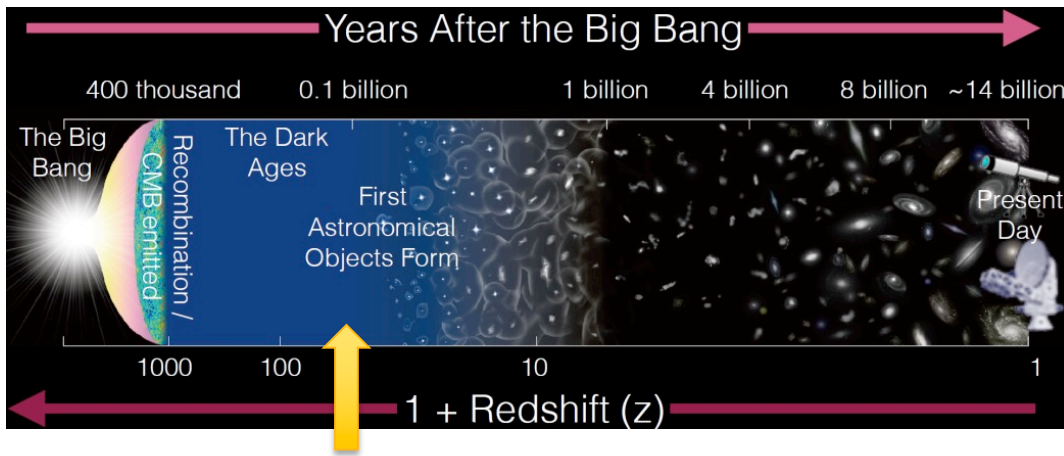
even possible to have signals from the Planck scale. Eg:

$$\ell_{\text{new physics}} = \ell_{\text{Pl}}, \quad M = 60M_{\odot} \rightarrow \tau_{\text{echo}} \simeq 50 \text{ ms}$$

- quite different from accelerator physics, where the Planck scale is unreachable
- detecting echoes might require  $\text{SNR} = \mathcal{O}(100)$  in the ringdown phase, achievable only with 3G detectors (ET, CE)

## 2. The origin of BHs: astrophysical vs primordial

ET will uncover the full population of coalescing stellar BBH since the end of the cosmological dark ages



BHs can also be generated by the collapse of large over-densities in the early Universe (PBHs) → window on inflationary scales

PBHs might also contribute to dark matter

# Disentangle astrophysical from primordial BH

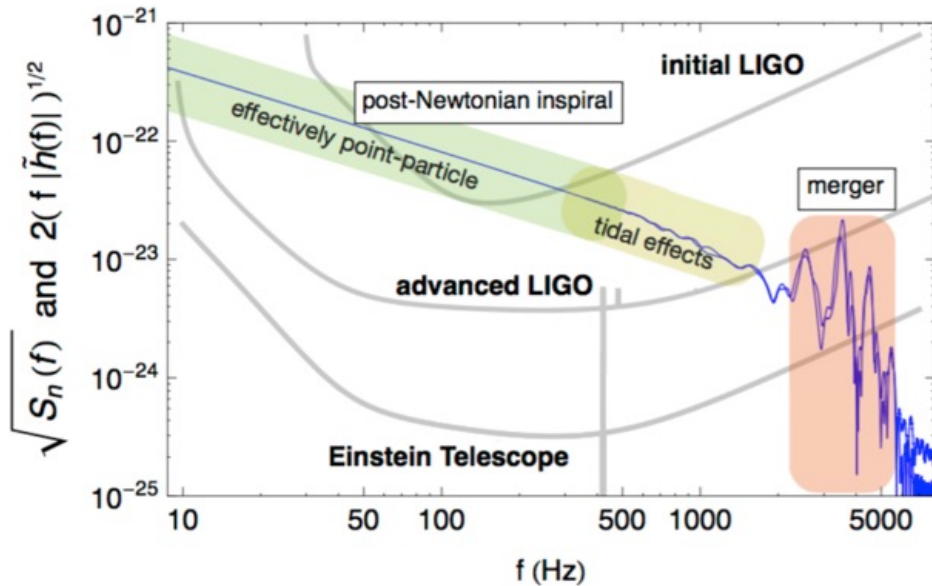
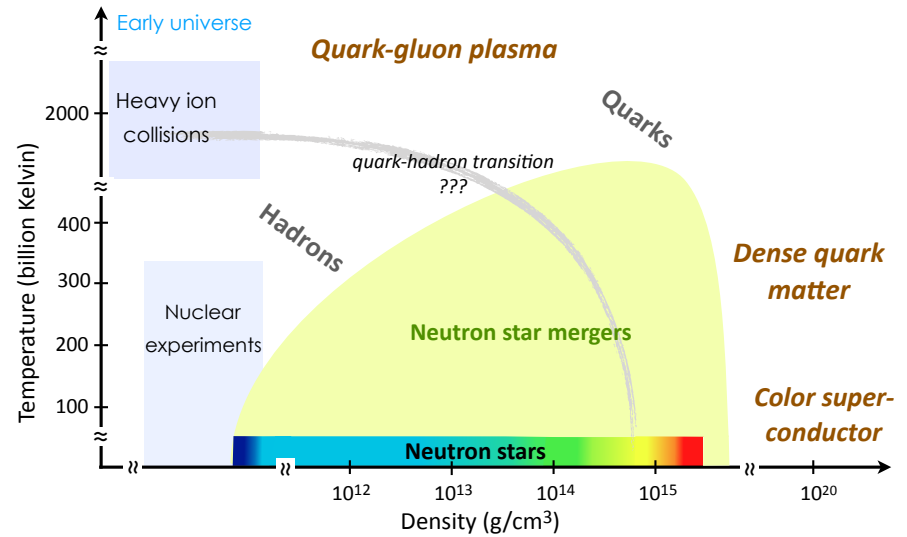
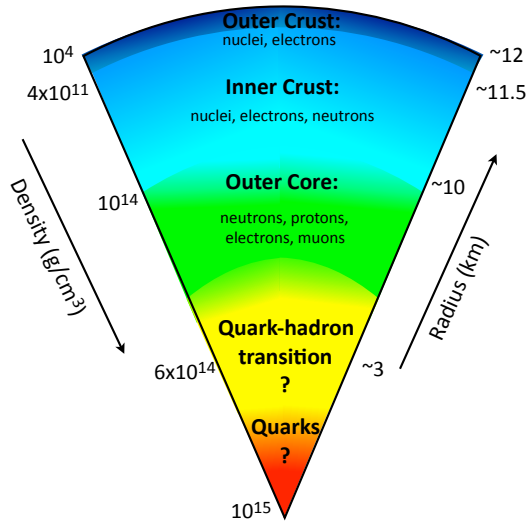
- the PBH merger rate increases with redshift, up to  $z = O(10^3)$

Any BBH merger at  $z > 30$  (very conservatively) will be of primordial origin. ET can reach  $z \sim 50-100$  !!

Accurate measurement of  $z$  is also needed

- subsolar mass BH must be primordial

# 3. QCD with neutron stars



BNS merger @100 Mpc  
(adapted from J. Read)

## 4. GWs as probes of cosmology

GWs from coalescing binaries provide an absolute measurement of the luminosity distance to the source

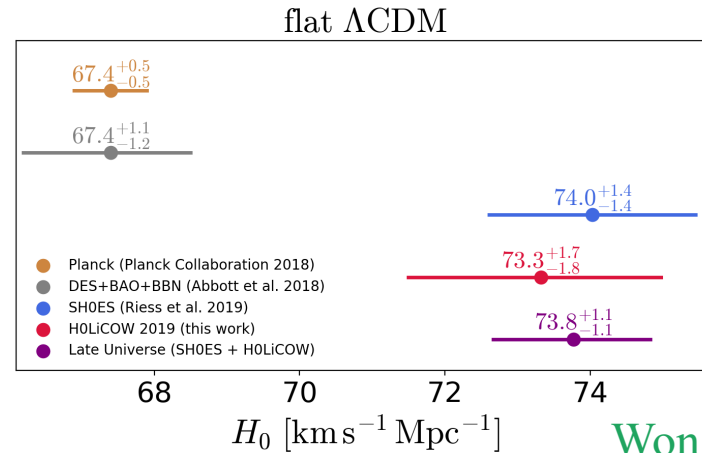
$$d_L(z) = \frac{1+z}{H_0} \int_0^z \frac{d\tilde{z}}{\sqrt{\Omega_M(1+\tilde{z})^3 + \rho_{\text{DE}}(\tilde{z})/\rho_0}}$$

$$\Omega_M = \frac{\rho_M(t_0)}{\rho_0}, \quad \rho_0 = \frac{3H_0^2}{8\pi G}$$

- need an independent determination of  $z$   
(electromagnetic counterpart, statistical methods)
- low  $z$ : Hubble law,  $d_L \simeq H_0^{-1} z$
- moderate  $z$ : access  $\Omega_M, \rho_{\text{DE}}(z)$

# low z: measuring $H_0$

Observational tensions,  
in particular early- vs  
late-Universe probes of  $H_0$



Wong et al.,  
H0LiCOW 2019

O(50-100) standard sirens at 2G needed to arbitrate the discrepancy

already solved by the time of 3G detectors? (possible, but not sure, no counterpart in O3)

depending on the network of electromagnetic facilities at the time of ET,  
ET can detect several tens BNS with counterpart per year

At higher  $z$ , accessible only to 3G detectors or LISA, we access the redshift evolution of the dark energy density

$$p_{\text{DE}}(z) = w_{\text{DE}}(z)\rho_{\text{DE}}(z) \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \frac{\rho_{\text{DE}}(z)}{\rho_0} = \Omega_{\text{DE}} \exp \left\{ 3 \int_0^z \frac{d\tilde{z}}{1 + \tilde{z}} [1 + w_{\text{DE}}(\tilde{z})] \right\}$$

Several studies of forecasts for  $w_{\text{DE}}$  at ET

Result: not a significant improvement on  $w_{\text{DE}}$  compared with what we already know from CMB+BAO+SNe

A potentially more interesting observable:

modified GW propagation

Belgacem, Dirian, Foffa, MM 1712.08108 ,  
1805.08731

Belgacem, Dirian, Finke, Foffa, MM  
1907.02047,  
2001.07619

Belgacem et al, LISA CosWG, 1907.01487

# Modified GW propagation

in GR :  $\tilde{h}''_A + 2\mathcal{H}\tilde{h}'_A + k^2\tilde{h}_A = 0$

In all theories that modify GR on cosmological scales:

$$\tilde{h}''_A + 2\mathcal{H}[1 - \delta(\eta)]\tilde{h}'_A + k^2\tilde{h}_A = 0$$

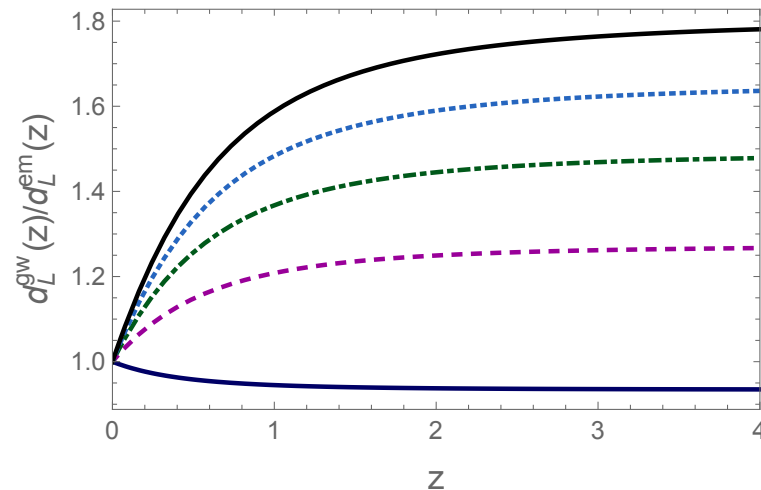
This affects the propagation of GWs across cosmological distances

The net effect is that the quantity extracted from GW observations is a 'GW luminosity distance'

$$d_L^{\text{gw}}(z) = d_L^{\text{em}}(z) \exp \left\{ - \int_0^z \frac{dz'}{1+z'} \delta(z') \right\}$$



- at the background level and for scalar perturbations, deviations from GR are bounded at the level (5-10)%
- one would expect similar deviations in the tensor sector. Instead, in a viable model (non-local gravity) the deviations at the redshifts explored by ET can reach 80% !



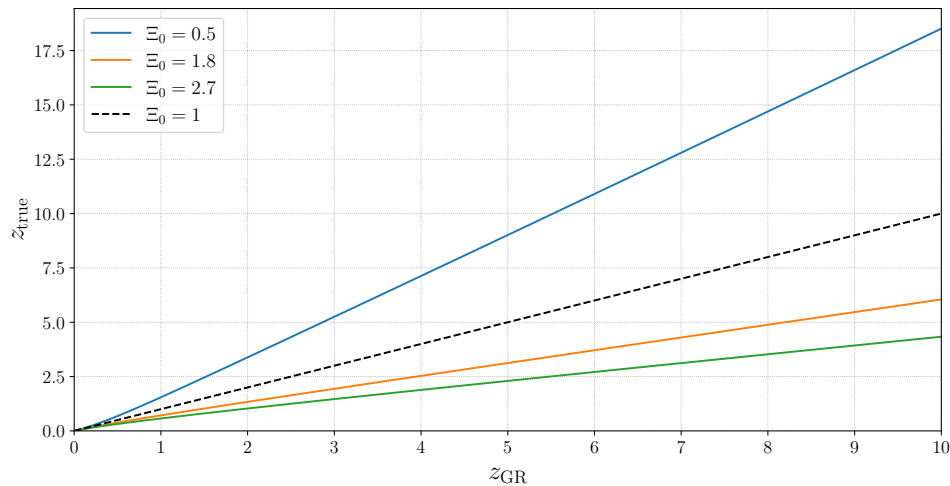
Belgacem, Dirian, Finke, Foffa, MM , 2020

⇒ 3G detectors could be the best experiments for studying dark energy

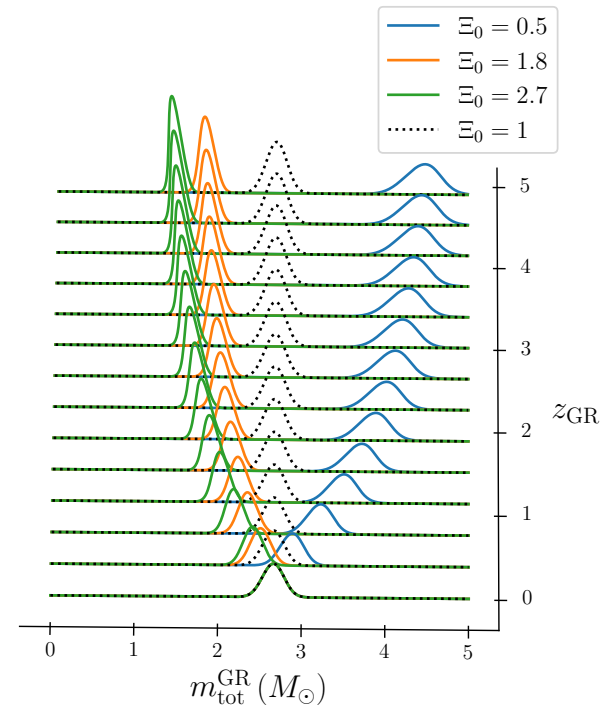
# Example: BNS mass function at ET

GW detectors measure the combination  $m_{\text{det}} = (1 + z)m$

and do not measure directly  $z$  but  $d_L \Rightarrow$  here cosmology enters



Finke, Foffa, Iacovelli, MM, Mancarella 2021



## 5. Dark matter, new fundamental fields

Several DM candidates can be studied (only?) by ET

- primordial BHs
  - BBH at  $z \sim 30-100$ ,
  - masses down to  $(0.1-1) M_{\odot}$
  - correlation with Large Scale Structures
  
- DM particles captured in NS/BH
  - DM core in NS, drag in binary systems

# Ultralight particles

particles with  $m \sim 10^{-20}$ - $10^{-10}$  eV have Compton wavelength of order of the Schwarzschild radius of BHs with masses billions  $M_{\odot}$  to a few  $M_{\odot}$

$10^{-22}$ - $10^{-10}$  eV : lower range  $\rightarrow$  viable DM candidates

upper range  $\rightarrow$  QCD axions

ultralight axions from string theory possibly covering the whole range

because of a super-radiance instability, they extract energy from rotating BHs and form a long-lived Bose condensate rotating with the BH

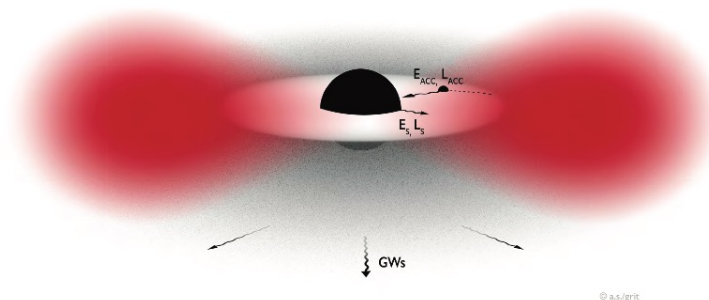


figure: Brito, Cardoso, Pani 2014

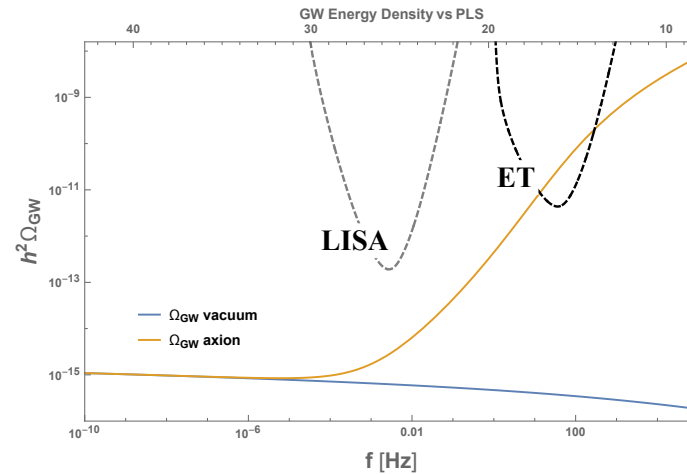
# 6. Stochastic GW backgrounds

GWs can carry uncorrupted information from the very earliest moments after the big bang and corresponding high-energy physics

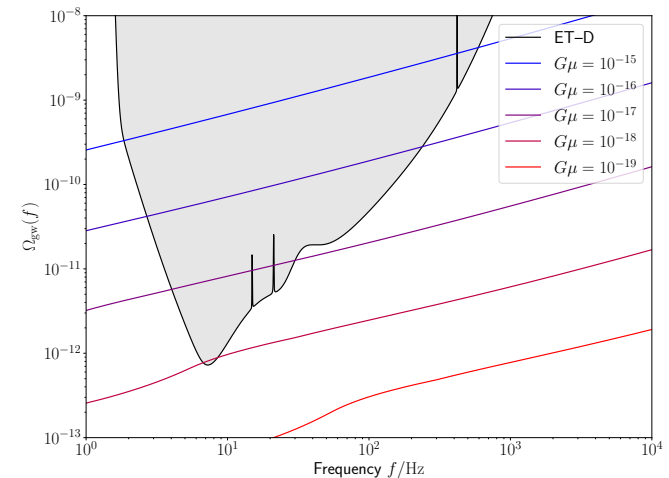
- photons decouple from primordial plasma when  
 $z \simeq 1090$ ,  $T \simeq 0.26 \text{ eV}$   
CMB gives a snapshot of the Universe at this epoch
- neutrinos decouple at  $T \simeq \text{MeV}$
- GWs are already decoupled below the Planck scale,  $10^{19} \text{ GeV}$

ET improves the sensitivity to stochastic backgrounds by 2-3 orders of magnitude compared to LIGO/Virgo

vacuum fluctuations from slow-roll inflation too small, but other inflation-related mechanisms can produce detectable signals



- cosmic strings
- 1<sup>st</sup> order phase transitions at  $T \sim 10^7 - 10^{10}$  GeV
- anisotropies, multipole expansion



# Take-away messages

ET has an exciting and broad science program,  
ranging from astrophysics to cosmology and  
fundamental physical

Thank you!