



**AMALDI**  
RESEARCH CENTER

# 90 GW confirmed detections: what did we learn?



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# Schedule for the week

- ***Monday:*** Gravitational Waves: basic and data analysis
- ***Tuesday:*** Interferometric detectors of Gravitational Waves
- ***Wednesday:*** 90 Gravitational Wave detections: what did we learn?
- ***Thursday:*** Multimessenger probes
- ***Hands-on session:*** Gravitational Wave Open Science Center

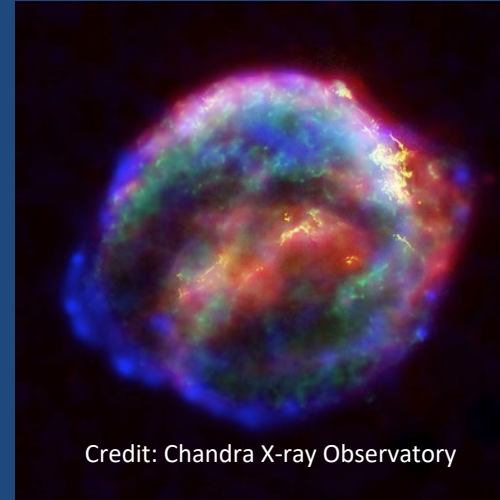
# The Astrophysical Gravitational-Wave Source Catalog



## *Coalescing Binary Systems*

- Black hole – black hole
- Black hole – neutron star
- Neutron star – neutron star
- modeled waveform

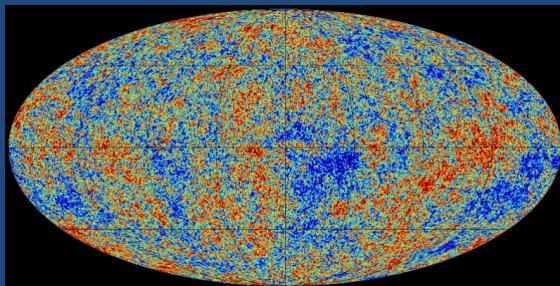
Credit: Bohn, Hébert, Throwe, SXS



## *Transient 'Burst' Sources*

- asymmetric core collapse supernovae
- cosmic strings
- ???
- Unmodeled waveform

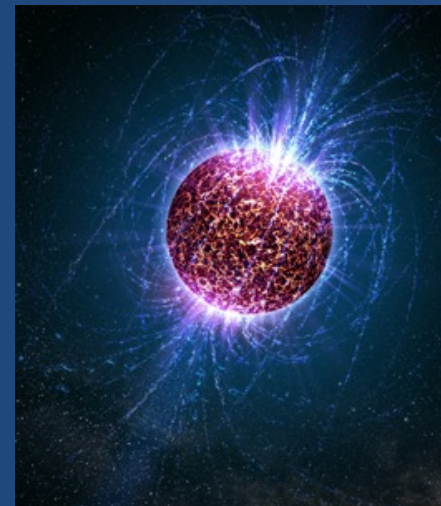
Credit: Chandra X-ray Observatory



## *Cosmic GW Background*

- residue of the Big Bang
- probes back to  $< 10^{-15}$  s
- stochastic, incoherent background
- Difficult (impossible?) for LIGO-Virgo to detect

Credit: Planck Collaboration



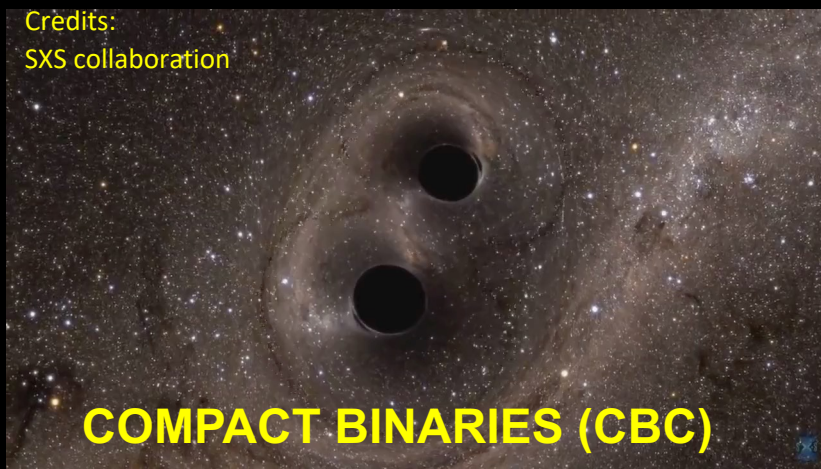
## *Continuous Sources*

- Spinning neutron stars
- monotone waveform

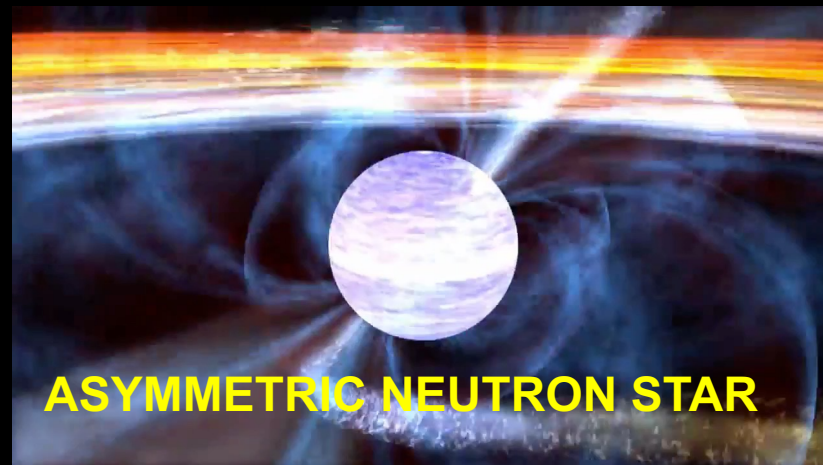
Credit: Casey Reed, Penn State

# Gravitational Wave Targets

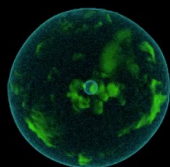
## TRANSIENT



## PERSISTENT



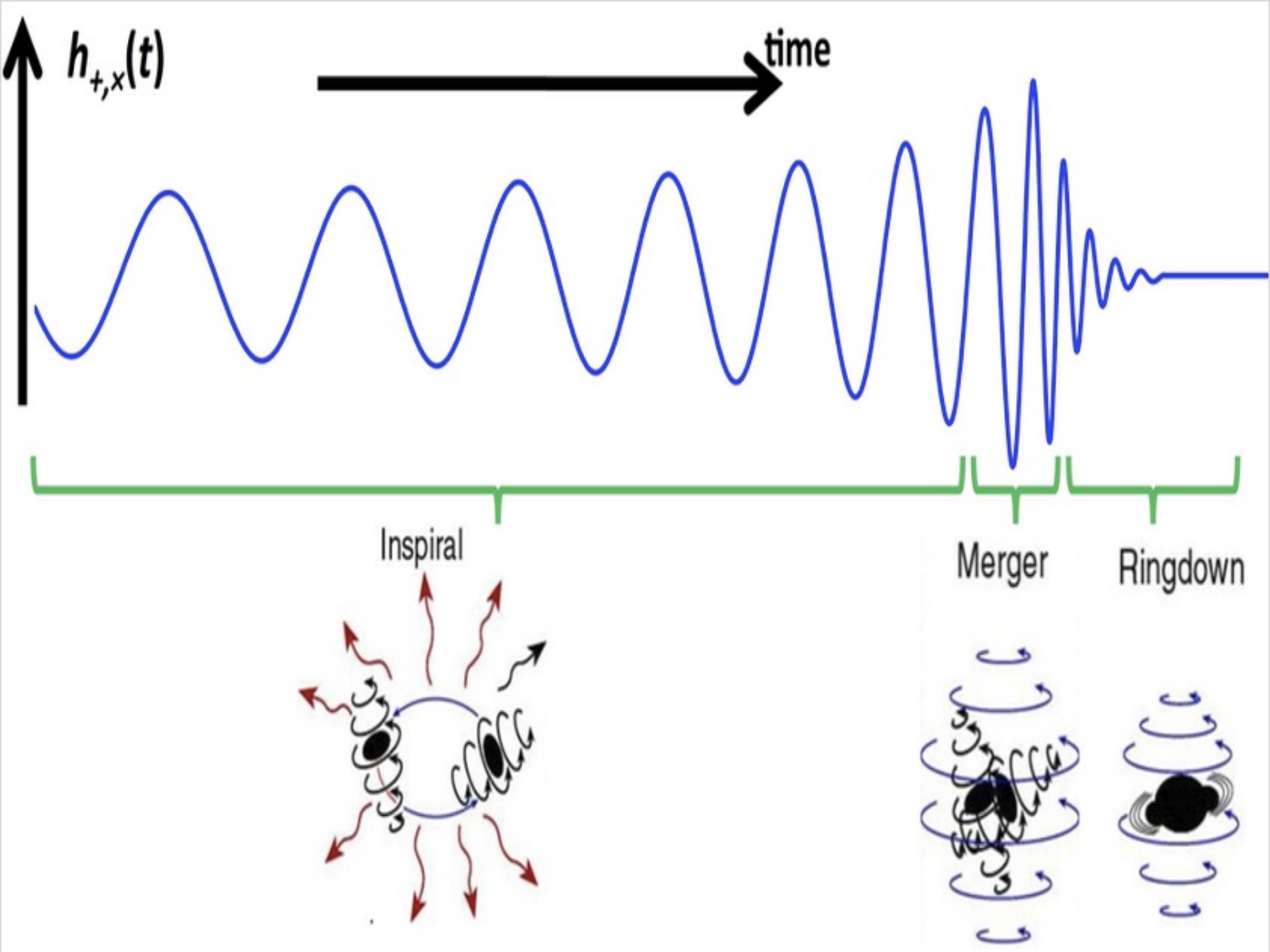
**MATCHED  
FILTER**



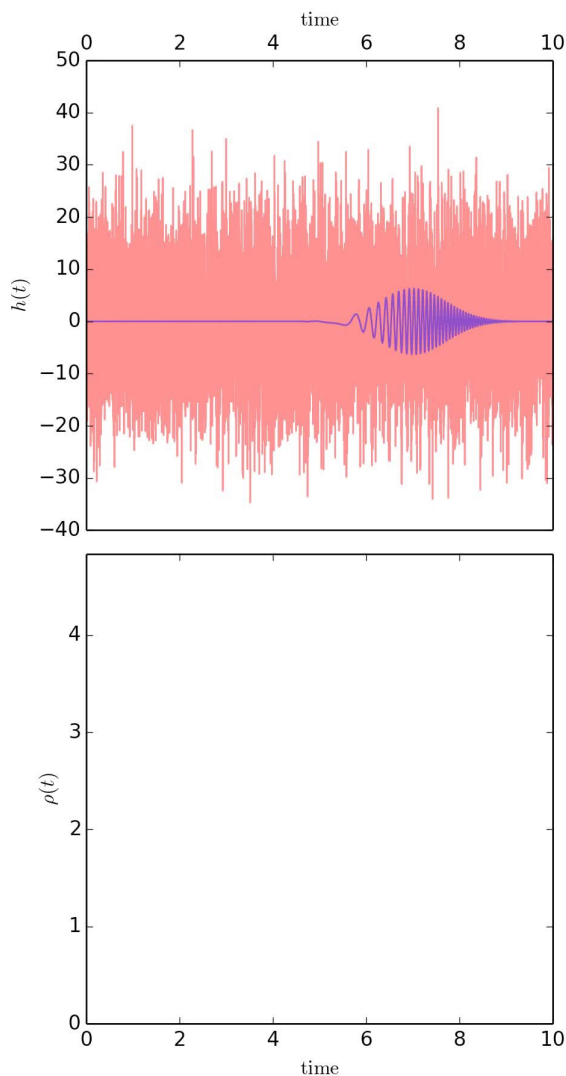
**BURSTS: Core collapse Supernovae**



**UNMODELED**



# Assessing Statistical Significance: Modeled Search

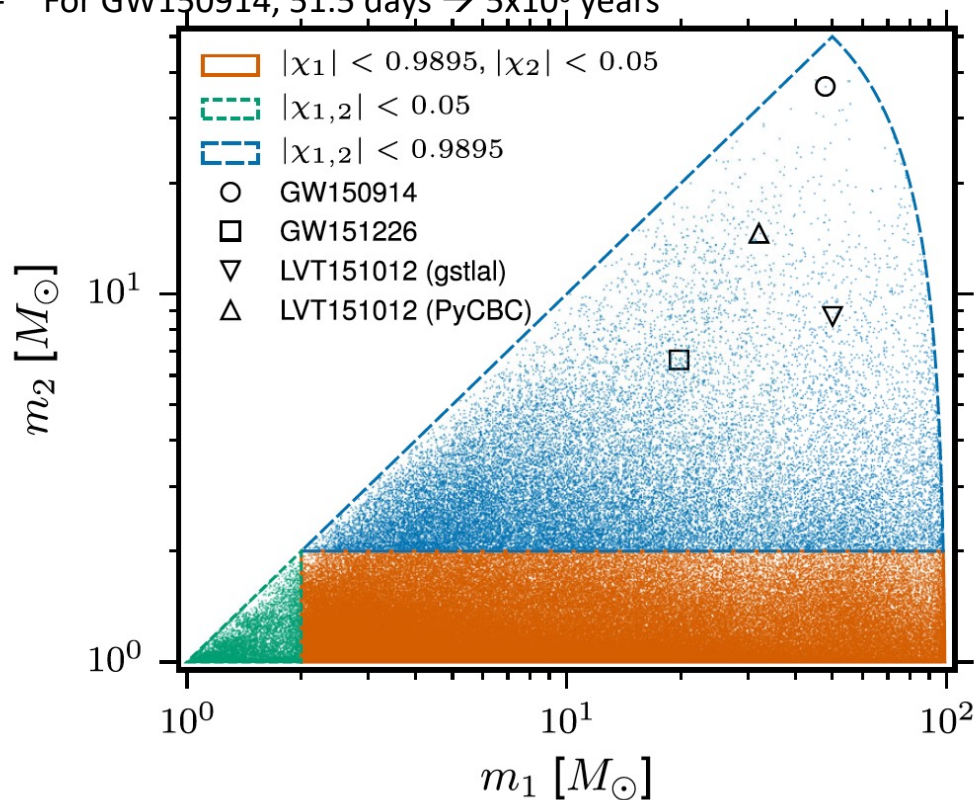


Simulation: Reed Essick, LIGO MIT

- Matched filter search: X-correlation of L1, H1 data streams

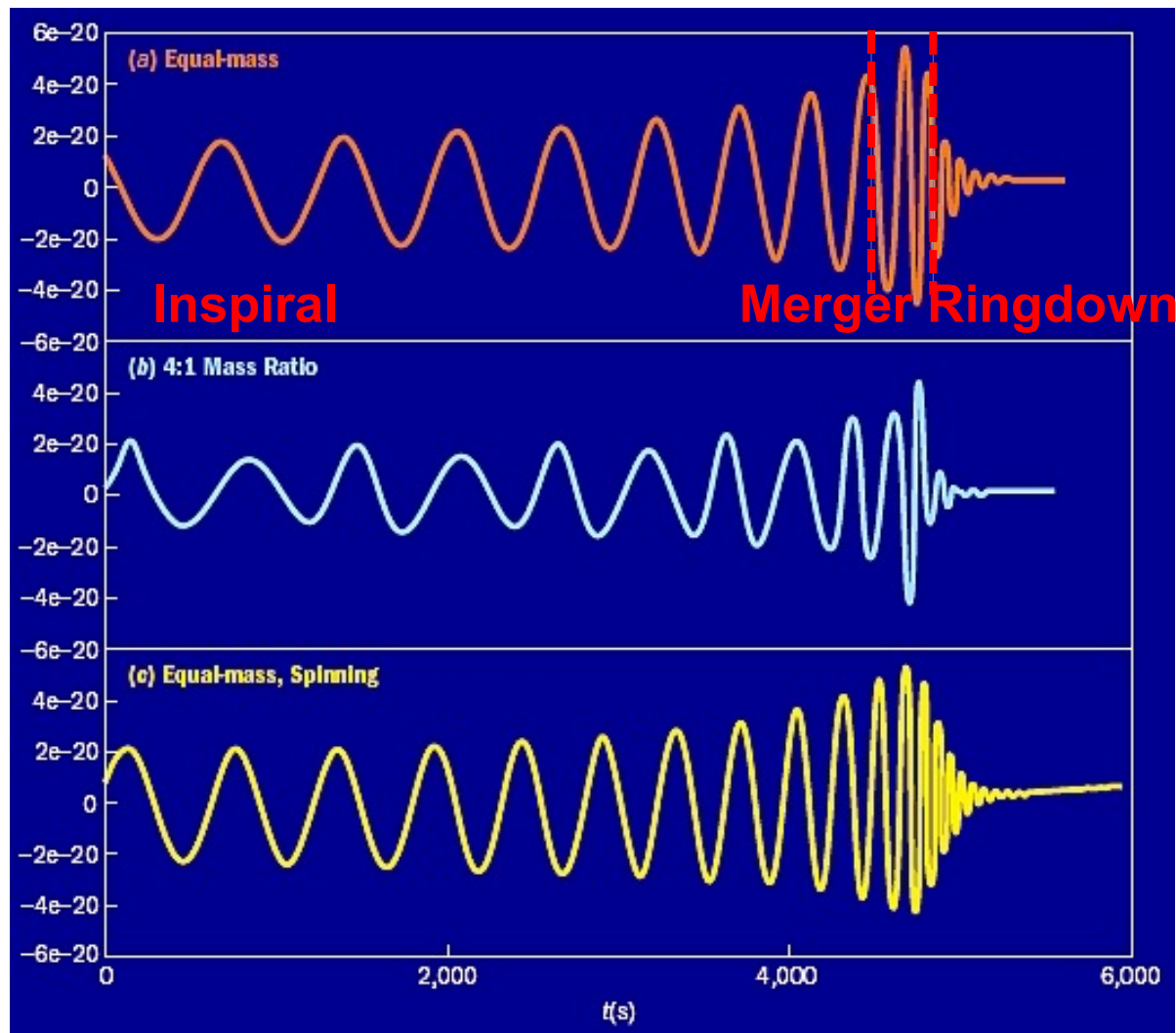
$$\rho = \frac{\langle s|h \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle h|h \rangle}} \quad \langle a|b \rangle = 4\text{Re} \int_{f_{\text{low}}}^{f_{\text{high}}} \frac{\tilde{a}(f)\tilde{b}(f)}{S_n(f)} df$$

- Background computed from time-shifting coincident data in 100 ms steps
  - For GW150914, 51.5 days  $\rightarrow$   $5 \times 10^6$  years

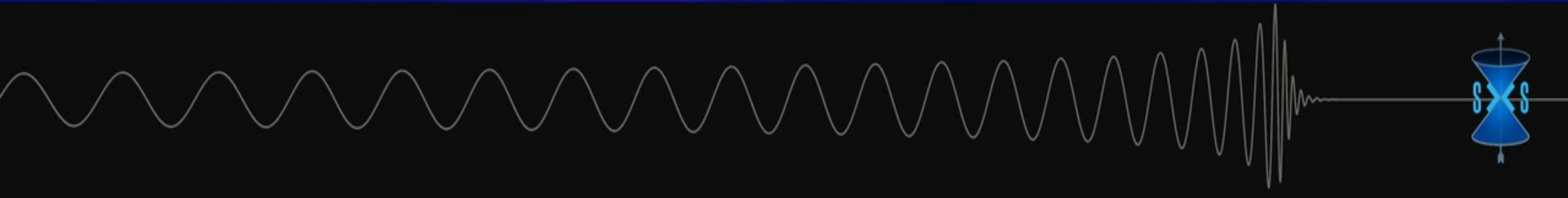
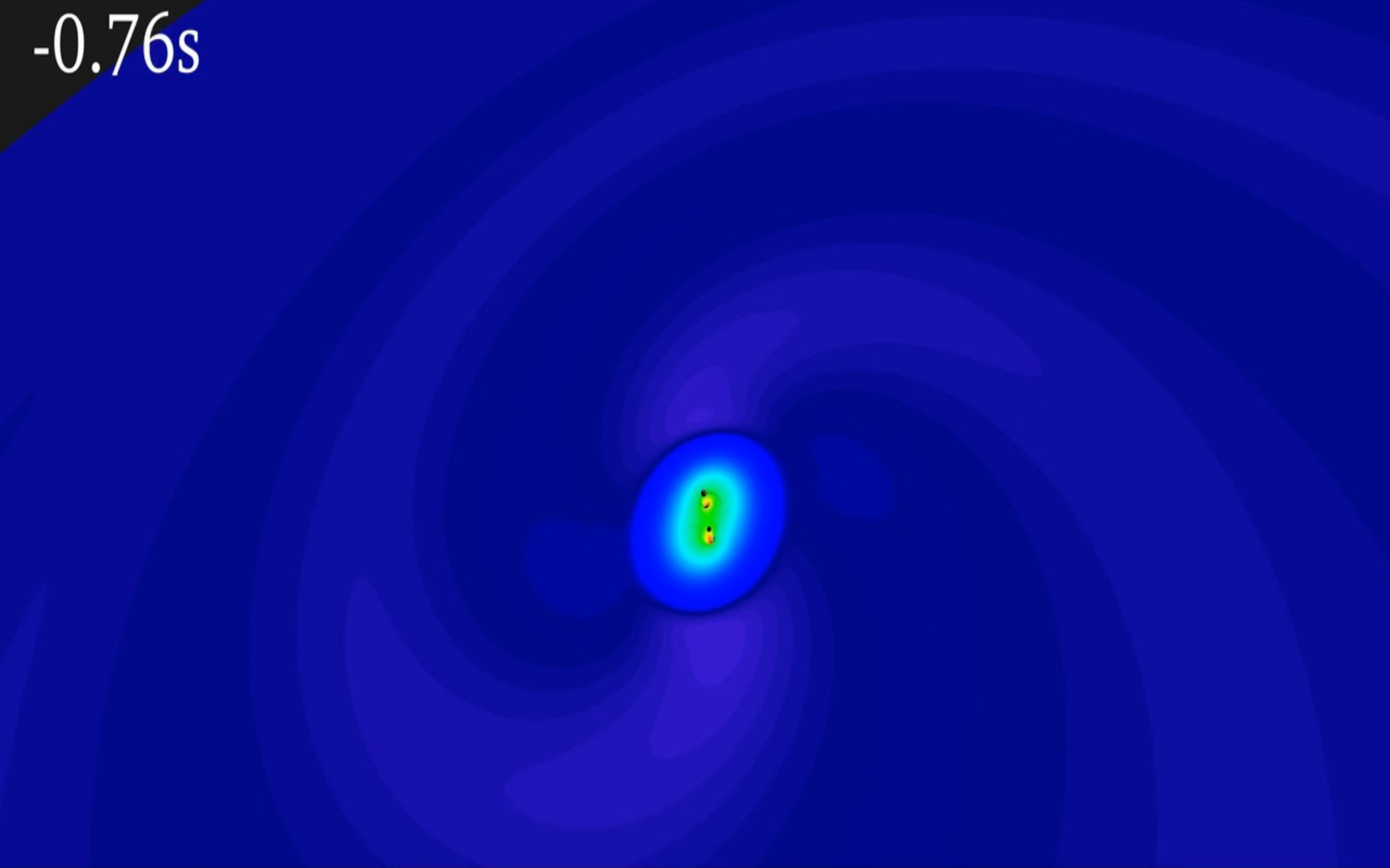


# Extracting Astrophysical Parameters from GW Waveforms

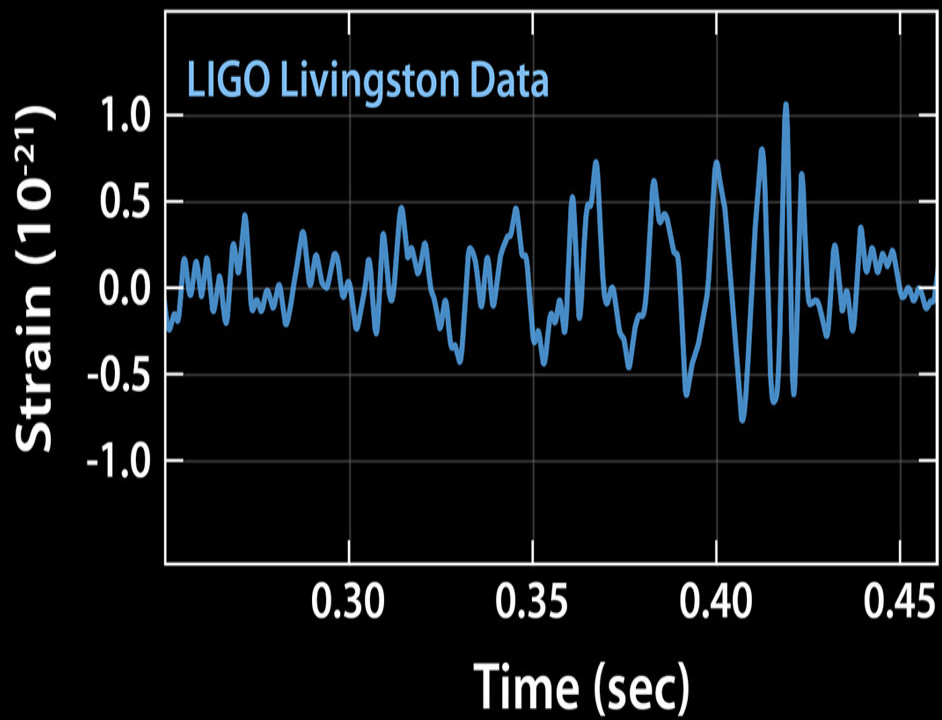
- Compact object parameters encoded in the waveforms:
  - Constituent masses, constituent spins, sky location, luminosity distance, orbital inclination, time of arrival
- Intrinsic degeneracies make parameter estimation difficult!
  - E.g., luminosity distance vs. inclination angle
- The SNR of the waveform matters
  - often buried in detector noise; lower SNR obscures parameter estimation

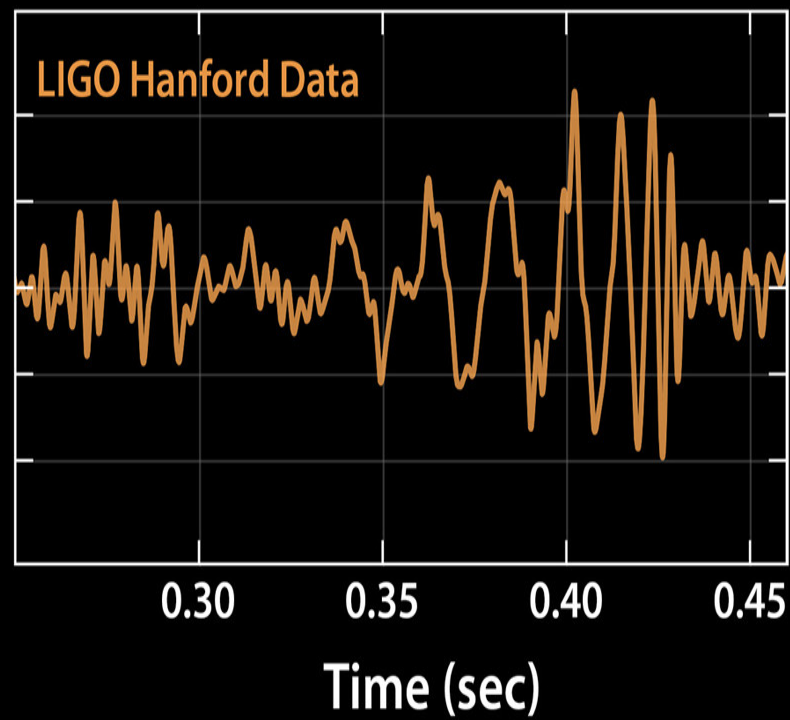
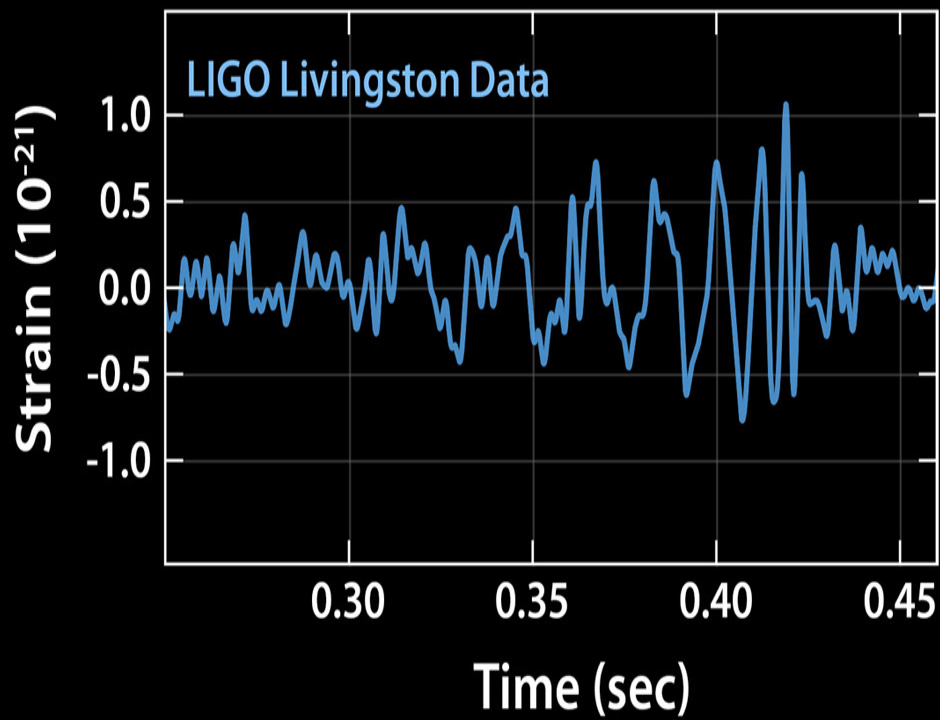


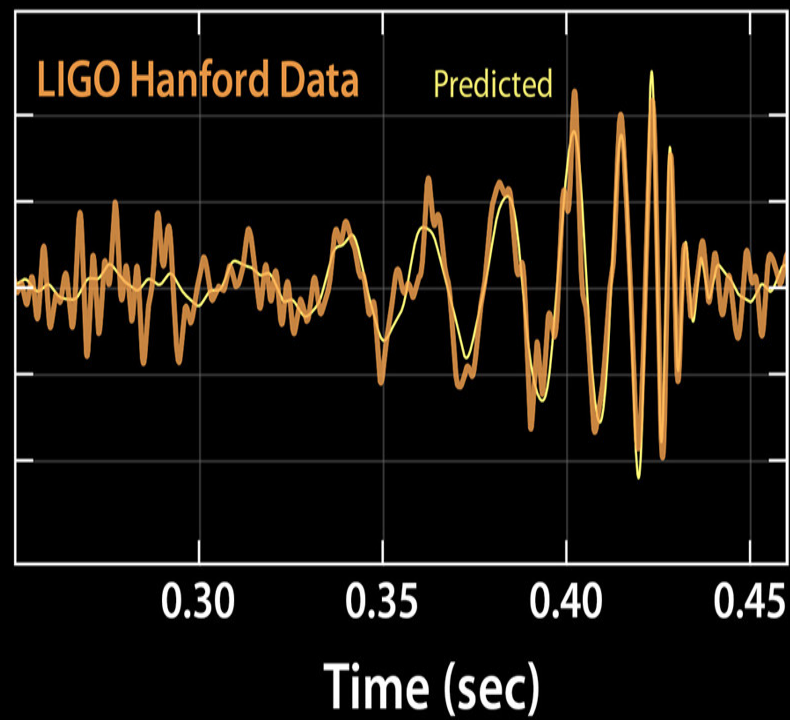
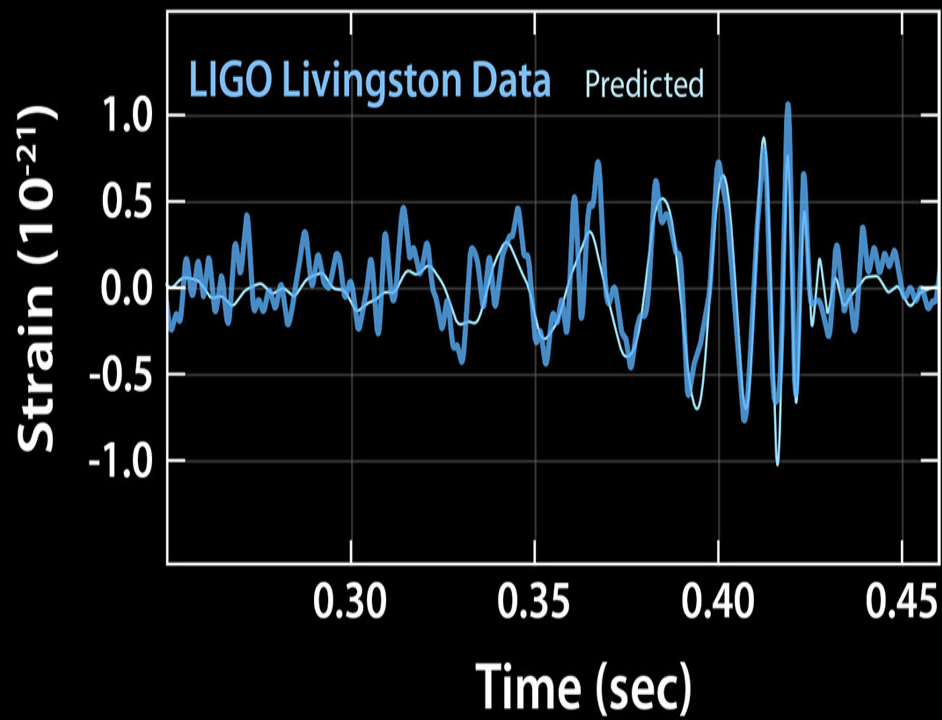
-0.76s

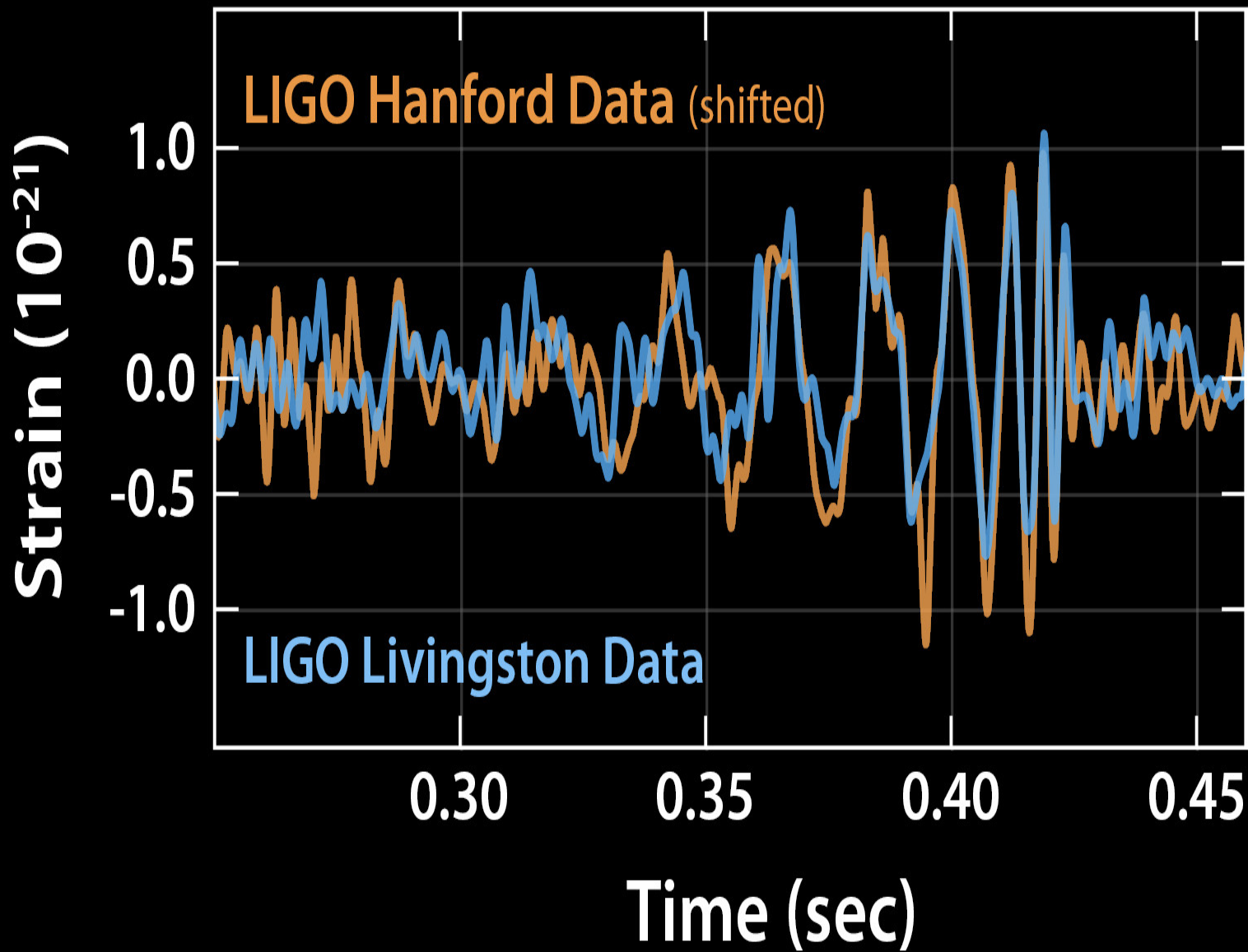


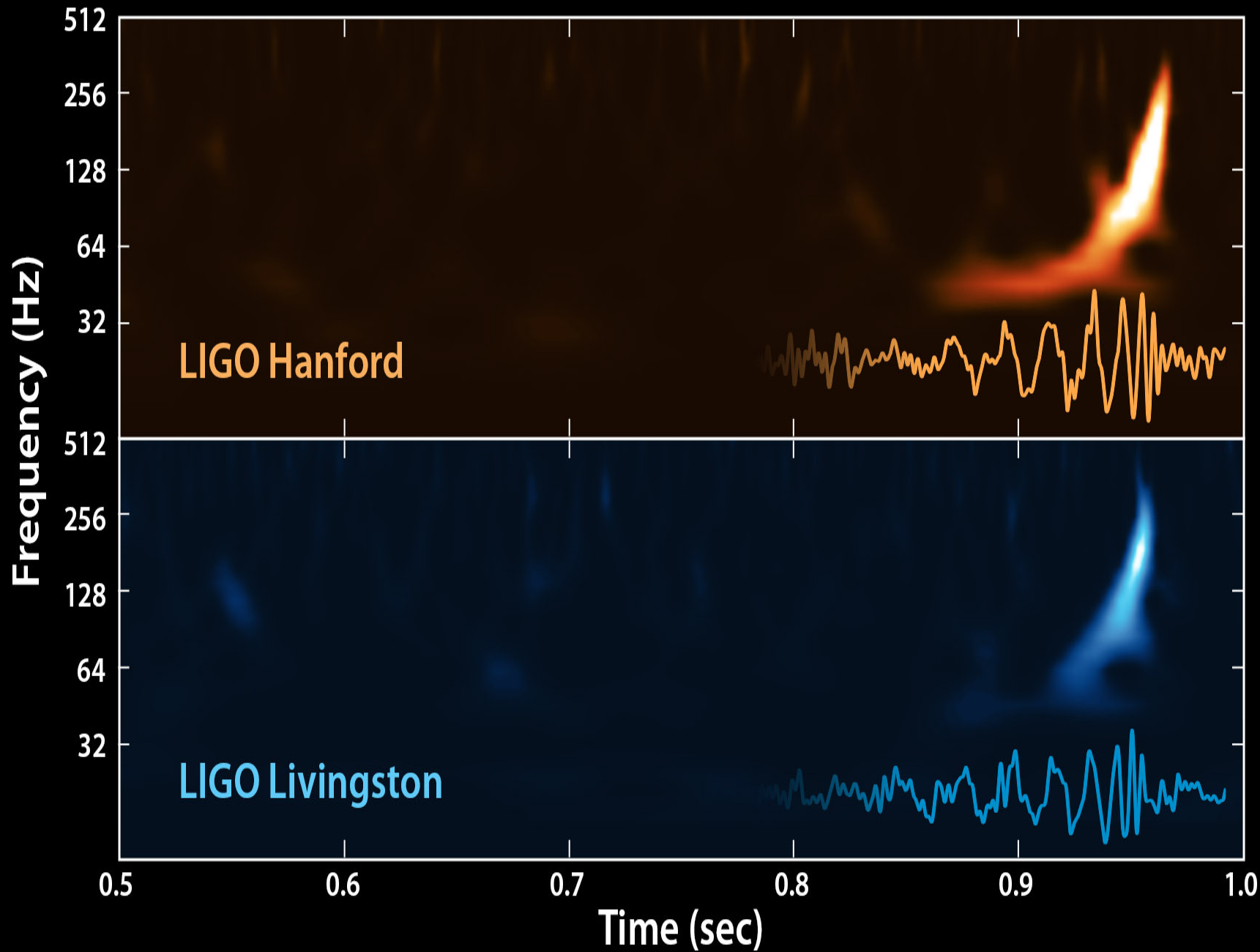


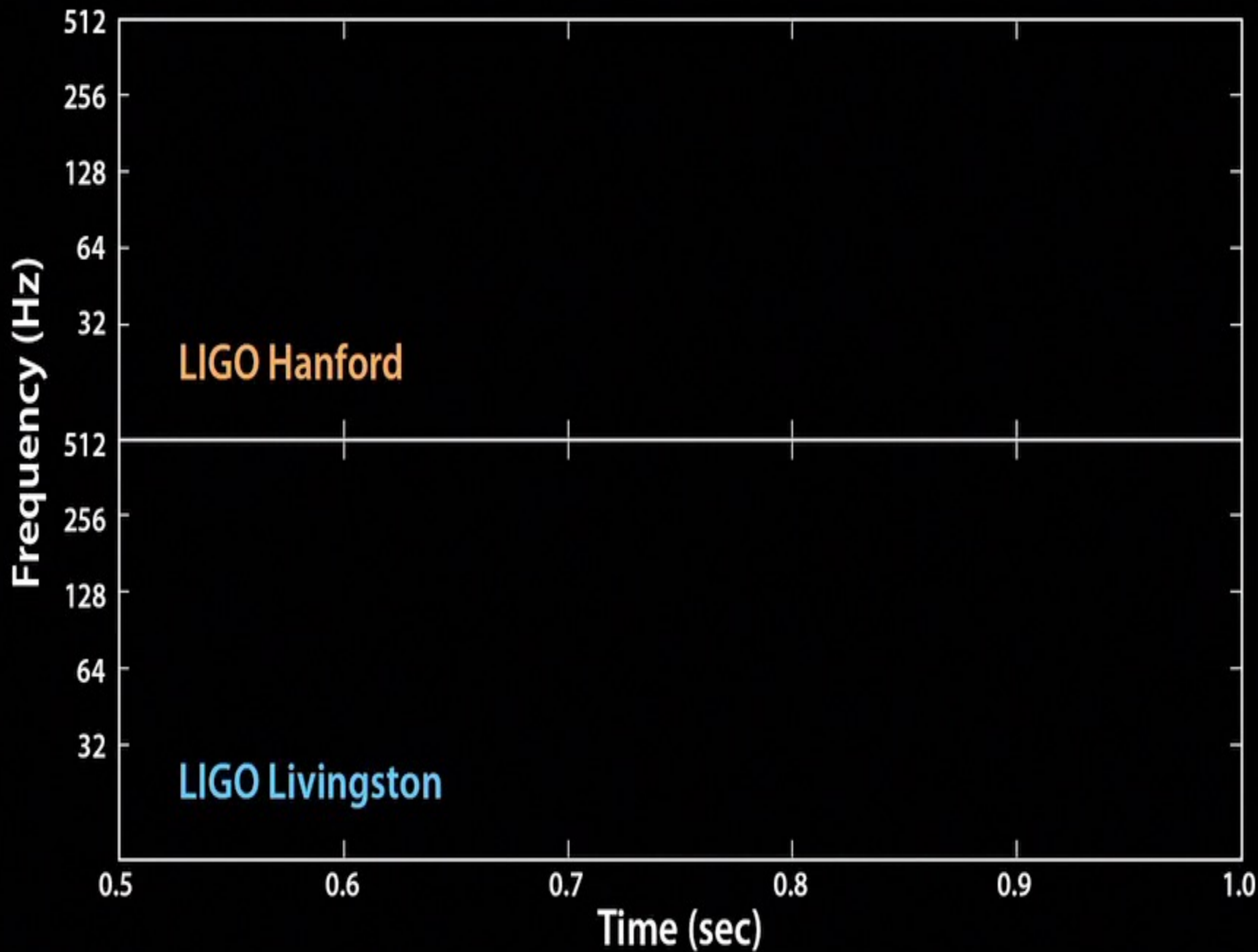


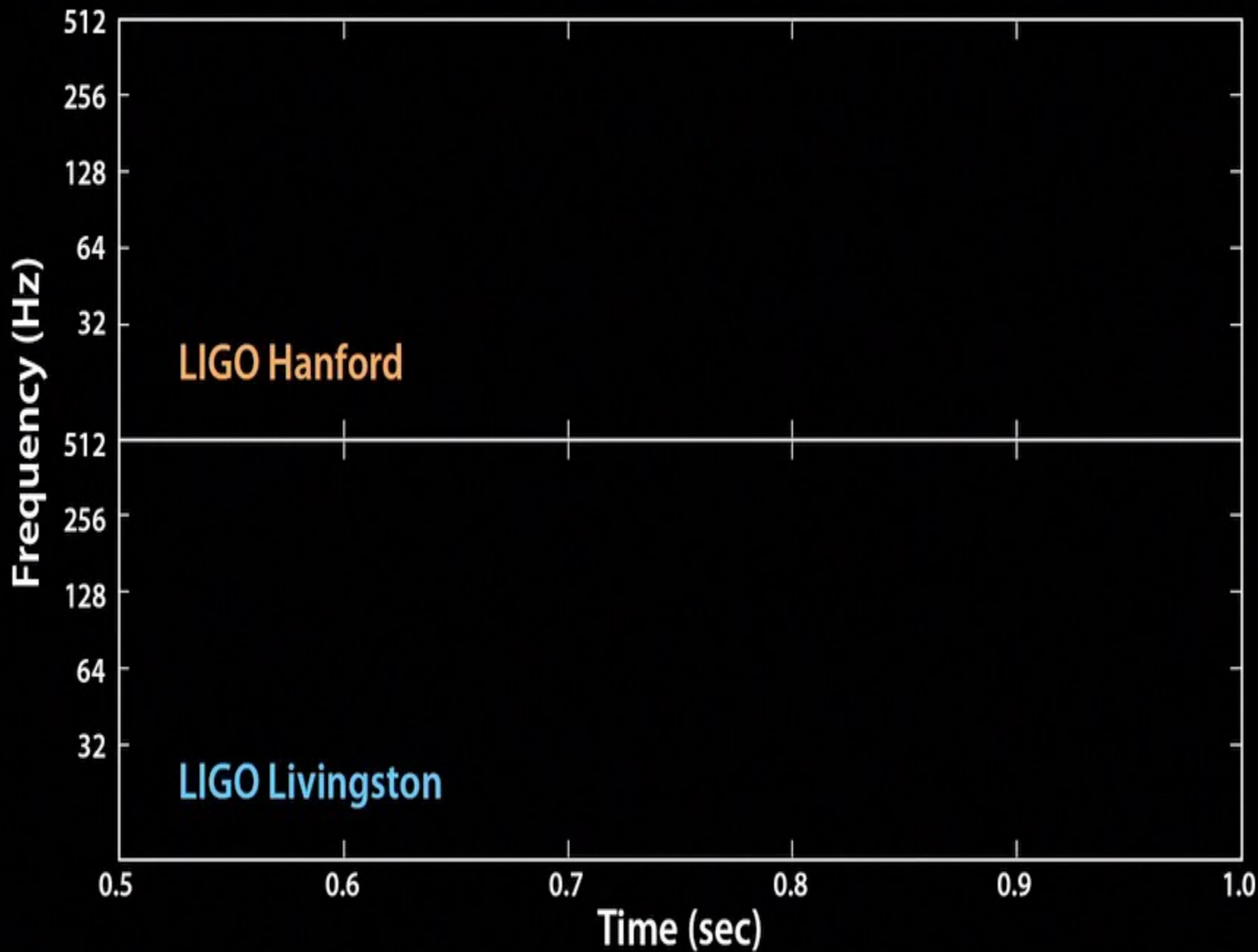








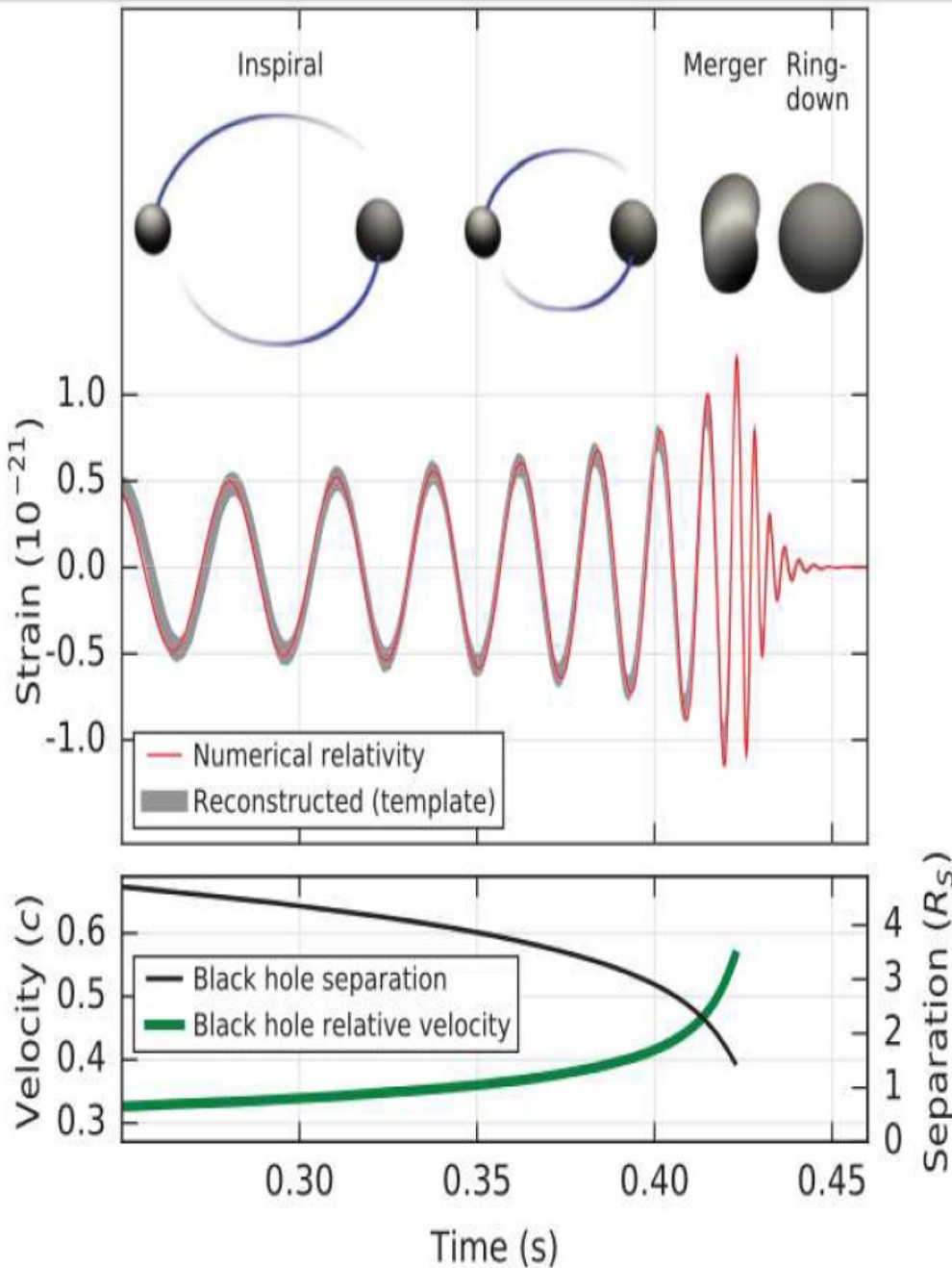




*Ref: Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 061102 (2016)*

TABLE I. Source parameters for GW150914. We report median values with 90% credible intervals that include statistical errors, and systematic errors from averaging the results of different waveform models. Masses are given in the source frame, to convert to the detector frame multiply by  $(1+z)$  [87]. The source redshift assumes standard cosmology [88].

Primary black hole mass	$36^{+5}_{-4} M_{\odot}$
Secondary black hole mass	$29^{+4}_{-4} M_{\odot}$
Final black hole mass	$62^{+4}_{-4} M_{\odot}$
Final black hole spin	$0.67^{+0.05}_{-0.07}$
Luminosity distance	$410^{+160}_{-180}$ Mpc
Source redshift, $z$	$0.09^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$



The Keplerian effective black hole separation in unit of Schwarzschild radii

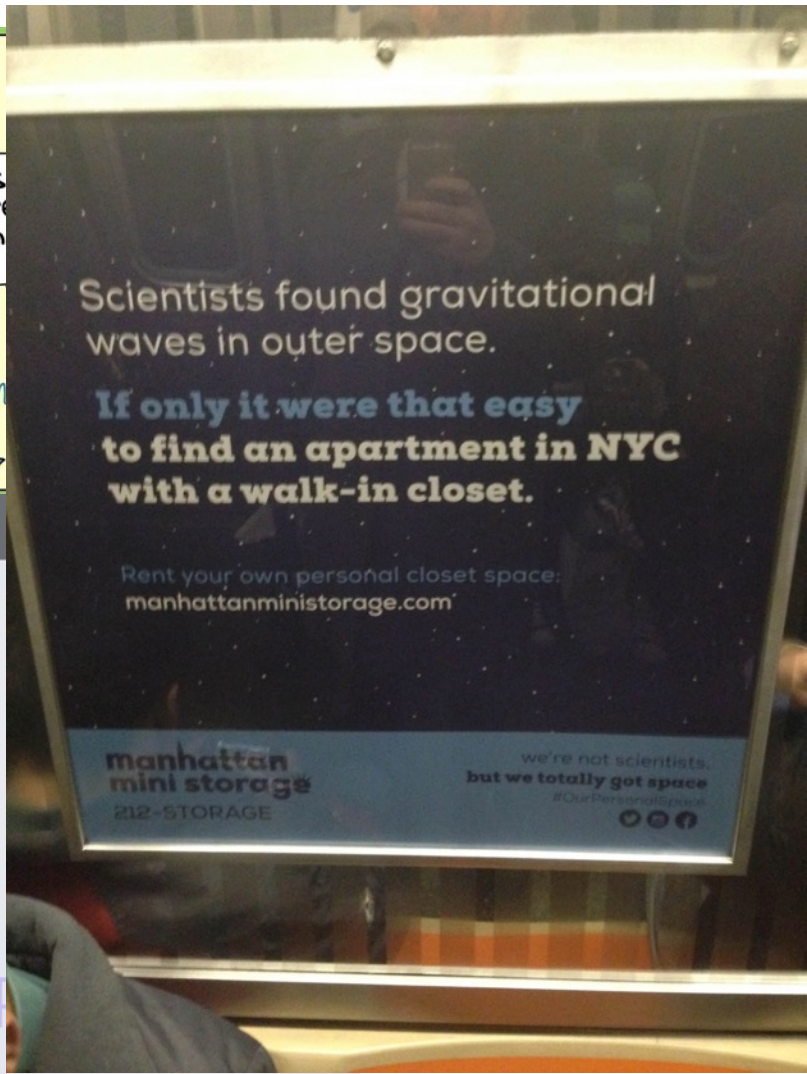
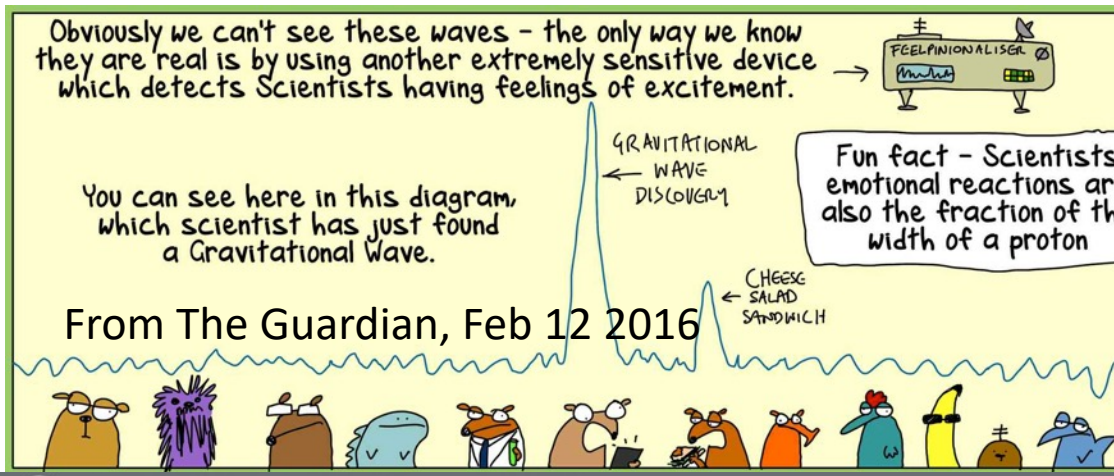
$$R_S = 2GM/c^2$$

and the effective relative velocity given by the post-Newtonian parameter

$$v/c = (GM\pi f/c^3)^{1/3}$$



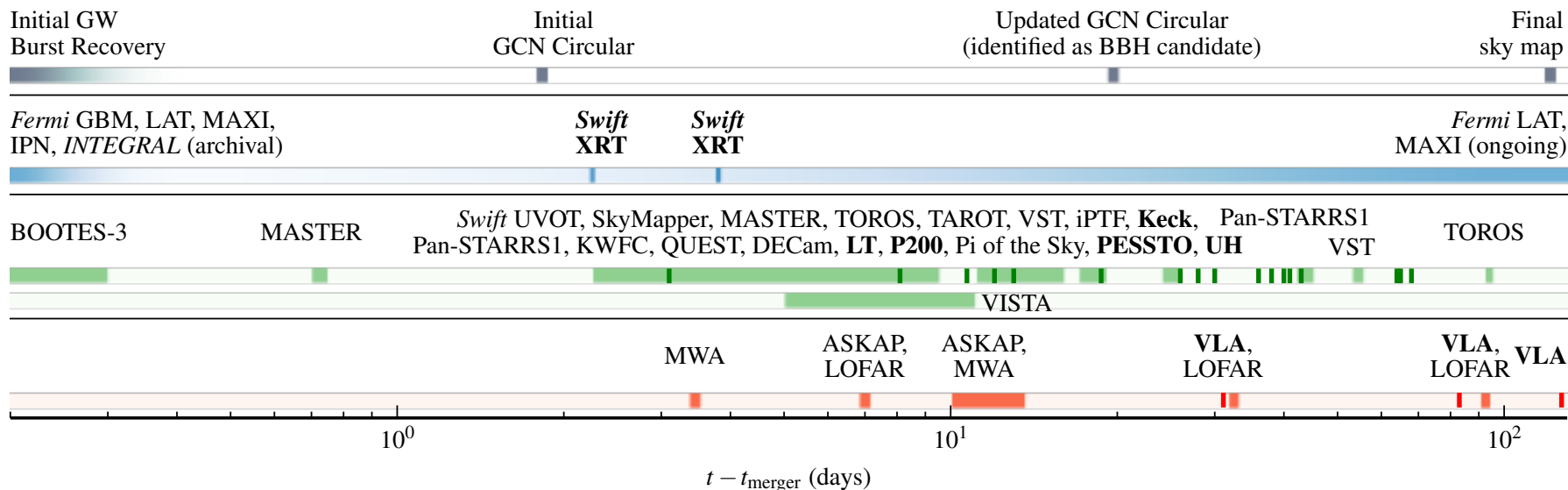
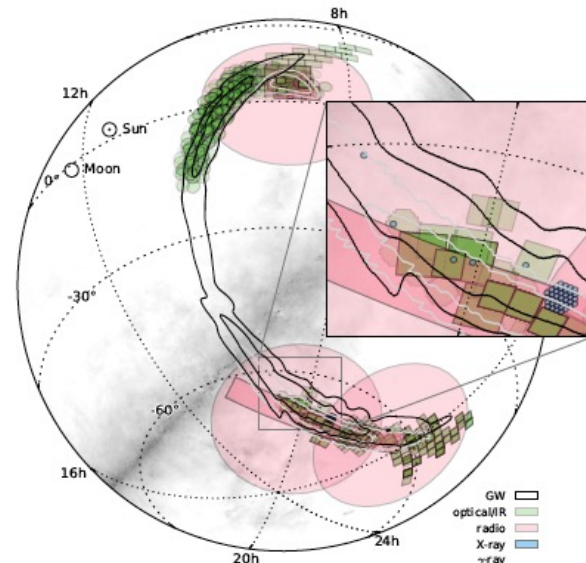
# Gravitational Waves in Pop Culture



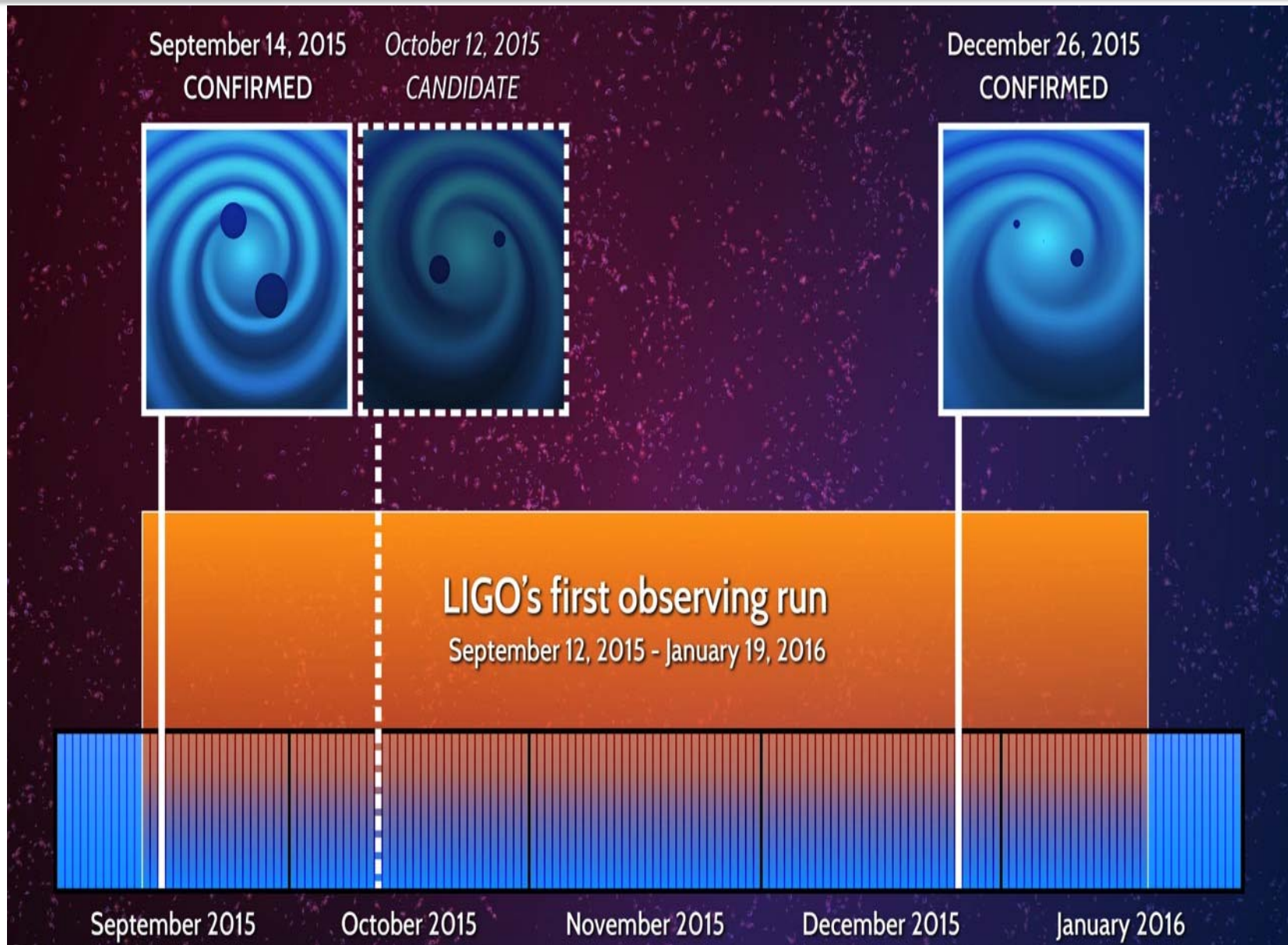
# GW150914 EM Follow Up

- Follow-up observations reported by 25 teams via private Gamma-ray Coordinates Network (GCN) Circulars

Abbott, et al. ,LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration, "Localization and Broadband Follow-Up of the Gravitational-Wave Transient GW150914", Ap. J. Lett, 826:L13, 2016.

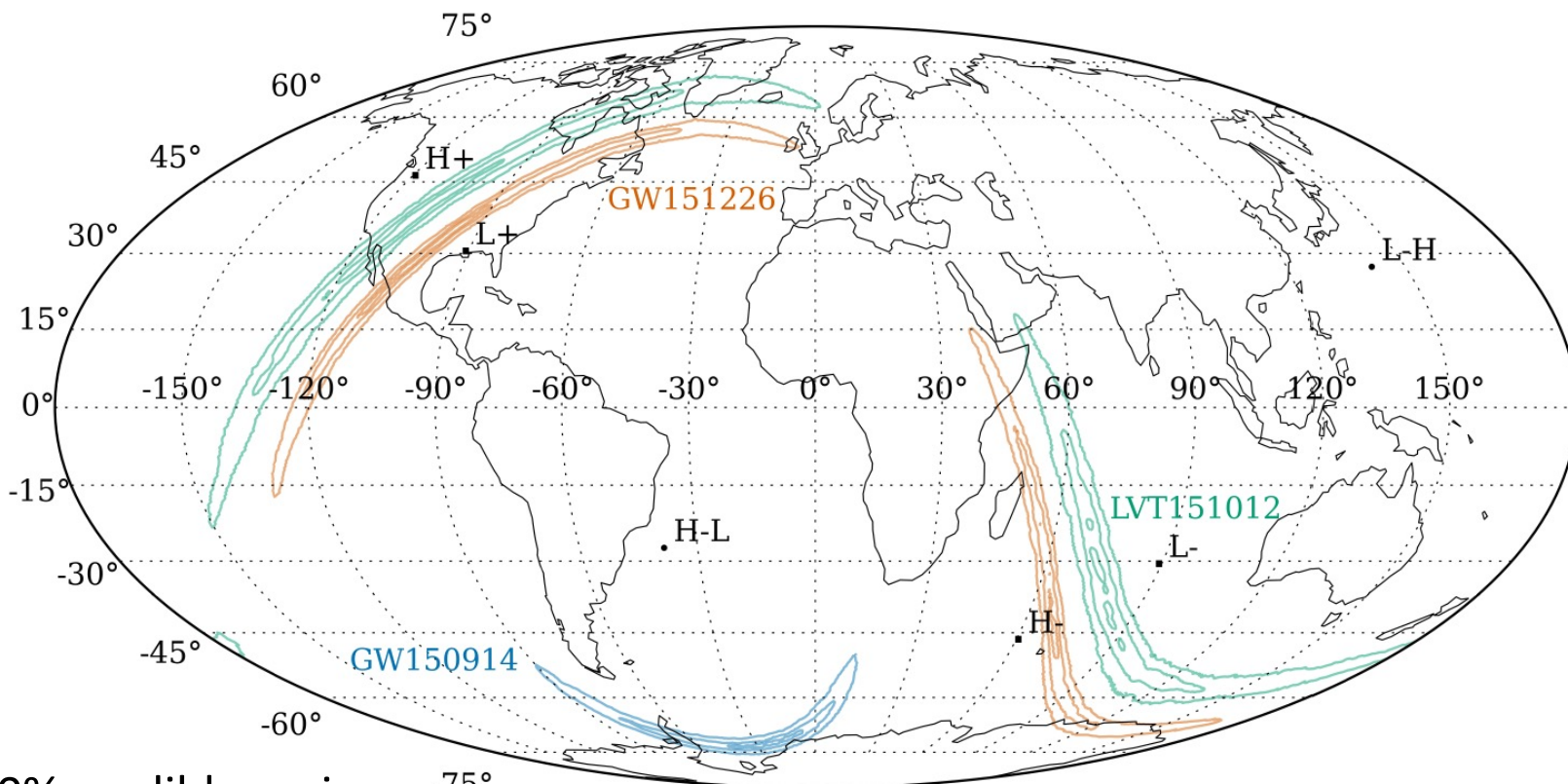


# Events Observed during O1



# Event Sky Location

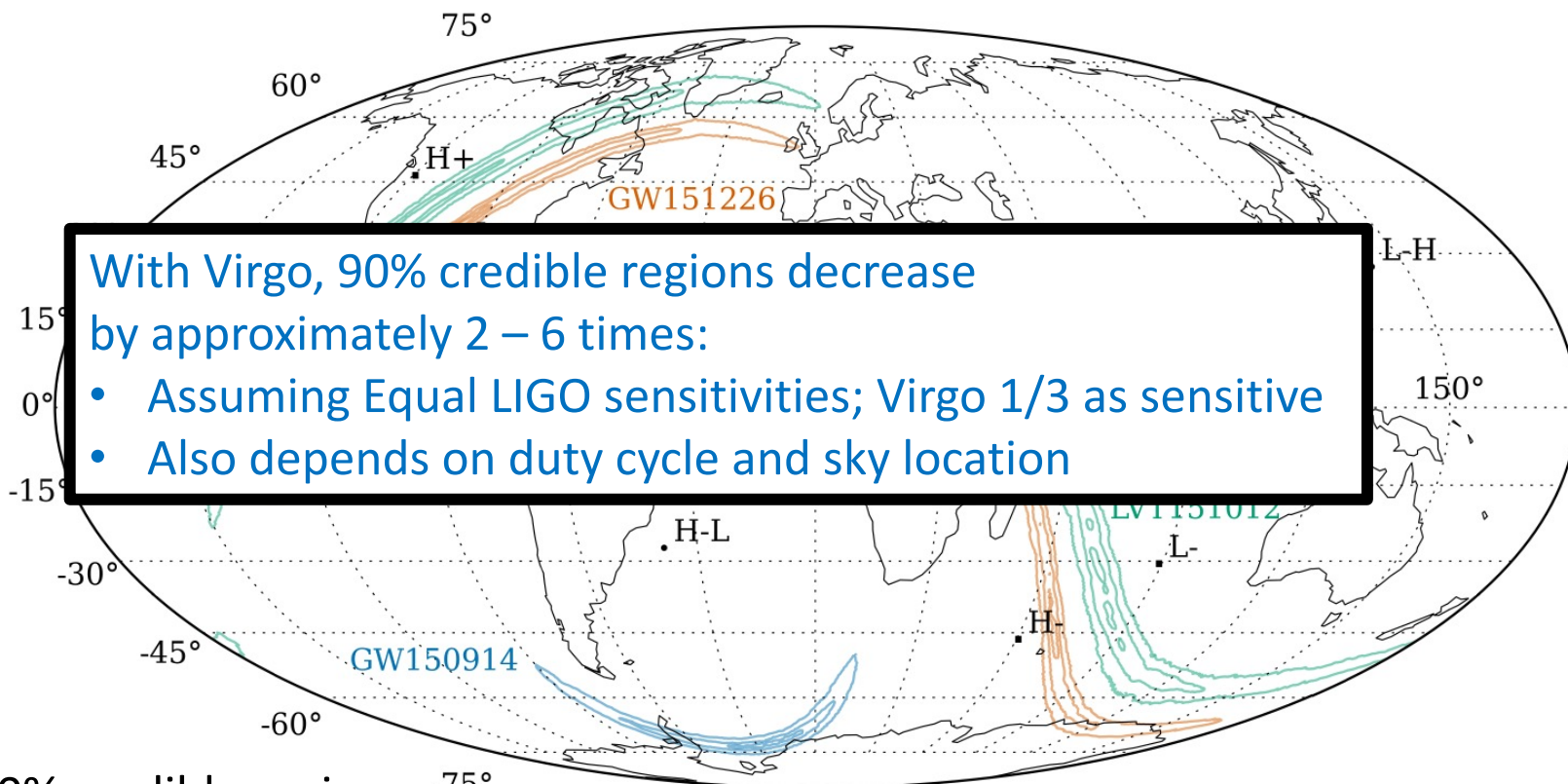
- With 2 detectors can only limit location to annulus on the sky
  - Preferential angles from interferometer antenna patterns



- 90% credible regions:  $-75^\circ$ 
  - GW150914: 230 deg<sup>2</sup>
  - GW151226: 850 deg<sup>2</sup>
  - LVT151012: 1600 deg<sup>2</sup>
  - (GW170104: 1200 deg<sup>2</sup>)

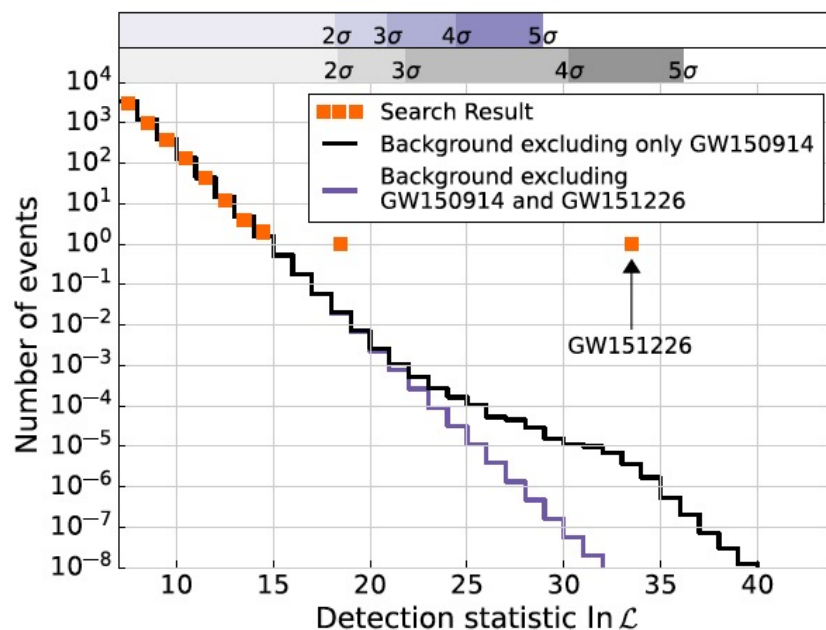
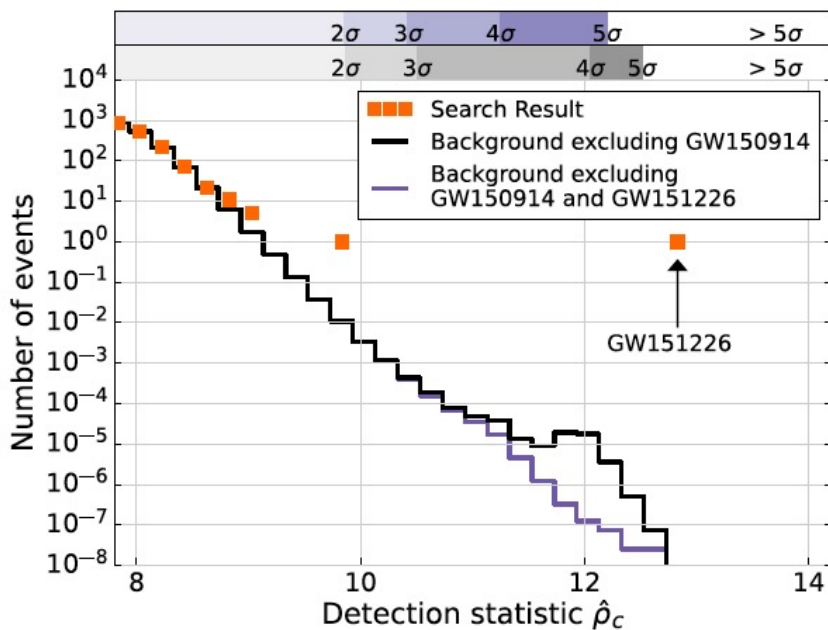
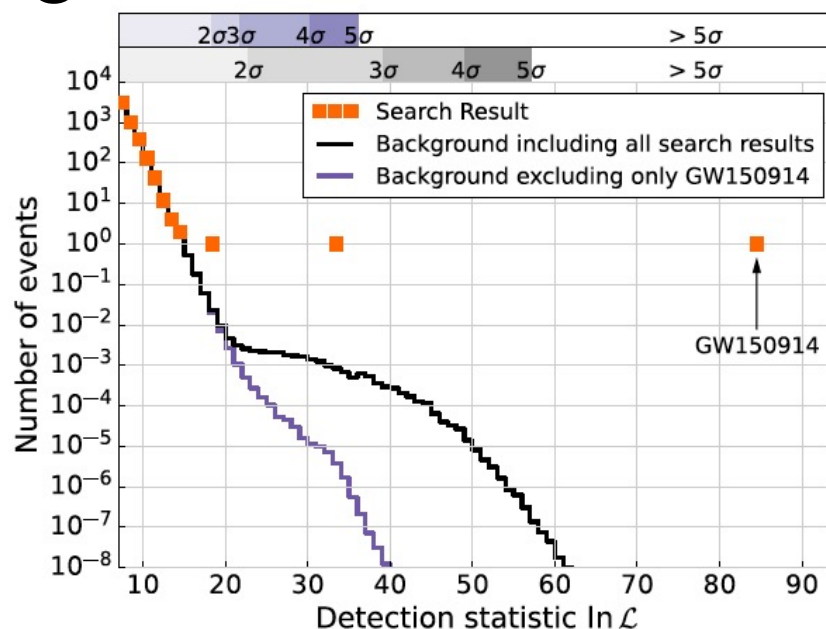
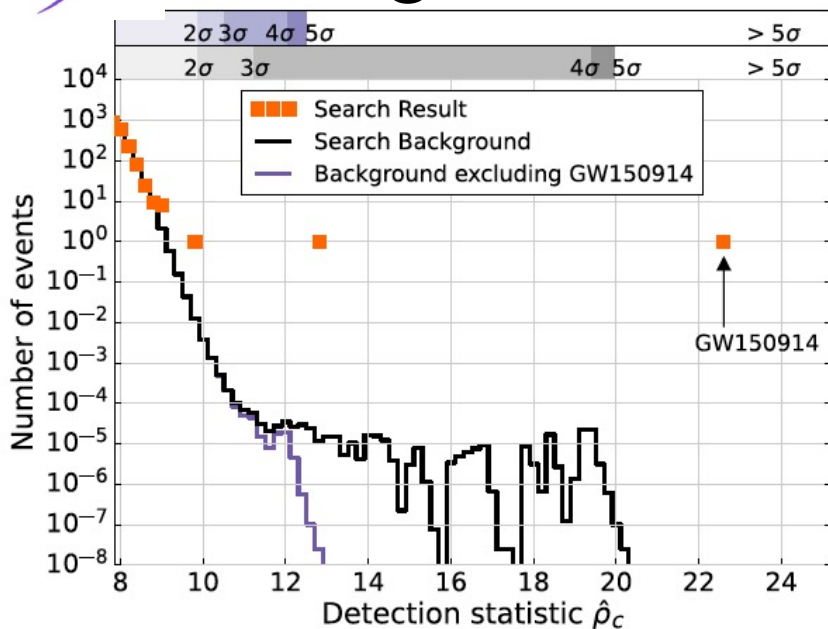
# Event Sky Location

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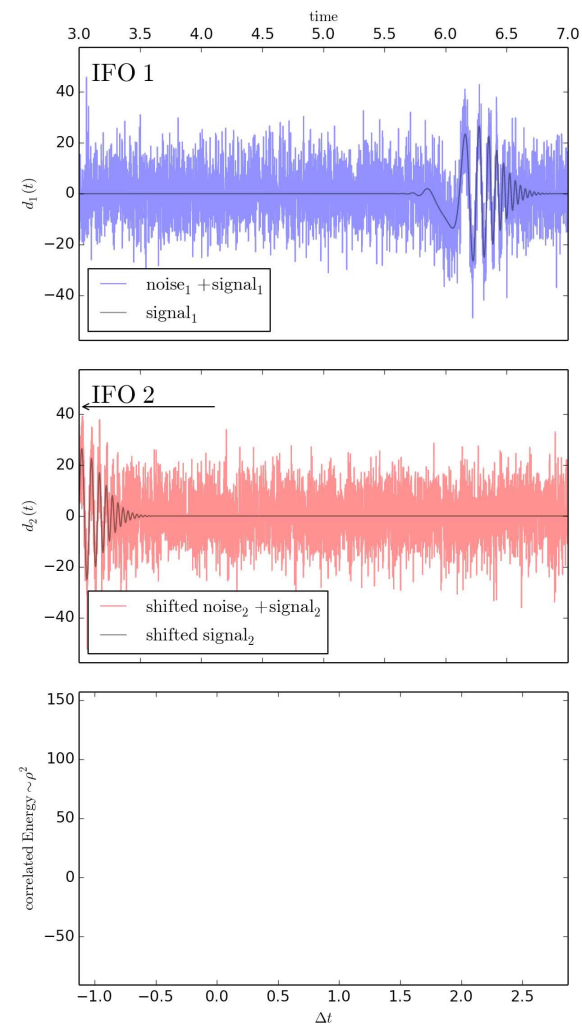
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  - (GW170104: 1200 deg<sup>2</sup>)

# Assessing Statistical Significance: Modeled Search

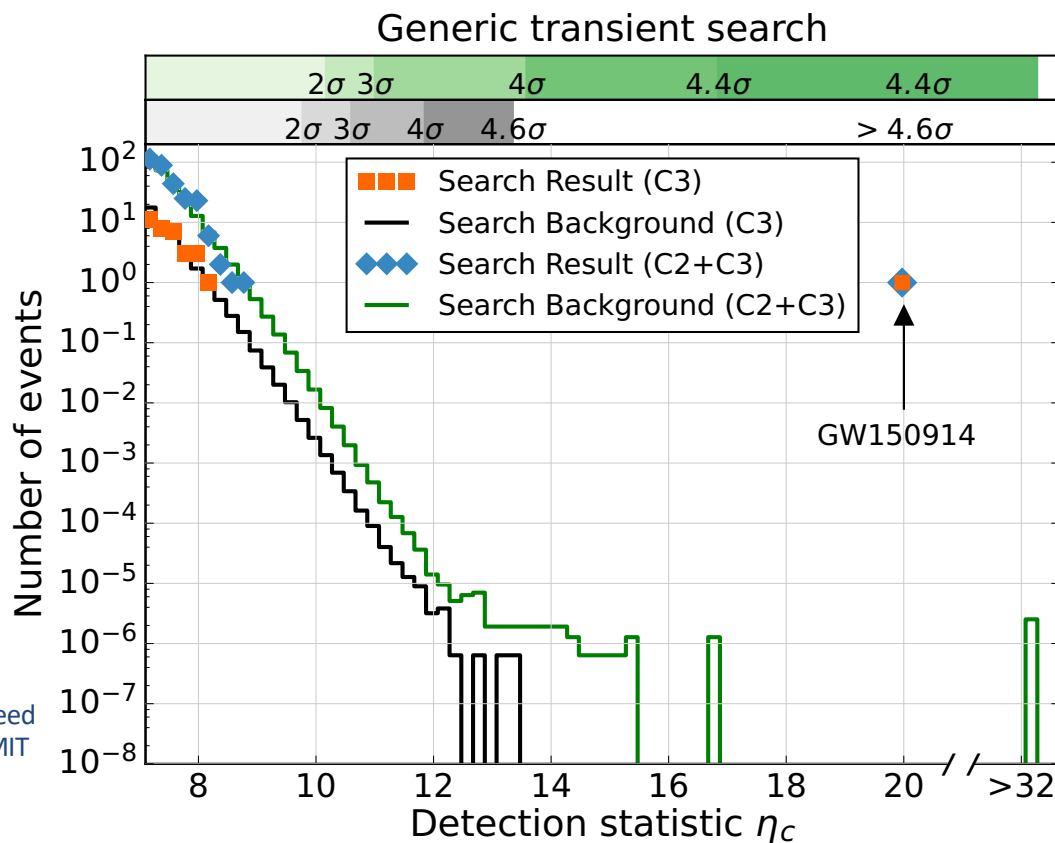


# Assessing Statistical Significance: Unmodeled Search

- Pipelines look for excess power in time-frequency domain
  - e.g. wavelet basis
  - More sensitive to generic sources, but also to noise transients in the interferometers



Simulation: Reed  
Essick, LIGO MIT



# Extracting Astrophysical Parameters from Waveforms

- **Total Mass:**  $M = m_1 + m_2$

- **Mass ratio:**  $q = \frac{m_2}{m_1} \leq 1$

- **Chirp Mass:**  $\mathcal{M} = \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{3/5}}{M^{1/5}}$   
 $\mathcal{M} = \frac{c^3}{G} \left( \frac{5}{96} \pi^{-8/3} f^{-11/3} \dot{f} \right)^{3/5}$

- **Black Hole Spins:**

$$a_{1,2} = \frac{c}{Gm_{1,2}^2} |S_{1,2}|$$

- **Spin component aligned with orbital angular momentum:**

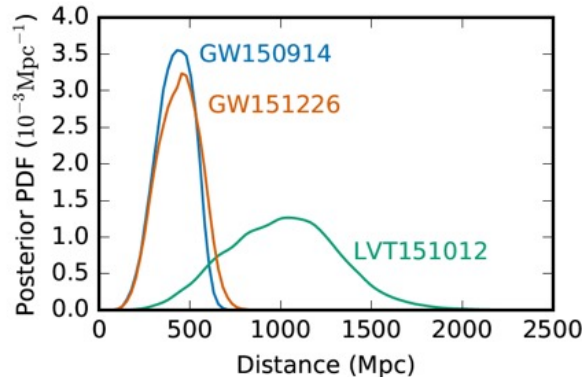
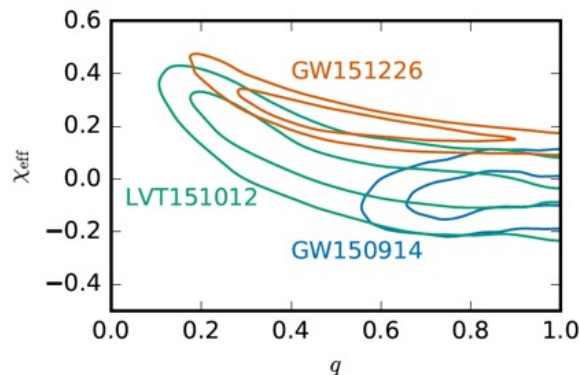
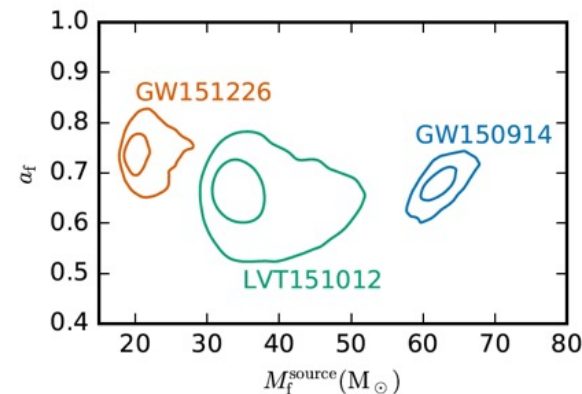
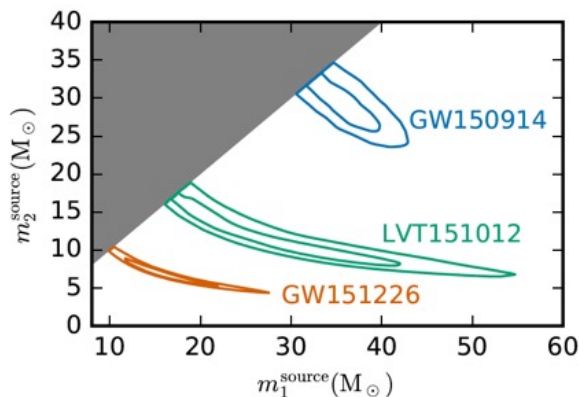
$$\chi_{1,2} = \frac{c}{Gm_{1,2}^2} S_{1,2} \cdot \hat{L}$$

- **Effective spin parameter:**

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{m_1 \chi_1 + m_2 \chi_2}{M}$$

- **Luminosity Distance  $D_L$**

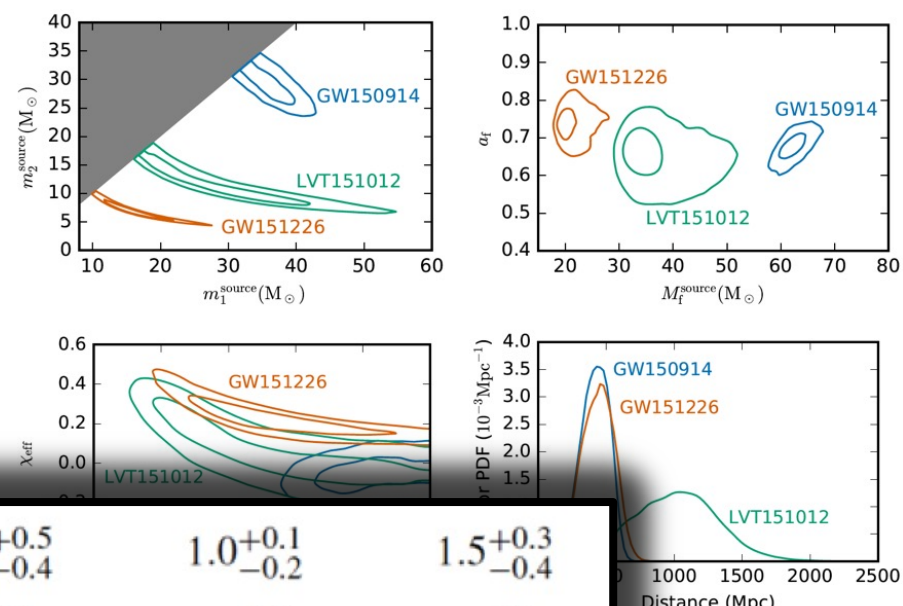
- Bayesian computation of posterior PDFs
  - Markov chain Monte Carlo
  - Nested Sampling





# Astrophysical Parameters of the Detected BBH Mergers

Event	GW150914	GW151226	LVT151012
Signal-to-noise ratio $\rho$	23.7	13.0	9.7
False alarm rate FAR/yr <sup>-1</sup>	$< 6.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$< 6.0 \times 10^{-7}$	0.37
p-value	$7.5 \times 10^{-8}$	$7.5 \times 10^{-8}$	0.045
Significance	$> 5.3 \sigma$	$> 5.3 \sigma$	$1.7 \sigma$
Primary mass $m_1^{\text{source}}/M_\odot$	$36.2^{+5.2}_{-3.8}$	$14.2^{+8.3}_{-3.7}$	$23^{+18}_{-6}$
Secondary mass $m_2^{\text{source}}/M_\odot$	$29.1^{+3.7}_{-4.4}$	$7.5^{+2.3}_{-2.3}$	$13^{+4}_{-5}$
Chirp mass $\mathcal{M}^{\text{source}}/M_\odot$	$28.1^{+1.8}_{-1.5}$	$8.9^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$	$15.1^{+1.4}_{-1.1}$
Total mass $M^{\text{source}}/M_\odot$	65.1	21.7	38.1
Effective inspiral spin $\chi_{\text{eff}}$	-0.10	-0.12	-0.10
Final mass $M_f^{\text{source}}/M_\odot$	62.1	21.1	37.1
Final spin $a_f$	$0.68^{+0.05}_{-0.06}$	$0.74^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$	$0.66^{+0.09}_{-0.10}$
Radiated energy $E_{\text{rad}}/(M_\odot c^2)$	$3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$	$1.0^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	$1.5^{+0.3}_{-0.4}$
Peak luminosity $\ell_{\text{peak}}/(\text{erg s}^{-1})$	$3.6^{+0.5}_{-0.4} \times 10^{56}$	$3.3^{+0.8}_{-1.6} \times 10^{56}$	$3.1^{+0.8}_{-1.8} \times 10^{56}$
Luminosity distance $D_L/\text{Mpc}$	$420^{+150}_{-180}$	$440^{+180}_{-190}$	$1000^{+500}_{-500}$
Source redshift $z$	$0.09^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$	$0.09^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$	$0.20^{+0.09}_{-0.09}$
Sky localization $\Delta\Omega/\text{deg}^2$	230	850	1600

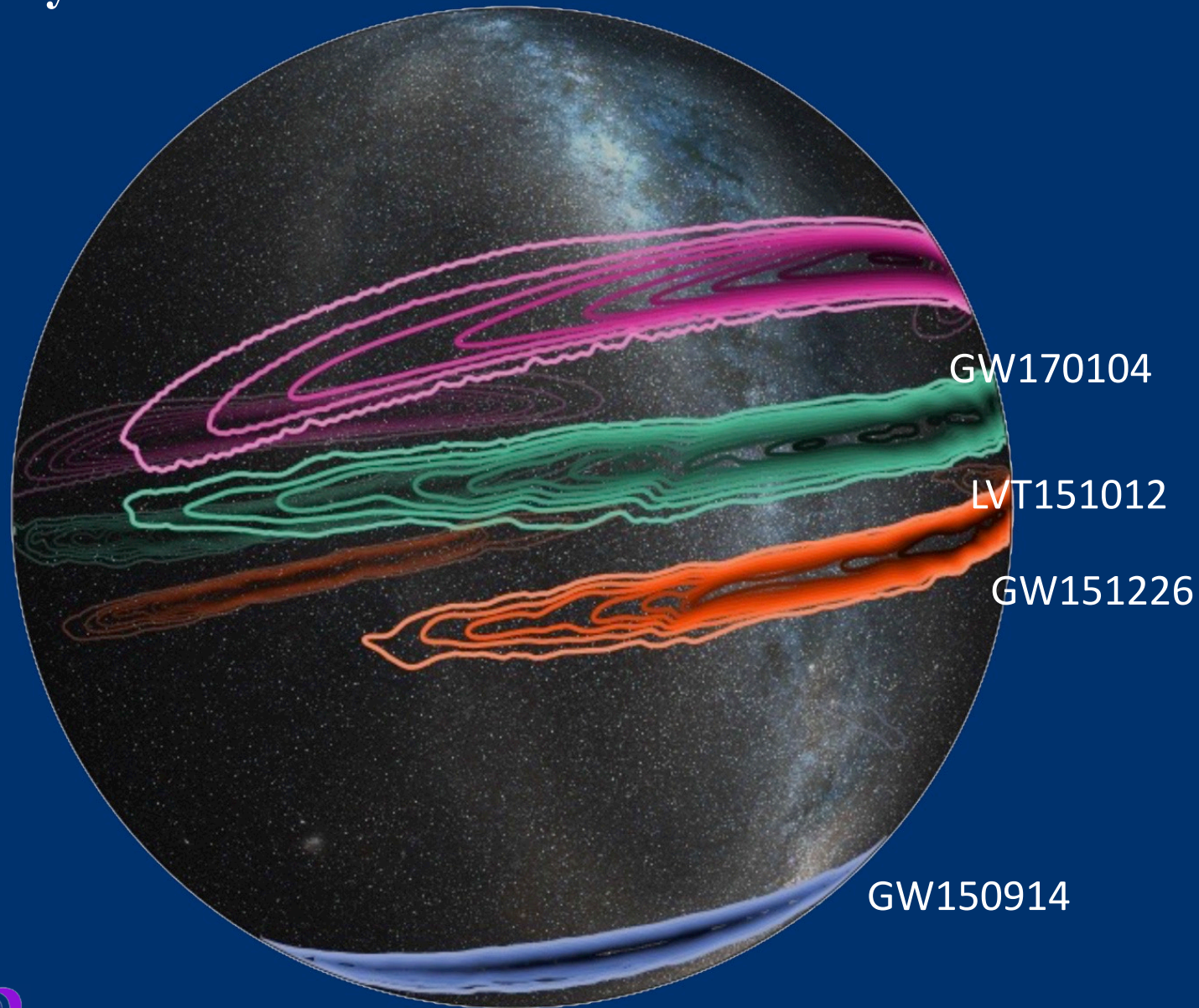


Parameter	GW150914	GW151226	LVT151012
Radiated energy $E_{\text{rad}}/(M_\odot c^2)$	$3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$	$1.0^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	$1.5^{+0.3}_{-0.4}$
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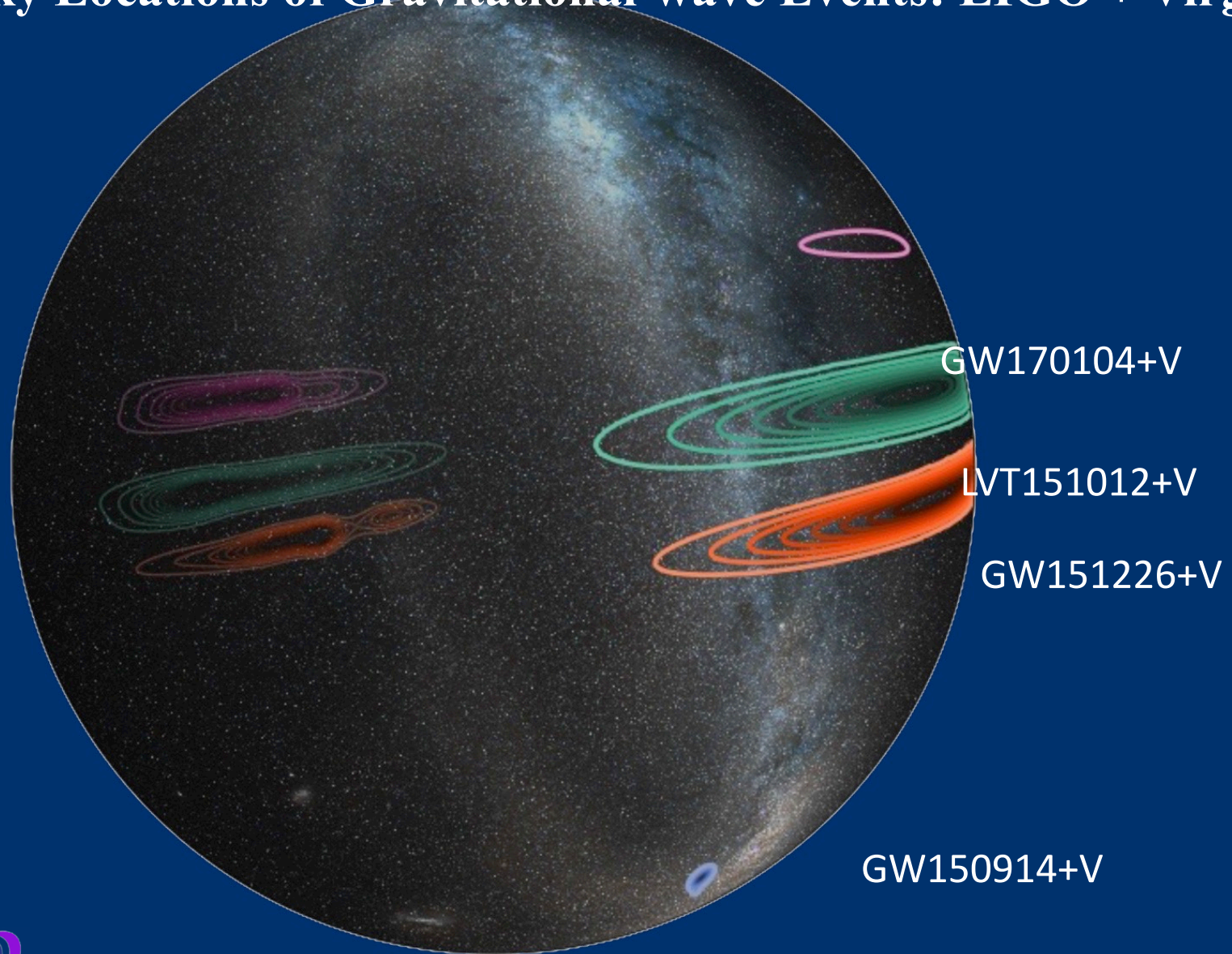
Chirp mass $\mathcal{M}$	$21.1^{+2.4}_{-2.7} M_\odot$
Total mass $M$	$50.7^{+5.9}_{-5.0} M_\odot$
Final black hole mass $M_f$	$48.7^{+5.7}_{-4.6} M_\odot$
Radiated energy $E_{\text{rad}}$	$2.0^{+0.6}_{-0.7} M_\odot c^2$
Peak luminosity $\ell_{\text{peak}}$	$3.1^{+0.7}_{-1.3} \times 10^{56} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$
Effective inspiral spin parameter $\chi_{\text{eff}}$	$-0.12^{+0.21}_{-0.30}$
Final black hole spin $a_f$	$0.64^{+0.09}_{-0.20}$
Luminosity distance $D_L$	$880^{+450}_{-390} \text{ Mpc}$
Source redshift $z$	$0.18^{+0.08}_{-0.07}$

**GW170104**

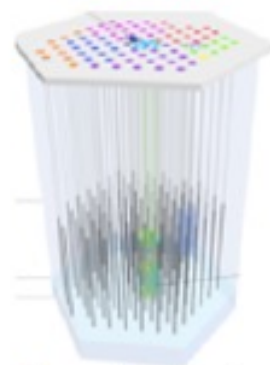
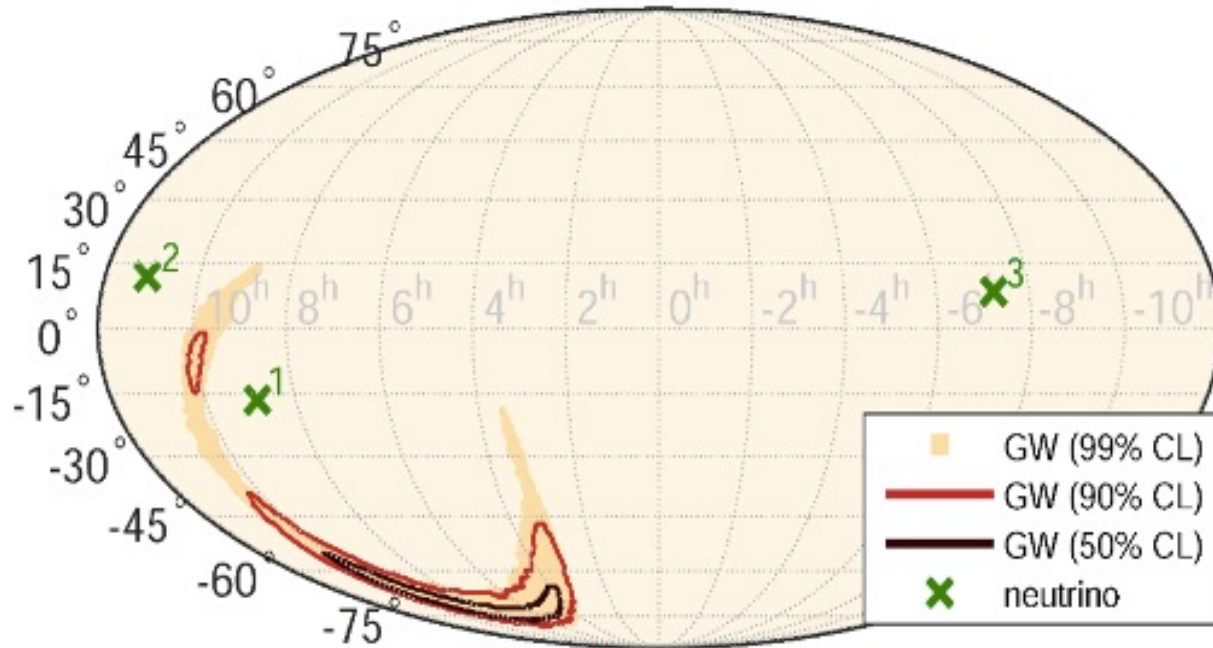
# Sky Locations of Gravitational-wave Events: LIGO Only



# Sky Locations of Gravitational-wave Events: LIGO + Virgo

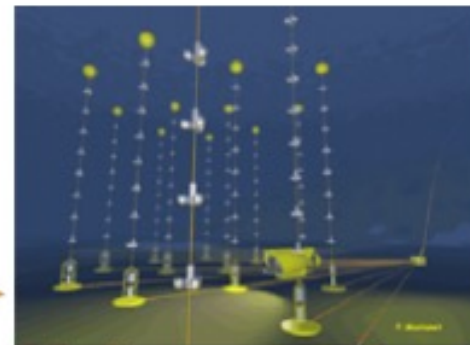


# Previous search: GW150914



← IceCube

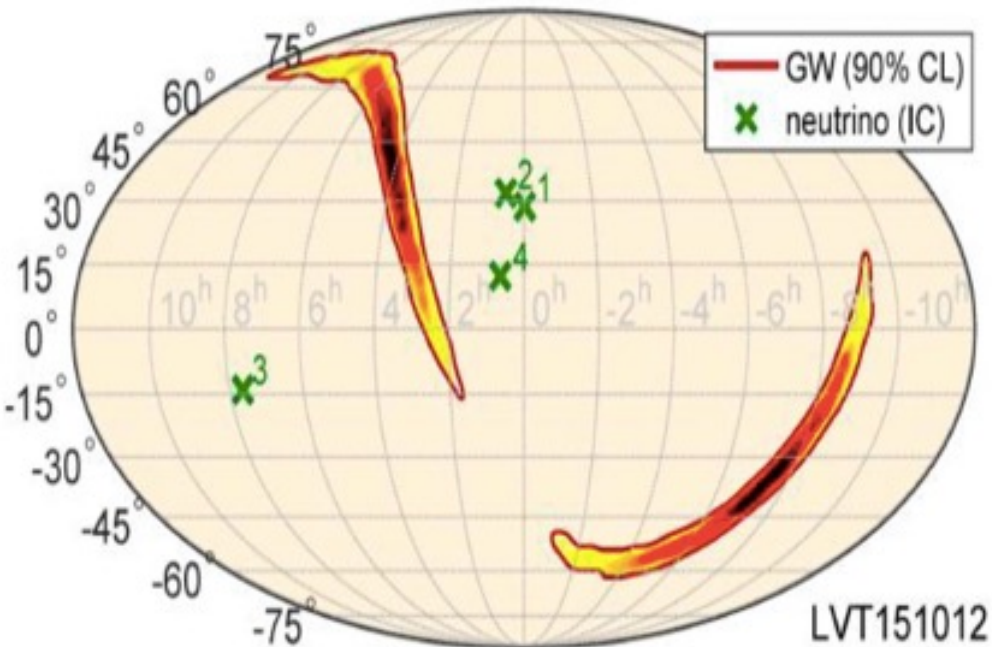
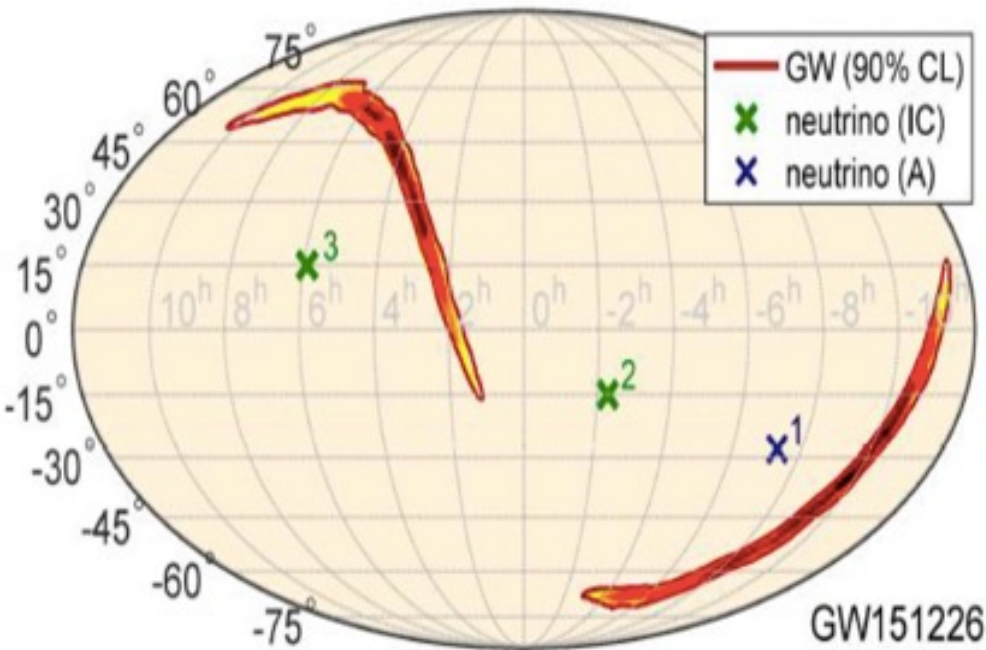
South Pole



ANTARES →

Mediterranean Sea

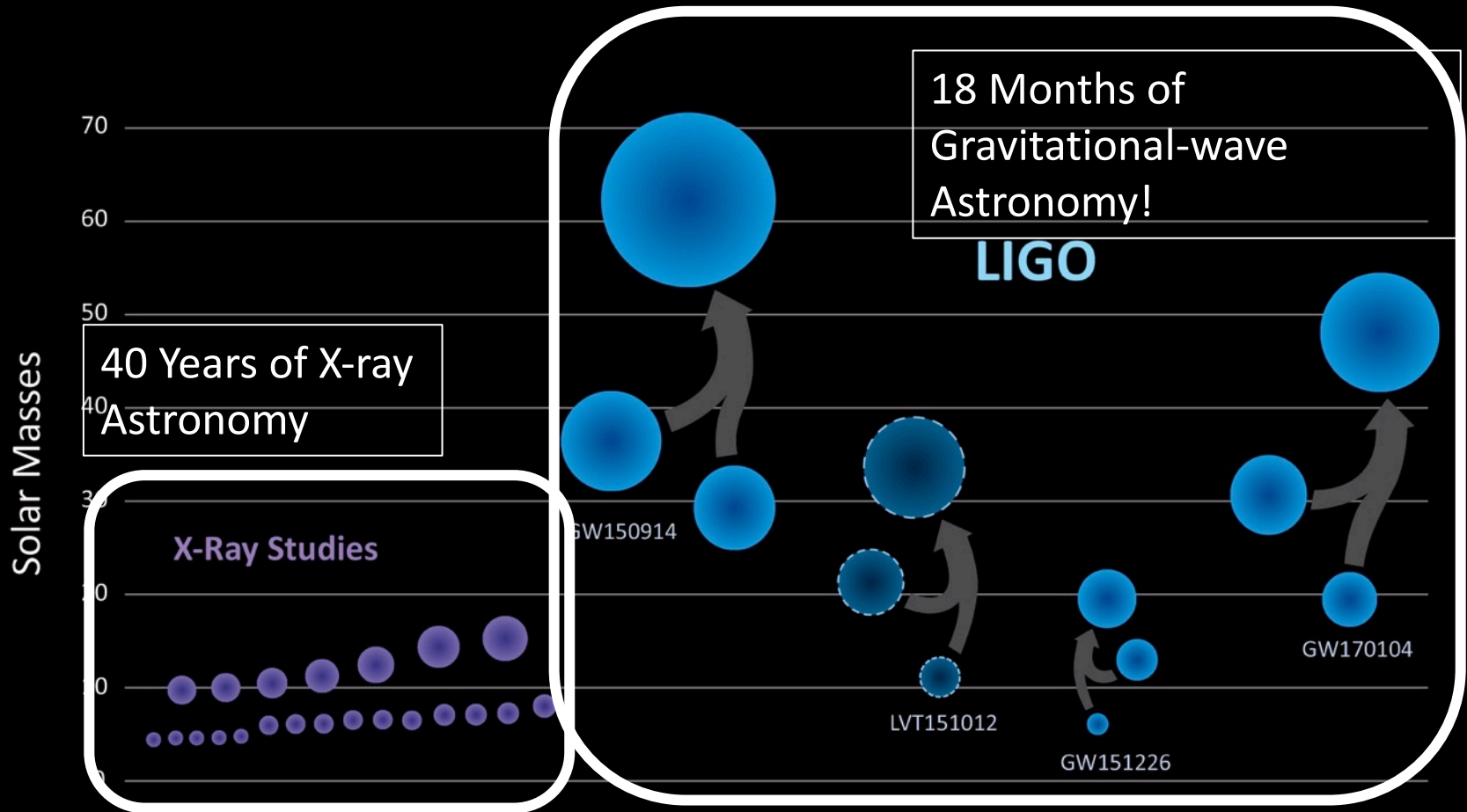
# GW151226 & LVT151012



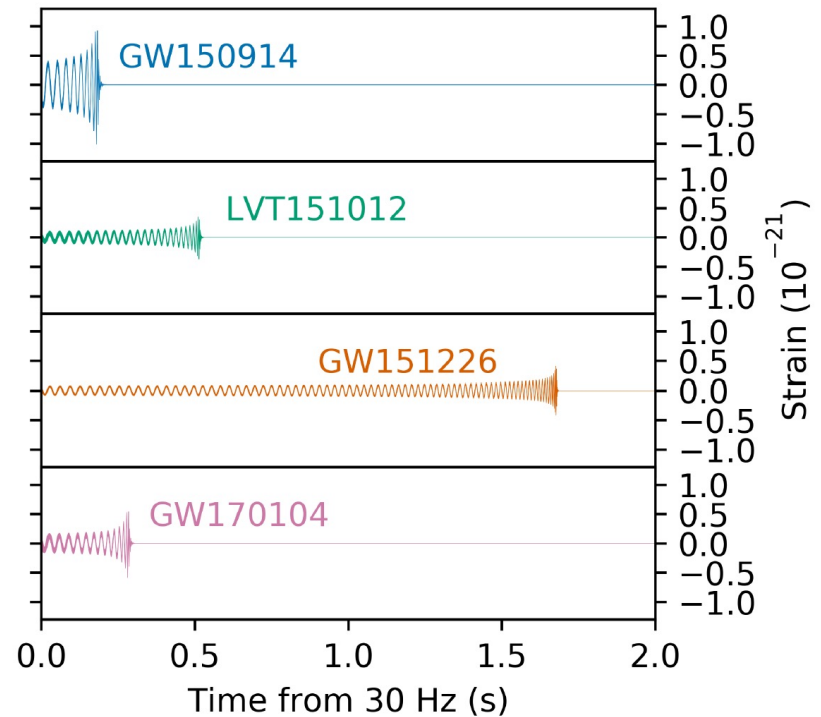
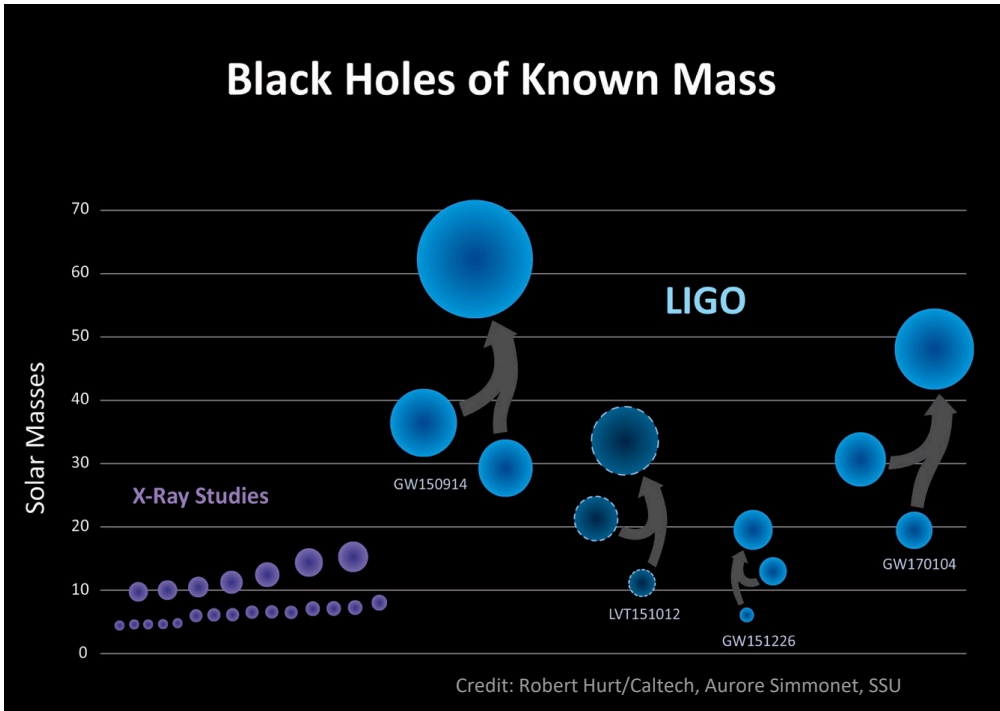
Event	#	Detector	$\Delta T$ [s]	RA [h]	Dec [°]	$\sigma_{\mu}^{\text{rec}}$ [°]	$E_{\mu}^{\text{rec}}$ [TeV]
GW151226	1	ANTARES	-387.3	16.7	-28.0	0.7	9
GW151226	2	IceCube	-290.9	21.7	-15.1	0.1	158
GW151226	3	IceCube	-22.5	5.9	14.9	0.7	6.3
LVT151012	1	IceCube	-423.3	24.0	28.7	3.5	0.38
LVT151012	2	IceCube	-410.0	0.5	32.0	1.1	0.45
LVT151012	3	IceCube	-89.8	7.7	-14.0	0.6	13.7
LVT151012	4	IceCube	147.0	0.6	12.3	0.3	0.35

# The Black Hole Mass Menagerie

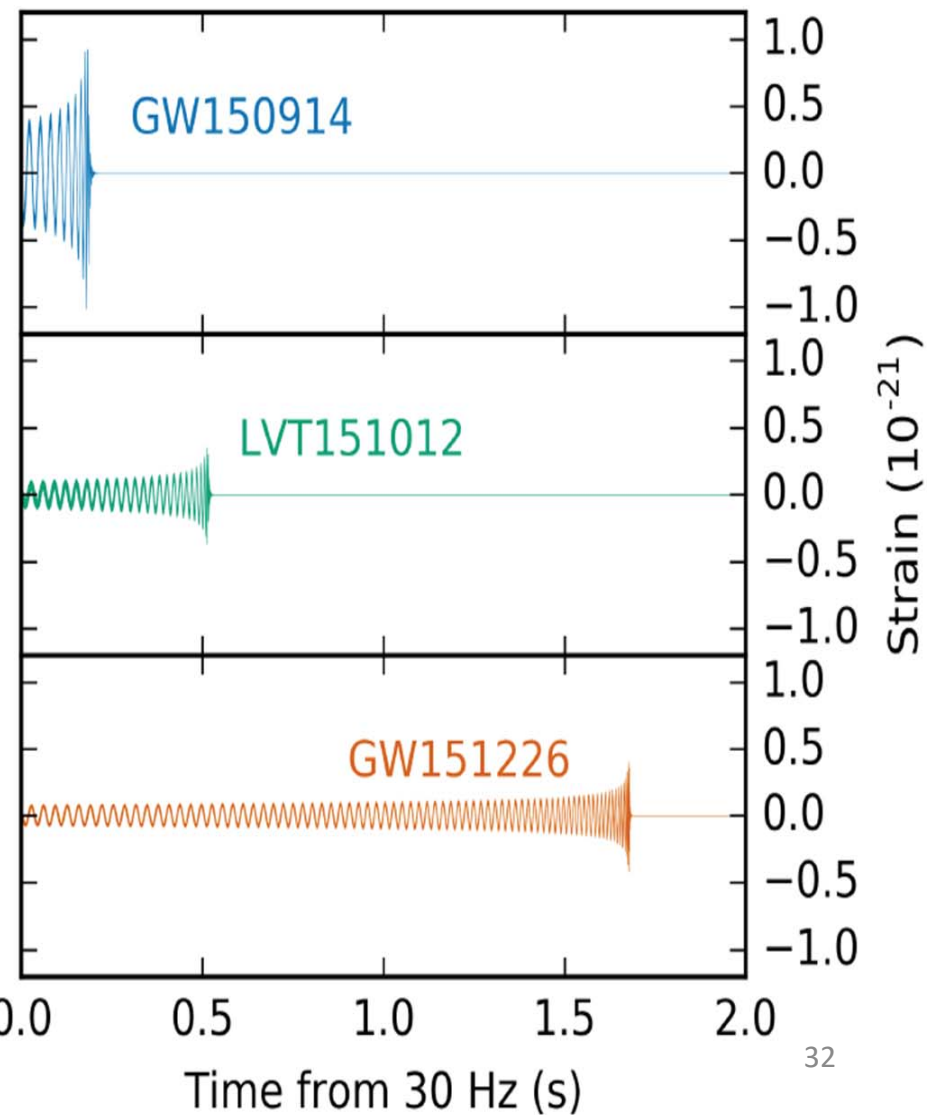
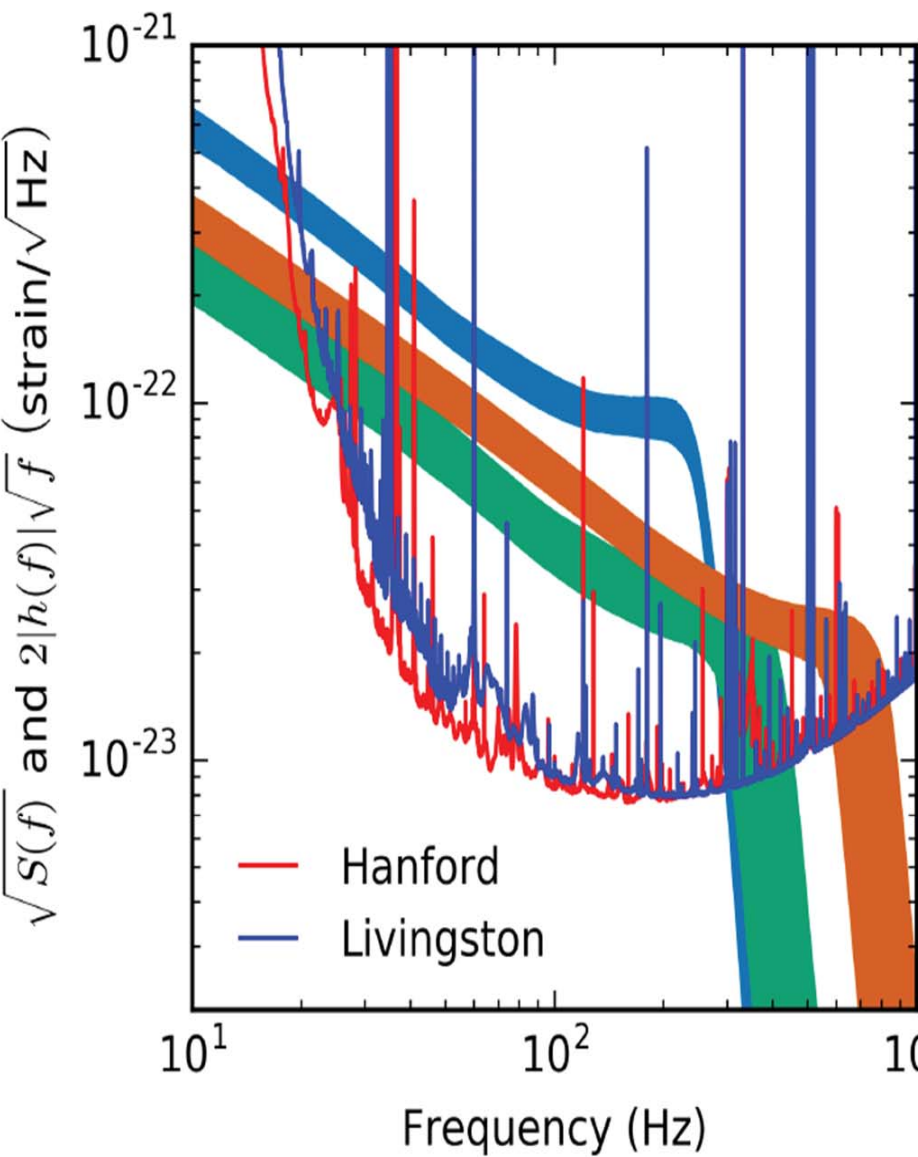
## Black Holes of Known Mass



# Black Holes Detected By LIGO



# Frequency dependence of 3 events in O1 compared to the LIGO sensitivity





# [ LIGO'S GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE DETECTIONS ]

**[ GW150914 ]**

DISCOVERED:

**14.09.2015**

**1.3** BILLION  
LIGHT-YEARS  
AWAY

**62** SOLAR  
MASSES

**360** KILOMETRES IN  
DIAMETER

**[ GW151226 ]**

DISCOVERED:

**26.12.2015**

**1.4** BILLION  
LIGHT-YEARS  
AWAY

**21** SOLAR  
MASSES

**120** KILOMETRES IN  
DIAMETER

**[ GW170104 ]**

DISCOVERED:

**04.01.2017**

**3** BILLION  
LIGHT-YEARS  
AWAY

**49** SOLAR  
MASSES

**270** KILOMETRES IN  
DIAMETER

**1** BILLION  
LIGHT YEARS

**2** BILLION  
LIGHT YEARS

**3** BILLION  
LIGHT YEARS

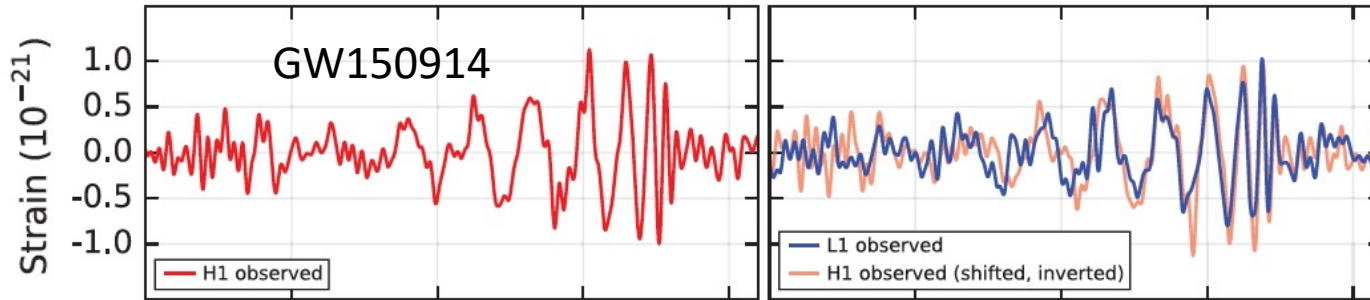
**4** BILLION  
LIGHT YEARS

**YOU ARE  
HERE**

## DID YOU KNOW ?

THE SOLAR MASS is  
A STANDARD UNIT OF MASS  
IN ASTRONOMY  
IT IS EQUAL TO  
THE MASS OF THE SUN  
EQUAL TO APPROXIMATELY  
 **$1.99 \times 10^{30}$  KG**

# Black Holes Detected By LIGO



PRL **116**, 061102 (2016) **PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS** week ending 12 FEBRUARY 2016

Selected for a **Viewpoint** in *Physics*



## Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger

B. P. Abbott *et al.*\*  
(LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)  
(Received 21 January 2016; published 11 February 2016)

PRL **116**, 241103 (2016) **PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS** week ending 17 JUNE 2016



## GW151226: Observation of Gravitational Waves from a 22-Solar-Mass Binary Black Hole Coalescence

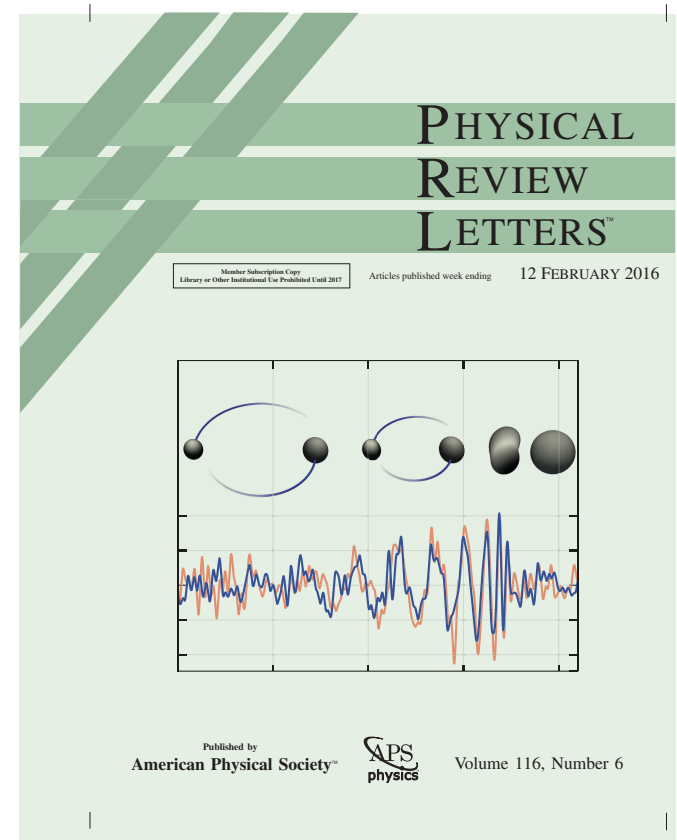
B. P. Abbott *et al.*\*  
(LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)  
(Received 31 May 2016; published 15 June 2016)

PRL **118**, 221101 (2017) **PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS** week ending 2 JUNE 2017



## GW170104: Observation of a 50-Solar-Mass Binary Black Hole Coalescence at Redshift 0.2

B. P. Abbott *et al.*\*  
(LIGO Scientific and Virgo Collaboration)  
(Received 9 May 2017; published 1 June 2017)



"For the greatest benefit to mankind"  
*Alfred Nobel*



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to award the

# 2017 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS



**Rainer Weiss**  
**Barry C. Barish**  
**Kip S. Thorne**

*"for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves"*

Illustrations: Niklas Elmehed, Nobel Prize Medal: © The Nobel Foundation, Photo: Lovisa Engblom.



The 2017 winners of the @NobelPrize in Physics: @LIGO pioneers Rai Weiss, Kip Thorne and Barry Barish. Watch their lectures online at [youtube.com/watch?v=scVyxV...](https://youtube.com/watch?v=scVyxV...)

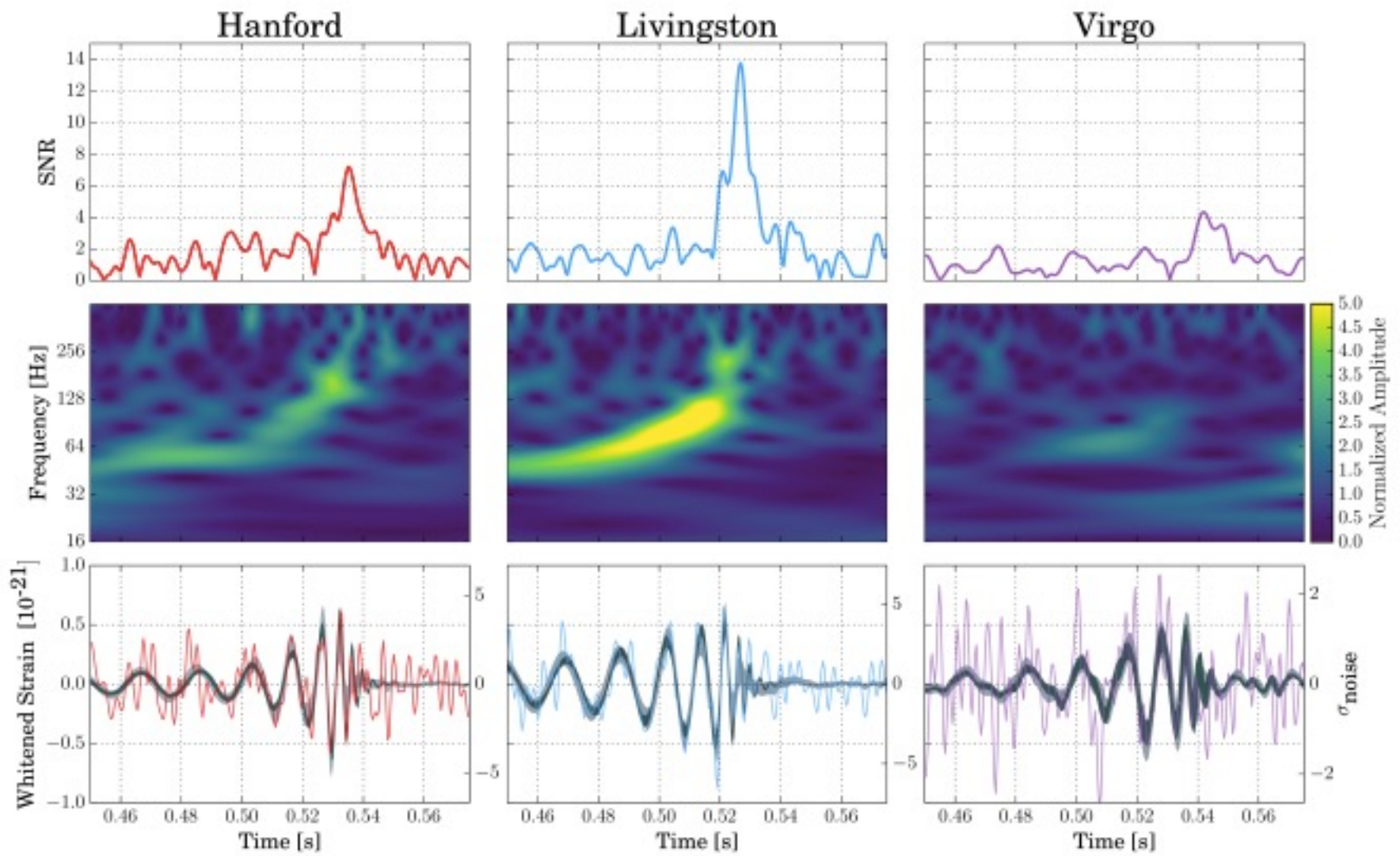


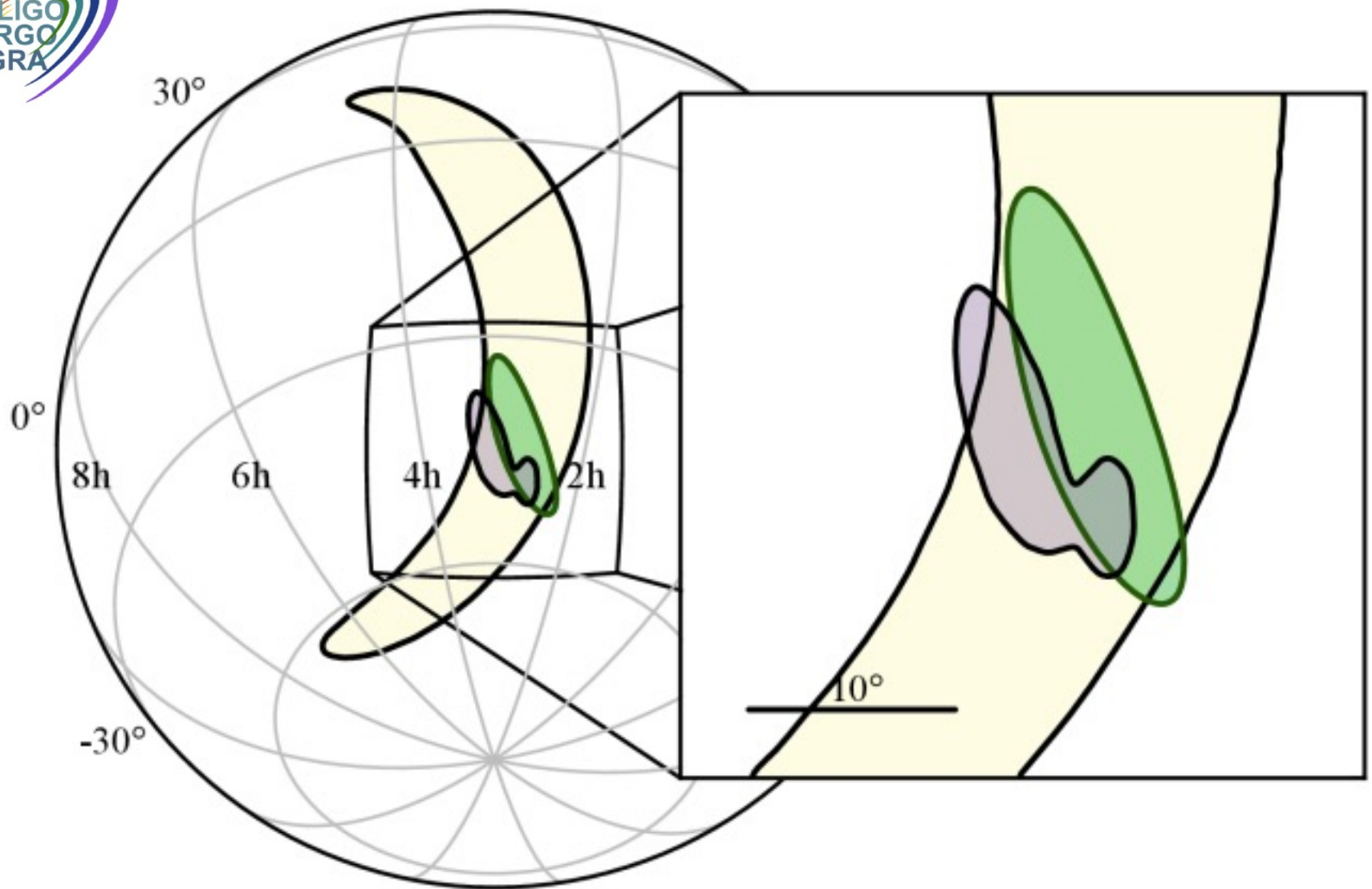
12:26 PM - 8 Dec 2017

92 Retweets 208 Likes

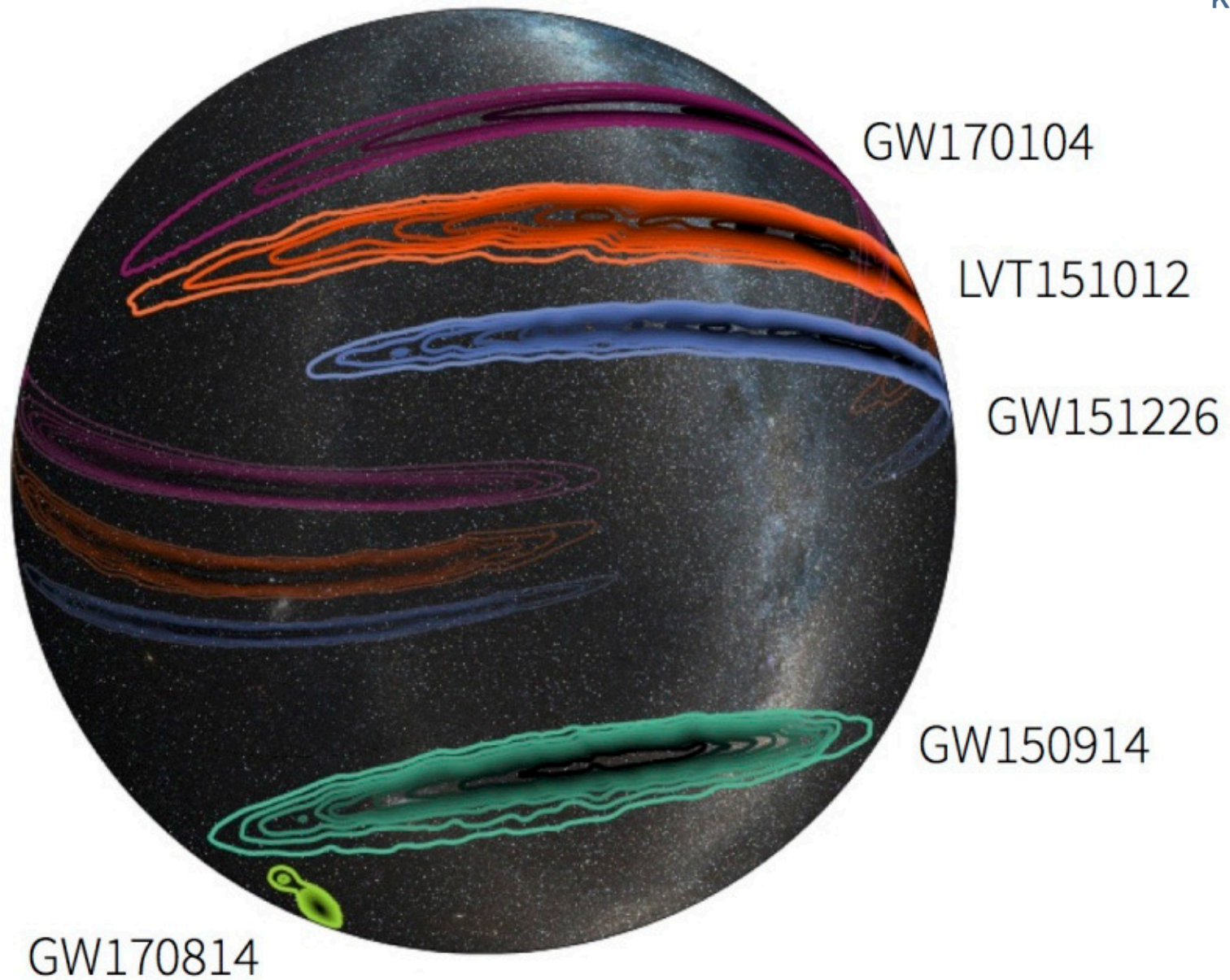
4 92 208

# GW170814: First three-detector signal





If we only had the two LIGO detectors, we'd have an uncertainty on the source's sky position of over 1000 square degrees (yellow), but adding in Virgo, we get this down to 60 square degrees (green). The purple map is the final localization from our full parameter estimation analysis. That's still pretty large by astronomical standards (the full Moon is about a quarter of a square degree), but a fantastic improvement!



**GW170817:**

**observation of a binary neutron star merger**



**GW170817:**

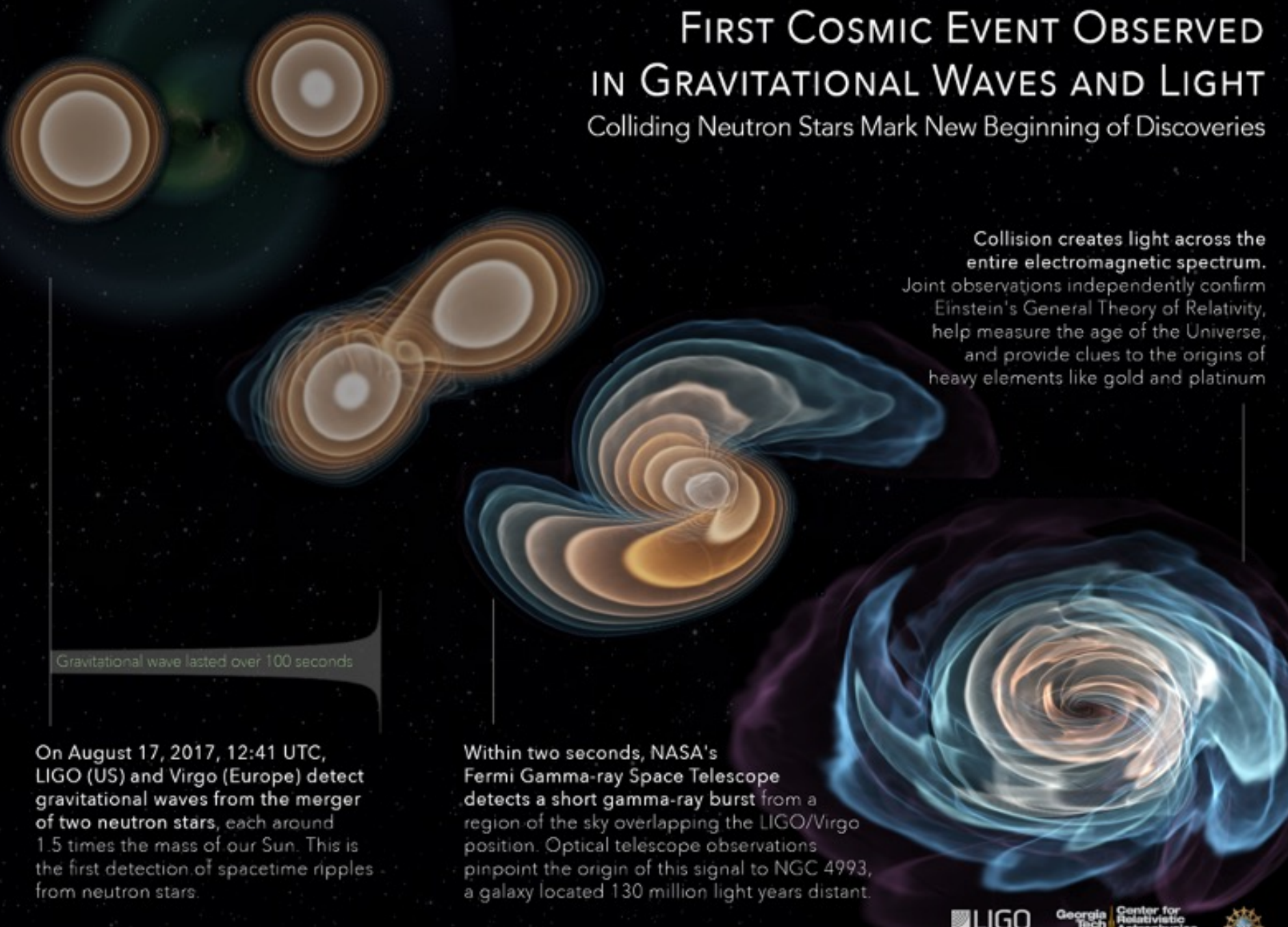
**observation of a binary neutron star merger**



# FIRST COSMIC EVENT OBSERVED IN GRAVITATIONAL WAVES AND LIGHT

Colliding Neutron Stars Mark New Beginning of Discoveries

Collision creates light across the entire electromagnetic spectrum. Joint observations independently confirm Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, help measure the age of the Universe, and provide clues to the origins of heavy elements like gold and platinum

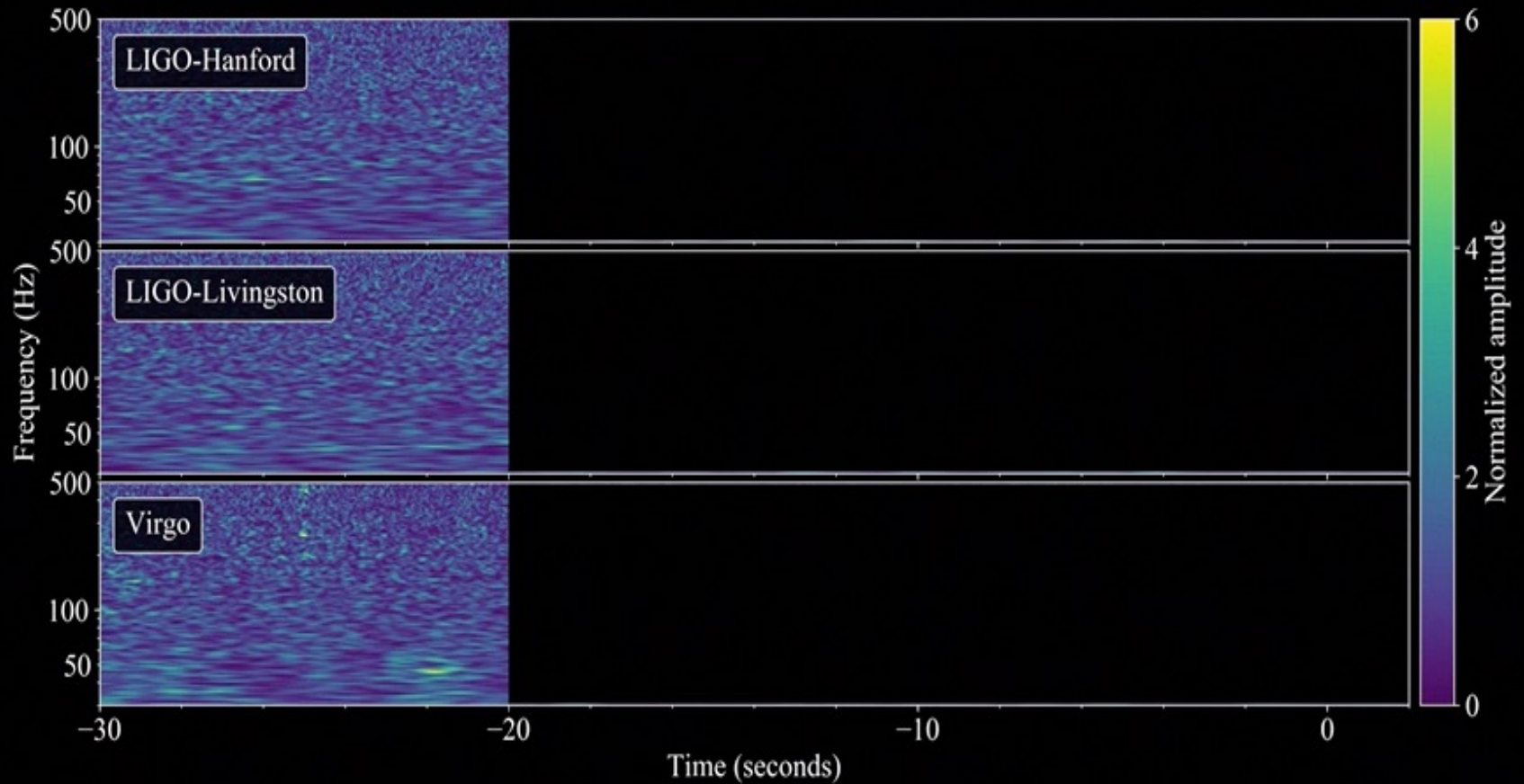


Gravitational wave lasted over 100 seconds

On August 17, 2017, 12:41 UTC, LIGO (US) and Virgo (Europe) detect gravitational waves from the merger of two neutron stars, each around 1.5 times the mass of our Sun. This is the first detection of spacetime ripples from neutron stars.

Within two seconds, NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope detects a short gamma-ray burst from a region of the sky overlapping the LIGO/Virgo position. Optical telescope observations pinpoint the origin of this signal to NGC 4993, a galaxy located 130 million light years distant.

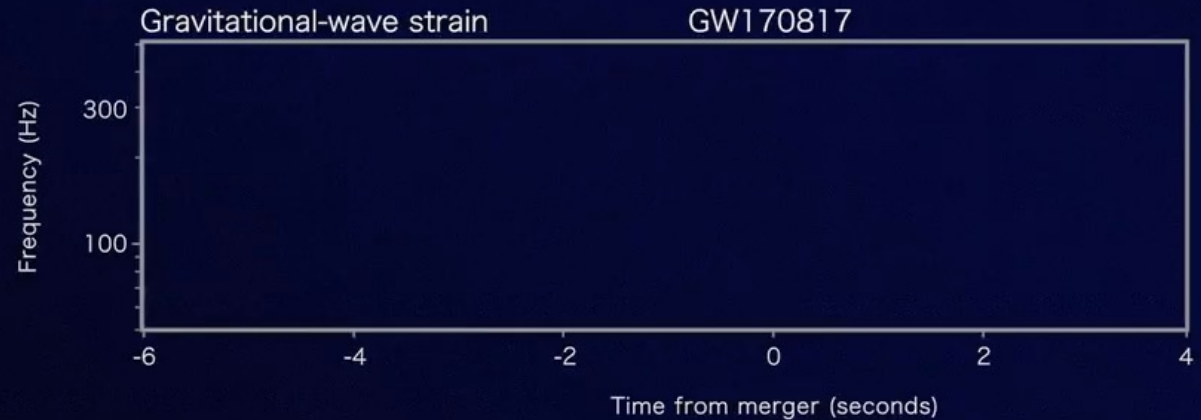
# GW170817



# Fermi detected a short gamma ray burst in coincidence with GW170817

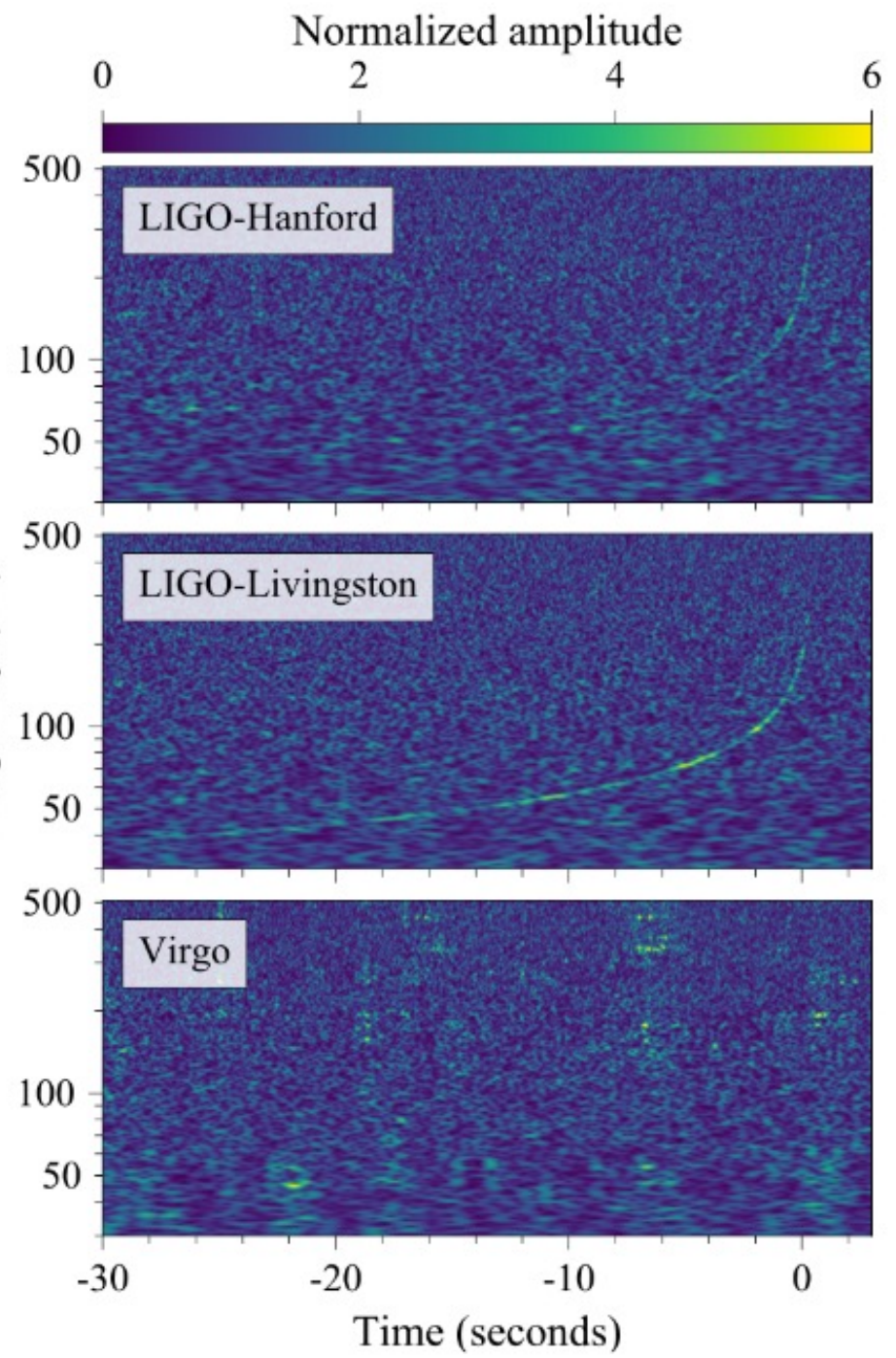
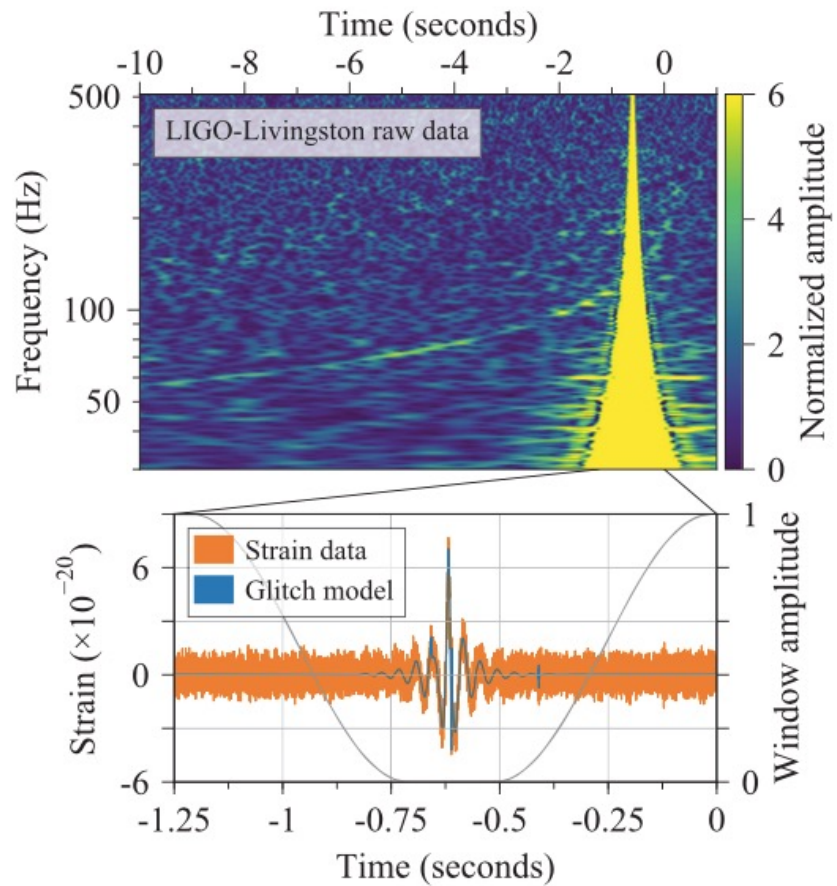


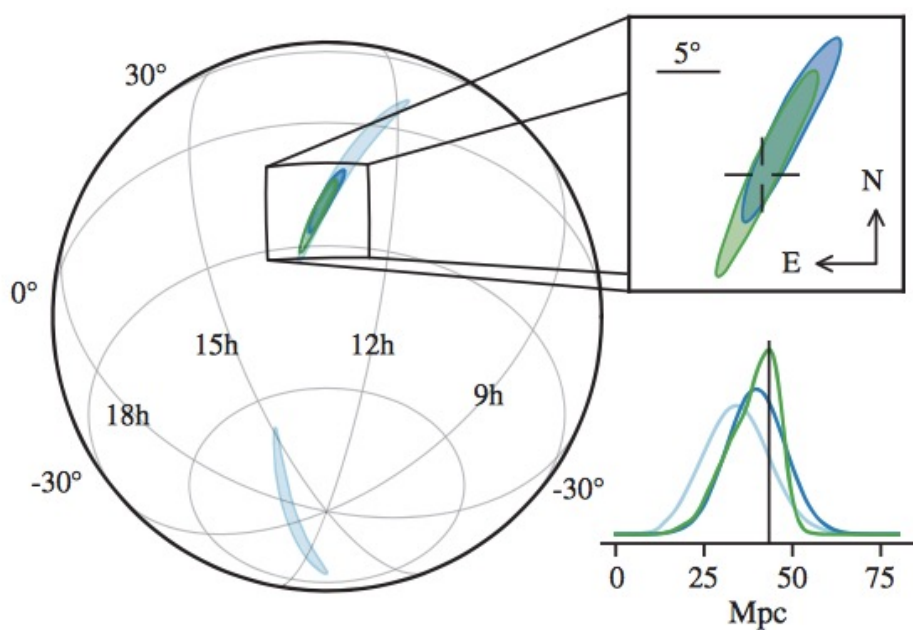
LIGO





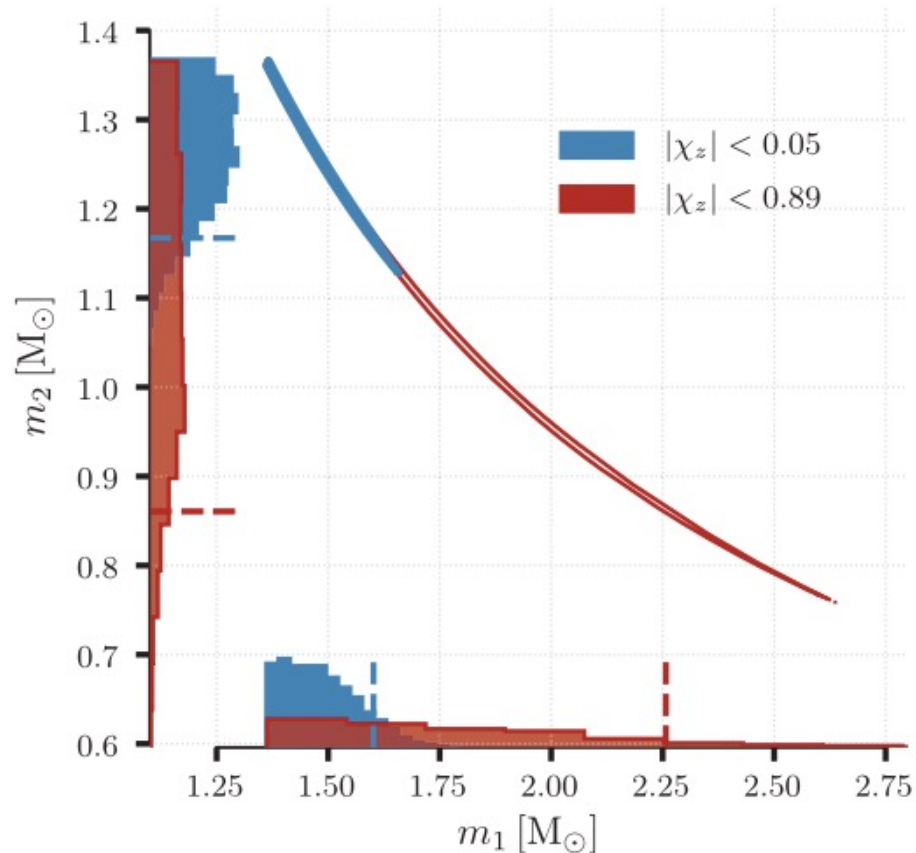
Shown here is a spectrogram of the gravitational waves as seen in the LIGO-Livingston detector. Here we show the spectrograms from all three LIGO-Virgo detectors. You can see the characteristic "chirp", when the frequency increases, of a binary merger.





Sky location reconstructed for GW170817 by a rapid localization algorithm from a Hanford-Livingston (190 deg<sup>2</sup>, light blue contours) and Hanford-Livingston-Virgo (31 deg<sup>2</sup>, dark blue contours) analysis. A higher latency Hanford-Livingston-Virgo analysis improved the localization (**28 deg<sup>2</sup>**, green contours). In the top-right inset panel, the reticle marks the position of the apparent host galaxy NGC 4993.

Two dimensional posterior distribution for the component masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  in the rest frame of the source for the low-spin scenario ( $|\chi| < 0.05$ , blue) and the high-spin scenario ( $|\chi| < 0.89$ , red). The colored contours enclose 90% of the probability from the joint posterior probability density function for  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ .



# GW170817: observation of a binary neutron star merger

PRL **119**, 161101 (2017)

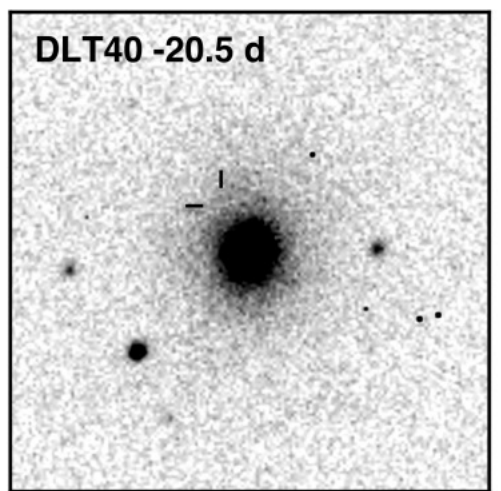
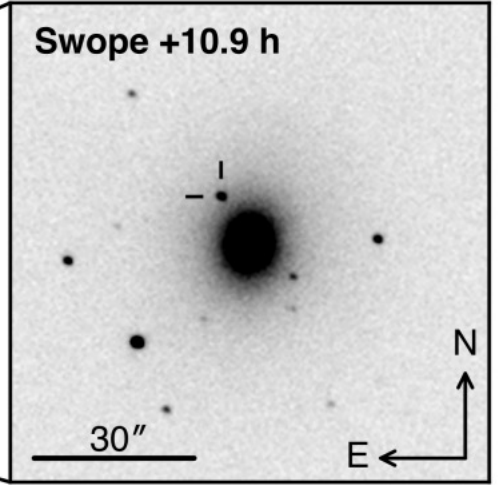
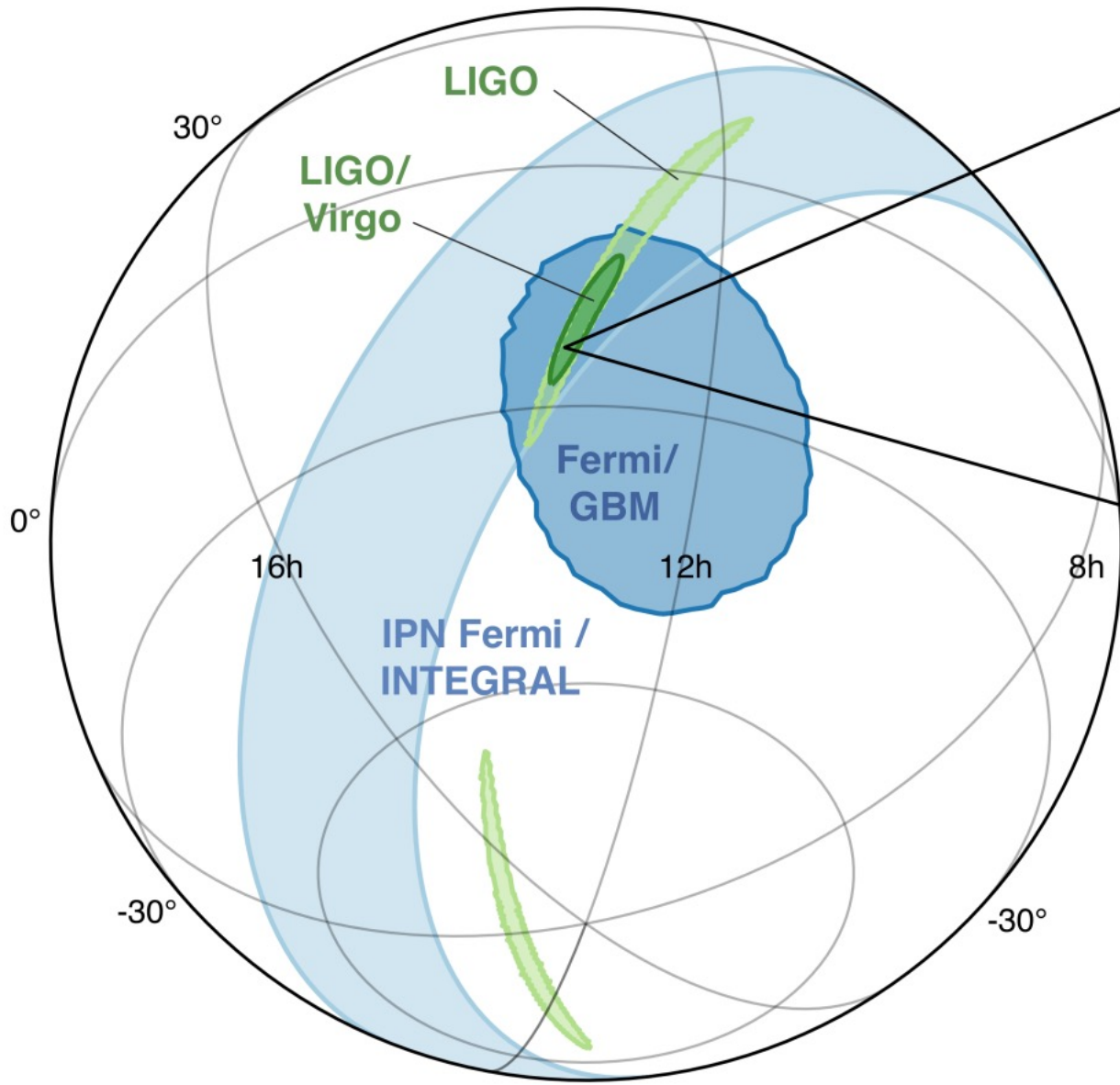
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

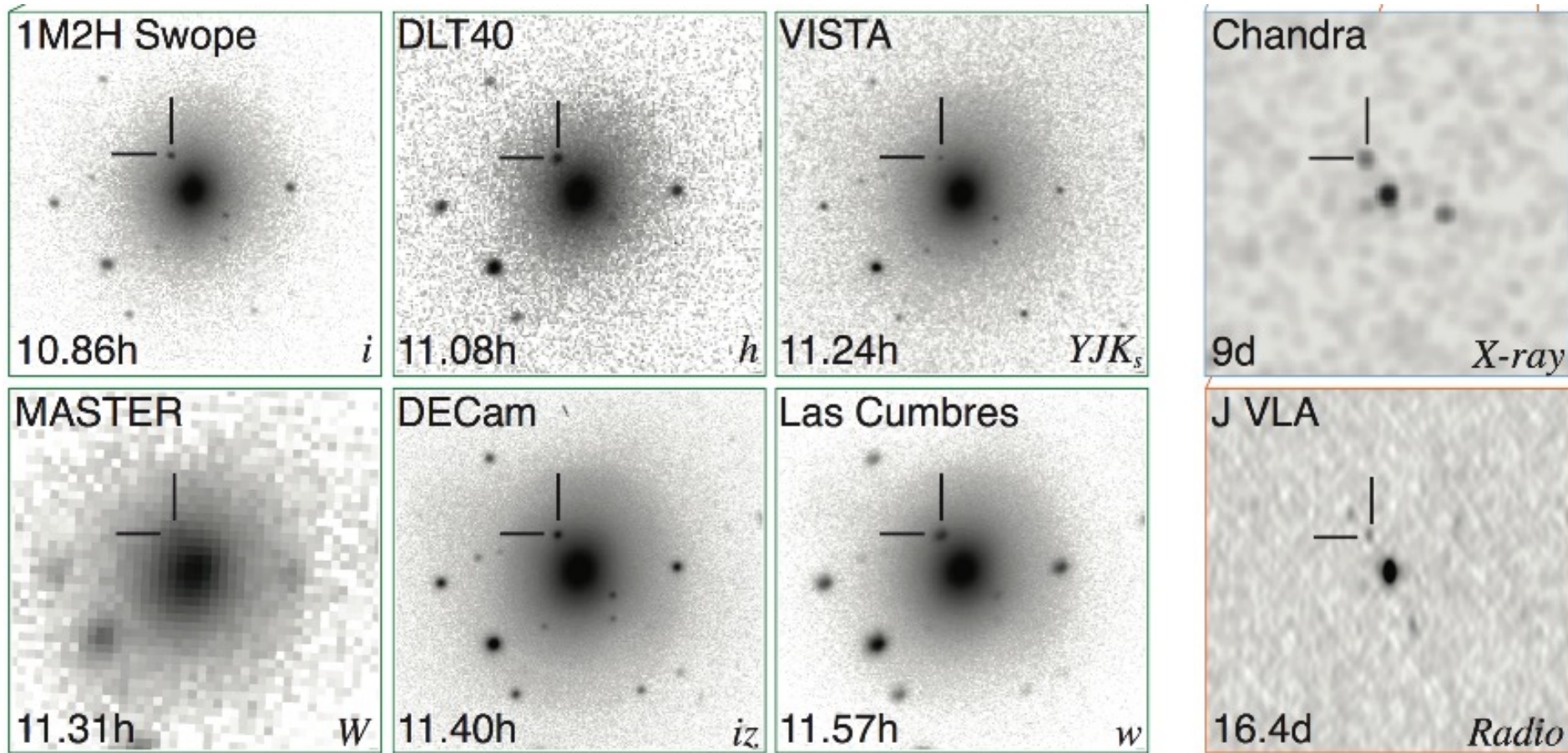
week ending  
20 OCTOBER 2017

TABLE I. Source properties for GW170817: we give ranges encompassing the 90% credible intervals for different assumptions of the waveform model to bound systematic uncertainty. The mass values are quoted in the frame of the source, accounting for uncertainty in the source redshift.

	Low-spin priors ( $ \chi  \leq 0.05$ )	High-spin priors ( $ \chi  \leq 0.89$ )
Primary mass $m_1$	$1.36\text{--}1.60 M_\odot$	$1.36\text{--}2.26 M_\odot$
Secondary mass $m_2$	$1.17\text{--}1.36 M_\odot$	$0.86\text{--}1.36 M_\odot$
Chirp mass $\mathcal{M}$	$1.188^{+0.004}_{-0.002} M_\odot$	$1.188^{+0.004}_{-0.002} M_\odot$
Mass ratio $m_2/m_1$	$0.7\text{--}1.0$	$0.4\text{--}1.0$
Total mass $m_{\text{tot}}$	$2.74^{+0.04}_{-0.01} M_\odot$	$2.82^{+0.47}_{-0.09} M_\odot$
Radiated energy $E_{\text{rad}}$	$> 0.025 M_\odot c^2$	$> 0.025 M_\odot c^2$
Luminosity distance $D_L$	$40^{+8}_{-14}$ Mpc	$40^{+8}_{-14}$ Mpc
Viewing angle $\Theta$	$\leq 55^\circ$	$\leq 56^\circ$
Using NGC 4993 location	$\leq 28^\circ$	$\leq 28^\circ$
Combined dimensionless tidal deformability $\tilde{\Lambda}$	$\leq 800$	$\leq 700$
Dimensionless tidal deformability $\Lambda(1.4M_\odot)$	$\leq 800$	$\leq 1400$



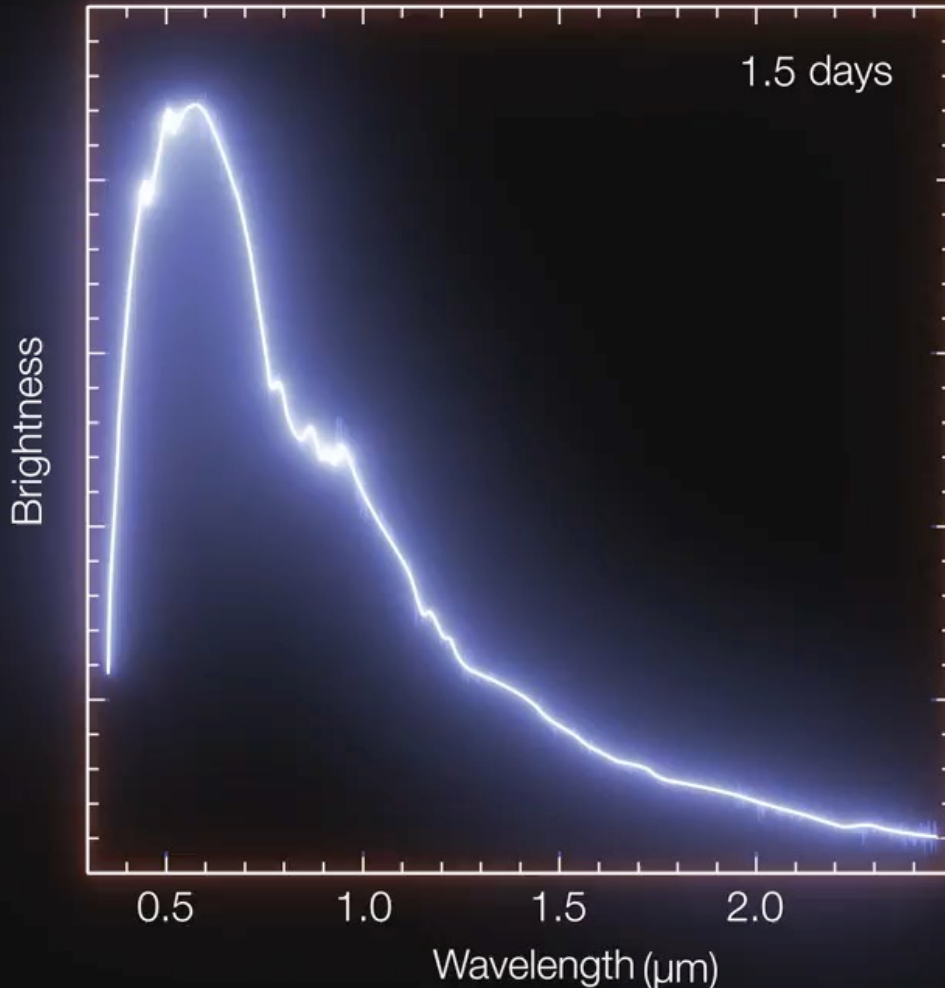




Shown here are 8 images of the aftermath of the BNS merger (designated SSS17a/AT2017gfo). On the left are six optical images taken between 10 and 12 hours after the merger by different telescopes. On the right are images constructed from x-ray and radio observations. The x-ray image was taken 9 days after the merger by NASA's [Chandra X-ray Observatory](#). 16 days after the merger NRAO's [Jansky Very Large Array \(VLA\)](#) captured the radio image. In all 8 images the galaxy NGC 4993 is seen in the middle and SSS17a/AT2017gfo is marked by two lines.



# Brightness of the kilonova



For the first time, it was observed an ultraviolet, optical, and infrared transient (known as a kilonova), due to the radioactive decay of heavy elements formed by neutron capture.

This observation firmly connects kilonovae with the BNS merger, providing evidence supporting the idea that kilonovae result from the radioactive decay of the heavy elements formed by neutron capture during a BNS merger.

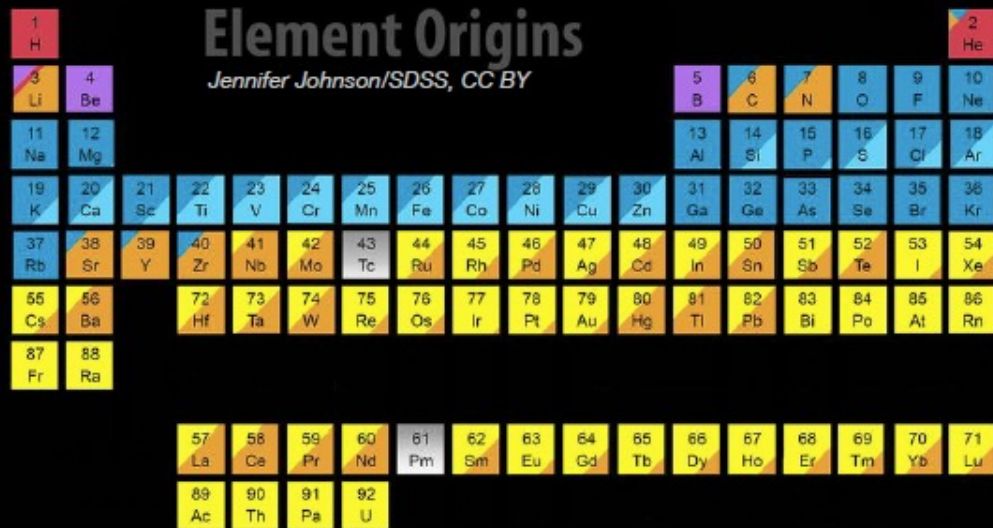
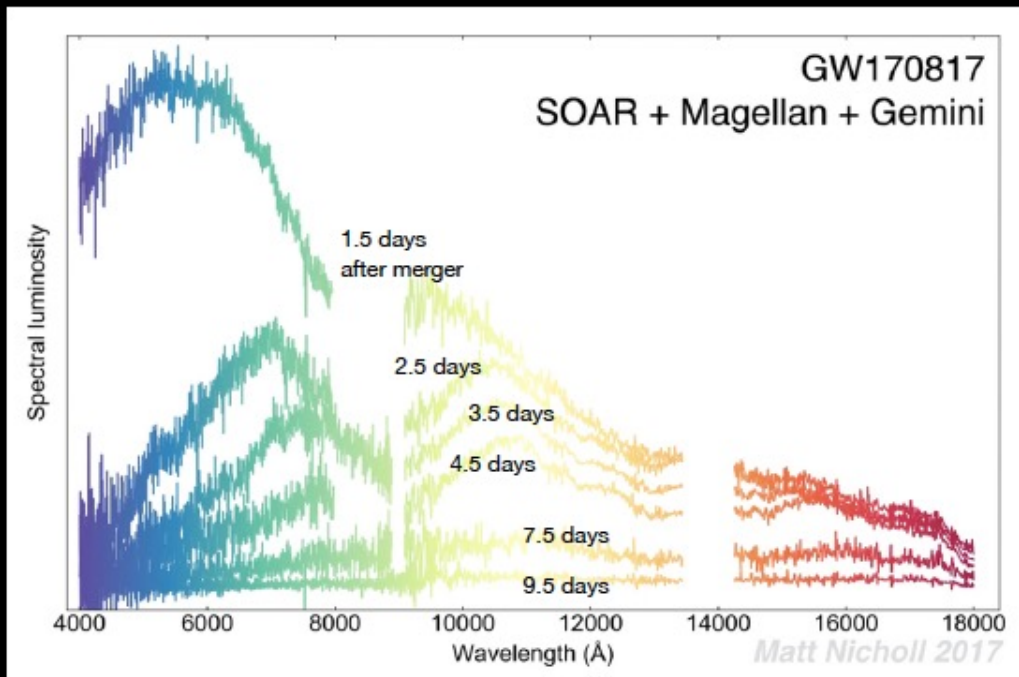
# Kilonova

SSS17a

August 17, 2017

Swope & Magellan Telescopes

August 21, 2017



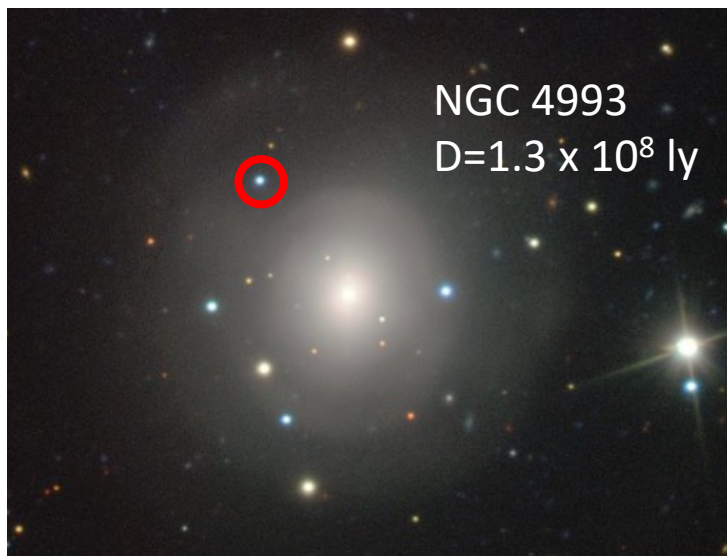
Merging Neutron Stars  
Dying Low Mass Stars

Exploding Massive Stars  
Exploding White Dwarfs

Big Bang  
Cosmic Ray Fission

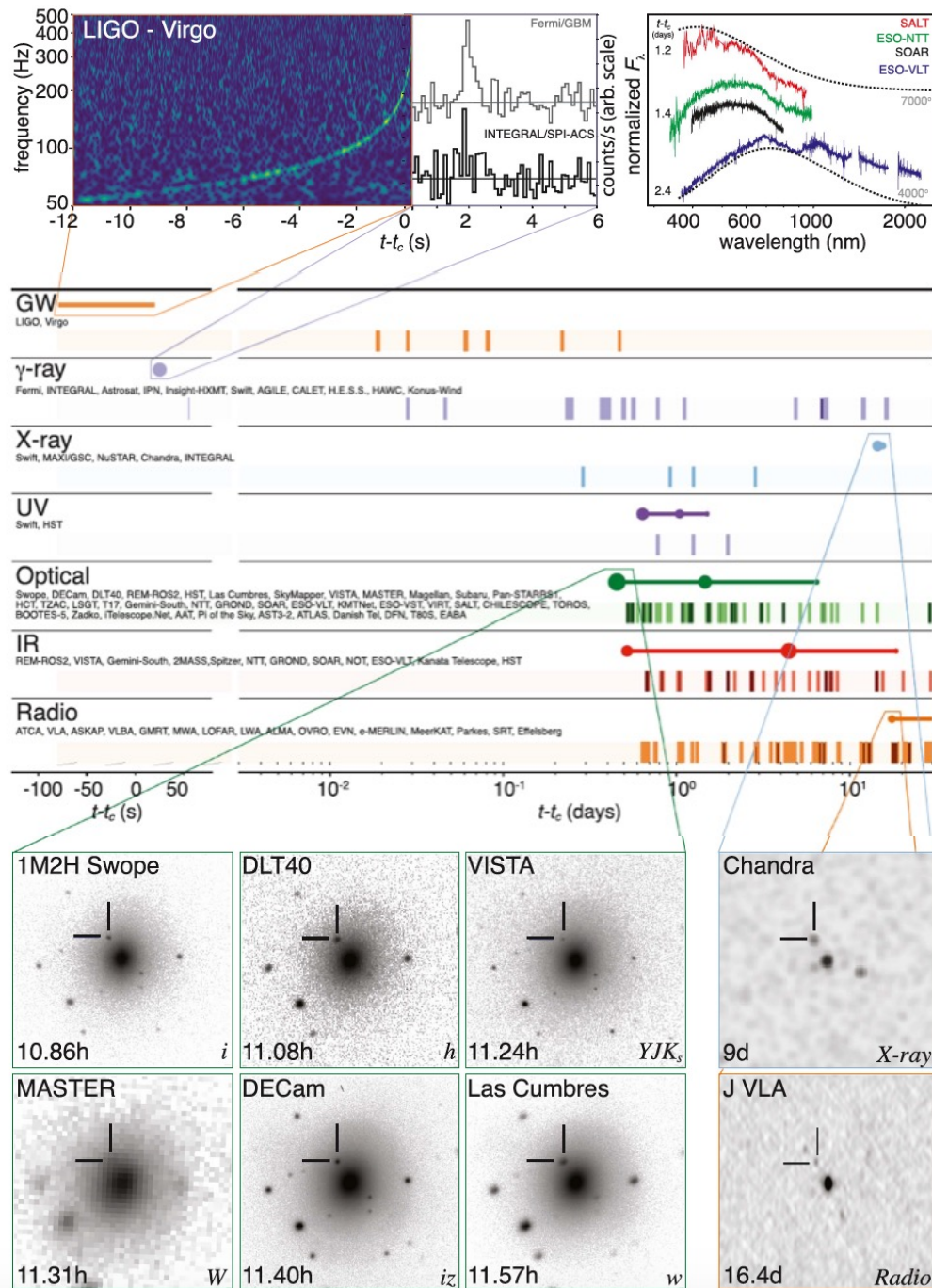


# Observations Across the Electromagnetic Spectrum



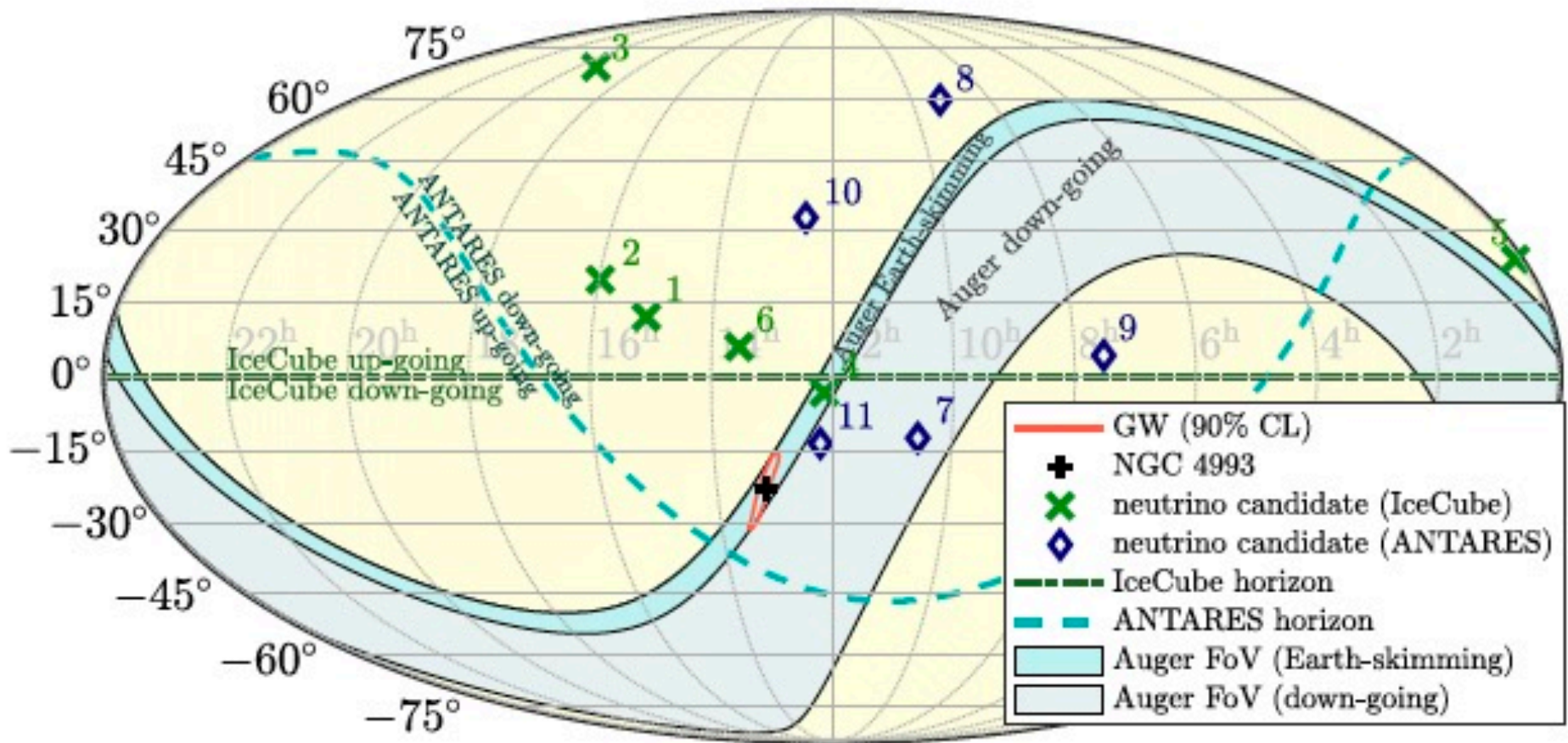
NGC 4993  
 $D=1.3 \times 10^8$  ly

Credit: European Southern Observatory  
 Very Large Telescope



Abbott, et al., LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration, "Multi-messenger Observations of a Binary Neutron Star Merger" Astrophys. J. Lett., 848:L12, (2017)

# Search for neutrinos in coincidence with the BNS merger



# Are Gravitons Massless?

- GW170817 provides a stringent test of the speed of gravitational waves

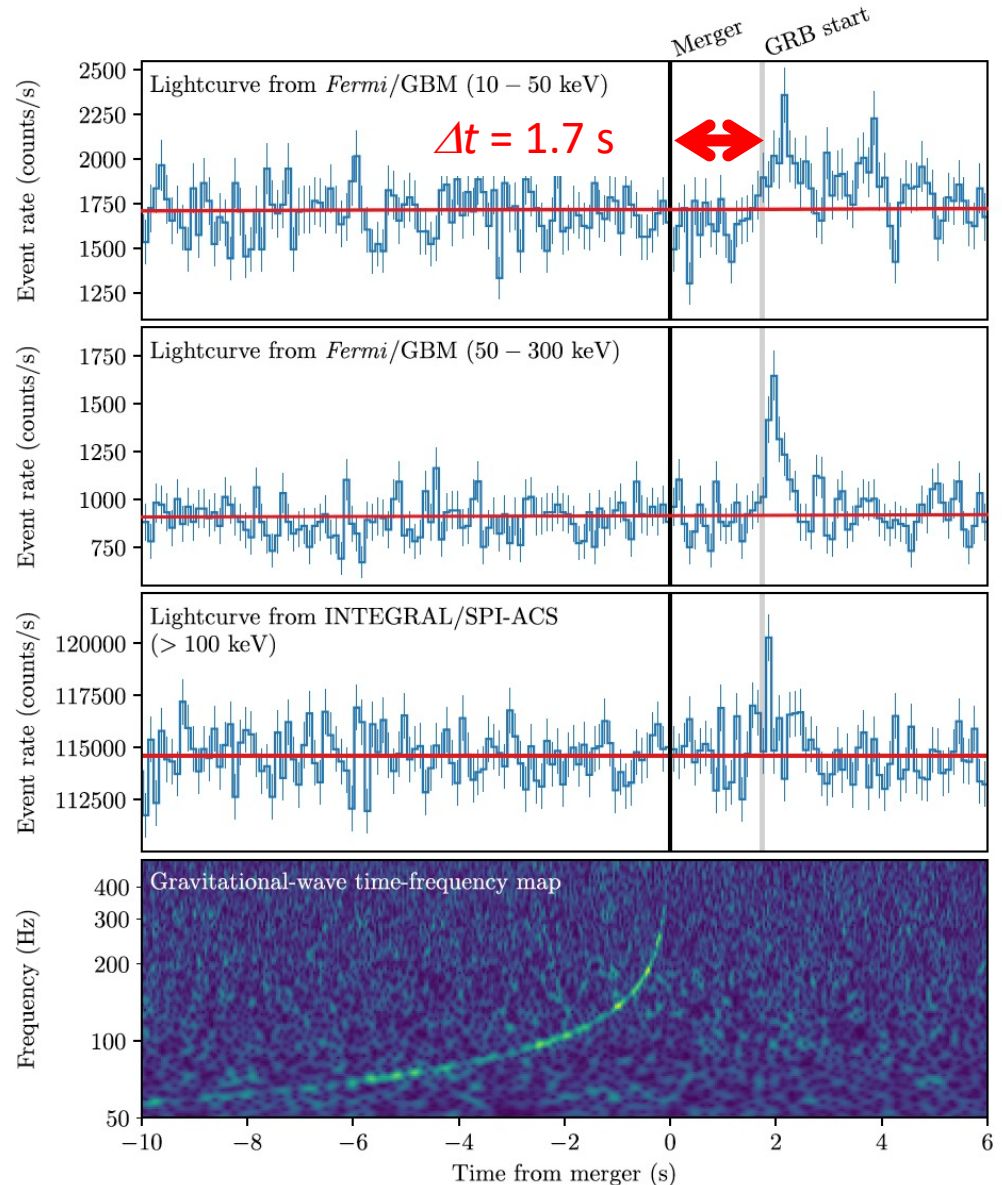
$$\frac{v_{GW} - c}{c} \approx \frac{c\Delta t}{D}$$

- $\Delta t = 1.74 \pm 0.05$  s
- $D \approx 26$  Mpc
  - Conservative limit – use 90% confidence level lower limit on GW source from parameter estimation

$$-3 \times 10^{-15} \leq \frac{v_{GW} - c}{c} \leq +7 \times 10^{-16}$$

- GW170814 also puts limits on violations of Lorentz Invariance and Equivalence Principle

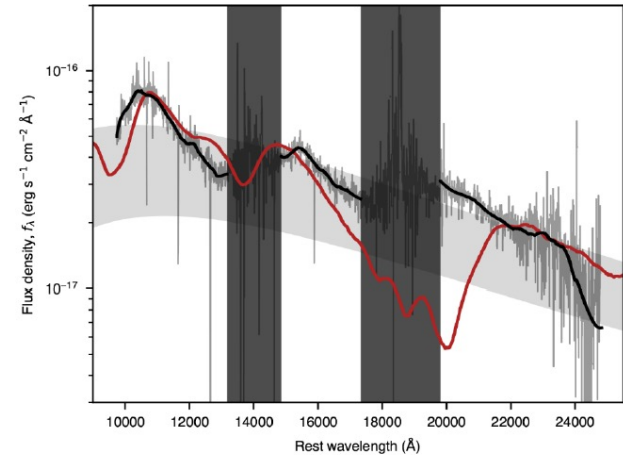
LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration, Gravitational Waves and Gamma-Rays from a Binary Neutron Star Merger: GW170817 and GRB 170817A" *Astrophys. J. Lett.*, 848:L13, (2017)



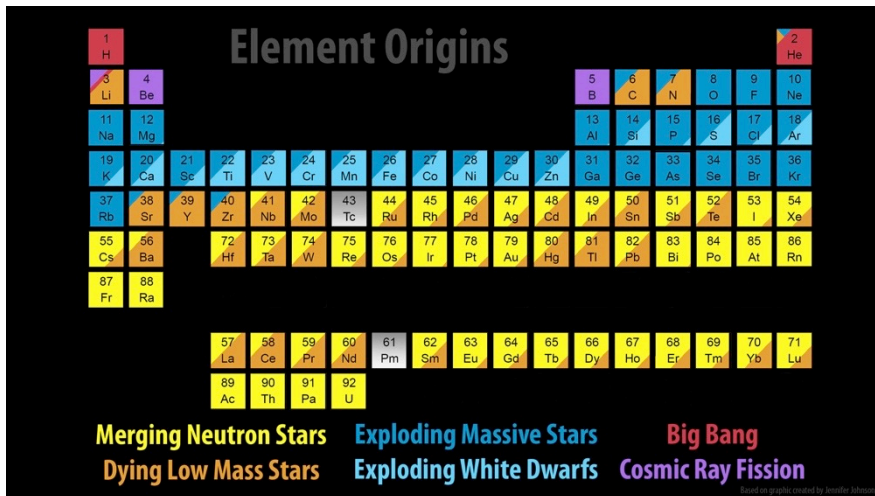
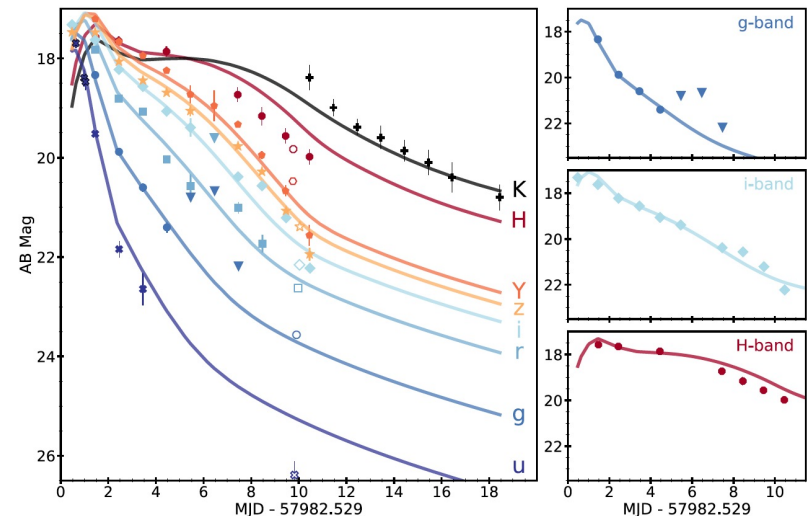
# Binary Neutron Star Mergers Produce Kilonovae

- Electromagnetic follow-up of GW170817 provides strong evidence for kilonova model
  - kilonova - isotropic thermal emission produced by radioactive decay of rapid neutron capture ('r-process') elements synthesized in the merger ejecta
- Spectra taken over 2 week period across all electromagnetic bands consistent with kilonova models
  - "Blue" early emission dominated by Fe-group and light r-process formation; later "red" emission dominated by heavy element (lanthanide) formation
- Recent radio data prefers 'cocoon' model to classical short-hard GRB production!

Kasliwal et al. 2017,  
Science, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aap9455>



Cowperthwaite, et al. 2017,  
Ap. J. Lett. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/aa8fc7>

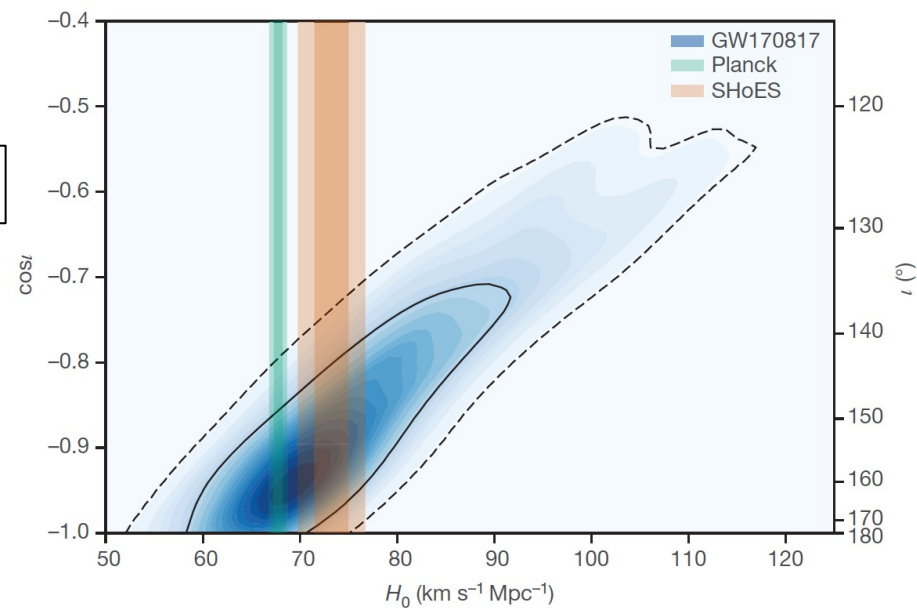
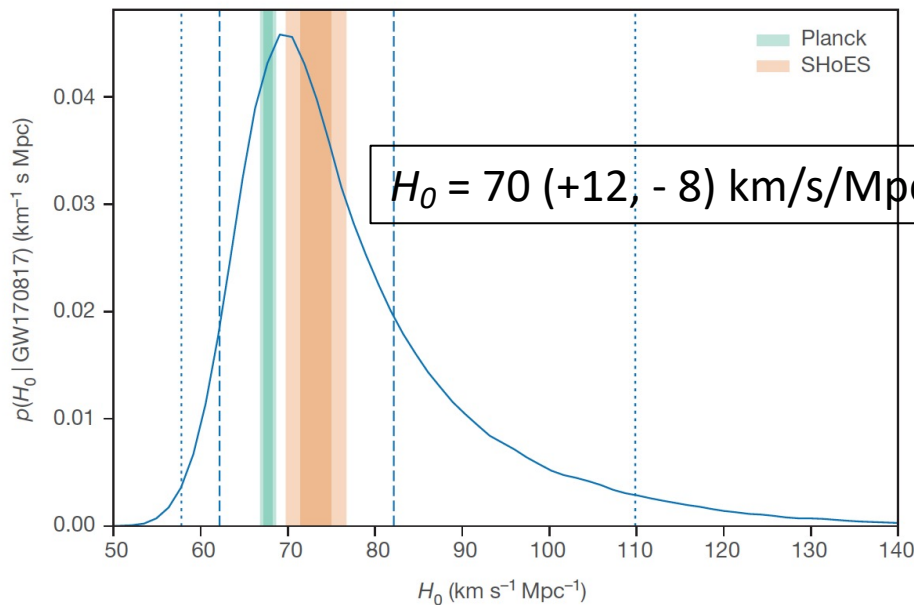


# A gravitational-wave standard siren measurement of the Hubble constant

- Gravitational waves are ‘standard sirens’, providing absolute measure of luminosity distance  $d_L$
- can be used to determine  $H_0$  directly if red shift is known:

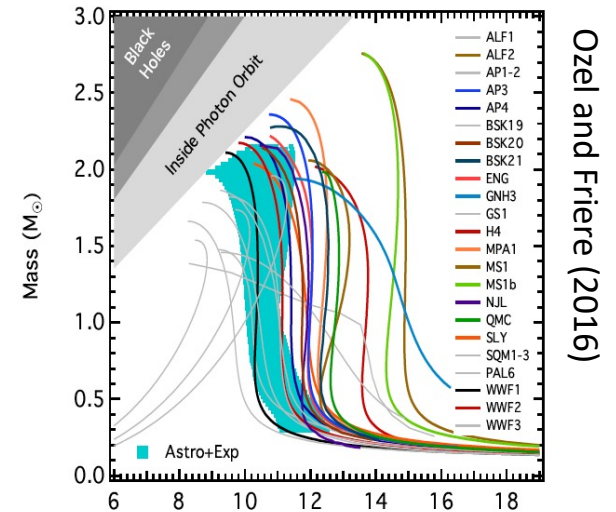
$$c z = H_0 d_L$$

- ... without the need for a cosmic distance ladder!

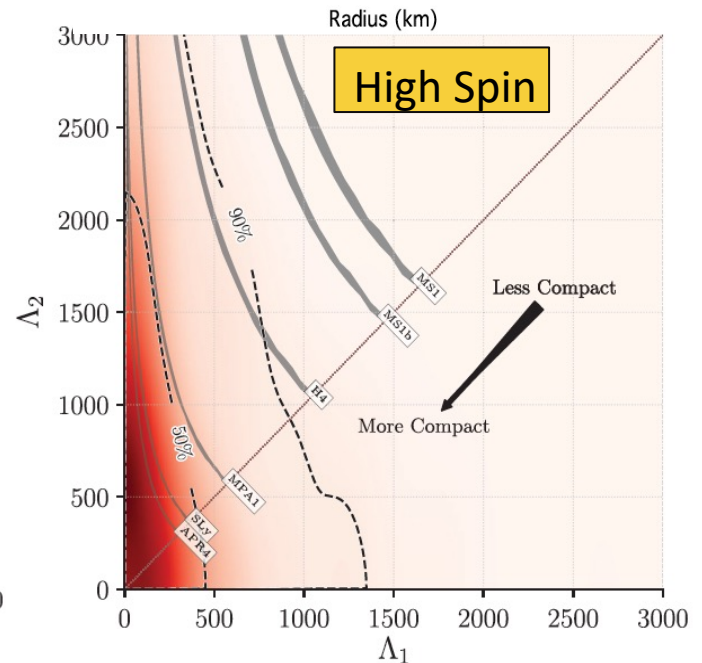
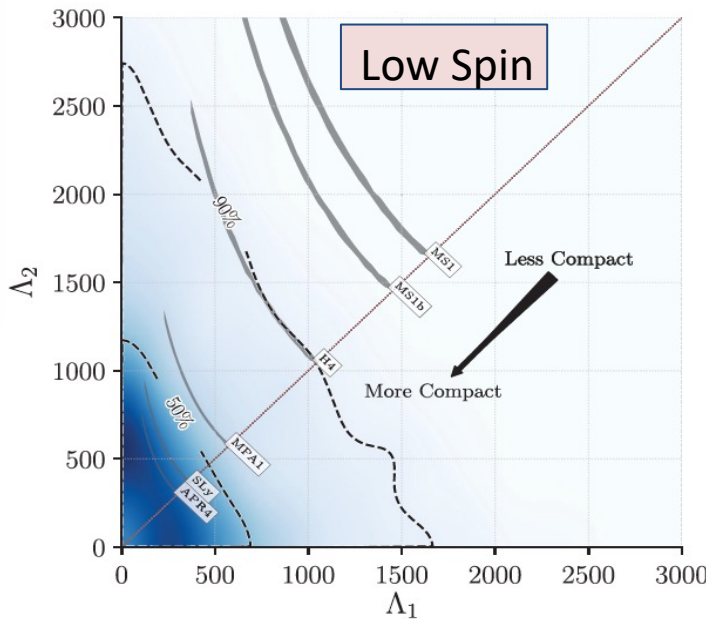


# Constraining the Neutron Star Equation of State with GW170817

- Gravitational waveforms contain information about NS tidal deformations → allows us to constrain NS equations of state (EOS)
- Tidal deformability parameter:
 
$$\Lambda = \frac{2}{3} k_2 \left( \frac{R}{M} \right)^5$$
- GW170817 data consistent with softer EOS → more compact NS



Ozel and Friere (2016)



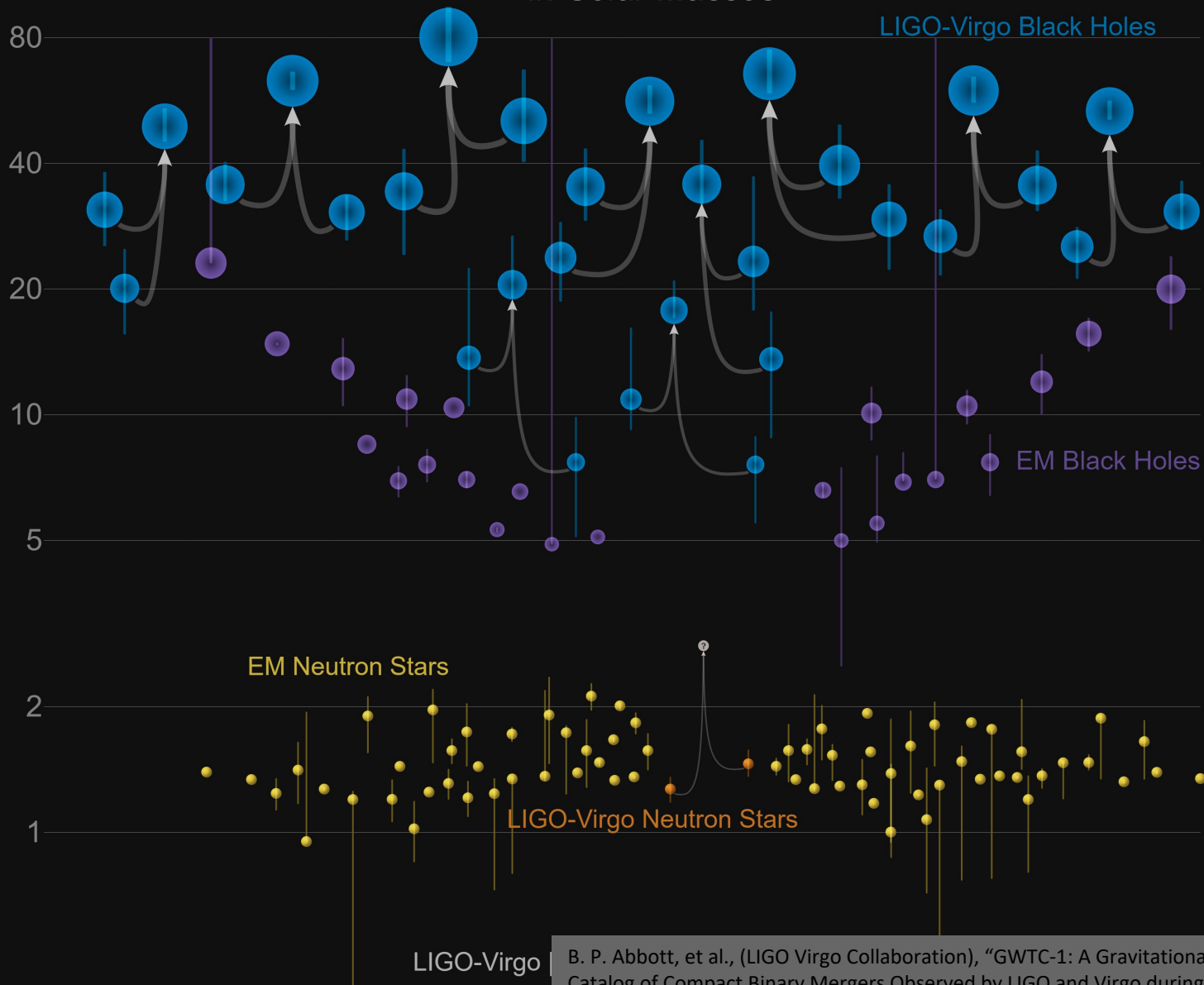
Abbott, et al. ,LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration, "GW170817: Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Neutron Star Inspiral" *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 161101 (2017)





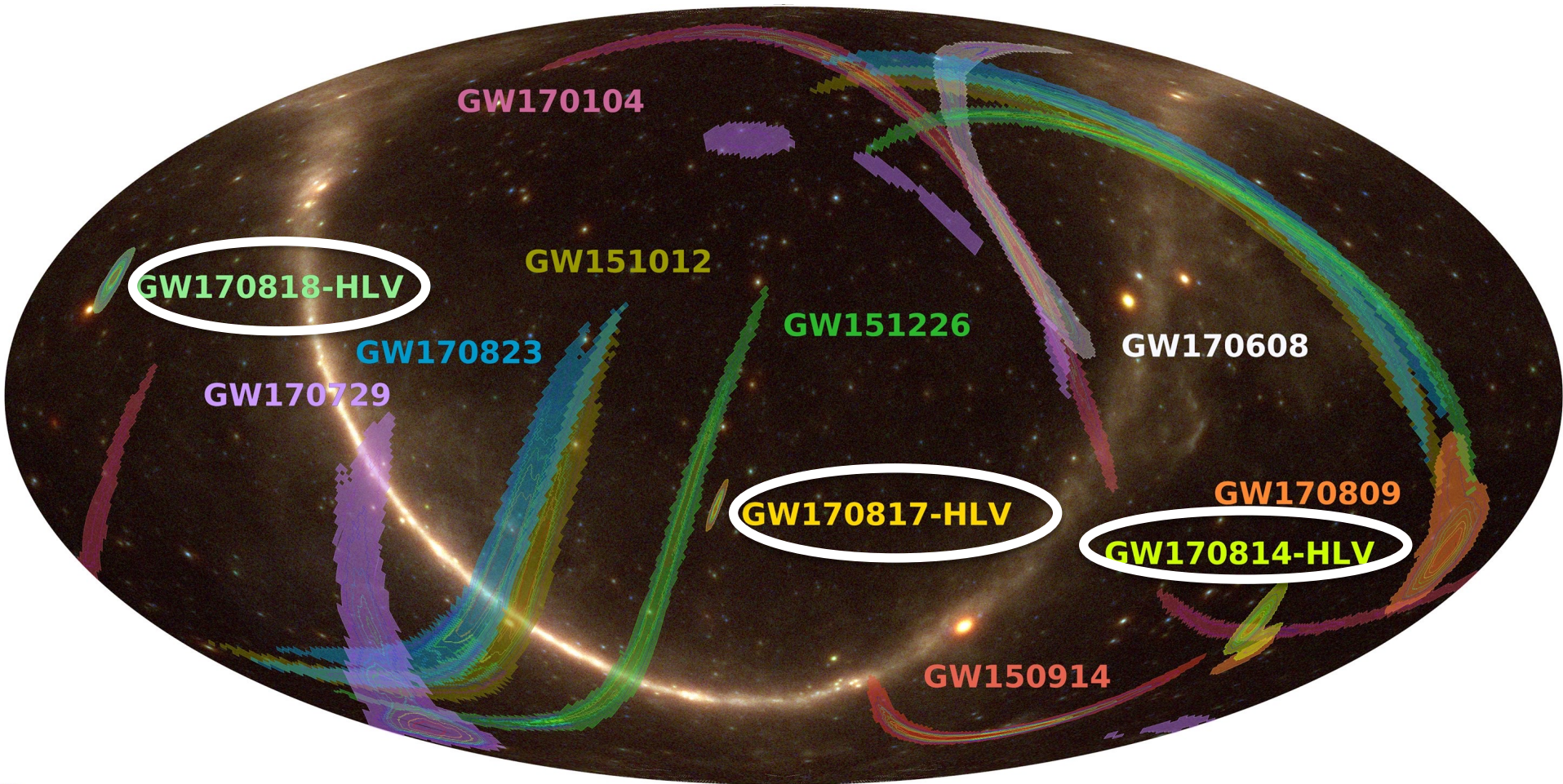
# Masses in the Stellar Graveyard

*in Solar Masses*



B. P. Abbott, et al., (LIGO Virgo Collaboration), "GWTC-1: A Gravitational-Wave Transient Catalog of Compact Binary Mergers Observed by LIGO and Virgo during the First and Second Observing Runs", <https://arxiv.org/abs/1811.12907>

# Skymaps of LIGO-Virgo's Detections



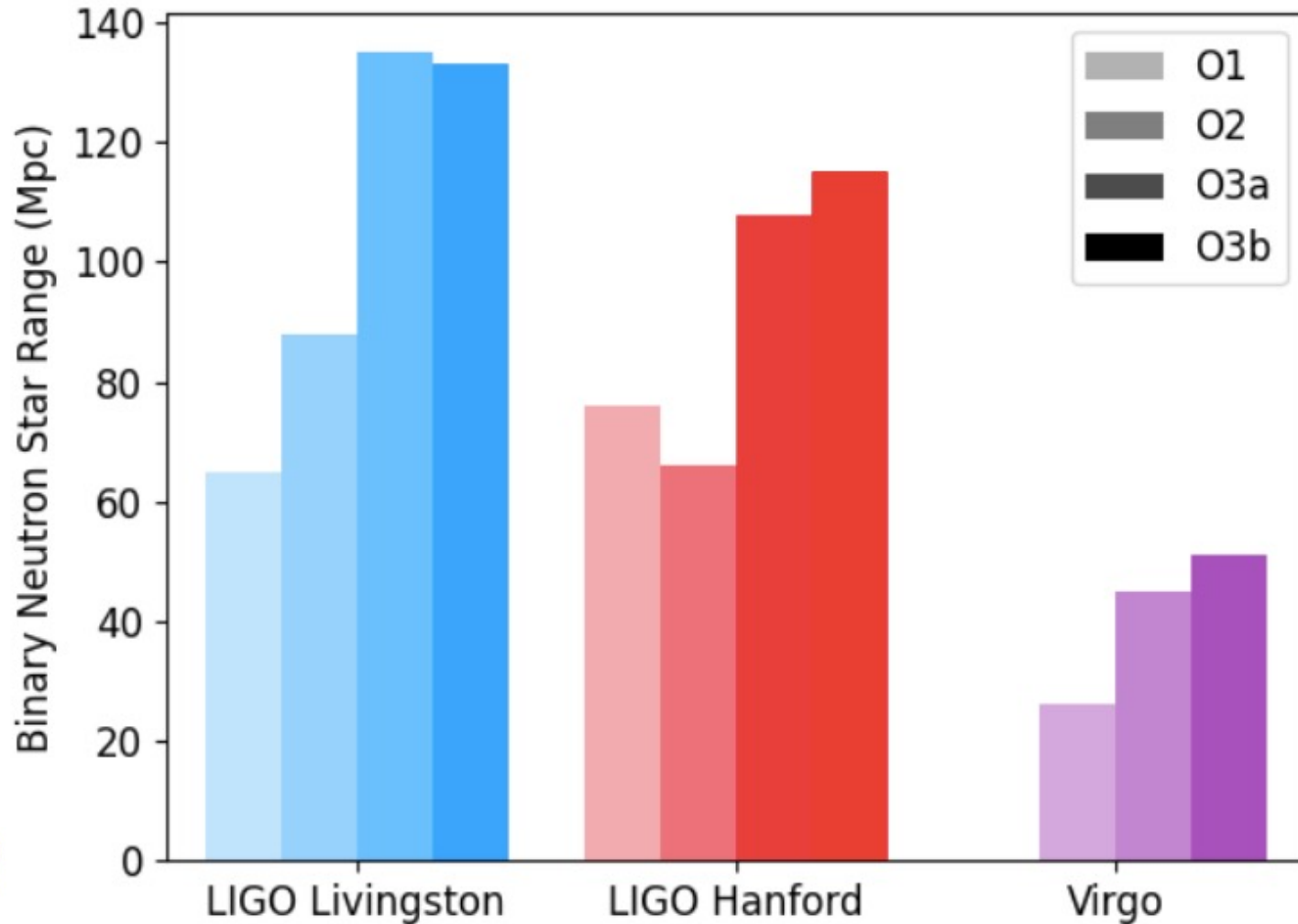
Abbott, et al, (LIGO Virgo Collaboration "Low-Latency Gravitational Wave Alerts for Multi-Messenger Astronomy During the Second Advanced LIGO and Virgo Observing Run", <https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.03310>)

# Gravitational Wave Transients Catalog

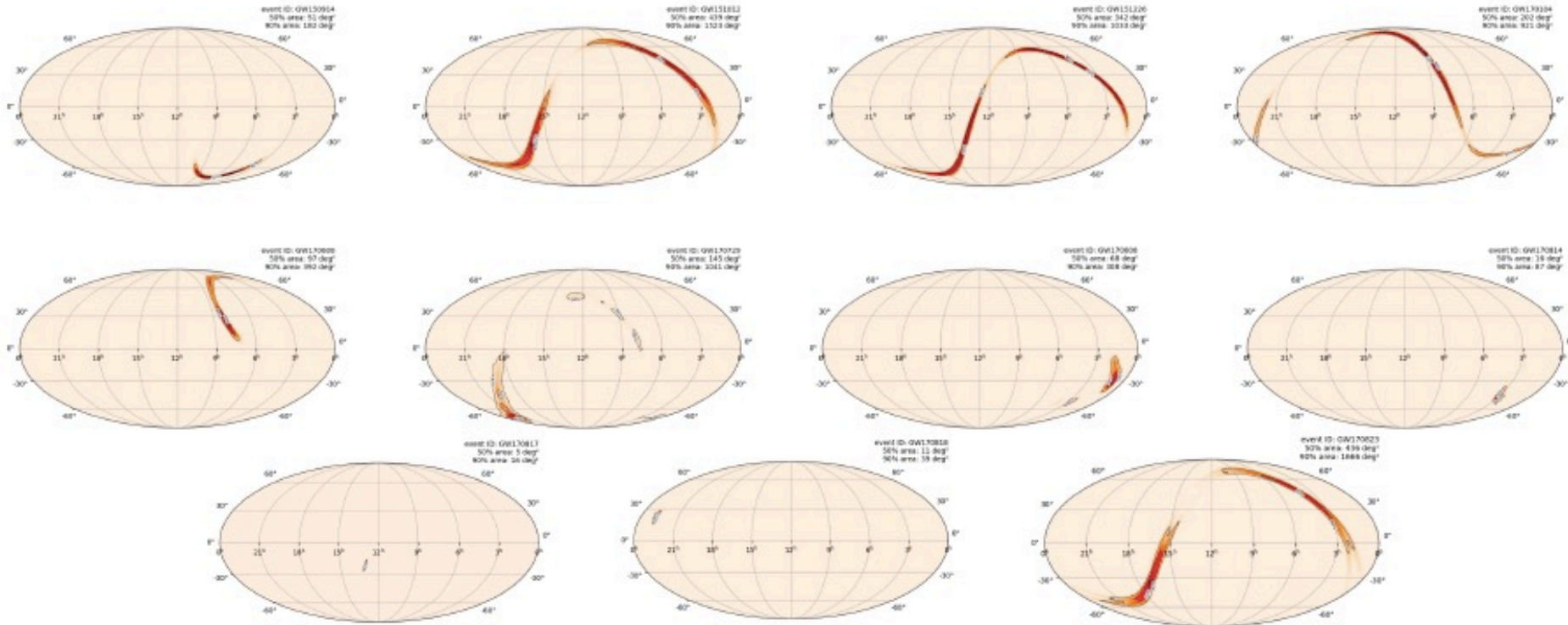
- GWTC-1: 11 confirmed events (10 BBHs, 1BNS), O1+O2
  - GWTC-2: 39 confirmed events, O3a
  - GWTC-2.1: 8 new events in O3a and reclassified 3 candidates in GWTC-2-> 55 total events
  - GWTC-3: 35 events in O3b
- 
- O1 from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016
  - O2 from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017
  - O3a from April 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1st,2019
  - O3b from November 2019 to March 2020



# Detector Sensitivity

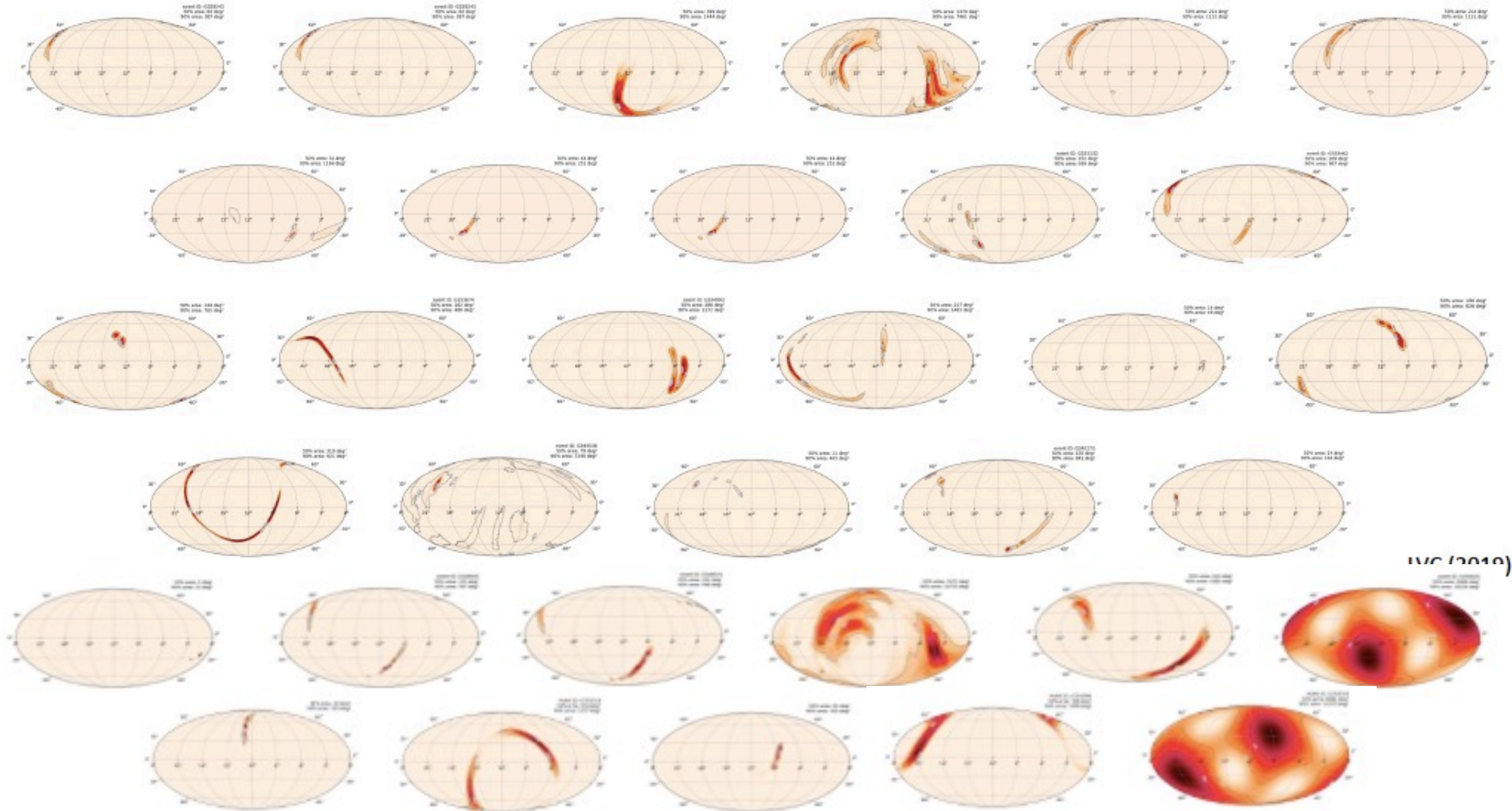


# LVC observations after O1-O2: 11 detections (10 BBH + 1BNS)





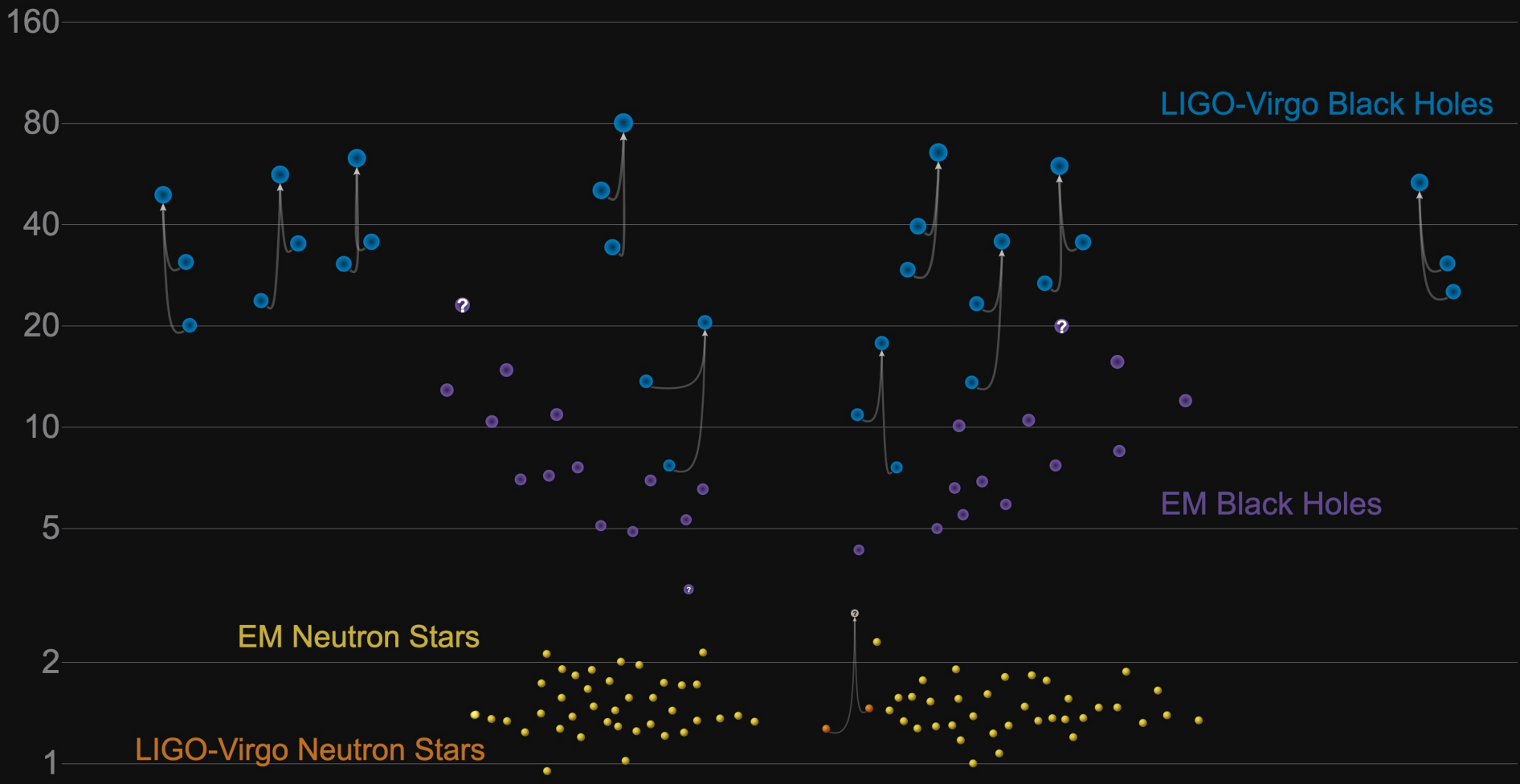
# LVC candidates (so far) in O3 – since April 2019 – 33 Candidates



LVC (2019)

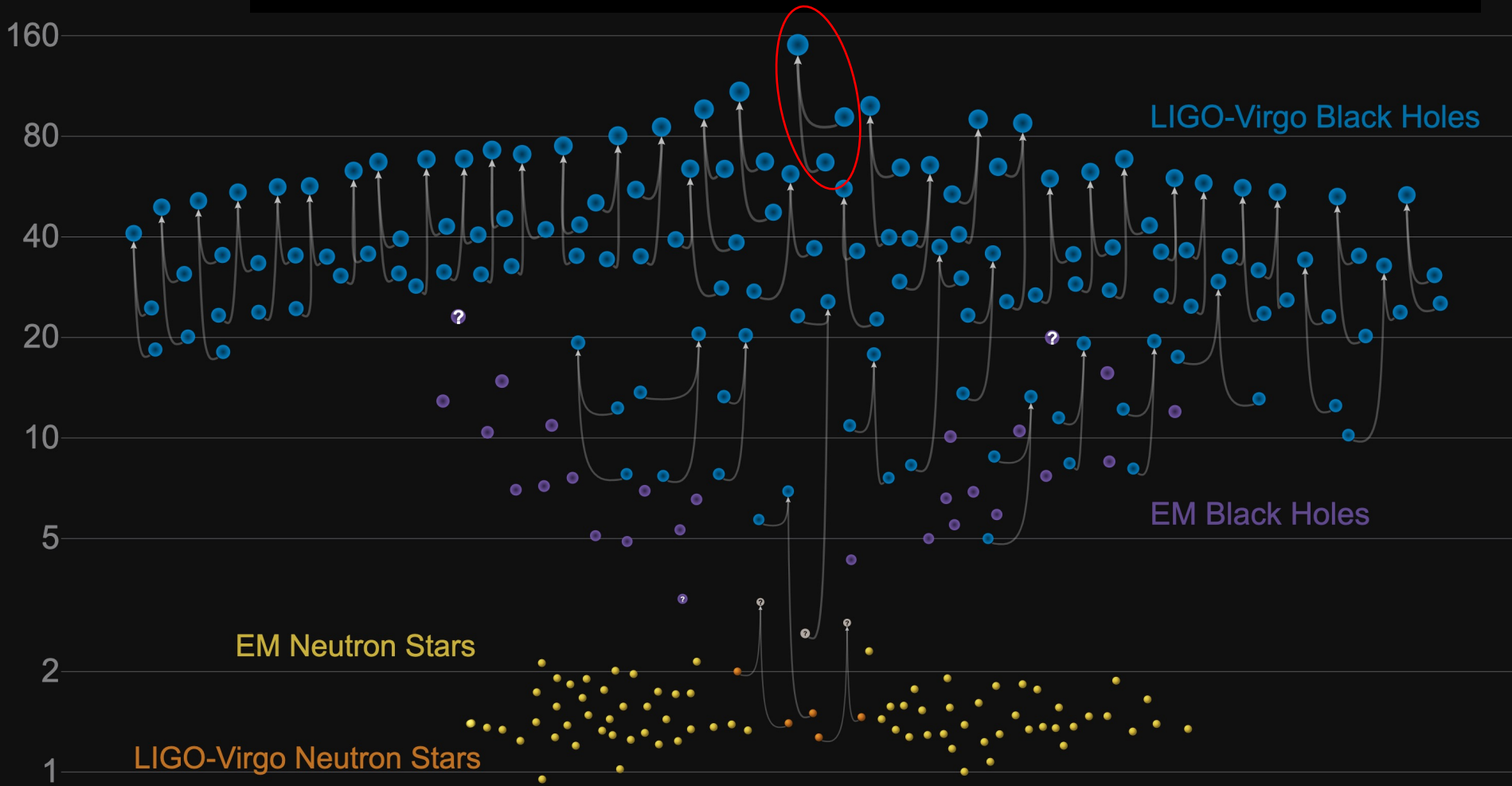


# Detected Events in the First Two LIGO-Virgo Observing Runs





# Detected Events in the First Two LIGO-Virgo Observing Runs and the O3a Run



GWTC-2 plot v1.0

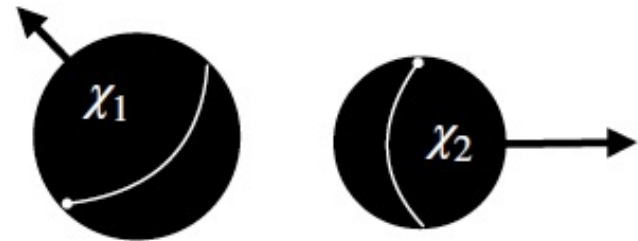
LIGO-Virgo | Frank Elavsky, Aaron Geller | Northwestern

# Gravitational waves encode source properties, like ...

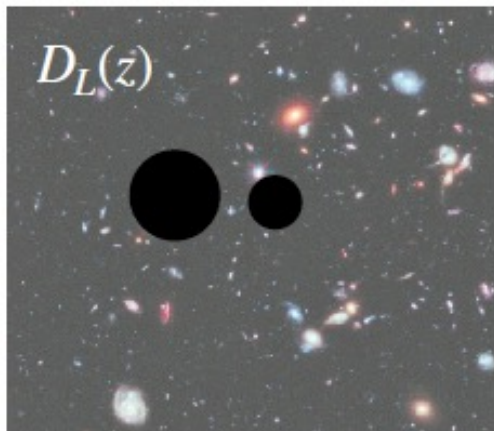
How *big* is each black hole or neutron star?



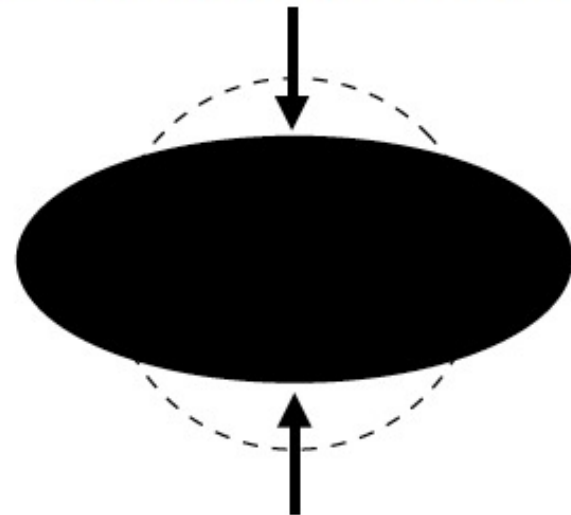
How fast are they *spinning*?



Where and when did they merge?



How squishy are neutron stars?



# GRAVITATIONAL WAVE MERGER DETECTIONS

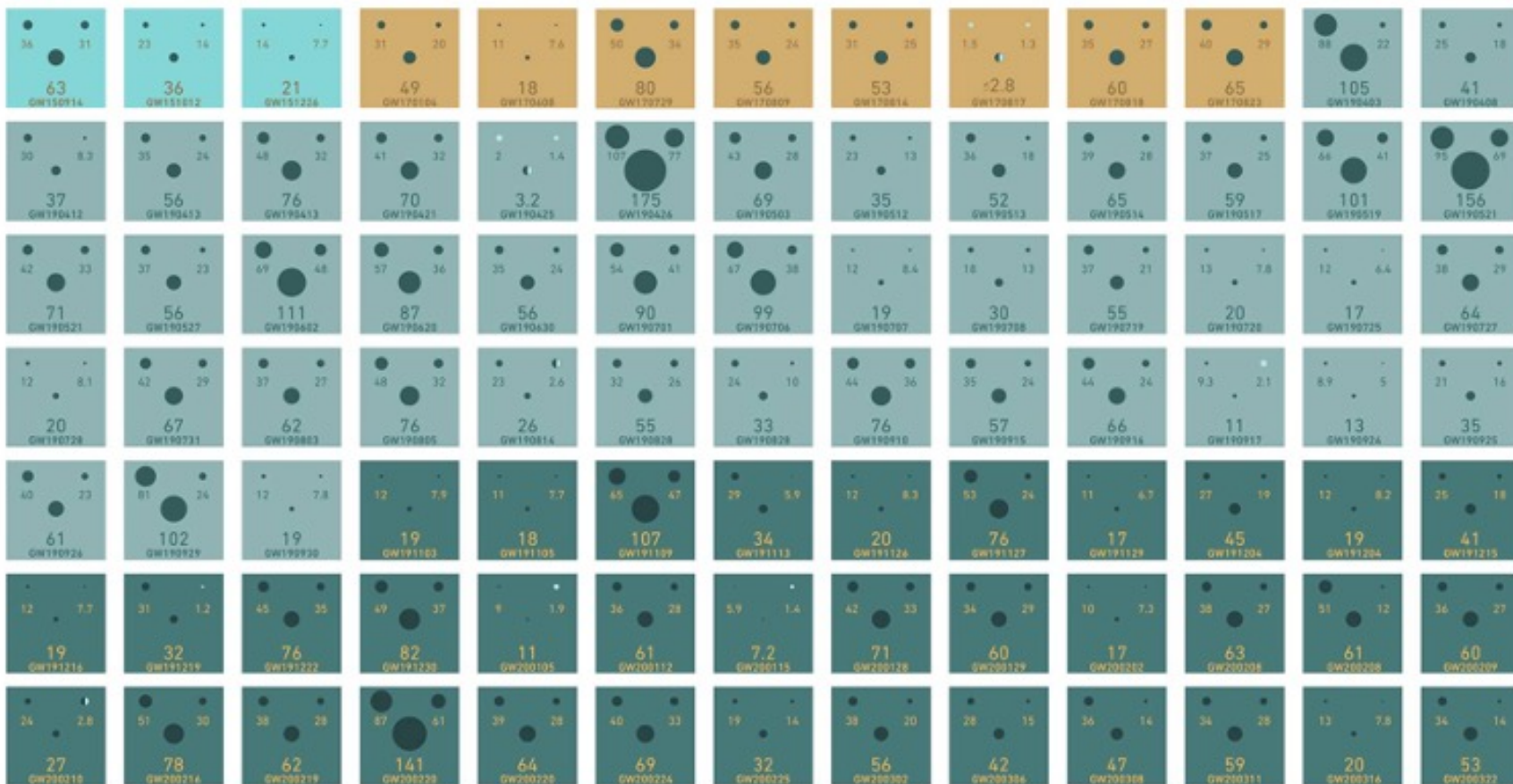
→ SINCE 2015

SERVING IN

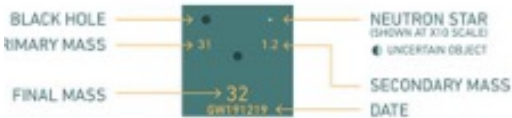
01 2015-2016

02 2016-2017

03a+b 2019-2020



Y



UNITS ARE SOLAR MASSES  
1 SOLAR MASS =  $1.989 \times 10^{30}$  kg

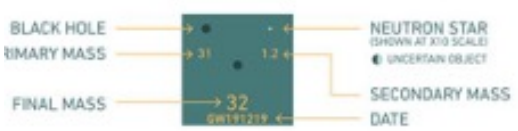
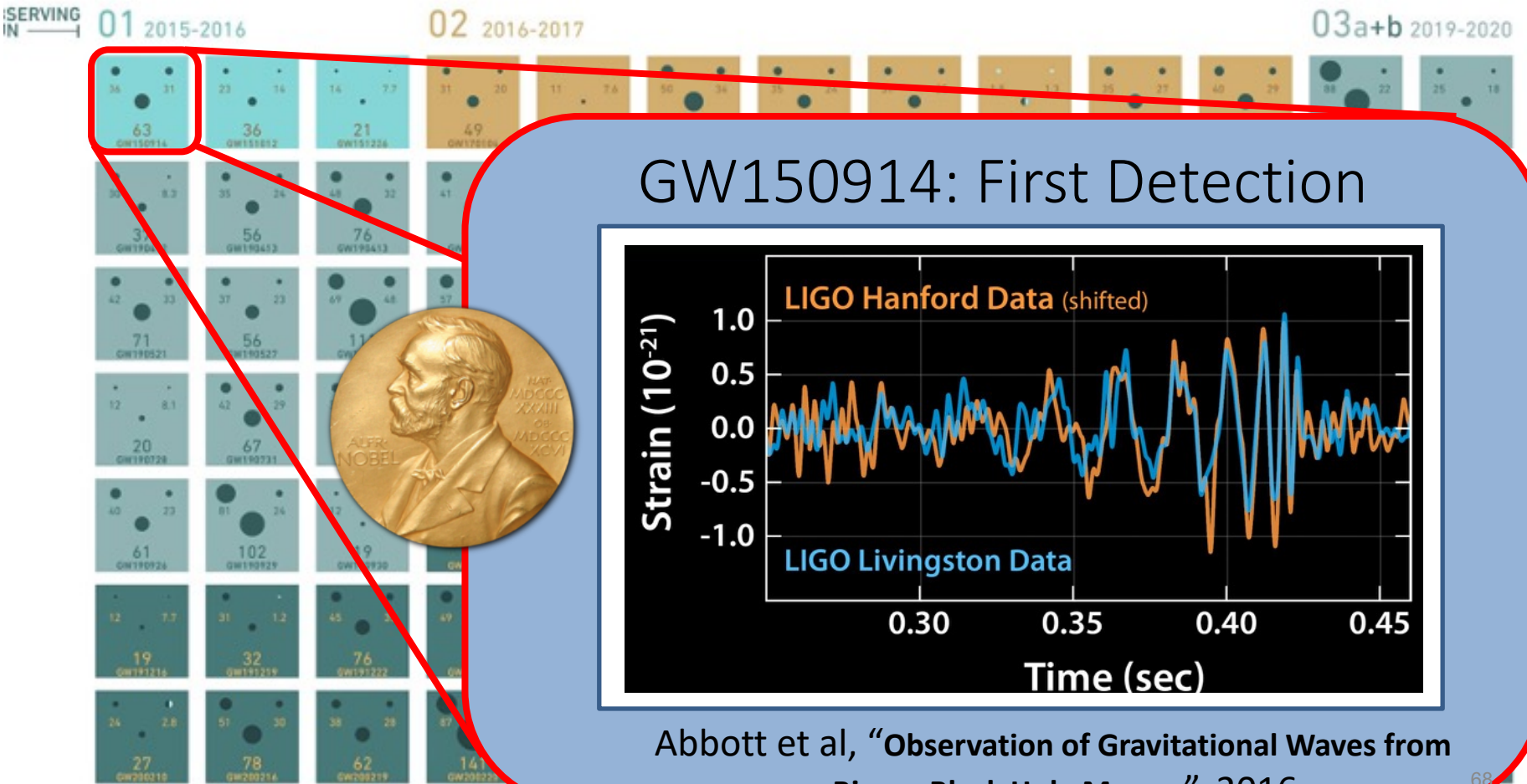
Note that the mass estimates shown here do not include uncertainties, which is why the final mass is sometimes larger than the sum of the primary and secondary masses. In actuality, the final mass is smaller than the primary plus the secondary mass.

The events listed here pass one of two thresholds for detection. They either have a probability of being astrophysical of at least 50%, or they pass a false alarm rate threshold of less than 1 per 3 years.



# GRAVITATIONAL WAVE MERGER DETECTIONS

→ SINCE 2015



UNITS ARE SOLAR MASSES  
 1 SOLAR MASS =  $1.989 \times 10^{30}$ kg

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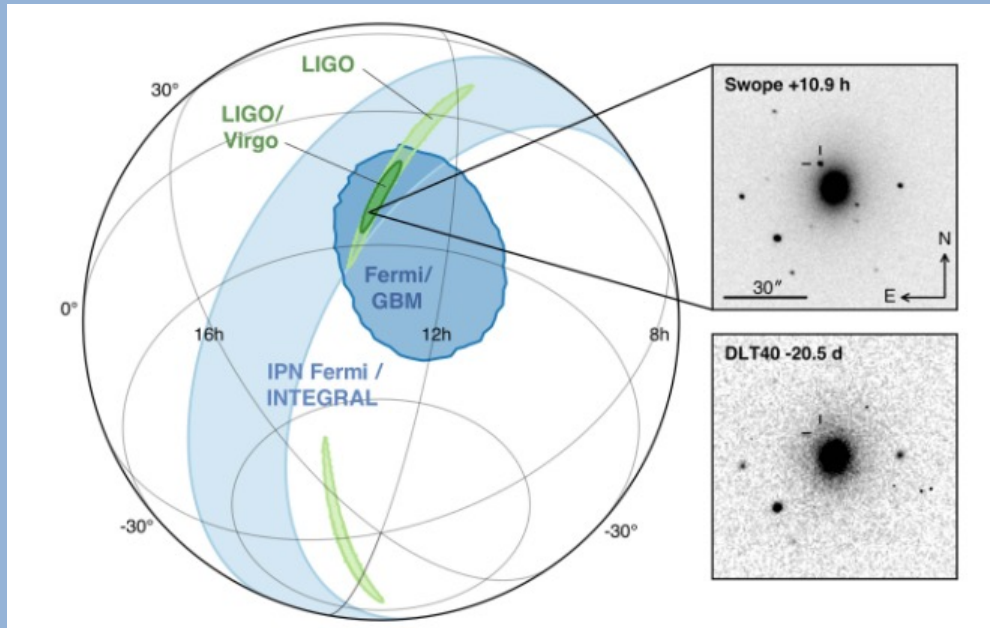
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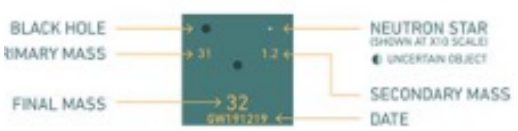
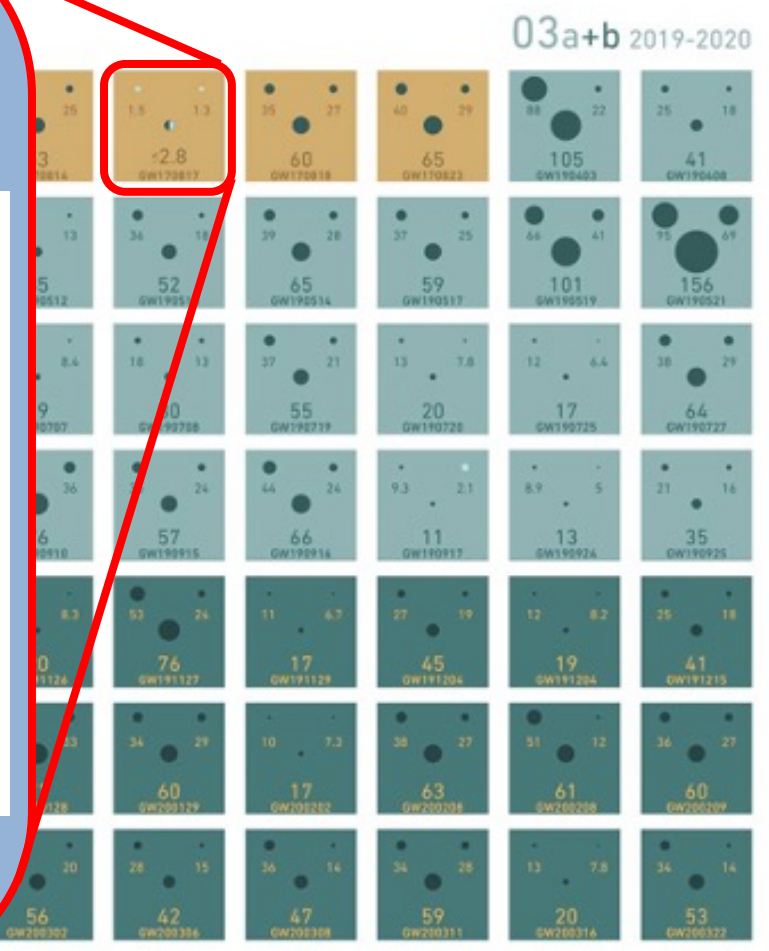
# GRAVITATIONAL WAVE MERGER DETECTIONS

→ SINCE 2015

## GW170817: Neutron Stars and Multi-messenger Observation



From Abbott et al, “Multi-Messenger Observations of a Binary Neutron Star Merger”, 2017



UNITS ARE SOLAR MASSES  
 1 SOLAR MASS =  $1.989 \times 10^{30}$  kg

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# GRAVITATIONAL WAVE MERGER DETECTIONS

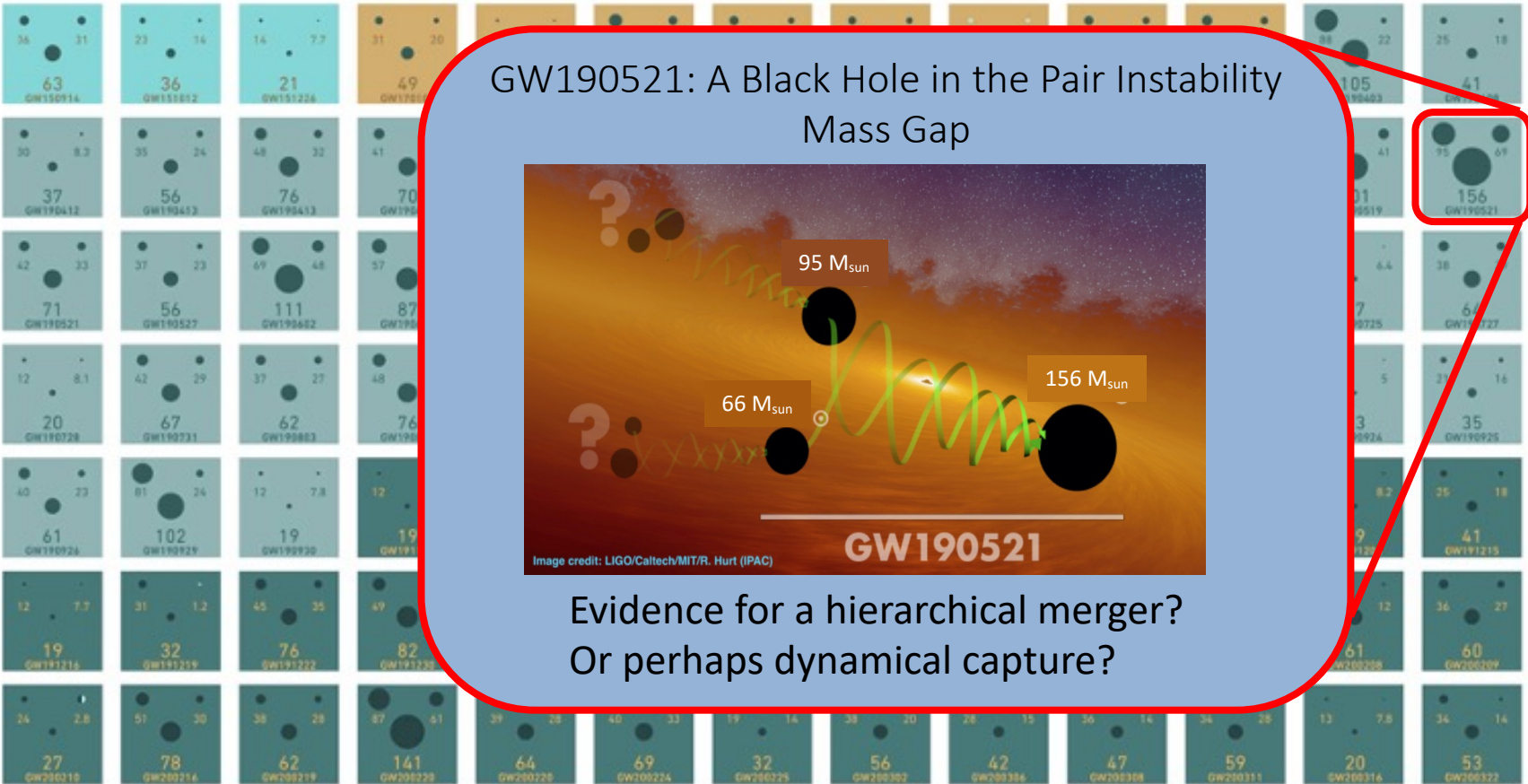
→ SINCE 2015

SERVING IN →

01 2015-2016

02 2016-2017

03a+b 2019-2020



GW190521: A Black Hole in the Pair Instability Mass Gap

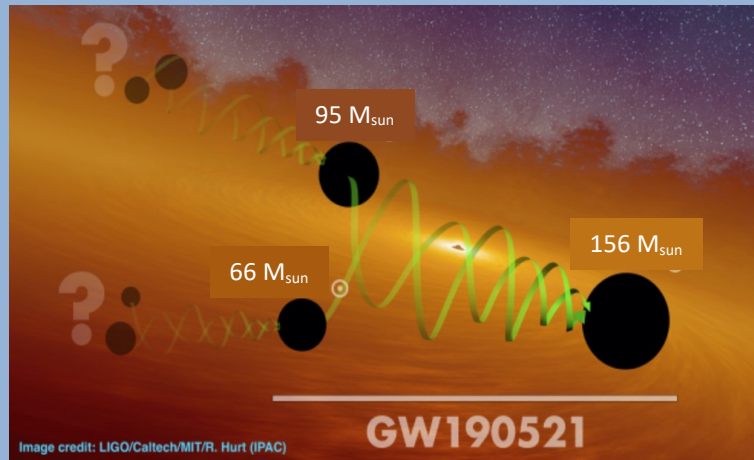
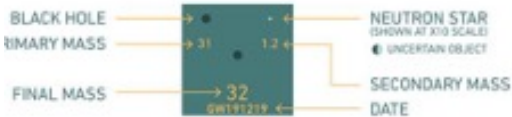


Image credit: LIGO/Caltech/MIT/R. Hurt (IPAC)

GW190521

Evidence for a hierarchical merger?  
Or perhaps dynamical capture?

Y



UNITS ARE SOLAR MASSES  
1 SOLAR MASS =  $1.989 \times 10^{30}$  kg

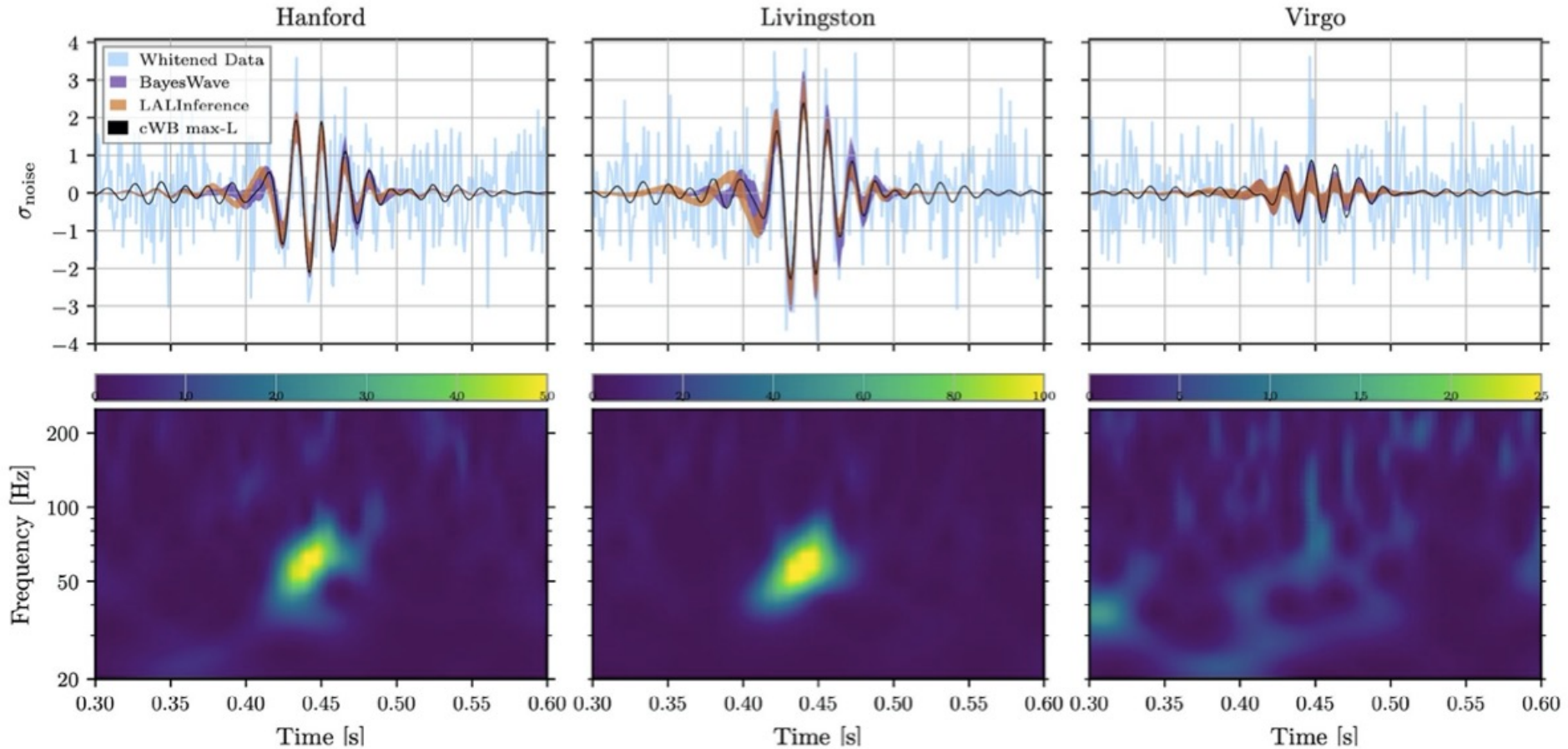
Note that the mass estimates shown here do not include uncertainties, which is why the final mass is sometimes larger than the sum of the primary and secondary masses. In actuality, the final mass is smaller than the primary plus the secondary mass.

The events listed here pass one of two thresholds for detection. They either have a probability of being astrophysical of at least 50%, or they pass a false alarm rate threshold of less than 1 per 3 years.



# The Most Massive & Distant Black Hole Merger Yet: GW190521

(May 21, 2019)



The signal was shorter in duration (0.1 s), and peaked at lower frequency than any other binary black hole merger observed to date.

The time interval that the signal spends in the sensitivity band is inversely proportional to the total mass of the binary system.

The frequency of the merger is also inversely proportional to the binary's total mass.

# GW190521 parameters

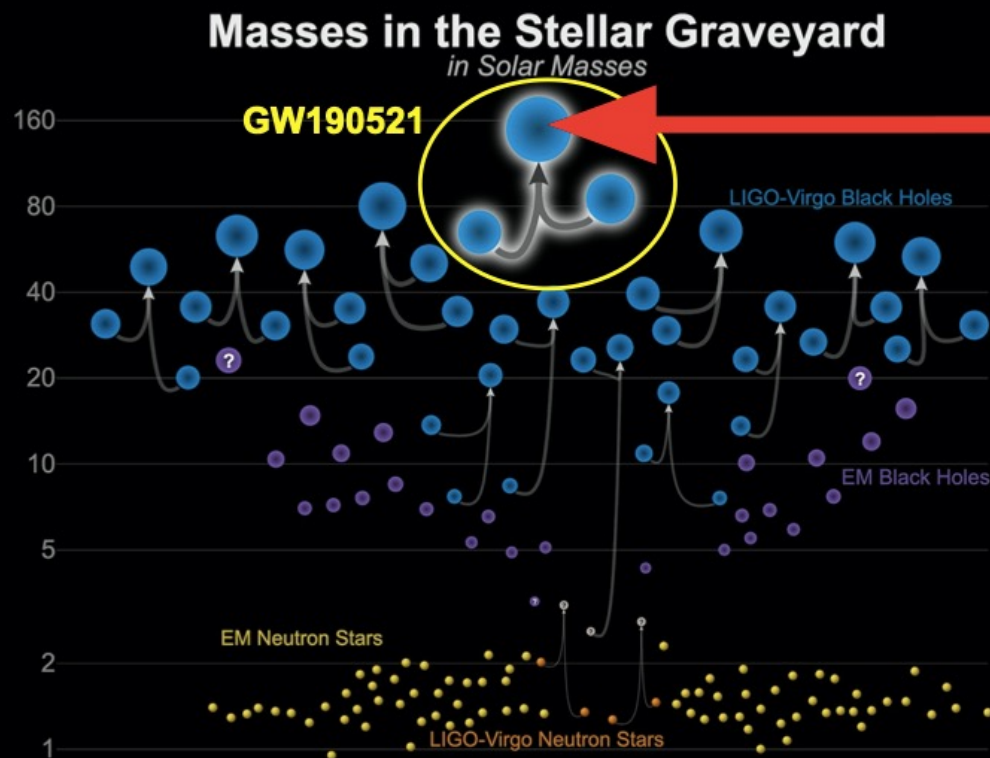
- Most massive observation to date
- Most distant
- Pair-instability supernova mass gap, 65-120  $M_{\odot}$
- Intermediate Mass Black Hole
- Important astrophysical implications
- Orbital precession

TABLE I. Parameters of GW190521 according to the NRSur7dq4 waveform model. We quote median values with 90% credible intervals that include statistical errors.

Parameter	
Primary mass	$85^{+21}_{-14} M_{\odot}$
Secondary mass	$66^{+17}_{-18} M_{\odot}$
Primary spin magnitude	$0.69^{+0.27}_{-0.62}$
Secondary spin magnitude	$0.73^{+0.24}_{-0.64}$
Total mass	$150^{+29}_{-17} M_{\odot}$
Mass ratio ( $m_2/m_1 \leq 1$ )	$0.79^{+0.19}_{-0.29}$
Effective inspiral spin parameter ( $\chi_{\text{eff}}$ )	$0.08^{+0.27}_{-0.36}$
Effective precession spin parameter ( $\chi_p$ )	$0.68^{+0.25}_{-0.37}$
Luminosity Distance	$5.3^{+2.4}_{-2.6} \text{ Gpc}$
Redshift	$0.82^{+0.28}_{-0.34}$
Final mass	$142^{+28}_{-16} M_{\odot}$
Final spin	$0.72^{+0.09}_{-0.12}$
$P$ ( $m_1 < 65 M_{\odot}$ )	0.32%
$\log_{10}$ Bayes factor for orbital precession	$1.06^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$
$\log_{10}$ Bayes factor for nonzero spins	$0.92^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$
$\log_{10}$ Bayes factor for higher harmonics	$-0.38^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$



# The most massive black hole ever observed with gravitational waves

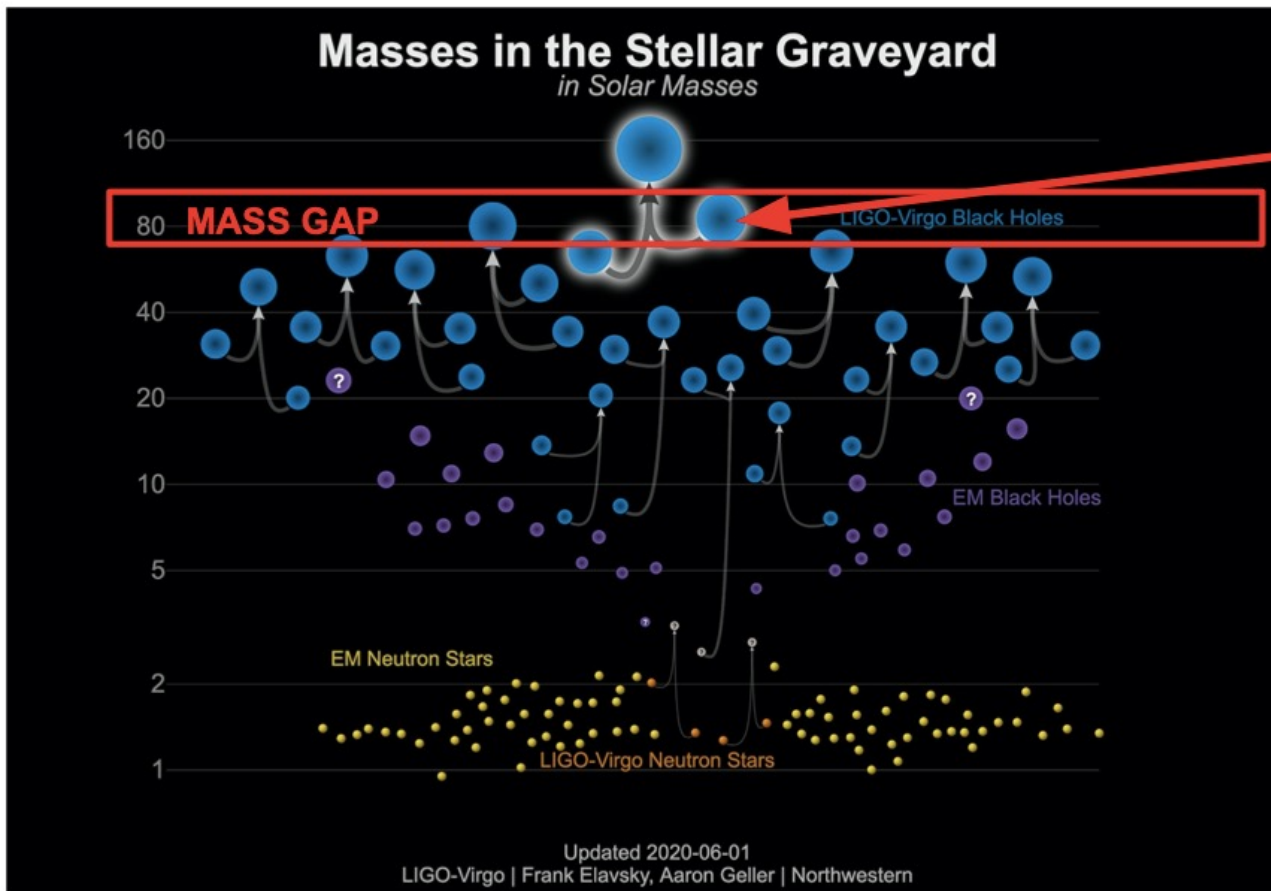


Updated 2020-06-01  
LIGO-Virgo | Frank Elavsky, Aaron Geller | Northwestern

The final black hole is

- the most massive black hole ever observed with gravitational waves
- the first evidence of a black hole in the 100 - 1000 solar mass range
- an intermediate-mass black hole: the missing link between stellar-mass and supermassive black holes

# The first black hole in the pair-instability mass gap



- One of the two merging black holes has mass 85 solar masses: it cannot form from stellar collapse
- Very massive stars (He core  $\sim 30 - 135$  solar masses) undergo (PULSATONAL) PAIR INSTABILITY
- Expected gap in the black hole mass spectrum between  $\sim 65$  and  $\sim 120$  solar masses

GW190521 crashes the party because the mass of larger black hole that merged (the ‘primary’ black hole) sits squarely in the interval where stellar collapse is not expected to directly produce black holes – and, moreover, it produced a post-merger remnant black hole that can be classified as an intermediate mass black hole.

# Challenge for the models of black hole formation

In dense star clusters and galactic nuclei, black holes can have close encounters with other black holes

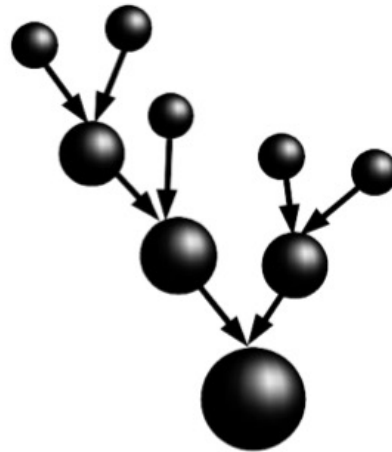


credit: NASA / ESA / Hubble

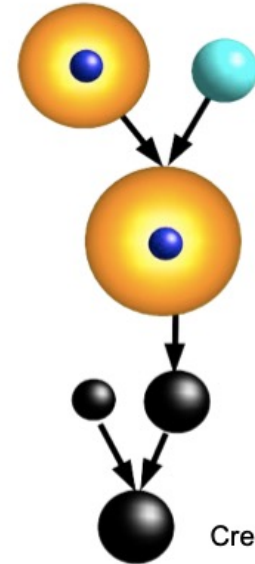


credit: NASA, ESA, F. Paresce, R. O'Connell

**Hierarchical mergers**

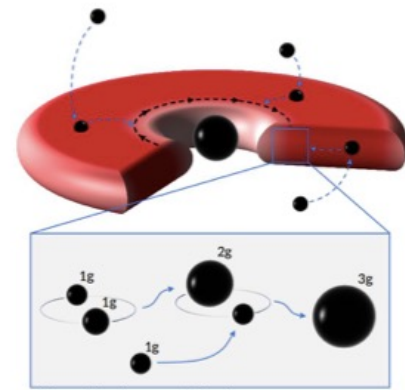


**Stellar mergers**



Credit: Ugo N. Di Carlo

**AGN disks**



Credit: Imre Bartos

**...or even more exotic scenarios**

This multiple merger scenario requires that black holes form in special environments where there are enough other black holes nearby for multiple merger events to occur. Astronomers have proposed dense clusters of stars or the disks of active galactic nuclei as possible examples of such special environments.

# The Most Massive & Distant Black Hole Merger Yet: GW190521

(May 21, 2019)

The furthest GW event ever recorded:  $\sim 7$  Gyr distant

At least one of the progenitor black holes ( $85 M_{\text{sun}}$ ) lies in the pair instability supernova gap

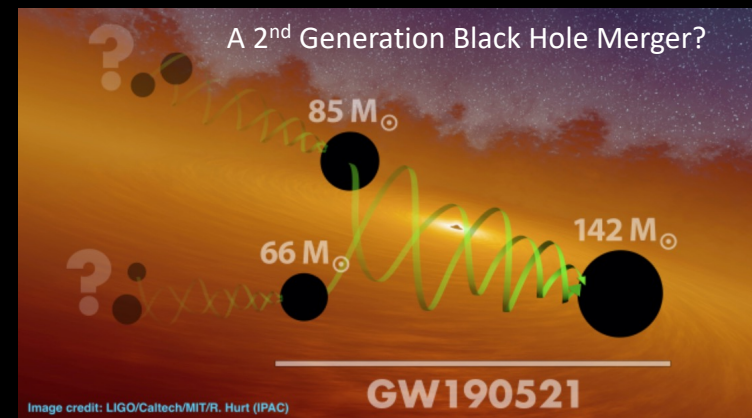
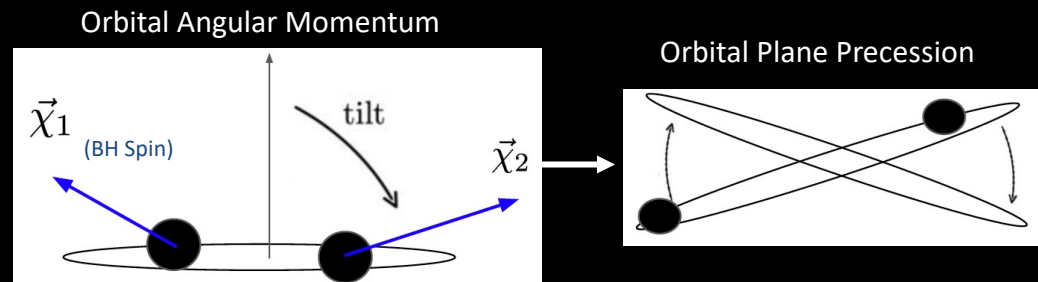
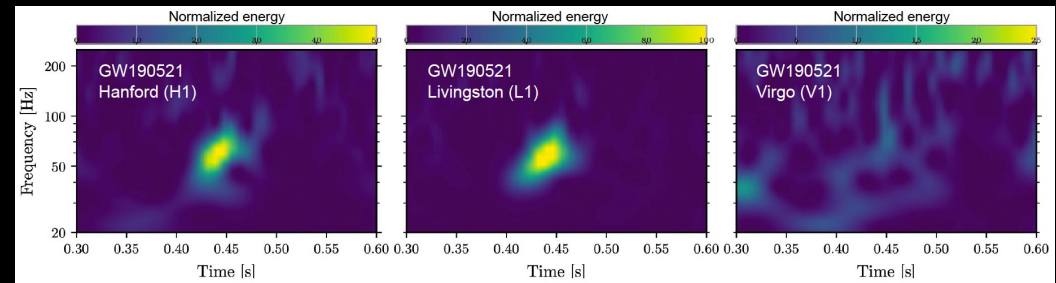
Strong evidence for spin precession; both progenitor black holes were spinning

Evidence that GW190521 might be a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation merger!!

The final black hole mass is  $145 M_{\text{sun}}$  is the first ever observation of an intermediate mass black hole

Abbott, et al., "GW190521: A Binary Black Hole Merger with a Total Mass of  $150 M_{\text{sun}}$ ", [Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 101102 \(2020\)](#).

Abbott, et al., "Properties and Astrophysical Implications of the  $150 M_{\text{sun}}$  Binary Black Hole Merger GW190521", [Ap. J. Lett. 900, L13 \(2020\)](#).



# A Possible Electromagnetic Counterpart to GW190521

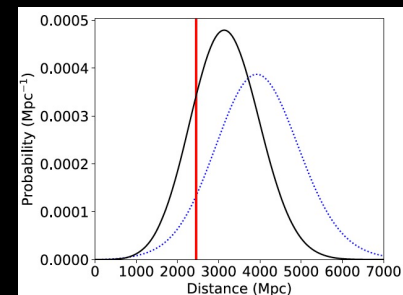
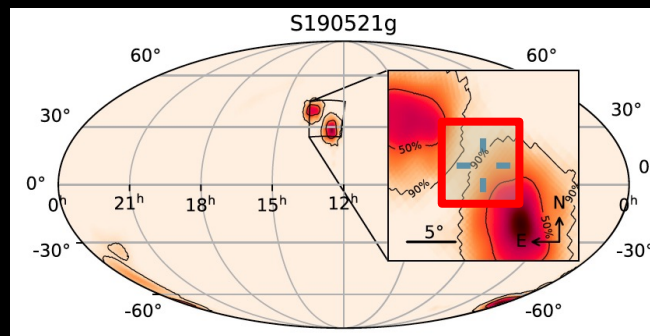
Zwicky Transient Facility surveyed 48% of the LIGO-Virgo 90% error box for GW190521

An electromagnetic flare in the visible was found within the initial 90% LIGO-Virgo contour beginning ~ 25 days after GW190521, lasting for ~ 100 days

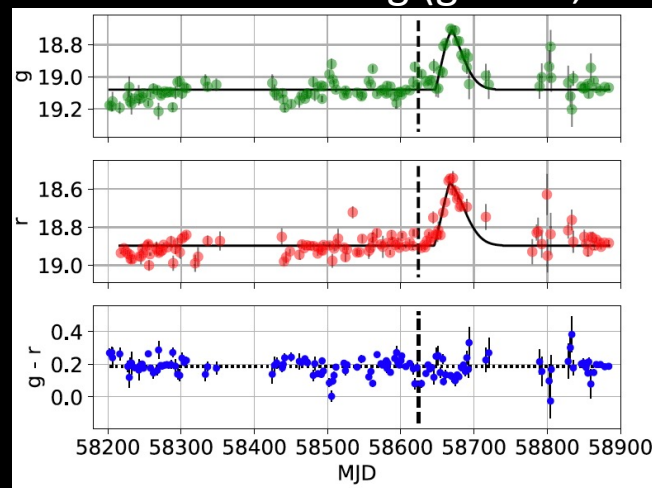
Consistent with LIGO-Virgo initial distance estimates

But less consistent with updated maps

The EM flare is consistent with emission from gas in the accretion disk an active galactic nucleus (AGN) excited by the ‘kicked’ black hole passing through the AGN disk

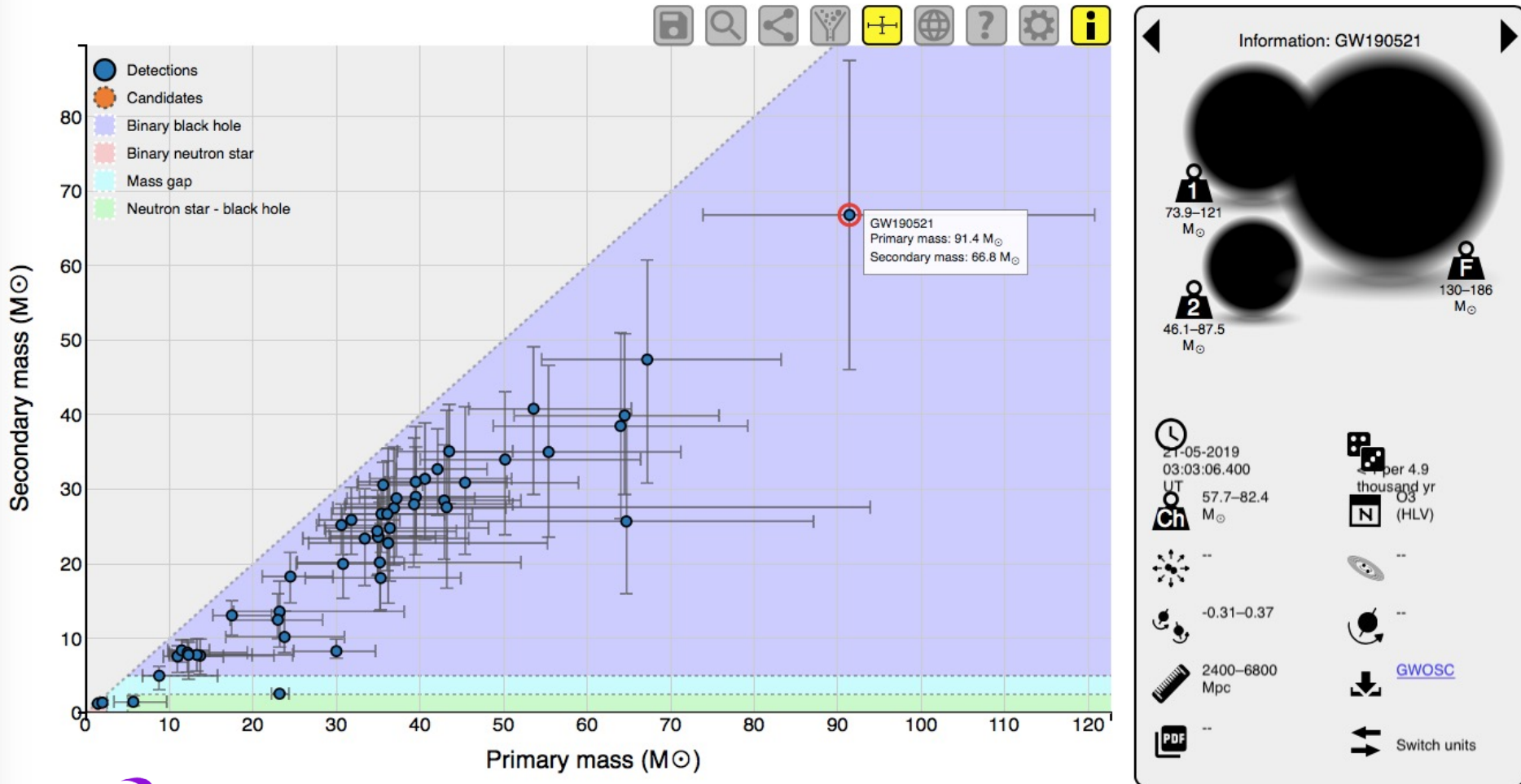


## EM Flare from S190521g (g-band, r-band)



# Interactive Catalogue of Binary Black Holes

## LIGO-Virgo Compact Binary Catalogue

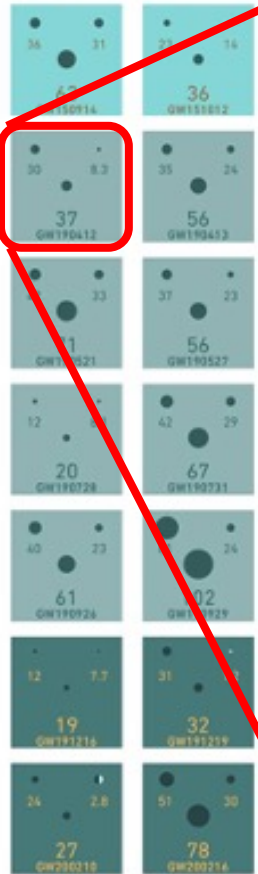


# GRAVITATIONAL WAVE MERGER DETECTIONS

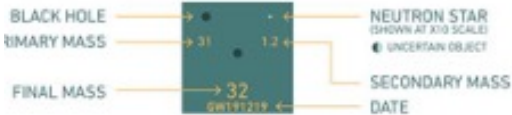
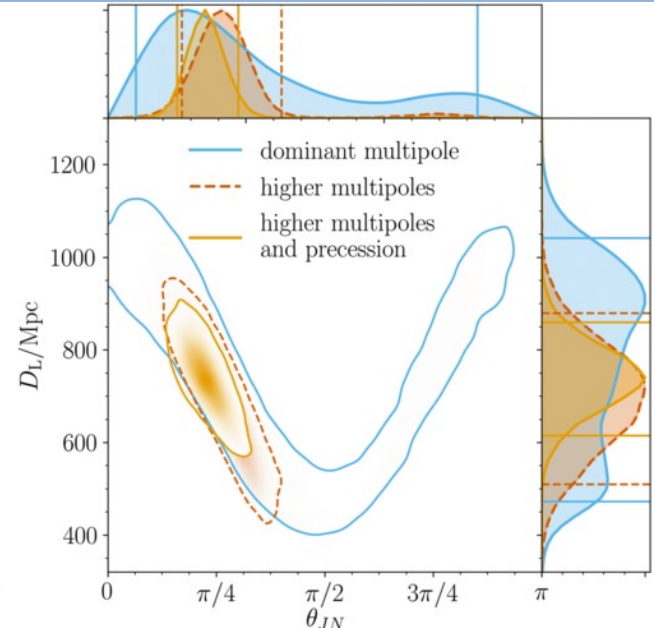
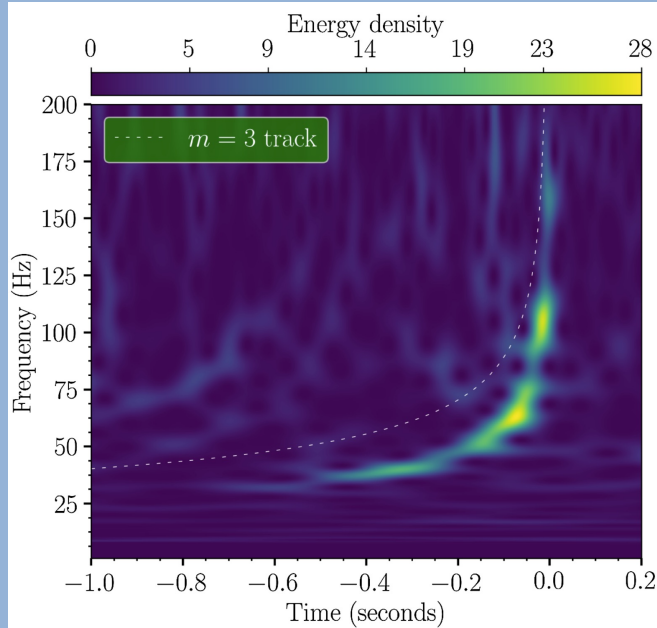
→ SINCE 2015

SERVING IN 01 2015-2016

2019-2020



## GW190412: Unequal mass binary



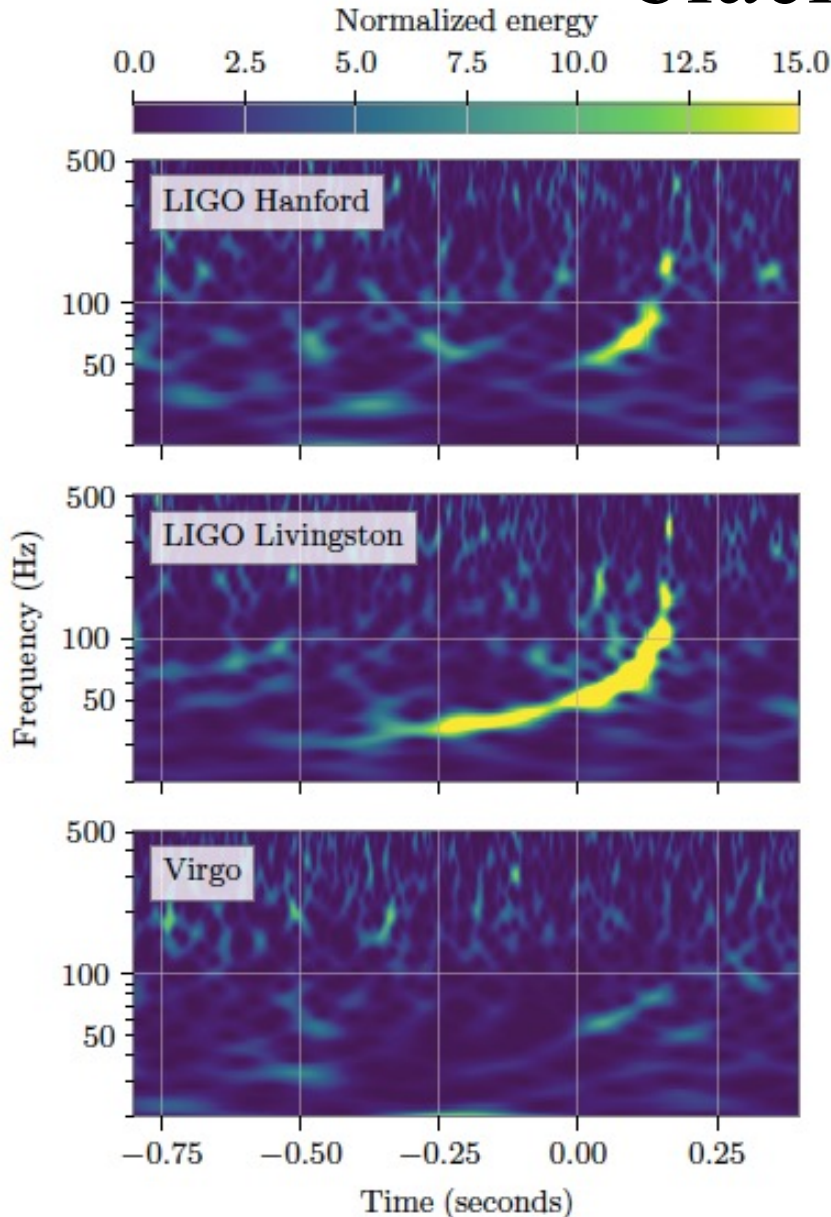
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Note that the mass estimates shown here do not include uncertainties, which is why the final mass is sometimes larger than the sum of the primary and secondary masses. In actuality, the final mass is smaller than the primary plus the secondary mass.

The events listed here pass one of two thresholds for detection. They either have a probability of being astrophysical of at least 50%, or they pass a false alarm rate threshold of less than 1 per 3 years.



# GW190412: the first unequal-mass black hole merger



- One black hole in the system is more than 3 times heavier than the other:  $30 M_{\odot} + 8 M_{\odot}$ .
- This asymmetry in masses modifies the gravitational-wave signal in such a way that we can better measure other parameters, such as the distance and inclination of the system, the spin of the heavier black hole, and the amount that the system is precessing.
- Due to the unequal masses of GW190412 we can for the first time put strong constraints on the spin of the larger black hole, which we find to be spinning at about 40% of the maximal spin allowed by general relativity.



# GRAVITATIONAL WAVE MERGER DETECTIONS

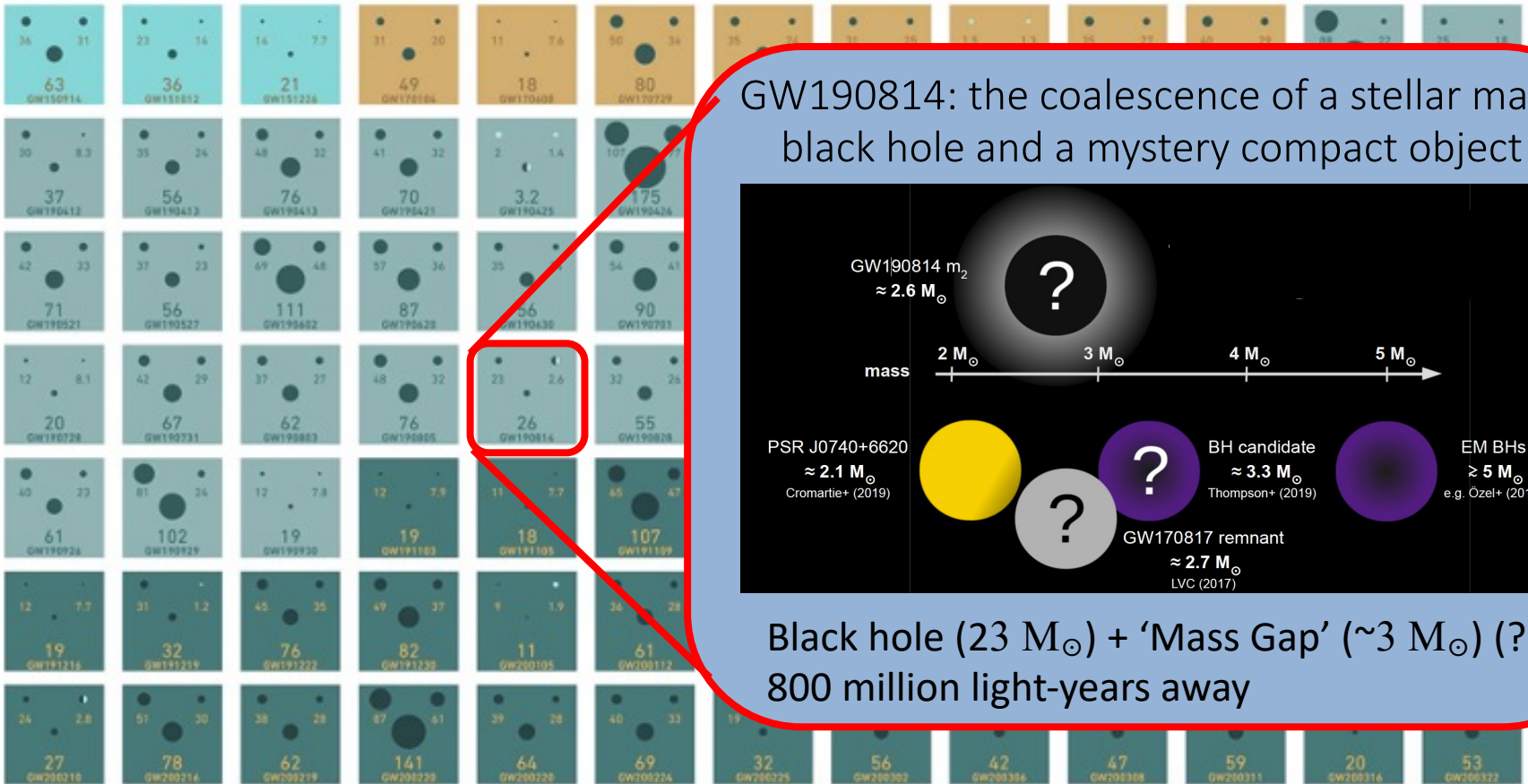
→ SINCE 2015

SERVING IN

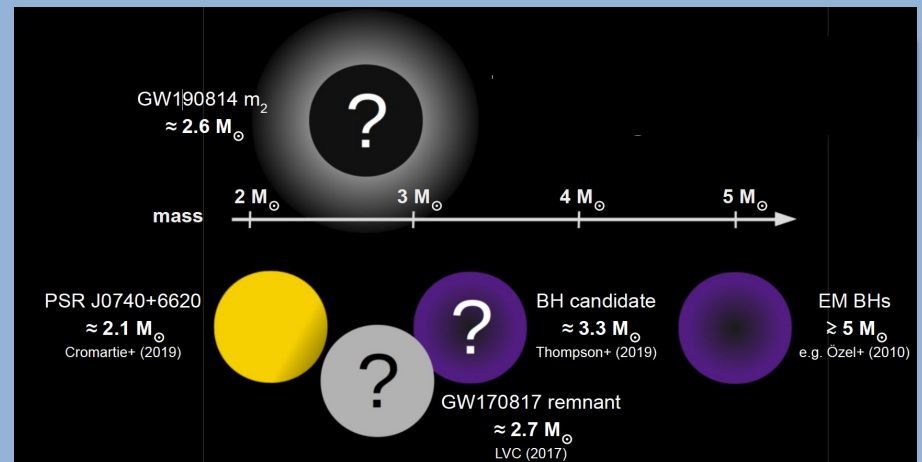
01 2015-2016

02 2016-2017

03a+b 2019-2020

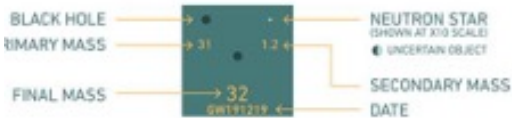


GW190814: the coalescence of a stellar mass black hole and a mystery compact object



Black hole (23  $M_{\odot}$ ) + 'Mass Gap' ( $\sim 3 M_{\odot}$ ) (?)  
800 million light-years away

Y



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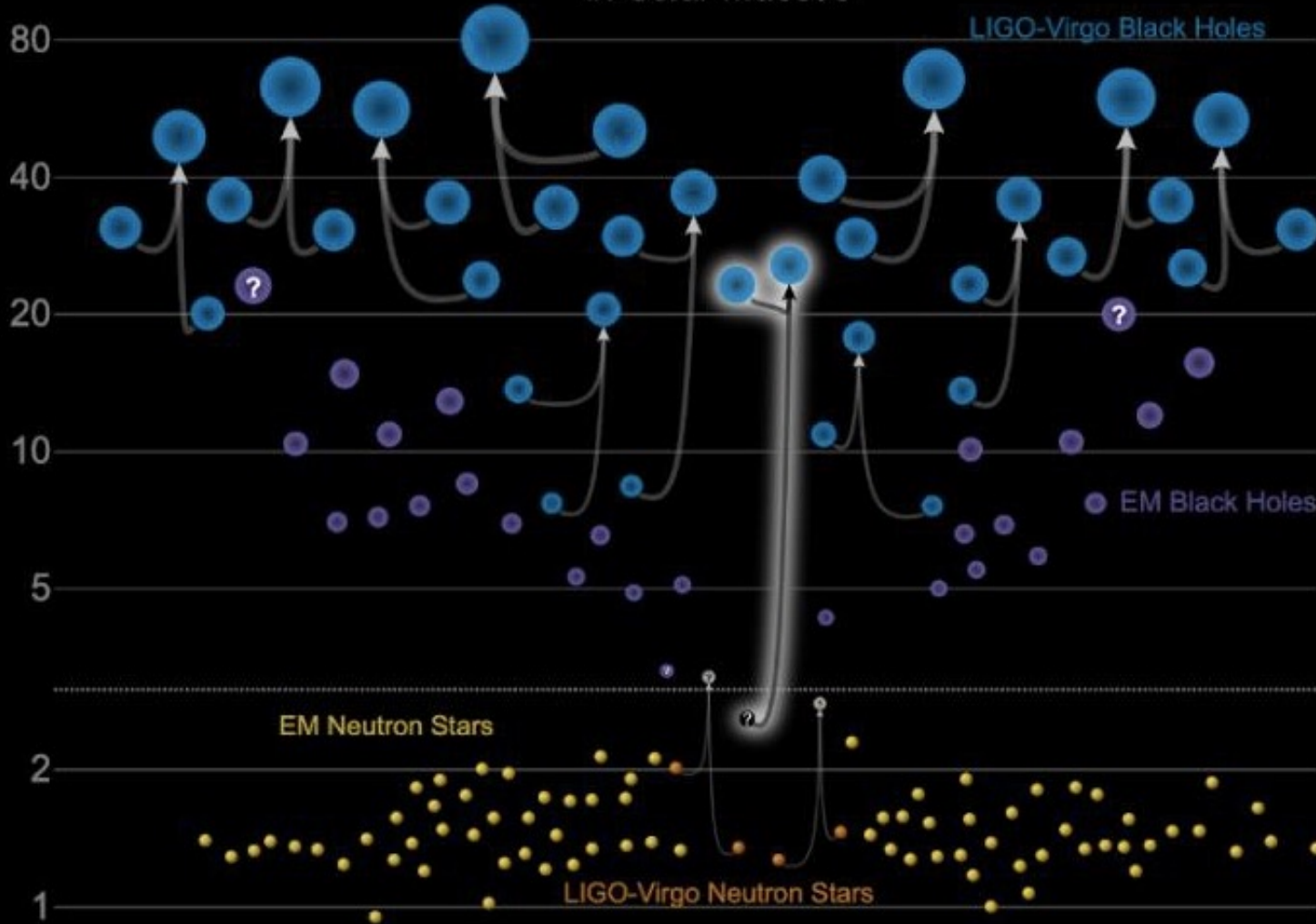
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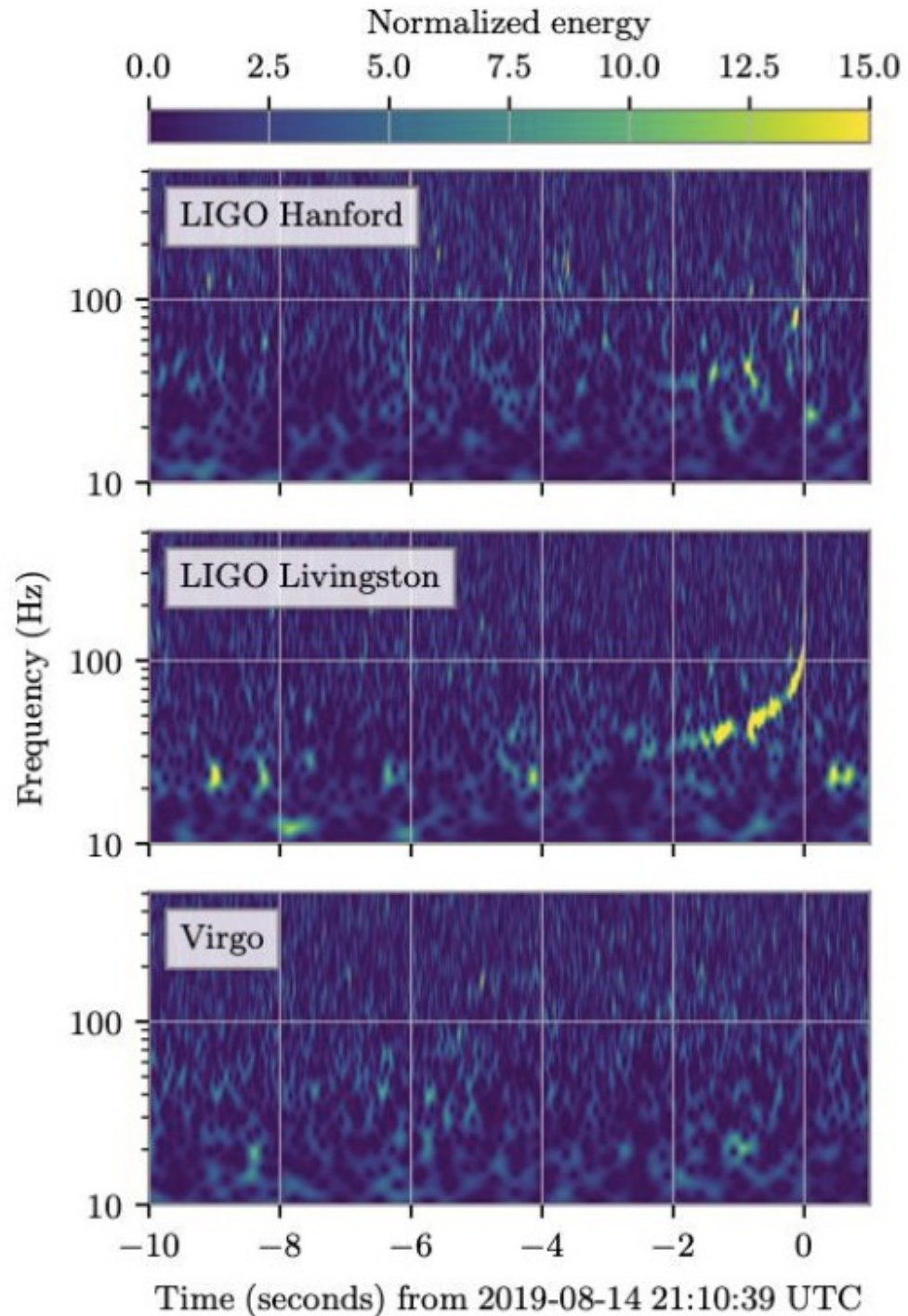
# GW190814

## Masses in the Stellar Graveyard *in Solar Masses*



# GW190814

- Exactly two years after the first triple coincidence event, the extremely loud event GW190814 was produced by the merger of a black hole and an undetermined object.
- The most asymmetric system observed (the heavier compact object is about nine times more massive than its companion),  $23 M_{\odot} + \sim 3 M_{\odot}$ .
- The second mass is either the lightest black hole or the heaviest neutron star ever discovered in a system of two compact objects.



# Mystery Merger: GW190814

(Aug 14, 2018)

The secondary mass of  $2.6 M_{\text{sun}}$  lies in a 'mass gap';

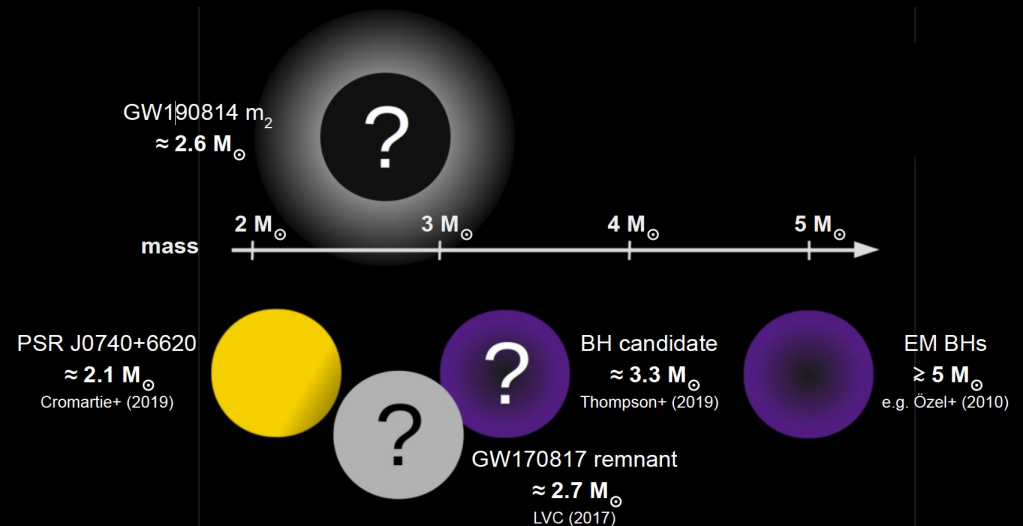
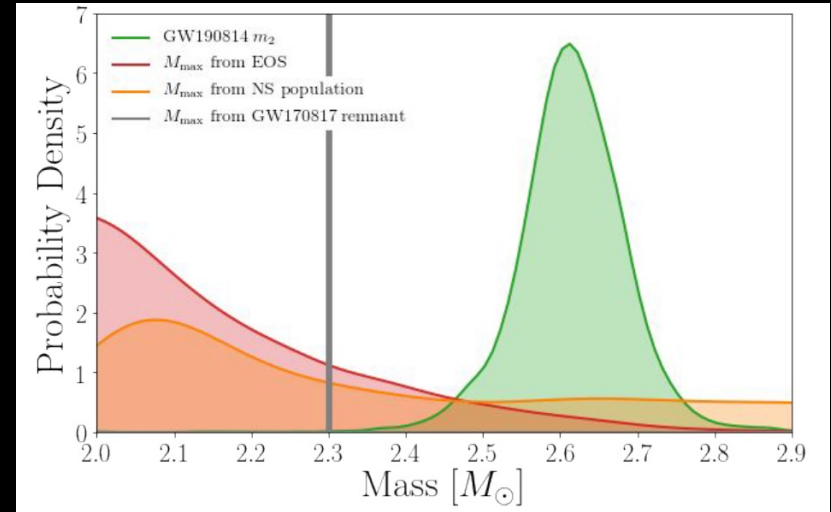
It's greater than estimates of the maximum possible NS mass and less than masses of the lightest black holes ever observed

Mass of this object comparable to the final merger product in GW170817, which was more likely a black hole.

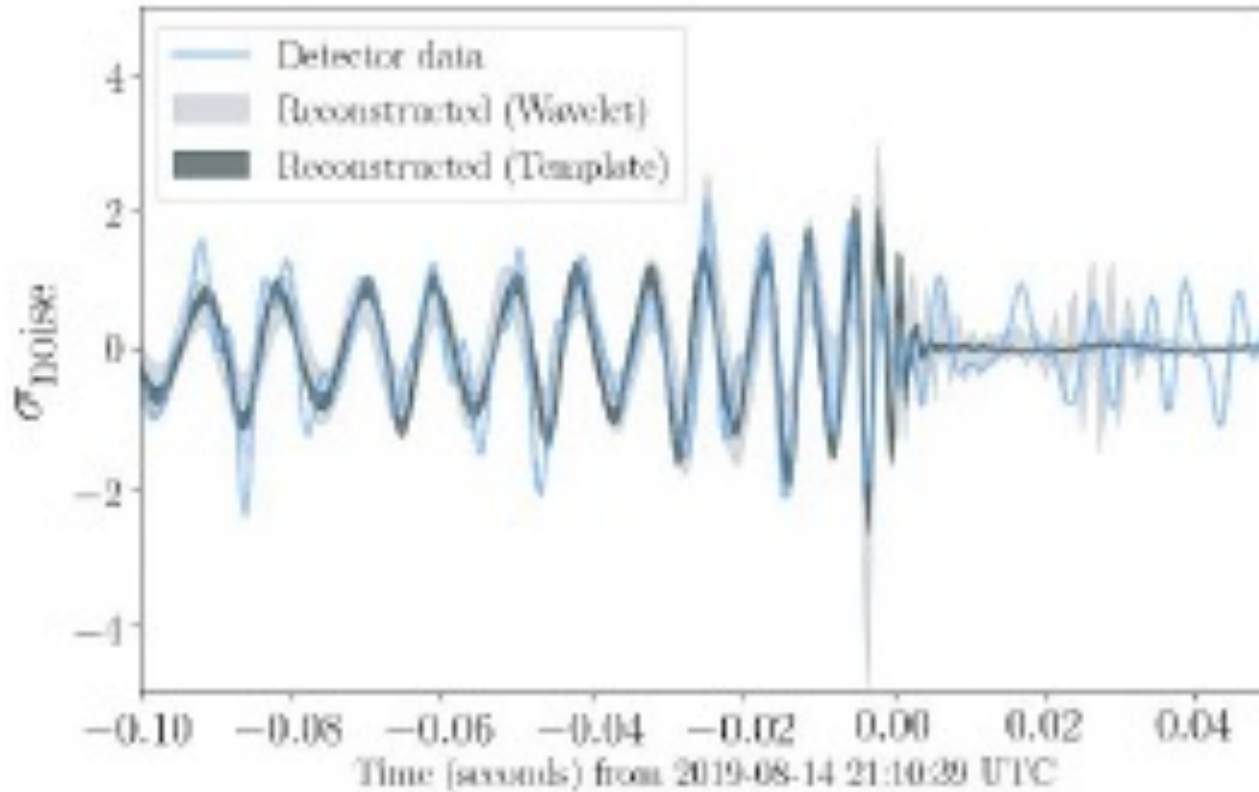
How did this system form? This detection challenges existing binary formation scenarios

young dense star clusters and disks around active galactic nuclei are slightly favored, but many other possibilities

Many follow up observations by electromagnetic observatories, but no confirmed counterpart found



# GW190814



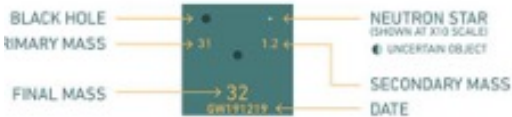
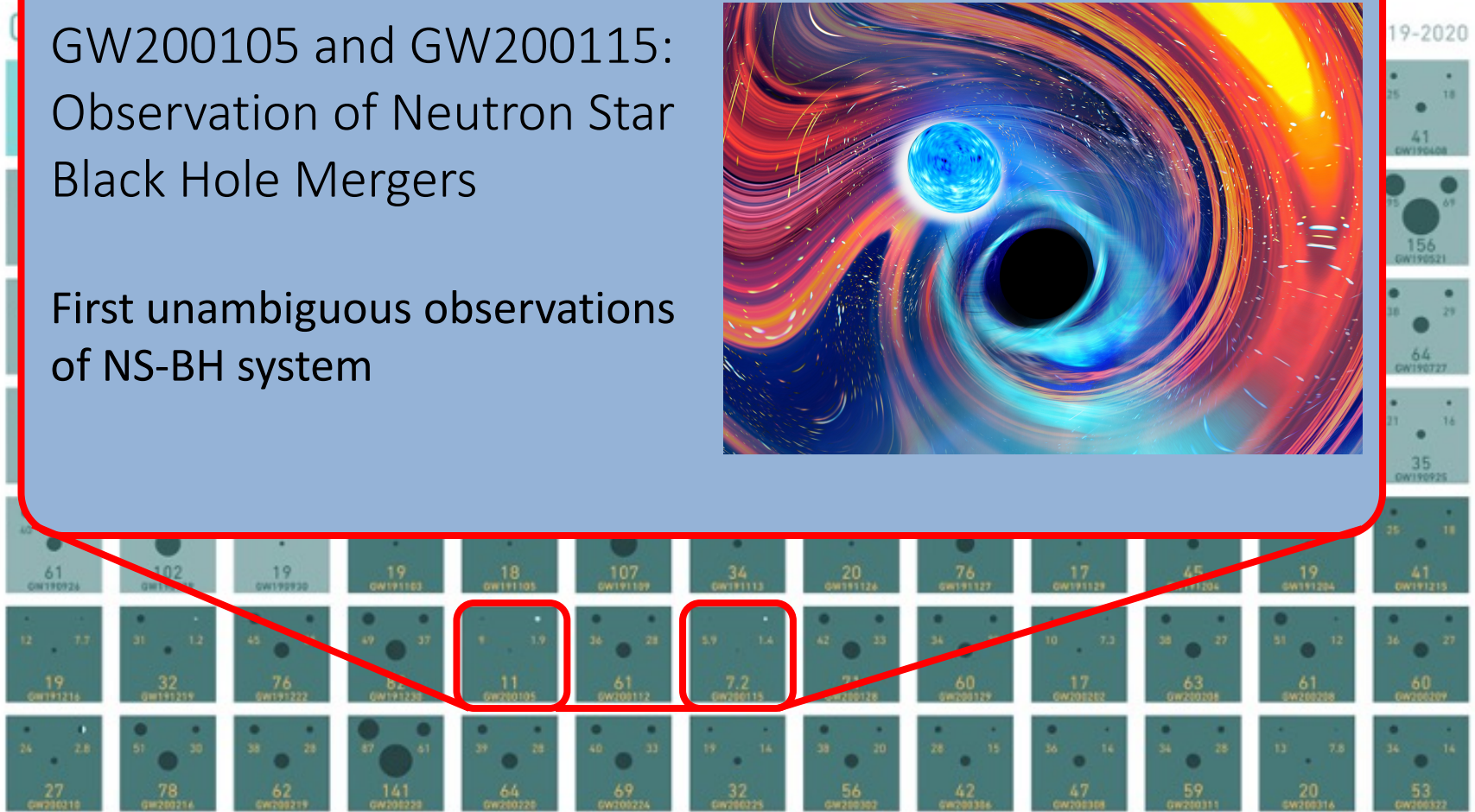
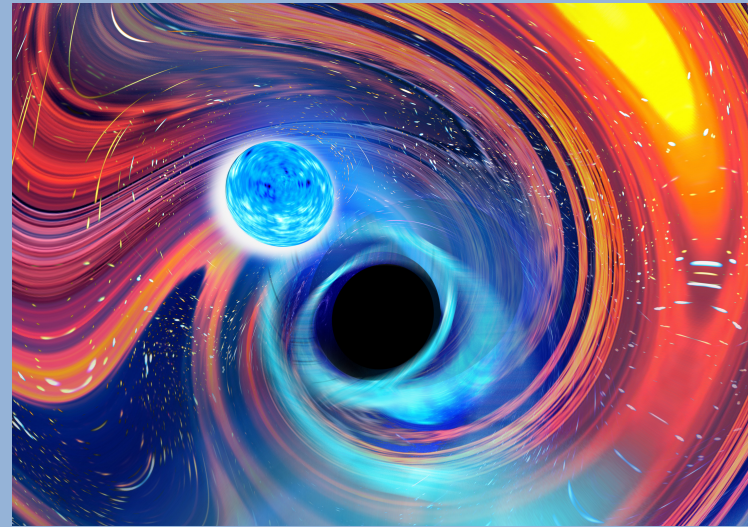
- For a system as massive and asymmetric as GW190814, the tidal imprint is too small to measure. In this case, our attempt to measure tides does not tell us whether GW190814 was caused by the merger of a black hole and a neutron star, as opposed to two black holes.
- Theoretical models for neutron-star matter, as well as observations of the population of neutron stars with electromagnetic astronomy, allow us to estimate the maximum mass that a neutron star can attain. These predictions suggest that the lighter compact object is probably too heavy to be a neutron star, and is therefore more likely to be a black hole.
- We can't rule out the possibility that GW190814 contains an especially heavy neutron star.

# GRAVITATIONAL WAVE **MERGER** DETECTIONS

→ SINCE 2015

## GW200105 and GW200115: Observation of Neutron Star Black Hole Mergers

First unambiguous observations  
of NS-BH system



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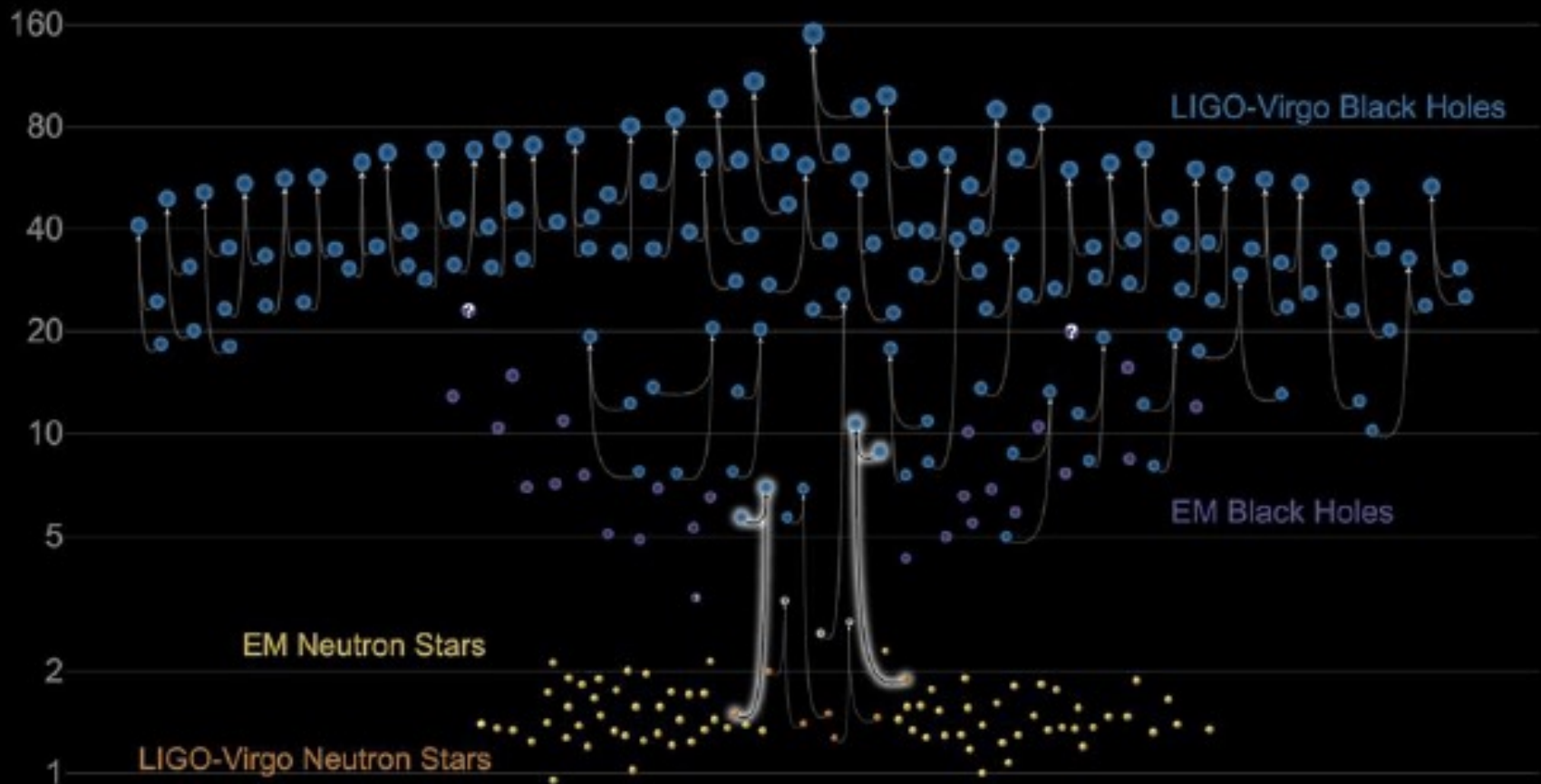
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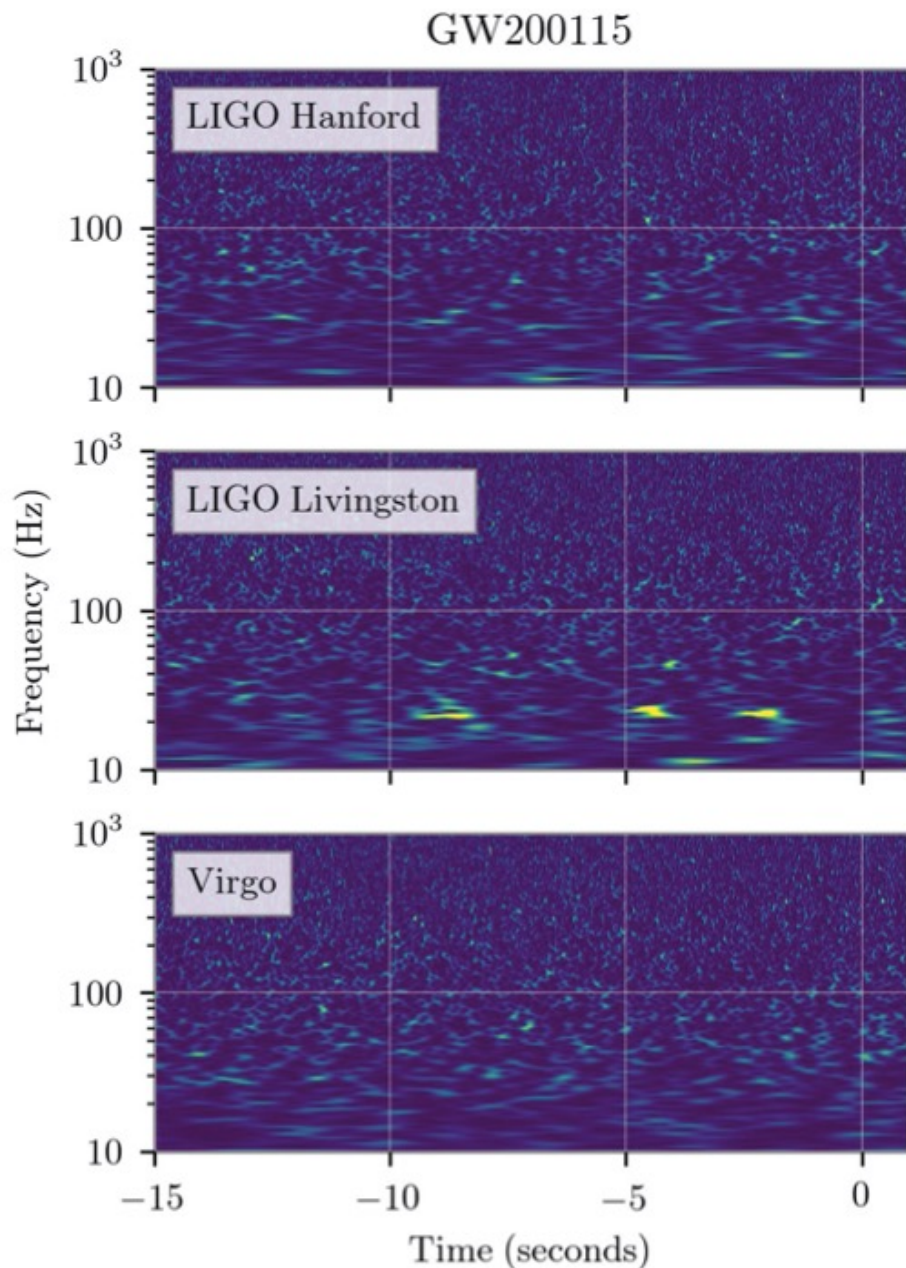
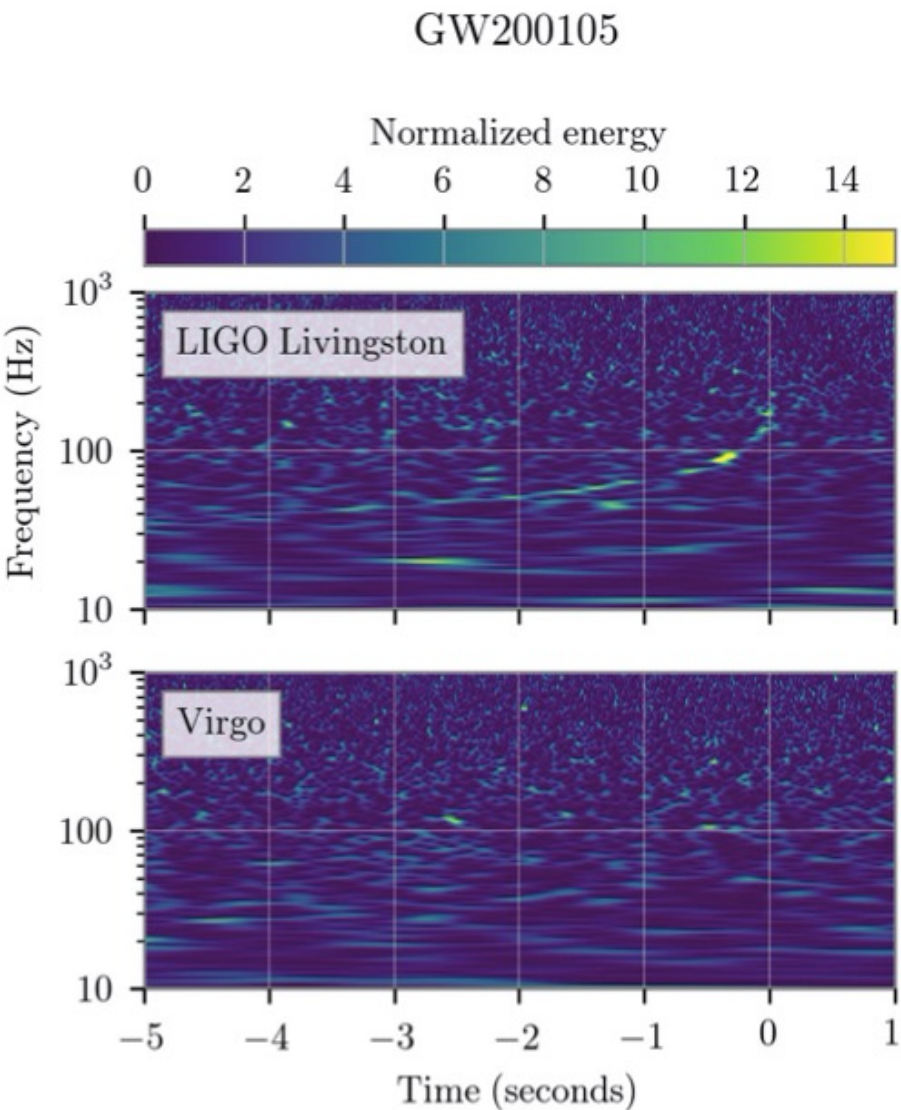


# Neutron star – Black hole Binaries: GW200105 and GW200115

## Masses in the Stellar Graveyard *in Solar Masses*



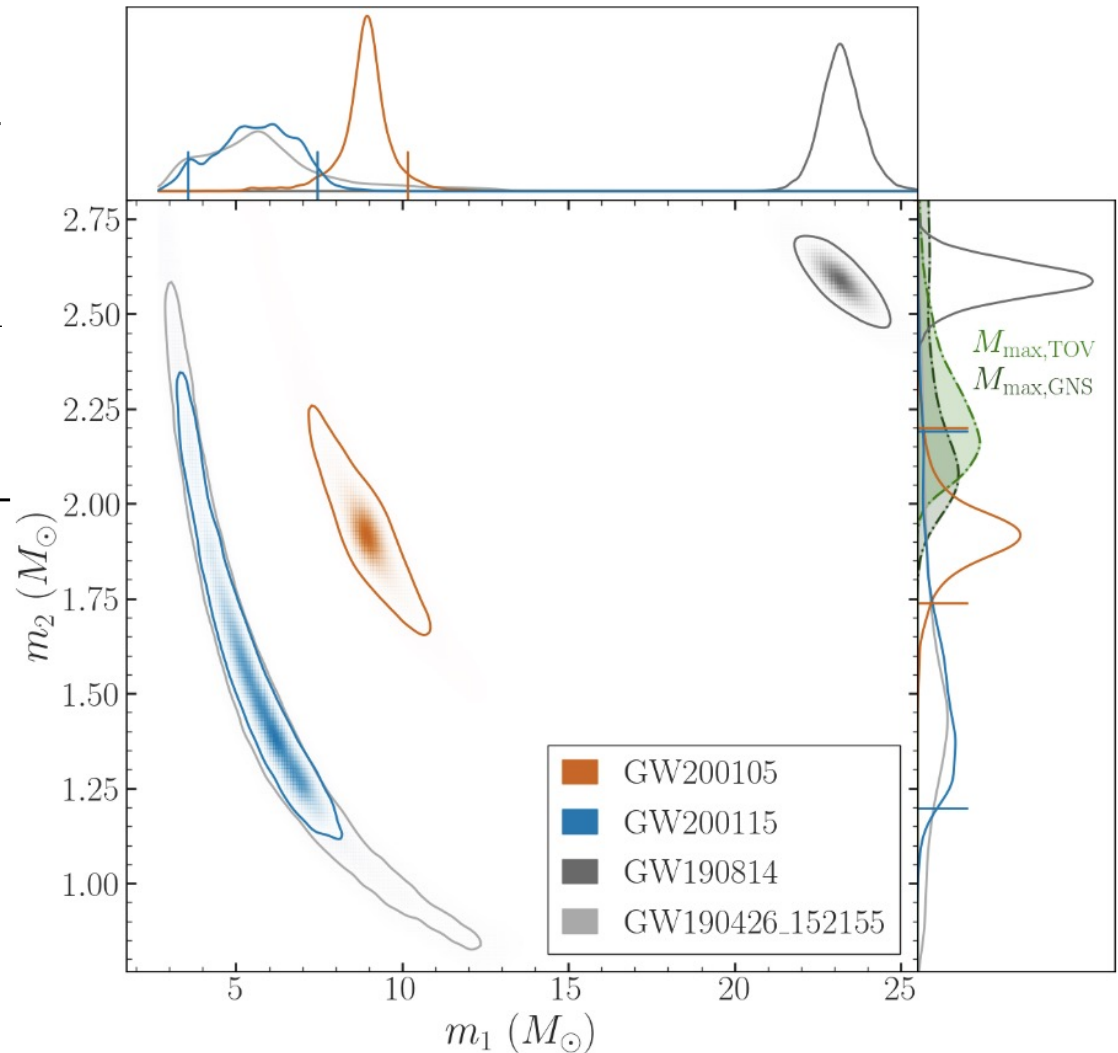
# Neutron star – Black hole Binaries



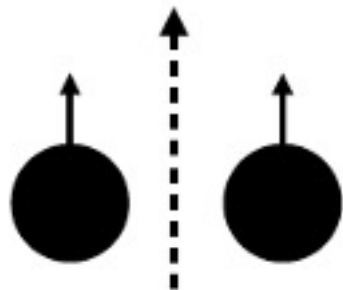


# Neutron star – Black hole Binaries

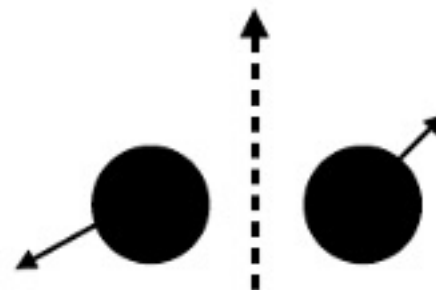
- GW200105:  $8.9 M_{\odot} + 1.9 M_{\odot}$ , their merger happened 800 million years ago.
- GW200115:  $5.7 M_{\odot} + 1.5 M_{\odot}$ , their merger happened nearly 1 billion years ago.



# Neutron star – Black hole Binaries: how did they form?

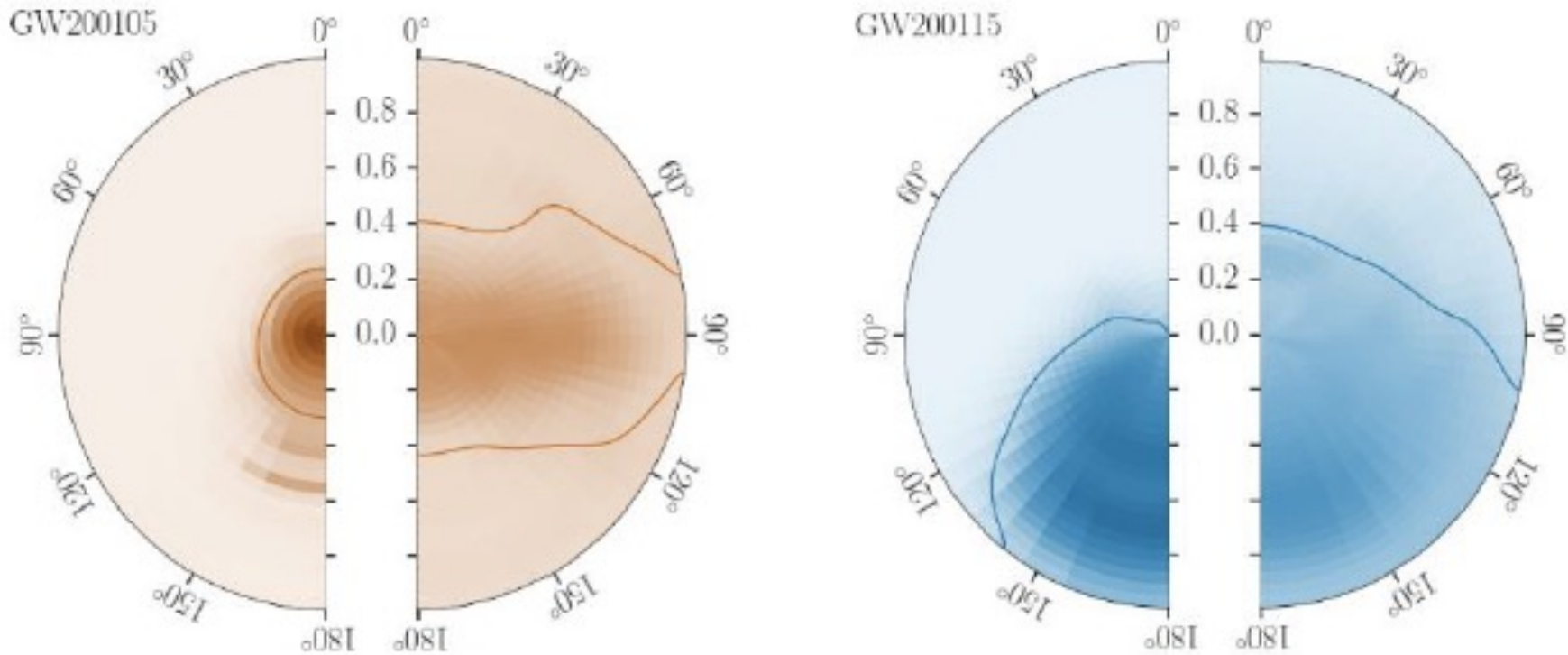


- **Isolated binary evolution:** two stars orbiting each other explode in supernova explosion leaving behind a black hole and a neutron star.
- The spin directions of the BH tend to align with the binary orbit, we expect the neutron star to orbit in the equatorial plane of the black hole.



- **Dynamical interaction:** the neutron star and the black hole formed separately in unrelated supernova explosions and afterwards find each other.
- No prefer direction of the spin, and so the neutron star orbit could have any orientation relative to the black hole's equatorial plane.

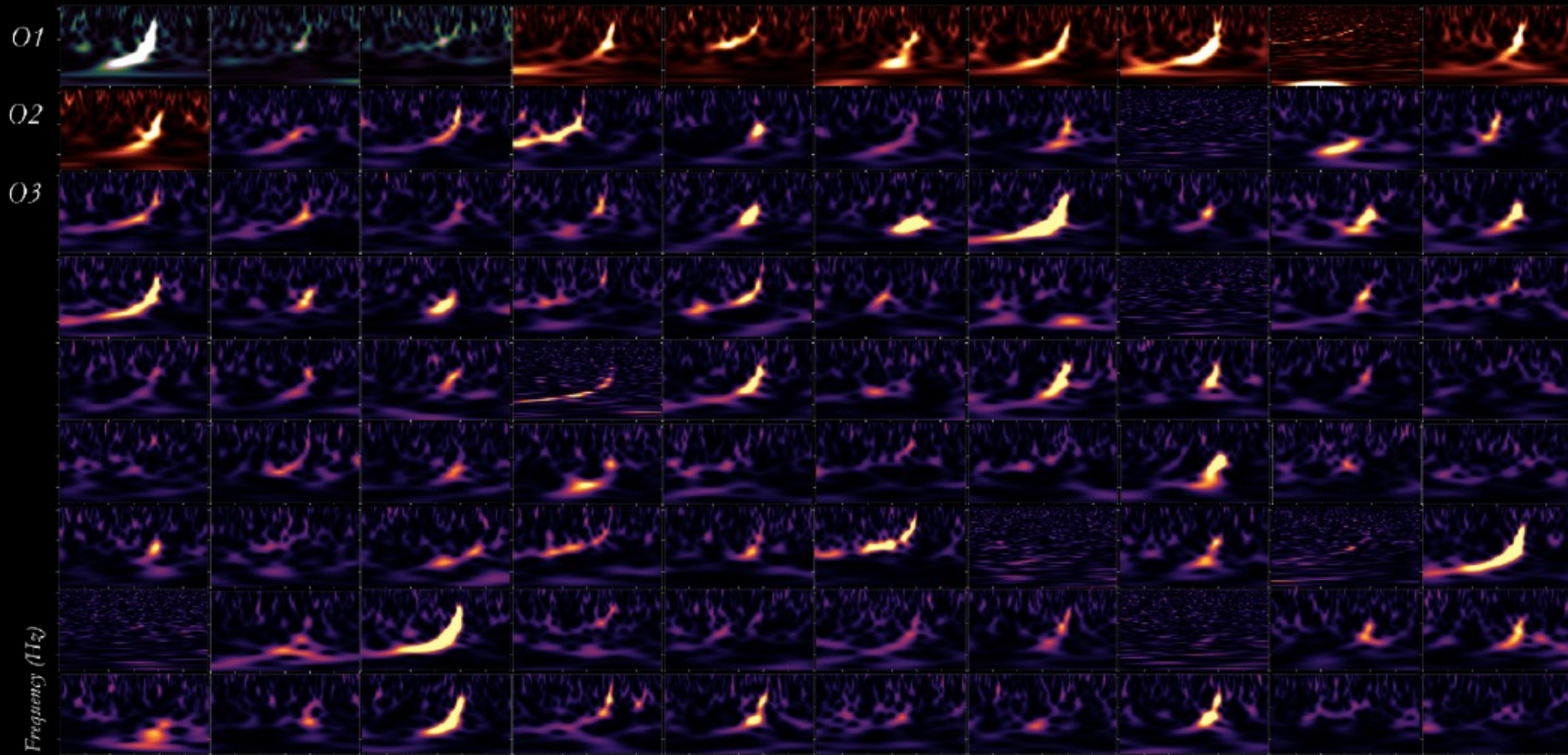
# GW200105 and GW200115



*Figure 3: The inferred spin magnitude and direction of the black holes (left half-disks) and neutron stars (right half-disks) of GW200105 and GW200115. The radius of the disk indicates the spin magnitude, and range between 0 (no spin) to 1 (maximum rotation rate of black holes). The spin direction is shown as an angle, which ranges from 0° (objects spin in the same direction as the orbit of the binary) to 180° (objects spin in the opposite direction of the orbit of the binary). Shading indicates probable values of spin magnitude and direction. The left-most hemisphere has shading that peaks near the centre, indicating that GW200105's black hole has a spin that is likely small. The second to right hemisphere's shading extends downward, indicating that GW200115's black hole may be spinning in a direction opposite to the orbital motion.*

# Gravitational-Wave Transient Catalog

Detections from 2015-2020 of compact binaries with black holes & neutron stars



Time (s)

8  
Sudarshan Ghonge | Karan Jani

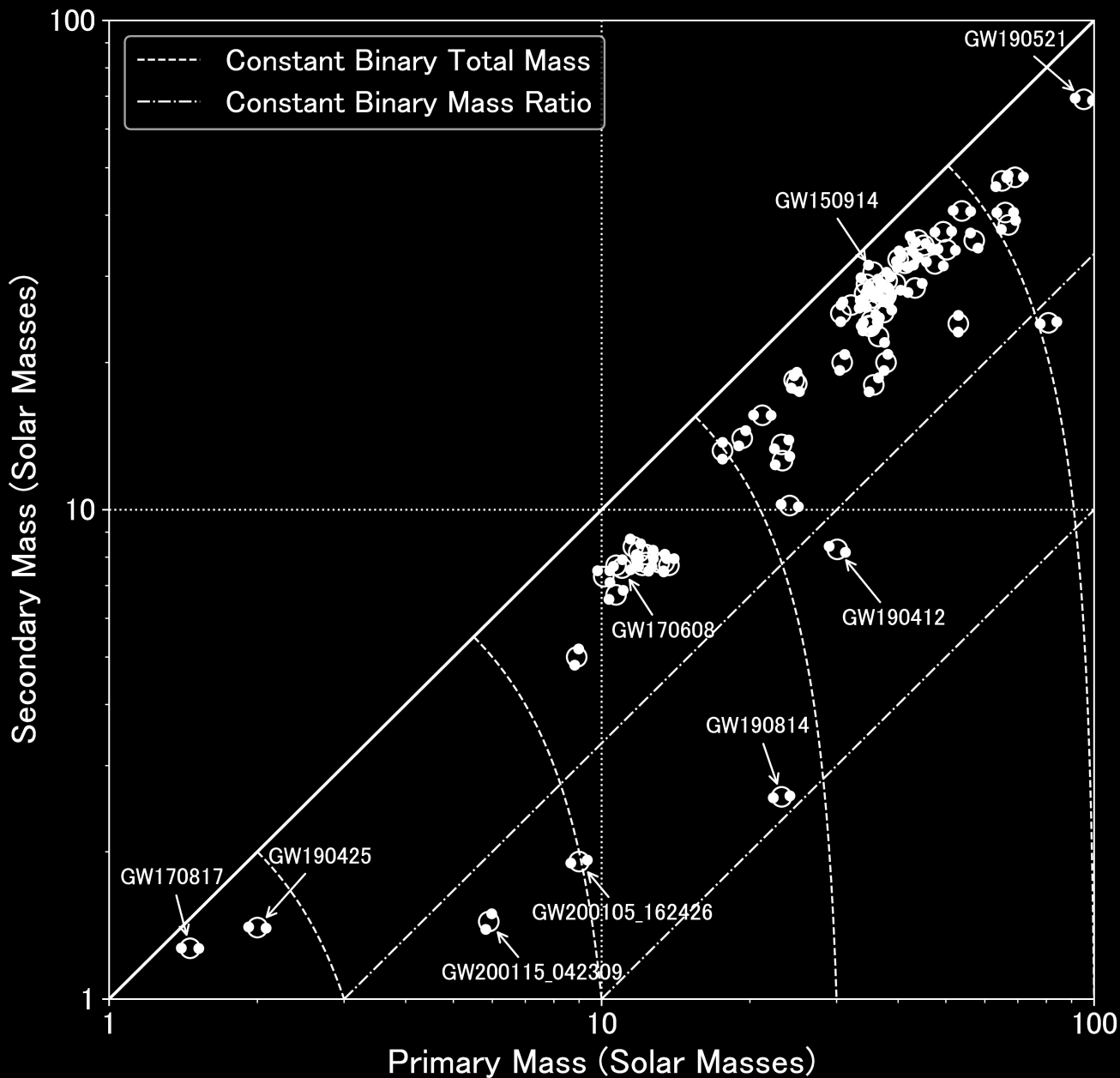


Georgia Tech

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

# The population properties

We use a set of 74 compact binary mergers identified in LIGO-Virgo data up to the end of the third observing run including 70 binary black hole (BBH) events, two binary neutron stars (BNS), and two neutron-star black hole (NSBH) mergers.



# The population properties of black holes and neutron stars

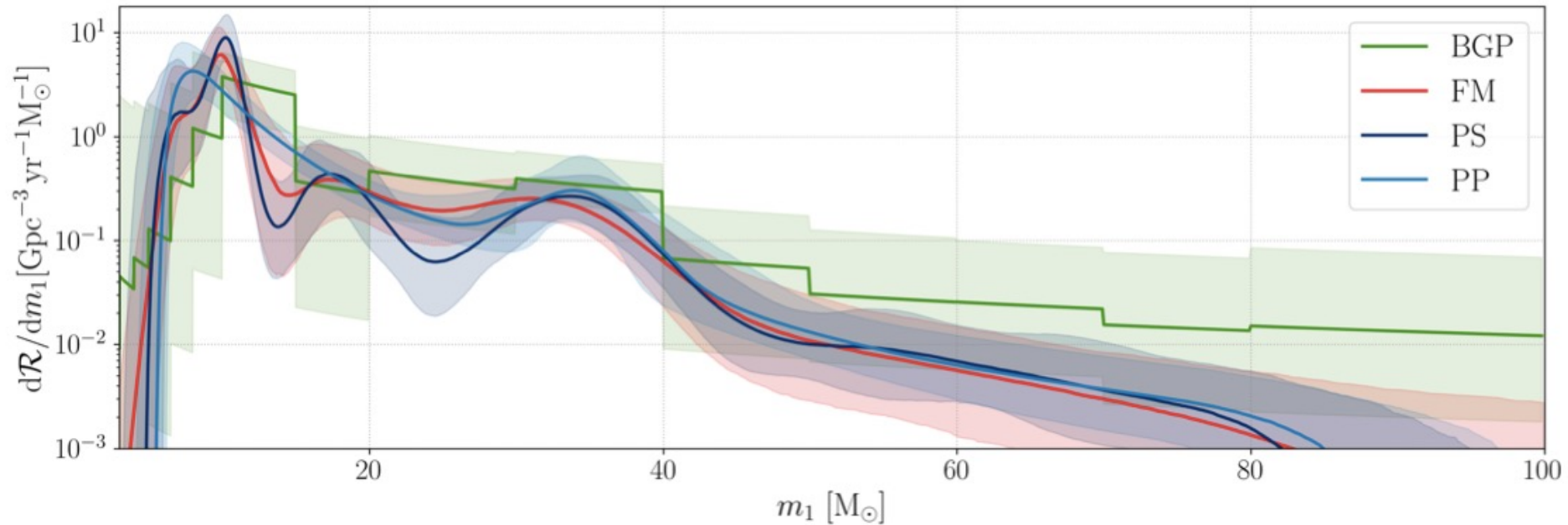
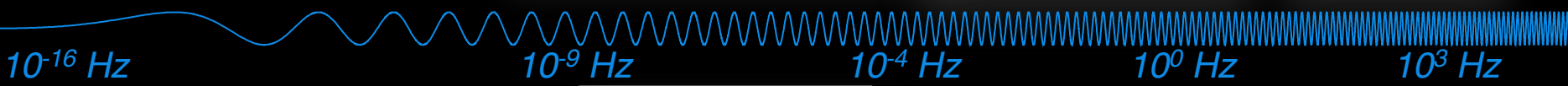
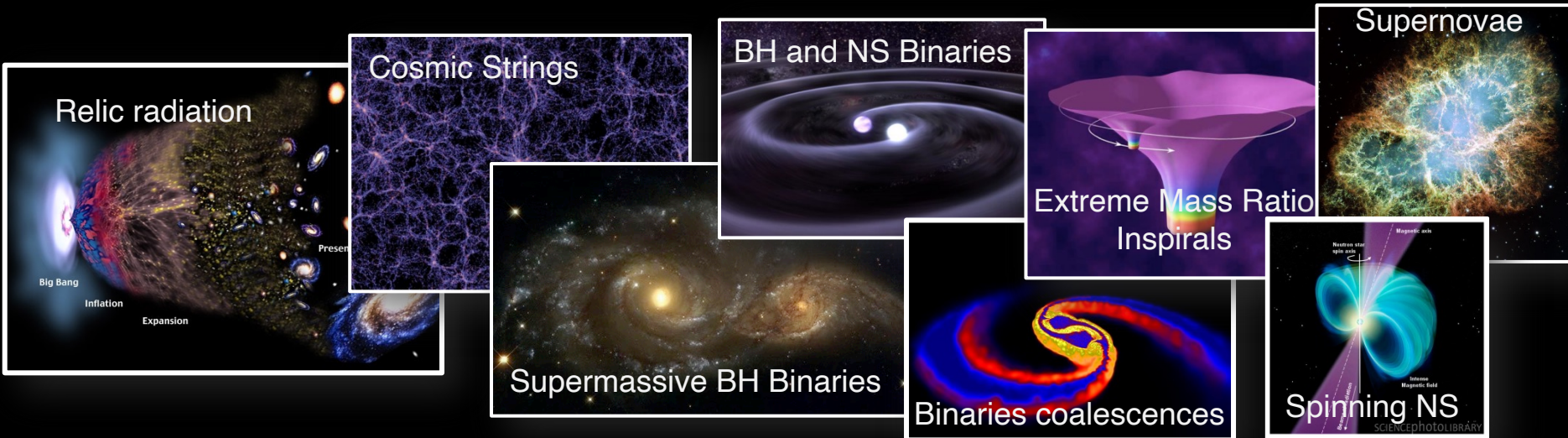


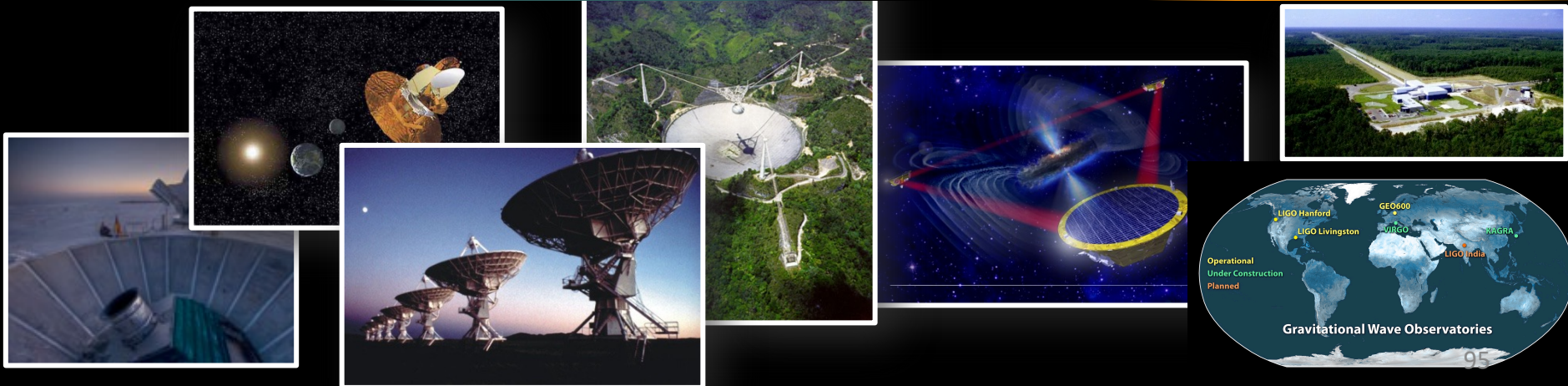
FIG. 11. The differential merger rate for the primary mass predicted using three non-parametric models compared to the fiducial PP model. Solid curves are the medians and the colored bands are the 90% credible intervals.

- We can identify two new bumps in the distribution of the more massive black hole in each binary (also called the primary) at around 10 and 18  $M_{\odot}$ , in addition to the previously-identified peak at about 35  $M_{\odot}$ .
- While isolated binary evolution models can explain the clustering of sources in the 8-10  $M_{\odot}$  range, the origins of the additional peaks are not yet understood. Similarly to the lower mass gap, we are unable to confidently identify the presence of an upper mass gap for binary black holes.

# The Gravitational Wave Spectrum



Pulsar timing      Space detectors      Ground interferometers



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