

# The Stochastic GW background

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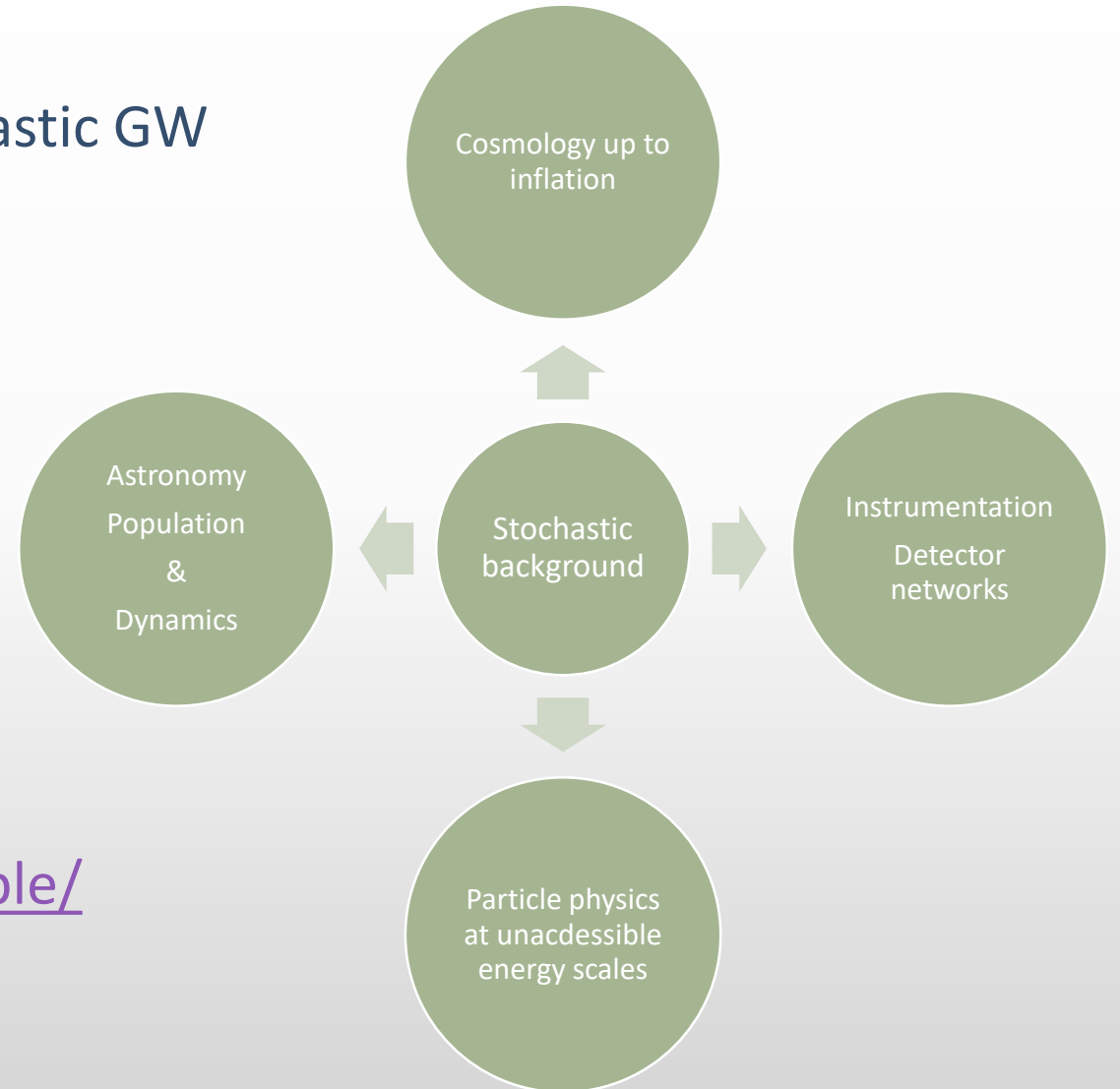
University of Antwerp, Belgium

ET community workshop, Aachen

Jan 15, 2021

# Outline

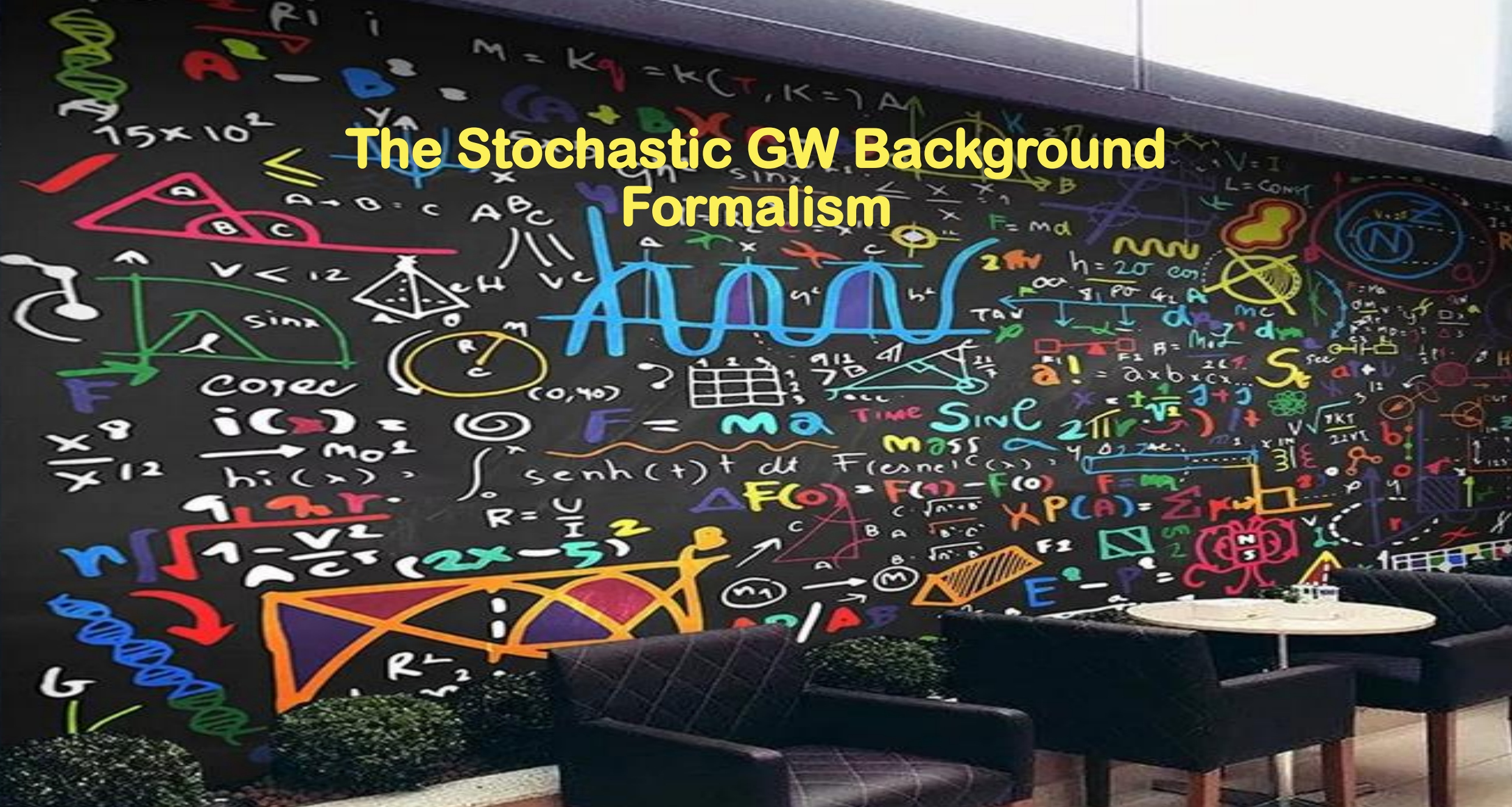
- Definition and general characteristics of stochastic GW background
- Detection method
- Sources of various origins:
  - Cosmological/Primordial
  - Astrophysical
- Recent results from LIGO&Virgo
- Future avenues



Check us out on: <https://www.virgo-gw.be/people/>

We are often recruiting!

# The Stochastic GW Background Formalism



# Stochastic Gravitational waves

- Stochastic:

- random character (in time and frequency) , and should therefore originate from large number of independent sources

- Background:

- generally perceived as a ‘weak’ signal, often comparable to detector noise levels or smaller

- General properties: remember in the TT gauge a set of freely propagating GWs can be expanded in plane waves

$$h_{ij}(t, \vec{x}) = \sum_{A=+, \times} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} df \int d^2\hat{n} \tilde{h}_A(f, \hat{n}) e_{ij}^A(\hat{n}) \exp \left[ -2\pi i f \left( t - \frac{(\hat{n} \cdot \vec{x})}{c} \right) \right]$$

- Stochastic: The amplitudes,  $\tilde{h}_A(f, \hat{n})$ , are random variables, characterized statistically by their ensemble averages.
- Ensemble averages: Will be practically replaced by time averages over set of observation sequences of duration  $\Delta T$ , corresponding to a frequency resolution of  $\sigma_f = 1/\Delta T$

# General properties

- Stationary:

- all quantities of interest (ie. Correlators) depend only on time differences  $\langle h_A(t)h_{A'}(t') \rangle$  depends only on  $(t-t')$ , or

$$\langle \tilde{h}_A(f, \hat{n}) \tilde{h}_{A'}(f', \hat{n}') \rangle \sim \delta(f - f')$$

- Gaussian:

- Consequence of central limit theorem: sum of many random processes produces gaussian stochastic distribution, regardless of underlying distributions
- all N-point correlators reduce to sum or products of 2-point correlators or  $\langle h_A \rangle$ .

- Isotropic:

- If similar to CMB, then highly isotropic, but precision science in the very small deviations
- Motivates directional stochastic background search

$$\langle \tilde{h}_A(f, \hat{n}) \tilde{h}_{A'}(f', \hat{n}') \rangle \sim \delta(\phi - \phi') \delta(\cos\theta - \cos\theta')$$

- Unpolarised: Fair assumption is many astrophysical components or cosmological

$$\langle \tilde{h}_A(f, \hat{n}) \tilde{h}_{A'}(f', \hat{n}') \rangle \sim \delta_{A,A'}$$

# Quantities of interest

- Stochastic backgrounds are characterized by a single function  $S_h(f)$ : spectral density, analogous to spectral density of detector noise

$$\langle \tilde{h}_A^*(f, \hat{n}) \tilde{h}_{A'}(f', \hat{n}') \rangle = \delta(f - f') (4\pi)^{-1} \delta^2(\hat{n}, \hat{n}') \delta_{A,A'} \frac{1}{2} S_h(f)$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle h_{ij}(t) h^{ij}(t) \rangle = 4 \int_0^\infty df S_h(f)$$

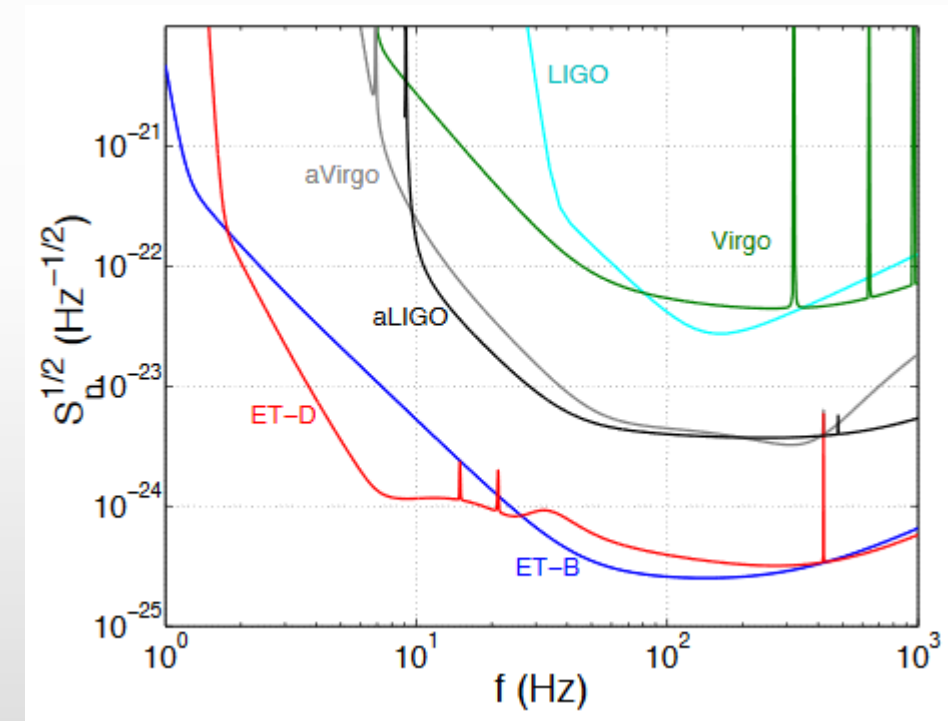
- Energy density carried by stochastic background

By definition

$$\rho_{GW} = \frac{c^2}{32\pi G} \langle \dot{h}_{ij} \dot{h}^{ij} \rangle$$

Which is then compared with critical density,  $\rho_c = \frac{3c^2 H_0^2}{8\pi G}$  to obtain a dimensionless quantity

$$\Omega_{GW} = \frac{\rho_{GW}}{\rho_c}$$



# Quantities of interest

- Define the normalised energy density,  $\Omega_{GW}(f)$ , per logarithmic interval in frequency to maintain dimensionless quantity

$$\Omega_{GW} = \int_{f=0}^{f=\infty} d(\log f) \Omega_{GW}(f)$$

- Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_{GW} &= \frac{c^2}{32\pi G} \langle \dot{h}_{ij} \dot{h}^{ij} \rangle \\ &= \frac{c^2}{8\pi G} \int_{f=0}^{f=\infty} d(\log f) f (2\pi f)^2 S_h(f) \Rightarrow \frac{d\rho_{GW}}{d(\log f)} = \frac{\pi c^2}{2G} f^3 S_h(f) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Omega_{GW}(f) = \frac{4\pi^2}{3H_0^2} f^3 S_h(f)$$

Or, when using characteristic strain

$$h_c(f) = \sqrt{f S_h(f)}$$

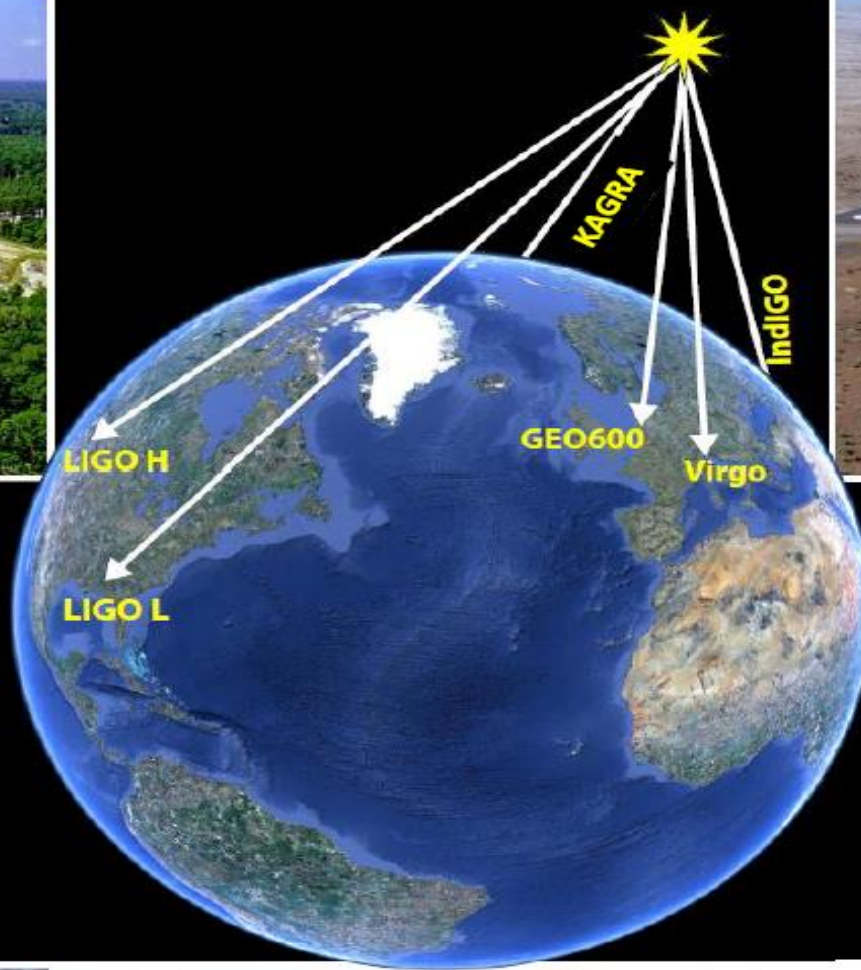
$$h_0^2 \Omega_{GW}(f) = \frac{4\pi^2}{3(100 \text{ km/s/Mpc})} f^2 h_c(f)$$



LIGO Livingston, LA



LIGO Hanford, WA



# Detection methods

Advanced LIGO and Virgo run simultaneously

Kagra joined in 2020  
LIGO India approved



GEO600, Hannover, Germany



Virgo, Cascina, Italy



Kagra, Kamioka, Hida, Japan



# Minimal detectable values of $\Omega$

Bibliography:

[M. Maggiore, “Gravitational Waves, Vol 1: Theory and experiments”, Oxford university Press(2008), chap. 7]

[B. Allen, and J. D. Romano, 1999, Phys. Rev. D, 59, 102001]

[E. Thrane, and J. D. Romano, 2013, Phys. Rev. D 88, 124032]

- Output strain,  $h(t)$ , of a single detector with sinusoidal response function,  $R^A(f, \hat{k})$ , as response to a GW wave metric perturbation  $h_{ab}(t, \bar{x})$

$$h(t) = \sum_A \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} df \int d^2\Omega_k \tilde{h}_A(f, \hat{k}) R^A(f, \hat{k}) \exp[2\pi i f (t - \hat{k} \cdot \bar{x}/c)]$$

$$h(f) = \sum_A \int d^2\Omega_k \tilde{h}_A(f, \hat{k}) R^A(f, \hat{k}) \exp[-2\pi i f \hat{k} \cdot \bar{x}/c]$$

- Total strain measured by a detector  $s(t) = n(t) + h(t)$
- If detector measures just noise  $\langle \tilde{n}^*(f) \tilde{n}(f') \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \delta(f - f') S_n(f)$  (power spectral density)
- One can carefully model the noise and when  $\langle s^2(t) \rangle$  in excess of  $\int_0^{\infty} df S_n(f)$  above a threshold, observation! (naive approach)

# SNR for detection

- In the presence of a signal  $\langle s^2(t) \rangle = \langle n^2(t) \rangle + \langle h^2(t) \rangle$

$$= \int_0^{\infty} df [S_n(f) + R(f)S_h(f)]$$

With  $R(f)$ , the detector response function integrated over all angles and polarisations

- When working in discrete frequency bins with width  $\Delta f \sim 1/T$

$$\int_0^{\infty} df S_{h,n}(f) = \sum_i S_{h,n}(f_i) \Delta f$$

- Signal-To-Noise in a given frequency bin ,  $i$ , becomes  $\boxed{\left(\frac{S}{N}\right)^2 = R(f) \frac{S_h(f_i)}{S_n(f_i)}}$

- Note: no  $\Delta f \sim 1/T$  dependence, so no improvement by measuring longer!
- Only benefit of measuring longer is improved frequency resolution

# SNR for detection

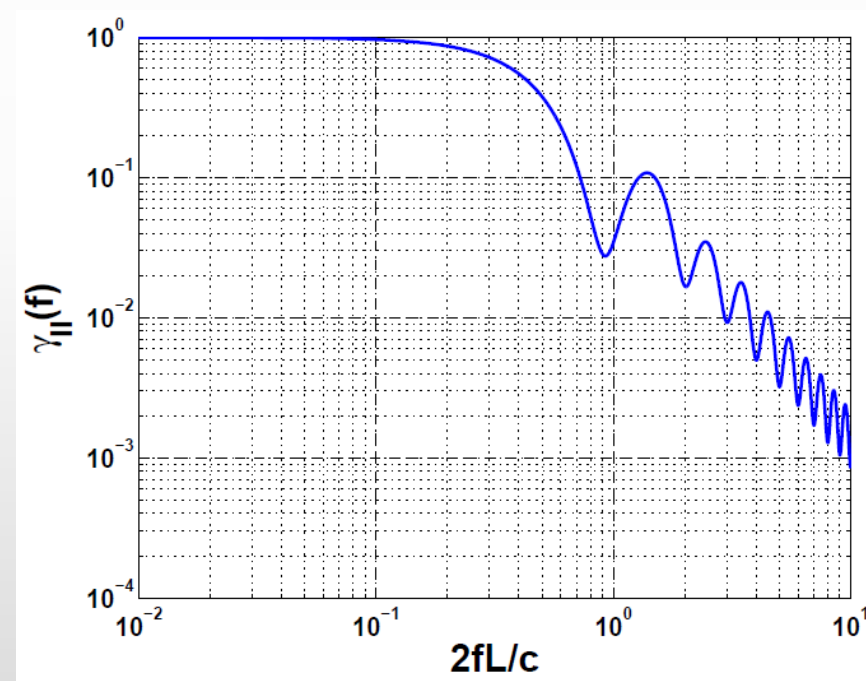
- Minimal detectable value of  $S_h(f)$  measurable with single detector with a noise spectral density  $S_n(f)$ , at a given threshold value of SNR is

$$[S_h(f)]_{min} = \frac{S_n(f)(S/N)_T^2}{R(f)}$$

- Or, corresponding minimal detectable value of  $\Omega_{GW}$  is

$$[\Omega_{GW}(f)]_{min} = \frac{4\pi^2}{3H_0^2} f^3 \frac{S_n(f)(S/N)_T^2}{R(f)}$$

- Note: For a constant value of  $S_n$ , your detection sensitivity increases as  $f^3$
- Detection of stochastic GW backgrounds is always easier at low frequencies!
- To increase your single detector efficiency:
  - Push your noise spectra density down at low frequencies!



Note: dips occur at multiples of  $f = \frac{c}{2L}$   
With  $L$ = arm length

# Need for detector network: cross correlation!

- Typical numerical values for earth based interferometers make detection impossible!

$$[h_0^2 \Omega_{GW}(f)]_{min} = 0.12 \left( \frac{f}{100 \text{Hz}} \right)^3 \left( \frac{S_n^2(f)}{4 \cdot 10^{-23} \text{Hz}^{-1/2}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{2/5}{R(f)} \right) \left( \frac{(S/N)_T}{5} \right)^2$$

$h_0 \cong 0.7$ , absorbs uncertainties in Hubble parameter

- When correlating two detectors  $I$  and  $J$ , the detector noise contributions disappear! (if noise is uncorrelated)
- Detector overlap reduction function: note  $\Gamma_{II}(f) = R_I(f)$

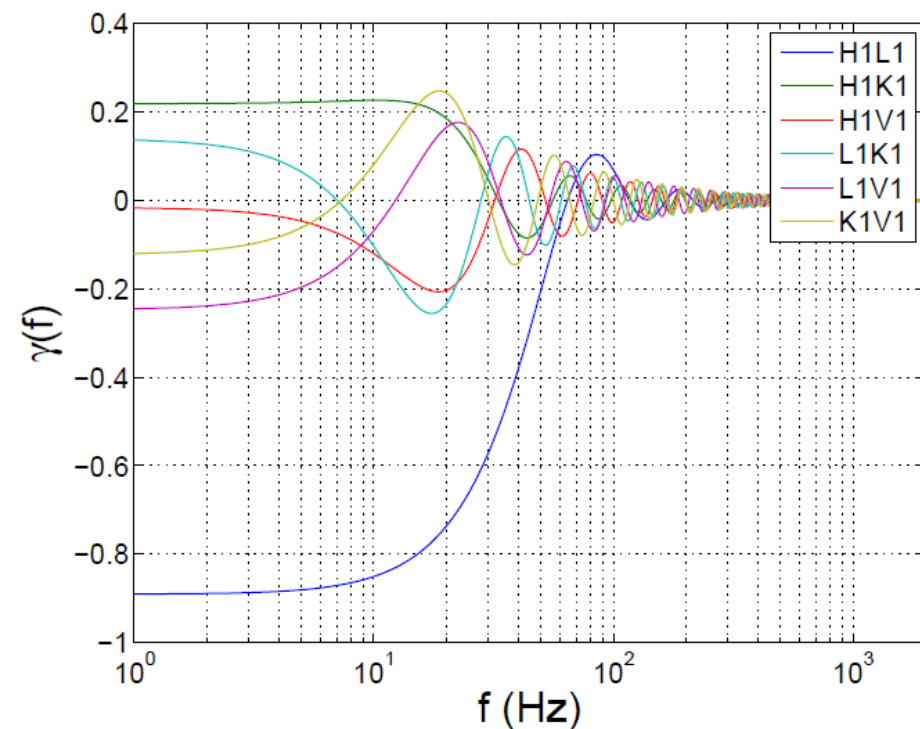
$$\langle \tilde{h}_I(f) \tilde{h}_J^*(f) \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \delta(f - f') \Gamma_{IJ}(f) S_h(f)$$

$$\Gamma_{IJ}(f) = \frac{1}{8\pi} \int d^2 \Omega_k \sum_A R_I^A(f, \hat{k}) R_J^{A*}(f, \hat{k}) \exp[-2\pi i f \hat{k} \cdot (\bar{x}_I - \bar{x}_J)/c]$$

- Note also: exponential oscillates and dampens rapidly if

$$2\pi f \frac{\Delta x}{c} \gg 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \Delta x \gg \frac{\lambda}{2\pi} = 500 \text{km} (100 \text{Hz})$$

( $\gamma_{IJ}(f)$  is normalised to be 1 for co-aligned and co-located detectors)



# SNR for correlation measurement

- Equivalently, the SNR for a cross correlation search yields an observation time,  $T$ , dependent

$$\left(\frac{S}{N}\right)^2 = 2T \int_{f_{min}}^{f_{max}} df \frac{\Gamma_{IJ}^2(f) S_h^2(f)}{S_{n,I}(f) S_{n,J}(f)}$$

Where the integration limits  $f_{min}$  and  $f_{max}$  define the detector bandwidths

- This (S/N) is the optimally filtered version of a detection with Wiener filter  $\tilde{Q}(f) = \frac{\Gamma_{IJ}(f) S_h(f)}{S_{n,I}(f) S_{n,J}(f)}$

- For a binned correlation analysis of  $M$  detectors, averaged over the total bandwidth, one gets

$$\left(\frac{S}{N}\right)^2 = 2T \delta f N_{bins} \left\langle \frac{S_h^2}{S_{eff}^2} \right\rangle$$

with  $S_{eff}^2(f) = \sum_{I=1}^M \sum_{J>I}^M \frac{\Gamma_{IJ}^2(f)}{S_{n,I}(f) S_{n,J}(f)}$

which reduces to  $S_{eff}^2(f) = \frac{2}{M(M-1)} S_n^2(f)$

for co-located and co-aligned detectors

$$BW = \Delta f = \delta f N_{bins}$$

# Remarks on cross correlation technique

- The minimally detectable stochastic energy density now becomes dependent on observation time and bandwidth

$$[\Omega_{GW}(f)]_{min} = \frac{4\pi^2}{3H_0^2} f^3 \frac{\sqrt{S_{nI}(f)S_{nJ}(f)}}{\Gamma_{IJ}(f)} \frac{(S/N)_T}{(2T\Delta f)^{1/2}}$$

- Numerically  $\frac{1}{(2T\Delta f)^{1/2}} \cong 1.10^{-5} \left(\frac{150\text{Hz}}{f}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{1\text{yr}}{T}\right)^{1/2}$

- And additional factor  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{M(M-1)}}$  when using  $M$  detectors

- Note: Low frequencies are still most sensitive!

- However: Comparing SNR or  $[\Omega_{GW}(f)]_{min}$  directly with model predictions lead to underestimation of detection potential due to typical broadband nature of signals!

# Power-law integrated sensitivity

Bibliography:

[E. Thrane and J. D. Romano Phys. Rev. D 88, 124032 (2013)]

- Most stochastic signals will exhibit a power-law dependence

$$\Omega_{GW}(f) = \Omega_{\beta} \left( \frac{f}{f_{ref}} \right)^{\beta}$$

- Binary coalescences have a power-law index  $\beta = 2/3$ , while inflationary models have  $\beta = 0$
- Note that the Wiener filter is dependent on the signal power law!
- Compute for a fixed power index the minimally detectable value (assuming a SNR threshold)

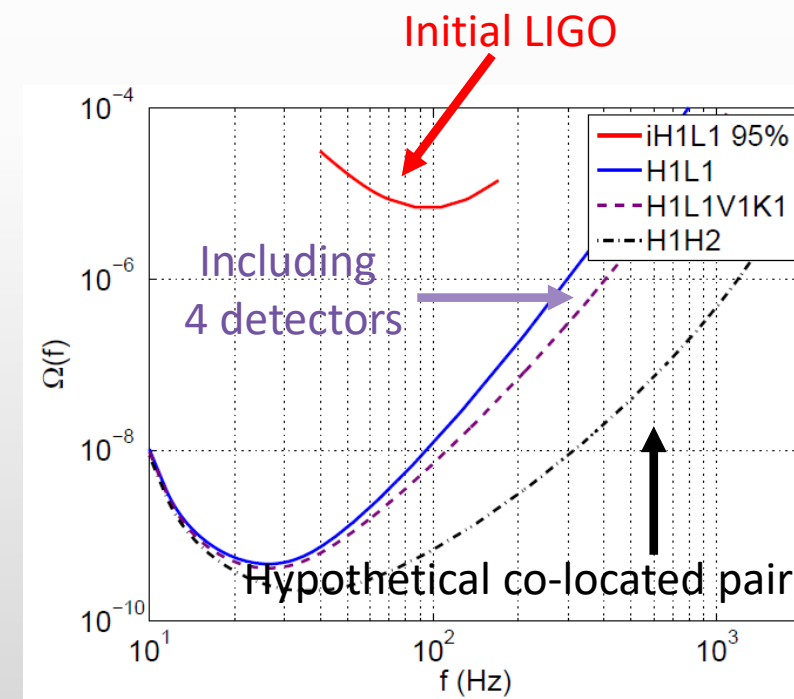
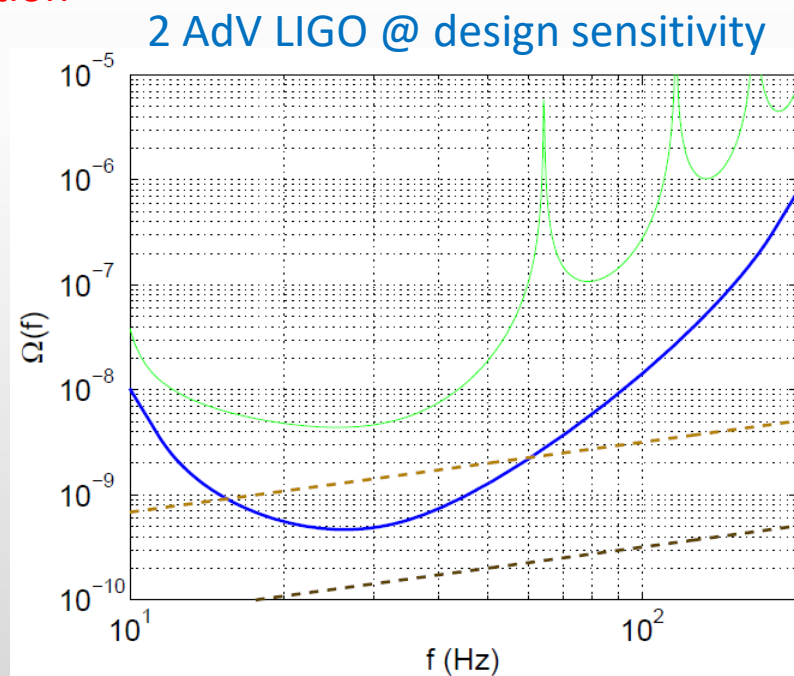
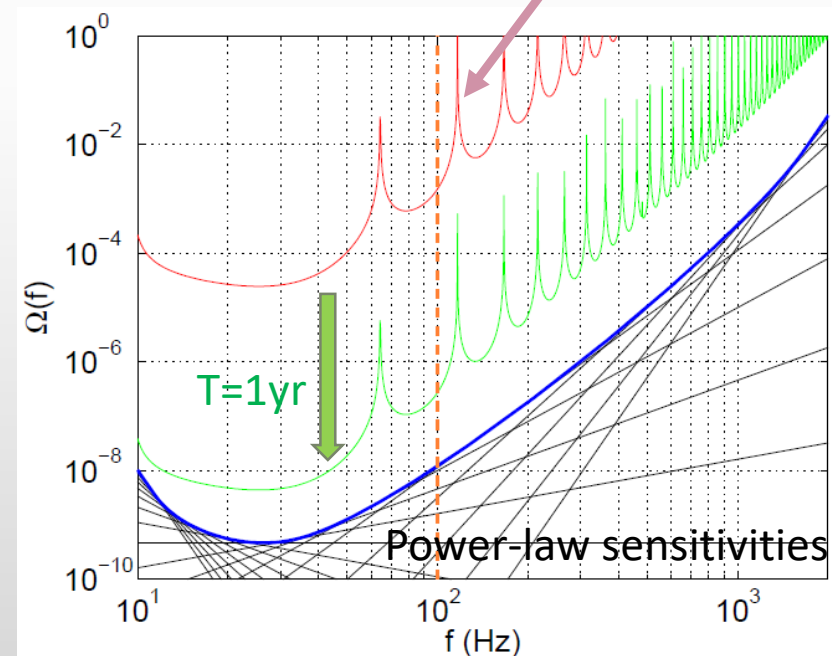
$$\Omega_{\beta, min} = \frac{(S/N)_T}{\sqrt{2T}} \left[ \int_{f_{min}}^{f_{max}} df \frac{(f/f_{ref})^{2\beta}}{\Omega_{eff}^2(f)} \right]^{-1/2} \quad \text{with} \quad \Omega_{eff}(f) = \frac{4\pi^2}{3H_0^2} f^3 S_{eff}(f)$$

- And plot for each pair of values  $\beta, \Omega_{\beta, min}$  the values of  $\Omega_{gw, min}(f) = \Omega_{\beta, min} \cdot (f/f_{ref})^{\beta}$

# Power-law integrated sensitivity curves

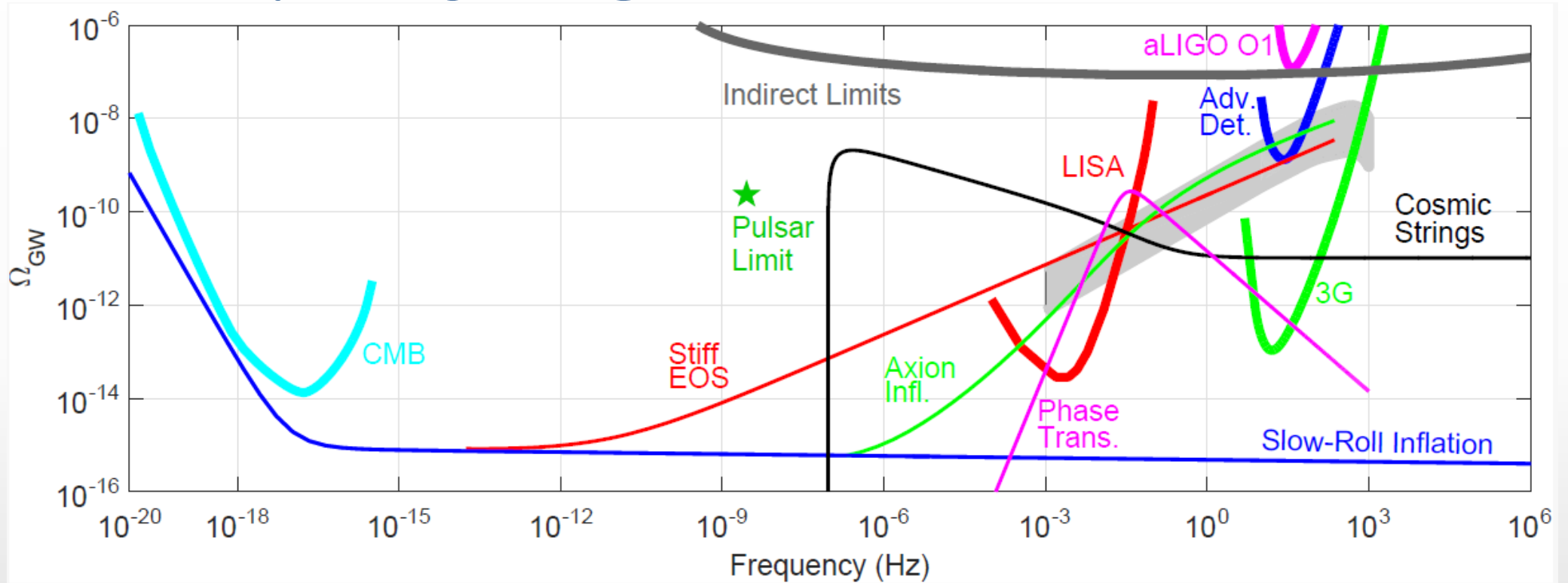
- The envelope of the  $\Omega_{gw,min}(f) = \Omega_{\beta,min} \cdot (f/f_{ref})^{\beta}$  power-law sensitivity curves is the **power-law integrated sensitivity curve** for the detection of a stochastic background with a cross correlation of  $M$  detectors. In all cases we put  $(S/N)_T = 1$

Effect of zeros in overlap reduction function





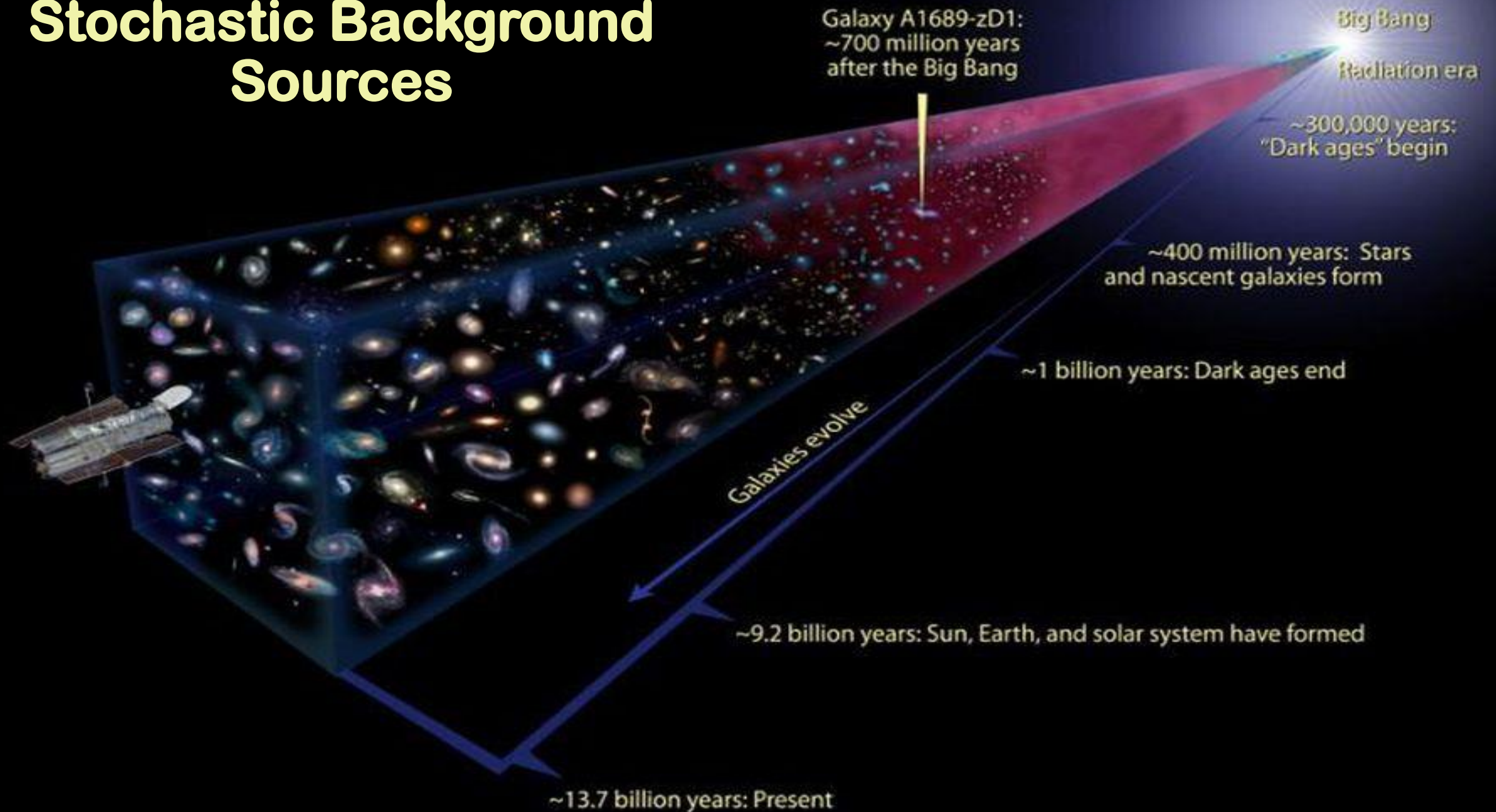
# Typical frequency ranges, and sensitivities



Note the other components of  $\Omega$   
(source: Wikipedia)

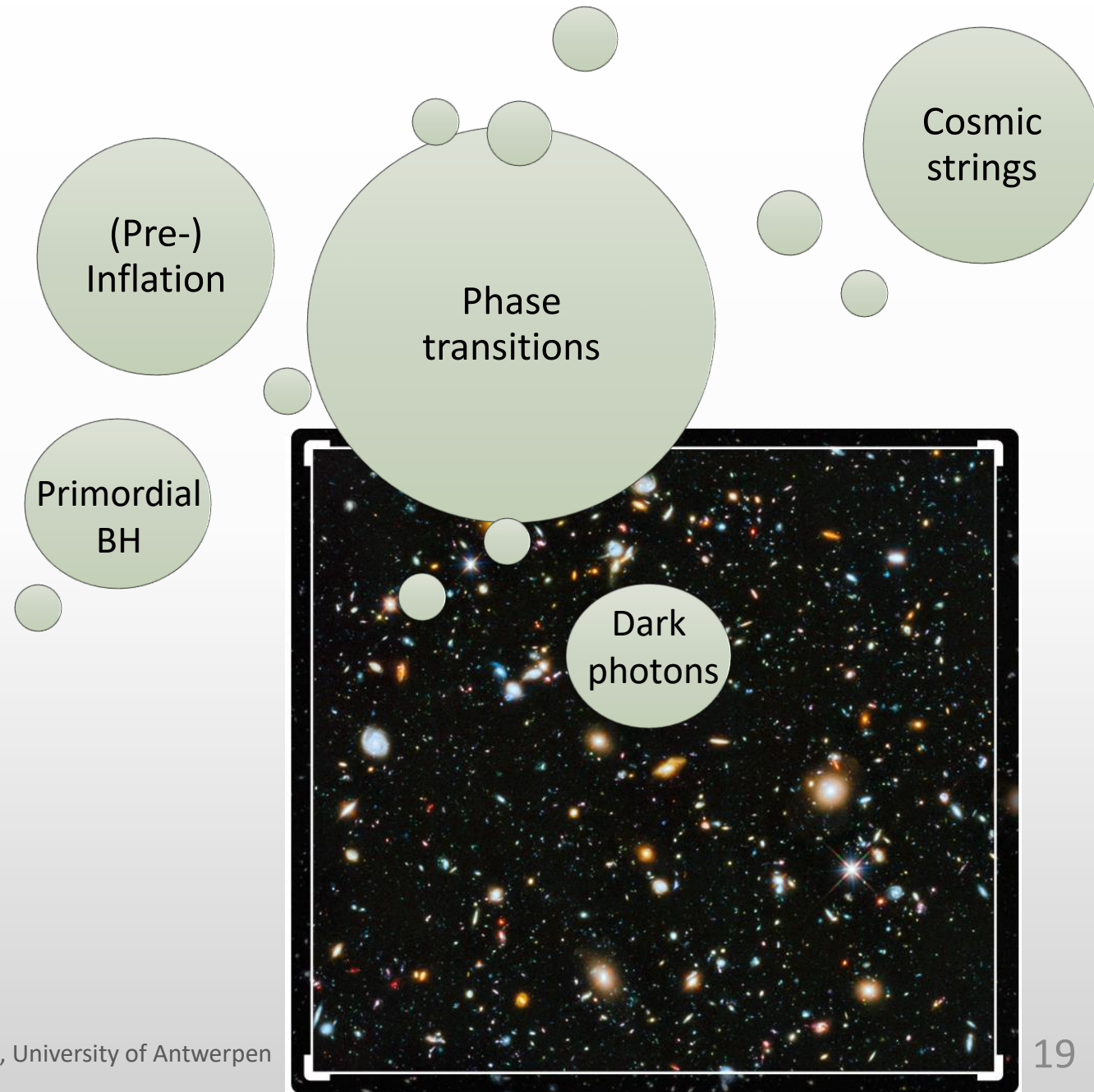
Baryon density parameter <sup>[b]</sup>	$\Omega_b$	$0.0486 \pm 0.0010$ <sup>[e]</sup>
Dark matter density parameter <sup>[b]</sup>	$\Omega_c$	$0.2589 \pm 0.0057$ <sup>[f]</sup>
Matter density parameter <sup>[b]</sup>	$\Omega_m$	$0.3089 \pm 0.0062$
Dark energy density parameter <sup>[b]</sup>	$\Omega_\Lambda$	$0.6911 \pm 0.0062$

# Stochastic Background Sources



# Main components

1. Cosmological, primordial, fossil:  
Rich phenomenology, inspired by elementary particle physics QFT, but also thermodynamics, topology, etc.  
Often speculative, but enticing GW allow  
To probe time and energy scales inaccessible by Earth based accelerators
2. Astrophysical:  
Diverse spectrum of various known astrophysical objects  
  
Most likely to be dominant contribution  
Could shed light on populations, historical evolution

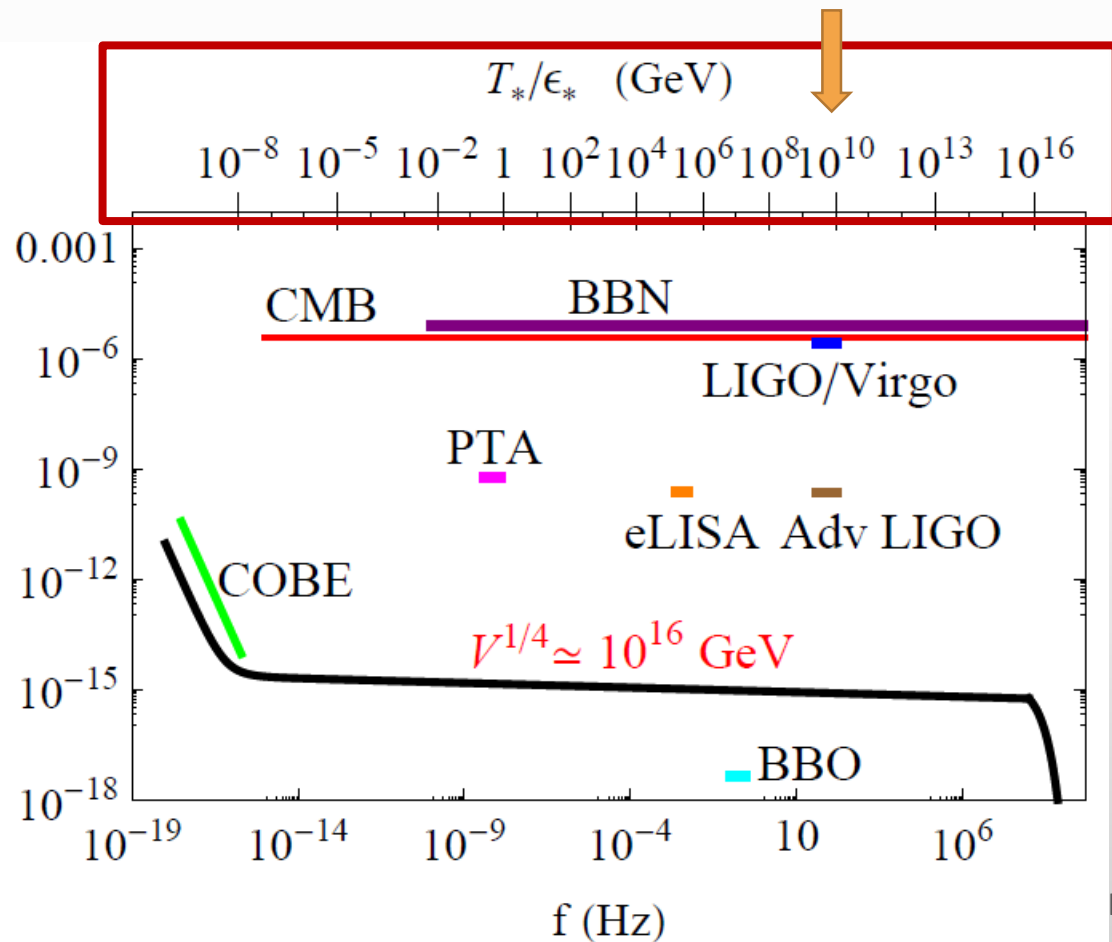


# Cosmological

Bibliography:

[M. Maggiore, Phys.Rept. 331 (2000) 283-367

C. Caprini, D. G. Figueroa, Classical and Quantum Gravity, Vol 35, Nr 16 (2018)]



Main difference between GWCB and CMB:

Photons decoupled at temp  $T=0.3\text{eV}$ , but GW are out of thermal equilibrium since Planck scale

Any cosmological source that gives rise to non-zero anisotropic stress tensor in the early universe can seed GW:

- EM Fields
- Scalar field with spatial gradient in distribution
- Velocity perturbations in early universe fluid
- Amplification of vacuum fluctuations

Characteristic frequency observed today for a causal early universe process. Wave vector  $k_* = H_*/\epsilon_*$  must always be larger than Hubble rate at that time

$$f_c = H_*/(2\pi\epsilon_*)(a_*/a_0)$$

Relationship between characteristic GW frequency and epoch when source was operating, characterized by temperature  $T_*$

$$f_c \cong 2.6 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{Hz} / (T_*/\epsilon_*/1\text{TeV})(g_*/100)^{1/6}$$

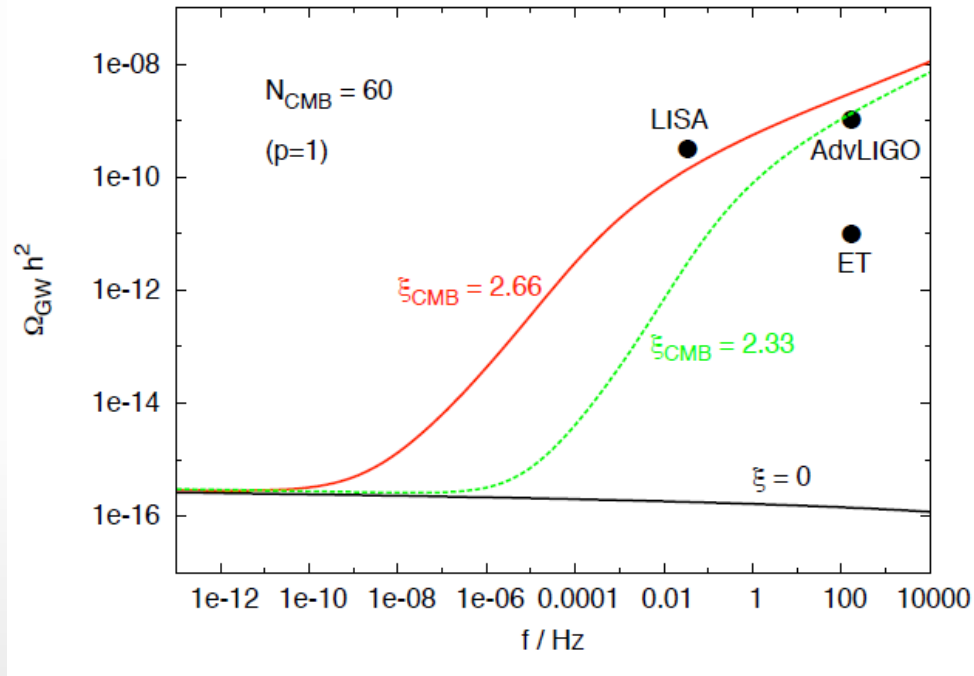
Example: First order phase transition at EW scale ( $T^*=100\text{GeV}$ ), with  $\epsilon_* \cong 0.001 - 1$

$$f_c \cong 10^{-5} - 1 \text{Hz}$$

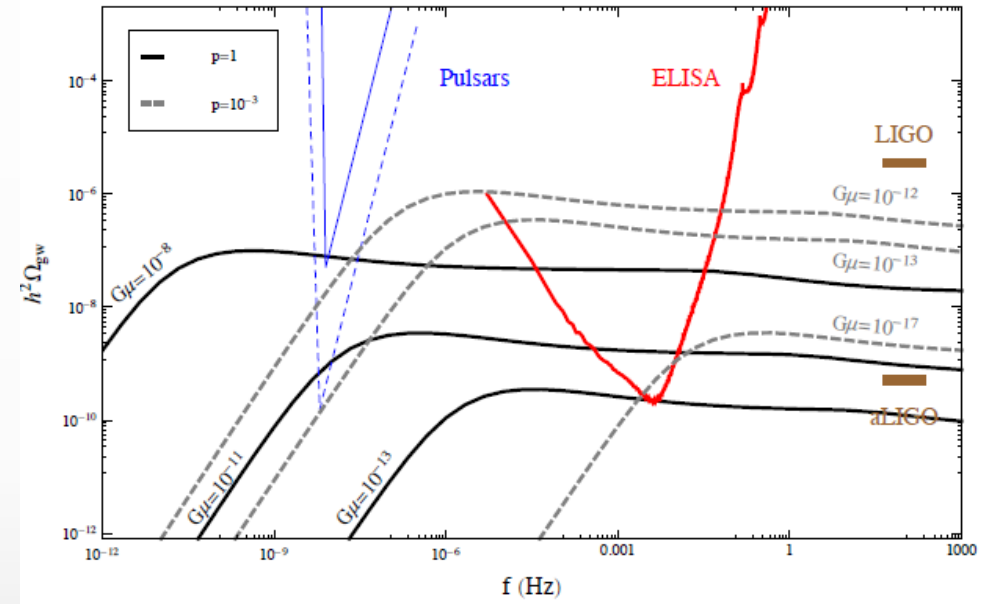
# Observable cosmological scenarios

Bibliography:

[C. Caprini, 2015 J.. Phys.: Conf. Ser **610** 012004]

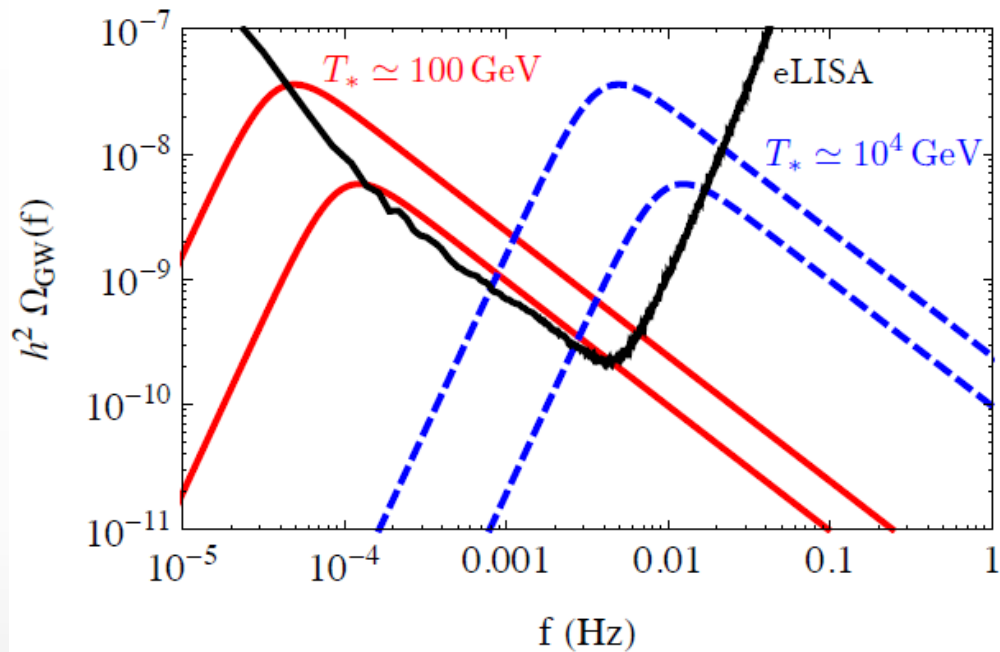


- Inflation with pre-heating: Instead of just producing particles, convert potential energy during slow-roll directly into GW
- Inflationary energy scale  $< 10^{11}$  GeV to fall in 1Hz-1kHz frequency and



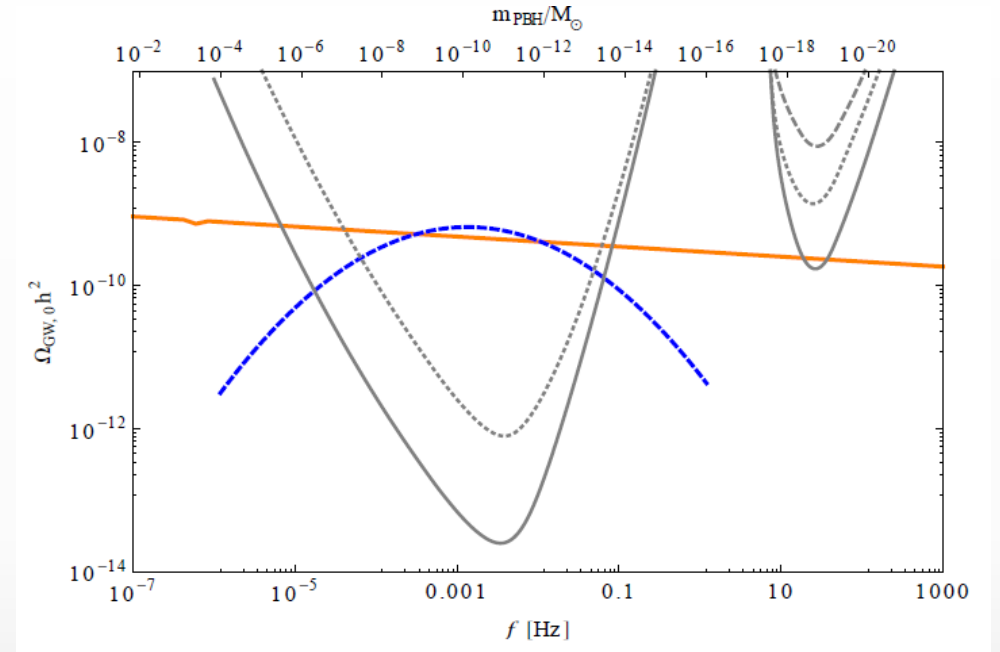
- Cosmic strings: topological structures as following phase transition at end of inflation or during thermal evolution of Universe
- Predicted by several BSM theories (GUT, SUSY, ..) and in some string theories
- Long string segments can reconnect and form loops that oscillate and generate GWs
- Few theory parameters: String tension, loop size, ,,,
- Typically very broad frequency range
- Also capable of producing bursts via cusps and kinks

# Observable cosmological scenarios ctd.



C. Caprini, 2015 J. Phys.: Conf. Ser **610** 012004

- First-order phase transition: Nucleation and collisions of broken phase bubbles
- Characteristic frequency spectrum is broken power-law where peak frequency relates to maximal bubble size towards end of PT and maximum  $\Omega$  by amount of tensor-type stress that is available (strength of FOPT)



J. Garcia-Bellido, M. Peloso, C. Unal, JCAP 09 (2017) 013  
 S.Clesse, J. García-Bellido, S. Orani, e-Print: 1812.11011 [astro-ph.CO]

- Quantum fluctuations cause peaks in curvature power spectrum
- These collapse into Primordial Black Holes (PBH), and generate GWs
- After re-entry, PBH can aggregate and form binaries that coalesce

# Astrophysical

Bibliography:

[T. Regimbau, 2011 Res. Astron. Astrophys. 11 369

T. Regimbau, M. Evans, N. Christensen, E.

Katsavounidis, B. Sathyaprakash, S. Vitale, Phys.

Rev. Lett. 118, 151105 (2017)]

$$\Omega_{GW, astr}(f_0) = \frac{f_0 \cdot F_{f_0}}{\rho_c c^2}$$

With flux, as function of source parameters,  $\theta$

$$F_{f_0} = \int d\theta dz p(\theta) f(\theta, z, f_0) \frac{dR_0(\theta, z)}{dz}$$

Fluence of source at redshift,  $z$

$$f(\theta, z, f_0) = \frac{1}{4\pi r^2(z)} \frac{dE_{GW}}{df}(\theta, f_0(1+z))$$

$r(z)$ : Proper distance (cosmology dependent)

$\frac{dE_{GW}}{df}$ : emitted gravitational spectrum

$f_0(1+z)$ : frequency in source frame

- Stochastic GW are expected to result from incoherent superposition of many unresolved sources since the beginning of stellar activity
- Current binary detections suggests existence of population of BH with relatively large masses that might have formed in old (low metallicity) stellar environments:
  - Evolution of isolated binaries in galaxies
  - Mass segregation and dynamical evolution in globular clusters
- This background is within reach of current 2G Earth-based interferometers
  - Contain wealth of information about history and evolution of populations of point sources
  - Detection can reduce uncertainties in cosmic star formation models at large redshifts
- Forms a confusion noise (foreground) that is detrimental to observe primordial signals

# Astrophysical

- Number of sources per interval  $\theta - \theta + d\theta$ , per unit time and per redshift interval

$$\frac{dR_0(\theta, z)}{dz} = \dot{\rho}_0(\theta, z) \frac{dV}{dz}(z)$$

With  $\dot{\rho}_0(\theta, z)$  : event rate in  $Mpc^{-1}yr^{-1}$

$\frac{dV}{dz}(z)$ : the comoving volume element

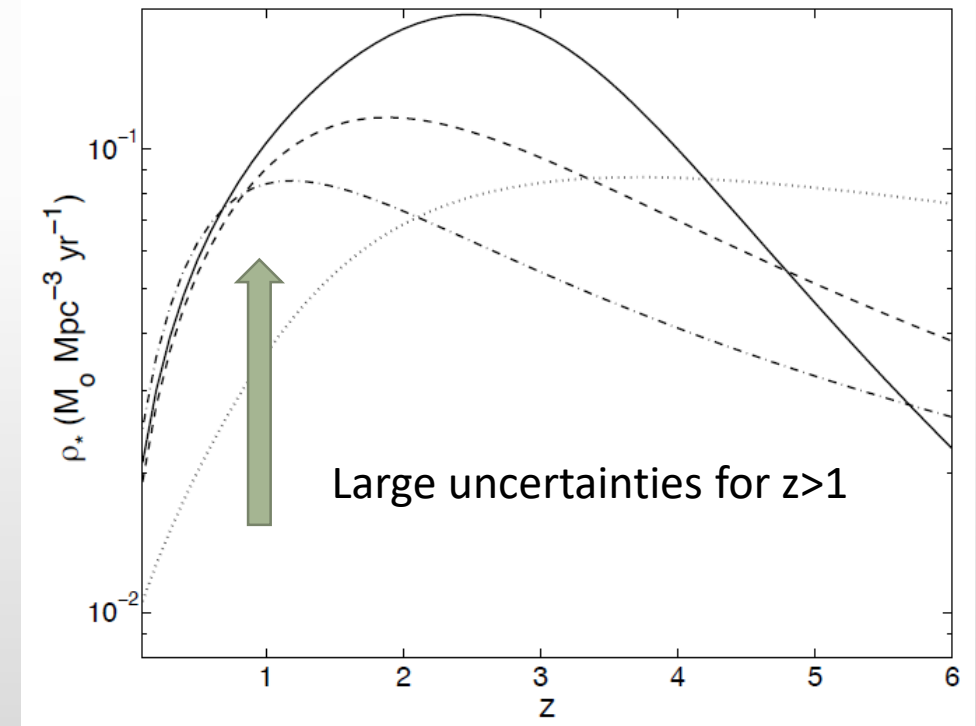
- Results in a predicted energy density

$$\Omega_{GW,ast}(f) = \frac{8\pi G}{3c^2 H_0^2} f \int d\theta p(\theta) \int_{z_{inf}}^{z_{sup}} dz \frac{\dot{\rho}_0(\theta, z)}{E(\Omega, z)} \frac{dE_{GW}}{df}(\theta, f_0(1+z))$$

- Event rate per unit redshift can be derived from cosmic star formation rate  $\dot{\rho}_*(z)$  and mass fraction  $\lambda(\theta, z)$

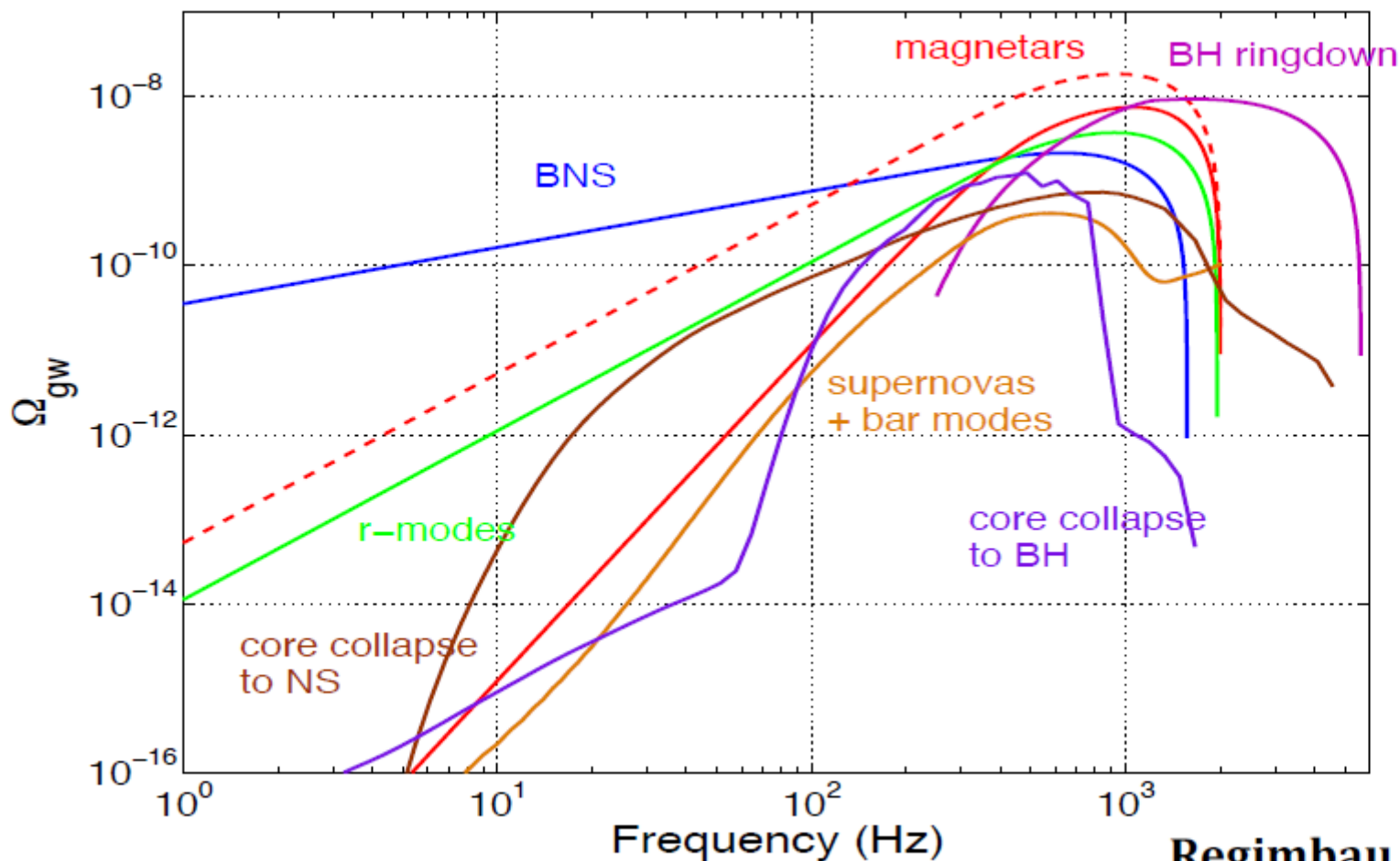
$$\dot{\rho}_0(\theta, z) = \lambda(\theta, z) \frac{\dot{\rho}_*(z)}{1+z}$$

[T. Regimbau, 2011 Res. Astron. Astrophys. 11 369]





# Composition of astrophysical Stoch bg



Regimbau, arXiv:1101.2762

- Very rich landscape of astrophysical point sources
- Predictions based on models, tuned to large diversity of EM observations
- Some predictions directly from first CBC GW observations (see next slide)
- Also possible to infer on high z CBC rates once stochastic bg is detected

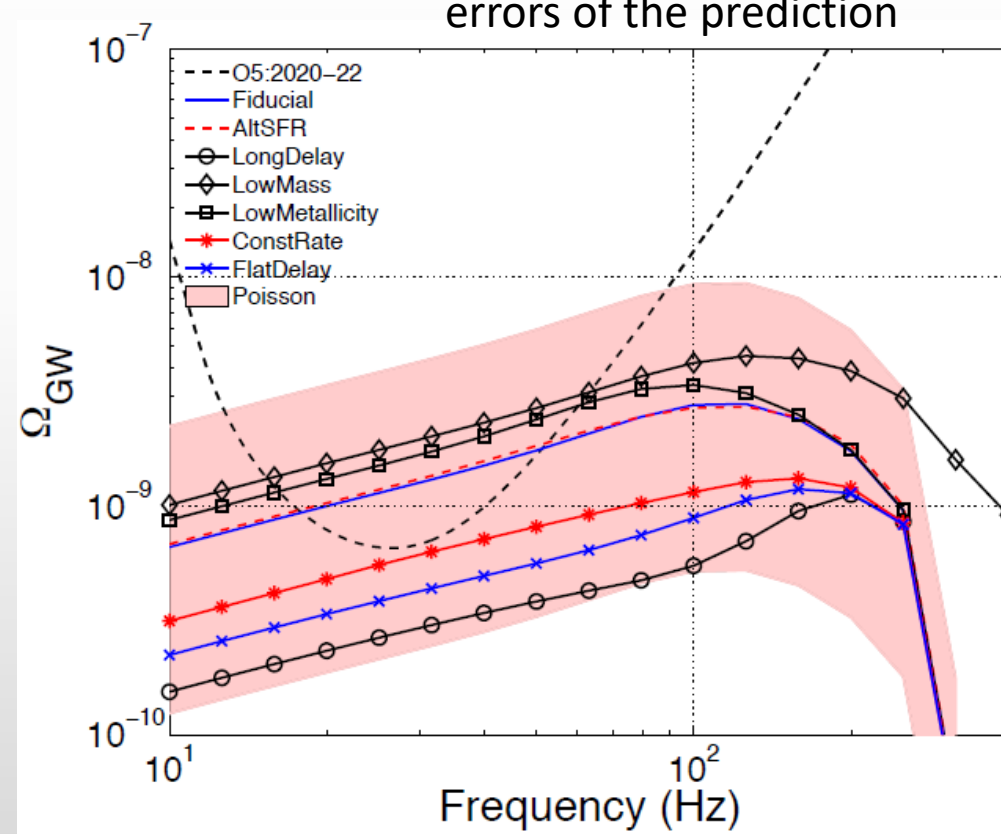
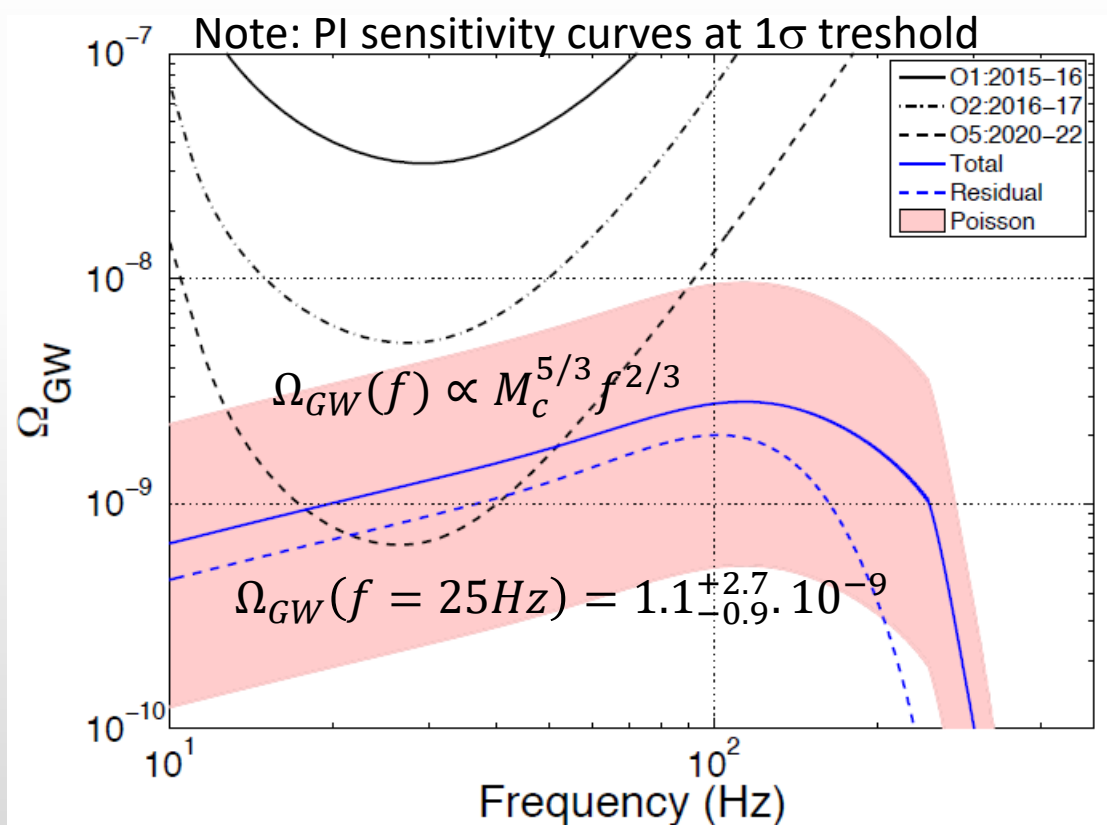
# Predictions from GW150914: Fiducial Model

Bibliography:

[B. P. Abbott et al. (LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 131102 (2016)

Model uncertainties fall within Poisson errors of the prediction



# Estimates after first BNS: GW170817 (+5 BBH)

Bibliography:

[B. P. Abbott et al. (LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 120, 091101 (2018)

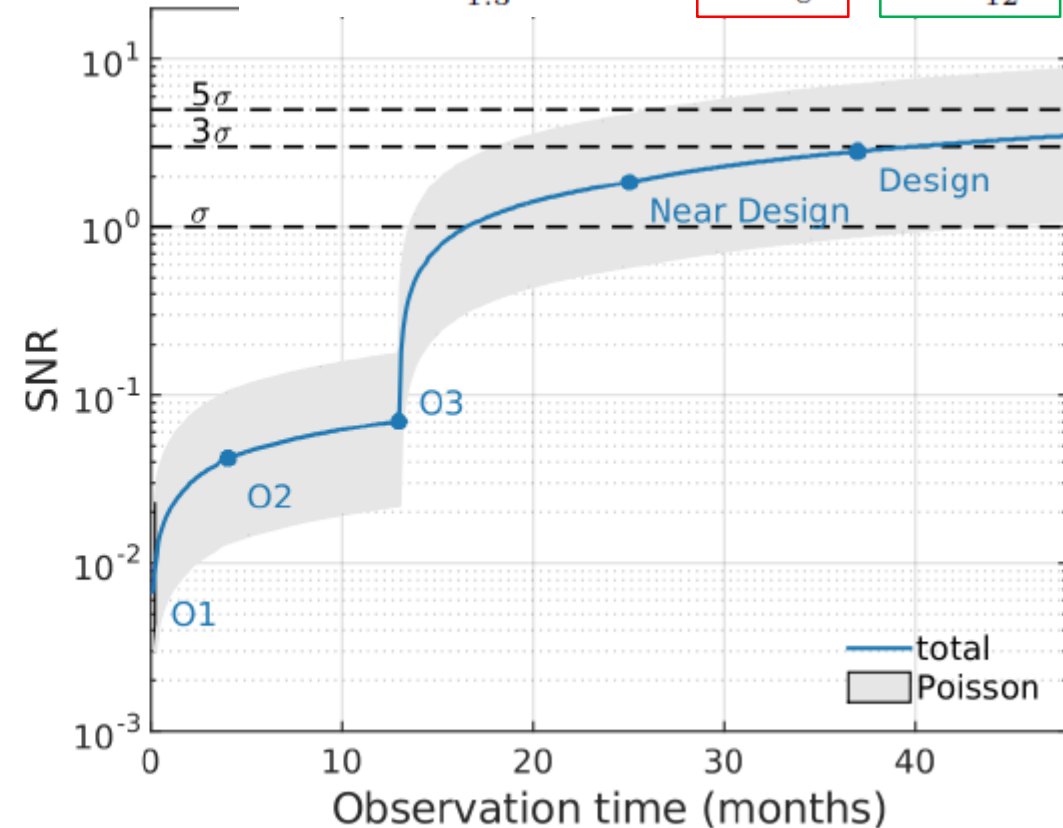
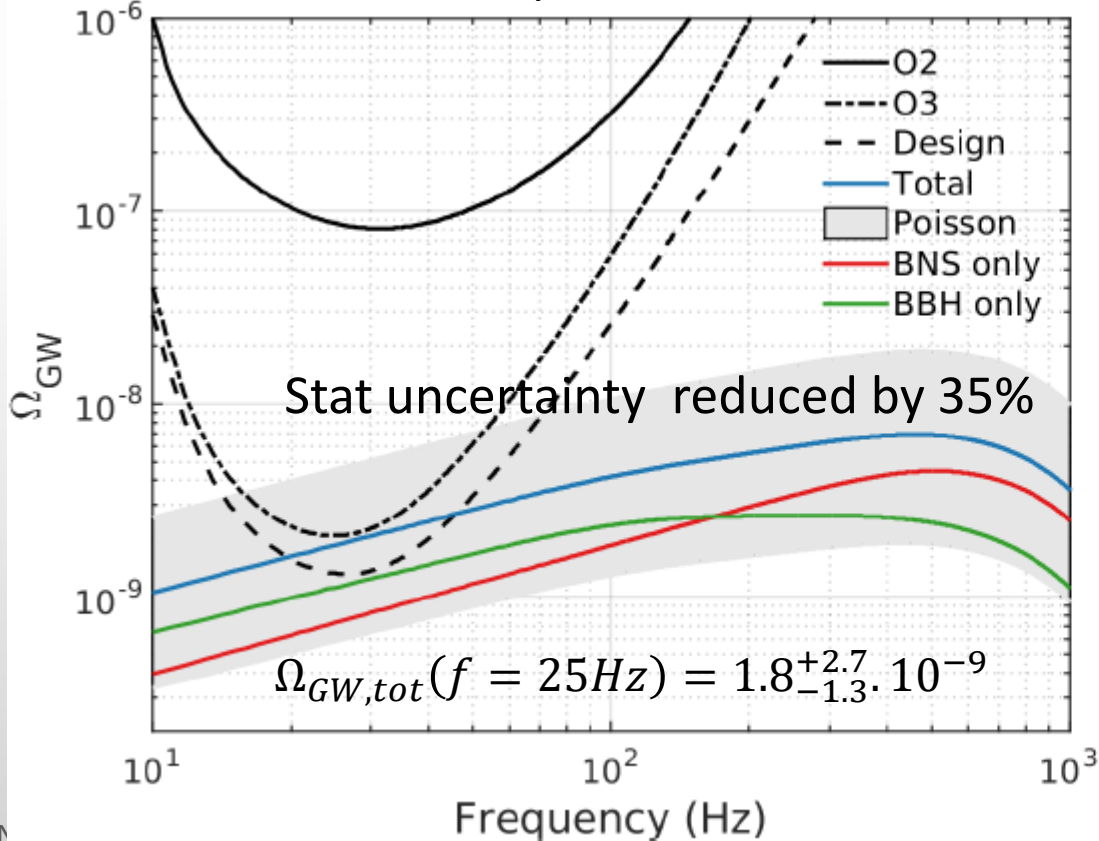
Nr of overlapping signals

At any given time

Time between events

	$\Omega_{GW}(25 \text{ Hz})$	$\tau$ [s]	$\lambda$
BNS	$0.7_{-0.6}^{+1.5} \times 10^{-9}$	$13_{-9}^{+49}$	$15_{-12}^{+30}$
BBH	$1.1_{-0.7}^{+1.2} \times 10^{-9}$	$223_{-115}^{+352}$	$0.06_{-0.04}^{+0.06}$
Total	$1.8_{-1.3}^{+2.7} \times 10^{-9}$	$12_{-8}^{+44}$	$15_{-12}^{+31}$

Note: PI sensitivity curves at  $1\sigma$  threshold

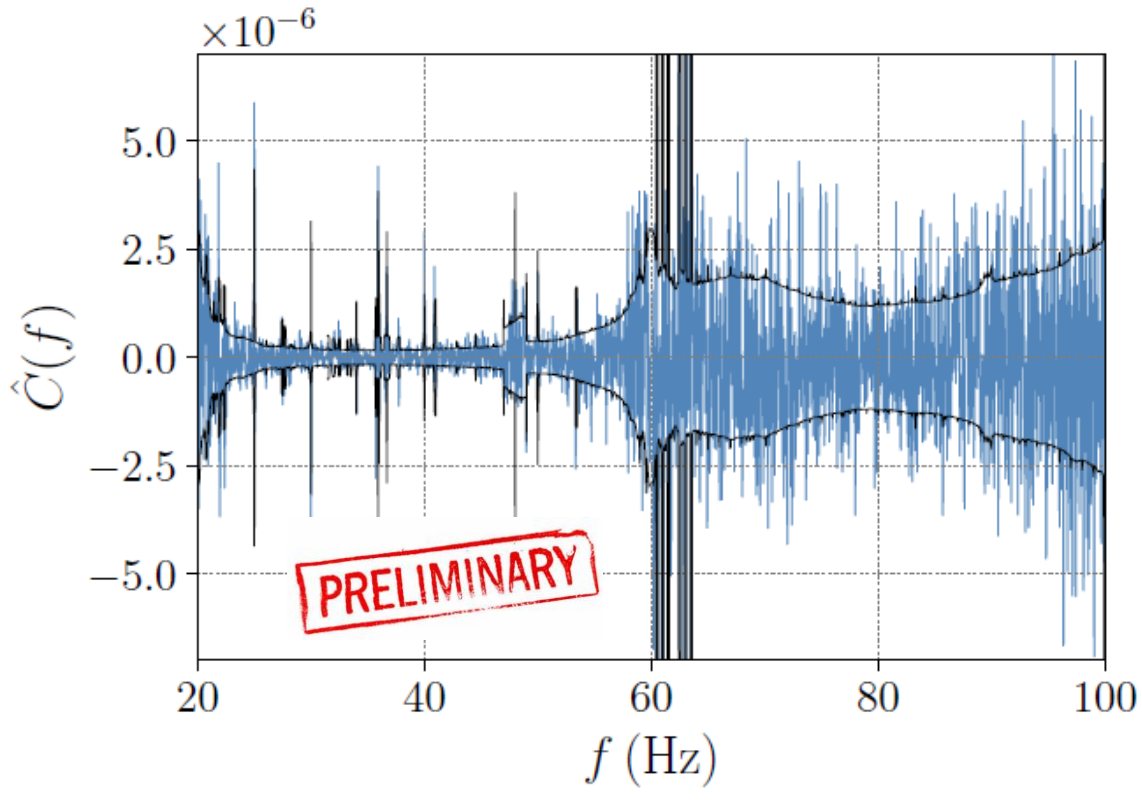


# Results from O1+O2+O3!

To be submitted on Monday!

DCC link: <https://dcc.ligo.org/P2000314>

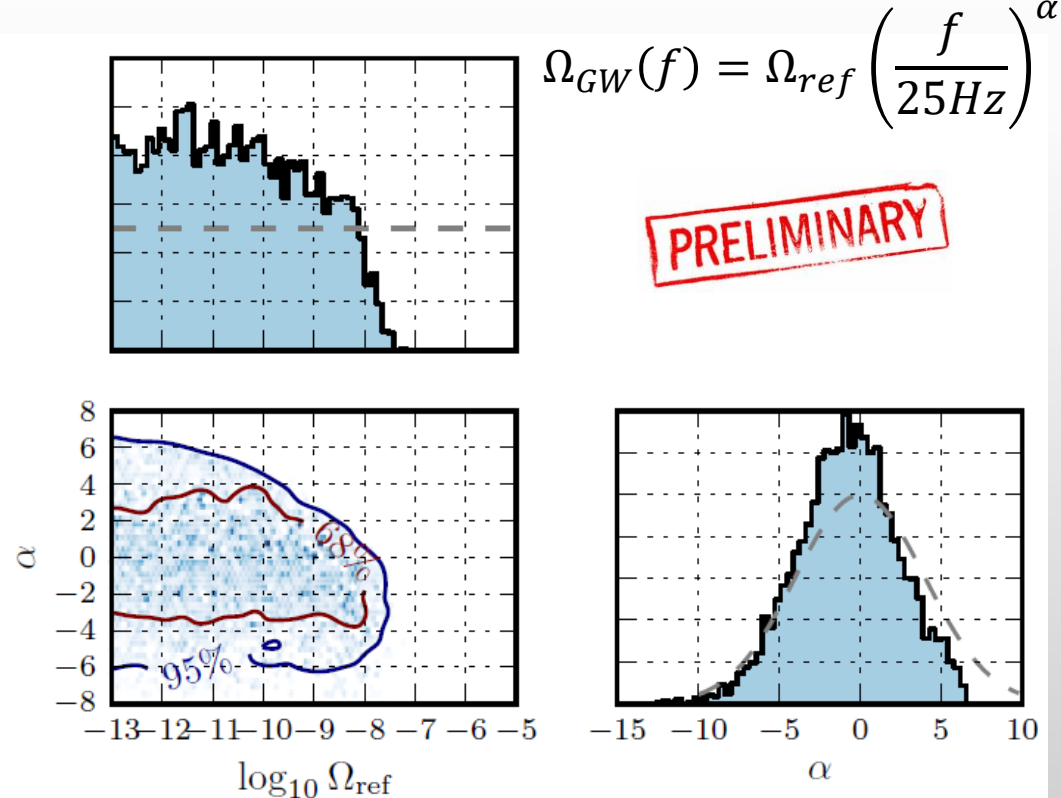
Combined cross correlation spectrum, in absence of correlated noise :  $\hat{C}(f) = \Omega_{GW}(f)$



Upper limits on  $\Omega_{ref}(25Hz)$  at 95% confidence level for various spectral indices:

$\alpha$	Uniform prior			Log-uniform prior		
	O3	O2 [43]	Improvement	O3	O2 [43]	Improvement
0	$1.5 \times 10^{-8}$	$6.0 \times 10^{-8}$	3.9	$5.8 \times 10^{-9}$	$3.5 \times 10^{-8}$	6.0
2/3	$1.1 \times 10^{-8}$	$4.8 \times 10^{-8}$	4.5	$3.4 \times 10^{-9}$	$3.0 \times 10^{-8}$	8.8
3	$1.2 \times 10^{-9}$	$7.9 \times 10^{-9}$	6.4	$3.9 \times 10^{-10}$	$5.1 \times 10^{-9}$	13.1
Marg.	$2.6 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.1 \times 10^{-7}$	4.3	$6.7 \times 10^{-9}$	$3.4 \times 10^{-8}$	5.1

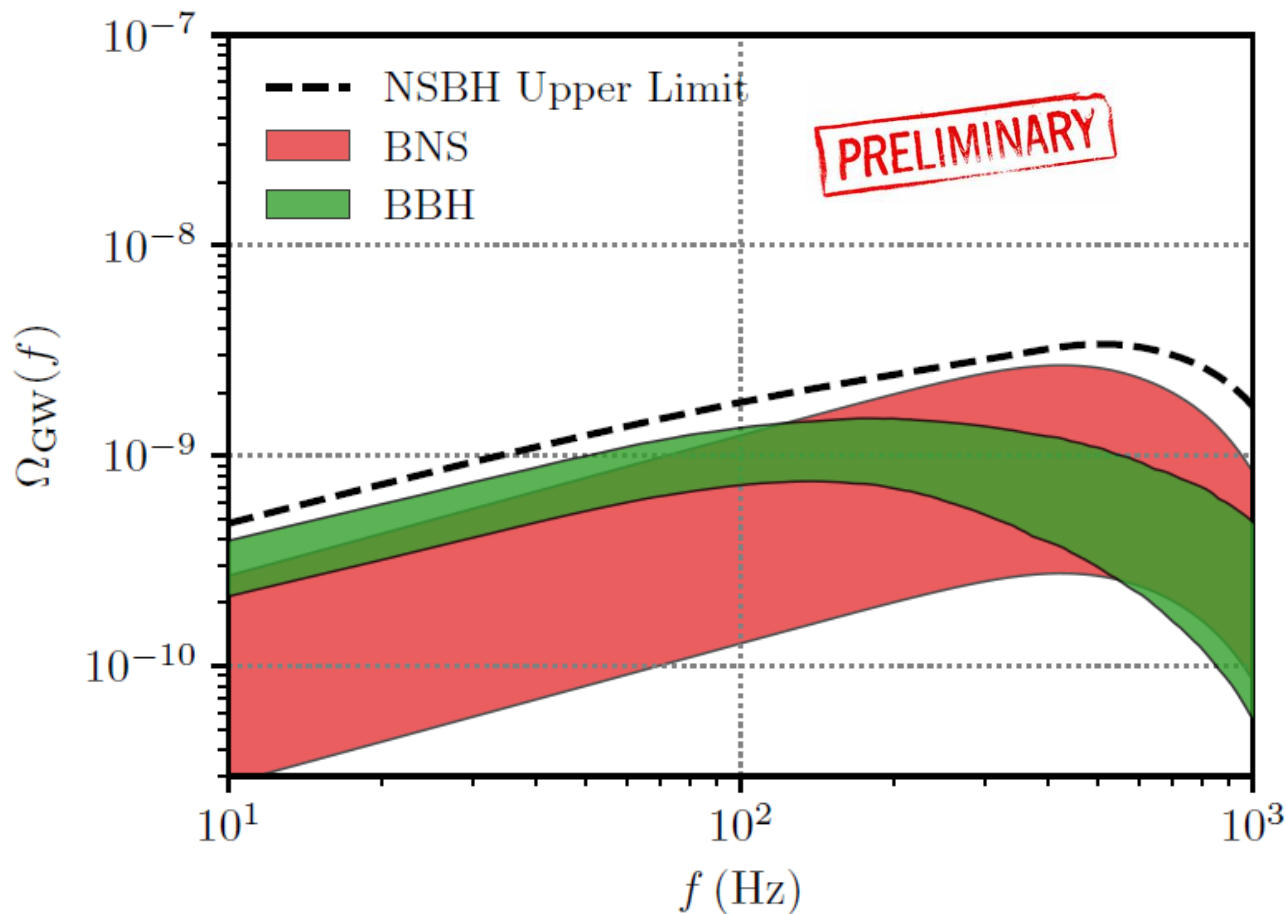
Posterior probabilities for magnitude and spectral index



# Results from O3!

To be submitted on Monday!

DCC link: <https://dcc.ligo.org/P2000314>



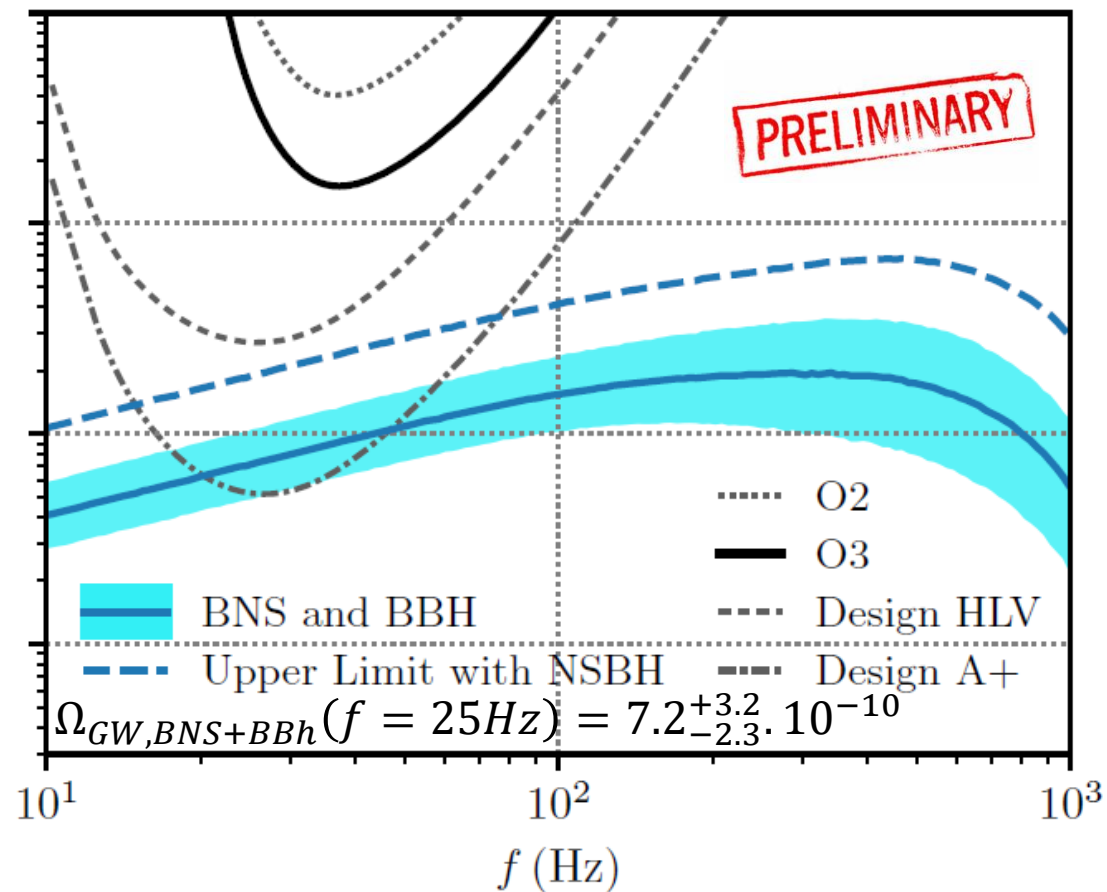
Fiducial model predictions updated with GWTC-2 catalog!

BBH:

- Metallicity weighted star formation rate used,
- mass and spin distributions included in model
- Broken power law for mass distribution

BNS: reduced poisson uncertainties due to 2nd detection

Note: PI sensitivity curves at  $2\sigma$  threshold!



# Future Avenues (selection of)

- Bayesian optimal search:

Bibliography:

[R. Smith and E. Thrane, “Optimal Search for an Astrophysical Gravitational-Wave Background”, Phys. Rev. X 8, 021019 (2018)]

- Subtracting (large statistics samples of) single detections from data:

Bibliography:

[T. Regimbau, et al., “Digging deeper: Observing primordial gravitational waves below the binary black hole produced stochastic background”, Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) 15, 151105]

- Optimal combination of signals from co-located detectors, null stream:

Bibliography:

[ J. Harms et al., “Subtraction-noise projection in gravitational-wave detector networks”, Phys.Rev.D 77 (2008) 123010

A. Lazzarini et al., “Optimal combination of signals from co-located gravitational wave interferometers for use in searches for a stochastic background”, Phys.Rev.D 70 (2004) 062001

T. Regimbau, et al, “A Mock Data Challenge for the Einstein Gravitational-Wave Telescope”, Phys. Rev. D 86, 122001 (2012)]

# Bayesian Search

[R. Smith and E. Thrane, Phys. Rev. X 8, 021019 (2018)] [skippable]

- Ideally for non-Gaussian stochastic background (i.e. low duty cycle events, with no overlap)
- Split data in small time segments where you expect small probability  $\xi \ll 1$  that a segment contains one (small significance) BBH event
- Construct segment-by segment likelihood for signal and null (or bg) hypothesis

$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{s}_i|\xi) = \xi \mathcal{Z}_S^i + (1 - \xi) \mathcal{Z}_N^i \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{Z}_N^i = \mathcal{L}(\vec{s}_i|0) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{Z}_S^i = \int d\theta \mathcal{L}(\vec{s}_i|\theta) \pi(\theta)$$

Construct test statistic

Model dependent and computationally intensive

$$\mathcal{Z}_{stoch} = \int d\xi \prod_{i=1}^{n_{seg}} \mathcal{L}(\vec{s}_i|\xi) \pi(\xi)$$

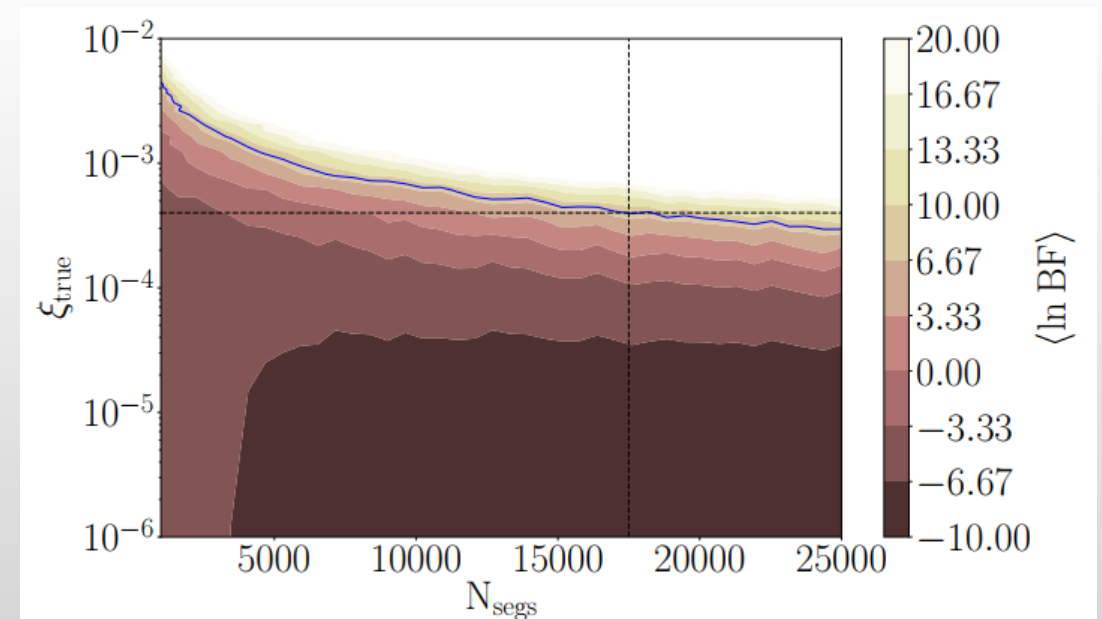
$$\mathcal{Z}_0 = \prod_{i=1}^{n_{seg}} \mathcal{L}(\vec{s}_i|\xi = 0) \quad \text{And bayes factor} \quad BF = \mathcal{Z}_{stoch} / \mathcal{Z}_0$$

For segments of 4 sec, expected  $\xi = 4 \cdot 10^{-4}$

$\log(BF) > 8$  attainable for ~20hrs of data with A+-sensitivity

BUT, assumes

- stationary and gaussian noise
- Relatively simple signal model(s) (computer intensive)



# Subtraction method

[T. Regimbau, et al. Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) 15, 151105]

- Assuming BBH mergers will dominate the stochastic Bg
- BBH signals do not overlap (BNS will overlap)
- Similar fiducial models as before (A and B use different mass distributions for the primaries or component masses)
- Remove all CBC detectable sources with SNR > 12 from data

• Increased sensitivities allow for more efficient detection, ie. Removal

• No subtraction:  
 $[\Omega_{GW}(10\text{Hz})]_{BBH} = 6 \cdot 10^{-10}$

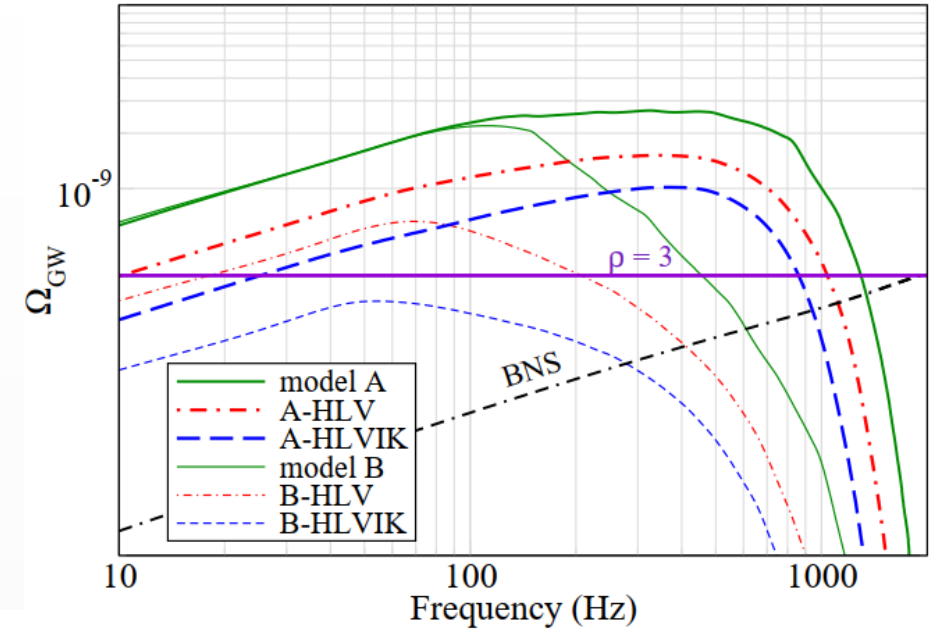
• Subtract all SNR > 12 events

$$[\Omega_{GW}(f)]_{min}^{A+} > 10^{-10}$$

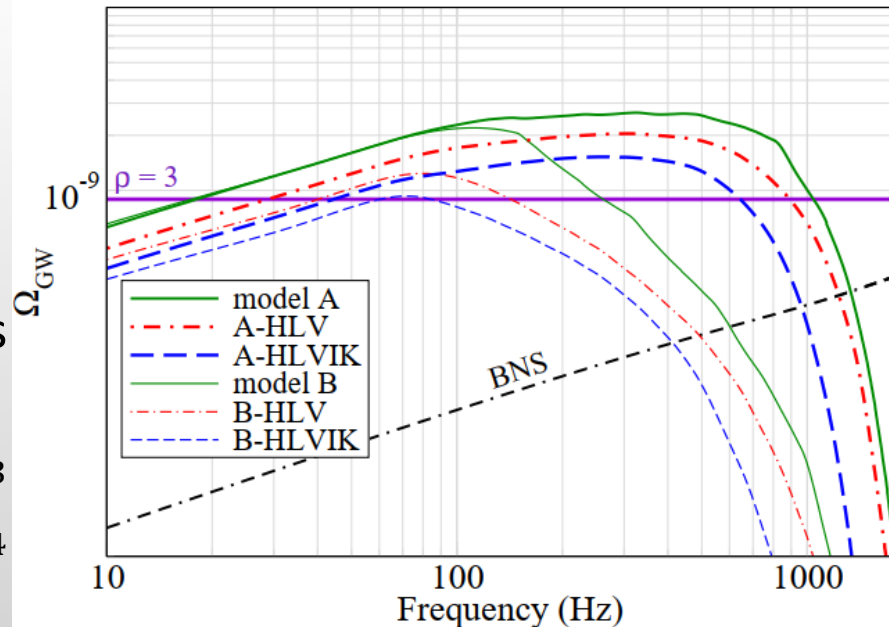
$$[\Omega_{GW}(f)]_{min}^{3 \times 3G} > 10^{-14} - 10^{-13}$$

$$[\Omega_{GW}(f)]_{min}^{5 \times 5G} > 10^{-16} - 10^{-14}$$

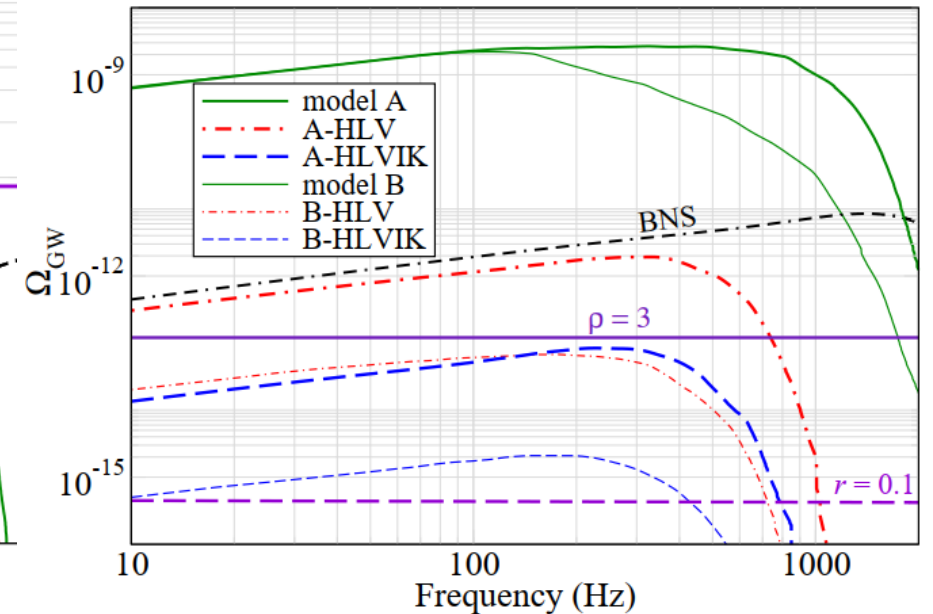
Sensitivity: A+ Detectors [skippable]



Sensitivity: Advanced Detectors



Sensitivity: CE and ET Detectors





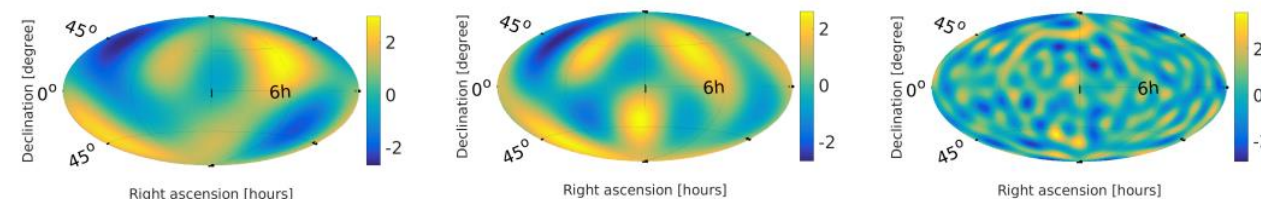
[skippable]

# NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!



- DIRECTIONAL STOCHASTIC BG SEARCHES

[B. P. Abbott et al. (LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D 100, 062001 (2019)]



- PULSAR TIMING ARRAYS

[Z. Arzoumanian et al. (The NANOGrav Collaboration), The Astrophysical Journal Letters, Volume 905, Number 2 (2020)]

