

From **public alerts** to **gravitational-wave candidates** during the **LIGO-Virgo** third observation run **O3**

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European Gravitational Observatory (Consortium, CNRS & INFN)

On behalf of the **Virgo Collaboration** and the **LIGO Scientific Collaboration**

[VIR-0158A-20](#)

[DCC G2000184](#)

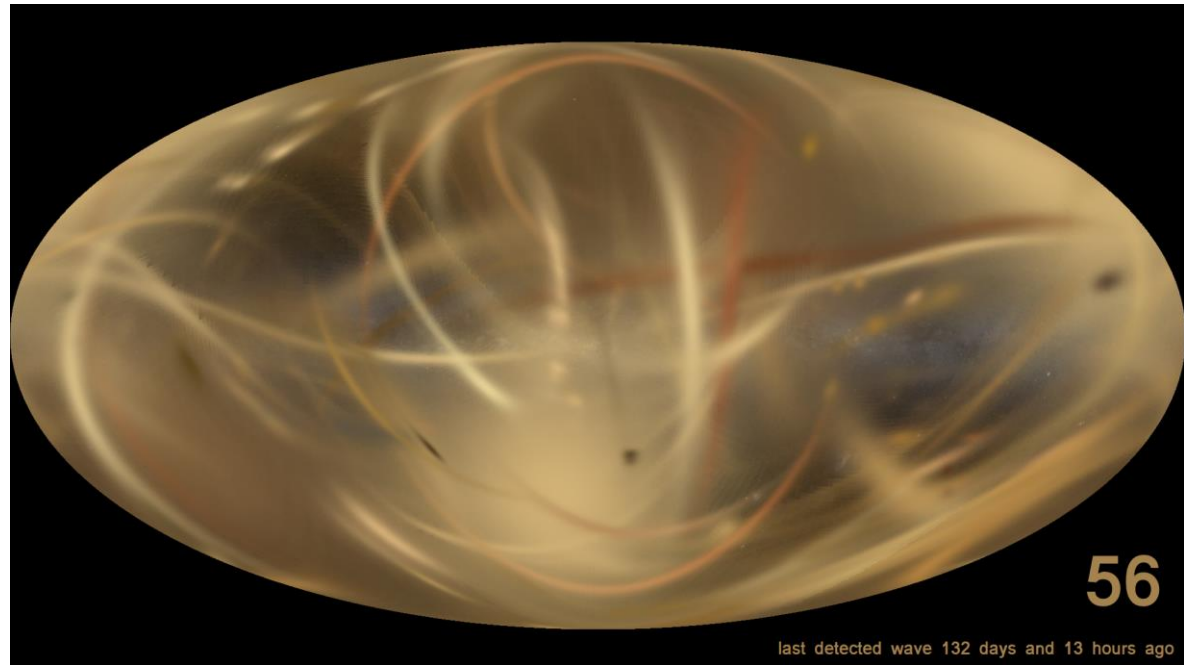


ICHEP – July 29, 2020



Outline

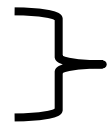
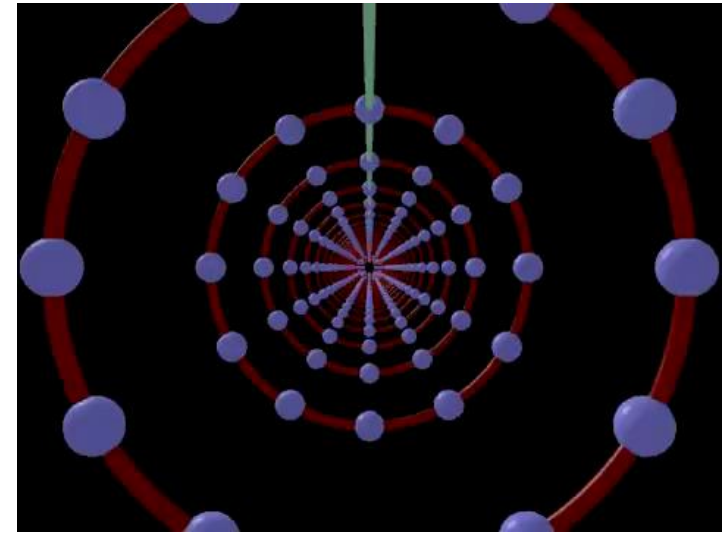
- Detecting gravitational waves with the global LIGO-Virgo network
- The LIGO-Virgo third Observing Run: O3
- Detector Characterization and Data Quality
- Public alerts
 - Dataflow and associated latency
 - Vetting alerts in real time with data quality reports
 - Statistics for O3
- Outlook
 - The path to the fourth Observing Run: O4



<https://gwevents.ego-gw.it/counter>

Gravitational waves (GW) in a nutshell

- One of the first predictions of general relativity (GR, 1916)
 - Accelerated masses induce perturbations of the fabric of the spacetime, propagating at the speed of light – ‘speed of gravity’
- Traceless and transverse (tensor) waves
 - 2 polarizations in GR: « + » and « × »
 - Quadrupolar radiation
 - Deviation from axisymmetry to emit GW
- GW strain h
 - Dimensionless, scales like $1/\text{distance}$
- Detectors directly sensitive to h
 - Small sensitivity gains can lead to large improvements in event rate
- Rough classification
 - Signal duration
 - Frequency range
 - Known/unknown waveform
 - Any/no counterpart (electromagnetic spectrum, neutrinos, etc.) expected



Detectable by the instruments

Example (*): the Advanced Virgo detector

- Suspended, power-recycled Michelson interferometer with 3-km long Fabry-Perot cavities in the arms

- Working point

- **Michelson on the dark fringe**
- **All Fabry-Perot cavities resonant**

→ Feedback control systems acting on the mirror positions and on the laser

- GW passing through

- **Differential effect on the arm optical paths**

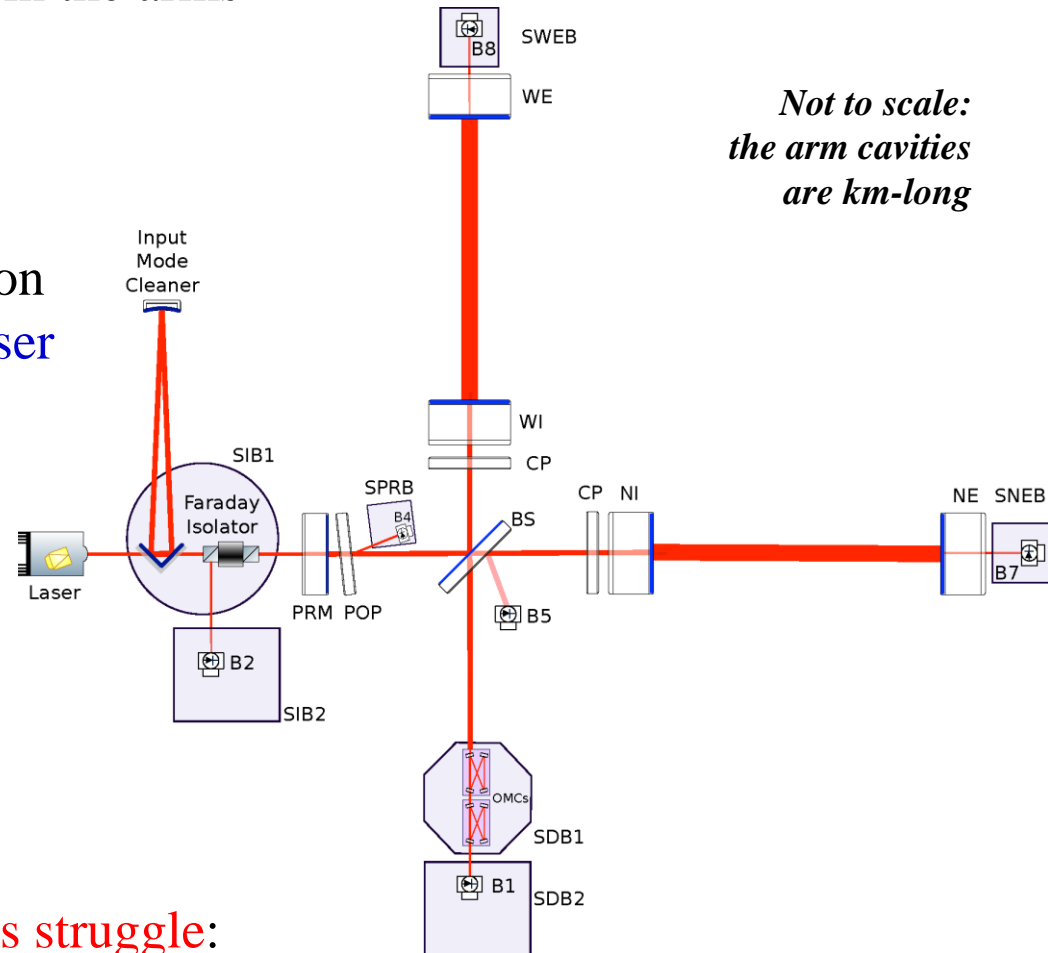
→ Change of interference condition at the detector output

→ Variation of the detected power

- **Sensitivity limited by noises**

- Fundamental
- Technical
- Environmental

Continuous struggle:
design, improvement,
noise hunting, mitigation



*Not to scale:
the arm cavities
are km-long*

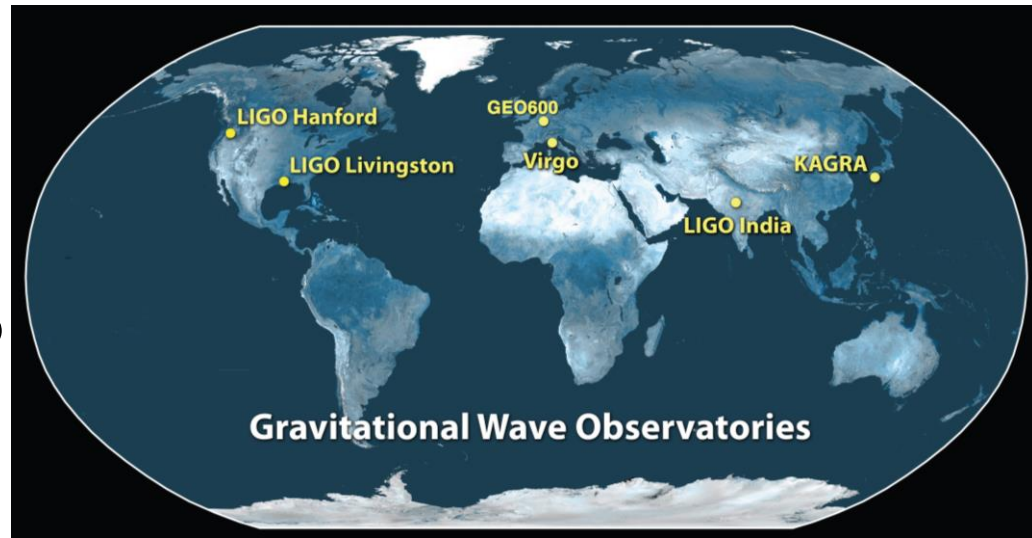
(*): *LIGO detectors are conceptually the same*

The LIGO-Virgo global network

- A single interferometer is not enough to detect GW with certainty
 - Difficult to separate confidently a potential signal from noise

→ Need to use a **network of interferometers**

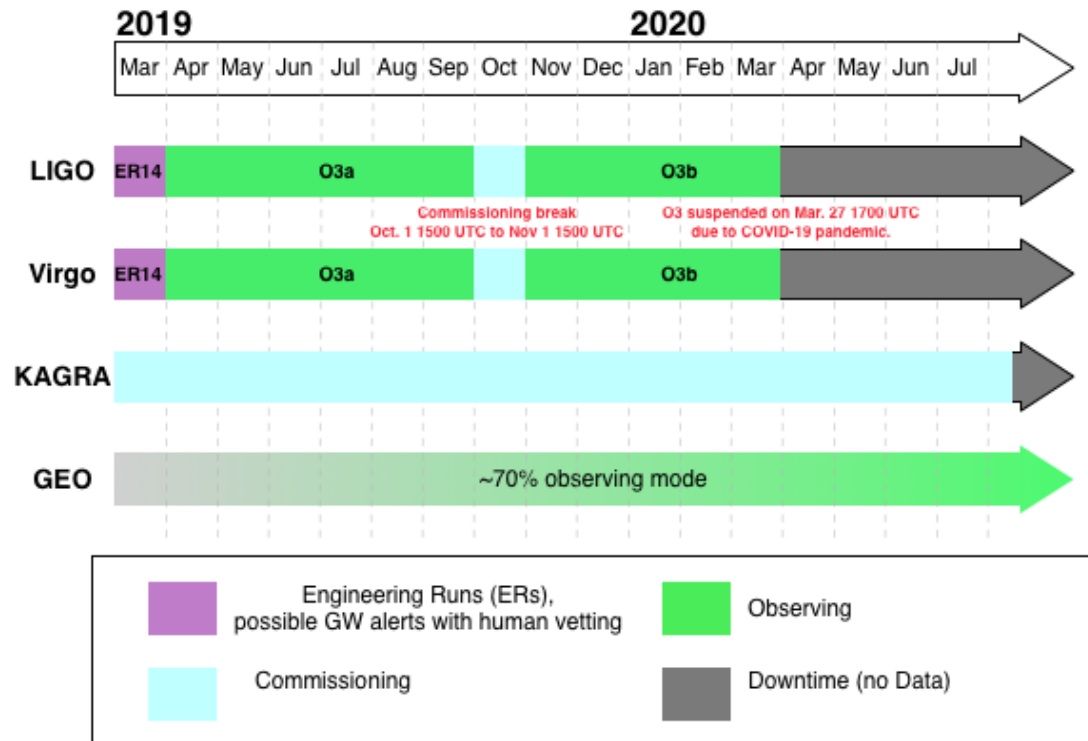
- 2nd generation: « **Advanced** »
 - ◆ **LIGO Hanford**: 2015
 - ◆ **LIGO Livingston**: 2015
 - ◆ **Virgo**: 2017
- **GEO-600**: « Astrowatch » + R&D
- **KAGRA**: 2020+
- **LIGO-India**: coming decade



- Agreements (MOUs) between the different projects – **Virgo/LIGO**: since 2007
 - **Share data, common analysis, publish together** **Virgo-LIGO/KAGRA**: 2019
- Interferometers are **non-directional detectors**
 - Sensitive to a significant fraction of the sky but non-uniform response
 - Time delays for the signal arrival in the different instruments: $O(\text{few ms})$
 - **Threefold detection**: **reconstruct source location in the sky**

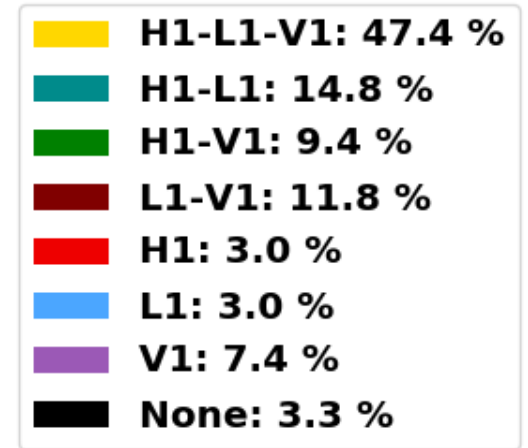
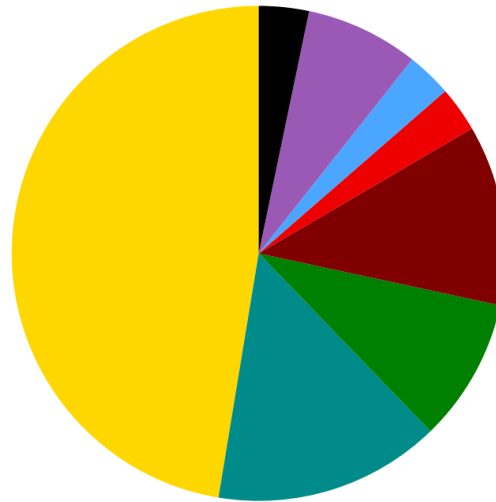
The O3 schedule

- **Early plan**
 - 12 months of data taking: 2019/04 → 2020/04
 - 2 chunks of 6 months (O3a and O3b) + 1-month commissioning break (2019/10)
- Then came the **pandemic**...
 - O3 run globally suspended on March 27
 - Later decision not to start an « O3c » and to **focus on the O3-O4 upgrades**



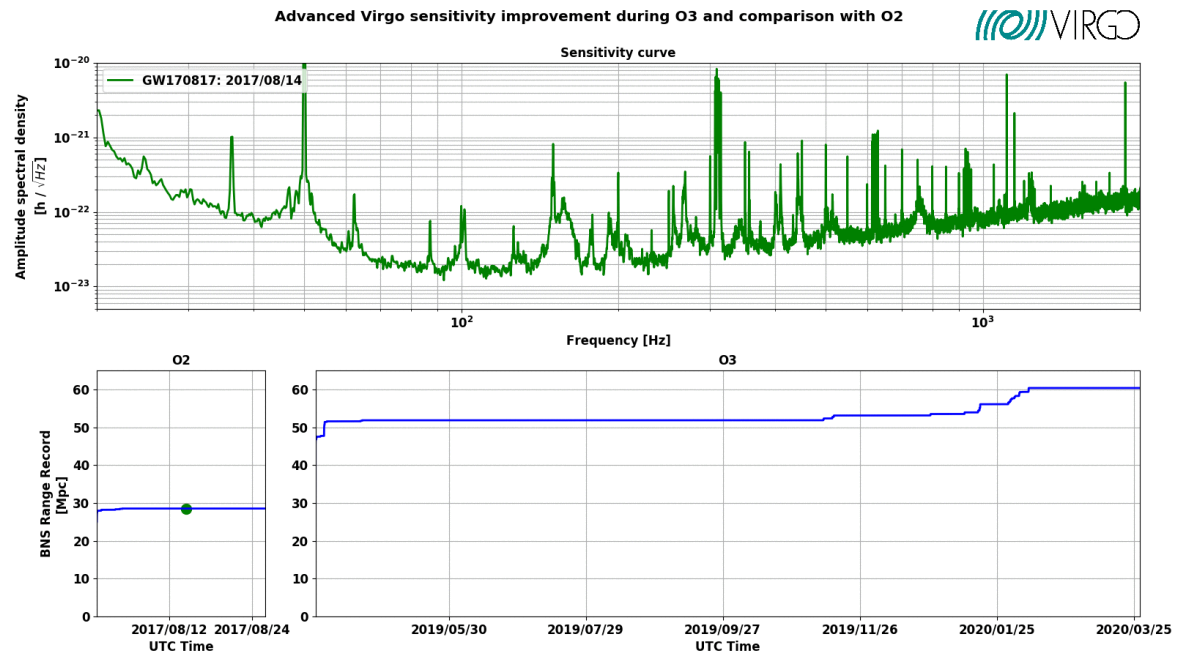
O3 performance

- 3-Detector network duty cycle



- O2-O3 sensitivity improvement for Virgo

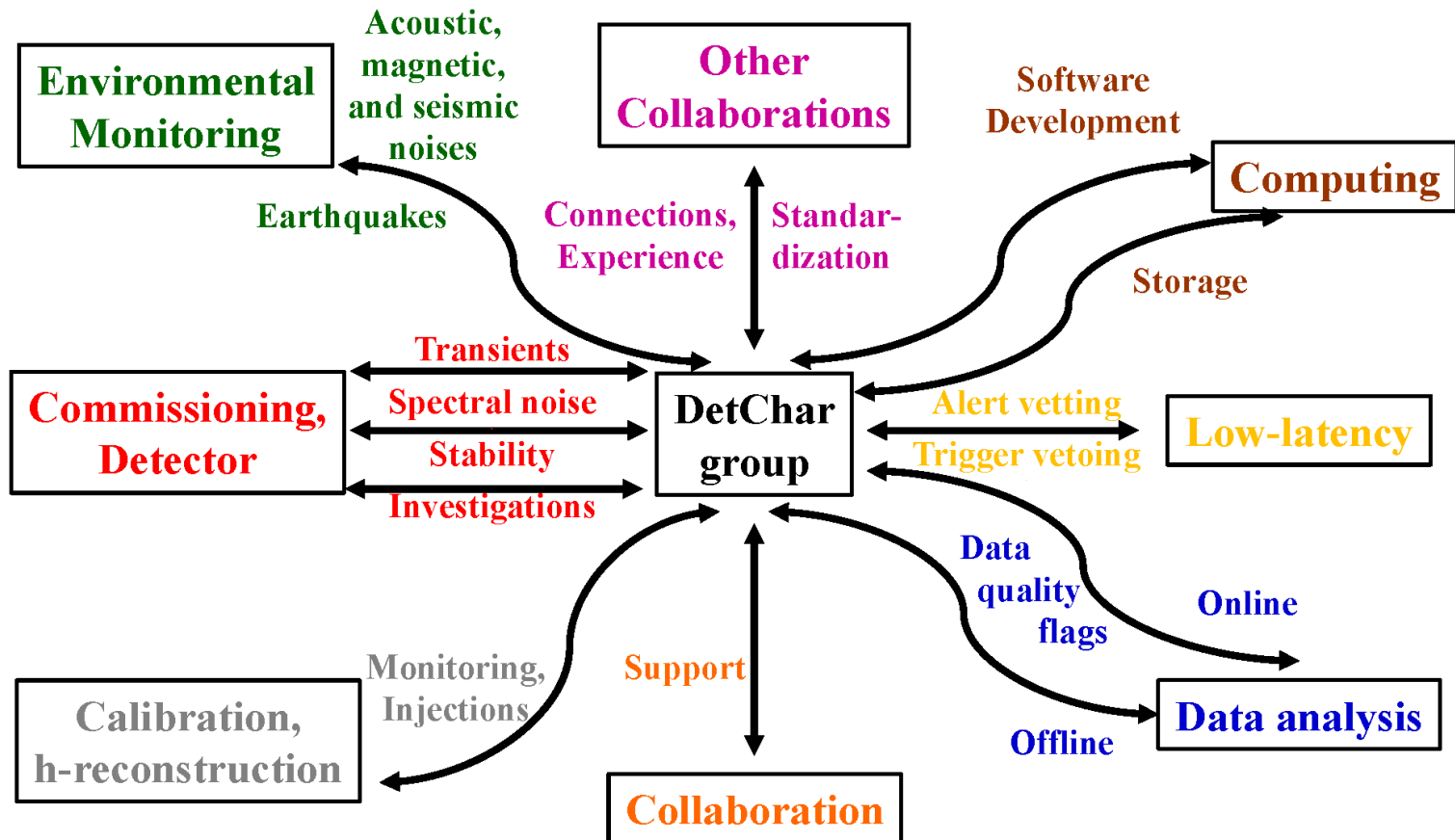
- Significant progress for the LIGO detectors as well



Detector characterization and data quality

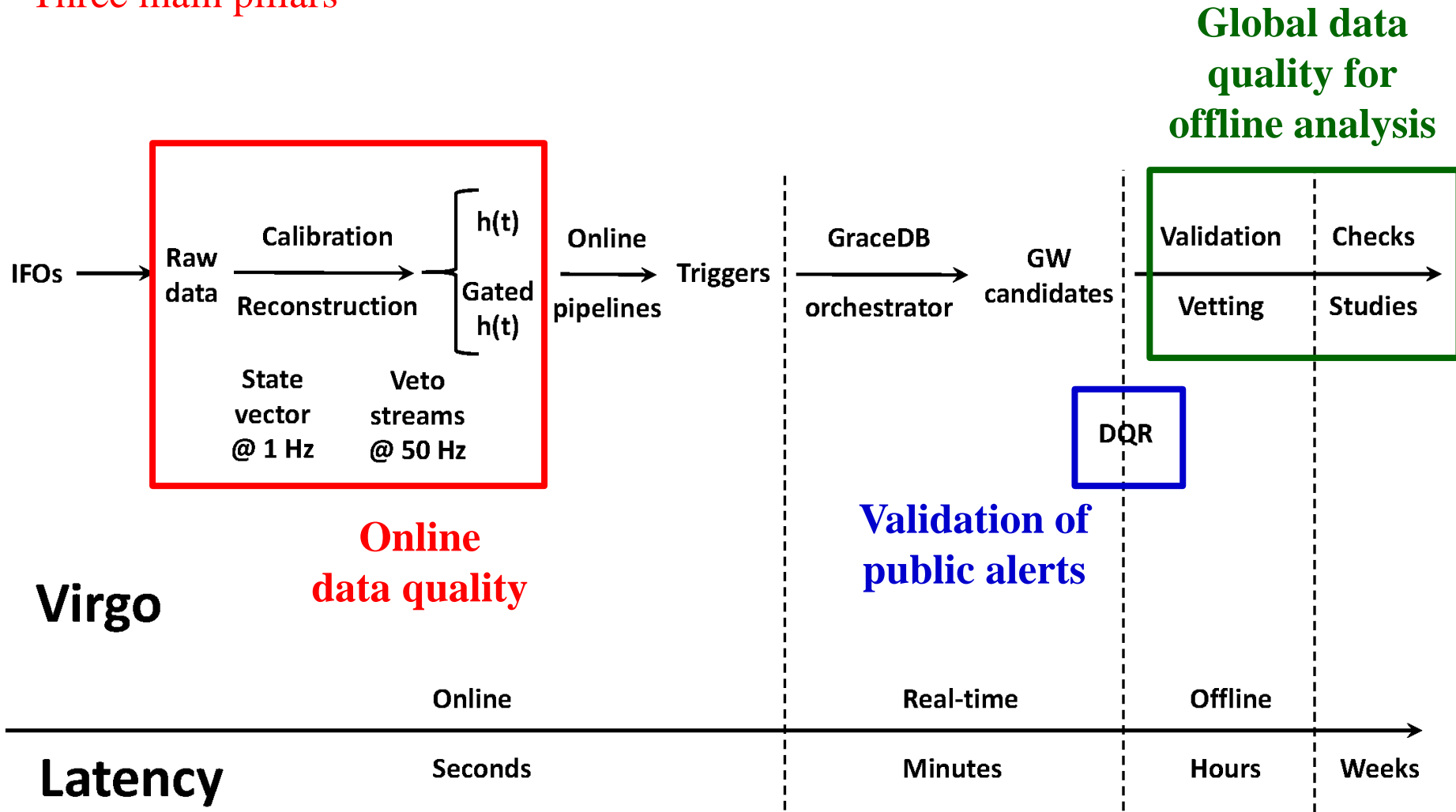
- « **DetChar** » groups
 - Experiment-specific but **collaborating closely**
 - ◆ Same goals, similar issues, tools sharing

→ Interacting with many groups, on different **critical paths** at **various stages / latencies**



Dataflow: from raw data to detections

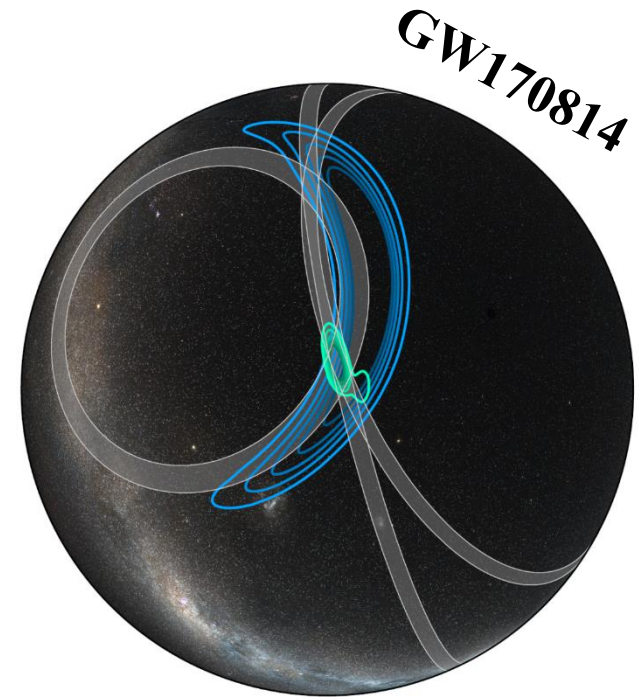
- Three main pillars



- Plus **monitoring**: online & offline products

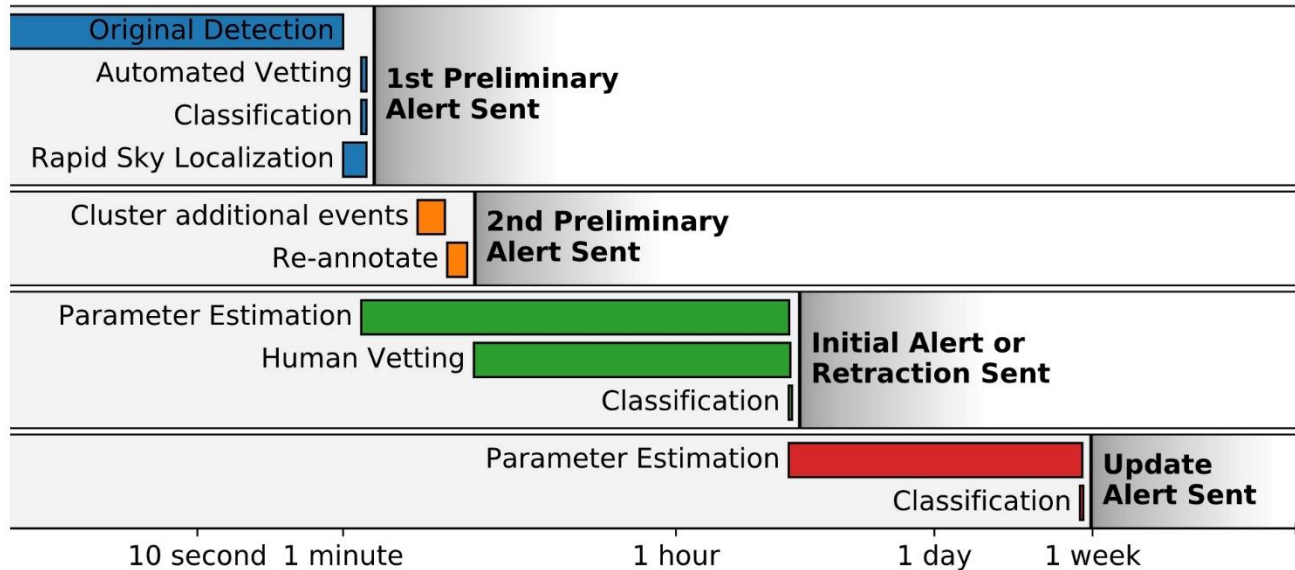
O3 public alerts

- More information: <https://emfollow.docs.ligo.org/userguide>
- **LIGO-Virgo data are jointly analyzed in real-time**
 - **Modelled** searches: compact binary coalescences
 - **Unmodelled** searches: « bursts » (Type-II supernovae, etc.)
 - **Coincidence with external triggers** (γ ray bursts)
- **Twofold goal**
 - ◆ **Detect**
 - ◆ **Localize** } potential transient GW signals
- **Arrival time delays in the different detectors**
- **Waveform distortions**
- **When a significant-enough candidate is found**
 - **False-alarm rate lower than 1 / O(few months)**
- **Alert sent to astronomers in order to search for counterparts**
 - Through **NASA's Gamma-ray Coordinates Network (GCN)**



O3 public alerts

- Alert flow



- Human vetting for all alerts during O3

- On-call experts (run coordinators, pipelines, DetChar, offline, etc.) notified
→ Rapid response team meeting convoked right away
- Public alerts can be retracted

- Actual latencies:

- ~few minutes for preliminary
 - ~few tens of minutes for alerts
- } O3 median values
- ◆ Quicker decision in average to retract an alert

O3 public alerts

- Gravitational-Wave Candidate Event Database: « **GraceDB** »
 - <https://gracedb.ligo.org/superevents/public/O3>
 - Online classification + **skymap**

GraceDB — Gravitational-Wave Candidate Event Database

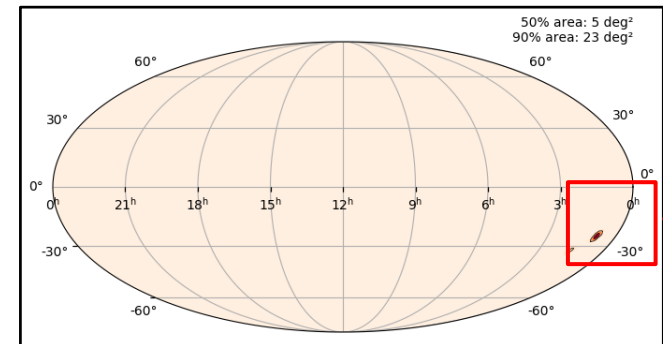
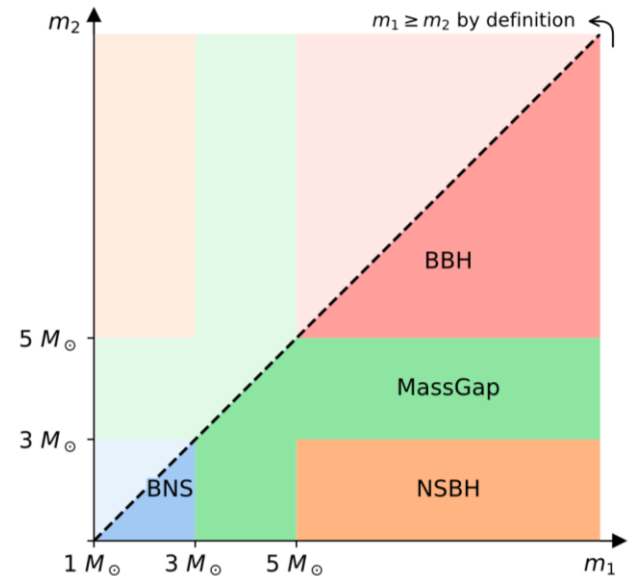
HOME PUBLIC ALERTS SEARCH LATEST DOCUMENTATION

LIGO/Virgo O3 Public Alerts

Detection candidates: 56

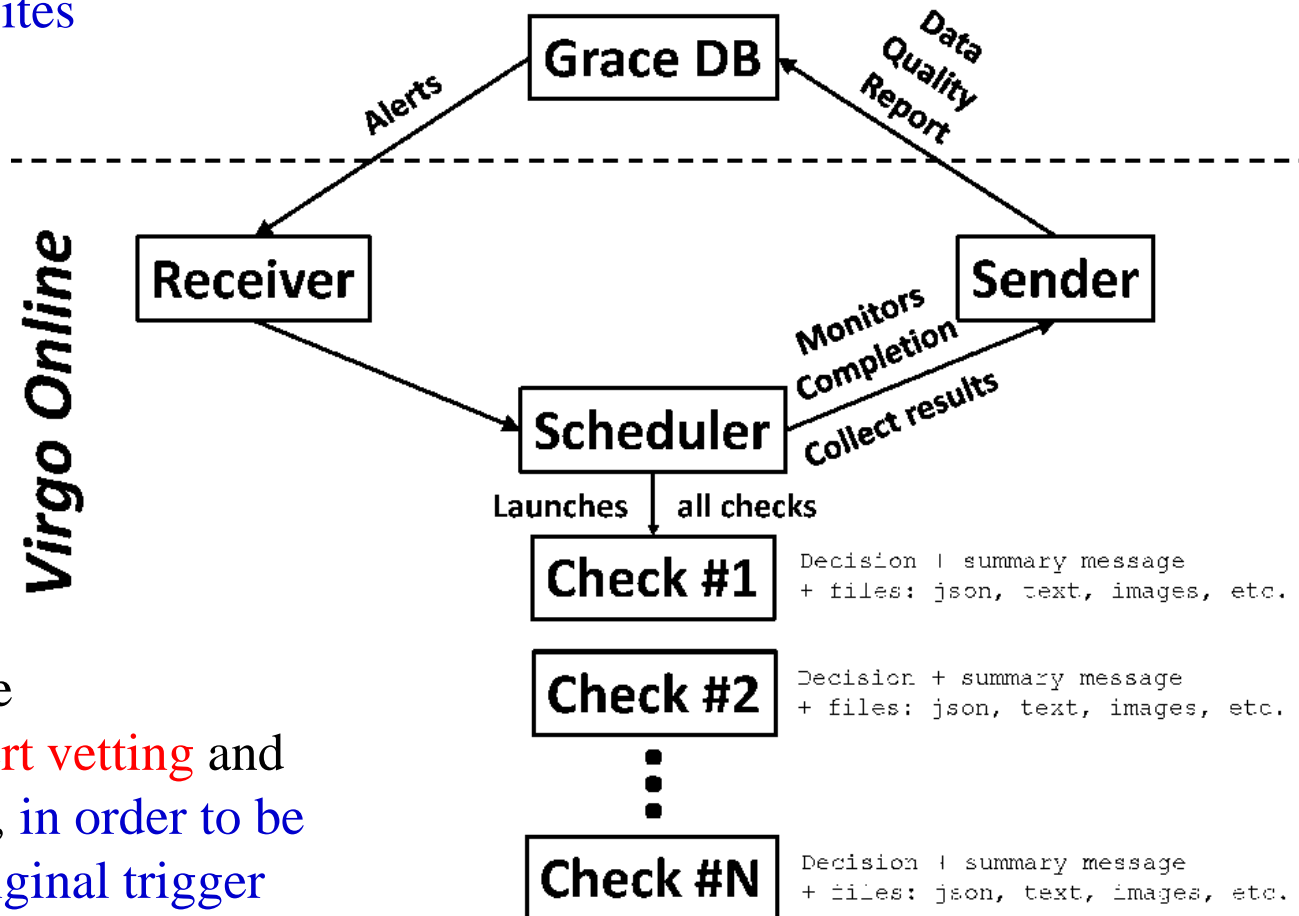
SORT: EVENT ID (A-Z)

Event ID	Possible Source (Probability)	UTC	GCN	Location	FAR	Comments
S200316bj	MassGap (>99%)	March 16, 2020 21:57:56 UTC	GCN Circulars Notices VOE		1 per 446.44 years	
S200311bg	BBH (>99%)	March 11, 2020 11:58:53 UTC	GCN Circulars Notices VOE		1 per 3.5448e+17 years	
S200308e	NSBH (83%), Terrestrial (17%)	March 8, 2020 01:19:27 UTC	GCN Circulars Notices VOE		1 per 8.757 years	RETRACTED
S200303ba	BBH (86%), Terrestrial (14%)	March 3, 2020 12:15:48 UTC	GCN Circulars Notices VOE		1 per 2.4086 years	RETRACTED
S200302c	BBH (89%), Terrestrial (11%)	March 2, 2020 01:58:11 UTC	GCN Circulars Notices VOE		1 per 3.3894 years	



Data quality reports: vetting the alerts

- Triggers produced by online pipelines create new entries in GraceDB
- These triggers generate alerts that are received at the sites
- Alerts significant enough trigger a **Data Quality Report (DQR)**
 - Generation
 - Configuration
 - Running on EGO HTCondor farm
- Results of the checks are
 - stored locally for expert vetting and
 - sent back to GraceDB, in order to be associated with the original trigger



Example: the Virgo data quality reports

- At the end of O3: 34 checks, 99 jobs in total
 - (Configuration) / Running / Postprocessing / Upload back to GraceDB
- Key checks
 - Virgo detector configuration
 - Time-frequency spectrograms of the GW strain channel
 - ◆ Superimpose trigger template track when possible
 - Scan of the main online data quality flags
- Virgo noise characterization
 - Noise transients
 - Look for noise correlations (time)
 - Browse noise coherences (frequency)
 - Noise Gaussianity and stationary
- Environment status
 - Local earthquakes
 - Weather, sea activity
- Virgo status
 - Complete data quality flags scan
 - Browse online process logfiles to search for errors
 - Snapshot of the global monitoring system – displaying alarms and warnings
 - Data/reference comparison plots
- Misc.
 - Check of the event GPS time

Example: the Virgo data quality reports

- **O(15,000) DQRs generated during O3 to respond to all GraceDB alerts**
 - ~10% had false alarm rate low enough (still much higher than public alert threshold) to have their DQR fully processed automatically
- Overall: extremely reliable framework
 - **Continuous development during O3**
 - ◆ Bug fixes, code improvement, feedback from user, additional features
 - ◆ New checks added

- Each DQR has its own summary webpage allowing to browse results
 - **Color code**
 - **Hierarchical structure**
 - **Buttons leading to more information and some documentation**

- Original framework developed in LIGO
 - Reused on Virgo

Data Quality Report for S190814bv
Event: GPS = 1249852257.012957 (2019-08-14 21:10:39.012957+00:00 UTC) -- DQR generation starting at 2019-08-14 21:17:39+00:00 UTC

Clickable buttons: GraceDB event, GraceDB joint LIGO-Virgo DQR, Condor monitoring

Color caption: pass [Data OK], fail [Data not OK], human_input_needed [No automated decision], error or bad_state [Code crash or processing problem], missing [Check still running], higher latency tier

Virgo DQR documentation: Introduction, Checks, FAQ, Instructions for shifters and RRT, For experts

LIGO DQR documentation: Introduction

THE MOST IMPORTANT CHECKS: TO BE CHECKED FIRST

Brute-force coherence reports (bruco), Is the candidate GPS time in Virgo suspicious?, Status of the Virgo systems, UPV on last 24 hours

Virgo data quality antifiags, Virgo data quality flags, Virgo glitch characterization

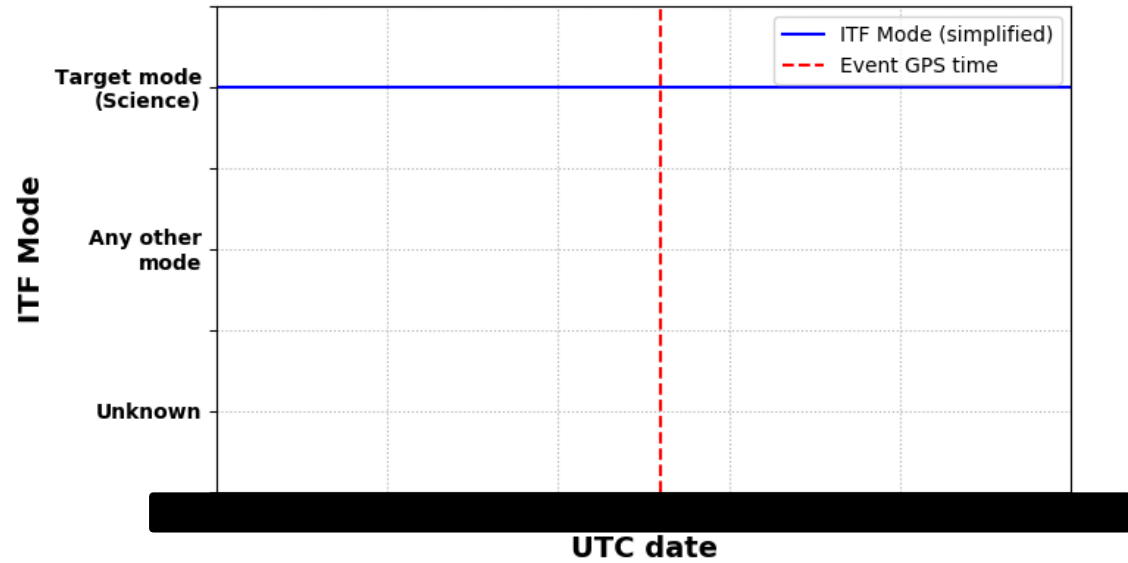
What was the Virgo noise stationarity while the candidate signal was observed?, What was the Virgo status while the candidate signal was observed?

What was the status of the environment around Virgo at the time of the candidate?

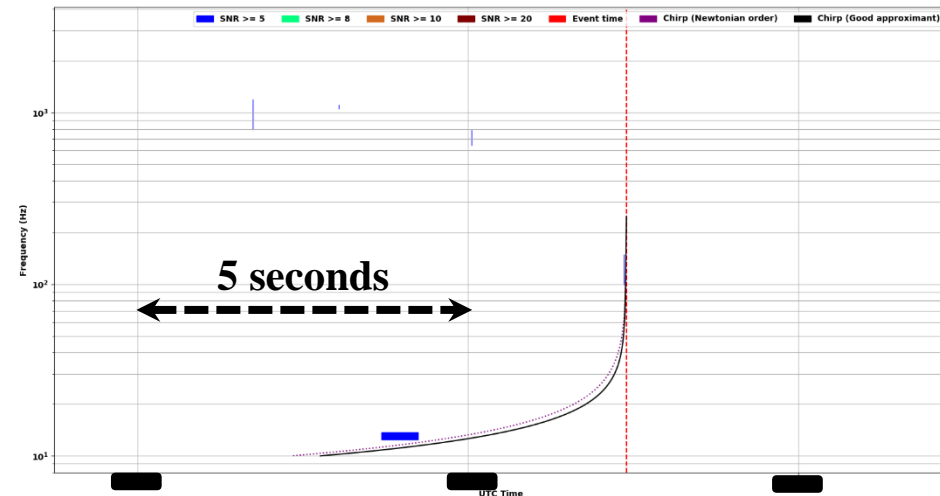
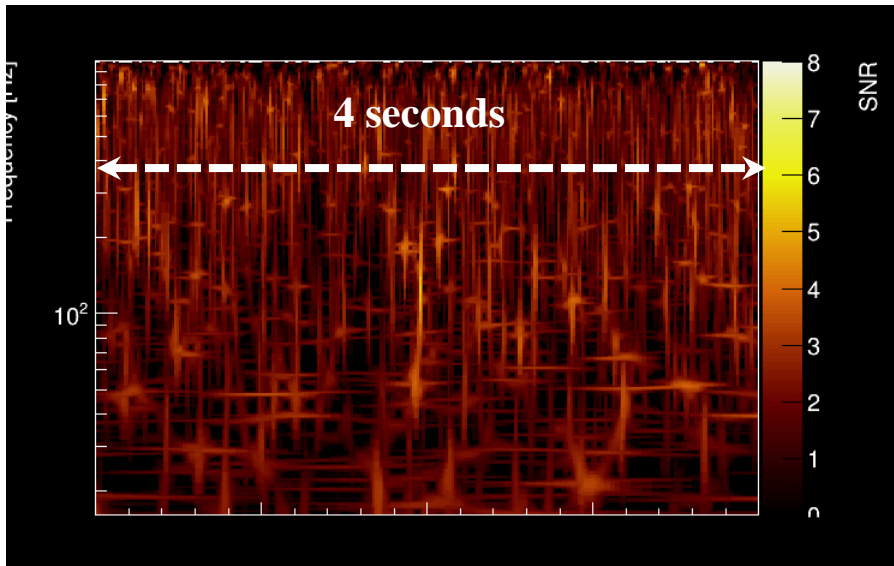
Virgo status (process: virgo_status) (V1)

Example: the Virgo data quality reports

- Virgo detector status



- Time-frequency spectrograms



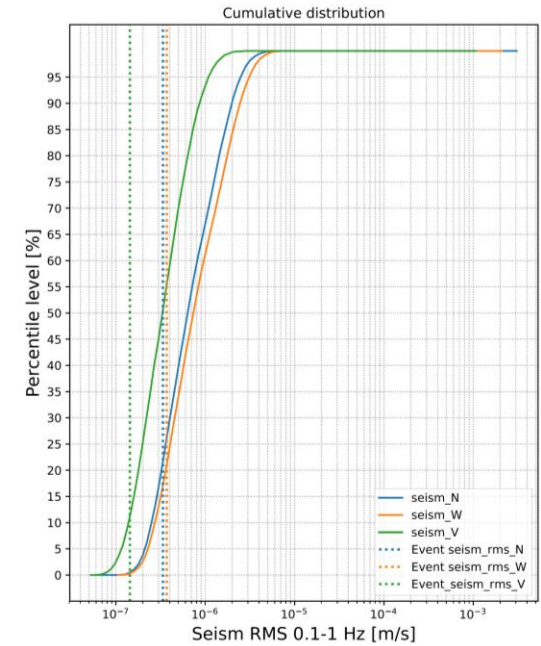
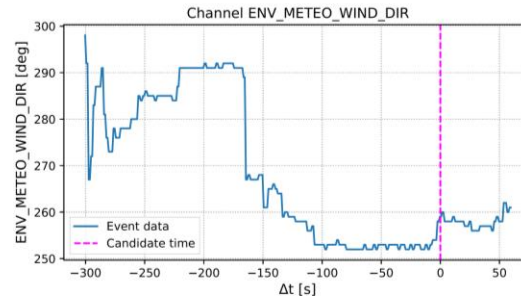
Example: the Virgo data quality reports

- **Detector monitoring system**
 - Snapshot recorded every 10 seconds
- Full tree / hierarchical structure

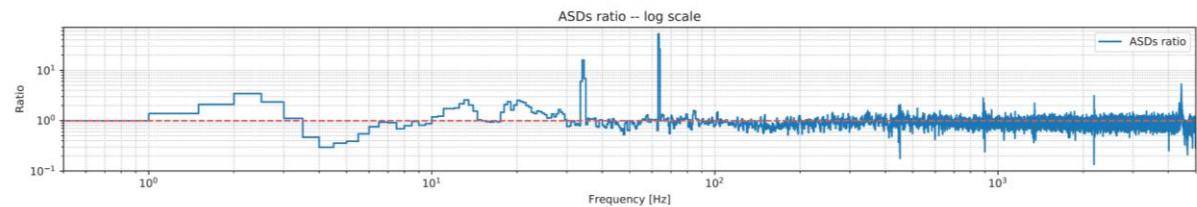
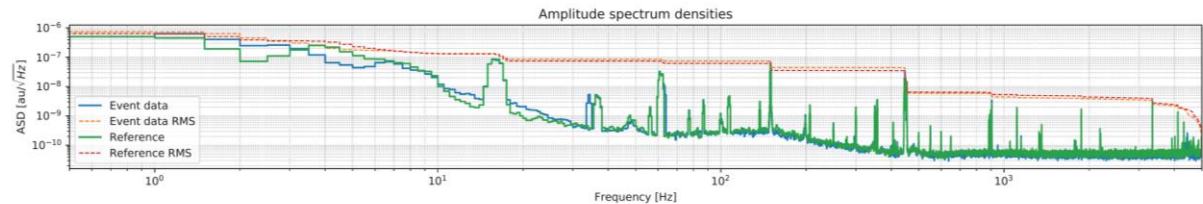
DMS												ITF Mode: Science (0d 1h 13m 14s)				ITF State: LOW_NOISE_3_SQZ (0d 0h 40m 49s)			
Injection	SIB1_IP		SIB1_BENCH		SIB1_BR		SIB1_Vert		SIB1_TE		SIB1_Guard		SIB1_Electr						
	MC_IP		MC_PAY		MC_BR		MC_Vert		MC_TE		MC_Guard		MC_Electr						
	Laser		LaserAmpli		LaserChiller		SL_TempController		RFC		LNFS		PC						
	MC_Power		PSTAB		IMC_AA		IMC_AA_GALVO		MC_F0_z		BPC		BPC_Electr						
Detection	PD		QPD_B1p		QPD_B2		QPD_B5		OMC		PicoDisable		Shutter						
	SDB1_IP		SDB1_LC		SDB1_BR		SDB1_Vert		SDB1_TE		SDB1_Guard		SDB1_Electr						
ISC	B2_8MHz_DPFI		B4_56MHz_DPFI		DARM_UGF		UNLOCK		SSFS_UGF		FmodErr		Etalon						
	GIPC		DARM_Corr		EQ_Mode		ViolinModes		B1p_DC		B4_112MHz_MAG		B7_DC						
Suspensions	BS_IP		BS_F7		BS_PAY		BS_BR		BS_Vert		BS_TE		BS_Guard						
	BS_Electr		NI_IP		NI_F7		NI_PAY		NI_BR		NI_Vert		NI_TE						
	NI_Guard		NI_Electr		NE_IP		NE_F7		NE_PAY		NE_BR		NE_Vert						
	NE_Guard		NE_Electr		PR_IP		PR_F7		PR_PAY		PR_BR		PR_Vert						
	PR_Guard		PR_Electr		SR_IP		SR_F7		SR_PAY		SR_BR		SR_Vert						
	SR_Guard		SR_Electr		WI_IP		WI_F7		WI_PAY		WI_BR		WI_Vert						
WI_Guard		WI_Electr		WE_IP		WE_F7		WE_PAY		WE_BR		WE_Vert							
WE_Guard		WE_Electr		CB_Hall		MC_Hall		TCS_zones		NE_Hall		WE_Hall							
WindActivity		Seismon		BRMSMon		IN1_Area		DET_Area		EE_Room		DAQ_Room							
External		DeadChannel		Lights		SeaActivity		WAB		ACS_CB_Hall		ACS_TCS_CHILROK							
ACS_TB		ACS_DAO_Room		ACS_EE_Room		ACS_MC		ACS_INJ		ACS_DET		ACS_NE							
ACS_WAB		UPS_TB		UPS_CB		UPS_MC		UPS_NE		UPS_WE		FlatChannel							
ExistChannel		ACS_WE		ACS_CB_CR		ACS_COB		SBE		EIB_SBE		SDB2_SBE							
SDB2_LC		SNEB_SBE		SNEB_LC		SWEB_SBE		SWEB_LC		SPRB_SBE		SPRB_LC							
TCS		NE_RH		WE_RH		NI_CO2_Laser		WI_CO2_Laser		Chillers		TCS_Electr							
SQZ		PLL		Squeezer		SQZ_AA		SQZ_Shutter		Cohe_CTRL		SQZ_Inj							
Rack_TE		Vacuum		LargeValves		Clean_Air		TubeStations		TubePumps		MiniTowers							
TurboLinks		RemDryPMP		VAC_SERVOS		Pressure		CompressedAir		TowerServers		TowerPumps							
CryoTrap		O2_Sensors		Tank		HLS		VPM		DetectorEnvironme		ControlRoom							
Minitowers		ISC		Injection		TCS		Suspension		Vacuum		Metatron							
DataCollection		Storage		DataAccess		Automation		DetChar		DetectorMonitoring		LowLatencyDataTransfer-RealLiveData							
BroadcastOnlineDataForCWB		DAQ-Computing		Latency		Disk		Timing		Timing_rtpc		Timing_dsp							
Fast_DAC		ADCs_TE		Daq_Boxes_TE		Domains		DMS_machines		DetOp_machines		olervers							
ENV_devices		VAC_devices		Calib_Hrec		CalNE		CalWE		CallNJ		CalBS							
CalPR		PCalNE		PCalWE		HOFT		NCAL		NoiseInjection		ITFOnCall							
SoftwareAI		TemperaturesAI		InjectionAI		UpsAI		GeneratorAI		TcsAI		DetChar-Ex.Trigger							
Hrec_RANGE_BNS		GraceDB_Alert		GRB_Alert		KAMLAND_Alert		SNEWS_Alert		STATE_VECTOR									

Example: the Virgo data quality reports

- Environment
 - Wind and seismic motion



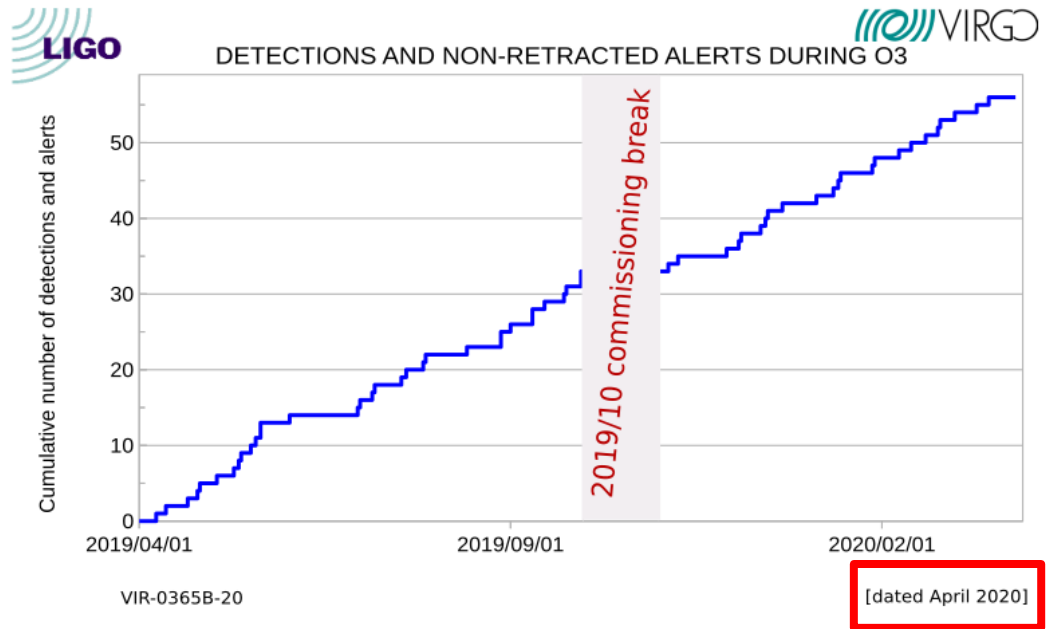
- Control signal spectra
 - Comparison to reference



	Event	Reference
Band RMS: 0.0 Hz -> 5000.0 Hz	7.516e-07 au	6.465e-07 au

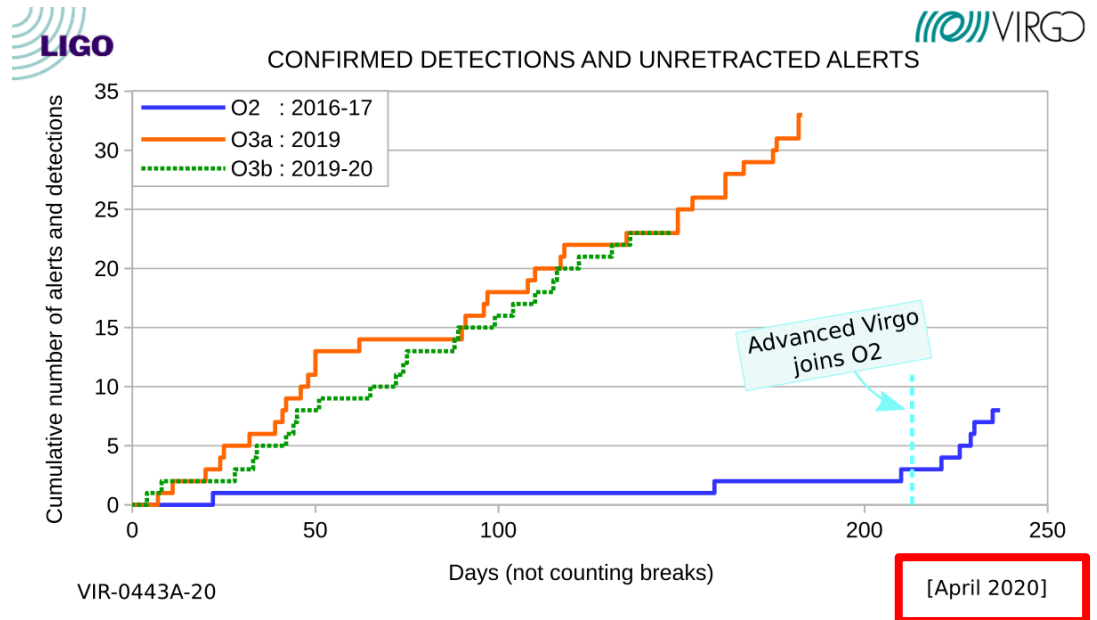
O3 public alerts

- 80 public alerts in O3
 - 24 retracted
 - ◆ Most of them are due to noise transient / unusual data quality condition that a single pipeline was not read to deal with
 - Fixed quickly and not recurring again



- 56 not retracted

- Comparison O2-O3
 - Good agreement between O3a and O3b



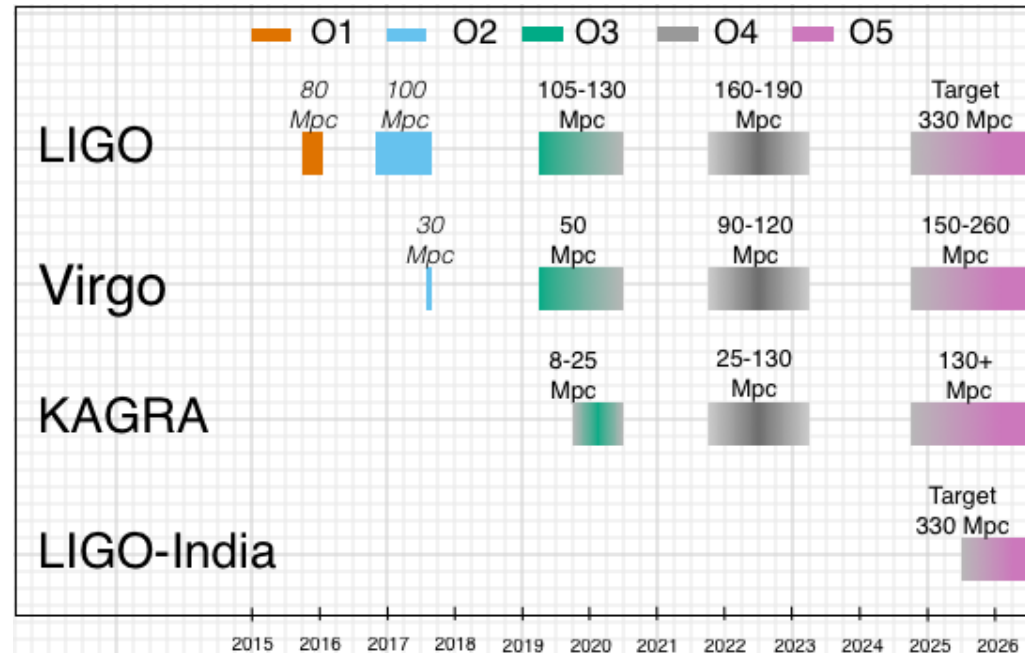
First published detections from O3

- **GW190425**
 - Likely the second binary neutron star merger detected – but no counterpart
 - Total mass larger than any known neutron star
 - **GW190412**
 - Asymmetric binary black hole merger: 30 vs. 8 solar masses
 - First observation of GW higher multipoles beyond the leading quadrupolar order
 - **GW190814**
 - System more asymmetric than GW190412 – 9:1 mass ratio
 - Uncertain nature of the secondary component
 - Heaviest neutron star in a binary system or lighter black hole
 - **More to come**
 - Individual events if separate analysis warranted
 - New issue of the GW transient catalog
 - Many searches ongoing on the full O3 dataset
- Open data: **Gravitational Wave Open Science Center(GWOSC)**
- <https://www.gw-openscience.org>

The path to O4: the « Advanced Plus » detectors

- Shutdown period post-O3 to prepare the 4th Observation Run – O4
 - New series of upgrades: « Advanced detectors » → « Advanced Plus detectors »
- Early, pre-pandemic, planning

“2021/2022 – 2022/2023: 4-detector network with the two LIGO instruments at 160–190 Mpc; Phase 1 of Adv+ at 90–120 Mpc and KAGRA at 25–130 Mpc. The projected sensitivities and precise dates of this run are now being actively planned and remain fluid.”



- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the schedule is being actively studied
 - Stay tuned by subscribing to the **OpenLVEM** forum
 - <https://wiki.gw-astronomy.org/OpenLVEM>

Outlook

- **Successful O3 run** for the LIGO-Virgo network
 - In spite of the **premature end** due to the covid-19 pandemic
- **Collaborations now focused towards O4**
 - **Upgrade plans**
 - **Updated schedules being worked on**
 - OpenLVEM forum: <https://wiki.gw-astronomy.org/OpenLVEM>

- **O4 run**
 - **At least as long as O3**
 - **Goal: improved sensitivity (and duty cycle)**
 - **KAGRA joining the network**

→ **More events / alerts expected**

- **Decisions more automated**
- **Lower latencies expected**
- **Additional tools / developments needed to help separating signals from noise**

