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ON BEHALF OF THE LIGO SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION

PASCOS 2018, JUNE 7, 2018

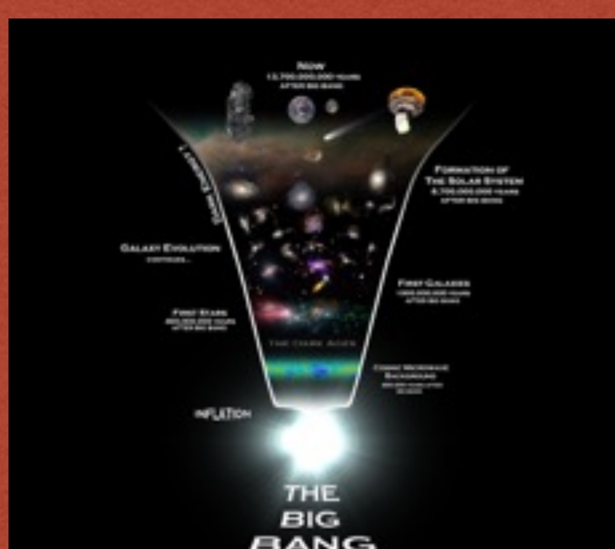
SEARCHES FOR THE STOCHASTIC GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE BACKGROUND WITH ADVANCED LIGO AND VIRGO

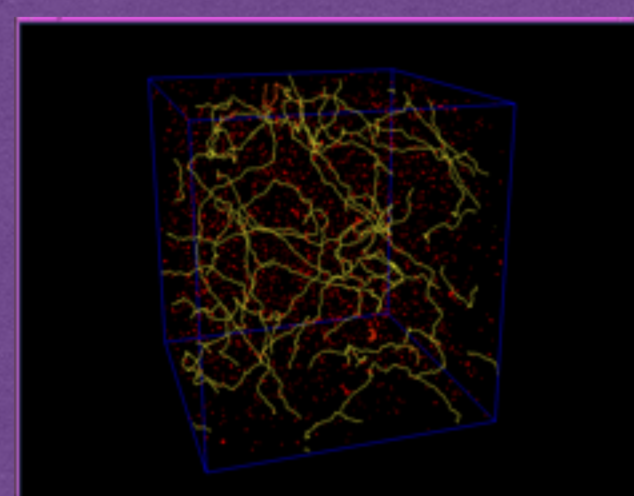
STOCHASTIC GRAVITATIONAL WAVE BACKGROUND

A superposition of astrophysical and cosmological sources, including…

Unresolved astrophysical sources (binaries, supernovae, NS, …)

Early Universe
(inflation, pre big-bang, …)



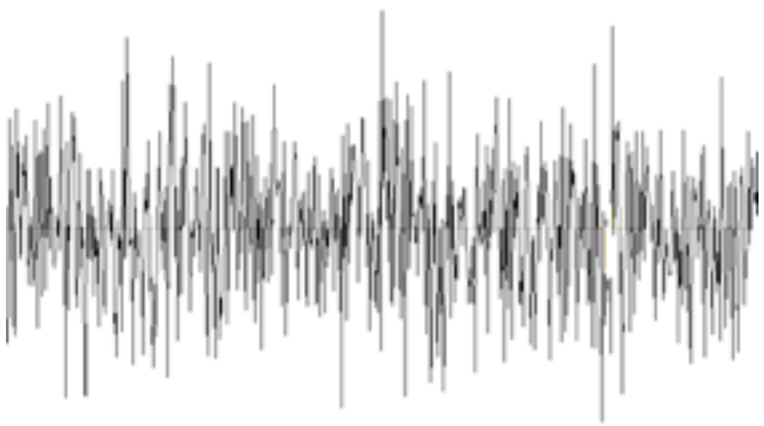


Cosmic Strings

Cosmological
Phase Transitions

CHARACTERIZING THE STOCHASTIC BACKGROUND

'Stochastic waveforms' are random time series, need to characterize the background statistically



Assuming background is statistically:
Gaussian
isotropic
unpolarized
stationary
it is fully characterized by energy density

$$\Omega_{\rm GW}(f) = \frac{1}{\rho_c}\frac{d\rho_{\rm GW}}{d\log f}$$

$$\rho_{\rm GW} = \frac{c^2}{32\pi G}\langle \dot{h}_{ab}(t,\vec{x})\dot{h}^{ab}(t,\vec{x})\rangle$$

Allen and Romano, Phys.Rev. D59 (1999) 102001

DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE

Cross correlate the time series from 2+ detectors

The signal is long duration and non-deterministic

$$s_1 = h_1 + n_1$$
$$s_2 = h_2 + n_2$$

signal and noise are uncorrelated

$$\langle s_1 s_2 \rangle = \langle h_1 h_2 \rangle + \langle h_2 n_1 \rangle + \langle h_1 n_2 \rangle + \langle n_1 n_2 \rangle$$

signal

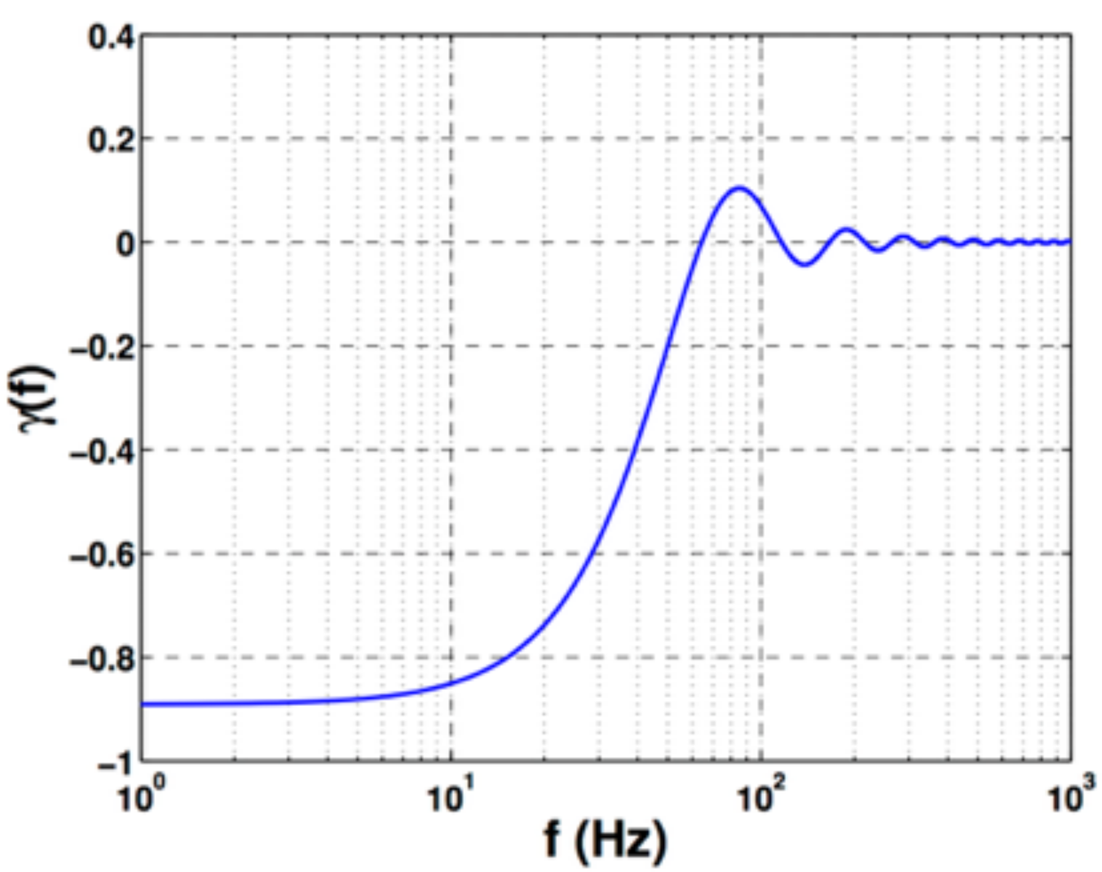
noise at 2 widely separated detectors is uncorrelated

Allen and Romano, Phys.Rev. D59 (1999) 102001

OVERLAP REDUCTION FUNCTION

Cross correlation of detector outputs is related to Ω_{GW}

$$\langle \tilde{s}_1(f)^\star \tilde{s}_2(f') \rangle = \frac{3H_0^2}{20\pi^2}\delta(f-f')|f|^{-3}\Omega_{\mathrm{GW}}(|f|)\gamma(|f|)$$



Allen and Romano, Phys.Rev. D59 (1999) 102001

Overlap reduction function

time delay

$$\gamma(f) := \frac{5}{8\pi}\sum_A \int_{S^2} d\hat{\Omega}\, e^{i2\pi f\hat{\Omega}\cdot\Delta\vec{x}/c} F_1^A(\hat{\Omega})F_2^A(\hat{\Omega})$$

detector response

Geometric factor controlling sensitivity

OPTIMAL FILTER

Allen and Romano, Phys.Rev. D59 (1999) 102001

Cross correlate detectors with filter function Q

$$Y = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}f \, \tilde{s}_1^\star(f) \tilde{s}_2(f) \tilde{Q}(f)$$

Choose filter function to maximize SNR (assuming noise >> signal)

$$\tilde{Q}(f) = \lambda \frac{\gamma(f)\Omega(f)H_0^2}{f^3 P_1(f) P_2(f)}$$

λ is chosen so $\langle Y \rangle = \Omega_{\mathrm{GW}}$

Uncertainty (assuming ideal case that detector noise is stationary and Gaussian)

$$\sigma^2 \approx \frac{T}{4} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}f \, P_1(|f|) P_2(|f|) |\tilde{Q}(f)|^2$$

SNR scales like sqrt(T)

$$\mathrm{SNR} := \frac{\mu}{\sigma} \approx \frac{3H_0^2}{10\pi^2} \sqrt{T} \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} df \; |f|^{-3} \; \Omega_{\mathrm{gw}}(|f|)}{\left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} df \; P_1(|f|) P_2(|f|)\right]^{1/2}}$$

ANALYSIS OF LIGO'S FIRST OBSERVING RUN

We analyzed data at H1 and L1 from first observing run (O1)
September 2015–January 2016

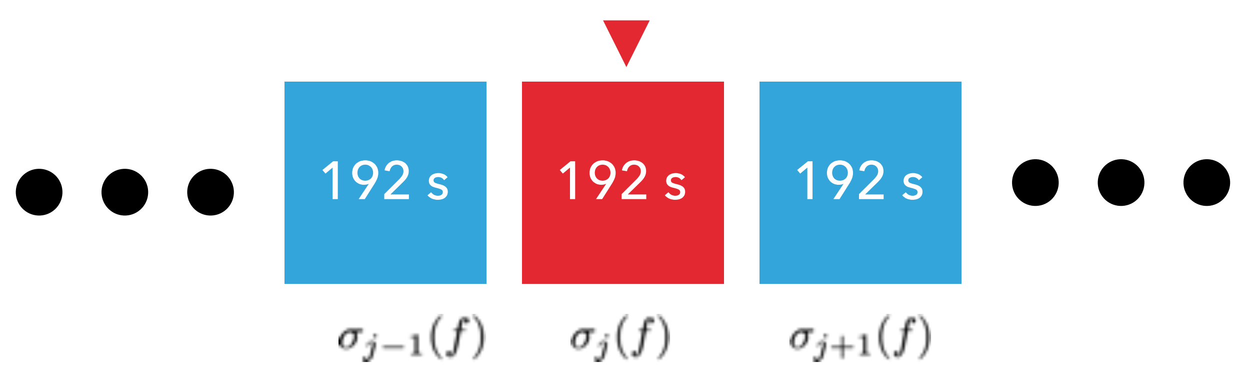
Hanford, Washington (H1)

Livingston, Louisiana (L1)

Image credit: LIGO Lab

ANALYSIS CUTS

1. We remove times where data is known to be corrupt (for example: interferometer not operational)
2. We remove time segments where noise is non-stationary



$$\left| \sigma_j - \frac{\sigma_{j+1} + \sigma_{j-1}}{2} \right| \leq 0.2\sigma_j$$

3. We remove frequency bins which display coherence with instrumental (auxiliary) channels

Abbott *et al*, Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121101

RESULTS

Upper limits for specific (fixed) values of α

Spectral index α	Frequency band with 99% sensitivity	Amplitude Ω_α	95% CL upper limit	Previous limits [33]
0	$20 - 85.8$ Hz	$(4.4 \pm 5.9) \times 10^{-8}$	1.7×10^{-7}	5.6×10^{-6}
2/3	$20 - 98.2$ Hz	$(3.5 \pm 4.4) \times 10^{-8}$	1.3×10^{-7}	–
3	$20 - 305$ Hz	$(3.7 \pm 6.5) \times 10^{-9}$	1.7×10^{-8}	7.6×10^{-8}

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

Upper limit improves by a factor of **33** over Initial LIGO for alpha=0, due to the large increase in sensitivity of Advanced LIGO

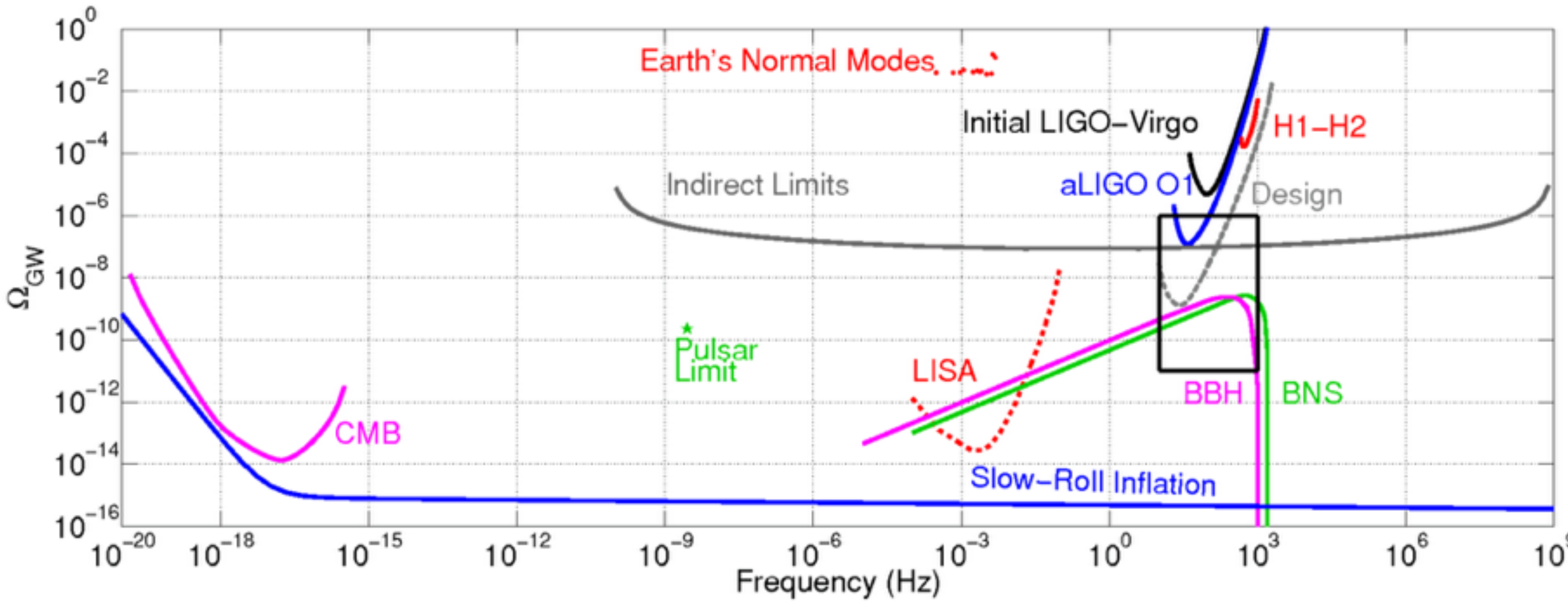
$\alpha = 0$ Inflation, cosmic strings in our band…

$\alpha = 2/3$ Binary inspiral (BBH, BHNS, BNS)

Abbott et al, Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121101

COMPARING MODELS AND OTHER BOUNDS

Abbott et al, Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121101



Black box will be discussed in more detail in a few slides

2 sigma sensitivity curves are shown using power law integrated form

Indirect limits combine CMB and Big Bang Nucleosynthesis measurements

LISA projection described in Thrane and Romano 2013

Abbott et al, Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121101

COMPACT BINARY BACKGROUND

Superposition of many BBH, BNS, BHNS systems
Astrophysical foreground for cosmological models
Contains information about astrophysics

binary merger rate

energy spectrum for single binary

$$\Omega_{\mathrm{GW}}(f,\theta_k) = \frac{f}{\rho_c H_0}\int_0^{z_{\max}} \mathrm{d}z \frac{R_m(z,\theta_k)\frac{\mathrm{d}E_{\mathrm{GW}}(\theta_k)}{\mathrm{d}f}}{(1+z)E(\Omega_M,\Omega_\Lambda,z)}$$

cosmology

$$\Omega_{\mathrm{GW}}(f) = \int \mathrm{d}\theta_k P(\theta_k)\Omega_{\mathrm{GW}}(f,\theta_k)$$

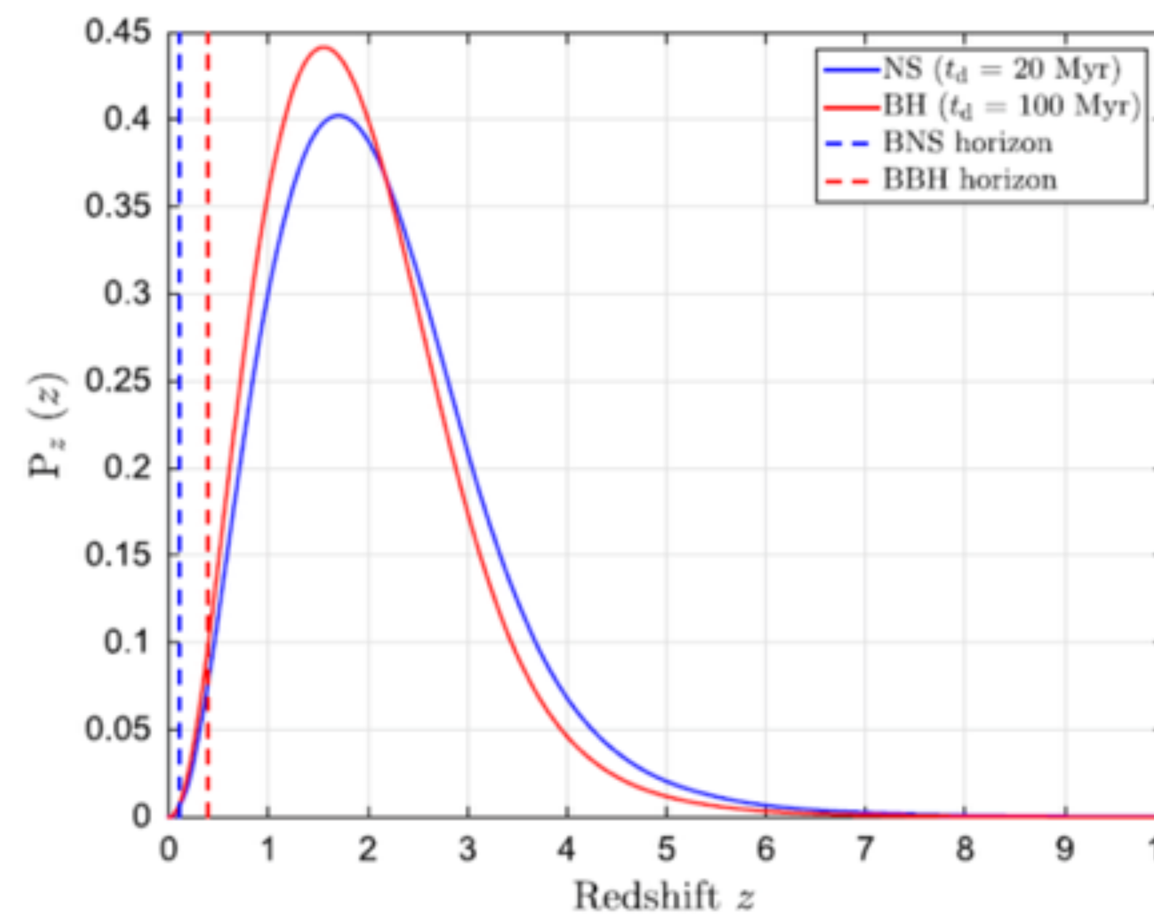
Source parameters $\theta_k = \{m_1, m_2, \chi\}$

Abbott et al, Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121101

REDSHIFT DEPENDENCE

$R_m(z)$ assumed to follow star formation rate with time delay to account for difference between formation and merger

Most sources at 1<z<3



Meacher et al Phys.Rev.D 92, 063002 (2015)

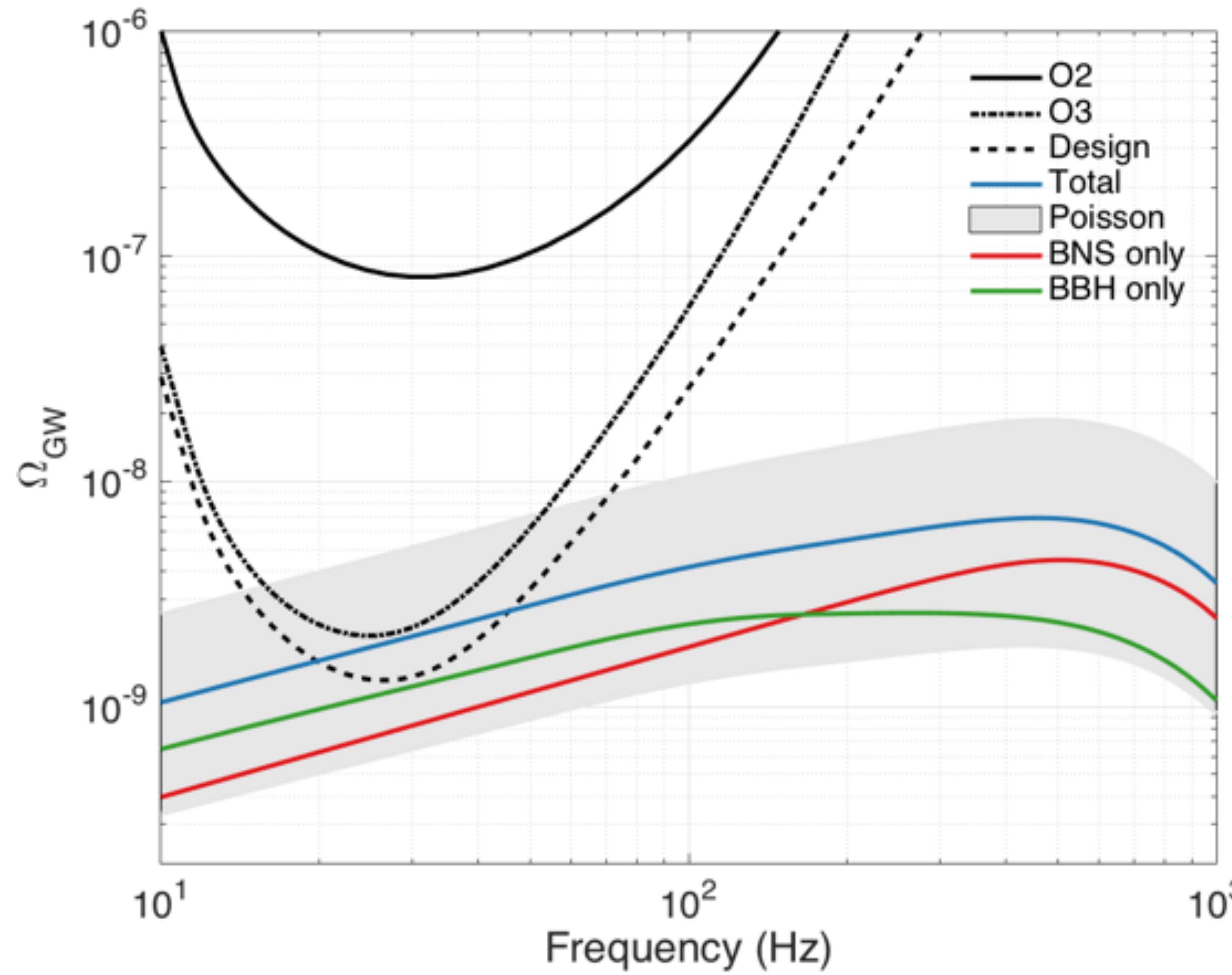
SPECTRUM

Median total spectrum is roughly a factor of 1.6 larger than spectrum from BBH alone

Expect to dig into interesting parameter space in O3

Significant upgrades planned between O2 and O3, especially at low frequencies

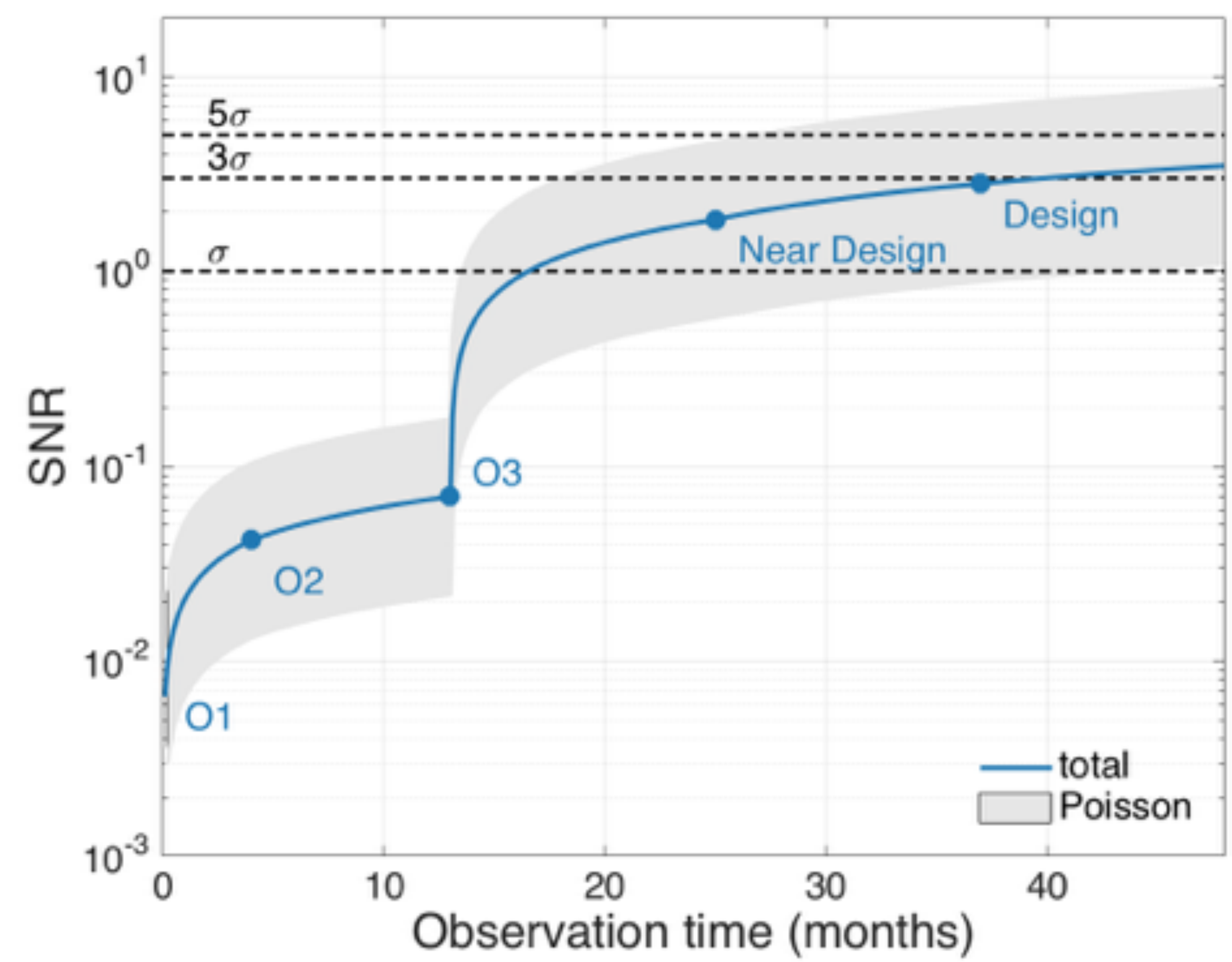
	$\Omega_{GW}(25\ \text{Hz})$
BNS	$0.7^{+1.5}_{-0.6} \times 10^{-9}$
BBH	$1.1^{+1.2}_{-0.7} \times 10^{-9}$
Total	$1.8^{+2.7}_{-1.3} \times 10^{-9}$



Abbott et al, 1710.05837

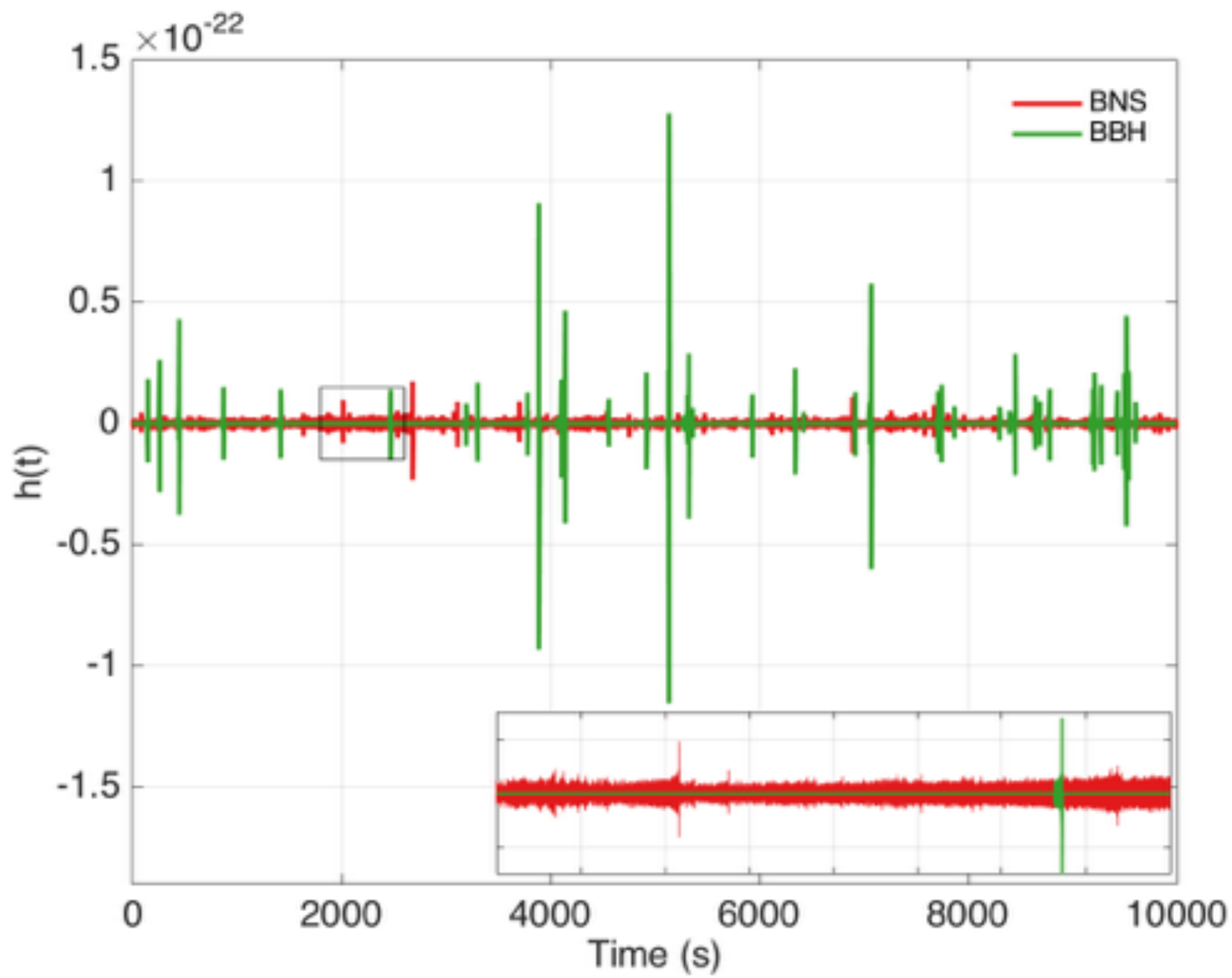
DETECTABILITY

With median rates, expect to see signal with SNR=3 after 40 months of observation time (a few months into Design sensitivity)



Abbott et al, 1710.05837

“POPCORN” VS CONTINUOUS



BNS signals overlap in time domain

BBH signals are short and do not overlap

Abbott et al, 1710.05837

ANISOTROPIC BACKGROUND

$$\langle h_A^*(f,\hat{\Omega}) h_{A'}(f',\hat{\Omega}')\rangle = \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{P}(f,\hat{\Omega})\,\delta(f-f')\delta_{AA'}\delta(\hat{\Omega},\hat{\Omega}')$$

Typically assume $\mathcal{P}(f,\hat{\Omega}) = \mathcal{P}(\hat{\Omega})\bar{H}(f)$

Expand $\mathcal{P}(\hat{\Omega})$ in a basis

$$\mathcal{P}(\hat{\Omega}) = \mathcal{P}_\alpha \mathbf{e}_\alpha(\hat{\Omega})$$

$\mathbf{e}_\alpha(\hat{\Omega}) = \delta^2(\hat{\Omega},\hat{\Omega}_\alpha)$

Radiometer search

point sources

$\mathbf{e}_\alpha(\hat{\Omega}) = Y_{\ell m}(\hat{\Omega})$

Spherical harmonic search

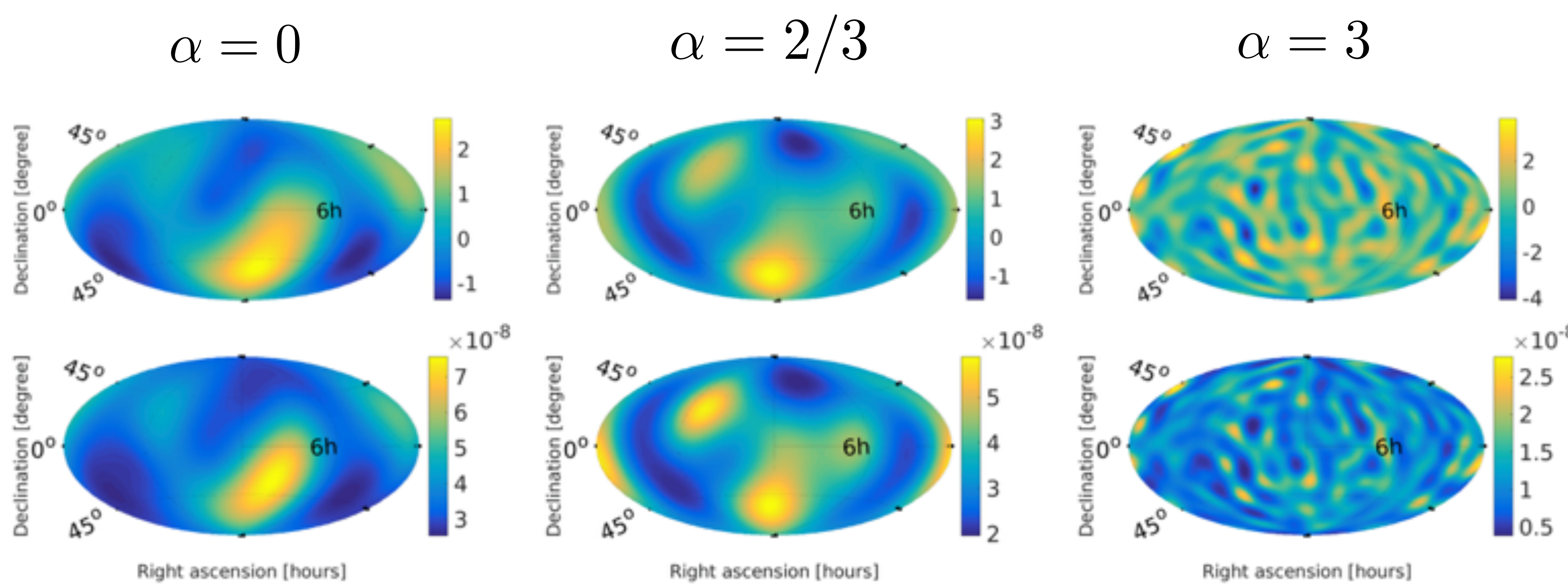
Abbott *et al*, Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121102

SPHERICAL HARMONIC: BROADBAND, ALL SKY SEARCH

						All-sky (broadband) Results			
						Max SNR (% p-value)		Upper limit range	
α	$\Omega_{\rm gw}$	$H(f)$	f_α (Hz)	θ (deg)	$l_{\rm max}$	BBR	SHD	BBR ($\times 10^{-8}$)	SHD ($\times 10^{-8}$)
0	constant	$\propto f^{-3}$	52.50	55	3	3.32 (7)	2.69 (18)	10 – 56	2.5 – 7.6
2/3	$\propto f^{2/3}$	$\propto f^{-7/3}$	65.75	44	4	3.31 (12)	3.06 (11)	5.1 – 33	2.0 – 5.9
3	$\propto f^3$	constant	256.50	11	16	3.43 (47)	3.86 (11)	0.1 – 0.9	0.4 – 2.8

SNR

90% UL

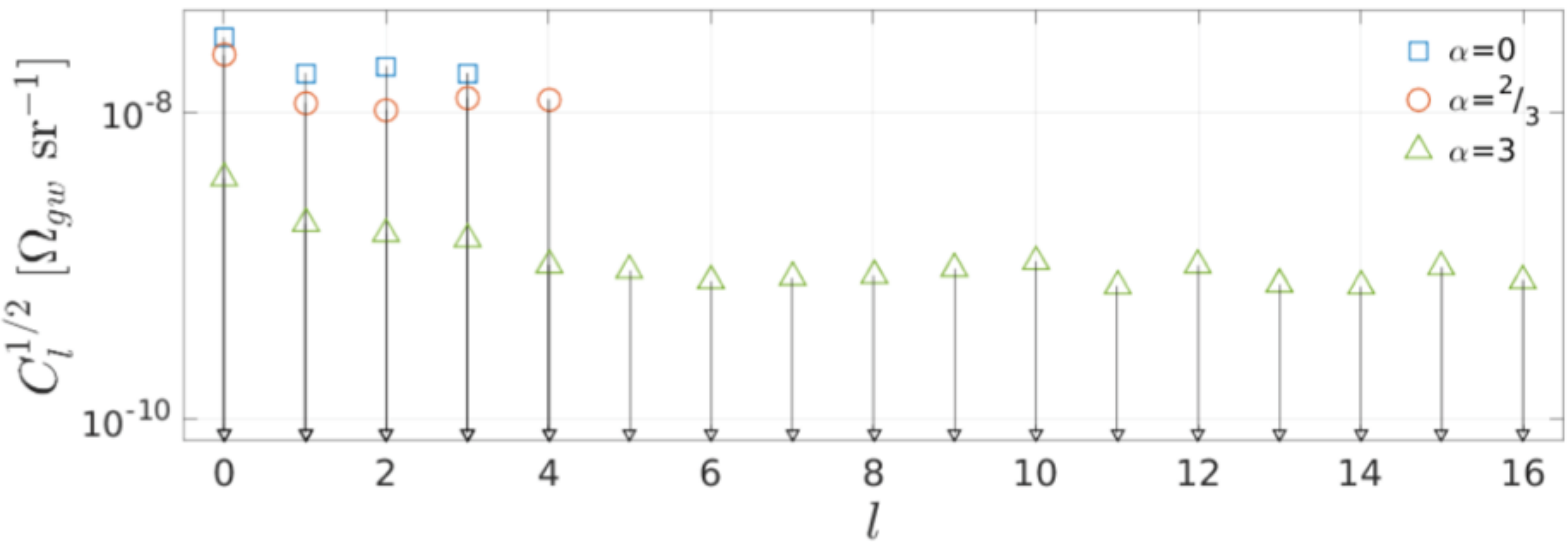


Abbott *et al,* **Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121102**

About a factor of 60 improvement over Initial LIGO for alpha=0

UPPER LIMITS ON CL

Alternative representation used by CMB experiments



Abbott *et al,* Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121102

$$C_l = \frac{1}{2l+1}\sum_{m=-l}^{l} |\mathcal{P}_{lm}|^2$$

RADIOMETER: BROADBAND, ALL SKY SEARCH

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						Max SNR (% p-value)		Upper limit range	
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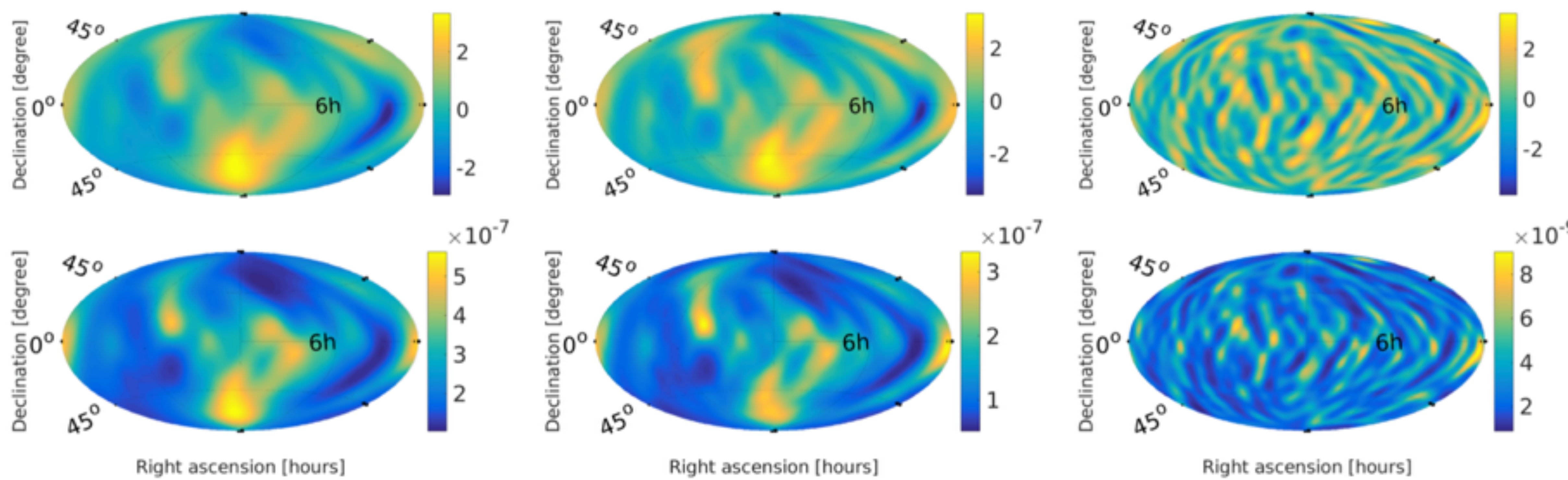
SNR

90% UL



About a factor of 8 improvement in flux over Initial LIGO for $\alpha = 3$

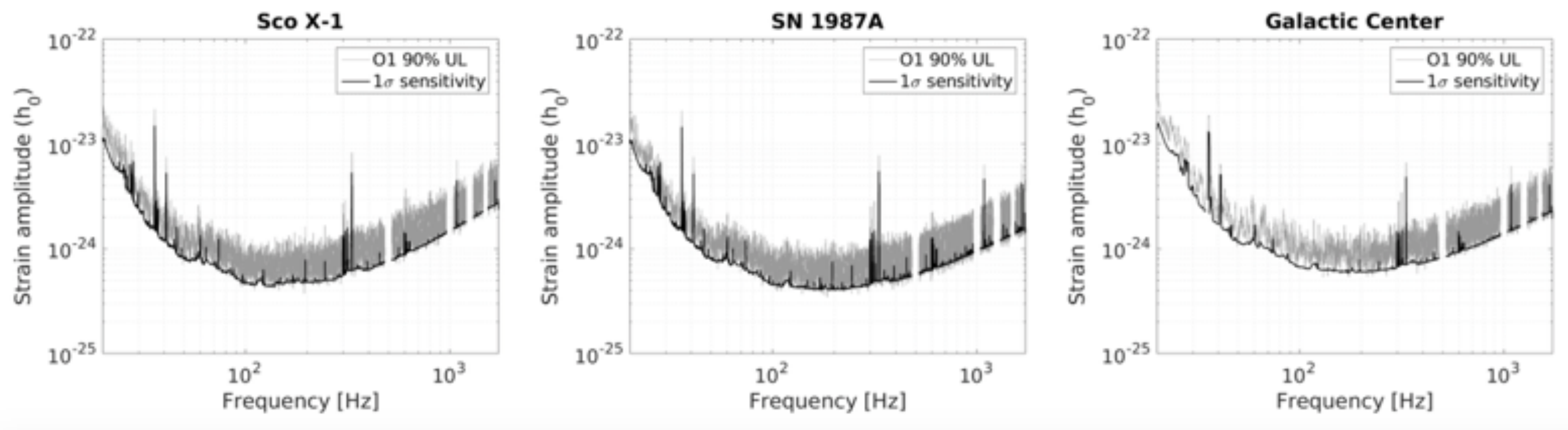
Abbott *et al,* Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121102

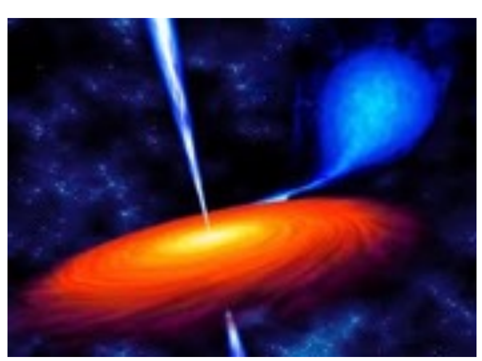
RADIOMETER: NARROWBAND RESULTS FOR SPECIAL DIRECTIONS

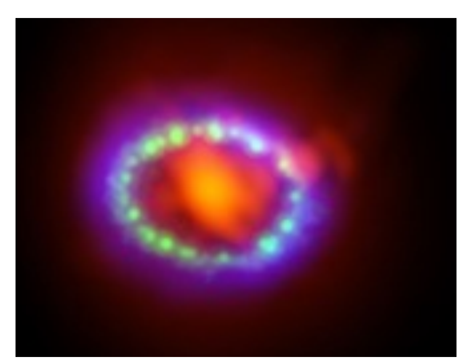
Abbott *et al,* Phys.Rev.Lett. 118 (2017) no.12, 121102

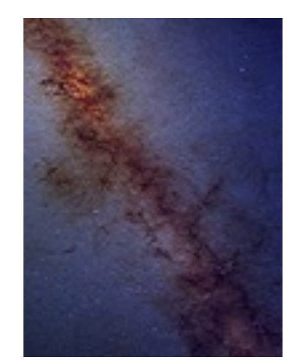
Narrowband Radiometer Results

Direction	Max SNR	p-value (%)	Frequency band (Hz)	Best UL ($\times 10^{-25}$)	Frequency band (Hz)
Sco X-1	4.58	10	616 – 617	6.7	134 – 135
SN1987A	4.07	63	195 – 196	5.5	172 – 173
Galactic Center	3.92	87	1347 – 1348	7.0	172 – 173









Improves over Initial LIGO results by about a factor of 10 below 50 Hz and above 300 Hz and by about a factor of 2 on average across the band

SUMMARY

- Stochastic background is a target for future detection
- Astrophysical background may be in reach by advanced detectors
- Searches are ongoing for an anisotropic stochastic signal
- See Tom Callister's talk for a discussion of testing GR with the stochastic background