The Universe remembers: gravitational-wave memory with LIGO

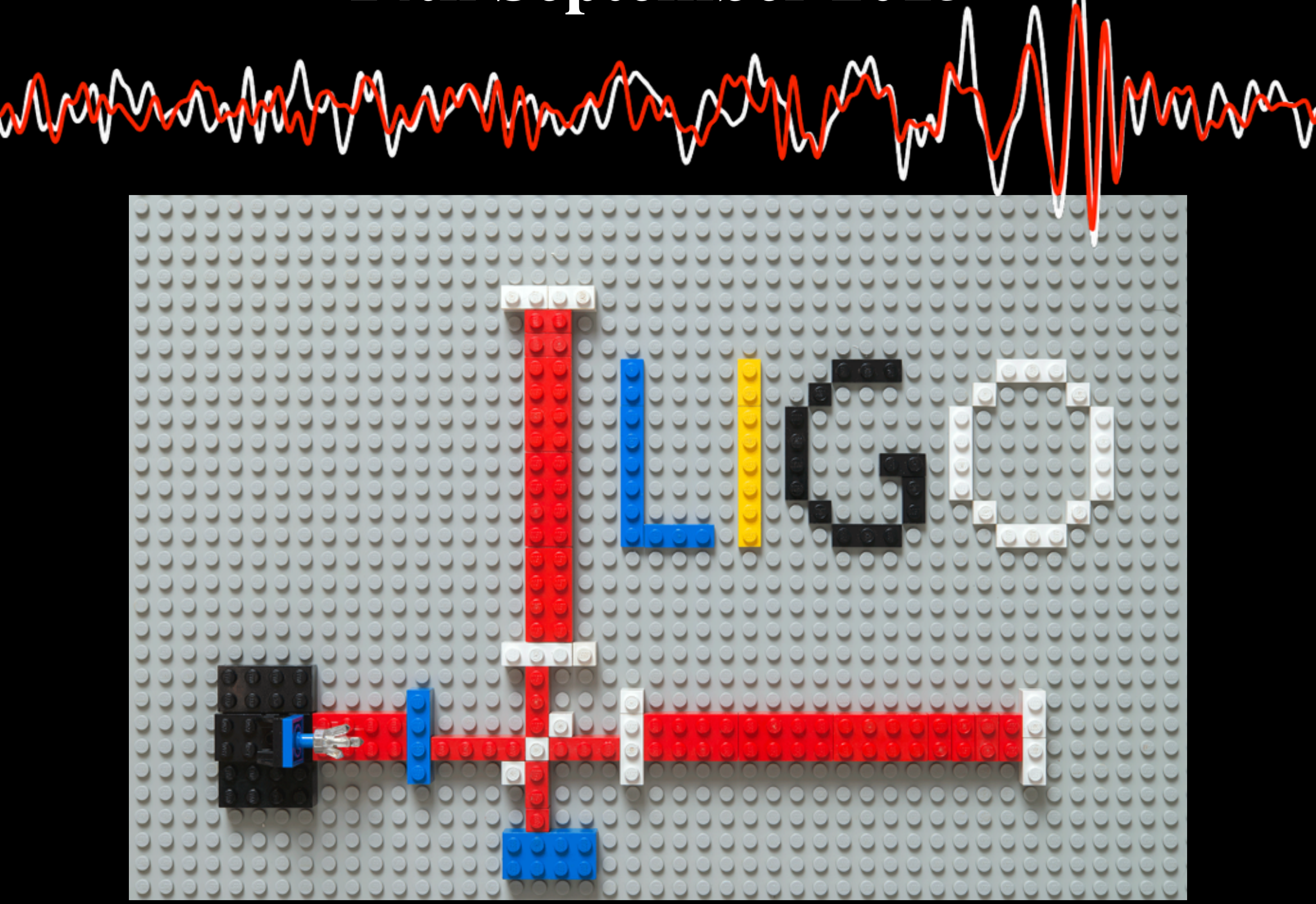
Paul Lasky

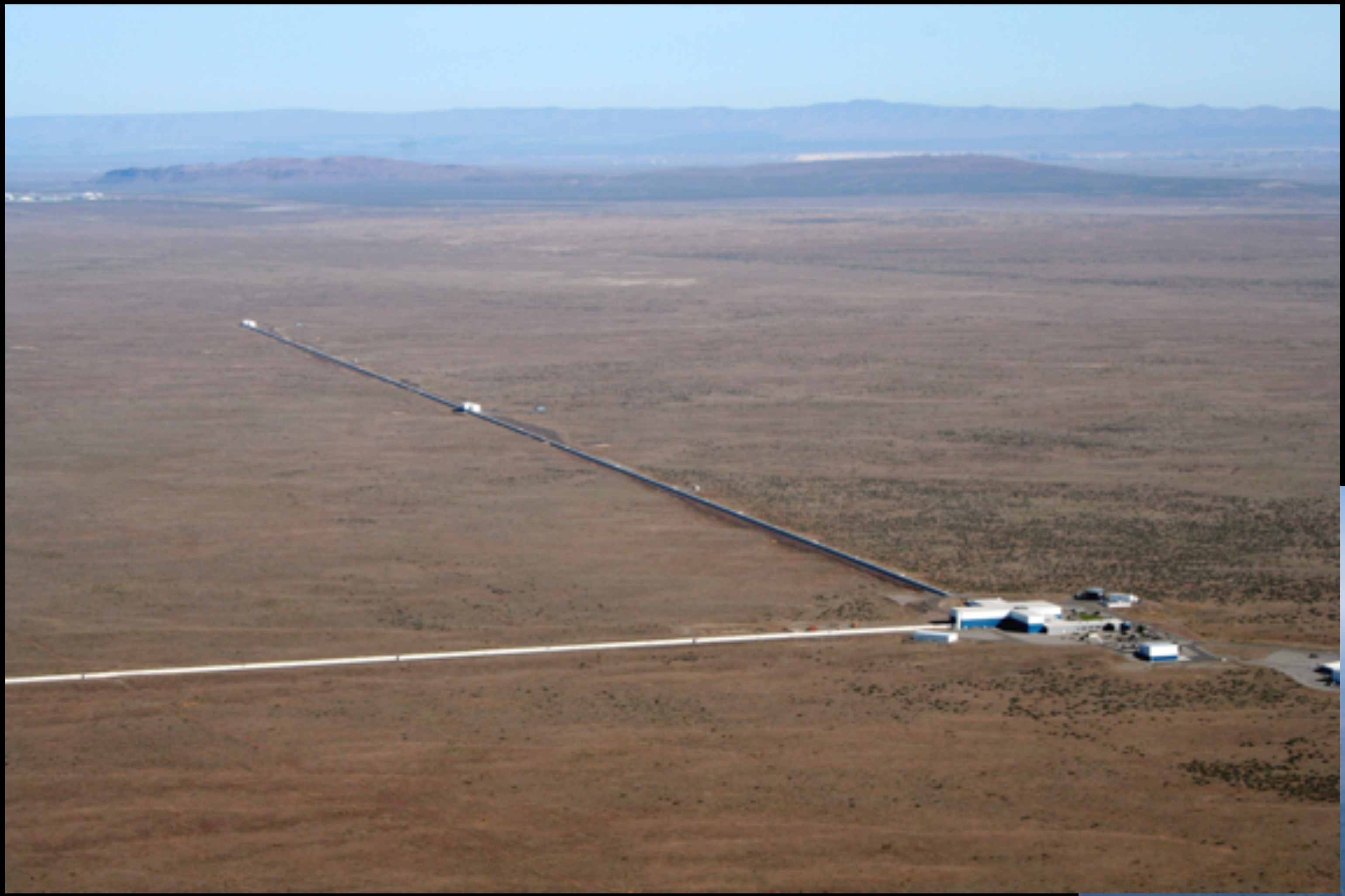
Eric Thrane, Yuri Levin (Monash)
Jonathan Blackman, Yanbei Chen (CalTech)

LSC LIGO Scientific Collaboration

MONASH University

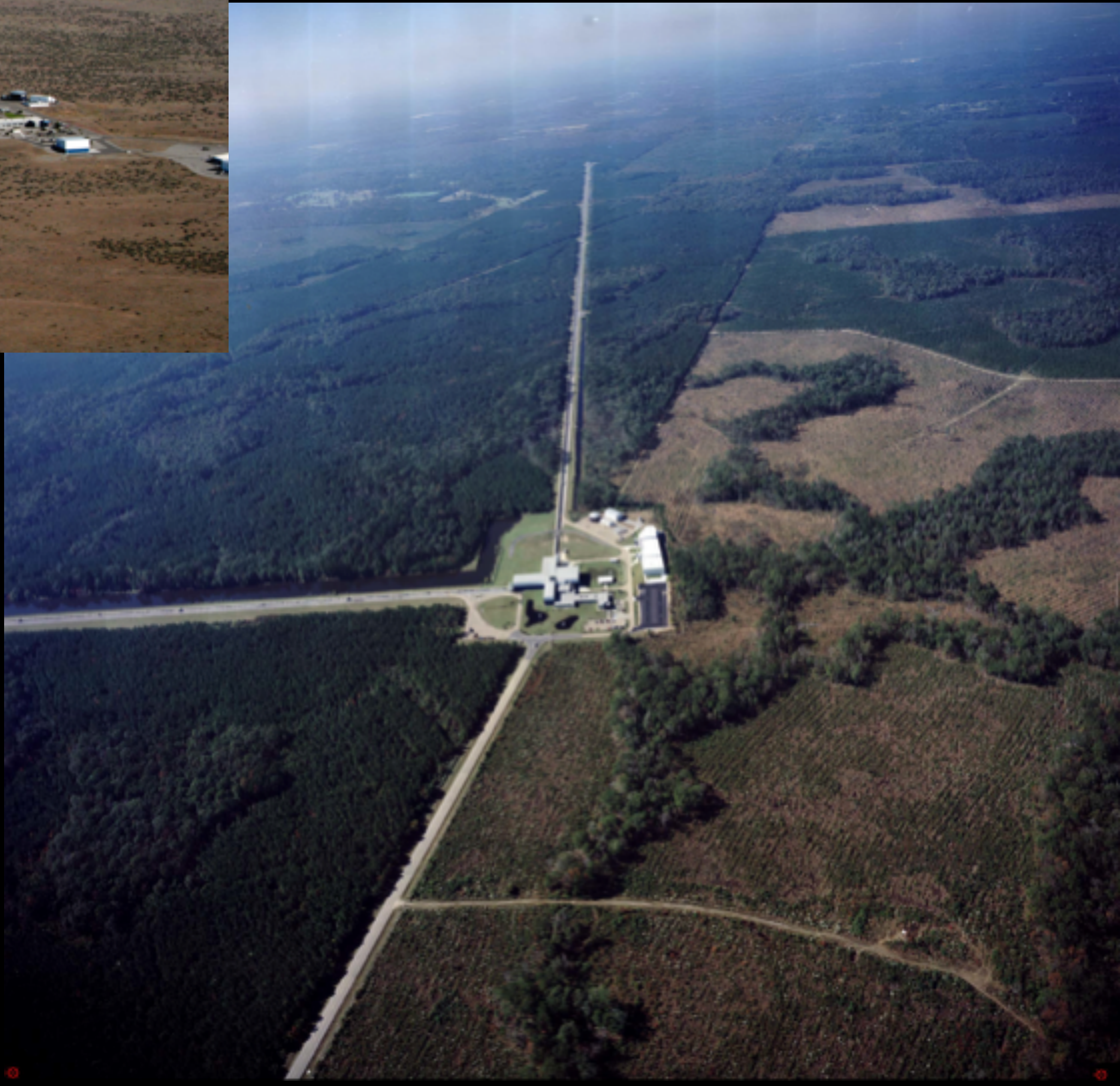
14th September 2015

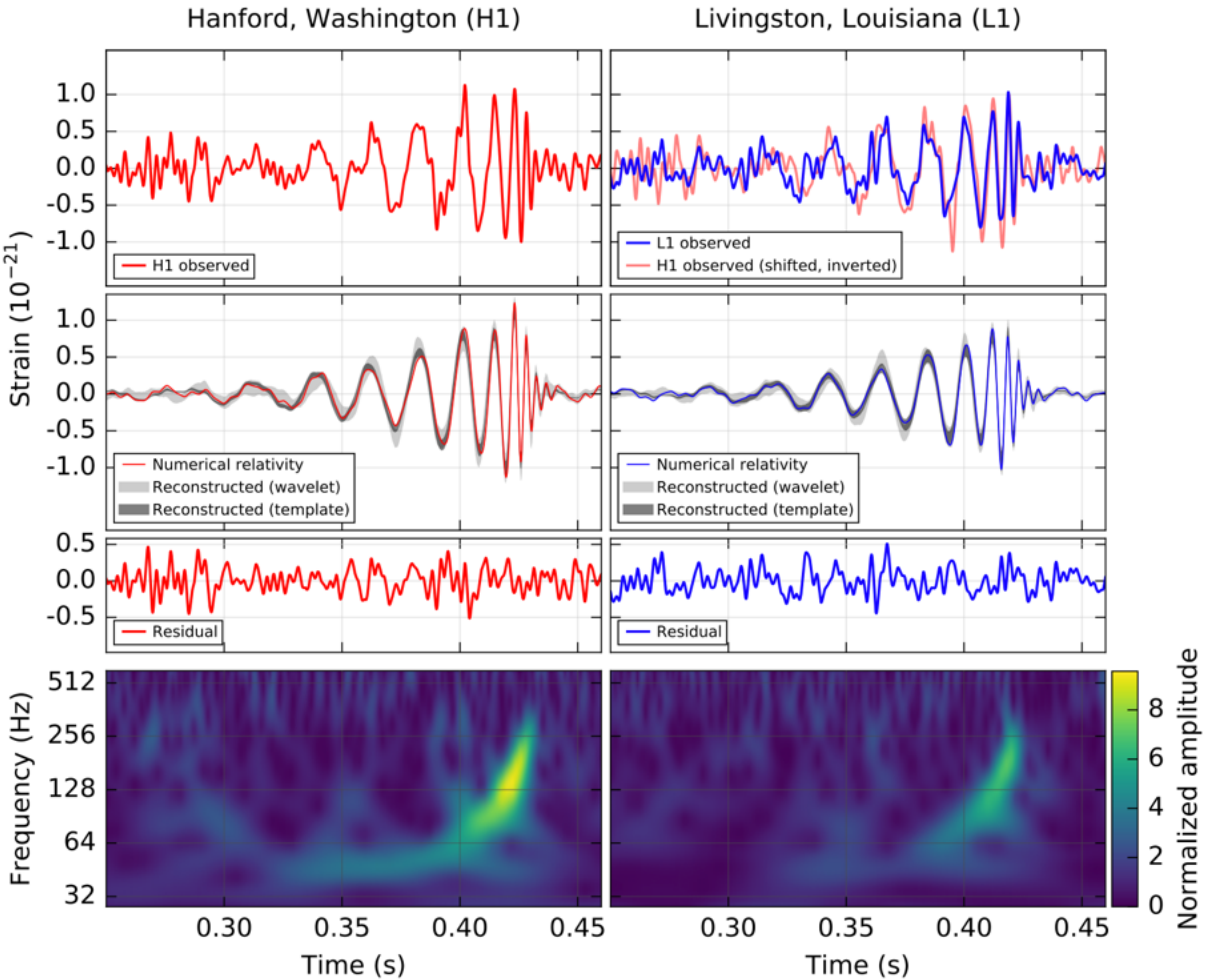




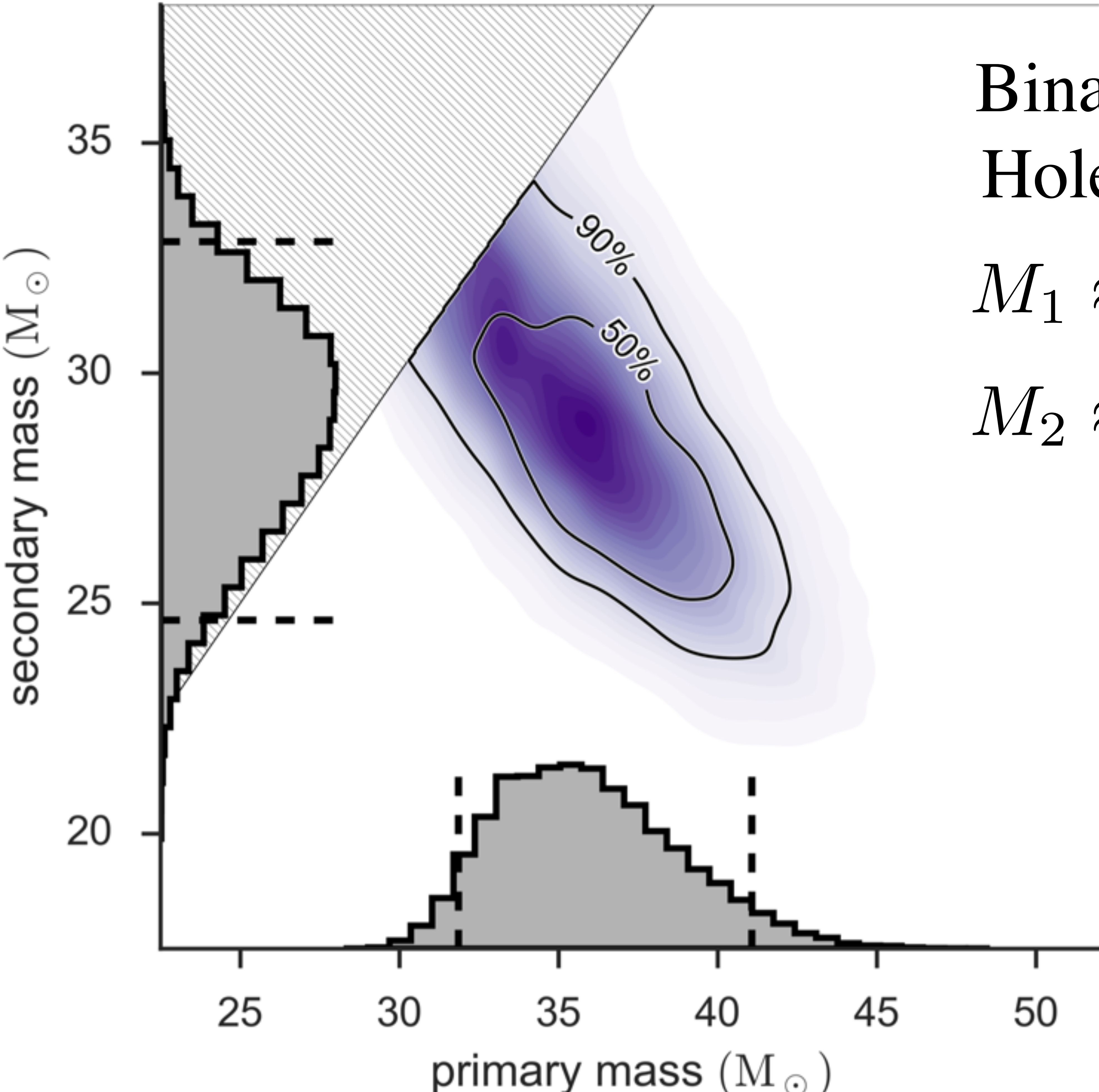
LIGO Hanford

LIGO Livingston





Abbott et al. (2016) - GW150914

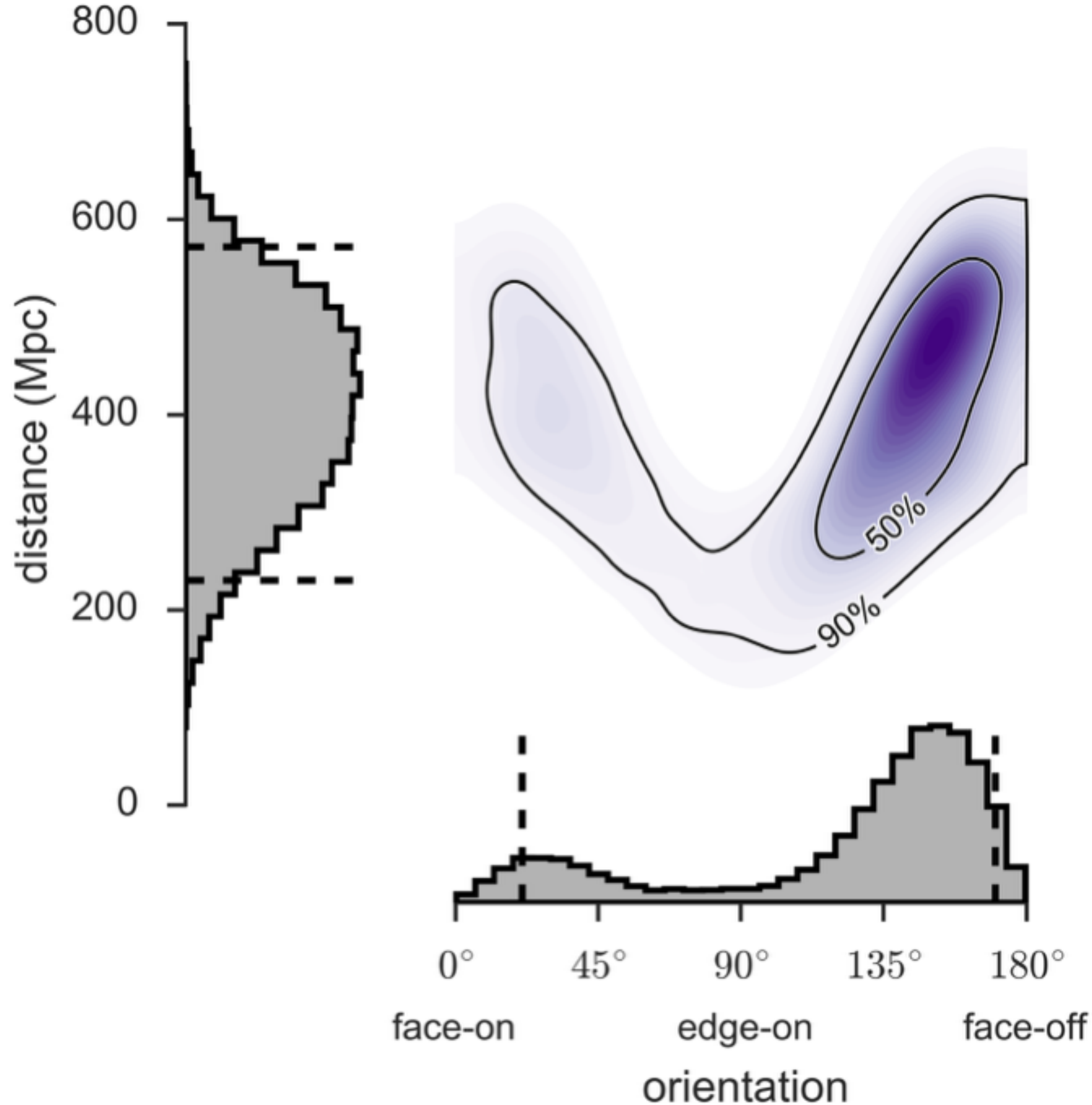


Binary Black Hole Merger

$M_1 \approx 36\, M_\odot$

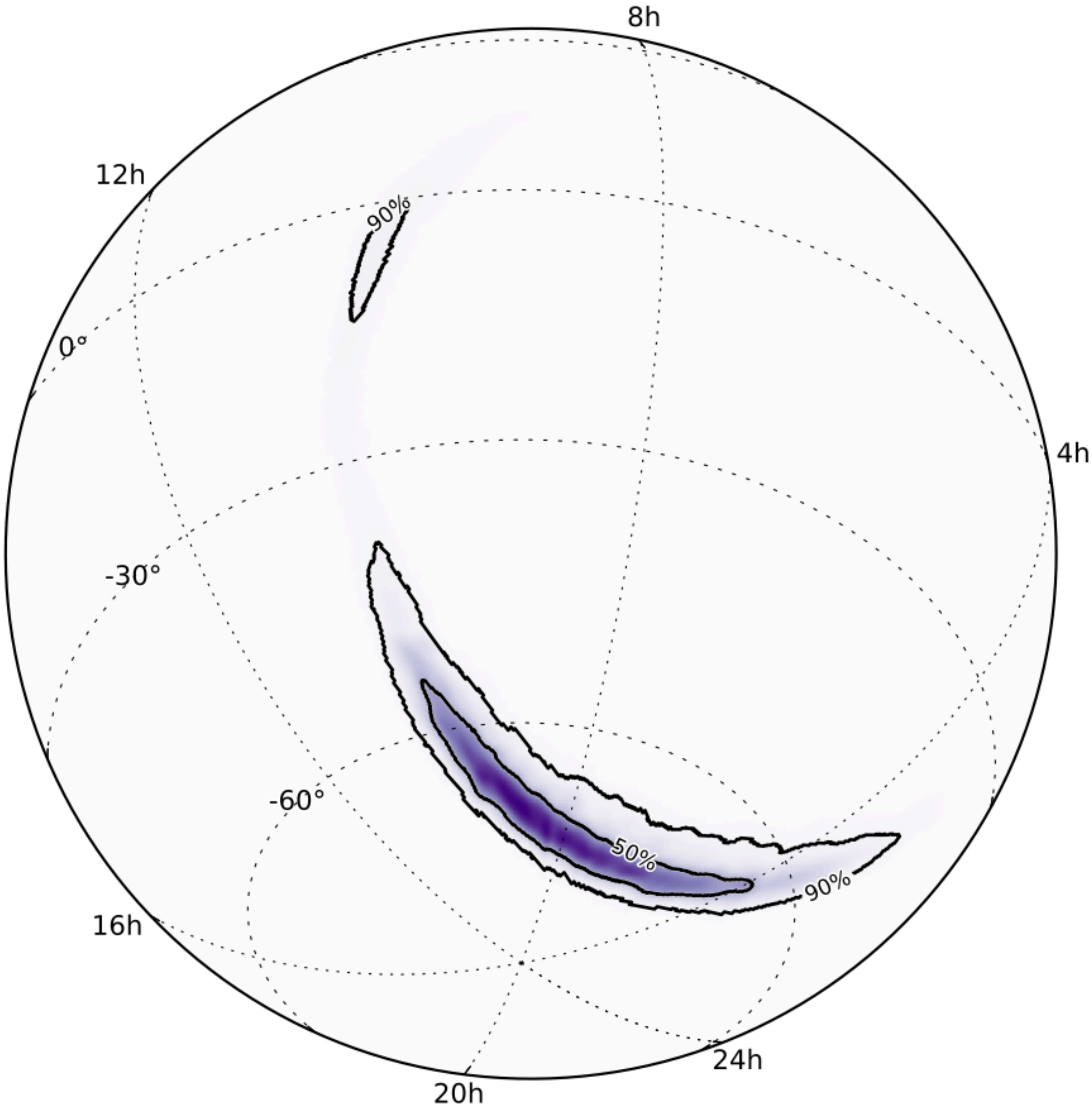
$M_2 \approx 29\, M_\odot$

Abbott et al. (2016) - GW150914



$$D \approx 410\,\mathrm{Mpc}$$

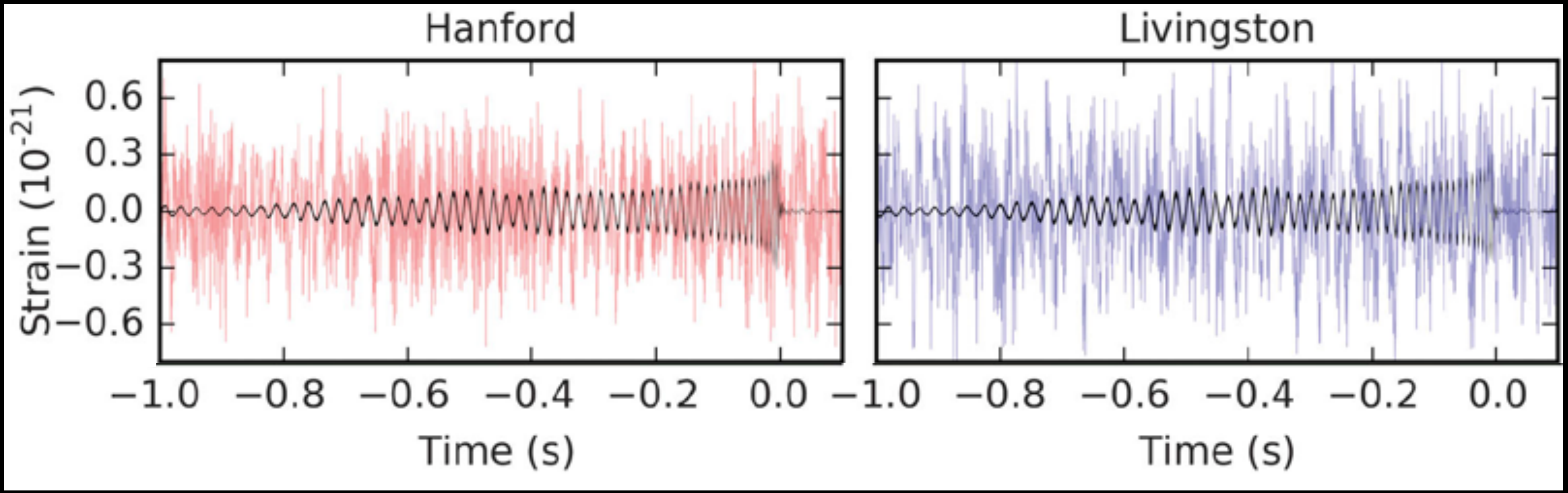
Abbott et al. (2016) - GW150914

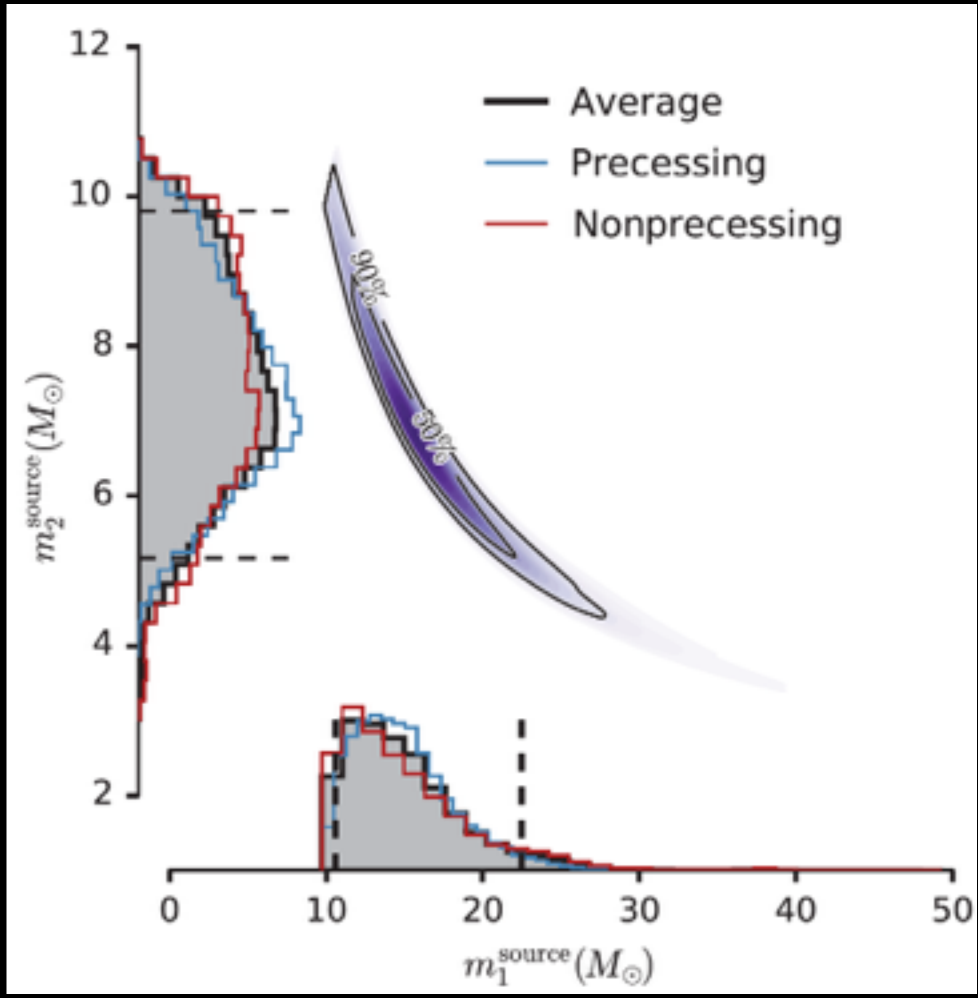


Sky location unknown

Abbott et al. (2016) - GW150914

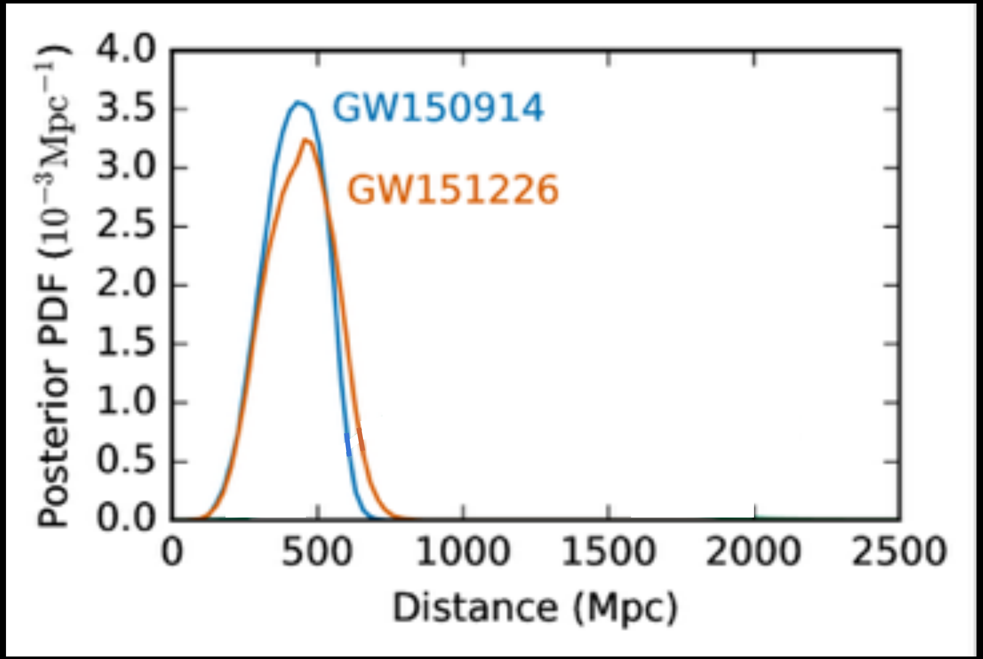
26th December 2015





$$M_1 \approx 14\, M_\odot$$
$$M_2 \approx 8\, M_\odot$$

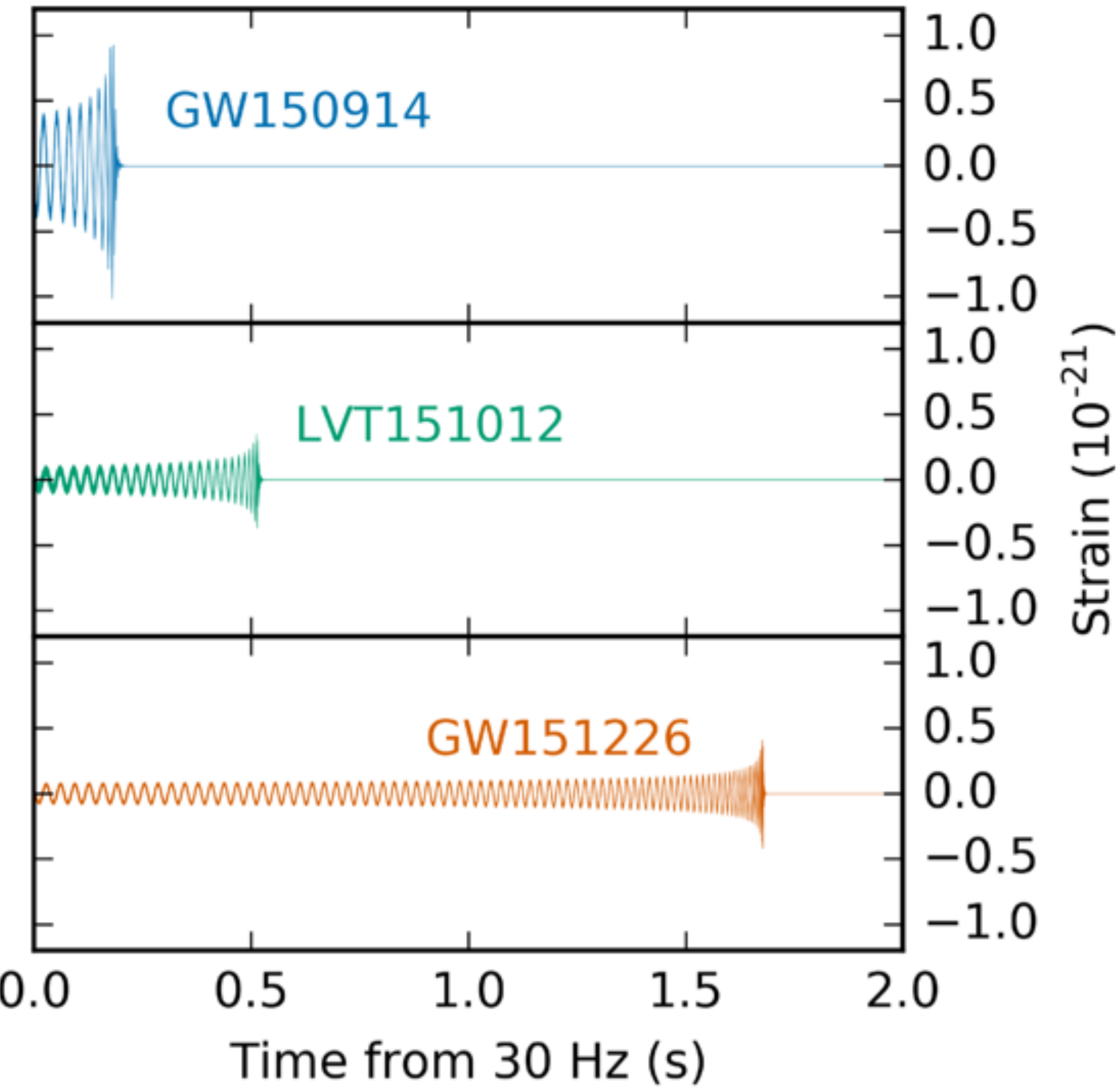
$$D \approx \; 400\,\mathrm{Mpc}$$

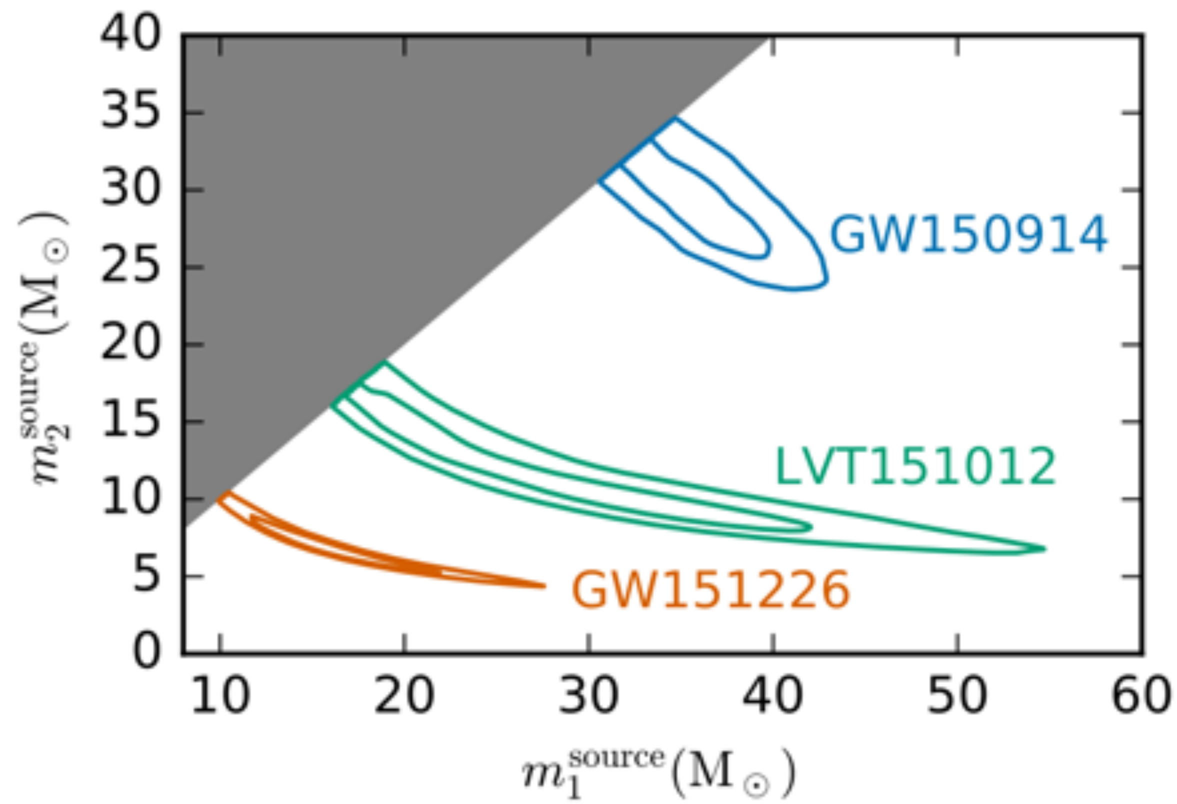


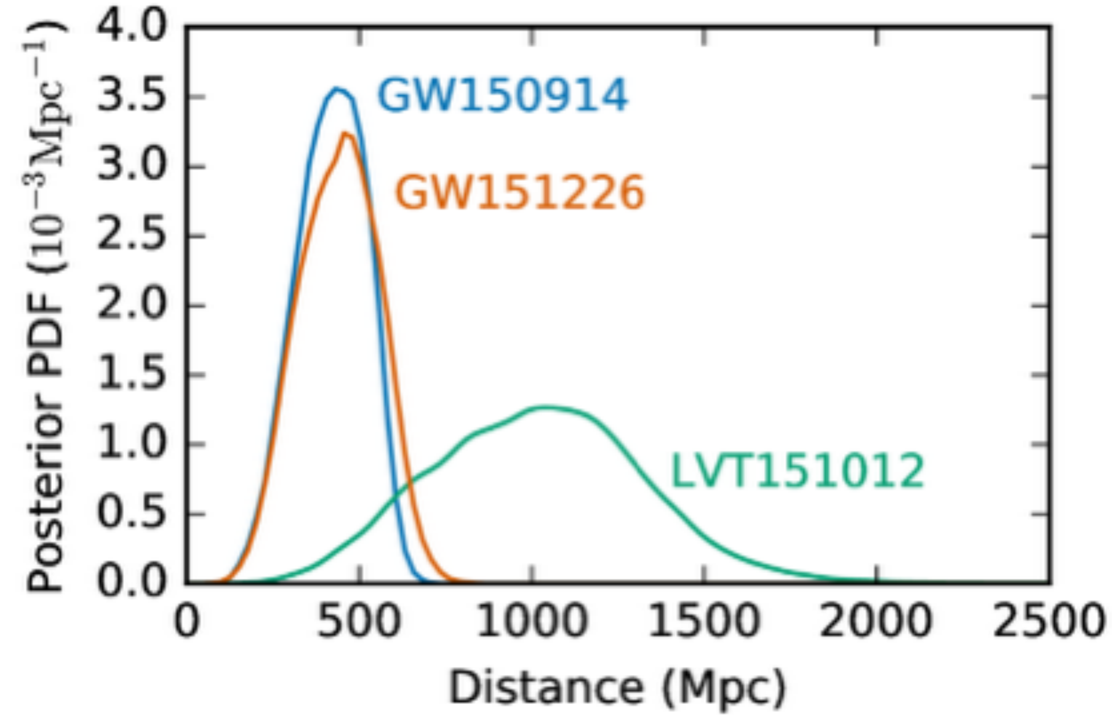
Abbott et al. (2016) - GW151226

2.5 measurements!

September 2015 — February 2016

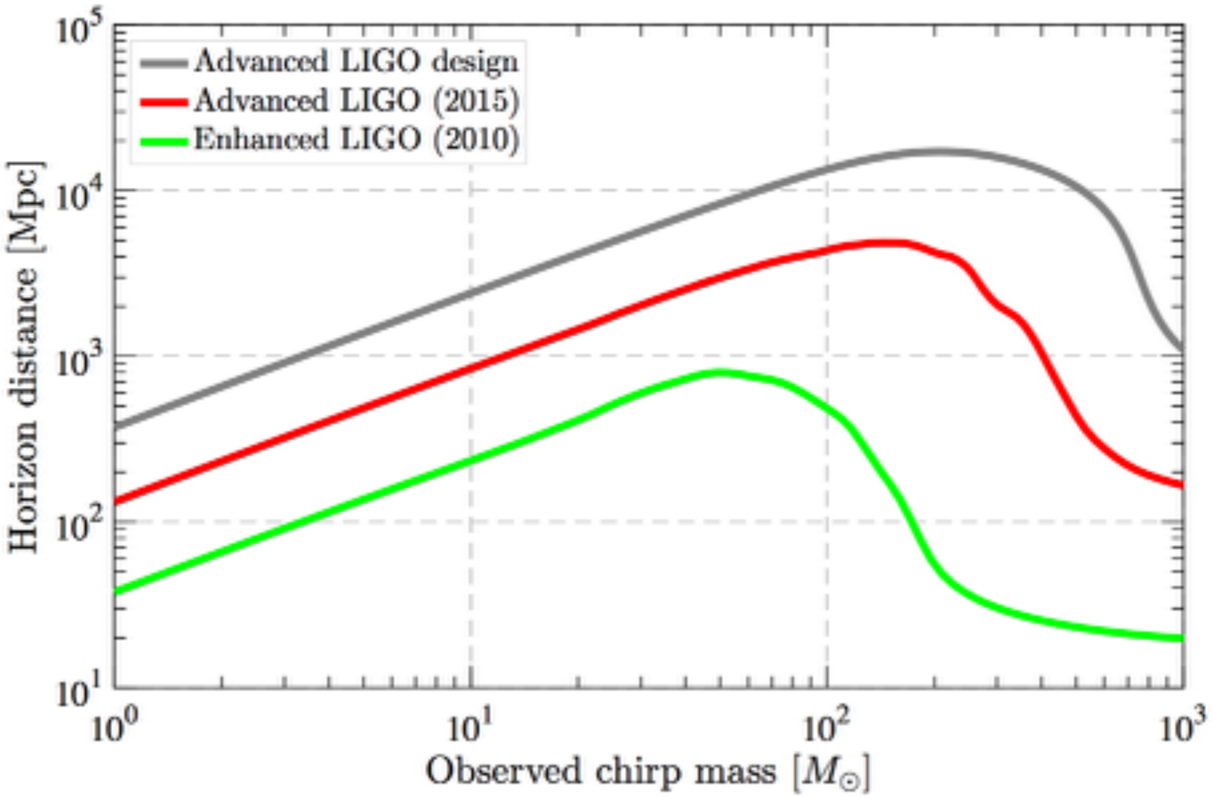


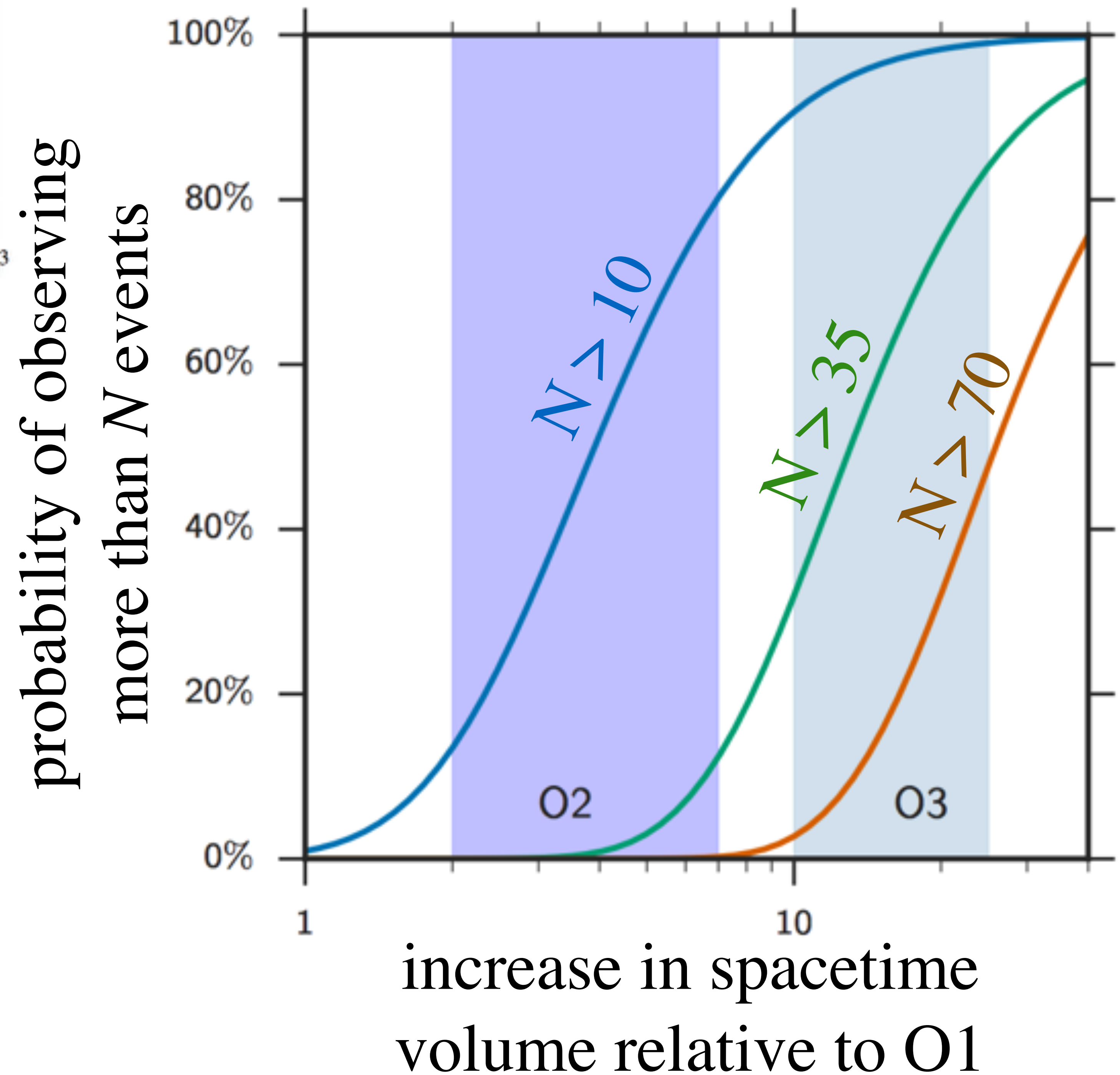




Abbott et al. (2016) - O1 BBH

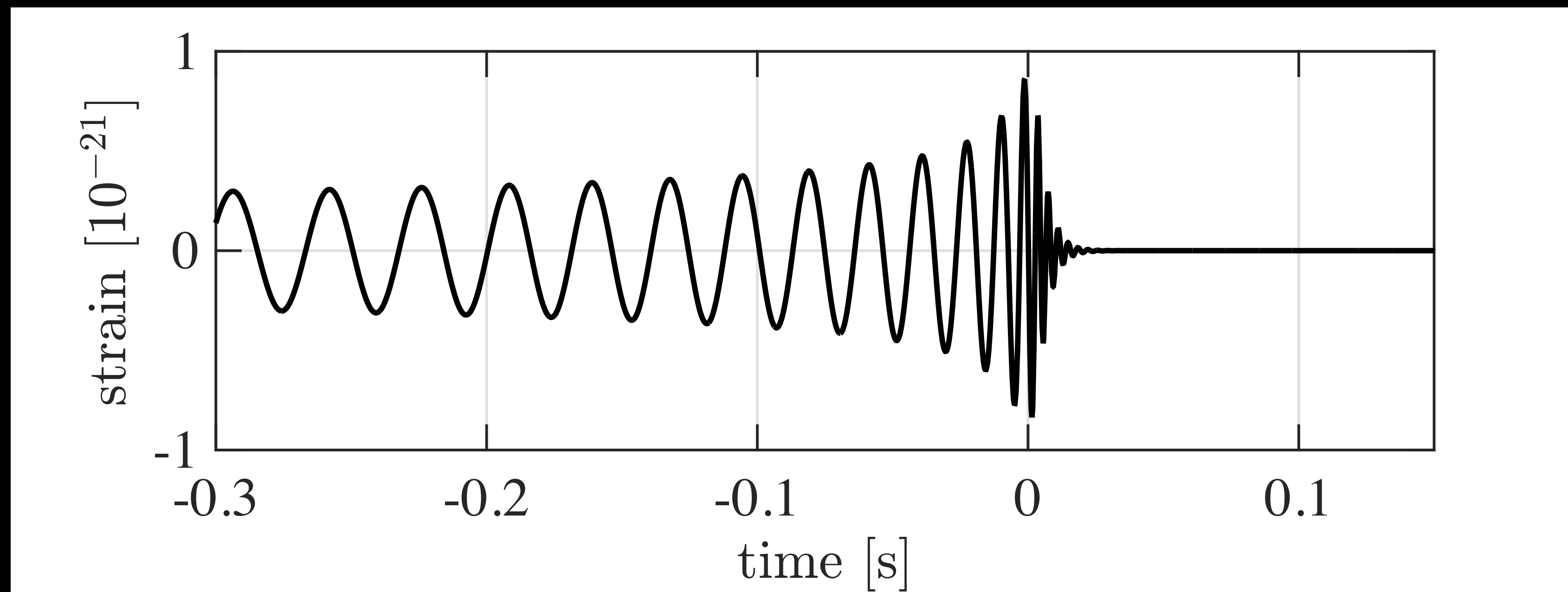
Expected Detection Rates



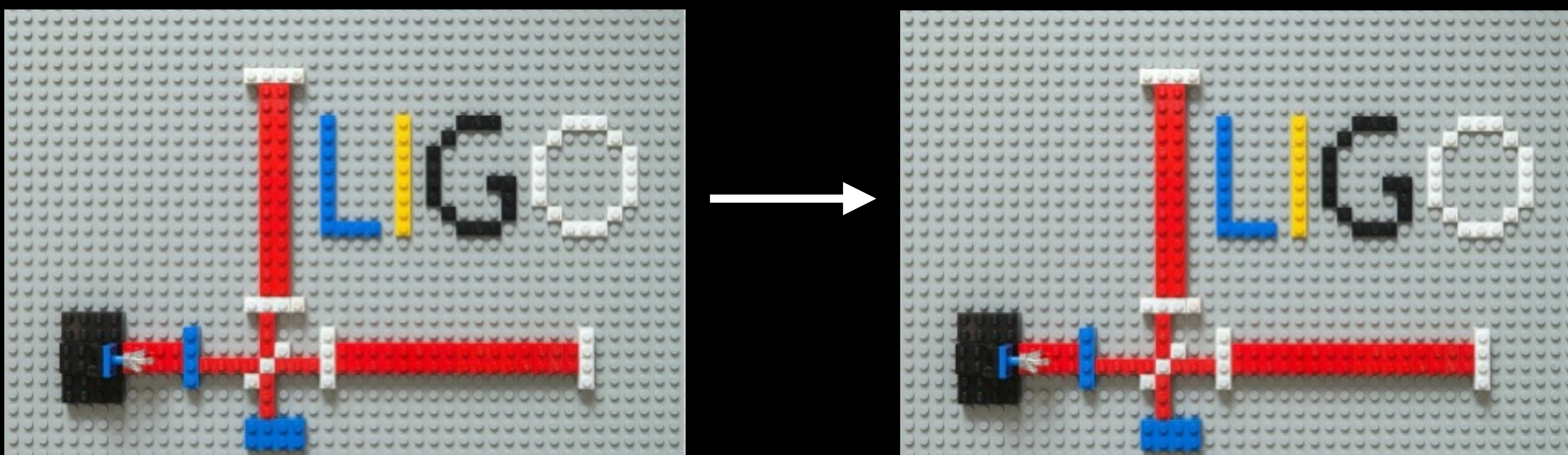


Abbott et al. (2016) - O1 BBH

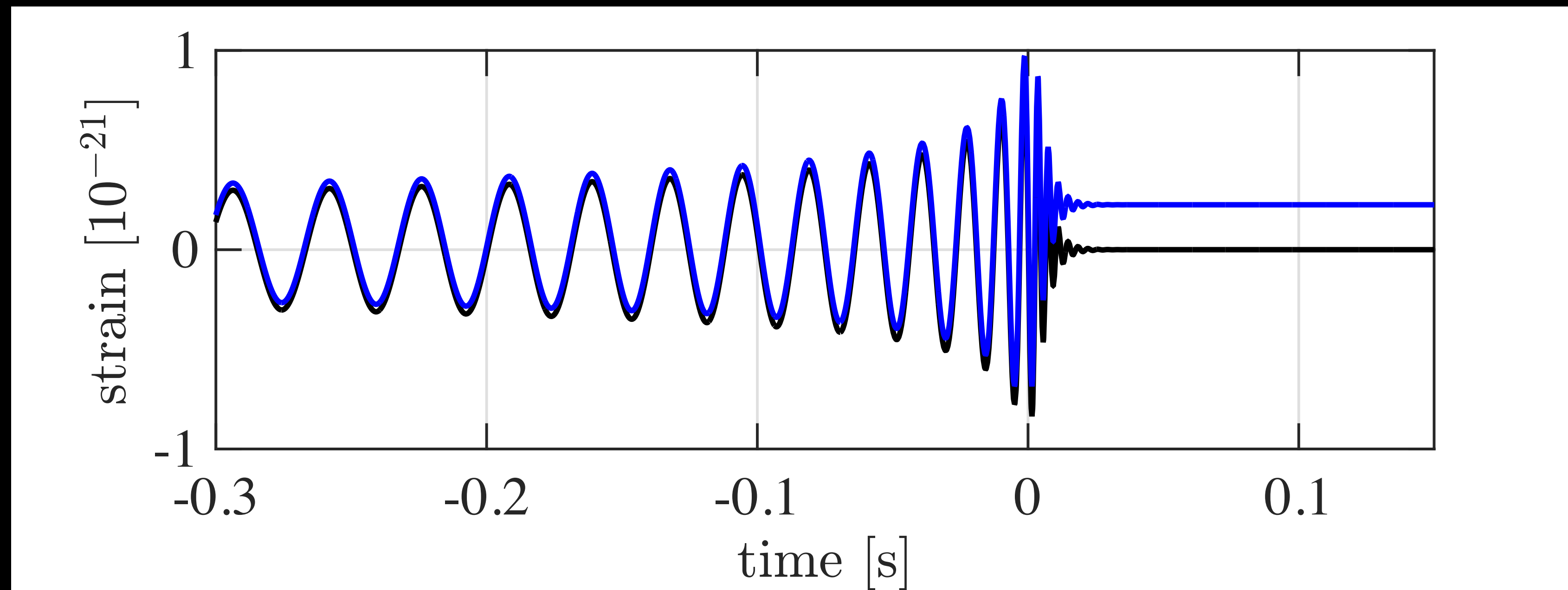
What can we learn from the inevitable ***ensemble*** of events, that cannot be learnt from individual events?



strain [10^{-21}]
1
0
-1
-0.3
-0.2
-0.1
0
0.1
time [s]



LIGO
LIGO



1
0
-1
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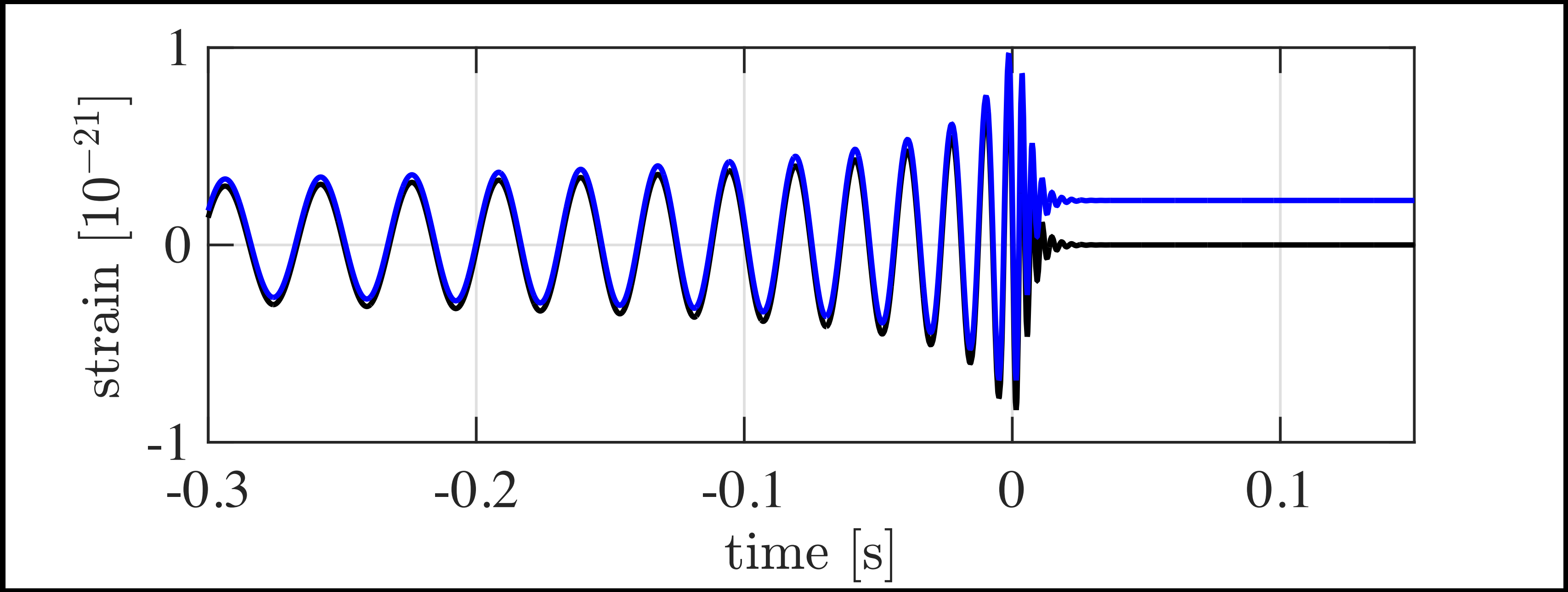
-0.3
-0.2
-0.1
0
0.1
time [s]

LIGO

LIGO



1
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-1
strain [10^{-21}]
-0.3
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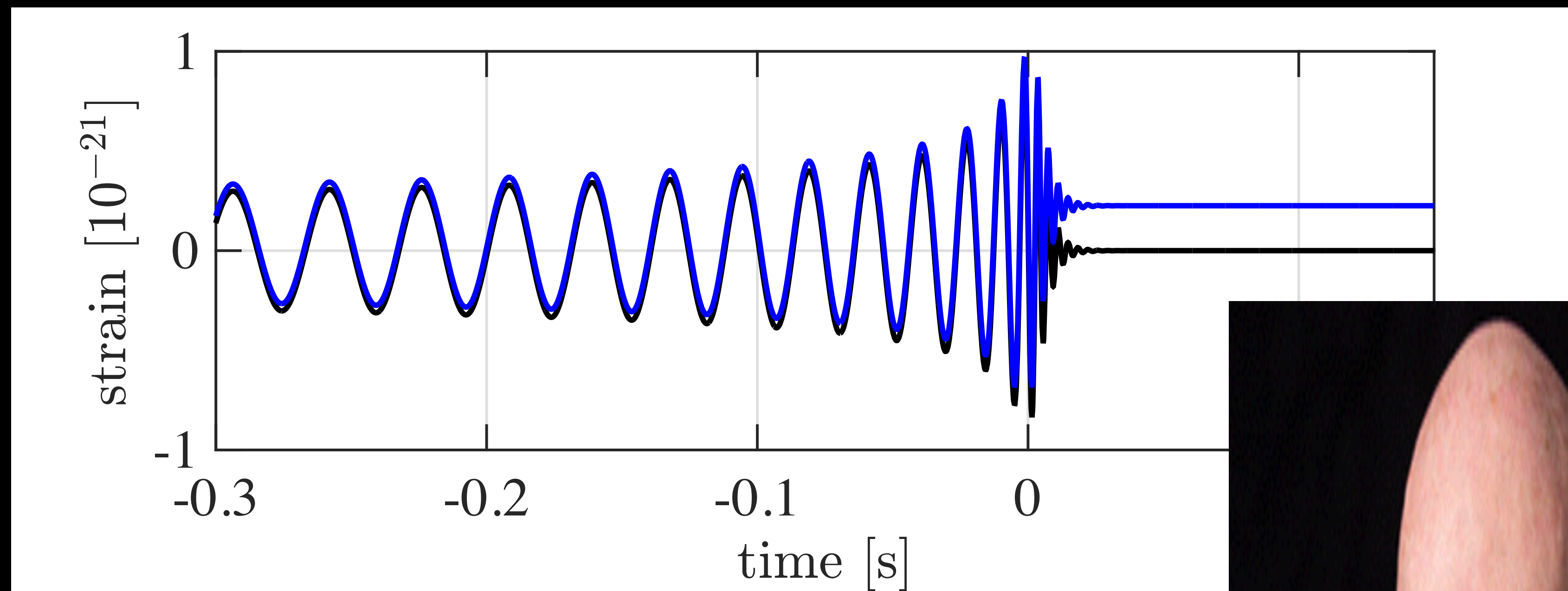
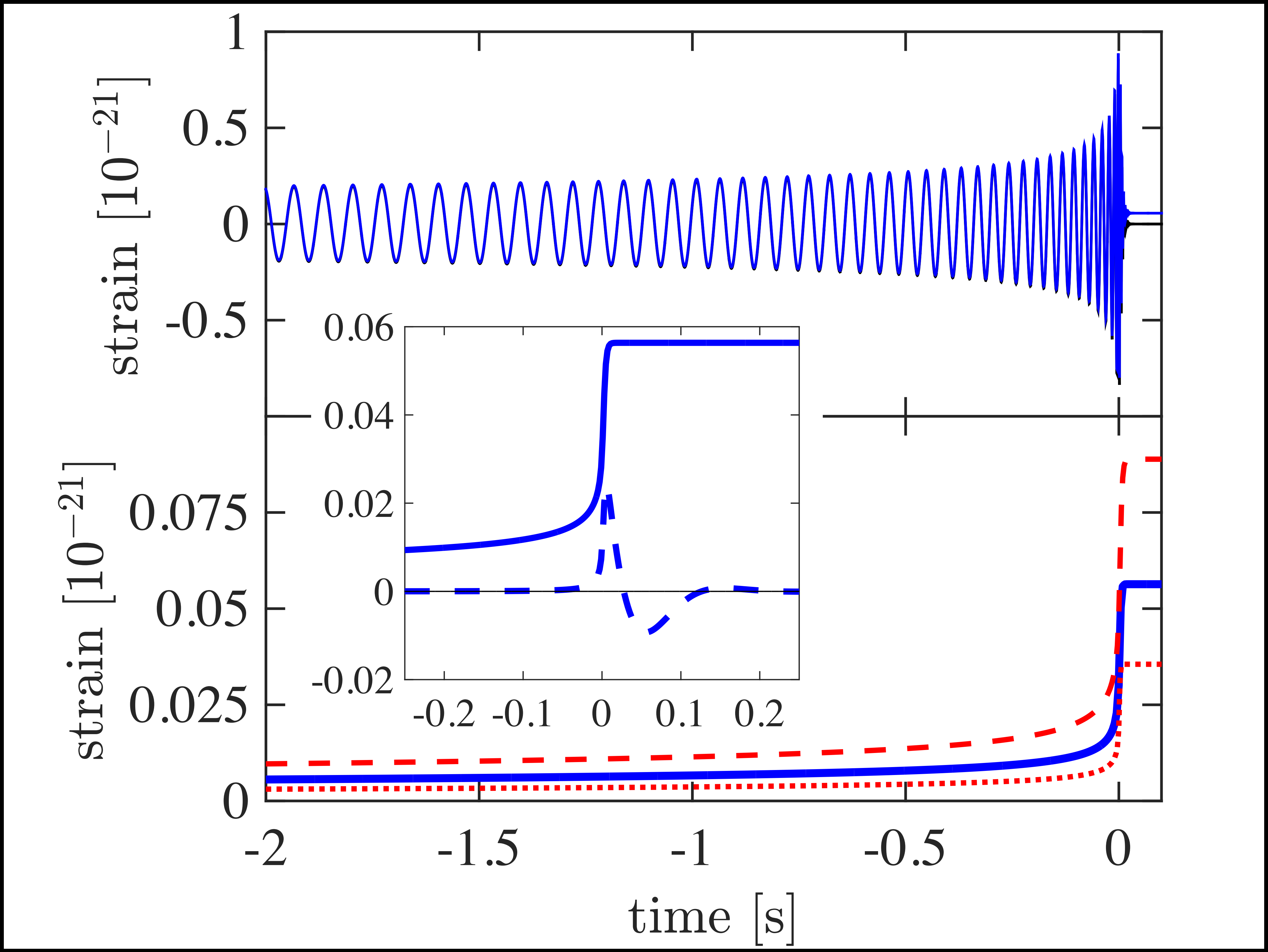
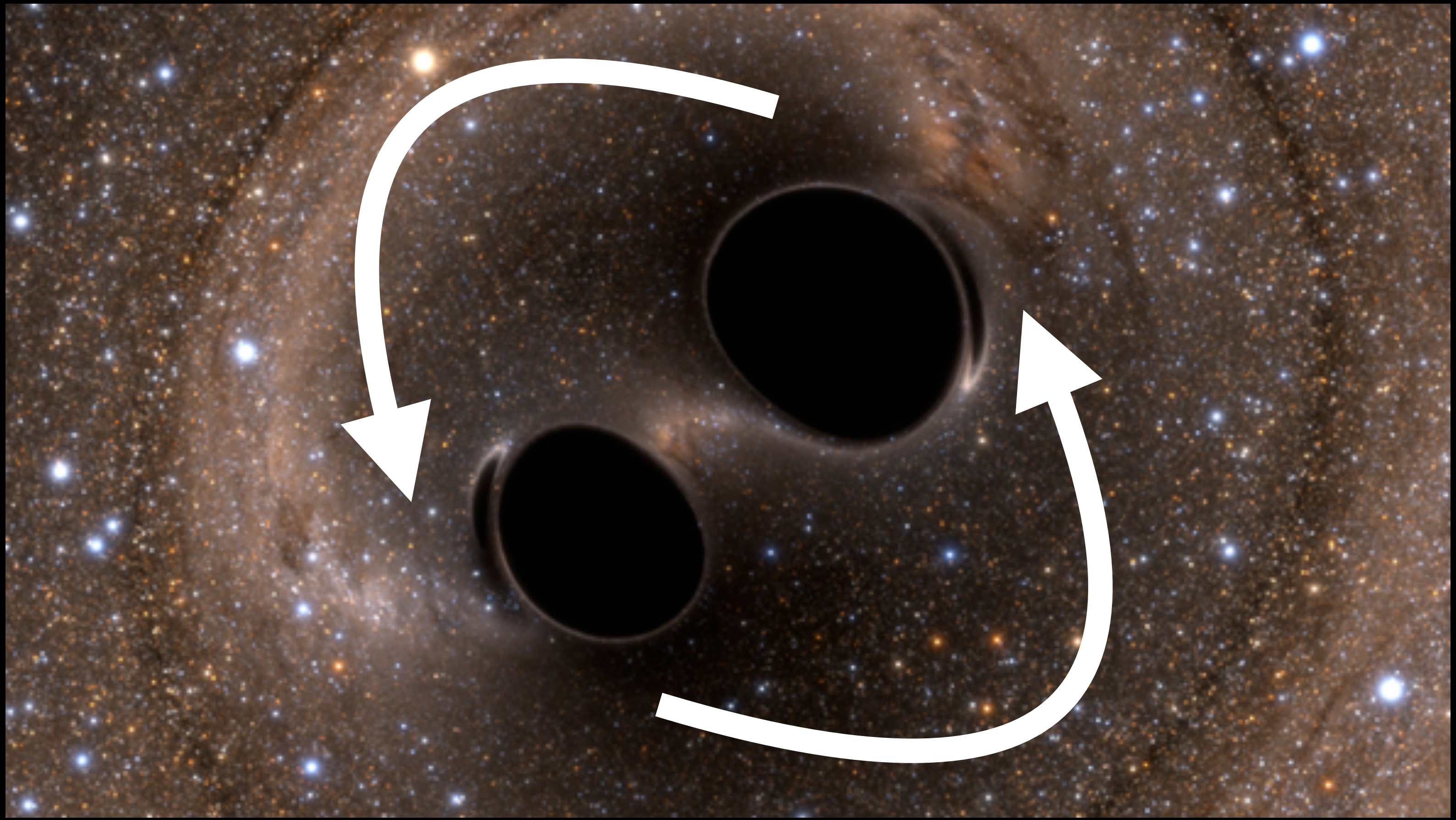

1
0
-1
strain [10^−21]
-0.3
-0.2
-0.1
0
time [s]

How the detector responds



$$h \propto \frac{\ddot{Q}}{d}$$

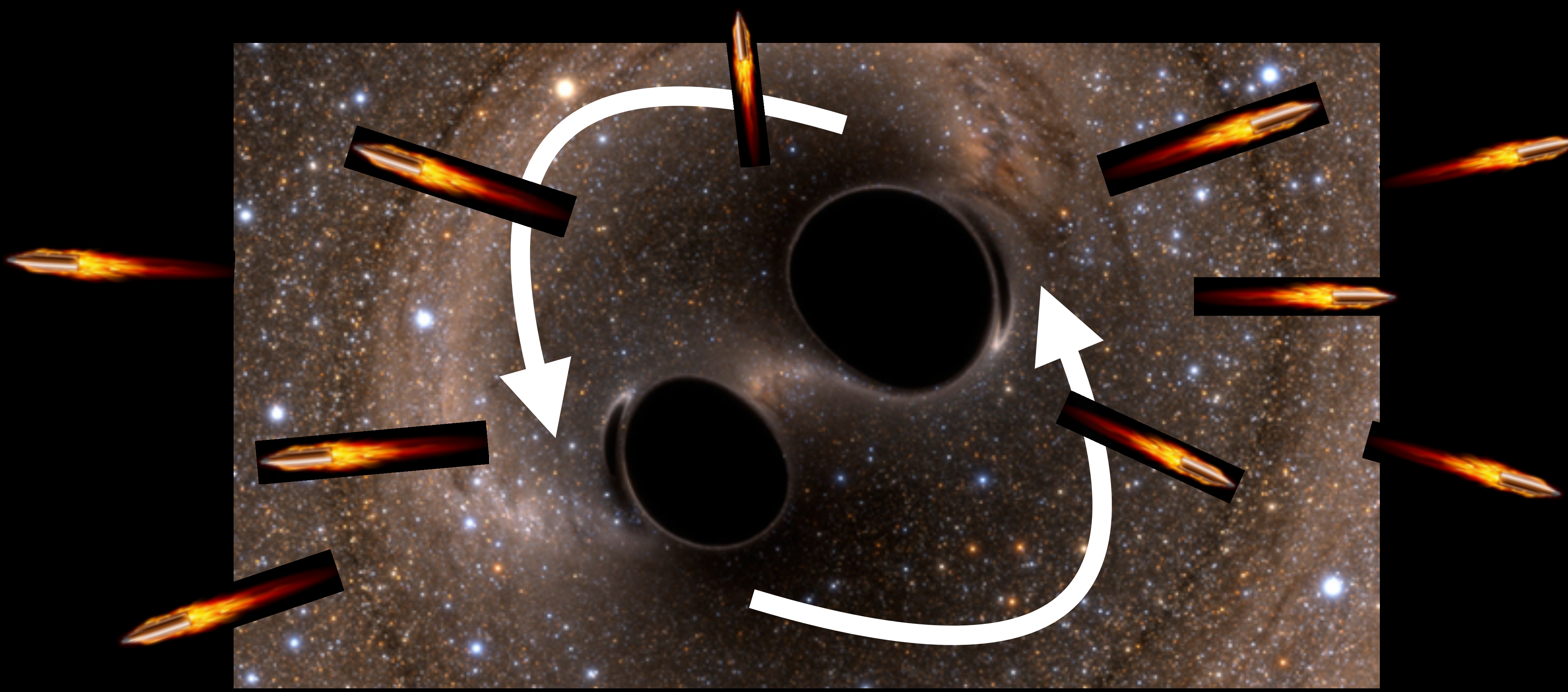
- non-zero from inspiral of point masses



e.g., Braginsky & Thorne (1987), Christodoulou (1991), Thorne (1992)

$$h \propto \frac{\ddot{Q}}{d}$$

- non-zero from inspiral of point masses
- also from anisotropic distribution of projectiles (**gravitons**) leaving source



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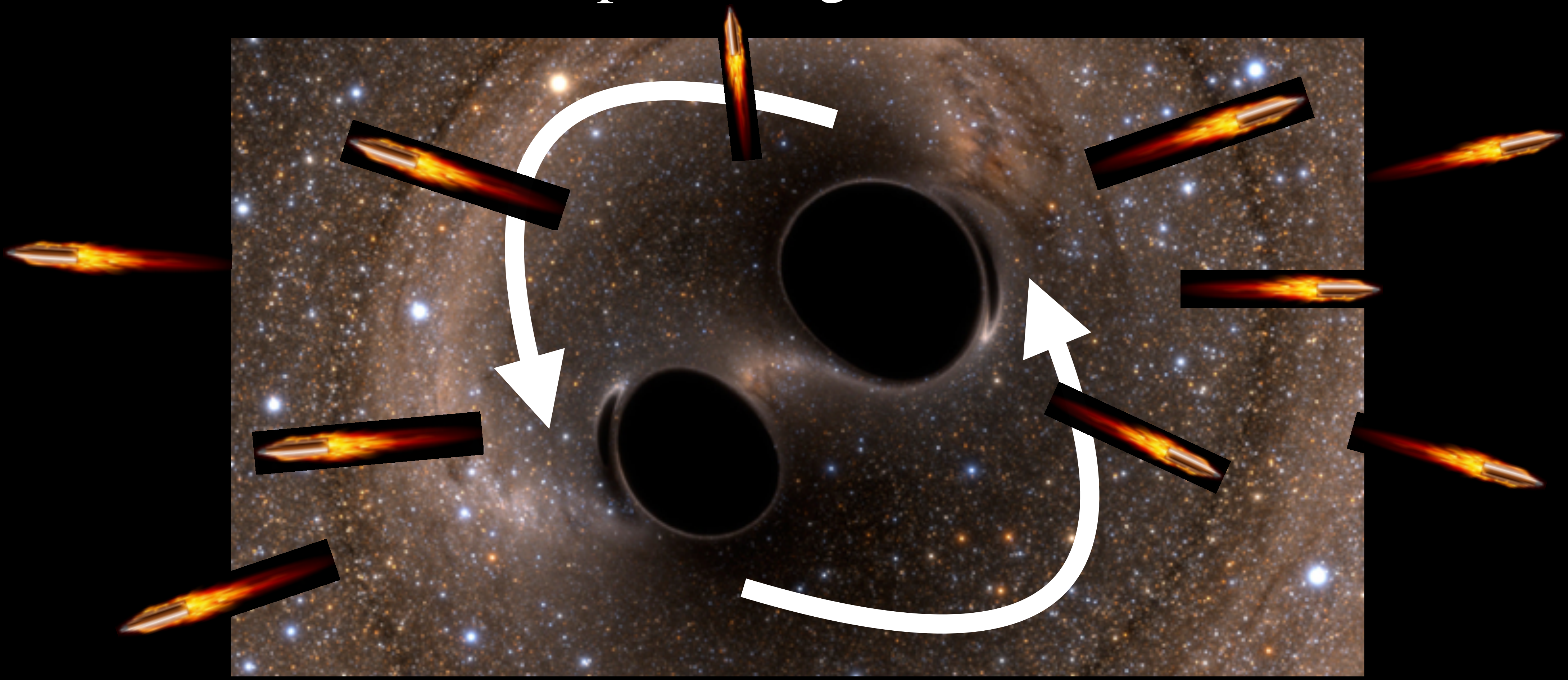

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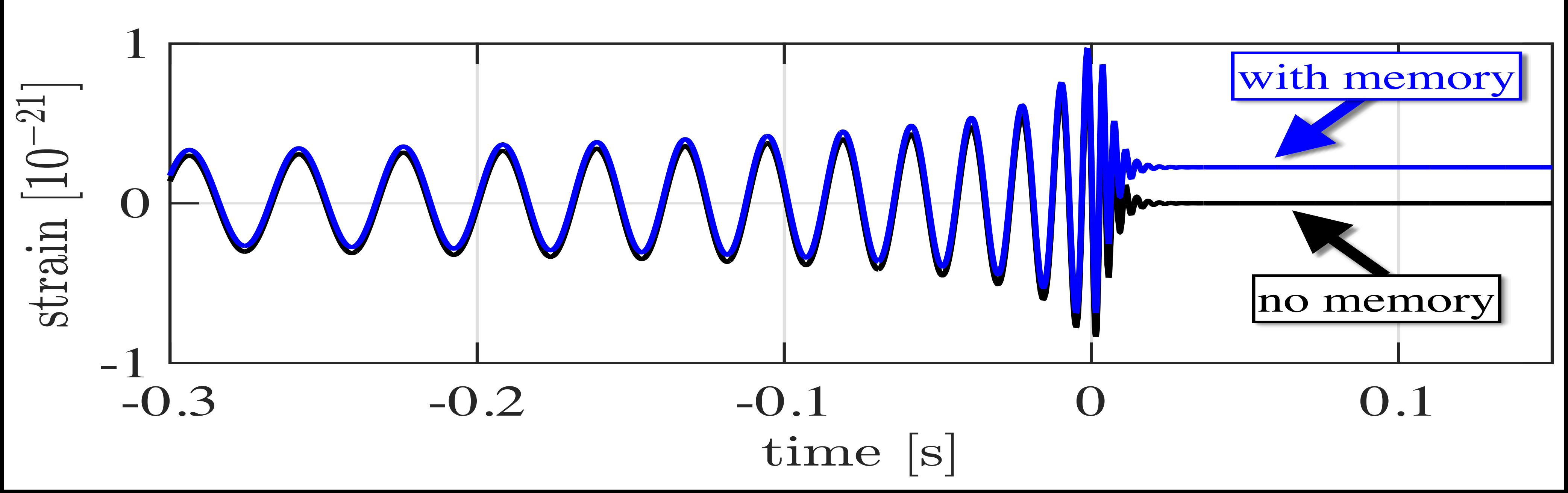
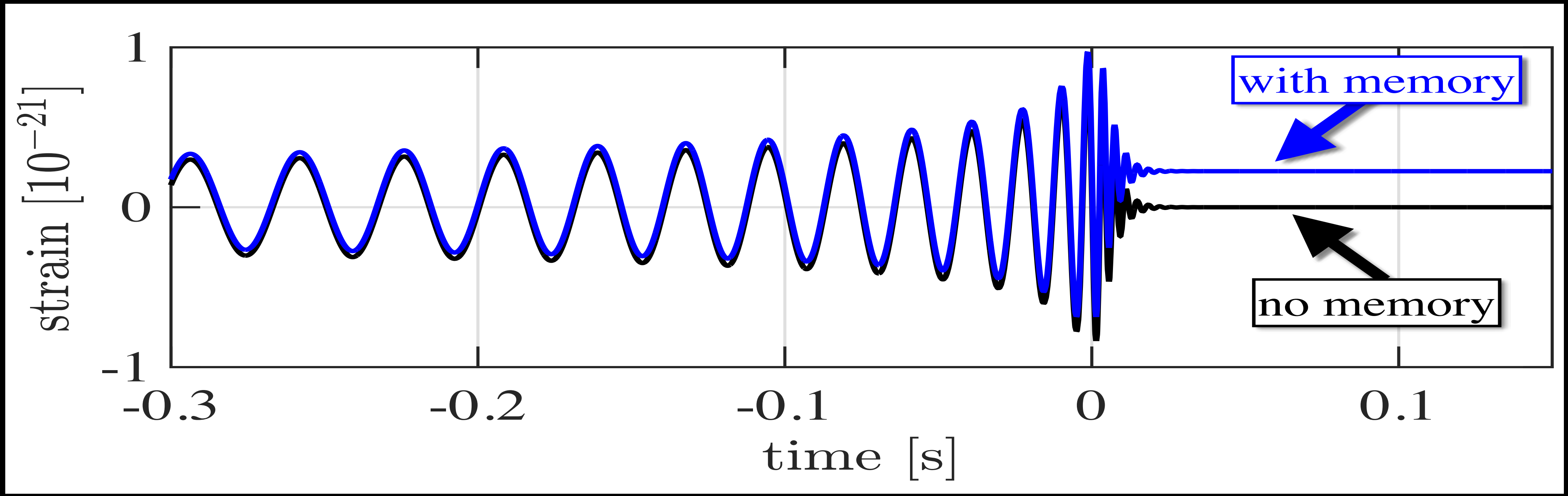
Non-oscillatory contribution to GW signal: Permanent displacement of spacetime

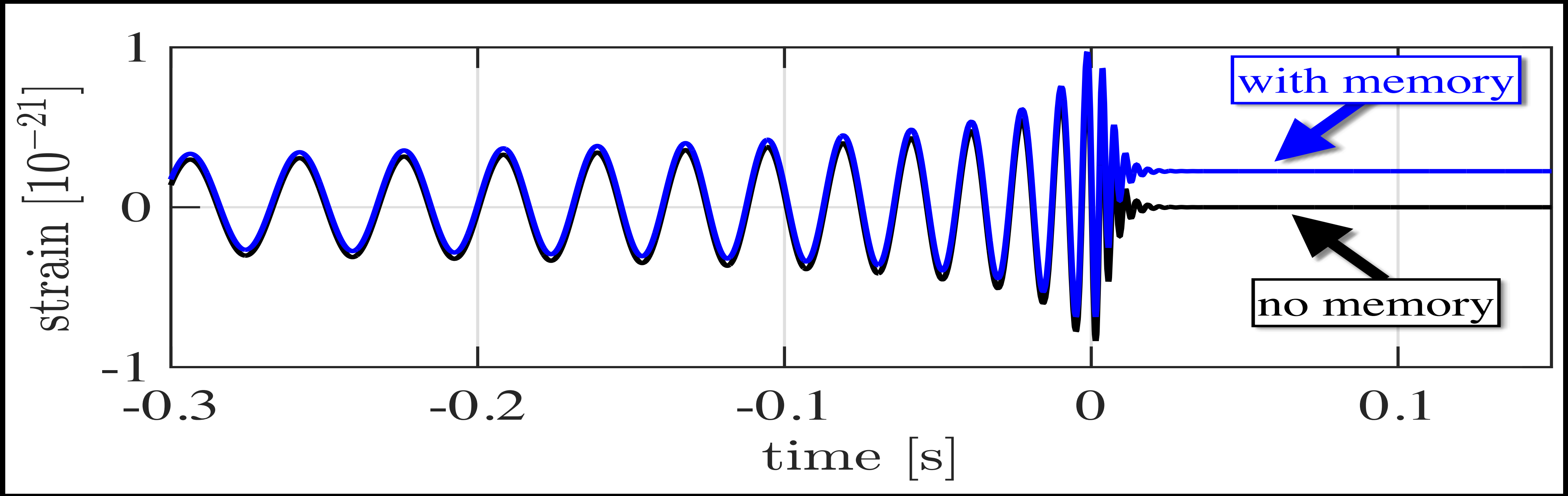


how BIG is the effect?

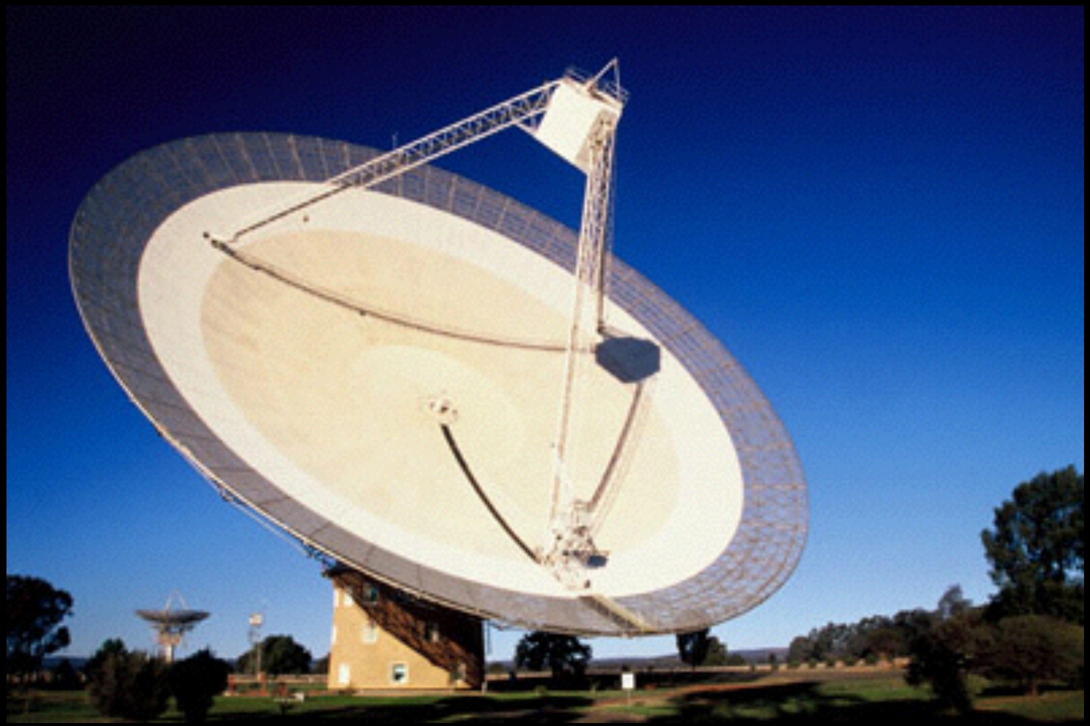


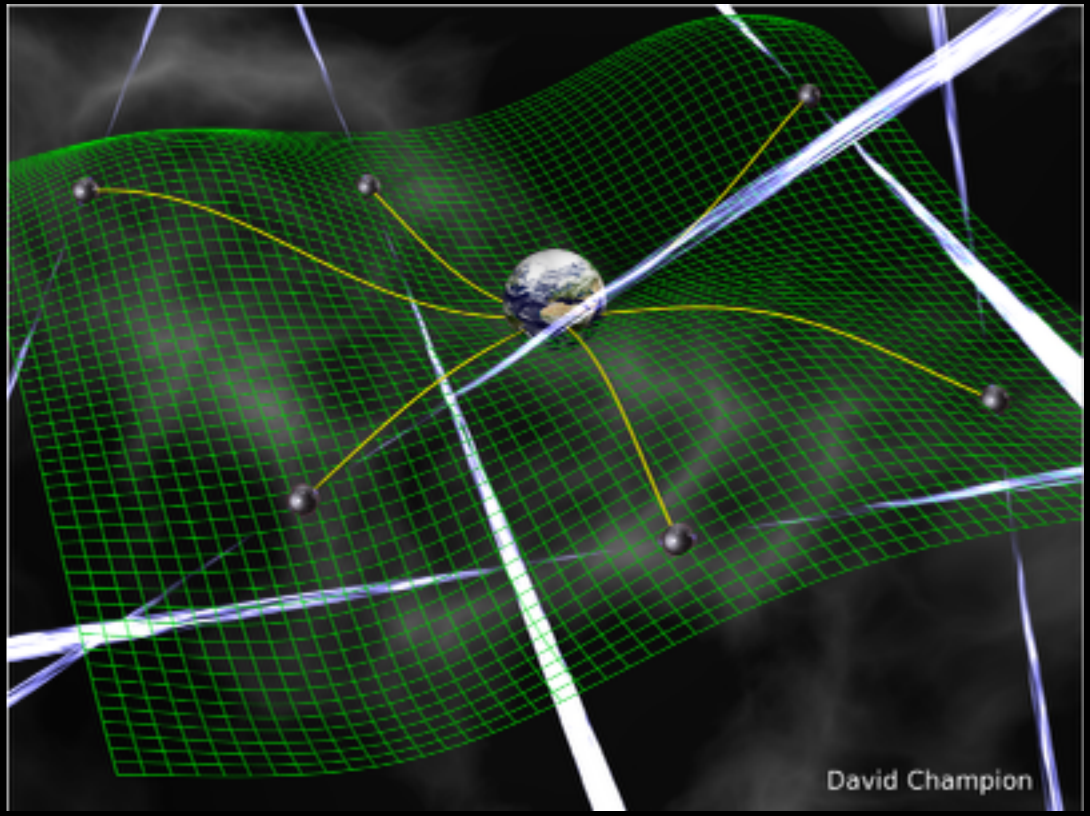
how BIG is the effect?

$$\text{GW150914:} \quad \frac{\text{oscillatory strain}}{\text{memory strain}} \approx \frac{1}{20}$$

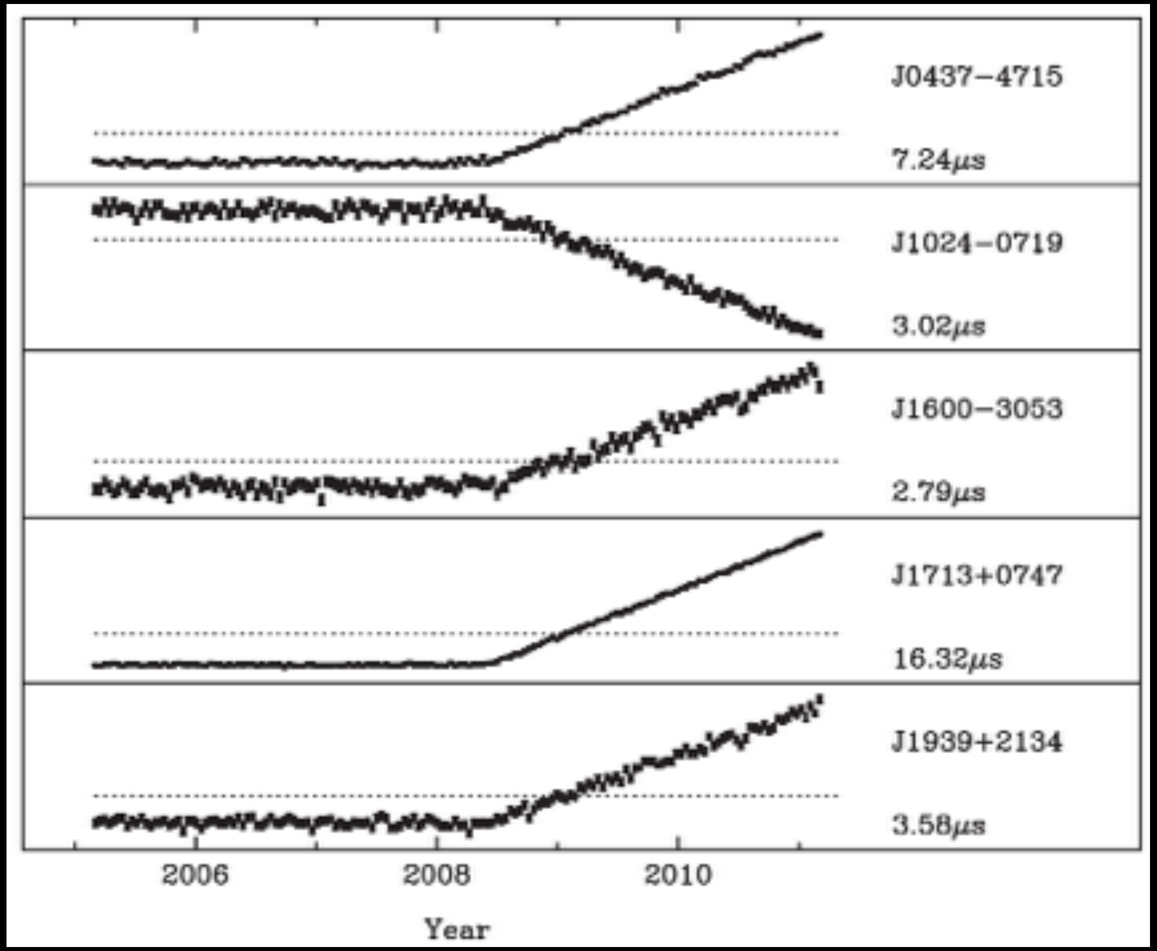


Previous efforts: Pulsar Timing Arrays





- PTAs search for nHz gravitational waves
- Sensitive to memory from supermassive black hole mergers
- Predicted event rates are low



Wang et al. (2015)

Detecting memory from an **<u>ensemble</u>** of events

puntastic…

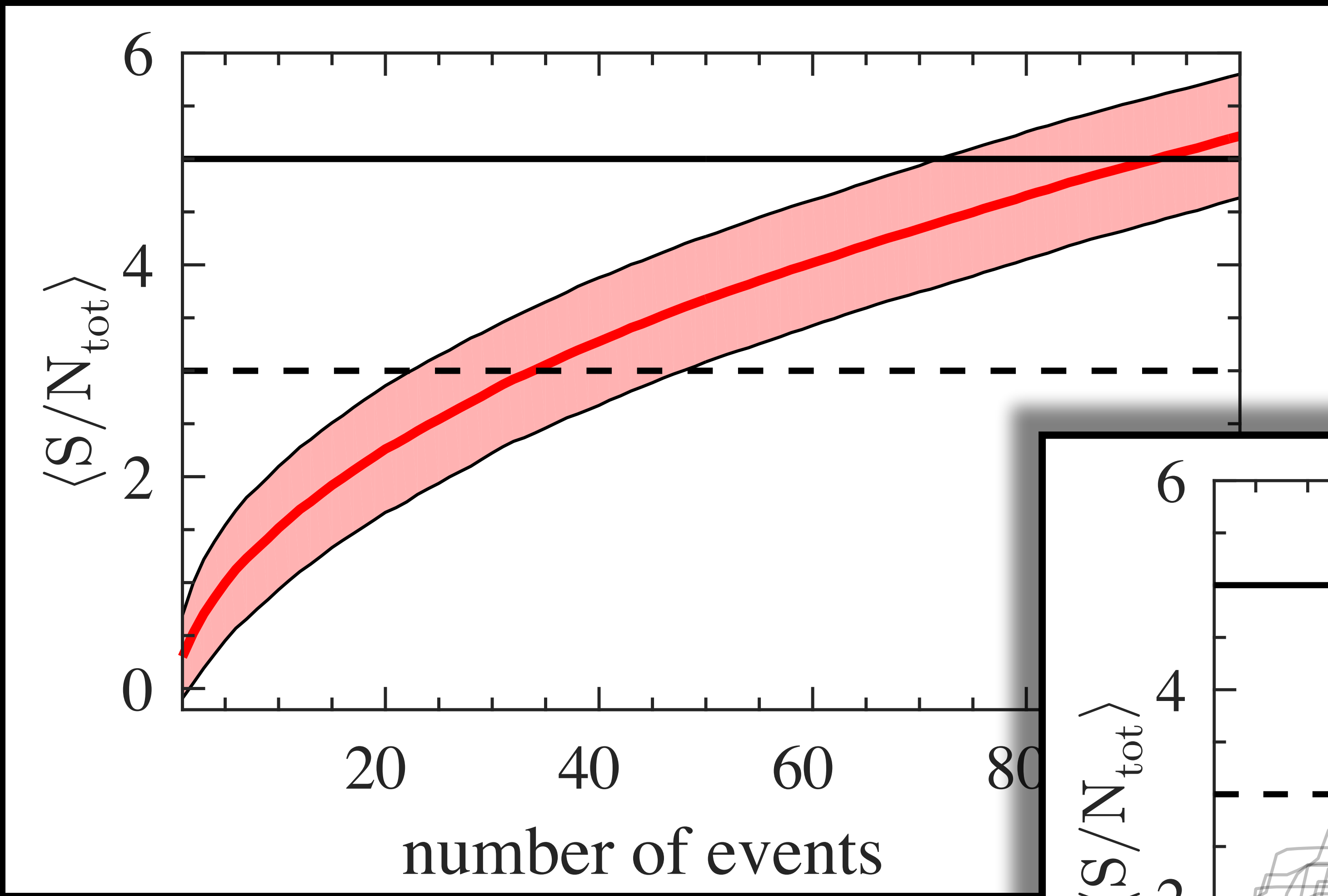
Detecting memory from an <u>**ensemble**</u> of events

- Any given signal is too weak to detect
- Proposal: **measure the sum of many signals**

- We know the arrival time of each signal
  - subtract oscillatory component
  - search for memory

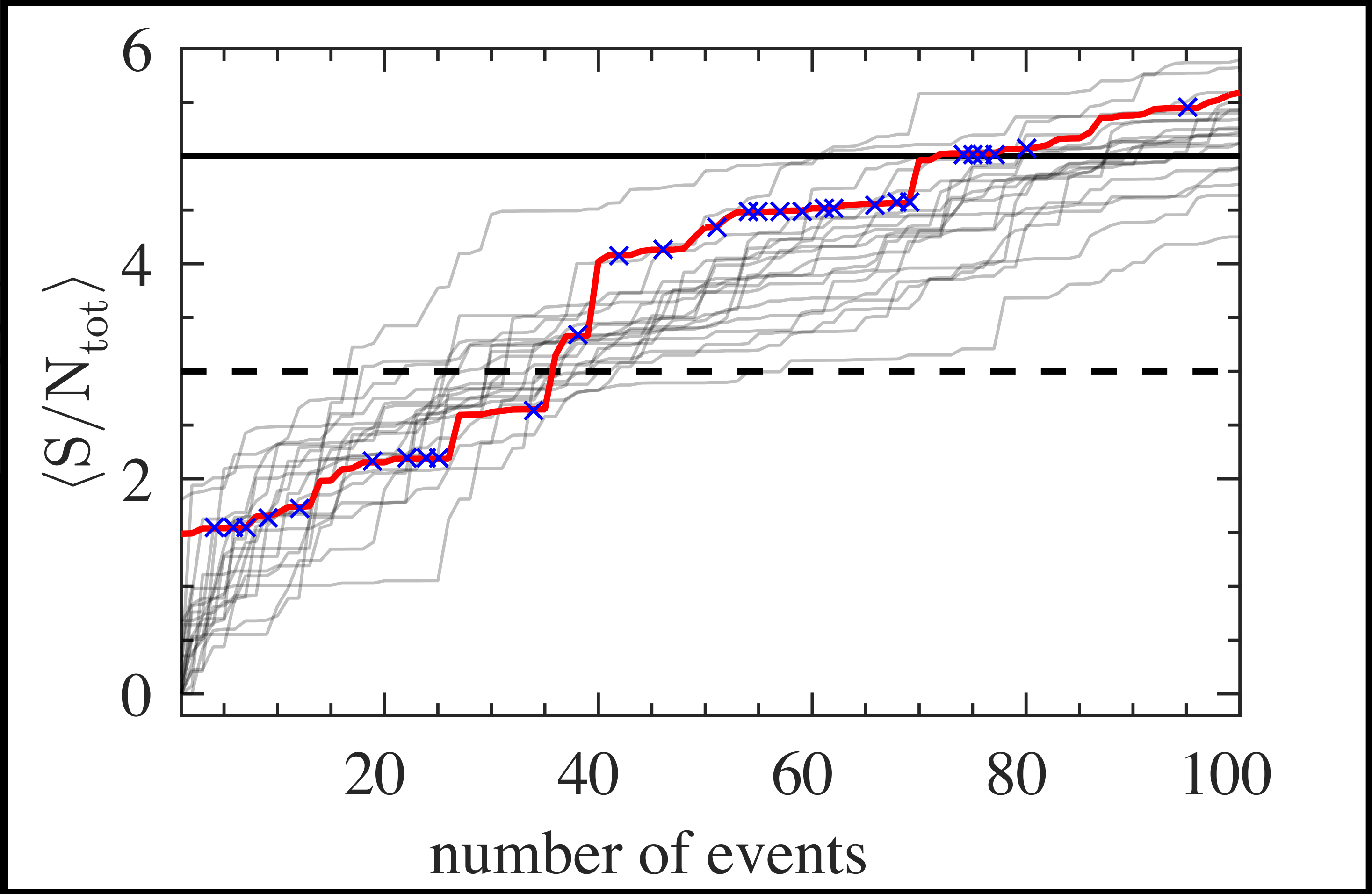
- Design statistics for adding signal

For the frequentists…



optimal matched filter

$$S/N_{\rm tot} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N_{\rm IFO}} S/N_{i,j}^2 \right)^{1/2}$$



Advanced LIGO:
~ **35** 'loudish'
black hole observations

Lasky et al. (2016)

Measurement Subtleties

- Oscillatory (h_{22}) waveform component invariant under

$$\psi \to \psi + \pi/2 \qquad \phi_c \to \phi_c + \pi/2$$

$$h_{22}(\psi,\, \phi_c) = h_{22}(\psi + \pi/2,\, \phi_c + \pi/2)$$

Lasky et al. (2016)

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$$h_{22}(\psi,\, \phi_c) = h_{22}(\psi + \pi/2,\, \phi_c + \pi/2)$$

- but, memory component incurs a minus sign

$$h_{22}^{\mathrm{mem}}(\psi,\, \phi_c) = -h_{22}^{\mathrm{mem}}(\psi + \pi/2,\, \phi_c + \pi/2)$$

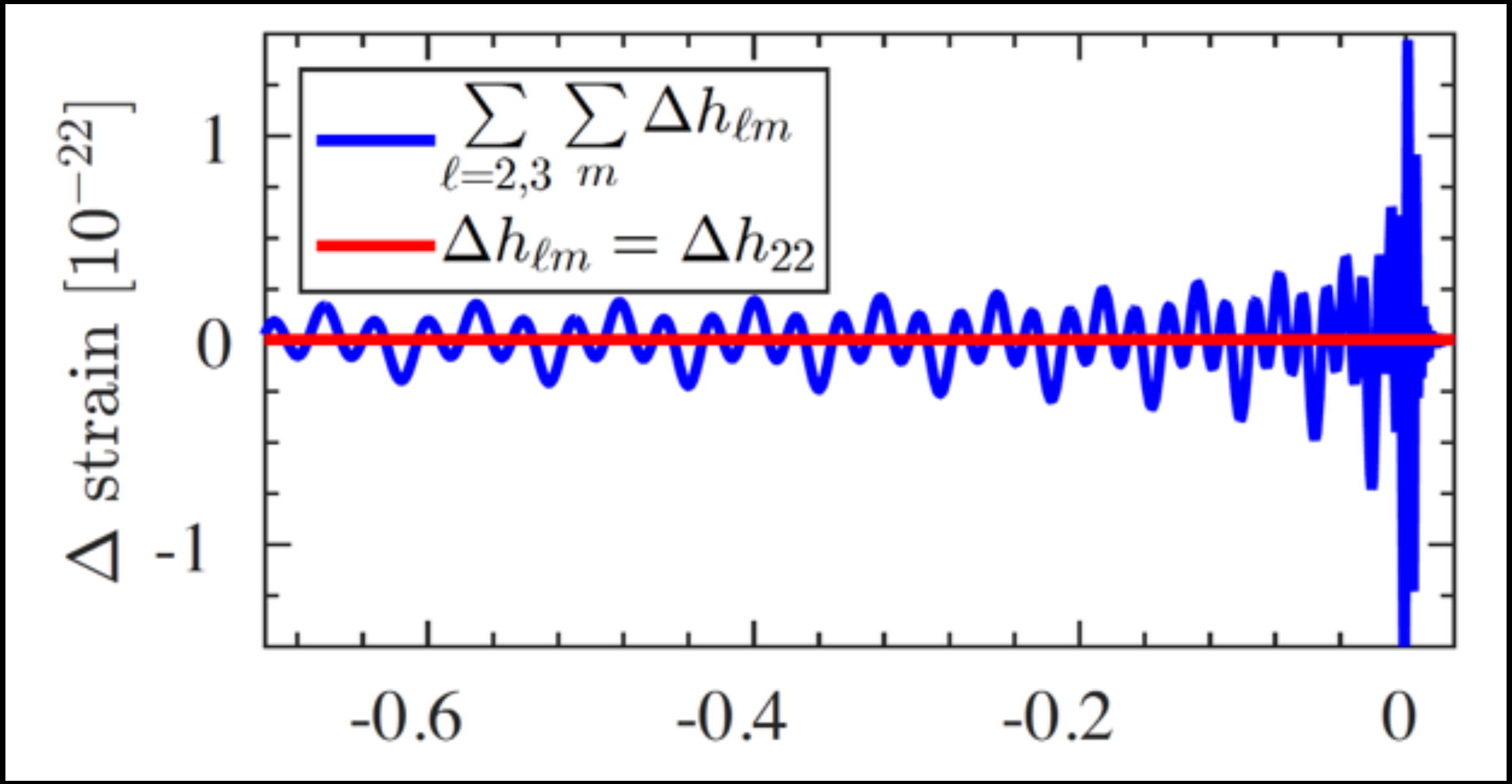
Lasky et al. (2016)

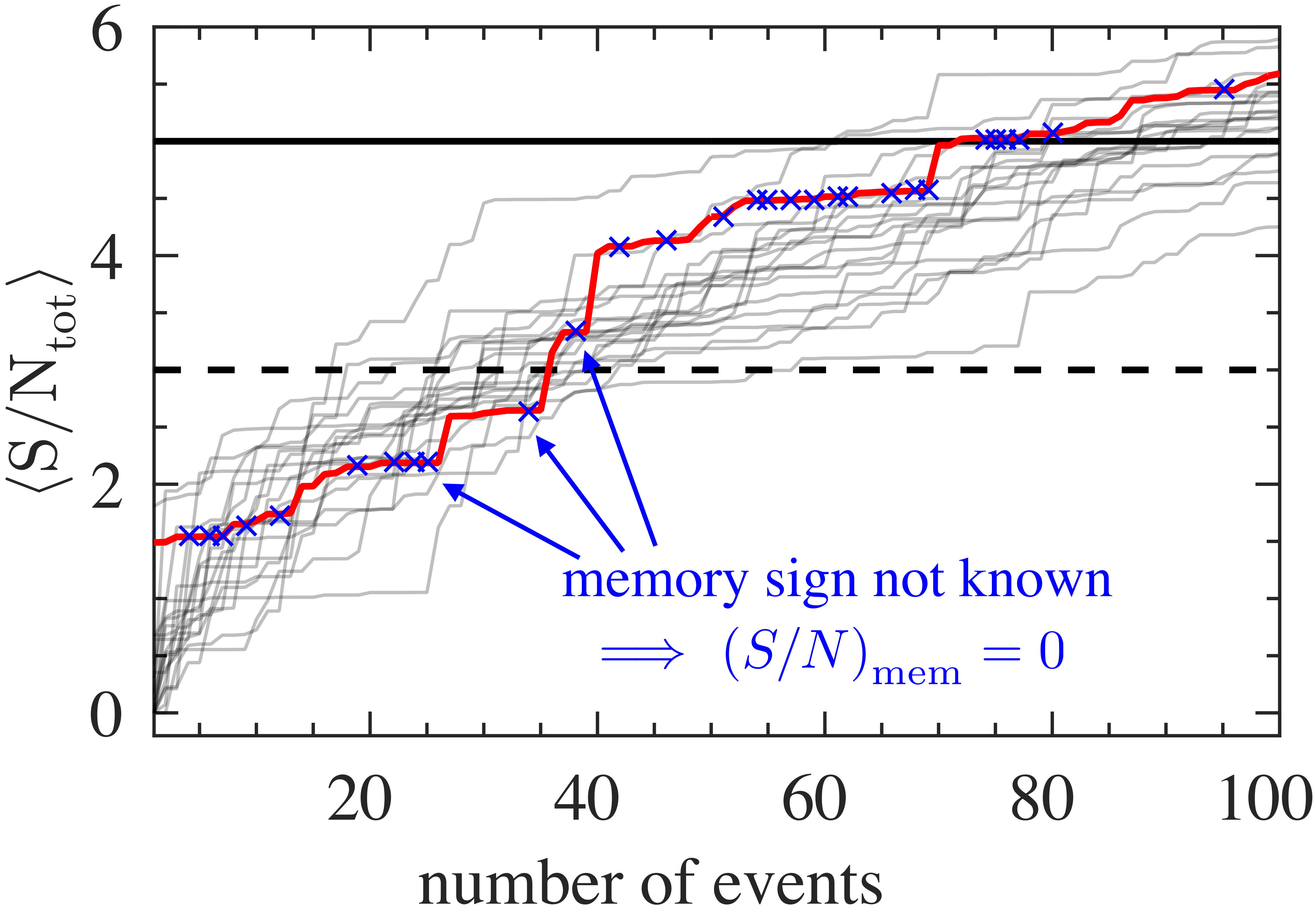
- Solution: higher order modes

$$\Delta h_{\ell m} \propto h_{\ell m}(\psi, \phi_c) - h_{\ell m}(\psi + \pi/2,\, \phi_c + \pi/2)$$

$\Delta h_{\ell m} = 0$ degeneracy not broken :-(

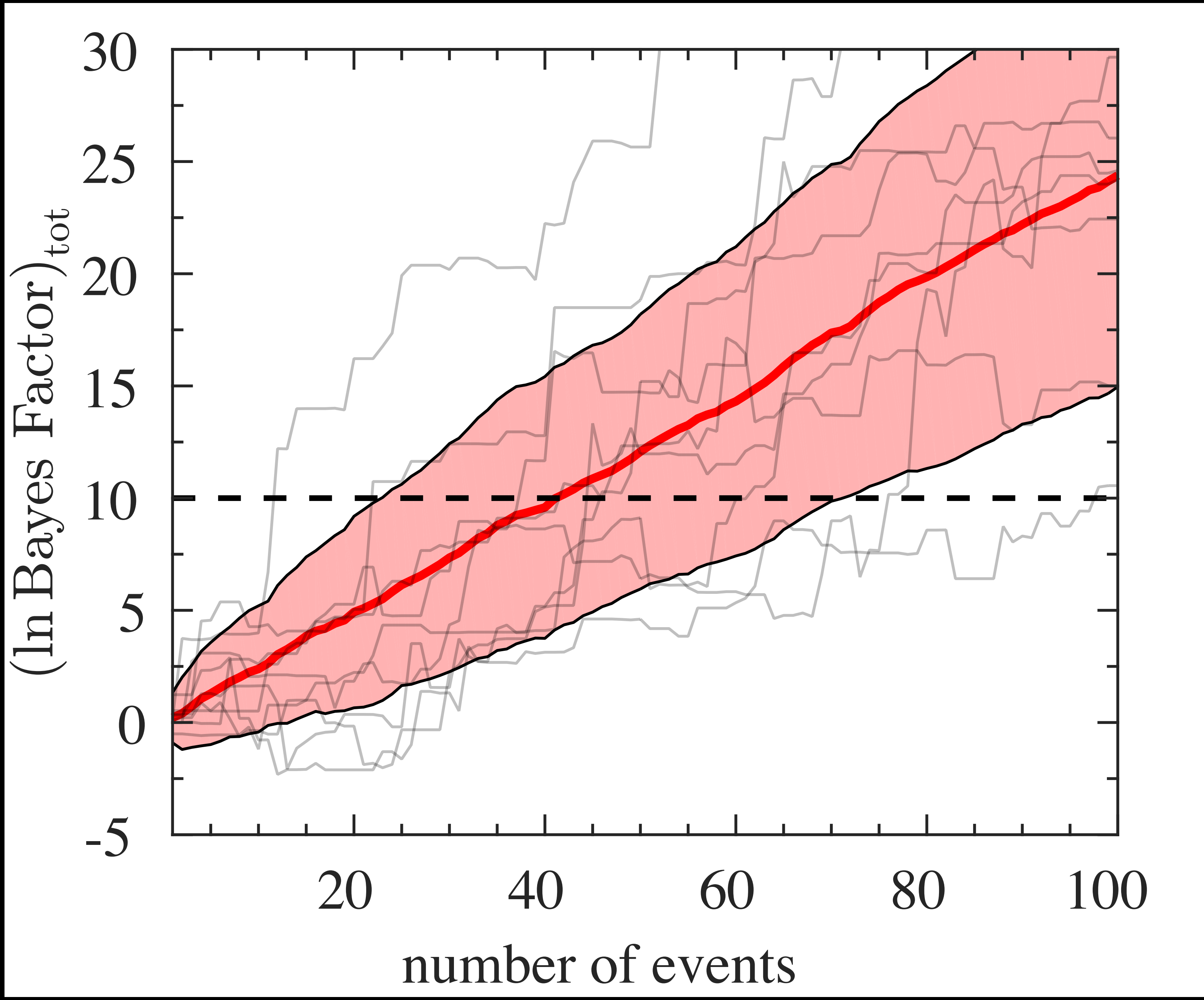
$\Delta h_{\ell m} \neq 0$ sign of memory known :-)





Lasky et al. (2016)

The Bayesian approach…



Advanced LIGO:
~ **35** 'loudish'
black hole observations

Lasky et al. (2016)

Other ways to detect memory in LIGO: Orphan Memory

- Can we detect memory without detecting the oscillatory part of the waveform?

McNeill, Thrane, Lasky & Levin (in prep)

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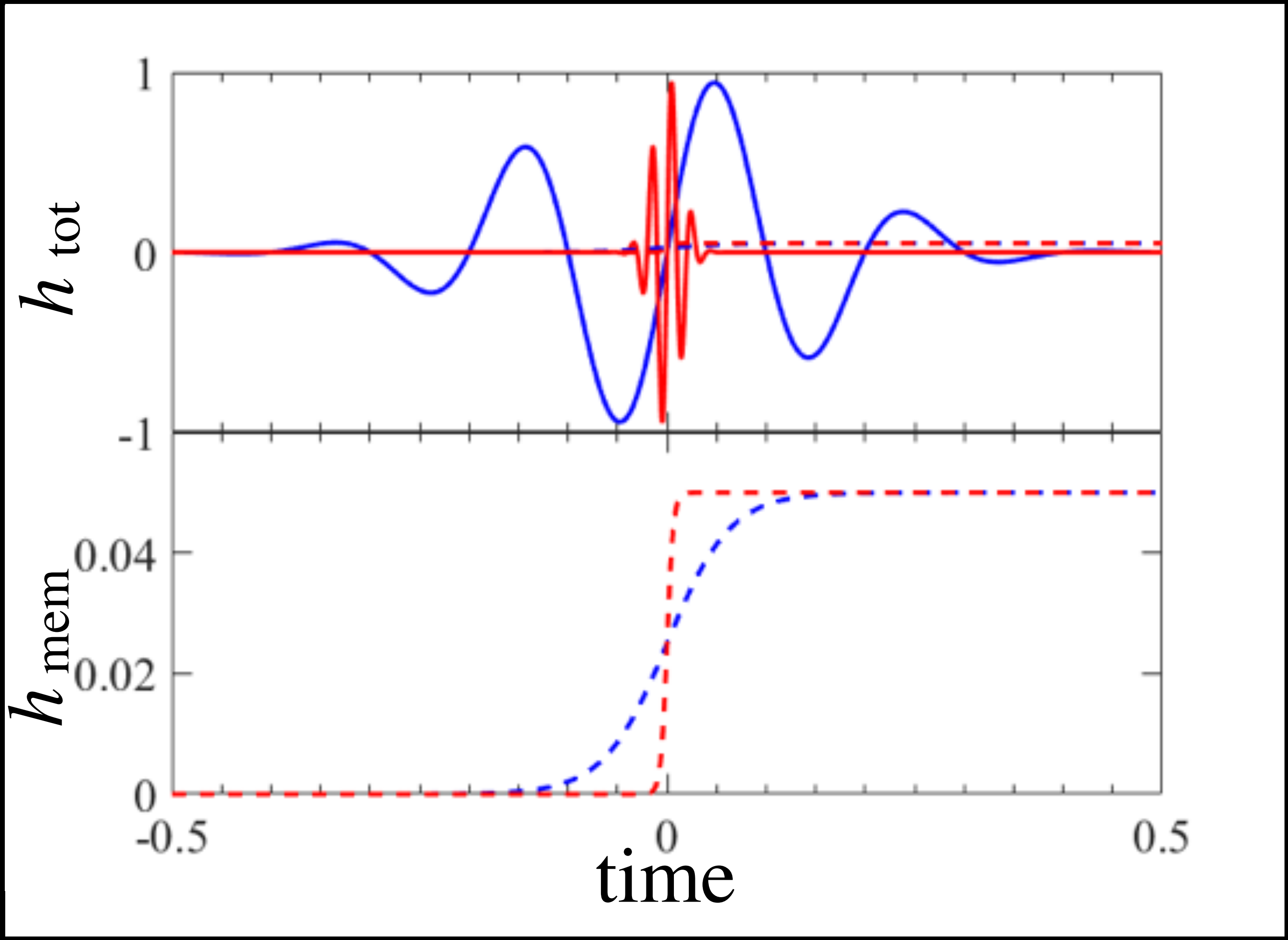
- Can we detect memory without detecting the oscillatory part of the waveform?

- Yes:
  - high-frequency burst signals
  - memory is step-function

$$\implies h_{\rm mem}(f) \propto f^{-1}$$



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- Can we detect memory without detecting the oscillatory part of the waveform?

- Yes:
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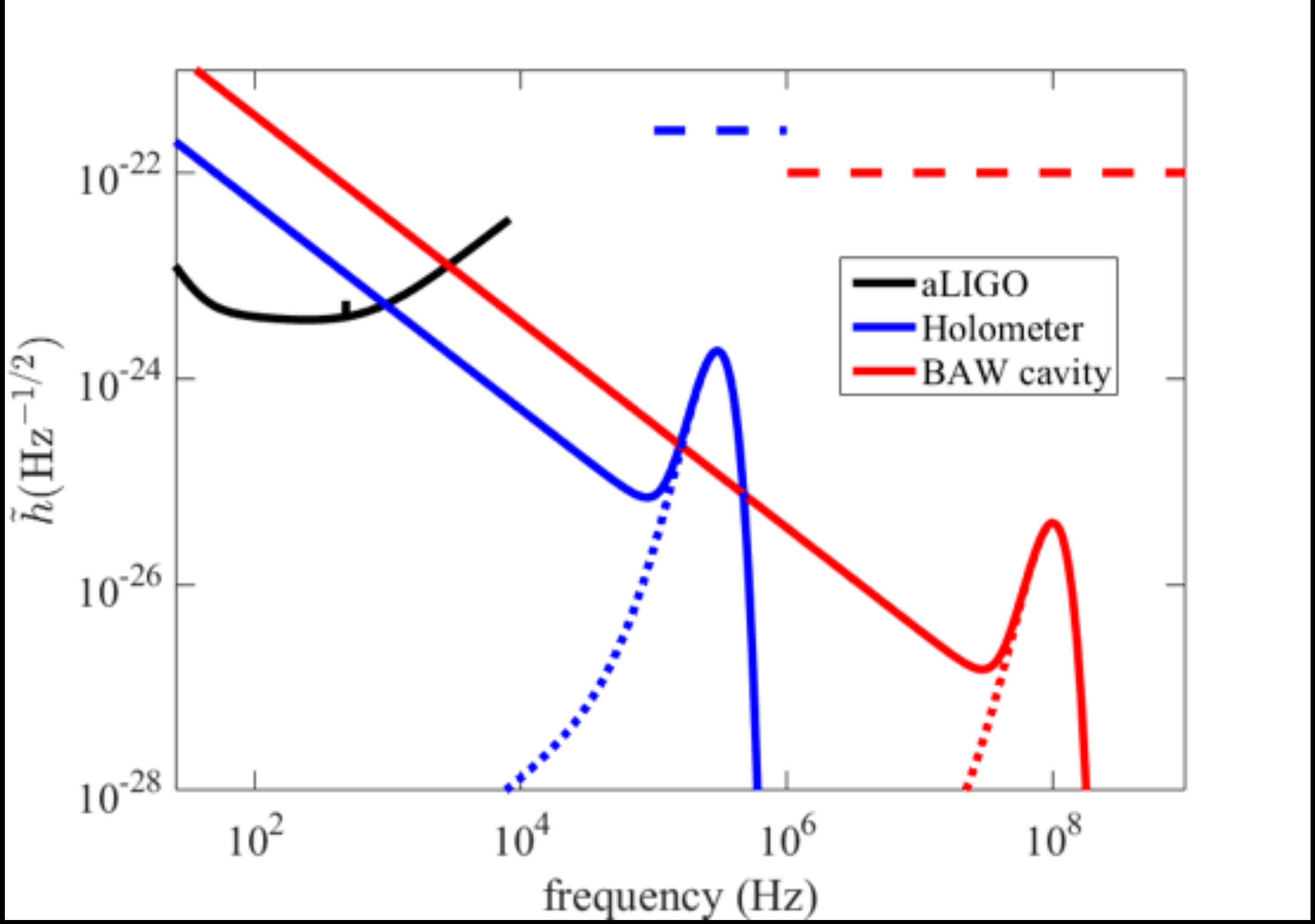
  - memory is step-function

$$\implies h_{\rm mem}(f) \propto f^{-1}$$

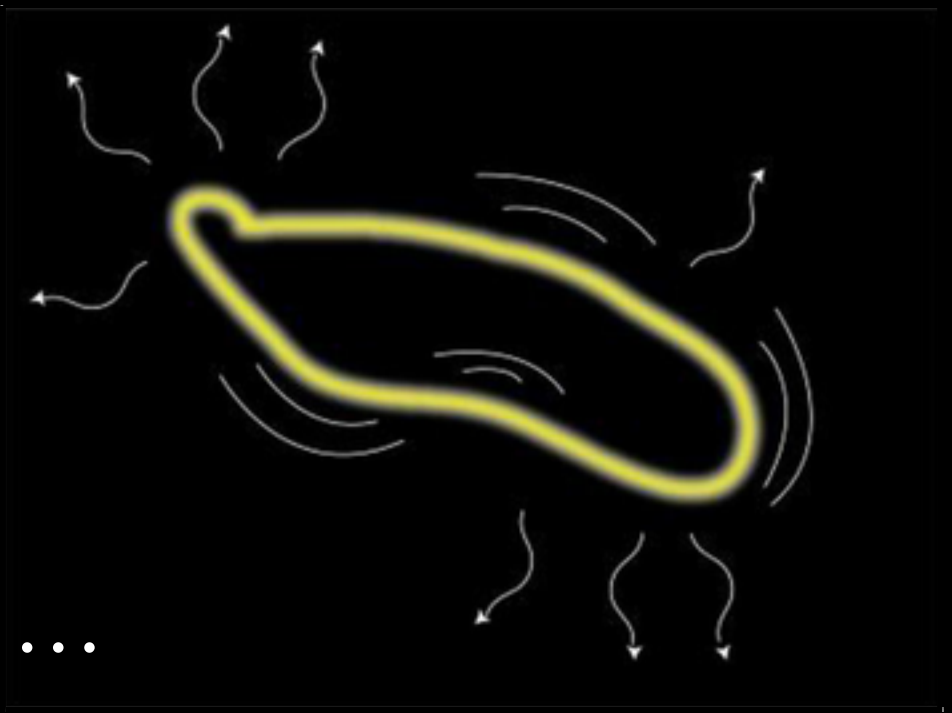
- Extends LIGO's bandwidth by orders of magnitude!



McNeill, Thrane, Lasky & Levin (in prep)

Other ways to detect memory in LIGO: Orphan Memory

- High frequency sources?



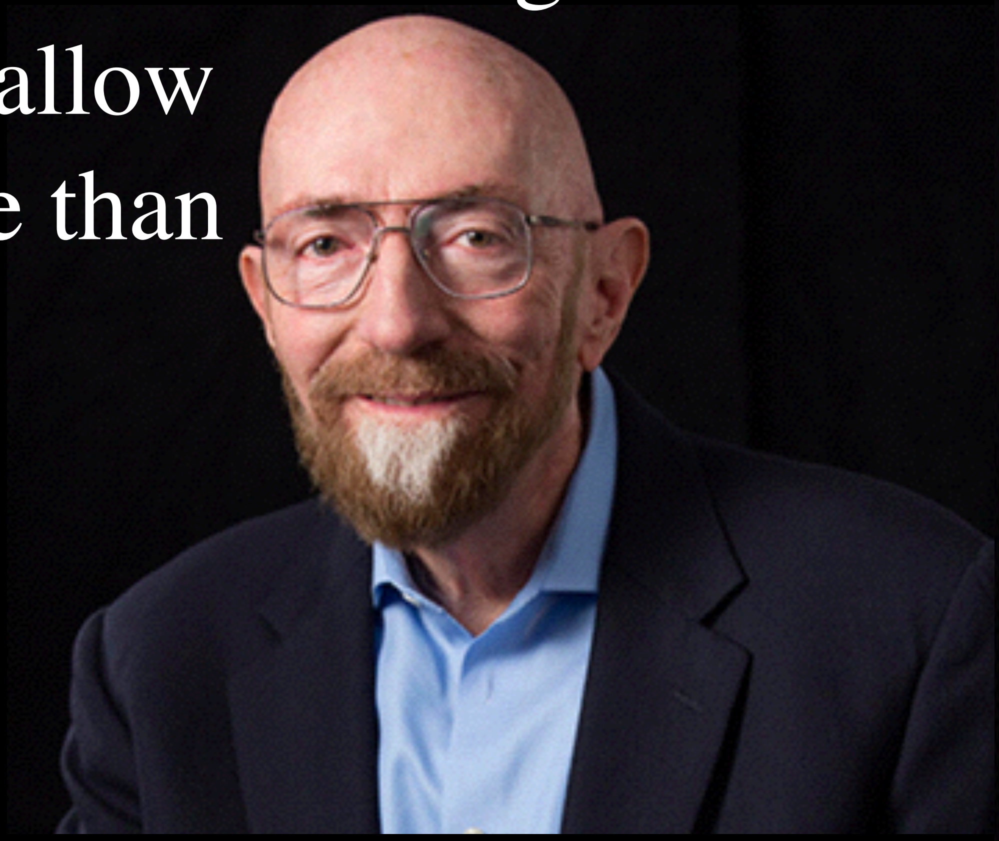
  - Cosmic strings
  - stellar oscillation modes
  - plasma instabilities in e.g., SNe, GRBs, …
  - Brane-world black hole modes
  - dark matter collapse in stars

(for review, see Cruise 2012)

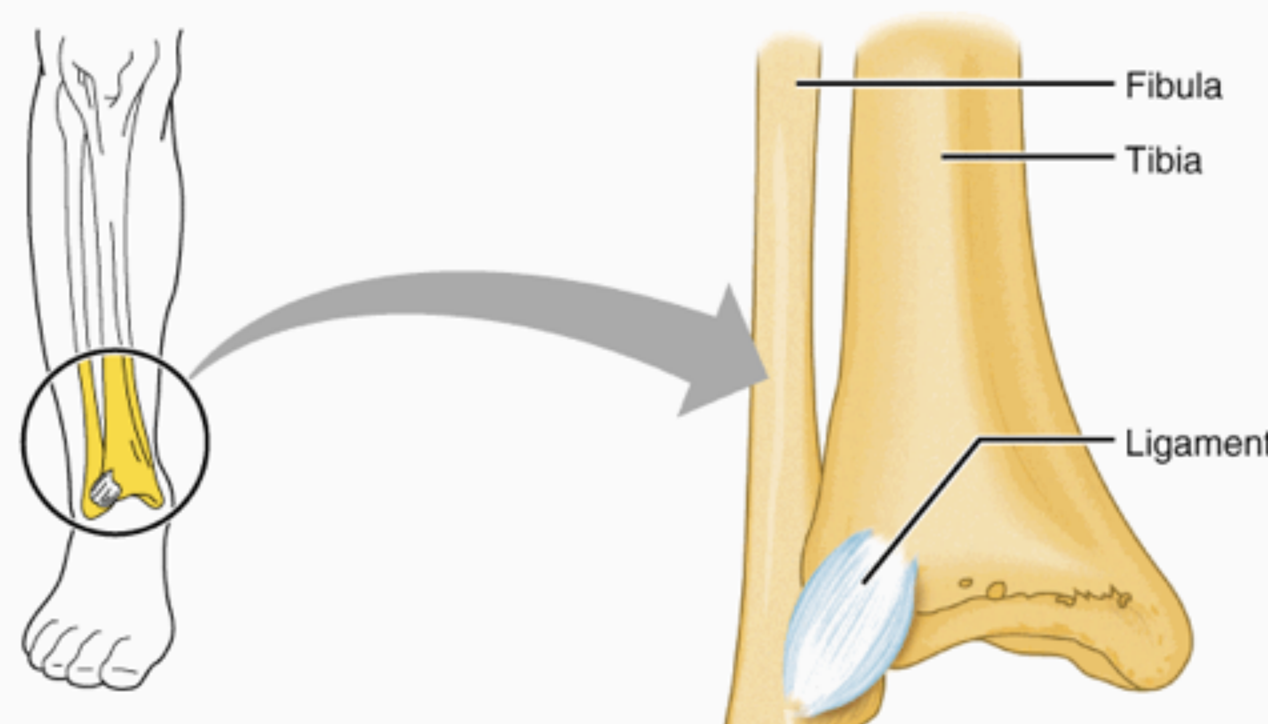
McNeill, Thrane, Lasky & Levin (in prep)

Conclusions

- gravitational-wave memory:
  - permanent deformation of spacetime!!
- Advanced LIGO:
  - ~ 35 ‘loudish’ binary black hole mergers
  - ***ensemble*** observations allow us to learn physics more than the sum of the parts



Extra slides



(b) Syndesmosis