

# Discovery of Black Holes that Should Not Exist

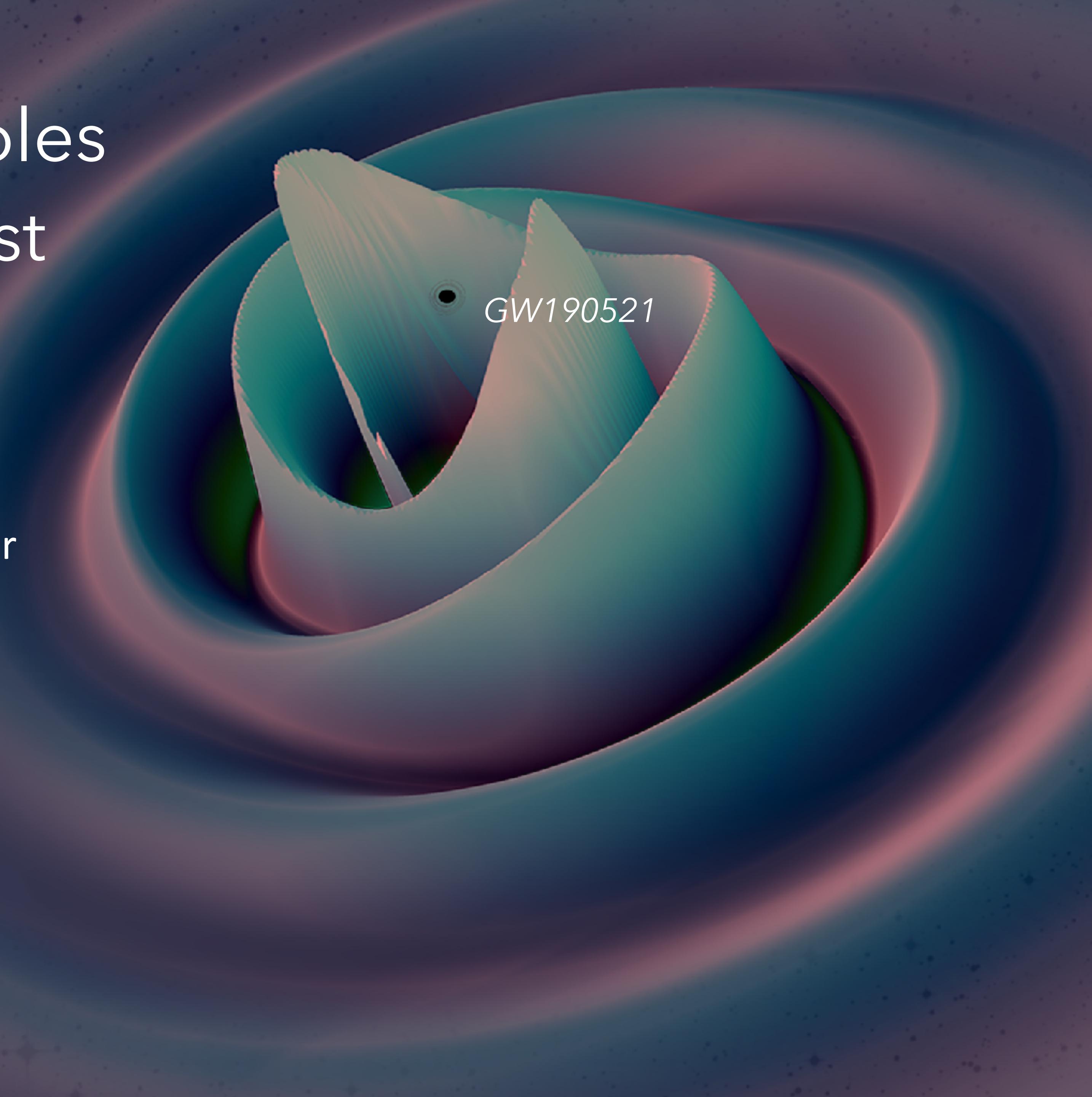
Fermilab, “Wine & Cheese” Seminar  
October 23, 2020

Karan Jani

Vanderbilt | LIGO Collaboration



@astrokpj



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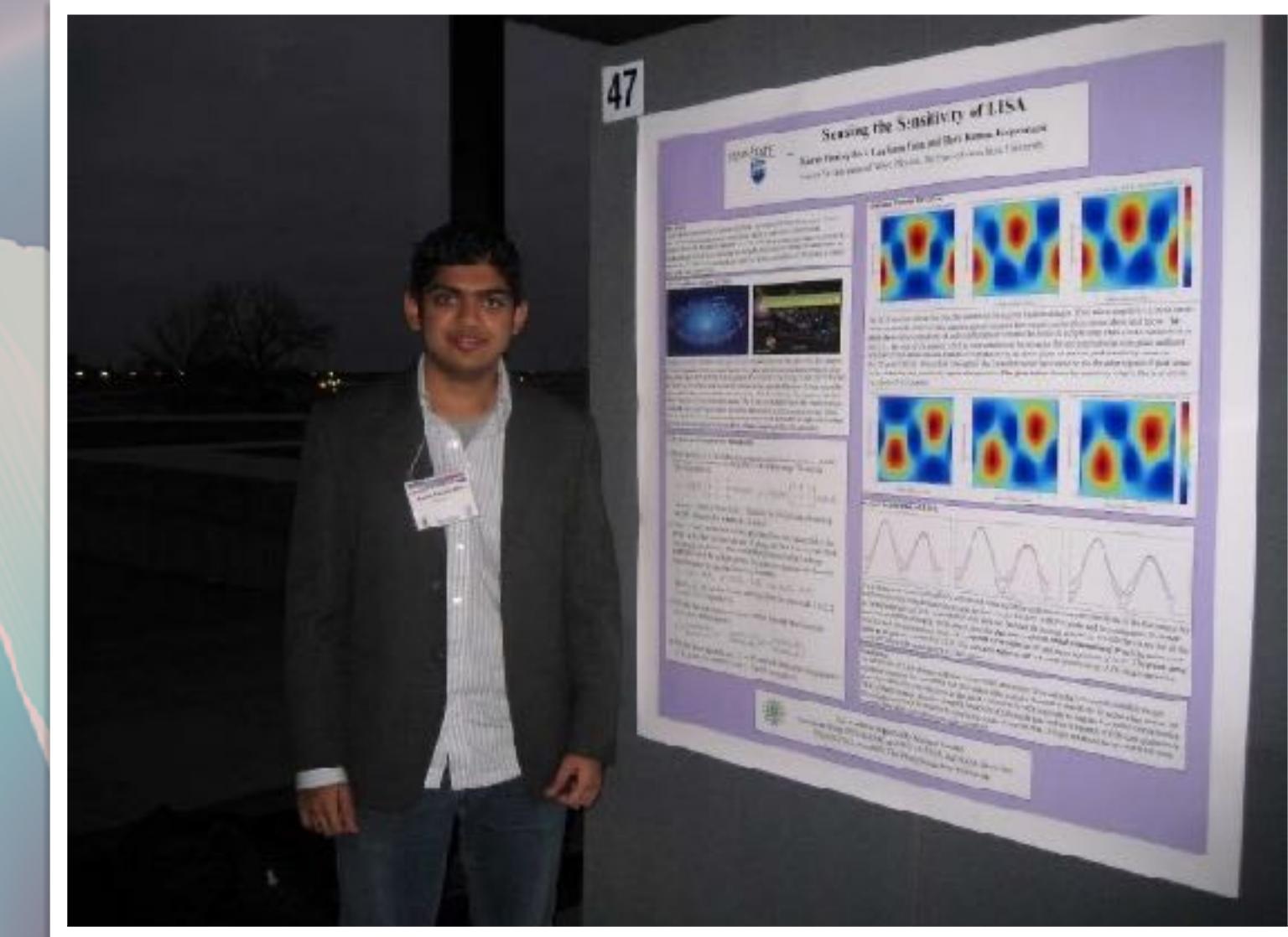
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Fermilab, Sigma Pi Sigma Congress  
November, 2008



**Leon M. Lederman**  
Physics Nobel Laureate; Director Emeritus, Fermilab;  
Pritzker Professor of Science, Illinois Institute of Technology; Resident Scholar,  
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

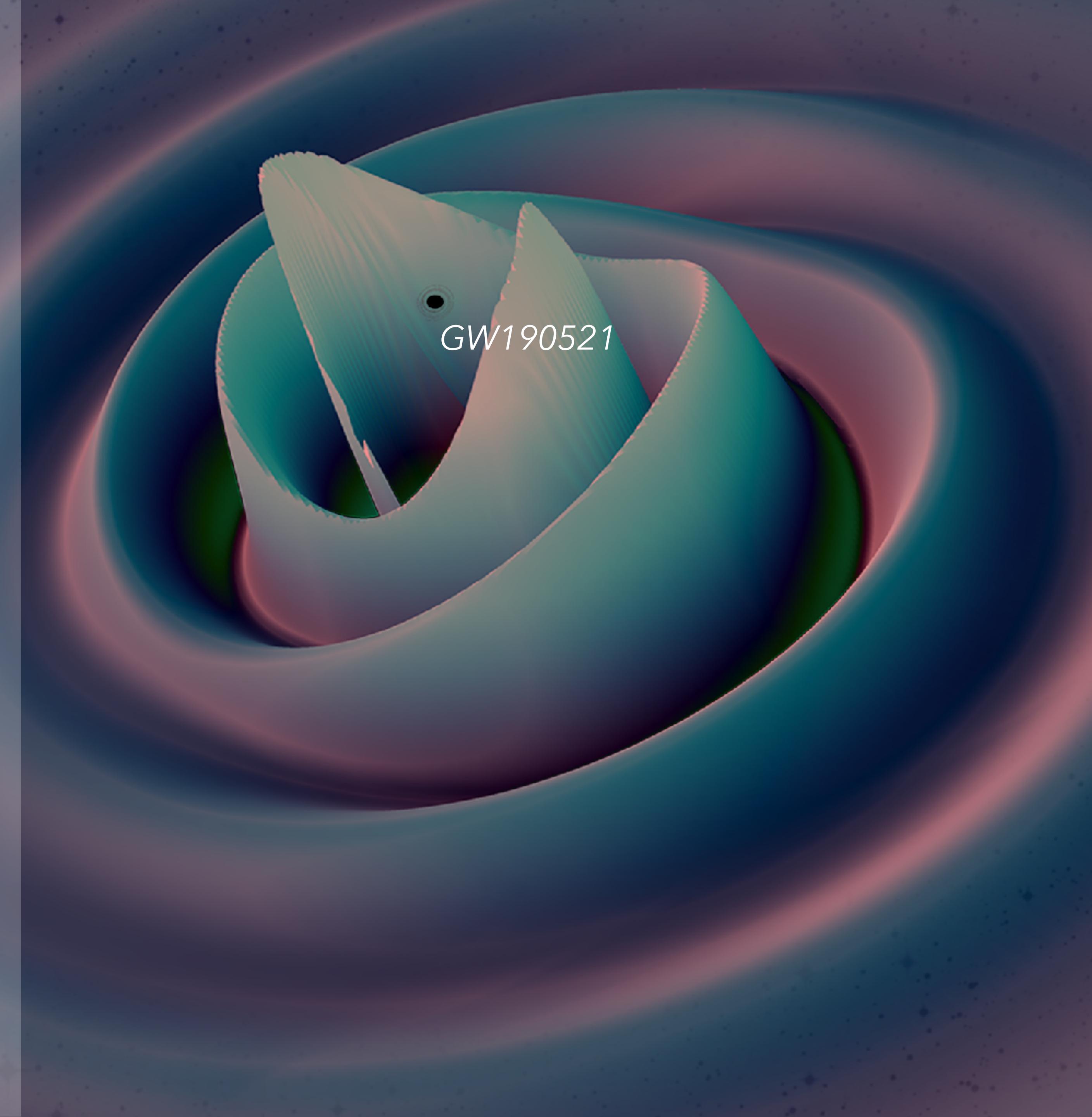
Plenary Lecture: What Presidents and Physicists Need to Know About Science

### Abstract

As we plunge deeper into the 21st century, we find that our nation and our planet confronting an extraordinary number of challenges. Ticking off a few, we have global climate change, the complexity of globalization entwined with technological advances, the growing affluence of populations, and the simultaneous persistence of grinding poverty, a world-wide food problem as energy competes with agriculture. All of these have science and technology aspects as well as social, economic and political sides. My plan is to stress two features in the life of physicists: (1) the wonder and joy of doing physics and (2) the societal obligations of physicists.

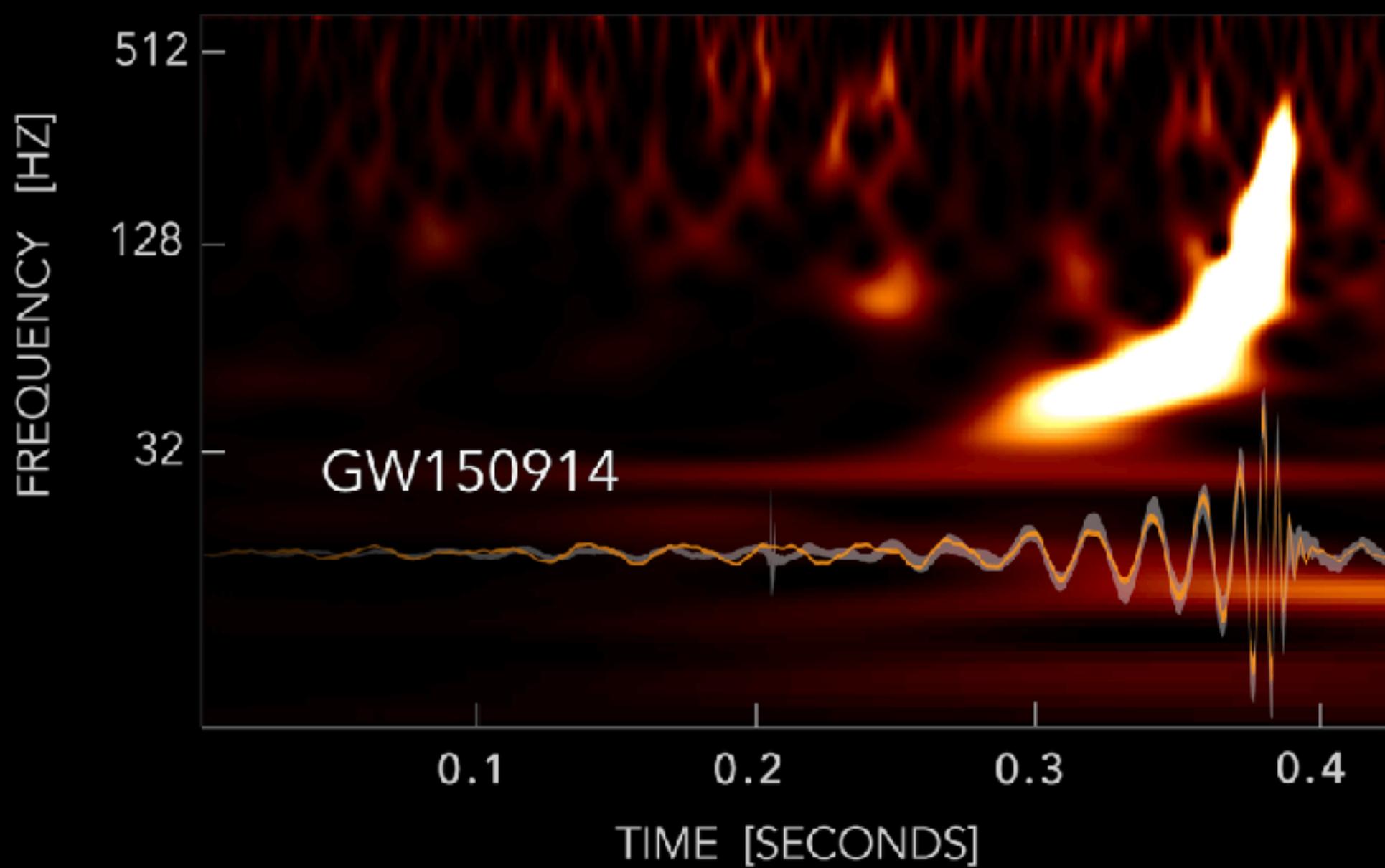
# Outline

- What makes this discovery so unique?
- Implications to astrophysics & cosmology
- Science-case for next-gen. gravitational-wave (GW) experiments



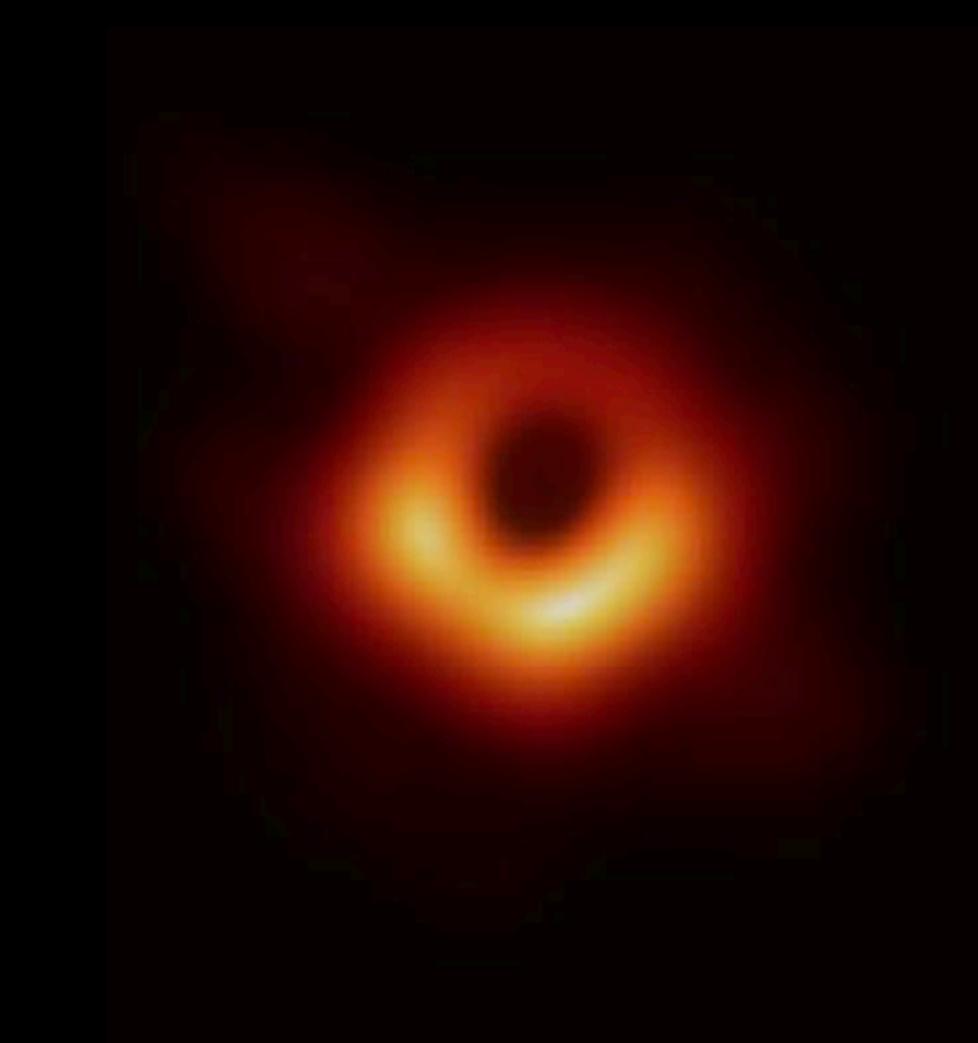
# Measuring a Black Hole

LIGO-Virgo Collaboration

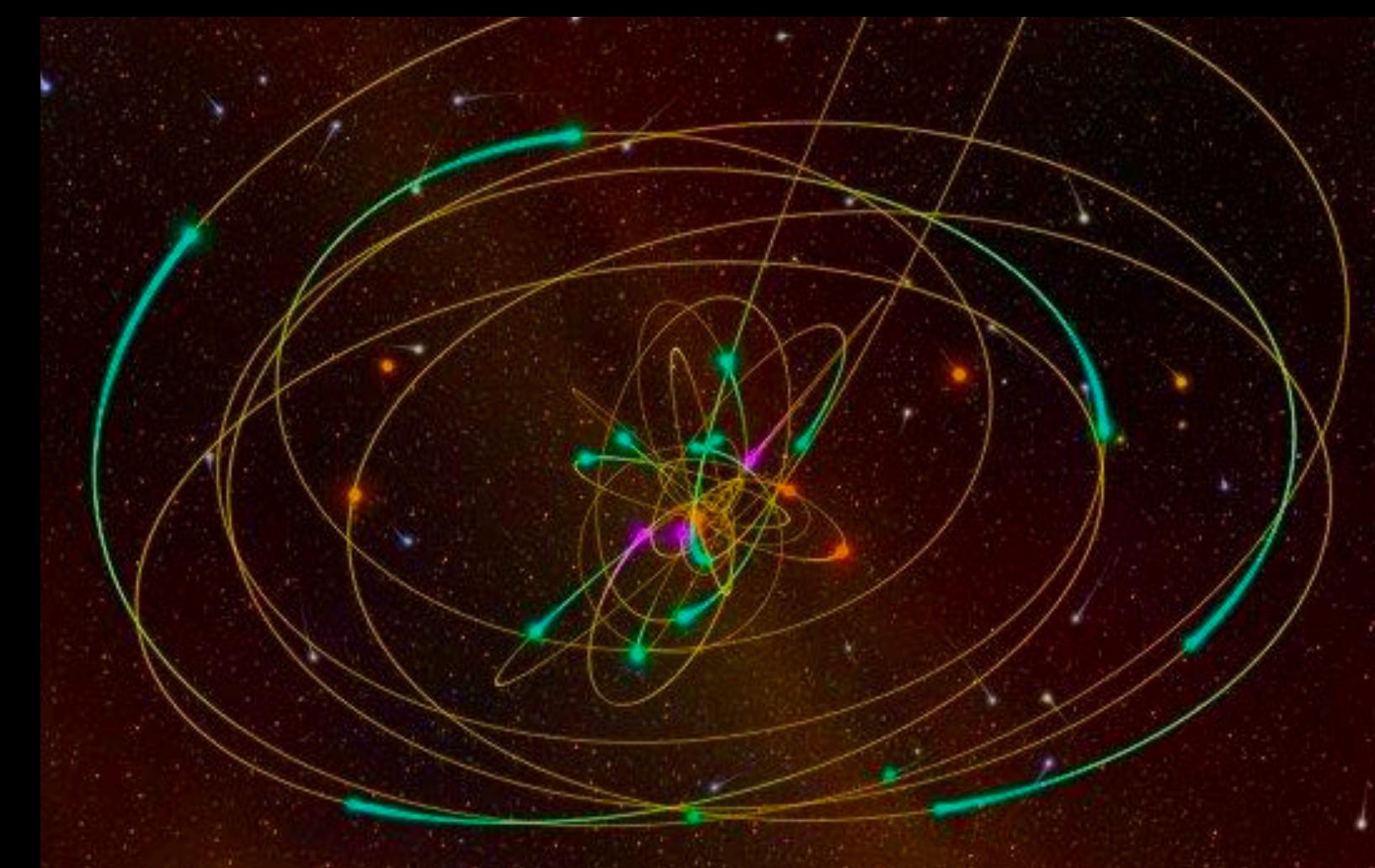


2017 - Nobel Prize

EHT Collaboration



Ghez et al., Genzel et al.

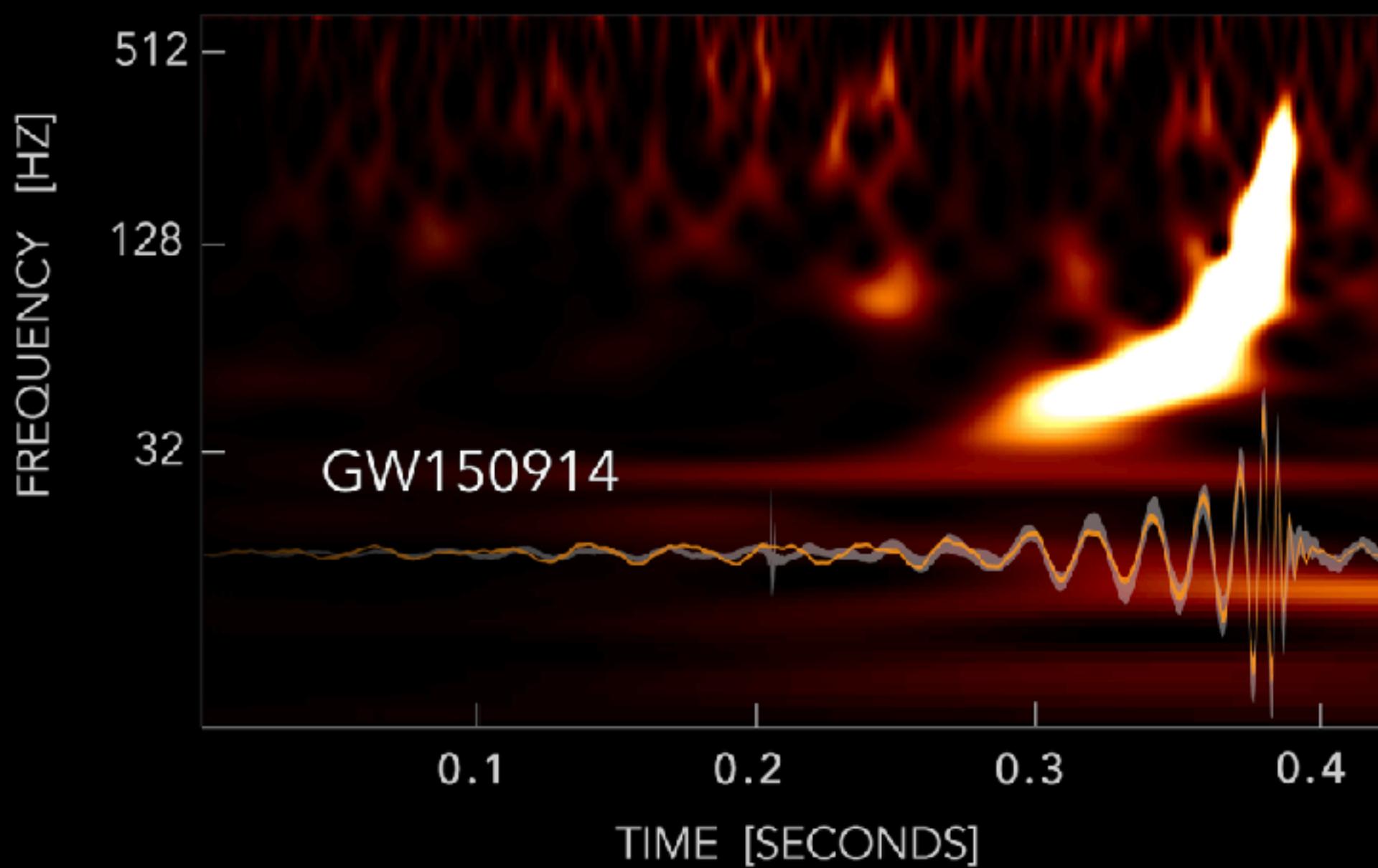


2020- Breakthrough Prize

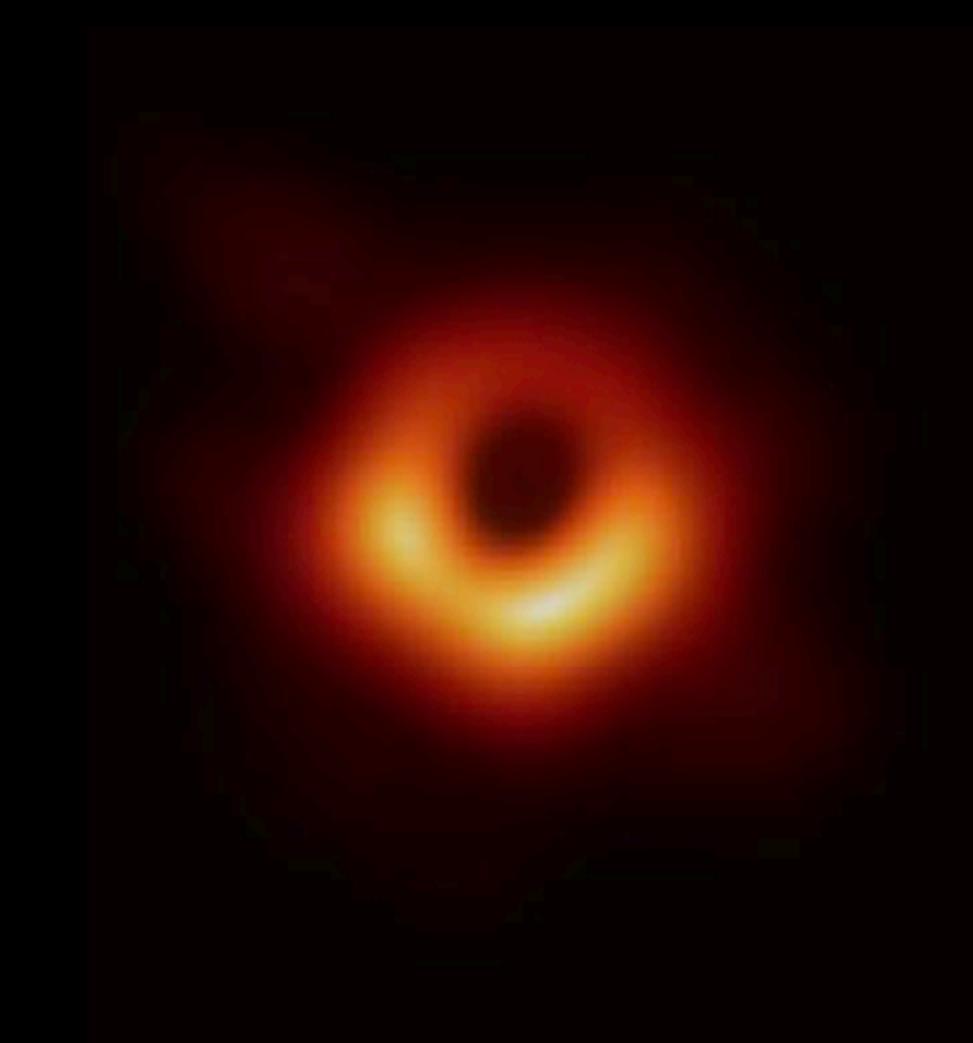
2020 - Nobel Prize

# Measuring a Black Hole

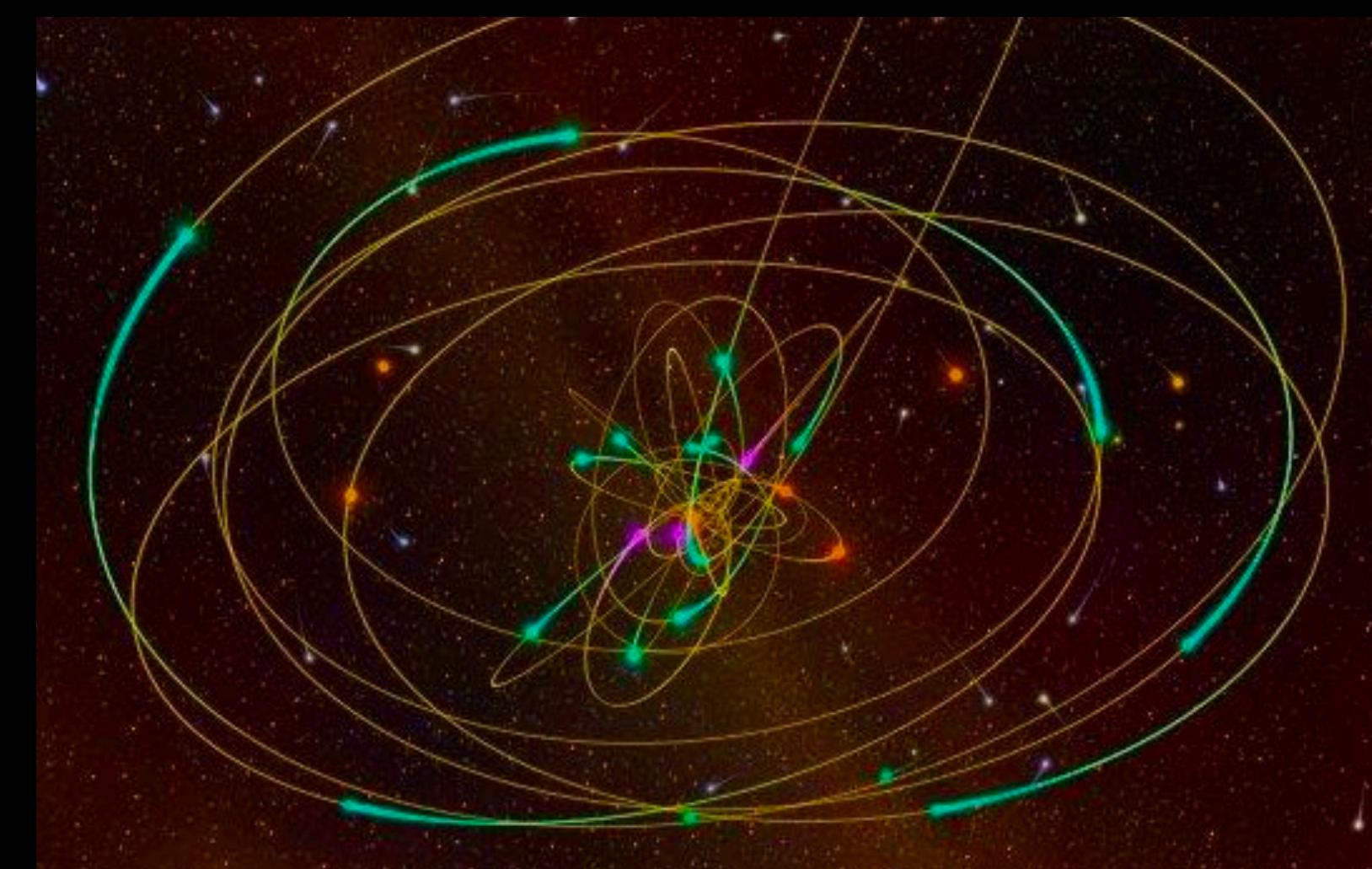
LIGO-Virgo Collaboration



EHT Collaboration



Ghez et al., Genzel et al.



Direct

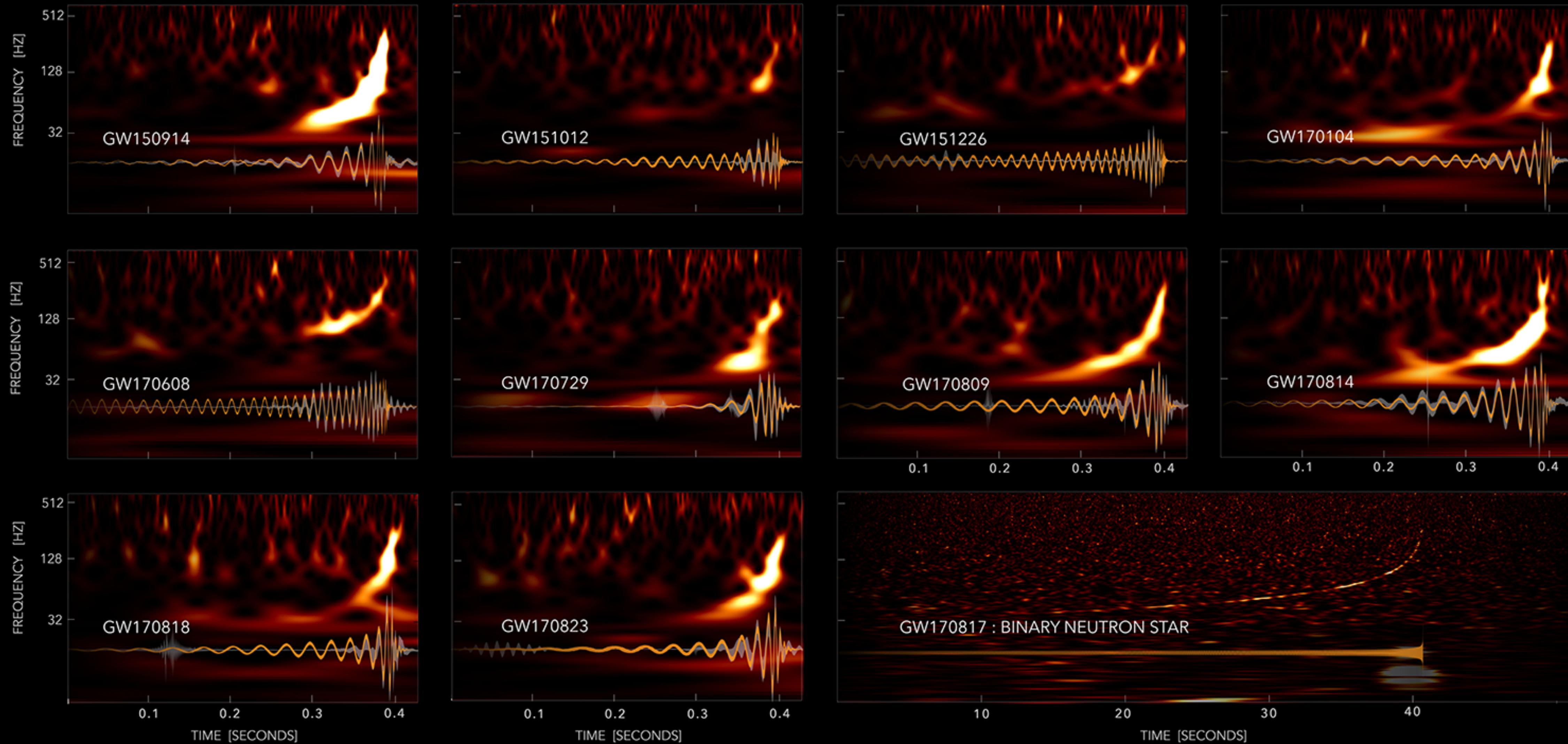


Indirect

(X-ray binaries)

# GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE TRANSIENT CATALOG-1 (2015-2017)

KJ with LIGO-Virgo - Phys. Rev. X (2019)



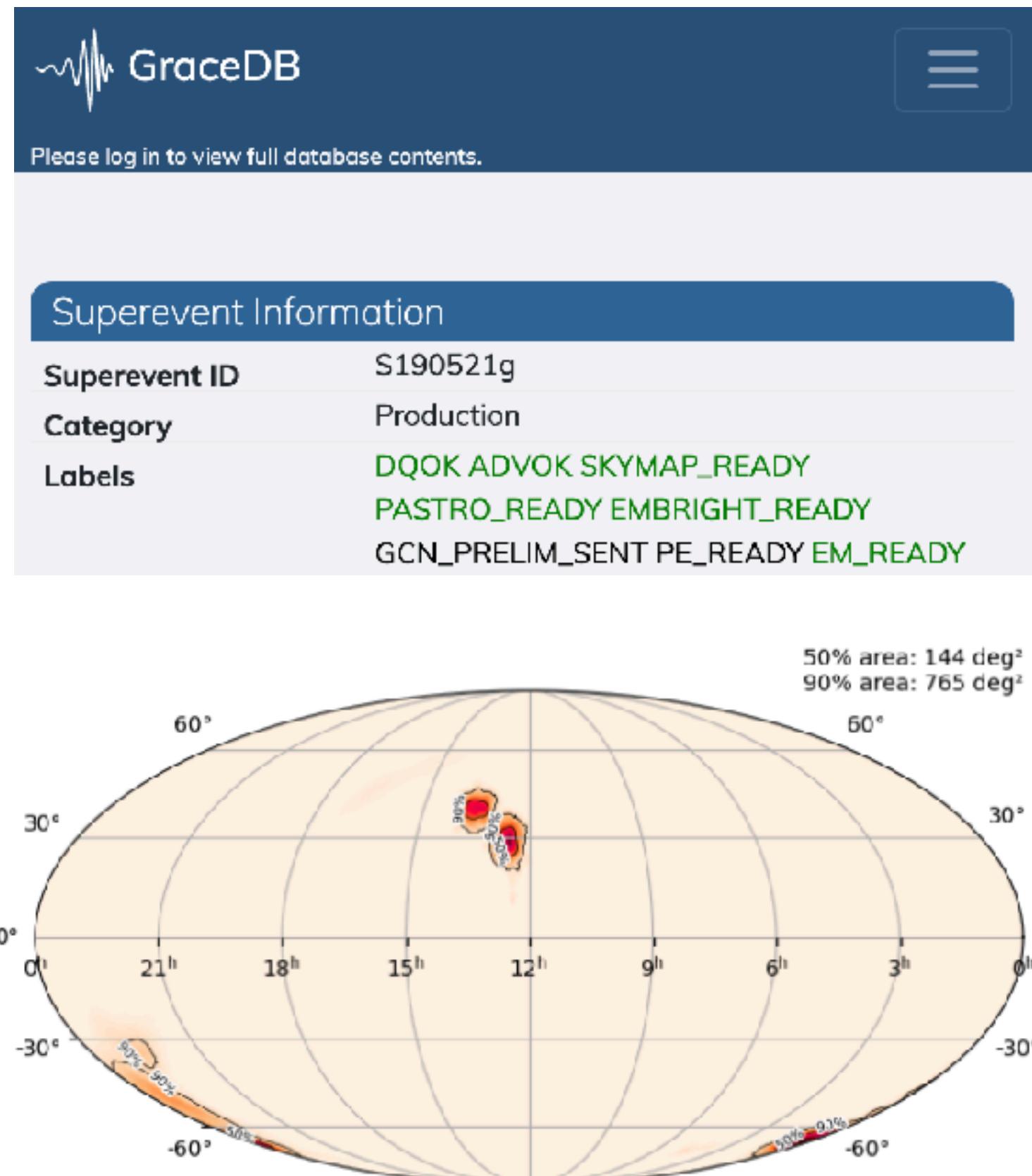
WAVELET (UNMODELED)

EINSTEIN'S THEORY

Image: S. Ghonge, KJ

May 21, 2019

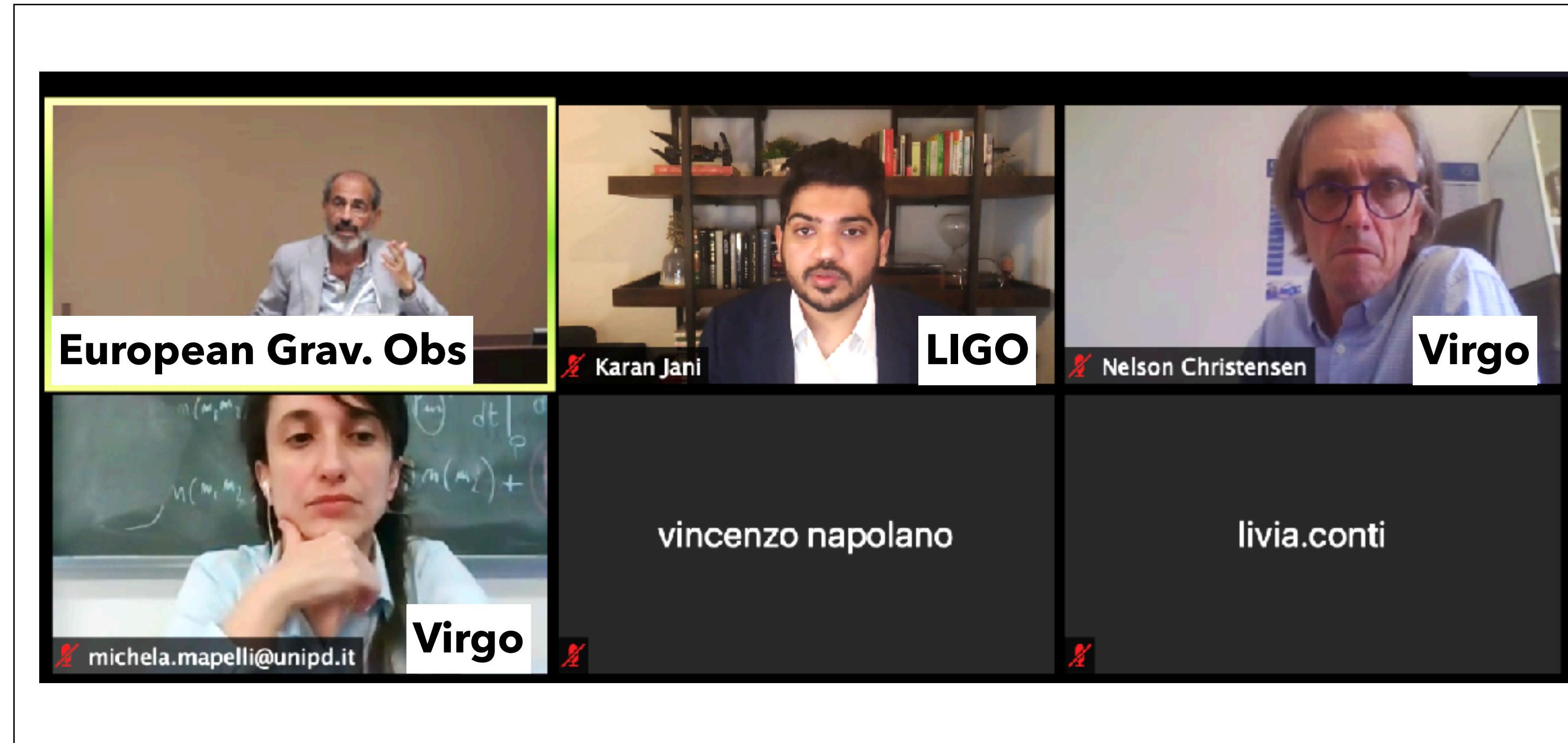
# Signal in LIGO-Virgo



Sept. 2, 2020

# GW190521 Press Conference

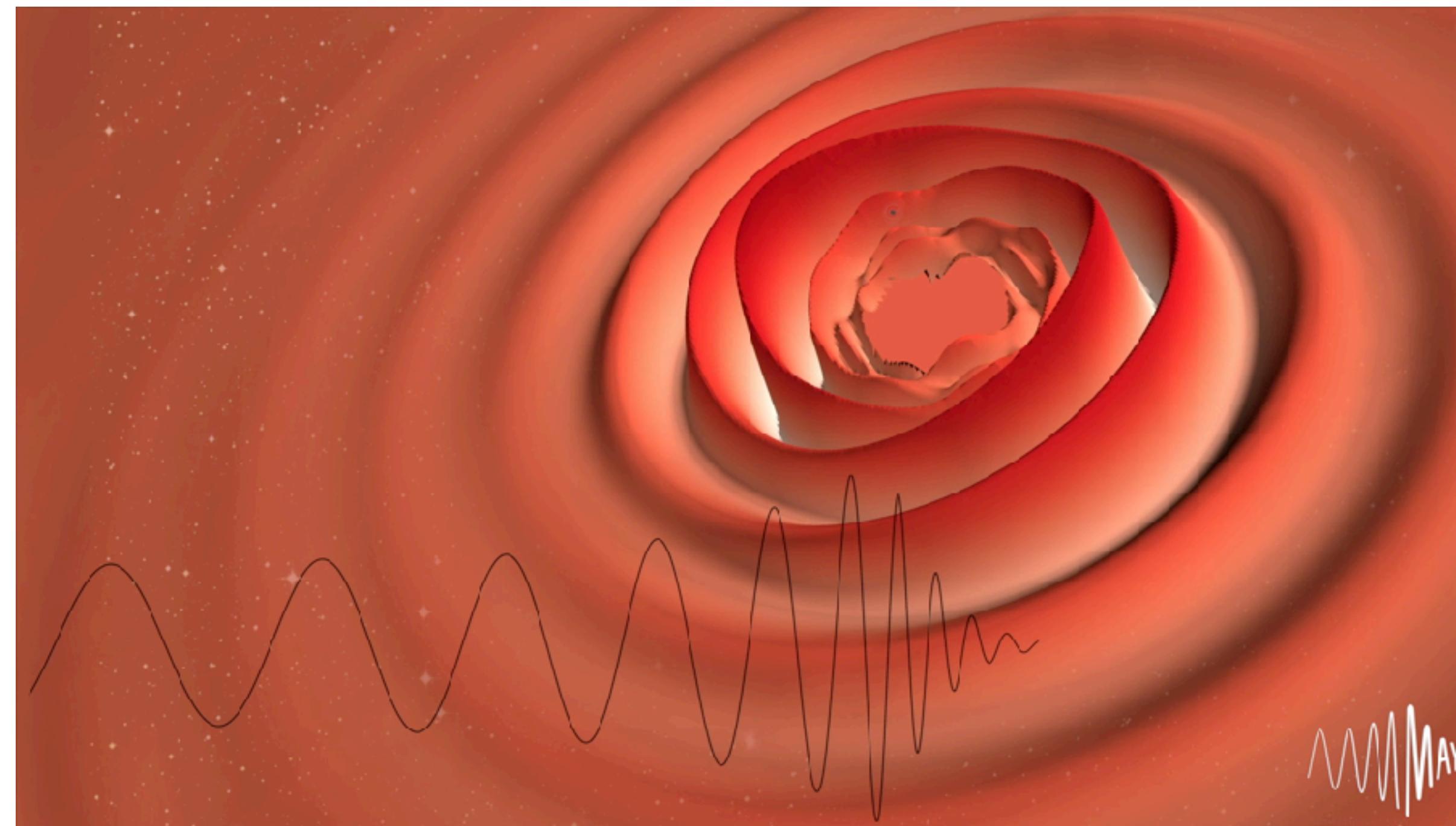
(15th confirmed GW event)



**Two papers from the LIGO-Virgo Collaboration:**  
Astrophysical Journal Letters  
Physical Review Letters (*Cover, Editor's Suggestion*)

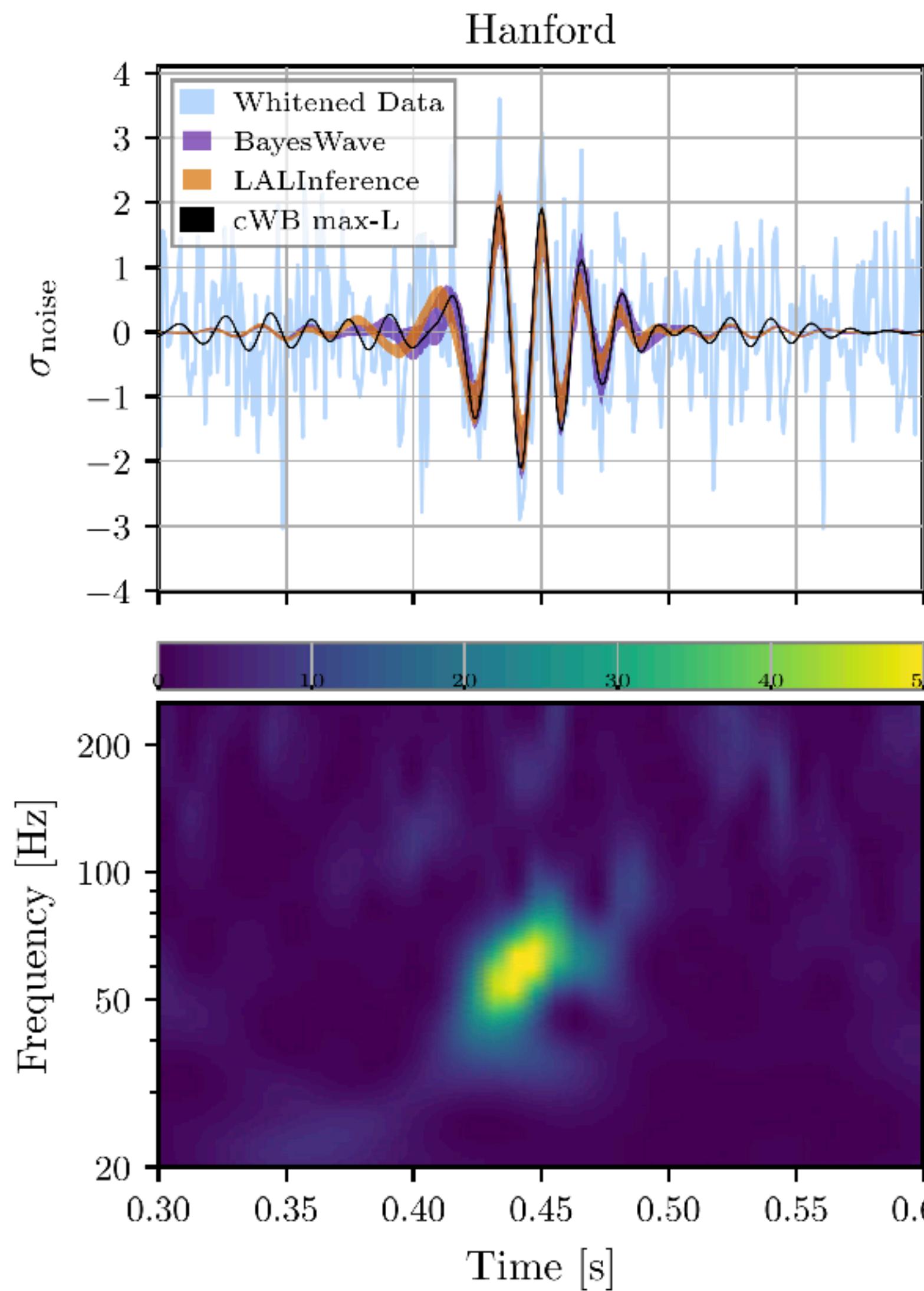
OUT THERE

# These Black Holes Shouldn't Exist, but There They Are



Deborah Ferguson, **Karan Jani**, Deirdre Shoemaker, Pablo Laguna  
MAYA Collaboration

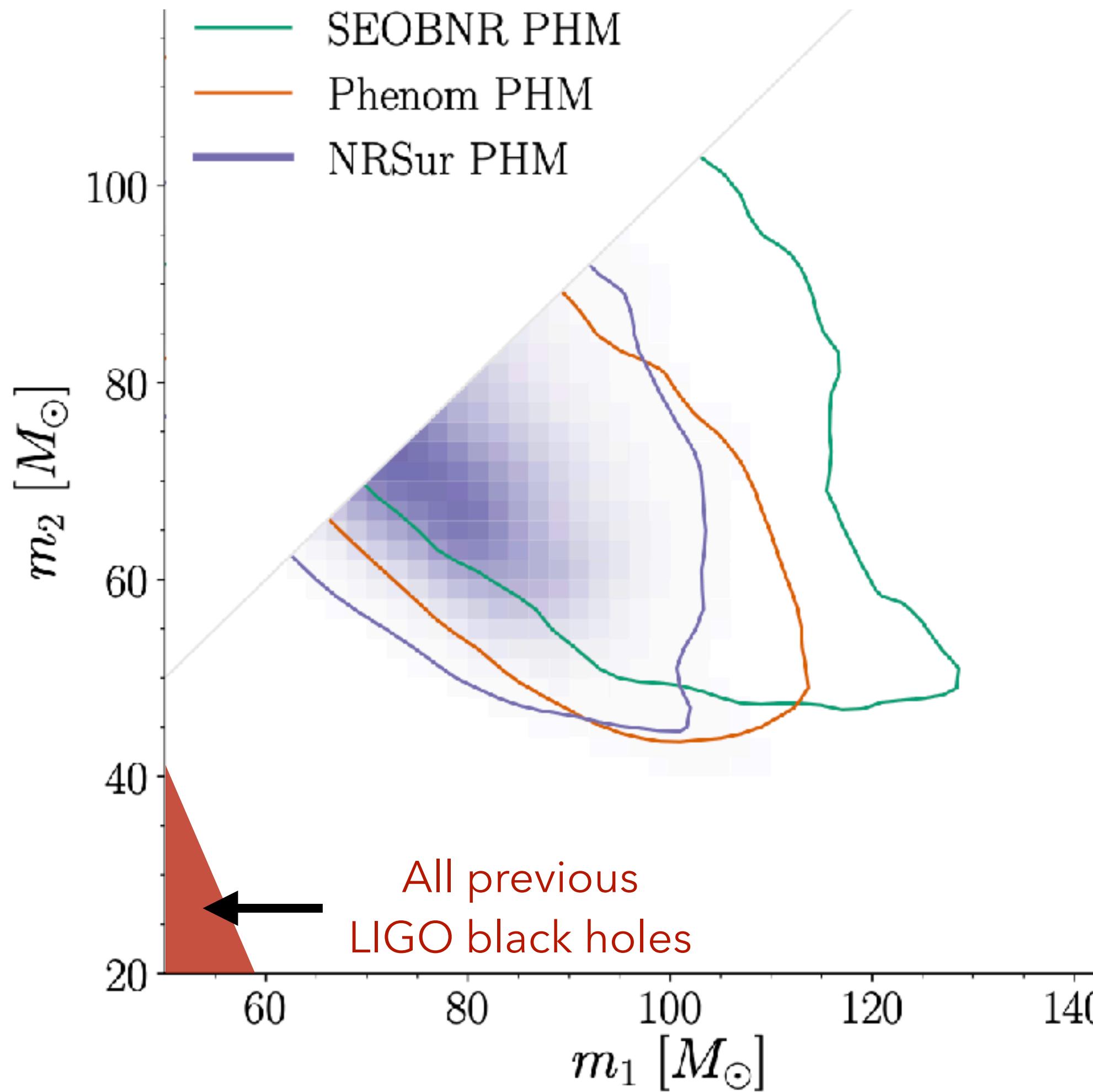
# Shortest signal yet



- ~0.1 seconds of data (4 cycles > 30 Hz)
- False-Alarm-Rate  $\sim 1/5000$  years
- Highest detection significance in an “unmodeled burst search”
- Powerful for hunting **Intermediate-mass Black Holes** ( $10^2$ - $10^5$  Msun)  
**KJ** with LIGO-Virgo - Phys. Rev. D (2017, 2019)  
**KJ** - PhD Thesis (2017)
- **Rare event : 1 every 8 years in Gpc<sup>3</sup>**
- Two signals that day! (4 hours apart)

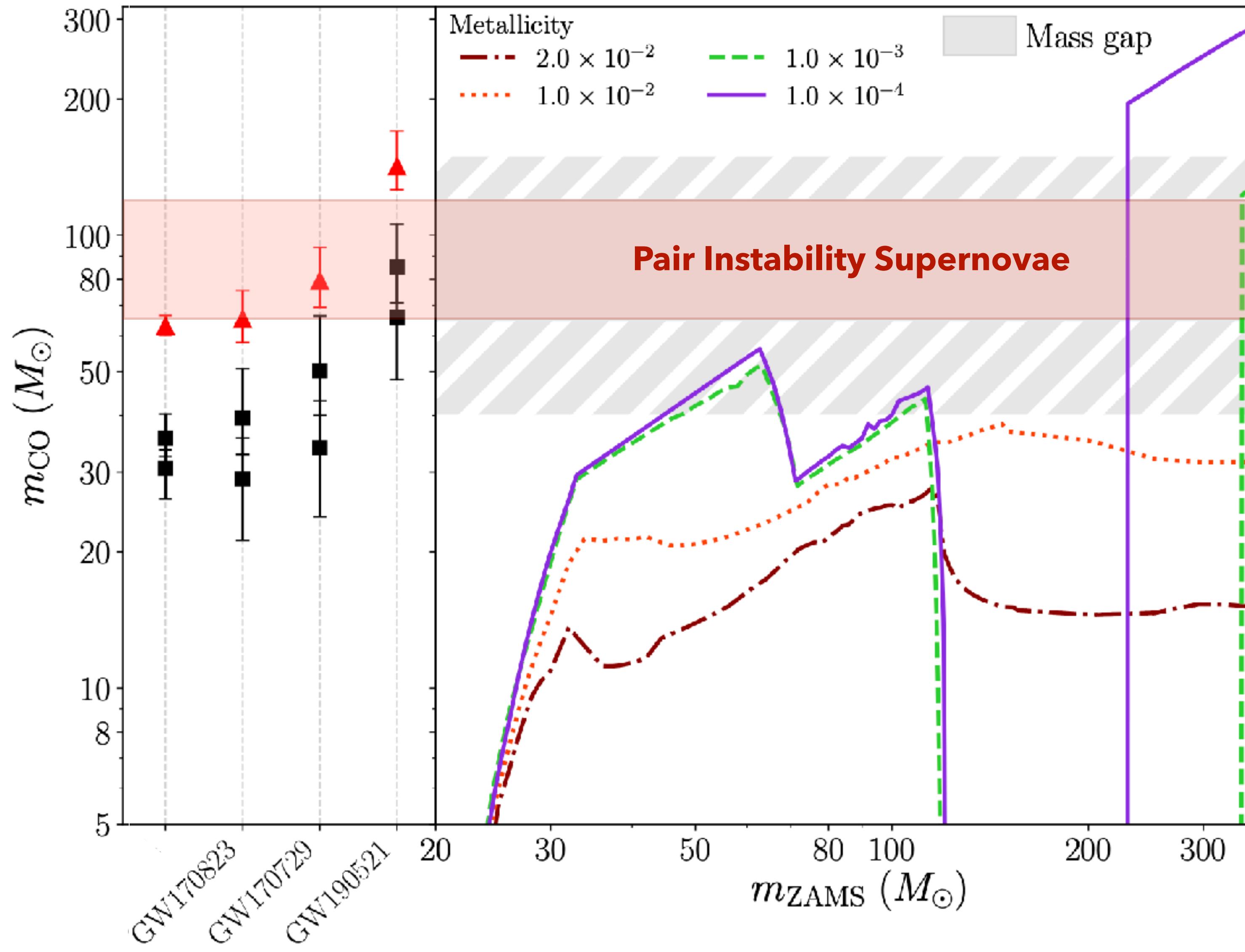
# Unusually high masses

$85 M_{\odot} + 66 M_{\odot}$



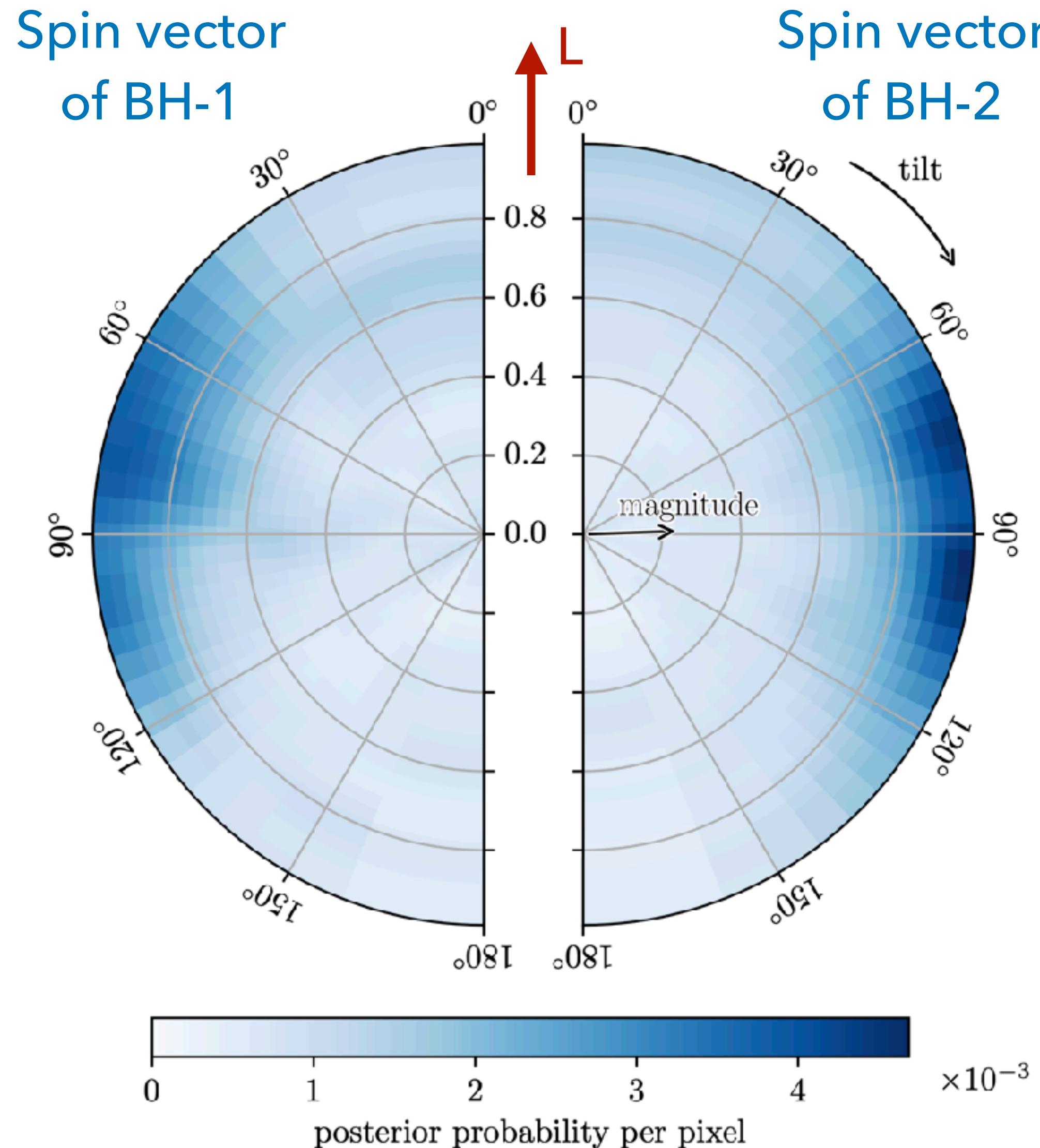
- 3 distinct state-of-the-art General Relativity (GR) signal models for Binary Black Hole (BBH) coalescence
- Compared with 3400+ numerical relativity simulations of BBH mergers  
**KJ et al. (MAYA Catalog) - Classical & Quant. Grav. (2016)**  
Boyle et al. (SXS Catalog), Healy et al. (RIT Catalog)
- **Both primary (BH-1) and secondary (BH-2) heavier than any previous GW binary**
- Merger produces an **IMBH**  $\sim 150$  Msun

# Mind the (black hole) gap!



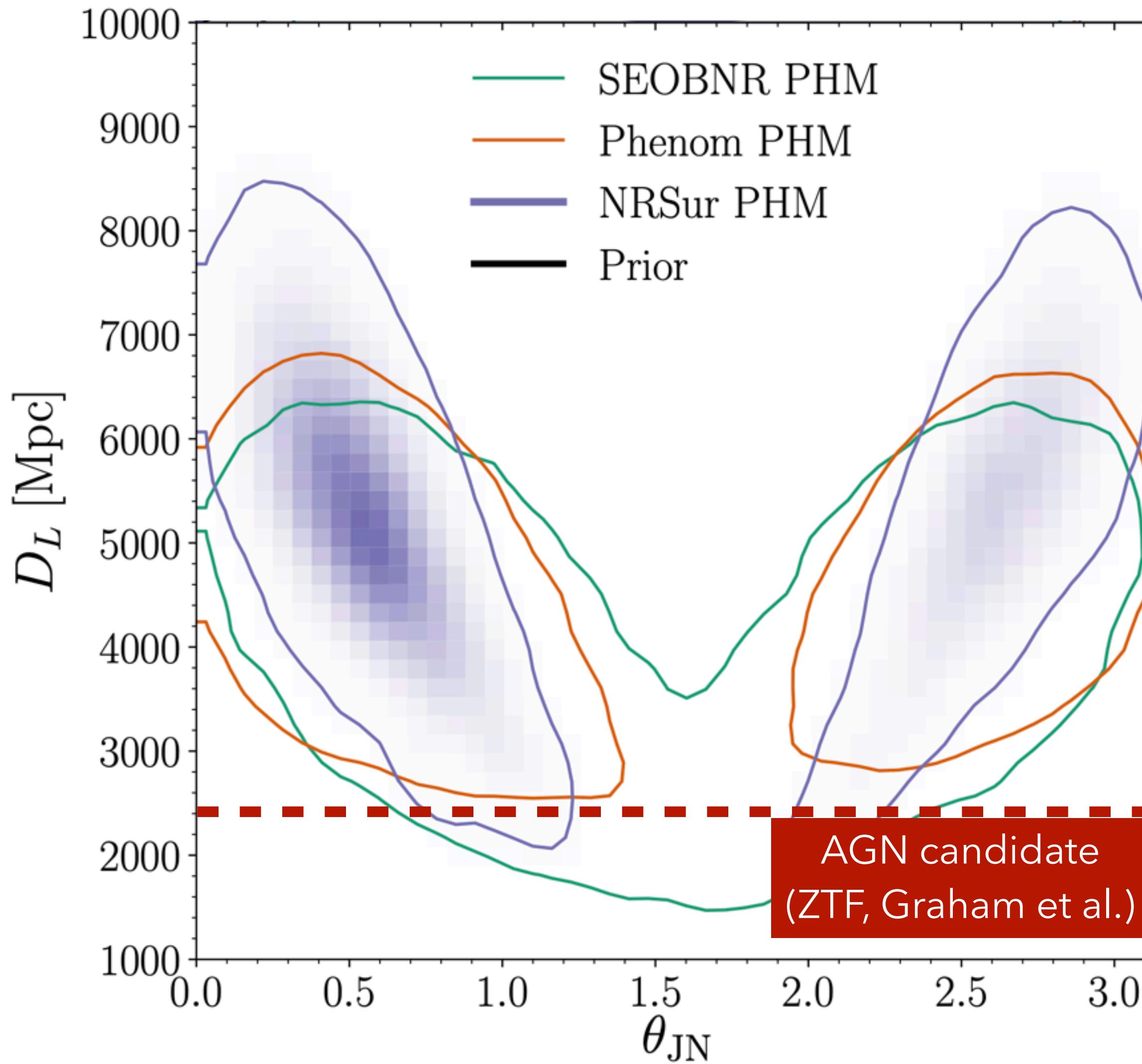
- PISN mass-gap:  
 $\sim 65 - 120 M_{\odot}$
- BH-1: 0.1 - 0.3%  
probability outside gap
- BH-2: 6 - 46 %  
probability outside gap

# Black holes were wobbling



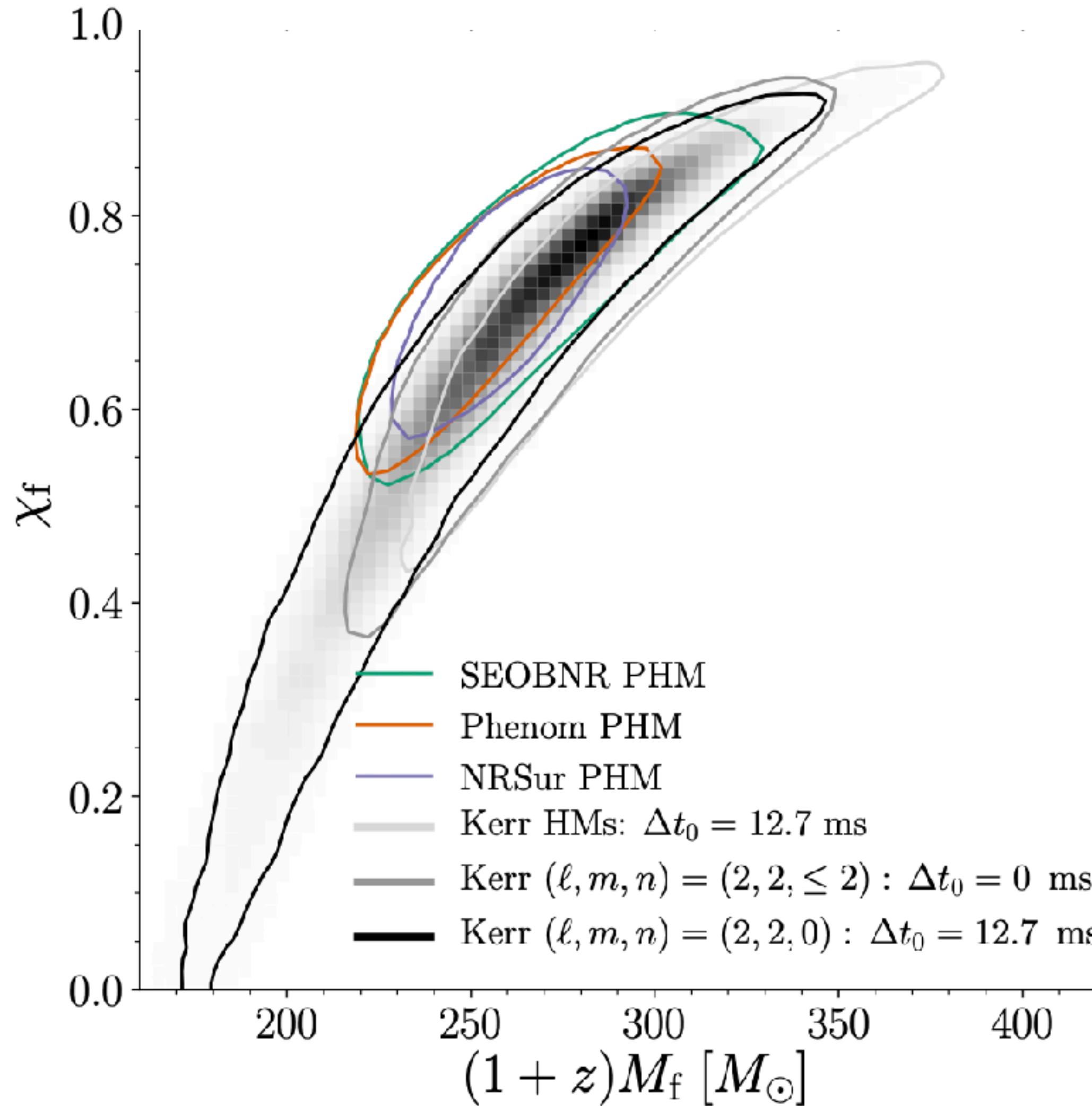
- Mild, but consistent evidence that the BBH exhibited spin-orbit precession just before the merger
- Both BH spins have little projection with orbital angular momentum axis - **evidence for dynamical capture**
- $P(\text{spins vs. no-spins}) = 8.3 : 1$
- $P(\text{precessing vs. aligned-spin}) = 11.5 : 1$

# Farthest GW event yet



- Redshift  $z \sim [0.5, 1.1]$
- Strong impact on luminosity distance estimation from radiation beyond the quadrupole term  
(tighter constraints on inclination)  
Calderón Bustillo, KJ+- Phys. Rev. D. (2018)
- Almost twice the distance than low-latency alert and EM-counterpart claim  
(mild support for lower-distance from one model)

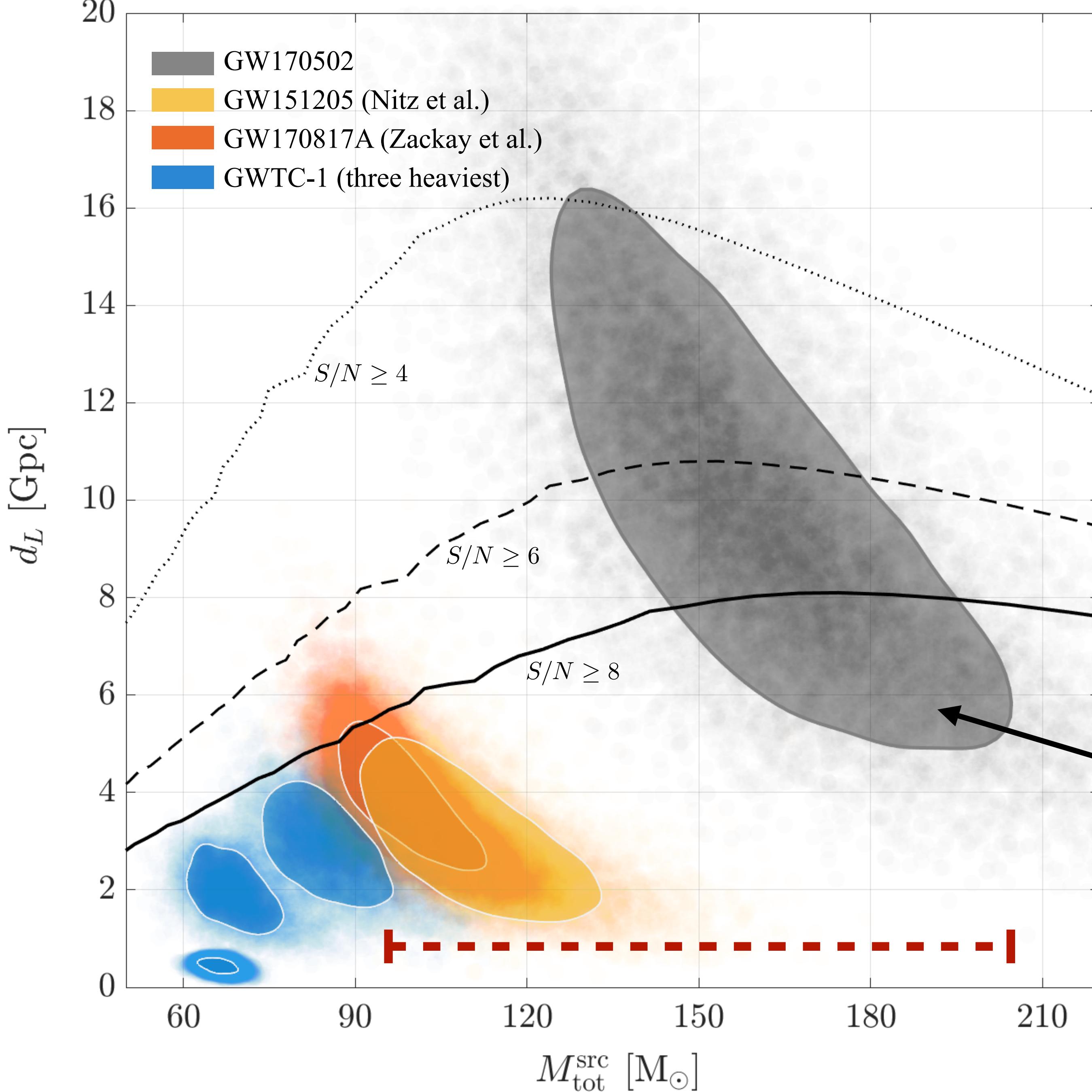
# Consistency with GR



- **Residual tests**  
subtracting GR solutions from data leaves residual that is consistent with typical LIGO noise
- **Black hole ringdown**  
consistency in the properties of final black hole from pre- and post-merger analysis

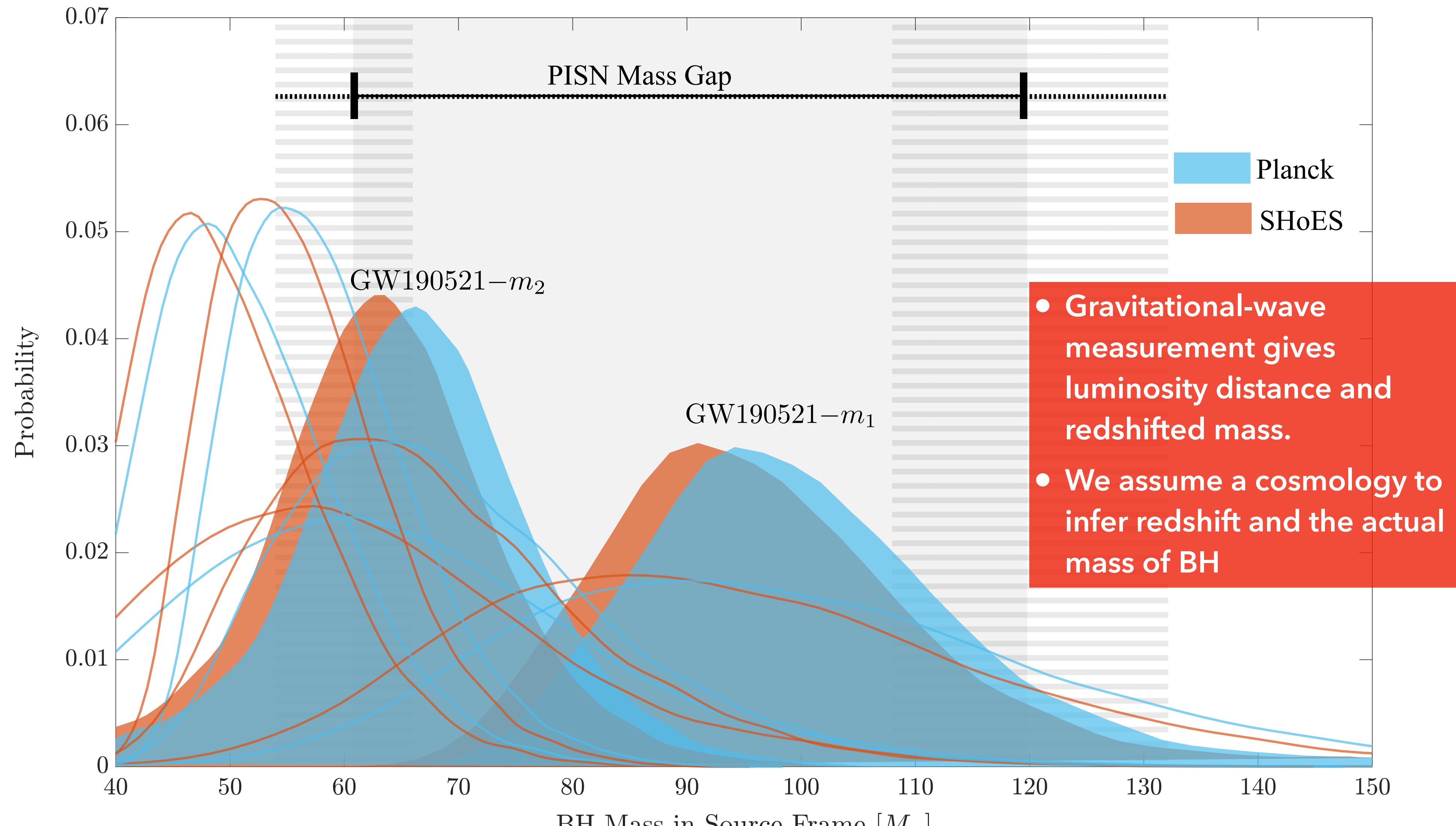
# More “Lite” IMBHs

- Emerging population from the public GW data analysis
- **GW170502**
  - Udall, **KJ**, **KHB+**- *Astrophysical Journal* (2020)
  - KJ** with LIGO-Virgo - *Phys. Rev. D* (2019)



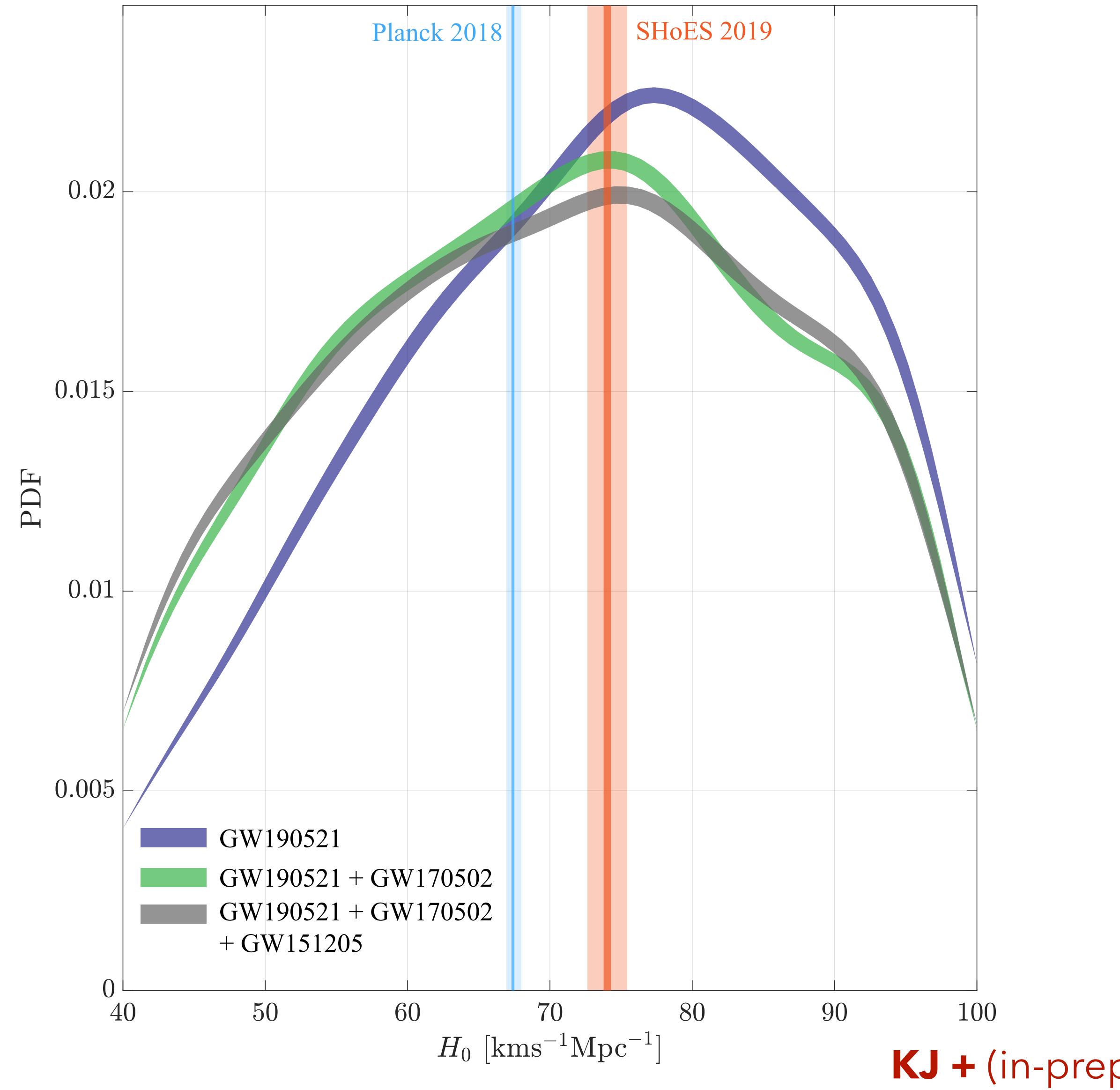
Primary BH mass, $m_1^{\text{src}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$94^{+44}_{-28}$
Secondary BH mass, $m_2^{\text{src}}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$62^{+30}_{-25}$
Total mass, $M_{\text{tot}}^{\text{src}}$	$157^{+55}_{-41}$
Redshift, $z$	$1.37^{+0.93}_{-0.64}$

# Hubble Constant & Mass-Gap



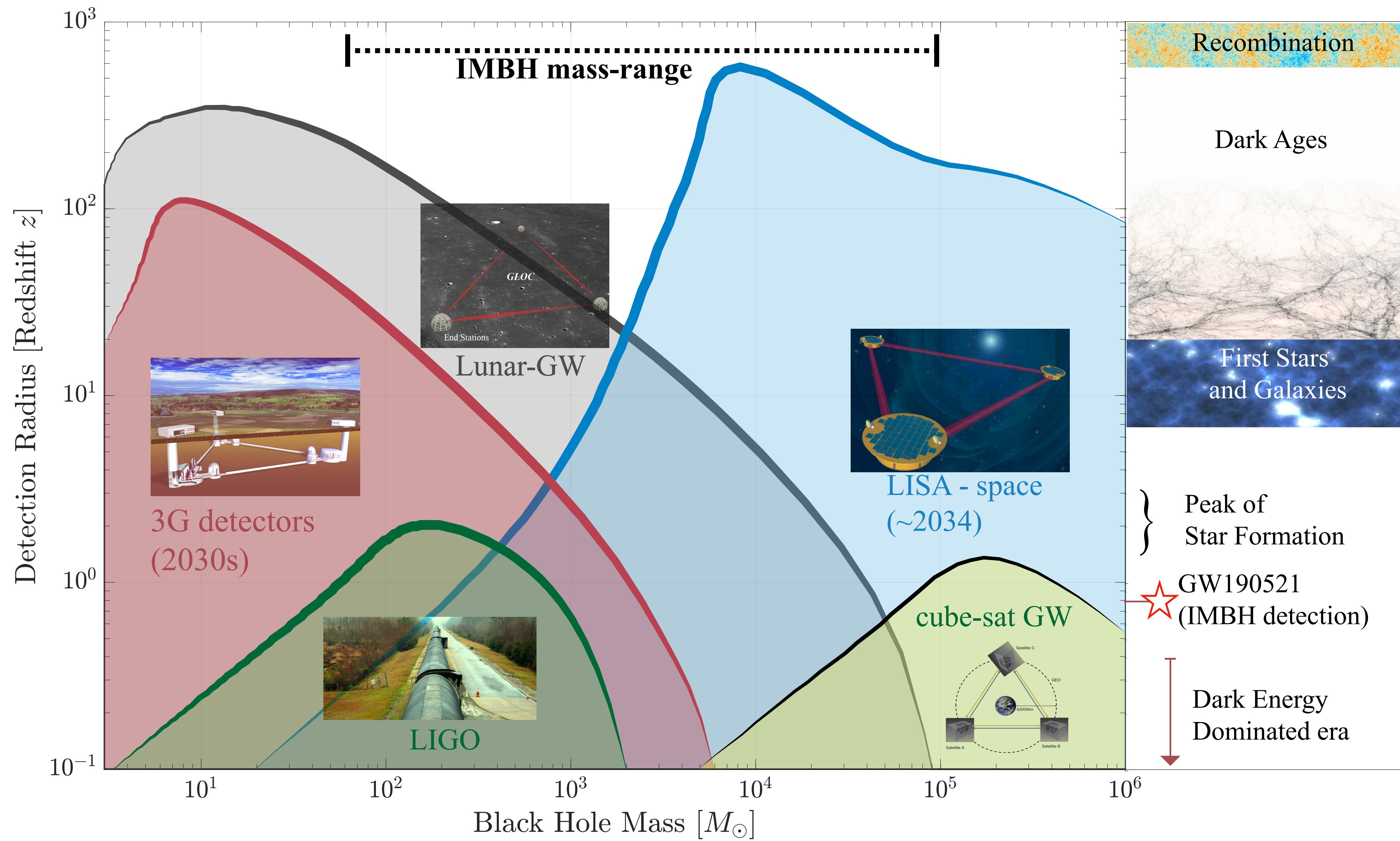
KJ + (in-prep)

# Hubble Constant & Mass-Gap

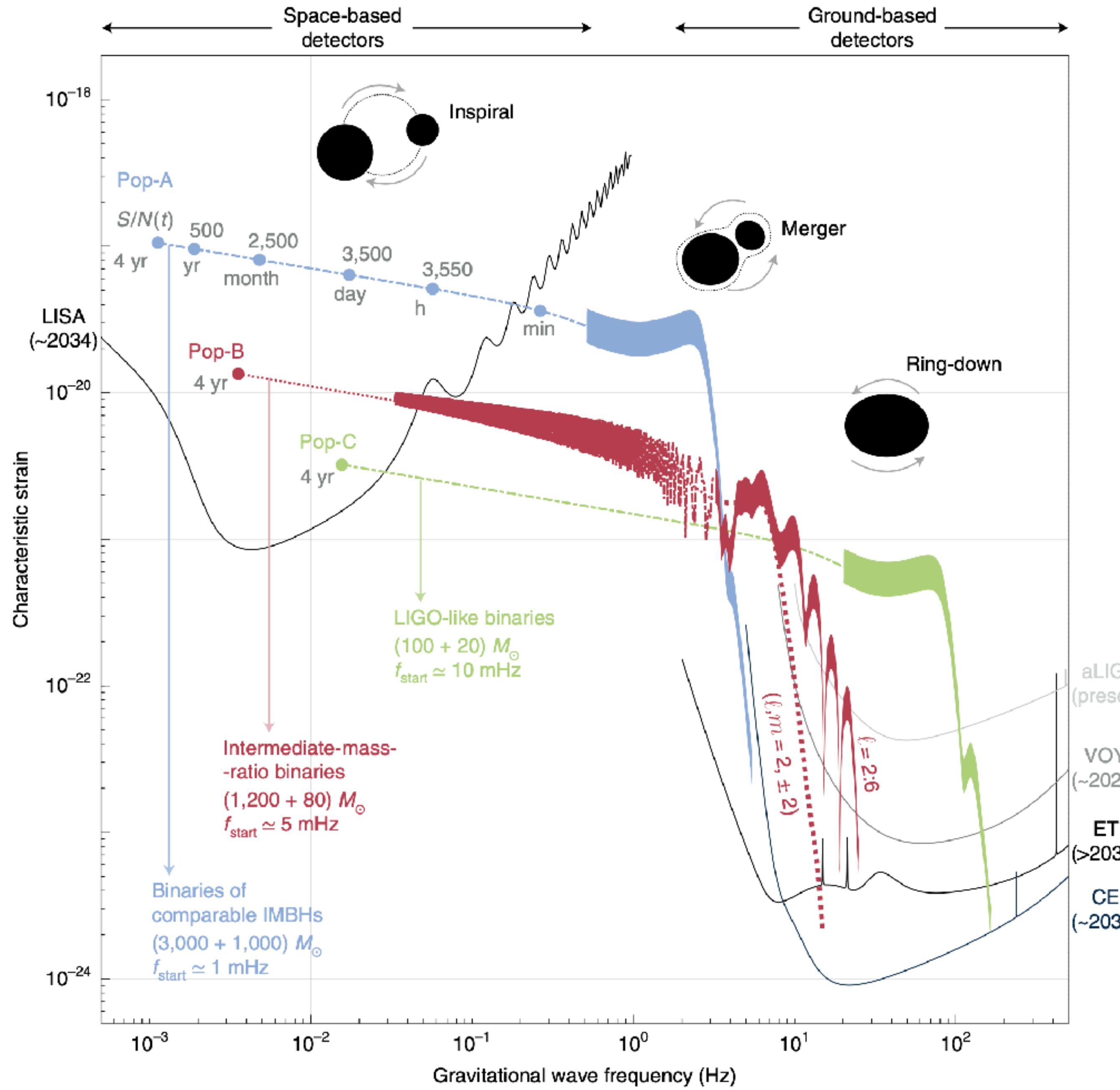


- Assuming mass-gap starts from 60 solar masses
- **Slight preference from SNe cosmology**
- No need for galaxy association, EM counterparts
- High redshift events ( $z \sim 1$ )

# A new era for IMBHs

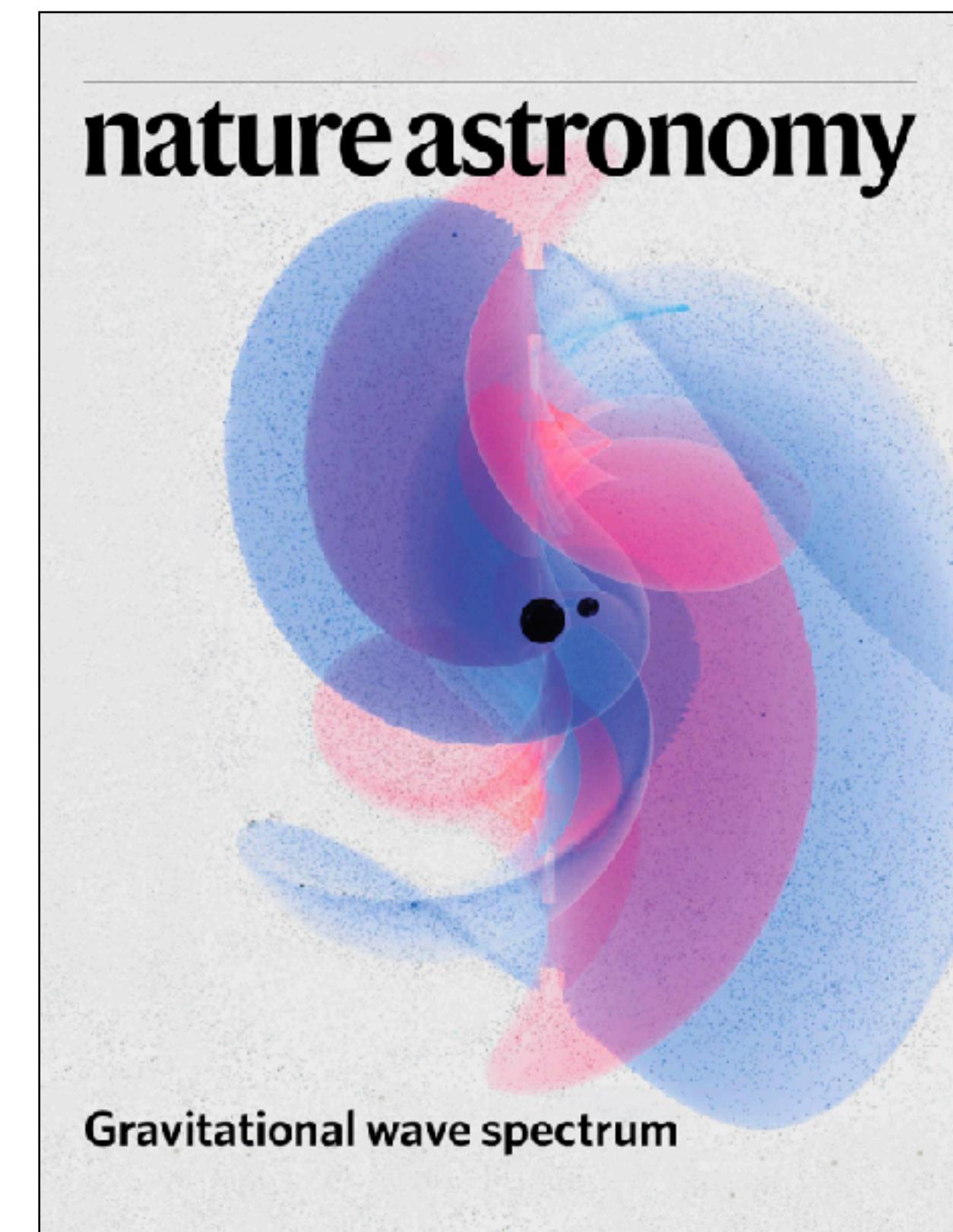
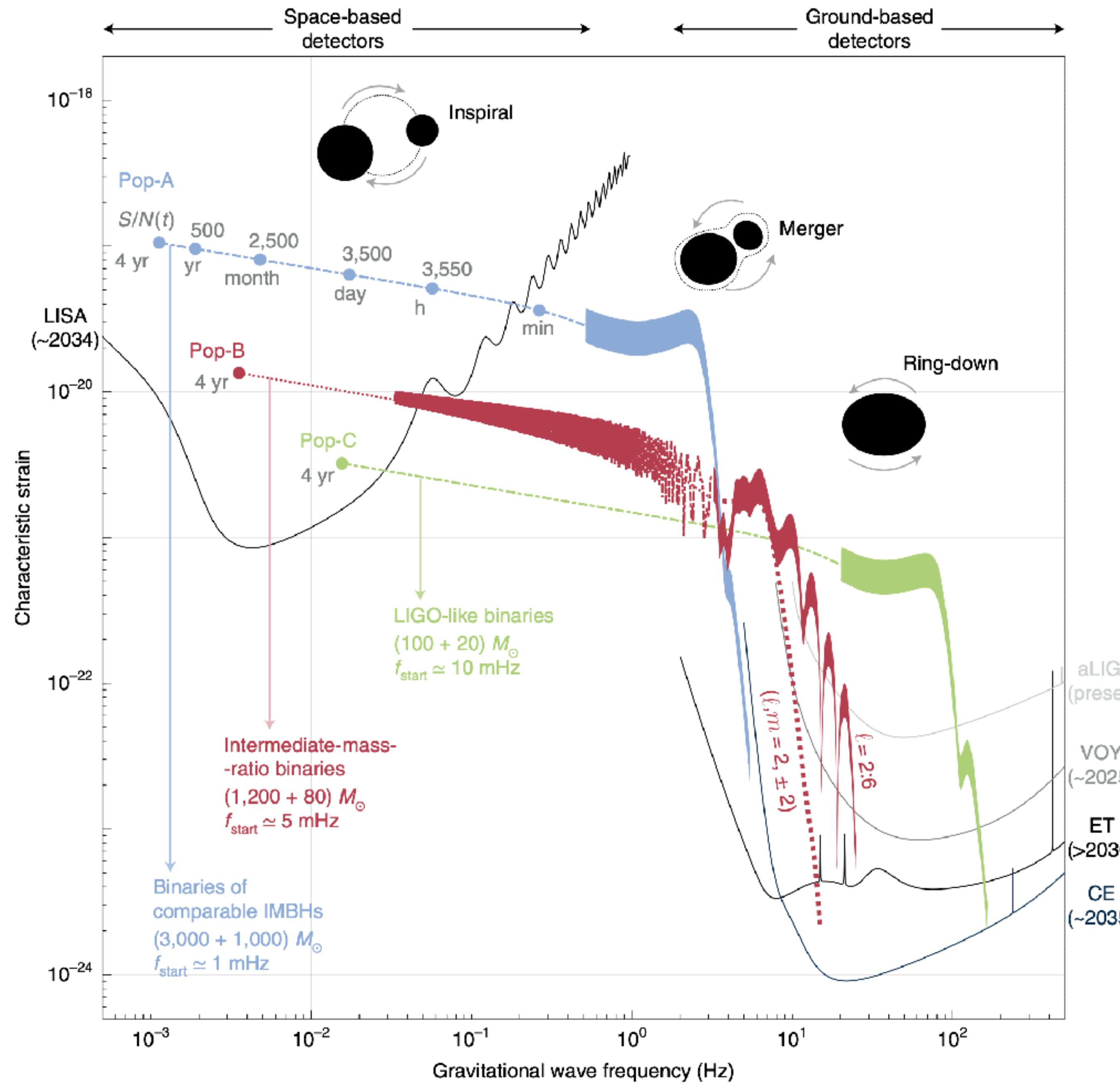


# Multi-Band Astronomy



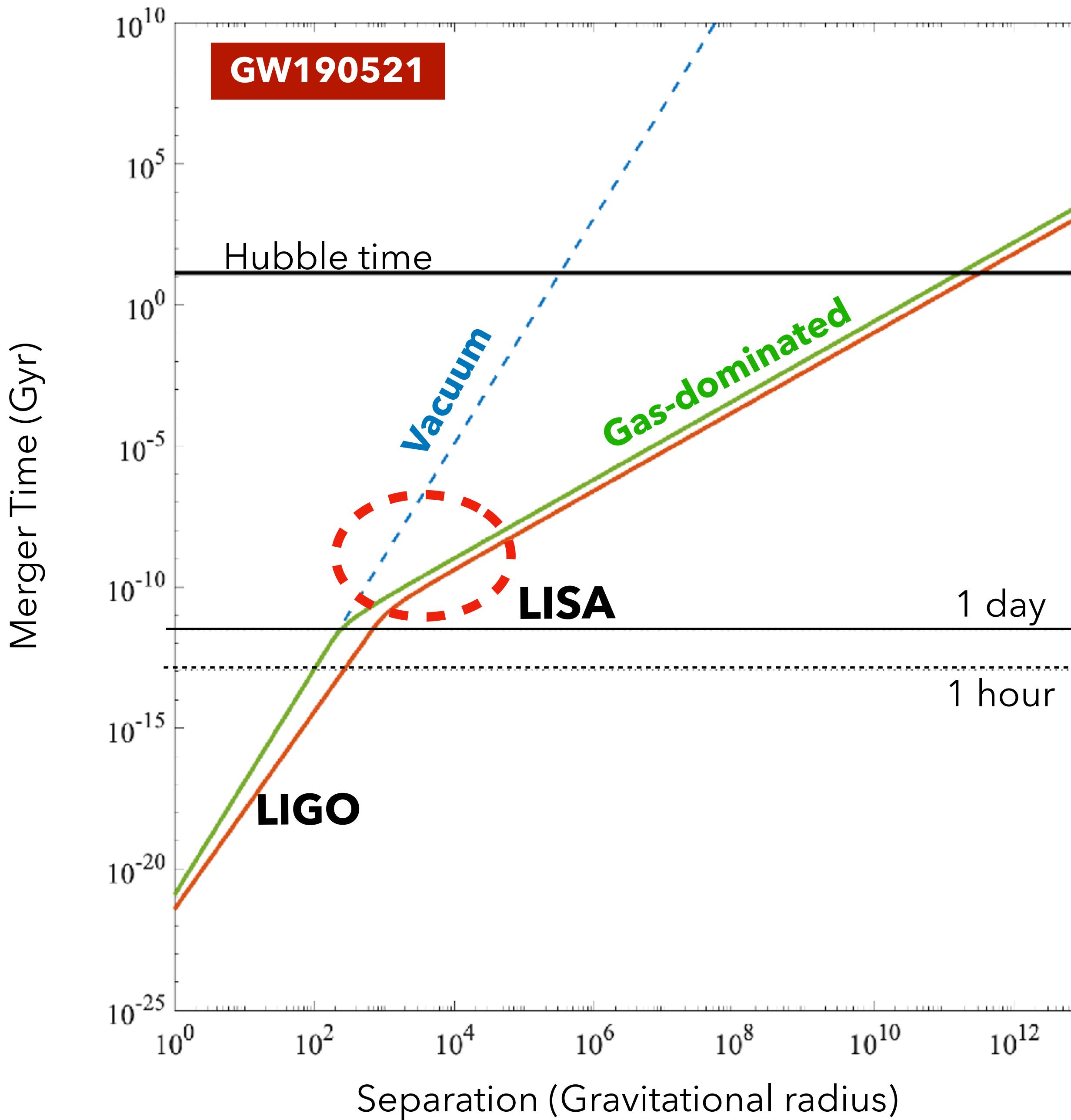
- IMBH binaries would be observed by the **LISA mission** (ESA/NASA) 4-10 years before merger
- Final stages (merger) will be observed by ground network (*Einstein Telescope*, *Cosmic Explorer*, *LIGO-A+*)
- **New era of multi-wavelength GW observations to study single astrophysical source**

# Multi-Band Astronomy



**Jani et al.**  
Nature Astronomy Cover Story  
(March 2020 Issue)

# Multi-Messenger Astronomy

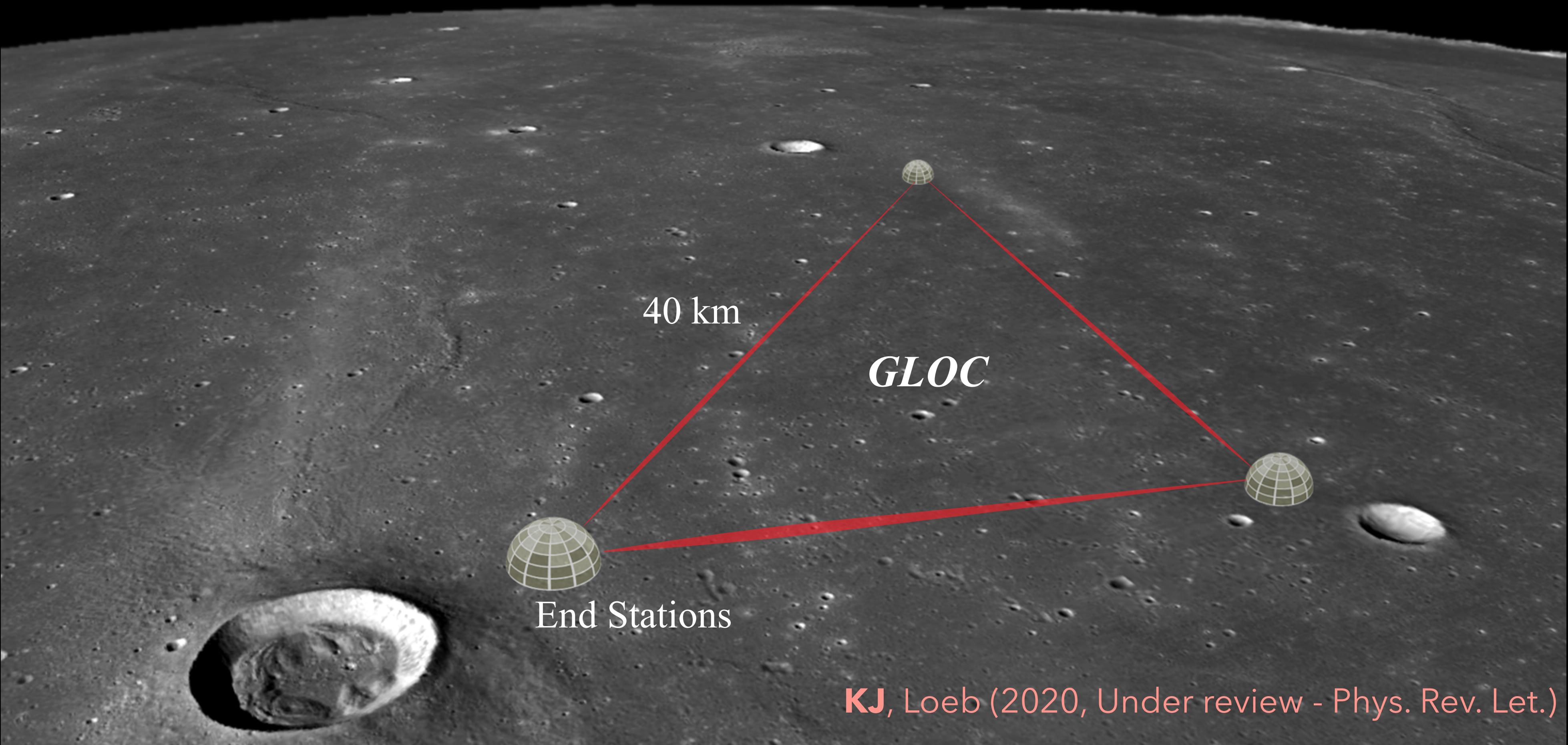


- If GW190521 originated in AGN disk, the **gas+radiation will speed up merger**  
**KJ, Bogdanovic+ (in-prep)**
- GW signature at low-frequencies will be different, but in LIGO they would appear as vacuum BBHs  
Toubiana et al. (with **KJ**) - submitted to PRL
- LISA observations can rule out IMBH-AGN connection



# IMBHs on Moon

the deci-Hz case





# IMBHs on Moon

Snowmass2021 - Letter of Interest

*A deci-Hz Gravitational-Wave Lunar Observatory for Cosmology*

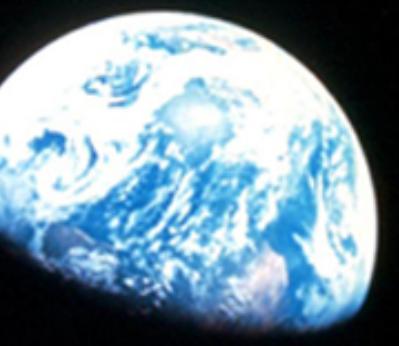
>70+ co-authors

DOE / NSF perspectives from yesterday



- Jim Siegrist (DOE):
  - Bickering scientists get nothing.
  - Let 1000 flowers bloom!
  - Particular need for \$30-100M scale projects
  - Use imagination – partner with NASA for moon-based experiments?
  - Cover as much dark matter parameter space as possible.

*From slides of Aaron Chou, Marcelle Soares-Santos, Tim Tait (CF conveners)*



# IMBHs on Moon

## Call for Artemis Science White Papers

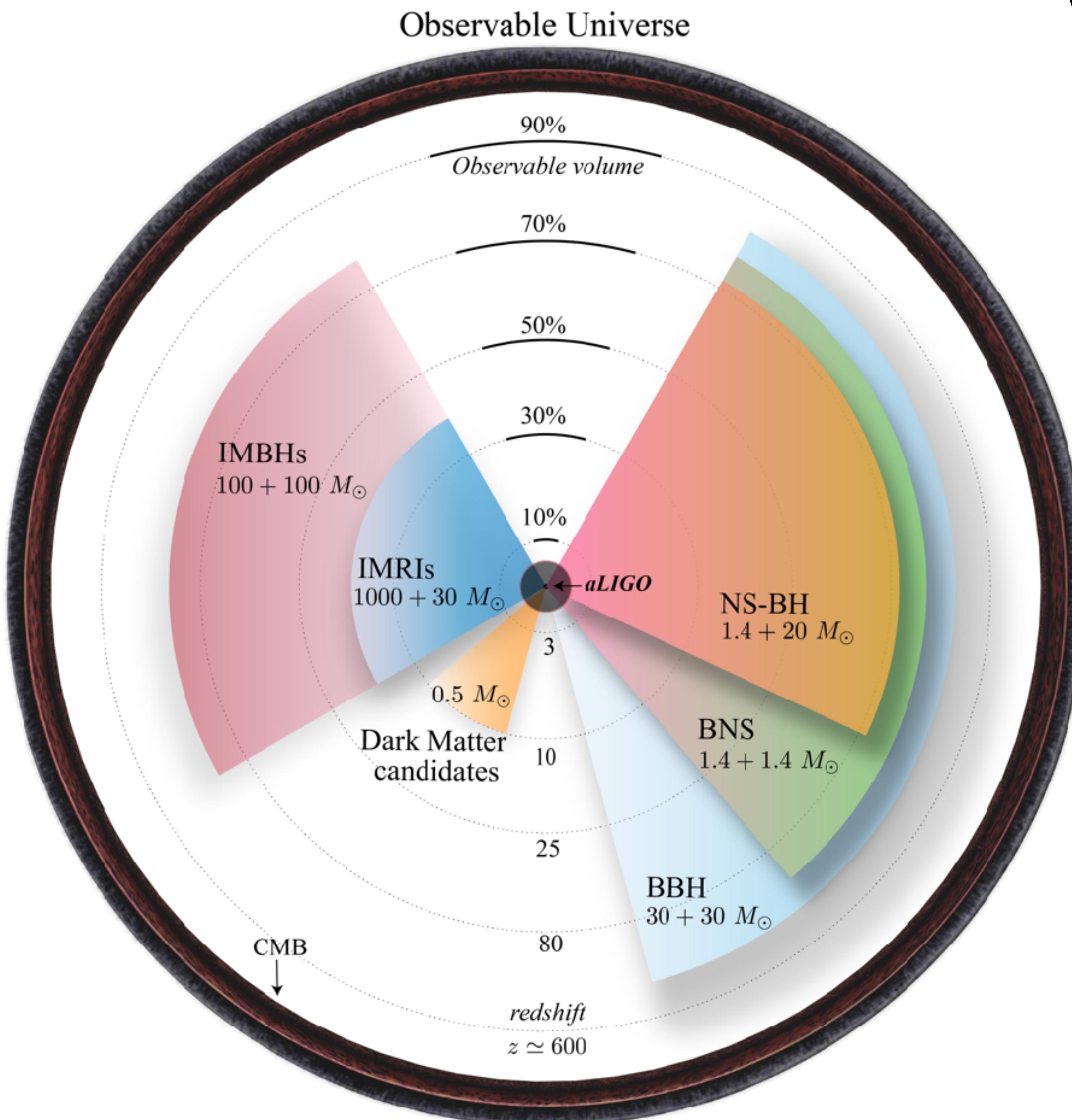


### GRAVITATIONAL-WAVE LUNAR OBSERVATORY FOR FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICS

K. Jani\*, Vanderbilt U.; A. Loeb, Harvard U.; K. Holley-Bockelmann, Vanderbilt U.; A. J. Ruiter, U. of New South Wales; A. Palmaese, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; B. L. McKernan, American Museum of Nat. History; G. Congedo, Institute for Astronomy, U. of Edinburgh; J. Harms, GSSI, Italy; K. E. S. Ford, American Museum of Nat. History; M. Arca Sedda, Heidelberg U., Germany; M. Branchesi, Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy; M. Gill, Stanford; M. Ruiz, U. of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign; N. Schmerr, U. of Maryland; O. Birnholtz, Bar-Ilan U., Israel; P. Jetzer, U. of Zurich; P. Lognonné, IPGP, France; R. Fisher, U. Mass.-Dartmouth; S. Katsanevas, European Gravitational Obs.; S. Marka, Columbia U.; S. Shandera, Pennsylvania State U. | \*contact person: [karan.jani@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:karan.jani@vanderbilt.edu)

Parallel proposal to ESA's European Large Lander -  
Stavros Katsanevas et al (GW+geosciences)

# Cosmology & Fundamental Physics on Moon



- Largest cosmological survey across all experiments
- Measurement of Hubble constant with dark sirens up to redshift  $\sim 3$
- Calibration of Type Ia SNe
- Dark matter constraints
- **IMBHs**

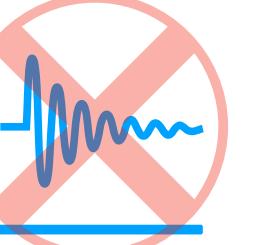
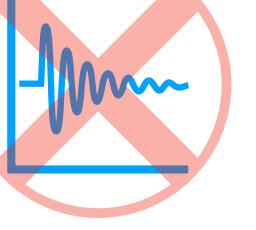
Please do reach out for more science cases!

# Present world- GW190521 Origins?

## Astrophysical

- Stellar origins (<0.8% stars will contribute)  
**KJ**, Loeb - ApJ Letters (2019)
- GC: Hierarchical BBH mergers (spin sensitive)  
Kimbal+ (2019), Gerosa+ (2020)
- **GC:** Stellar mergers (~2% of BHs in gap)  
Spera, Di Carlo, Mapelli+ (2019)
- **NSC:** accretion (can reach any IMBH mass)  
Natarajan (2020)
- **AGN disk** (hierarchical, EM counterparts)  
Bartos, McKernan, Ford + (>2017)

## Exotic

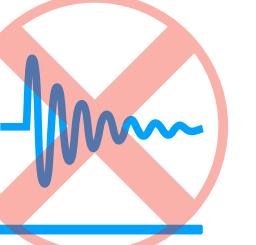
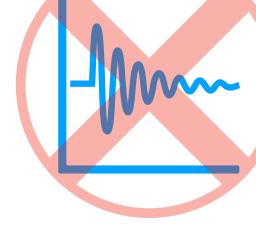
- Core Collapse Supernovae 
- Cosmic Strings 
- Beyond GR 
- Strong Gravitational Lensing 
- **Primordial/Pop-III BH Mergers**
- **Highly Eccentric Collisions**  
Gayathri+ (2020), Romero-Shaw+ (2020)

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- Cosmic Strings 
- Beyond GR 
- Strong Gravitational Lensing 
- **Primordial/Pop-III BH Mergers**
- **Highly Eccentric Collisions**  
Gayathri+ (2020), Romero-Shaw+ (2020)

*Conclusion : 100-1000 solar mass “Lite” IMBHs are the most exciting GW sources for this decade*

GW190521

Detection of an intermediate-mass black hole

Thank you!

Follow-up discussions

[karan.jani@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:karan.jani@vanderbilt.edu)



@astrokpj



Deborah Ferguson | Karan Jani | Deirdre Shoemaker | Pabla Laguna