



# The Advanced LIGO Detectors in the Era of First Discoveries

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Observatory  
California Institute  
of Technology

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For the LIGO Scientific Collaboration and the Virgo Collaboration



**1.3 billion years ago...**  
**(give or take)**





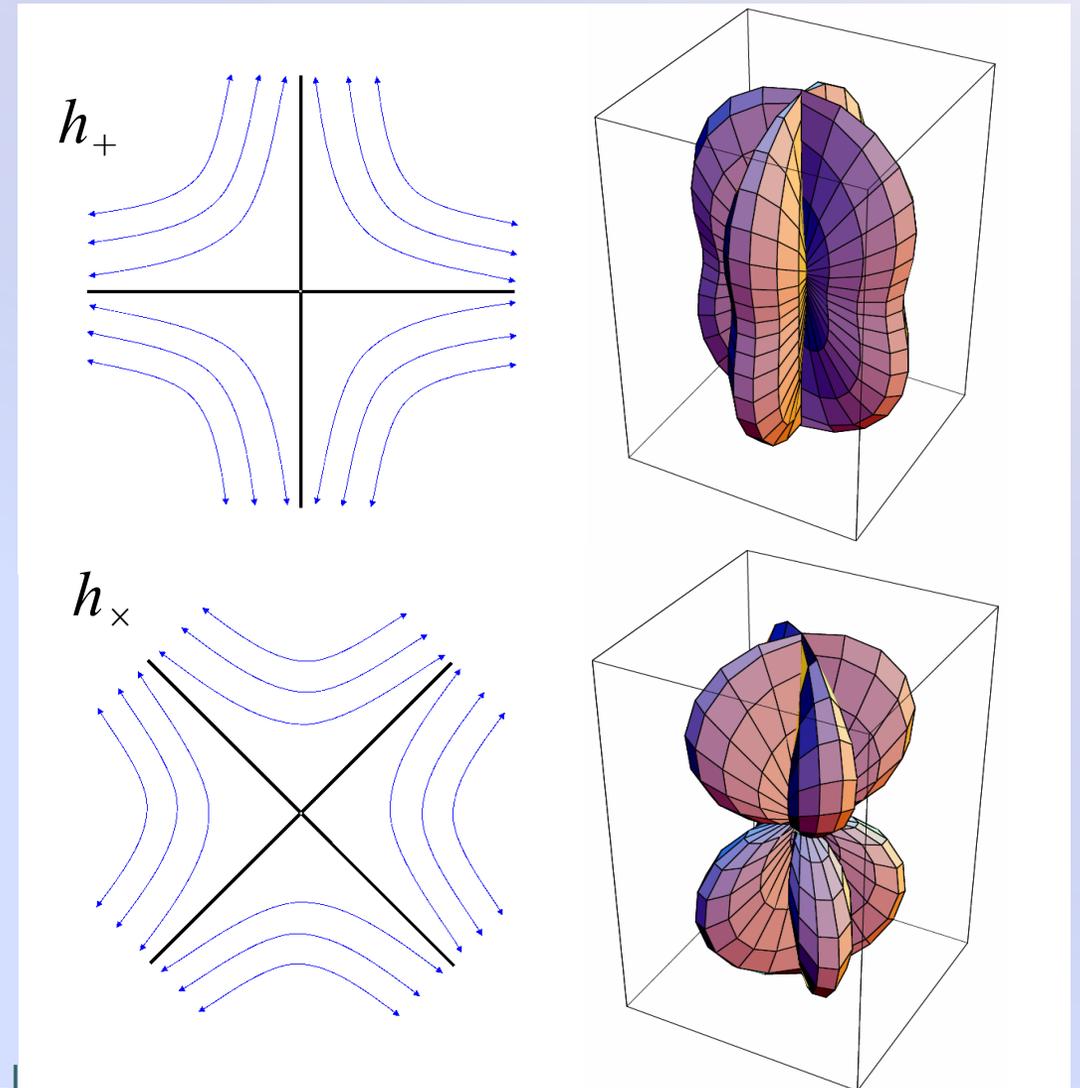
Metric:  $ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu$

Weak field:  $g_{\mu\nu} \approx \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$

In vacuum:  $h_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_+ & h_\times & 0 \\ 0 & h_\times & -h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Physically,  
 $h$  is a strain  $\sim \Delta L/L$

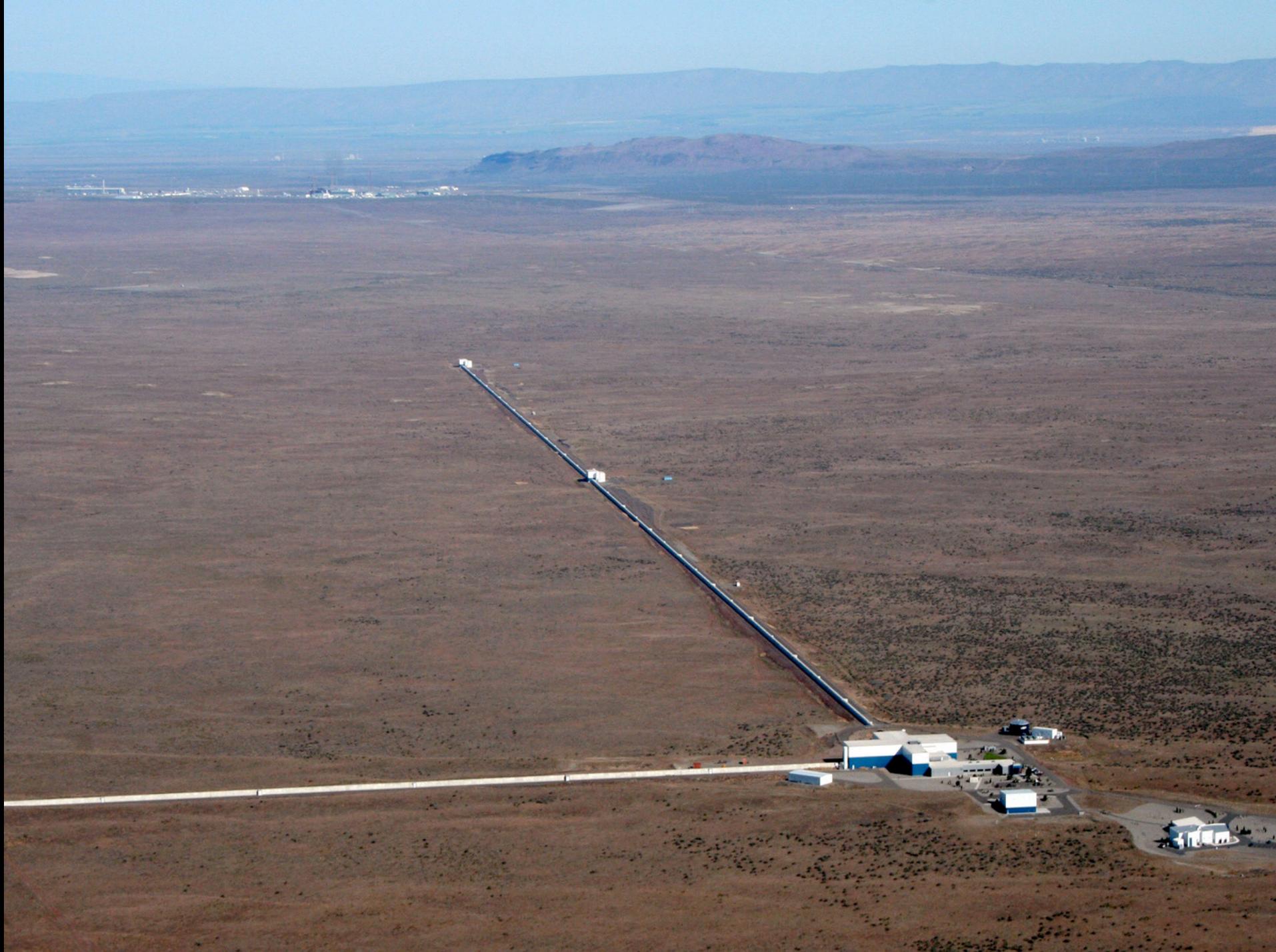
Measure with a Michelson  
interferometer



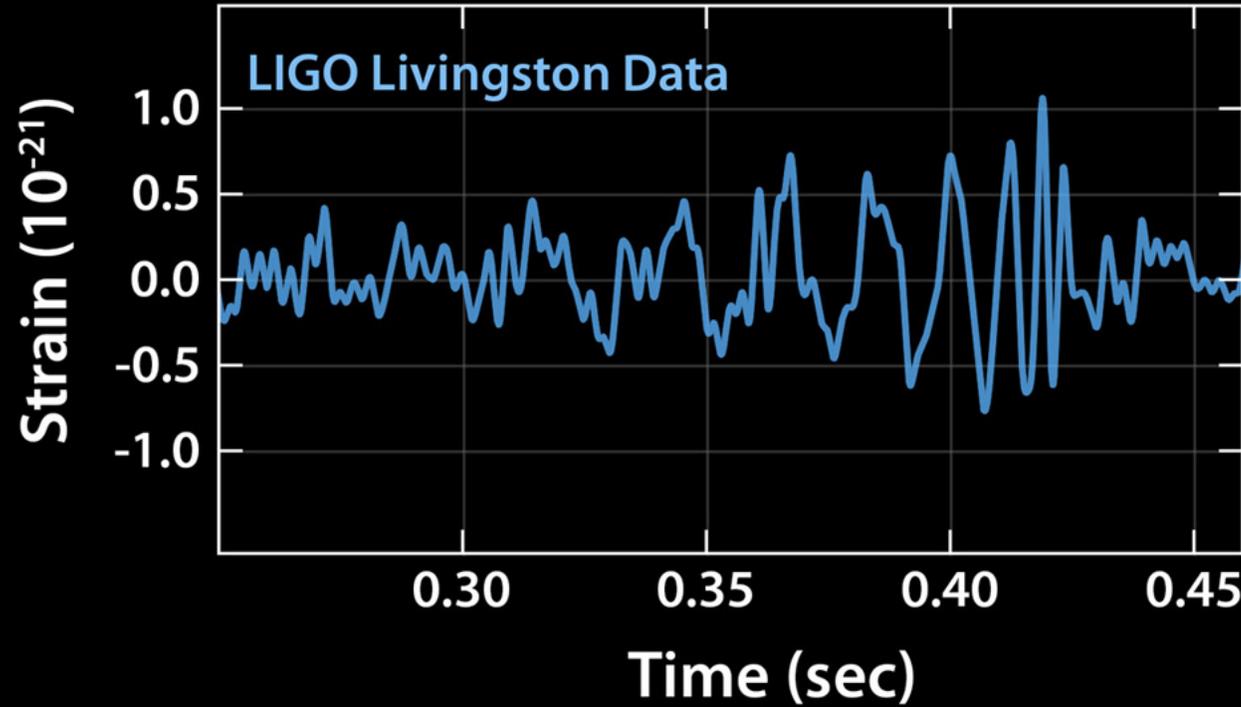
# Livingston Observatory



# Hanford Observatory

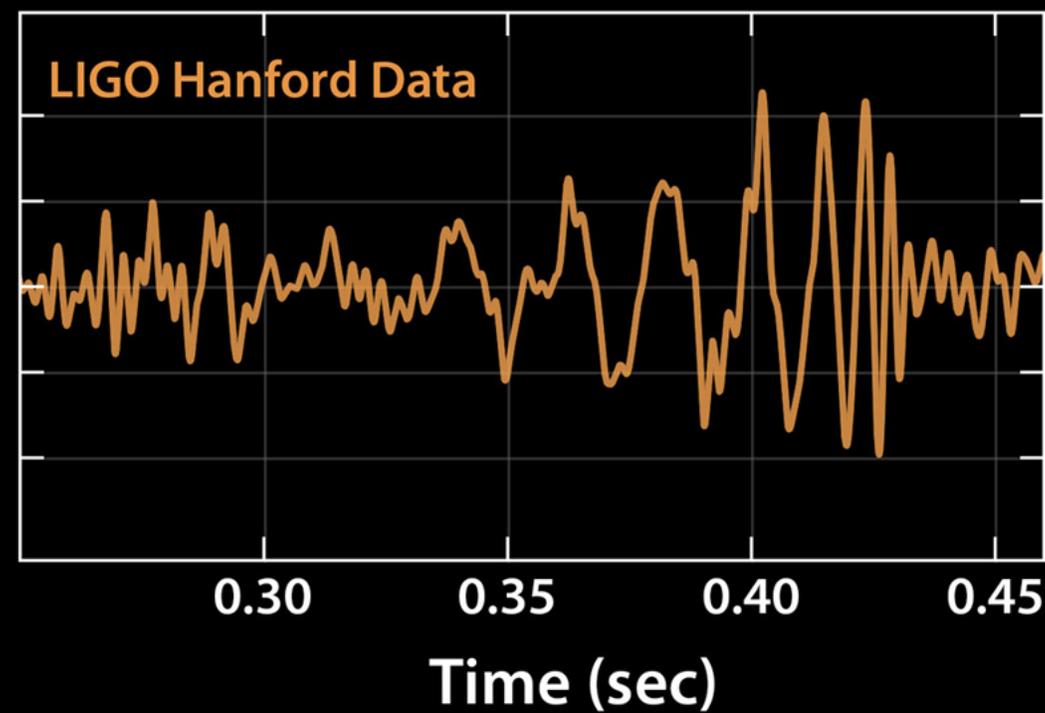
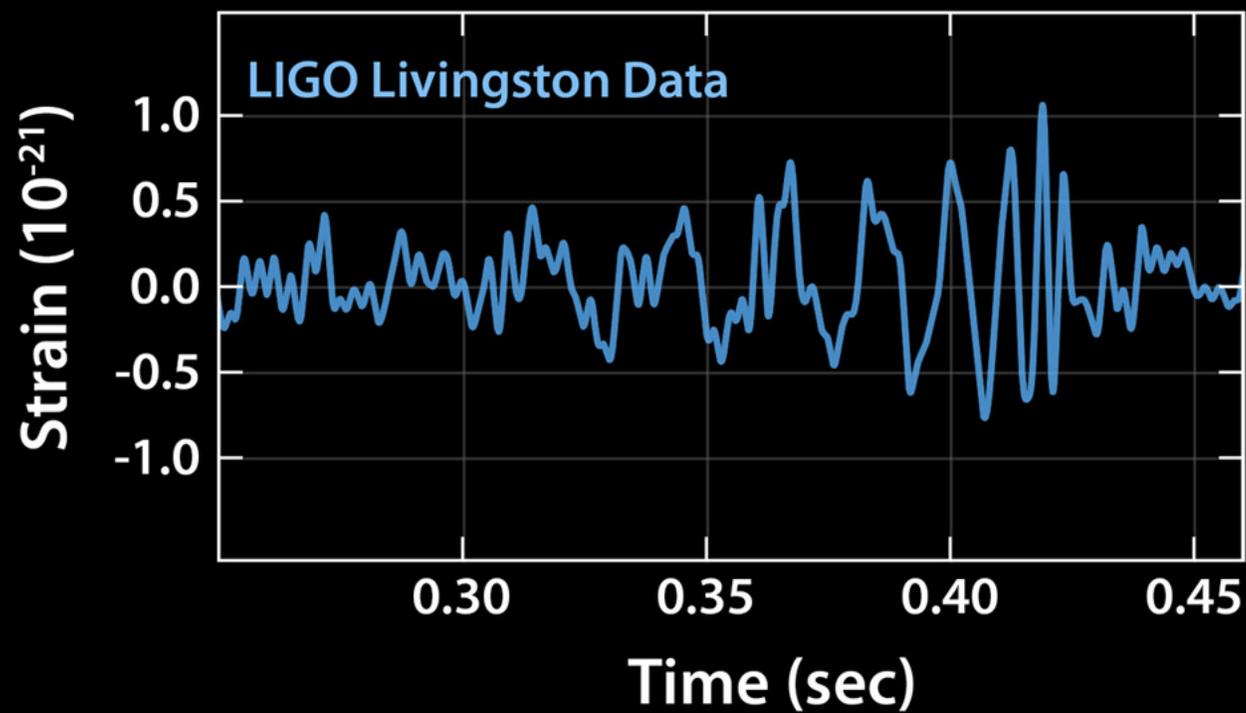


# GW150914

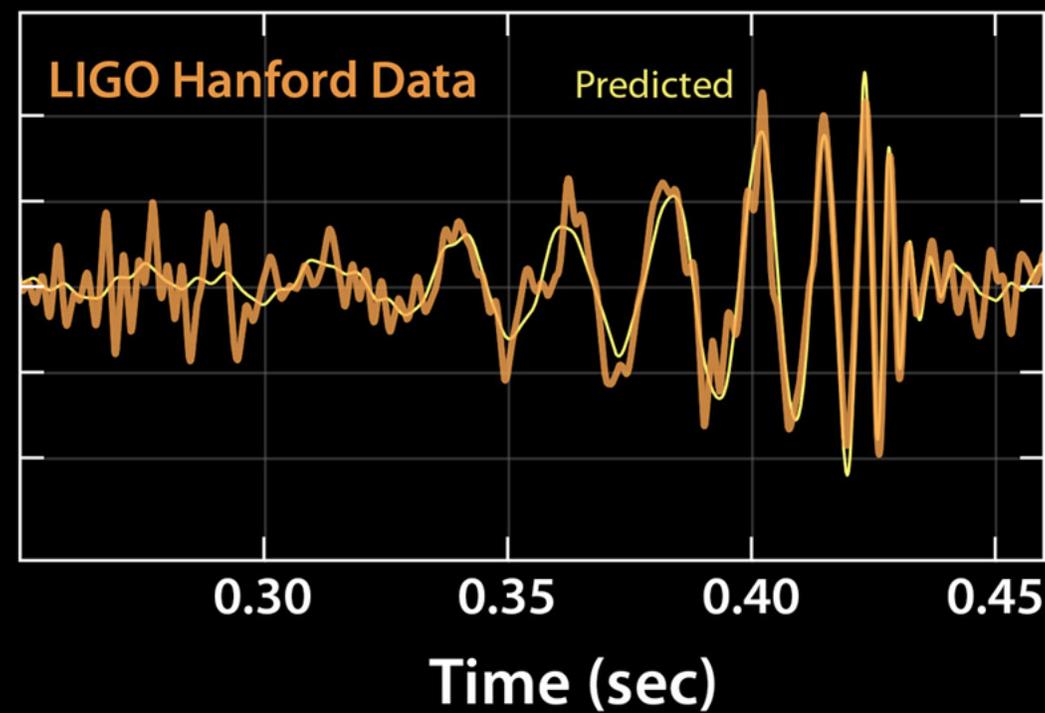
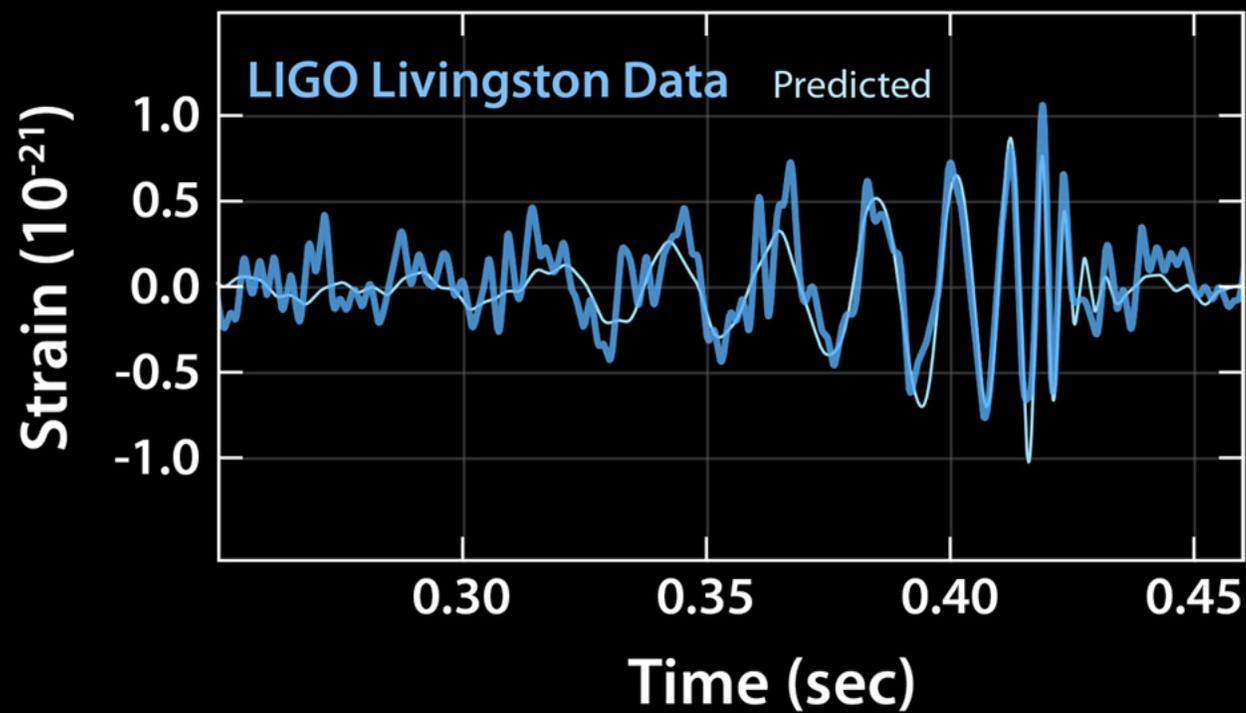


$\sim 1/200^{\text{th}}$  proton radius

# GW150914



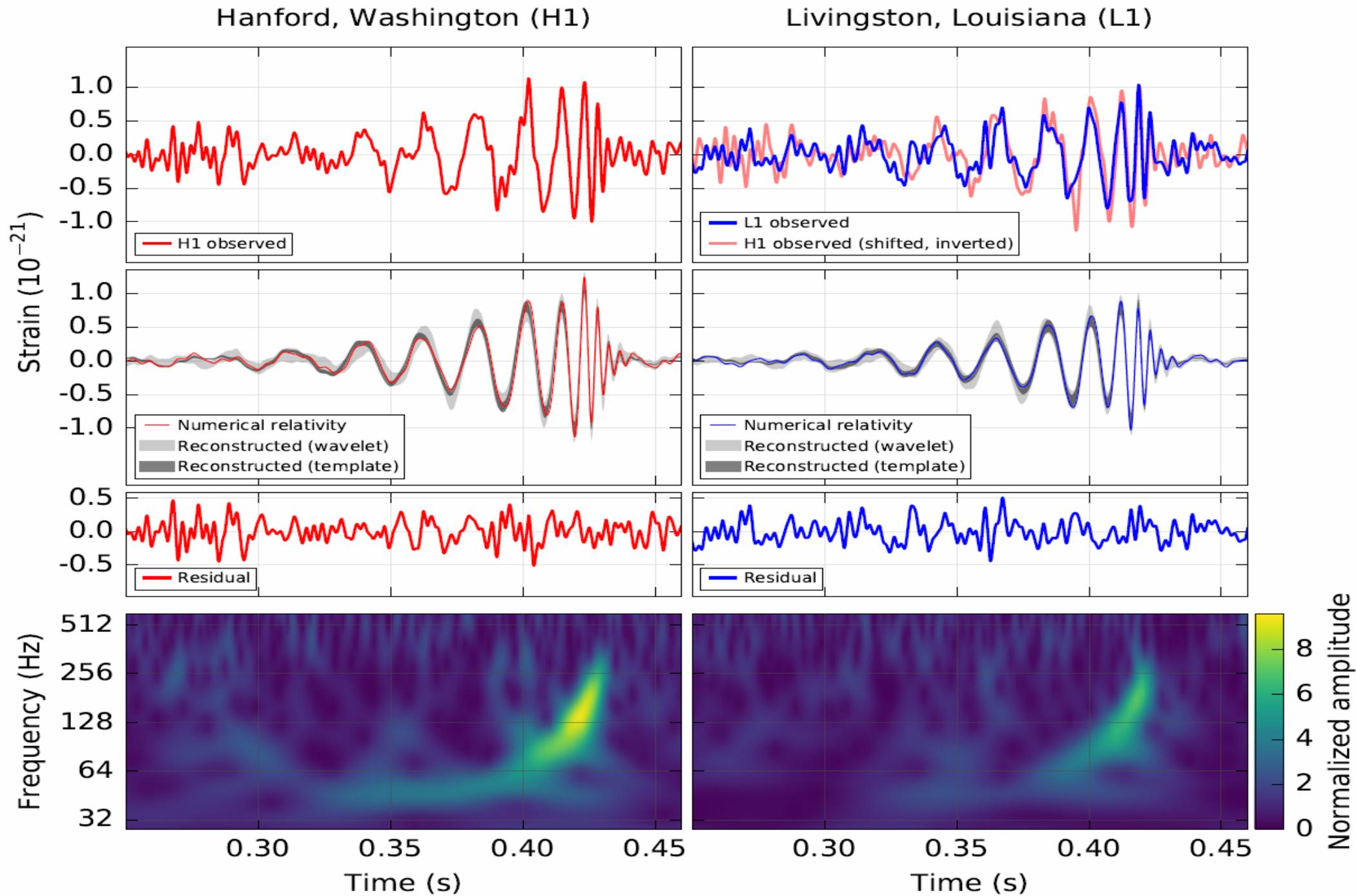
# GW150914



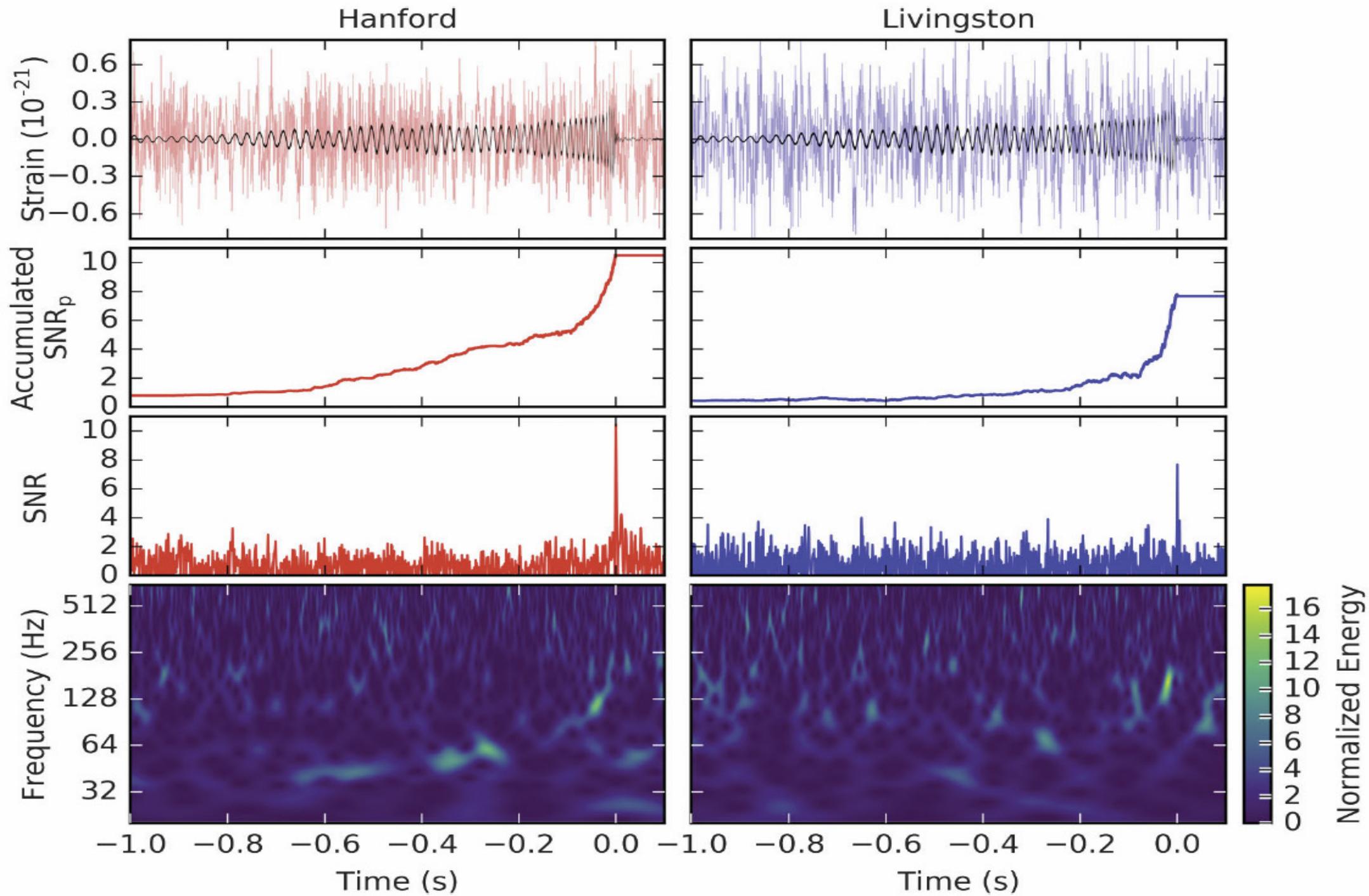


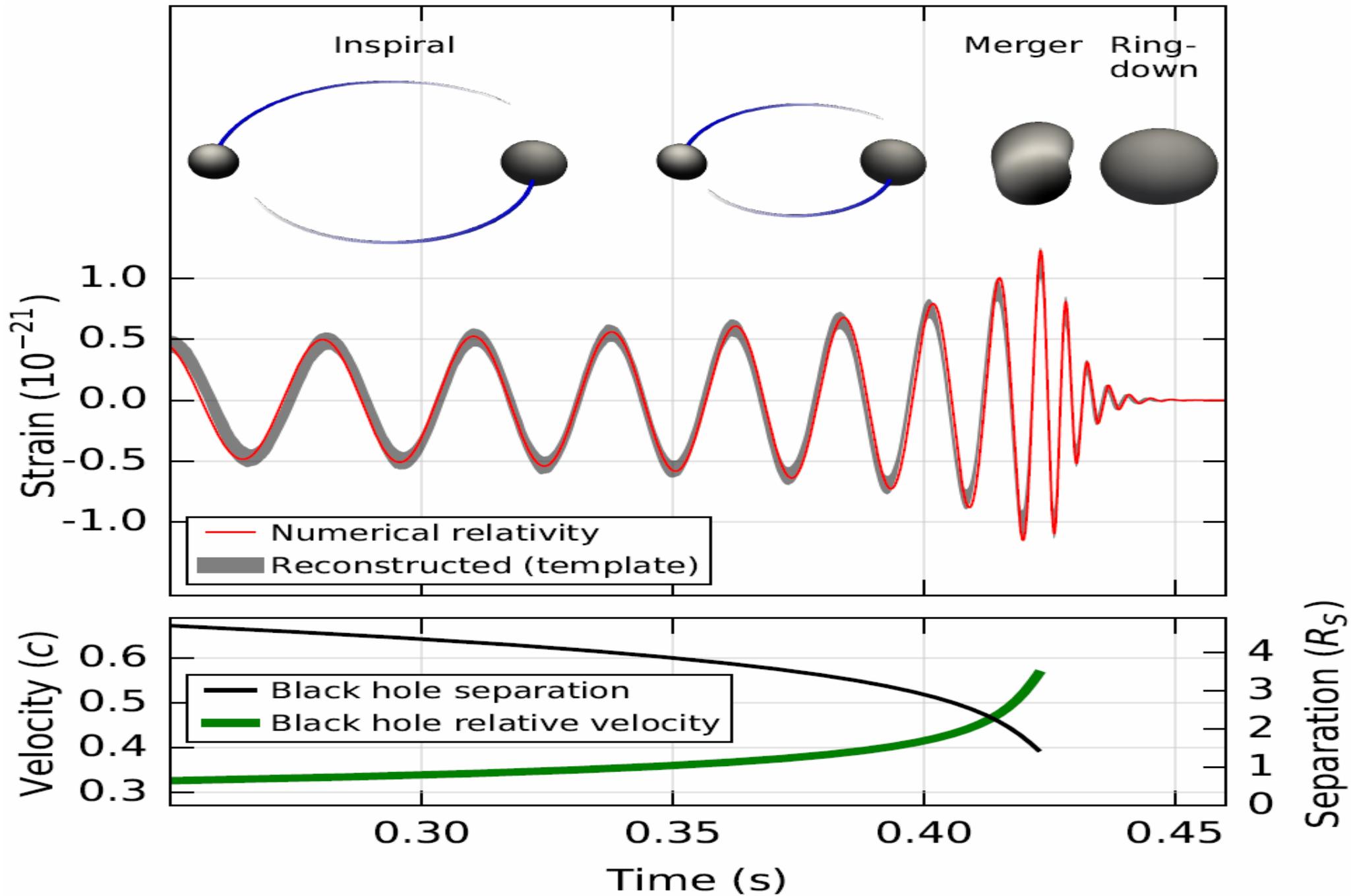


# GW150914

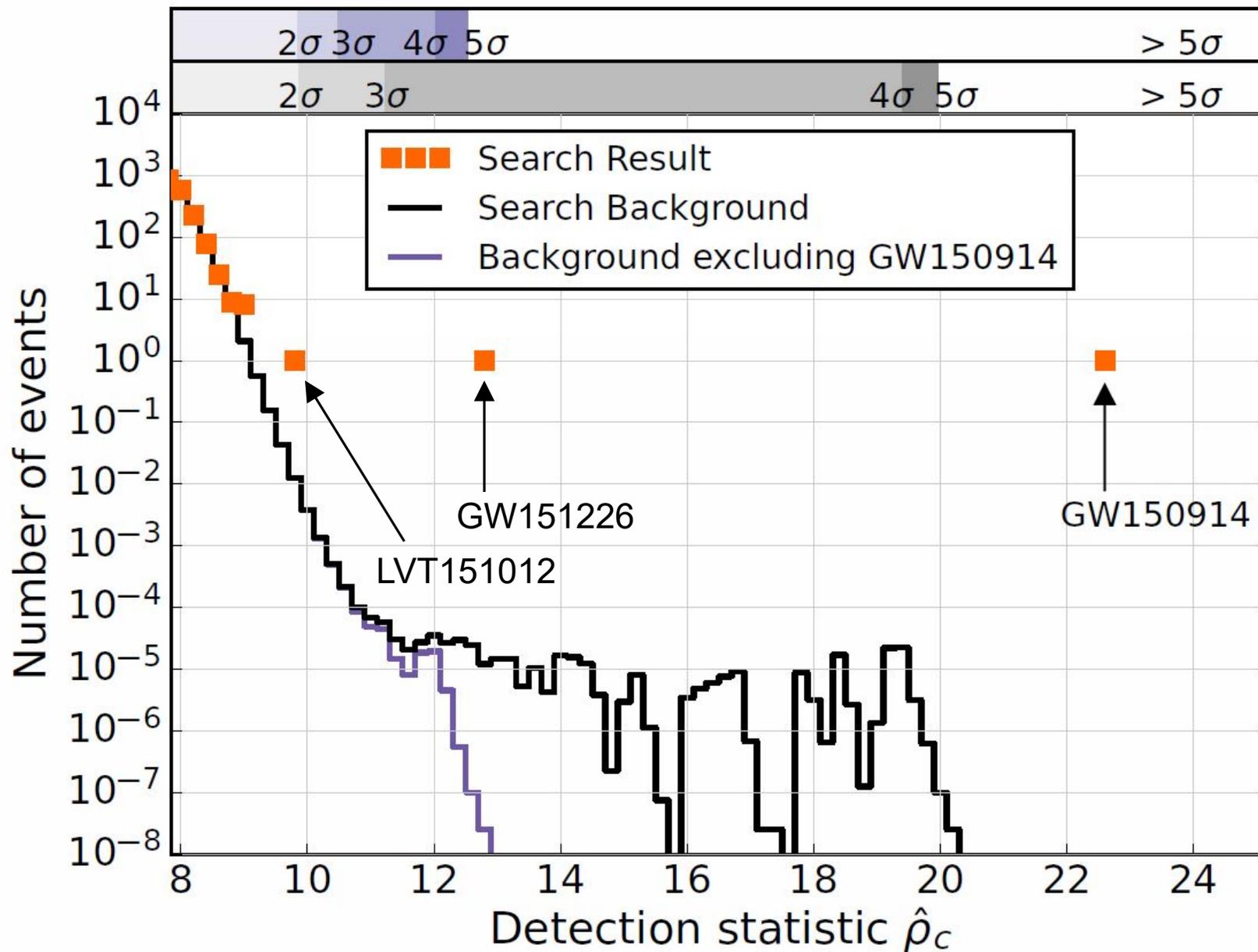


# GW151226

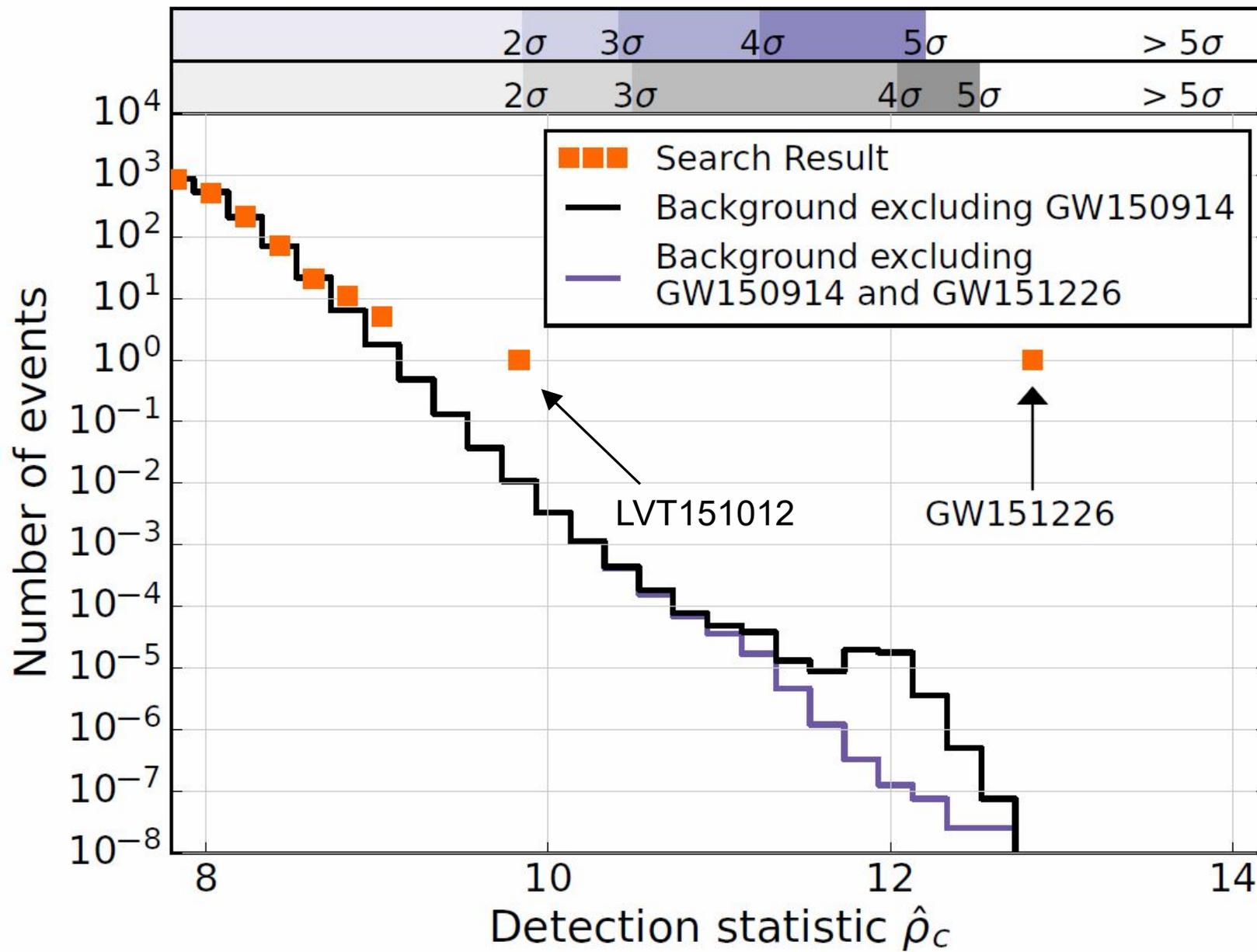




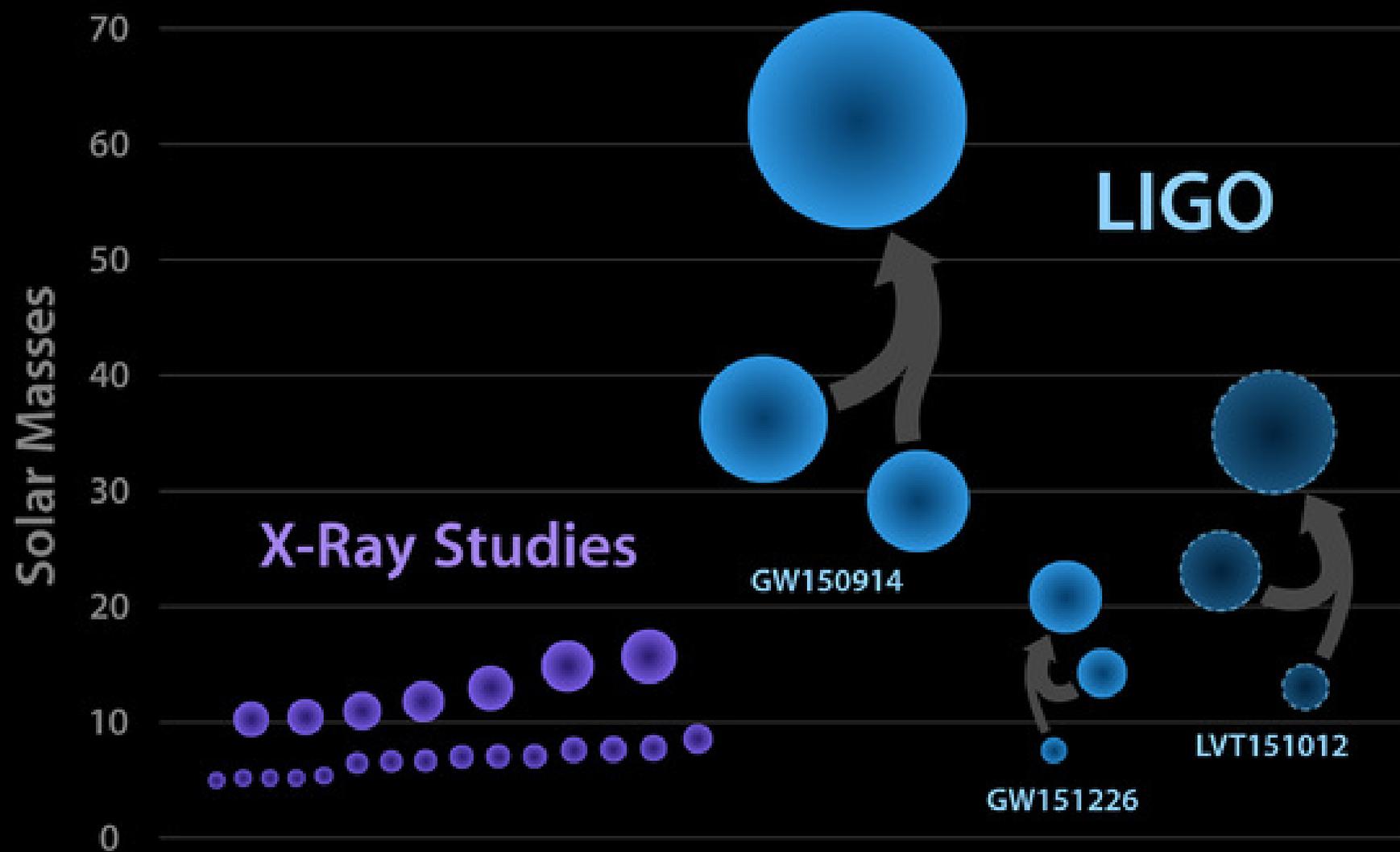
# GW150914



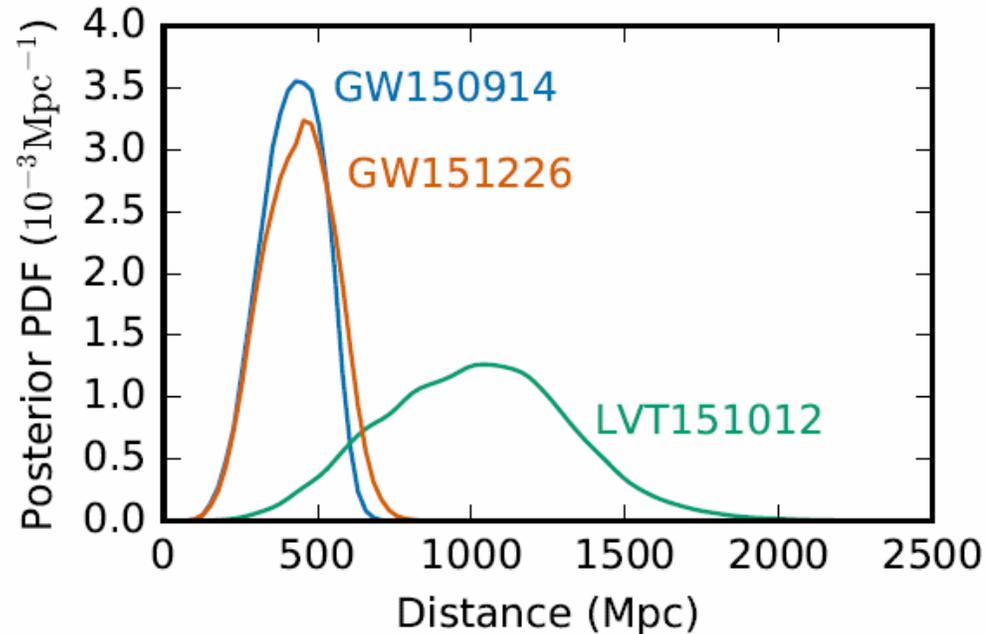
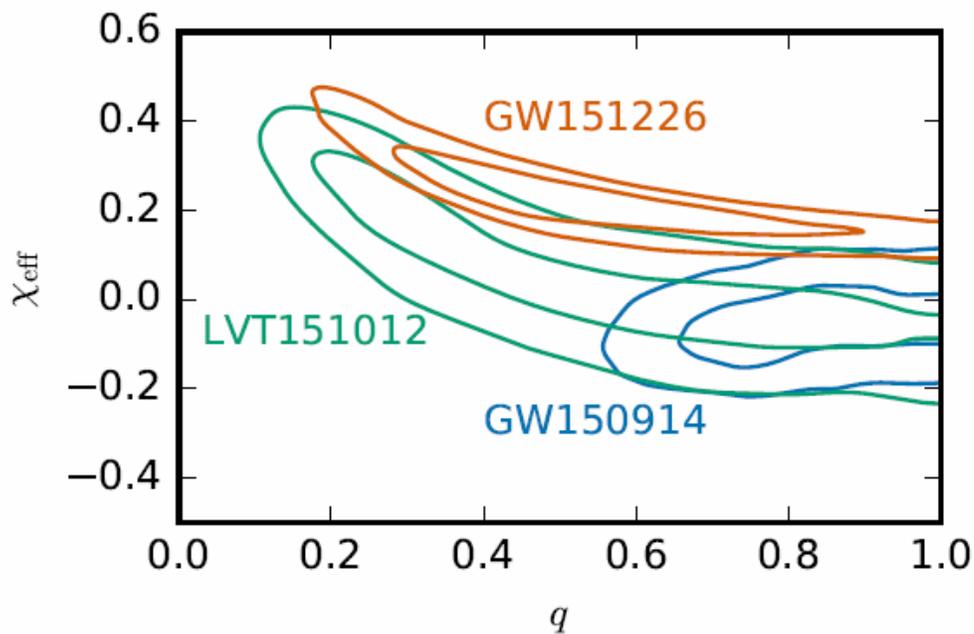
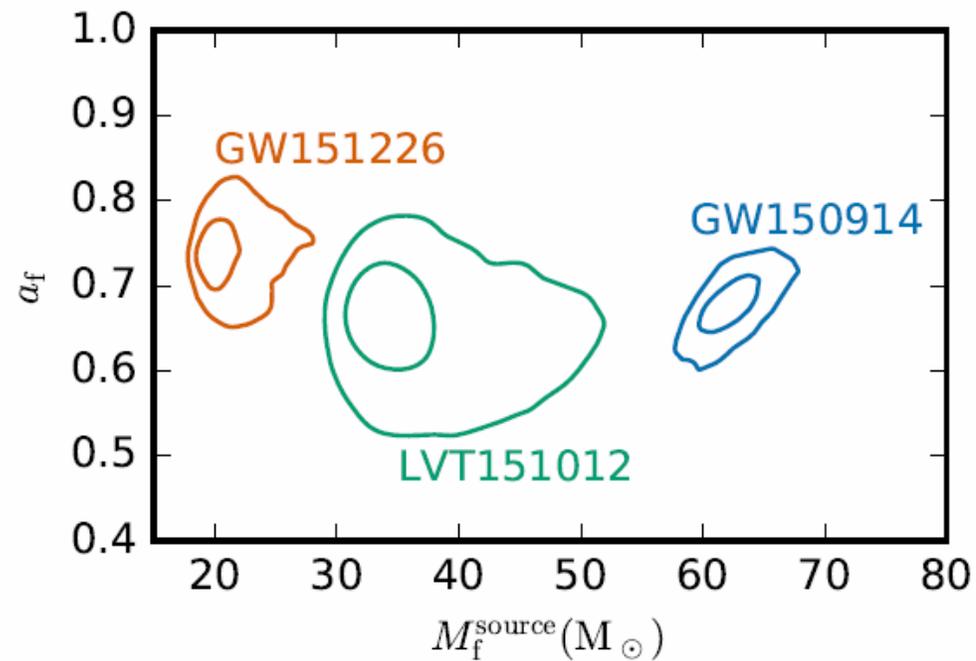
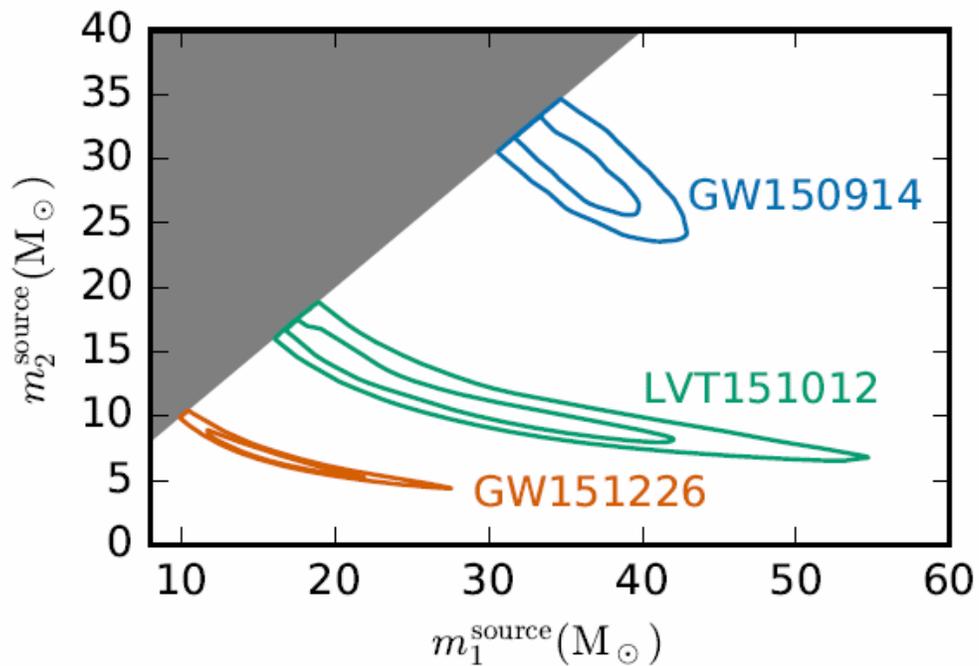
# GW151226

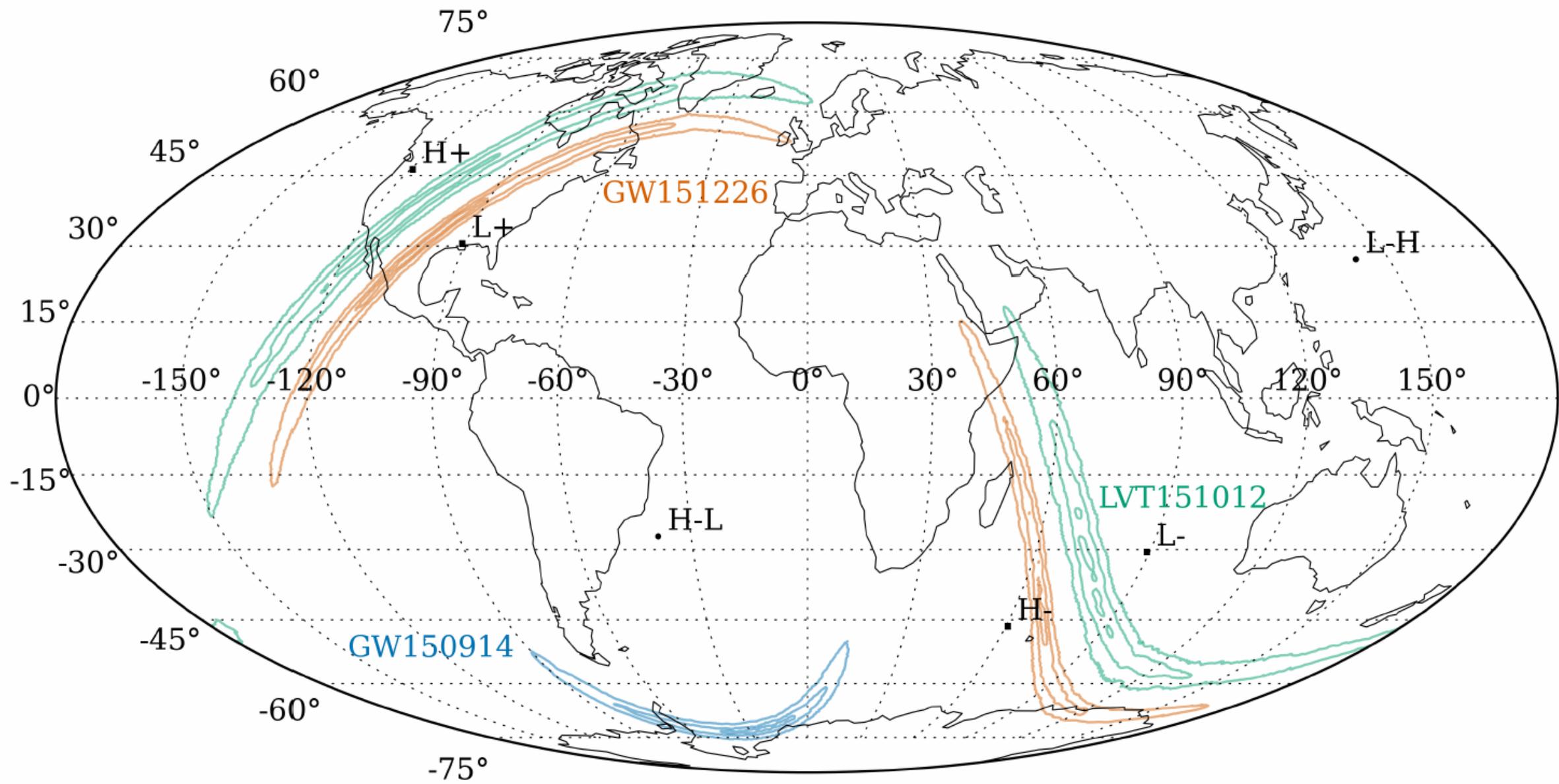


# Black Holes of Known Mass



# Black Hole Parameters



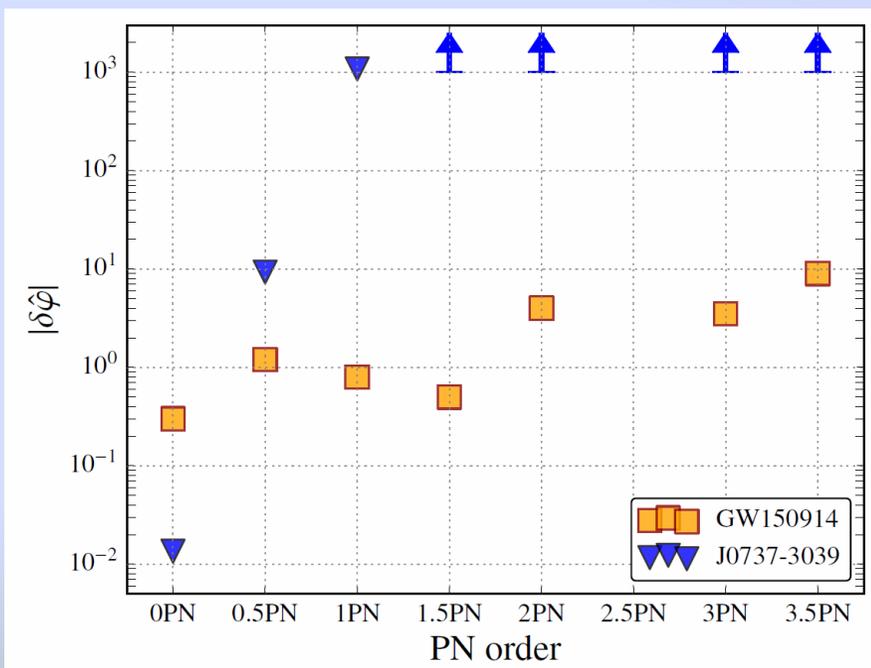


Parameter	GW150914		GW151226		LVT151012		Unit
	Value	90% Error	Value	90% Error	Value	90% Error	
Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR)	23.7		13.0		9.7		
Primary black hole mass	36	+5 -4	14.2	+8.3 -3.7	23	+18 -6	$M_{\odot}$
Secondary black hole mass	29	+4 -4	7.5	+2.3 -2.3	13	+4 -5	$M_{\odot}$
Final black hole mass	62	+4 -4	20.8	+6.1 -1.7	35	+14 -4	$M_{\odot}$
Total radiated energy	3.0	+0.5 -0.5	1.0	+0.1 -0.2	1.5	+0.3 -0.4	$M_{\odot}$
Final black hole spin	0.67	+0.05 -0.07	0.74	+0.06 -0.06	0.66	+0.09 -0.10	
Luminosity distance	410	+160 -180	440	+180 -190	1000	+500 -500	Mpc
Source redshift $z$	0.09	+0.03 -0.04	0.09	+0.03 -0.04	0.20	+0.09 -0.09	

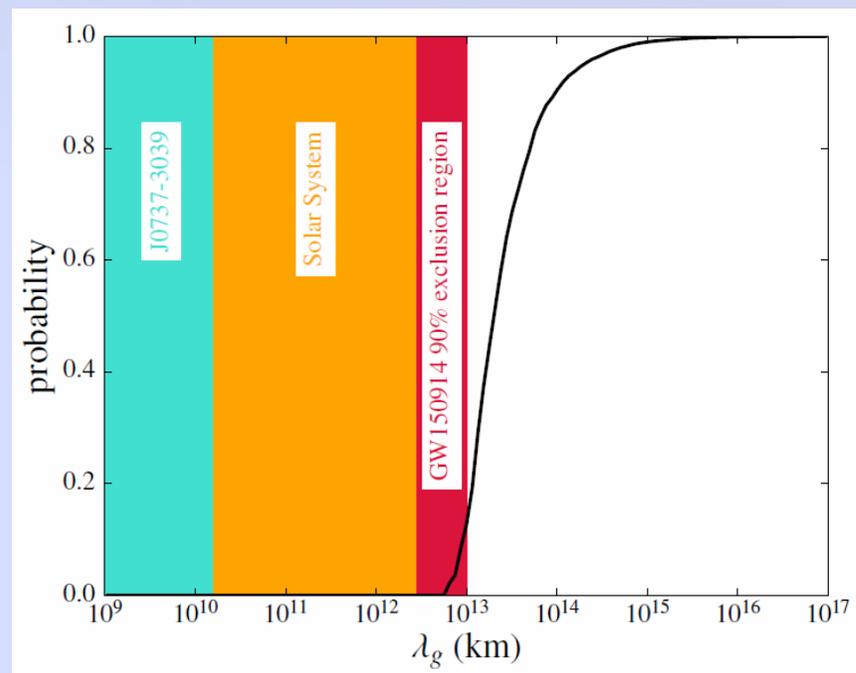
# General Relativity Tests

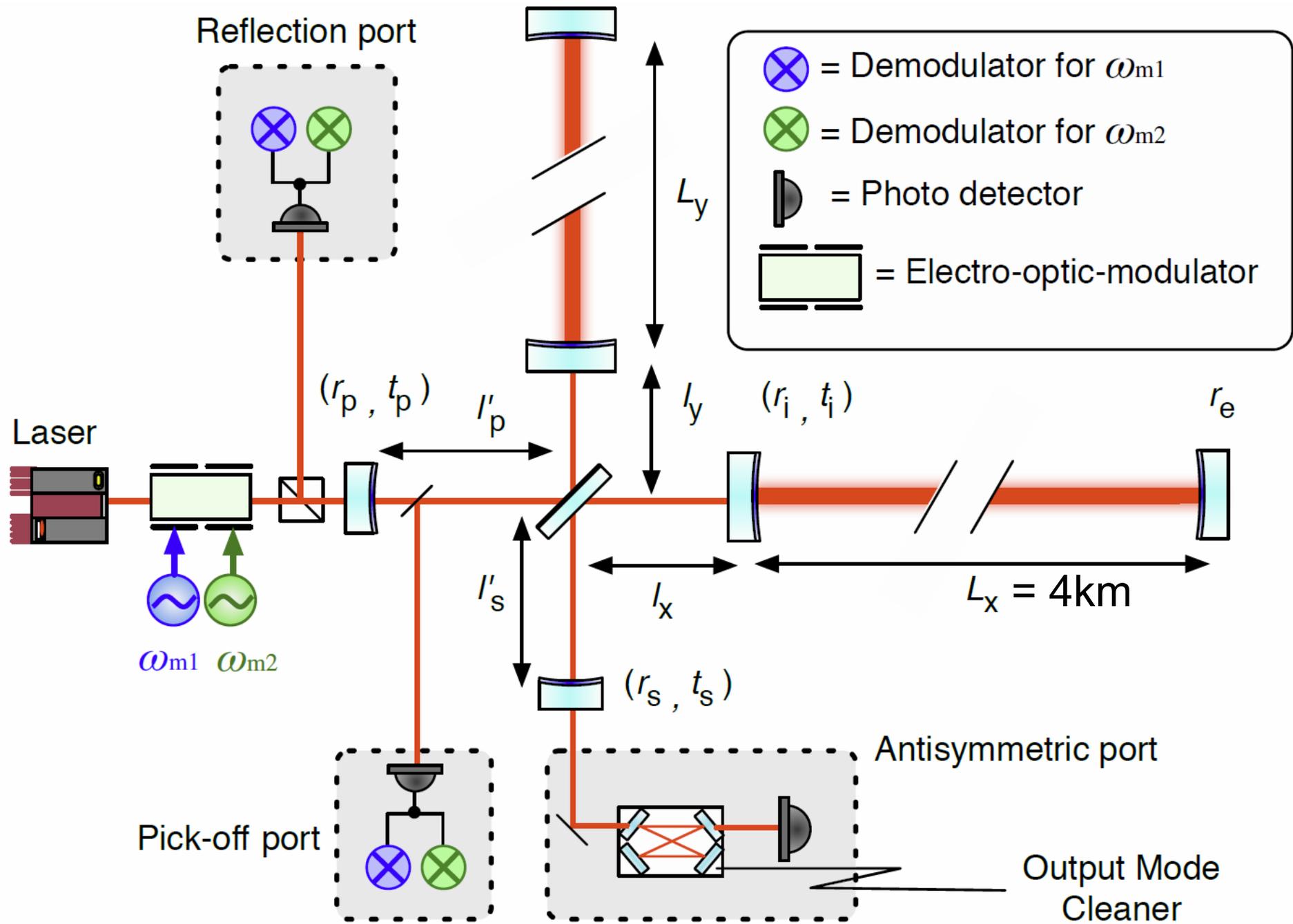
GW150914 is the first observation of a binary black hole merger...  
 ... and thus is the best test of GR in the strong field, nonlinear regime

## Post Newtonian Approximation

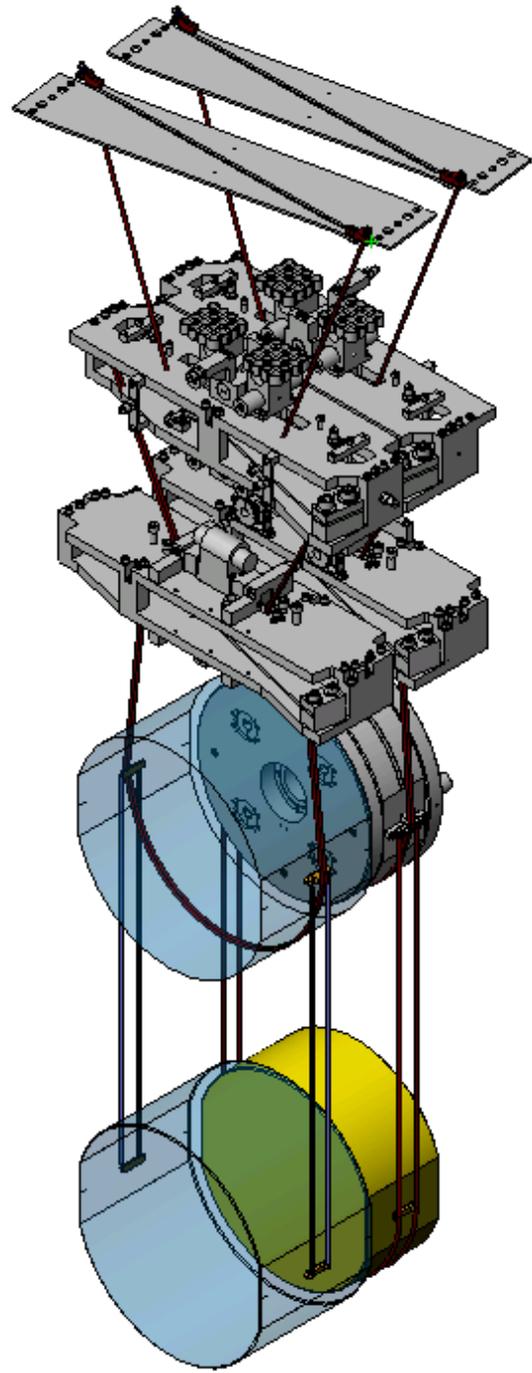
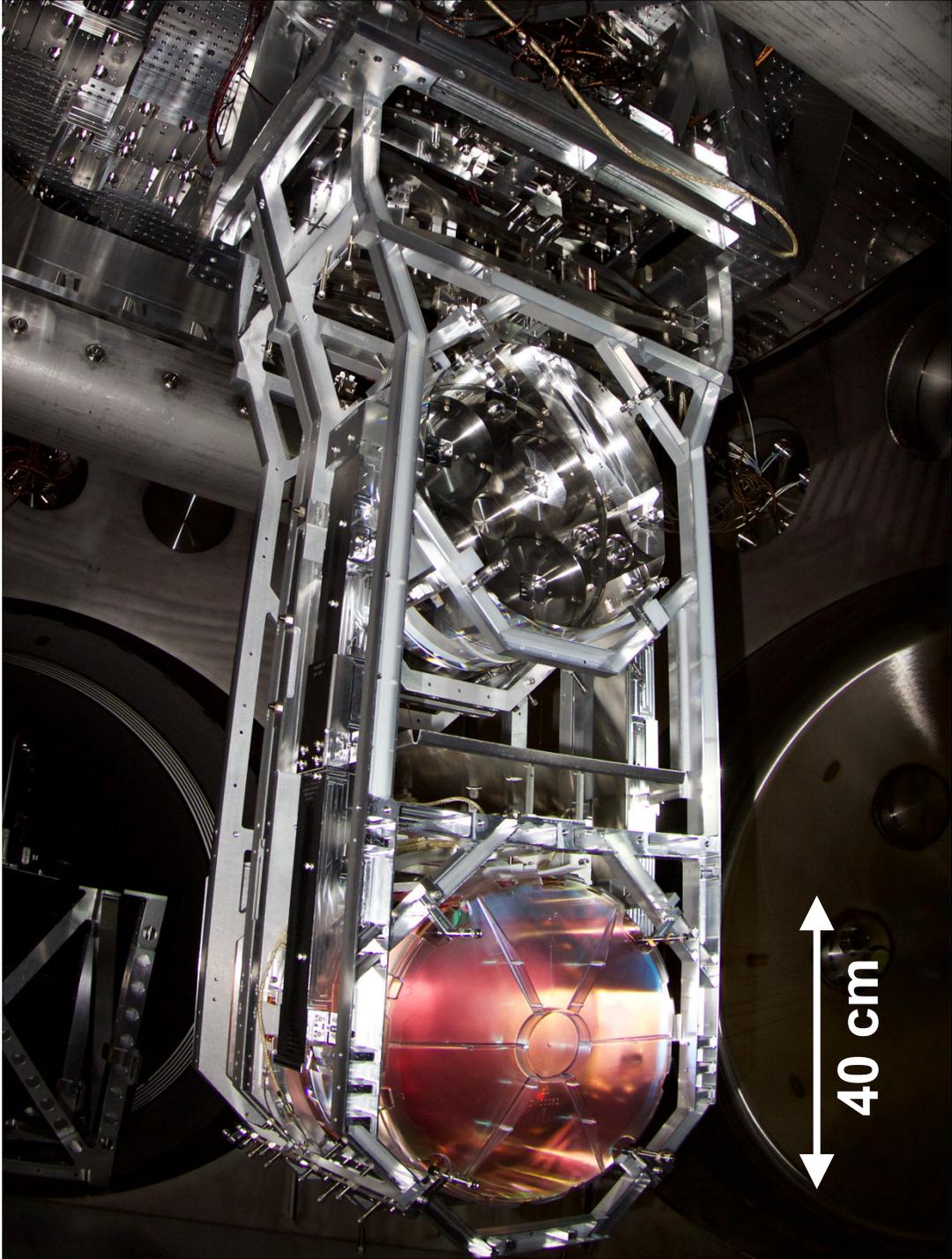


## Graviton Compton Wavelength





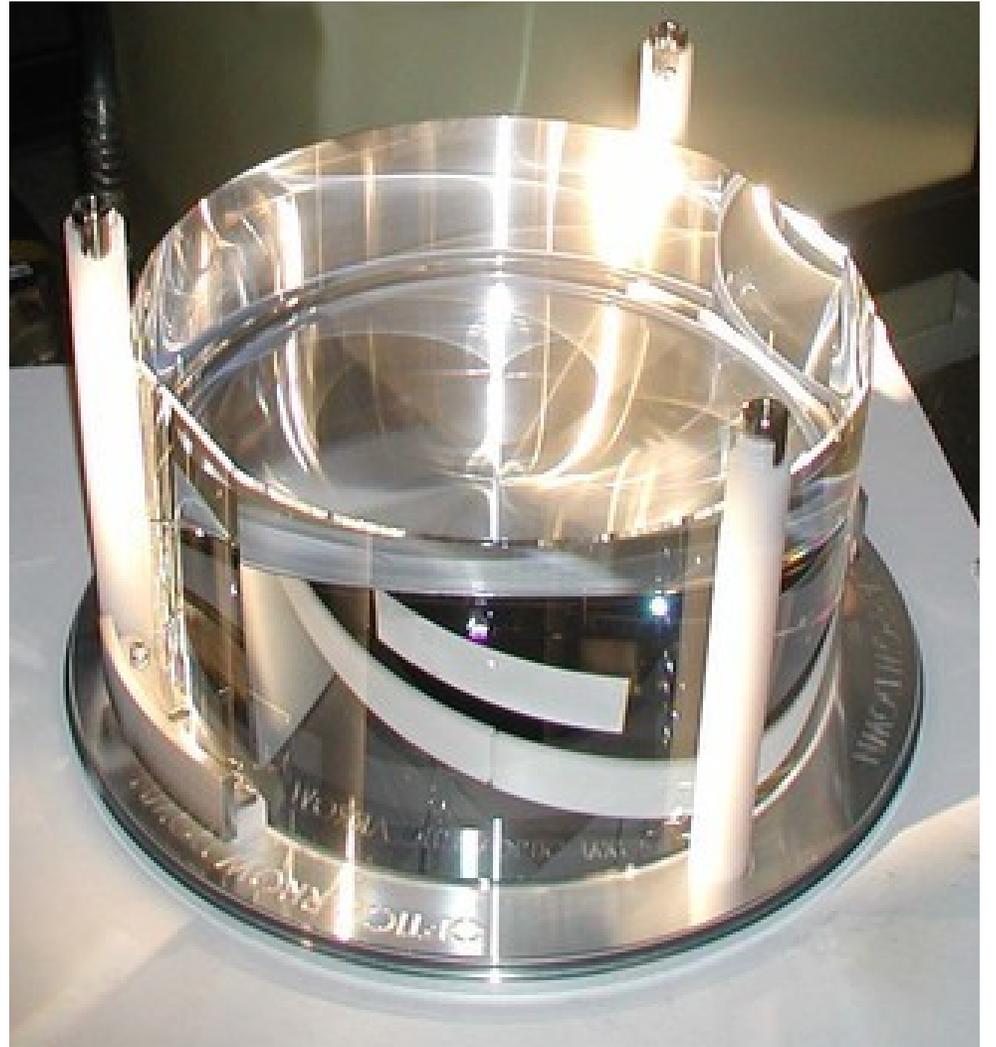
# Test Mass Suspension



# Large Test Mass Optics

## Specifications:

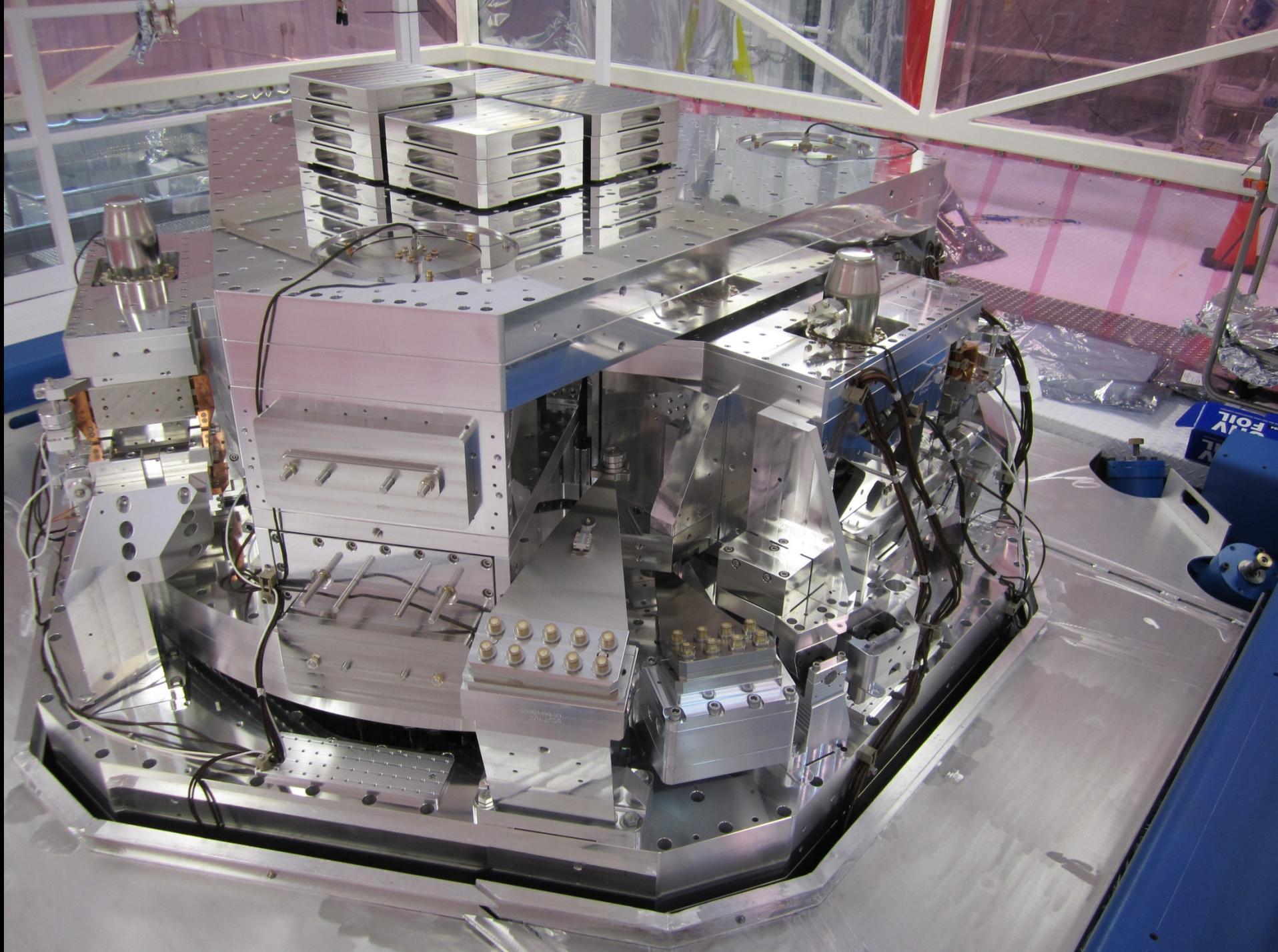
- Diameter: 340 mm
- Thickness: 200 mm
- Mass: 39.6 kg
- ROC: 2250 m / 1940 m
- Figure: <1 nm rms
- Scatter: ~10 ppm
- Surface absorption: ~0.3 ppm
- Bulk absorption: ~0.2 ppm/cm
- HR transmission: ~4 ppm
- AR reflectivity: ~200 ppm



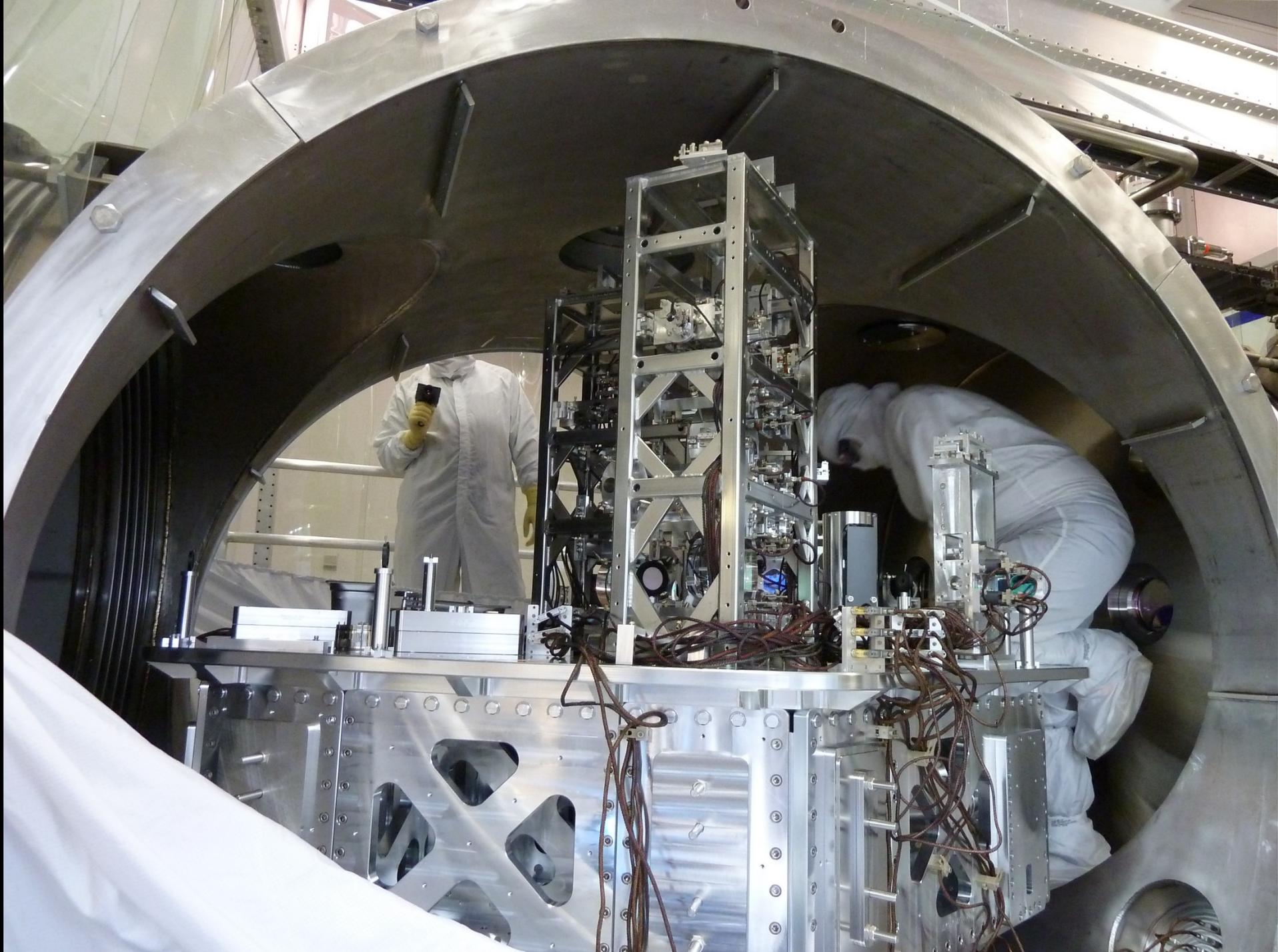


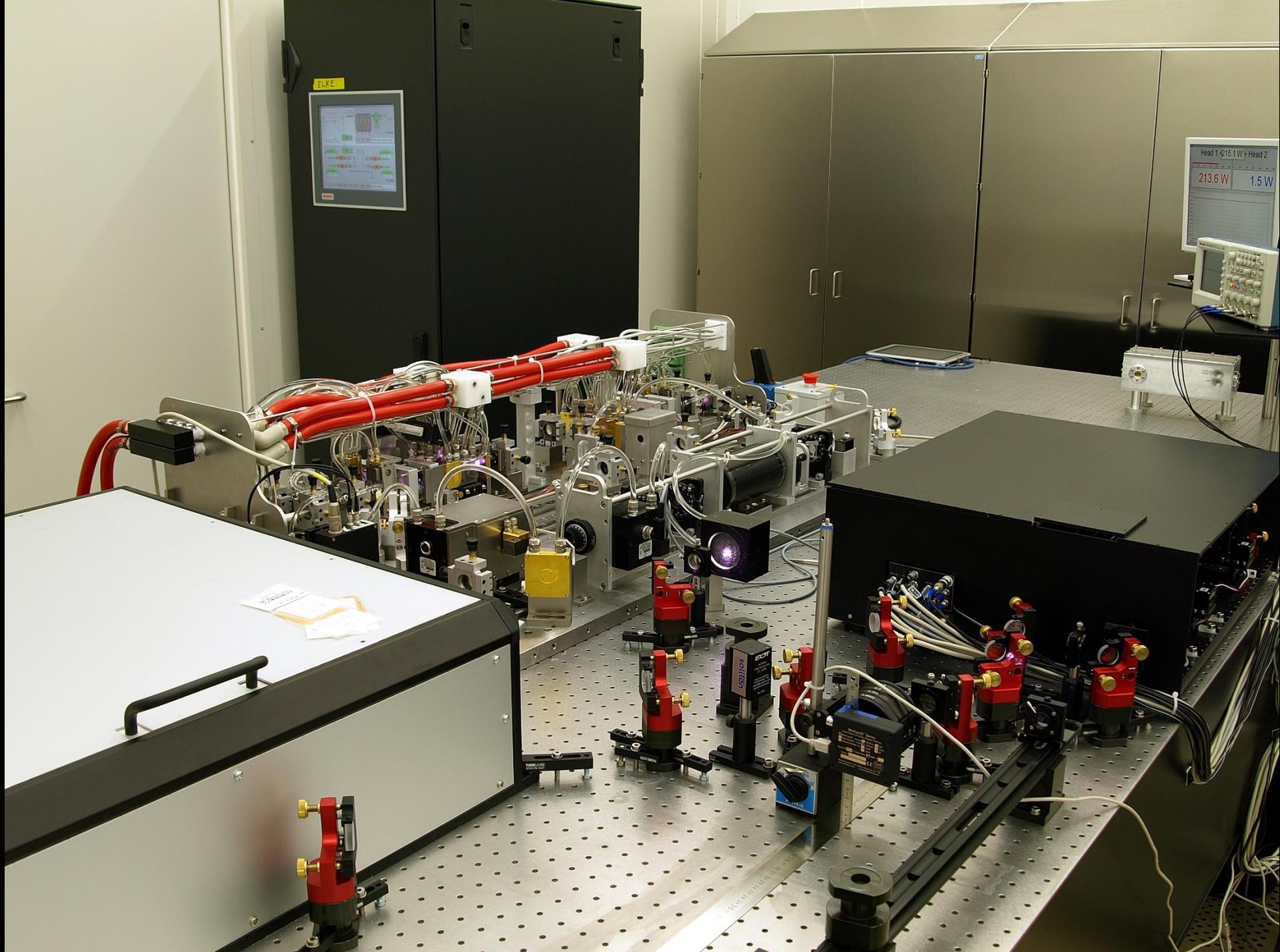
**Vacuum System Vertex**

# Seismic Isolation Platform



# Input Optics Table

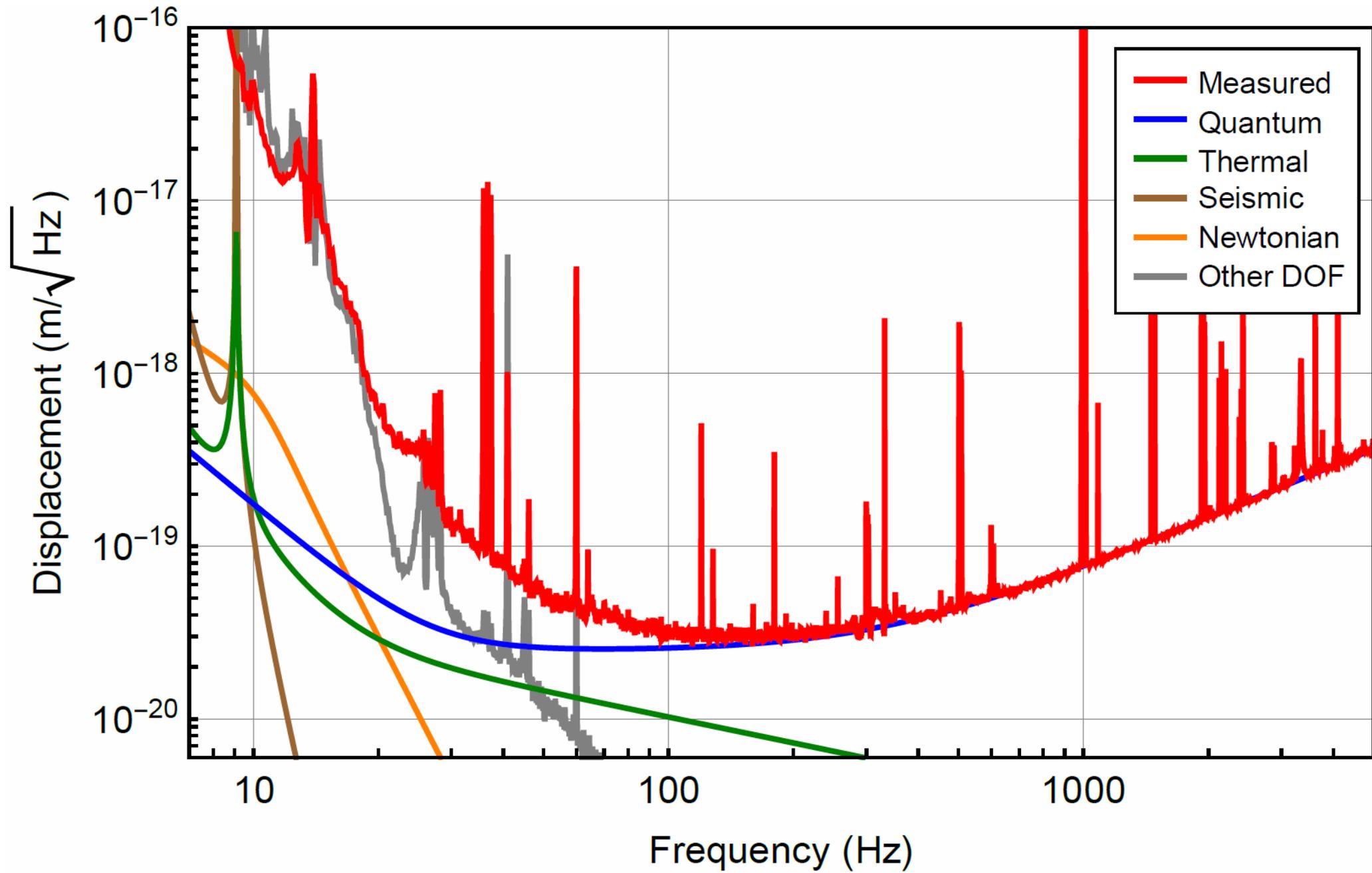


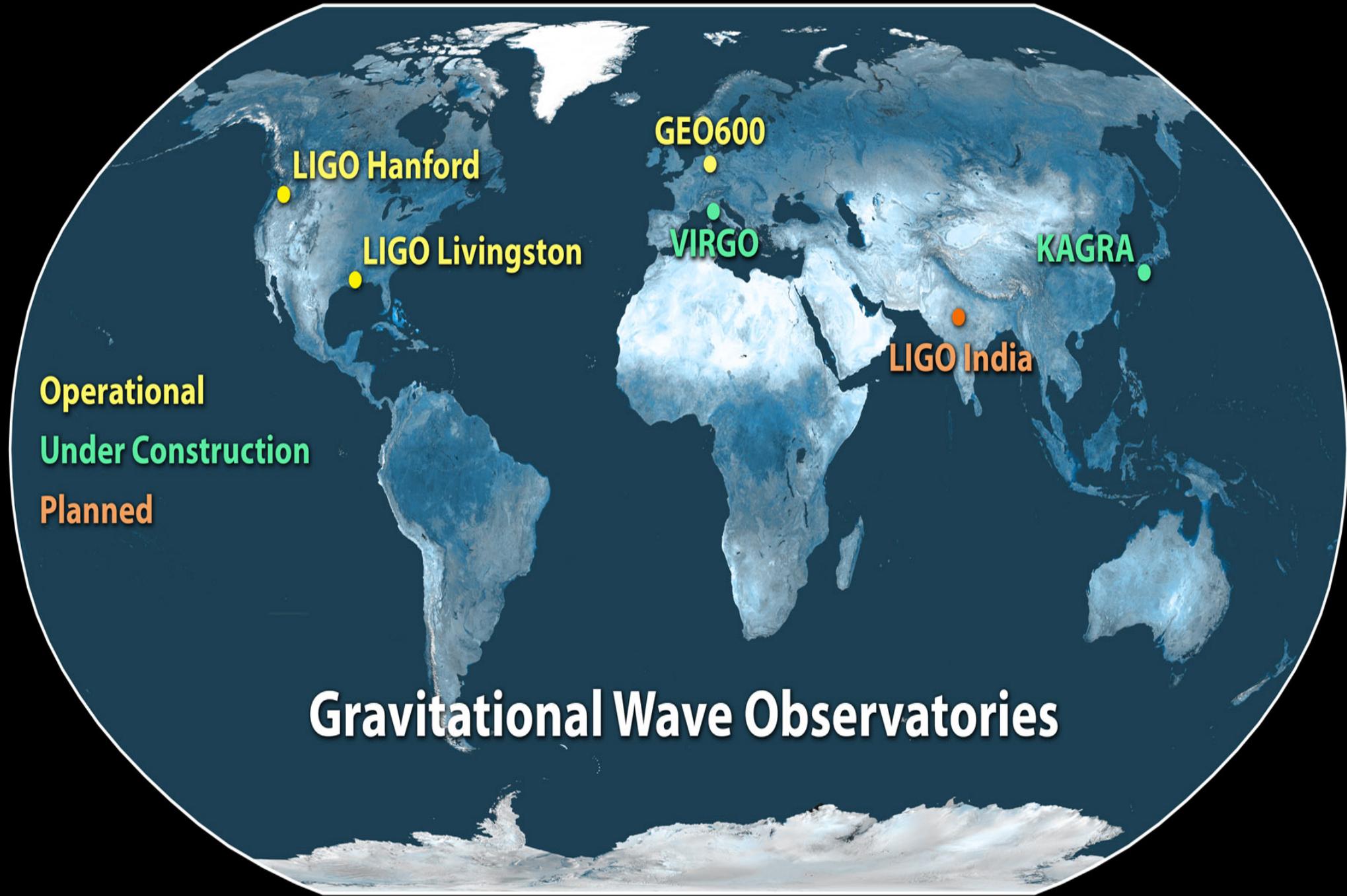


200W Pre-Stabilized Laser

# Control Room







**Operational**

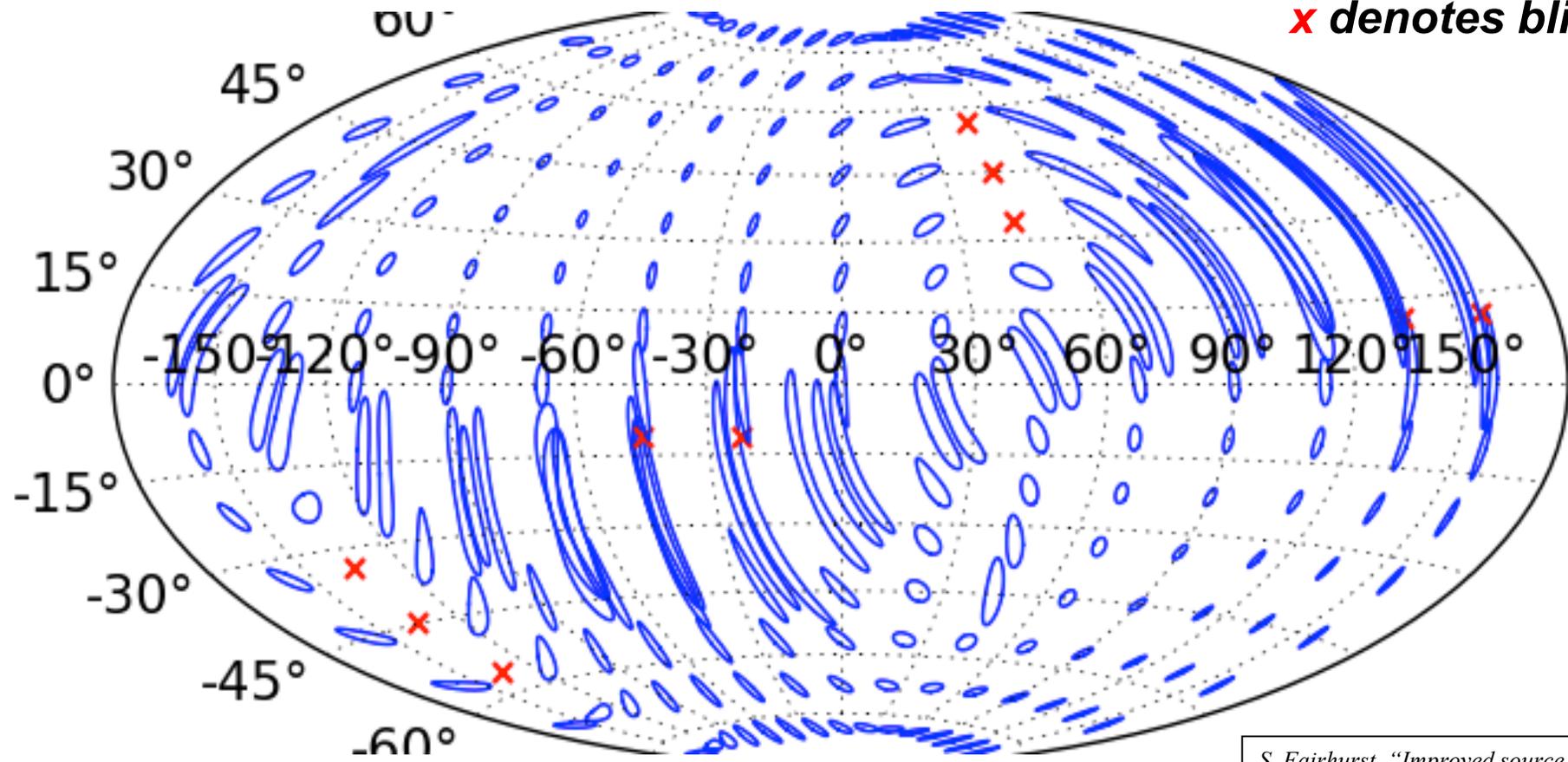
**Under Construction**

**Planned**

# Gravitational Wave Observatories

# Binary Neutron Star Merger Localization: Hanford-Livingston-Virgo

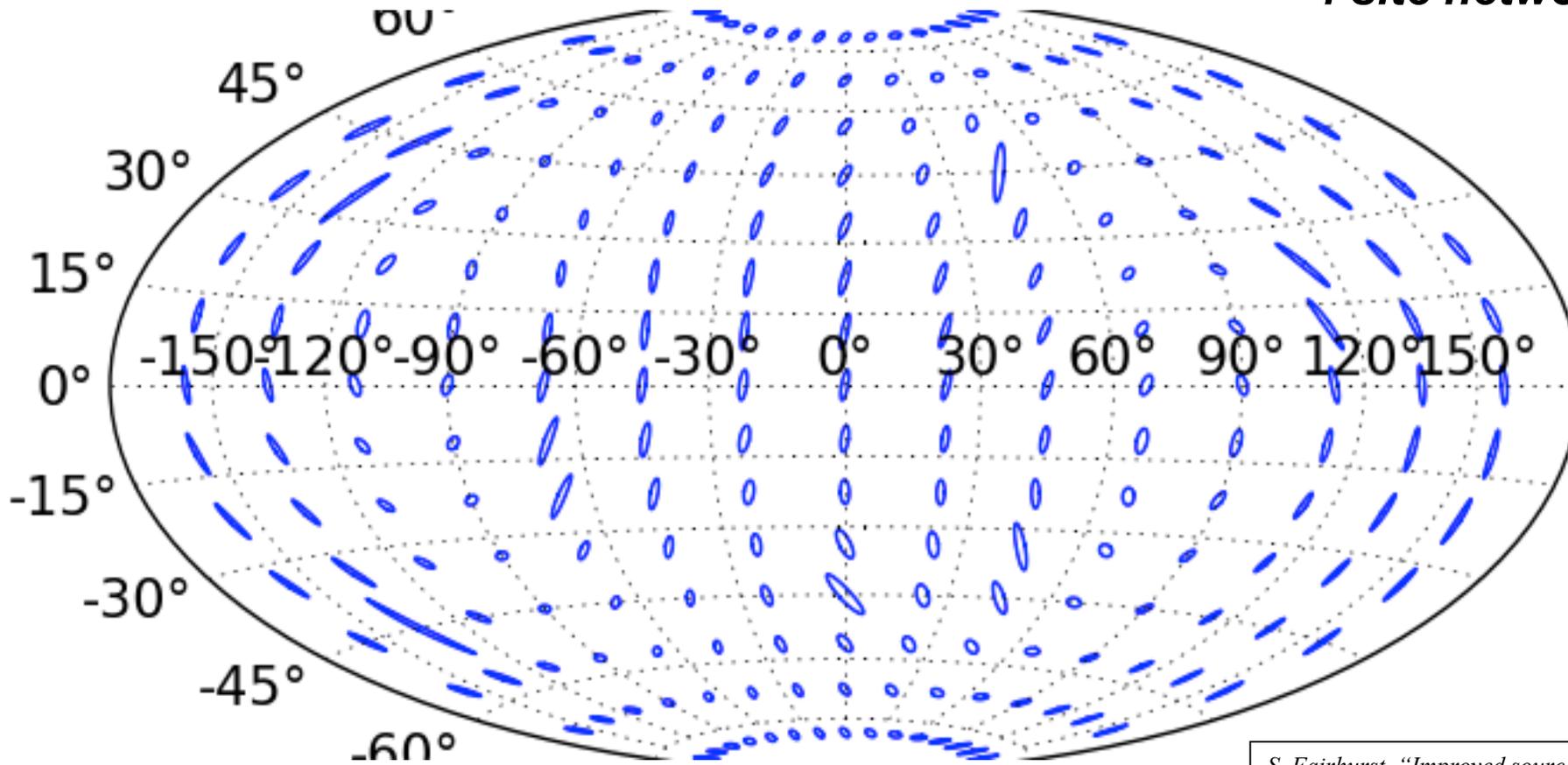
**3 site network**  
**x denotes blind spots**



S. Fairhurst, "Improved source localization with LIGO India", *J. Phys.: Conf. Ser.* **484** 012007

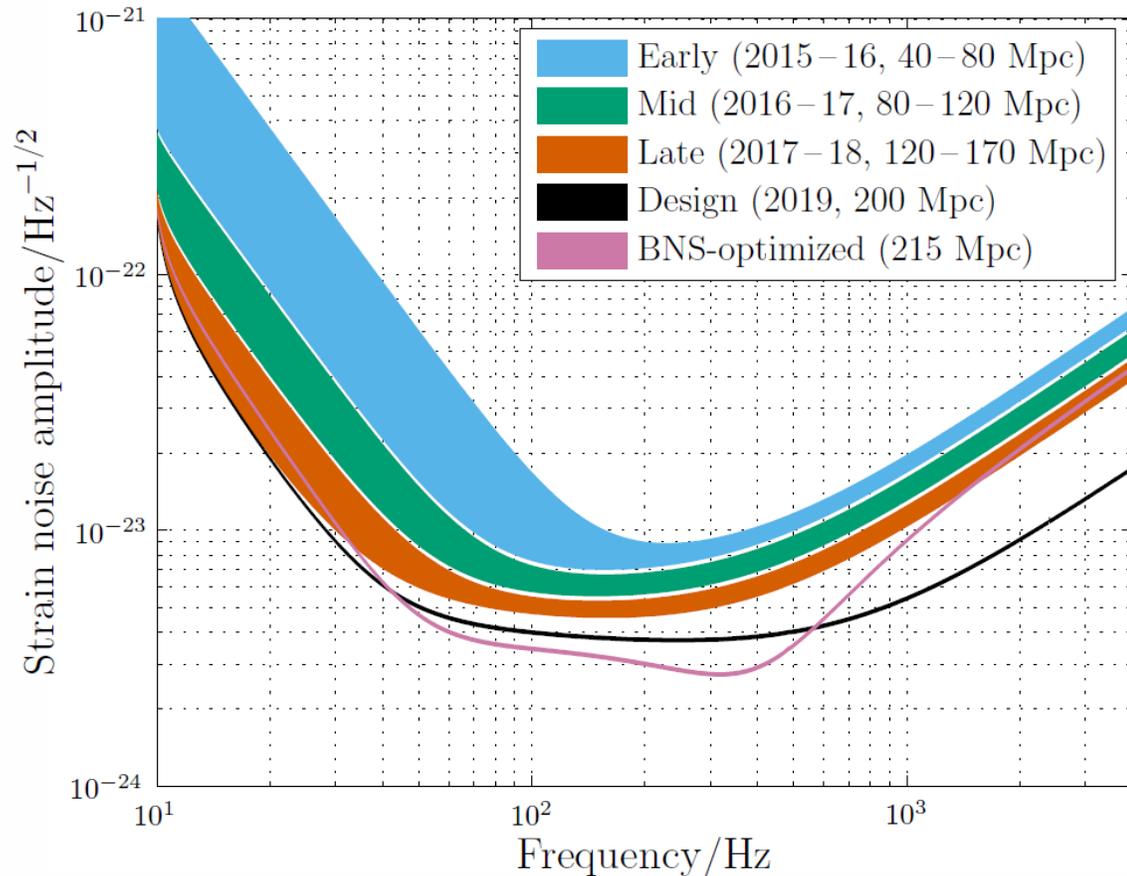
# Binary Neutron Star Merger Localization: Hanford-Livingston-Virgo-India

*4 site network*

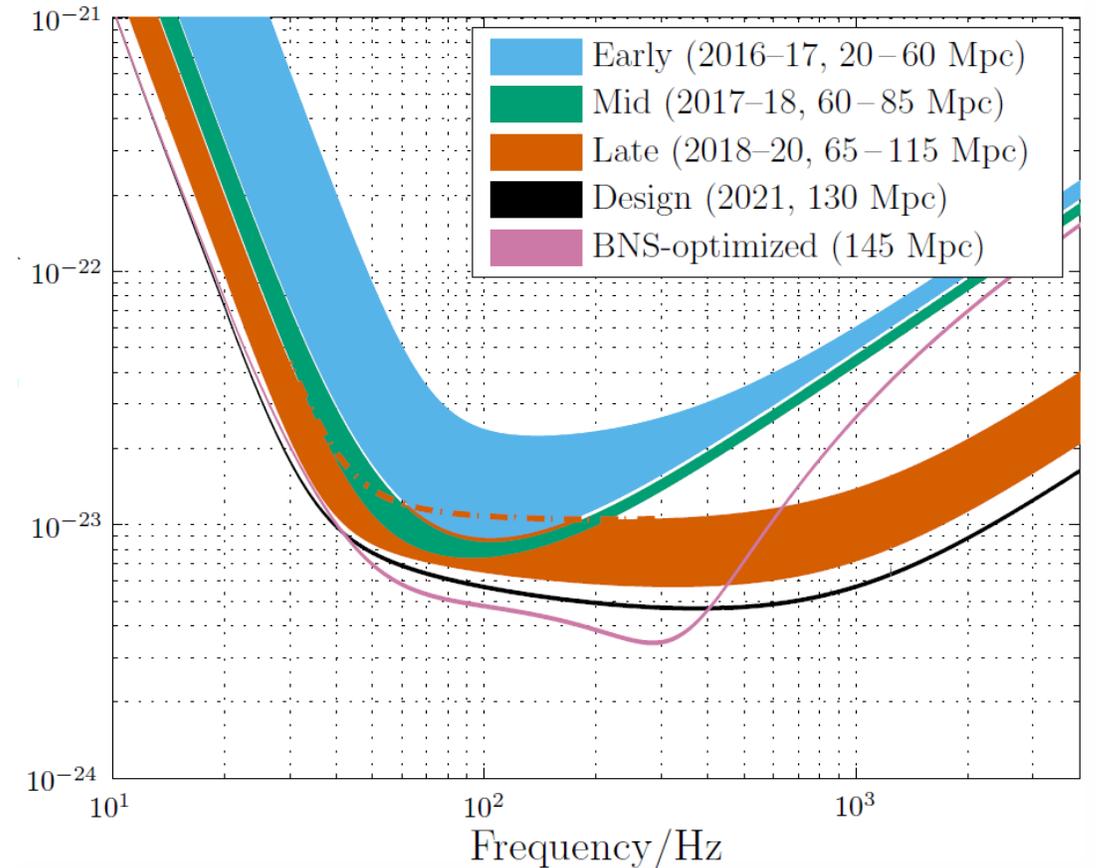


*S. Fairhurst, "Improved source localization with LIGO India", [J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 484 012007](#)*

# Preparation for Second Observation Run



Advanced LIGO



Advanced VIRGO

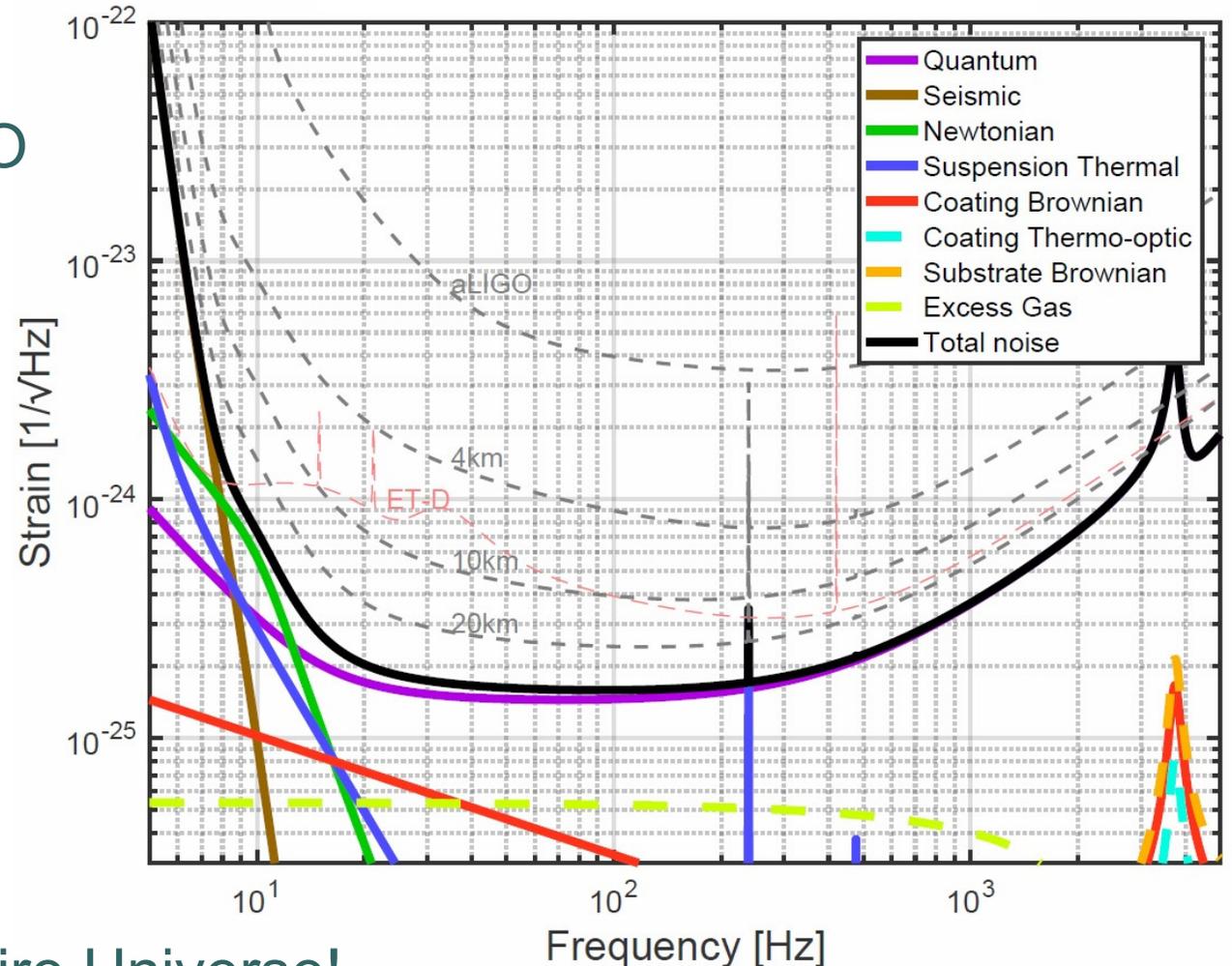
# Next Generation Gravitational Wave Detectors

## Current Facilities:

- Until 2020: Advanced LIGO/VIRGO
- Beyond 2020: A+ Upgrade  
Aims at a factor of 2 improvement using squeezed light
- 2030 time frame: Voyager  
Possible cryogenic detector

## 20 Years+: New Facilities Needed

- Einstein Telescope (10 km)
- Cosmic Explorer (40 km)  
Every black hole merger in the entire Universe!





# *Advanced LIGO and the Dawn of Gravitational-waves Physics and Astronomy*

Caltech

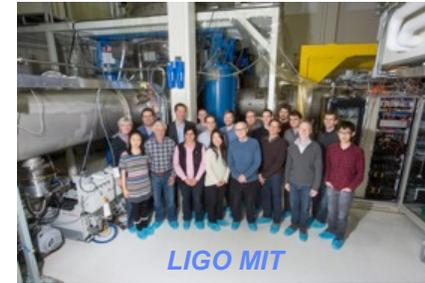
- *LIGO has made the first measurement of gravitational wave amplitude and phase*
- *Two merging binary black hole systems have been observed for the first time*
- *LIGO will resume the search for gravitational waves in the Fall of 2016; Virgo will join in*
- *The next few years will be very interesting ones for the field of gravitational-wave science!*

*Stay Tuned...*

Thanks to:



[ligo.caltech.edu](http://ligo.caltech.edu)



[www.ligo.org](http://www.ligo.org)



Support: National Science  
Foundation



# Astrophysical Implications

Merger rate of stellar mass BBHs implied by the detection:  $9\text{--}240/\text{Gpc}^3 \text{ yr}$

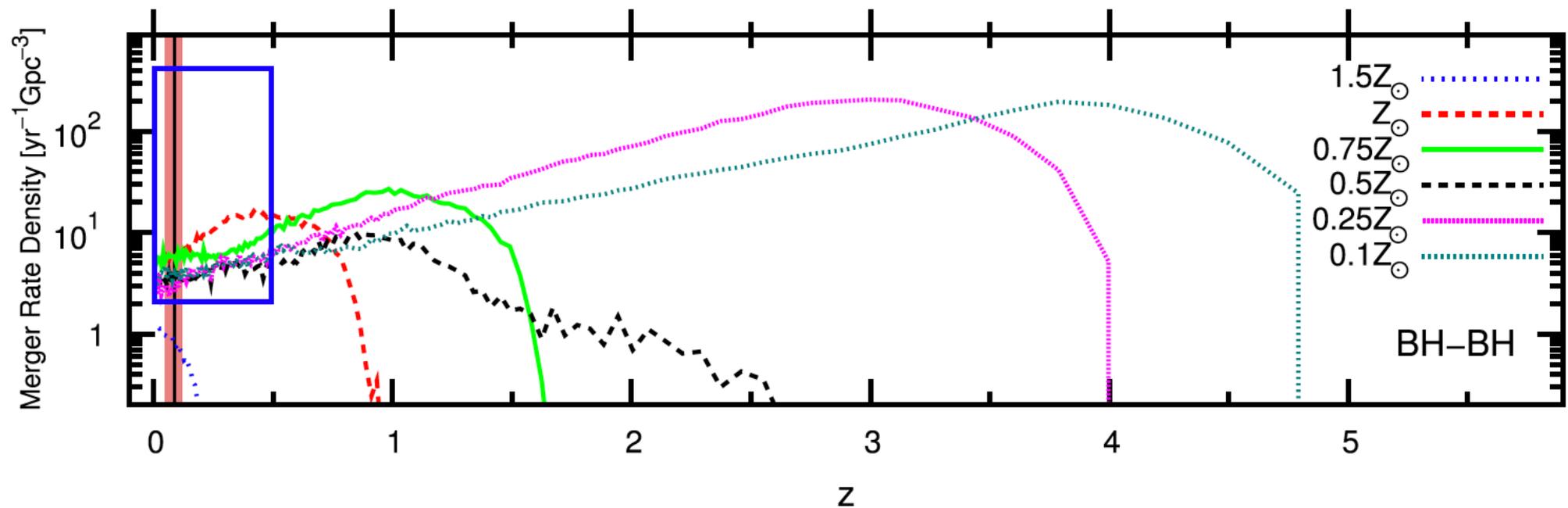
Most robust evidence for existence of 'heavy' stellar mass black holes:  $> 20 M_{\odot}$

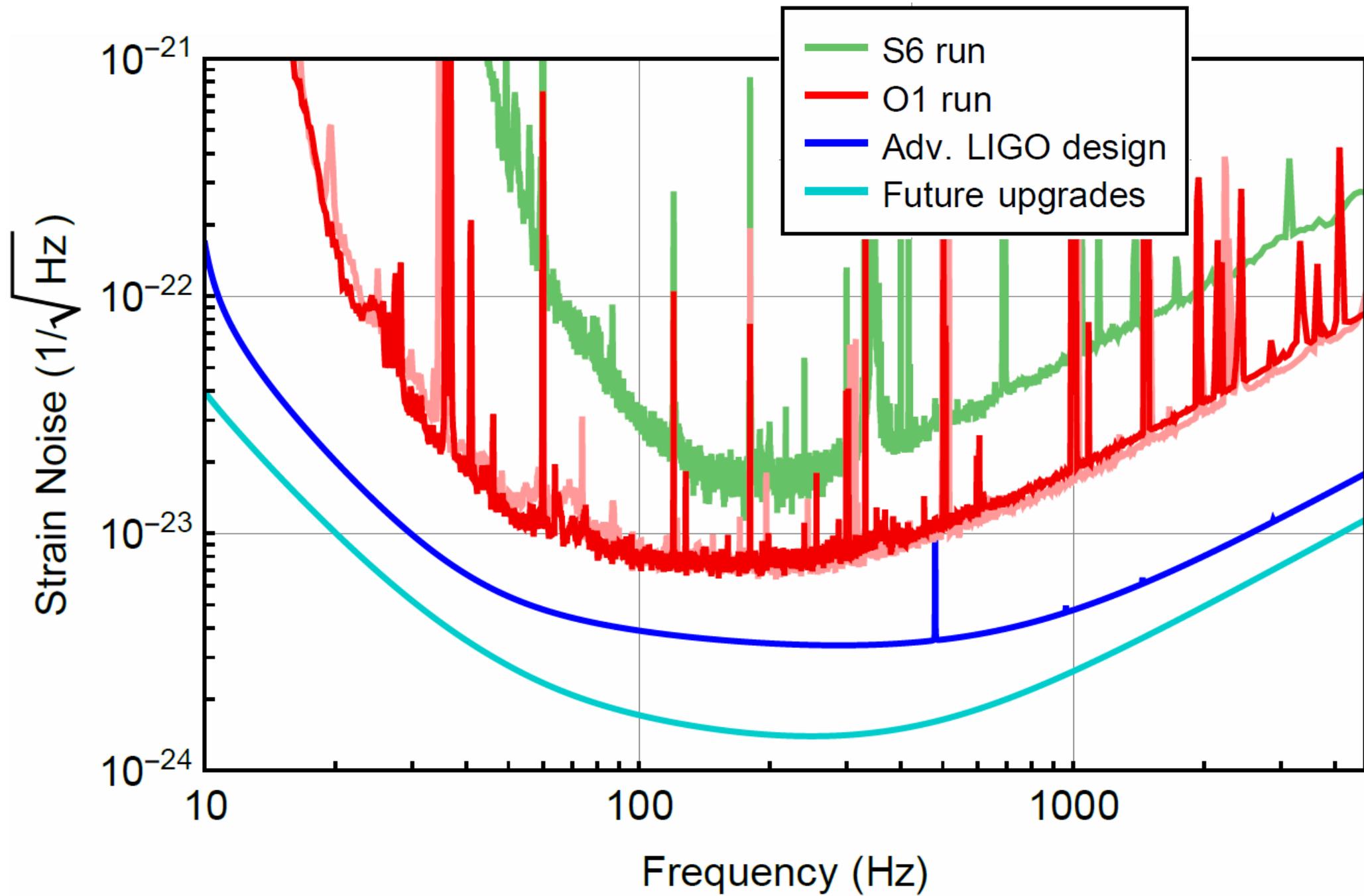
Most likely formed in a low-metallicity environment:  $< \frac{1}{2} Z_{\odot}$  and possibly even  $< \frac{1}{4} Z_{\odot}$

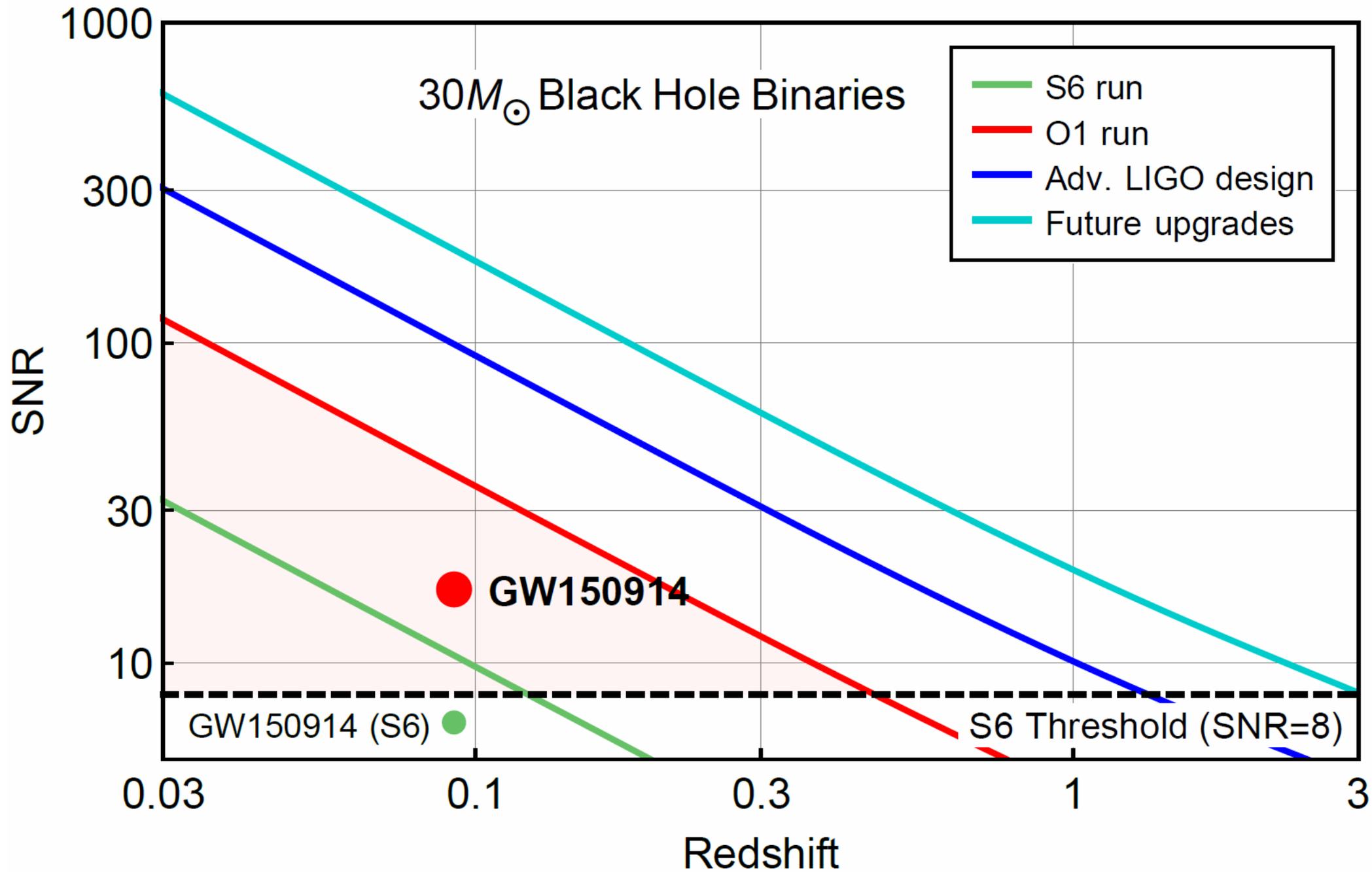
BBH formation in dense clusters is consistent with GW150914:

Clusters have typical metallicities less than  $Z_{\odot}$  to form 'heavy' stellar mass BHs

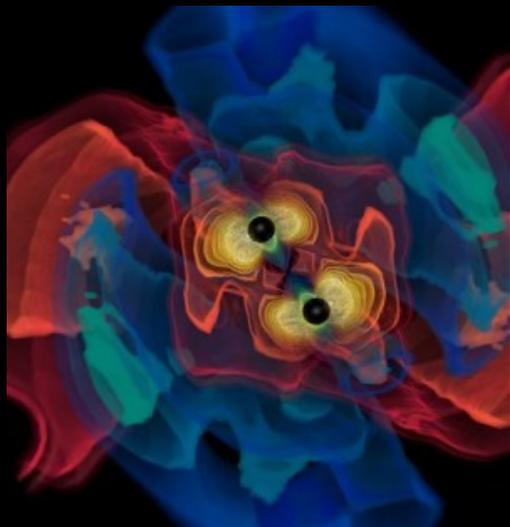
Most mergers occur outside the clusters following dynamical BBH ejection







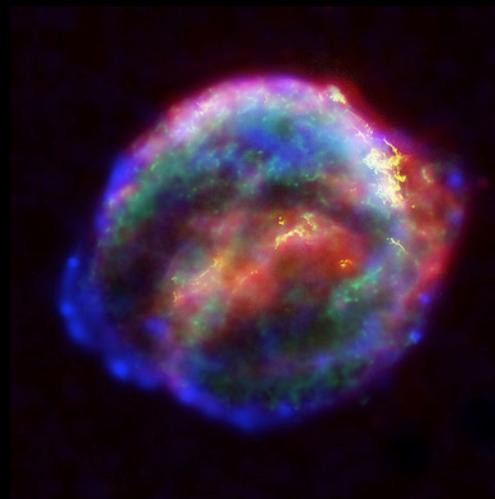
# Astrophysical Targets for Ground-based Detectors



Credit: AEI, CCT, LSU

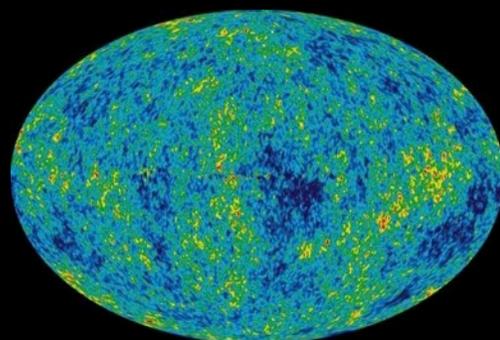
## Coalescing Binary Systems

- Well-modeled
- Neutron stars, low mass black holes, and NS/BS systems



## 'Bursts'

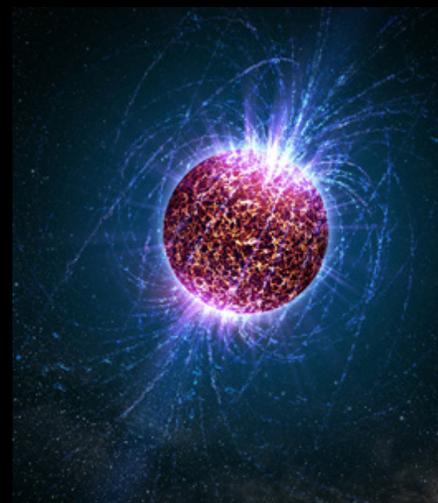
- Unmodeled
- galactic asymmetric core collapse supernovae
- cosmic strings
- ???



NASA/WMAP Science Team

## Stochastic GWs

- Noise
- Incoherent background from primordial GWs or an ensemble of unphased sources
- primordial GWs unlikely to detect, but can bound in the 10-10000 Hz range



Casey Reed, Penn State

## Continuous Sources

- Essentially Monotone
- Spinning neutron stars
- probe crustal deformations, equation of state, 'quarkiness'

# Gravitational Wave Periods

Milliseconds

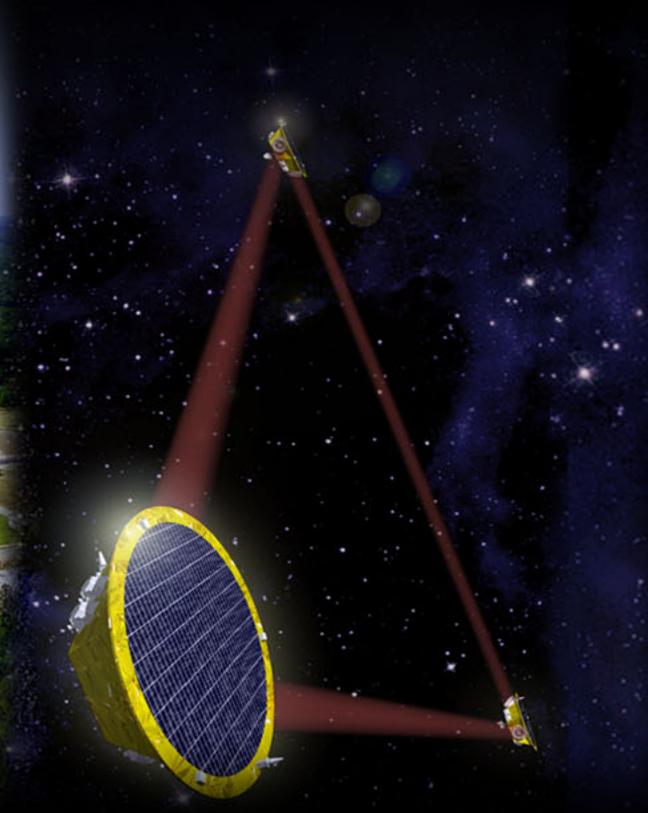


# Gravitational Wave Periods

Milliseconds



Minutes  
to Hours

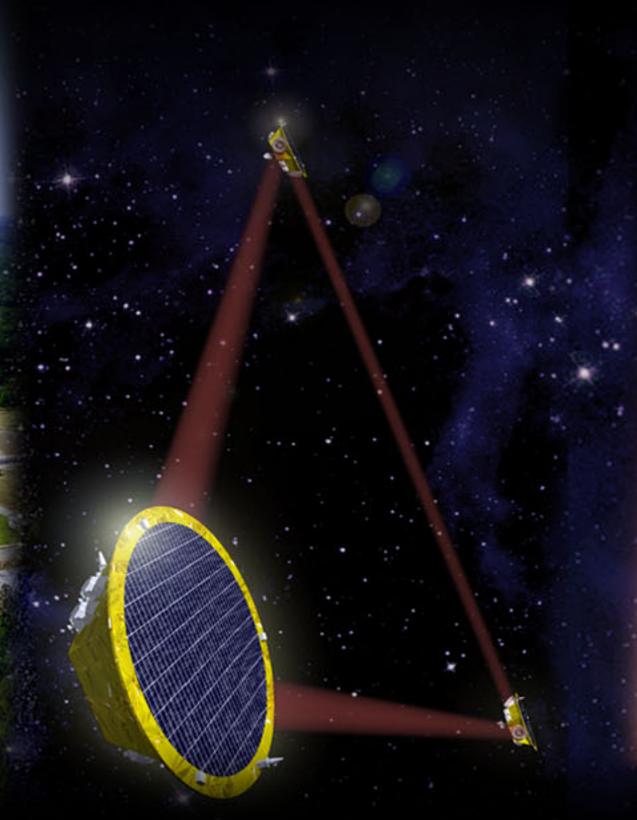


# Gravitational Wave Periods

Milliseconds



Minutes  
to Hours



Years  
to Decades

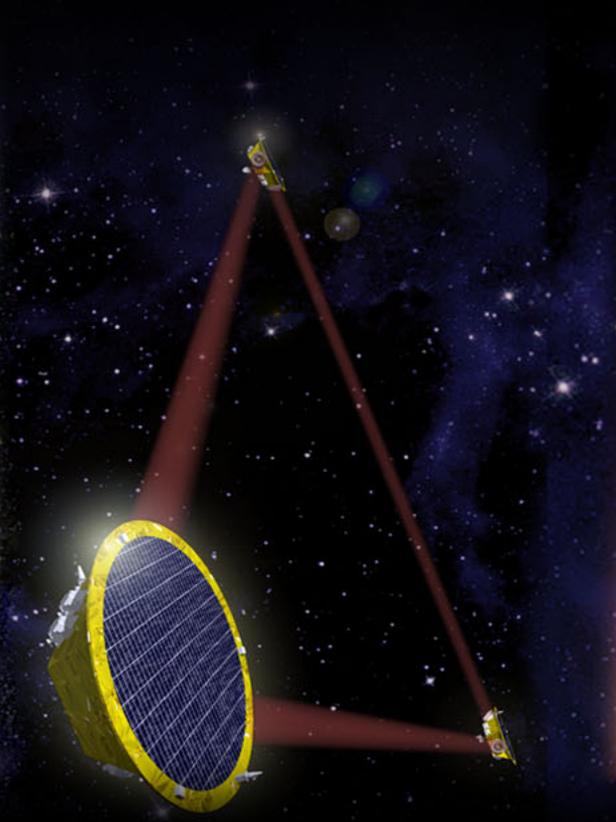


# Gravitational Wave Periods

Milliseconds



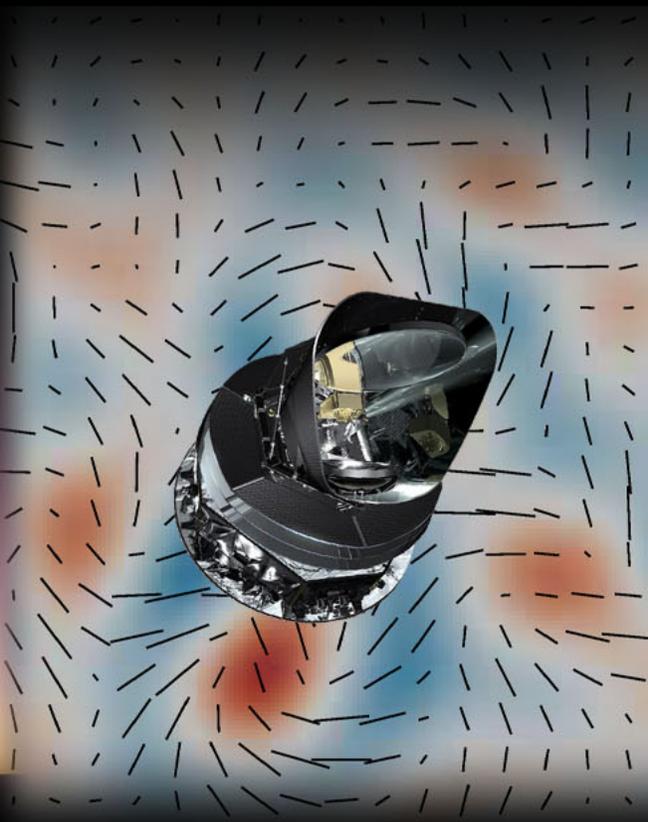
Minutes  
to Hours



Years  
to Decades



Billions  
of Years



# The Gravitational-wave Spectrum

The Gravitational Wave Spectrum

Sources

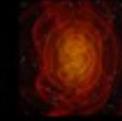
Detectors



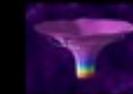
Big Bang



Supermassive Black Hole Binary Merger



Compact Binary Inspiral & Merger



Extreme Mass-Ratio Inspirals



Pulsars, Supernovae



age of the universe

years

Wave Period

hours

seconds

milliseconds

$10^{-16}$

$10^{-14}$

$10^{-12}$

$10^{-10}$

$10^{-8}$

$10^{-6}$

$10^{-4}$

$10^{-2}$

1

$10^2$

Wave Frequency

CMB Polarization

Radio Pulsar Timing Arrays

Space-based interferometers

Terrestrial interferometers

