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DATE: 11 September 2024. Revised 23 January 2025. Revised 5 June 2025
SUBJECT: Strain data release schedule for O4 and future runs
REFER TO: <https://dcc.ligo.org/M2300059>
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The O4 run started on 24 May 2023 and is scheduled to end on 18 November 2025. The O4 data release schedule is:

Data set	Data collection date range	Months of data	h(t) release date
O4a	2023-05-24 to 2024-01-16 16:00:00 UTC	7.7	2025-08-26
O4b	2024-04-10 to 2025-0D1-28 17:00:00 UTC	9.5	2026-05-26
O4c	2025-01-28 17:00:00 UTC to 2025-11-18 17:00:00 UTC	10	2026-12-16

We note that run plans sometimes change. Should O4 be extended beyond the current planned end date, this will not be included in the O4c data release and will require a new block of data.

The O5 run is currently scheduled to start in early 2028 and extend for multiple years with interspersed breaks for commissioning and maintenance. Starting with O5, there will be annual data releases. Data acquired during 12 calendar month blocks from the official starting date of the run will be released 24 months after the start of each block regardless of commissioning breaks and/or changes in interferometer sensitivities.

For example, if O5 starts on 2028-02-01, strain data collected in the time range 2028-02-01 to 2029-01-31 would be released on 2030-02-01. Data release dates may be shifted slightly to ensure they are on regular workdays.

Changes on 5 June 2025:

- Changed the end date of O4.

- Added a note to clarify that any further extension of O4 would require a new data release block (i.e., O4d)
- Changed the data release dates for O4a and O4b by a few days to move them to the working week
- Added a note that future data release dates may be shifted to ensure they are on regular workdays
- Changed the O5 start to be early 2028 instead of late 2027.

Changes on 23 January 2025:

- Changed the end date for O4 and adjusted end date for O4b to be on a Tuesday.
- Changed the O5 start to be late 2027 instead of mid 2027.