

ECT\* Apr 22–26, 2024, The physics of strongly interacting matter

# Neutron star mergers in gravitational wave astronomy

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# Gravitational-wave astronomy in the Advanced Era

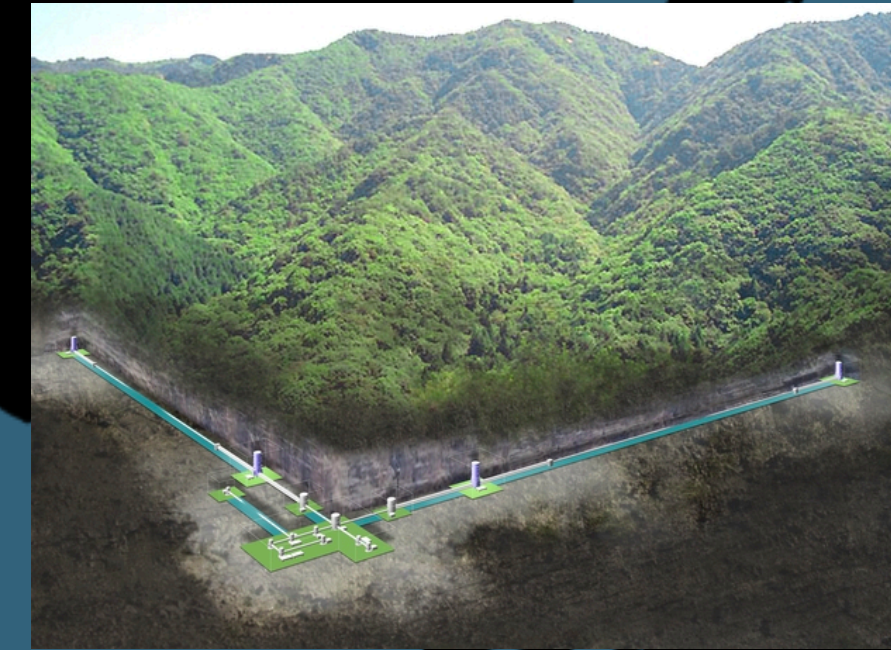
# Ground-based gravitational-wave observatories



LIGO<sub>H</sub>



Kagra



LIGO<sub>I</sub>



LIGO<sub>L</sub>



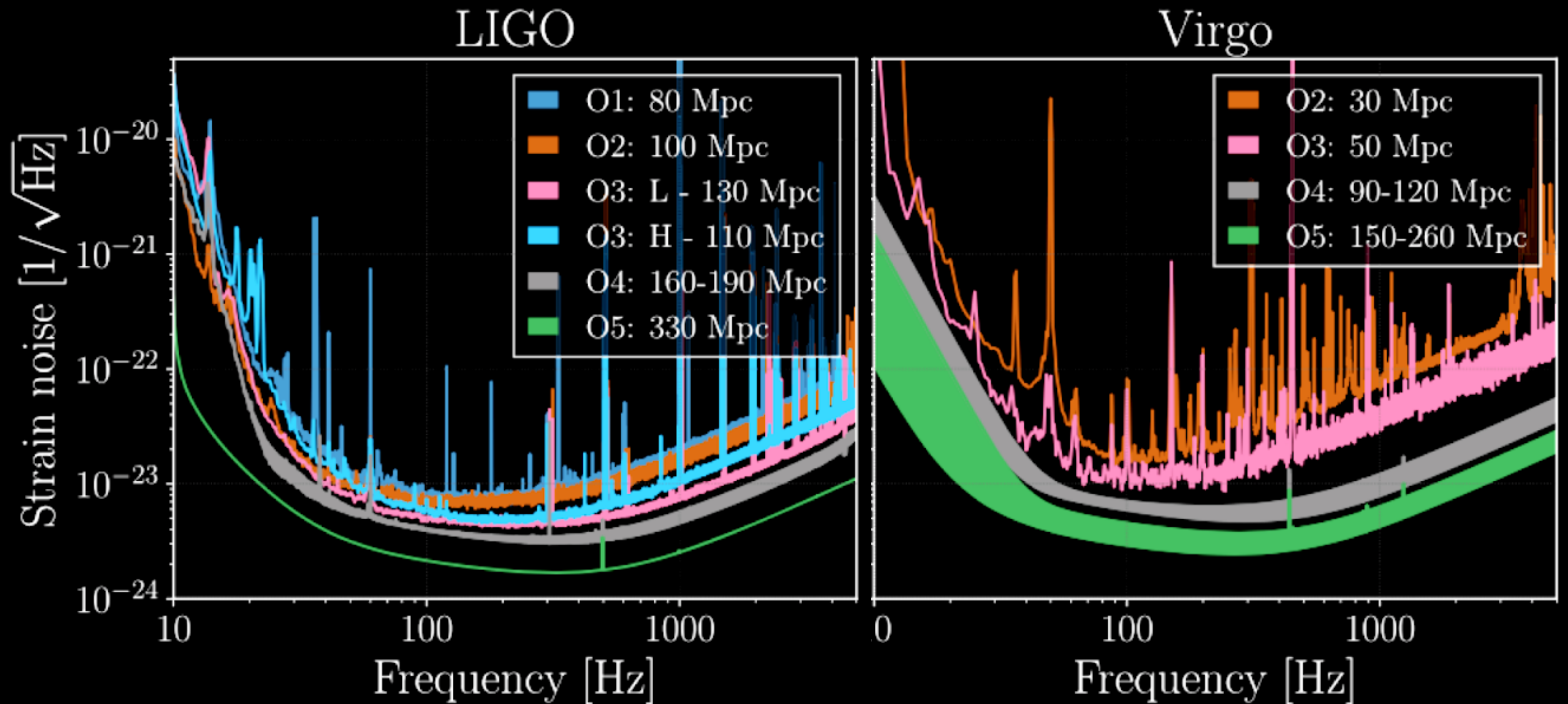
GEO600



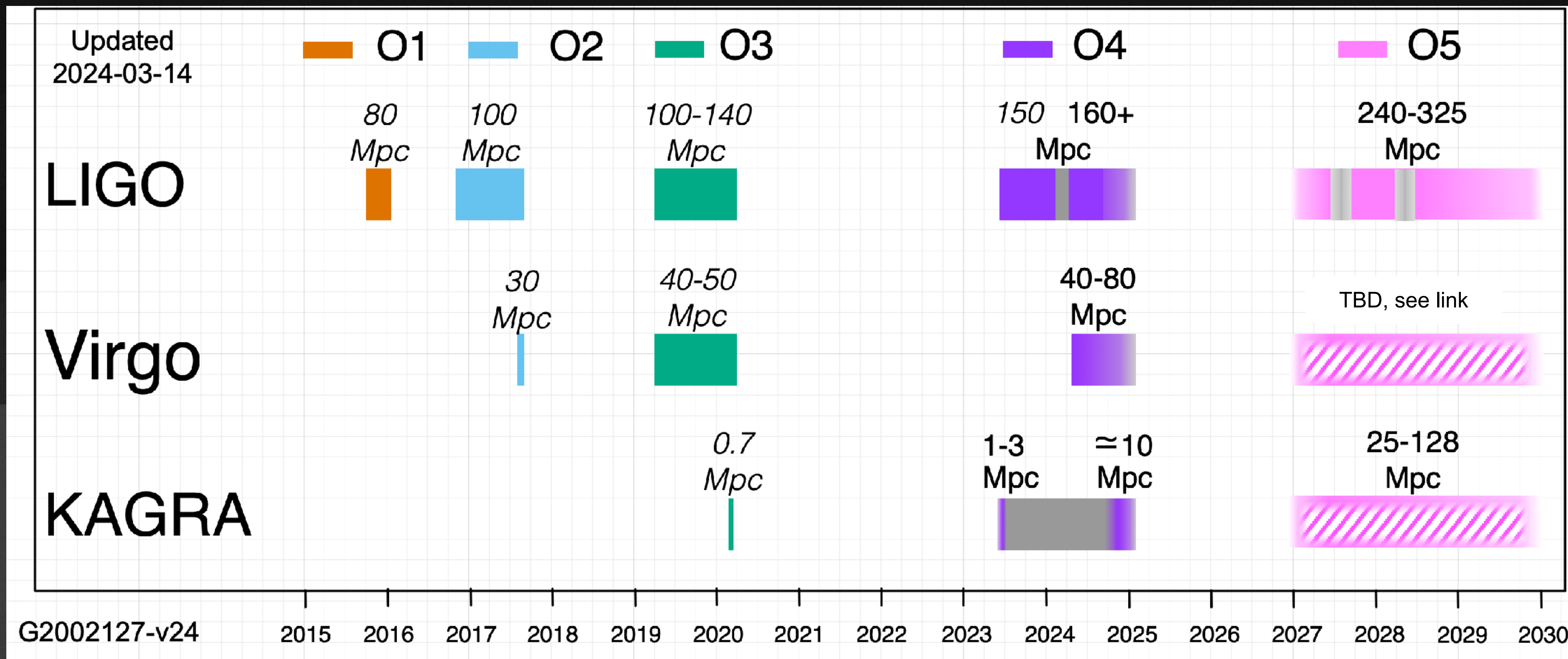
Virgo



# Strain noise: detector spectral density $\sqrt{S_n(f)}$



# Observing in the “Advanced” Era

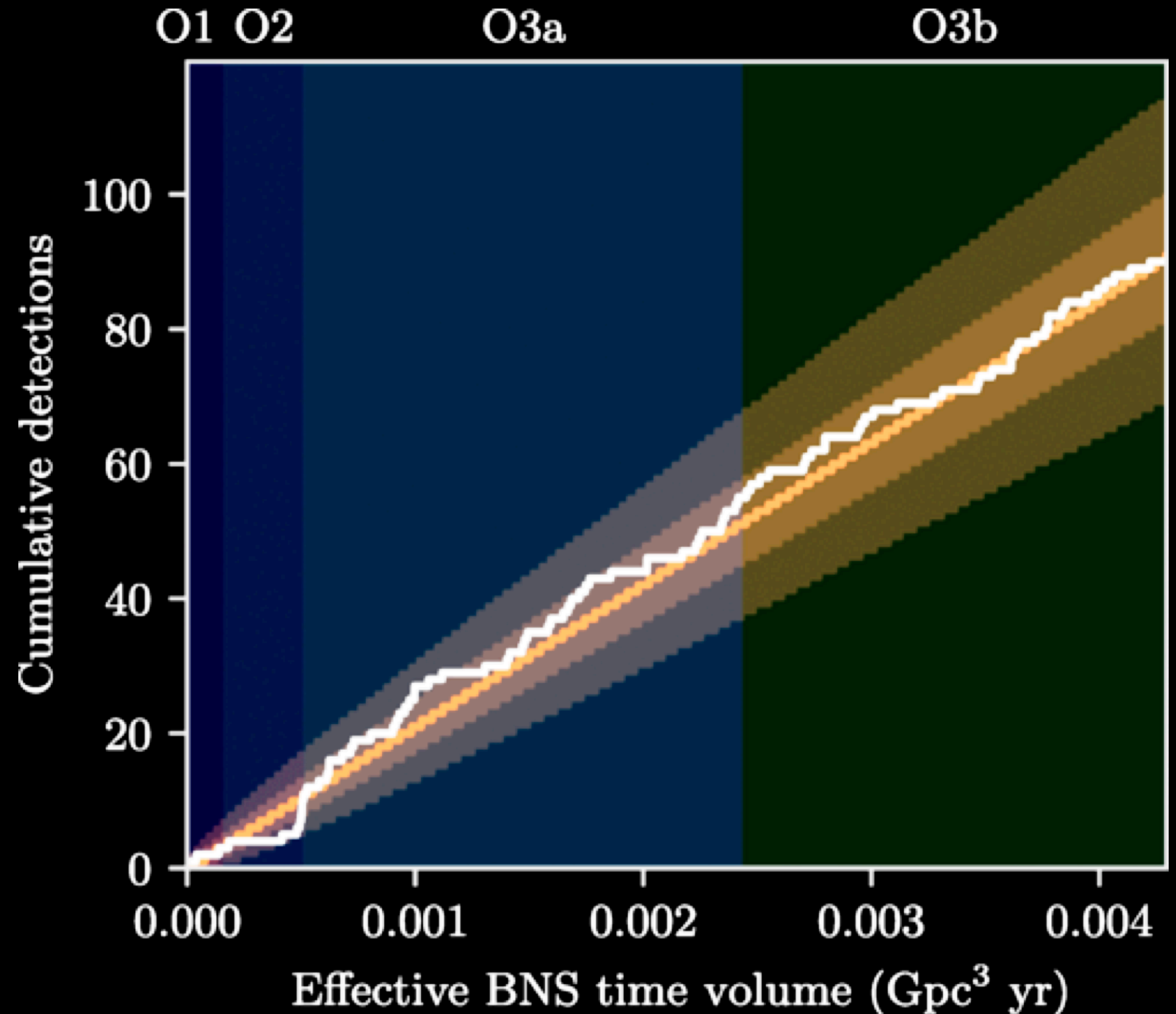


- Range: sky-average distance to a  $1.4M_{\odot} - 1.4M_{\odot}$  binary that generates a single-detector signal-to-noise ratio  $\rho = 8$ .

# Signals O1-O3

LIGO-Virgo-Kagra GWTC-3 Catalog, Phys. Rev. X **13**, 041039, arXiv:2111.03606, <https://gwosc.org/GWTC-3/>

- Detections scale with observation time  $\times$  estimated sensitive volume
- GW have a well-modeled selection function
- e.g. at low mass  
 $V_{det} \propto (SNR)^3 \propto \mathcal{M}^{5/2}$

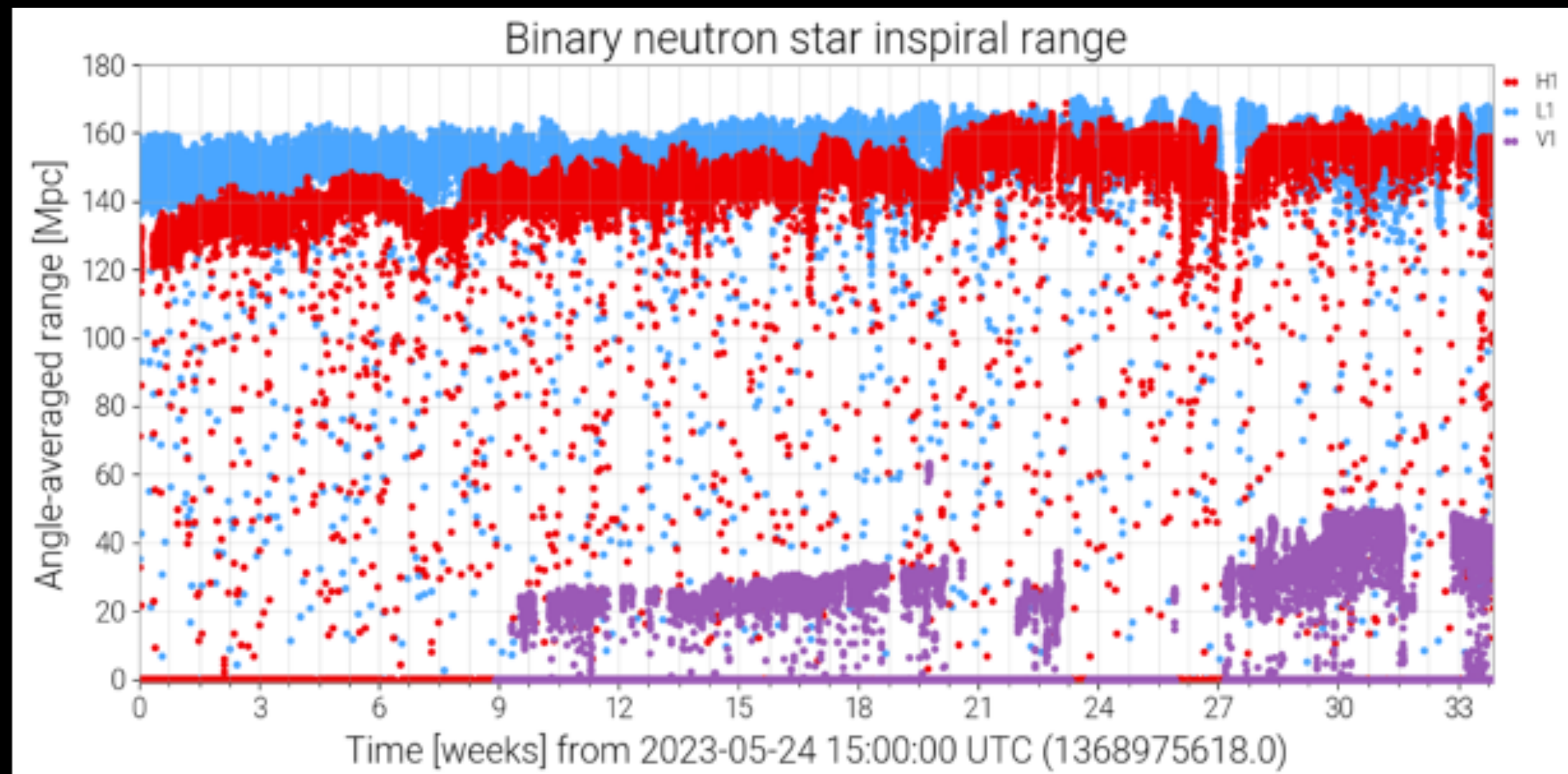


# Observations: May 2023 - January 2024

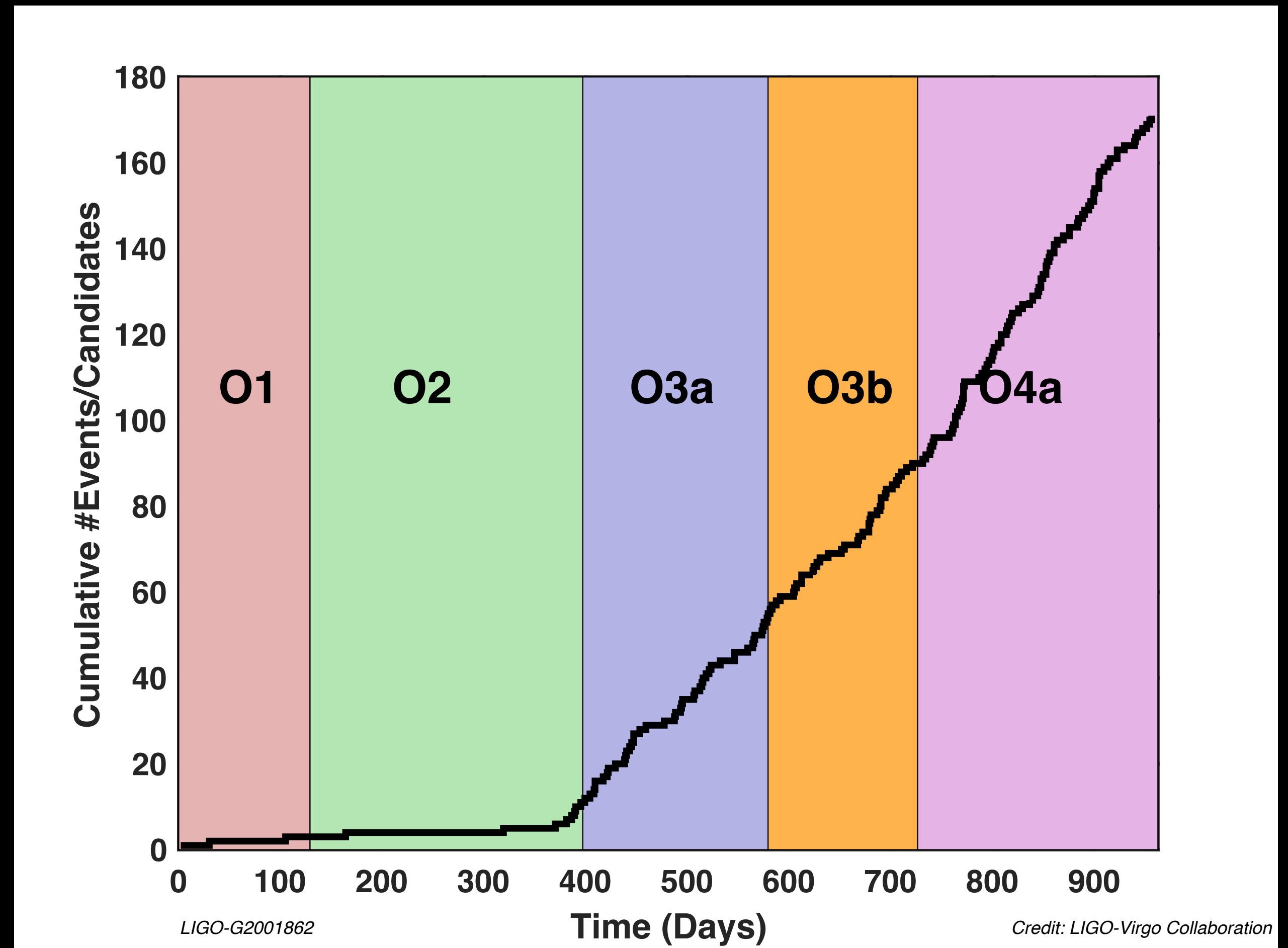


Engineering run 15, Observing run 4a

- 4 “significant” alerts in ER15 and 85 so far in O4 (<https://gracedb.ligo.org/superevents/public/O4/>)



LIGO-G2400503



LIGO-G2001862

Credit: LIGO-Virgo Collaboration

# Expectations for this year

From O3; with O3 rates updated assuming no BNS in O4a time-volume

<https://emfollow.docs.ligo.org/userguide/capabilities.html>

**BNS**

**NSBH**

**BBH**

Merger rate per unit comoving volume per unit proper time  
( $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{ year}^{-1}$ , log-normal uncertainty)

$$210^{+240}_{-120}$$

$$8.6^{+9.7}_{-5.0}$$

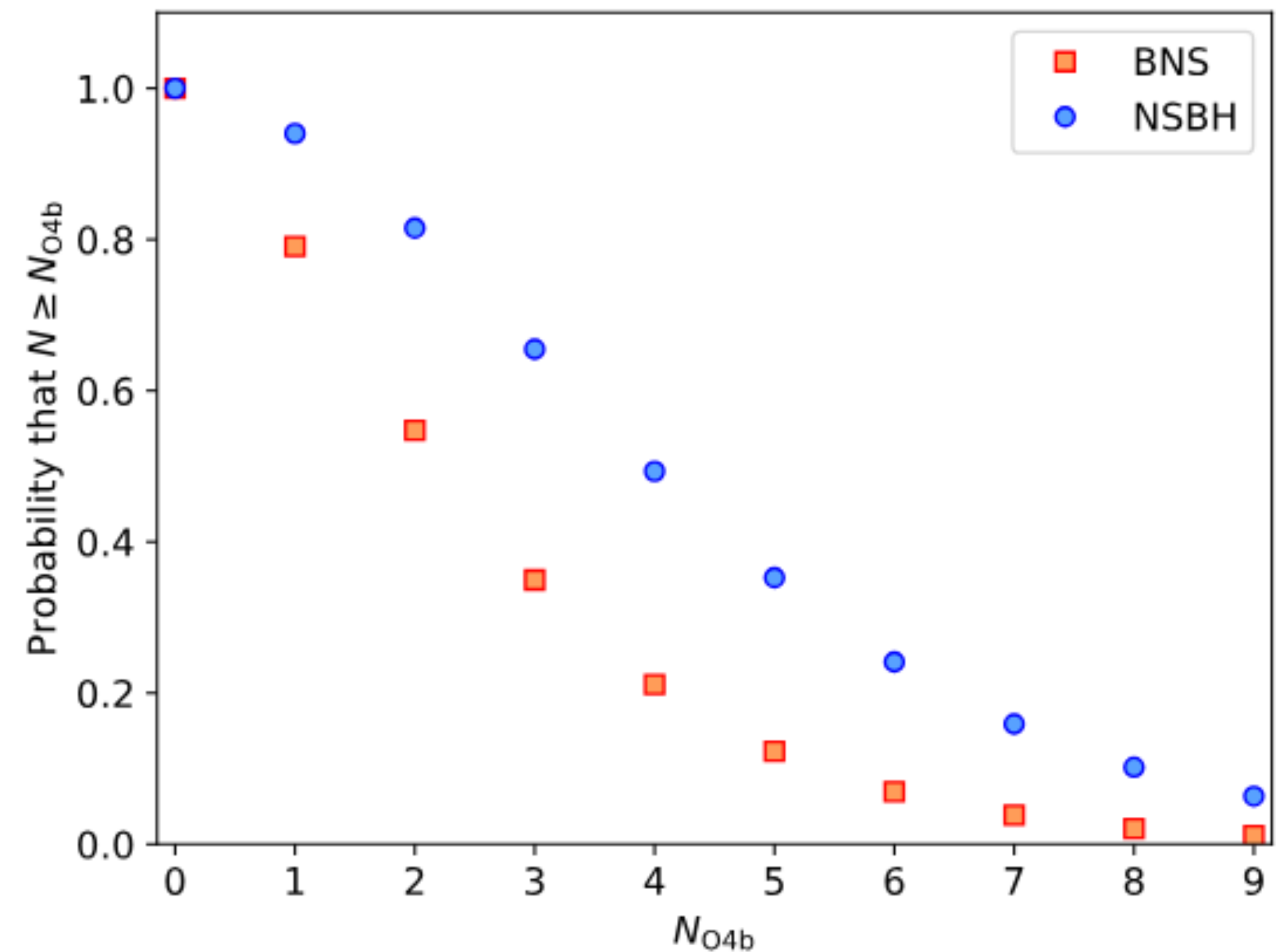
$$17.1^{+19.2}_{-10.0}$$

Annual number of public alerts

(log-normal merger rate uncertainty  $\times$  Poisson counting uncertainty)

	<b>BNS</b>	<b>NSBH</b>	<b>BBH</b>
O4	$36^{+49}_{-22}$	$6^{+11}_{-5}$	$260^{+330}_{-150}$
O5	$180^{+220}_{-100}$	$31^{+42}_{-20}$	$870^{+1100}_{-480}$

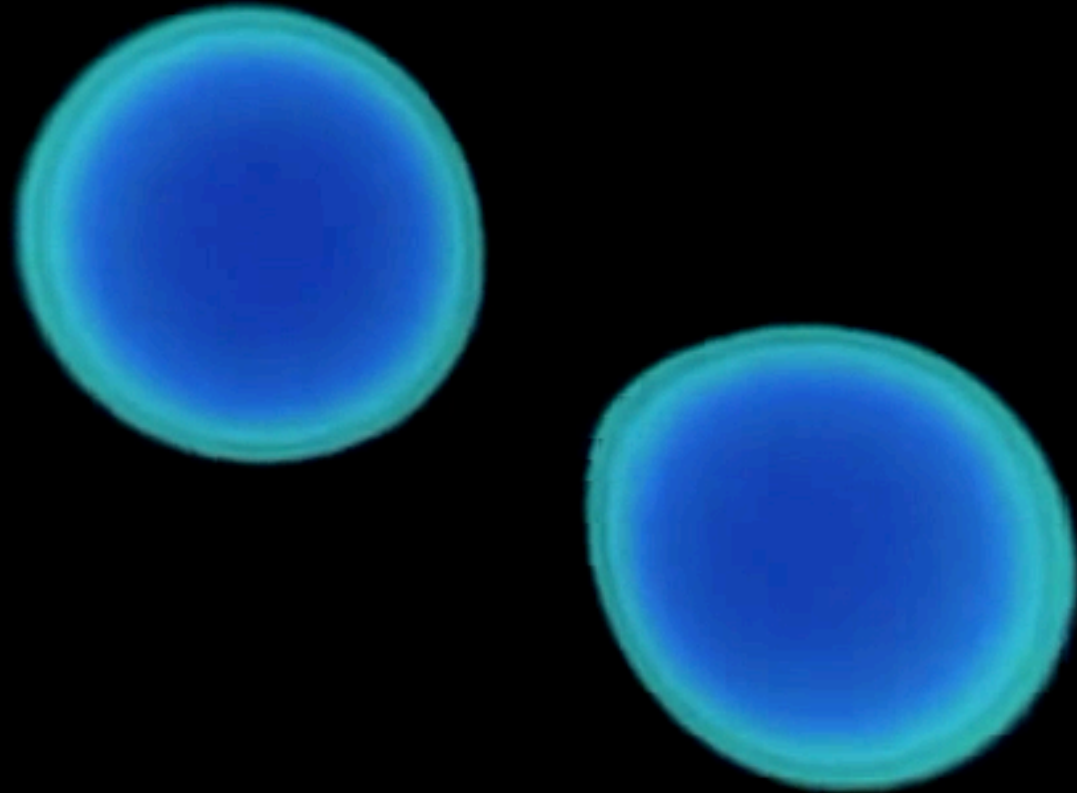
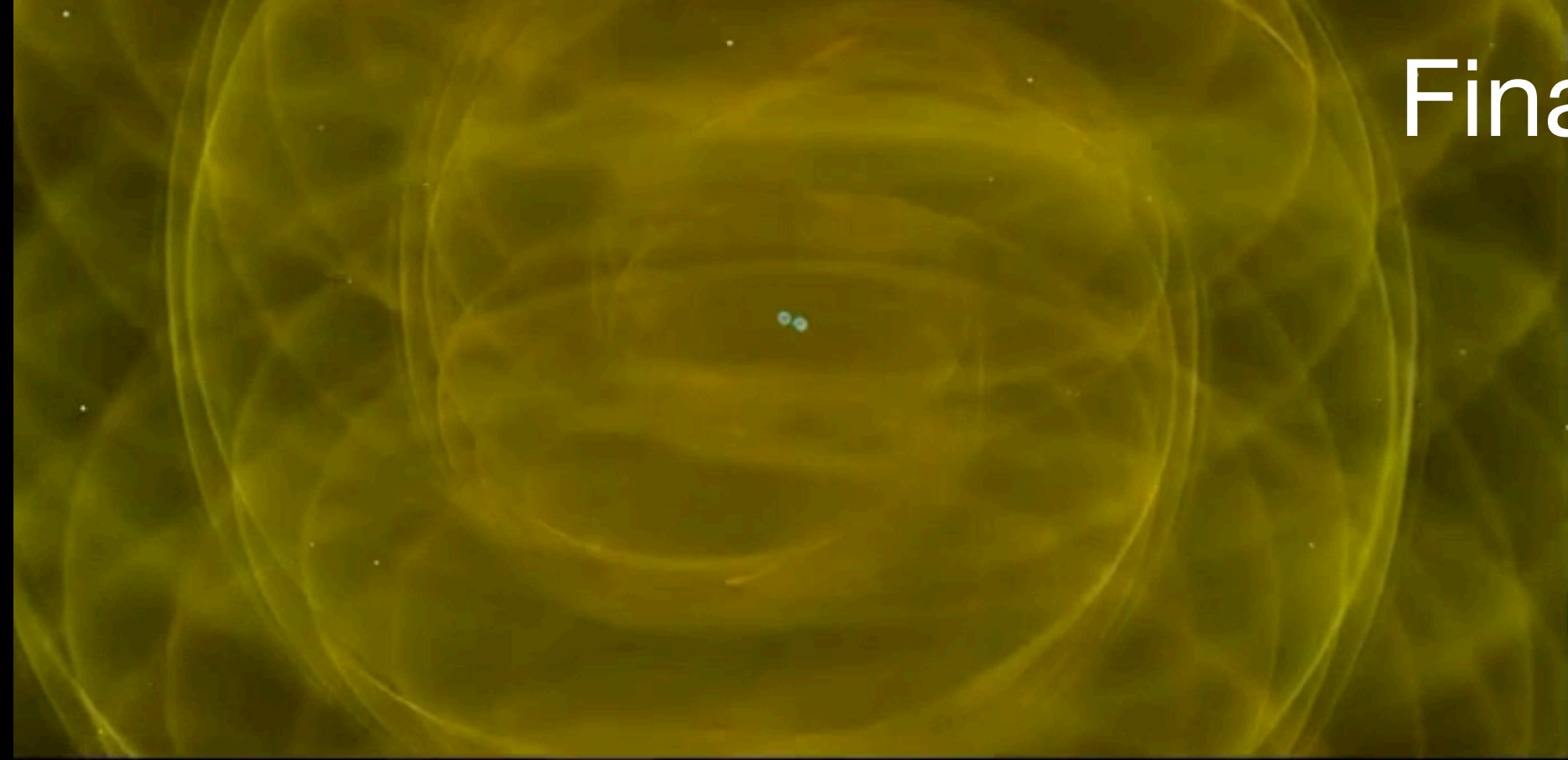
O4b projection: BNS updated to  $5 - 920 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$





# Interpreting observations

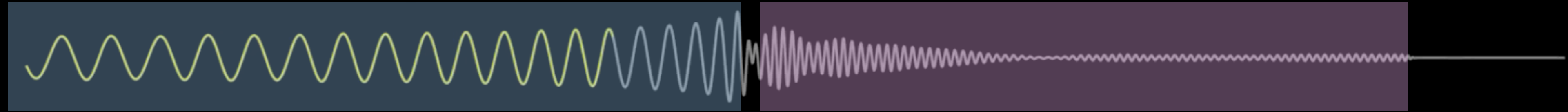
Final 40 milliseconds of inspiral



Inspiral

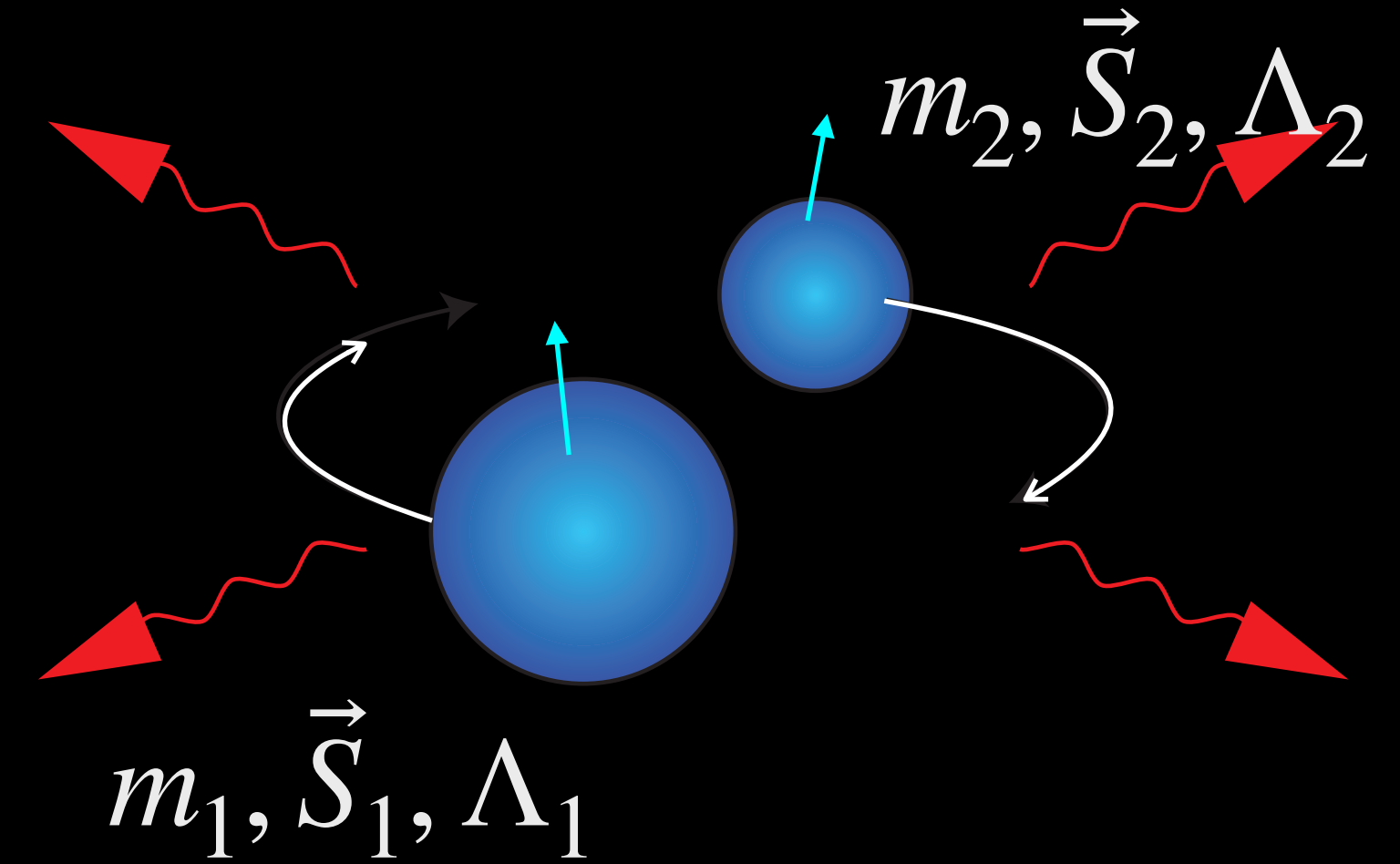
Post-merger

BH



# Source model

- Fourier domain  $h(t) \rightarrow \tilde{h}(f)$



Sky location, orientation

Chirp mass  $\frac{(m_1 m_2)^{3/5}}{(m_1 + m_2)^{1/5}}$

$$\tilde{h}(f) \sim Q(\alpha, \delta, \iota, \psi) \frac{\mathcal{M}}{d_L} f^{-7/6} (1 + \dots) e^{i\phi(f)}$$

Luminosity distance

Amplitude fall-off in frequency domain

$\phi(f)$  is where the  $(m, \vec{S}, \Lambda)$  magic happens!

# GW phase $\leftrightarrow$ Orbital phase

$$\phi(f) = 2\pi i f t_c + \phi_c + [\text{const}] (\mathcal{M} f)^{-5/3} + \dots$$

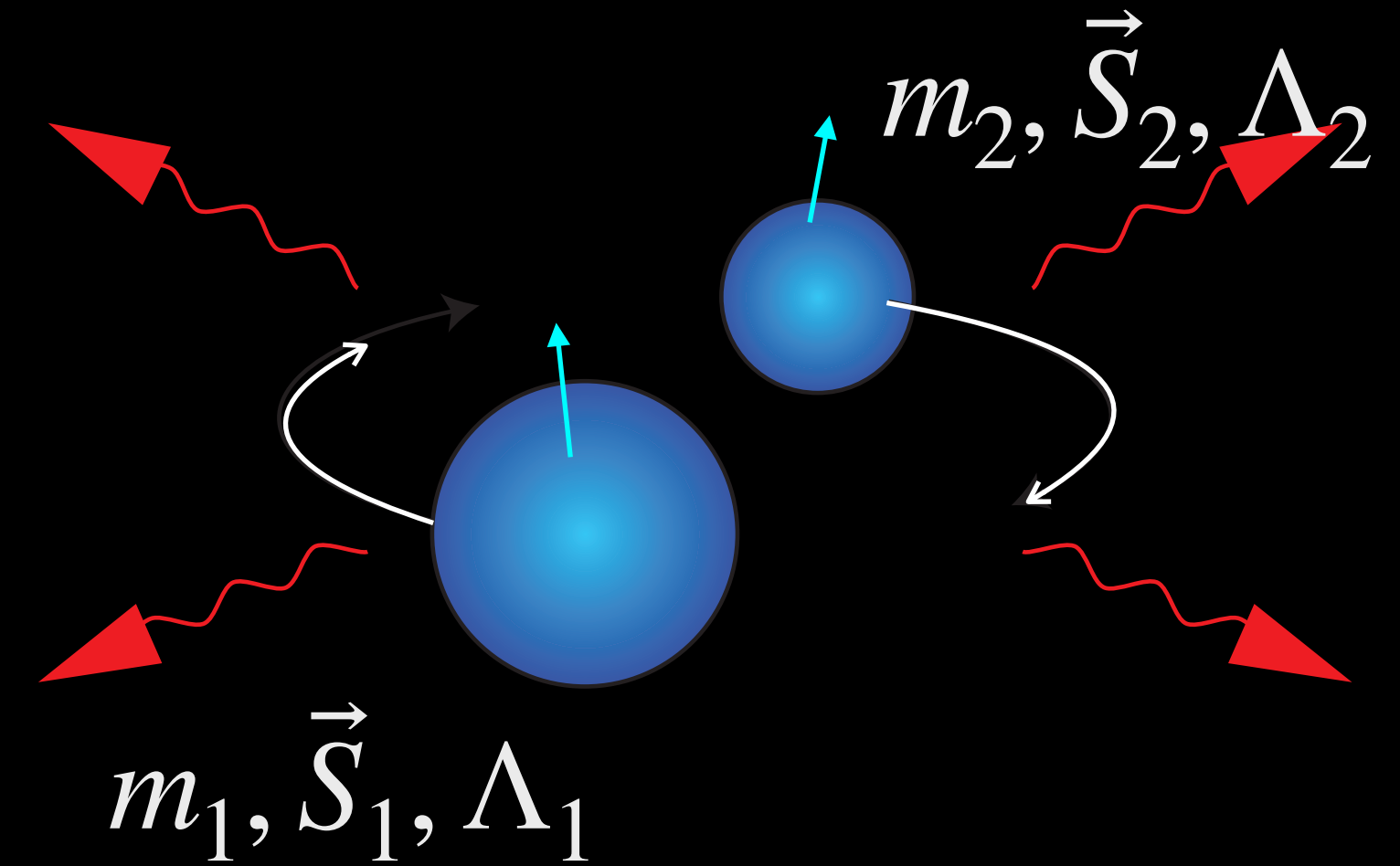
for inspiral a function of leading-order combinations:

- Chirp mass:  $\mathcal{M} = \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{3/5}}{(m_1 + m_2)^{1/5}}$

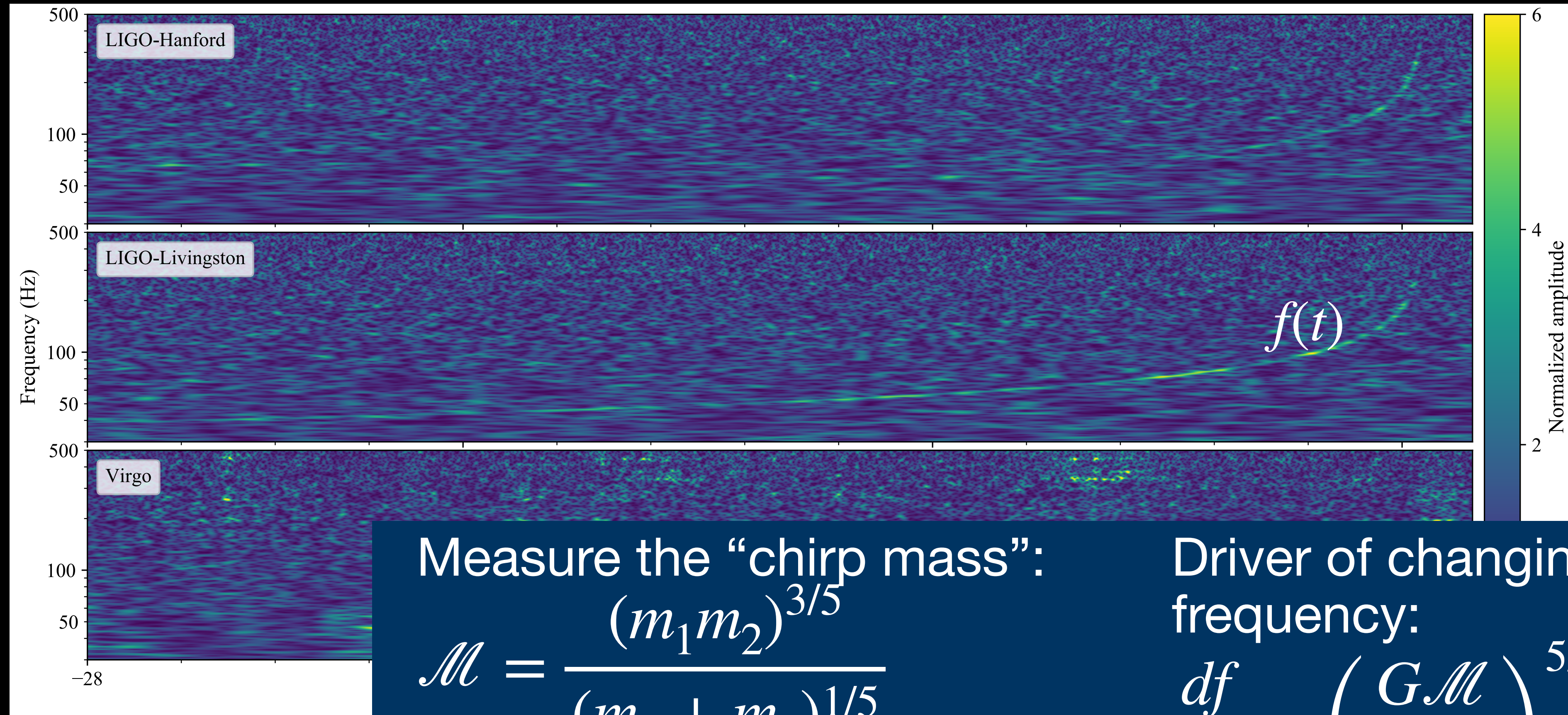
- Mass ratio:  $q = m_2/m_1$

- Effective spin:  $\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\vec{S}_1/m_1 + \vec{S}_2/m_2}{m_1 + m_2} \cdot \vec{L}$

- Effective tide:  $\tilde{\Lambda} = \frac{16 (m_1 + 12m_2)m_1^4 \Lambda_1 + (m_2 + 12m_1)m_2^4 \Lambda_2}{13 (m_1 + m_2)^5}$



# e.g. neutron-star merger GW170817



Measure the “chirp mass”:

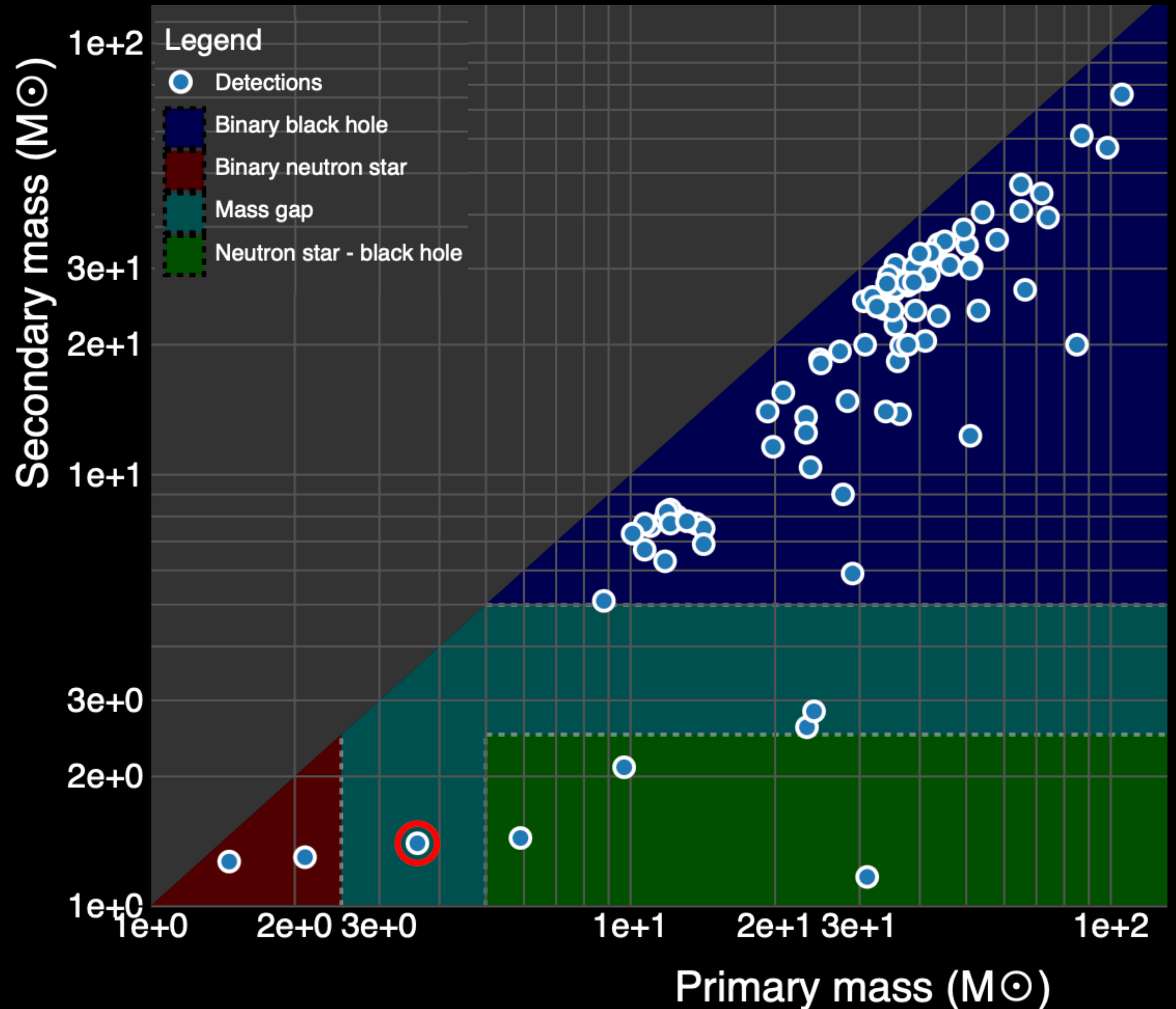
$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{3/5}}{(m_1 + m_2)^{1/5}}$$

Driver of changing frequency:

$$\frac{df}{dt} \propto \left( \frac{G\mathcal{M}}{c^3} \right)^{5/3} f^{11/3} + \dots$$

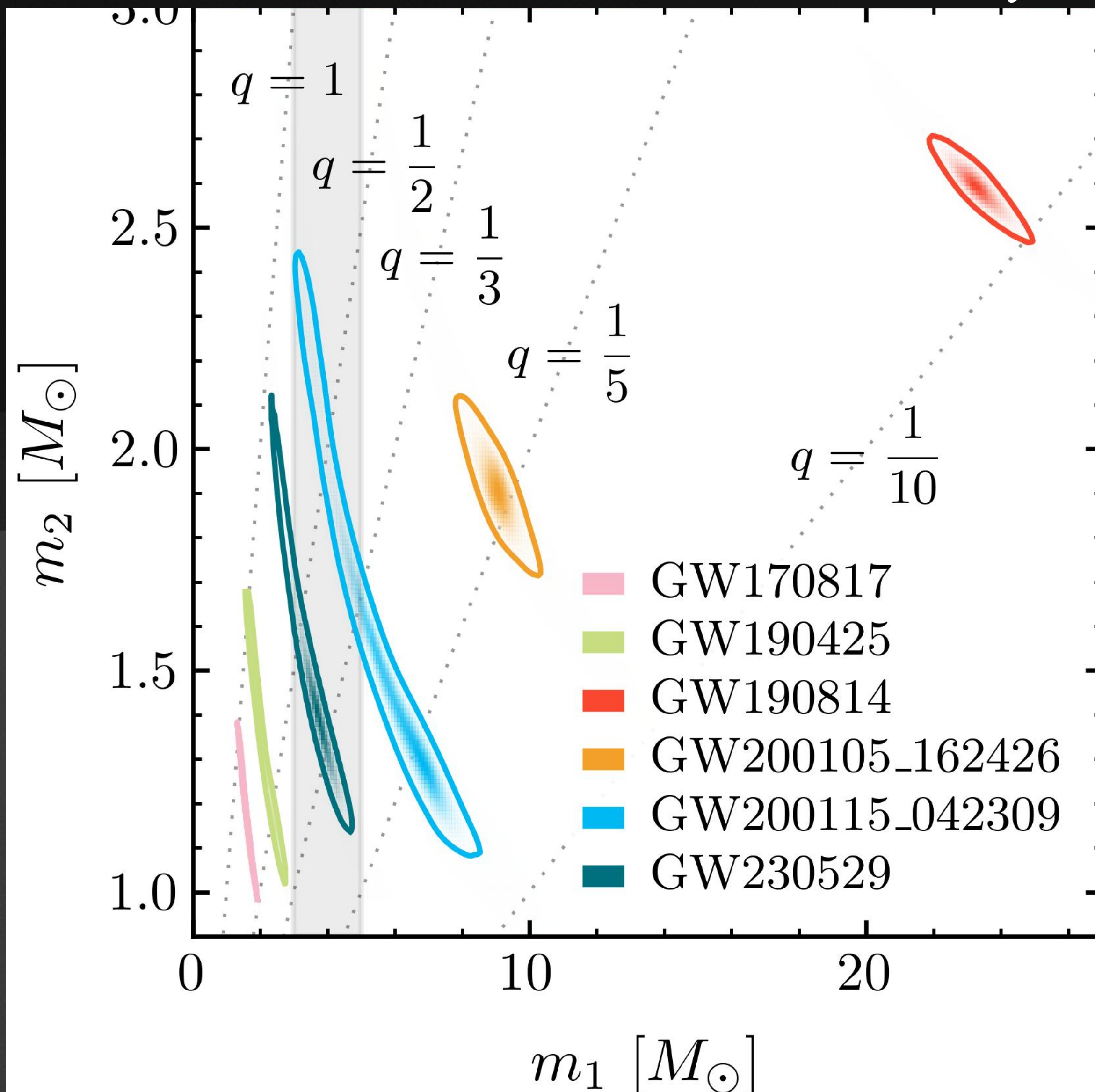
# Introducing GW230529

- First public event of the new observing run
- Filling the “mass gap” between neutron stars and previously-observed BBH



# Low-mass mergers ( $m_i < 3.0M_\odot$ )

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA GW230529  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.04248v1>

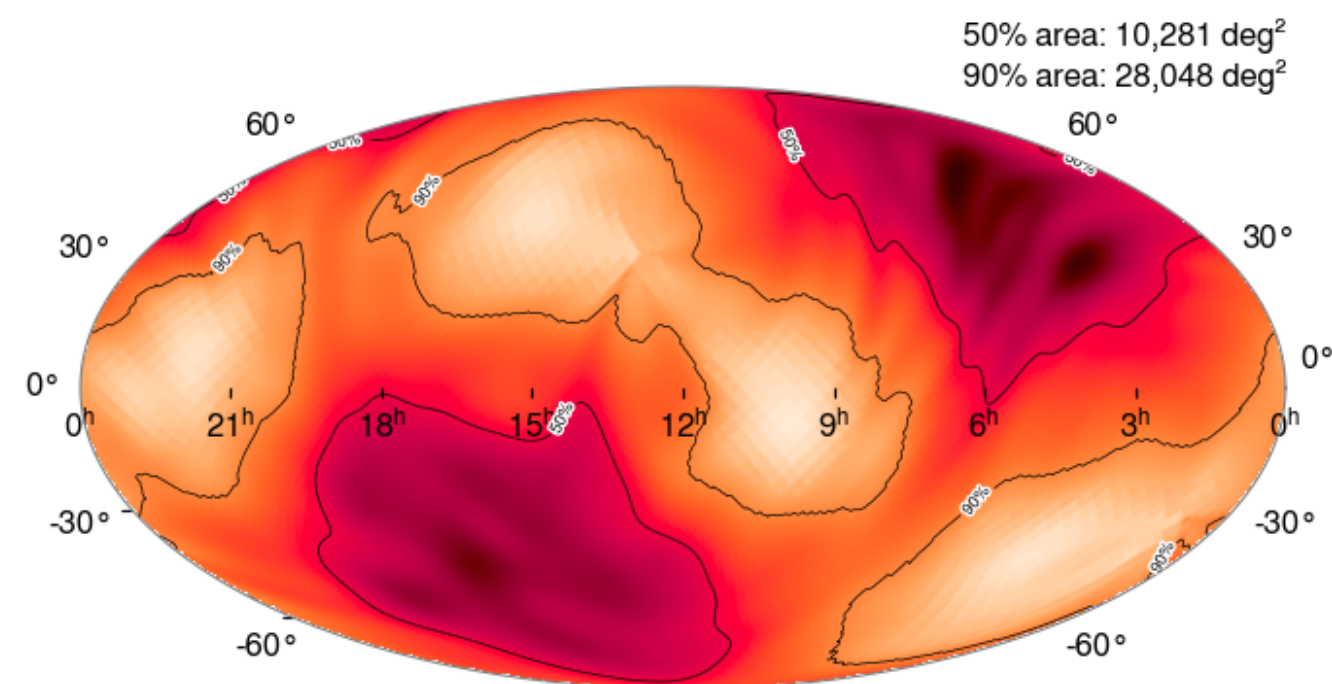


- Objects above the the **NS EOS-inferred maximum mass** are black holes
- Observation of orbits at high frequency requires compact object (NS or BH)
- Classification discussion: in GW190425: LSC/VSC ApJL, 892, L3 (2020), GW190814: LSC/VSC ApJL 896, L44 (2020), NSBHs: LSC/VSC/KC ApJL, 915, L5 (2021), Essick & Landry ApJ 904 80 (2020)

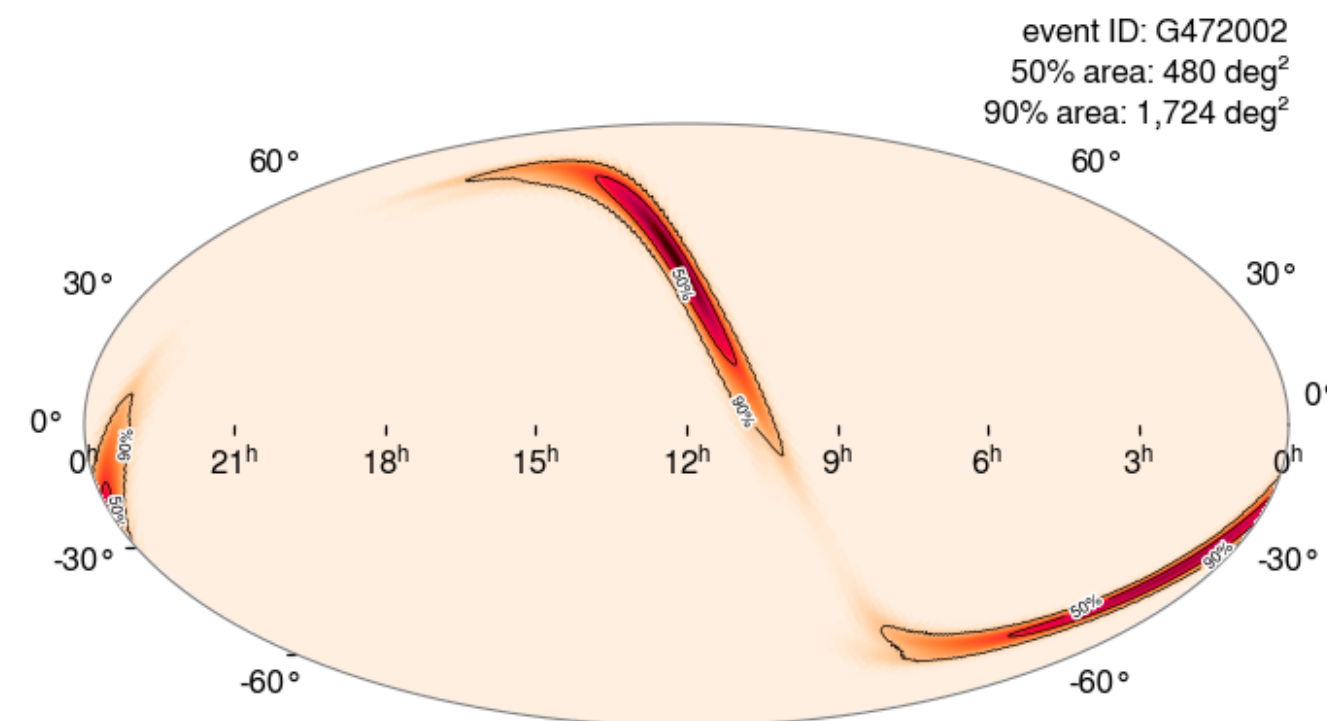
# Virgo is back!

- <https://gracedb.ligo.org/superevents/public/O4/>

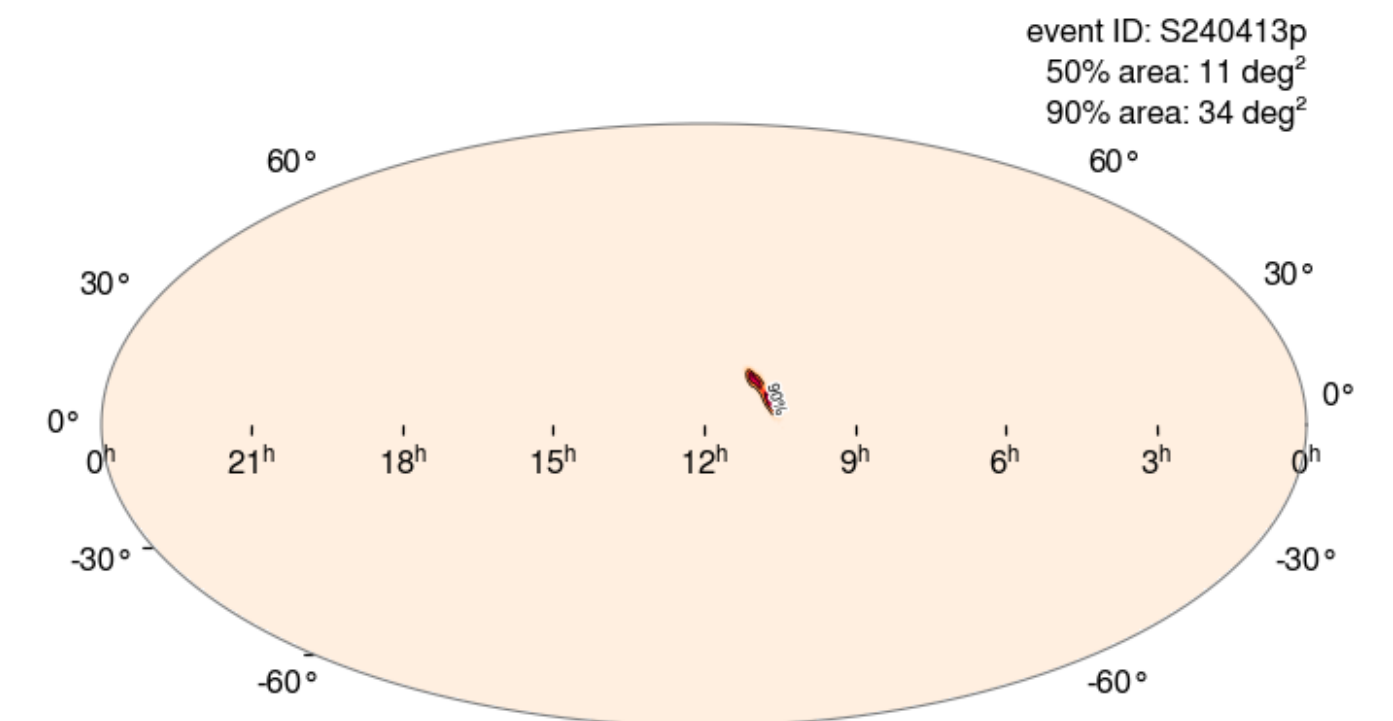
## S240109a (H1)



## S240406aj (H1,L1)



## S240413p (H1,L1,V1)

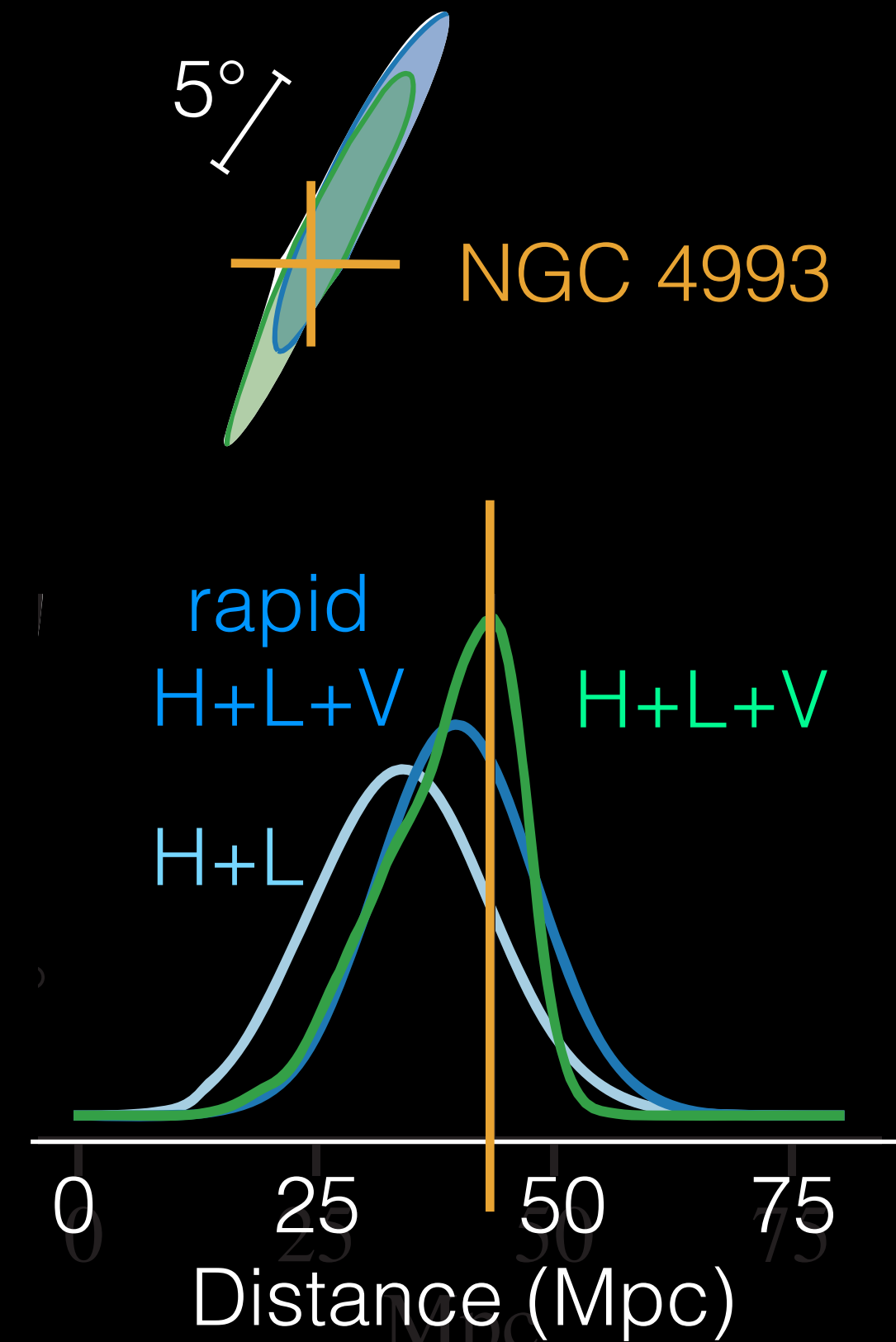
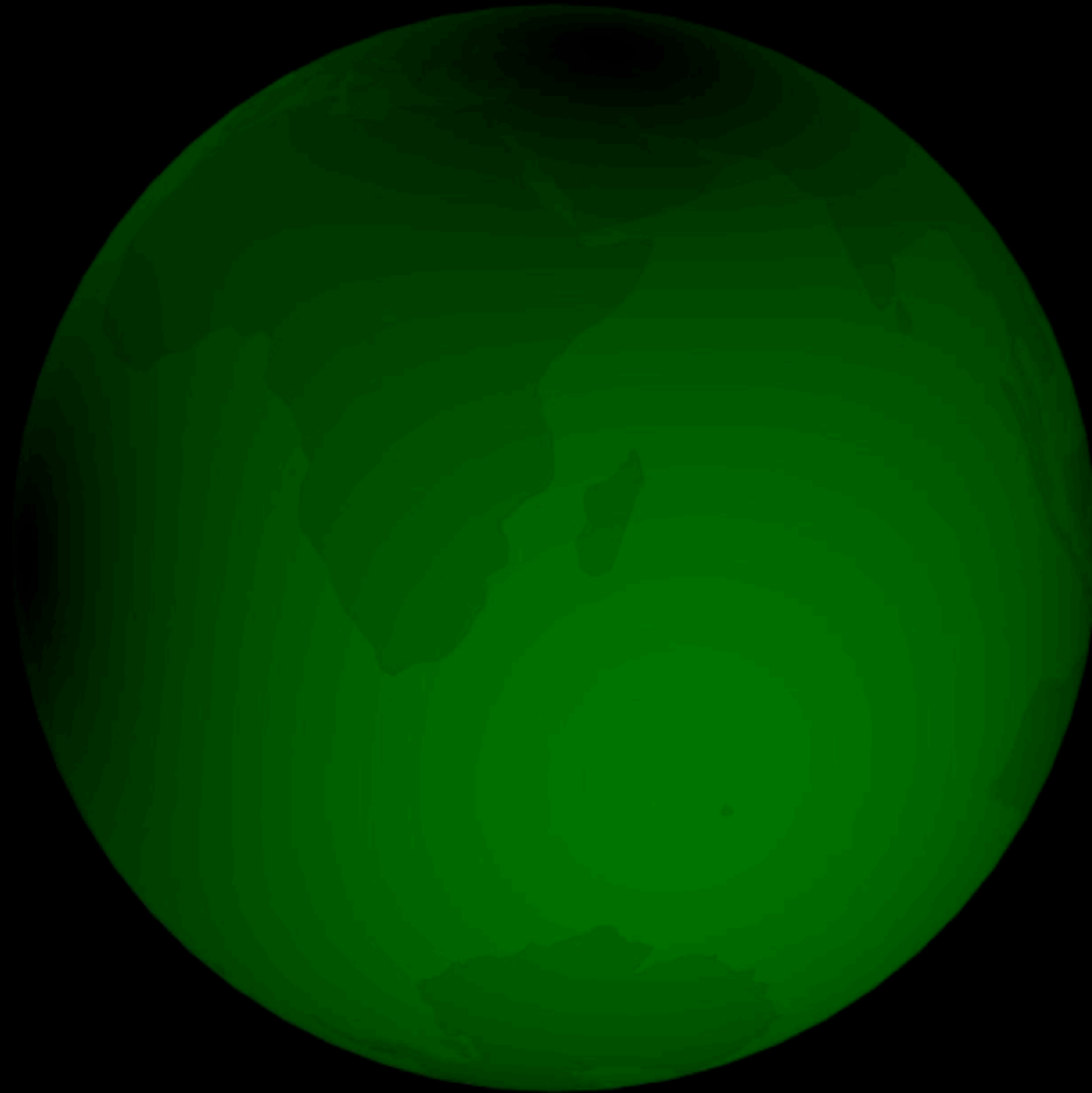


- Three-detector network has much improved localization capability



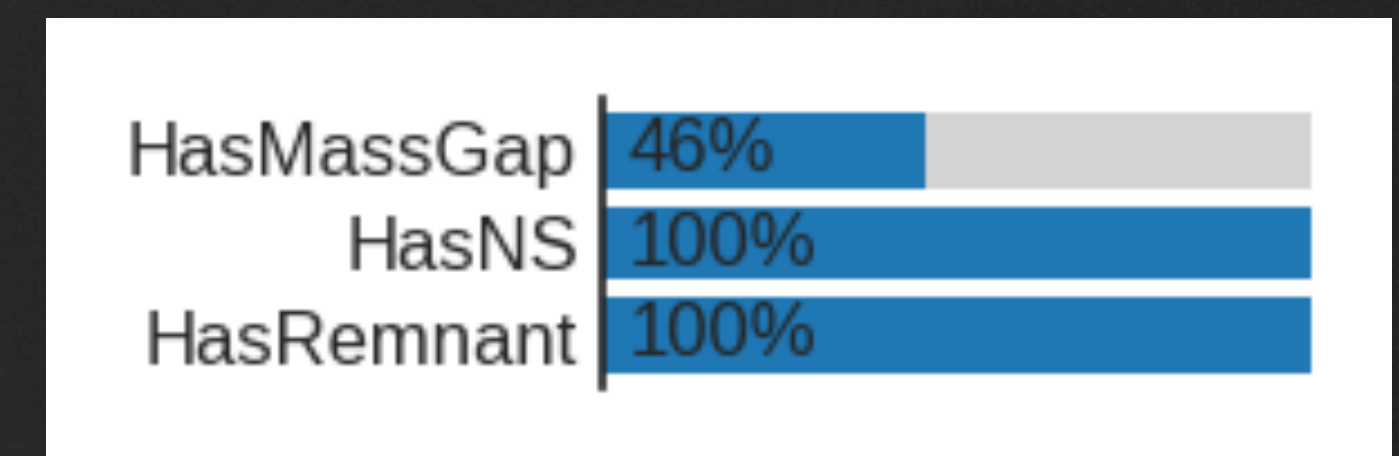
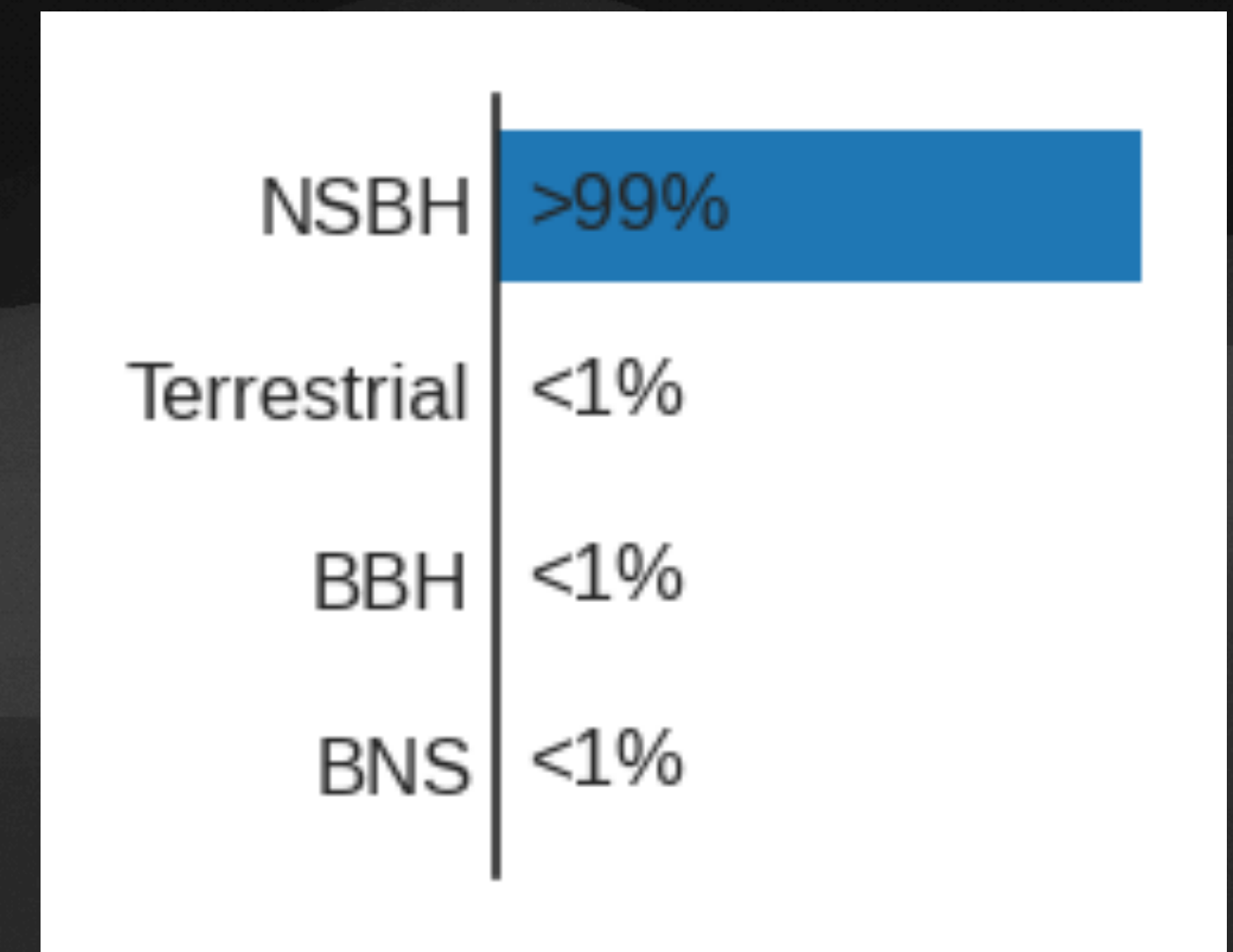
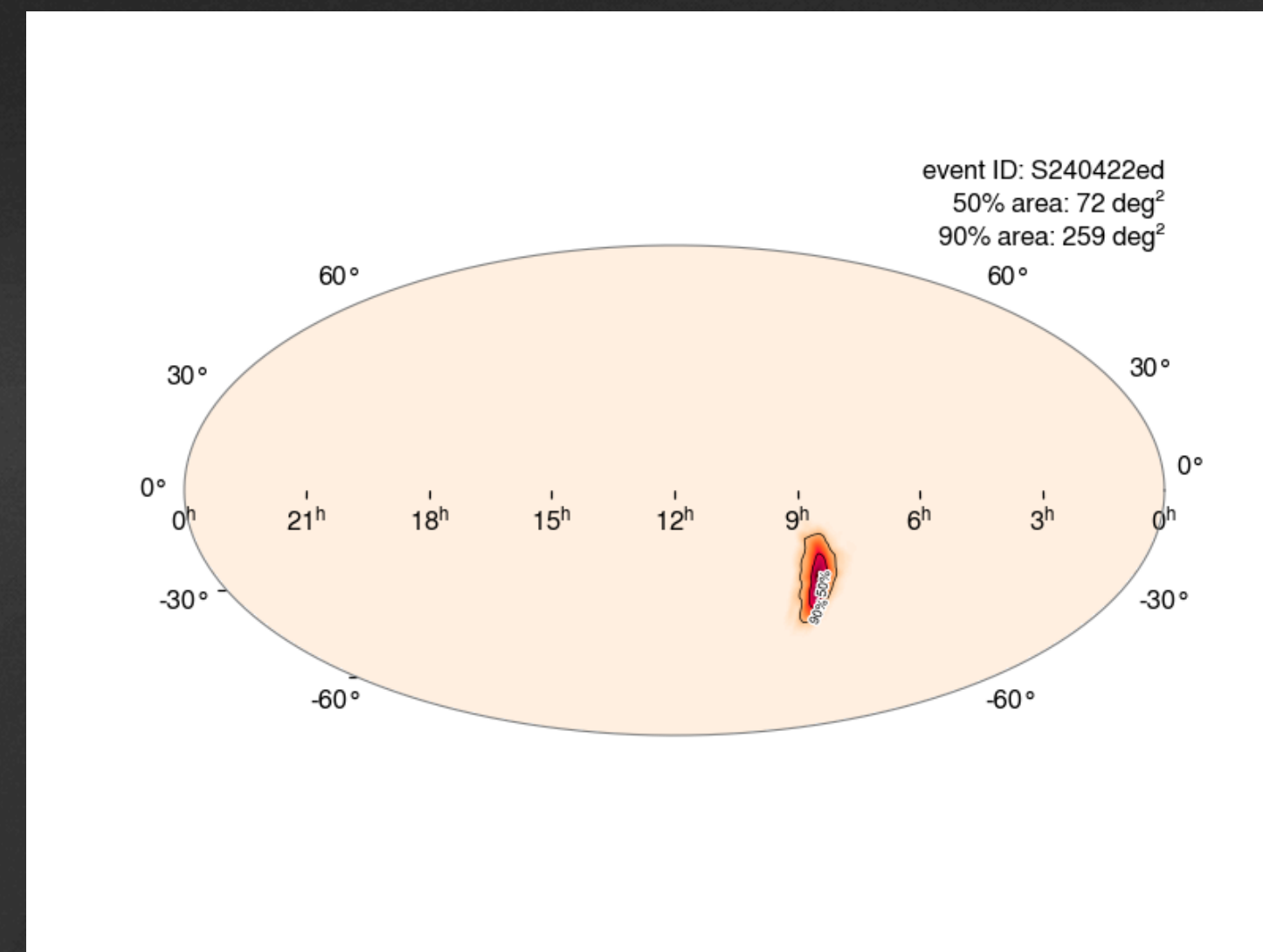
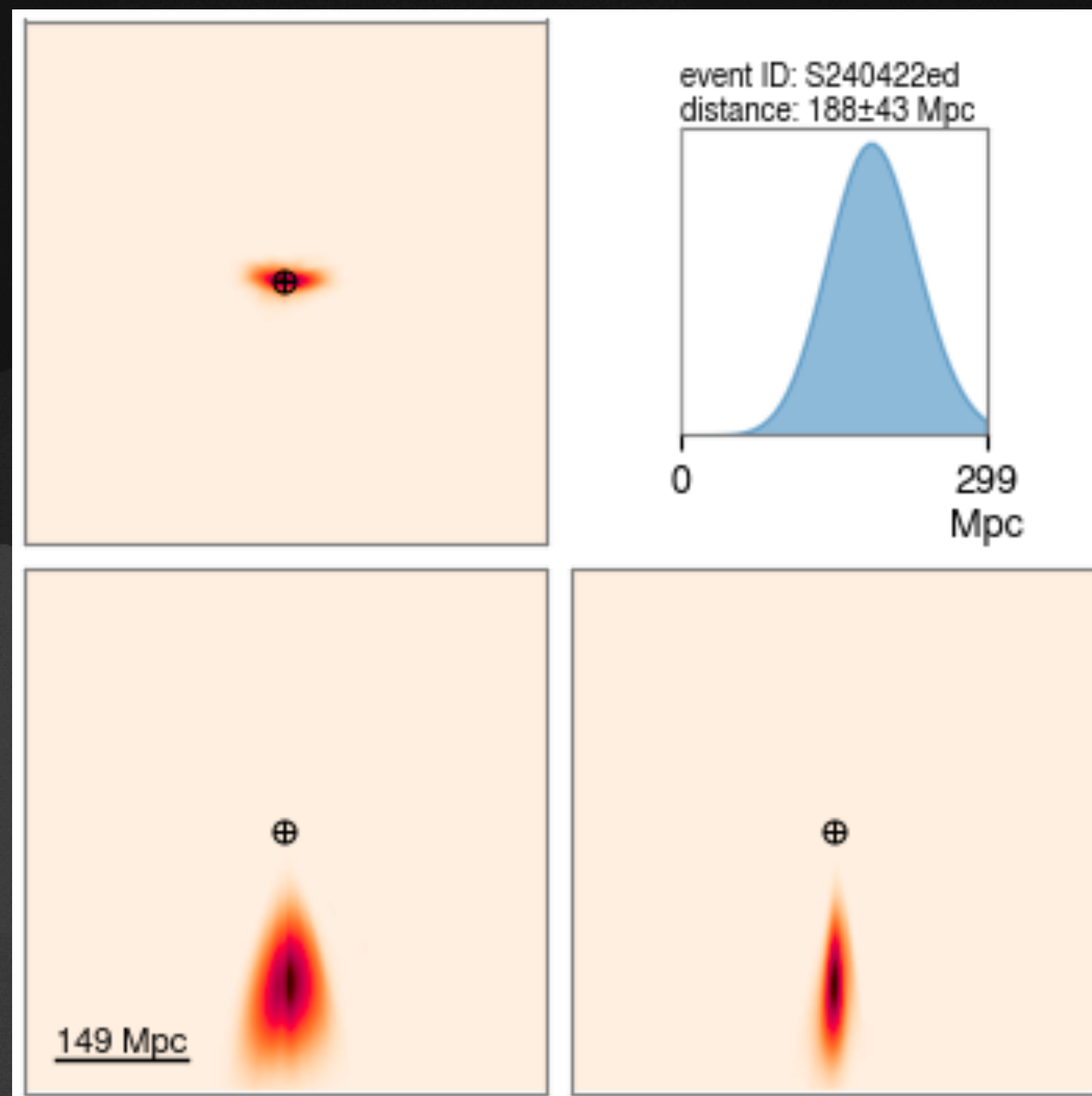
# Localization in GW170817:

Arrival time, amplitude, chirp mass



# Last night: public alert

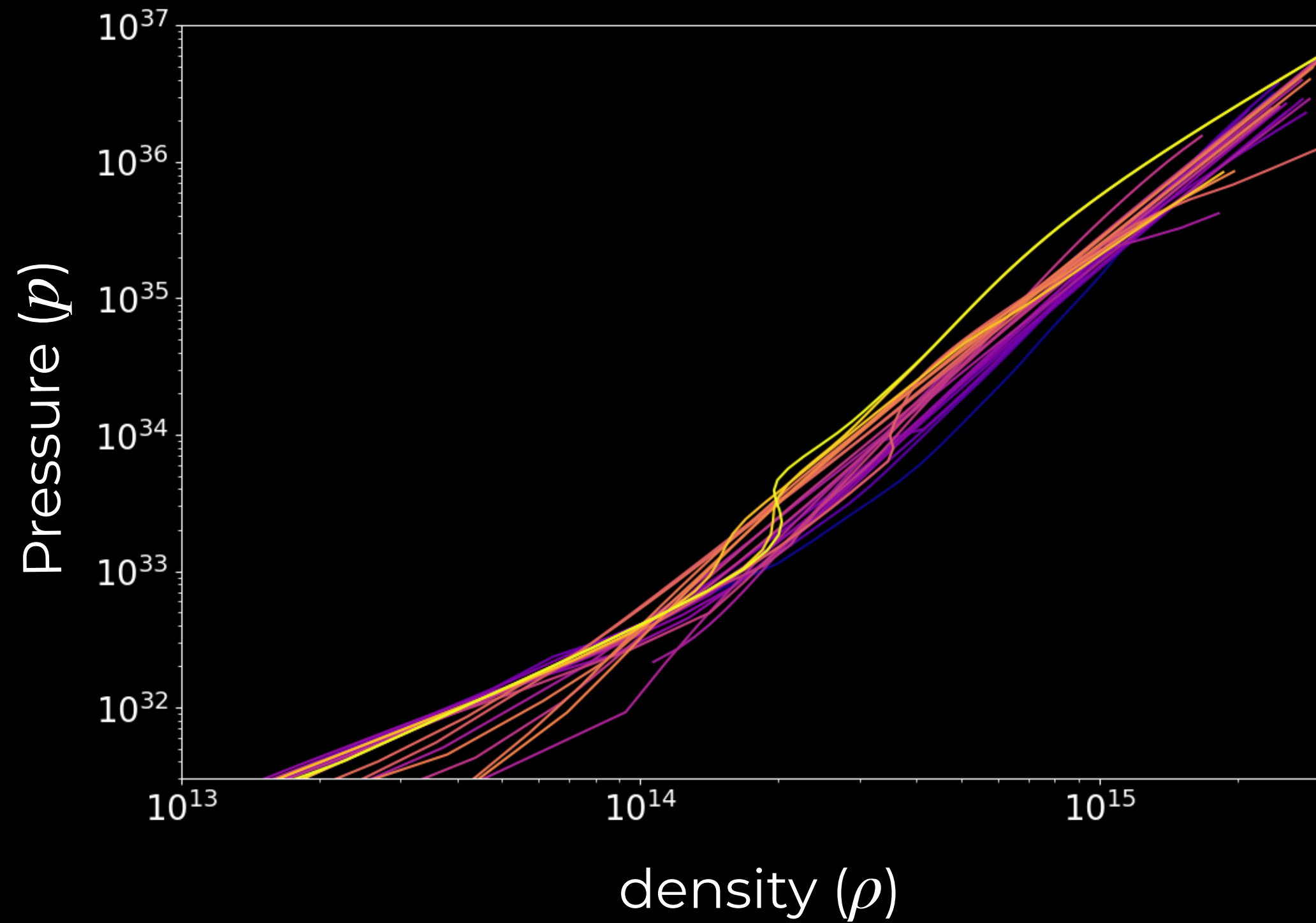
<https://gracedb.ligo.org/superevents/S240422ed/view/>



# Matter in GW sources

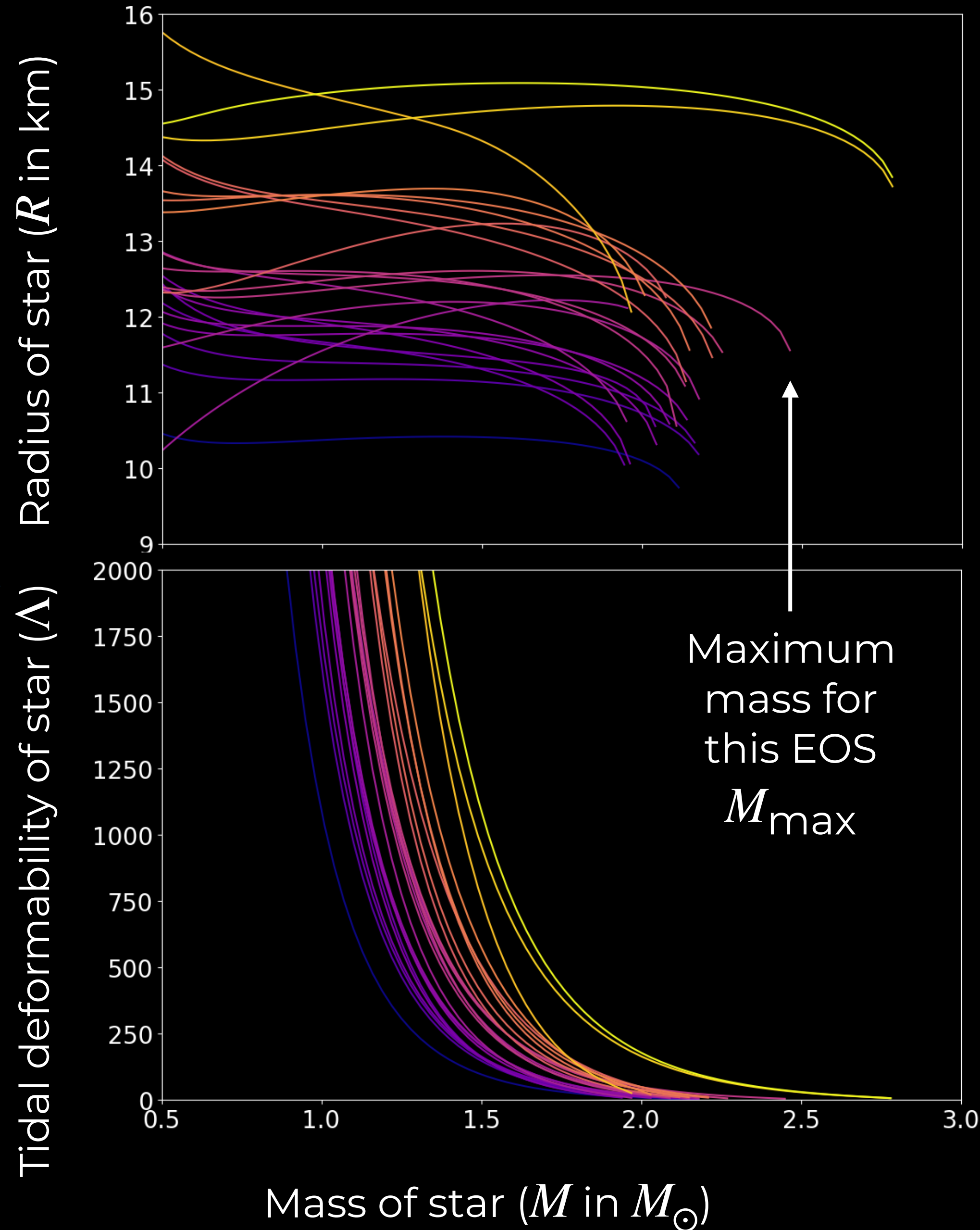
# Dense matter imprint

Candidate NS equations of state: zero-temperature, beta equilibrium



Equilibrium models for range of central densities, giving range of masses  $M$

Stable stars for a given EOS

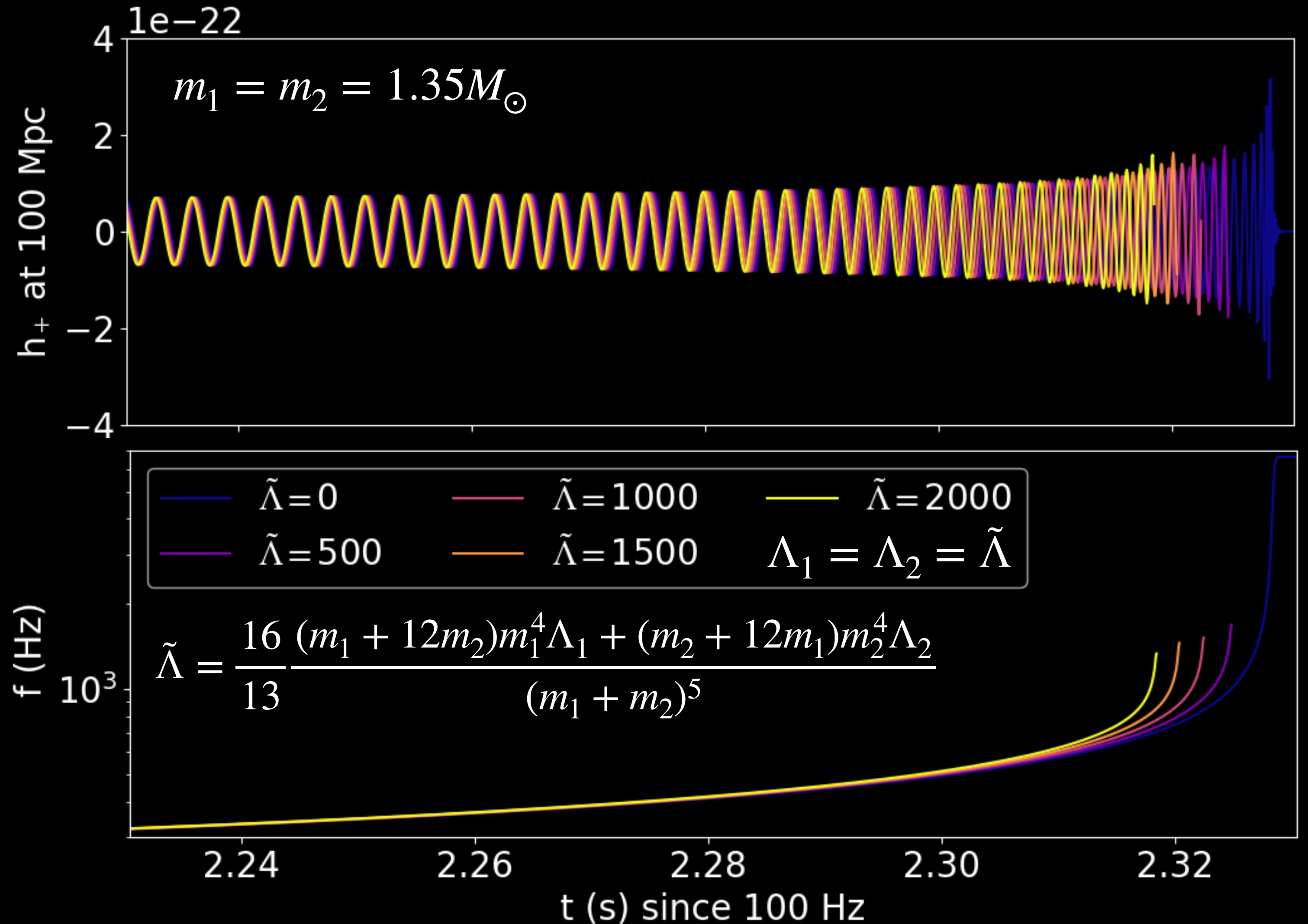


# Gravitational-wave signature

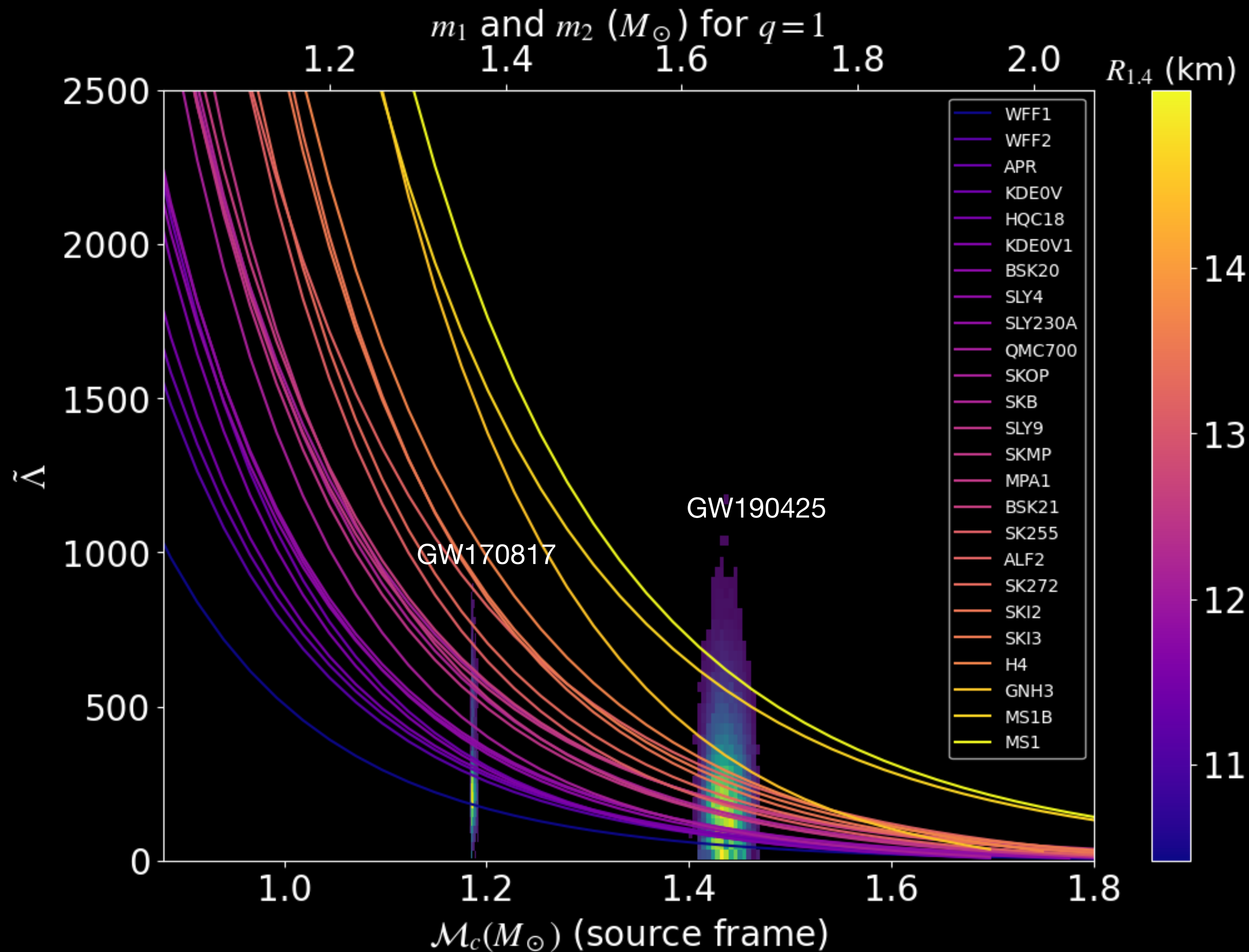
Model source binary with given  $m_1, m_2, \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2$

Leading order coefficient  $\tilde{\Lambda}$ , NR/theory calibrated contribution from higher order terms

At fixed mass, larger  $\Lambda$  means faster chirp (larger  $df/dt$ ) as orbital separation approaches NS radius.



# EOS from binary neutron star gravitational-wave observations



Chirp mass  $\mathcal{M}$ , Combined tidal parameter  $\tilde{\Lambda}$ : coefficients of leading-order waveform effects

Cold NS EOS:

$$\Lambda_i(m_i) \rightarrow \tilde{\Lambda}(\mathcal{M}, q)$$

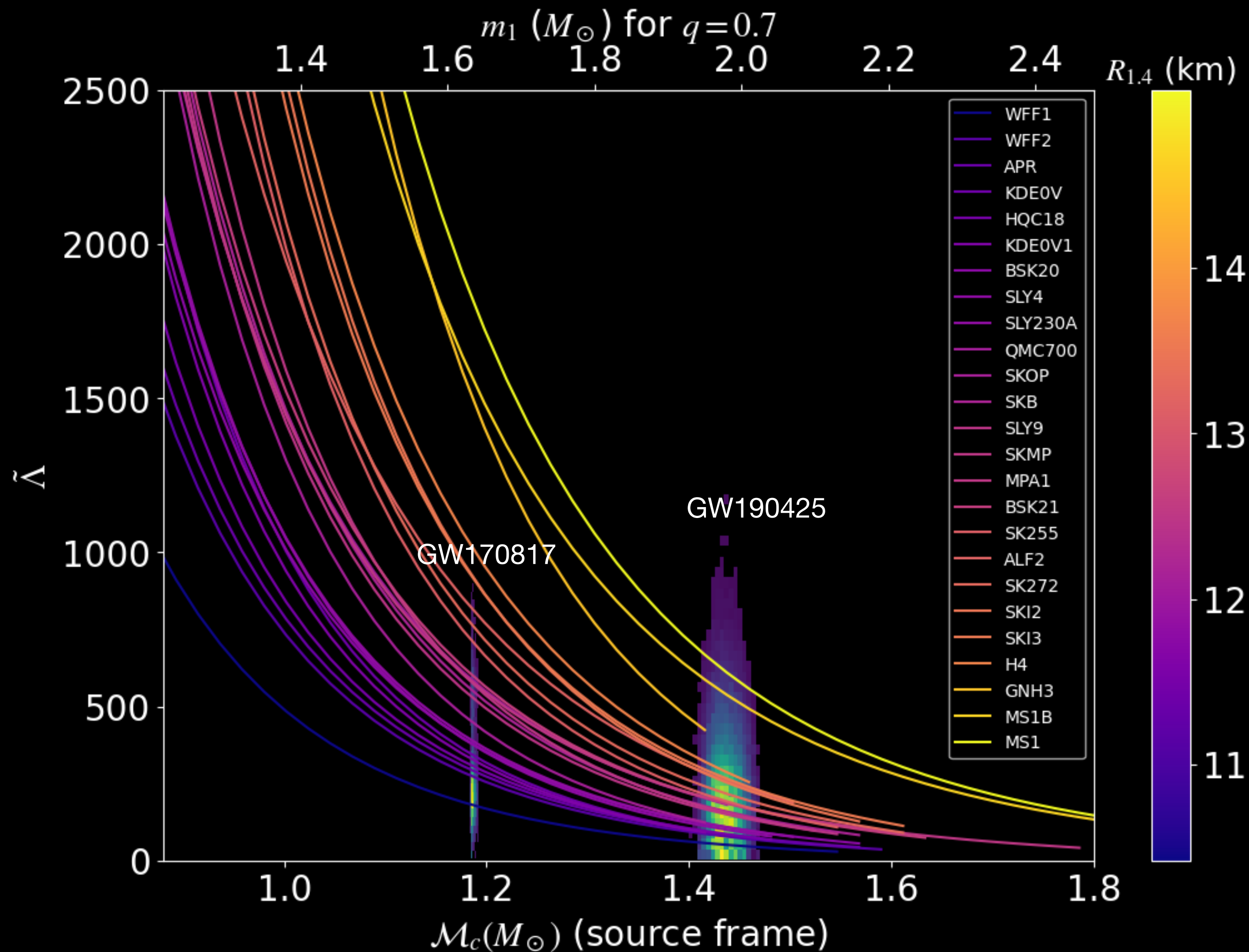
GW170817 from LIGO/Virgo GWTC-1, Phys. Rev. X 9, 031040 (2019)

GW190425 from LIGO/Virgo GWTC-2, Phys. Rev. X 11, 021053 (2021)

Reweight to prior flat in  $\tilde{\Lambda}$  following method of LIGO/Virgo GW190425 ApJL 892 L3 (2020)

Formal EOS likelihood calculation: LIGO /Virgo Class. Quant. Gravity 37 4, 045006 (2020)

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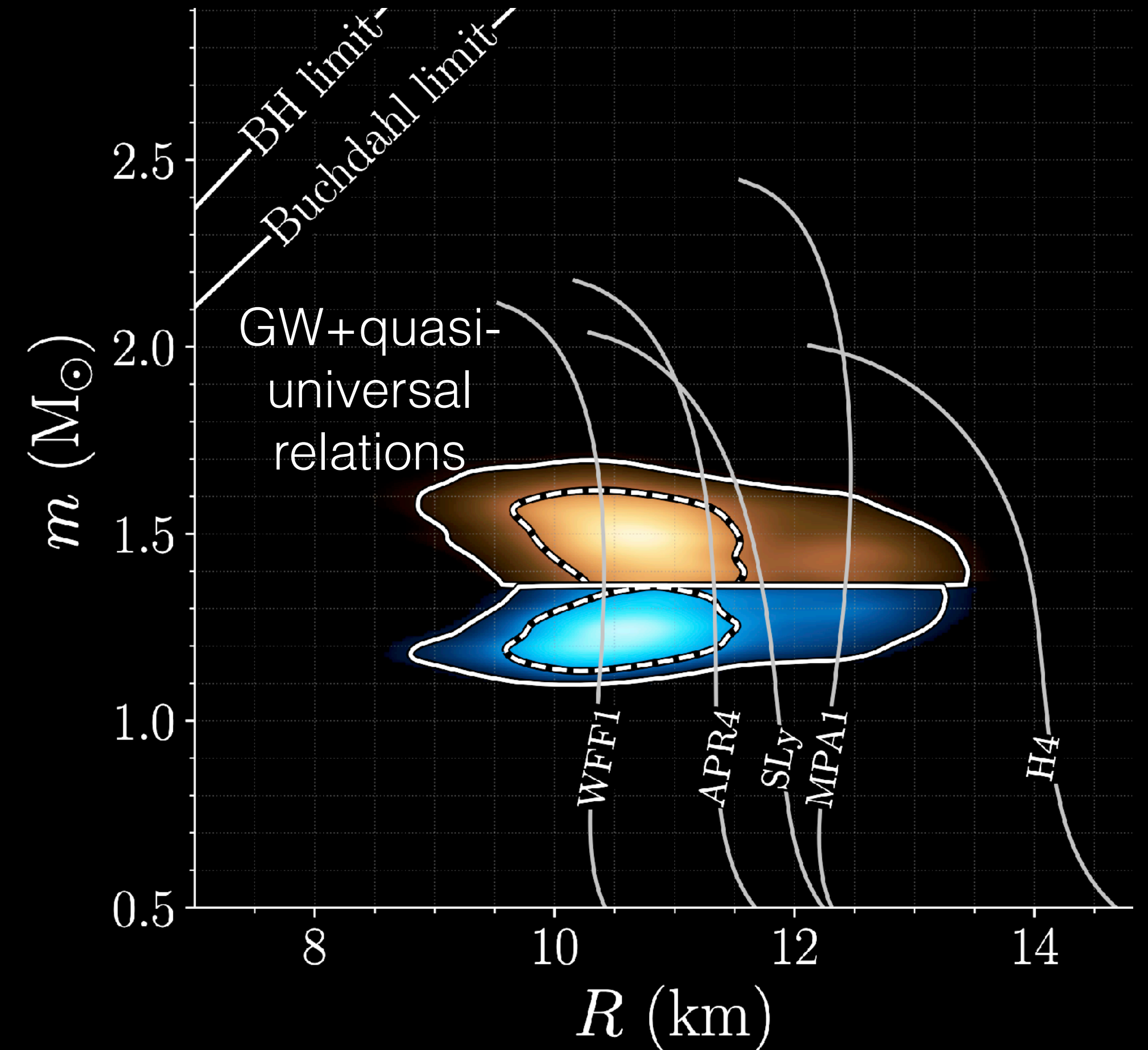
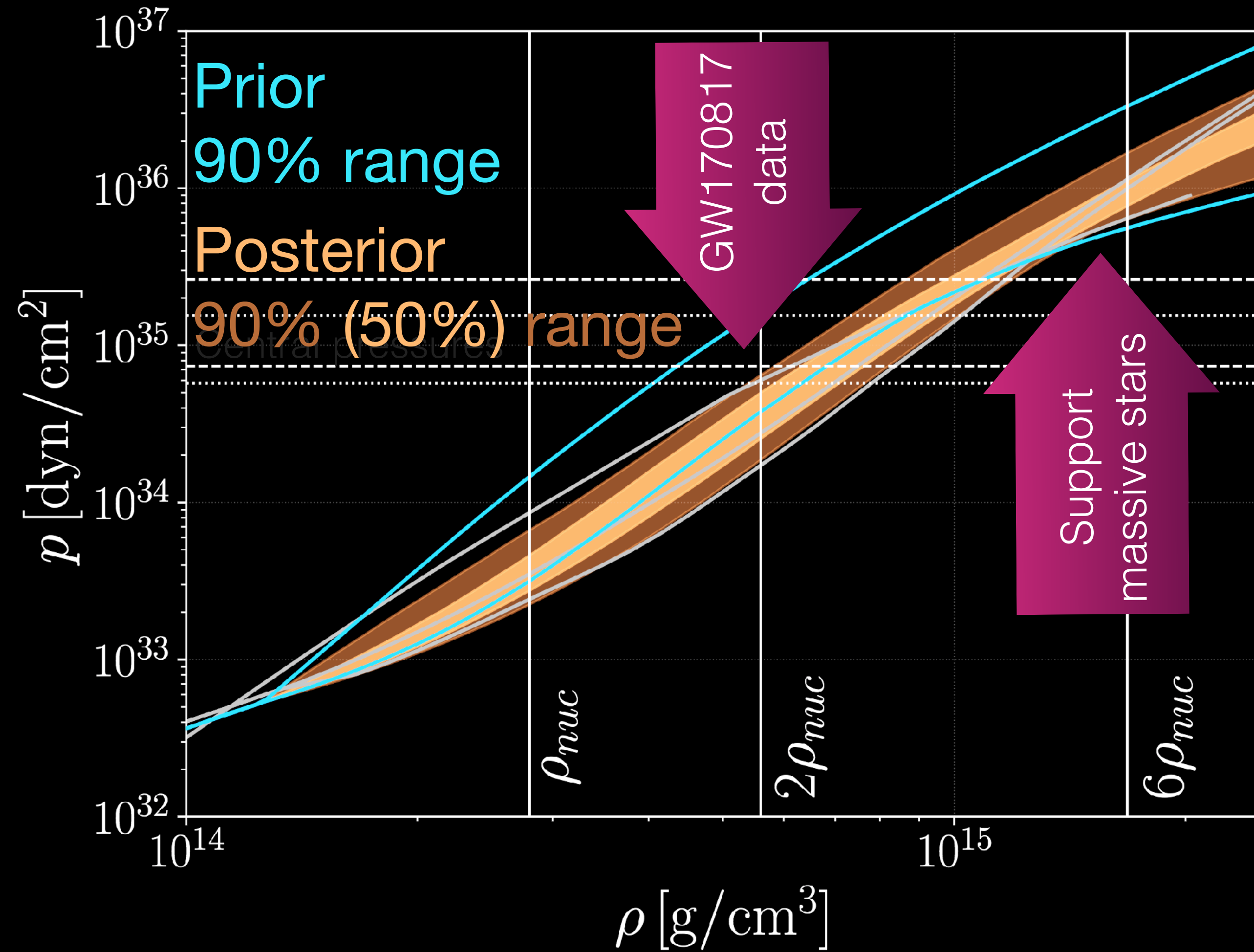
GW170817 from LIGO/Virgo GWTC-1, Phys. Rev. X 9, 031040 (2019)

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# EOS+Radius implications in 2018: GW170817

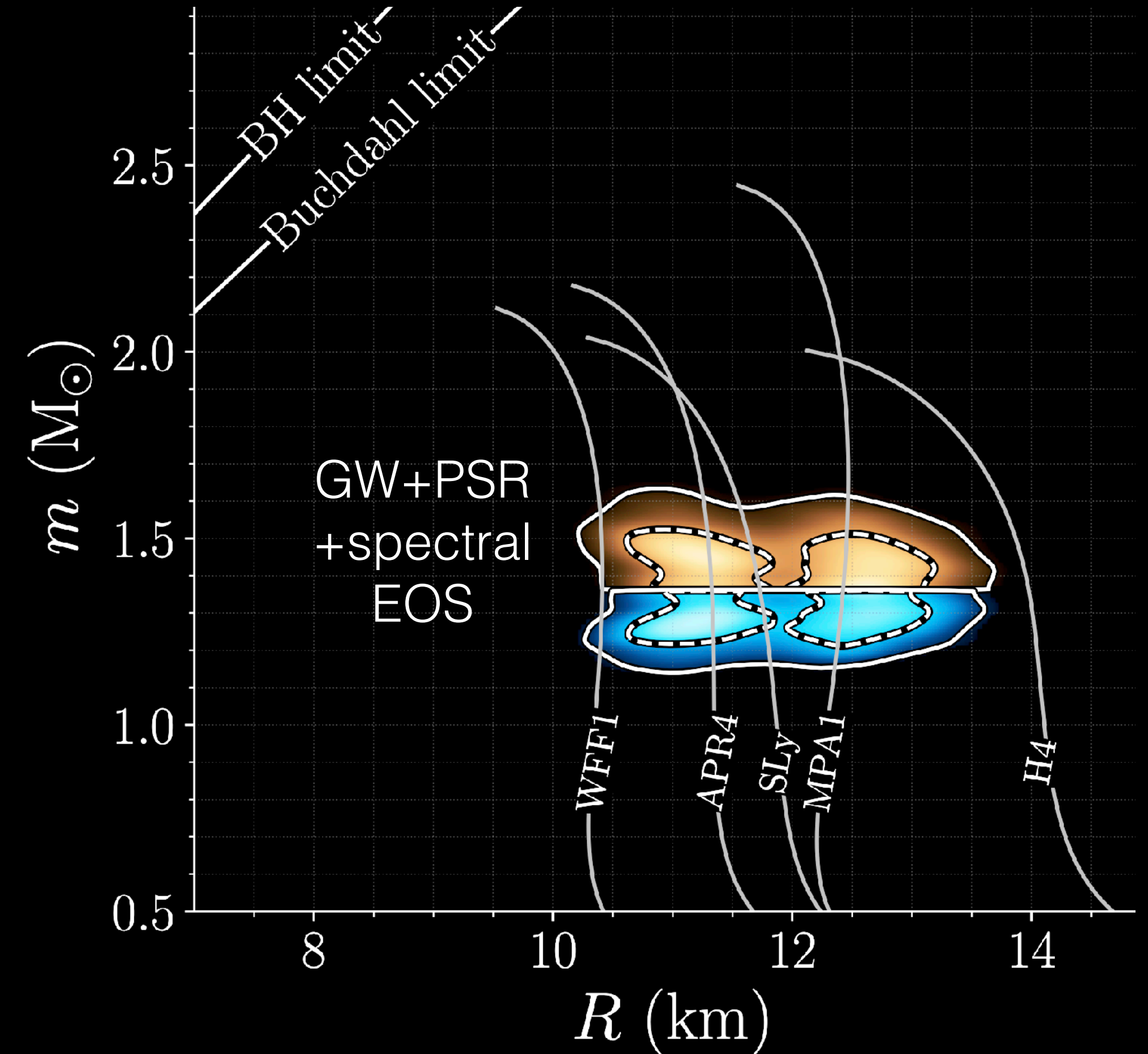
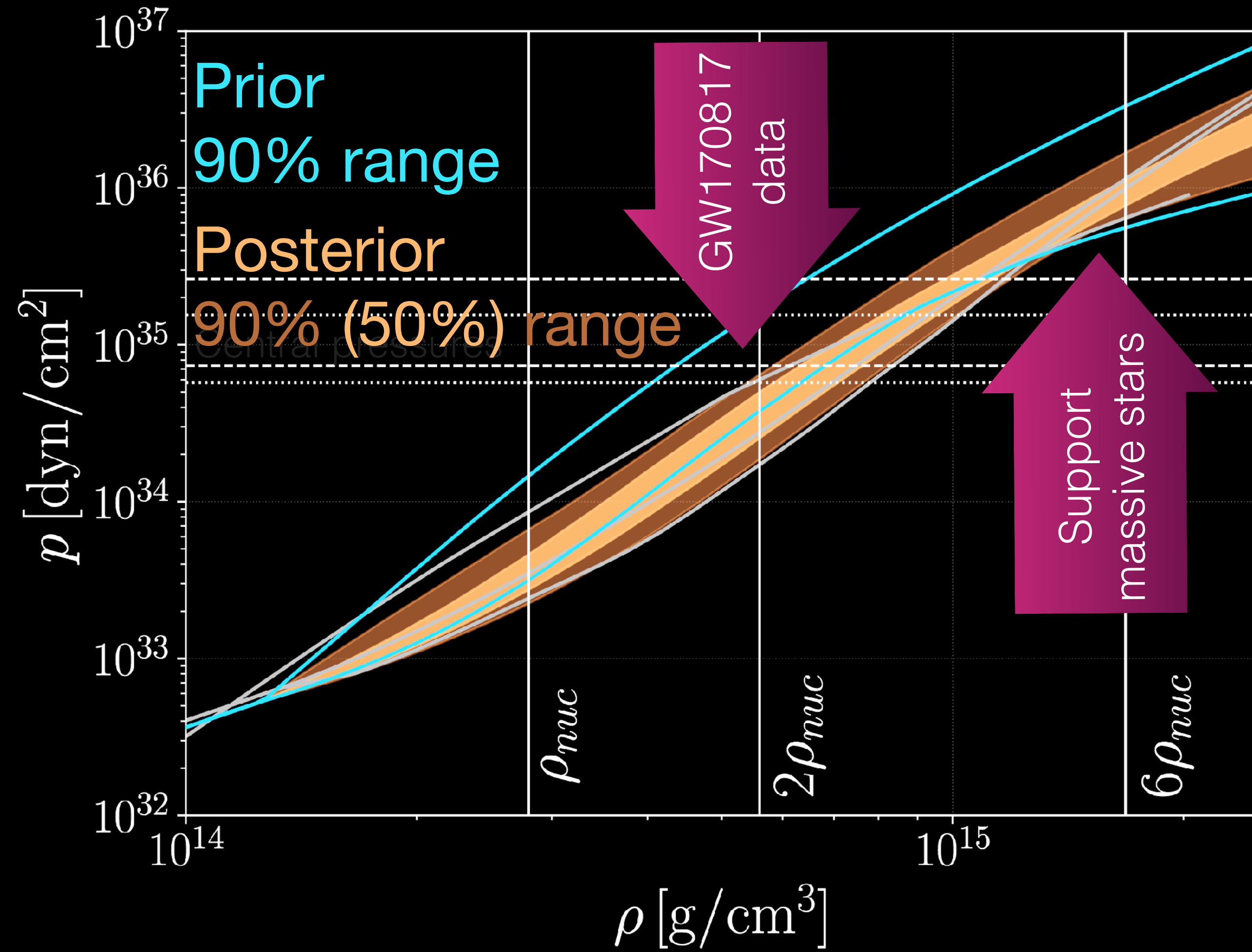


LIGO/Virgo Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 161101 (2018)  
 Spectral EOS constraint: Carney & Wade  
 Phys. Rev. D 98, 063004 (2018)

LIGO/Virgo Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 161101 (2018)  
 Quasi-universal relation radius inference:  
 Chatziioannou et al, Phys. Rev. D 97, 104036 (2018)



# EOS+Radius implications in 2018: GW170817



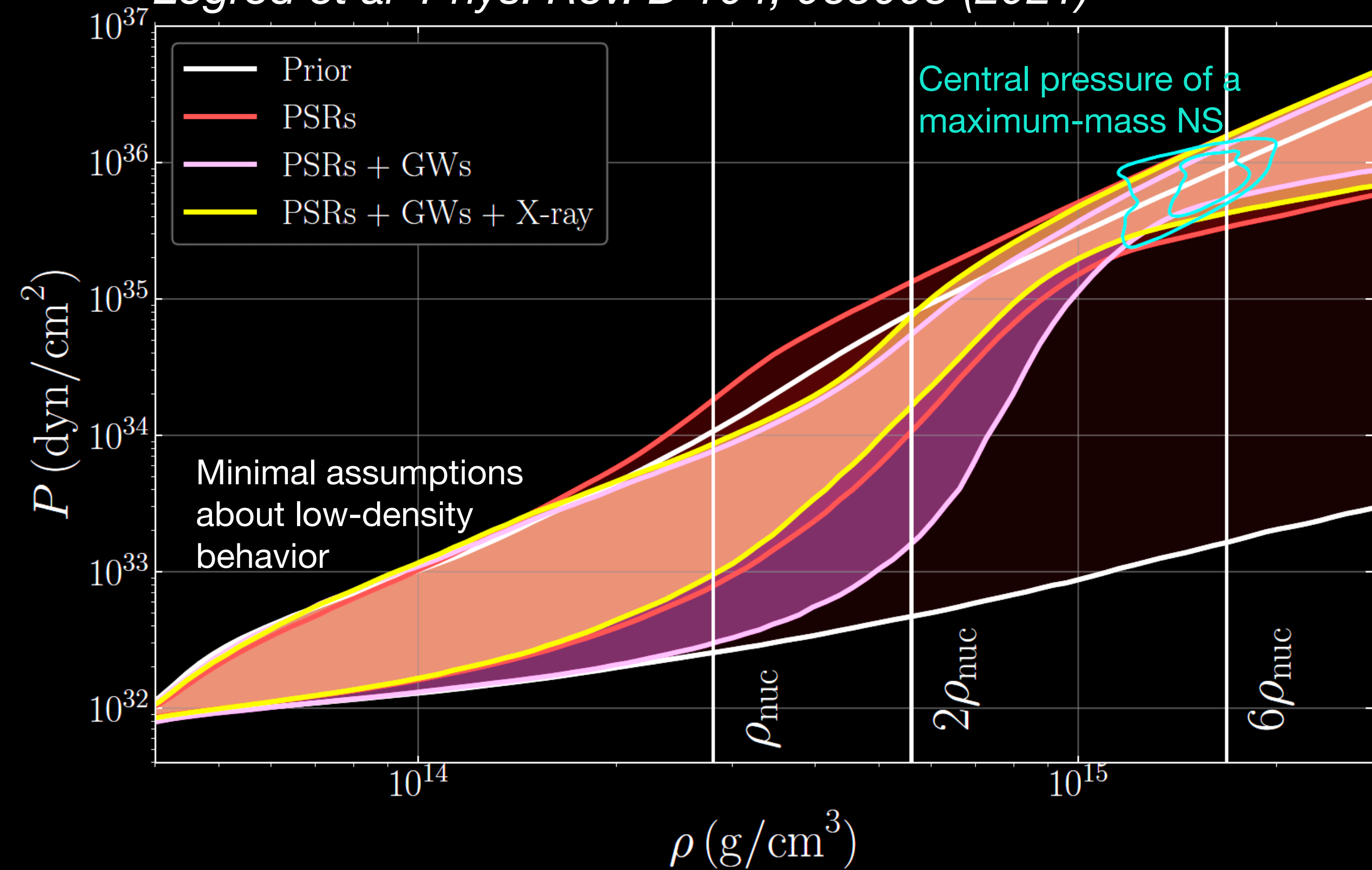
LIGO/Virgo Phys. Rev. Lett. 121, 161101 (2018)  
 Spectral EOS constraint: Carney & Wade  
 Phys. Rev. D 98, 063004 (2018)

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 Spectral EOS constraint: Carney & Wade  
 Phys. Rev. D 98, 063004 (2018)

# Modern Multimessenger inference: Pulsars, GW, NICER, Chiral EFT, heavy ion collision ...

*Astro-only constraint*

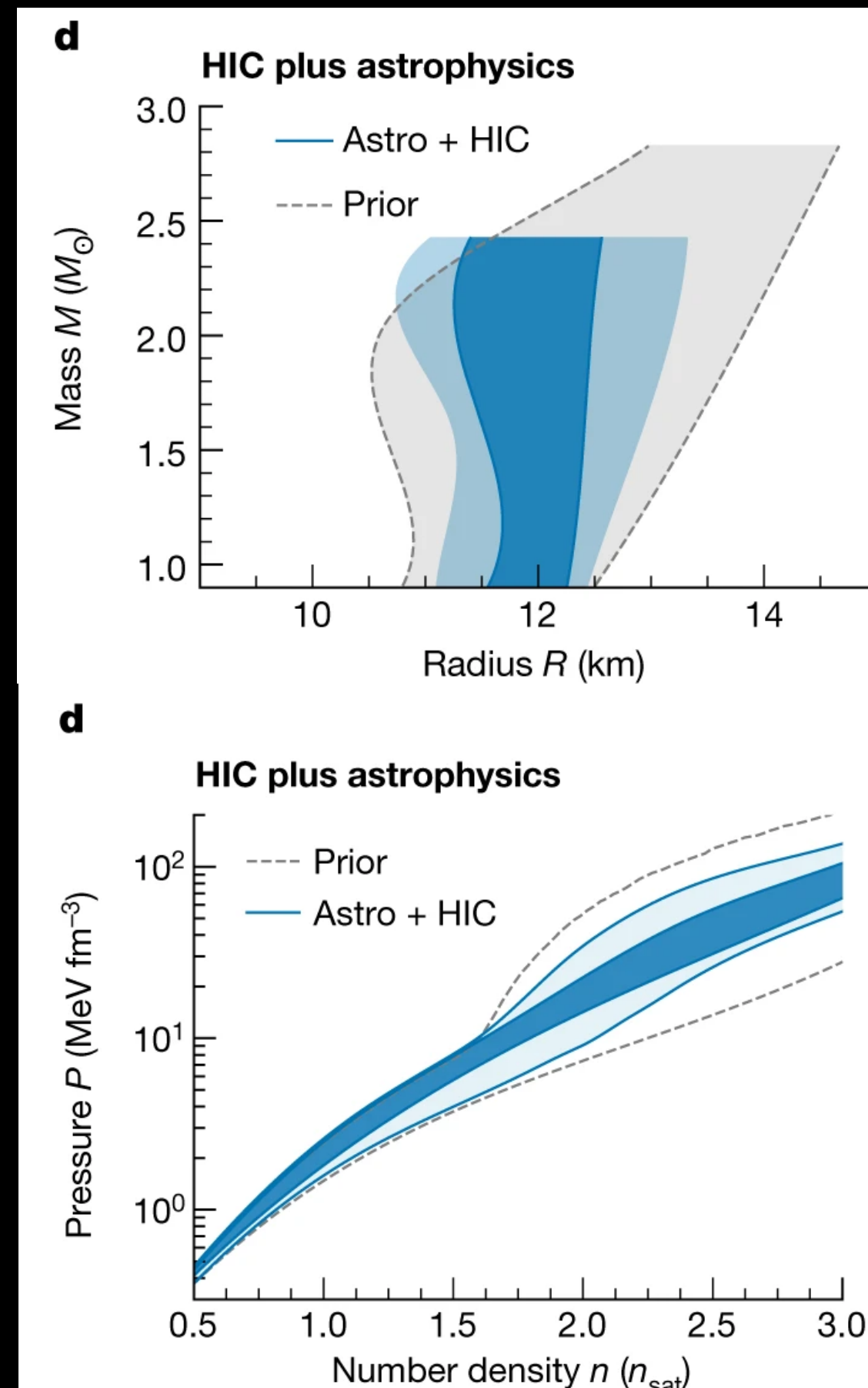
*Legred et al Phys. Rev. D 104, 063003 (2021)*



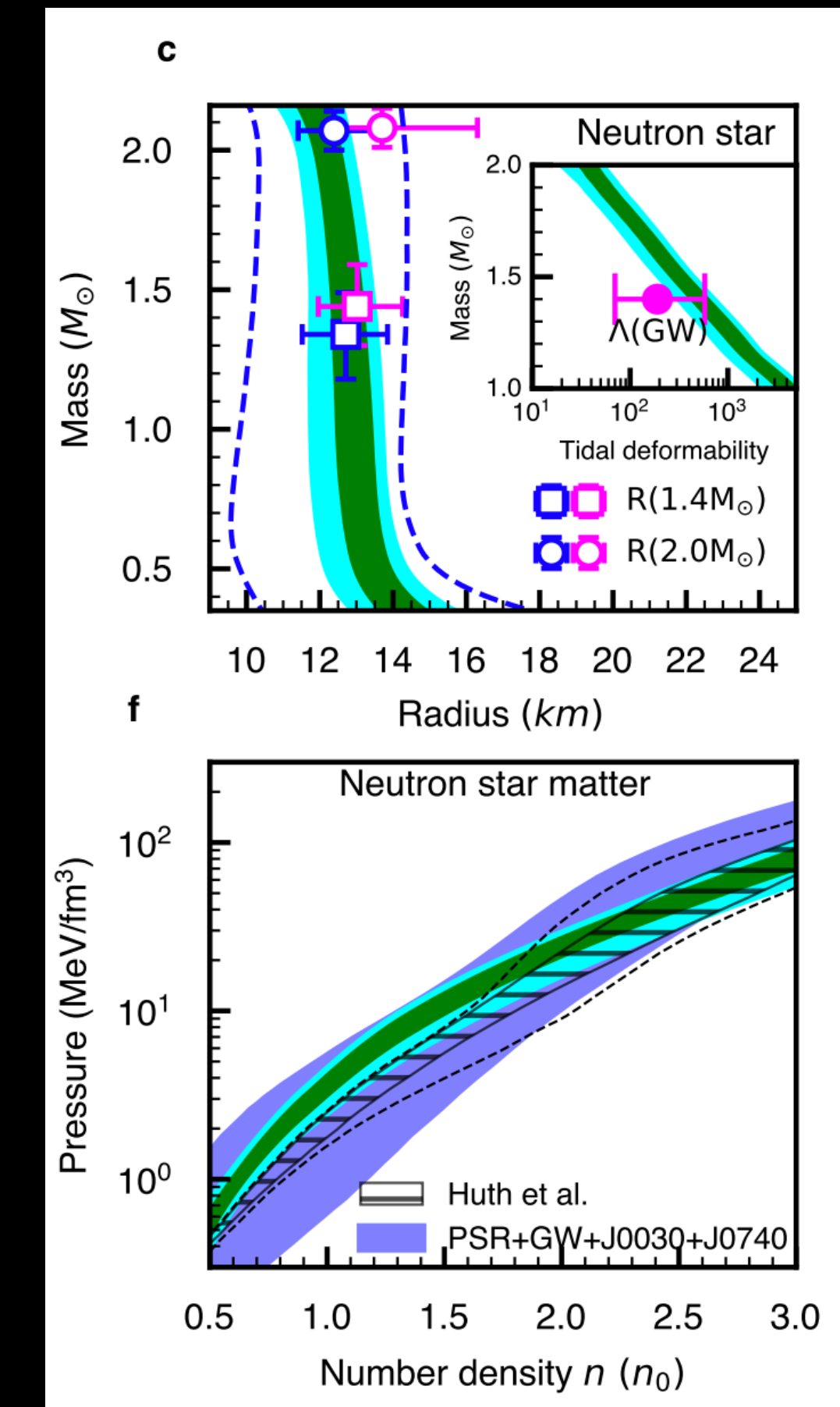
*Gaussian-process-generated EOS posterior samples*  
<https://zenodo.org/records/6502467>

*Huth et al*

*Nature 606, 276–280 (2022)*



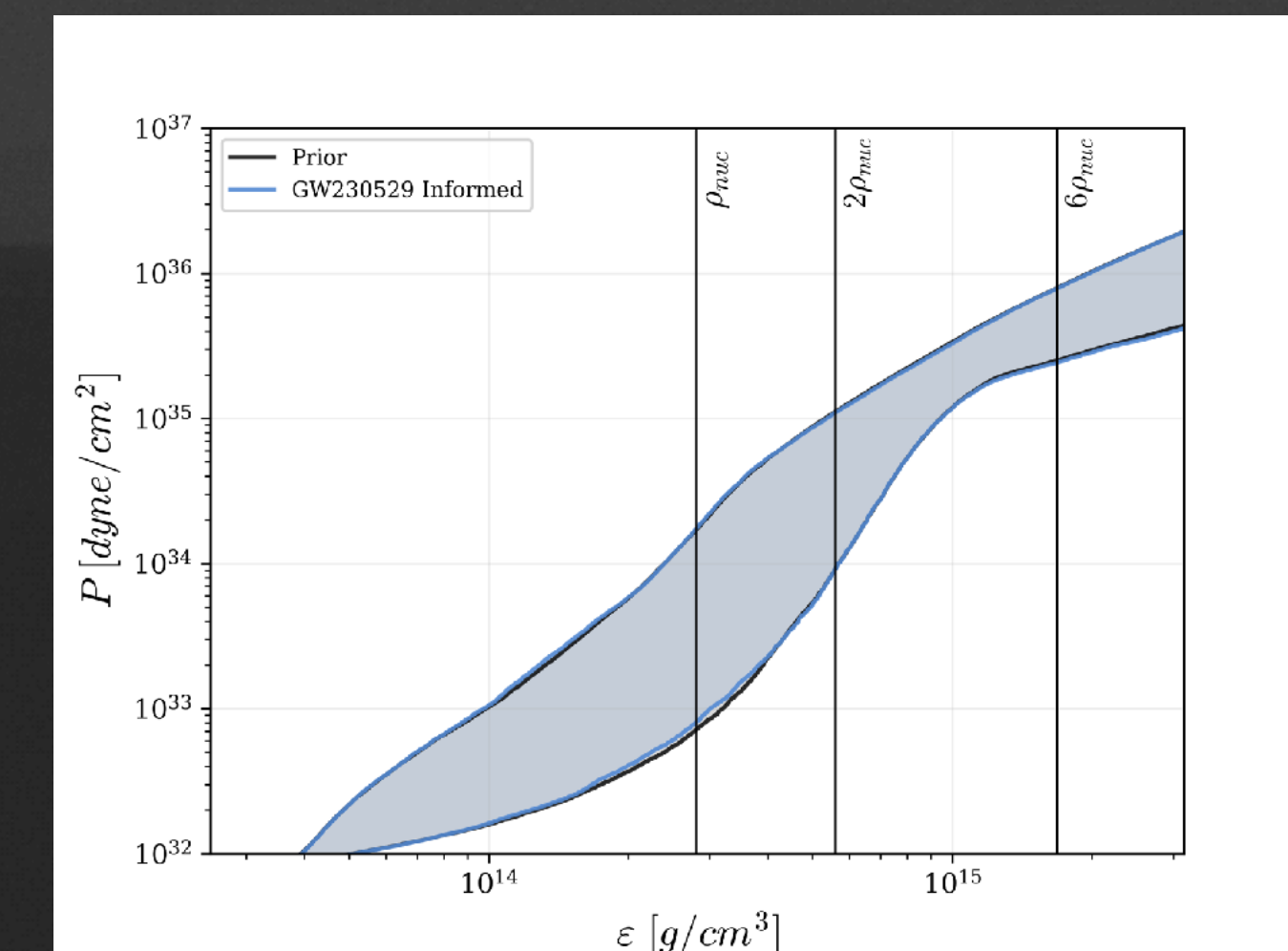
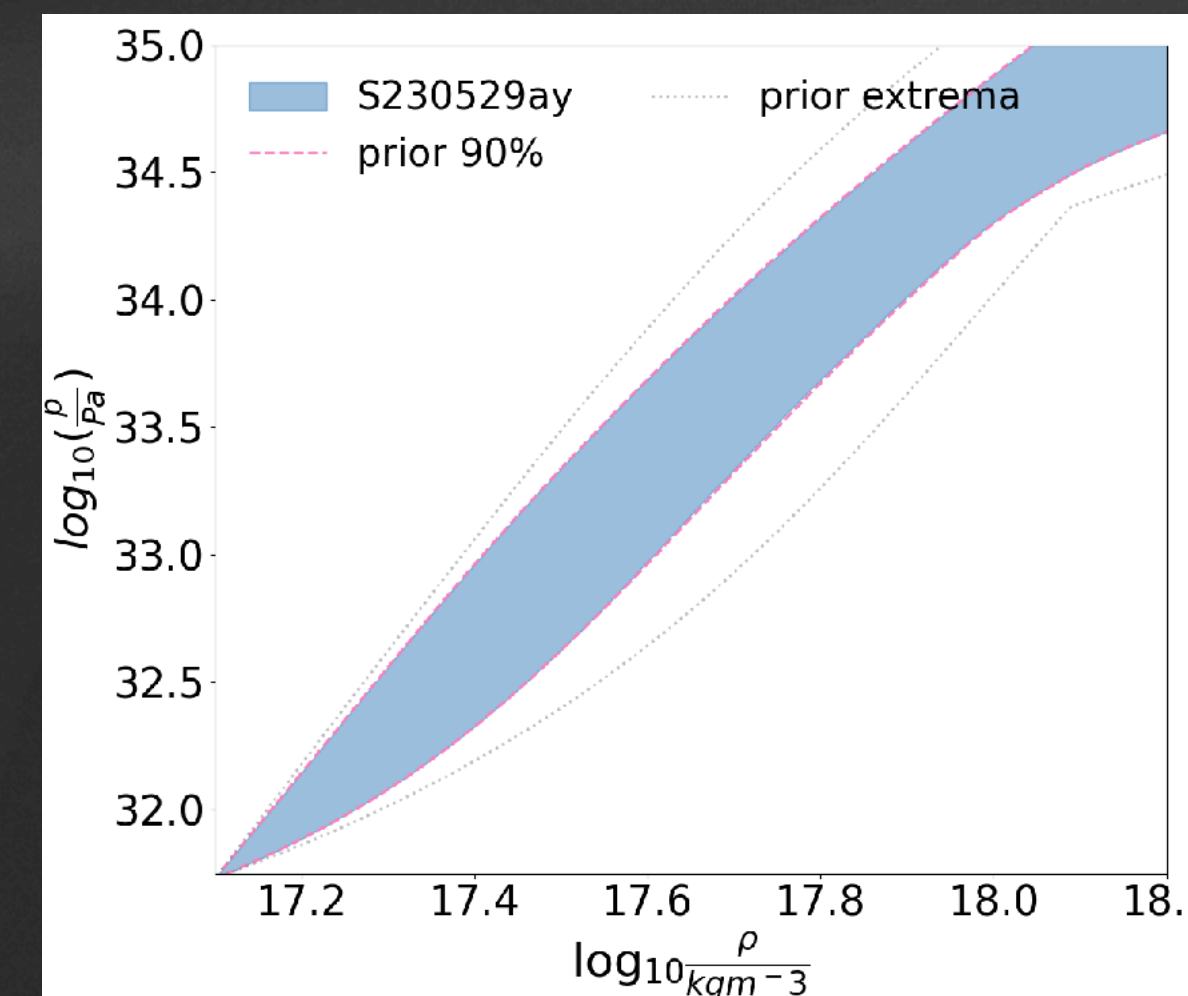
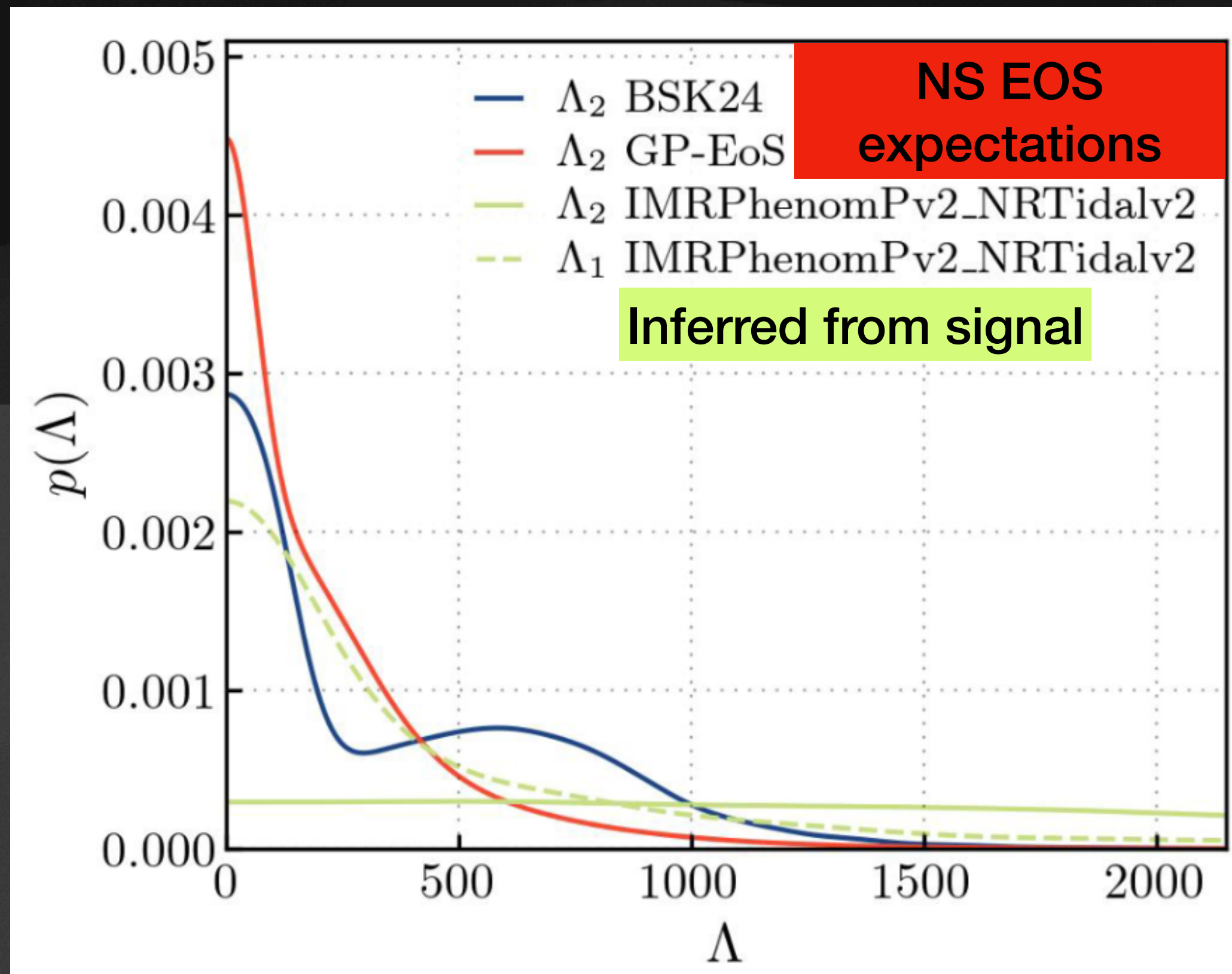
*Tsang et al 2310.11588*



# Observation of Gravitational Waves from the Coalescence of a 2.5-4.5 $M_{\odot}$ Compact Object and a Neutron Star

*No implications for EOS*

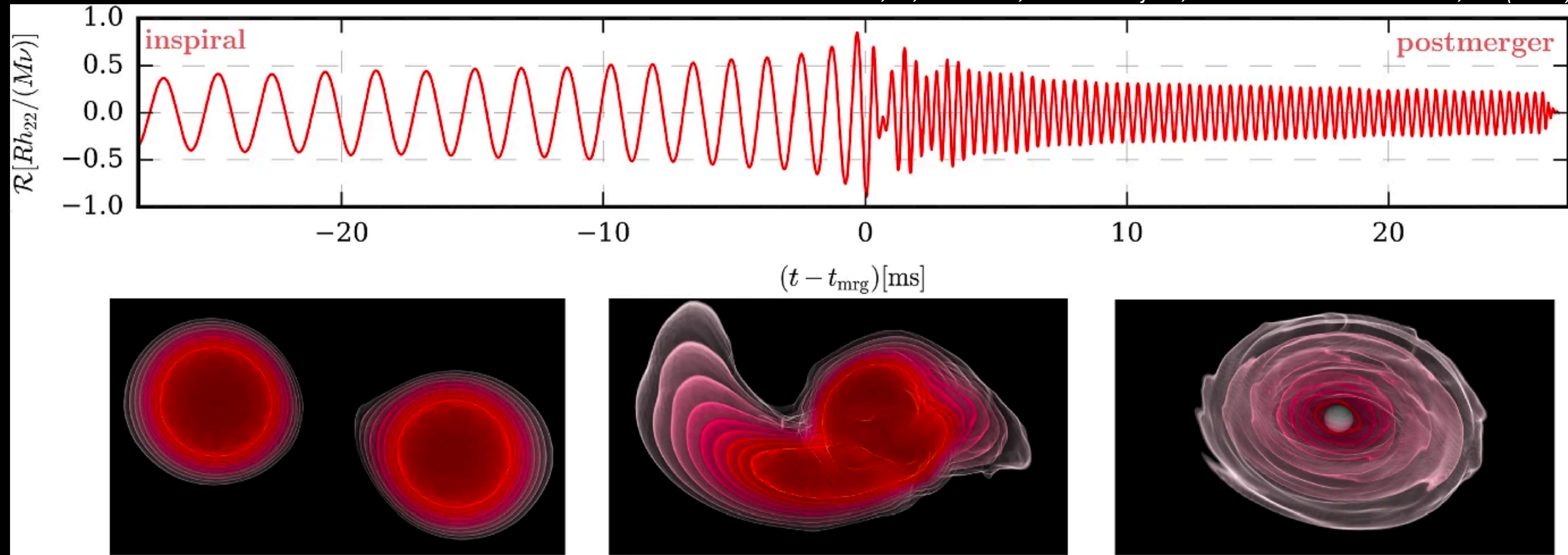
Estimate of tides are uninformative;  
 EOS inference recovers prior range



EOS inference using GWXtreme with spectral EOS prior  
<https://github.com/shaonghosh/GWXtreme>

EOS inference using lwp from nonparametric Gaussian Process prior  
<https://git.ligo.org/reed.essick/lwp>

# An excursion into systematics, uncertainty, and unmodeled effects



- We use a perturbative property of isolated stars ( $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2$ ) as an **effective** descriptor of matter effects in gravitational-wave models **through to merger**  
(Based on GR+Hydro simulation: Read et al 1306.4065, Bernuzzi et al 1402.6244, Dietrich, & Tichy 1706.02969, ... )  
(Empirical quasi-universal relation: Yagi *Phys. Rev. D* 89, 043011 (2014), Chan et al *Phys.Rev.D*90 (2014))
- **In XG era:** additional parameters needed to describe waveforms  
(e.g Carson et al *Phys. Rev. D* 99, 083016 (2019), Pratten et al *Nat Commun* 11, 2553 (2020).

# How much can we trust the signal model?

- Source model  $h_{22}(t) = \mathcal{A}(t)e^{i\psi(t)}$  has **instantaneous frequency**:  $2\pi F(t) = \dot{\psi}(t)$
- Source masses, spins, tides: **encoded in characteristic functions of  $F$** :

$$\mathcal{A}(F) \equiv \mathcal{A}(T(F)) \quad \text{and} \quad \dot{F}(F) \equiv dF/dT$$

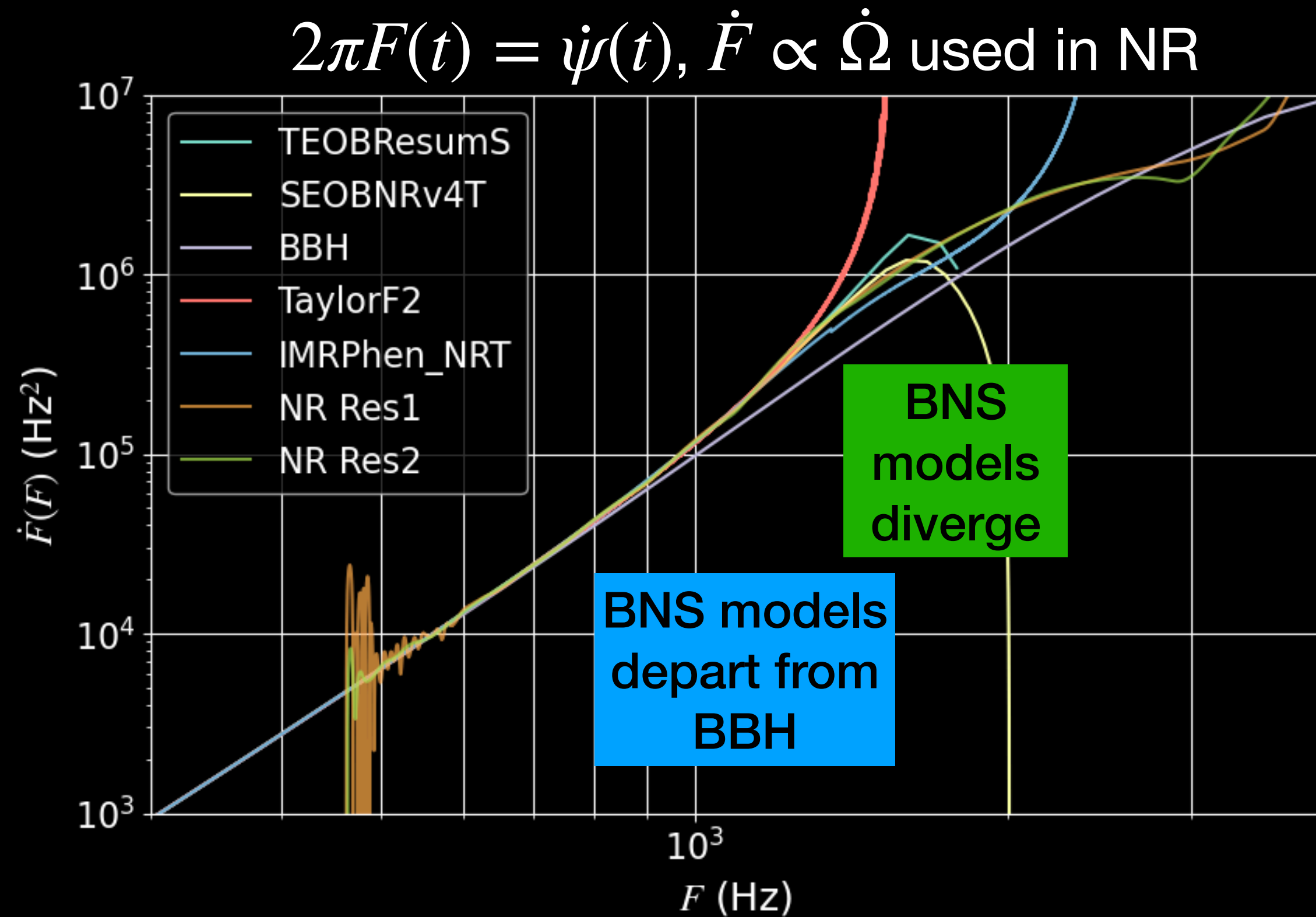
**Luminosity  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{A}$ :**

$$\mathcal{A}(F)^2 = \frac{4}{\pi} \frac{1}{d^2} \frac{1}{F^2} \mathcal{L}_{\text{GW}}(F) \quad \text{from integration of } \left| \dot{h}_{\ell m} d \right|^2$$

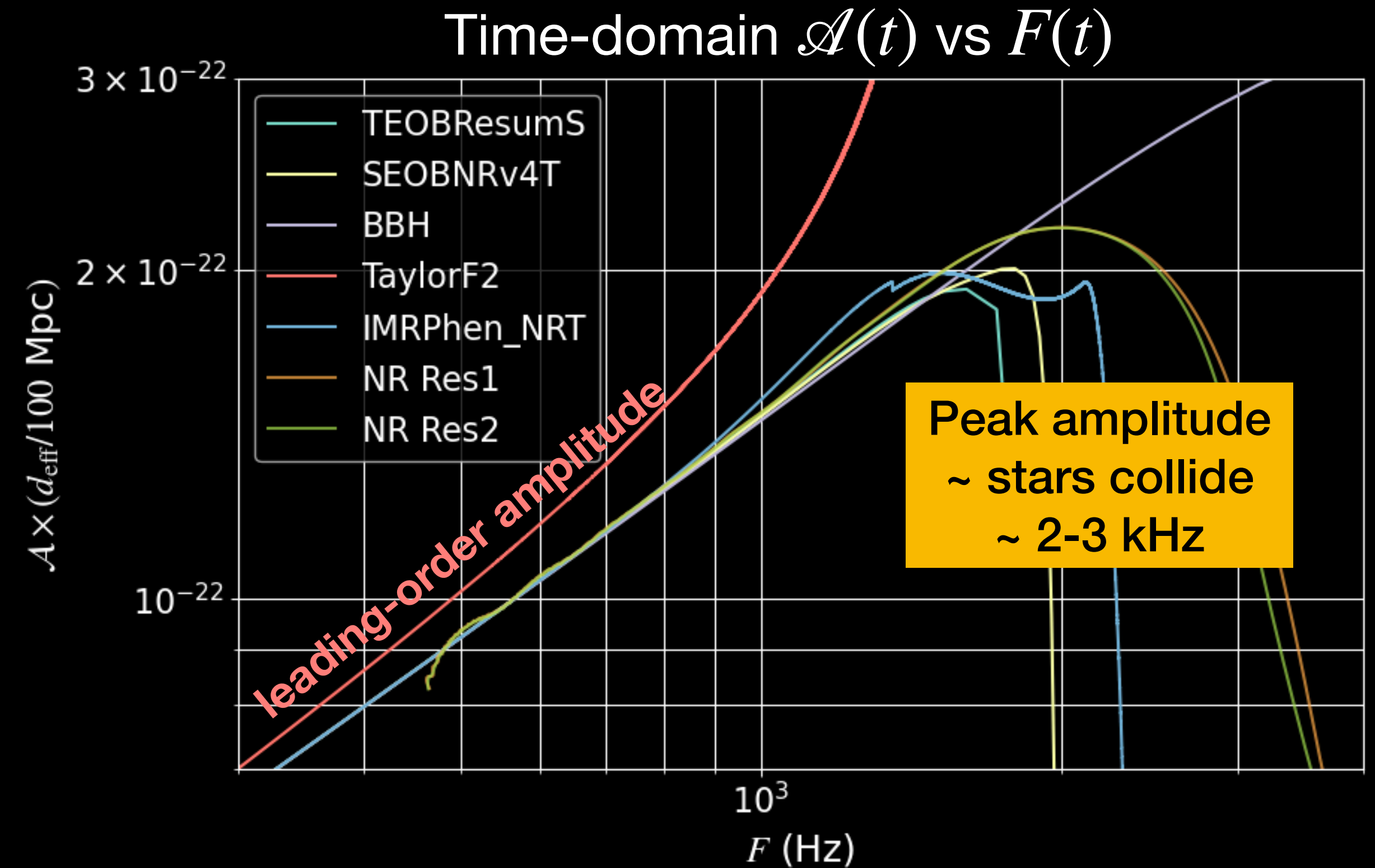
**Energy balance and  $\dot{F}$ :**

$$\dot{F}(F) = - \frac{\mathcal{L}(F)}{E'(F)} \quad \text{from system energy } E(F) \text{ as function of emission frequency}$$

# Comparison of waveform model frameworks



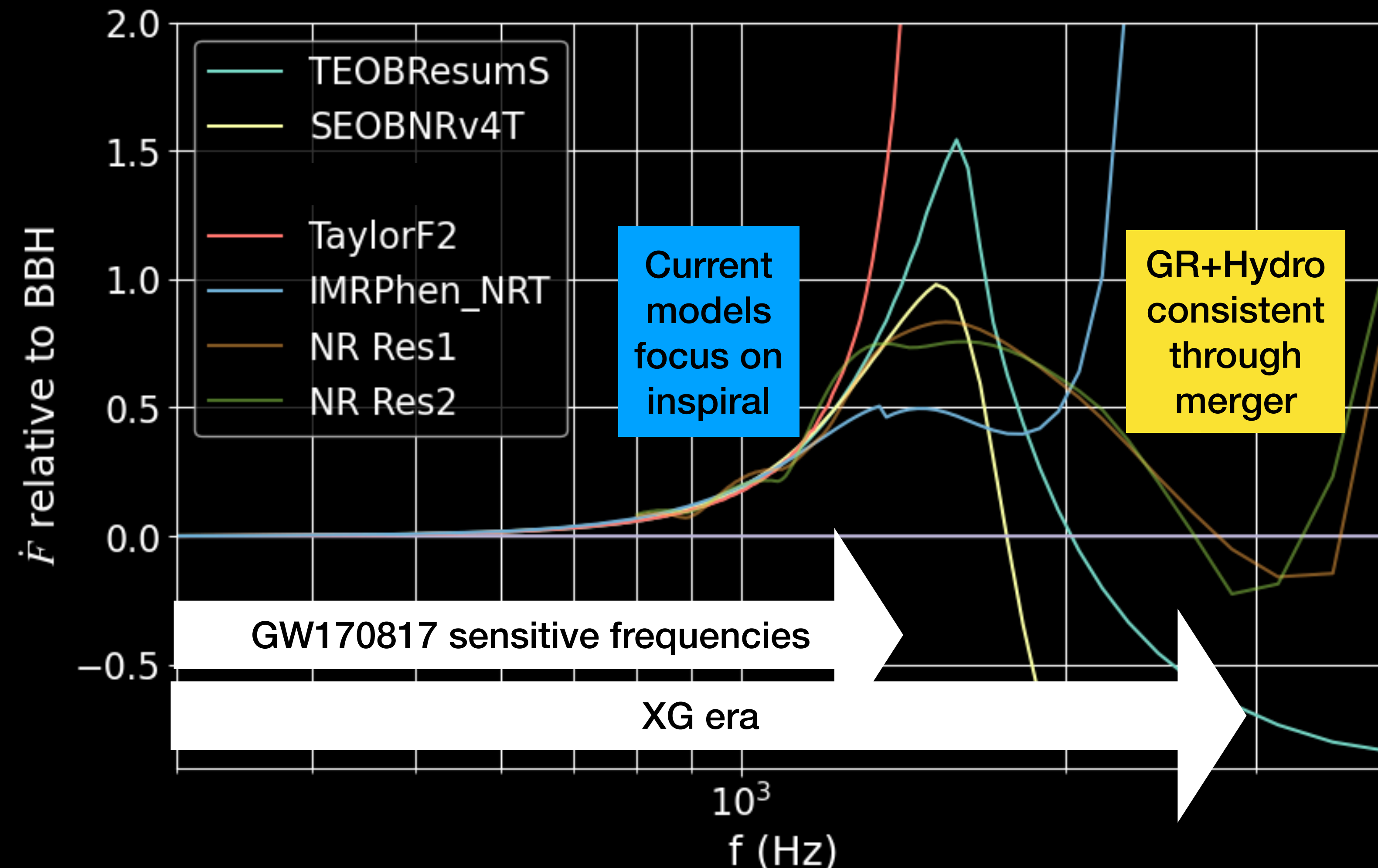
NR - high-res CoRe sim 'BAM:0095' with SLy EOS  
 Spline smoothing for  $F$  before taking derivative  
 $m_1$  &  $m_2$ : 1.349998 for all waveforms shown



From Sly:  $\Lambda_1$  &  $\Lambda_2 = 390.1104$   
 used for TEOBResumS, SEOBNRv4T,  
 TaylorF2, and IMRPhenomPv2\_NRT

# Systematic uncertainty from theoretical models

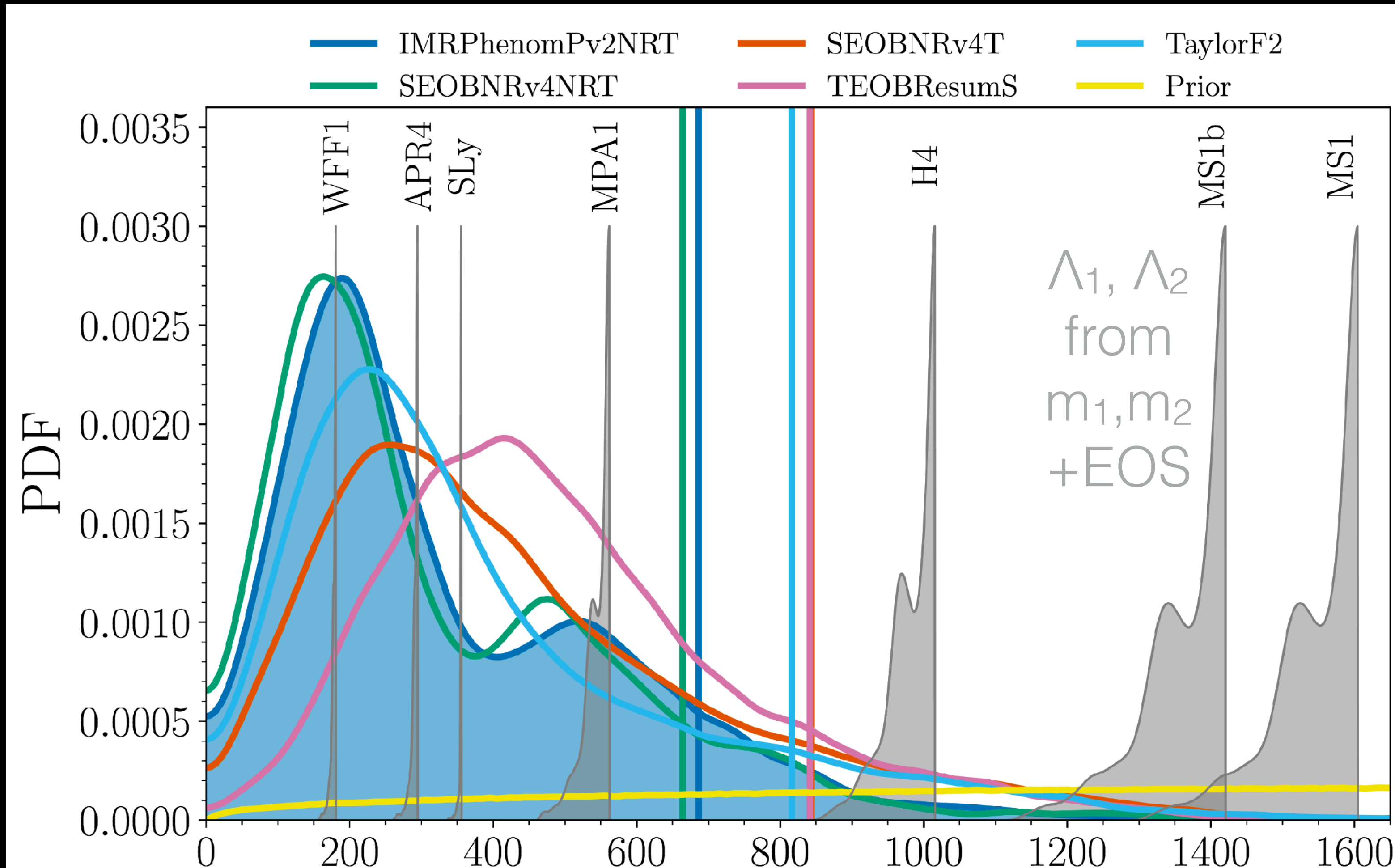
The tidal signature: modifying the  $\dot{F}$  “chirp”



- Quantify difference when same physical system is modeled in variant frameworks
- Marginalize over uncertainties in future analyses



# Model impact on recovering $\Lambda$ for GW170817:



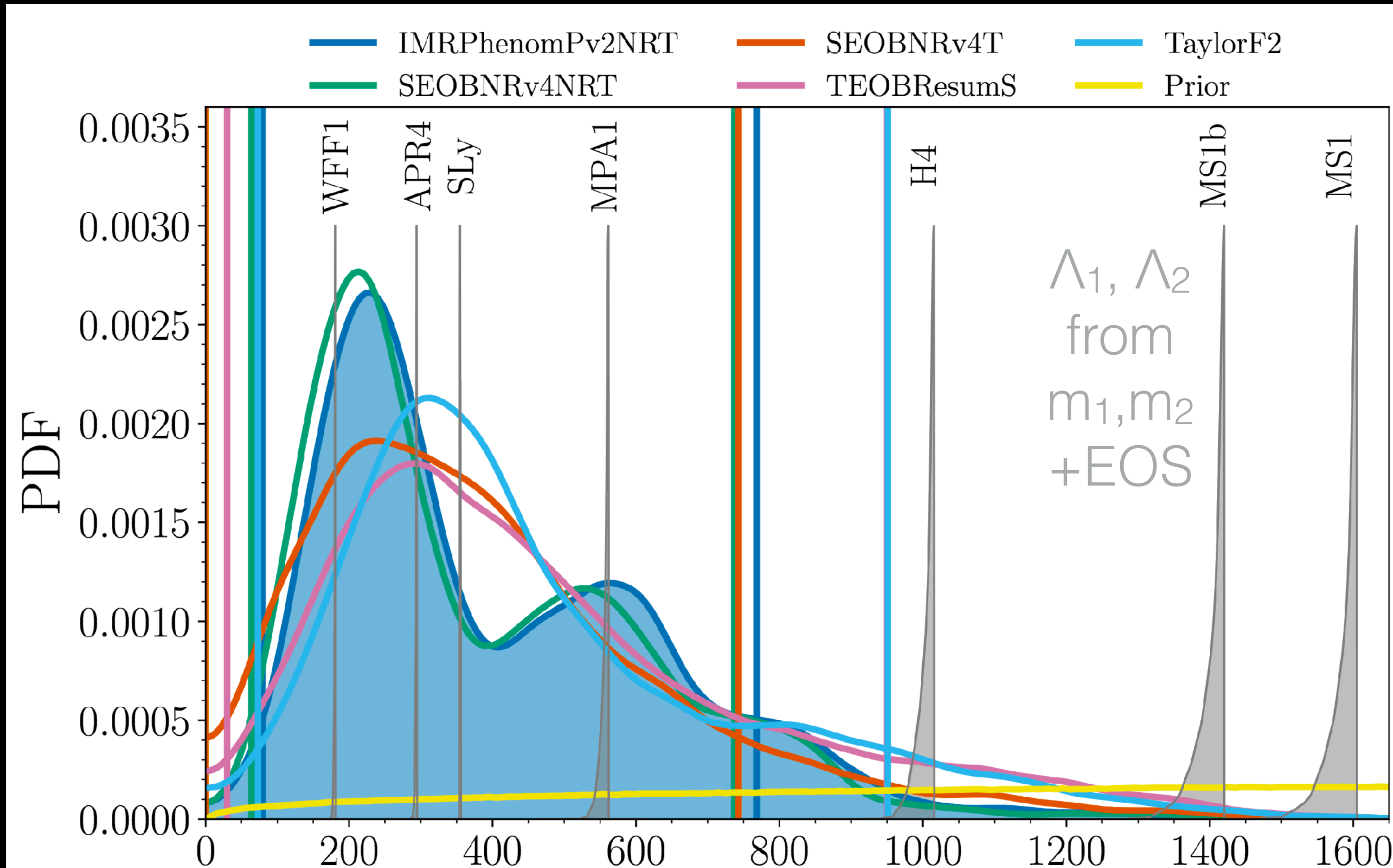
Fiducial waveform:

$$\tilde{\Lambda} < 686$$

Bars denote 90% highest probability density credible interval

$$\tilde{\Lambda} = \frac{16(m_1 + 12m_2)m_1^4\Lambda_1 + (m_2 + 12m_1)m_2^4\Lambda_2}{(m_1 + m_2)^5}$$

# Model impact on recovering $\Lambda$ for GW170817:



Assume low spin

( $\chi < 0.05$ )

Fiducial WF:

$$\tilde{\Lambda} = 330^{+438}_{-251}$$

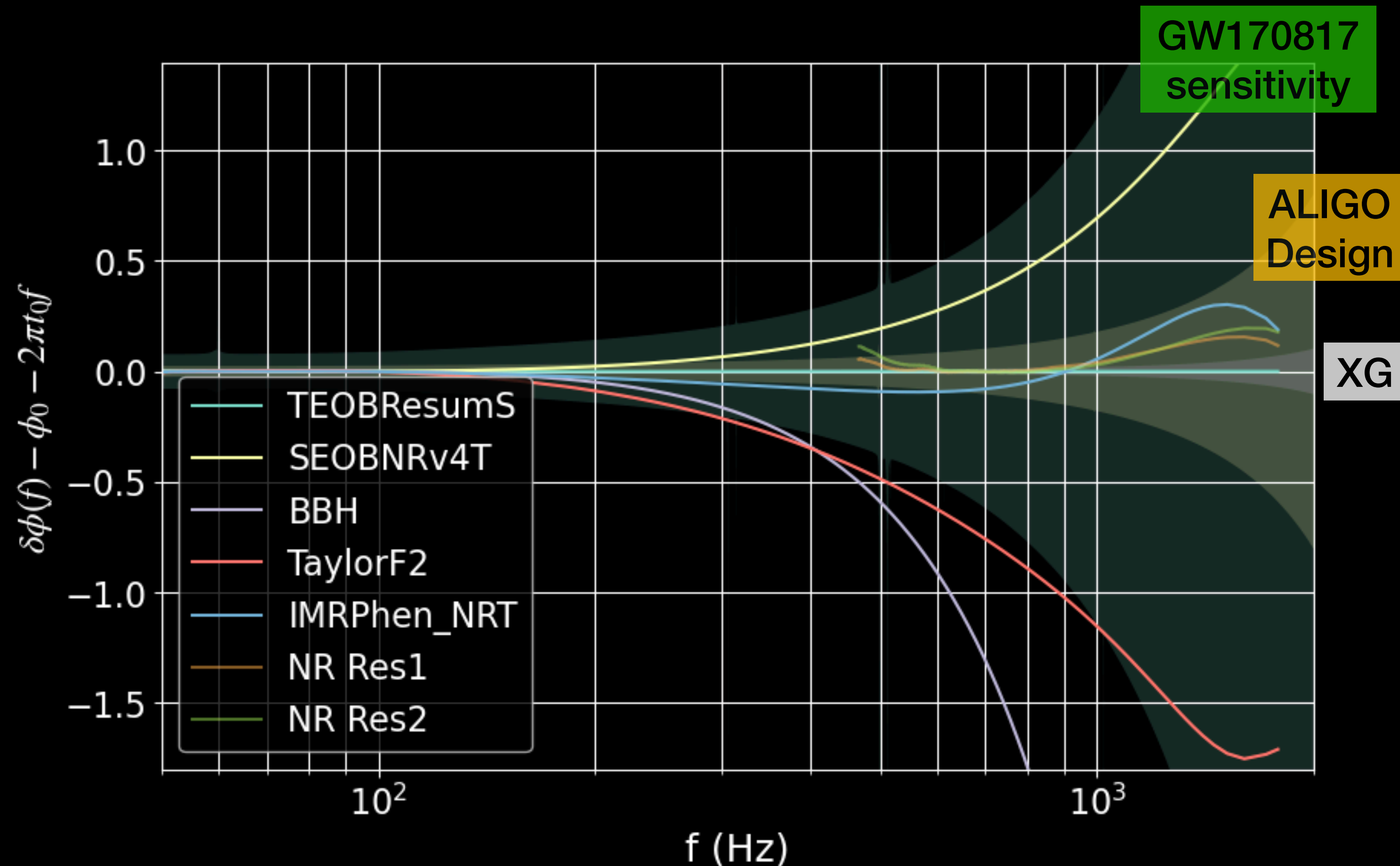
Systematic uncertainty is coming from challenges of spin modeling!

$$\tilde{\Lambda} = \frac{16(m_1 + 12m_2)m_1^4\Lambda_1 + (m_2 + 12m_1)m_2^4\Lambda_2}{(m_1 + m_2)^5}$$

# Systematic error in future observations

- Indistinguishability condition from characteristic strain:  

$$2\sqrt{f}|\delta\tilde{h}(f)| < \sqrt{S_n(f)}$$
 sets shaded regions for reference detectors, signal  $d_{\text{eff}} = 100$  Mpc
- Compare **residual phase**  $\delta\phi_{\text{res}}$  after max likelihood fit  
 $\phi_0 + 2\pi f t_0$  (weight by variance  $S_n(f)/A(f)^2$ )

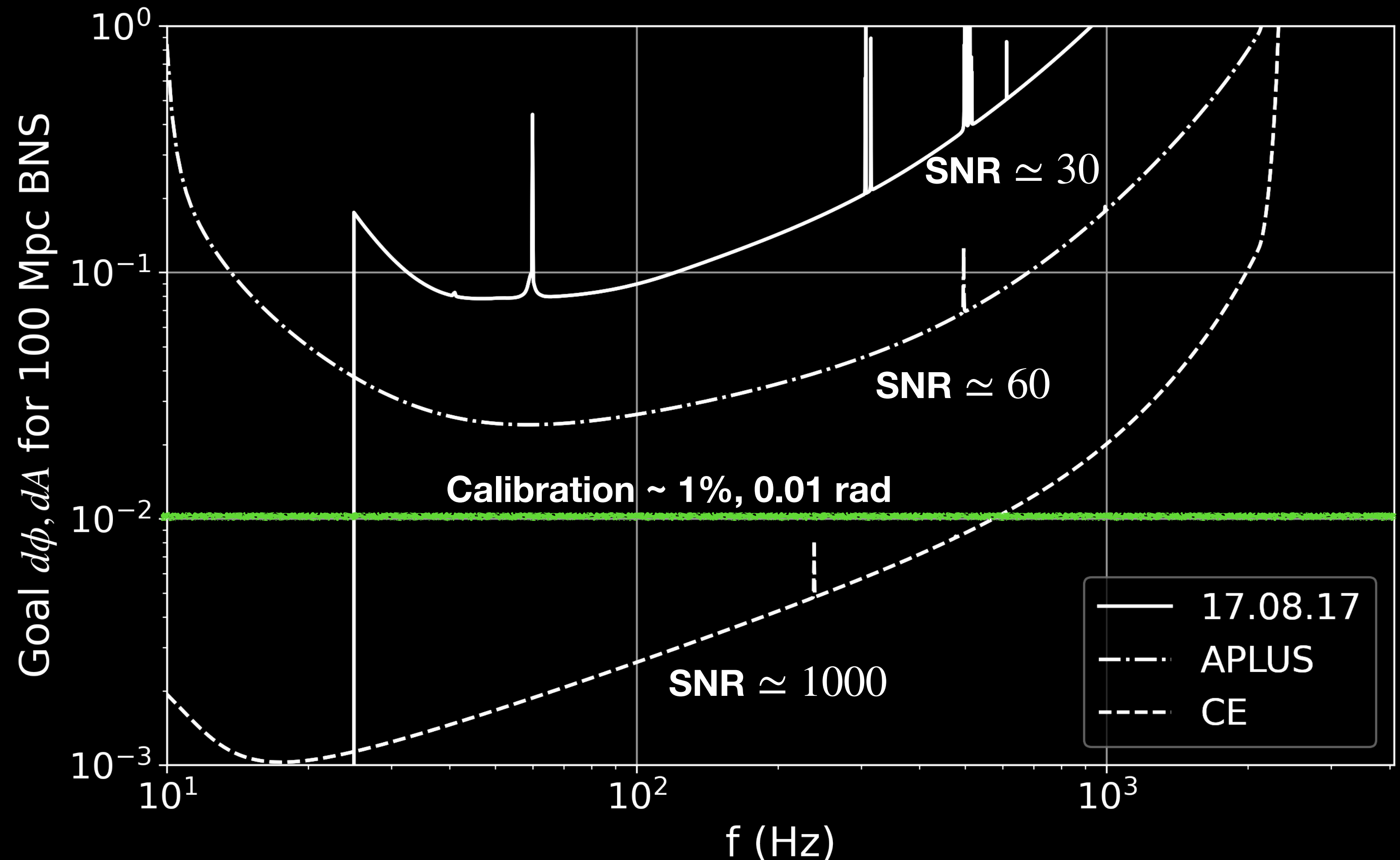


NR waveforms: relative to 700 Hz for reference  
 (not long enough to fit  $\phi_0, t_0$ )

# Future requirements / future capabilities

- ‘Model’ of detector (calibration) or source (waveform)
- May impact source analysis if  $\delta h = h_{\text{true}} - h_{\text{model}}$  generates **characteristic strain larger than detector noise**
- Goal  $\delta A$  (fractional) and  $\delta\phi$  (radians) shown

$$h_{\text{model}}(f) = h_{\text{true}}(f) (1 + \delta A(f)) \exp(i\delta\phi(f))$$



# Measuring beyond the model

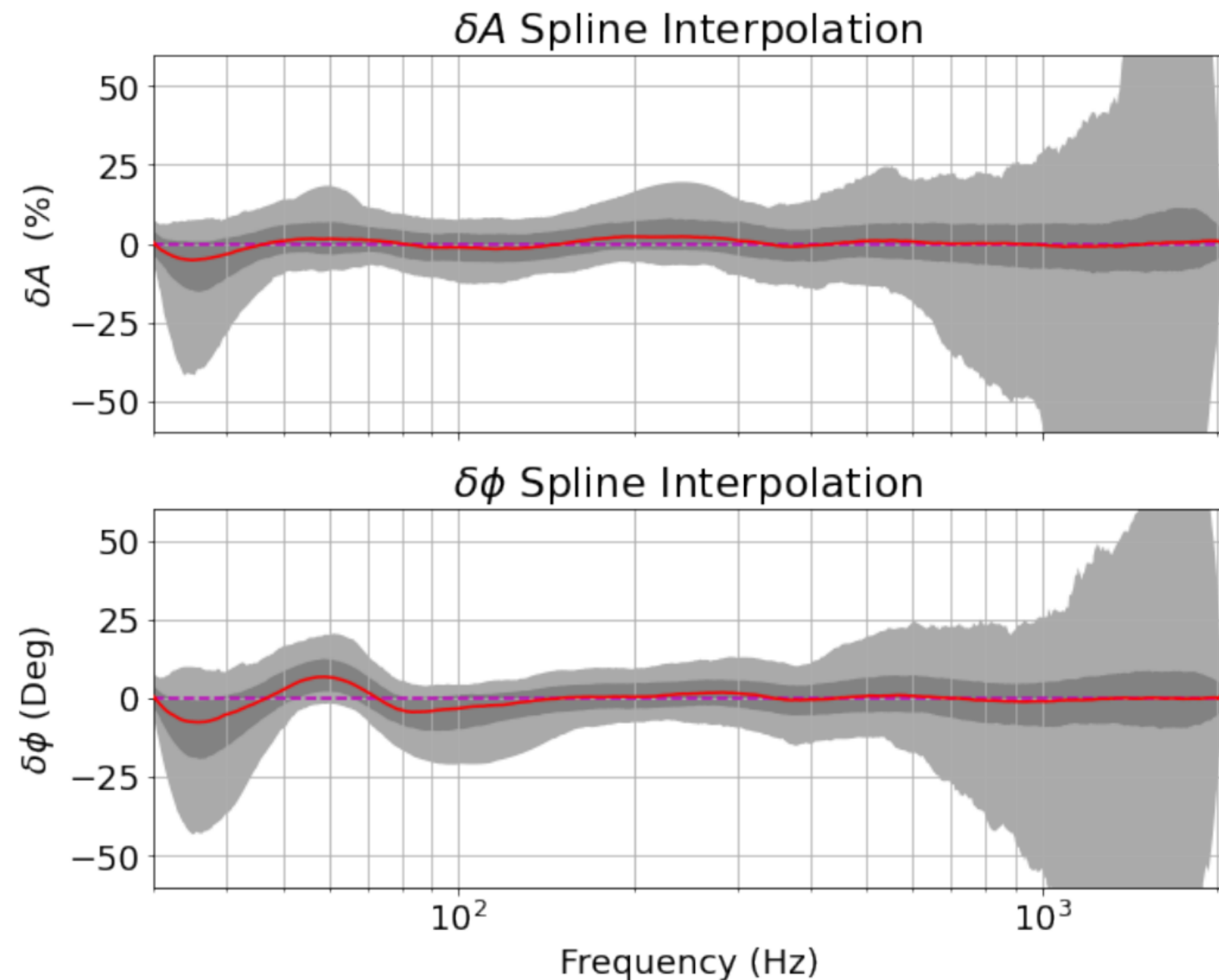


FIG. 12. Spline interpolation of GW170817 with 1 and 2  $\sigma$  credible intervals (grey) and the median spline interpolant (red) shown.

- Edelman et al Phys. Rev. D 103, 042004 (2021): Constraint on coherent departures from waveform model
- Generic signal modification described with splines for  $\delta A$ ,  $\delta\phi$ , constraint for GWTC-1

# Interpreting unmodeled effects

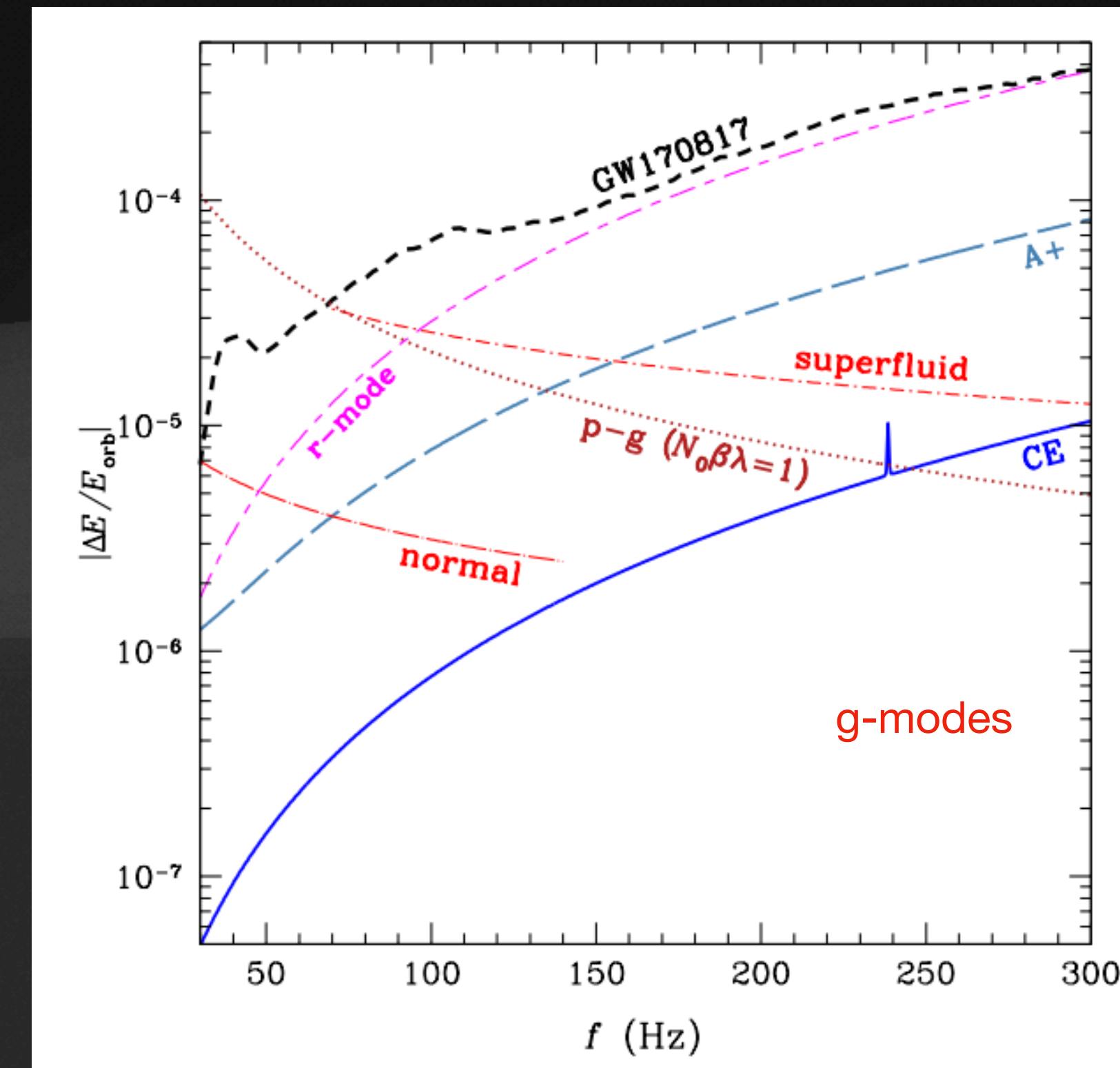
arXiv:2307.10721

**Sources of modification:** Modification of system energy function  $E(F)$ , luminosity  $\mathcal{L}(F)$

- Additional luminosity  $\mathcal{L}(F)$ : non-GW energy loss  $\mathcal{L}_{MM}$  or  $\mathcal{L}_{NR}$
- Internal energy transfers  $\delta E_A, \delta E_D$  that modify how  $E$  changes with  $F$ :

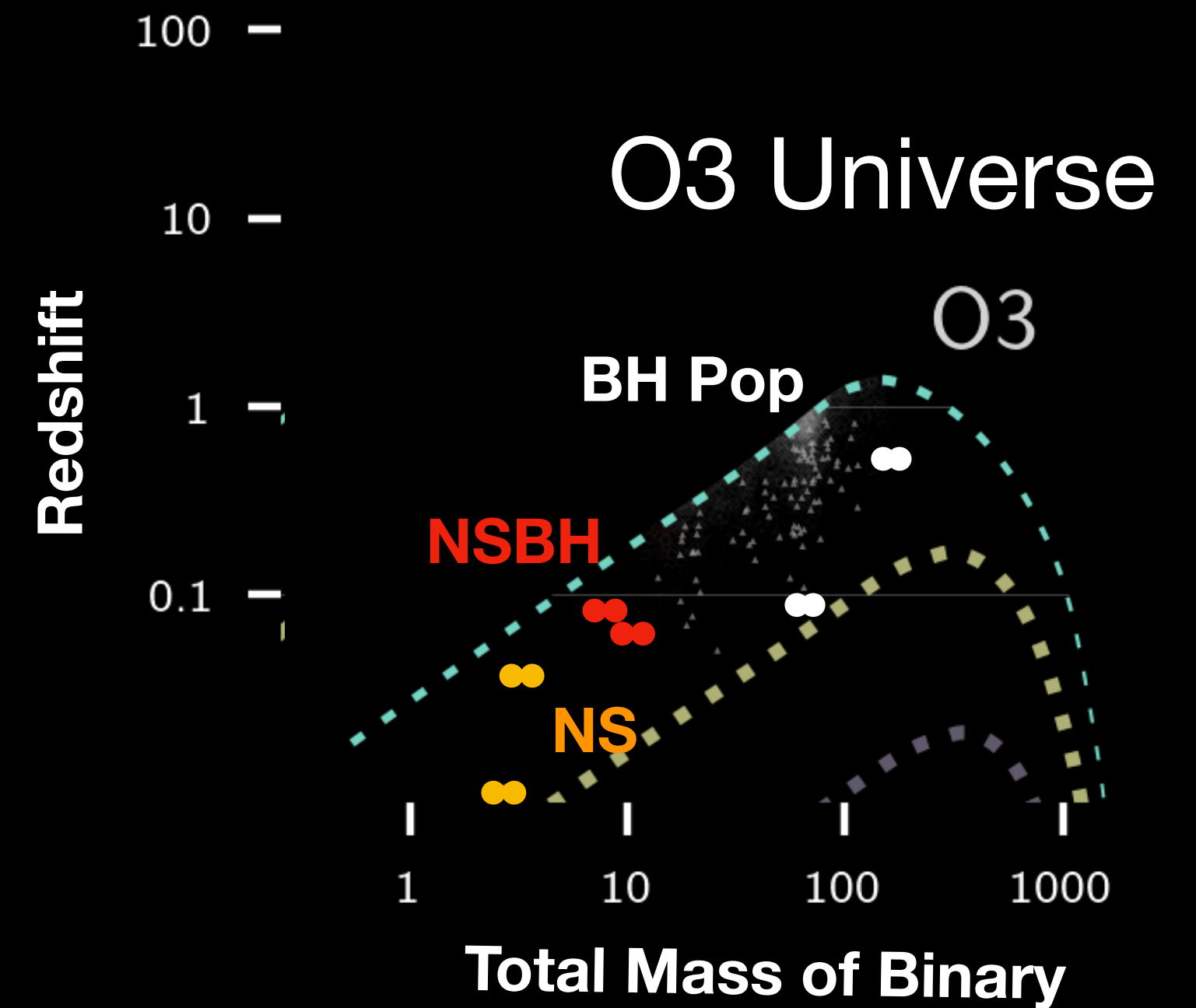
$$\delta E' = \delta E_A + \frac{t_A}{t_D} \delta E_D \quad (A \text{ adiabatic, } D \text{ dynamic, } t \text{ timescales})$$

- Generically limit unmodeled (*not in PE waveform*) energy transfers in observed systems through constraints on  $\delta A, \delta \phi$ .
- Given a model of astrophysical energy transfer (**like resonant modes that depend on composition**), can augment *any* underlying waveform model
- Example application: Ho and Andersson, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.10721>



# GW astronomy in the future

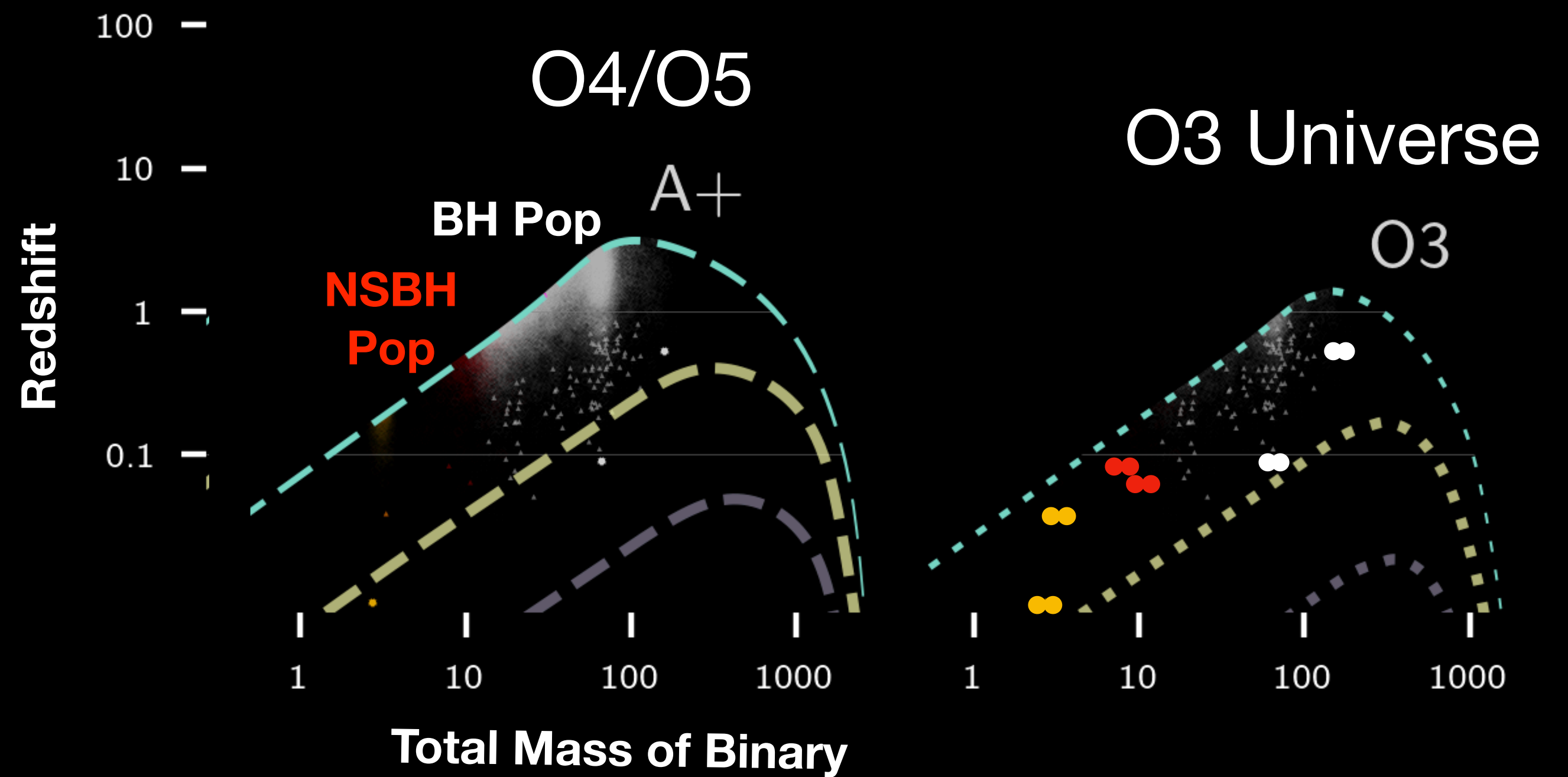
# Unveiling the GW Universe



- — range to SNR 8
- — range to SNR 100
- — range to SNR 1000

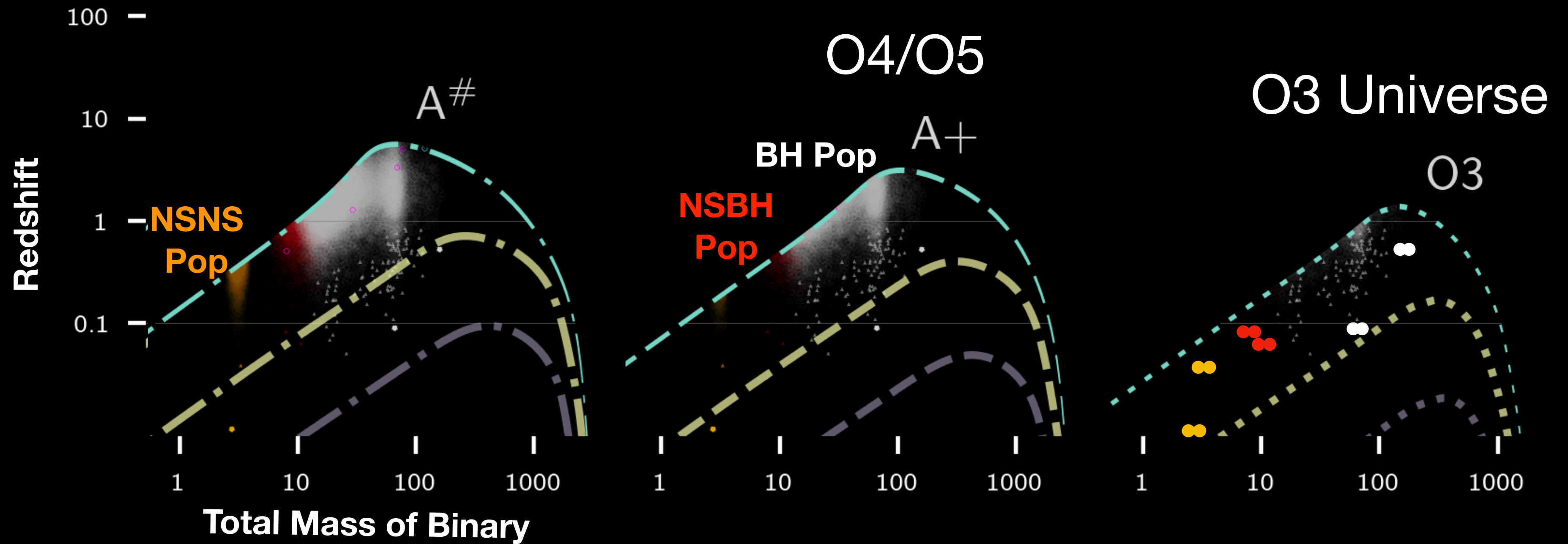


# Unveiling the GW Universe



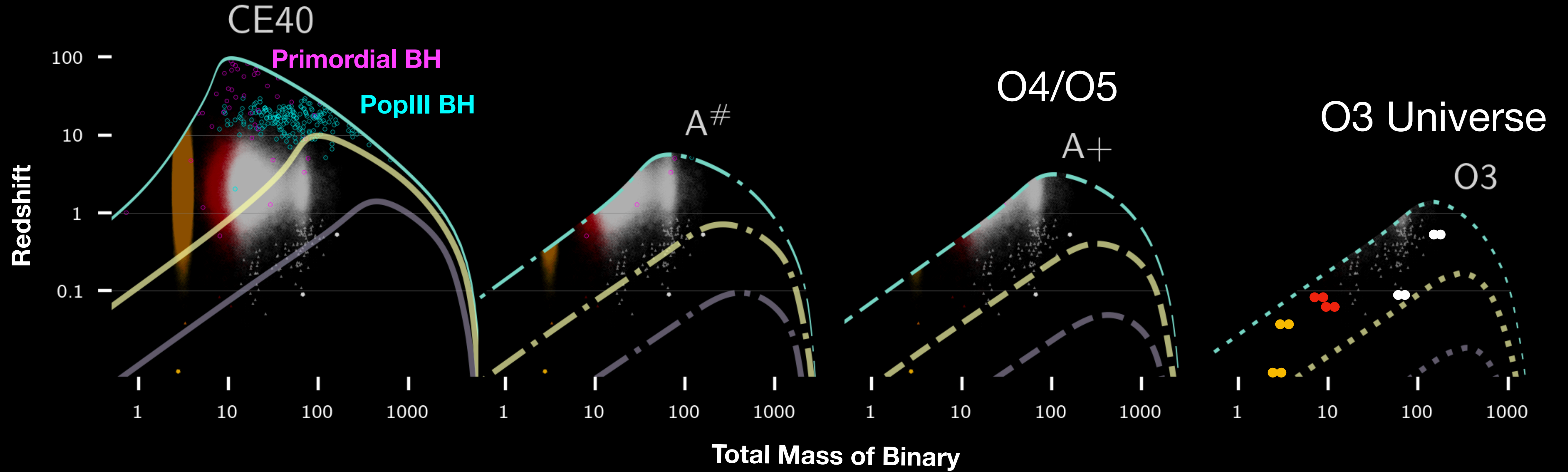
- — range to SNR 8
- — range to SNR 100
- — range to SNR 1000

# Unveiling the GW Universe



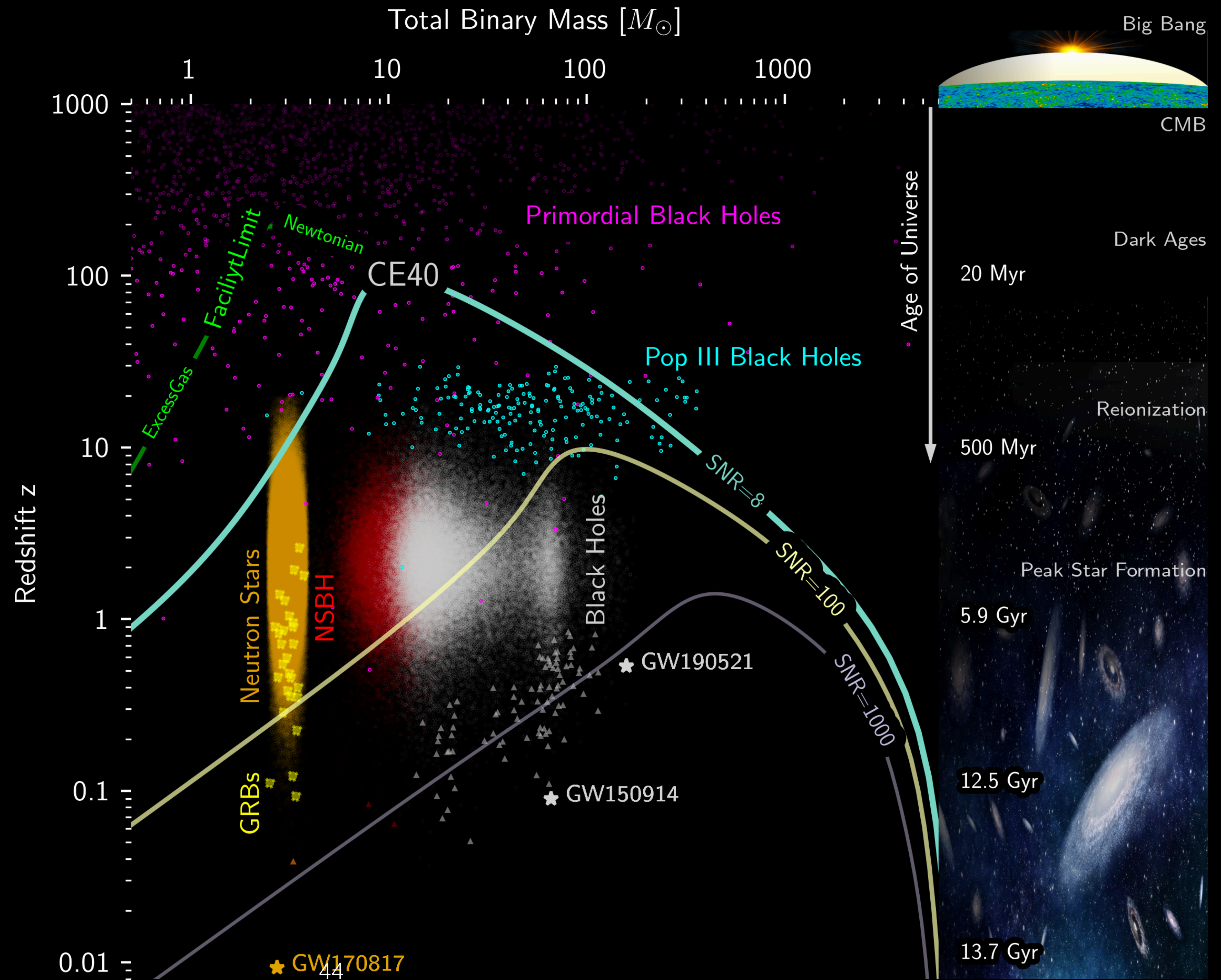
— — range to SNR 8  
 — — range to SNR 100  
 — — range to SNR 1000

# Unveiling the GW Universe

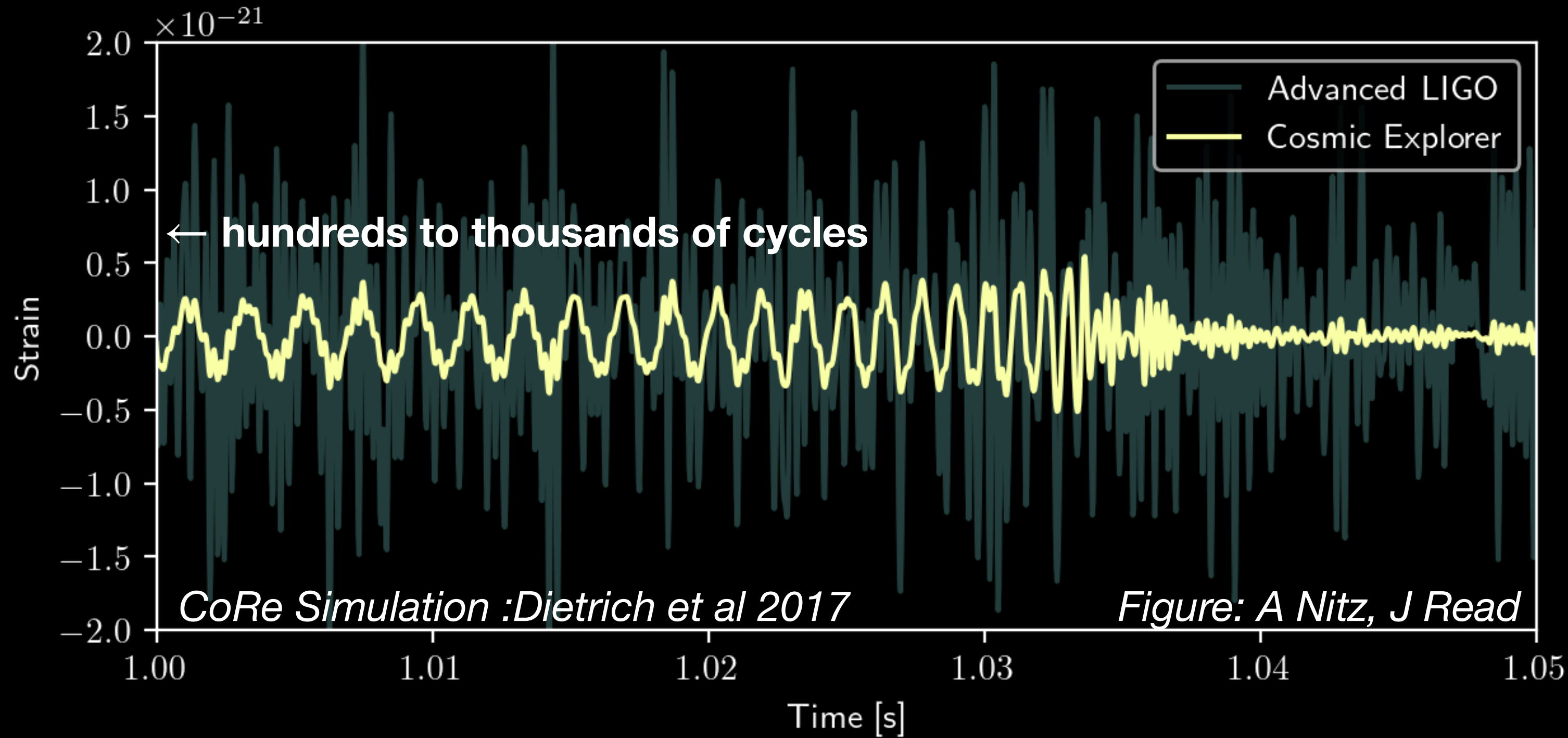


— — range to SNR 8  
 — — range to SNR 100  
 — — range to SNR 1000

# XG Universe



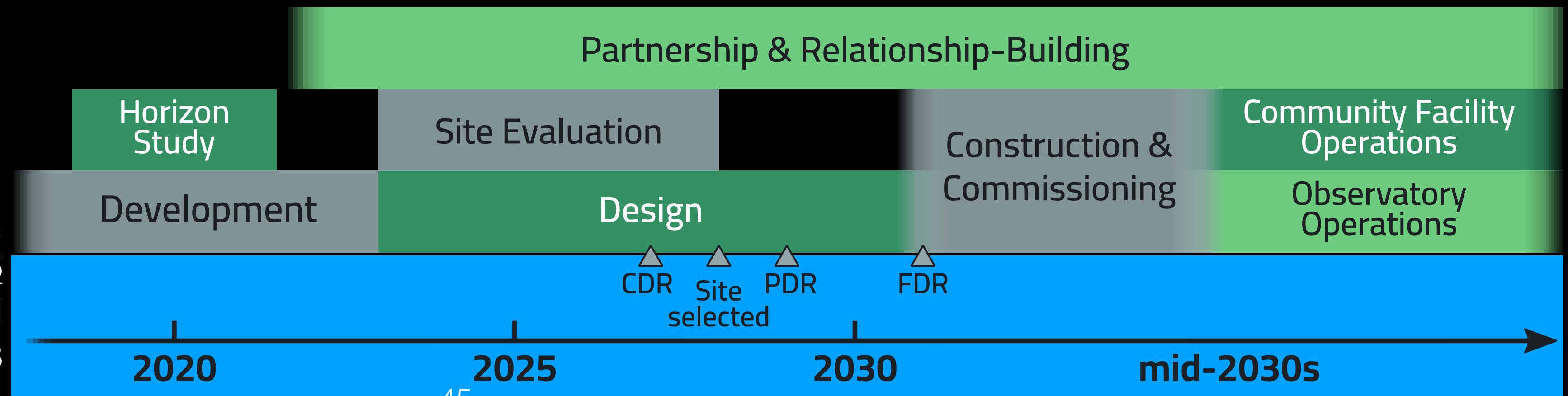
# 170817-like inspiral



“Today’s rare events are tomorrow’s precision physics”

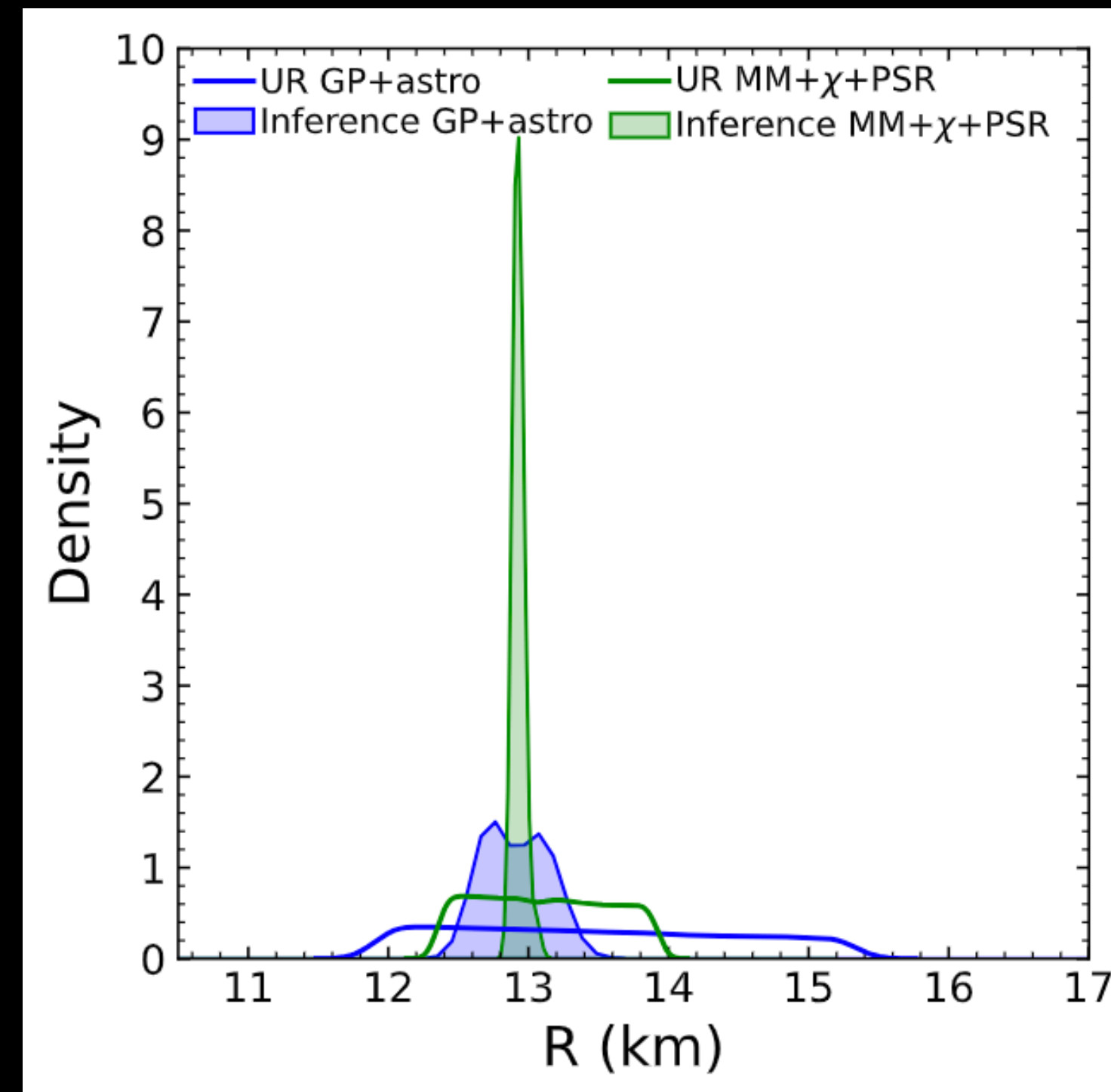
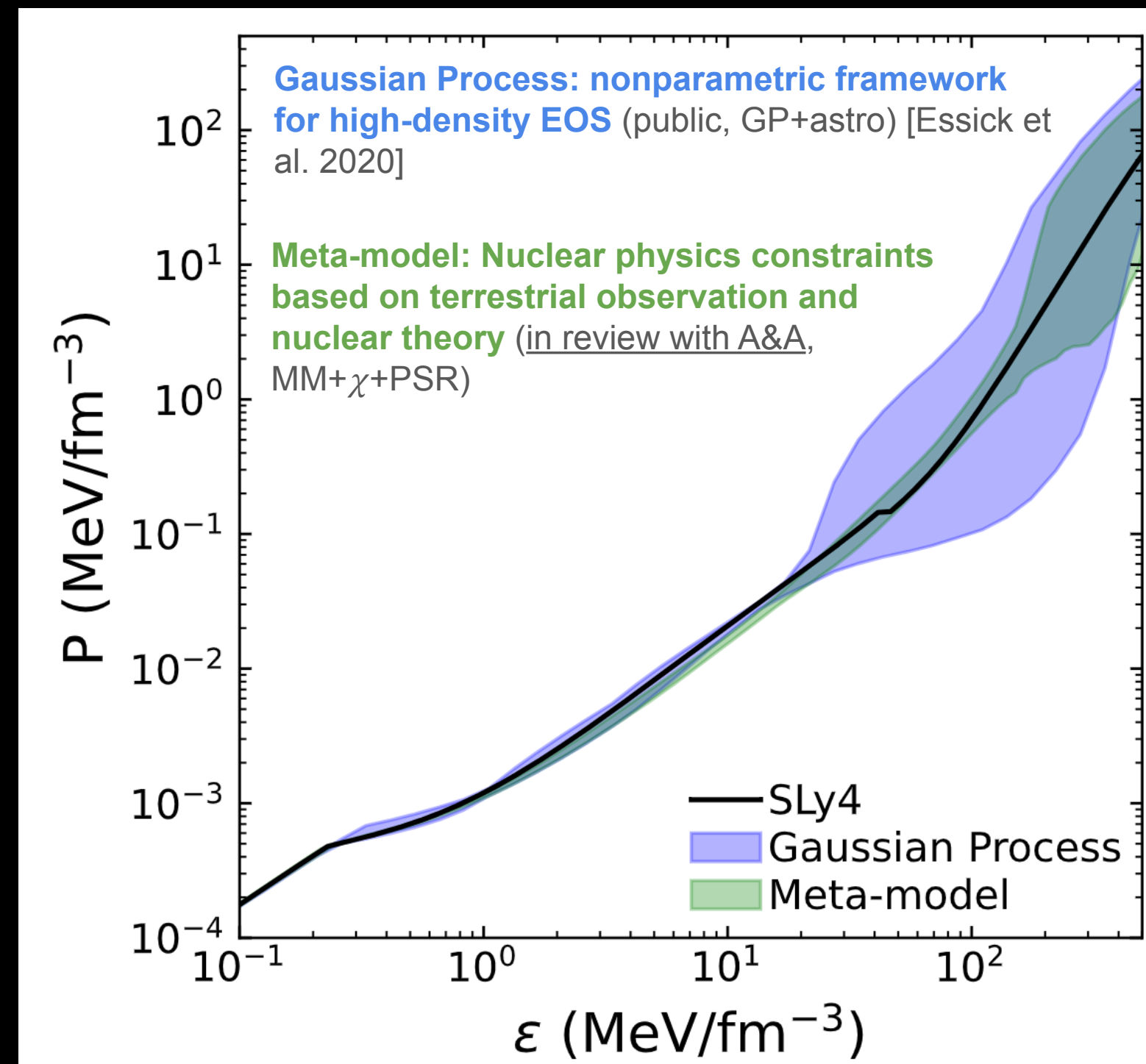
## US Timeline

White Paper for NSF MSCAC ngGW ,  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.13745>  
 Site evaluation and design funded  
 by NSF starting 2023



# Using nuclear theory for next-generation GW interpretation

## Connecting disparate observables: GW and the NS Radius



- Model observations with StrobeX, Cosmic Explorer
- Eg. observe  $\Lambda$ , compute  $R$
- hierarchically-inferred EOS + signal parameters (public library lwp).
- Challenge for quasi-universal relations



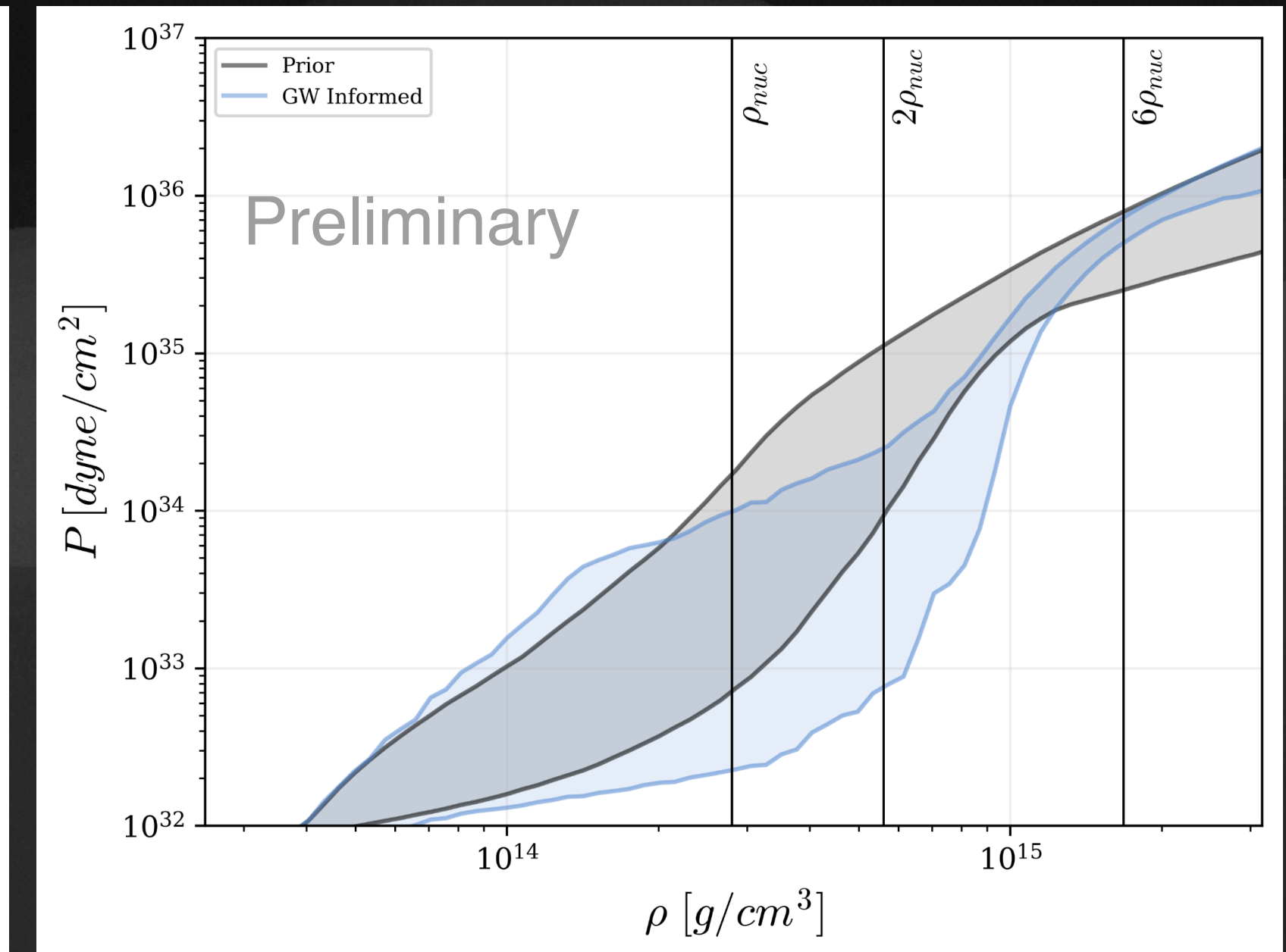
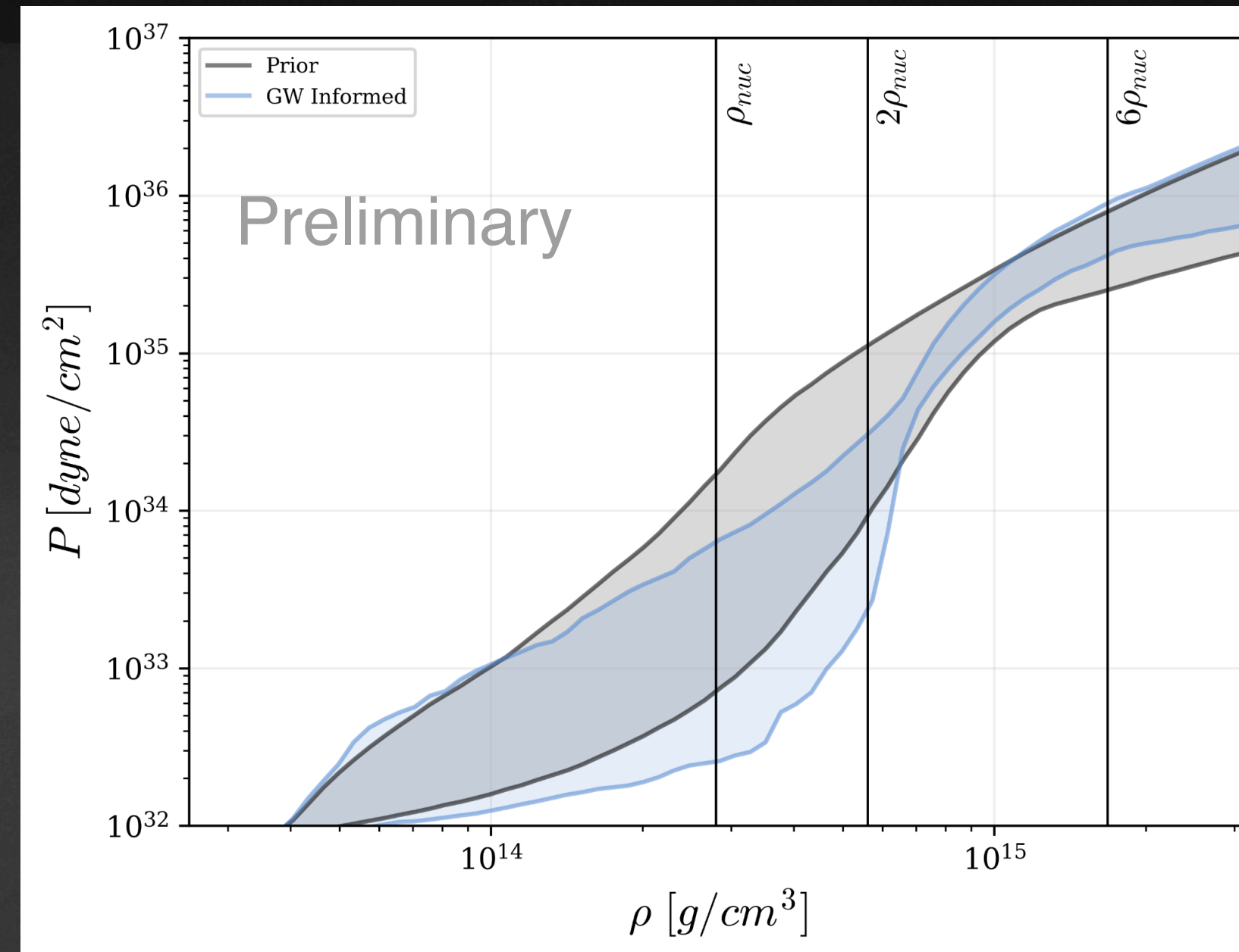
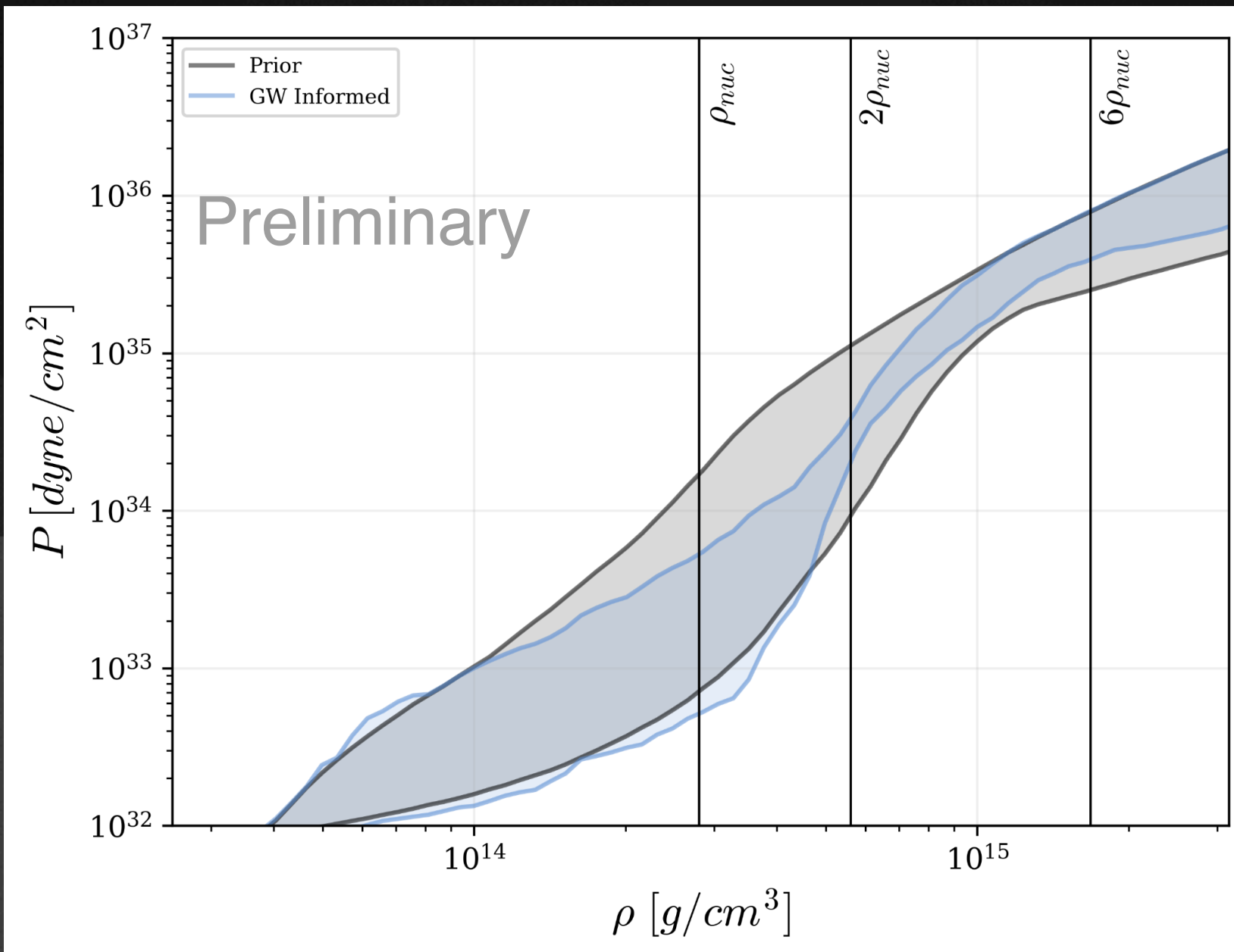
# Next-generation facilities

## Cosmic Explorer and Einstein Telescope

$$\mathcal{M}_c = 0.96M_\odot$$

$$\mathcal{M}_c = 1.28M_\odot$$

$$\mathcal{M}_c = 1.64M_\odot$$

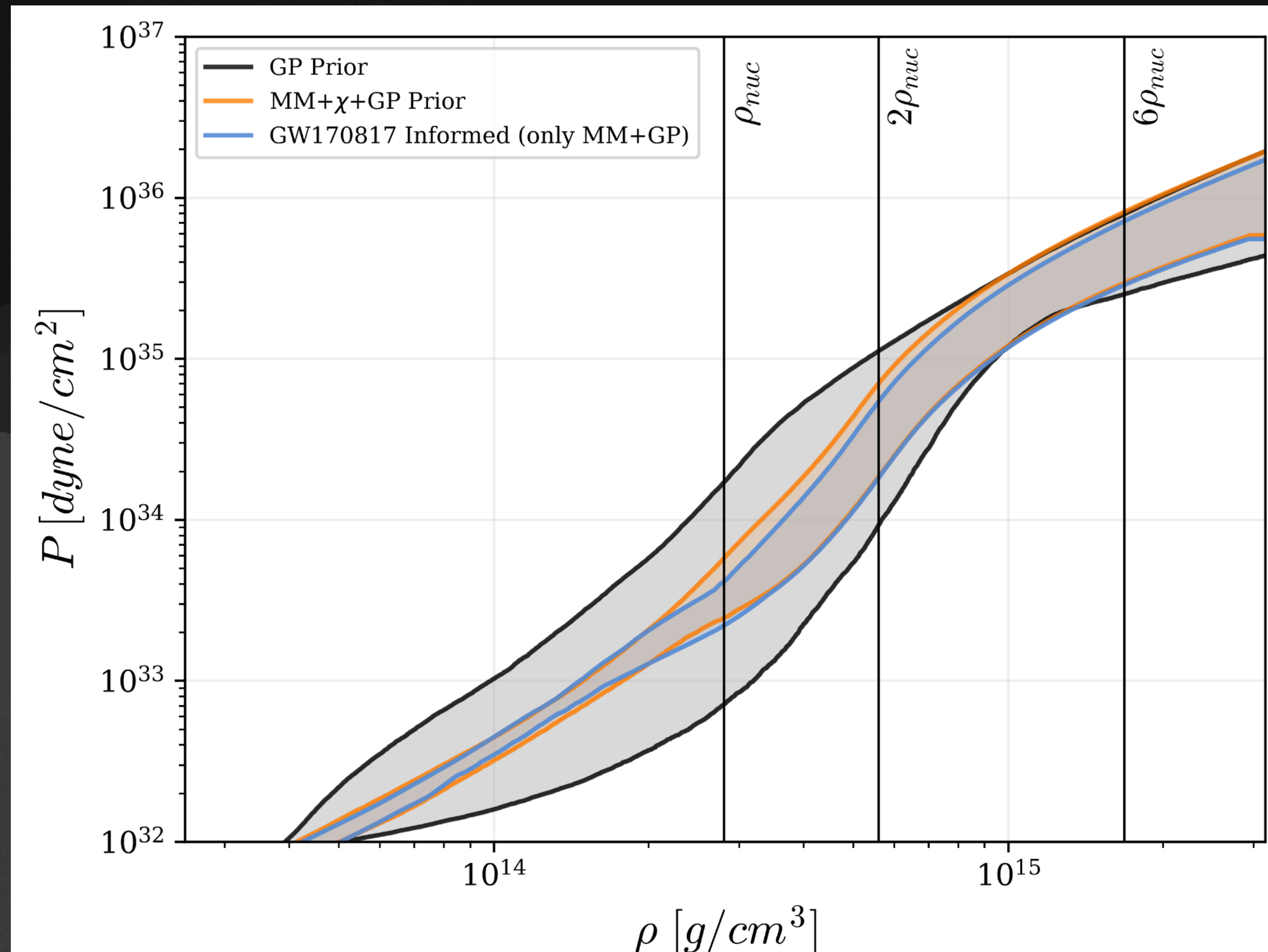


Density constrained varies with mass of binary

[Join inference is not possible due to lack of resolution of the EOS space: no candidates explain all three signals.]

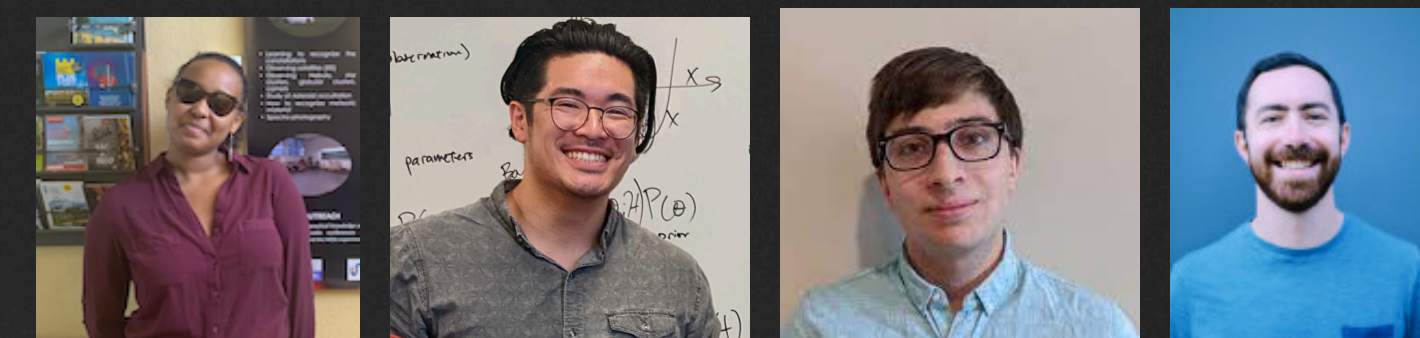
# Building effective models to explore the EOS

## Connecting with low-density nuclear physics



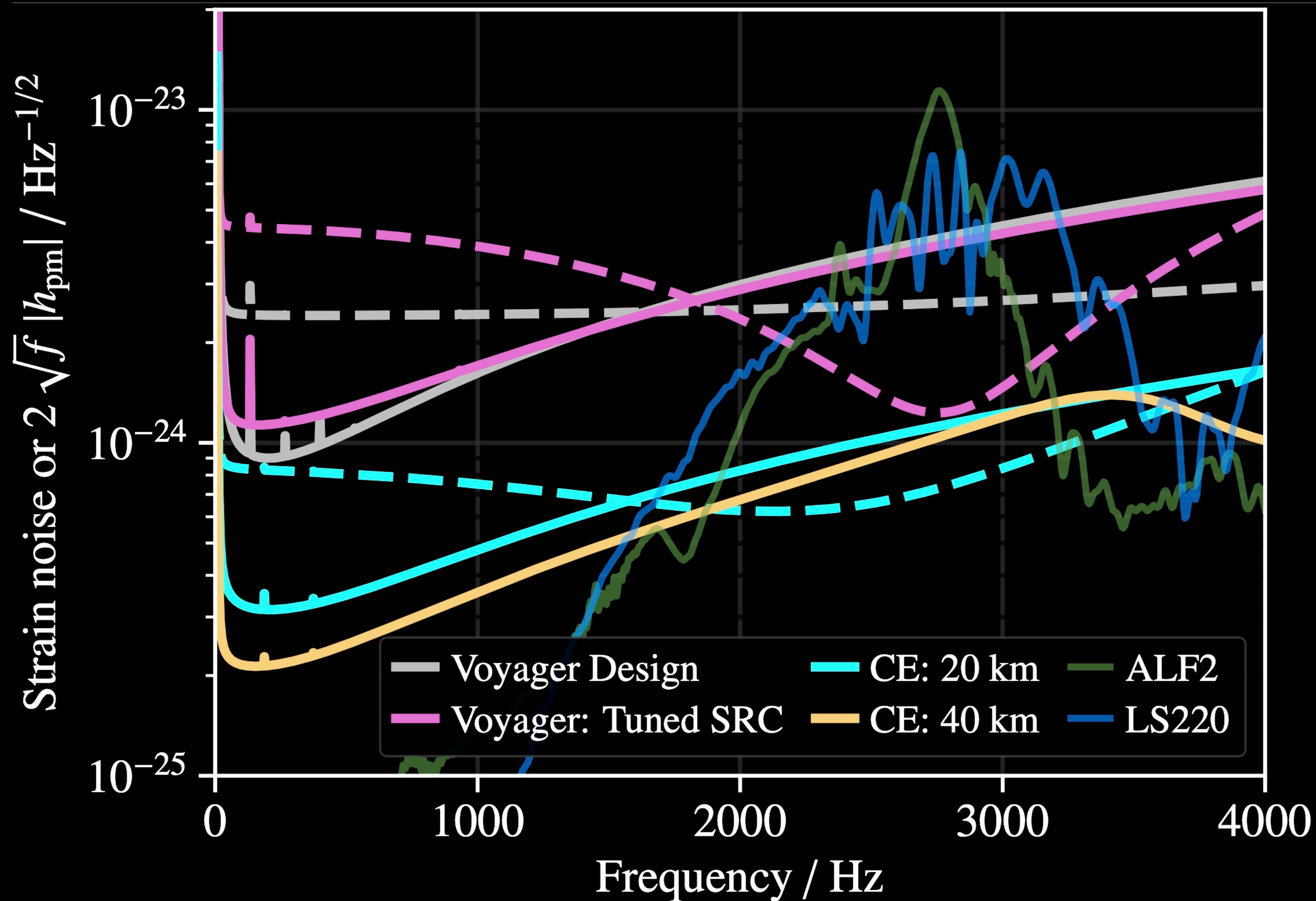
- Meta-model: Nuclear physics constraints based on terrestrial observation and nuclear theory (MM+ $\chi$ +PSR)
- Gaussian Process: nonparametric framework for high-density EOS (public, GP+astro) [Essick et al. 2020]
- Hierarchically-inferred EOS + signal parameters (public library lwp).

Suleiman, Ng, Legred, Landry, Read



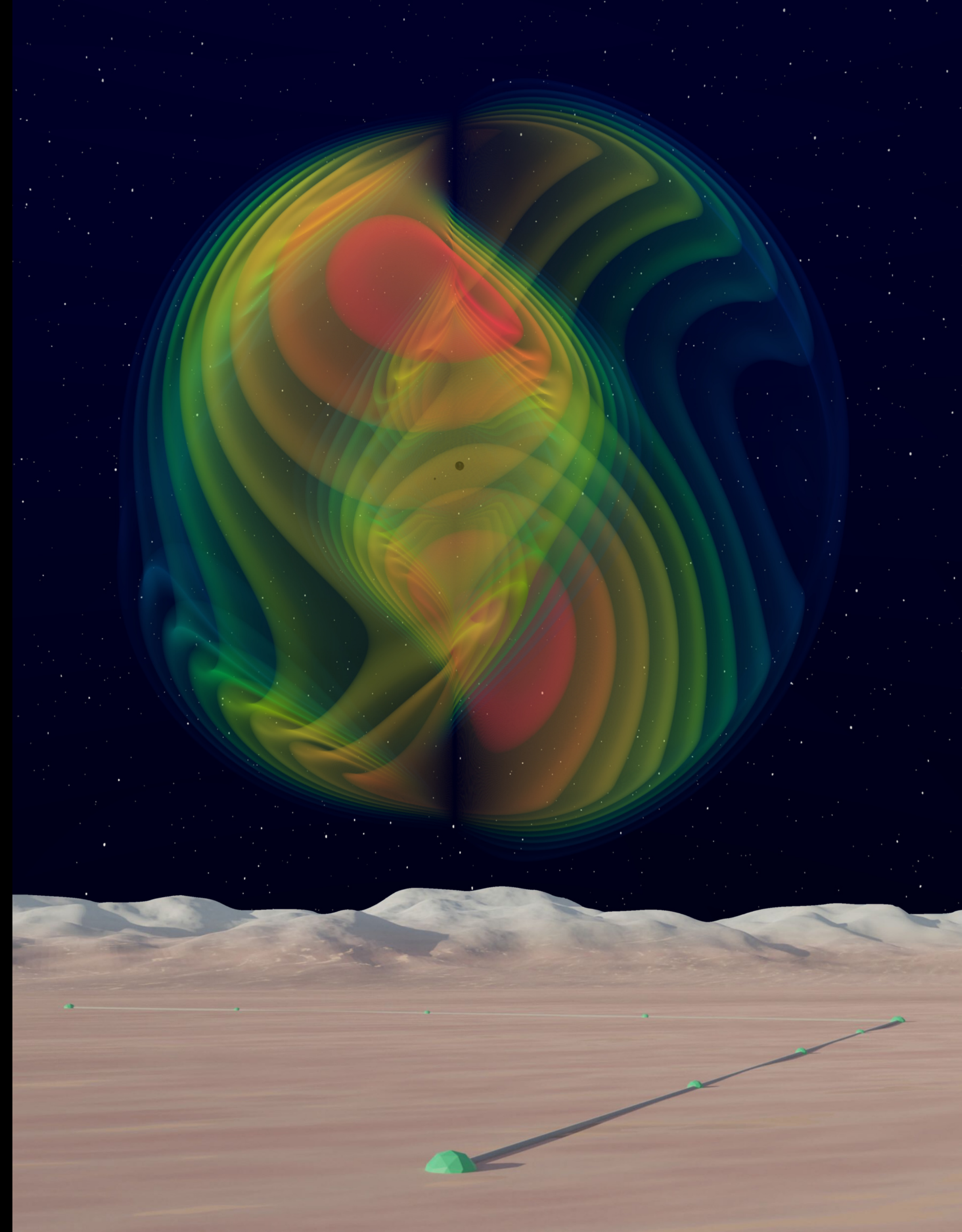


# Post-merger GW?



- burst follow-up to measure post-merger signals
- Clark et al 1509.08522: aLIGO measurement only for nearby ( $\lesssim 30$  Mpc) sources
- Future observatories aim for  $\sim 1$ -100 post-merger GW detected / year

Join the Cosmic  
Explorer Consortium!  
Mailing list, joint  
meetings coming with  
Einstein Telescope  
working groups  
[https://  
cosmicexplorer.org/  
consortium.html](https://cosmicexplorer.org/consortium.html)



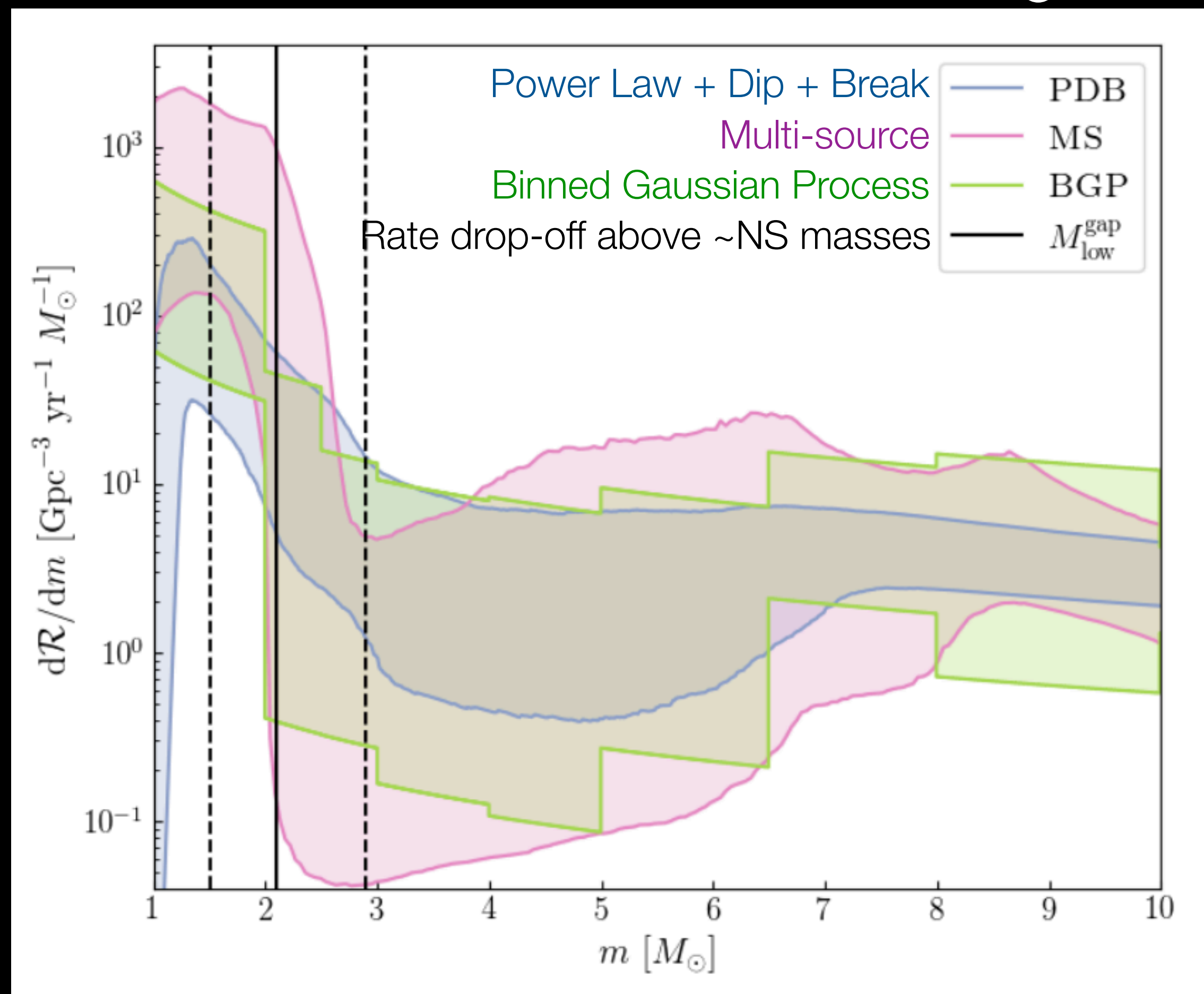
# Extra Slides

# The population of merging compact binaries inferred using gravitational waves through GWTC-3

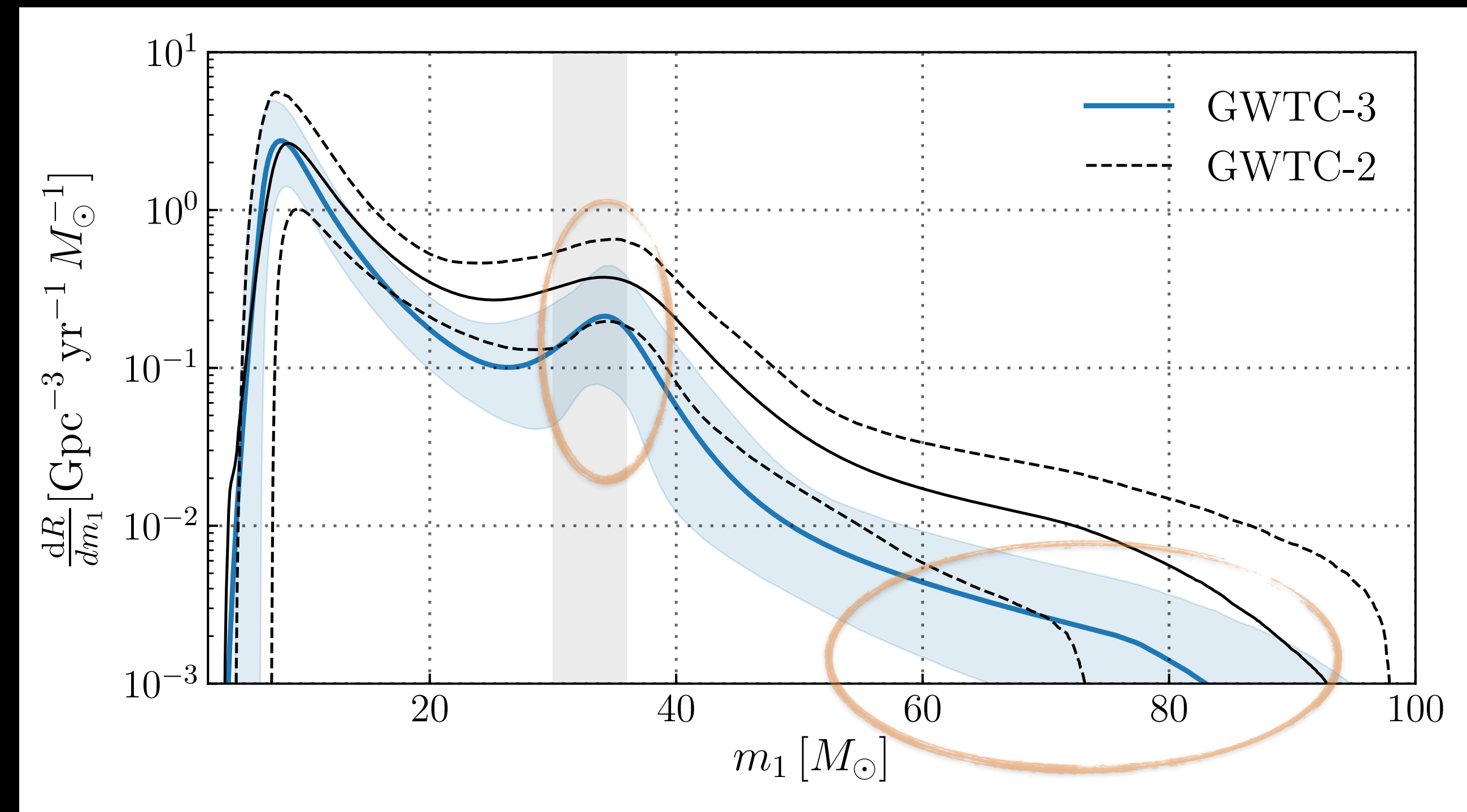
LIGO-Virgo-Kagra, Phys. Rev. X **13**, 011048

arXiv:2111.03634 (<https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-P2100239/>)

Lower mass gap above  $\simeq 2.1M_{\odot}$

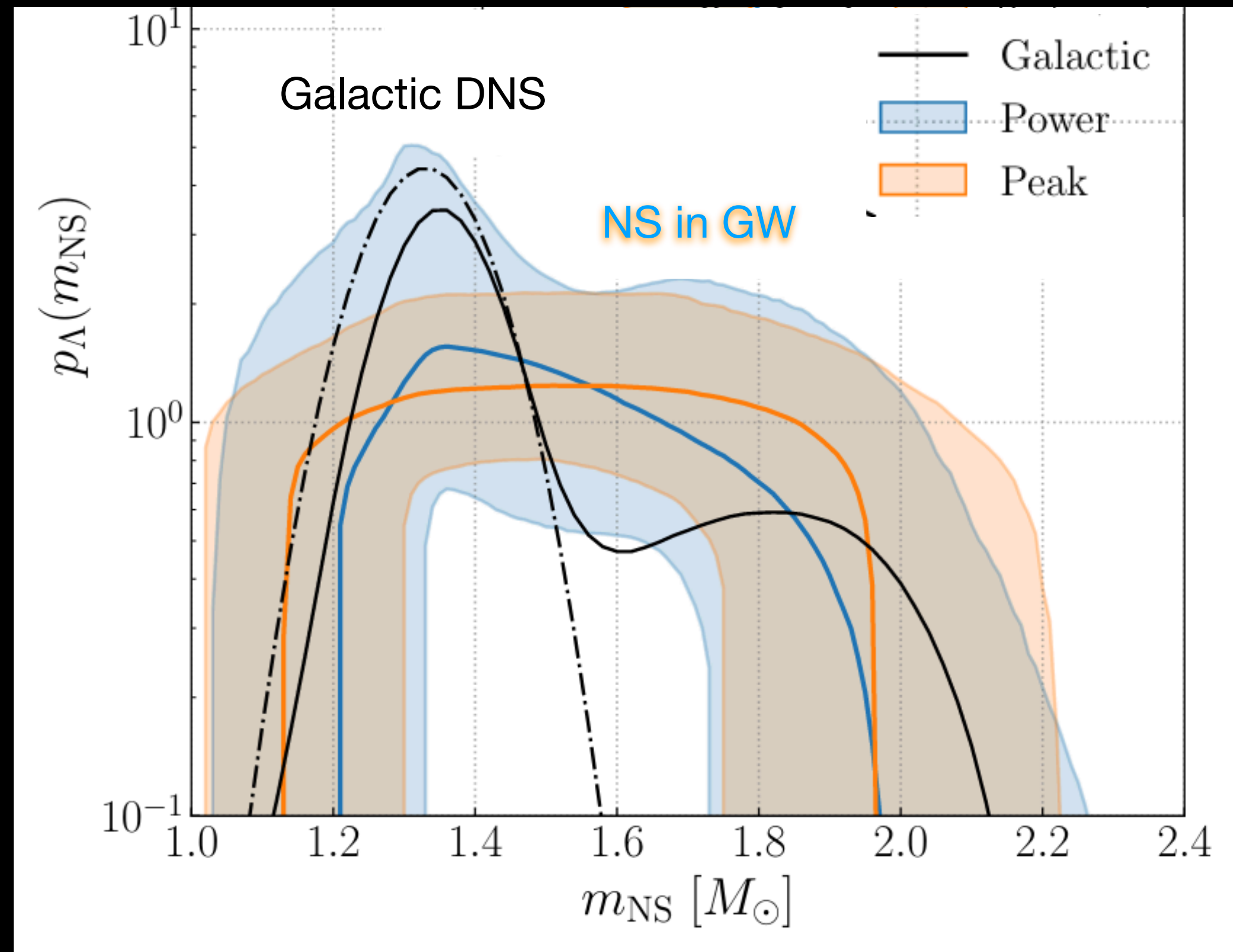


## Structure in the BH mass spectrum



Upper mass gap above  $> 60M_{\odot}$

# Neutron stars beyond the “typical” $1.4 M_{\odot}$ in galactic binaries

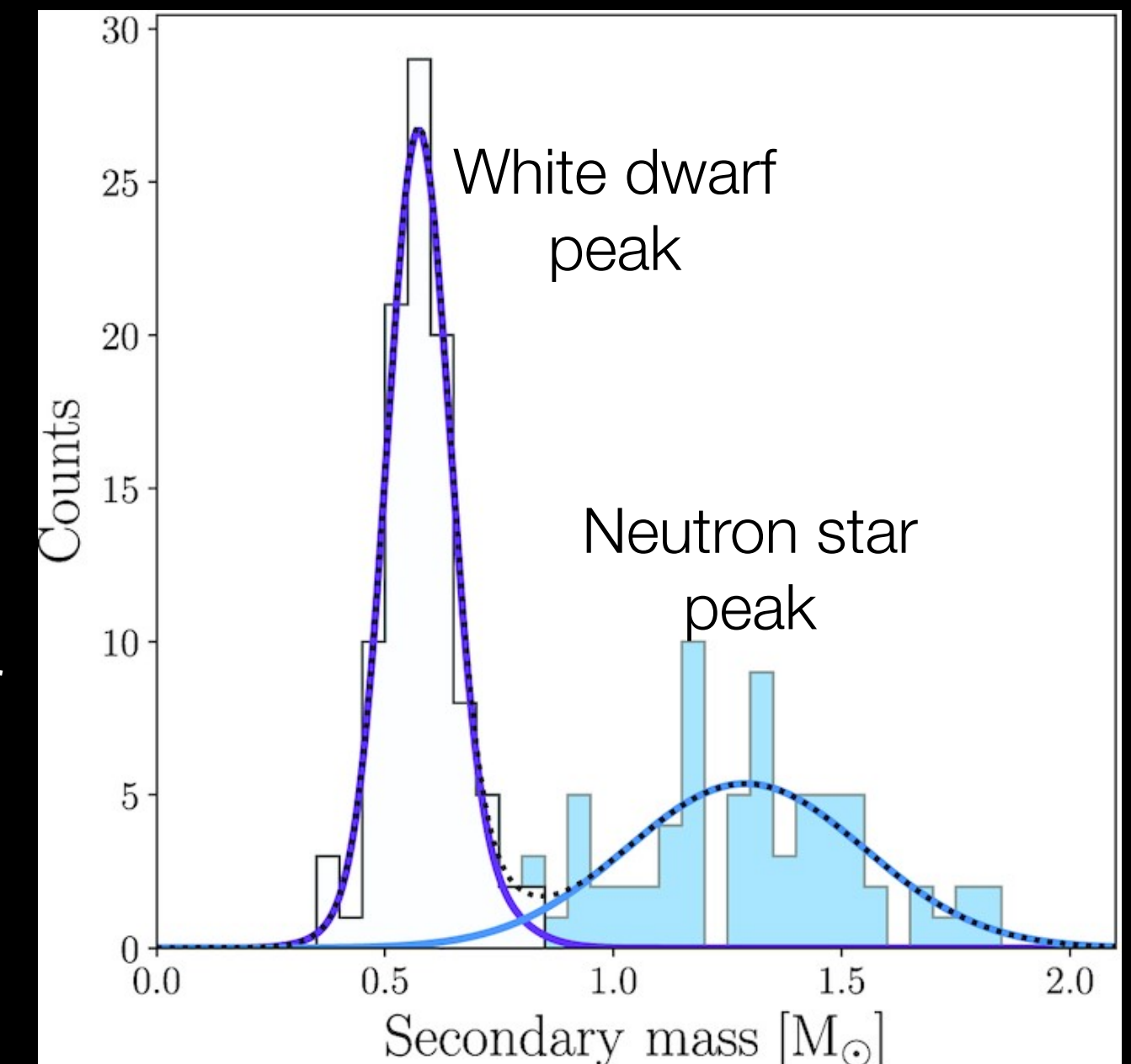


High-mass NS in GW190425, GW200105, GW190917: GW show flatter mass distribution than galactic

(After removing GW190814, expected to be BH from EOS)

Broad low-mass distribution in Gaia companion NS candidates

Shahaf et al, Triage of the Gaia DR3 astrometric orbits, MNRAS 518, 2, p2991–3003 (2023)

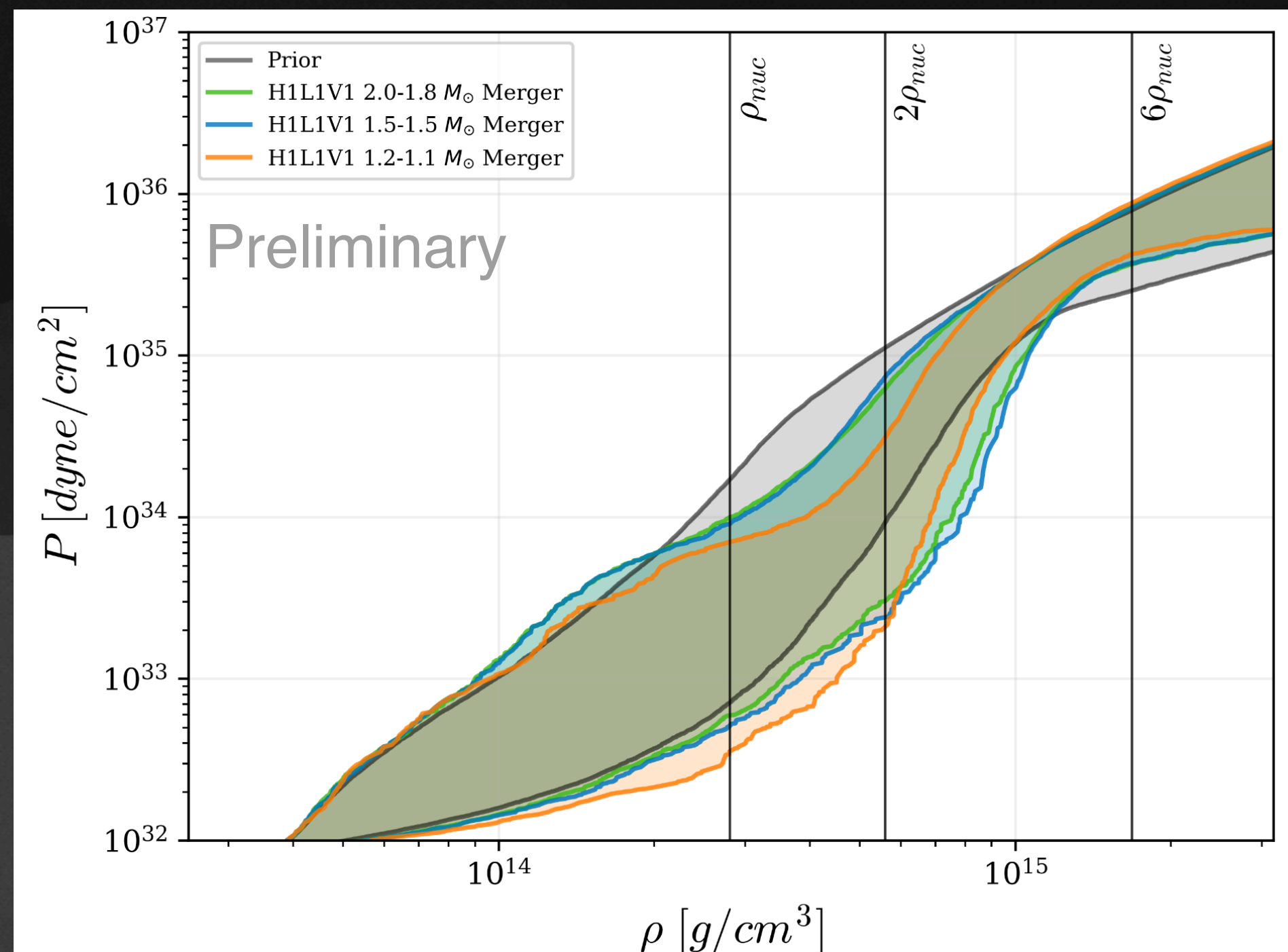


LIGO-Virgo-Kagra O3 Population, Phys. Rev. X 13, 011048

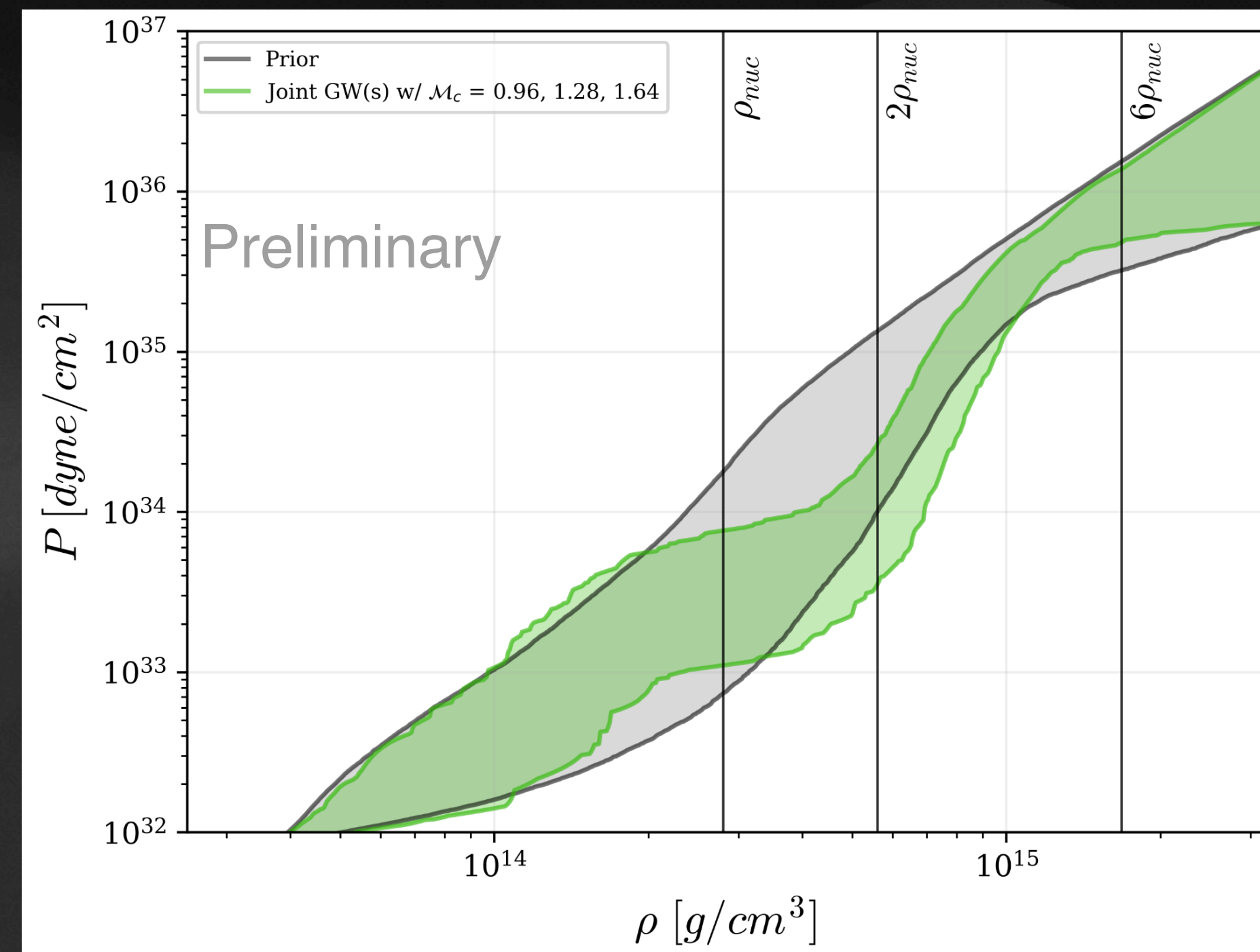
Method and related discussion: Landry and Read Astrophys. J. Lett. 921, L25 (2021)

# Plausible Constraints from LVK Network: Simulated loud O4-O5 BNS events

## Individual events



## Joint constraint



Likelihood weighting with nonparametric, Gaussian Process EoS prior conditioned on heavy pulsar masses, 3 loud (SNR>13) GW events at O4 sensitivity



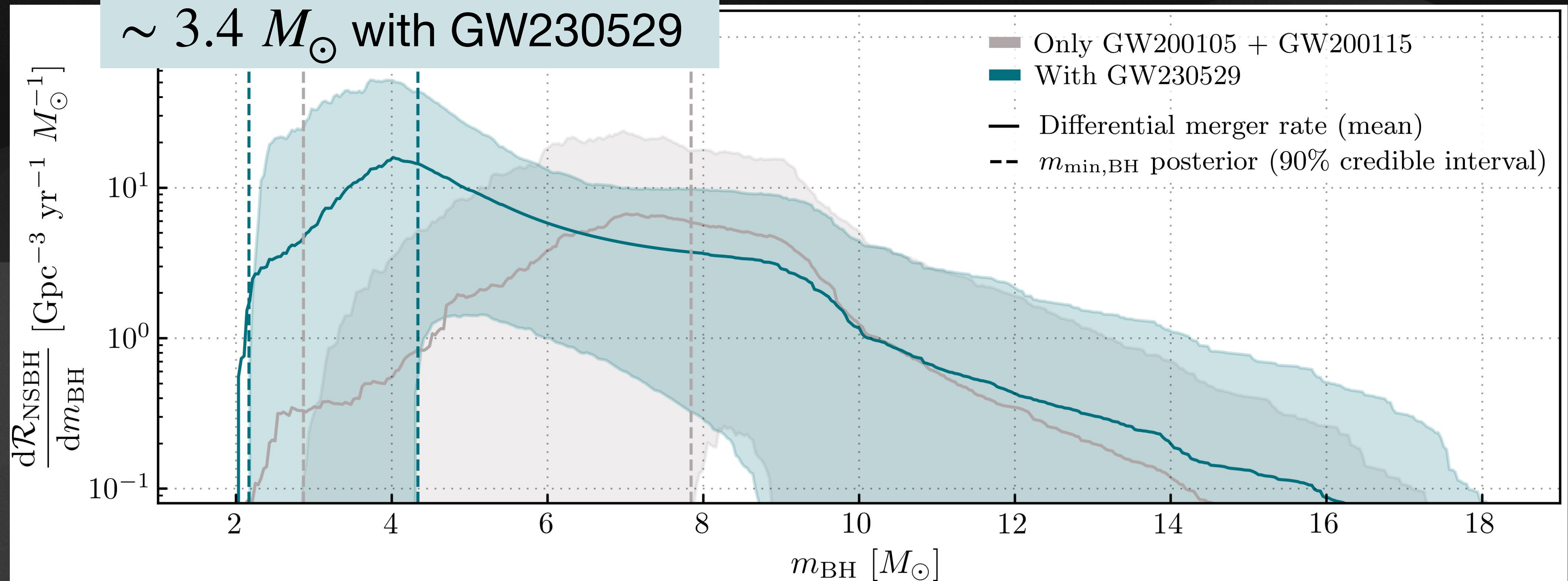
# Impact of new “mass-gap” event

Minimum inferred BH mass in NSBH systems:

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA GW230529  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.04248v1>

$\sim 6.0 M_{\odot}$  without GW230529

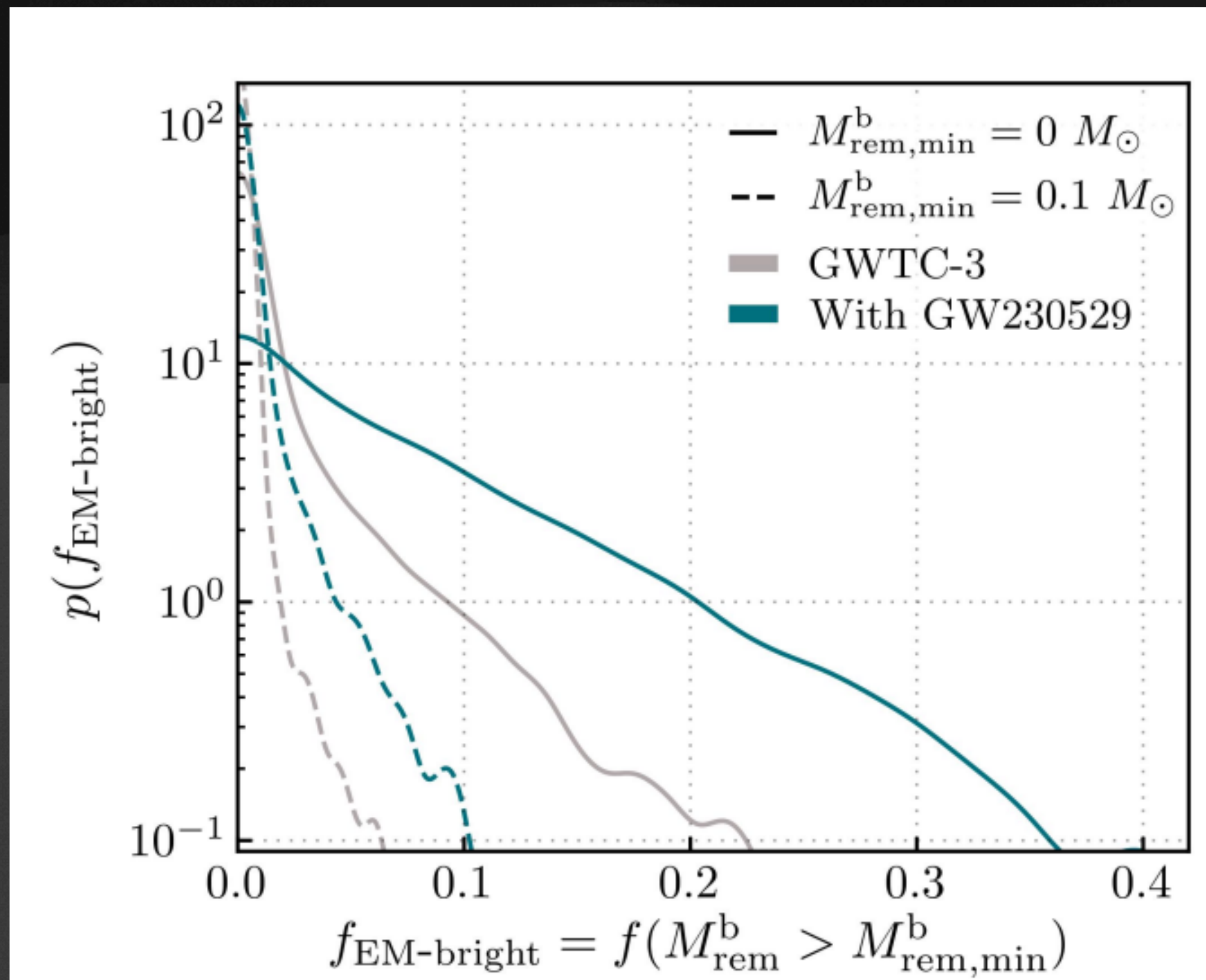
$\sim 3.4 M_{\odot}$  with GW230529



Updated local NSBH merger rate: **30-200**  $\text{Gpc}^{-3} \text{yr}^{-1}$  (90% credible)

# Observation of Gravitational Waves from the Coalescence of a 2.5-4.5 $M_{\odot}$ Compact Object and a Neutron Star

## *Neutron-star merger implications*

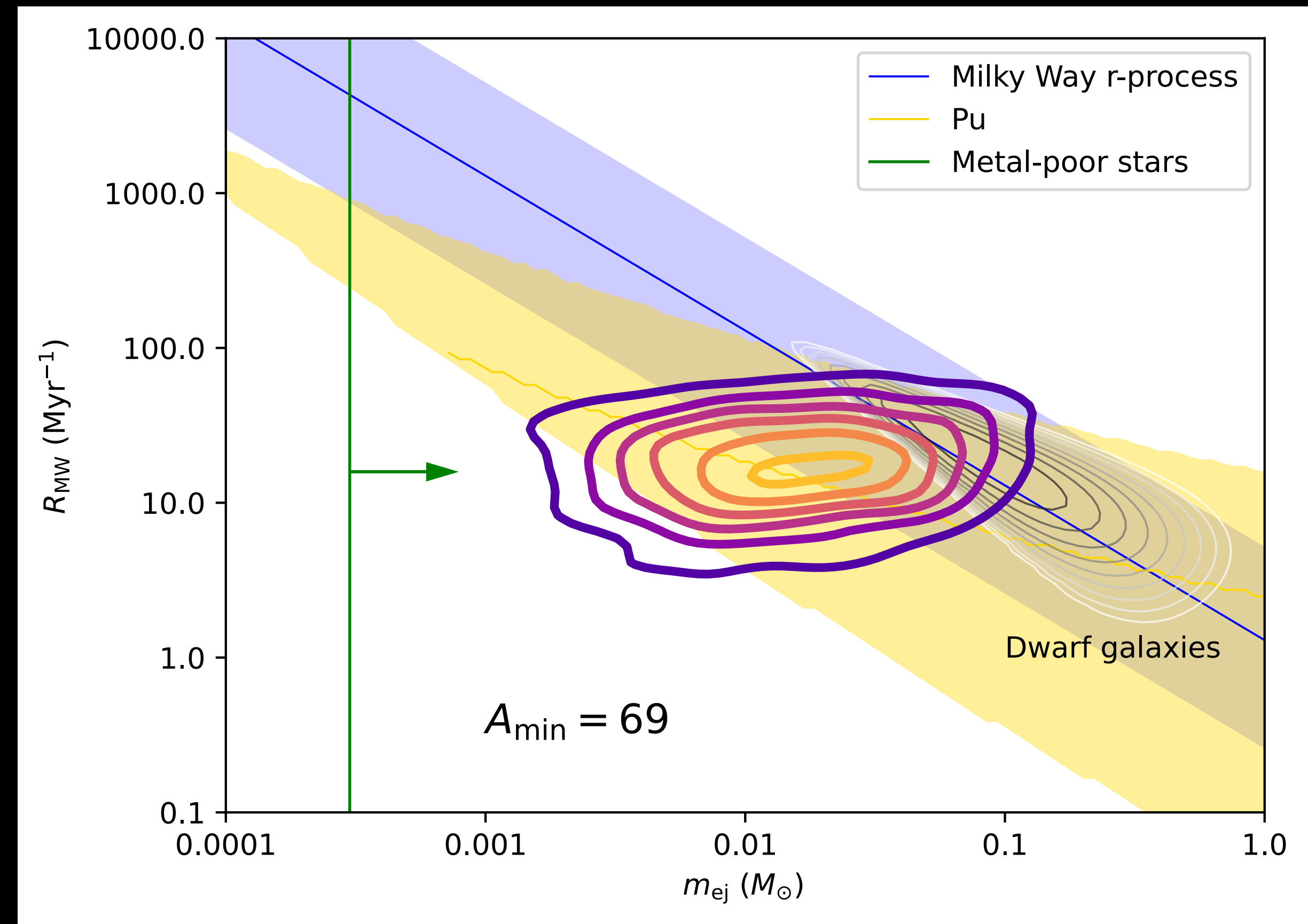


- 10% disruption probability of the neutron star in GW230529 can be inferred based on the binary parameters
- Upper limit on the remnant baryon mass produced in the merger of  $0.052 M_{\odot}$  at 99% credibility
- Fraction of NSBH mergers with remnant matter  $\leq 0.18$  (or  $0.13^{+0.19}_{-0.11}$  with NICER EOS info)
- NSBH mergers contribute at most  $1.1 M_{\odot} \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  to the production of heavy elements
- Rate of NSBH progenitors for GRB  $< 23 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  at 90% credibility (small fraction of sGRB)



# How much do BNS contribute to galactic nucleosynthesis?

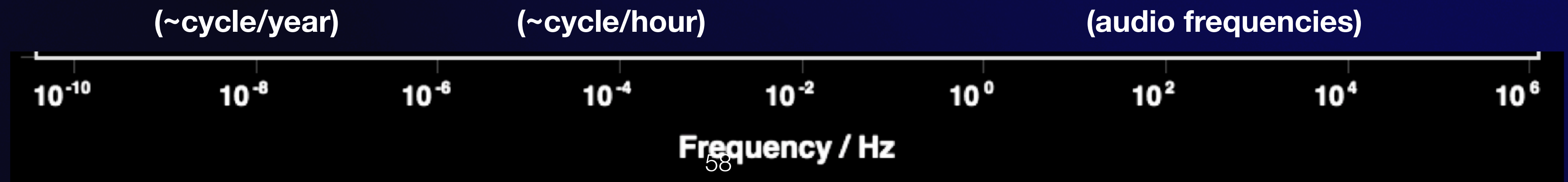
- Merger rates and mass distribution from LVK O3 Populations public data
- EOS distribution from nonparametric inference using LVK/NICER/Pulsar masses
- Ejecta mass per system from simulation-calibrated formulae (see Hsin-Yu Chen et al 2021 ApJL 920 L3)
- Compare rate of events, ejecta per event to other heavy-element observations



Chen, Landry, Read, Siegel arXiv 2402.03696

Also compares stellar abundance, GRB delay time to infer needed properties for non-delayed channel, **with error bars!**

# The Gravitational-wave Spectrum



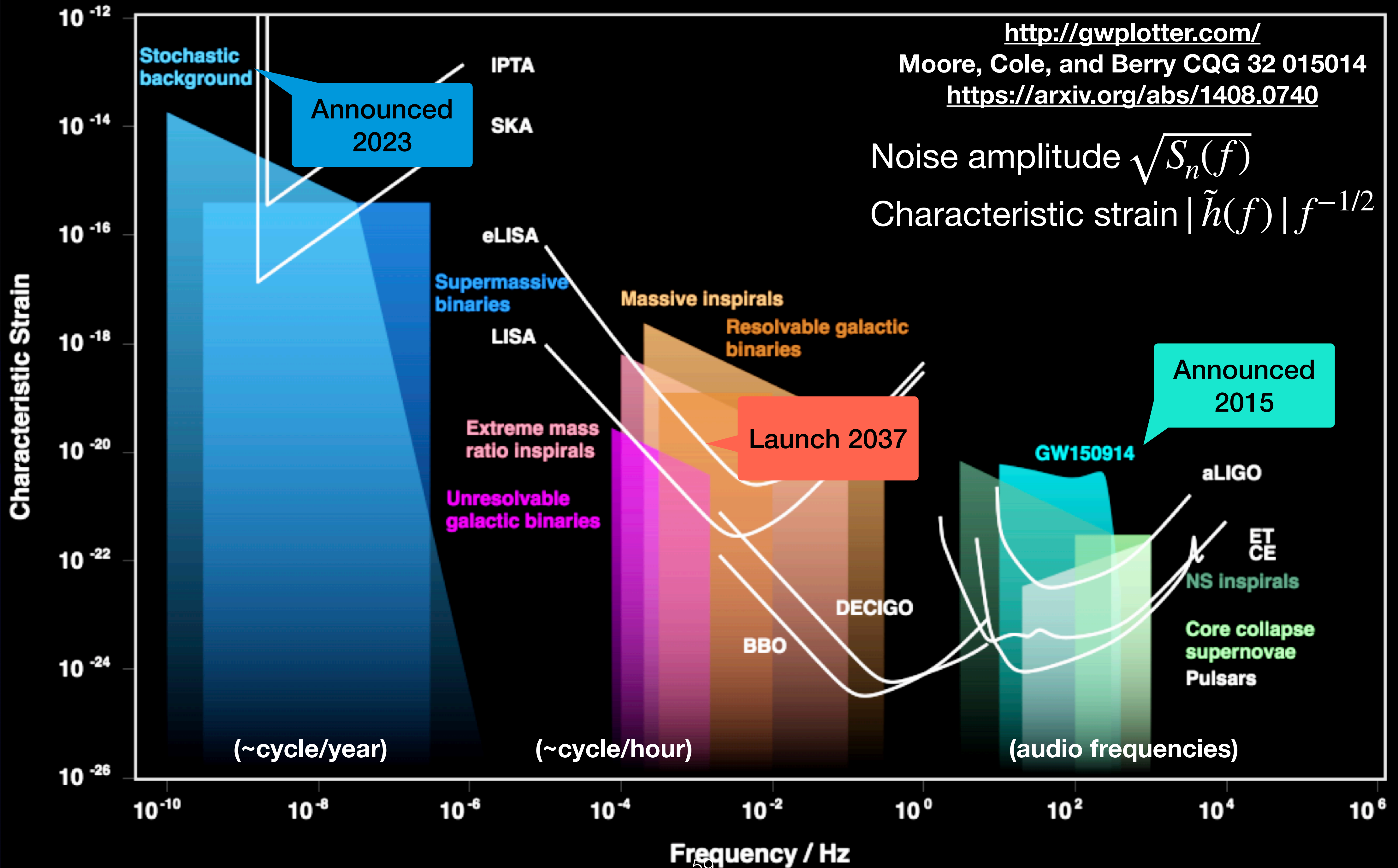
<http://gwplotter.com/>

Moore, Cole, and Berry CQG 32 015014

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1408.0740>

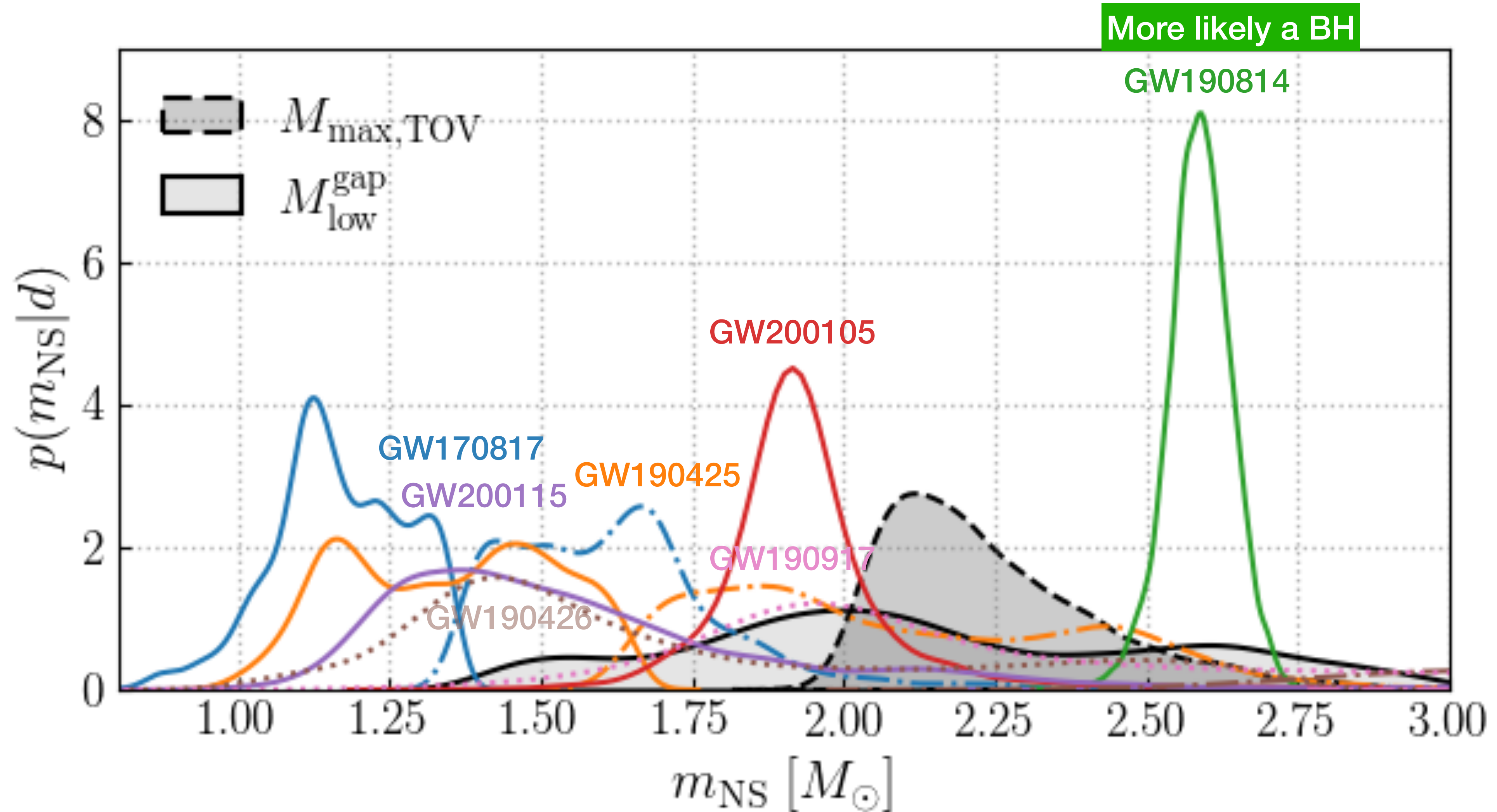
Noise amplitude  $\sqrt{S_n(f)}$

Characteristic strain  $|\tilde{h}(f)| f^{-1/2}$

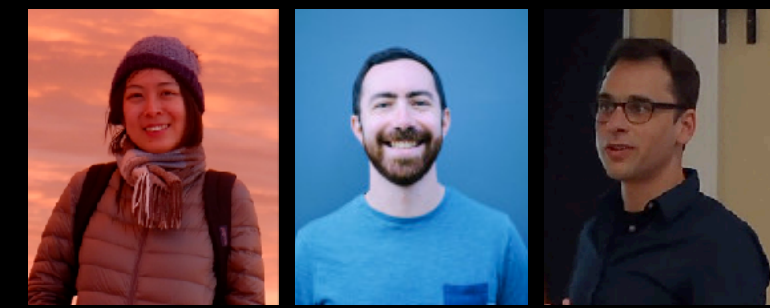


# Neutron stars observed in GW

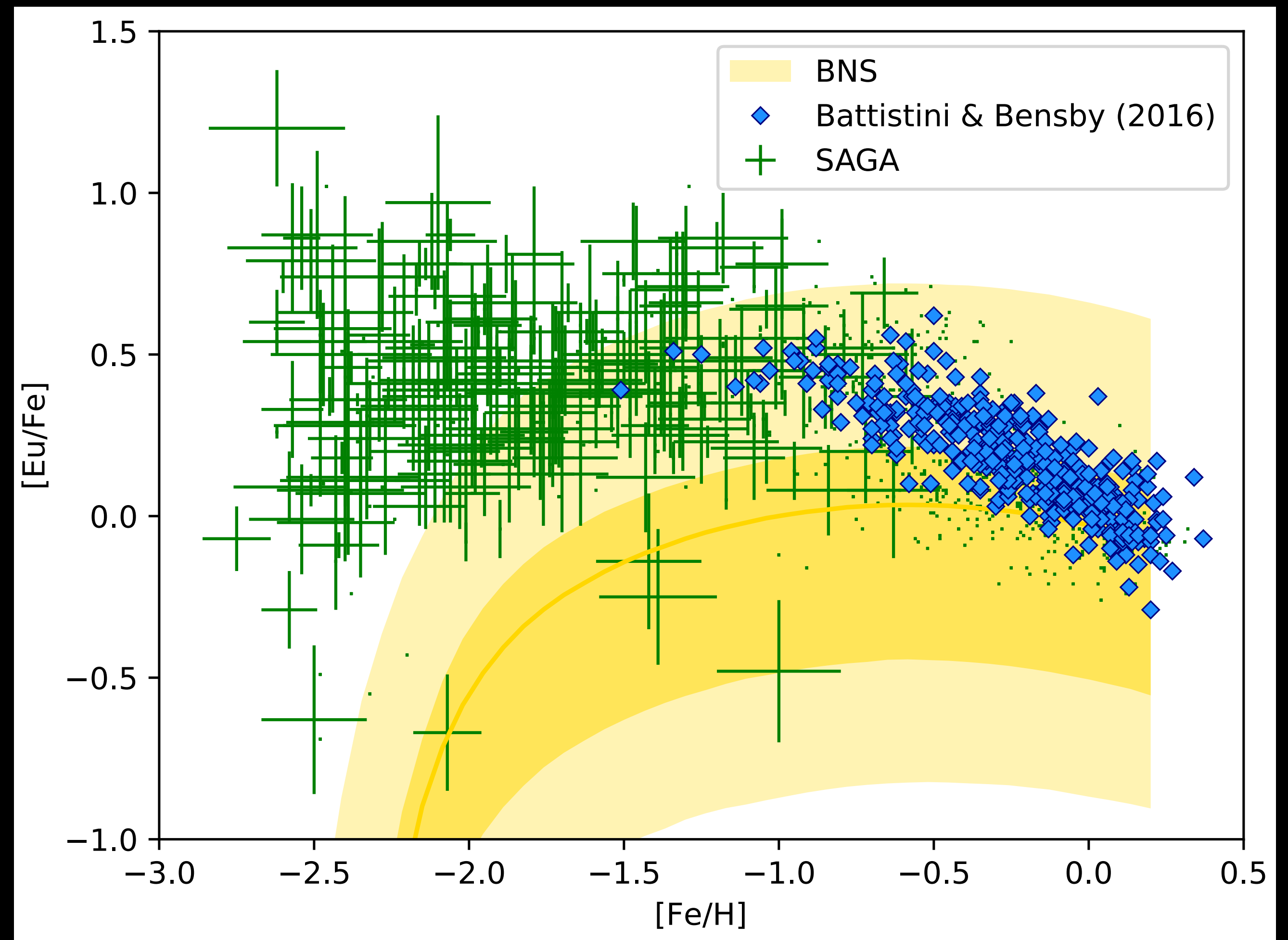
LIGO-Virgo-Kagra O3 Population, arXiv:2111.03634 ()



# BNS contribution to stellar abundance

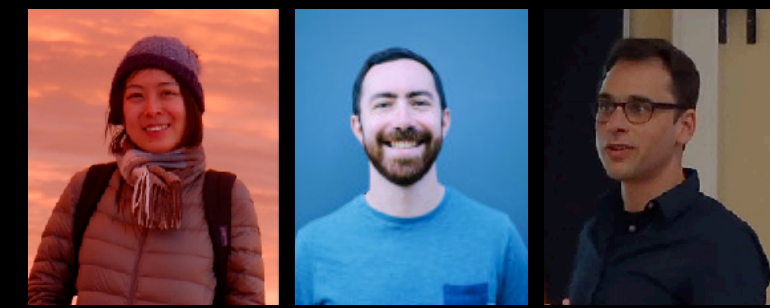


- Model rate of heavy-element production relative to rate of iron production with a one-zone galaxy model
- Delay BNS from star formation following sGRB (Michael Zevin et al 2022 ApJL 940 L18)
- Delayed BNS match solar abundance (0.0) well, but can't produce at low metallicity

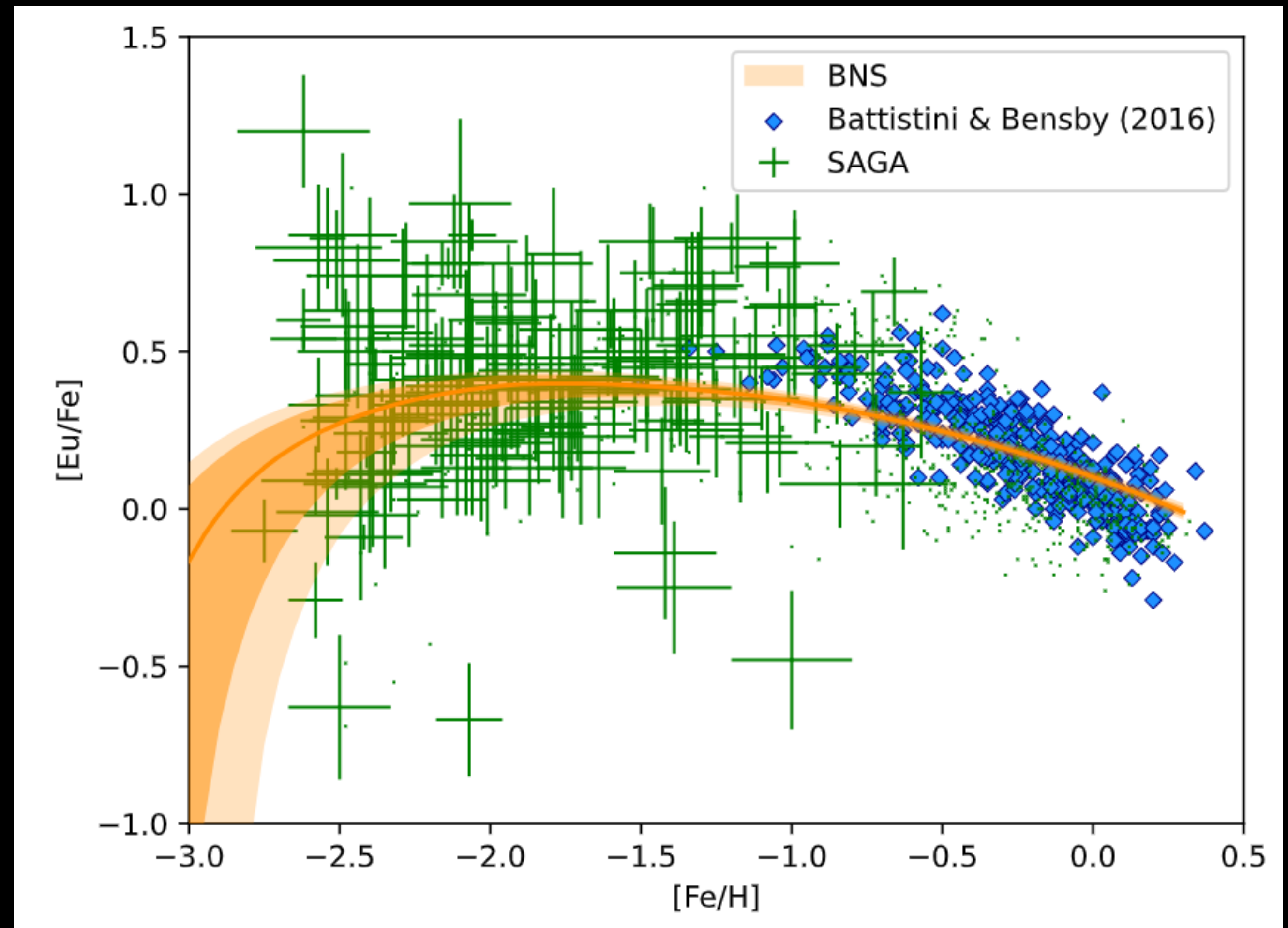


Chen, Landry, Read, Siegel arXiv 2402.03696

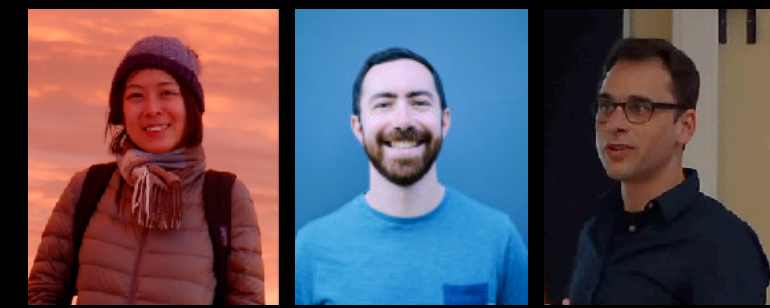
# BNS contribution to stellar abundance



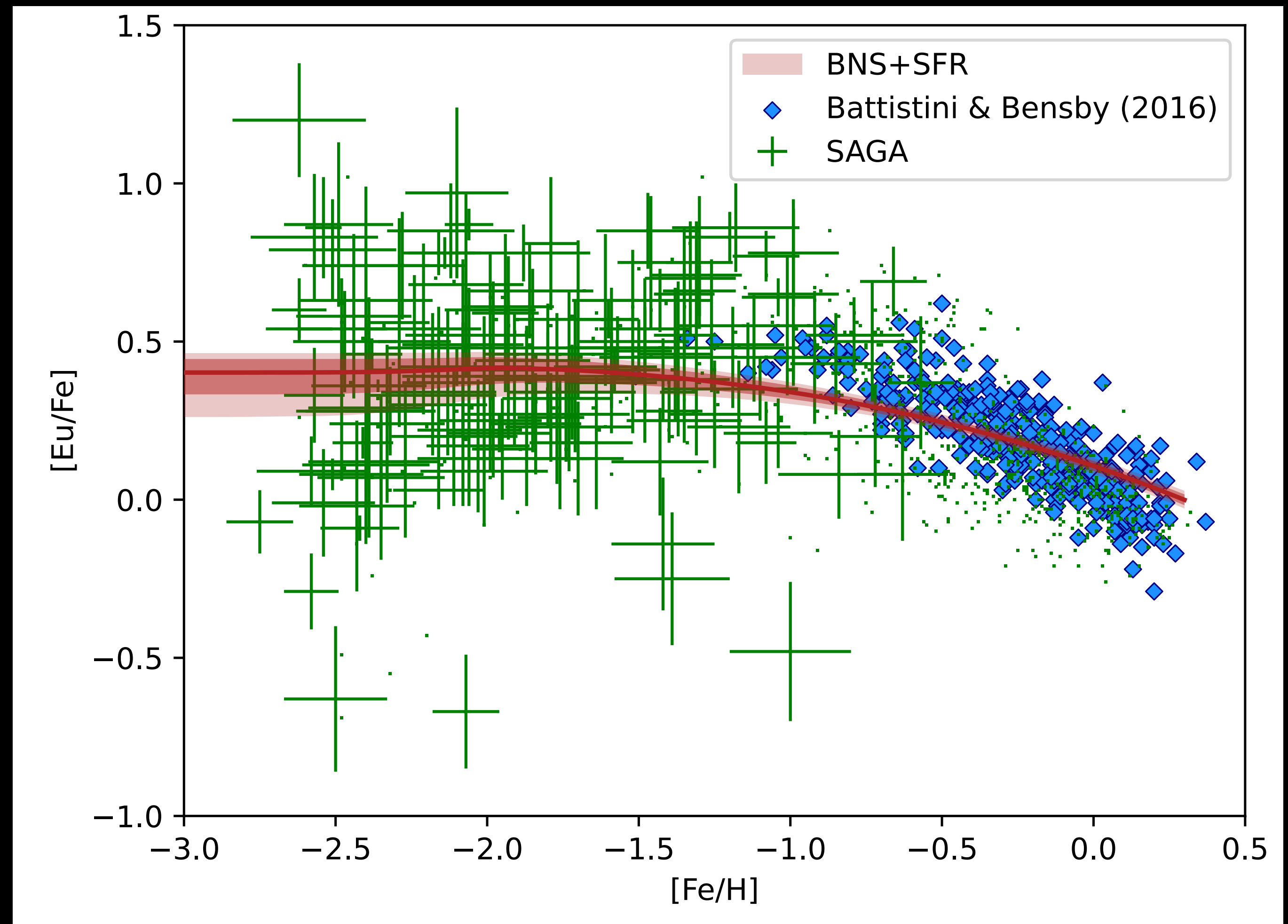
- Fit delay time to stellar abundance data
- Infer short delay time between star formation and merger, inconsistent with GRB observations



# Inferring a second channel



- Model: Two sites of heavy-element formation
- Astronomical prior for slow BNS contribution
- Second rapid channel tracks star formation rate
- Constrain properties of second channel through fit to stellar abundances
- ~45-90% of all r-process from second channel



Chen, Landry, Read, Siegel arXiv 2402.03696