

EINSTEIN'S WARPED UNIVERSE

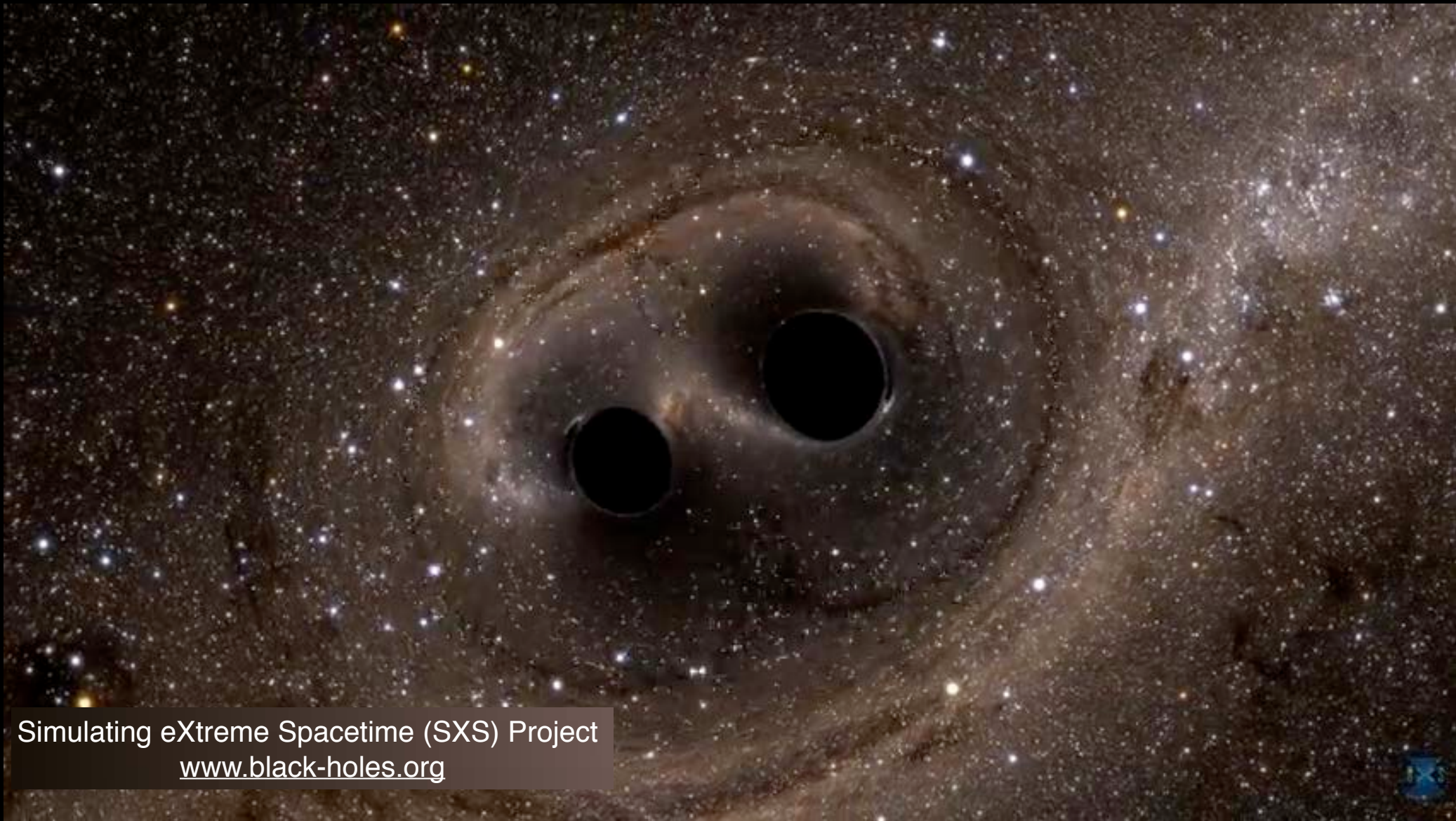
RIDING GRAVITATIONAL WAVES THROUGH SPACETIME

Jim Brau
Center for High Energy Physics
University of Oregon

on behalf of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration

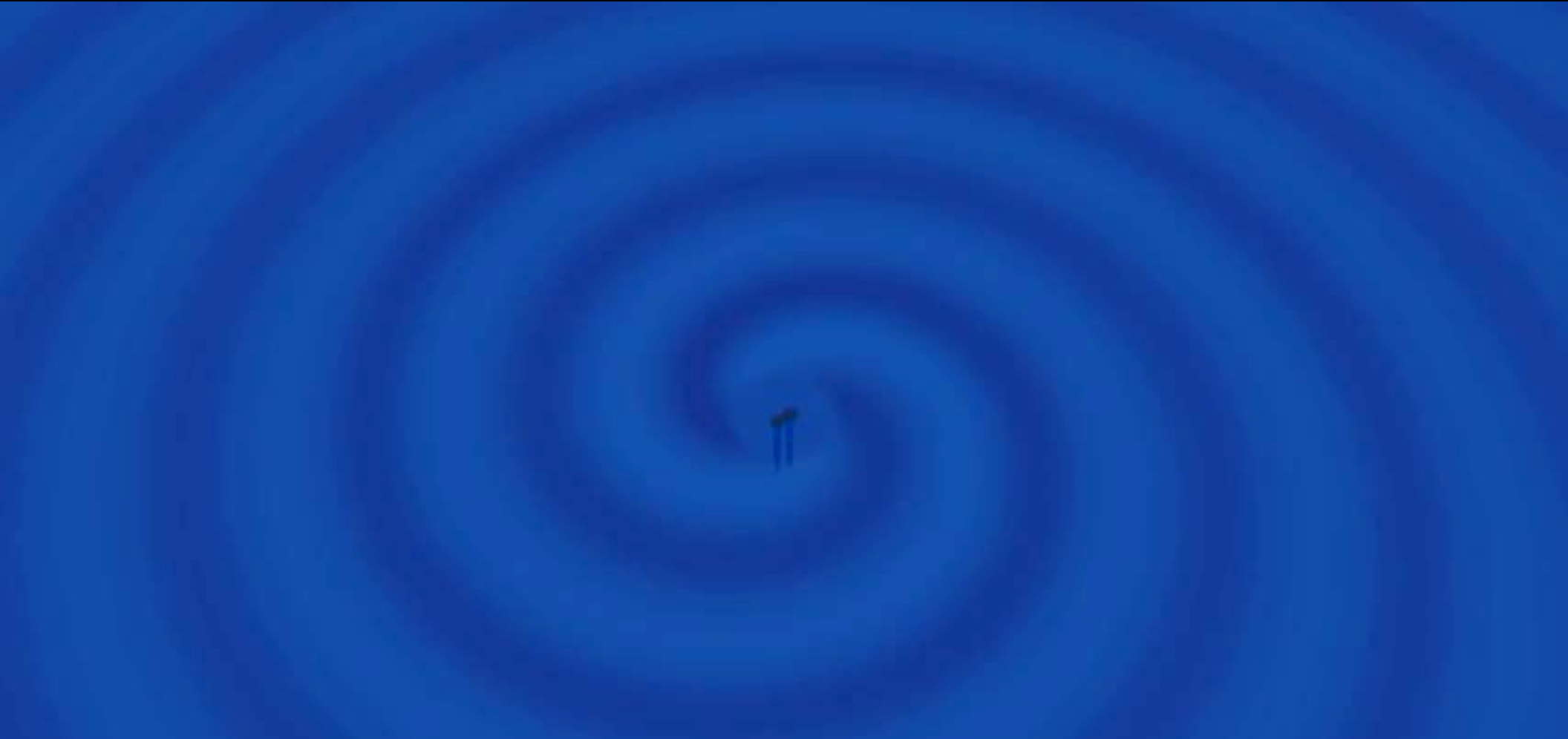
**A long time ago in a galaxy far,
far away**

Two black holes,
after millions or billions of years orbiting each other,
coalesced into a single, larger black hole



Simulating eXtreme Spacetime (SXS) Project
www.black-holes.org

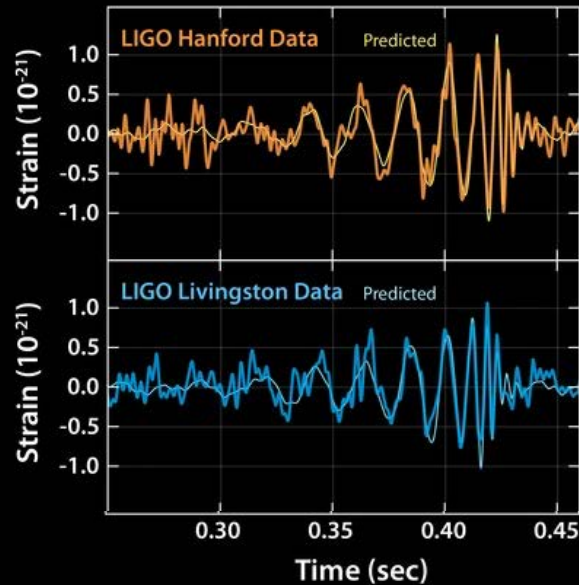
As they drew closer in orbit, they radiated
enormous energy in gravitational waves



Simulating eXtreme Spacetime (SXS) Project
www.black-holes.org



About one billion years later,
on September 14, 2015,
the LIGO detectors observed the waves



GW150914



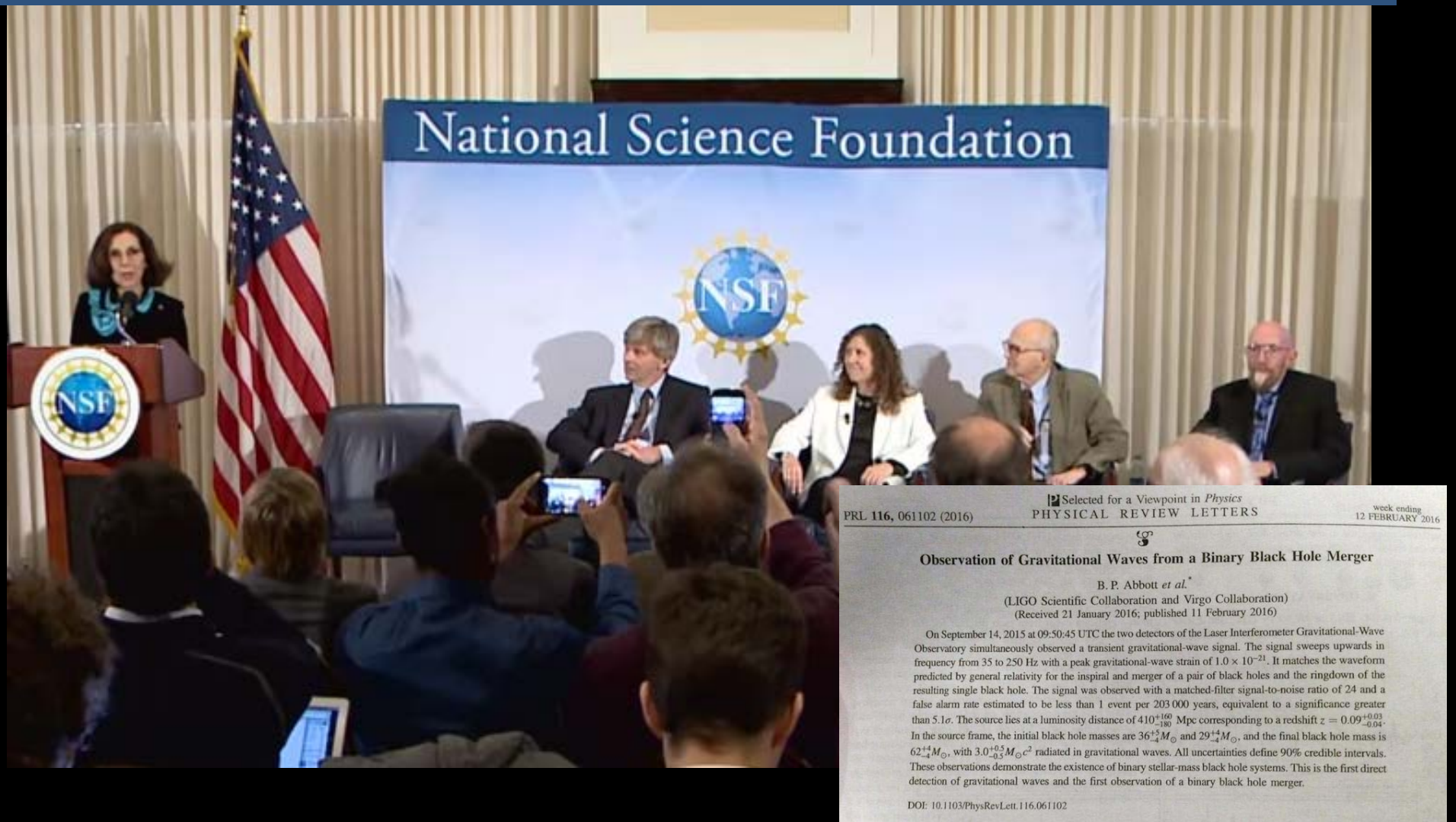
Hanford, WA



Livingston, LA

LIGO Discovery of Gravitational Waves

- announced Feb 11, 2016
National Press Club, Washington, DC



Jim Brau

Oregon QuarkNet

June 23, 2016

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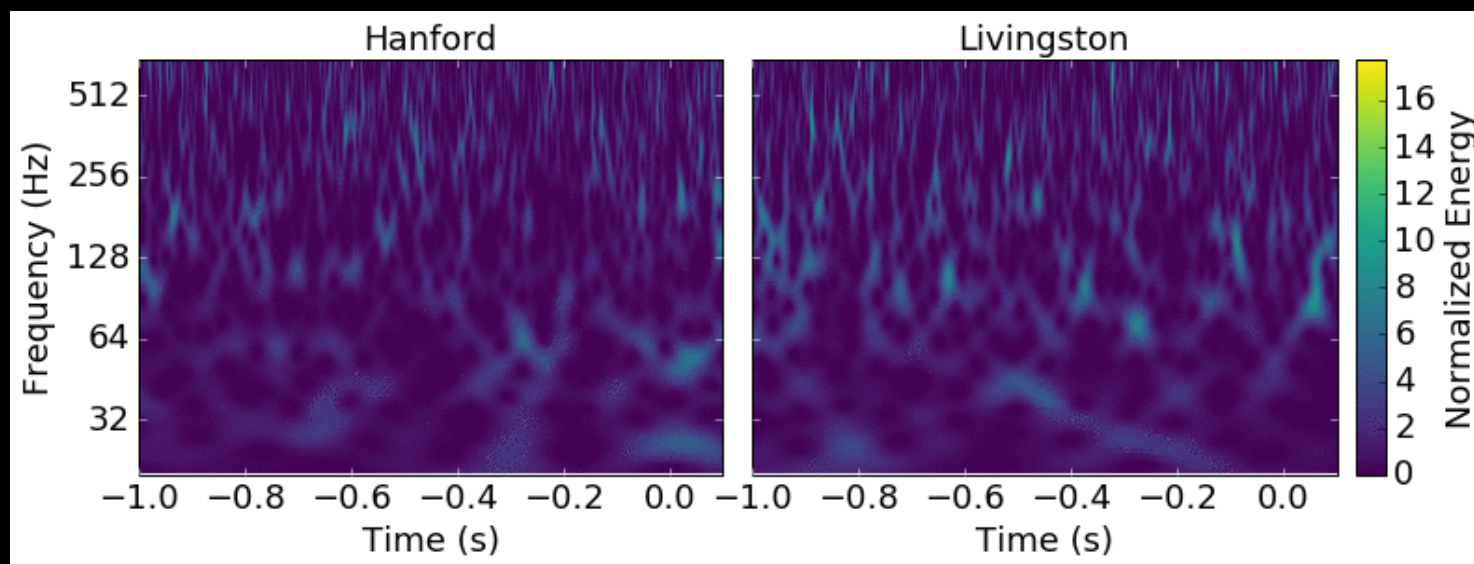
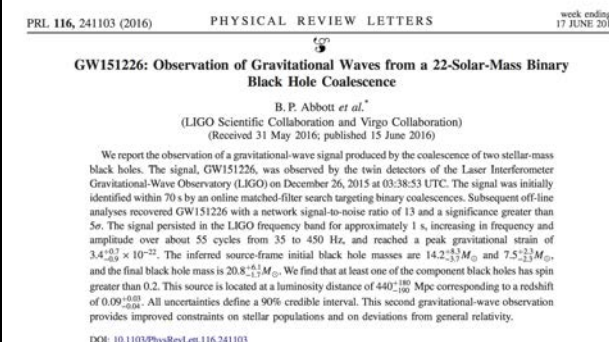
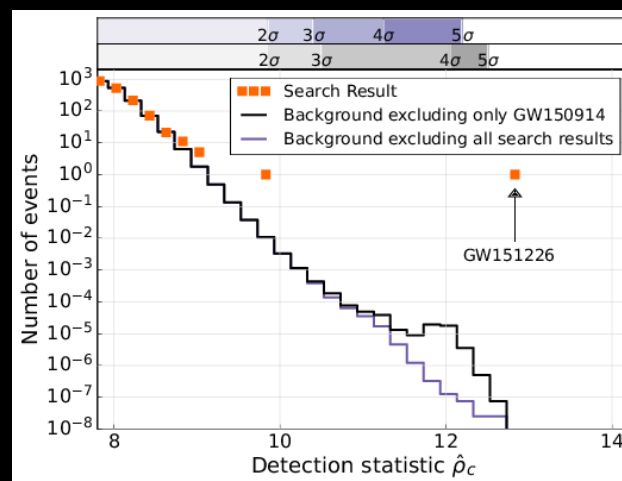


Rainer Weiss (MIT) invented the LIGO concept in 1972

Second Direct Detection

- announced June 15, 2016
AAS Meeting, San Diego, CA

December 26, 2015
at 03:38:53 UTC,
the “Boxing Day” event.
or **GW151226**



Jim Brau

Oregon QuarkNet

June 23, 2016

Gravitational Waves

- What are gravitational waves?
- Indirect evidence (Hulse-Taylor)
- What are the detectable natural sources?
- How are they detected?
- Future?

Einstein's Theory of Gravitation

General Relativity

$$\mathbf{G} + \Lambda g = 8\pi (G_N/c^4) \mathbf{T}$$

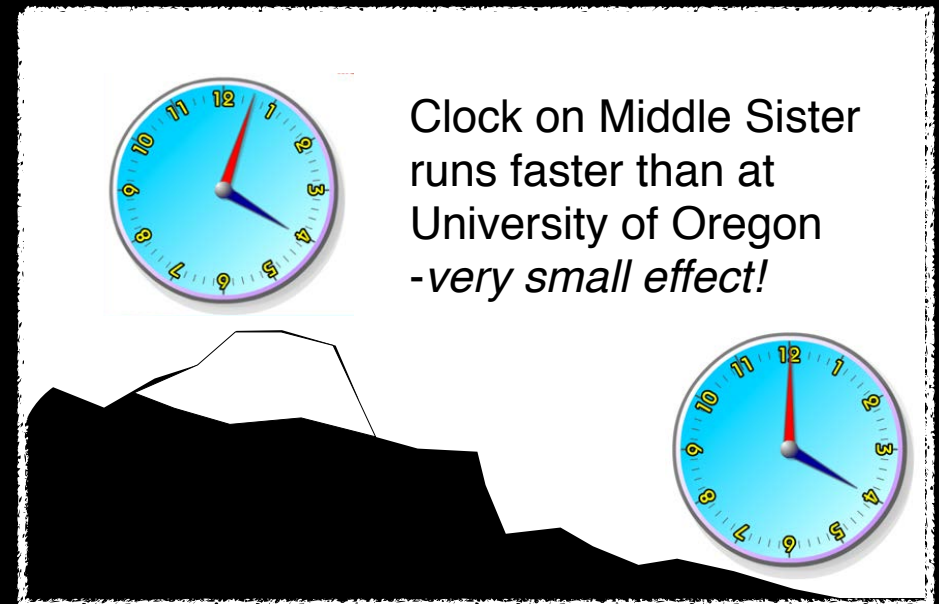
$\mathbf{G}$ is the curvature tensor

$\mathbf{T}$ is the stress-energy tensor

This equation says space-time curvature is a result of the existence of matter and energy and space is stiff ($G_N/c^4 = 8.2 \cdot 10^{-45} \text{ s}^2/\text{kg-m}$)

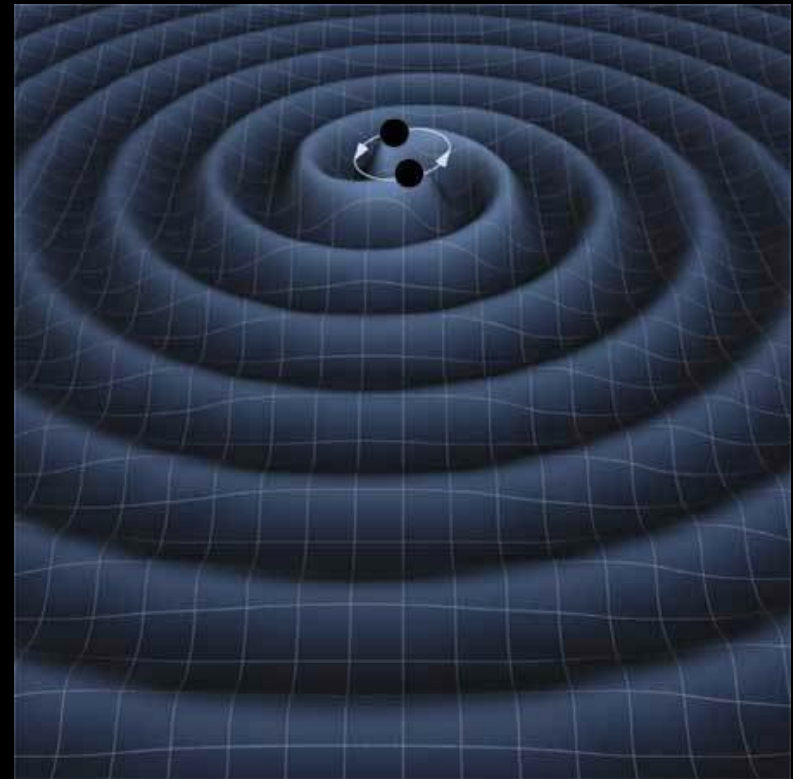
Experimental Evidence for General Relativity

- Bending of starlight
- Time slows down in a gravitational field



Experimental Evidence for General Relativity

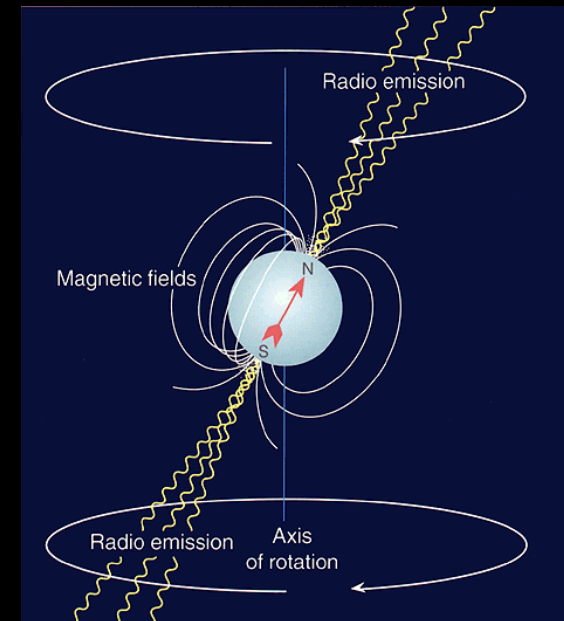
- Bending of starlight
- Time slows down in a gravitational field
- Orbit of Mercury
 - precession
- Binary neutron star pulsar
 - orbit speeding up
 - due to emission of **gravitational radiation** (waves)



Neutron star binary system

PSR 1913 + 16

- Neutron star (Pulsar) observed through radio wave emission
 - rotation rate = 17/second

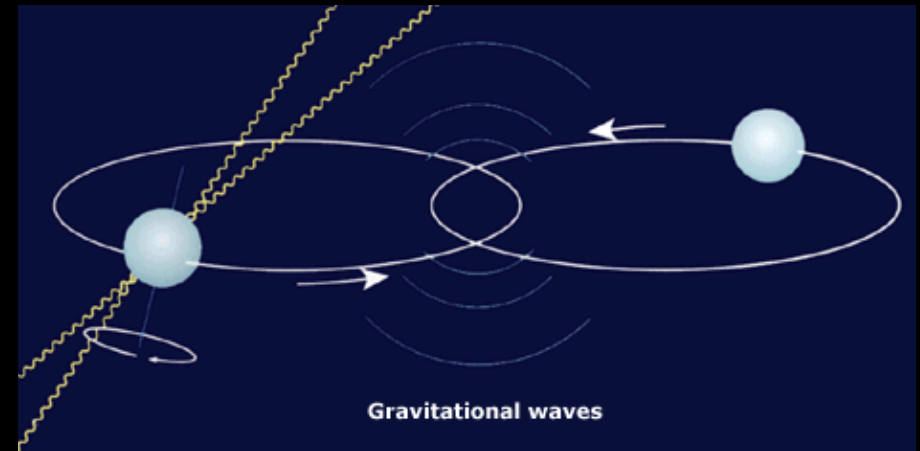


credit: nobelprize.org

Neutron star binary system

PSR 1913 + 16

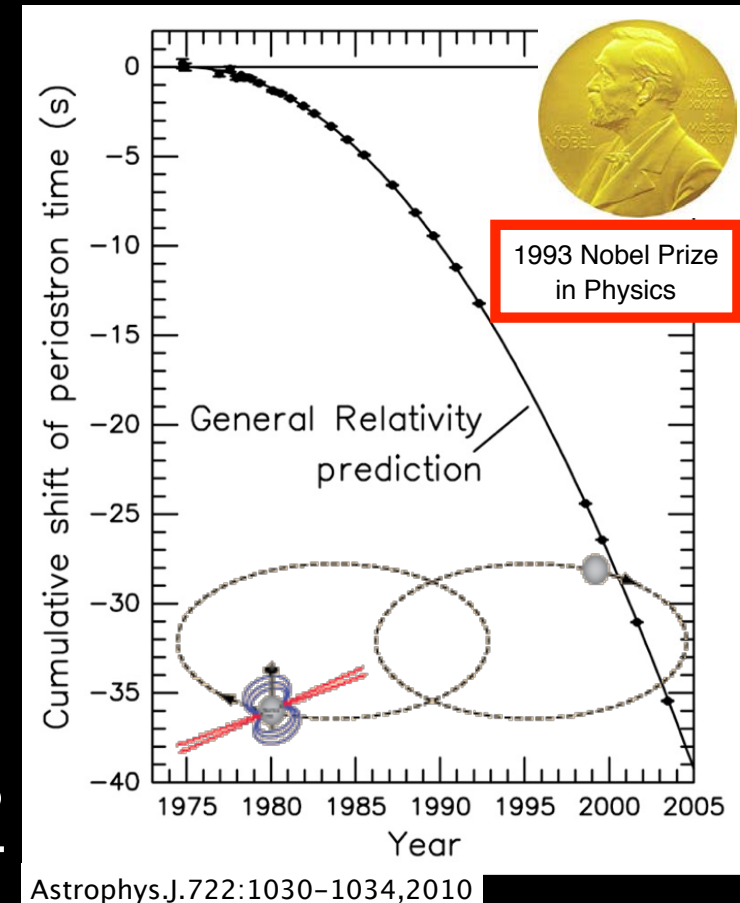
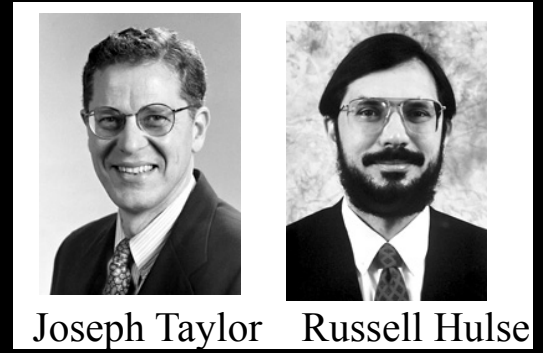
- Neutron star (Pulsar) observed through radio wave emission
 - rotation rate = 17/second
- Two neutron stars orbiting every 8 hours



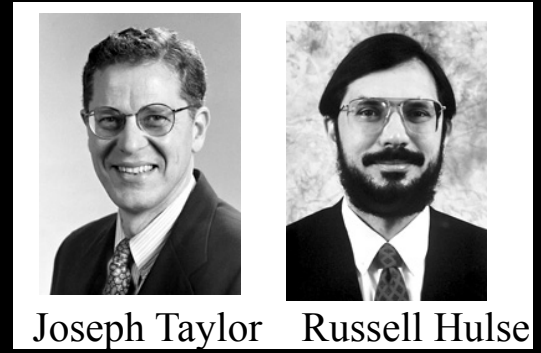
credit: nobelprize.org

Hulse & Taylor measurements of PSR 1913 + 16

- Gravitational waves emitted leading to loss of orbital energy
- Consequently, period of orbit decreases by 35 seconds from 1975 to 2003
- Agrees with predicted rate of emission of gravitational waves by General Relativity
- Gravitational waves exist, but can they be directly detected?



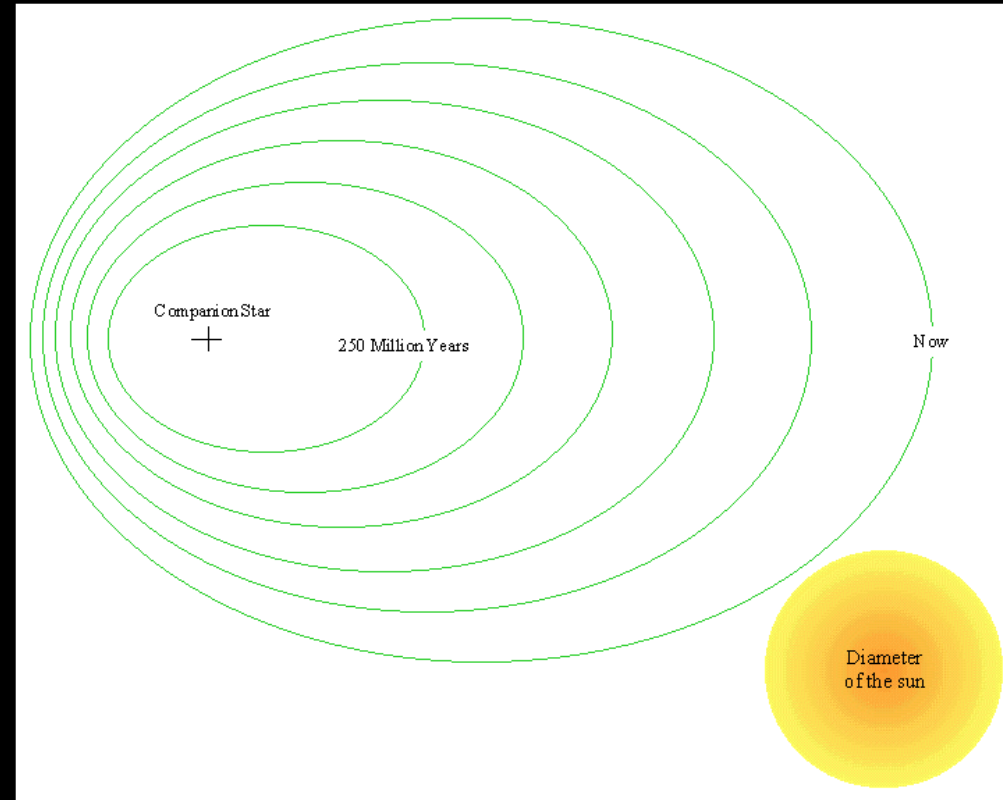
Hulse & Taylor measurements of PSR 1913 + 16



- Radiating energy

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = \frac{32GI^2\omega^6}{5c^5}$$

- Not much today
- In 300,000,000 years coalesce with a burst of gravitational radiation
- We can't wait for this one



Space-time Geometry

The local geometry is defined by the curvature metric (G), a function of the local space-time metric (g)

$$ds^2 = dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2 - c^2 dt^2$$

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

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \quad (h \ll 1, \text{ weak-field limit})$$

η is the flat space metric

$$\eta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Space-time Geometry

In the weak-field limit ($h \ll 1$), linearize equation in “transverse-traceless gauge” and arrive at wave equation for h

$$\nabla^2 h - \frac{\partial^2 h}{c^2 \partial t^2} = \frac{16\pi G_N}{c^4} T$$

Quadrupole radiation

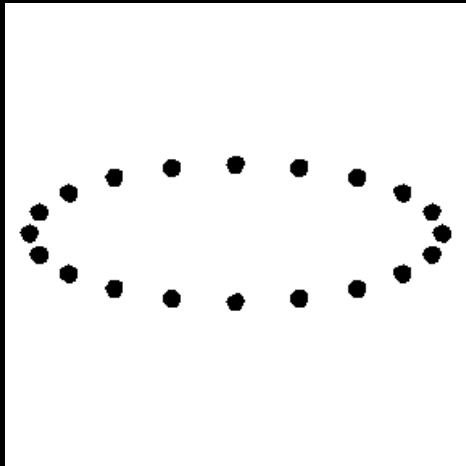
- monopole radiation forbidden by Energy conserv.
- dipole radiation forbidden by momentum conserv.

There are two polarizations
plus (+) and cross (×)

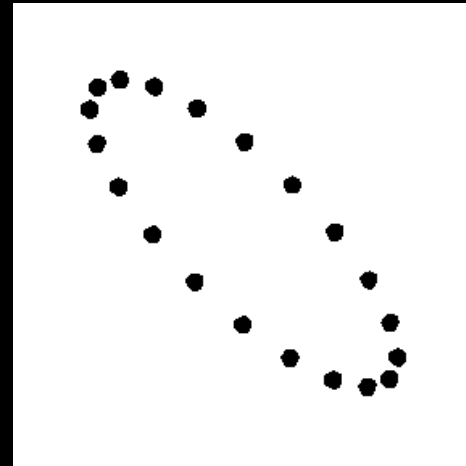
Two polarizations

- Wave will distort a ring of test masses like tidal deformation
- Specific movement of the test masses during one period of the wave depends on polarization

+



×



Generation of gravitational radiation

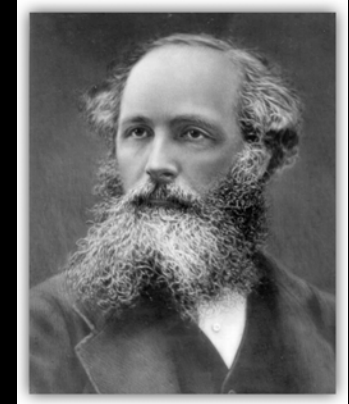
- Quadrupole radiation, requires quadrupole source
- Accelerating mass generates wave, much as accelerating charge generates EM radiation

$$h_{\mu\nu} = \frac{2G}{c^4 r} \ddot{I}_{\mu\nu}$$

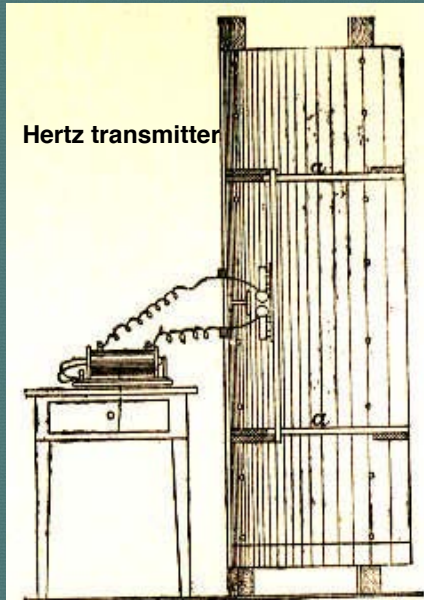
Recall
 $G_N/c^4 = 8.2 \cdot 10^{-45} \text{ s}^2/\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}$,
very small

Direct Detection of Gravitational Waves

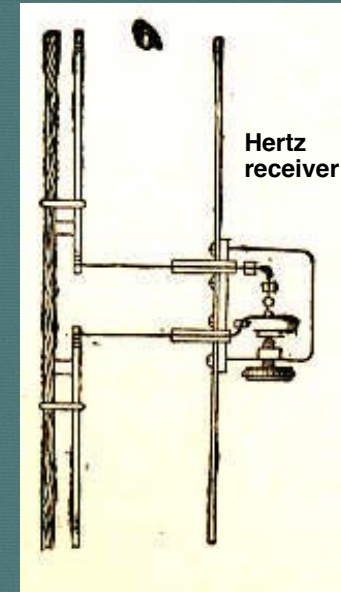
- Maybe the history of the discovery of electromagnetic waves is useful
 - 1864 Maxwell predicted existence of electromagnetic waves
 - 1879 Prussian Academy of Science offered a prize for experimental proof of Maxwell's theory



Direct Detection of Gravitational Waves



Source of images:
<http://www.newscotland1398.net/nfld1901/marconi-nfld.html>

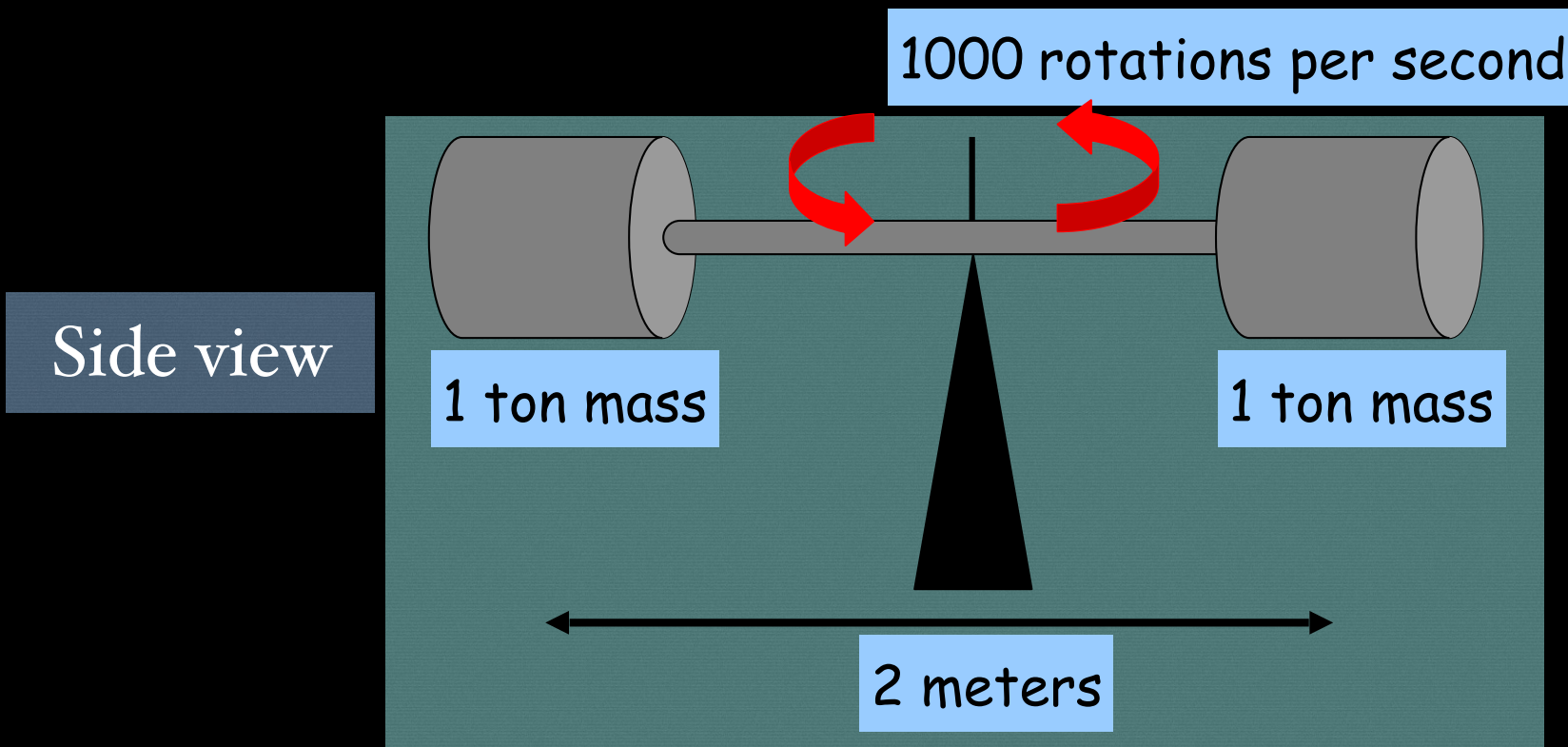


- 1886 Hertz created primitive transmitter and receiver; he produced and directly detected the electromagnetic waves
- Can we envision a similar laboratory demonstration of gravitational waves?



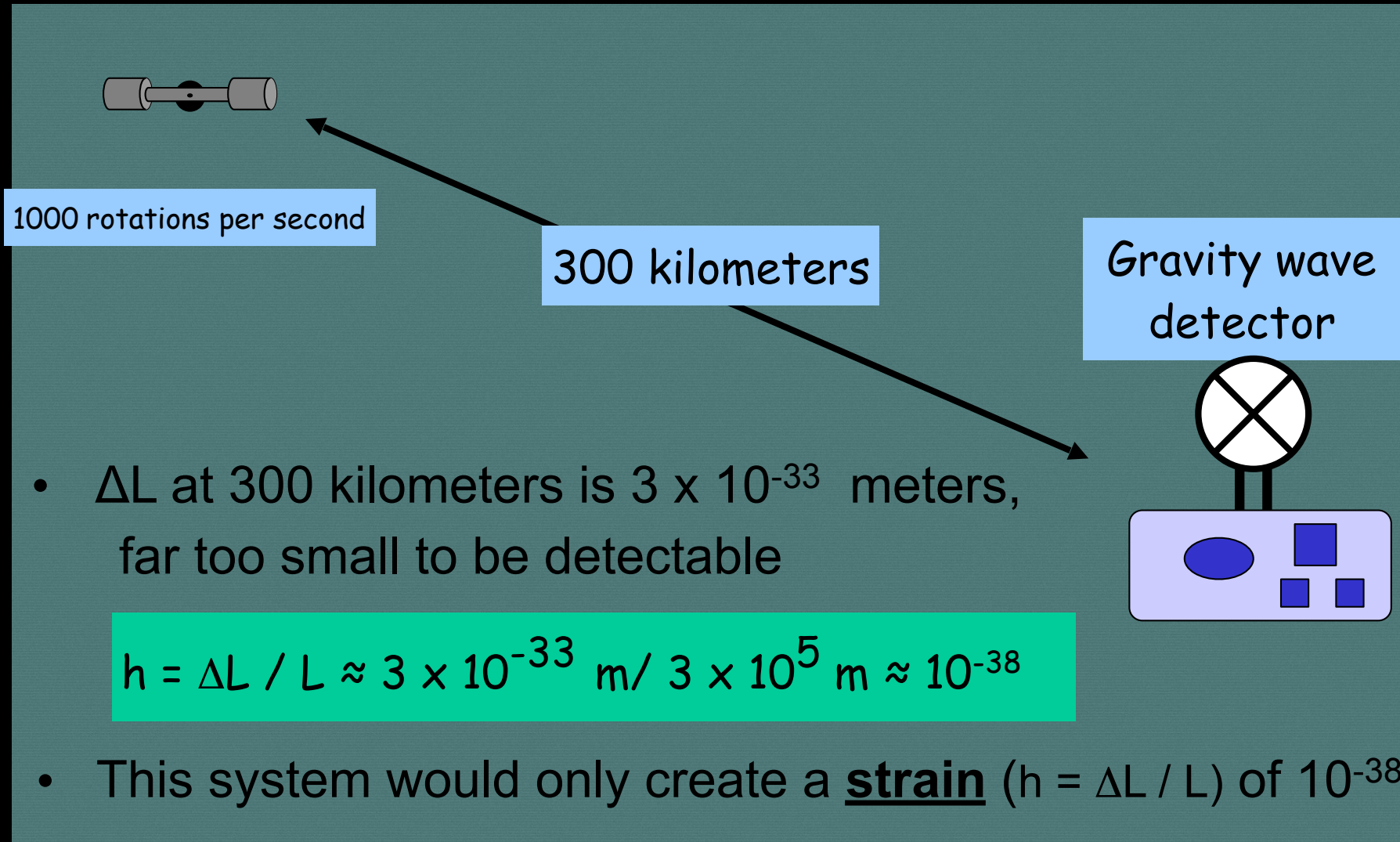
Laboratory Demonstration

- Gravitational waves generated by time dependent quadrupole moment of masses, as electromagnetic waves are generated by accelerating charges



Laboratory Demonstration

- Now look for waves from this source



Astrophysical Source: Coalescing neutron stars or black holes



Animation: Dana Berry

Produced by Erica Drezek

Jim Brau

Oregon QuarkNet

June 23, 2016

Source of Detectable GWs

- Laboratory

- mass = 1 ton
- radius = 1 m
- freq. = 1000 Hz
- distance = 300 km
- strain $\approx 10^{-38}$
NOT DETECTABLE

- Astrophysical

- binary compact stars (NSs or BHs)
- mass = $1.4 M_{\odot}$
- radius = 20 km
- freq. = 400 Hz
- distance = 5×10^{23} m = 15 Mpc
- strain $\approx 10^{-21}$
POSSIBLY DETECTABLE

How small is strain of 10^{-21} ?

- size of basketball over scale of Milky Way Galaxy



- fraction of the size of a human hair over distance to nearest star beyond the sun (Proxima Centauri)
- 10^{-8} size of atom over LIGO arm length
- 10^{-3} size of proton over LIGO arm length
- **VERY CHALLENGING!**

Joseph Weber and the Bar Antenna

- Massive aluminum cylinders
 - Vibrated at a resonance frequency of 1660 hertz
 - Designed to be set in motion by gravitational waves
 - Since waves were expected to be very weak, the cylinders were massive with very sensitive piezoelectric sensors, capable of detecting a change in the cylinders' lengths by about 10^{-16} meters



Jim Brau



Oregon QuarkNet

June 23, 2016

Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO)

- Created to directly detect gravitational waves for the first time



Hanford, WA



Livingston, LA

Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO)

1992-cofounded by Kip Thorne & Ronald Drever (Caltech) & Rainer Weiss (MIT)

1997-LIGO Scientific Collaboration formed including Univ. of Oregon

2002- LIGO initial operations

2015-Advanced LIGO began operations



Hanford, WA

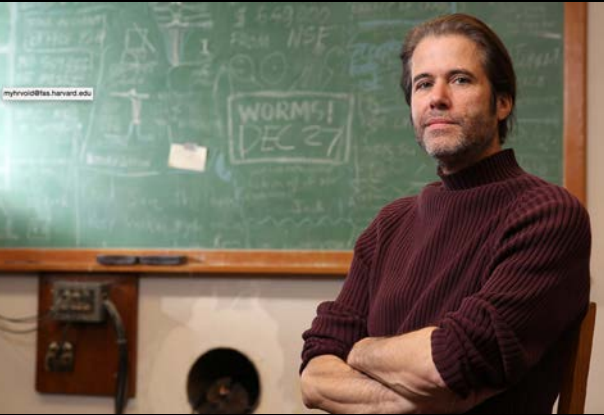


Livingston, LA

atellite



Oregon LIGO Researchers



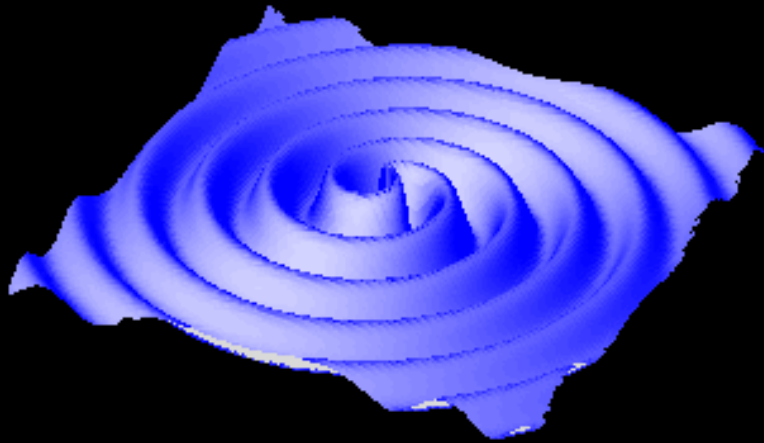
- Ray Frey & Jim Brau - faculty
- Robert Schofield - research professor
- Dipongkar Talukder - postdoctoral researcher
- Sudarshan Karki, Jordan Palamos, Vincent Roma, Paul Schale, Ryan Quitzow-James - grad students



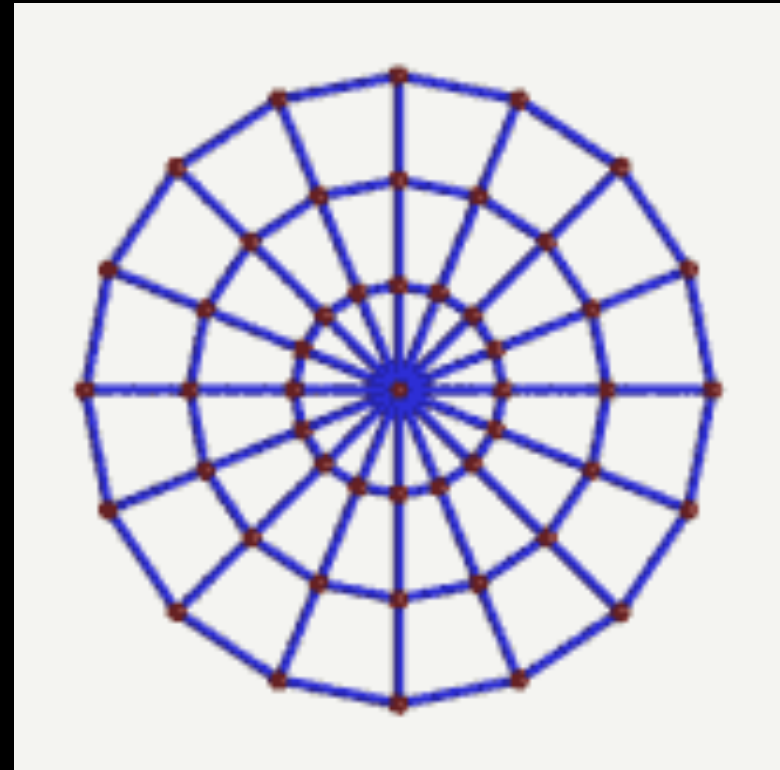
- Former UO LIGO members - David Strom, Isabel Leonor, Anatoli Arodzero, Masahiro Ito, Rauha Rahkola, Emelie Harstad



Effect of Gravitational Waves



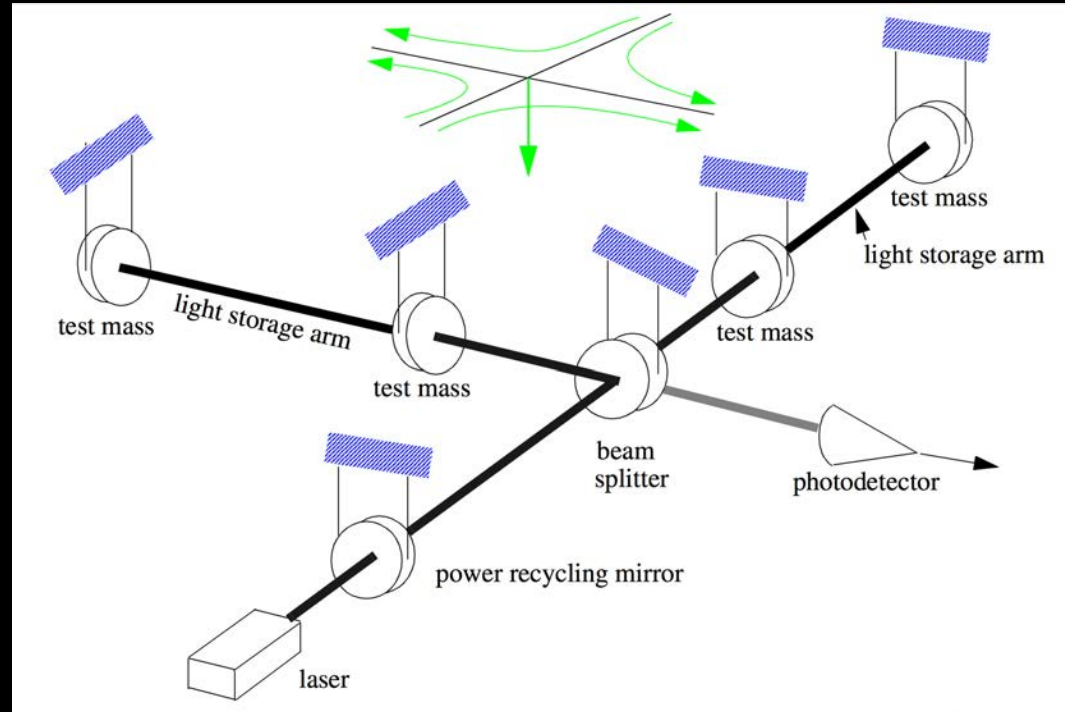
Space will stretch and squash
in perpendicular directions
at the frequency
of the gravitational waves



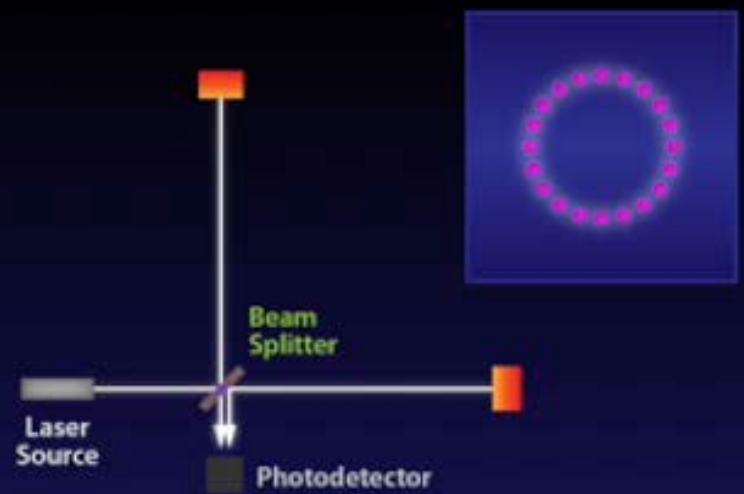
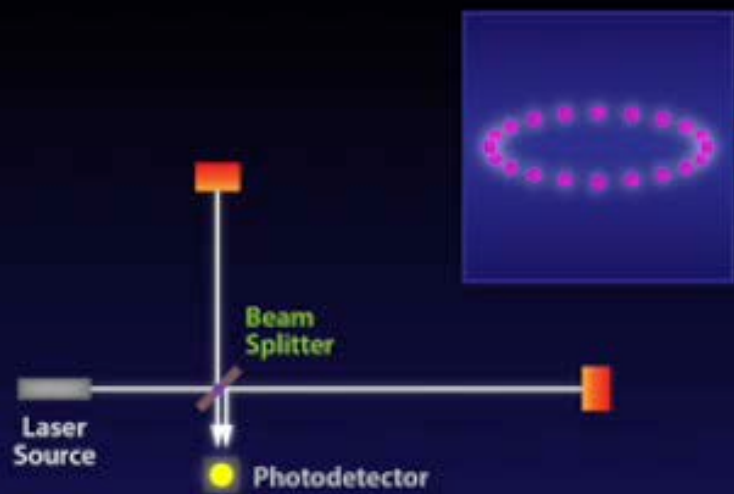
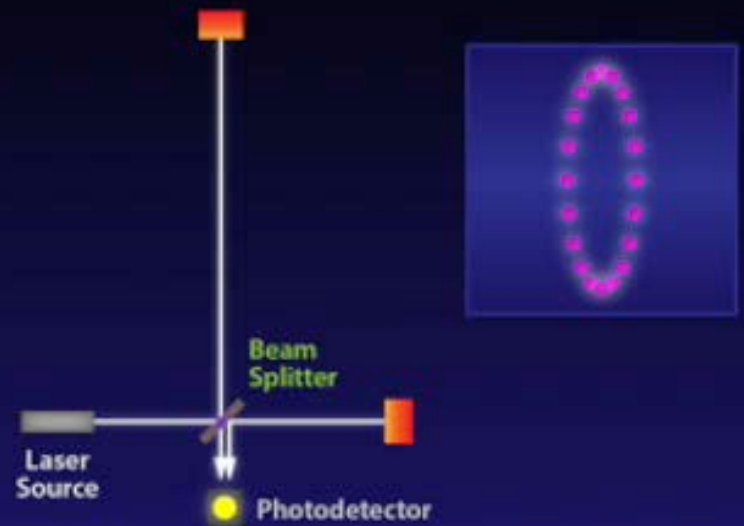
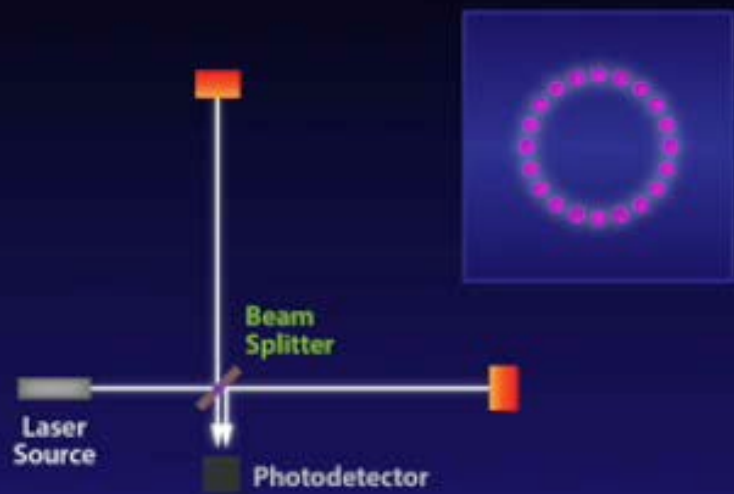
But effect is very small - distance of a kilometer may change
by only 10^{-18} meters

Strain = change/distance $\approx 10^{-18} \text{ m} / 10^3 \text{ m} = 10^{-21}$

LIGO Detector Concept



- Compare the time it takes light to travel in two orthogonal directions transverse to the gravitational waves.
- The gravitational wave causes the time difference to vary by stretching one arm and compressing the other.
- An interference pattern is measured to one part in 10^{10} , to obtain required sensitivity.



How to achieve precision

- $\Delta\phi = B \frac{\Delta L}{\lambda} = B \frac{hL}{\lambda}$

- B = number of laser bounces in arm

- $\Delta\phi_{\text{LIM}} \approx 1/\sqrt{N}$

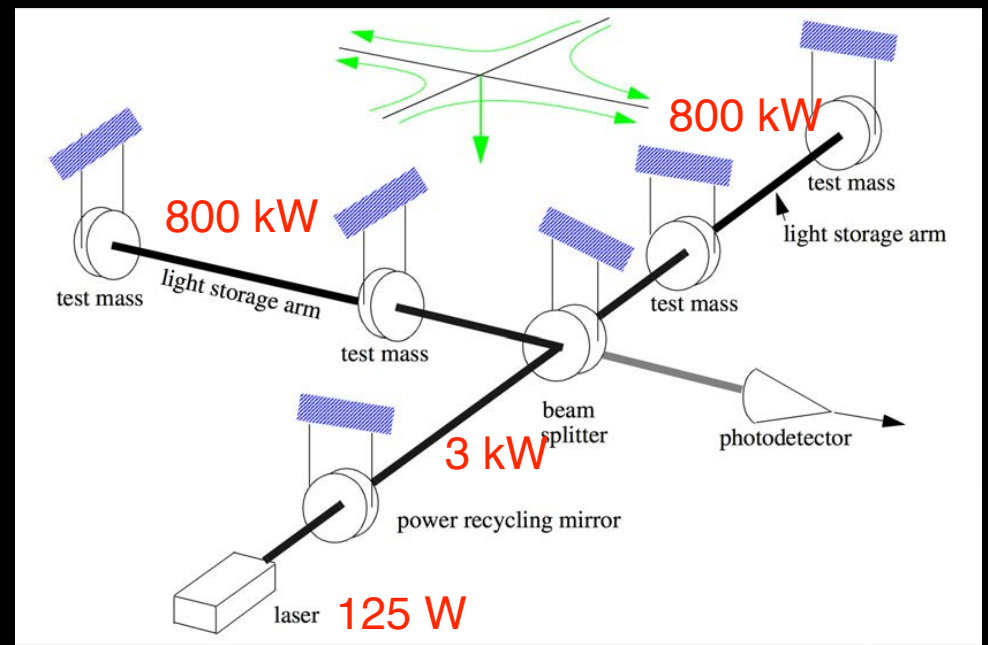
- N = number of photons - shot noise

- $h_{\text{min}} \approx \frac{\lambda}{L} \frac{1}{B} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$

BL < 1/2 grav. wavelength

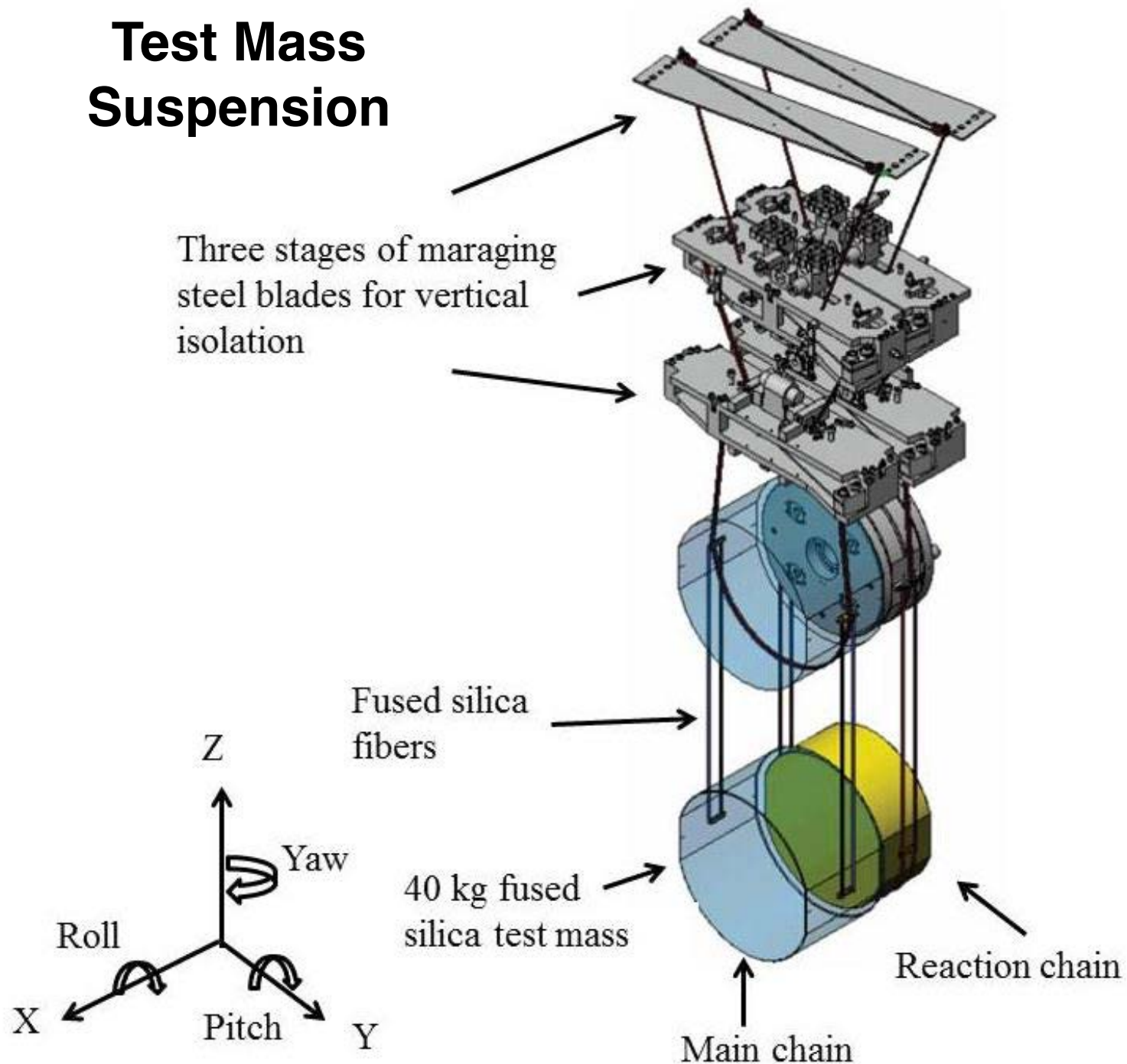
aLIGO, $\lambda = 1.064 \mu\text{m}$,
 $N > 10^{20}$ (125 W), $B \approx 300$,
 $L = 4000 \text{ m}$

- $h_{\text{min}} < 10^{-22}$



A. Abramovici et al., Science 256, 325 (1992)

Test Mass Suspension



Advanced LIGO Noise Budget

Fundamental noise sources

Displacement noise [ΔL]

Seismic noise

Radiation pressure

Thermal noise

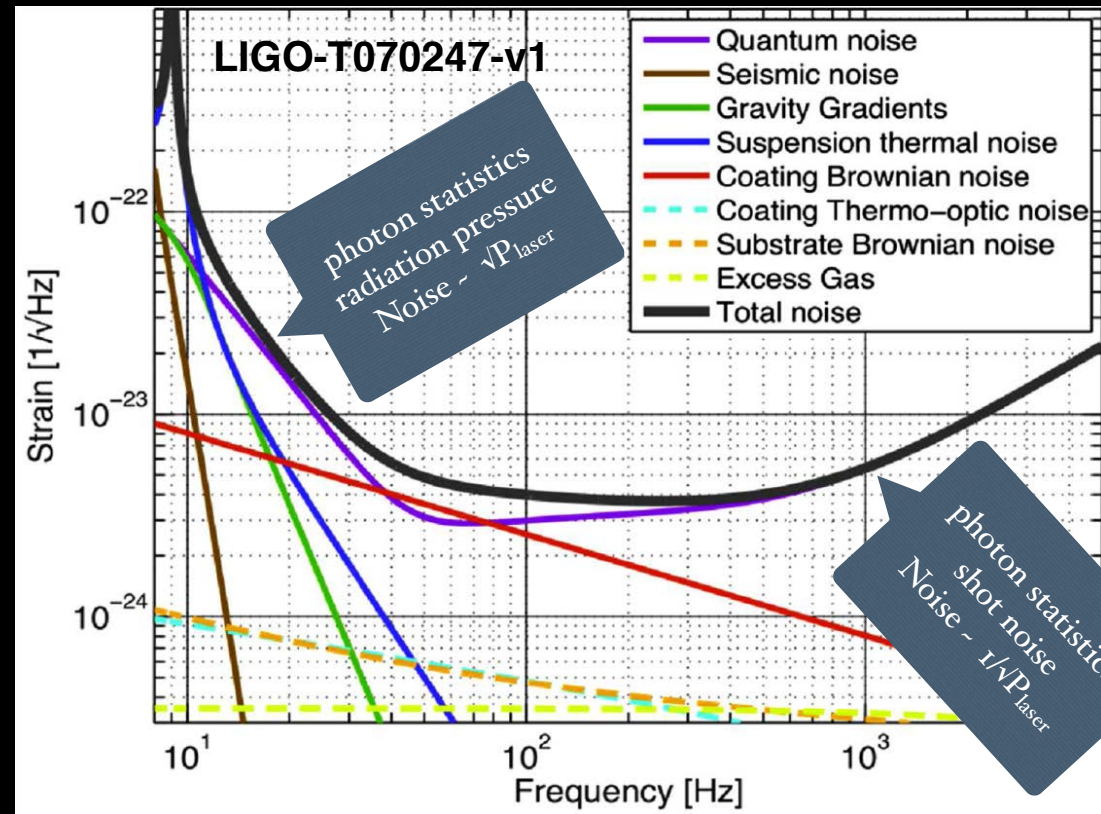
Suspensions

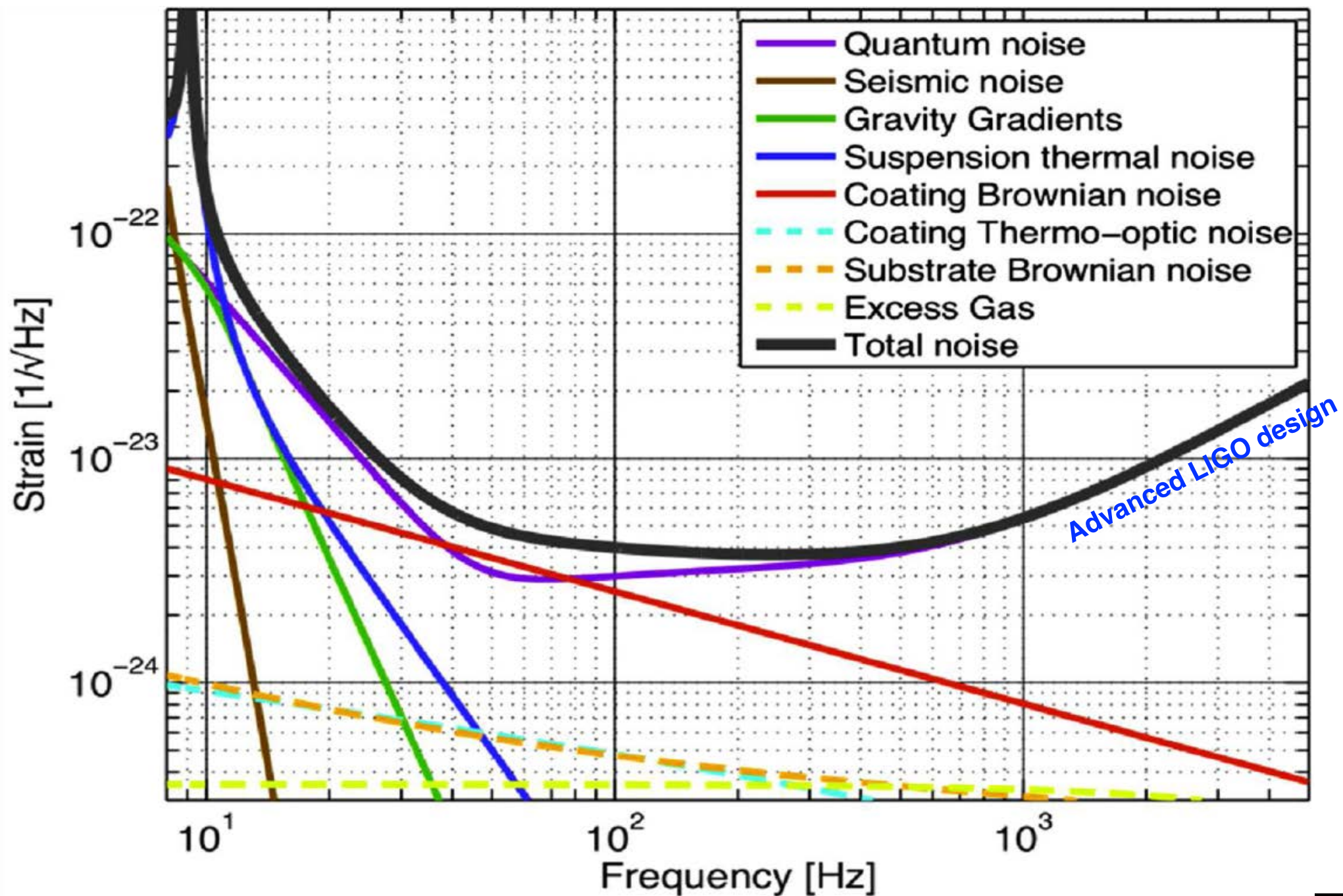
Optics

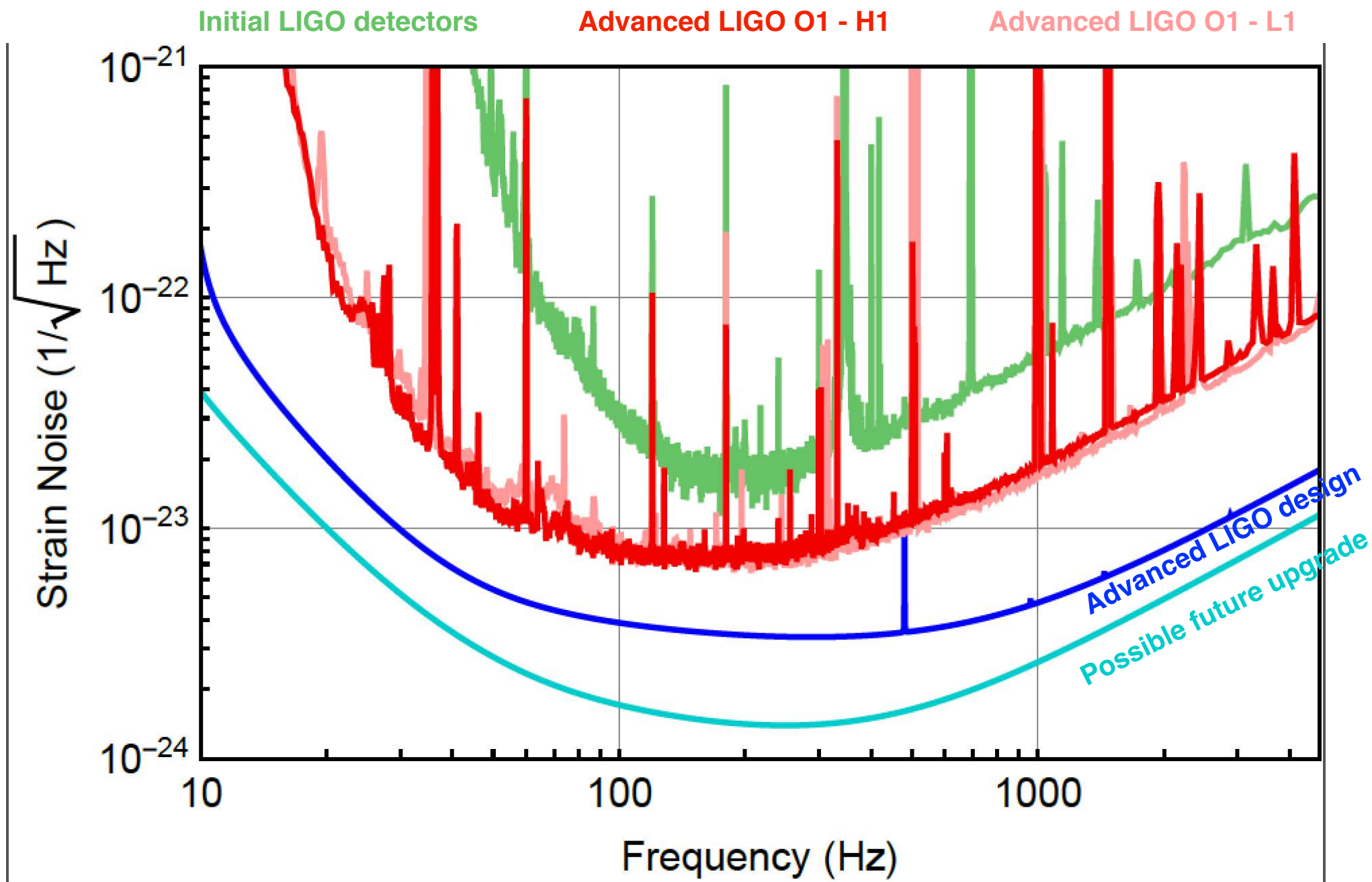
Sensing noise [$\Delta t_{\text{photon}}(f)$]

Shot noise

Residual gas







LIGO-P1500237-v10

Physics Environment Monitoring



LIGO-Hanford

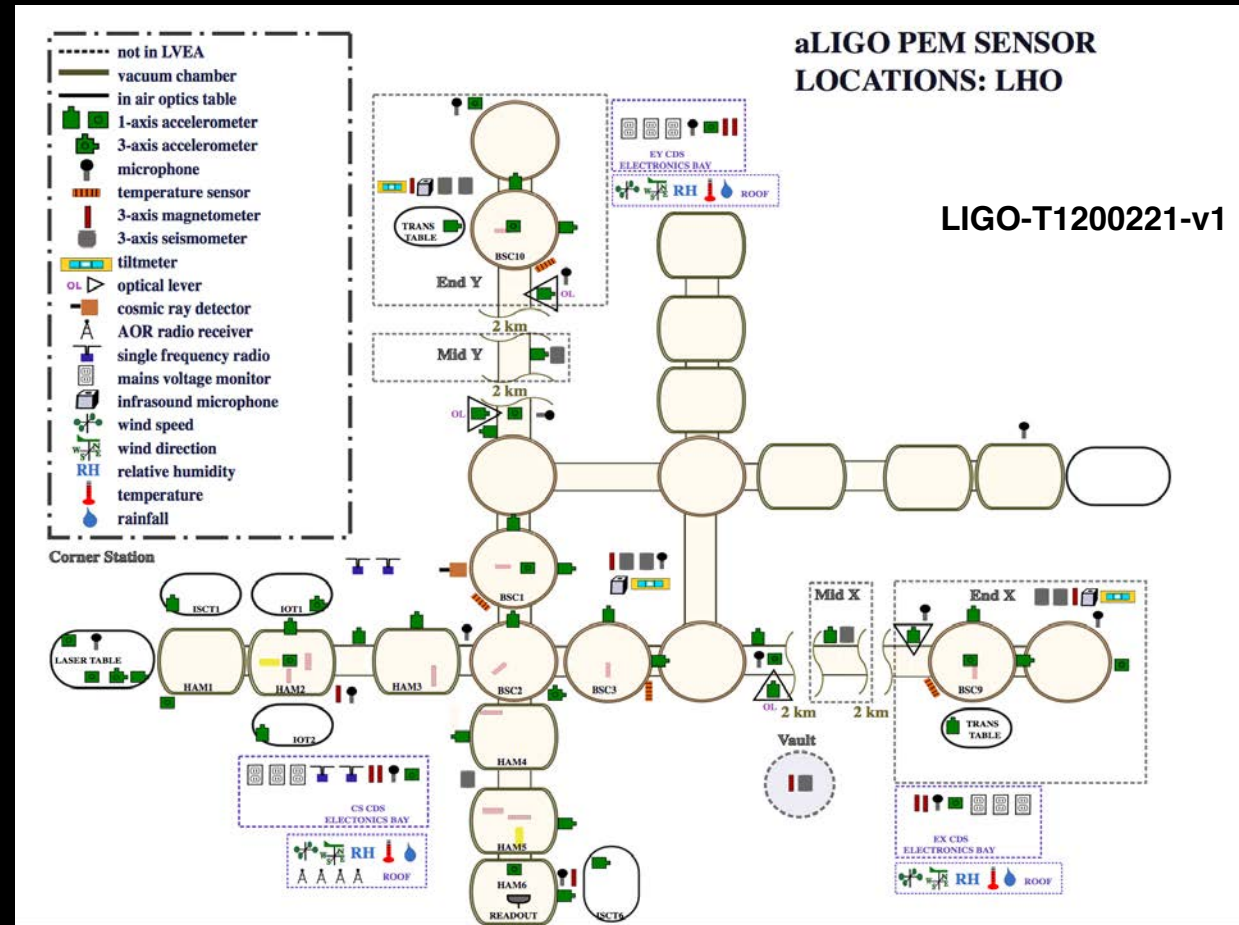
173 sensors



LIGO-Livingston

130 sensors

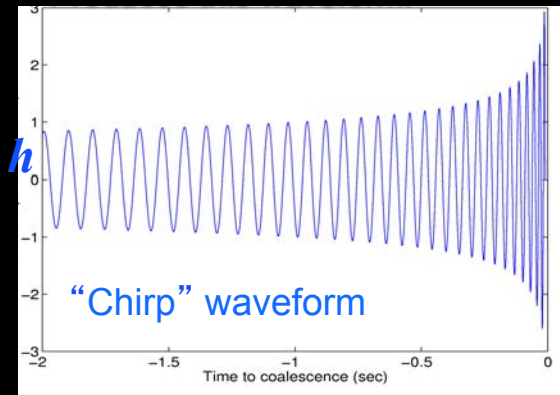
- seismometers and ground tilt sensors
- audio frequency microphones
- power voltage monitors
- fluxgate magnetometers
- accelerometers
- radio frequency receivers
- wind speed sensors
- cosmic ray detector



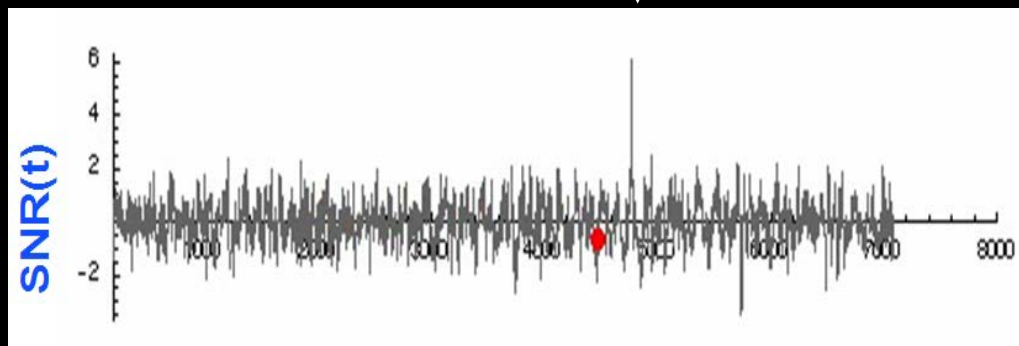
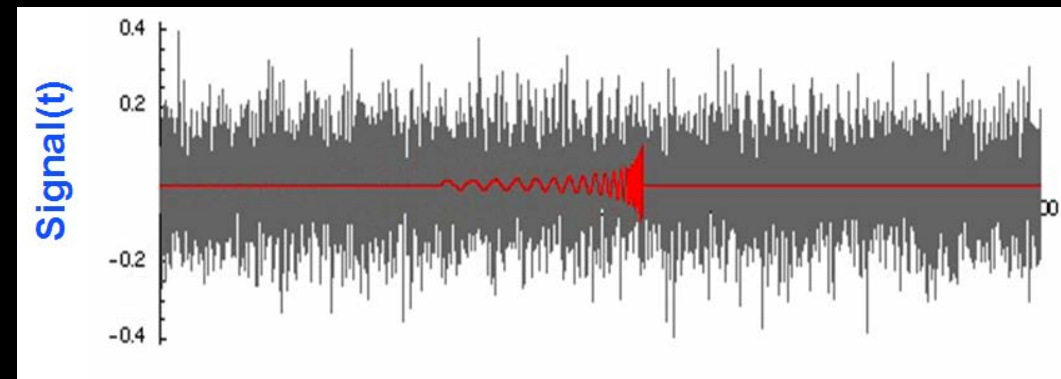
Finding signal in noise dominated data



Templates for each candidate signal



Matched filters to pull signal from noise



September 14, 2015 signal

PRL 116, 061102 (2016)

Selected for a Viewpoint in *Physics*
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
12 FEBRUARY 2016



Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger

B. P. Abbott *et al.**

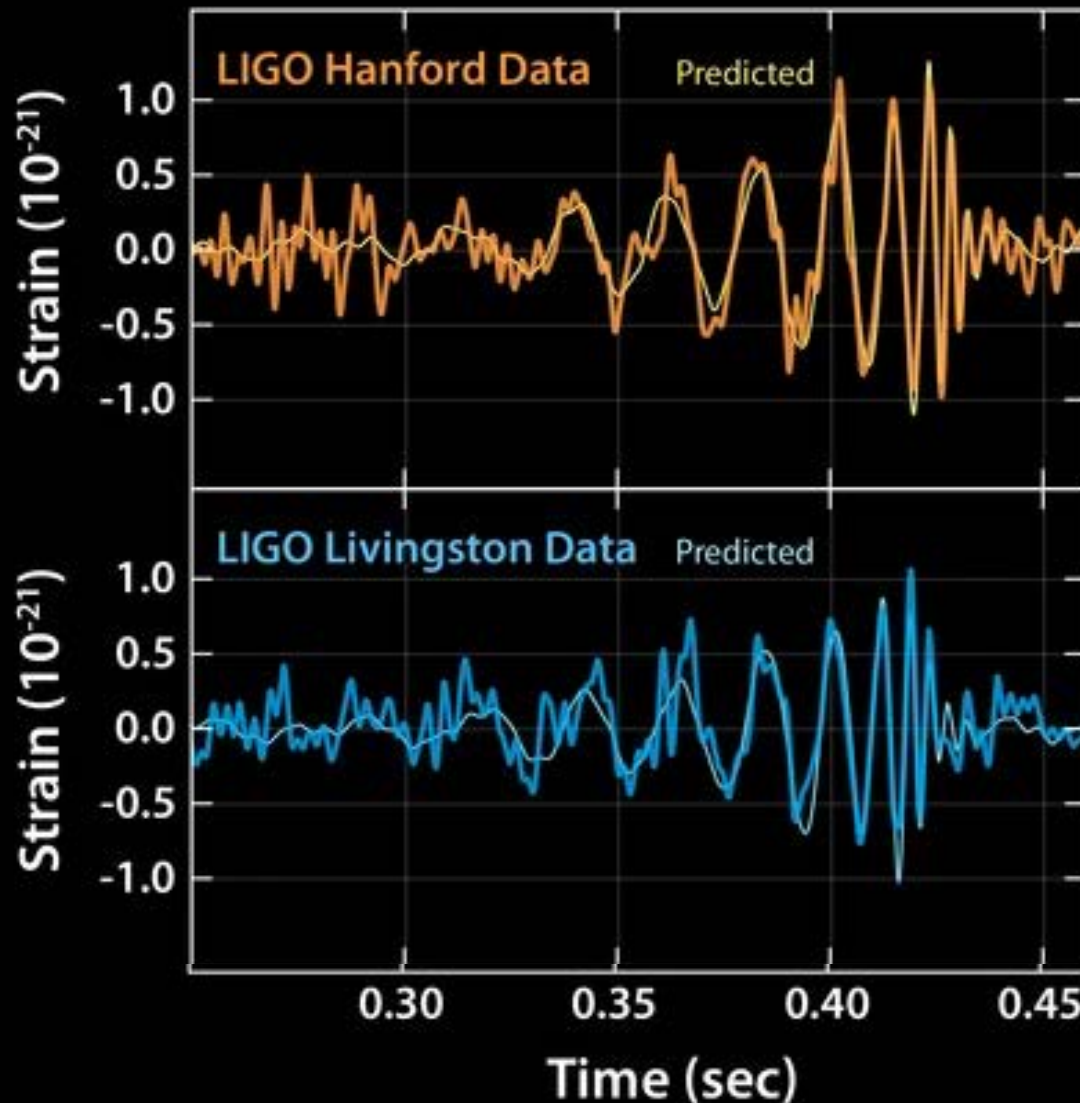
(LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)

(Received 21 January 2016; published 11 February 2016)

On September 14, 2015 at 09:50:45 UTC the two detectors of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory simultaneously observed a transient gravitational-wave signal. The signal sweeps upwards in frequency from 35 to 250 Hz with a peak gravitational-wave strain of 1.0×10^{-21} . It matches the waveform predicted by general relativity for the inspiral and merger of a pair of black holes and the ringdown of the resulting single black hole. The signal was observed with a matched-filter signal-to-noise ratio of 24 and a false alarm rate estimated to be less than 1 event per 203 000 years, equivalent to a significance greater than 5.1σ . The source lies at a luminosity distance of 410^{+160}_{-180} Mpc corresponding to a redshift $z = 0.09^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$. In the source frame, the initial black hole masses are $36^{+5}_{-4} M_{\odot}$ and $29^{+4}_{-4} M_{\odot}$, and the final black hole mass is $62^{+4}_{-4} M_{\odot}$, with $3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.5} M_{\odot} c^2$ radiated in gravitational waves. All uncertainties define 90% credible intervals. These observations demonstrate the existence of binary stellar-mass black hole systems. This is the first direct detection of gravitational waves and the first observation of a binary black hole merger.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.116.061102

September 14, 2015 signal



time series filtered with
35–350 Hz band-pass filter and
band-reject filters to remove
strong instrumental spectral lines

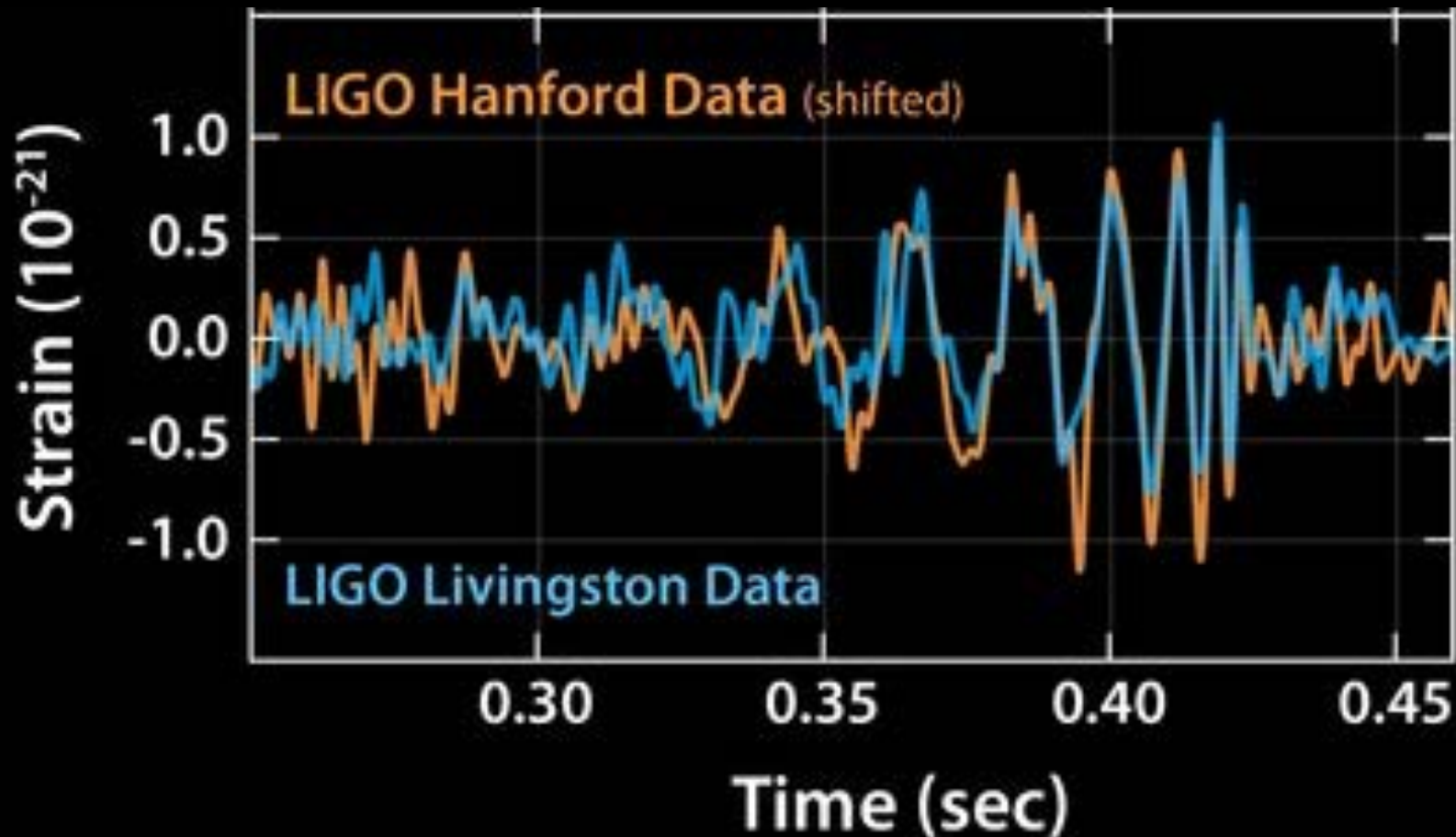
September 14, 2015 at 2:51 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (09:51 UTC)

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June 23, 2016

September 14, 2015 signal



September 14, 2015 at 2:51 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (09:51 UTC)

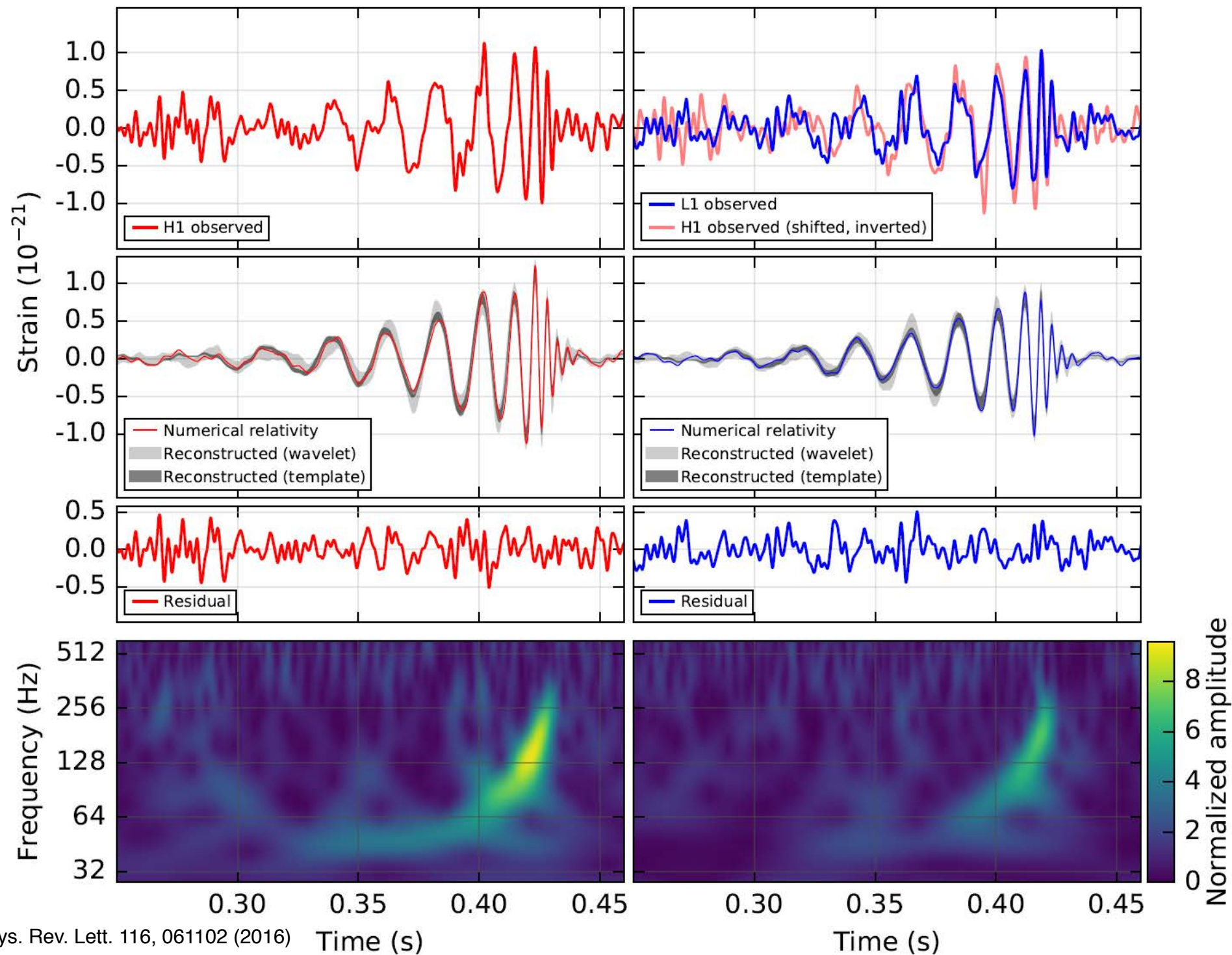
Jim Brau

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June 23, 2016

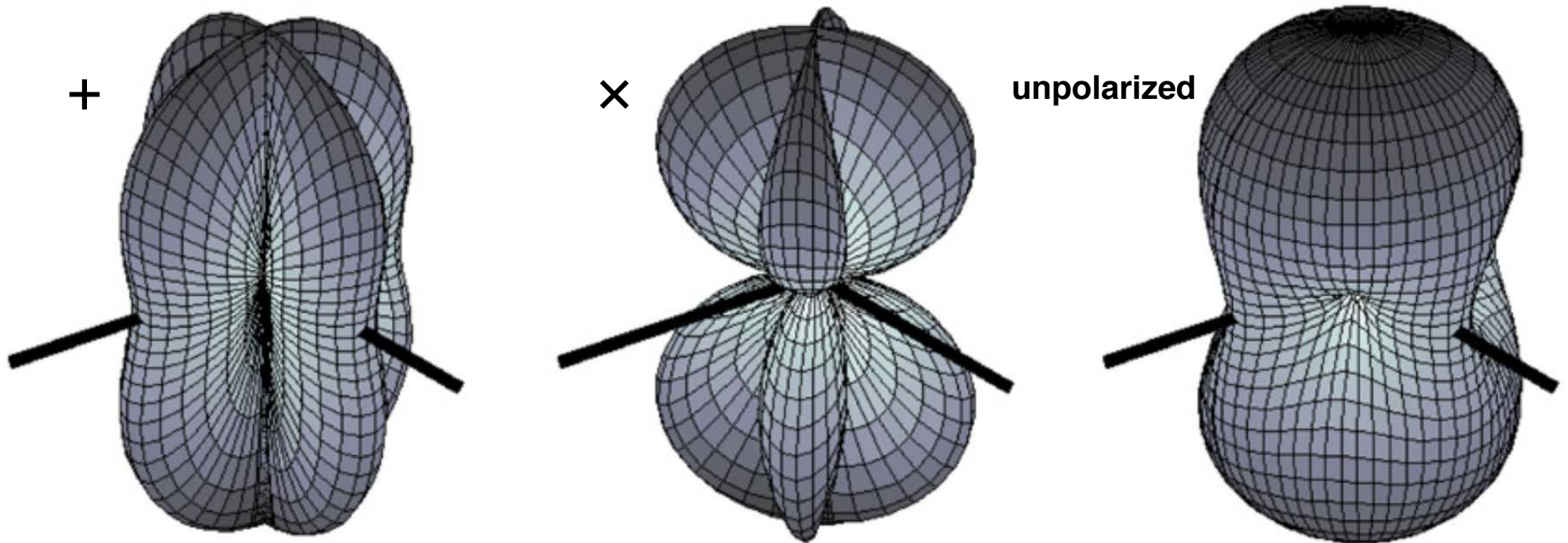
Hanford, Washington (H1)

Livingston, Louisiana (L1)



Antenna pattern

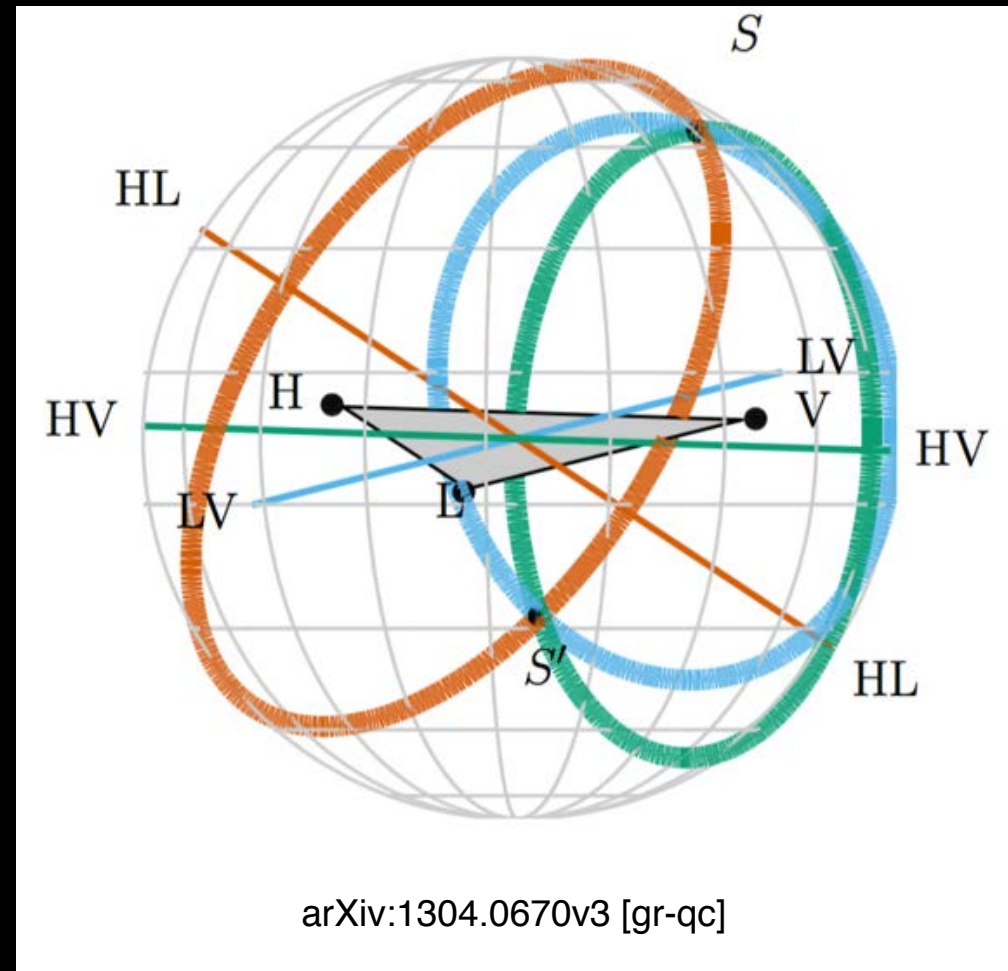
- each interferometer

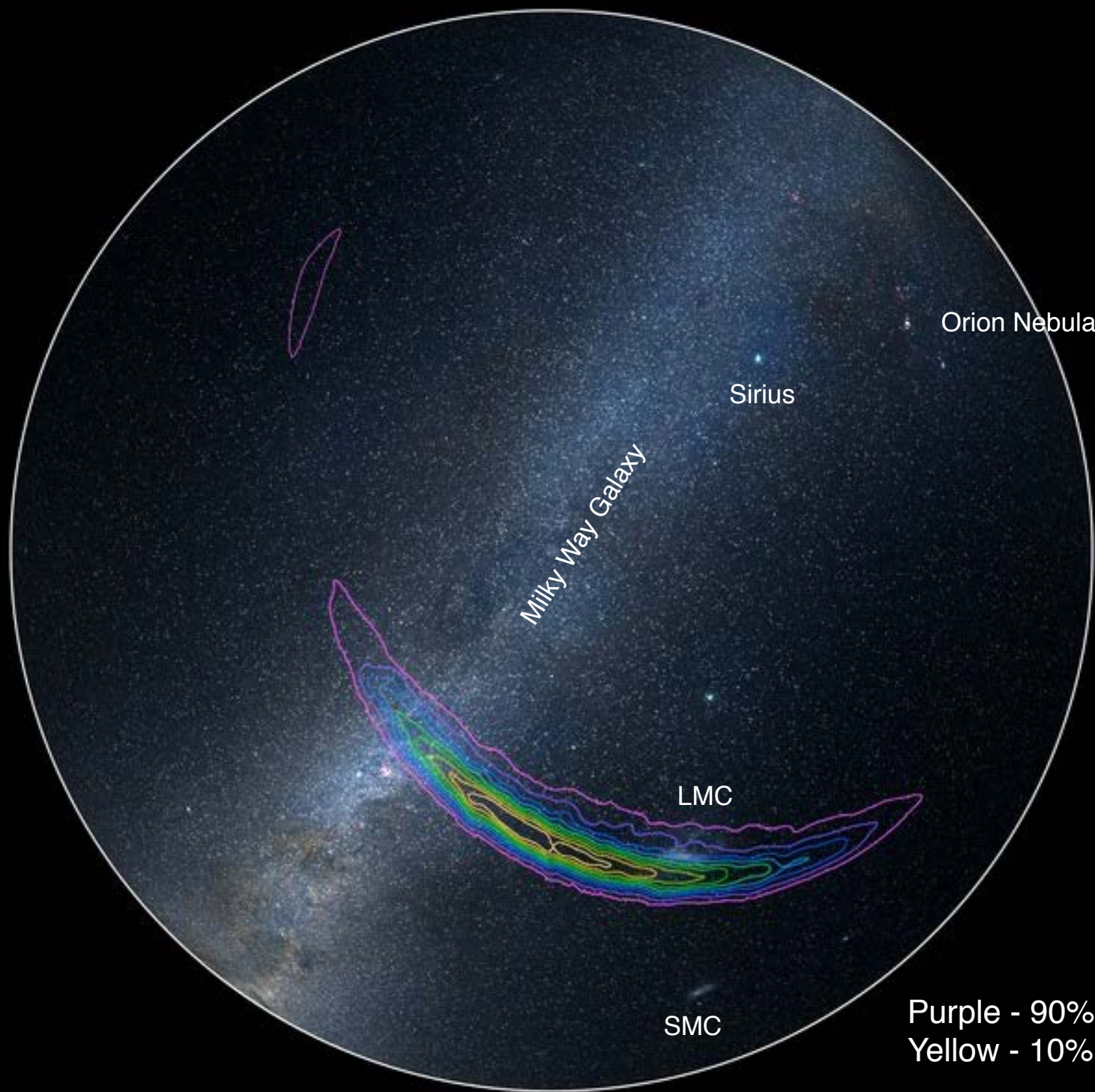


Rep. Prog. Phys. 72 (2009) 076901

Two interferometer localization

- Localization primarily from timing
- Two interferometers produces approximately a ring of possible origins
- A third interferometer (VIRGO in Italy) will sharpen the localization

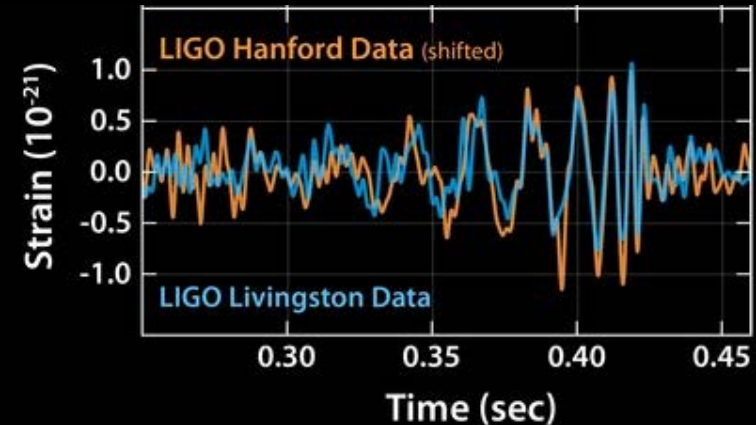




What caused GW150914 ?

Over 0.2 s (about 8 cycles) the signal frequency and amplitude increases from **35** to **150** Hz.

Most plausible explanation is the inspiral of two orbiting masses, **m1** and **m2**, due to gravitational-wave emission.



At the lower frequencies, such evolution is characterized by chirp mass:

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{3/5}}{(m_1 + m_2)^{1/5}} = \frac{c^3}{G} \left[\frac{5}{96} \pi^{-8/3} f^{-11/3} \dot{f} \right]^{3/5}$$

Estimating f and $\dot{f}$ from the data yields a chirp mass of $30 M_\odot$, implying total mass $M = m_1 + m_2$ is $> 70 M_\odot$ in the detector rest frame.

Only pair that satisfies constraints on waveform is black hole pair.

What caused GW150914 ?

Binary Massive Black Hole Merger

$$m1 = 36^{+5}_{-4} M_{\odot}$$

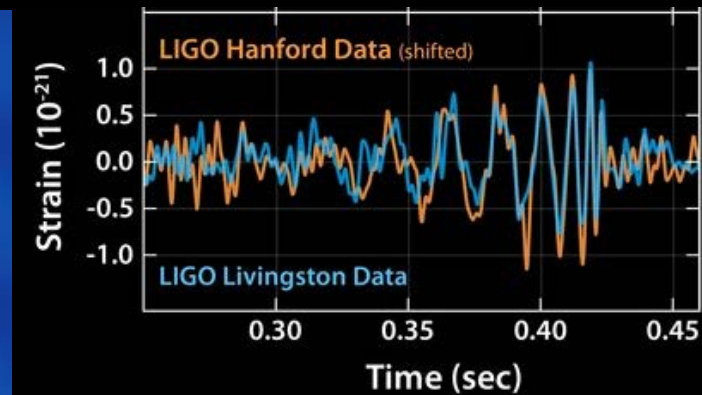
$$m2 = 29^{+4}_{-4} M_{\odot}$$

Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 061102 (2016)

5% of the black hole
mass-energy

$$3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.5} M_{\odot} c^2$$

converted into
gravitational waves



Simulating eXtreme Spacetime (SXS) Project
www.black-holes.org



Enormous output of energy

Maximum instantaneous GW luminosity

$$3.6_{-0.4}^{+0.5} \times 10^{56} \text{ erg s}^{-1} = 200_{-20}^{+30} M_{\odot} c^2 / \text{s}$$

Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 061102 (2016)

- During last second of coalescence the binary black hole system emitted more energy than all the stars in the observable universe

Simulating eXtreme Spacetime (SXS) Project
www.black-holes.org

Enormous output of energy

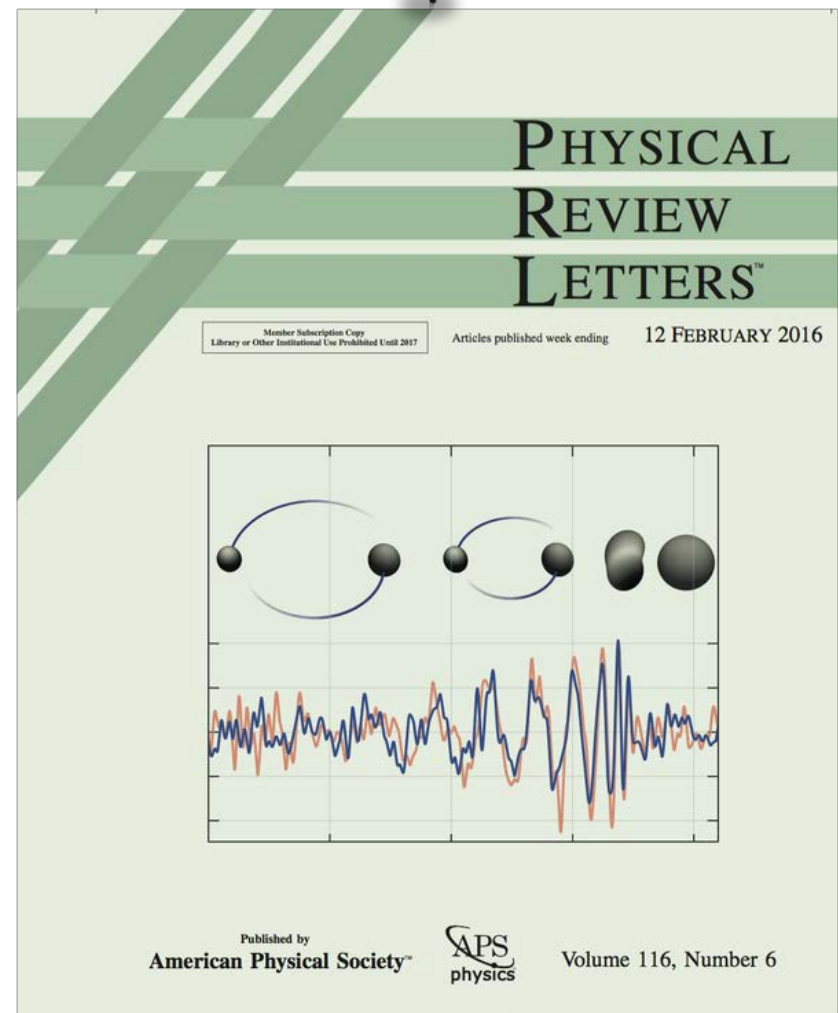
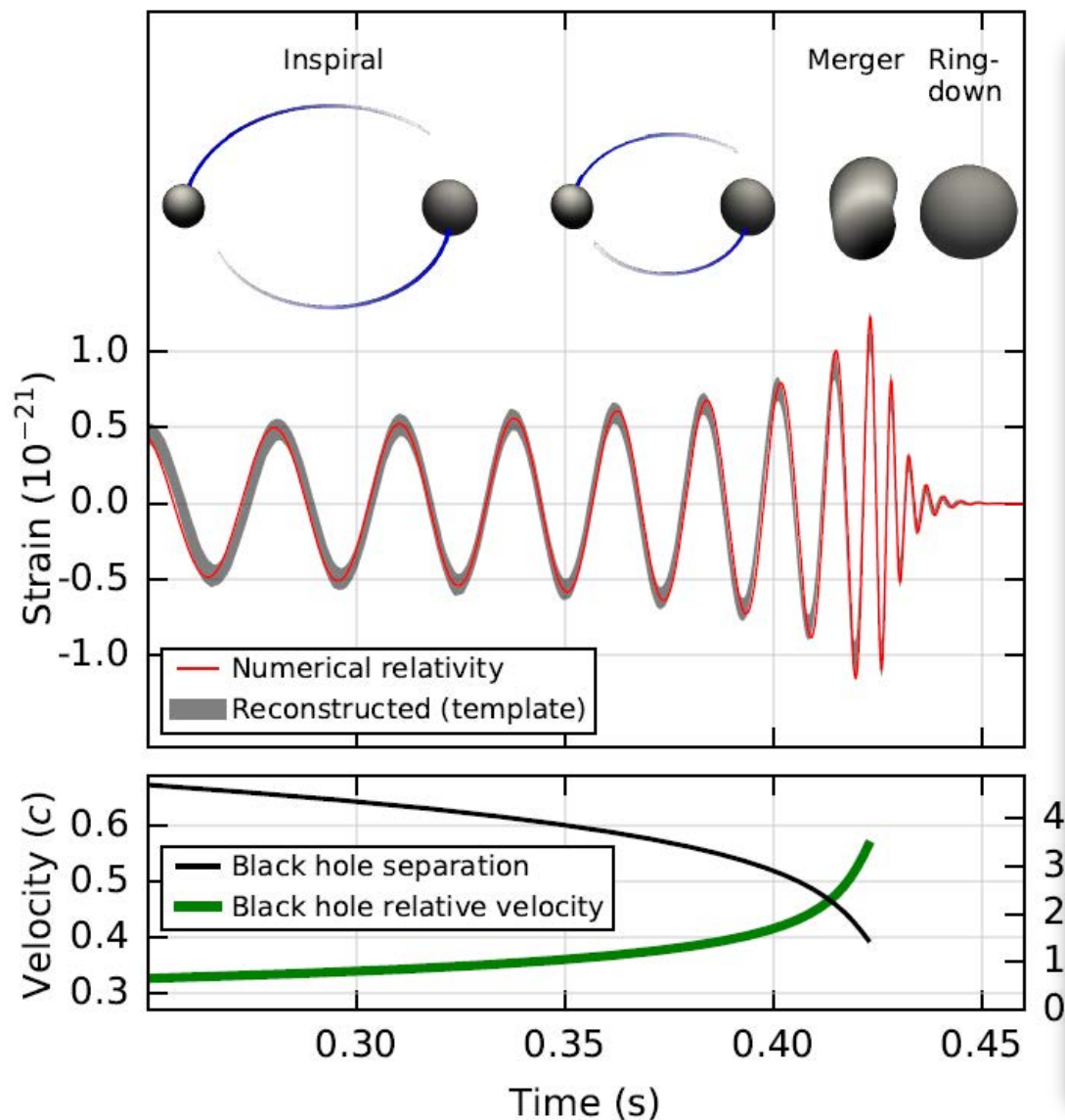
Maximum instantaneous GW luminosity

$$3.6_{-0.4}^{+0.5} \times 10^{56} \text{ erg s}^{-1} = 200_{-20}^{+30} M_{\odot} c^2 / \text{s}$$

Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 061102 (2016)

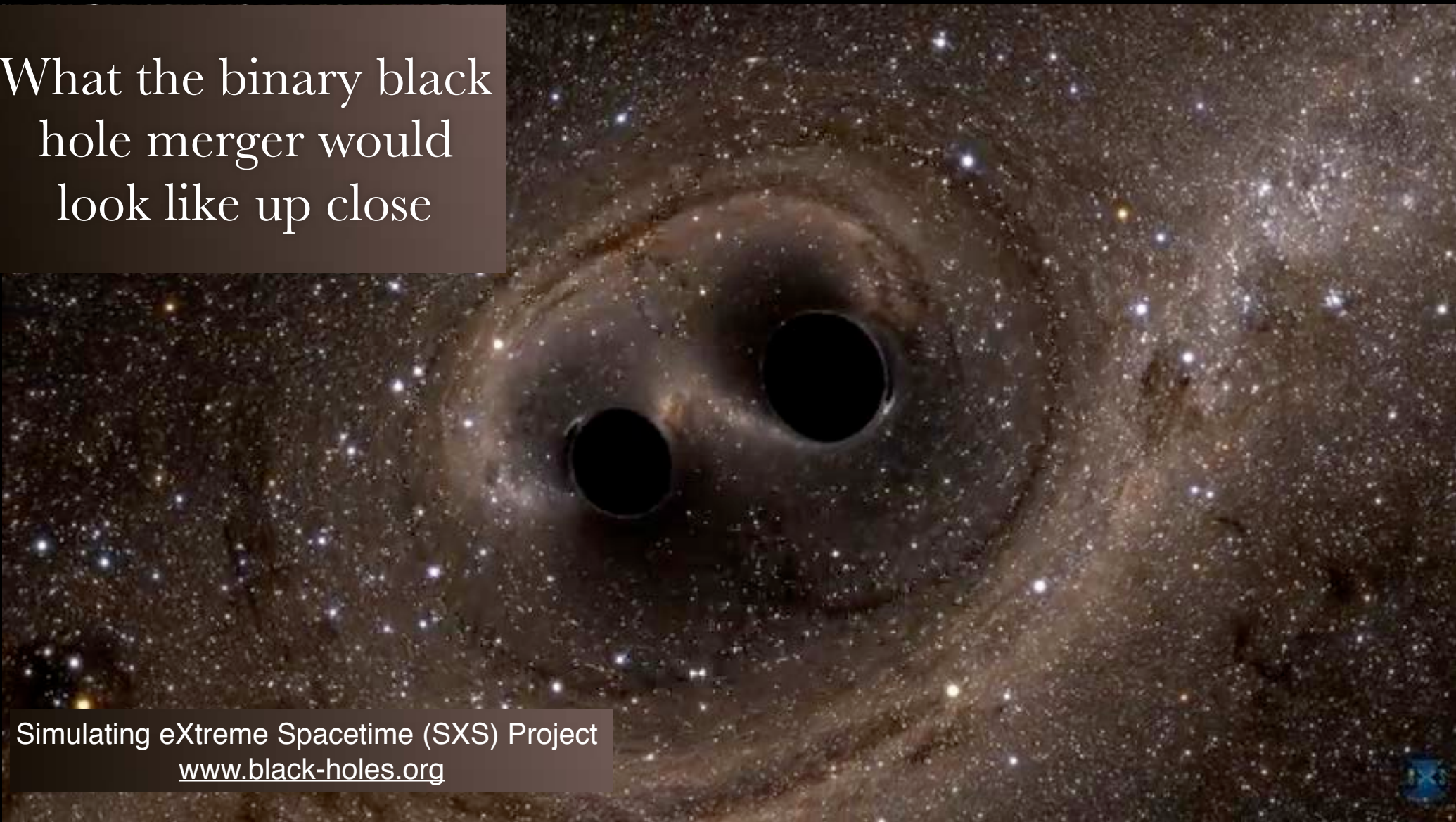
- The flux of energy passing through Earth during the last second ($1.5 \mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$) was
 - about a hundred times brighter than the full Moon ($20 \text{ nW}/\text{cm}^2$)
 - approximately equivalent to the flux of radiation from a cell phone at 1 meter

What caused GW150914 ?



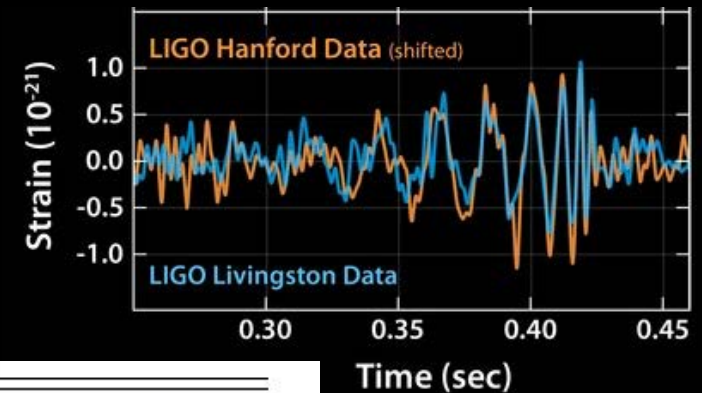
What caused GW150914 ?

What the binary black hole merger would look like up close



Simulating eXtreme Spacetime (SXS) Project
www.black-holes.org

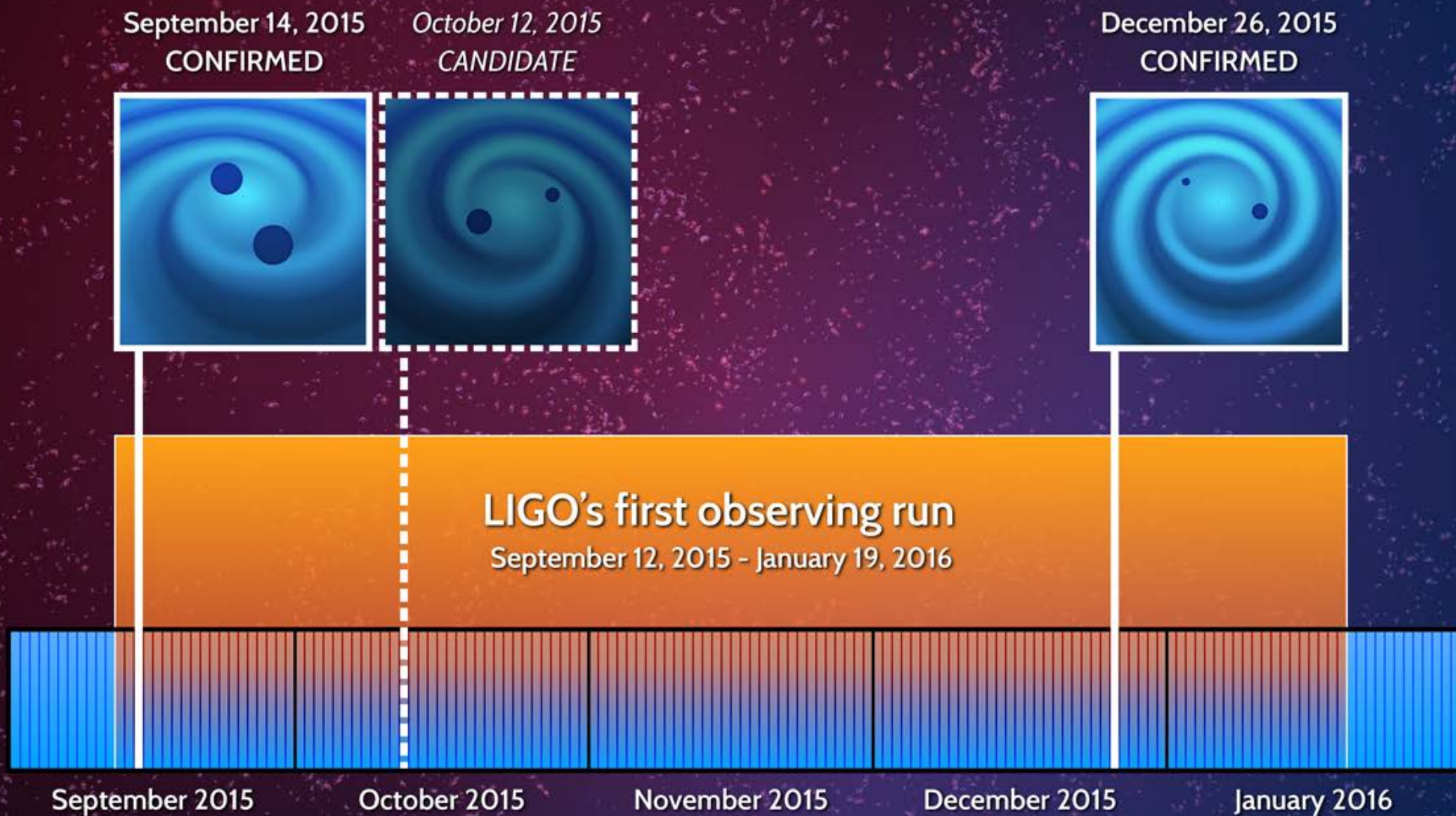
What caused GW150914 ?



Primary black hole mass	$36^{+5}_{-4} M_{\odot}$
Secondary black hole mass	$29^{+4}_{-4} M_{\odot}$
Final black hole mass	$62^{+4}_{-4} M_{\odot}$
Final black hole spin	$0.67^{+0.05}_{-0.07}$
Luminosity distance	$410^{+160}_{-180} \text{ Mpc}$
Source redshift, z	$0.09^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$

= 1.3 billion light-years

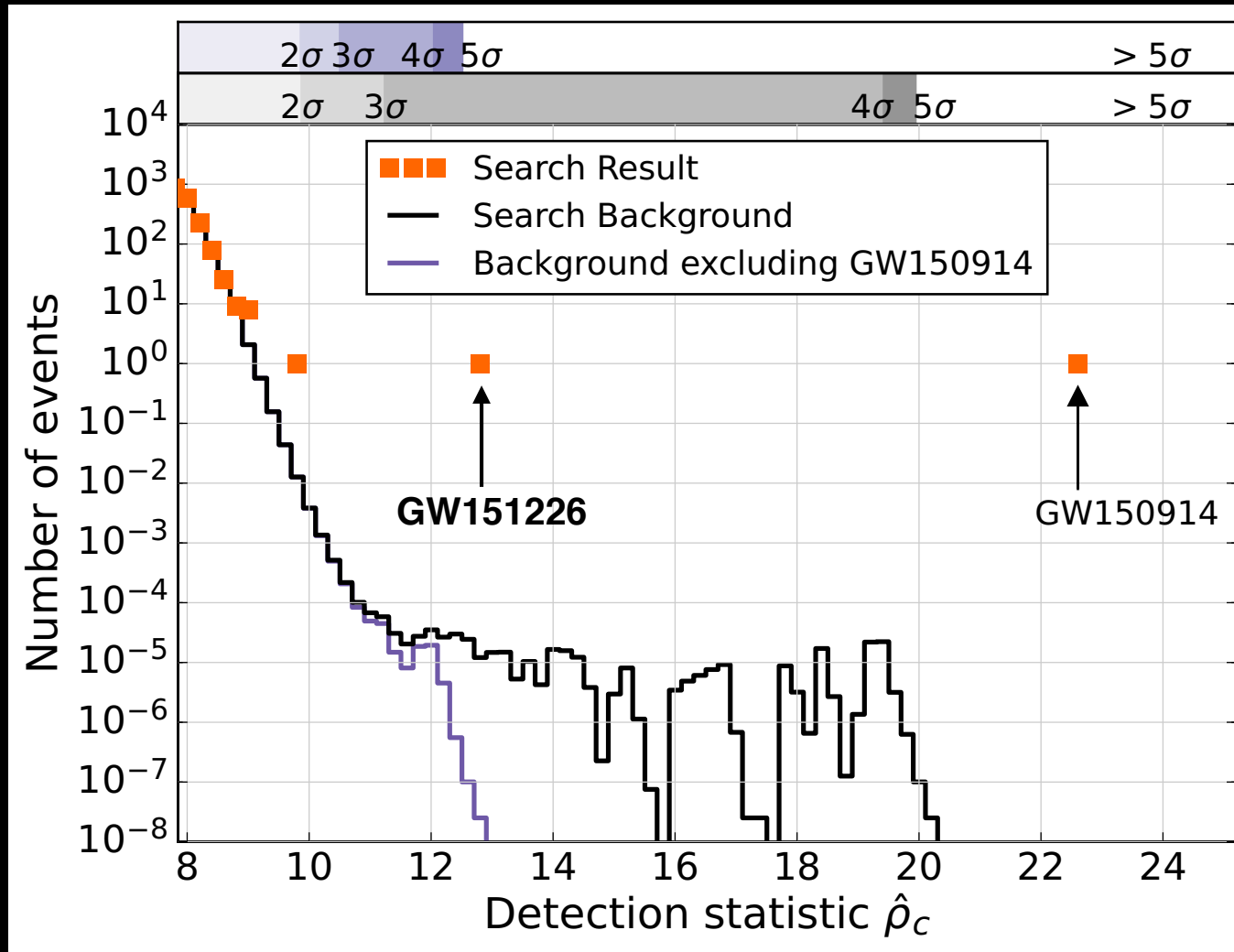
Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 061102 (2016)

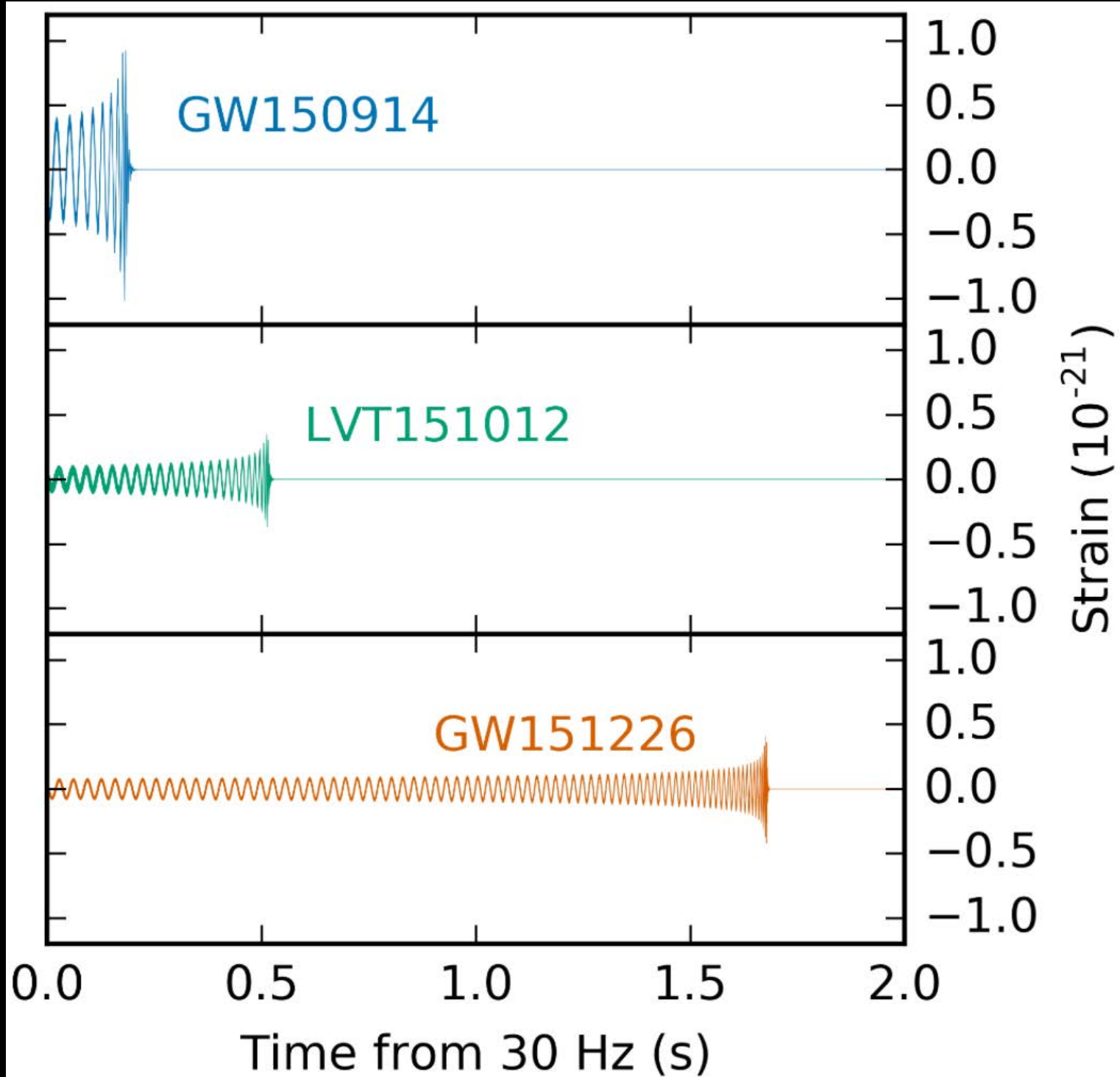


Search for binary black holes systems

O1 (Sep 12, 2015-Jan 19, 2016, ~48 days of coincident data)

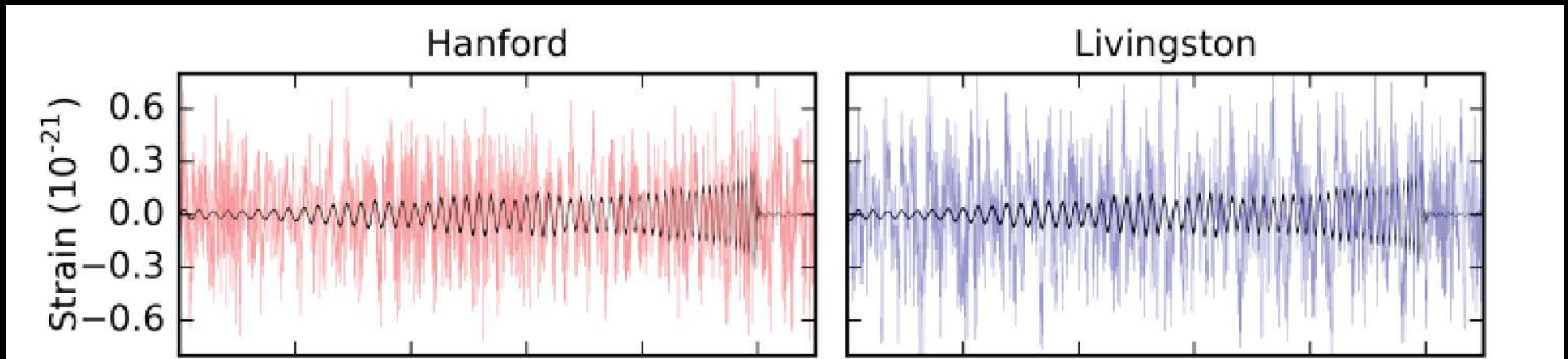
Selection: black hole mass $> 2 M_{\odot}$ and total mass $< 100 M_{\odot}$



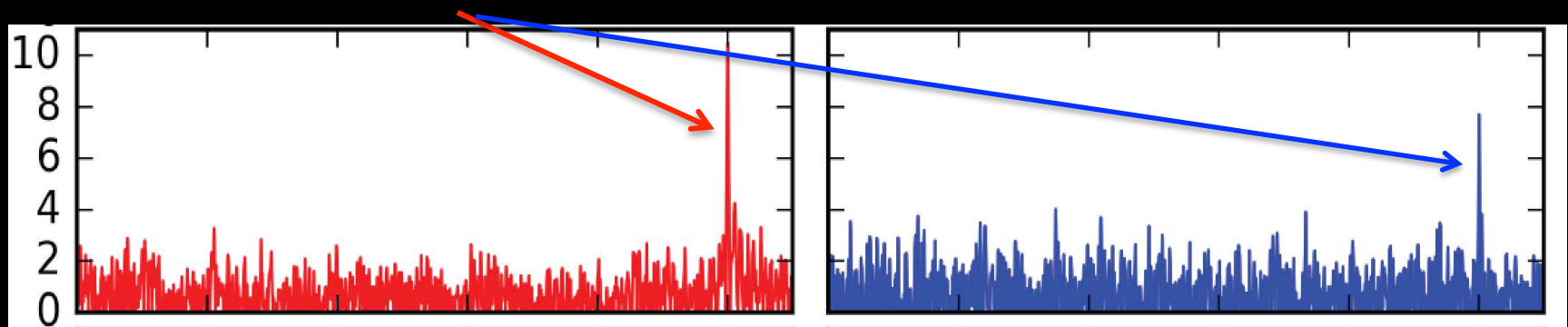


GW151226

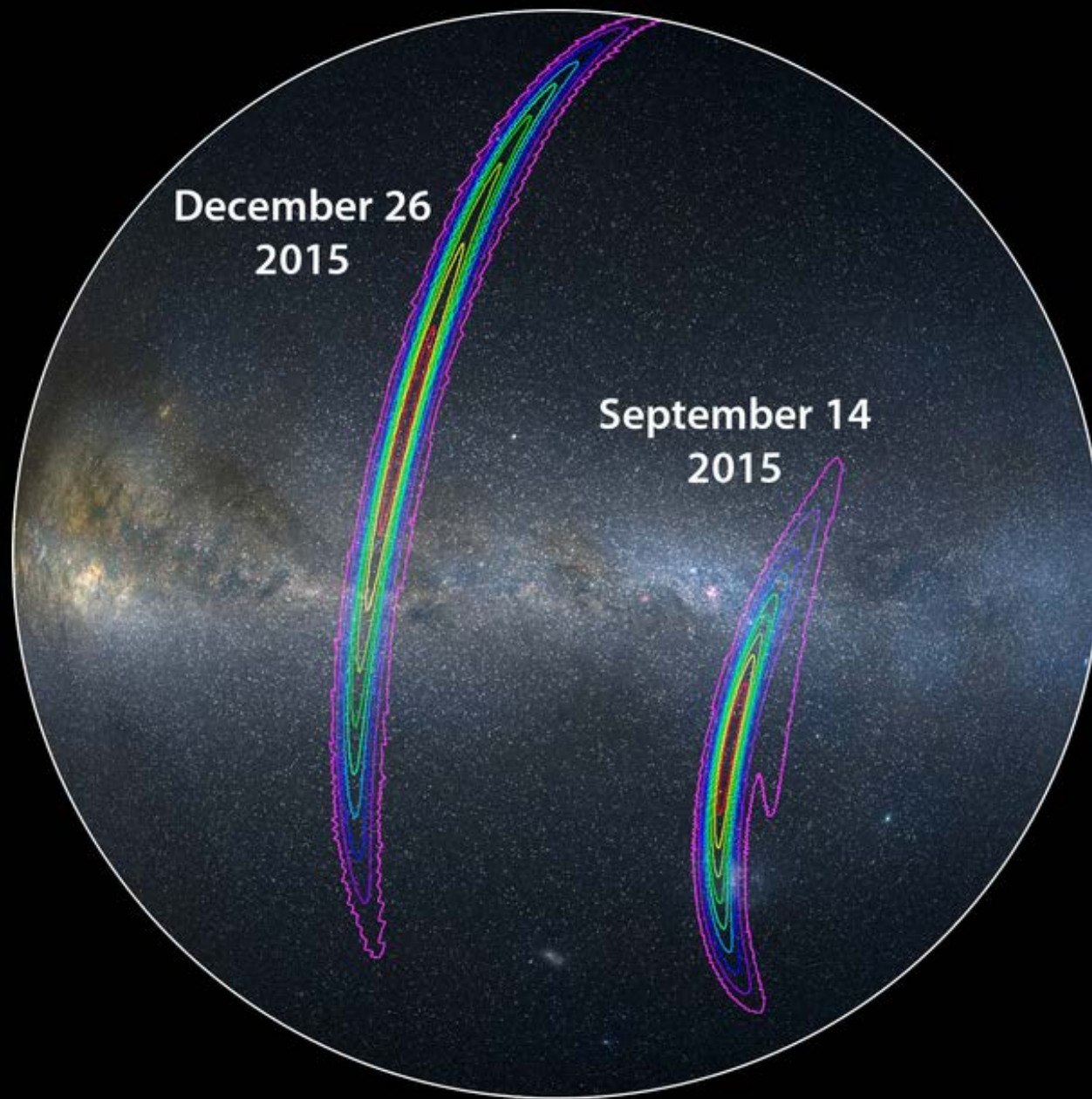
Filtered detector output and filtered best matching waveform



Signal-to-noise (SNR) when best template matches at coalescence time



PRL 116, 241103 (2016)



GW150914

GW151226

LVT151012

Primary mass $m_1^{\text{source}}/M_\odot$	$36.2^{+5.2}_{-3.8}$	$14.2^{+8.3}_{-3.7}$	23^{+18}_{-6}
Secondary mass $m_2^{\text{source}}/M_\odot$	$29.1^{+3.7}_{-4.4}$	$7.5^{+2.3}_{-2.3}$	13^{+4}_{-5}
Final mass $M_f^{\text{source}}/M_\odot$	$62.3^{+3.7}_{-3.1}$	$20.8^{+6.1}_{-1.7}$	35^{+14}_{-4}
Radiated energy $E_{\text{rad}}/(M_\odot c^2)$	$3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$	$1.0^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	$1.5^{+0.3}_{-0.4}$
Peak luminosity $\ell_{\text{peak}}/(\text{erg s}^{-1})$	$3.6^{+0.5}_{-0.4} \times 10^{56}$	$3.3^{+0.8}_{-1.6} \times 10^{56}$	$3.1^{+0.8}_{-1.8} \times 10^{56}$
Luminosity distance D_L/Mpc	420^{+150}_{-180}	440^{+180}_{-190}	1000^{+500}_{-500}
Source redshift z	$0.09^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$	$0.09^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$	$0.20^{+0.09}_{-0.09}$

GW150914

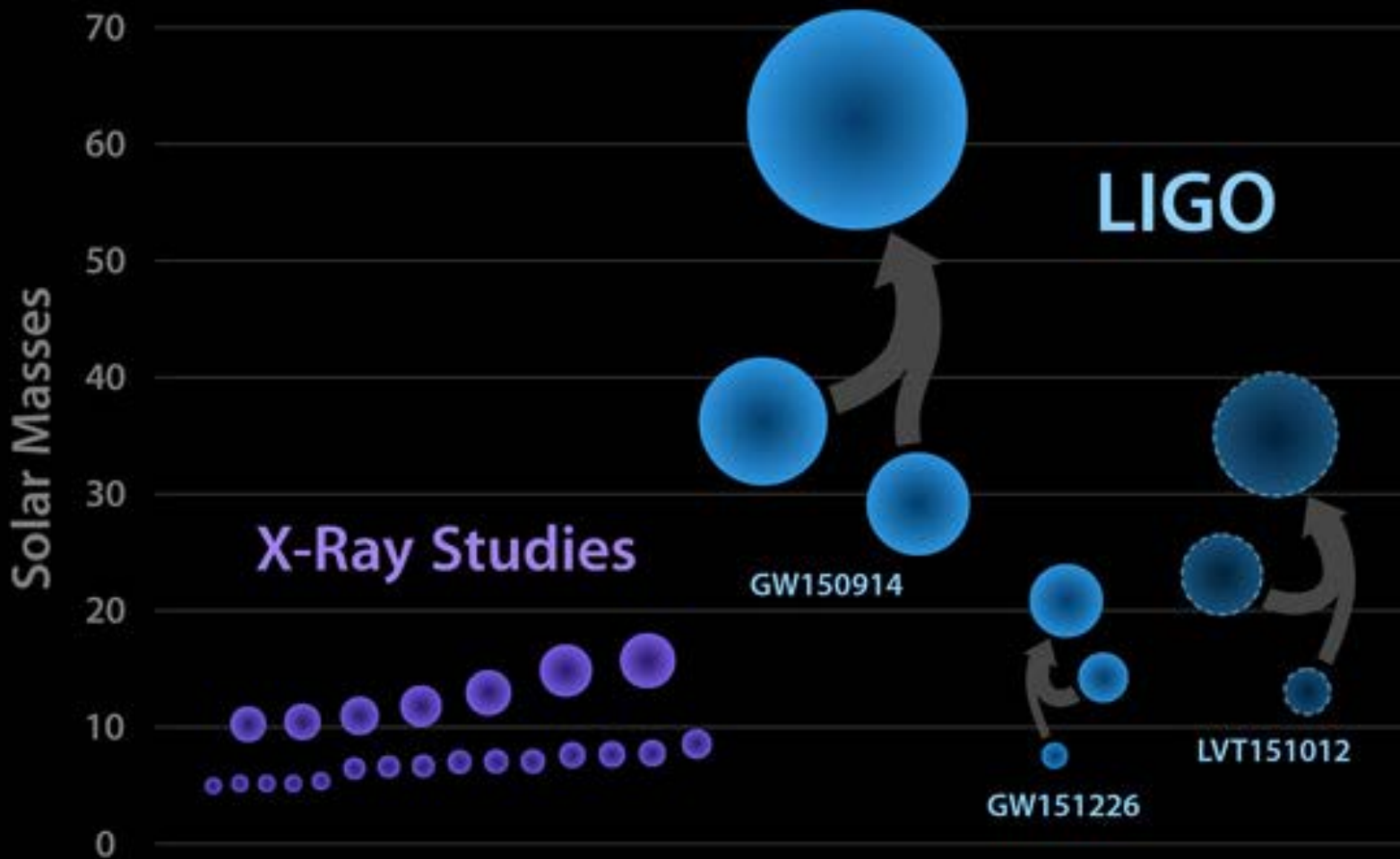
GW151226

LVT151012

Primary mass $m_1^{\text{source}}/M_\odot$	$36.2^{+5.2}_{-3.8}$	$14.2^{+8.3}_{-3.7}$	23^{+18}_{-6}
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Luminosity distance $D_L/\text{Giga-light-yrs}$	1.4	1.4	3.3

Event	GW150914	GW151226	LVT151012
Signal-to-noise ratio	23.7	13.0	9.7
ρ			
False alarm rate FAR/yr ⁻¹	$< 6.0 \times 10^{-7}$	$< 6.0 \times 10^{-7}$	0.37
p-value	7.5×10^{-8}	7.5×10^{-8}	0.045
Significance	$> 5.3 \sigma$	$> 5.3 \sigma$	1.7σ
Primary mass $m_1^{\text{source}}/\text{M}_\odot$	$36.2^{+5.2}_{-3.8}$	$14.2^{+8.3}_{-3.7}$	23^{+18}_{-6}
Secondary mass $m_2^{\text{source}}/\text{M}_\odot$	$29.1^{+3.7}_{-4.4}$	$7.5^{+2.3}_{-2.3}$	13^{+4}_{-5}
Chirp mass $\mathcal{M}^{\text{source}}/\text{M}_\odot$	$28.1^{+1.8}_{-1.5}$	$8.9^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$	$15.1^{+1.4}_{-1.1}$
Total mass $M^{\text{source}}/\text{M}_\odot$	$65.3^{+4.1}_{-3.4}$	$21.8^{+5.9}_{-1.7}$	37^{+13}_{-4}
Effective inspiral spin χ_{eff}	$-0.06^{+0.14}_{-0.14}$	$0.21^{+0.20}_{-0.10}$	$0.0^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$
Final mass $M_{\text{f}}^{\text{source}}/\text{M}_\odot$	$62.3^{+3.7}_{-3.1}$	$20.8^{+6.1}_{-1.7}$	35^{+14}_{-4}
Final spin a_{f}	$0.68^{+0.05}_{-0.06}$	$0.74^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$	$0.66^{+0.09}_{-0.10}$
Radiated energy $E_{\text{rad}}/(\text{M}_\odot c^2)$	$3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$	$1.0^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	$1.5^{+0.3}_{-0.4}$
Peak luminosity $\ell_{\text{peak}}/(\text{erg s}^{-1})$	$3.6^{+0.5}_{-0.4} \times 10^{56}$	$3.3^{+0.8}_{-1.6} \times 10^{56}$	$3.1^{+0.8}_{-1.8} \times 10^{56}$
Luminosity distance D_{L}/Mpc	420^{+150}_{-180}	440^{+180}_{-190}	1000^{+500}_{-500}
Source redshift z	$0.09^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$	$0.09^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$	$0.20^{+0.09}_{-0.09}$
Sky localization $\Delta\Omega/\text{deg}^2$	230	850	1600

Black Holes of Known Mass

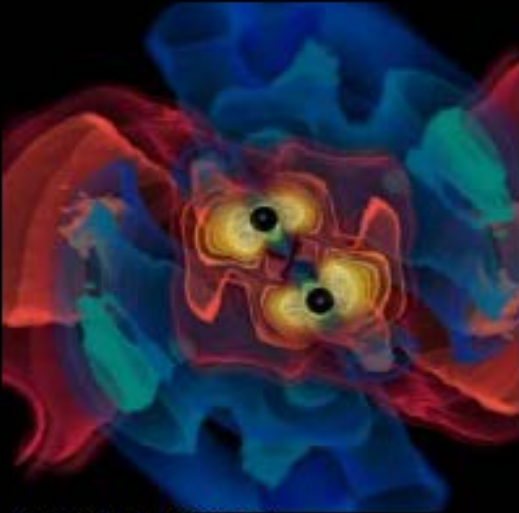


Electromagnetic Follow up on GW150914

arXiv:1602.08492

- LIGO/Virgo is trying to capture and identify an EM counterpart to a GW event (as well as neutrino source counterparts)
- More than 70 groups have signed MOUs with LIGO+Virgo
- Most interesting report for GW₁₅₀₉₁₄:
 - Fermi GBM weak transient 0.4 s later, ~1 s long
 - arXiv:1602.03920 [astro-ph.HE]
 - False alarm probability estimated to be 0.0022 $\Rightarrow$ inconclusive
 - Poorly localized, but consistent with GW₁₅₀₉₁₄ skymap
 - Appears to have a hard spectrum within GBM band, at least
 - Controversial; e.g., ACS instrument on INTEGRAL saw nothing

Ground-based GW astronomy



Credit: AEI, CCT, LSU

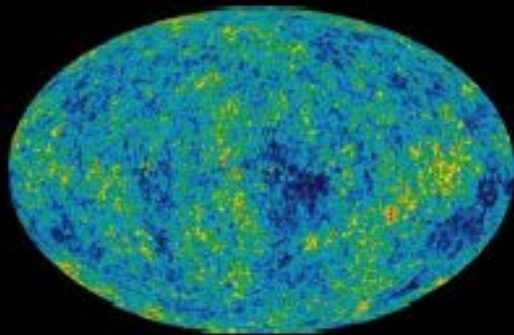
Coalescing Binary Systems

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



'Bursts'

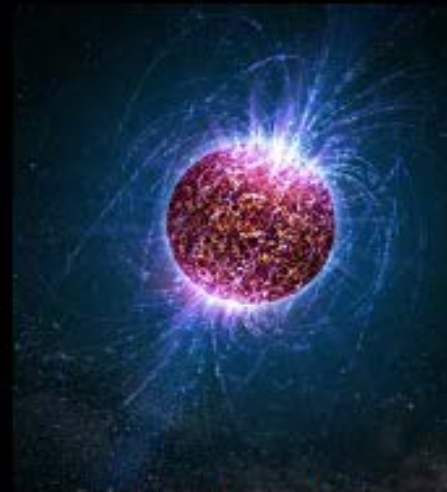
- galactic asymmetric core collapse supernovae
- cosmic strings
- ???



NASA/WMAP Science Team

Stochastic GWs

- 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

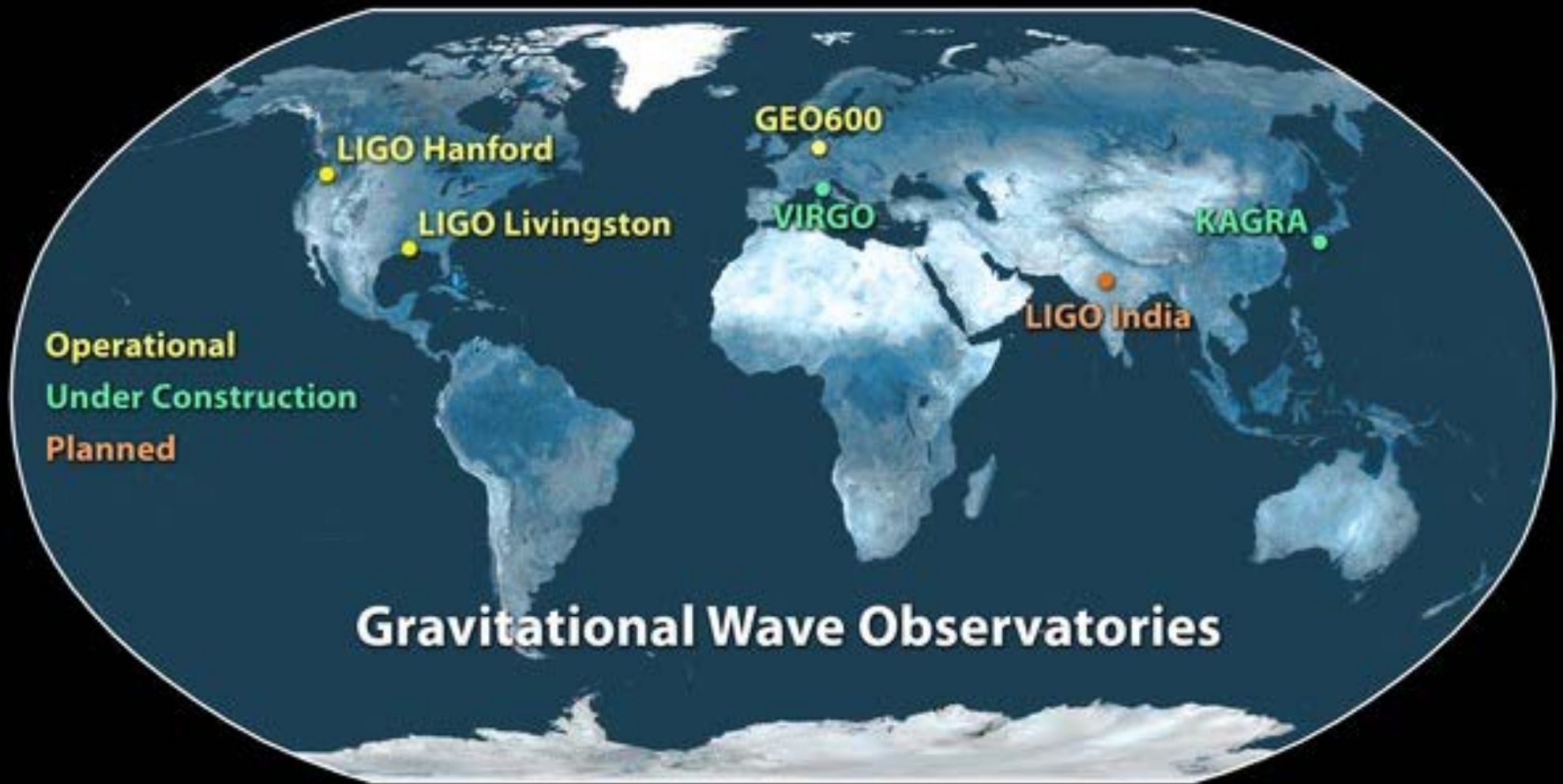


Casey Reed, Penn State

Continuous Sources

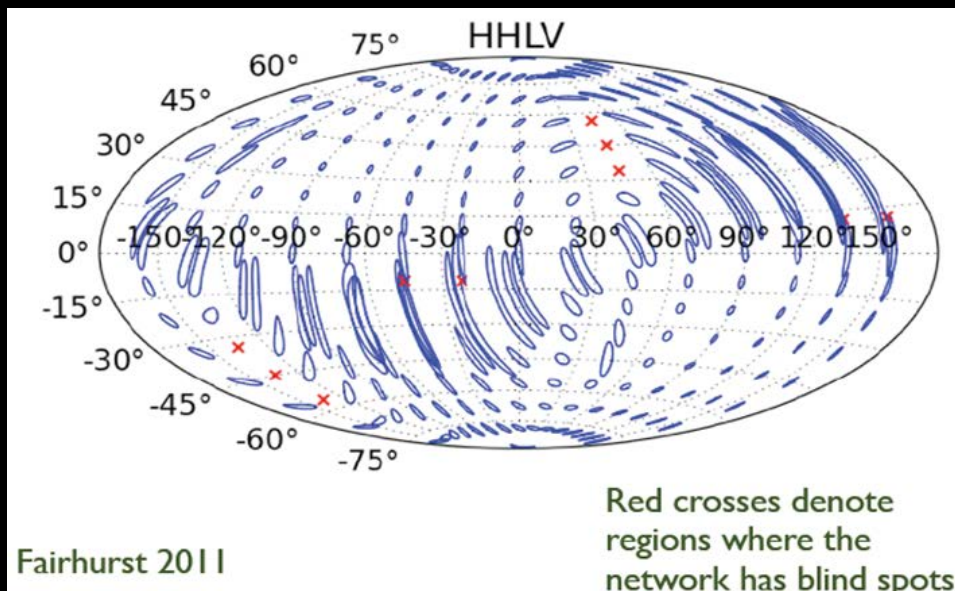
- Spinning neutron stars
- probe crustal deformations, 'EOS, quarkiness'

Future of Earth-based GWs

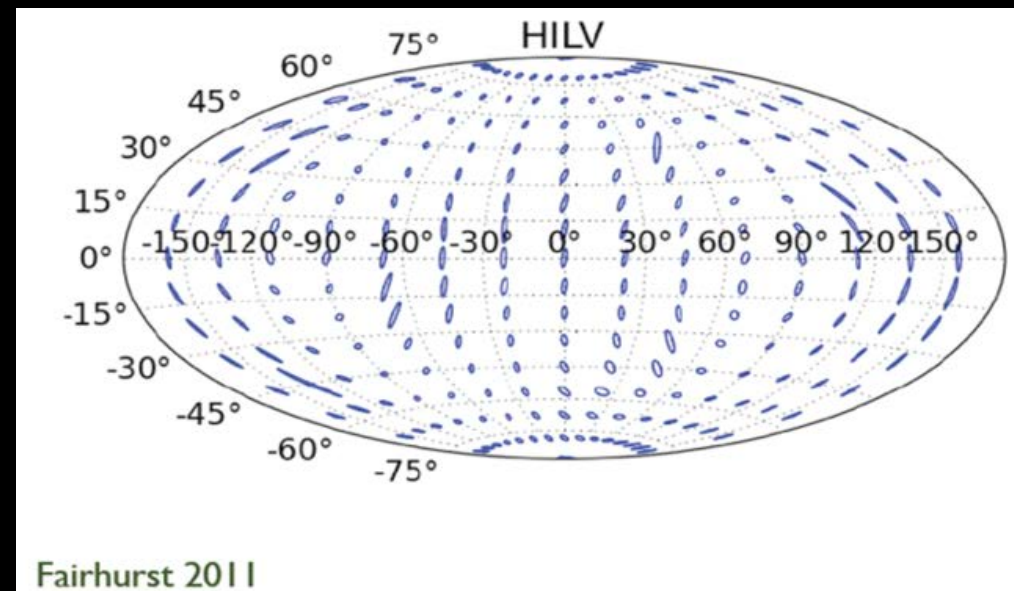


Localization with Global Network

- Source localization with LIGO and VIRGO
- three interferometers



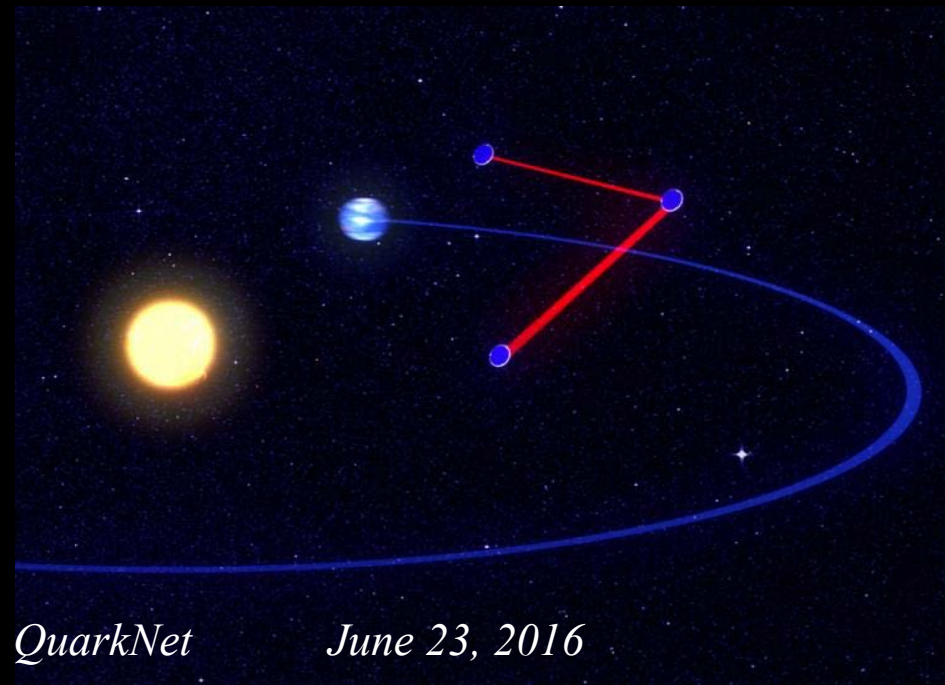
- Source localization with LIGO, VIRGO +India
- four interferometers



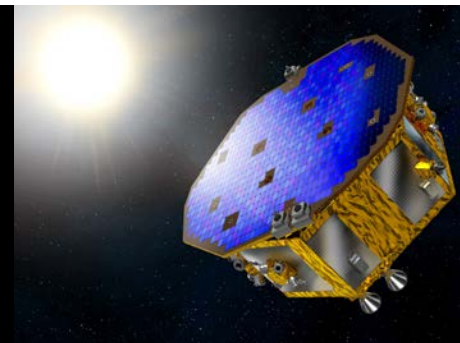
Credit: Stephen Fairhurst, "Improved source localization with LIGO India"

Future for Gravitational Waves in Space?

- eLISA (evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna)
 - one “Mother” and two “Daughter” spacecraft orbiting the Sun in a triangular configuration, connected by the two arms of a laser interferometer
 - three satellites, separated by one million kilometers
 - Earth’s orbit around sun, trailing by 20 degrees
 - Sensitive to low frequency (0.1 mHz to 1 Hz)
early phase of inspiral



LISA Pathfinder



Test key technologies needed for space-based gravitational wave detector.

Launched December 3, 2015.

FIRST RESULTS: PRL 116, 231101 (2016)

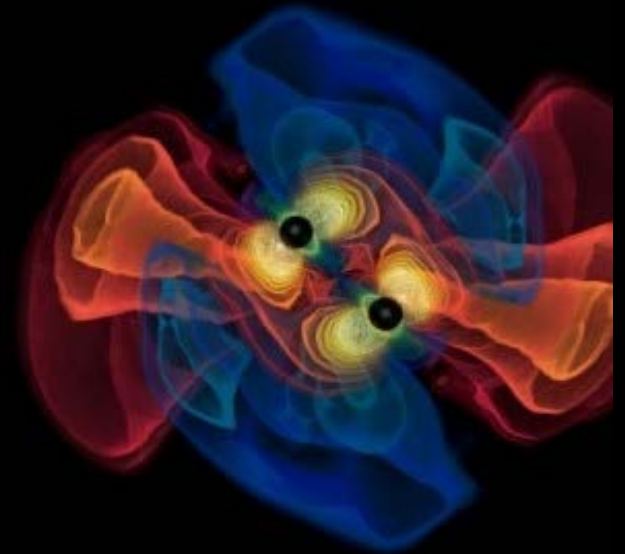
First two months of science operation showed technology exceeding expectations.

The two freely falling cubes,
unperturbed by other external forces 5 times better than required.

Performance allows for a space-based gravitational wave observatory with sensitivity close to what was originally foreseen for LISA.

Gravitational Wave Astronomy Has Begun!

- Ground-based observations will continue to improve sensitivity and expand with more observing sites
- Space-based systems are being developed



Colliding black holes
(Max Planck Institute
for Gravitational Physics)

Summary:

Gravitational Waves

- First direct detection (September 14, 2015) achieved by large, international collaboration (LIGO Scientific Collaboration)
- Second significant event discovered December 26, 2015.
- LIGO and other instruments are now using gravitational waves for a new astronomy.
- Finding phenomena invisible to other means of observation!