

The astrophysical SGWB as a cosmological probe: challenges and opportunities with next-generation interferometers

XIII ET Symposium
- OSB Div 3 -



SISSA



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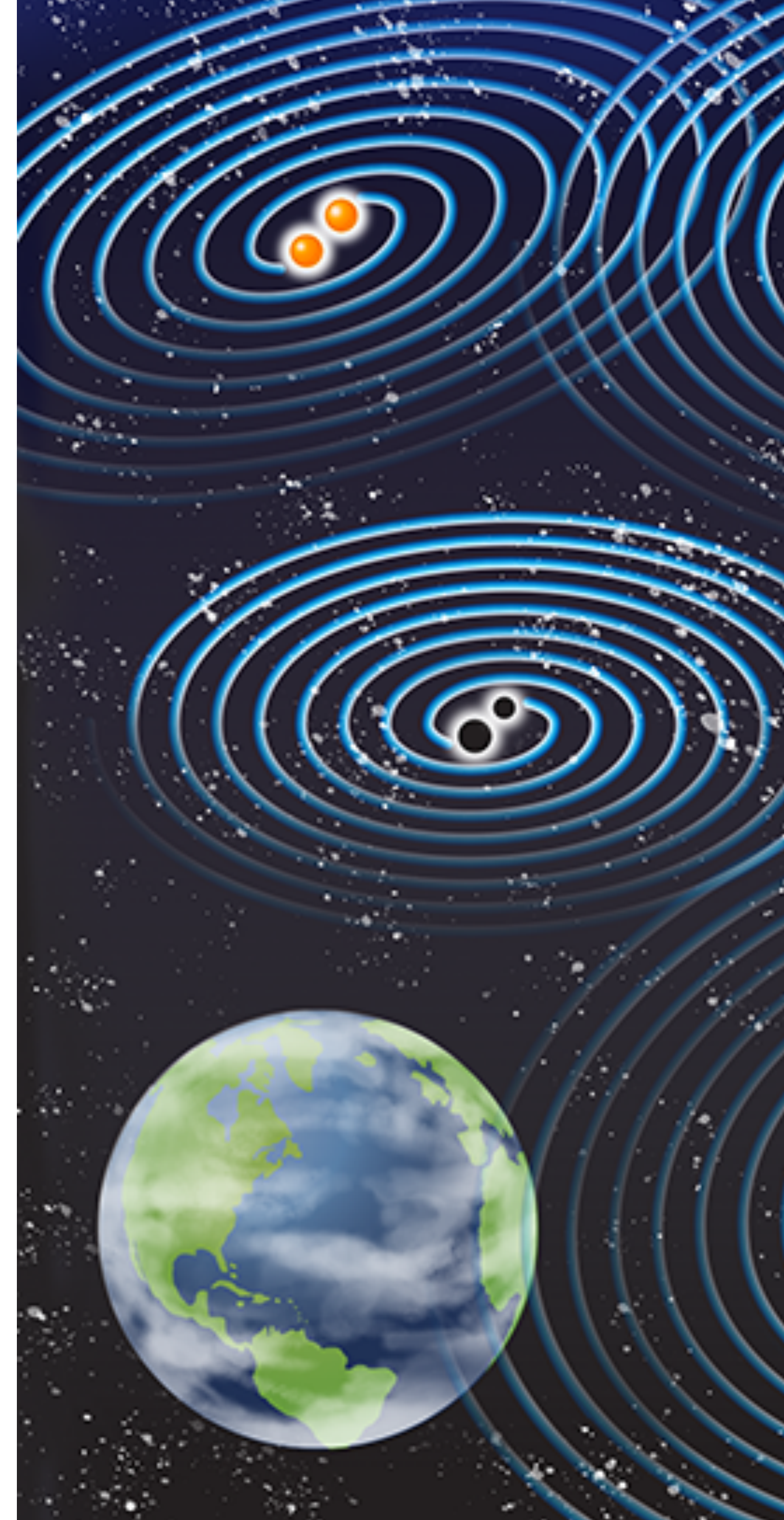
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Dr Mario Spera

Cagliari, 9 May 2023



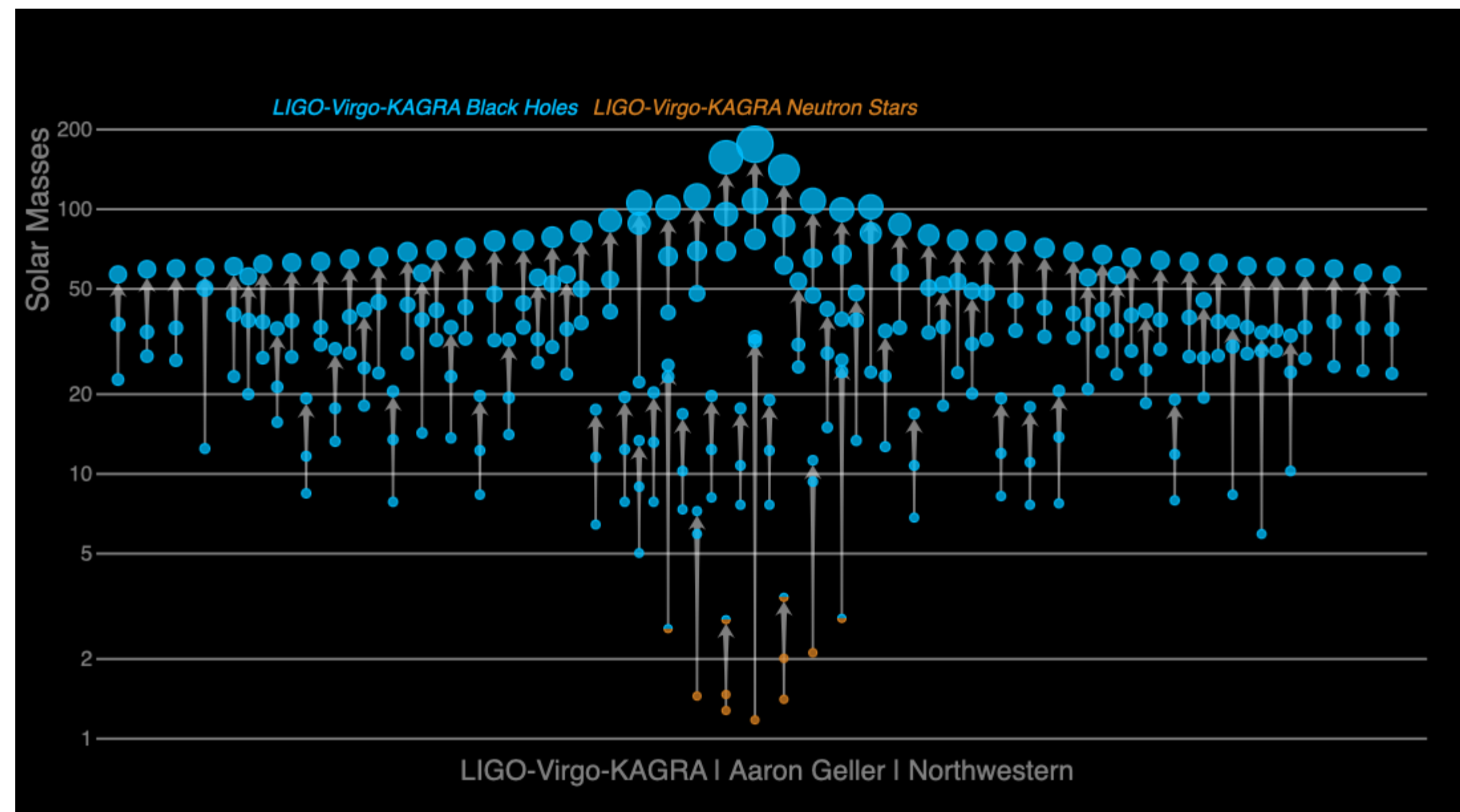
SGWB from merging stellar compact binaries



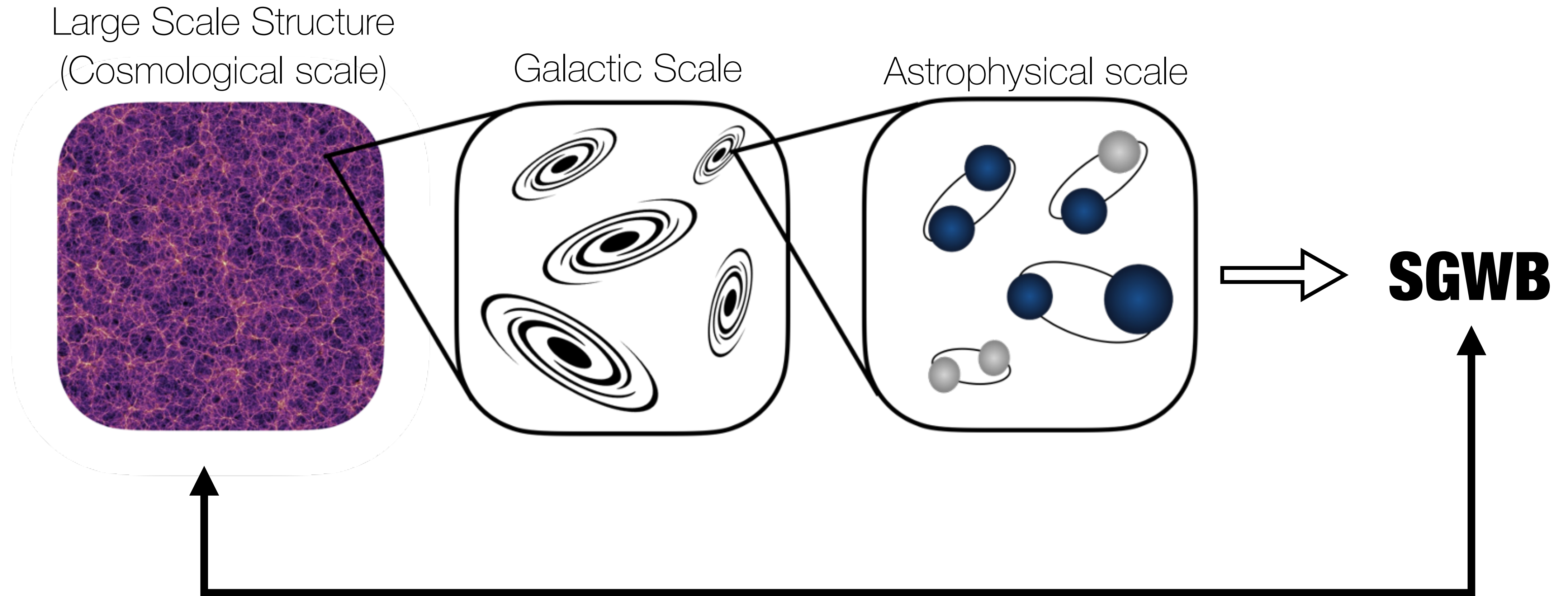
Incoherent superposition of all the unresolved GW signals produced by merging stellar compact binaries

Why is it worth studying?

- 1) Dominant contribution in the 10 Hz-1 kHz band
- 2) Generated by all merging binaries since the beginning of stellar activity
- 3) Powerful astrophysical probe: many processes involved, at different time and spatial scales
- 4) Powerful cosmological probe: tracer of the Large-Scale Structure



A tracer of the Large-Scale Structure



The anisotropies of the SGWB reflect those of the underlying dark matter distribution!

The isotropic energy density parameter

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}}(f, \hat{n}) = \frac{1}{\rho_c} \frac{d^3 \rho_{\text{gw}}(f, \hat{n})}{d \ln f d^2 \Omega} = \frac{\bar{\Omega}_{\text{gw}}(f)}{4\pi} + \delta\Omega_{\text{gw}}(f, \hat{n})$$

$$\bar{\Omega}_{\text{gw}} = \frac{8\pi G f_o}{3H_0^3 c^2} \int dz \int d\mathcal{M}_c \frac{R_{\text{merge}}(\mathcal{M}_c, z)}{(1+z) h(z)} \frac{dE}{df}(f_e(z) | \mathcal{M}_c) \int_0^{\bar{\rho}} d\rho P_\rho(\rho | \mathcal{M}_c, z)$$

See e.g. [Regimbau, Res. Astron. Astrophys. **11** \(2011\) 369](#)

Intrinsic merging rate

per unit comoving volume
and per unit chirp mass

From [Boco+19](#), [Boco+20](#)

Energy spectrum

of the signal emitted by a
merging binary with a given
chirp mass at a given redshift

From [Ajith+07](#)

Distribution of sky-averaged signal-to-noise ratio ρ

for a given detector at given chirp
mass and redshift

From e.g. [Taylor & Gair 2012](#)

Merging rates

$$R_{\text{merge}}(t) = \int dt_d \int dZ \left[\frac{dN}{dM_{\text{SFR}} d\mathcal{M}_c dt_d}(Z) \frac{d\dot{M}_{\text{SFR}}}{dVdZ}(t - t_d) \right]$$

Stellar term

Galactic term

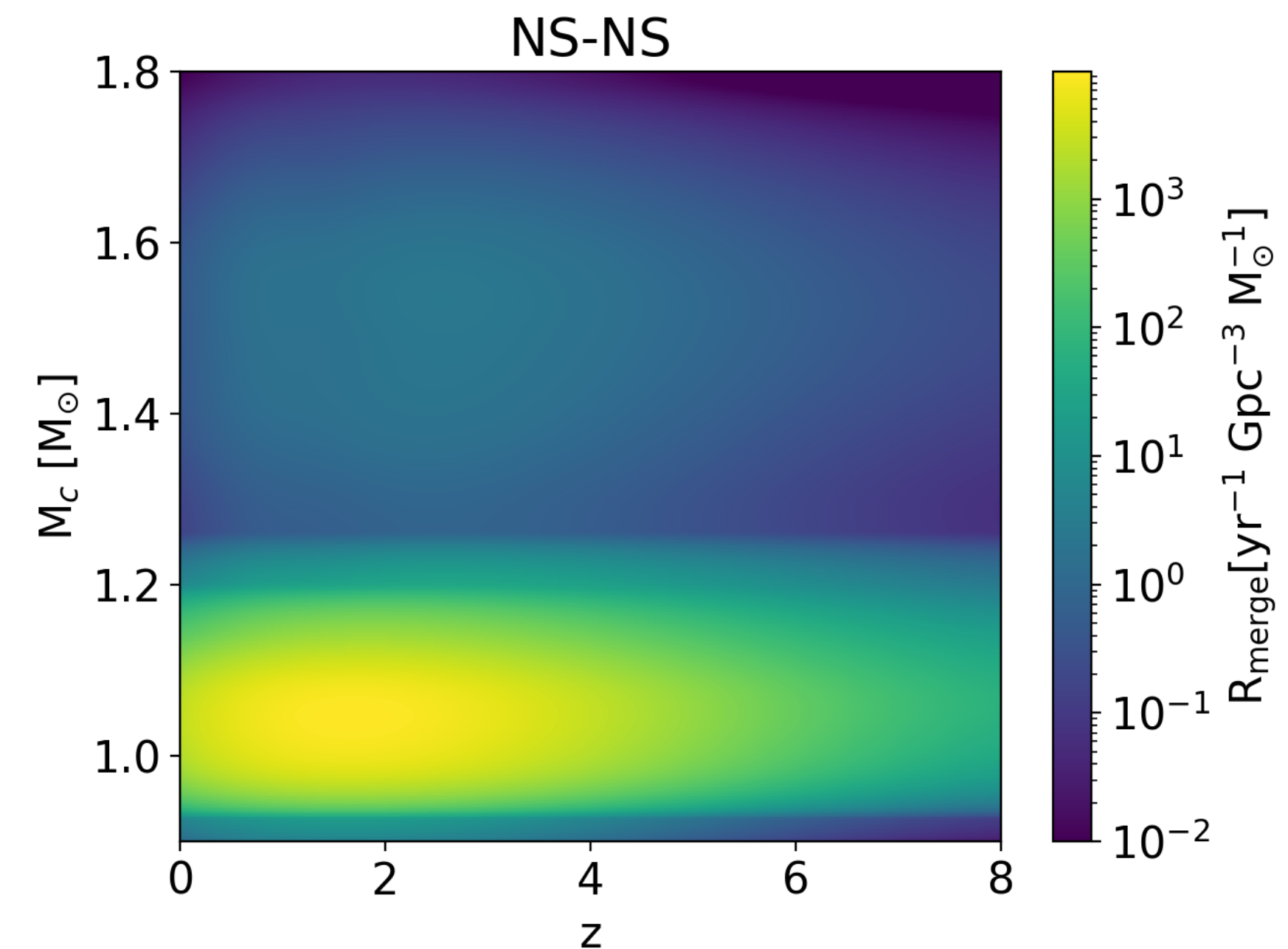
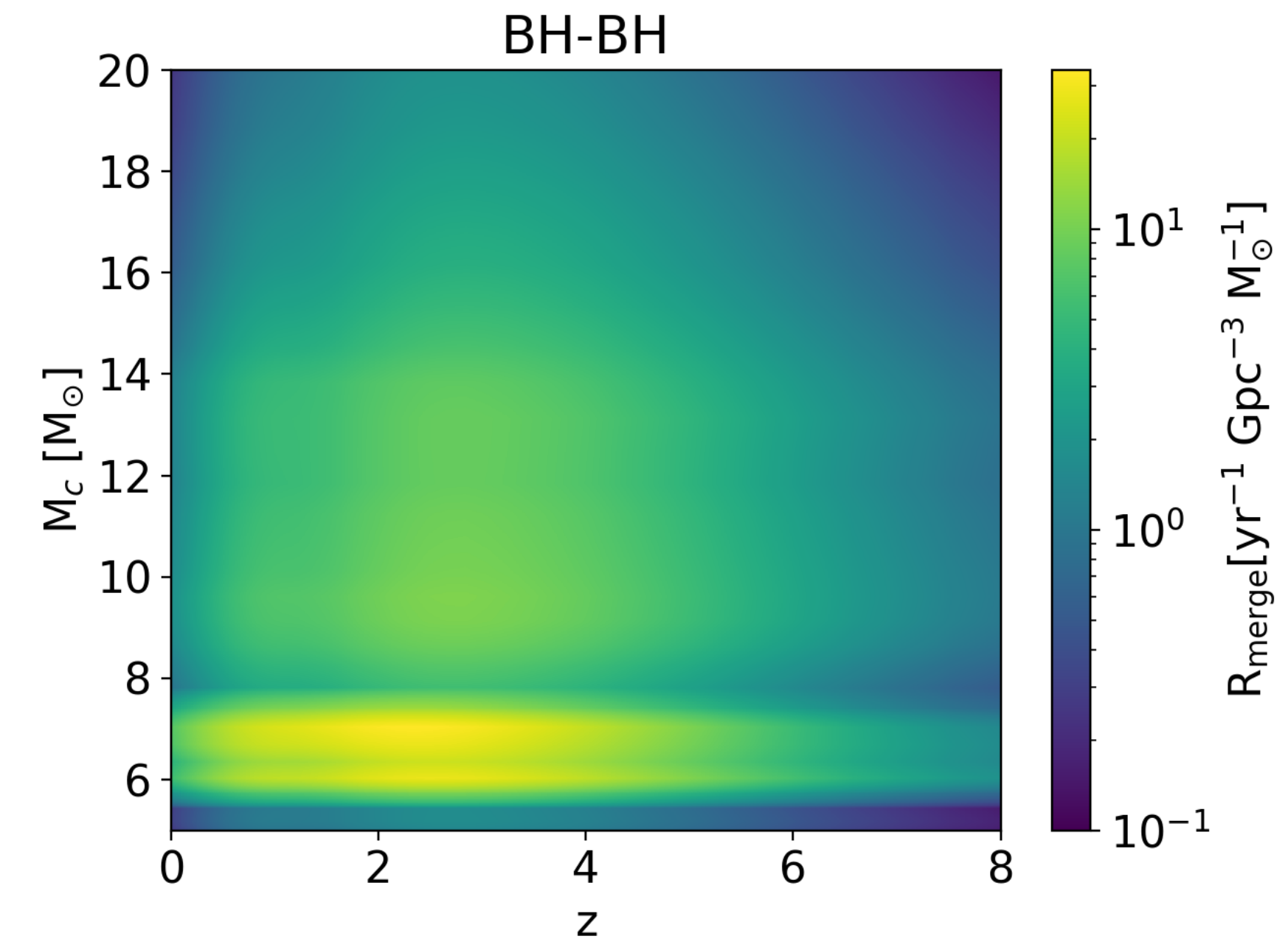
Boco et al. 2019, 2021

Properties of the binary compact objects population based on stellar dynamics, stellar evolution and binary population synthesis codes

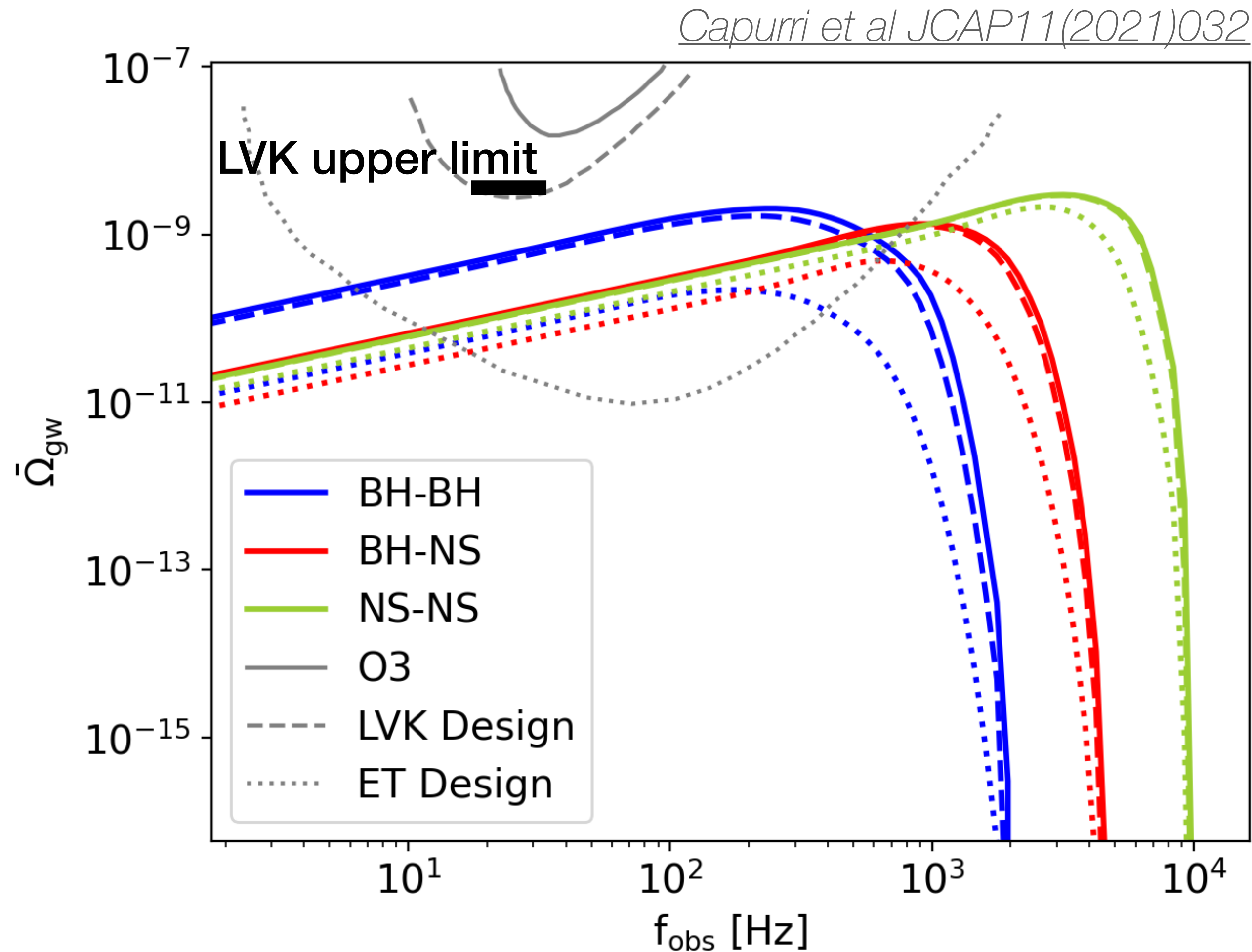
SISSA RU: Dr Mario Spera, Prof Enrico Barausse, Prof. Alessandro Bressan, Cristiano Ugolini, Cecilia Sgalletta, Francesco Addari, Mattia Mencagli

Link between the population of merging binaries and their galactic hosts across cosmic time

SISSA RU: Prof. Andrea Lapi, Dr Lumen Boco, Francesco Gabrielli



Results for the isotropic SGWB



INSTRUMENTS:

- LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA
- Einstein Telescope

SIGNALS:

- Solid lines = **total SGWB**
- Dashed/dotted lines = **residual SGWB**

DETECTION PROSPECTS:

- LVK: $\bar{\Omega}_{gw} < 3.4 \cdot 10^{-9}$ at 25 Hz
- ET: detection expected, complementary to large population of resolved events

Theoretical modelling of SGWB anisotropies

Angular power spectrum
of the anisotropies

$$C_\ell = \frac{2}{\pi} \int \frac{dk}{k} P(k) \left[\frac{\delta\Omega_\ell(k)}{\bar{\Omega}_{\text{gw}}/4\pi} \right]^2$$

$P(k)$ primordial matter
power spectrum

Relativistic angular fluctuation
of the SGWB energy density

Other works modelling the SGWB anisotropies:

Cusin et al 2017, 2018, 2019

Jenkins et al. 2018a, 2018b

Bertacca et al 2020

The relativistic fluctuation $\delta\Omega_\ell(k)$:

- 1) Contains all density, velocity, lensing and gravity effects
- 2) Depends on 3 main ingredients:

- a) Redshift distribution
- b) Bias
- c) Magnification bias



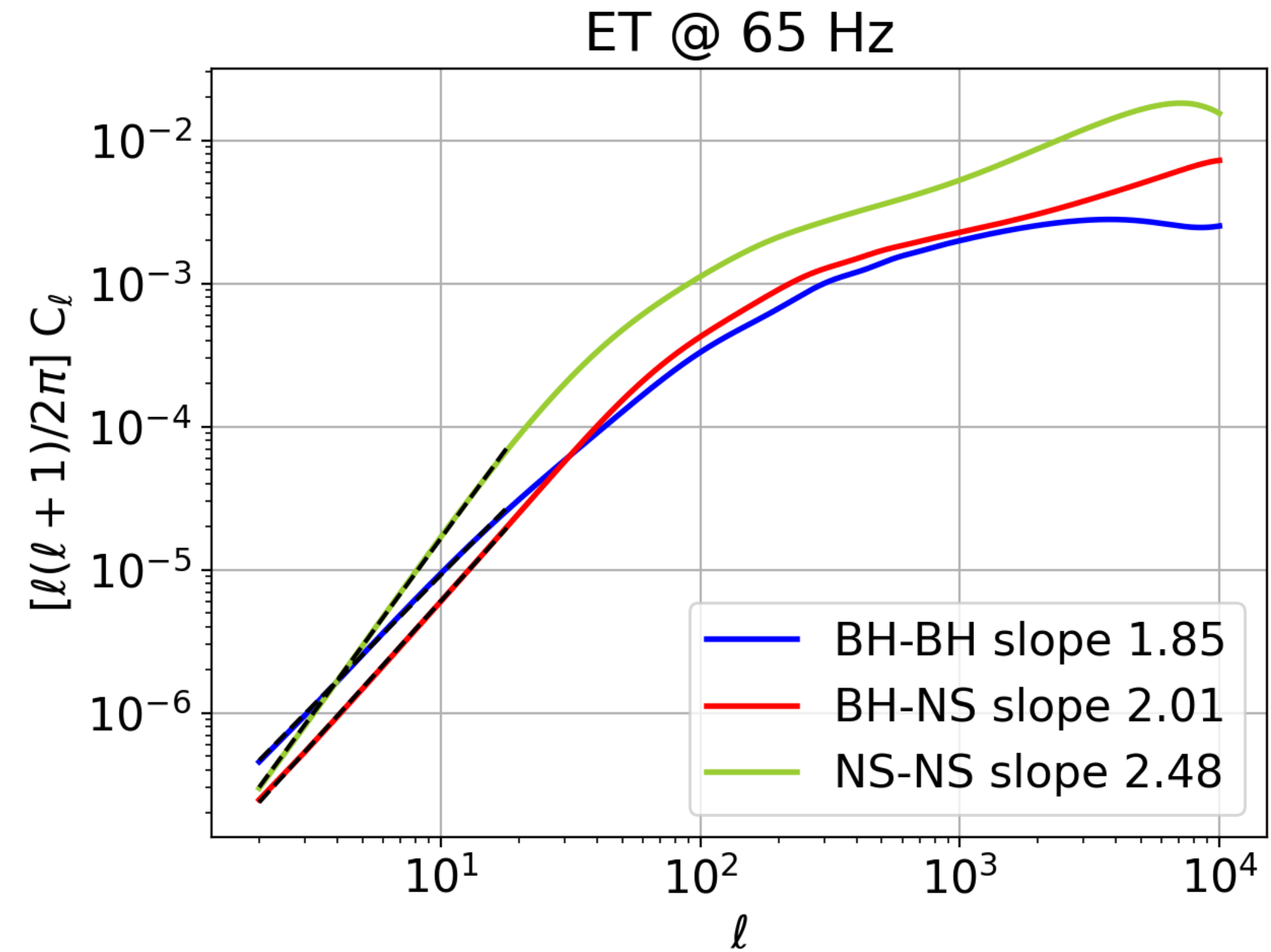
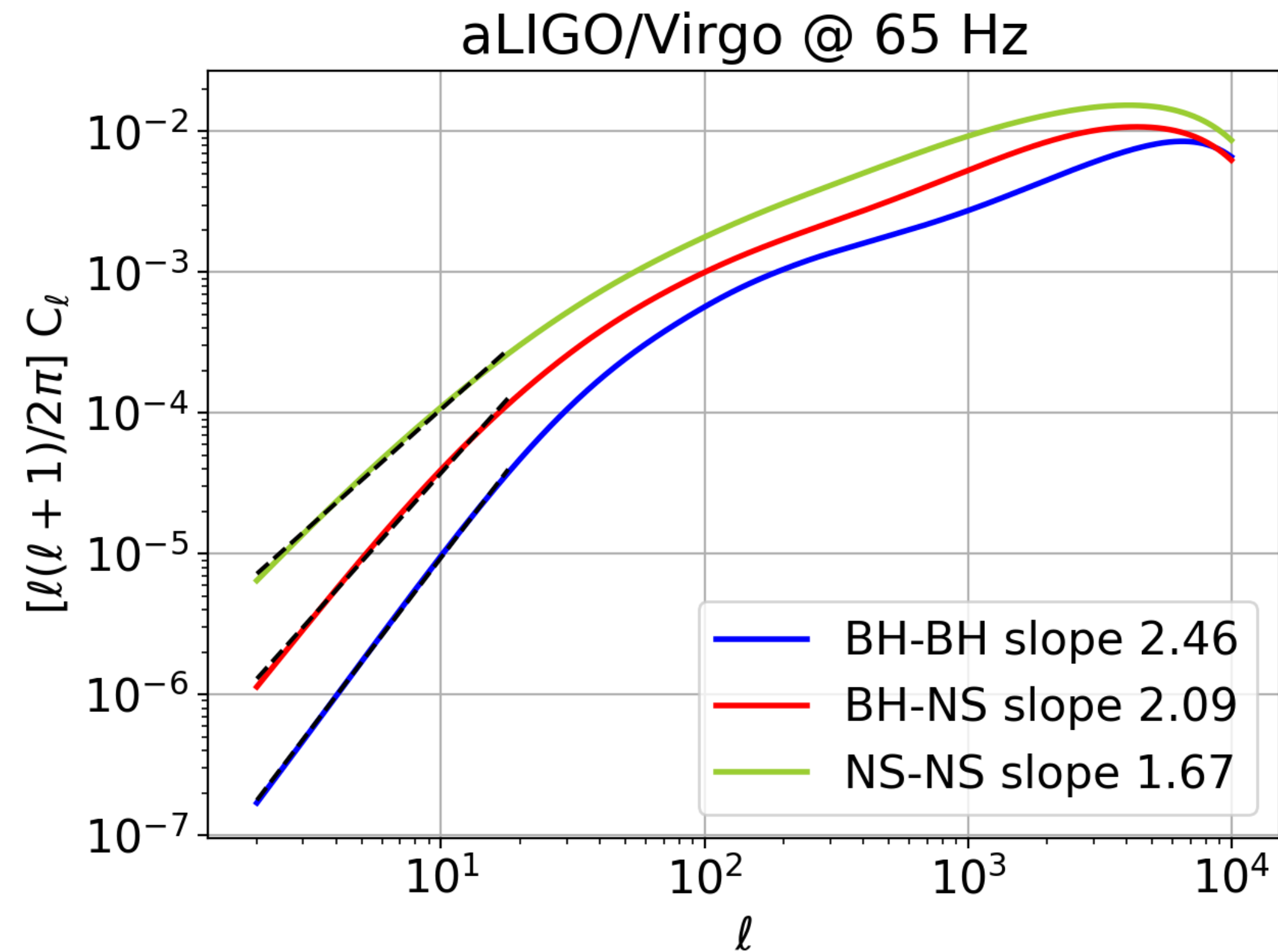
CLASS

The Cosmic Linear Anisotropy
Solving System

Lesgourgues, 2011

Results for the angular power spectrum

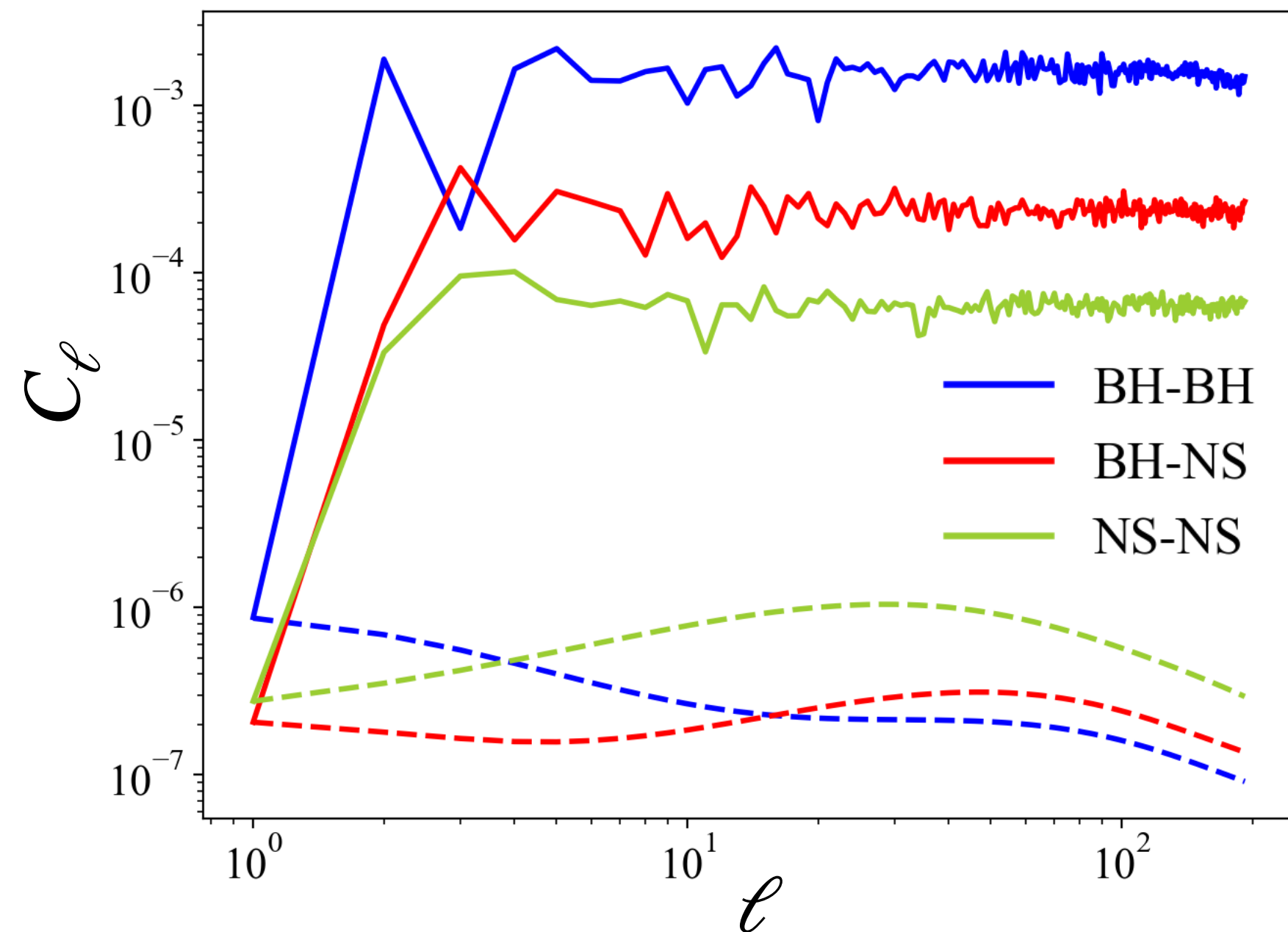
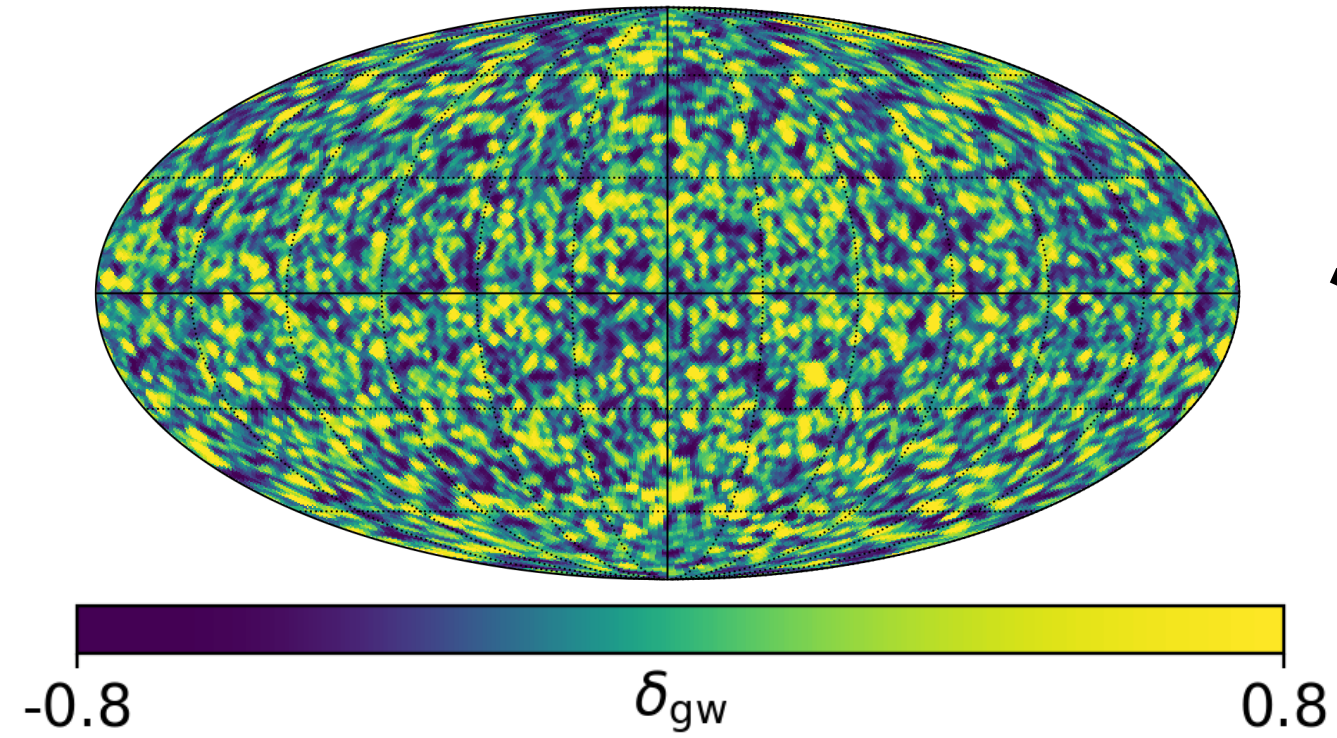
Residual SGWB: only unresolved events, detector dependent



Are these signals detectable?

Two crucial issues: shot noise and detector noise

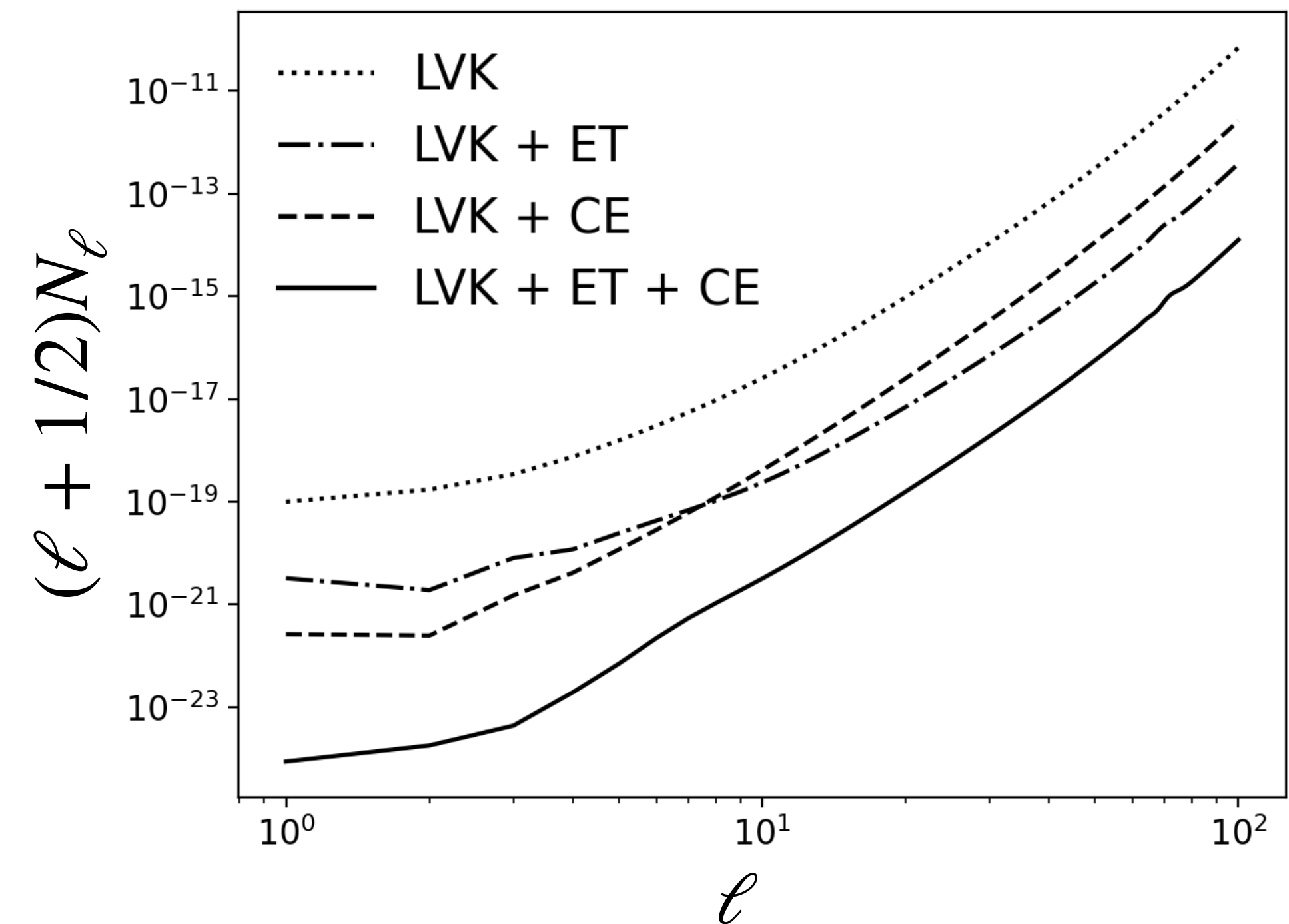
BH-BH SGWB @ 65 Hz [ET]



Public software `schNell`

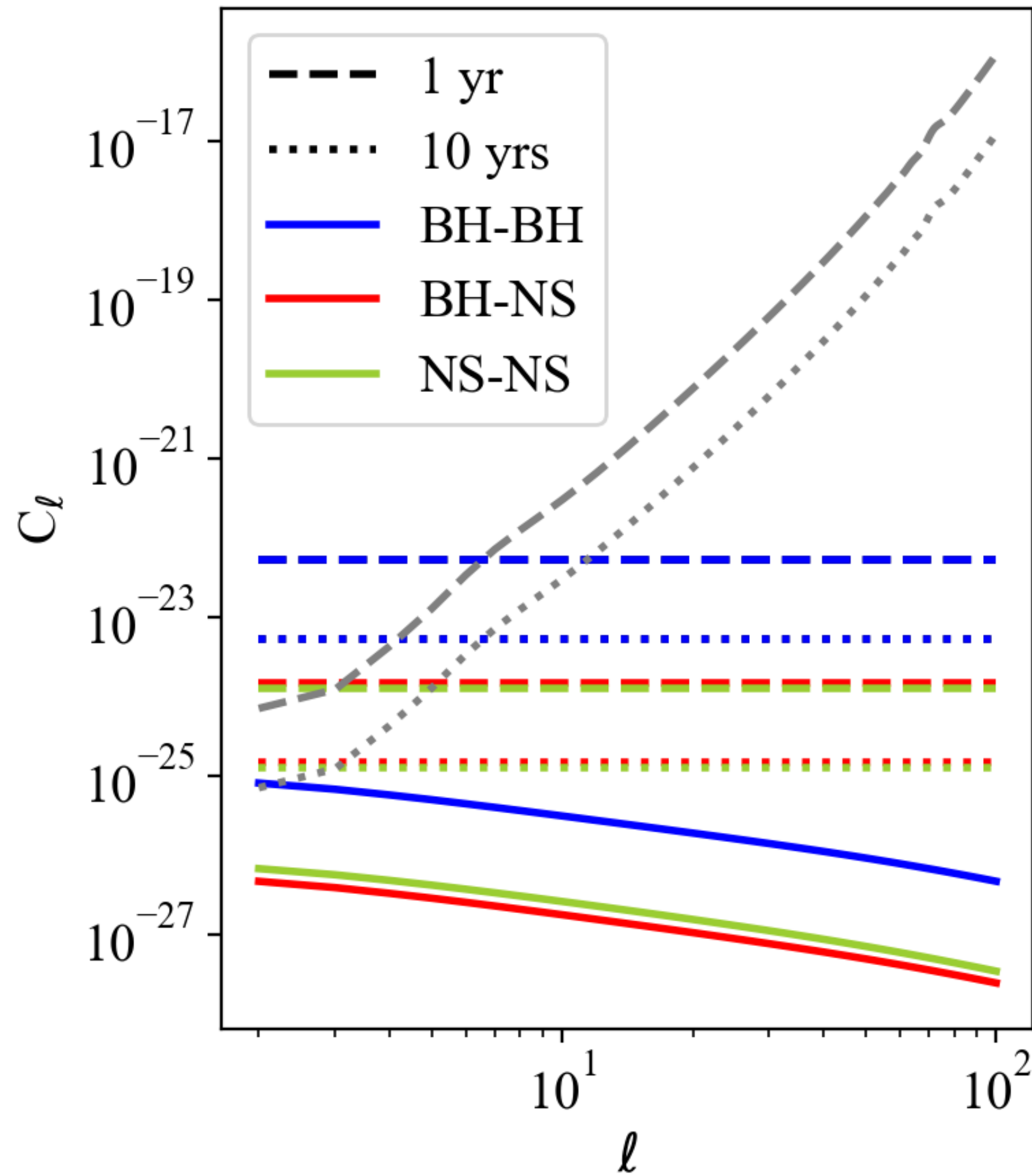
Alonso et al. 2020

Angular power spectrum of the instrumental noise for interferometer networks mapping SGWB

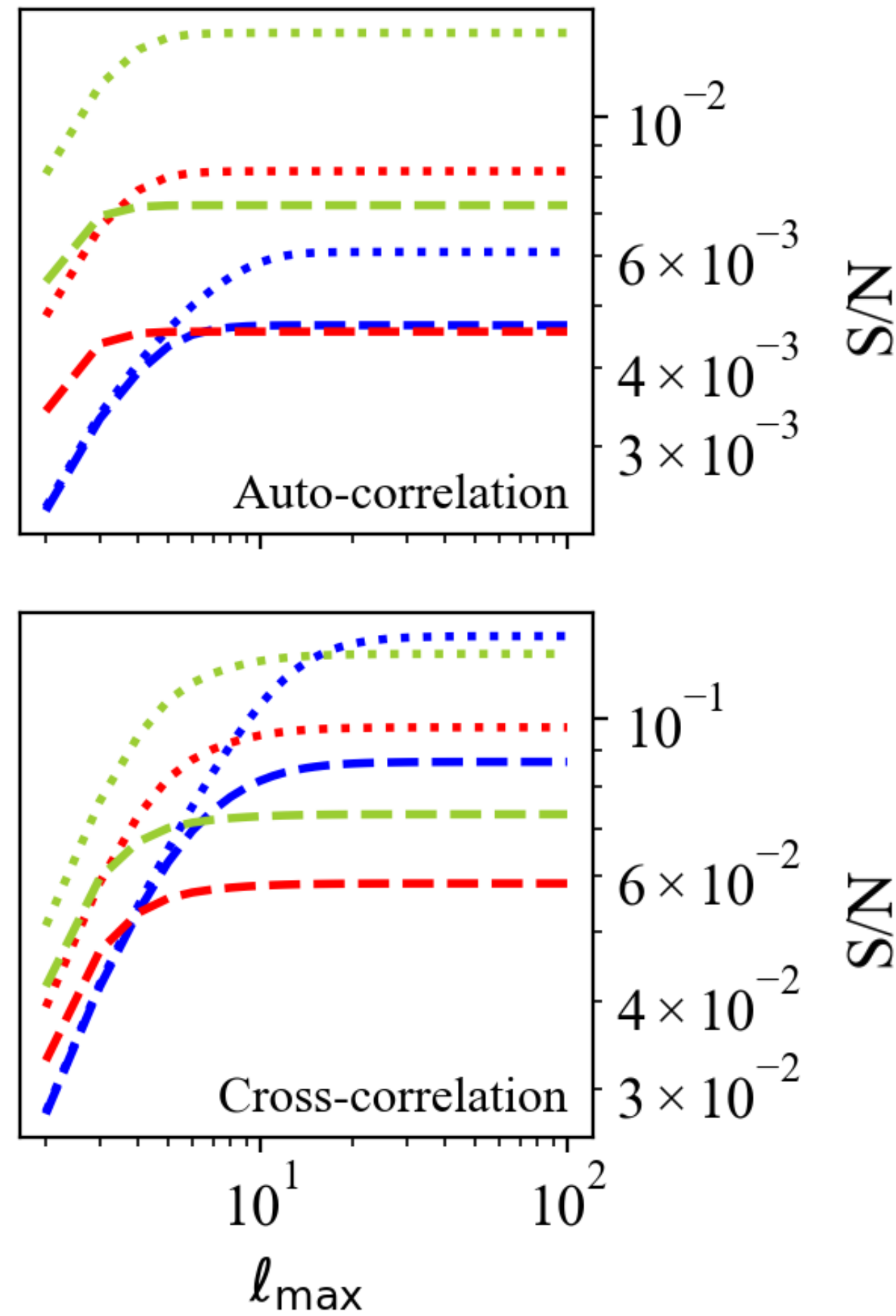


Detection prospects with ground-based detectors

Comparison signal vs noises



Signal-to-noise ratio



Detector network:

- LIGO Hanford, LIGO Livingston
- Virgo
- KAGRA
- Einstein Telescope
- Cosmic Explorer



**Cross-correlation with other cosmic fields enhances the S/N...
...but not enough!**

Capurri et al, Universe **2022**, 8(3), 160

Summary and outlook

- The SGWB by merging stellar compact binaries is a powerful astrophysical and cosmological probe
- ET will be able to measure the isotropic SGWB energy density
- The detection of the SGWB anisotropies is more challenging due to the shot noise and the instrumental noise
- Cross-correlation with other cosmic fields enhances the S/N

Future perspective

- Refine detection prospects considering improved data analysis techniques (already in contact with ISB)
- Focus on the physics we can constrain with the first multipoles (and monopole too!)

Thank you so much for your attention!

*Get in touch:
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