

# Anomaly detection using convolutional Auto-encoders

---

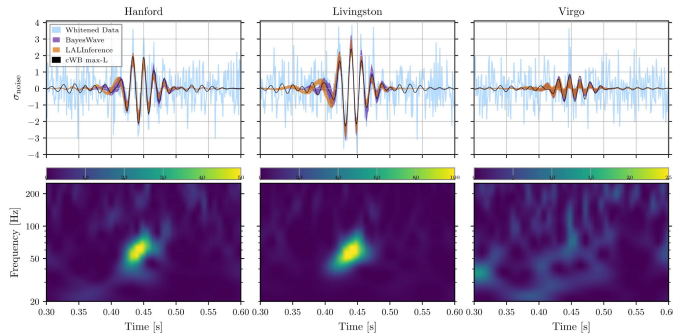
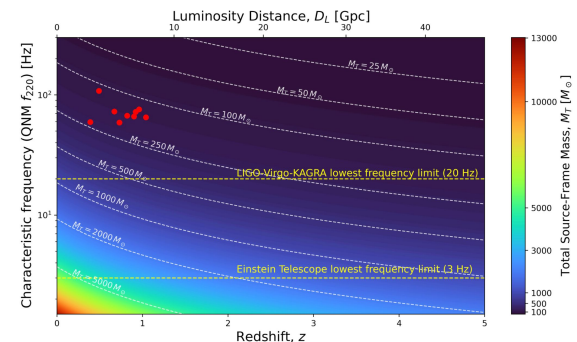
4th Einstein Telescope Annual Meeting  
12/11/2025

U. Dupletsa, **H. Haigh**, G. Inguglia, K. Vitulova  
**Marietta Blau Institute**



# Introduction

- Einstein Telescope promises vast increase in frequency range -> sensitivity to many more mergers.
- With such reach, matched filtering comes with large **computational overhead**.
- Deep learning offers potential **(semi-) model independent** technique with bulk of computational cost occurring before application.
- **Burst signals** from mergers involving **IMBHs** are short - we study the use of **convolutional autoencoders** to extract from noise.



GW190521: [2009.01075](#)



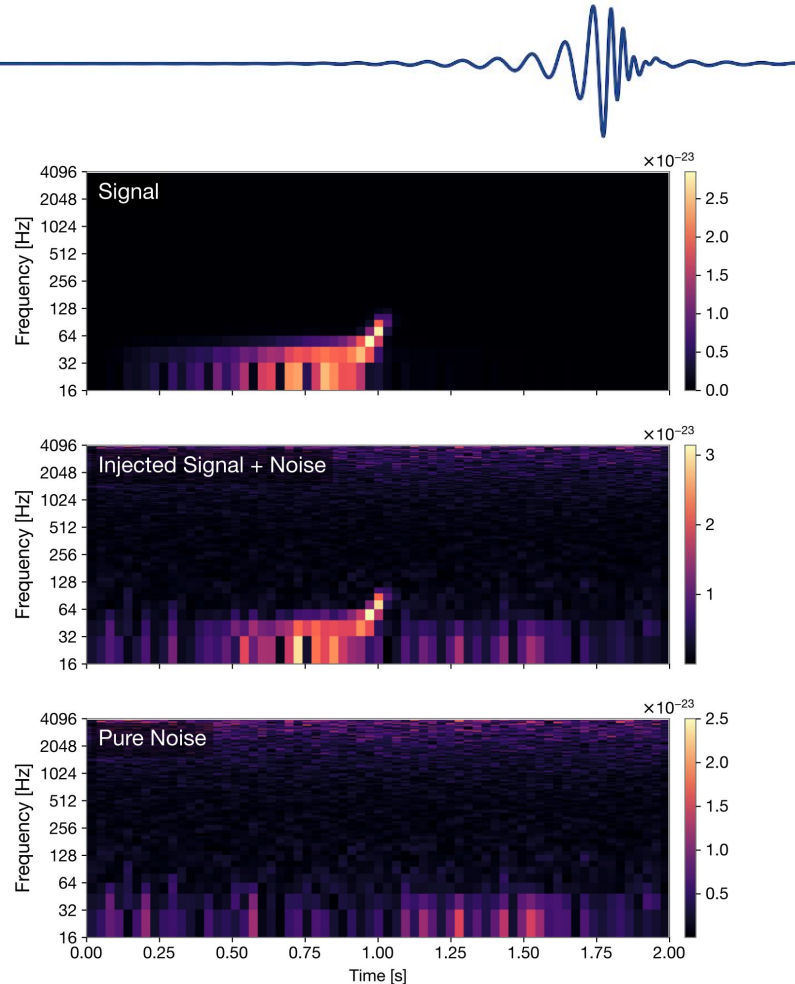
# Spectrograms

- Full ET MDC - 1 month of simulated ET noise in 2048s segments sampled at 8192Hz (use only E1 channel).
- Split into **2s chunks**, PSD estimated using FFT, noise whitened.
- Greyscale images of **256 (frequency) x 31 (time) pixels** - normalised to [0,1] before training.
- Waveforms generated using IMRPhenomHM - randomly sampled masses & luminosity distance

Mean squared error loss  
used in training

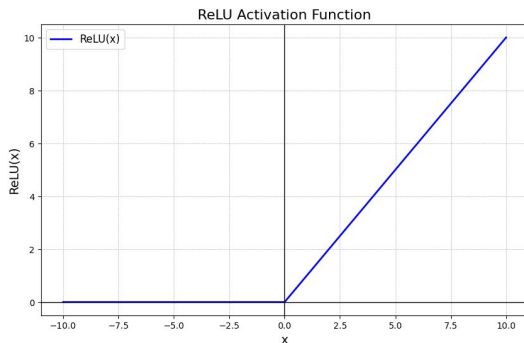
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{MSE}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \hat{x}_i)^2$$

**Unsupervised training:** model learns only on noise spectrograms





- Introduce signal-injected (varied mass and luminosity distance) data set to training, along with slightly altered loss function.
- Hyperparameter,  $m$ , captures desired/**target level of MSE separation** between noise and anomaly reconstruction.
- When desired separation is achieved, normal **MSE loss of noise-only spectrogram is recovered**.



$\mathcal{L}_{noise}$  - MSE loss of noise spectrograms

$\mathcal{L}_{anom}$  - MSE loss of anomaly spectrograms

$m$  - Target MSE anom/noise separation

$$\Delta\mathcal{L} = \text{ReLU}(m - (\mathcal{L}_{anom} - \mathcal{L}_{noise}))$$

$$\Delta\mathcal{L} = \begin{cases} m - (\mathcal{L}_{anom} - \mathcal{L}_{noise}), & \text{if } \mathcal{L}_{anom} - \mathcal{L}_{noise} < m, \\ 0, & \text{if } \mathcal{L}_{anom} - \mathcal{L}_{noise} \geq m. \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{total} = \mathcal{L}_{MSE}(\hat{x}_{noise}) + \Delta\mathcal{L}$$

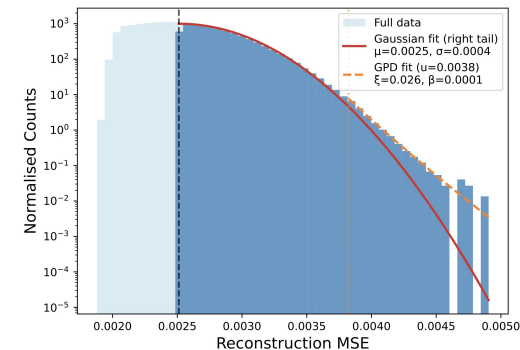
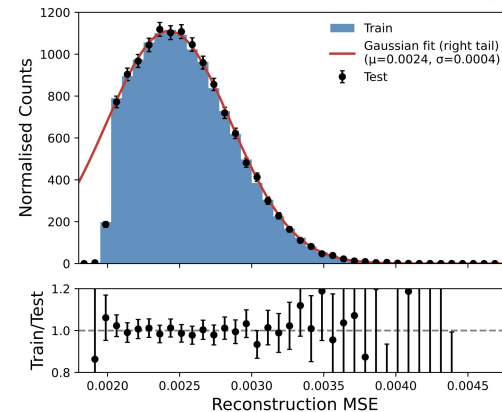
- **Overtraining check:** compare MSE distribution of training and testing ET noise spectrograms -> flat ratio implies generalisation to unseen data.
- **Anomaly definition:** chosen threshold value in MSE loss, above which spectrogram is flagged as anomalous.
- Define threshold based on statistical **likelihood of noise fluctuation**:

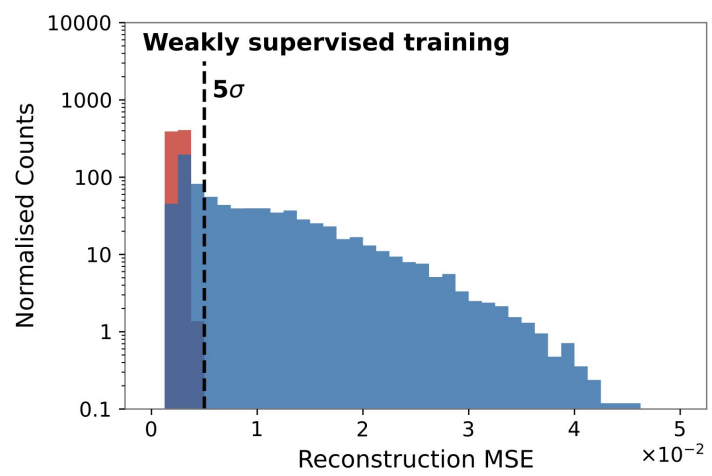
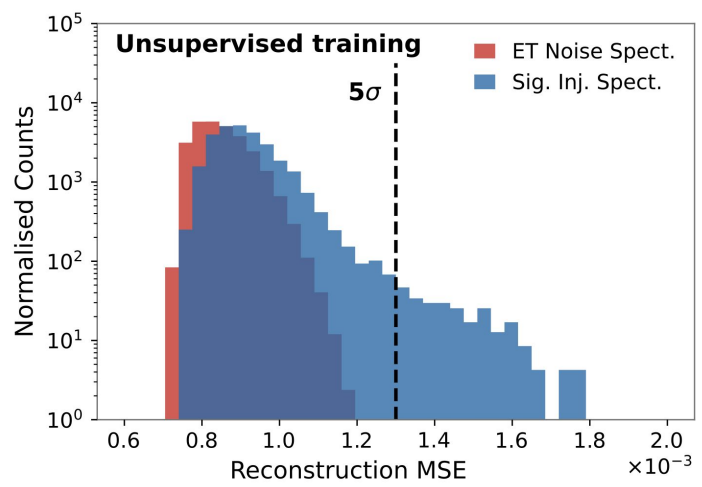
$$\text{Threshold} = \mu + n\sigma, \quad (n=3,5)$$

- Assuming 2s spectrograms, 100% duty cycle,  $3\sigma$  and  $5\sigma$  equate to FAR:

$$3\sigma \rightarrow p \approx 1.35 \times 10^{-3} \rightarrow \text{FAR} \approx 2.1 \times 10^4 \text{ events/year}$$

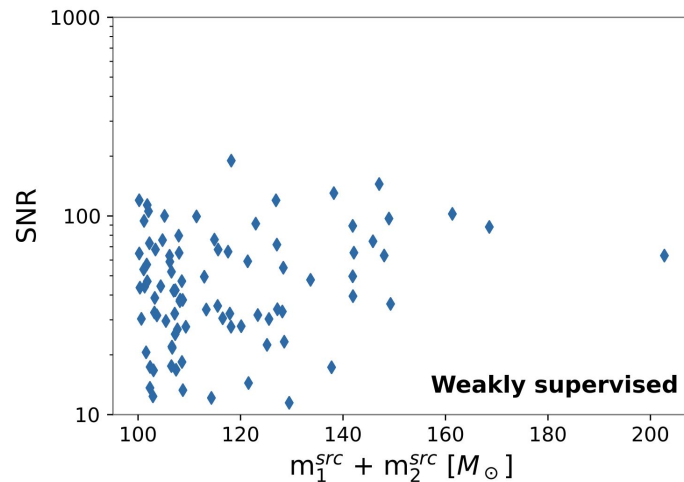
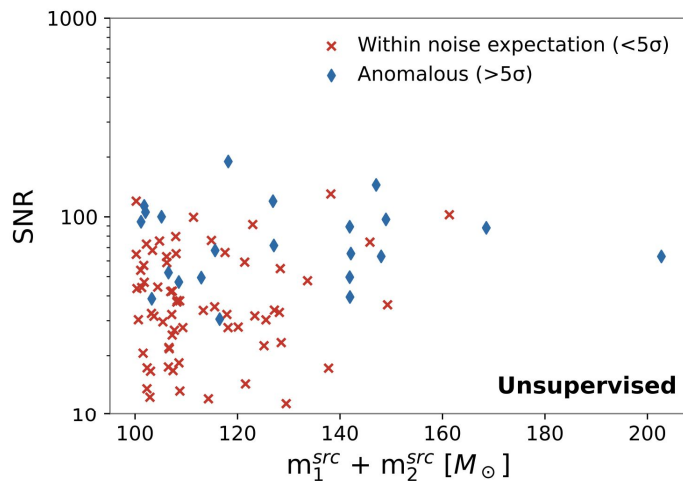
$$5\sigma \rightarrow p \approx 2.87 \times 10^{-7} \rightarrow \text{FAR} \approx 4.5 \text{ events/year}$$





- Weak supervision shows large improvement in separating MSE between noise and injected spectrograms.
- Effect of hyperparameter  $m$  ( $=5 \times 10^{-2}$ ) quite clear in distribution of MSE after weakly supervised training.

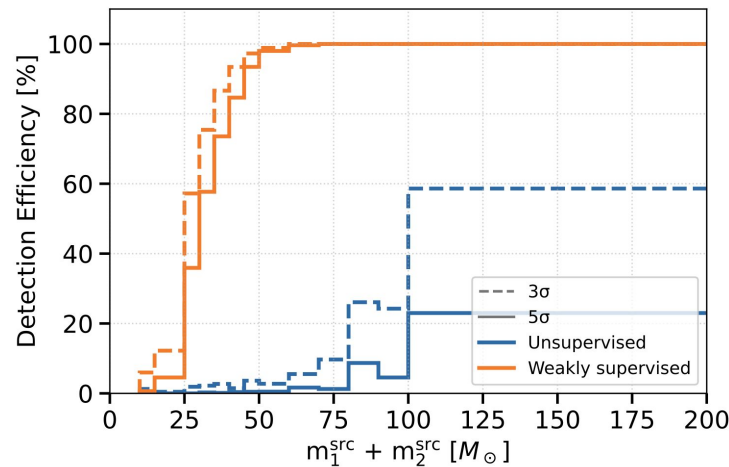
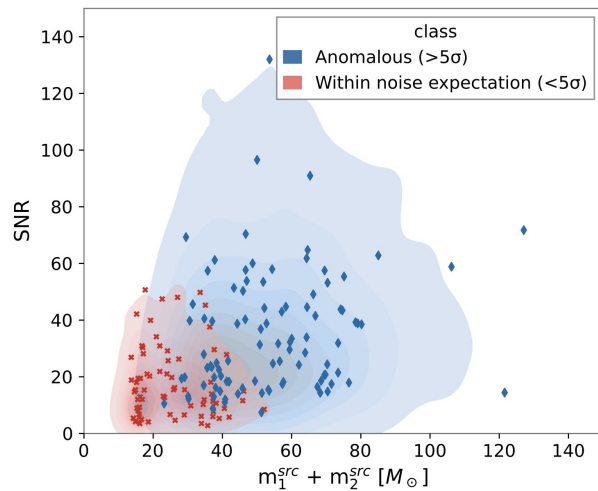
MDC mergers of  $M \geq 100$



- Events falling below  $5\sigma$  shown as red crosses, above with blue diamond.
- Weak supervision increases efficiency from 23% to 100% of mergers which involve or form IMBH



Subsample of full MDC1 merger injections



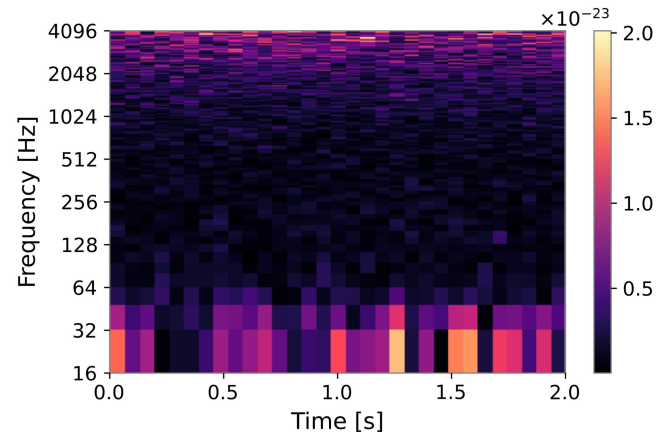
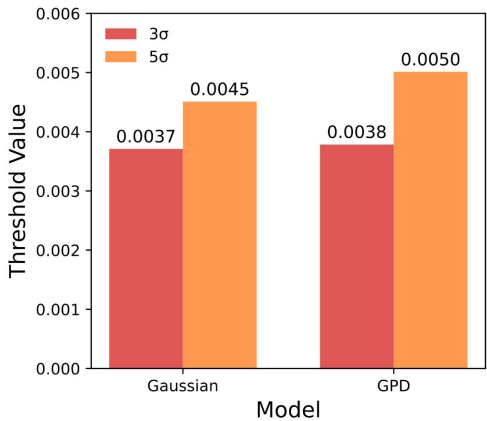
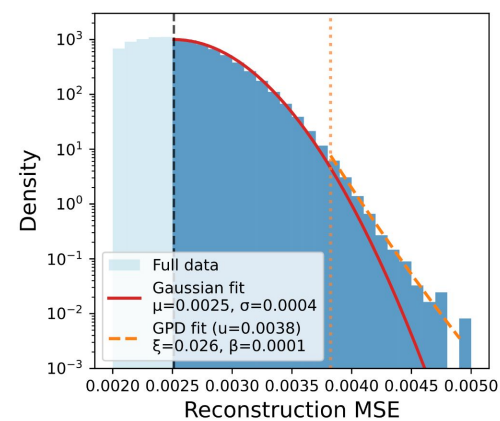
- Introduction of weak supervision provides huge increase in achievable efficiency for target burst signals
- Model shows strong ability to generalise to other merger signals outside of initial target



- Large frequency range and sensitivity of Einstein Telescope presents substantial increase in computational overheads - ML could offer a solution with **computational work done in training stage**.
- **CNN autoencoder** for anomaly detection shows ability to recover (up to 100%) **IMBH burst signals** from ET noise.
- Inclusion of weak supervision to training greatly improves efficiency and **strong ability to generalise** to signals outside initial target range.
- **Next steps:**
  - Inclusion of detector response.
  - Injected glitches alongside mergers
  - Study possibility of analysing multiple channels

*Work already started!*

[Paper draft submitted](#) - feedback very much appreciated!



ET noise with high reconstruction MSE

## 03

