

# Astrophysical background of gravitational waves: from cosmology towards the era of precision astrophysics

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**OXFORD**

based on

in collaboration with C. Pitrou, J.P. Uzan, I. Dvorkin,  
R. Durrer, P. Ferreira, D. Alonso

**GC et al.** Phys.Rev. D96 (2017) 103019  
**GC et al.** PRL 120 (2018) 231101  
**GC et al.** Phys.Rev. D97 (2018) 123527  
**GC et al.** Phys.Rev. D99 (2019) 023534  
**GC, Dvorkin et al.** Phys.Rev. D100 (2019) 063004  
**GC, Dvorkin et al.** MNRAS Lett (2019)  
Pitrou, **GC**, Uzan, arxiv 2019  
Alonso, **GC**, Pitrou, Ferreira arxiv 2020  
**GC**, Alonso, Ferreira, 2020

# Outline of this talk

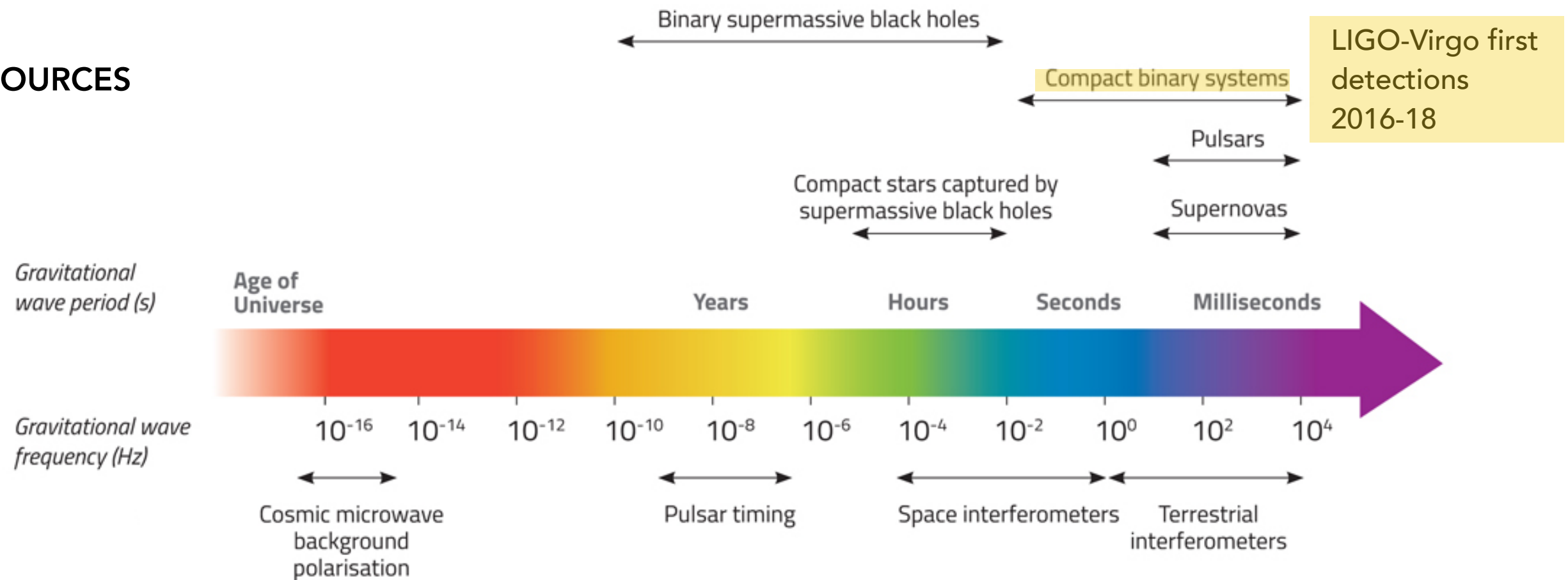
- **Introduction.** Astrophysical gravitational wave background: what is it?  
State of the art of observation & theory
- **Theoretical framework** to study anisotropies and polarization
- **Numerical predictions** in LISA and LIGO-Virgo bands
- **Astrophysical interest:** content of this new observable  
and what we can learn out of it
- **Ongoing work:** characterization of different noise components



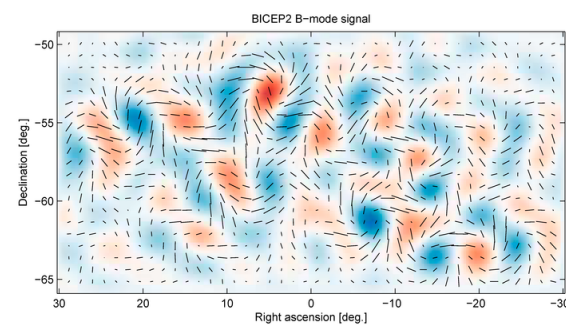
(most of) **my  
research over  
last 3yr:**  
from theory to  
forecasts of  
detectability

# The new era of gravitational wave astronomy

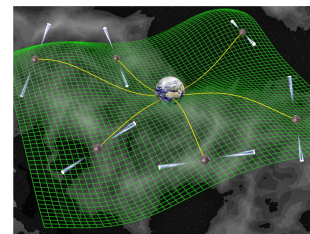
## SOURCES



## DETECTORS



CMB polarization



PTA



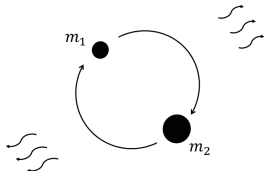
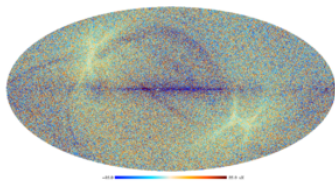
LISA (>2030)



LIGO, Virgo, LIGO-India, Kagra, ET (>2030)

Expected detection of new astrophysical sources, and detection of GW background

# Two types of astrophysical GW observables

| astrophysical observable                                                                                                     | what we measure                                                           | what we can learn                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>GW from resolvable sources</b><br>       | <b>waveform</b> as a function of time and frequency                       | properties of the source<br>(e.g. nature, mass, spin, distance...)                                                            |
| <b>Astrophysical background of GW</b><br> | <b>intensity and polarization</b> as functions of direction and frequency | <b>collective properties</b> of a population of sources<br>(redshift distribution, time evolution, distribution of masses...) |

# Stochastic backgrounds of radiation

**Stochastic background:** incoherent superposition of signals from all sources

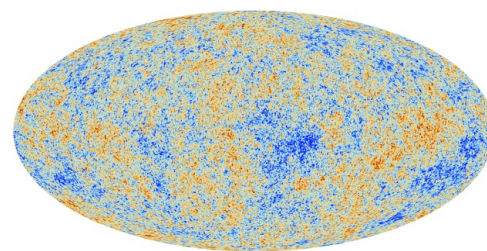
cosmological origin

astrophysical origin

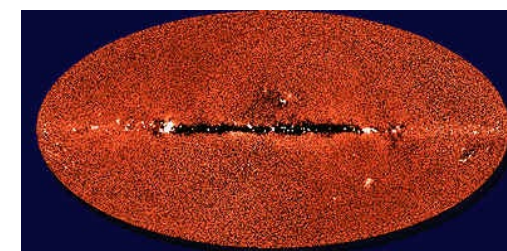
EM radiation

CMB

IR extragalactic background (CIB)



Plank CMB map



Plank IR map

GW radiation

cosmological background

**astrophysical background**

foreground for cosmological GW background

# Astrophysical stochastic background

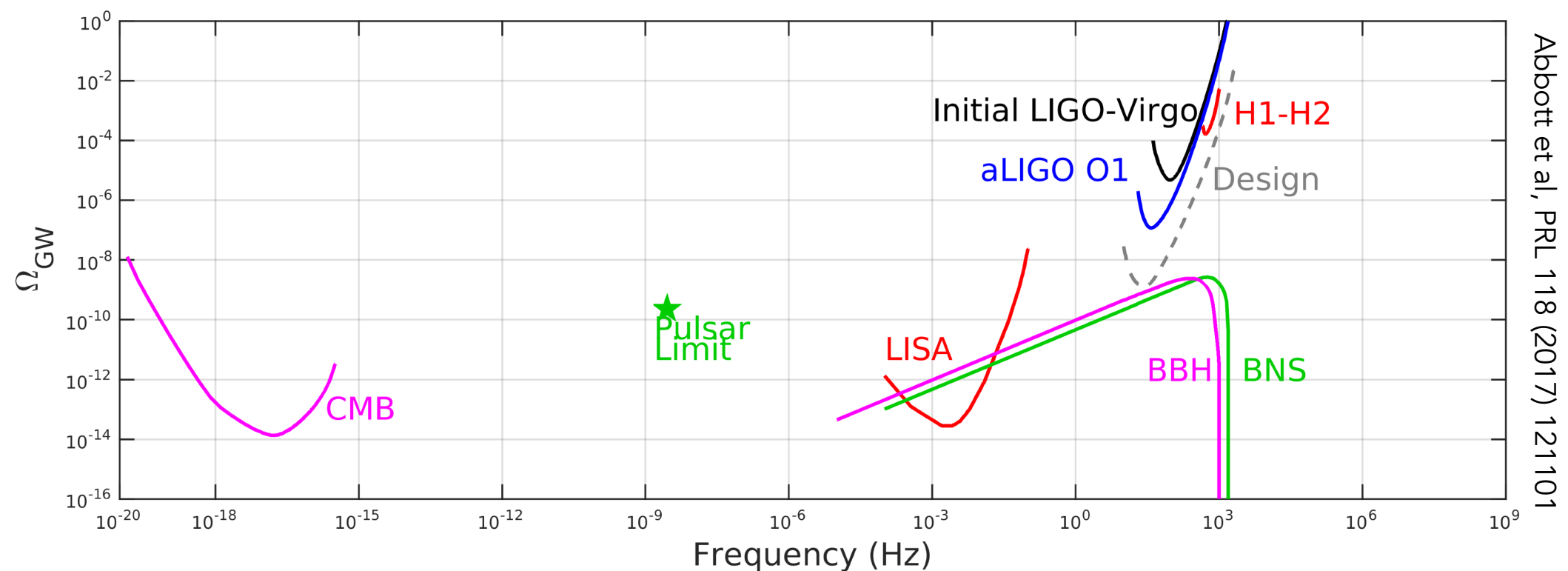
$$\Omega_{GW}(f) = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{GW}(f)}{df} = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \int dz \underbrace{\frac{dE(z)}{df}}_{\text{spectrum}} \underbrace{R(z)}_{\text{rate of events}} \underbrace{\frac{n(z)}{H(z)}}_{\text{density of sources}}$$

$$\rho_c = \text{const}$$

$\rho_{GW}$  **energy density background**

# Astrophysical stochastic background

$$\Omega_{GW}(f) = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{GW}(f)}{df} = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \int dz \underbrace{\frac{dE(z)}{df}}_{\text{spectrum}} \underbrace{R(z)}_{\text{rate of events}} \underbrace{\frac{n(z)}{H(z)}}_{\text{density of sources}}$$



upper bounds

$$< 1.3 \cdot 10^{-9}$$

$$2.8 \times 10^{-9} \text{ Hz}$$

Shannon et al., 2013

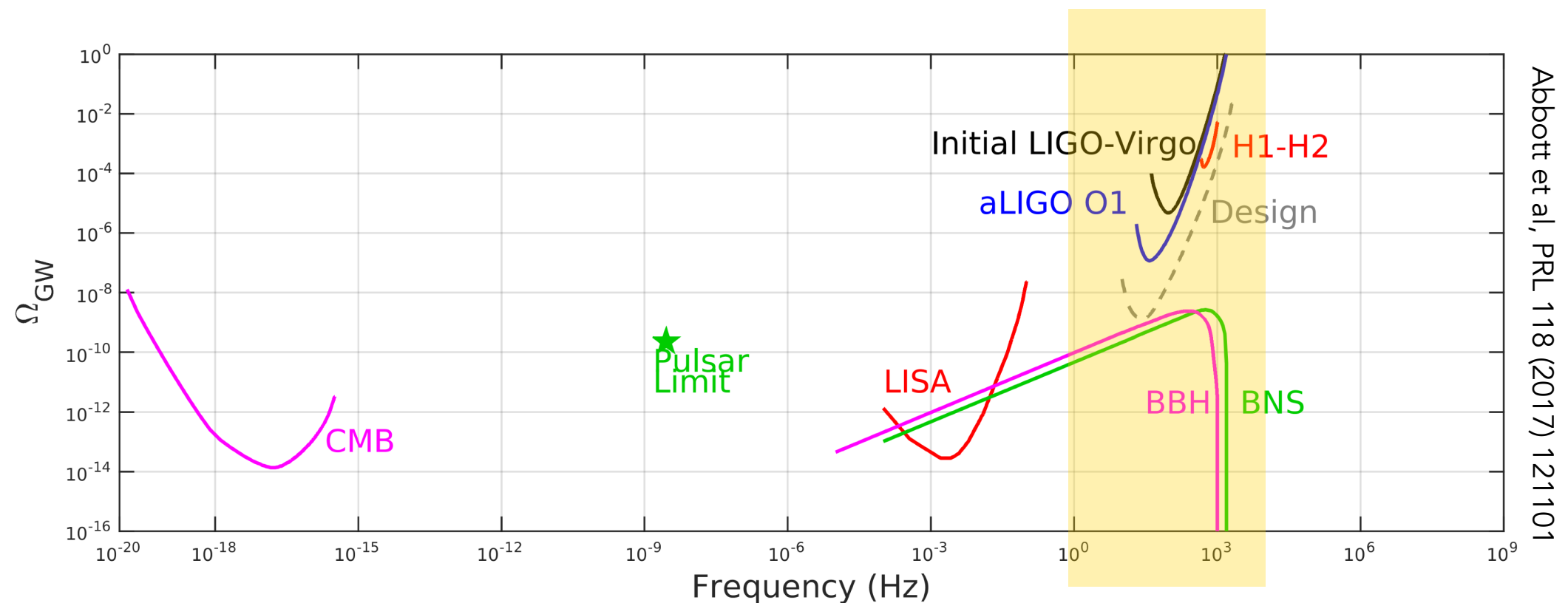
$$< 4.8 \cdot 10^{-8}$$

$$25 \text{ Hz}$$

LIGO-Virgo  
2019

# Expected future detection (4 yrs)

$$\Omega_{GW}(f) = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{GW}(f)}{df} = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \int dz \underbrace{\frac{dE(z)}{df}}_{\text{spectrum}} \underbrace{R(z)}_{\text{rate of events}} \underbrace{\frac{n(z)}{H(z)}}_{\text{density of sources}}$$



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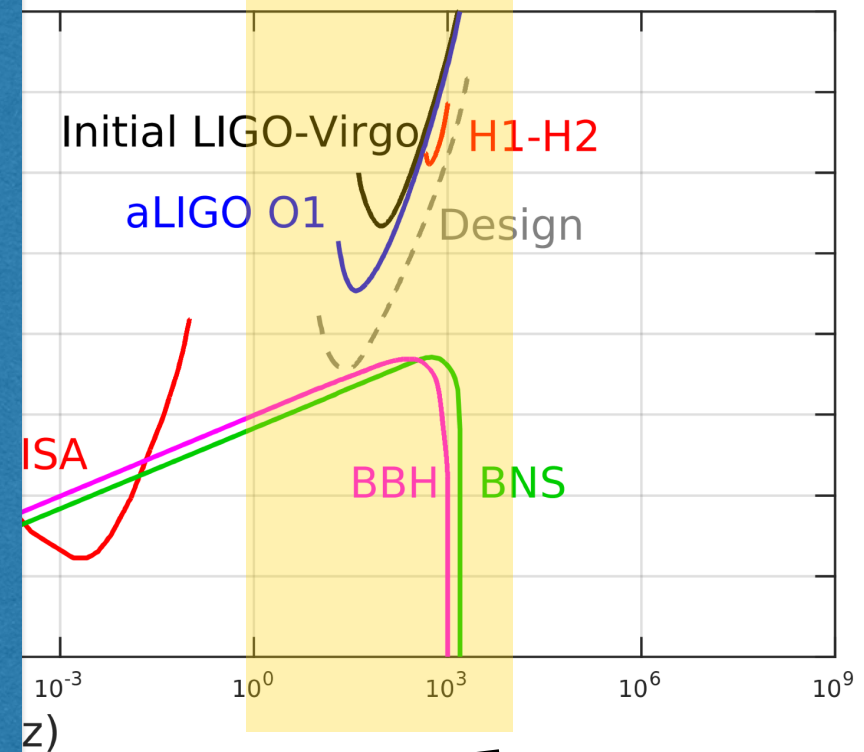
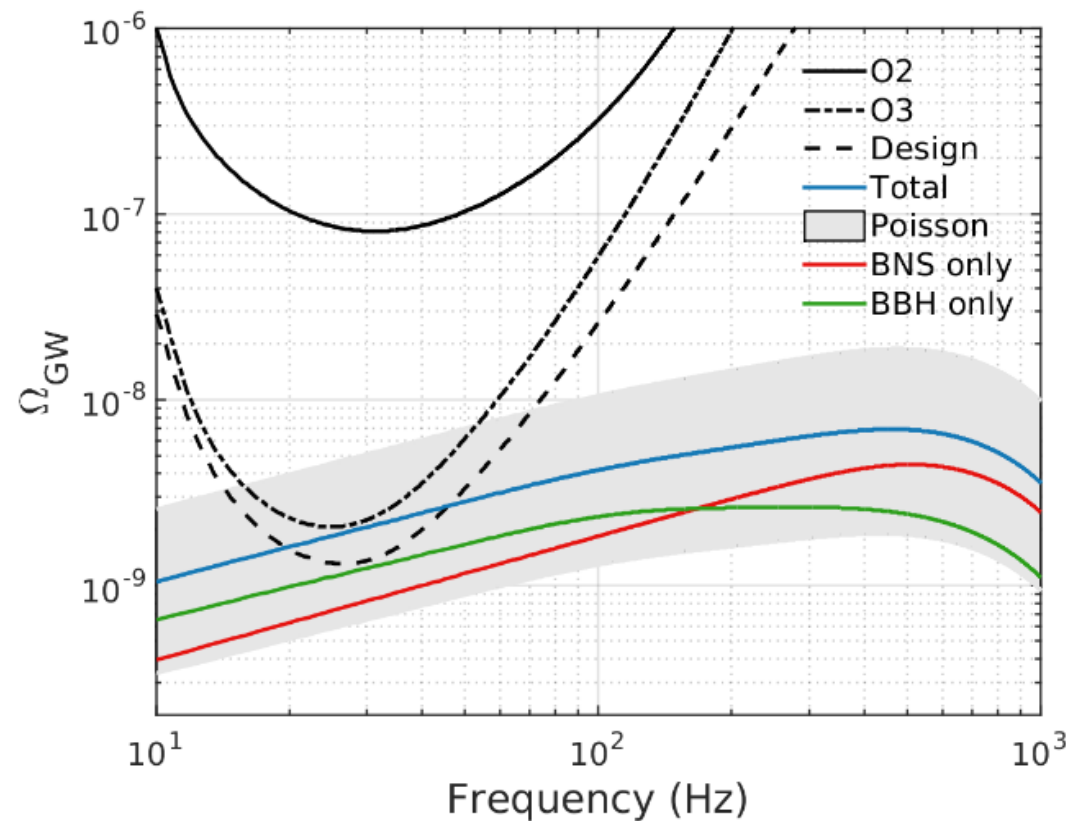
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2019

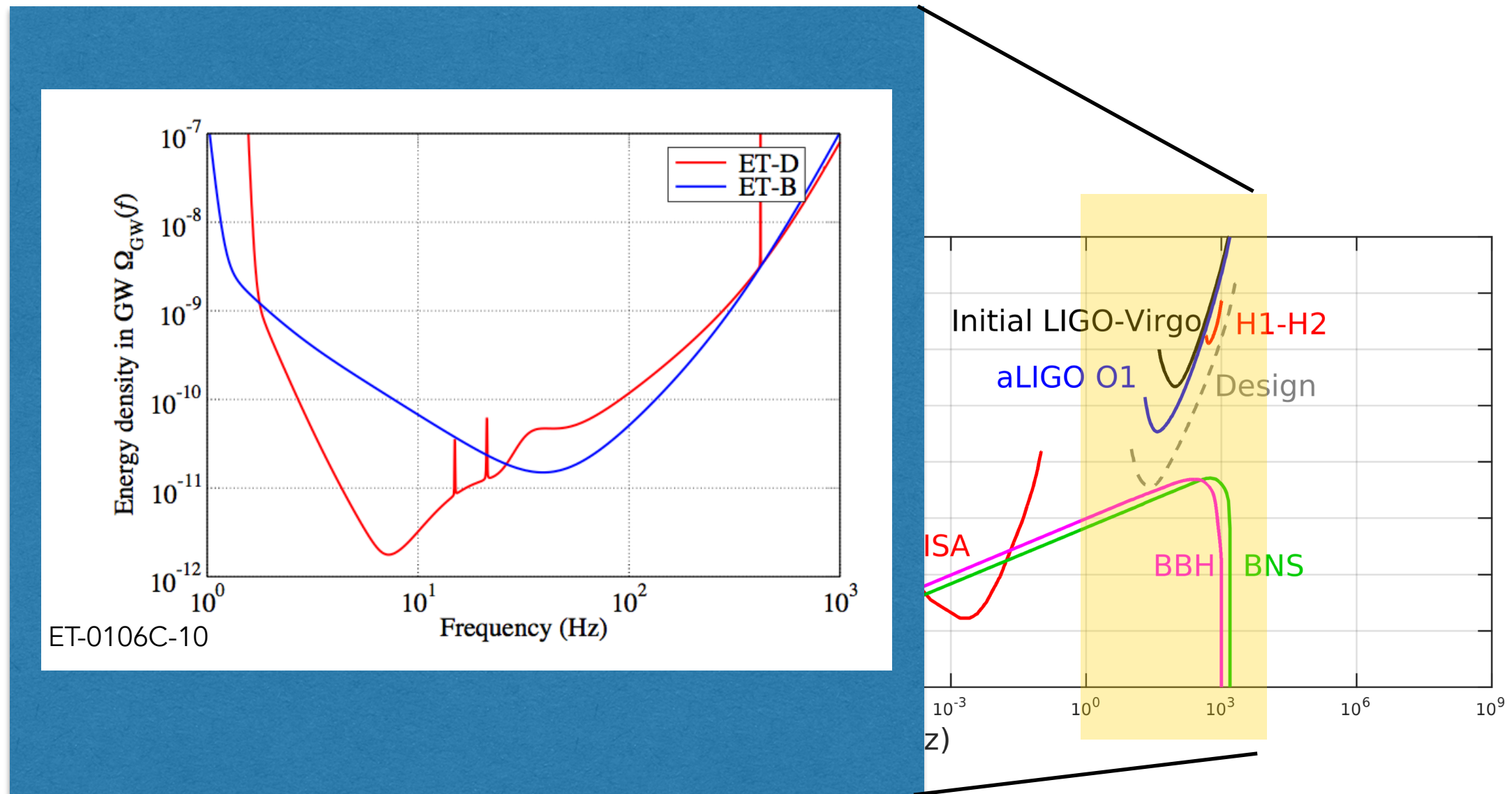
# Expected future detection (4 yrs)



Abbott et al, PRL 118 (2017) 121101

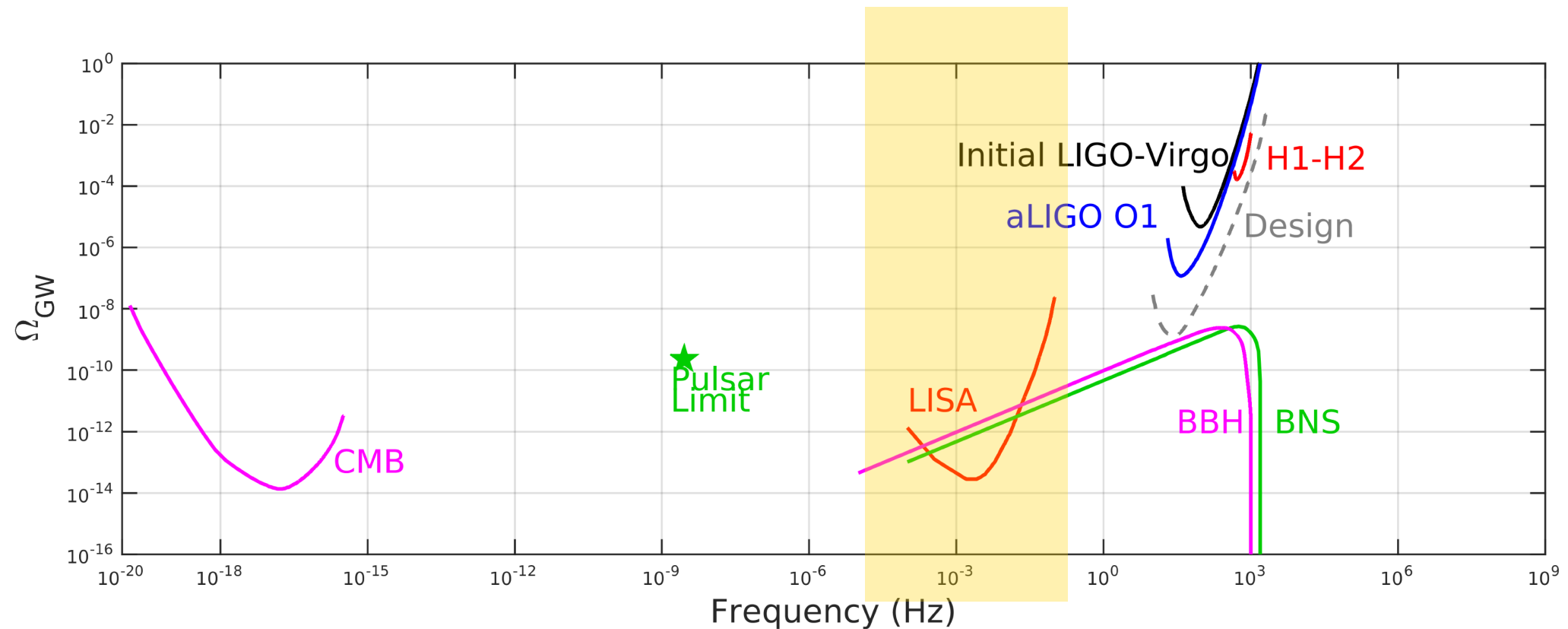
Detection background very probable as the designed sensitivity is reached!

# Einstein Telescope: improvement in sensitivity



Improvement of a factor 10 in strain sensitivity: larger portion of the spectrum detected

# LISA: inspiralling phase of mergers



**LISA will see a continuous background** (stationary) from inspiralling phase of binary systems  
(vs LIGO will see merger phase of binary evolution. Popcorn-like signal)

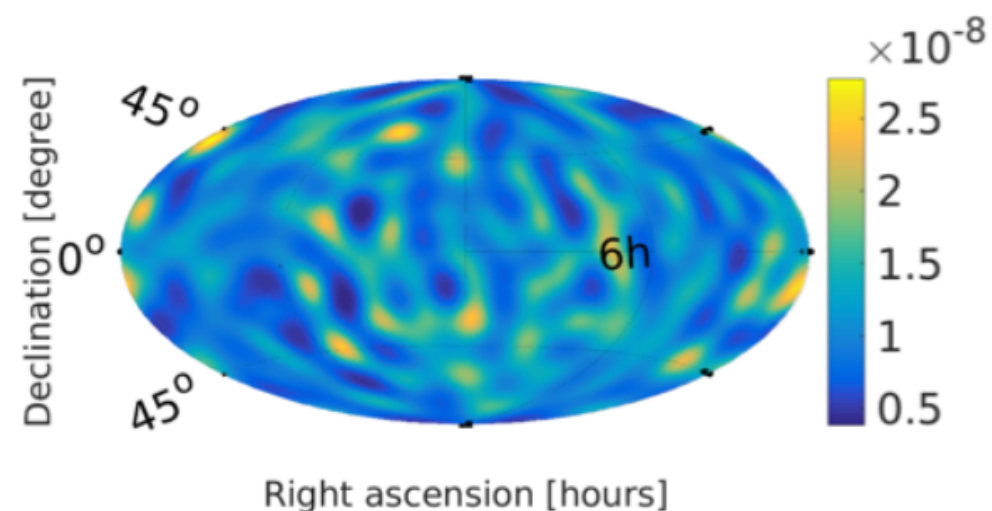
# Angular searches: sky map

$$\Omega_{GW}(f) = \int d^2\mathbf{e} \Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e})$$

$$\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e}) = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \frac{d^3 \rho_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e})}{d^2\mathbf{e} df}$$

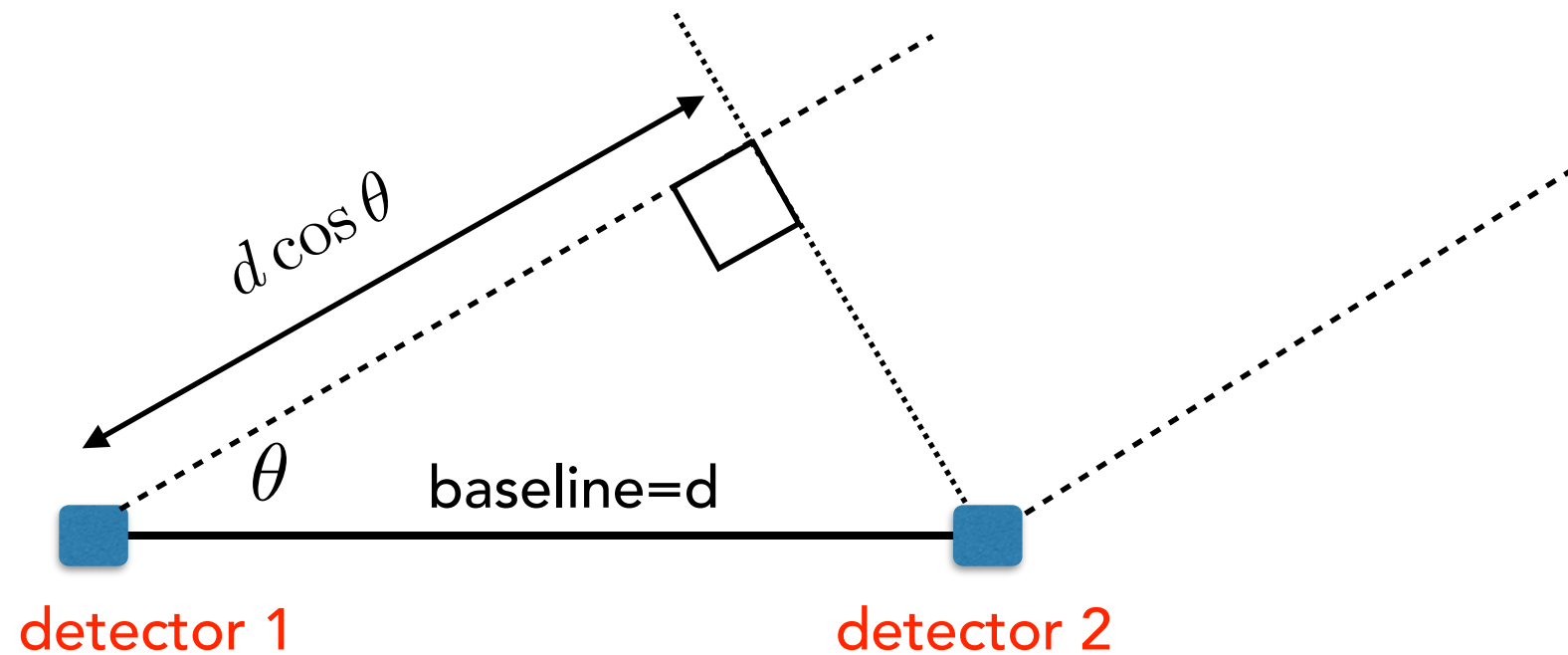
LIGO & Virgo : directional searches implemented: SNR consistent with gaussian noise

map of upper bounds



(LIGO-Virgo PRL 118, 121102, 2017)

# Interferometric mapping



Angular resolution

$$\Delta\theta \sim \frac{\lambda}{d} \sim \frac{c}{fd}$$

$$\ell_{\max} = \frac{\pi}{\Delta\theta} \sim \frac{\pi fd}{c}$$

For LIGO detectors

$$\ell_{\max} = \frac{\pi f}{50\text{Hz}} \sim 4$$

Adding Virgo  $\rightarrow > 10$

# Standard assumption in searches

Frequency-direction factorization

$$\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e}) = \left( \frac{f}{f_{\text{ref}}} \right)^\alpha D(\mathbf{e})$$

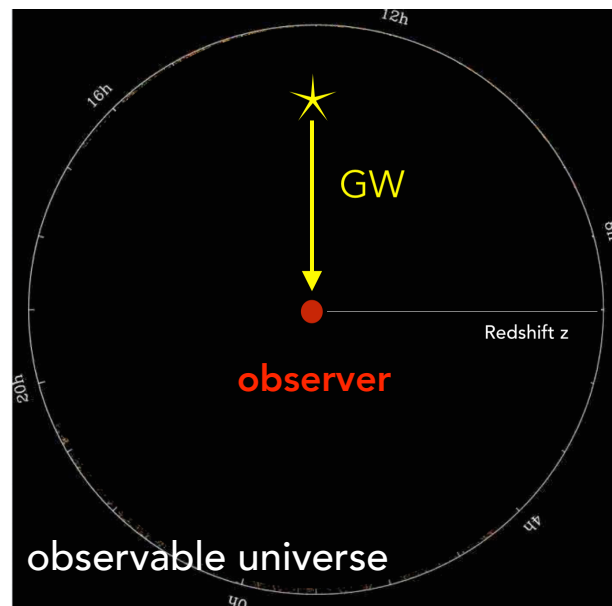
frequency  
(power law)

direction

[we will test this assumption later with our framework]

Theoretical modeling and numerical predictions

# Modeling side: standard description

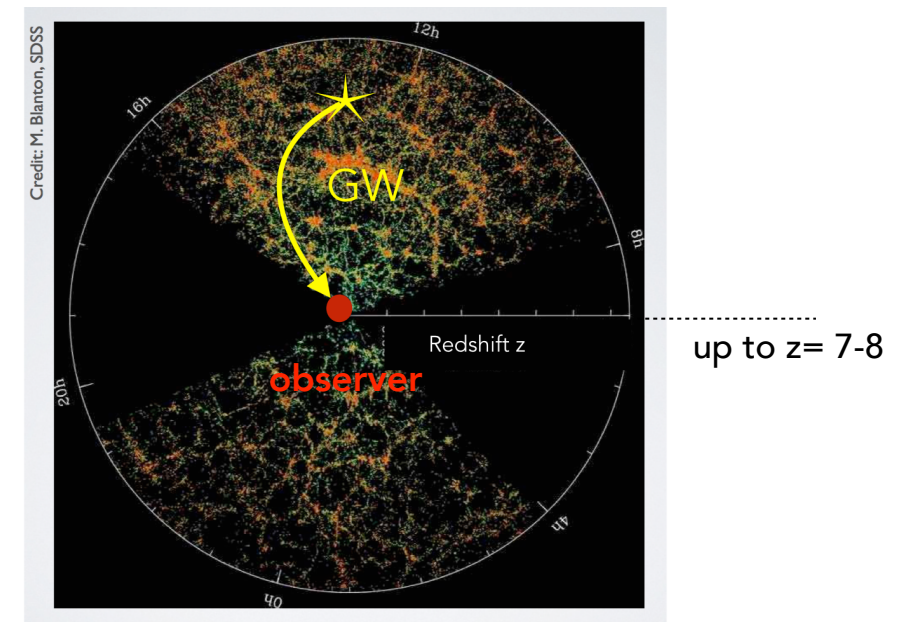
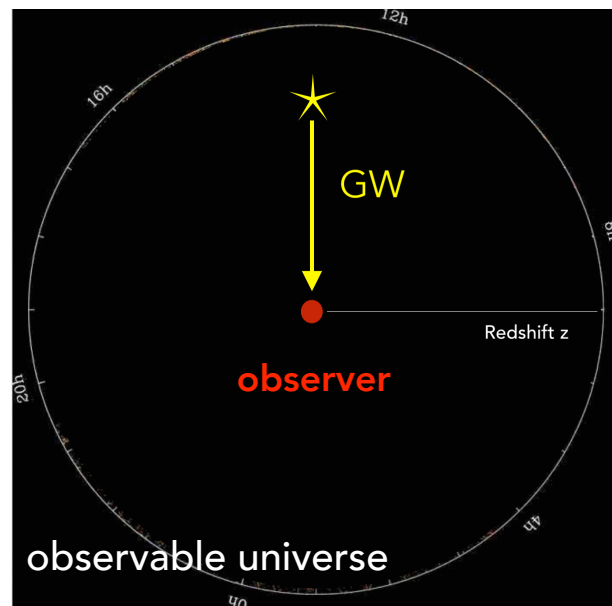


Usual modeling:

sources isotropically distributed,  
propagation along straight line

- no anisotropies in the received flux
- no generation of polarization

# Beyond the usual modeling: a realistic description



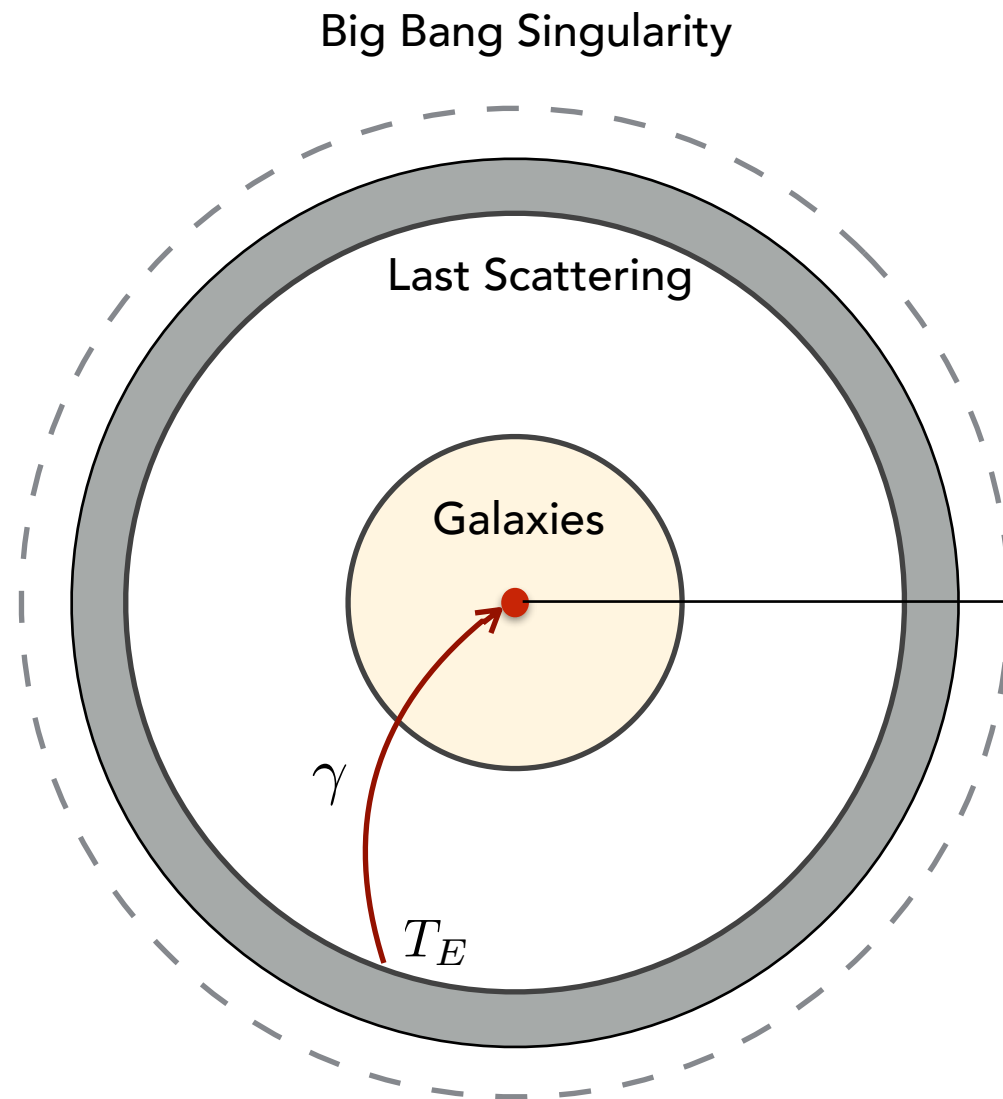
Usual modeling:  
sources isotropically distributed,  
propagation along straight line

More realistic description:  
including effects of inhomogeneities,  
lensing, distortion

- no anisotropies in the received flux
- no generation of polarization

**Accurate characterization of  
anisotropies and polarization**

# CMB: a case study



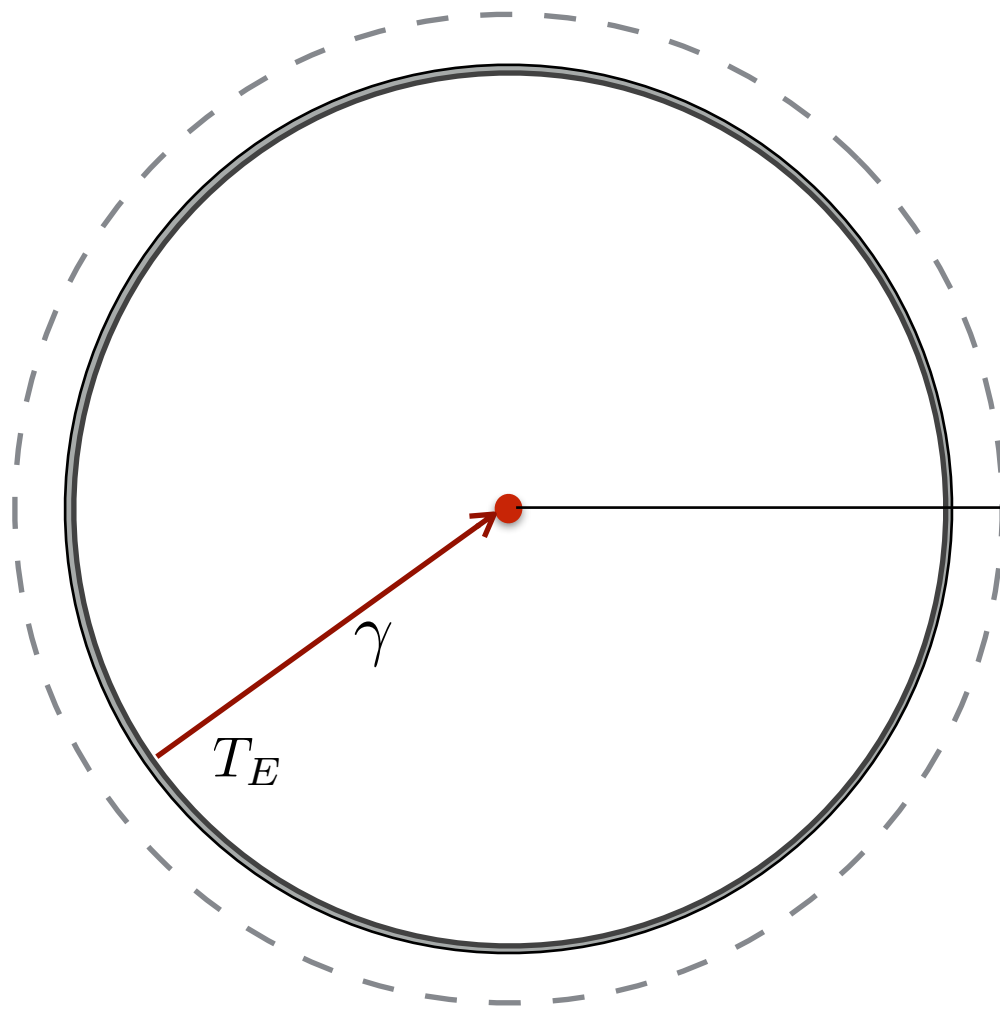
Temperature observed  $\leftrightarrow$   
temperature at Large Scattering Surface

$$\frac{T_O}{T_E} = \frac{E_O}{E_E} = \frac{(k^\mu u_\mu)_O}{(k^\mu u_\mu)_E}$$

wave vector

velocity comoving  
observer

# CMB assuming homogeneous and isotropic universe

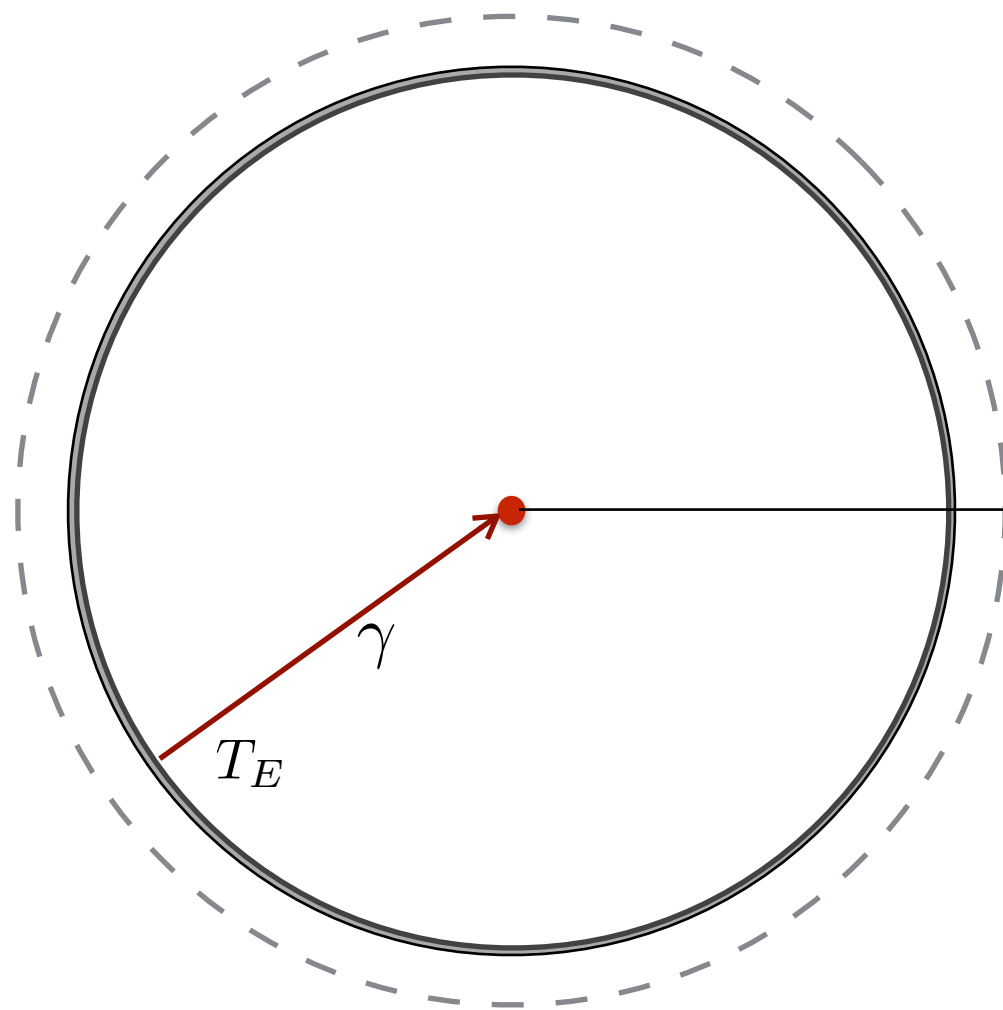


$$ds^2 = a^2(\eta)(-d\eta^2 + d\mathbf{x}^2)$$

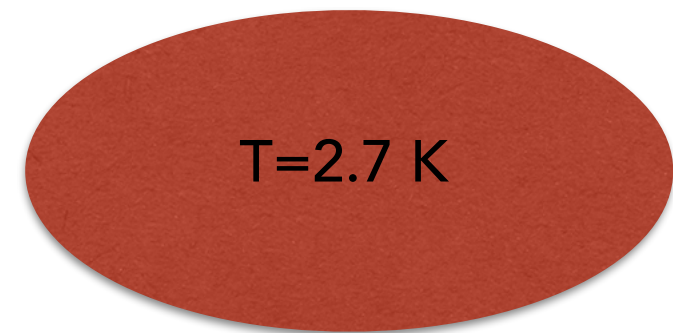
$$\frac{T_O}{T_E} = \frac{E_O}{E_E} = \frac{(k^\mu u_\mu)_O}{(k^\mu u_\mu)_E} = \frac{a(\eta_E)}{a(\eta_O)}$$

Temperature does not depend on directions!

# CMB assuming homogeneous and isotropic universe

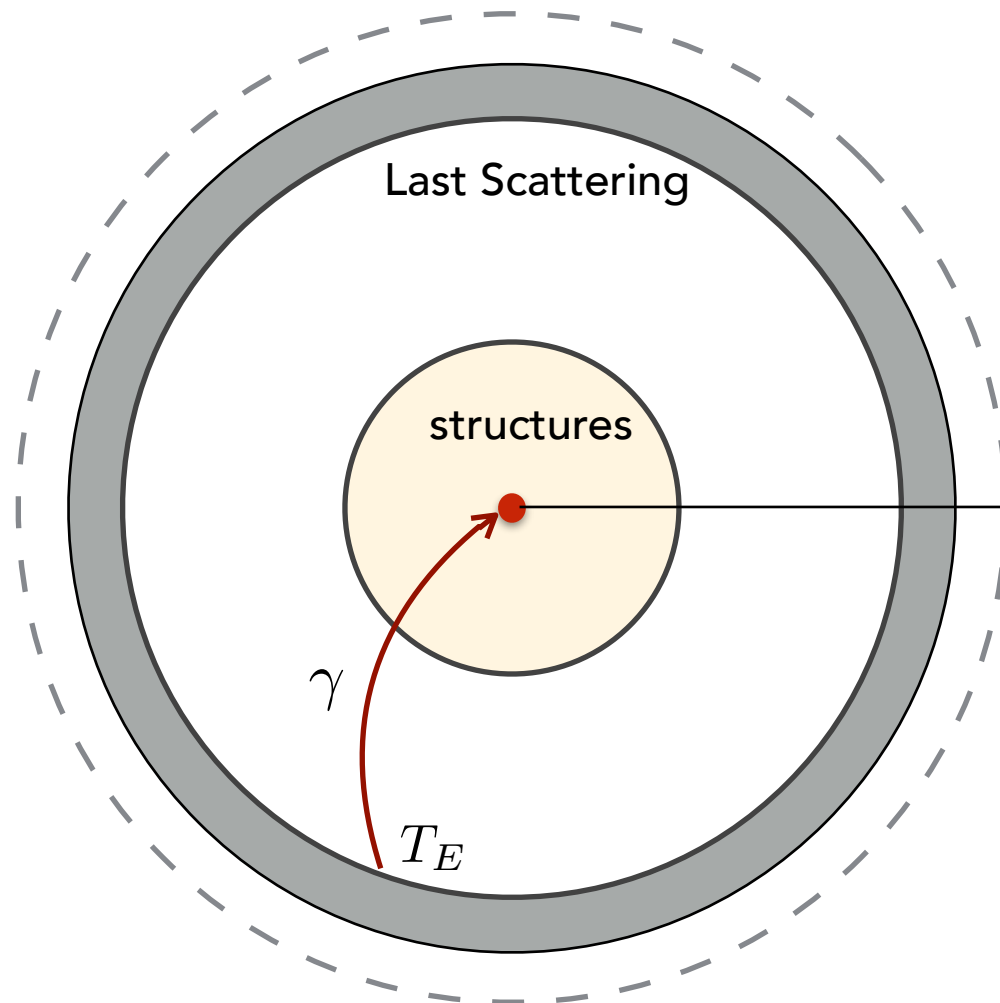


sky map



(see Penzias & Wilson '65)

# CMB: effects of structures

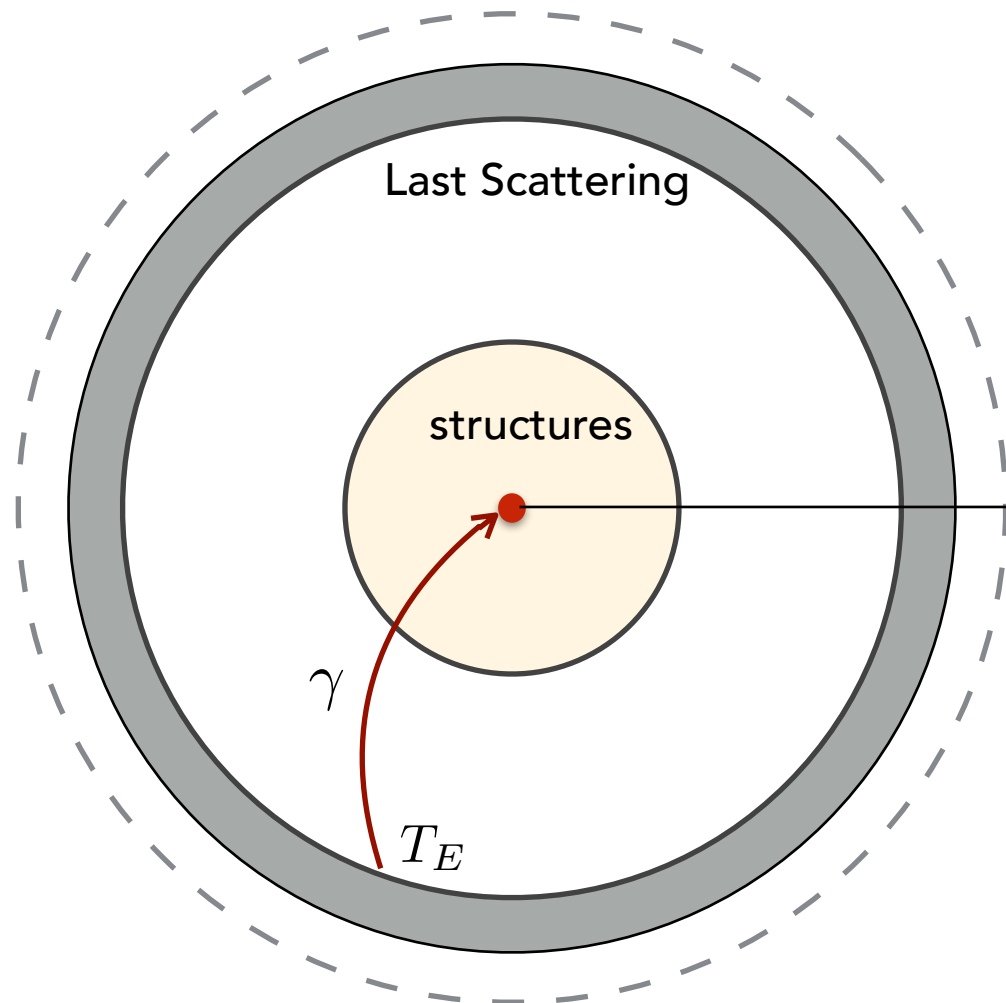


$$ds^2 = a^2 \left[ -(1 + 2\Psi)d\eta^2 + (1 - 2\Phi)\delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j \right]$$

$$T_O(\mathbf{e}) = \bar{T}_O(\eta_O)(1 + \Theta(\mathbf{e}))$$

$$\Theta(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{x}_O, \eta_O) = \left( \frac{1}{4}\delta_\gamma + \Phi - \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{v} \right) (\mathbf{x}_E, \bar{\eta}_E) + \int_E^O (\Phi' + \Psi') d\eta \quad (\text{Sachs-Wolfe formula '67})$$

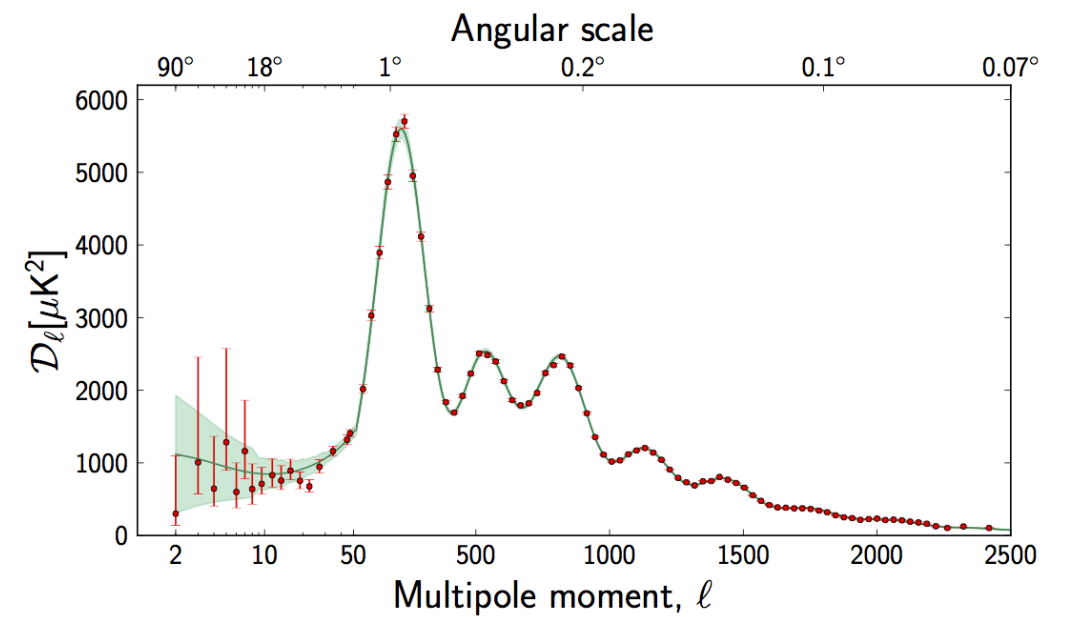
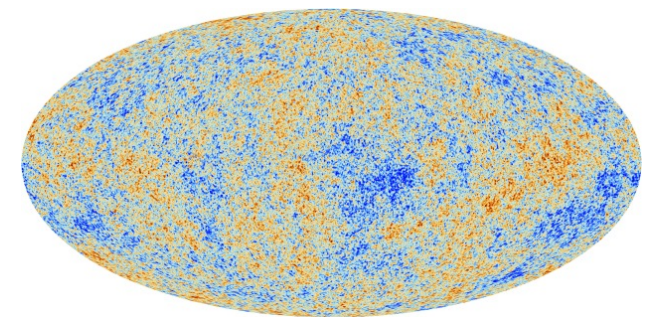
# CMB: constraining cosmology



$$\Theta(\mathbf{e}, \mathbf{x}_O, \eta_O)$$

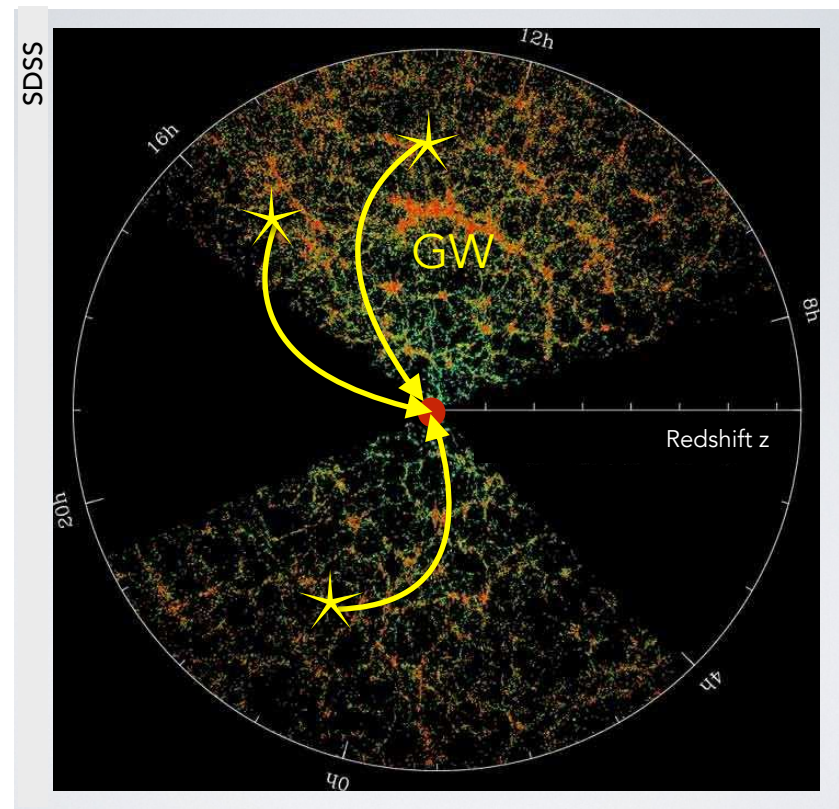


sky map



# GW background case

## Predictions

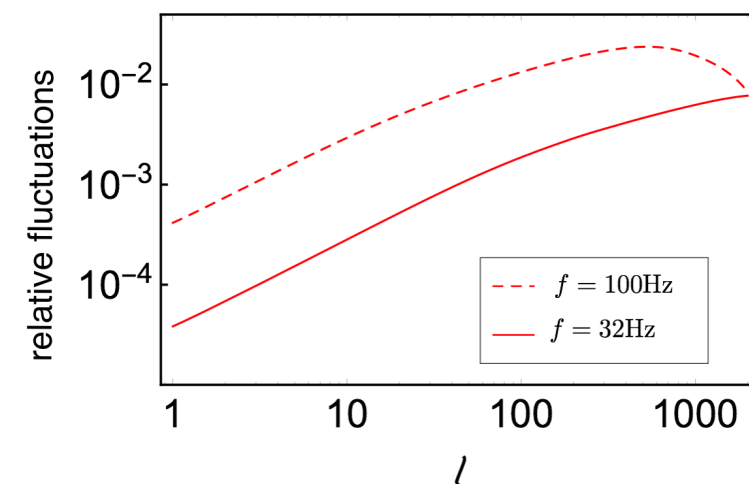
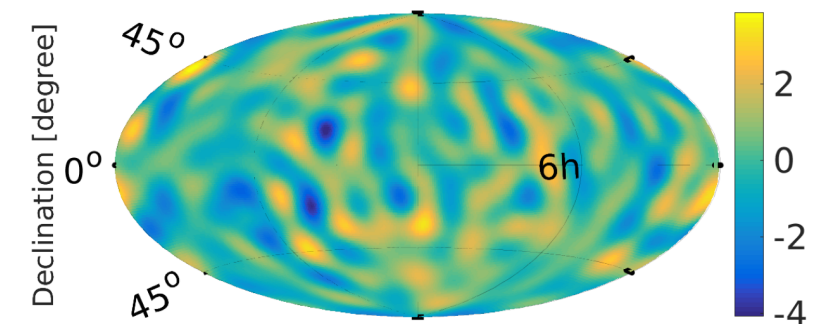


$$\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e})$$



## sky map (future)

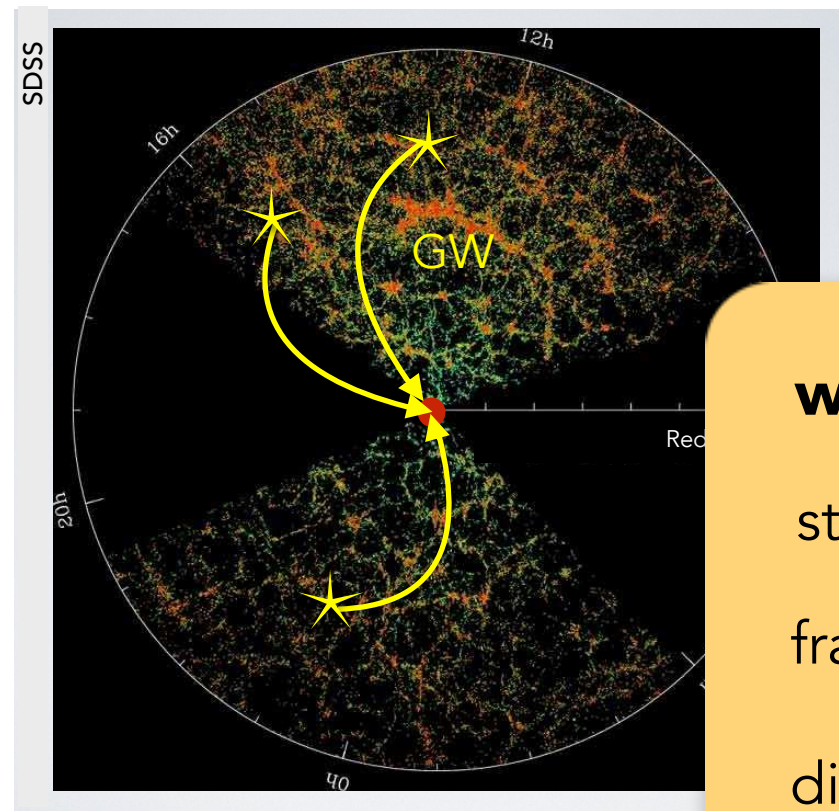
(LIGO-VIRGO PRL 118, 121102, 2017)



[Cusin, Dvorkin, Uzan, Pitrou 2018]

# Constrain astrophysical functions and parameters

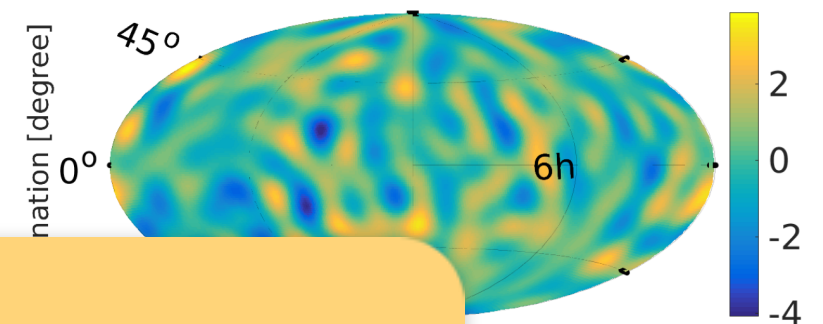
## Predictions



$$\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e})$$

## sky map (future)

(LIGO-VIRGO PRL 118, 121102, 2017)



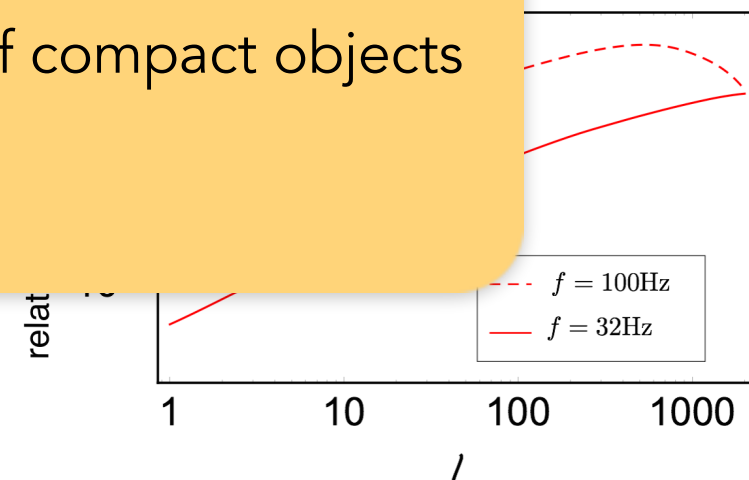
### what we can learn

stellar evolution model

fraction black holes in binary systems

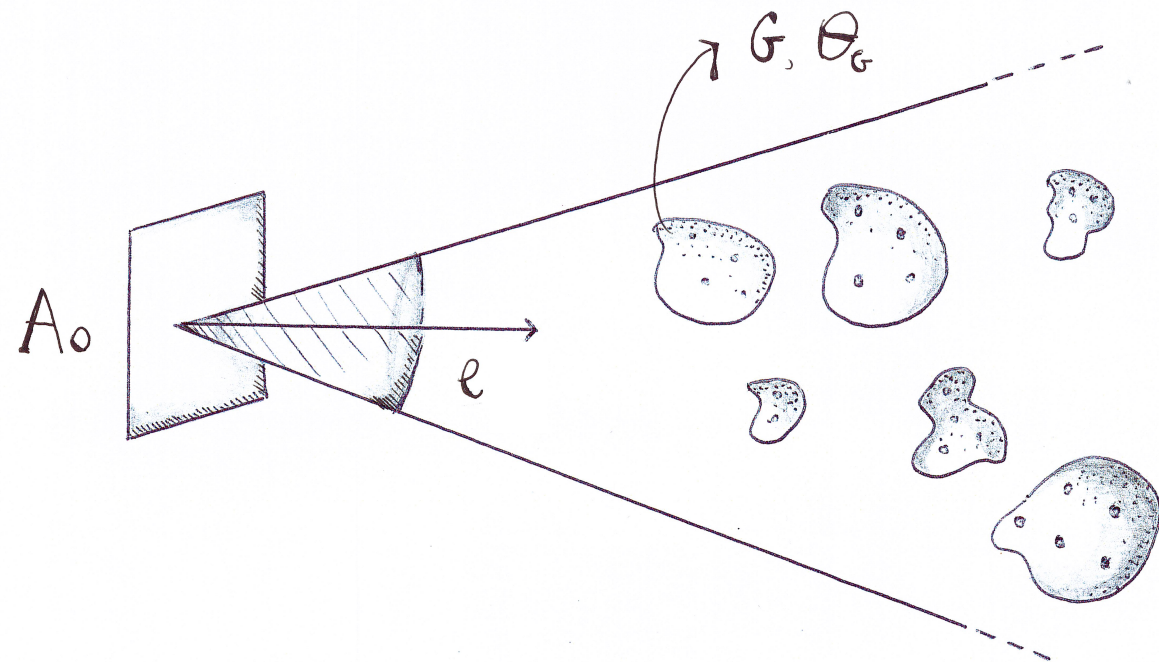
distribution masses of compact objects

...



# Scheme of our approach

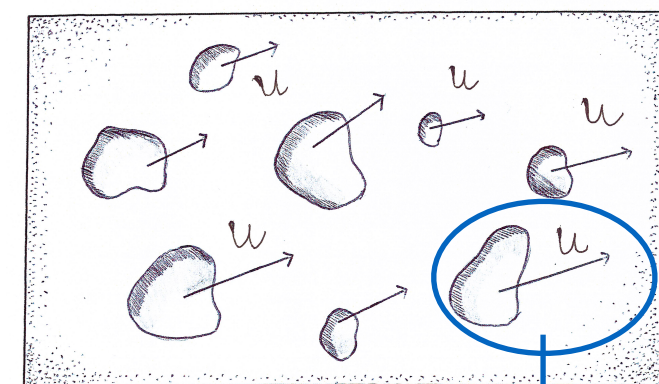
Observer looks at the sky in a given direction



$$\Phi(\mathbf{e}, z_G, \theta_G) = \frac{\text{Energy}}{A_0 \Delta t_0}$$

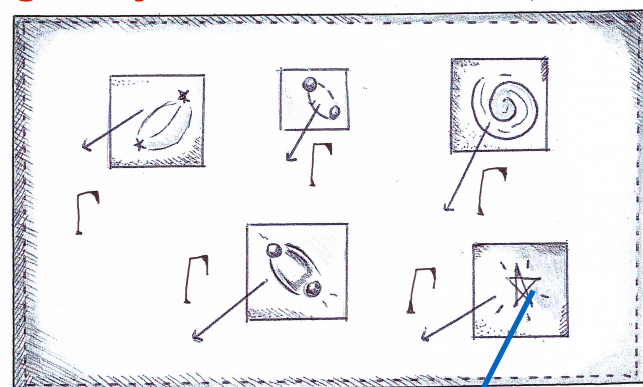
Total flux received: **sum the contributions** from all the galaxies in the solid angle of observation

# Three scales in the problem

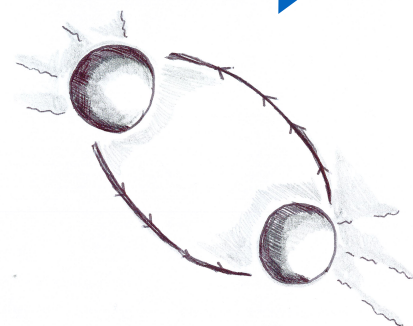


**cosmological scale.** Galaxies: point-like sources moving with the cosmic flow

galaxy scale

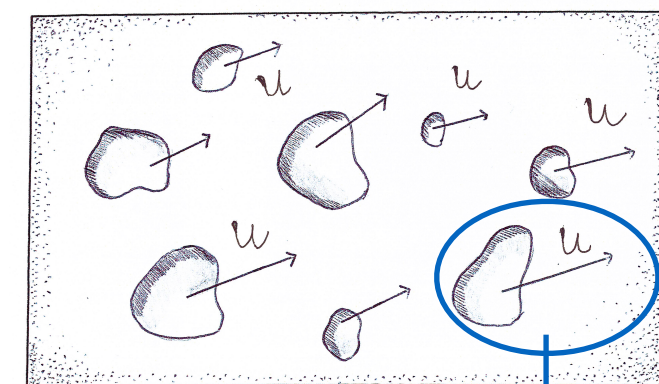


**galactic scale.** Effective luminosity of a galaxy defined taking into account the various contributions of the sources



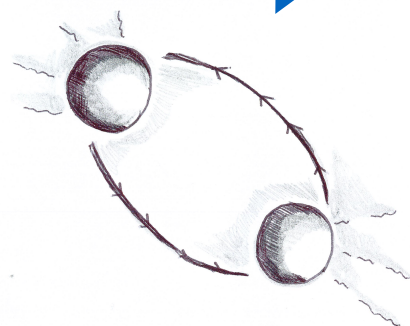
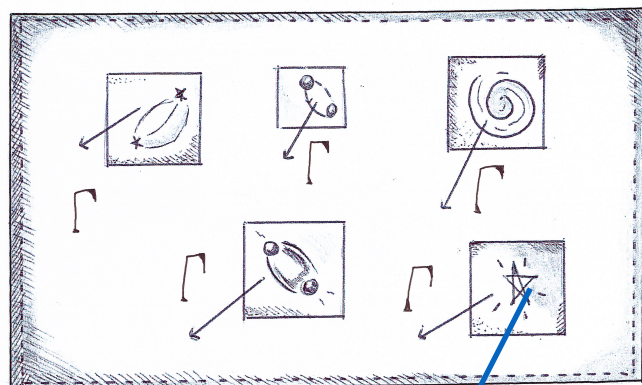
**local scale:** single GW sources inside a galaxy

# From cosmological to local scale



cosmological scale

galaxy scale



local scale

$$\Phi = \frac{(1 + z_G)}{D_L^2} \boxed{\mathcal{L}_G}$$

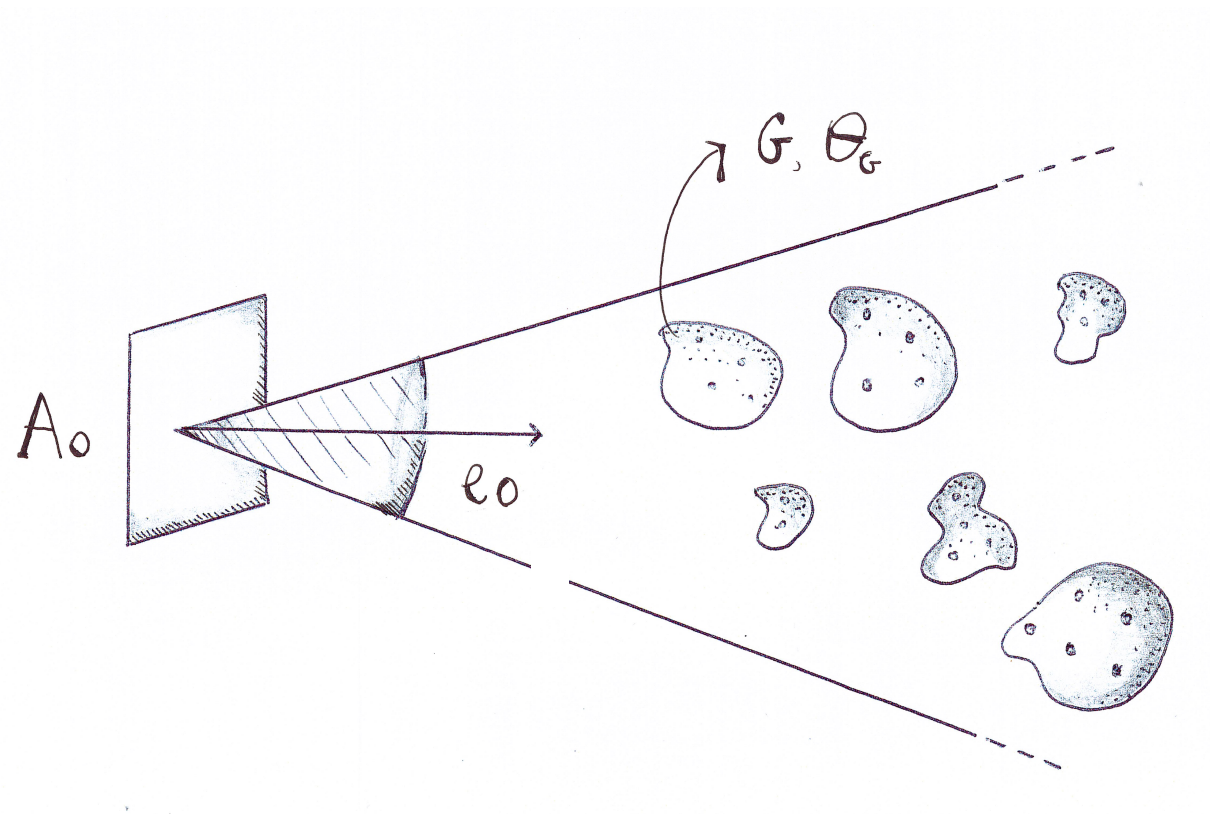
|  
function local  
quantities at sources

# Final parametrization

$$\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e}) = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \int dz_G \int d\theta_G \overset{\substack{\text{integral over halo mass function} \\ \uparrow}}{\Phi[z_G, f, \theta_G]} \boxed{\frac{d^3 \mathcal{N}_G}{dz_G d^2 \mathbf{e}}(z_G, \theta_G)}$$

flux from one galaxy

# galaxies in comoving volume



# Final parametrization

$$\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e}) = \frac{f}{\rho_c} \int dz_G \int d\theta_G \overset{\text{astrophysical component}}{\boxed{\Phi[z_G, f, \theta_G]}} \overset{\text{cosmological component}}{\boxed{\frac{d^3 \mathcal{N}_G}{dz_G d^2 \mathbf{e}}(z_G, \theta_G)}}$$



rewritten in terms of luminosity



rewritten in terms of comoving  
density and comoving volume

# Results in cosmological context

astrophysical part

cosmological part

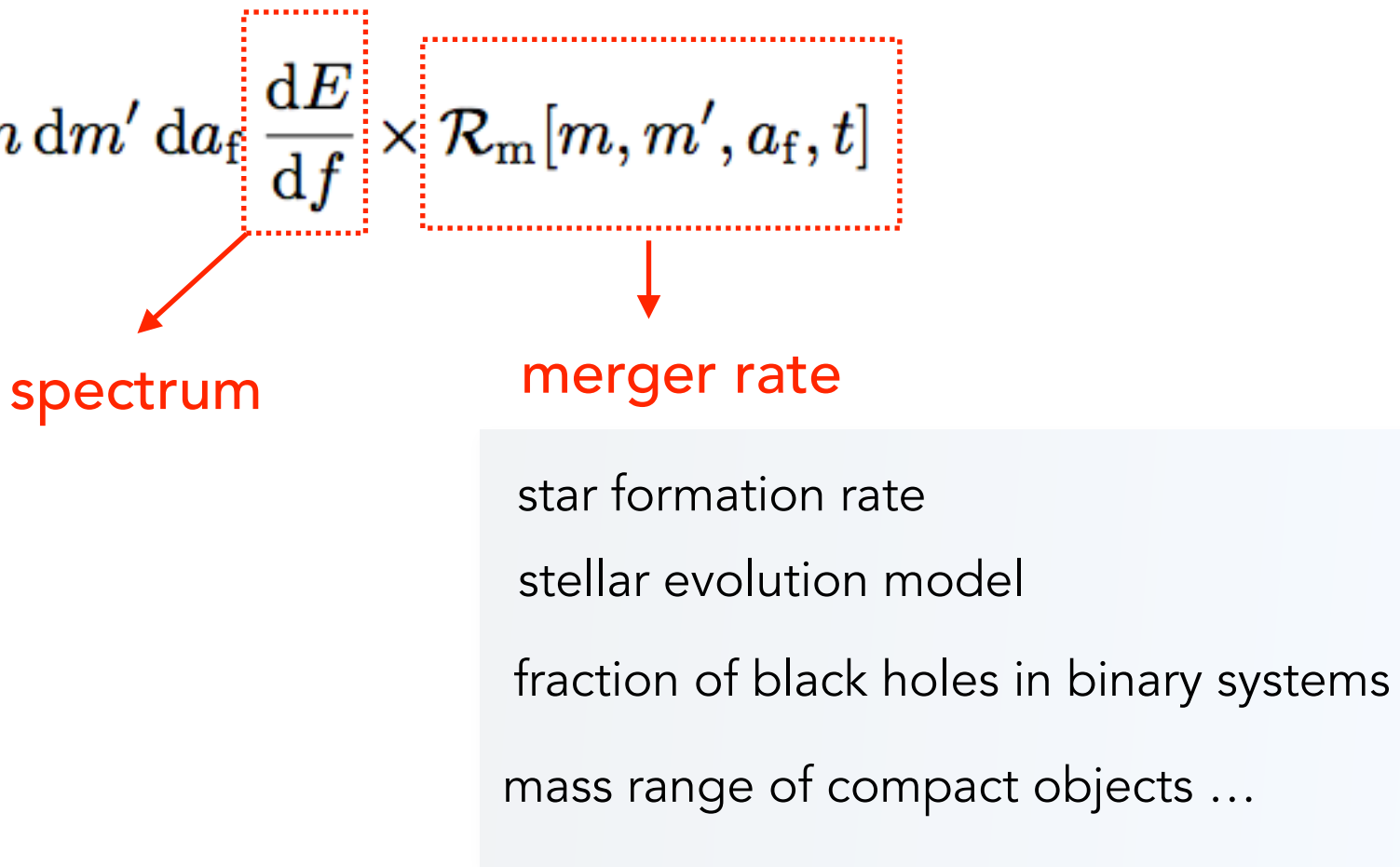
$$\delta\Omega_{GW}(\mathbf{e}, f) = \frac{f}{4\pi\rho_c} \int_{\eta_*}^{\eta_0} d\eta \mathcal{A}(\eta, f) \left[ b\delta_m + 4\Psi - 2\mathbf{e} \cdot \nabla v + 6 \int_{\eta}^{\eta_0} d\eta' \dot{\Psi} \right]$$


$$\mathcal{A}(\eta, f) \equiv a^4 \bar{n}_G(\eta) \int d\theta_G \mathcal{L}_G(\eta, f_G, \theta_G)$$

$$\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e}) = \bar{\Omega}_{GW}(f) + \delta\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e})$$

# Astrophysical model: ingredients

(1) 
$$\mathcal{L}_G = \int dm dm' da_f \frac{dE}{df} \times \mathcal{R}_m[m, m', a_f, t]$$



spectrum

merger rate

- star formation rate
- stellar evolution model
- fraction of black holes in binary systems
- mass range of compact objects ...

(2) **sum over galaxy population** using the halo mass function calibrated with simulations

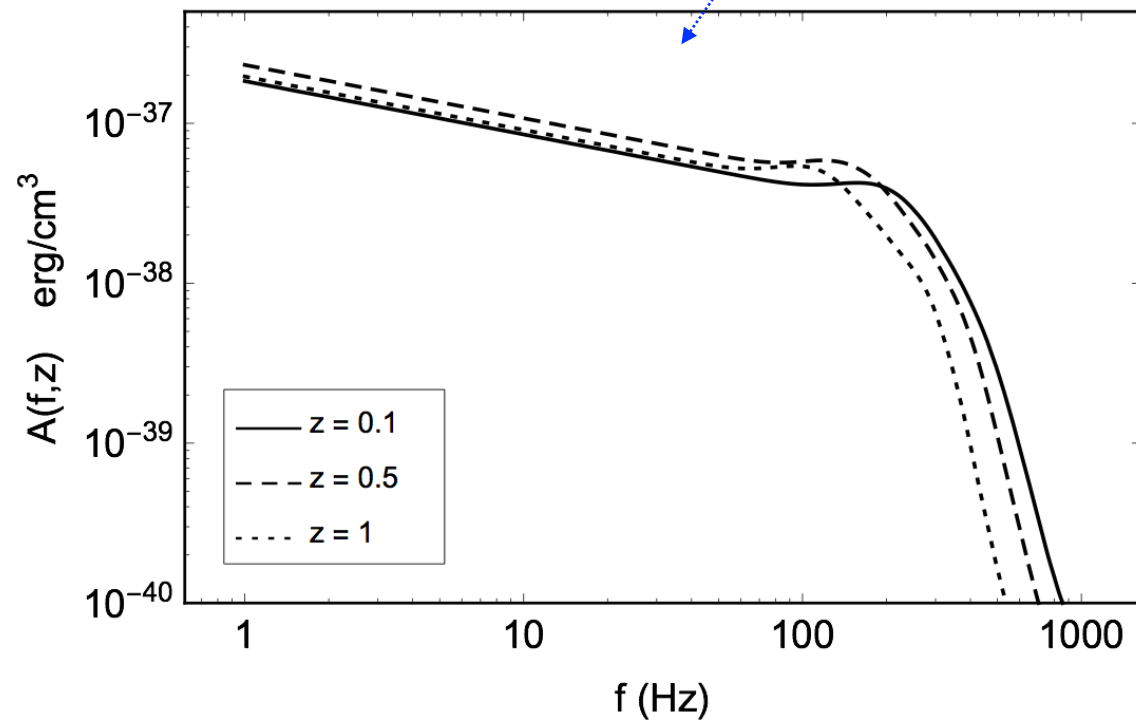
# Astrophysical kernel for a reference model

astrophysical part

cosmological part

$$\delta\Omega_{GW}(\mathbf{e}, f) = \frac{f}{4\pi\rho_c} \int_{\eta_*}^{\eta_O} d\eta \mathcal{A}(\eta, f) \left[ b\delta_m + 4\Psi - 2\mathbf{e} \cdot \nabla v + 6 \int_{\eta}^{\eta_O} d\eta' \dot{\Psi} \right]$$

$$\mathcal{A}(\eta, f) \equiv a^4 \bar{n}_G(\eta) \int d\theta_G \mathcal{L}_G(\eta, f_G, \theta_G),$$



GC, Dvorkin, Pitrou, Uzan, 2018

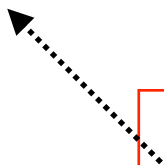
# Angular power spectrum

Non-vanishing auto-correlation linked to **correlation of large scale structures**  
(with modulation from local physics)

$$C(f, \theta) = \langle \delta\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e}_1) \delta\Omega_{GW}(f, \mathbf{e}_2) \rangle$$

$$\sum_{\ell} \frac{2\ell + 1}{2\pi} C_{\ell}(f) P_{\ell}(\mathbf{e}_1 \cdot \mathbf{e}_2)$$

depends on frequency


$$C_{\ell}(f) = \frac{2}{\pi} \int dk k^2 |\delta\hat{\Omega}_{\ell}(k, f)|^2$$

# Correlation with other cosmological observables

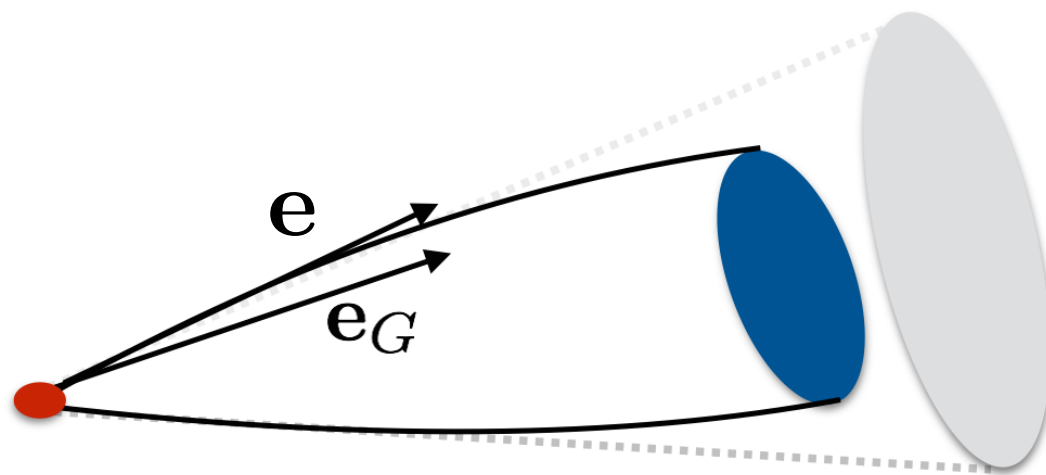
**Number counts:** number of galaxies as a function of direction and redshift

(see e.g. Bonvin & Durrer 2011)

**Weak lensing** describes the deformation of the shape of a given galaxy by the gravitational potential of the large scale structures

$$\mathbf{e}_G = \mathcal{A} \cdot \mathbf{e}$$

amplification matrix



# Summary of correlations

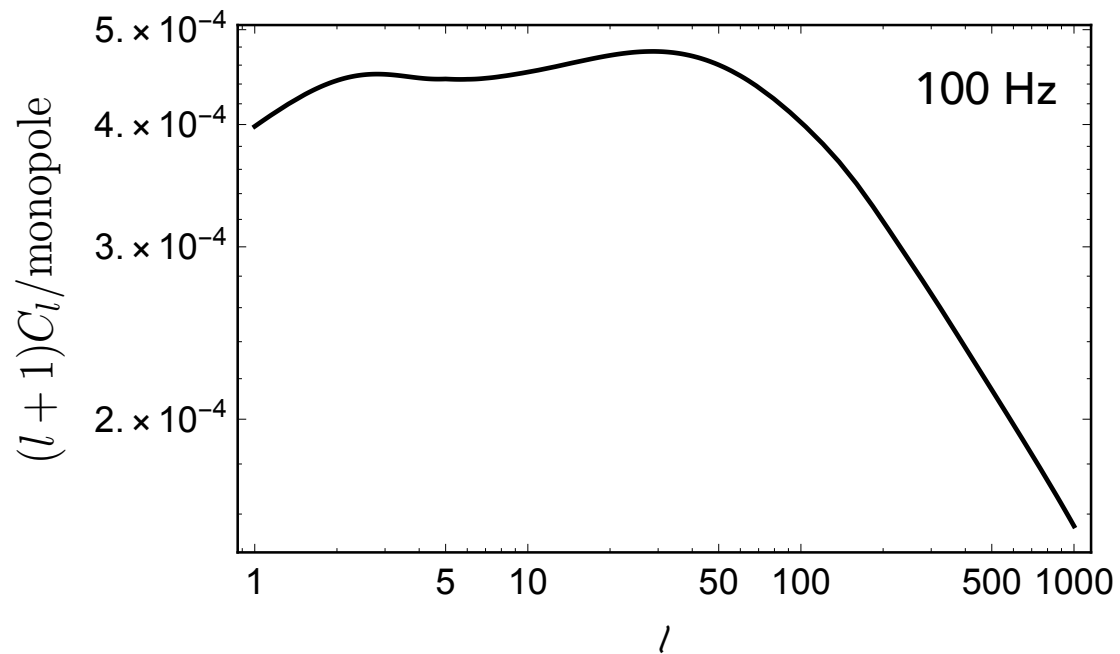
|               | $\Omega_{GW}$ | lensing<br>$\kappa$ | galaxy number counts<br>$\Delta$ |
|---------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| $\Omega_{GW}$ | $C_\ell(f)$   | $B_\ell(f)$         | $D_\ell(f)$                      |
| $\kappa$      | $B_\ell(f)$   | $\kappa_\ell$       | $\gamma_\ell$                    |
| $\Delta$      | $D_\ell(f)$   | $\gamma_\ell$       | $\Delta_\ell$                    |

new!

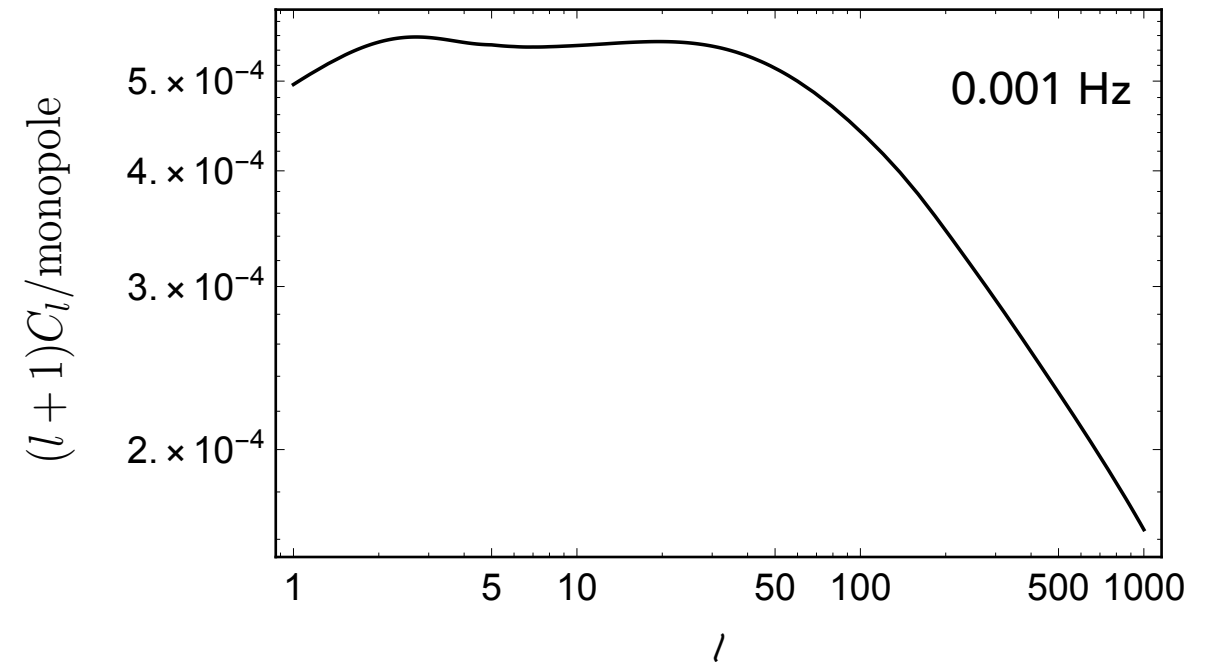
known

# Angular power spectrum

LIGO-Virgo band



LISA band

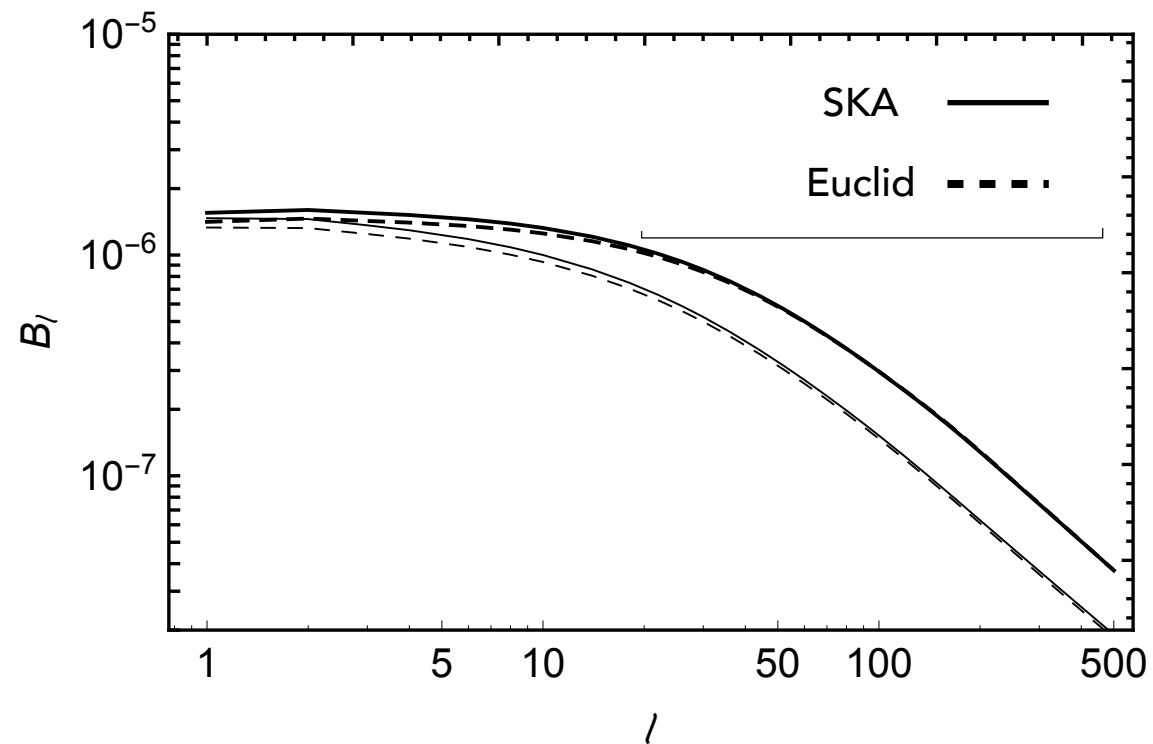


detectable by Einstein Telescope/Cosmic Explorer (?)

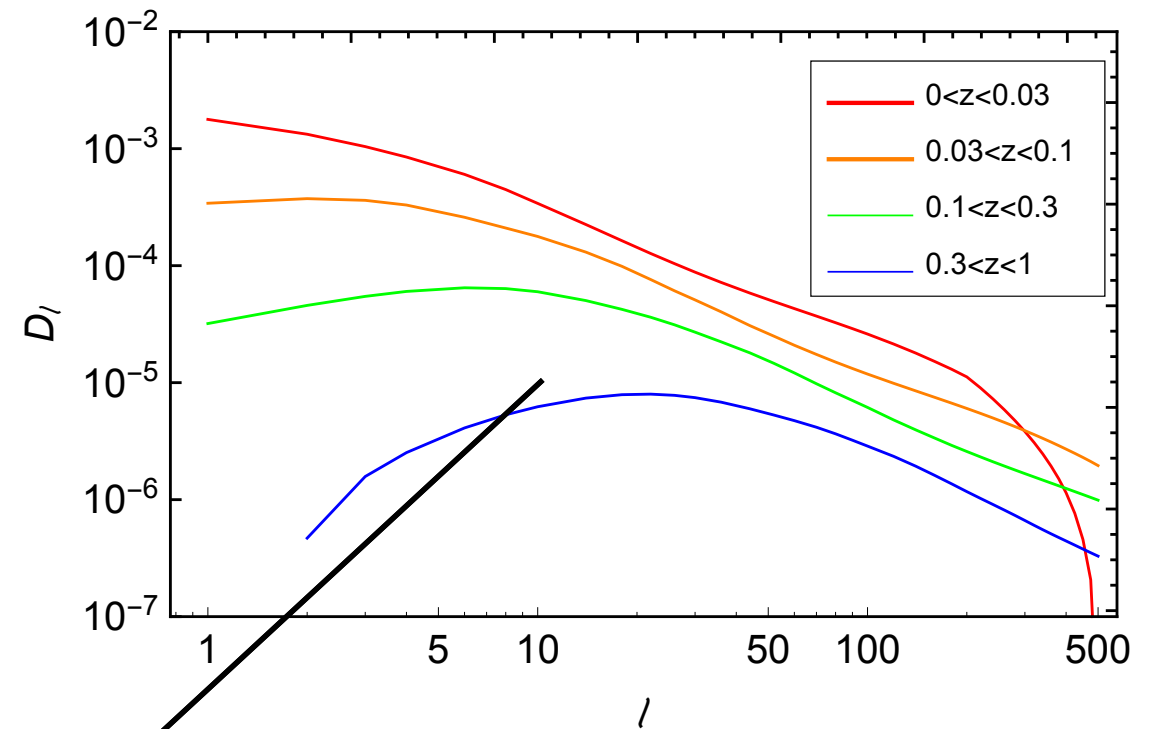
$$\left(\ell + \frac{1}{2}\right) C_\ell(f) \simeq \int dk P_\delta(k) \quad \text{for large angular scales}$$

# Cross-correlations

cross correlation with weak lensing



cross correlation with galaxy number counts



window function at different redshifts

allows tomographic reconstruction: contribution from different redshifts

allows distinguish astrophysical GW background from cosmological one

# Relevance of this study for astrophysics

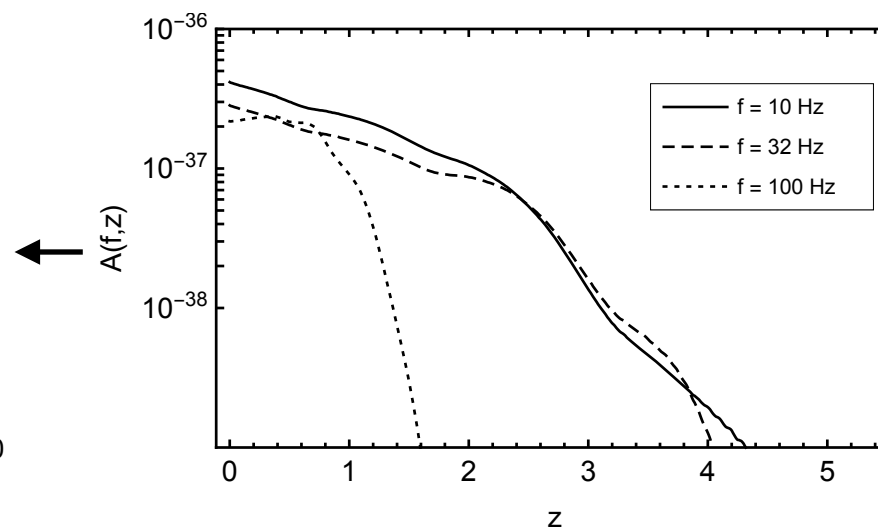
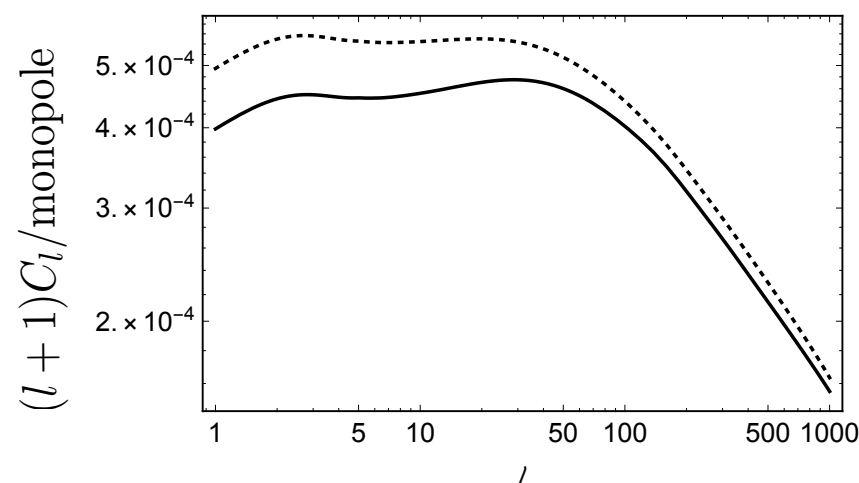
$$\boxed{\delta\Omega_{GW}(\mathbf{e}, f)} = \frac{f}{4\pi\rho_c} \int_{\eta_*}^{\eta_0} d\eta \underbrace{\mathcal{A}(\eta, f)}_{\text{astrophysical part}} \left[ \underbrace{b\delta_m + 4\Psi - 2\mathbf{e} \cdot \nabla v}_{\text{cosmological part}} + 6 \int_{\eta}^{\eta_0} d\eta' \dot{\Psi} \right]$$

anisotropies per units  
of frequency and  
directions

stellar evolution model  
fraction compact objects in binaries  
mass range  
distribution parameters binary system...

metric perturbations  
peculiar velocities  
matter over density  
galaxy bias ...

Astro kernel for a reference model



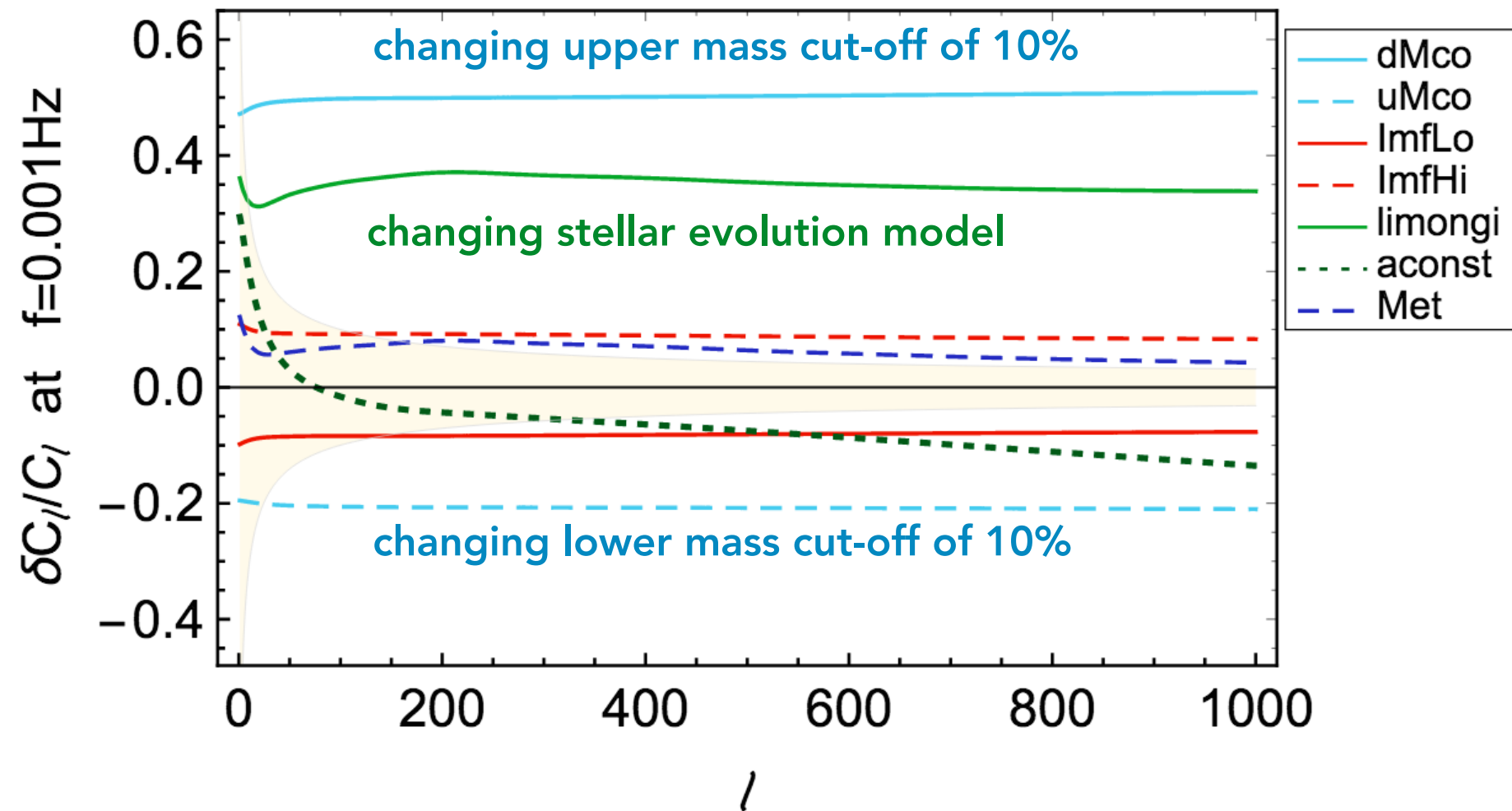
cosmological transfer  
functions for perturbations

$T(\eta)$

+

# Test astrophysical modeling: explorative approach

Fractional differences with respect to a reference model



variation >40%

# Ongoing work: how to extract astro info

**What we know:** there is astro info in anisotropies of GW background

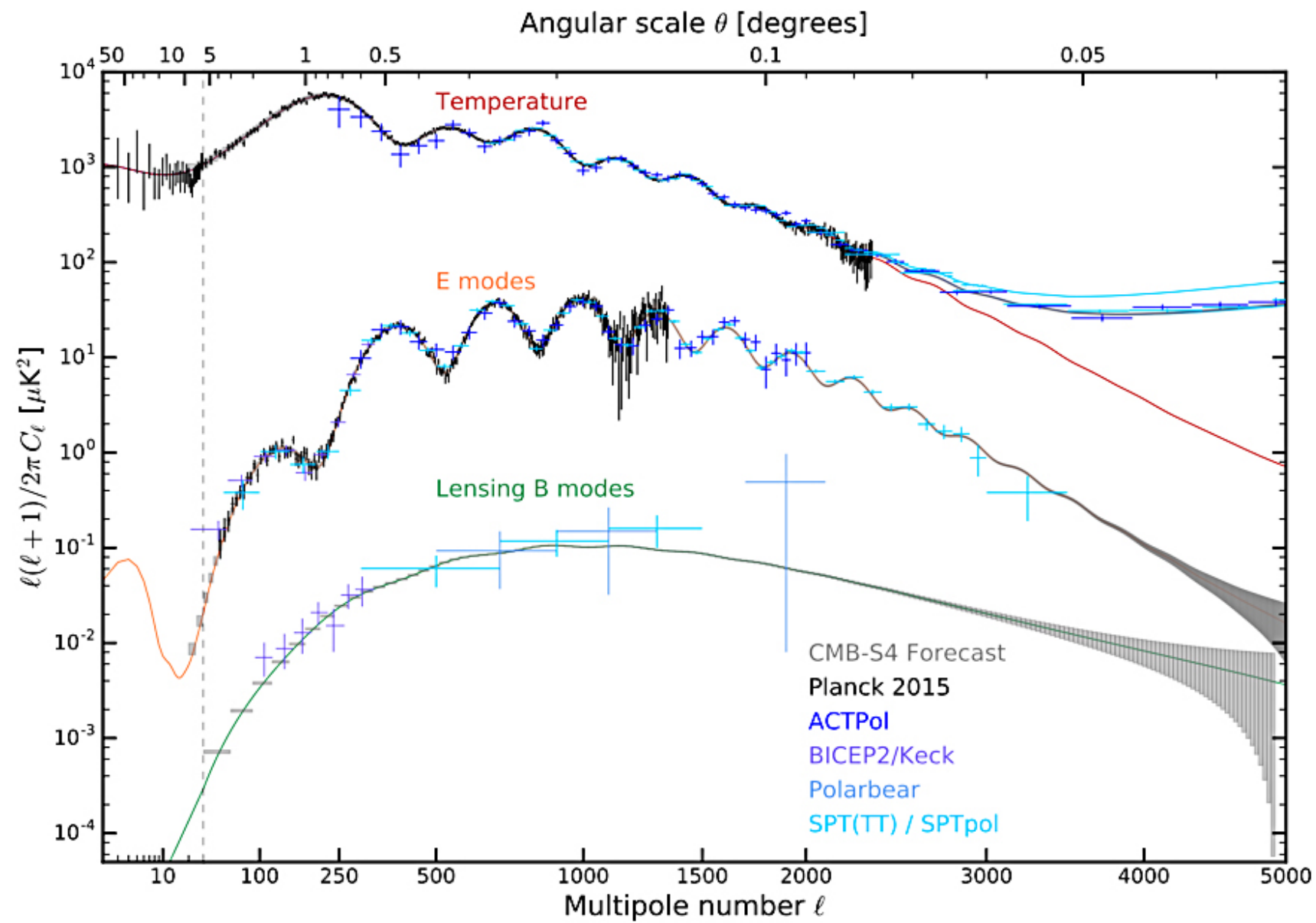
**What we want to understand:** is it possible to extract this info? How?

## Work plan

- **agnostic parametrization** of the astro kernel in terms of few parameters. Forecast of detectability for different observatories: MCMC (noise characterization needed!)
- understand how to relate these parameters to physical astrophysical quantities
- **effective astrophysical model** to capture main dependences: inverse problem for parameters reconstruction

[with I. Michaloliakos, B. Whiting, E. Bellini, D. Alonso]

# Can polarization be generated? CMB analogy



# Characterization of a GW background: Stokes parameters

Superposition signals in given direction and at a given frequency

strain

$$\tilde{h}_{ij}(f, \mathbf{n}) = \tilde{h}_+(f, \mathbf{n})e_{ij}^+(\mathbf{n}) + \tilde{h}_\times(f, \mathbf{n})e_{ij}^\times(\mathbf{n})$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_{ab} = \tilde{h}_a^* \tilde{h}_b$$

polarization tensor

$$a, b = +, \times$$

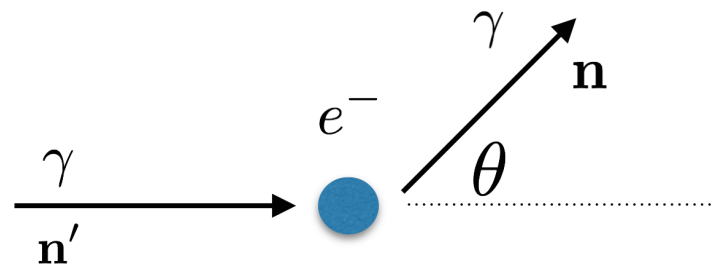
It fully describes background

$$\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_{ab}(\mathbf{n}, f) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \overset{\text{intensity}}{I(\mathbf{n}, f)} 1_{ab} + \overset{\text{polarization}}{U(\mathbf{n}, f) \sigma_{ab}^{(1)} + V(\mathbf{n}, f) \sigma_{ab}^{(2)} + Q(\mathbf{n}, f) \sigma_{ab}^{(3)}} \right]$$

Proportional to background energy density  $\Omega_{GW}(\mathbf{n}, f)$

# Generation of polarization: two ingredients needed

CMB photons



GW background

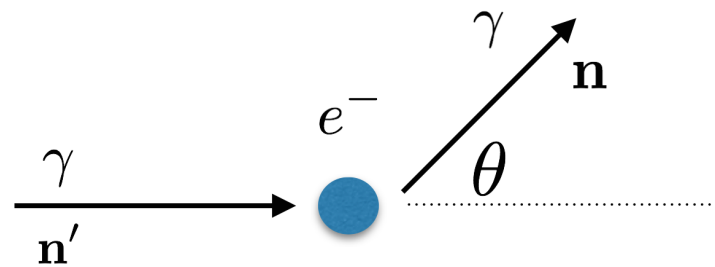
?

- $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \sigma_T |\epsilon(\mathbf{n})\epsilon(\mathbf{n}')|^2$
- anisotropy incoming radiation

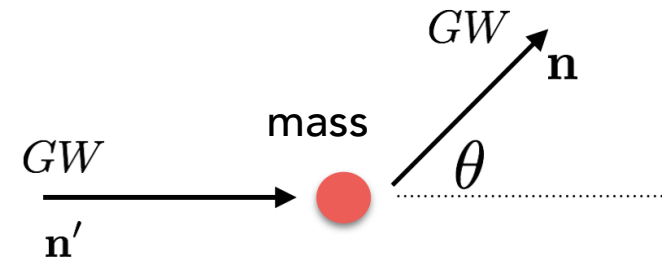
Is there for a GW background a process analogue to Thomson scattering for CMB?

# Generation of polarization: wave scattering of gravitons

CMB photons



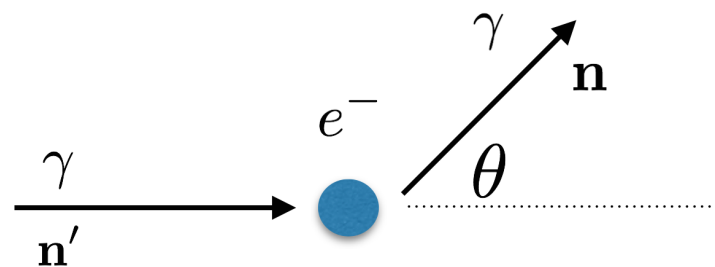
GW background



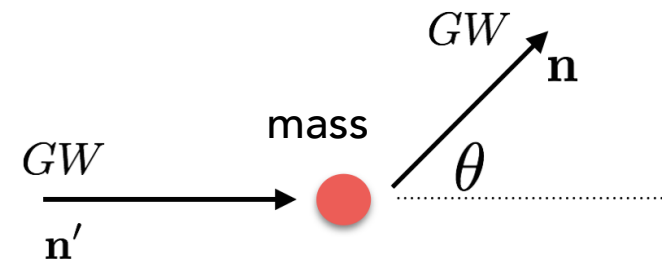
- $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \sigma_T |\epsilon(\mathbf{n})\epsilon(\mathbf{n}')|^2$
- anisotropy incoming radiation

# Generation of polarization: wave scattering of gravitons

CMB photons



GW background



Rutherford-like pre factor

- $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \sigma_T |\epsilon(\mathbf{n})\epsilon(\mathbf{n}')|^2$
- anisotropy incoming radiation

- $\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = (MG)^2 \frac{1}{\sin^4 \theta/2} |\epsilon_{ij}(\mathbf{n})\epsilon_{ij}(\mathbf{n}')|^2$
- anisotropy incoming radiation

# Diffusion by distribution of lenses

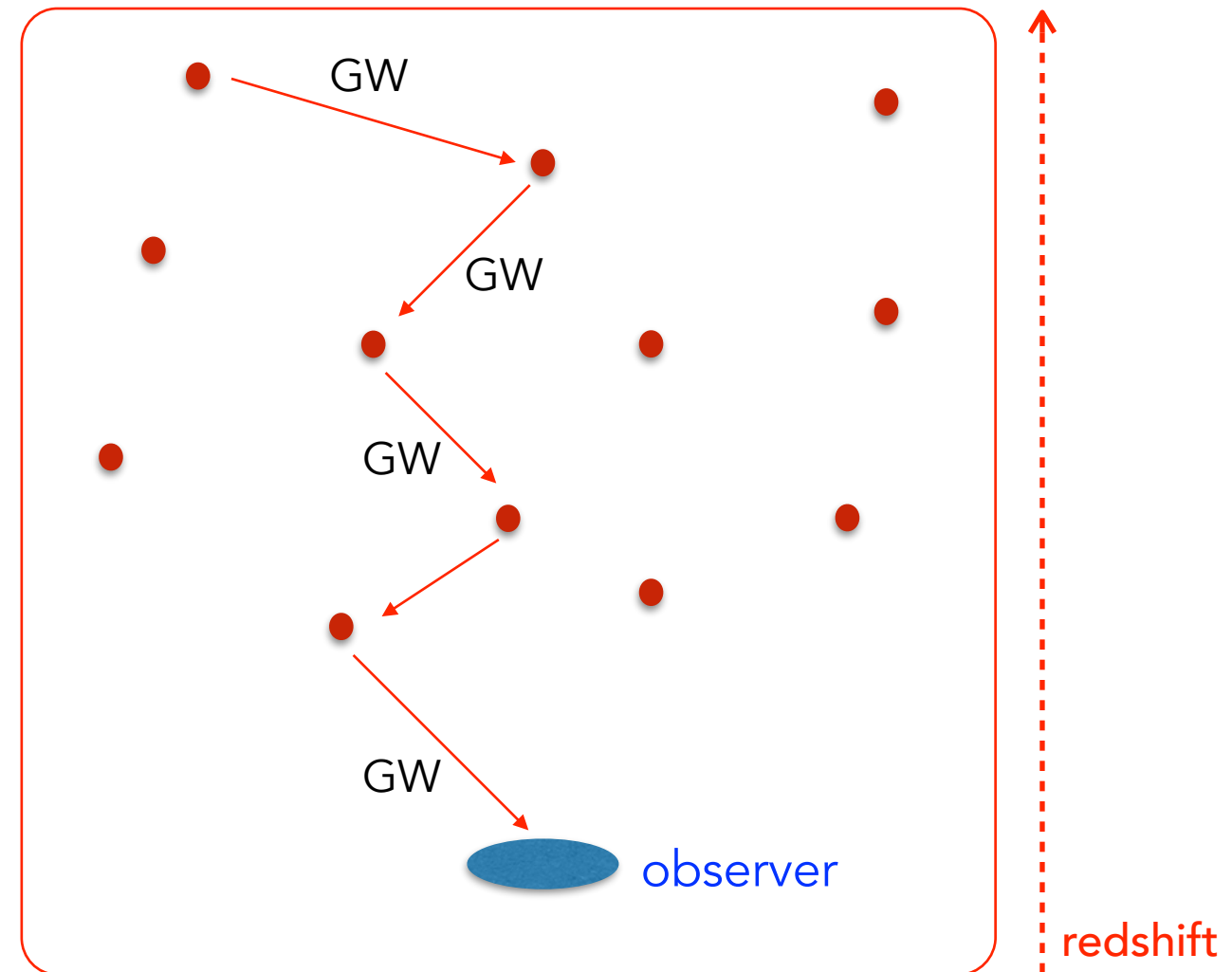
## Multi-scattering process with **optical depth**

$$\tau(\eta, \eta_0) = \int_{\eta}^{\eta_0} d\eta' a(\eta') n_{\text{ph}}(\eta') \sigma(\eta')$$

number density  
scattering centers

cross section

Visibility function for gravitons extends in redshift (vs CMB)



We derived first **predictions** for the total amount of polarization produced

Typical suppression of a factor  $10^{-4} - 10^{-3}$  wrt anisotropies [in LISA-PTA bands]

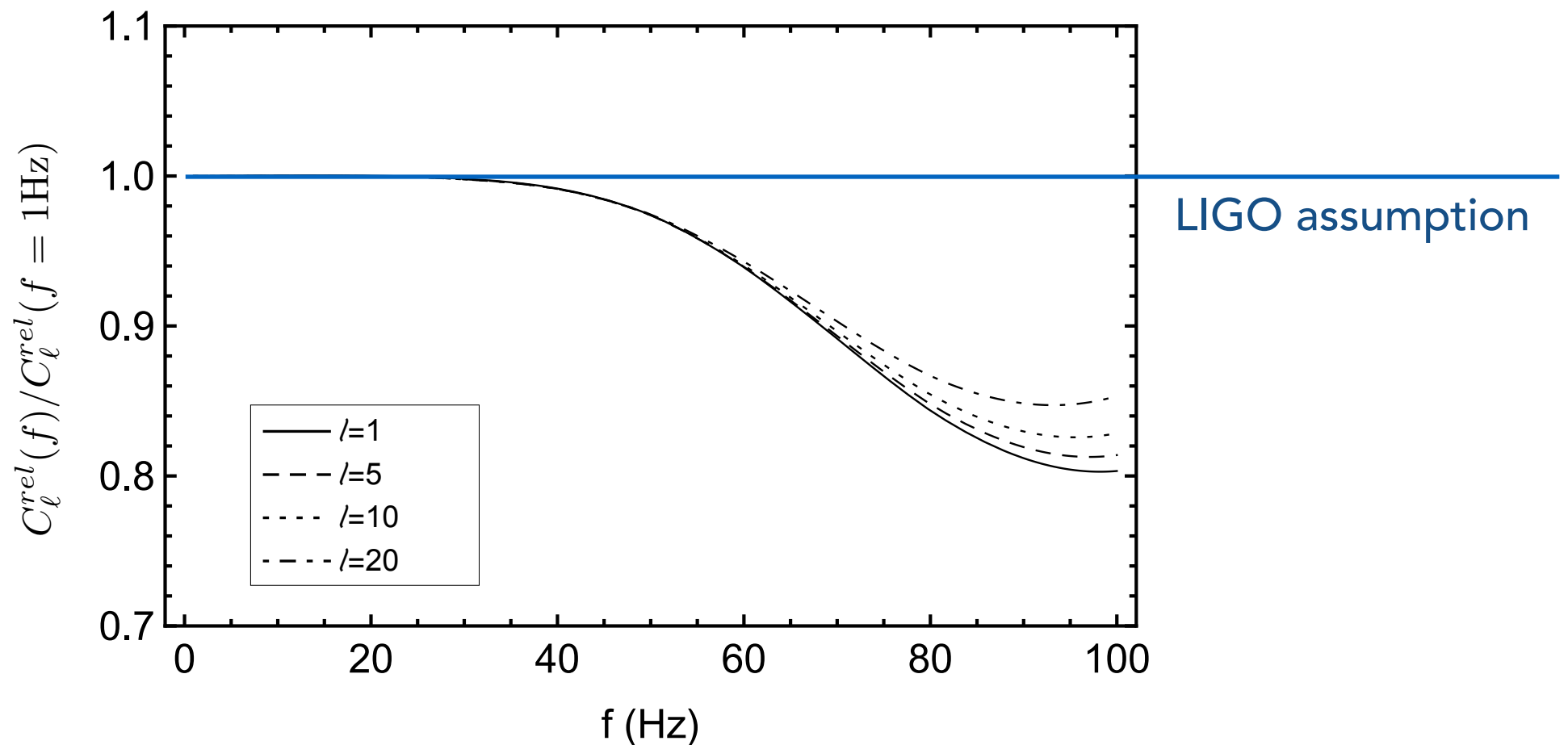
Making contact with observations:  
characterization of different noise components

# Test hypothesis used in current searches

Checking  $H_p$  of frequency factorization

$$\Omega_{GW}(\mathbf{e}, f) = \left( \frac{f}{f_{\text{ref}}} \right)^{2/3} D(\mathbf{e})$$

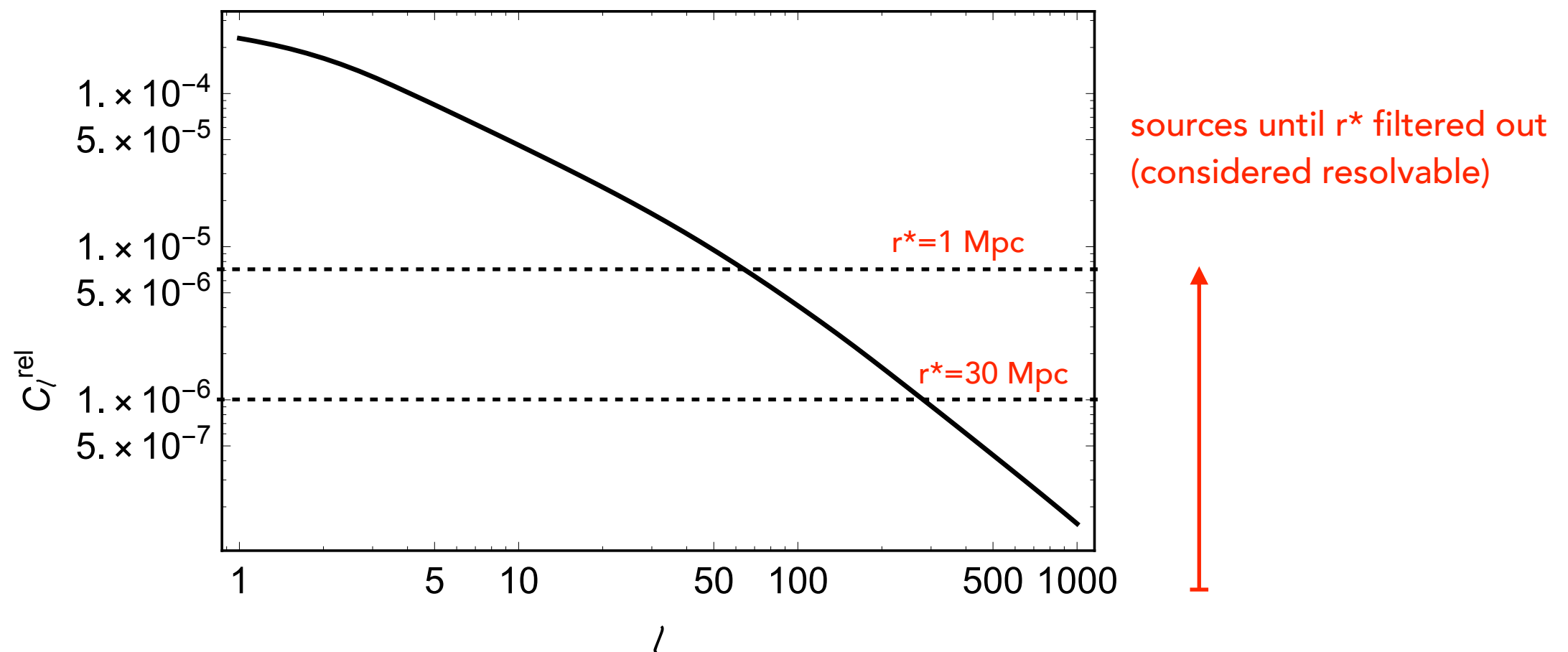
angular power  
spectrum with  
frequency factor  
factorized out



# Inclusion of noise: (spatial) shot noise

$$\hat{C}_\ell = \underbrace{C_\ell}_{\text{theoretical prediction}} + \underbrace{S_n}_{\text{shot noise}}$$

$$S_n = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \int_{r^*}^{\infty} dr \left| \frac{\partial \bar{\Omega}_{GW}}{\partial r} \right|^2 \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{1}{\bar{n}_G(r)} \quad r^* \text{ corresponds to upper cut-off in flux (threshold to resolve sources individually)}$$



# Inclusion of noise: popcorn noise in LIGO band

$$\hat{C}_\ell = \underbrace{C_\ell}_{\text{theoretical prediction}} + \underbrace{S_n}_{\text{popcorn noise}}$$

$$S_n = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \int_{r^*} dr \left| \frac{\partial \bar{\Omega}_{GW}}{\partial r} \right|^2 \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{1}{\bar{n}_G(r)}$$

$$\beta_T \cdot \bar{n}_G(r)$$

number of galaxies containing a merger  
in observation time T

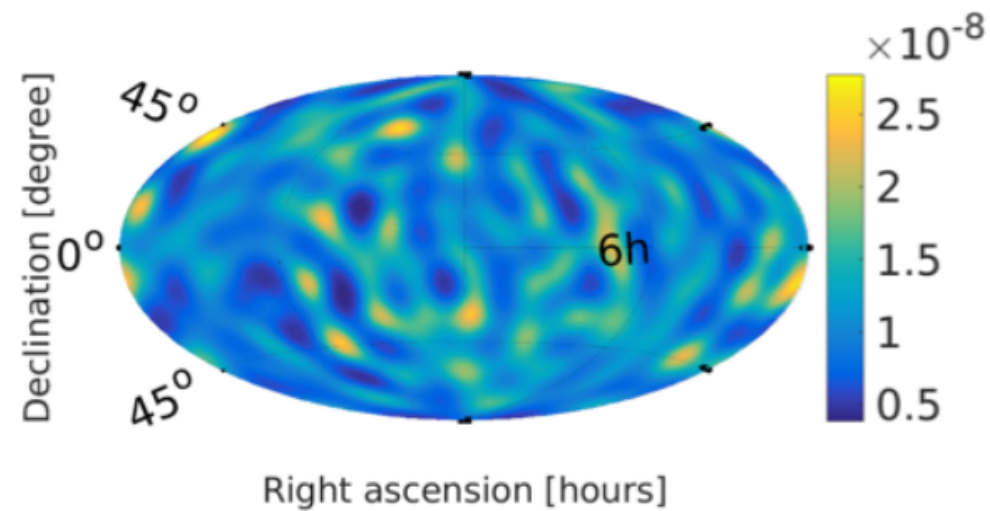
$$\beta_T = \frac{T}{a^3 \bar{n}_G} \times \frac{d\mathcal{N}}{dt dV} \ll 1$$

In the frequency band of  
terrestrial interferometers,  
there is **large contribution**  
**from popcorn noise**

**Important! This popcorn noise component **not there**  
**in LISA band**. Intrinsic (irreducible) background there**

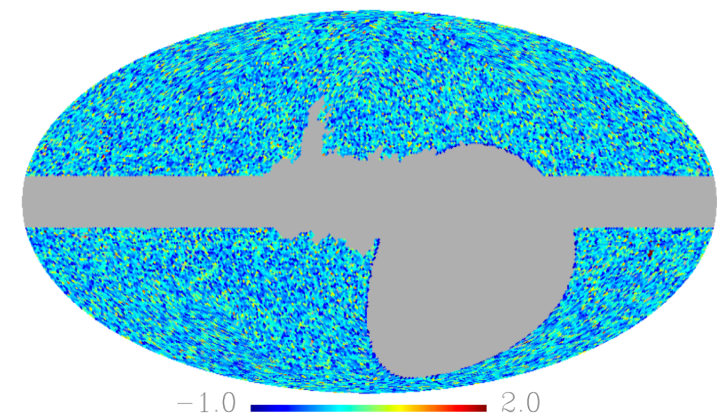
# Cross-correlation (potentially) very useful for popcorn backgrounds

Shot-noise dominated map



(LIGO-Virgo PRL 118, 121102, 2017)

Galaxy number counts map



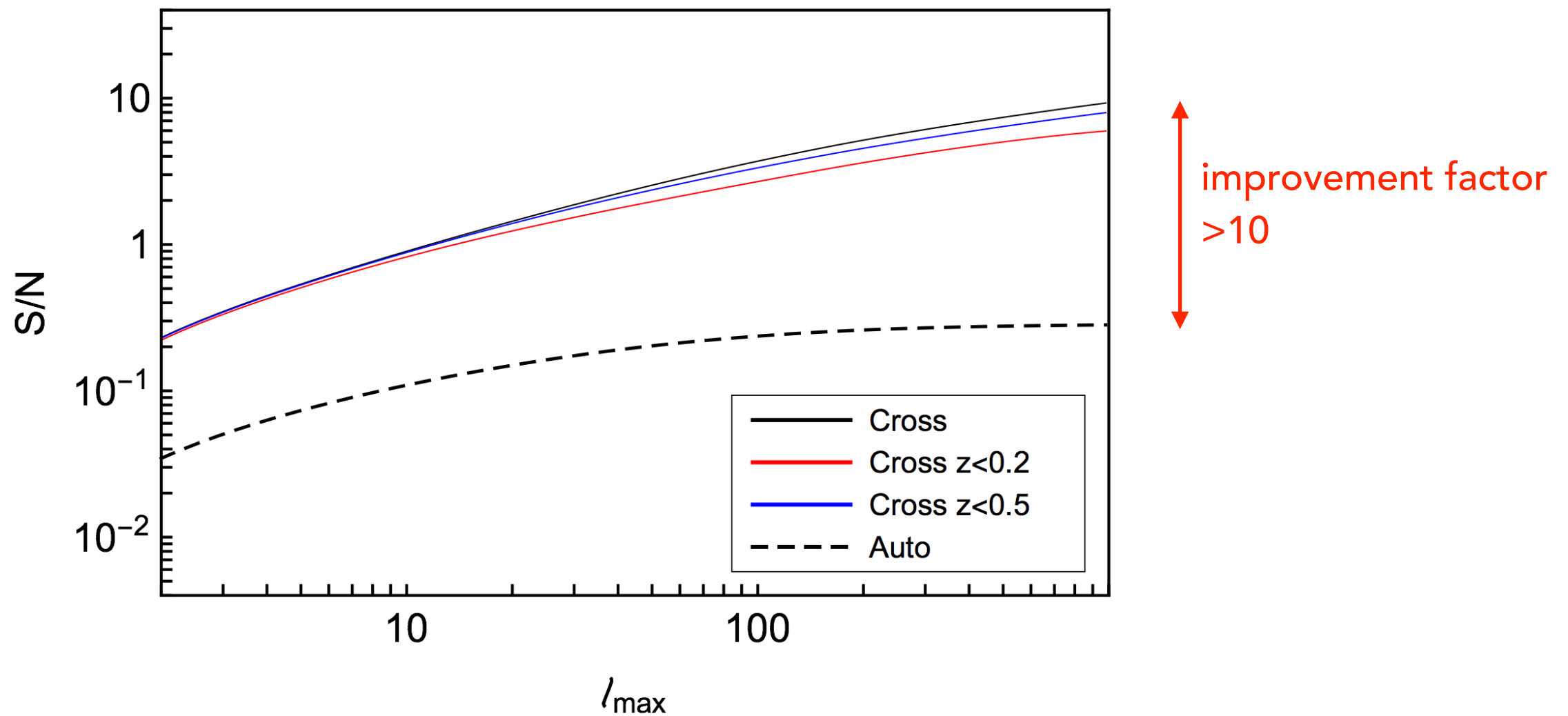
e.g. map radio sources, from: Bengaly, Maartens, Santos 2018



dig GW signal out of popcorn noise threshold

# Power cross-correlation in Hz band: quantitative analysis

Considering popcorn shot noise as only noise contribution



## Summary and perspectives

# Summary: state of the art and work in progress

Noise characterization, forecasts for  
present and future missions

predictions ↔ data analysis

anisotropies



polarization



cross-correlation  
(electromagnetic  
counterparts)



Ongoing

no existing  
infrastructure for  
cross-correlation  
[ongoing work with  
Mandic, Scarlata]

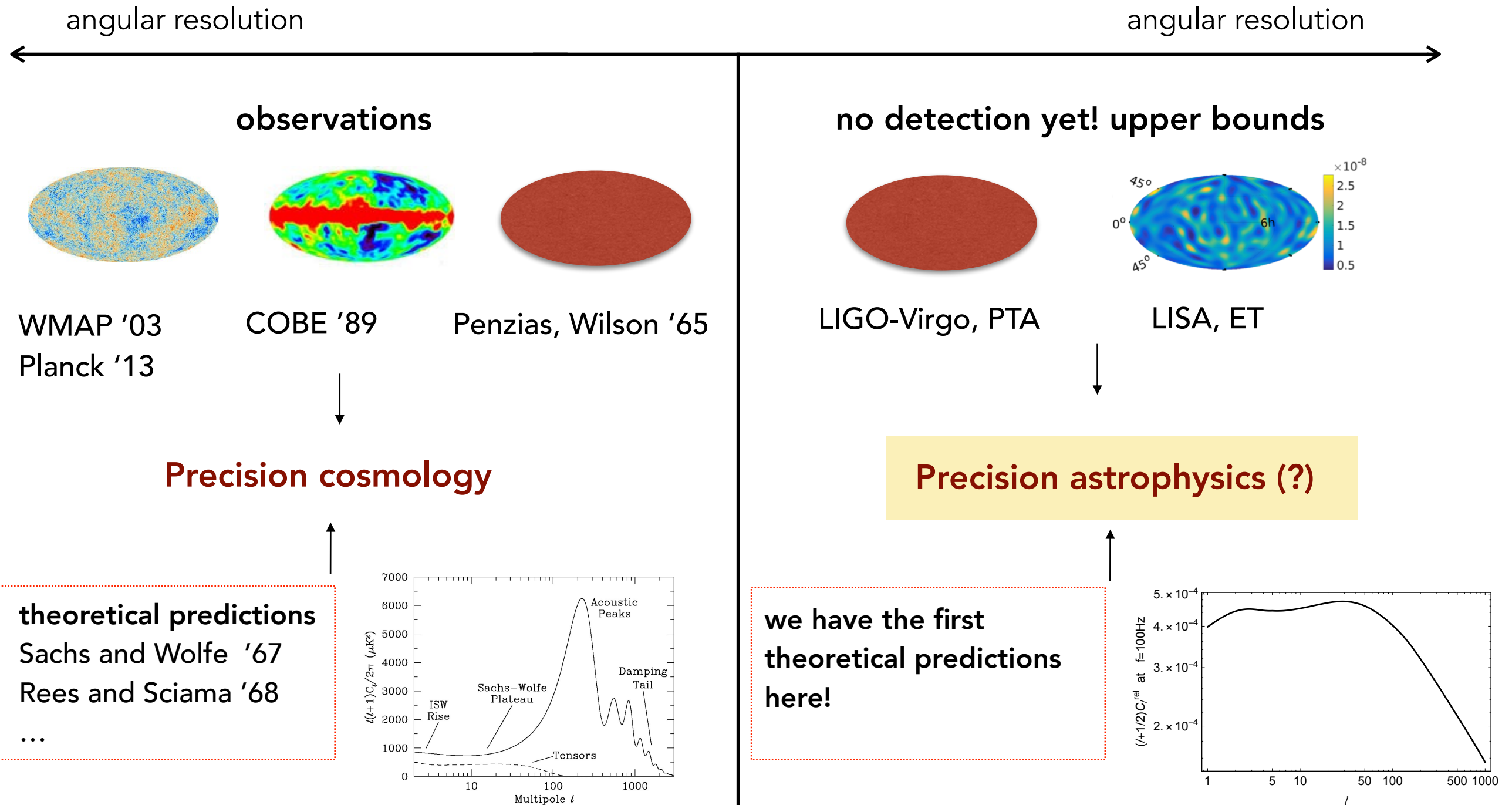
first theoretical predictions

we know: there is astro info inside anisotropies

how to extract it?

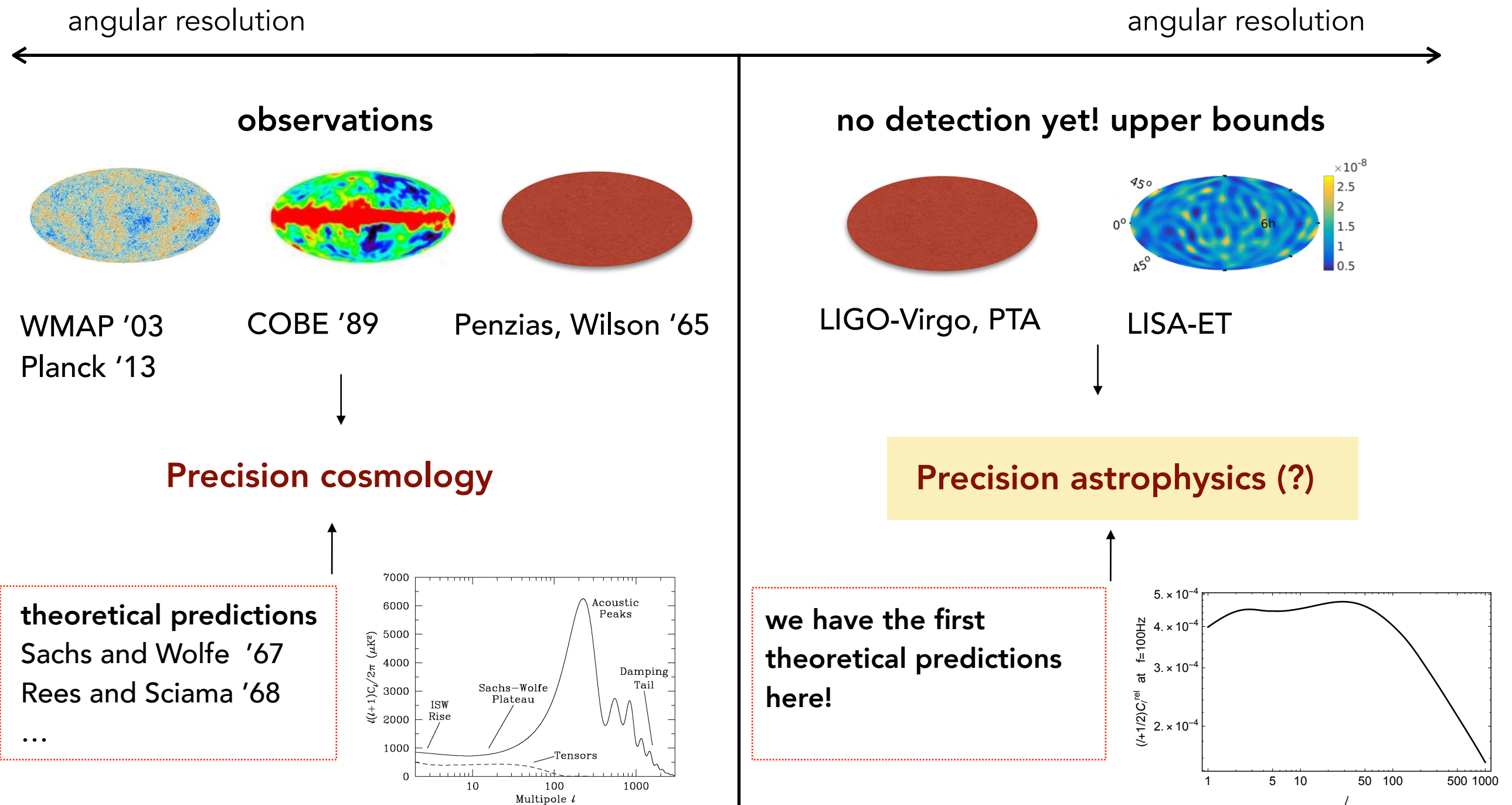
# Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

# Astrophysical GW background



# Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

# Astrophysical GW background



This study is also necessary for foreground subtraction → extract cosmological background of GW

Thank you