

Searching for transient GW signals

A personal perspective

Soumya D. Mohanty

UTRGV

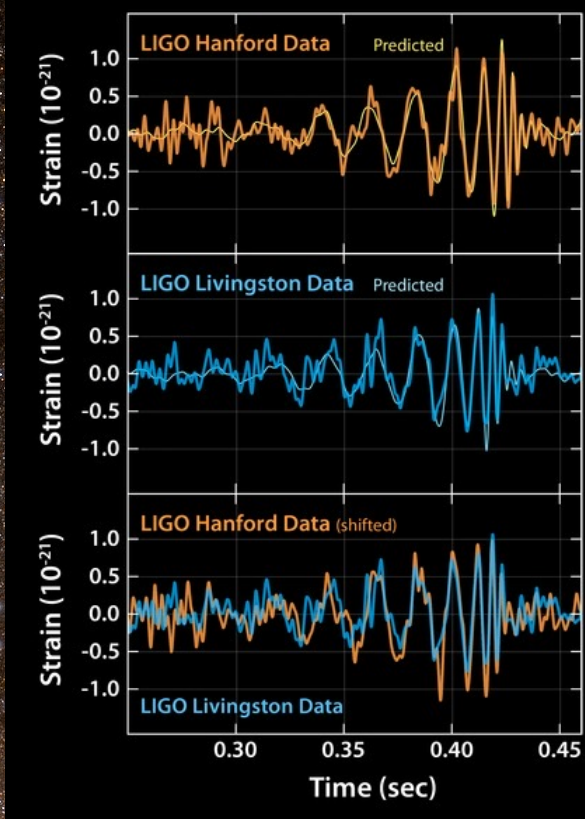
Support:



U.S. Dept. of Defense

GRAVITATIONAL WAVE ASTRONOMY: LAUNCH

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



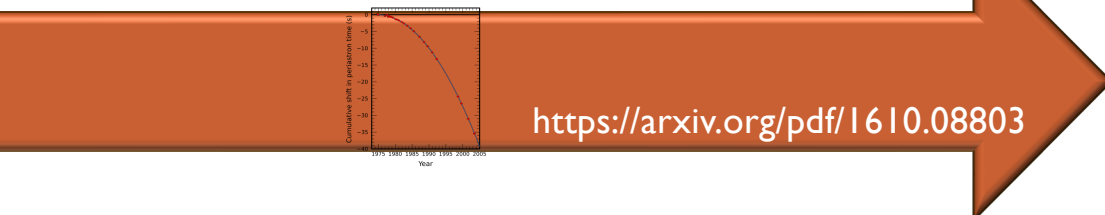
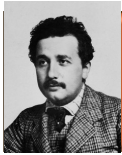
LIGO Hanford, WA



LIGO Livingston, LA



PILLARS: DATA ANALYSIS & COMPUTING



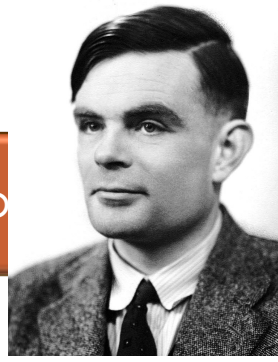
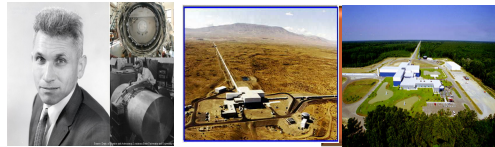
Gauss/Legendre
(1809): Least squares



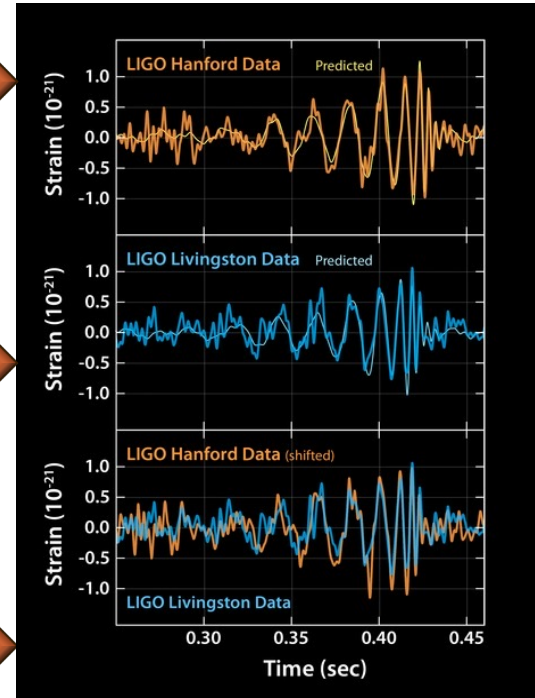
Fisher (1922):
Likelihood



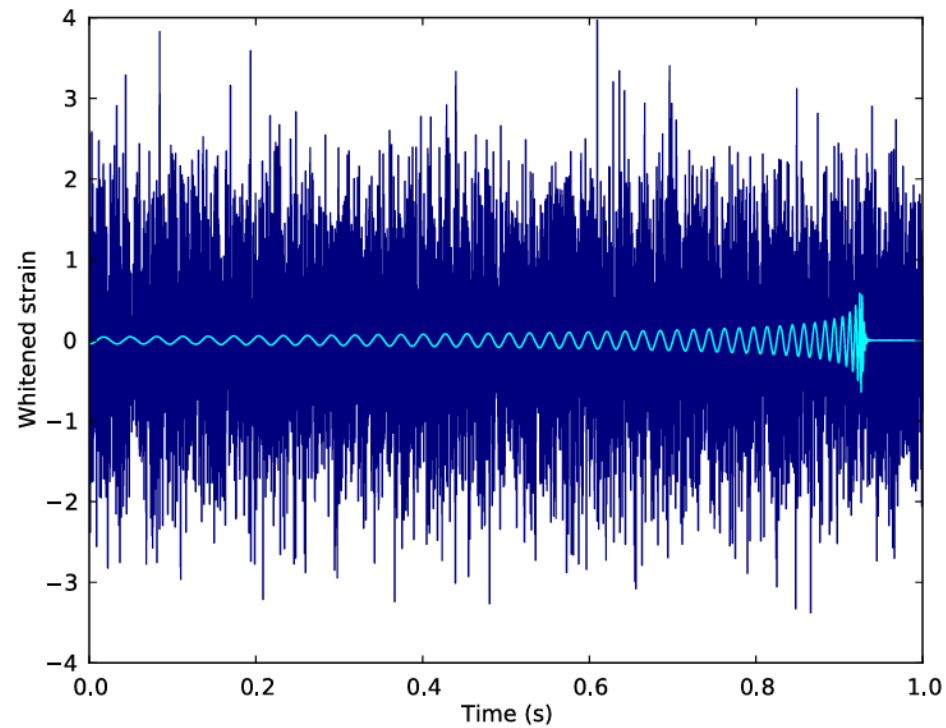
Soumya D. Mohanty, GW 10 2025



Turing (1936):
Computer
Science



GW DATA: NOISE DOMINATED



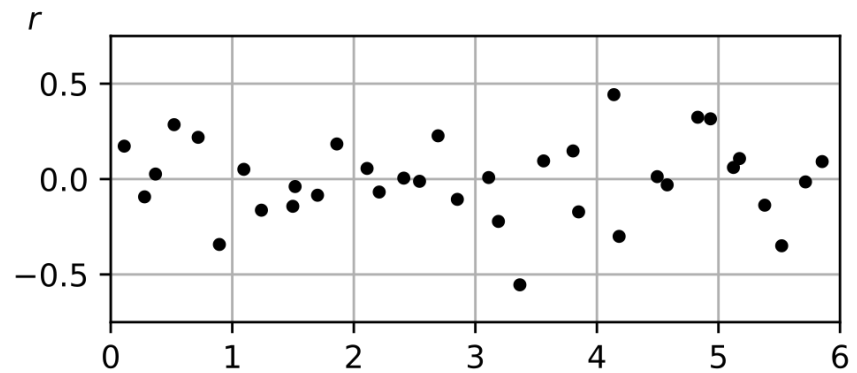
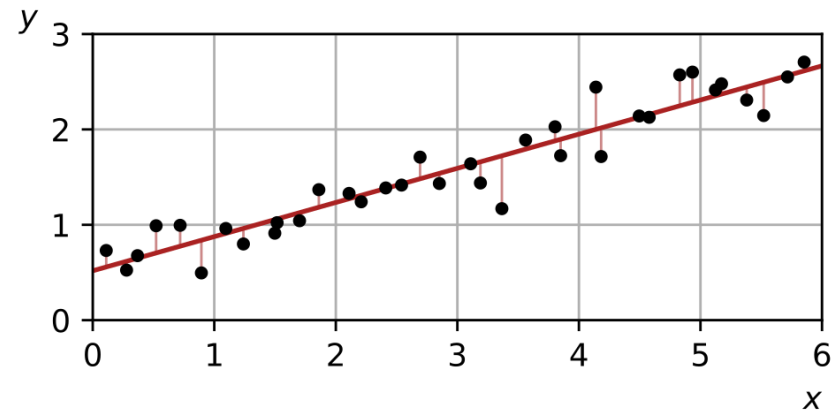
Gabbard et al, PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 120, 141103 (2018)

LEAST SQUARES: LINEAR FUNCTION

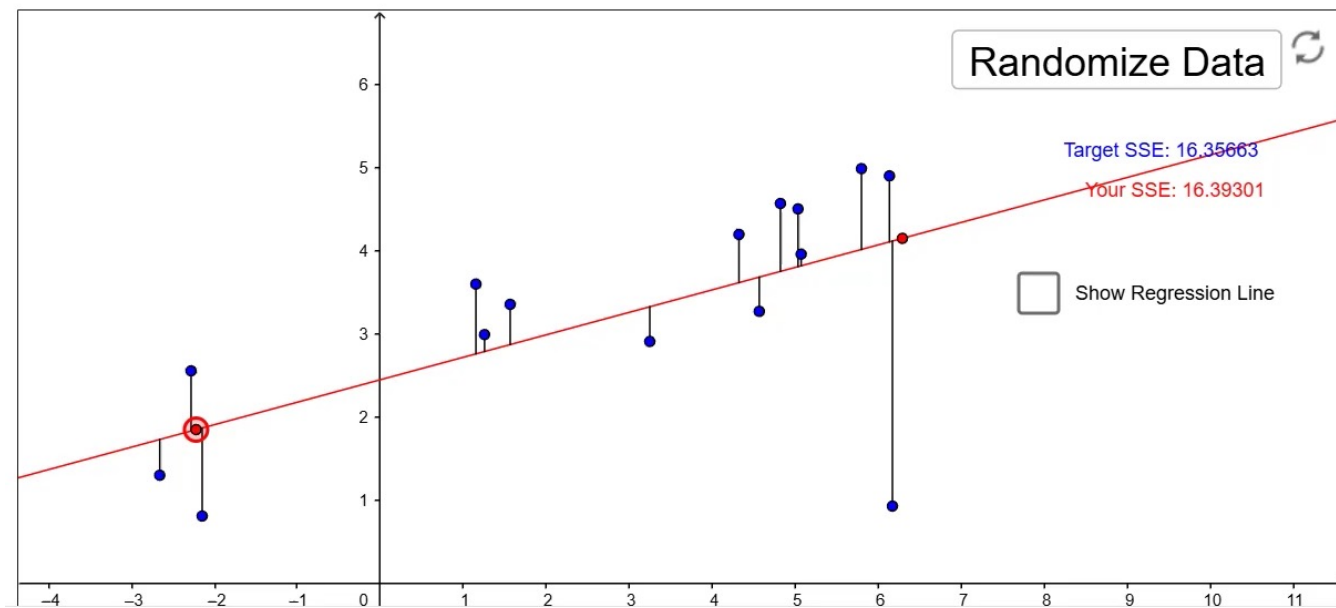
- What is the best straight line fit?
- For a given straight line, get the residual
- The best straight line minimizes the spread of the residual points around zero



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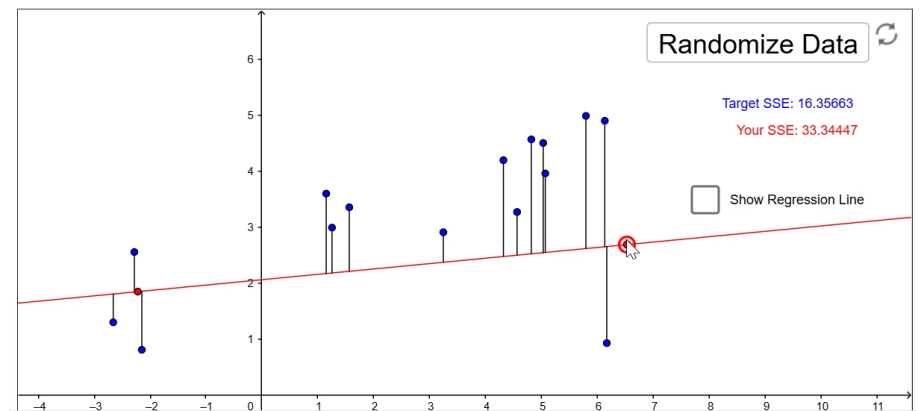
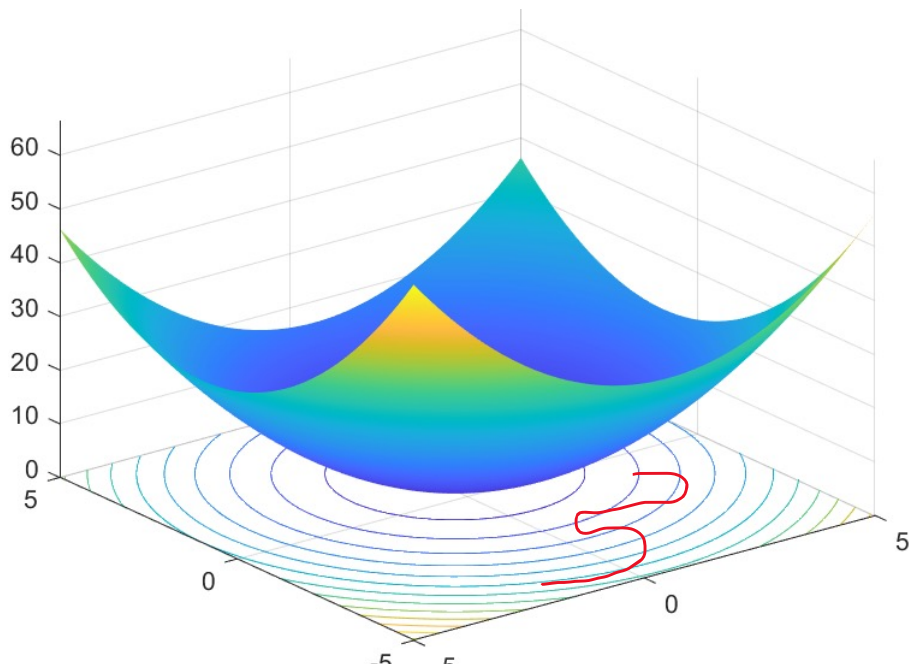


LEAST SQUARES: LINEAR FUNCTION



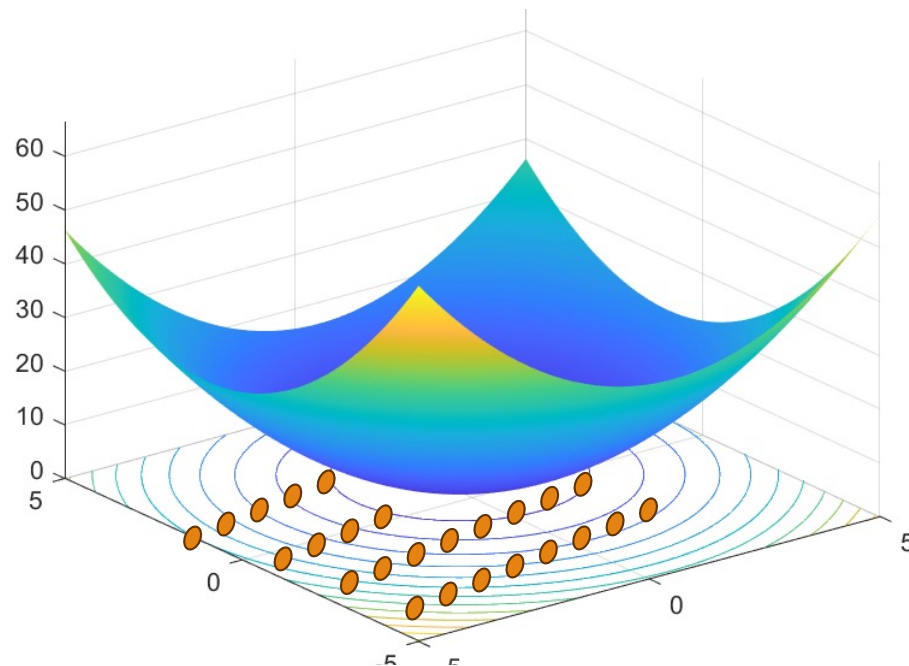
<https://www.geogebra.org/m/xC6zq7Zv>

LEAST SQUARES: MODEL FITTING

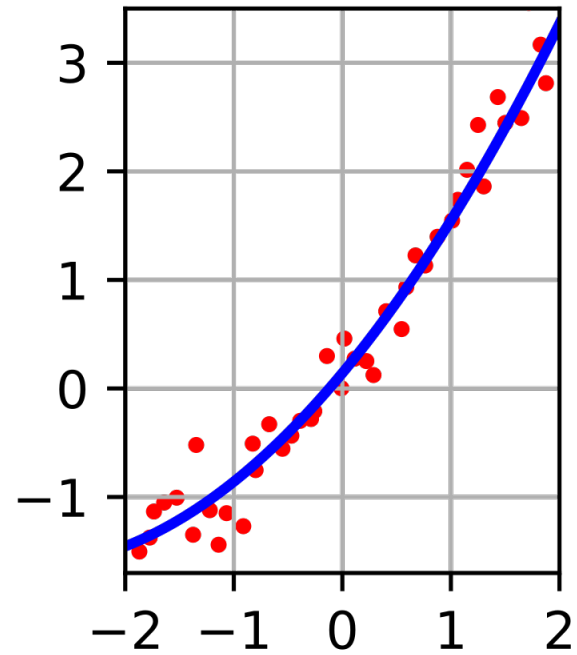
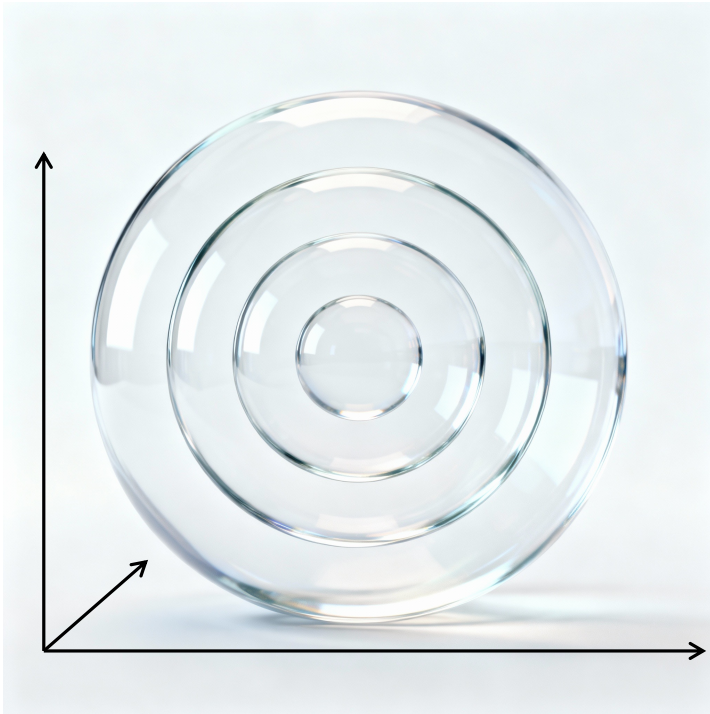


LEAST SQUARES: MODEL FITTING

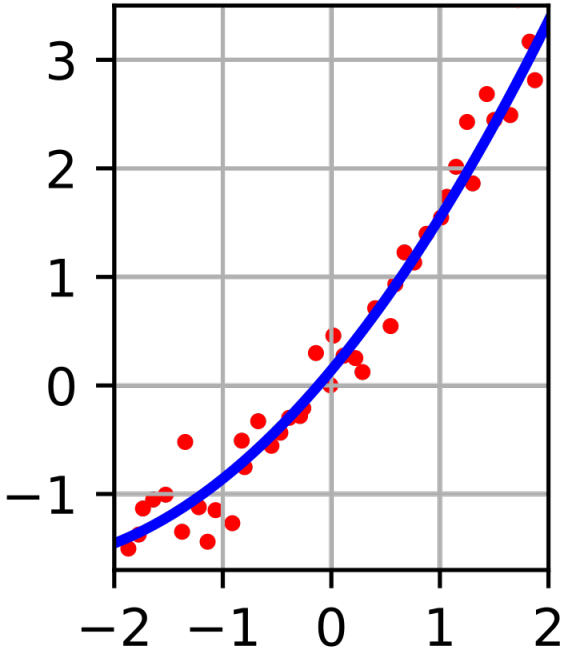
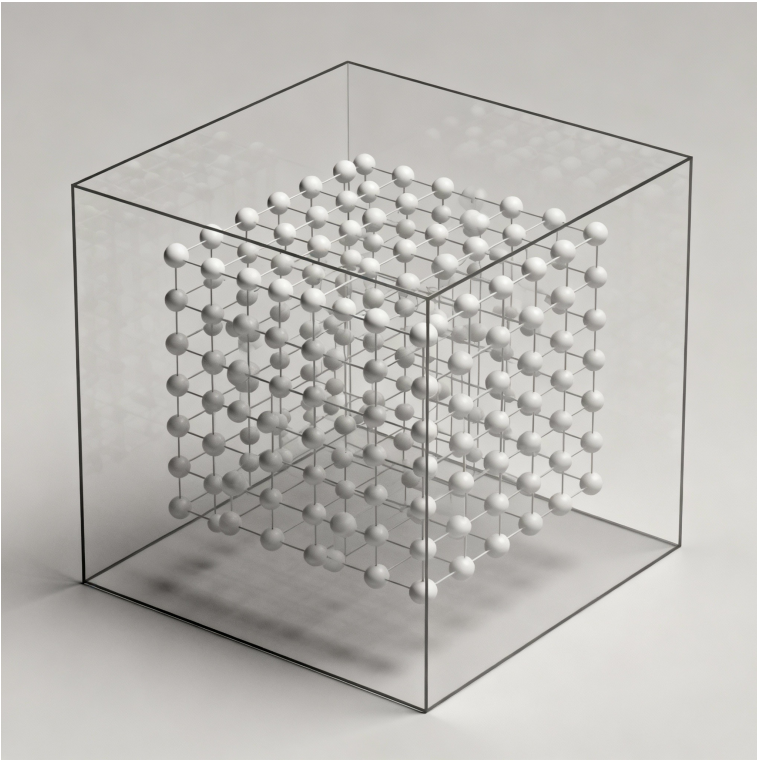
How to find the minimum?



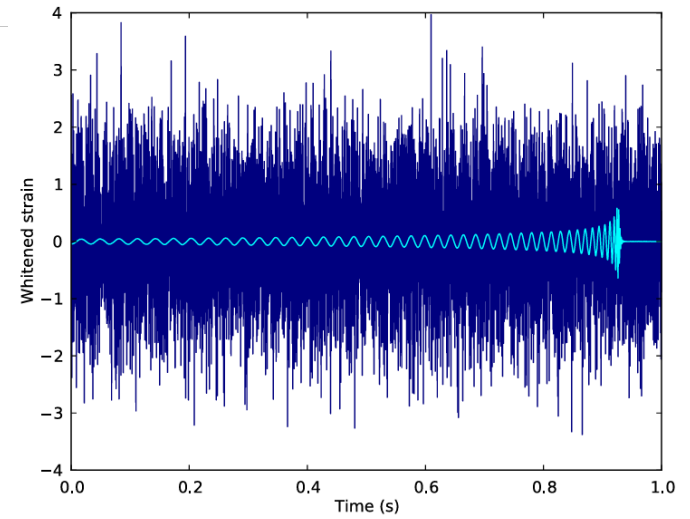
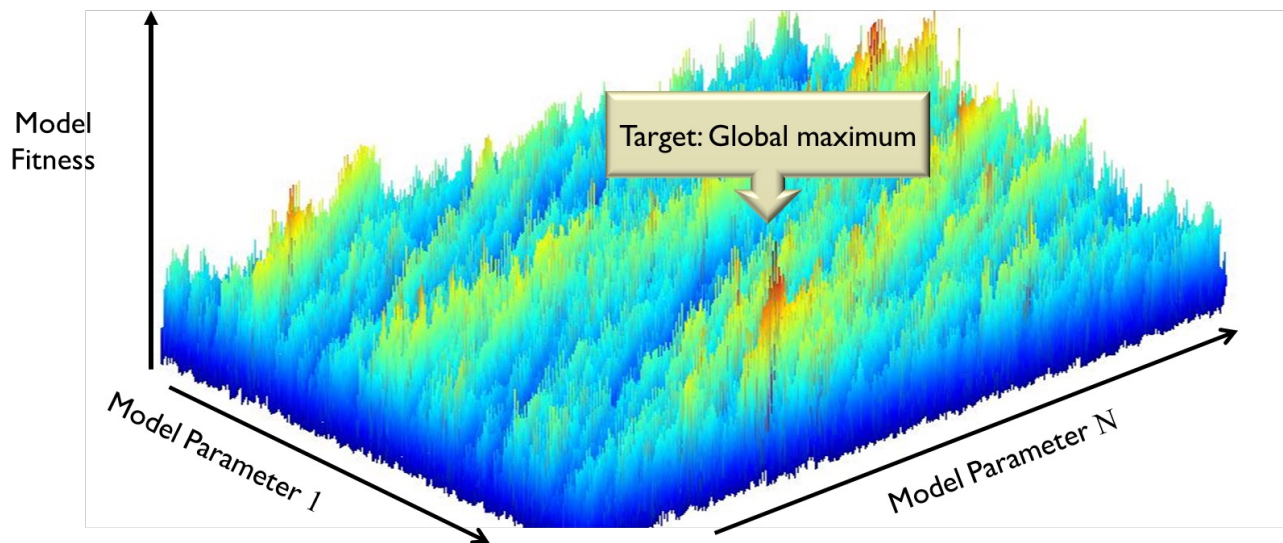
LEAST SQUARES: QUADRATIC FUNCTION



LEAST SQUARES: QUADRATIC FUNCTION

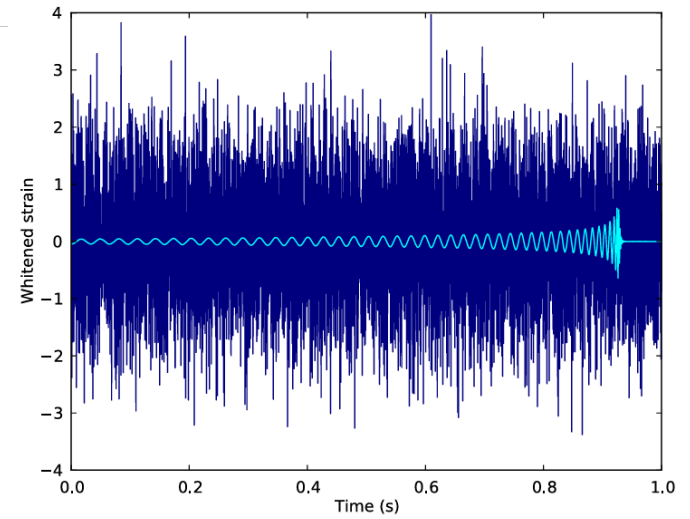
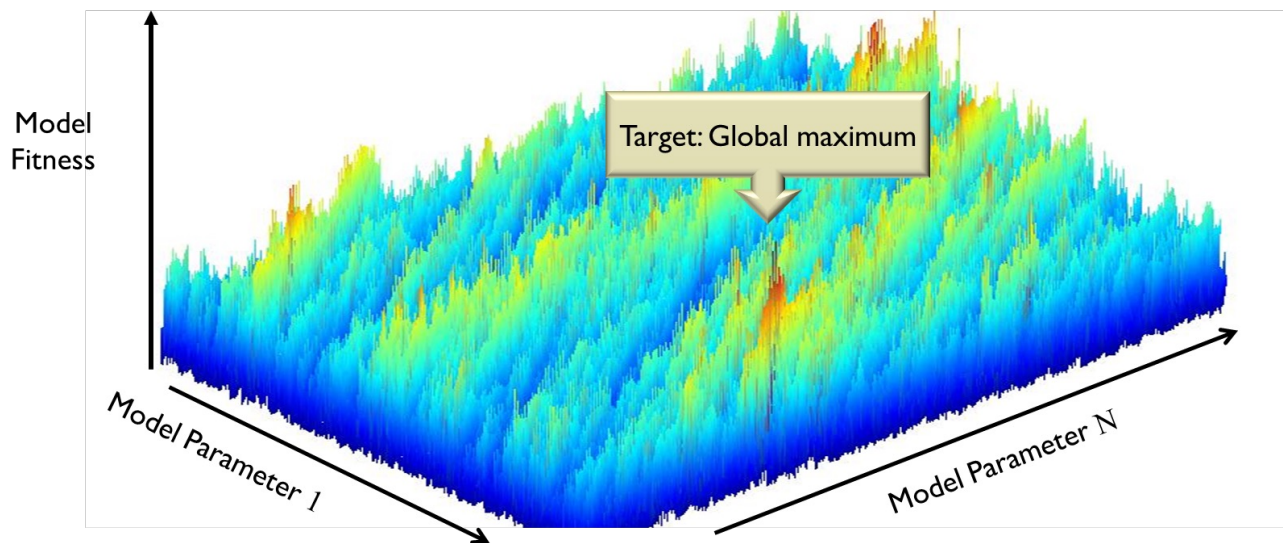


GW DATA ANALYSIS: A FITTING PROBLEM



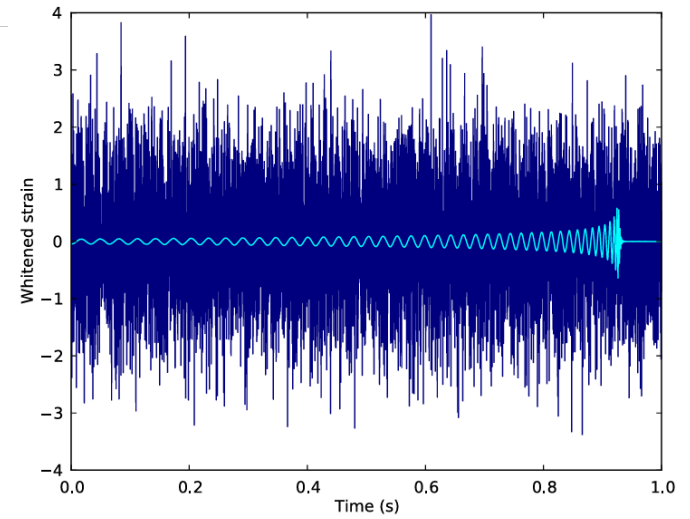
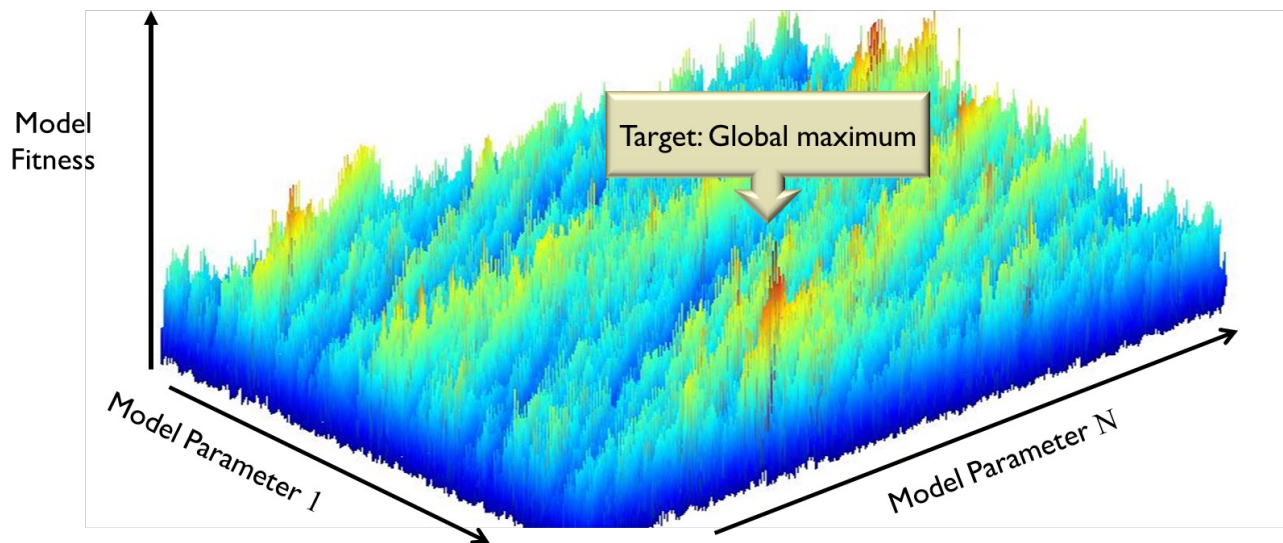
- Extremely rugged fitness landscape
- High dimensional and needle-like global maximum
- Lots of large secondary maxima that need to be avoided

GW DATA ANALYSIS: A FITTING PROBLEM



- Large number of grid points needed to locate the maximum reliably
- Search for **transient** signals: processing must keep pace with incoming data

GW DATA ANALYSIS: A FITTING PROBLEM



- Search for transient signals: processing must keep pace with incoming data
- Multi-messenger astronomy needs fast alerts

COMPUTATIONAL CHALLENGES



- Supercomputing needed
- 1994-1997 PhD problem for SDM: strategy for reducing the number of grid points

Soumya D. Mohanty, GW I0 2025

BURST SIGNALS: ANOTHER CLASS OF TRANSIENTS



PHYSICAL REVIEW D, VOLUME 60, 121101

Detecting an association between gamma ray and gravitational wave bursts

Lee Samuel Finn* and Soumya D. Mohanty[†]

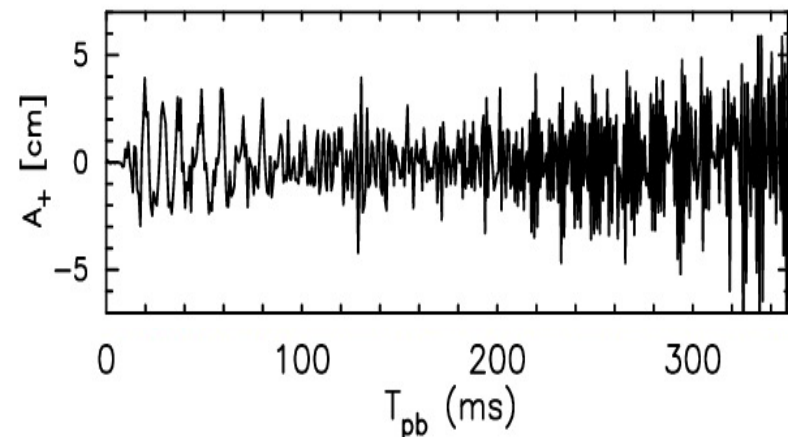
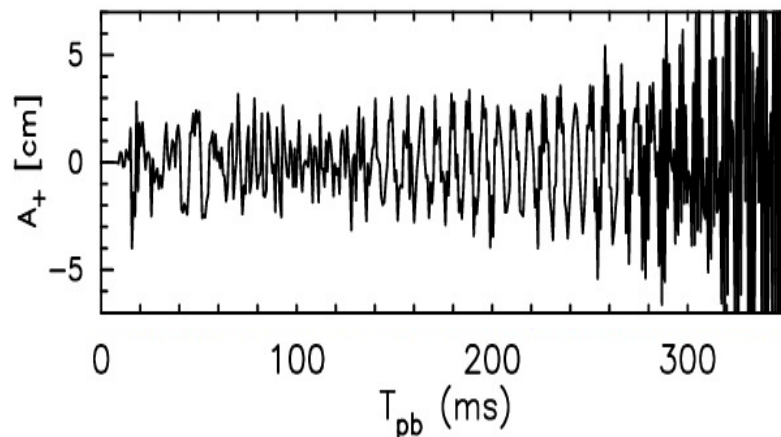
Center for Gravitational Physics and Geometry, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Joseph D. Romano[‡]

Department of Physical Sciences, The University of Texas, Brownsville, Texas 78520

(Received 30 March 1999; published 29 November 1999)

BURST GRAVITATIONAL WAVE SIGNALS

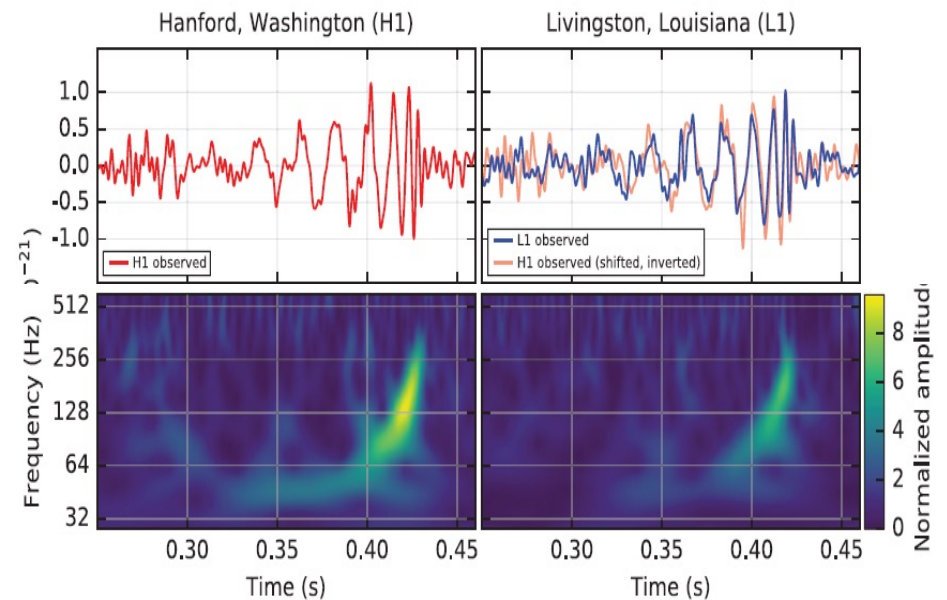


Kuroda et al, ApJL, 2016

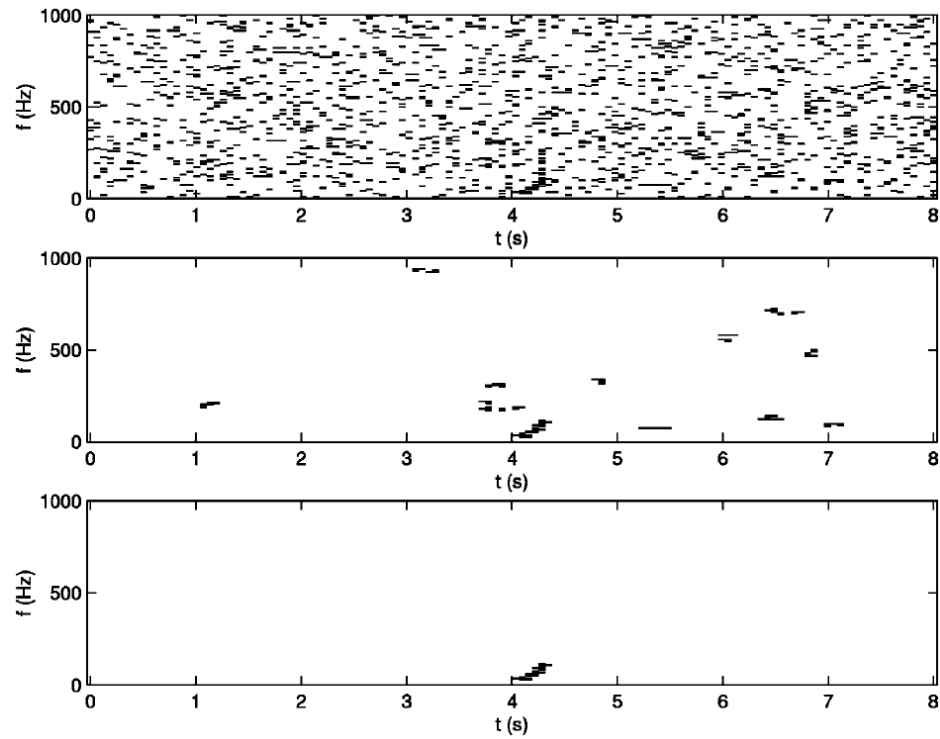
Simulated GW signal from a core-collapse supernova
Nearly stochastic signal: what model should one fit?

BURST SEARCHES (PRE-2003+DISCLAIMER)

- Time-frequency analysis
 - Anderson, Balasubramanian: Wigner-Ville + ridge detection
 - Sylvestre: Time-frequency clustering
 - Chatterjee et al: Q-transform
 - Klimenko et al: Wavelet transform (**WaveBurst**)
 - Anderson et al: Excess power
- SDM: Change-point detection



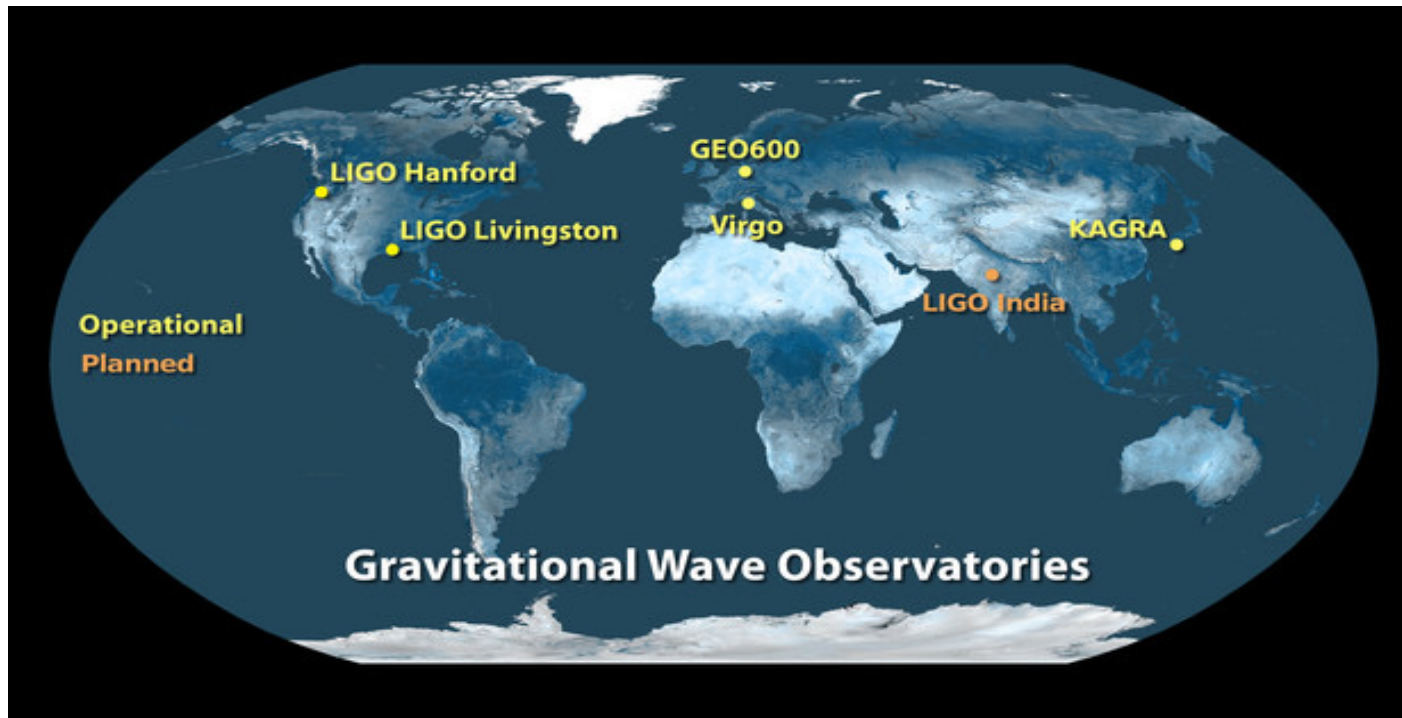
TF CLUSTERING



Sylvestre, PHYSICAL REVIEW D **66**, 102004 ~2002!

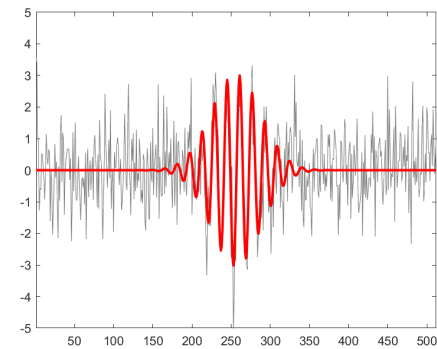
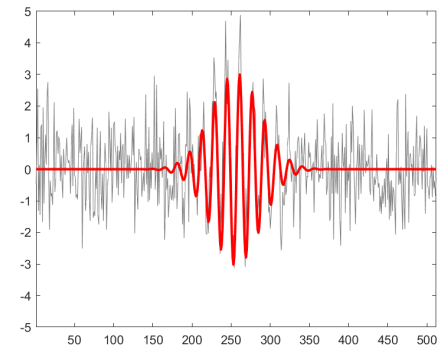
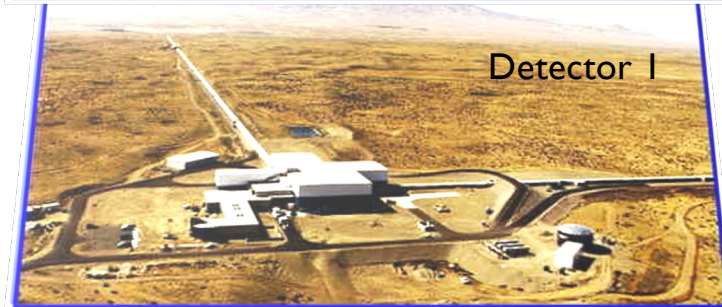
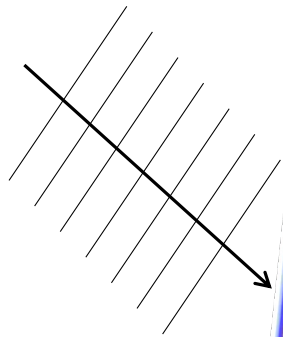
Soumya D. Mohanty, GW I0 2025

BURST SEARCH: GW DETECTOR NETWORK



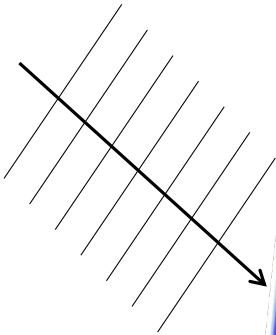
- GW Detector network essential for localizing a GW source on the sky
- Guersel and Tinto, PRD, 1989: Null stream method for networks of 3+ detectors

MULTIPLE DETECTORS: CROSS-CORRELATION

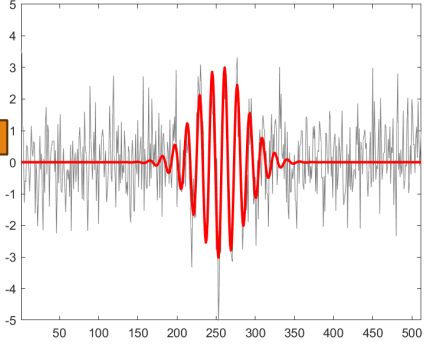
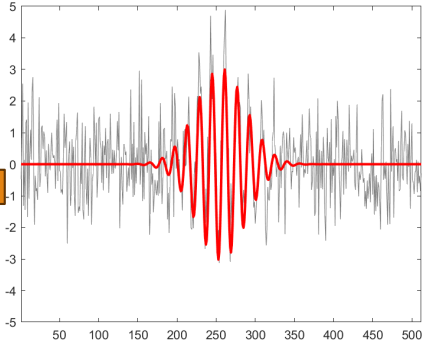


Identical signals but different noise

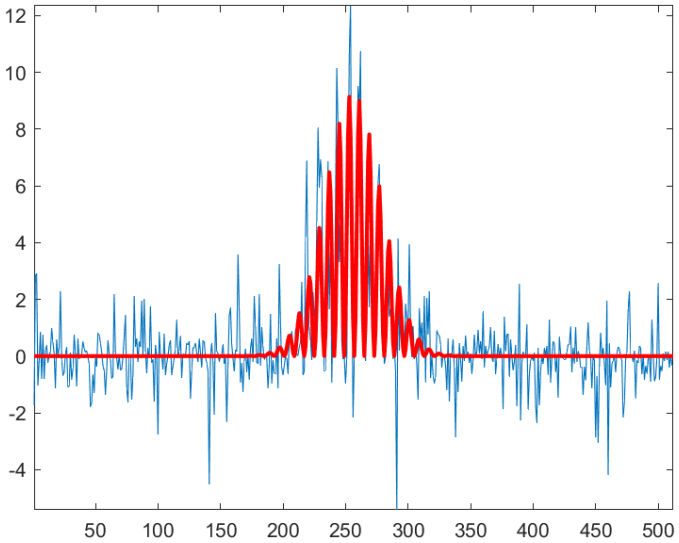
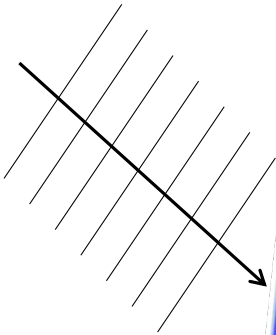
IDENTICAL DETECTORS: CROSS-CORRELATION



Multiply



IDENTICAL DETECTORS: CROSS-CORRELATION



BURST SEARCHES: LEAST SQUARES FRAMEWORK

- Treat each sample of the GW signal as an independent parameter in least squares
- **Cross-correlation appears naturally**
- Flanagan, Hughes, PRD, 1998 (Part 1 and 2)
- Appendix, part 2: Focus on Estimation
- Derived independently in:

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS PUBLISHING

CLASSICAL AND QUANTUM GRAVITY

Class. Quantum Grav. 21 (2004) S1831–S1837

PII: S0264-9381(04)79347-8

Search algorithm for a gravitational wave signal in association with gamma ray burst GRB030329 using the LIGO detectors

S D Mohanty¹, Sz Márka², R Rahkola³, S Mukherjee¹, I Leonor³,
R Frey³, J Cannizzo⁴ and J Camp⁴

POST-UTB: TWO-DETECTOR PARADOX

- William R. Johnston (M.S.) assigned the “simple” task of extending the formalism to a network of misaligned detectors
- Two-detector paradox: the cross-correlation term vanishes for even an **infinitesimal** misalignment!
- The problem arises because the “parameters” are unconstrained: the GW signals in a pair of misaligned detectors can be arbitrary and not identical
- The least squares solution must be constrained: **Regularization**

SOLVING THE TWO-DETECTOR PARADOX

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **72**, 122002 (2005)

Constraint likelihood analysis for a network of gravitational wave detectors

S. Klimenko,¹ S. Mohanty,² M. Rakhmanov,¹ and G. Mitselmakher¹

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **72**, 122002 (2005)

[21] Wm. R. Johnston, Master's thesis, The University of Texas at Brownsville, 2004.

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS PUBLISHING

CLASSICAL AND QUANTUM GRAVITY

Class. Quantum Grav. **23** (2006) 4799–4809

[doi:10.1088/0264-9381/23/15/001](https://doi.org/10.1088/0264-9381/23/15/001)

Variability of signal-to-noise ratio and the network analysis of gravitational wave burst signals

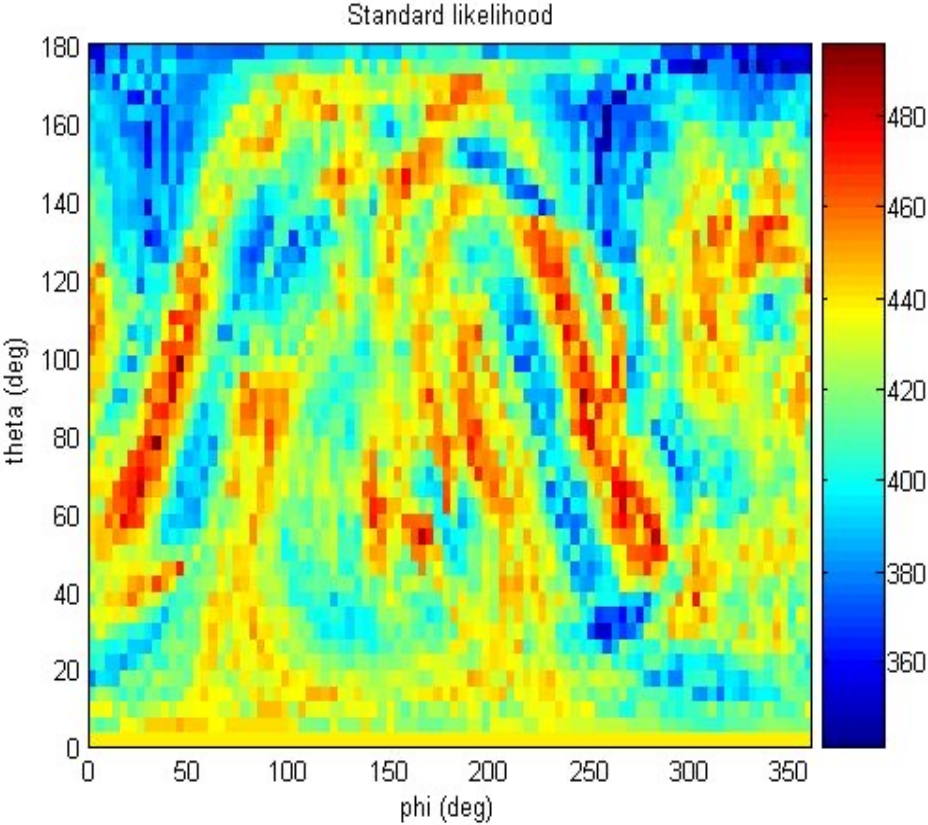
S D Mohanty¹, M Rakhmanov², S Klimenko³ and G Mitselmakher³

Rank deficiency and Tikhonov regularization in the inverse problem for gravitational-wave bursts

To cite this article: M Rakhmanov 2006 *Class. Quantum Grav.* **23** S673

REGULARIZATION: SIGNIFICANT EFFECT

Constraints OFF

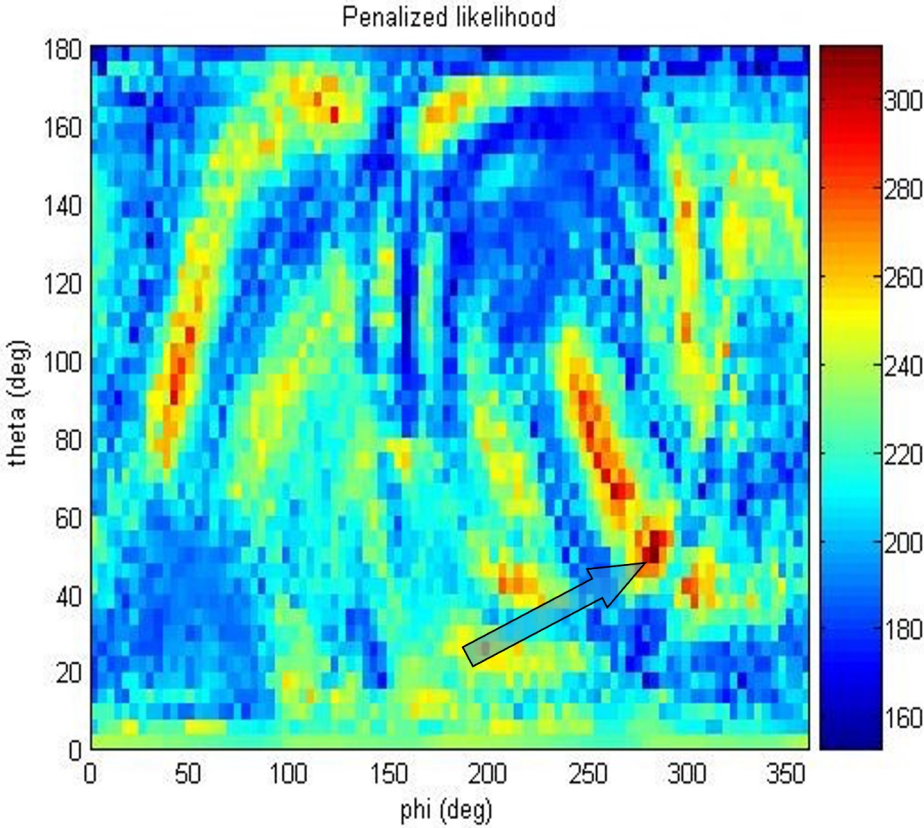


LI, HI, GEO network

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REGULARIZATION: SIGNIFICANT EFFECT

Constraints ON



LI, HI, GEO network

COHERENT WAVEBURST

- Regularized network analysis + WaveBurst: **Coherent** WaveBurst (CWb)
- Current flagship LVK pipeline for burst searches
- First pipeline to see GW150914

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **93**, 122004 (2016)



Observing gravitational-wave transient GW150914 with minimal assumptions

B. P. Abbott *et al.**

(LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration)

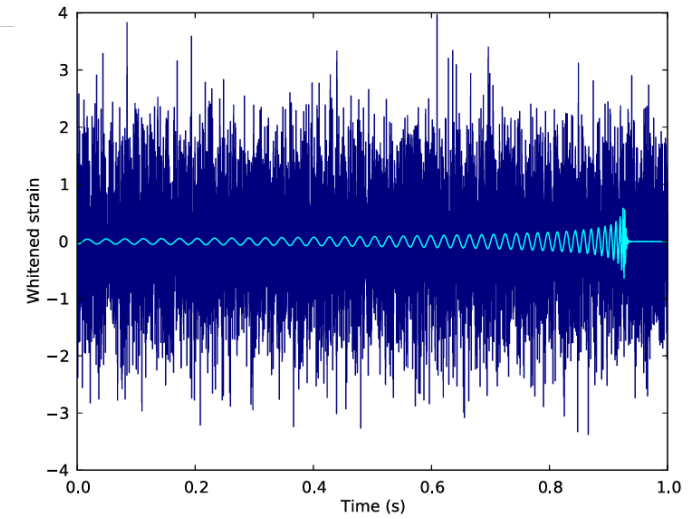
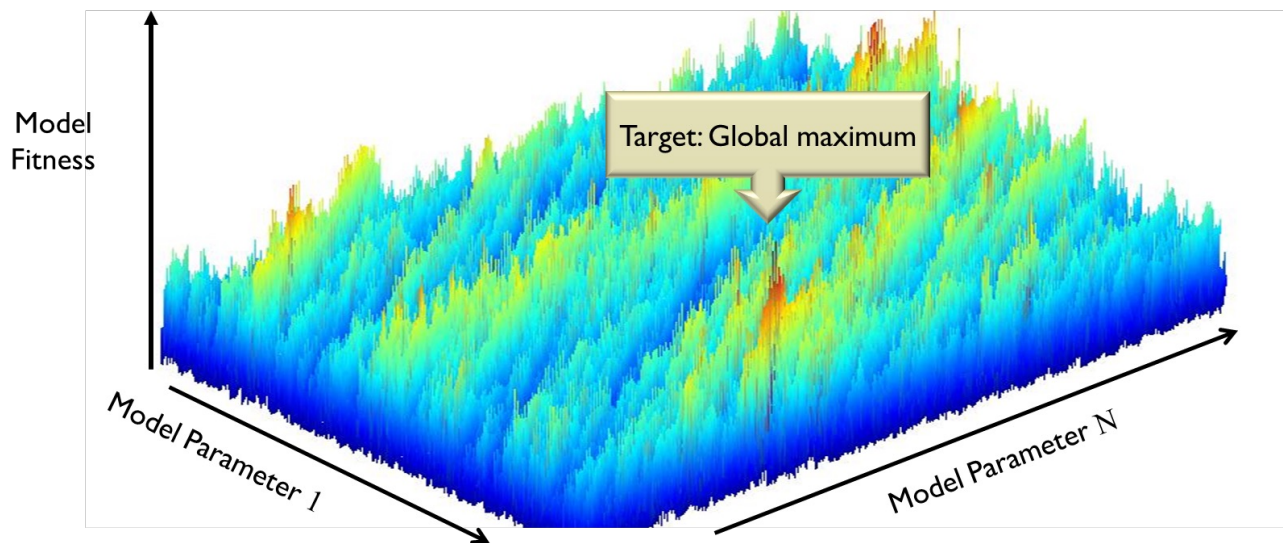
(Received 25 February 2016; published 7 June 2016; corrected 20 September 2016)

On September 14, 2015, an online burst search [25] reported a transient that clearly stood above the expected background from detector noise [26]. The alert came only 3 min after the event's time stamp of 09:50:45UTC. A second online burst search independently identified the event with a latency of a few hours, providing a rapid confirmation of the signal [23]. The initial waveform

- Research at UTB integral to CWb

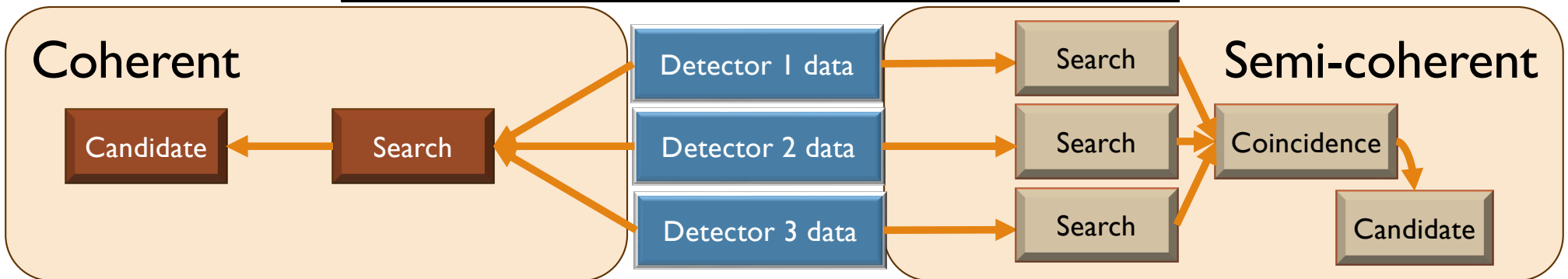
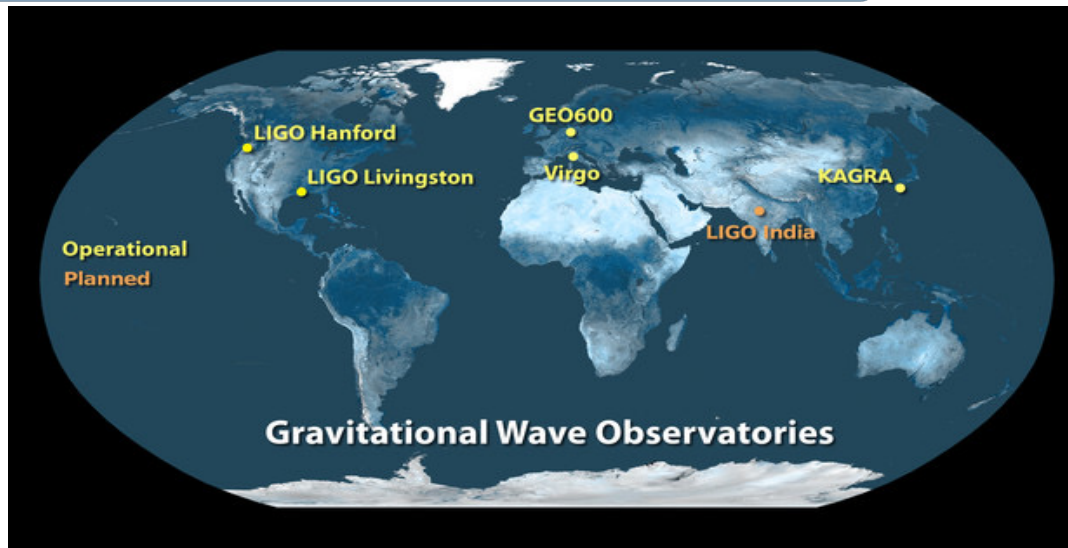
[35] S. Klimenko, S. Mohanty, M. Rakhmanov, and G. Mitselmakher, Constraint likelihood analysis for a network of gravitational wave detectors, *Phys. Rev. D* **72**, 122002 (2005).

GW DATA ANALYSIS: A FITTING PROBLEM

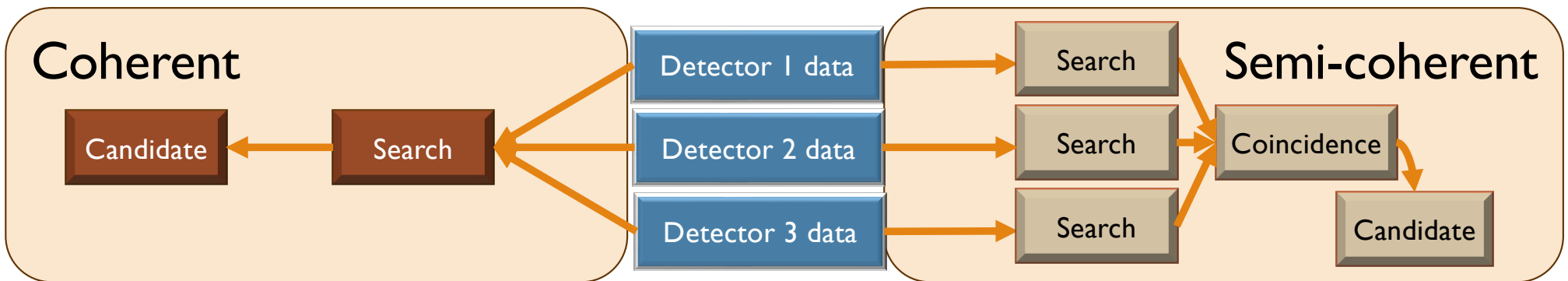


- Search for transient signals: processing must keep pace with incoming data
- Multi-messenger astronomy needs fast alerts
- **Computational efficiency is of critical importance in GW data analysis**

FULLY-COHERENT ALL-SKY SEARCH



FULLY-COHERENT ALL-SKY SEARCH



Coherent search

- Multiple data, single model fit
- Binary merger: $\geq 4D$ parameter space
 - Direct grid-based optimization: **2000X** semi-coherent grid size
- Not implemented on all GW data

Semi-coherent search

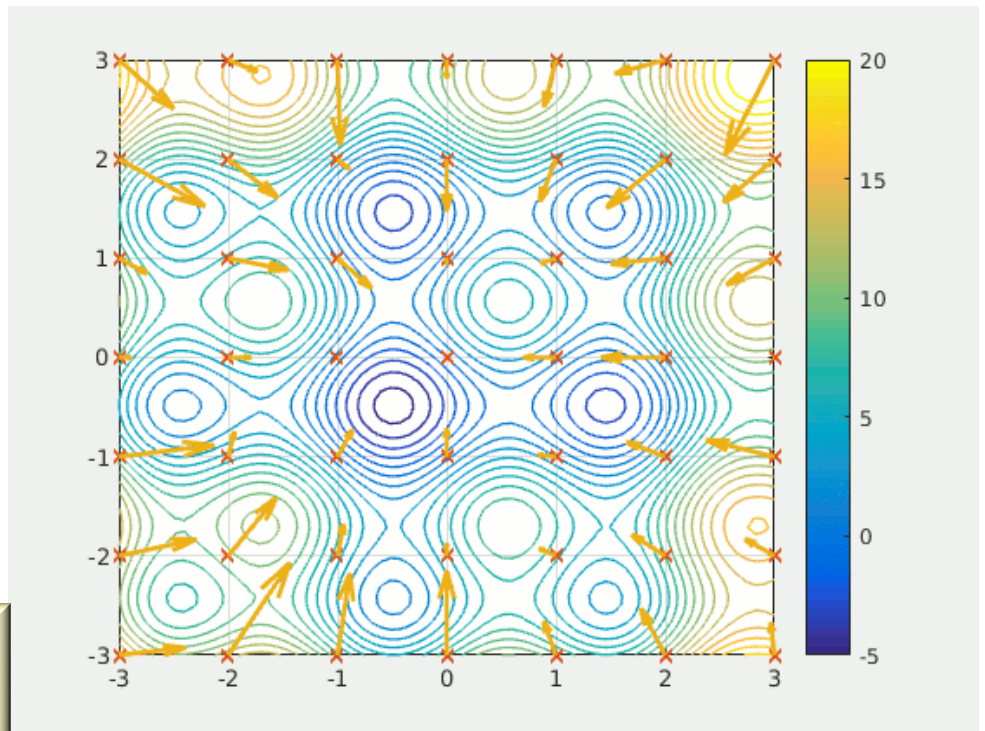
- Multiple data, multiple model fits
- Binary merger: $\geq 2D$ parameter space
- All current searches are semi-coherent
- Incurs a **25% drop** in sensitive volume
- MacLeod et al, Physical Review D, 2016

PARTICLE SWARM OPTIMIZATION



- Multi-agent optimization algorithm
- Agents explore independently but also communicate
- **Agent fitness evaluations are parallelizable**

Soumya D. Mohanty, TACCSTER 2025



BINARIES PIPELINE

BINARY INSPIRAL NETWORK ANALYSIS RAPID
IMPLEMENTATION ENABLED BY SWARM-INTELLIGENCE

Global Optimization
acceleration

- Stochastic optimization
- **Particle Swarm
Optimization (PSO)**

GPU acceleration

- Implemented on UTRGV
GPU Cluster
- 64 NVIDIA A100

Foundational papers used TACC

- Weerathunga, Mohanty, Physical Review D, 2017
- Normandin, Mohanty, Weerathunga, PRD, 2018
- Normandin, Mohanty, PRD, 2020

Soumya D. Mohanty, TACCSTER 2025

UTRGV GPU Cluster (CRADLE)

96 A100, 12 A30, 12 L40s



BINARIES PIPELINE PERFORMANCE

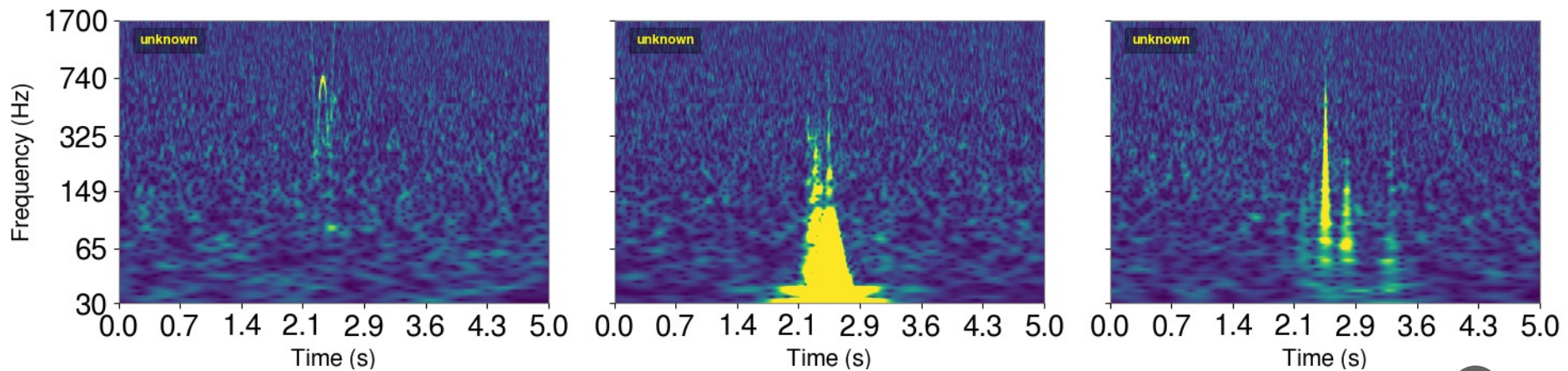
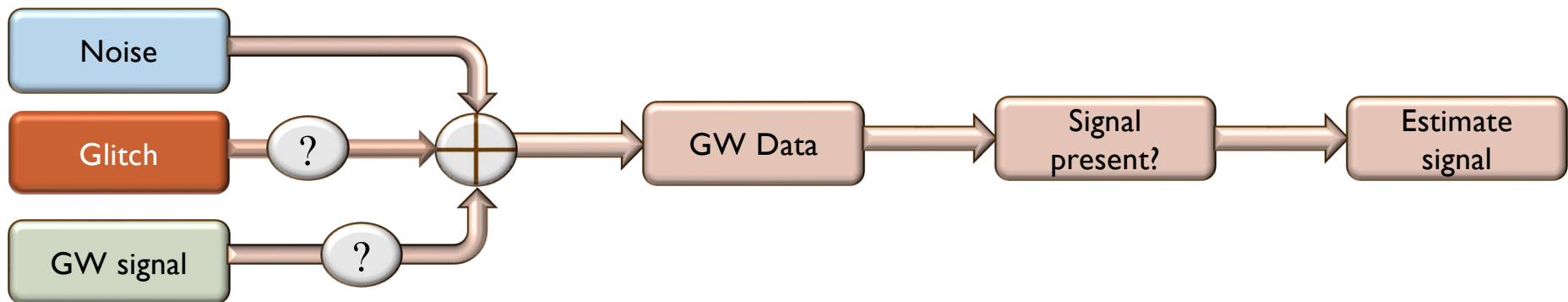
≈50x faster than
real-time

- Data from all four operational detectors

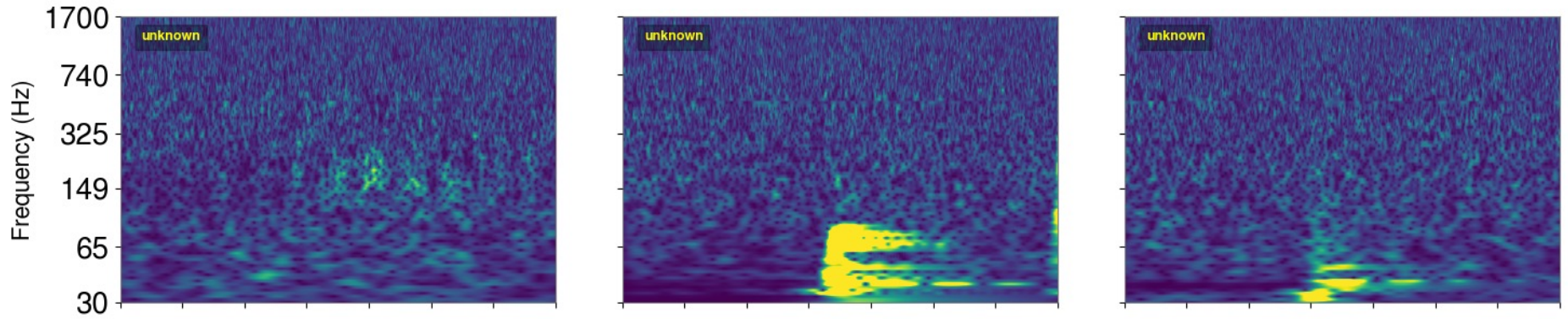
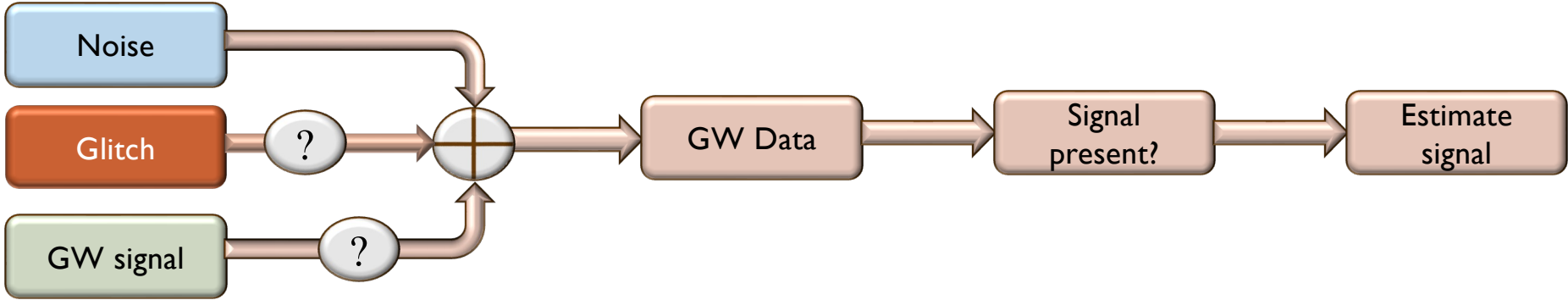
⇒Low latency
From signal termination
to recording detection

- ≈ 5 sec for double neutron star searches
- ≈ half of median semi-coherent search latencies

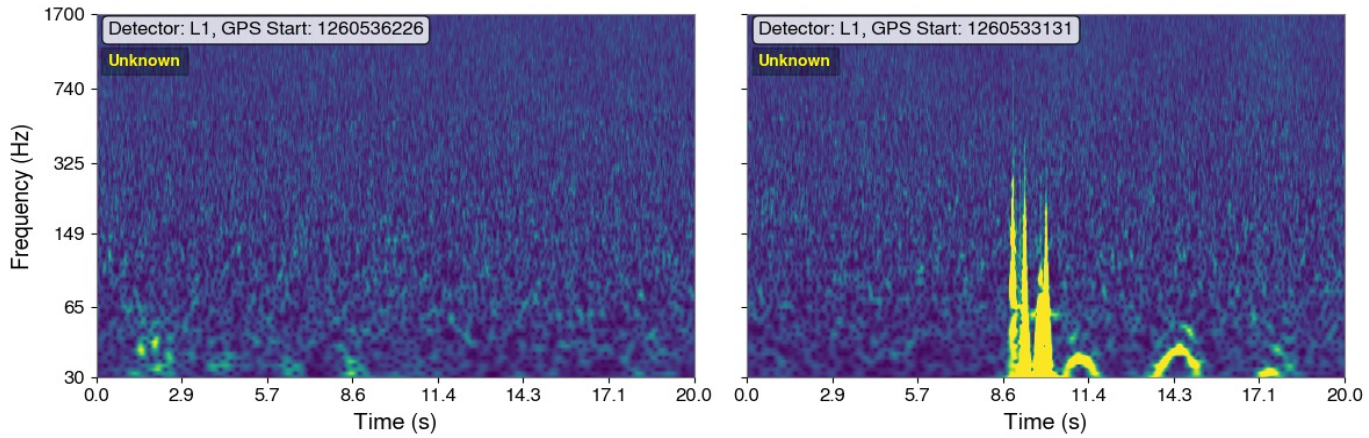
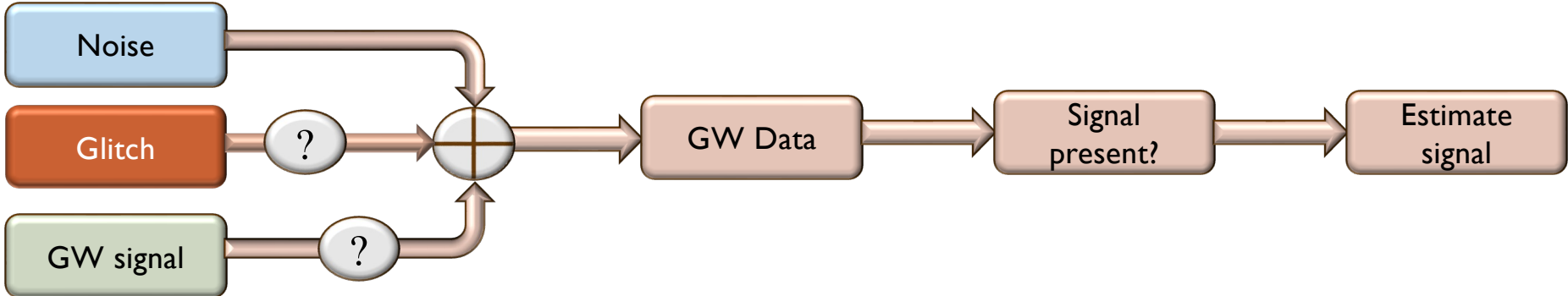
THE CHALLENGE OF GLITCHES



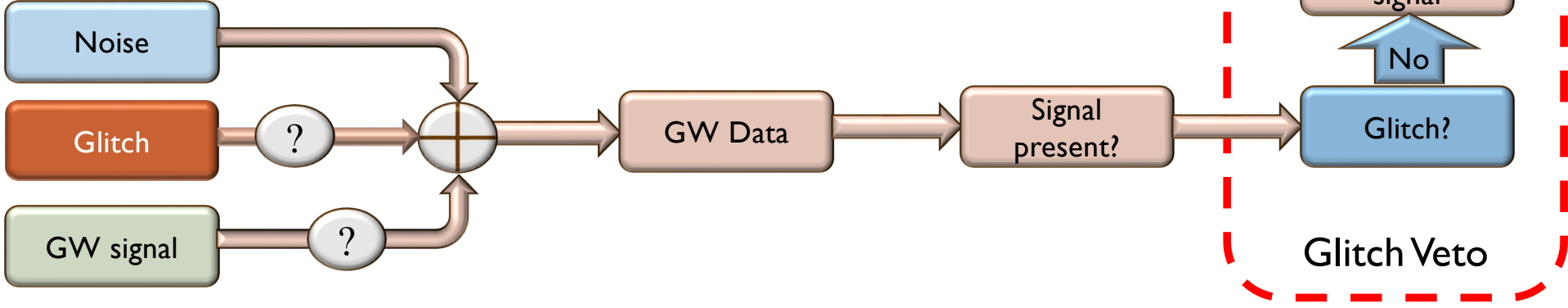
THE CHALLENGE OF GLITCHES



THE CHALLENGE OF GLITCHES

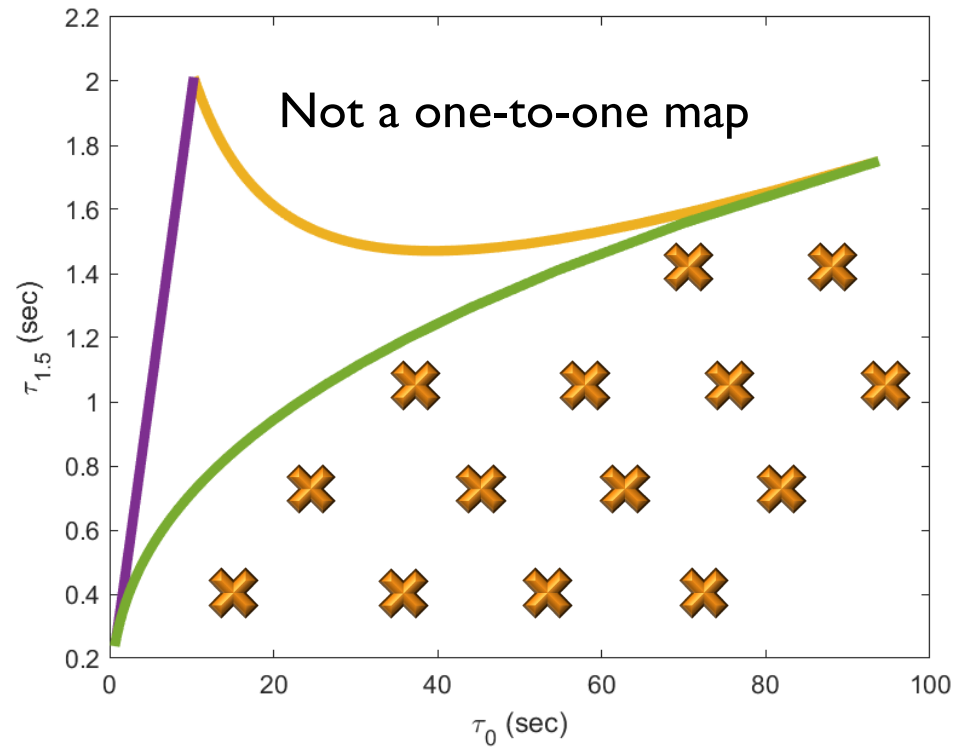
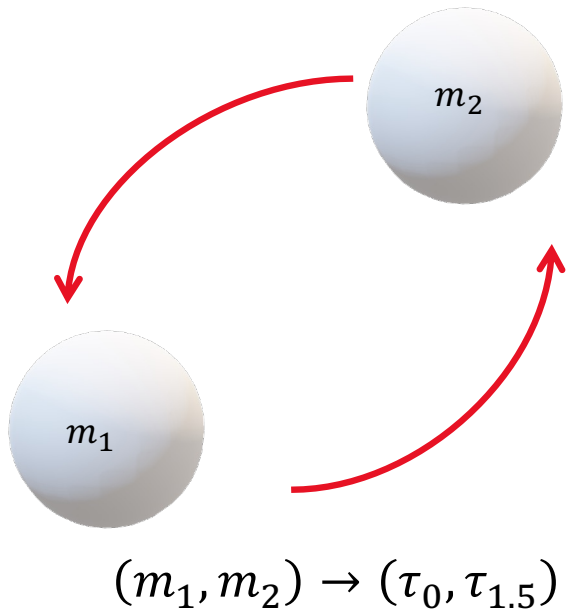


THE CHALLENGE OF GLITCHES



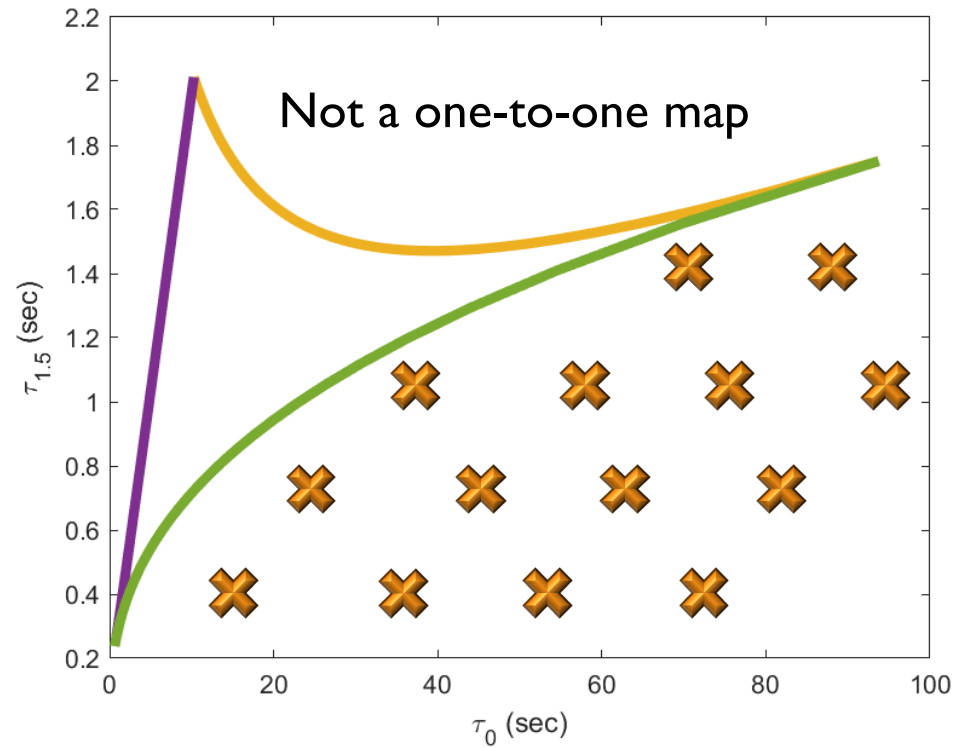
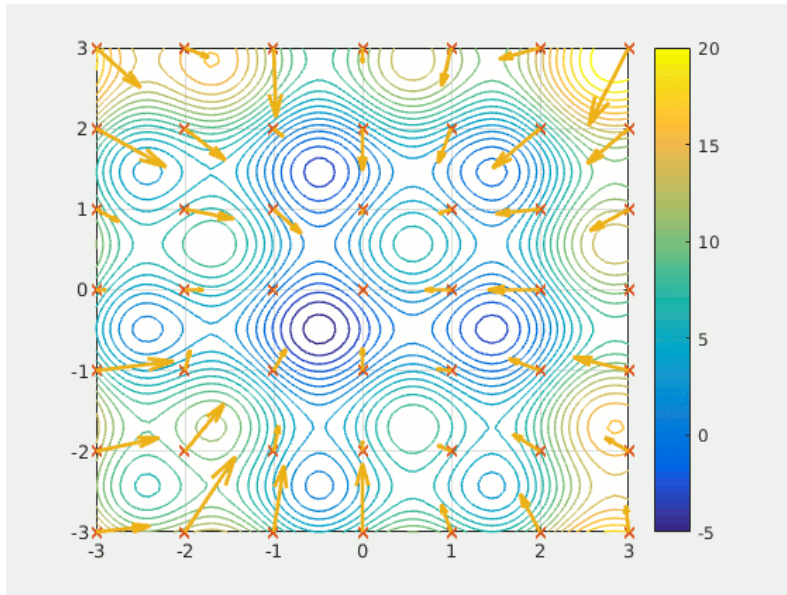
GRITCLEAN VETO

GLITCH REJECTION USING ILLEGAL TEMPLATES AND CROSS-LINKING OF EVENT ATTRIBUTE NUMBERS



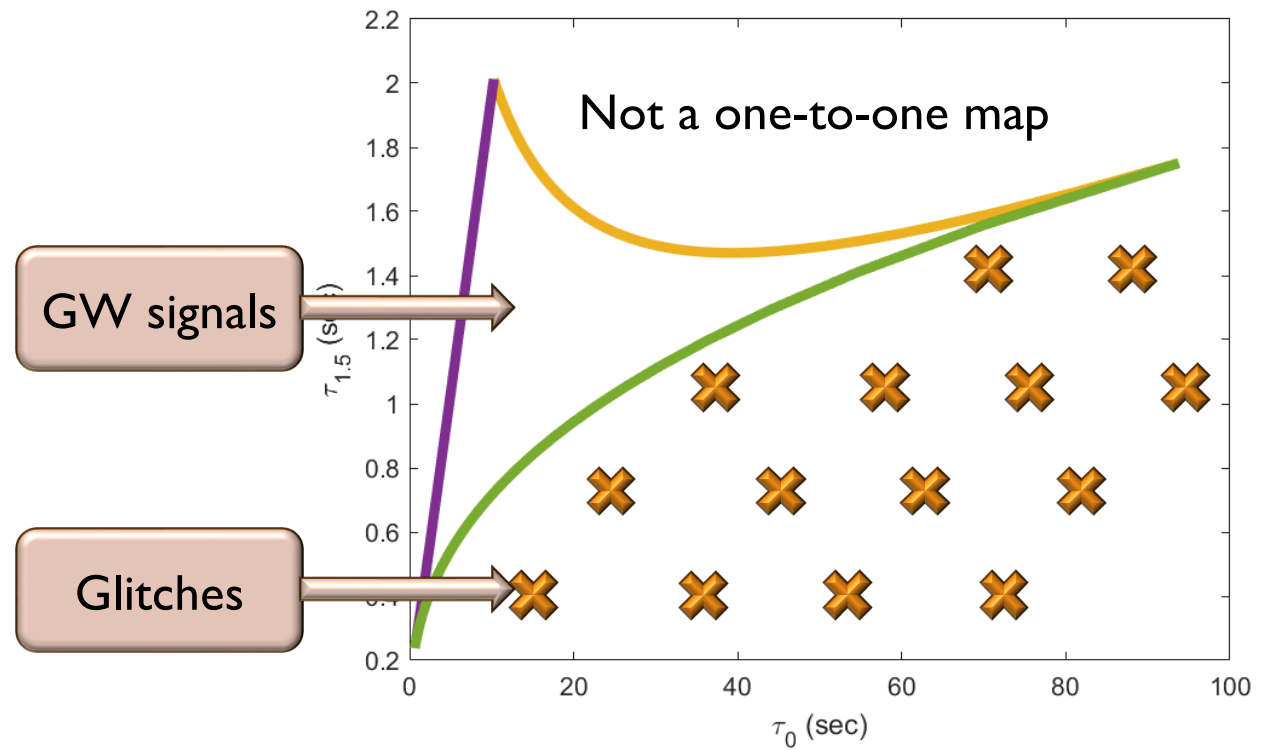
GRITCLEAN VETO

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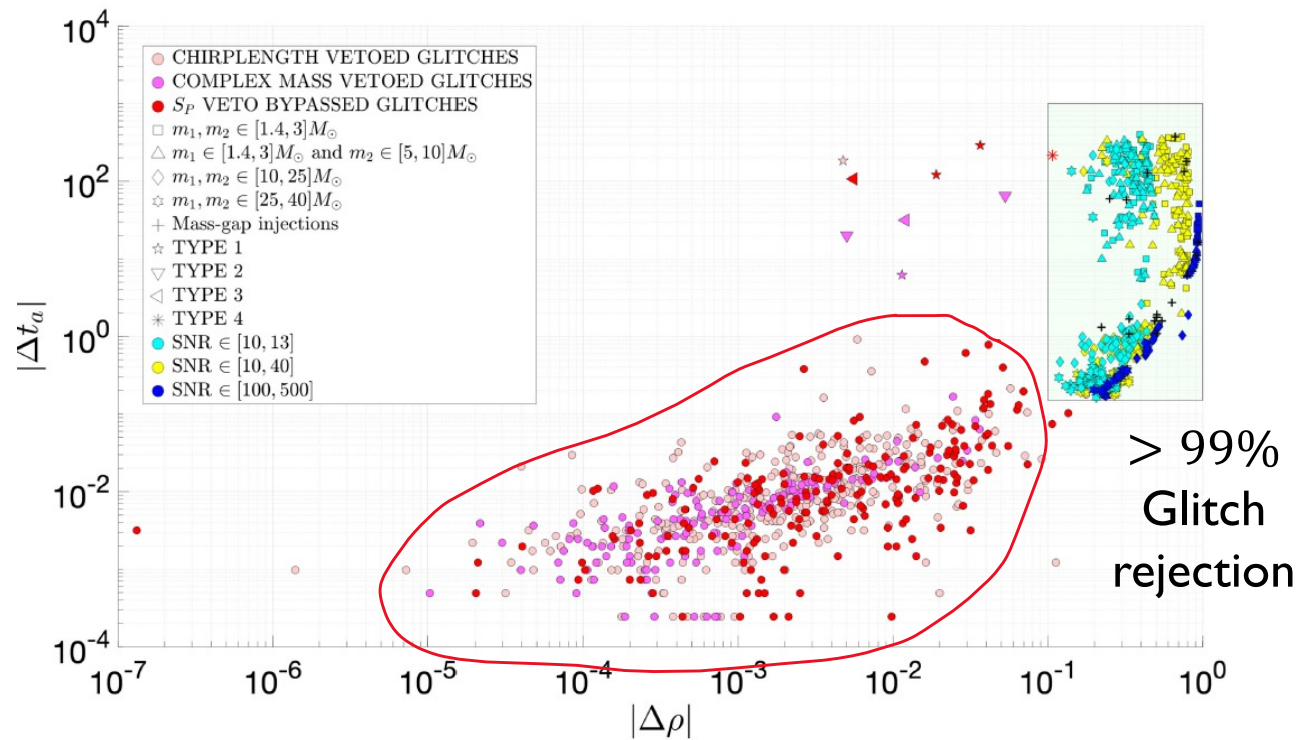
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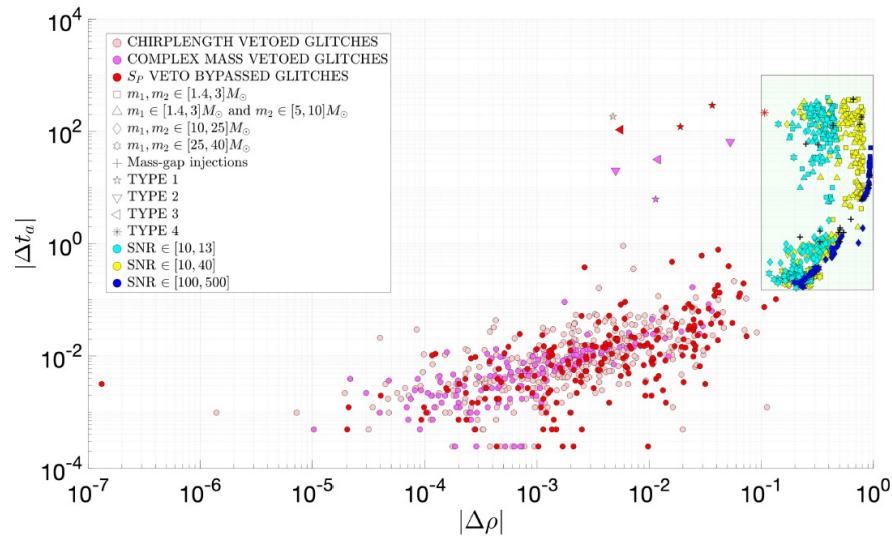
GRITCLEAN VETO

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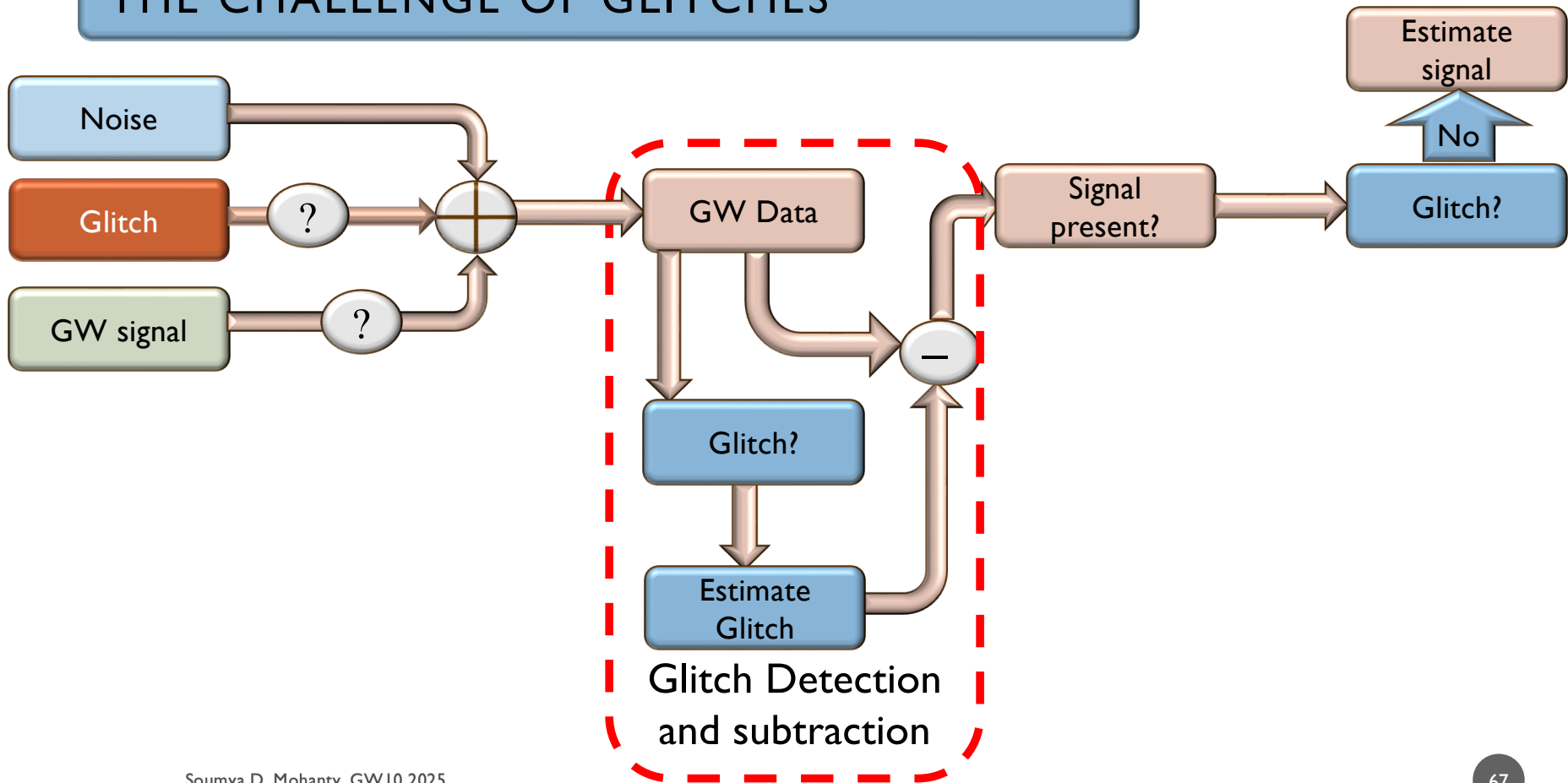
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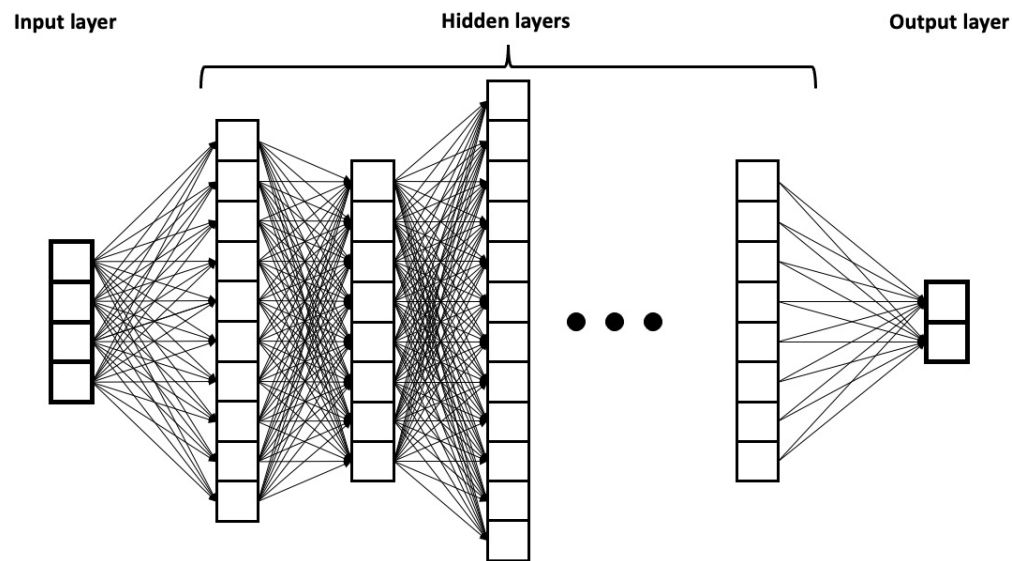
- R. Girgaonkar: Platform talk, TACCSTER'23
- Girgaonkar, Mohanty, PHYS. REV. D 110, 023037 (2024)

THE CHALLENGE OF GLITCHES



AI MODELS FOR GLITCH DETECTION

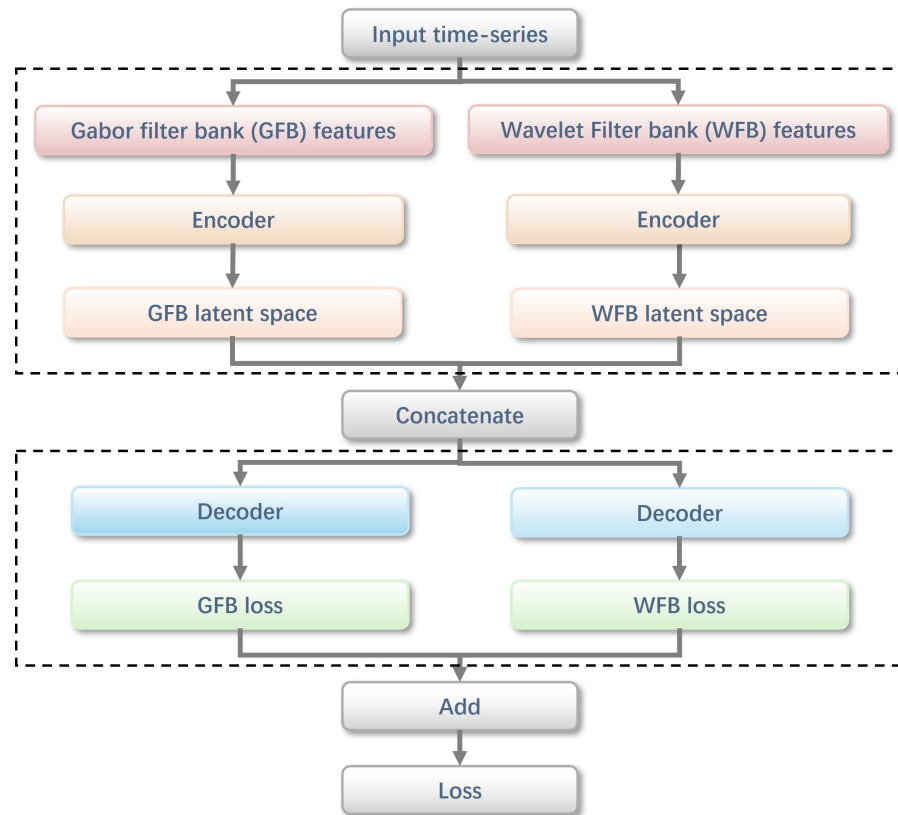
- Diversity of glitch waveforms and timescales: Challenge for traditional ML
- **Deep Learning using ANNs:** An active research area in GW data analysis



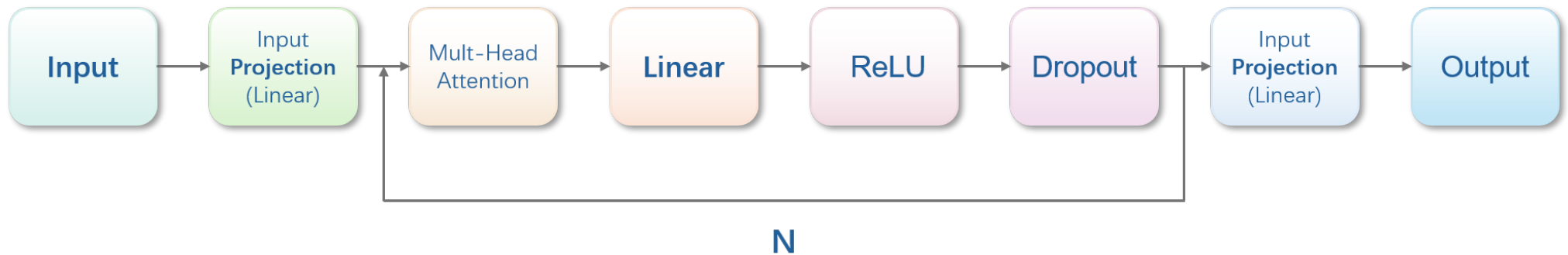
ABNORMAL: SEMI-SUPERVISED GLITCH DETECTOR

AI BASED NONSTATIONARITY OBSERVER FOR RESECTIONING AND MARKING ANOMALIES

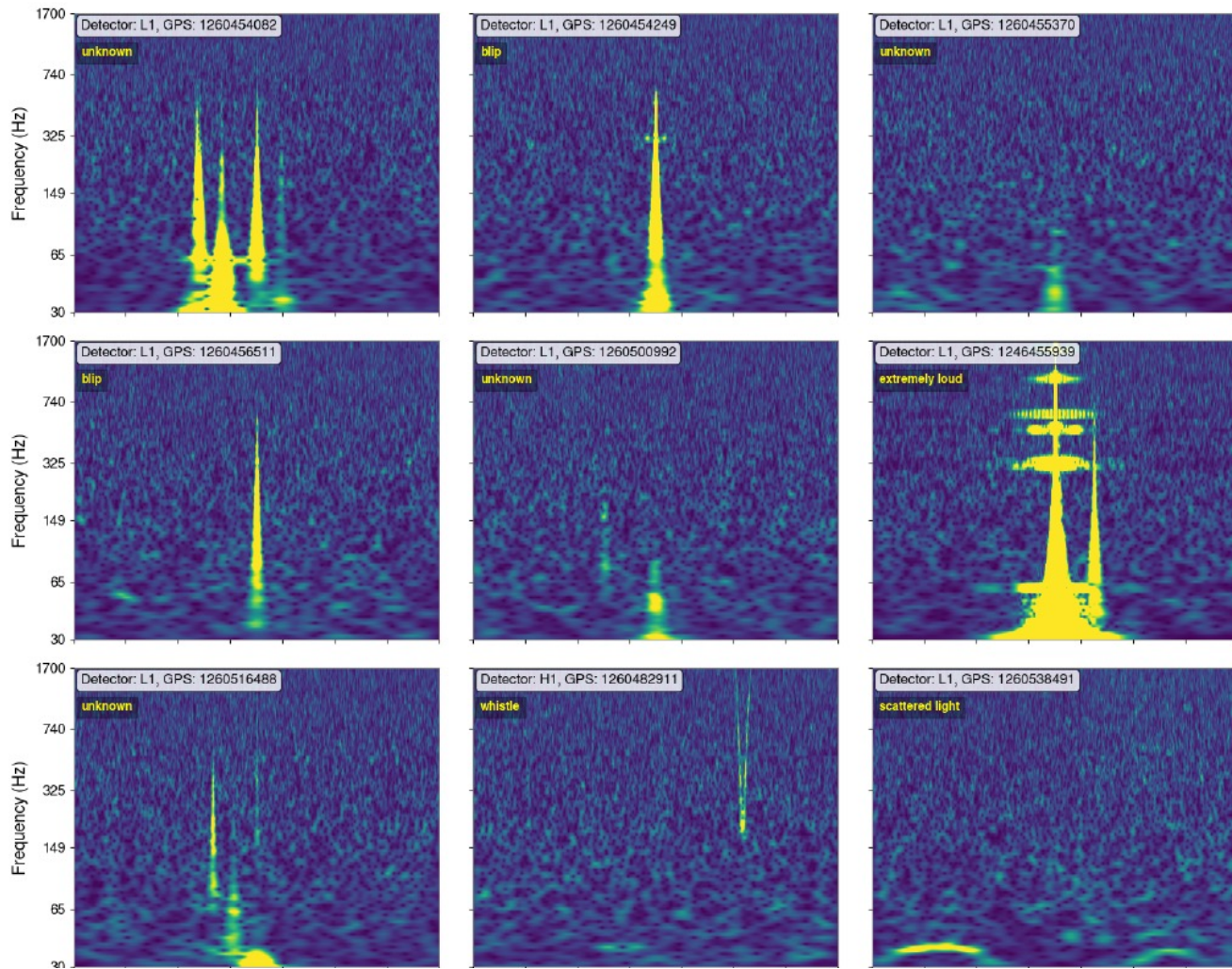
- Autoencoder architecture: Model learns to reconstruct its input
- Anomaly detection: out-of-distribution data \rightarrow poor reconstruction (high loss)
- ABNORMAL is trained exclusively on Normal data (noise)
- Guo et al, arXiv:2508.19772

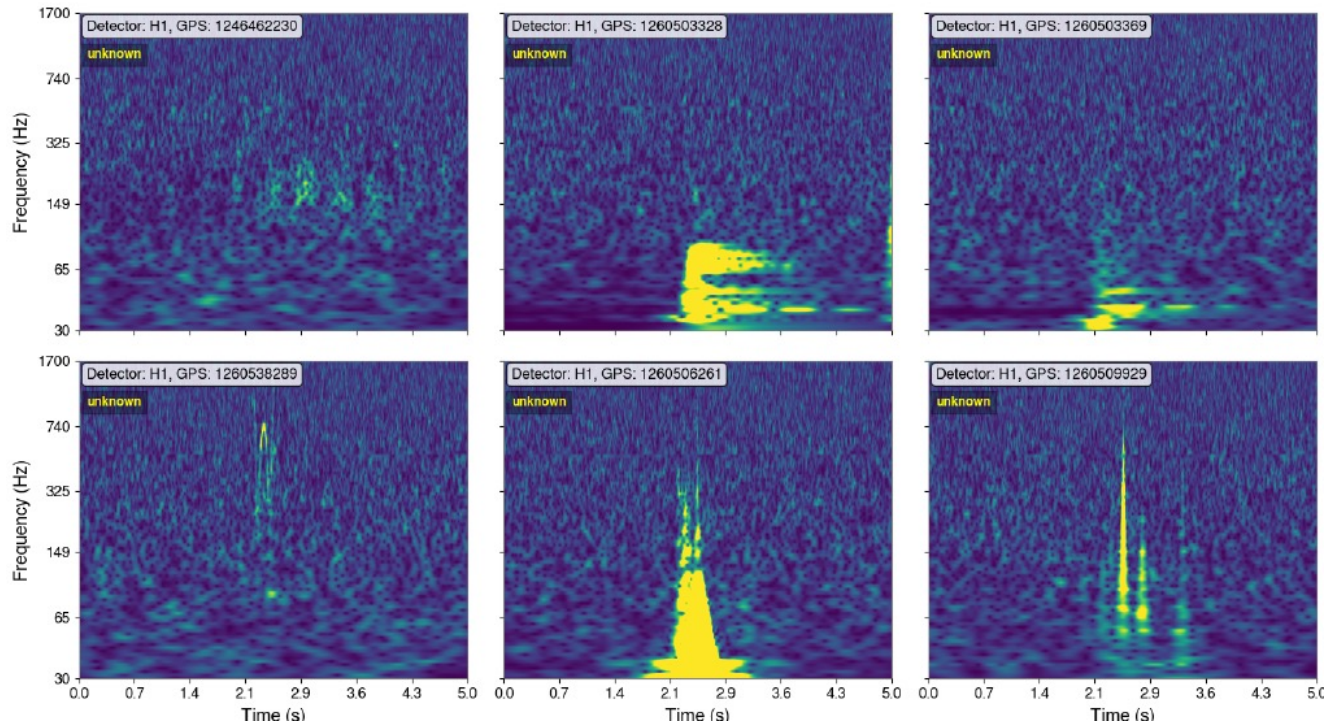


ABNORMAL: SEMI-SUPERVISED GLITCH DETECTOR AI BASED NONSTATIONARITY OBSERVER FOR RESECTIONING AND MARKING ANOMALIES



- Encoder/decoders based on Transformer architecture
- Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer (GPT)





SUMMARY

- GW Astronomy depends critically on advances in data analysis
- Future detectors (ground, space, PTA) will only have more challenging problems
 - Resolving overlapping GW signals, resolving signals from glitches, Computational cost, ...
- Covered only selected challenges for ground-based interferometer data
- GW data analysis imparts skills to students: HPC, Statistics, Machine learning, AI
 - Marc Normandin, PhD: Senior scientist, Neuroscience, University of Iowa
 - Thilina Weerathunga, PhD: Quant Analyst (Capital markets, banking, fintech), Citi group
 - Raghav Girgaonkar, (last of 13 MS): PhD Physics at UW Milwaukee