

The 6th KMI International Symposium @ Nagoya Univ.

Stochastic GW background as a probe of the early universe

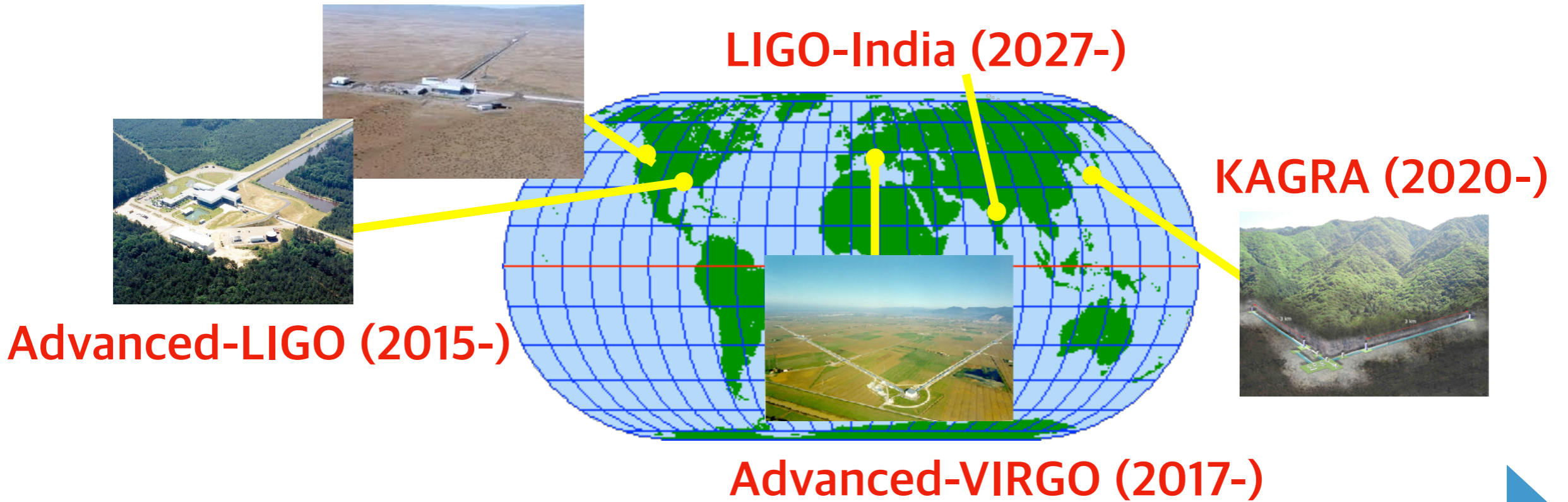
Sachiko Kuroyanagi

IFT UAM-CSIC / Nagoya University

7 Mar 2025



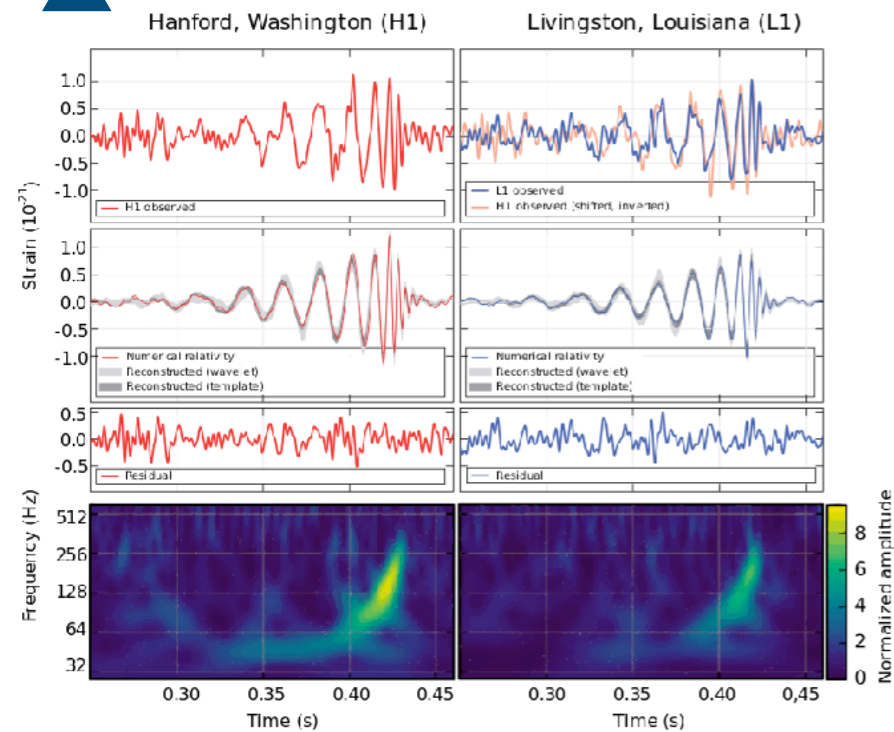
Gravitational wave (GW) observation



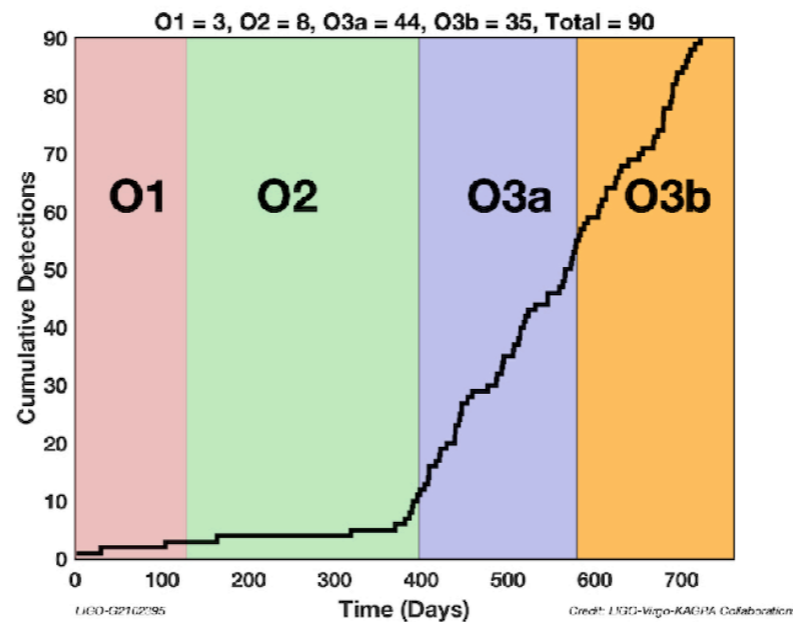
2015

2020'

2030'



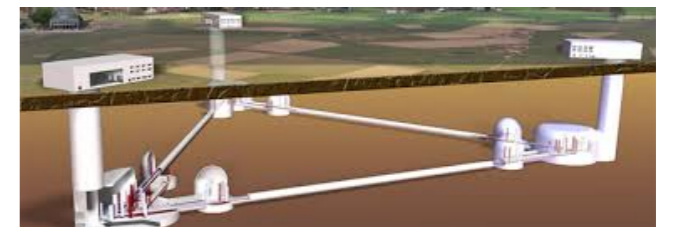
The first detection: GW150914



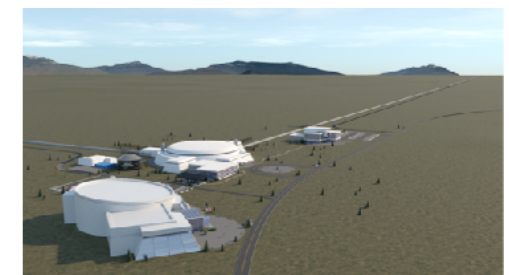
O4 started in May 2023 and still ongoing

Future projects

- Einstein Telescope



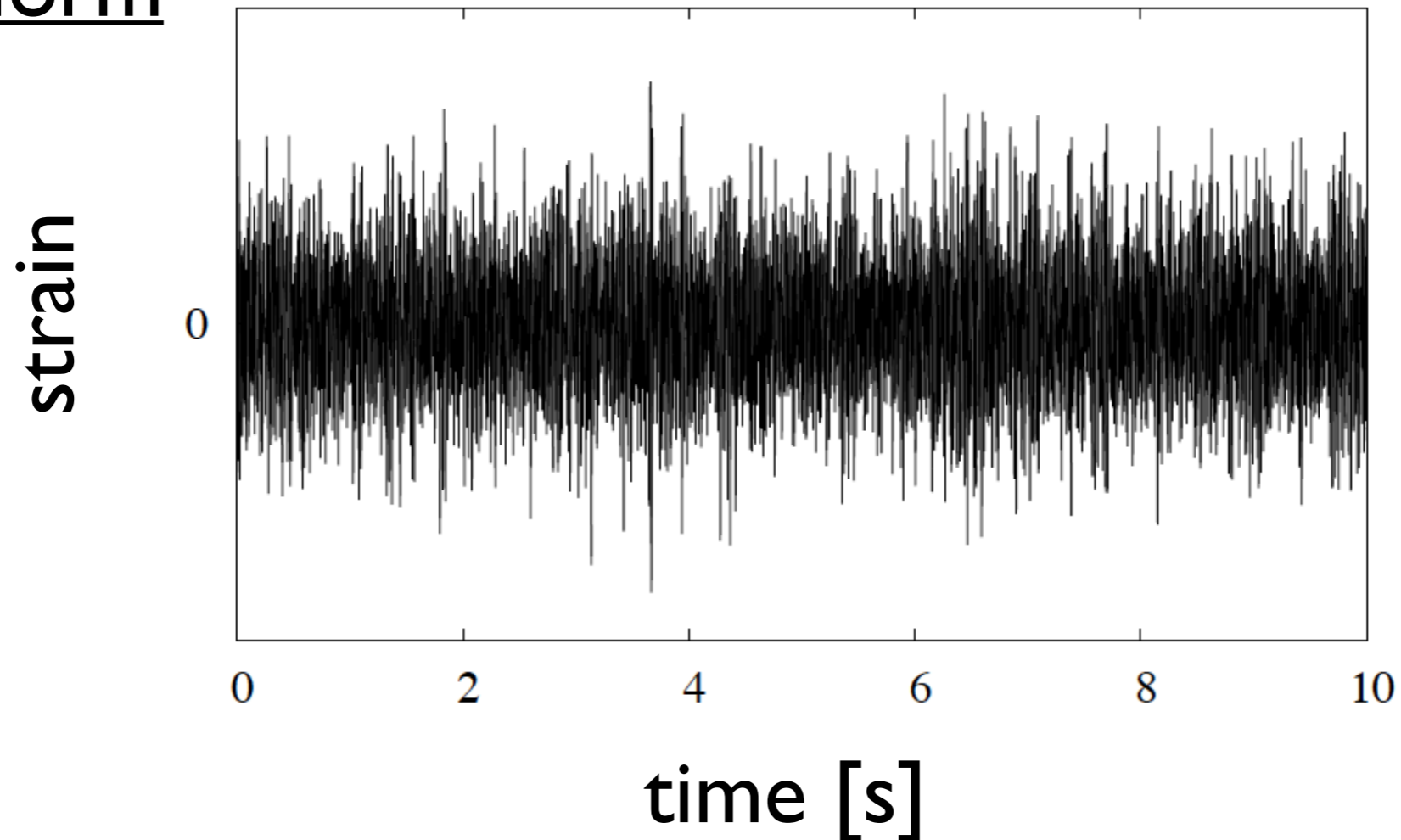
- Cosmic Explorer



etc.

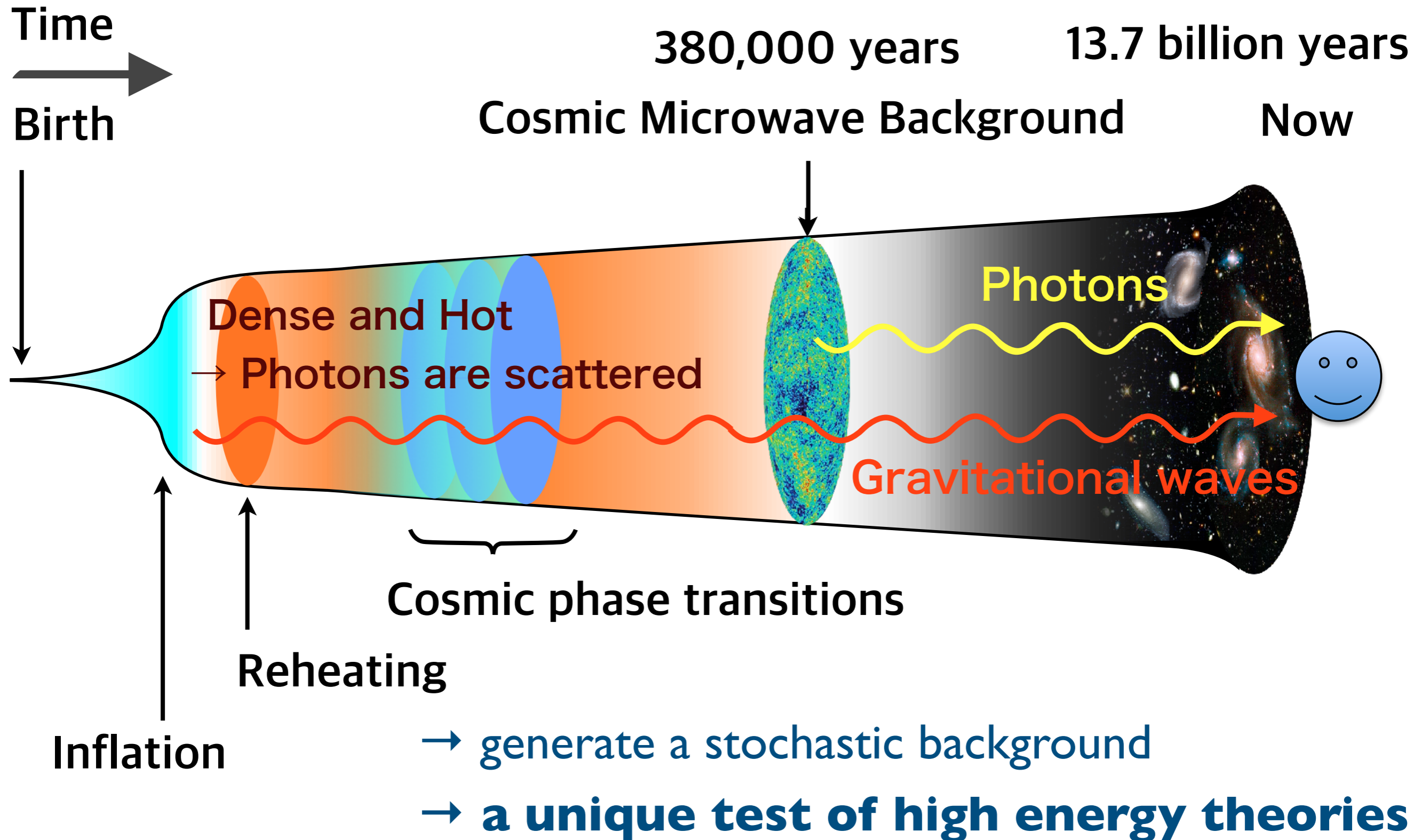
Stochastic GW background

Waveform



Continuous and random GW signal
coming from all directions → very similar to noise

Stochastic GW background as a probe of the early universe



How to detect a stochastic background



Cross Correlation

detector 1

$$s_1(t) = h(t) + n_1(t)$$

detector 2

$$s_2(t) = h(t) + n_2(t)$$

$$\langle S \rangle = \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \langle s_1(t) s_2(t) \rangle$$

$$= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \langle h^2(t) + \underbrace{h(t)n_2(t) + n_1(t)h(t) + n_1(t)n_2(t)}_{\text{no correlations} \rightarrow 0} \rangle$$

$$= \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt \langle \underline{h^2(t)} \rangle \text{ GW signal}$$

(for detectors at the same location)

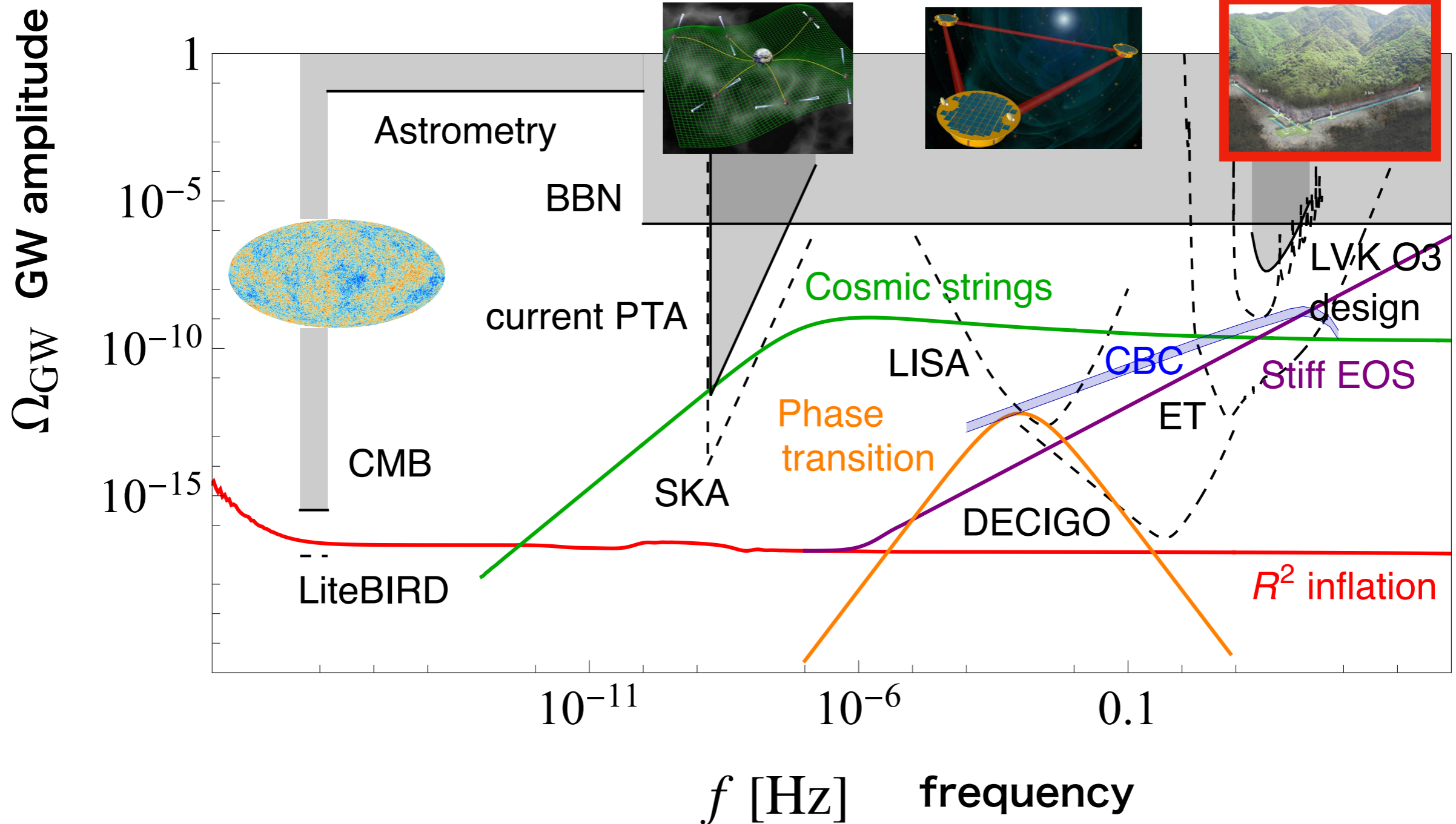
s: observed signal
h: gravitational waves
n: noise

Experiment's sensitivities

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}} \equiv \frac{1}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}}{d \ln k}$$

ρ_{GW} : Energy density of GWs

ρ_c : Critical density of the Universe



Upper bounds on stochastic background

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}} \equiv \frac{1}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}}{d \ln k}$$

ρ_{GW} : Energy density of GWs

ρ_c : Critical density of the Universe

BBN + CMB bound:

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}} < 2.7 \times 10^{-6}$$

Observation run	Year	95% Upper bound (for a flat spectrum)
LIGO S6	2009	$\Omega_{\text{GW}} < 6.9 \times 10^{-6}$
Advanced LIGO O1	2016	$\Omega_{\text{GW}} < 1.7 \times 10^{-7}$
Advanced LIGO O2	2019	$\Omega_{\text{GW}} < 6.0 \times 10^{-8}$
Advanced LIGO O3 (+ Virgo)	2021	$\Omega_{\text{GW}} < 5.8 \times 10^{-9}$
Advanced LIGO O4a	2025	$\Omega_{\text{GW}} < ???$

→ becoming a competitive tool to constrain early universe models

Upper bounds on stochastic background

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Let us provide detailed constraints!

(but using O3 data; O4a data release expected in August 2025)

Generation mechanisms

Evolution equation for GWs

$$\ddot{h}_{ij} + 3H\dot{h}_{ij} - \frac{1}{a^2}\nabla^2 h_{ij} = 16\pi G\Pi_{ij}$$

anisotropic stress

1. Non-negligible initial condition

- **Inflation**

→ quantum fluctuations

2. Sourced by matter component of the Universe

- **Preheating**

→ rapid particle productions

- **Phase transition**

→ bubble collisions

- **Cosmic strings**

→ heavy strings

generated in phase transition

Models to investigate

Several early universe models predict a relatively large GW amplitude

Universe's
history

GWs from inflation: Typically very small $\Omega_{\text{GW}} < 10^{-16}$ Type 1



Inflation

① **SU(2) Gauge field during inflation** Type 2

→ act as a source of GWs

② **Kination phase after inflation** Type 1

→ inflationary GWs decay slower than usual

Reheating

③ **Scalar induced GWs** Type 2

→ large curvature perturbations
(that eventually forms PBHs)
act as a source of GWs

Radiation
dominated

④ **Primordial black hole (PBH) mergers** Type 2

→ PBHs form binary system and emit GWs
superpositions form a stochastic background

Matter
dominated

Likelihood analysis

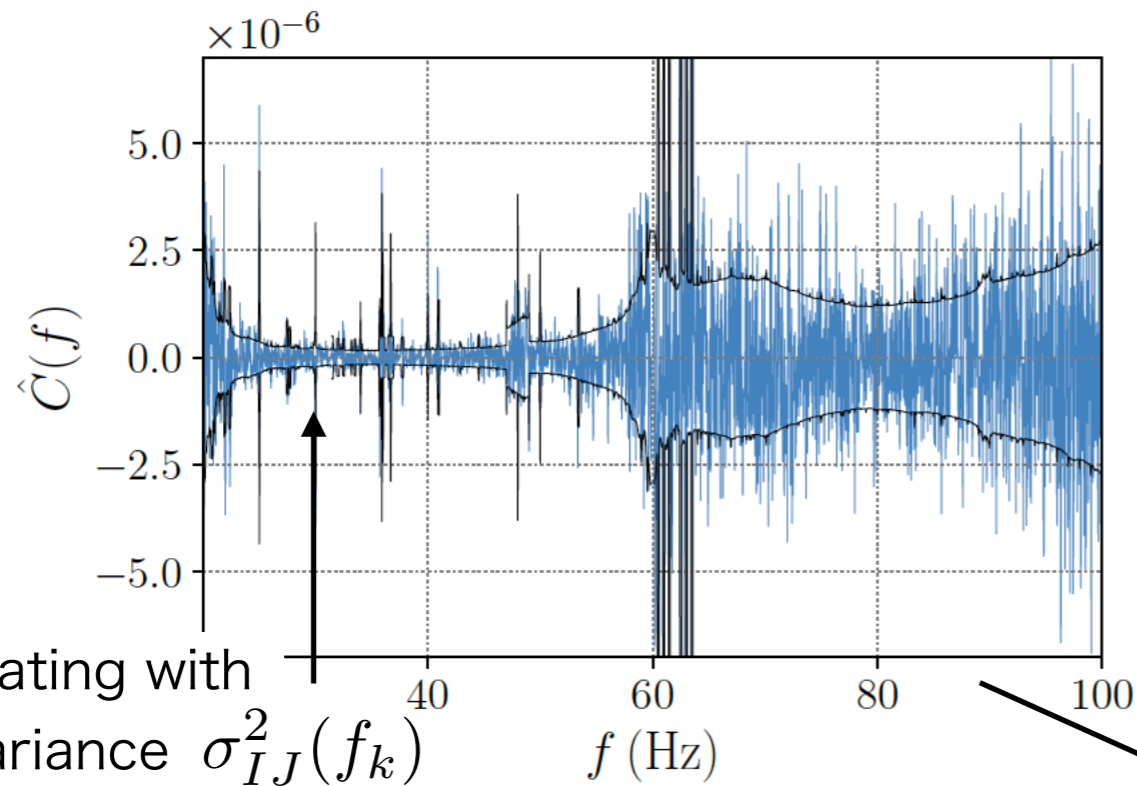


pygwb 1.5.1

pip install pygwb

Renzini et al., ApJ 952, 25 (2023)

data (cross-correlated spectrum)

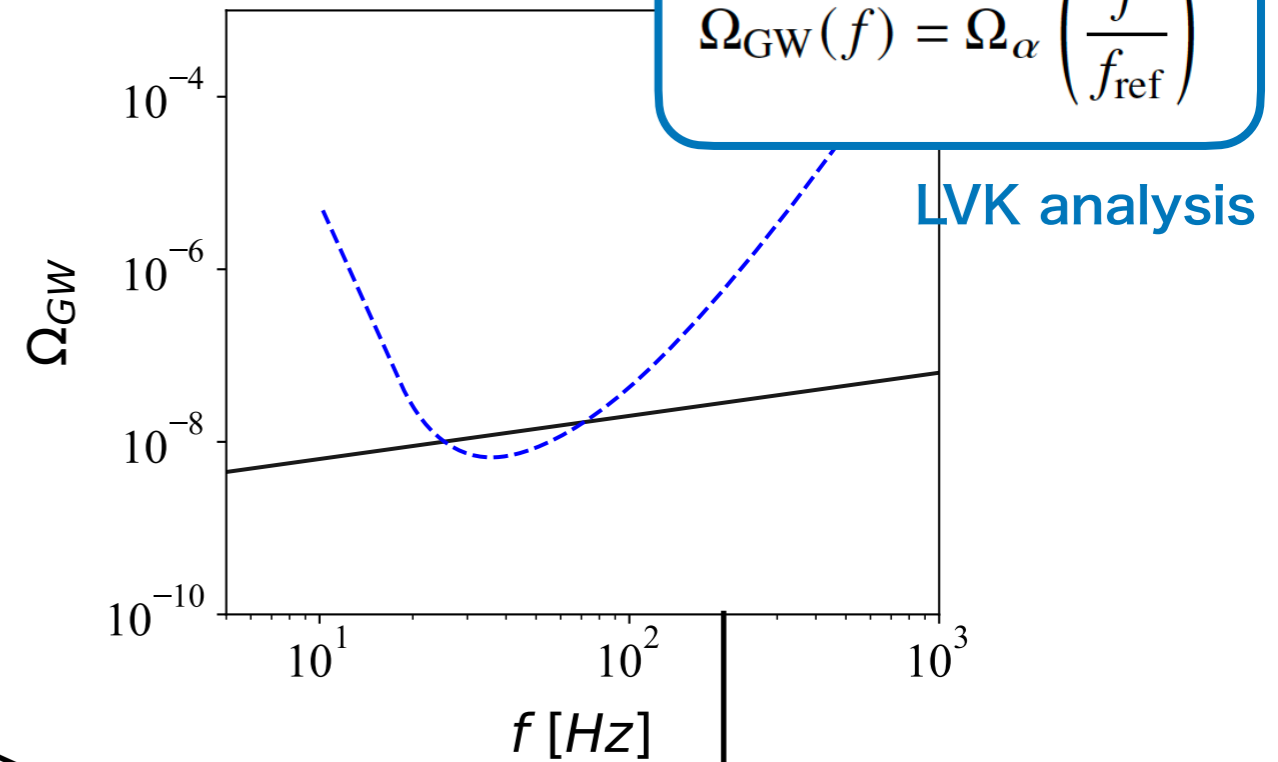


fluctuating with the variance $\sigma_{IJ}^2(f_k)$

Your model

Model = power-law

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



Likelihood

$$p\left(\hat{\Omega}_{\text{GW},f}^{IJ} | \Theta\right) \propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{IJ} \sum_f \left(\frac{\hat{\Omega}_{\text{GW},f}^{IJ} - \Omega_{\text{M}}(f | \Theta)}{\sigma_{\text{GW},f}^{IJ}} \right)^2 \right]$$

IJ: detector combinations
k: frequencies

Posterior distribution

$$p(\Theta | C_k^{IJ}) \propto p(C_k^{IJ} | \Theta) p(\Theta)$$

Prior

variance

① SU(2) gauge field during inflation

Coupling between inflaton and SU(2) gauge field

$$S_{\text{CNI}} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\det(g_{\mu\nu})} \left[\frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi) - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu} + \frac{\alpha_f}{4} \phi F_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{F}^{a\mu\nu} \right]$$
$$F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a - g\epsilon^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c$$

→ Anisotropic stress of the gauge field sources GWs during inflation

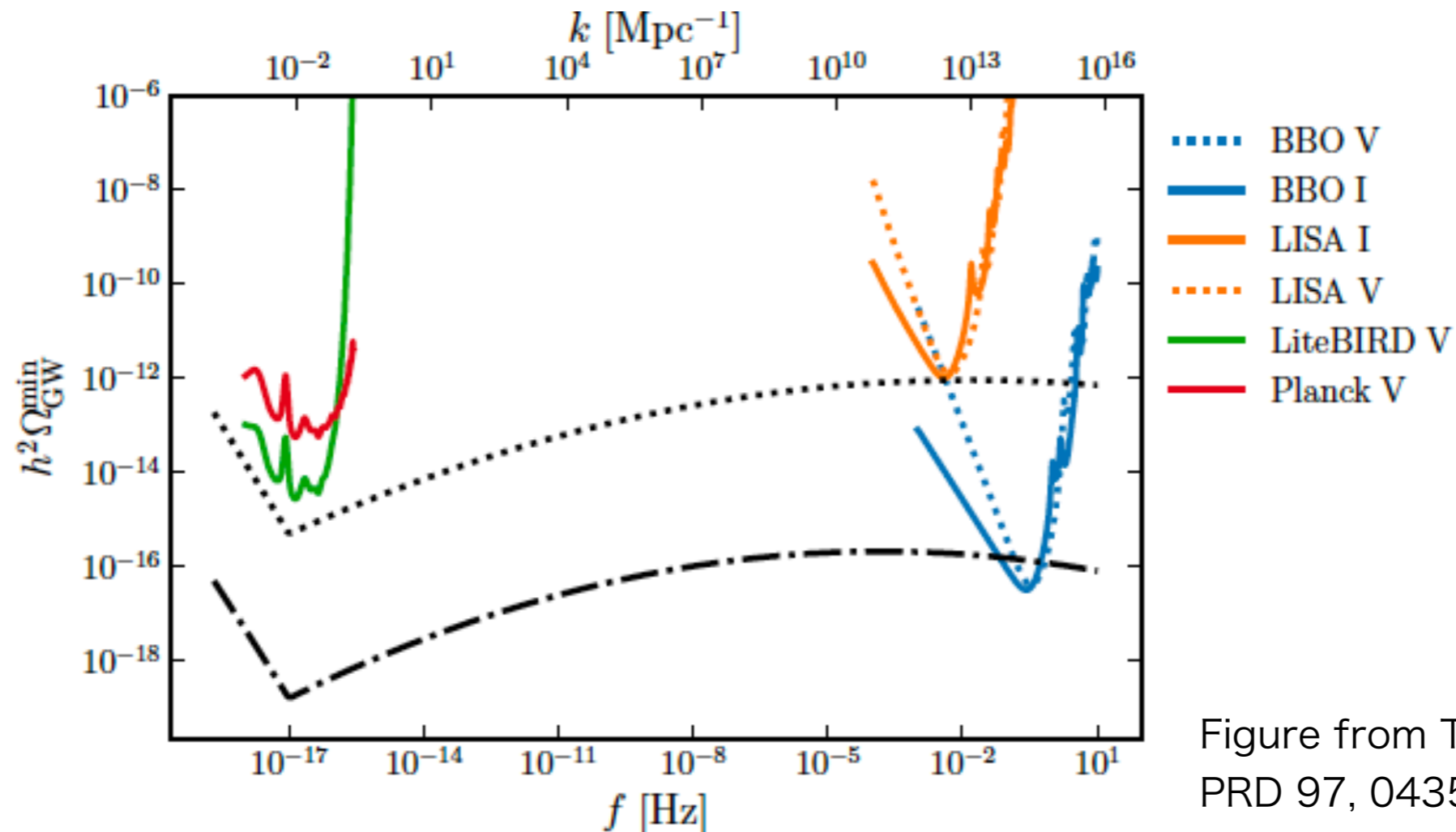
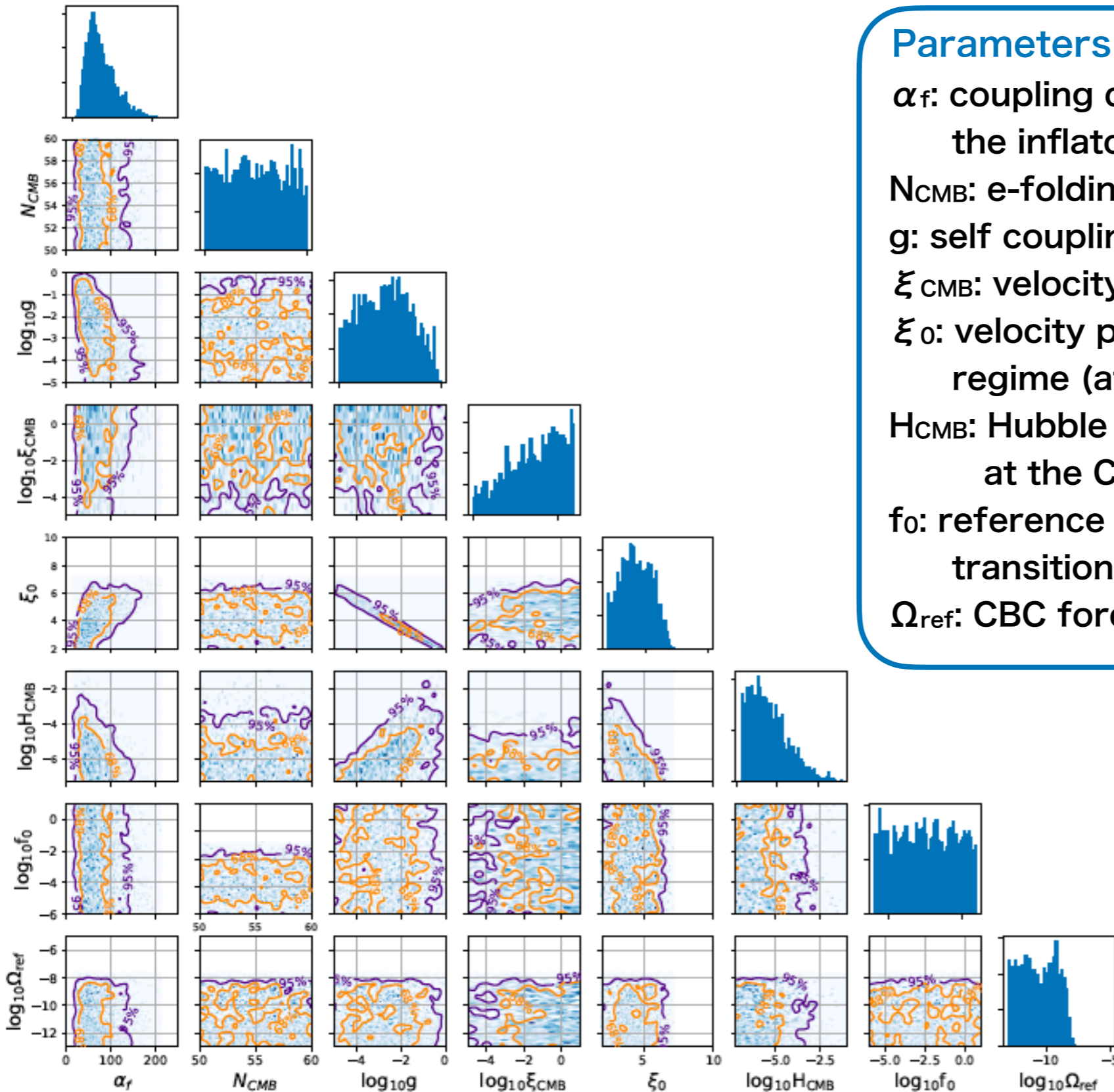


Figure from Thorne et al.,
PRD 97, 043506 (2018)

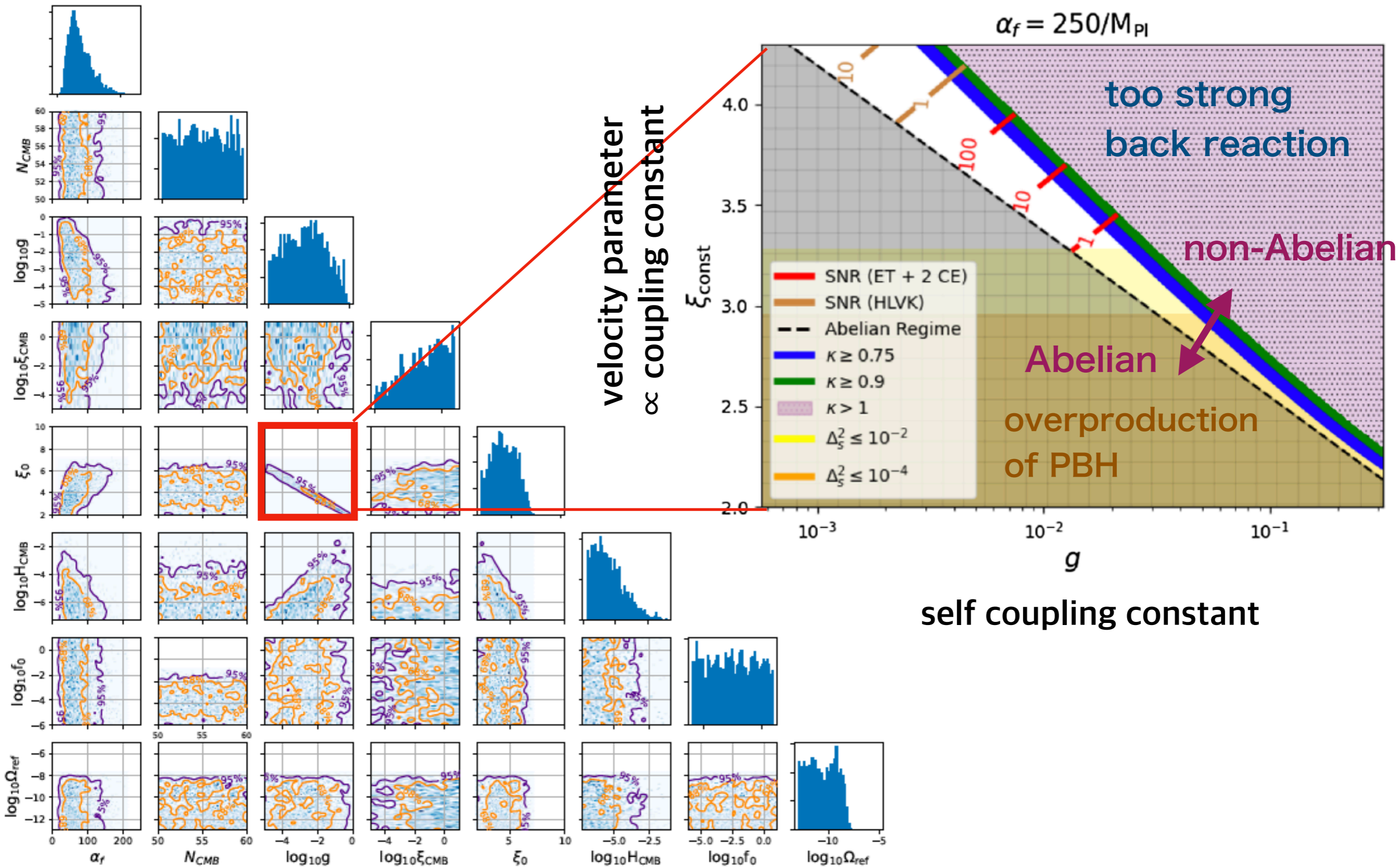
① $SU(2)$ gauge field during inflation



Parameters

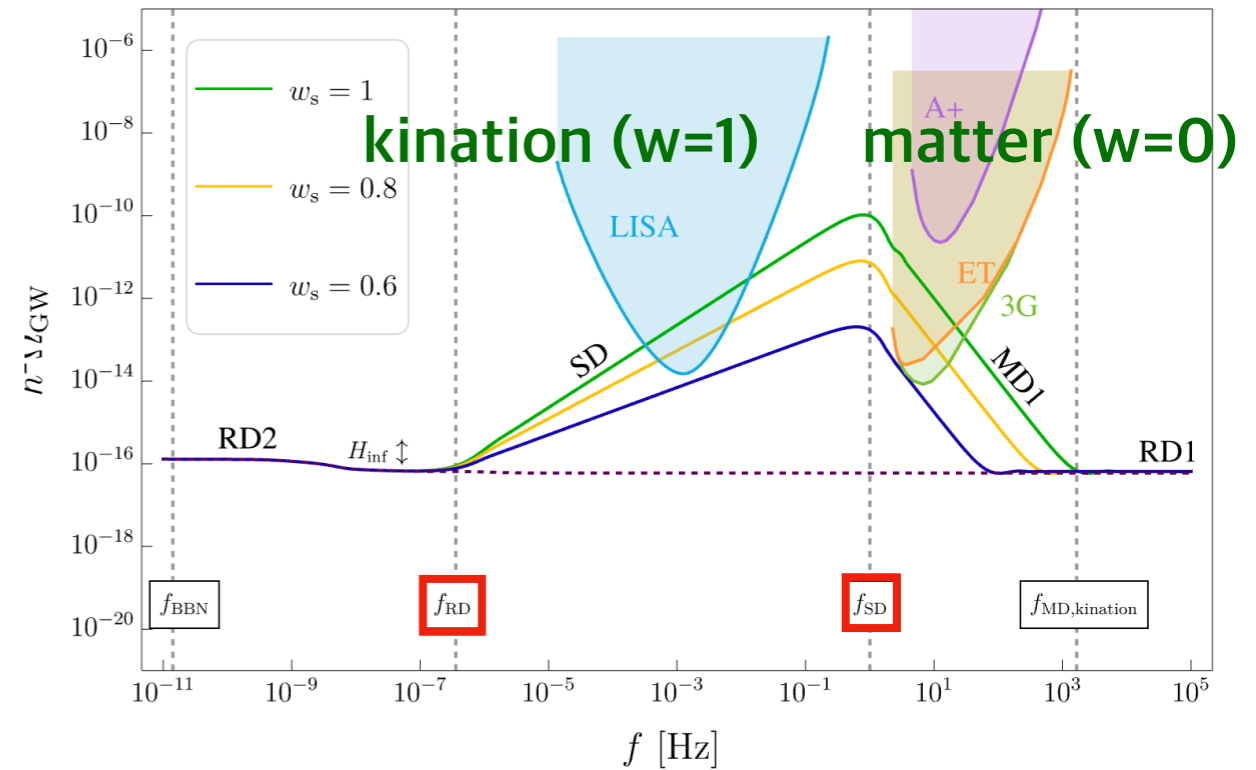
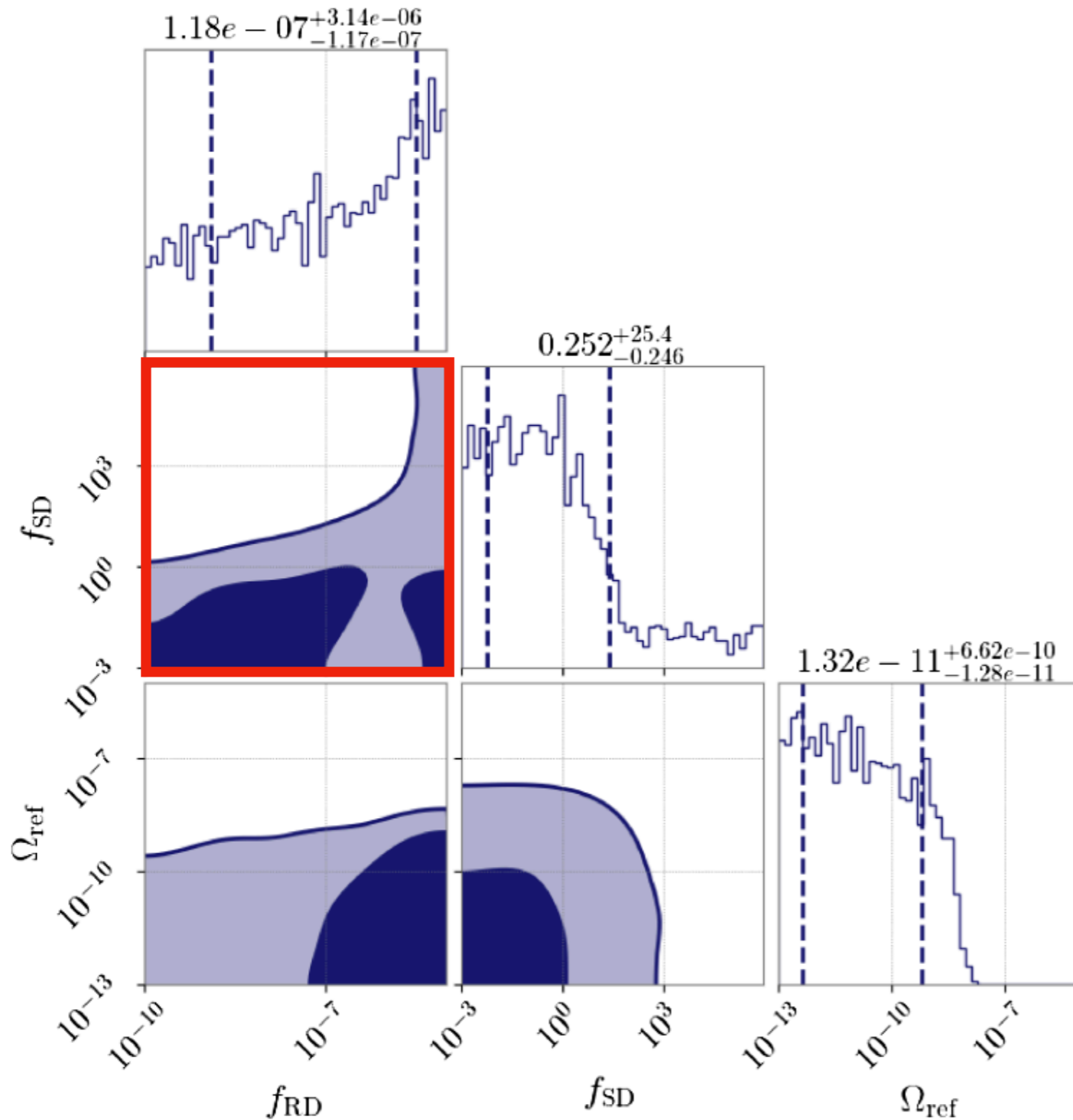
- α_f : coupling constant between the inflaton and the gauge field
- N_{CMB} : e-folding number
- g : self coupling constant of the gauge field
- ξ_{CMB} : velocity parameter at the CMB
- ξ_0 : velocity parameter in the non-abelian regime (at the LVK)
- H_{CMB} : Hubble energy scale of inflation at the CMB scale
- f_0 : reference frequency corresponding to the transition from Abelian to non-Abelian regime
- Ω_{ref} : CBC foreground

① $SU(2)$ gauge field during inflation



② Early kination phase (stiff EoS)

Equation of state (EoS, w) larger than $1/3$ leads to an enhancement in inflationary GWs



Early matter & kination domination
(realized in axion motivated model)

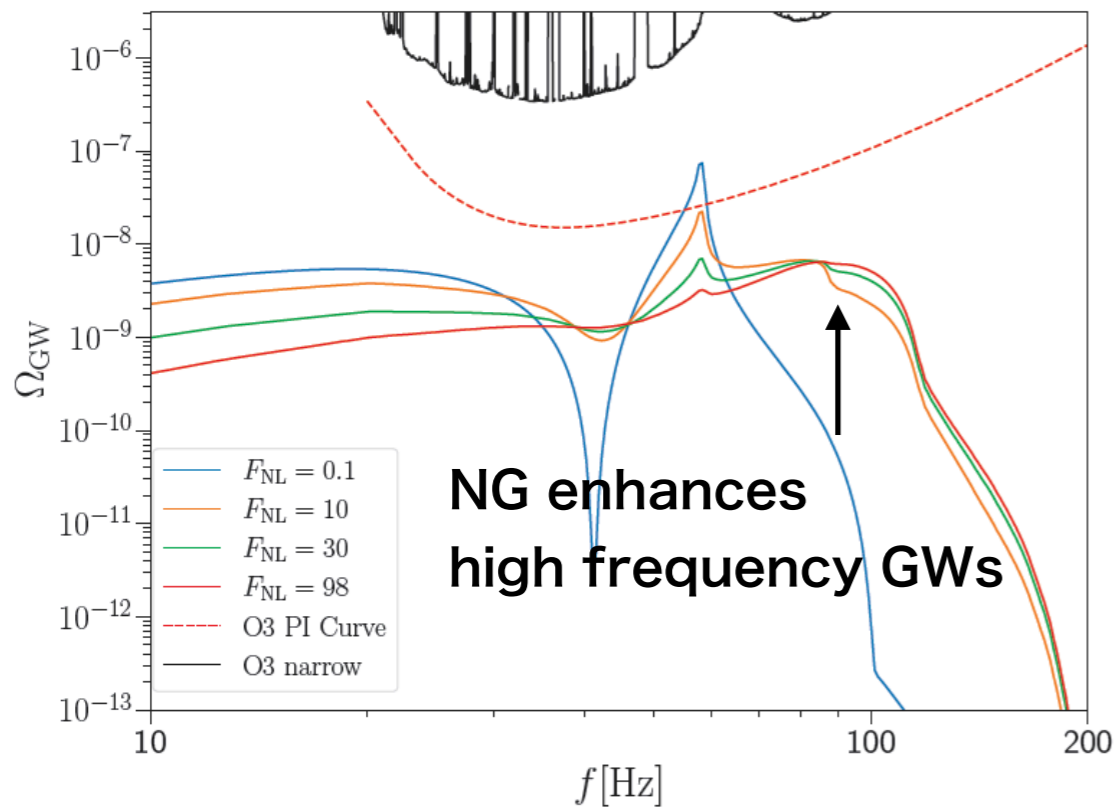
Ko & Harigaya, PRL 124, 111602 (2020)
Gouttenoire et al. arXiv:2111.01150

f_{RD}, f_{SD} : transition frequencies
→ Connects to the energy scale of the Universe at the time of transitions (MD→KD→RD)

③ Scalar induced GWs

Enhanced primordial curvature perturbations source both PBHs and GWs

GW spectrum



Assumption:
local type non-Gaussianity

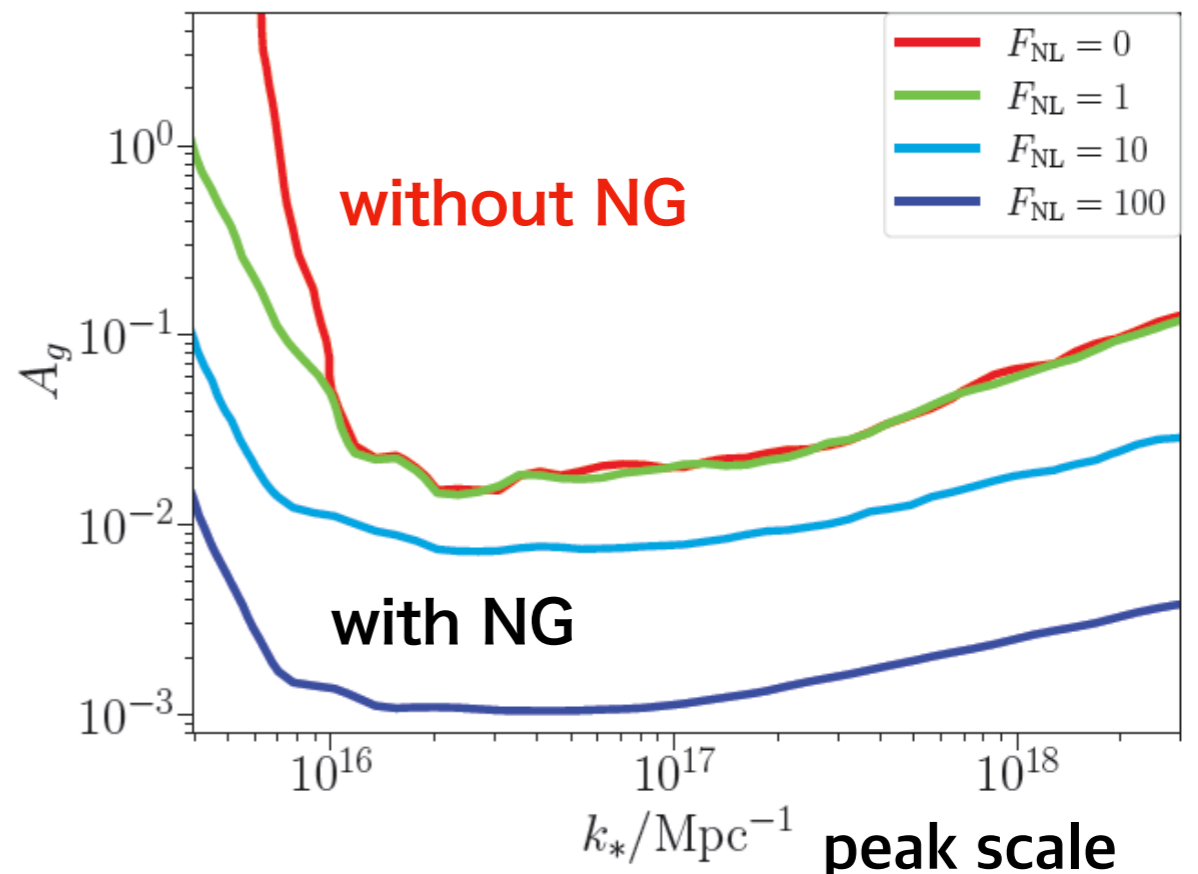
$$\zeta(\mathbf{x}) = \zeta_g(\mathbf{x}) + F_{\text{NL}}\zeta_g^2(\mathbf{x})$$

Note: Parametrization with F_{NL}
covers limited cases

Many inflationary models predicting large curvature perturbations (and producing PBHs) exhibit **Non-Gaussianity (NG)**

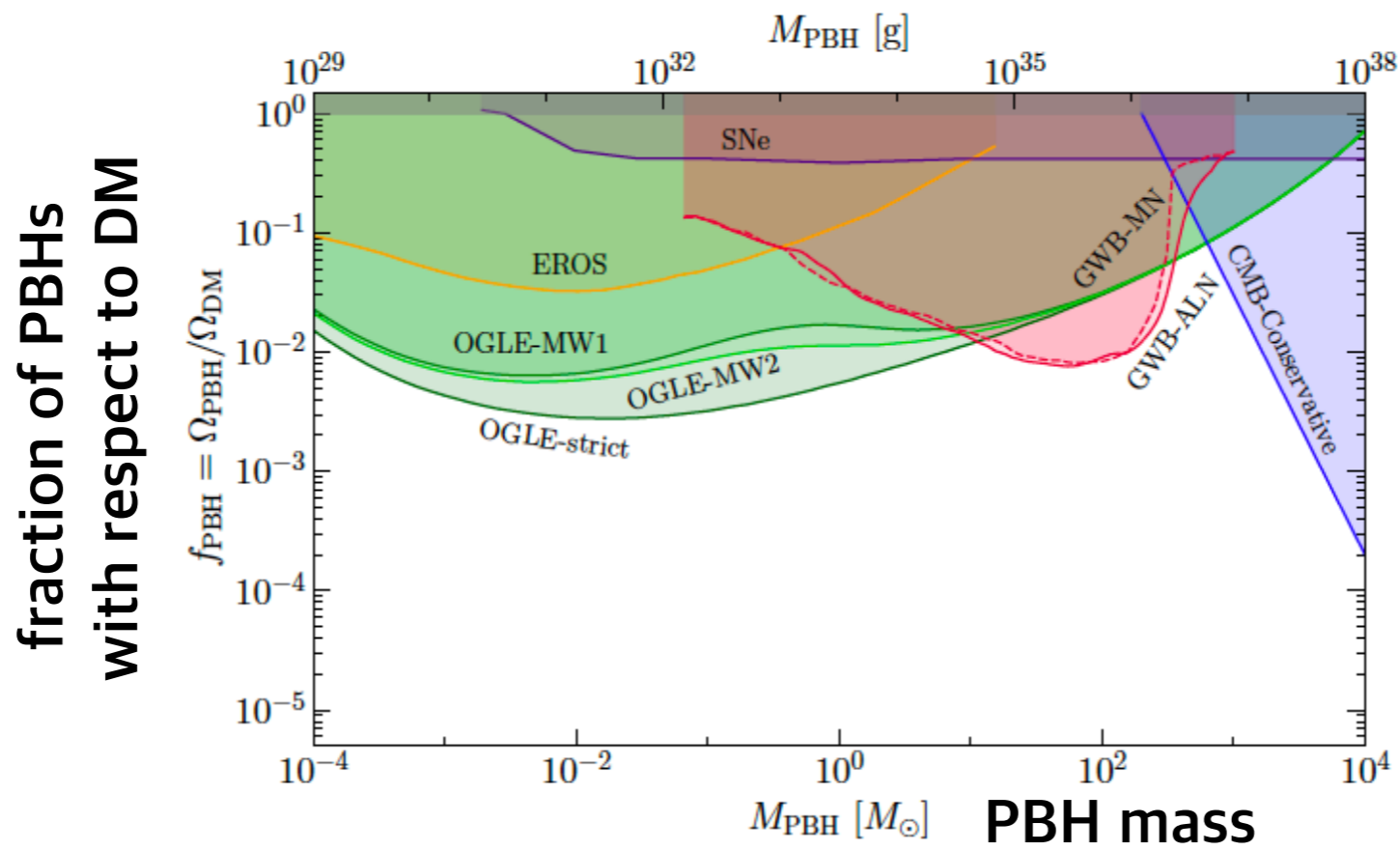
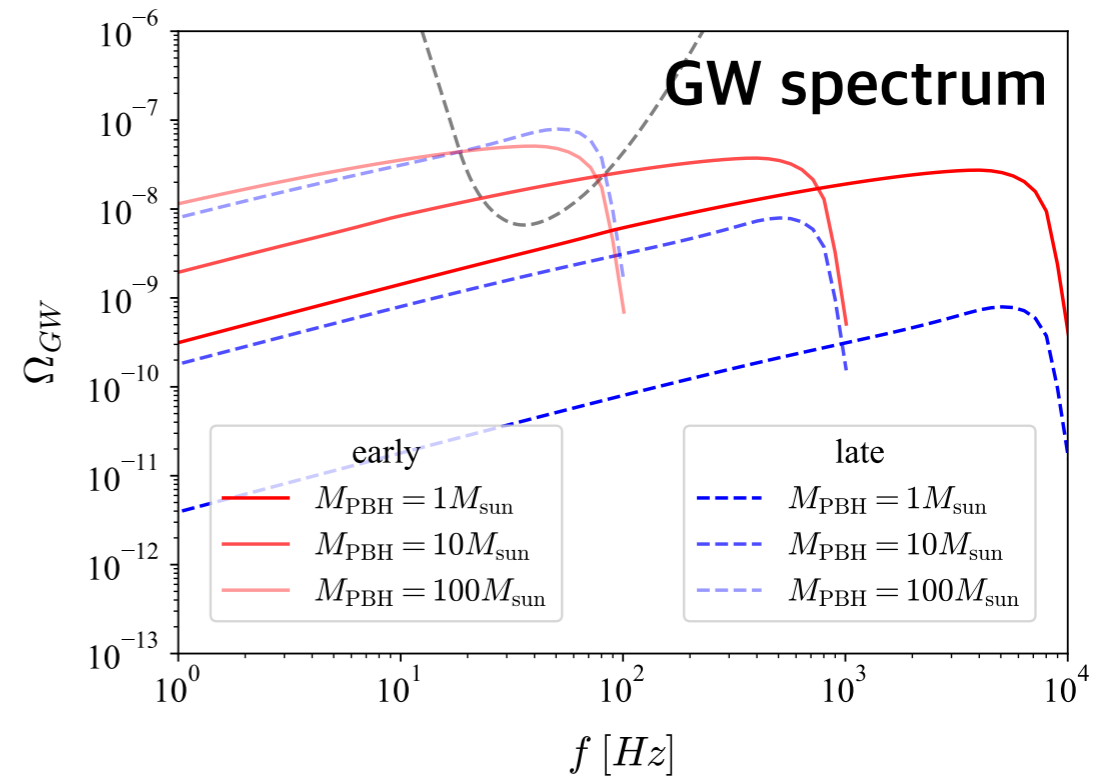
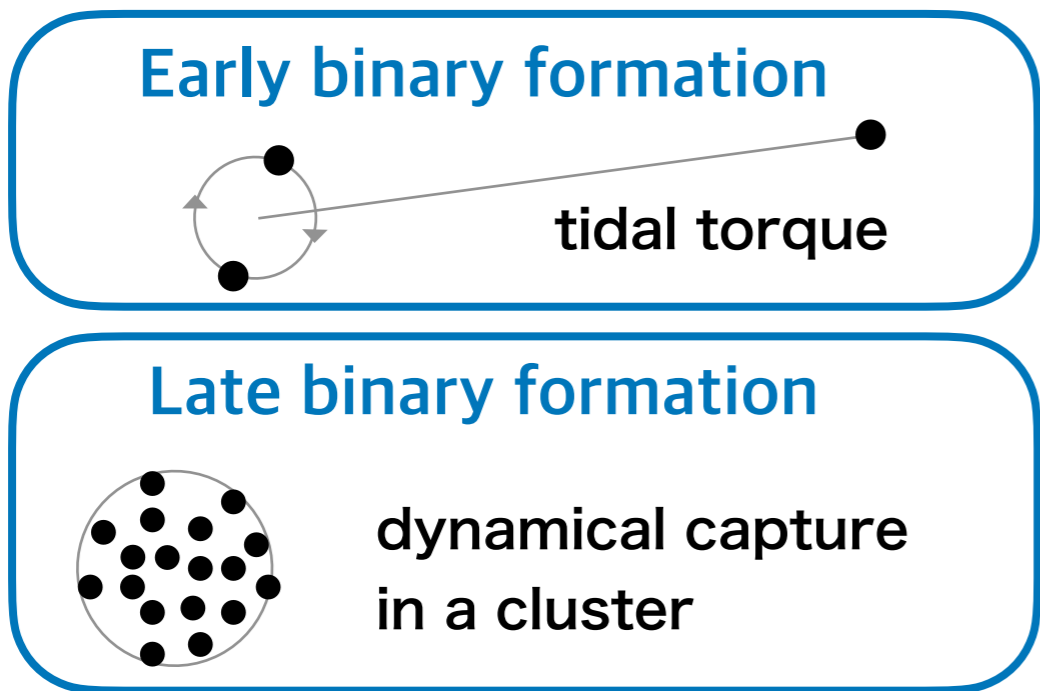
- ultra slow roll inflation
- multi field inflation
- couplings leading to particle production, etc.

curvature perturbation
amplitude



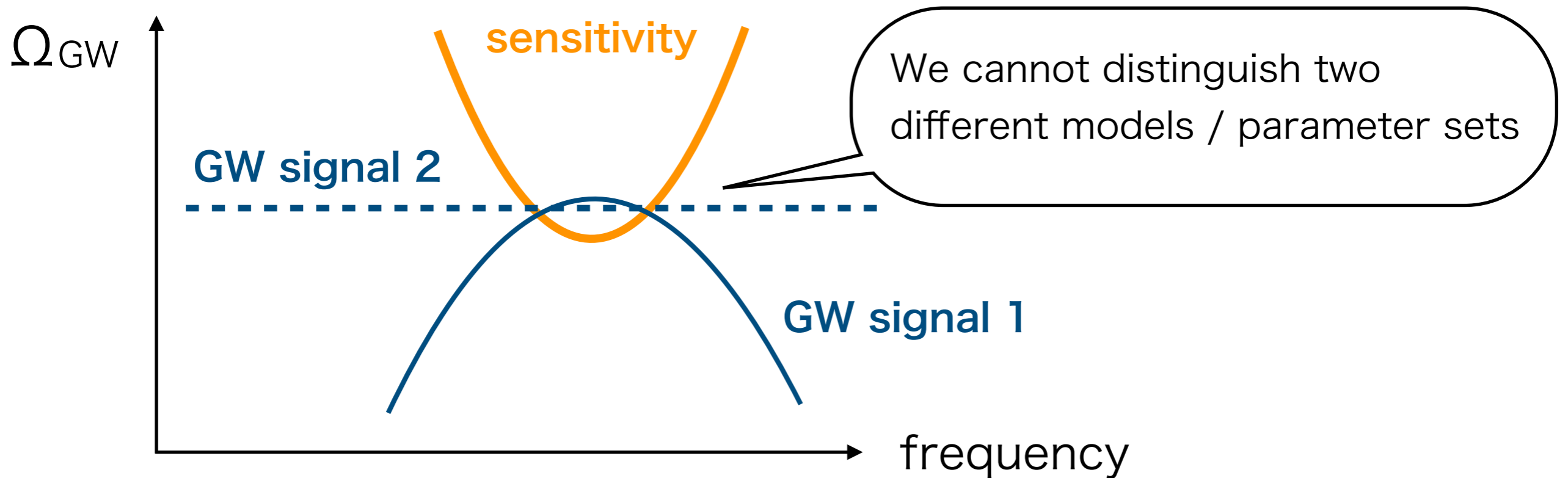
② PBH binaries

Superpositions of PBH binaries form a stochastic background



Note

GW observation currently provide limited information:
Only Ω_{GW} amplitude in the narrow frequency range



→ There are often degeneracies in parameter space when the model has many parameters.

Multi-band observations (CMB, PTA, space, ground, etc.) may play a key role in the future.

Summary

Stochastic GW background can be a unique probe of high-energy physics in the early universe

- Upper bounds on the stochastic background amplitude keeps improving with upgraded sensitivities and longer observation time.
 - We can provide constraints on different types of model using the public code by the LVK collaboration (pygwb)
 - We have provided constraints on model parameters for the early universe using the LVK O3 data
1. **SU(2) gauge field inflation** Burger et al. (+SK), PRD 110.084063 (2024)
 2. **Early kination phase** Duval et al. (+SK), PRD 110.103503 (2024)
 3. **Scalar induced GWs** Inui et al. (+SK) JCAP 05, 082 (2024)
 4. **PBH binaries** Boybeyi et al. (+SK), arXiv:2412.18318