

PTAs: where we are and where we are going

Andrea Mitridate

Gravitational Wave Probes of Physics Beyond Standard Model | Nov. 7, 2023



PULSARS

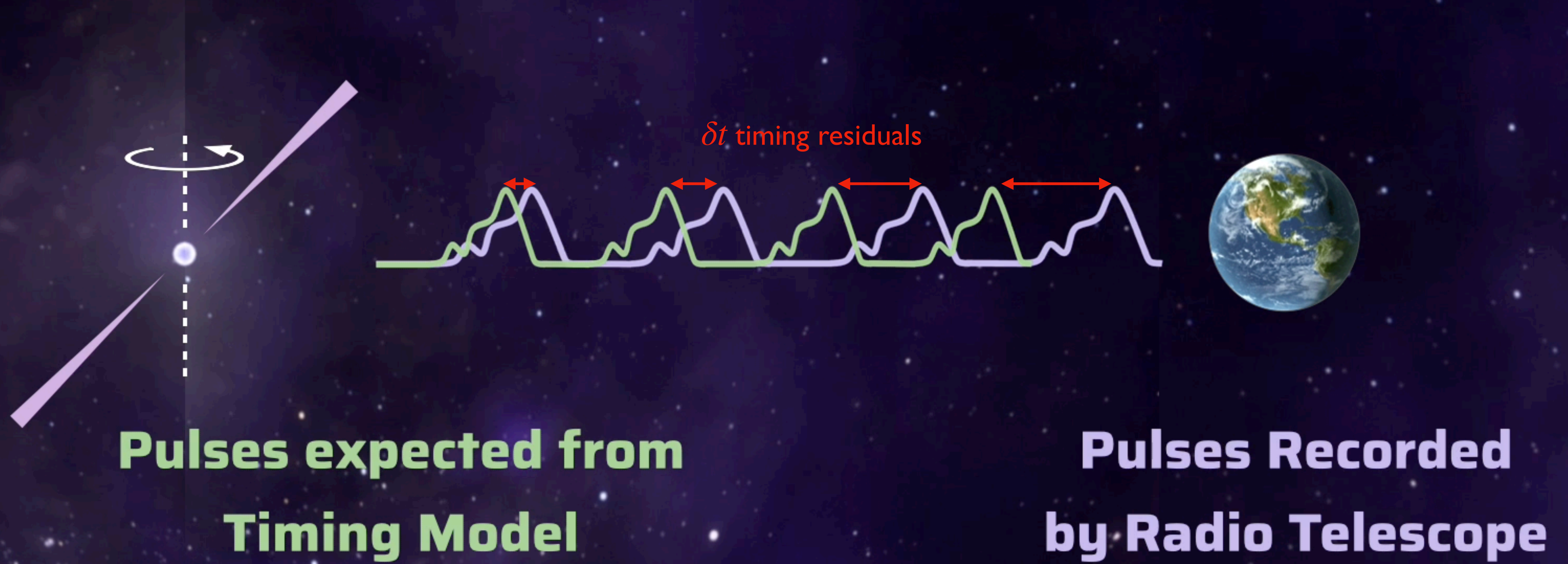
**Rotation
Axis**



**Magnetic
Field Axis**

Radiation Beams

TIMING RESIDUALS



A GALAXY-SIZE DETECTOR FOR GWs



67 pulsars observed
by NG

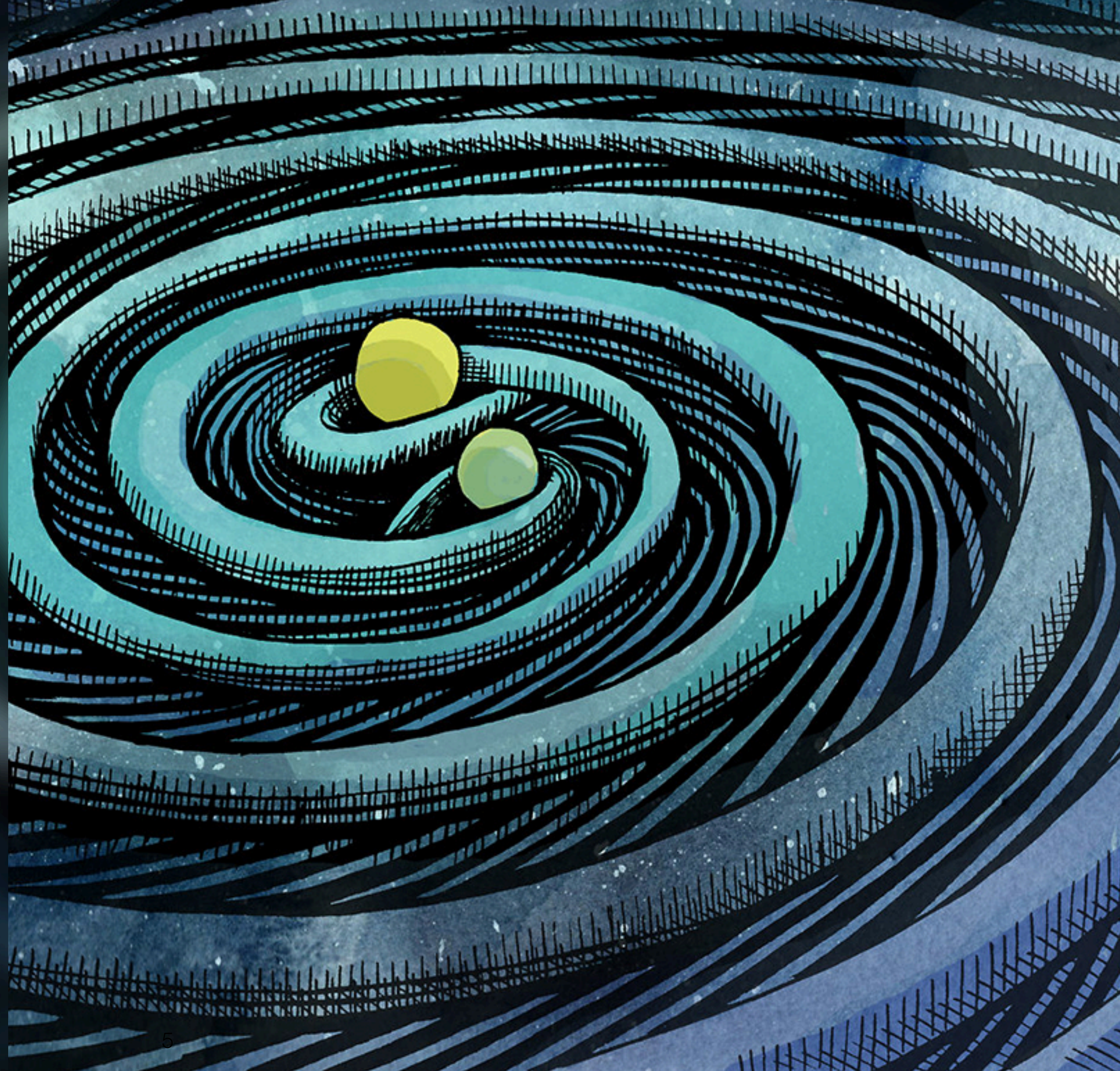
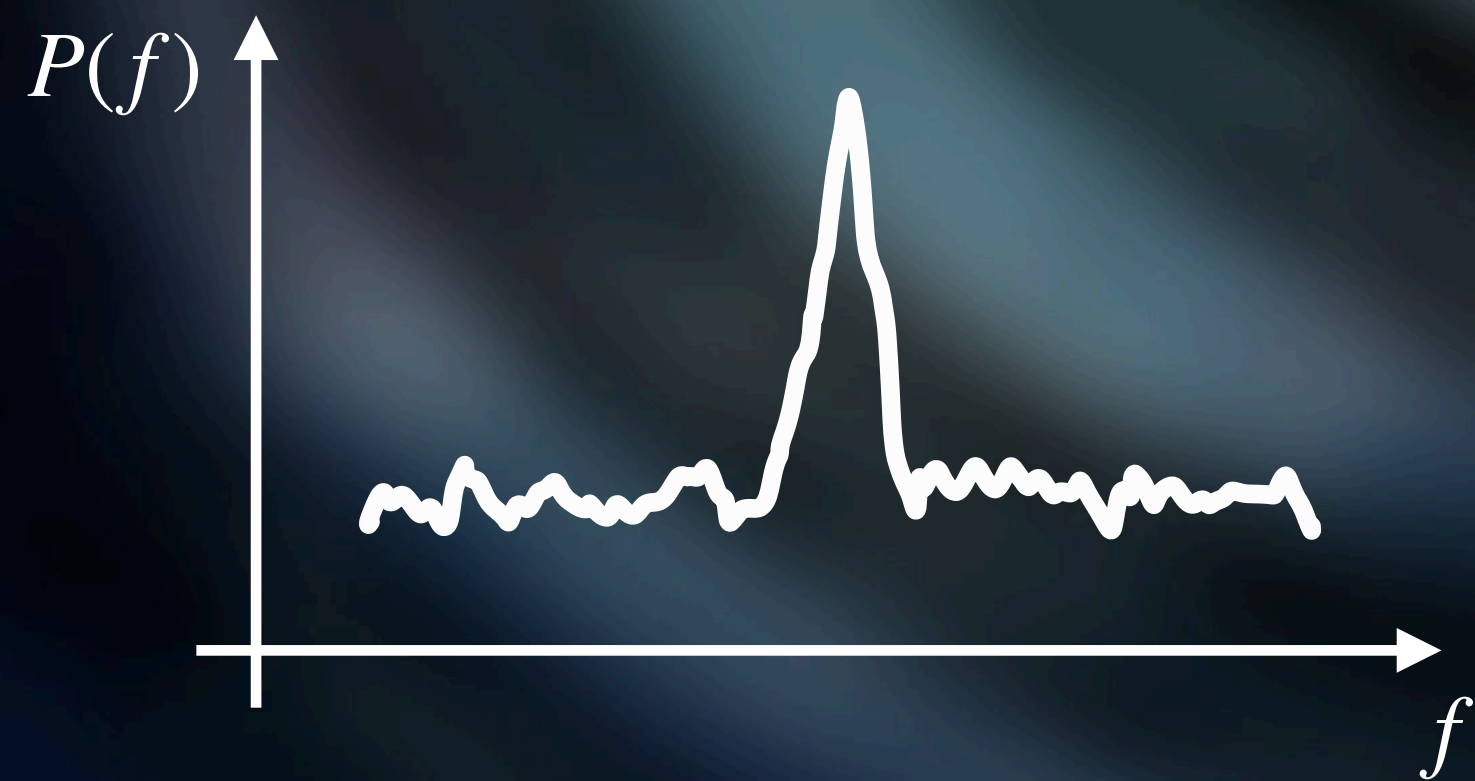
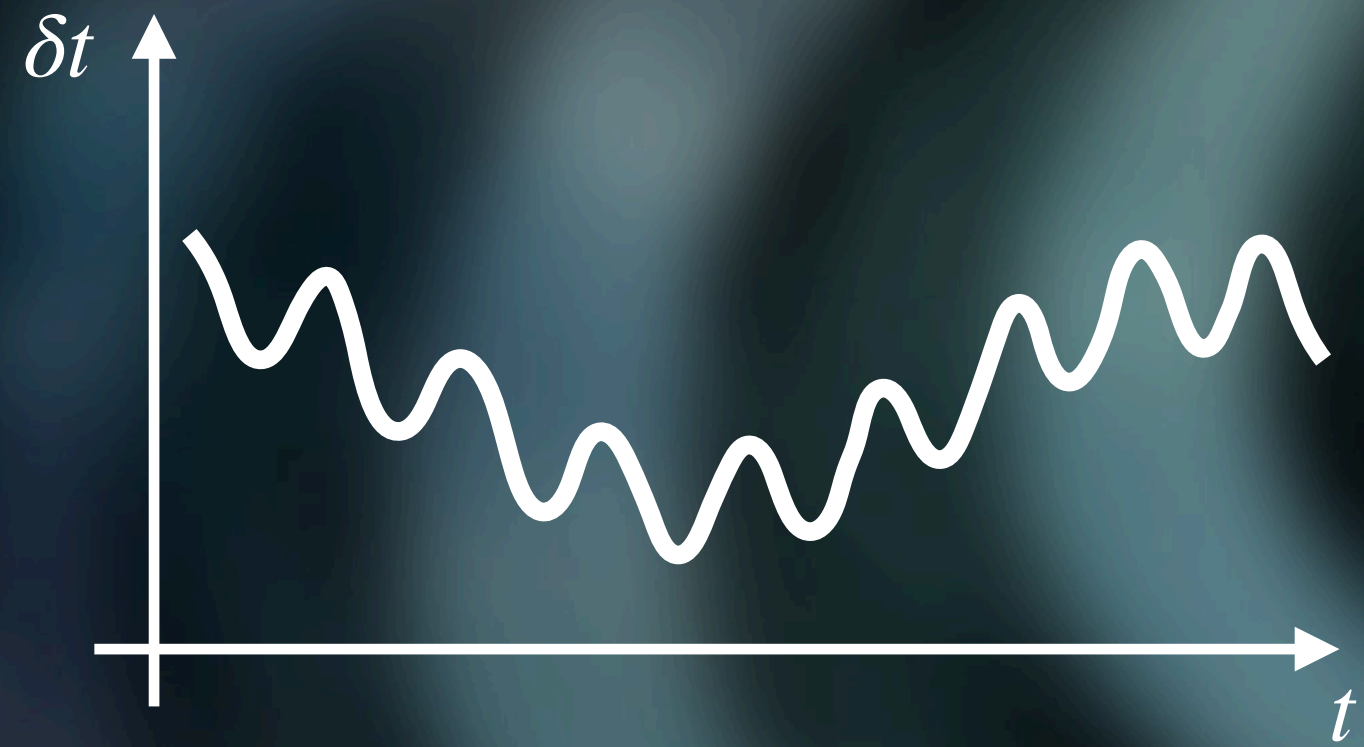
observing
baseline of 15 yrs

distance to pulsars up
to ~kpc

IPTA DR3 will contain
>100 pulsars

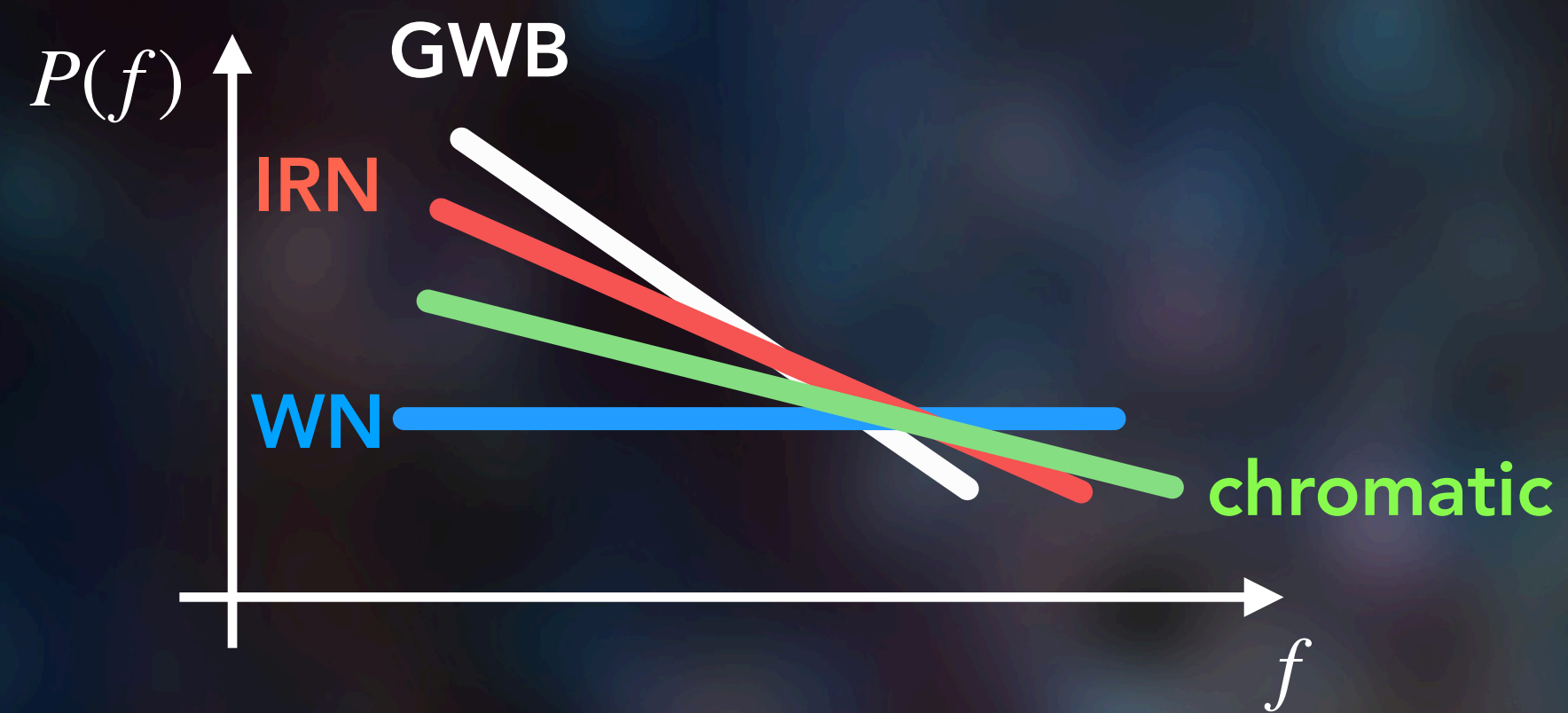
CONTINUOUS WAVE

$$h_{ij}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{A=+, \times} e_{ij}^A(\hat{n}) \cos [\omega(t - \hat{n} \cdot \mathbf{x})]$$



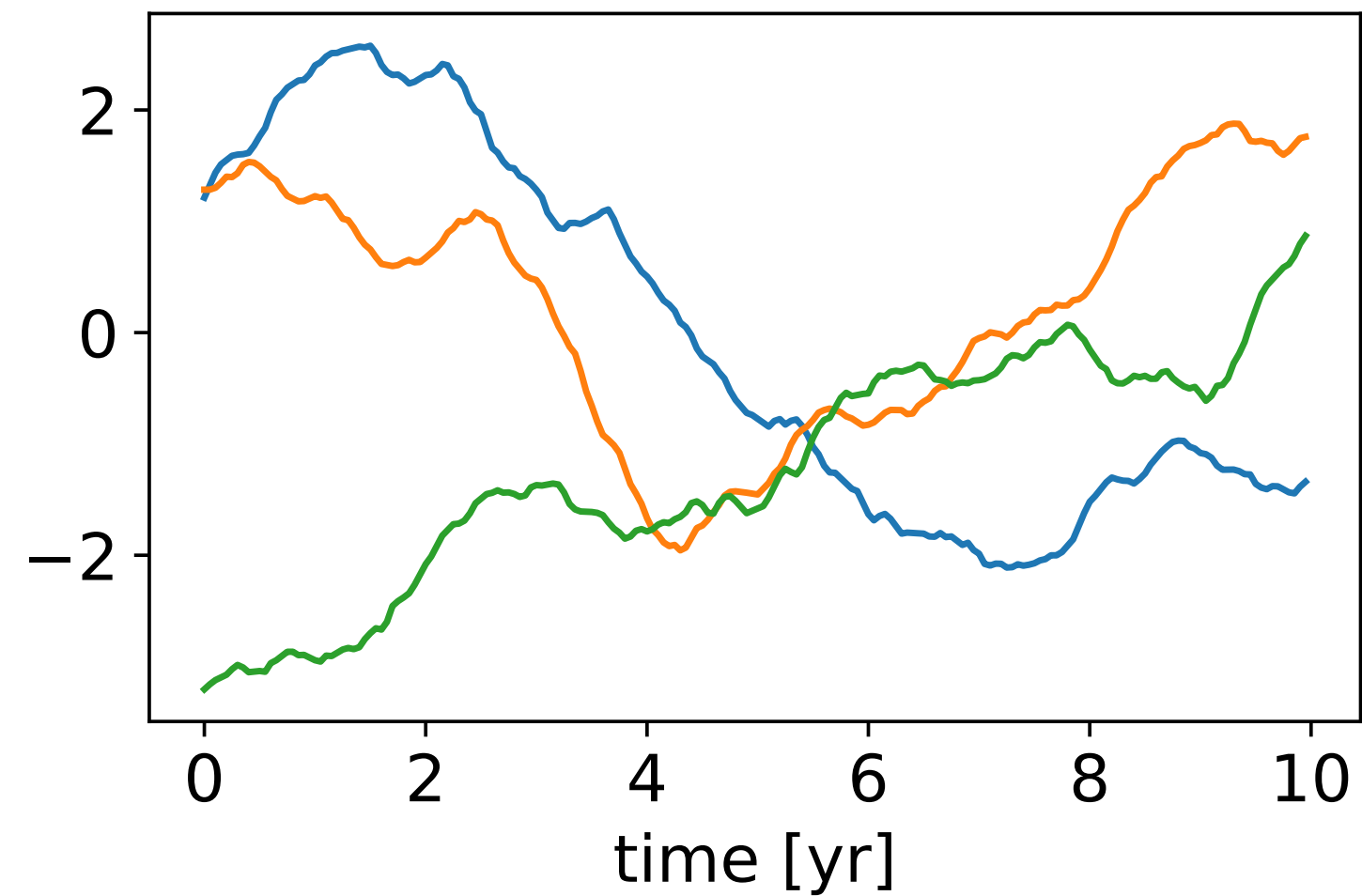
GW BACKGROUND

$$h_{ij}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{A=+, \times} \int df \int d^2\hat{n} \tilde{h}_A(f, \hat{n}) e_{ij}^A(\hat{n}) e^{-2\pi i f(t - \hat{n} \cdot \mathbf{x})}$$



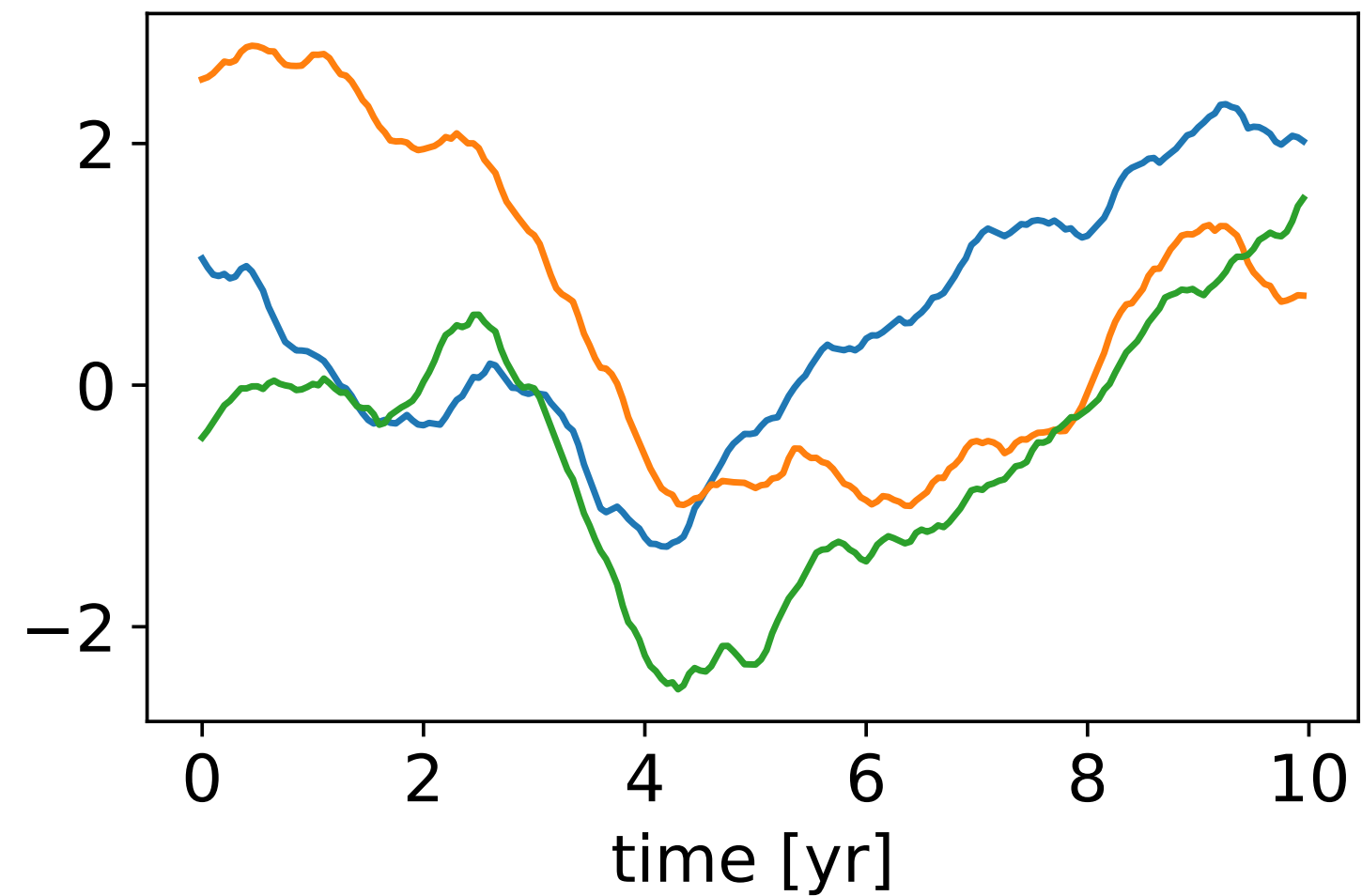
CORRELATIONS EXAMPLE

$$\Gamma_{ab} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



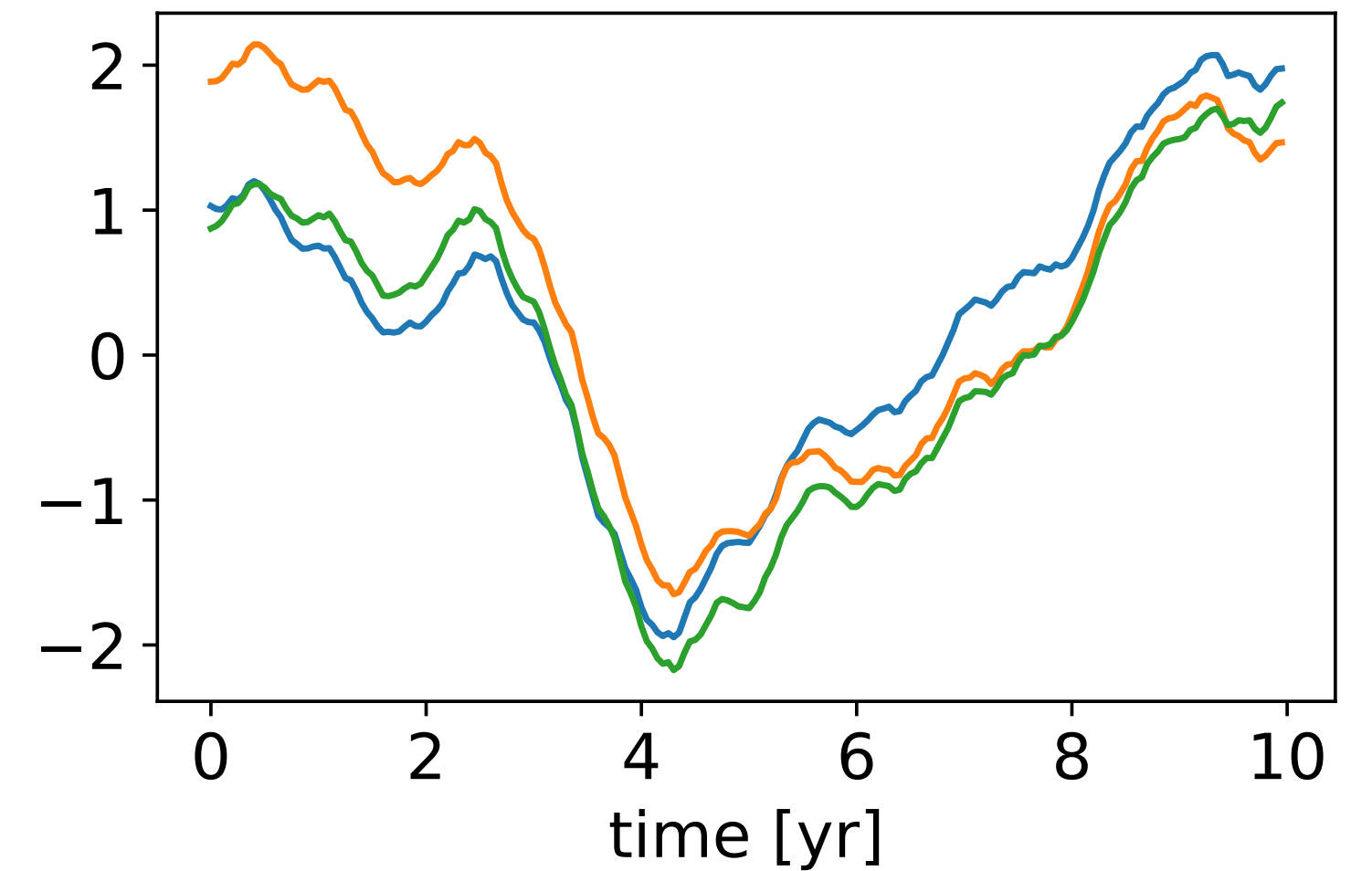
uncorrelated

$$\Gamma_{ab} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.5 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 1 & 0.5 \\ 0.5 & 0.5 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



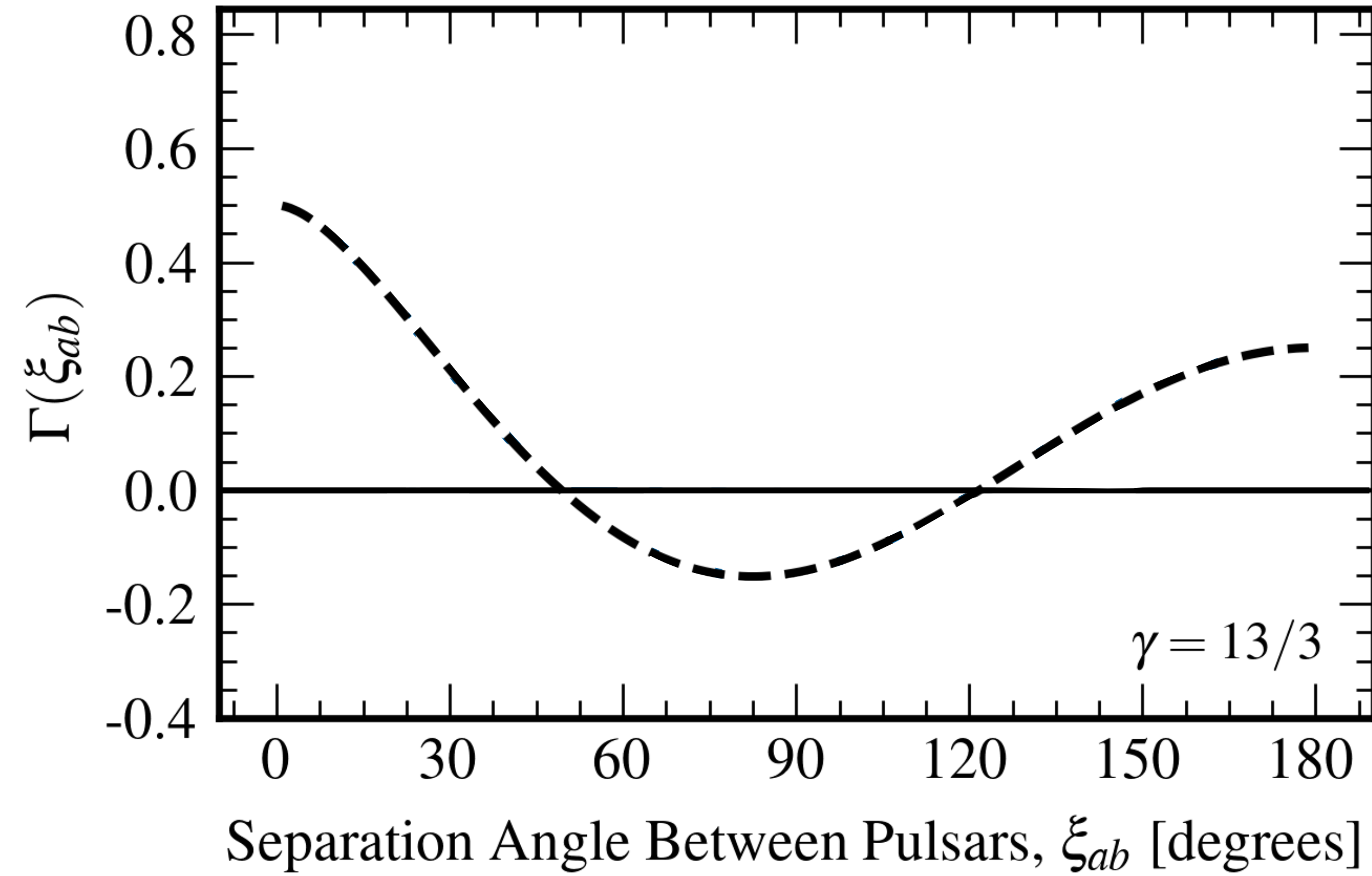
moderately correlated

$$\Gamma_{ab} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0.95 & 0.95 \\ 0.95 & 1 & 0.95 \\ 0.95 & 0.95 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

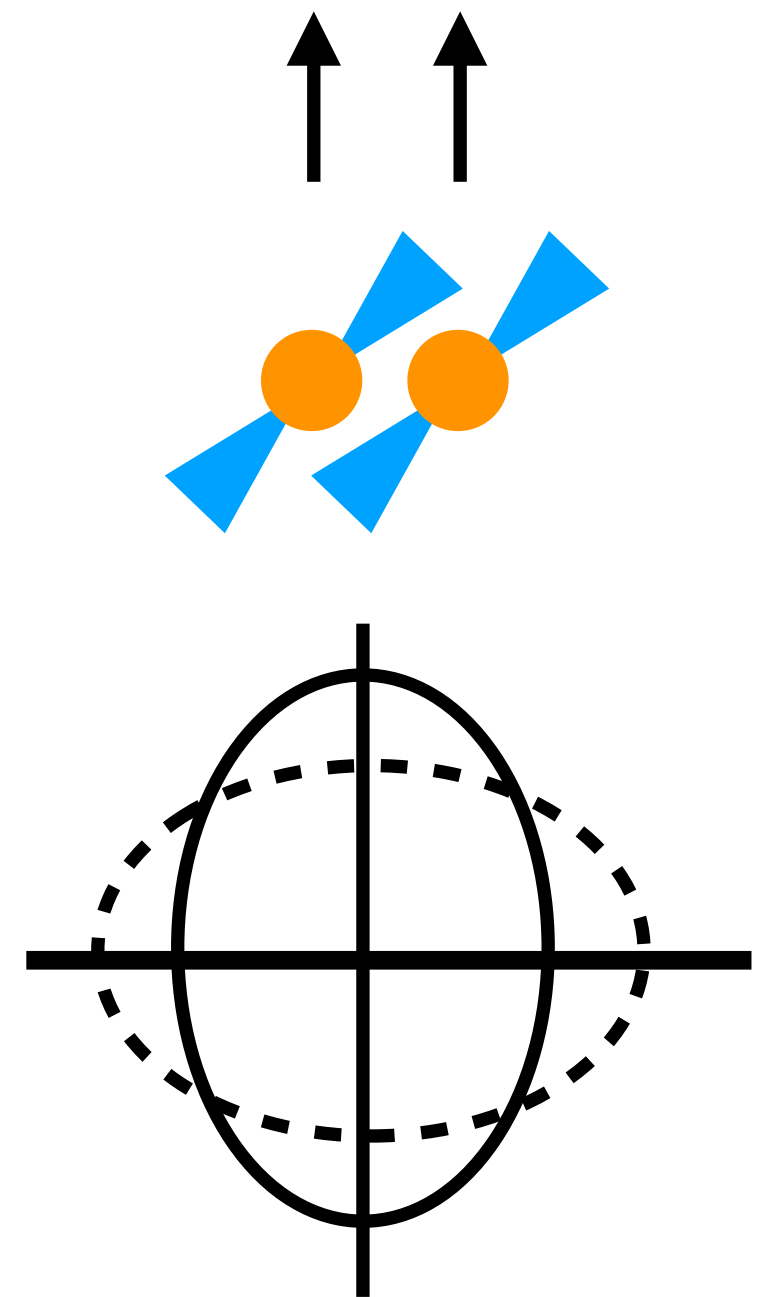
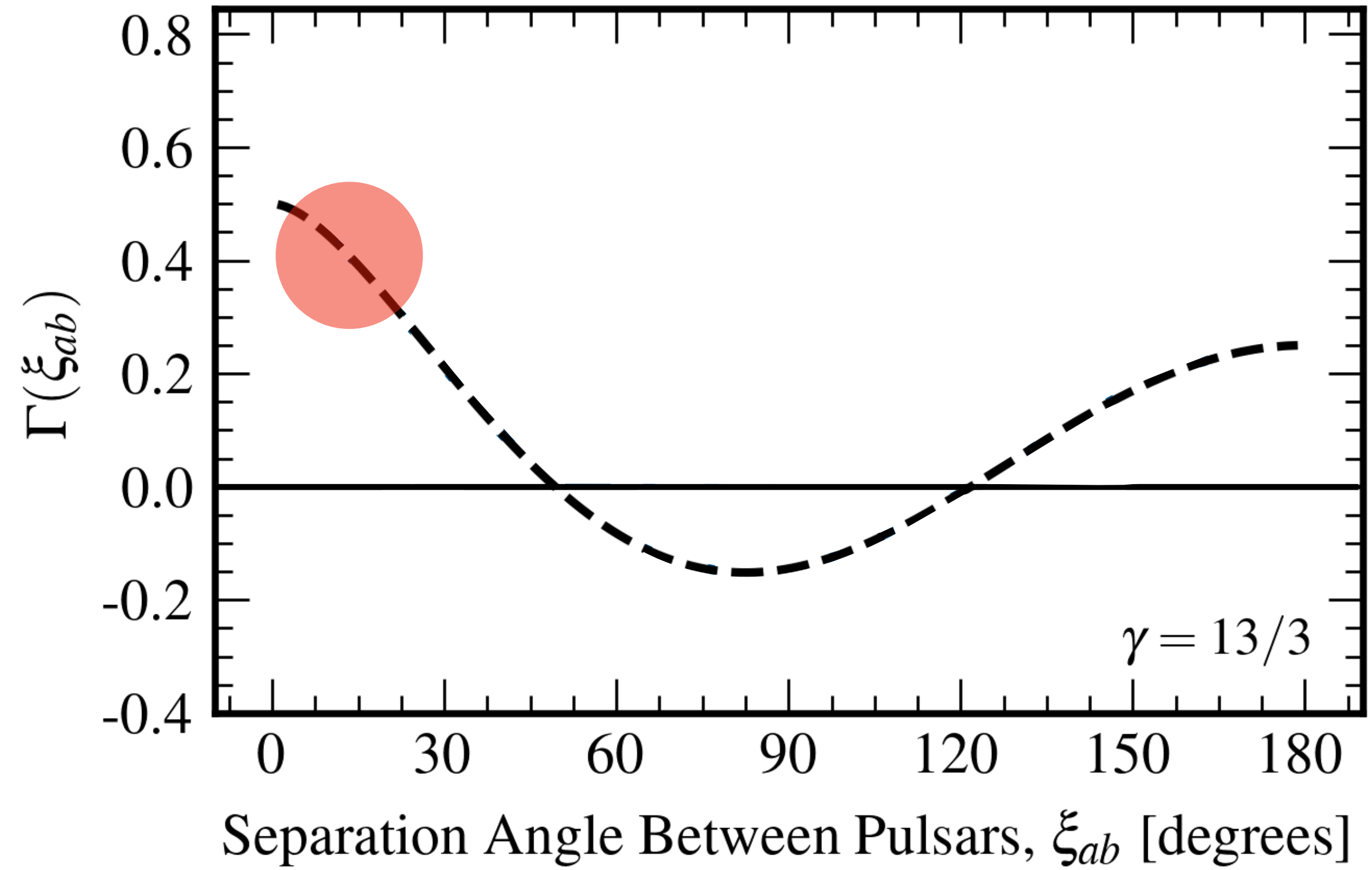


strongly correlated

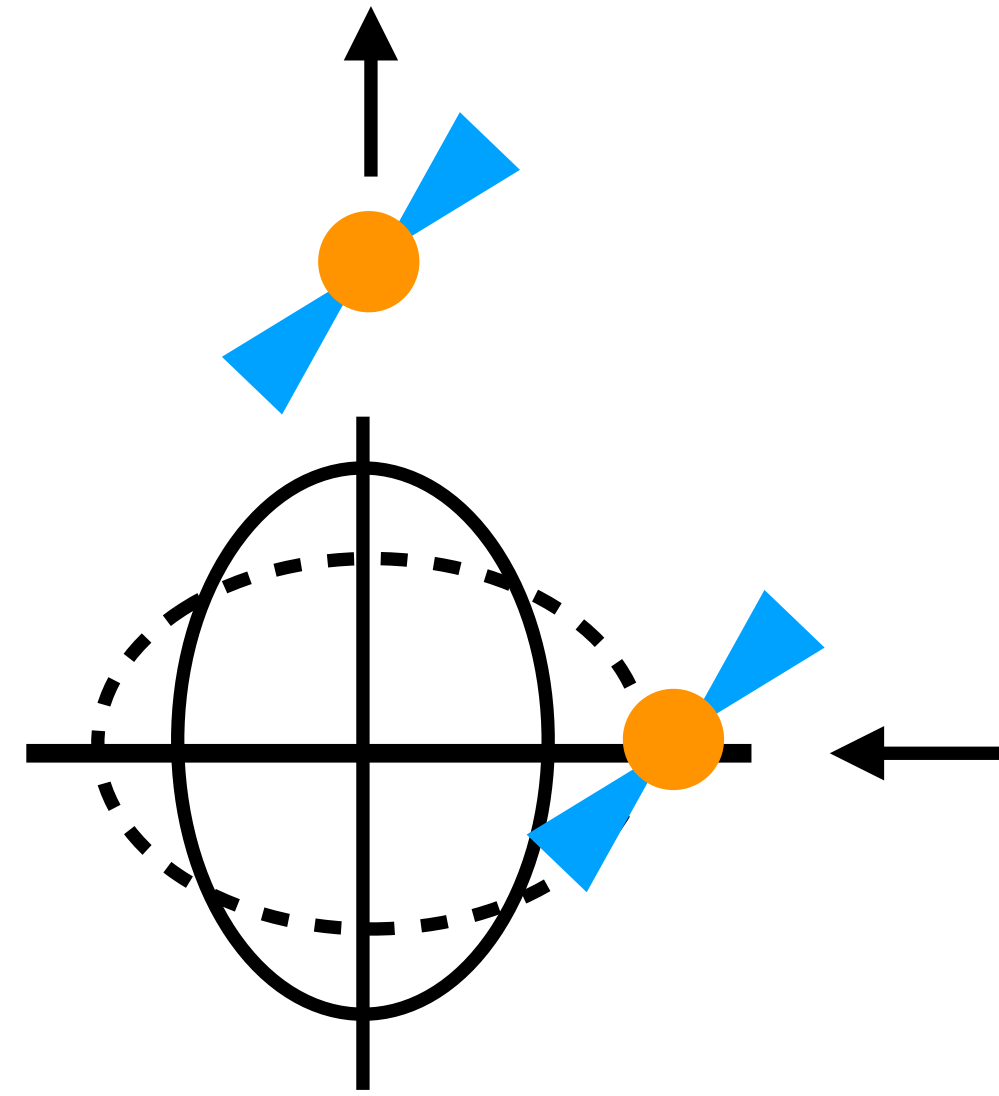
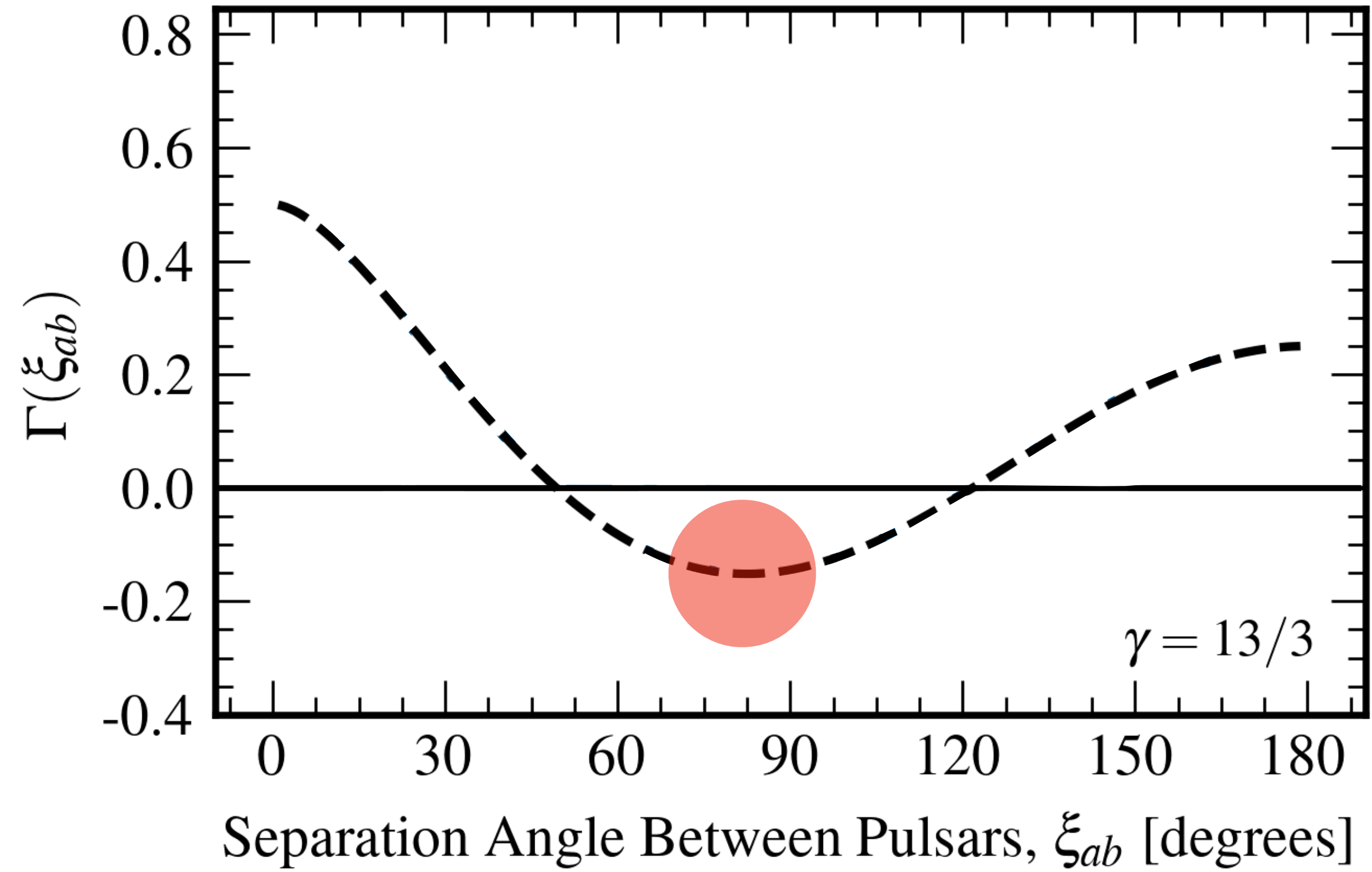
HELLINGS & DOWNS CURVE



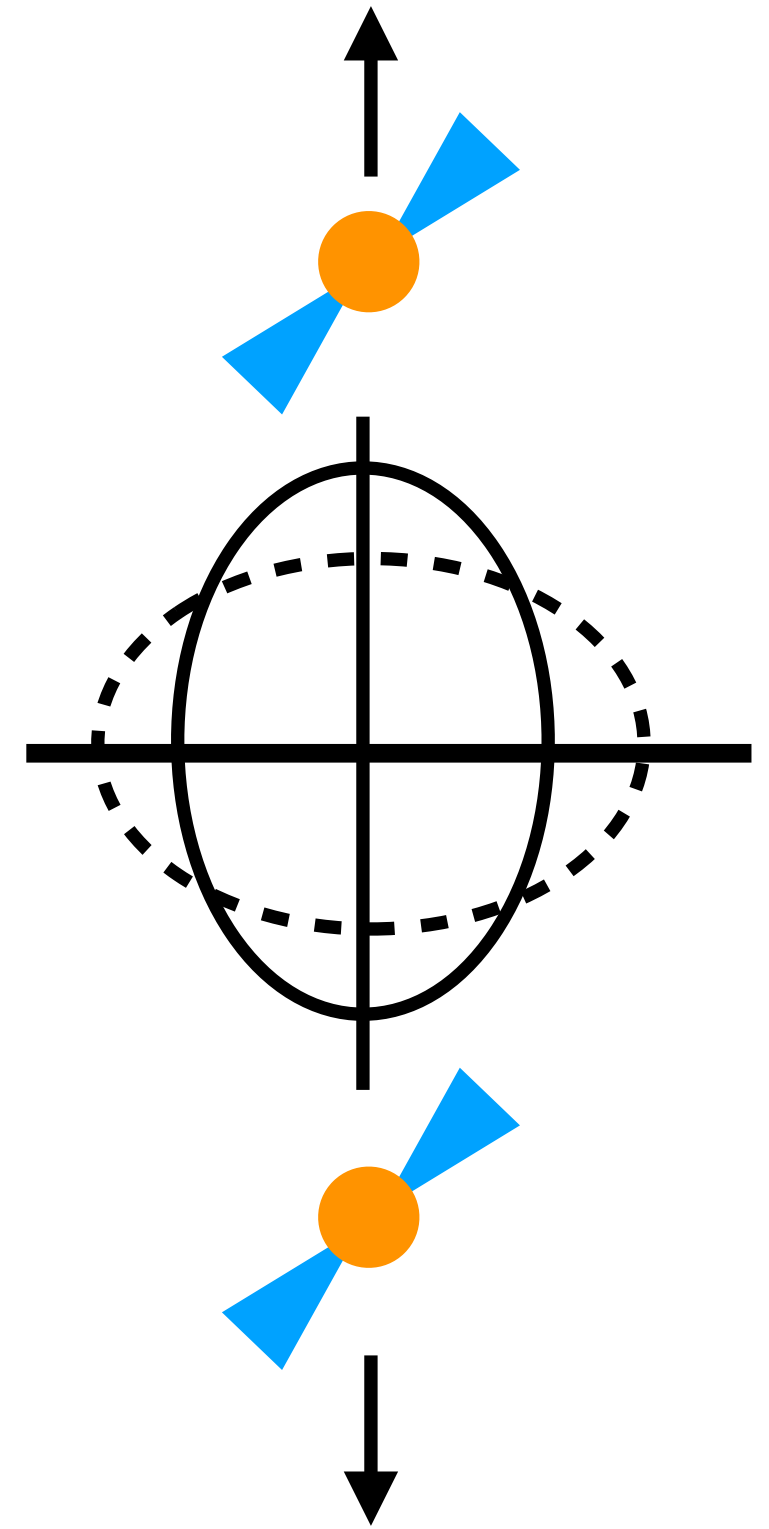
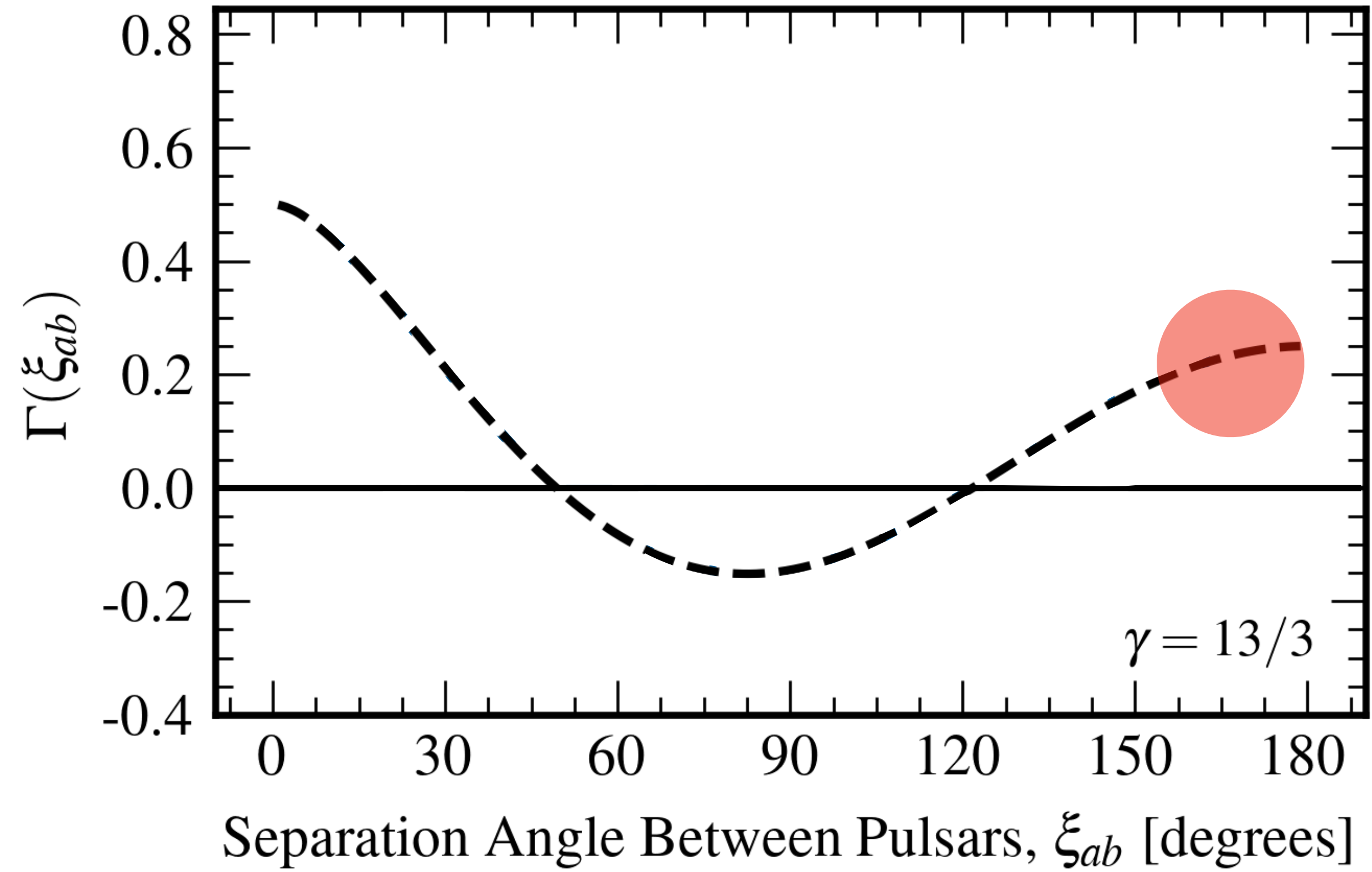
HELLINGS & DOWNS CURVE



HELLINGS & DOWNS CURVE

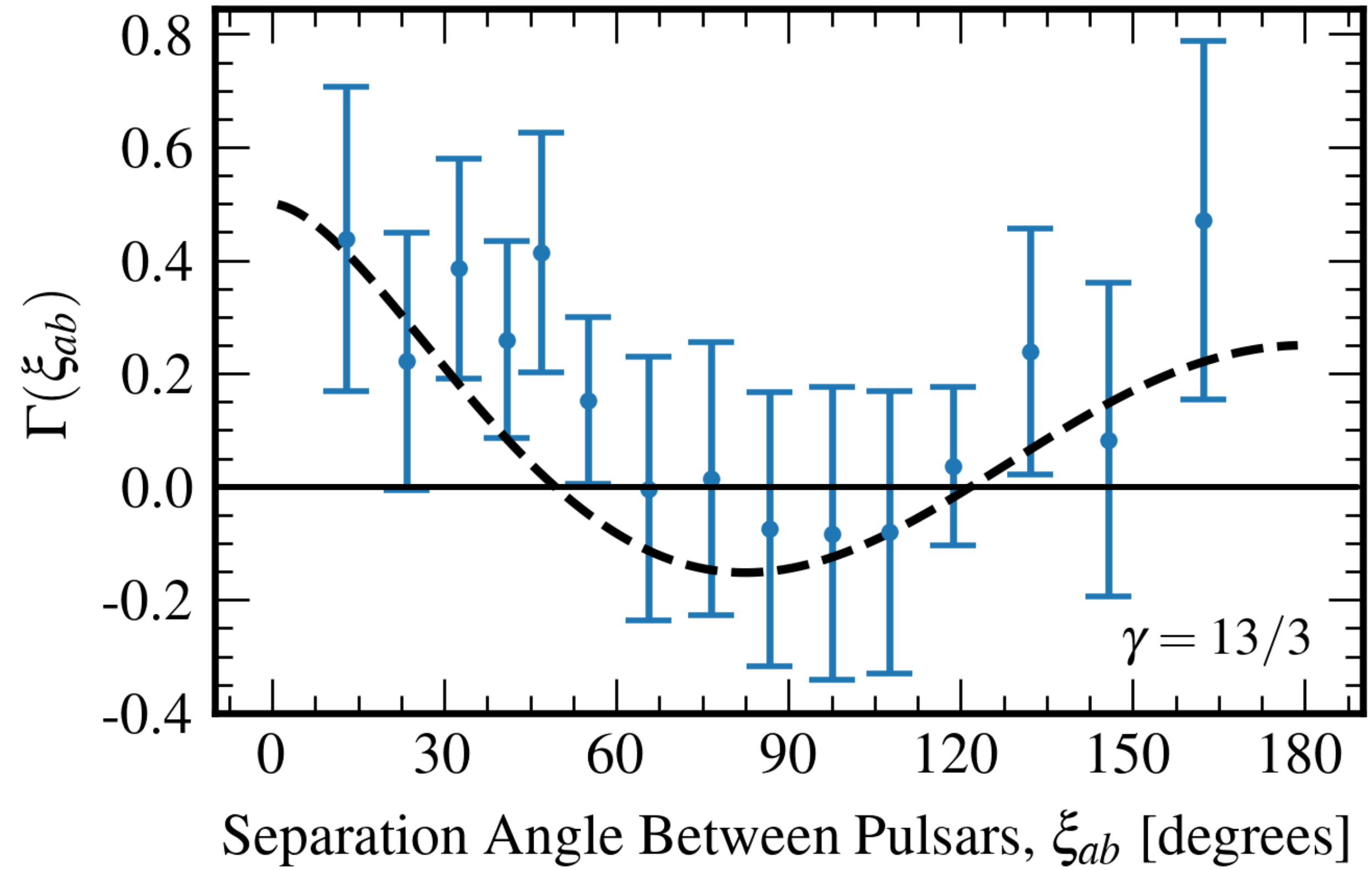


HELLINGS & DOWNS CURVE



EVIDENCE FOR GWB

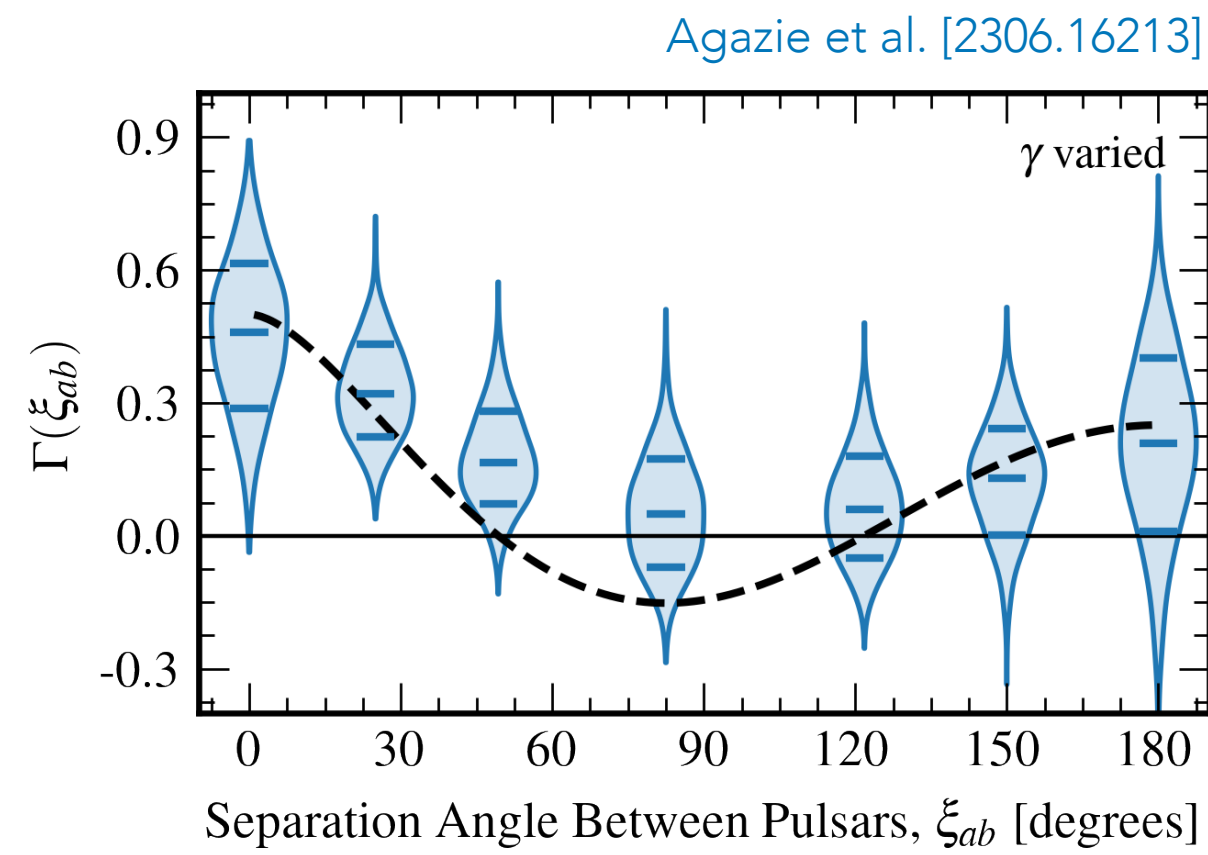
Agazie et al. [2306.16213]



EVIDENCE FOR GWB

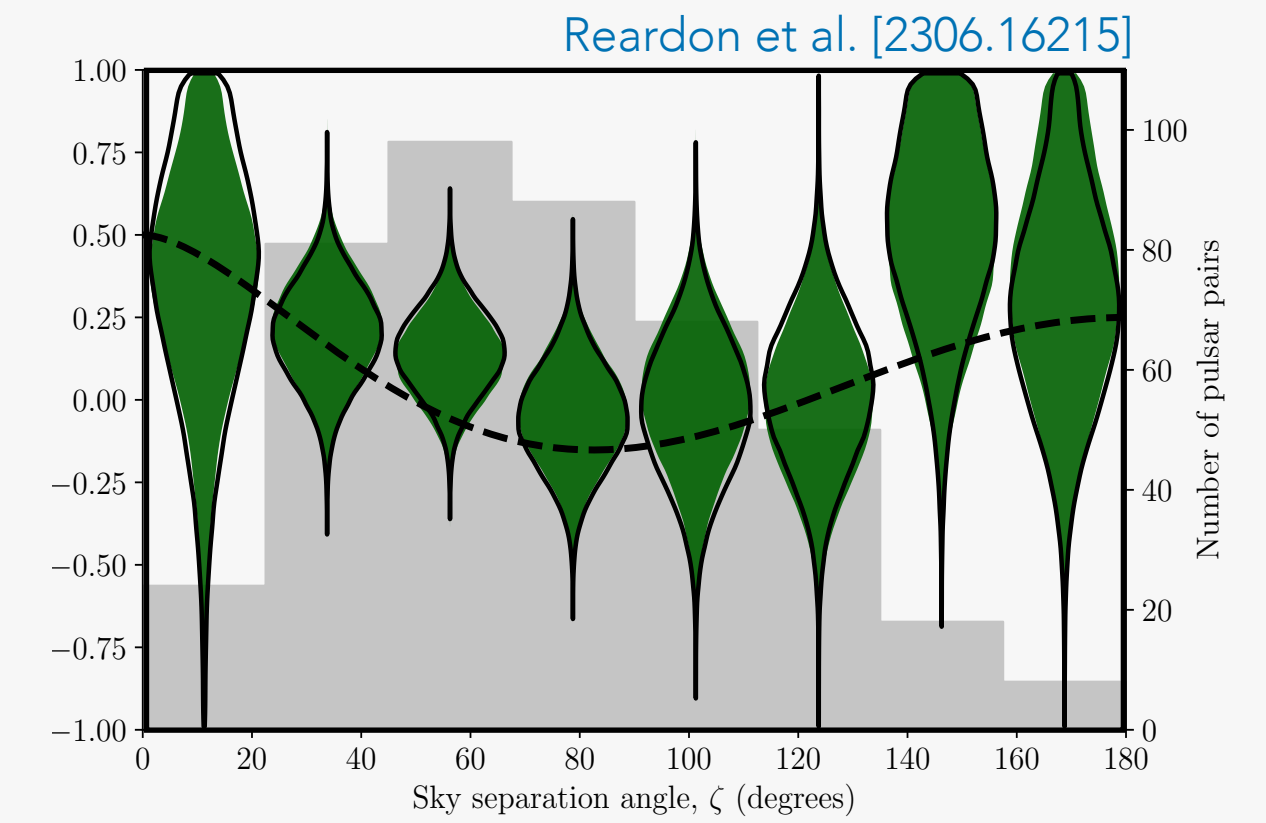
NANOGrav:

68 pulsars, 16yr of data
~3-4 σ significance



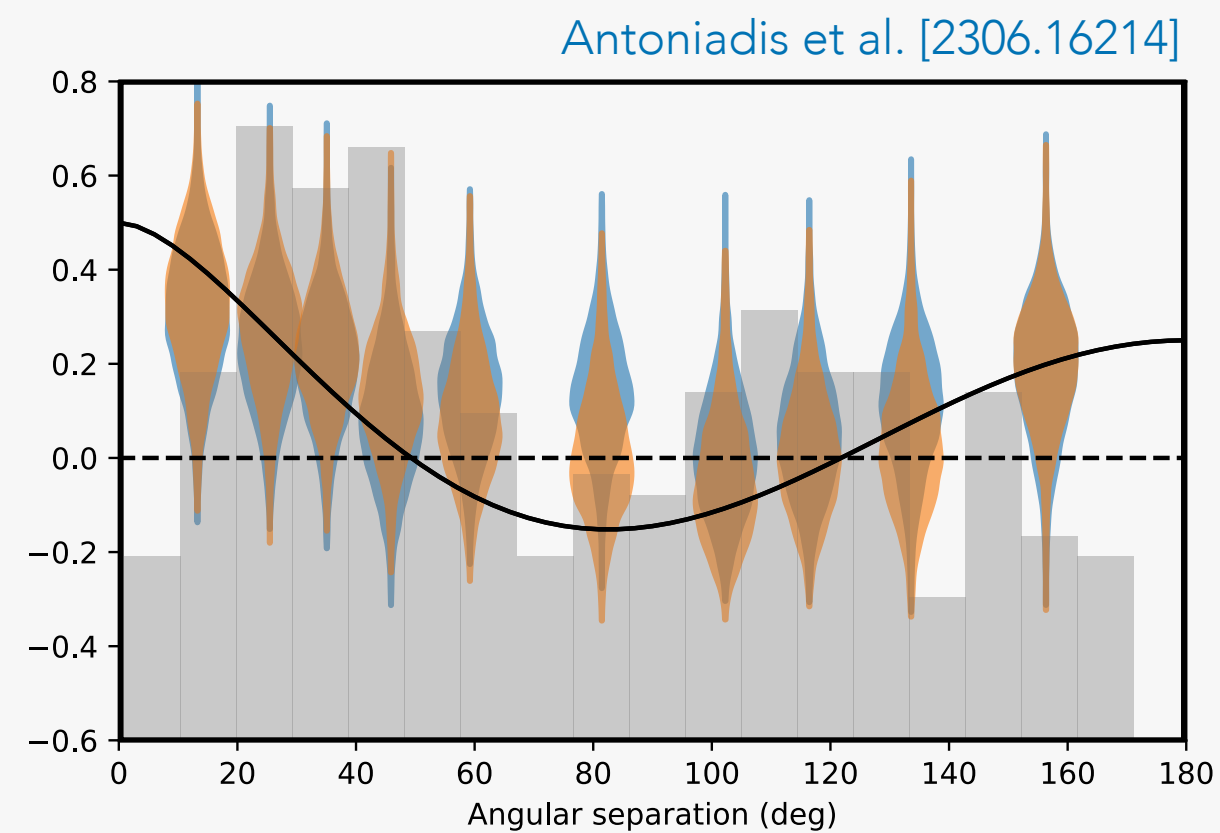
PPTA:

32 pulsars, 18yr of data
~2 σ significance



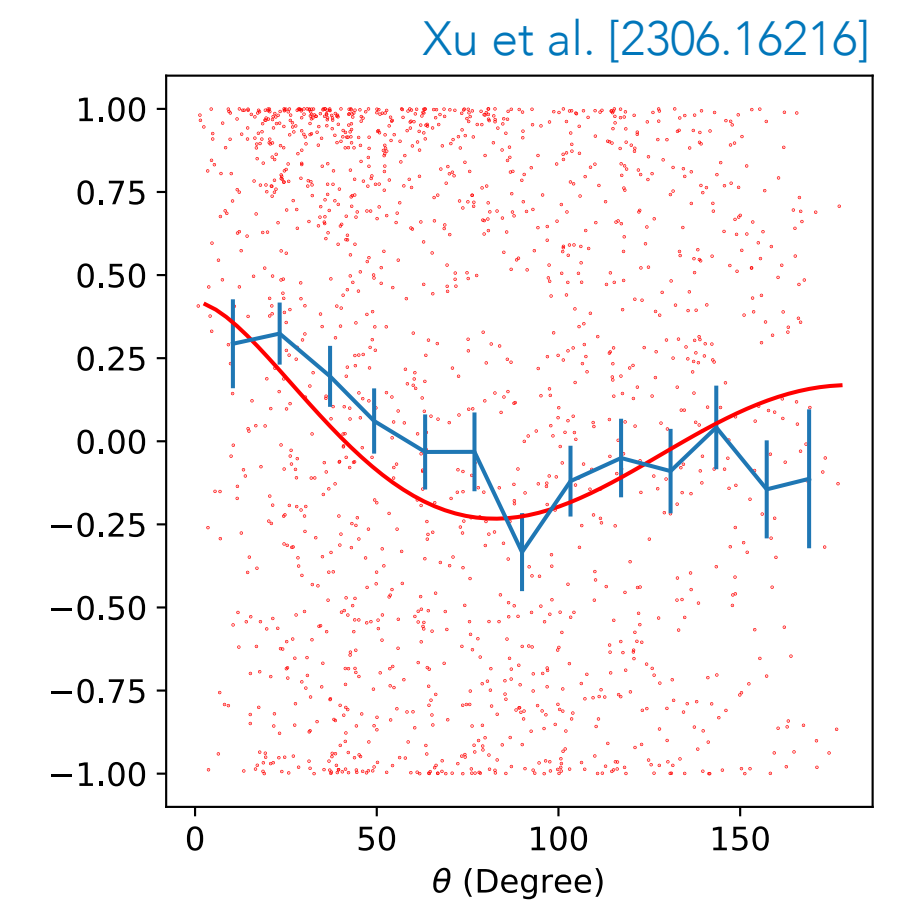
EPTA + InPTA:

25 pulsars, 24yr of data
~3 σ significance



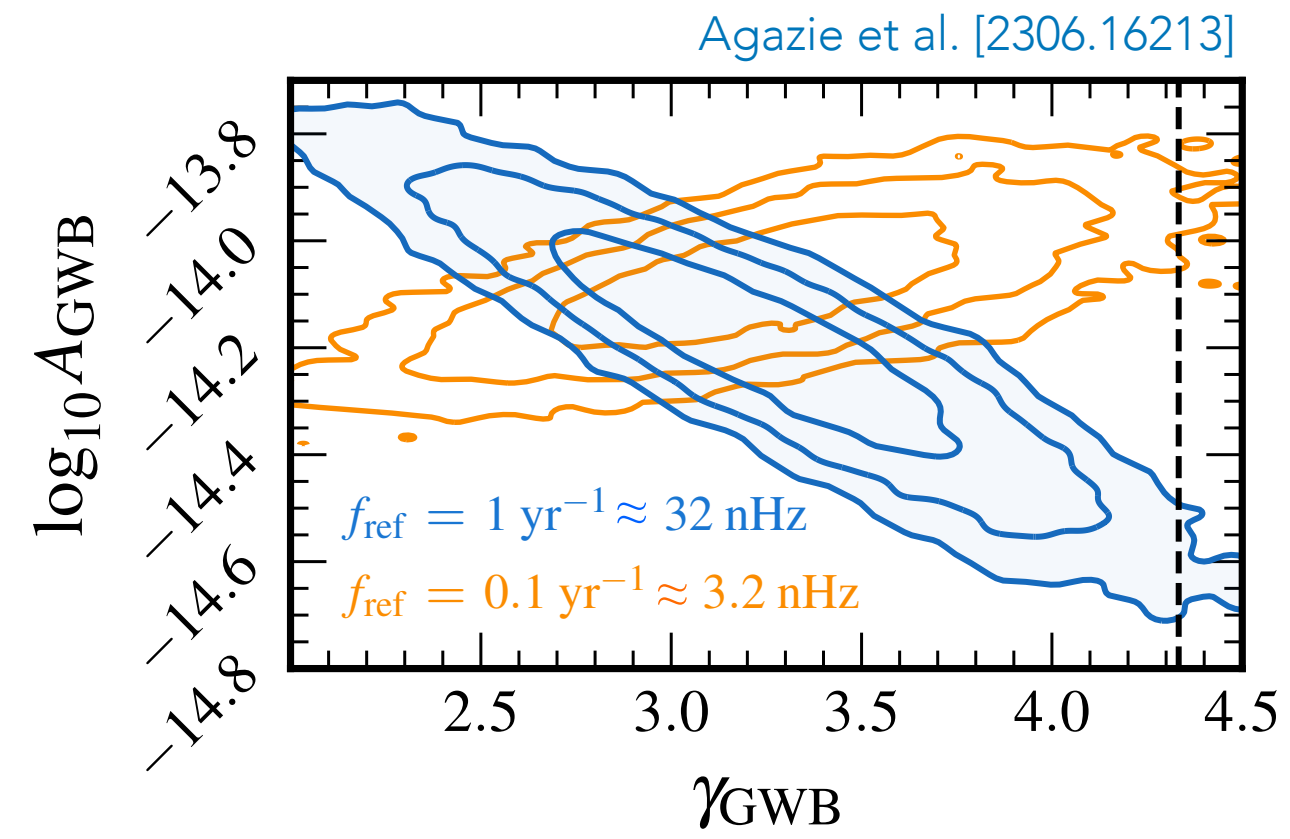
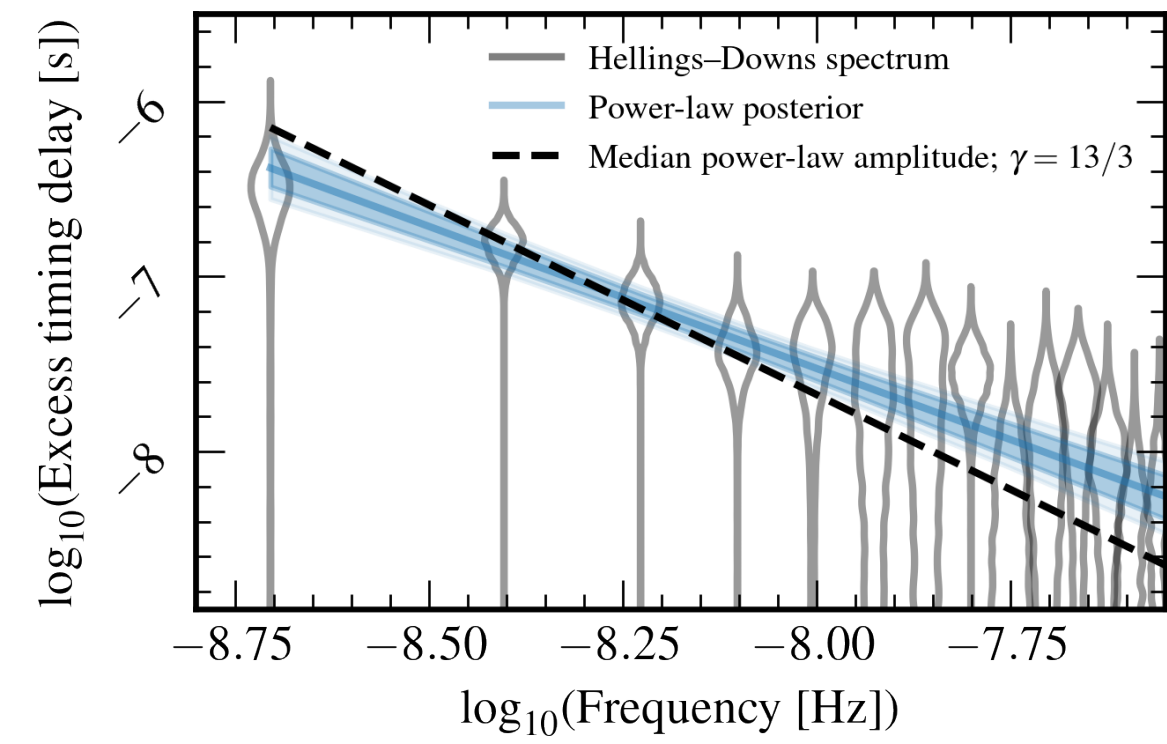
CPTA:

57 pulsars, 3yr of data
~4.6 σ significance

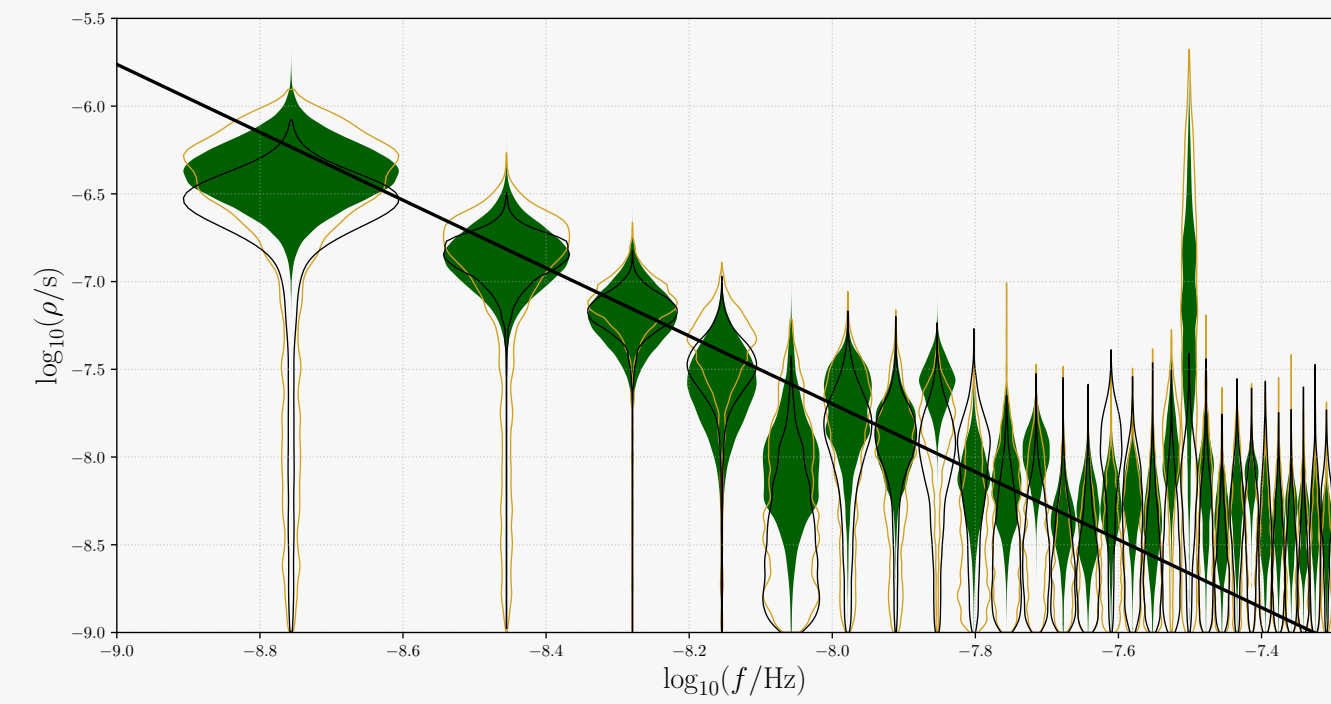


SPECTRUM

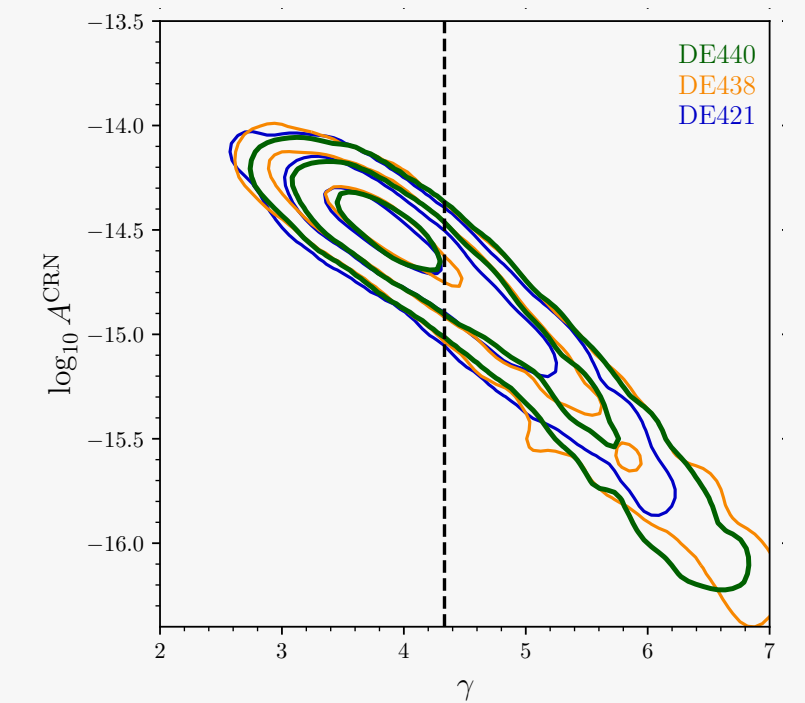
NANOGrav



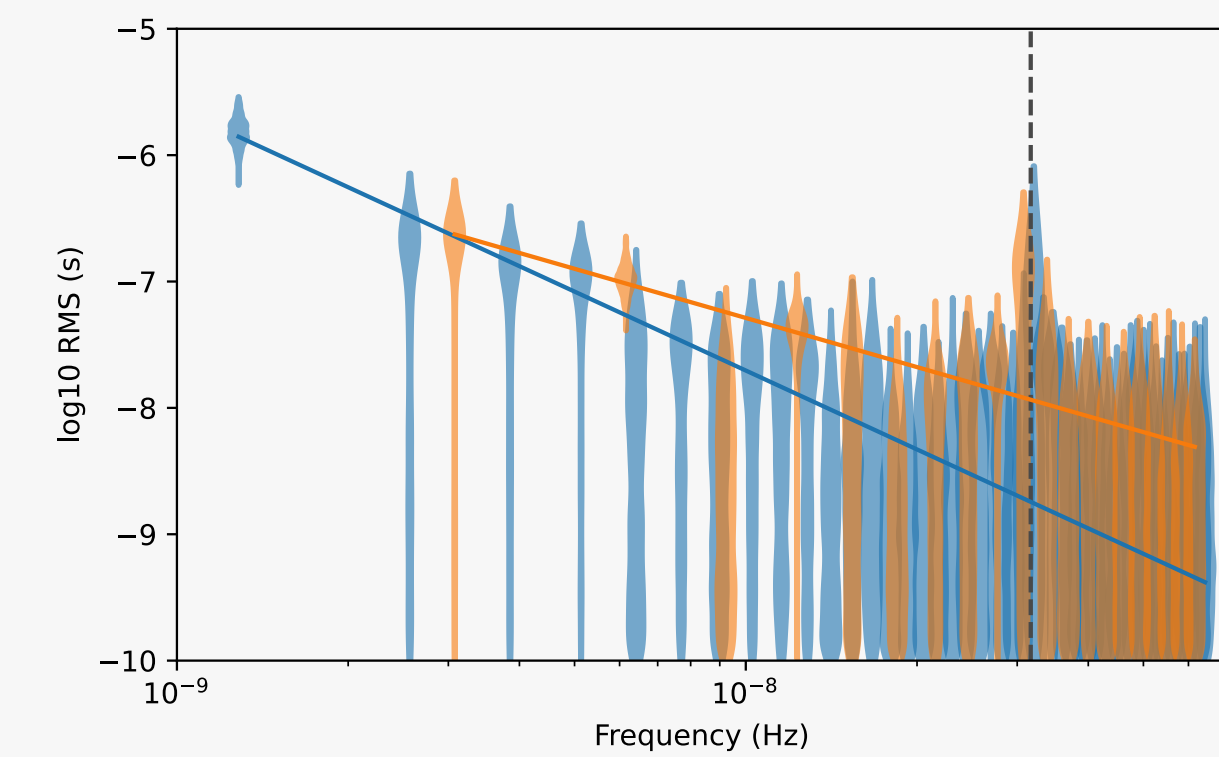
PPTA



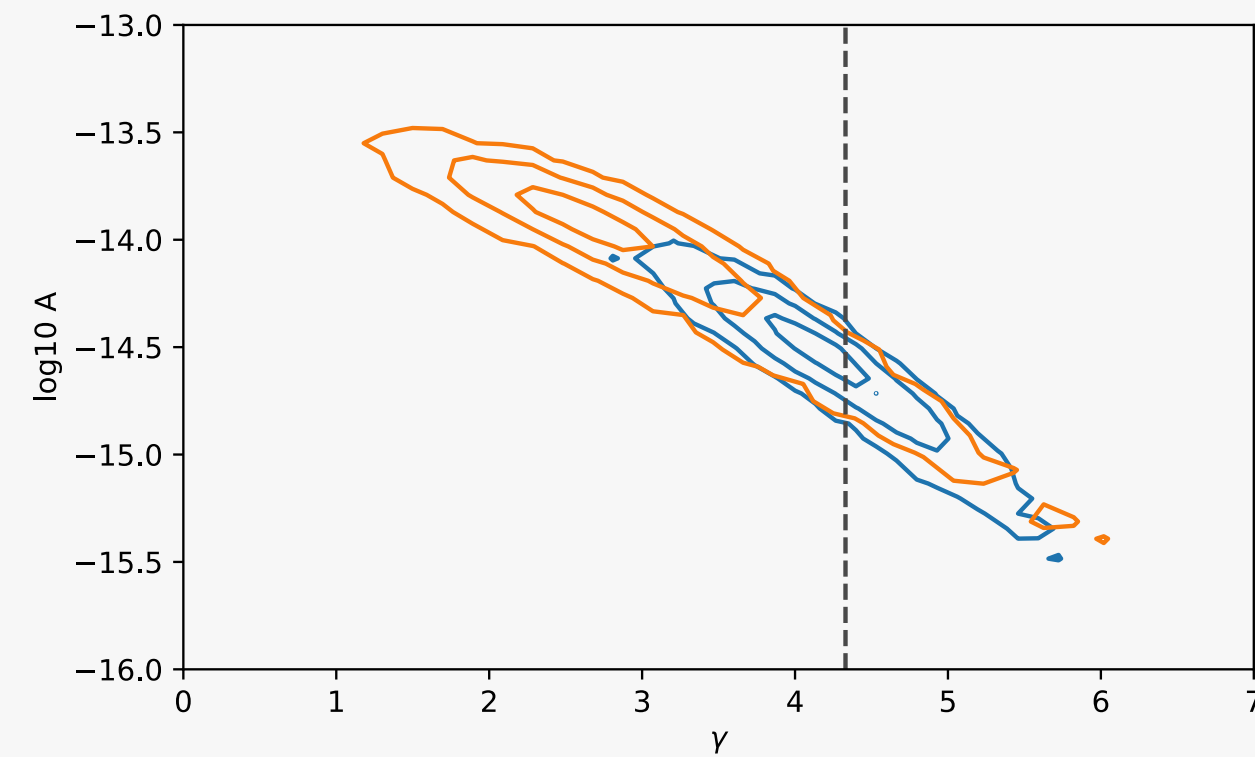
Reardon et al. [2306.16215]



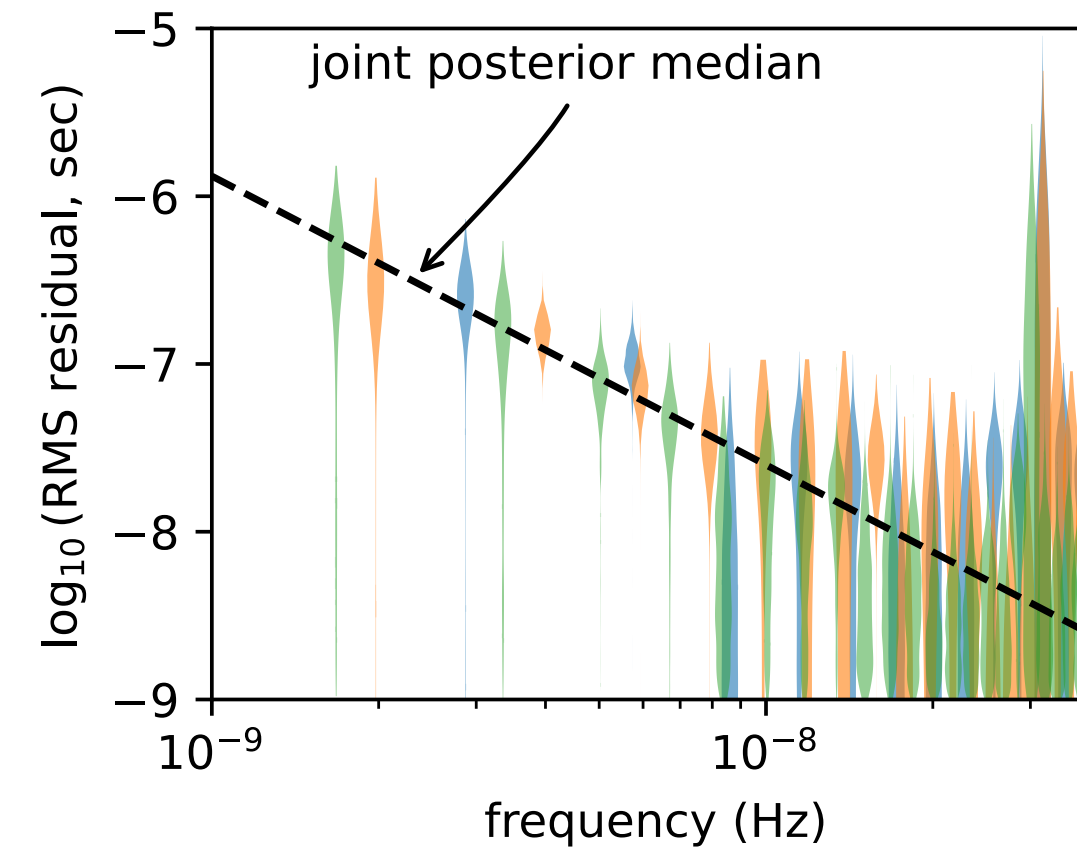
EPTA + InPTA



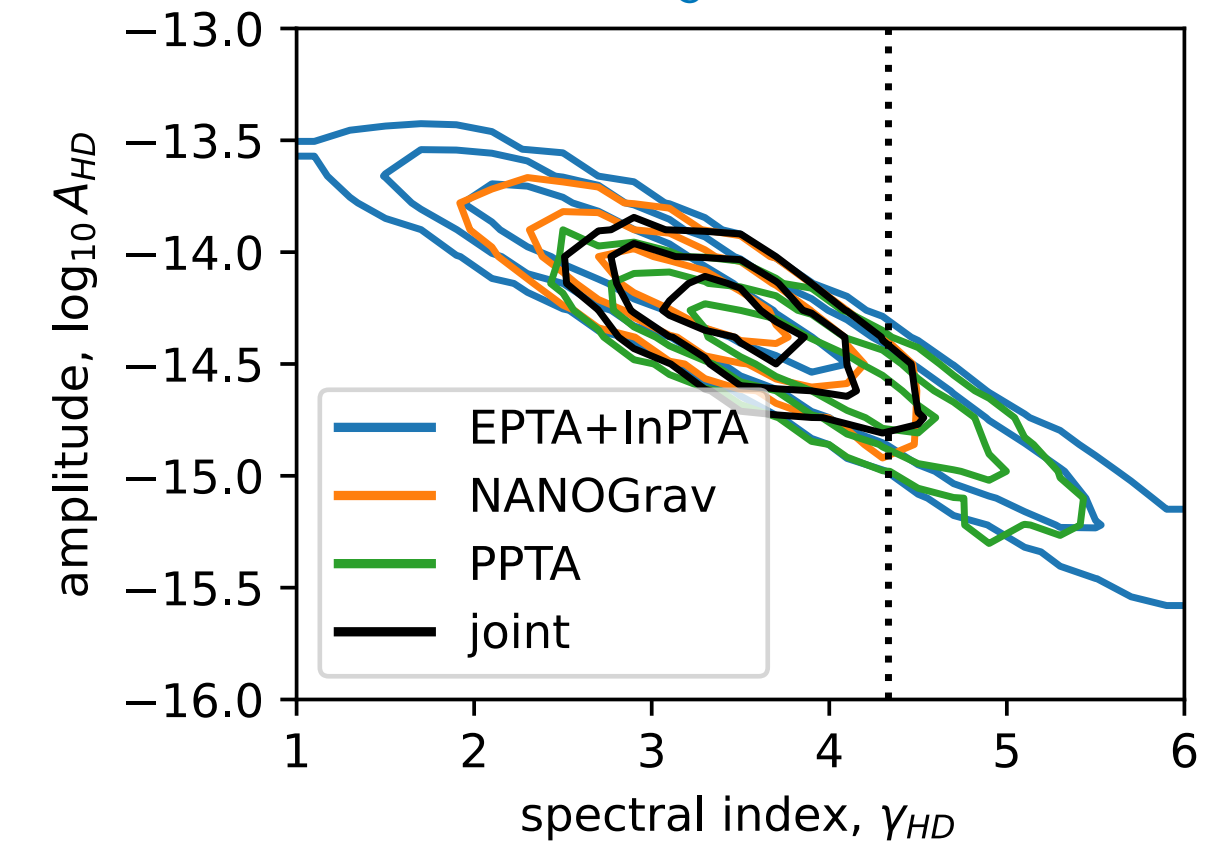
Antoniadis et al. [2306.16214]



IPTA early data combination



Agazie et al. [2309.00693]



ANISOTROPIES

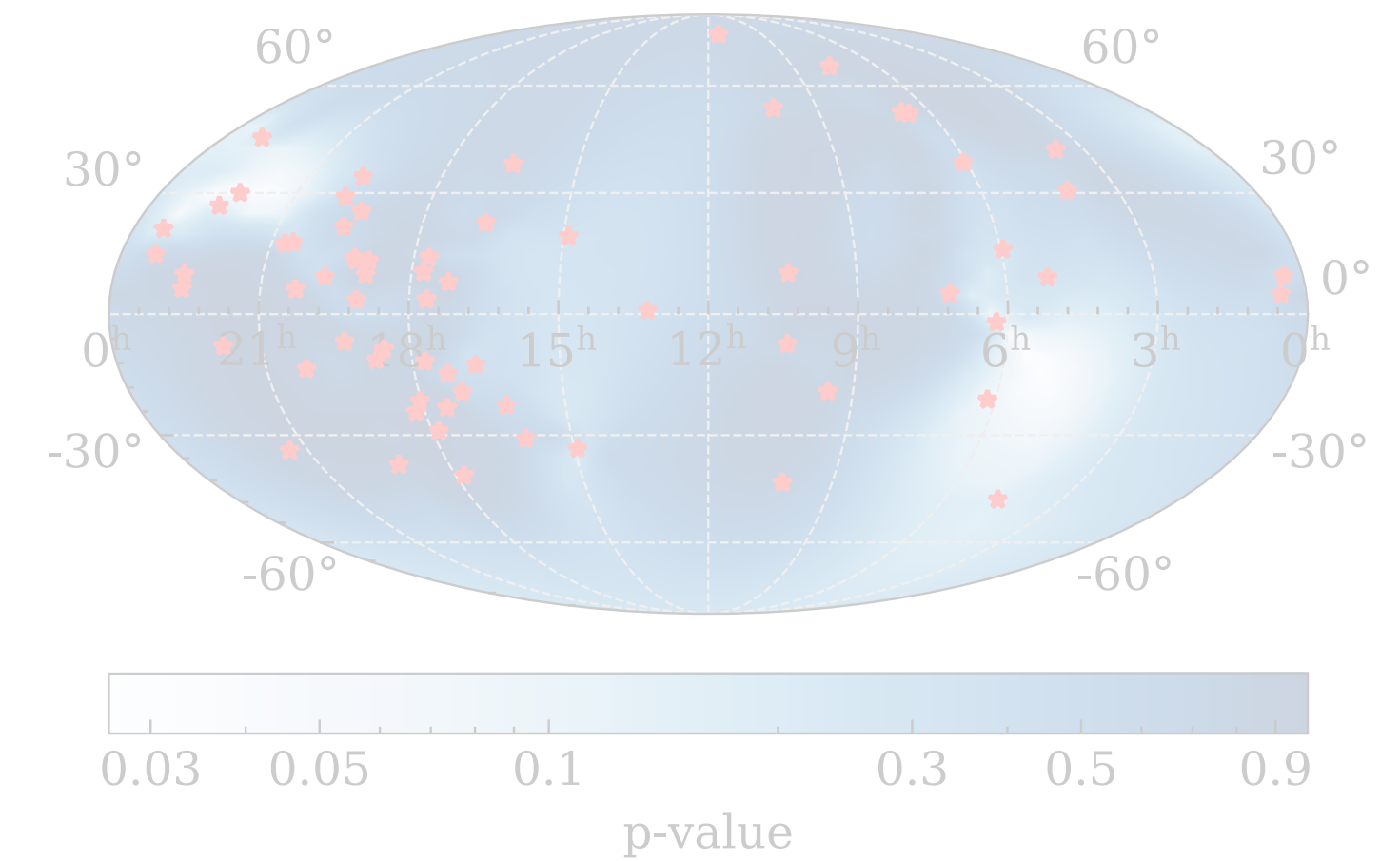
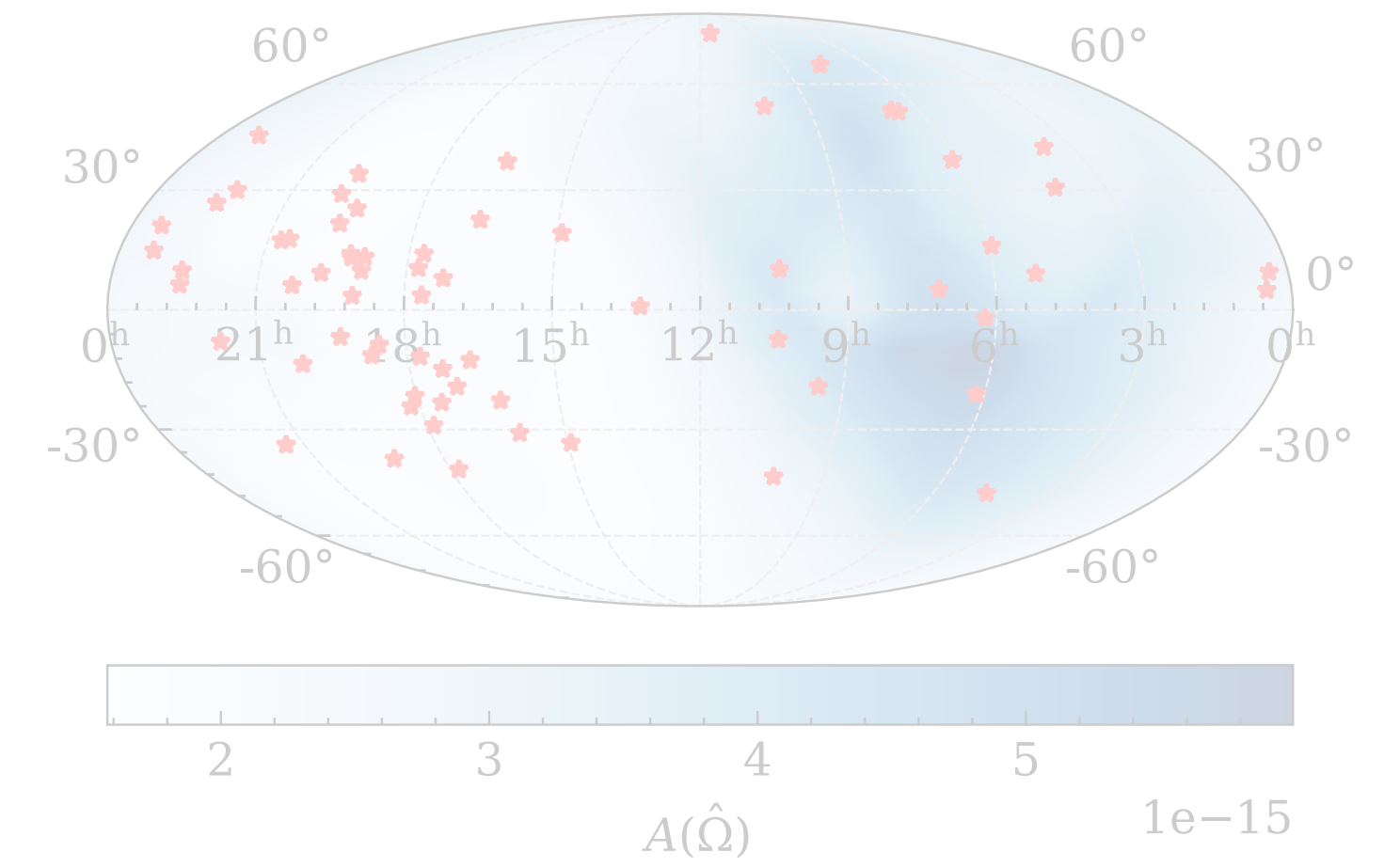
$$\Gamma_{ab} \propto \sum_k R_{ab,k} \cdot P_k$$

↑
overlap reduction
function

↑
PTA response
function

↑
GWB power

for $P_k = \text{const}$, Γ_{ab} reduces to the HD overlap reduction function

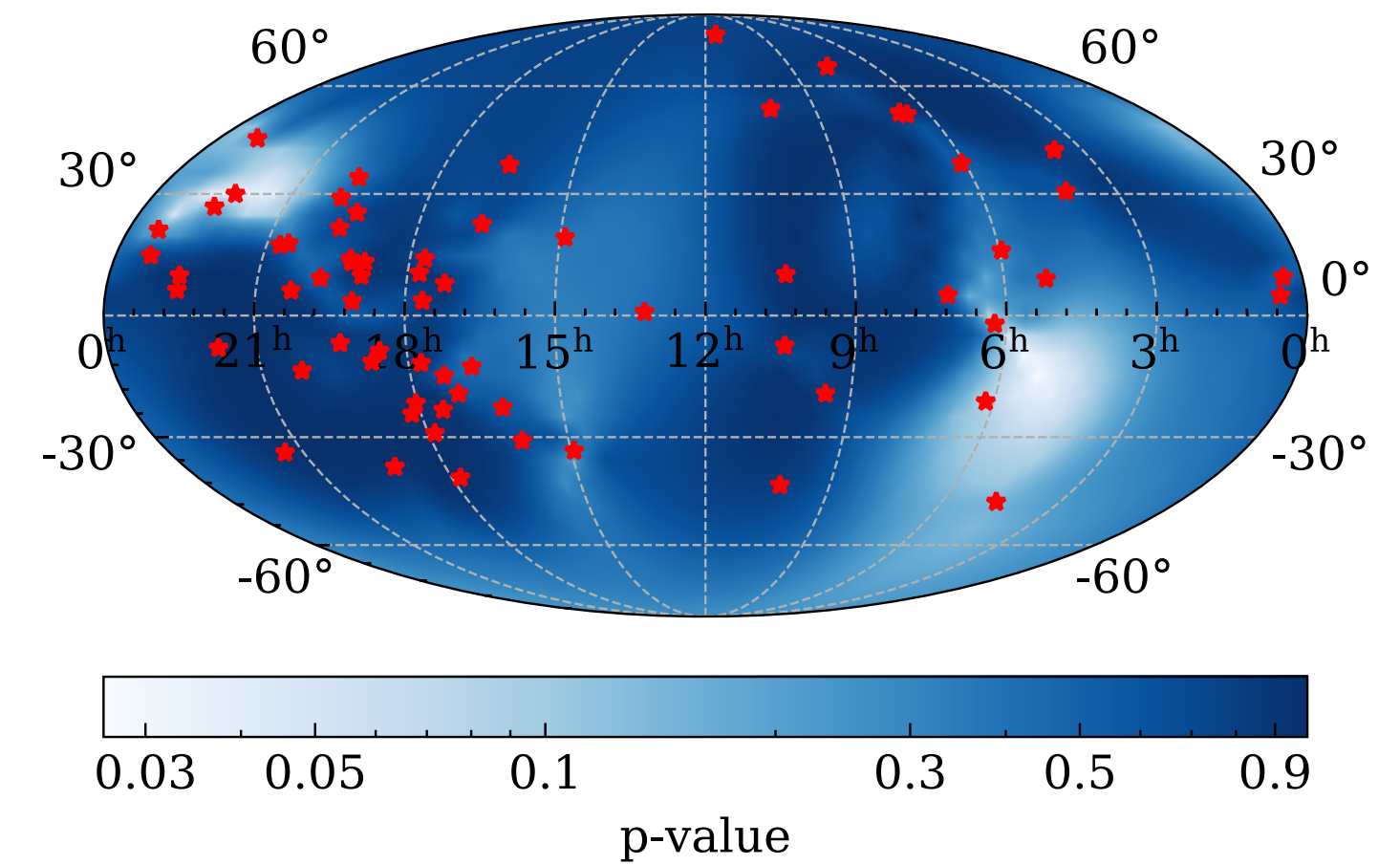
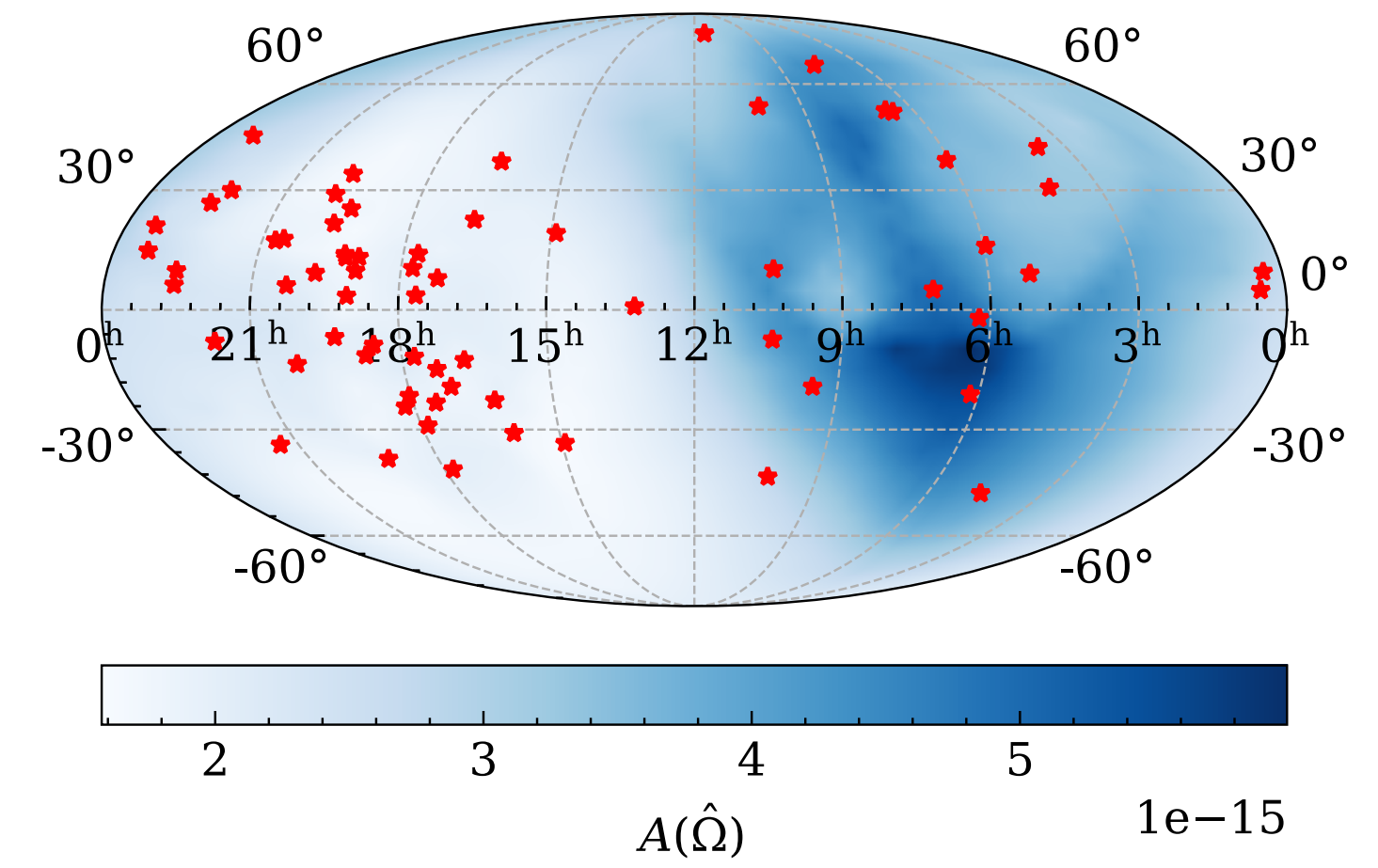


ANISOTROPIES

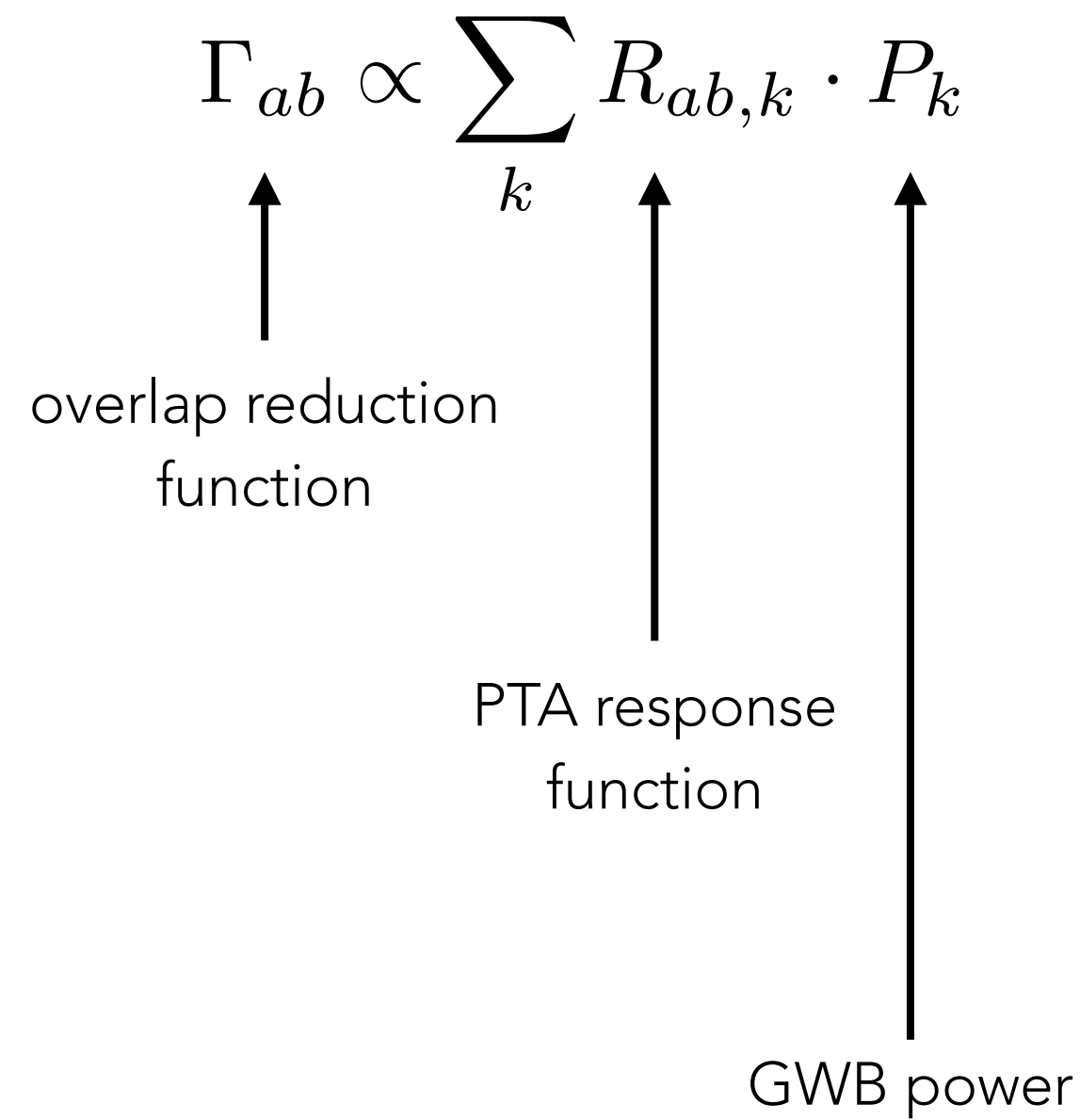
$$\Gamma_{ab} \propto \sum_k R_{ab,k} \cdot P_k$$

\uparrow overlap reduction function
 \uparrow PTA response function
 \uparrow GWB power

for $P_k = \text{const}$, Γ_{ab} reduces to the HD overlap reduction function

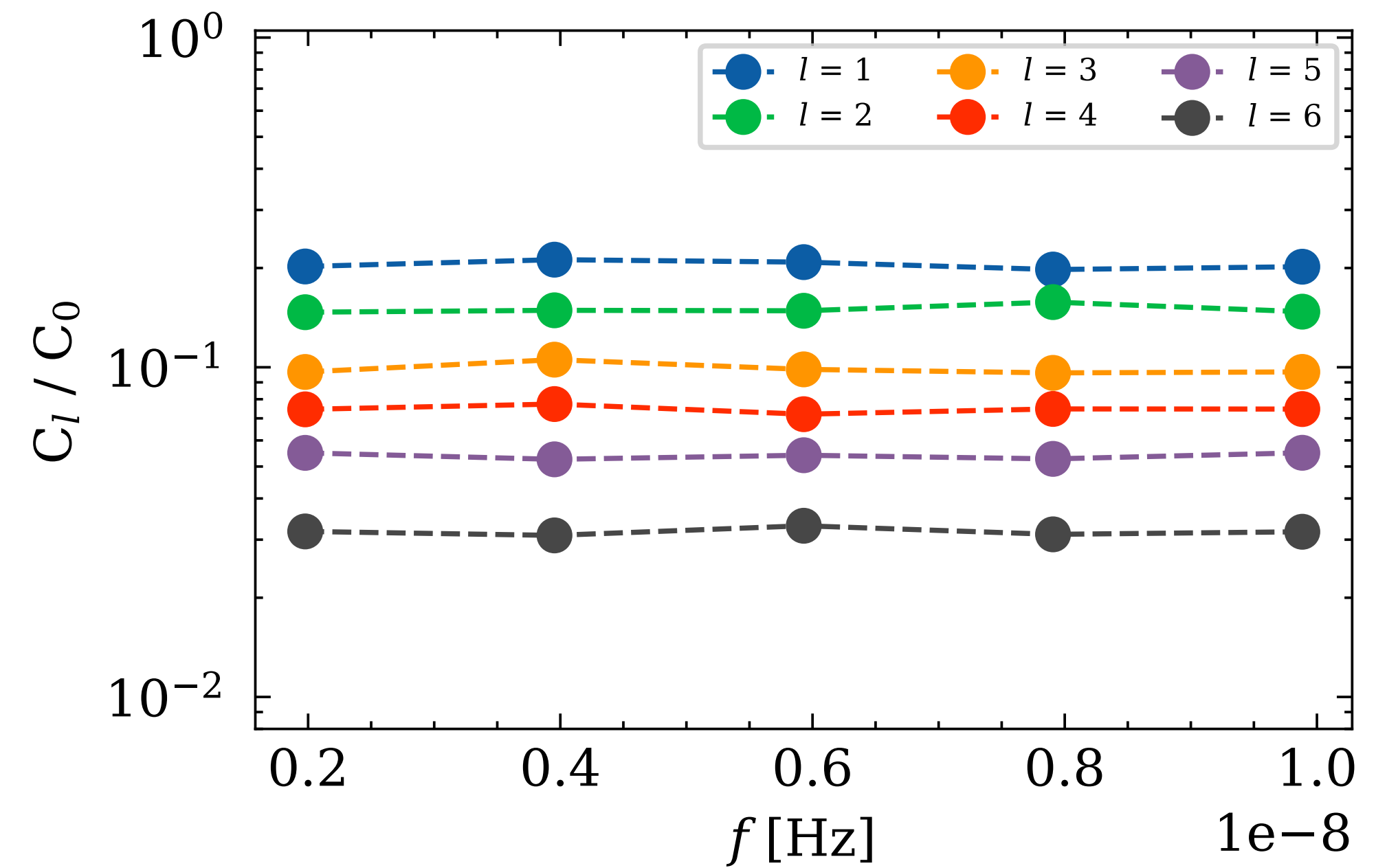


ANISOTROPIES



for $P_k = \text{const}$, Γ_{ab} reduces to the HD overlap reduction function

$$P_k = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l c_{lm} Y_{lm}(\hat{\Omega}_k) \quad C_l = \frac{1}{2l+1} \sum_{m=-l}^l |c_{lm}|^2$$

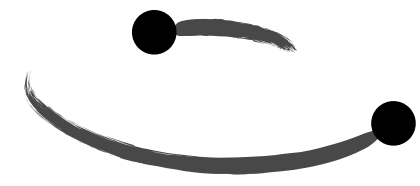


what is the source?

CONTENDER #1

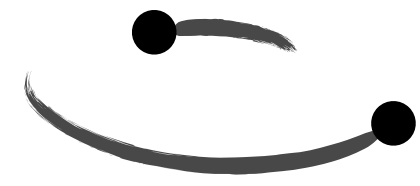


CONTENDER #1



$$h_c^2(f) = \int dM dq dz \frac{\partial^4 N}{\partial M \partial q \partial z \partial \ln f_p} h_s^2(f_p)$$

Phinney 2001, Wyithe & Loeb 2003



GW signal from individual SMBHB

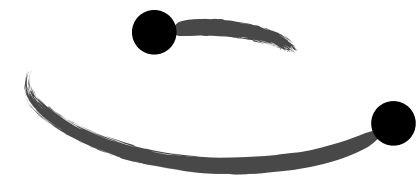
$$h_c^2(f) = \int dM dq dz \frac{\partial^4 N}{\partial M \partial q \partial z \partial \ln f_p} h_s^2(f_p)$$

Phinney 2001, Wyithe & Loeb 2003

averaged strain for a circular
SMBHB

$$h_s^2(f) = \frac{32}{5} \frac{(GM)^{10/3}}{d_c^2} (2\pi f_p)^{4/3}$$

Finn & Thorne 2000



GW signal from individual SMBHB

$$h_c^2(f) = \int dM dq dz \frac{\partial^4 N}{\partial M \partial q \partial z \partial \ln f_p} h_s^2(f_p)$$

Phinney 2001, Wyithe & Loeb 2003

number density of SMBHB binaries

averaged strain for a circular
SMBHB

$$h_s^2(f) = \frac{32}{5} \frac{(GM)^{10/3}}{d_c^2} (2\pi f_p)^{4/3}$$

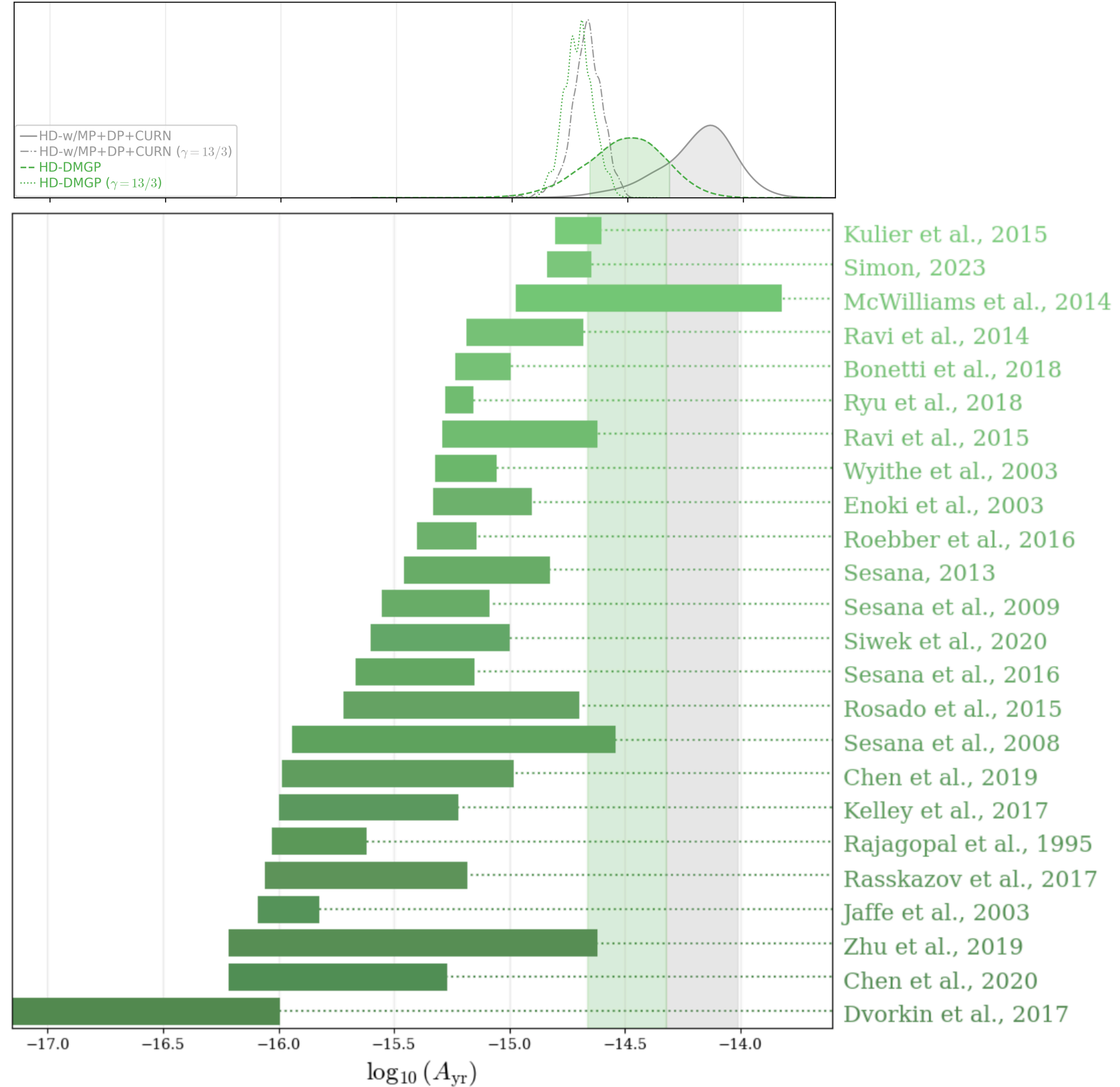
Finn & Thorne 2000

the SMBHB density depends on

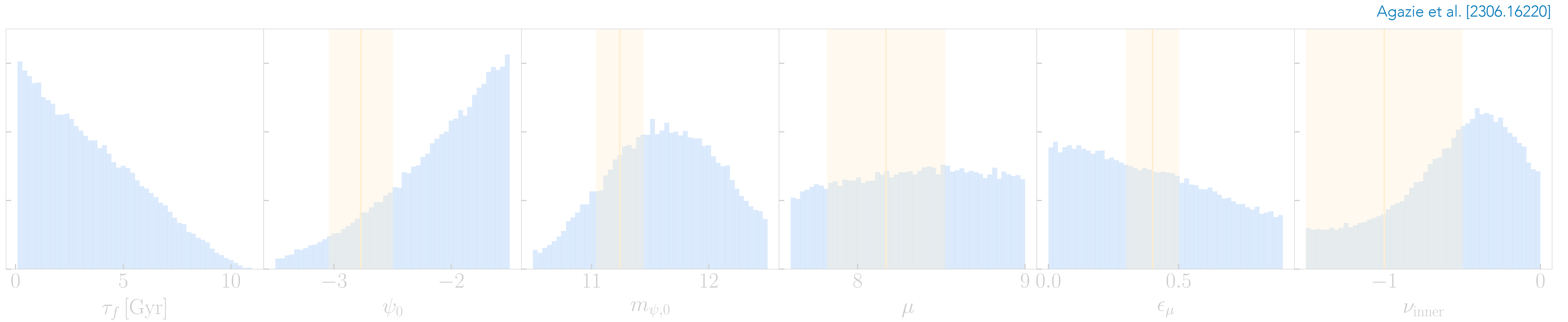
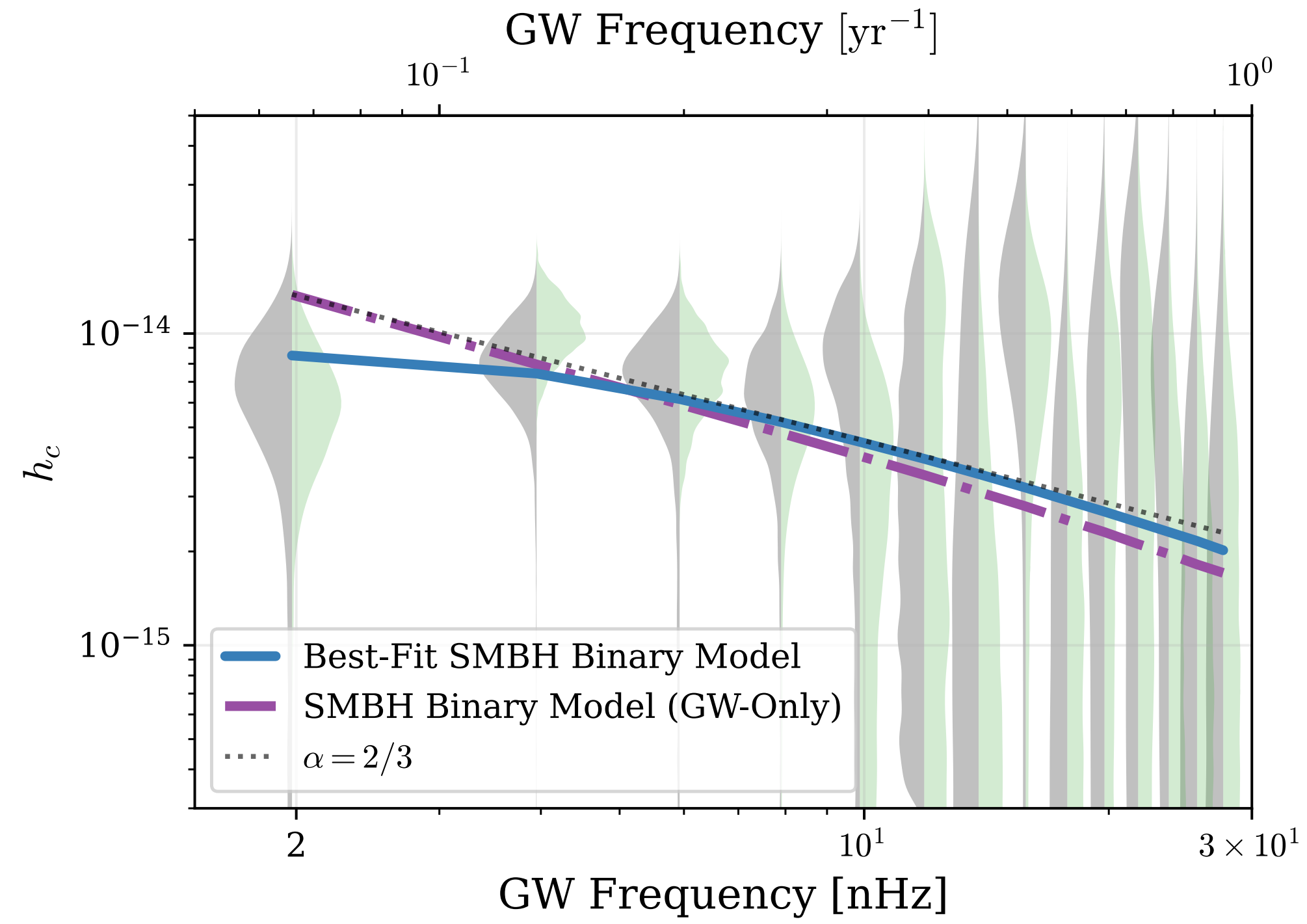
1. galaxies merger rate
2. SMBHB - galaxy mass relation
3. SMBHB binary evolution

EXPECTATIONS

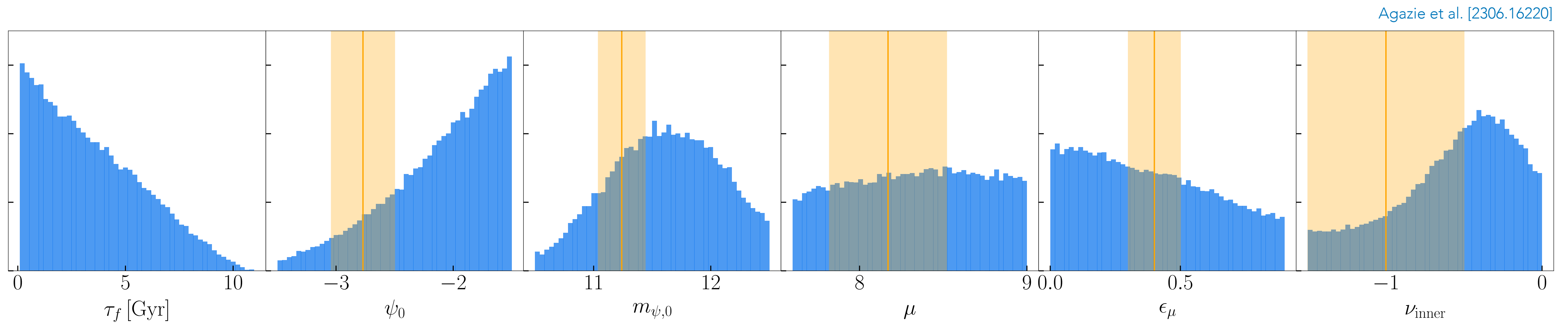
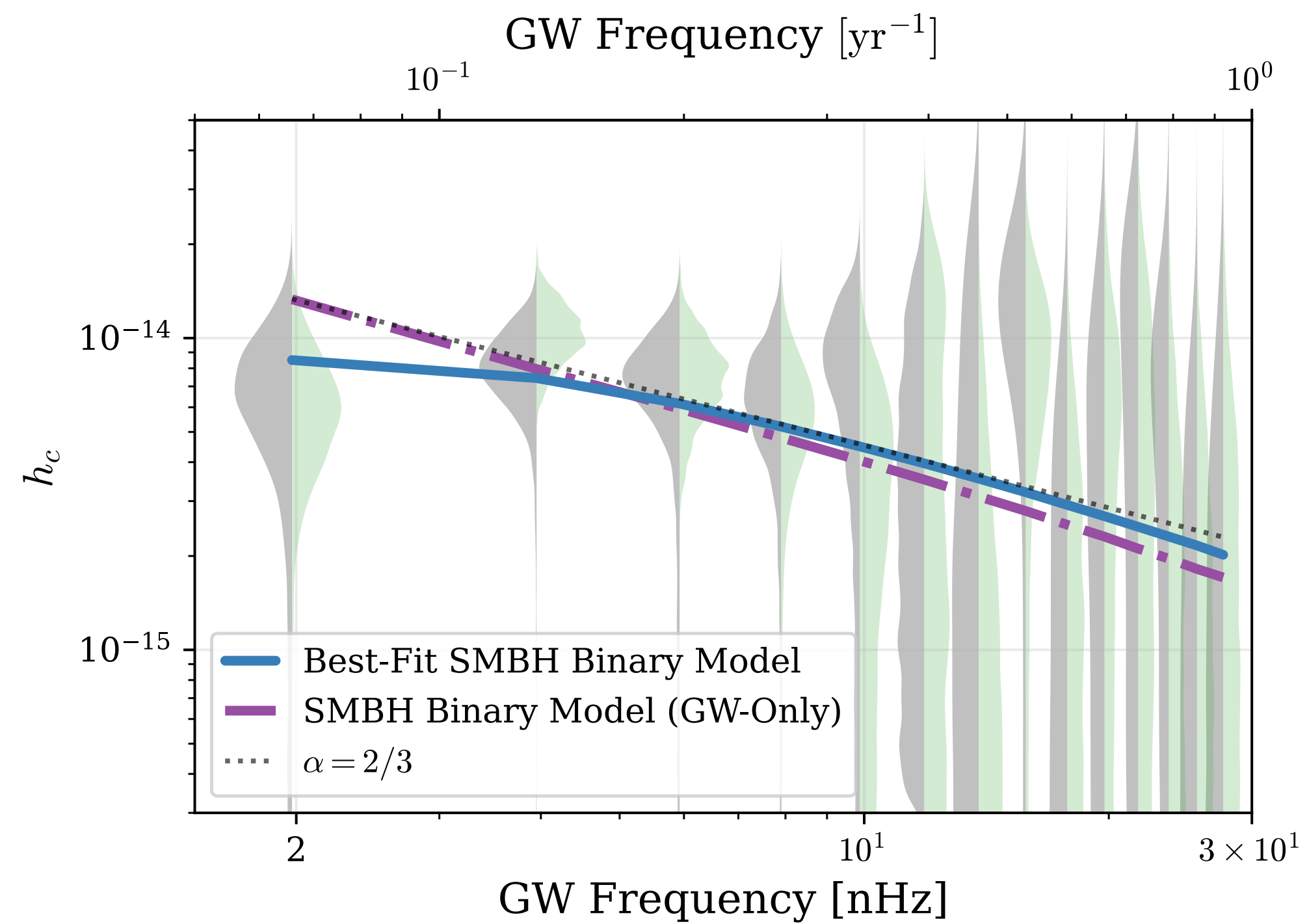
Agazie et al. [2306.16220]



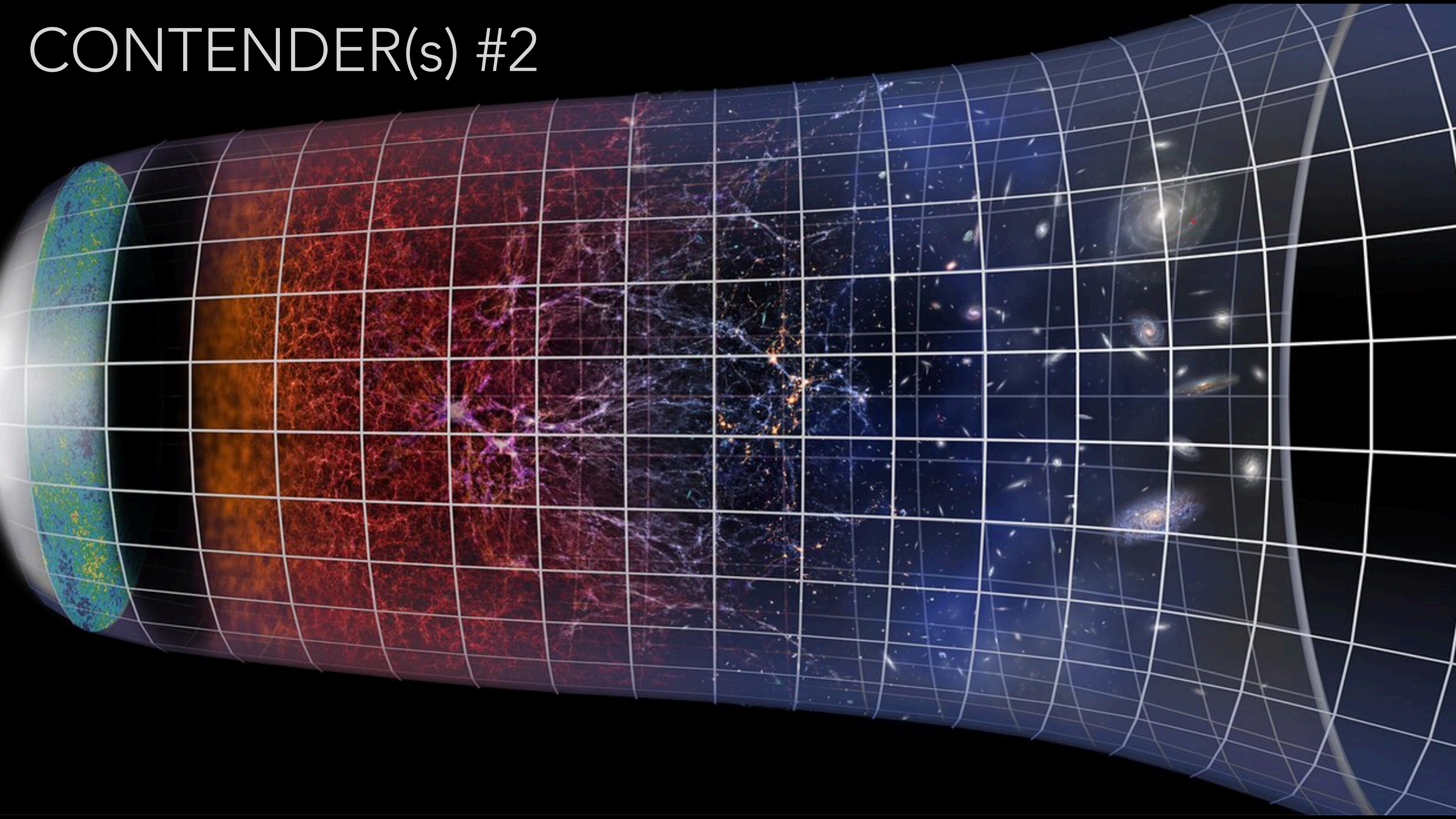
ADJUSTING EXPECTATIONS



ADJUSTING EXPECTATIONS



CONTENDER(s) #2



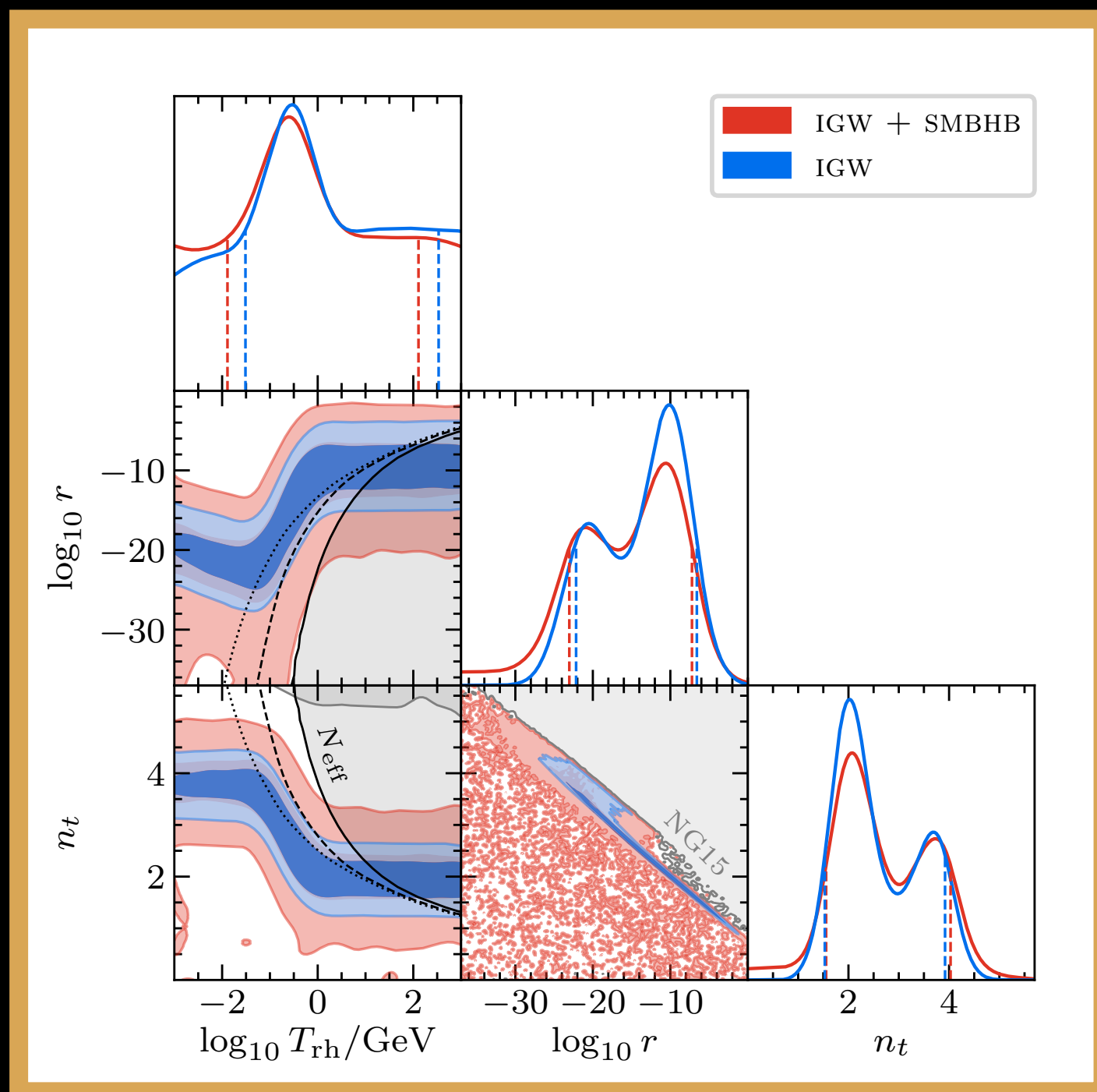
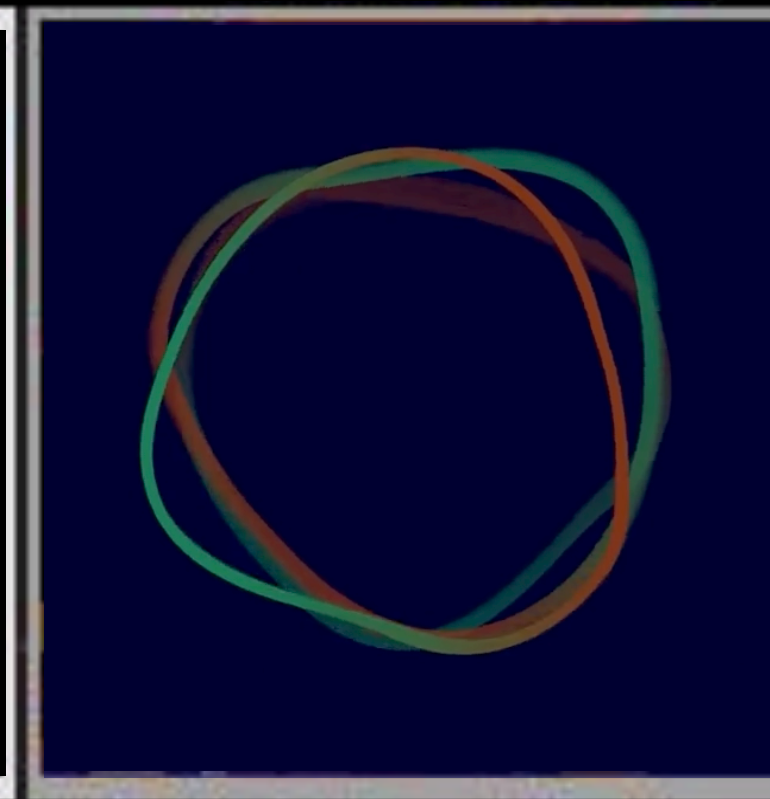
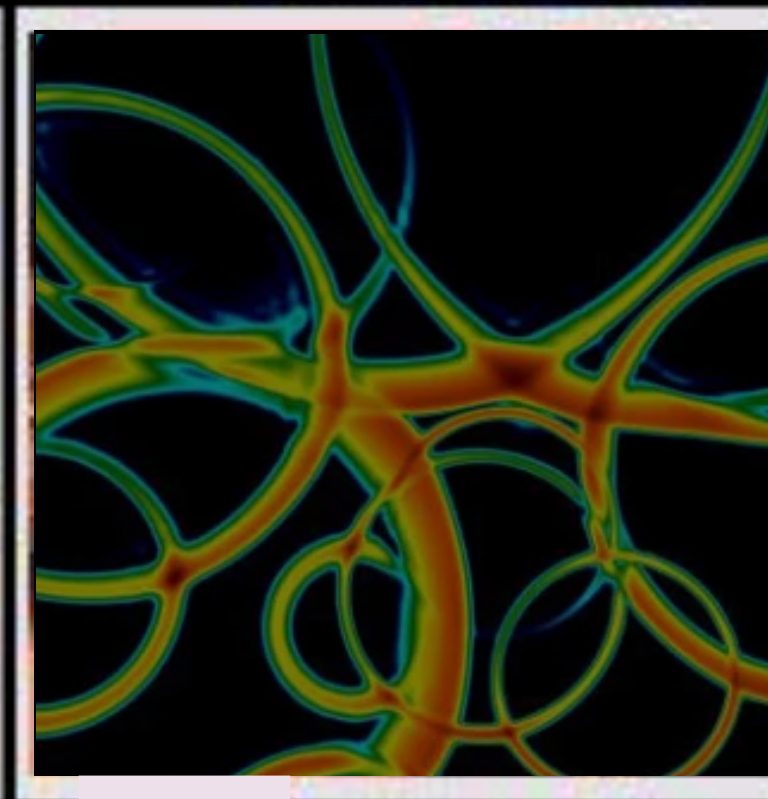
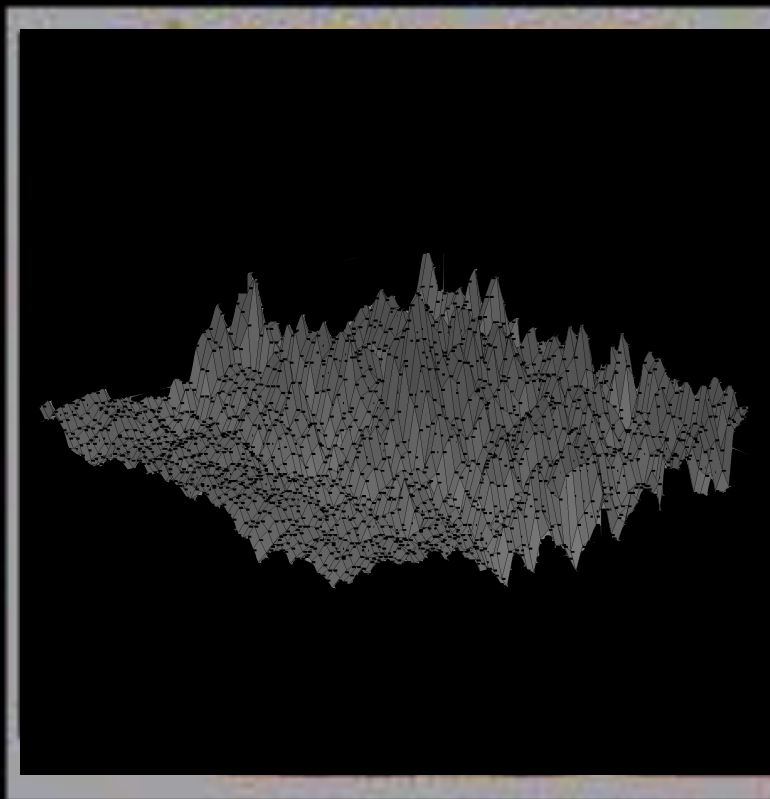
SELECT PLAYER

INFLATION

SIGW

PT

STRINGS

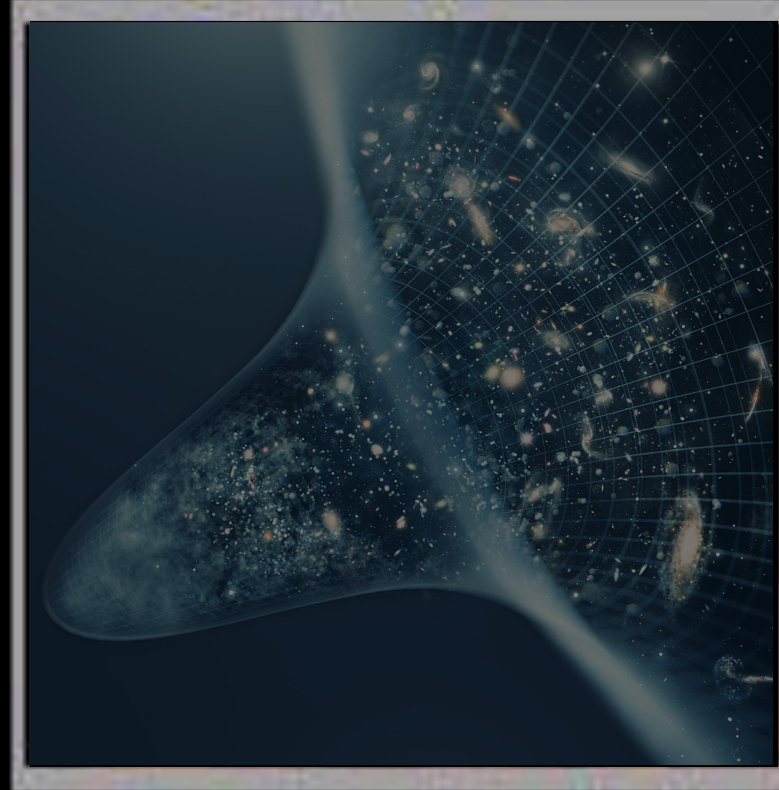


STRONG (RED) SPECTRAL TILT NEEDED

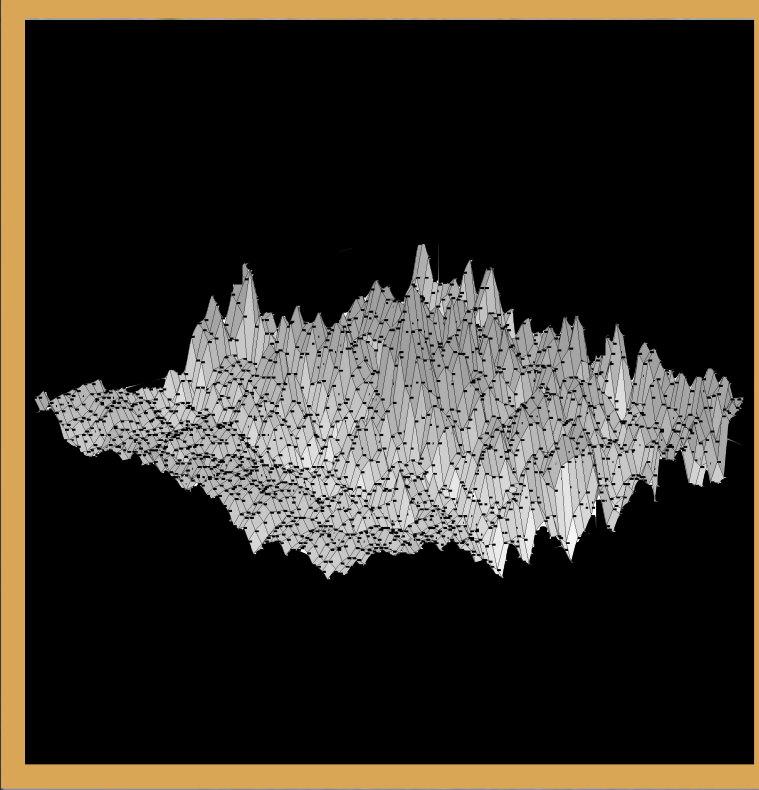
REHEATING TEMP. BELOW 100 GEV AVOIDS N_{eff} CONST.

SELECT PLAYER

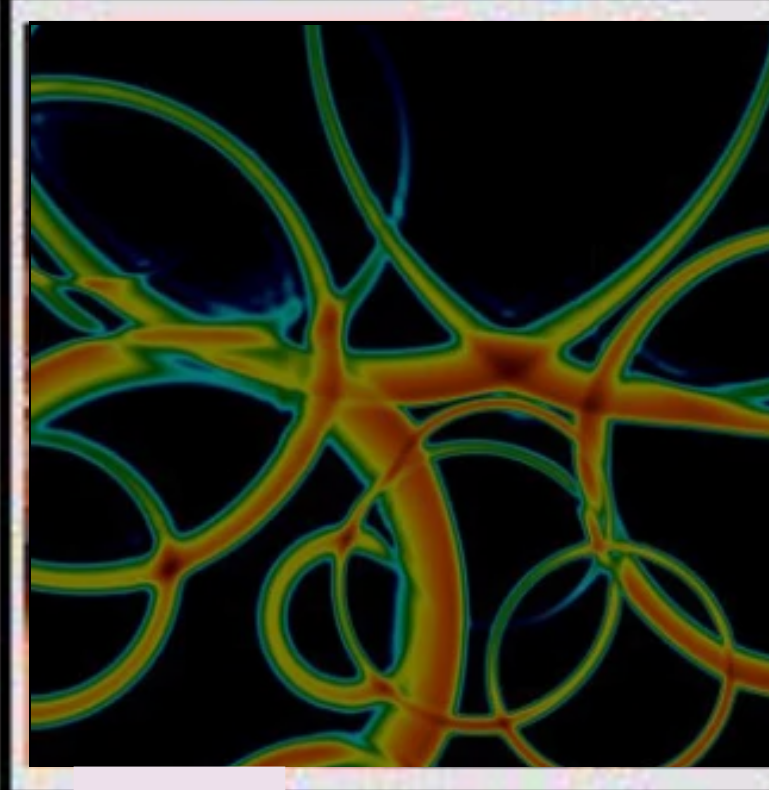
INFLATION



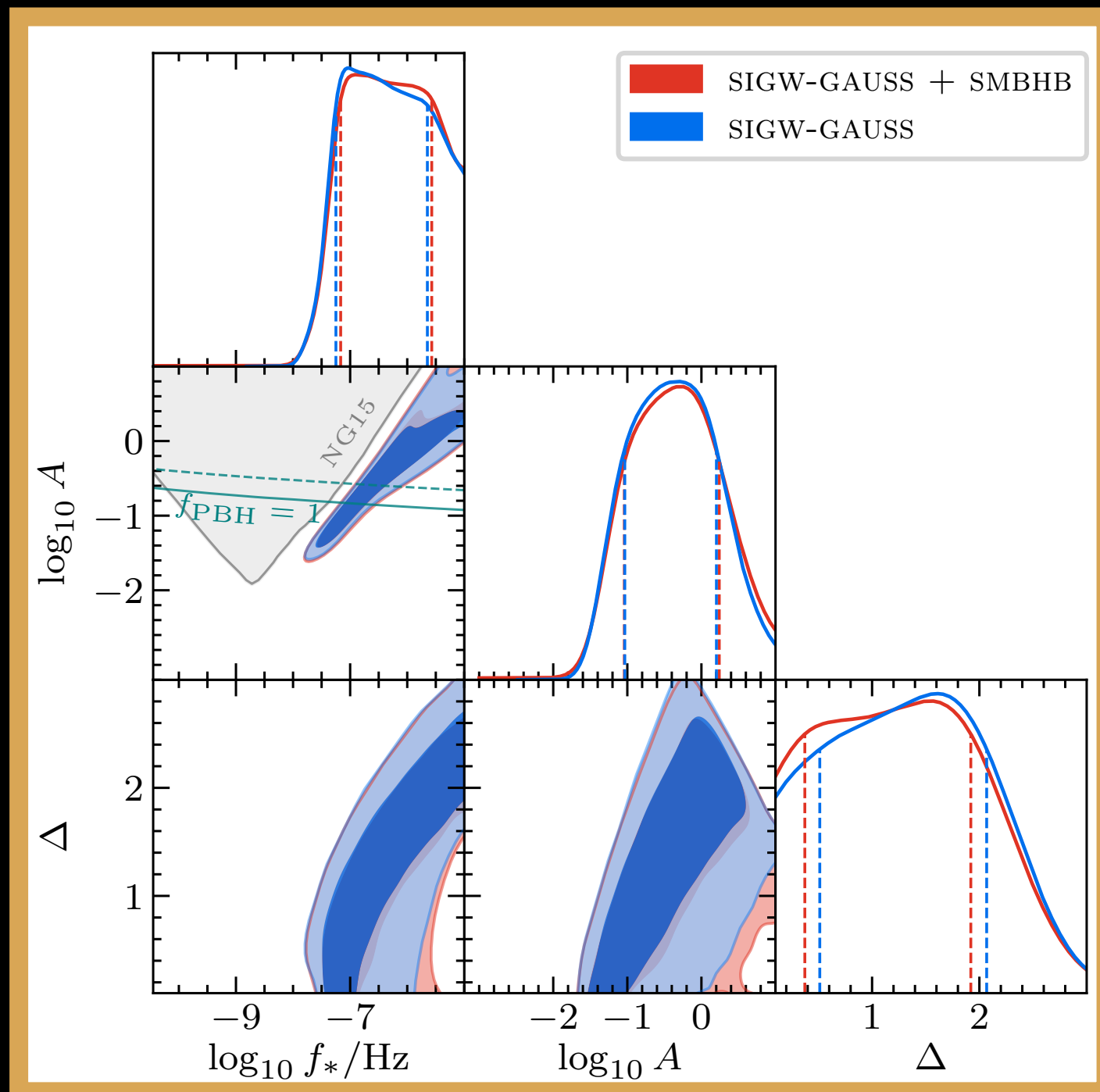
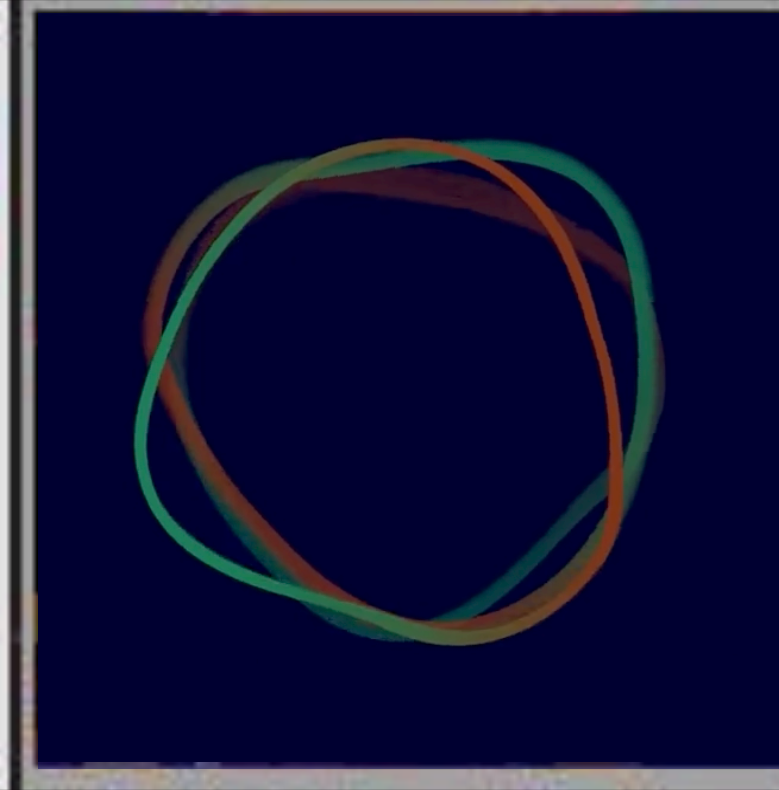
SIGW



PT



STRINGS



LARGE FEATURE AT MPC SCALES NEEDED

RISK OF OVERPRODUCING SMBH

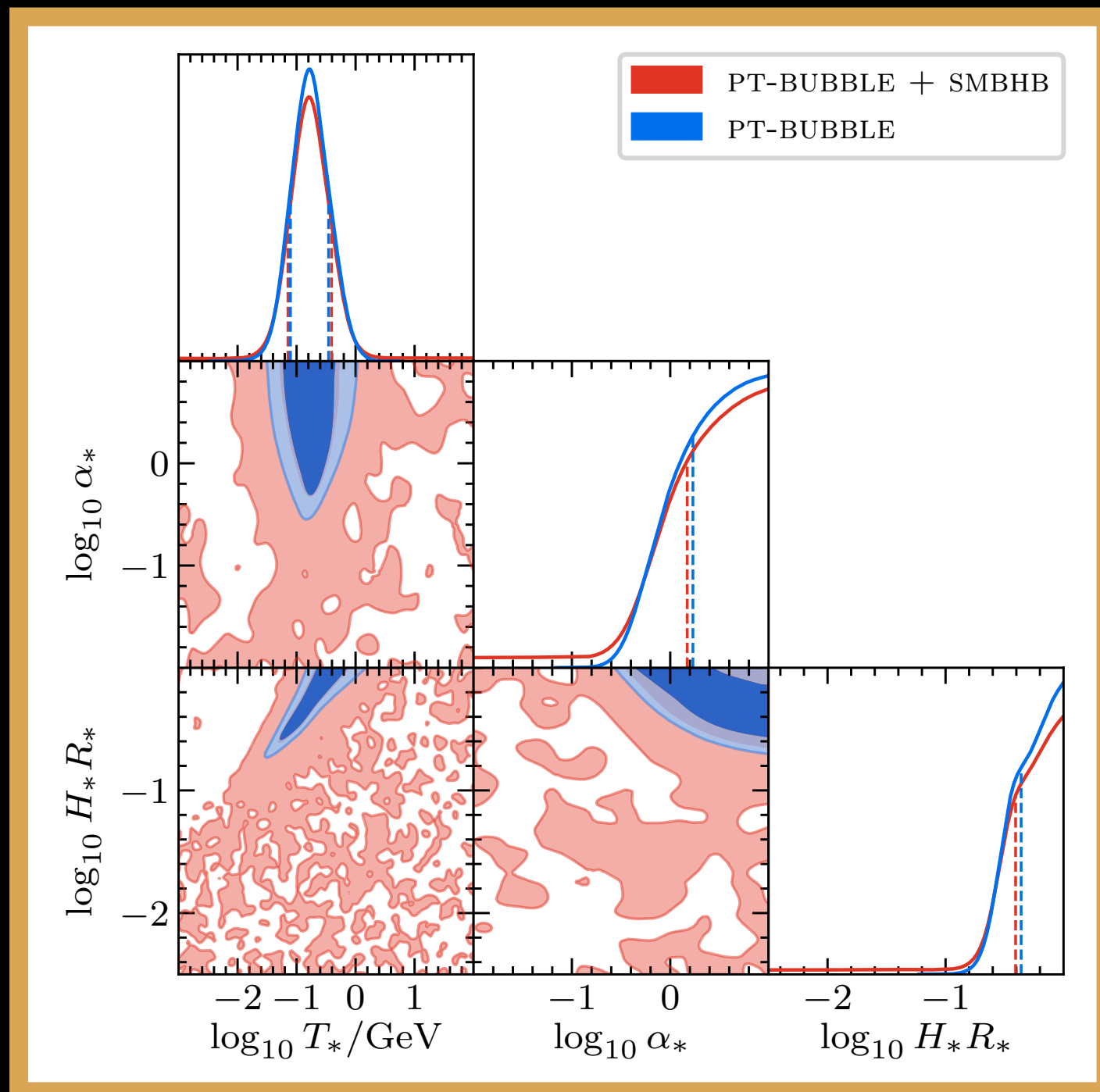
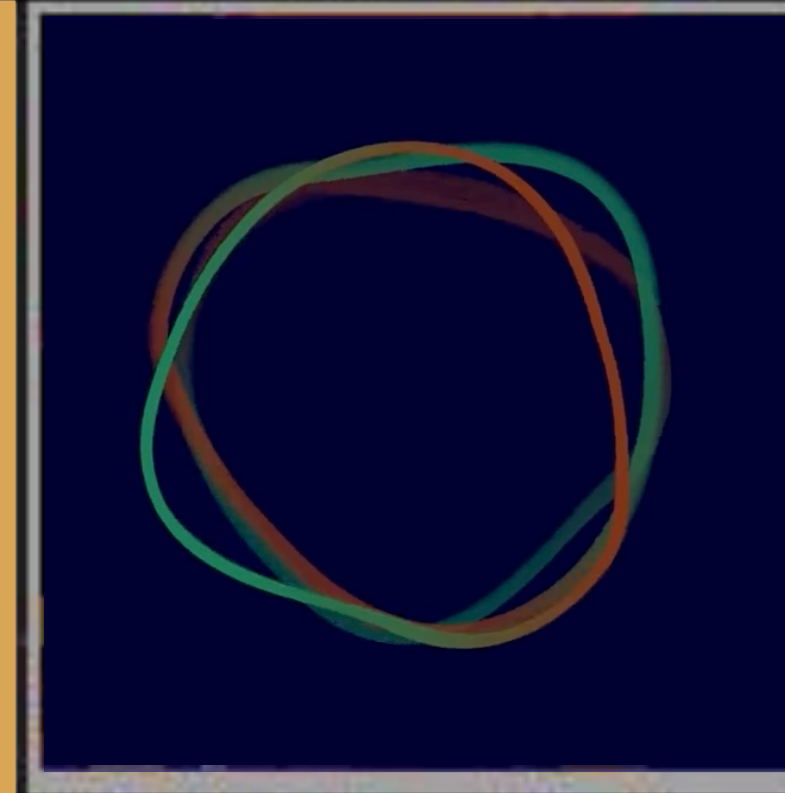
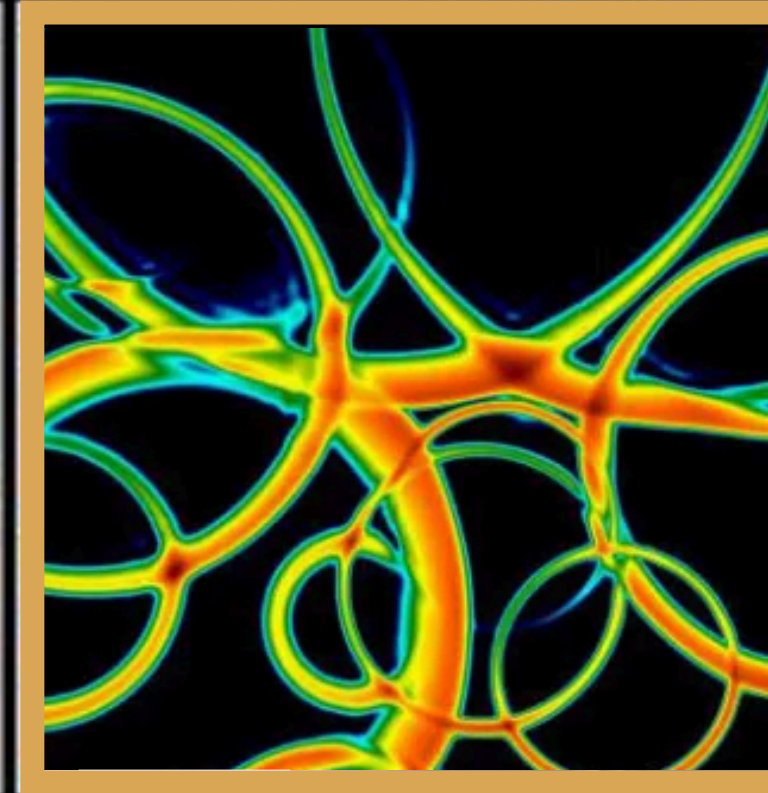
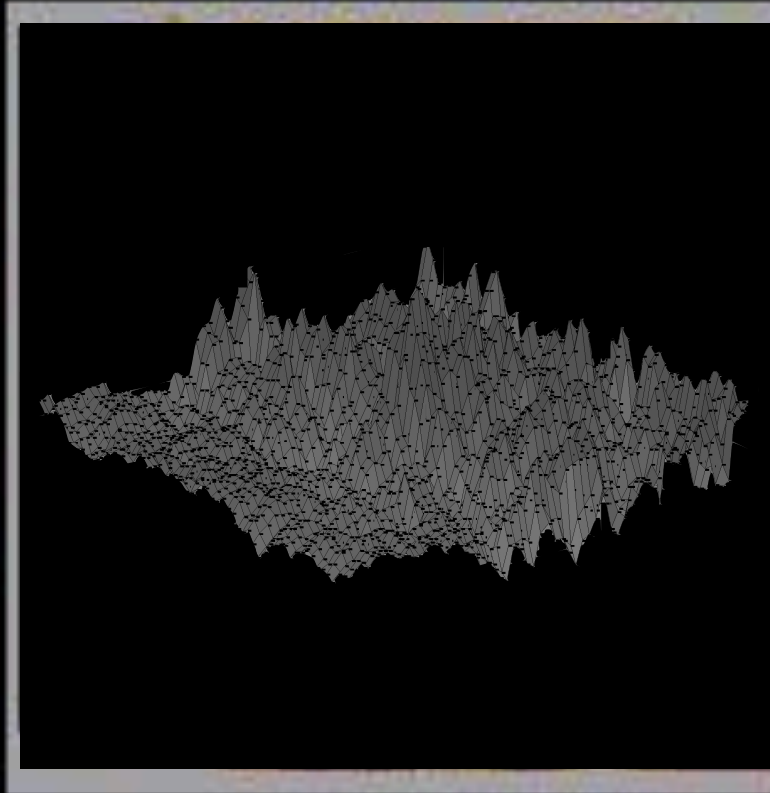
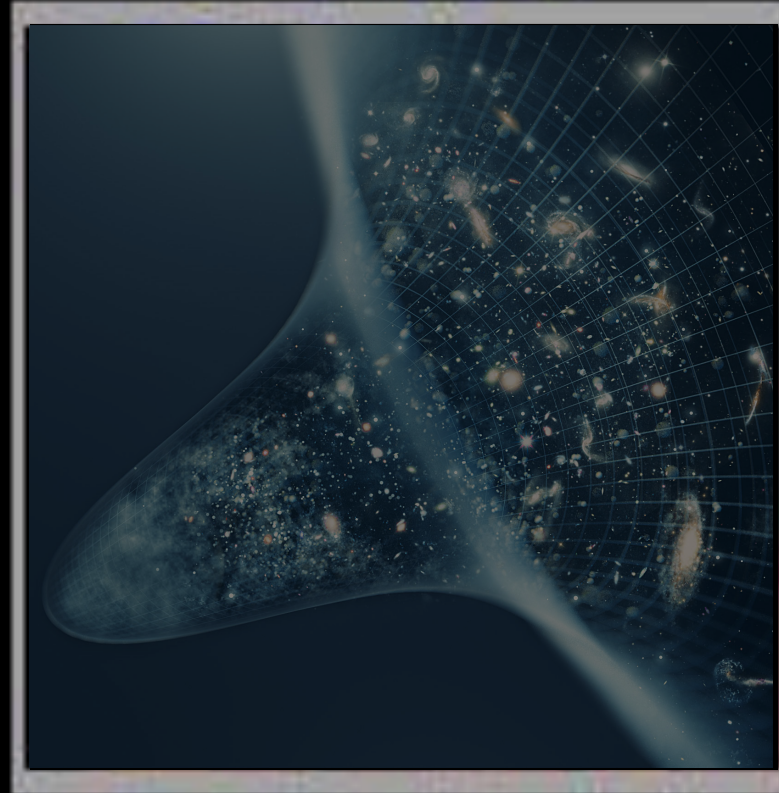
SELECT PLAYER

INFLATION

SIGW

PT

STRINGS



10-100 MEV TRANSITION TEMP. NEEDED

SLOW TRANSITION NEEDED

EXTREMELY STRONG TRANSITION NEEDED

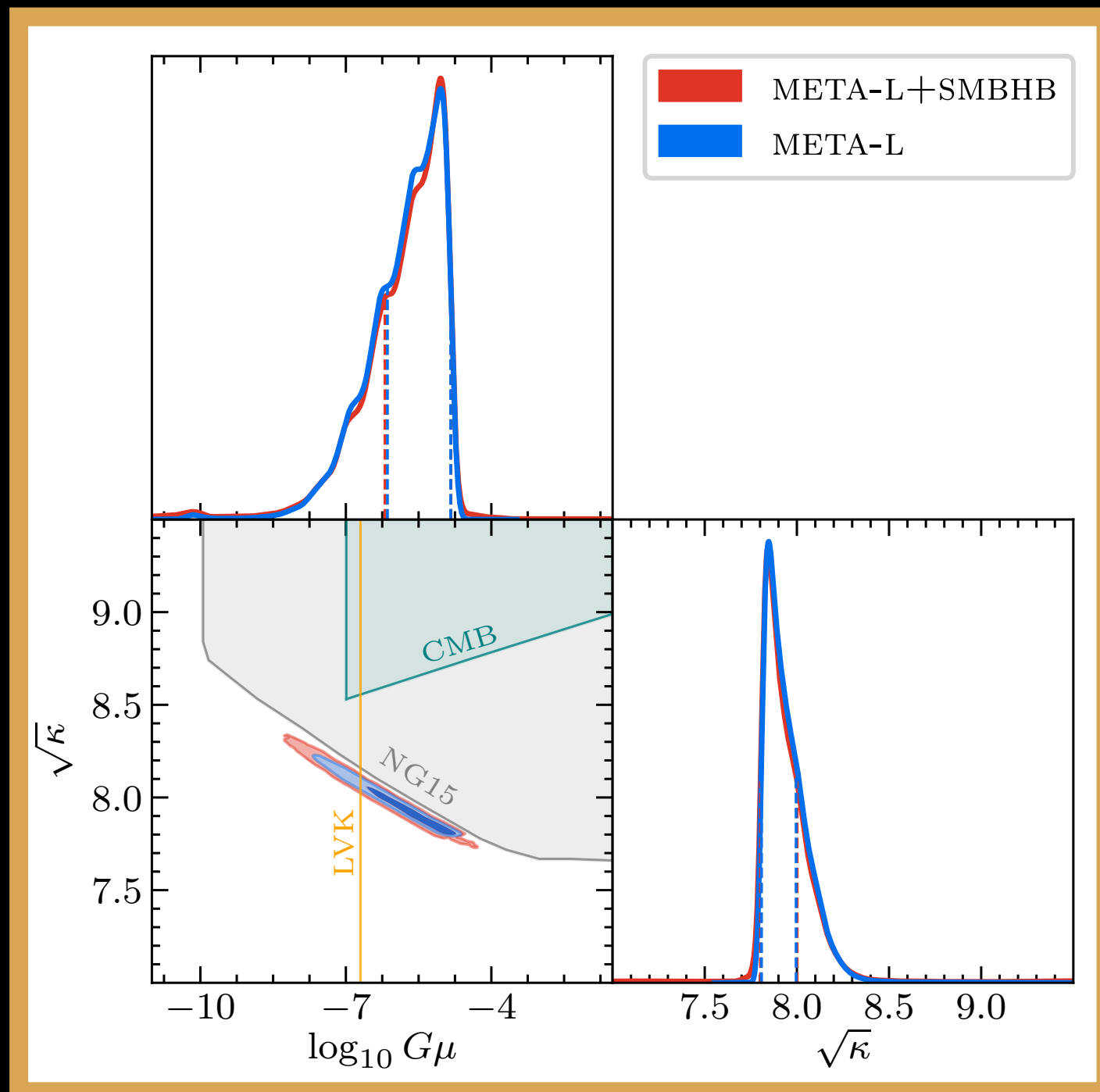
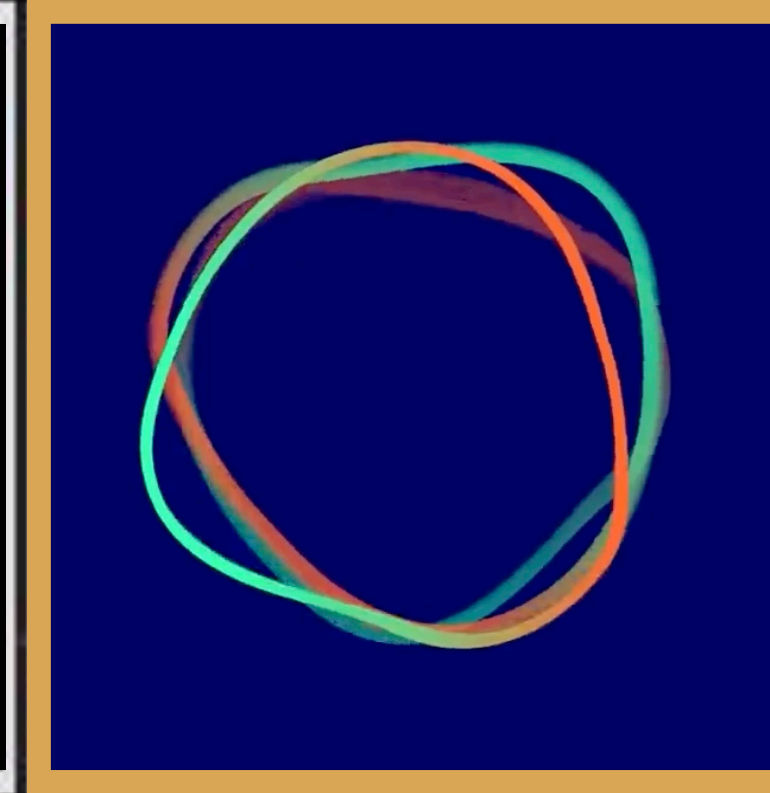
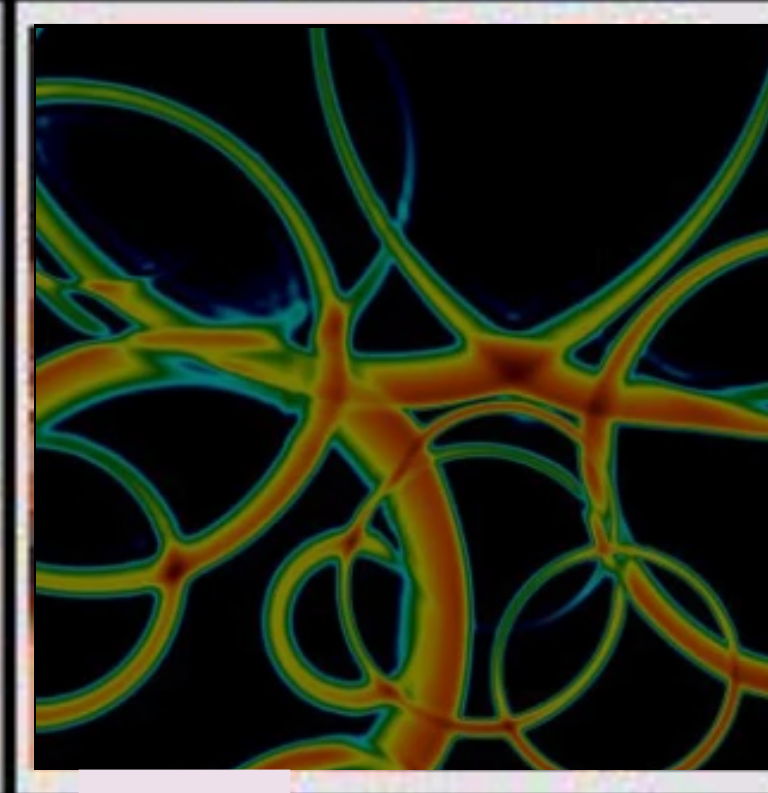
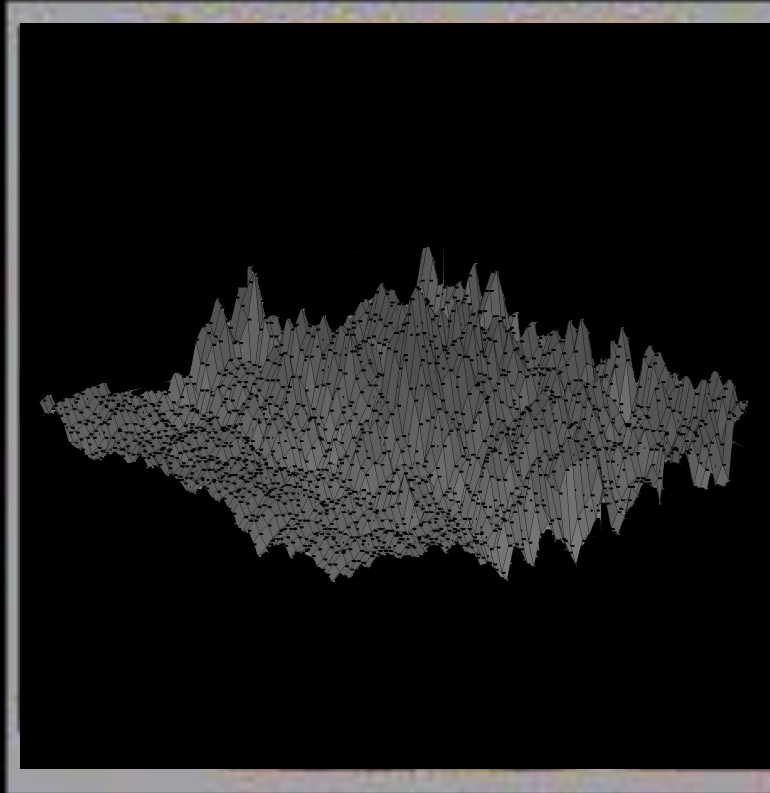
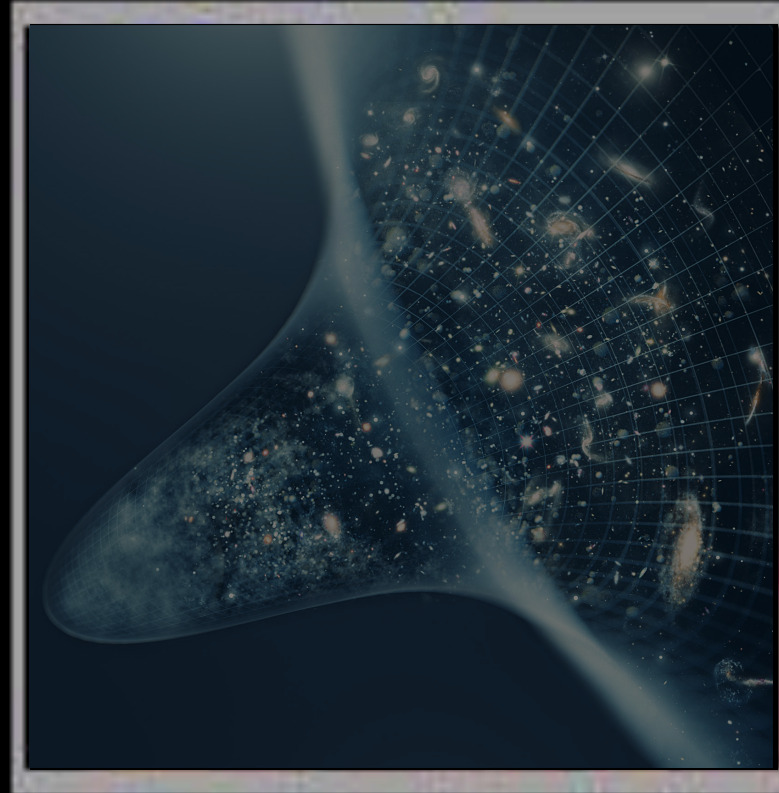
SELECT PLAYER

INFLATION

SIGW

PT

STRINGS



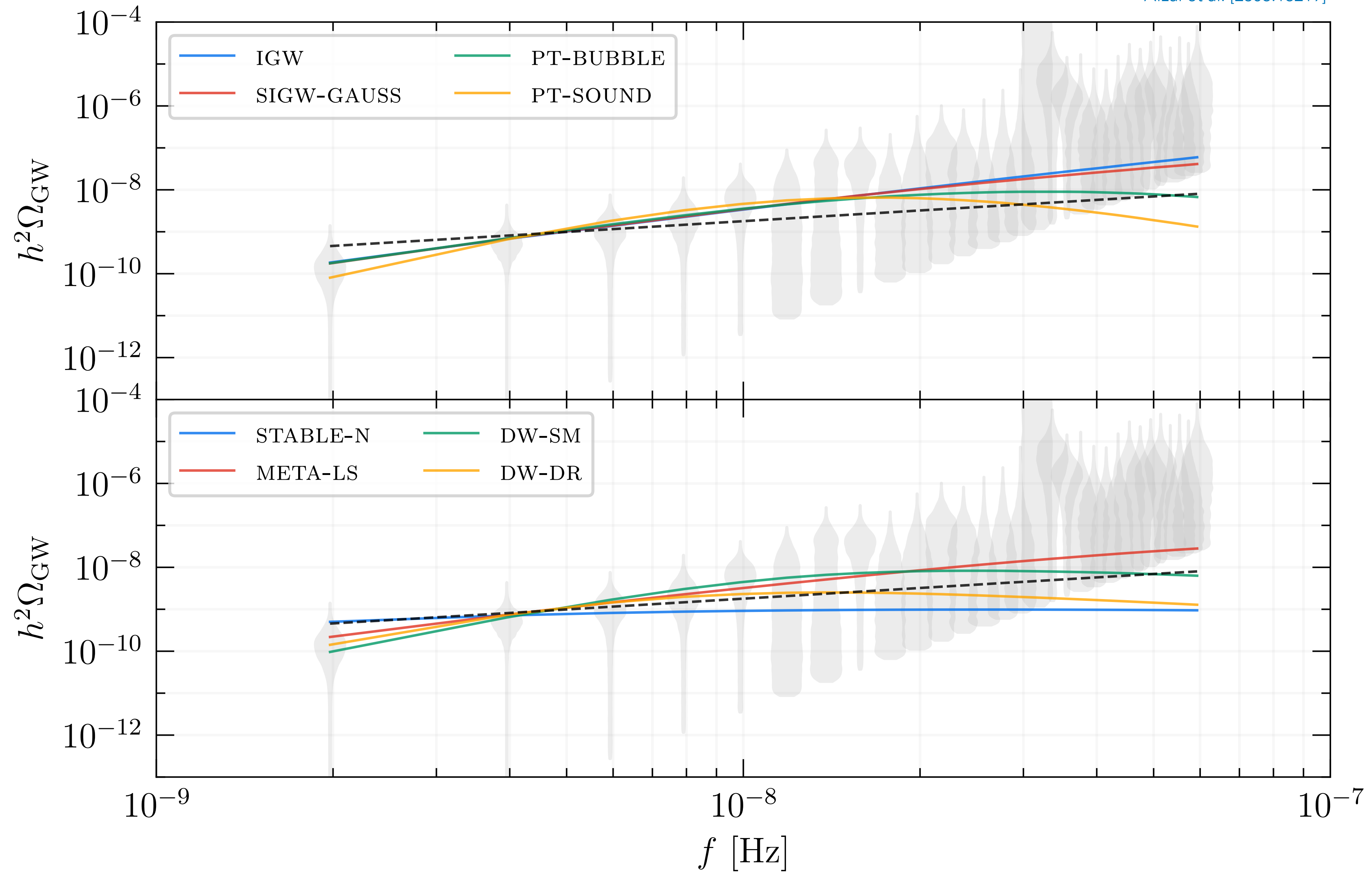
STABLE STRING DO NOT WORK

METASTABLE STRING DO WORK

GUT SCALE STRING TENSION COULD WORK

COSMOLOGICAL SIGNALS

Afzal et al. [2306.16219]



toy model

$$h^2\Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = \frac{A_*}{f/f_* + f_*/f}$$

Step 1

```
conda install ptarcade
```

Step 2

```
from ptarcade.models_utils import prior

parameters = {
    'log_A_star' : prior("Uniform", -14, -6),
    'log_f_star' : prior("Uniform", -10, -6)
}

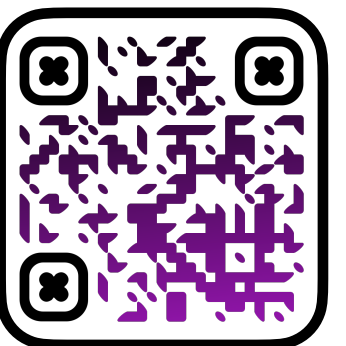
def S(x):
    return 1 / (1/x + x)

def spectrum(f, log_A_star, log_f_star):
    A_star = 10**log_A_star
    f_star = 10**log_f_star

    return A_star * S(f/f_star)
```

Step 3

```
ptarcade -m model.py
```



toy model

$$h^2\Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = \frac{A_*}{f/f_* + f_*/f}$$

Step 1

```
conda install ptarcade
```

Step 2

```
from ptarcade.models_utils import prior

parameters = {
    'log_A_star' : prior("Uniform", -14, -6),
    'log_f_star' : prior("Uniform", -10, -6)
}

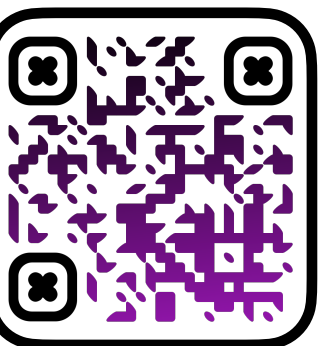
def S(x):
    return 1 / (1/x + x)

def spectrum(f, log_A_star, log_f_star):
    A_star = 10**log_A_star
    f_star = 10**log_f_star

    return A_star * S(f/f_star)
```

Step 3

```
ptarcade -m model.py
```



toy model

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = \frac{A_*}{f/f_* + f_*/f}$$

Step 1

```
conda install ptarcade
```

Step 2

```
from ptarcade.models_utils import prior

parameters = {
    'log_A_star' : prior("Uniform", -14, -6),
    'log_f_star' : prior("Uniform", -10, -6)
}

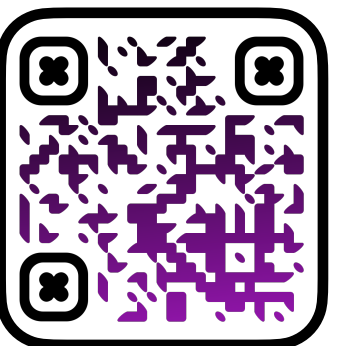
def S(x):
    return 1 / (1/x + x)

def spectrum(f, log_A_star, log_f_star):
    A_star = 10**log_A_star
    f_star = 10**log_f_star

    return A_star * S(f/f_star)
```

Step 3

```
ptarcade -m model.py
```



toy model

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = \frac{A_*}{f/f_* + f_*/f}$$

Step 1

```
conda install ptarcade
```

Step 2

```
from ptarcade.models_utils import prior

parameters = {
    'log_A_star' : prior("Uniform", -14, -6),
    'log_f_star' : prior("Uniform", -10, -6)
}

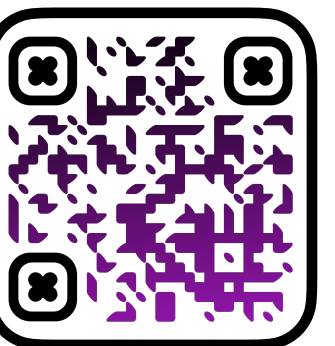
def S(x):
    return 1 / (1/x + x)

def spectrum(f, log_A_star, log_f_star):
    A_star = 10**log_A_star
    f_star = 10**log_f_star

    return A_star * S(f/f_star)
```

Step 3

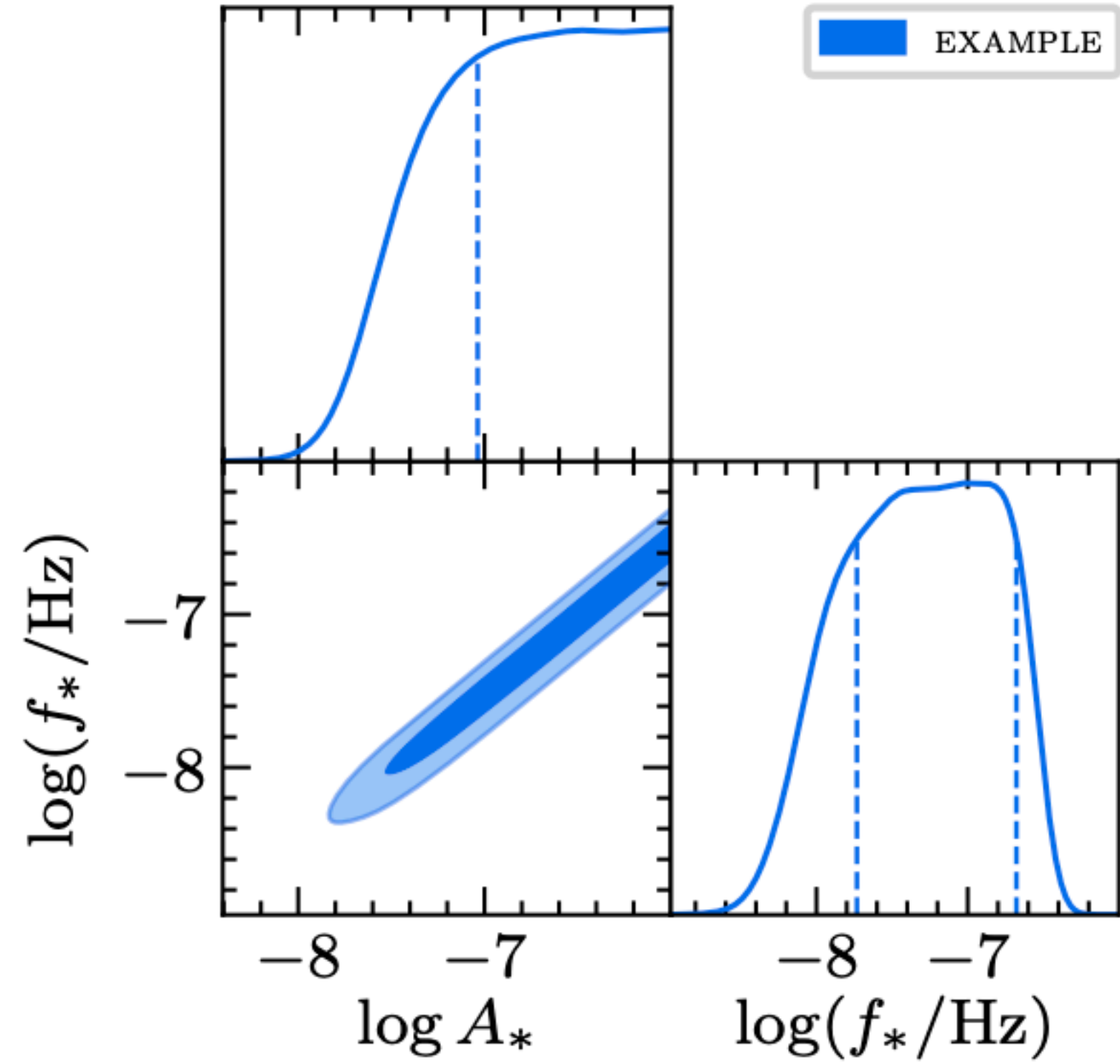
```
ptarcade -m model.py
```



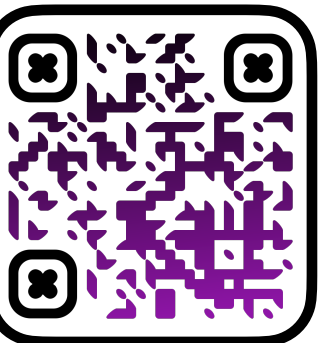
Step 1

toy model

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = \frac{A_*}{f/f_* + f_*/f}$$

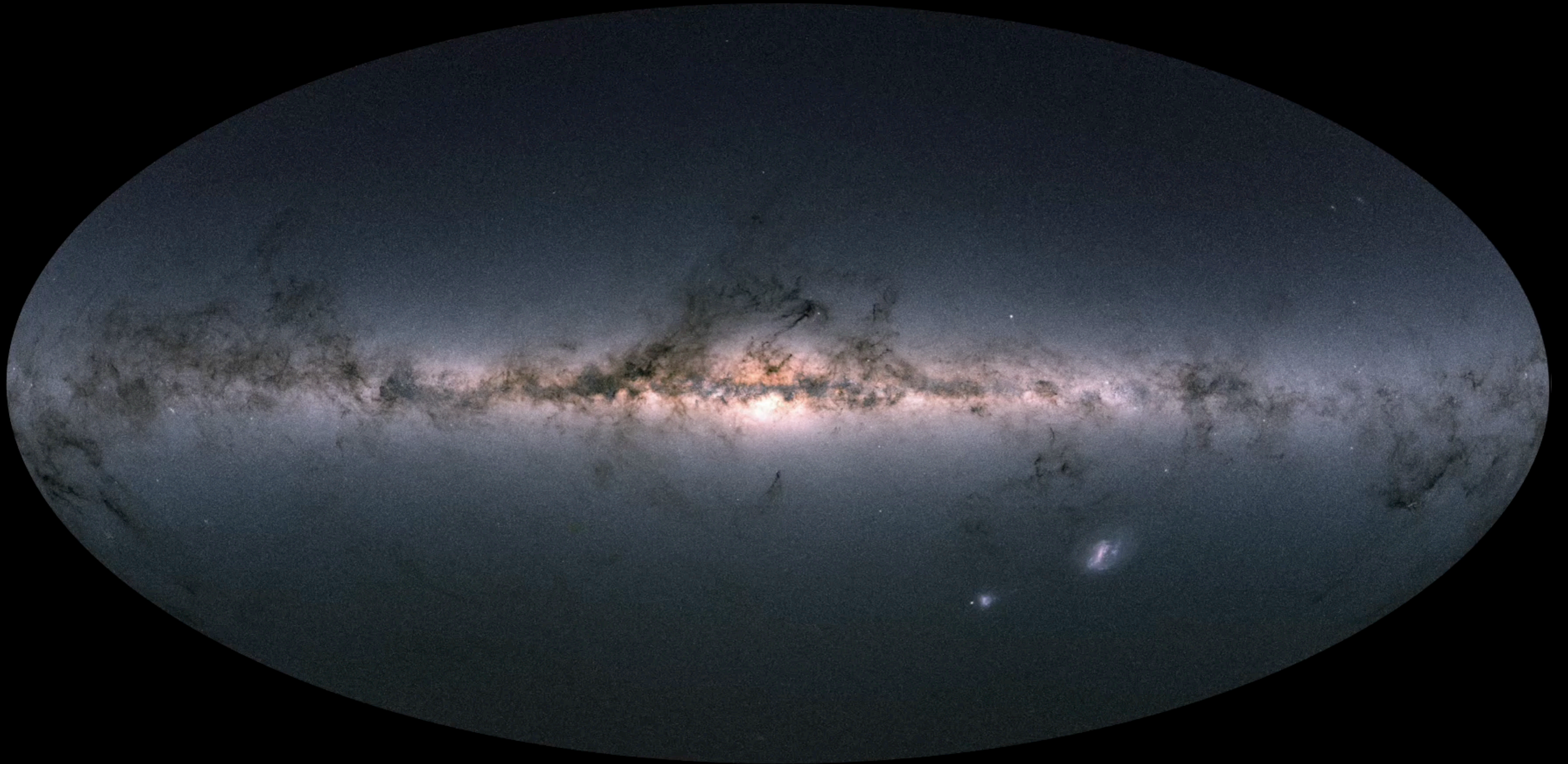


ptarcade -m model.py



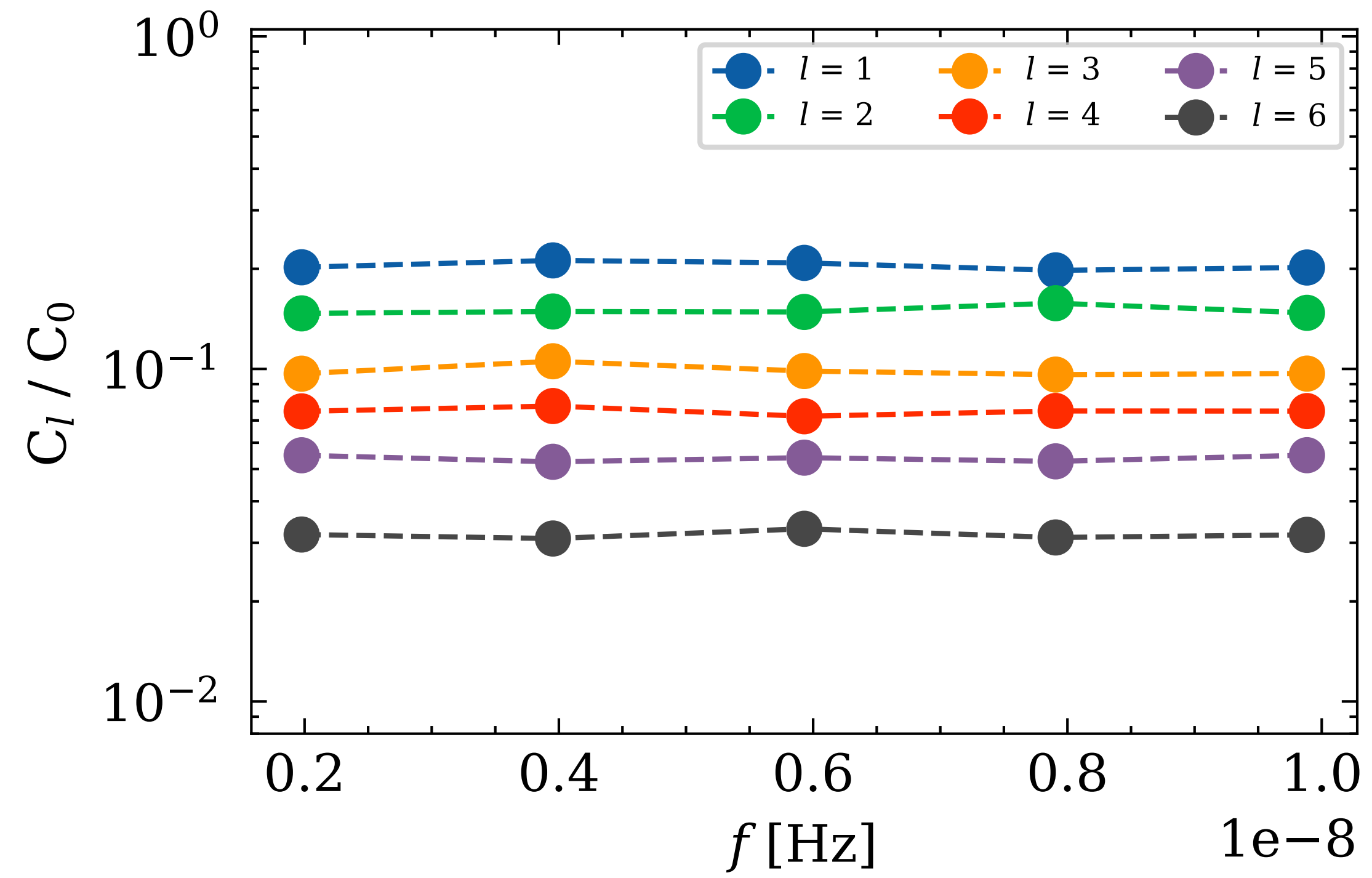
where do we go from here?

ANISOTROPIES

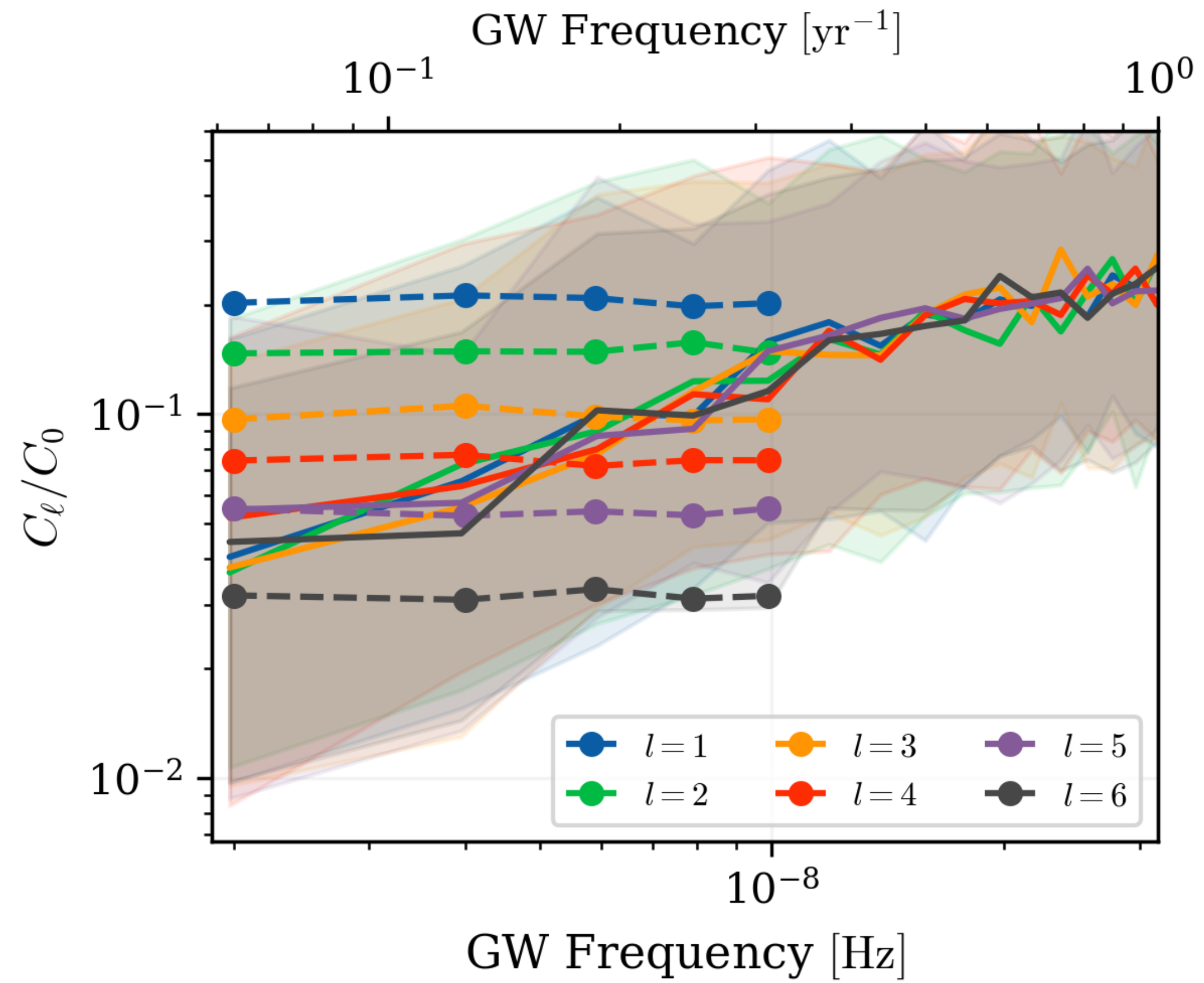


Credit: ESA/Gaia/DPAC

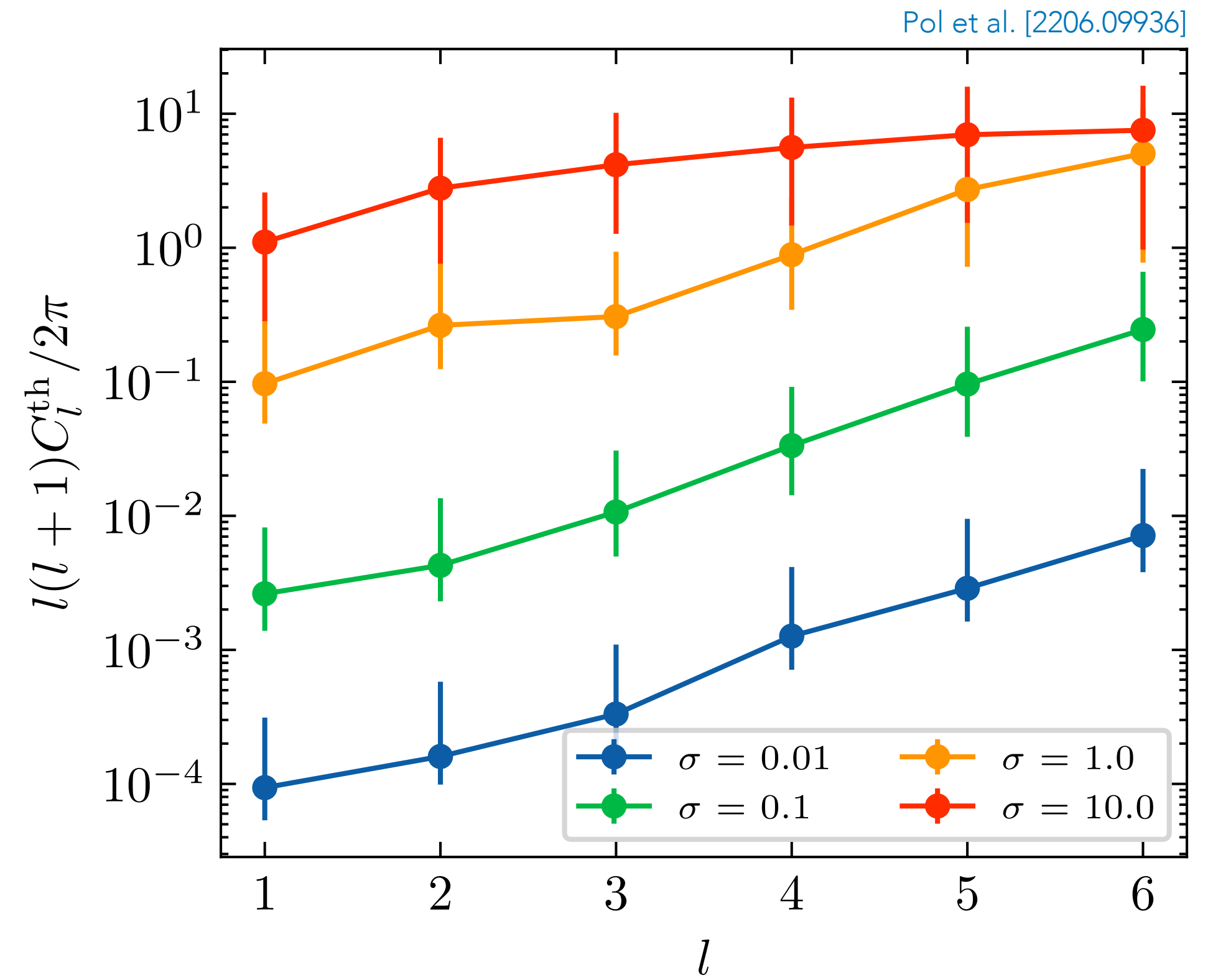
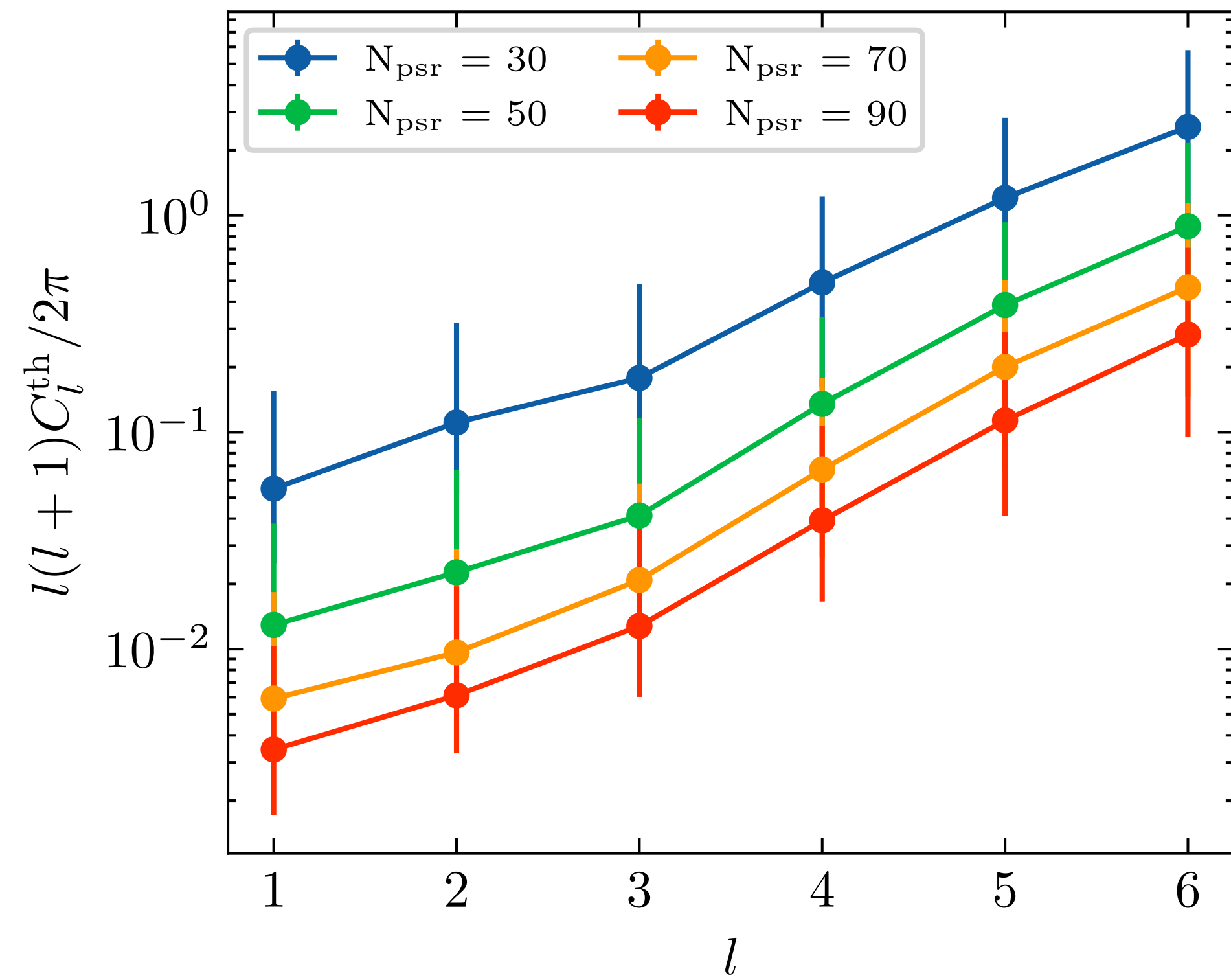
ANISOTROPIES



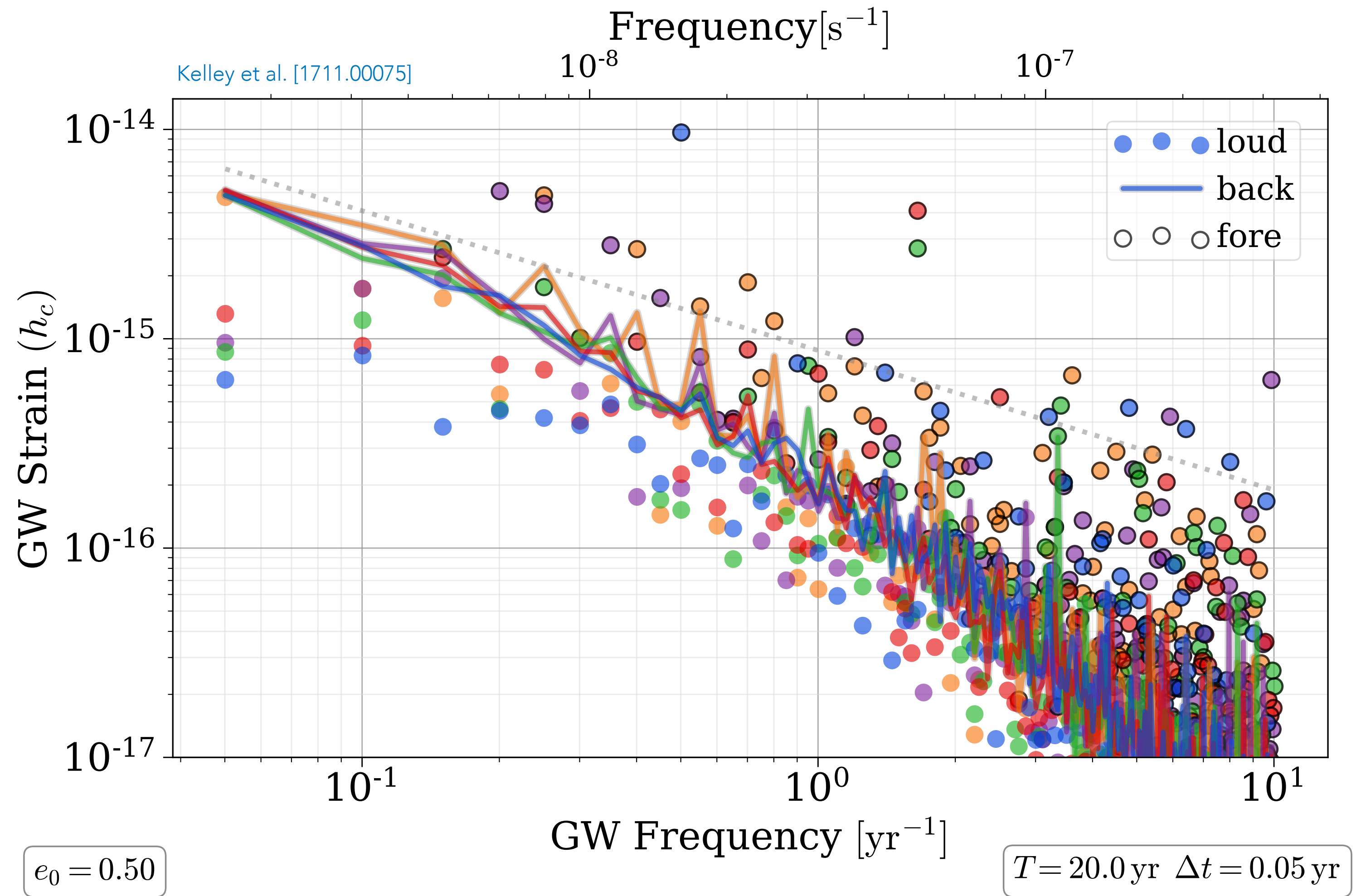
ANISOTROPIES



ANISOTROPIES

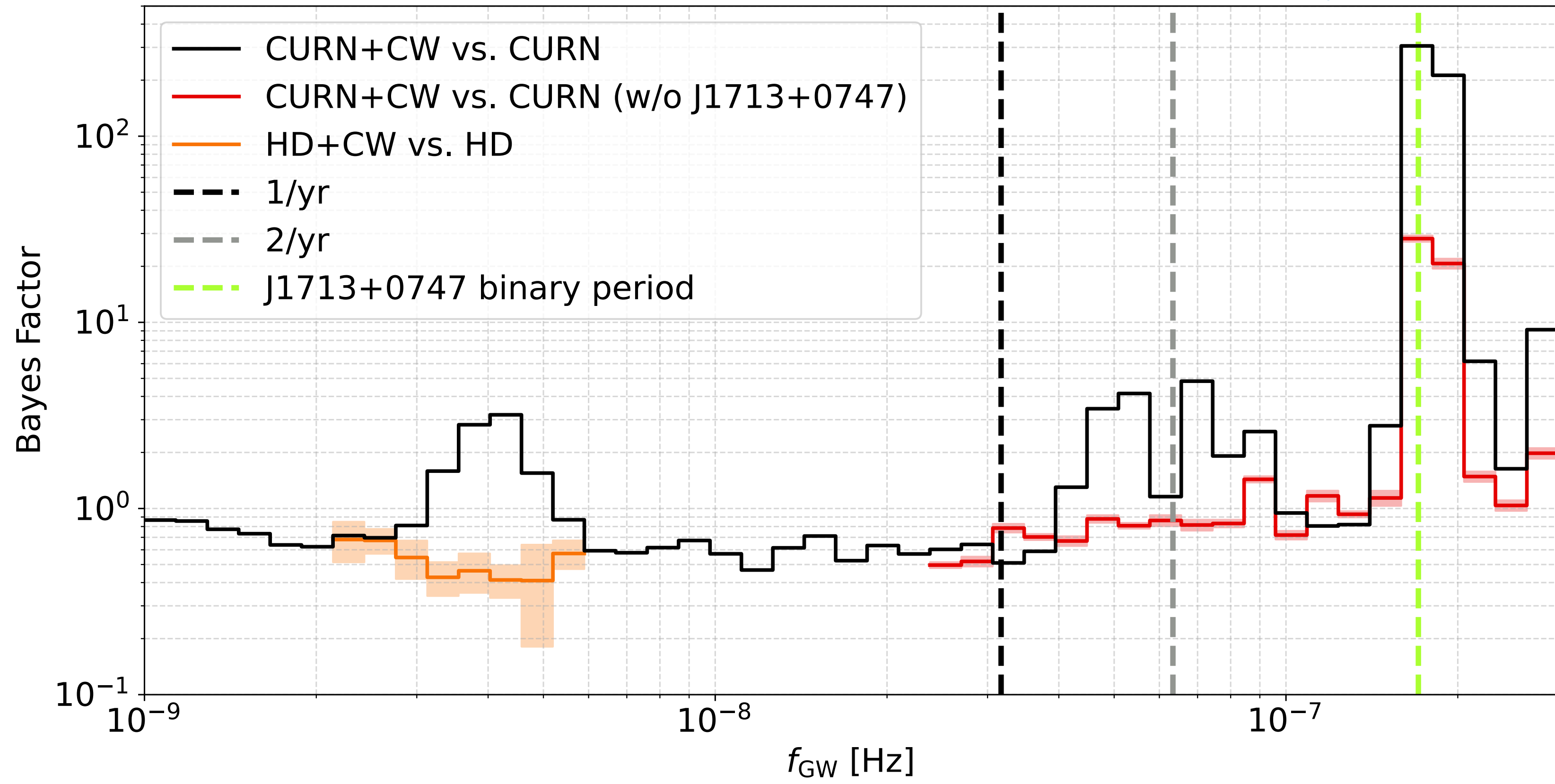


SINGLE SOURCE



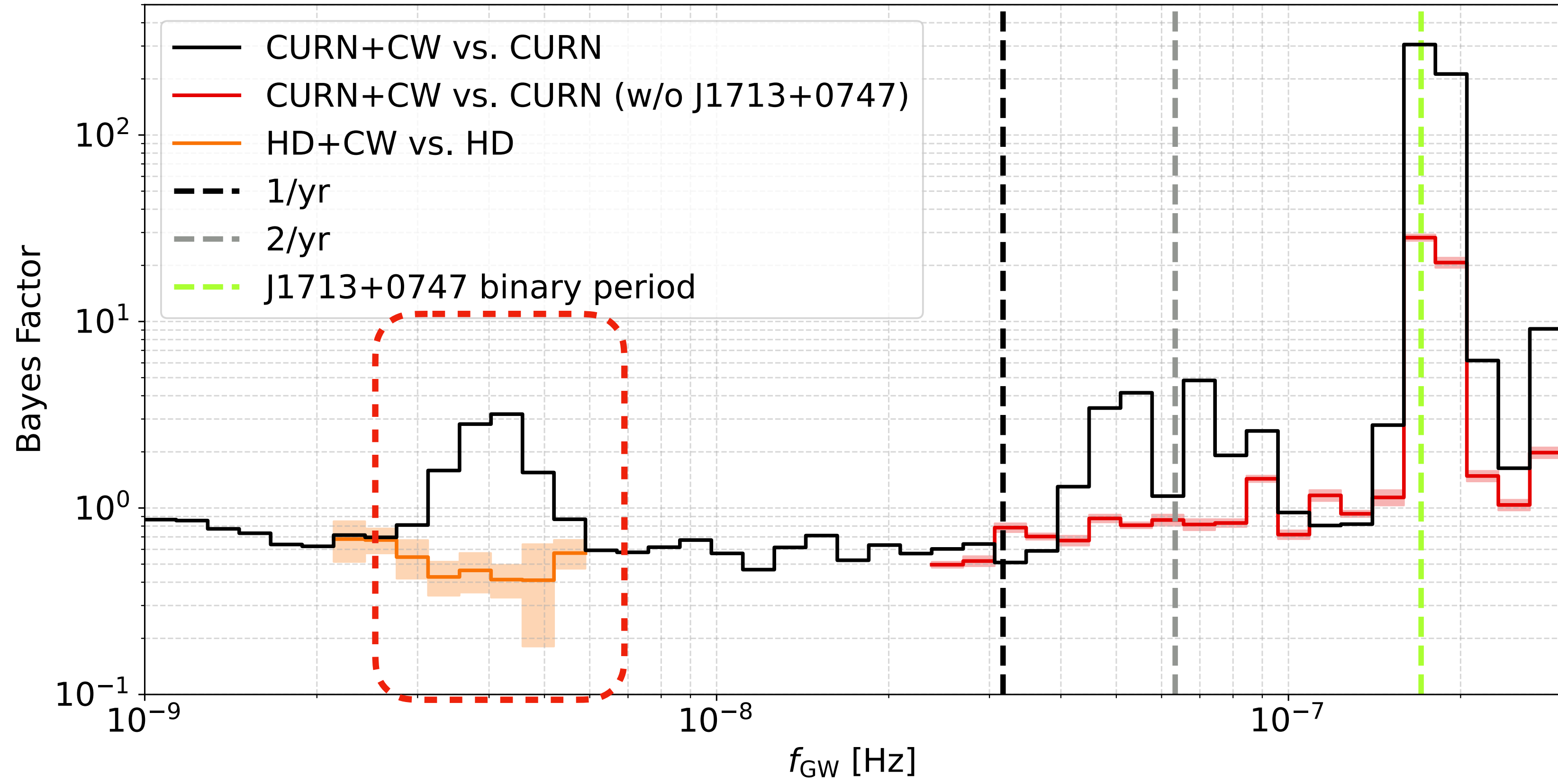
SINGLE SOURCE

Agazie et al. [2306.16222]

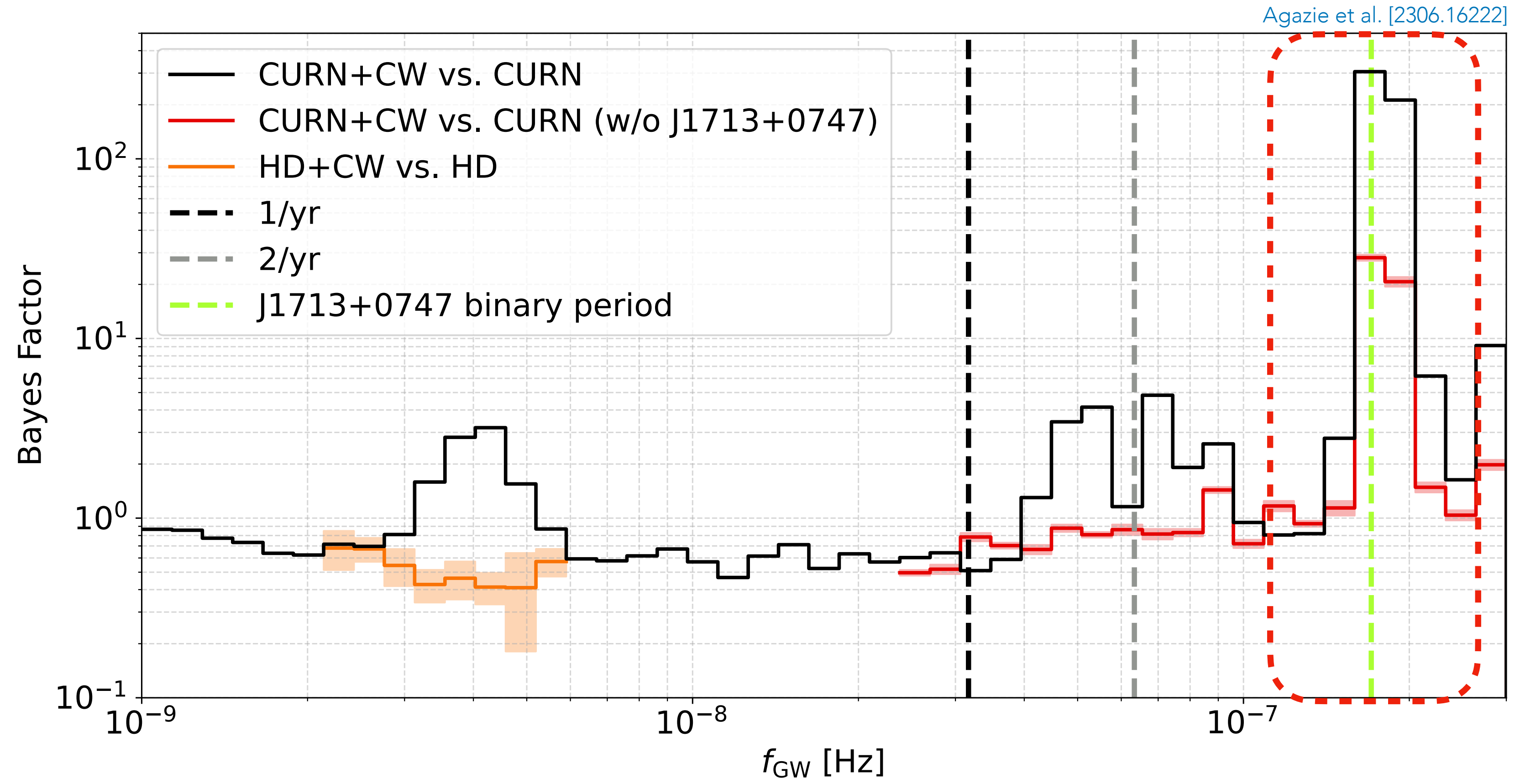


SINGLE SOURCE

Agazie et al. [2306.16222]

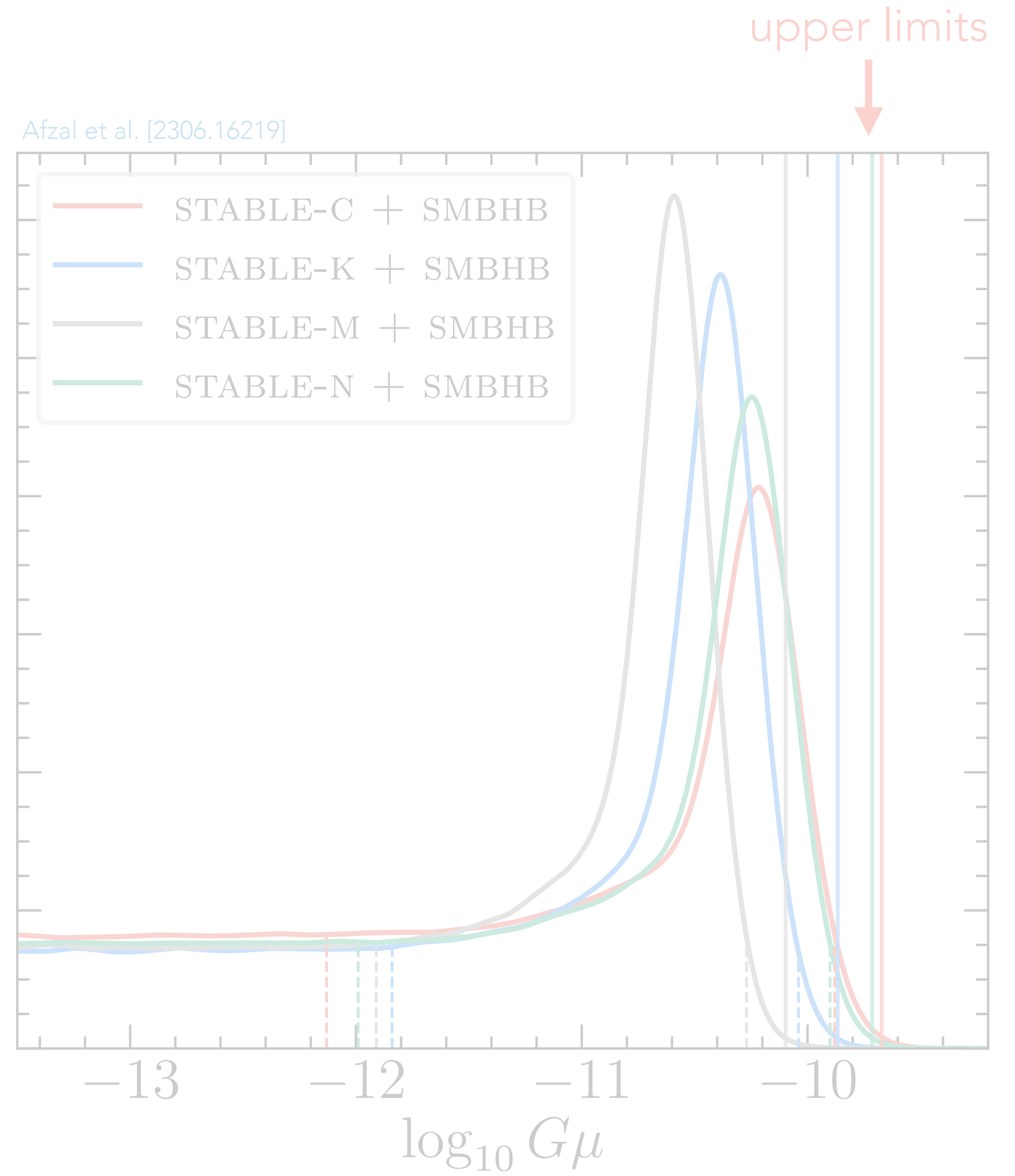
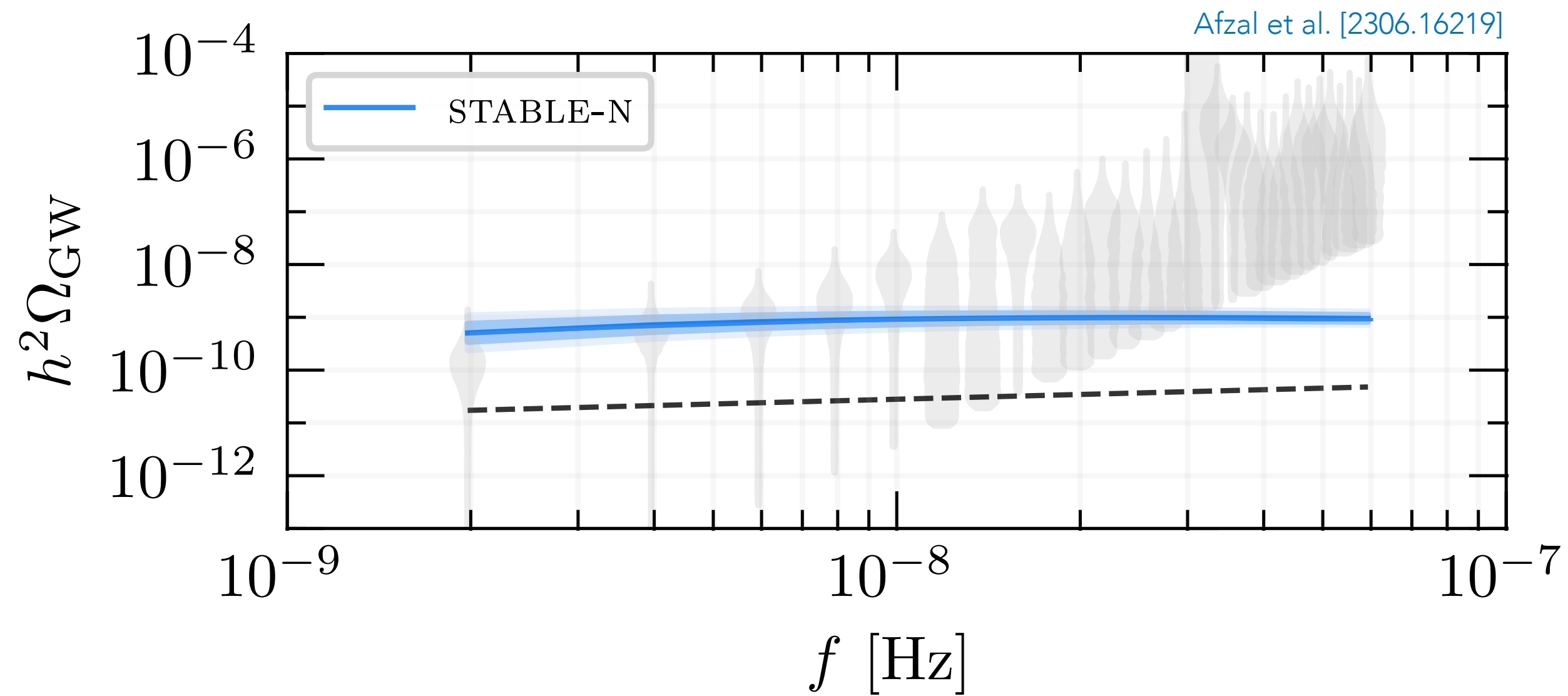
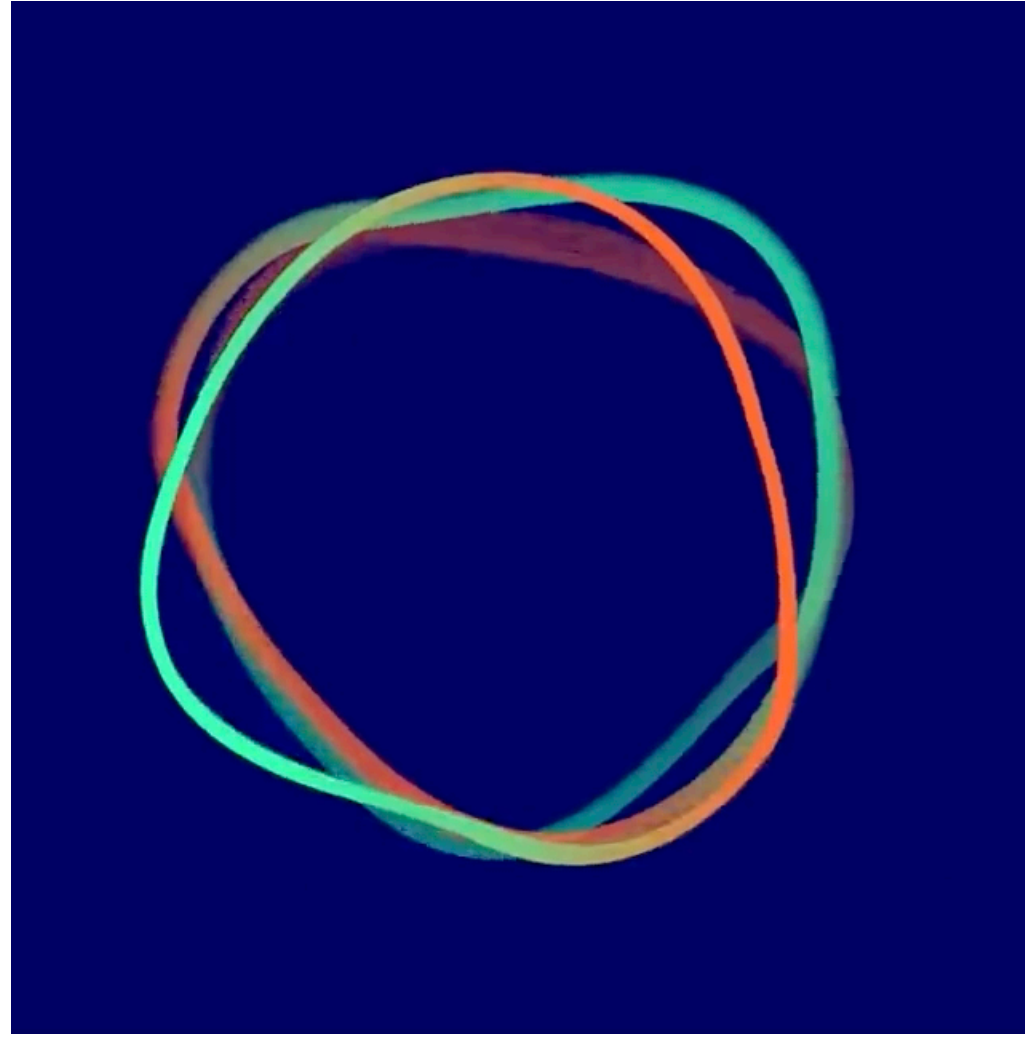


SINGLE SOURCE

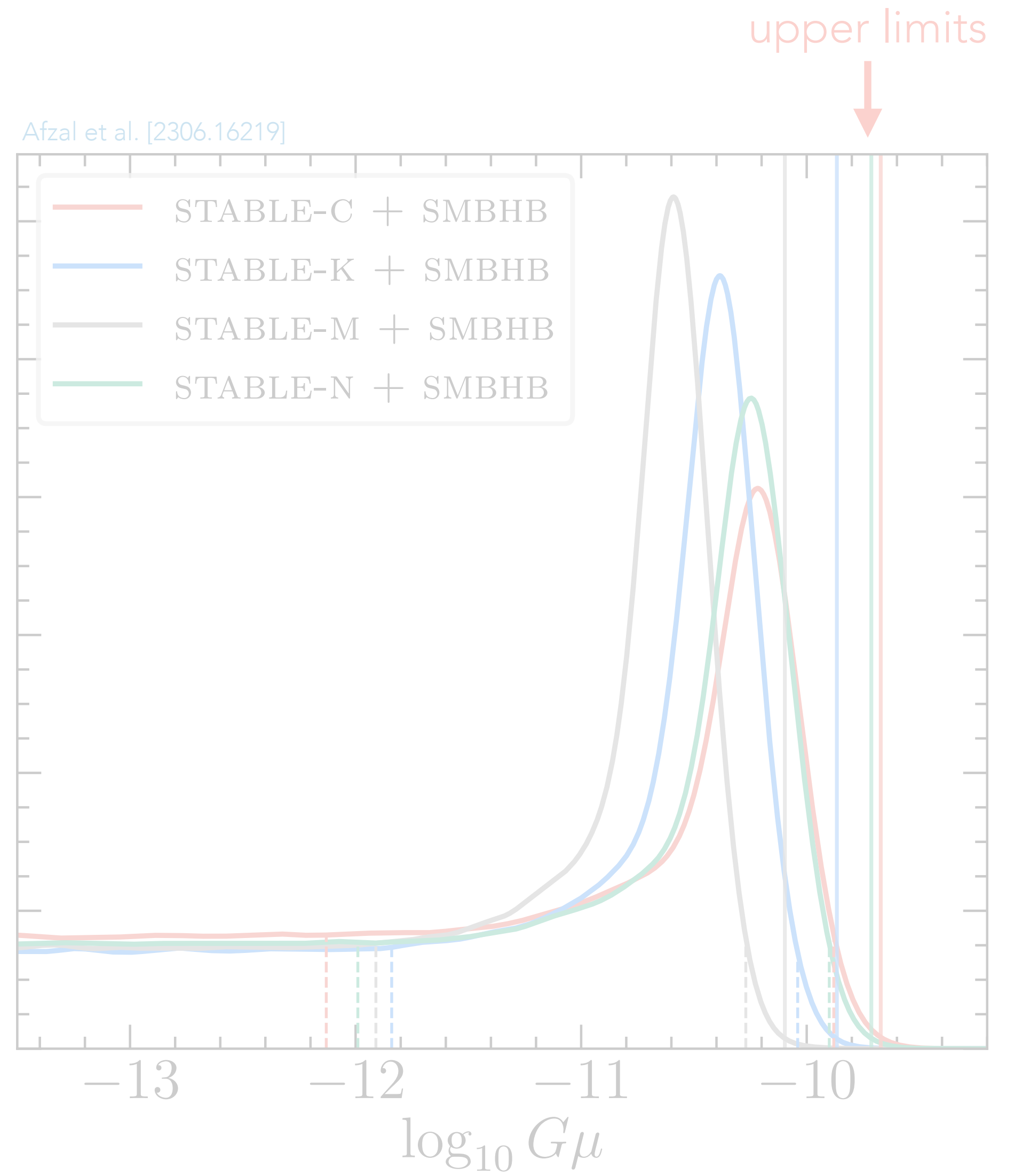
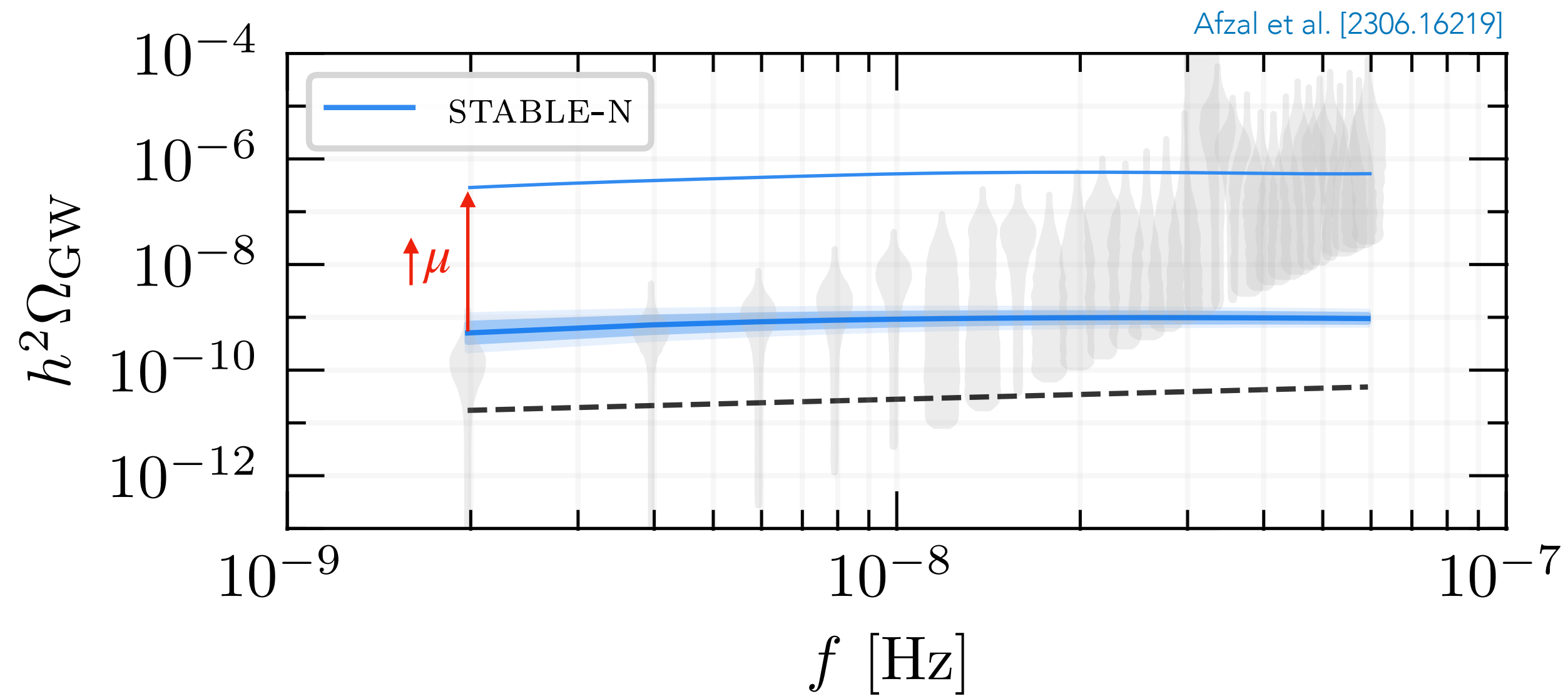
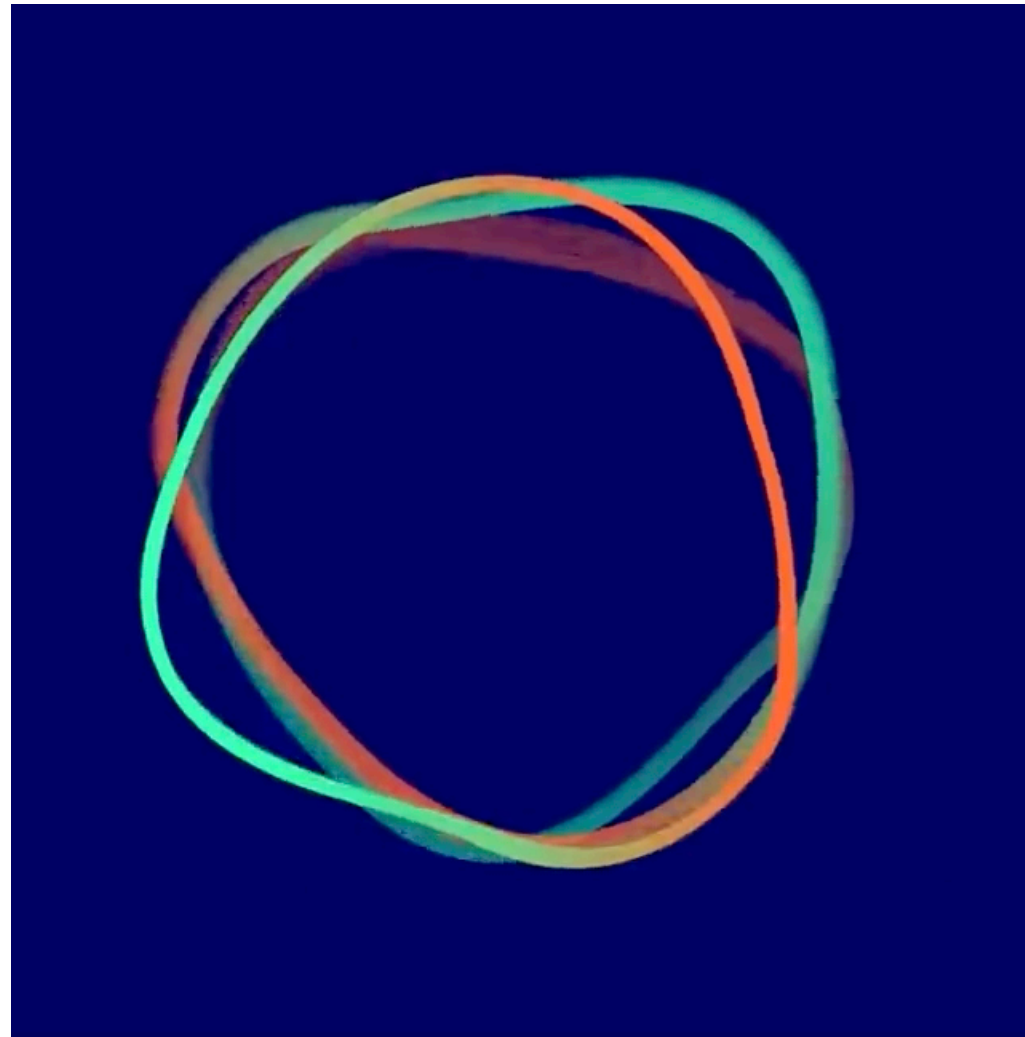


what if it's not new physics

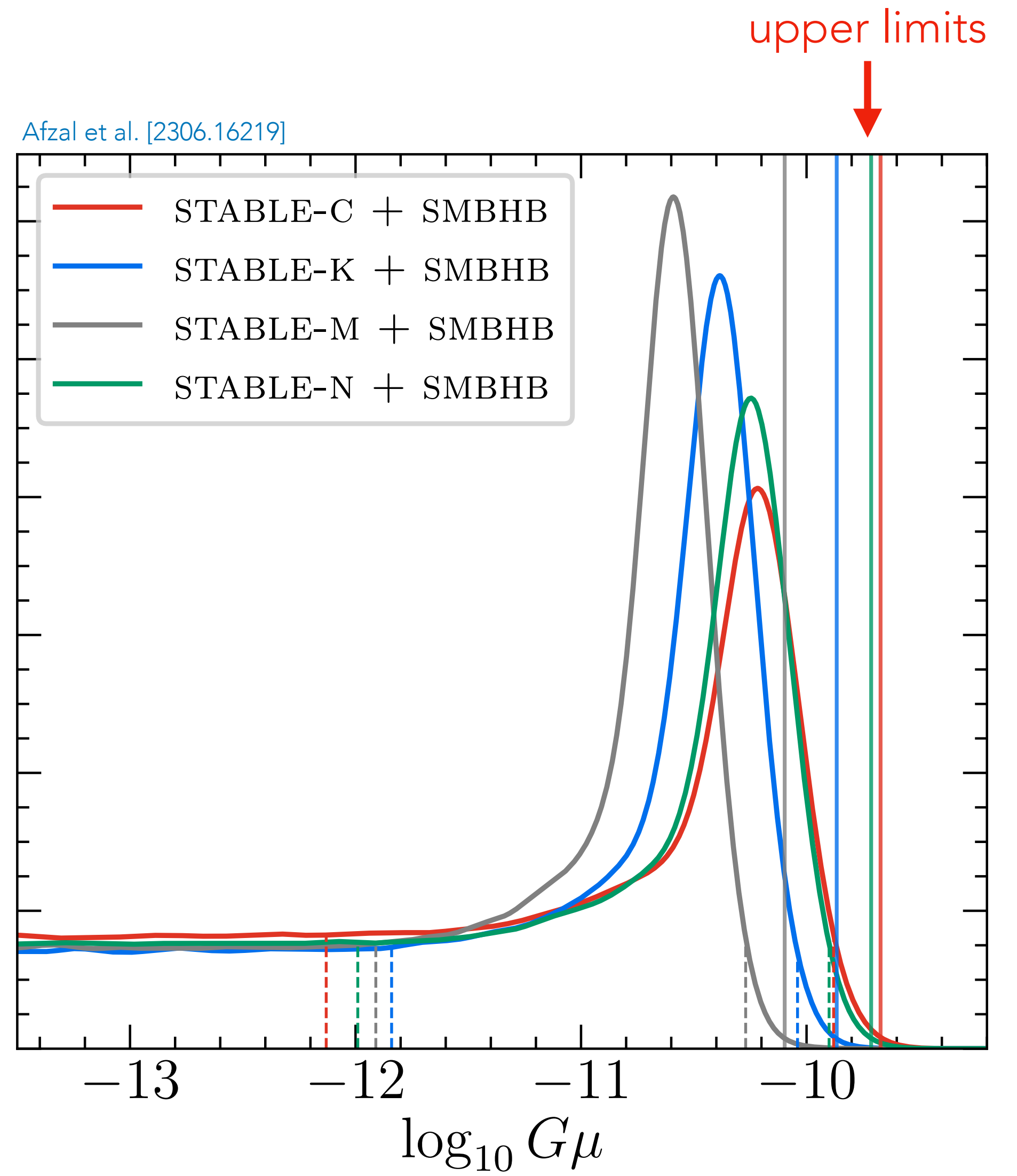
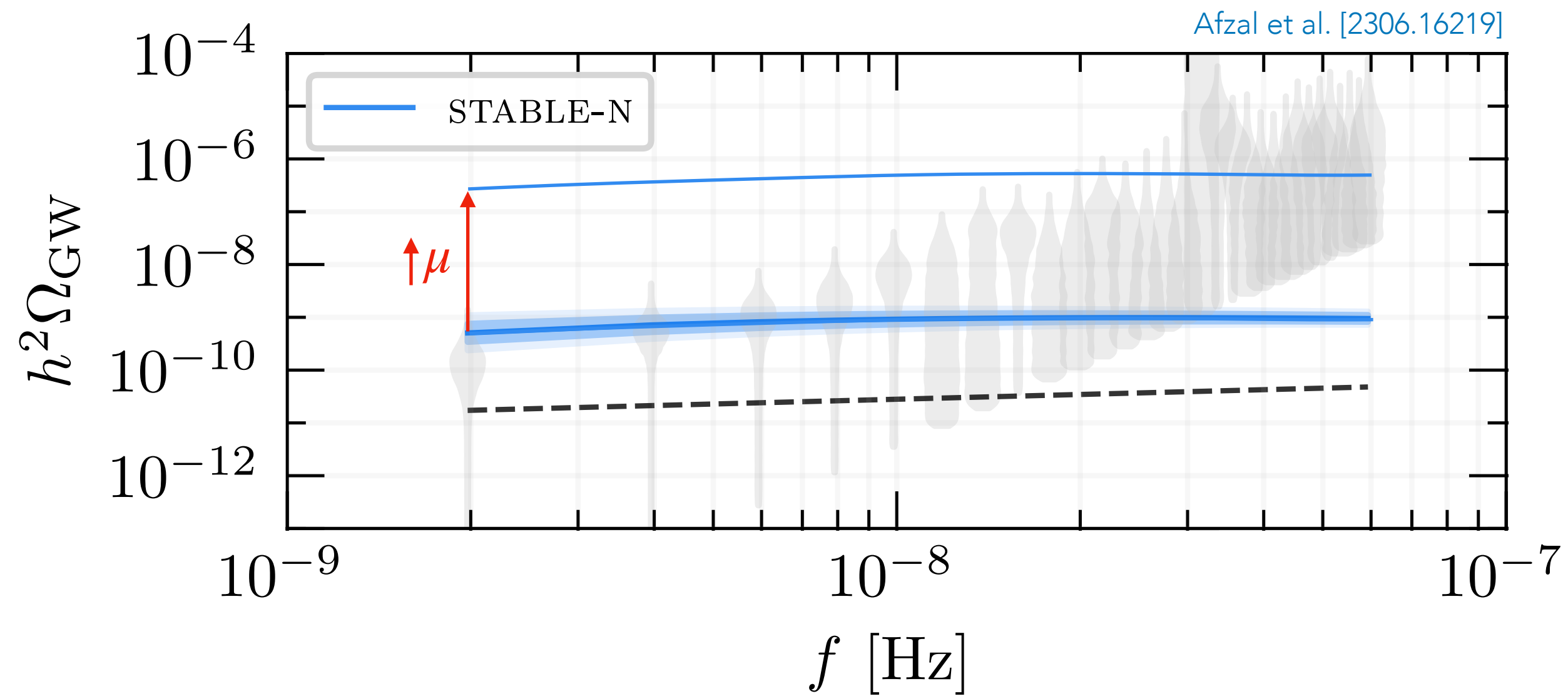
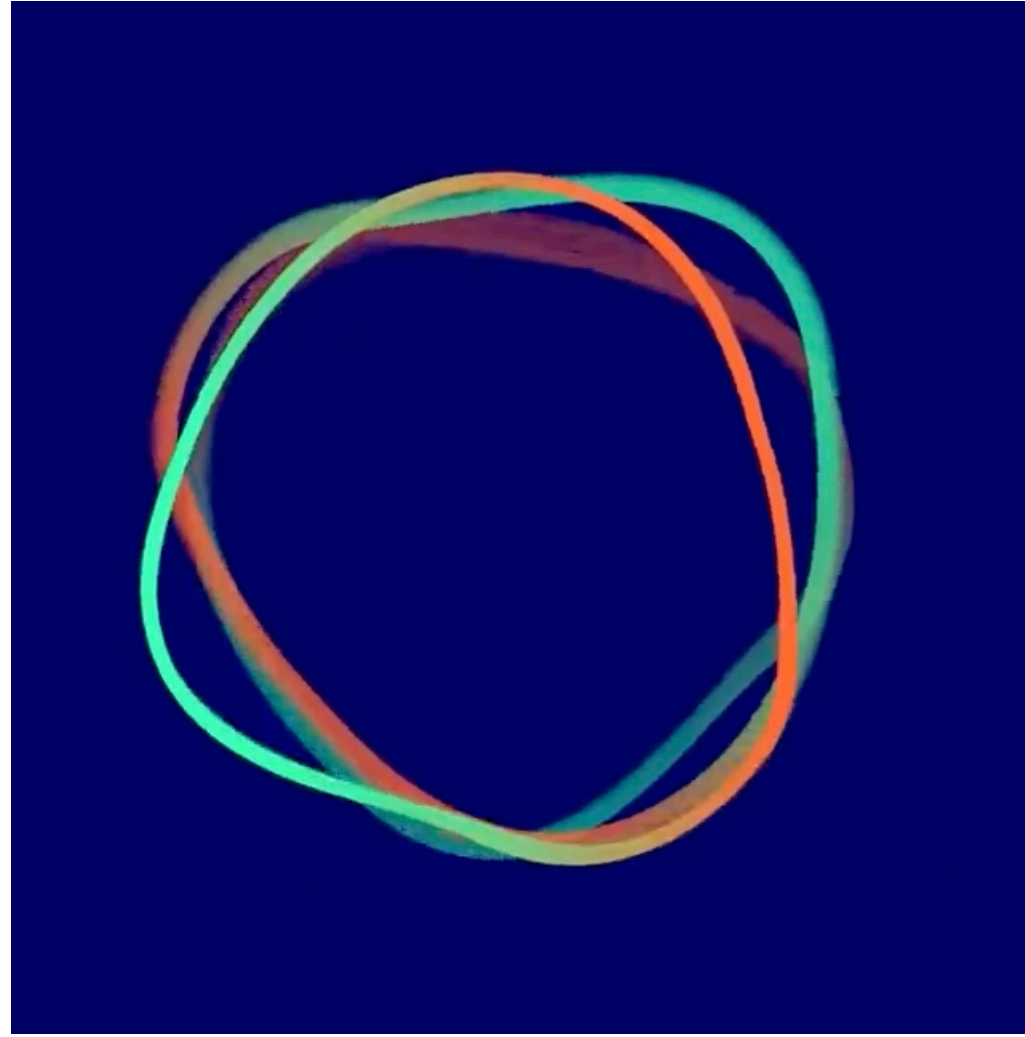
COSMIC STRINGS



COSMIC STRINGS



COSMIC STRINGS



$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_\phi}}{m_\phi} \hat{\phi}(\vec{x}) \cos(m_\phi t + \gamma(\vec{x}))$$

DM density

$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_\phi}}{m_\phi} \hat{\phi}(\vec{x}) \cos(m_\phi t + \gamma(\vec{x}))$$

DM mass

$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_\phi}}{m_\phi} \hat{\phi}(\vec{x}) \cos(m_\phi t + \gamma(\vec{x}))$$

$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_\phi}}{m_\phi} \hat{\phi}(\vec{x}) \cos(m_\phi t + \gamma(\vec{x}))$$

gravitational signals

$$s(t) \sim \frac{G\rho_\phi}{m_\phi^3} \sin(2m_\phi t)$$

[Khmelnitsky, Rubakov \[1309.5888\]](#)

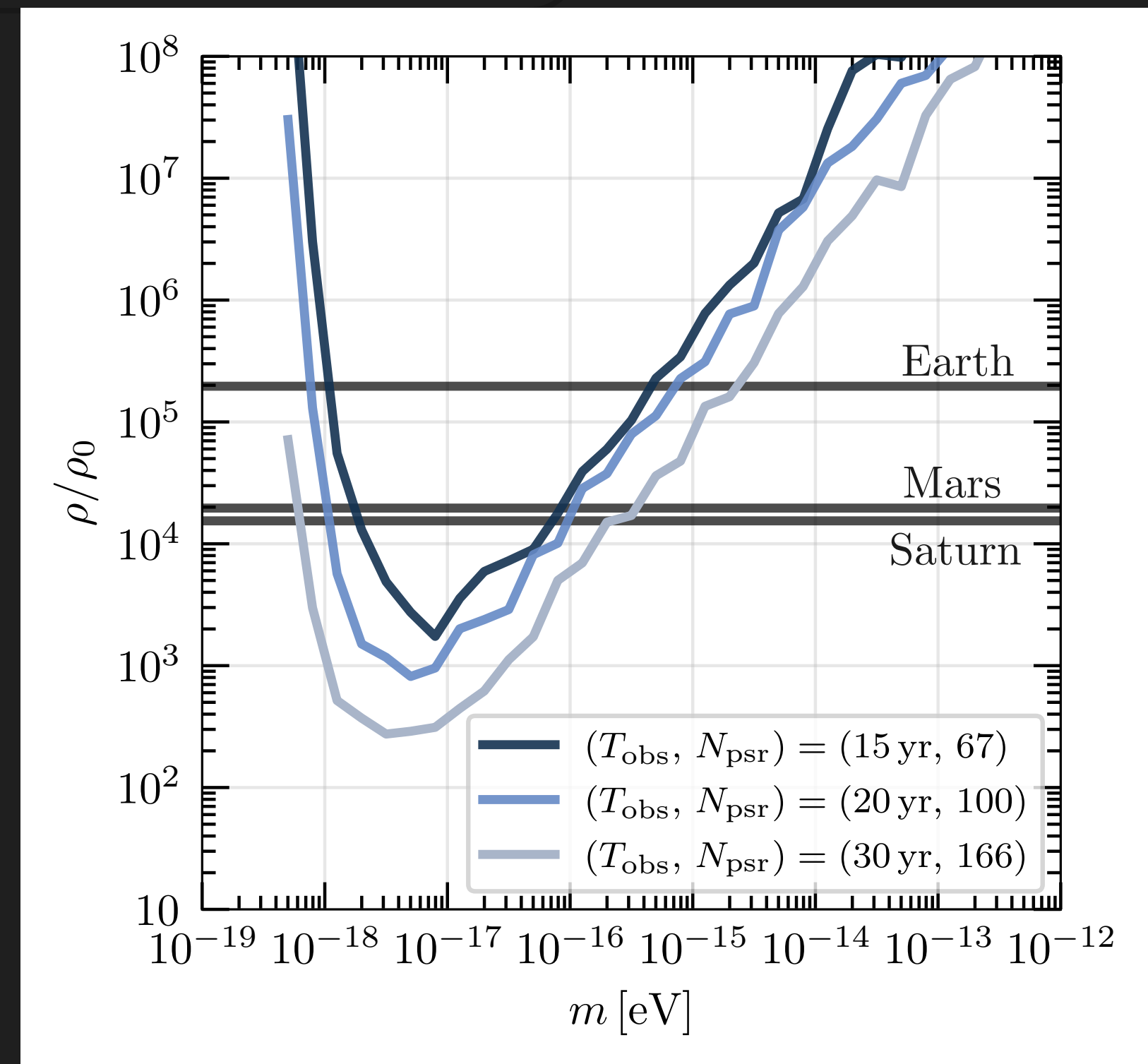
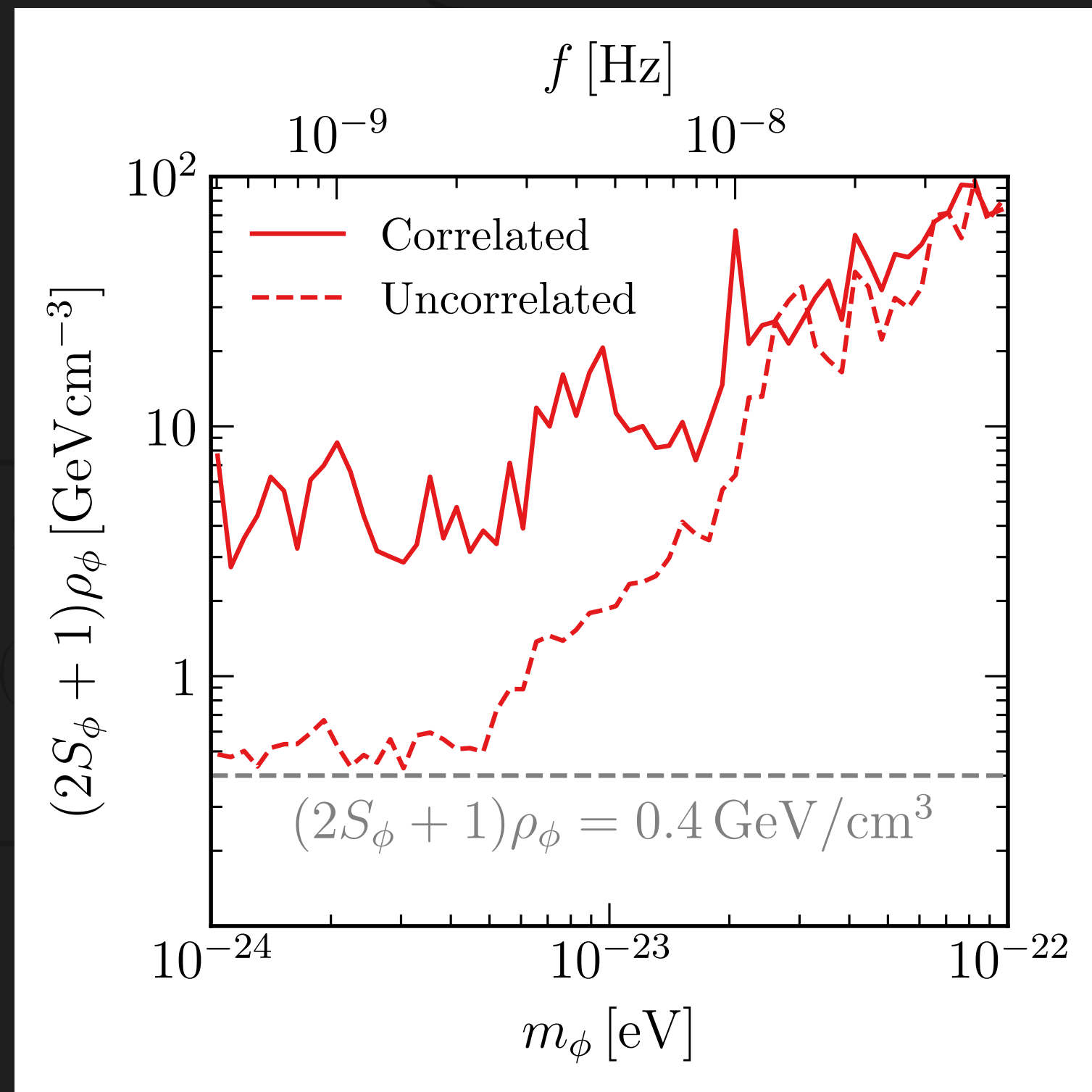
$$\langle ss' \rangle \sim \frac{G^2 \rho^2}{m^3 f^4 \sigma^4} K_0\left(\frac{\omega}{m\sigma^2}\right)$$

[Kim, AM \[2311.xxxx\]](#)

$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_\phi}}{m_\phi} \hat{\phi}(\vec{x}) \cos(m_\phi t + \gamma(\vec{x}))$$

Afzal et al. [2306.16219]

Kim, AM [2311.xxxx]



$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_\phi}}{m_\phi} \hat{\phi}(\vec{x}) \cos(m_\phi t + \gamma(\vec{x}))$$

gravitational signals

$$s(t) \sim \frac{G\rho_\phi}{m_\phi^3} \sin(2m_\phi t)$$

[Khmelnitsky, Rubakov \[1309.5888\]](#)

$$\langle ss' \rangle \sim \frac{G^2 \rho^2}{m^3 f^4 \sigma^4} K_0\left(\frac{\omega}{m\sigma^2}\right)$$

[Kim, AM \[2311.xxxx\]](#)

$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\sqrt{2\rho_\phi}}{m_\phi} \hat{\phi}(\vec{x}) \cos(m_\phi t + \gamma(\vec{x}))$$

gravitational signals

$$s(t) \sim \frac{G\rho_\phi}{m_\phi^3} \sin(2m_\phi t)$$

[Khmelnitsky, Rubakov \[1309.5888\]](#)

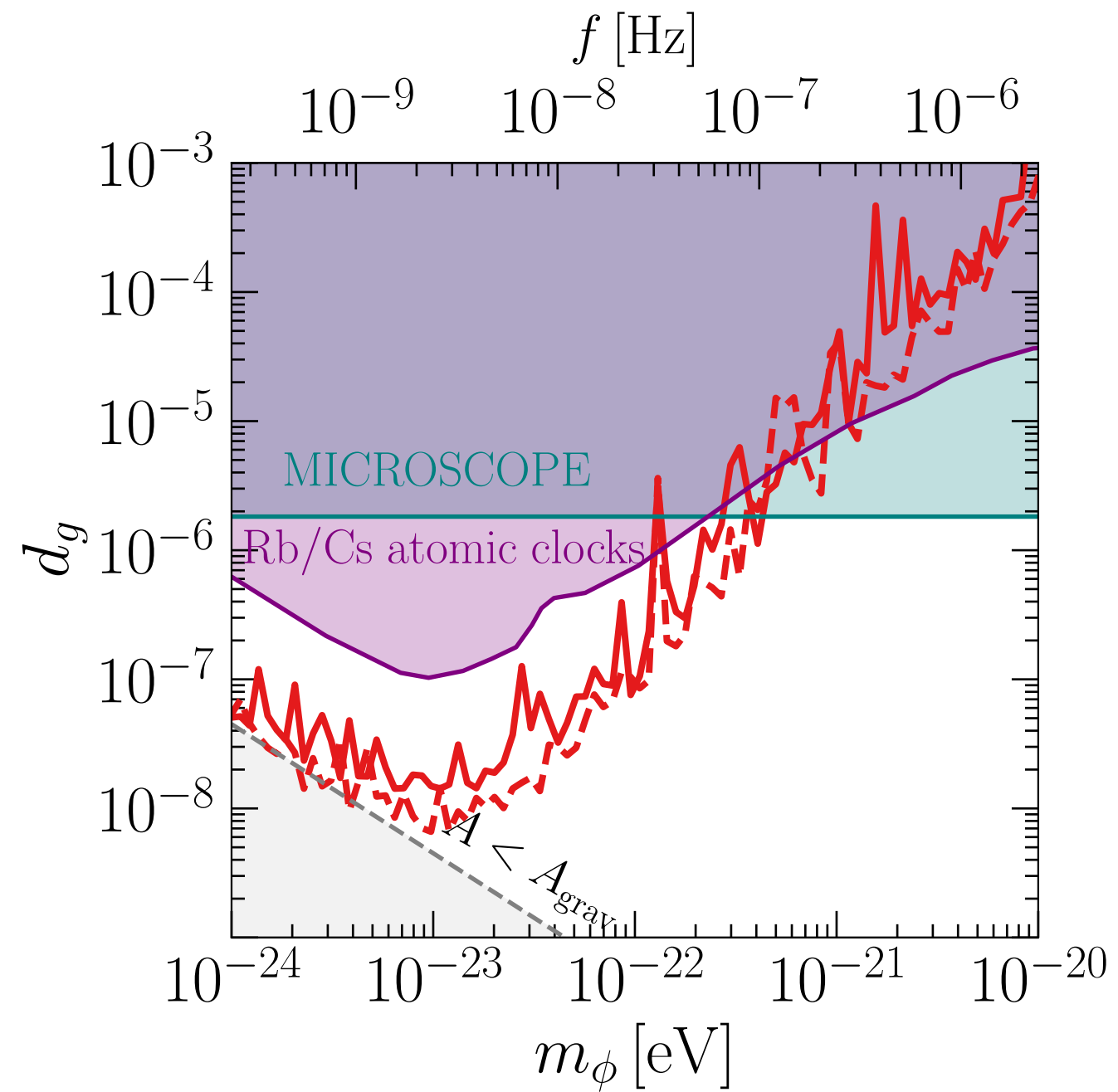
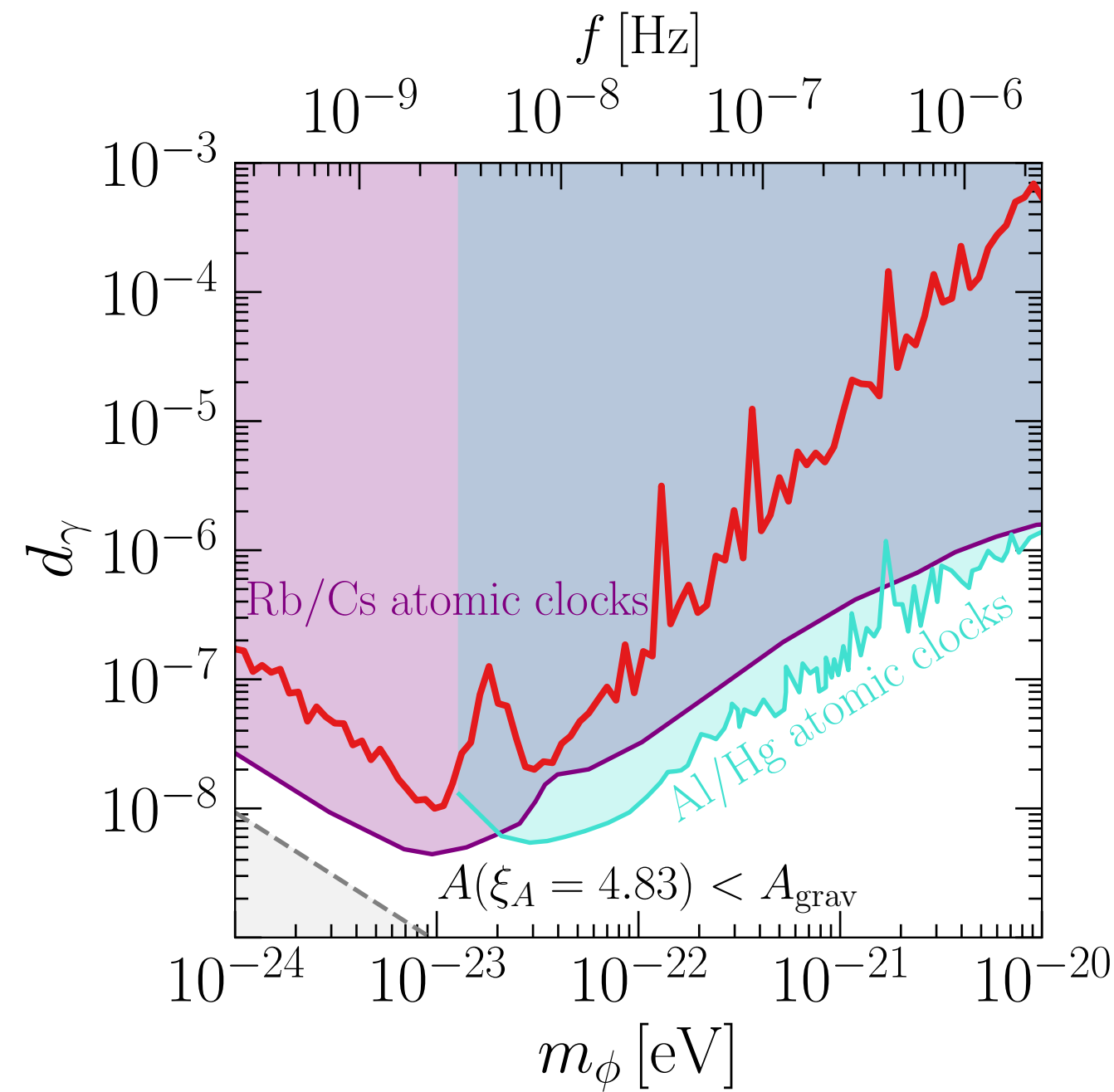
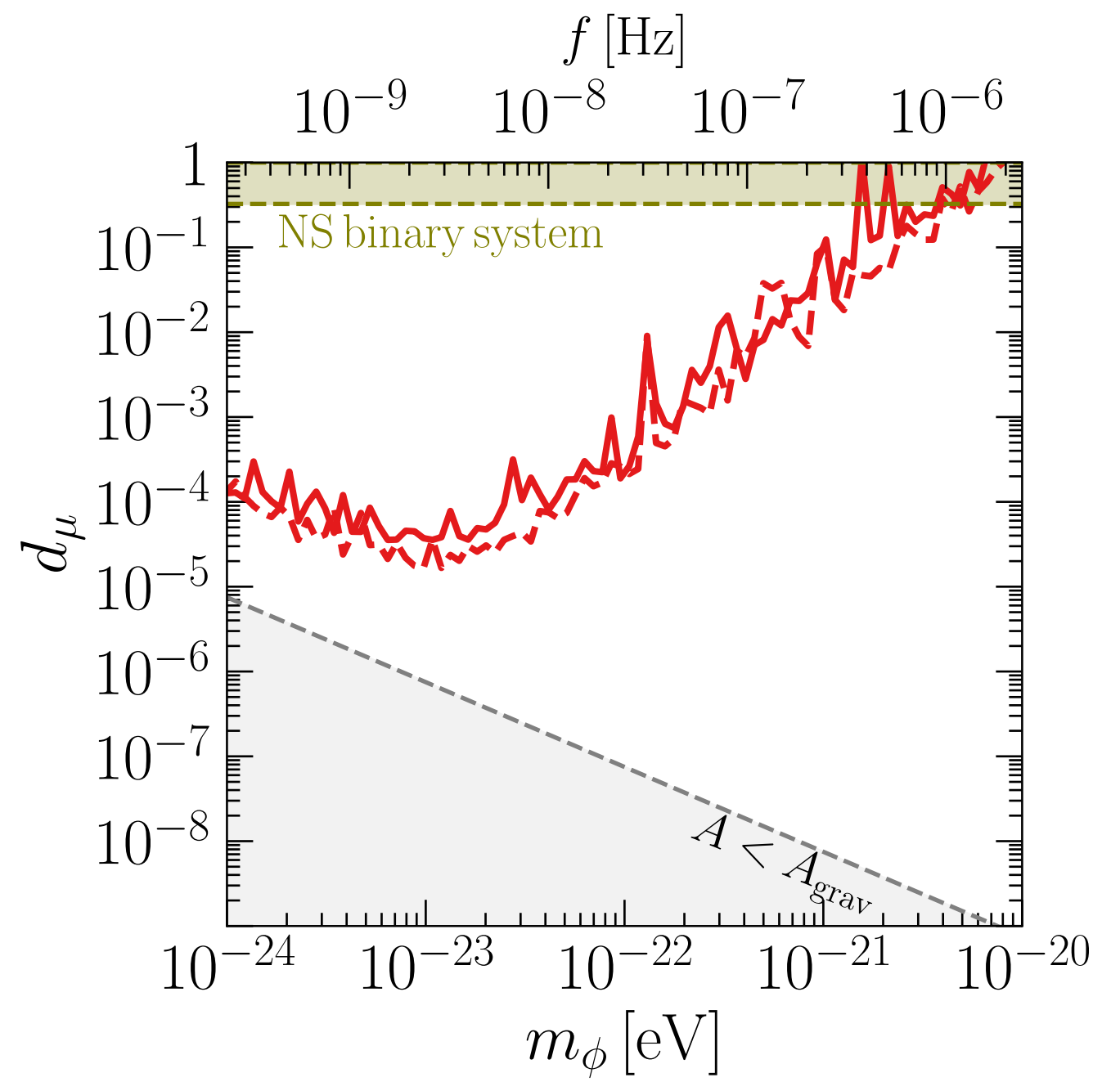
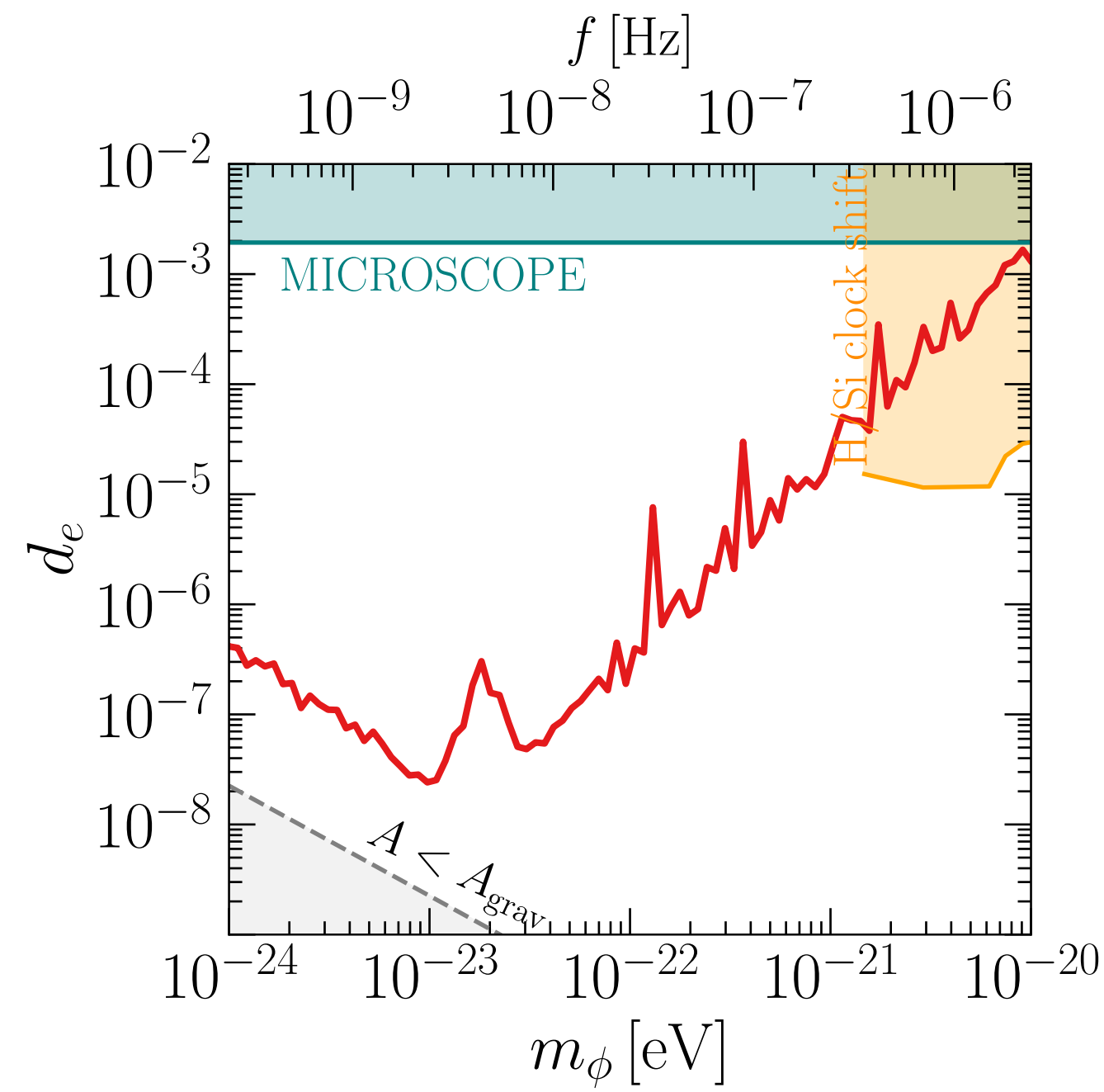
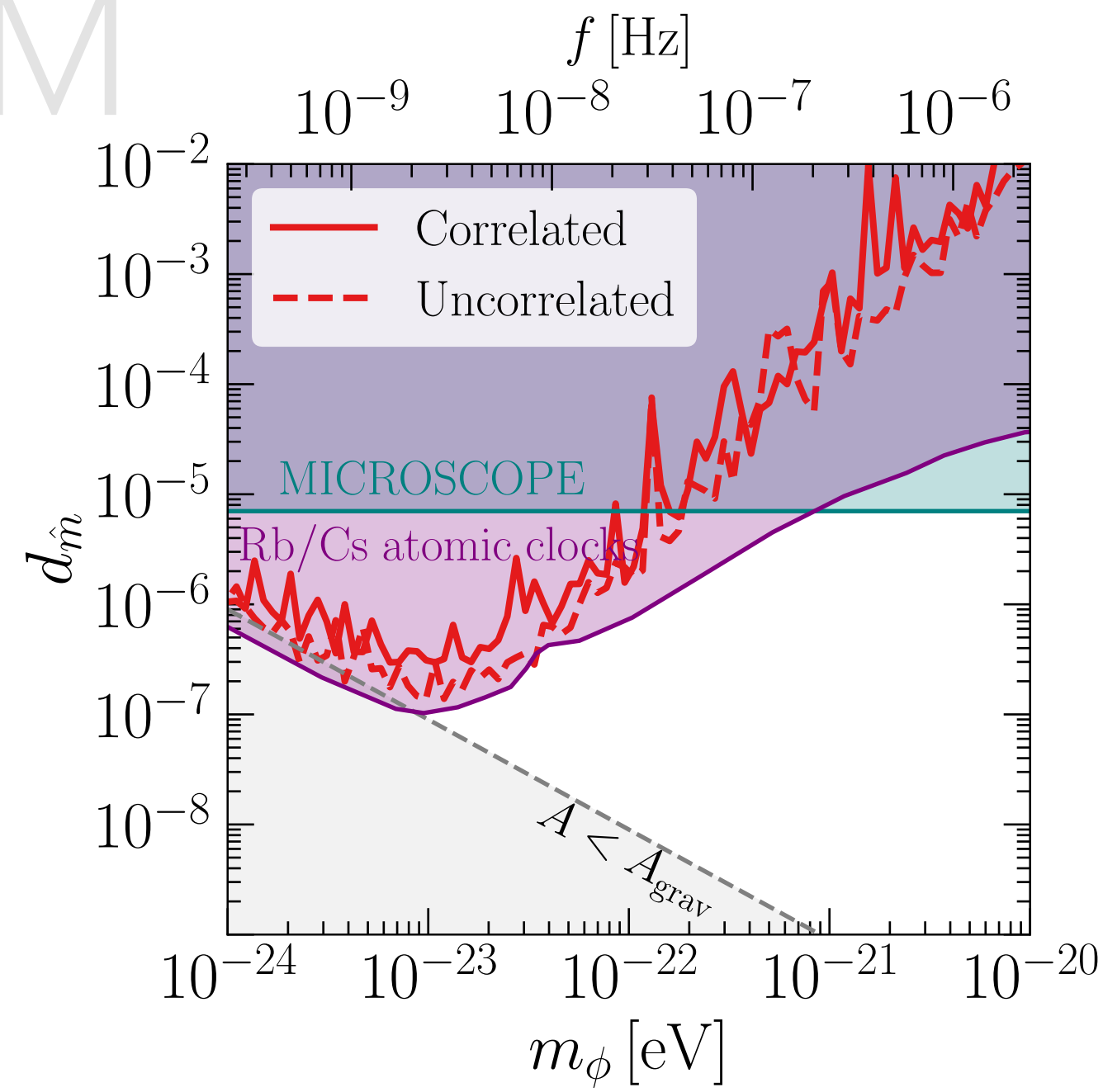
$$\langle ss' \rangle \sim \frac{G^2 \rho^2}{m^3 f^4 \sigma^4} K_0 \left(\frac{\omega}{m\sigma^2} \right)$$

[Kim, AM \[2311.xxxx\]](#)

direct coupling signals

$$s(t) \sim d \frac{\sqrt{\rho_\phi}}{m_\phi^2 \Lambda} \sin(m_\phi t)$$

[Kaplan, AM, Trickle \[2205.06817\]](#)



The background of the slide is black and filled with numerous overlapping circles of various sizes. Each circle is composed of multiple overlapping lines in shades of teal, orange, and purple, creating a complex, multi-layered effect. The circles are scattered across the entire frame, with some being larger and more prominent than others.

strong evidence for a GWB in the nHz band

The background of the slide is black and filled with numerous overlapping, multi-colored circular patterns. These patterns, resembling stylized orbits or data points, are composed of lines in shades of teal, orange, and purple. They are scattered across the entire frame, with some appearing larger and more prominent than others.

strong evidence for a GWB in the nHz band

cosmology or astrophysics?



strong evidence for a GWB in the nHz band

cosmology or astrophysics?

CW and anisotropies will help us discriminating

strong evidence for a **GWB** in the **nHz** band

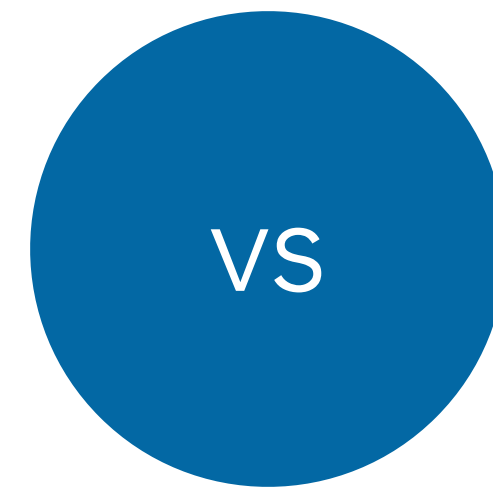
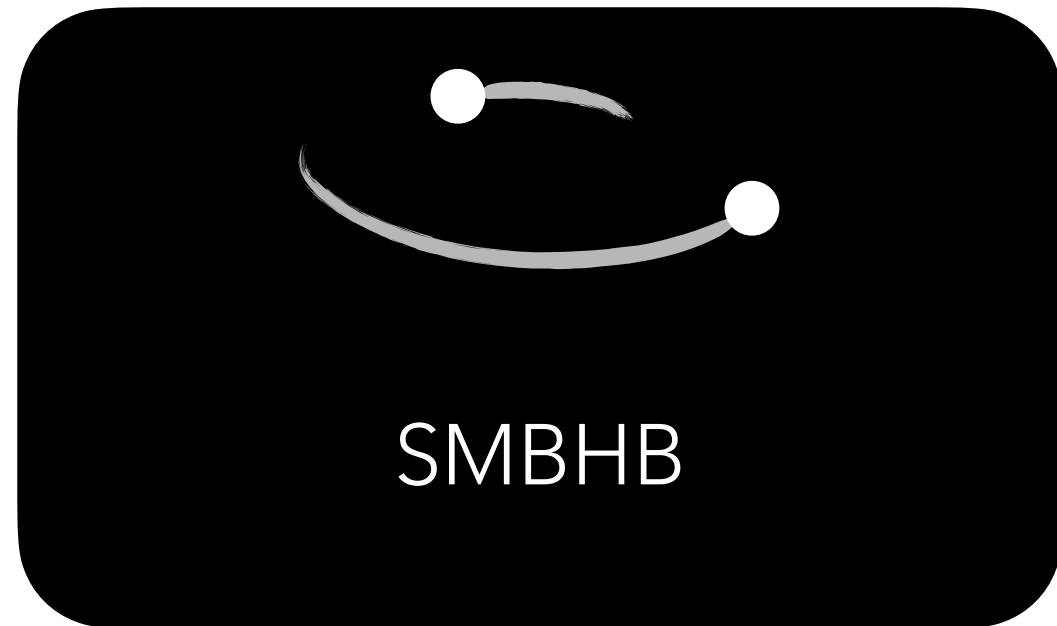
cosmology or astrophysics?

CW and anisotropies will help us discriminating

PTA can be used to constrain new physics

backup

FACE-OFF



inflation

scalar induced GW

phase transitions

cosmic strings

domain walls

FACE-OFF

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}} \propto \frac{A^2}{H_0^2} \left(\frac{f}{\text{yr}^{-1}} \right)^{5-\gamma} \text{yr}^{-2}$$

VS

inflation

scalar induced GW

phase transitions

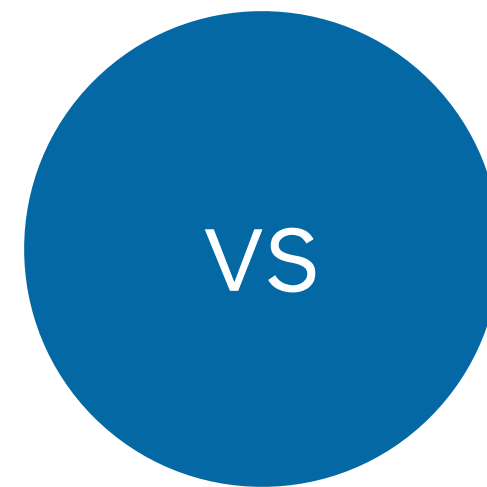
cosmic strings

domain walls

FACE-OFF

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}} \propto \frac{A^2}{H_0^2} \left(\frac{f}{\text{yr}^{-1}} \right)^{5-\gamma} \text{yr}^{-2}$$

free parameters



inflation

scalar induced GW

phase transitions

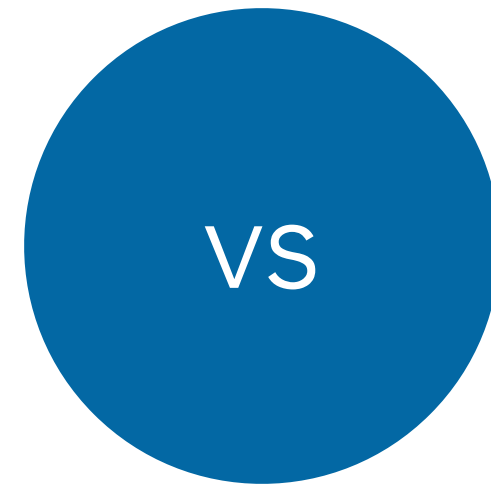
cosmic strings

domain walls

FACE-OFF

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}} \propto \frac{A^2}{H_0^2} \left(\frac{f}{\text{yr}^{-1}} \right)^{5-\gamma} \text{yr}^{-2}$$

free parameters



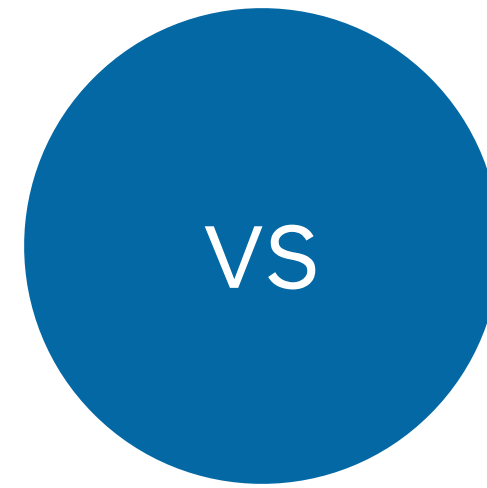
$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f; \Theta)$$

free parameters

FACE-OFF

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}} \propto \frac{A^2}{H_0^2} \left(\frac{f}{\text{yr}^{-1}} \right)^{5-\gamma} \text{yr}^{-2}$$

free parameters



$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f; \alpha_*, T_*, HR_*)$$

free parameters

FACE-OFF

$$\mathcal{B} = \frac{\mathcal{Z}_{\text{NP}}}{\mathcal{Z}_{\text{BHB}}}$$

$$\mathcal{Z} = \int d\Theta P(\mathcal{D}|\Theta, \mathcal{H}) \times P(\Theta|\mathcal{H})$$

FACE-OFF

$$\mathcal{B} = \frac{\mathcal{Z}_{\text{NP}}}{\mathcal{Z}_{\text{BHB}}}$$

$$\mathcal{Z} = \int d\Theta P(\mathcal{D}|\Theta, \mathcal{H}) \times P(\Theta|\mathcal{H})$$



likelihood function

FACE-OFF

$$\mathcal{B} = \frac{\mathcal{Z}_{\text{NP}}}{\mathcal{Z}_{\text{BHB}}}$$

$$\mathcal{Z} = \int d\Theta P(\mathcal{D}|\Theta, \mathcal{H}) \times P(\Theta|\mathcal{H})$$

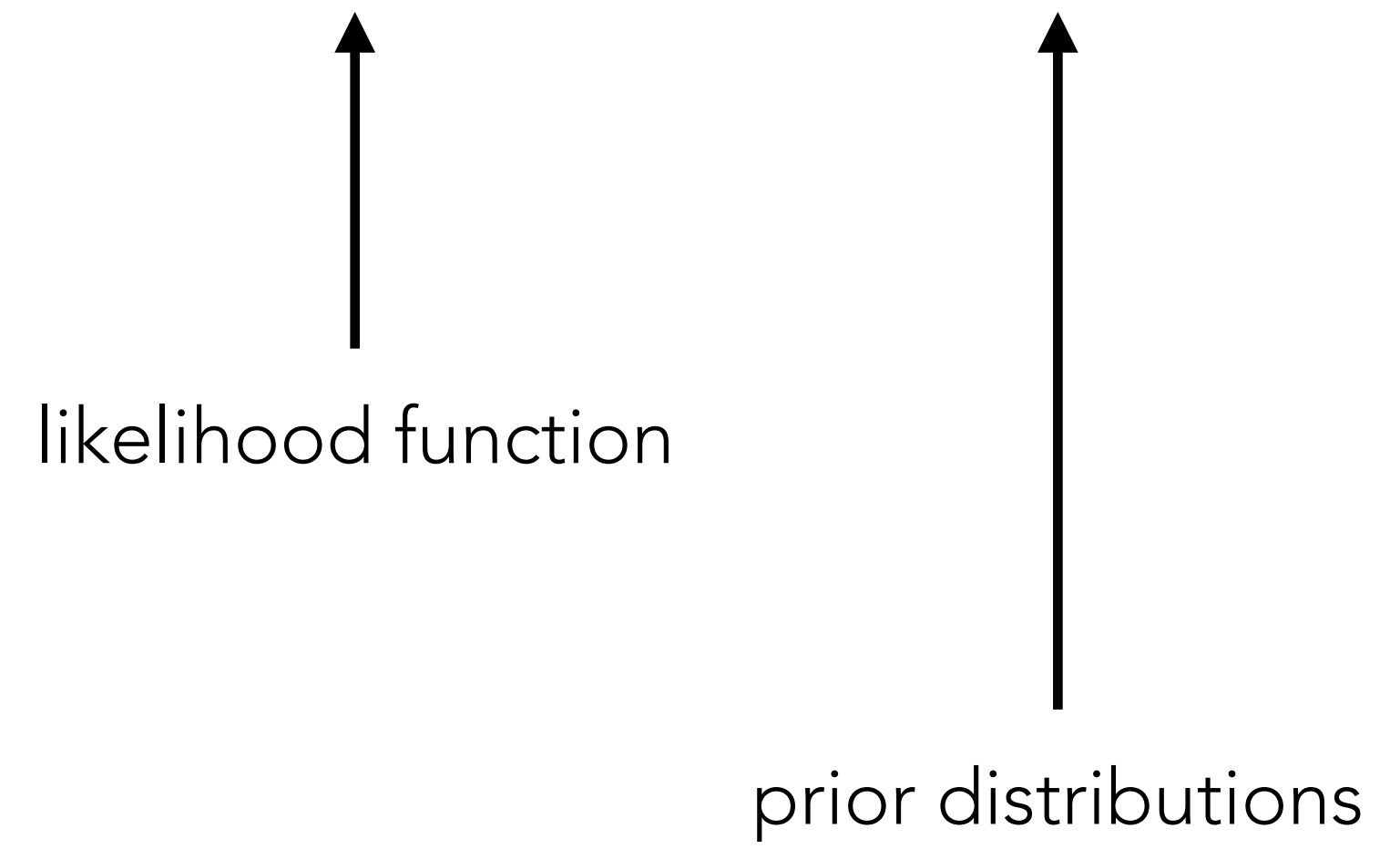
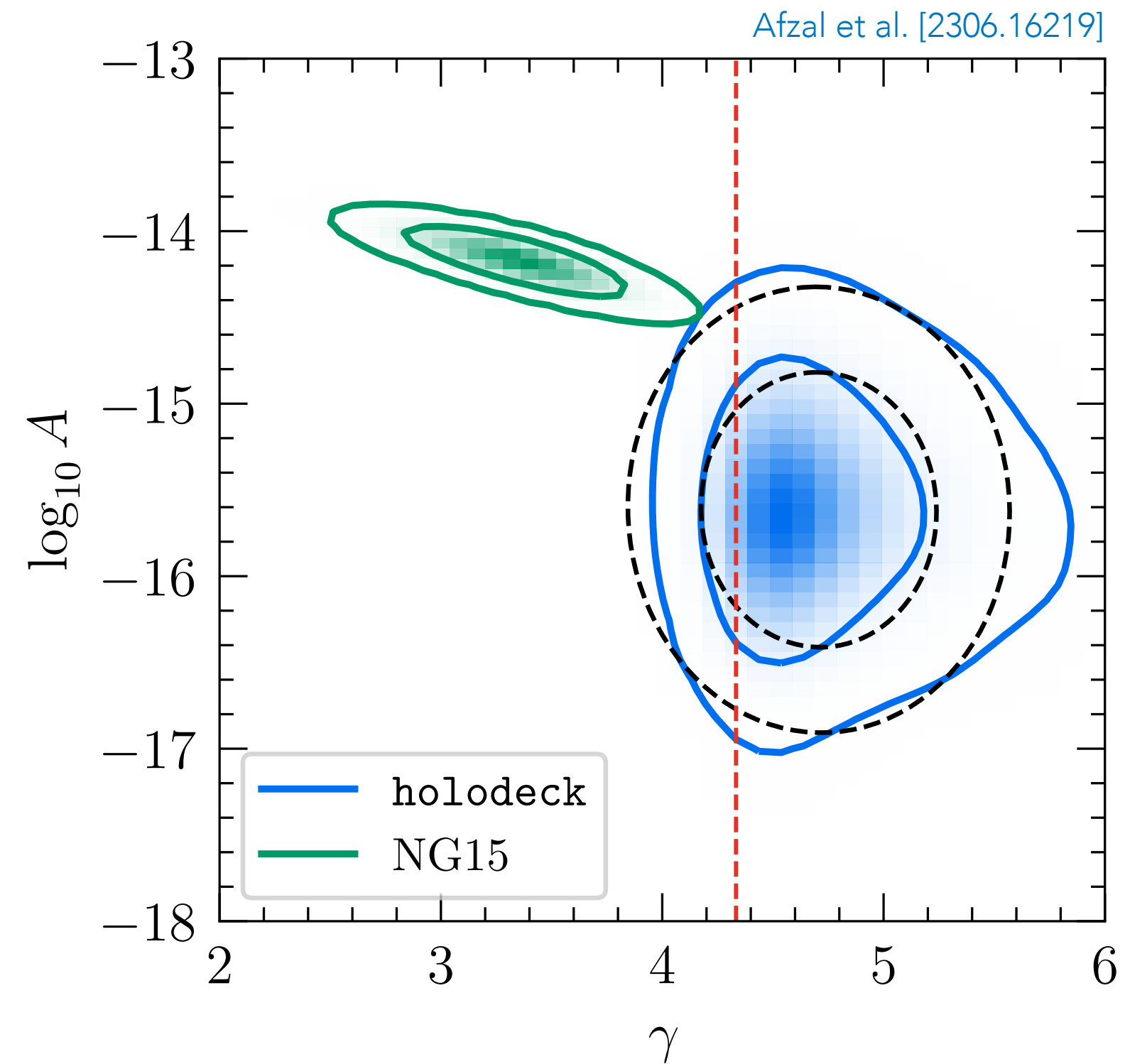
↑
likelihood function

↑
prior distributions

FACE-OFF

$$\mathcal{B} = \frac{\mathcal{Z}_{\text{NP}}}{\mathcal{Z}_{\text{BHB}}}$$

$$\mathcal{Z} = \int d\Theta P(\mathcal{D}|\Theta, \mathcal{H}) \times P(\Theta|\mathcal{H})$$



FACE-OFF

Afzal et al. [2306.16219]

