

Title: Moving Closer to a Detection of nHz-frequency Gravitational Waves with NANOGrav

Speakers: Scott Ransom

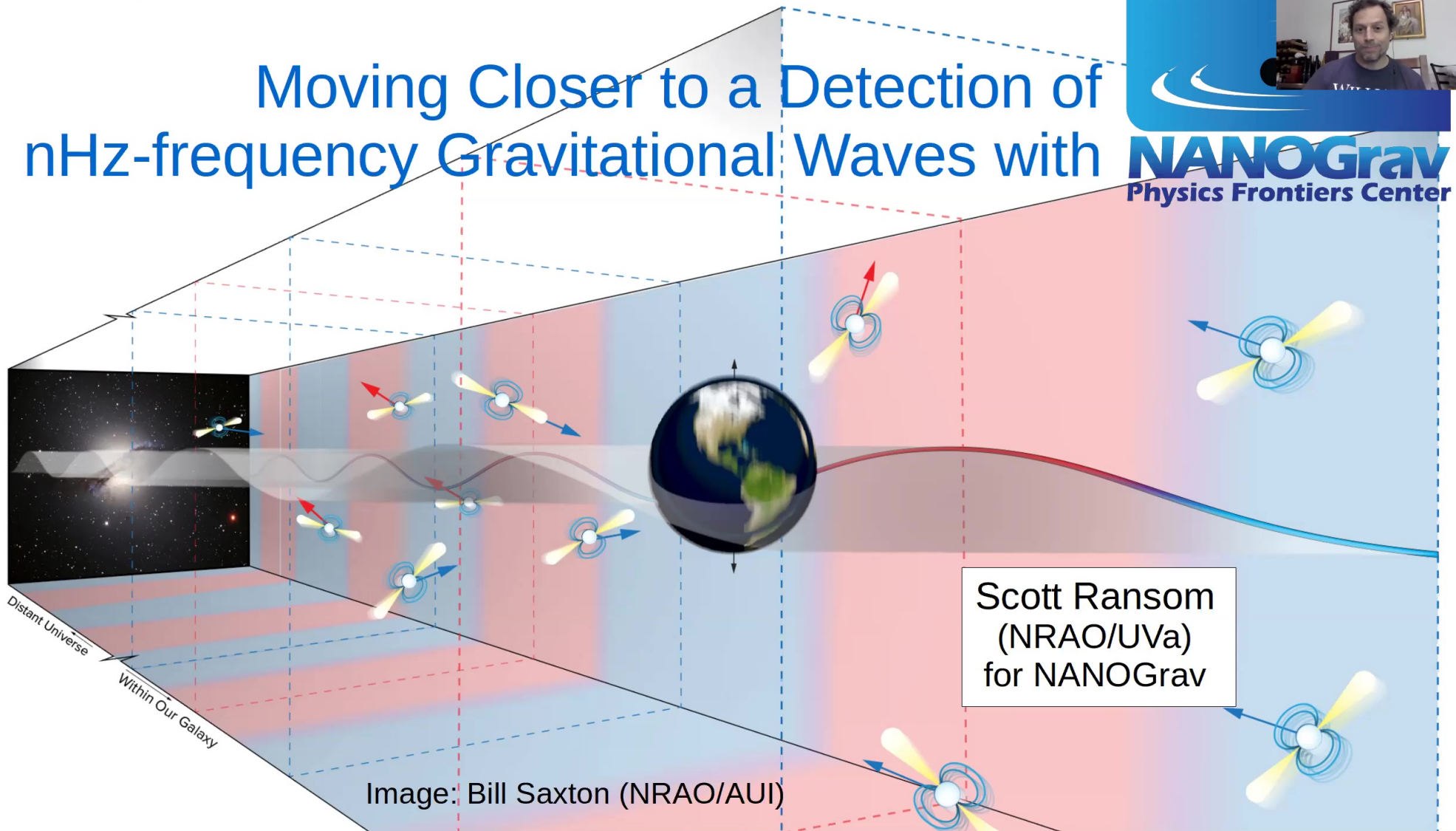
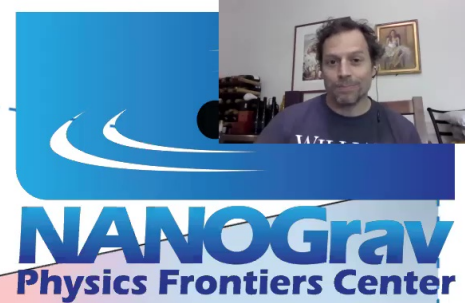
Series: Strong Gravity

Date: October 29, 2020 - 1:00 PM

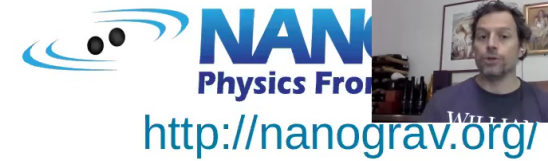
URL: <http://pirsa.org/20100068>

Abstract: Millisecond Pulsars (MSPs) have become reliable and extremely stable workhorses of modern astronomy and physics. The North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves, or NANOGrav, has been observing growing numbers of these systems for over 15 years, and the data look great. High precision timing of almost 80 MSPs has provided unprecedented sensitivity to the gravitational wave Universe at nHz-frequencies, where our upper limits are already constraining the population of super-massive black hole binaries. But our sensitivity is increasing each year as we continue to add MSPs to our timing array and develop new techniques to remove systematics due to the interstellar medium and the uncertain solar system ephemerides. Meanwhile, though, our observations provide a wide variety of astrophysics, such as new neutron star mass measurements and constraints of the dense matter equation of state.

Moving Closer to a Detection of nHz-frequency Gravitational Waves with



North American Nanohertz Observatory for GWs



Our mission is to detect nHz frequency gravitational waves from super-massive black hole binaries.
We are over 100 students and scientists and welcome new collaborators and members.





Astro2020 Project White Paper

The NANOGrav Program for Gravitational Waves and Fundamental Physics



The North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves

July 10, 2019

Thematic areas: Multi-messenger astronomy and astrophysics; Cosmology and fundamental physics; Formation and evolution of compact objects.

Contact author: Scott Ransom (NANOGrav Chair), NRAO, scott.ransom@nanograv.org

Authors: A. Brazier (Cornell), S. Chatterjee (Cornell), T. Cohen (NMT), J. M. Cordes (Cornell), M. E. DeCesar (Lafayette), P. B. Demorest (NRAO), J. S. Hazboun (UW Bothell), M. T. Lam (WVU, RIT), R. S. Lynch (GBO), M. A. McLaughlin (WVU), S. M. Ransom (NRAO), X. Siemens (OSU, UWM), S. R. Taylor (Caltech/JPL, Vanderbilt), and S. J. Vigeland (UWM) for the NANOGrav Collaboration (~ 50 institutions, 100+ individuals)

Ransom et al. 2019, Astro2020 Whitepaper

But not just NANOGrav...



Parkes Pulsar
Timing Array



European Pulsar
Timing Array

But not just NANOGrav...



Parkes Pulsar
Timing Array



European Pulsar
Timing Array



GWs from super-massive
black hole binaries...

...detected by timing an
array
of radio millisecond pulsars.

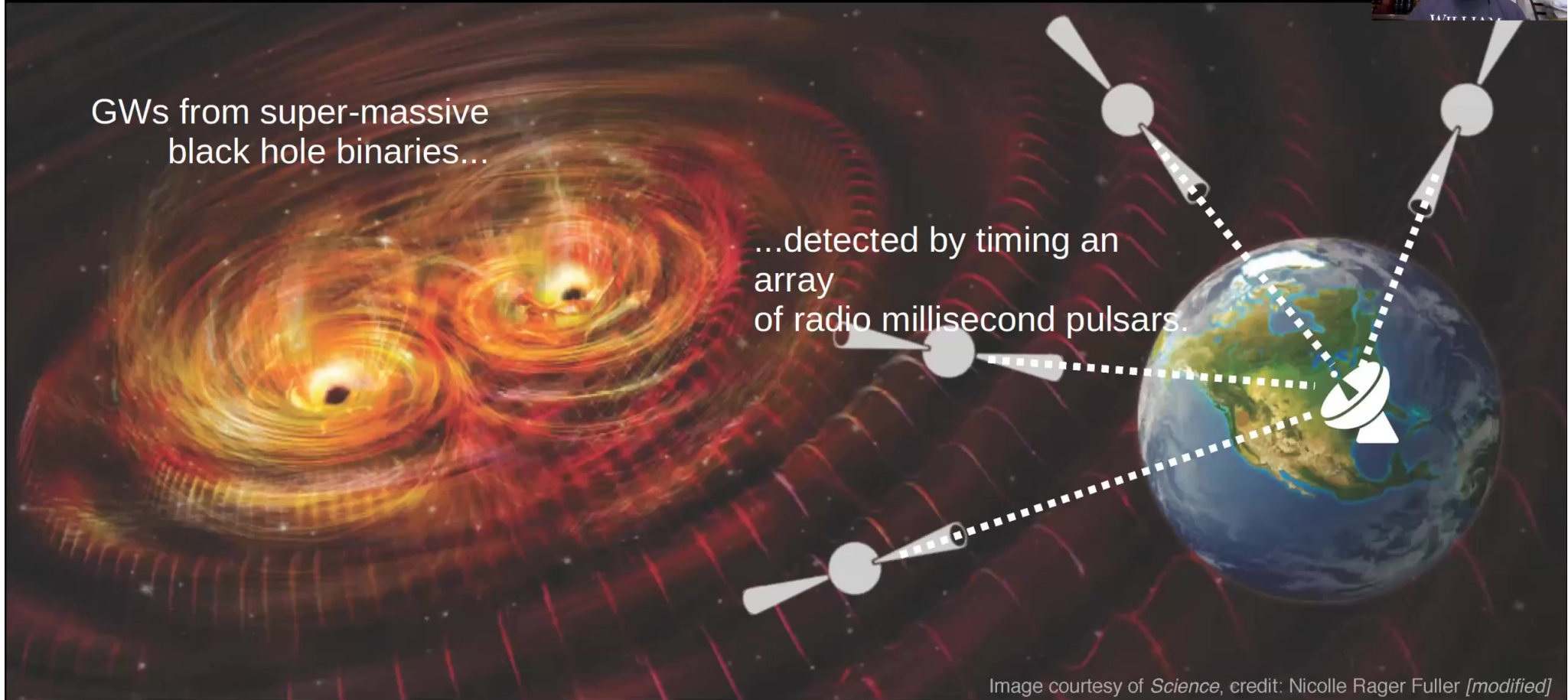
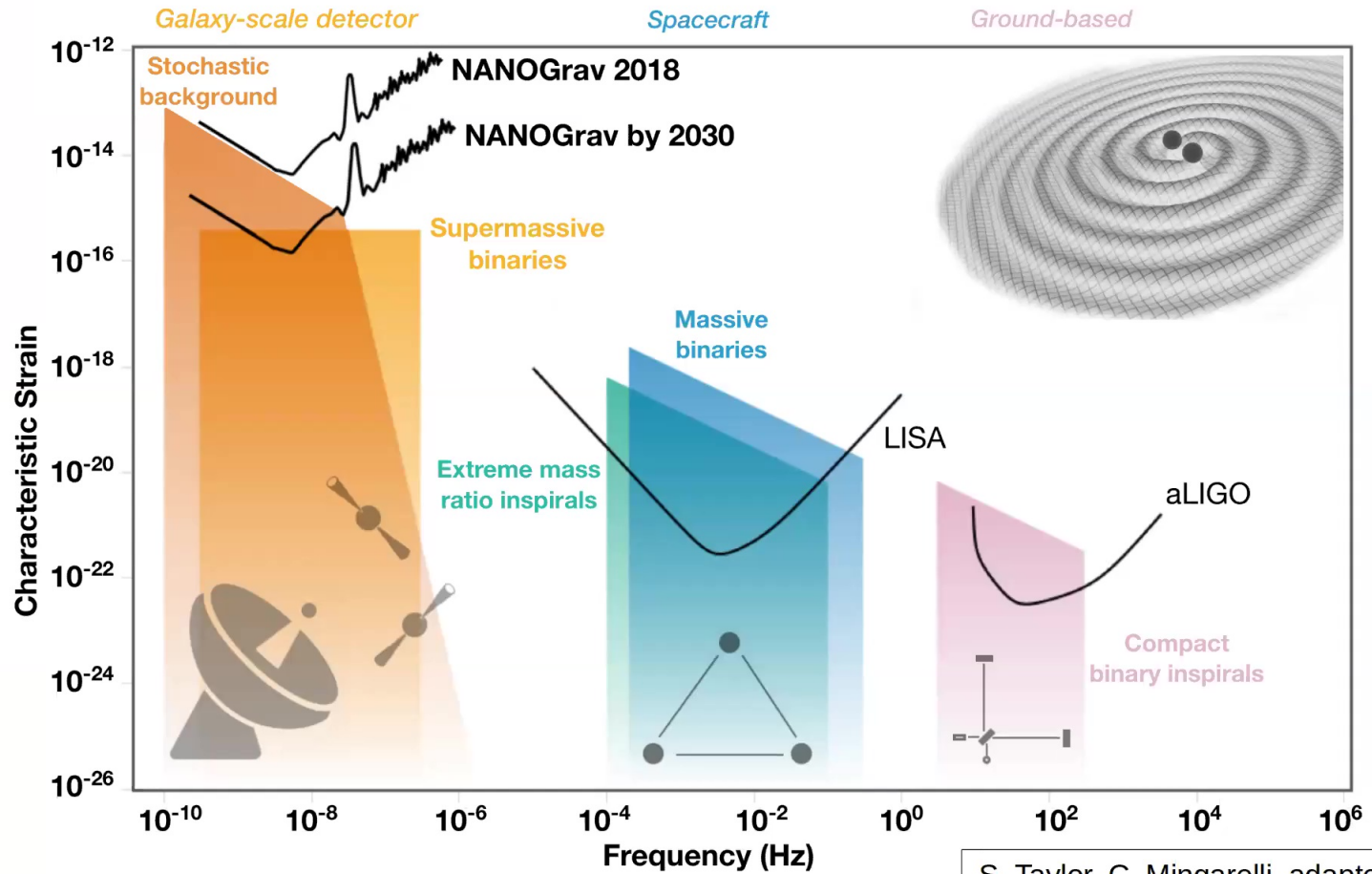


Image courtesy of *Science*, credit: Nicolle Rager Fuller [modified]

The Gravitational Wave Spectrum

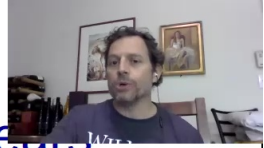


S. Taylor, C. Mingarelli, adapted from gwplotter.org (Moore, Cole, Berry 2014)



Pulsar Timing:

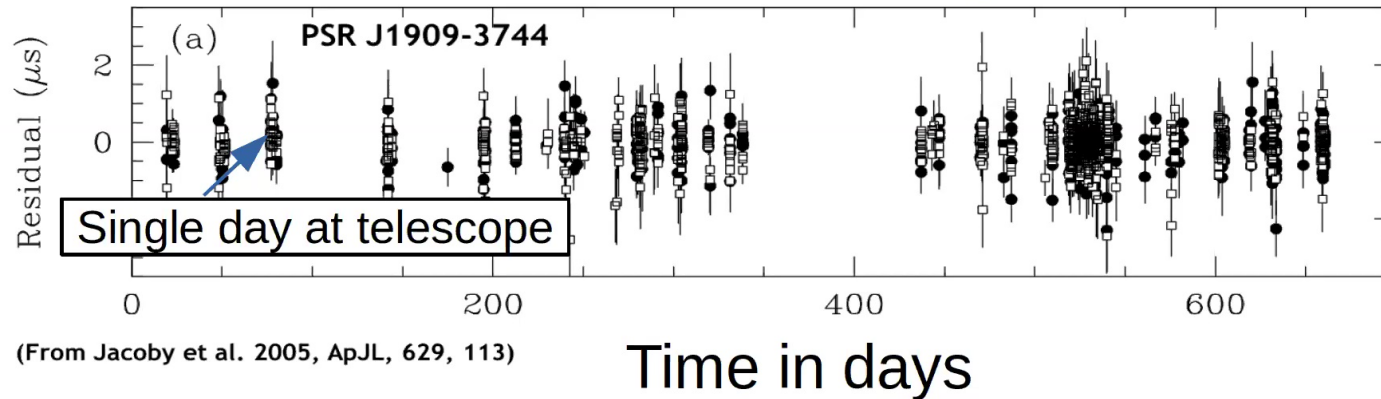
Unambiguously account for every rotation of a pulsar over years



Pulse Measurements
(TOAs: Times of Arrival)



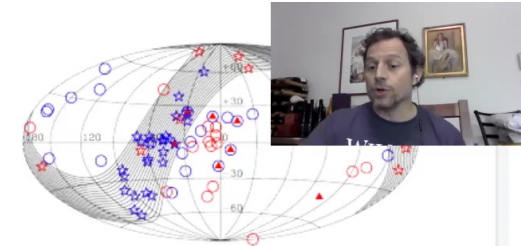
Measurement - Model = Timing Residuals



Predict each pulse to ~200 ns over 2 yrs!

(From Jacoby et al. 2005, ApJL, 629, 113)

NANOGrav Observing Program



Arecibo Observatory

- Main program: 39 pulsars / dual receiver / every three weeks (began 2004)
- High cadence program: 5 pulsars / dual receiver / every week (began 2015)



Green Bank Telescope

- Main program: 39 pulsars / dual receiver / every month (began 2004)
- High cadence program: 2 pulsars / single receiver / every week (began 2014)



Very Large Array

- Experimental program: 7 pulsars / single or dual receiver
- Sensitive 2-4 GHz system expands frequency coverage
- Can see slightly further south than GBT (1 pulsar)



CHIME (with CHIME/Pulsar collaboration)

- 400 to 800 MHz
- All NANOGrav pulsars at $\delta \gtrsim -20^\circ$ observed daily (!)
- Dwell time $\sim 5 \text{ min}/\cos(\delta)$ (began late 2018)
- Still in engineering phase; challenging to calibrate



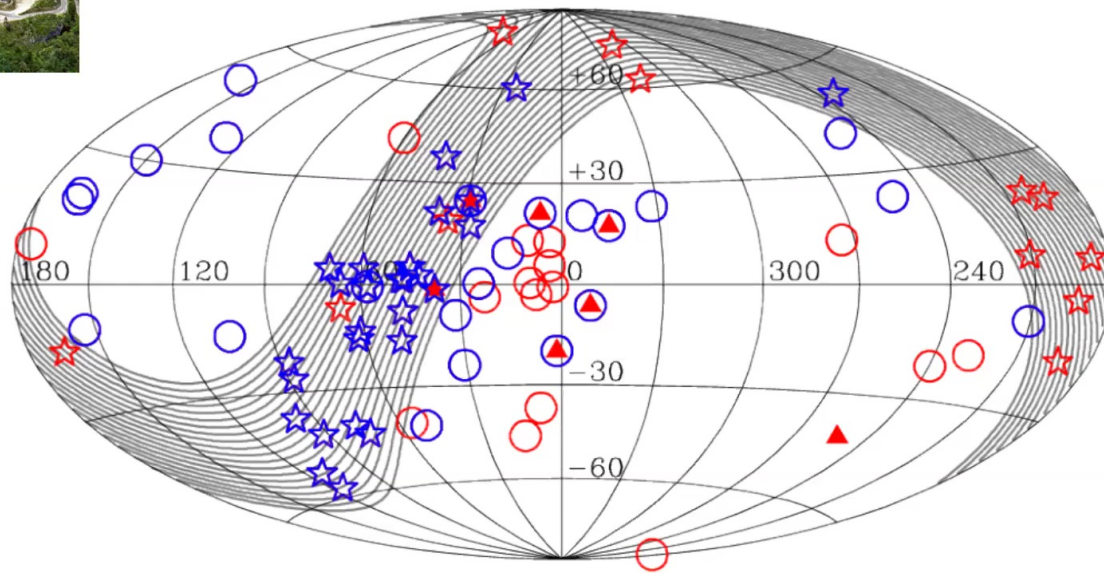
Slide by David Nice

Both Arecibo and the GBT are Crucial



Each telescope provides ~50% of our GW sensitivity

- **Arecibo** has 4-5x sensitivity
- **GBT** has 3x sky coverage

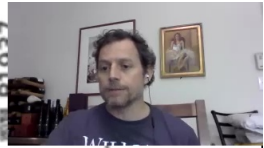
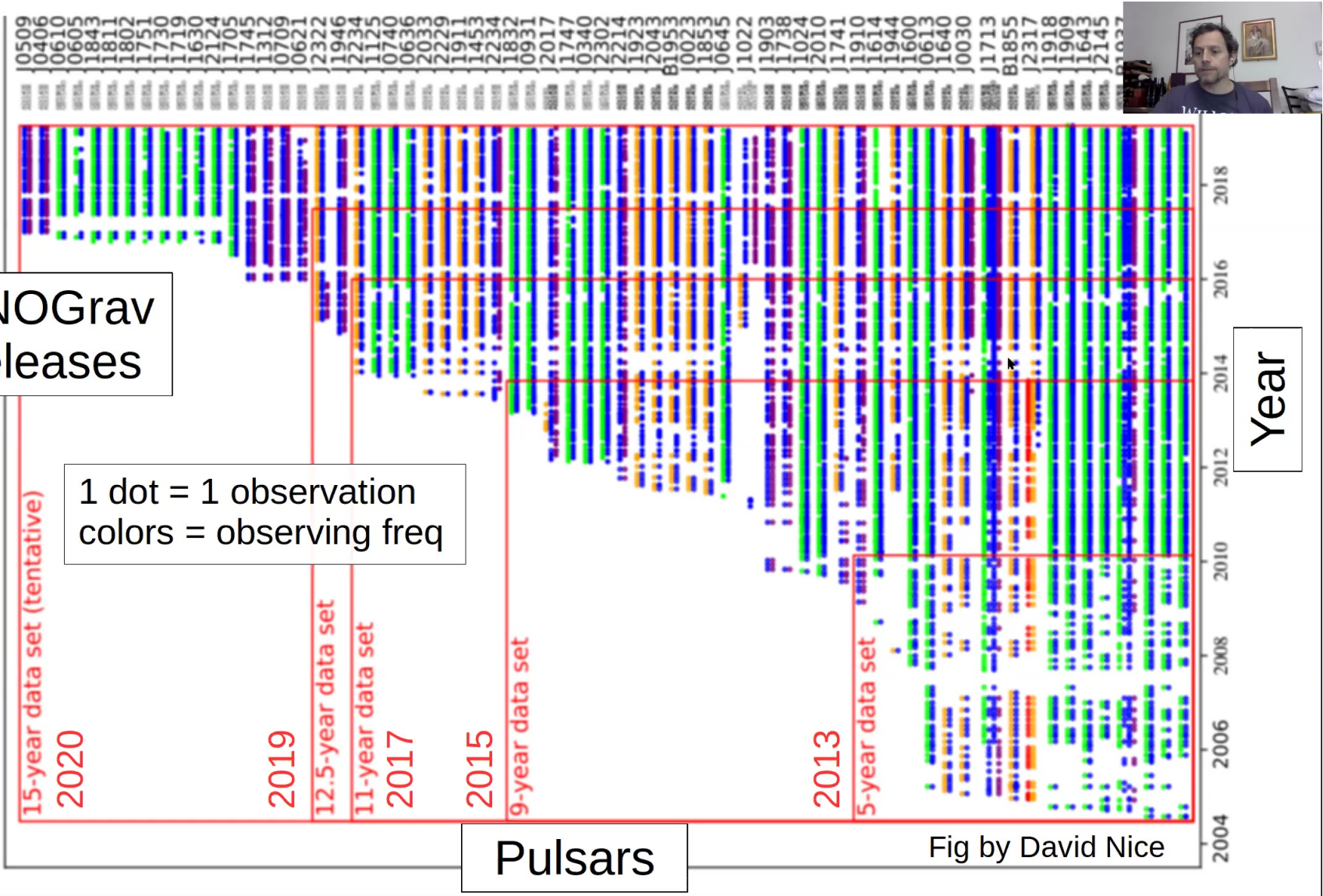


12.5-Year Data Set
More Recent Additions

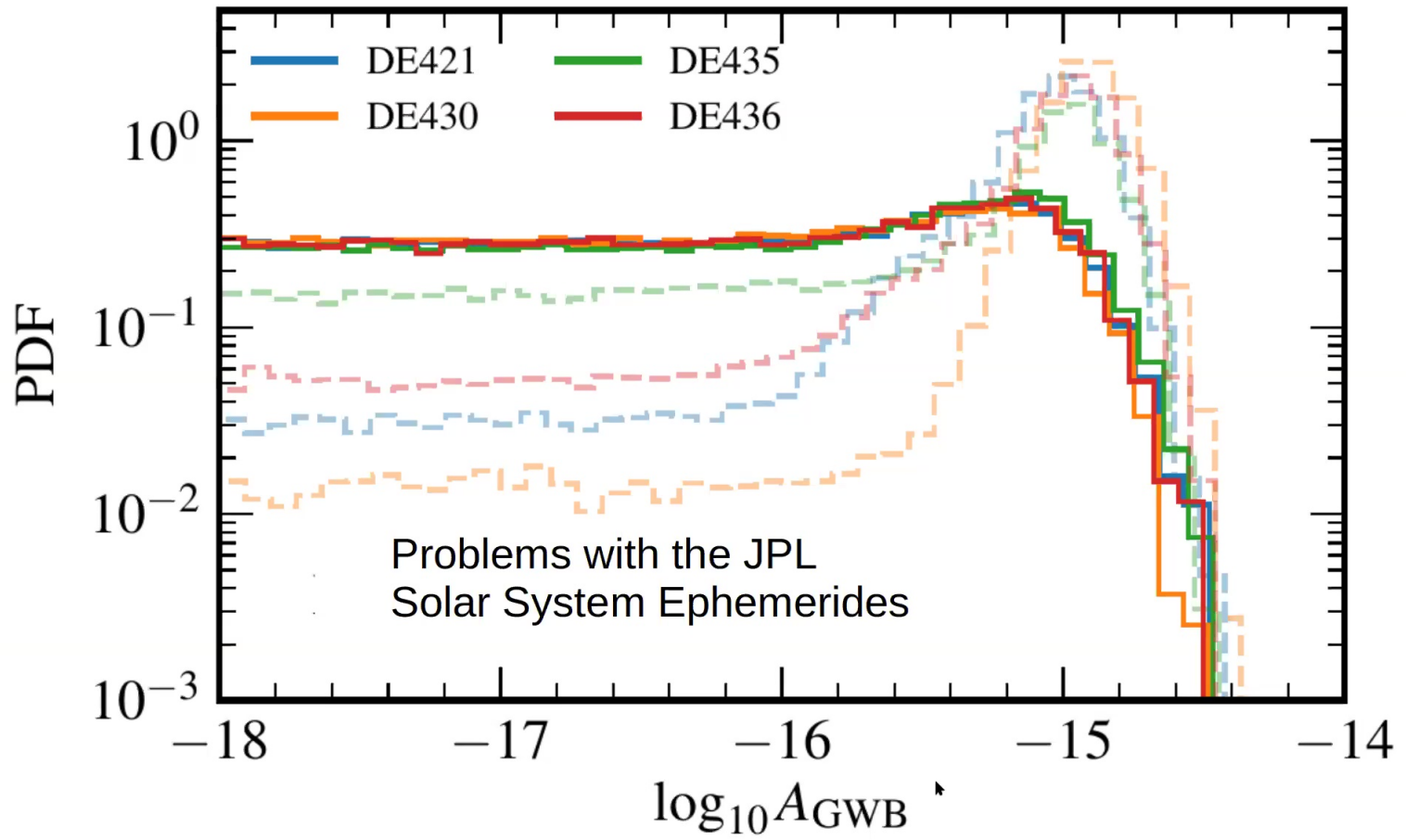
AO	GB	VLA
★	○	▲
★	○	▲



The NANOGrav Data Releases



NANOGrav 11 Year GW Bkgd Res



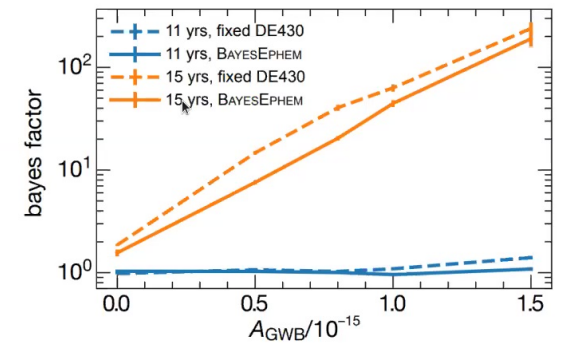
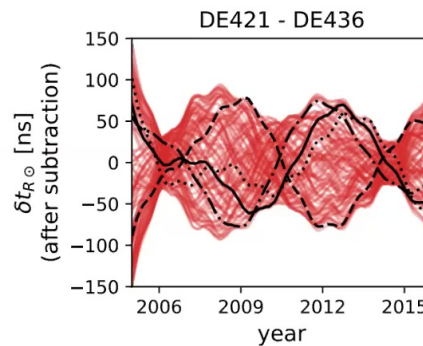
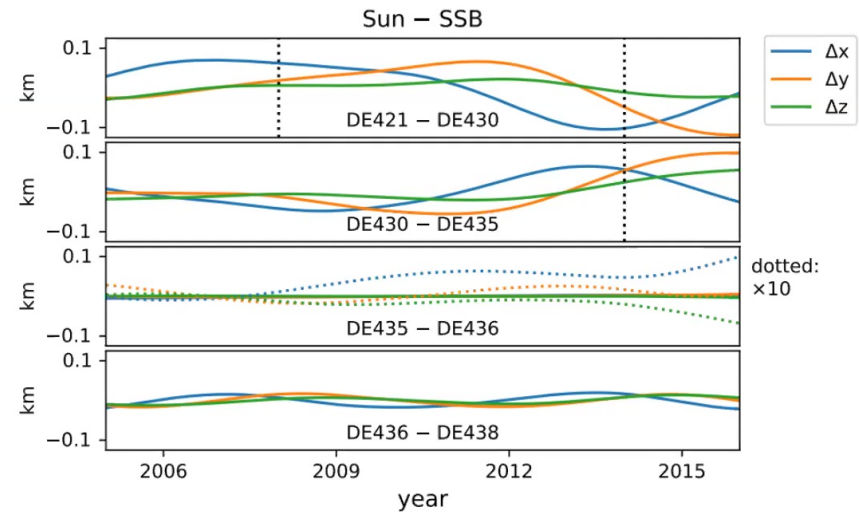
Arzoumanian et al., 2018, ApJ, 859, 47

BayesEphem

(aka Modeling the Solar Solar System Ephemeris Uncertainties)

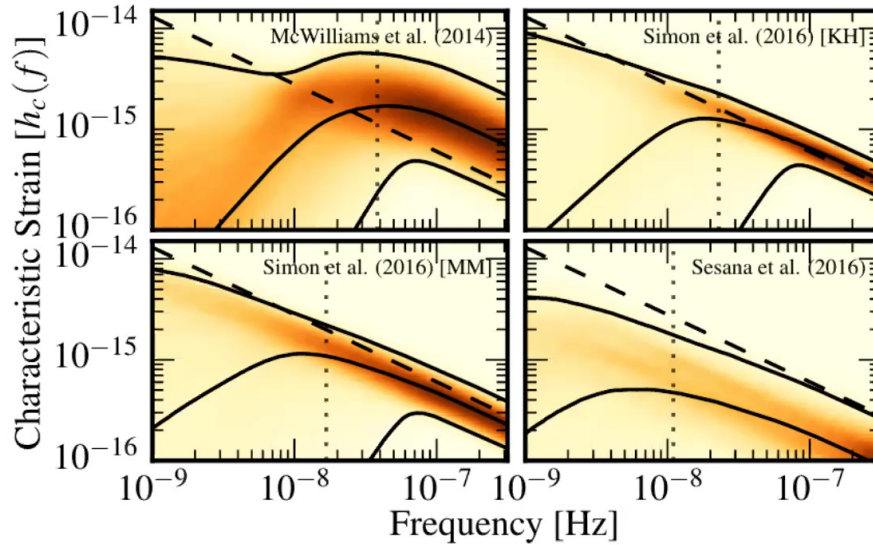


- Solar System ephemerides are uncertain mostly due to orbits of outer planets (esp Jupiter, pre Juno mission)
- Causes ~100m errors in position of Solar System Barycenter
- Can marginalize over this in Bayesian way
- Will become less important with time (we better measure orbits)



Vallisneri et al. 2020, ApJ, 893, 112

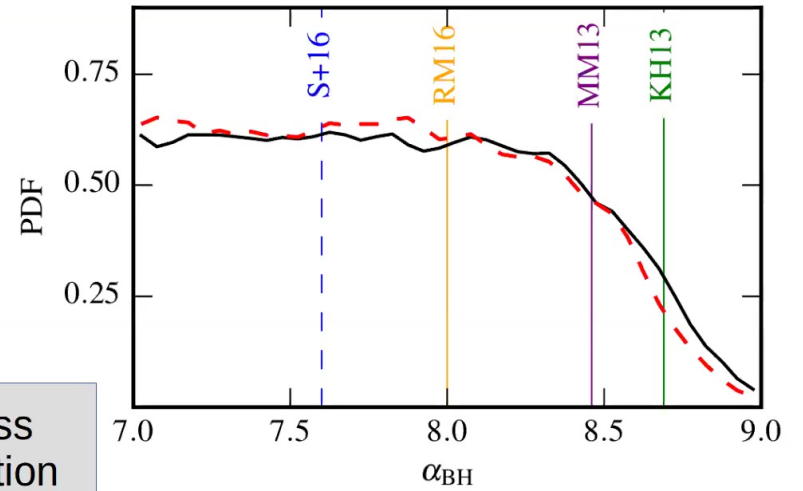
11 Year Astrophysics Implications



SMBH merger models, plus central stellar density, eccentricity, gas content...

Plus some of best limits on cosmic string tension

Intercept of the SMBH mass vs Galaxy Bulge mass relation



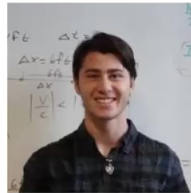
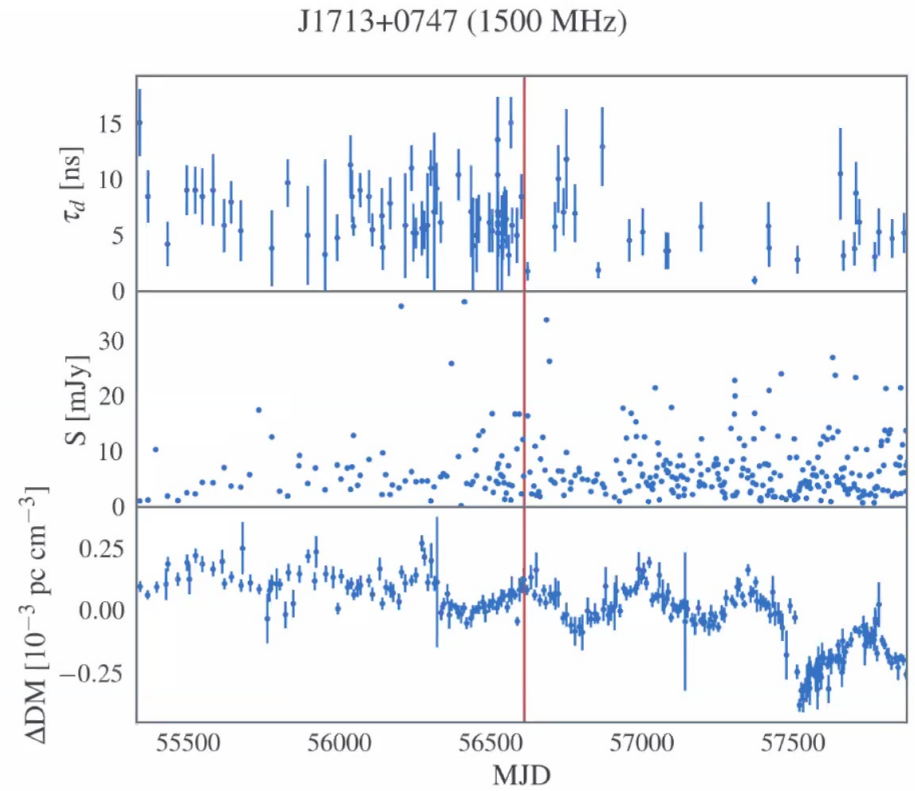
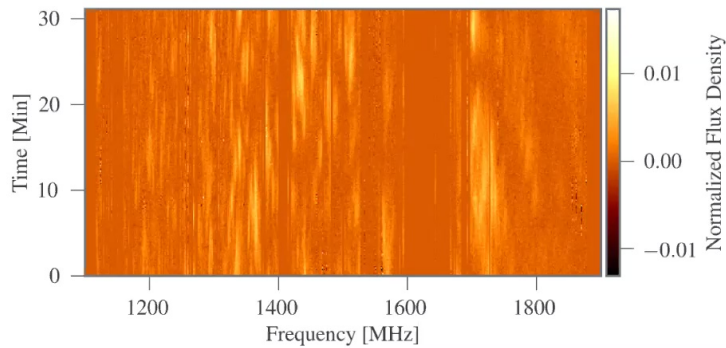
Arzoumanian et al., 2018, ApJ, 859, 47



Detailed Studies of ISM



Dispersion and scattering (i.e. pulse broadening) are easily measured



Turner et al. 2020, in prep

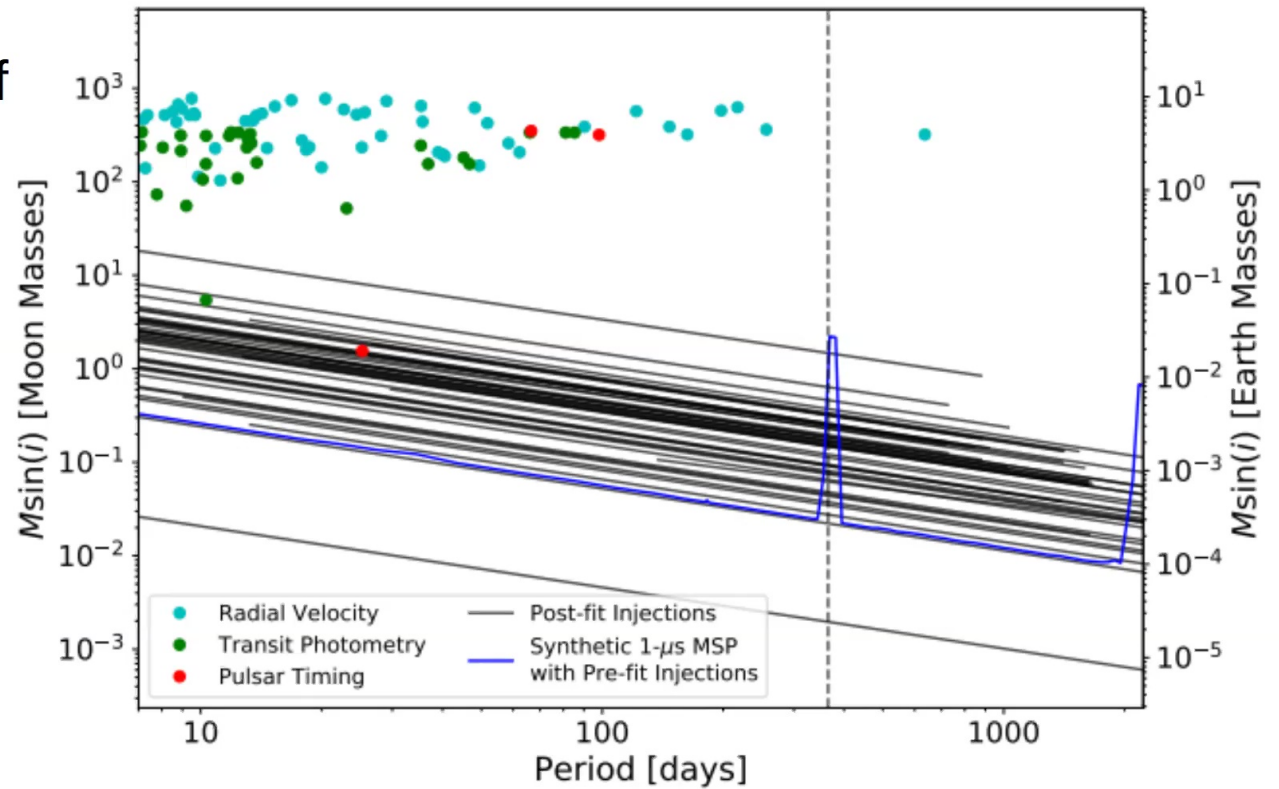


No Planets around NANOGrav MS



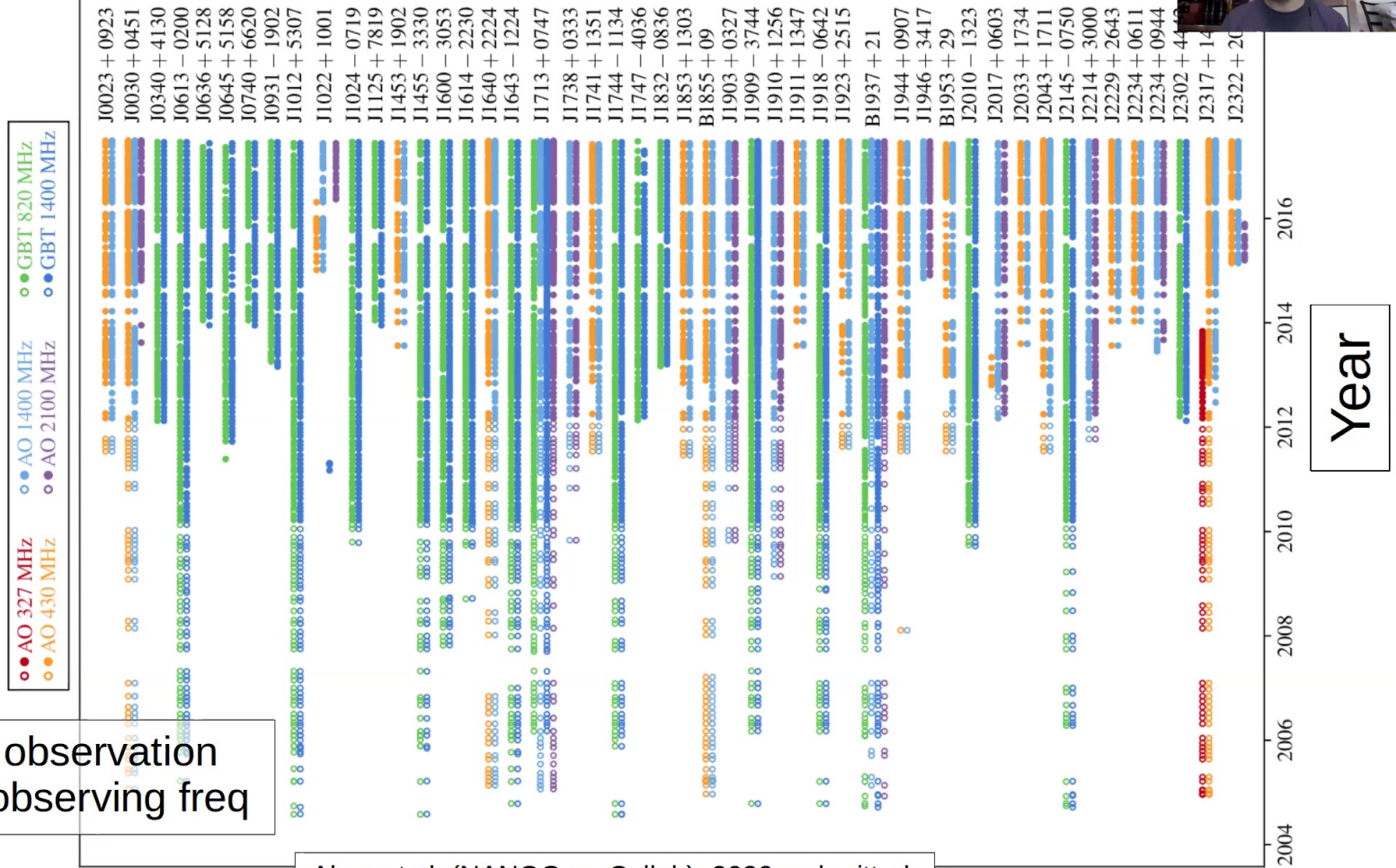
Limits on planets
down to fraction of
Moon mass!

Where are they?



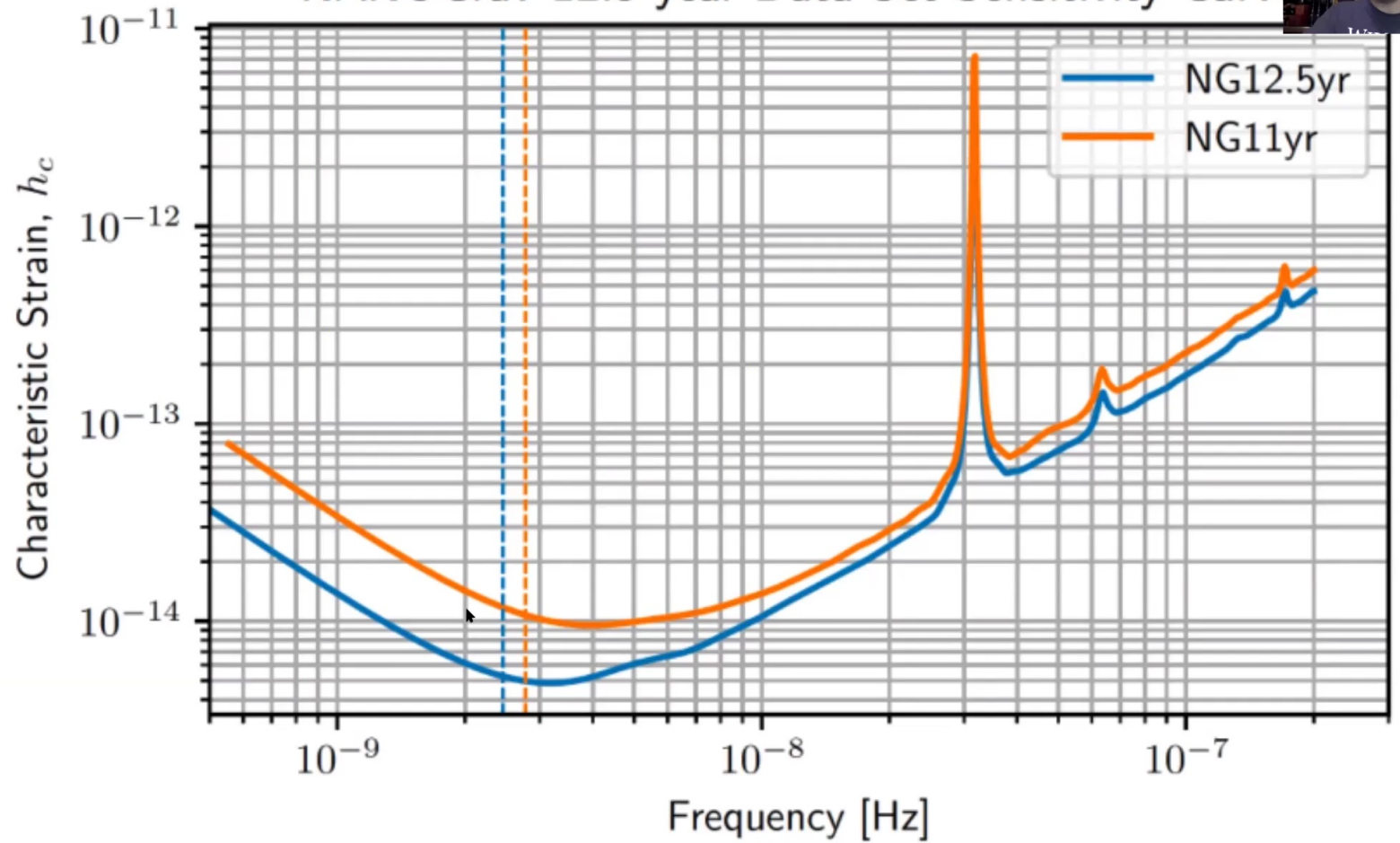
Behrens et al. 2020, ApJ, 893L

12.5 Year Data Release Pulsars





NANOGrav 12.5-year Data Set Sensitivity Curve

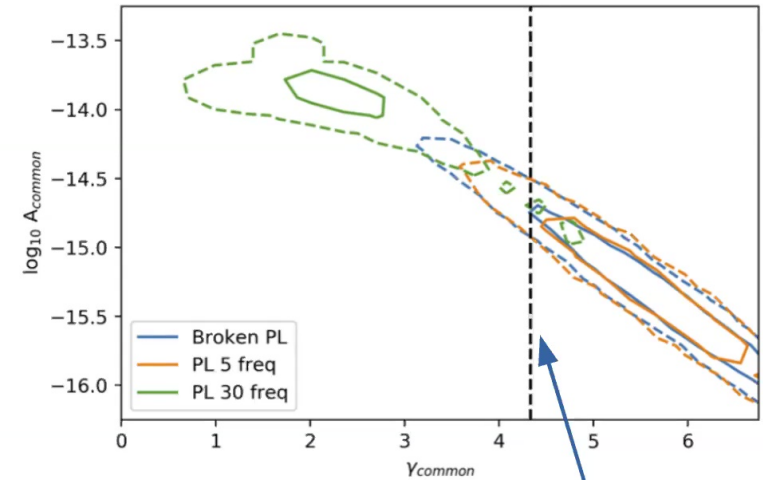
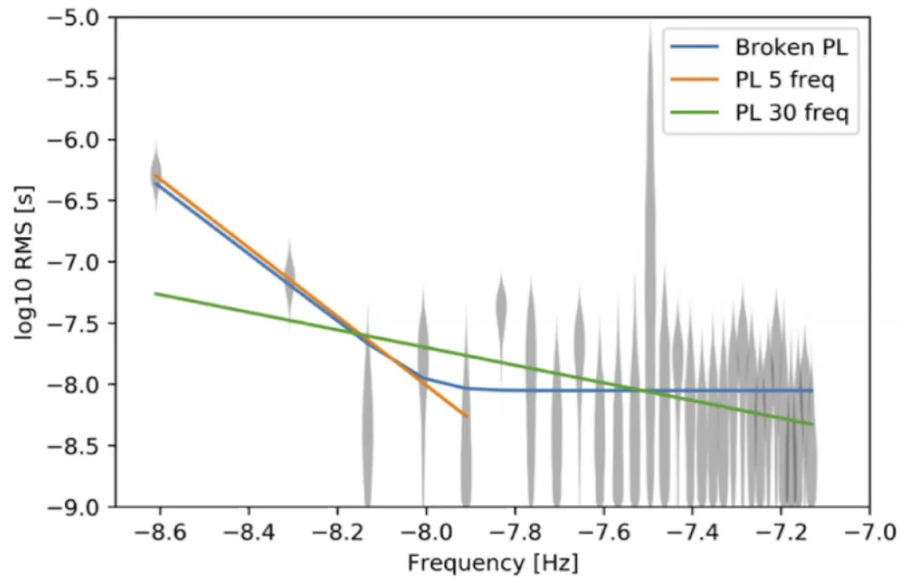


Hazboun, Romano, & Smith, 2019, PhRvD

Preliminary 12.5 Year Bkgd Result



Seeing significant low-freq noise in the data....



Figures courtesy Joe Simon
(from NANOGrav 12.5yr GW Bkgd submitted)

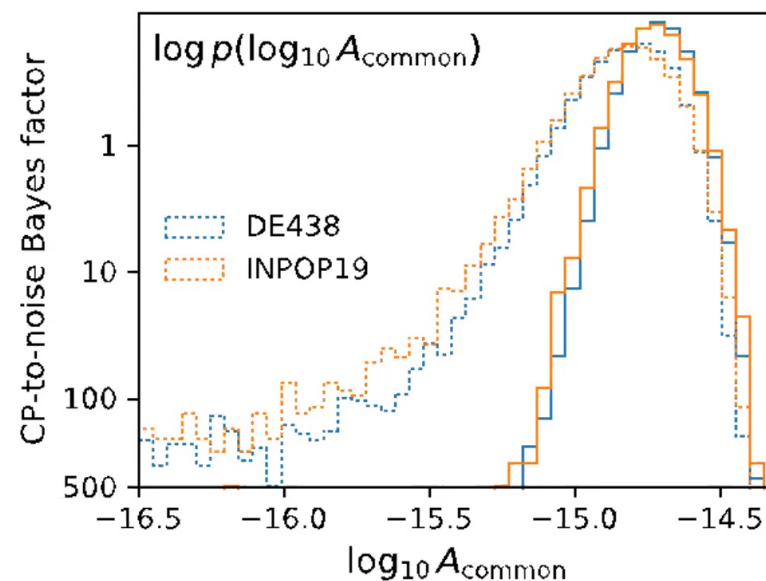
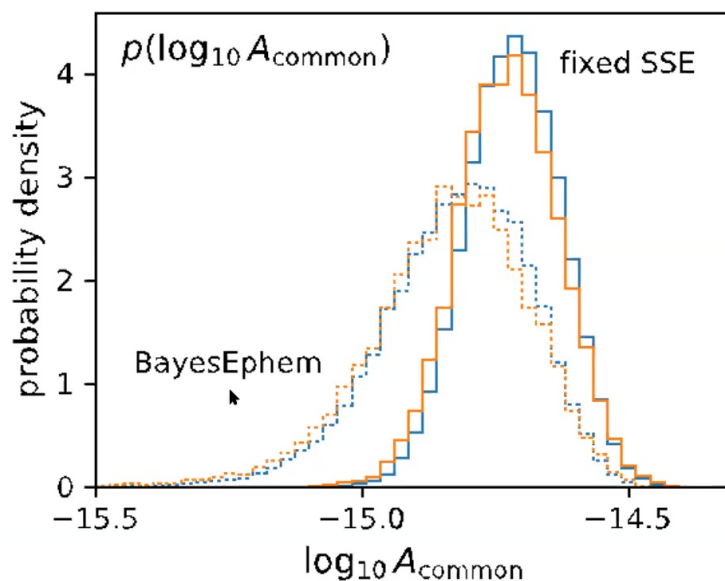
Expected spectral index for a GWB from inspiraling SMBHBs ($\gamma=13/3$)



Preliminary 12.5 Year Bkgd Result



Strong evidence for *uncorrelated* common red noise process...
 (Bayes factors of $\sim 30,000:1$ in favor for fixed SS Ephem)



Figures courtesy Joe Simon
 (from NANOGrav 12.5yr GW Bkgd submitted)

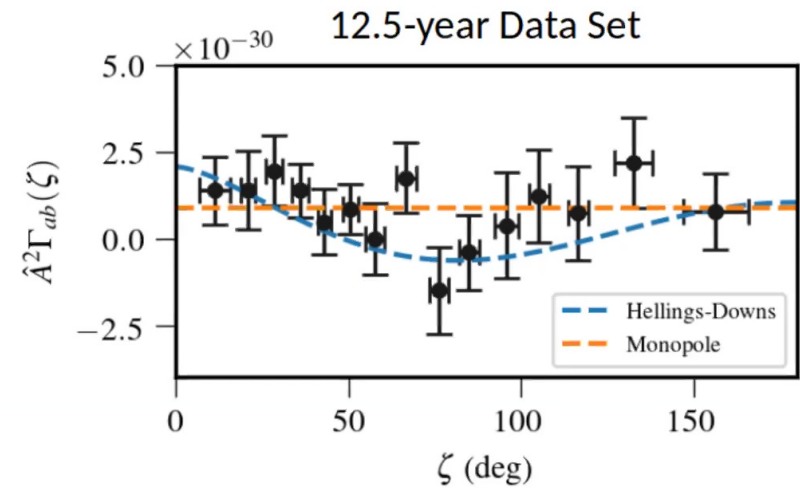
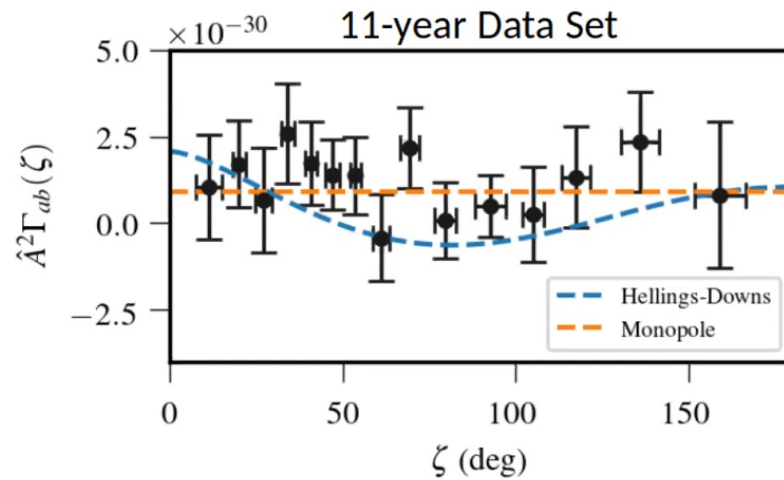


Preliminary 12.5 Year Bkgd Result



No good evidence of the required *spatial correlations* yet...

But the data are improving rapidly,
and there are ~2+ more years of data in the bank!

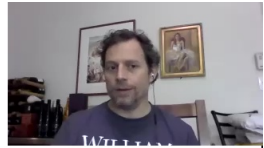


Figures courtesy Joe Simon
(from NANOGrav 12.5yr GW Bkgd submitted)





1. arXiv:2010.04018 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.GA](#)
A direct constraint on the Galactic acceleration and the Oort limit from pulsar timing
Authors: Sukanya Chakrabarti, Philip Chang, Michael T. Lam, Sarah J. Veland, Alice C. Quillen
Submitted 8 October, 2020; originally announced October 2020.
Comments: submitted to ApJ Letters
2. arXiv:2010.03976 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-th](#)
NANOGrav Hints on Planet-Mass Primordial Black Holes
Authors: Guillem Domènech, Shi Pi
Submitted 8 October, 2020; originally announced October 2020.
Comments: 7 pages, 3 figures
Report number: IPMU20-0106
3. arXiv:2010.02189 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [astro-ph.GA](#) [hep-ph](#)
Testing Stochastic Gravitational Wave Signals from Primordial Black Holes with Optical Telescopes
Authors: Sunao Sugiyama, Volodymyr Takhistov, Edoardo Vitagliano, Alexander Kusenko, Misao Sasaki, Masahiro Takada
Submitted 5 October, 2020; originally announced October 2020.
Comments: 5 pages, 1 figure
Report number: IPMU20-0105
4. arXiv:2009.14663 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-th](#)
Is the NANOGrav signal a hint of d_S decay during inflation?
Authors: Hao-Hao Li, Gen Ye, Yun-Song Piao
Submitted 30 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 9 pages, 2 figures
5. arXiv:2009.14174 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [astro-ph.HE](#)
NANOGrav signal from MHD turbulence at QCD phase transition in the early universe
Authors: A. Neronov, A. Roper Pol, C. Caprini, D. Semikoz
Submitted 29 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 5 pages, 2 figures
6. arXiv:2009.13909 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
Implications of Gravitational-wave Production from Dark Photon Resonance to Pulsar-timing Observations and Effective Number of Relativistic Species
Authors: Ryo Namba, Motoo Suzuki
Submitted 5 October, 2020; v1 submitted 29 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 13 pages, 2 figures. Minor changes, citation additions
7. arXiv:2009.13893 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [hep-ph](#)
NANOGrav 12.5-yr data and different stochastic Gravitational wave background sources
Authors: Ligong Bian, Jing Liu, Ruiyu Zhou
Submitted 29 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 18 pages, 5 figures, 1 table; comments welcome
8. arXiv:2009.13452 [pdf, other] [hep-ph](#) [astro-ph.CO](#) [astro-ph.GA](#) [gr-qc](#)
Gravitational wave complementarity and impact of NANOGrav data on gravitational leptogenesis: cosmic strings
Authors: Rome Samanta, Satyabrata Datta
Submitted 30 September, 2020; v1 submitted 28 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 16 pages, 4 figures, typo corrected, refs. updated
9. arXiv:2009.13432 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
Implications of the NANOGrav pulsar timing results for inflation
Authors: Sunny Vagnozzi
Submitted 28 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 7 pages, 2 figures. Short spoiler: no, NANOGrav is very unlikely to be due to inflation. Comments are welcome
10. arXiv:2009.11875 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [hep-ph](#)
Whispers from the dark side: Confronting light new physics with NANOGrav data
Authors: Wolfram Ratzinger, Pedro Schwaller
Submitted 24 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 10 pages, 5 figures
Report number: MITP/20-056
11. arXiv:2009.11865 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.GA](#) [gr-qc](#)
Multimessenger pulsar timing array constraints on supermassive black hole binaries traced by periodic light curves
Authors: Chengcheng Xin, Chiara M. F. Mingarelli, Jeffrey S. Hazboun
Submitted 24 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 11 pages, 4 figures, submitted to ApJ
12. arXiv:2009.11853 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
Solar-Mass Primordial Black Holes Explain NANOGrav Hint of Gravitational Waves
Authors: Kazunori Kohri, Takahiro Terada
Submitted 2 October, 2020; v1 submitted 24 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 24 pages, 5 figures; minor changes (including the title change)
Report number: KEK-TH-2260, KEK-Cosmo-0263, CTPU-PTC-20-22
13. arXiv:2009.10649 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [hep-ph](#)
From NANOGrav to LIGO with metastable cosmic strings
Authors: Wilfried Buchmüller, Valerie Domcke, Kai Schmitz
Submitted 22 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 5 pages, 2 figures
Report number: CERN-TH.2020.157, DESY 20-154
14. arXiv:2009.10327 [pdf, other] [hep-ph](#) [gr-qc](#)
NANOGrav results and Dark First Order Phase Transitions
Authors: Andrea Addazi, Yi-Fu Cai, Qingyu Gan, Antonino Marciano, Kaiqiang Zeng
Submitted 23 September, 2020; v1 submitted 22 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: More details and results on possible WDM-inspired GW spectra added, including more recent numerical tools in the subject. New references added. The main conclusions are substantially unchanged
15. arXiv:2009.09754 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#)
Gravitational Waves and Dark Radiation from Dark Phase Transition: Connecting NANOGrav Pulsar Timing Data and Hubble Tension
Authors: Yuichiro Nakai, Motoo Suzuki, Fuminobu Takahashi, Masaki Yamada
Submitted 27 September, 2020; v1 submitted 21 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 9 pages, 4 figures; v2: suppression factor for the sound-wave period included, figures updated, conclusions unchanged
Report number: TU-1109; IPMU20-0100
16. arXiv:2009.08409 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.HE](#)
Evaluating Low-Frequency Pulsar Observations to Monitor Dispersion with the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope
Authors: Megan L. Jones, Maura A. McLaughlin, Jayanta Roy, Michael T. Lam, James M. Cordes, David L. Kaplan, Bhaswati Bhattacharyya, Lina Levin
Submitted 17 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 10 pages, 6 figures. Submitted to The Astrophysical Journal
17. arXiv:2009.08268 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#)
NANOGrav Hints to Primordial Black Holes as Dark Matter
Authors: V. De Luca, G. Franciolini, A. Riotto
Submitted 17 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 5 pages, 1 figure
18. arXiv:2009.07832 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#)
Did NANOGrav see a signal from primordial black hole formation?
Authors: Ville Vasconen, Hardi Veermäe
Submitted 30 September, 2020; v1 submitted 16 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 7 pages, 4 figures
19. arXiv:2009.06607 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
Has NANOGrav found first evidence for cosmic strings?
Authors: Simone Biasi, Vedran Brdar, Kai Schmitz
Submitted 17 September, 2020; v1 submitted 14 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 6 pages, 3 figures. v2: revised treatment of the higher cosmic string modes (see Eq. (6)), resulting in a few numerical but no qualitative changes
Report number: CERN-TH.2020-151
20. arXiv:2009.06555 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [astro-ph.HE](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
Cosmic String Interpretation of NANOGrav Pulsar Timing Data
Authors: John Ellis, Marek Lewicki
Submitted 16 September, 2020; v1 submitted 14 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 10 pages, 4 figures. Corrected typos and improved accuracy of the calculation leading to a minor modification of the results
Report number: KCL-PH-TH2020-53, CERN-TH.2020-150
21. arXiv:2009.04496 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.HE](#) [astro-ph.GA](#) [gr-qc](#)
The NANOGrav 12.5-year Data Set: Search For An Isotropic Stochastic Gravitational-Wave Background
Authors: Zaven Arzumanian, Paul T. Baker, Harsha Blumer, Bence Bessy, Adam Brazier, Paul R. Brook, Sarah Burke-Spolaer, Shami Chatterjee, Siyuan Chen, James M. Cordes, Neil J. Cornish, Fronfield Crawford, H. Thankful Cromartie, Megan E. DeCesar, Paul B. Demorest, Timothy Dolch, Justin A. Ellis, Elizabeth C. Ferrara, William Fiore, Emmanuel Fonseca, Nathan Garver-Daniels, Peter A. Gentile, Deborah C. Good, Jeffrey S. Hazboun, A. Miguel Holgado, et al. (36 additional authors not shown)
Submitted 9 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
Comments: 24 pages, 13 figures, 5 tables, 3 appendices. Submitted to The Astrophysical Journal Letters
22. arXiv:2005.13549 [pdf, other] [hep-ph](#) [astro-ph.CO](#) [hep-th](#)
Gravitational waves and proton decay: complementary windows into GUTS
Authors: Stephen F. King, Silvia Pascoli, Iessica Turner, Ye-Lin Zhou



Predictions for Future

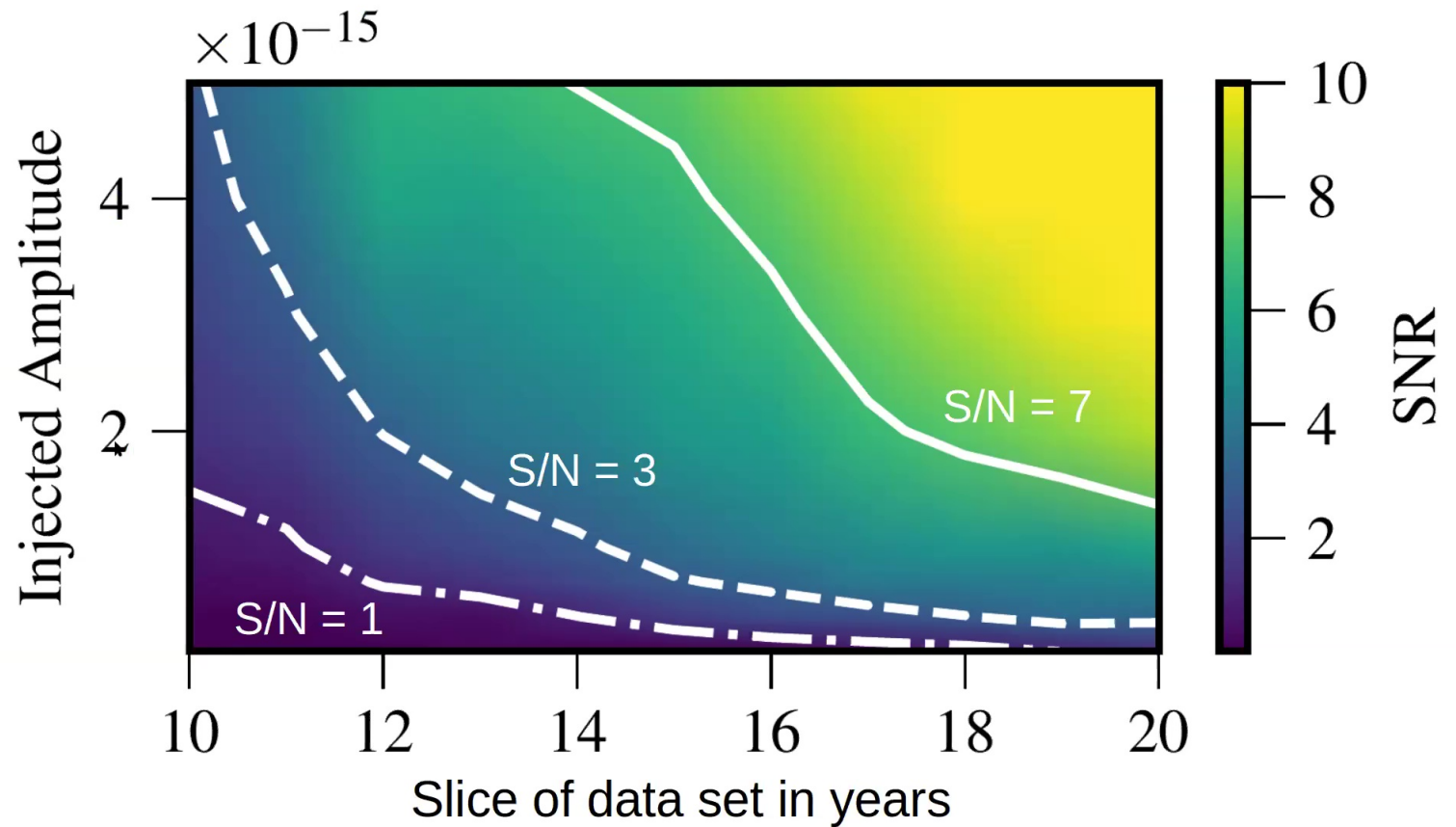


Fig courtesy of Nihan Pol

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3. arXiv:2010.02189 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [astro-ph.GA](#) [hep-ph](#)
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GRAVITATIONAL WAVE PULSARS

< PREV
RANDOM
NEXT >

ASK ME WHAT THE SECRET TO DETECTING GRAVITATIONAL WAVES USING PULSARS IS.

WHAT'S THE SECRET TO DETECTING GRAV-

TIMING!



12. arXiv:2009.11853 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
Solar-Mass Primordial Black Holes Explain NANOGrav Hint of Gravitational Waves
 Authors: Kazunori Kohri, Takahiro Terada
 Submitted 29 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
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 arXiv:2009.11853v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

13. arXiv:2009.11852 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
Gravitational waves and proton decay: complementary windows into GUTS
 Authors: Stephen F. King, Silvia Pascoli, Iessica Turner, Ye-Lin Zhou
 Submitted 29 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
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 arXiv:2009.11852v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

14. arXiv:2009.11851 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
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 arXiv:2009.11851v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

15. arXiv:2009.11850 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
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 Authors: Stephen F. King, Silvia Pascoli, Iessica Turner, Ye-Lin Zhou
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 arXiv:2009.11850v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

16. arXiv:2009.11849 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
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 Authors: Stephen F. King, Silvia Pascoli, Iessica Turner, Ye-Lin Zhou
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 arXiv:2009.11849v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

17. arXiv:2009.11848 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
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 Authors: Stephen F. King, Silvia Pascoli, Iessica Turner, Ye-Lin Zhou
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 arXiv:2009.11848v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

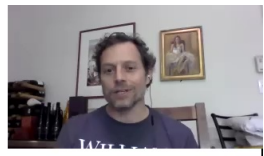
18. arXiv:2009.11847 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
Gravitational waves and proton decay: complementary windows into GUTS
 Authors: Stephen F. King, Silvia Pascoli, Iessica Turner, Ye-Lin Zhou
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 arXiv:2009.11847v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

19. arXiv:2009.11846 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
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 arXiv:2009.11846v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

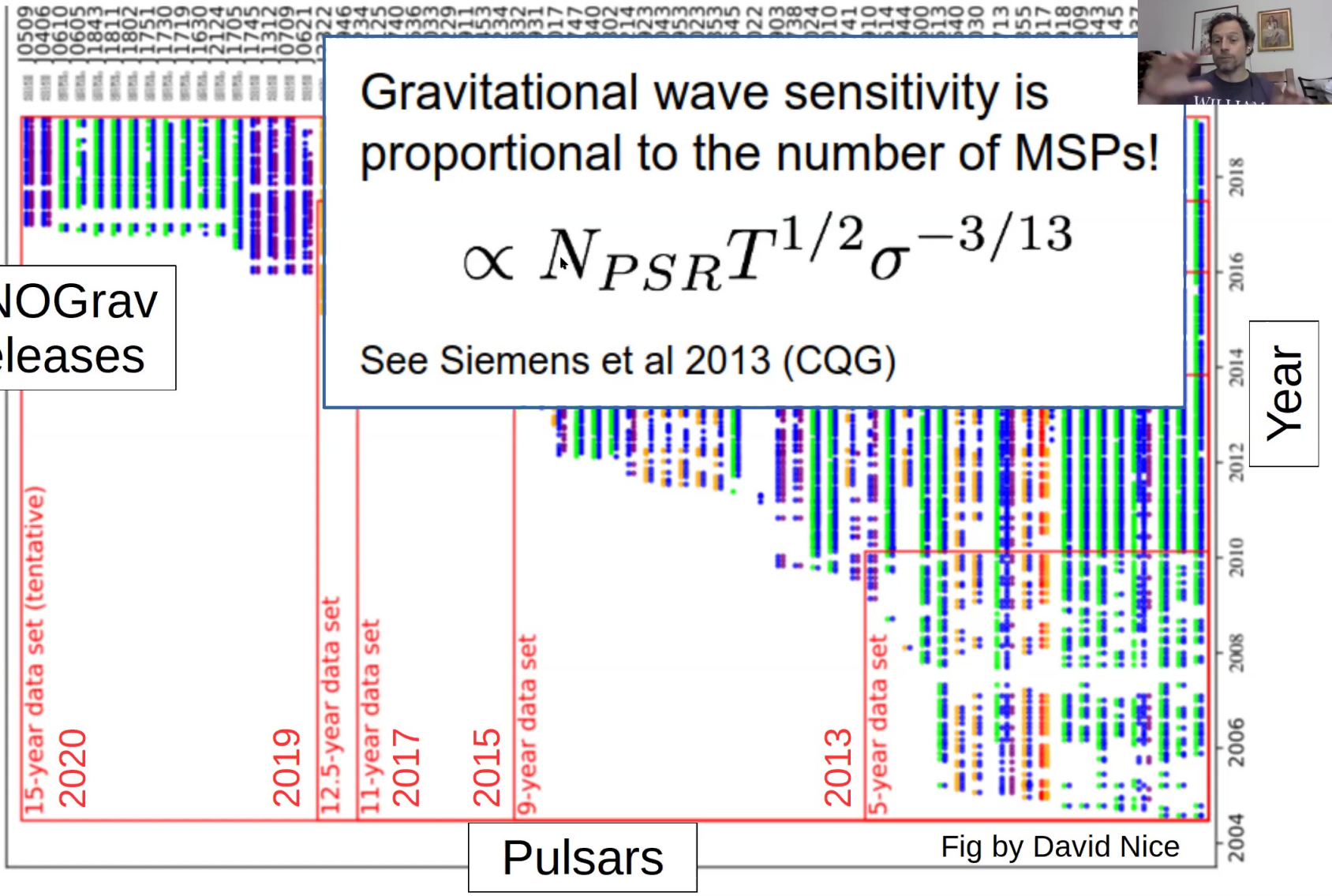
20. arXiv:2009.11845 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
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 Authors: Stephen F. King, Silvia Pascoli, Iessica Turner, Ye-Lin Zhou
 Submitted 29 September, 2020; originally announced September 2020.
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 arXiv:2009.11845v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

21. arXiv:2009.11844 [pdf, other] [astro-ph.CO](#) [gr-qc](#) [hep-ph](#) [hep-th](#)
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 Comments: 17 pages, 1 figure. This is the title change
 arXiv:2009.11844v1 [astro-ph.CO] 29 Sep 2020

22. arXiv:2005.13549 [pdf, other] [hep-ph](#) [astro-ph.CO](#) [hep-th](#)
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The NANOGrav Data Releases



Predictions for Future

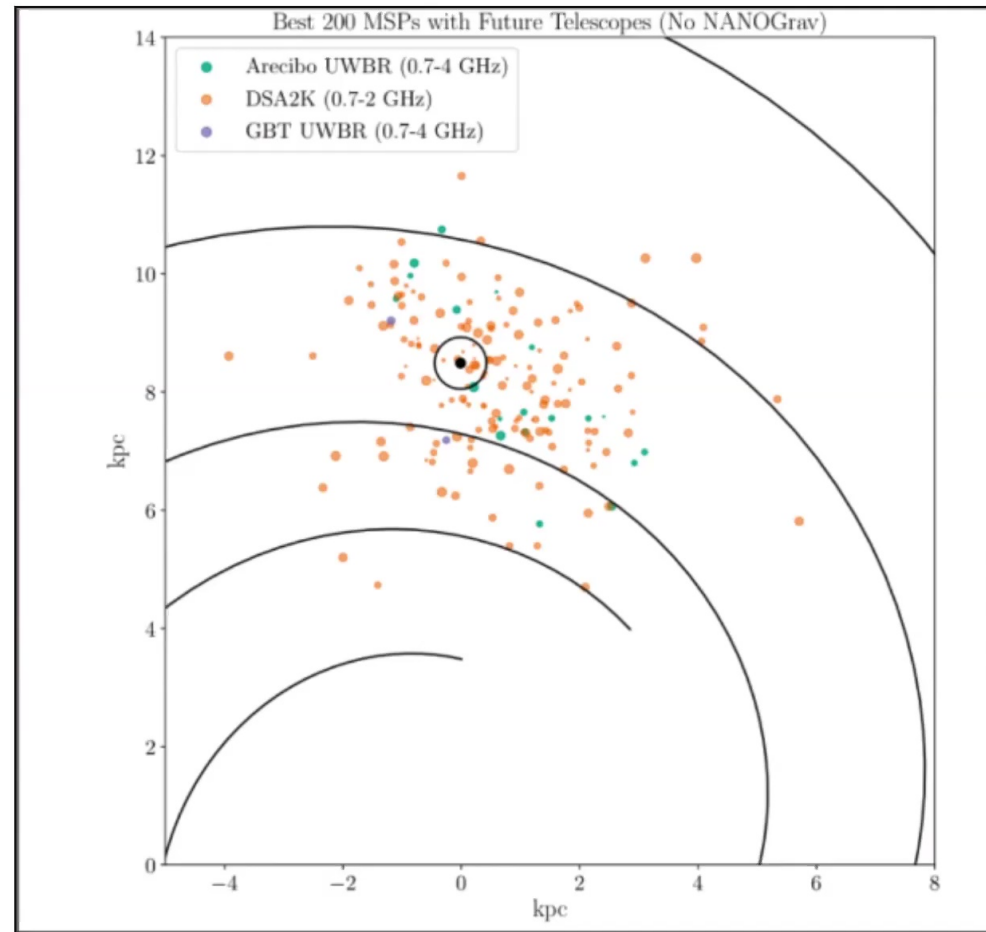


Predictions for future MSPs, using AO, GBT, and DSA2000 telescopes

**~200 MSPs
timeable at $\sim 1\mu\text{s}$**



Fig courtesy of Tyler Coher and Paul Demorest

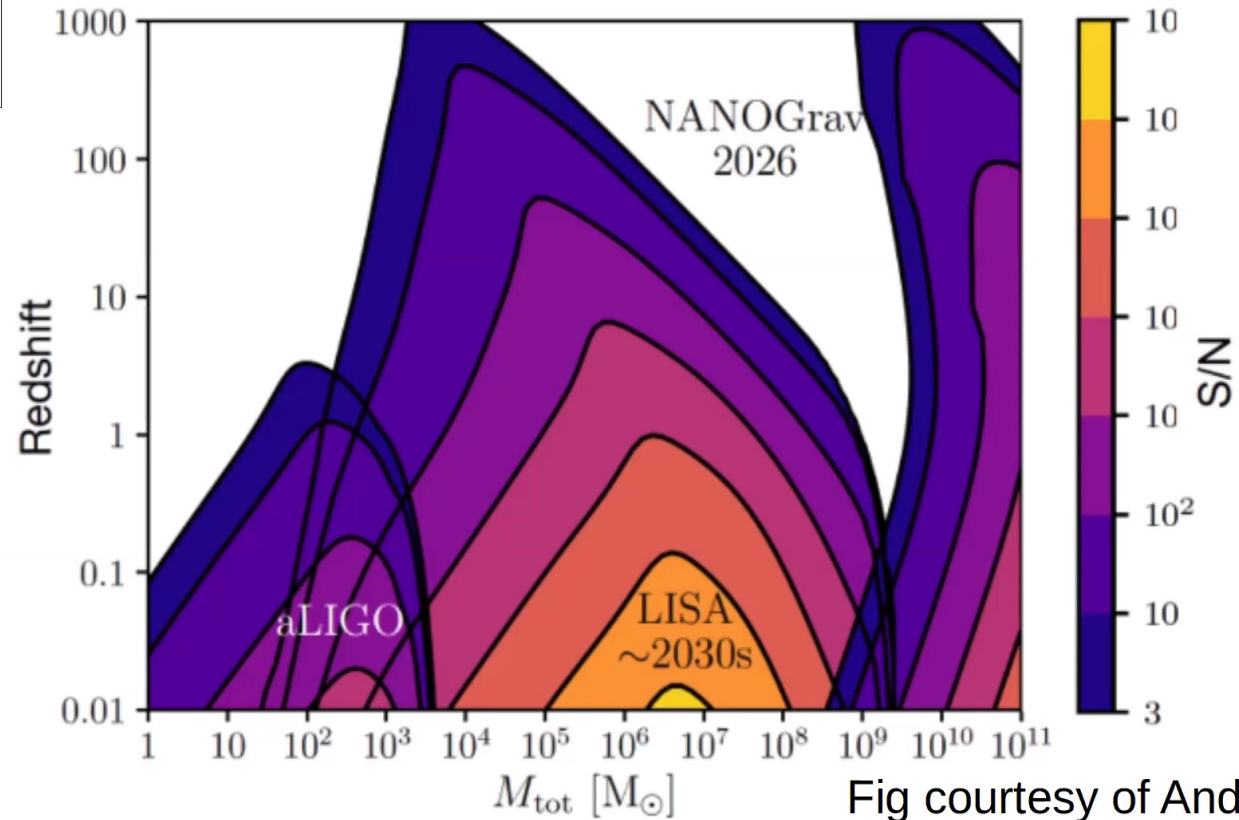


Predictions for Future



Individual
SMBHB
Sources

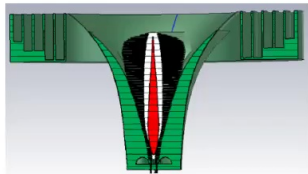
Should detect one or more individual
SMBHBs by the end of the decade



Wideband Receivers for GBT and Arecibo

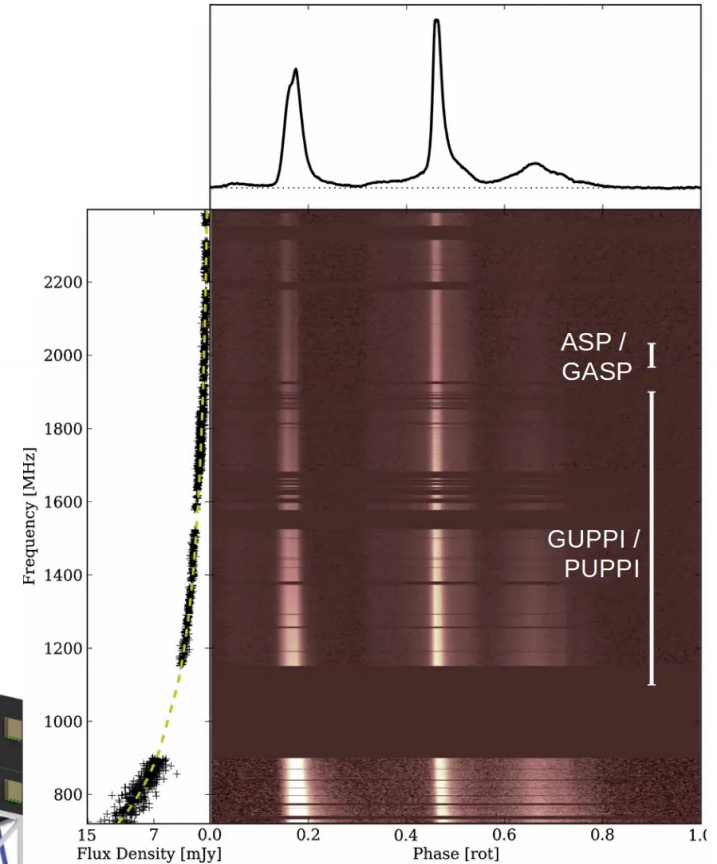
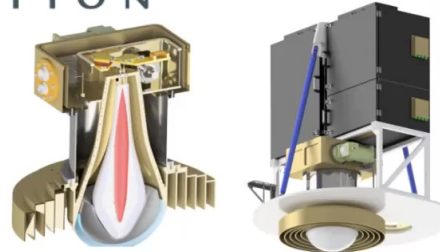


- **Need multi-frequencies for ISM removal**
 - Current systems have <800 MHz BW
 - **Ultra-wideband system** would give 2x better timing, fewer systematics, and more protection from scintillation
- Building a 0.7-4 GHz receiver for GBT, and purchasing one from CSIRO for Arecibo, funded by Moore Foundation



GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

Hobbs et al. 2019,
PASA, in press



Pennucci et al. 2014, ApJ, 790, 93

Arecibo Damage

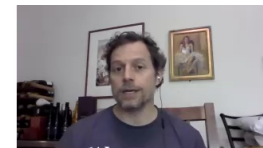


- Support cable failure damaged dish.
- Seems to be design flaw, which will require other cables to be braced and then repaired.
- Unknown timescale for repairs: Could be months to year+
- UCF and NSF seems committed to repairs, though



Photo credit: Phil Perillat, Arecibo Obs

Summary



- NANOGrav is doing great – thanks to Arecibo and the GBO
- Our work with IPTA will make things even better
- Data are intriguing and we expect a detection within the next couple years
- In the meantime, tons of other science (e.g., Cromartie et al. 2019 massive NS)

