

# Towards a realistic forecast detection of Primordial Gravitational Wave Backgrounds

Valencia, 9th-13th December 2024

## SBI Approach to GW Reconstruction (A case study on Backgrounds)

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IFIC

*In collaboration with:*

Androniki Dimitriou, Dani G. Figueroa & Peera Simakachorn

# OUTLINE

- Simulation-based Inference (SBI)  
(Intro, Motivation, GWB context)
- Case study on SBI of arbitrary backgrounds  
( "Blind" reconstruction, incl. foregrounds; templates )
- Conclusions



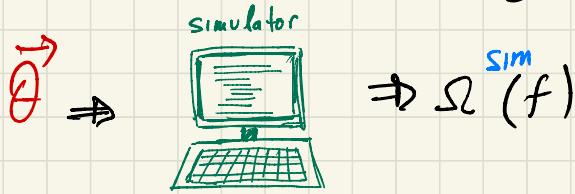
# STATISTICAL APPROACH

Aim: Given some  $D^{obs}(f)$  data/simulation, infer the physical parameters of interest  $\vec{\theta}$

*or time domain, or both*

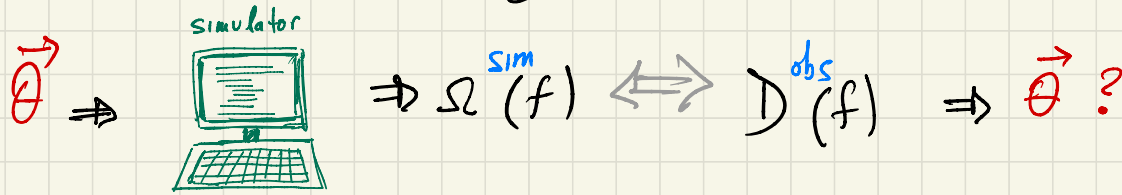
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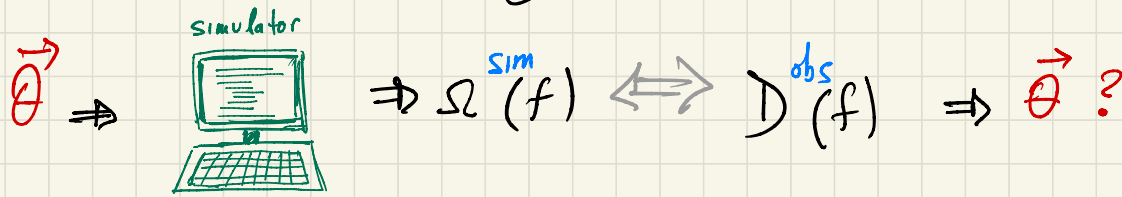
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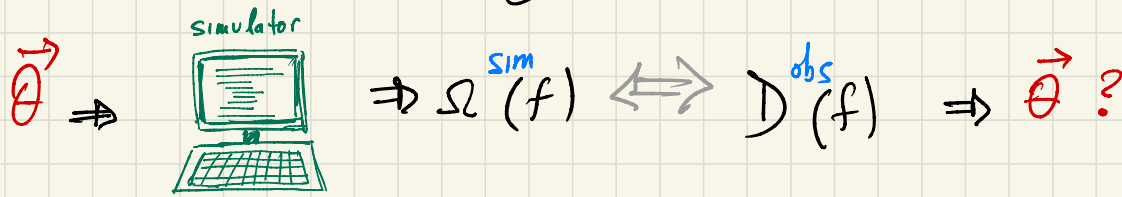
Traditional approach: Likelihood-based

$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{\theta}) = \prod_{i=1}^{N_{bins}} p(D^{obs}(f_i) | \Omega^{sim}(f_i; \vec{\theta}))$$

$$\log \mathcal{L}(\vec{\theta}) = \frac{1}{3} N(\vec{\theta}) + \frac{2}{3} L N(\vec{\theta})$$

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\* Fisher Matrix Analysis

\* MCMC

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Bias issue { • Assumes a likelihood

Computational issue { • Needs to sample the full posterior  
 → typically requires more samples than SBI  
 • A full MCMC from scratch required for every new  $\mathcal{D}^{\text{obs}}$



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Likelihood-free approach  
(a.k.a. Simulation-based Inference)

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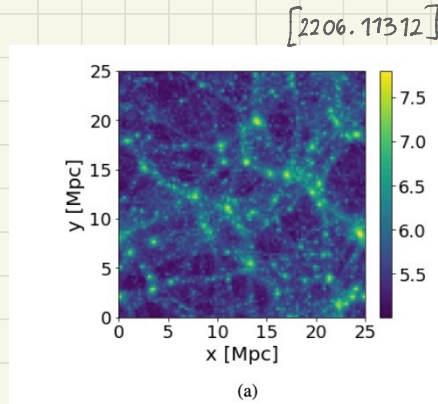


Figure 1. Logarithmic surface density of dark matter

Latent  
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e.g. positions of the  
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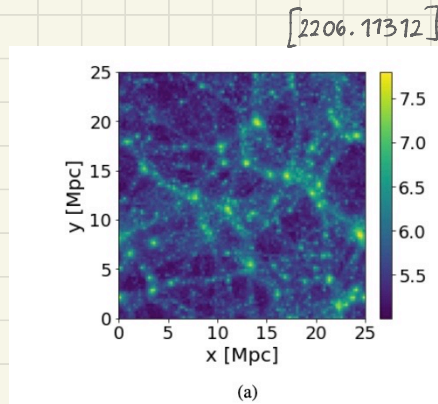
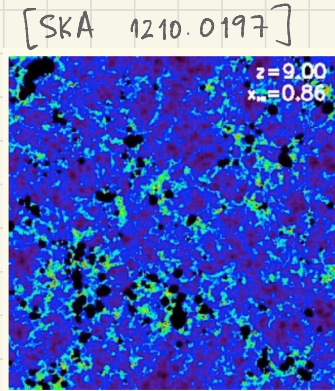


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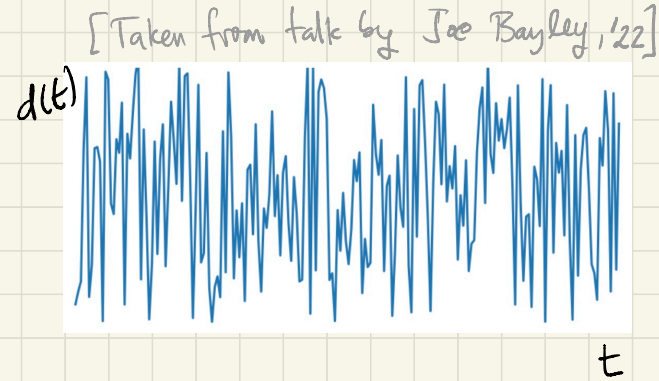
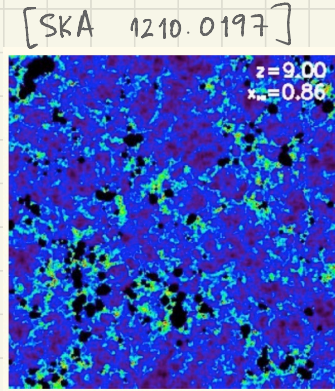
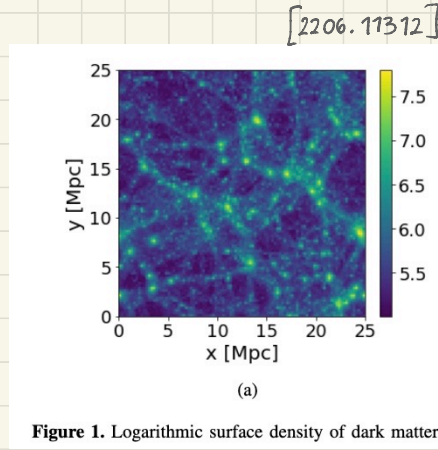
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Initial conditions of  
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Latent variables } e.g. positions of the DM halos in N-body sims.

Initial conditions of density and velocity fields in 21cm brightness temp. sims

Phase and amplitude of a SGWB in Fourier space, e.g. in simulations for LISA

Latent variables  $\vec{\eta}$   $\rightsquigarrow$  As many as  $\mathcal{O}(10^{5-6})$  commonly

Likelihood  $p(D^{\text{obs}} | f; \vec{\theta}) = \int d\vec{\eta} \ p(D^{\text{obs}} | f; \vec{\eta}, \vec{\theta}) \ p(\vec{\eta} | f; \vec{\theta})$

~~✗~~ Intractable integral in general

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Intractable integral in general

\* Decades old idea (see "Approximate Bayesian Computation")  
ABC  $\sim$  80's

with computational disadvantages

\* Meteoric revival in the last few years thanks to

- Old good statistical theorems

- Nowadays computational power and modern optimisation & ML algorithms

# MODERN SBI

$$p(\vec{\theta} | \text{OBS. DATA})$$

or

$$p(\text{OBS DATA} | \vec{\theta})$$



# MODERN SBI

$$p(\vec{\theta} | \text{OBS. DATA}) \approx g \left( \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \\ \circ \end{array} \bullet \right)$$

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Inputs ●  
Output ●

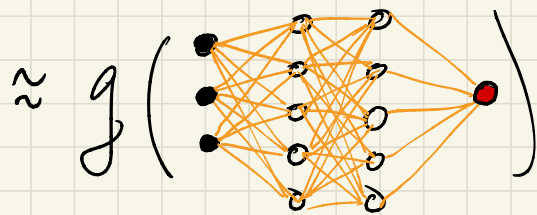
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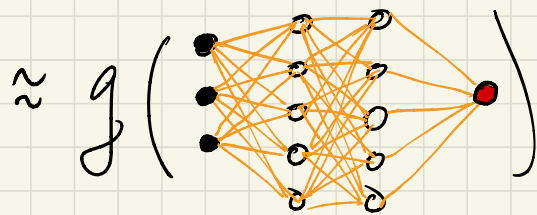
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NEURAL RATIO ESTIMATION

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↳ variational distribution

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Crucially:

$g(\cdot)$  fitted to a large #  
 of simulated datasets

Some DATA SIM  $\approx$  DATA OBS

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No explicit dependence on latent variables

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\* **Pre-trained (a.k.a. "Amortised")**

strategy  $\Rightarrow$  Inference on a new (obs) dataset takes  $\approx$  no time.

# Neural Ratio Estimation

$$q: \frac{p(D(f) | \vec{\theta})}{p(D(f))} \approx \frac{NN(\vec{\theta}; D(f))}{1 - NN(\vec{\theta}; D(f))}$$

Consequence of  
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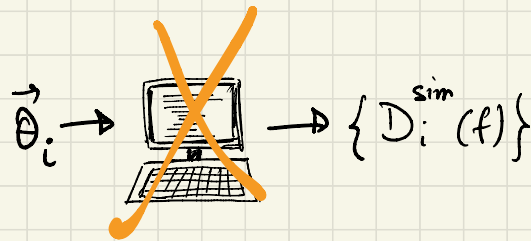
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✓ "good"



"bad"

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Here using a Normalizing Flow  
 $\Rightarrow$  if  $T_{\vec{\omega}}$  is invertible:

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$$\approx -\frac{1}{N_{\text{sim}}} \sum_{s=1}^{N_{\text{sim}}} \ln q_{\vec{\omega}}(\vec{\theta}_s; \mathcal{D}_s) + \text{const}$$

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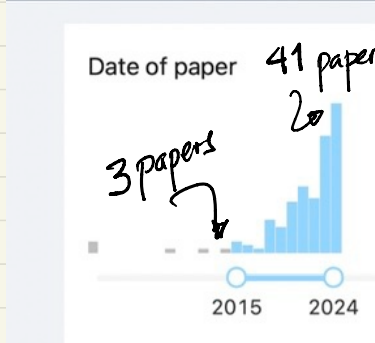
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We implement  
NPE in our  
analysis

# Shallow Look at Bibliography



literature



## arXiv Category

<input type="checkbox"/> astro-ph.CO	74
<input type="checkbox"/> astro-ph.IM	48
<input type="checkbox"/> cs.LG	30
<input type="checkbox"/> hep-ph	26
<input type="checkbox"/> stat.ML	26
<input type="checkbox"/> astro-ph.GA	18
<input type="checkbox"/> astro-ph.HE	16
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<input type="checkbox"/> gr-qc	8

Show 10 more

Collaborations

- ATLAS
- DES
- COIN
- COSMOS
- LSST

- N-body simulations
- Gravitational lensing
- Gravitational Wave Stochastic Backgrounds
- Dark Matter Direct & Indirect Detection
- SMEFT at colliders
-

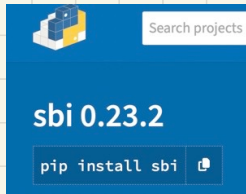
# PUBLIC PACKAGES

Python

Main SBI Techniques

- Neural Posterior Estimation
- Neural Ratio Estimation
- Neural Likelihood Estimation

Packages:



2007.09114  
(Tegero-Cantero et al)

• • [tailored to  
collider physics]  
**MadMiner: ML based  
inference for particle physics**

1907.10621  
(Kyle Cranmer  
et al)

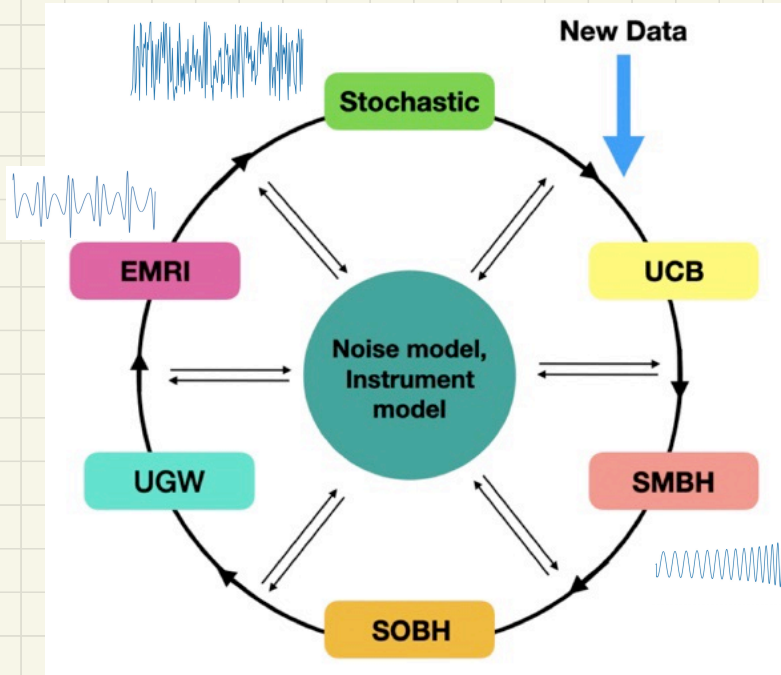
SWYFT



2011.13951  
(Weniger et al)

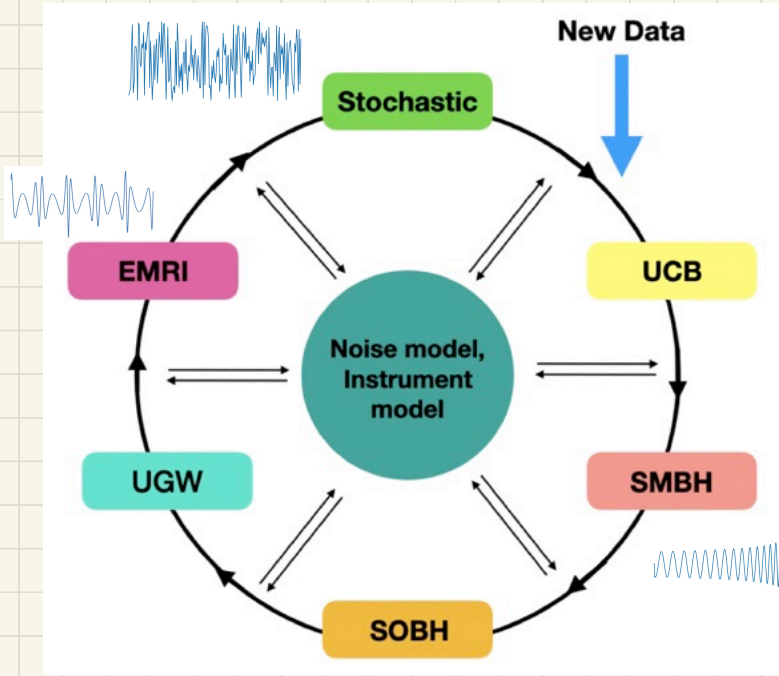
In the context of  
GW inference...

# The Need for a Global Fit



(Neil's talk, 2023)

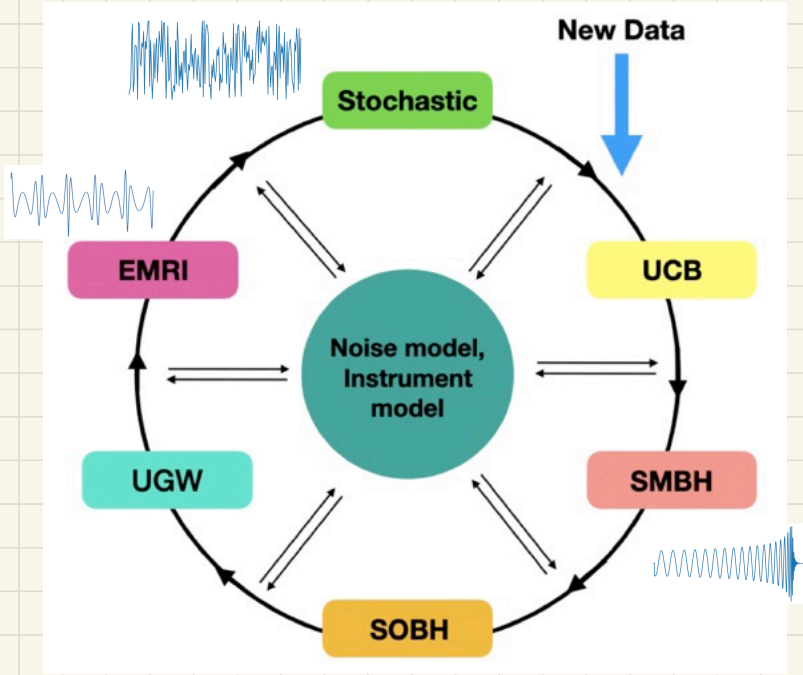
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- $\mathcal{O}(10^4)$  expected detectable signals at LISA  
↳ overlapping in both time and frequency

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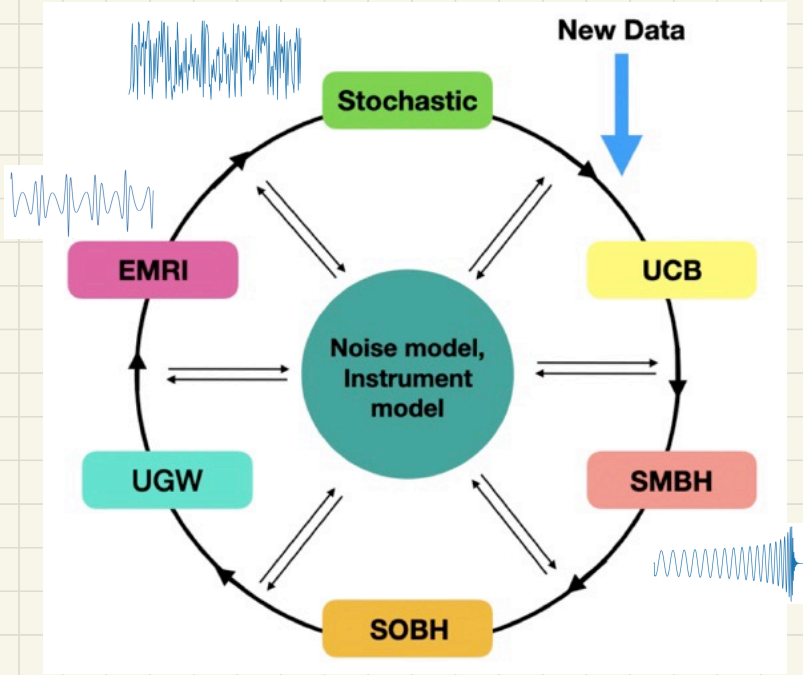


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- Interdependency among some sources
  - e.g.  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{SMBH} \\ \text{UCB} \\ \text{EMRI} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{Galaxy dynamics}$



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e.g.  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{SMBH} \\ \text{UCB} \\ \text{EMRI} \end{array} \right\} \text{Galaxy dynamics}$
- Need to simultaneously update the fit as new data arrives

# Existing Proposal to Global Fit

(Cornish et al, 2301.03673)

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may even share  
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$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{UCB}(\vec{\theta}_1) \\ \text{SMBH}(\vec{\theta}_2) \\ \text{EMRI}(\vec{\theta}_3) \\ \vdots \\ \text{SGBW}(\vec{\theta}_s) \end{array} \right.$

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UCB ( $\vec{\theta}_1$ )

SMBH ( $\vec{\theta}_2$ )

EMRI ( $\vec{\theta}_3$ )

...

SGBW ( $\vec{\theta}_s$ )

$\vec{\theta}_1^{(1)} \rightarrow \vec{\theta}_1^{(2)} \dots$

$\vec{\theta}_2^{(1)} \rightarrow \vec{\theta}_2^{(2)} \dots$

$\vec{\theta}_3^{(1)} \rightarrow \vec{\theta}_3^{(2)} \dots$

$\vec{\theta}_s^{(1)} \rightarrow \vec{\theta}_s^{(2)} \dots$

synchronized  
parameter updates

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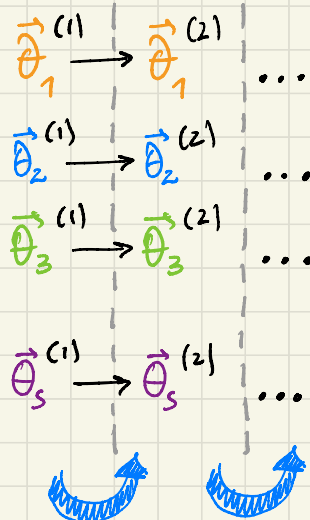
- ✓ Independent "Blocked" samplers

$$\vec{\theta}_j^{(i+1)} \leftarrow \vec{\theta}_{j,k}^{(i)} \quad \forall k \neq j$$

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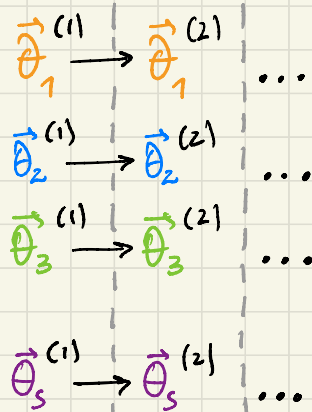
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synchronized parameter updates



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Challenges

- MCMC acceptance probability (related to the proposal dist.)

- Convergence (related to inter-block dependencies)
- Synchronization overhead and scalability

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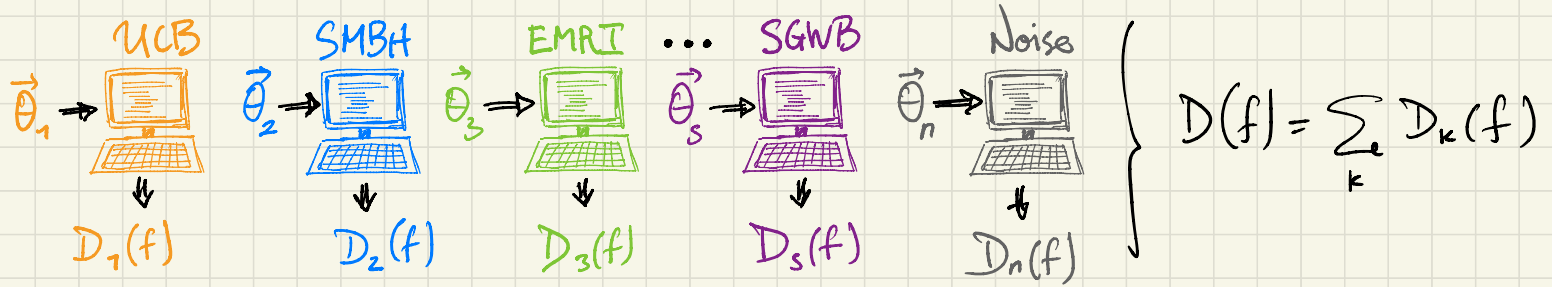
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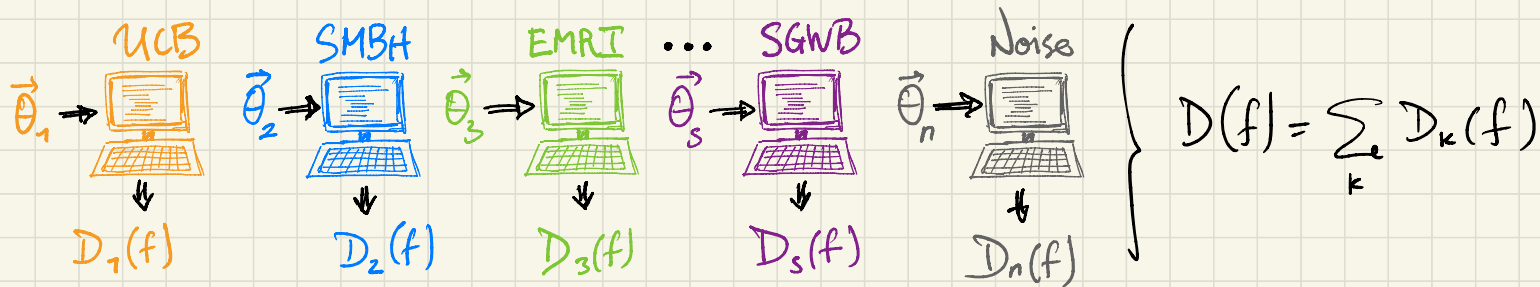
synchronized parameter updates



# SBI for GWB physics



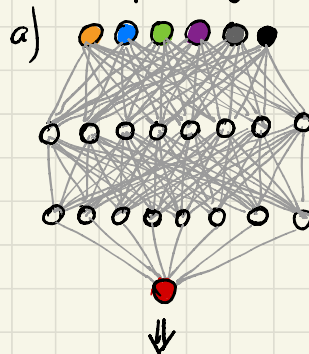
# SBI for GWB physics



Possible inputs:

a)  $\{ \vec{\theta}_1, \vec{\theta}_2, \vec{\theta}_3, \dots, \vec{\theta}_s, \vec{\theta}_n; D(f) \}$

Corresponding "architecture":

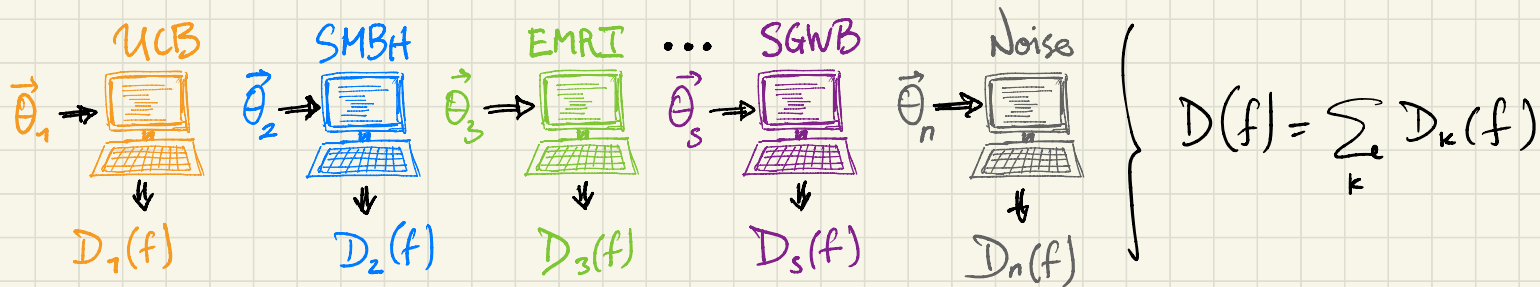


Outputs:

$P(\vec{\theta}_1, \vec{\theta}_2, \vec{\theta}_3, \dots, \vec{\theta}_s, \vec{\theta}_n | D(f))$

full posterior

# SBI for GWB physics



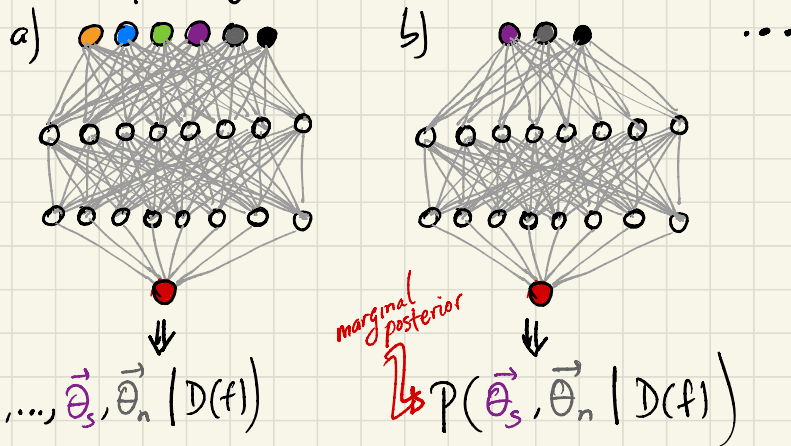
Possible inputs:

a)  $\{\vec{\theta}_1, \vec{\theta}_2, \vec{\theta}_3, \dots, \vec{\theta}_s, \vec{\theta}_n; D(f)\}$

b)  $\{\vec{\theta}_s, \vec{\theta}_n; D(f)\}$

$\vdots$

Corresponding "architecture":



Outputs:

full posterior

$$p(\vec{\theta}_1, \vec{\theta}_2, \vec{\theta}_3, \dots, \vec{\theta}_s, \vec{\theta}_n | D(f))$$

marginal posterior

$$p(\vec{\theta}_s, \vec{\theta}_n | D(f))$$

# SBI for GNB physics

## Features

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- Parallel training for different (marginal) posteriors

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(nuisance parameters automatically marginalised in the procedure)

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## Challenges

- Architecture complexity / Training cost trade-off
- Careful validation of the inference results

# A case study :

## Fast likelihood-free reconstruction of gravitational wave backgrounds

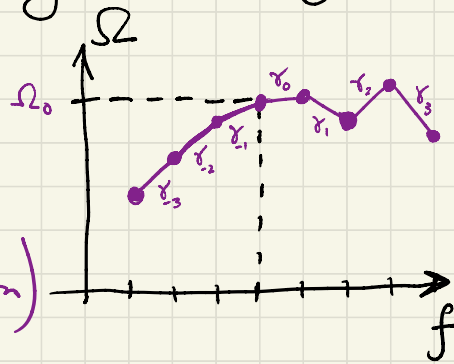
Androniki Dimitriou (Valencia U., IFIC), Daniel G. Figueroa (Valencia U., IFIC), Bryan Zaldivar (Valencia U., IFIC) (Sep 15, 2023)

Published in: *JCAP* 09 (2024) 032 • e-Print: [2309.08430](#) [astro-ph.IM]

- Blind (and template) reconstruction of SGWB, potentially including foregrounds

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● SGWB  
(agnostic  
parametrisation)



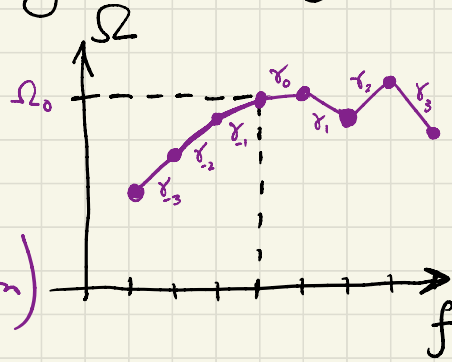
Piecewise  
power-law

(1 amplitude +  
27 slopes)

$\{\Omega_0, \gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_{-1}, \gamma_2, \gamma_{-2}, \dots\}$

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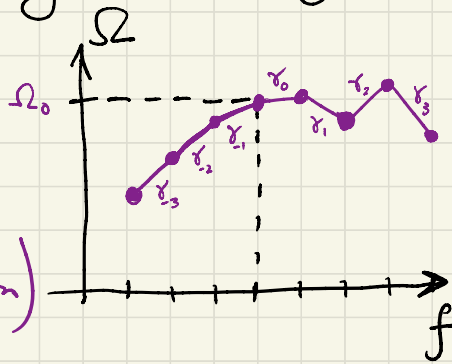


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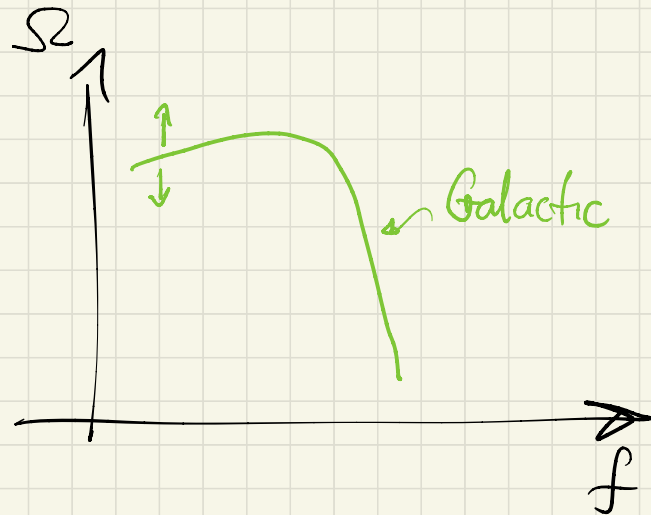


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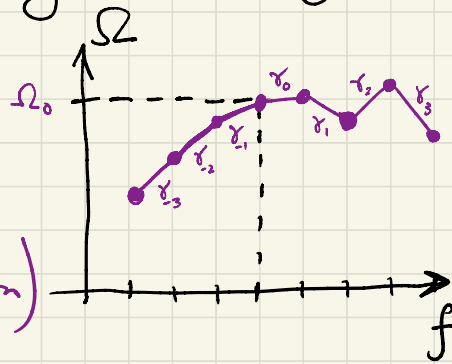
- 1) Galactic origin [binary mergers]

Fixed shape, Free amplitude  
 average isotropic & stationary signal



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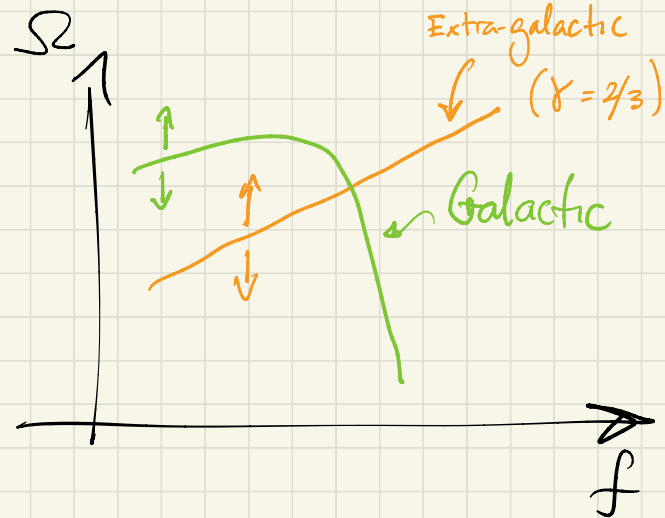
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● Foregrounds

1) Galactic origin  
[binary mergers]

Fixed shape, Free amplitude  
average isotropic  
& stationary signal

2) Extra-galactic  
[BH & neutron star binaries]



● Noise:

TDI channels  $X, Y, Z$



$A, E, T$  basis

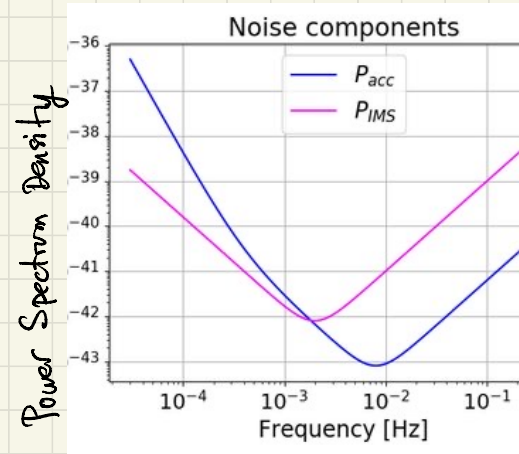
(uncorrelated data streams)



● Noise: TDI channels  $X, Y, Z$   $\rightarrow$   $A, E, T$  basis  
(uncorrelated data streams)

Effective noise modelling with 2 contributions

- $P_{acc}(f; A_{acc})$
- $P_{IMS}(f; A_p)$



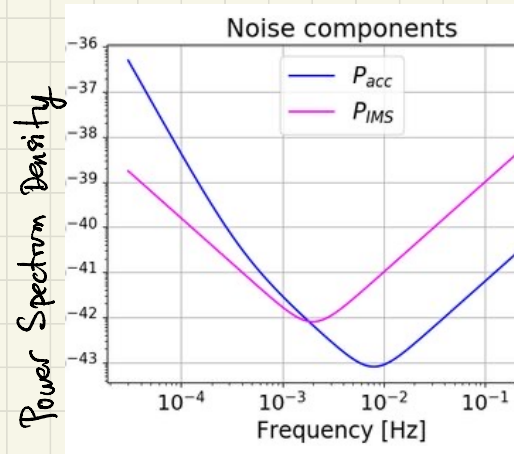
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$$N_{EE} = N_{AA}(f; A_{acc}, A_p)$$

$$N_{TT}(f; A_{acc}, A_p)$$



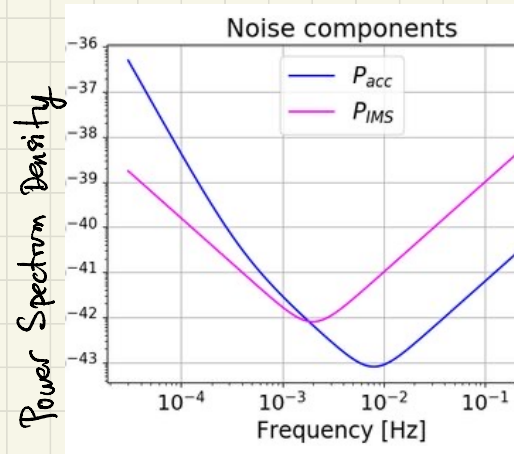
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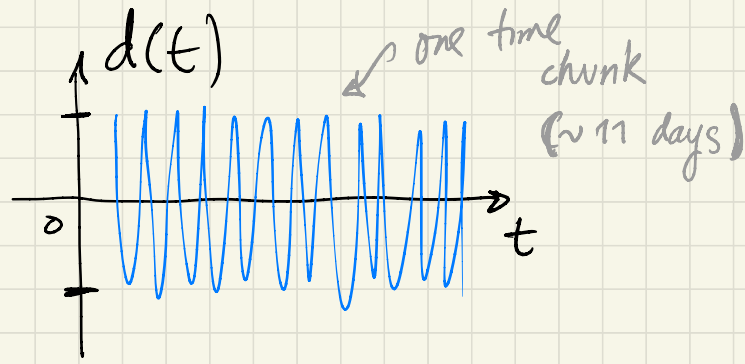
$$N_{TT}(f; A_{acc}, A_p)$$



TT channel only sensitive to noise for  $f \lesssim 0.02 \text{ Hz}$   
 AA, EE channels: both noise and signals present

# DATA SIMULATION

- Data Stream



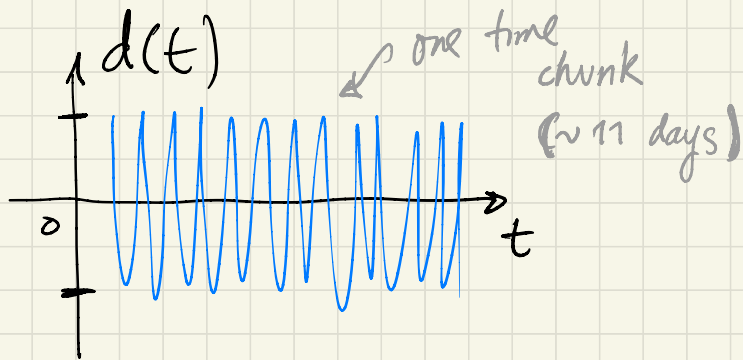
# DATA SIMULATION

- Data Stream

$$d(t) \rightarrow d(f) \in \mathbb{C}$$

$$\swarrow \searrow$$
$$\text{Re}[d(f)] \quad \text{Im}[d(f)]$$

indep random variables with variance  $\frac{1}{2}D(f)$



↳ a realization of the power spectrum

# DATA SIMULATION

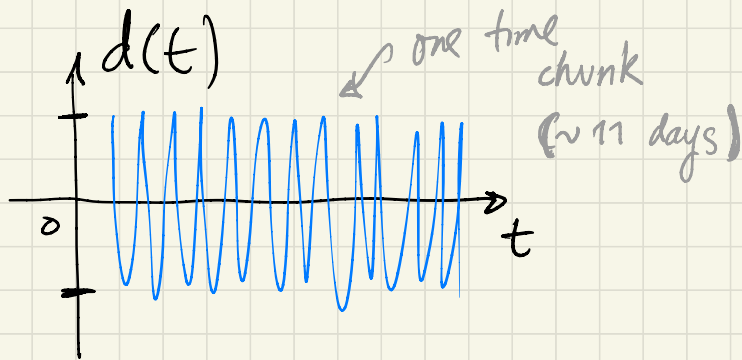
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- $D(f)$



$\hookrightarrow$  a realization of the power spectrum

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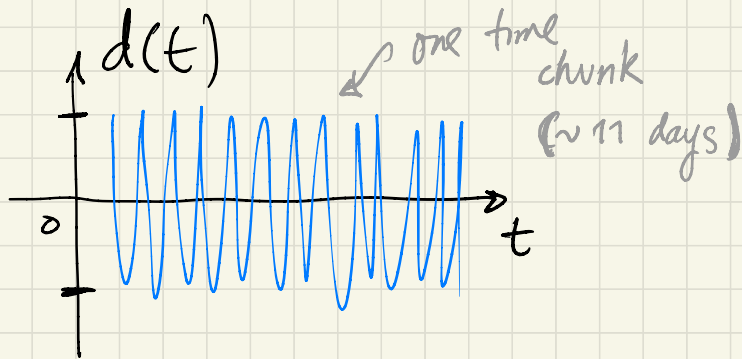
$$d(t) \rightarrow d(f) \in \mathbb{C}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \swarrow \searrow \\ \text{Re}[d(f)] & \text{Im}[d(f)] \end{matrix}$$

↖ channel

$$\bullet \mathcal{D}(f) \Rightarrow D_i^{\alpha\beta}(f_j)$$

↖ time chunk



indep random variables with variance  $\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{D}(f)$

↖ a realization of the power spectrum

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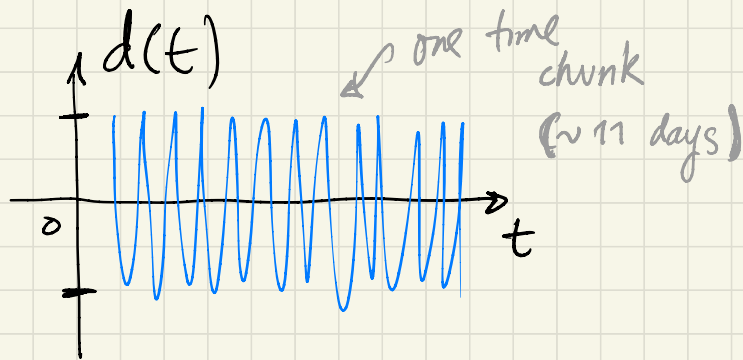
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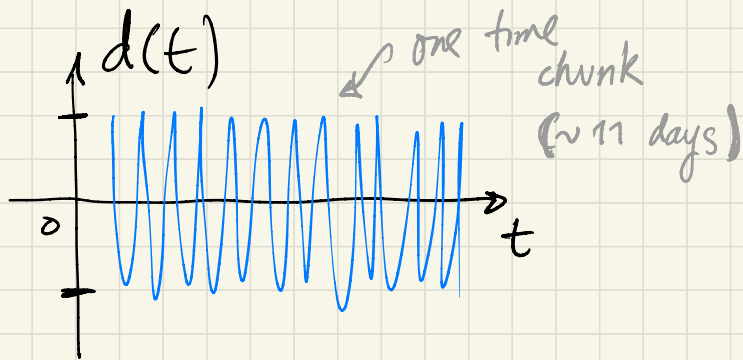
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$G_j$  a realization of the power spectrum

$$S_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} |G_1(f_j) + i G_2(f_j)|^2$$

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~~power~~ inherited from the complex-valued nature of  $d(f)$



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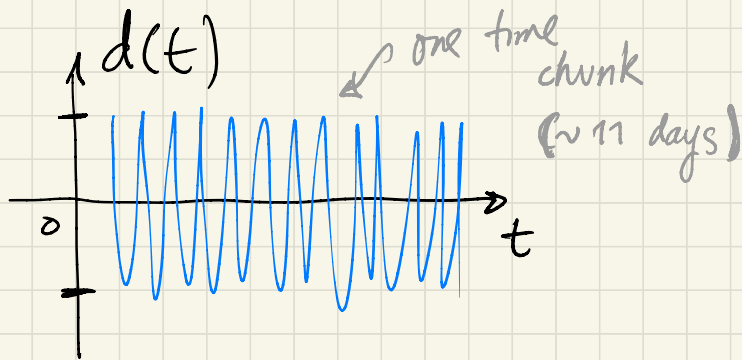
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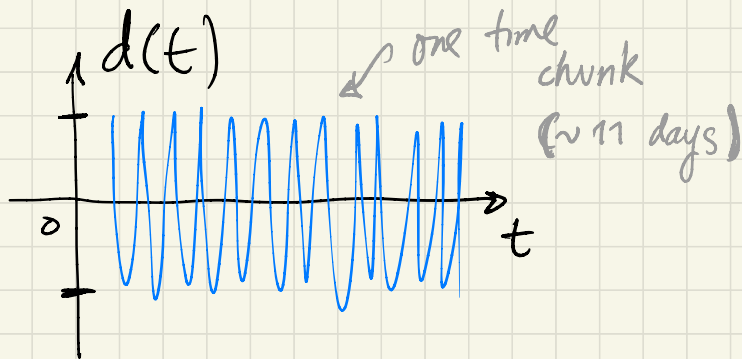
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$$\overline{D}_j^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_{i=1}^{N_c} D_{i,j}^{\alpha\beta}$$

$$\begin{matrix} \nwarrow \nearrow \\ D_j^{\text{TT}} & D_j^{\text{AA}} \end{matrix}$$



# SETUP SUMMARY

- Data generated in the TT & AA channels (frequency domain, time-averaged)

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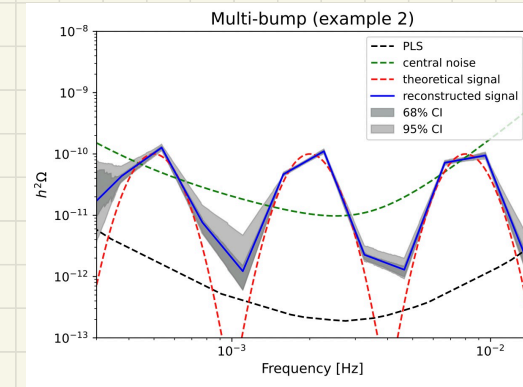
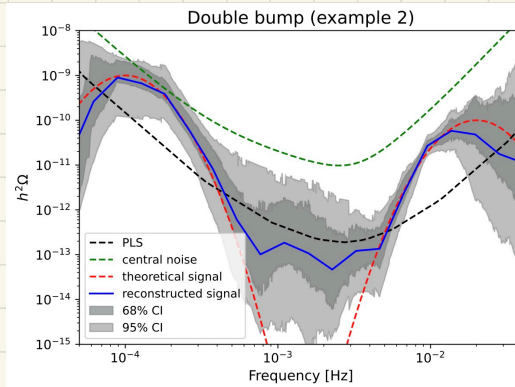
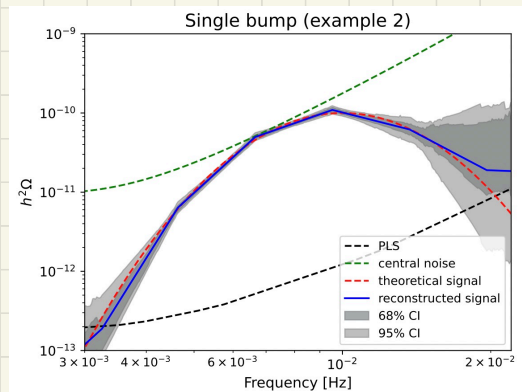
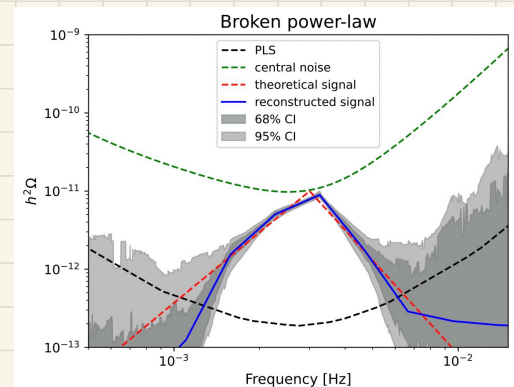
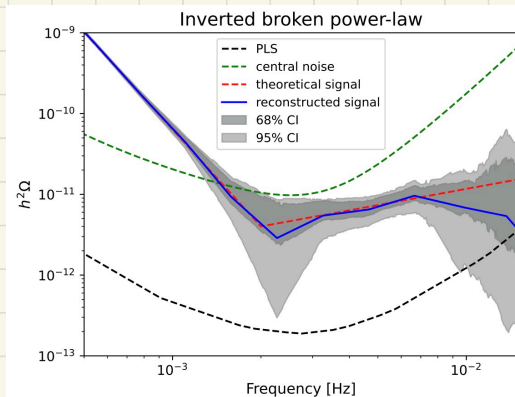
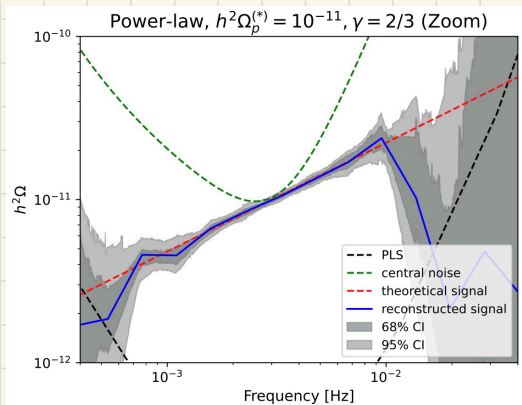
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- Public package "GWBackFinder"

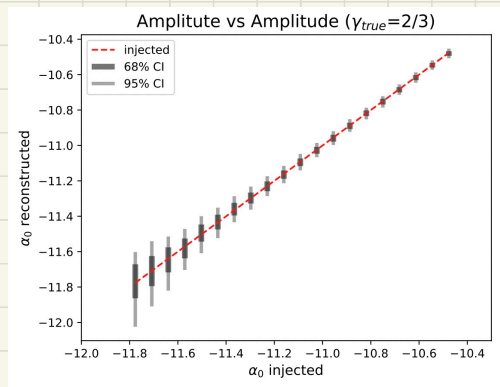
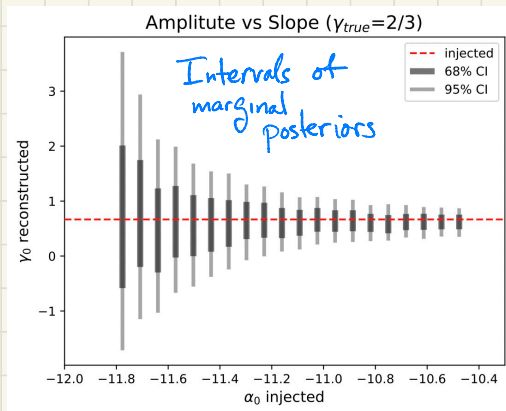
Results

# BLIND SIGNAL RECONSTRUCTION

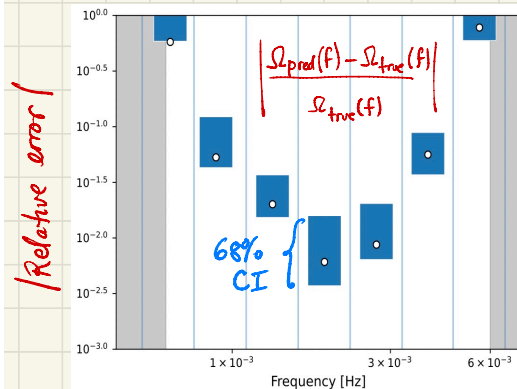
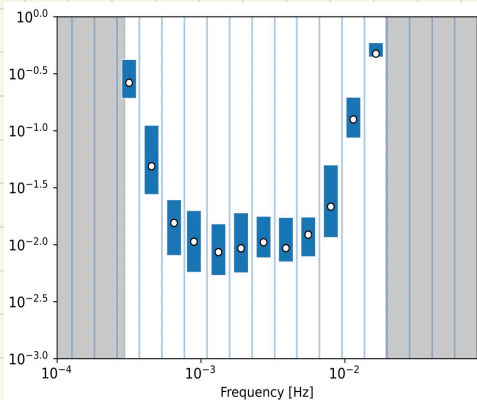
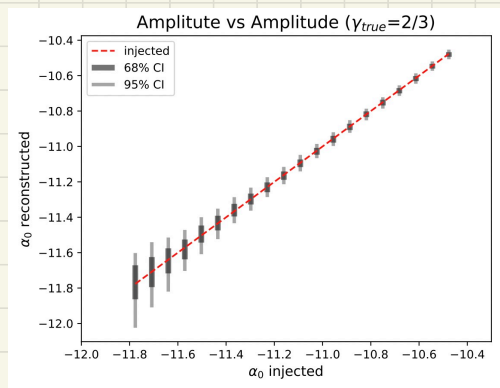
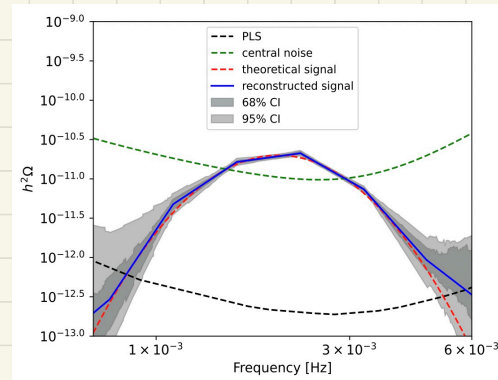
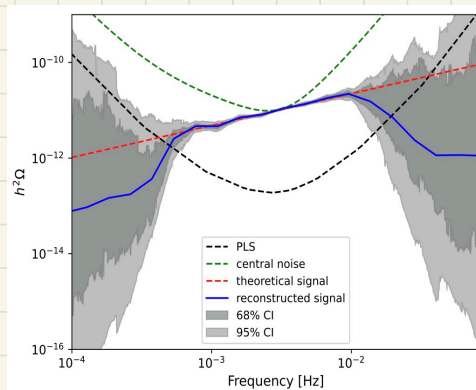
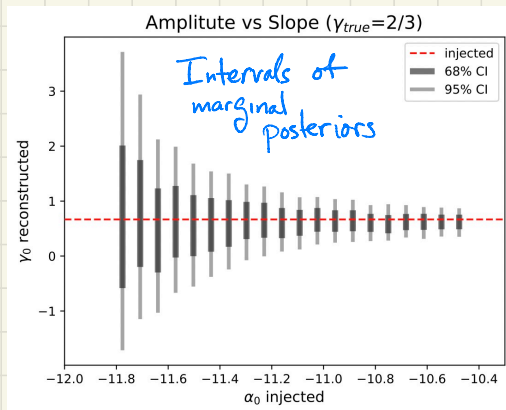
(showing only the most challenging cases)



# FIGS OF MERIT FOR RECONSTRUCTION QUALITY

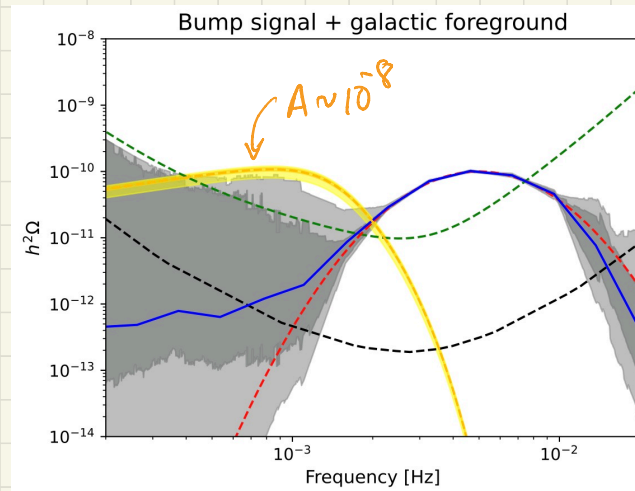
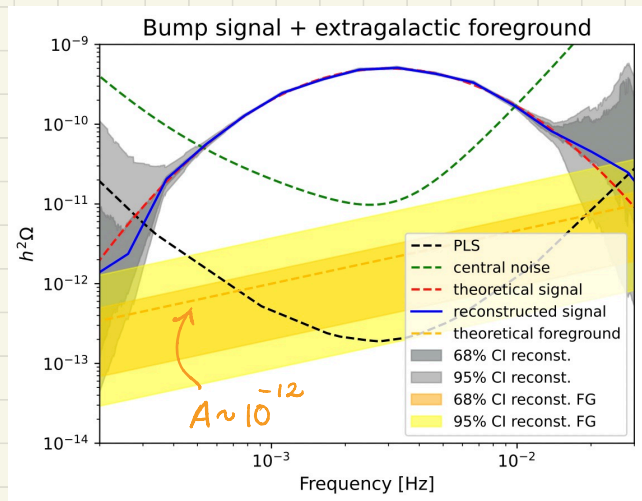


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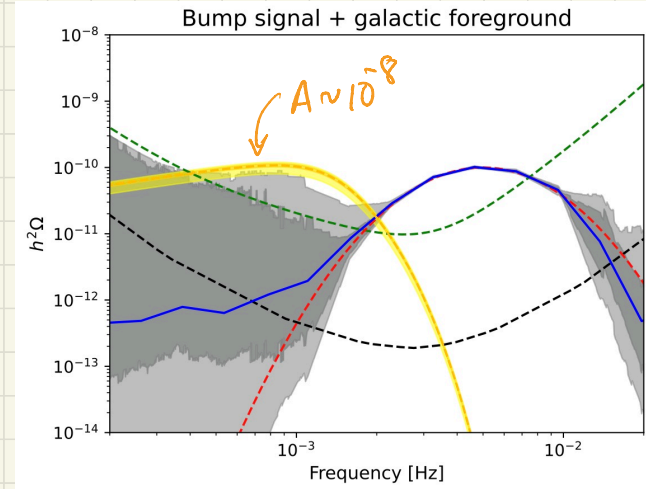
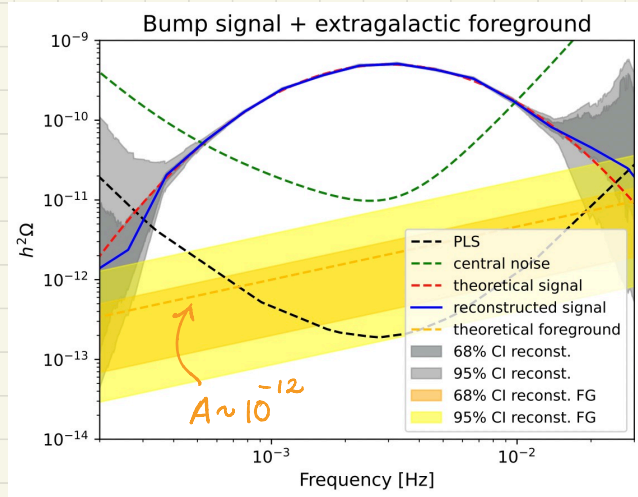
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(Blind rec.)



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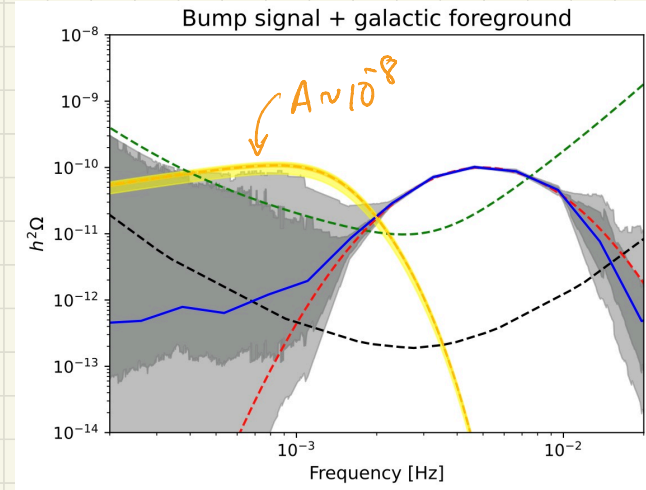
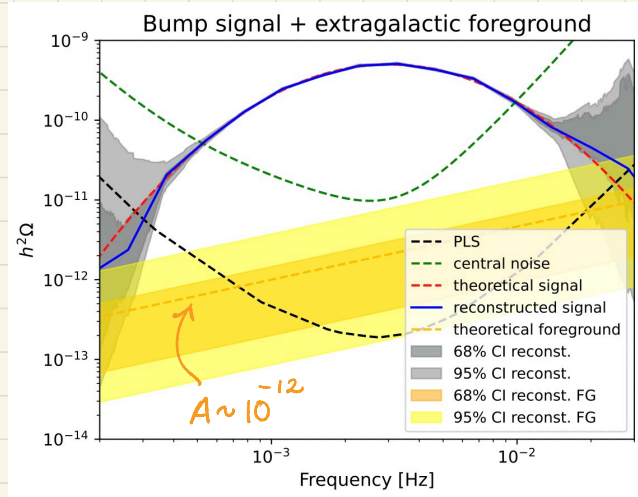


- Signal is precisely reconstructed when foreground is subdominant



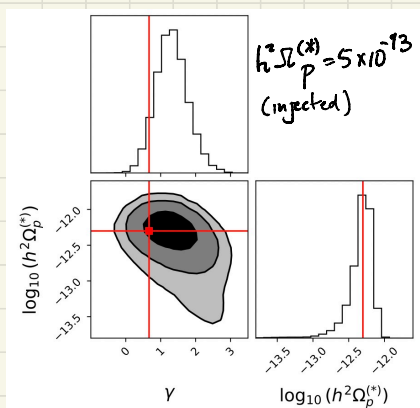
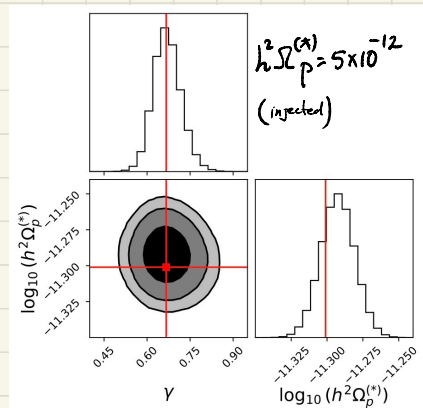
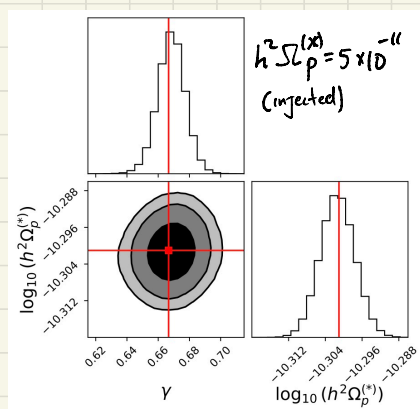
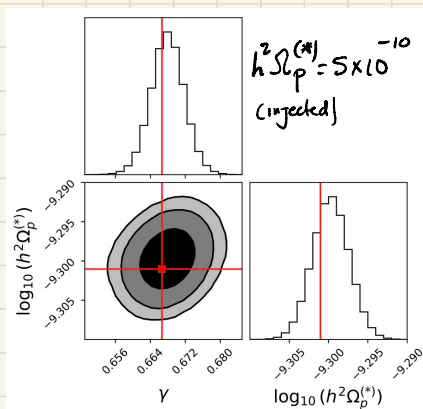
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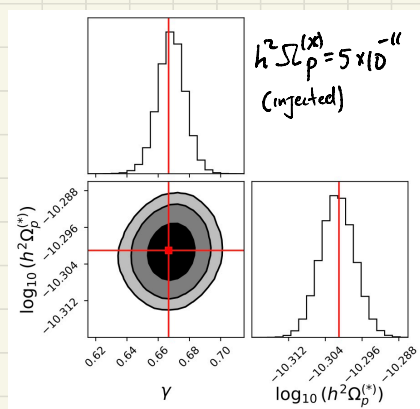
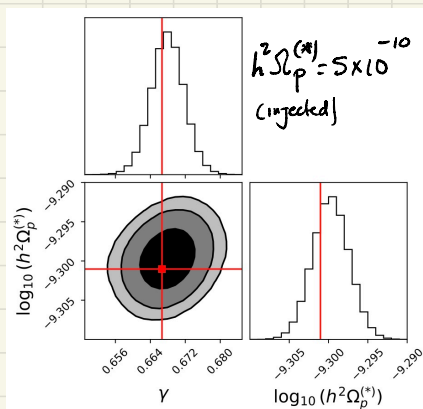


- Signal is precisely reconstructed when foreground is subdominant
- Challenging Background/foreground degeneracies  
(but better if foreground model is more realistic!)

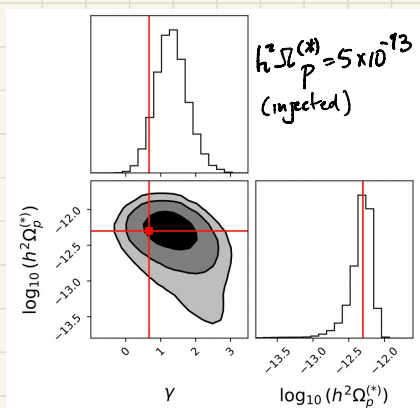
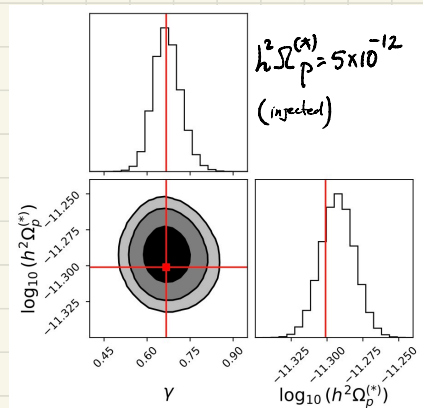
# TEMPLATE RECONSTRUCTION



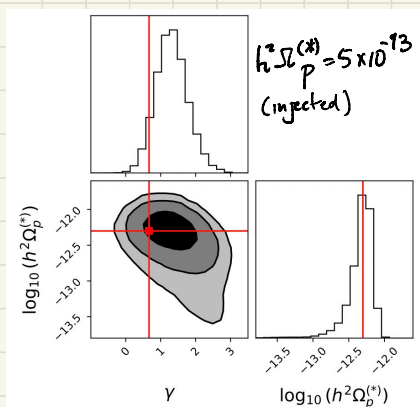
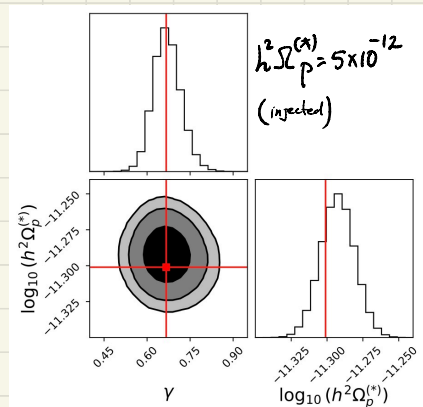
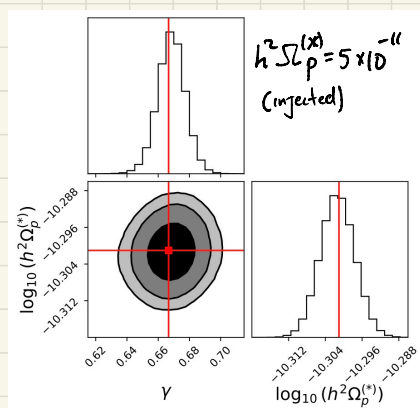
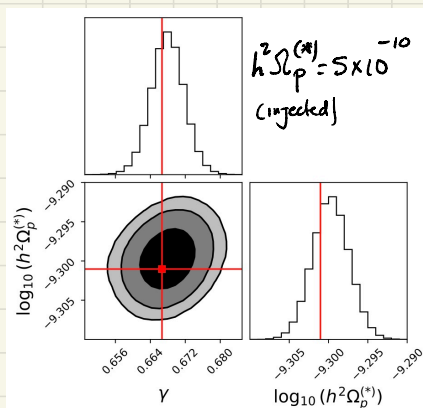
# TEMPLATE RECONSTRUCTION



\*  $\mathcal{O}(10)$  times less # of simulations to train (w.r.t. blind rec.)



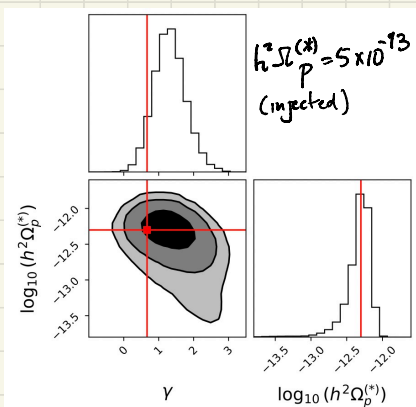
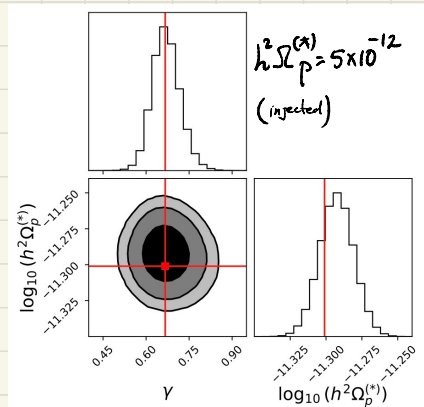
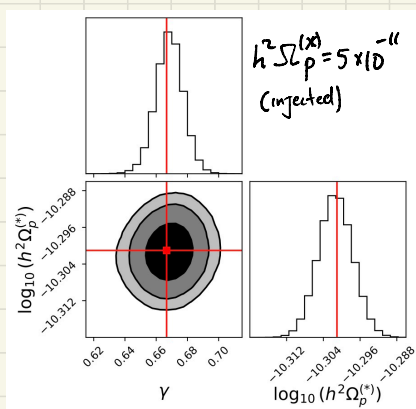
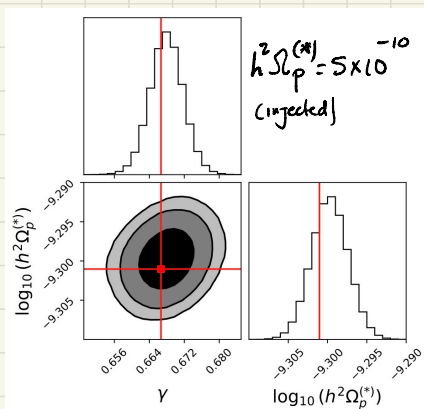
# TEMPLATE RECONSTRUCTION



\*  $O(10)$  times less # of simulations to train (w.r.t. blind rec.)

\* In general better precision w.r.t. blind reconstruction

# TEMPLATE RECONSTRUCTION



\*  $\mathcal{O}(10)$  times less # of simulations to train (w.r.t. blind rec.)

\* In general better precision w.r.t. blind reconstruction

\* Successful but less precise reconstruction for  $(h^2 \Omega_p^{(*)})_{\text{injected}} \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-13})$

# CONCLUSIONS & OUTLOOK

- ⊛ SBI approach to the Global Fit seems very promising (computational advantages w.r.t. MCMC)
- ⊛ SGWB already leveraging SBI (this work, see also talk by Mauro)
- ⊛ Application of our technique to specific template reconstruction (Cosmic Strings, out very soon)
- ⊛ Key improvements in the procedure (binning, data representation, model selection, etc)

Thanks!