



# The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory



<http://www.ligo.caltech.edu>



*Supported by the United States National Science Foundation*

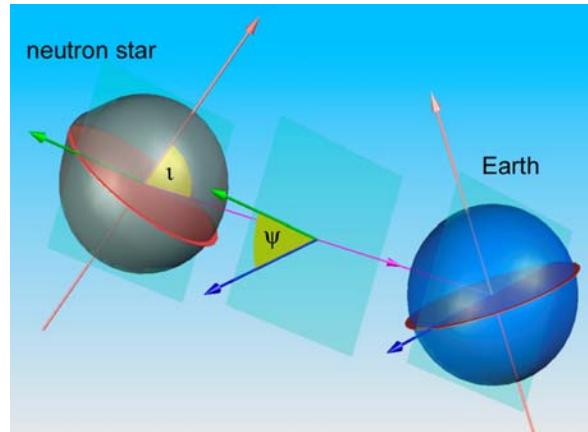
## The Search For Continuous Gravitational Waves

**Gregory Mendell, LIGO Hanford Observatory  
on behalf of the LIGO Science Collaboration**

LIGO-G0900274-v1

# Continuous Gravitational Waves

$$h_0 = \frac{4\pi^2 G}{c^4} \frac{\varepsilon I_{zz} f^2}{r}$$



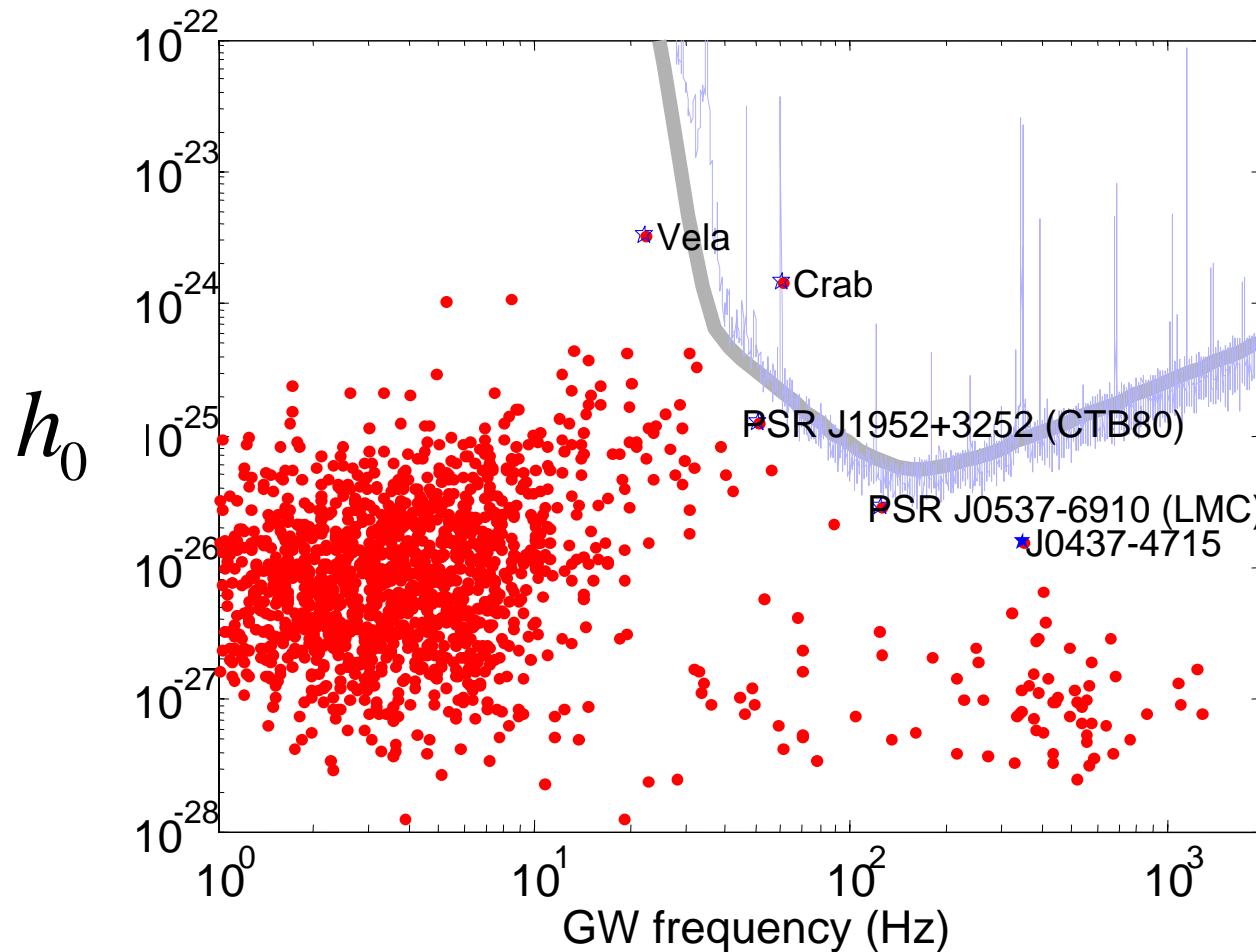
$$\varepsilon = \frac{I_{xx} - I_{yy}}{I_{zz}}$$

$$h(t) = \frac{1}{2} F_+(t; \psi) h_0 (1 + \cos^2 \iota) \cos 2\Psi(t) + F_\times(t; \psi) h_0 \cos \iota \sin 2\Psi(t)$$

The continuous gravitational wave signal from a triaxial rotating neutron star produces a strain  $h(t)$  with amplitude  $h_0$ , and depends on the detector antenna patterns,  $F_+$  and  $F_\times$ , inclination angle,  $\iota$ , polarization angle  $\psi$ , and phase  $\Psi$ .

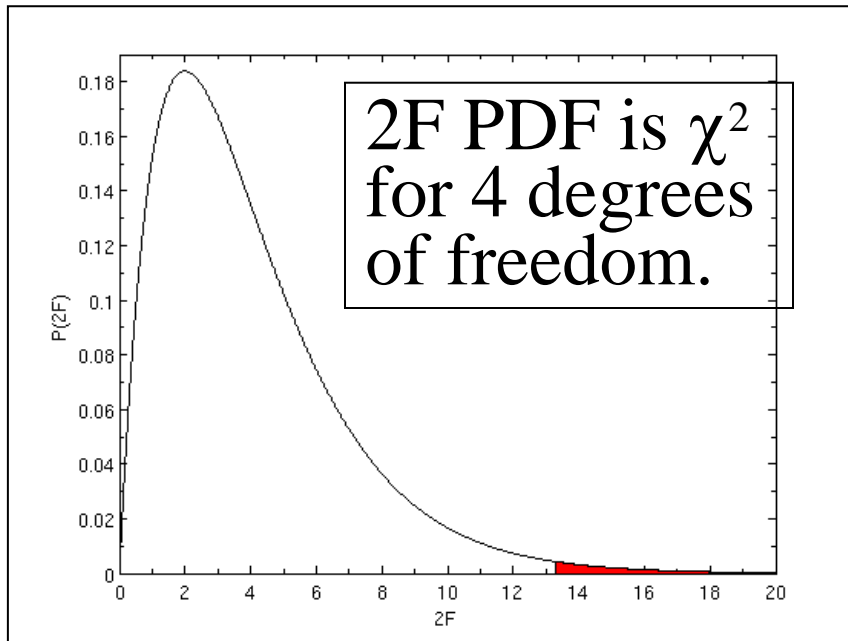


# Search sensitivity for a one year fully coherent search at LIGO's S5 sensitivity

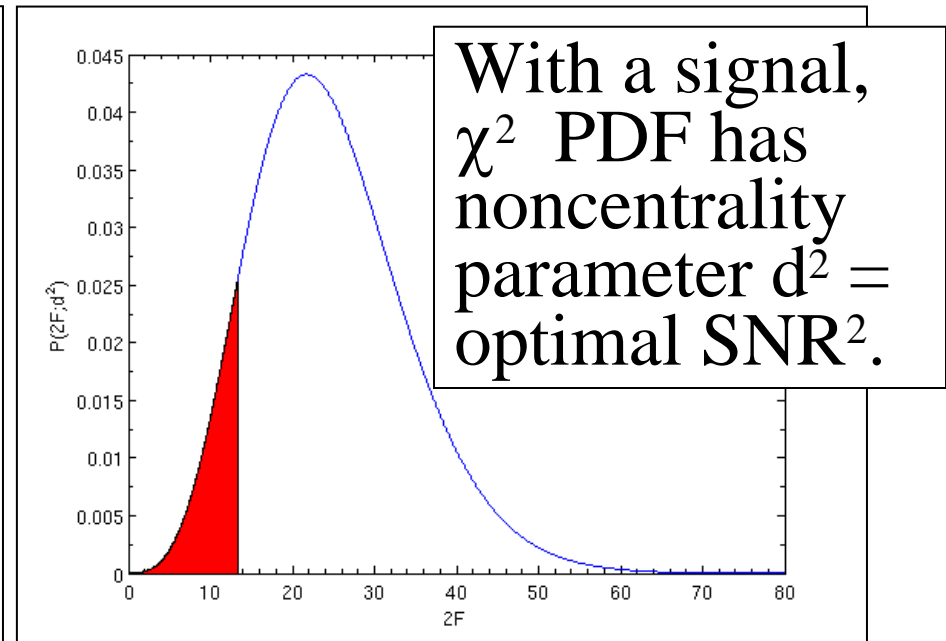


For our fully coherent searches we use the maximum likelihood statistic, 2F, and a time-domain Bayesian approach.

# Sensitivity: A Three Step Program



Step 1. The False Alarm Rate gives a threshold on the statistic,  $2F$ . For a 1% False Alarm Rate this threshold is  $2F = 13.3$ .



Step 2. The False Dismissal Rate gives the optimal  $\text{SNR}^2$ ,  $d^2$ , needed. For a 10% False Dismissal Rate,  $d^2 = 20.7$ .



The SNR depends on sky position and source orientation.

Equation (84) of JKS [1] gives the optimal  $\text{SNR}^2$  as:

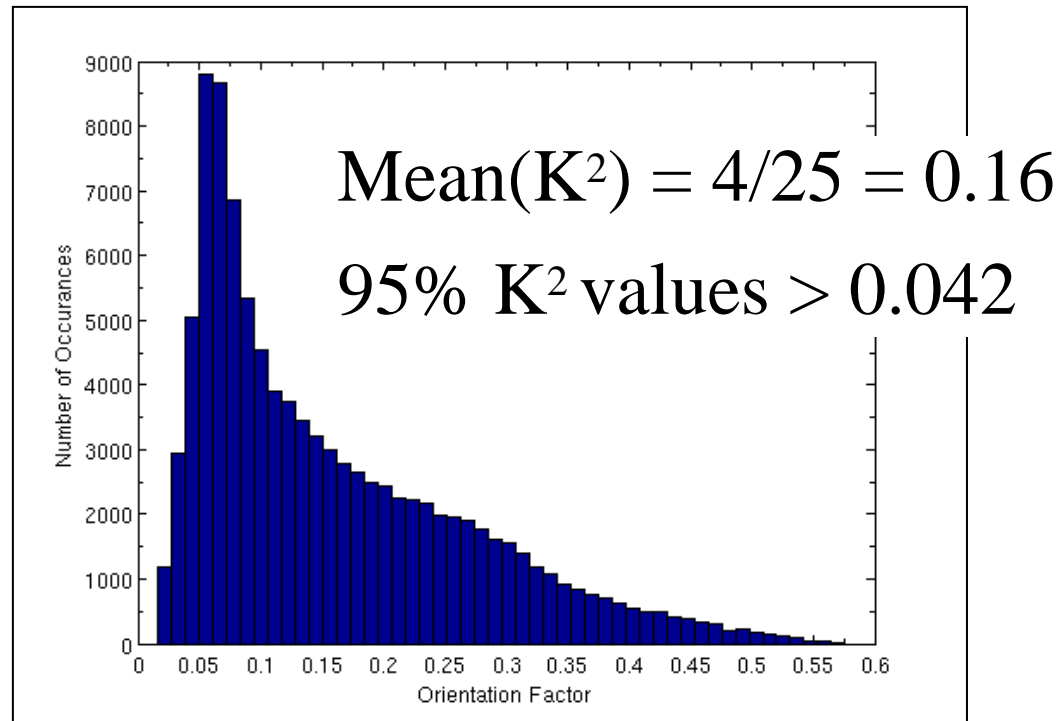
$$d^2 \cong [0.25(1 + \cos^2 i)^2 \langle F_+^2 \rangle + \cos^2 i \langle F_\times^2 \rangle] h_0^2 T_{coh} / S \quad (1)$$

Define the orientation factor,  $K^2$ , as:

$$K^2 = 0.25(1 + \cos^2 i)^2 \langle F_+^2 \rangle + \cos^2 i \langle F_\times^2 \rangle \quad (2)$$



Histogram  
10000  
random  $K^2$   
values:



Step 3. Substituting  $d^2 = 20.7$ ,  $\text{mean}(K^2) = 0.16$ , and  $T_{\text{coh.}} = T_{\text{obs}}$  (the observation time) into Eq. (1) and solving for  $h_0$  gives the sensitivity for a fully coherent search for finding sources with average orientation for a 1% False Alarm Rate and 10% False Dismissal Rate:

$$h_0 \approx 11\sqrt{S / T_{\text{obs}}} \quad (3)$$



## Caveats



- To achieve 90% detection efficiency (a 10% false dismissal rate) we need an SNR that is detected 95% of the time over 95% of the orientations ( $.95*.95 \sim 0.90$ ). Thus, it is more appropriate to use  $K^2 = 0.042$  when estimating the sensitivity [2]. However, for a single template search the threshold on  $2F$  can be closer to  $\sim 4$  (for  $\sim 50\%$  false alarm rate). This lowers  $d^2$  by about a factor of 4, which keeps the sensitivity about equal to that in Eq. (3) for known pulsars.
- However, to search for unknown sources we search over many templates, typically billions in each  $\sim 1$  Hz band. A higher threshold is needed to keep the False Alarm Rate down. Coincidence steps are used to further reduce this rate.
- For the Einstein@Home S4 all-sky search, a threshold of  $2F = 28$  was used, and coincidence in 12 of 17 stretches of data with  $T_{coh} = 30$  hr was required. The resulting sensitivity for a 10% false dismissal rate was:

$$h_0 \approx 33 \sqrt{S / T_{coh}} \quad (4)$$



## To optimize sensitivity:



- Reduce the noise,  $S$ , by improving the instrument.
- Lower the threshold on  $2F$  as much as possible, while keeping the False Alarm Rate near zero. We do this by using a parameter space metric to reduce the number of templates, and by using vetoes.
- Increase the coherent integration time  $T_{\text{coh}}$ . Efforts to do this include a resampling technique to speed up the calculation of  $2F$ .
- Due to computational cost a hierarchical approach is needed that incoherently combines coherent stretches of data. We use  $2F$  for the coherent step and the Hough Transform for the incoherent step in the current S5 E@H.
- For  $N$  coherent segments combined incoherently, the sensitivity scales as:

$$h_0 \propto N^{1/4} \sqrt{S / T_{\text{obs}}} \quad (5)$$

**Data analysis theory looks for ways to make the coefficient in front of the right side as small as possible.**





## References

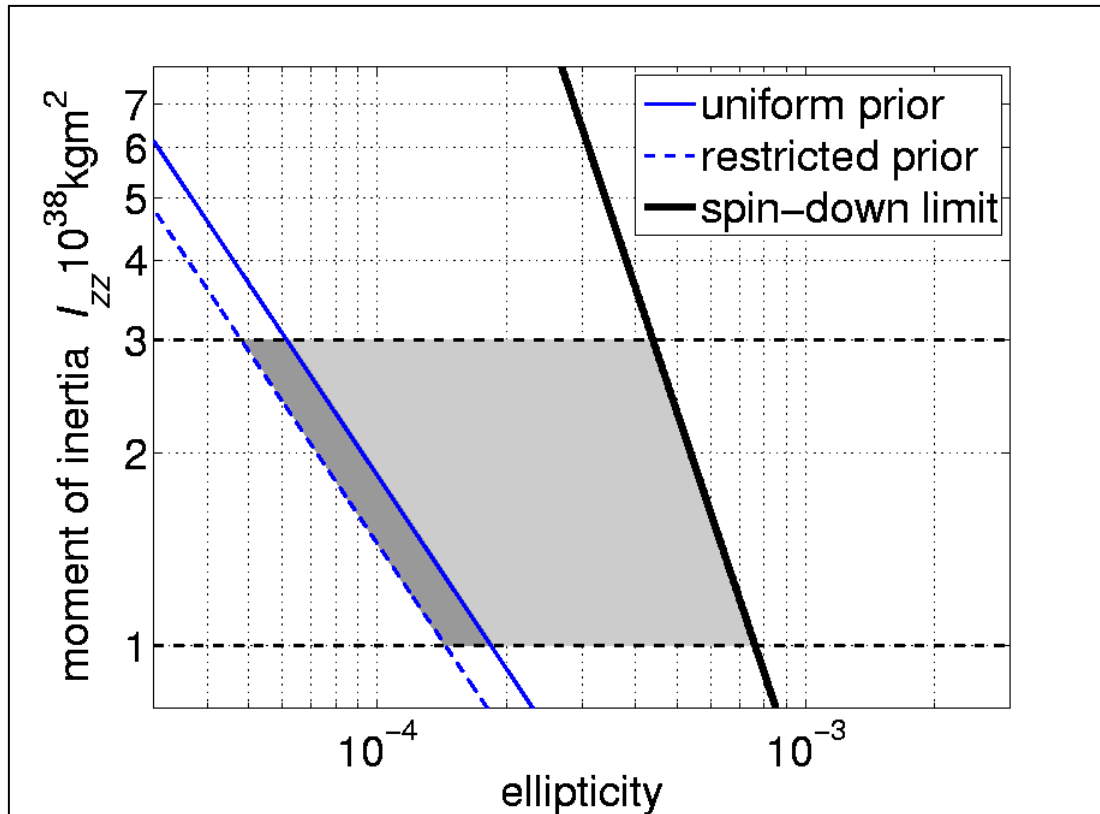
- [1] P.Jaranowski, A.Królak, B.Schutz, Physical Review D 58, 063001, Data analysis of gravitational wave signals from spinning neutron stars.
- [2] J. Betzwieser, “Analysis of spatial mode sensitivity of a gravitational wave interferometer and a targeted search for gravitational radiation from the Crab pulsar”, (Phd Thesis MIT, 2007).
- [3] LIGO Scientific Collaboration: B. Abbott, et al, ApJ Lett 683 (2008) 45, Beating the spin-down limit on gravitational wave emission from the Crab pulsar.
- [4] LIGO Scientific Collaboration: B. Abbott, et al, M. Kramer, A. G. Lyne, Phys. Rev. D 76 (2007) 042001, Upper limits on gravitational wave emission from 78 radio pulsars.
- [5] LIGO Scientific Collaboration: B. Abbott, et al, to appear in Phys. Rev. D, The Einstein@Home search for periodic gravitational waves in LIGO S4 data.
- [6] LIGO Scientific Collaboration: B. Abbott, et al, sub. to Phys. Rev. Lett., All-sky LIGO Search for Periodic Gravitational Waves in the Early S5 Data.



END



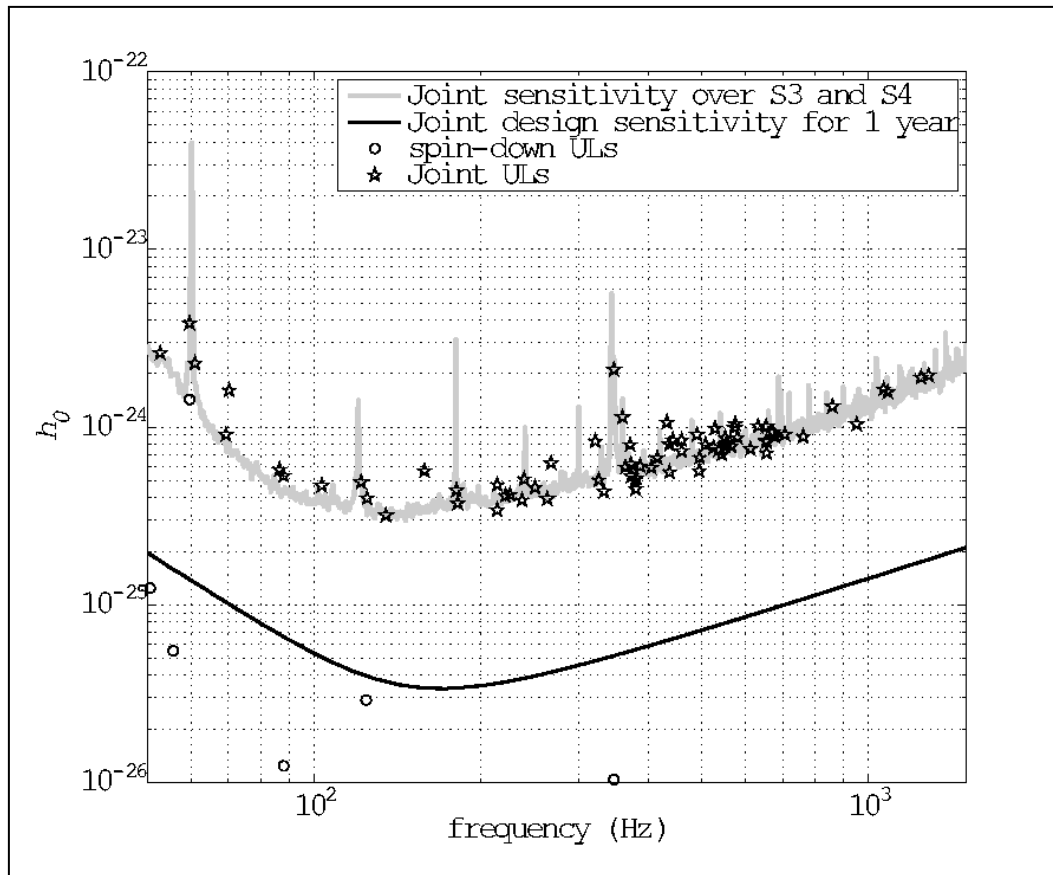
# Beating the Crab Spindown Limit



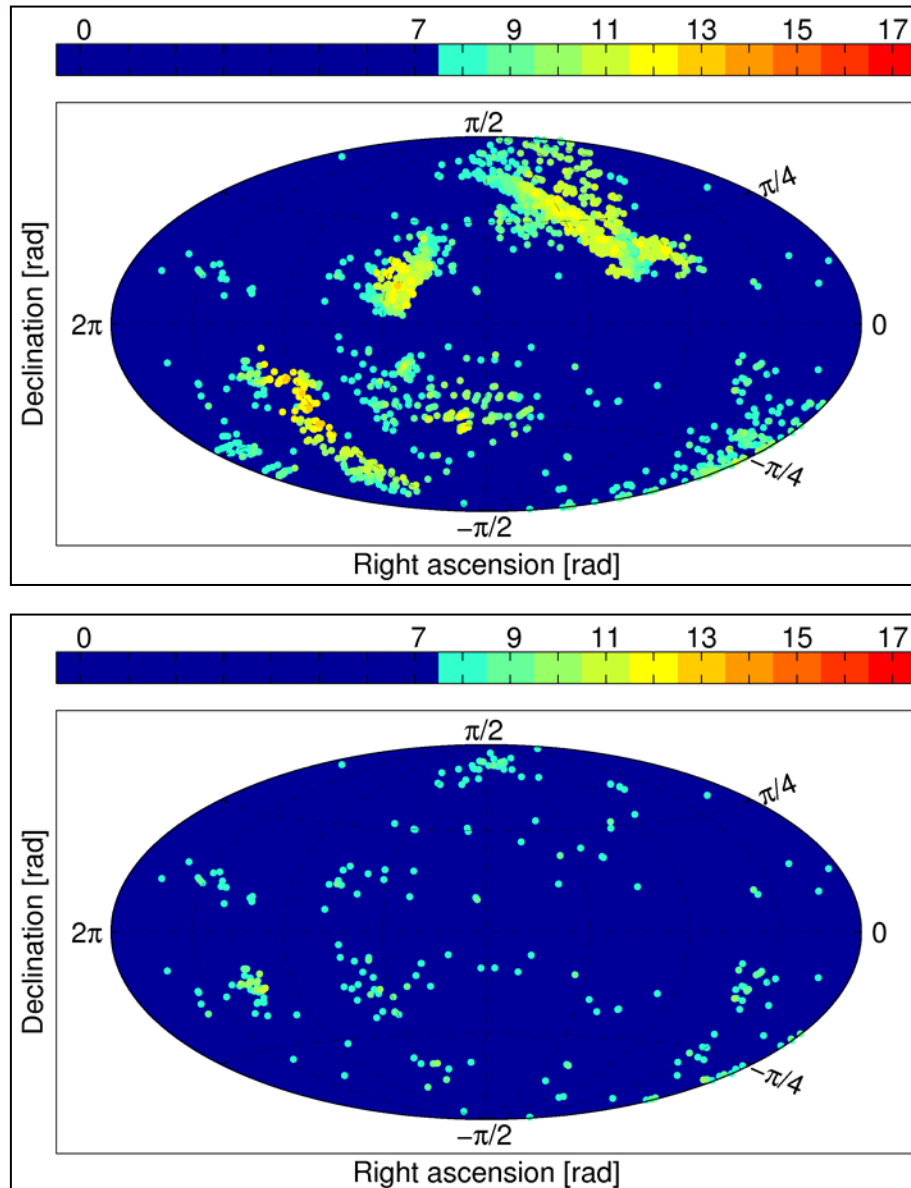
We have beaten the spindown limit for the Crab [3]. Upper limits from S5 are shown as exclusion regions in the  $I$ - $\epsilon$  plane. Dashed horizontal lines are theoretical bounds on  $I$ . Less than 6% of the total power from spindown is emitted as GWs; ULs are  $h_0^{95\%} = 3.4 \times 10^{-25}$ , and  $\epsilon = 1.8 \times 10^{-4}$  using  $I = 10^{38} \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^2$  and  $r = 2 \text{ kpc}$ .



# Known Pulsar S3/S4 Results



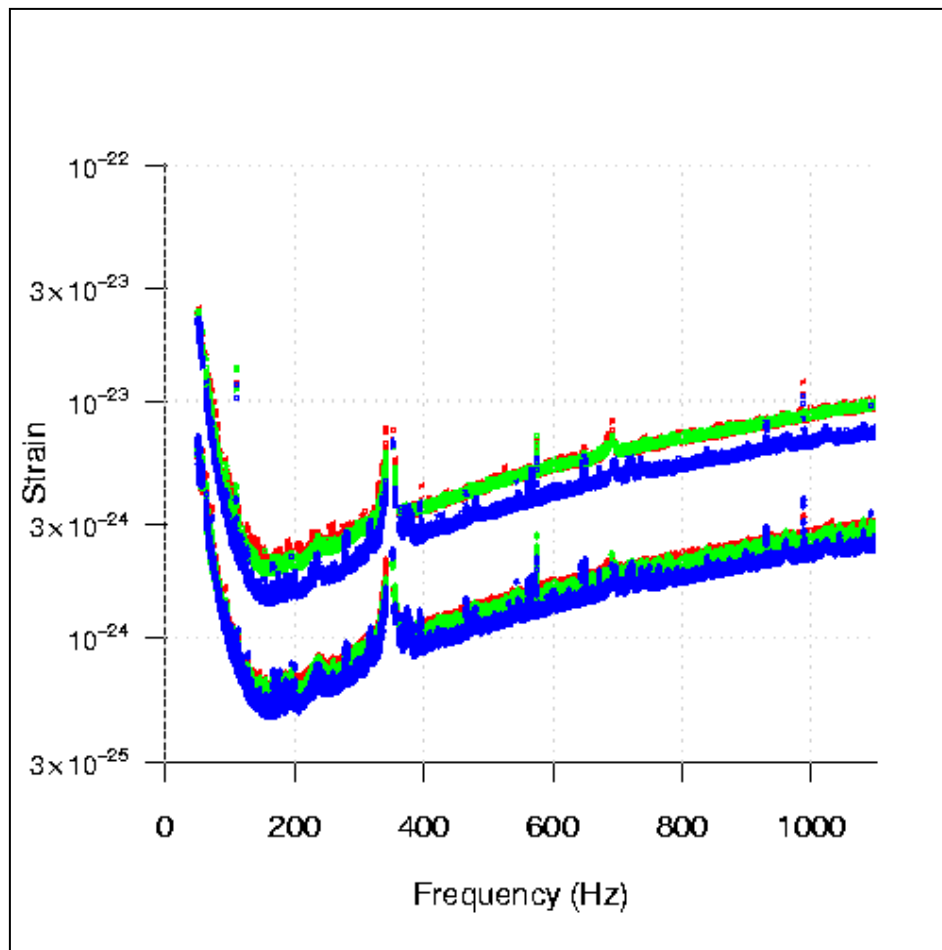
Upper limits on gravitational wave emission from 78 radio pulsars were set using S3/S4 data [4]. The best  $h_0^{95\%}$  UL is  $2.6 \times 10^{-25}$ ; the best  $\epsilon$  UL is less than  $10^{-6}$ . The plot shows upper limits against sensitivity estimated from Eq. (3).



Examples of the first published Einstein@Home search results for unknown sources, using S4 data. Shown are all candidates with at least 7 coincidences out of 17 30 hour segments, and that passed a veto on sky positions with little Doppler modulation [5]. The top plot includes hardware injected signals. The bottom plot removes bands around the hardware injections' frequencies. No candidates survived the detection criteria of 12 coincidences. The estimated sensitivity for 90% detection confidence is in Eq. (4).



## PowerFlux Early S5 Results



Computationally efficient semicoherent methods are also used to look for unknown sources. PowerFlux results from the early part of S5 are shown [6]. Upper limits (95% CL) on pulsar gravitational wave amplitude  $h_0$  for equatorial (red), intermediate (green), and polar (blue) declination bands for best-case (lower curves) and worst-case (upper curves) pulsar orientations.



# Incoherent Power Averaging

- Break up data into  $N$  segments; FFT each segment.
- Track the frequency.
- StackSlide: add the power weighted by the noise inverse.
- Hough: add 1 or 0 if power is above/below a cutoff.
- PowerFlux: add power using weights that maximize SNR

