

A parametrized test of General Relativity applied to LISA Massive Black Hole Binaries

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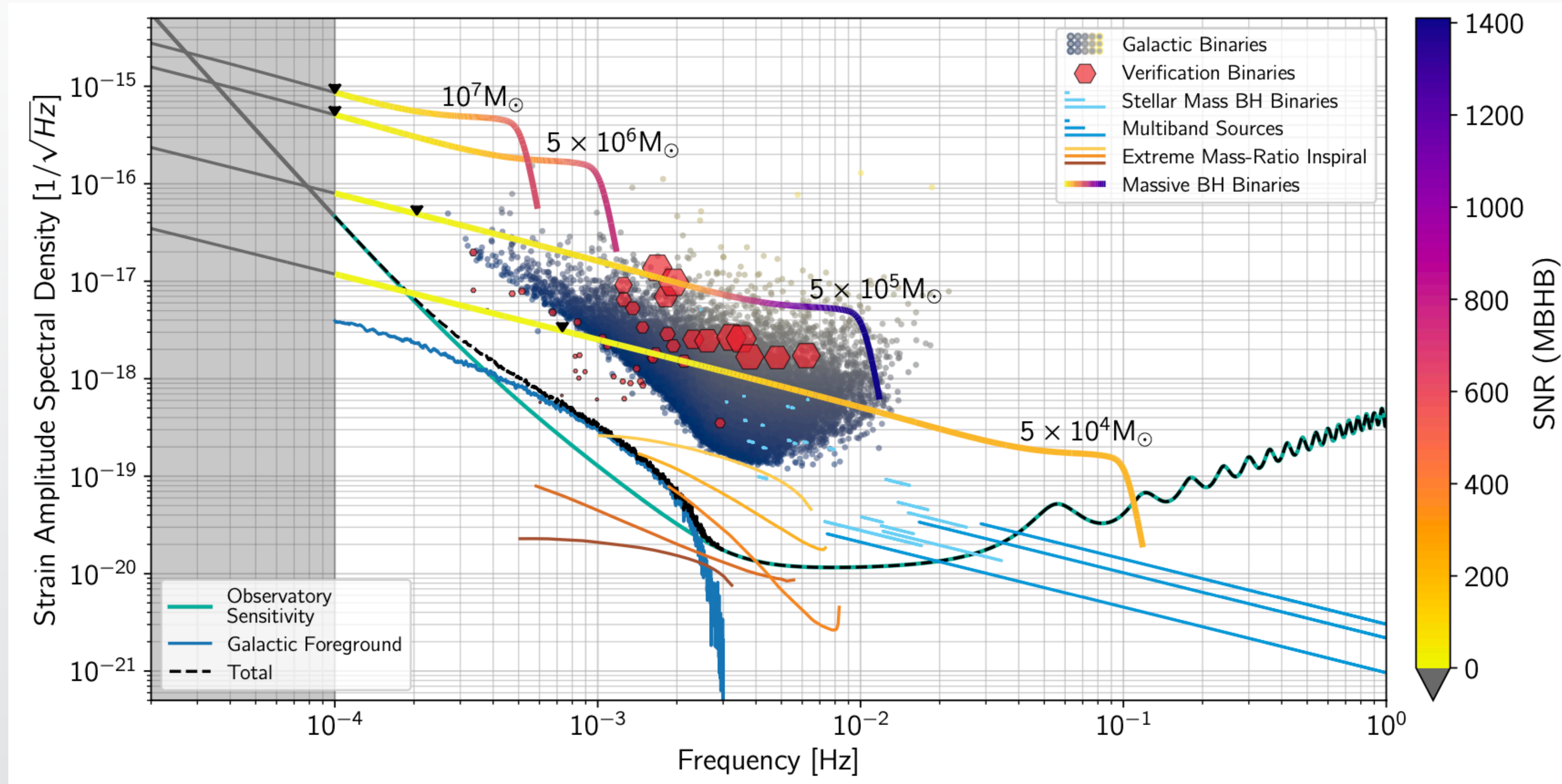
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JUN 20, 2025

LISA in Toulouse



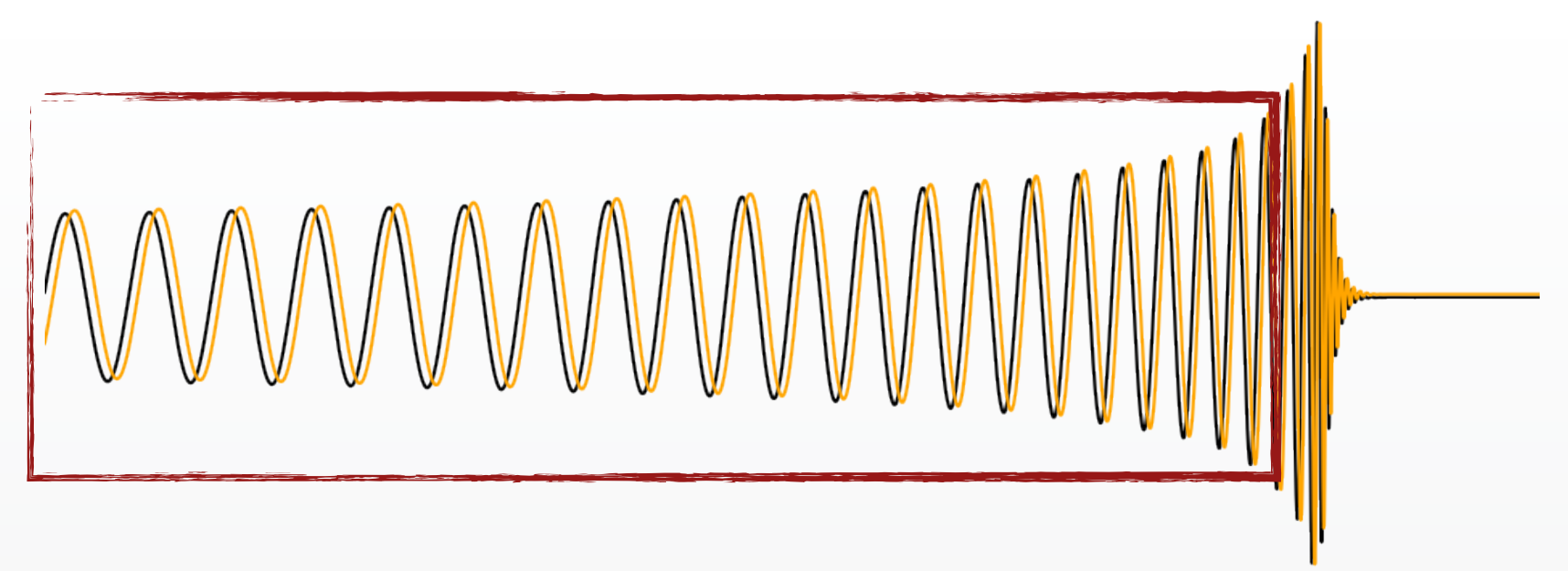
MBHBs:
Very different signal morphology
depending on the total mass



Credits: LISA Definition Study Report [arxiv:2402.07571]

Flexible Theory Independent (FTI) method

A. K. Mehta, et. al. Phys. Rev. D 107, 044020 (2023)



1. The polarizations h_+ , h_\times decomposed in spin-weighted spherical harmonics

$$h_+ - ih_\times = \sum_{l \geq 2} \sum_{m=-l}^l -2Y_{l,m} h_{lm}$$

During the inspiral,
in Stationary Phase Approximation (SPA)
each mode can be written as

$$\tilde{h}_{lm}(f) = A_{lm}(f) e^{-i\psi_{lm}^{GRSPA}(f)}$$

for each mode holds $\psi_{lm}^{GRSPA}\left(\frac{mf}{2}\right) \sim \frac{m}{2} \psi_{22}(f)$

2. GR phase in PN theory

$$\psi_{lm}^{GRSPA}(f) \sim \frac{1}{v^5} \frac{m}{2} \left[\sum_{n=0}^7 \phi_n^{PN} v^n + \sum_{n=5}^6 \phi_{n(log)}^{PN} v^n \log v \right]$$

$$v = (GM\omega/c^3)^{1/3}, \quad \omega = 2\pi f/m$$

3. we add a generic deviation to the GR phase

PN deviation parameters to infer

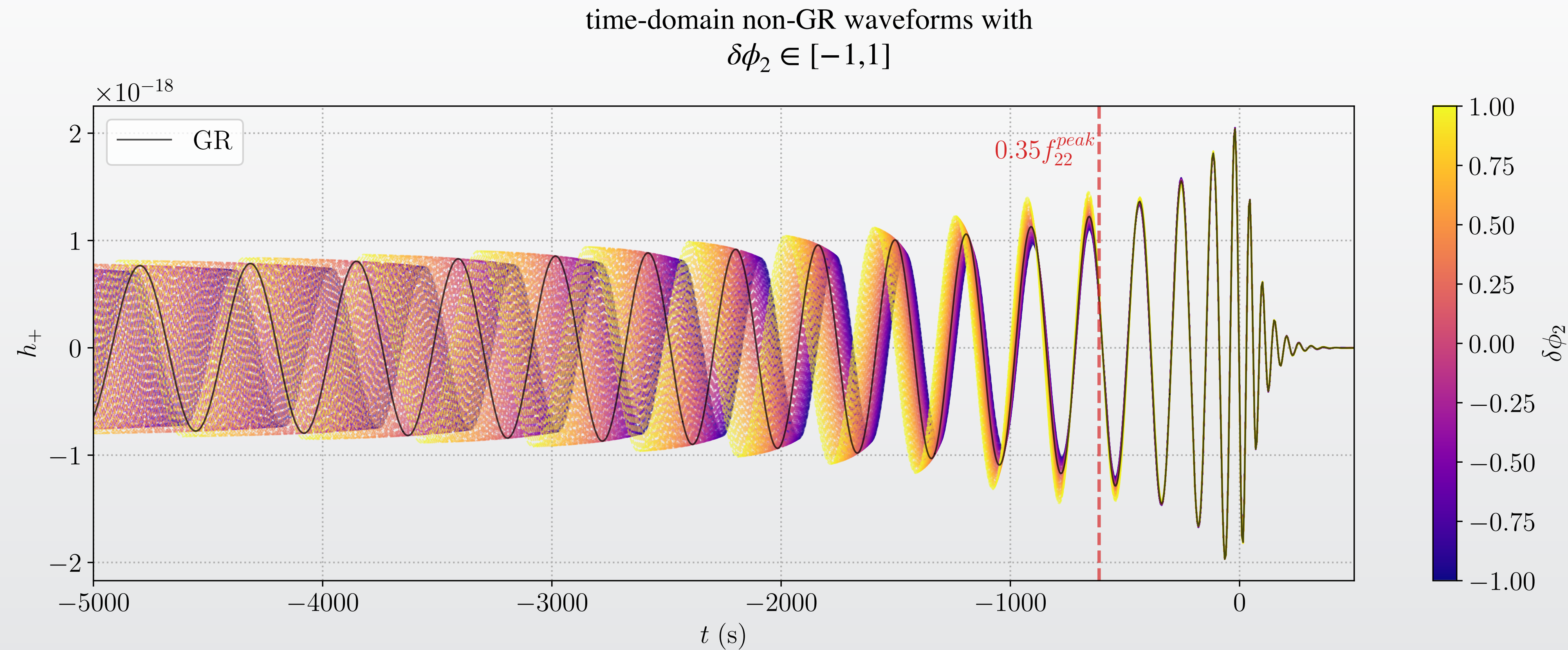
$$\delta\psi_{lm}(f) \sim \frac{1}{v^5} \frac{m}{2} \left[\sum_{n=-2}^7 \delta\phi_n^{PN} v^n + \delta k_s \phi_{4,ks}^{PN} v^4 + \delta k_s \phi_{6,ks}^{PN} v^6 + \sum_{n=5}^6 \delta\phi_{n(log)}^{PN} v^n \log v \right]$$

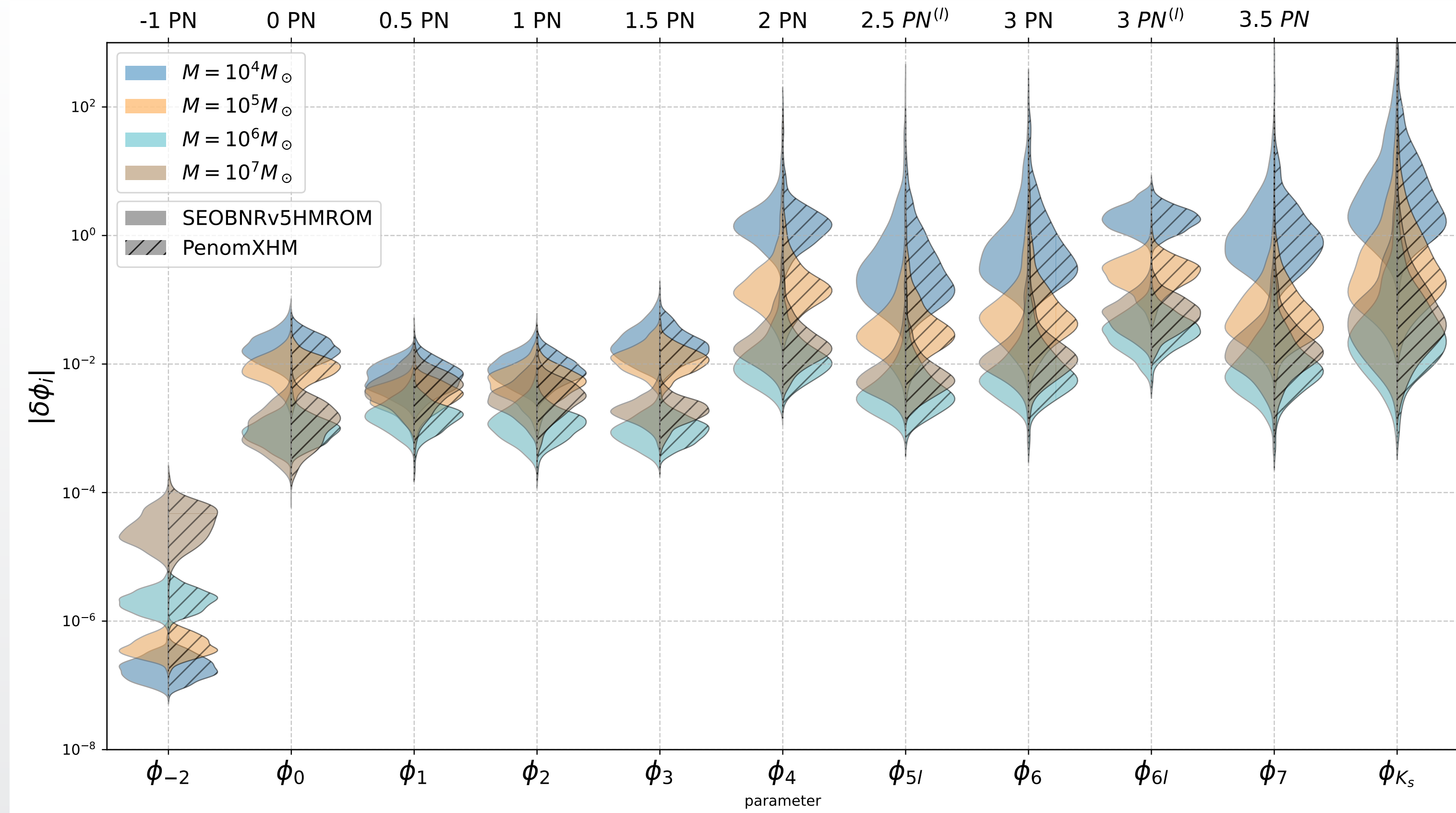
signal with GR
deviation

$$\tilde{h}_{lm}(f) = A_{lm}(f) e^{-i(\psi_{lm}^{GRSPA} + \delta\psi_{lm})}$$

Flexible Theory Independent (FTI) method

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Those are constraints for **500 Fisher analyses** per mass
 with fixed primary Mass $[10^4 - 10^5 - 10^6 - 10^7] M_\odot$ and redshift $z = 1$

and random:

$$q \in [0, 8]$$

$$\chi_1, \chi_2 \in [-1, 1]$$

sky position

waveform models:

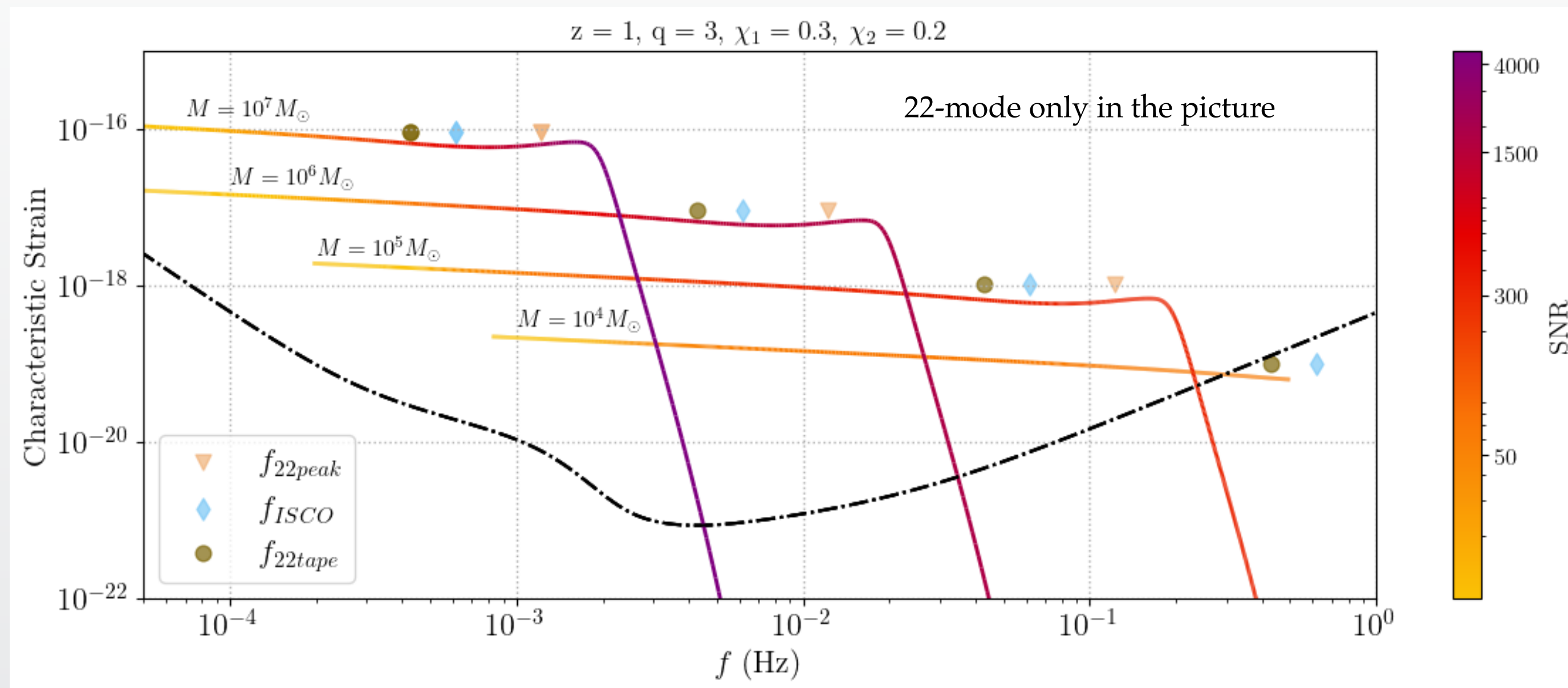
SEOBNRv5HMROM - *PhenomXHM*

$$(l, m) = (2, 2), (2, 1), (3, 3), (3, 2), (4, 4), (4, 3), (5, 5)$$

How do our constraints change using only the inspiral?

inspiral-only vs IMR with GR merger analysis

why?



- the SPA approximation and the PN framework no longer hold when approaching the merger.
- being an inspiral test, is it consistent with including information driven by the merger-ringdown?
- is it consistent to use a GR merger when searching for GR deviation?

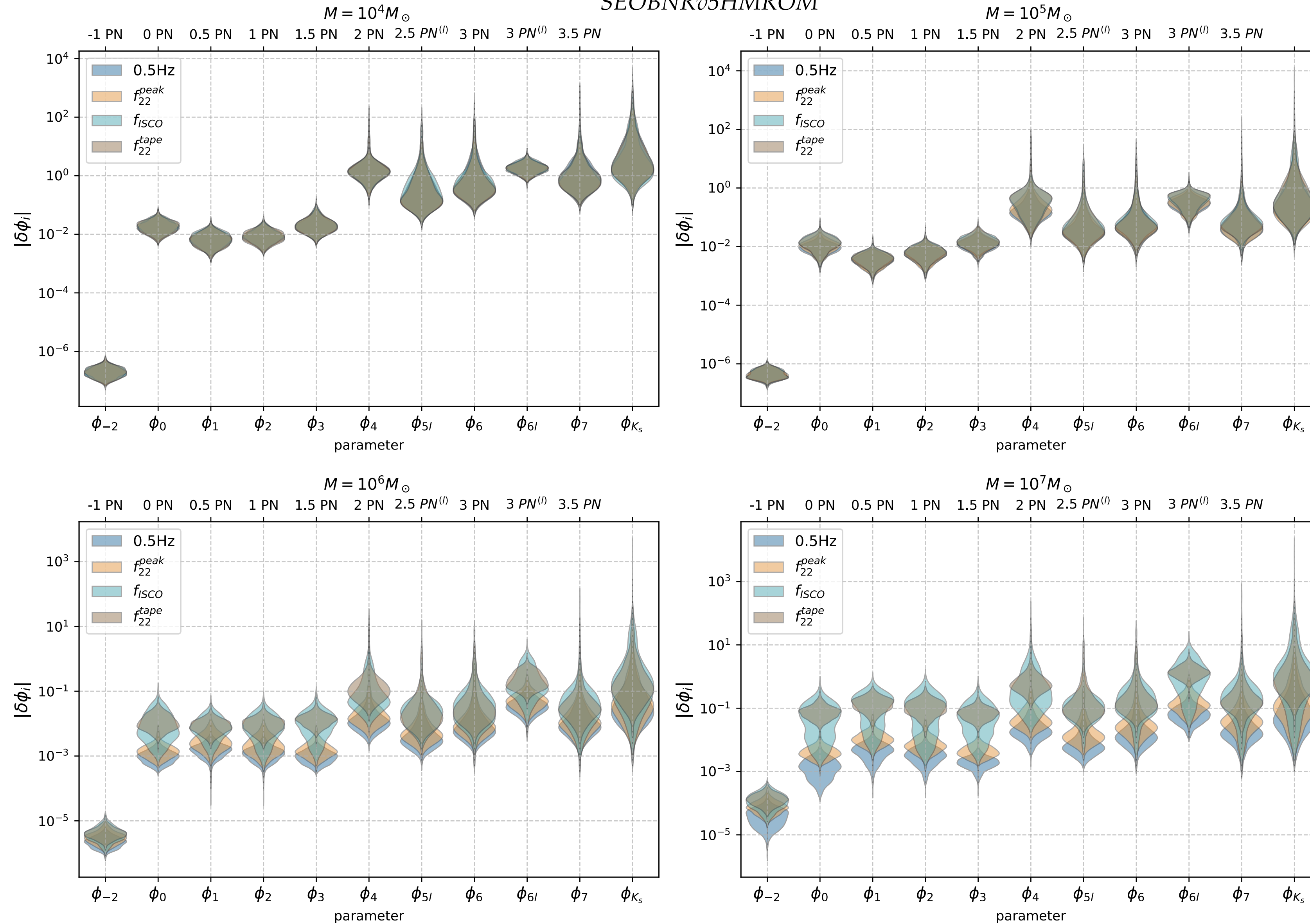
how?

- we cut the data at a certain frequency

this is well-defined compared to setting to zero the signal after a certain point

IMR vs cut at: f_{22Peak} - f_{ISCO} - f_{22tape} with $SNR > 10$

SEOBNRv5HMROM



what these plots are telling us?

- for **inspiral-dominated** signals, $M \in [10^4, 10^5] M_\odot$ there are no appreciable differences between the analysis
- moving to **merger-dominated** signals $M \in [10^6, 10^7] M_\odot$ the information given by the merger-ringdown becomes more and more important for constraining the PN deviation parameters

focusing on IMR vs f_{22Peak} : including also the *ringdown* part of the signal provides you better constraints

Bayesian setup

Parameter	Injected Value	Prior
Total Redshifted Mass (M_z) [M_\odot]	$10^4, 10^5, 10^6, 10^7$	Uniform(0.1, 10)·Inj. Val.
Mass ratio (q)	3	Uniform(1, 10)
Redshift (z)	1	Uniform(0.5, 3)
Luminosity Distance (d_L) [Mpc]	6791.8	Uniform(2863, 25924)
Dimensionless spin parameters (χ_1, χ_2)	-0.45, 0.2	Uniform(-1, 1)
Inclination (ι) [rad]	2.4127	Sine(0, π)
Phase (ϕ) [rad]	0.5251	Uniform($-\pi, \pi$)
Ecliptic longitude (λ) [rad]	-2.5523	Uniform($-\pi, \pi$)
Ecliptic latitude (β) [rad]	-0.3493	Cosine($-\pi/2, \pi/2$)
Polarization (ψ) [rad]	1.4014	Uniform(0, π)
GR deviation parameter ($\delta\phi_i$)	0	Uniform(-30, 30)

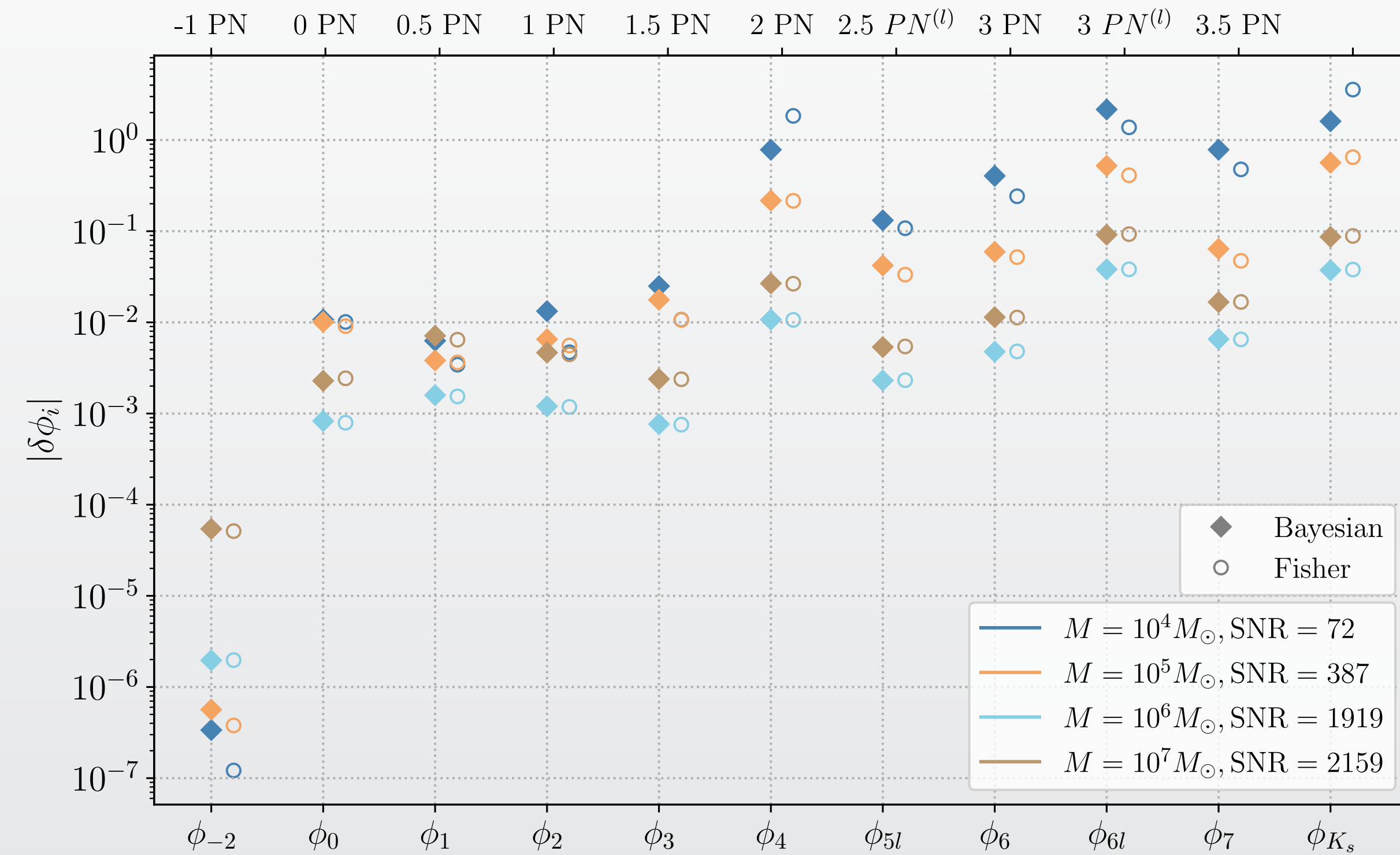
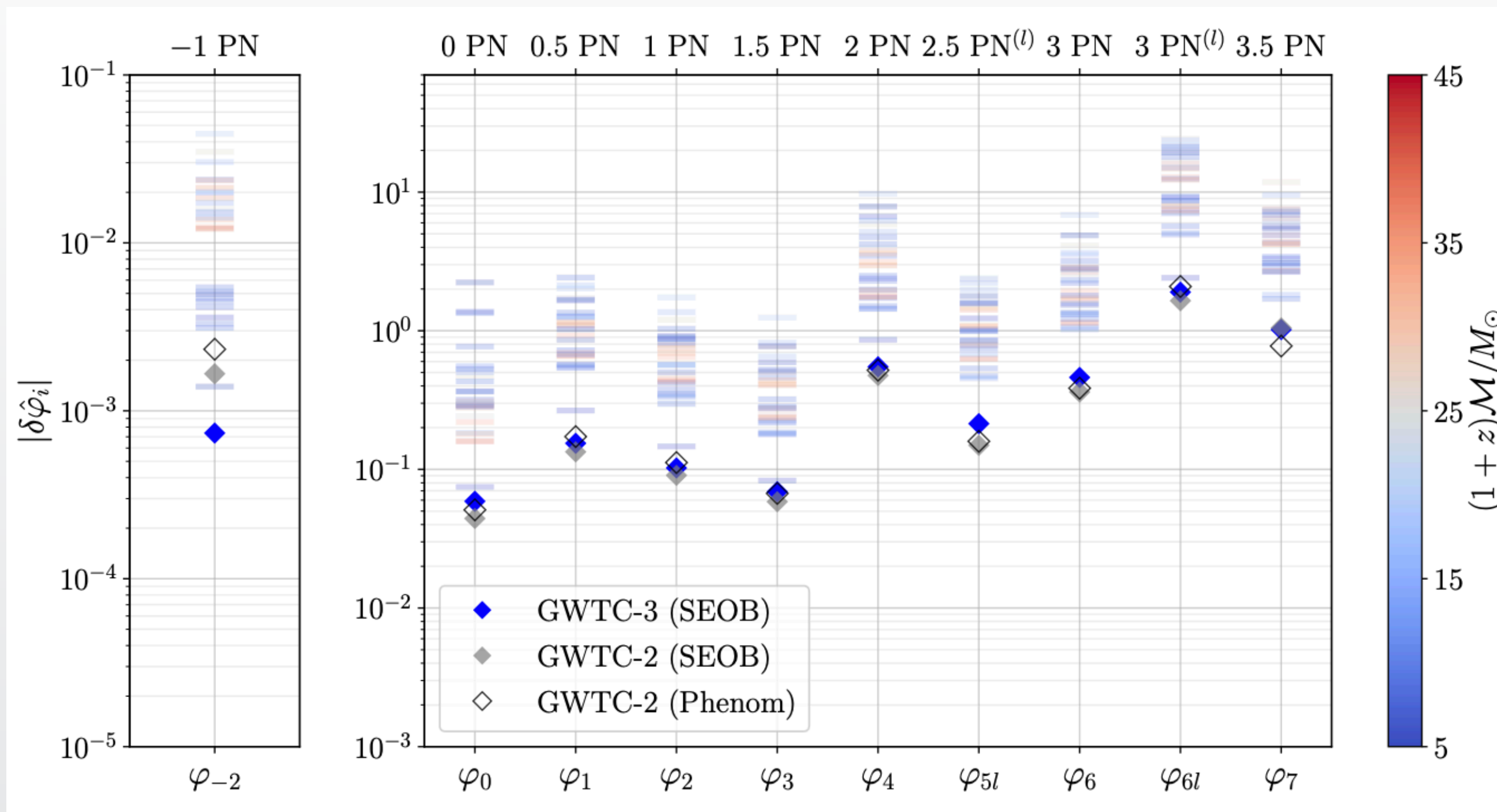
waveform model: *PhenomXHM*

sampler: *ptmcmc*

LISA PSD: SciRDv1 with 4-yrs galactic foreground

TDI Generation: 1st

Fisher Initialization



$$q = 3, \quad \chi_1 = -0.45, \quad \chi_2 = 0.2, \quad z = 1$$

Next steps:

- What's the impact of **waveform systematics** on this test?
- Could systematics **mimic false GR deviation**, and how?
- How do systematic errors in the GR waveforms limit the constraints on deviations from GR?

What kinds of constraints can we impose on studying a realistic MBHB population?

IN PROGRESS (with V. Gennari)

A test for LISA foreground Gaussianity and stationarity Extreme mass-ratio inspirals

Manuel PIARULLI
Riccardo BUSCICCHIO, Federico POZZOLI,
Ollie BURKE, Matteo BONETTI, Alberto SESANA

Piarulli et al. (2024) [arXiv:2410.08862]



EMRIs with LISA

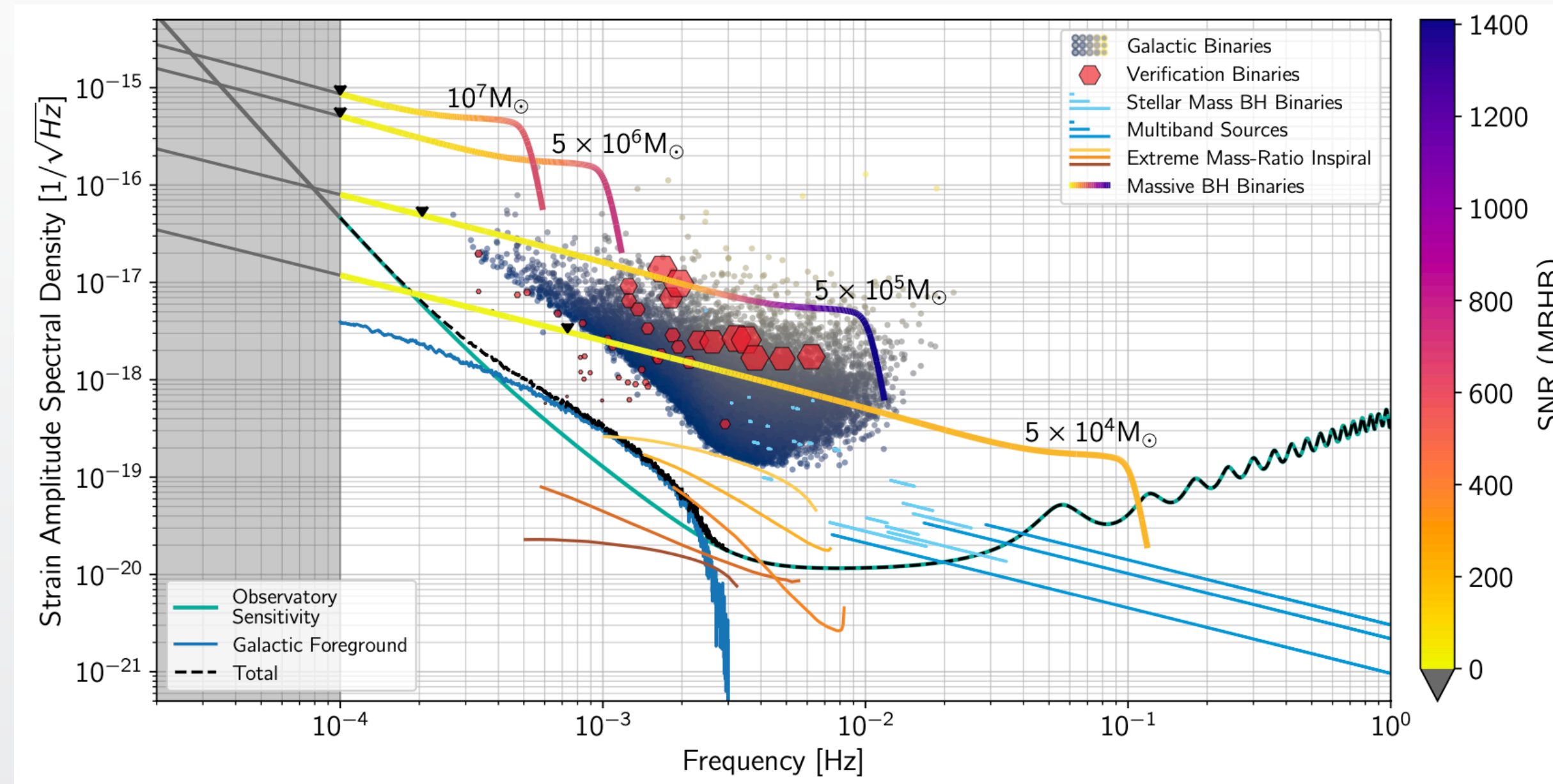


Figure: LISA sources.

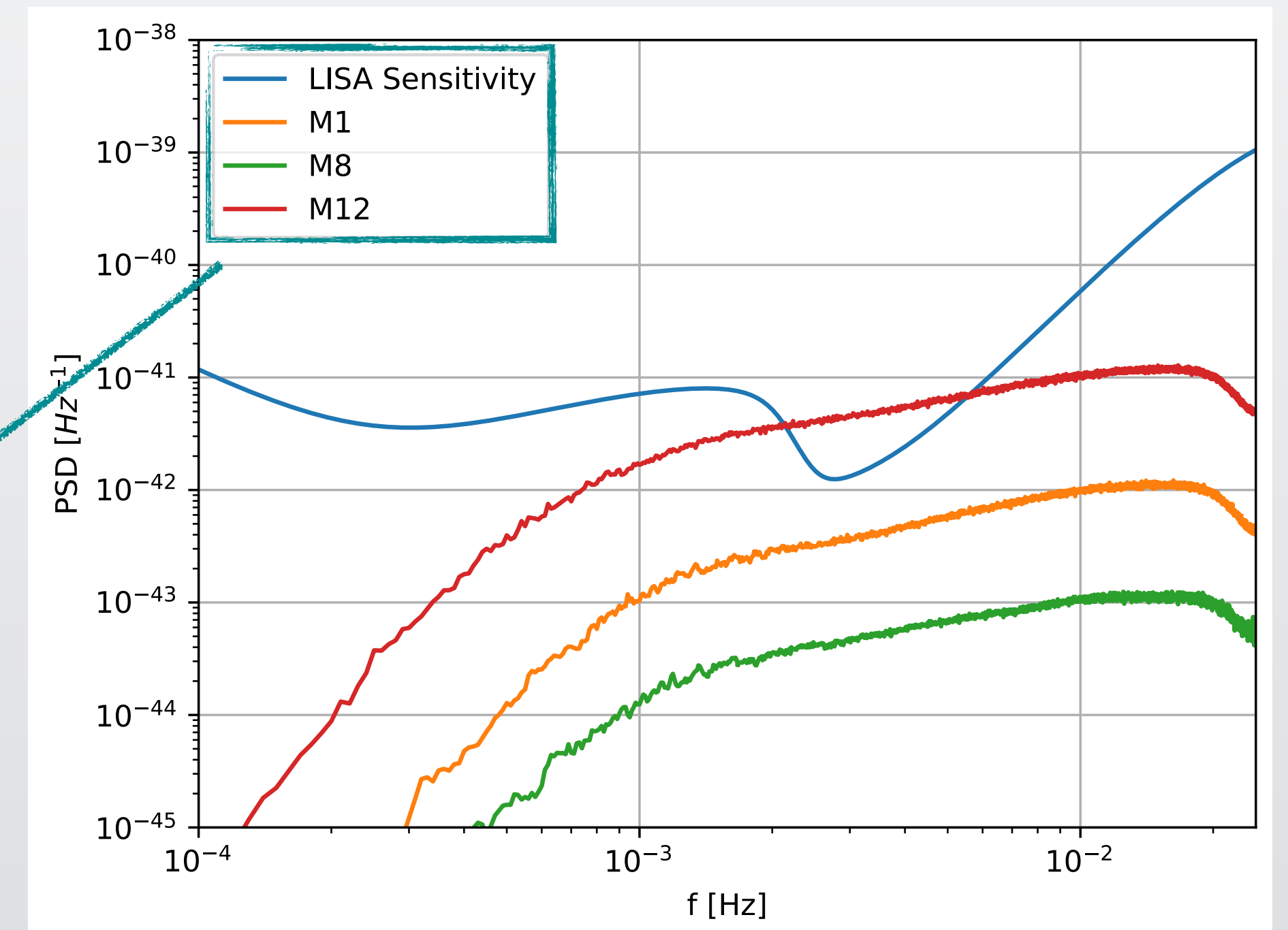
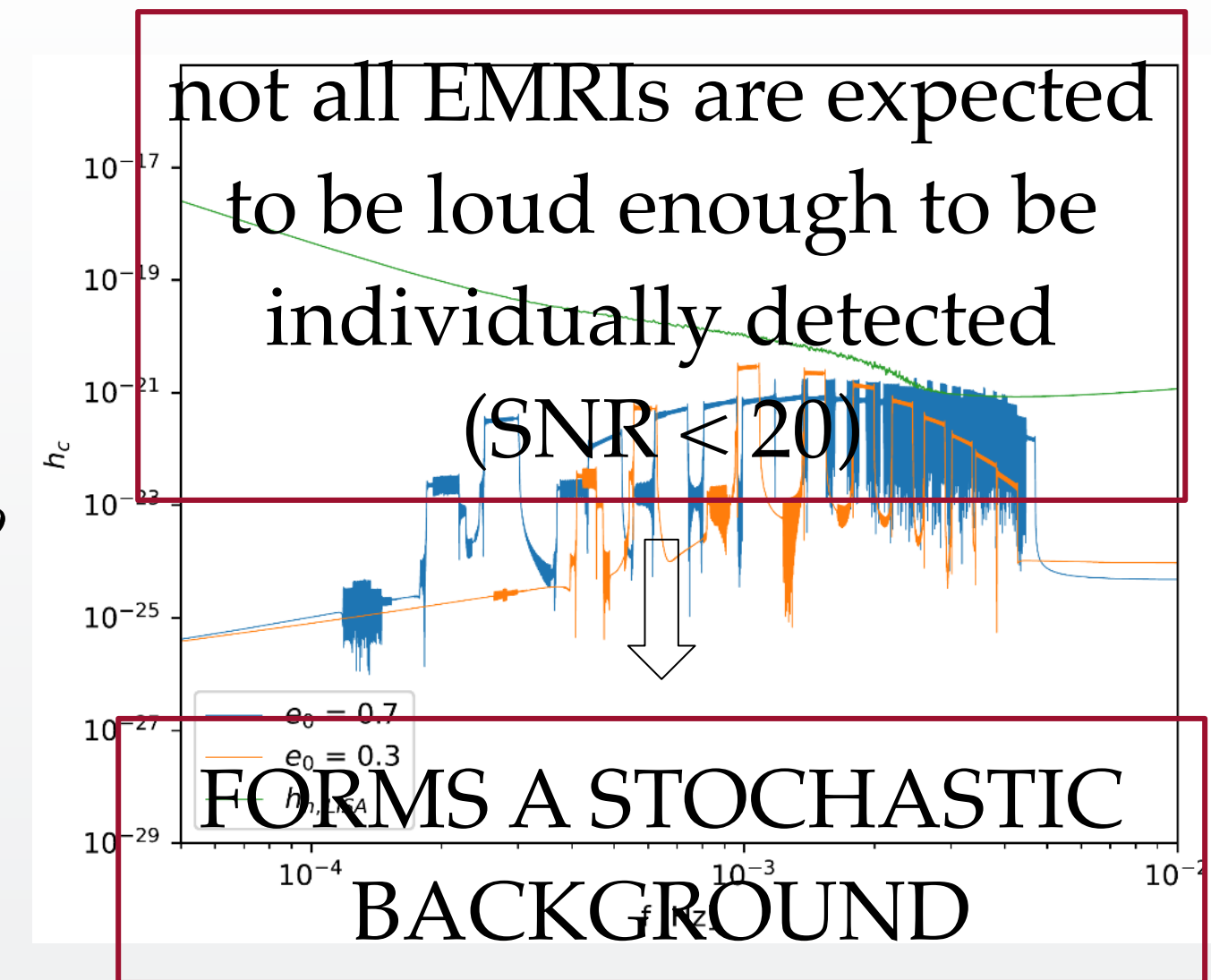
Credits: [<https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.07571>]

EMRIs: very eccentric systems involving
light CO orbiting a MBH

$$q = \frac{m_2}{m_1} \leq 1 \quad q \sim 10^{-3} \div 10^{-6}$$

Different astrophysical
models due to uncertainties
on the formation channels

$$f_n = n f_{orb}$$



Characterize the statistical properties of a time-series

a toy model to capture the relevant features

ergodicity of the signal

replace averages over statistical ensemble
with averages over time

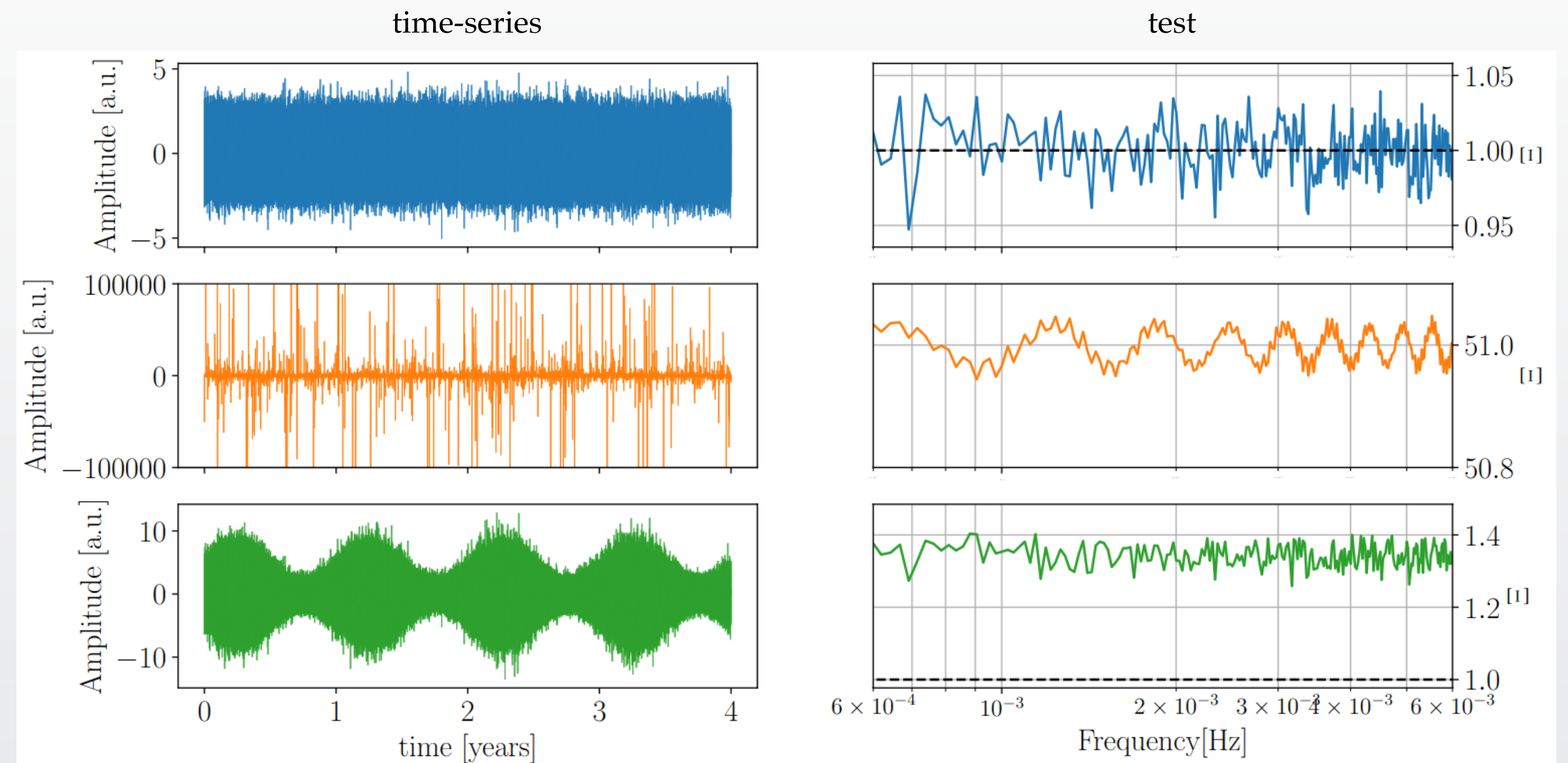


split each time series into N_{chunks}

Rayleigh test

$$\Theta = \frac{\sigma(|\tilde{s}(f)|^2)}{\mu(|\tilde{s}(f)|^2)} \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{in the infinite sample limit}$$

Acernese et. al 2023 [arXiv:2210.15634]



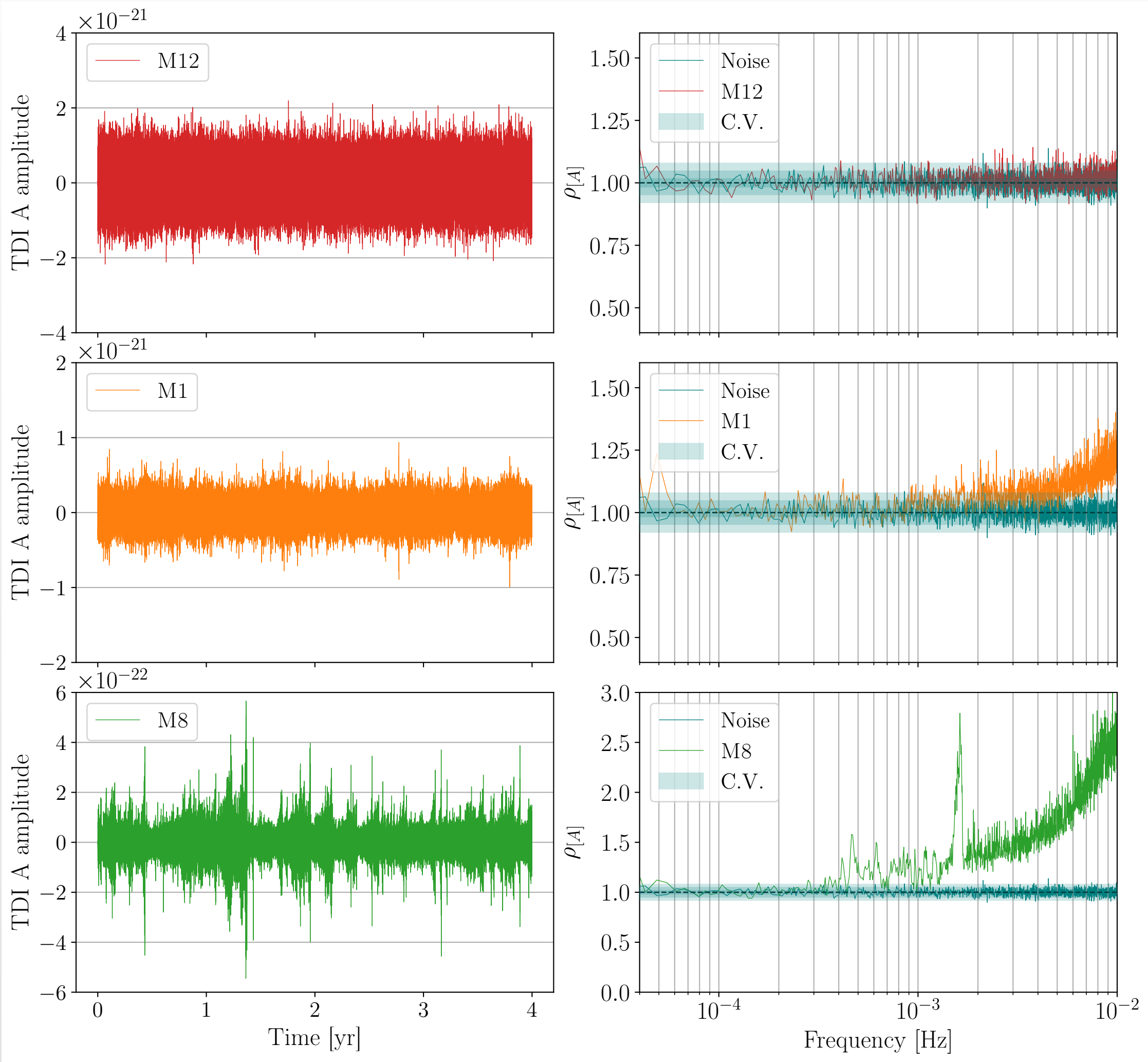
Is it Gaussian and Stationary?

Model	N_{final}	Detections	ρ_{gwb}
M1	26932	522	311
M8	3209	64	38
M12	319309	5909	3684

Consequences

- Gaussian-likelihood could be only approximately valid
- Global fit couples SGWB detection, estimation, and resolvable source PE

More work is needed to assess the impact of such biases.



Updating EMRI detection rates and parameter uncertainties

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Danny LAGHI, Ollie BURKE, Shubam KEJRIWAL,
Christian CHAPMAN-BIRD, Federico POZZOLI, Nikolaos KARNESIS

We focus on 5 EMRI catalogs

M1-M6 - M5-M11 - M7

intermediate - pessimistic - optimistic

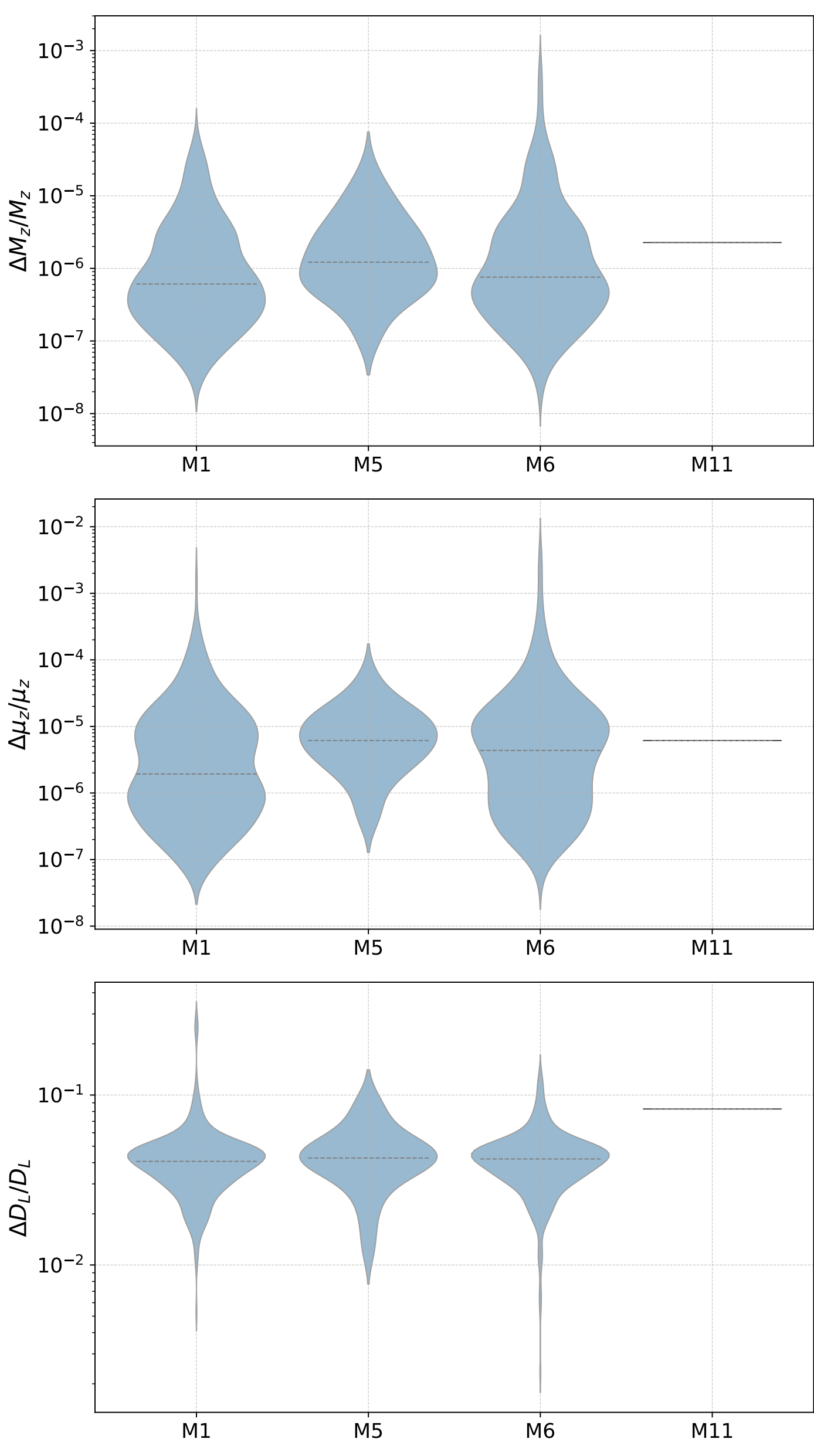
MAIN DIFFERENCES
with previous study:

2ndGenTDI
IFE for subtraction of resolvable sources

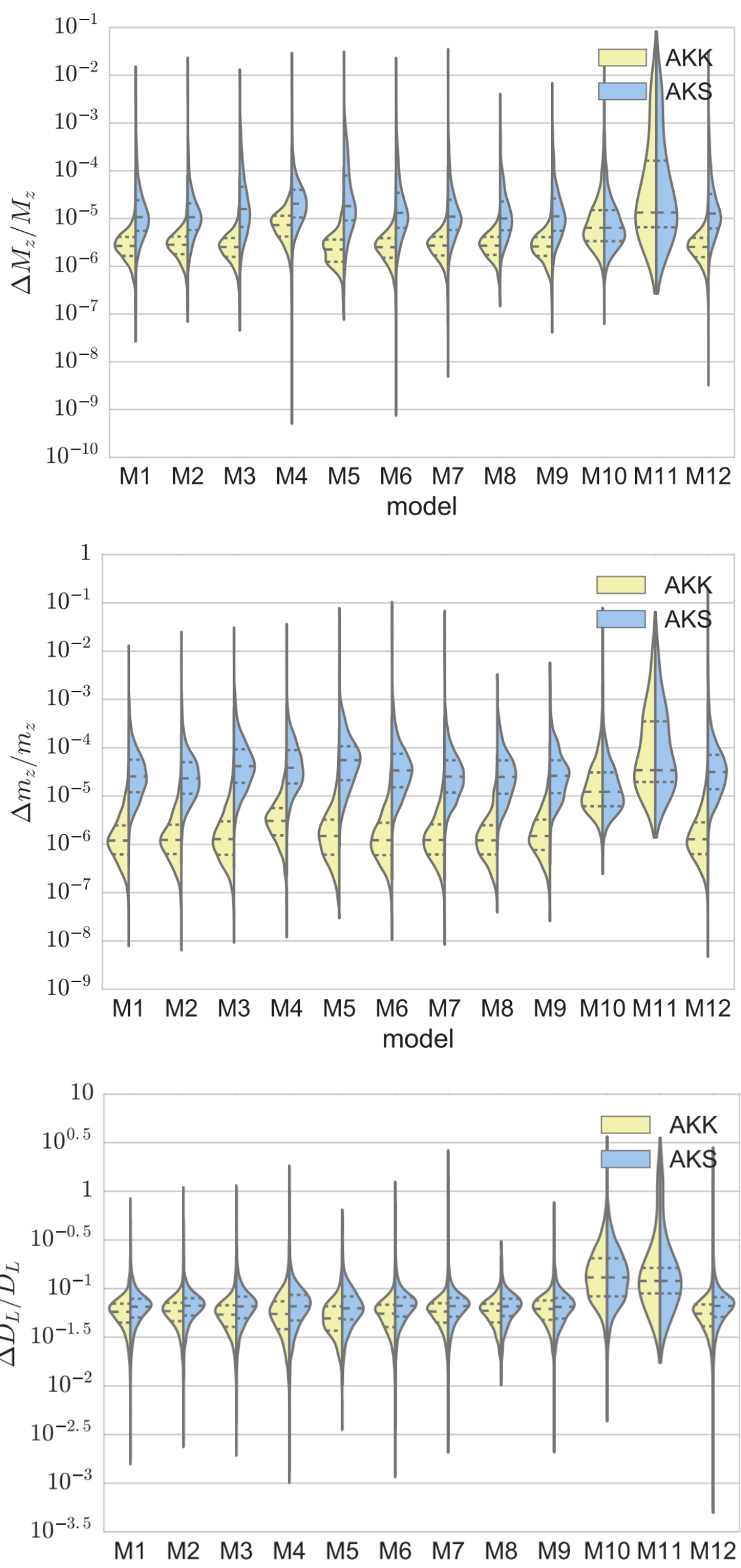
Model	# before IFE	# after IFE
M1	420	385
M5	26	26
M6	387	352
M7	3228	RUNNING
M11	1	1

Number of resolvable sources
(before and after IFE)
 $T_{LISA} = 4$ years
and the 5PN-AAK waveform

5PN AAK



Babak et al. 2017 [arxiv:1703.09722]

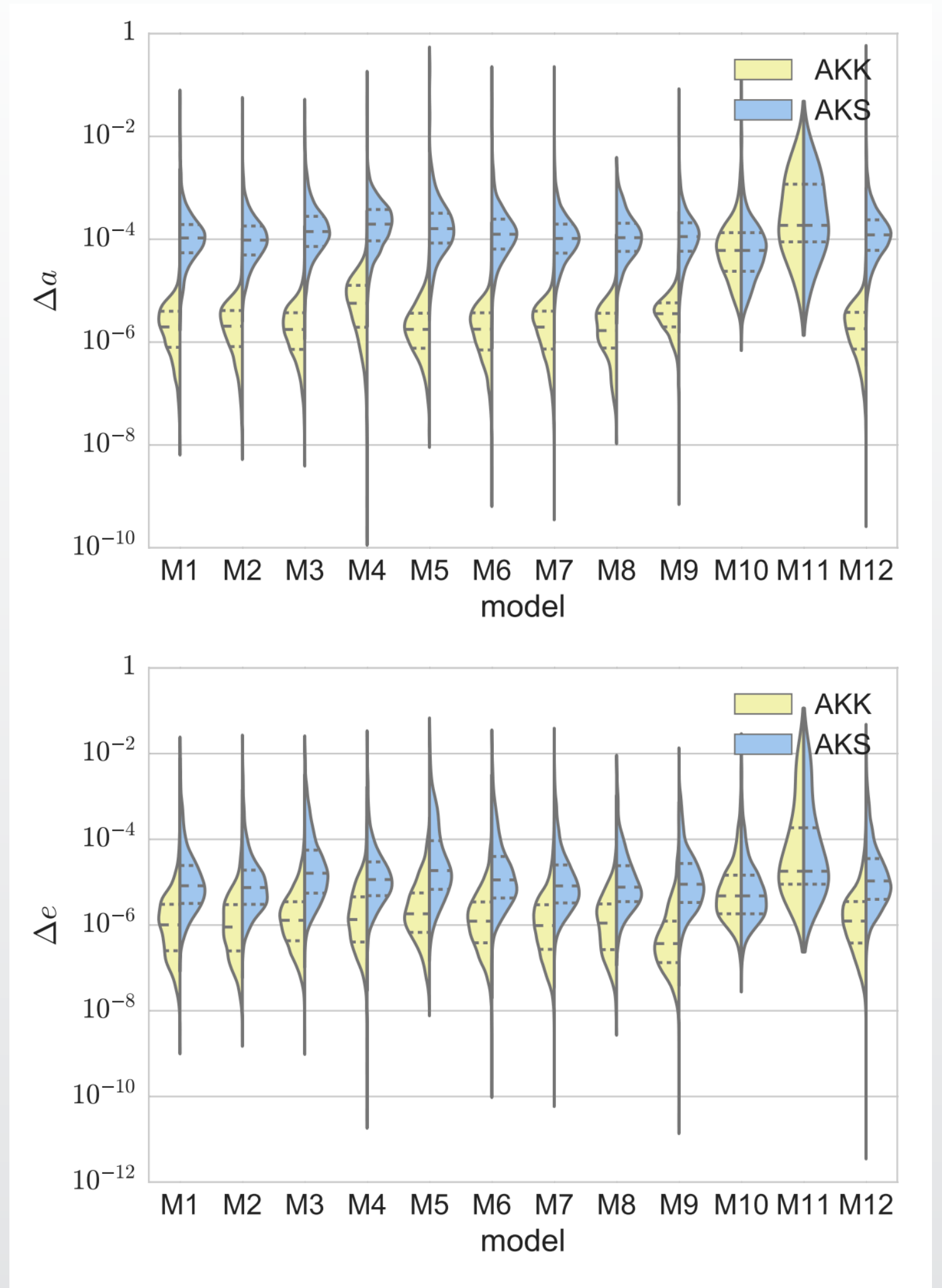
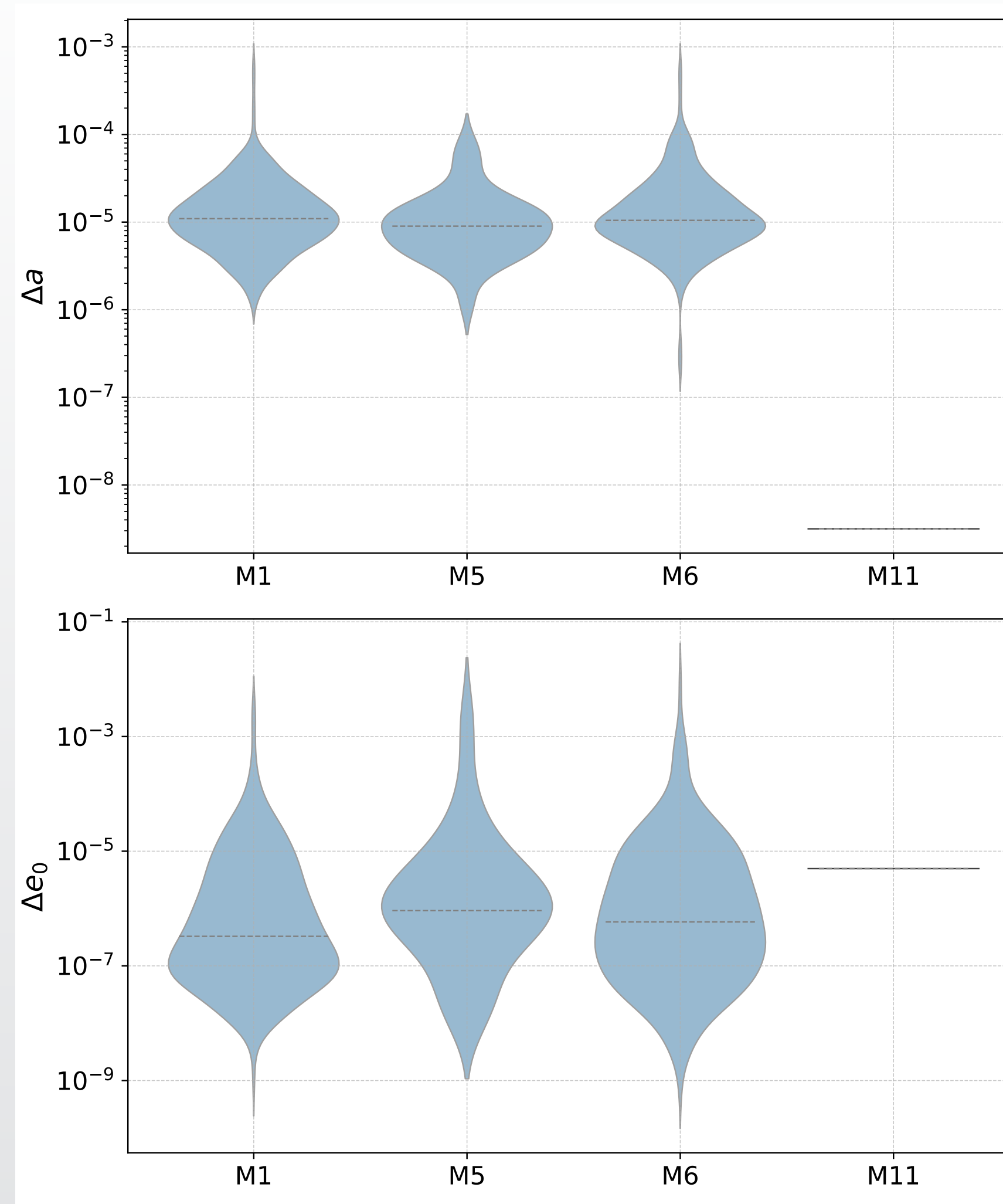


Next steps:

- **KerrEquatorialEccentric**
(to asses SNR accuracy, and so possible changes in the detection rate)

limited parameter space
(Equatorial and $e_0 < 0.9$)

- Full Bayesian PE validation on a few detections



Babak et al. 2017 [arxiv:1703.09722]

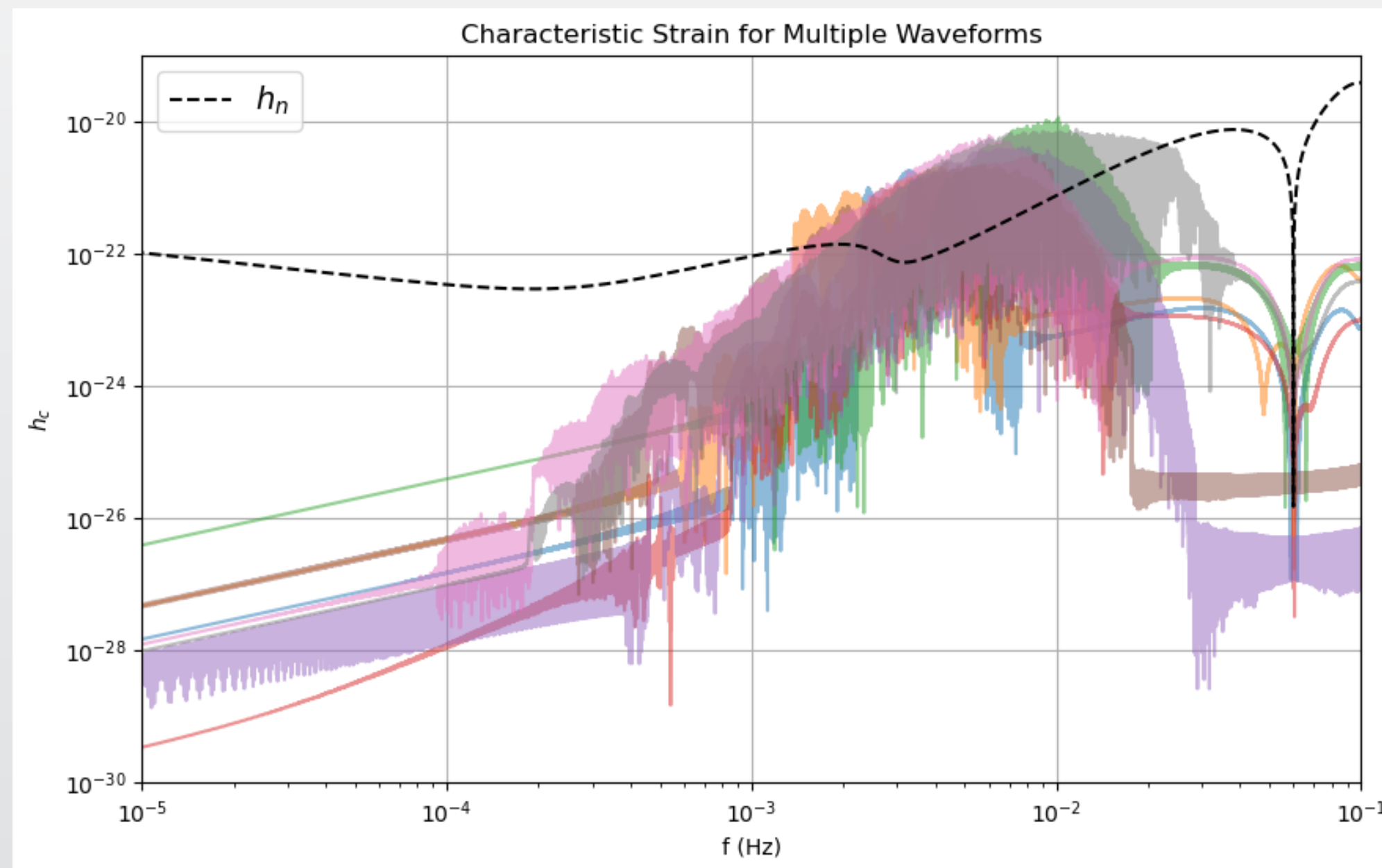
DDPC: Mojito EMRI generation

Ollie BURKE, Henri INCHAUSPÉ,
Manuel PIARULLI, Bert DEPOORTER

Choice of EMRI sources from realistic EMRI catalogs
to be injected in the next LISA Data Challenges

- Mojito LIGHT (8 sources)
- Mojito HEAVY (~100 sources)

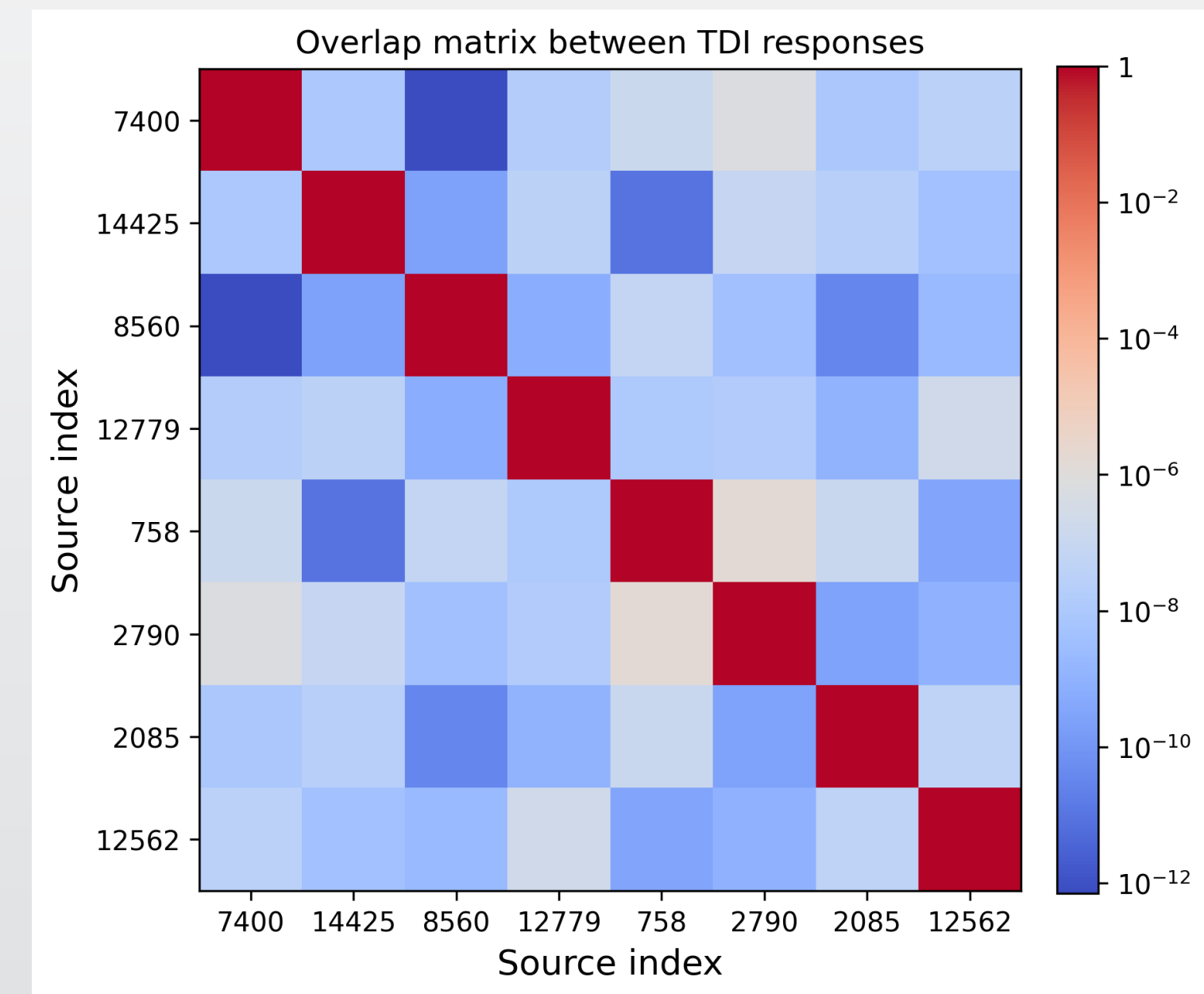
KerrEccentricEquatorial Waveform



The **overlap matrix** compares
how similar two waveforms $d(t)$ and $k(t)$ are.

Each element in the matrix is a number between 0 and 1, where:

- **1** means the waveforms are identical
- **0** means they are completely orthogonal (no similarity)



Credit: Bert DEPOORTER

Thanks for the attention!

happy to take questions