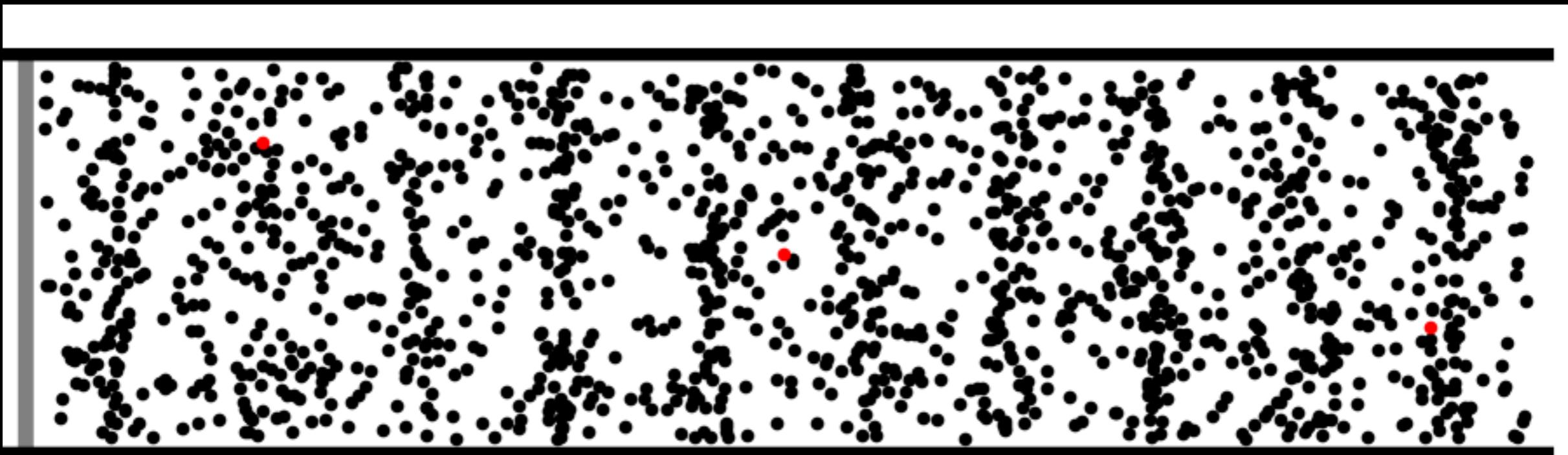


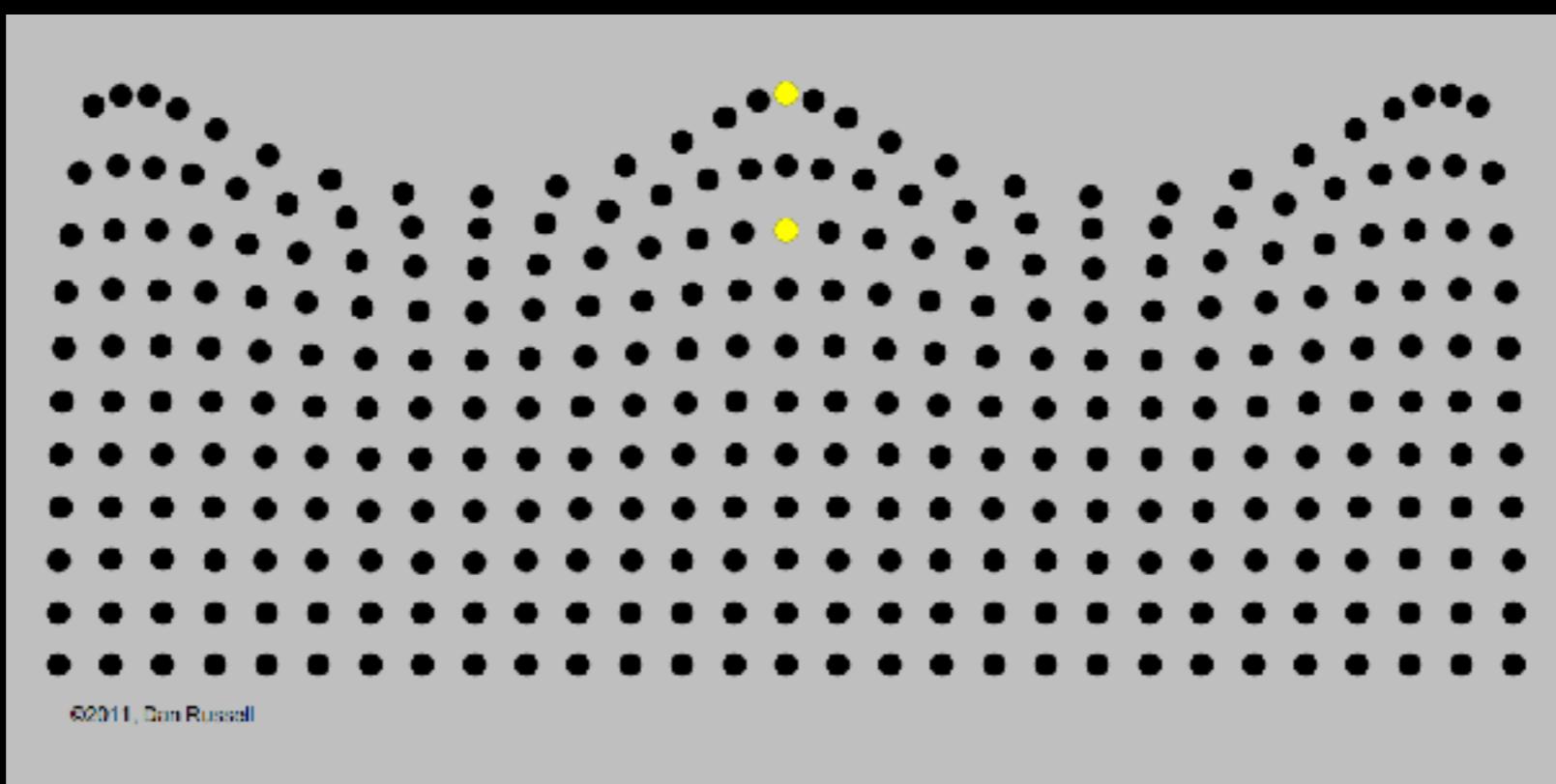
# Gravitational Waves

Prof. Jocelyn Read

# Waves

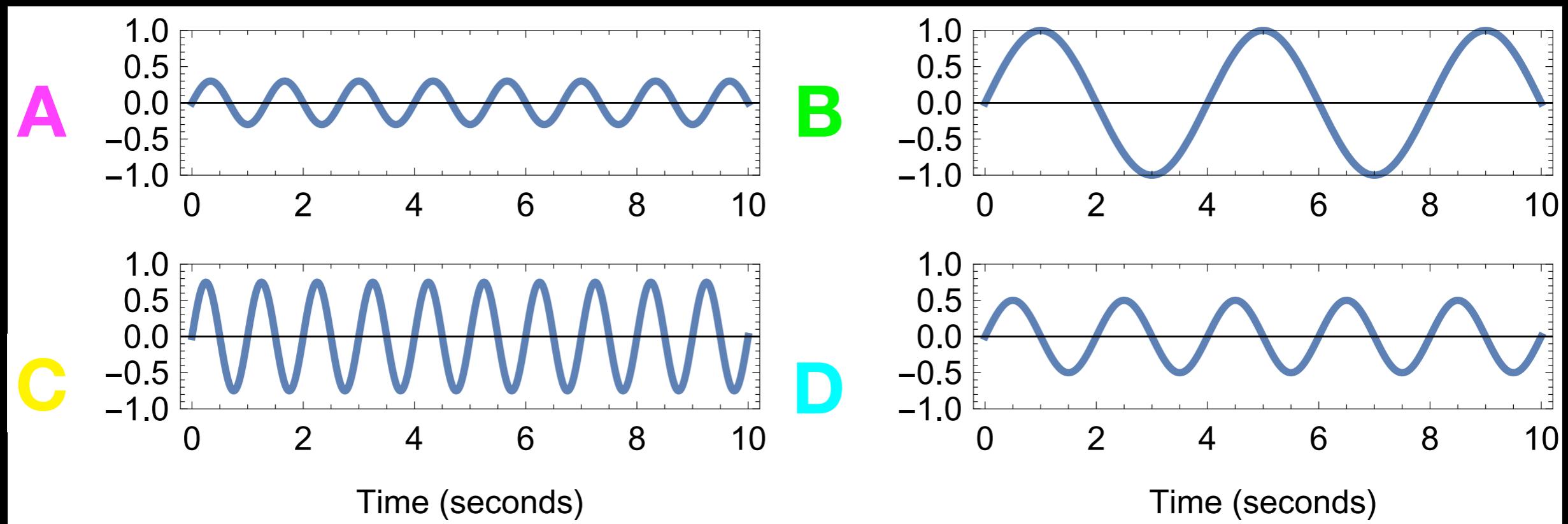


©2011. Dan Russell



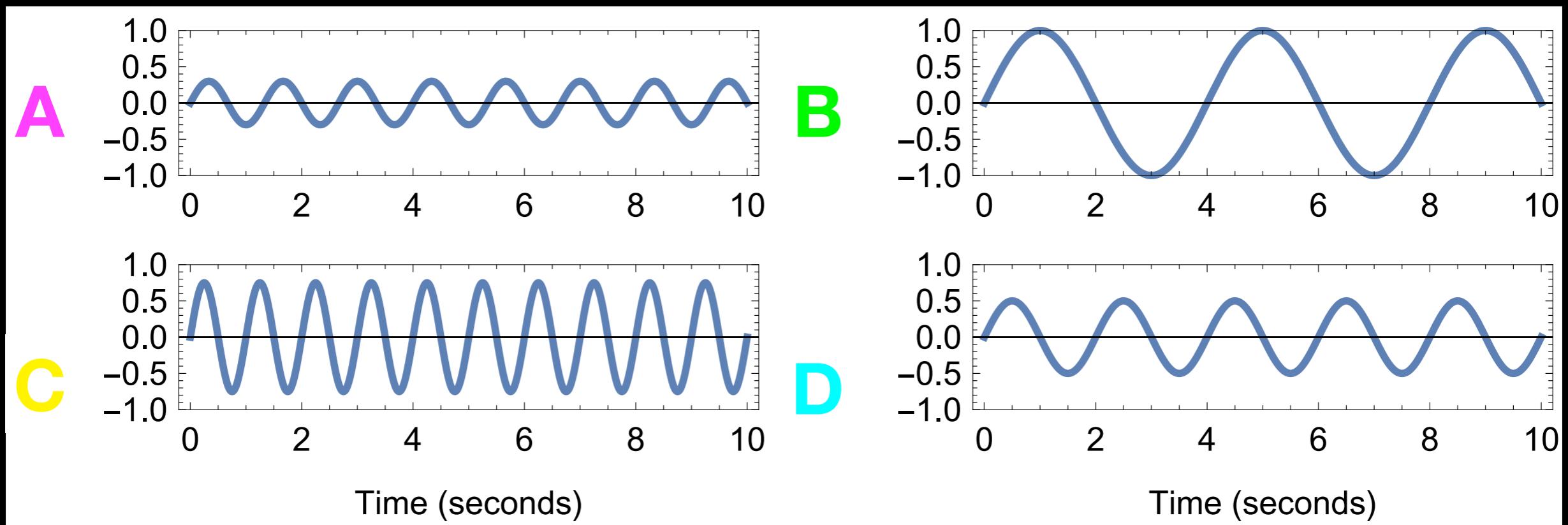
©2011. Dan Russell

- Consider the following four waves, plotted over time:



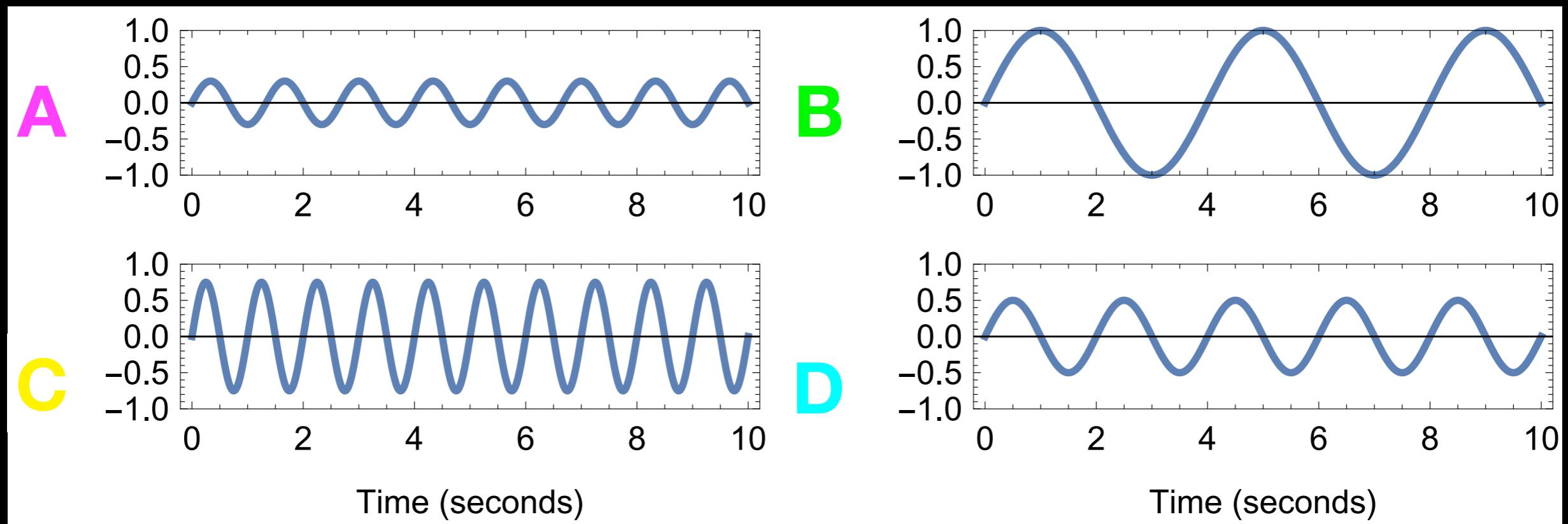
- Which has the largest amplitude?

- Consider the following four waves, plotted over time:



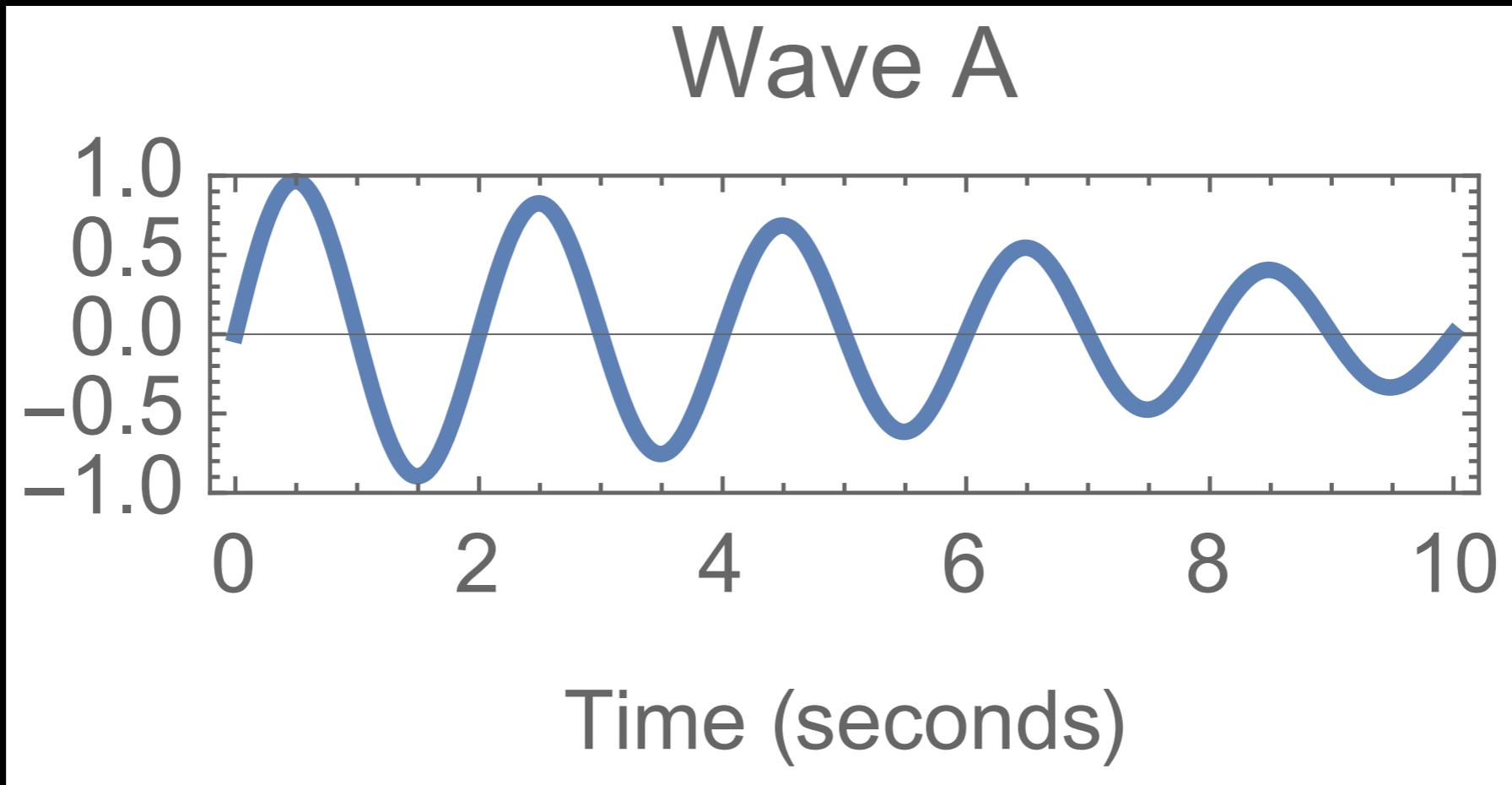
- Which has the shortest period (*time taken for one wave cycle*)?

- Consider the following four waves, plotted over time:



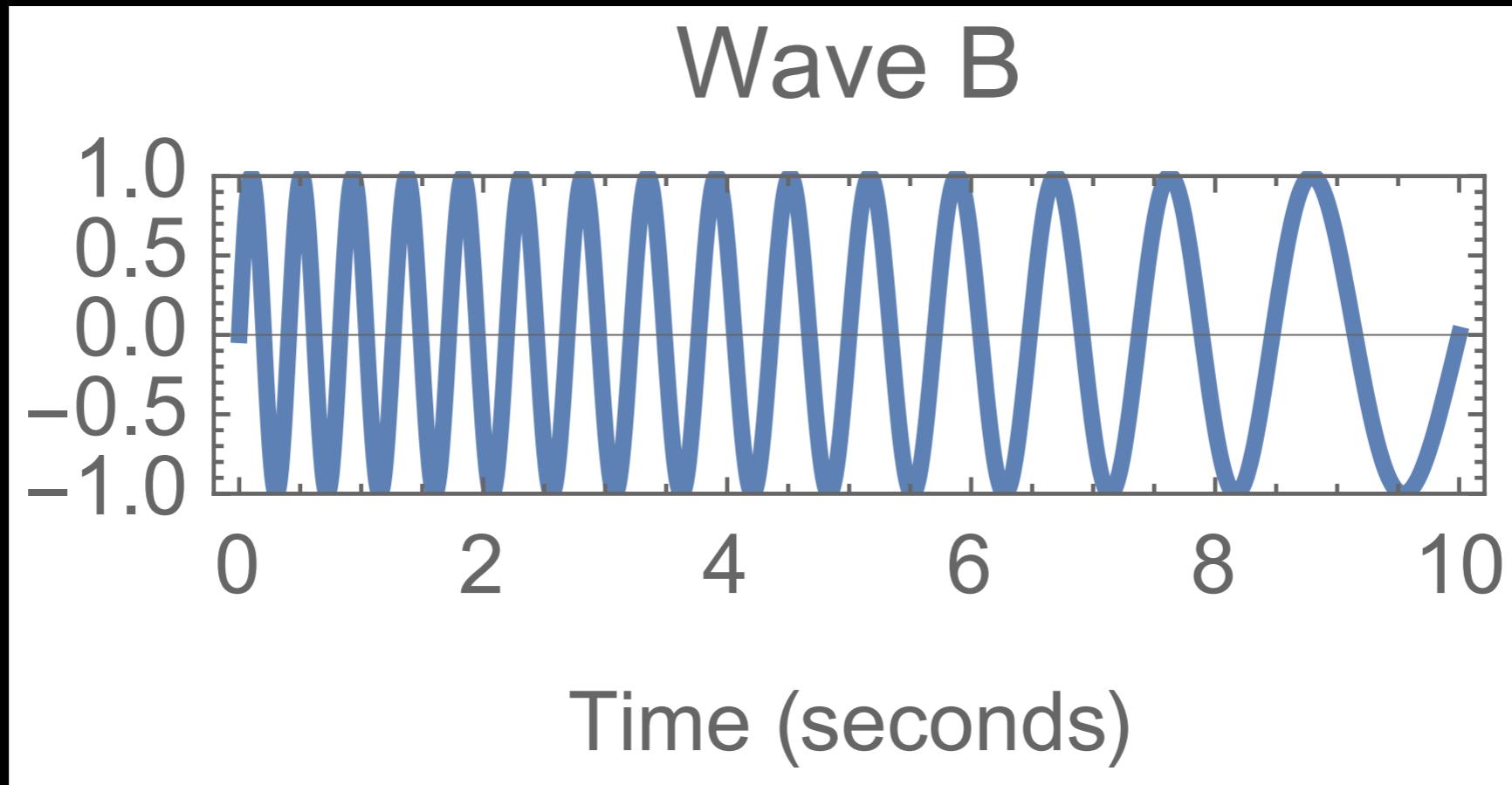
- Which has the highest frequency (*number of wave cycles observed in a given amount of time*)?

- This wave is changing with time. What is changing, and how?



- A. Amplitude is increasing
- B. Amplitude is decreasing
- C. Frequency is increasing
- D. Frequency is decreasing

- This wave is changing with time. What is changing, and how?



- A. Amplitude is increasing
- B. Amplitude is decreasing
- C. Frequency is increasing
- D. Frequency is decreasing

# Gravity



Earth and Its Moon  
as seen from NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, Nov. 20, 2016

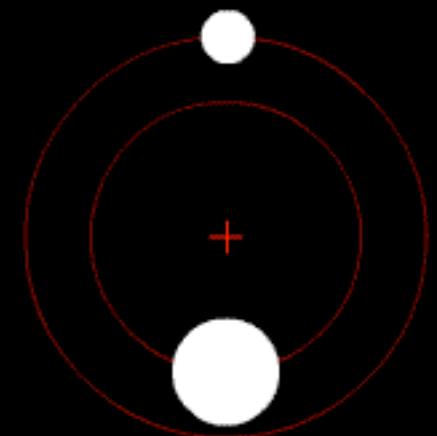
# Gravity + Relativity: General Relativity

---

Newton:

Falling and orbiting are explained by the same gravitational force

All masses attract each other



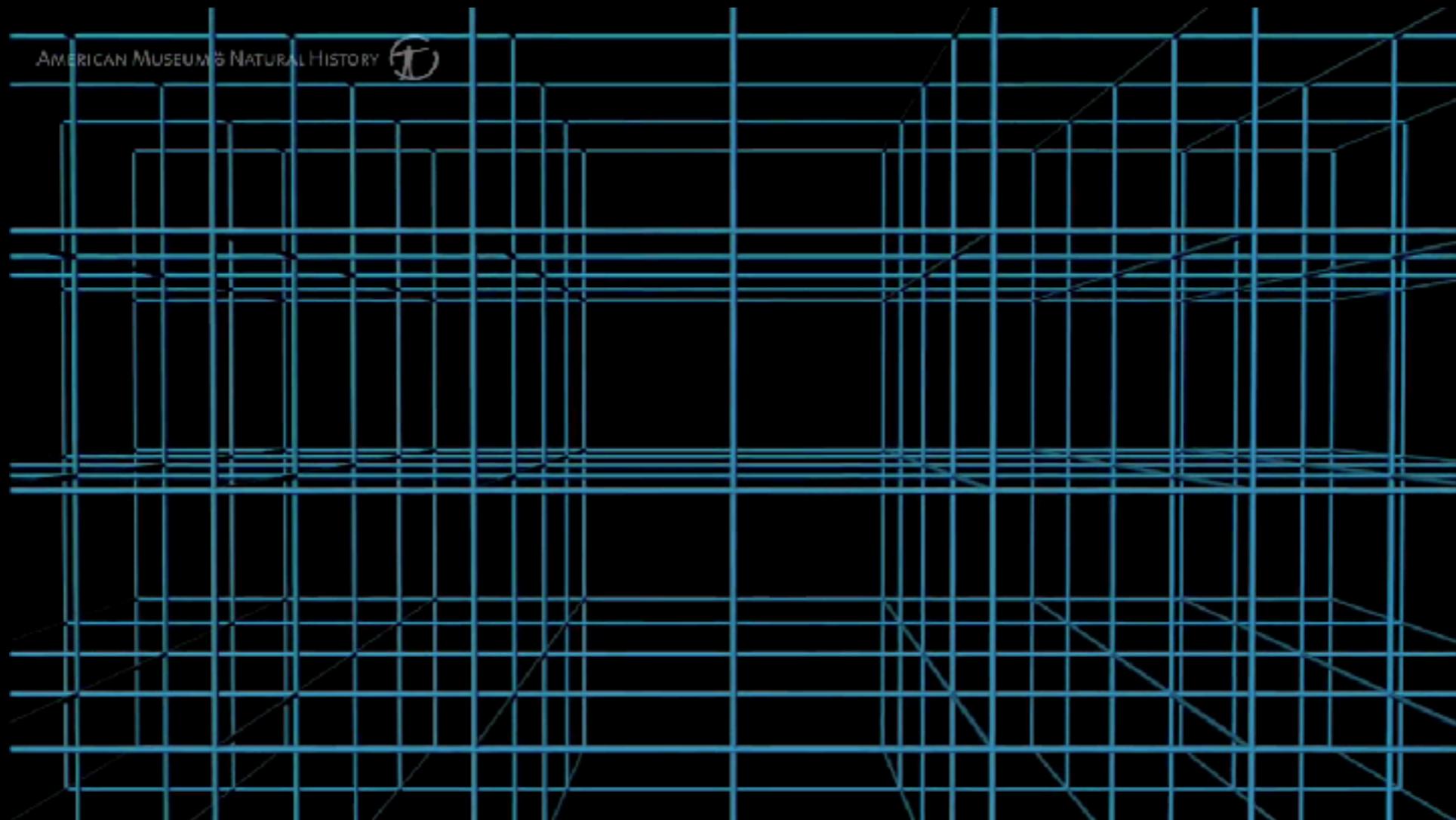
Relativity:

Space and time are not distinct

Nothing travels faster than light

“Matter tells space-time how to curve and  
space-time tells matter how to move.”

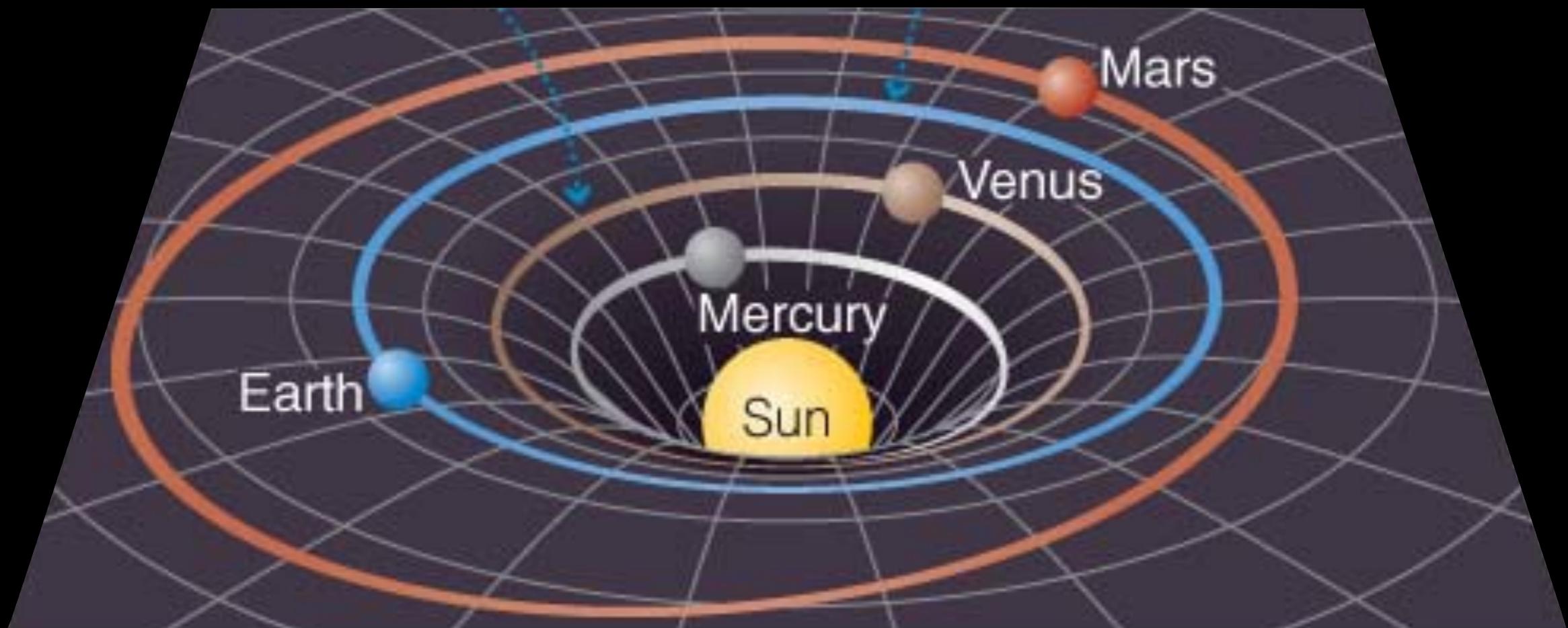
- John A. Wheeler



American Museum of Natural History  
“Gravity: Making Waves”

“Matter tells space-time how to curve and  
space-time tells matter how to move.”

- John A. Wheeler



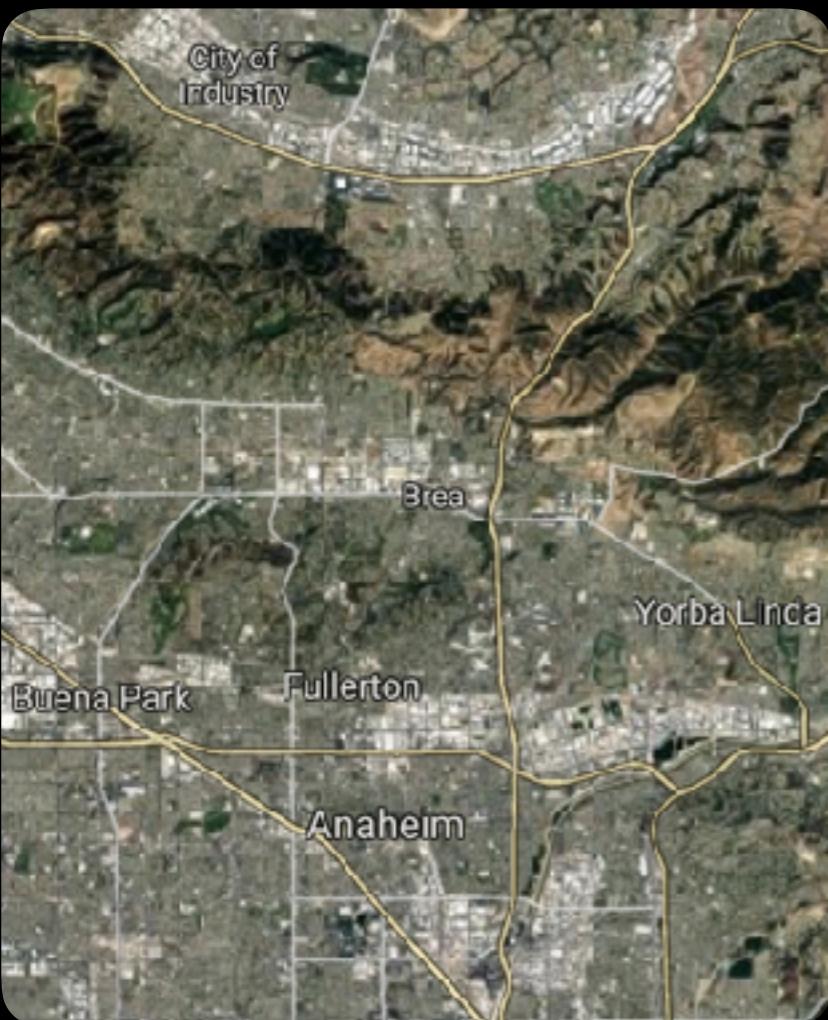
$$F = G M m / r^2$$

If you make an object smaller in size,  
but keep the mass the same, the  
gravitational effects get stronger

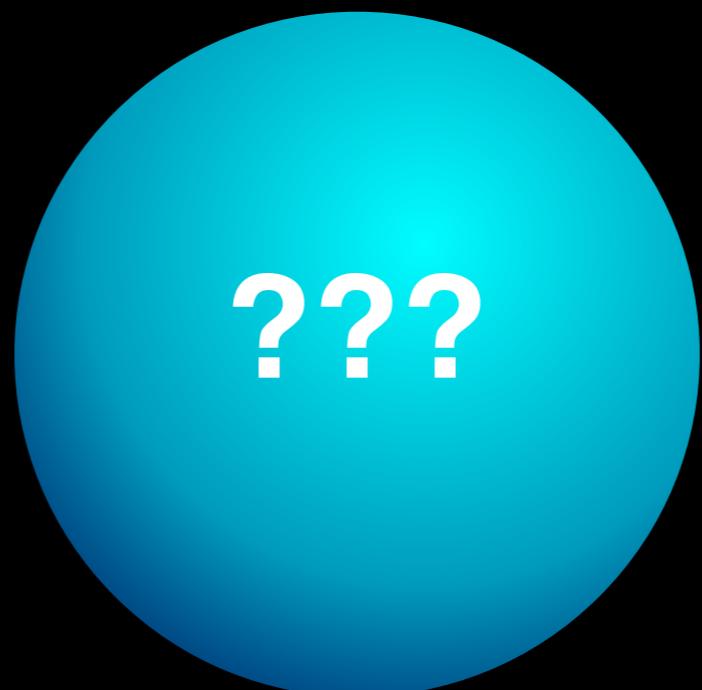
# Compact objects

---

Fullerton area

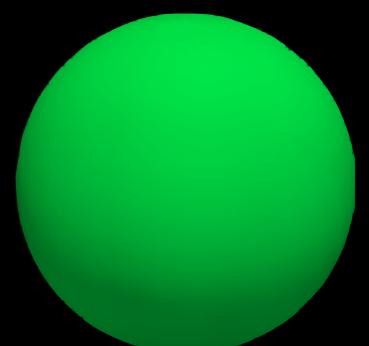


Neutron star



Mass = 1.5 ☀  
Radius = 9-15 km

Black hole  
(low-mass)



Mass = 1.5 ☀  
Radius = 4.5km

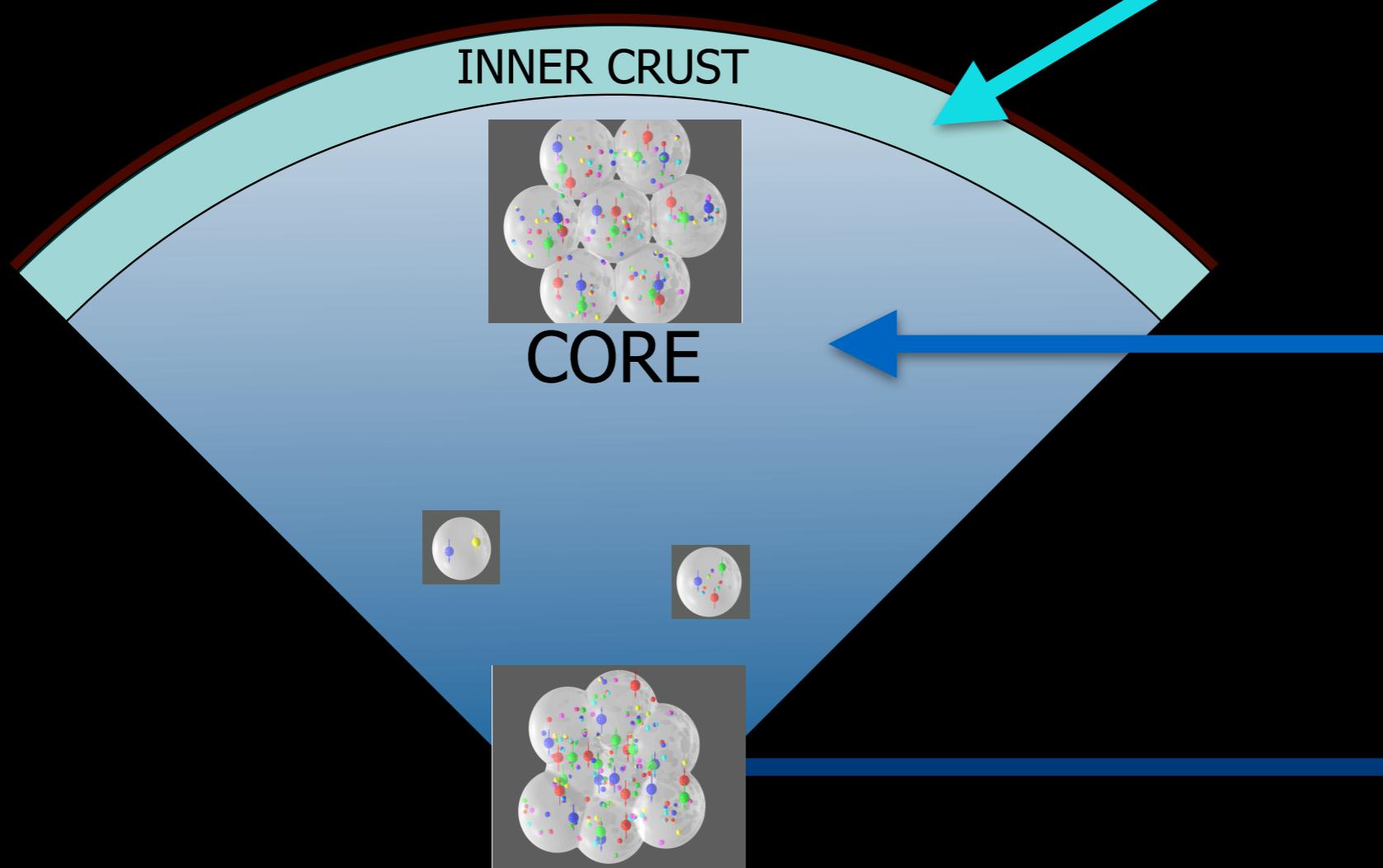
# The Crab Nebula: supernova observed in 1054



X-ray: NASA/CXC/SAO/F.Seward; Optical: NASA/ESA/ASU/J.Hester & A.Loll;  
Infrared: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Univ. Minn./R.Gehrz

# Neutron stars: matter's last stand against gravity

30 ms pulse cycle of the Crab pulsar (slowed)  
by the Cambridge University Lucky Imaging Group



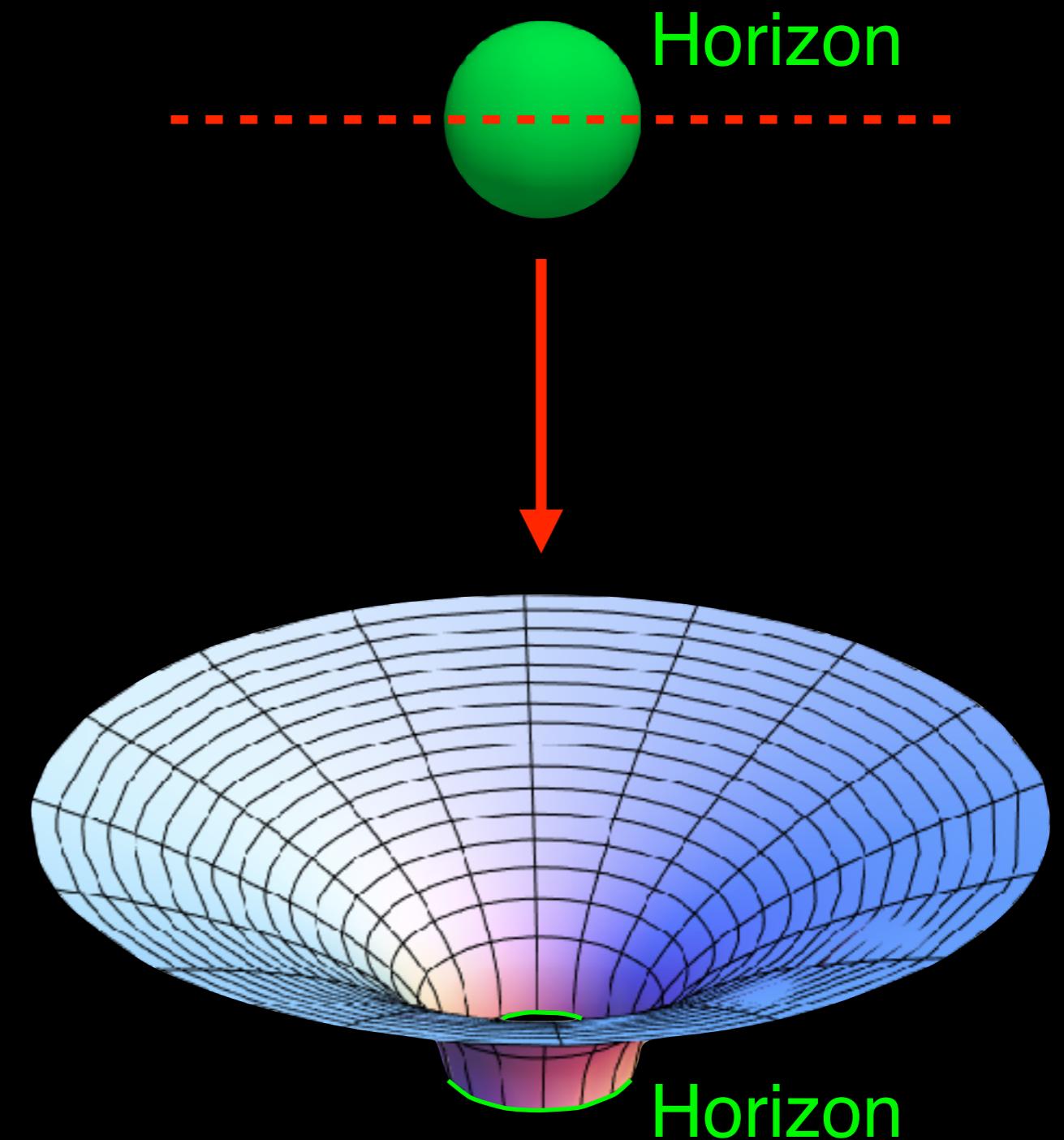
Atoms with heavy nuclei, up to a million times as dense as our Sun

Mostly neutrons, supported by quantum pressure

? ? ? ?

# Black holes: extremes of space-time curvature

- *Stellar-mass* formed when the massive stars collapse
- *Supermassive* found in the centers of galaxies
- Gravity so strong...
  - Nothing can escape from within the **horizon** (surface)
  - *Singularity* inside horizon



# Mass in Motion

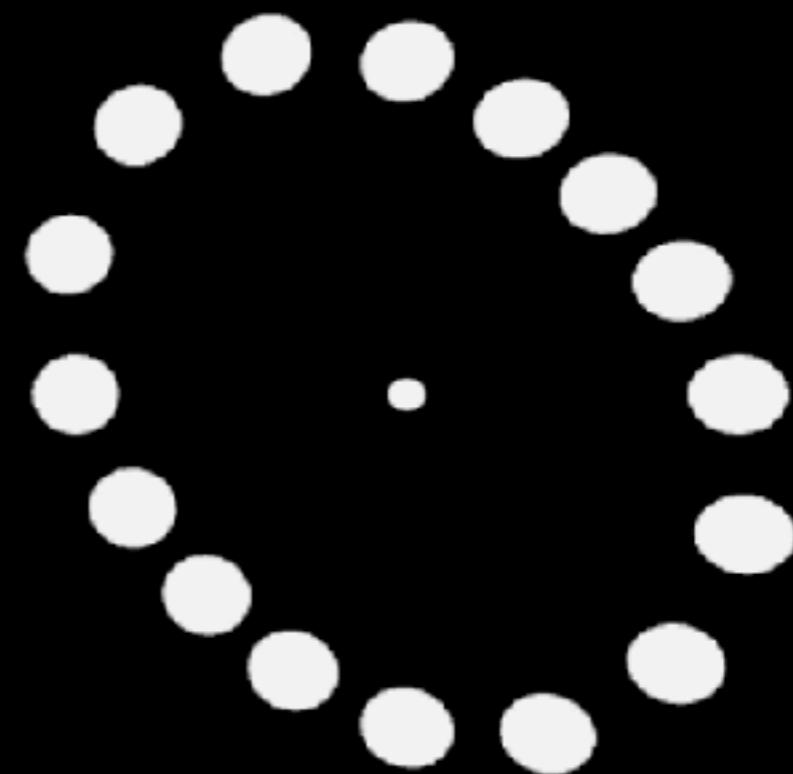
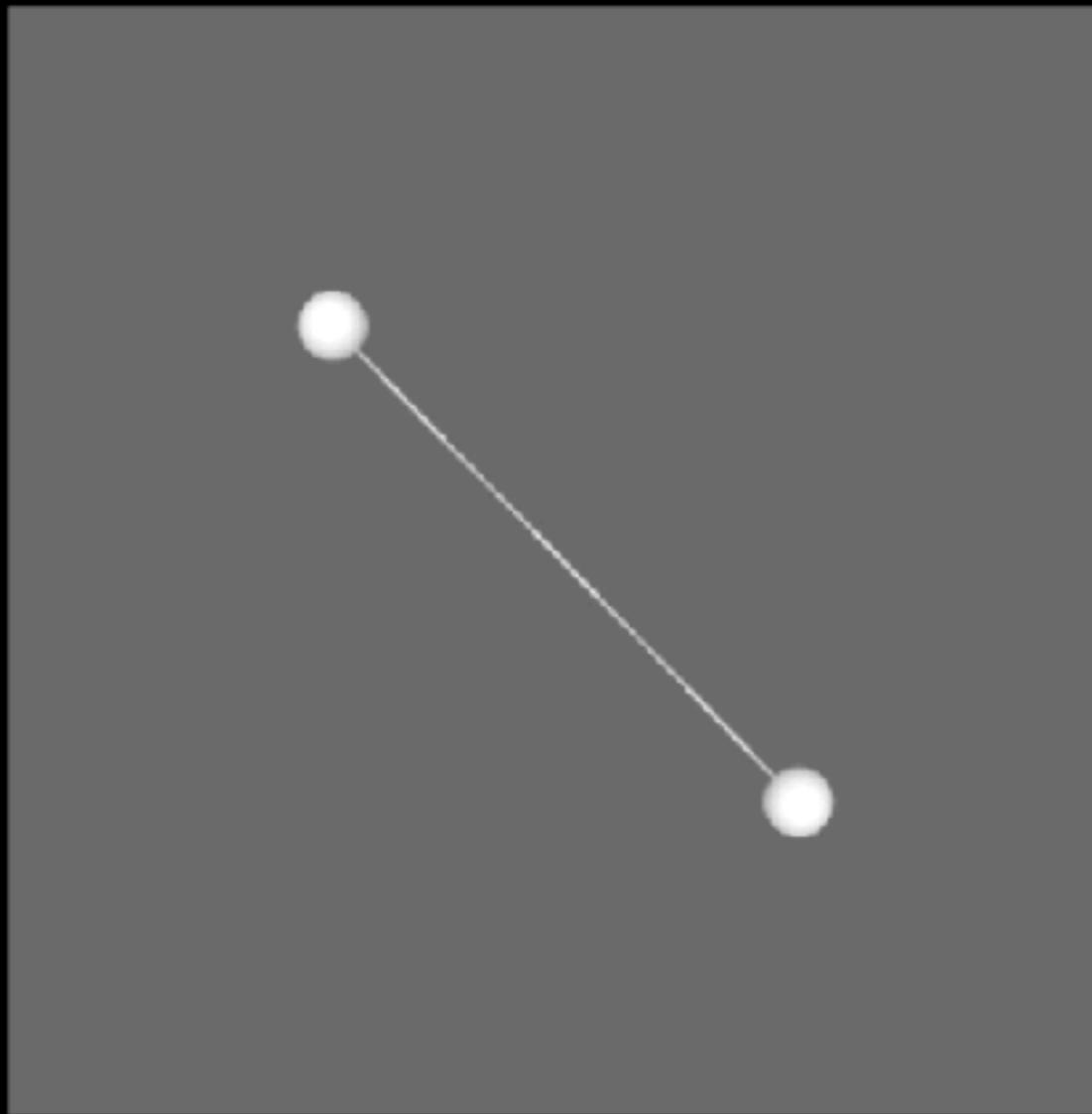
- Newtonian Gravity:  
“Action at a distance”
  - Instantly feel the new position of a moving object
- General Relativity:
  - Changes in curved spacetime ripple out at the speed of light



Moon passing Earth  
as seen from NASA's DSCOVR spacecraft (NASA/NOAA)  
at the L1 Point between the Earth and the Sun, 5 light seconds from Earth

Two objects orbit,  
gravitational pull *changes*

At your observing  
location, a ring of particles  
stretches and squeezes in  
response



Which of the following would not emit gravitational waves?

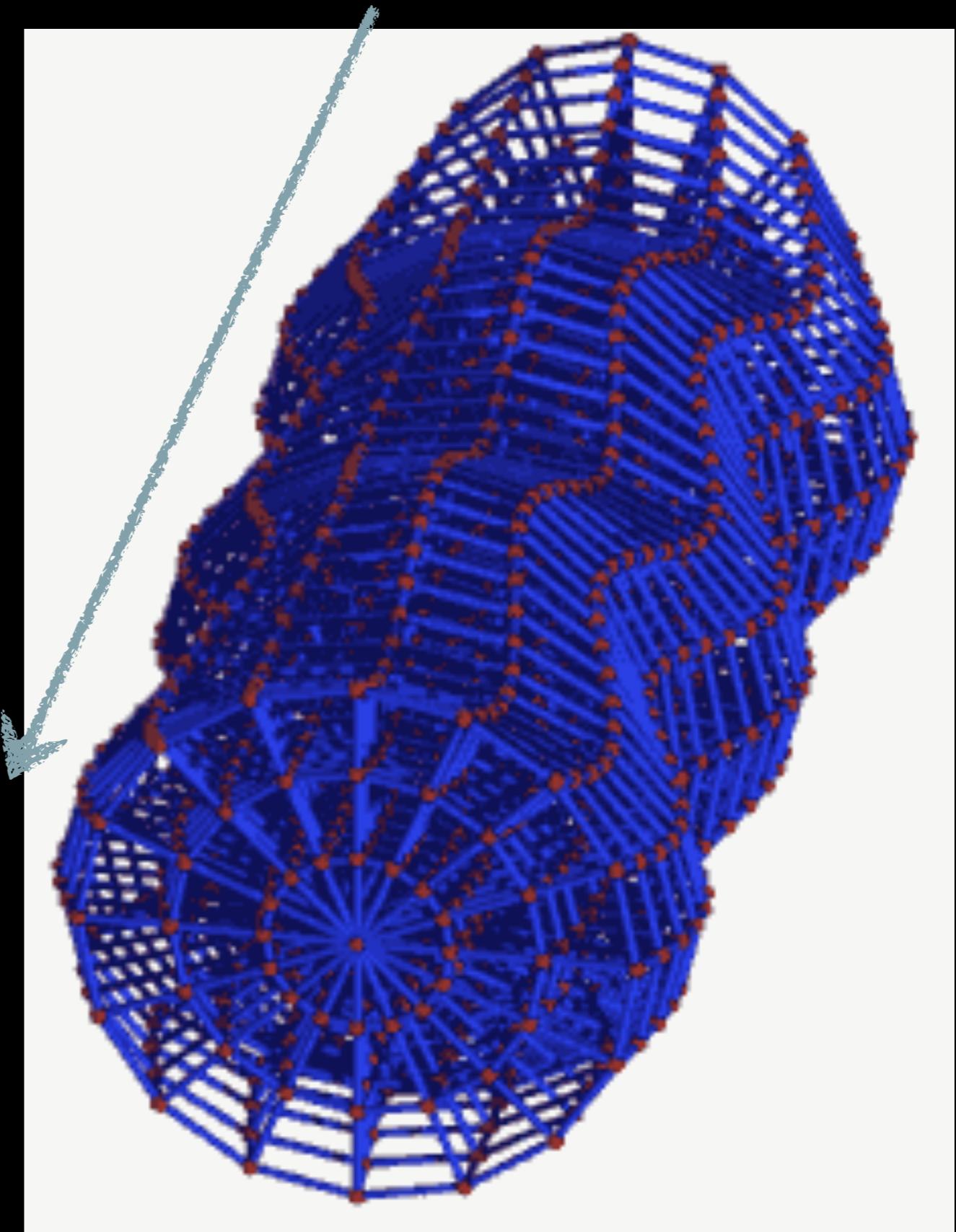
- A. A spinning spherical star
- B. The earth orbiting the sun
- C. A professor waving her hands
- D. All of the above would emit gravitational waves

*Hint: would gravitational pull change?*

# Gravitational wave

---

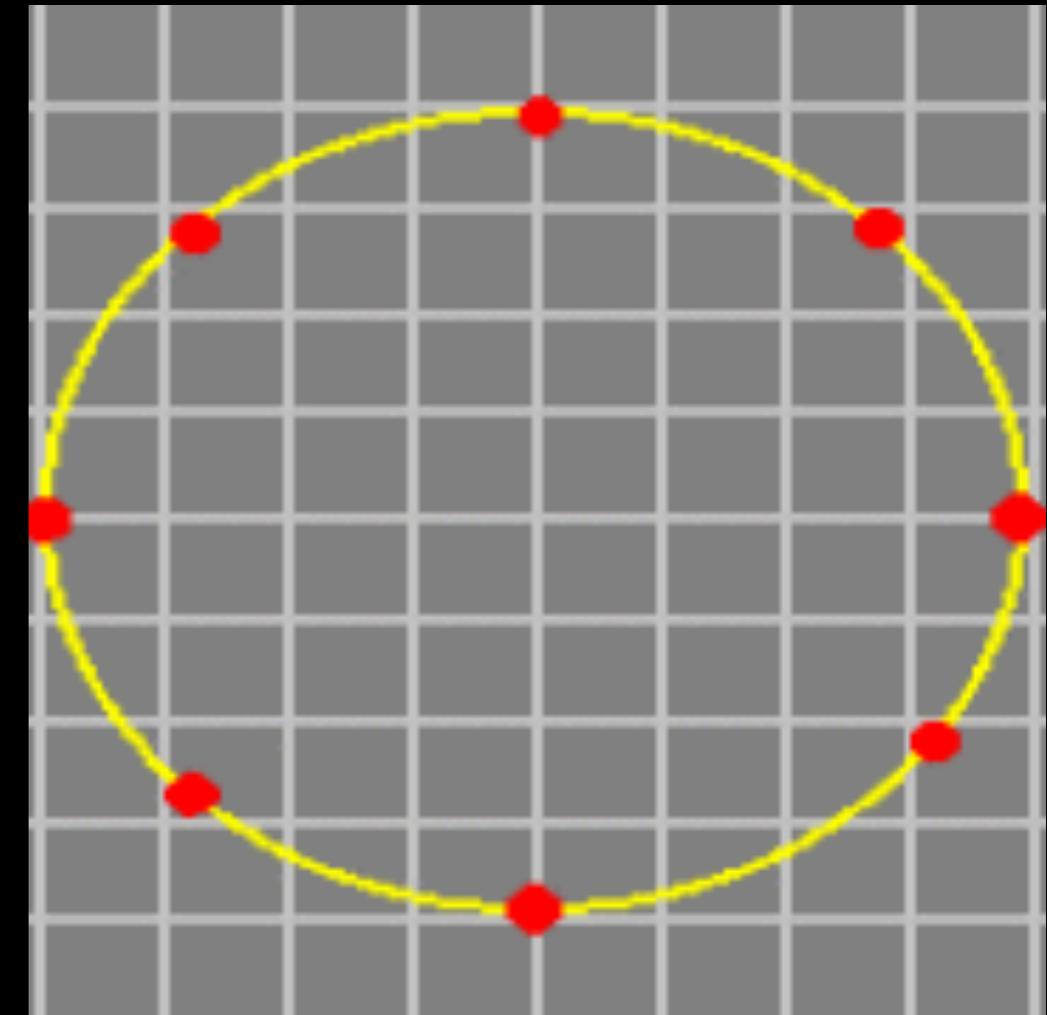
- Stretching and squeezing space
- Traveling at the speed of light

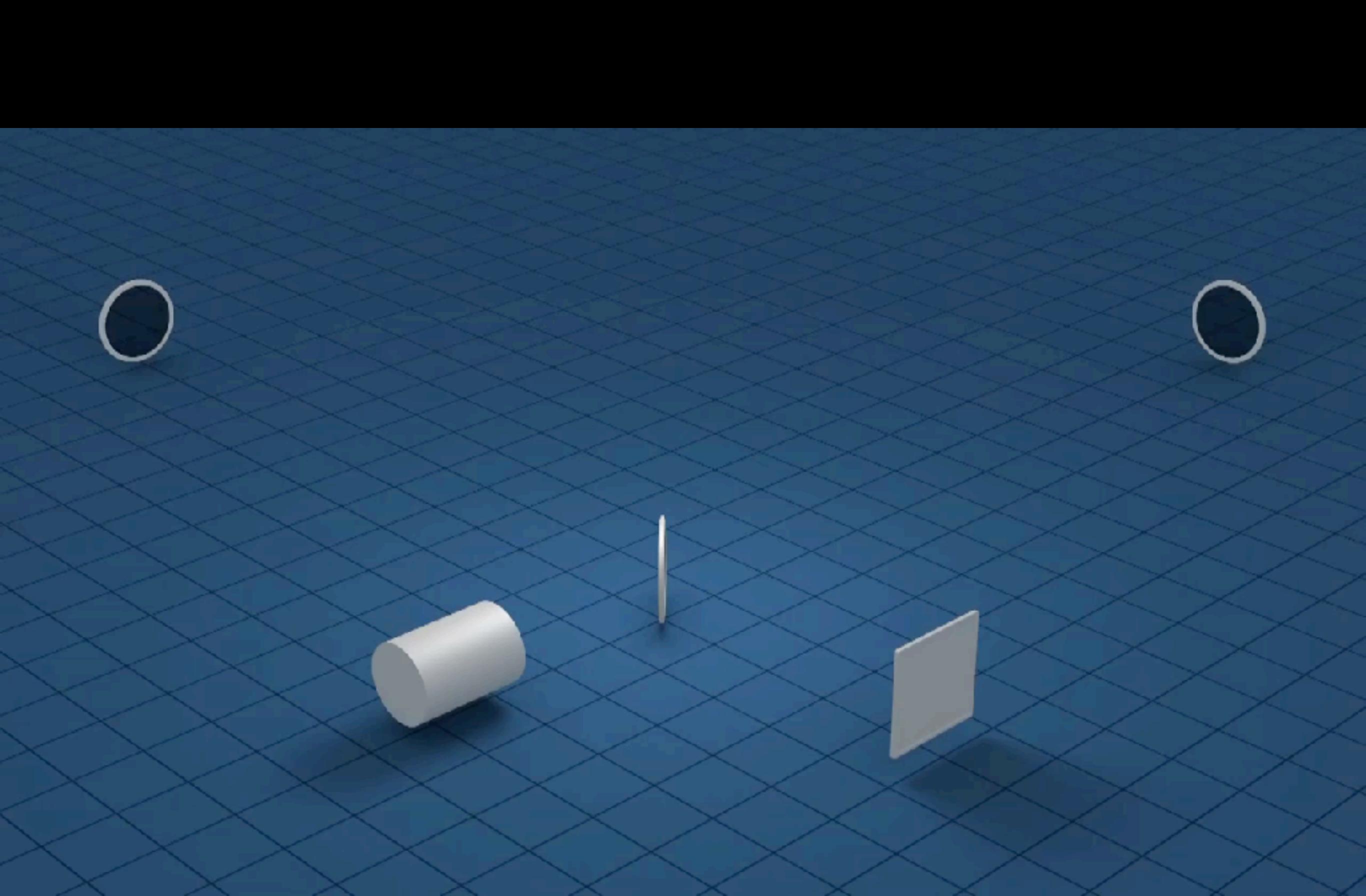


Animation from <http://www.einstein-online.info/spotlights/gravWav>

# Effects of gravitational waves

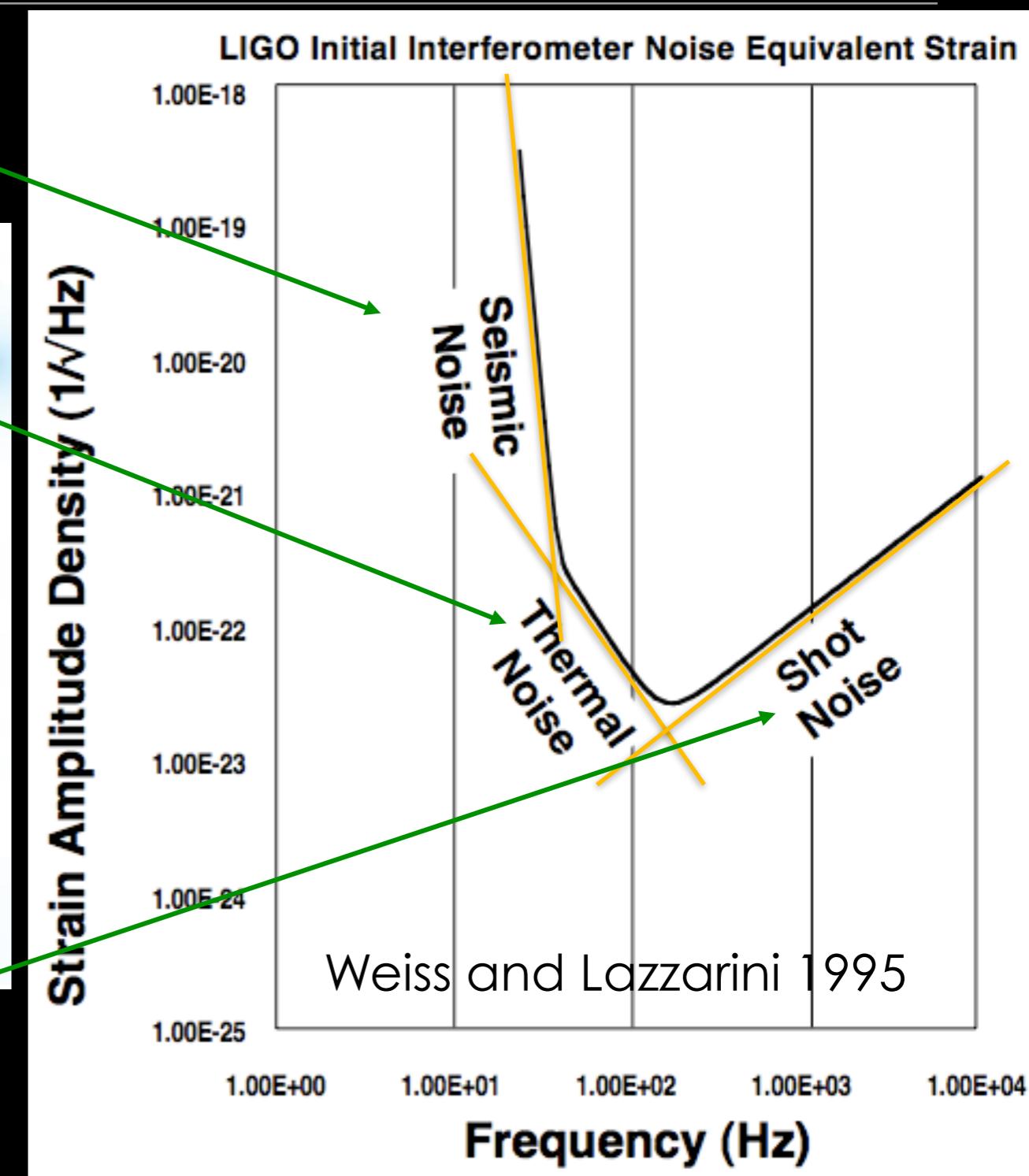
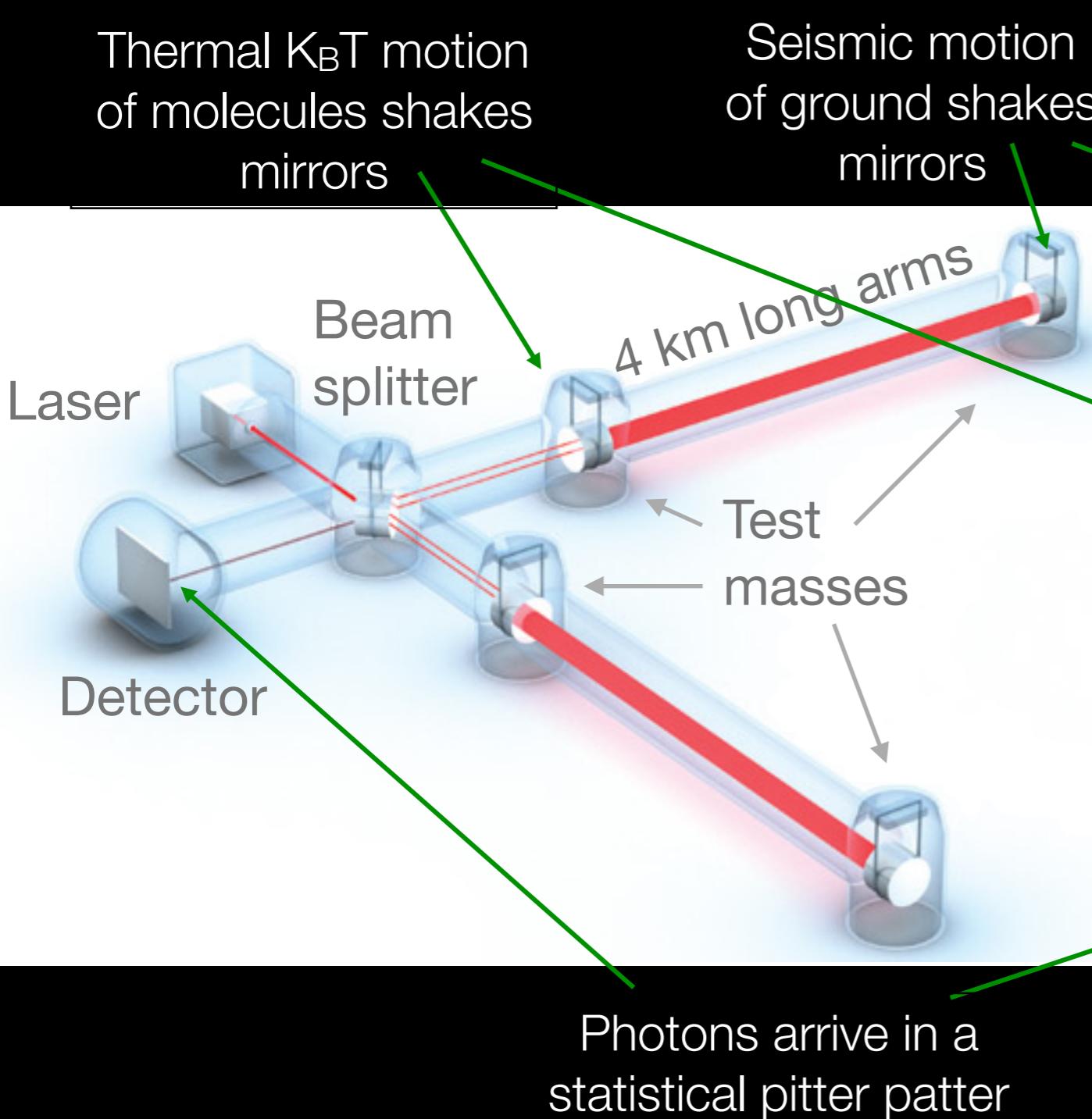
- Cause the distance between objects to change
- Fractional change shown  
10% 
- Fractional change from gravitational waves arriving at Earth  
0.00000000000000000001%





Animation: LIGO

# Competing sources of mirror motion



**LIGO**



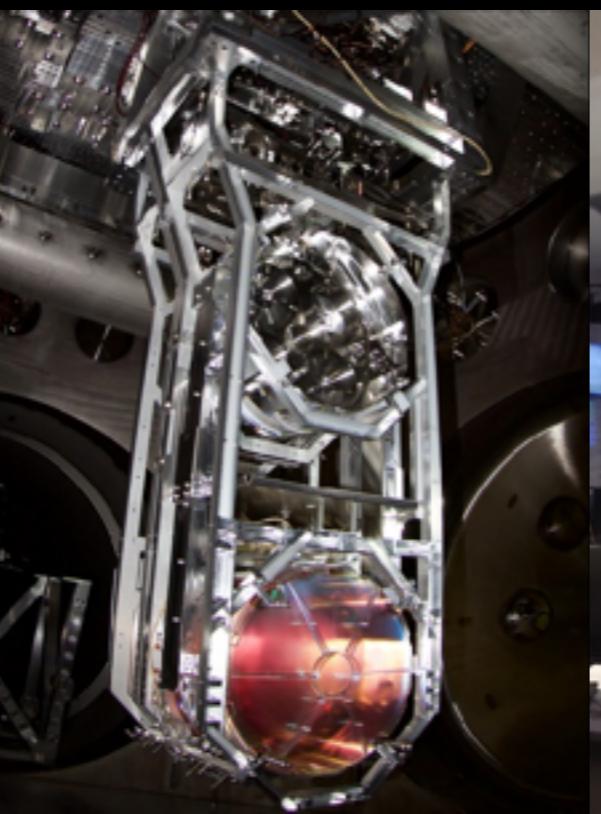
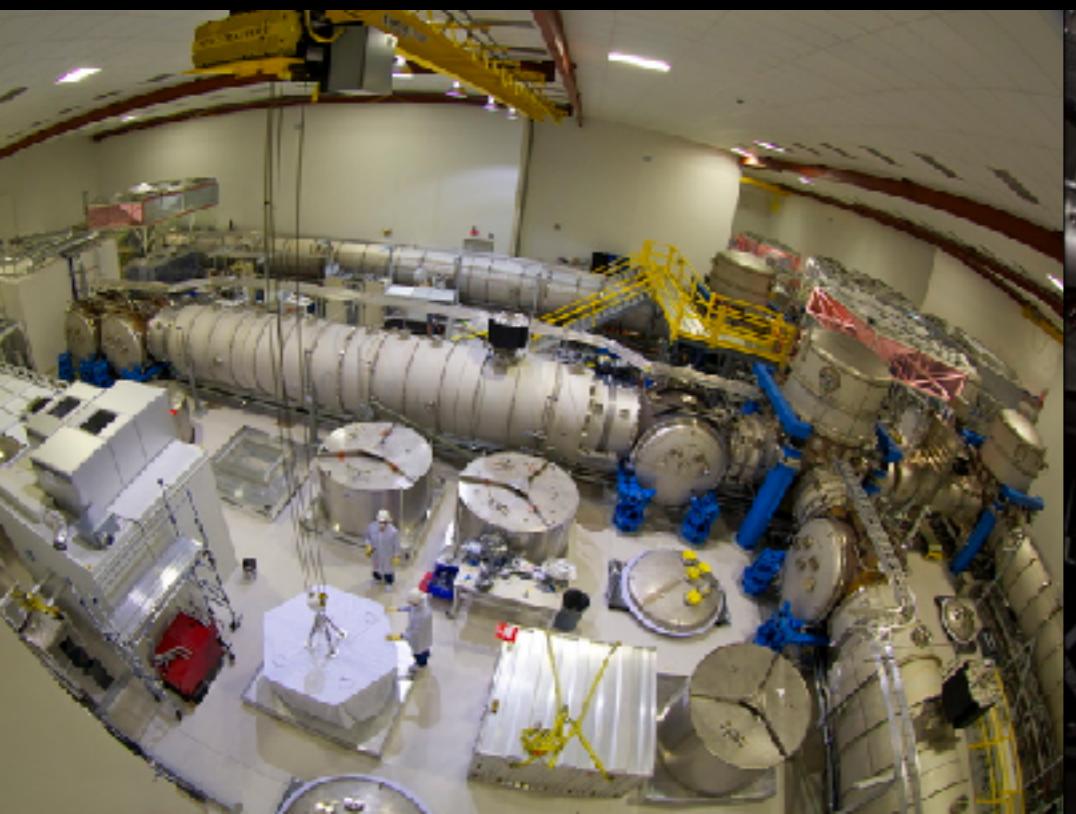
LIGO Hanford, Washington  
2015+



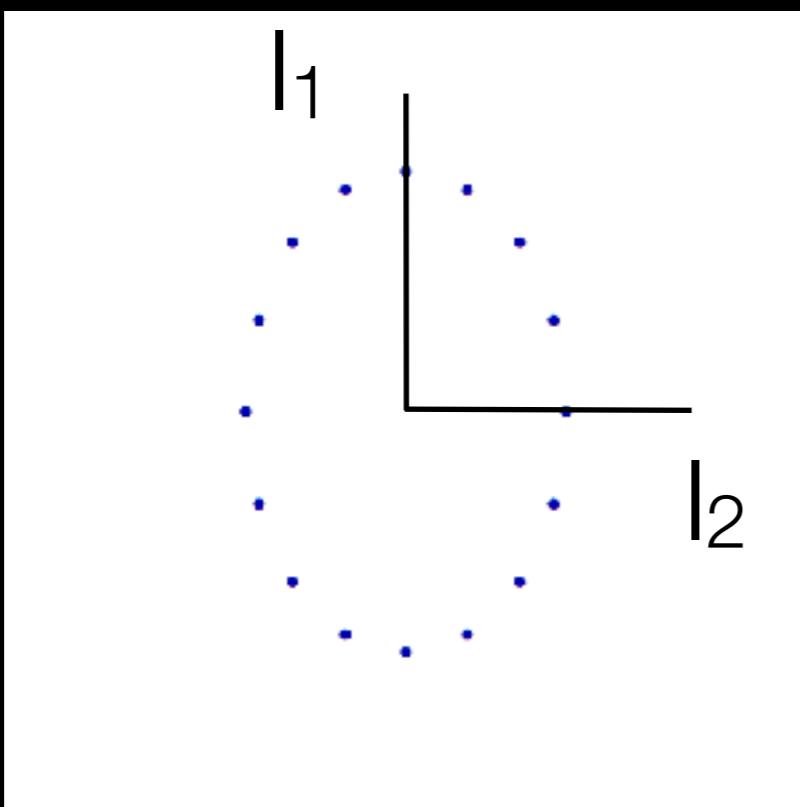
LIGO Livingston, Louisiana  
2015+



Virgo, Italy  
2017+



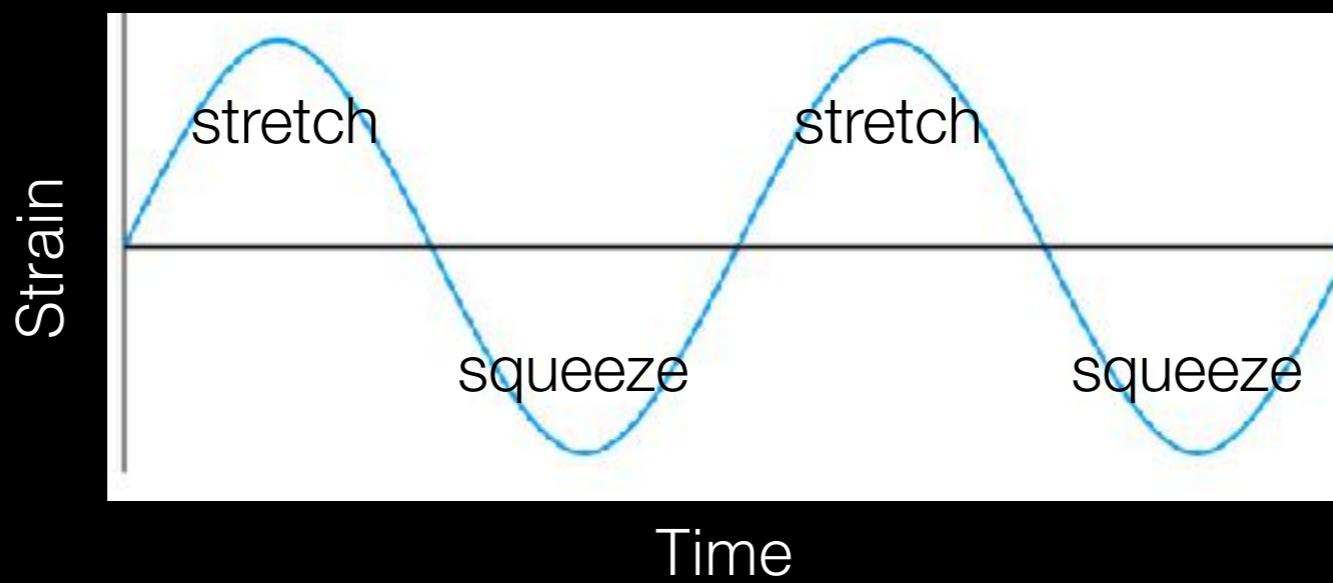
# Plotting gravitational waves



Gravitational-wave strain

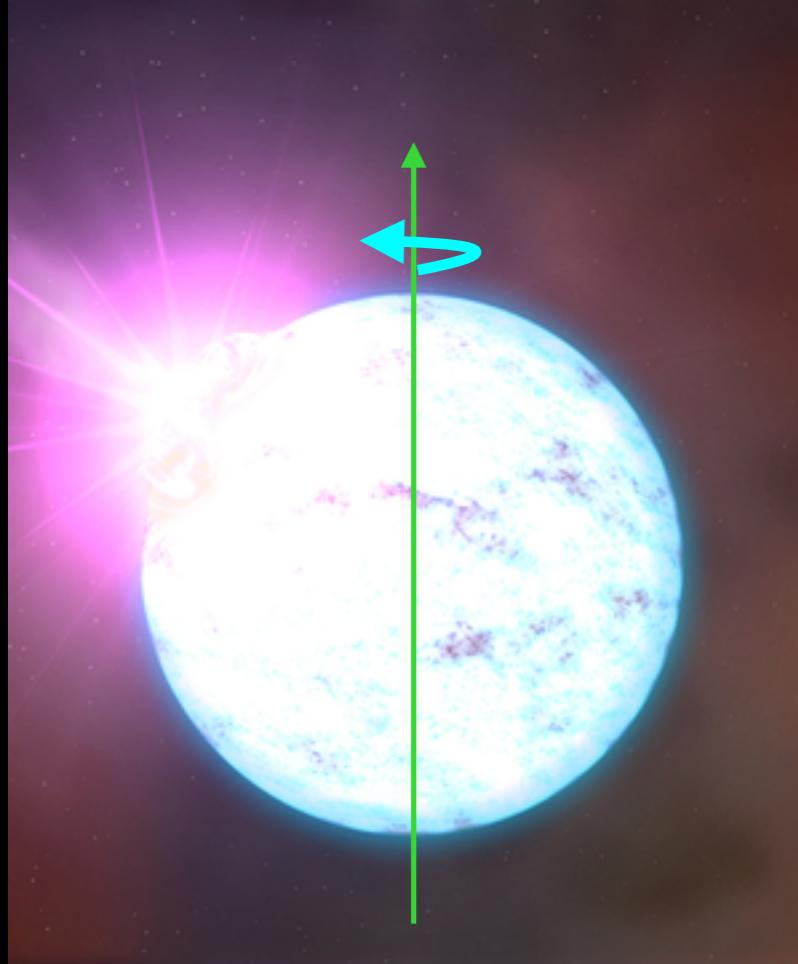
$$h_+ \sim (|l_1 - |l_2|)/|l_{\text{av}}$$

Change in length  
original length

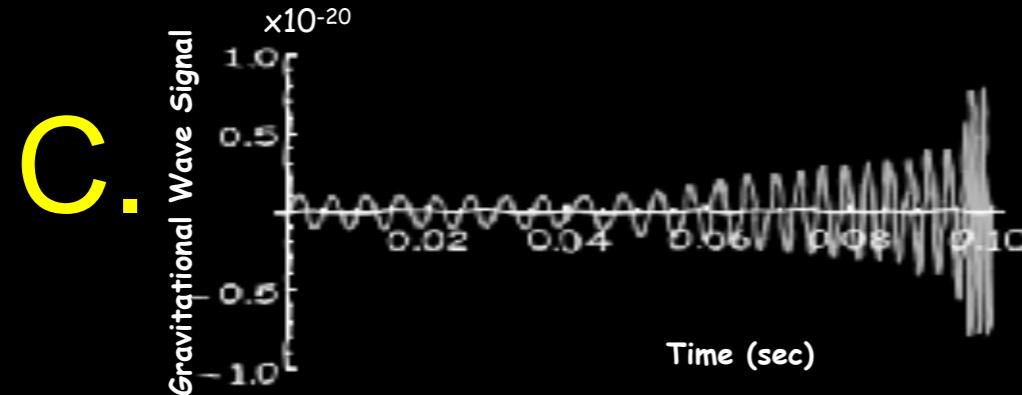
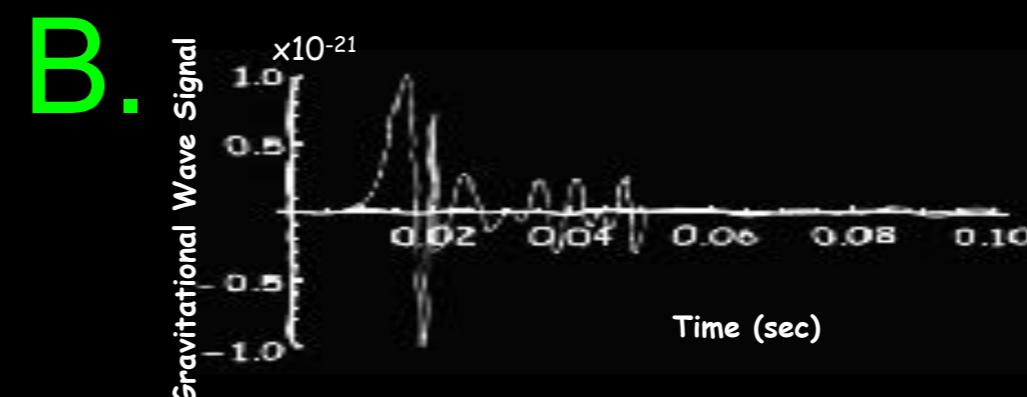
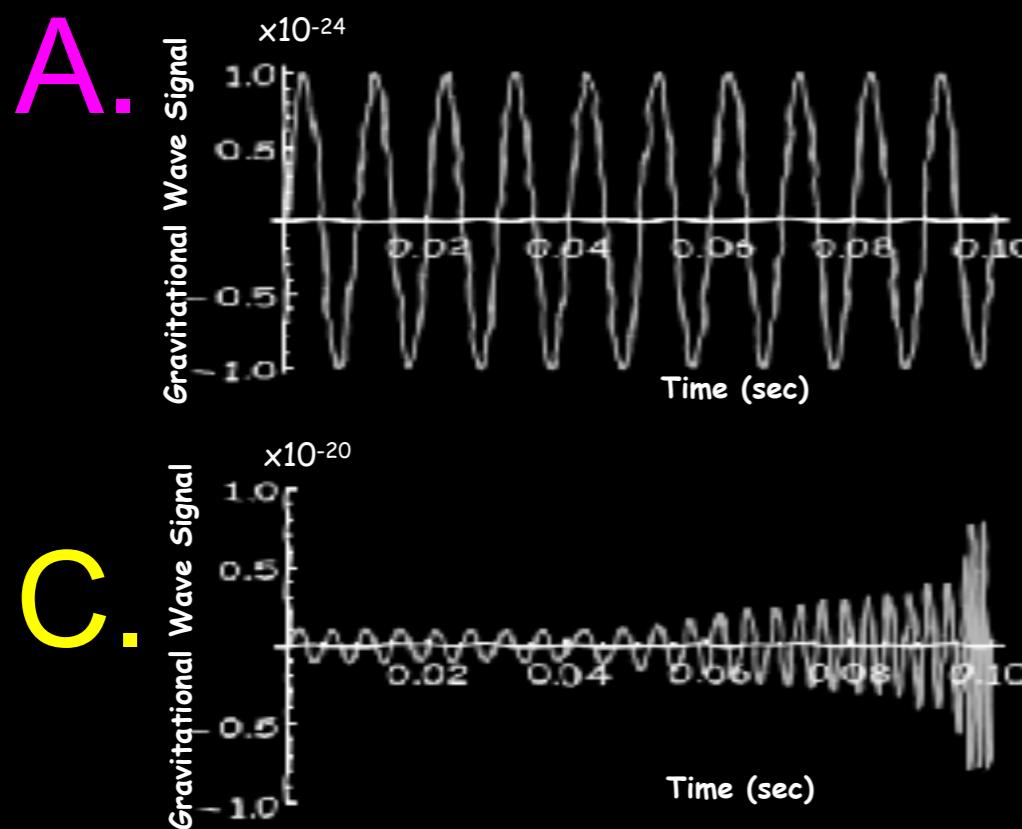


If a gravitational wave and an electromagnetic wave were both emitted **at the same time** from a cataclysmic event in a distant galaxy, which wave would get to earth first?

- A. Gravitational Wave
- B. Electromagnetic Wave
- C. Both would reach earth at the same time

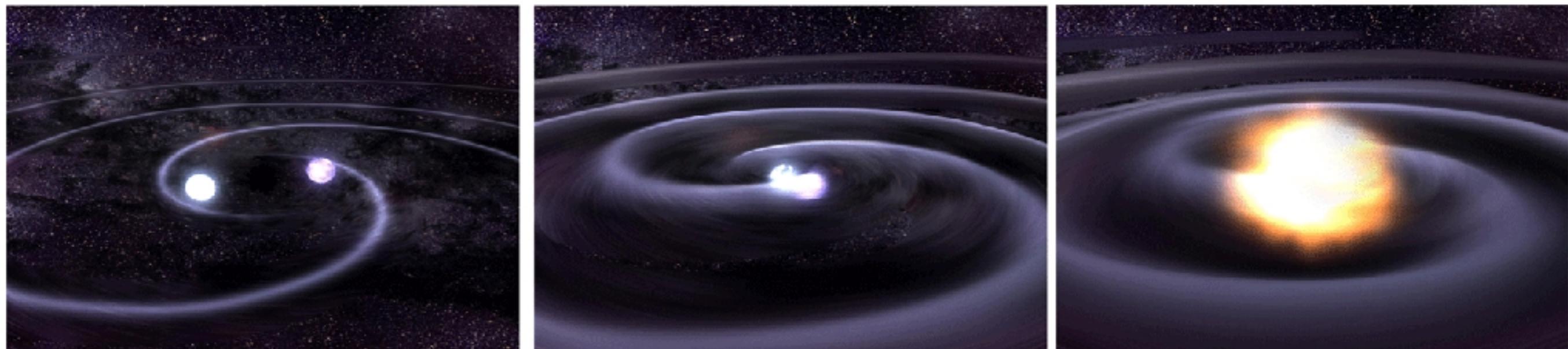


A neutron star is spinning at a steady rate. A heavy mountain on its surface is carried around by the star's spin. What GW pattern is produced?



**D. No GW produced**

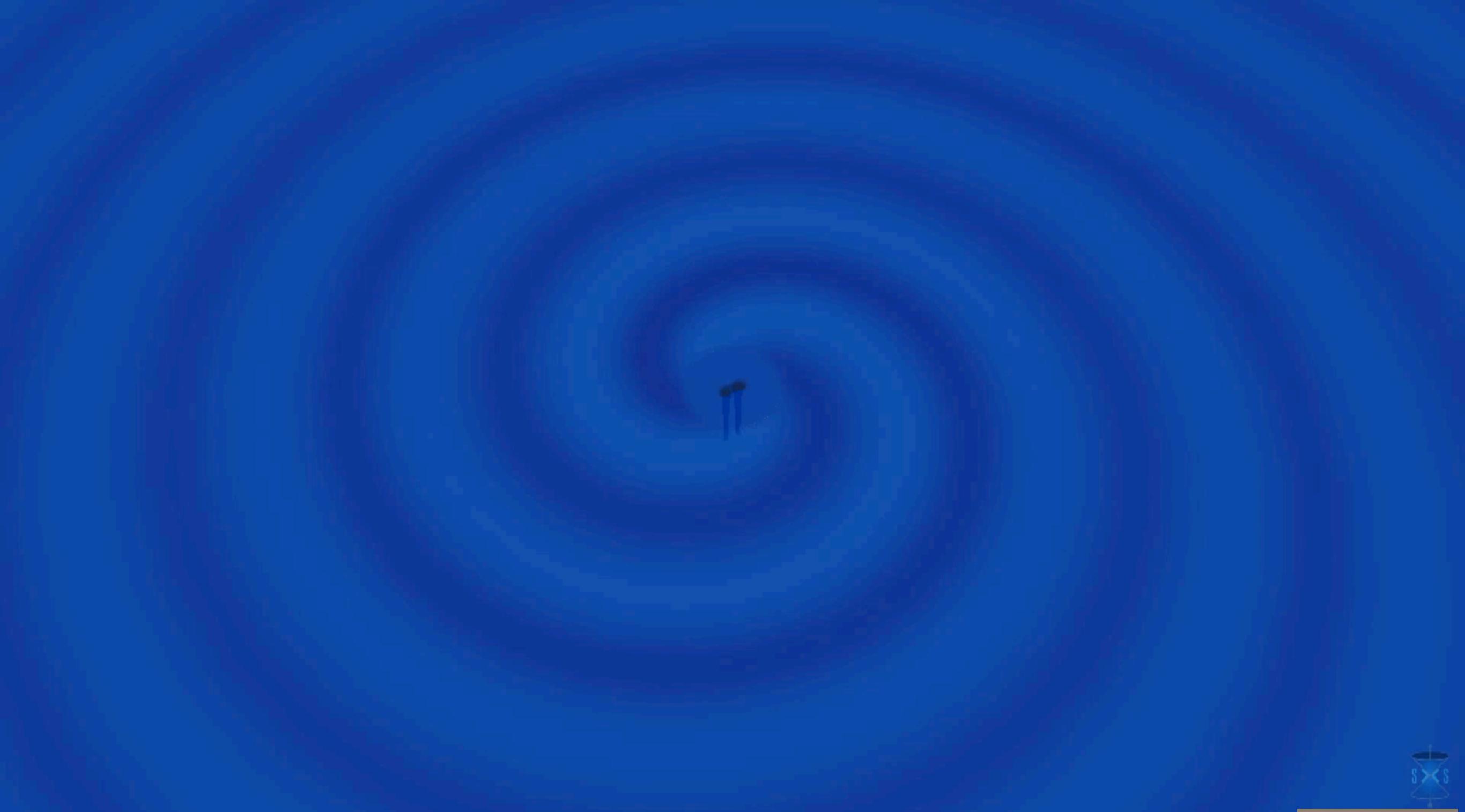
# Merger / Coalescence



- Orbiting stars emit gravitational waves; waves carry away **energy**
- Orbits with lower energy are closer together
- Closer orbits produce stronger waves



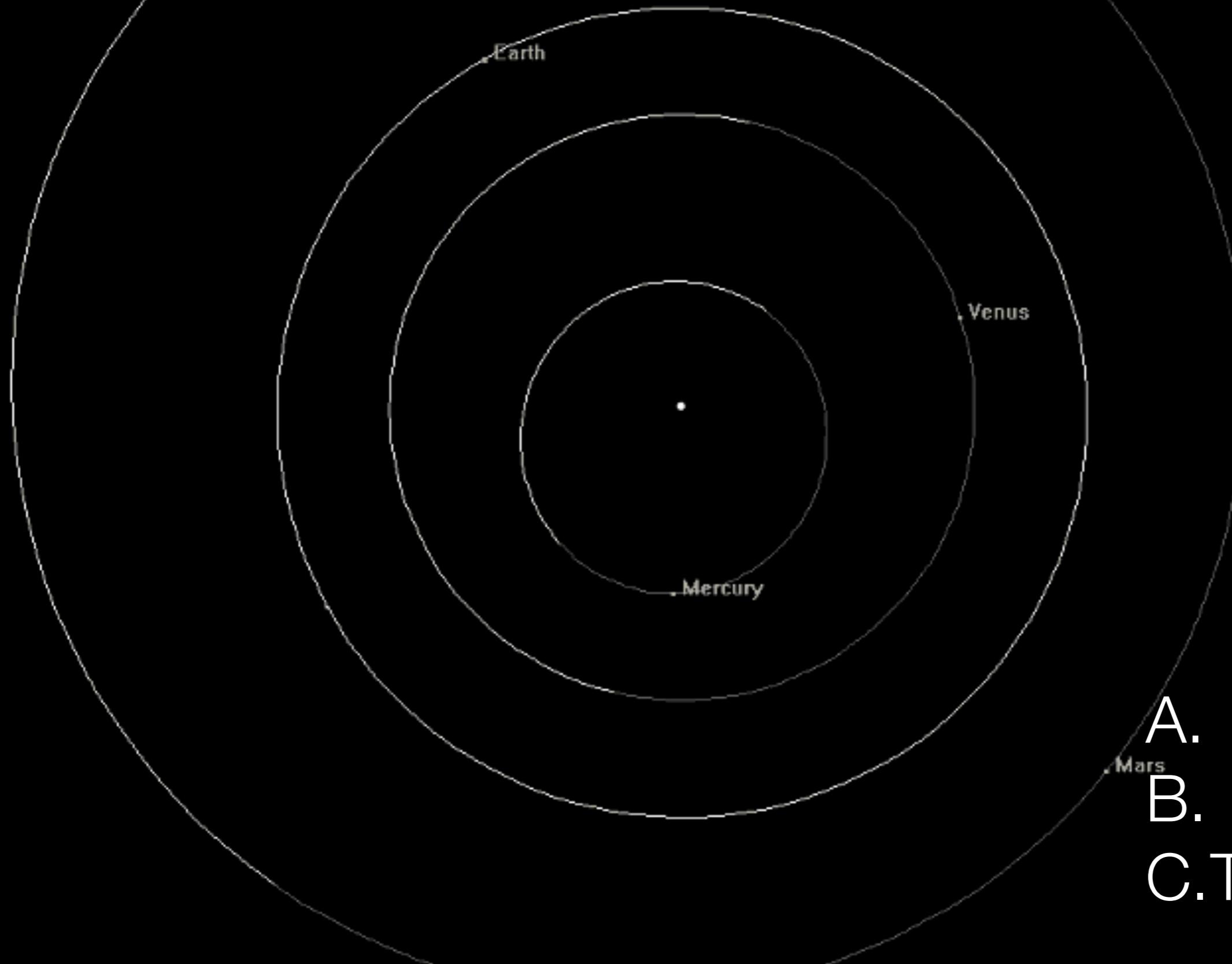
# Gravitational Waves from merging black holes



Movie by CSUF student Nick Demos,  
Simulating eXtreme Spacetimes collaboration

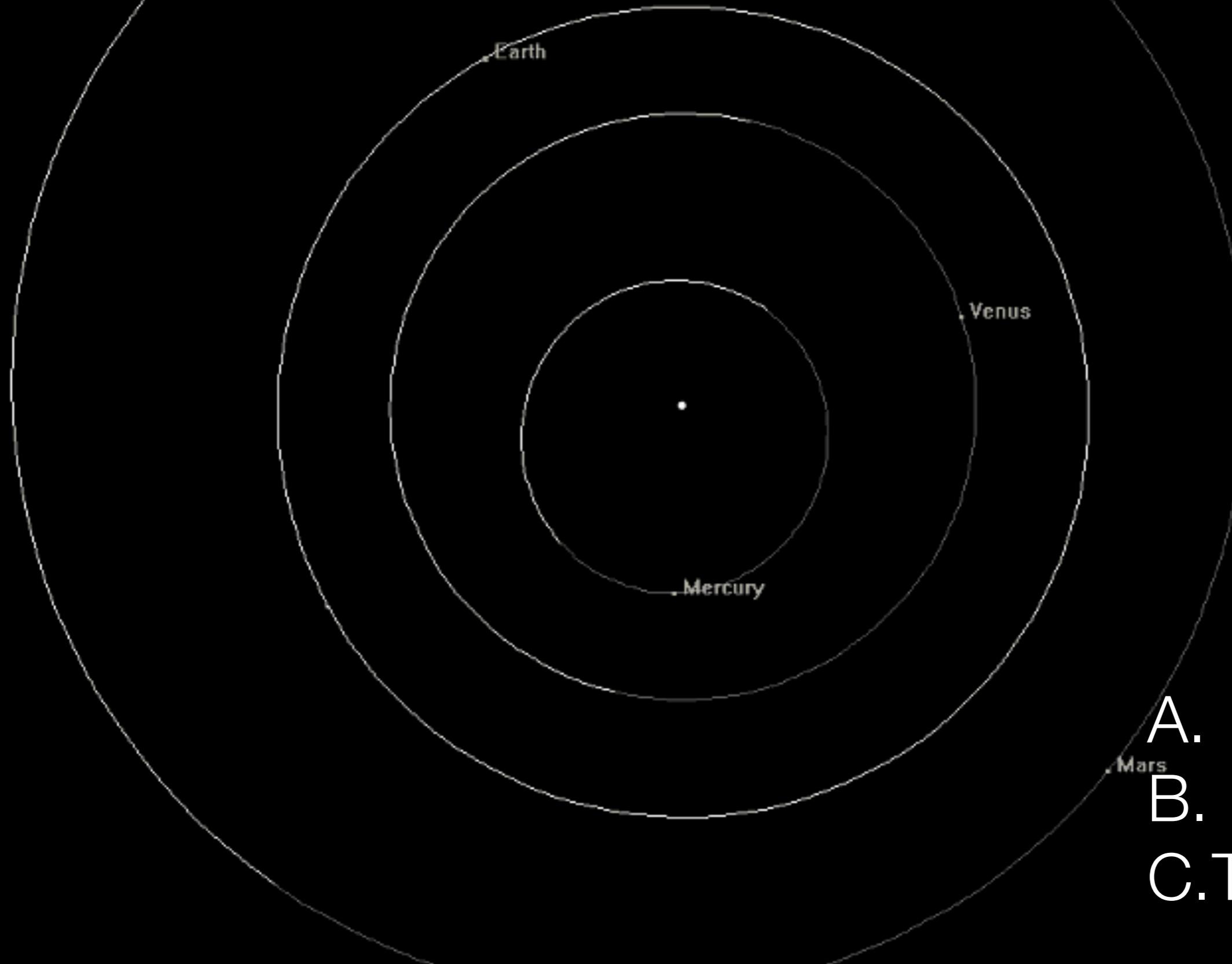


Inner orbits have \_\_\_\_\_ periods compared to outer orbits



- A. Longer
- B. Shorter
- C. The Same

Inner orbits have \_\_\_\_\_ frequencies compared to outer orbits

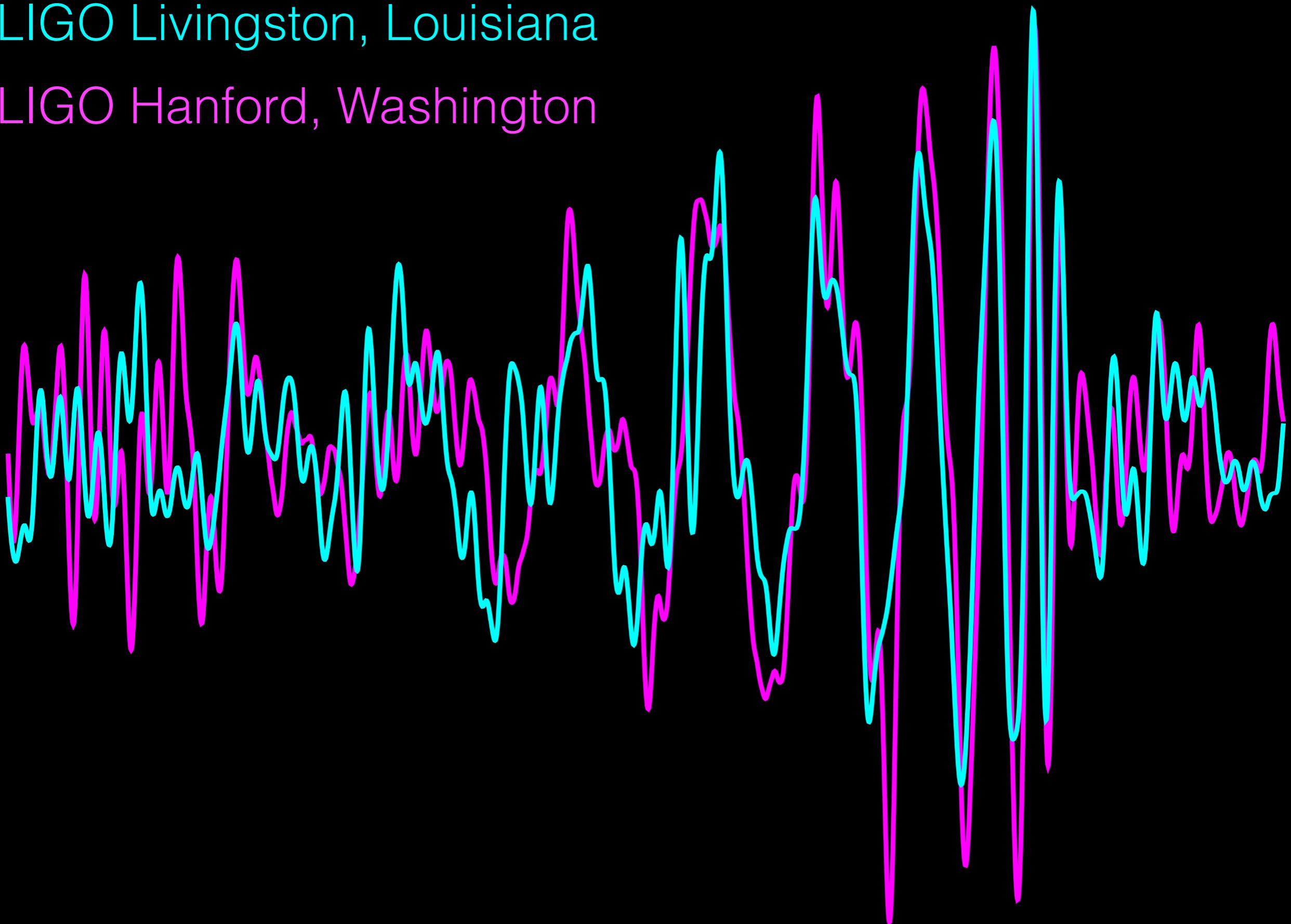


- A. Higher
- B. Lower
- C. The Same

- As a binary black hole system emits gravitational waves, the separation of the two black holes will \_\_\_\_\_ and the frequency of the binary orbit will \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- As the black holes “inspiral”— fall together while orbiting— the gravitational-wave amplitude will \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- *Sketch what you think the gravitational wave from merging black holes would look like*

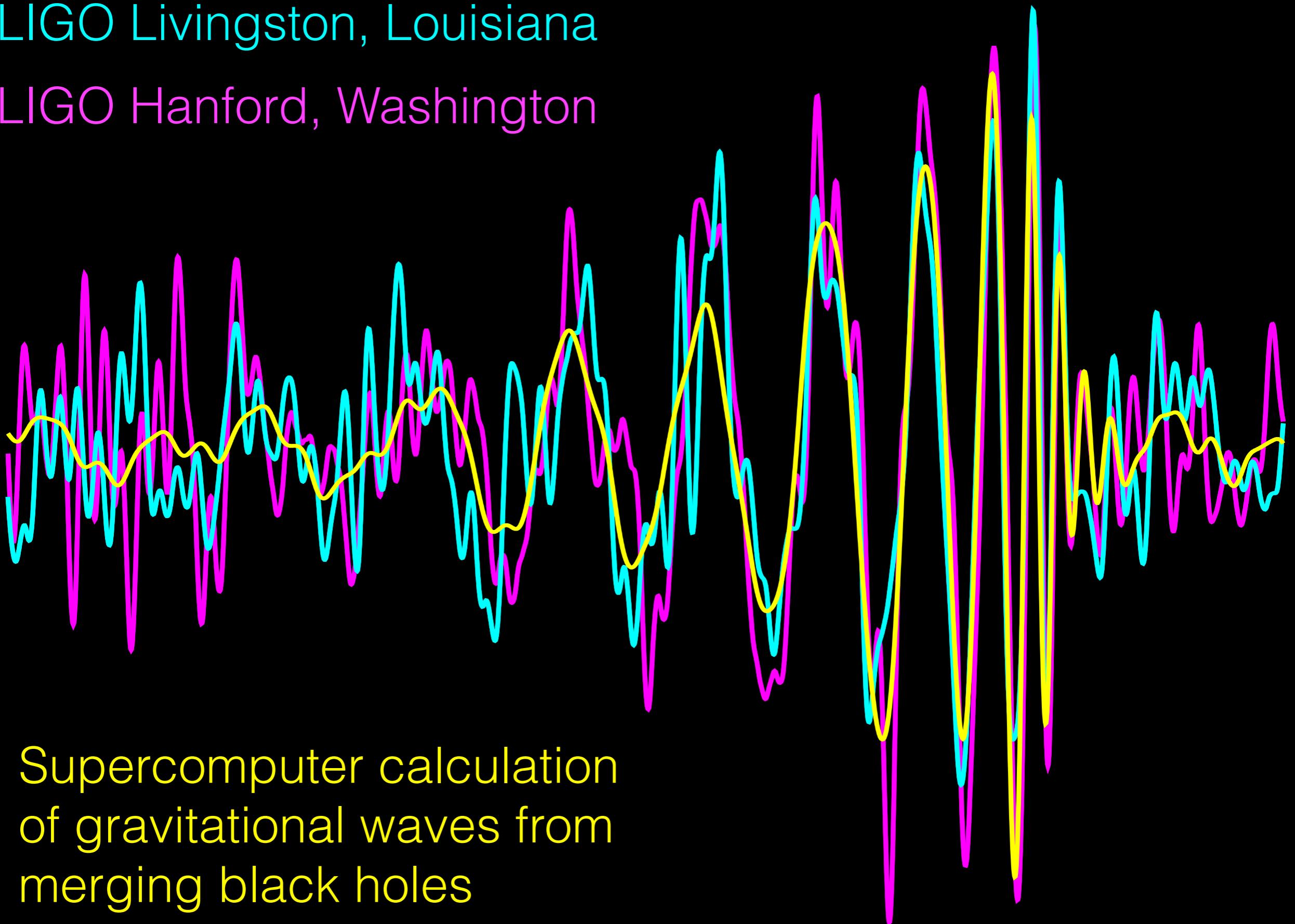
LIGO Livingston, Louisiana

LIGO Hanford, Washington

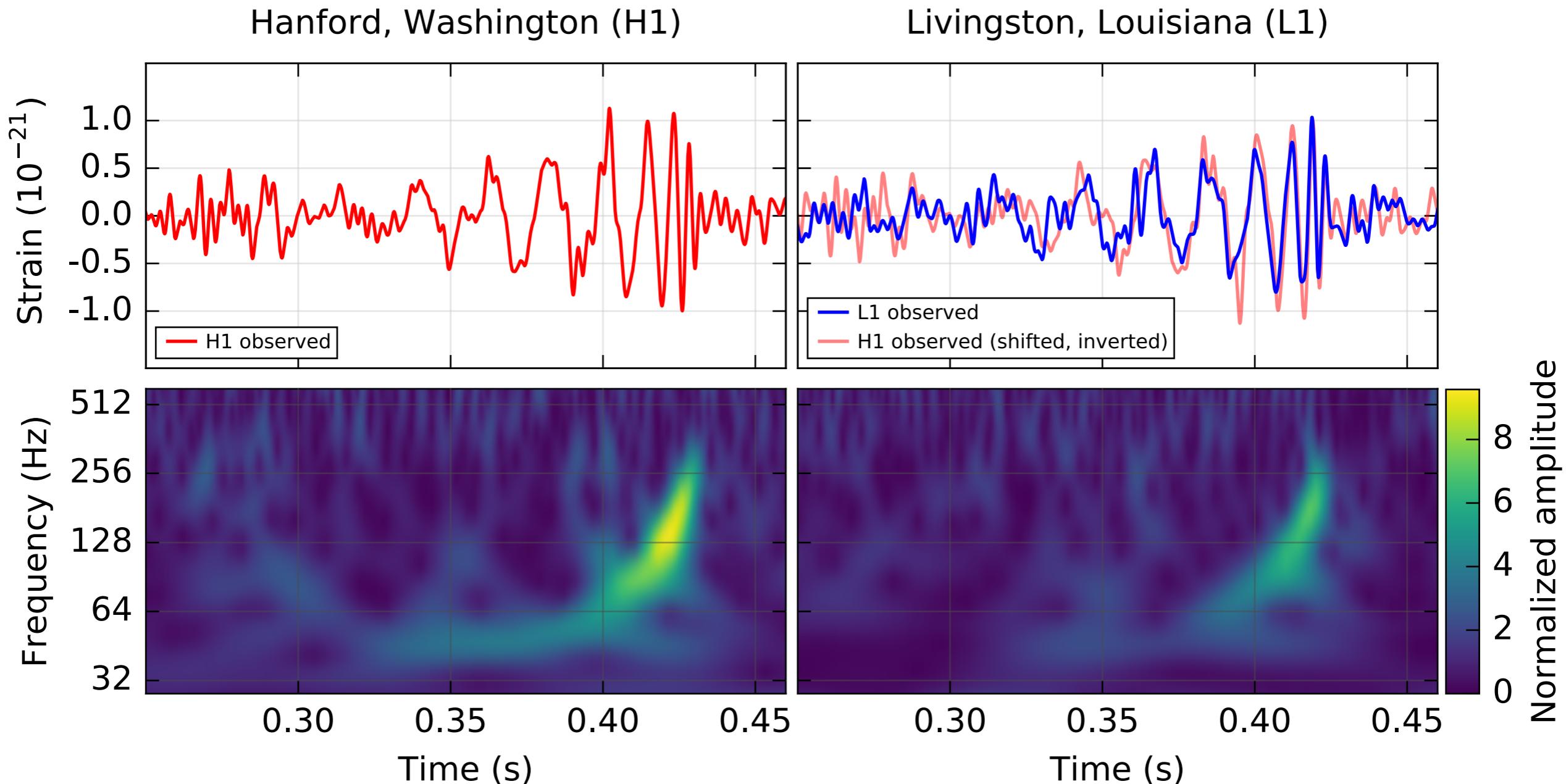


LIGO Livingston, Louisiana

LIGO Hanford, Washington

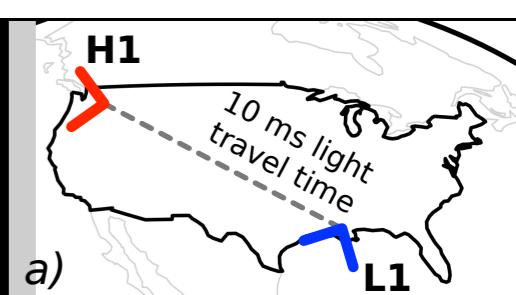


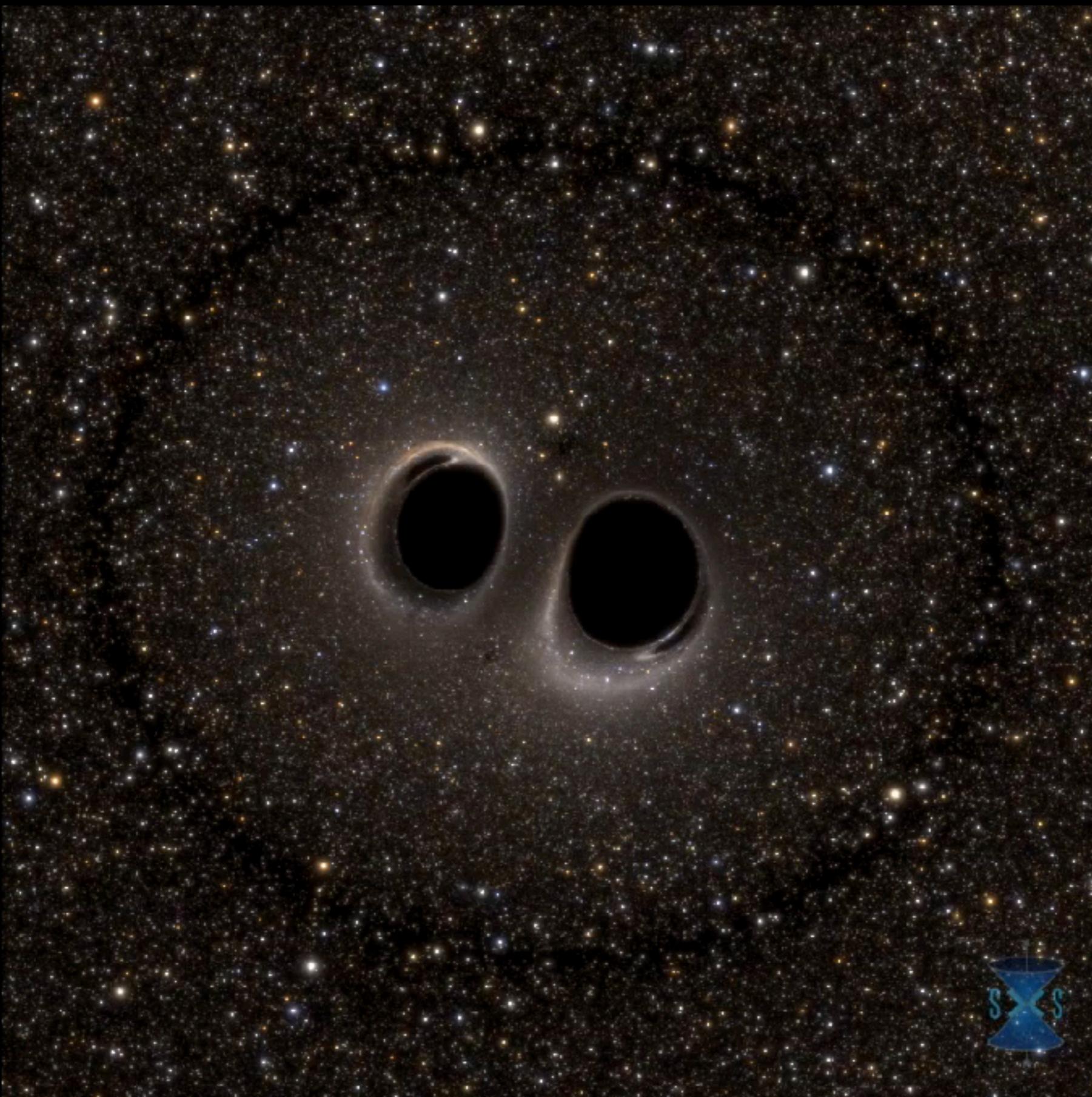
# Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger



September 14, 2015 at 09:50:45 GMT

PRL 116, 061102 (2016)





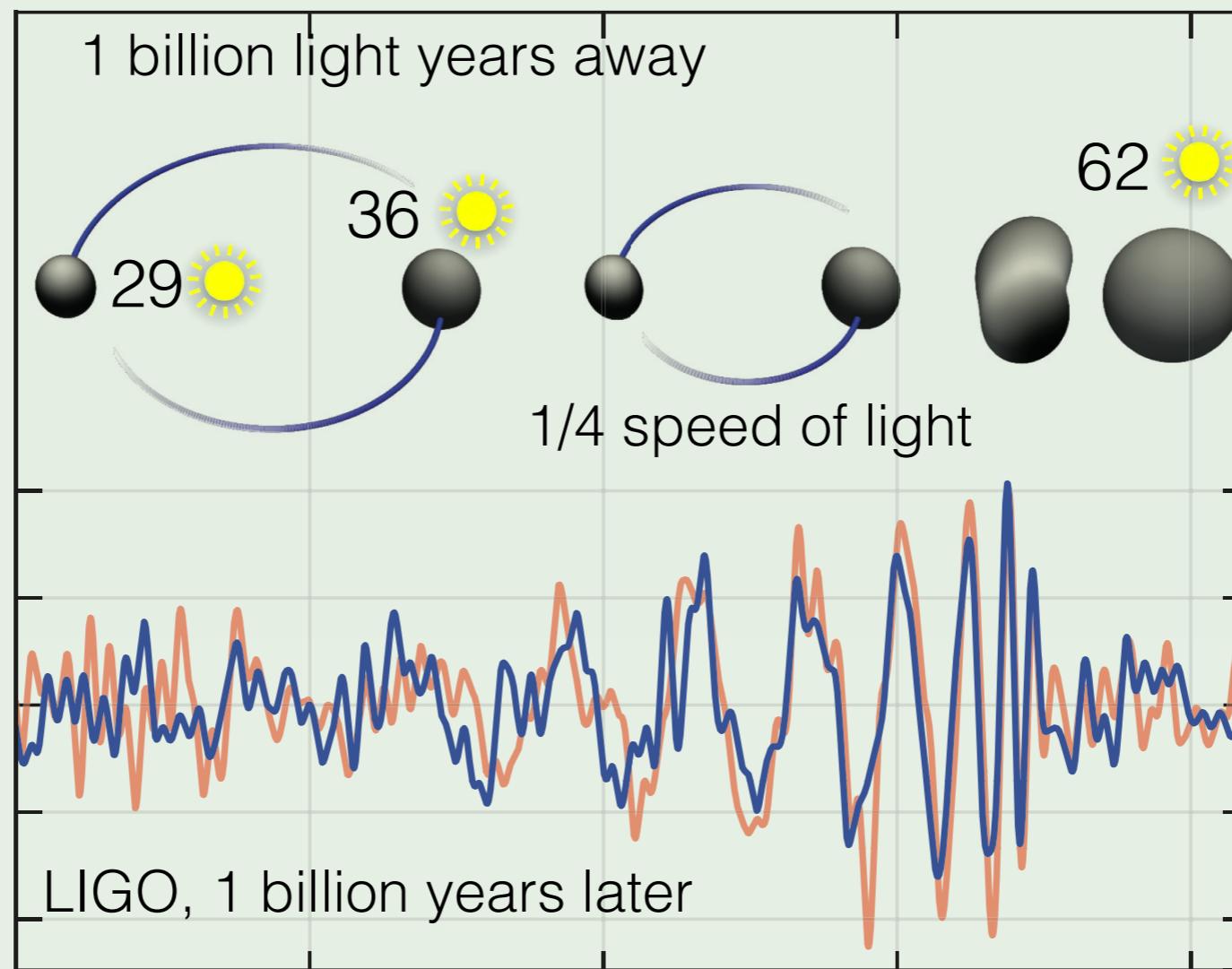
Movie by CSUF student Haroon Khan,  
SXS collaboration

# PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS<sup>TM</sup>

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Articles published week ending

12 FEBRUARY 2016

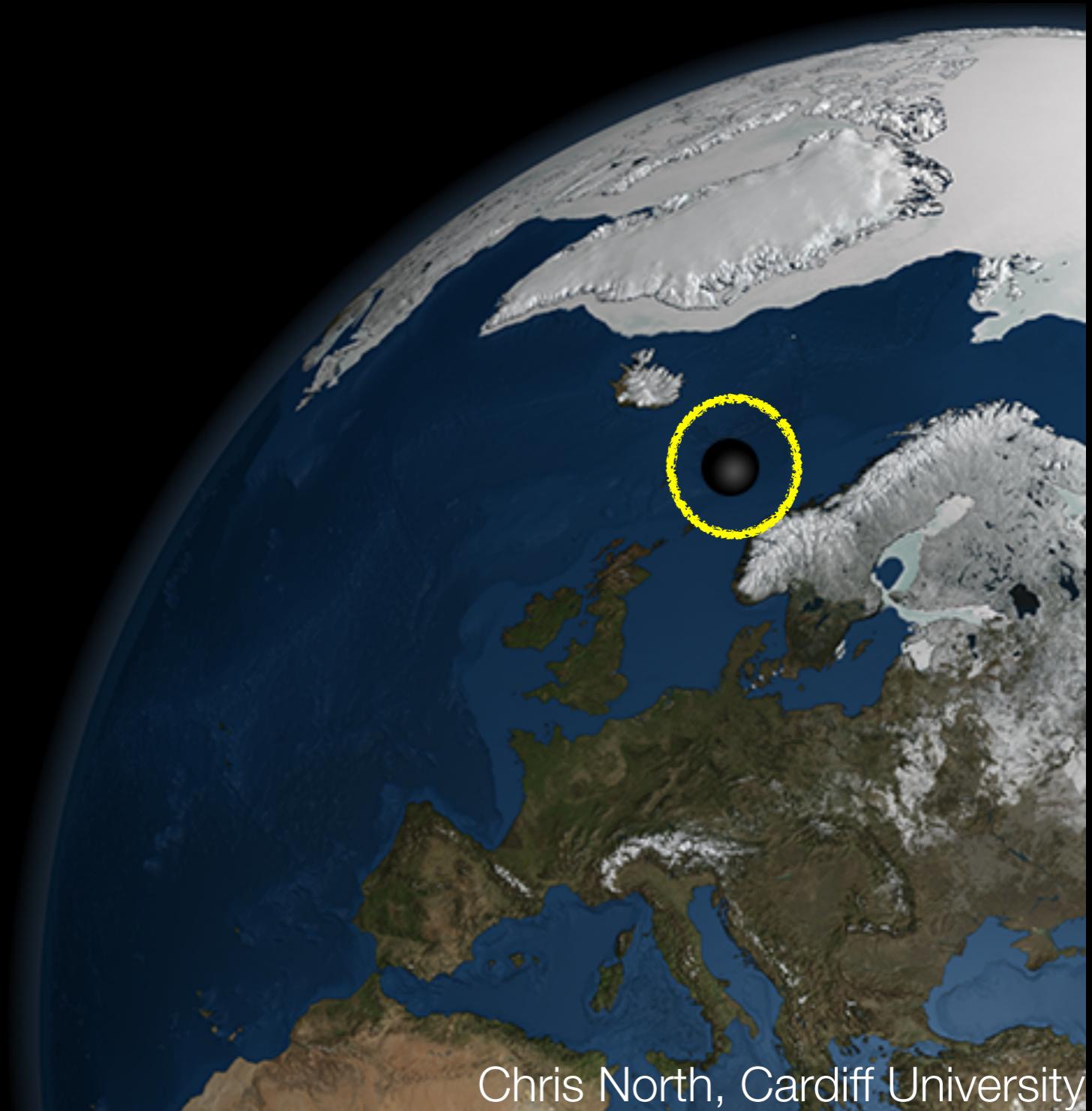


# Properties of the binary black hole merger GW150914: Result of merger

---

Final black hole:  
 $62 \pm 4$  solar  
masses  
spinning at  
about 100 Hz

Estimated  
luminosity (in GW)  
 $\sim 10^{56}$  erg/s

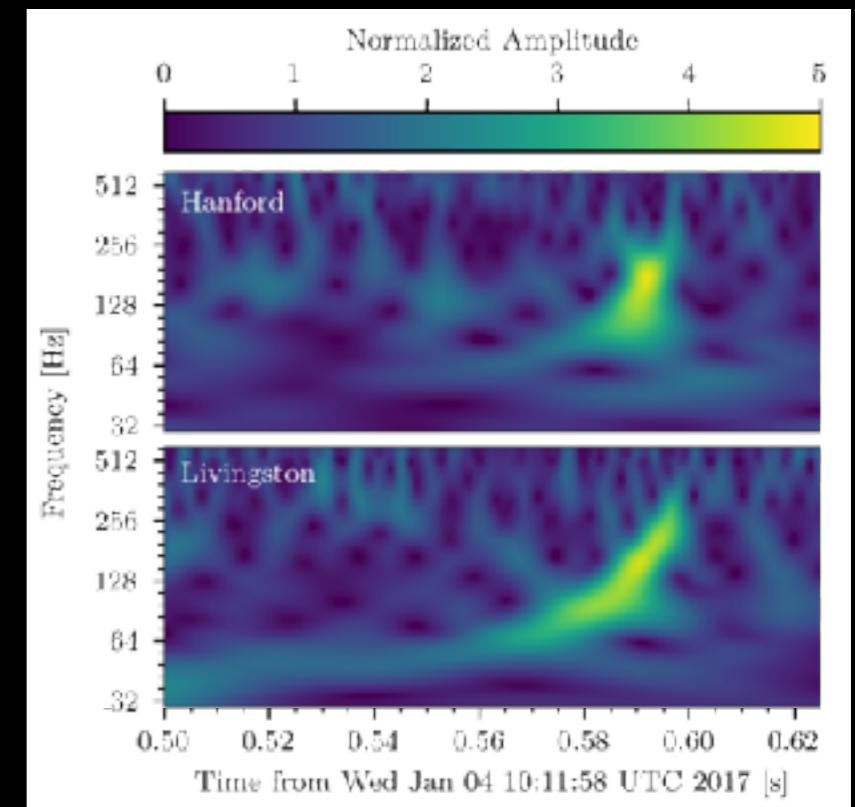
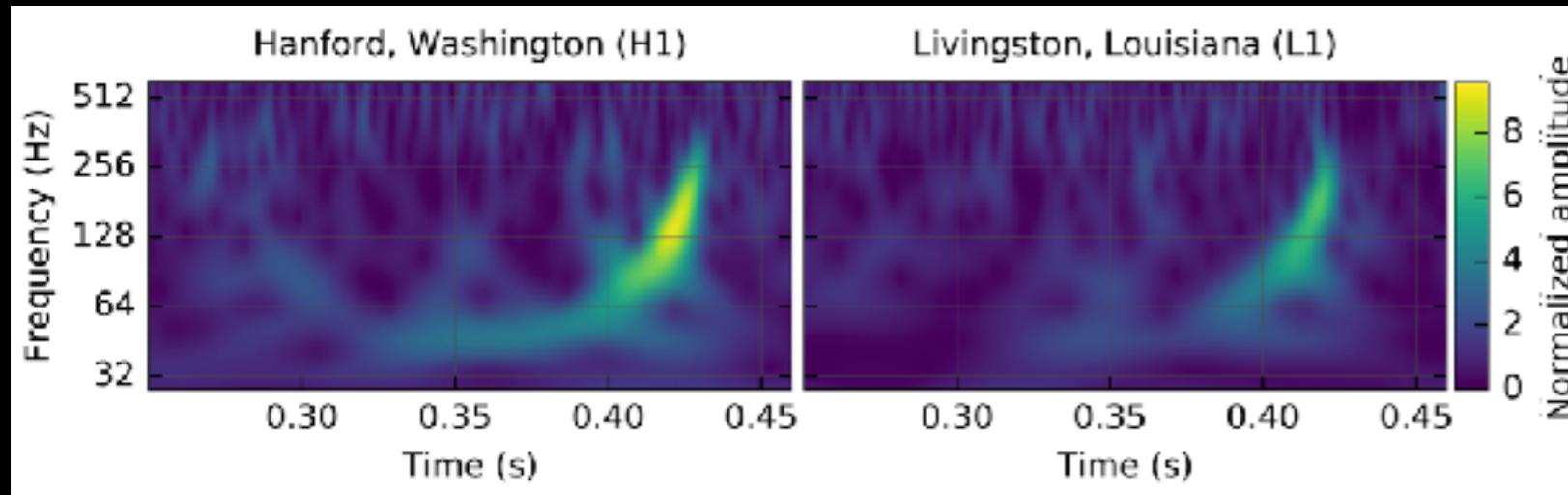


# What did this mean?

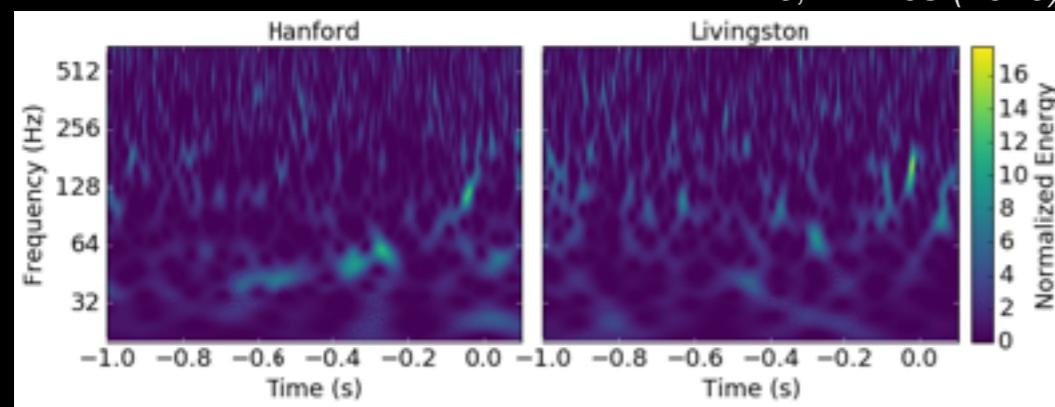
- First direct detection of gravitational waves
  - Opened the field of gravitational-wave astronomy
- Direct observation of stellar mass black holes (3!)
- First observation of two black holes merging to form one final black hole
- No deviations from General Relativity seen in this strong-field, high-velocity regime

# BBH detections

GW150914

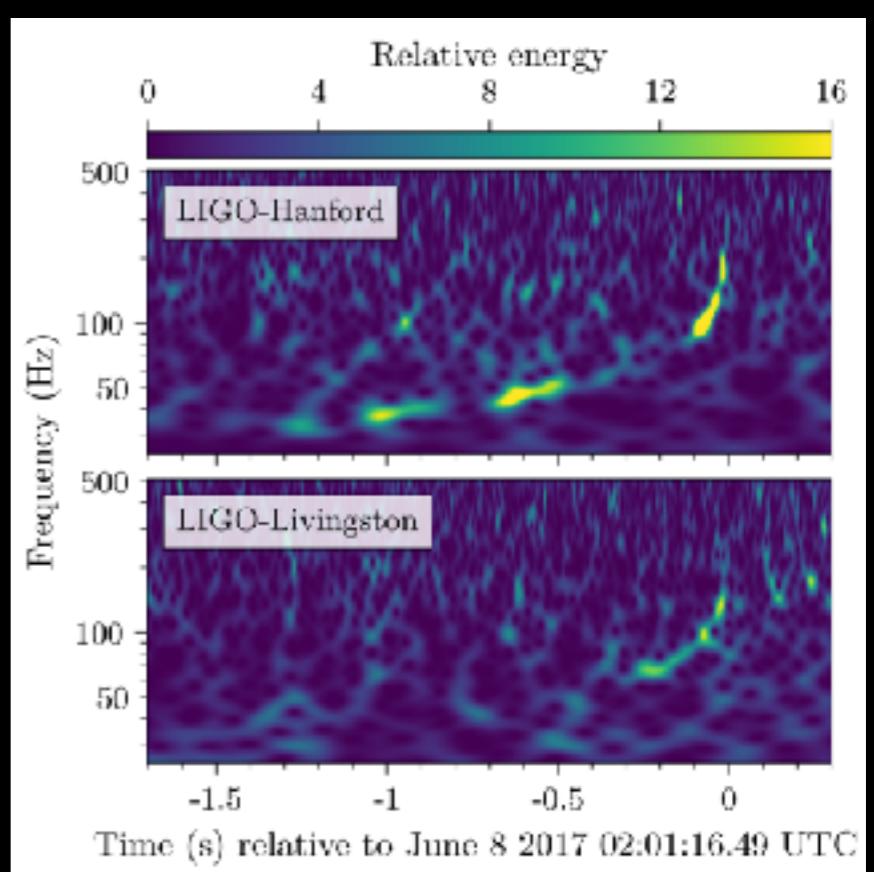


GW151226

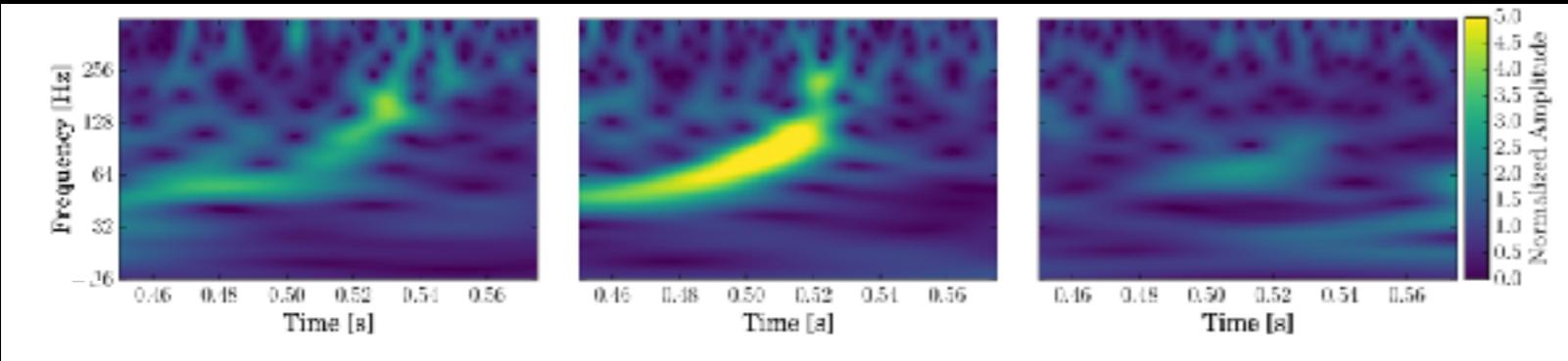


< 2 s of  
data shown  
for each

GW170608



GW170814



# Simulations of BBH sources

Time  
to merger: 0.454 s

GW150914

M=36,29Msun

D=440Mpc

GW151226

M=14,7Msun

D=440Mpc



M=31,19Msun  
D=880Mpc

GW170104

M=12,7Msun  
D=340Mpc

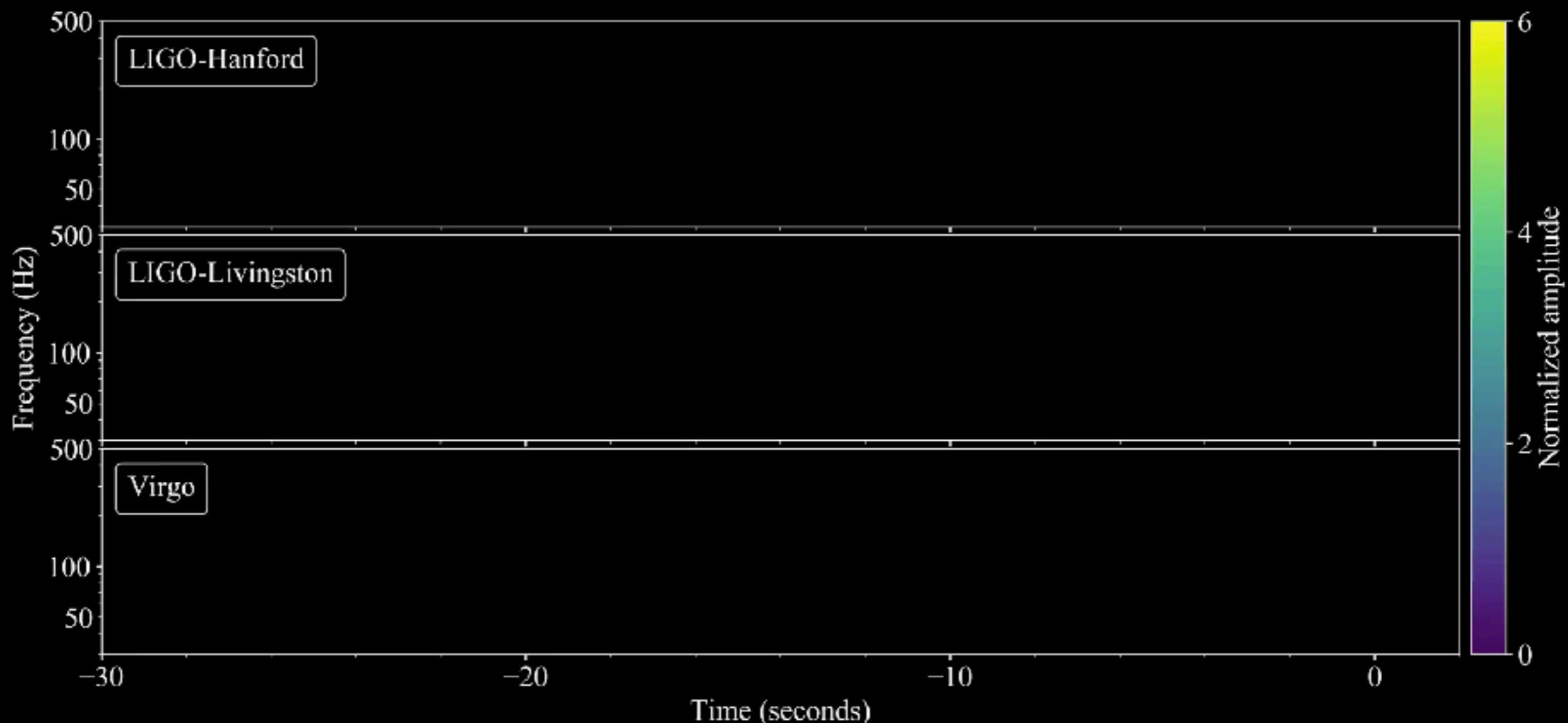
GW170608

M=31,25Msun  
D=540Mpc

GW170814

August 17, 2017 5:41:04AM PDT

# Gravitational waves from a neutron-star merger



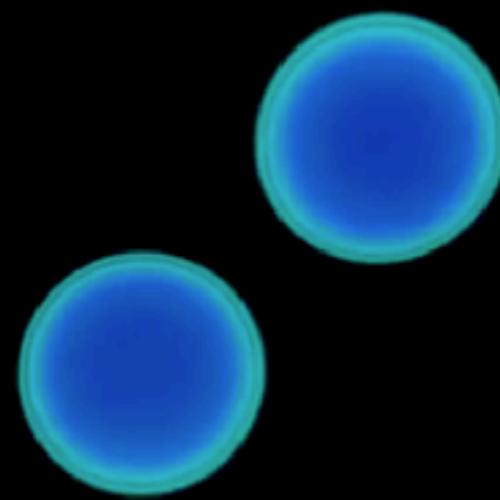
August 17, 2017 5:41:04AM PDT

# Gravitational waves from a neutron-star merger

The LIGO Scientific Collaboration and the Virgo Collaboration

*Visualization created for the LIGO Scientific Collaboration and the Virgo Collaboration by Geoffrey Lovelace, Duncan Brown, Duncan Macleod, Jessica McIver, and Alex Nitz*

*Physical Review Letters 119, 161101 (2017)*  
*doi:10.1103/PhysRevLett.119.161101*



Neutron-star merger simulation: T. Dietrich, S. Ossokine, H. Pfeiffer, A. Buonanno (AEI)

# **BAM** collaboration

## **C**omputational **R**eliativity

Florida Atlantic University

Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics

Università di Parma

Universidade Federal do ABC

**We gratefully acknowledge support by:**

DFG, ERC, FAPESP, INFN, Max Planck Society, MIUR, NSF

GSC, ISCRA, LRZ, NIC, PRACE, XSEDE



# Aftermath

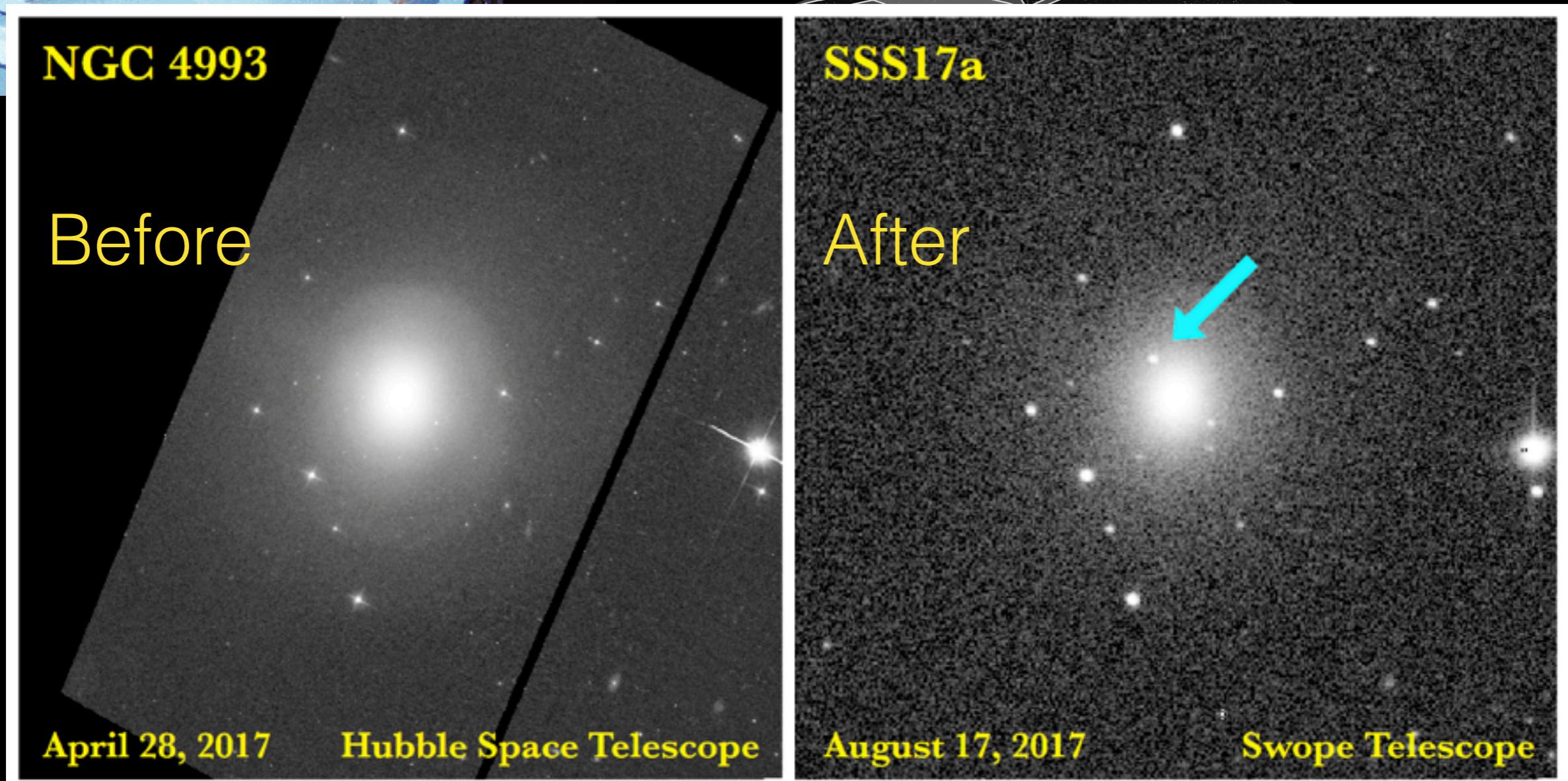
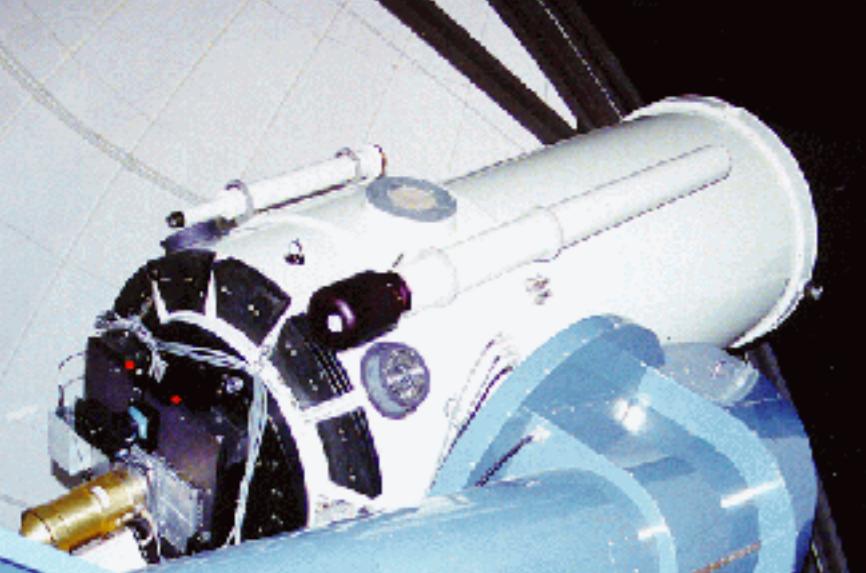
Gamma-ray burst  
recorded 1.7  
seconds later



Fermi:  
NASA/Sonoma State/Aurore Simonnet

NRAO/AUI/NSF/D. Berry

# A Flash of Light





ESO/N.R. Tanvir, A.J. Levan, VIN-ROUGE collaboration

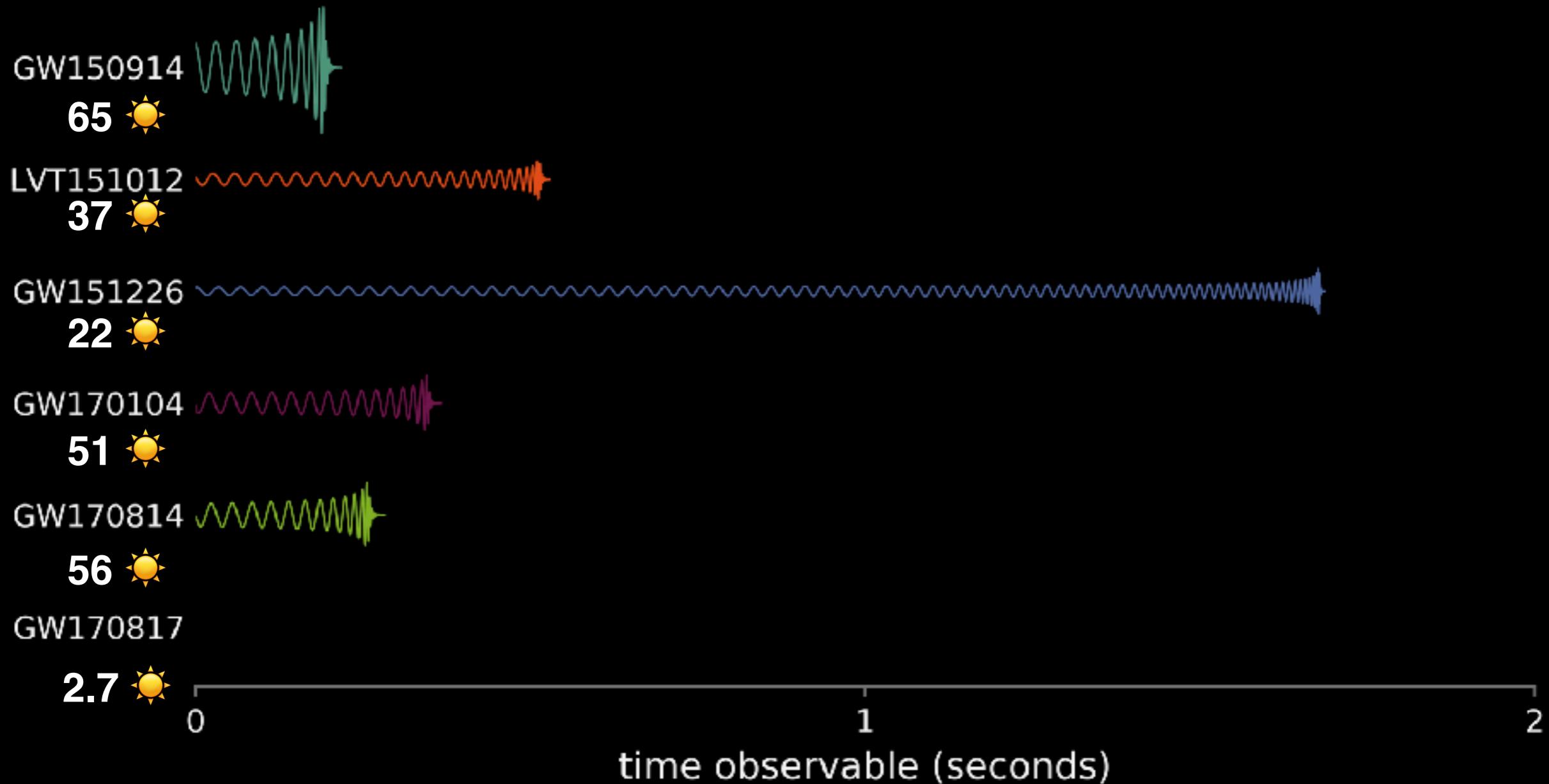
# The Golden Binary

- First joint gravitational-wave and light-wave observation
  - NGC 4993, 130 million light years away
- Mystery solved: neutron star mergers make gamma ray bursts
- Neutron star mergers produce heavy elements in our universe
- Measure that light and gravity travel at the same speed
- A new way to measure the Universe's expansion
- New limits on properties of matter in its densest state

# Where did the elements come from?

# A family of compact binary mergers

Starting at the same *frequency*



# Sources of gravitational waves

Early Universe:

Inflation,  
Phase  
Transitions



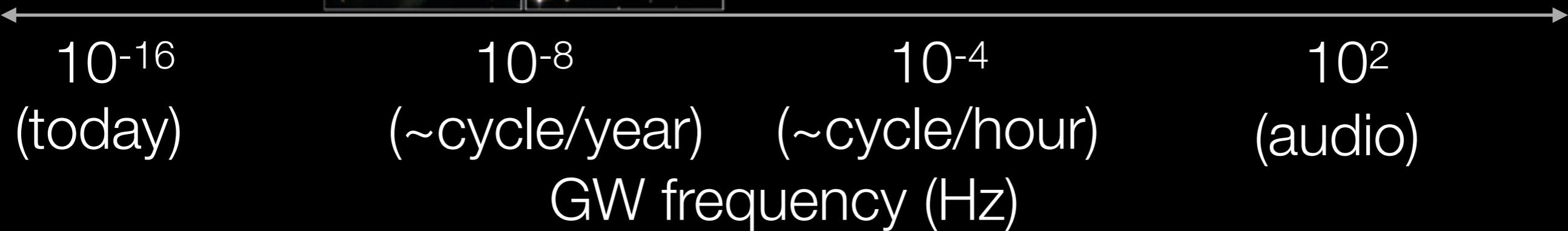
Supermassive  
binary black  
hole mergers



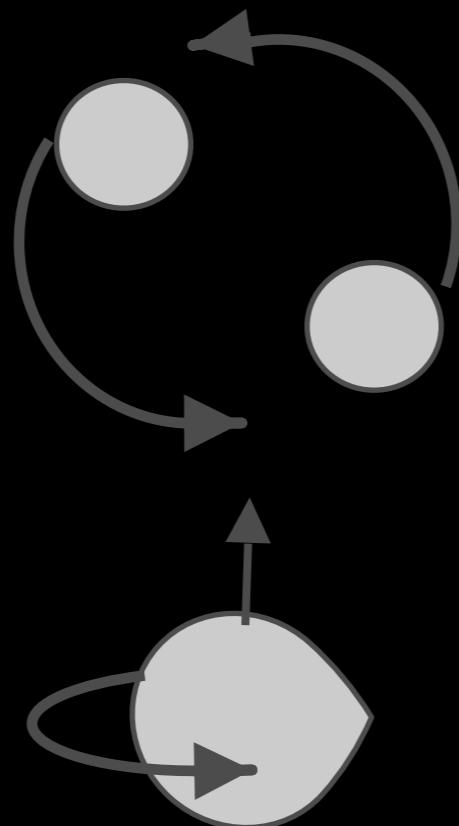
Compact  
objects  
captured by  
supermassive  
black holes

Merging  
compact object  
binaries

LIGO/  
Virgo  
Sources



Colliding neutron stars & black holes

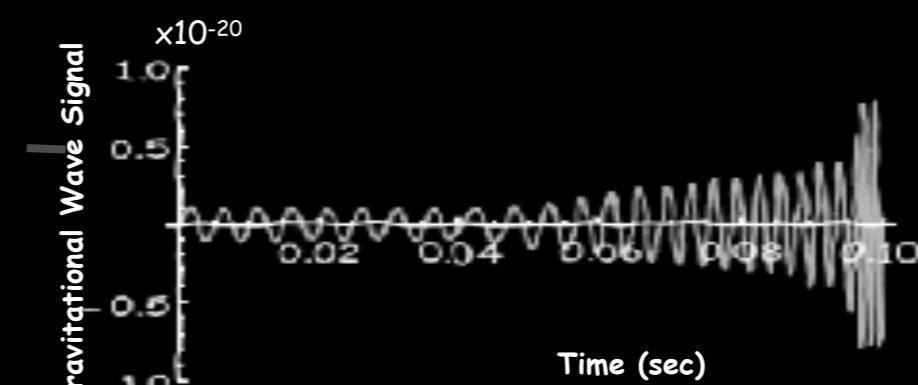
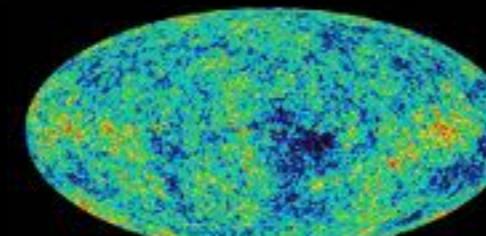


Spinning neutron star with a bump

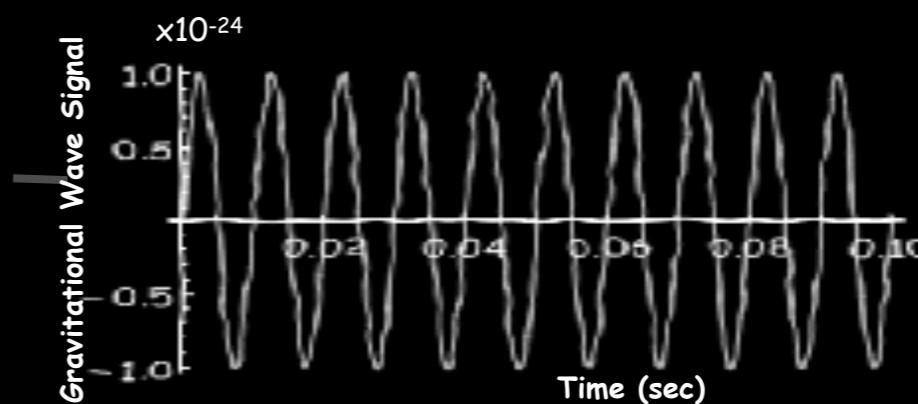


Asymmetrical Supernova

Early Universe gravitational wave background



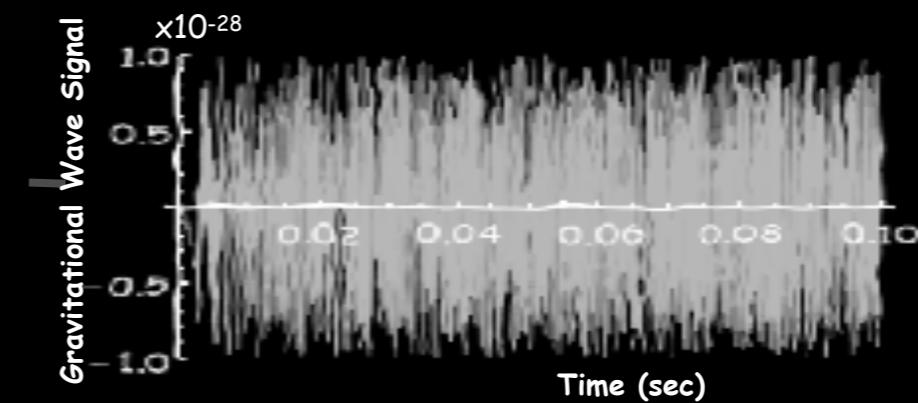
Chirp



Sine wave

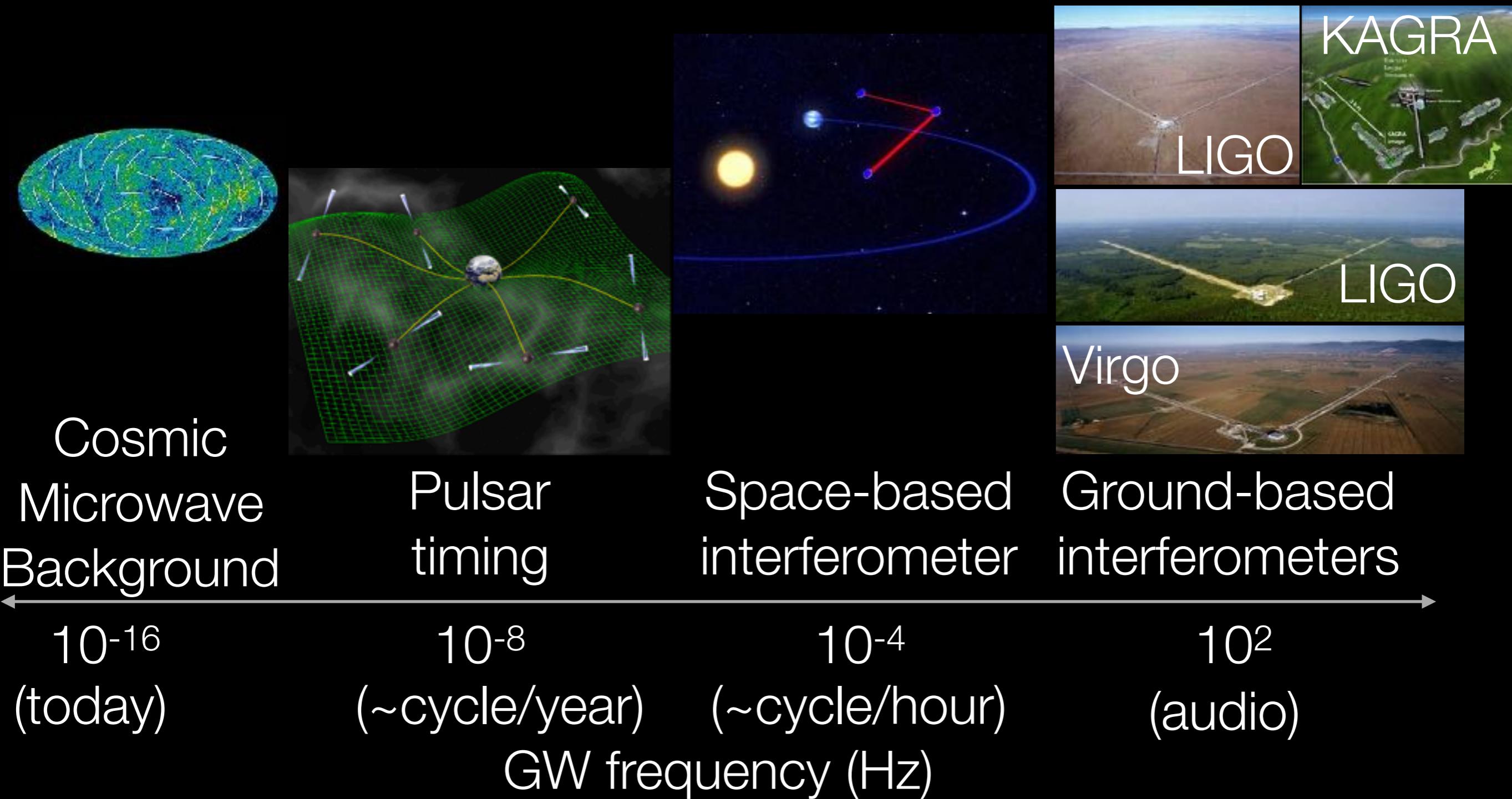


Burst

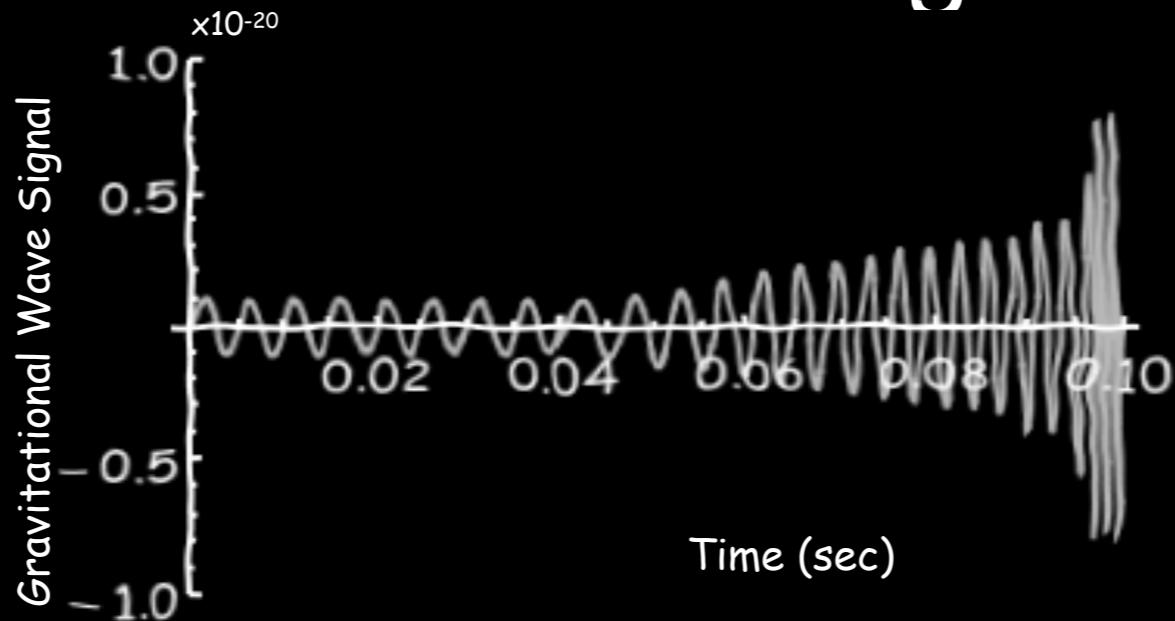


Random noise

# Measuring gravitational waves near Earth



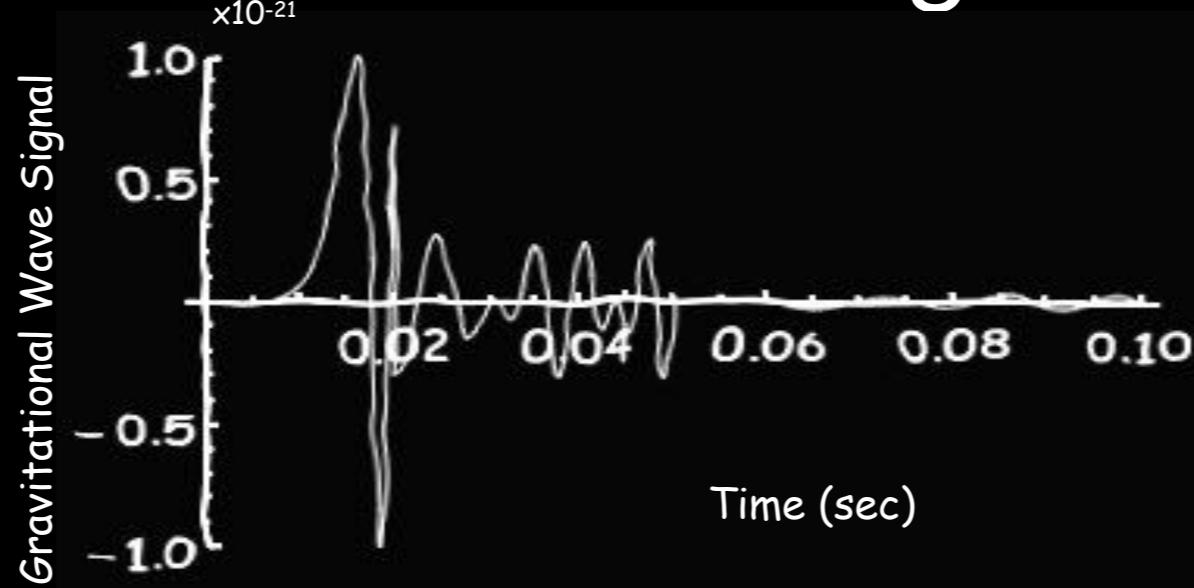
LIGO measures the following waveform:



What is the most likely source?

- A. A nearby red giant going supernova
- B. The hot early universe
- C. A non-spherical pulsar
- D. A neutron star and a black hole spiraling into each other
- E. None of the above

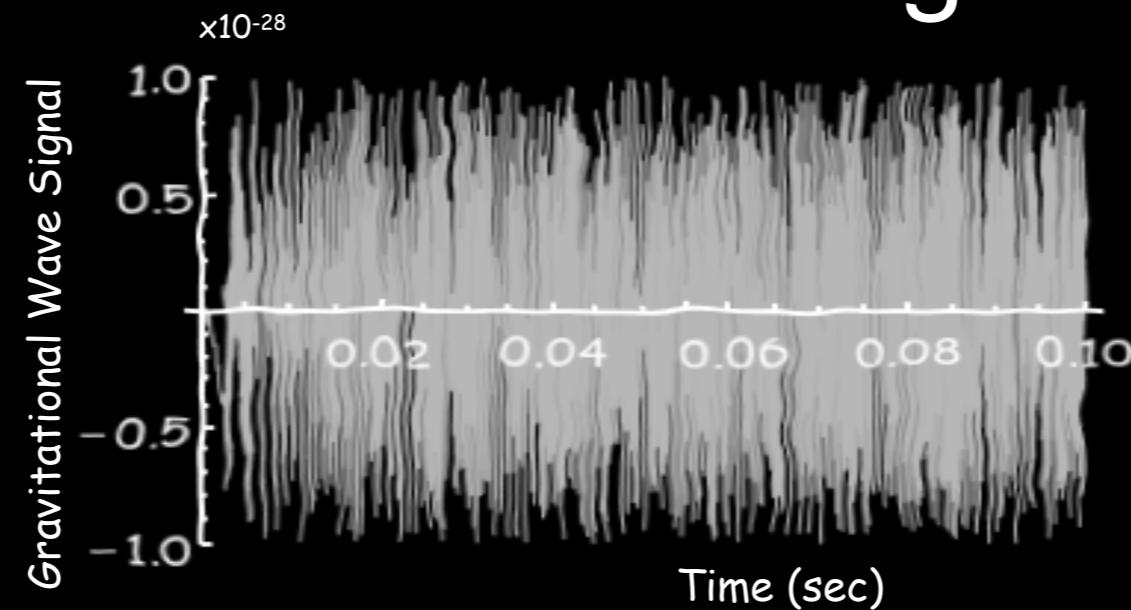
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