



# Data Folding for the Stochastic Gravitational Wave Pipeline



Caltech

Final Presentation  
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# Outline

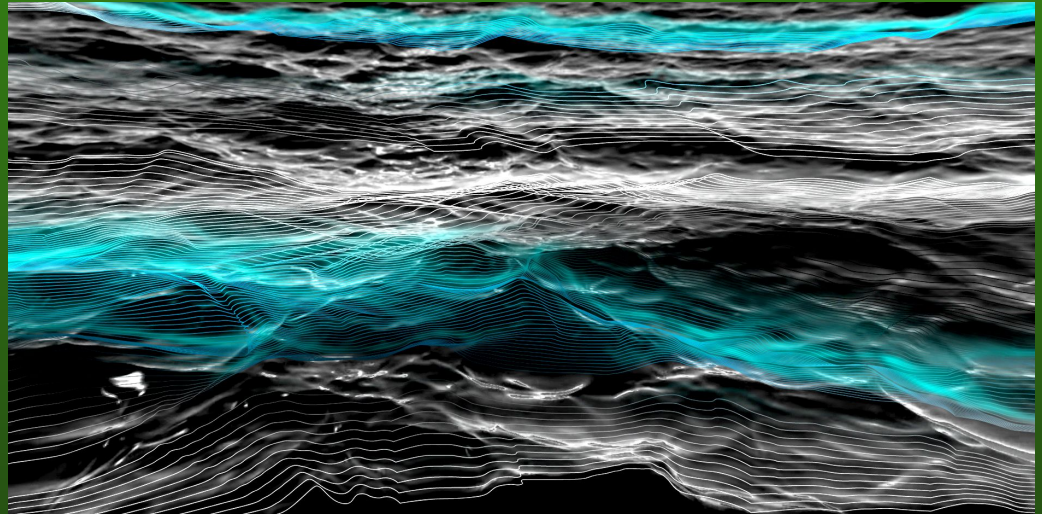
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- Stochastic Signals
- Data folding: process and motivations
- Implementation in real data: O3a Run
- Results

# Stochastic Gravitational Wave Background

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- Sea of unresolved gravitational wave signals
- Individually useless, collectively contain a lot of information

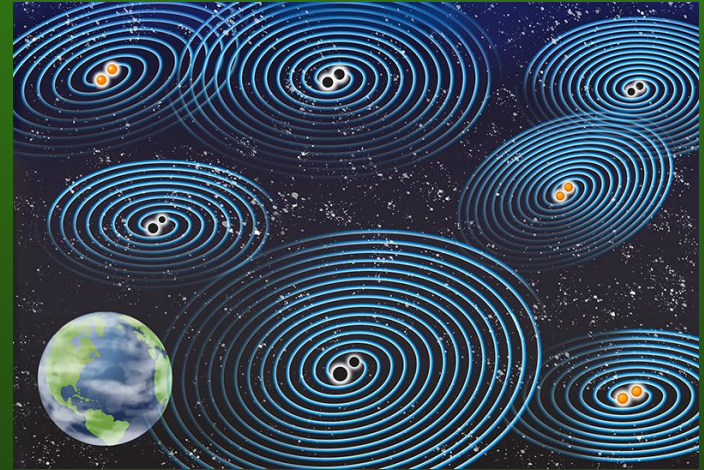


# Why do we care?

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There are two broad categories of stochastic signals:

- A low redshift, astrophysical foreground
  - Measure of large-scale structure independent of EM sources
- A high redshift, cosmological background
  - Evidence for inflation, early-universe phase transitions



# How do we detect weak signals?

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- Cross Correlation!
- The stochastic signal is coherent between the two detectors, while the noise is uncorrelated
- Over time, the noise will be suppressed relative to the signal
- But for such weak signals, we require long stretches of time

# Stochastic Background Detection Statistic

Normalization

Assumed frequency distribution

Overlap function

Dirty Map

$$X = \frac{4}{\tau} \sum_{ft} \frac{H(f) \gamma_{ft, \alpha}^*}{P_{I_1}(t; f) P_{I_2}(t; f)} C_{1,2}(t; f)$$

PSDs

CSD

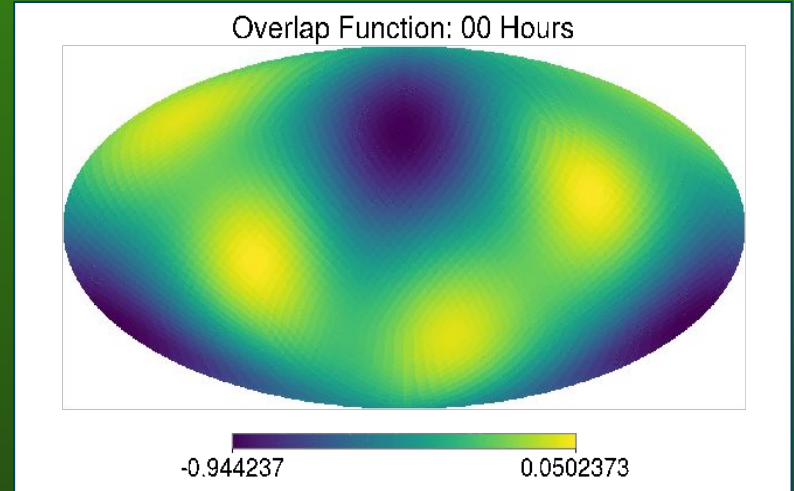
The diagram illustrates the components of the Stochastic Background Detection Statistic equation. A yellow arrow labeled 'Dirty Map' points to the variable  $X$ . A red arrow labeled 'Normalization' points to the coefficient  $\frac{4}{\tau}$ . A red arrow labeled 'Assumed frequency distribution' points to  $H(f)$ . A red arrow labeled 'Overlap function' points to  $\gamma_{ft, \alpha}^*$ . A blue arrow labeled 'PSDs' points to the denominator  $P_{I_1}(t; f) P_{I_2}(t; f)$ . A blue arrow labeled 'CSD' points to the numerator  $C_{1,2}(t; f)$ . The summation is over  $ft$ . A small grey 'I' is positioned above the summation symbol.

# Overlap Function

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The overlap function is a measure of the sensitivity of a pair of detectors to different parts of the sky.

An anisotropic, stationary background will give the same signal at each part of each sidereal day.



# How does folding work?

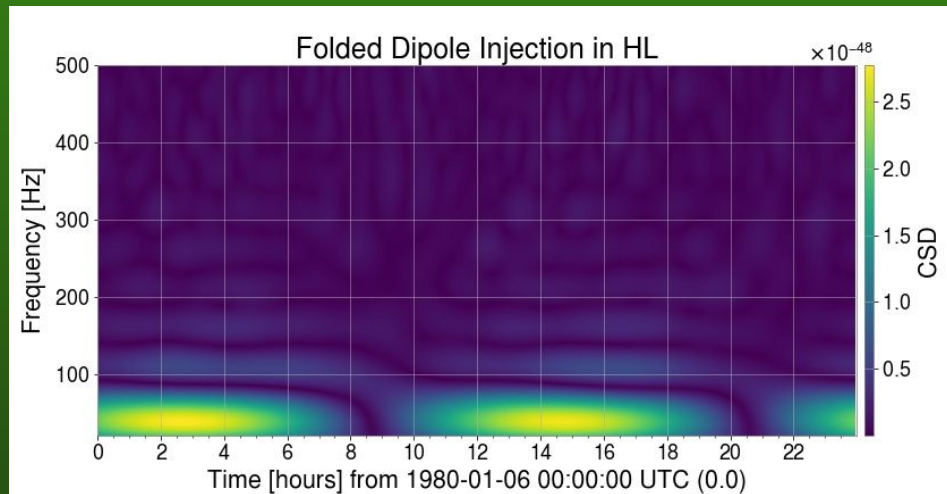
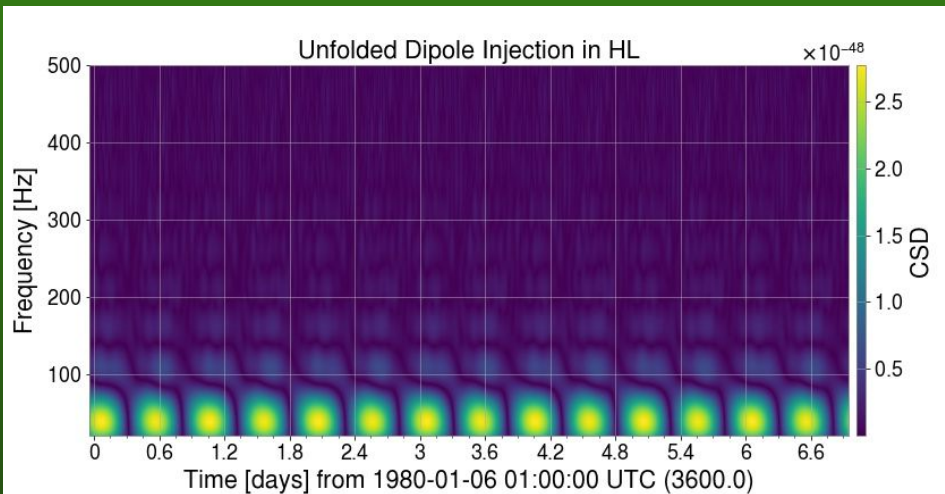
Exploiting the periodic nature of the overlap function, we can re-write these equations as:

$$X = \frac{4}{\tau} \sum_f H(f) \sum_{ft_s} \gamma_{ft_s, \alpha}^{I^*} \sum_{i_{\text{day}}} \frac{CSD(i_{\text{day}}T_s + t_s; f)}{PSDs(i_{\text{day}}T_s + t_s; f)}$$

This sum over  $i_{\text{day}}$  is our data folding. This sum only needs to be performed once, but will speed up subsequent analysis by a factor of  $\sim N_{\text{day}}$ .

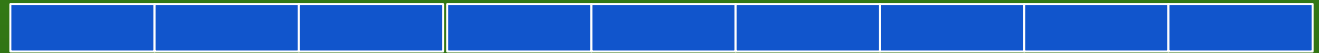


# Folding on Simulated Data



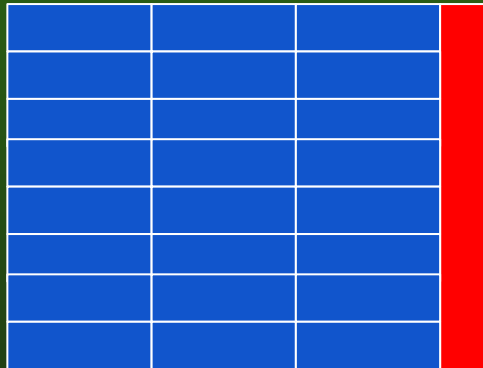
# Mitigating Information Loss in Folding

Unfolded method:

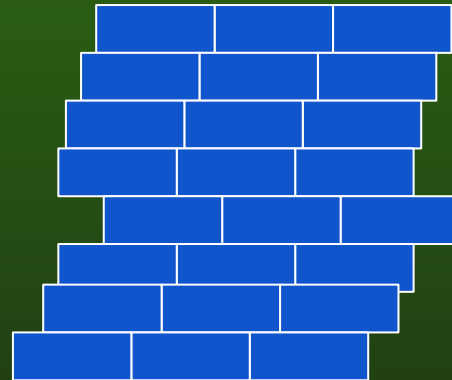


**Problem: fft lengths do not always fit evenly into one sidereal day**

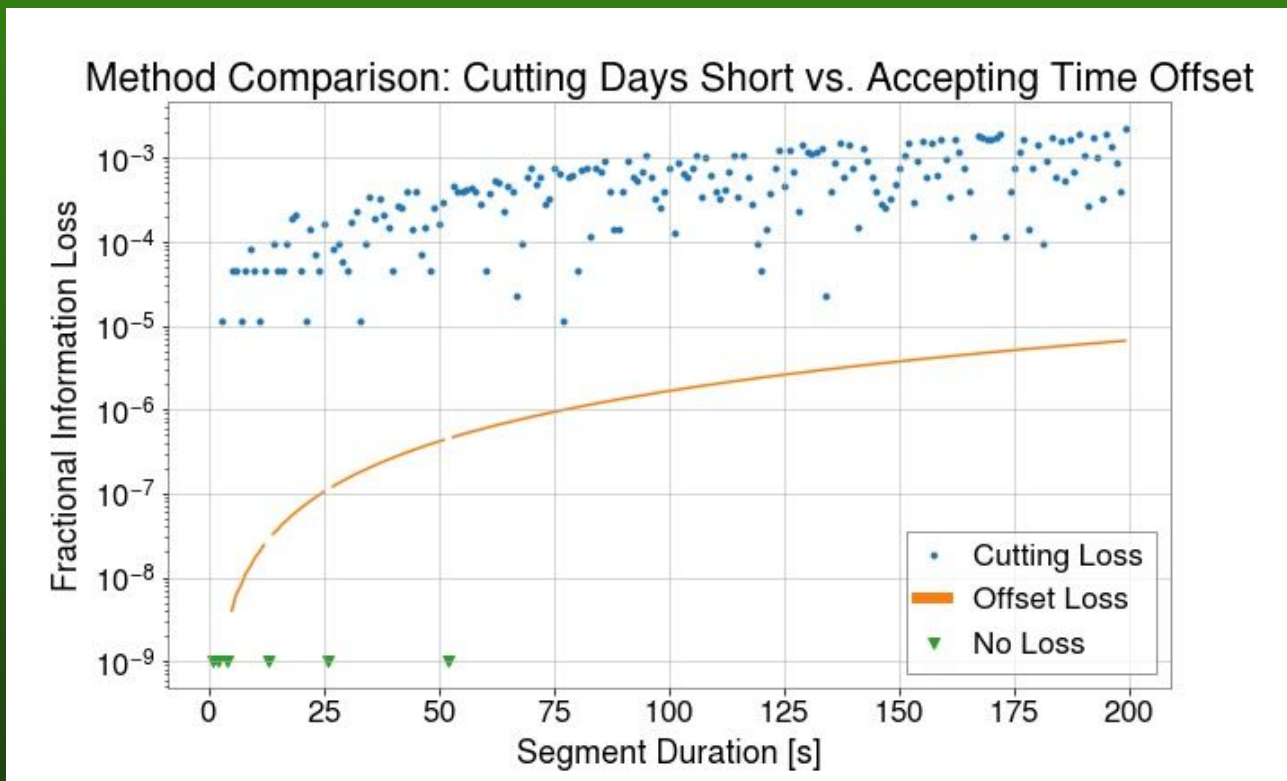
Method 1: Cut days short



Method 2: Keep all times  
with some offset



# Mitigating Information Loss in Folding

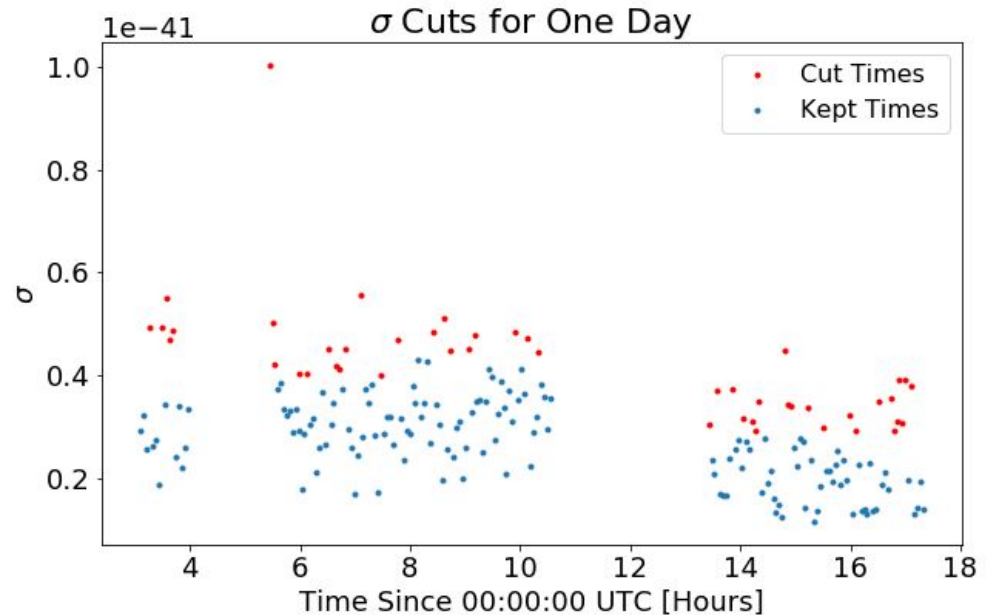


# Data Quality - Delta Sigma Cuts

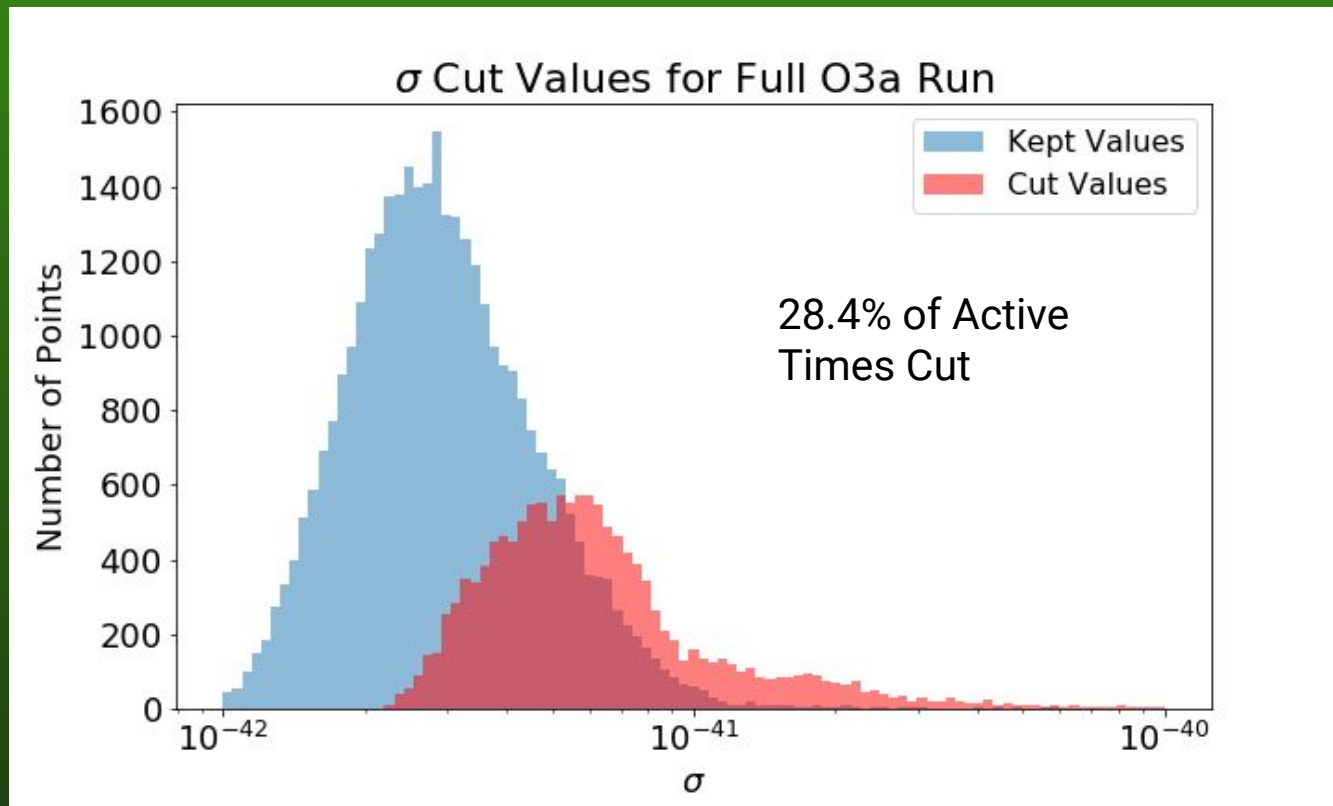
$$\sigma = \sqrt{\sum_f \left( H(f) PSD_1 PSD_2 \right)}$$

For  $H(f) = 1$ :

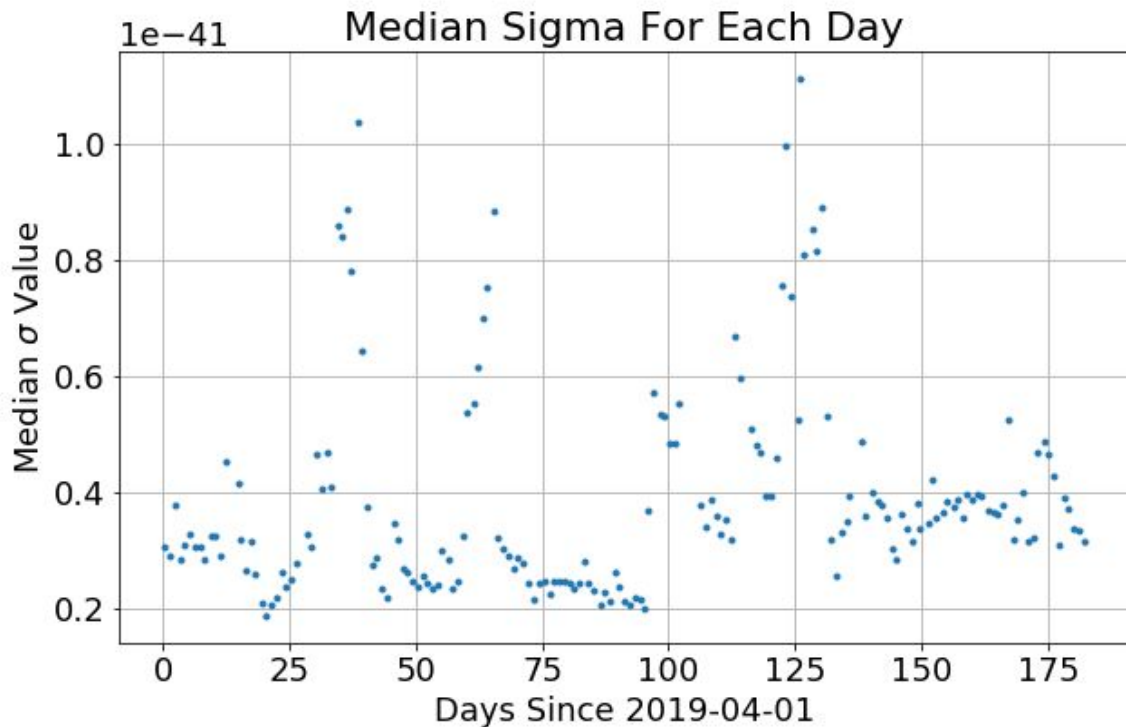
$$\sigma = \sqrt{\sum_f (PSD_1 PSD_2)}$$



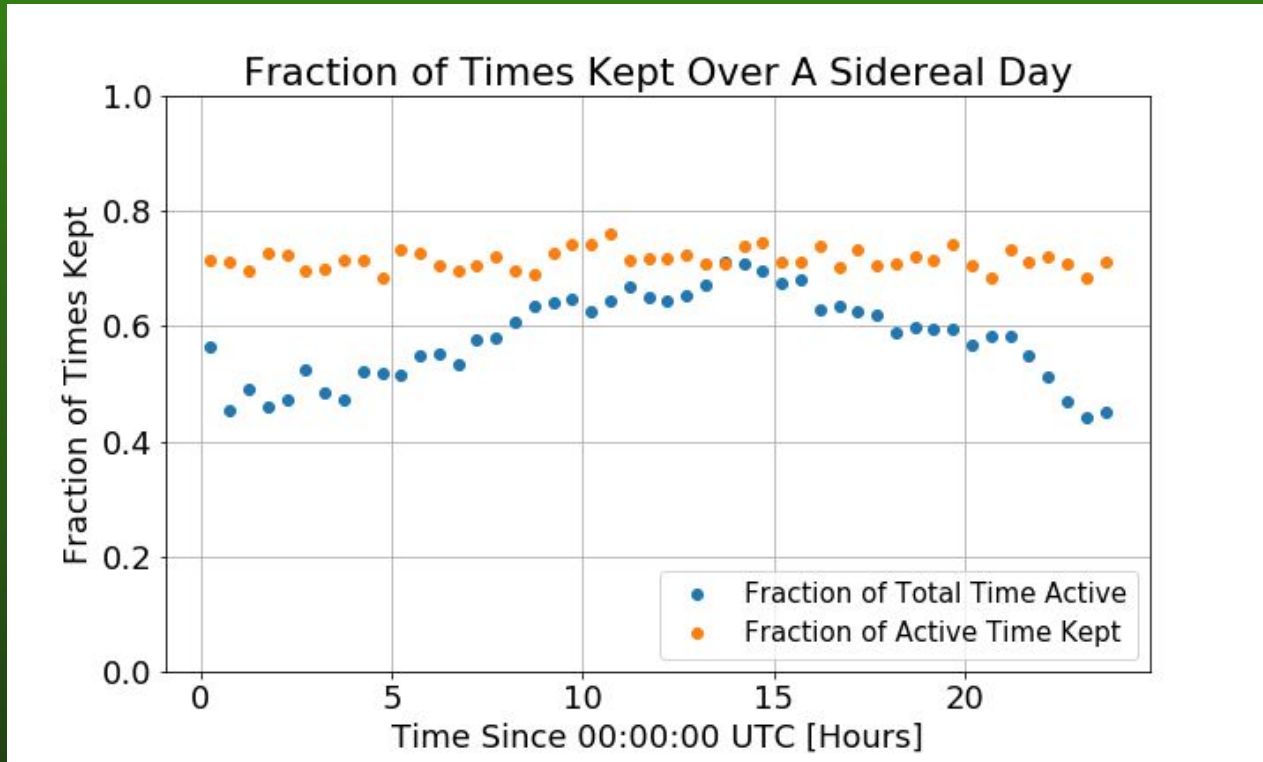
# Sigma Cuts -Full O3a Dataset



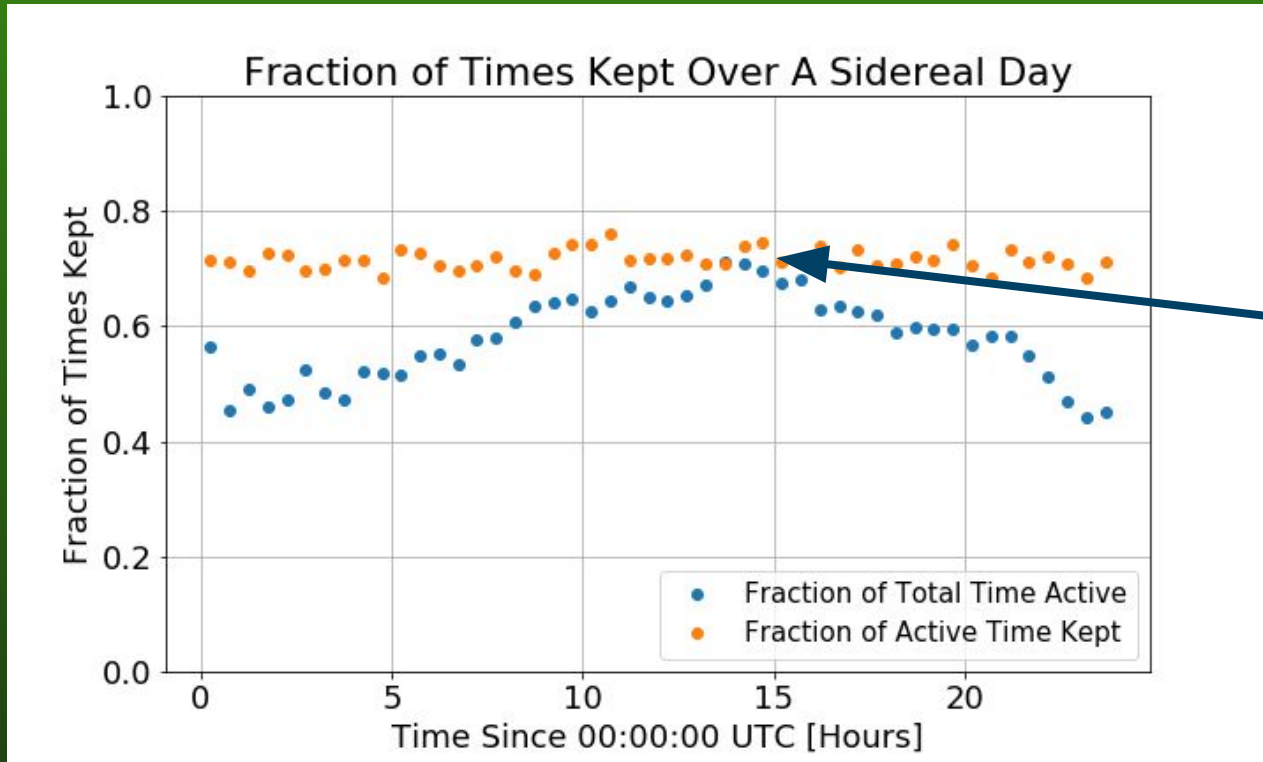
# Sigma Variance Across the Run



# Sampling Variance Across A Sidereal Day



# Sampling Variance Across A Sidereal Day

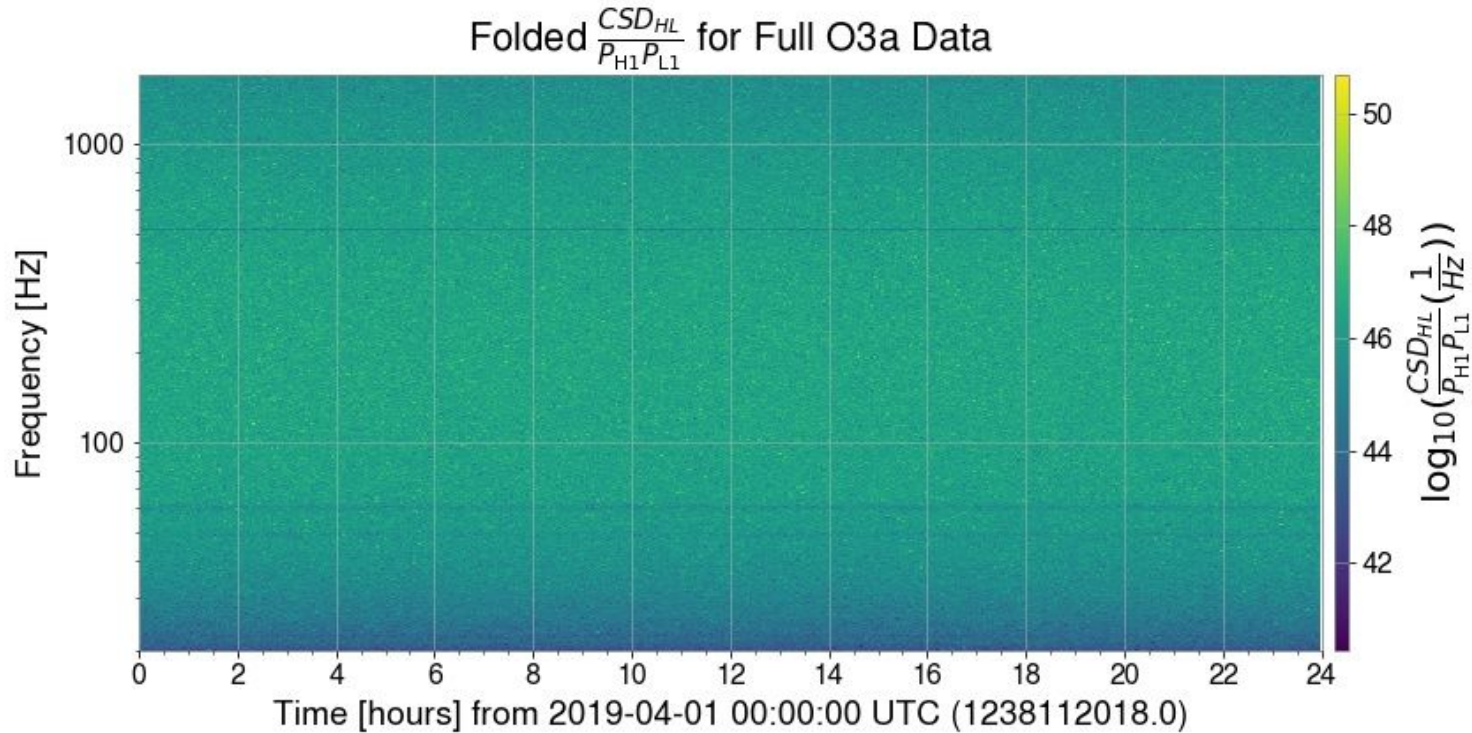


7:00 AM in H1

9:00 AM in L1



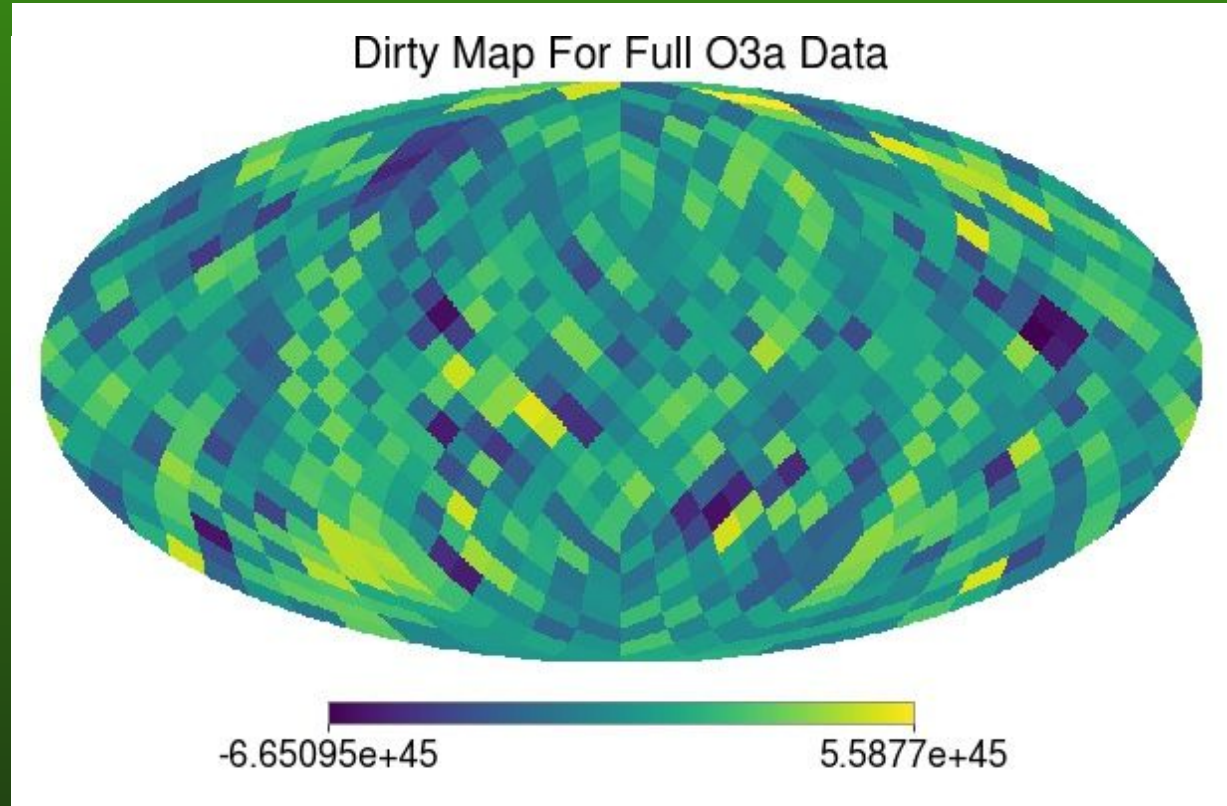
# Final Folded Spectrogram



# Dirty Map

Computation time on  
folded data: 11 hours

Estimated computation  
time for unfolded: 84  
days



# Summary

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- Stochastic data can provide a range of astrophysical and cosmological insights
- The periodic nature of the overlap function and assumed stationarity of the signal allow us to average the data down to the size of a sidereal day
- Folding CSD/PSDs allows for efficient computation of the dirty map, our key stochastic background detection statistic

# Acknowledgements

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I'd like to thank:

My mentors, Arianna Renzini and Colm Talbot

Derek Davis

Alan Weinstein

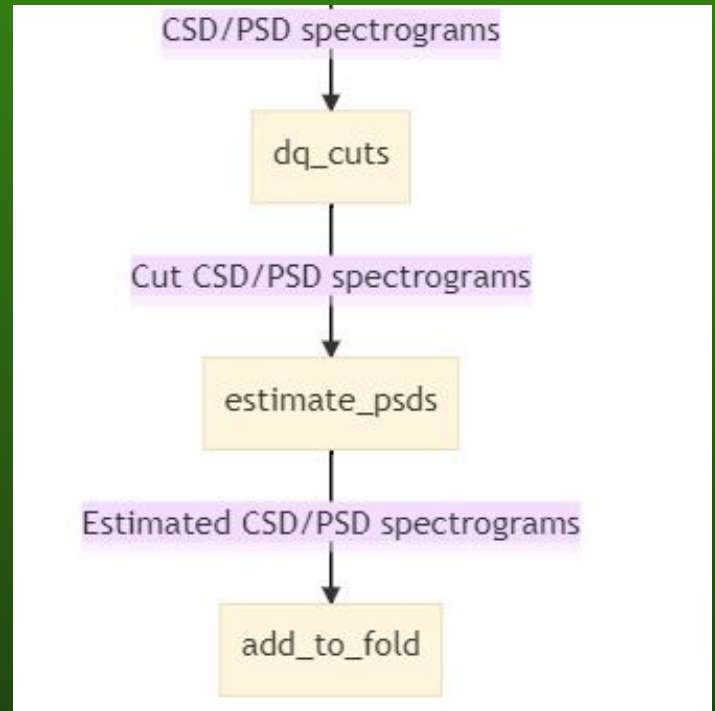
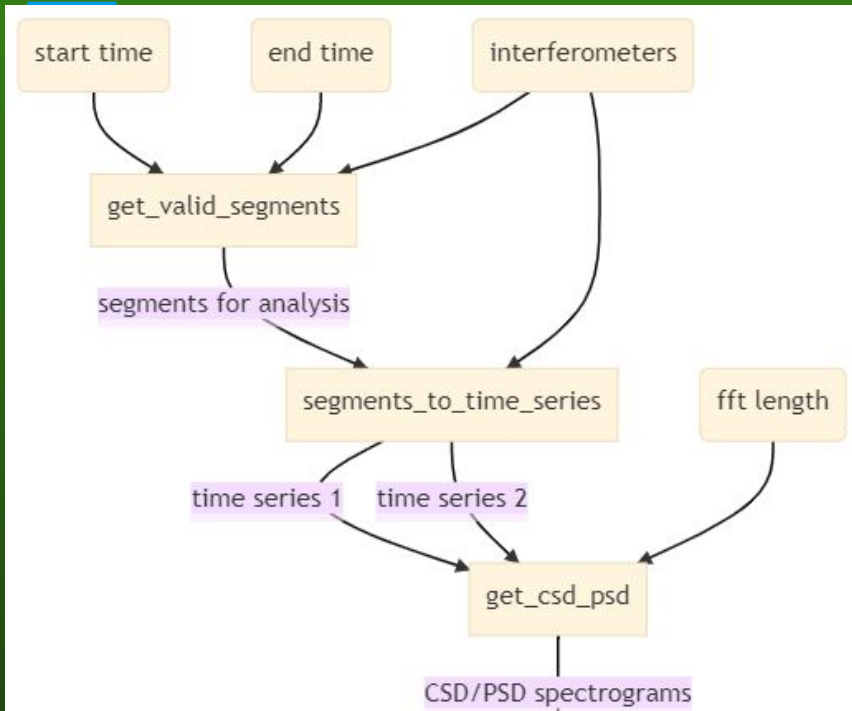
My fellow LIGO SURFs

The NSF and LIGO Lab

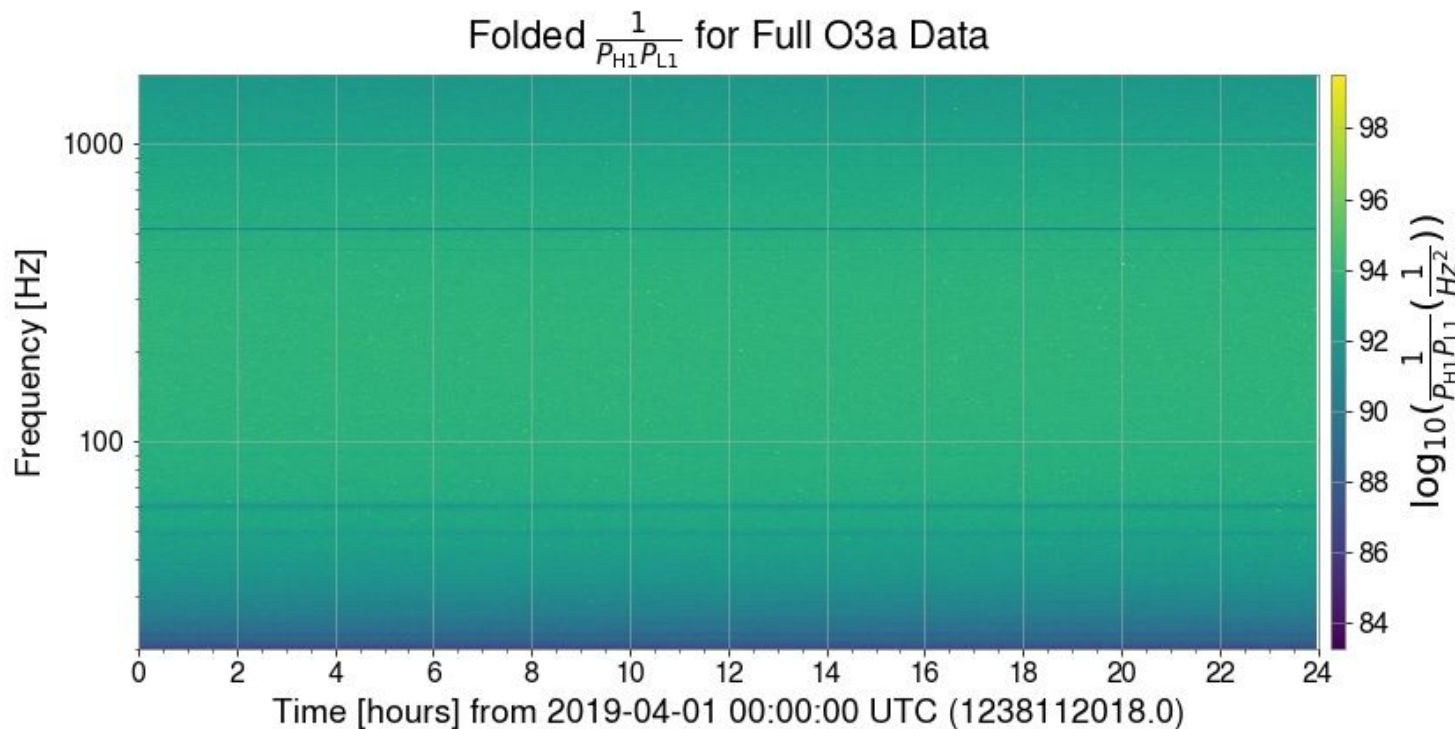
# Backup Slides

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# Workflow



# Final Spectrograms



# Fisher Information Matrix

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$$\Gamma = 4 \sum_{Ift} \frac{H^2(f)}{P_{I_1}(t; f) P_{I_2}(t; f)} \gamma_{ft, \alpha}^{I*} \gamma_{ft, \alpha'}^I$$