

Modular global-fit pipeline for LISA data analysis

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We anticipate that the data acquired by the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) will be dominated by the gravitational wave signals from several astrophysical populations. The analysis of these data is a new challenge and is the main focus of this paper. Numerous gravitational wave signals overlap in the time and/or frequency domain, and the possible correlation between them has to be taken into account during their detection and characterization. In this work, we present a method to address the LISA data analysis challenge; it is flexible and scalable for a number of sources and across several populations. Its performance is demonstrated on the simulated data LDC2a.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) is an ESA-led space-based gravitational wave (GW) observatory to be launched in 2035. It will operate in the millihertz frequency range, which is inaccessible to ground-based detectors. LISA data analysis is challenging because of the large number of signals that overlap in time and frequency. We will observe GW signal from (i) the population of merging massive black hole binaries (MBHBs), these will be the loudest GW sources; (ii) the population of inspiraling Galactic (and extra-Galactic) white dwarf binaries (GBs), from which we expect tens of thousands of individually resolvable sources, making them the most numerous type of sources in LISA; (iii) the population of inspiraling solar mass black holes; (iv) the population of extreme mass ratio inspirals. Besides those populations of binaries, we also expect stochastic GW signal from the energetic processes in the early Universe (for a complete review, please see [1]). We anticipate that the data will be GW dominated, meaning that we do not have a time segment without a detectable GW signal, and GWs stand above instrumental noise from 0.1 mHz to 20 mHz (or maybe even above). This poses a great challenge for data analysis; how to detect, separate, and correctly characterize all sources. The success of the data analysis is the key to

extracting all the exciting science that we want to do postdetection.

We are gradually developing the method, implementing it and testing it on the simulated LISA datasets, which are increasing in complexity and realism. This paper presents a modular prototype of a global fit pipeline for LISA data analysis. As a proof of concept, we apply the pipeline to the training dataset LISA Data Challenge 2 (LDC-2a, a.k.a. “Sangria”) [2]. The simulated data were released to the scientific community with the deadline for submitting the solution. We are using the training dataset where all GW sources, their parameters, and the characteristics of the LISA instrument are revealed. Knowledge of the true parameters of the simulated sources helps in validating the results and addressing the issues but does not enter—directly or indirectly—in the definition of the analysis itself (see [3] for a similar discussion). The “Sangria” data contains a simplified noise model (no gaps and no glitches in the data) with the strongest and most numerous populations of binaries with relatively weak correlation; it aims at the first exploration of the “global fit.” The simulated data contains a population of MBHBs and GBs. The instrumental noise was simulated as a stationary Gaussian process with the color described in [4]. Three groups (besides us) have submitted the results [3,5,6] which vary in implementation and sometimes in the approach (Bayesian in [3,5] vs frequentist [6]). In this work, we do not make any comparative analysis, which is an ongoing effort and will be published separately.

The structure of this paper is as follows. We give a detailed description of the “Sangria” simulated dataset in the next section. Section III being the longest section, we start by introducing the notation and basic notions of data

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analysis, then describe how we search for the MBHB and GB signals in Secs. III B and III C. The found sources are fed into an iterative parameter estimation “wheel of fortune” where we perform the block Gibbs-like sampling across different sources of GW and the noise, described in Sec. III D. We apply the pipeline to “Sangria” and summarize the results in Sec. IV. Finally, we discuss the trajectory for the improvement of the current algorithm and their extension in Sec. V. Throughout the paper, we use geometrical units $G = c = 1$.

II. DATA DESCRIPTION

In this short section, we describe the simulated data “Sangria” which was used to validate the data analysis algorithms.

The instrumental noise was generated as a stationary Gaussian process, the “color” of the noise was based on the acceleration and optical metrology noise components (see [4] for definition and details), however, the level for each noise component was chosen within a Gaussian prior centered on the fiducial values with 20% of variance. Fitting the level of instrumental noise is one of the objectives of this challenge.

The GW sources are added one-by-one and we assume the first generation (TDI-1.5) Michelson measurements (see [4]).

The GB population is based on the model given in [7] for the detached white dwarf binaries. The interacting binaries are added based on the estimations in [8], which should be updated in the next LISA simulations. We have also simulated the most up-to-date set of verification binaries; their live list is maintained in [9]. At the moment of data production, we had information about the 36 verification binaries; white dwarf binaries with known sky position and orbital period (the unknown parameters are simulated from uniform physical priors). In total, the simulated data contains about 30 mln binaries. Most of those sources are too weak (and superposed) to be resolved individually, and they form cyclostationary stochastic GW foreground [10] dominating over the instrumental noise in the range between 0.2 mHz and 5-6 mHz. The shape of this foreground is a function of observation time (we resolve more sources at the high-frequency end of the confusion as more observational data become available) and of performance of the data analysis algorithm used to detect and characterize these sources. Characterizing this astrophysical foreground is an essential task of this challenge. The GW signal is represented by (almost) monochromatic signals, and we assume that all binaries are on circular orbits. We can infer the frequency evolution for binaries at high frequencies, otherwise we can only estimate an upper bound. The GW signal is modulated by the LISA constellation motion in both amplitude (due to the LISA antenna response function) and phase (Doppler modulation). These modulations allow us to localize sources in the sky and create (1/year) harmonics around twice the binary

orbital frequency for the Fourier domain representation of the GW signal (see [10,11]).

The population of merging massive black holes is based on the heavy-seed model with delays (described as “Q3-d” in [12]). In the random draw from multiple realizations of this model, we have got 15 MBHBs. Each binary was simulated using PhenomD [13] model, which assumes that black hole spins are parallel to the orbital angular momentum (no orbital precession) and using only a dominant $(2, \pm 2)$ mode (twice orbital frequency). Note that using only one dominant mode makes it harder to properly estimate the parameters due to multiple degeneracies in the parameter space [14]. All these binaries merge during the one year of the simulated observations and produce GWs with a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) ranging between 77 and 3260. Note that *all* signals could be identified by the eye in the whitened (or band-passed) data. The estimation of the merger time for each binaries could be easily achieved with a precision within ~ 500 sec with a few steps of matched filtering. The accumulation of the SNR for those sources comes from a few hours (for weak and massive binaries) to a few weeks (for bright and “less” massive binaries) before the merger. Therefore, these binaries can be treated as transient GW signals (as compared to 1 year of observation) and can be analyzed in a few-weeks-long data segments. In the frequency domain, the GW signals from MBHBs are broadband and (often) stand above the instrumental noise level. We need to use the data “in-between” mergers to make a first noise power spectral density (PSD) evaluation which enters into the likelihood evaluations. We require just a few days of data to estimate PSD within the analysis frequency band (0.1 mHz to 25 mHz).

III. GLOBAL FIT PROTOTYPE

The analysis of data can be split into “search” for GW signal candidates and the “parameter estimation.”

The main objective of the search part is to detect GW signals or identify the candidates for the weak signals. In this step, we use a maximum likelihood search for one source at a time. This step could be seen as an accelerated burn-in stage for the Bayesian analysis.

The search for MBHBs is described in Sec. III B, and for GBs in Sec. III C. The found sources are added to the parameter estimation step, which is based on the Bayesian approach and is described in Sec. III A. The evaluation of noise PSD is performed iteratively together with updates in the characteristics of GW sources within the global fit pipeline described in Sec. III D. Note that the parametrized noise model includes GW foreground from the unresolved GBs.

A. Data analysis tools

We assume that the data $d(t)$ is given by the noise $n(t)$ and the superposition of the GW source $\sum_i s_i(t)$. The data

here is presented by the time-delay interferometry TDI-1.5 (see [4]), moreover, we work only with two “noise-orthogonal” combinations usually denoted as $d = \{A, E\}$. Note that these combinations have uncorrelated noise with the same spectral properties (by construction of the simulated data). We assume that the noise is stationary and Gaussian, which is definitely true for the simulated instrumental noise. The stochastic foreground due to GBs is cyclo-stationary [15]; however, on the MBHB signal’s time scale, we can consider the noise as stationary. The level of GB foreground varies slowly in time, and, as a result, the spectral shape of the noise in the frequency domain is a function of the volume of data we analyze. We consider the entire one year of data for the analysis of the GBs in the frequency domain, so that the evaluated spectrum is an average over one year, which does not change, and data again can be considered Gaussian in the frequency domain. As a result, we have a Gaussian likelihood, and its logarithm is given as

$$\ln \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \ln \prod_i S_n(f_i) - \frac{1}{2} (d - H|d - H), \quad (1)$$

where S_n is the noise PSD at the set of observed frequencies $f_i = i/T_{\text{obs}}$, with T_{obs} the total observation time, and the matched-filter inner product is defined as

$$(a|b) = 4\text{Re} \int_{f_{\min}}^{f_{\max}} \frac{\tilde{a}(f)\tilde{b}^*(f)}{S_n(f)} df, \quad (2)$$

where tilde denotes Fourier transformed data. The combination of deterministic (and resolvable) sources could be split into GBs and MBHBs: $H(t, \vec{\Theta}) = \sum_k H_{\text{GB}}(t, \vec{\Theta}_k^{\text{GB}}) + \sum_{k'} H_{\text{MBHB}}(t, \vec{\Theta}_{k'}^{\text{MBHB}})$.

We do not know *a priori* the number of GW sources in the data, so the idea is to perform the search with a subsequent model selection step where we consider several competing models, say models M_n and M_{n+1} which are assumed that there are n and $n+1$ sources in the data correspondingly. The probability of each model is given (according to Bayesian theorem) as

$$p(M_i|d) = \frac{p(d|M_i)\pi(M_i)}{p(d)}, \quad (3)$$

where we always denote the prior probability as $\pi(\cdot)$ and $p(d)$ is probability of the data which plays the role of unknown normalization, which forces us to consider the Bayes factor:

$$\mathcal{B}_{M_n/M_{n+1}} = \frac{p(d|M_n)}{p(d|M_{n+1})}. \quad (4)$$

The Bayes factor is equal to the odds ratio for the uniform prior over the models (which we always assume here). The evidence $p(d|M_i)$ for each model is given as

$$p(d|M_i) = \int p(\vec{\theta}|d, M_i)\pi(\vec{\theta}|M_i)d\vec{\theta}. \quad (5)$$

The posterior distribution of parameters for each model (parameters of GBs, MBHBs and the noise model) is evaluated using Markov Chain Monte Carlo techniques with parallel tempering (m3c2 [16], lisabeta (available at [17])):

$$p(\vec{\theta}|d, M_i) = \frac{p(d|\vec{\theta}, M_i)\pi(\vec{\theta}|M_i)}{p(d|M_i)}. \quad (6)$$

Before we proceed we should introduce a general \mathcal{F} -statistic which is the result of maximization of the log-likelihood over the coefficients a_j of the linear model of the signal $h(\vec{\theta}) = \sum_j a_j h_j(t, \vec{\theta}')$ (see [18–20]) which can be written as

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{2} X_i M_{ij}^{-1} X_j, \quad (7)$$

where $X_i = (d|h_i)$, $M_{ij} = (h_i|h_j)$. During the search, we use likelihood (ratio) as a detection statistic. The introduced above \mathcal{F} -statistic is the result of analytic maximization of the likelihood over some parameters, reducing the parameter space’s dimensionality. We will be using \mathcal{F} -statistic during the search step for both populations of binaries and will give a detailed description of the GW signals of each type.

B. Search for MBHBs

The search for merging MBHBs is relatively trivial for the astrophysical models used in the simulation of Sangria. Mergers can be seen by the eye in whitened data, so this is not strictly speaking a detection problem. However, we still need to quickly assess the merger time and intrinsic parameters of the binary. This can be done in a “kick-off” step where we optimize the model’s parameters (maximum likelihood) and subtract the signal. The MBHBs are the loudest signals in the data, their broadband nature corrupts the estimation of noise PSD and hinders the detection of the quasimonochromatic GB sources.

The suppression of MBHB mergers does not require to be perfect, only to be good enough to allow the detection of the GB and to start an iterative parameter estimation process. We, therefore, favour efficiency over accuracy.

To achieve the efficient suppression of MBHBs, we exploit their transient nature: most of the SNR for these signals comes within a few weeks prior to the merger. We analyze the data in 2-week long segments. We also make a crude approximation to the model of the GW signal; in particular, we assume a static LISA in the response functions and further partially decompose the response assuming $\omega L \ll 1$, where L is LISA armlength and ω is GW angular frequency. Note that, this is in many respects a phenomenological template waveform, where we care

mainly about the accuracy of its phase evolution, which depends on the intrinsic parameters of the binary; masses and spins. We are using the PhenomD model which gives GW strain decomposed in the spherical harmonics. Following [14,21], the single link response kernel of LISA is given as¹

$$G_{\text{slr}}^{\ell m} \approx i\pi f L \exp(2i\pi f \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{p}_0) [\mathbf{n}_1 \otimes \mathbf{n}_1] : \mathbf{P}_{\ell m}, \quad (8)$$

with ℓm indices of a particular GW harmonic. We use a multiharmonic expression to emphasize the generality of our approach, even though we use only $(2, \pm 2)$ harmonics in the analysis. In addition, \mathbf{k} is the direction of GW propagation, \mathbf{p}_0 is the position of the center of the LISA constellation, \mathbf{n}_1 is the link unit vector pointing from the sending spacecraft to the receiving spacecraft, and $\mathbf{P}_{\ell m}$ is the polarization matrix corresponding to ℓm harmonic. With this approximation, the A and E data templates (waveforms) can be expressed in frequency domain as [14],

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{A}^{\ell m}, \tilde{E}^{\ell m} := & i\sqrt{2} \sin(2\pi f L) e^{-2i\pi f L} (-6i\pi f L) \\ & \times e^{2i\pi f \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{p}_0} F_{a,e}^{\ell m} \tilde{h}^{\ell m}, \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where $F_{a,e}^{\ell m}$ are the antenna beam functions, respectively, for A and E channels, and $\tilde{h}^{\ell m}$ is the waveform harmonics determined by the intrinsic parameters, i.e., the masses and the spins of the binary. Two additional parameters are the luminosity distance defining the amplitude and the merger time. Since we neglect the LISA constellation motion, the antenna beam functions are just constant terms. Note that we do not expand the scaling factors in the long wavelength approximation in Eq. (9).

Strictly speaking, the merger cannot be considered a “long wavelength approximation,” however we have noticed that modifying $e^{-2i\pi f L}$ to $e^{-4i\pi f L}$ improves the agreement of our crude approximation with the signal that includes a full response and the merger, therefore we adopt this change in the search. The resulting template is simple and fast to generate. Note that this signal also had a desired form for applying the \mathcal{F} -statistic maximizing over the amplitudes and the constant phase in A and E channels. We also maximize over the merger time using the Fourier transform, the procedure often used in the ground-based data analysis by the LIGO-Virgo-Kagra Collaboration.

The described above procedure allows us efficiently maximize the likelihood over all extrinsic parameters: distance, sky position, time of coalescence, polarization, initial phase. We reduced the dimensionality of the search space to four intrinsic parameters (masses and spins). Using the \mathcal{F} -statistic (with the time-shift) we analytically maximize the likelihood over the extrinsic parameters. In this

way, we reduce the dimensionality of the search space to the four intrinsic parameters. We used Powell’s conjugate direction method [22] to maximize the likelihood function for the run presented in this paper. In the end, we have the maximum likelihood reconstruction of each MBHB signal within the limits of the faithfulness of our approximate model. We have also considered an alternative approach where we run MCMC on the \mathcal{F} -statistic (as an optimizer) using an original long wavelength approximation and truncating the data in the frequency domain outside of its validity. Both approaches give comparable results in precision and efficiency.

As a next step, we fix intrinsic parameters at their maximum likelihood values and run MCMC using a full likelihood and a long wavelength approximation to recover the extrinsic parameters. The complete set of parameters is used to construct the reference waveform in the heterodyning procedure (described in Sec. III D 1) in the first loop of the global iteration procedure.

C. Search for GBs

The bandwidth of each GB is very narrow (typically 2 μHz) and we search/analyze these sources in the frequency domain, splitting the full range in the overlapped sub-bands, forming a total of 4663 bands.

The search part for GB is closely integrated with the parameter estimation part, which we describe in Sec. III D 2. The GW signal from each GB is characterized by eight parameters; the central frequency f , the frequency derivative \dot{f} , the ecliptic latitude β , the ecliptic longitude λ , the amplitude A , the inclination angle ι , the polarization angle ψ , and the initial orbital phase Φ . Note that the signal is decomposable in $h = \sum_j a_j \tilde{h}_j(f, \theta_{\text{GB}}^j)$ where $j = \overline{1, 4}$ and the coefficients a_j are functions of the extrinsic parameters (A, ι, ψ, Φ). The corresponding \mathcal{F} -statistic depends only on the sky position (λ and β), the central frequency f and the derivative \dot{f} [11].

We perform the search (maximum \mathcal{F} -statistic) on a constant grid similar to the algorithm described in [11,23]. The grid is generated in a box delimited by the prior distribution of the intrinsic parameters, and the found candidate is processed in the parameter estimation part, both described in detail there. The search is performed in each iteration cycle. The grid is quite coarse, so (in the spirit similar to [11]) the grid search is refined with a short MCMC run on the \mathcal{F} -statistic and by Powell optimization [22]. The template grid above 18 mHz is quite large, while we expect only a few sources, so we employ a stochastic search method; adaptive particle swarm optimization, APSO [24].

D. Gibbs-like iterations

The simulated data is analyzed in the narrow frequency bands for GBs and in short time-series segments for MBHBs. We need to glue these two approaches together

¹Note that there is a typo of $\frac{1}{2}$ in the corresponding equation presented in [14].

in addition to the broadband estimation of the overall noise (including the GW foreground).

We use a previously suggested approach [Cornish and Cutler, *private communication*, (see also [25] for a discussion of global fit)] performing block-Gibbs sampling across GW signals of different types with some important specificity described below. In block-Gibbs sampling, we assume that the sources of different kinds weakly correlate, so we sample one type of source at a given step, passing on the residuals to sample the next type of GW sources in turn. Note that the assumption of the “weak correlation” impacts only the method’s efficiency but not its applicability.

In practice, all different source blocks run concurrently, but the noise block needs to run sequentially.

For each MBHB found in the kick-off step, we initialize a module block and feed it with the maximum likelihood estimation of parameters. In the next iteration loop, the reference parameters of each MBHB are set to the last point of the Markov chain from the previous loop. In addition, we supply the data as residuals, where all other identified sources are subtracted. Lastly, we also provide the latest estimate of the noise model used in the likelihood evaluation. We perform MCMC sampling with parallel tempering and then record the resulting chain on the data storage.

For each narrow frequency band, we instantiate the GB block module. Similarly, the input is an initial set of parameters for each source currently considered in this sub-band, residual (other GWs subtracted) data, and the current noise model. The search and parameter estimation steps are performed in this block in turn. The newly identified during the search GB candidates are added to the model and used in Bayesian parameter estimation. At the exit of the block, we save the chains on the data storage.

The data, together with the set of parameters at the end of MBHB and GB block runs, are passed to the noise estimation block, which estimates the parameters of the noise model.

All chains are saved on the data storage, and the end points are passed as input to the next iteration. Schematically, it can be presented as Algorithm 1 and Fig. 1.

Algorithm 1. Global-fit framework.

```

Data: Simulated data
Result → Joint posterior distribution of all found sources and
noise parameters;
begin MBHB search: kick-off step
  Search for MBHBs in 2-weeks-long segments; parallelley
foreach data segment do
  Estimate intrinsic parameters and the merger time
begin the iterative step
  Spawn instances of GW source blocks and the noise block;
while convergence is not achieved do
  Perform the noise block algorithm;
  parallelley foreach source block instance do
  Perform the corresponding block algorithm;
    
```

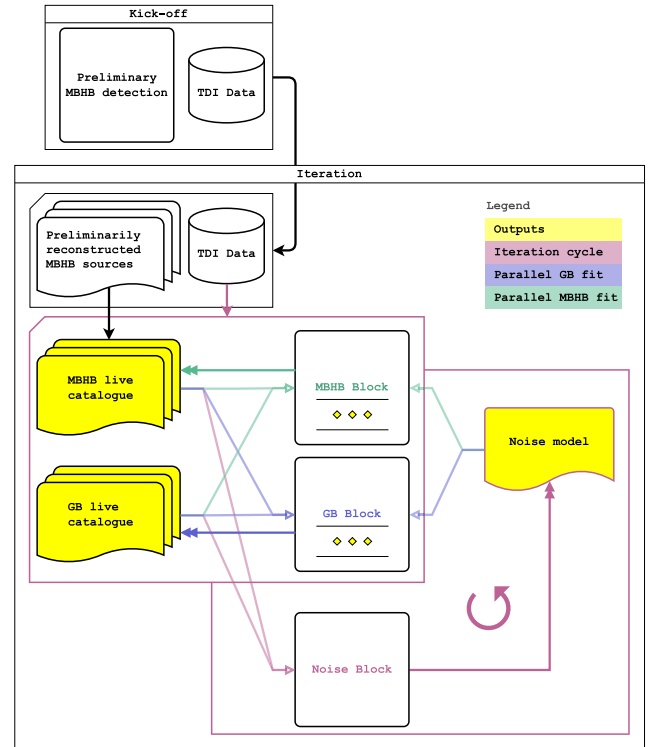


FIG. 1. Architecture of the pipeline. Arrows indicate the flow of information. Black arrows mean the piece of information is passed only once in the full process, whereas the other colors indicate the information is transferred for each iteration cycle. Inside each cycle, the MBHB and GB blocks run concurrently and the noise block runs sequentially after other blocks are finished.

Next, we describe each block algorithm in detail.

1. Massive black hole binary block

The main idea of this block is to perform parameter estimation of a single MBHB given the data, noise model and initial parameters. In particular, we use `lisabeta` and the multi-particle MCMC with parallel tempering provided therein. In order to reduce the degeneracy in the parameter space, we transform the extrinsic parameters of the binary as described in [14]. As extrinsic sampling parameters, we use the luminosity distance D_L , the inclination angle ι , the phase at coalescence φ , the polarization angle ψ_L , the ecliptic latitude β_L , and the ecliptic longitude λ_L , where the subscript L stands for the LISA frame, this is a noninertial frame that rotates with the LISA constellation.

We use uniform priors on the chirp mass ($10^5 M_\odot$ to $10^7 M_\odot$), mass ratio (1 to 5), luminosity distance (10^3 Mpc to 2×10^5 Mpc), individual spins (-1 to 1), the priors for phase-angles parameters are uniform in $[0, 2\pi]$ and polar angles are uniform on the unit sphere (cosine-uniform).

Each block instance inherits a short data segment from the kick-off step. The initial point is used for the heterodyning of the signal (\hat{h}_{ref}) [26–28] to improve the efficiency

of the sampling. The main idea is to remove an approximation of the signal that leaves behind only low-frequency residuals that can be sampled sparsely in the time domain or require a few points in frequency.

The heterodyned likelihood computation is a two-step process. First, we introduce a normalized reference waveform template \hat{h}_{ref} in the frequency domain, that is, $\hat{h}_{\text{ref}} = \exp(i \arg h_{\text{ref}})$, therefore \hat{h}_{ref} carries the same phase as h_{ref} but does not have zero crossings. A template waveform is usually generated on a sparse frequency grid and then interpolated to a dense grid. The interpolation algorithm consists of the choice of a family of basis functions and the computation of the interpolation coefficients corresponding to the basis functions. The support of each basis function contains a few sparse frequency grid points, and the union of the supports of all basis functions covers the entire frequency range. Importantly, for a given interpolation algorithm, the basis functions are entirely determined by the set of sparse frequency grid points. The latter is fixed once the reference waveform template is chosen. As a preparation, we compute the matched filter product between the data and \hat{h}_{ref} for each basis function with the dense grid covered by its support. We also evaluate the product of \hat{h}_{ref} with itself for each basis function. This step is performed only once for each reference waveform template. Second, to compute the likelihood, we evaluate the template waveform h on the sparse reference grid. Then we collect the interpolation coefficients for the ratio h/\hat{h}_{ref} and the result is given by a combination of these interpolation coefficients and the precomputed products. This procedure prevents costly waveform generation on the dense frequency grid.

2. Galactic binary block

The GBs are the most numerous sources in the simulated data. This block type aims at resolving as many GBs as possible, leaving the rest of the population as a confusion noise contributing to the overall noise budget.

Each block focuses on the analysis of GB in narrow frequency bands with width 1 μHz to 10 μHz within the overall band from 0.1 mHz to 21.5 mHz. The width of each band is a function of the central frequency, chosen according to the expected signal width and the expected density of the GB sources based on a model of the Galaxy, and we aim at having fewer than eight sources per band. We also take into account the bandwidth of the GB signals, which is larger at the high end of the LISA's sensitivity due to a measurable frequency drift. Note that our algorithm does not depend on this choice and bands could be split if needed between iterations. Limiting the number of sources per band reduces the dimensionality of the parameter space and improves the convergence rate.

At each iteration, we first search for a new GB candidate in the residual data, i.e., the in-band data with already

identified MBHBs and GBs in the central live catalog subtracted. After the search, ideally, we would employ a Bayesian model selection scheme to simultaneously estimate the number of GB sources (taking into account the identified candidates) and perform the parameter estimation. However, we have realized that the model selection algorithm severely suffers from the lack of convergence if we have models containing more than 3–4 GBs. This is a technical issue related to the efficiency of the PTMCMC sampling in the multidimensional parameter space. The current computational cost is very high, and we decided to complete a full Bayesian exploration after improving efficiency (using, for example, normalizing flow [29] and reweighting techniques).

In this work, we employ the hybrid approach: we use a frequentist approach to determine the GB candidates (the search part), and then we perform the Bayesian parameter estimation for the identified sources. In the improved version, we will use the frequentist step described below as a burn-in stage for the fully Bayesian approach. In the Bayesian approach, we will use the product-space technique [30,31] to evaluate the Bayes factor Eq. (4) for pairwise models. This improvement is already implemented, but suffers from the convergence issues mentioned above; therefore, we do not present here the partial results.

Within the frequentist approach, we follow the Neyman-Pearson viewpoint [32], where we compute the detection threshold based on the desired false alarm probability. We use \mathcal{F} -statistic (which is the log-likelihood ratio maximized over extrinsic parameters) as a detection statistic, which follows the χ^2 distribution with four degrees of freedom for a single GB [11] in the absence of a signal. Following [32], we identify the number of independent trials required to cover the parameter space as $N_{\text{cell}} = V/V_{\text{cell}}$ where V is the volume of the parameter space and V_{cell} is the volume occupied by a signal and is defined through the Fisher information matrix as

$$\Gamma_{ij} \delta\theta^i \delta\theta^j = 1/2, \quad (10)$$

where Γ_{ij} is the reduced (four-dimensional for a single GB) matrix. The components of the reduced Fisher matrix are approximately constant [11]:

$$\Gamma = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\pi^2}{3} & \frac{\pi^2}{6} & 0 & -\frac{1}{n} \\ \frac{\pi^2}{6} & \frac{4\pi^2}{45} & \frac{1}{2\pi n^2} & -\frac{1}{2n} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2\pi n^2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{n} & -\frac{1}{2n} & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (11)$$

where n is the observation time in years ($n = 1$ in our case). We have used parametrization $\theta^i = \{f, \dot{f}, A, B\}$ where

$$\begin{aligned} A &= 2\pi f R \cos \beta \cos \lambda, \\ B &= 2\pi f R \cos \beta \sin \lambda, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

and R is 1 AU. In this case, the Eq. (10) becomes the equation of a 4-dimensional ellipse and we can evaluate its volume as

$$V_{\text{cell}} = \frac{\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^2}{2\sqrt{\det\Gamma}}, \quad (13)$$

(see [32] for higher dimensional case). The total volume is defined by the limits of the parameter space; f varies within $[f_{\min}, f_{\max}]$, \dot{f} in $[\dot{f}_{\min}, \dot{f}_{\max}]$, β in $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$ and λ in $[-\pi, \pi]$ and is given by

$$V = \frac{2}{3}\pi R^2 (f_{\max}^3 - f_{\min}^3)(\dot{f}_{\max} - \dot{f}_{\min}). \quad (14)$$

It gives us the number of independent trials: $N_{\text{ind}} = \min(N_{\text{cell}}, N_{\text{trials}})$, where N_{trials} is an actual number of trials used during the search. The false alarm probability is then given by

$$P_{\text{FA}}(\mathcal{F}) = 1 - \text{CDF}(\mathcal{F})^{N_{\text{ind}}}, \quad (15)$$

where CDF is the cumulative distribution function of the χ^2 distribution with four degrees of freedom. We set the threshold for the false alarm probability to 1%, which gave us the detection threshold. Only candidates above this threshold are retained for the Bayesian parameter estimation. The exception is the frequency bands near the knee frequency $f_{\text{knee}} \approx 3\text{--}5$ mHz (see Sec. III D 3) where the data is highly non-Gaussian. This band corresponds to the combined GW signal produced by the GB population losing its stochasticity and the Bayesian model selection is really necessary. In this frequency range, we postulate the SNR threshold $\text{SNR} \geq 6$ for the detection and keep sources with $\text{SNR} \geq 4$ as possible candidates. Let us reiterate again that the future version of the pipeline will treat the number of sources as a random variable and the found candidate will set the dimensionality of the considered models and a starting point.

In the parameter estimation we use a narrow frequency prior around the frequency of a found candidate (f_*); f is uniformly distributed in $[f_* - \Delta f, f_* + \Delta f]$, where Δf is the width of three Fourier frequency bins. We deliberately narrow down the prior range for f to alleviate the label switching problem (another way to address it is described in [33]) and to improve the efficiency of the MCMC sampling. As long as the posterior distribution does not touch the boundaries, this narrow prior does not affect the inferred posterior distribution. The prior distribution for the frequency derivative \dot{f} is uniform in $[\dot{f}_{\min}, \dot{f}_{\max}]$, where \dot{f}_{\min} and \dot{f}_{\max} are respectively given by $10^{-5}f_{\min}^5$ and

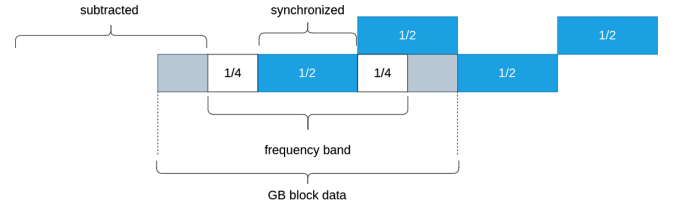


FIG. 2. The narrow frequency band in the GB block. The shown data contains 3 GB blocks (“GB block data”), each composed of a core (blue tile) and two wings (white and gray tiles). The core takes half of the width of the band in the center. During the data preparation of a GB block, GB signals in the central live catalog that belong to the neighboring but not the current and the adjacent core bands are subtracted. Analyses are performed in the full band (GB block data) but only the results with the central frequency in the core are synchronized to the central live catalog and the central storage of the chains.

$2.25 \times 10^{-6} f_{\max}^{11/3}$ with f_{\min}/\max the boundaries of the block frequency band in Hz. The ecliptic latitude β and longitude λ are uniformly distributed on the sphere. The amplitude A is logarithmically distributed in $[10^{-24}, 10^{-20}]$. The inclination angle i is cosine-uniform in $[0, \pi]$, the polarization angle ψ is uniform in $[0, \pi]$, and the initial orbital phase Φ is uniform in $[0, 2\pi]$. We use our MCMC sampler (m3c2) with parallel tempering for parameter estimation. The identified GB candidates are used for initializing the MCMC sampler. Once we consider the chain has converged, we update the live catalog and save the chain to the data storage.

We need to give special consideration to sources that fall within the boundaries that separate the frequency bands. We split the whole data frequency range into a set of frequency band “cores” (blue tiles in Fig. 2.). To each core, we add two “wings” extending to the center of the adjacent cores (white and gray tiles in Fig. 2) to take into account the frequency spread (width) of the GB signals. To prepare the data for the given GB block, we subtract all identified MBHBs and GBs from neighboring bands using the source parameters stored in the live catalog. In this way, we prevent contamination of the current block by the neighboring signal leaking into it and avoid double counting of the same sources. At the end of the parameter estimation step, we only synchronize the GBs of central frequency in the core (blue tile) to the central live catalog. The GBs in the wings (white and gray tiles) are only saved for house-keeping so that we can understand what we see in the whole GB block. A source falling on the boundary between blocks might be detected twice in adjacent blue tiles. To avoid double counting, we systematically check the presence and uniqueness of found signals before synchronizing to the central live catalog by computing the overlap between GBs found in the neighboring bands. We considered two sources to be the same if their overlap is greater than 0.99. The algorithm is represented in Algorithm 2.

Algorithm 2. GB block algorithm.

Data: L1 data D_{L1}
Result \rightarrow Joint posterior distribution of the GB sources present in the frequency band;
 H_{MBHB} : Waveform of the MBHBs in the live catalog;
 $H_{\text{GB,adj}}$: Waveform of the GBs in adjacent bands in the live catalog;
 Get $D \leftarrow D_{L1} - H_{\text{MBHB}} - H_{\text{GB,adj}}$ and restrict to the frequency band;
for iteration i **do**
 k : Number of GB candidates from iteration $i - 1$;
 $H_{\text{GB},i-1}$: Waveform of the k candidates;
 /* New source search
 begin
 Data: Residual data $R \leftarrow D - H_{\text{GB},i-1}$
 Maximize \mathcal{F} -statistic in the parameter space;
 if maximum above threshold **then**
 Number of GB candidates: $k \leftarrow k + 1$;
 /* Parameter estimation
 begin
 Data: D
 Run PTMCMC for k GBs template;
 Save the chain;
 Update the live catalog;

3. Noise model block

The noise level can be decomposed into two parts: instrumental noise and confusion noise made of the superposition of unresolved GB sources, as we mentioned in Sec. II. The GW foreground from GBs dominates over the instrumental noise between 0.2 mHz and 5–6 mHz. The exact shape of the noise in this range is a function of the algorithm used to identify the resolvable GBs (and MBHBs) and also of the data volume: the SNR of the GBs grows approximately as $\sqrt{T_{\text{obs}}}$, where T_{obs} is the observation time, so we resolve more sources as we accumulate the data.

In our analysis, we directly deal with one year of observations, so we are modelling the average (over the year) noise PSD. We have abandoned the idea of fitting the confusion foreground independently in the narrow bands because it is susceptible to very large fluctuations, instead, we impose a smooth broadband noise model. The model has seven parameters, two accounting for the instrumental noise and five modeling the confusion noise. Namely, the instrumental noise parameters are acceleration noise S_{acc} [Eq. (16)] and optical metrology noise S_{oms} [Eq. (17)]. The GB confusion noise parameters [Eq. (18)] are the amplitude A defining the overall scale and directly related to the population model of the GB, the knee frequency f_{knee} defines the transition from the resolvable to stochastic regime, f_2 is a scaling frequency, and (f_1, α) define deviation from the power law. Note that $f^{-7/3}$ is what is expected from any population of GW-driven binaries on the circular orbits, while the exponential factor accounts for resolving the sources at high frequencies, and the

hyperbolic-tan cut-off ends the stochasticity of the foreground. The ‘‘default’’ LISA as described in the science requirement document (see also [4]) specifies $f_{l1} := 4 \times 10^{-4}$ Hz, $f_{u1} := 2 \times 10^{-3}$ Hz, $f_{l2} := 8 \times 10^{-3}$ Hz, where $x := 2\pi fL$. The Galactic foreground Eq. (18) is based on the empirical expression suggested in [34],

$$S_{\text{pm}} = S_{\text{acc}}(1 + (f_{l1}/f)^2)(1 + (f/f_{l2})^4)/(2c\pi f)^2, \quad (16)$$

$$S_{\text{op}} = S_{\text{oms}}(1 + (f_{u1}/f)^4)(2\pi f/c)^2, \quad (17)$$

$$S_{\text{gal}} = \frac{A}{2} f^{-7/3} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{f}{f_1}\right)^\alpha\right) \left(1 + \tanh\left(\frac{f_{\text{knee}} - f}{f_2}\right)\right). \quad (18)$$

These noise components contribute to the PSD of the A and E channels as (see [35] for more details)

$$S_{\text{instr}}^{A,E} = 8 \sin^2(x)(2S_{\text{pm}}(3 + 2 \cos(x) + \cos(2x)) + S_{\text{op}}(2 + \cos(x))), \quad (19)$$

$$S_{\text{gal}}^{A,E} = 6(x \sin(x))^2 S_{\text{gal}}. \quad (20)$$

The noise block reads the parameters of all GW sources from the previous iteration and removes them. We sample the noise parameters using parallel tempering MCMC (m3c2) in 16 narrow frequency bands spread out in the range 0.1 mHz to 20 mHz and presented in Fig. 3. The bands are chosen so that we have only a few GBs (if at all) in each of them, and they are sufficient to sample the shape of the expected PSD. The chosen number of bands allows us to efficiently obtain a robust result that depends weakly on a particular choice. The implemented scheme easily allows for a larger number of bands and different choices of their location. We are currently also exploring an agnostic model based on piecewise cubic spline.

Care should be taken to ensure the correctness of the parallel Gibbs sampling [36]. Whereas there is no interdependence of the source parameters $\vec{\Theta}_{\text{GB,MBHB}}$ across different time (MBHBs) and frequency (GBs) bands, the noise model parameters $\vec{\Theta}^{\text{noise}}$ are coupled to each other and to all sources. To guarantee the correct convergence, the sampling of different sources could be performed in parallel, conditional on the noise model parameters, which need to be updated sequentially.

E. Implementation

GW sources and noise blocks are encapsulated into an arbitrary number of jobs and run through a batch system. Jobs are automatically spawned at the end of each iteration of the Gibbs sampling, and the disk storage is used to exchange data, with particular care to avoid concurrent access.

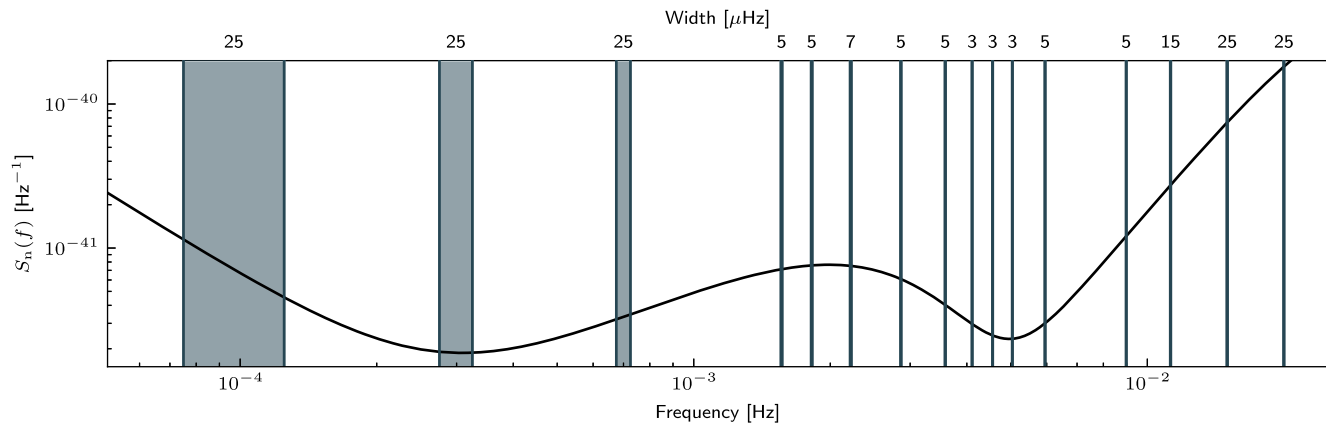


FIG. 3. The 16 frequency bands used for the noise model sampling with their location and size. The solid black line shows an expectation based on [34].

To implement global fit, we opted for a coding strategy that favoured simplicity and flexibility. The entire code is written in Python (although some third-party dependencies, such as `lisabet`, may contain C/C++ code) and the block architecture has been designed to maximize the degrees of freedom available for execution. Each block is configured by a YAML file and performs a specific task (e.g., sampling of a particular type of GW source or the noise) with an execution routine naturally organized in repeated iterations. One or more blocks (and iterations of blocks) are executed in batch-type jobs in series or parallel. Each job is run by the batch system independently on one or more cores of a single node. The pipeline requires a low rate of information exchange. All data exchange and task flow control (barriers, dependencies, etc.) rely on the shared filesystem. Our system is designed to be highly adaptable. It can be executed on any medium-sized computing center, whether a high-performance computing (HPC) or high-throughput computing (HTC) facility. Importantly, it does not require any specific hardware, such as an Infiniband network or GPU, making it accessible to a wide range of users. It also leaves complete freedom to redefine the workflow at will according to the needs dictated by the global-fit R&D.

IV. RESULTS

In this section, we summarize the results [37] of the analysis of the “Sangria” dataset with the prototype implementation of the global-fit pipeline. We ran the pipeline on the computing cluster provided by CNES (Centre National d’Études Spatiales), using 1000 cores.

We have performed 10 “global” iterations for about 20 hours. Obviously, it is not enough to get the full convergence across the noise and all sources. The tails of the posterior distributions are somewhat truncated. However, we can still assess the results if we are converging to the right solution and how many sources we managed to identify correctly. We observe that the global burn-in is achieved within ≈ 8 iterations, after that we explore the

correlations across the noise and astrophysical populations and posteriors of individual sources.

A. Merging massive black hole binaries

The search for MBHB was the first step of the analysis and is described in Sec. III B. The results of the initial MBHB fit are summarized in Figs. 4 and 5. Figure 4 shows the reconstruction and residuals after the subtraction of the very first (since the beginning of simulated observations) MBHB, the time series (*A* and *E*) are zoomed around the merger time. Figure 5 demonstrates whitened original time series and residuals after subtracting the best estimates. Let us emphasize that the main aim at this point is to bring the

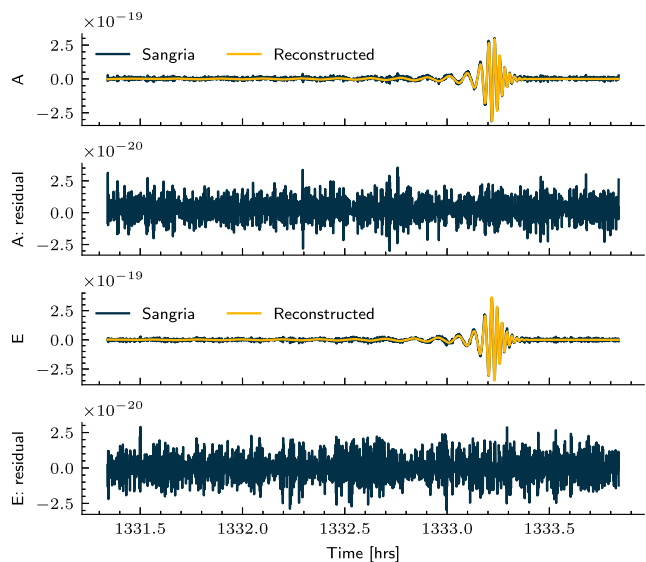


FIG. 4. Time series signal of the Sangria dataset zoomed in around the merger of the MBHB 0 and the reconstructed signal for that MBHB. In the second and the fourth panels (from the top), we plot the residuals after the removal of the reconstructed signal in TDI A and TDI E channels. Note that the data is not whitened in this plot.

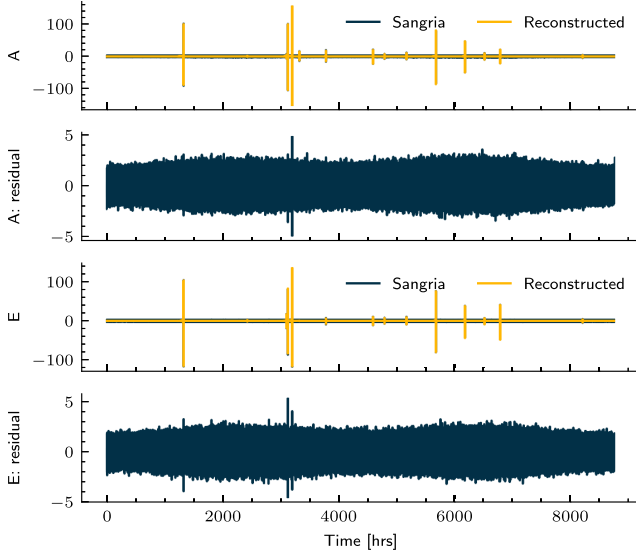


FIG. 5. Whitened time series signal of the full Sangria dataset and the reconstruction of all the 15 MBHBs. In the second and the fourth panels, we plot the whitened residuals after the removal of the reconstructed signals in TDI A, E.

residuals below the noise level, allowing for better PSD estimation and the start of the iterative global fit process. This process takes about 1 hour using 1 core per MBHB.

The effectiveness and quality of the MBHB search step is confirmed by a quick convergence in the MBHB parameters and in the noise model (see Fig. 11). Estimation of the parameters of the MBHB is performed by iterating the residual data and the noise model as described in Secs. III D

and III D 1. Each MBHB block run accumulates between five and ten thousands of MCMC samples. This number warrants the minimum convergence within a given iteration step and balances the synchronization across different blocks. Regarding the convergence, we have targeted the Gelman-Rubin statistic [38] $R \leq 1.2$ between all the walkers in the chain. We do not claim that the chains are converged even when we reach this condition; it is not required at each iteration, as we need a *global* convergence, which takes into account variations in the residuals of the subtracted GBs and the noise uncertainties; in other words, we need many “global” interactions. However, we should still allow the chain to “adjust” to the new reference waveform in heterodyning and to new “noise” combined out of the noise and varying residuals from subtraction of other sources. Each MBHB block runs in parallel for about half an hour within a single iteration loop.

To illustrate the performance of the MBHB block, we have done five extra iterations where we draw GB and noise parameters from the distribution of the last global iteration. We merge the chains from the last global iteration and the five extra iterations of the MBHB block to produce the final posterior distribution. The relative uncertainty $(\theta - \theta_{\text{tr}})/\theta_{\text{tr}}$, where $\theta = \{\mathcal{M}_c, q = m_1/m_2\}$, \mathcal{M}_c is the chirp mass and θ_{tr} is a true value of the parameter, is shown in the left panel of Fig. 6. The matched filter SNR for each source $\sqrt{(d|h)}$, is given at the top of the figure. One can see that the chirp mass is the best-determined parameter, often at the sub-percent level. Astrophysicists might be more interested in the measurement of individual masses which we also plot in the right panel of Fig. 6. We want to point out a few

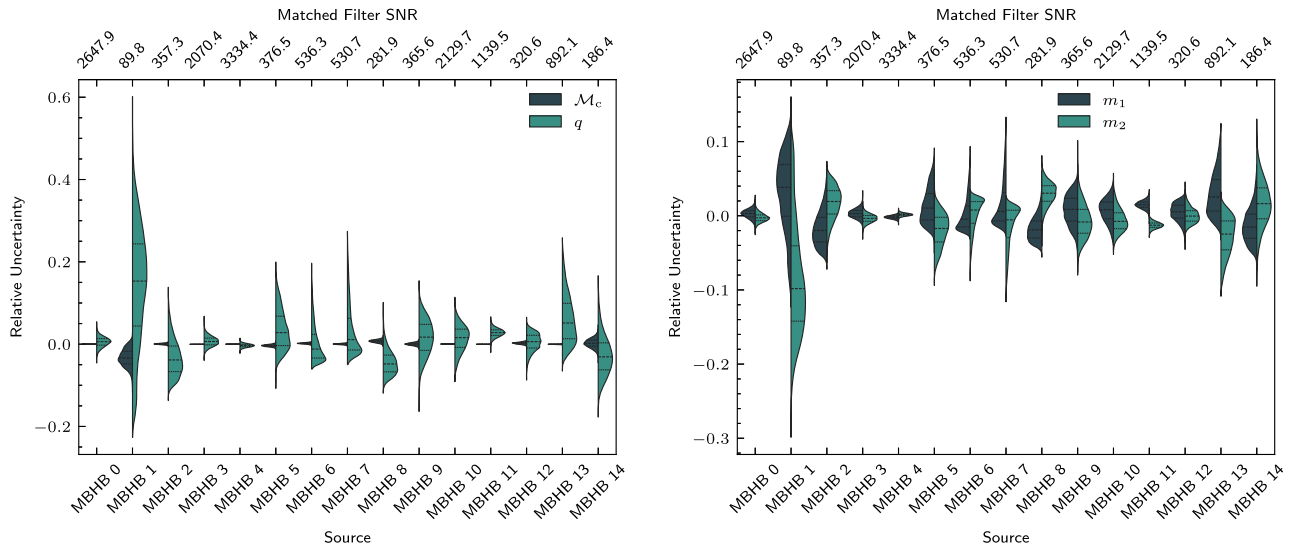


FIG. 6. Marginalized posterior distribution of the chirp mass and the mass ratio (*Left*); individual masses (*Right*) for the MBHB sources in the “Sangria” dataset. We plot a relative uncertainty and zero corresponds to the true parameter values of injected signals. The left plot: the left histogram (blue) is for the chirp mass $\mathcal{M}_c/\mathcal{M}_{c,\text{tr}} - 1$, the right (green) histogram corresponds to the mass ratio $q/q_{\text{tr}} - 1$. The right plot: $m_i/m_{i,\text{tr}} - 1$, the blue (left) for the primary (heavier) MBH, the green (right) is for the secondary. The dashed lines indicate the quartiles of the distribution.

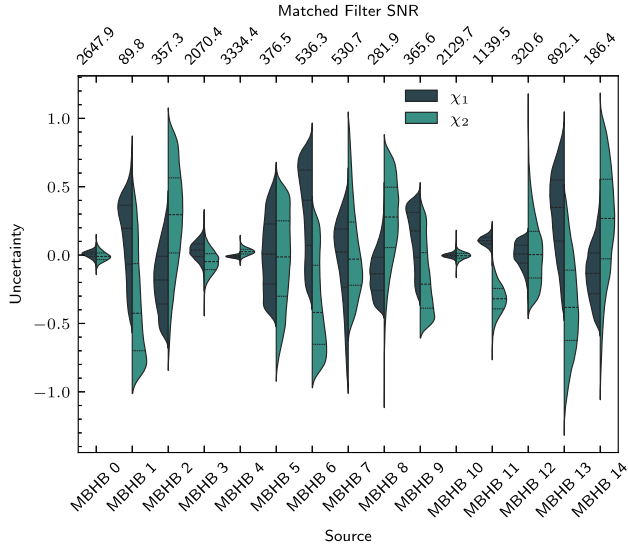


FIG. 7. Marginalized posterior distribution of the spin projections for the MBHB sources in the Sangria dataset (settings and colors are similar to the right plot of Fig. 6). The dashed lines indicate the quartiles of the distribution. The y-axis is the spin projection uncertainty, defined as $\chi_i - \chi_{i,\text{inj}}$.

interesting features; first, there is a relatively strong bias in the chirp mass (and individual masses) for MBHB 1, MBHB 8; and second, we observe a significant bias in the mass ratio for MBHB 2, MBHB 11, MBHB 13. The bias is very pronounced in the determination of individual masses of MBHB 11. Other participants in the ‘‘Sangria’’ data challenge [5] demonstrated similar results, and we attribute it to a combination of a particular noise realization and residuals after subtracting the GBs, but detailed analysis of all submissions is still ongoing. Note that in all cases (except the weakest MBHB 1), we measure masses within 10% accuracy. The marginalized posteriors for individual spins (note that we have used the model with spins parallel to the orbital momentum) are given in Fig. 7. We can again see a significant bias for MBHB 11. The spin of the primary MBH, as expected, is determined better, usually within 0.5, and the accuracy is strongly correlated with the SNR of the GW signal.

B. Galactic binaries

We describe only the detection of GBs in this paper, leaving the results of the Bayesian inference to the future publication (due to the lack of full convergence).

During the analysis, we detected a total of 9542 GBs with SNR above 6. The distribution of the detected sources across the frequency is shown in Fig. 8 in light green; for comparison, we have also plotted the catalog GBs with SNR above 6 (yellow) and 8 (dark green). This plot shows that we are losing GBs in this SNR range and in the frequency band where the GW signal from the population of GBs is losing stochasticity and we need Bayesian

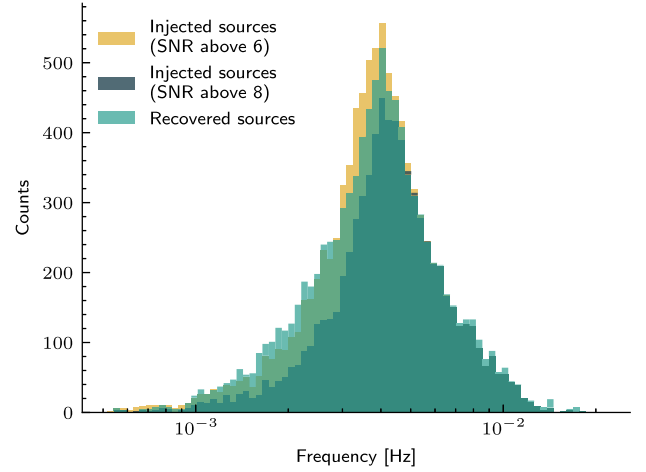


FIG. 8. The distribution of detected GBs (cyan) with SNR above 6 compared to the catalog (injected) sources with SNR above 6 (yellow) and 8 (green). We use the noise PSD estimated from the global-fit pipeline to compute the SNR.

inference on the number of sources. The SNR is computed with the noise PSD estimated from the global fit pipeline, namely, using the chain’s last point from the last iteration. Their identification with the catalog sources is not always straightforward; we have used overlap as a main criterion. We assumed that the GBs are correctly identified if there is a source in the catalog with more than 90% overlap, and partially recovered if the overlap is between 50% and 90%, otherwise we claim it as a false detection. Note that, in general, it is not a false detection in the sense of the ‘‘noise generated feature’’; in most cases it is incorrect recovery of the true sources in the simulated data. The two main reasons causing this are (i) getting stuck at the secondary maximum and (ii) the wrong interpretation of the multiple strongly correlated sources; sometimes, the former leads to the latter.

Among 9542 detected GBs, we have 7620 identified GBs, 1406 partially recovered GBs, and 516 false detections, their frequency and SNR distribution are presented in Fig. 9. Most partial and false detections come from the source-confused region between 1 mHz and 4 mHz. We also present the number of survived GBs and the cumulative distribution as a function of overlap in Fig. 10. The main reason for the poor recovery of some bright GBs is the sampling/convergence of PTMCMC, where we should have used a higher temperature (and a larger number of parallel chains) in parallel tempering. In the improved pipeline, we intend to use a combination of stochastic optimizers such as APSO [24] and differential evolution [39] to search for isolated GBs at high frequencies.

All in all, we consider the performance of the implemented algorithms to be very satisfactory. The main aim of this paper and the initial development is to demonstrate that the implemented method works. We did not reach full convergence for GBs across the whole frequency range, but

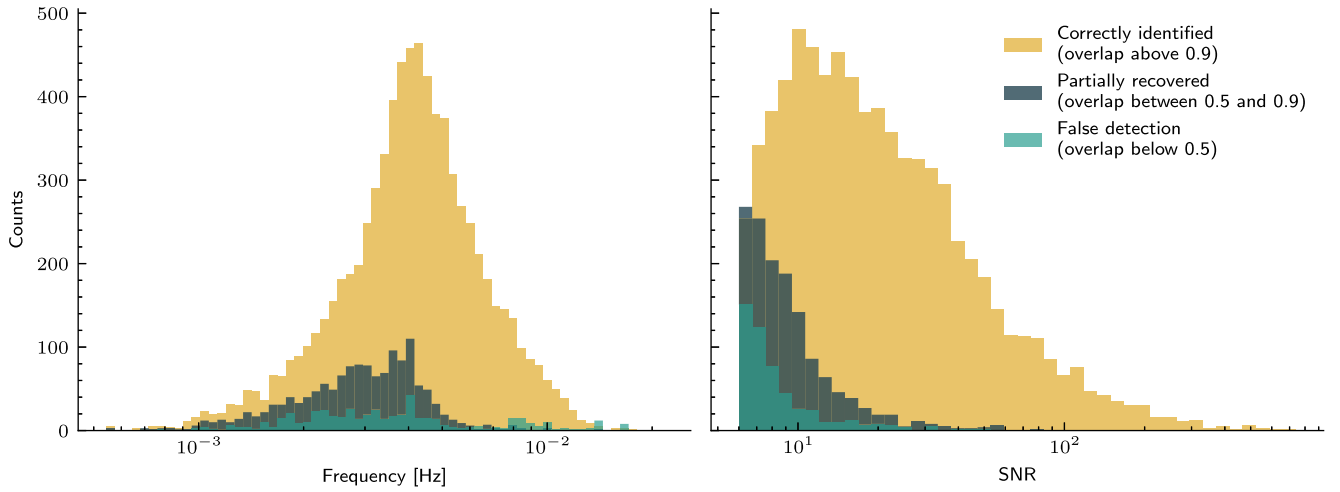


FIG. 9. The distribution of identified GBs (yellow), partially recovered (green) and false detections (cyan) in frequency (left panel) and SNR (right panel).

we correctly recovered 85% of all simulated GBs with $\text{SNR} \geq 8$. We believe that full convergence is unnecessary at this stage because we continue to work on improving the efficiency of the sampler and refining the convergence criteria. Having said that, we have found fully converged posteriors in the frequency bands containing a few GBs.

C. Noise estimation

We have sampled the noise parameters using uniform priors for $\lg(S_{\text{acc}}) \equiv \log_{10}(S_{\text{acc}})$ in $\mathcal{U}[\lg(1.440 \times 10^{-31}), \lg(2.304 \times 10^{-28})]$, $\lg(S_{\text{oms}})$ in $\mathcal{U}[\lg(2.500 \times 10^{-24}), \lg(4.000 \times 10^{-21})]$, $\lg(A)$ as $\mathcal{U}[-50, -30]$, f_1 in $\mathcal{U}[0.0001, 0.01]$, f_2 in $\mathcal{U}[0.001, 0.01]$, α in $\mathcal{U}[1.0, 10.0]$,

and f_{knee} in $\mathcal{U}[0.0002, 0.01]$. The changes in the noise level as a function of iteration are shown in Fig. 11. The noise level stabilizes after eight global iterations, and, at this stage, we refer to it as the end of burn-in of the global iteration. We also verified the convergence of the instrumental noise by comparing the recovered parameters with the simulation. In Fig. 12 we give posterior distribution of the acceleration noise S_{acc} and the optical metrology noise S_{oms} , using the chain of the 10th iteration. However, we should mention some caveats associated with this figure. (i) The noise realization was generated using several components added together. The noise model that we use is somewhat phenomenological, there was no values S_{acc} and S_{oms} among the parameters used for the simulation. We have reconstructed S_{acc} and S_{oms} values (vertical lines)

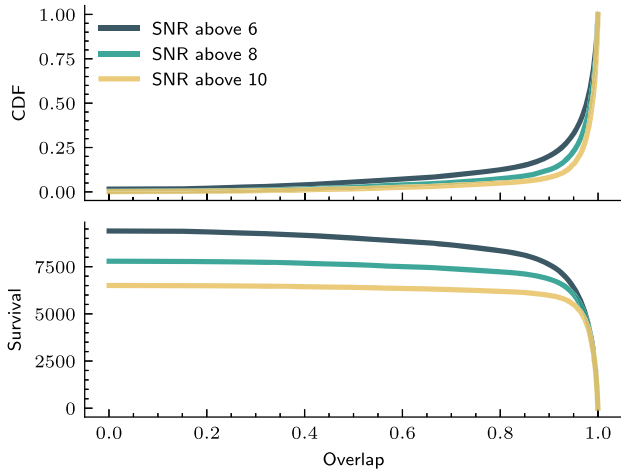


FIG. 10. Upper panel: CDF of detected GBs with three SNR cuts (6, 8, 10) as a function of their overlap with the catalog sources. Lower panel: We plot the survived GBs with the same SNR cuts as a function of the overlap. A similar plot is given in [3].

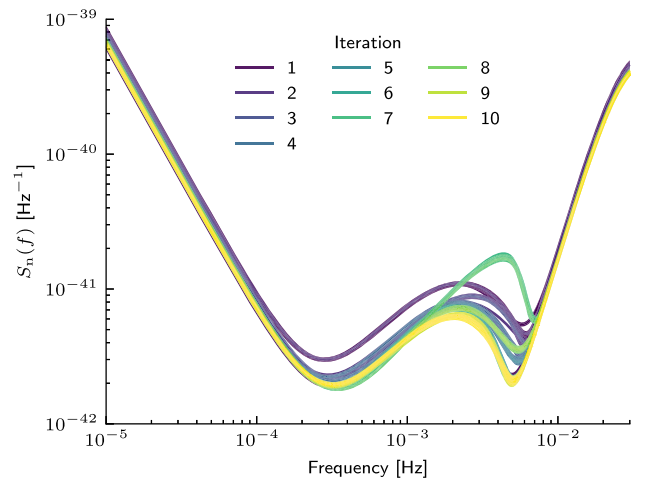


FIG. 11. Evolution of the noise power spectral density (PSD) for ten first iterations of the global fit. For each iteration, we plot a dozen curves corresponding to the randomly chosen sample points (noise model parameters).

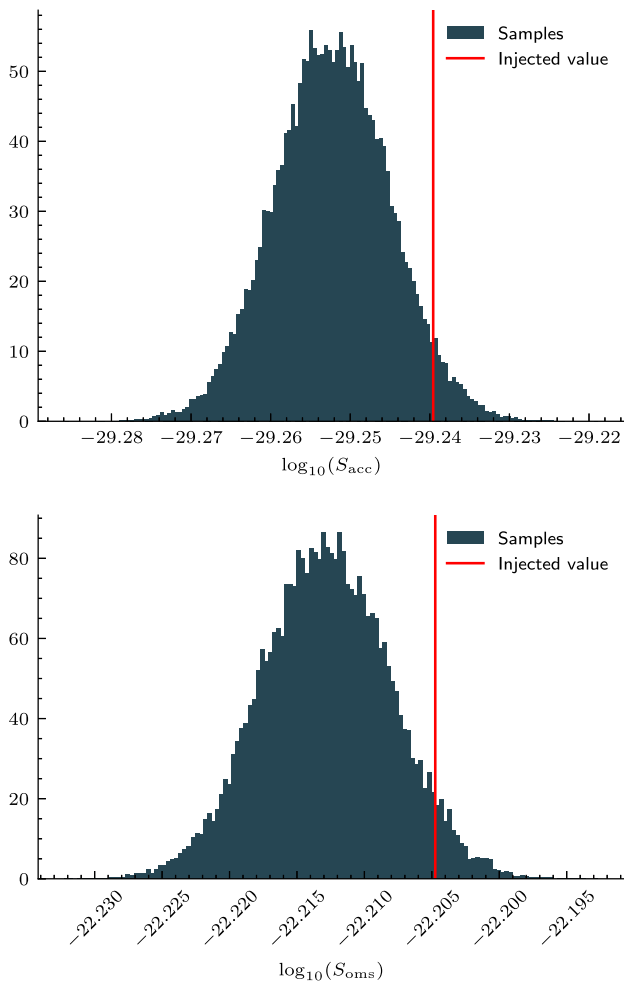


FIG. 12. Conditional posterior distribution at the iteration 10 of the acceleration noise (*Up*); the optical metrology noise (*Down*). The distribution of the noise parameters was obtained by fixing the GW sources identified at the 10th iteration.

based on the noise components used in the simulation and the noise behavior (model) at high- and low-frequency end of the spectrum. (ii.) We expect that the distribution will become wider as we perform more iterations of the global fit (due to covariance with GW sources). What we plot in Fig. 12 can be interpreted as a conditional probability density (fixing parameters of all GW sources). All subsequent iterations will contribute to the sampling of the conditional posteriors of the GW sources and noise. We need a large number of the global iterations to fully explore the noise sources correlation.

V. DISCUSSION

In this section, we discuss what we did not explore and the path to future improvements. First, we did not explore the verification binaries discussed in Sec. II. For those binaries, we know their precise (for GW purposes) position in the sky, and we have a very narrow prior on

the orbital frequency. These constraints reduce the parameters volume and allow sources to be identified with a relatively low SNR. Although our algorithm did not have special treatment for those sources, we have detected the brightest verification GBs. We plan to introduce the narrow-band VGB block in the iterative module. The main difference from a normal GB block is the width of the band (to fit in one source), the exact location of the sky, and the narrow priors for other parameters, if available.

Second, we did not perform a time iterative analysis, which is easier than analyzing a year of data from scratch. As first mentioned in [5], the iterative time analysis of GBs works like a simulated annealing. Uploading and analyzing the data growing in volume each, say three months, would allow first to detect the brightest GBs. Moreover, only a little information about the sky position is available in short data segments, which makes the likelihood surface much shallower without sharp features that produce secondary maxima. An analysis of three months, then six months, and so on, works as simulated annealing (heating the likelihood and cooling it gradually down). Note that [3] uses a similar approach in hierarchical model building. In addition, we deal gradually with incoming MBHB mergers. The first three months of data will be analyzed in exactly the same manner as is described in the paper. We will use the posteriors obtained at the end of the analysis as proposals and seeding points for the analysis of six months of data as described in [29]. In addition, we also intend to use a more informative Galactic prior (amplitude and sky) as suggested in [29]. Of course, we must repeat the search for new GBs (or see if one GB source splits into two overlapped GBs) and MBHBs. The search for GBs will consider already found sources by searching in part of the parameter space defined by the posterior of the three-month analysis. In the search for MBHBs, we will take into account any premerger of MBHBs identified earlier in a similar fashion (restricting the parameter range); otherwise, we will search for MBHBs in sequential two-week-long data segments.

Third, now that we know that the current implementation works, we are in the process of optimizing the sampling. We work on the alternative fast likelihood computation for GBs [40]. We implement split-sampling in “fast” and “slow” parameters, where “fast” are usually extrinsic parameters, which do not require recomputing the waveform or allow efficient marginalization (analytically or numerically). We also use broadly reweighting techniques for sampling [41]. Improvement in efficiency will allow us to use a fully Bayesian framework using the product-space approach [30,31] for multisource (transdimensional) exploration. Those improvements are in the testing phase and will be applied to “Sangria HM” which is the simulated data where we replace MBHB GWs with another model containing higher order modes in addition to the dominant

($2, \pm 2$), but keeping everything else (including parameters) the same.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this article are openly available [35].

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