

# Incorporating waveform uncertainty into modeling and inference of GWs

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# Introduction



# Uncertainties in waveform models

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- Errors come from:
  - **inputs** (PN, EOB, NR)
  - **modeling error** (fits, interpolation, basis construction)
  - **simplifications in physical modeling** (e.g. reference frame for precession, ignoring eccentricity, asymmetry in modes)
- How big are these errors?
  - **Mismatch** (unfaithfulness) can reach **several %** for semi-analytical models; smaller for NR
  - Depends on how **"extreme"** the configuration is.



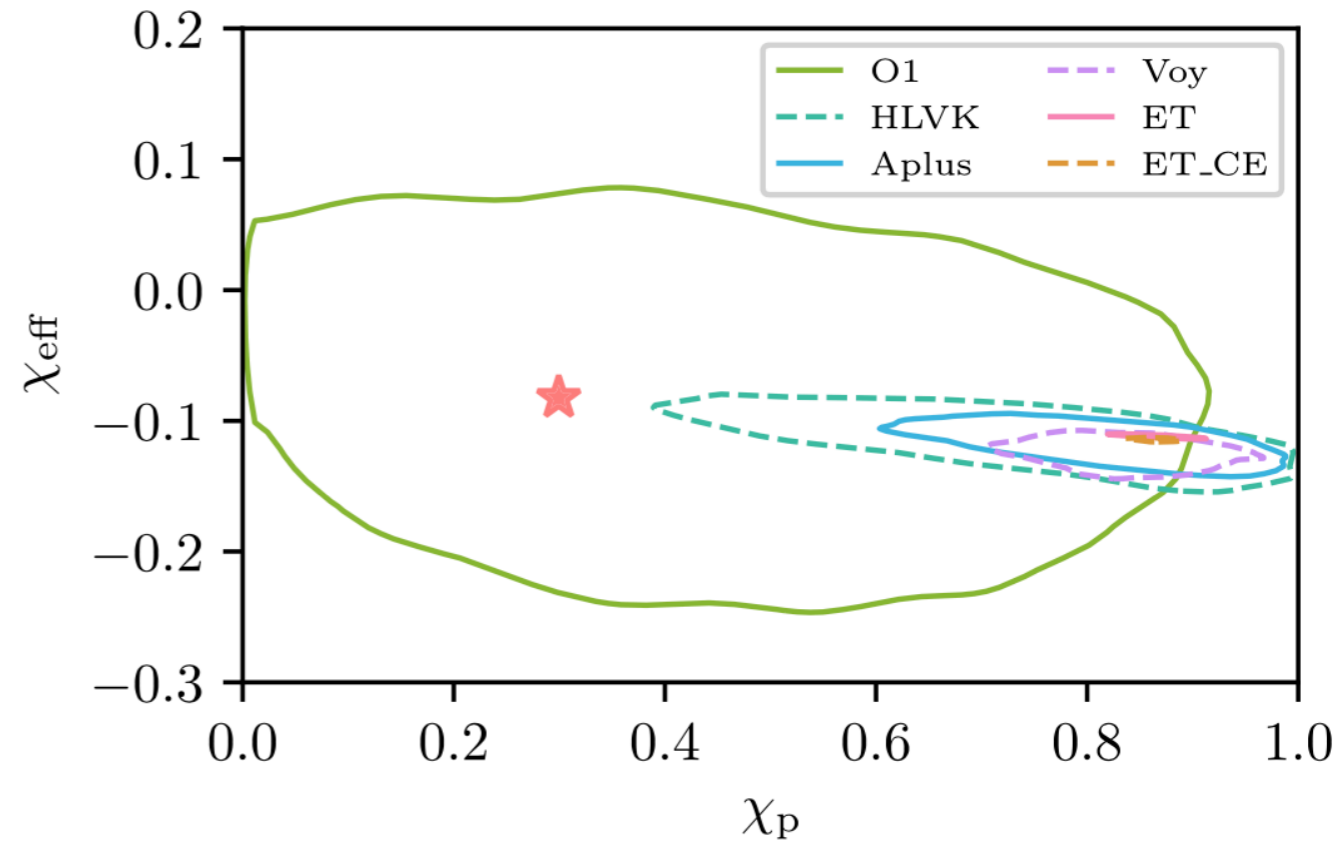
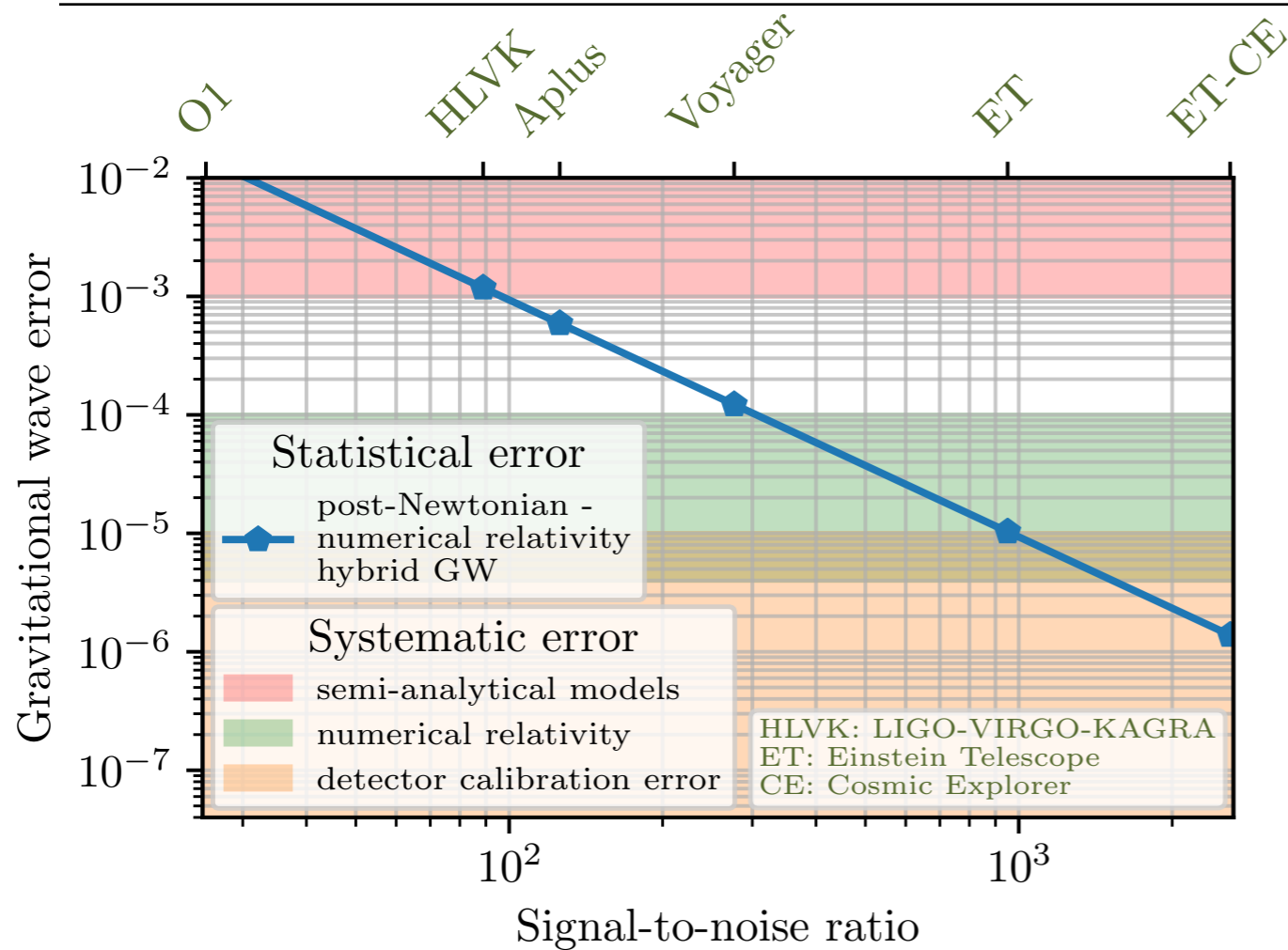
# Systematic errors in inference

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- **Systematic errors in waveform models can manifest as**
  - **parameter biases** when models are used for inference of binary parameters
  - **false positives for tests of GR** (e.g. nonzero residual)
- **Importance of systematic errors depends on signal-to-noise ratio and “extremeness” of binary**
  - Waveform systematics **subdominant** for e.g. GW150914
  - Waveform systematics will **dominate** over statistical error as we approach the much more sensitive **3rd generation ground-based GW detectors** (Einstein Telescope & Cosmic Explorer)



# Example: Measuring GW150914-like binaries



[MP & C. Haster, [Phys.Rev.Res. 2 \(2020\) 2, 023151](#)]

- **Statistical error** falls off with SNR
- **Systematic error** is constant
- Expect biases if stat  $\ll$  sys error
- **Bias** in effective precession spin
  - Signal: NR-PN hybrid
  - Template: IMRPhenomPv2



# How to mitigate waveform systematics

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- Build **more accurate models**
  - requires more & better NR simulations,
  - more accurate analytical information (PN, EOB, SF)
- Build **models that incorporate error estimates**
  - additional degrees of freedom can parameterize modeling error and errors in inputs
  - use in inference and marginalize over error parameters



# Work on incorporating waveform errors

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- C. Moore & J. Gair, PRL 113, 2014:
  - analytically marginalize **waveform uncertainty**  $\delta h(\lambda) = h_{\text{approx}}(\lambda) - h_{\text{accurate}}(\lambda)$
  - with a prior distribution constructed by using **Gaussian process regression**
  - Application: 1D PN toy model in chirp mass
- C. Moore et al, PRD 93, 2016:
  - IMRPhenomC / TaylorF2, 1D in chirp mass
- P. Landry et al, PRD 99, 2019:
  - NS EOS
- A. Chua et al, PRD 101, 2020:
  - LISA/EMRIs
- B. Edelman et al, 2020:
  - Spline model to parametrize waveform deviations
  - See also: W. Farr et al, LIGO- T1400682 for handling detector calibration errors in PE



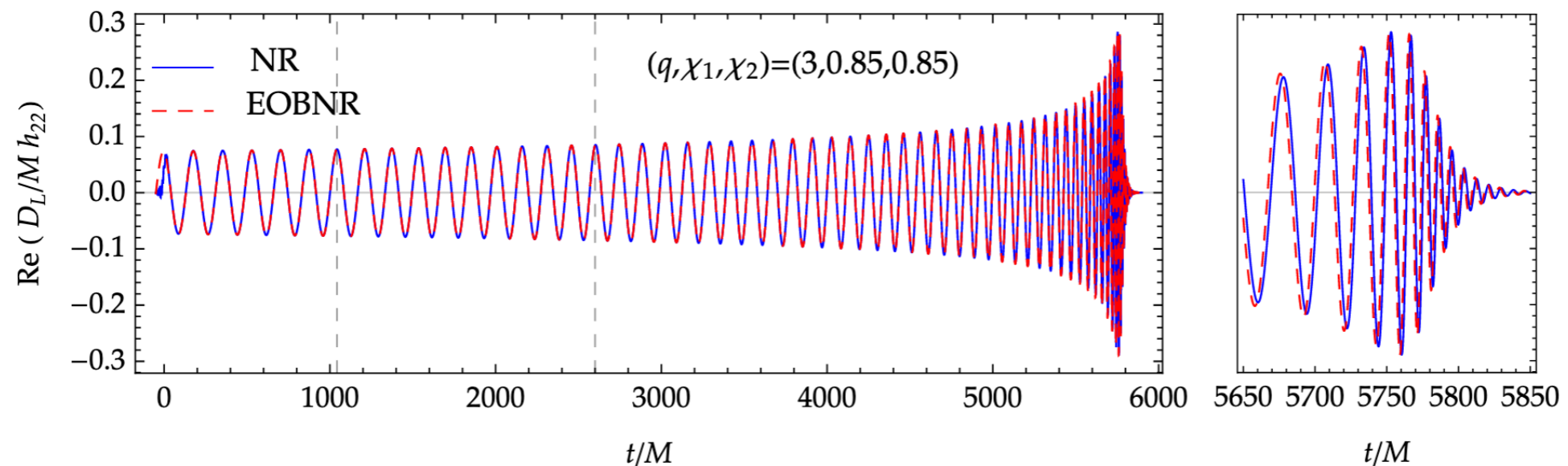
# A model for waveform uncertainty in SEOBNRv4



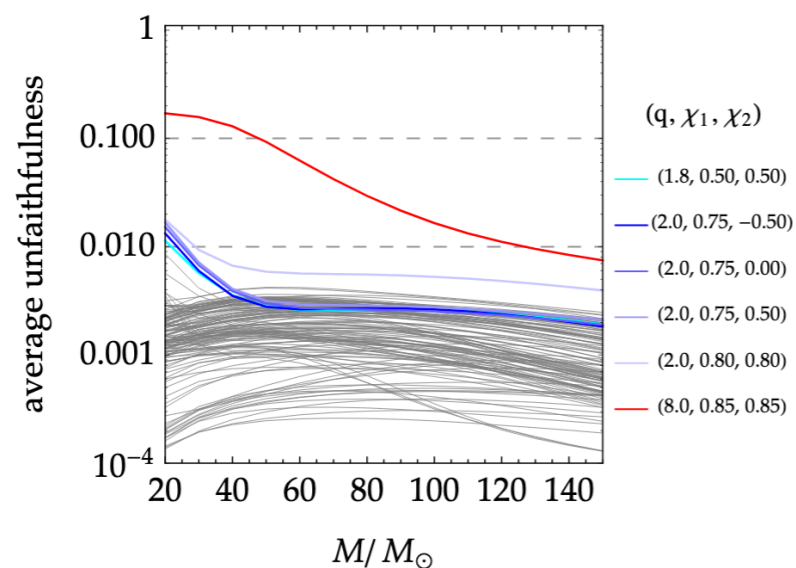


# The SEOBNRv4 model

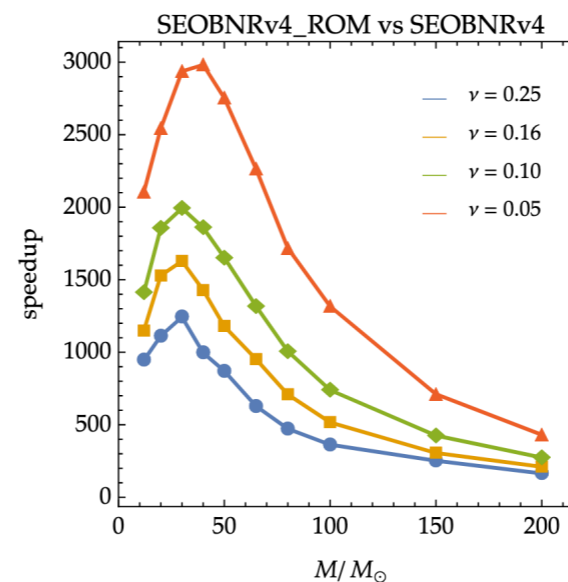
**Effective-one-body model** for binaries with **non-precessing spins**  
(Bohé et al, PRD 95, 2017)



## Accuracy vs NR



## Reduced order model



**SEOBNRv4\_ROM**  
follows method in  
MP, CQG 31, 2014  
MP, PRD 93, 2016



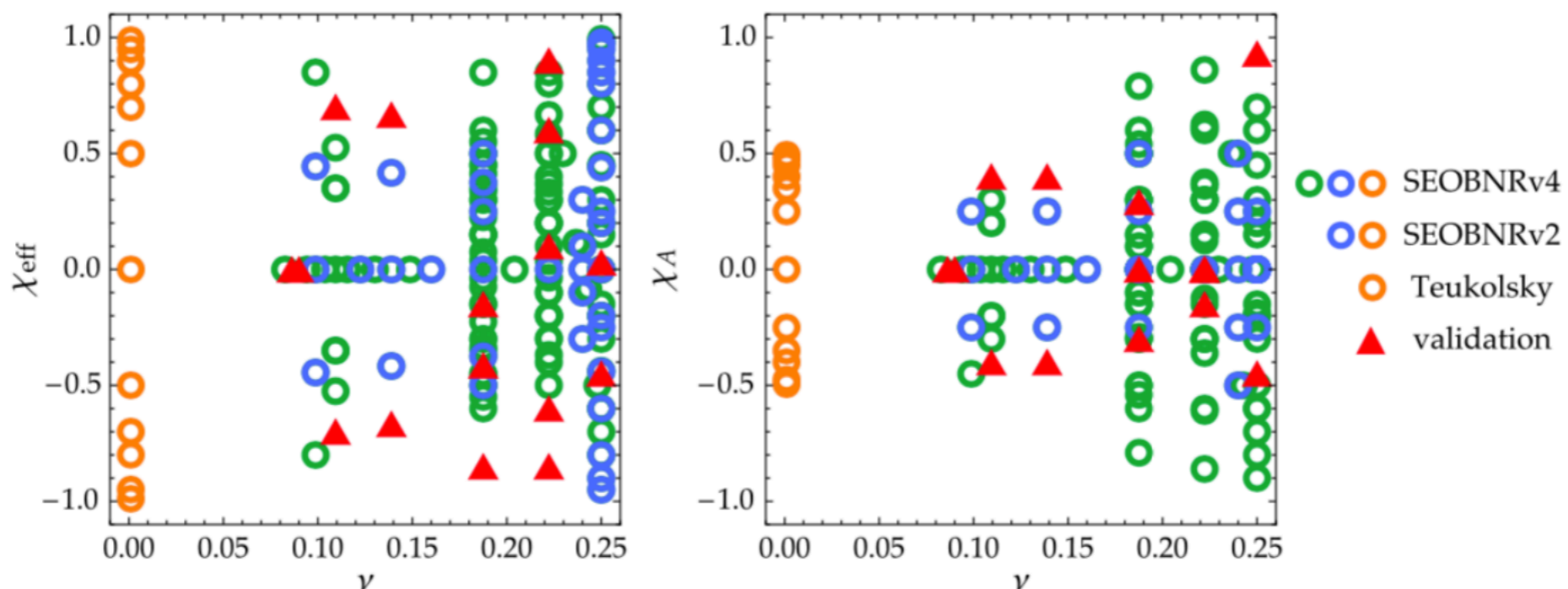
# The SEOBNRv4 model

- The uncalibrated model depends on **physical parameters  $\lambda$**  and **calibration parameters  $\theta$** :

$$h_{\text{EOB}}(\lambda, \theta)$$

$(q, \chi_1, \chi_2)$        $(K, d_{\text{SO}}, d_{\text{SS}}, \Delta t_{\text{peak}}^{22})$

- Calibration** fixes  $\theta(\lambda)$  based on match between EOB waveforms and NR at 141 specific points  $\{\lambda_i\}$ .



# The SEOBNRv4 model

- Step 1: For each  $\lambda_i$ , determine “calibration posterior” over  $\theta$  satisfying a figure of merit:

a. MCMC to obtain samples from

$$P(\theta) \propto \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mathfrak{M}_{\max}(\theta)}{\sigma_{\mathfrak{M}}} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\delta t_{\text{peak}}^{22}(\theta)}{\sigma_{\delta t}} \right)^2 \right]$$

mismatch vs NR
difference of merger time vs NR

1%
5M

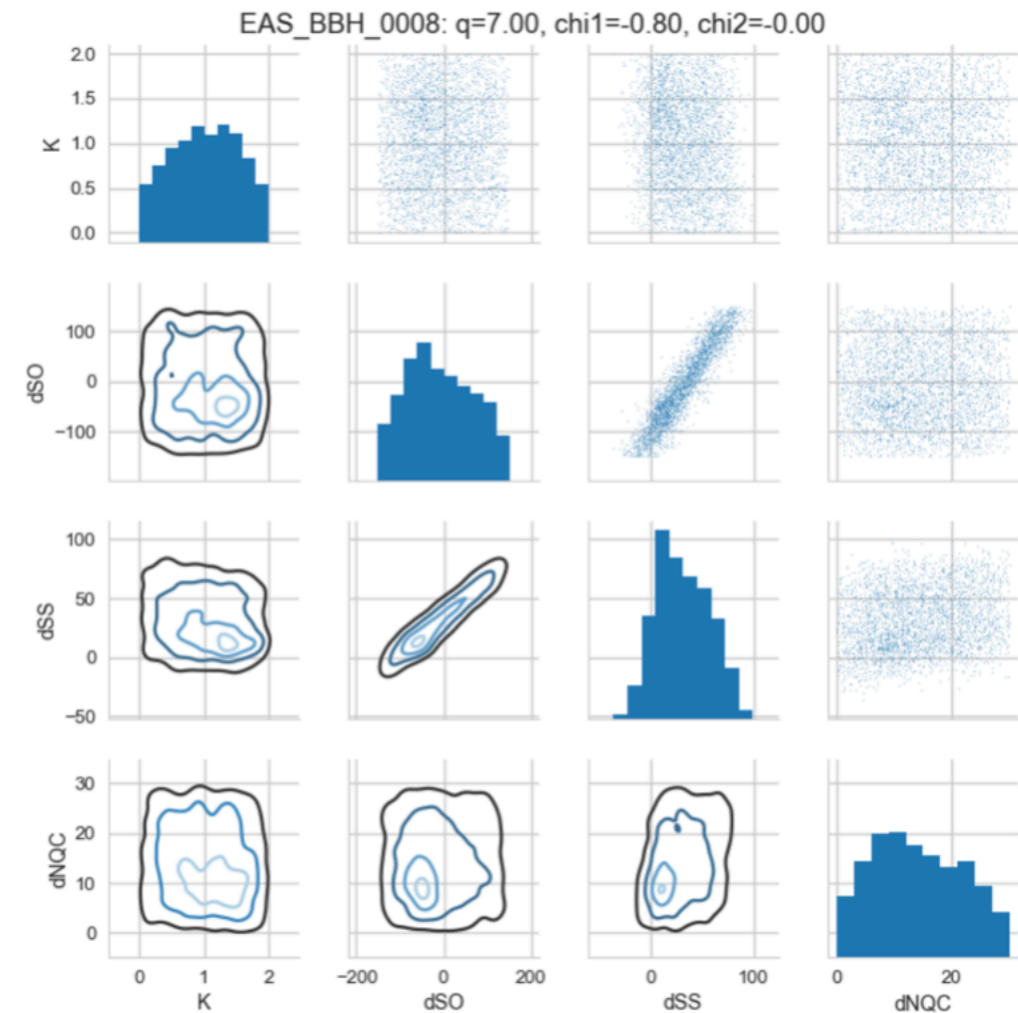
b. discard  $\theta$  with  $\mathfrak{M}_{\max} > 1\%$  and  $|\delta t_{\text{peak}}^{22}| > 5M$

c. remove secondary modes from distribution by hand

$$\mathfrak{M}(h_1, h_2) := 1 - \mathcal{O}(h_1, h_2) \quad \mathcal{O}(h_1, h_2) = \frac{4}{\|h_1\| \|h_2\|} \max_{t_0} \left| \mathcal{F}^{-1} \left[ \frac{\tilde{h}_1(f) \tilde{h}_2(f)^*}{S_n(f)} \right] (t_0) \right|$$

# The SEOBNRv4 model

- Example calibration posterior at an NR calibration point:



- Construct **polynomial fit to means**  $\bar{\theta}(\lambda_i)$  to obtain  $\theta(\lambda)$  throughout physical parameter space.
- Find  $\mathcal{M}_{\max} < 1\%$  against NR waveforms.



# Modeling the uncertainty

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- We want to incorporate the **uncertainty in the waveform model** into **parameter estimation**  
 $h(\lambda) \rightarrow p(h | \lambda)$
- **Method:**
  1. At each NR calibration point  $\lambda_i$ , determine **parametrized distribution**  $p(h | \lambda)$
  2. **Interpolate the distributions** to all  $\lambda$
  3. Work with **amplitude & phase deviations** for efficiency.



# Calibration error (CE) model ingredients

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## 1. Compressed frequency-domain representation of waveform “error”:

- Amplitude and phase deviations from SEOBNRv4,

$$h = [1 + \delta A(f)] e^{i\delta\phi(f)} \times h_{\text{SEOBNRv4}}$$

- log-spaced frequency nodes,

$$\delta A_j = \delta A(f_j), \quad \delta\phi_j = \delta\phi(f_j), \quad j = 1, \dots, 10$$

## 2. Multivariate normal approximation

$$p((\delta A, \delta\phi) | \lambda_i) \approx \mathcal{N}(\mu(\lambda_i), \Sigma(\lambda_i))$$

## 3. GPR interpolation

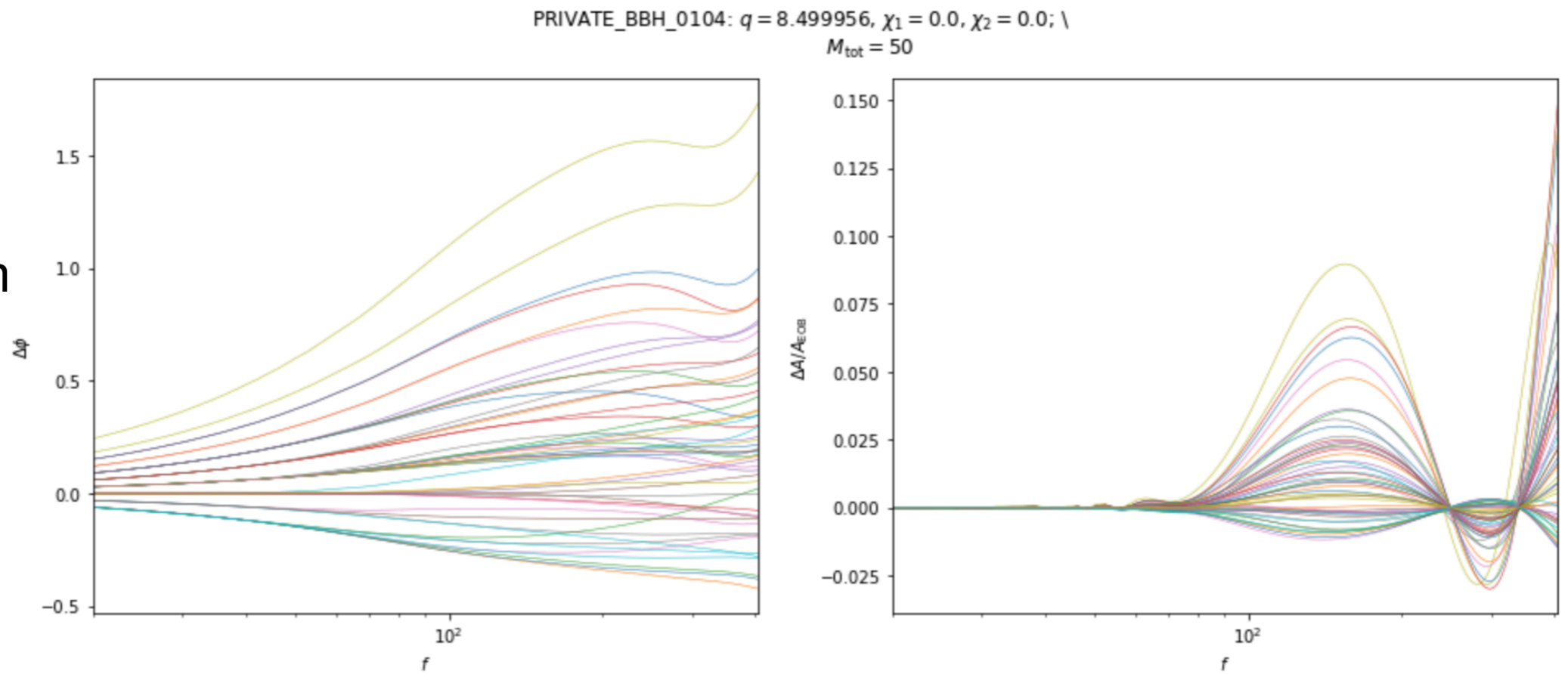
$$(\mu(\lambda_i), \Sigma(\lambda_i)) \mapsto (\mu(\lambda), \Sigma(\lambda))$$

- One can then **rapidly draw**  $\epsilon := (\{\delta A_i\}, \{\delta\phi_i\}) \sim p((\delta A, \delta\phi) | \lambda)$ , apply this correction to SEOBNRv4\_ROM waveforms, and perform inference.



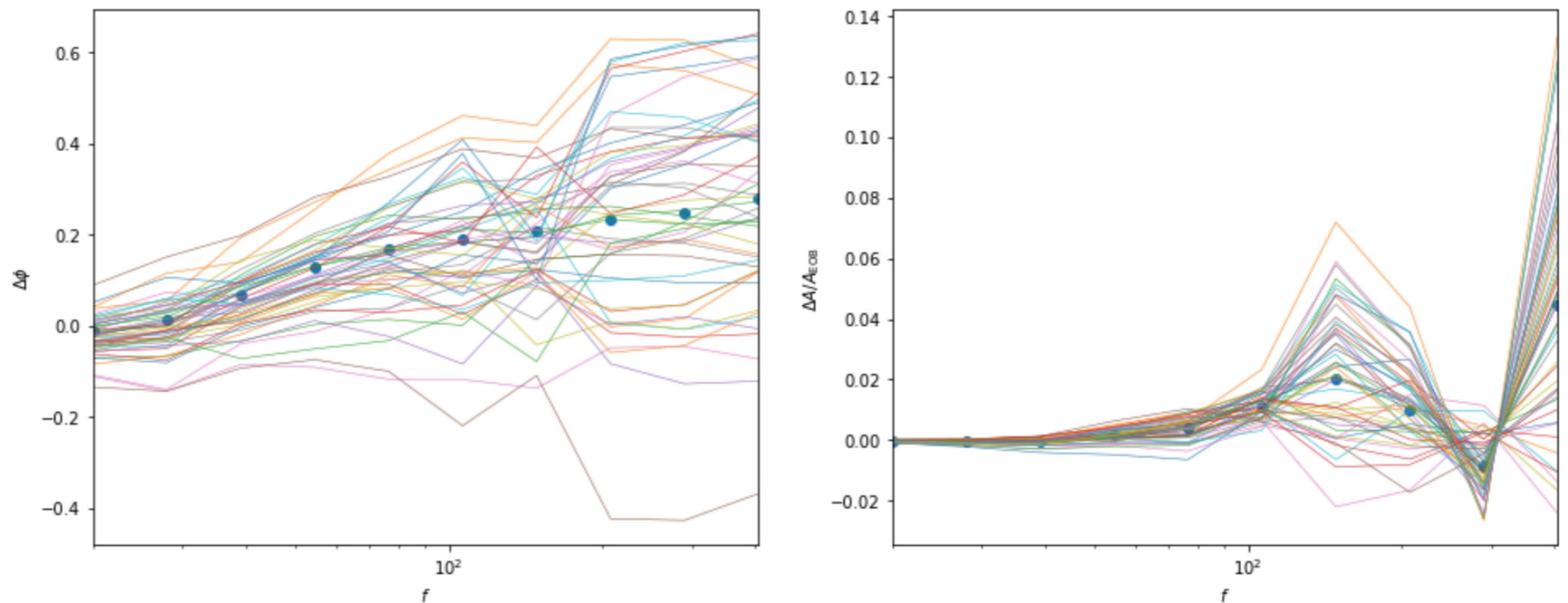
# Example waveform distribution at NR point (validation)

actual waveform differences



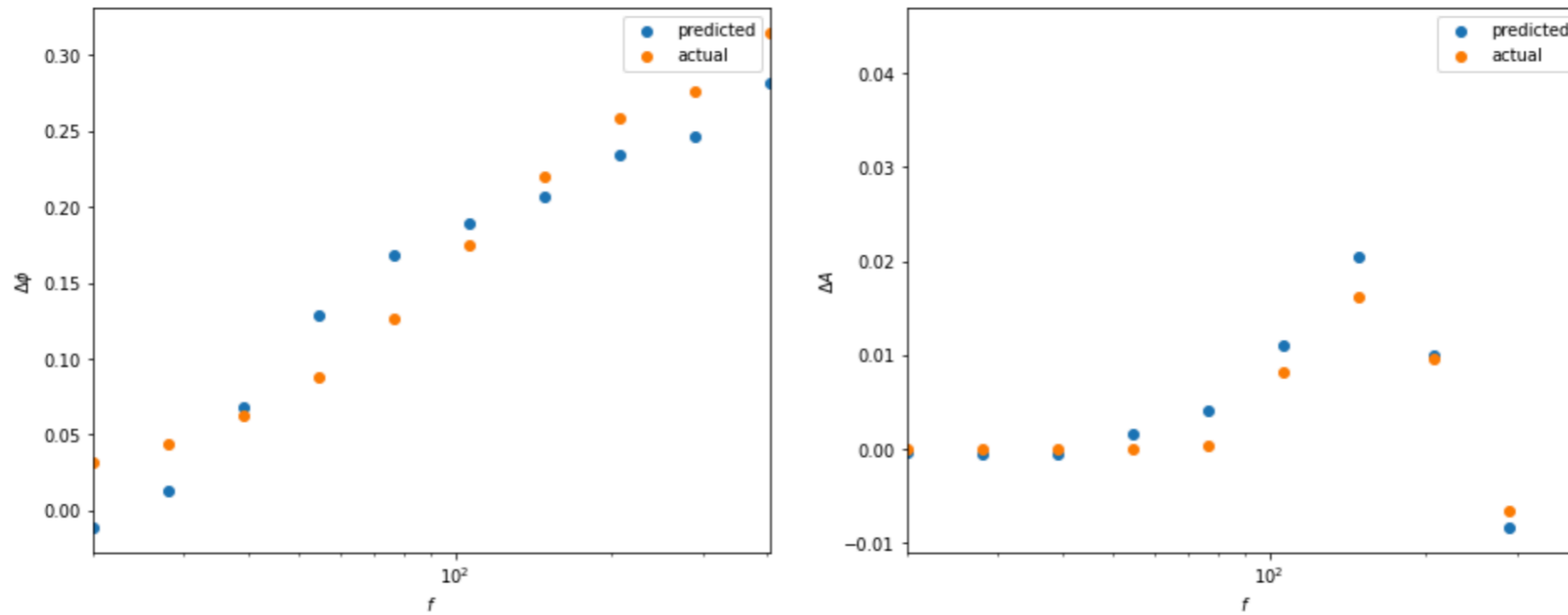
Predicted waveform differences:  $q = 8.499956$ ,  $\chi_1 = 0.0$ ,  $\chi_2 = 0.0$ ;  $M_{\text{tot}} = 9.942349999999999e + 31$

model waveform differences

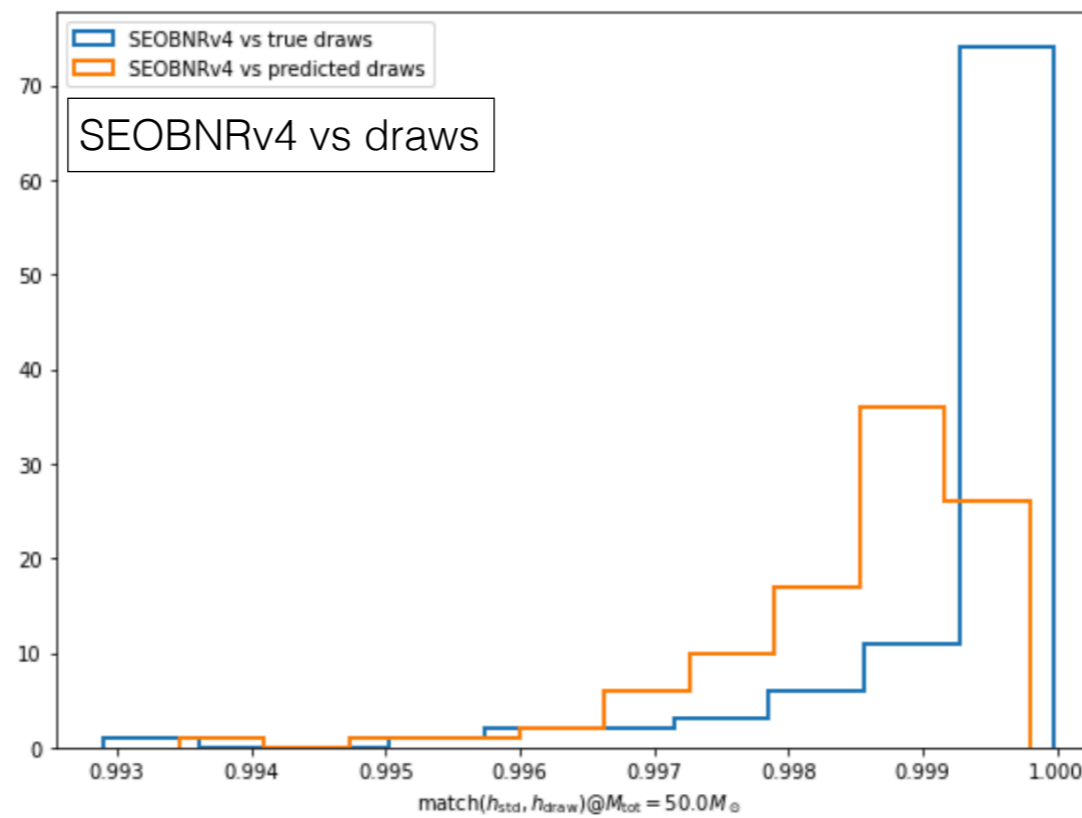


# Example CE accuracy at NR point (validation)

## Means comparison (predicted vs actual)



## Match (predicted vs actual)





# Summary: SEOBNRv4 calibration error model

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- CE model:

- Data: **SEOBNRv4 calibration posteriors against NR**
- **Amplitude and phase deviations** w.r.t. a neutral EOB calibration (calibration means) modeled by GPRs
- parameterized by **2 x 10 additional parameters  $\epsilon$**  for amplitude and phase

$$\delta\tilde{h}_{CE}(\lambda, \epsilon; f) = (1 + \delta A(\lambda, \epsilon; f)) \exp(i \delta\phi(\lambda, \epsilon; f))$$

- Combine error model with base waveform:

- **SEOBNRv4CE** := SEOBNRv4\_ROM \* CE model
- **SEOBNRv4CE0**: Neutral ( $\epsilon = 0$ ) calibration != SEOBNRv4\_ROM

$$\tilde{h}_{CE}(\lambda, \epsilon; f) = \tilde{h}_{\text{SEOBNRv4\_ROM}}(\lambda; f) \delta\tilde{h}_{CE}(\lambda, \epsilon; f)$$



# Parameter estimation study



# Parameter estimation of synthetic BBH signals

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- **PE Setup:**

- GW150914-like signal parameters
- LIGO-Virgo (HLV) design sensitivity, varying distance / SNR, zero noise
- PE with **bilby** & **dynesty** [<https://git.ligo.org/lscsoft/bilby>]

- **Sampling and marginalizing over waveform uncertainty:**

- Inference over standard waveform parameters and CE parameters  $\epsilon$
- Use zero-mean Gaussian priors for CE parameters
- Marginalize posterior over CE parameters

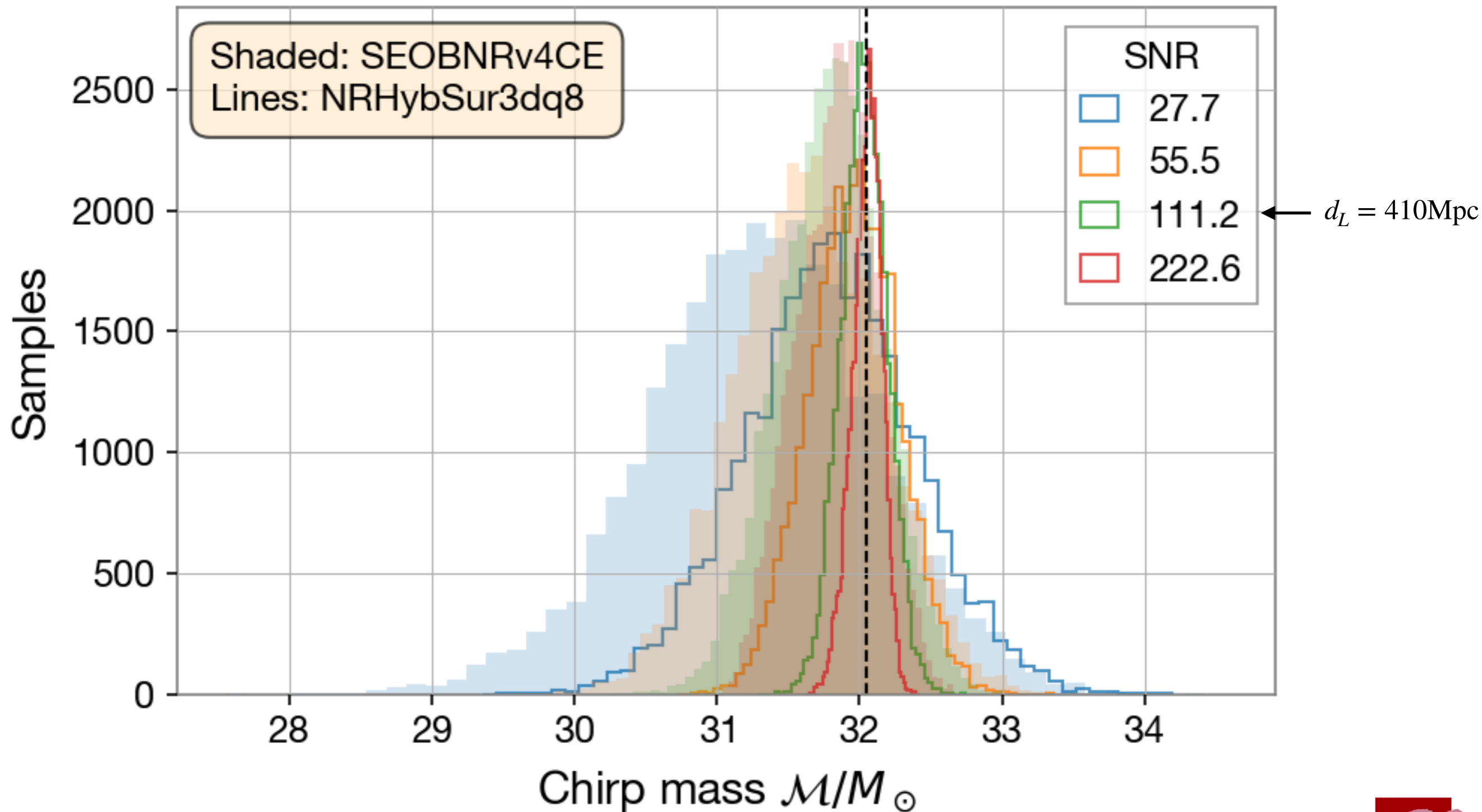
See W. Farr et al,  
LIGO- T1400682

- **NRSur3dq8 signal** recovered with **waveform models:**

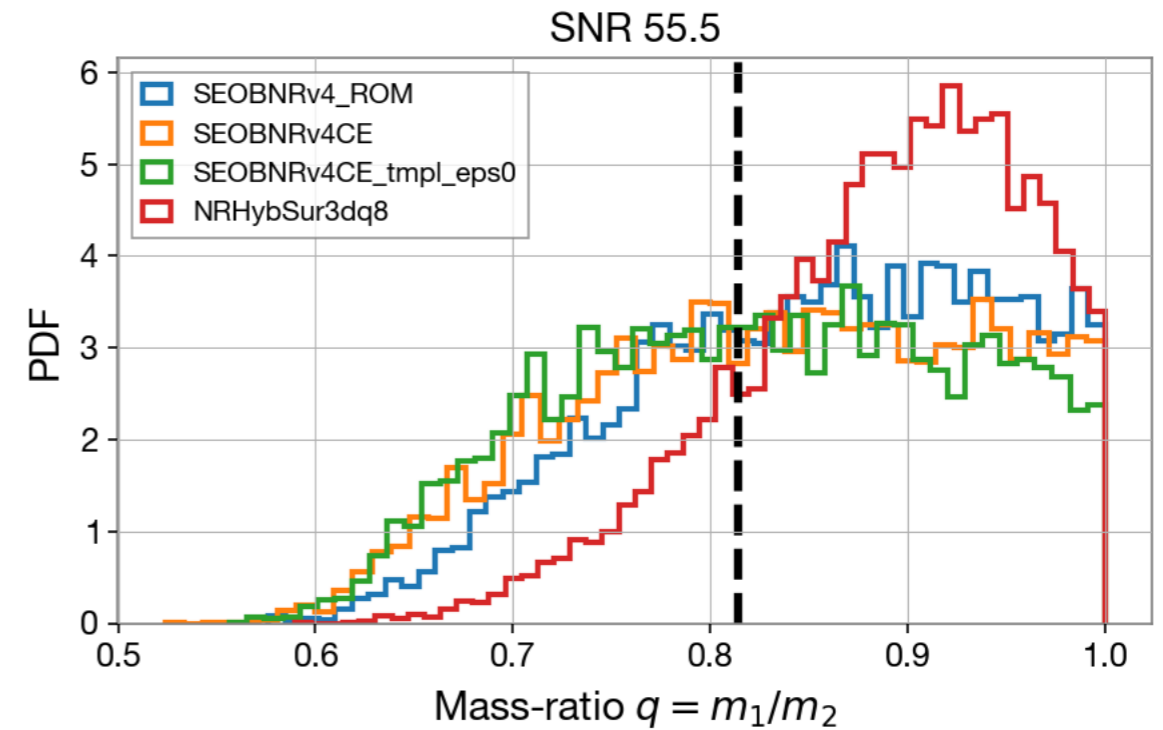
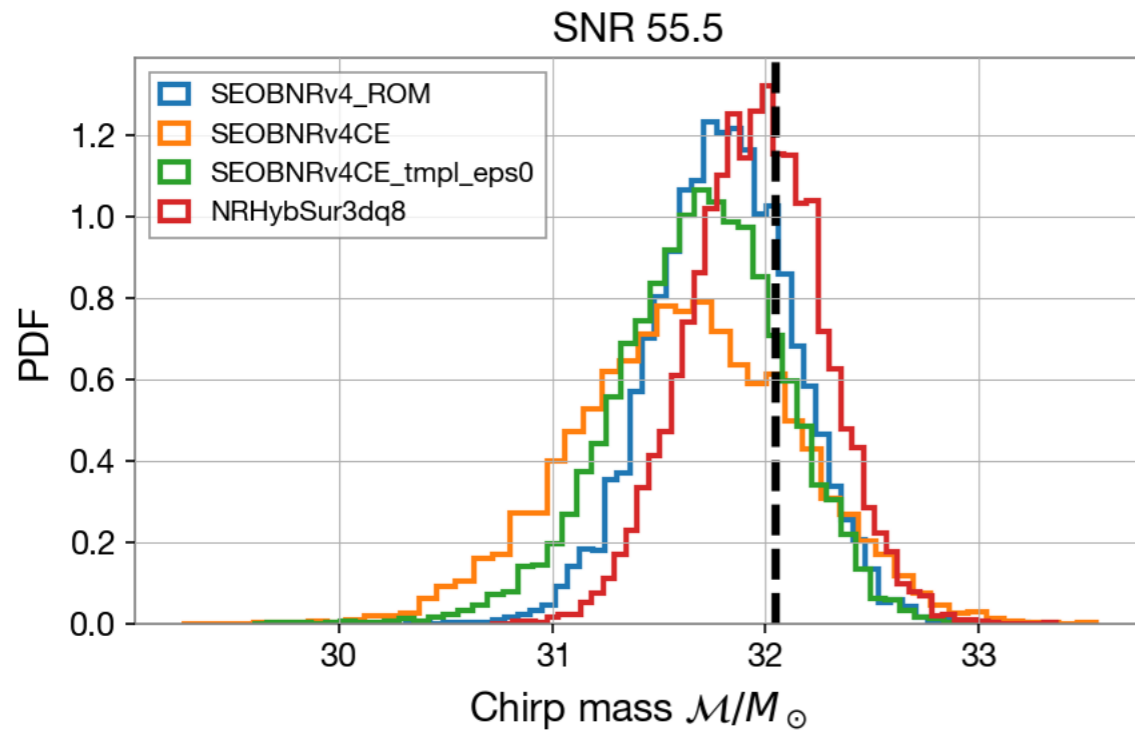
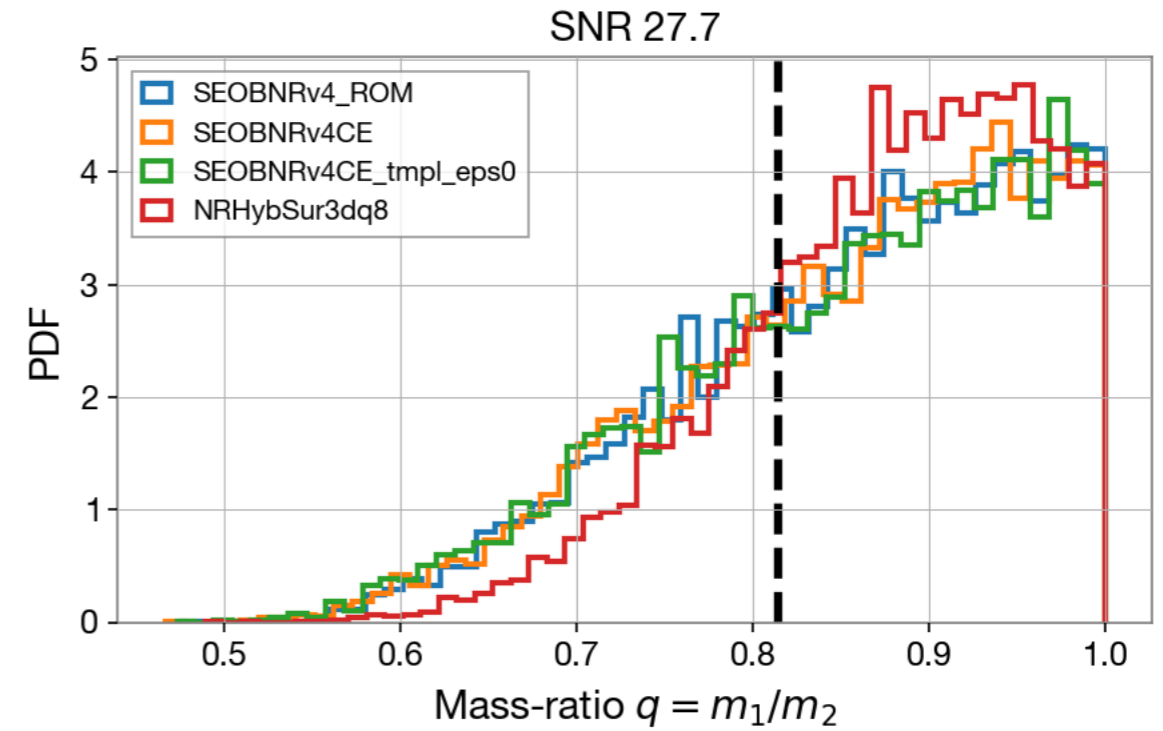
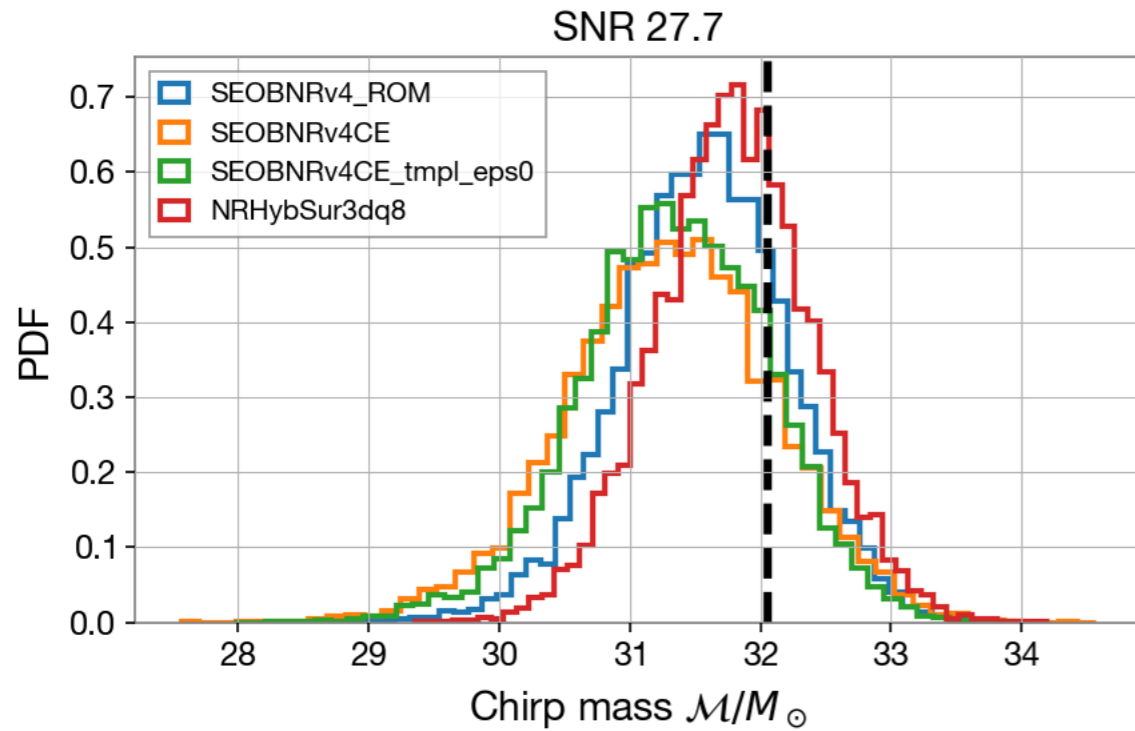
- SE0BNRv4\_ROM
- SE0BNRv4CE : sampling in  $\lambda$  and  $\epsilon$
- SE0BNRv4CE0 with  $\epsilon = 0$
- NRSur3dq8



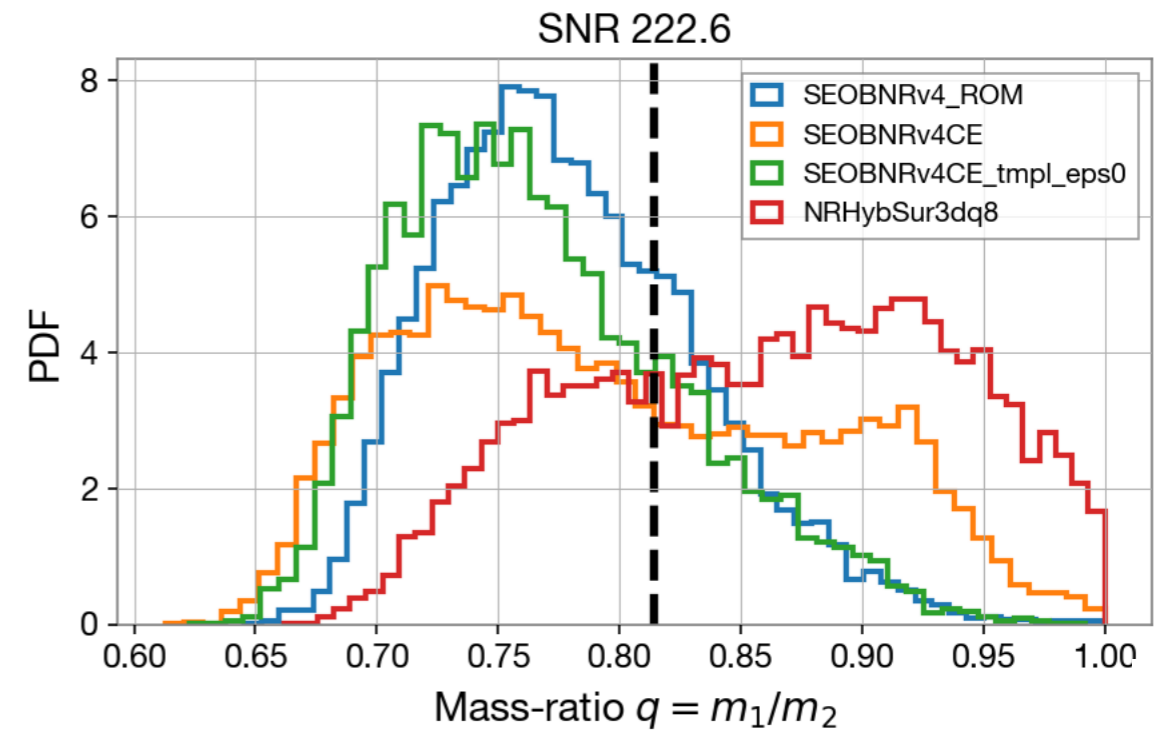
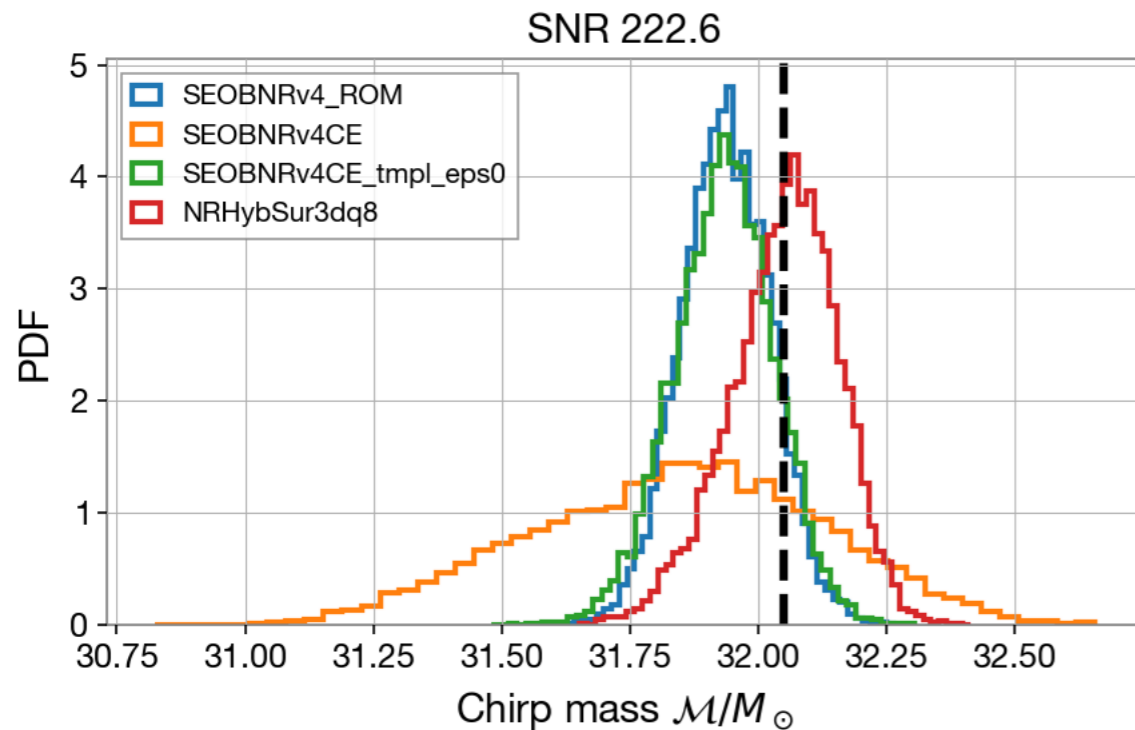
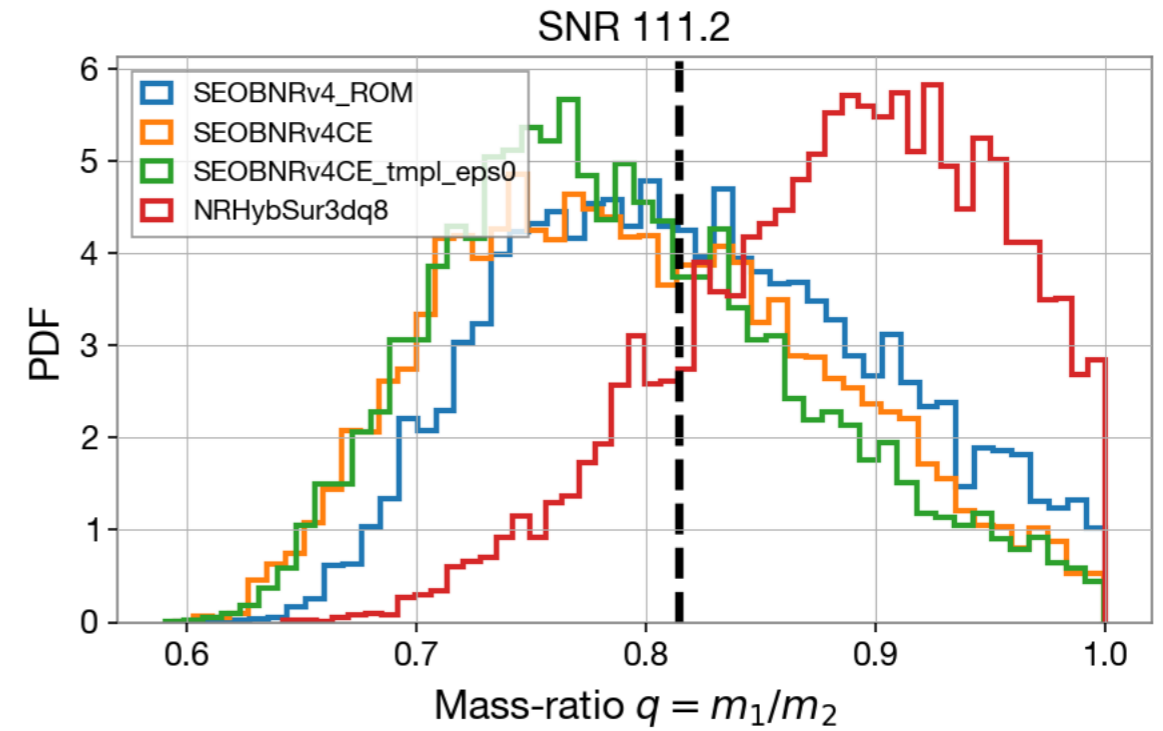
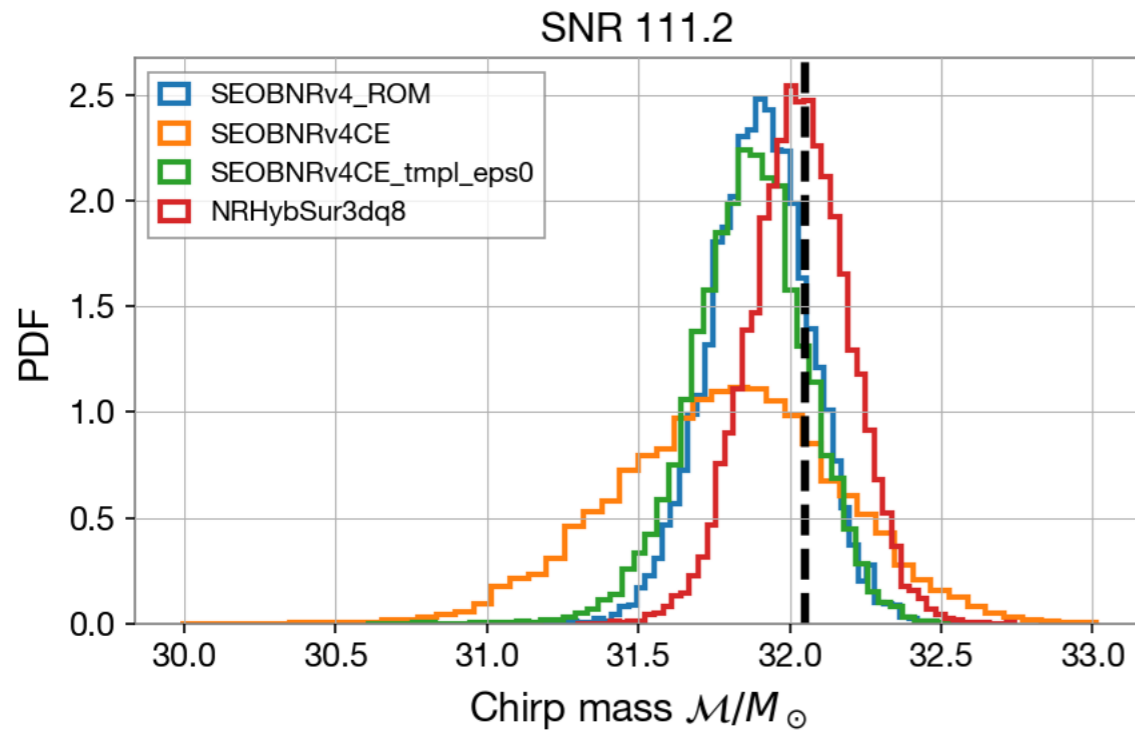
# Evolution of chirp mass with SNR



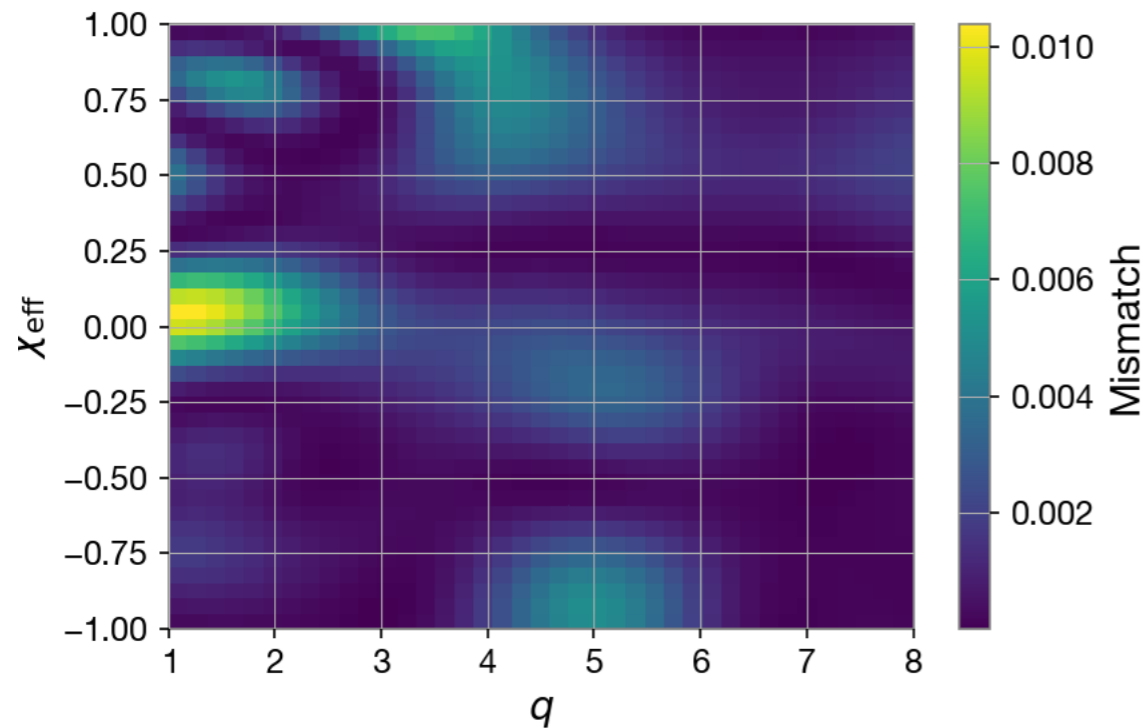
# Marginal posterior distributions



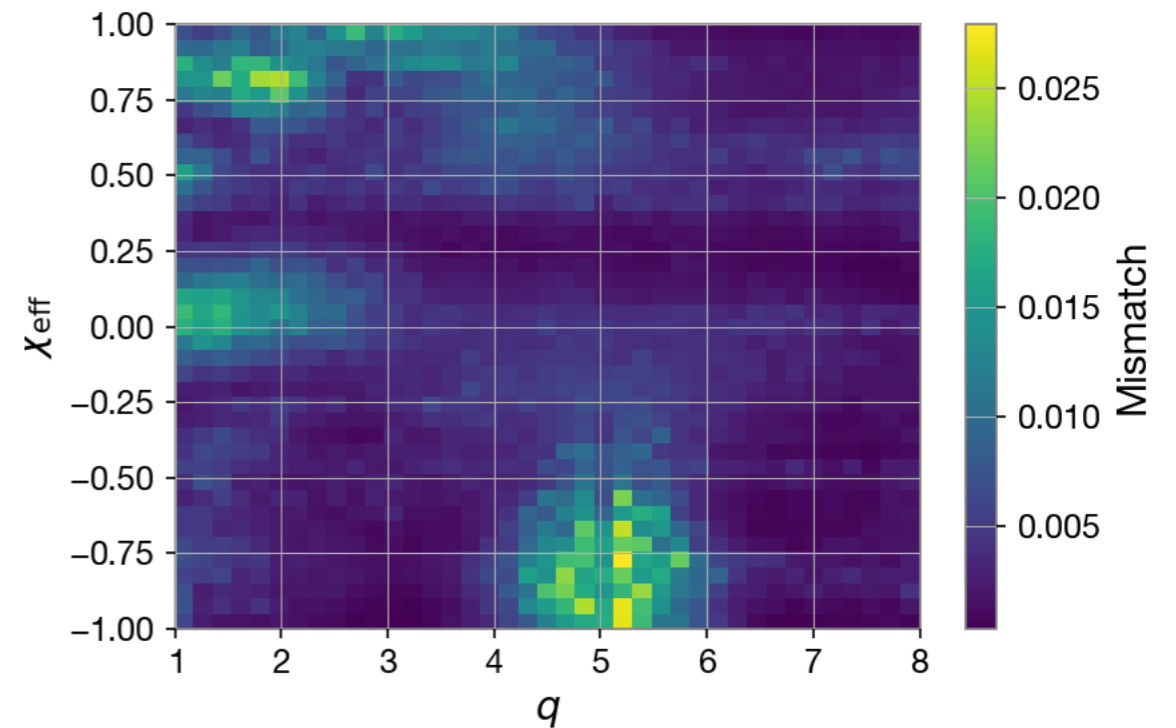
# Marginal posterior distributions



# Mismatch against SEOBNRv4\_ROM



$\mathfrak{M}_{\text{CE}}(\epsilon = 0)$



95th percentile of  $p(\mathfrak{M}_{\text{CE}})$

- **Mismatch distribution over binary parameter space:**

$$p(\mathfrak{M}_{\text{CE}}(\epsilon; \lambda) \mid \epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1); \lambda)$$

$$\mathfrak{M}_{\text{CE}}(\epsilon; \lambda) := \mathfrak{M}(\text{SEOBNRv4CE}, \text{SEOBNRv4\_ROM})(\epsilon; \lambda)$$

- **Isolated regions:** EOB fit deviates from mean of calibration posteriors  $\bar{\theta}(\lambda_i)$

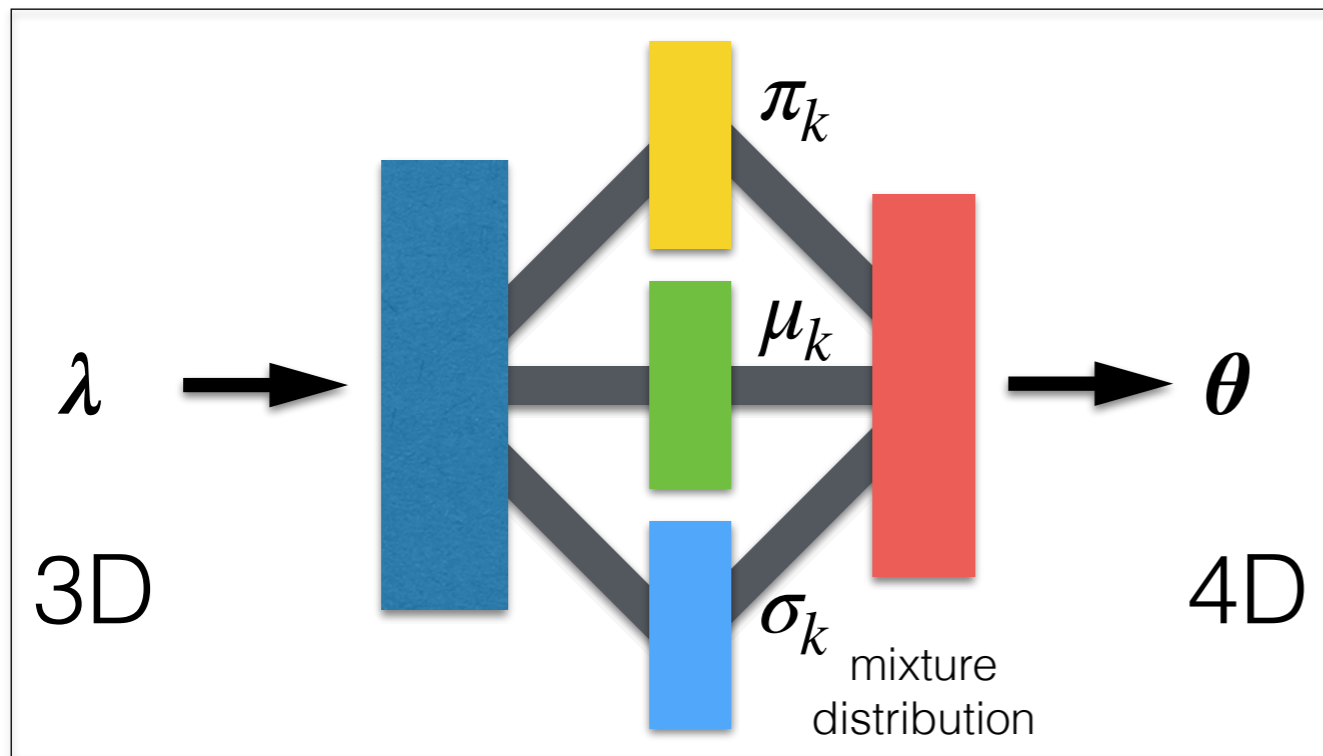


# MDN for calibration posteriors

- SEOBNRv4: **polynomial fit to the means of the calibration posteriors**  $p(\theta | \lambda)$  at the NR points  $\{\lambda_i\}$

- We can **improve** on this by a using **mixture of Gaussians**

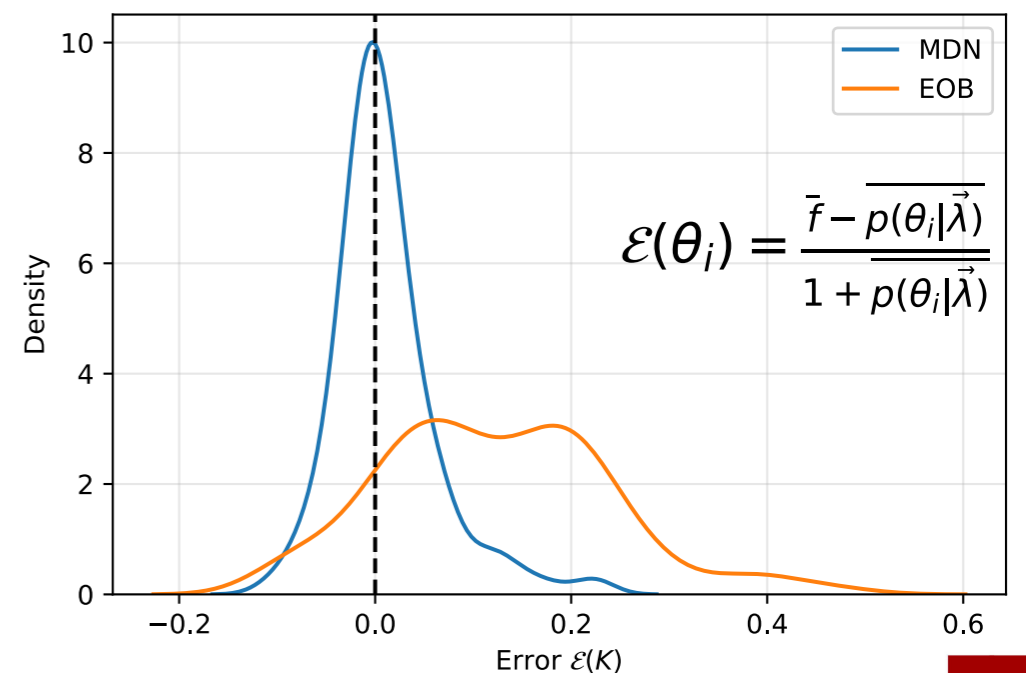
$$p(\theta | \lambda) \approx \sum_{k=1}^K \pi_k(\lambda) \mathcal{N}(\theta | \mu_k(\lambda), \sigma_k^2(\lambda))$$



Mixture density network

Validation

$$D_{KL}(p(\theta | \lambda_i), \text{MDN}) \approx 0.5\text{bits}$$



Mean errors





# Conclusion

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- Built **efficient GPR uncertainty model** SEOBNRv4CE:
  - Parametrizes EOB calibration uncertainty against NR
  - Works as expected for parameter inference and marginalizing over error parameters!
  - Posteriors PDFs are **less precise**, but **reduce biases**.
- Have **improved upon the calibration fit** used in SEOBNRv4
  - Mixture density network model of  $p(\theta | \lambda)$
- Work on **7D joint model for “uncalibrated EOB”**  $h(\lambda; \theta; f)$ 
  - Challenging modeling problem!
  - Why?  $\theta$  has *physical interpretation*, whereas  $\epsilon$  is more *phenomenological*
  - Could combine with MDN  $p(\theta | \lambda)$  and obtain posteriors for  $\theta$
  - If GR value for  $\theta$  known: can test GR



Thank you for your  
attention!

