

LSC AND VIRGO POLICY ON RELEASING GRAVITATIONAL WAVE TRIGGERS TO THE PUBLIC IN THE ADVANCED DETECTORS ERA

The LSC and Virgo recognize the great potential benefits of multi-messenger observations, including rapid electromagnetic follow-up observations of GW triggers. Both Collaborations (the LSC and Virgo) will partner with astronomers to carry out an inclusive observing campaign for potentially interesting GW triggers, with MoUs to ensure coordination and privacy of the information. They are open to all requests from interested astronomers or astronomy projects which want to become partners through signing an MoU. They encourage colleagues to help set up and organize this effort in an efficient way to guarantee the best science can be done with gravitational wave triggers.

After the published discovery of gravitational waves with data from LSC and/or Virgo detectors, both the LSC and Virgo will begin releasing especially significant triggers promptly to the entire scientific community to enable a wider range of follow-up observations. This will take effect when the GW events start to be detected routinely. The releases will be done as promptly as possible, within an hour of the detected transient if feasible. The released triggers will be those which have an estimated false alarm rate smaller than 1 per 100 years.

Partners who have signed an MoU with the LSC and Virgo will have access to GW triggers with a lower significance threshold and/or lower latency, according to the terms of the MoU, in order to carry out a more systematic joint observing campaign and combined interpretation of the results.

Throughout the Advanced Detectors era, the LSC and Virgo will release appropriate segments of data from operating detectors corresponding to gravitational waves presented in LSC/Virgo authored publications, at the time of the publication, including the first claimed detection of gravitational waves.