BEATING THE SPIN-DOWN LIMIT ON GRAVITATIONAL WAVE EMISSION FROM THE VELA PULSAR

and

S. Buchner101,102, A. Hotan103, and J. Palfreyman104

1 LIGO-California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA

2 University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QX, UK

3 Laboratoire d’Annecy-le-Vieux de Physique des Particules (LAPP), Université de Savoie, CNRS/IN2P3, F-74941 Annecy-Le-Vieux, France

4 INFN, Sezione di Napoli, Complesso Universitario di Monte S. Angelo, I-80126 Napoli, Italy

5 University of Salerno, Fisciano, I-84084 Salerno, Italy

6 LIGO-Livingston Observatory, Livingston, LA 70754, USA

7 Albert Einstein-Institut, Max-Planck-Institut für Gravitationsphysik, D-30167 Hannover, Germany

8 Leibniz Universität Hannover, D-30167 Hannover, Germany

9 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA

10 Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA

11 University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA

12 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA

13 INFN, Sezione di Roma, I-00185 Roma, Italy

14 University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK

15 LIGO-Hanford Observatory, Richland, WA 99352, USA

16 Albert Einstein-Institut, Max-Planck-Institut für Gravitationsphysik, D-14476 Golm, Germany

17 Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717, USA

18 European Gravitational Observatory (EGO), I-56021 Cascina (PI), Italy

19 Carleton College, Northfield, MN 55057, USA

20 University of Western Australia, Crawley, WA 6009, Australia
We present direct upper limits on continuous gravitational wave emission from the Vela pulsar using data from the Virgo detector’s second science run. These upper limits have been obtained using three independent methods that assume the gravitational wave emission follows the radio timing. Two of the methods produce frequentist upper limits for an assumed known orientation of the star’s spin axis and value of the wave polarization angle of, respectively, \( 1.9 \times 10^{-24} \) and \( 2.2 \times 10^{-24} \), with 95% confidence. The third method, under the same hypothesis, produces a Bayesian upper limit of \( 2.1 \times 10^{-24} \), with 95% degree of belief. These limits are below the indirect spin-down limit of \( 3.3 \times 10^{-24} \) for the Vela pulsar, defined by the energy loss rate inferred from observed decrease in Vela’s spin frequency, and correspond to a limit on the star ellipticity of \( \sim 10^{-3} \). Slightly less stringent results, but still well below the spin-down limit, are obtained assuming the star’s spin axis inclination and the wave polarization angles are unknown.

Key words: gravitational waves – pulsars: individual (PSR J0835–4510) – stars: neutron
which are important given Vela’s relatively large timing noise. If timing noise is a consequence of fluctuations in the star’s rotation frequency, not taking it into account would result in an increasing mismatch over time between the signal and template phases, thus producing a sensitivity loss in a coherent search. In this search updated ephemerides have been computed using the pulsar software TEMPO2 starting from the set of times of arrival of the electromagnetic pulses observed by the Hobart and Hartebeesthoek telescopes covering the whole duration of the VSR2 run. Including in the fitting process up to the second derivative of frequency is enough in order to have flat post-fit residuals. The post-fit position and frequency parameters are shown in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. The corresponding post-fit residuals rms amounts to a negligible 100 \mu s.

Recent Chandra X-ray observations provide accurate determination of the orientation of the Vela spin axis. In Ng & Romani (2008), estimates of the pulsar wind nebula’s “position angle,” \psi, and inclination \iota, are given:

\begin{align*}
\psi_p &= 130.63 \pm 0.05, \\
\iota_p &= 63.6 \pm 0.6.
\end{align*}

The “position angle” is related to the GW polarization angle \psi (see Section 2) by either \psi = 180^\circ + \psi_p or \psi = \psi_p depending on the unknown spin direction. Our analyses are insensitive to rotations of \psi by integer multiples of 90\(^\circ\), so the spin direction is not needed. The inclination angle calculated from the pulsar wind nebula \iota_p is taken to be the same as that of the pulsar \iota. The physics of pulsar wind nebulae is complex, and a model leading to the above fits has several uncertainties. Thus, we perform separate searches for the GW signal from Vela, both assuming that the angles \psi and \iota are known within the above uncertainties, and assuming that they are unknown.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we summarize the characteristics of the GW signals for which we search. In Section 3 we describe the data set used for the analysis. In Section 4 we briefly describe the three analysis methods used. In Section 5 we present the results of the analysis. In Section 6 we provide conclusions. Some more details on the analysis methods are given in the Appendices.

### 2. THE GW SIGNAL

The continuous GW signal emitted by a triaxial neutron star rotating around a principal axis of inertia as seen from Earth is described by the following tensor metric perturbation:

\begin{align*}
h(t) &= h_e(t) \mathbf{e}_x + h_x(t) \mathbf{e}_x, \quad (2)
\end{align*}

where

\begin{align*}
h_e(t) &= h_0 \left( \frac{1 + \cos^2 \frac{\Phi(t)}{2} \right) \cos \Phi(t), \quad (3)
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
h_x(t) &= h_0 \cos \iota \sin \Phi(t), \quad (4)
\end{align*}

and \mathbf{e}_x and \mathbf{e}_x are the two basis polarization tensors. They are defined, see, e.g., Misner et al. (1973), in terms of unit orthogonal vectors \mathbf{e}_x and \mathbf{e}_y where \mathbf{e}_x is along the x-axis of the wave frame, defined as the cross product \hat{\mathbf{s}} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}} between the source spin direction \hat{\mathbf{s}} and the source direction \hat{\mathbf{n}} in the solar system barycenter (SSB).

The angle \iota is the inclination of the star’s rotation axis with respect to the line of sight and \Phi(t) is the signal phase function, where \iota is the detector time, while the amplitude \h_0 is given by

\begin{align*}
\h_0 &= \frac{4\pi^2 G I_x e f^2}{c^4 d^3}, \quad (5)
\end{align*}

where \h_0 is the star moment of inertia with respect to the rotation axis, the equatorial ellipticity \e is defined, in terms of principal moments of inertia, as \e = \h_0 - I_{xx}/I_{zz}, \d is the star distance, and \f is the signal frequency. As the time-varying components of the mass quadrupole moment tensor are periodic with period half the star rotation period, it follows that \f = 2 \f_{rot}.

The GW strain at the detector can be described as

\begin{align*}
h(t) &= h_e(t) F_e(t; \psi) + h_x(t) F_x(t; \psi), \quad (6)
\end{align*}

where the two beam-pattern functions, which are periodic functions of time with period of one sidereal day, are given by

\begin{align*}
F_e(t; \psi) &= a(t) \cos 2\psi + b(t) \sin 2\psi, \quad (7)
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
F_x(t; \psi) &= b(t) \cos 2\psi - a(t) \sin 2\psi. \quad (8)
\end{align*}

The two functions \a(t), \b(t) depend on the source position in the sky and on the detector position and orientation on the Earth. Their time dependency is sinusoidal and cosinusoidal with arguments \Omega_0 t and 2 \Omega_0 t, \Omega_0 is the Earth angular rotation frequency; \psi is the wave polarization angle defined as the angle from \hat{\mathbf{s}} \times \hat{\mathbf{n}} to the x-axis of the wave frame, measured counterclockwise with respect to \hat{\mathbf{n}}, where \hat{\mathbf{s}} is the direction of the north celestial pole (see, e.g., the plot in Prix & Krishnan 2009). The effect of detector response on a monochromatic signal with angular frequency \omega_0 is to introduce an amplitude and phase modulation which determine a split of the signal power into five frequencies, \omega_0, \omega_0 \pm \Omega_0, \omega_0 \pm 2 \Omega_0. The distribution of power among the five bands depends on the source and detector angular parameters. In Figure 1 the power spectrum at the Virgo detector of a hypothetical monochromatic signal coming from the location of the Vela pulsar is shown for two assumed polarizations (pure “+” linear polarization and circular left-handed polarization).
To a very good approximation, the SSB can be used as an inertial reference frame in which to define the signal phase. In this frame, with barycentric time \( T \), the signal phase is

\[
\Phi(T) = \Phi_0 + 2\pi f_0 (T - T_0),
\]

where the intrinsic frequency \( f_0 \) is a function of time due to the spin-down:

\[
f_0(T) = f_0^{(0)} + \sum_{n=1}^{n} \frac{f_0^{(n)}}{n!} (T - T_0)^n,
\]

where \( f_0^{(n)} = \frac{df_0}{dT} \big|_{T=T_0} \). The time at the detector, \( t \), differs from \( T \) due to the relative motion between the source and the detector and to some relativistic effects. Considering only isolated neutron stars, we have the well-known relation (Lyne & Graham-Smith 1998; Hobbs et al. 2006; Edwards et al. 2006)

\[
T = t + \Delta_R + \Delta_E + \Delta_S,
\]

where

\[
\Delta_R = \frac{\vec{r} \cdot \hat{n}}{c}
\]

is the classical Roemer delay, which gives the main contribution (\( \vec{r} \) is the vector identifying the detector position in the SSB, while \( \hat{n} \) is the unit vector toward the source). The term \( \Delta_E \) is the Einstein delay which is the sum of two contributions, one due to the gravitational redshift produced by the Sun and the other due to the time dilation produced by Earth’s motion. \( \Delta_S \) is the Shapiro delay due to the curvature of spacetime near the Sun. Expressing the signal phase in the detector frame, by using Equation (11), we can write the signal frequency at the detector as

\[
f(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d\Phi(t)}{dt} \simeq f_0(t) \left(1 + \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \hat{n}}{c}\right) + \text{rel. corr.},
\]

where \( \vec{v} \) is the detector velocity vector and terms of order \( |f_0^{(1)} \frac{\vec{n} \cdot \vec{v}}{c}| \) or smaller have been omitted from the equation (though they are included in the analyses).

A useful quantity to which to compare the upper limit on signal strength set in a given analysis is the so-called spin-down limit. It is computed (Abbott et al. 2007) assuming that all the observed spin-down is due to the emission of GWs:

\[
h_0^{sd} = 8.06 \times 10^{-19} I_{38} d_{kpc}^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{(f_{rot}/\text{Hz})}{(f_{rot}/\text{Hz})}}
\]

where \( I_{38} \) is the star’s moment of inertia in units of \( 10^{38} \text{ kg m}^2 \) and \( d_{kpc} \) is the star’s distance from the Sun in kiloparsecs. It is an absolute upper limit to the amplitude of the GW signal that could be emitted by the star, where electromagnetic radiation is neglected. The spin-down limit on the signal amplitude corresponds to an upper limit on the star’s ellipticity given by

\[
\epsilon^{sd} = 0.237 \left(\frac{h_0^{sd}}{10^{-24}}\right) I_{38}^{-1} (f_{rot}/\text{Hz})^{-2} d_{kpc}.
\]

The Vela pulsar has a measured braking index \( n \simeq 1.4 \) (Lyne et al. 1996) and this, together with the estimation of its age, can be used to compute a stricter indirect limit on the signal amplitude (Palomba 2000), which only holds under the assumption that the spin-down is due to the combination of emission of GW and magnetic dipole radiation, about four times lower than the spin-down limit.

Achieving sensitivity better than the spin-down limit is an important milestone toward probing neutron star structure via GWs.

3. INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE IN THE VSR2 RUN

We have analyzed calibrated strain data from the Virgo VSR2 run. This run (started in coincidence with the start of the LIGO S6 data run) began on 2009 July 7 21:00:00 UTC (GPS 931035615) and ended on 2010 January 8 22:00:01 UTC (GPS 947023216). The duty cycle was 80.4%, resulting in a total of \(~149\) days of science mode data, divided among 379 segments. Science mode is a flag used to indicate when the interferometer is locked and freely running at its working point, with all the controls active and no human intervention. In Figure 2, the fraction of total time covered by science data...
segments with duration longer than a given value is plotted. The longest segment lasts ~88 hr.

The detector showed a good sensitivity around the expected Vela signal frequency during the entire run. The sensitivity was typically within a factor of two of the target Virgo design sensitivity (Accadia et al. 2010). Figure 3 shows the estimation of the power spectrum of the data, computed through an average of ~1000 s periodograms after removal of some large outliers (see Section 4.3.1), on a 0.8 Hz frequency band around the expected frequency of the GW signal from the Vela pulsar for the entire VSR2 run. An instrumental disturbance right at the Vela signal frequency degraded the sensitivity by ~20% with respect to the background. The source of this disturbance was seismic noise produced by the engine of the chiller pumps that circulate coolant fluid for the laser of the mirror thermal compensation system and it has been removed during the next Virgo VSR3 run.

The data used in the analysis have been produced using the most up-to-date calibration parameters and reconstruction procedure. The associated systematic error amounts to 5.5% in amplitude and ~50 mrad in phase (Accadia et al. 2010) over the frequency range between ~10 Hz and ~1 kHz, with lower uncertainties at the Vela frequency. The reconstructed data have a sampling rate of 20000 Hz. However, two more reconstructed data streams, sampled respectively at 16384 Hz and 4096 Hz, were also produced to be consistent with LIGO/GEO sampling rates.

4. THE SEARCH METHODS

There are several reasons to use different methods in the search for CW signals, provided they have comparable performance. First, it makes it easier to cross-check each method by comparing the analysis outputs, even at intermediate steps. Second, different methods can be more suitable, or efficient, for given characteristics of the signal to be analyzed, or for given characteristics of the signal emitted by a source, e.g., a method can be more robust against noise non-stationarity with respect to another. Third, in case of detection with a given analysis it will be of paramount importance to confirm the detection with one or more independent analyses.

In the analyses described in this paper, we observe consistent results from the three methods, which provide valuable cross-checks.

All the analyses clean the data in some way to remove large transient outliers. This is necessary, as large short-duration transients will skew noise estimates and adversely affect results. The amount of data removed during cleaning is negligible compared to the total data span and would produce a decrease of the signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of a signal present in the data of less than 1%.

Among the three methods, two different approaches have been used toward setting upper limits. In the heterodyne method, the posterior probability for the signal parameters is calculated, from which degree-of-belief (or credibility) regions can be set to give limits on particular parameters (e.g., an upper limit on h_0 can be set by finding the value that bounds a given percentage of the probability). In the two other analyses, a frequentist approach is used and upper limits are set through Monte Carlo methods where many simulated signals with different amplitude and randomly varying parameters and frequency near the expected one from the Vela are added to the data. These two approaches should produce quantitatively similar results, see, for example, Abbott et al. (2004), but they are answering different questions and therefore cannot be meaningfully combined.

The three analysis methods are described in the following sections of this paper.

4.1. Complex Heterodyne

This method, developed in Dupuis & Woan (2005), provides a way to reduce the search data set to a manageable size, and use it to perform Bayesian parameter estimation of the unknown signal parameters.

4.1.1. Data Reduction

The known signal phase evolution (Equation (9)) is used to heterodyne the data, changing the time series detector data x(t) = h(t) + n(t), where h(t) is the signal given by Equation (6) and n(t) is the noise, to

\[ x'(t) = x(t)e^{-i(\Phi(t) - \Phi_0)}, \]  

(16)
using an MCMC (Abbott et al. 2010), which gives posterior probabilities for these parameters. This posterior probability volume is explored by marginalizing a Gaussian likelihood over an unknown noise standard deviation (Gaussian shape) given the heterodyned data and a signal (multiplicative) form. In the frequentist approach, a signal is detected in the data if the value of the detection statistic that would produce a value of the detection statistic that in 95% of the samples is larger than the threshold value.

\[ B = \int_{0}^{h_{0}^\ast} p(h_{0}|d, I) dh_{0}. \]  

Here we set 95% degree-of-belief upper limits. Due to the fact that the MCMC is finite in length there will be small statistical uncertainties between different MCMC runs, which for cleaned data we find to be \( \pm 1 \times 10^{-26} \). The difference in results between using cleaned and non-cleaned data, as above, is within the statistical uncertainty from the MCMC.

### 4.2. F and G Statistics Method

The second search method uses the \( F \) and \( G \) statistics developed in Jaranowski et al. (1998) and Jaranowski & Królak (2010). These statistics are used to perform maximum-likelihood estimation of signal parameters and to obtain frequentist upper limits on the signal amplitude.

#### 4.2.1. Data Reduction

The description of how to compute the \( F \) and \( G \) statistics from time-domain data is given in Jaranowski et al. (1998) and Jaranowski & Królak (2010). The \( F \) statistic is applied when the four parameters \( h_0, \Phi_0, \psi, \) and \( i \) are assumed to be known. When the orientation of the spin axis of the Vela pulsar and the wave polarization angle are known and given by Equation (1), the \( G \) statistic is used instead.

We have refined the application of these statistics to account for two features of the current search. First, the VSR2 data that we analyze are not stationary (see Figure 6), so the statistics must be modified to de-emphasize noisy periods. Second, we use as our input data the complex-valued coarse heterodyne data described in Section 4.1, so the statistics must be generalized to deal with complex data. These effects can be taken into account in \( F \) and \( G \) statistics formalism in a straightforward way derived explicitly in Appendix C, resulting in the generalized forms of the \( F \) and \( G \) statistics given by Equations (C11) and (C15), respectively. These generalized forms of the statistics are used to search VSR2 data for a GW signal from the Vela pulsar.

#### 4.2.2. Data Cleaning

The coarse heterodyne data that we analyze with the \( F \) and \( G \) statistics contains a small number of outliers that must be discarded. To identify these outliers we have used an iterative method called the Grubbs test (Grubbs 1969) explained in detail in Appendix D. Application of the Grubbs test resulted in removal of 0.1% of the total data points in input data, amounting to a negligible loss of S/N of any continuous signal present in the data.

#### 4.2.3. Parameter Estimation and Upper Limits

In the frequentist approach, a signal is detected in the data if the value of the \( F \) or \( G \) statistic exceeds some threshold corresponding to an accepted false alarm probability (1% in this analysis). When the values of the statistics are not statistically significant, we can set upper limits on the amplitude \( h_{0} \) of the GW signal. We choose a frequentist framework for computing the amplitude \( h_{0}^\ast \) of a signal that, if truly present in the data, would produce a value of the detection statistic that in 95% of the cases would be larger than the value actually found in the data.
analysis. To obtain the upper limits on \( h_0 \), we follow a Monte Carlo method described in Abbott et al. (2004). That is, we add simulated GW signals to the VSR2 data and determine the resulting values of the statistics. The parameters of the simulated signals are exactly the same as for Vela, except for the GW frequency which is randomly offset from twice the Vela spin frequency. For the \( F \)-statistic case, the parameters \( \psi \) and \( \cos \iota \) are chosen from a uniform distribution, whereas for \( G \)-statistic case they are fixed to the values estimated from X-ray observations (see Equation (1)). We calculate the upper limits corresponding to the obtained values of the statistics by interpolating results of the simulation to find the \( h_0 \) value for which 95% of the signals have a louder \( F \)- or \( G \)-statistic value than that obtained in the search. To estimate the statistical errors in the upper limits from the Monte Carlo simulations, we have followed the method presented in Section IV of Abbott et al. (2004) by performing an additional set of injections for the amplitude \( h_0 \) around the obtained upper limits.

In the case that a statistically significant signal is detected, we can estimate unknown signal parameters. In the case of the \( F \)-statistic search, the maximum-likelihood estimators of the amplitudes are obtained by Equation (C12). These amplitude estimates are then transformed into estimates of parameters \( h_0 \), \( \Phi_0 \), \( \psi \), and \( \iota \) using Equation (23) of Jaranowski & Królak (2010). In the case of the \( G \)-statistic search, where parameters \( \psi \) and \( \iota \) are assumed to be known, the amplitude estimator is obtained by Equation (C17), and estimates of the parameters \( h_0 \) and \( \Phi_0 \) are calculated from Equation (7) of Jaranowski & Królak (2010).

4.3. Matched Filter on the Signal Fourier Components

The third search method uses the Fourier amplitudes computed at five frequencies where the signal would appear due to sidereal amplitude modulation and applies a matched filter to this five-point complex data vector. Further details can be found in Appendix A and in Astone et al. (2010).

4.3.1. Data Reduction

The starting point for this method is a short Fourier transform database (SFDDB) built from calibrated strain data sampled at 4096 Hz (Astone et al. 2005). The FFTs have a duration of 1024 s and are interlaced by 50% and windowed with a flat top—cosine edges window. From the SFDDB a small band (0.2 Hz in this analysis) around the frequency of interest is extracted from each FFT. The SFDDB contains, among other information, the position and the velocity of the detector in the SSB at the center time of each FFT. Each frequency domain chunk is zero-padded and inversely Fourier-transformed to obtain a complex time series with the same sampling time of the original time series, but with a spectrum different from zero only in the selected band (i.e., it is an analytical signal, see, e.g., Astone et al. 2002). Then, for each sample, the detector position in the SSB is computed, by interpolating with a third-degree polynomial. The Doppler and Einstein effects can be seen as a varying time delay \( \Delta(t) \). A new non-uniformly sampled time variable \( t' \) with samples \( t_i' = t_i + \Delta(t_i) \) is computed. The spin-down is corrected by multiplying each data chunk by \( e^{-i \Delta \phi(t') / 2} \) where \( \Delta \phi(t') = 2 \pi (f_0^2 t' + f_0^3 t'^3) \). Then the data are resampled at equal intervals in \( t' \). The final complex time series has a sampling frequency of 1 Hz. At this point, a true GW signal would be sinusoidal with a sidereally modulated amplitude and phase, as described in Section 2, containing power at the nominal source frequency and in lower and upper sidebands of \( \pm \Omega_0, \pm 2 \Omega_0 \).

The Fourier coefficients at these five frequencies are taken to form a complex data 5-vector \( X \).

The detection method described here relies on a description of the GW signal given in Appendix A. When the polarization angle \( \psi \) and the inclination angle of the star rotation axis \( \iota \) are unknown, we use a procedure that we denote 4 degrees of freedom ( dof) detection, in which the two signal 5-vectors \( A^+, A^\times \), corresponding to the + and \( \times \) polarizations and defined in Appendix A, are numerically computed and projected onto the data 5-vector \( X \):

\[
\hat{H}_+ = \frac{X \cdot A^+}{|A^+|^2}
\]

\[
\hat{H}_\times = \frac{X \cdot A^\times}{|A^\times|^2}.
\]

The output of the two matched filters are the estimators of the amplitudes \( H_0 e^{i \Phi_0} H_+ \), \( H_0 e^{i \Phi_0} H_\times \). The final detection statistic is defined by

\[
S = |A^+|^4 |\hat{H}_+|^2 + |A^\times|^4 |\hat{H}_\times|^2.
\]

More details can be found in Astone et al. (2010).

If estimations of \( \psi \) and \( \iota \) provided by X-ray observations (Section 1) are used, we can apply a simpler procedure that we call a 2 dof detection. In this case the signal is completely known, apart from an overall complex amplitude \( H = H_0 e^{i \Phi_0} \). Then, the template consists of just one 5-vector \( A = H_+ A^+ + H_\times A^\times \), where \( H_+ \), \( H_\times \) are given by Equation (A3), and only one matched filter must be applied to the data 5-vector \( X \): \( \hat{H} = \frac{X \cdot A}{|A|^2} \), which provides an estimation of the signal complex amplitude. The detection statistic is then given by \( S = |\hat{H}|^2 \).

4.3.2. Data Cleaning

In addition, various cleaning steps were applied to the data. The data can be modeled as a Gaussian process, with slowly varying variance, plus some unmodeled pulses affecting the tails of data distribution. The cleaning procedure consists of two parts. First, before the construction of the SFDDB, high-frequency time-domain events are identified after applying to the data a first-order Butterworth high-pass bilateral filter, with a cutoff frequency of 100 Hz. These events are then subtracted from the original time series. In this way we do not reduce the observation time because we are simply removing from the data the high-frequency noisy component. The effect of this kind of cleaning has been studied in data from Virgo Commissioning and Weekly Science runs and typically reduces the overall noise level by up to 10%–15%, depending on the quality of the data (Acernese et al. 2009). After Doppler and spin-down correction, further outliers that appear in the small band to be analyzed are also removed from the data set by using a threshold of \( \pm 5 \times 10^{-21} \) on the data strain amplitude, reducing the amount of data by \( \sim 1.3\% \). Slow non-stationarity of the noise is taken into account by applying a Wiener filter to the data, in which we estimate the variance of the Gaussian process over periods of \( \sim 1000 \) s, and weight the data with its inverse in order to de-emphasize the more disturbed periods.
4.3.3. Parameter Estimation and Upper Limits

Following the frequentist prescription, the value of $S$ obtained from the search is compared with a threshold $S^*$ corresponding to a given false alarm probability (1% in this analysis). If $S > S^*$, then one has a potential signal detection deserving deeper study. In the case of signal detection, the signal parameters can be estimated from $\tilde{H}_t$, $\tilde{H}_x$, using the relations shown in Appendix B. If the measured $S$ value lies below the threshold, we can set an upper limit on the amplitude of a possible signal present.

The determination of upper limits is carried out via Monte Carlo simulations similar to the limit determination described in Section 4.2.3. In the case of 4 dof, the unknown parameters, $\psi$ and $\cos \iota$, were taken to be uniformly distributed. The analysis method allows us to establish an upper limit for the wave amplitude $H_0$ defined in Appendix A. This was translated into an upper limit on $h_0$, under the assumption that the source is a triaxial neutron star, using Equation (A5) after maximizing the factor under the square root with respect to the inclination angle. In this way the upper limit we obtain is conservative. In the 2 dof case, we compute the upper limit by using for $\psi$ and $\iota$ the values given in Equation (1).

The statistical error associated with the Monte Carlo simulations is estimated as half of the difference between the two signal amplitudes that bound the 95% confidence level. The grid in the amplitude of the injected signals has been chosen fine enough that the resulting statistical error is about one order of magnitude smaller than the systematic error coming from calibration and actuation uncertainty.

5. RESULTS FROM THE SEARCHES

In the analyses, all available science mode data recorded by Virgo were used. No evidence for a CW signal was seen using any of the three analysis methods described in Section 4. We have therefore used the data to set upper limits on the GW amplitude.

For the complex heterodyne method (Section 4.1) the marginalized posteriors for the four parameters, using the two different priors, are shown in Figures 4 and 5. The presence of a detectable signal would show up as a posterior distribution in $h_0$ that is peaked away from $h_0 = 0$. The observed distributions are consistent with no signal being present. The 95% credible limits on $h_0$ are shown and have values $2.4 \times 10^{-24}$ and $2.1 \times 10^{-24}$, respectively (note that the strongly peaked distributions for $\cos \iota$ and $\psi$ in Figure 4 are simply the restricted priors placed on those parameters).

For the $F$ and $G$ statistics (Section 4.2), the values obtained were consistent with false alarm probabilities of 22% and 35%, respectively. Since these probabilities are far above our 1% false alarm threshold, we conclude that the data are consistent with the absence of a signal. Using the Monte Carlo method described in Section 4.2.3, we set 95% confidence upper limits on $h_0$ of $2.4 \times 10^{-24}$ and $2.2 \times 10^{-24}$, respectively.

For the matched filter (MF) on Fourier components (Section 4.3), the values computed for the 4 dof and 2 dof statistics were consistent with false alarm probabilities of 46% and 40%, respectively. Again we conclude that the data are consistent with the absence of a signal. We obtain 95% confidence upper limits on $h_0$ of $2.2 \times 10^{-24}$ and $1.9 \times 10^{-24}$, respectively.

The results for all three analyses are summarized in Table 3, which also includes the systematic uncertainty in the upper limit from calibration and actuation uncertainties. For each analysis, results are given both for the case in which $\psi$ and $\cos \iota$ are assumed to be known (i.e., with restricted priors) and unknown (i.e., with unrestricted priors).

We emphasize once again that the two results for the complex heterodyne method are Bayesian 95% credible limits on $h_0$. 

![Figure 4. Posterior PDFs for the pulsar parameters $h_0$, $\Phi_0$, $\cos \iota$, and $\psi$ for PSR J0835−4510, produced using restricted priors on $\cos \iota$ and $\psi$ with the complex heterodyne method. The vertical dashed line shows the 95% upper limit on $h_0$.](image)
In the VSR2 data. In particular, we discuss here hardware with both software and hardware injections of CW signals. The two approaches gave very similar numbers.

\[ G \] statistic
\[ F \] statistic
MF on signal Fourier components, 2 dof
MF on signal Fourier components, 4 dof

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis Method</th>
<th>95% Upper Limit for ( h_0 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heterodyne, restricted priors</td>
<td>((2.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterodyne, unrestricted priors</td>
<td>((2.4 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( G ) statistic</td>
<td>((2.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F ) statistic</td>
<td>((2.4 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF on signal Fourier components, 2 dof</td>
<td>((1.9 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF on signal Fourier components, 4 dof</td>
<td>((2.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes.** The systematic error on amplitude from calibration and actuation amounts to \( \sim 5\% \), as discussed in Section 3. This corresponds to an uncertainty on the upper limits of about \( \pm 0.1 \times 10^{-24} \). For all upper limits the statistical error, associated with the Monte Carlo simulations used to establish the limit itself, is about one order of magnitude smaller.

while the \( G, F \), 2 dof, and 4 dof results are frequentist 95% confidence upper limits. While we would expect the two types of upper limit to be similar in value, they are not directly comparable, because they address different questions. The Bayesian question asks: “Given our priors and our data, for what value of \( h_0 \) are we 95% certain that any true signal lies below that value?” The frequentist question asks: “Above what value of \( h_0 \) would a signal produce a larger value of our statistic 95% of the time?” The subtle difference between these questions means that they may give different answers for the same data, and we should not read too much into the fact that in this search the two approaches gave very similar numbers.

**5.1. Validation with Hardware Injections**

All three pipelines used in the analysis have been tested with both software and hardware injections of CW signals in the VSR2 data. In particular, we discuss here hardware injections. For the entire duration of the run, 13 CW signals (named Pulsar0–12) have been injected in the Virgo detector by sending the appropriate excitations to the coils used to control one mirror’s position. These signals were characterized by various amplitudes, spanned a frequency range from \( \sim 20 \) Hz to \( \sim 1400 \) Hz, and covered a range of values for the spin-down \( f \) from \( \sim -4 \times 10^{-18} \) Hz s\(^{-1}\) to \( \sim -2.5 \times 10^{-8} \) Hz s\(^{-1}\). The corresponding source position (\( \alpha, \delta \)), inclination \( i \) of the source spin axis, and polarization angle \( \psi \) were chosen randomly. All the injected signals have been generated using the same software as the signals injected in LIGO S5 and previous runs. Injected signals, Pulsar0–9 have also the same parameters as the LIGO injections, while Pulsar10–12 have very low frequency and have been injected in Virgo only. The three pipelines were exercised on several of these simulated signals. The pipelines have been able to detect the signals and to estimate their parameters with good accuracy when the S/N is sufficient. In particular, in Tables 5–7 we report the results obtained for Pulsar3, characterized by a very small spin-down and high S/N, Pulsar5 with low frequency, very small spin-down, and relatively low S/N, and Pulsar8 with high spin-down and S/N. The frequency parameters for these three injections are given in Table 4. There is good agreement between the true and recovered

![Figure 5. Posterior PDFs for the pulsar parameters \( h_0, \Phi_0, \cos i, \) and \( \psi \) for PSR J0835–4510, produced using uniform priors for \( \cos i \) and \( \psi \) across the range of their possible values with the complex heterodyne method. The vertical dashed line shows the 95% upper limit on \( h_0 \).](image)

**Table 3.** Estimated 95% Upper Limit on \( h_0 \) for PSR J0835–4510 from the Three Different Analysis Methods (the Horizontal Line Separates Bayesian from Frequentist Results)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis Method</th>
<th>95% Upper Limit for ( h_0 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heterodyne, restricted priors</td>
<td>((2.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterodyne, unrestricted priors</td>
<td>((2.4 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( G ) statistic</td>
<td>((2.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( F ) statistic</td>
<td>((2.4 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF on signal Fourier components, 2 dof</td>
<td>((1.9 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF on signal Fourier components, 4 dof</td>
<td>((2.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-24})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 4.** Frequency and Positional Parameters for the Hardware Injections (\( f = 0 \) for all the Injections)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>( f ) (Hz)</th>
<th>( 4f ) (Hz s(^{-1}))</th>
<th>( \alpha ) (deg)</th>
<th>( \delta ) (deg)</th>
<th>S/N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pulsar3</td>
<td>108.8571594</td>
<td>–1.46 \times 10^{-13}</td>
<td>178.372574</td>
<td>–33.436602</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulsar5</td>
<td>52.80832436</td>
<td>–4.03 \times 10^{-18}</td>
<td>302.626641</td>
<td>–83.8391399</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulsar8</td>
<td>194.3083185</td>
<td>–8.65 \times 10^{-9}</td>
<td>351.389582</td>
<td>–33.4185168</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes.** The reference time epoch for the source frequency is MJD = 52944 for all the injections. The optimal signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) is also given.
signal parameters. With the method based on matched filtering on the signal Fourier components, the estimation of the signal absolute phase is not straightforward.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we present the results of the analysis of Virgo VSR2 run data for the search of continuous GW signals from the Vela pulsar. The data have been analyzed using three largely independent methods and assuming that the GW emission follows the radio timing. For an assumed known orientation of the star’s spin axis and value of the polarization angle, two methods have determined frequentist upper limits at 95% confidence level of, respectively, 1.9 × 10⁻²⁴ and 2.2 × 10⁻²⁴. The third method has determined a Bayesian 95% degree-of-belief upper limit of 2.1 × 10⁻²⁴. The lowest of these is about 41% below the indirect spin-down limit. It corresponds to a limit on the star ellipticity of 1.1 × 10⁻³, which is well above the maximum equatorial ellipticity that a neutron star with a “standard” equation of state can sustain, but comparable to the maximum value permitted by some exotic equations of state (Owen 2005; Lin 2007; Haskell et al. 2007). Given that the power emitted in GW is \( E_{GW} = \frac{92 \pi^2}{5 c^5} I_c^2 e^2 f^6 \), our results constrain the fraction of spin-down energy due to the emission of GW to be below 35%. For an unknown orientation of the star’s spin axis and polarization angle, the two frequentist upper limits are, respectively, 2.2 × 10⁻²⁴ and 2.4 × 10⁻²⁴ while the Bayesian upper limit is 2.4 × 10⁻²⁴. The lowest of these is about 33% below the spin-down limit. In this case the limit on the star ellipticity is 1.2 × 10⁻³, while the corresponding limit on the fraction of spin-down energy emitted through GW is 45%. These numbers assume the canonical value for the star moment of inertia, \( I = 10^{38} \text{ kg m}^2 \). However, the theoretically predicted values of \( I \) vary in the range \( 1–3 \times 10^{38} \text{ kg m}^2 \) (Abbott et al. 2010), so our upper limit on the ellipticity can be considered as conservative. Such ellipticities could also be sustained by internal toroidal magnetic fields of order 10¹⁶ G, depending on the field configuration, equation of state, and superconductivity of the star (Akgun & Wassermann 2007; Haskell et al. 2008; Colaiuda et al. 2008; Ciolfi et al. 2010). Then, our results have constrained the internal toroidal magnetic field of the Vela to be less than of the order of that value (it must be stressed, however, that the stability of a star with an internal field much larger than the external one is still an open issue). Vela is the second young pulsar for which the spin-down limit has now been beaten.

A more stringent constraint on the emission of GW from the Vela pulsar may be established by analyzing data of the next Virgo+ run (VSR4) which is tentatively scheduled for summer 2011 and should last a few months. This run, assuming the planned sensitivity is reached, could be able to probe values of the Vela pulsar ellipticity below a few units in 10⁻⁴, corresponding to a fraction of spin-down energy emitted through the emission of GW below a few percent. We note that this run will also provide interesting results for several other low-frequency pulsars. In particular, it could allow detection of GW from the Crab pulsar and J1952+3252 if their ellipticities are larger than \( 10^{-5} \), a value nearly compatible with the maximum deformation allowed by standard neutron star equations of state.

Second-generation detectors are expected to have a still better sensitivity at low frequency. Advanced Virgo (Abernese et al. 2009) and Advanced LIGO (Harry & the LIGO Scientific Collaboration 2010), which should come into operation around 2014–2015, in one year could detect a GW signal from the Vela pulsar if its ellipticity is larger than a few times 10⁻⁵, the corresponding fraction of spin-down energy emitted through GW being below a few times 10⁻⁴ in this case.

The possibility of building a third-generation GW detector, with a sensitivity a factor of 10 or more better than advanced detectors in a wide frequency range, is also being studied. The Einstein Telescope (Punturo et al. 2010), which is currently at the stage of design study, is expected to release its first science data around 2025–2027. It should be able to detect GWs from the Vela pulsar, using one year of data, for ellipticities larger than 4 × 10⁻⁷ to 10⁻⁶, depending on the detector configuration that will be chosen.

We dedicate this paper to the memory of our friend and colleague Stefano Braccini, who made very important contributions to the development of the Virgo detector and, more recently,

\[ \text{Table 5} \]

| Method | \( h_0,\text{found} \) | \( \psi \) \( |\psi| = 0.444 \) | \( \Phi_0 |\Phi,\text{found}| = 5.53 \) |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Heterodyne | 0.97 | 1.67 | 0.43 |
| \( \mathcal{F} \) statistic | 0.96 | 1.65 | 0.44 |
| MF on signal Fourier comp., 4 dof | 0.96 | 1.66 | 0.44 |

\[ \text{Table 6} \]

| Method | \( h_0,\text{found} \) | \( \psi(\eta) \) \( |\psi| = 1.089 \) | \( \Phi_0 |\Phi,\text{found}| = 2.23 \) |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Heterodyne | 0.90 | 0.99 | −0.27 |
| \( \mathcal{F} \) statistic | 0.89 | 0.98 | −0.27 |
| MF on signal Fourier comp., 4 dof | 0.97 | 0.96 | −0.26 |

\[ \text{Table 7} \]

| Method | \( h_0,\text{found} \) | \( \psi(\eta) \) \( |\psi| = 1.497 \) | \( \Phi_0 |\Phi,\text{found}| = 5.89 \) |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Heterodyne | 0.97 | 1.49 | 0.18 |
| \( \mathcal{F} \) statistic | 0.95 | 1.49 | 0.17 |
| MF on signal Fourier comp., 4 dof | 0.98 | 1.50 | 0.17 |
contributed to the search effort for CW signals with his usual enthusiasm and skillfulness.

The authors gratefully acknowledge the support of the United States National Science Foundation for the construction and operation of the LIGO Laboratory, the Science and Technology Facilities Council of the United Kingdom, the Max-Planck-Society, the State of Niedersachsen/Germany for support of the construction and operation of the GEO600 detector, and the Italian Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare and the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique for the construction and operation of the Virgo detector. The authors also gratefully acknowledge the support of the research by these agencies and by the Australian Research Council, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of India, the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare and the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique for the construction and operation of the GEO600 detector, and the Italian Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare of the Govern de les Illes Balears, the Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter supported by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the FOCUS Programme of Foundation for Polish Science, the Royal Society, the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Universities Physics Alliance, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Carnegie Trust, the Leverhulme Trust, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Research Corporation, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

APPENDIX A
AN ALTERNATIVE FORMALISM TO DESCRIBE A CONTINUOUS GW SIGNAL

The continuous GW signal emitted by a generic rotating rigid star can be described by a polarization ellipse. The polarization ellipse is characterized by the ratio \( \eta = \frac{2}{3} \) of its semi-minor to its semi-major axis and by the angle \( \psi \) defining the direction of the major axis. The angle \( \psi \) is the same introduced in Section 2. The ratio \( \eta \) varies in the range \([-1, 1]\), where \( \eta = 0 \) for a linearly polarized wave and \( \eta = \pm 1 \) for a circularly polarized wave. The (complex) signal can be expressed as

\[
h(t) = H_0 (H_x e_x + H_\times e_\times) e^{i\Phi(t)},
\]

where \( e_x \) and \( e_\times \) are the two polarization tensors and the plus and cross amplitudes are given by

\[
H_x = \frac{\cos 2\psi - i\eta \sin 2\psi}{\sqrt{1 + \eta^2}}
\]

\[
H_\times = \frac{\sin 2\psi + i\eta \cos 2\psi}{\sqrt{1 + \eta^2}}.
\]

If we consider, as in Section 2, a triaxial neutron star rotating around a principal axis of inertia, the following relations among \( H_0, \eta \) and \( h_0, t \) hold:

\[
\eta = -\frac{2\cos t}{1 + \cos 2t}
\]

\[
H_0 = \frac{h_0}{2} \sqrt{1 + 6\cos^2 t + \cos^4 t}.
\]

In terms of + and \( \times \) components we have

\[
H_{+,\psi=0} = \frac{h_+}{H_0} = \frac{h_0 (1 + \cos^2 t)}{2H_0}
\]

\[
\Im(H_x, \varphi=0) = -\frac{h_x}{H_0} = -\frac{h_0 \cos t}{H_0}.
\]

In this formalism the complex gravitational strain at the detector is given by

\[
h(t) = H_0 (A_+ (t) H_+ + A_\times (t) H_\times) e^{i\Phi(t)},
\]

where

\[
A_+ = F_+ (\psi = 0)
\]

\[
A_\times = F_\times (\psi = 0).
\]

After Doppler and spin-down corrections, as described in Section 4.3, we have

\[
h(t) = H_0 (A_+(t) H_+ + A_\times (t) H_\times) e^{i(\omega t + \Phi_0)}.
\]

We now introduce the signal 5-vectors for the + and \( \times \) components, \( A^+, A^\times \), given by the Fourier components, at the five frequencies produced by the amplitude and phase modulation, of the detector response functions \( A_+, A_\times \). It is straightforward to see that the signal in the antenna is completely defined by the 5-component complex vector

\[
A = H_0 e^{i\Phi_0} (H_+ A^+ + H_\times A^\times).
\]

More details can be found in Astone et al. (2010).

APPENDIX B
PARAMETER ESTIMATORS FOR MF ON SIGNAL FOURIER COMPONENTS

Once the two estimators \( \hat{H}_+, \hat{H}_\times \) have been computed from the data, if a detection is claimed, the signal parameters \( H_0, \eta, \psi \) can be estimated using the following relations. The estimator of the signal amplitude is given by

\[
\hat{H}_0 = \sqrt{\hat{H}_+^2 + \hat{H}_\times^2}.
\]

Introducing the quantities

\[
\hat{H}_+ \cdot \hat{H}_\times = A + iB,
\]

\[
|\hat{H}_+|^2 - |\hat{H}_\times|^2 = C,
\]

where the scalar product is between two complex numbers and includes a complex conjugation of one, the estimation of the ratio between the axes of the polarization ellipse is

\[
\hat{\eta} = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 - 4B^2}}{2B},
\]

while the estimation of the polarization angle can be obtained from

\[
\cos (4\psi) = \frac{C}{\sqrt{4A^2 + B^2}}
\]

\[
\sin (4\psi) = \frac{2A}{\sqrt{4A^2 + B^2}}.
\]
APPENDIX C

F AND G STATISTICS FOR COMPLEX HETERODYNE DATA IN NON-STATIONARY, UNCORRELATED NOISE

We assume that the noise in the data is Gaussian and uncorrelated. In order to take into account non-stationarity of the data, we assume that each noise sample \( n(l) \) in the data time series is drawn from a Gaussian distribution with a variance \( \sigma^2(l) \). We assume that the Gaussian distributions in question have zero means. Thus, the autocorrelation function \( K(l, l') \) for the noise is given by

\[
K(l, l') = \sigma^2(l) \delta_{ll'},
\]

(C1)

where \( l, l' \) are integers and where \( \delta_{ll'} \) is Kronecker’s delta function. Let us first assume that the signal \( h(l) \) is completely known and that the noise is additive. Thus, when the signal is present the data take the following form:

\[
x(l) = n(l) + h(l).
\]

(C2)

For Gaussian noise the optimal filter \( q(l) \) is the solution of the following (integral) equation (see Jaranowski & Królak 2009, p. 72),

\[
h(l) = \sum_{l' = 1}^{N} K(l, l') q(l'),
\]

(C3)

where \( N \) is the number of data points. Consequently, we have the following equation for the filter \( q(l) \):

\[
q(l) = \frac{h(l)}{\sigma^2(l)}.
\]

(C4)

and the following expression for the log likelihood ratio \( \ln \Lambda \):

\[
\ln \Lambda(x) = \langle h x \rangle - \frac{1}{2} \langle h^2 \rangle,
\]

(C5)

where the operator \( \langle \cdot \rangle \) is defined as

\[
\langle g f \rangle = \sum_{l = 1}^{N} \frac{g(l) f(l)}{\sigma^2(l)}.
\]

(C6)

Thus, we see that for non-stationary Gaussian noise with the autocorrelation function (C1) the optimal processing is identical to matched filtering for a known signal in stationary Gaussian noise, except that we divide both the data and the filter by time-varying standard deviation of the noise. This may be thought of as a special case of whitening the data and then correlating it using a whitened filter. The method is essentially the same as the Wiener filter introduced in Section 4.3. The generalization to the case of signal with unknown parameters is immediate.

In the analysis we use complex heterodyne data \( x_{\text{het}} \),

\[
x_{\text{het}}(l) = x(l) e^{-i \Phi_{\text{het}}(l)},
\]

(C7)

where \( \Phi_{\text{het}} \) is the heterodyne phase (\( \Phi_{\text{het}} \) can be an arbitrary real function). Thus, we rewrite the \( F \) and \( G \) statistics and amplitude parameter estimators using complex quantities. We introduce complex amplitudes \( A_a \) and \( A_b \),

\[
A_a = A_1 + i A_3,
\]

(C8)

\[
A_b = A_2 + i A_4,
\]

(C9)

where the amplitudes \( A_k \), \( k = 1, 2, 3, 4 \) are defined by Equation (23) of Jaranowski & Królak (2010) and we also introduce the complex filters:

\[
h_a(l) = \alpha(l) e^{-i(\Phi(l) - \Phi_{\text{het}}(l))},
\]

\[
h_b(l) = \beta(l) e^{-i(\Phi(l) - \Phi_{\text{het}}(l))},
\]

(C10)

where \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \) are amplitude modulation functions (see Equations (7) and (8)) defined by Equations (12) and (13) in Jaranowski et al. (1998), and \( \Phi(l) \) is the phase defined by Equation (9).

The \( F \) statistic takes the following form:

\[
F = \frac{\langle (x_{\text{het}} h_a)^2 \rangle + \langle (x_{\text{het}} h_b)^2 \rangle - 2\langle (x_{\text{het}} h_a) (x_{\text{het}} h_b) \rangle^*}{\langle (a^2) (b^2) \rangle - \langle (a b)^2 \rangle},
\]

(C11)

and the complex amplitude parameter estimators are given by

\[
\hat{A}_a = 2 \frac{\langle (b^2) (x_{\text{het}} h_a)^* \rangle - \langle (a b) (x_{\text{het}} h_b) \rangle^*}{\langle (a^2) (b^2) \rangle - \langle (a b)^2 \rangle},
\]

\[
\hat{A}_b = 2 \frac{\langle (a^2) (x_{\text{het}} h_b)^* \rangle - \langle (a b) (x_{\text{het}} h_a) \rangle^*}{\langle (a^2) (b^2) \rangle - \langle (a b)^2 \rangle}.
\]

(C12)

In the case of the \( G \) statistic, it is useful to introduce a complex amplitude \( A \),

\[
A = A_c + i A_s,
\]

(C13)

where real amplitudes \( A_c \) and \( A_s \) are defined by Equation (20) of Jaranowski & Królak (2010) and a complex filter \( h_g \),

\[
h_g = (h_c + i h_s) e^{i \Phi_{\text{het}}},
\]

(C14)

where real filters \( h_c \) and \( h_s \) are defined by Equation (7) of Jaranowski & Królak (2010). In complex notation, the \( G \) statistic assumes the following simple form (cf Equation (18) of Jaranowski & Królak 2010):

\[
G = \frac{\langle (x_{\text{het}} h_g)^2 \rangle}{2 D}.
\]

(C15)

where

\[
D = \langle |h_g|^2 \rangle.
\]

(C16)

The estimator of the complex amplitude \( A \) is given by

\[
\hat{A} = \frac{\langle x_{\text{het}} h_g \rangle}{D}.
\]

(C17)

APPENDIX D
GRUBBS’ TEST

The Grubbs test (Grubbs 1969) is used to detect outliers in a univariate data set. Grubbs’ test detects one outlier at a time. This outlier is removed from the data set and the test is iterated until no outliers are detected.

Grubbs’ test is a test of the null hypothesis:

**H0:** There are no outliers in the data set \( x_i \),

against the alternate hypotheses:

**H1:** There is at least one outlier in the data set \( x_i \).

Grubbs’ test assumes that the data can be reasonably approximated by a normal distribution.
The Grubbs test statistic is the largest absolute deviation from the sample mean in units of the sample standard deviation and it is defined as

$$G = \frac{\max |x_i - \mu|}{\sigma},$$  

(D1)

where $\mu$ and $\sigma$ denote the sample mean and standard deviation, respectively.

The hypothesis of no outliers is rejected if

$$G > \frac{n - 1}{\sqrt{n}} \sqrt{\frac{t_{\alpha/2n, n-2}^2}{n - 2 + t_{\alpha/2n, n-2}^2}},$$  

(D2)

with $t_{\alpha/2n, n-2}$ denoting the critical value of the $t$-distribution with $n - 2$ dof and a significance level of $\alpha/(2n)$.

We have applied the Grubbs test to the coarse heterodyne data before analyzing them with $F$ and $G$ statistics. We have applied the test to segments of $2^{16}$ data points and we have assumed false alarm probability of $0.1\%$. This resulted in identification of 13,844 outliers from the original data set containing 12,403,138 points. We replaced these outliers with zeros. The time series before and after the removal of the outliers are presented in Figure 6. The number of outliers constitutes $0.1\%$ of the total data points in input data resulting in a negligible loss of $S/N$ of any continuous signal present in the data. With different methods to identify the outliers used by other searches the number of outliers was similar.

**REFERENCES**

Accadia, T., et al. 2010, Class. Quantum Grav., 28, 025005
Acernese, F., et al. 2009, Class. Quantum Grav., 20, 204002
Akutsu, T., et al. 2008, Class. Quantum Grav., 25, 184013
Astone, P., D’Antonio, S., Frasca, S., & Palomba, C. 2010, Class. Quantum Grav., 27, 194016
Astone, P., Frasca, S., & Palomba, C. 2005, Class. Quantum Grav., 22, S1197
Buchner, S. 2010, ATel, 2768
Dupuis, R. J., & Woan, G. 2005, Phys. Rev. D, 72, 102002
Grubbs, P. E. 1969, Technometrics, 11, 1
Harry, G. M., & the LIGO Scientific Collaboration. 2010, Class. Quantum Grav., 27, 084006