



RESEARCH

OPEN SCIENCE: LIGO AND VIRGO PUBLISH THE DATA OF THE SECOND OBSERVATION RUN

The LIGO/VIRGO collaboration has published the data of the detectors relating to the second observation run called O2 in jargon, which started on 30 November 2016 and ended on 25 August 2017.

The data was published in Gravitational Wave Open Science Centre and includes over 150 days of data recorded by both Advanced LIGO observatories and 20 days of data recorded by VIRGO which joined the two LIGOs on 1 August 2017: this is the largest set of data from latest-generation interferometers for gravitational wave detection. In this period of time, seven fusions of binary black hole systems were observed and, for the first time, the fusion of two neutron stars was observed. In addition to the data, detailed documentation is also available and links are provided to open source software tools; all the material can be freely used both for scientific studies and for educational activities.

Advanced VIRGO and Advanced LIGO are about to enter the last test data acquisition period, O3, that will start on the 1st of April. ■