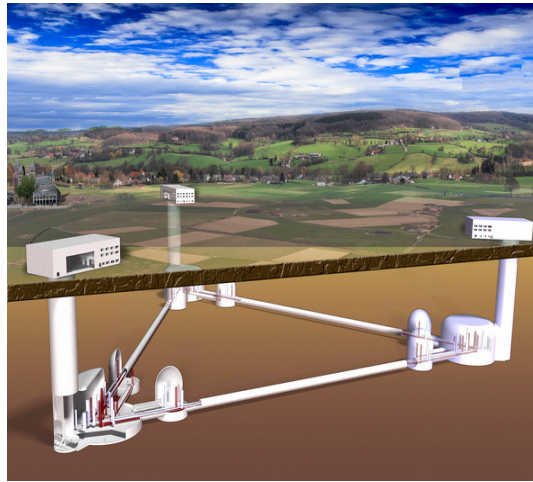


Statistical methods for multimessenger astrophysics with gravitational waves

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Obelics face-to-face
Jan 26 2016, Rome, Italy



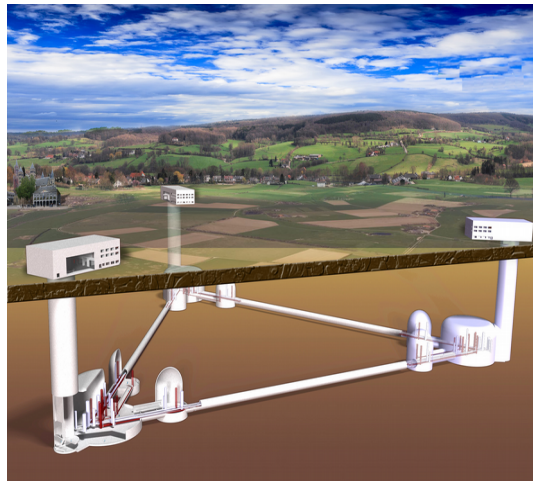
Context: detection of gravitational waves

- **Gravitational waves**

- Predicted by Einstein's General Relativity
- Propagating distortions of space-time
- Generated by cataclysmic events involving massive, compact astrophysical objects (black hole, neutron star)

- **Develop a *new astronomy* based on GW**

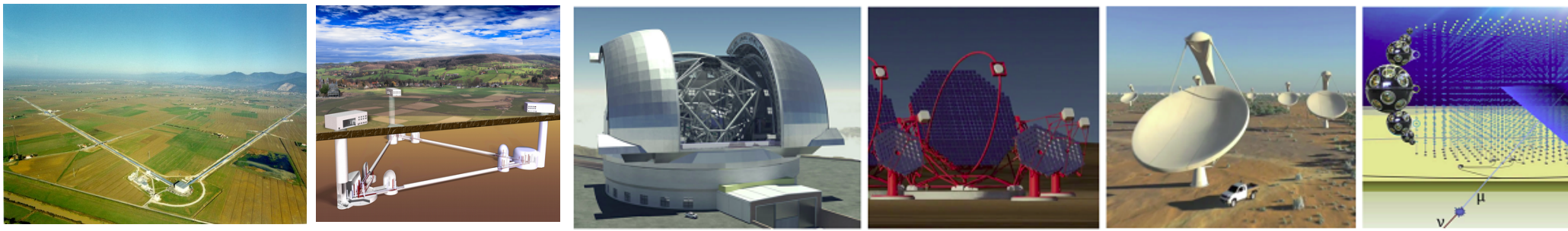
- Complementary to photons: “multi-messenger”



GW detectors and related institutions

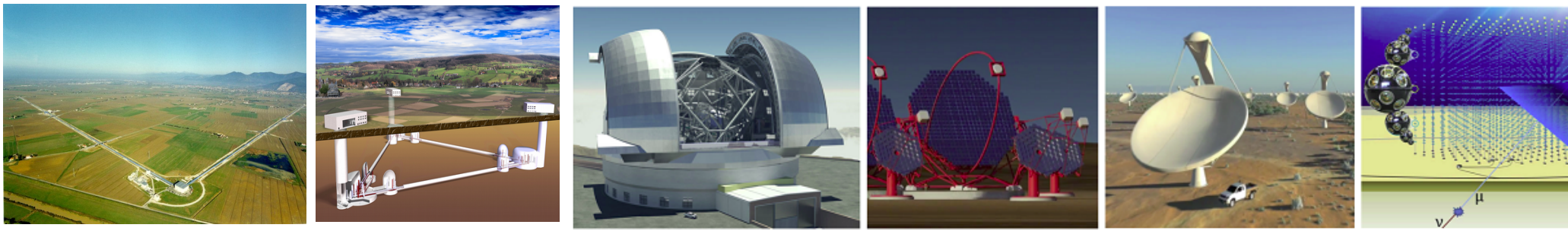
Km-scale Michelson type interferometers – high-precision metrology

- **Einstein Telescope** (3rd generation detector)
 - ✓ FP7 design study (2011).
 - ASPERA roadmap. **Candidate ESFRI**
- **Advanced Virgo “pathfinder”** (2nd generation)
- **European Gravitational Observatory, EGO**
 - CNRS-INFN consortium with other partners
 - Manages Virgo site (Italy) and hosts ET coordination



Advanced Virgo – status

- Initial Virgo (1st generation) operated between 2007-2012
 - ✓ Data sharing and joint analysis with US based LIGO
- Upgrading: **x 10 sensitivity** → x 1000 in the event rate
 - ✓ Observability horizon for binary neutron stars : 140 Mpc
 - ✓ Current BNS event rate estimates: few to tenth events/yr
- **First science data from advanced detectors**
 - ✓ Advanced LIGO 1st science run, sep 2015 – jan 2016
 - ✓ Advanced Virgo will take data jointly with aLIGO this year
- Opportunities for **multimessenger astrophysics**
 - ✓ Search for electromagnetic counterpart (i.e., GRB afterglow ...)
 - ✓ Extensive **electromagnetic follow-up program** inc. LOFAR, HESS, CTA, ...



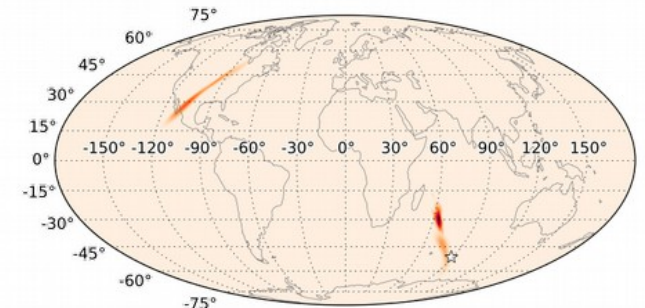
Significance of a GW-EM association

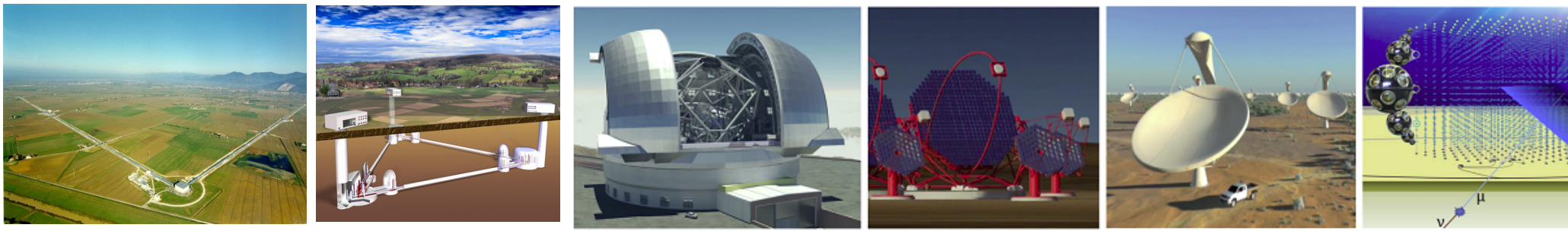
- An electromagnetic **counterpart** to a GW event can help to **increase our confidence** in the astrophysical nature of this event
- Sky location of GW source is **not well reconstructed**

Typ. few 100 sq degrees observed with 2 detectors, or
 ~100 sq degrees with 3 detectors

Larger for marginally significant events ($\propto 1/\text{SNR}^2$)

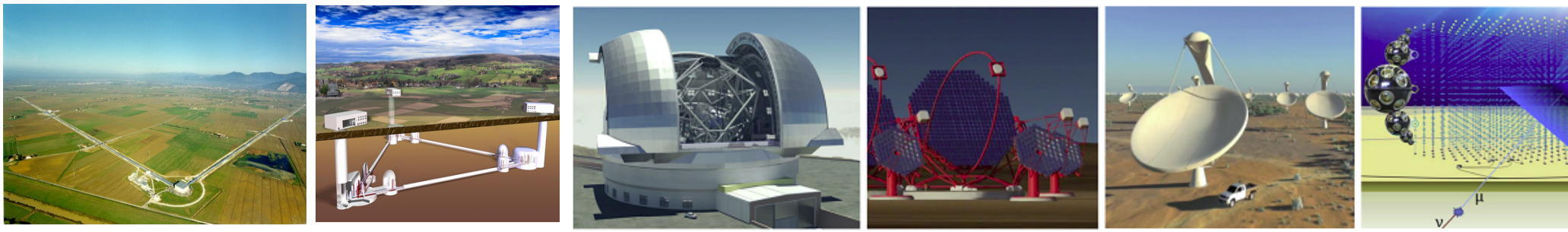
- Large sky area \rightarrow Probability of a **false association is not negligible**
- Requires a statistical procedure





Ideas for GW-EM association statistical assessment

- Analyze data jointly – Define **joint GW-EM likelihood**
 - ✓ Different observables (cannot form images with GW)
 - ✓ Function of the characteristics of the GW and EM transients (luminosity, duration)
 - ✓ Measures the **overlap in direction** between GW and EM transients
- Estimate **joint background** from archival data
 - ✓ From random associations of simulated GW triggers and spurious EM transients (e.g., cosmic rays, ...)
- Deduce p-value for an observed association
 - ✓ How likely is this coincidence to be fortuitous?



Work plan – To be finalized

- Implementation of a joint GW-EM analysis scheme
 - ✓ Perform custom selection cuts to extract marginal sub $5\text{-}\sigma$ GW and EM events
- Test using real observations
 - ✓ Recent aLIGO data & INTEGRAL (ACS)
Benchmark for GW/High-energy observation
- Questions to be answered
 - ✓ Provide quantitative assessment of a joint observation
 - ✓ Can two $\sim 3\text{-}\sigma$ events be combined into one $5\text{-}\sigma$?