

GWSkyNet-Multi : A Machine Learning Multi-Class classifier for LIGO–Virgo Public Alerts

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ABSTRACT

Compact object mergers which produce both detectable gravitational waves and electromagnetic emission can provide valuable insights into the neutron star equation of state, the tension in the Hubble constant, and the origin of the r -process elements. However, electromagnetic follow-up of gravitational wave sources is complicated by false positive detections, and the transient nature of the associated electromagnetic emission. **GWSkyNet-Multi** is a machine learning model that attempts facilitate EM follow-up by providing real-time predictions of the source of a gravitational wave detection. The model uses information from Open Public Alerts (OPAs) released by LIGO–Virgo within minutes of a gravitational wave detection. **GWSkyNet** was introduced in Cabero et al. (2020) as a binary classifier and uses the OPA skymaps to classify sources as either astrophysical or as glitches. In this paper, we introduce **GWSkyNet-Multi**, an extension of **GWSkyNet** which further distinguishes sources as binary black hole mergers, mergers involving a neutron star, or non-astrophysical glitches. **GWSkyNet-Multi** is a sequence of three one-versus-all classifiers trained using a class-balanced and physically-motivated source mass distribution. Training on this data set, we obtain test set accuracies of 93.7% for BBH-versus-all, 94.4% for NS-versus-all, and 95.1% for glitch-versus-all. We obtain an overall accuracy of 93.4% using a hierarchical classification scheme. Furthermore, we correctly identify 36 of the 40 gravitational wave detections from the first half of LIGO–Virgo’s third observing run (O3a) and present predictions for O3b sources. As gravitational wave detections increase in number and frequency, **GWSkyNet-Multi** will be a powerful tool for prioritizing successful electromagnetic follow-up.

Keywords: **GWSkyNet**, gravitational waves, machine learning, multi-messenger astrophysics

1. INTRODUCTION

The LIGO Scientific and Virgo Collaborations (LVC) made a monumental discovery in their second observing run (O2) with the detection of the first gravitational wave (GW) originating from a binary neutron star merger. This event, known as GW170817, is the only GW source which has been associated with electromagnetic (EM) emission (Abbott et al. 2017a), marking a breakthrough for GW+EM multi-messenger astronomy. Multi-messenger astronomy has particularly exciting implications in fundamental physics — notably, joint GW and EM detections can place independent constraints on the Hubble constant (Abbott et al. 2017b), constrain the neutron star equation of state (Radice et al. 2018), and characterize the production of r -process elements in compact binary coalescences (Mészáros et al. 2019). However, EM follow-up of GW events is hindered by high operating costs, competitive telescope time al-

locations, false positive GW alerts, and the short time during which the associated kilonova is detectable.

To facilitate EM follow-up, the LVC introduced the Open Public Alert (OPA) system for their third observing run (O3). OPAs are publicly available within minutes of a detection, and include a skymap (see Figure 1) indicating the localization region where a given event most likely originates from (Magee et al. 2015). An organized list of all the OPAs can be found on the Gravitational-wave Candidate Event Database (GraceDB, Stachie et al. 2021a). Although OPAs do not provide the raw GW data for a given event, they are useful in determining whether EM follow-up is warranted. To supplement the predictions available on GraceDB, Cabero et al. (2020) introduced a “real-versus-noise” binary classifier, known as **GWSkyNet**, which leverages OPAs to inform potential EM follow-up seconds after the OPA is published. **GWSkyNet** achieves a test set

accuracy of 93.5% and correctly predicts 37 of the 40 O3a events published in the second Gravitational-Wave Transient Catalog (GWTC-2; Abbott et al. 2021a), before the publication of this catalog. This binary classifier demonstrates the great potential for applications of machine learning to classification of GW candidates in real-time from the information provided in OPAs. These positive results encourage the implementation of a new extension to now have a multi-class classifier.

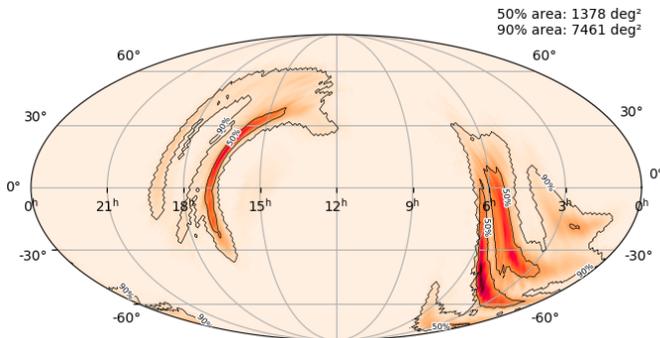


Figure 1: Open Public Alert (OPA) skymap of S190425z. The skymap depicts a localization region in which the source is most likely to be found, with the darker orange region describing the 50% confidence region and the lighter orange region 90%. The skymap images are produced by the BAYESTAR pipeline and made publicly available in OPAs within minutes of a gravitational wave detection. Image retrieved from GraceDB: <https://gracedb.ligo.org/superevents/S190425z/view/>.

Here we present **GWSkyNet-Multi**, our new multi-class classifier which is an extension of the original **GWSkyNet**, and assess its performance. In contrast with the previous binary classification, our novel multi-class classifier categorizes GW candidates into their possible progenitors: (1) binary black hole (BBH) mergers, (2) mergers involving a neutron star (NS) (either NS+NS or NS+BH), or (3) non-astrophysical glitches. **GWSkyNet-Multi** empowers EM astronomers to make decisions on whether to follow-up an event informed by predictions of the nature of the source that supplement the information available in OPAs (Chatterjee et al. (2020); LIGO/Virgo Public Alerts User Guide¹). **GWSkyNet-Multi** is a sequence of three convolutional neural network (CNN) one-versus-all classifiers. As a CNN, **GWSkyNet-Multi** distinguishes itself from other prediction methods such as Stachie et al.

(2021b) and Essick 2017 (**skymap_statistics**²) the latter of which employed mutual information distance of 2D GW skymaps to distinguish between signal and noise during O2. By running all of our models on a given event, we obtain three *scores* quantifying the possibility that a source belongs to each class. Furthermore, using a hierarchical scheme, a refined prediction is obtained. We present this hierarchical scheme in Figure 3.

All **GWSkyNet-Multi** and **GWSkyNet** models, and scripts required to make predictions for a given event, are made publicly available.³

The outline of this paper is as follows. In Section 2, we describe the new data set used for training and testing our new classifier and describe **GWSkyNet-Multi**. In Section 3, we assess the performance of each individual model and the overarching hierarchical classifier. We further make predictions for sources from the LVC O3 observing run. Section 4 describes the performance and interpretability of our models. In Section 5 we summarize our findings.

2. METHODS

We begin by describing the data used to train and test **GWSkyNet-Multi**. We then discuss the model’s architecture and the creation of the multi-class classifier.

2.1. Data Set

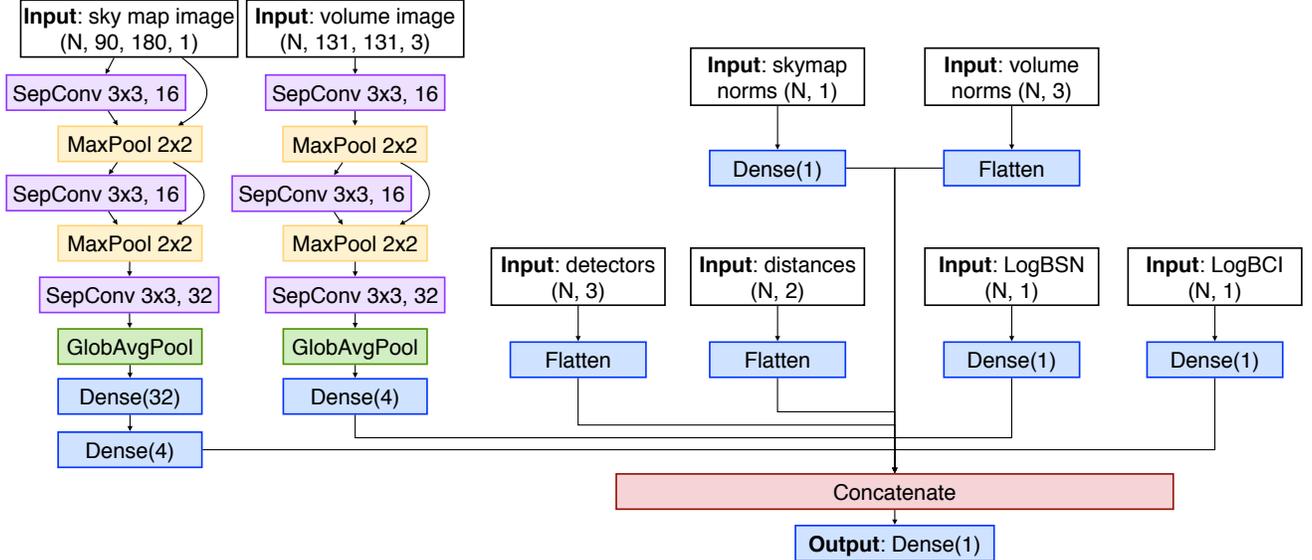
The noise events in the data set consist of 1267 glitches from the first two observing runs of Advanced LIGO and Virgo, identified in Cabero et al. (2020) using catalogs of noise transients (Cabero et al. 2019; Zevin et al. 2017) and GW candidates from the second Open Gravitational-wave Catalog (Nitz et al. 2019). To construct a sufficiently large and balanced data set, we use gravitational waveform models from the **LALSuite** package (LIGO Scientific Collaboration 2018) to simulate 1000 GW events for each astrophysical source type: BBH, BNS mergers, and NSBH mergers. The noise realization for the simulated events is achieved by injecting the GW waveforms into Gaussian noise coloured with publicly available power spectral densities (PSDs) from O1, O2, and O3 (Abbott et al. 2021). BH masses are drawn from astrophysically-motivated mass distributions described in Abbott et al. (2021b). We choose the “power law + peak” mass model and its corresponding mass-ratio distribution, using the median posterior values for the parameters of the model. NS masses follow a uniform distribution in the range $[1, 3] M_{\odot}$. Spins

¹ <https://emfollow.docs.ligo.org/userguide/>

² https://github.com/reedessick/skymap_statistics

³ <https://github.com/GWML/GWSkyNet>

Figure 2: One-versus-all classifier architecture. All three one-versus-all models used the architecture shown here. Each model takes as inputs a skymap image, three volume-projected images, the detector network status, mean and maximum distances, logarithms of two Bayes factors, and a normalization factor for each image. The shape of the inputs is given in parentheses, where N is the size of the training set. SeparableConv2D (SepConv2D) layers are described by the dimensions of the kernel and the number of filters. MaxPool layers are described only by the dimensions of the kernel. Finally, the numbers in the Dense layers indicate the width of that layer.



are restricted to be along the direction of orbital angular momentum, with spin magnitudes constrained to be ≤ 0.99 for BH and ≤ 0.05 for NS.

The full data set contains 4267 events. We use 81% of this set for training, 9% for validation, and 10% is reserved for the test set.

2.2. Developing a Multi-Class Classifier

In order to make a prediction from an event, `GWSkyNet-Multi` uses the following inputs derived from the OPA FITS file generated by BAYESTAR (Singer et al. 2016):

1. A skymap image;
2. Three volume-projected images;
3. A list of detectors observing at the time of detection;
4. Estimated mean and maximum distance to the source of the GW;
5. Four normalization factors (one for the skymap image, and one for each of the three volume-projected images);
6. The logarithm of the Bayes factors for the signal versus noise hypothesis (LogBSN) and the coherence versus incoherence hypothesis (LogBCI).

To generate a multi-class classifier, we use a sequence of three one-versus-all classifiers. All one-versus-all models have the same architecture, shown in Figure 2. Each model is used to classify an event as belonging to a given class versus all remaining classes, *e.g.*, BBH-versus-all classifies events as either a BBH merger or anything which is not a BBH merger. We thus obtain three models: BBH-versus-all, NS-versus-all, and glitch-versus-all. We tune these models by varying the “learning rate”, a scalar used to vary the magnitude of the step size in a gradient descent algorithm, as well as the “batch size”, the number of examples used in each step during training. To find the hyperparameters leading to the best models for each class, we use `Hparams`⁴ to explore hyperparameter-space with learning rates ranging from 10^{-5} to 10^{-1} , and batch sizes ranging from 5 to 110. Once trained, all three models are applied to an event, and so we obtain a score quantifying the possibility that a candidate belongs to each class. Finally, to return a single prediction for our analysis, we use the hierarchical scheme shown in Figure 3.

⁴ <https://pypi.org/project/hparams/>

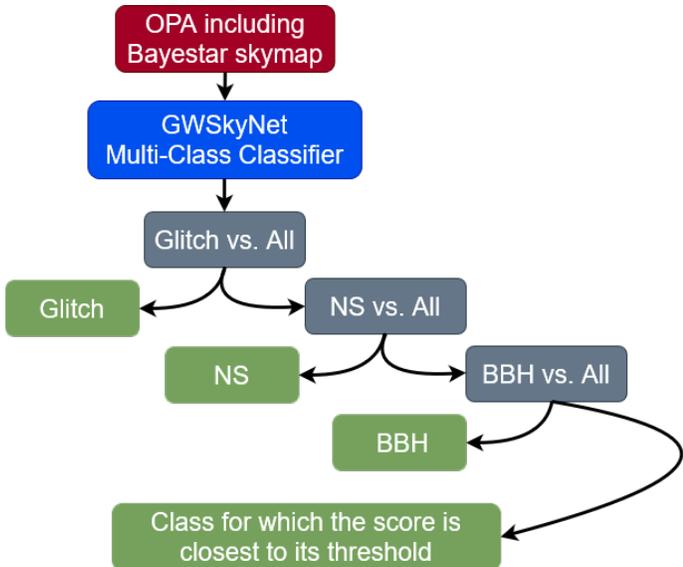


Figure 3: Flow chart of the hierarchical multi-class classifier. Given an OPA candidate, we run all three classifiers to obtain scores for each model. All scores are returned to the user. To obtain a single prediction, we use a hierarchical scheme: If the glitch-versus-all score is above its threshold, we classify the event as a glitch. If not, we check if the NS-versus-all score is above its threshold, and if so, we classify the event as containing a NS. If the event is neither a glitch nor a NS according to these criteria, we check if the BBH-versus-all score is above its threshold, and classify the event as BBH if so. If no model’s score is above its corresponding threshold, we select the model for which the score was closest to the threshold. We discuss the choice of threshold in Section 3, but note that the user may set their own thresholds.

For a given input, if a one-versus-all classifier returns a score above the user-set prediction threshold, the candidate is classified as a member of that particular class. If the score is below the threshold, we proceed to the next classifier in the hierarchical scheme. If none of the scores are above the models’ thresholds, we classify the event based on which score was closest to its threshold.

We run models in order of best-performing to worst, based on both test set accuracies and F_1 scores:

$$\text{accuracy} = \frac{\text{TP} + \text{TN}}{\text{TP} + \text{TN} + \text{FP} + \text{FN}}, \quad (1)$$

$$F_1 \text{ score} = \frac{\text{TP}}{\text{TP} + \frac{1}{2}(\text{FP} + \text{FN})}, \quad (2)$$

where TP is the number of true positive predictions, TN is the number of true negatives, FP is the number of false positives, and FN is the number of false negatives. We

primarily focus on the accuracy of each model, however we also restrict ourselves to using models with high F_1 scores (≥ 0.95) as they predict a sufficient amount of TPs.

We employ a hierarchical scheme to ensure that the prediction of our best-performing one-versus-all model is given priority over the predictions of the less trustworthy models. As seen in the next section, our best-performing classifier is glitch-versus-all, followed by NS-versus-all, and finally BBH-versus-all. However, note that `GWSkyNet-Multi` provides the user with both the hierarchical prediction and the score for each individual classifier, to maximally inform EM follow-up.

3. PERFORMANCE & PREDICTIONS

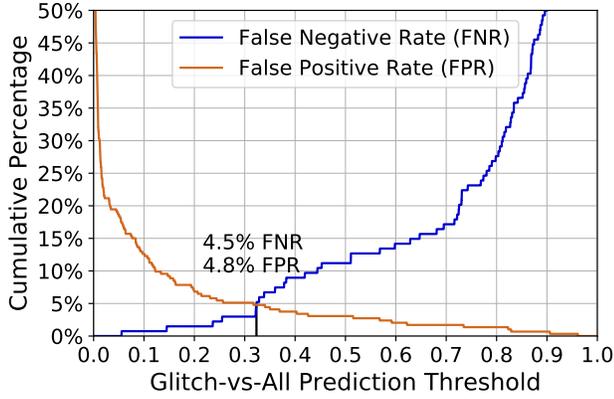
Next, we present the performance of each one-versus-all classifier, as well as the predictions of the multi-class classifier, for candidates in LIGO–Virgo’s O3 run.

Figure 4 shows the FNR and FPR of the predictions on the test set made by each of the one-versus-all classifiers as a function of the threshold. We find that the best performance for each one-versus-all model occurs when the prediction threshold is set to the intersection between the false negative rate (FNR) and the false positive rate (FPR). However, the user may change this threshold in `GWSkyNet-Multi` to suit their preferences for the FPR and FNR of the classifiers. The accuracy and F_1 score for each one-versus-all classifier, applied to the 427 examples in the test set using the intersection threshold, are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Results of the one-versus-all classifiers on the test set. Here, we present the threshold, accuracy, and F_1 score for each model. The corresponding confusion matrices are presented in Figure 7 (Appendix A).

Classifier	Threshold	Accuracy	F_1 score
Glitch-versus-all	32.3%	95.1%	0.96
NS-versus-all	62.2%	94.4%	0.95
BBH-versus-all	31.2%	93.7%	0.96

The glitch-versus-all, NS-versus-all, and BBH-versus-all classifiers achieve accuracies of 95.1%, 94.4%, and 93.7%, and F_1 scores of 0.96, 0.95, and 0.96, respectively. To calculate the accuracy for the overall multi-class classifier, the three one-versus-all models are run sequentially on the test set as described in Section 2.2. We obtain an overall test set accuracy of 93.4% with this hierarchical scheme. We also obtain multi-class predictions for O3a events with this hierarchical method. The hierarchical classifications and individual



one-versus-all scores are reported in Table 2. Finally, although the refined classifications for O3b events have not yet been published, we present the predictions of GWSkyNet-Multi in Table 3.

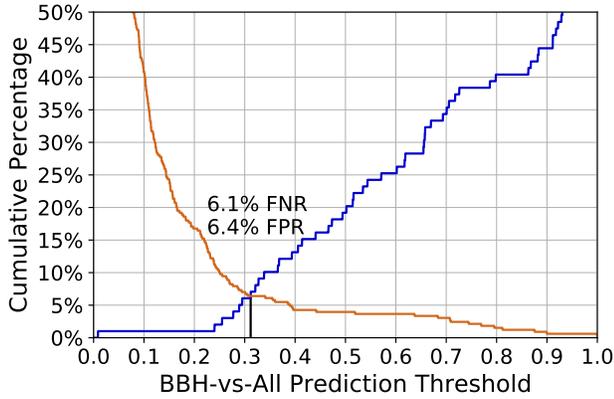
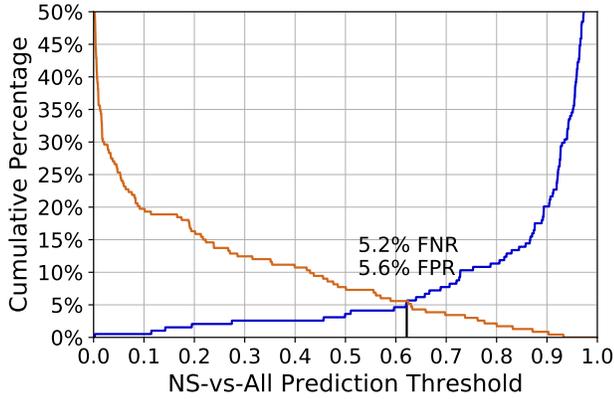


Figure 4: Prediction threshold plots. Along the x-axis is the one-versus-all classifier’s threshold and along the y-axis is the cumulative percentage of events which are classified. In order from top panel to bottom panel, we show the glitch-versus-all, NS-versus-all, and BBH-versus-all threshold plots. The threshold used for the predictions presented in this paper is where the false negative rate (FNR), in blue, and the false positive rate (FPR), in orange, intersect, marked by a black vertical line. For the glitch-versus-all classifier, the intersection is at 32.3% score, for the NS-versus-all classifier 62.2% score and for the BBH-versus-all 31.2%.

Table 2: O3a predictions. Columns are: the OPA candidate names for O3a events with BAYESTAR-generated skymaps, and their labels according to GWTC-2, GraceDB, GWSkyNet, and GWSkyNet-Multi (individual and hierarchical scores). The GWTC-2 labels are obtained assuming a maximum neutron star mass of $3 M_{\odot}$. The GraceDB labels are obtained by selecting the class with the highest probability. We highlight hierarchical predictions which do not match those of GWTC-2 in bold. Finally, on one side, ambiguous events whose prediction scores were all below their respective thresholds are marked with an asterisk (*). In addition, the ambiguous cases where more than one prediction score is above the classifier’s threshold, are marked with a dagger (\dagger)

Candidate Name	GWTC-2 Label	GraceDB Label	GWSkyNet Binary	Glitch Score (%)	NS Score (%)	BBH Score (%)	Hierarchical Prediction
S190405ar	Glitch	RETRACTED	Glitch	30.3	4.3	1.2	Glitch*
S190408an	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0.1	99.9	BBH
S190412m	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	4.2	94.1	BBH
S190421ar	BBH	BBH	Real	23.8	0	100	BBH
S190425z	BNS	BNS	Real	89.5	99.9	0	Glitch [†]
S190426c	NSBH	BNS	Real	0.1	97.2	21.2	NS
S190503bf	BBH	BBH	Real	0.2	30.6	40.4	BBH
S190510g	Glitch	Terrestrial	Glitch	38.7	1	3.8	Glitch
S190512at	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0	99.7	BBH
S190513bm	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0	100	BBH
S190517h	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0	100	BBH
S190518bb	Glitch	RETRACTED	Glitch	99.9	96.8	4.2	Glitch [†]
S190519bj	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0	100	BBH
S190521g	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	1.3	71.2	BBH
S190521r	BBH	BBH	Real	0.4	1.6	99.3	BBH
S190524q	Glitch	RETRACTED	Glitch	78.9	74.7	0.9	Glitch [†]
S190602aq	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	6.4	91.9	BBH
S190630ag	BBH	BBH	Real	72.3	0	76.2	Glitch [†]
S190701ah	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0.2	97.7	BBH
S190706ai	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0	100	BBH
S190707q	BBH	BBH	Real	1	18.2	83.5	BBH
S190718y	Glitch	Terrestrial	Glitch	88.7	0.3	19.4	Glitch
S190720a	BBH	BBH	Real	3.2	3.3	96.7	BBH
S190727h	BBH	BBH	Real	0.2	0.1	98.4	BBH
S190728q	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	15.6	90.8	BBH
S190808ae	Glitch	RETRACTED	Glitch	47.7	98.7	0.1	Glitch
S190814bv	NSBH	NSBH	Real	0.1	94.1	45.2	NS [†]
S190816i	Glitch	RETRACTED	Real	1.4	87	18.2	NS
S190822c	Glitch	RETRACTED	Glitch	60.8	100	9.2	Glitch [†]
S190828j	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0	100	BBH
S190828l	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0	99.9	BBH
S190829u	Glitch	RETRACTED	Real	70.6	63.4	0	Glitch [†]
S190901ap	Glitch	BNS	Glitch	76.6	90.1	0	Glitch [†]
S190910d	Glitch	NSBH	Glitch	45.6	0.5	0	Glitch
S190910h	Glitch	BNS	Glitch	99	0	0	Glitch
S190915ak	BBH	BBH	Real	0.1	0	99.9	BBH
S190923y	Glitch	NSBH	Real	16.9	63.6	3.9	NS
S190924h	BBH	MassGap	Real	0.1	30.9	58.6	BBH
S190930s	BBH	MassGap	Real	29.2	32.2	60.4	BBH
S190930t	Glitch	NSBH	Glitch	99.4	0	0	Glitch

NOTE—GW190413, GW190413, GW190424, GW190514, GW190527, GW190620, GW190708, GW190719, GW190731, GW190803, GW190803, GW190909, GW190910, GW190929 were identified in the GWTC-2 catalog however, they did not produce OPAs at the time of detection and thus GWSkyNet does not make predictions on these events.

Table 3: O3b predictions. Columns are: the OPA event names for O3b events with BAYESTAR-generated skymaps, and their labels according to GraceDB, GWSkyNet, and GWSkyNet-Multi (individual and hierarchical scores). Ambiguous events whose prediction scores were all below their respective thresholds are marked with an asterisk(*). In addition, the ambiguous cases where more than one prediction score is above the classifier’s threshold, are marked with a dagger (†).

Candidate Name	GraceDB Label	GWSkyNet Binary	Glitch Score (%)	NS Score (%)	BBH Score (%)	Hierarchical Prediction
S191105e	BBH	Glitch	0.1	0	98.7	BBH
S191109d	BBH	Real	15.6	0	100	BBH
S191110x	RETRACTED	Real	90.2	86.6	17.9	Glitch†
S191117j	RETRACTED	Real	100	70.2	6.5	Glitch†
S191120aj	RETRACTED	Glitch	92.8	34	0.1	Glitch
S191120at	RETRACTED	Real	99.4	98.7	27	Glitch†
S191124be	RETRACTED	Glitch	95.1	91.2	5.6	Glitch†
S191129u	BBH	Real	0.8	0.5	77.1	BBH
S191204r	BBH	Real	0.1	3.1	84.1	BBH
S191205ah	NSBH	Glitch	50.4	97	0.1	Glitch†
S191212q	RETRACTED	Real	49.8	100	1.9	Glitch†
S191213ai	RETRACTED	Glitch	98.3	92.1	0	Glitch†
S191213g	BNS	Real	3	2.4	2.7	BBH*
S191215w	BBH	Real	0.1	0	100	BBH
S191216ap	BBH	Real	1.7	83.4	43.2	NS†
S191220af	RETRACTED	Real	5.6	99.8	4.7	NS
S191222n	BBH	Real	16.5	0	18.8	BBH*
S191225aq	RETRACTED	Real	0.2	98.5	8.7	NS
S200105ae	Terrestrial	Real	54.9	89.5	0	Glitch†
S200106au	RETRACTED	Real	0.7	84.8	9.9	NS
S200106av	RETRACTED	Real	32.7	58.9	2.6	Glitch
S200108v	RETRACTED	Glitch	98.4	25.7	10.1	Glitch
S200112r	BBH	Real	76.2	0	44.4	Glitch†
S200115j	MassGap	Real	0.2	27.5	27.8	BBH*
S200116ah	RETRACTED	Real	99	93.3	3.8	Glitch†
S200128d	BBH	Real	17.7	0	100	BBH
S200129m	BBH	Real	0.1	0.9	98.2	BBH
S200208q	BBH	Real	0.1	0	100	BBH
S200213t	BNS	Glitch	53	99.8	2.8	Glitch†
S200219ac	BBH	Real	0.1	0	99.9	BBH
S200224ca	BBH	Real	0	0	100	BBH
S200225q	BBH	Real	0.8	0	98.9	BBH
S200302c	BBH	Glitch	95.2	0	0.7	Glitch
S200303ba	RETRACTED	Glitch	63.4	0	85.1	Glitch†
S200308e	RETRACTED	Real	98.8	75.6	4.7	Glitch†
S200311bg	BBH	Real	0	1.7	95.8	BBH
S200316bj	MassGap	Real	0.2	0.3	99.3	BBH

NOTE—S200105ae and S200115j were determined to be a real events in [Abbott et al. \(2021\)](#).

4. DISCUSSION

To evaluate our model, we compare our O3 predictions with GWTC-2 (Abbott et al. 2021a), GraceDB, and GWSkyNet. We then characterize the interpretability of our model using Gradient-weighted Class Activation Mapping (Grad-CAM).

4.1. O3 Predictions Discussion

During the O3a observing run, 40 gravitational wave candidates were made available as OPAs containing BAYESTAR-generated skymaps. By comparing the hierarchical predictions with those of GWTC-2, we find that GWSkyNet-Multi correctly classifies 36 of the 40 events, including 6/7 of the retracted events. The four misclassified events are further discussed in the following subsections. Furthermore, in comparison to the GWSkyNet classifier, the new model shows more promising results on retracted events. When comparing the 8 retracted events for which GWSkyNet and GWSkyNet-Multi have contradicting predictions, GWSkyNet correctly classifies 1 as a glitch whereas GWSkyNet-Multi correctly classifies 7 as glitches. On non-retracted events, we achieve comparable accuracy to GWSkyNet and GraceDB which correctly predicted 30/33 and 28/33, respectively (GWSkyNet-Multi obtains 29/33).

4.1.1. S190425z

We misclassify S190425z (now GW190425) as a glitch, while the refined analysis presented in Abbott et al. (2020) determines that it was a binary neutron star merger. Although S190425z was a source of interest and many electromagnetic observers attempted to find a counterpart (Abbott et al. 2020), it was also one of the most poorly-localized events in O3. The 90% confidence region of this event was over 7000 deg² as shown in Figure 1. Classification of this event will be challenging with any model. In such cases where localization is poor, it can be useful to examine the scores of each individual classifier rather than relying solely on the hierarchical classifier. In the case of S190425z, we see that the glitch-versus-all classifier assigns a score of 89.5% and the NS-versus-all classifier 99.9%. The misclassification is thus entirely due to the fact that the glitch-versus-all is placed before the NS-versus-all in the hierarchical scheme.

4.1.2. S190630ag

Similarly to the previous event, S190630ag is misclassified as a glitch, when the event was instead a BBH merger. However, our BBH-versus-all classifier has a score of 76.2%, which is above its threshold. The misclassification is thus again due to the hierarchical

scheme, and shows why it is important to take all the one-versus-all scores into consideration.

4.1.3. S190816i

We misclassify S190816i as containing a NS, when it was instead a glitch. We note however that this source was initially classified as either a NSBH or Terrestrial on GraceDB with 83% and 17% probability, respectively, before being retracted. We further note the high false alarm rate (FAR) presented on GraceDB: 1 per 2.2067 years. The weak signal of this source, as evident in the FAR, is likely responsible for the initial misclassification on GraceDB and the misclassification by our models.

4.1.4. S190923y

As with S190816i, we misclassify S190923y as containing a NS, when it was instead a glitch. Similar to this previous source, this source was also initially classified as either a NSBH or Terrestrial on GraceDB with 68% and 32% probability, respectively. We further note the high false alarm rate (FAR) presented on GraceDB: 1.5094 per year.

4.2. Ambiguous Events

There are four O3 events whose scores are all below their respective classifier’s threshold, namely, S190405ar, S191213g, S191222n, S200115j. Of these events, the classifier score of S190405ar, S191222n, S200115j is highest in the correct class. We note that S200115j, which was labelled as MassGap by GraceDB, is classified with a near equal score by the NS-versus-all and BBH-versus-all classifiers. We further note that S191213g interestingly has low scores (less than 5%) in each of the three classes, which suggests that this candidate may be a unique source which was not well characterized by the training set.

In addition, there are 21 events in O3 where more than one prediction score is above the classifier’s threshold. For these events, including S190425z and S190630ag mentioned above in Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, respectively, it is important to look at all the predictions scores in addition to the hierarchical prediction.

4.3. Interpretability

Intuitively, we expect that a given classifier would perform best when it focuses its attention on the high-probability regions of the skymap. We tested this intuition using Gradient-weighted Class Activation-Mapping (Grad-CAM)⁵. Grad-CAM makes use of the

⁵ <https://github.com/ramprs/grad-cam/>

fact that convolutional layers preserve spatial information to create an “activation map”. Each map is produced using gradients of the convolutional layers calculated with respect to the feature map activations. From the activation map, regions of a given skymap which receive the most attention in making a given classification are identified (Selvaraju et al. 2019). With Grad-CAM, we see that this intuition is generally correct. However, we caution that we observe a general trend in the glitch-versus-all classifier, where there is more attention on the low-probability regions than is present for the other classifiers (see Figure 5). Despite this fact, the glitch-versus-all classifier performs best of all the classifiers.

We also caution that there are notable exceptions to these expectations. For certain sources, the event is confidently and correctly classified, despite the model focusing on the exterior of the high-probability region. We show the example of S190512at in the top panels of Figure 6. In contrast, some sources are misclassified despite the relevant models placing all of their focus on the high-probability region of the given skymap. We show the example of S190923y in the bottom panels of Figure 6.

In sum, the activation map alone is not a good indication of the validity of a classification. We leave the exploration of other interpretability techniques for future work.

5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we introduce **GWSkyNet-Multi**, a multi-class machine learning classifier that enhances the original **GWSkyNet** by further categorizing GW candidates as BBH mergers, mergers containing one or more NSs, or experimental glitches. **GWSkyNet-Multi** is created using three one-versus-all classifiers with high accuracy and F_1 scores. The glitch-versus-all, NS-versus-all, and BBH-versus-all classifiers have test set accuracies of 95.1%, 94.4%, and 93.7%, respectively, and all F_1 scores are above 0.95. The classifier also achieves comparable accuracies on the O3a events to **GWSkyNet** and higher accuracies than GraceDB. These results in addition to the high speed in which the classifiers predict are very encouraging towards the goal of increasing the success rate of EM follow-up of GW events, especially in the upcoming O4 observing run. Furthermore, with the addition of the Kamioka Gravitational Wave Detector (KAGRA), and other GW detectors, OPA skymaps will offer better localizations, which will also greatly increase the likelihood of successful EM follow-up.

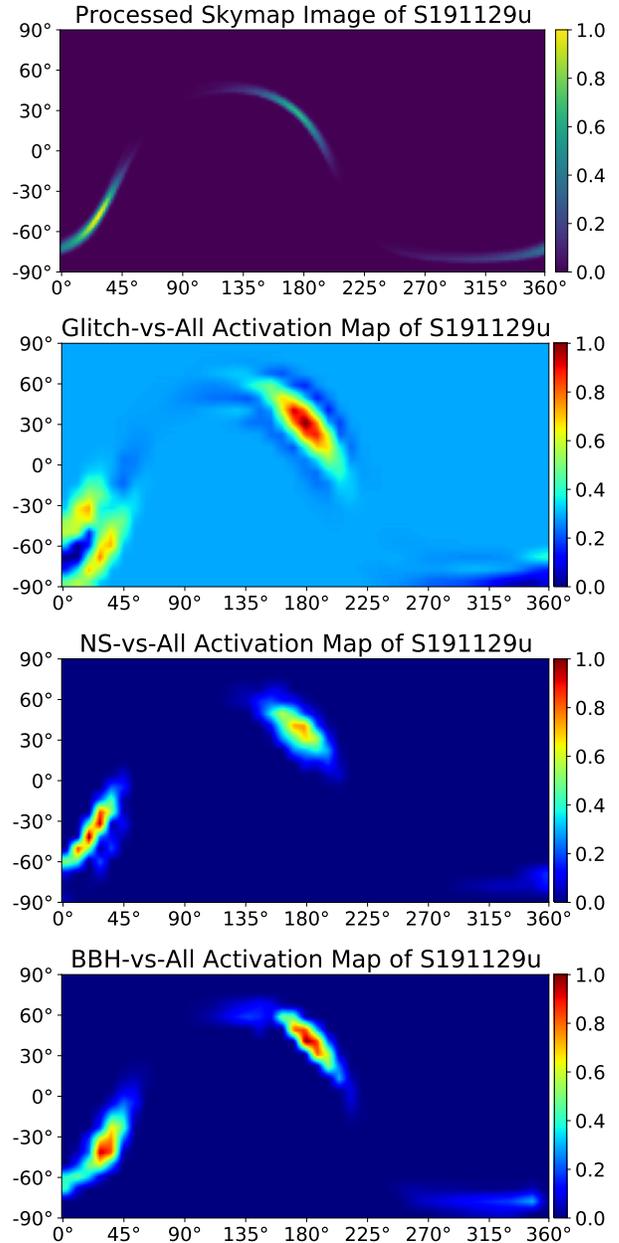


Figure 5: Grad-CAM activation maps of S191129u. *Top panel:* Processed skymap of the S191129u localization region. *Remaining panels:* Grad-CAM activation maps highlighting the portion of the skymap that the given models analyze most in order to make a prediction. A Grad-CAM activation map is shown for each of the three one-versus-all classifiers. This event is correctly classified by **GWSkyNet-Multi** as a BBH, with scores of 0.1%, 15.6%, and 90.8% for glitch-versus-all, NS-versus-all, and BBH-versus-all, respectively. Activation maps are smoothed using a bilinear interpolator.

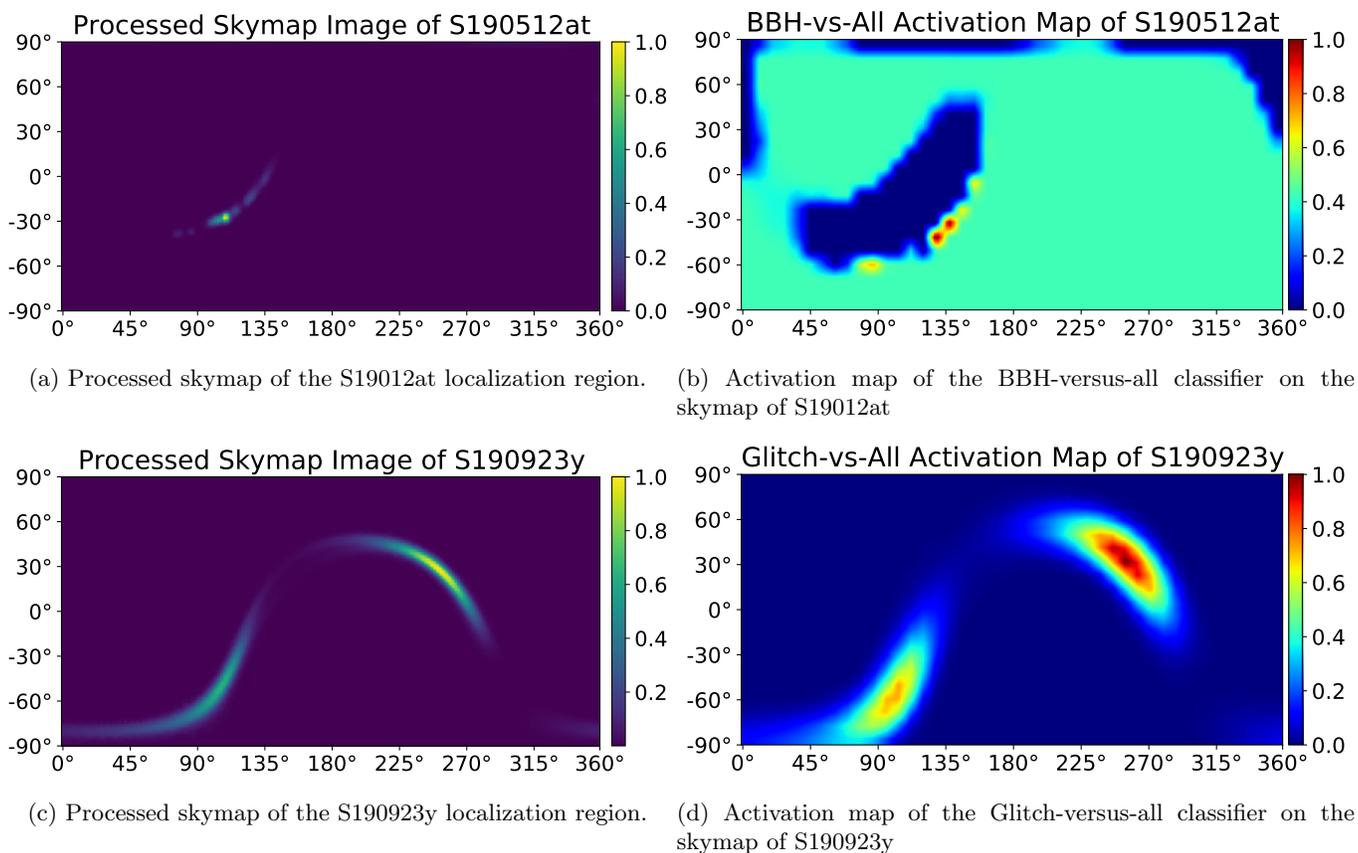


Figure 6: Processed skymaps and Grad-CAM activation maps for S190512at (top) and S190923y (bottom). We see that for S190512at, the BBH-versus-all model does not focus on the localization region in the sky, but on the background and the surroundings instead. However, this was a confident and correct prediction, with a BBH-versus-all score of 99.7%. On the other hand for S190923y, which is a glitch, the glitch model focuses on the localization region but does not classify the event as a glitch. Activation maps are smoothed using a bilinear interpolator.

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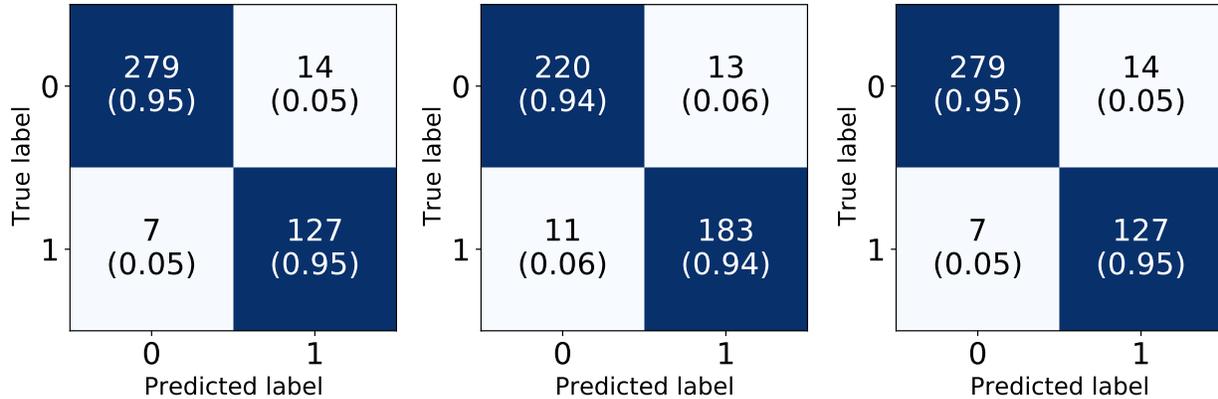
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Software: `astropy`: Astropy Collaboration et al. (2018); `BAYESTAR`: Singer & Price (2016); `ligo.skymap`; `scikit-learn`; `TensorFlow`

APPENDIX

A. CONFUSION MATRICES



(a) Glitch-versus-all confusion matrix. (b) NS-versus-all confusion matrix. (c) BBH-versus-all confusion matrix.

Figure 7: Confusion Matrices of each one-versus-all classifier making predictions on the test set.

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