

Detecting black-hole binary clustering via the second-generation gravitational-wave detectors

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The first discovery of the gravitational-wave (GW) event, GW150914, suggests a higher merger rate of black-hole (BH) binaries. If this is true, a number of BH binaries will be observed via the second-generation GW detectors, and the statistical properties of the observed BH binaries can be scrutinized. A naive but important question to ask is whether the spatial distribution of BH binaries faithfully traces the matter inhomogeneities in the Universe or not. Although the BH binaries are thought to be formed inside the galaxies in most of the scenarios, there is no observational evidence to confirm such a hypothesis. Here, we estimate how well the second-generation GW detectors can statistically confirm the BH binaries to be a tracer of the large-scale structure by looking at the auto- and cross-correlation of BH binaries with photometric galaxies and weak-lensing measurements, finding that, with a 3 year observation, the $>3\sigma$ detection of a nonzero signal is possible if the BH merger rate today is $\dot{n}_0 \gtrsim 100 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ and the clustering bias of BH binaries is $b_{\text{BH},0} \gtrsim 1.5$.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The first discovery of the gravitational-wave (GW) event, GW150914, by aLIGO [1] opens a new window to astronomy and physics. The detected signal is consistent with GW emission from the coalescence of a black-hole (BH) binary at $z \simeq 0.09$, demonstrating that the advanced detector has a sufficient sensitivity enough to detect GWs out to the distant universe. In the coming years, aVIRGO and KAGRA will join the network of the second-generation GW detectors [2] and will detect a large number of GW sources. In addition, the future ground- and space-based GW experiments such as the Einstein Telescope (ET) [3], 40 km LIGO [4], eLISA [5], and DECIGO [6] are planning to greatly improve the sensitivities and realize cosmology with a large number of GW events at very high redshifts ($z > 1$).

From the cosmological point of view, one important aspect of the ongoing and future GW observations is that, using binary GW sources as *the standard sirens*, we will be able to measure the luminosity distance to each source with unprecedented precision [7–15]. In particular, we have recently shown in Ref. [16] that, without electromagnetic followup observations (i.e., redshift information), these standard sirens can be used to probe the large-scale structure (LSS) of the Universe at very high redshift ($z \gtrsim 2$) where the identification of the electromagnetic counterpart is challenging. It will provide a way to tightly

constrain the primordial non-Gaussianity of the large-scale matter fluctuations and to directly probe the matter inhomogeneities by cross-correlating with weak-lensing signals. Further, assuming that the binary GW sources are a good tracer of LSS, Ref. [17] explored the feasibility to cross-correlate the GW sources with spectroscopic galaxies and showed that the distance-redshift relation for GW sources can be estimated accurately without the followup observation of each GW source.

While the methods proposed in Refs. [16,17] are quite promising, the validity of the assumption that the binary GW sources fairly trace the matter inhomogeneities is largely unknown, because there is so far no observation to confirm the clustering hypothesis. If the GW sources are the primordial BH dark matter [18–20], the clustering of the GW sources would be different from that of the astrophysical BH binaries (see, e.g., Refs. [21,22] for quantitative predictions). Furthermore, even with future electromagnetic observations, it would be rather difficult to identify robustly the electromagnetic counterparts, from which we can know what kind of galaxies or components (i.e., dark matter or baryon) BH binaries are likely to trace. These issues should be addressed by statistically measuring the clustering signal of GW sources themselves [16] and/or by cross-correlating with other independent mass tracers such as galaxy clustering and weak gravitational lensing [16,17]. It is therefore important to test or verify the

clustering hypothesis of GW sources from the ongoing/upcoming GW observations prior to the future cosmological studies with third-generation GW detectors.

In this paper, extending the analysis in Ref. [16], we shall discuss the feasibility to detect the clustering signal of binary GWs via a network of the second-generation GW detectors. In particular, we will focus on the BH binaries similar to GW150914. Indeed, the first GW detection enlarges the future prospect for measuring GWs from BH binaries and suggests a rather higher merger rate, $2\text{--}400 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, indicating that even the second-generation GW detectors have a potential to detect the clustering of BH binary sources.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we begin by reviewing the statistical observables of the clustering signal, namely, the angular power spectrum, which are estimated both from auto- and cross-correlation of the BH binary clustering with clustering and weak-lensing signals from galaxy photometric surveys and cosmic microwave background (CMB) measurements. We then describe our assumptions on the noise properties of each observable in Sec. III. The significance of detecting the BH binary clustering is estimated in Sec. IV. Finally, Sec. V is devoted to a summary and discussion.

Throughout the paper, the power spectra of the matter fluctuations are computed with the CMB Boltzmann code CAMB [23], assuming the flat Lambda-cold dark matter (CDM) model with fiducial cosmological parameters consistent with the 7 year WMAP results [24]. We use Halofit for computing the nonlinear matter power spectrum [25,26]. We adopt the natural unit.

II. OBSERVABLES

To statistically detect the clustering signals from BH binaries, we consider the angular power spectra between observables obtained from GW detectors, galaxy imaging surveys, and CMB experiments. In a spatially flat cosmological model, the auto- and cross-angular power spectra are related to the three-dimensional power spectrum of the matter fluctuations through (see, e.g., Refs. [27–29])

$$C_\ell^{\text{XY}} = 4\pi \int_0^\infty d \ln k \int_0^\infty d\chi j_\ell(k\chi) \int_0^\infty d\chi' j_\ell(k\chi') \times W^{\text{X}}(k, \chi) W^{\text{Y}}(k, \chi') \Delta_{\text{m}}(k; \chi, \chi'), \quad (1)$$

with the quantity χ being the comoving radial distance. Here, X and Y denote the observables from either the BH binary clustering (s), galaxy clustering (g), galaxy weak lensing (γ), or weak lensing of CMB (ϕ). The function $\Delta_{\text{m}}(k; \chi, \chi')$ is the dimensionless power spectrum of the matter density fluctuations, and j_ℓ is the spherical Bessel function. The function $W^{\text{X}}(k, \chi)$ is the weight function of an observable X, the functional form of which will be specified below.

A. Clustering of BH binaries

BH binaries are the representative candidate of the GW standard sirens observed via the second-generation GW detectors. If the BH binaries trace the LSS, their spatial distribution would have a characteristic pattern, the statistical properties of which are related to those of the LSS. In principle, with the GW observation alone, one can map out the three-dimensional clustering of BH binaries; however, we do not use distance information in our analysis. This is because the observable redshift for BH binaries similar to GW150914 will be limited to $z \lesssim 0.3$ for the second-generation detectors [30], and the expected number of GW events is thus not so large ($\mathcal{O}(10^2) - \mathcal{O}(10^3)$). To enhance the detection significance, we therefore consider the two-dimensional map, i.e., the angular distribution of BH binaries projected onto the sky.

Ignoring the lensing contribution to the luminosity distance, which is shown to be subdominant in the two-dimensional sky map of the GW sources [16], the weight function of BH binaries becomes

$$W^s(\chi) = \frac{dn_{\text{BH}}}{d\chi}(\chi) b_{\text{BH}}(z(\chi)), \quad (2)$$

where $dn_{\text{BH}}/d\chi$ is the radial distribution of BH binaries given by

$$\frac{dn_{\text{BH}}}{d\chi}(\chi) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{BH}}} T_{\text{obs}} \dot{n}_0 \frac{\chi^2}{1+z(\chi)}, \quad (3)$$

with T_{obs} and \dot{n}_0 being the observation time and the merger rate today, respectively. The quantity, N_{BH} , is the total number of BH binaries per steradian so as to give $\int d\chi (dn_{\text{BH}}/d\chi) = 1$. Here, we assume the constant merger rate, since the observable redshift of BH binaries via the second-generation detectors will be $z \lesssim 0.3$. In Eq. (2), we introduce $b_{\text{BH}}(z)$, which represents the clustering bias of BH binaries. For BH binaries associated with galaxies, the bias factor $b_{\text{BH}}(z)$ simply reflects the galaxy bias, and it may vary with time. Below, assuming the functional form of $b_{\text{BH}}(z) = b_{\text{BH},0}(1+z)^{1/2}$ [31], we estimate the detectability of the clustering signal and discuss its sensitivity to $b_{\text{BH},0}$. Since the redshift range we consider in the analysis below is very narrow, the evolution of the clustering bias does not significantly alter our results.

B. Clustering of galaxies

As one of the independent LSS tracers, we consider the photometric galaxies to cross-correlate with BH binaries. Similar to the BH binary clustering, the weight function of the galaxy clustering becomes (e.g., Ref. [28])

$$W^g(\chi) = \frac{dn_{\text{gal}}}{d\chi}(z(\chi)) b_{\text{gal}}(z(\chi)), \quad (4)$$

where $dn_{\text{gal}}/d\chi$ and $b_{\text{gal}}(z)$ are the normalized number density and bias factor of the galaxies, respectively. For simplicity, we assume the same bias evolution as the BH binary case; $b_{\text{gal}}(z) = b_{\text{gal},0}(1+z)^{1/2}$ [31]. For the normalized distribution function, we adopt the form [32]

$$\frac{dn_{\text{gal}}}{d\chi}(z) = \frac{3z^2}{2z_0^3} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{z}{z_0}\right)^{3/2}\right] H(z), \quad (5)$$

where the parameter z_0 is related to the mean redshift z_m through $z_m = 1.412z_0$ [32] and $H(z)$ is the expansion rate. The last factor $H(z)$ simply comes from the conversion between z and χ .

C. Weak lensing of galaxies

The weak lensing of galaxies also provides a way to probe LSS, and the measurement of this can be used to cross-correlate with BH binaries. The key observable of the weak lensing considered here is the shear $\gamma(\Omega)$, which is obtained by measuring ellipticities of each galaxy image. The shear is related to the gravitational potential of the matter density fluctuations, and the weight function is thus expressed as (e.g., Refs. [29,33])

$$W^\gamma(k, \chi) = \sqrt{\frac{(\ell+2)!}{(\ell-2)!}} \frac{3\Omega_m H_0^2 (1+z)}{2k^2} \times \int_\chi^\infty d\chi' \frac{\chi' - \chi}{\chi' \chi} \frac{dn_{\text{gal}}}{d\chi'}(z(\chi')), \quad (6)$$

where H_0 and Ω_m are the present Hubble parameter and the density parameter of the mass, respectively. For the distribution of source galaxies $dn_{\text{gal}}/d\chi$, we adopt the same functional form as given in Eq. (5), since the galaxies identified with photometric surveys are also used for the weak-lensing measurement.

D. Weak lensing of CMB

The gravitational lensing induced by the LSS also affects the CMB at each angular position. With the help of the reconstruction technique, we can probe the LSS from the distortion of the primary CMB anisotropies. The lensing effect on CMB anisotropies is expressed as a remapping by the two-dimensional deflection vector $\mathbf{d} = \nabla\phi$, where ϕ is so-called the CMB lensing potential (e.g., Ref. [34]). This lensing potential is an observable reconstructed from a CMB map by utilizing the characteristic mode coupling between lensed CMB anisotropies (e.g., Ref. [35]). Since the lensing comes from the last scattering surface of CMB photon which is approximately described by the single-source plane, the weight function of the lensing potential ϕ is given by (e.g., Refs. [29,34])

$$W^\phi(k, \chi) = \frac{3\Omega_m H_0^2 (1+z) \chi_* - \chi}{2k^2 \chi_* \chi} \quad (\chi \leq \chi_*) \quad (7)$$

and becomes zero otherwise. Here, the quantity χ_* indicates the comoving radial distance to the last-scattering surface.

III. DETECTION SIGNIFICANCE OF CLUSTERING SIGNAL

In the absence of observational evidence for BH binaries to be a good tracer of the matter inhomogeneities, we test the null hypothesis that the distribution of BH binaries is spatially homogeneous. We investigate the significance of rejecting this null hypothesis (hereafter, we call it detection significance shortly, following the convention, e.g., Ref. [36]).

In the case, using the GW data alone, the statistical significance to reject null hypothesis is quantified by (see, e.g., Refs. [36,37])

$$\alpha_{ss}^2 = \sum_\ell \frac{2\ell+1}{2} \left[\frac{C_\ell^{ss}}{N_\ell^{ss}} \right]^2 \quad (8)$$

with N_ℓ^{ss} being the noise spectra for the clustering signal of BH binaries given later. We here assume a full-sky GW observation. Note that Eq. (8) slightly differs from the usual definition of the signal-to-noise ratio, since we consider the null hypothesis for the clustering of BH binaries. On the other hand, if one uses other cosmological probes ($X = g, \gamma$, or ϕ) to cross-correlate with GW data (s), the statistical significance to reject the null hypothesis is estimated from

$$\alpha_{sX}^2 = f_{\text{sky}}^{sX} \sum_\ell (2\ell+1) \frac{(C_\ell^{sX})^2}{(C_\ell^{XX} + N_\ell^{XX}) N_\ell^{ss}}, \quad (9)$$

where f_{sky}^{sX} denotes the fractional sky coverage of the other cosmological probes. N_ℓ^{XX} is the noise power spectrum of each observable.

Combining all the observables including GW observations, photometric galaxies, and weak lensing of galaxies and CMB, the total detection significance is written as

$$\alpha_{\text{tot}}^2 = \sum_\ell (2\ell+1) \sum_{i,j} \min(f_{\text{sky}}^i, f_{\text{sky}}^j) \{C_\ell^{-1}\}_{i,j}, \quad (10)$$

where the indices, i and j , are either ss , sg , sy , or $s\phi$. The covariance matrix \mathbf{C}_ℓ is defined as $\{C_\ell\}_{i,j} = \langle \hat{C}_\ell^i \hat{C}_\ell^j \rangle_{\text{null}} / C_\ell^i C_\ell^j$, where \hat{C}_ℓ^i is the measured power spectrum including noise and $\langle \cdots \rangle_{\text{null}}$ is the ensemble average but ignores the cosmic variance from the BH binary clustering. The upper triangular elements of the covariance matrix are given by

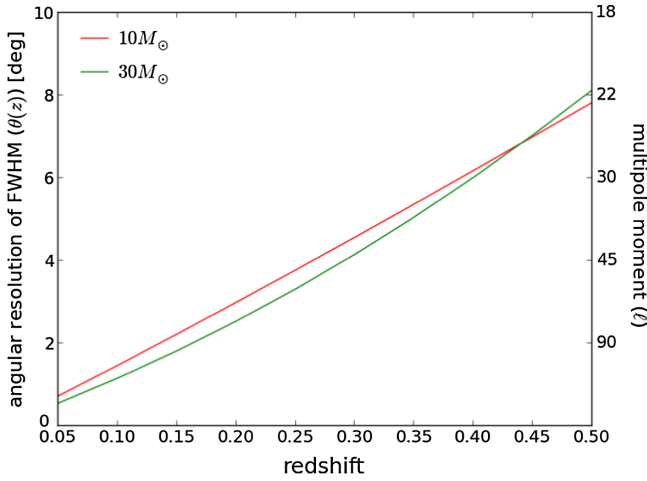


FIG. 1. Angular resolution of GW sources, $\theta(z)$, achievable with a network of second-generation detectors. The results are plotted as function of source redshift, assuming BH binary of $10 - 10 M_{\odot}$ (red) and $30 - 30 M_{\odot}$ (green).

$$\mathbf{C}_{\ell} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(N_{\ell}^{ss})^2}{(C_{\ell}^{ss})^2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{(C_{\ell}^{gg} + N_{\ell}^{gg})N_{\ell}^{ss}}{(C_{\ell}^{sg})^2} & \frac{C_{\ell}^{gg} N_{\ell}^{ss}}{C_{\ell}^{gg} C_{\ell}^{ss}} & \frac{C_{\ell}^{g\phi} N_{\ell}^{ss}}{C_{\ell}^{sg} C_{\ell}^{s\phi}} & \\ & \frac{(C_{\ell}^{\gamma\gamma} + N_{\ell}^{\gamma\gamma})N_{\ell}^{ss}}{(C_{\ell}^{s\gamma})^2} & \frac{C_{\ell}^{\gamma\phi} N_{\ell}^{ss}}{C_{\ell}^{s\gamma} C_{\ell}^{s\phi}} & \\ & & \frac{(C_{\ell}^{\phi\phi} + N_{\ell}^{\phi\phi})N_{\ell}^{ss}}{(C_{\ell}^{s\phi})^2} & \end{pmatrix}. \quad (11)$$

Let us describe noise properties of each observable. For the GW observations of BH binaries, the dominant noise contribution would be the shot noise in source counting due to a limited number of BH binaries (not the photon counting shot noise in the GW detector). Further, the limited sky localization of each GW source restricts the sensitivity to the angular clustering. Thus, we consider the following noise spectrum for the BH binaries:

$$N_{\ell}^{ss}(z) = \frac{1}{N_{\text{BH}}} e^{\ell(\ell+1)\theta^2(z)/8 \ln 2}. \quad (12)$$

The shot-noise contribution given above is convolved with the two-dimensional Gaussian window function with the FWHM (full width of half maximum) of θ [38], which represents the angular resolution due to the limited sky localization of the GW sources. Note that the FWHM θ varies with the redshift of GW sources. Based on Fig. 5 of Ref. [39], in which the angular resolution of each binary source is estimated assuming the second-generation detectors, we adopt the fitting form $\theta(z) \approx 45 \text{ deg} / \rho_{\text{net}}(z)$, where ρ_{net} is the detector-network signal-to-noise ratio (SNR).¹ Note that, as

discussed in Ref. [16], the uncertainties of the luminosity distance measurements are negligible compared to the above shot noise. This indicates that our results are insensitive to the noise spectrum of the BH binaries. On the other hand, a non-Gaussian localization errors modifies the functional form of the above shot-noise power spectrum especially at small angular scales, though the clustering signals at small scales do not so affect the resultant detection significance. To include a realistic non-Gaussian error, we need to characterize the location and orientation of each detector, and the impact of a realistic localization error remains our future work.

Using the restricted 1.5PN (Post Newtonian) waveform of the BH binary and sensitivity curve for the aLIGO detector, we estimate ρ_{net} as a function of redshift for the BH binary with $10 - 10 M_{\odot}$ and $30 - 30 M_{\odot}$.² The resultant angular resolution θ is shown in Fig. 1. Although the angular resolution to each GW source becomes degraded as the redshift increases, this degradation is quantitatively insensitive to the choice of the fiducial BH masses. A careful reader may wonder why these two curves cross at $z = 0.45$. This is due to a redshift effect, which is significant for massive binaries. We checked that our estimate of the detection significance is robust against the choice of the fiducial BH binary mass. Hence, we will present below the results with BH binaries of $30 - 30 M_{\odot}$.

As for the other LSS probes to be cross-correlated with BH binaries, the shot-noise contribution is the main noise source of the photometric galaxy measurements apart from the cosmic variance. Thus, similar to the BH binary case, we have

$$N_{\ell}^{gg} = \frac{1}{N_{\text{gal}}}. \quad (13)$$

Here, N_{gal} is the number of galaxies per steradian. On the other hand, the main noise source in the weak-lensing measurement of galaxies is the intrinsic scatter of each galaxy image (i.e., shape noise), and the noise power spectrum becomes

$$N_{\ell}^{\gamma\gamma} = \frac{\sigma_{\gamma}^2}{N_{\text{gal}}}, \quad (14)$$

where σ_{γ} is the intrinsic rms shear. We adopt $\sigma_{\gamma} = 0.2$ for later analysis [32,40]. Finally, for the weak lensing of the

¹This expression corresponds to $\ell_{\text{max}}(z) \approx 4.0 \times \rho_{\text{net}}(z)$ in terms of the multipole.

²Although this paper shows the case with the inspiral component alone, we also compute the SNR including the inspiral-merger-ringdown waveform and find it leads to 20%–30% enhancement of the SNR, improving the pointing of GW sources by 20%–30%. However, the effect of this improvements is negligible in our estimate of the detection significance for $30 - 30 M_{\odot}$ systems at low z considered in this paper.

CMB, the dominant noise contribution (called the reconstruction noise, denoted by $N_\ell^{\phi\phi}$) is computed using the formula given in Ref. [41], which is based on the maximum-likelihood lensing reconstruction [42].

IV. TESTING CLUSTERING HYPOTHESIS OF BH BINARIES

A. Setup

To quantitatively estimate the statistical significance, we shall specify several parameters for each observable given in the previous section.

First of all, we consider a network of three second-generation GW detectors with design sensitivity given in Ref. [43] and 3 year observation ($T_{\text{obs}} = 3$ yr). The merger rate of BH binaries at present, \dot{n}_0 , is one of the key parameters, but it has still large uncertainty, $\dot{n}_0 = 2\text{--}400$ Gpc $^{-3}$ yr $^{-1}$. The clustering bias parameter, $b_{\text{BH},0}$, which indicates how significantly the clustering of the GW sources trace the matter inhomogeneities is also unknown. While we choose $\dot{n}_0 = 100$ Mpc $^{-3}$ yr $^{-1}$ and $b_{\text{BH},0} = 1.5$ as a canonical setup and estimate the combined detection significance α_{tot} , the detection significances for each single measurement, α_{ss} and α_{sX} , are found to simply scale as

$$\alpha_{ss} = \alpha_{ss}^0 \left(\frac{b_{\text{BH},0}}{1.5} \right)^2 \left(\frac{T_{\text{obs}} \dot{n}_0}{3 \times 100 \text{ Gpc}^{-3}} \right), \quad (15)$$

$$\alpha_{sX} = \alpha_{sX}^0 \left(\frac{b_{\text{BH},0}}{1.5} \right) \left(\frac{T_{\text{obs}} \dot{n}_0}{3 \times 100 \text{ Gpc}^{-3}} \right)^{1/2}. \quad (16)$$

Hence, we will present the estimated results of α_{ss}^0 and α_{sX}^0 for the single-measurement cases. Note that for the canonical setup the total number of BH binaries detected by the full-sky observation is estimated to be $N_{\text{BH}} = 549$ (1,617) at $z \leq 0.2$ (0.3). As we will see below, with such a small number of events, the GW data alone (i.e., autocorrelation of BH binaries) cannot give a statistically significant detection, and the cross-correlation with other LSS data is indispensable. In such a case, the total detection significance, α_{tot} , is mostly determined by the cross-correlation, and thus α_{tot} approximately follows the same scaling law as shown in Eq. (16).

As other independent LSS probes, we consider three representative surveys for the clustering and weak lensing of photometric galaxies; the Dark Energy Survey (DES) [40], Euclid [32], and the Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System (Pan-STARRS) 3 π survey.³ The parameters needed to compute the signal and noise spectra are summarized in Table I. Note that in all three cases we assume $b_{\text{gal},0} = 1.0$ and adopt $\sigma_\gamma = 0.2$, but our results are insensitive to the choice of these, as we will discuss later.

TABLE I. The galaxy survey specification: the total number of galaxies per square arcminute N_{gal} , mean redshift z_m , and fraction of the sky coverage f_{sky} . The values for DES and Euclid are taken from Refs. [40] and [32], respectively, while we denote Pan-STARRS as a wide shallow galaxy survey [44].

	N_{gal} (arcmin $^{-2}$)	z_m	f_{sky}
DES	12	0.68	0.125
Euclid	30	0.90	0.500
Pan-STARRS	1	0.50	0.750

Finally, for the weak lensing of CMB, a relevant experiment at the time of the second-generation GW detectors would be the CMB Stage-III experiment such as Advanced ACT [45] and Simons Array [46], which will achieve a nearly half-sky observation ($f_{\text{sky}} = 0.5$). We assume a 5 μ K arcmin white noise with a beam size of 1 arcmin. To precisely reconstruct the lensing potential involved in the small-scale CMB anisotropies, the multipoles up to $\ell = 3,000$ are used. The reconstruction noise $N_\ell^{\phi\phi}$ is then computed based on this setup.

B. Results

Let us first show the estimated values of the detection significance for each measurement. Table II summarizes the auto- (α_{ss}^0) and cross-correlation (α_{sX}^0) results in the canonical setup. Here, to compute the detection significance, the sample of BH binaries is restricted to $z \leq z_{\text{max}} = 0.2$. This is because samples at high redshifts

TABLE II. Detection significance of the clustering of BH binaries with the 3 year observation from the second-generation detector network, using GW data alone (ss), the cross-correlation with the galaxy clustering (gs), the galaxy weak lensing (γs), and the CMB weak lensing (ϕs). To be precise, numerical values presented below represent the significance to reject the null hypothesis that BH binaries are homogeneously distributed, based on Eqs. (8)–(10). The upper part of the table shows the coefficient of the auto- and cross-correlation measurement, α_{ss}^0 and α_{sX}^0 , defined in Eqs. (15) and (16), respectively. The last row lists the total detection significance, α_{tot} . In all cases, the present-day merger rate of BH binaries is set to 100 Gpc $^{-3}$ yr $^{-1}$, and we assume the clustering bias of $b_{\text{BH},0} = 1.5$ with the maximum redshift of BH binaries, $z_{\text{max}} = 0.2$. For comparison, the parentheses show the results in the most optimistic case ($\dot{n}_0 = 400$ Gpc $^{-3}$ yr $^{-1}$).

	Detection significance		
ss	0.495 (1.98)		
ϕs	0.972 (1.94)		
	\times DES	\times Euclid	\times Pan-STARRS
gs	1.77 (3.55)	3.58 (7.16)	4.47 (8.93)
γs	0.971 (1.94)	1.93 (2.87)	1.44 (2.87)
	Total		
	1.85 (4.07)	3.63 (7.46)	4.50 (9.16)

³<http://pan-starrs.ifa.hawaii.edu/public/home.html>.

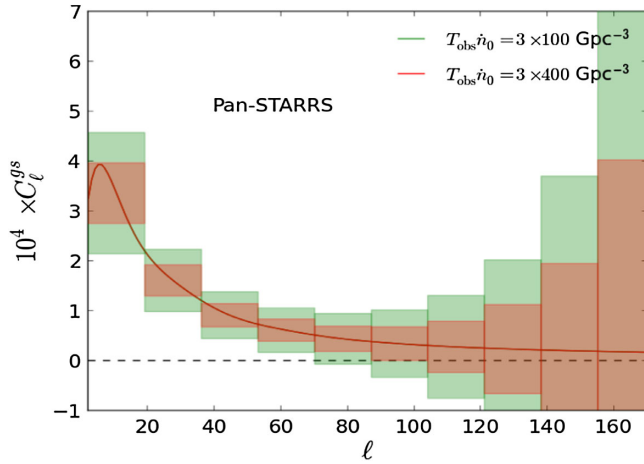


FIG. 2. The cross angular power spectrum between the clustering of BH binaries and galaxies. The error boxes are computed assuming Pan-STARRS and with $T_{\text{obs}}\dot{n}_0 = 3 \times 100 \text{ Gpc}^{-3}$ (green) or $3 \times 400 \text{ Gpc}^{-3}$ (red). The maximum redshift of the GW sources is $z_{\text{max}} = 0.2$.

are prone to have a poor angular resolution (see Fig. 1). Figure 2 shows the angular power spectrum between the clustering of BH binaries and galaxies in the case of Pan-STARRS, with expected errors at each multipole bin. The results suggest that the clustering signal is very hard to detect by the GW data alone, but cross-correlating with other LSS probe enlarges the capability of detecting the clustering signal. In particular, the cross-correlation with photometric galaxies can give a higher detection significance, and a shallow but wide-field survey like Pan-STARRS will be able to give a solid detection. On the other hand, lensing measurements of both galaxies and CMB do not help so much to improve the detection significance. This is partly because the lensing signal is basically generated by the matter fluctuations at high redshifts. In this sense, the cross-correlation with the BH binary clustering at low redshifts is not optimal. Indeed, increasing the maximum redshift of the BH binary samples to $z_{\text{max}} = 0.3$, the detection significance is improved by 20%–40% from the lensing measurements (20% for DES, 21% for Euclid, 43% for Pan-STARRS, and 26% for CMB Stage-III).

In Table II, the combined results of both the auto- and cross-correlations for each survey are shown. Further, in Fig. 3, the combined detection significance is plotted as a function of the maximum redshift of BH binaries, z_{max} . In the most optimistic case with the merger rate of $\dot{n}_0 = 400 \text{ Gpc}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (dashed lines), the detection of the clustering signal is fairly likely from the cross-correlation of BH binaries at $z \lesssim 0.2$ – 0.3 with Pan-STARRS and Euclid. As is shown in Table II, the detection significance is mostly determined by cross-correlating with photometric galaxies. This implies that making full use of cross-correlations we still have a chance to detect the clustering signal of BH

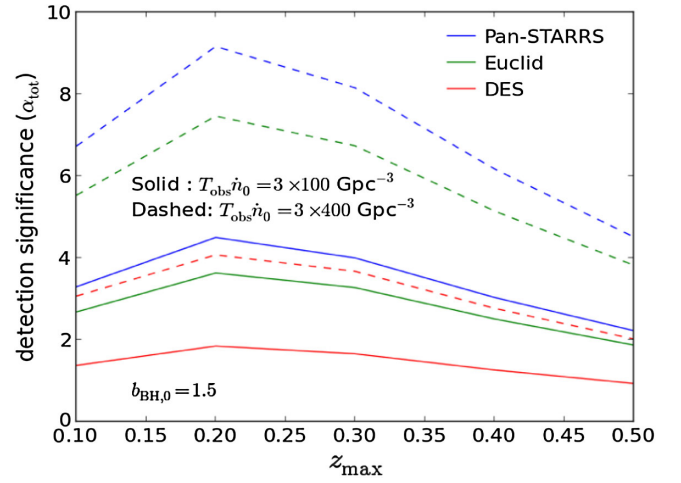


FIG. 3. The combined result of the detection significance, α_{tot} , as a function of the maximum redshift of BH binaries, z_{max} , assuming the 3 year observation of the second-generation detector network. The quantity α_{tot} precisely implies the significance of rejecting the hypothesis that the distribution of BH binaries is spatially homogeneous. Blue, green, and red lines, respectively, show the result combined with Pan-STARRS, Euclid, and DES, for $T_{\text{obs}}\dot{n}_0 = 3 \times 100 \text{ Gpc}^{-3}$ (solid) and $3 \times 400 \text{ Gpc}^{-3}$ (dashed).

binaries even with smaller merger rates, since the detection significance approximately scales as $\dot{n}_0^{1/2}$.

Finally, note that the detection significances of the cross-correlation are basically limited by the shot noise of the GW sources and the cosmic variance of galaxies or lensing measurement. That is, Eq. (16) can be recast as

$$\alpha_{sX}^2 \approx f_{\text{sky}} \sum_{\ell} (2\ell + 1) \frac{(C_{\ell}^{sX})^2}{C_{\ell}^{XX} N_{\ell}^{ss}}. \quad (17)$$

This suggests that the results become nearly insensitive to the clustering bias of galaxies, $b_{\text{gal},0}$, and the intrinsic rms shear, σ_{γ} . Even though the galaxy number density is reduced to 0.1 per square arcmin, Eq. (17) would be valid for the cross-correlation with photometric galaxies, indicating that a wide-field survey is preferable to enhance the detection significance. In this respect, a cross-correlation with Large Synoptic Survey Telescope [47] also helps to detect the BH binary clustering, and the detection significance will be rather comparable to that of Euclid. On the other hand, the cross-correlation with CMB lensing is still not useful to detect the BH binary clustering. This is true even using the CMB Stage-IV [48] experiment, planned for observation in early 2020.

V. SUMMARY

Based on the recent discovery of the GW event, we have discussed the possibility to test the clustering hypothesis of BH binaries similar to the GW150914 event via a network

of the second-generation GW detectors. Combining with other cosmological probes, we found that with the 3 year GW observation the hypothesis of no BH binary clustering will be rejected at more than 3σ significance for a large merger rate, $\dot{n}_0 \gtrsim 100 \text{ Gpc}^{-3} \text{ yr}^{-1}$, i.e., $> 3\sigma$ detection of nonzero signals of the BH binary clustering. For a solid detection of the clustering signal, the cross-correlation with galaxies observed by a shallow but wide-field photometric/imaging surveys is preferable, and Pan-STARRS would be an ideal survey.

Since the detection significance is almost determined by the cross-correlation with the galaxy clustering, the selection bias in the galaxy clustering may affect our results. In photometric galaxy measurements, point sources are usually masked. This simultaneously removes the background galaxies at the masked regions, and the total signal to noise of the galaxy clustering decreases. However, measurement of the galaxy clustering has been well established, and the effect of the selection bias can be reduced significantly. Stellar components in the Galaxy contaminate as a false signal which could bias the clustering signal, but this effect is negligible in the actual data (e.g., Ref. [49]).

Once the full operation of the second-generation GW detectors gets started in the coming years, the merger rate today, \dot{n}_0 , will be tightly constrained. Then, measurements of the clustering signal of BH binaries and constraints on the clustering bias $b_{\text{BH},0}$ will give us an important hint on which type of galaxies the BH binaries are likely to be

harbored. Since the individual identification of the host galaxy is still challenging with the second-generation detectors, the clustering signal of BH binaries would be fruitful and complementary information on the formation and evolution of BH binaries.

In any case, a detection of the spatial clustering of GW sources is an important step toward future *gravitational-wave cosmology*. As shown in Refs. [16,17], the future upgrades of GW detectors such as the ET will be able to precisely measure the clustering of binary GW sources at a high statistical significance, from which we can constrain the cosmology, complementary to the electromagnetic observations. As one of the representative standard GW sirens, BH binaries will also offer a promising cosmological probe, and a measurement of their spatial clustering with the second-generation detectors is indispensable for future cosmological study to test its feasibility. The prospects of constraining the bias model and cosmology with future GW detectors will be investigated in our future work.

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