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Data quality, vetoes and detection confidence in burst searches LINDY BLACKBURN, MIT, LSC COLLABORATION, VIRGO COLLABORATION — In LIGO/Virgo burst searches, data quality and vetoes represent the use of auxiliary detector information to reject instrumental artifacts which, rather than Gaussian fluctuations of the gravitational-wave signal, dominate the background of almost every analysis. We present the refinement of these methods throughout S5 and VSR1, and show their performance on typical background. In addition to data quality and vetoes, whose application is largely automated, the burst group has also developed an extensive detection checklist for individually evaluating event candidates identified by our search pipelines.

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