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The first steps towards observing gravitational waves from space with LISA

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The Laser Interferometer Space Antenna or LISA is a future ESA satellite mission to observe mill-Hertz gravitational waves originating from extreme events such as the merger of supermassive black holes. Gravitational waves will be measured as they pass through a million-km arm-length interferometer whose test masses are perfectly free-falling through space. The technology demonstration mission LISA Pathfinder was launched in December 2015 to demonstrate the unprecedented level free-fall required for such an observatory. I will present the results from the first months of LISA Pathfinder measurements and their consequences for the performance of LISA.

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