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The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory LIGO: Principles and Upgrades

Wednesday, 20 June 2018 10:45 (30 minutes)

The first detections of gravitational waves from colliding black holes and neutron stars in 2015 and 2017 have started the field of gravitational-wave astronomy.

In this talk I will introduce some principles of the instruments making

these detections possible, focusing on the US-based LIGO detectors.

These exquisitely sensitive laser interferometers combine elements

from different fields of physics and engineering, such as mechanics, optics, electronics, material science, feedback control, electronics, and simulations.

I will also report on current upgrades and some future plans for LIGO.

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