

XXXII International Seminar of Nuclear and Subnuclear Physics "Francesco Romano"

Gravitational Waves part 2: detectors

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Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

G.A.Prodi, Gravitational Waves, Otranto School 2021



Trento Institute for Fundamental Physics and Applications

Beam detectors of GW

Measure with light the proper distance (invariant) between test masses in approximate free fall

- one-way beam detectors e.g. Pulsar timing signal \rightarrow Earth
- two-way beam detectors
 - one beam e.g. radar
 - two beams e.g. interferometer

light travel time between test masses distant L along x axis in a h_+ GW traveling orthogonal to x axis

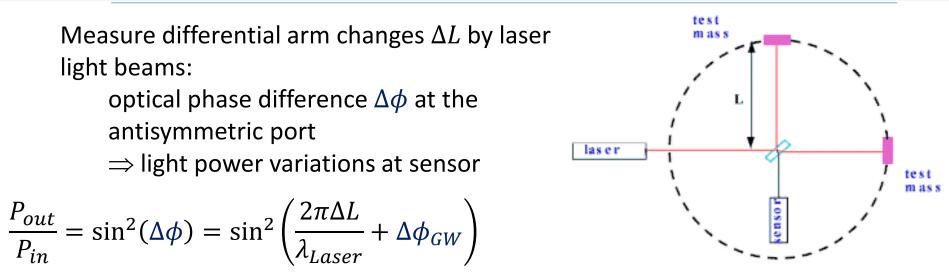
for a continuous beam emission at stabilized frequency f_{start}

- No dependence on the f_{start} value, which is not invariant
- dependence on h₊ at times of interaction with test masses

Interferometric detector of GWs

for one arm, length L along x axis, in a h₊ GW traveling orthogonal to x axis

Interferometric detectors for GW

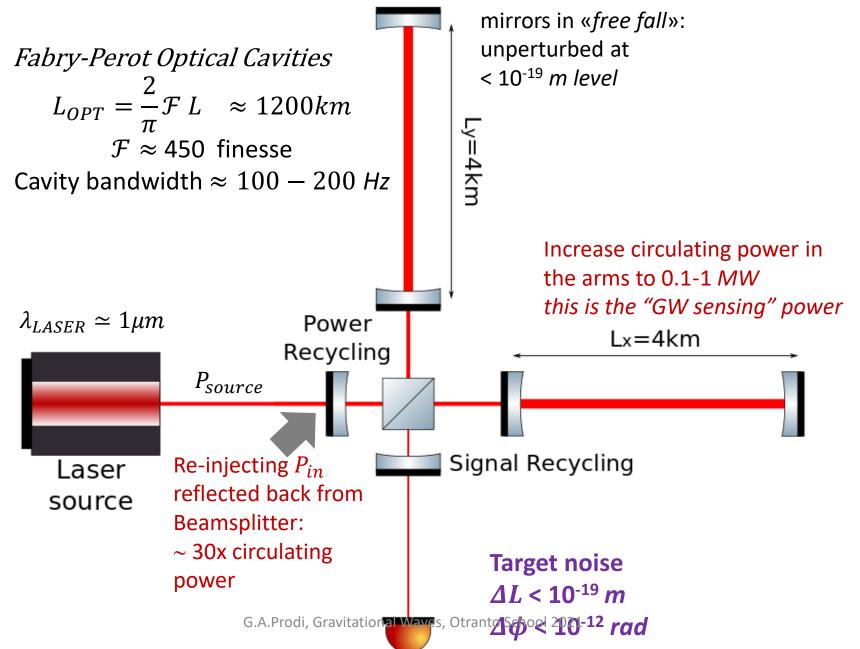


- 2 **balanced-length arms** allow common mode rejection of many technical noises.
- Operation close to dark fringe ($P_{out} \sim 0$) allows a «null measurement», i.e. more favorable $\Delta P_{out}/P_{out}$
- Want high *P*_{in} : signal scales with circulating power
- Target audio frequency gravitational waves:

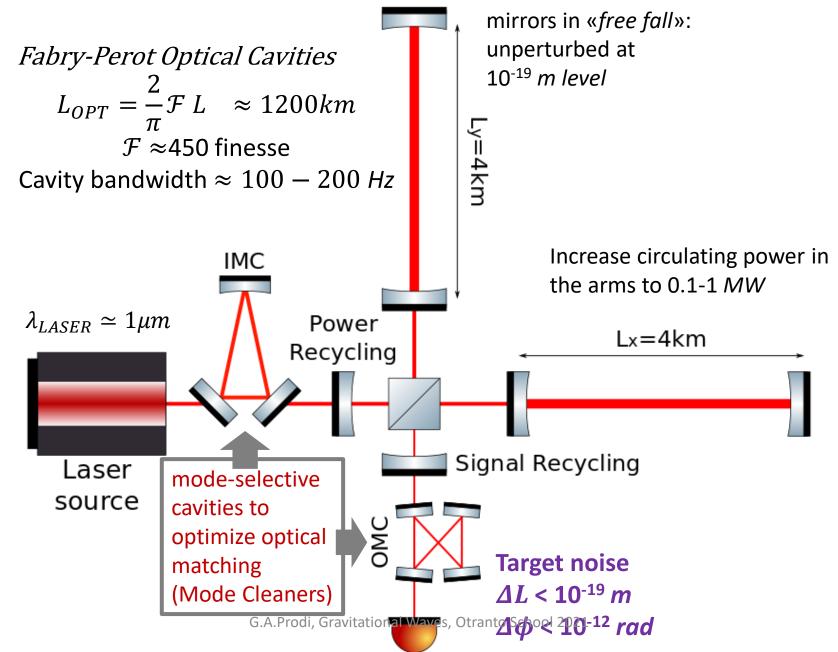
optimal arm length:
$$L = \frac{\lambda_{GW}}{4} = 750 km \left(\frac{100 Hz}{f_{GW}}\right)$$

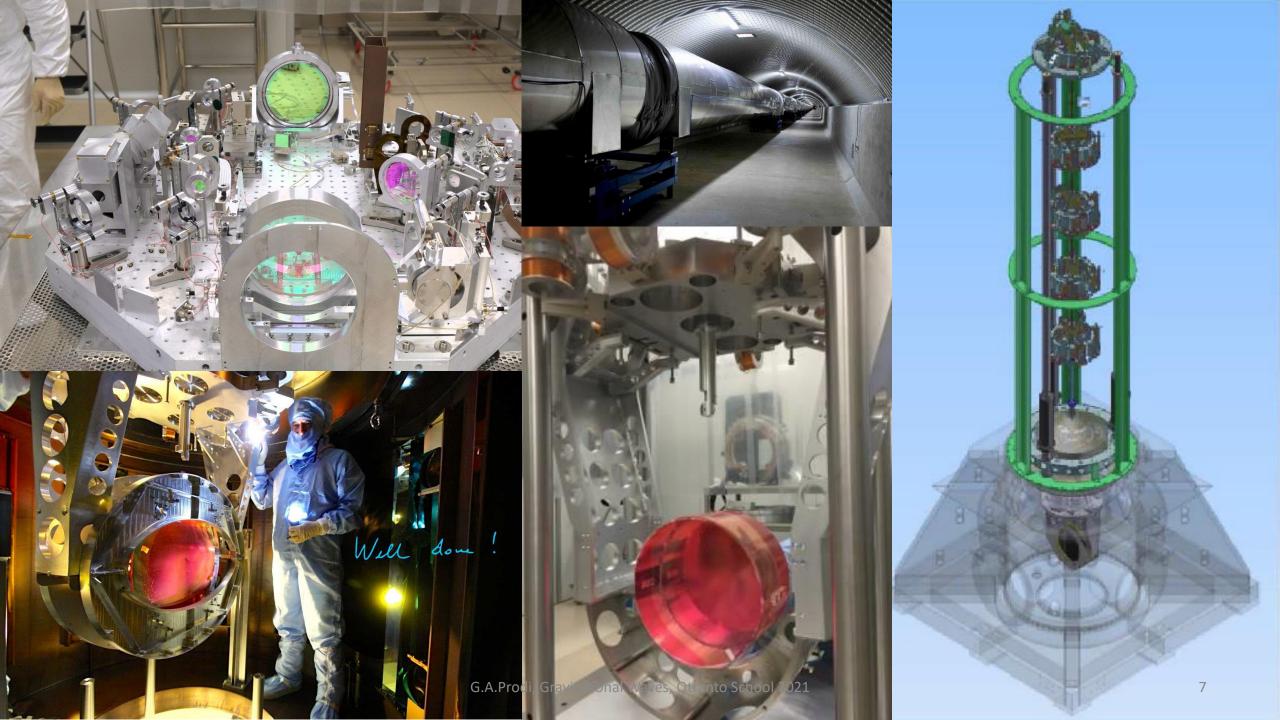
⇒ Km-scale arms plus increase optical path by optical resonant cavities

detector layout

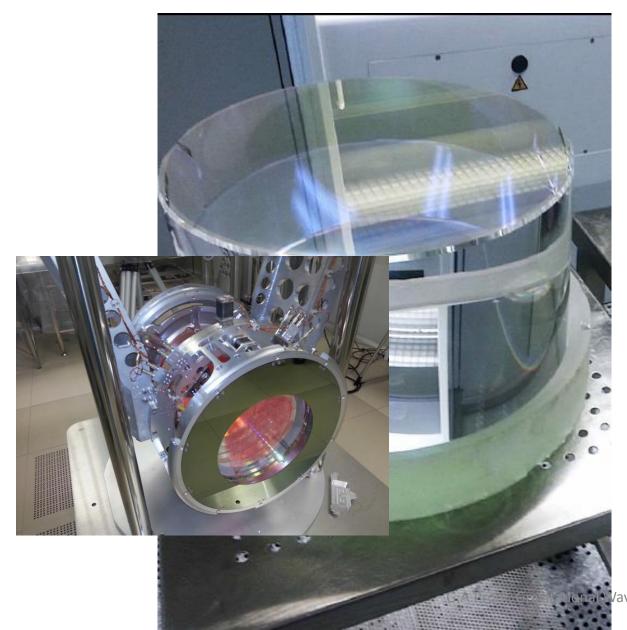


detector layout

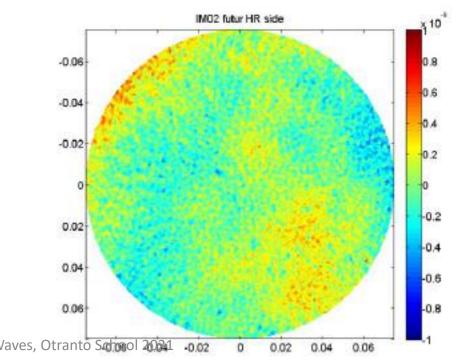




Mirrors



- Low mechanical losses
- Low optical absorption
- Low scattering
- 42 kg, 35 cm diam., 20 cm thick
- Flatness < 0.5 nm rms
- Roughness < 0.1 nm rms
- Absorption < 0.5 ppm



Dielectric mirrors

- Ideal mirror: sharp interface between two mediums
 - $E_r = rE_{in}, \quad E_t = tE_{in}$
 - Sharp interface: $r, t \in \mathbb{R}$
 - Energy conservation:

$$I_{in} = I_r + I_t \Rightarrow E_{in}^2 = E_r^2 + E_t^2 \Rightarrow r^2 + t^2 = 2$$

$$-r_{n_{high} \to n_{low}} = -r_{n_{low} \to n_{high}}$$

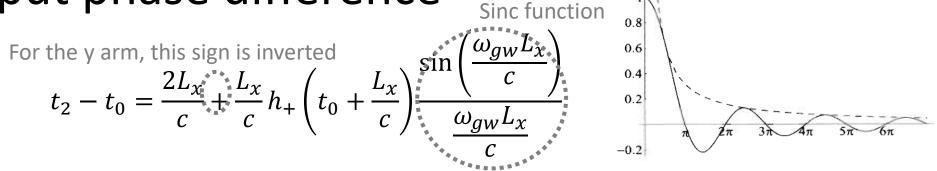
 $r^2 + t^2 = 1$ Only for a perfect mirror with no losses

 E_{in}

 E_{in} E_t ect ect esses

- Dielectric mirros: $\frac{\lambda}{4}$ -stacks
 - Mechanism:
 - Alternating layers of high and low index of refraction
 - Each layer has an optical path of $\frac{\lambda}{4}$ (for desired wavelength)
 - Back and forth makes for $\frac{\lambda}{2}$ phase shift
 - $r_{n_{high} \rightarrow n_{low}} = -r_{n_{low} \rightarrow n_{high}}$ makes for total λ phase shift for reflection off different layers: constructive interference
 - Reflectivity can be accurately tuned in value and wavelength
 - Similar technique used to produce anti-reflection coatings

more on output phase difference



- For $\frac{L_x}{c} \ll T_{gw} = \frac{2\pi}{\omega_{gw}}$, the GW perturbation is "static" during the light's travel time

- For $\frac{L_x}{c} \gg T_{gw}$, h_+ keeps oscillating cancelling out its effect at every half period

• The phase difference of the two beams at recombination is thus $\Delta \phi = \omega_l (t^x - t^y)$. Usually, $L_x \approx L_y \approx L_y$ and, at first order in h: $\Delta \phi \approx \omega_l \left(2 \frac{L_x - L_y}{c} + \frac{2L}{c} h_0 \cos(\omega_{gw}t + \alpha) \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega_{gw}L}{c}\right) \right) = \Delta \phi_0 + \Delta \phi_{gw}$

 $\Delta \phi_0$, controlled by the experimentalist

note: *E* is evolving $e^{i t \omega_{laser}}$ GW creates **sidebands** at $\omega_l \pm \omega_{gw}$ (also mirror displacement noises do)

- $\Delta \phi_0$ contains two terms:
 - A (usually small) microscopic term to control the "working point" (=the output with no GW) of the interferometer and set a dark enough fringe
 - A macroscopic term (Schnupp asymmetry) totallow frequencies $\omega_l + \omega_{sb}$ to leak at the output $_{10}$

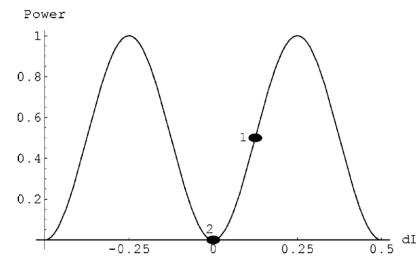
null measurement

$$P_{out} = E_0^2 \sin^2(\Delta \phi_0 + \Delta \phi_{gw})$$
$$P_{in} \approx 2\omega_l Lh/c$$

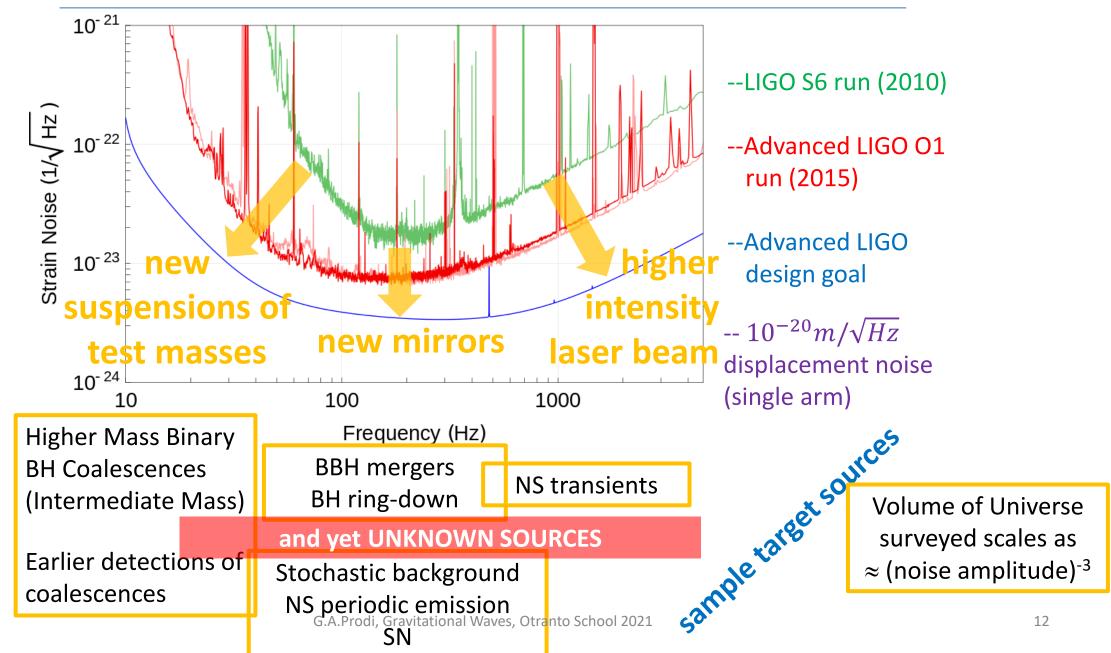
- operating point 1 : max signal gain BUT high dc output $P_{out} = P_{in}/2$
 - P_{in} amplitude noise directly trasferred at output
 - $-\Delta P_{out}/P_{out} \approx 2\omega_{laser}Lh/c$ extremely low relative uncertainty NOT viable
- operating point 2 "dark fringe" : nulls dc output Pout BUT signal is second order effect
 - NOT viable with $L_x L_y = 0$
 - if you implement a lock-in homodyne detection: modulate P_{in} at ω_{SB}
 - but also GWs produce side-bands of the ω_{laser}
 - and realize a Schnupp asymmetry: $L_x L_y \neq 0$, $L_x L_y \ll L$, $L_x L_y = n\pi\lambda_{laser}$

to allow "dark carrier" but with some intensity at the sidebands ω_{SB} which modulates the GW signal

$$\approx 2\omega_{laser}Lh/c\sin\left(2\pi\frac{L_x-L_y}{\lambda_{SB}}\right) \approx 2\omega_{laser}Lh/c$$
 with feasible choices for the asymmetry



spectral sensitivity enhancement



back-of-the-envelope sensitivity estimates

• target transient GW signal strain $\frac{\Delta L}{L} \approx 10^{-21}$ with signal bandwidth $\Delta f \approx 100$ Hz

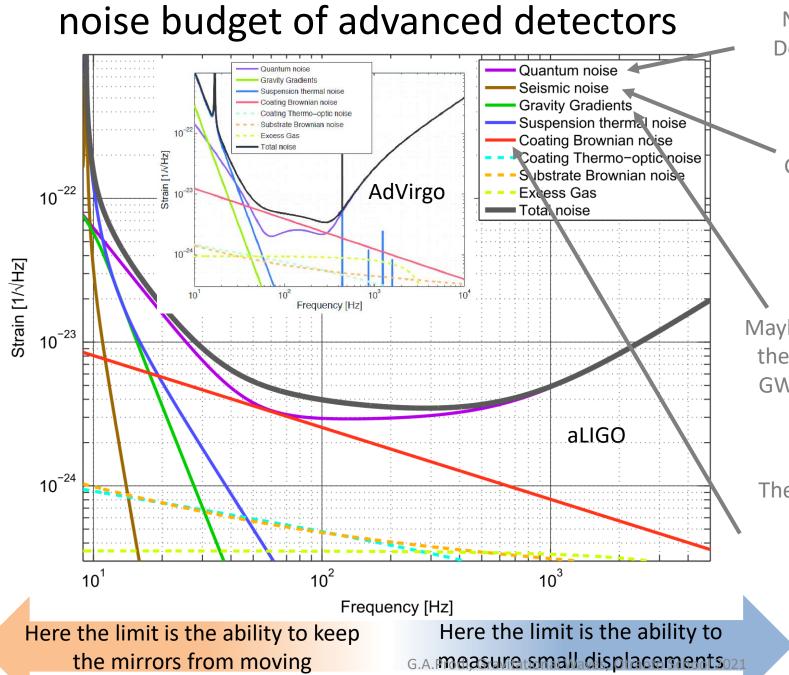
 \Rightarrow required amplitude noise spectral density in GW strain $ASD \ll \frac{\frac{\Delta L}{L}}{\sqrt{\Delta f}} \approx 10^{-22} \frac{1}{\sqrt{Hz}}$

in terms of displacement ASD << $10^{-18} \frac{m}{\sqrt{Hz}}$

in terms of output phase ASD << $\frac{\Delta L}{\lambda} = \frac{10^{-18} m / \sqrt{Hz}}{10^{-6} m} \approx 10^{-12} \frac{1}{\sqrt{Hz}}$

- photon counting noise (Poisson's statistics): beam splitter and e.g. input FP cavity mirrors randomize photon counts per unit time in each arm
- \Rightarrow fluctuation in the power and electric field in each arm:

• Power needed:
$$P > N \hbar \omega = N \hbar 2 \pi \frac{c}{\lambda} \approx 10^{24} \frac{1}{s} \times 10^{-34} \text{J} \cdot \text{s} \times 2 \cdot 10^{15} \frac{1}{s} \approx 200 \, kW$$



Noise imposed by quantum mechanics. Dominates most of the design sensitivity. Not as fundamental as it looks like.

Ground vibration. In principle can be suppressed paying enough for suspension systems

Maybe the most "fundamental", since it acts at the input of the detector in the same way as GW (in fact, it is also a metric perturbation!)

Thermal noise, especially in mirror coating, is currently the limiting factor to the improvement of the detector's design sensitivity

Quantum noise

- Shot noise (counting error of photons)
 - Photon arrival events are uncorrelated: the autocorrelation function is $\delta(t)$, and the noise spectrum is flat:

$$\Delta P^2 = \frac{\Delta E^2}{T^2} = \frac{\Delta N^2 \hbar^2 \omega_{laser}^2}{T^2} = \frac{N \hbar^2 \omega_l^2}{T^2} = \frac{P_0 \hbar \omega_l}{T} = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{T} d\omega S_P(\omega) = \frac{S_P(\omega)}{T} \Rightarrow S_P(\omega) = P_0 \hbar \omega_l$$

The output of the detector is proportional to P_0 , so the relative noise is Accounts for working point and photodetector efficiency. Is of order unity. $S_{\Delta\phi,shot}^{1/2}(\omega) = \frac{C}{P_0} \sqrt{P_0 \hbar \omega_l} = C \sqrt{\frac{\hbar \omega_l}{P_0}} \frac{2\pi c}{\lambda_l}$

Referring the noise at the input we get:
$$S_{h,shot}^{1/2} = \frac{S_{\Delta\phi,shot}^{1/2}(\omega)}{T_{FP}} = \frac{C}{8\mathcal{F}L} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi\hbar c\lambda_l}{P_0}} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{f_{gw}}{f_p}\right)^2}$$

- Radiation pressure (uncorrelated photon impacts on mirrors)
 - Each photons that arrives at the mirror exchanges a momentum $\frac{2\hbar\omega_l}{c}$. Reasoning as above: fluctuations are

$$S_{F,rp}^{1/2}(\omega) = 2\sqrt{\frac{2P_0\hbar\omega_l}{c^2}} \Rightarrow S_{x,rp}^{1/2}(\omega) = \frac{2}{M\omega^2}\sqrt{\frac{2P_0\hbar\omega_l}{c^2}} \Rightarrow S_{h,rp}^{1/2} = \frac{16\sqrt{2}\mathcal{F}}{ML\omega^2}\sqrt{\frac{P_0\hbar}{2\pi c^2\lambda_l}}\sqrt{\frac{P_0\hbar}{2\pi c^2\lambda_l}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{1+\left(\frac{f_{gw}}{f_p}\right)^2}{c^2}}}$$
 by the arm cavities by a factor \mathcal{F}

Amplitude

Standard quantum limit

• Shot- and quantum radiation pressure-noise have opposite dependence on laser power (direct manifestation of the Heisenberg uncertainty principle):

$$S_{h,shot}^{1/2} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{P_0}}, \qquad S_{h,rp}^{1/2} \sim \sqrt{P_0}$$

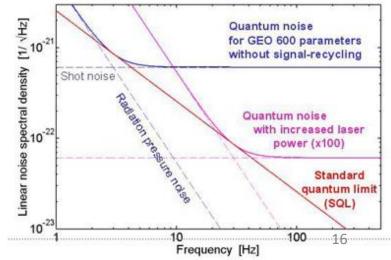
• The sum of the two is the total quantum noise

$$S_{h,qn}^{\frac{1}{2}}(f) = \frac{1}{L\pi f_0} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{M} \left(\left(1 + \frac{f^2}{f_p^2} \right) + \frac{f_0^4}{f^4} \frac{1}{1 + f^2/f_p^2} \right)}, \qquad f_0 = \frac{4\mathcal{F}}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{P_0}{\pi \lambda_l c M}}$$

• For each value of *f*, this can be minimized by changing *P*₀ so that the two contributions are equal. The envelope of the minima is the **standard quantum limit**:

Note that it cannot be achieved on the entire band simultaneously!
$$S_{h,SQL}^{1/2}(f) = \frac{1}{2\pi fL} \sqrt{\frac{8\hbar}{M}}$$

NOTE: there exist *quantum-nondemolition techniques* to circumvent the SQL, since we are not really interested in measuring conjugate variables (i.e. position and velocity) of the mirrors at the same time with arbitrary accuracy. G.A.Prodi, Gravitational Waves, Otranto School 2021



Thermal noise

Laser

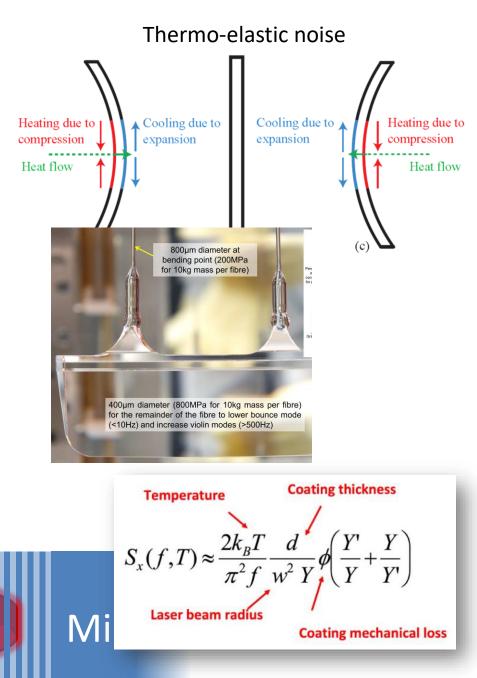
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- In general contributed by any source of dissipation (not only mechanical), internal or external
- Ultimate limit is the internal dissipation:

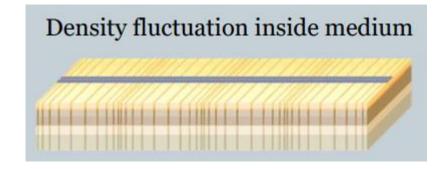
$S_{F,th}(\omega) = 4k_b T \operatorname{Re}(Z(\omega))$

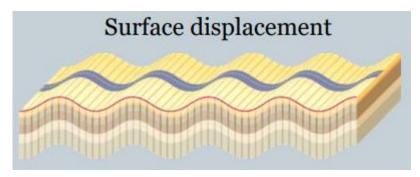
- Mirror suspensions:
 - At the level of the last mirror, it is typically higher than residual seismic
 - Typical loss sources: clamping and (relatively) high-loss materials
 - Solutions:
 - Use of low-loss materials (fused silica, $Q \sim 10^9$)
 - Monolithic mirrors and suspensions: SiO2 fibers welded to SiO2 mirrors
- Mirror coating Brownian thermal noise:
 - High index material in multilayer coating is relatively high-loss
 - Solutions under study:
 - New materials
 - Heat treatment to relax favor material relaxation
 - Innovative layer structures
 - Monolithic crystalline coatings



Newtonian noise

- Stochastic fluctuations of the local gravitational field
- Main sources:
 - Seismic vibrations (Lowe waves, compression waves)
 - Infrasound (variation in atmospheric pressure)
- Cannot be shielded
 - And even if it could, GW would be shielded too!
- Active strategy:
 - Deploy a network of sensor to measure ground displacement and atmospheric pressure variations
 - Model the effect of the measured disturbances on the mirrors and subtract from the GW signal
- Passive strategy:
 - Go underground, where surface waves don't matter and atmospheric variations are reduced G.A.Prodi, Gravitational Waves, Otranto School 2021





Seismic noise

2° peak

coast

p+∆p

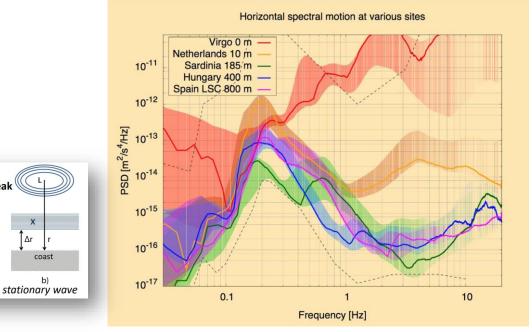
z=-H

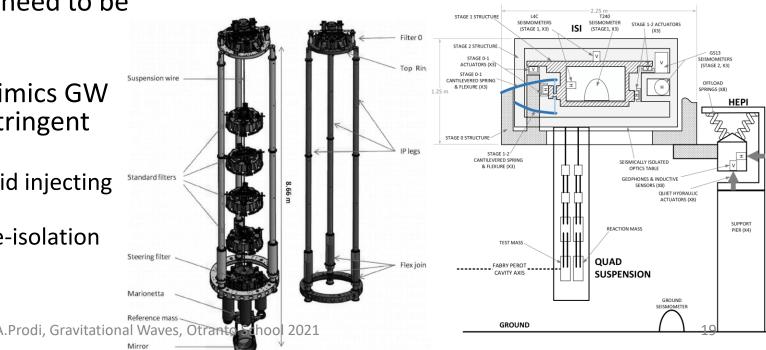
р-∆р

a) pressure/wave impact

- Ground vibration is $O(10^{-6}m)$, more than 10 orders of magnitude higher than permissible for GW detection 1° peak
 - Human activity (1-10 Hz)
 - "Oceanic peak" (0.1 Hz)
- Two main issues:
 - Out-of-band RMS: mirrors would be pushed out of alignment/resonance, and need to be actively controlled. Relatively low requirements, but high range.
 - In-band noise spectral density: mimics GW signal and must be suppressed. Stringent requirements.
 - Passive strategy works best, to avoid injecting readout/actuation noise
 - Cascade of pendula (and active pre-isolation stages)

$$H_{x_0 \to x} \sim \frac{1}{(1 - f^2/f_0^2)}, \quad f_0 = \sqrt{\frac{g}{l}} \sim 1 \, Hz, \quad n \sim 5$$





Seismic noise

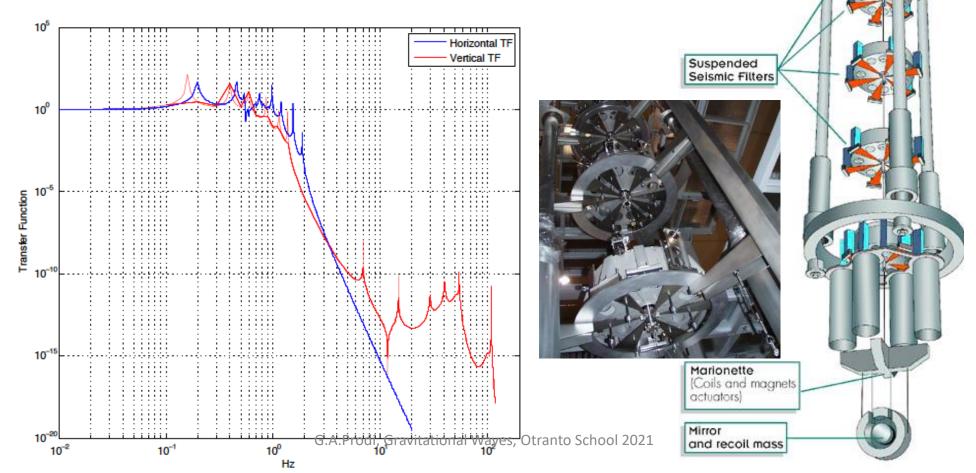
Stabilized Platform (accelerometers/coils magnets-actuators)

Coils fixed to ground

Wire

Flexion Bars

- Typical RMS seismic noise in detection band (>10 Hz) is of the order of nm/VHz
 - Need attenuation of about 10 orders of magnitude!
- Virgo superattenuator:
 - N cascaded mechanical filters: $(f_0^2/f^2)^N$
 - 6 filters: total isolation 10¹² @ 10 Hz



Locking and alignment

 All the sensitivity calculations we did assumed that the cavities were on (or very close to) resonance. What does it mean in terms of "stability"?

- Arm cavities: $\mathcal{F} \sim 500$, $FSR = \frac{c}{2L} \sim 50 \ kHz \Rightarrow FWHM \sim \frac{FSR}{\mathcal{F}} \sim 500 \ Hz \Rightarrow \Delta L = L \frac{\Delta f}{f} = L \frac{FWHM}{c/\lambda} \sim 10^{-9} \ m$

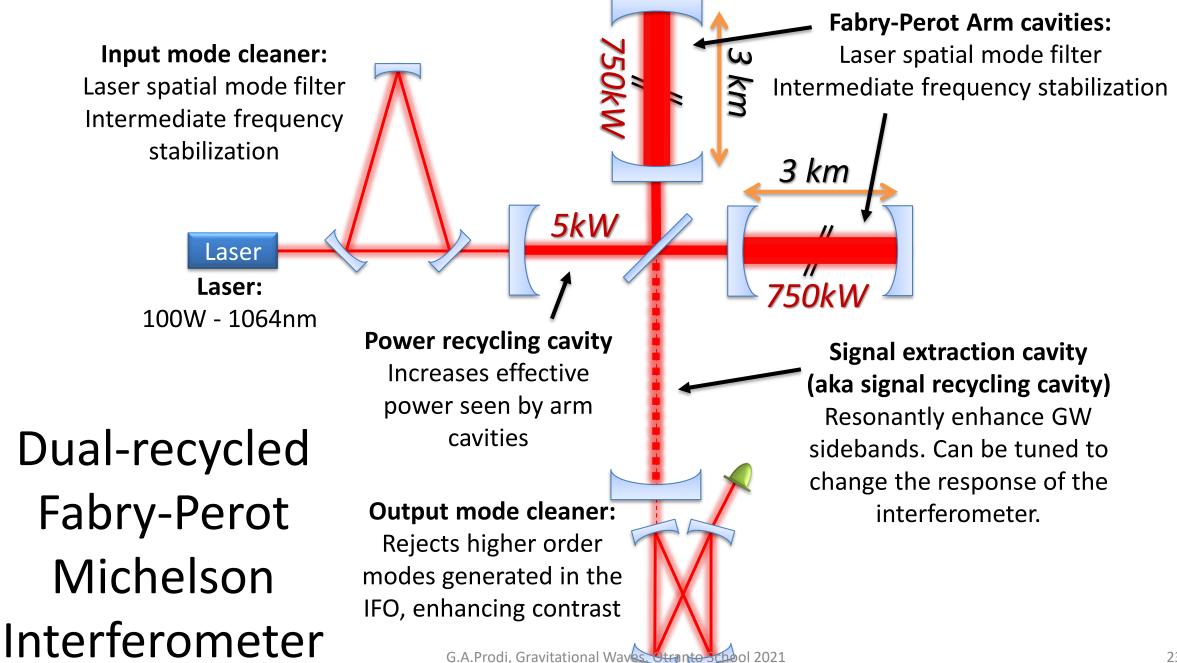
- Why is that difficult? Ground motion, moon's tidal pull, intrinsic laser noise, etc..
- Need a technique to keep laser and cavity length "locked"
 - Pound-Drever-Hall technique: use sidebands as local oscillators to detect departure from resonance

 $(\omega_1 - \Omega)t$

Electro-optical modulator: inserts sidebands by modulating the phase

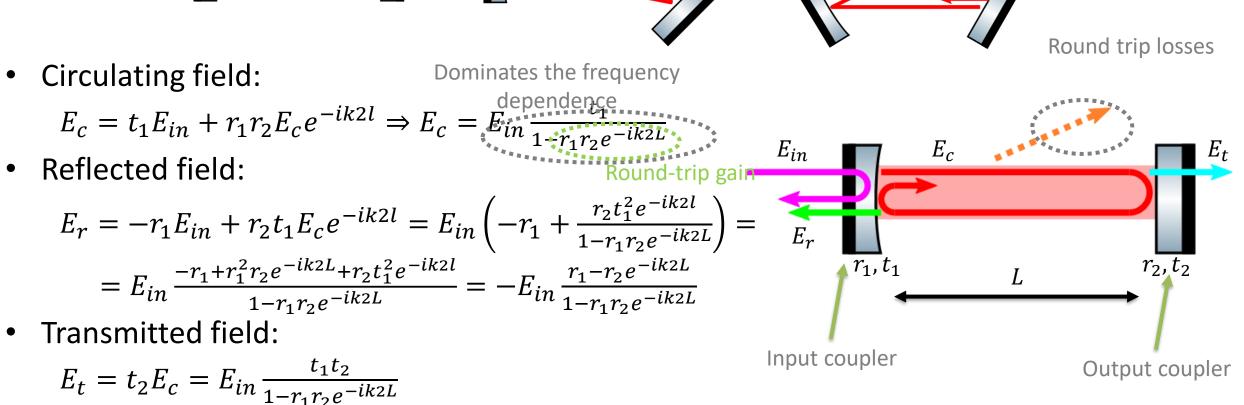
- Arm cavities are good references at high frequency: actuate on laser to make it follows cavities
- Independently-stabilized laser is good reference at low frequency: actuate on cavities to follow laser
 Actually, to avoid extra noise the requirement is
- Also need sensors and actuators to keep everything aligned
 - $E.g., keeping the laser beams centered at km distance requires angular control of order <math>\frac{1mm}{3km} \sim 0.1 \ \mu rad$

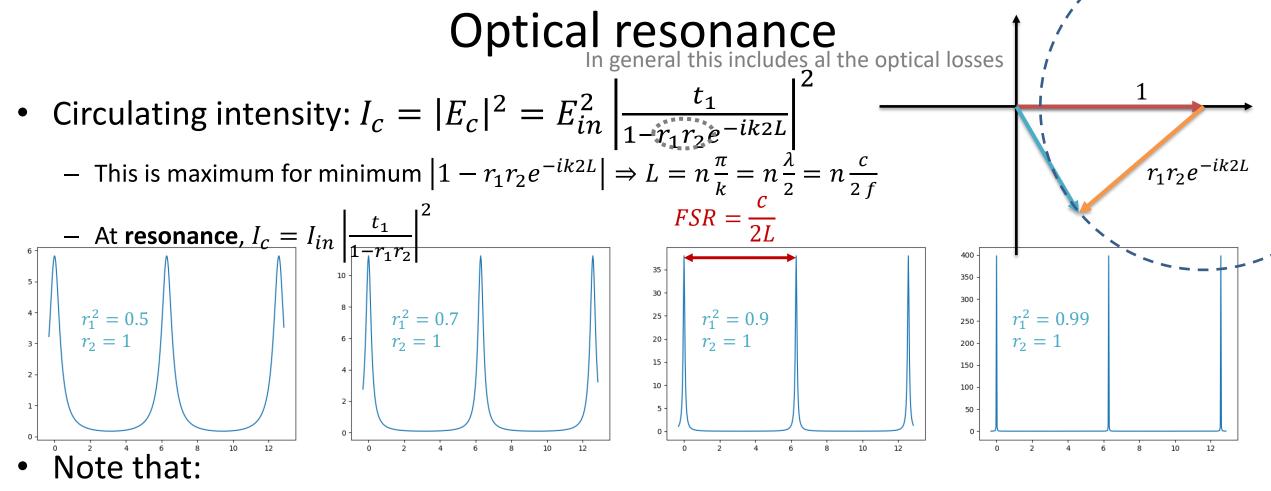
• spare slides



Optical cavities

 Optical cavity: an arrangement of mirrors that allows a closes path for the light





- frequency gap between the peaks (free spectral range) only depends on cavity length
- Width of peaks decreases with increased reflectivity

• Finesse:
$$\mathcal{F} \equiv \frac{\pi \sqrt{r_1 r_2}}{1 - r_1 r_2} \approx \frac{FSR}{FWHM} \approx \frac{2\pi}{losses}$$

Valid for small cavity losses
• The finesse determines how "selective" the cavity is
 $\mathcal{F} = 0.99, r_2 = 1, L = 3 \ km \Rightarrow \mathcal{F} \approx 625, \quad \tau_s \approx 2 \ ms$

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Fabry-Perot cavities to increase the effective length

- We found that to maximize IFO response to GW: $L_{arm} = \frac{\lambda_{gw}}{4} \approx 750 \ km \left(\frac{100 \ Hz}{f_{aw}}\right)$
- Modern GW interferometer have $L_{arm} \approx 3 \ km$
- We need to increase the effective length by a factor ~ 100 .
- Delay lines: make the laser beam bounce back and forth between two mirrors, hitting each time a different part of it.
 - Very sensitive to back-scattered light
 - Need very big mirrors to avoid beams overlap
 - Need a special (and challenging) mirror machining/coating to allow the beam to enter/escape the line
- Use optical cavities: each photon bounces back and forth between two mirrors (back on its own path), effectively traveling a much longer distance before going back to the beamsplitter
 - Length increased by the average number of bounces before escaping, $N \sim \frac{\mathcal{F}}{2\pi}$

 $L_{eff} = 2L \frac{\mathcal{F}}{2\pi} \sim 300 \ km \qquad \text{for } \mathcal{F} \sim 500, L=3km$

FP cavities to increase the interaction time

- Remember than in the TT gauge we saw that the light picks-up a propagation delay due to the fact that it travels in the spacetime curved by GW
- Different but equivalent perspective: by making the photon bounce back and forth, the interaction time with the GW is increased from $\tau_s \approx \frac{2L}{c}$ to $\tau_s \approx \frac{L}{c} \frac{\mathcal{F}}{\pi}$.
- This brings about the idea that a cavity is a low pass-filter: everything happening on a timescale much faster than $\tau_s \approx \frac{L}{c} \frac{\mathcal{F}}{\pi}$ is averaged out.
- An intuitive view: make τ_s as long as possible to increase the storage time, but smaller than the oscillation period of your GW: $\tau_s \approx \frac{L}{c} \frac{\mathcal{F}}{\pi} \sim \frac{1}{2 f_{gw}} \Rightarrow \mathcal{F} \sim \frac{\pi c}{2 L f_{gw}} \sim 1000 \left(\frac{100 Hz}{f_{gw}}\right)$

Response of Fabry-Perot arm cavities

• A more accurate view: FP reflected phase sensitivity to cavity length displacement

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{\pi \sqrt{r_1 r_2}}{1 - r_1 r_2} \Rightarrow r_1 r_2 \approx 1 - \frac{\pi}{\mathcal{F}} + O\left(\frac{\pi^2}{\mathcal{F}^2}\right)$$

- Let's define the total power losses $p:(1-p_1)r_2^2 = (1-p)$, $1-p_i = r_i^2 + t_i^2$
- Then:

$$r_1^2 = 1 - p_1 - t_1^2 < 1 - p_1 \Rightarrow r_1^2 r_2^2 < 1 - p \Rightarrow 1 - \frac{\pi}{\mathcal{F}} = r_1 r_2 < 1 - \frac{p}{2}$$

The cavity is: **undercoupled** for cavity for $1 < \sigma < 2$

• For the coupling factor
$$\sigma \equiv \frac{p\mathcal{F}}{\pi}$$
 it holds $0 < \sigma < 2$ overcoupled $0 < \sigma < 1$

• The phase of the reflected field $-E_{in} \frac{r_1 - r_2 e^{-ik_2L}}{1 - r_1 r_2 e^{-ik_2L}}$ for a displacement ϵ from resonance can be written as:

$$\phi = \pi + \arctan\left(\frac{\mathcal{F}\epsilon}{\pi} \frac{1}{1-\sigma}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \arctan\left(\frac{\mathcal{F}\epsilon}{\pi}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \operatorname{arctan}\left(\frac{\mathcal{F}\epsilon}{\pi}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + \operatorname{arctan}\left(\frac{\mathcal{F}\epsilon}{\pi}\right)^{$$

• For $r_2 = 1, r_1 \sim 1, p_1 = 0$ we obtain: $p = 1 - r_2^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \sigma = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \epsilon} \approx \frac{2\mathcal{F}}{\pi}$ Compare with $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \epsilon} = 1$ for a simple Michelson

Response of Fabry-Perot arm cavities

- For an Michelson with FP cavities, invested by a GW (plus-polarized, propagating
- perpendicular to the plane of the IFO), in the detector frame. The effect in the two arms has opposite sign $\Delta \phi_{FP} = \Delta \phi_x \Delta \phi_y = 2 2k_l \frac{1}{2}Lh_0 \cos(\omega_{gw} t) \frac{2\mathcal{F}}{\pi} \Rightarrow |\Delta \phi_{FP}| = \frac{4\mathcal{F}}{\pi} k_l Lh_0$ Light travels back and forth Armlength distortion due to GW
 - Let's move to the TT gauge, and use the sidebands picture.
 - The field is composed by 3 contributions (carrier at ω_l and sidebands at $\omega_l \pm \omega_{gw}$)
 - In the presence of GW, at each round-trip some of the carrier power is moved into the sidebands
 - Effects of the GW on the sidebands can be neglected, as it is second order in h_0
 - One eventually finds:

$$|\Delta\phi_x| = h_0 k_l L \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega_{gw}L}{c}\right) \frac{r_2(1-r_1^2-p)}{r_2(1-p)-r_1} \frac{1}{\left|e^{2i\omega_{gw}\frac{L}{c}}-r_1r_2\right|}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &|\Delta\phi_x| = h_0 k_l L \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega_{gw}L}{c}\right) \frac{r_2(1-r_1^2-p)}{r_2(1-p)-r_1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+(r_1r_2)^2 - 2r_1r_2\cos\left(\frac{2\omega_{gw}L}{c}\right)}} \end{aligned}$$

- One can make a few simplifications:

 - Since GW IFO work at $p \sim 0, r_2 \sim 0$, we can write: $2 \approx \frac{r_2(1-r_1^2-p)}{r_2(1-p)-r_1} = 2(1 + \epsilon(r_1, r_2, p))$ GW IFO use large \mathcal{F} and operate at $\frac{\mathcal{F}L}{c} \sim \frac{1}{\omega_{gw}} \Rightarrow \frac{\omega_{gw}L}{c} \ll 1 \Rightarrow \operatorname{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega_{gw}L}{c}\right) \sim 1, \cos\left(\frac{2\omega_{gw}L}{c}\right) \approx 1 \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{2\omega_{gw}L}{c}\right)^2$

$$|\Delta\phi_{x}| \approx 2h_{0}k_{l}L\frac{1+\epsilon(r_{1},r_{2},p)}{1-r_{1}r_{2}}\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\frac{r_{1}r_{2}}{(1-r_{1}r_{2})^{2}}-\left(\frac{2\omega_{gw}L}{c}\right)^{2}}} \approx 2h_{0}k_{l}L\frac{\mathcal{F}}{\pi}\frac{1}{\sqrt{\left(1+4\pi f_{gw}\tau_{s}\right)^{2}}}$$
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Includes a factor 2 for the effects of the two arms In terms of the **cavity pole** $f_p \equiv \frac{1}{4\pi\tau_s} \approx \frac{c}{4\mathcal{F}L^*} \int_{s_{s_s}} \Delta \phi_{FP} \int_{s_{s_s}} \approx h_0 \frac{4\mathcal{F}}{\pi} k_l L \frac{1}{\left(\frac{fgw}{fp}\right)^2} \int_{s_{s_s}} \int_{s_{s_s}} \frac{1}{1+\left(\frac{fgw}{fp}\right)^2} \int_{s_{s_s}} \int_{s_{s_s}} \frac{1}{1+\tau_s} detector frame result}$

otherwise

This is the transfer function of the interferometer: $T_{FP}(f_{gw}) = \frac{8\mathcal{F}L}{\lambda_l} \frac{1}{\left[1 + \left(\frac{f_{gw}}{f_m}\right)^2\right]}$

Transfer function of a GW IFO with FP cavities

