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Measurements of multi-material coatings using a cryogenic nodal support

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Future gravitational wave detectors plan to operate at cryogenic temperatures using crystalline silicon test masses which are transparent at higher wavelengths of light. Here we present measurements of a multi-material coating design that uses layers of ion-plated tantala, silica and amorphous silicon to reduce coating thermal noise and produce low optical absorption at low temperatures. Here we present the first cryogenic mechanical loss measurements (4K -300K) of these coatings carried out on silicon disks using a cryogenic nodal support.

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