GWADW2021 Gravitational Wave Advanced Detector Workshop



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A Post-O5 LIGO with Crystalline Coatings

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Crystalline mirror coatings of epitaxially-grown GaAs/AlGaAs are a most promising option for LIGO's Post-O5 upgrade. With extremely low optical losses and a coating thermal noise that is more than 5x lower that Advanced LIGO coatings, these crystalline coatings represent the most significant improvement in coatings research in the past 20 years. The change from amorphous to crystalline coatings does present several challenges, including scaling the crystal growth, devising a new locking scheme, and potential noise sources unique to crystalline coatings. But the expected gains in sensitivity, along with improvements in low frequency and quantum noise, provide an encouraging prospect for the Post-O5 era.

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