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Astigmatic mode mismatch sensing for the next gravitational wave detectors

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Quantum Noise Reduction in Gravitational Wave detectors is mainly limited by the optical losses generated by the mismatch between the vacuum squeezed beam and the resonant cavities of the interferometer. These aberrations must be measured and corrected. For this reason, different efforts have been made to develop wave-front sensing techniques to measure the mismatch between optical cavities.

However, the current technologies based on spherical Gaussian beams are not enough for the next generation of Gravitational Wave Detectors. In fact, the higher requirement on the optical losses imposes to compensate also the mode-matching generated by astigmatic aberrations, so a new generation of wavefront sensor technique is needed.

Here we will present an upgrade of the Mode Conversion technique that extends the mismatch measurement from the only symmetric aberrations to a complete characterisation of the mismatch between an astigmatic Gaussian beam and a resonance cavity. This extension uses four additional Quadrants Photodiodes sensors to detect the beat note between the Sidebands of the TEM₀₀ and the second-order Hermite-Gauss mode TEM₁₁ of the carrier. In particular, we will describe the method and present the first experimental results of this technique.

Primary author: PERRECA, Antonio (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare)

Presenter: PERRECA, Antonio (Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare)

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