### Earth-based Gravitational-Wave Experiments Part I: Detectors

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### GRAVITATIONAL WAVES AND INTERFEROMETRIC DETECTORS

### **Gravitational Waves**

- A prediction of General Relativity (Einstein, 1916)
- Perturbations in space-time metric
  - > Generated by mass acceleration
  - Transverse, quadrupolar,
    2 orthogonal polarizations
  - > Propagate at speed of light
    - Amplitude decreases with distance

### Source luminosity

$$\frac{c^5}{G} \epsilon^2$$



compact



### **Science Impact**



Gravitational waves are generated in some of the most energetic events in the Universe

- Direct probe of the event dynamics
- Gravitational waves are a tool to probe gravitation in a new regime
  - > Gravitation at the heart of some of the great enigma of modern physics



Astrophysics

Cosmology

### **Gravitational-wave spectrum**



### **Ground-based detectors: history**



### A network of detectors





### **GW coupling to Michelson interferometer**



### GW coupling to Michelson interferometer (cont.)

Space-time metric  $g_{\mu\nu} \simeq \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$ Perturbation to metric due to GW  $h_{\mu\nu}(z,t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -h_{+} & h_{\times} & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times} & h_{+} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$   $de^{2} - \sum a_{\mu\nu} dx^{\mu} dx^{\nu} = 0 \text{ for light}$ 

□ Accumulated round-trip phase along *x* axis  $\Phi_{\rm rt}(t_{\rm rt}) = \int_{0}^{t_{\rm rt}} 2\pi\nu dt$ For GW with period >> round-trip light travel time

$$\Phi_{\rm rt}(t_{\rm rt}) = 2 \frac{2\pi\nu}{c} \int_0^L \sqrt{|g_{xx}|} dx \simeq 2(1 - h_+/2) \frac{2\pi L}{\lambda}$$

- > General case includes term sinc  $\left(\pi f_{GW} \frac{2L}{c}\right)$ □ Accumulated round-trip phase along y axis  $\Phi_{rt} \simeq 2(1 + h_+/2)(2\pi L/\lambda)$
- Difference in phase shift between x and y arms

$$\Delta \Phi \simeq 2h_+(2\pi L/\lambda) \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \Delta L = h \ L$$
$$L = 3 \ \text{km} \ h < 10^{-21} \rightarrow \Delta L < 10^{-18} \ \text{m}$$

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### **Detector antenna pattern**



GW interferometric detector has
 Broad angular response
 Blind spots

# **Sensitivity curve**



Frequency-domain characterization of (stationary) noise: noise power spectrum, aka (one-sided) power spectral density (PSD)

$$S_n(f) = 2 \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \left| \int_{-T/2}^{+T/2} e^{-i2\pi ft} n(t) dt \right|^2$$

Noise power spectrum is Fourier transform of noise autocorrelation 

$$C(\tau) = E[n(t)n(t+\tau)] = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{+T/2} n(t)n(t+\tau)dt$$

- PSD has unit  $Hz^{-1}$ , amplitude spectral density (ASD) has unit  $[\text{strain}]/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
- **a** Related to mean square of noise  $\operatorname{RMS}^2_{\Delta f} = \int_{\Lambda f} S_n(f) \, df$
- Related to signal-to-noise ratio (SNR)  $SNR^2 = 4 \int_0^\infty \frac{|\tilde{h}(f)|^2}{S_n(f)} df$ Usually characterized by BNS range
- - > Typical detection reach for binary neutron star mergers with SNR 8

### Anatomy of sensitivity curves



10<sup>2</sup>

10<sup>3</sup>

Frequency [Hz]

### THE MAIN NOISE SOURCES AND HOW THEY DRIVE THE BASIC FEATURES OF DETECTORS

### Quantum noise (i)

Power at the output port of Michelson interferometer

$$P_{\text{out}} = \frac{P_{\text{in}}}{2} (1 + C \cos \Delta \phi)$$
  
$$\Delta \phi = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda} (L_x - L_y) \qquad \text{Contrast } C = \frac{P_{\text{out,max}} - P_{\text{out,min}}}{P_{\text{out,max}} + P_{\text{out,min}}}$$
  
$$\Delta \phi \to \Delta \phi + \delta \phi \implies P_{\text{out}} \to P_{\text{out}} + \delta P_{\text{out}}$$
  
$$\delta P_{\text{out}} = \frac{P_{\text{in}}}{2} C \sin \Delta \phi \ \delta \phi$$

□ How small a change in output power can be detected?

- > Photon counting statistics follows Poisson distribution
- > Arrival rate of photons

$$\bar{n} = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi\hbar c} P_{\text{out}} \qquad \sigma_n = \sqrt{\bar{n}}$$

Shot noise spectrum

$$\tilde{P}_{\text{out, shot}}(f) = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi\hbar c}{\lambda}} P_{\text{out}} \left[ W/\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \right]$$



### **Minimizing shot noise**

Shot noise limit to phase difference measurement

$$\tilde{\delta\phi}(f) = \sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{4\pi\hbar c}{\lambda P_{\rm in}}} \frac{\sqrt{1+C\,\cos\Delta\phi}}{C\sin\Delta\phi} \,\left[\mathrm{rad}/\sqrt{\mathrm{Hz}}\right]$$

- $\succ$  When  $C=1\,$  ,  $\tilde{\delta \phi}\,$  is minimal for  $\Delta \phi=\pi$ 
  - Michelson tuned on the dark fringe

$$\tilde{\delta \phi}_{\min}(f) = \sqrt{\frac{4\pi\hbar c}{\lambda P_{\min}}} \, \left[ \mathrm{rad}/\sqrt{\mathrm{Hz}} \right]$$

- > In practice, C < 1 and we want the signal  $\delta P_{\text{out}}$  to vary linearly with  $\delta \phi$ 
  - Small offset with respect to dark fringe
- Sensitivity to GW signal

$$\tilde{h}_{\rm shot}(f) = \frac{1}{L} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar d\lambda}{4\pi \rho_{\rm in}}} \left[ /\sqrt{\rm Hz} \right]$$

Arm length set by infrastructure (money) and configuration tweaks Input optical power set by laser and configuration tweaks

Wavelength set by availability of high-power lasers and optics

 $\lambda = 1064 \text{ nm}$ L = 3 km $P_{\rm in} = 20 \ {\rm W}$  $\tilde{h}_{\rm shot}(f) \sim 4 \times 10^{-21} / \sqrt{\rm Hz}$ 



> Explains high-frequency shape of sensitivity curve

# **Power recycling**

 With interferometer on dark fringe, input power is reflected back
 Add recycling mirror to make resonant cavity with interferometer

$$P_{\rm in} = \frac{t_r^2}{(1 - r_r r_{\rm ITF})^2} P_{\rm laser}$$

□ With  $P_{\text{laser}} = 20 \text{ W}$  and gain of ~50, on beam-splitter  $P_{\text{in}} = 1 \text{ kW}$ 



# **Signal recycling**

- Signal recycling or resonant sideband extraction
- To reach given optical power in Fabry-Perot cavities, high finesse desirable
  - Reduce absorption in input mirrors and associated thermal distortions <sup>(3)</sup>
  - ▹ Reduce bandwidth ☺
- Phase modulation due to GW signal creates sidebands in optical field at GW frequency, which do not cancel out at output port
  - Add mirror to form resonant cavity with input mirrors for GW sidebands
  - Cavity increases effective transmission of input mirrors for GW signal
  - ▹ Broaden bandwidth ☺



# Quantum noise (ii)

Fluctuation of photons reflecting from a suspended mirror causes mirror motion

- Radiation pressure fluctuations
  - Displacement noise for simple Michelson

$$\tilde{x}_{\rm rad}(f) = \frac{1}{mf^2} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar P_{\rm in}}{8\pi^3 c\lambda}}$$

Mirror mass



Shot noise decreases with  $\sqrt{P_{\rm in}}$ Radiation pressure noise increases with  $\sqrt{P_{\rm in}}$  Fluctuation of photons on photodetector results in fluctuating power measurement



Envelope of minima in quadratic sum of shot noise and radiation pressure noise as input power varies defines standard quantum limit (SQL)

$$\tilde{x}_{SQL}(f) = \frac{1}{\pi f} \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2m}}$$

SQL can be overcome with quantum optics techniques...

### Seismic noise



Low-frequency limit to all ground-based interferometers
 Earth tides

3 km

6400 km

20

- > Length changes of ~100  $\,\mu\text{m}$  over 3 km baseline
- Compensated by long-range actuators
- **G** Secondary microseism
  - > Amplitude ~1  $\mu$ m
  - Canceled by feedback systems
- □ Spectrum above ~1 Hz

$$\tilde{x}_{\text{ground}}(f) = 10^{-7} - 10^{-8} \left(\frac{1 \text{ Hz}}{f}\right)^2 \text{m}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$$

- > High-performance isolation needed
  - Active, based on seismic vibration sensors
  - Passive
- Horizontal-vertical couplings
  - $\succ~\sim 10^{-4}$  for 3 km baseline

### **Passive vibration isolation**



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### **Vibration isolation**





### **Thermal noise**

- Mirrors in thermal equilibrium
- $\square$  Dissipation-fluctuation relationship  $\rightarrow$  noise
- Multiple sources of noise
  - > Mirror thermal noise bulk and coating
    - Brownian noise
    - Thermo-optic noise due to temperature fluctuations
      - Random thermal expansion
      - Random change in refractive index
  - Suspension thermal noise

### **Mirror thermal noise**



Interfaces are critical

### **Suspension thermal noise**

- For a pendulum of mass *m* and length *l*, suspended by 4 wires/fibers
- Mirrors held by thin glass fibers
  - Monolithic suspensions







## **Coating thermal noise**

#### Displacement noise power spectrum



Coatings have excellent optical properties but poor mechanical properties

- Dominant source of thermal noise
  - Level comparable to quantum noise around 100 Hz
- > Major R&D effort

### **Residual Gas Noise**

- Phase noise from fluctuations in column density of gas along interferometer arms
  - $\succ$  Ultra-high vacuum needed  $\,\sim 10^{-9}~{\rm mbar}$
  - Residual pressure dominated by out-gassing of H<sub>2</sub> from beam tubes after bake-out to remove H<sub>2</sub>O

![](_page_26_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Figure_5.jpeg)

# **Recap of basic features**

#### Interferometer

- Michelson interferometer on
  dark fringe
- Fabry-Perot cavities
- > Power and signal recycling cavities

#### Suspensions

- Decouple mirrors from ground to allow free response to GW
- > Isolate mirrors from ground vibrations
- > Hold mirrors without introducing extra thermal noise

#### Infrastructure

> Ultra-low pressure in beam tubes and vacuum chambers

#### Test masses

- Low mechanical loss factors
- Shape: high frequencies for internal resonances
- Large: accommodate laser beam spot without losses
- Massive: mitigate response to radiation pressure fluctuations
- > Near-perfect mirrors

### **OTHER ASPECTS AND CHALLENGES**

### **Gaussian beams**

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Mirrors

- □ Large and heavy optics
  - ≻ ~ 35 cm diameter, 40 kg
- Right geometry
- Near-perfect surface quality
  - Flatness < 1 nm, roughness < 1 Å</p>
  - Uniform coatings
- □ Low absorption < 1 ppm

- Blanks of ultra-pure fused silica
  - Sapphire in KAGRA
- **G** Stringent polishing requirements
- Coating uses ion beam sputtering
- Metrology
- Clean environment

![](_page_30_Figure_14.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_15.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Figure_16.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_17.jpeg)

# **Thermal compensation**

#### Aberrations in the optics

- Manufacturing errors in mirror curvature
- ➤ High optical power → thermal lensing, thermal expansion of mirrors
  - Substrate/coating absorption, point absorbers
- Need a thermal compensation system
  - Sensors to measure wavefront distortions
  - Actuators
    - Ring heaters to tune mirror curvature
    - CO<sub>2</sub> lasers to shine compensating heating pattern
      - Shining onto mirrors would introduce noise
        ⇒ compensation plates

![](_page_31_Figure_11.jpeg)

### **Scattered light**

- **Even** high-quality optics will scatter small amount of light
- Part of scattered light may recombine with main beam
  - Light scattered by mirrors reflected off beam tube
  - Backscattering from auxiliary optics
- Noise due to phase modulation by movement of reflective or scattering surface
  - ➢ Non-linear coupling if movement > wavelength → high-frequency conversion of seismic noise
  - > Broadband excess noise and transient noise

#### Minimize amount of scattered light

- Baffles to trap scattered light
- Model and dump spurious beams
- Size and quality of optics
- Clean environment

![](_page_32_Picture_13.jpeg)

Minimize coupling of scattered light

- Seismic and acoustic isolation of sensitive optics
- Optical benches suspended in vacuum

![](_page_32_Picture_17.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_18.jpeg)

### **Parametric instabilities**

#### Opto-mechanical interaction

- Energy transfer from interferometer fundamental optical mode into mirror mechanical mode
  - Radiation pressure
  - Modulation of fundamental field by excited mechanical mode
- Risk of instability if mechanical mode and optical mode have coincident resonant frequencies
  - Risk increases with optical power
- Observed in advanced LIGO
- Various strategies possible
  - > Tune cavity geometry to avoid instability
  - Passive or active damping of mechanical modes

![](_page_33_Figure_11.jpeg)

Phys. Rev. Lett. 114, 161102 (2015)

![](_page_33_Figure_13.jpeg)

# Quantum noise (iii)

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

1000

0.3 30

100

Frequency (Hz)

- SQL can be beaten by reducing noise in one of the two quadratures of vacuum field, at the expense of the other
  - > Phase: reduce shot noise
  - Amplitude: reduce radiation pressure noise

- Use filtering cavity to apply frequencydependent phase shift to provide phase squeezing at high frequency and amplitude squeezing at low frequency

# **High optical power : recap**

### High power needed to lower shot noise

#### High-power laser

- > Mono-mode
- > Power stabilized  $\delta P/P \sim 10^{-9} / \sqrt{\mathrm{Hz}}$
- $\succ$  Frequency stabilized  $~\delta\nu\sim 10^{-6}~{\rm Hz}/\sqrt{\rm Hz}$
- Controlled beam pointing
- Achieved through combination of active and passive stabilization

![](_page_35_Figure_8.jpeg)

#### Challenges of high power

- > Thermal aberrations
- Scattered light
- > Parametric instabilities
- Radiation pressure noise
- > Mirror alignment control
- Squeezing is alternative/complementary approach to lower shot noise
  - Needs to be frequency-dependent to avoid increasing radiation pressure noise

# **Gravity gradient noise**

- Also called Newtonian noise
- Direct gravitational coupling of mass density fluctuations to suspended mirrors
  - Dominated by seismic surface waves
- □ Not limiting in current detectors, but will be for next generation
- Cannot be shielded
  - Monitor with array of seismometers, model and subtract
  - > Quieter underground

![](_page_36_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_9.jpeg)

on the surface of the earth

### **Real-time control**

- Suspended mirrors still have low-frequency movements comparable to laser wavelength
- □ Interferometer must be kept at right working point
  - Cavities on resonance, ~dark fringe
  - Mirror longitudinal and angular degrees of freedom must be controlled in real time – aka locking and alignment
- Complex set of feedback loops
  - Error signals
    - Laser beam is phase modulated to create sidebands with behavior different from carrier
    - Sidebands beating with carrier provides error signals
  - > Electromagnetic actuators
    - Coil-magnet pairs

### **Detector calibration**

 Data analysis needs phase measurement to be translated into gravitational-wave strain signal

- □ Part of GW signal is in control signals
  - Due to feedback loops maintaining interferometer at working point

Typical accuracy

≻ ~2-5% on amplitude, ~2-4 deg on phase

h(t) reconstruction typically includes some noise subtraction, aka data cleaning

![](_page_38_Figure_7.jpeg)

- Interferometer response calibrated against known mirror displacements
  - Laser wavelength as a reference
  - Radiation pressure from auxiliary laser beams reflected off mirrors, aka photon calibrator (PCal)
  - Gravitational coupling to nearby rotating masses, aka Newtonian calibrator (NCal)

# FROM CURRENT DETECTORS TO THE NEXT GENERATION WHY? HOW?

### **Observing runs and upgrades**

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

### **Projects in new infrastructures**

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

□ New infrastructures allow baselines longer by an order of magnitude

- > GW signal increases with length
- > Interferometer response and therefore noise levels scale non-trivially with length

# Scaling of fundamental noises with arm length

| Noise                                   | Scaling         | Remarks                    |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Coating Brownian                        | $1/L^{3/2}$     | Fixed cavity geometry      |
| Substrate Thermo-Refractive             | $1/L^{2}$       | Fixed cavity geometry      |
| Suspension Thermal                      | 1/L, 1          | Horizontal, vertical noise |
| Seismic                                 | 1/L, 1          | Horizontal, vertical noise |
| Newtonian                               | 1/L             |                            |
| <b>Residual Gas Scattering</b>          | $1/L^{3/4}$     | Fixed cavity geometry      |
| Residual Gas Damping                    | 1/L             |                            |
| *Quantum Shot Noise                     | $1/L^{1/2}$     | Fixed bandwidth            |
| *Quantum Radiation pressure             | $1/L^{3/2}$     | Fixed bandwidth            |
| <sup>*</sup> Quantum Radiation pressure | $1/L^{\circ/2}$ | Fixed bandwidth            |

### **Cosmic Explorer: a bigger LIGO**

|                | Quantity                | Units          | LIGO A+ | CE     | CE (2 µm) |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------|--------|-----------|
|                | Arm length              | km             | 4       | 40     | 40        |
|                | Laser wavelength        | μm             | 1       | 1      | 2         |
|                | Arm power               | MW             | 0.8     | 1.5    | 3         |
|                | Squeezed light          | dB             | 6       | 10     | 10        |
|                | Susp. point at 1 Hz     | $pm/\sqrt{Hz}$ | 10      | 0.1    | 0.1       |
| Test masses    | Material                |                | Silica  | Silica | Silicon   |
|                | Mass                    | kg             | 40      | 320    | 320       |
|                | Temperature             | K              | 293     | 293    | 123       |
| Suspensions    | Total length            | m              | 1.6     | 4      | 4         |
|                | Total mass              | kg             | 120     | 1500   | 1500      |
|                | Final stage blade       |                | No      | Yes    | Yes       |
| ewtonian noise | Rayleigh wave suppr.    | dB             | 0       | 20     | 20        |
|                | Body wave suppr.        | dB             | 0       | 10     | 10        |
| Optical loss   | Arm cavity (round trip) | ppm            | 75      | 40     | 40        |
|                | SEC (round trip)        | ppm            | 5000    | 500    | 500       |

Alternative path if unexpected challenges in incremental approach based on current technology

### **Cosmic Explorer target sensitivity**

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

### **Einstein Telescope: xylophone strategy**

- Low and high frequencies have conflicting requirements
  - High optical power needed to decrease shot noise but will increase radiation pressure noise
  - High power comes with challenges + not easily compatible with low-temperature operation
- Combine two detectors dedicated to LF and HF

![](_page_45_Figure_5.jpeg)

| Parameter                    | ET-HF                             | ET-LF                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Arm length                   | 10 km                             | 10 km                             |
| Input power (after IMC)      | 500 W                             | 3 W                               |
| Arm power                    | 3 MW                              | 18 kW                             |
| Temperature                  | 290 K                             | 10-20 K                           |
| Mirror material              | fused silica                      | silicon                           |
| Mirror diameter / thickness  | 62 cm / 30 cm                     | 45 cm/ 57 cm                      |
| Mirror masses                | 200 kg                            | 211 kg                            |
| Laser wavelength             | 1064 nm                           | 1550 nm                           |
| SR-phase (rad)               | tuned (0.0)                       | detuned (0.6)                     |
| SR transmittance             | 10 %                              | 20 %                              |
| Quantum noise suppression    | freq. dep. squeez.                | freq. dep. squeez.                |
| Filter cavities              | 1×300 m                           | $2 \times 1.0$ km                 |
| Squeezing level              | 10 dB (effective)                 | 10 dB (effective)                 |
| Beam shape                   | $TEM_{00}$                        | TEM <sub>00</sub>                 |
| Beam radius                  | 12.0 cm                           | 9 cm                              |
| Scatter loss per surface     | 37 ppm                            | 37 ppm                            |
| Seismic isolation            | SA, 8 m tall                      | mod SA, 17 m tall                 |
| Seismic (for $f > 1$ Hz)     | $5 \cdot 10^{-10} \mathrm{m}/f^2$ | $5 \cdot 10^{-10} \mathrm{m}/f^2$ |
| Gravity gradient subtraction | none                              | factor of a few                   |

### **Einstein Telescope: multiple detectors**

□ Three (pairs of) detectors arranged in a triangle

![](_page_46_Figure_2.jpeg)

### **Einstein Telescope: target sensitivity**

![](_page_47_Figure_1.jpeg)

Tomorrow...

### PART II: SOURCES, DATA ANALYSIS, SCIENCE