

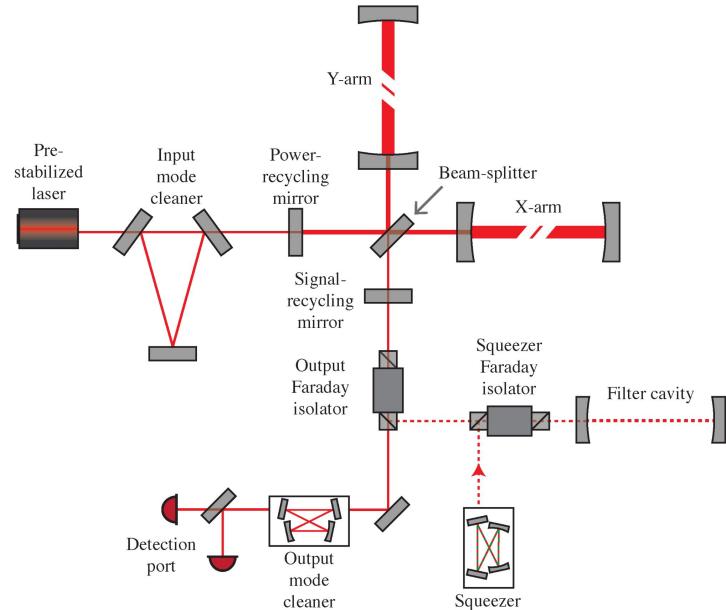
A Differentiable Interferometer Simulator for the Computational Design of Gravitational Wave Detectors

Jonathan Klimesch, Yehonathan Drori, Rana X. Adhikari, Mario Krenn

Second EuCAIFCon on June 17, 2025

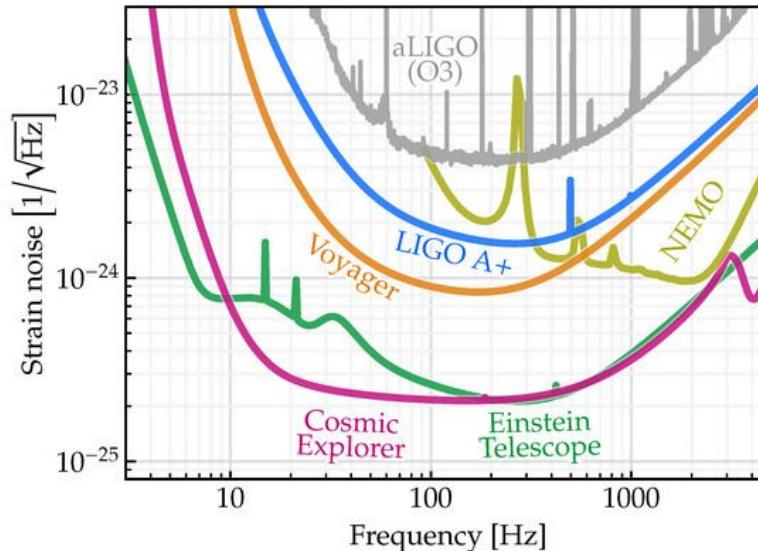
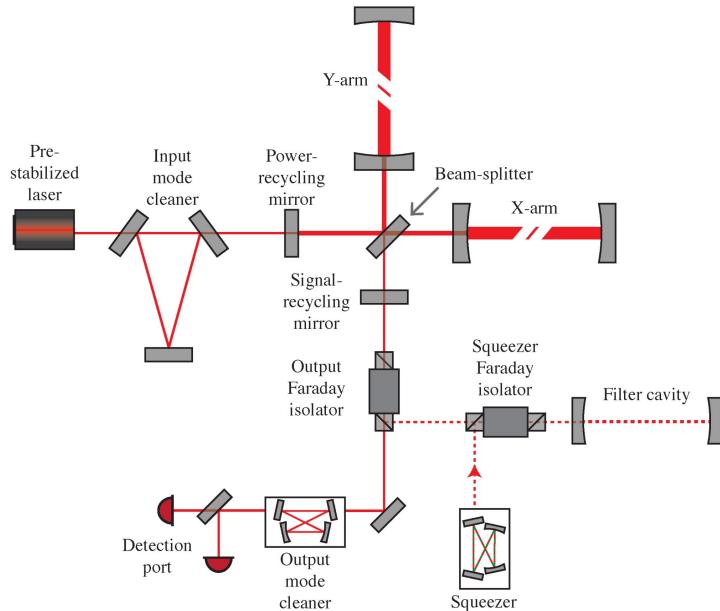


Simplified LIGO Detector



[Cahillane C, Mansell G. Review of the advanced LIGO gravitational wave observatories leading to observing run four. Galaxies. 2022 Feb 15;10\(1\):36.](#)

Strain Sensitivity Measures Detector Quality

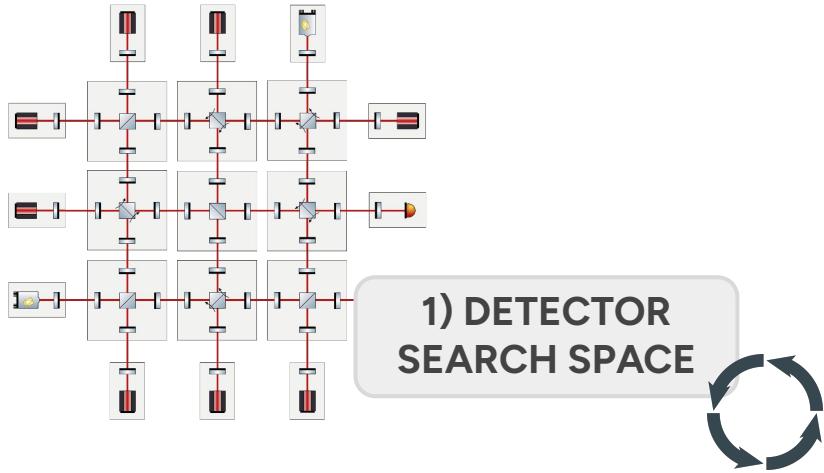


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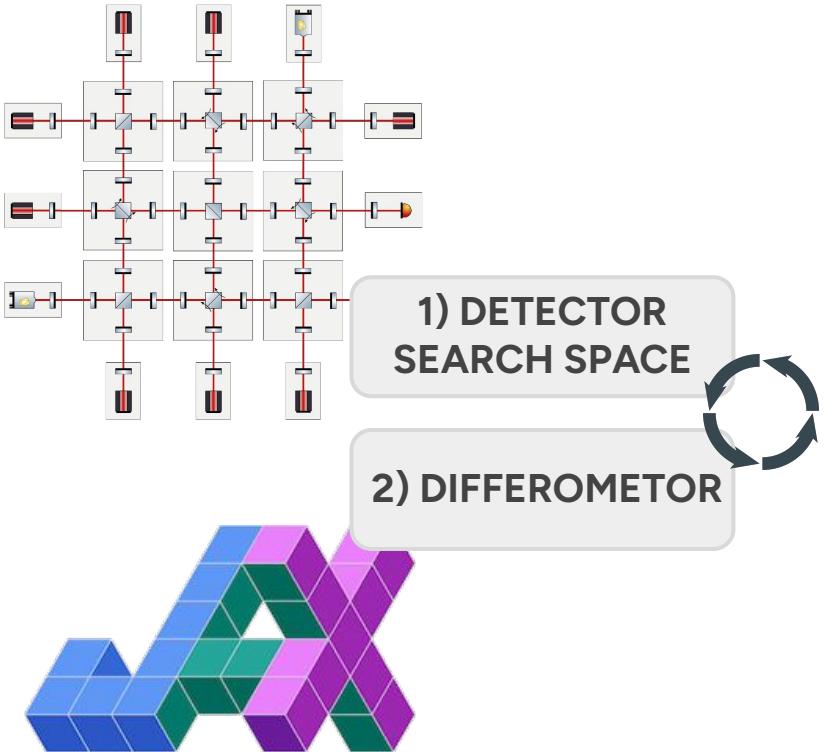
**Can we use algorithms to find
unorthodox, but useful layouts?**



We Let Algorithms Design Superior Detector Layouts ...

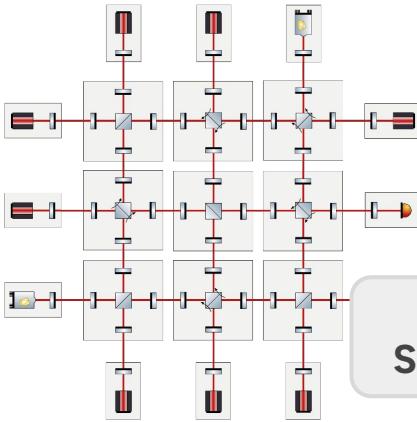


... Using Differentiable Programming



Differentiable Interferometer Simulator

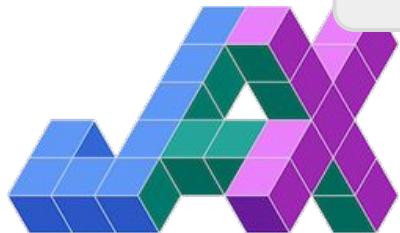
... Using Differentiable Programming



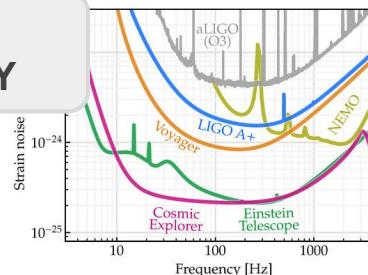
1) DETECTOR
SEARCH SPACE

2) DIFFEROMETOR

3) STRAIN
SENSITIVITY

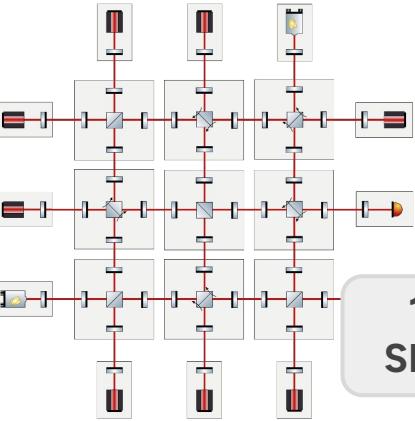


Differentiable Interferometer Simulator



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Strain}} = \int_{f_0}^{f_1} \log(S(f)) df$$

... Using Differentiable Programming

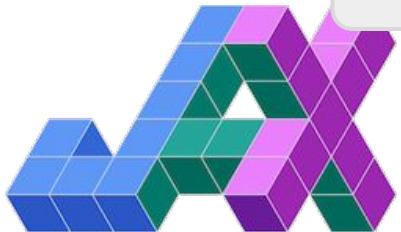


1) DETECTOR
SEARCH SPACE

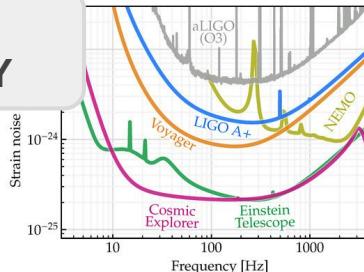
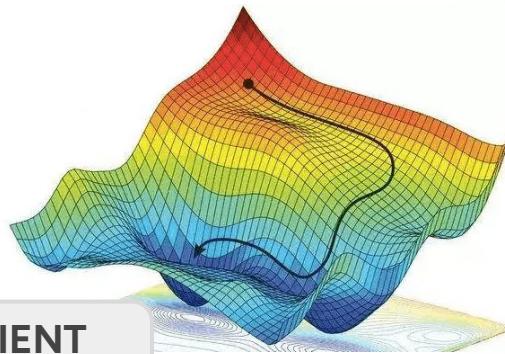
2) DIFFEROMETER

4) GRADIENT
DESCENT

3) STRAIN
SENSITIVITY



Differentiable Interferometer Simulator



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Strain}} = \int_{f_0}^{f_1} \log(S(f)) df$$

See you in Thursday's Poster Session!

A Differentiable Interferometer Simulator for the Computational Design of Gravitational Wave Detectors

Jonathan Klimesch¹, Yehonathan Drori², Rana X. Adhikari², Mario Krenn¹

¹ Max Planck Institute for the Science of Light, Erlangen, Germany; ² LIGO Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91109, USA

Differometer is a new **differentiable frequency domain interferometer simulator** implemented in Python using the JAX framework. Its automatic differentiation enables **gradient-based optimizations** of interferometer layouts that are up to 160 times faster than optimizations with numerical differentiation and existing simulators.

Detector Search Space

UFO layout aLIGO layout in UFO

We optimize quasi-universal interferometers (UFOs), highly expressive, parametrized layouts that can hold impactful detector designs beyond human intuition.

AI-Based Exploration

Example: $f(x, y, z) = x + xy + x^2y$

Numerical Differentiation

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \approx \frac{f(x+h, y, z) - f(x, y, z)}{h}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \approx \frac{f(x, y+h, z) - f(x, y, z)}{h}$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \approx \frac{f(x, y, z+2h) - f(x, y, z)}{2h}$$

$$\nabla f = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)$$

Automatic Differentiation

$f(x, y, z)$ Only one sweep required

Instead of evaluating the simulator multiple times for each parameter gradient, Differometer calculates all gradients in one simulation run, enabling large-scale discovery optimizations that can yield superior detector designs.

Differometer

Github:

We evaluate the detector search space with our new differentiable interferometer simulator.

Cavity simulation

```
import Differometer as df
import numpy as np
from IPython import get_ipython
get_ipython().run_line_magic('matplotlib', 'inline')
%matplotlib inline
df.add("l1", "l1p", 1)
df.add("l2", "l2p", 1)
df.add("l3", "l3p", 1)
df.add("l4", "l4p", 1)
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```

Features

- Plane Wave Propagation
- Just-in-Time Compilation
- Light Field Modulation
- Quantum Noise
- GPU Support
- Automatic Differentiation
- Opto-mechanics

Simulation Speed

Due to just-in-time compilation and GPU support, Differometer is faster than the Finsette simulator.

Simulation Accuracy

Differometer closely follows the design of the established Finsette simulator and demonstrates close agreement in aLIGO strain sensitivity curves.

Gradient Evaluation

Differometer uses automatic differentiation to achieve speed gains of up to 160 in gradient evaluations of layouts with varying parameter number.

Find me on X

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D. Krenn, S. Rawlings, S. Lowry, M. Jones, and A. mitchell. <https://doi.org/10.4236/gr.20200205005005>

