



Calum Torrie, LIGO Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology

# Alignment of the LIGO Detectors

International Workshop on Accelerator Alignment (IWAA) 2018

IWAA, 10 October 2018

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*Image Credit: Aurore Simmonet/SSU*

LIGO-G1801900-v5



**Caltech**

# Credit to the LIGO Scientific Collaboration

Abilene Christian University  
 Albert-Einstein-Institut  
 American University  
 Andrews University  
 Bellevue College  
 California Institute of Technology  
 California State Univ., Fullerton  
 California State Univ., Los Angeles  
 Canadian Inst. Th. Astrophysics  
 Carleton College  
 Chinese University of Hong Kong  
 College of William and Mary  
 Colorado State University  
 Columbia U. in the City of New York  
 Cornell University  
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ.  
 Eötvös Loránd University  
 Georgia Institute of Technology  
 Goddard Space Flight Center  
 GW-INPE, Sao Jose Brasil  
 Hillsdale College  
 Hobart & William Smith Colleges  
 IAP – Nizhny Novogorod  
 IIP-UFRN  
 Kenyon College  
 Korean Gravitational-Wave Group  
 Louisiana State University  
 Marshall Space Flight Center  
 Montana State University  
 Montclair State University  
 Moscow State University  
 National Tsing Hua University  
 NCSARG – Univ. of Illinois,  
 Urbana-Champaign



Northwestern University  
 Penn State University  
 Rochester Institute of Technology  
 Sonoma State University  
 Southern University  
 Stanford University  
 Syracuse University  
 Texas Tech University  
 Trinity University  
 Tsinghua University  
 U. Montreal / Polytechnique  
 Université Libre de Bruxelles  
 University of Chicago  
 University of Florida  
 University of Maryland  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Minnesota  
 University of Mississippi  
 University of Oregon  
 University of Sannio  
 University of Szeged  
 University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
 University of the Balearic Islands  
 University of Tokyo  
 University of Washington  
 University of Washington Bothell  
 University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee  
 USC – Information Sciences Institute  
 Villanova University  
 Washington State University – Pullman  
 West Virginia University  
 Whitman College

**LIGO Laboratory:** California Institute of Technology; Massachusetts Institute of Technology;  
 LIGO Hanford Observatory; LIGO Livingston Observatory

**Australian Consortium for Interferometric Gravitational Astronomy (ACIGA):**

Australian National University; Charles Sturt University; Monash University; Swinburne University; University of Adelaide; University of Melbourne; University of Western Australia

**German/British Collaboration for the Detection of Gravitational Waves (GEO600):**

Albert-Einstein-Institut, Hannover; Cardiff University; King's College, University of London; Leibniz Universität, Hannover; University of Birmingham; University of Cambridge;  
 University of Glasgow; University of Hamburg; University of Sheffield; University of Southampton; University of Strathclyde; University of the West of Scotland; University of Zurich

**Indian Initiative in Gravitational-Wave Observations (IndIGO):**

Chennai Mathematical Institute;

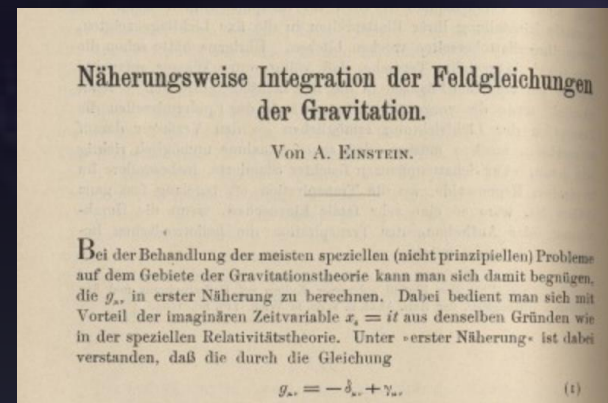
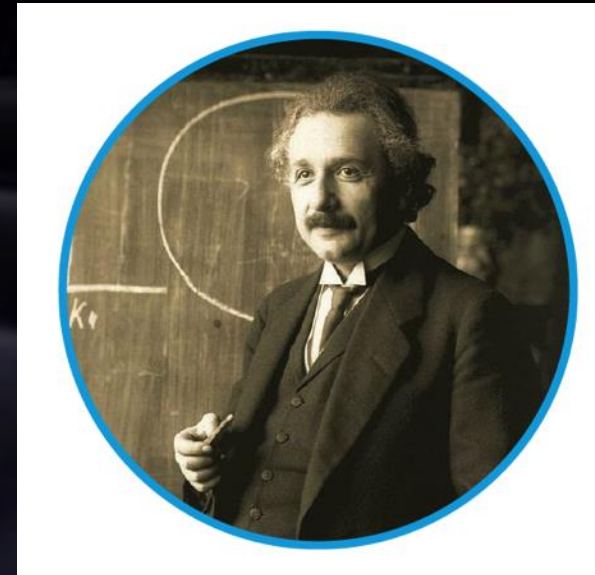
# Topics

- Gravitational Waves
- Precision Measurement
- Discoveries
- Focus on Alignment

# General Relativity and Gravitational Waves

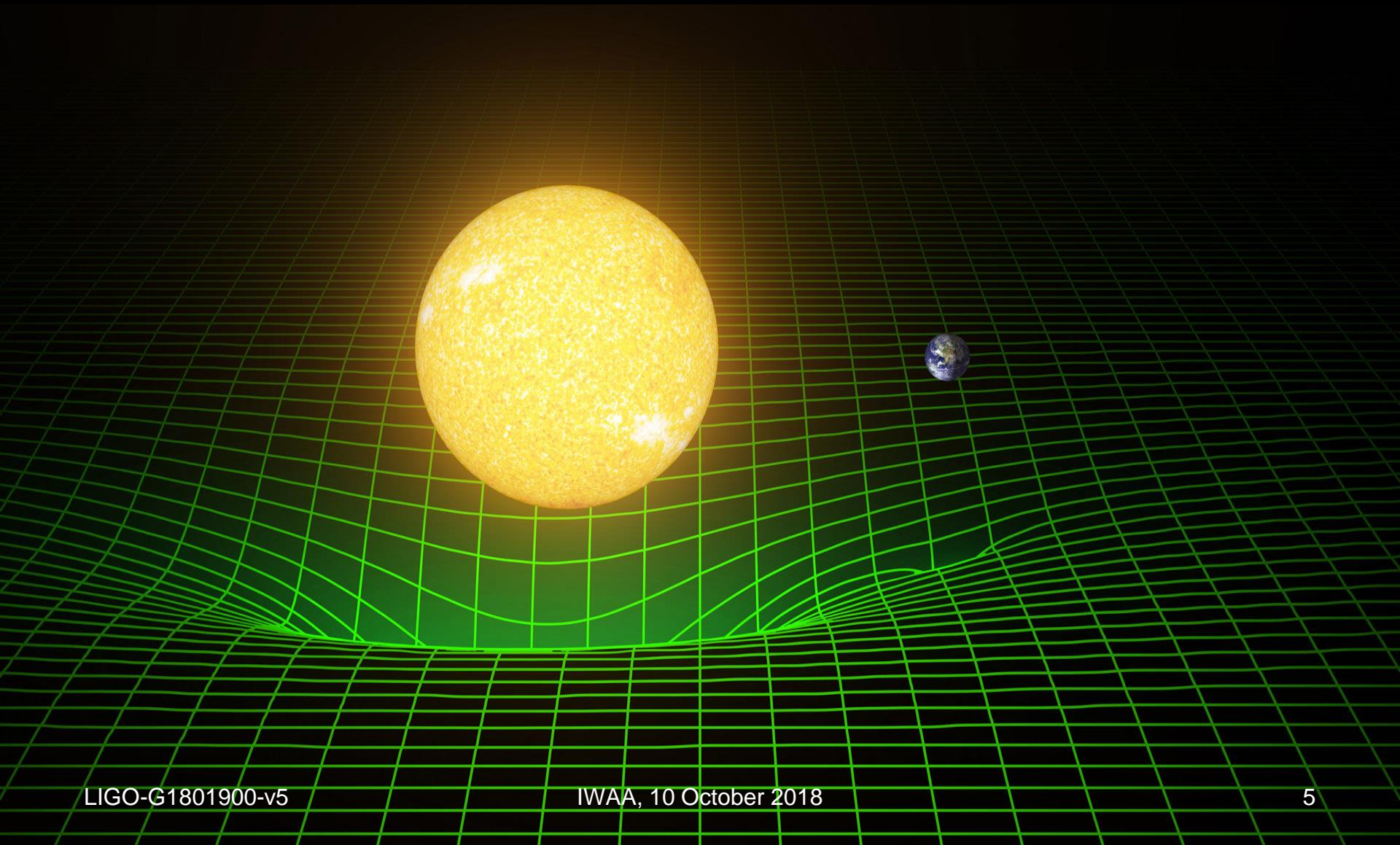
- 2016 was the centenary of Einstein's General Relativity
- A *geometric* theory:  
Gravitation arises from *curvature of space-time*  
*Curvature* arises from matter, energy
- Bizarre, but so far *completely successful*, predictions:  
Perihelion shift, bending of light, frame dragging,  
gravitational redshift, gravitational lensing, black holes,...
- **One key prediction remained elusive until September 14<sup>th</sup> 2015:**

## *Gravitational Waves*



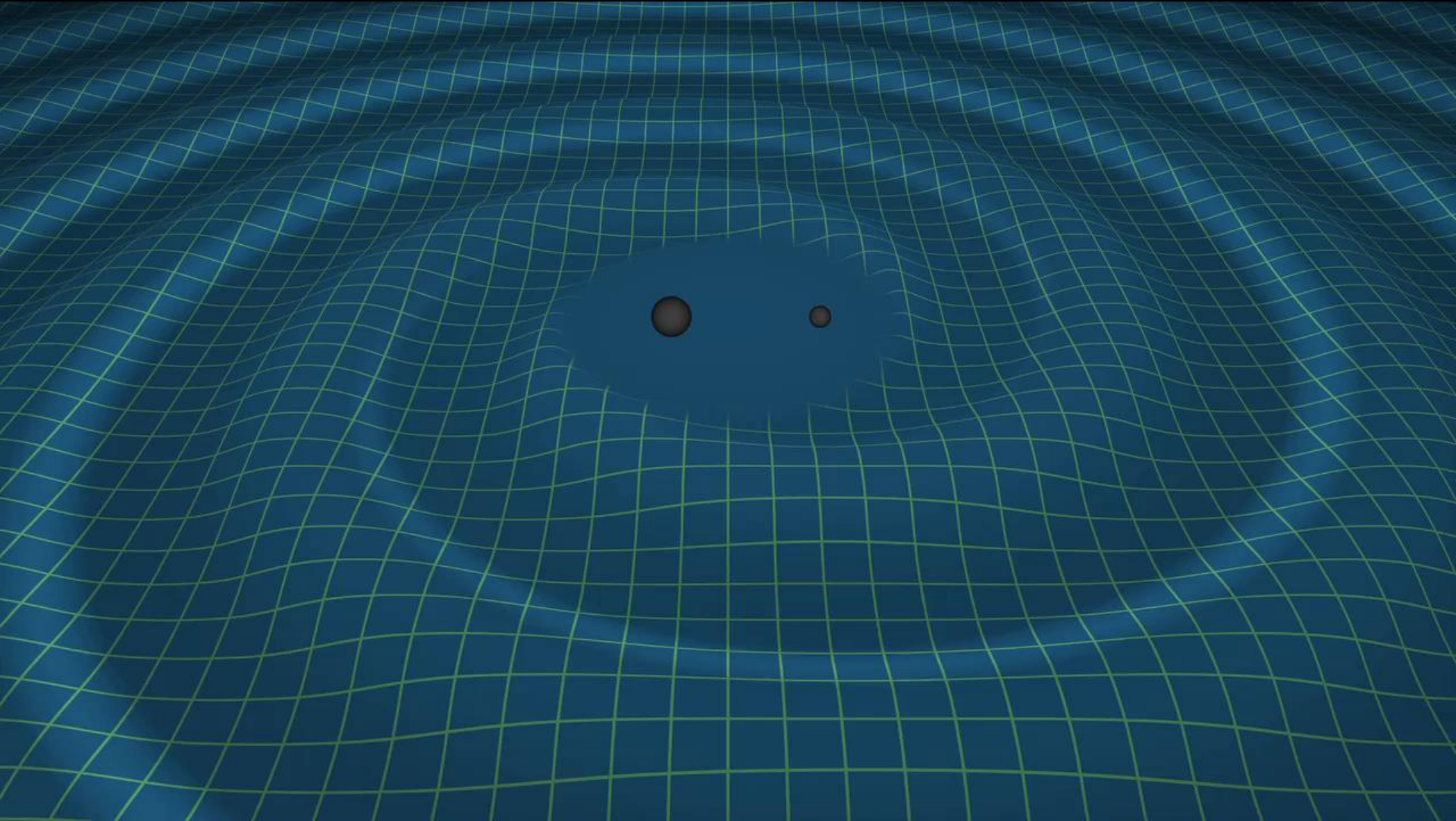
A. Einstein, *Näherungsweise Integration der Feldgleichungen der Gravitation*, 1916

# *Gravity & Curved Space-time*



# Gravitational Waves

*Credit: LIGO/Tim Pyle*

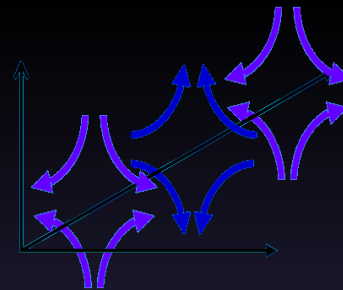


# Detecting the effects

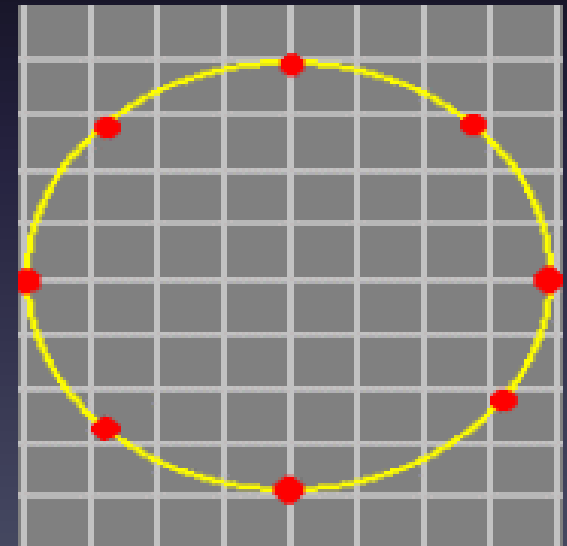
GW's produce time-varying *transverse strain* in space  
→ Monitor separations of *free test particles*



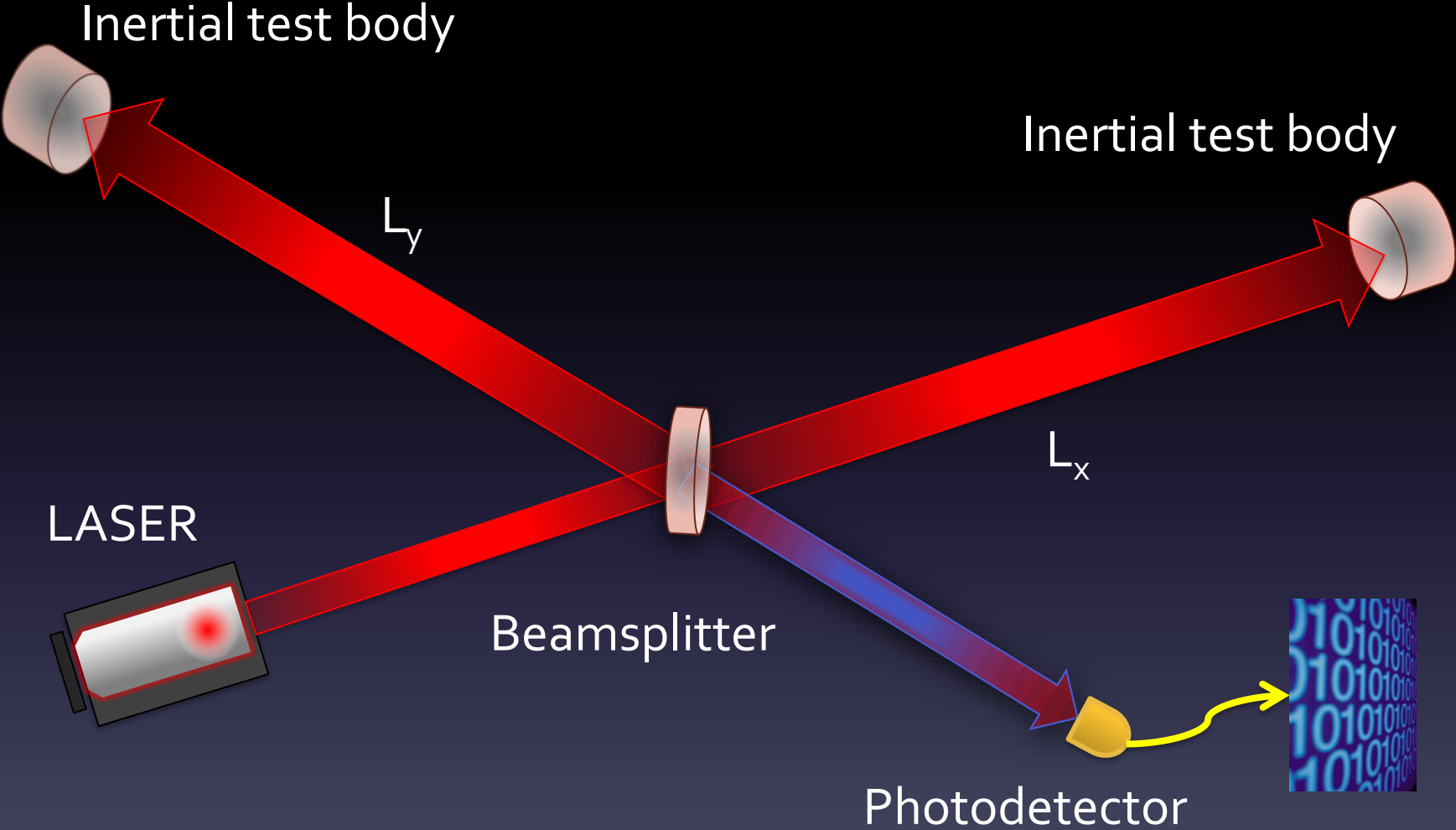
(Earth)



In a galaxy far far away...



# Michelson interferometer

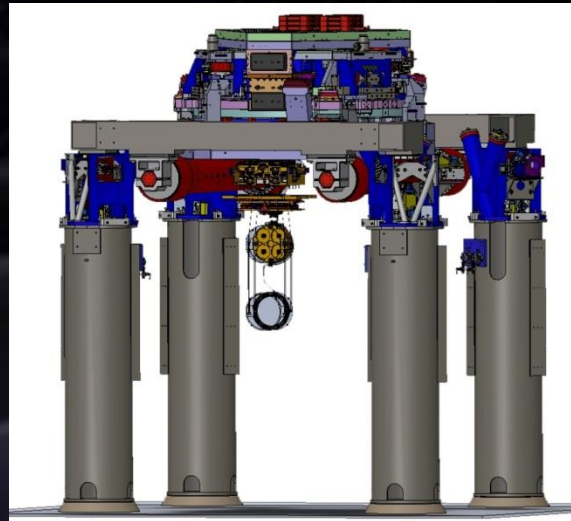




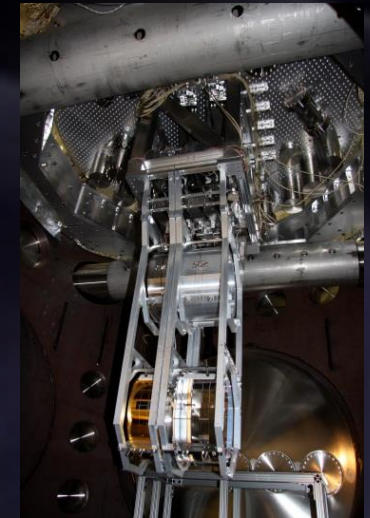
# LIGO's Interferometer



Powerful lasers (200W)



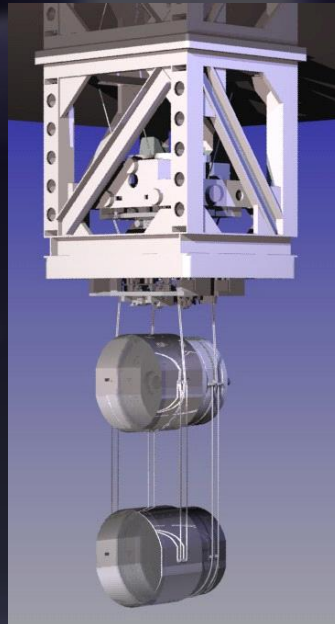
The interferometer core optics are suspended so that they are vibrationally isolated and free to respond to the passing GW



In order to reduce in band injection of noise the core optic actuation is limited in range, so initial alignment must be accurate



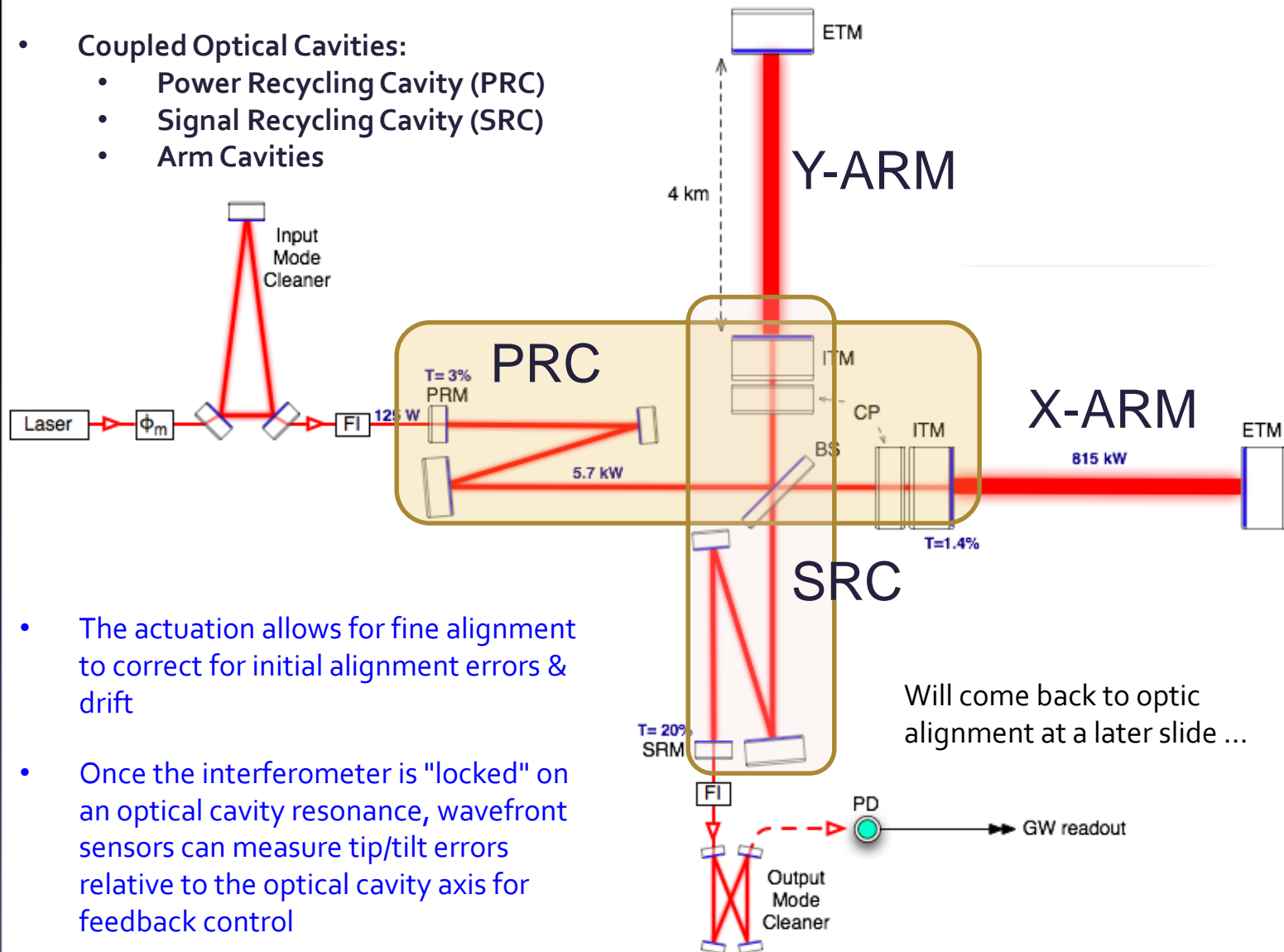
Large 40 kg mirrors with highly reflecting coatings



Each core optic is actively controlled in longitudinal position and tip & tilt

# LIGO's Optical Configuration

- Coupled Optical Cavities:
  - Power Recycling Cavity (PRC)
  - Signal Recycling Cavity (SRC)
  - Arm Cavities



- The actuation allows for fine alignment to correct for initial alignment errors & drift
- Once the interferometer is "locked" on an optical cavity resonance, wavefront sensors can measure tip/tilt errors relative to the optical cavity axis for feedback control

Will come back to optic alignment at a later slide ...

# A “small” problem...

A wave's strength is measured by the *strain* induced in the detector,

$$h = \Delta L / L$$

We can calculate expected strain at Earth;

$$|h| \approx 4\rho^2 GMR^2 f_{orbit}^2 / c^4 r \approx 10^{-22} \left( \frac{R}{20\text{km}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{M}{M_\odot} \right) \left( \frac{f_{orbit}}{400\text{Hz}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{100\text{Mpc}}{r} \right)$$

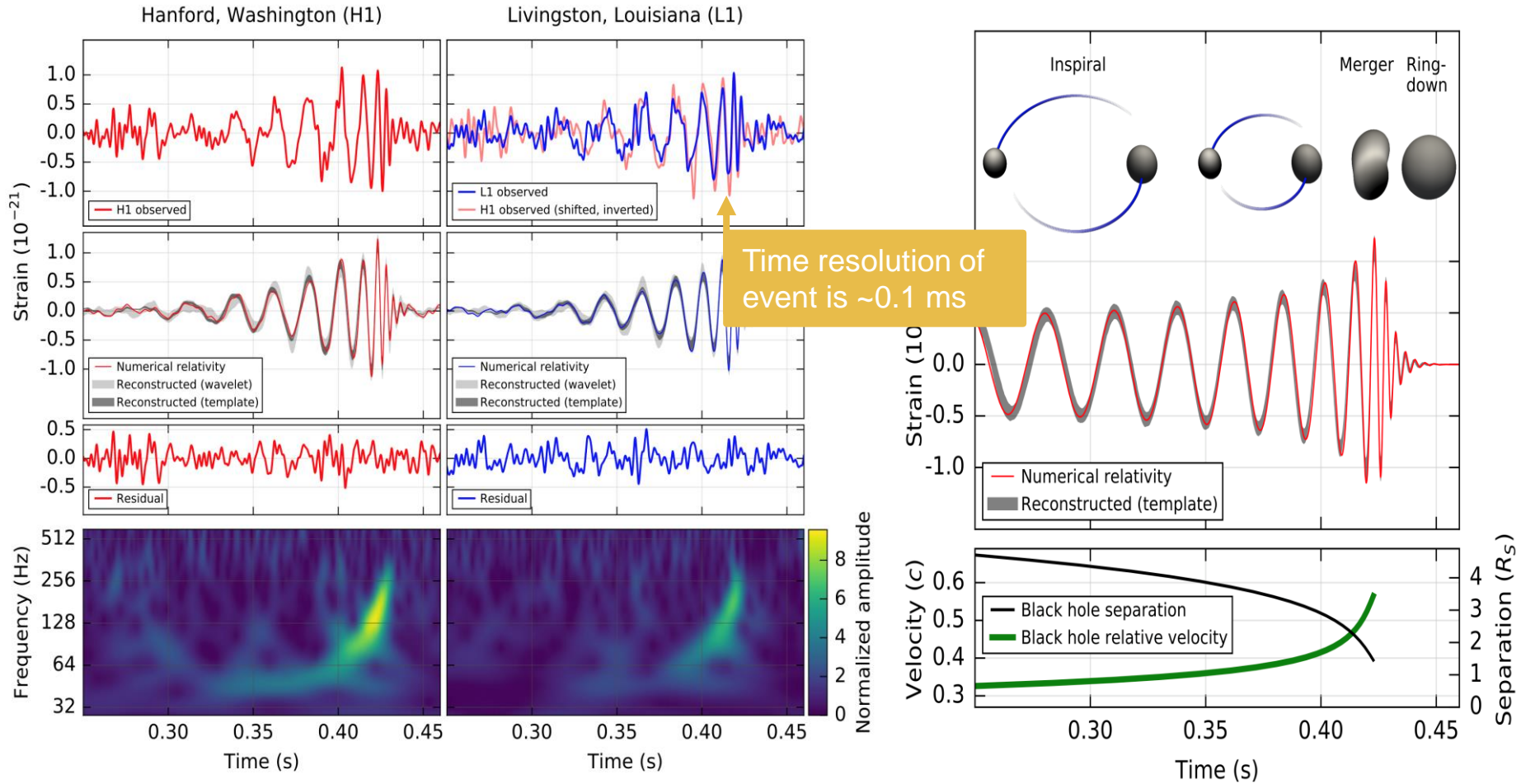
If we make our interferometer arms 4,000 meters long,

$$\Delta L = h \times L \approx 10^{-22} \times 4,000\text{m} \approx 4 \cdot 10^{-19}\text{m} \leftarrow \text{!!}$$

**A ten-thousandth the size of an atomic nucleus**

# First direct detection of the inspiral and coalescence of a Black Hole Pair (14 Sep 2015) GW150914

29 $M_{\odot}$  and 36 $M_{\odot}$  black holes 1.3 billion light years away inspiral and merge, emitting 3 $M_{\odot}$  of gravitational wave energy and briefly “outshining” the entire universe



Time resolution of event is  $\sim 0.1$  ms

Abbott et al Phys. Rev. Lett. 116 (2016) 061102

# the LASER Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory




*"For the greatest benefit to mankind"*  
*Alfred Nobel*

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**2017 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS**

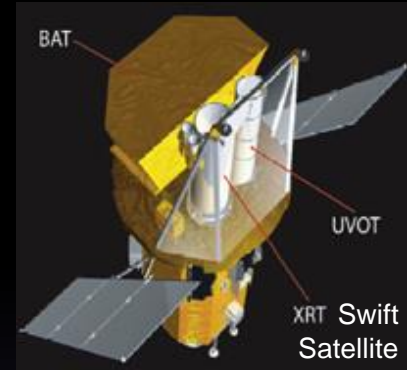
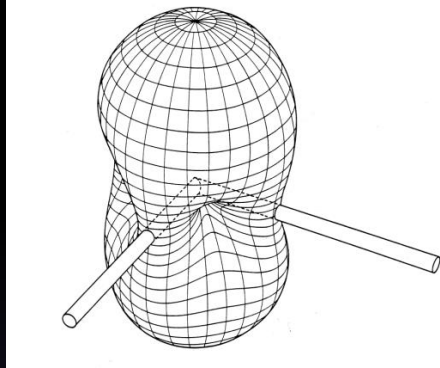
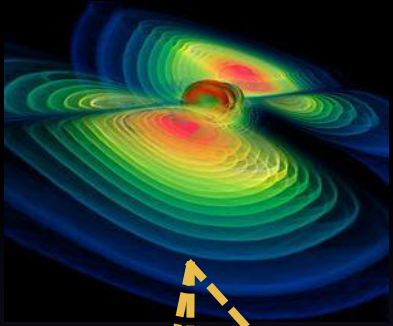
**Rainer Weiss**  
**Barry C. Barish**  
**Kip S. Thorne**

Two gold Nobel Prize medals are shown on the right side of the banner. The one in the foreground is the reverse side, featuring the profile of Alfred Nobel. The one behind it is the obverse side, featuring the figure of a woman holding a laurel wreath.

LIGO Proposal to the NSF 1989, <https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-M890001/public>

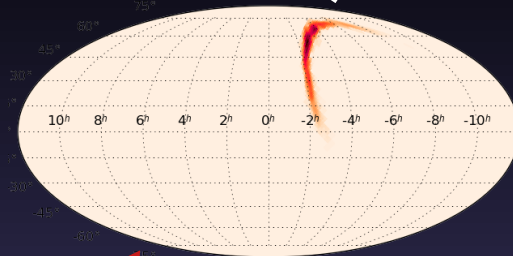
# Network Aperture Synthesis and EM Source Follow-up

Image: W. Bengler



X-ray,  $\gamma$ -ray  
follow-up

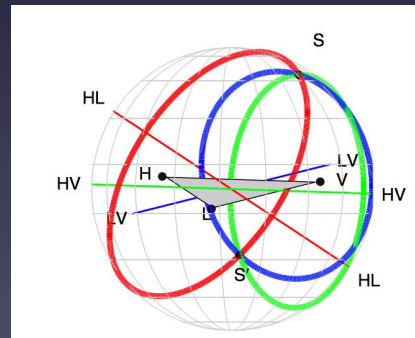
Sky map



Optical  
follow-up

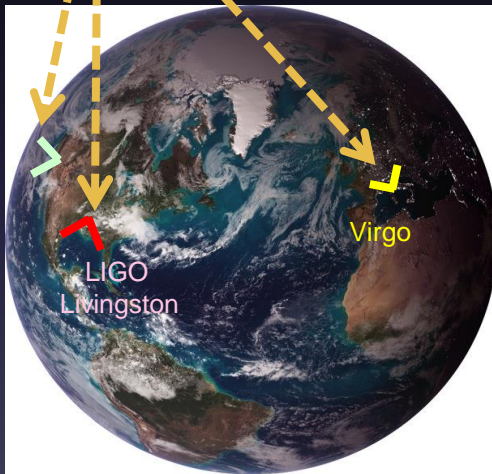
Each detector is  
~omnidirectional

Arrival time  
triangulation



Palomar Transient  
Factory

LIGO-G1801900-V5



LIGO  
Hanford

Virgo

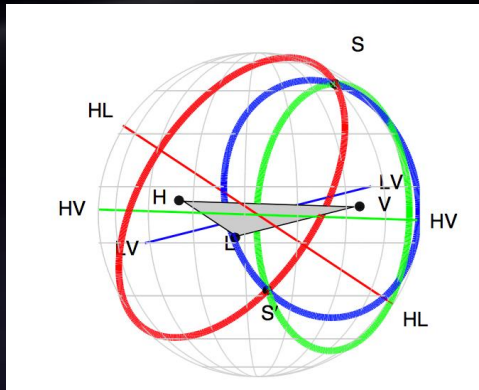
LIGO  
Livingston

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

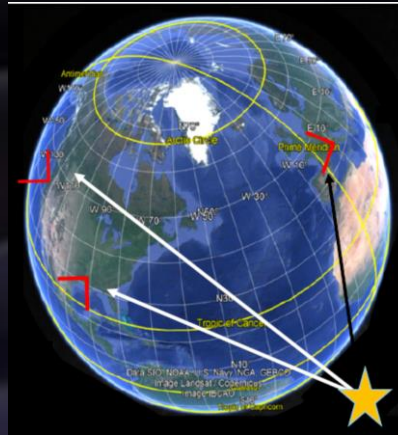
$(t_L, t_H, t_V)$

# Source "Triangulation"

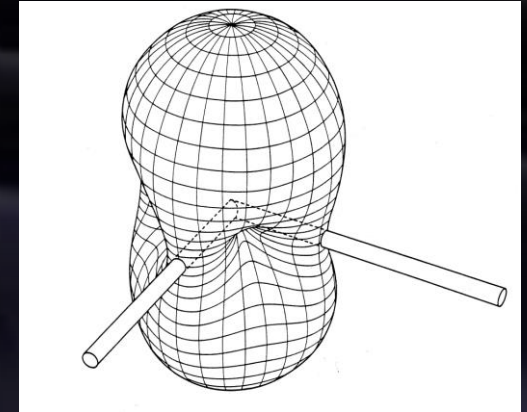
Arrival time triangulation



Indicates the direction of the arms relative to local north.



Each detector is ~omnidirectional



- Interferometer Angular Orientation

- Sensitivity changes only in 2<sup>nd</sup> order to arm deviation from orthogonality
- Coincident sensitivity changes only in 2<sup>nd</sup> order relative to angular misalignments
- 0.5 deg error in either arm orthogonality or relative orientation between the observatories results in only a ~10 ppm sensitivity decrease
- Not just "triangulation" – also use two waveform polarizations and astrophysical constraints

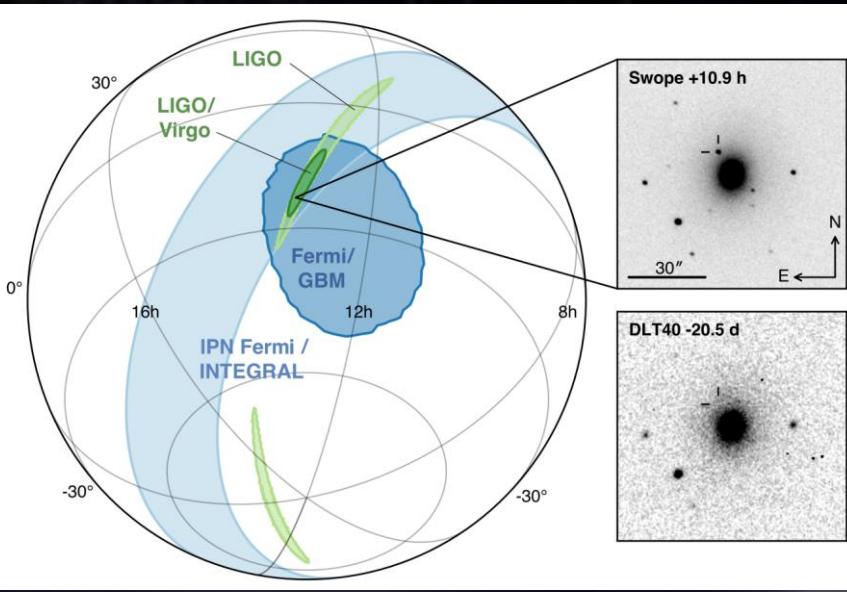
Detector	Latitude	Longitude	Azimuth	
			X Arm	Y Arm
LIGO Hanford (LHO)	46°27'19"N	119°24'28"W	N36°W	W36°S
LIGO Livingston (LLO)	30°33'46"N	90°46'27"W	W18°S	S18°E
Virgo	43°37'53"N	10°30'16"E	N19°E	W19°N

# Source "Triangulation"

LIGO  
Livingston, LA



LIGO  
Hanford,  
WA



Abbott et al. *Ap. J. Lett.*, 848:2 (2017)

- Observatory-to-Observatory baseline distance accuracy
  - Data timing accuracy (1 usec, derived from GPS, checked by atomic clock) x Light Speed = ~300 m
  - Actual waveform (signal) timing accuracy is ~0.1 ms (SNR = 10)
  - GPS provides baseline accuracy (~5 m) << required



# Beam Tube Alignment

- Requirement to maintain a 1m clear aperture through the 4 km long arms
- A straight line in space varies in ellipsoidal height by 1.25 m over a 4km baseline
- A maximum deviation from straightness in inertial space of 5 mm rms
- An orthogonality between arm pairs of better than 5 mrad
- This quality of alignment comfortably meets LIGO requirements



# Field assembly of the beam tubes

- The alignment of the LIGO system was done using dual-frequency differential GPS
- The BT's are fabricated from 3 mm thick, spirally welded 304L stainless steel in 20 m sections.
- 4x controlled interface points were defined along each arm.
- These points were identified by monuments having measured geodetic coordinates.

Beam tubes were aligned using dual-frequency differential GPS, 5 mm/4 km straightness\*  
See Rev. Sci. Instr. V 72, No. 7 p 3086, July 2001.

### Transport



### Position



### Field fitup



### Butt weld



LIGO-G1801900-v5

### Leak check



IWAA, 10 October 2018

### Add next section



# Beam Tube Alignment

Final Alignment (images from)

- GPS Antenna Mounted on the Beam Tube Support Ring
- GPS Antenna Cart (equipped with linear bearings & a plumb alignment with a fixed height antenna rod) checking Position of Beam Tube "Surveyor's Nail"



LIGO-G970294-18-B

Hanford Beam Tube "Surveyor's Nail"  
at Slab Edge (1997)



GPS Antenna Mounted on Beam Tube Support Ring (1997)



GPS Antenna Cart (equipped with linear bearings & a plumb alignment with a fixed height antenna rod) checking Position of Beam Tube "Surveyor's Nail".

# Beam Tube Alignment



Beam Tube Support



Beam Tube Support



## Final Alignment

- Supports were aligned for the final time after installation had proceeded for three to four sections, i.e., 80 m from the installation activity.
- This was just before the beam tube became covered by cement enclosures.

# Chamber Alignment

- Chambers house complex primary as well as input/output optic suspension systems / fixed mirrors
- X and Y – Azimuth “Offset” monuments were established from the existing monuments used to position the beam tubes.
- These axial and transverse positional coordinates are referenced to the global coordinates set, by conventional optical survey techniques



BSC Chambers at the Vertex



HAM  
Chambers

# IFO Alignment: Modes of Operation

## Initial Alignment Mode

- Adjust input beam direction to go down the beamtubes and be centered on the optics
- Pre-align ("dead reckon") main optics without optic actuation based on optical survey (100  $\mu$  rad)
- Static initial alignment of main optics using actuation (acquisition tolerance 0.5  $\mu$  rad)

## Acquisition Alignment Mode (allows IFO locking)

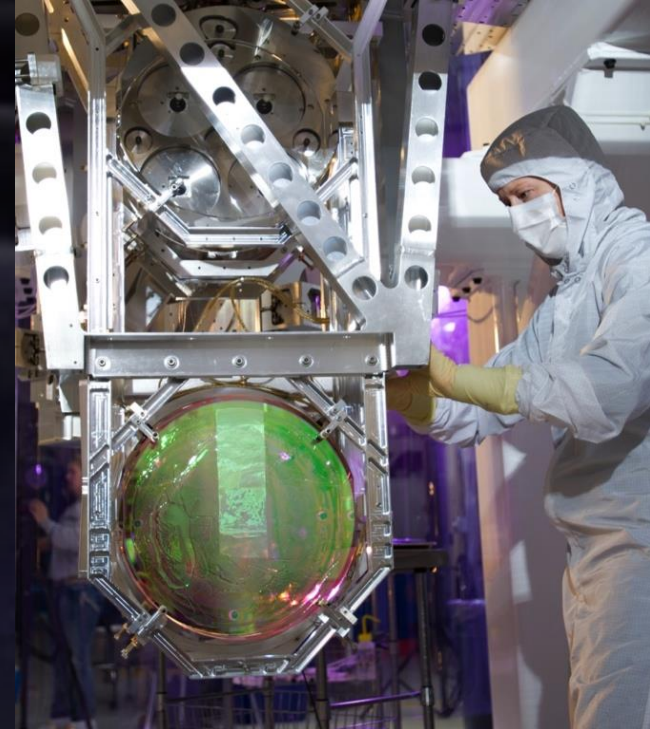
- Holding mode: main optics are held within the acquisition alignment tolerance continuously during the lock acquisition procedure

## Detection Mode

- sense and control alignment of the IFO (3 nrad rms)
- sense and control centering of the beams of the main optics

## Diagnostic / Calibration Mode

- provide diagnostic capability of performance
- provide calibration procedures



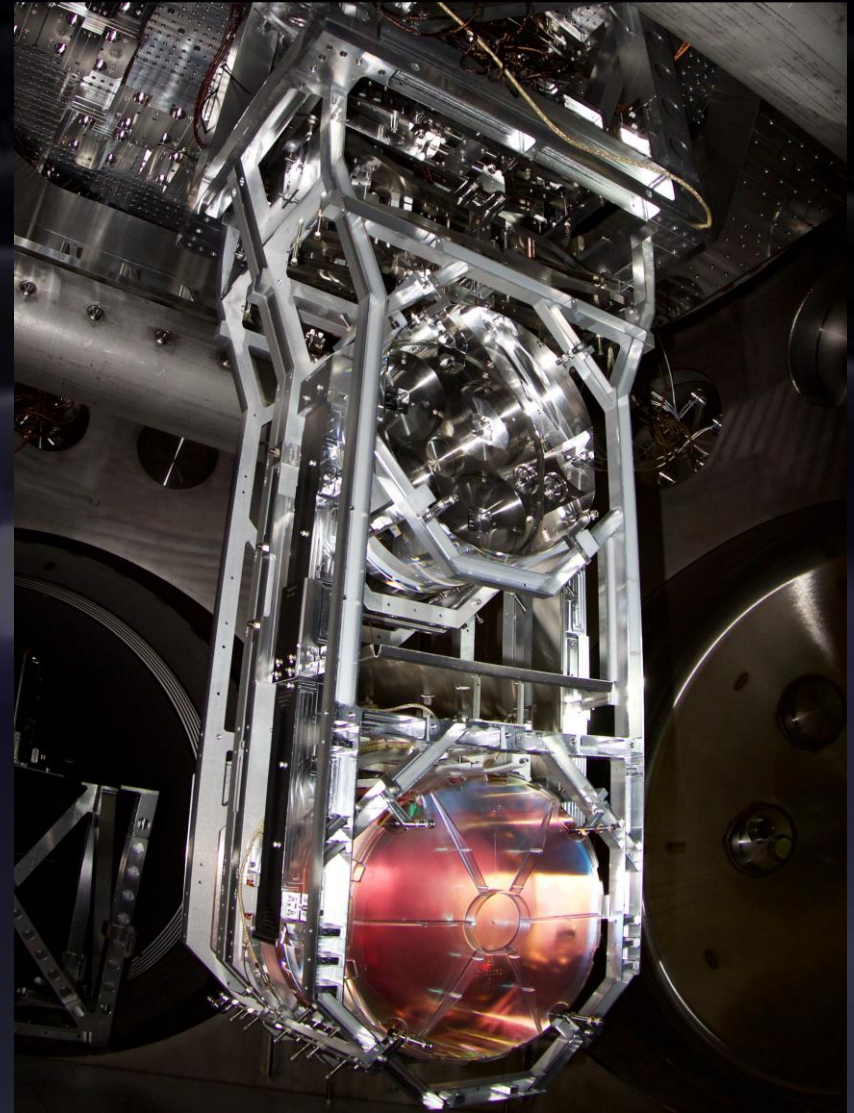
The optics are freely suspended, must position to a small fraction of a wavelength of main laser light (1064nm) in order to enable active, linear, servo-control.

Initial Alignment Plan Dwyer et al. <https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-G1400193>

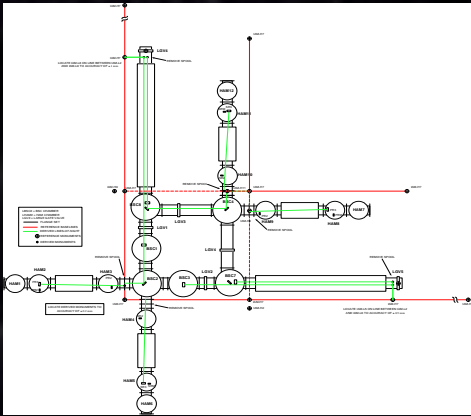
Footnote explaining the dual use of the term "initial alignment": LIGO commissioners co-opted the term "initial alignment". They mean it in a different sense than is used for the "Initial Alignment System (IAS)". In G1400193, IAS is referred to as "coarse alignment".

# Interferometer Components/Optics Initial Alignment

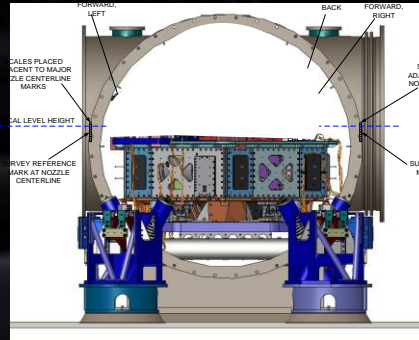
- Primary Optic placement and alignment tolerances
  - Axial positioning within  $\pm 3$  mm
  - Transverse position within  $\pm 1$  mm vertically and  $\pm 2$  mm (depending on optic)
  - Angular pointing to within 10% of the actuator dynamic range, which corresponds to  $\pm \sim 100\mu\text{rad}$  generally



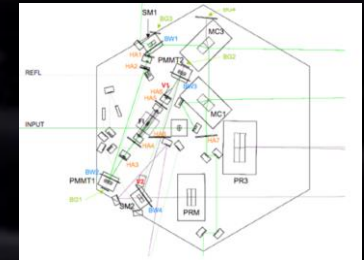
# Chamber and Interferometer Components Alignment



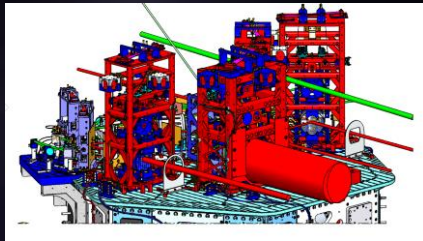
1. Additional monuments placed with view of optics



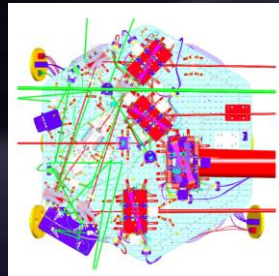
2. Tables positioned and aligned using "Total Station" Theodolite & Optical Level



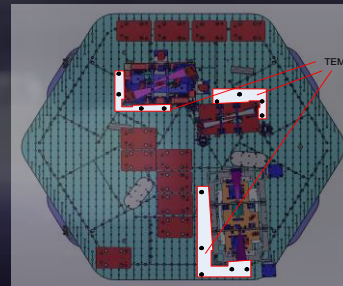
3. Zemax OpticStudio used for Ray Trace



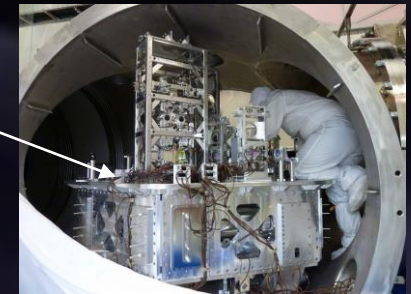
4. Co-ordinates transferred in 3D CAD (SolidWorks)



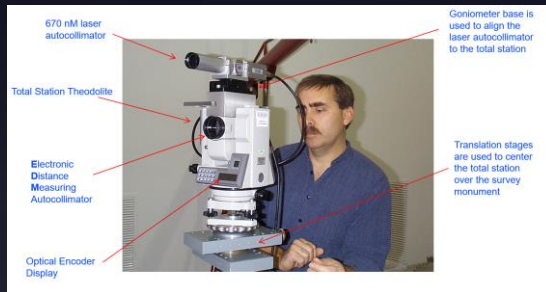
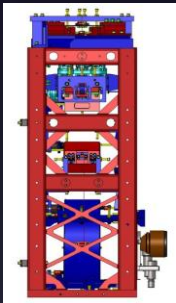
5. Then once layout complete checked with rays



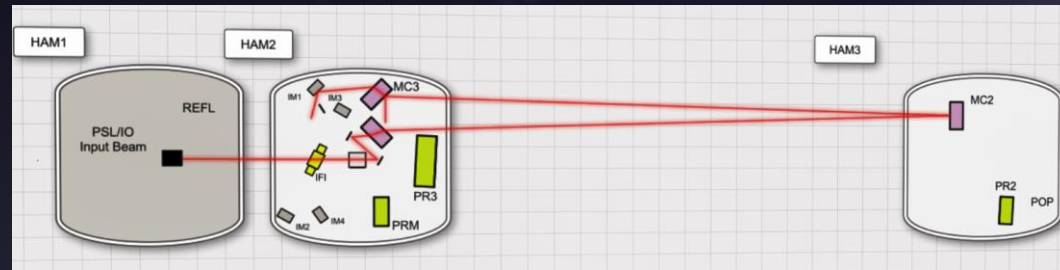
6. Approximate Alignment using Templates



7. On table monuments also used for Approximate Alignment



8. Precise alignment: in situ using retro-reflectors with attached target and a laser autocollimator mounted on the Total Station



9. Integrated Alignment check: Using PSL beam in low power mode projecting through particular group of optics



# Key Equipment Used by LIGO

Full details at <https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-T1000230/public>



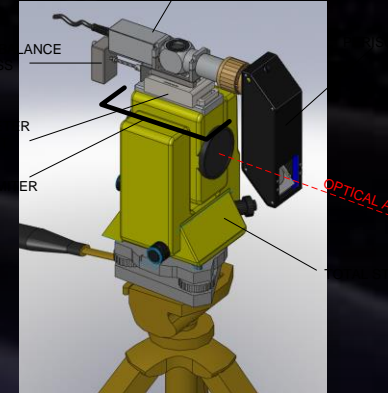
Optical level (Sokkia B2o AutoLevel)



Optical Transit Square  
(Brunson model 75-H)



Total Station (Sokkia Set2BII and SetX1)



Visible Laser Autocollimator  
(Newport LDS vector) with  
custom periscope.



Infrared Laser Autocollimator (4W fiber  
coupled laser and Davidson D-271-106)



Coordinate Measuring Machine  
(Romer)



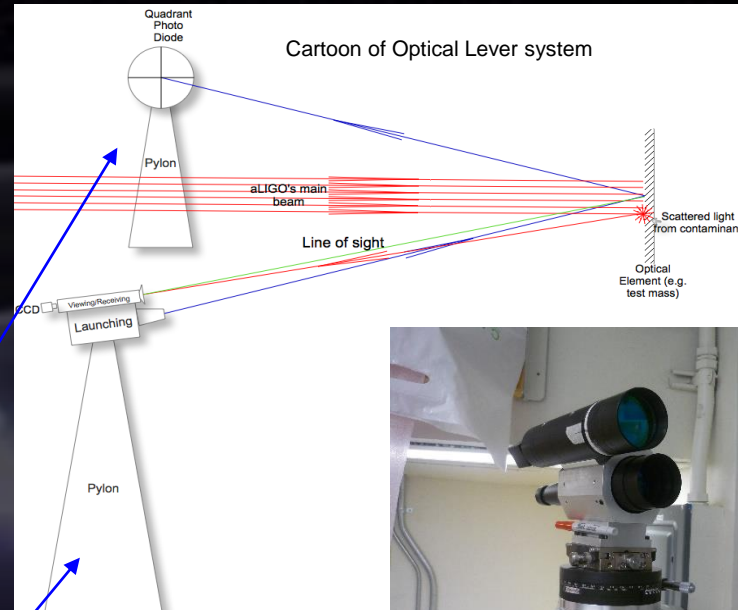
Lateral Transfer Retroreflectors (PLX)

# LIGO: Optical Levers

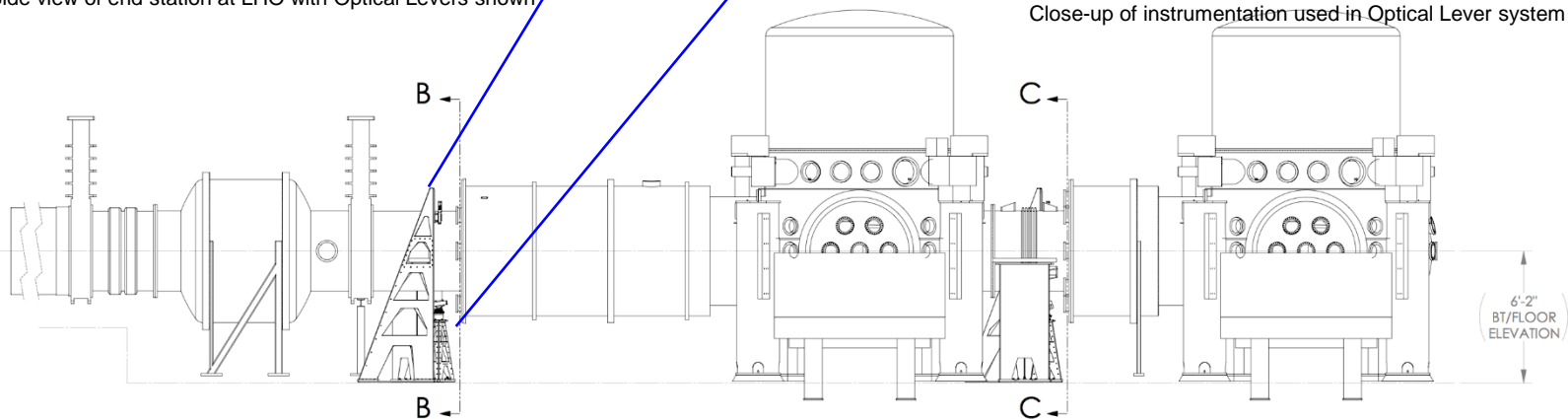
<https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-T1000517/public>

## Optical Levers in aLIGO

- Serve as optical alignment references to 1 micro radian over a time span of one hour
- To keep the interferometer aligned until lock is acquired and the interferometer's angular feedback system can take over.
- Also very useful in case where lock is lost, can go back and look at last position of optical levers as starting point.



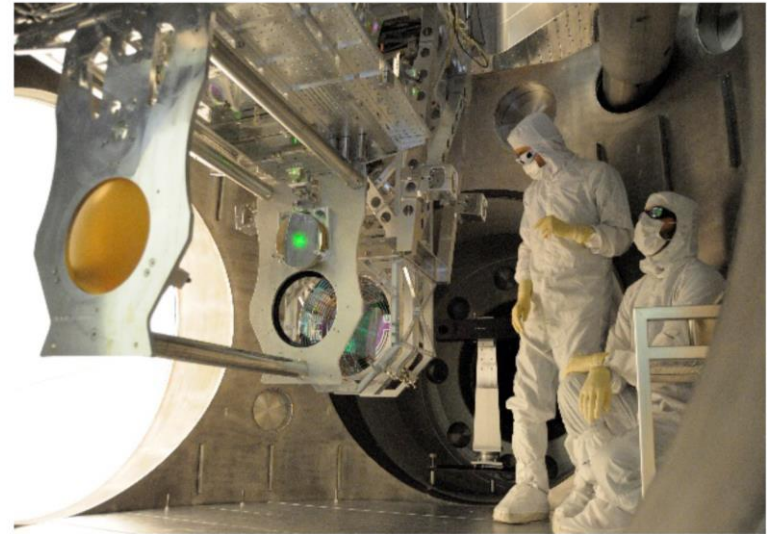
Side view of end station at LHO with Optical Levers shown



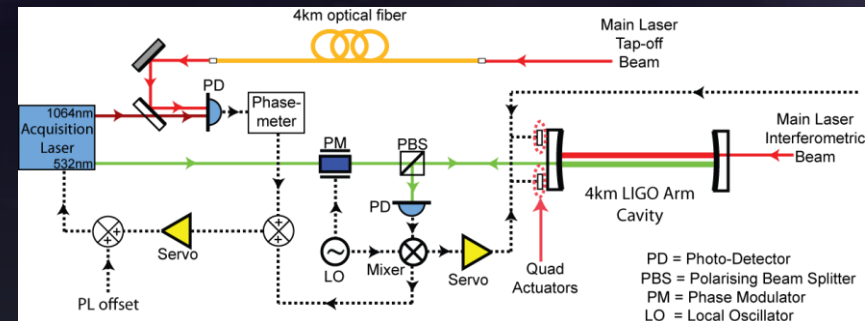
# Arm Length Stabilisation

## Arm Length Stabilization (ALS)

- Alignment is facilitated by locking the Fabry-Perot arm cavities independent of the rest of the interferometer with auxiliary low finesse 532 nm (doubled frequency) lasers.
- First the light of each auxiliary laser is made to resonate within each respective arm.
- Next the feedback is handed off to the cavity length actuators, so that the cavity length follows the laser frequency.
- The auxiliary lasers are then phase locked to the main science laser, so that the cavities can be tuned on and off resonance with the main laser beam.
- The cavities are only tuned onto resonance with the main beam once the rest of the interferometer is locked.
- Finally the feedback is switched from the auxiliary laser to the main laser.



Installation of the green (532nm) Arm Length Stabilization(ALS) subsystem for AdvLIGO. Credit: Caltech/MIT LIGO Laboratory.

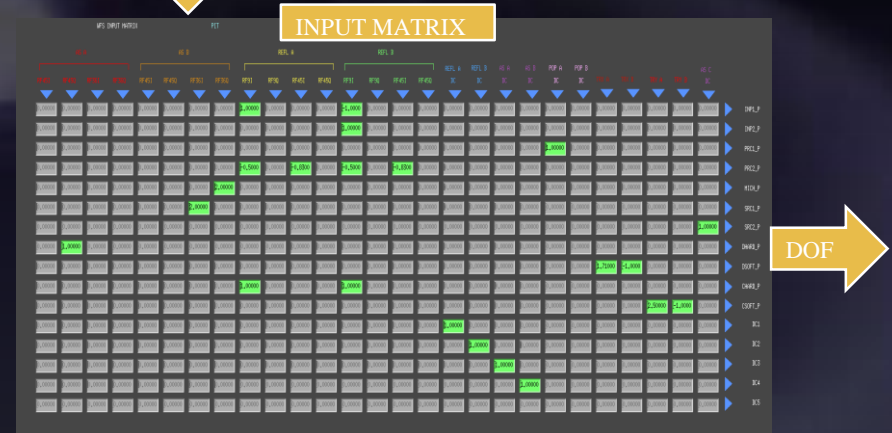
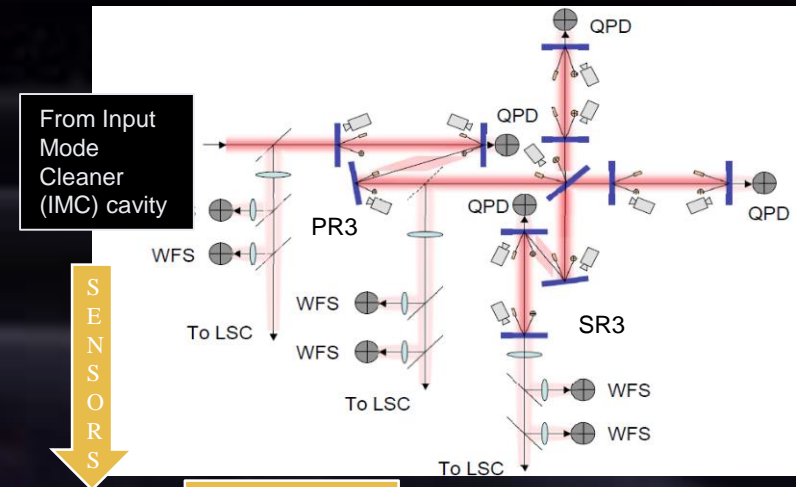


Simplified schematic of the ALS system for LIGO

A Staley et al **Achieving resonance in the Advanced LIGO gravitational-wave interferometer**  
*Classical and Quantum Gravity*, Volume 31, Number 24

# Alignment Sensing & Control (ASC)

- ❖ Requirement is to suppress the angular motion of the mirrors without reintroducing noise in the gravitational-wave signal
- ❖ The angular motion has two fundamental contributors:
  - ❖ seismic noise transmitted to the mirrors via their suspension systems and
  - ❖ shot noise of the sensors transmitted to the mirrors via the control system itself
- ❖ Sensing in LIGO
  - ❖ Quadrant Photo-Diodes (QPD)
    - ❖ Relative position → pitch & yaw
  - ❖ Wavefront Sensors (WFS)
    - ❖ RF QPD yields In-Phase and Quadrature Phase pitch & yaw
    - ❖ References the optical axis of the cavity
- ❖ 26 degrees-of-freedom
  - ❖ Input beam (pos + angle)
  - ❖ 11 optics form the PRC, SRC, FP arm cavities (yaw, pitch)



Input & Output Matrices are used to project the sensing to the controlled degrees-of-freedom (dofs)

Alignment Sensing and Control in Adv. LIGO, LIGO-P0900258, Class. Quantum Grav. 27 (2010) 084026  
 Advanced LIGO Angular Control System (ASC), [LIGO-G1500923](https://doi.org/10.1088/0264-9382/27/8/084026)

# *What next?*

Alignment technology played a key role in opening a revolutionary new window on the Universe

This is a new field- we've just scratched the surface. We have plans for increasing sensitivity to sample 100x greater volume of space.

Beyond that, we are developing concepts for bigger instruments, up to 40km in size, that can map the *entire universe* in gravitational waves  
*Leading to New alignment challenges*

# Thank you

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## Gravitational-Wave Geodesy: A New Tool for Validating Detection of the Stochastic Gravitational-Wave Background

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### ABSTRACT

A valuable asset for advanced gravitational-wave detectors is the stochastic gravitational-wave background. The stochastic background imparts a weak correlated signal into networks of gravitational-wave detectors. Standard searches for the gravitational-wave background rely on measuring cross-correlations of widely-separated detectors. Stochastic searches, however, can be affected by correlated effects which may also be present, including correlated frequency components and resonances. As stochastic searches become sensitive to ever-weaker signals, we develop methods to separate a true astrophysical signal from other spurious signals. Here, we describe a novel method to achieve this goal – gravitational-wave geodesy allows for the localization of radio telescopes, so too can observations of the stochastic background be used to infer the positions and orientations of gravitational-wave detectors. A true observation of the gravitational-wave background yield constraints on the known geometry, we demonstrate that we can successfully validate true gravitational-wave background while rejecting spurious signals due to correlated terrestrial effects.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The recent Advanced LIGO-Virgo observations of a binary black hole (Abbott et al. 2016a, 2017a,b,c) and a binary neutron star (Abbott et al. 2017d) mergers suggest that the astrophysical stochastic gravitational-wave background may soon be within reach (Abbott et al. 2016b, 2018, 2017e,f). As the superposition of all gravitational-wave signals too weak to individually detect, the stochastic gravitational-wave background is expected to be dominated by compact binary mergers at cosmological distances (Regimbau & Mandic 2008; Rosado 2011; Zhu et al. 2011; Wu et al. 2012; Zhu et al. 2013; Callister et al. 2016). Although the stochastic background is orders of magnitude weaker than instrumental detector noise, it will nevertheless impart a weak correlated signal to pairs of gravitational-wave detectors. The stochastic background may therefore be detected in the form of excess correlations between widely-separated gravitational-wave detectors (Christensen 1992; Allen & Romano 1999; Romano & Cornish 2017).

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Standard searches for the stochastic background assume that, in the absence of a signal, the outputs of different detectors are fundamentally uncorrelated. LIGO-Livingston and LIGO-Livingston sites, separated by 3000 km, with a light travel time of 10 ms, are safely uncorrelated at frequencies  $> 10$  Hz.

In reality, the outputs of gravitational-wave detectors are *not* uncorrelated. Livingston coherence spectra correlations suggest that, if not properly identified, these correlations contaminate searches for the stochastic background (Covas and others). Resonances are one expected source of correlation (Schumann 1952a,b). Global electromagnetic resonances in the cavity formed by the Earth's ionosphere, Schumann resonances may magnetic field couple to Advanced LIGO and Advanced Virgo's test mass suspensions and induce a correlated signal between detectors (Christensen 1992; Thrane et al. 2013, 2014; Coughlin et al. 2016, 2018). Another expected source of correlation is the joint synchronization of electronics at

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Stochastic Gravitational-Wave Background, Accepted for publication. Coming soon.

Trig Pillar from near my home Island of Islay, Scotland