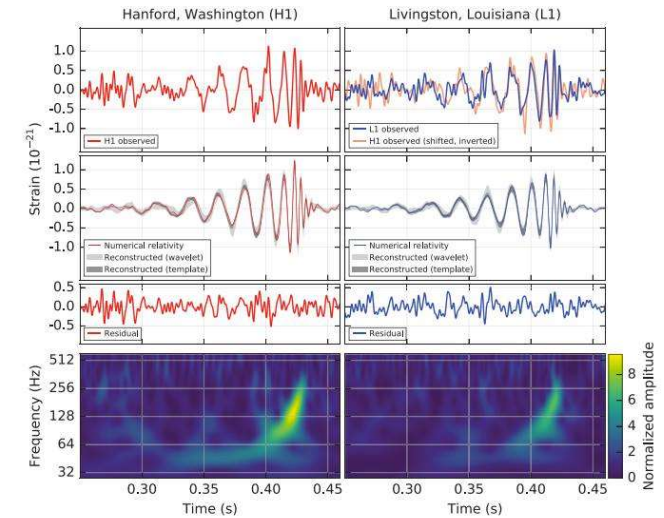


# Gravitational Wave Astronomy

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Institute for Gravitational Research

University of Glasgow



LIGO G2400834-v1

IoP APP / HEPP / NP conference  
8 – 11 April 2024





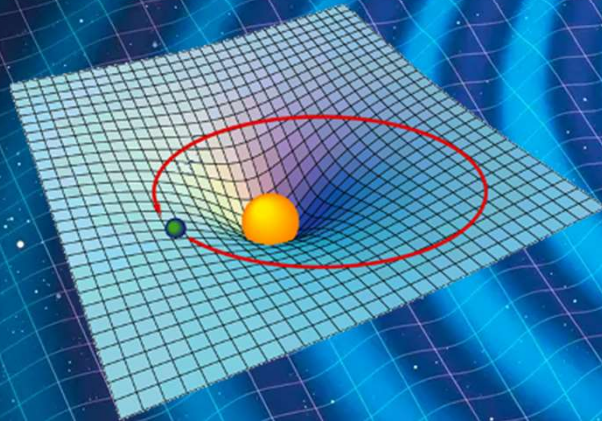
# Overview

- Principles of Gravitational Wave Detection
- Interferometric detectors and the worldwide network
- Key science results from O1-O4a
- aLIGO technology
- Near term developments
- Long term developments



# Principles of Gravitational Wave Detection

- Gravitational waves (GW) are ripples in spacetime generated by accelerating masses with non-zero quadrupole moment  
e.g. Compact binary coalescences



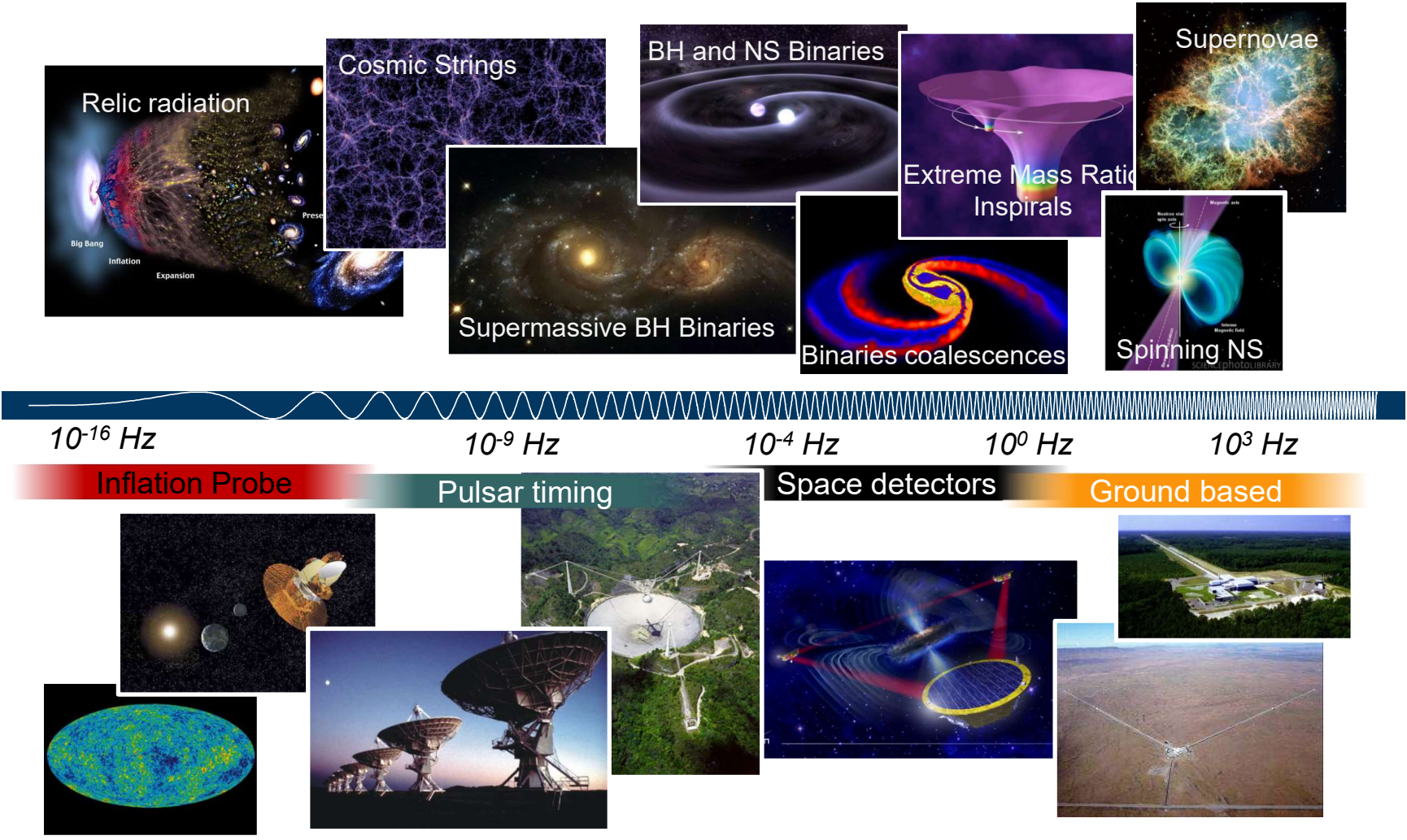
$$h \approx \frac{G}{c^2} \frac{M}{d} \left( \frac{v}{c} \right)^2$$

- GW induce strain, stretching and compressing spacetime, causing displacements on the order of  $10^{-18}$  m over a 4 km baseline
- To detect GW we measure the displacement of a test mass

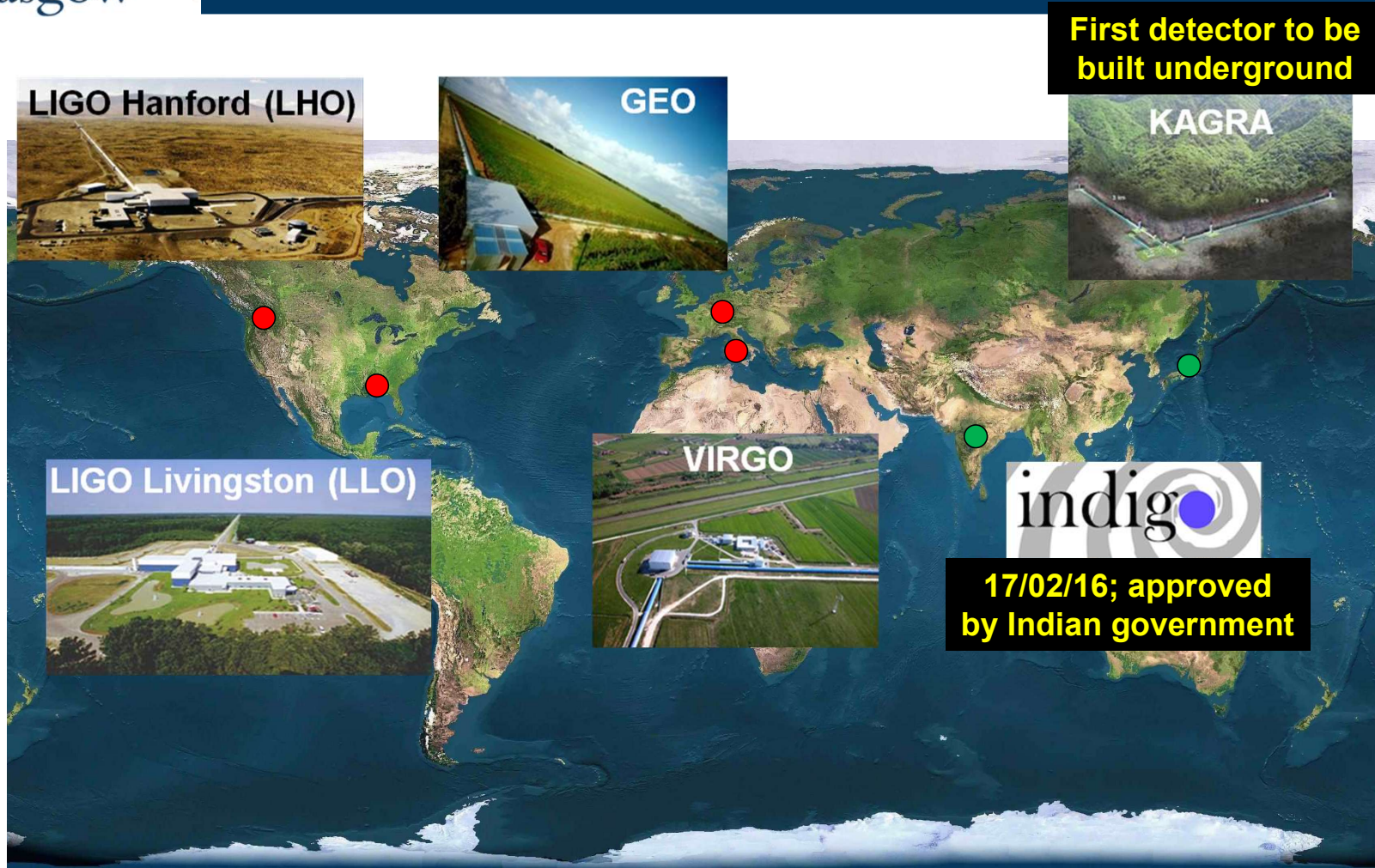
Matter tells spacetime how to curve.  
Spacetime tells matter how to move



# The Gravitational Wave Spectrum



# The International Network



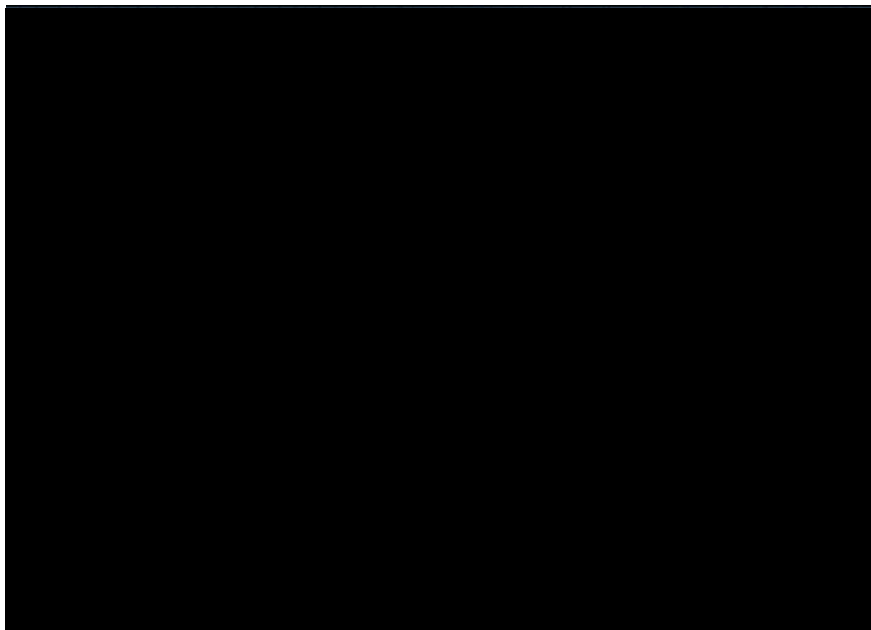
- A network is required to localise the source position



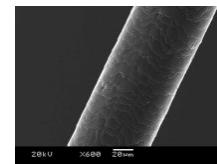
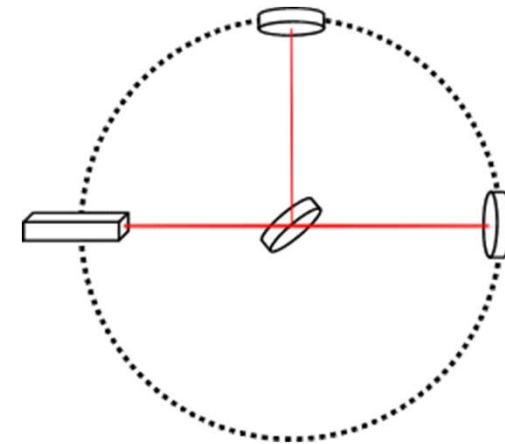


# Interferometric Detectors

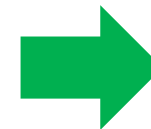
- Interferometers monitor the position of suspended test masses separated by a few km
- A passing gravitational wave will lengthen one arm and shrink the other arm; transducer of GW strain-intensity ( $10^{-18}$  m over 4 km)



<https://www.ligo.caltech.edu/gallery>



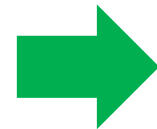
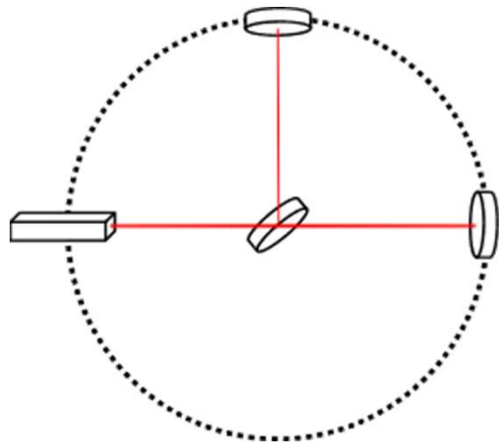
Human hair ( $10^{-4}$  m)



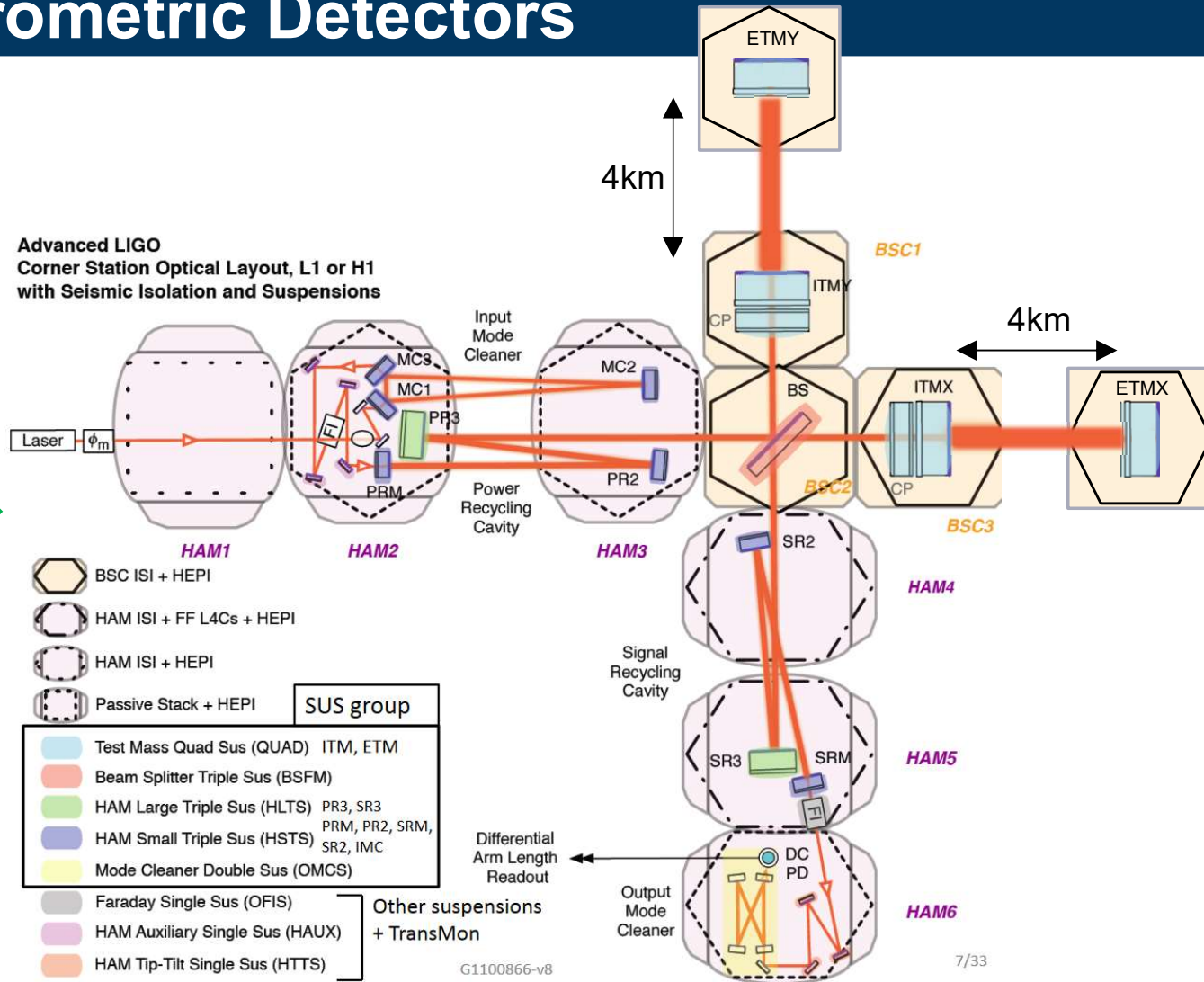
Nearest star ( $3 \times 10^{16}$  m)



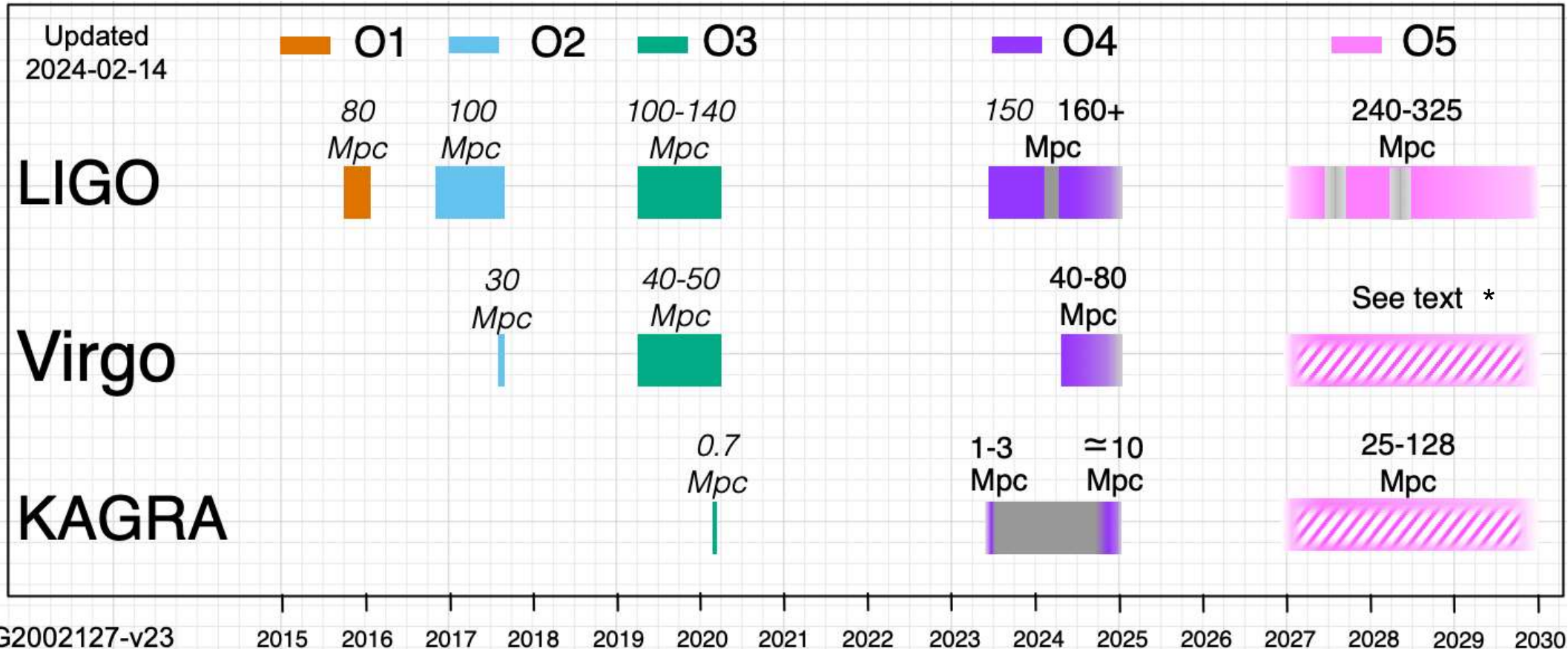
# Interferometric Detectors



Advanced LIGO  
Corner Station Optical Layout, L1 or H1  
with Seismic Isolation and Suspensions



# Observing Timeline



\* At the moment, Virgo is reconsidering its plans for O5 and both the date on which it will be able to enter O5 and the target sensitivity are currently unclear.

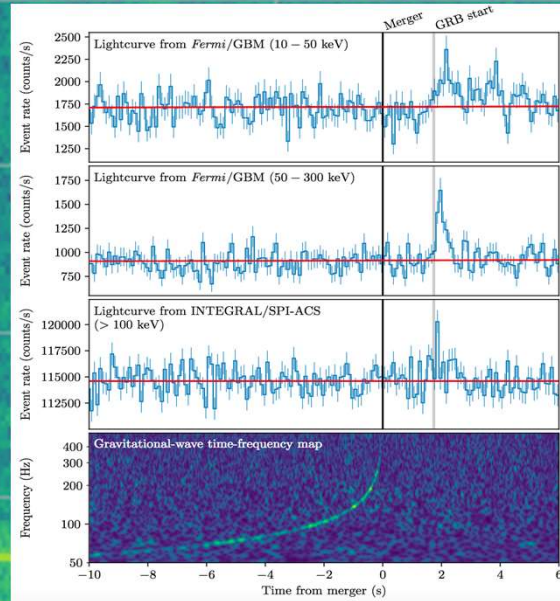
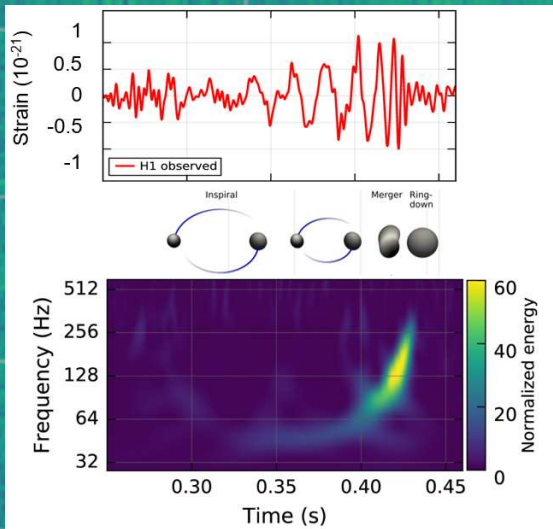


Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 061102, 2016  
 Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 161101, 2017  
 Phys. Rev. X 13, 041039, 2023

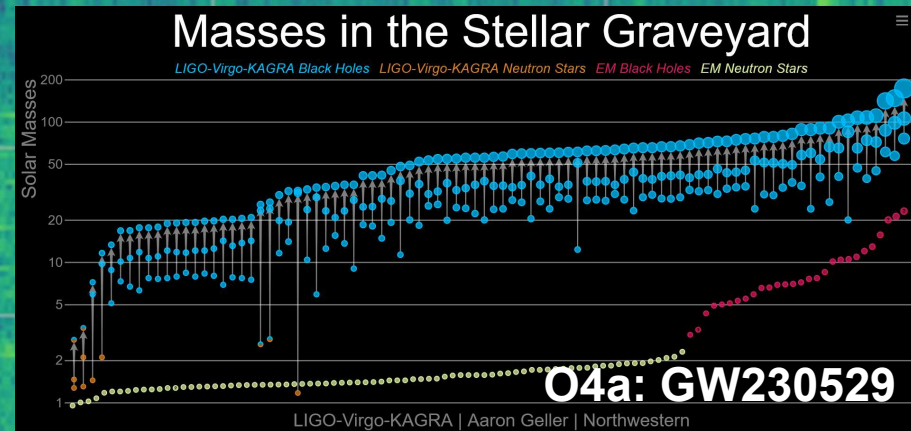
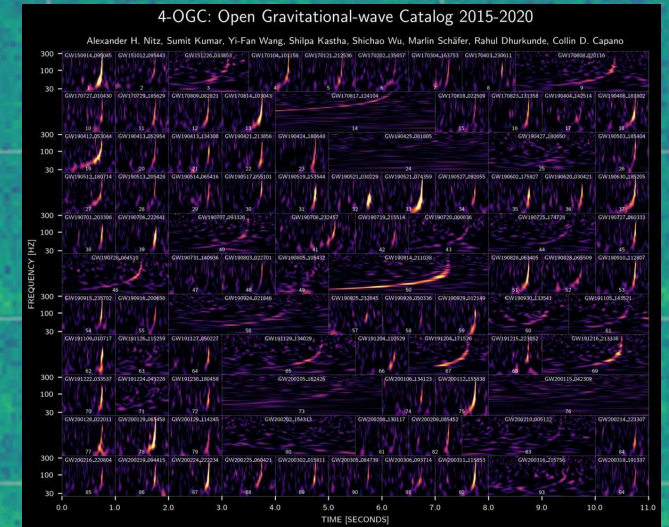
# Key Science results O1-O4a

GWTC-3 catalog

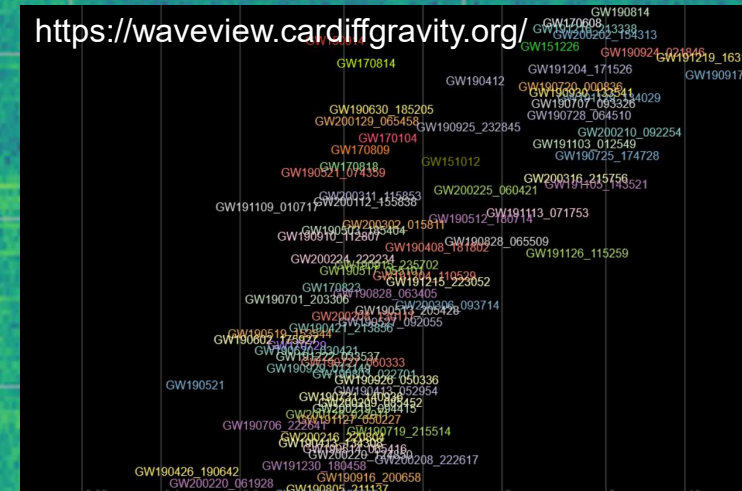
## O1: GW150914



## O2: GW170817



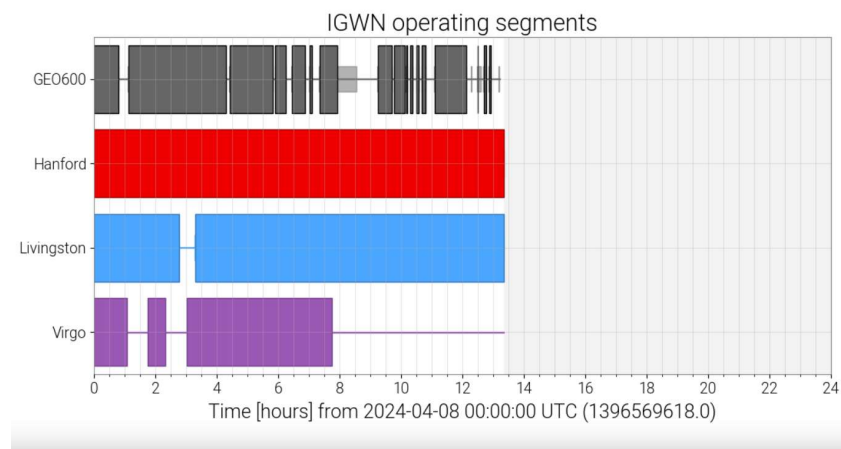
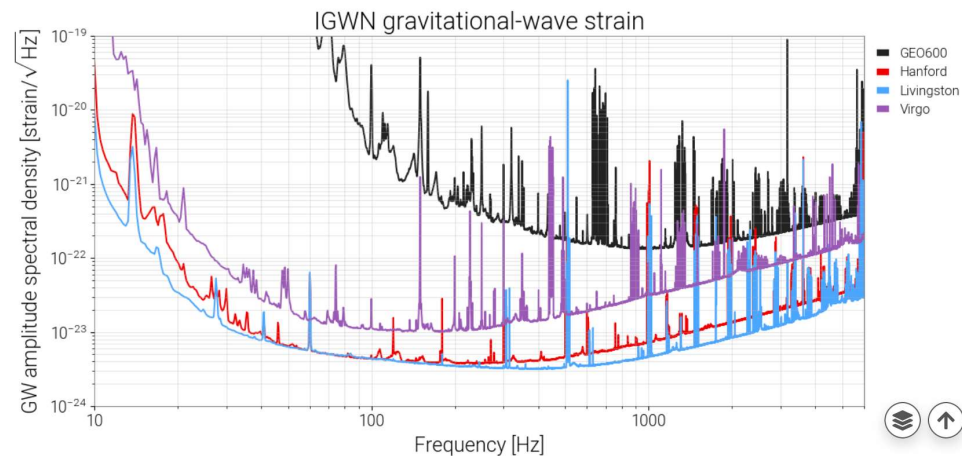
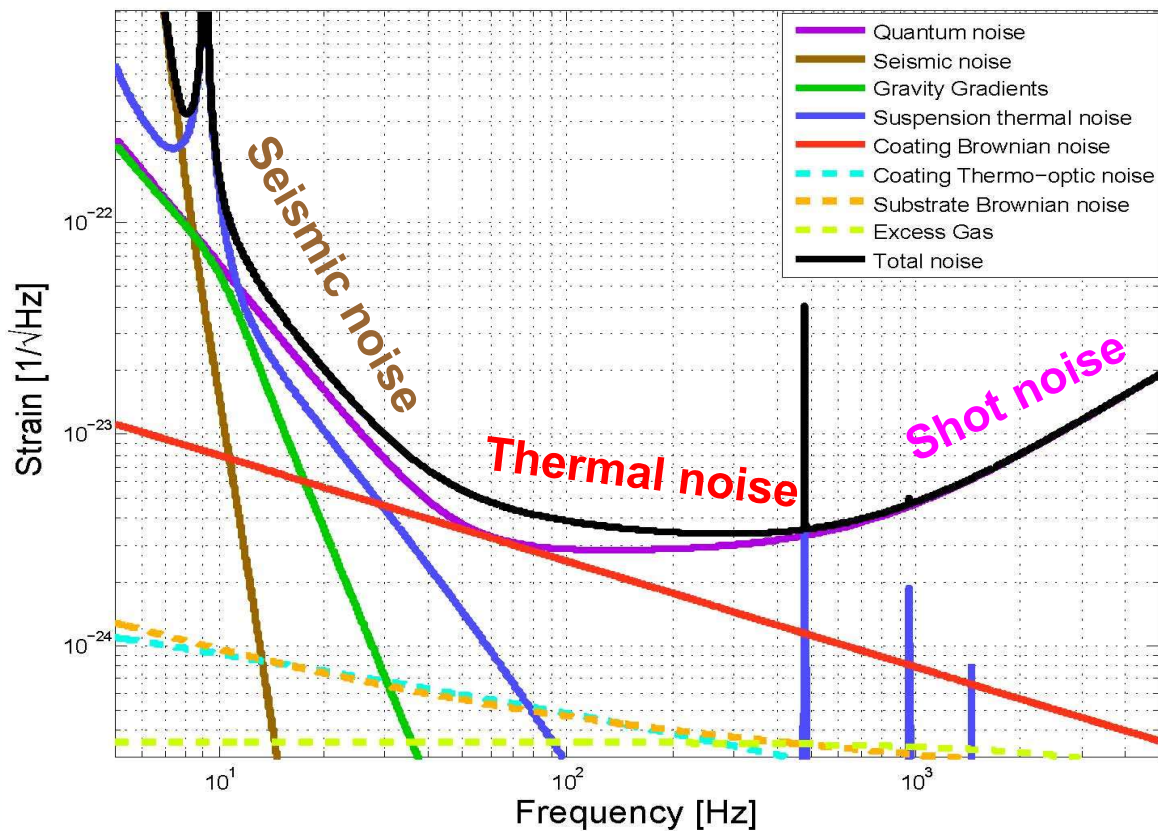
## O4a: GW230529





# Detector Sensitivity

- aLIGO design sensitivity

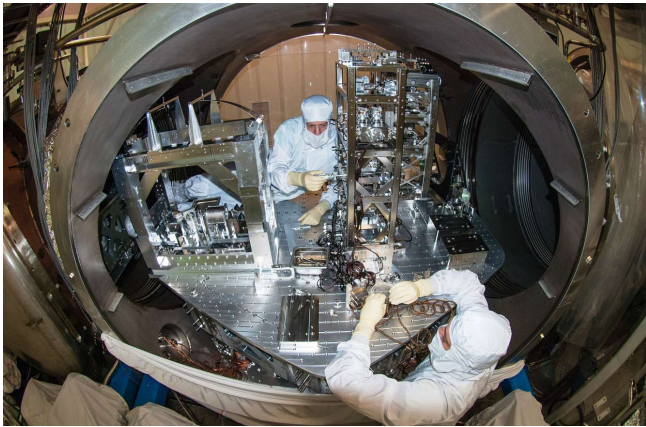


8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

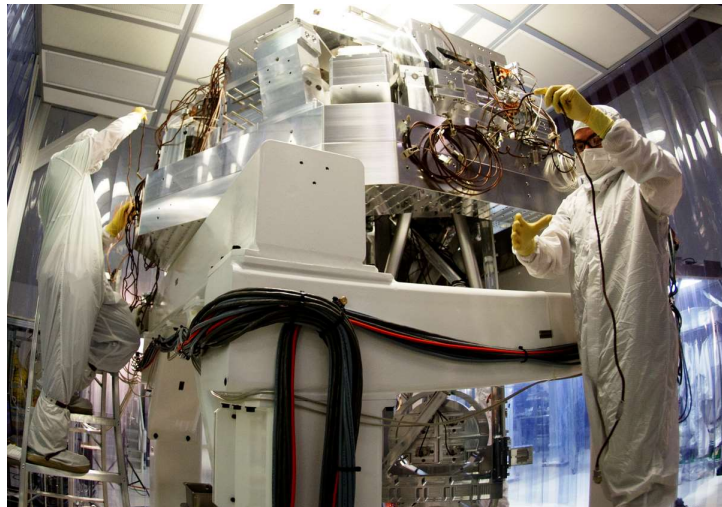


# Seismic Isolation & Suspensions

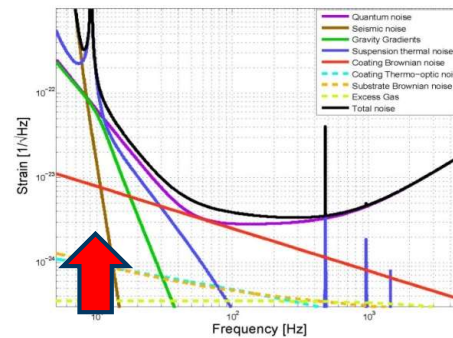
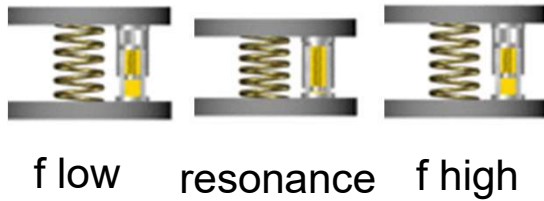
aLIGO Inertial Seismic Isolation (2 active/passive in-vacuum stage)



aLIGO HAM5 suspensions



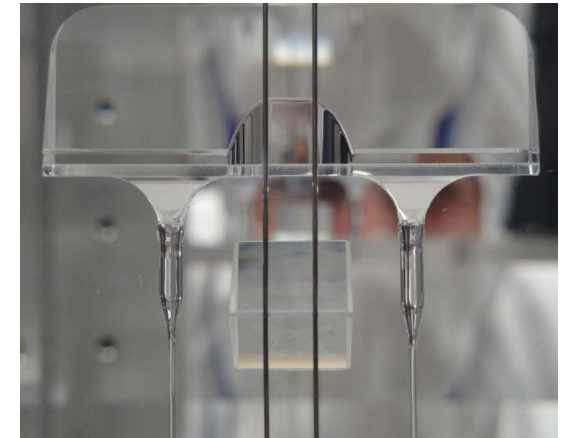
aLIGO QUAD suspension (3/4 stages of vertical/horizontal isolation)



# Thermal Noise

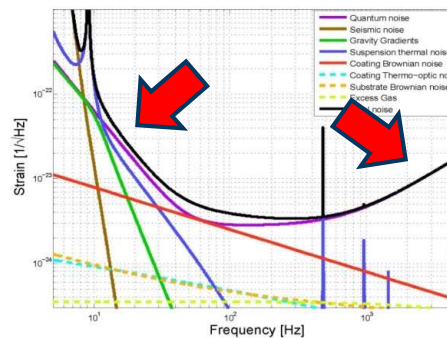


40kg fused silica mirrors



Final mirror suspended by fused silica fibres (Q factor  $>10^9$ )

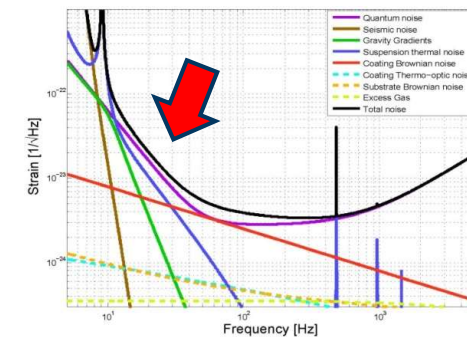
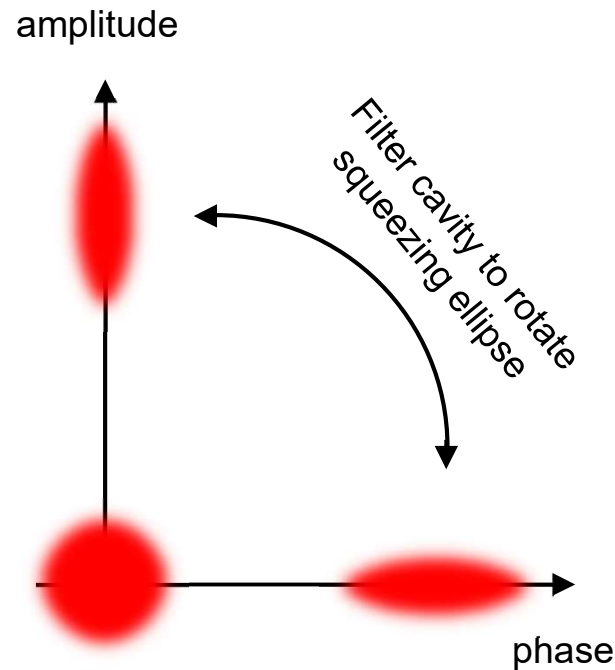
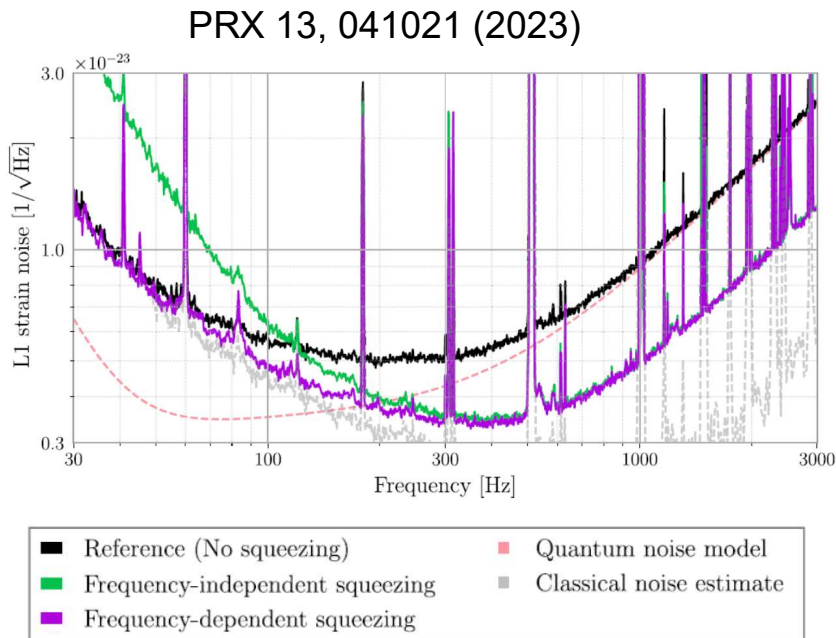
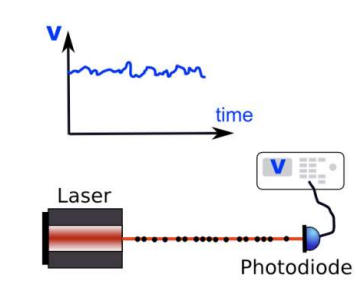
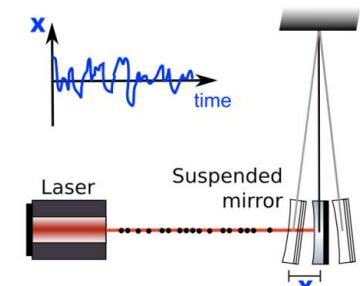
- Low dissipation (loss angle) materials to reduce thermal noise in coatings/suspensions





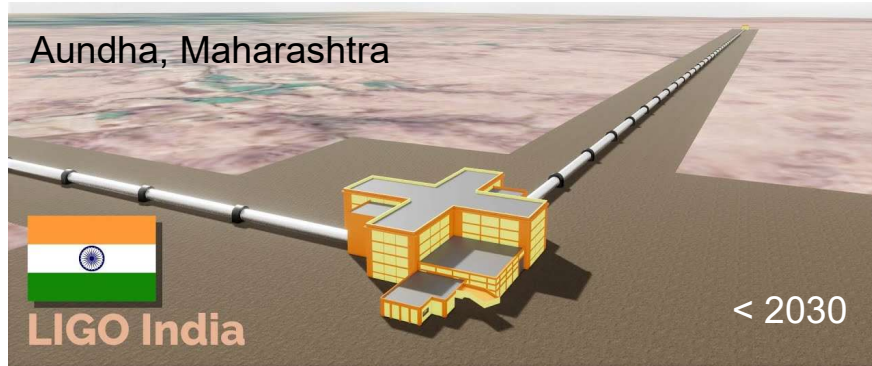
# Quantum Noise

- GW detectors limited by quantum noise
  - Shot noise at high frequency (>80 Hz)
  - Radiation pressure noise at low frequency (<80 Hz)
- Quantum noise is due to the phase and amplitude uncertainty of light (inject light into dark port)

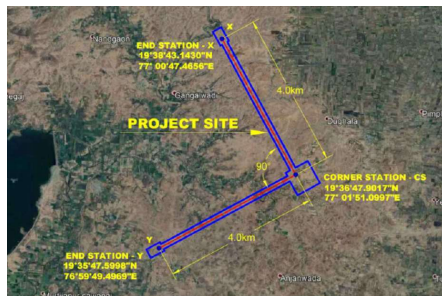


## Near Term Developments (next 5-10 years)

<https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-G2400725>



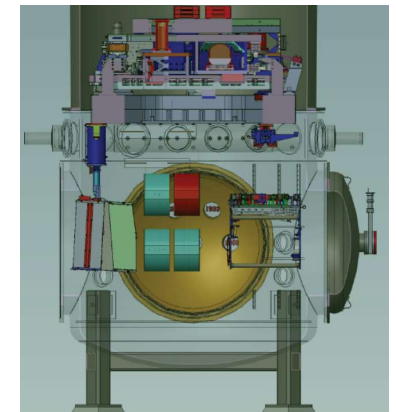
- LIGO India (3<sup>rd</sup> LIGO detector)



- A+ (O5)
- New 40kg optics
- New coatings with lower scatter/thermal noise
- New suspensions with higher stress silica fibres



- A#/AdV+ (post O5)
- 100kg suspensions
- Reduced cross-couplings
- Interferometric inertial sensors

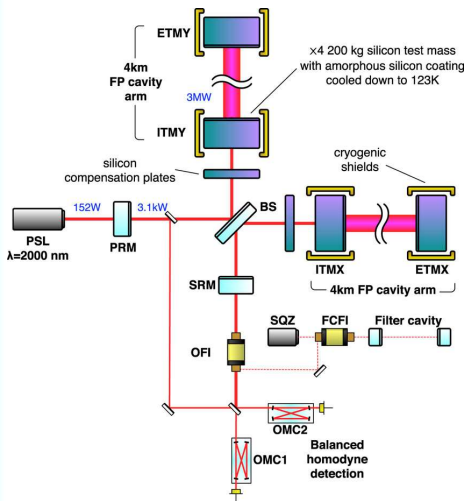


<https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-G2301738>

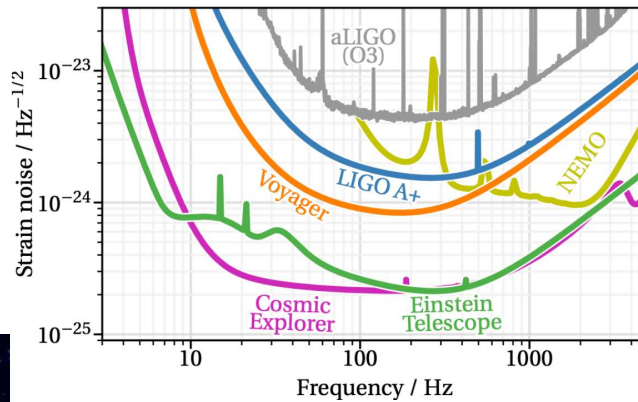


# Long Term Developments (>10 years)

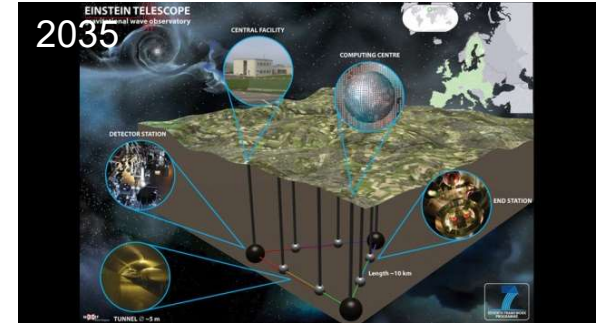
<https://www.et-gw.eu/>



- LIGO Voyager (US)
- 123K detector
- LIGO facility

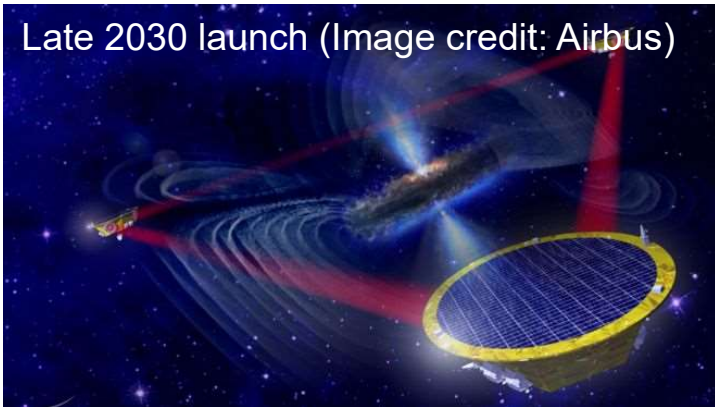


<https://cosmicexplorer.org/sensitivity.html>



- Einstein telescope (Europe)
- X10 strain improvement
- 300K/20K, underground

Late 2030 launch (Image credit: Airbus)

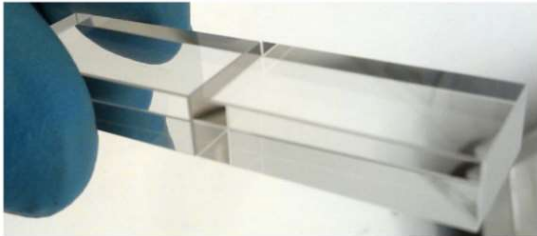


- LISA space-based detector

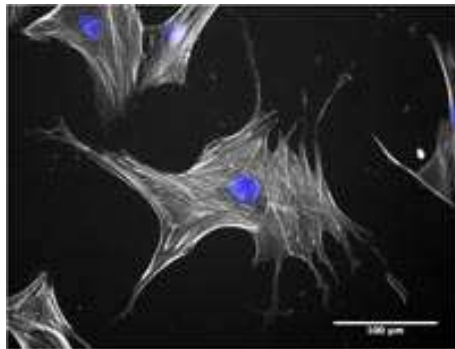


- Cosmic Explorer (US)
- X10 strain improvement
- 300K phase I

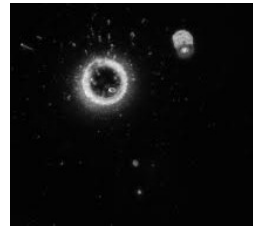
# Spin-Off Technologies



- High precision/stability bonding



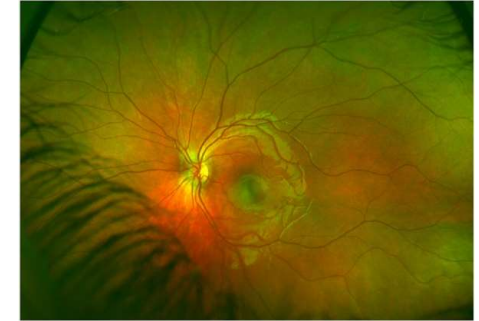
- Stem cell differentiation



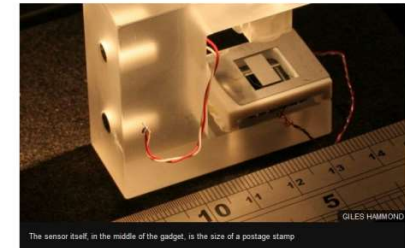
- High damage threshold coatings



- Gas Sensing Solutions



- analysis of retinal scans



- Gravity sensors for environmental monitoring/security/Carbon Capture





- The LIGO-VIRGO Scientific Collaboration is made up of around 1800 members worldwide



# Thank You

## Any Questions?

