

# ***A ATOM INTERFEROMETER OBSERVATORY AND NETWORK (AION)***

**FOR THE EXPLORATION OF ULTRA-LIGHT DARK MATTER AND  
MID-FREQUENCY GRAVITATIONAL WAVES.**

***WORKSHOP ON ATOMIC EXPERIMENTS  
FOR DARK MATTER AND GRAVITY EXPLORATION  
CERN, JULY 22/23, 2019***

Oliver Buchmueller, Imperial College London

# WHAT IS AION

## What is AION (in a nutshell)?

- The proposal is to construct and operate a next generation Atomic Interferometric Observatory and Network (AION) in the UK (and world wide) that will enable the exploration of properties of dark matter as well as searches for new fundamental interactions.
- It will provide a pathway for detecting gravitational waves from the very early universe in the, as yet mostly unexplored, mid-frequency band, ranging from several milliHertz to a few Hertz.
- The proposed project spans several science areas ranging fundamental particle physics over astrophysics to cosmology and, thus, connects these communities.
- Following the “Big Ideas” call, the project was selected by PAAP and STFC as a high priority for the community. It was provisionally classified as a medium scale project.
- AION is also a Work Package of the QSFP proposal

# Proposed AION Programme

*The AION Project is foreseen as a 4-stage programme:*

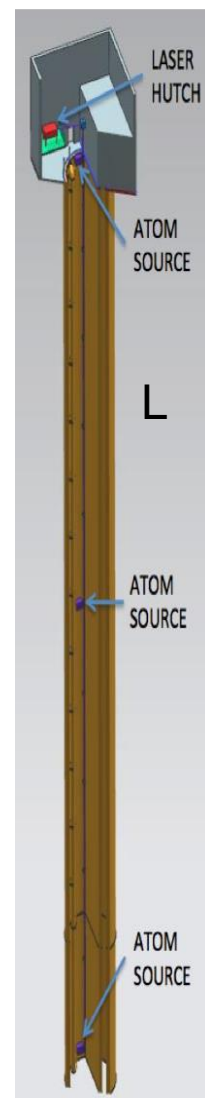
- **The first stage** develops existing technology (Laser systems, vacuum, magnetic shielding etc.) and the infrastructure for the 100m detector and produces detailed plan resulting in an accurate assessment of the expected performance in Stage 2.
- **The second stage** builds, commissions and exploits the 100m detector and also prepares design studies for the km-scale.
- **The third and fourth stage** prepare the groundwork for the continuing programme:
  - Stage 3: Terrestrial km-scale detector
  - Stage 4: space based detector

$L \sim 1\text{m to }10\text{m}$

$L \sim 100\text{m}$

$L \sim \text{km-scale}$

$L \sim 10^4 \text{ km}$



## AION – A Staged Programme\*\*

### **AION-10: Stage 1 [year 1 to 3]**

- **1 & 10 m Interferometers & Site Development for 100m Baseline**

### **AION-100: Stage 2 [year 3 to 6]**

- **100m Construction & Commissioning**

### **AION-KM: Stage 3 [ > year 6 ]**

- **Operating AION-100 and planning for 1 km & Beyond**

### **AION-SPACE: Stage 4 [ after AION-KM ]**

- **Space based version**

\*\*outlined in Big Ideas proposal

## AION – A Staged Programme\*\*

### **AION-10: Stage 1 [year 1 to 3]**

- **1 & 10 m Interferometers & Site Development for 100m Baseline**

### **AION-100: Stage 2 [year 3 to 6]**

- **100m Construction & Commissioning**

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- **Operating AION-100 and planning for 1 km & Beyond**

### **AION-SPACE: Stage 4 [ after AION-KM ]**

- **Space based version**

\*\*outlined in Big Ideas proposal

# AION Project: Core Team

## Birmingham

Kai Bongs\*  
M. Holynski\*  
Y. Singh\*

## Cambridge

V. Gibson\*\*  
U. Schneider\*

## Imperial College London

O. Buchmueller\*\* [co-coord.]  
M. Tarbutt\*  
B. Sauer\*

## Kings College London

J. Ellis\*\*  
C. McCabe\*\*

## Liverpool

T. Bowcock\*\*  
J. Coleman\*\* [co-coord.]

## National Physical Lab.

W. Bowden\*\*\*  
P. Gill\*\*\*  
R. Hobson\*\*\*

## Oxford

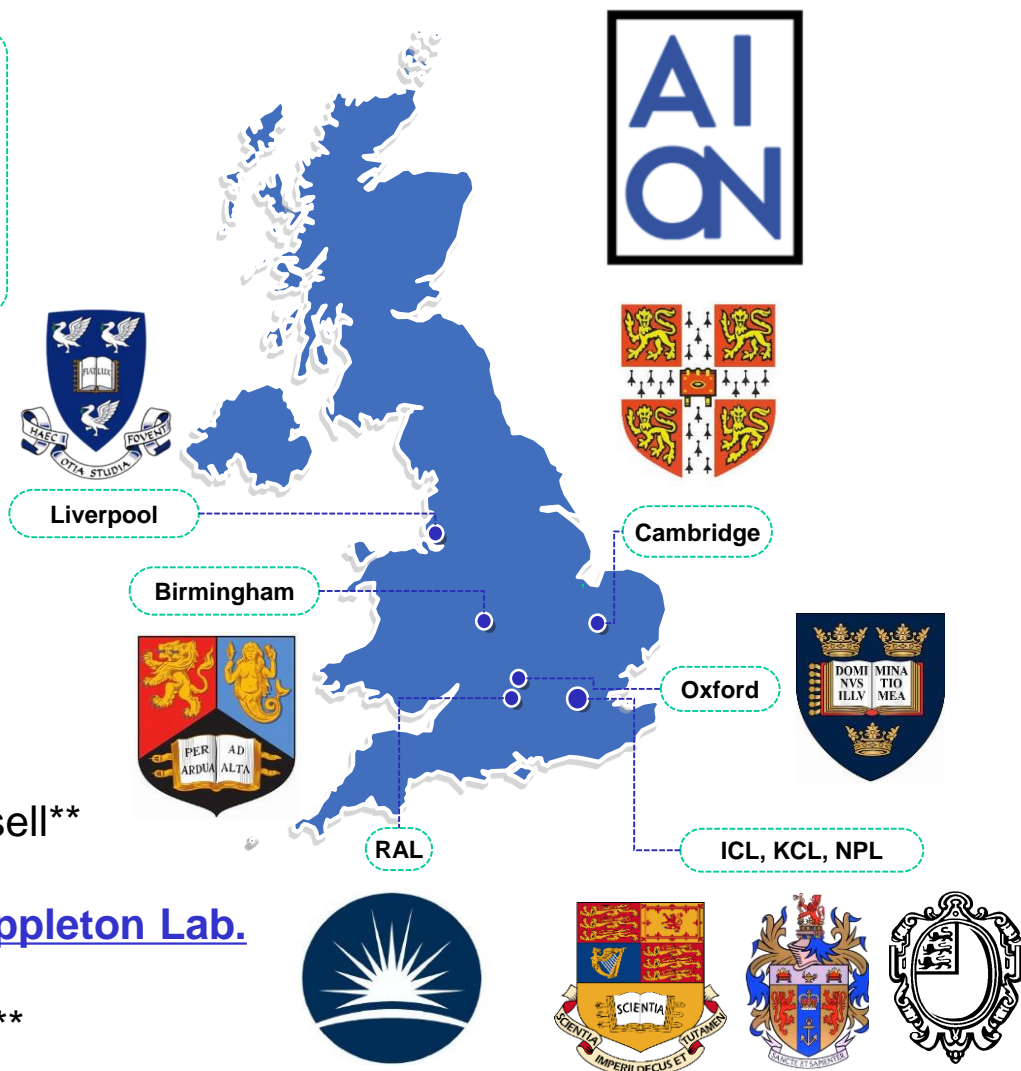
E. Bentine\*  
C. Foot\*  
J. March-Russell\*\*  
I. Shipsey\*\*

## Rutherford Appleton Lab.

P. Majewski\*\*  
T. Valenzuela\*\*  
I. Willmut\*\*

UK

- 8 Institutes
- 22 Core Members
- Many Associates



Main UK funding source:  
\*EPSRC; \*\*STFC, \*\*\*NMS

Freise	GW/ Instrumentation	Saakyan	Neutrinos/Dark Matter/Instrumentation
Guarrera	Ultracold/Atom Interferometry	Waters	Neutrinos/Dark Matter/Instrumentation
Holynsky	Atom Interferometry/Technology Transfer	<b>Liverpool</b>	
Lien	Atom Interferometry	Coleman	Atom Interferometry
Newman	QCD/ DIS / Forward Instrumentation	Bowcock	EDMs/instrumentation/Quantum Foam
Nikolopoulos	Light Dark Matter/Higgs	Burdin	Dark Matter
Singh	Atom clock/Technology Transfer	Rompotis	Muons/Relic neutrinos
Worm	Dark Matter	<b>Nottingham</b>	
<b>Bristol</b>		Burrage%	GW Theory
Brooke	Energy frontier/BSM/Instrumentation	Sotiriou%	GW Theory
Flaecher	Energy frontier/BSM/Dark Matter	<b>Oxford</b>	
Goldstein	Energy frontier/Instrumentation	Kraus	Dark Matter
Velthuis	Instrumentation/Technology Transfer	March-Russel%	BSM Theory
<b>Brunel</b>		Randall%	BSM Theory
Hobson	Energy Frontier/Instrumentation	Shipsey	Higgs/muons/darkenergy/ instrumentation
Smith	Spaceborne Instrumentation/Technology Transfer	<b>Rutherford Appleton Laboratory</b>	
<b>Glasgow</b>		Valenzuela	Head of Quantum Sensors Group, RAL Space
Bell	GW/ Instrumentation	Vick	Head of the Disruptive Space Technology Centre, RAL Space
Hammond	GW/ Instrumentation	Waltham	Chief Technologist, RAL Space
<b>Imperial College</b>		Shepherd-Themistocleous	Contact for Particle Physics at RAL
Araujo	Dark Matter/Instrumentation	<b>Sheffield</b>	
Buchmueller	Energy frontier/BSM/Dark Matter/GW	Dolan%	GW Theory
Hassard	Instrumentation/Technology Transfer	<b>Strathclyde</b>	
Hinds	EDM/Atom Interferometry/ultracold	Arnold	Ultra-cold atoms, BEC, matterwave interferometry, atomic clocks
Sauer	EDM/Atom Interferometry/ultracold	Griffin	Ultra-cold atoms, BEC, matterwave interferometry, atomic clocks, magnetometry
Sumner	GW/ Instrumentation	Riis	Ultra-cold atoms, BEC, matterwave interferometry, atomic clocks, magnetometry
Tarbutt	EDM/Atom Interferometry/ultracold	<b>Sussex</b>	
<b>Kings College London</b>		Calmet%	GW Theory
Acharya%	DM & GW Theory	Dunningham%	Theory of atom interferometry
Blas%	DM & GW Theory	Hindmarsh%	GW Theory
Ellis%	DM & GW Theory	Huber%	GW Theory
Fairbairn%	DM & GW Theory	Krueger	Quantum Systems and BEC, AI
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Sakellariado%	GW Theory	<b>National Physical Laboratory*</b>	
Witek%	GW Theory	Gill*	Cold atom & ion clocks/ ultrastable cavities & lasers/ precision timing/ atom interferometry
Millen	Quantum Optomechanics	Margolis*	Cold atom & ion clocks/ frequency combs/ precision timing
		Barwood*	Ultrastable cavities & lasers / ion clocks

Name	Expertise	Name	Expertise
<b>Birmingham</b>		<b>University College London</b>	
Allport	Instrumentation	Barker	Instrumentation/Gravitational Waves
Barontini	Ultracold/Atom Interferometry	Flack	Quantum Gravity/QM tests
Bongs	Atom Interferometry/Atom clock/Technology Transfer	Ghag	Dark Matter/Gravitational Waves
Boyer	Quantum optics/Atom Interferometry	Nichol	Neutrinos /Instrumentation

## Status “Big Ideas Call”

In preparation of this proposal we have broadly consulted with the relevant UK science communities and have received very positive feedback. The support is across several fields, ranging from fundamental particle physics, over atom interferometry to gravitational wave physics. The support also covers both experimental as well as theory communities in the UK. So far, more than **70 members** from **20 UK institutions** have provided explicit support for this proposal:

*Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Brunel, Durham, Glasgow, Imperial College, Kings College London, University College London, Liverpool, Nottingham, Open University, Oxford, RAL, Sheffield, Strathclyde, Sussex, Swansea and NPL*

Hill*	Optical lattice clocks
Szymaniec*	Atomic fountain clocks
Ovchinnikov*	Atom interferometry / BEC
Godun*	Ion clocks/ atom interferometry



Freise	GW/ Instrumentation	Saakyan	Neutrinos/Dark Matter/Instrumentation
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Status "Big Ideas Call"

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More recent update: AION Workshop March 2019:  
<http://www.hep.ph.ic.ac.uk/AION2019/participants.html>

again about ~70 participants from  
several different areas!

There is clearly a large interest in the  
UK community in AION Project!

Acharya%	DM & GW Theory	Dunningham%	Theory of atom interferometry
Blas%	DM & GW Theory	Hindmarsh%	GW Theory
Ellis%	DM & GW Theory	Huber%	GW Theory
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Nottingham, Open University, Oxford, RAL,  
Sheffield, Strathclyde, Sussex, Swansea and  
NPL

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If you are interested to follow the AION activity  
you can subscribe to the AION Email list:  
[aion-project@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:aion-project@imperial.ac.uk)

via:

<https://mailman.ic.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/aion-project>

Sun... Sun	GW/ Instrumentation	interferometry, atomic clocks, magnetometry	
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# First AION Workshop at Imperial College London March 25/26 2019



*Organised by:*  
*T. Bowcock,*  
*O. Buchmueller [Coord.],*  
*J. Coleman,*  
*J. Ellis [Theory],*  
*I. Shipsey*

**2-Day Workshop:**  
**Day 1: Instrumentation**  
**Day 2: Physics case**

If you like to participate or  
require further information  
please contact:  
**[fundamental-physics-admin@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fundamental-physics-admin@imperial.ac.uk)**  
with “AION” in title.

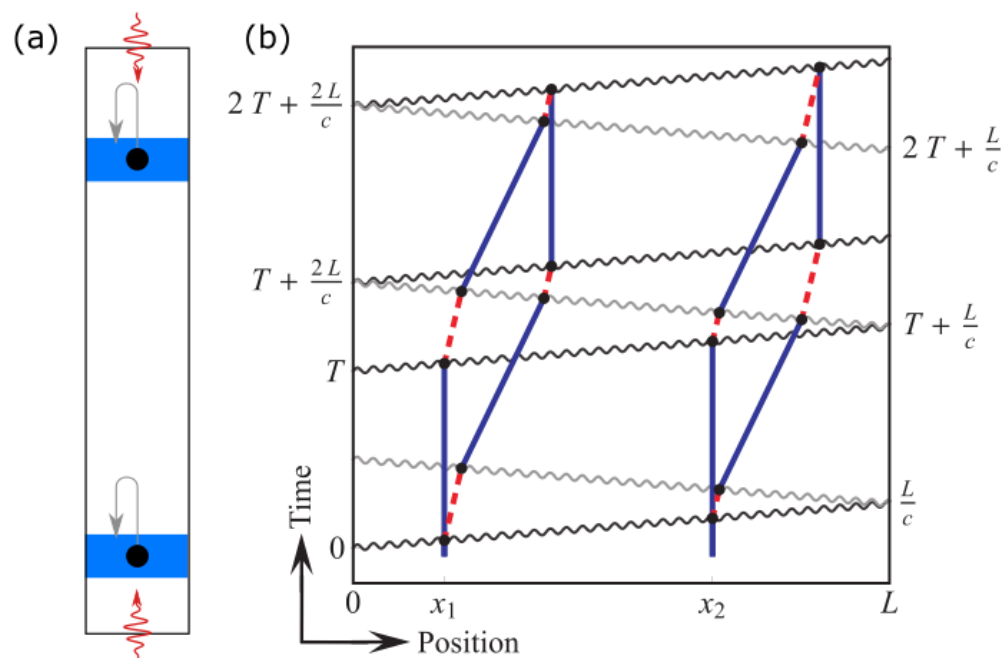
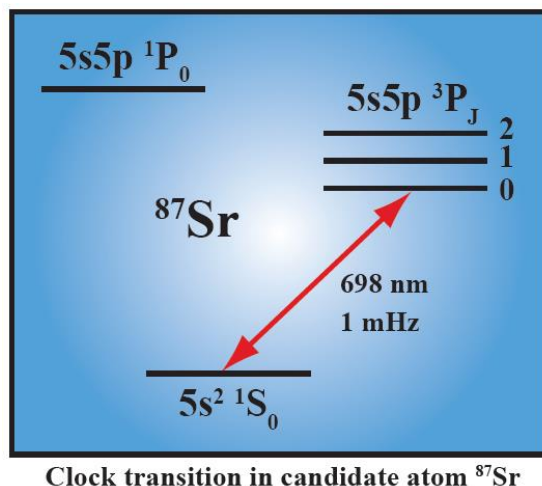
# THE PHYSICS CASE



# A different kind of atom interferometer

## Hybrid “clock accelerometer”

Graham et al., PRL **110**, 171102 (2013).

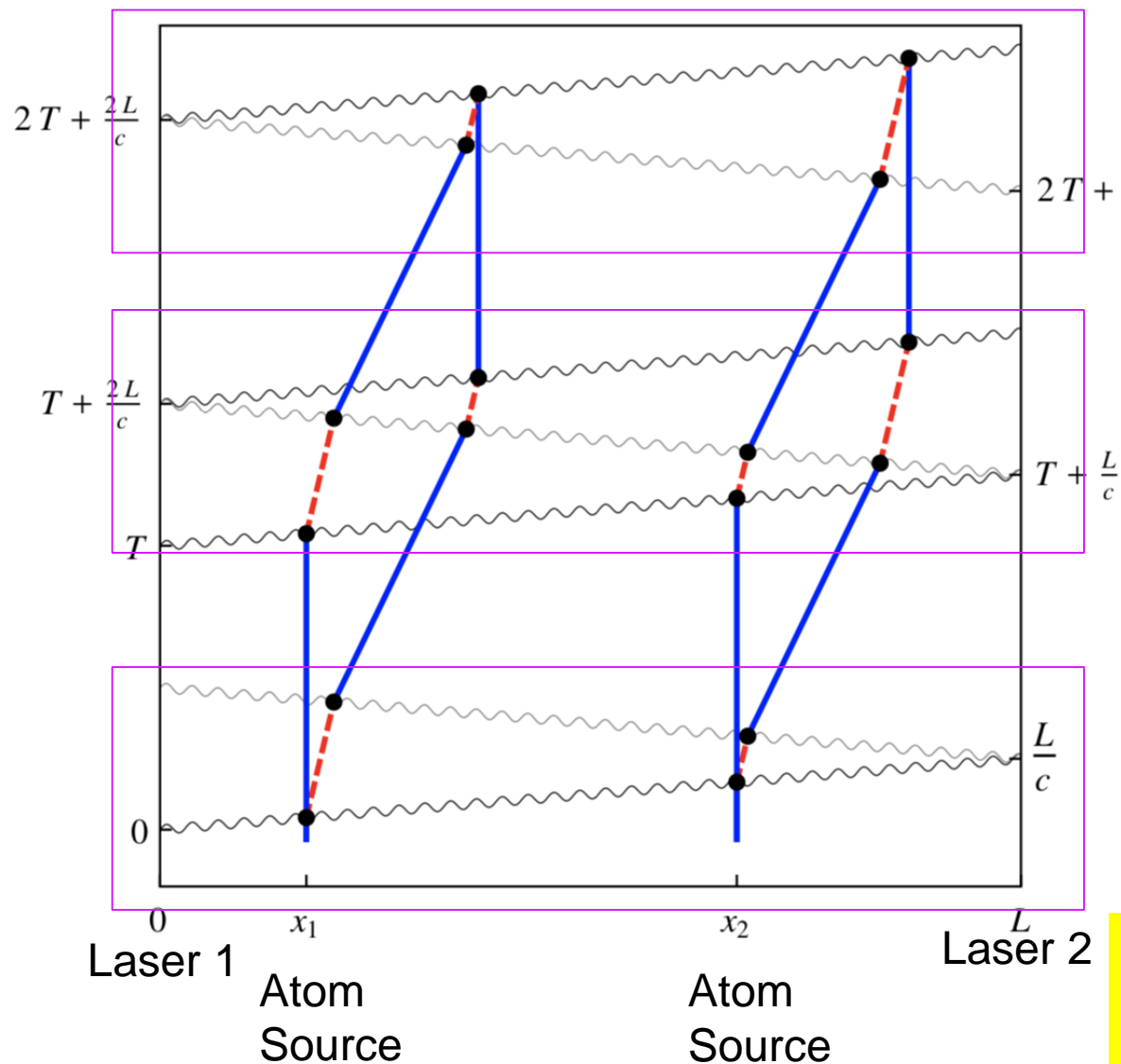


**Clock:** measure light travel time → remove laser noise with *single baseline*

**Accelerometer:** atoms excellent inertial test masses

# Basic Differential Measurement

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Laser 1:  $\pi/2$  pulse [split]

Laser 2:  $\pi$  pulse [low p]

"Mirror"

$3\pi$  pulse

[low-high/low-high]

[Doppler shift to select]

Laser 2:  $\pi$  pulse [high p]

Laser 1:  $\pi/2$  pulse [split]

Each AI spends time  $L/c$  in excited state but at different periods in the sequence

## References:

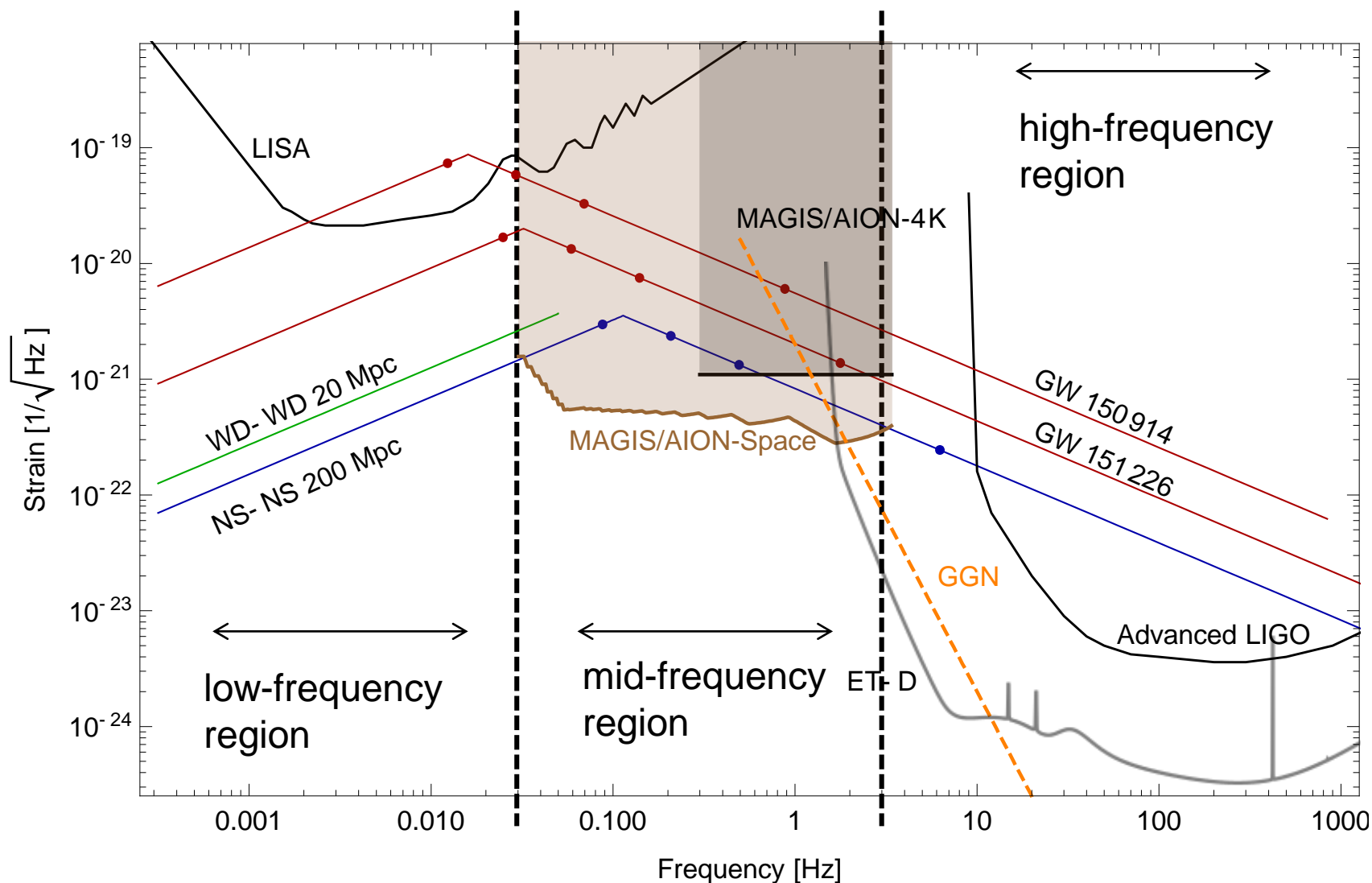
- On the Maximal Strength of a First-Order Electroweak Phase Transition and its Gravitational Wave Signal, [1809.08242](#)
- Cosmic Archaeology with Gravitational Waves from Cosmic Strings, [1711.03104](#)
- Probing the pre-BBN universe with gravitational waves from cosmic strings, [1808.08968](#)
- Formation and Evolution of Primordial Black Hole Binaries in the Early Universe, [1812.01930](#)
- Primordial Black Holes from Thermal Inflation, [1903.09598](#)

## GW PHYSICS @ AION

NOTE: Much more in tomorrow's talk by Marek Lewiki

# Gravitational Wave Detection with Atom Interferometry

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# Sky position determination

Sky localization  
precision:

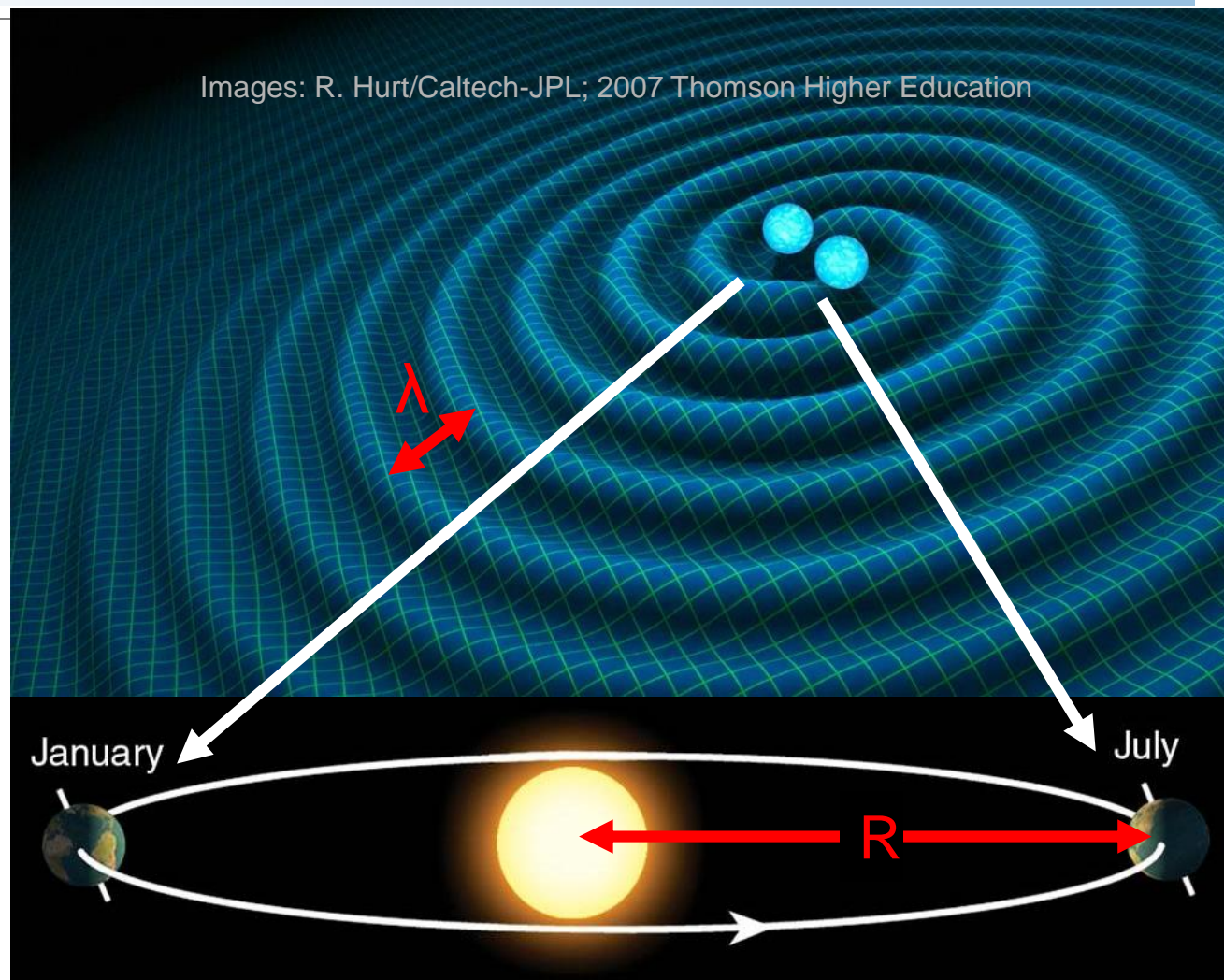
$$\sqrt{\Omega_s} \sim \left( \text{SNR} \cdot \frac{R}{\lambda} \right)^{-1}$$

## Mid-band advantages

- Small wavelength  $\lambda$
- Long source lifetime (~months) maximizes effective  $R$

Benchmark	$\sqrt{\Omega_s}$ [deg]
GW150914	0.16
GW151226	0.20
NS-NS (140 Mpc)	0.19

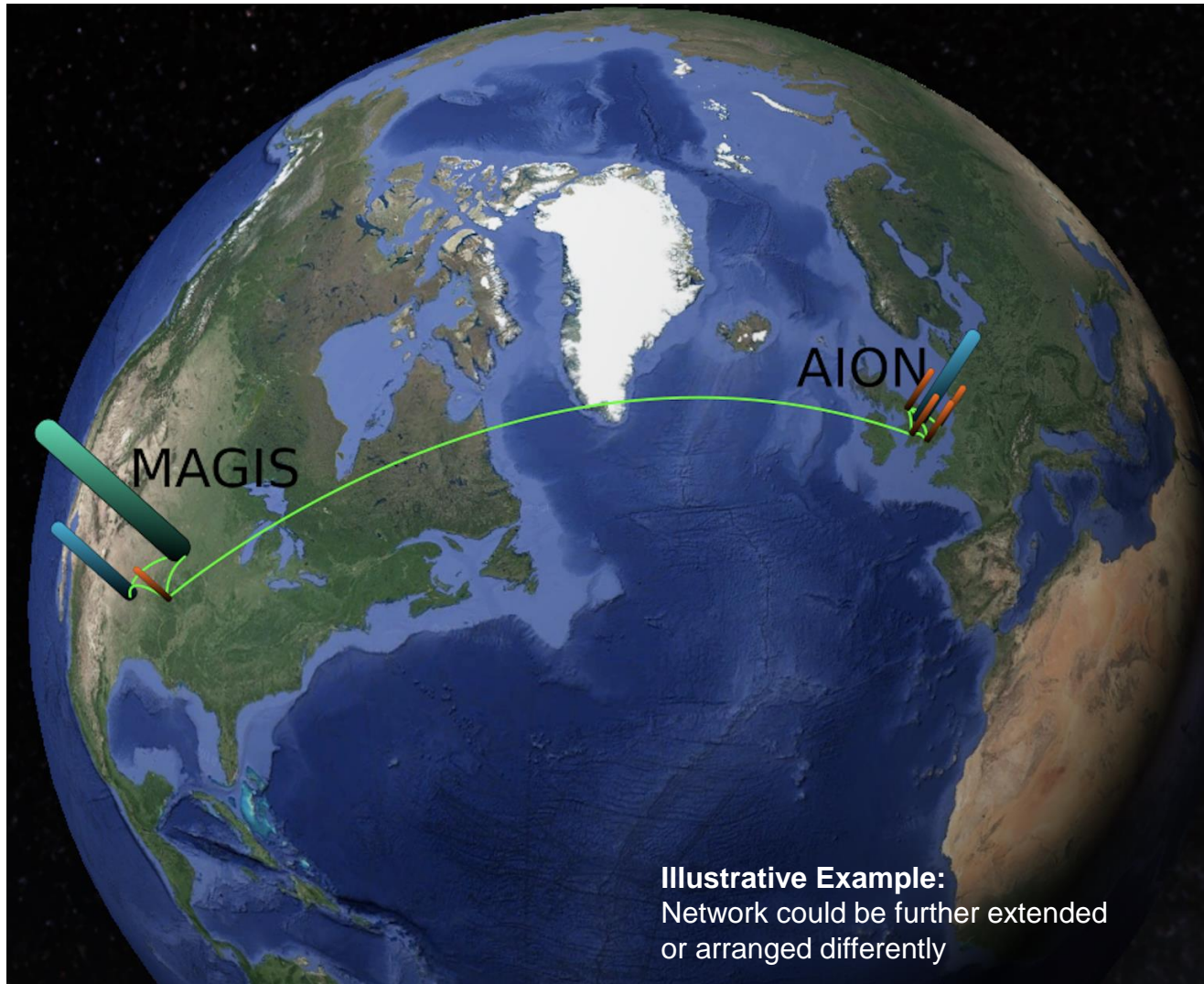
Courtesy of Jason Hogan!



Ultimate sensitivity for terrestrial based detectors is achieved by operating 2 (or more)  
Detectors in synchronisation mode

# Ultimate Goal: Establish International Network

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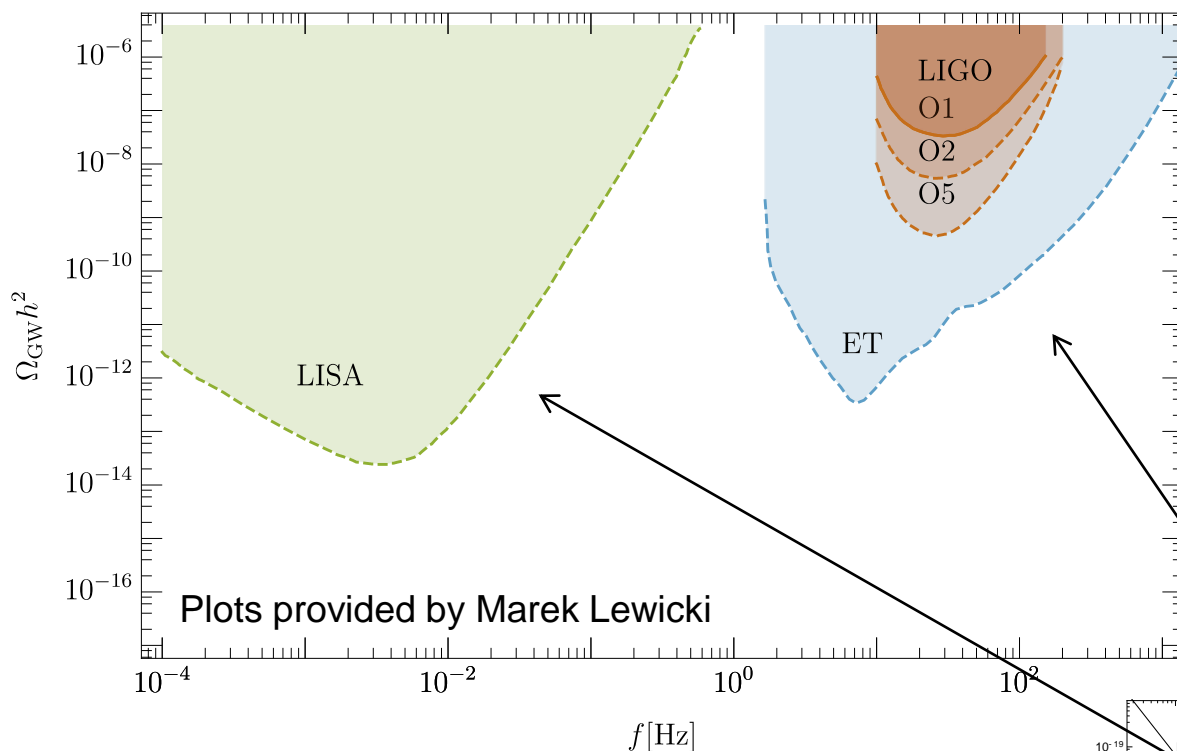
# GW Detection & Fundamental Physics - Example

## First-Order Electroweak Phase Transition and its Gravitational Wave Signal

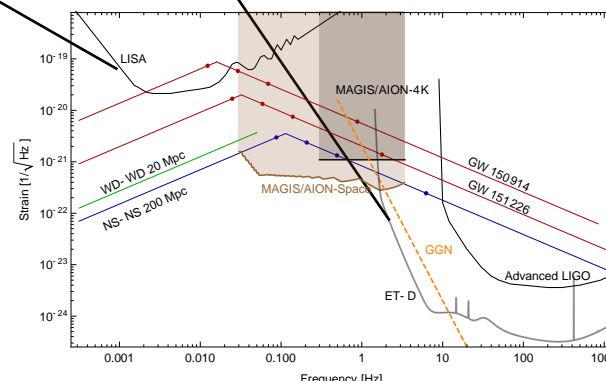
**arXiv:1809.08242**

John Ellis, Marek Lewicki,  
José Miguel No

What is the GW signal  
of electroweak phase  
transition in various  
theories beyond  
the Standard Model.

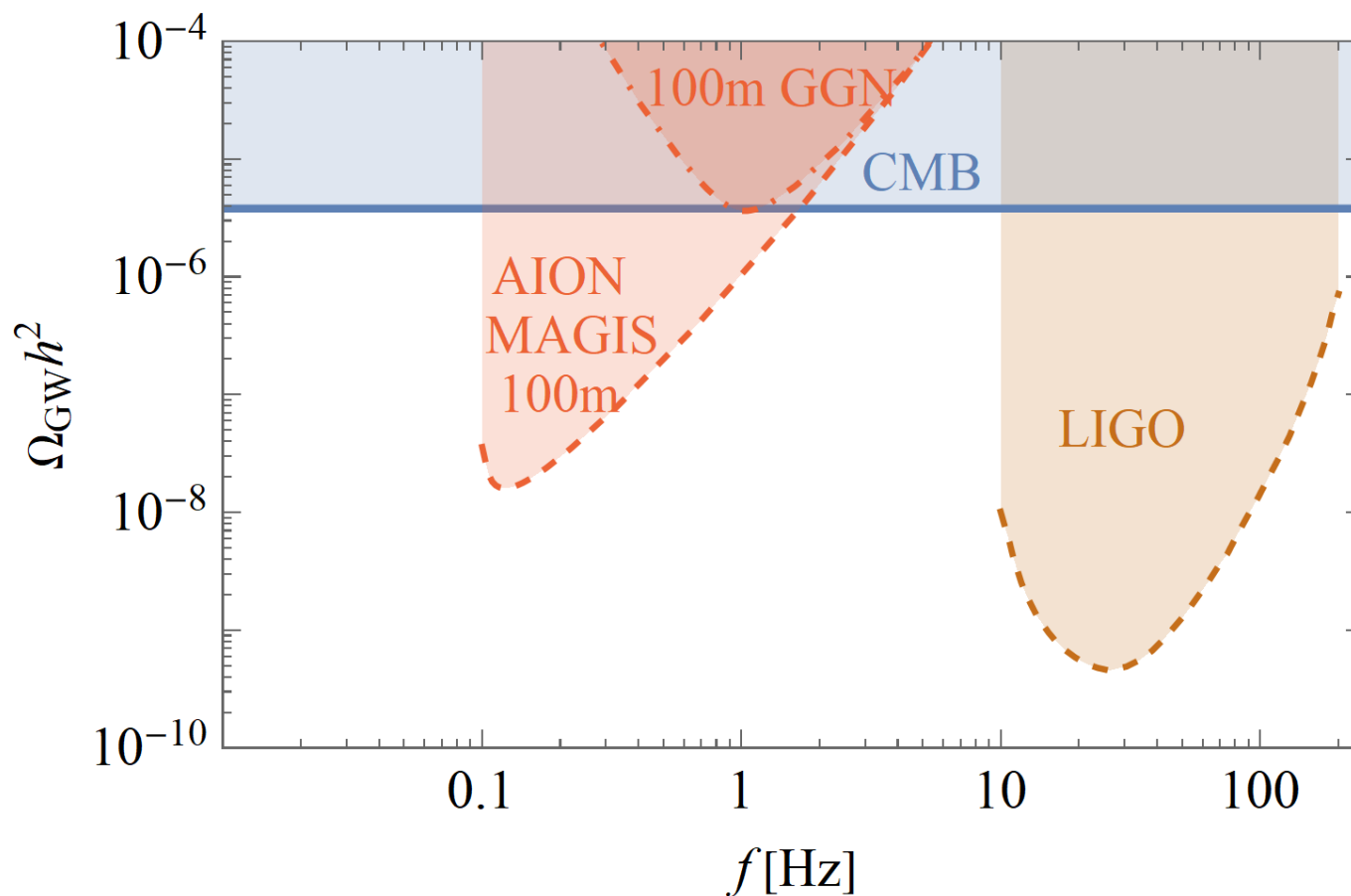


Translate strain into dimensionless energy  
density  $\Omega_{\text{GW}}h^2$  in GWs against frequency



# The GW Experimental Landscape: 2030ish

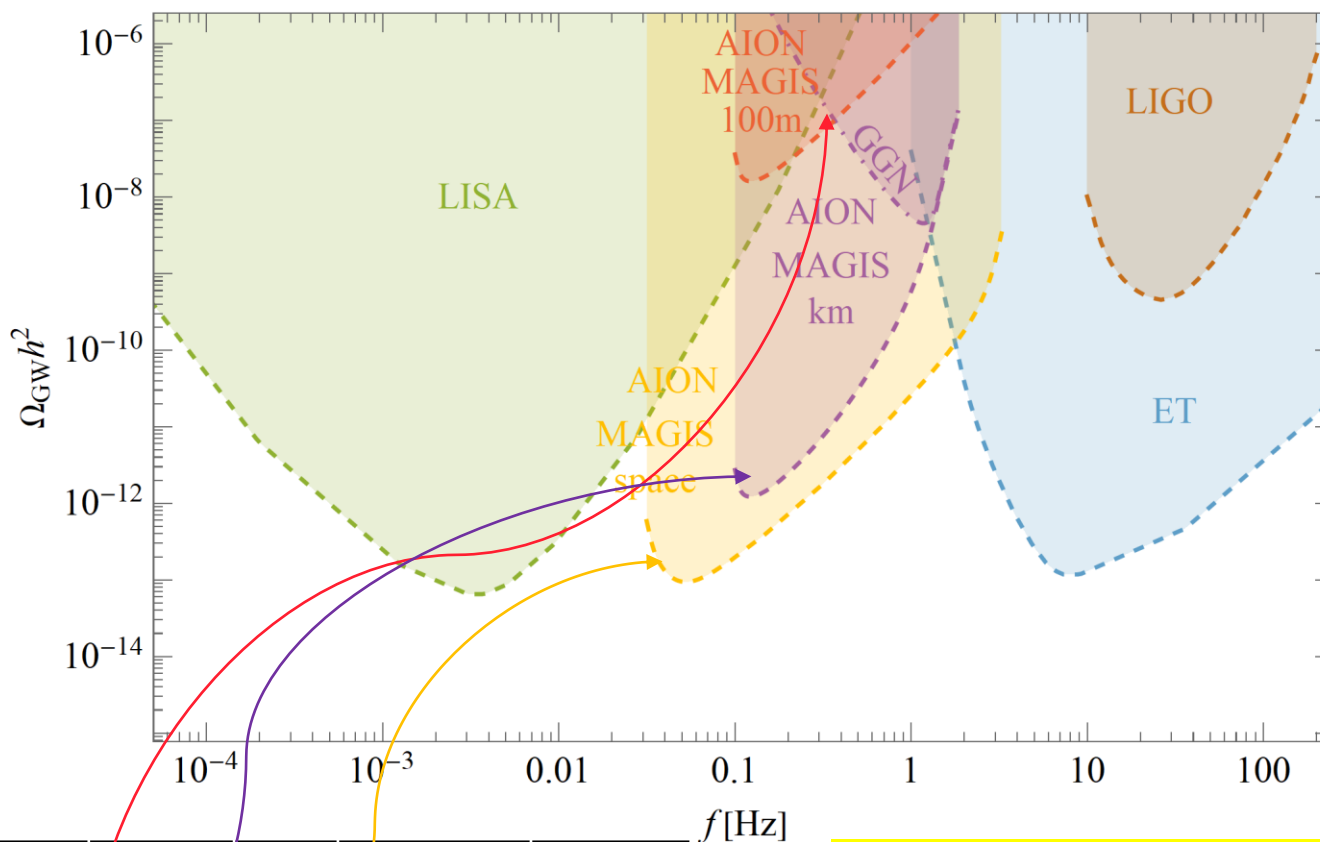
O. Buchmueller The AION Project





# The GW Experimental Landscape: 2030ish

O. Buchmueller The AION Project

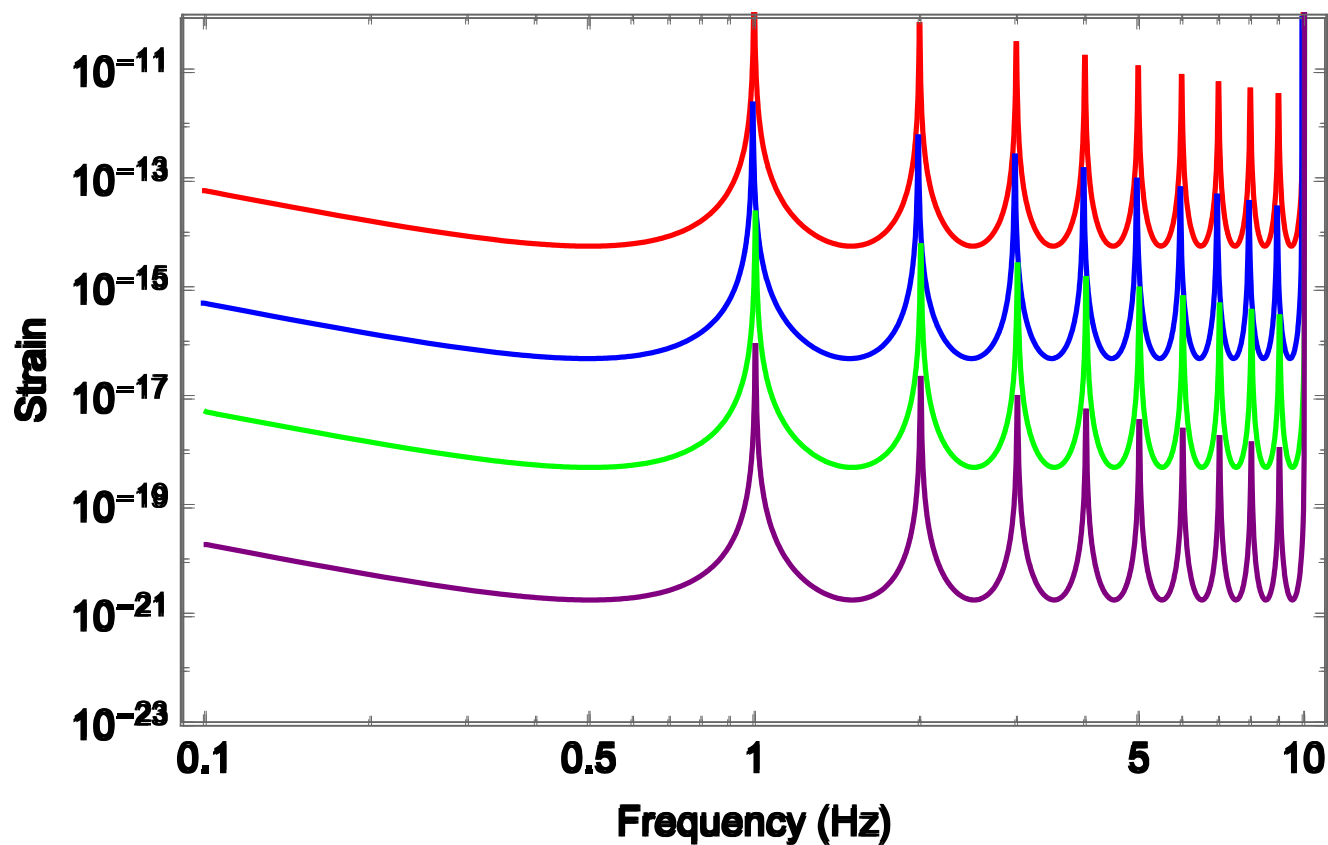


Sensitivity Scenario	L [m]	$T_{\text{int}}$ [s]	$\Phi$ [ $1/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ ]	LMP [#]
AION-100-today	100	1.4	$10^{-3}$	100
AION-100-ultimate	100	1.4	$10^{-5}$	40000
AION-km	2000	5	$0.3 \times 10^{-5}$	40000
AION-space	$4.4 \times 10^7$	300	$10^{-5}$	<1000

**List of basic parameters: Lengths of the detector  $L$ , interrogation time of the atom interferometer  $T_{\text{int}}$ , phase noise  $\phi$ , and number of momentum transfers LMP. The choice of these parameters predominately defines the sensitivity of the projection scenarios.**

# How does Sensitivity Scale in Strain

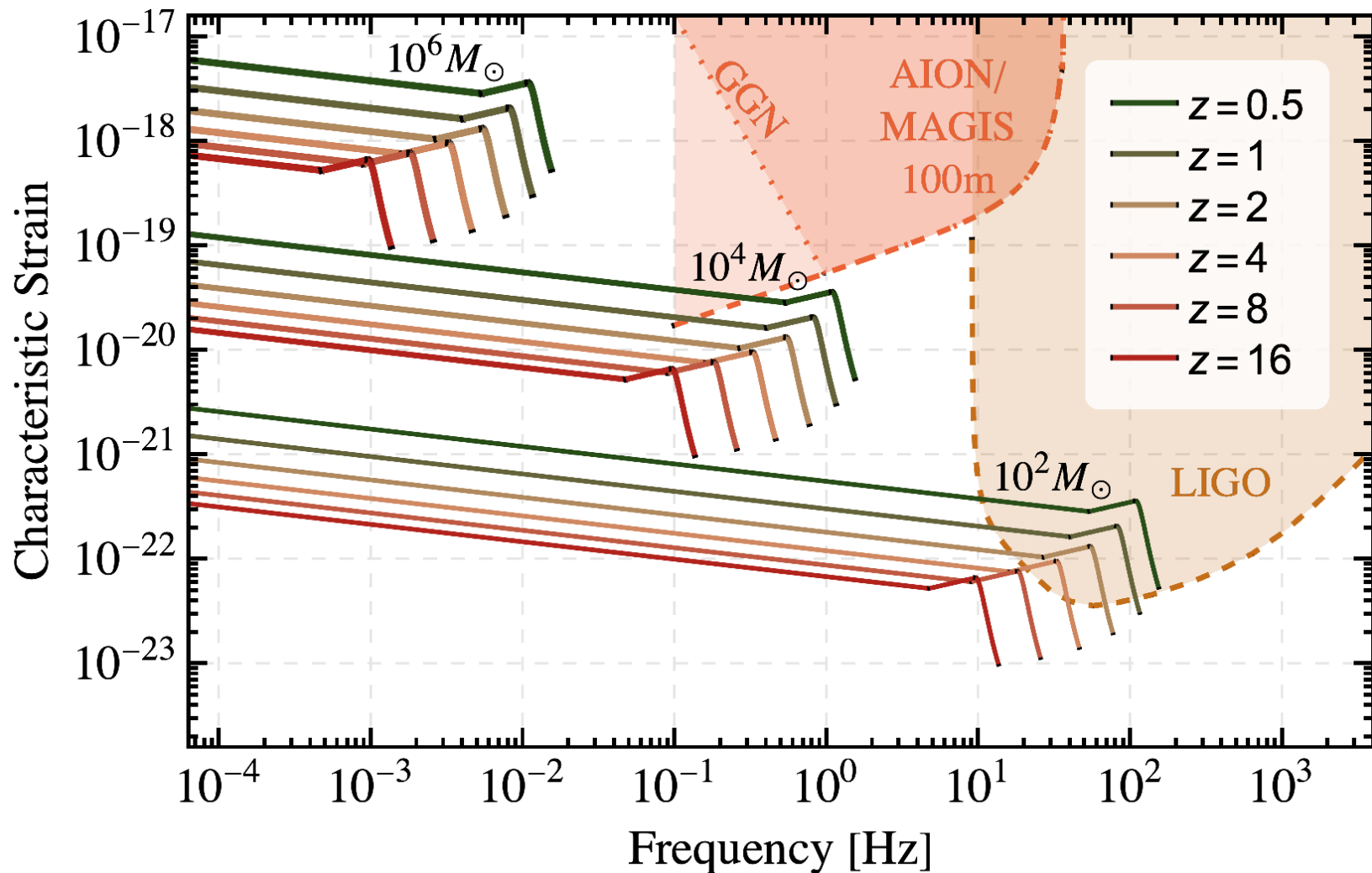
Question asked today



L [m]	LMT	NA
1E2	1E2	1E6
1E4	1E2	1E6
1E4	1E4	1E6
1E4	1E4	1E11

# Strain Sensitivity & BH Mergers: 2030ish

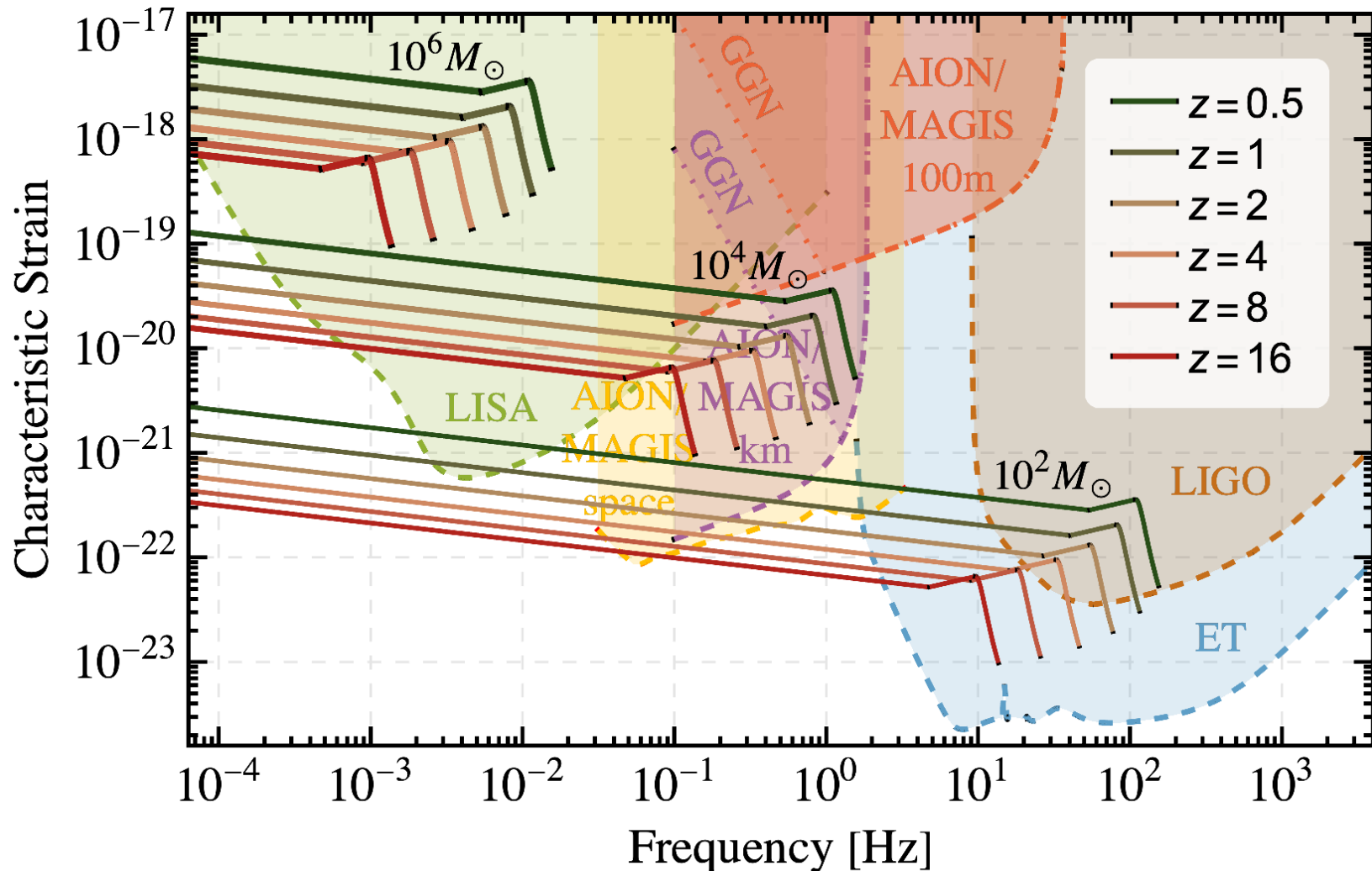
O. Buchmueller The AION Project



The AION frequency range is ideal for observations of mergers involving IMBHs, to which LISA and the LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA/ET experiments are relatively insensitive. <sup>23</sup>

# Strain Sensitivity & BH Mergers: Future

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The AION frequency range is ideal for observations of mergers involving IMBHs, to which LISA and the LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA/ET experiments are relatively insensitive. <sup>24</sup>



Based on DM workshop at KCL:

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/797031/timetable/>

and AION workshop at Imperial:

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/802946/>

*Using Material from. M. Bauer, J. Hogan, J. March-Russel, C. McCabe, and Y. Stadnik*

## **DARK MATTER PHYSICS @AION**

**NOTE: Much more in tomorrow's talk by Chris McCabe**

# The Landscape of Ultra-Light Dark Matter Detection

Very light dark matter and gravitational wave detection similar when detecting coherent effects of entire field, not single particles.

Example: Ultra-Light Dark Matter:

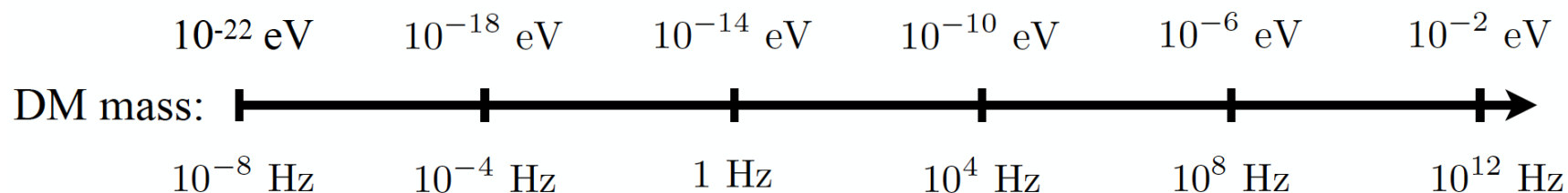
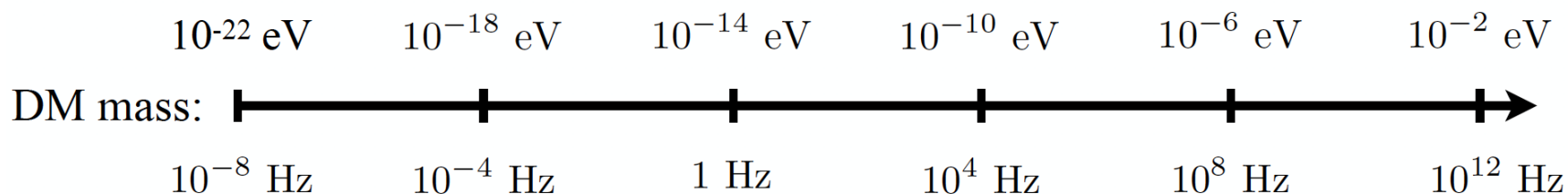


Diagram taken from P. Graham's  
talk at HEP Front 2018

# The Landscape of Ultra-Light Dark Matter Detection

Very light dark matter and gravitational wave detection similar when detecting coherent effects of entire field, not single particles.

Example: Ultra-Light Dark Matter:



← atom interferometry →

MAGIS/AION

Diagram taken from P. Graham's  
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# The Landscape of Ultra-Light Dark Matter Detection

Very light dark matter and gravitational wave detection similar when detecting coherent effects of entire field, not single particles.

Example: Ultra-Light Dark Matter:

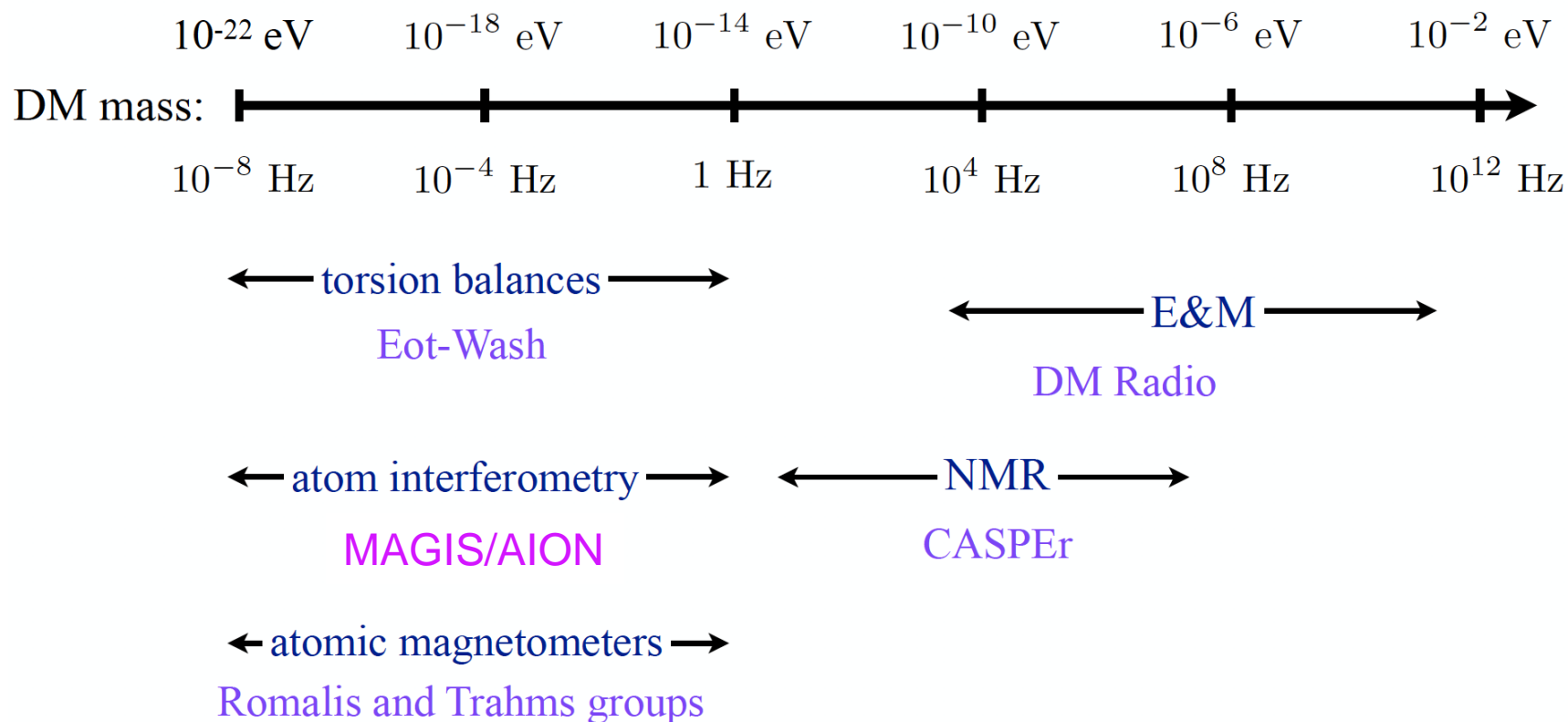
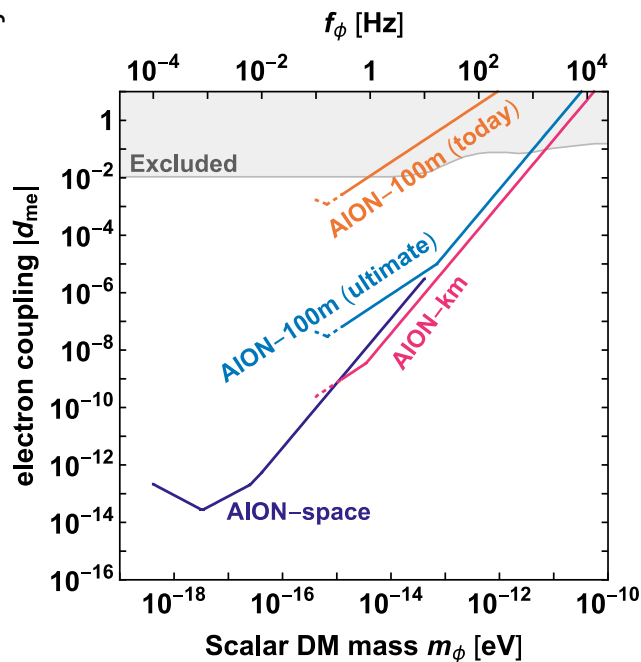


Diagram taken from P. Graham's  
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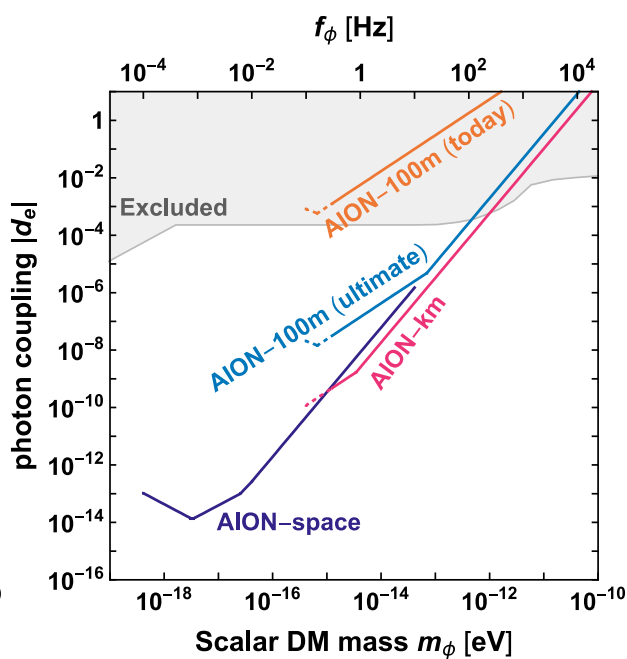
# Sensitivity for DM with Scalar Couplings to Matter

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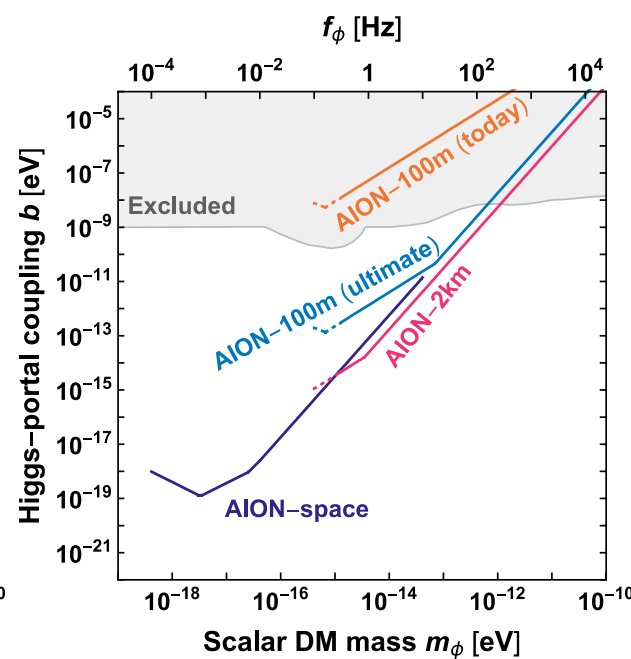
Coupling to e



Coupling to photon



Higgs Portal b coupling



DM with scalar couplings to matter,  
which cause time  
variation of fundamental constants such  
as the electron mass

Based on: Arvanitaki et al., PRD **97**,  
075020 (2018).

Sensitivity Scenario	L [m]	T <sub>int</sub> [s]	Φ [1/√Hz]	LMP [#]
AION-100-today	100	1.4	10 <sup>-3</sup>	100
AION-100-ultimate	100	1.4	10 <sup>-5</sup>	40000
AION-km	2000	5	0.3 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	40000
AION-space	4.4×10 <sup>7</sup>	300	10 <sup>-5</sup>	<1000

# Sensitivity for DM with Scalar Couplings to Matter

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Coupling to e

Coupling to photon

Higgs Portal b coupling

$f_\phi$  [Hz]

$f_\phi$  [Hz]

$f_\phi$  [Hz]

AION will be probing new territory in ULD scalar scenarios.

With different configurations of the Atom Interferometer it will be also possible to search for **Axions** (pseudo-scalar) and **Vector** DM candidates!  
[studies are ongoing]

which cause time variation of fundamental constants such as the electron mass

Scenario	[m]	[s]	[1/mHz]	[m]
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Based on: Arvanitaki et al., PRD **97**, 075020 (2018).

## Other Fundamental Physics

Ultra-high-precision atom interferometry may also be sensitive to other aspects of fundamental physics beyond dark matter and GWs, though studies of such possibilities are still at exploratory stages.

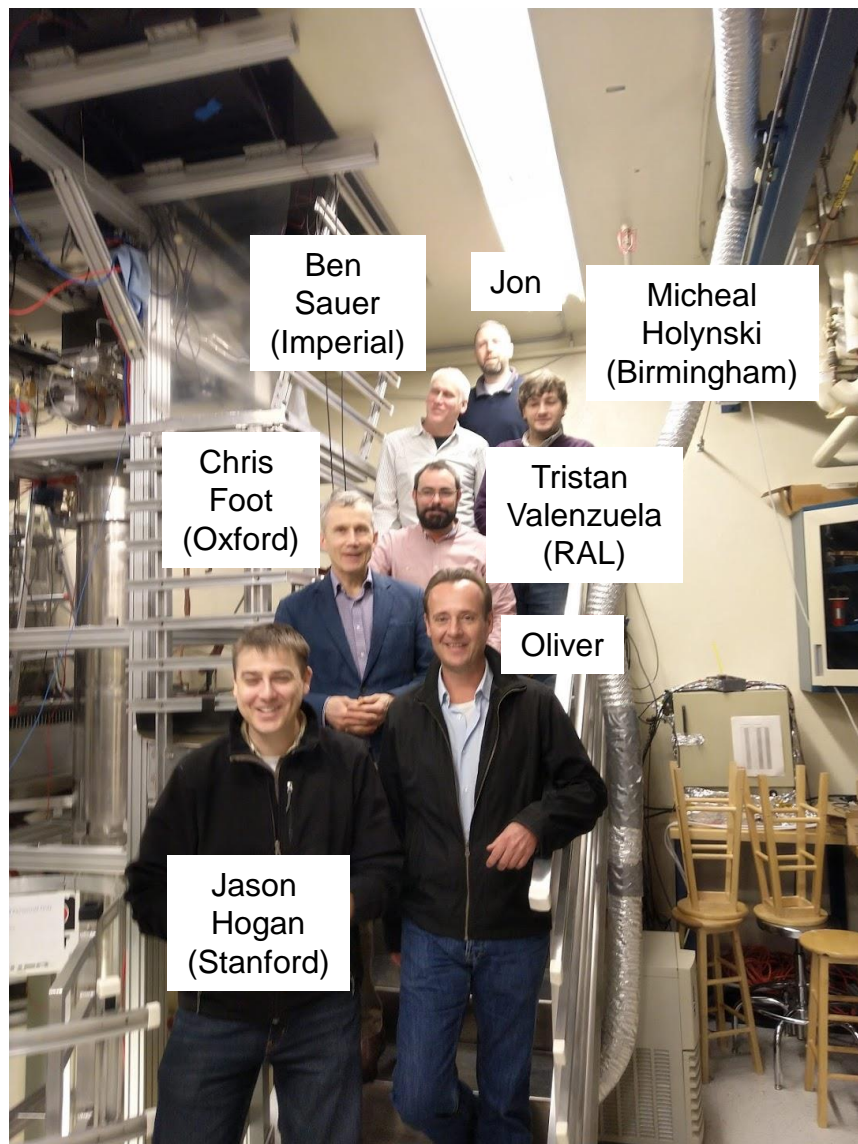
Examples may include:

- *The possibility of detecting the astrophysical neutrinos*
- *Probes of long-range fifth forces.*
- *Constraining possible variations in fundamental constants.*
- *Probing dark energy.*
- Probes of basic physical principles such as foundations of quantum mechanics and Lorentz invariance.

# VISIT TO STANFORD ON 10/11 JANUARY 2019



# Stanford Visit 10/11 January 2019



## We had a very fruitful visit to Stanford!

### Main goals of the visit:

- Establish information exchange and review the Stanford work.
- Strengthen the US-UK collaboration
- Identify synergies and common goals between AION and MAGIS.

### Outcome:

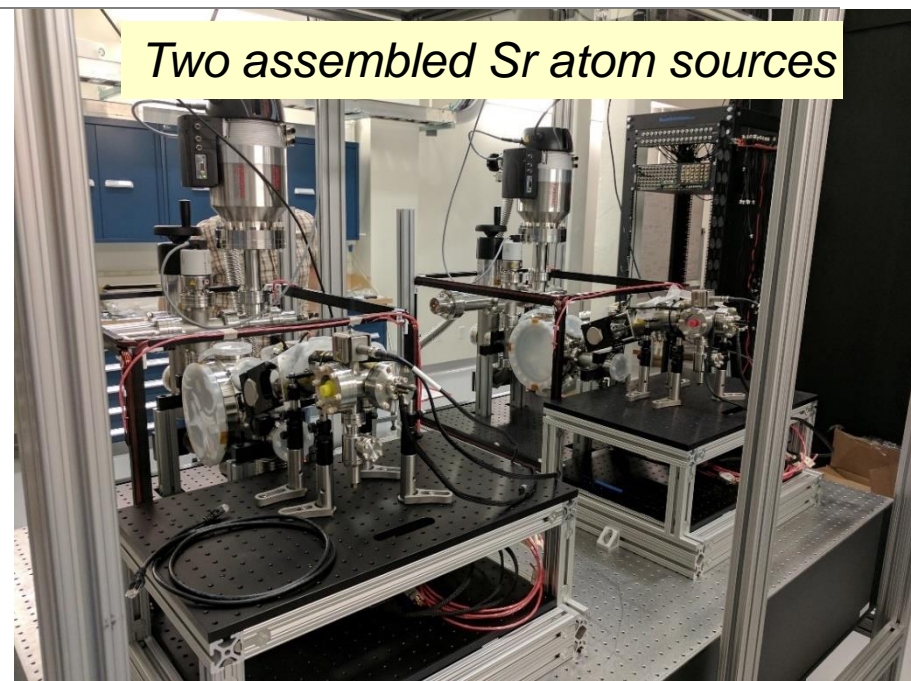
- Stanford/MAGIS is very open to closer collaboration with the UK/AION and they very much welcome another activity working towards the mid-band with AIs.
- There are several challenges where the UK expertise can help to achieve the design goals of the programme [see next slide].
- We agreed to include the synchronised operation of 10m prototype versions (later 100m) in the programme of MAGIS and AION.

# Stanford MAGIS prototype

O. Buchmueller The AION Project



*Two assembled Sr atom sources*



Stanford Lab to host 8 m  
prototype of the Sr fountain.

It is supposed to be assembled  
over summer 2019.

# AION-10: 10 METER SIDE CHOSEN TO BE OXFORD

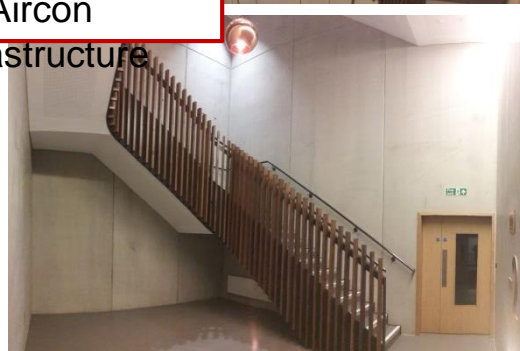
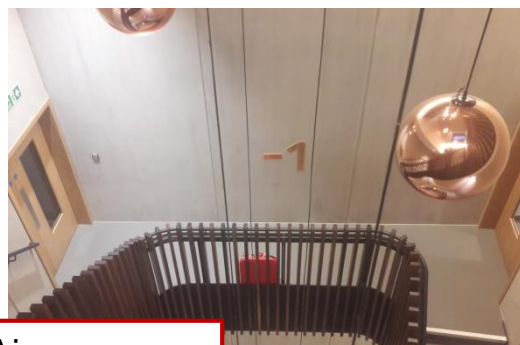
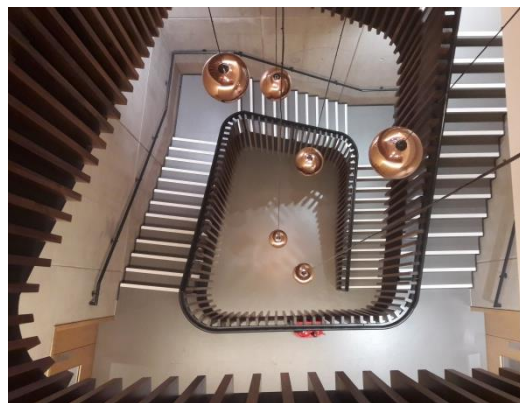


# Beecroft building, Oxford Physics

The Beecroft in Oxford is the proposed site, with a backup at RAL (MICE Hall) in case show-stoppers are encountered.



# Beecroft building, Oxford Physics



## Ultralow vibration

- All plant isolated
- Thick concrete walls

## Adjacent laser lab reserved for AION use

- keel slabs
- $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$  stability

## Vertical space

- 12m basement to ground floor
- 14.7m floor to ceiling

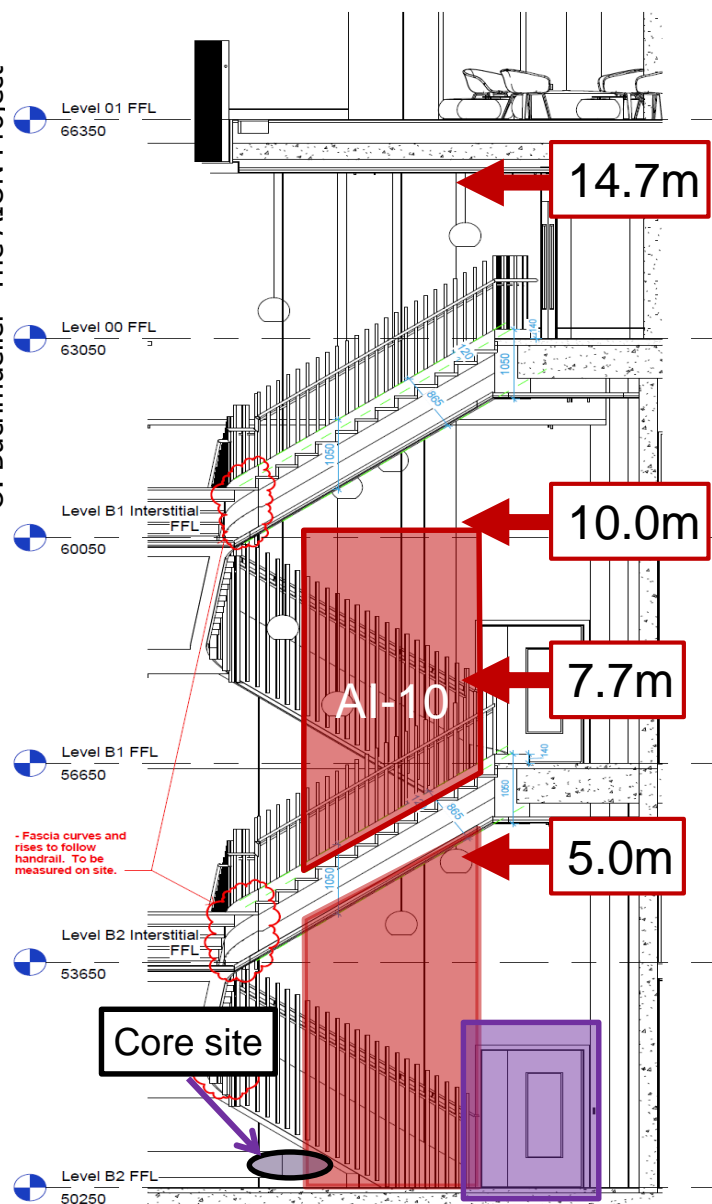
Stairwell is **not** a fire escape route.

Bakeout room and cleanroom nearby



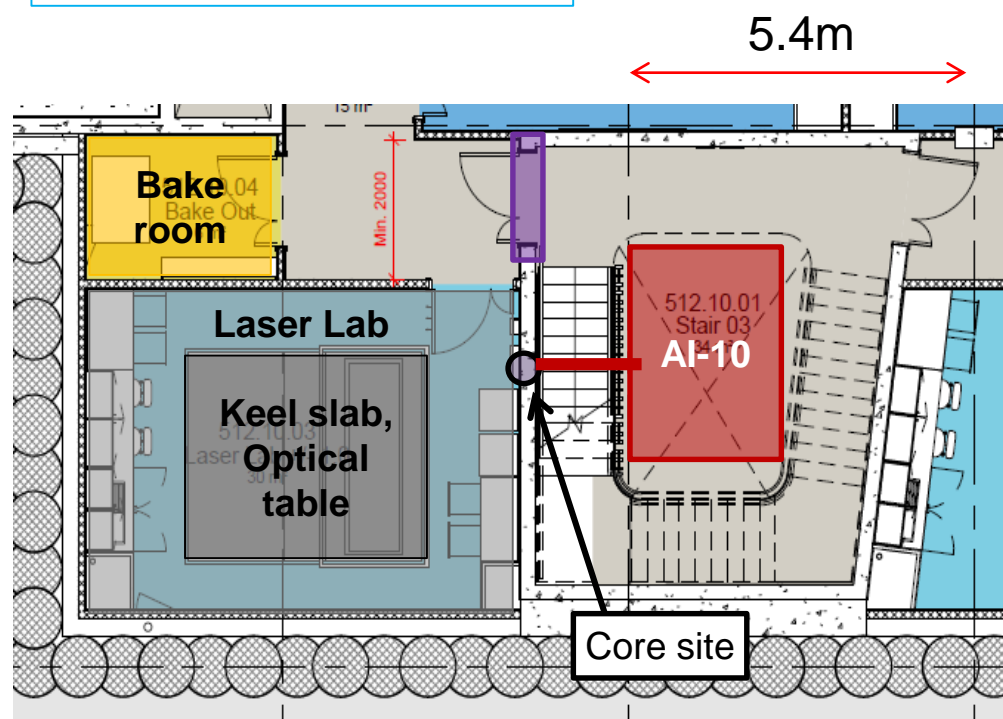
# Beecroft building, Oxford Physics

O. Buchmueller The AION Project



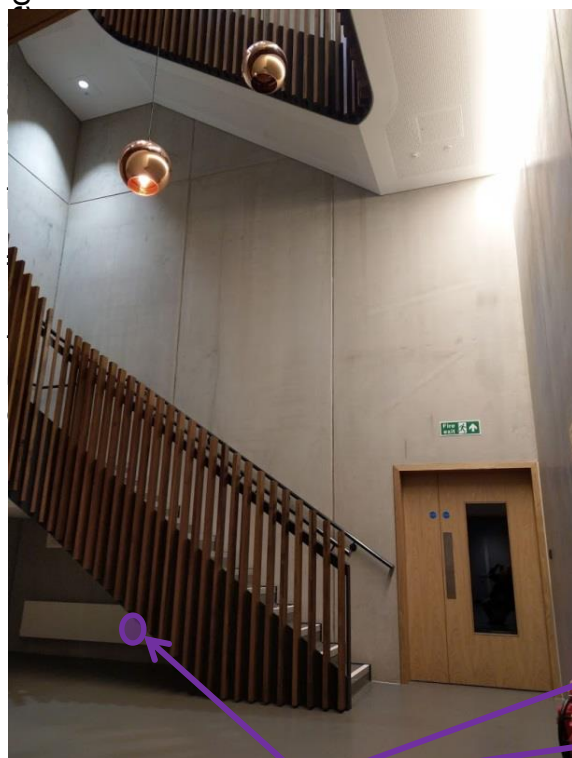
← Side view

↓ Plan view

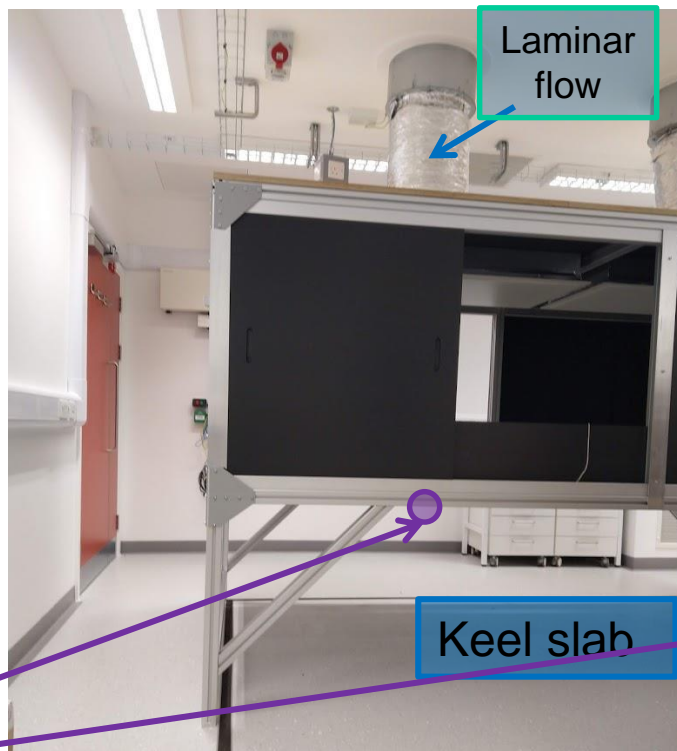


# Beecroft building laser lab

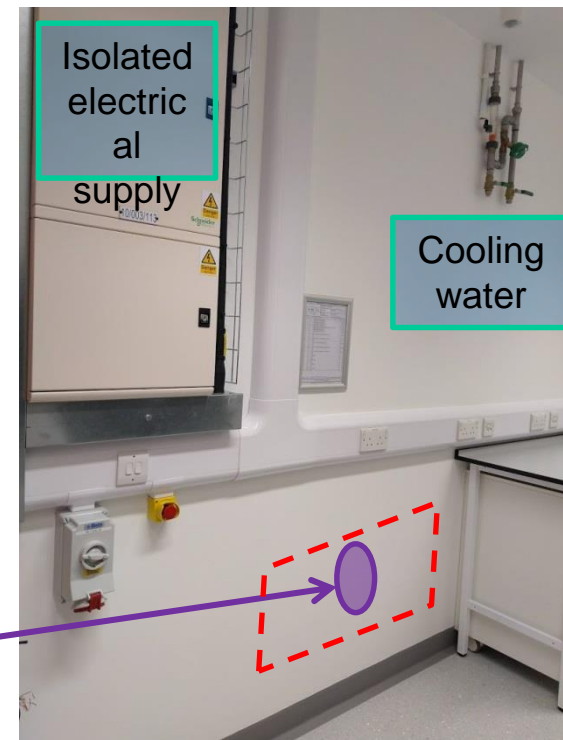
Beecroft stairwell: lowest level



Core site: feed  
through fibre and  
cables



**laser lab (interior):** optical table  
enclosure with laminar air flow and  
temperature-control installed.



Bake-out room next door



# Assembly: extruded aluminium support structure

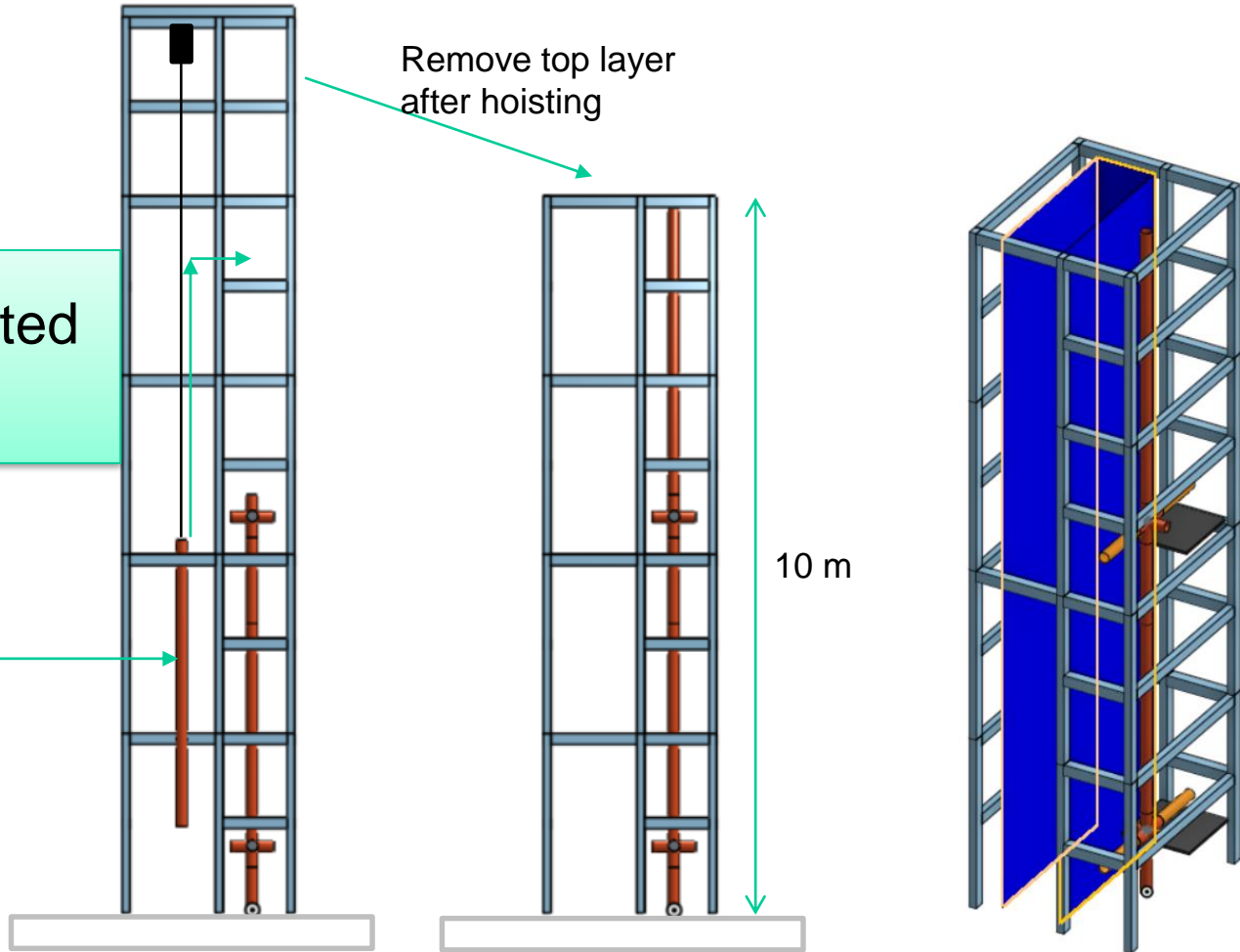
O. Buchmueller The AION Project

Scaffolding erected  
from ground up.

vacuum pipe;  
3.8 m long,  
<100 kg.

Remove top layer  
after hoisting

10 m





# Summary

- The AION programme is driven by a well-defined and ambitious physics case to explore the Mid-Frequency Band of the GW spectrum.
    - In addition, it will enable the exploration of properties of dark matter as well as searches for new fundamental interactions
  - AION foreseen as a staged programme: AION-10, AION-100, AION-KM and AION-SPACE.
    - AION-10 [year 1 to 3] and AION-100 [year 3 to 6] are part of the QSFP WP3
    - AION-KM and AION-SPACE are the pathway to the future and achieving ultimate sensitivity
  - The formation of an AION collaboration is well underway with the next important milestone to finalize a full funding proposal.
    - At present, only the first three [AION-10] are subject of the proposal with the option to extended for additional three years towards AION-100.
    - No concrete plans for “Earth-km” or even “space” are developed yet.
- The AION project is very interested in establishing synergies and close collaboration with other European and international initiatives, which pursue similar goals of km-scale (and space) atom interferometer on a comparable timescale.

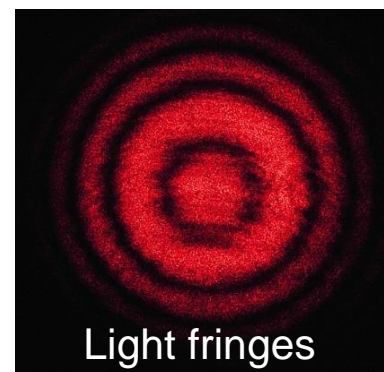
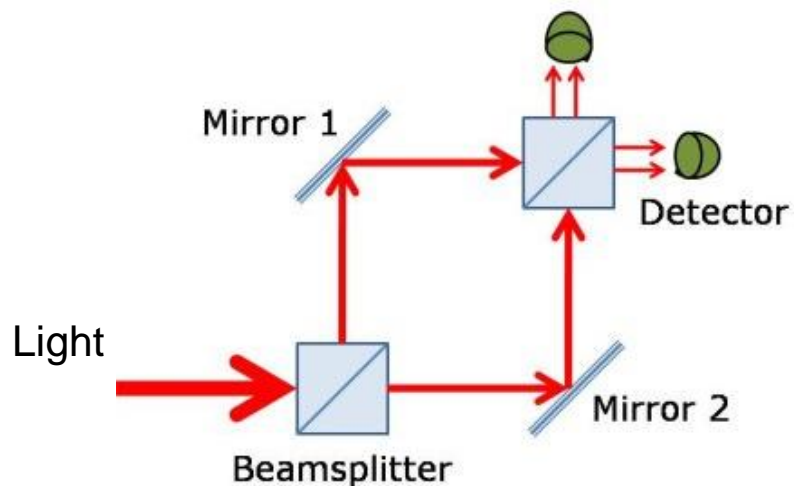
# BACKUP

# ATOM INTERFEROMETER CONCEPT

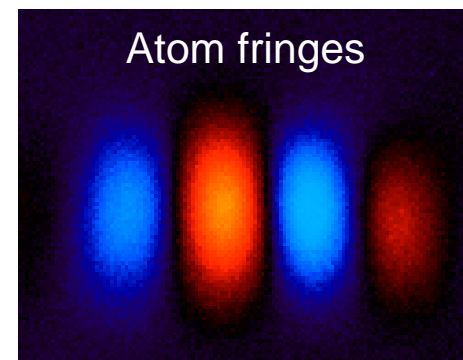
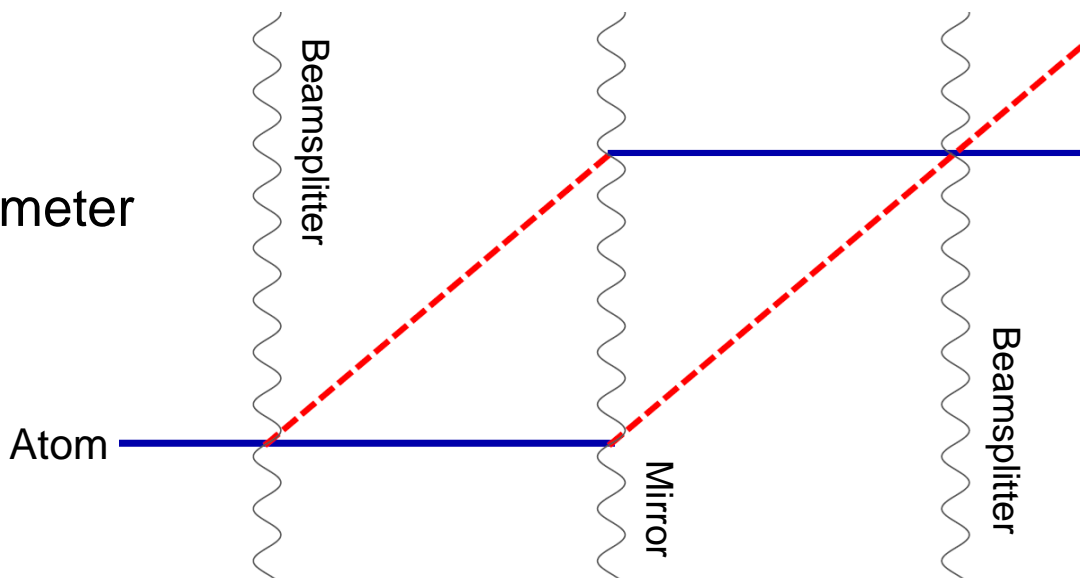
# Atom interference

O. Buchmueller The AION Project

Light  
interferometer



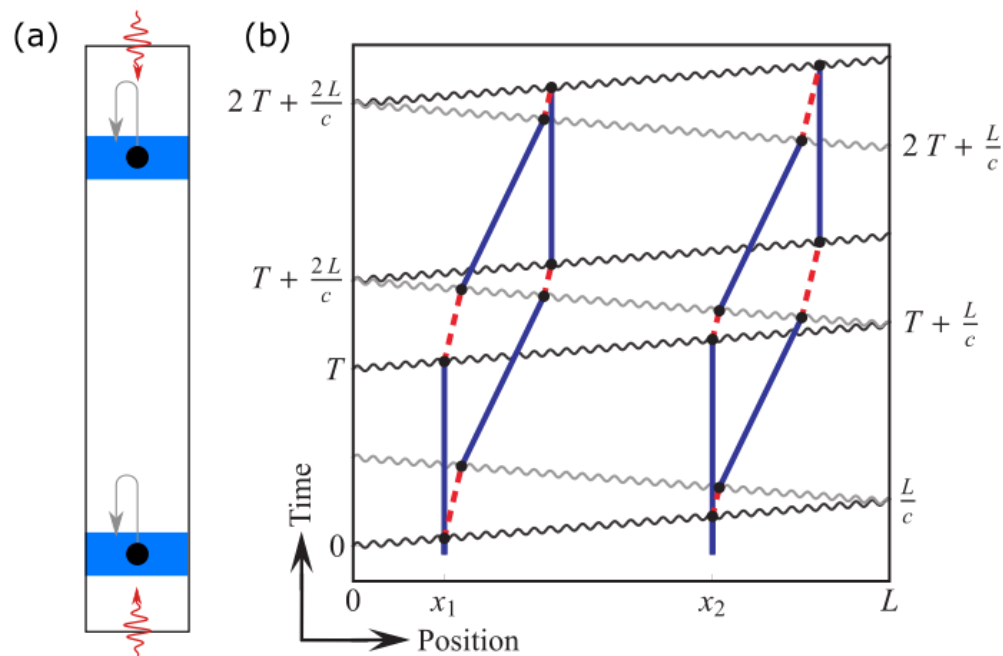
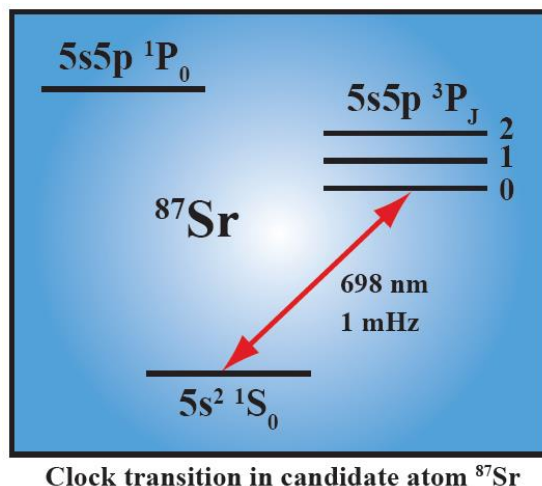
Atom  
interferometer



# A different kind of atom interferometer

## Hybrid “clock accelerometer”

Graham et al., PRL **110**, 171102 (2013).

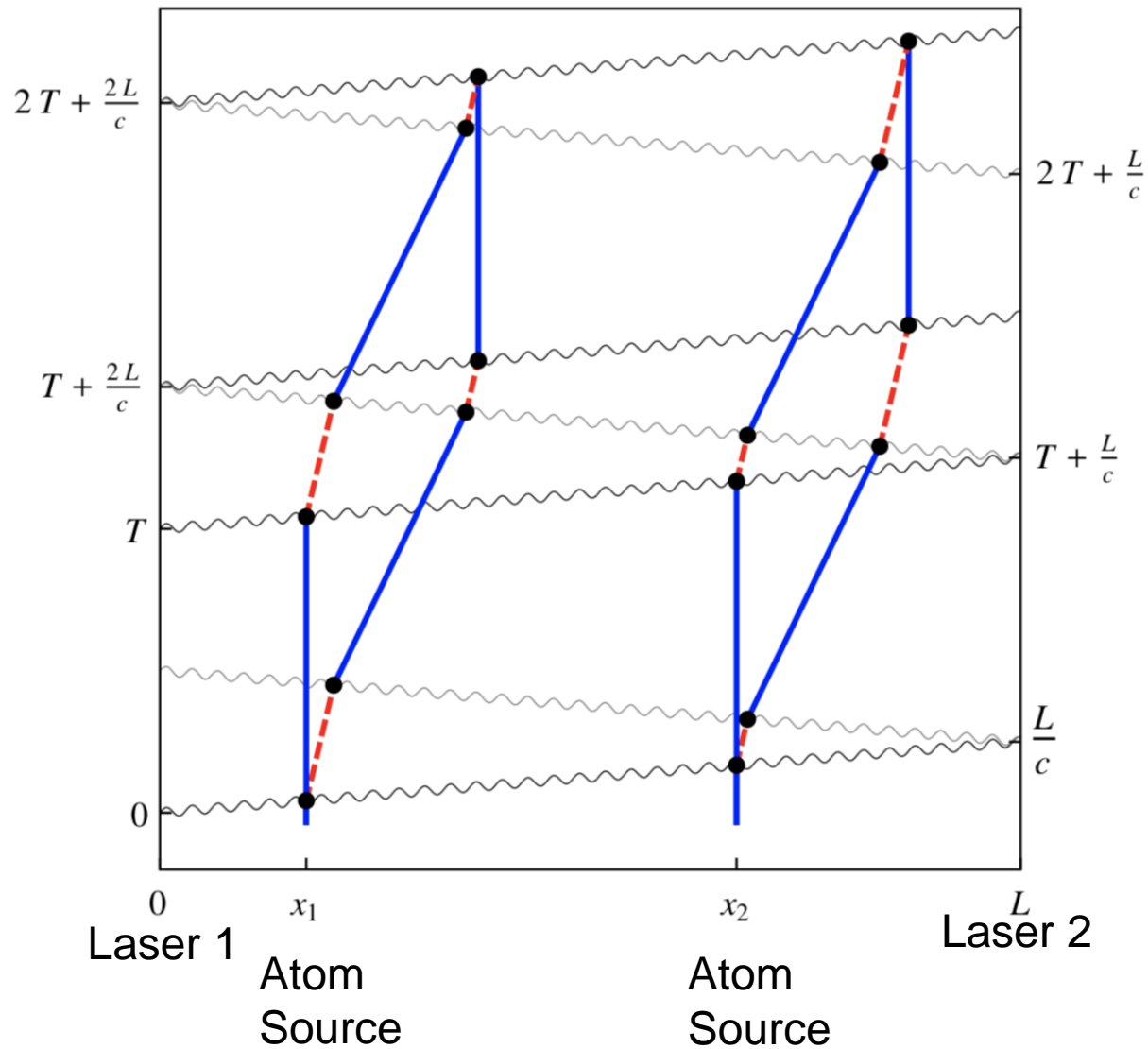


**Clock:** measure light travel time  $\rightarrow$  remove laser noise with *single baseline*

**Accelerometer:** atoms excellent inertial test masses

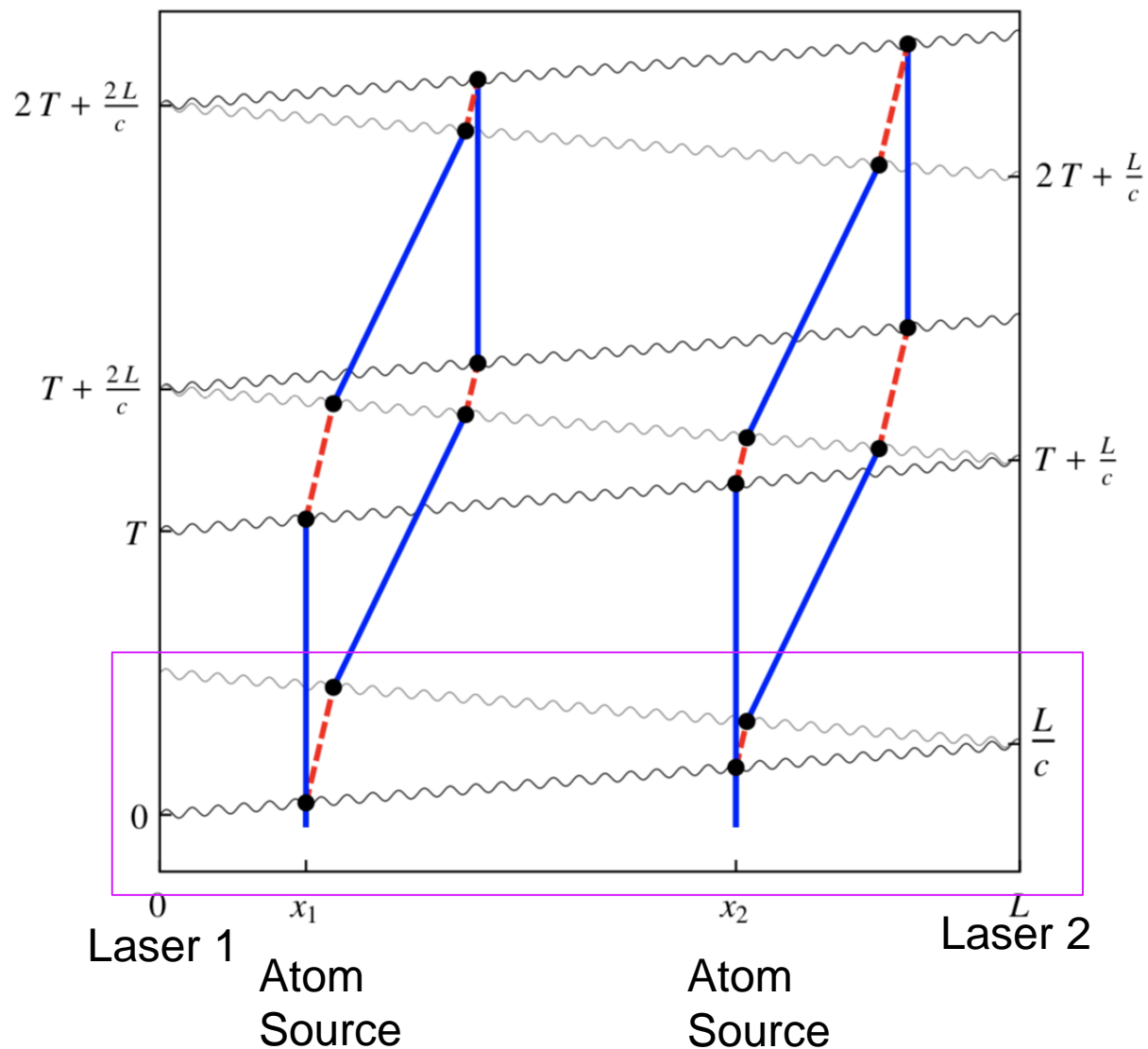
# Basic Differential Measurement

O. Buchmueller The AION Project



# Basic Differential Measurement

O. Buchmueller The AION Project



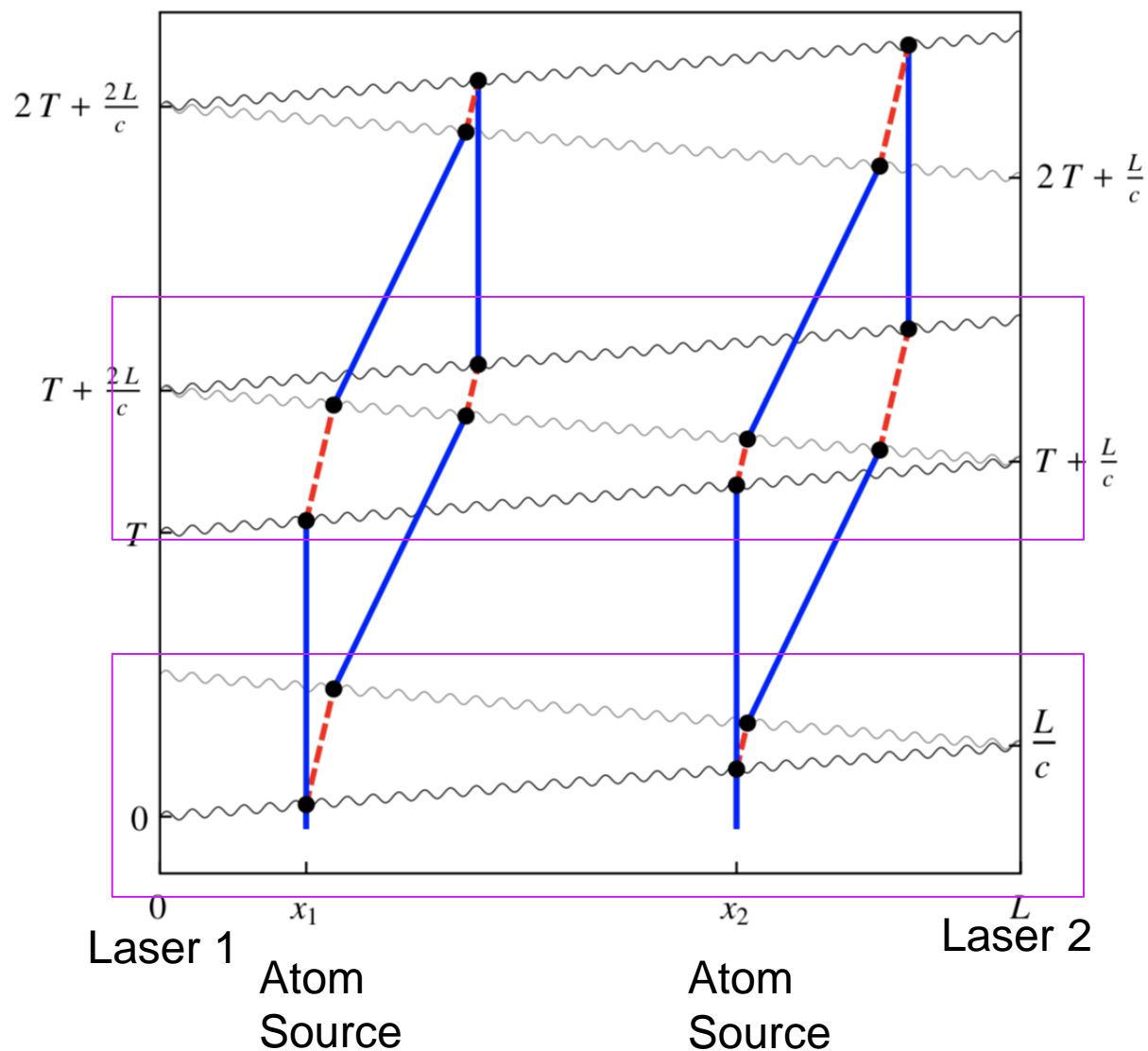
Laser 2:  $\pi$  pulse [high p]

Laser 1:  $\pi/2$  pulse [split]



# Basic Differential Measurement

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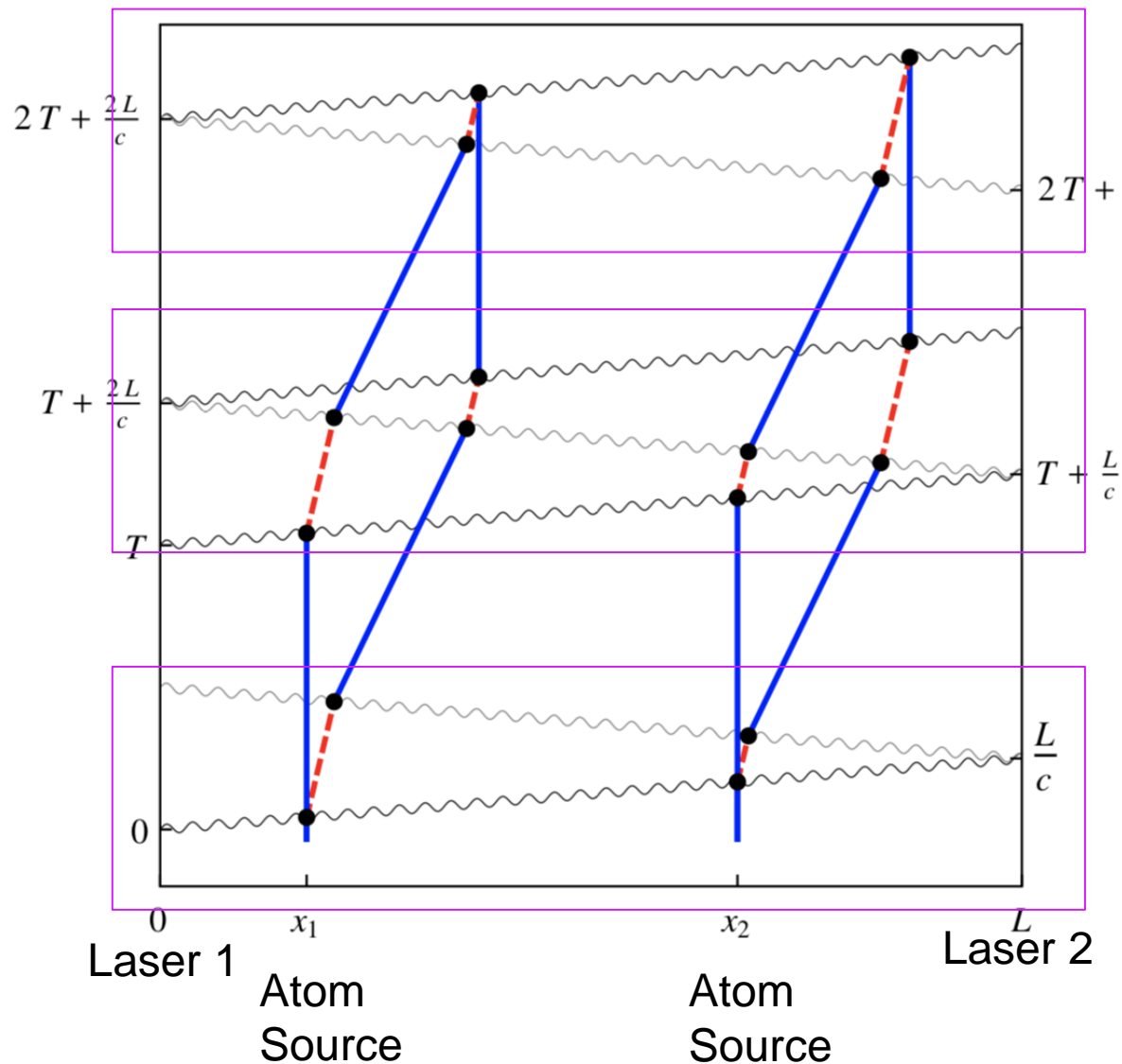
“Mirror”  
 $3\pi$  pulse  
 [low-high/low-high]  
 [Doppler shift to select]

Laser 2:  $\pi$  pulse [high p]

Laser 1:  $\pi/2$  pulse [split]

# Basic Differential Measurement

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Laser 1:  $\pi/2$  pulse [split]

Laser 2:  $\pi$  pulse [low p]

“Mirror”

$3\pi$  pulse

[low-high/low-high]

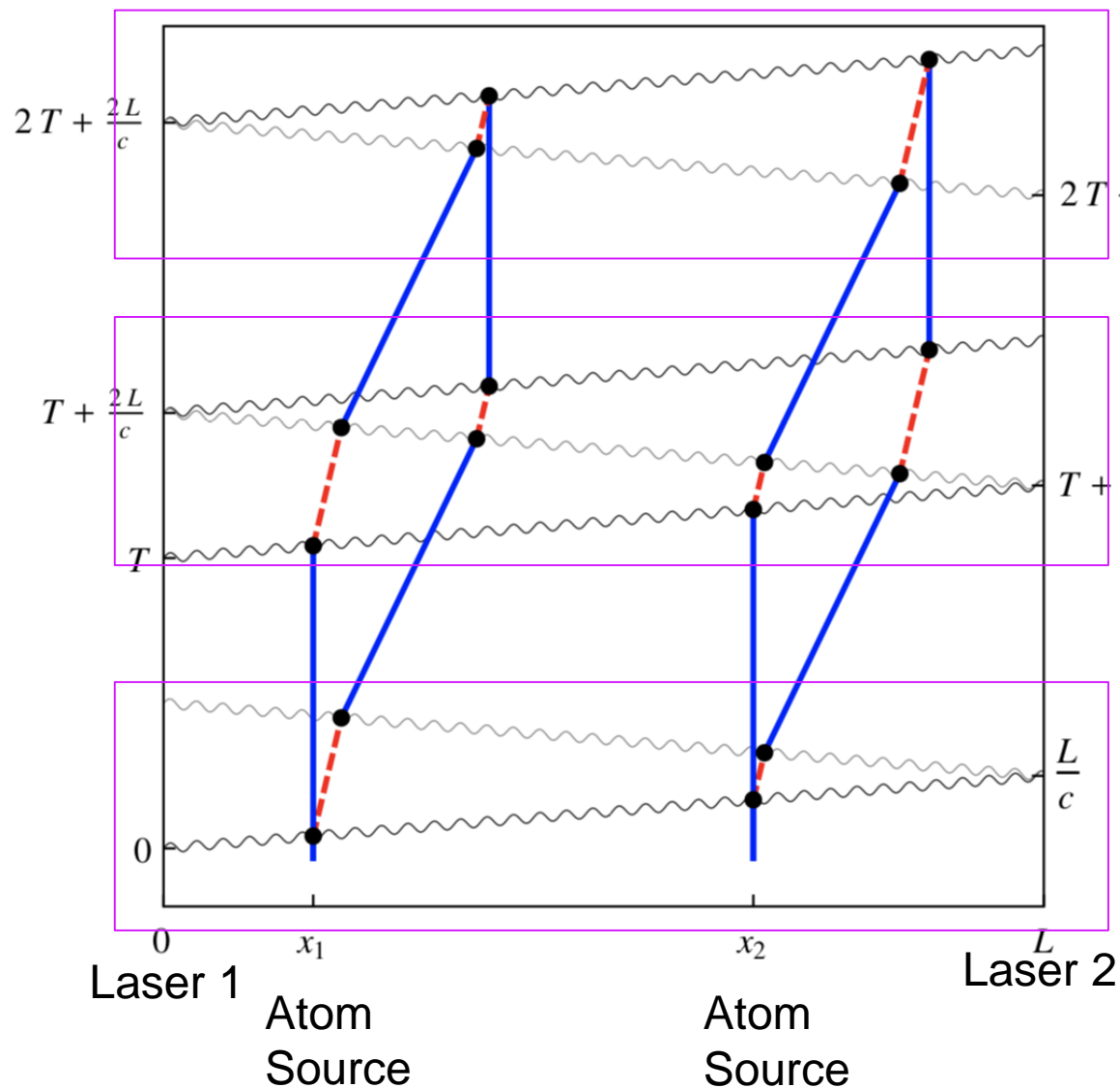
[Doppler shift to select]

Laser 2:  $\pi$  pulse [high p]

Laser 1:  $\pi/2$  pulse [split]

# Basic Differential Measurement

O. Buchmueller The AION Project



Laser 1:  $\pi/2$  pulse [split]

Laser 2:  $\pi$  pulse [low p]

“Mirror”

$3\pi$  pulse

[low-high/low-high]

[Doppler shift to select]

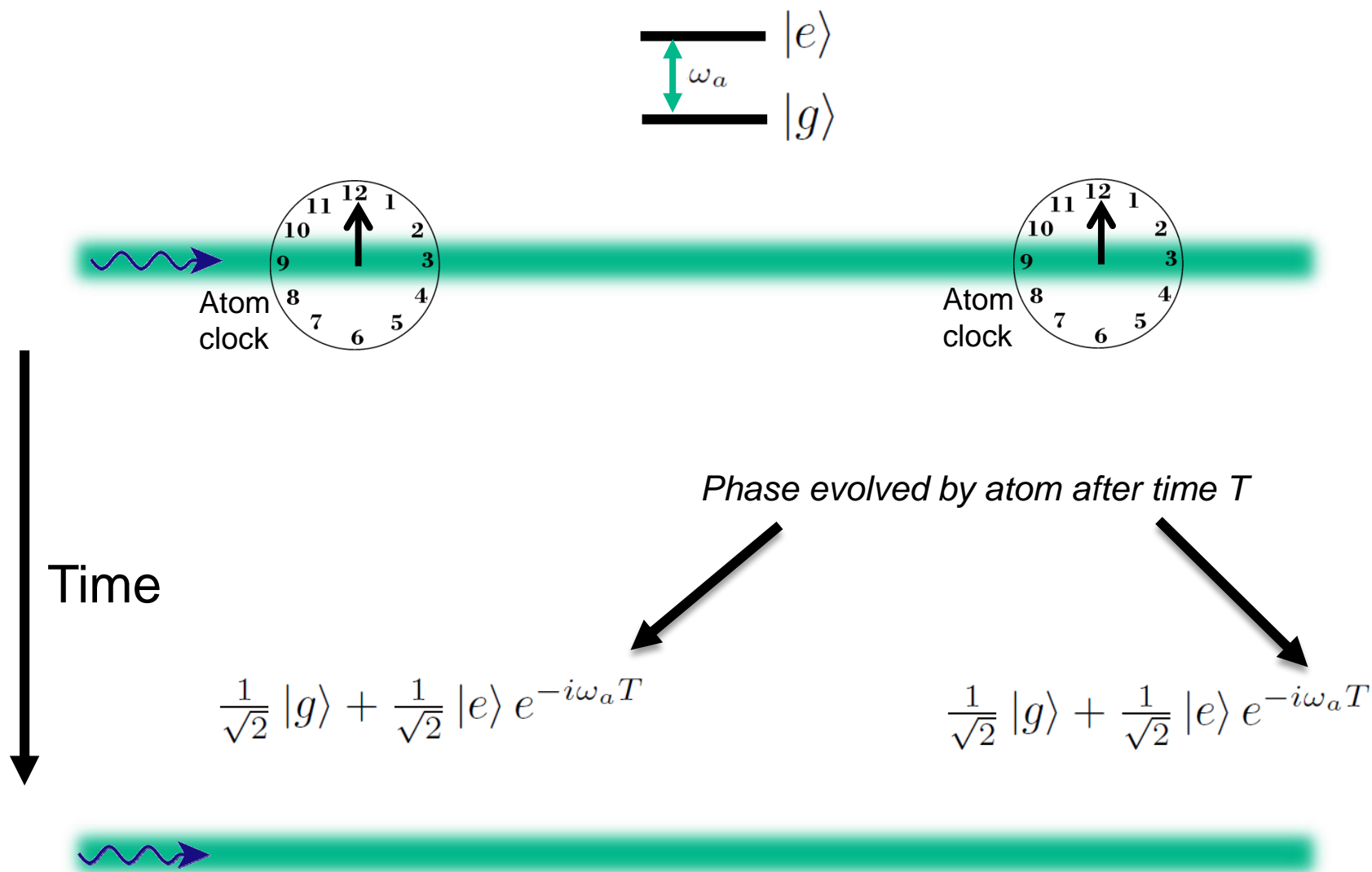
Laser 2:  $\pi$  pulse [high p]

Laser 1:  $\pi/2$  pulse [split]

Each AI spends time  $L/c$  in excited state but at different periods in the sequence

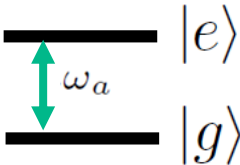
# Simple Example: Two Atomic Clocks

O. Buchmueller The AION Project

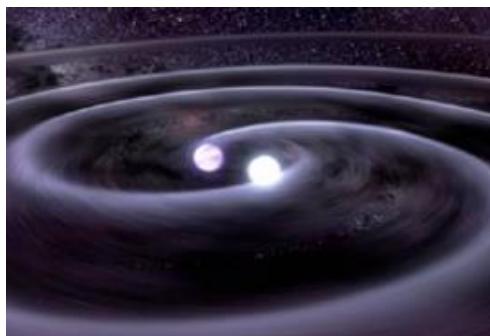
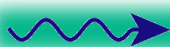


# Simple Example: Two Atomic Clocks

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |g\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |e\rangle$$


 $\omega_a$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |g\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |e\rangle$$



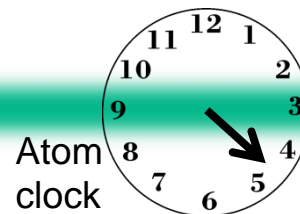
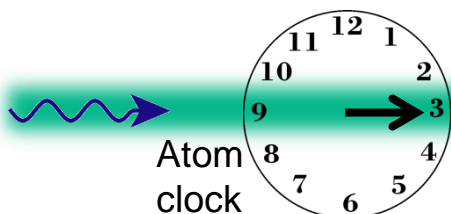
**GW changes  
light travel time**

$$\Delta T \sim hL/c$$

Time

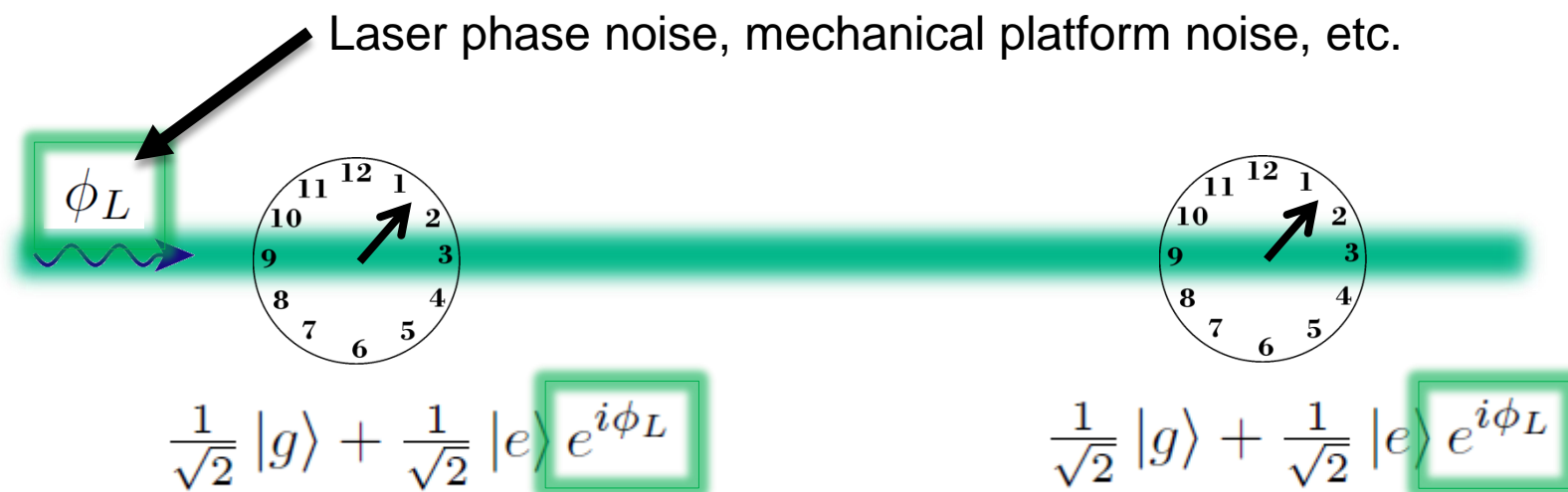
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |g\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |e\rangle e^{-i\omega_a T}$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |g\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |e\rangle e^{-i\omega_a (T+\Delta T)}$$



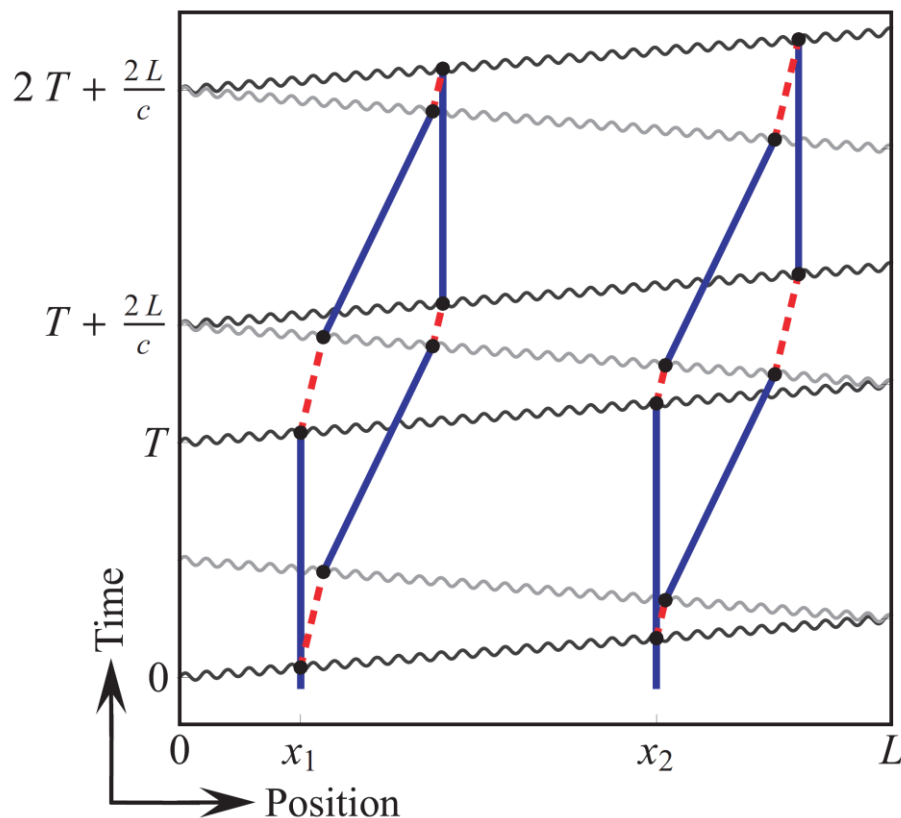
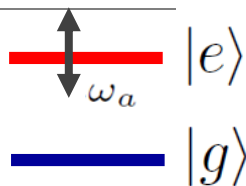
# Phase Noise from the Laser

*The phase of the laser is imprinted onto the atom.*



*Laser phase is **common** to both atoms – rejected in a differential measurement.*

# Clock gradiometer



Excited state phase evolution:

$$\Delta\phi \sim \omega_A (2L/c)$$

Two ways for phase to vary:

$$\delta\omega_A \quad \text{Dark matter}$$

$$\delta L = hL \quad \text{Gravitational wave}$$

Each interferometer measures the change over time  $T$

Laser noise is common-mode suppressed in the gradiometer

Graham et al., PRL **110**, 171102 (2013).  
Arvanitaki et al., PRD **97**, 075020 (2018).



# COLLABORATION WITH US (VIA MAGIS)

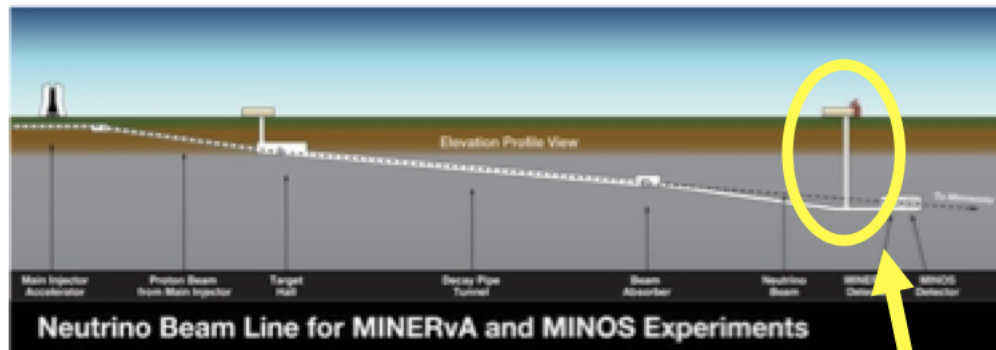
# International Collaboration

- From the outset this project would greatly benefit from close collaboration on an international level with the US initiative, MAGIS-100, which pursues a similar goal of an eventual km-scale atom interferometer on a comparable timescale.
- The option of operating two AI detectors, one in the UK and one in the US, in tandem enables new exciting physics opportunities not accessible to either AI detector alone.
- A collaboration with AION by the MAGIS experiment has already been endorsed by the community at Fermilab, presenting the UK with an immediate window of scientific opportunity.
- This US-UK collaboration will serve as the testbed for full-scale terrestrial (kilometre-scale) and satellite-based (thousands of kilometres scale) detectors and build the framework for global scientific leadership in this area.

# MAGIS-100: GW detector prototype at Fermilab

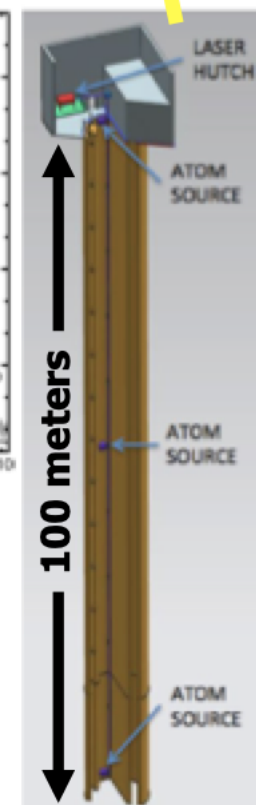
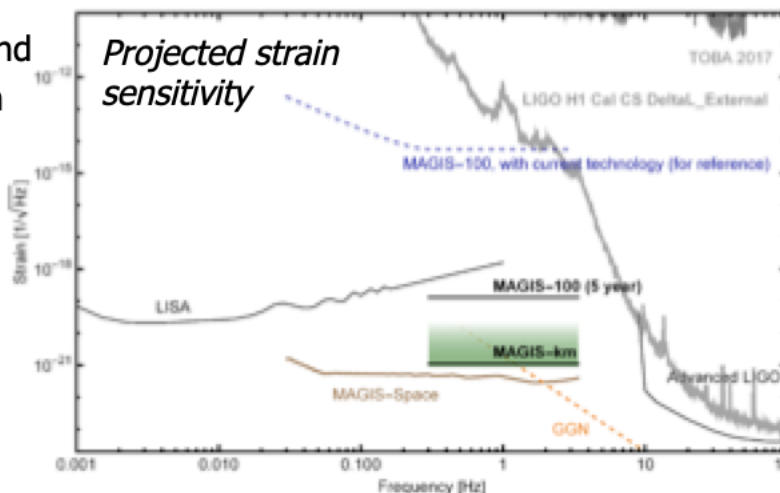
## Matter wave Atomic Gradiometer Interferometric Sensor

- 100-meter baseline atom interferometry at Fermilab (MINOS access shaft)
- Intermediate step to full-scale (km) detector for gravitational waves



## Mid-band science

- LIGO sources before they reach LIGO band
- Optimal for sky localization: predict when and where inspiral events will occur (for multi-messenger astronomy)
- BH, NS, WD binaries
- Probe for studying cosmology
- Search for dark matter (dilaton, ALP, ...)
- Extreme quantum superposition states: >meter wavepacket separation, up to 9 seconds duration



## Timeline

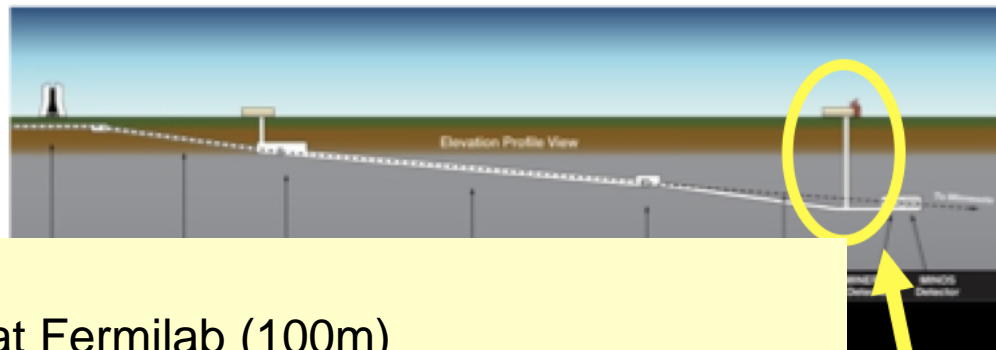
- 2019 – 2023: MAGIS-100 at Fermilab (100-meter prototype detector)
- 2023 – 2028: Kilometer-scale GW detector (e.g., SURF Homestake site) **[Proposed]**



# MAGIS-100: GW detector prototype at Fermilab

## Matter wave Atomic Gradiometer Interferometric Sensor

- 100-meter baseline atom interferometry at Fermilab (MINOS access shaft)



- Interferometry for gravity

### Timeline:

- 2019-2023: MAGIS-100 at Fermilab (100m)
- 2023-2028: km-scale detector [site still to be chosen]

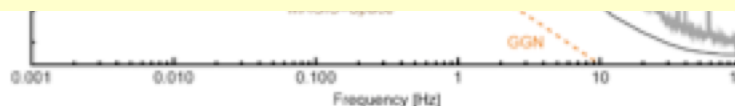
### Mid-term goals

- LIGO
- Optimal and accurate measurement
- BH, ProSeas
- Ext

### Funding:

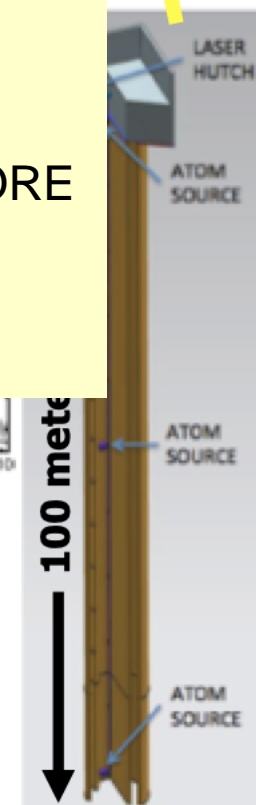
- The project was partly funded in January 2019 by the MOORE foundation with \$10Mio (£7.7Mio) over 5 years.
- The project is now applying for additional DOE funding

>meter wavepacket separation, up to 9 seconds duration



### Timeline

- 2019 – 2023: MAGIS-100 at Fermilab (100-meter prototype detector)
- 2023 – 2028: Kilometer-scale GW detector (e.g., SURF Homestake site) **[Proposed]**

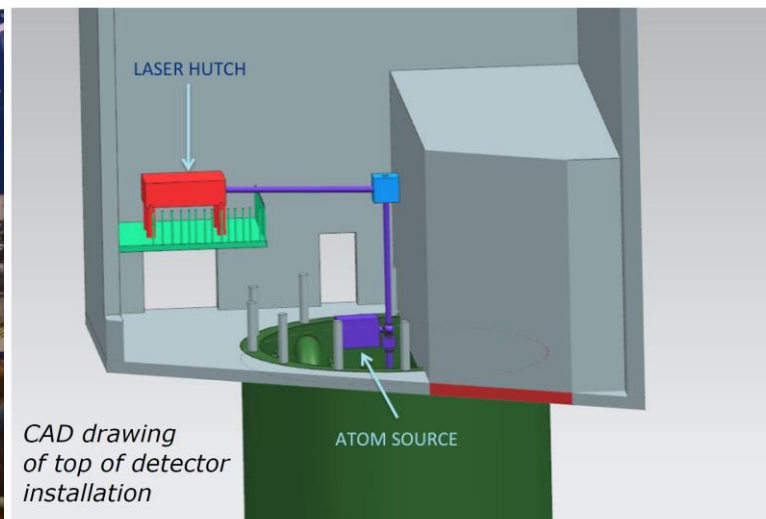
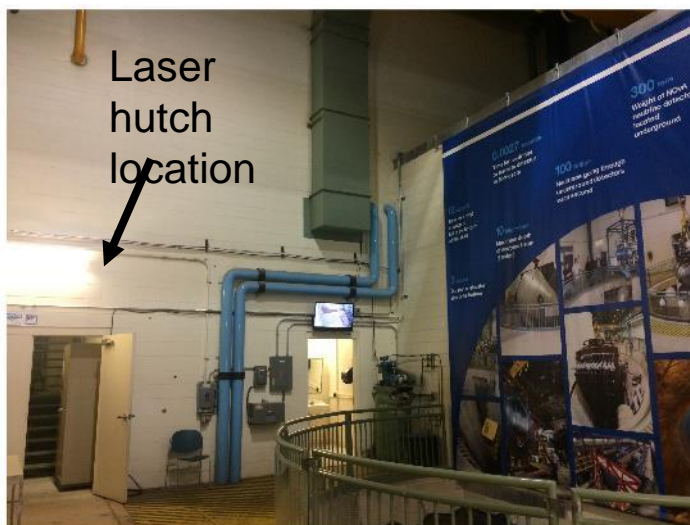
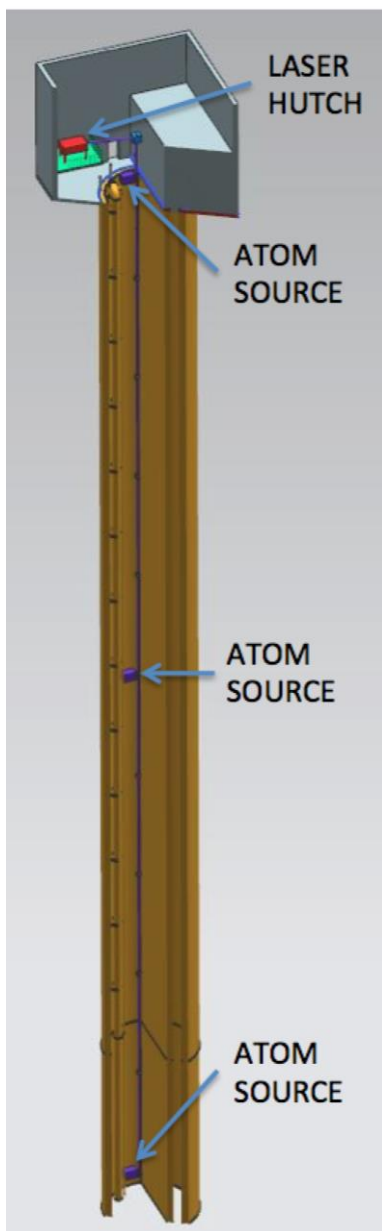


# MAGIS-100 Design

## System Components:

- ~90 meter vacuum tube (vertical)
- Atoms sources (three, attached to tube)
- Laser system for implementing atom interferometry (hutch at top)

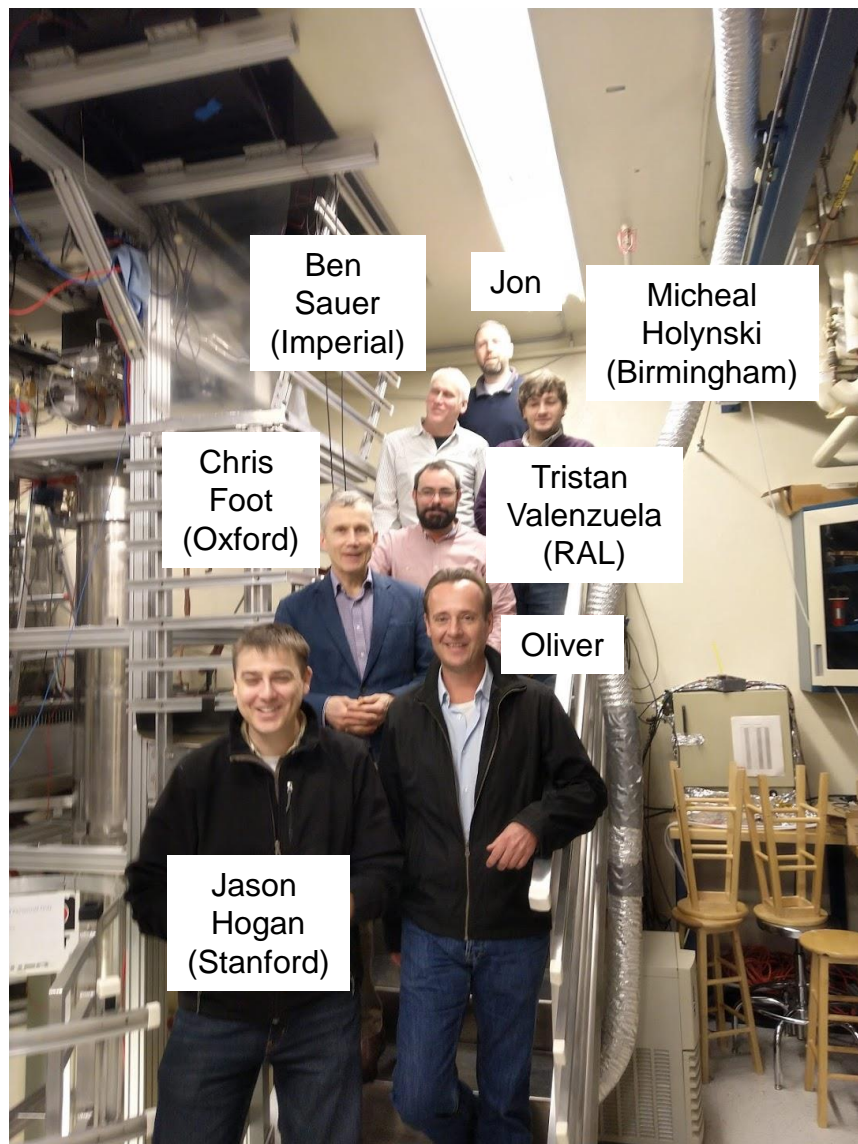
O. Buchmueller The AION Project



# VISIT TO STANFORD ON 10/11 JANUARY 2019



# Stanford Visit 10/11 January 2019



## We had a very fruitful visit to Stanford!

### Main goals of the visit:

- Establish information exchange and review the Stanford work.
- Strengthen the US-UK collaboration
- Identify synergies and common goals between AION and MAGIS.

### Outcome:

- Stanford/MAGIS is very open to closer collaboration with the UK/AION and they very much welcome another activity working towards the mid-band with AIs.
- There are several challenges where the UK expertise can help to achieve the design goals of the programme [see next slide].
- We agreed to include the synchronised operation of 10m prototype versions (later 100m) in the programme of MAGIS and AION.

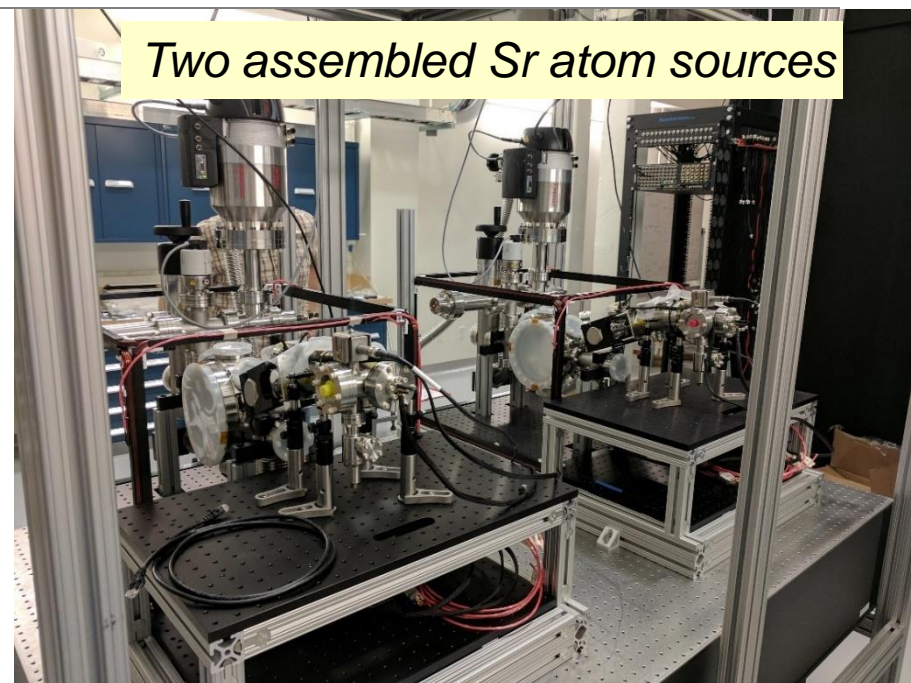


# Stanford MAGIS prototype

O. Buchmueller The AION Project



*Two assembled Sr atom sources*



Stanford Lab to host 8 m  
prototype of the Sr fountain.

It is supposed to be assembled  
over summer 2019.

# AION FUNDING PROPOSAL: WORK PACKAGES



# First AION Workshop at Imperial College London March 25/26 2019



*Organised by:*  
*T. Bowcock,*  
*O. Buchmueller [Coord.],*  
*J. Coleman,*  
*J. Ellis [Theory],*  
*I. Shipsey*

**2-Day Workshop:**  
**Day 1: Instrumentation**  
**Day 2: Physics case**

**If you like to participate or  
require further information  
please contact:**  
**[fundamental-physics-admin@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:fundamental-physics-admin@imperial.ac.uk)**  
**with “AION” in title.**

Please register at:  
<http://www.hep.ph.ic.ac.uk/AION2019/>

# AION10 [Stage 1]: Work Packages in a Nutshell

## WP-AI

- Form UK collaboration to design and construct AION1 and AION10 and establish a first UK AION Network by building AION-1 in selected places.
- Prototype AION-10 to demonstrate the technology and to establish UK expertise and leadership in the field.
- Commission AION-10, compare with AION-1 Network and perform synchronised measurement campaigns with MAGIS.
- Connect to UK QTH to develop techniques and technology required to reach performance for realising science goals, in collaboration with developments in the MAGIS consortium.

## WP-Physics

- Establish physics programme for AION-1/10 Network.
- Physics exploitation of AION-1/10 Network
- Contribute to work establishing the physics case for AION-100 and beyond.
- Support phenomenology for AION physics case.

## WP-AION100

- Work towards AION-100 including design work for AION-100 in a tower or a shaft and establish the physics case.

## WP-MAGIS

- Collaborate with MAGIS-100 to contribute to experiment & exploitation
- Build the foundation of a strong and lasting collaboration with US.

# AION10 [Stage 1]: Work Packages in a Nutshell

## WP-AI

**Pathway to technology and expertise and will form  
a first network of AI's in the UK.**

## WP-Physics

**This will give us physics & phenomenology**

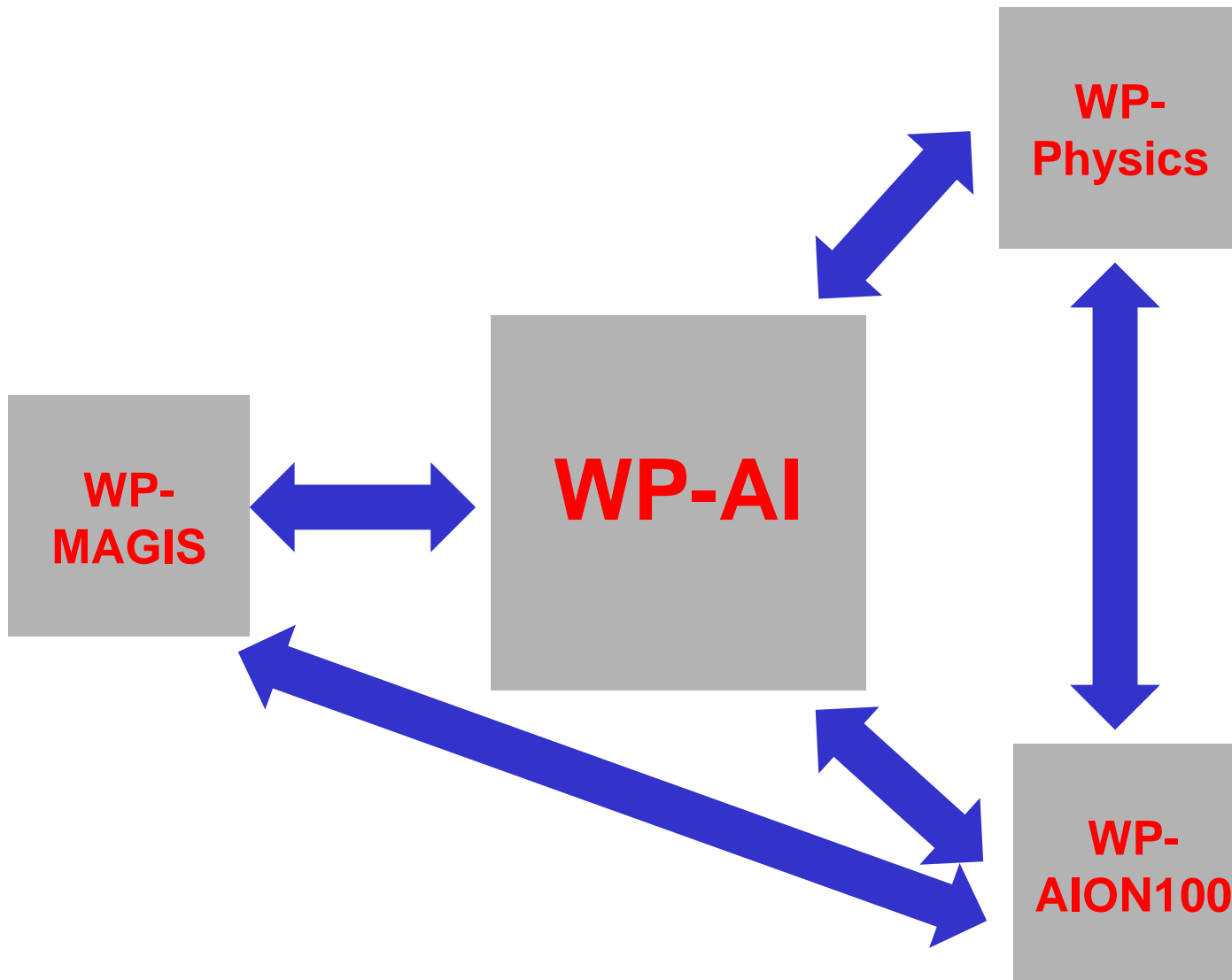
## WP-AION100

**This will give us the path into the future (next bid)**

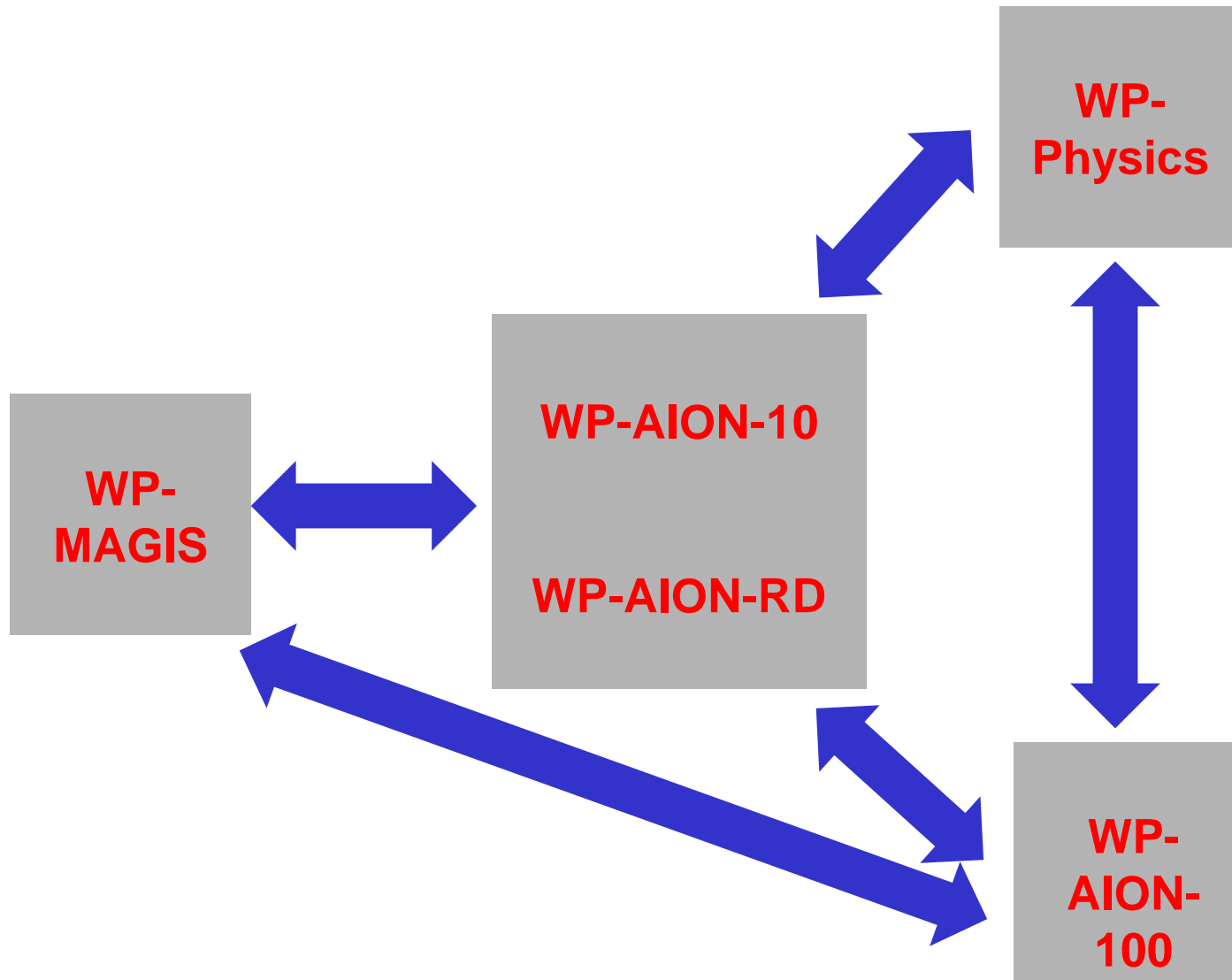
## WP-MAGIS

**This will give us MAGIS and US Collaboration**

# AION10 [Stage 1]: Main WP Connections

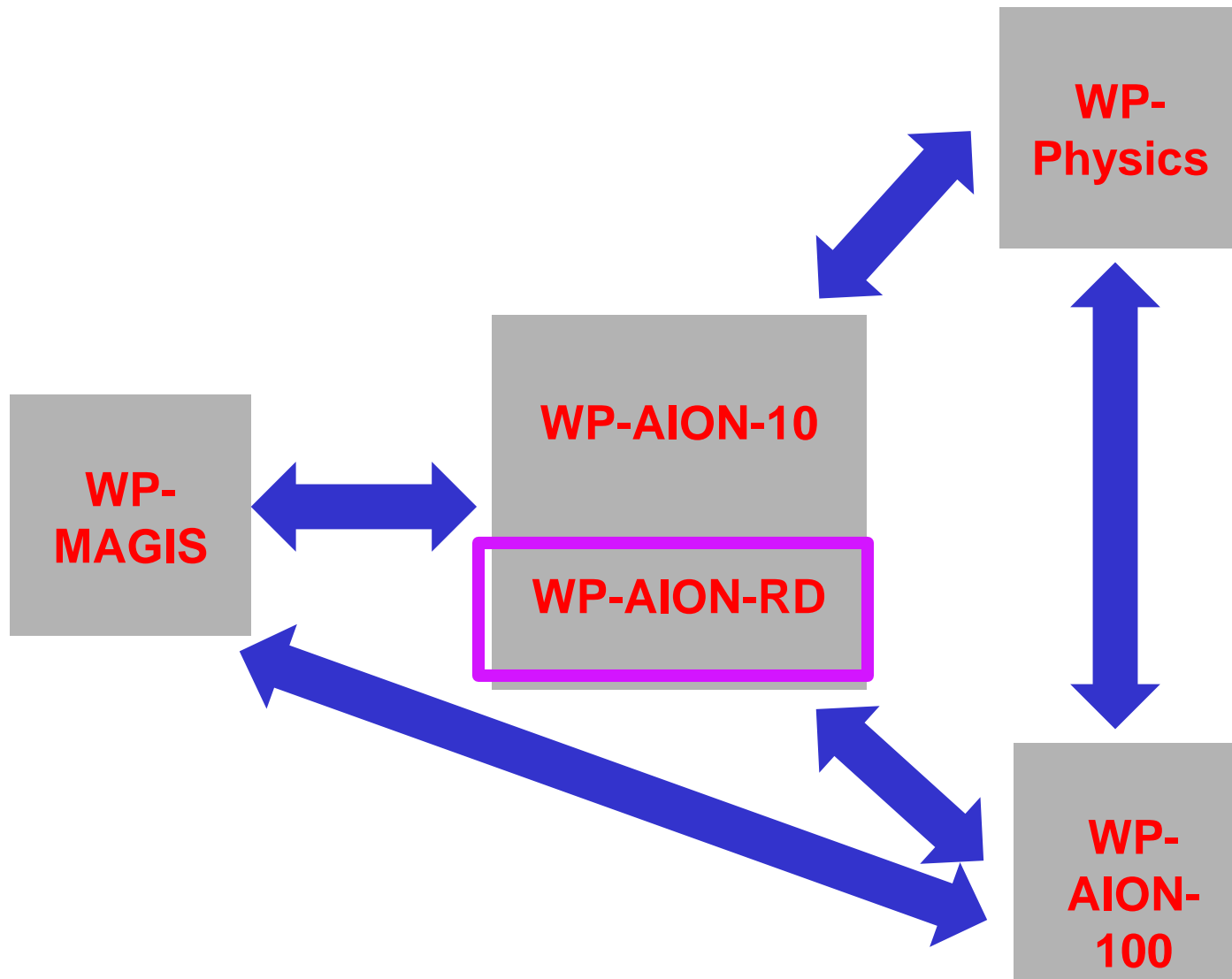


# AION10 [Stage 1]: Main WP Connections



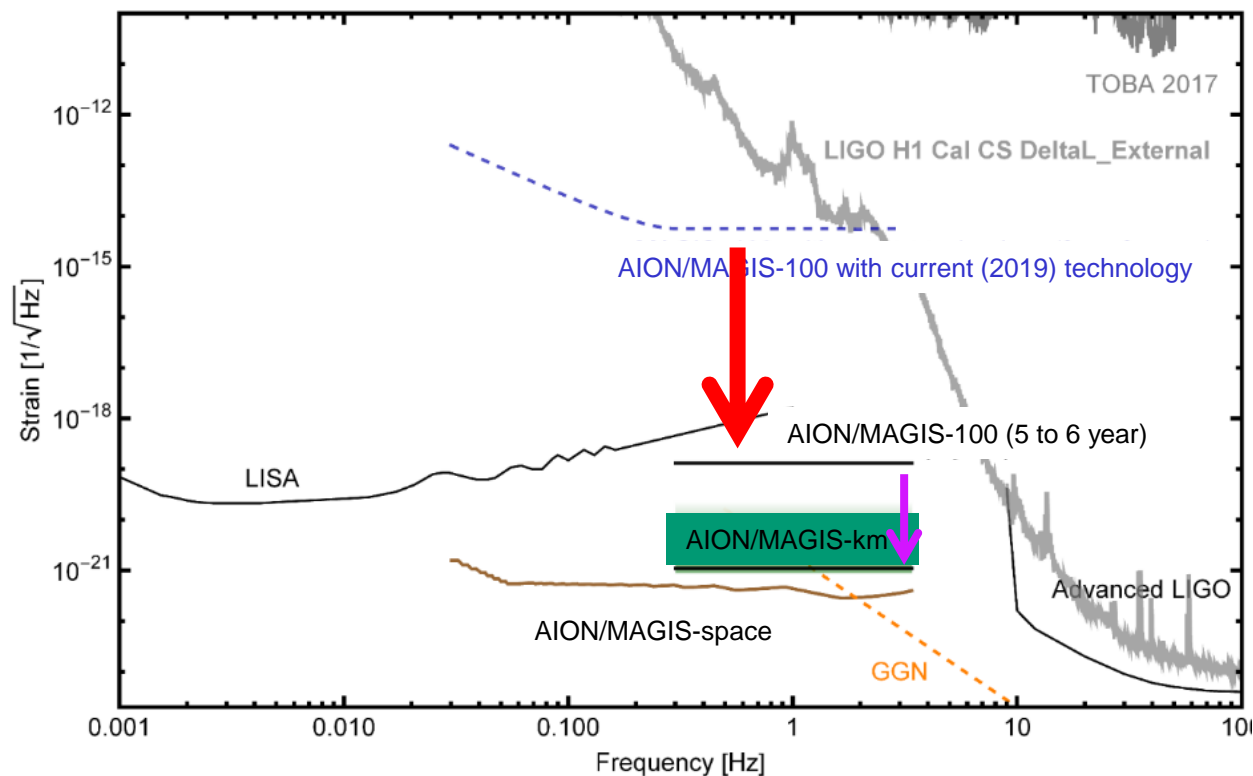


# AION10 [Stage 1]: Main WP Connections



# What are the challenges?

O. Buchmueller The AION Project



Still several orders of Magnitude away in sensitivity required to be sensitive to Mid-band GW physics!

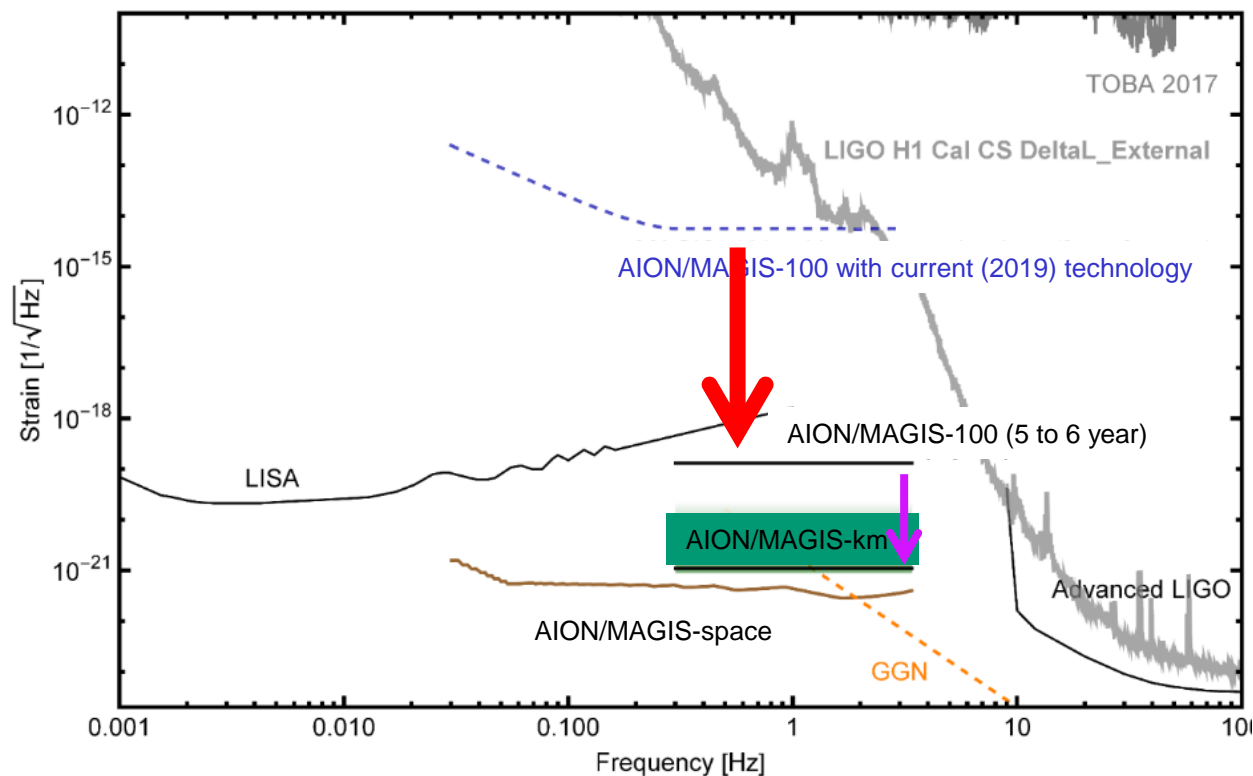
Need to push the basic parameters to accomplish this goal! Although there is a clear path forward this won't be a free lunch and it will require effort and ingenuity!

	AION/MAGIS-100 current	AION/MAGIS-100 5/6 year	AION/MAGIS-km
Baseline	100 m	100 m	2 km
Phase noise	$10^{-3}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$	$10^{-5}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$	$0.3 \times 10^{-5}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$
LMT	100	4e4	4e4
Atom sources	3	3	30

The UK community could play an important role to accomplish this goal, which, in turn, can accelerate the schedule and minimize the risk of failure

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O. Buchmueller The AION Project



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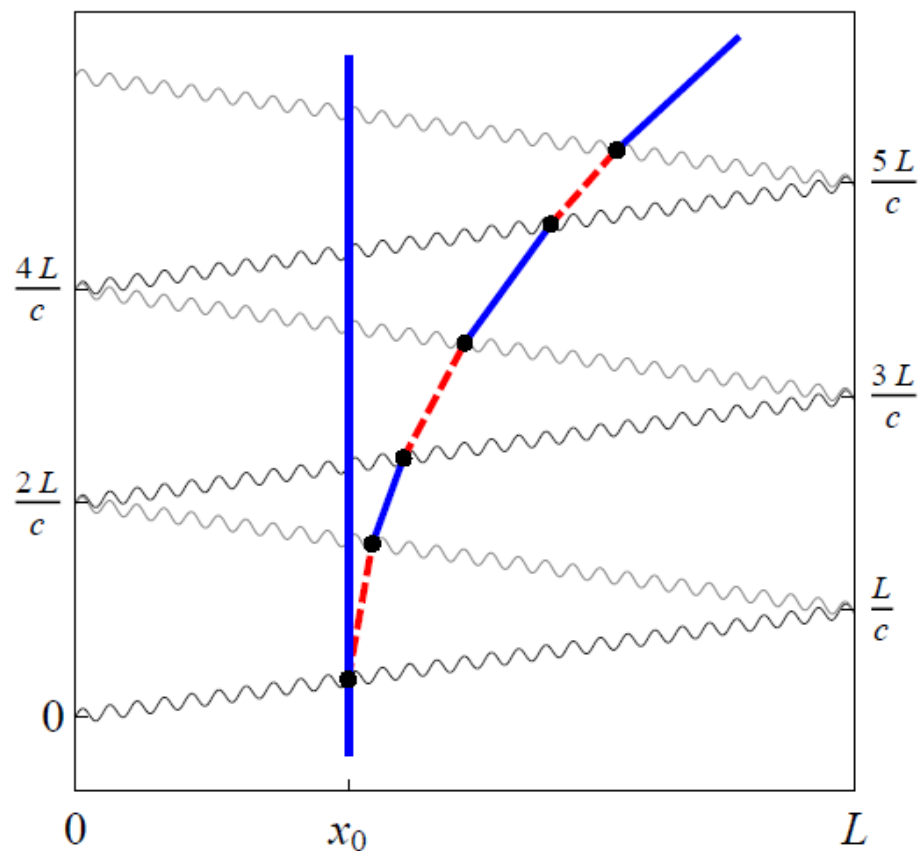
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LMT	100	4e4	4e4
Atom sources	3	3	30

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# LMT and Resonant Pulse Sequences

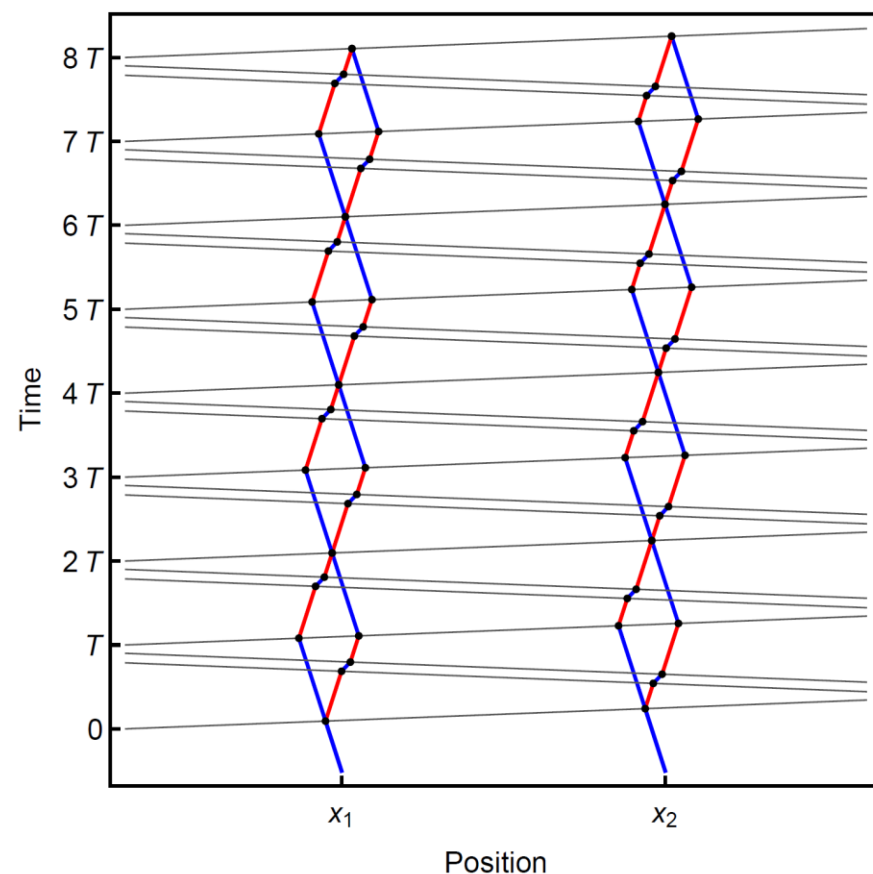
Large Momentum Transfer (LMT): Sequential single-photon transitions remain laser noise immune

**LMT beamsplitter (N = 3)**



Graham, *et al.*, PRL (2013)

**Resonant sequence (Q = 4)**



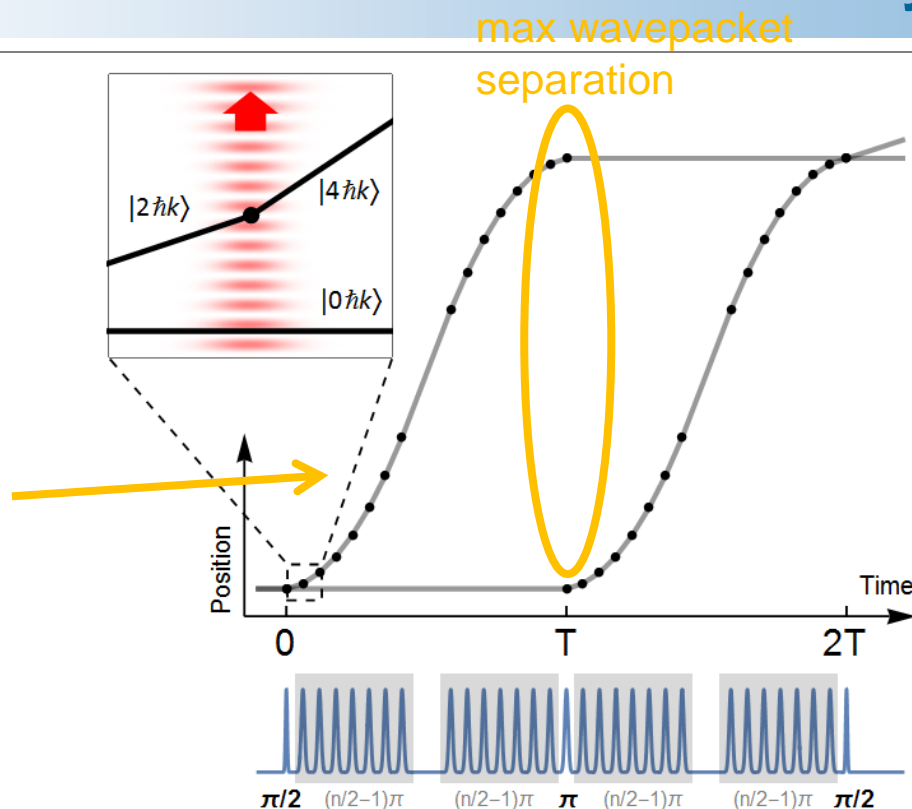
Graham, *et al.*, PRD (2016)

# Large space-time area atom interferometry

O. Buchmueller The AION Project

Long duration (2 seconds),  
large separation ( $>0.5$  meter)  
matter wave interferometer

90 photons worth  
of momentum



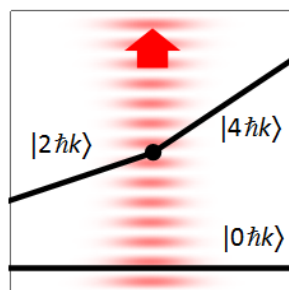
World record wavepacket separation due  
to multiple laser pulses of momentum

54 cm

# Large space-time area atom interferometry

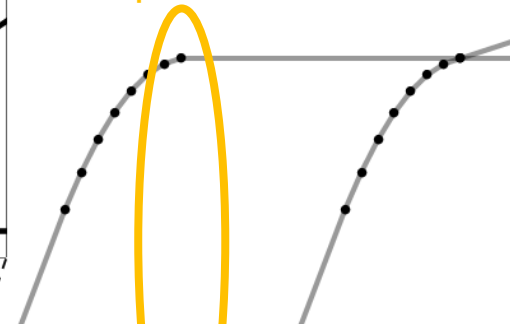
O. Buchmueller The AION Project

Long duration (2 seconds),  
large separation (>0.5 meter)  
matter wave interferometer

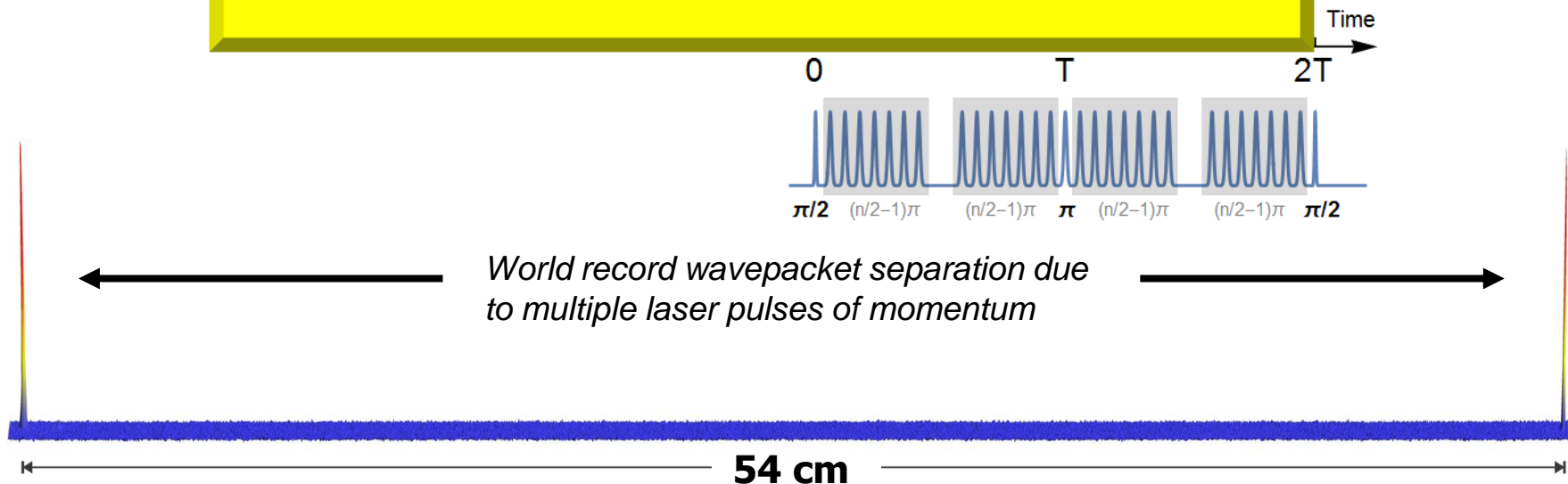


max wavepacket

separation



Birmingham (Mike et al) is taking the lead here for AION



# AION PHYSICS CASE



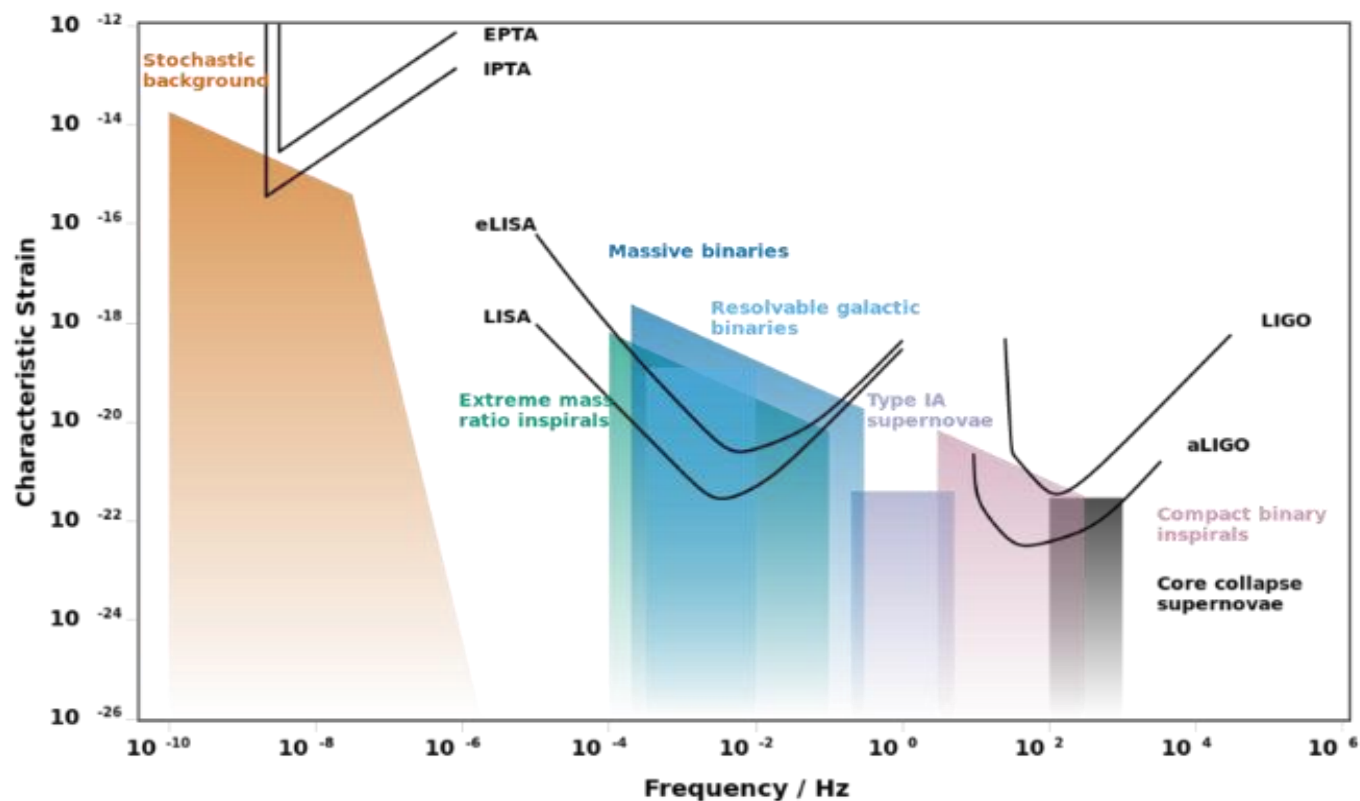
## References:

- On the Maximal Strength of a First-Order Electroweak Phase Transition and its Gravitational Wave Signal, [1809.08242](#)
- Cosmic Archaeology with Gravitational Waves from Cosmic Strings, [1711.03104](#)
- Probing the pre-BBN universe with gravitational waves from cosmic strings, [1808.08968](#)
- Formation and Evolution of Primordial Black Hole Binaries in the Early Universe, [1812.01930](#)
- Primordial Black Holes from Thermal Inflation, [1903.09598](#)

# GW PHYSICS @ AION

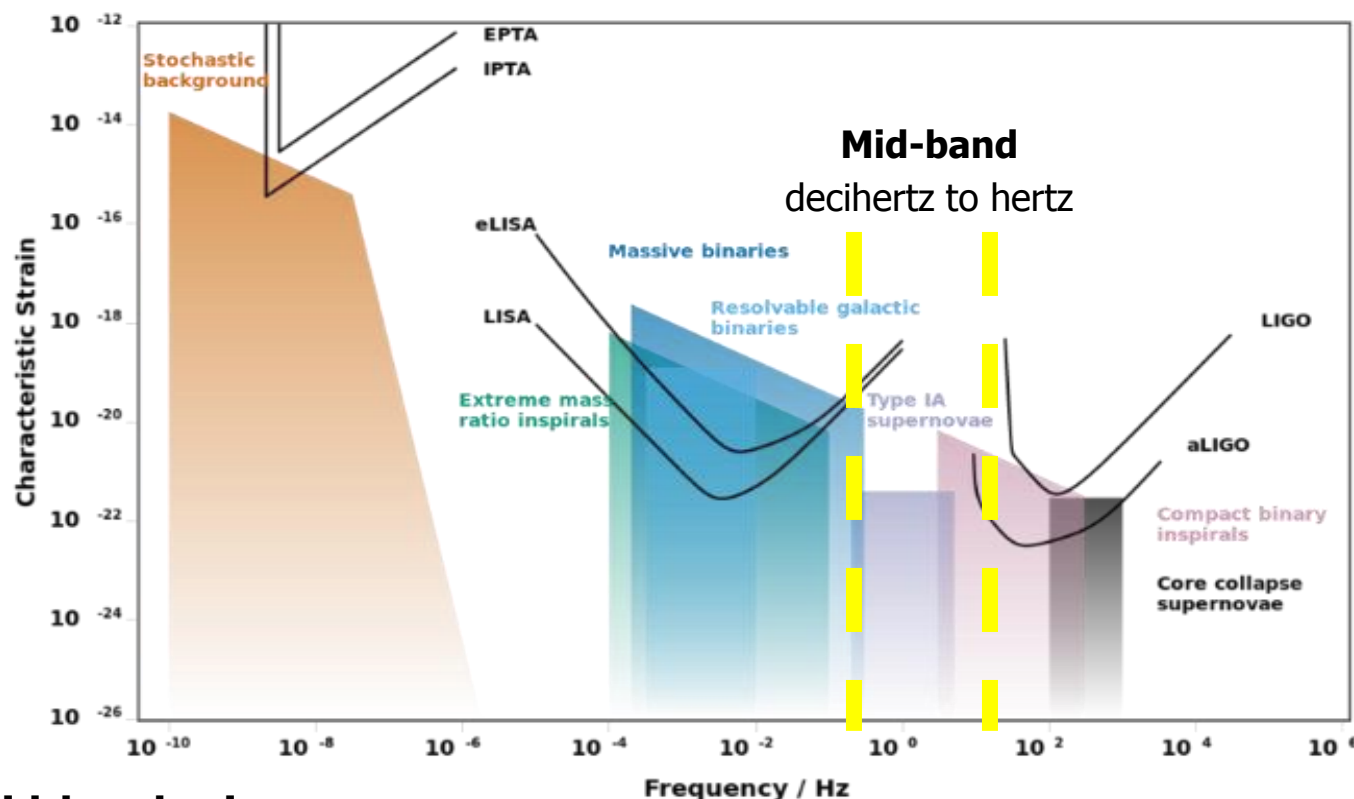
# AION: Pathway to the GW Mid-(Frequency) Band

## Experimental GW Landscape



# AION: Pathway to the GW Mid-(Frequency) Band

## Experimental GW Landscape



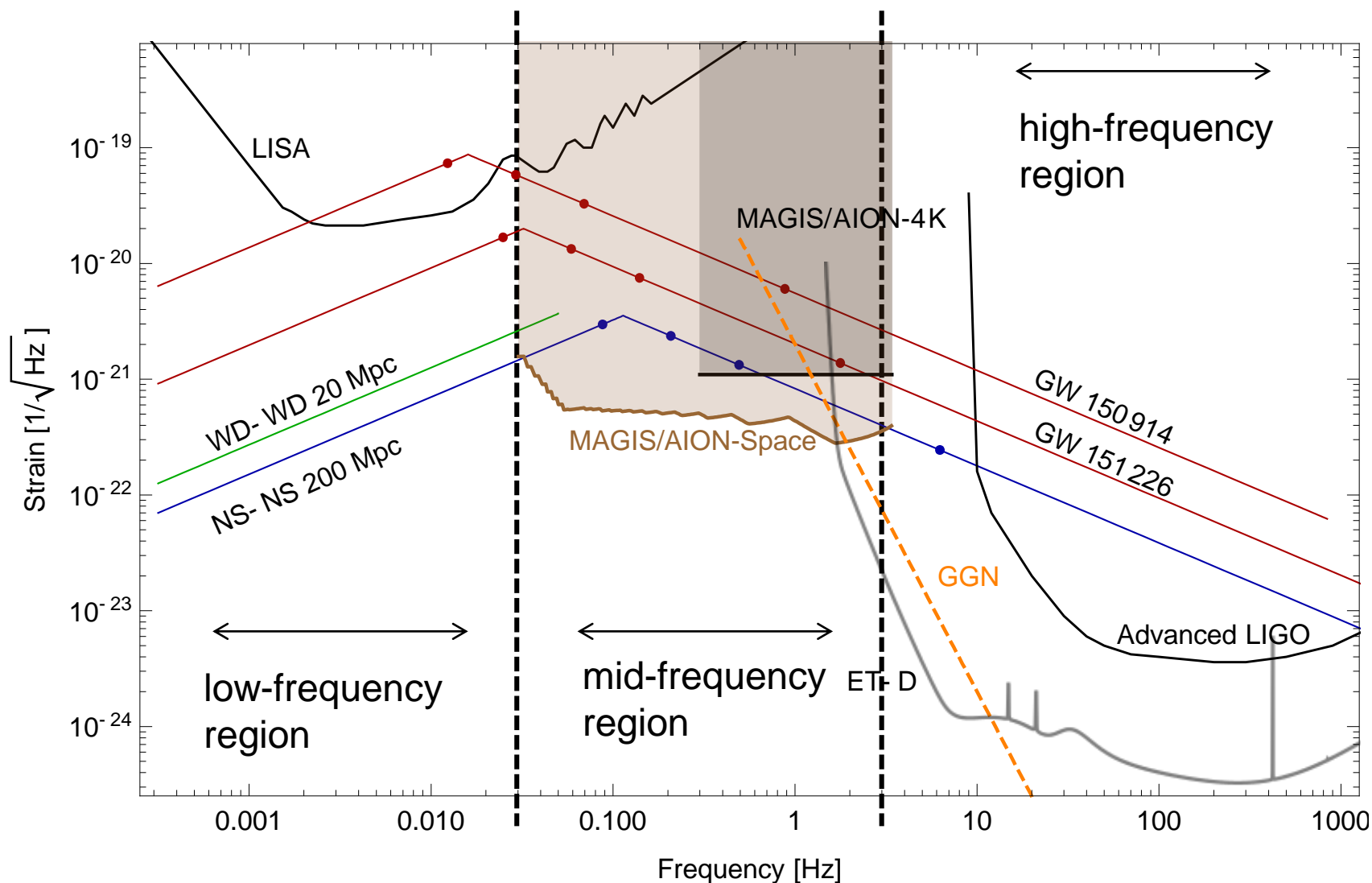
Mid-Band currently  
NOT covered

## Mid-band science

- Detect sources BEFORE they reach the high frequency band [LIGO, ET]
- Optimal for sky localization: predict when and where events will occur (for multi-messenger astronomy)
- Search for Ultra-light dark matter in a similar frequency [i.e. mass] range

# Gravitational Wave Detection with Atom Interferometry

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# Sky position determination

Sky localization  
precision:

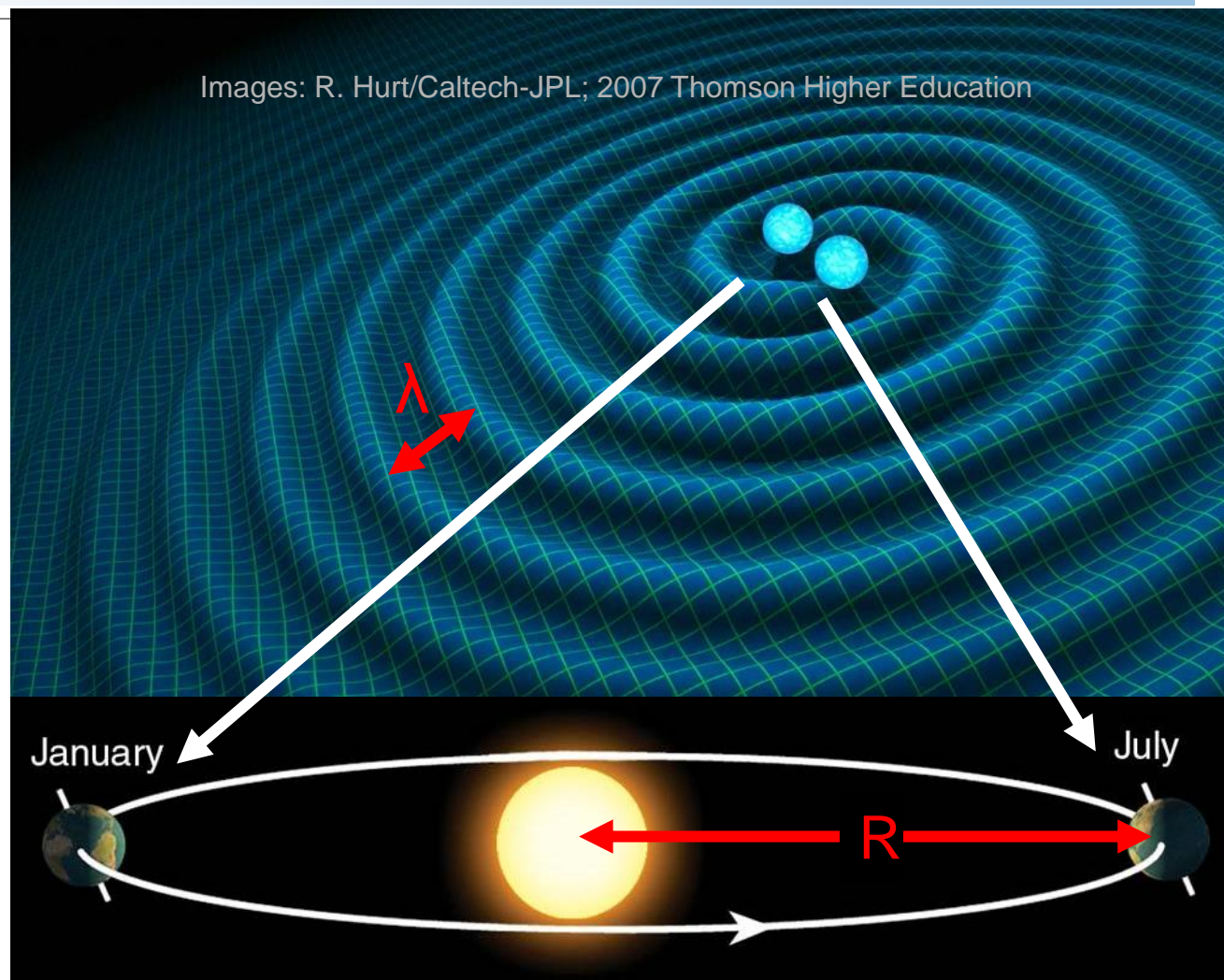
$$\sqrt{\Omega_s} \sim \left( \text{SNR} \cdot \frac{R}{\lambda} \right)^{-1}$$

## Mid-band advantages

- Small wavelength  $\lambda$
- Long source lifetime (~months) maximizes effective  $R$

Benchmark	$\sqrt{\Omega_s}$ [deg]
GW150914	0.16
GW151226	0.20
NS-NS (140 Mpc)	0.19

Courtesy of Jason Hogan!

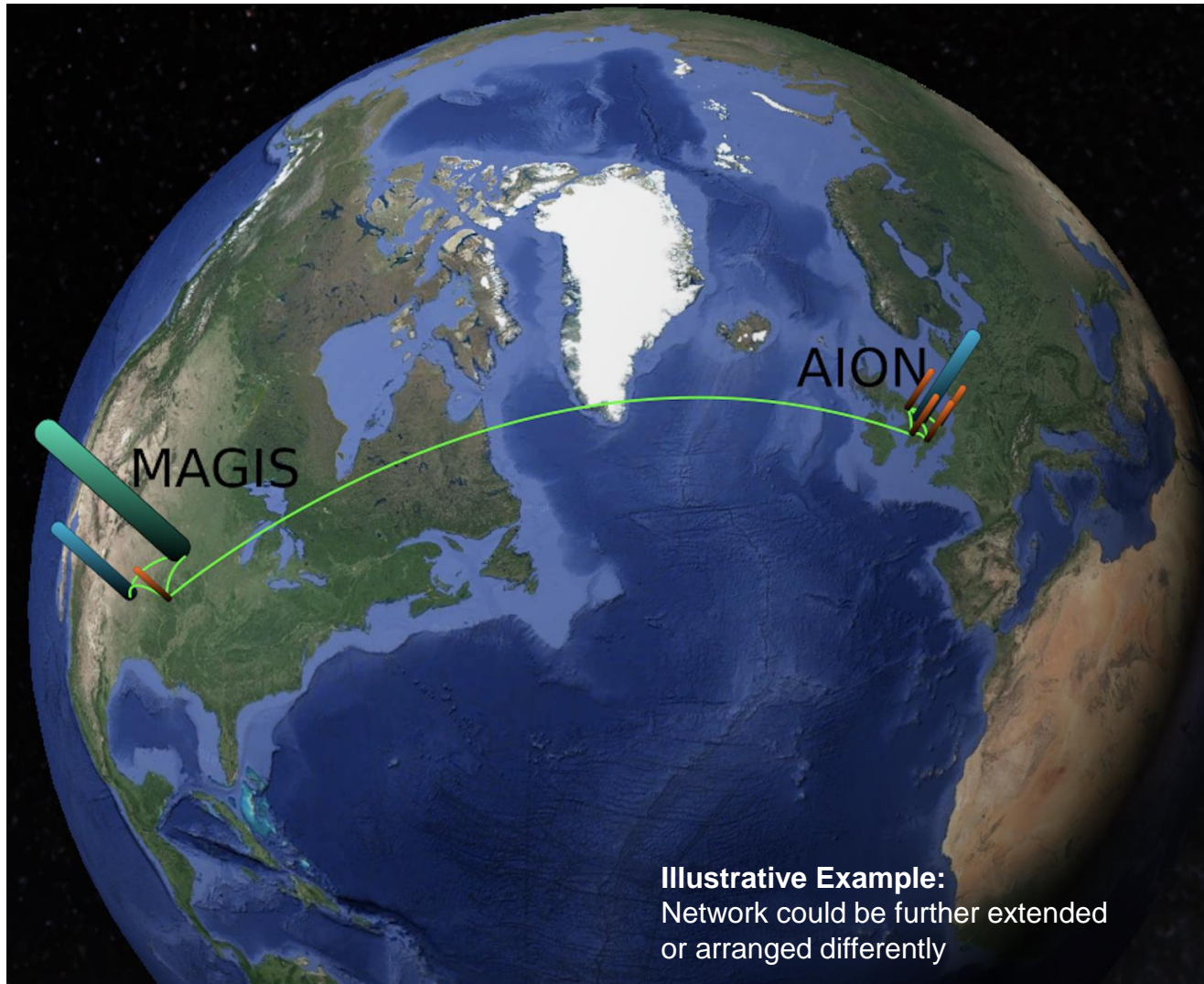


Ultimate sensitivity for terrestrial based detectors is achieved by operating 2 (or more)  
Detectors in synchronisation mode



# Ultimate Goal: Establish International Network

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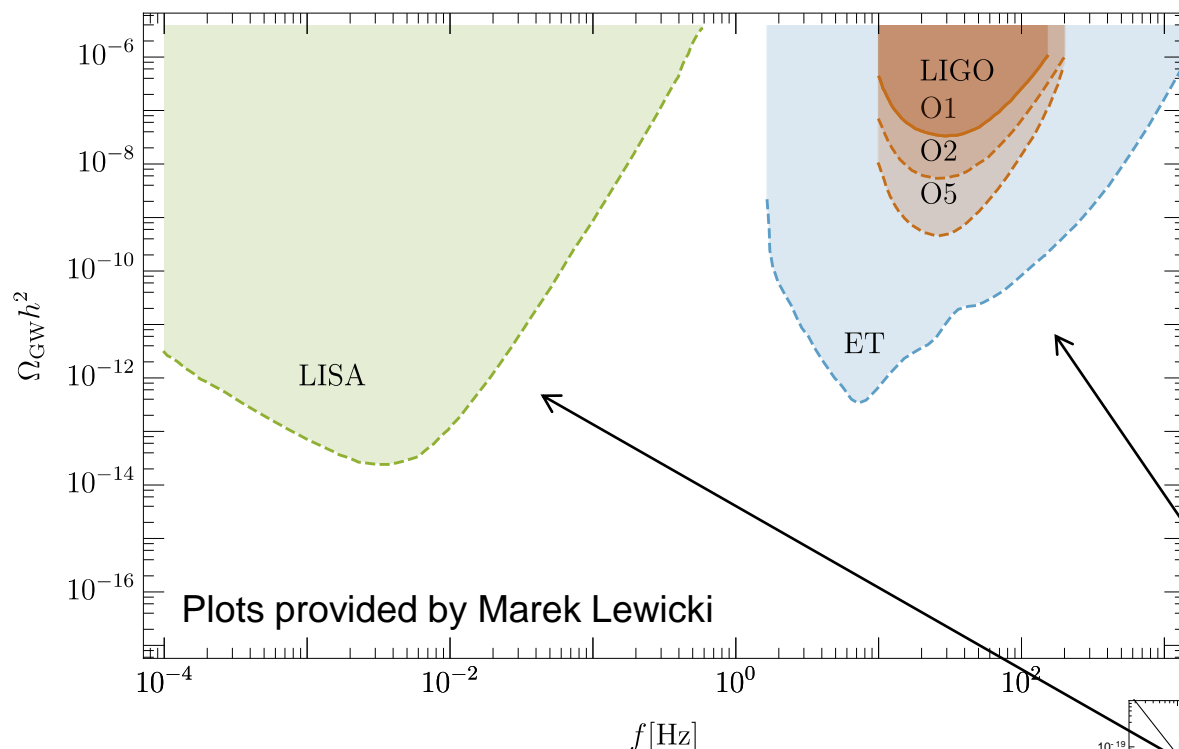
# GW Detection & Fundamental Physics - Example

## First-Order Electroweak Phase Transition and its Gravitational Wave Signal

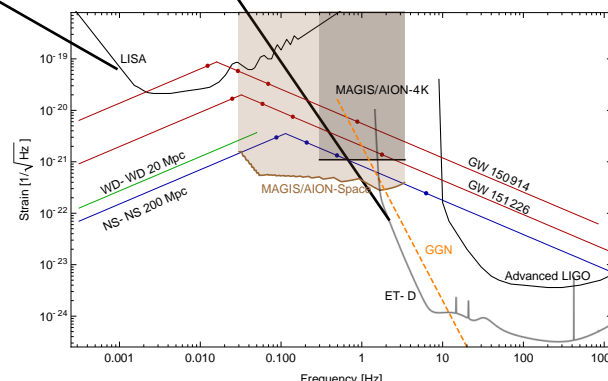
**arXiv:1809.08242**

John Ellis, Marek Lewicki,  
José Miguel No

What is the GW signal  
of electroweak phase  
transition in various  
theories beyond  
the Standard Model.



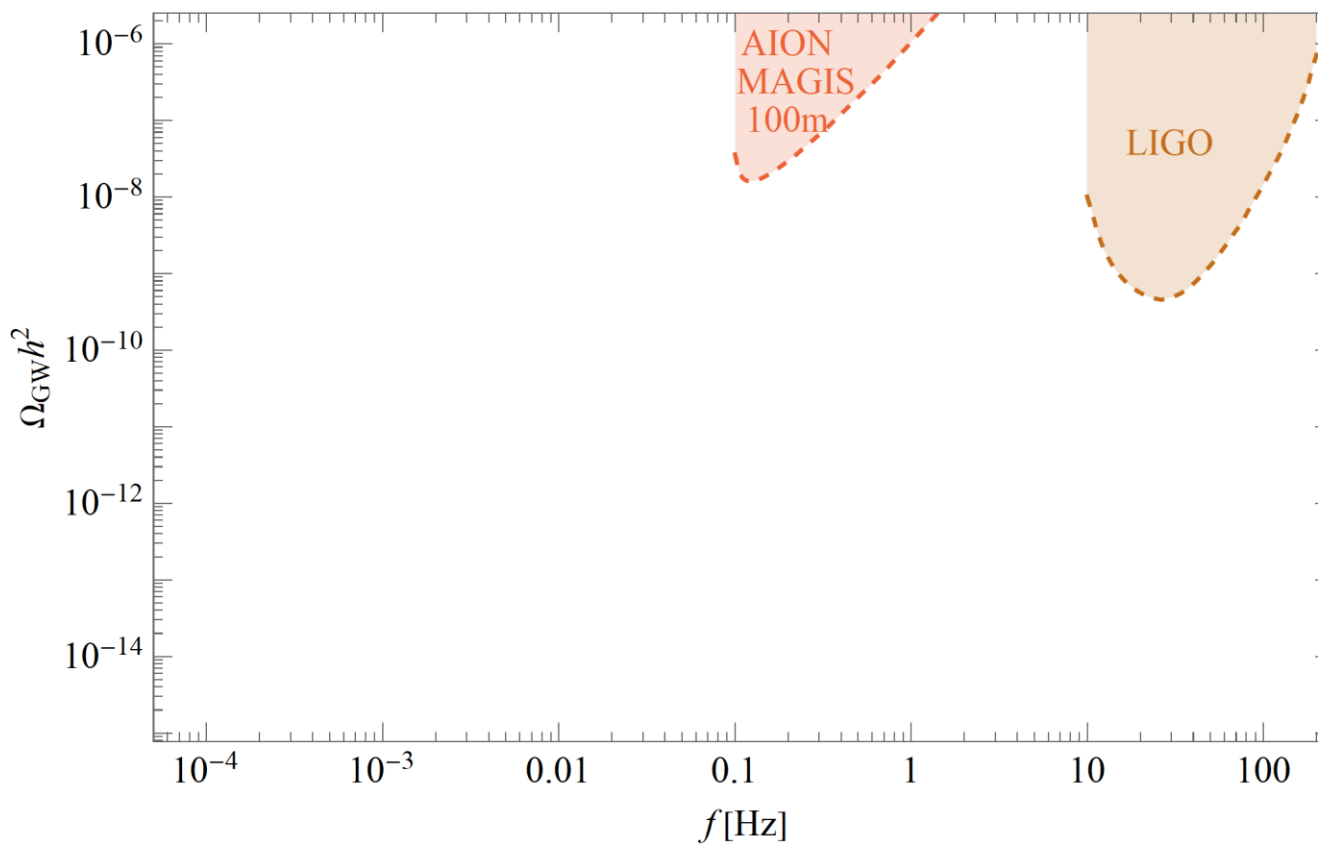
Translate strain into dimensionless energy  
density  $\Omega_{\text{GW}}h^2$  in GWs against frequency





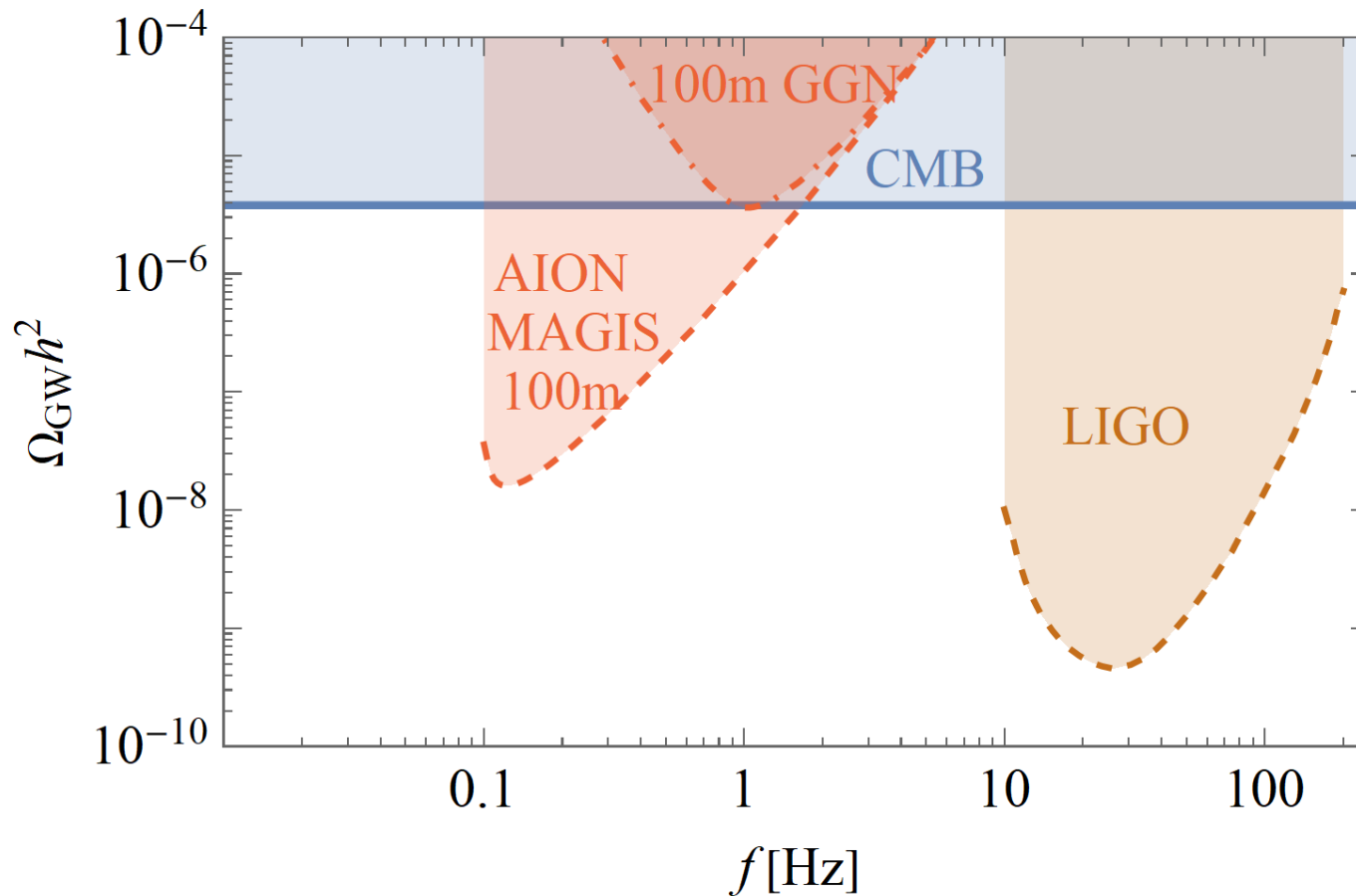
# The GW Experimental Landscape: 2030ish

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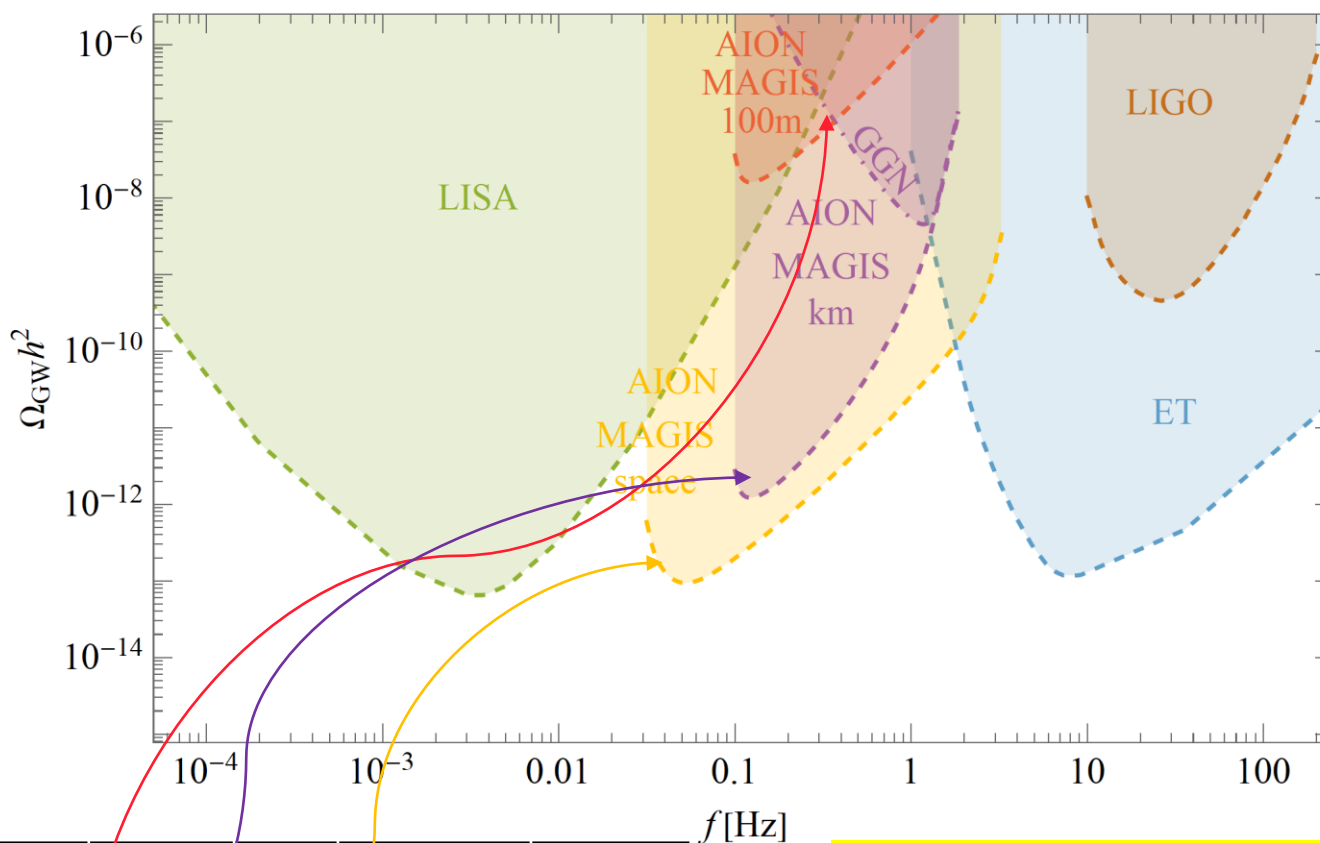
# The GW Experimental Landscape: 2030ish

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# The GW Experimental Landscape: 2030ish

O. Buchmueller The AION Project



Sensitivity Scenario	L [m]	$T_{\text{int}}$ [s]	$\Phi$ [ $1/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ ]	LMP [#]
AION-100-today	100	1.4	$10^{-3}$	100
AION-100-ultimate	100	1.4	$10^{-5}$	40000
AION-km	2000	5	$0.3 \times 10^{-5}$	40000
AION-space	$4.4 \times 10^7$	300	$10^{-5}$	<1000

**List of basic parameters: Lengths of the detector  $L$ , interrogation time of the atom interferometer  $T_{\text{int}}$ , phase noise  $\phi$ , and number of momentum transfers LMP. The choice of these parameters predominately defines the sensitivity of the projection scenarios.**

# GW Physics: A Few Examples

- **Astrophysical Sources**

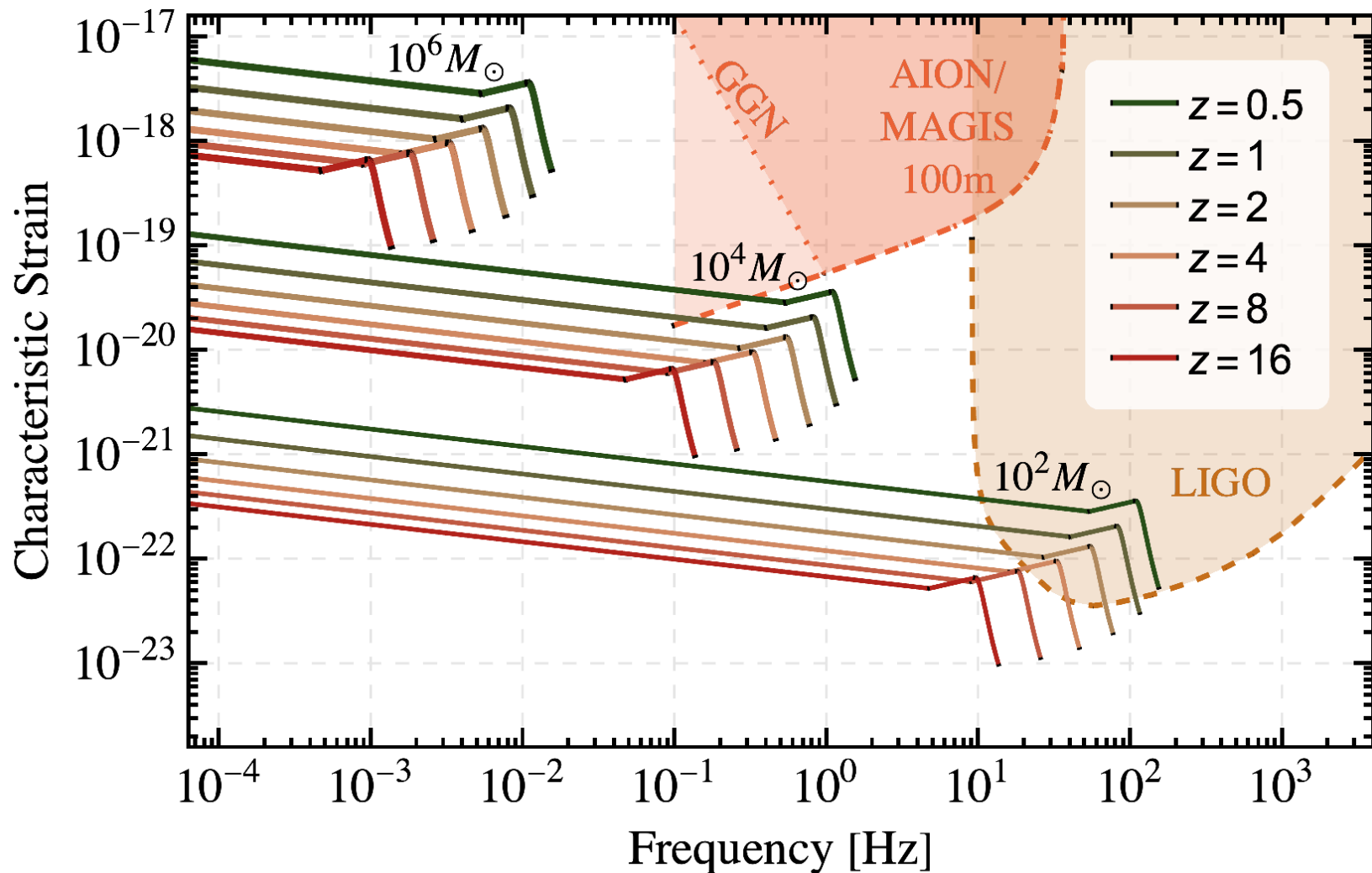
- The Black Holes (BH) whose mergers were discovered by LIGO and Virgo have masses up to several tens of solar masses. Many galaxies are known to contain super-massive black holes (SMBHs) with masses in the range between  $10^6$  and billions of solar masses.
- It is expected that intermediate-mass black holes (IMBHs) with masses in the range 100 to  $10^5$  solar masses must also exist [6]. There is some observational evidence for IMBHs, and they are thought to have played key roles in the assembly of SMBHs.

- **Cosmological Sources**

- Many extensions of the Standard Model (SM) predict first-order phase transitions in the early Universe. Examples include extended electroweak sectors, effective field theories with higher-dimensional operators and hidden sector interactions.
  - Extended electroweak model with a massive  $Z'$  boson
  - Cosmic String Model

# Strain Sensitivity & BH Mergers: 2030ish

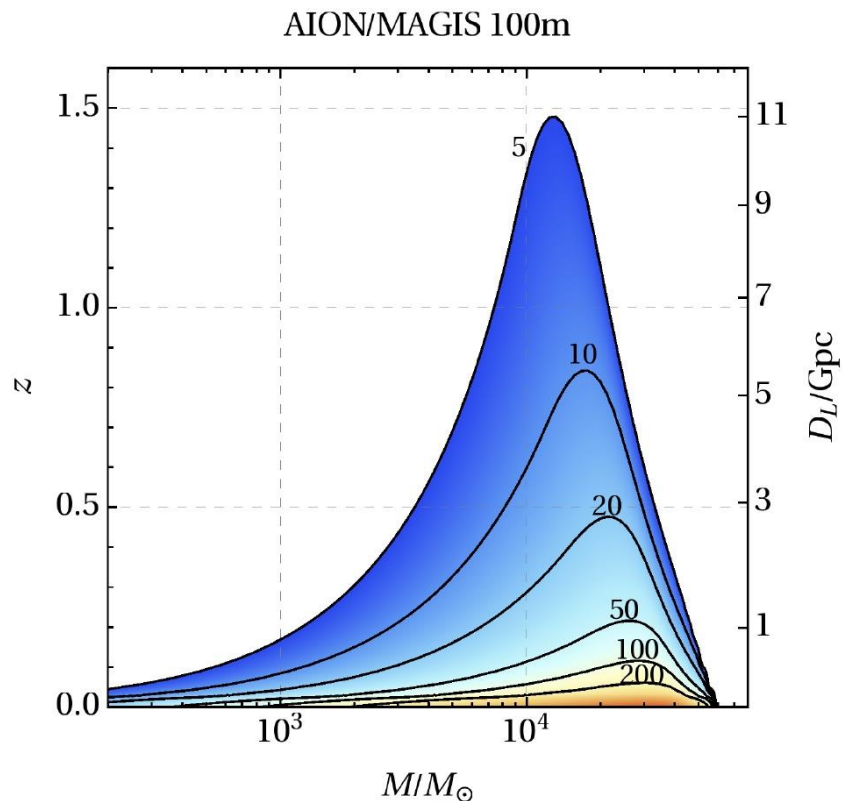
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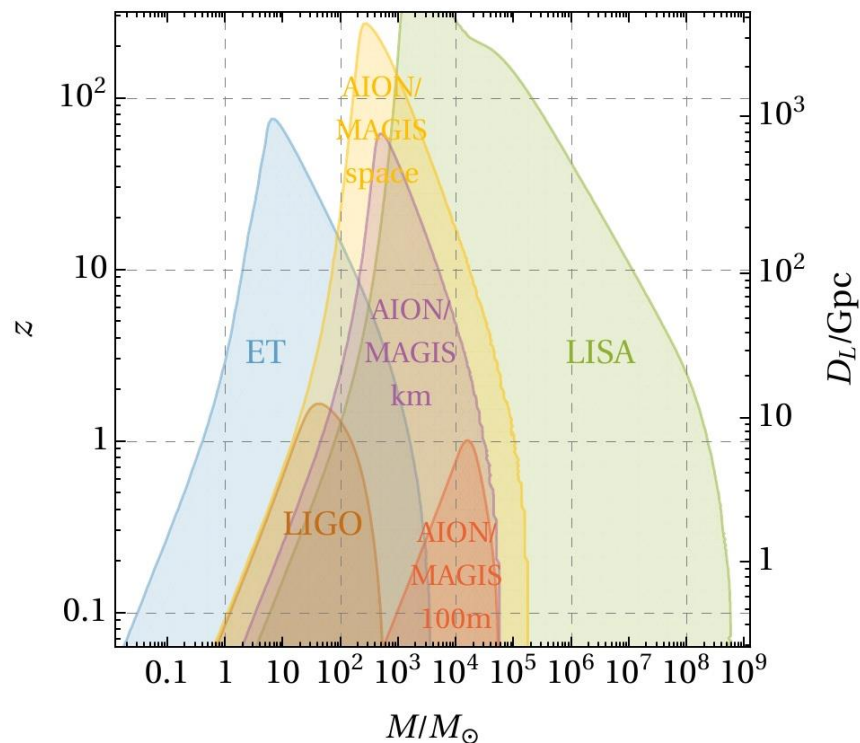
The AION frequency range is ideal for observations of mergers involving IMBHs, to which LISA and the LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA/ET experiments are relatively insensitive. 87

# Strain Sensitivity & BH Mergers

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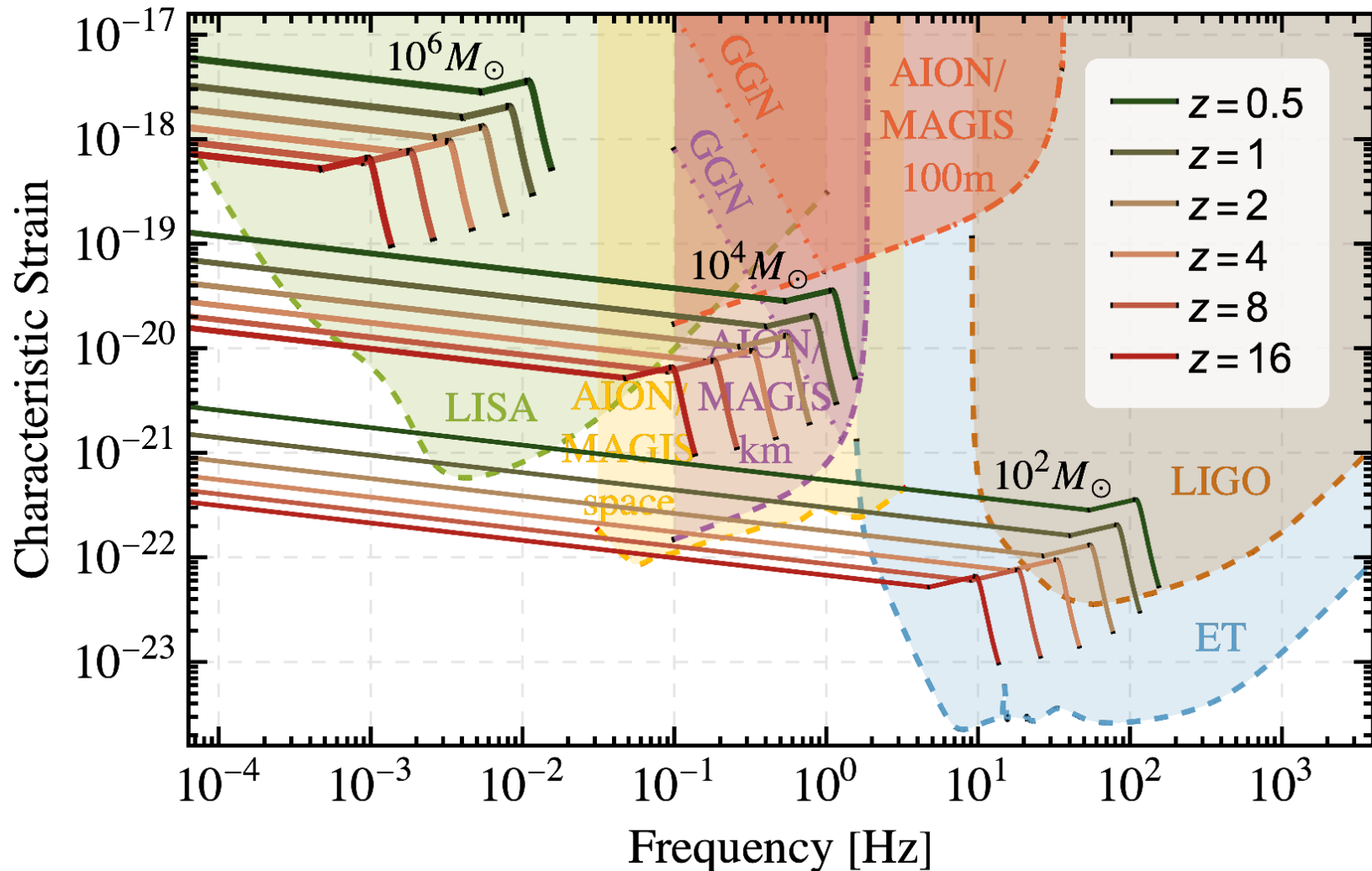
Sensitivity of AION-100m for detecting GWs from the mergers of IMBHs at signal-to-noise (SNR) levels  $\geq 5$ , which extends to redshifts of 1.5 for BHs with masses  $\sim 10^4$  solar masses.



*Comparison of the sensitivities of AION and other experiments with threshold SNR = 8.*

# Strain Sensitivity & BH Mergers: Future

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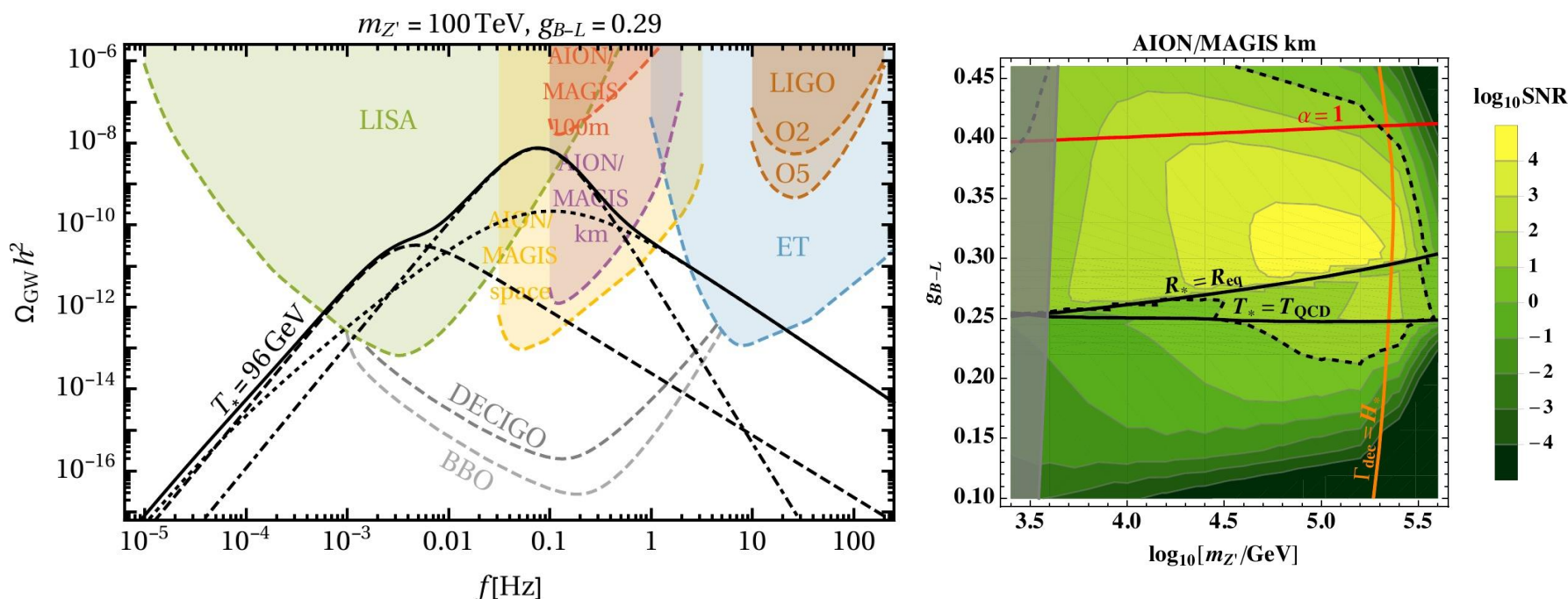
The AION frequency range is ideal for observations of mergers involving IMBHs, to which LISA and the LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA/ET experiments are relatively insensitive. 89



# Cosmological GW Sources: Z' Model

Many extensions of the Standard Model (SM) predict first-order phase transitions in the early Universe.

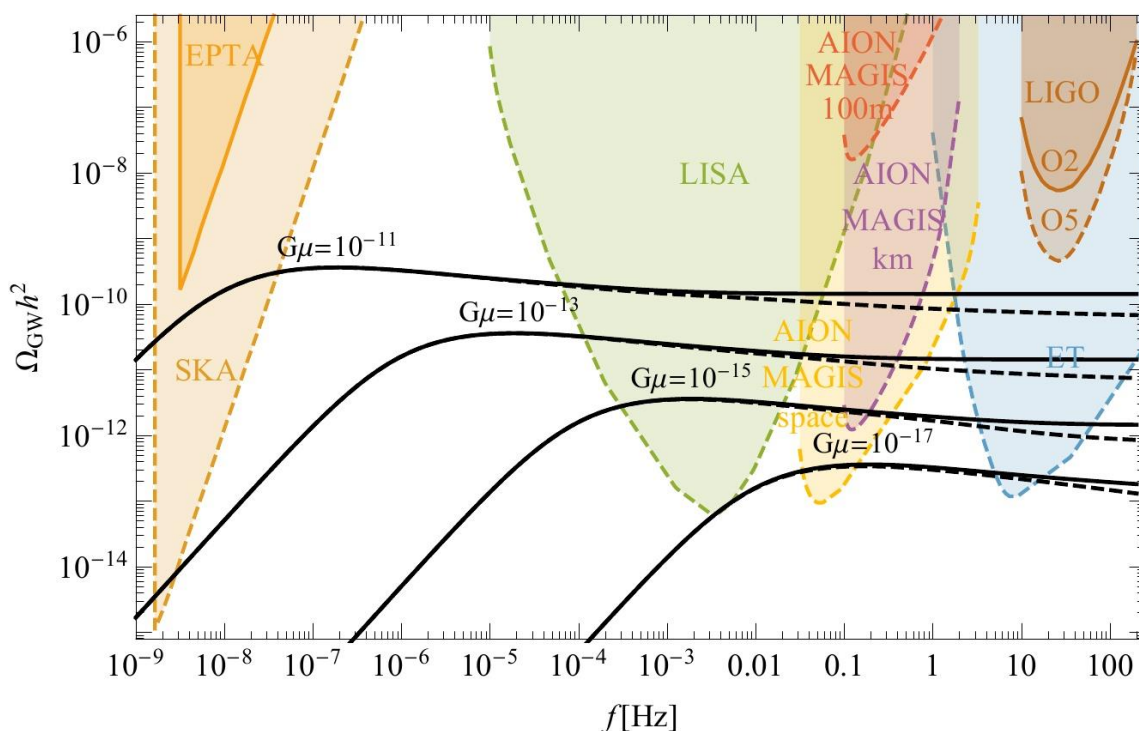
Example: Extended electroweak model with a massive Z' boson



Example of the GW spectrum in a classical scale-invariant extension of the SM with a massive Z' boson compared with various experimental sensitivities. Right panel: Signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) in the parameter plane of the same model for the AION-1km stage.

# Cosmological GW Sources: Cosmic Strings

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Other possible cosmological sources of GW signals are cosmic strings. These typically give a very broad frequency spectrum stretching across the ranges to which the LIGO/ET, AION/MAGIS, LISA and SKA experiments are sensitive.

The impact of including the change in the number of degrees of freedom as predicted in the Standard Model and clearly shows that probing the plateau in a wide range of frequencies can give us a significant amount of information not only on strings themselves but also on the evolution of the universe.

This way we could probe both SM processes such as the QCD phase transition and BSM scenarios predicting new degrees of freedom or even more significant cosmological modifications such as early matter domination, which would all leave distinguishable features in the GW background.

Based on DM workshop at KCL:

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/797031/timetable/>

and AION workshop at Imperial:

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/802946/>

*Using Material from. M. Bauer, J. Hogan, J. March-Russel, C. McCabe, and Y. Stadnik*

# **DARK MATTER PHYSICS @AION**

# The Landscape of Ultra-Light Dark Matter Detection

Very light dark matter and gravitational wave detection similar when detecting coherent effects of entire field, not single particles.

Example: Ultra-Light Dark Matter:

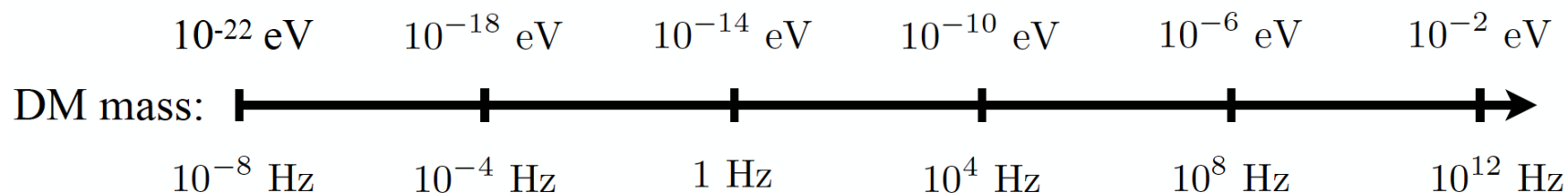
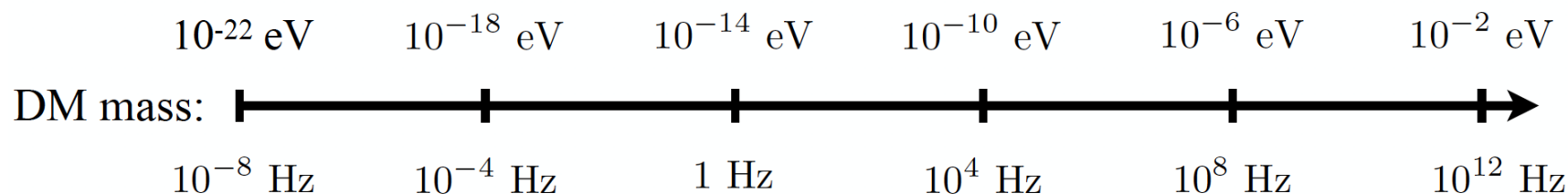


Diagram taken from P. Graham's  
talk at HEP Front 2018

# The Landscape of Ultra-Light Dark Matter Detection

Very light dark matter and gravitational wave detection similar when detecting coherent effects of entire field, not single particles.

Example: Ultra-Light Dark Matter:



← atom interferometry →

MAGIS/AION

Diagram taken from P. Graham's  
talk at HEP Front 2018

# The Landscape of Ultra-Light Dark Matter Detection

Very light dark matter and gravitational wave detection similar when detecting coherent effects of entire field, not single particles.

Example: Ultra-Light Dark Matter:

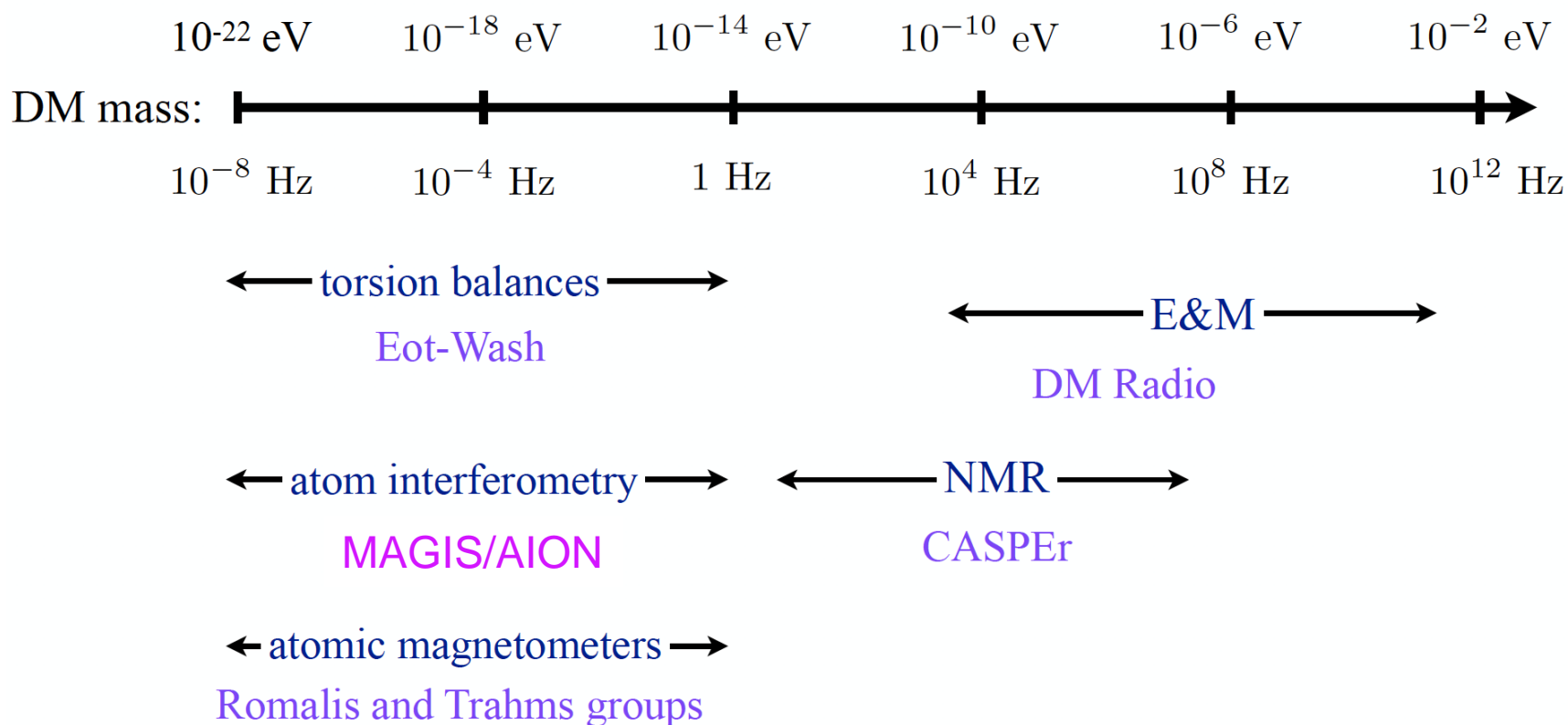


Diagram taken from P. Graham's  
talk at HEP Front 2018

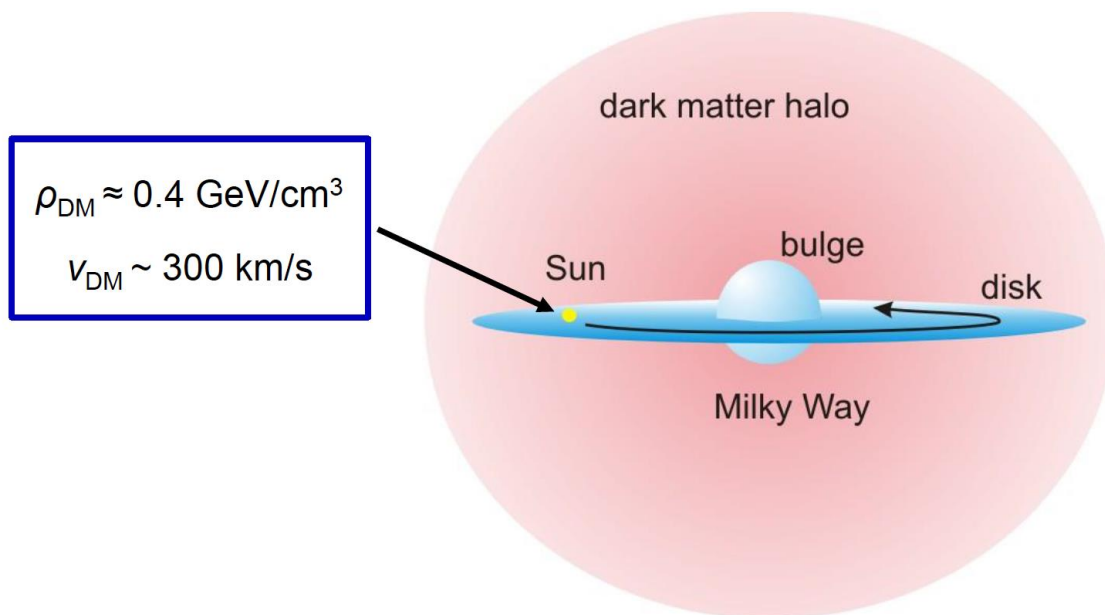
# Ultra-Light Spin-0 Dark Matter

Ultra-light spin 0 particles are expected to form a coherently oscillating classical field

$$\phi(t) = \phi_0 \cos(E_\phi t / \hbar)$$

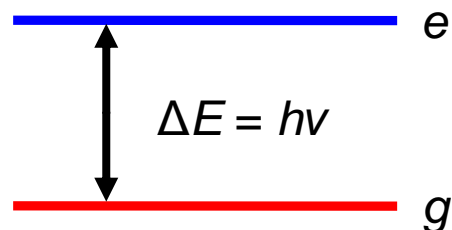
as  $E_\phi \approx m_\phi c^2$  with an energy density of

$$\langle \rho_\phi \rangle \approx m_\phi^2 \phi_0^2 / 2 \quad (\rho_{DM,local} \approx 0.4 \text{ GeV/cm}^3).$$





# Ultra-Light Spin-0 Dark Matter



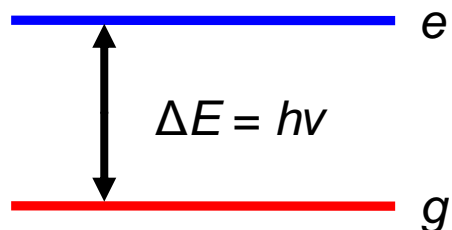
Atomic spectroscopy (clocks)

$$\delta(\nu_1/\nu_2) \propto \cos(m_\phi t)$$

$$10^{-23} \text{ eV} < m_\phi < 10^{-16} \text{ eV}$$

# Ultra-Light Spin-0 Dark Matter

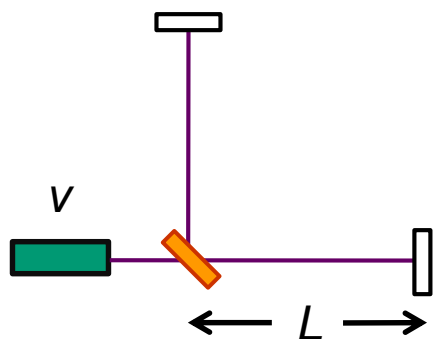
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Atomic spectroscopy (clocks)

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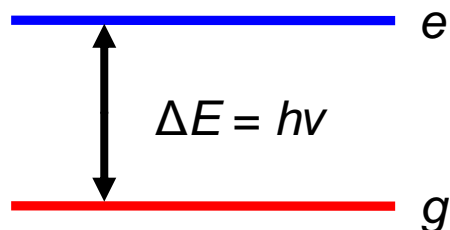
Laser interferometry (cavities)

$$\delta\Phi \propto \delta(\nu L) \propto \cos(m_\phi t)$$

$$10^{-20} \text{ eV} < m_\phi < 10^{-15} \text{ eV}$$

# Ultra-Light Spin-0 Dark Matter

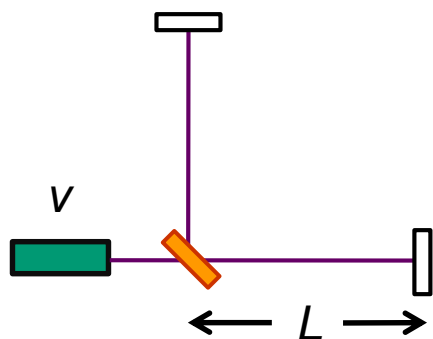
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Atomic spectroscopy (clocks)

$$\delta(\nu_1/\nu_2) \propto \cos(m_\phi t)$$

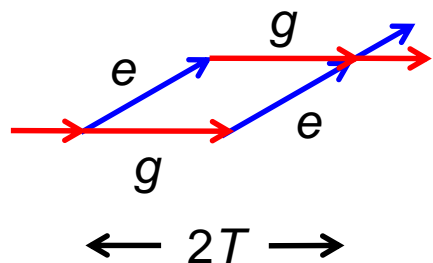
$$10^{-23} \text{ eV} < m_\phi < 10^{-16} \text{ eV}$$



Laser interferometry (cavities)

$$\delta\Phi \propto \delta(\nu L) \propto \cos(m_\phi t)$$

$$10^{-20} \text{ eV} < m_\phi < 10^{-15} \text{ eV}$$



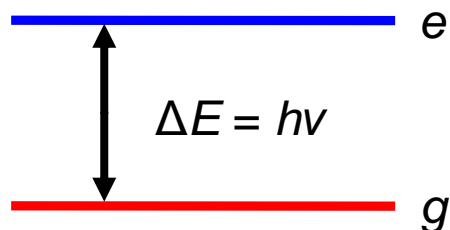
Atom interferometry

$$F(t) \propto p_\phi \sin(m_\phi t)$$

$$10^{-23} \text{ eV} < m_\phi < 10^{-16} \text{ eV}$$

# Ultra-Light Spin-0 Dark Matter

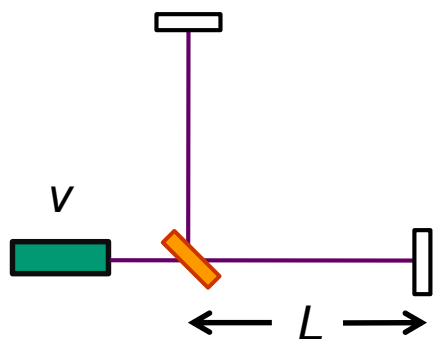
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Atomic spectroscopy (clocks)

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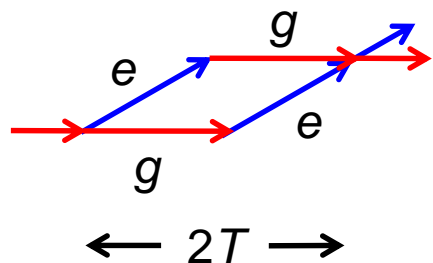
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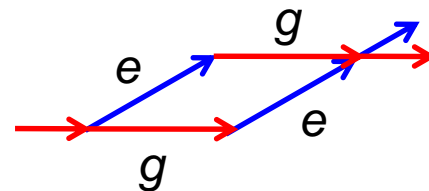
Atom interferometry

$$F(t) \propto p_\phi \sin(m_\phi t)$$

$$10^{-23} \text{ eV} < m_\phi < 10^{-16} \text{ eV}$$

$$\delta\Phi(T, L) = \text{max. for } 2\pi/m_\phi \sim 2T$$

$$10^{-17} \text{ eV} < m_\phi < 10^{-15} \text{ eV}$$



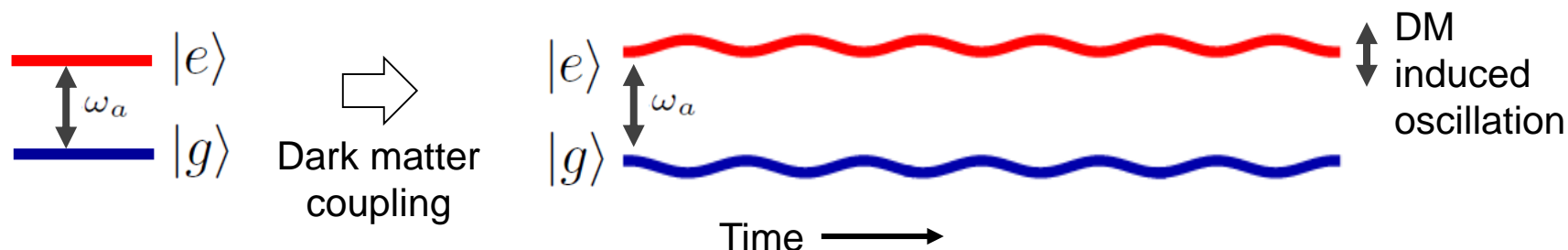
# Ultralight scalar dark matter

*Ultralight dilaton DM* acts as a background field (e.g., mass  $\sim 10^{-15}$  eV)

$$\mathcal{L} = + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m_\phi^2 \phi^2}_{\text{DM scalar field}} - \sqrt{4\pi G_N} \phi \left[ \underbrace{d_{m_e} m_e \bar{e} e}_{\text{Electron coupling}} - \underbrace{\frac{d_e}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Photon coupling}} \right] + \underbrace{\dots}_{\text{e.g., QCD}}$$

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi_0 \cos[m_\phi(t - \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{x}) + \beta] + \mathcal{O}(|\mathbf{v}|^2) \quad \phi_0 \propto \sqrt{\rho_{\text{DM}}} \quad \text{DM mass density}$$

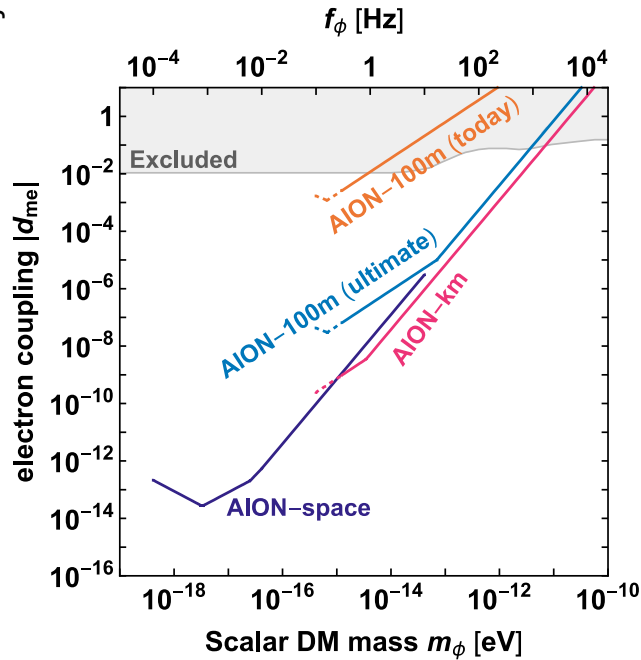
DM coupling causes time-varying atomic energy levels:



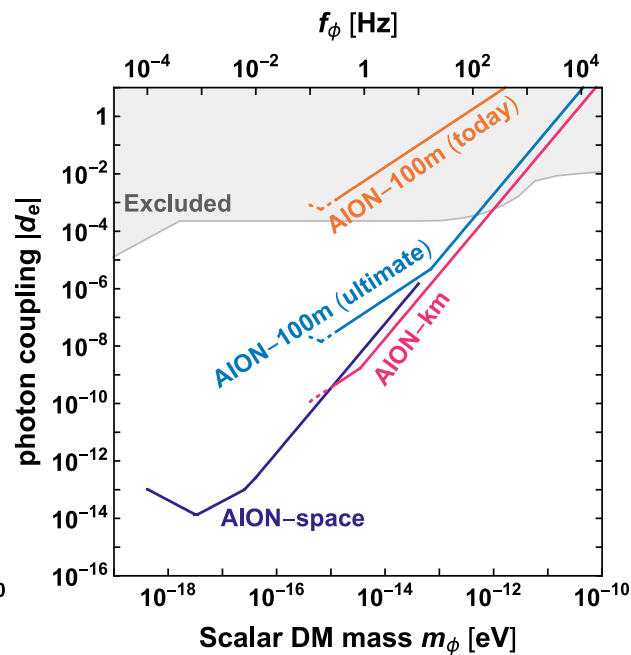
# Sensitivity for DM with Scalar Couplings to Matter

O. Buchmueller The AION Project

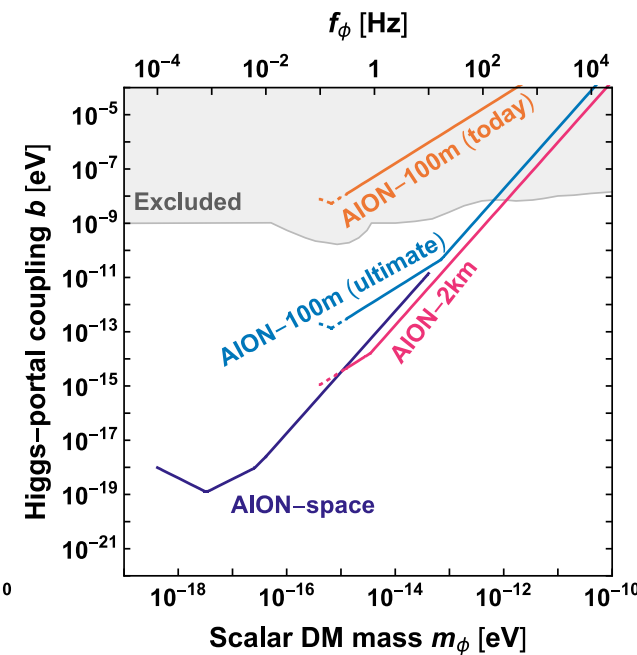
Coupling to e



Coupling to photon



Higgs Portal b coupling



DM with scalar couplings to matter,  
which cause time  
variation of fundamental constants such  
as the electron mass

Based on: Arvanitaki et al., PRD **97**,  
075020 (2018).

Sensitivity Scenario	L [m]	T <sub>int</sub> [s]	Φ [1/√Hz]	LMP [#]
AION-100-today	100	1.4	10 <sup>-3</sup>	100
AION-100-ultimate	100	1.4	10 <sup>-5</sup>	40000
AION-km	2000	5	0.3 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	40000
AION-space	4.4×10 <sup>7</sup>	300	10 <sup>-5</sup>	<1000

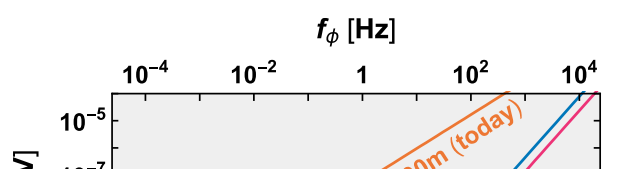
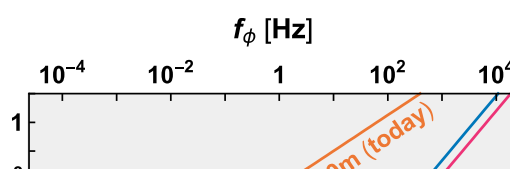
# Sensitivity for DM with Scalar Couplings to Matter

O. Buchmueller, The AION Project

Coupling to e

Coupling to photon

Higgs Portal b coupling



AION will be probing new territory in ULD scalar scenarios.

With different configurations of the Atom Interferometer it will be also possible to search for **Axions** (pseudo-scalar) and **Vector** DM candidates!  
[studies are ongoing]

which cause time variation of fundamental constants such as the electron mass

Scenario	[m]	[s]	[1/mHz]	[m]
AION-100-today	100	1.4	$10^{-3}$	100
AION-100-ultimate	100	1.4	$10^{-5}$	40000
AION-km	2000	5	$0.3 \times 10^{-5}$	40000
AION-space	$4.4 \times 10^7$	300	$10^{-5}$	<1000

Based on: Arvanitaki et al., PRD **97**, 075020 (2018).



## Other Fundamental Physics

Ultra-high-precision atom interferometry may also be sensitive to other aspects of fundamental physics beyond dark matter and GWs, though studies of such possibilities are still at exploratory stages.

Examples may include:

- *The possibility of detecting the astrophysical neutrinos*
- *Probes of long-range fifth forces.*
- *Constraining possible variations in fundamental constants.*
- *Probing dark energy.*
- Probes of basic physical principles such as foundations of quantum mechanics and Lorentz invariance.