

A variant of S. Rao's GW detection through the change in ~~revolution period~~ **net travel time**, but using a "**low-energy**" **coasting ion beam without RF** - Can the sensitivity be down to 10^{-5} Hz?

1. The **issue with a coasting (unbunched) beam** is that unless you can time-tag every individual particle, how would you keep time? This is a timing experiment.
 - (a) If we can start with a bunched beam and then convert it into a coasting beam, will the bunching be preserved?
 - (b) Would it be easier to time-tag the ions if we use a very low-intensity beam?
2. We would require **an external clock with the smallest possible least count**. Modern optical atomic clocks offer a least count of $\sim 10^{-19}$ s. This is needed because the GW signal we are looking for varies between 0. to $\sim 10^{-16}$ s travel time change at max.
3. **Low energy beam** would improve the factor $(1-v_0^2/2c^2)$ on the GW signal.
4. Using **heavy ions** might be useful => they would have lesser thermal noise, quantum uncertainty of time-tagging, and lower energy meaning lower synchrotron radiation emission etc.
5. Next step would be to **complete the list of noise sources**. Either technological solutions to eliminate them; or account for the deterministic noise sources and subtract them from the data and filter out the stochastic noise (filtering benefits from having many data points).
6. **Can the sensitivity be down to 10^{-5} Hz?**
 - a. Assuming that you are talking about the inverse of the observation time i.e., how long you can have a stable beam. This would aid in observing mHz GWs.
 - b. If you are talking about observing micro-Hz GWs, unfortunately there are no known astrophysical sources.
7. **Going down to a few micro-Hz is possible in principle but in reality, a coasting hadron beam would slowly lose energy from rest gas collisions and from the machine impedance. It can be kept on a fixed orbit an energy using a stochastic cooling system, also to maintain a small momentum spread but then such a slow drift may no longer be measurable. The approach proposed by Rao remind me to related concept proposed in the frame of accelerator base EDM measurements on the magic energy.**
8. Do consider that **a noisy RF may actually preserve the GW signal** which would be buried within the RF noise and can then be extracted using noise filtering techniques (matched filtering).
 - a. RF residual stochastic noise on the bunch arrival time $\sim 10^{-12}$ s.
 - b. GW signal $\sim 10^{-16}$ s travel time change at max.
 - c. How can a noisy RF cancel out a signal that is 4 orders of magnitude smaller than the noise?