

# Optical Levitation of a Mirror for Probing Macroscopic Quantum Mechanics

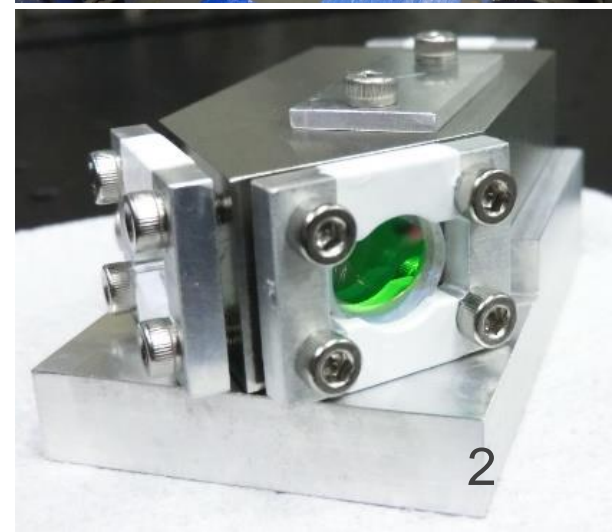
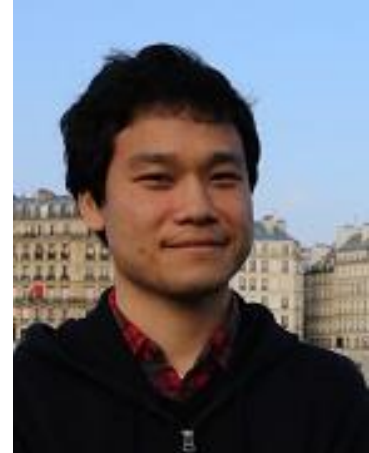
Yuta Michimura

Department of Physics, University of Tokyo



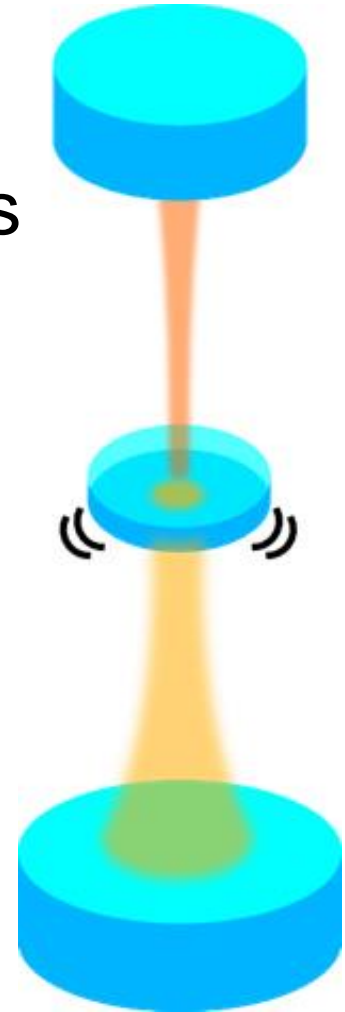
# Self Introduction

- Yuta Michimura (道村 唯太)  
Assistant Professor at  
Department of Physics, University of Tokyo
- Laser interferometric  
**gravitational wave detectors**
  - KAGRA
  - DECIGO (SILVIA)
- **Fundamental physics** with  
laser interferometry
  - Lorentz invariance test
  - Macroscopic quantum  
mechanics
  - Dark matter search etc...



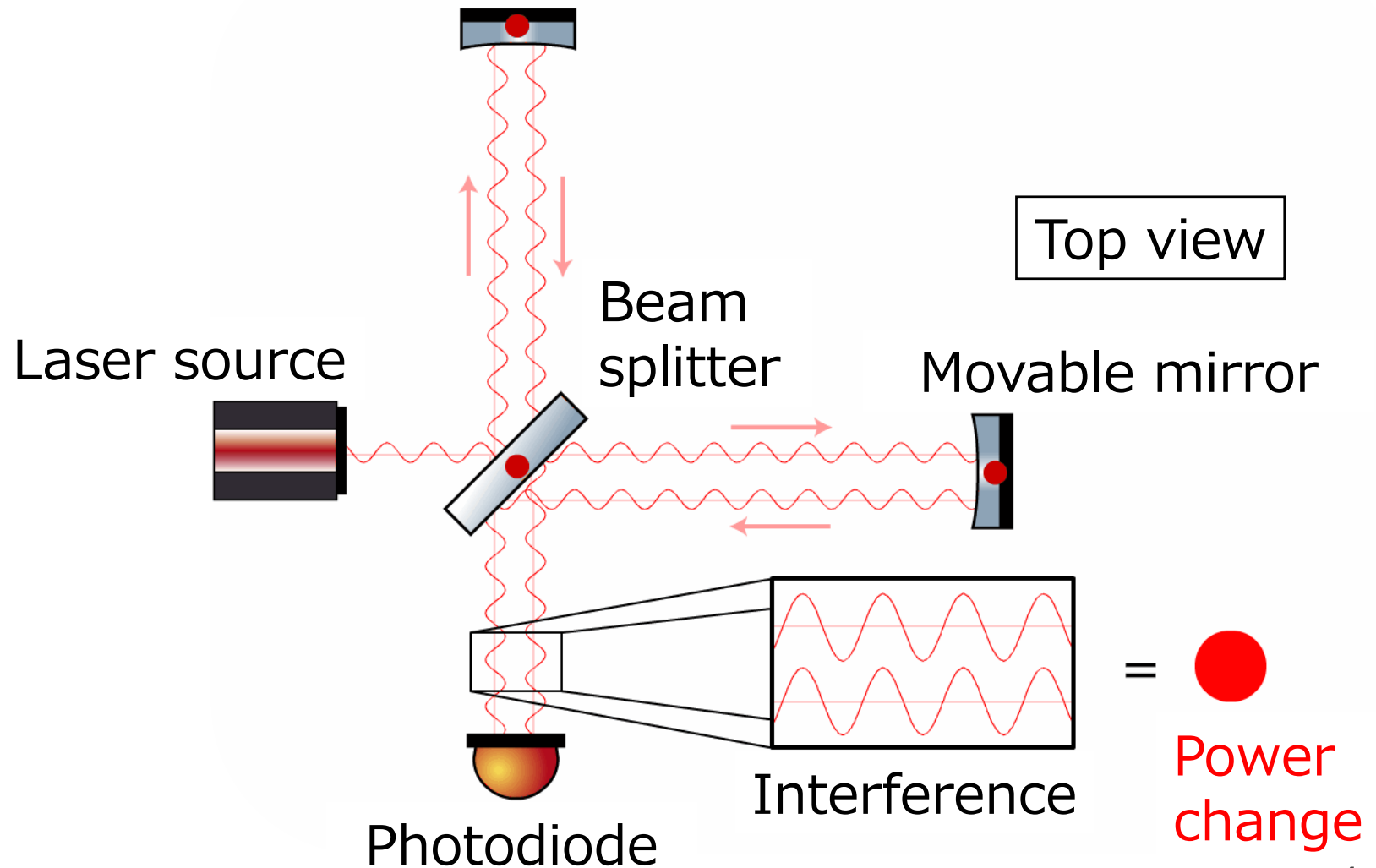
# Plan of This Talk

- **Macroscopic Quantum Mechanics**
  - Motivations
  - Standard quantum limit
  - Review of current status of experiments
- **Optical Levitation of a Mirror**
  - Principles
  - Experiment to demonstrate the stability
- **Fabrication of a Levitation Mirror**
  - Past trials and mirror characterization
  - Photonic crystal mirrors
- **Summary**



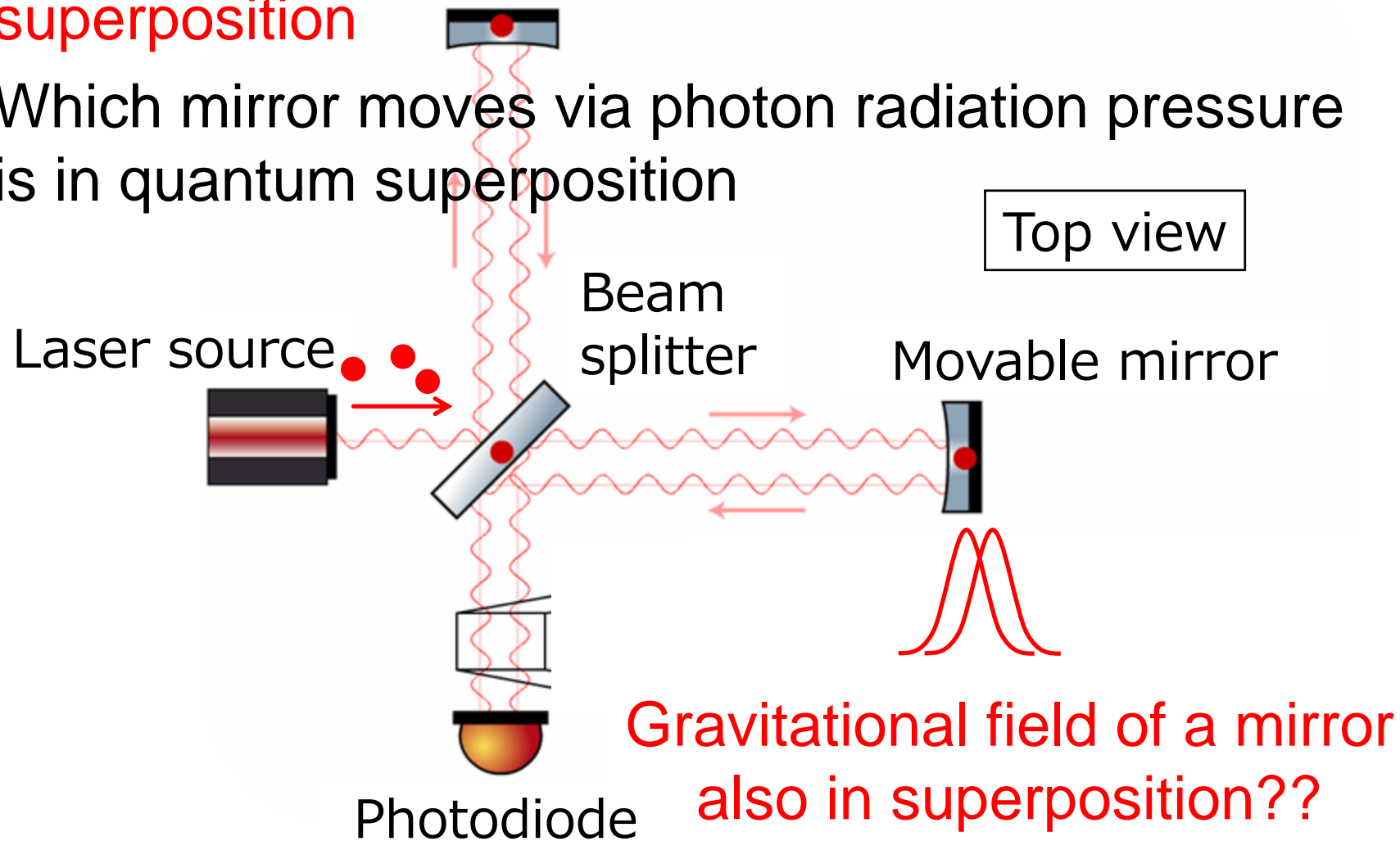
# Michelson Interferometer

- Measures the **differential** arm length change



# Quantum Gravity??

- Whether photon goes X-arm or Y-arm is in quantum **superposition**
- Which mirror moves via photon radiation pressure is in quantum superposition



# Gravitational Wave Detectors

- 3-4 km Michelson interferometer formed by 20-40 kg suspended mirrors
- Also useful for testing quantum mechanics

**Advanced LIGO**



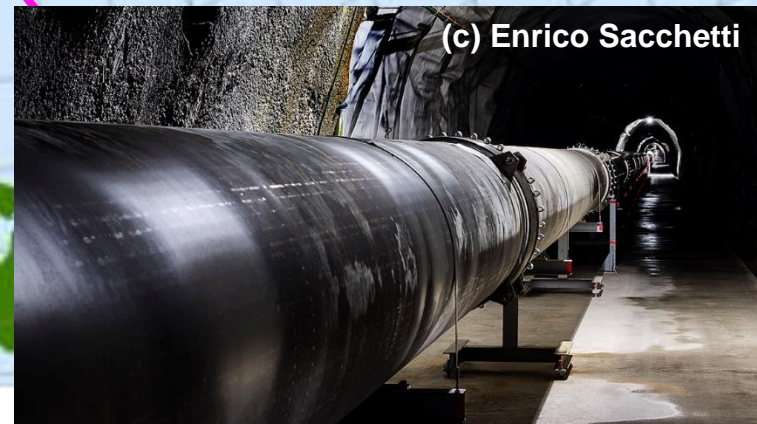
**Advanced LIGO**



**Advanced Virgo**



**KAGRA**



(c) Enrico Sacchetti

**LIGO-India (approved)**



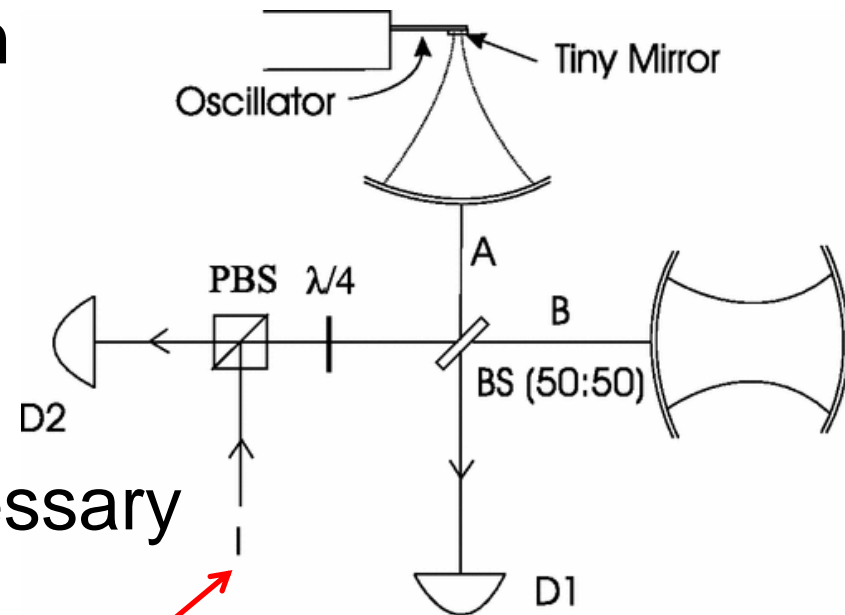
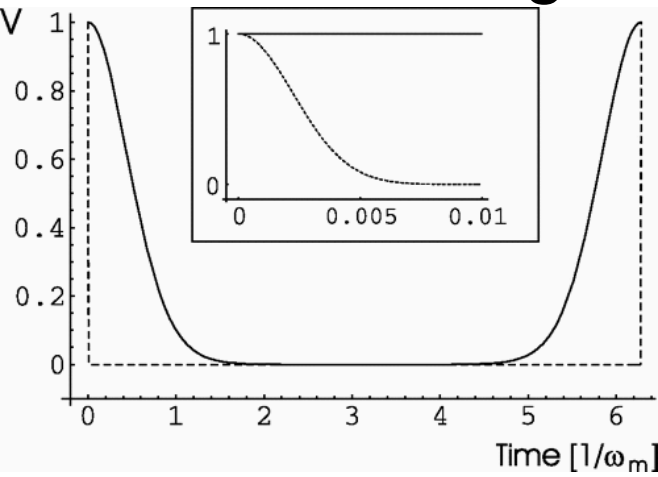
# Macroscopic Quantum Mechanics

- Quantum mechanics do not depend on scales
- But macroscopic quantum superposition **has never been observed** (double-slit experiment upto 25 kDa ( $4e-23$  kg)) [Nature Physics 15, 1242 \(2019\)](#)
- Two possibilities at macroscopic scales
  - Quantum mechanics is valid, but too much classical decoherence
  - Quantum mechanics should be modified (e.g. non-linear Schrödinger Eq., Gravitational decoherence ...)



# Proposed Experiments 1 / 4

- Towards Quantum Superpositions of a Mirror  
Marshall+, [PRL 91, 130401 \(2003\)](#)
- If no decoherence, photon interference fringe should revive at the period of mirror oscillation
- Ground state and ultra-strong coupling necessary



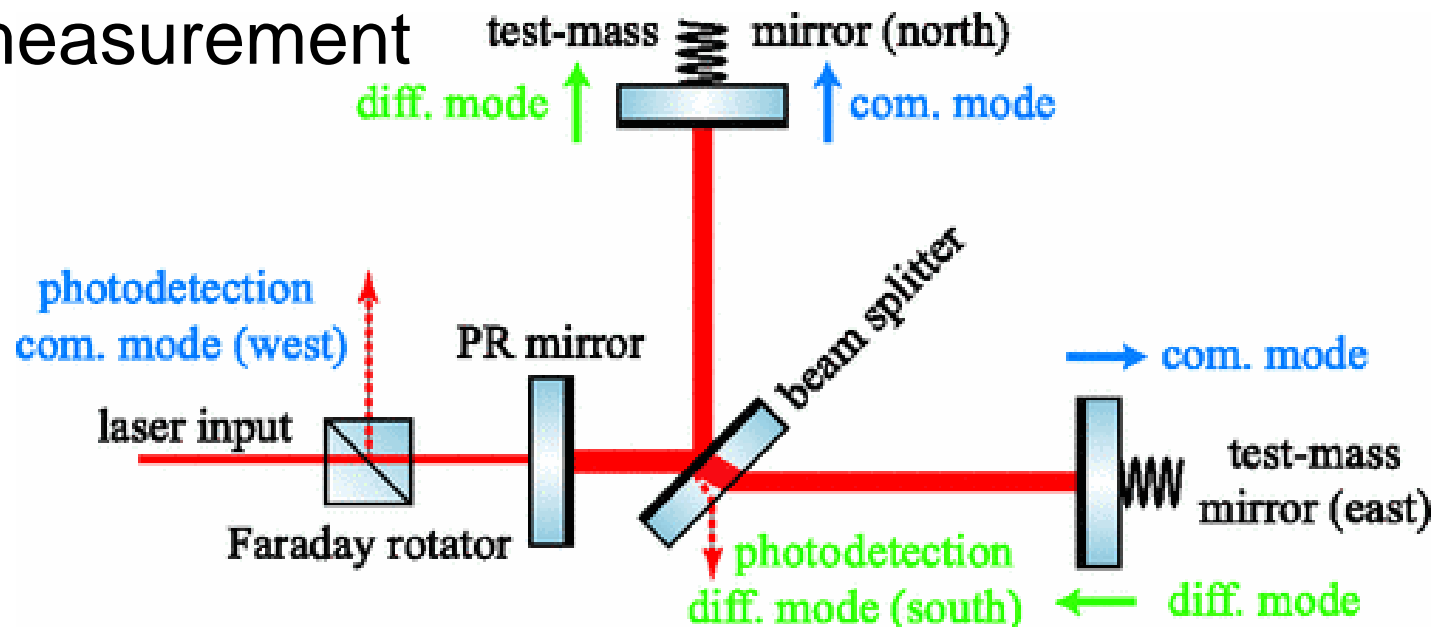
Single photon source

Photon path and mirror motion is entangled  
If mirror has decoherence, photon interference fringe will also disappear



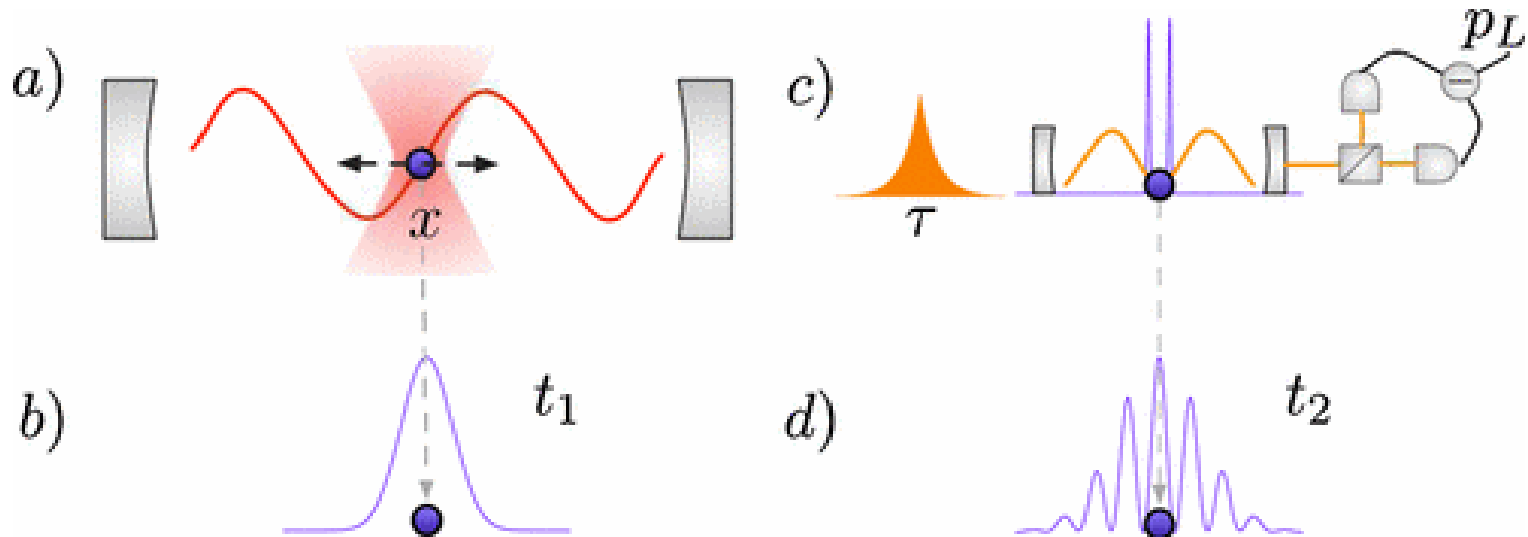
# Proposed Experiments 2 / 4

- Entanglement of Macroscopic Test Masses and the Standard Quantum Limit in Laser Interferometry  
Muller-Ebhardt+, [PRL 100, 013601 \(2008\)](#)
- Quantum correlation between mirror common mode and differential mode
- Need to reach SQL for common/differential measurement



# Proposed Experiments 3 / 4

- Large Quantum Superpositions and Interference of Massive Nanometer-Sized Objects  
Romero-Isart+, [PRL 107, 020405 \(2011\)](#)
- Prepare superposition of nanoparticle at left or right (not at the center), and drop it to see the interference pattern



# Proposed Experiments 4 / 4

- Quantum correlation of light mediated by gravity  
Miao+, [arXiv:1901.05827](https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.05827)
- Search for quantum correlation between two beams mediated by gravitational coupling of two mirrors
- Thermal noise should be smaller than quantum radiation pressure noise

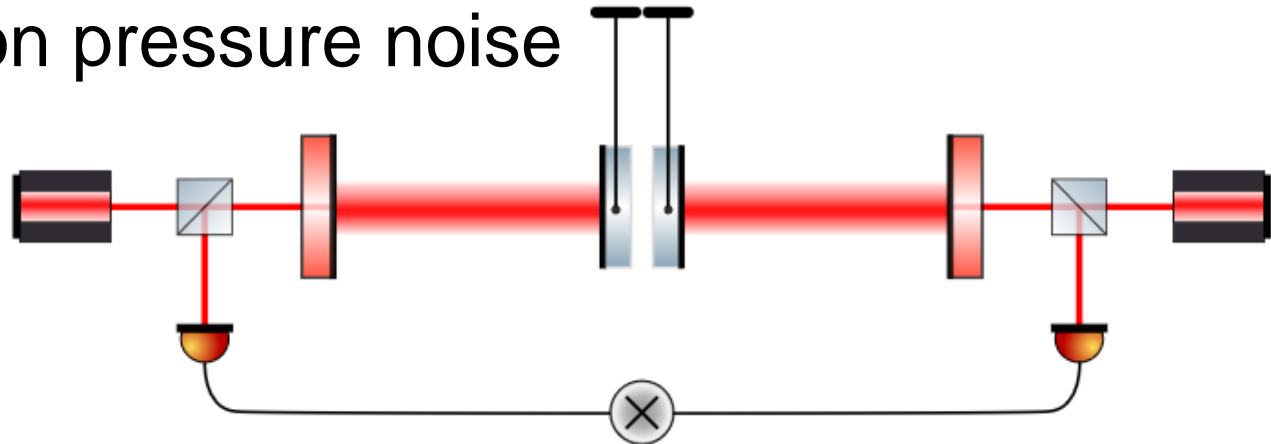
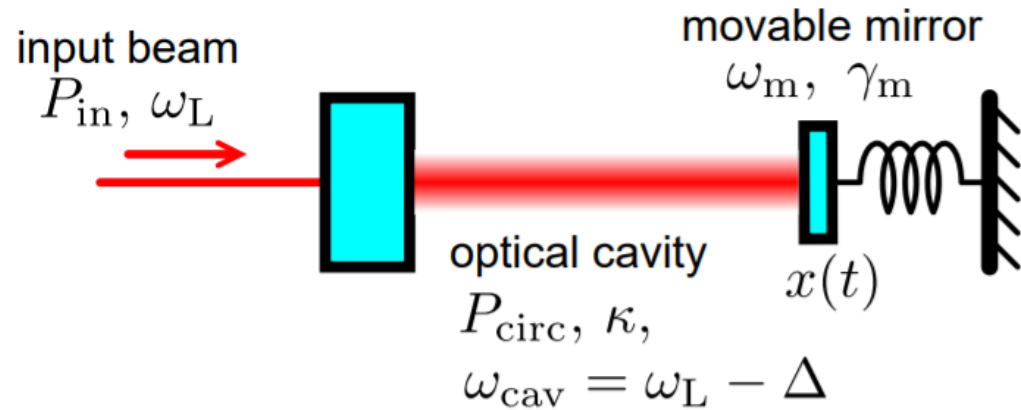


FIG. 1. Schematics showing the setup of two optomechanical cavities with their end mirrors coupled to each other through gravity. The quantum correlation of light is inferred by cross-correlating the readouts of two photodiodes.

# Requirements to Optomechanics

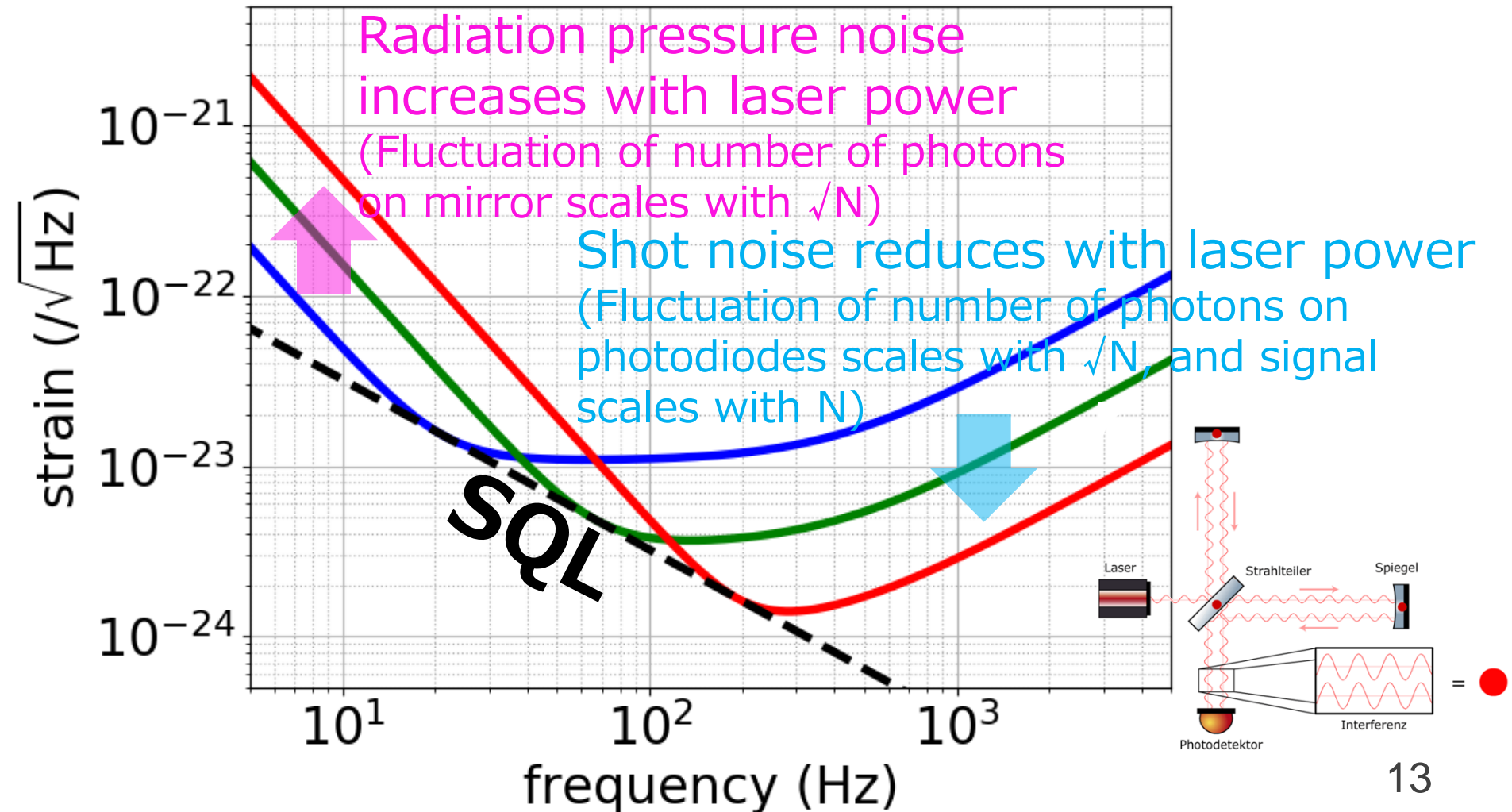
- These systems are called **optomechanical systems**  
Interaction between light and mechanical oscillator



- Common requirements
  - Make **thermal fluctuation smaller** than quantum radiation pressure fluctuation (make cooperativity larger than 1)
  - Reach **standard quantum limit**
  - **Ground state cooling** of mirror (make phonon number smaller than  $\sim 1$ )

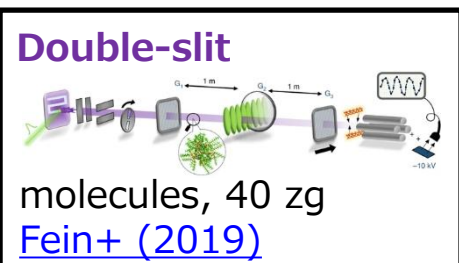
# Standard Quantum Limit

- Displacement sensitivity cannot surpass **standard quantum limit** just by changing the laser power

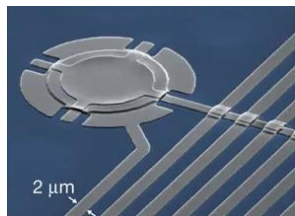


# Optomechanical Systems

- SQL not yet reached above Planck mass scale

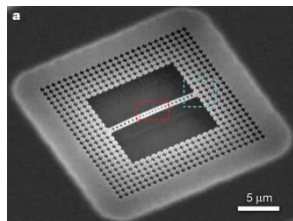


**Ground state cooling**



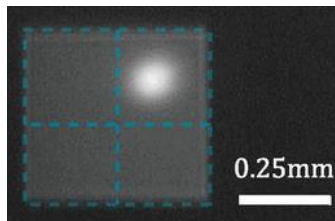
membrane, 48 pg  
[Taufel+ \(2011\)](#)

**Ground state cooling**



nanobeam, 331 fg  
[Chan+ \(2011\)](#)

**Ground state cooling**



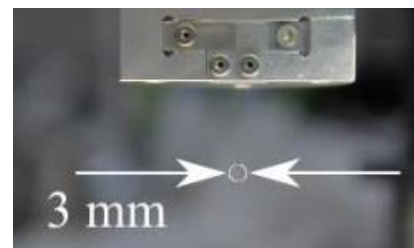
membrane, 7 ng  
[Peterson+ \(2016\)](#)

**Quantum radiation pressure**



cantilever, 50 ng  
[Cripe+ \(2019\)](#)

Planck mass (22  $\mu\text{g}$ )

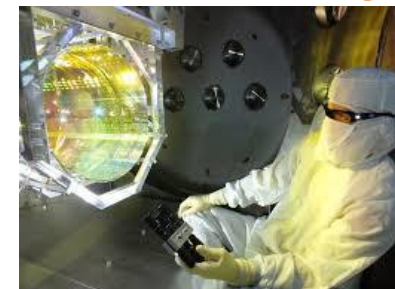


suspended disk, 7 mg  
[Matsumoto+ \(2019\)](#)



suspended bar, 10 mg  
[Komori+ \(2020\)](#)

**Factor of  $\sim 3$  to SQL**



suspended disk, 40 kg  
Advanced LIGO



suspended disk, 1 g  
[Neben+ \(2012\)](#)

fg

pg

ng

$\mu\text{g}$

mg

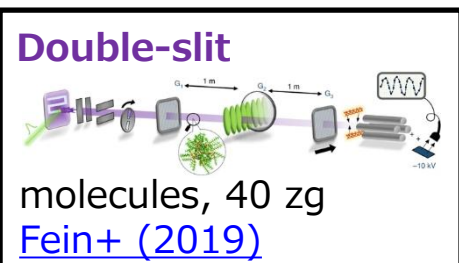
g

kg

14

# Optomechanical Systems

- We focus on milligram scale: mesoscopic scale



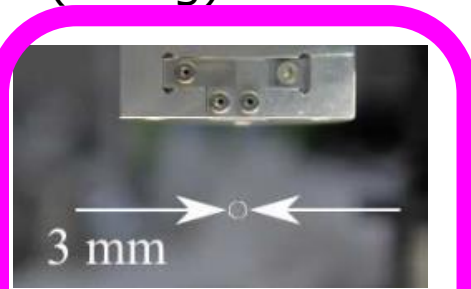
YM, K. Komori, [EPJD 74, 126 \(2020\)](#)  
Planck mass (22 ug)

Factor of  $\sim 3$  to SQL

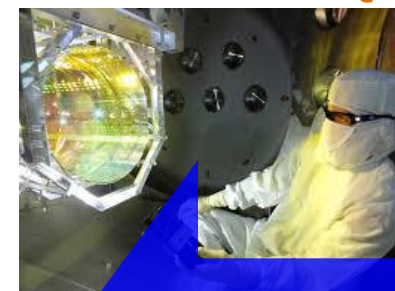
Quantum radiation pressure



cantilever, 50 ng  
[Cripe+ \(2019\)](#)



suspended disk, 7 mg  
[Matsumoto+ \(2019\)](#)



suspended disk, 40 kg  
Advanced LIGO



suspended bar, 10 mg  
[Komori+ \(2020\)](#)

Gravitational world



suspended disk, 1 g  
[Neben+ \(2012\)](#)

Ground state cooling

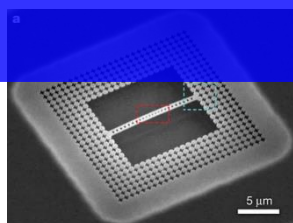
Quantum world

Ground state cooling

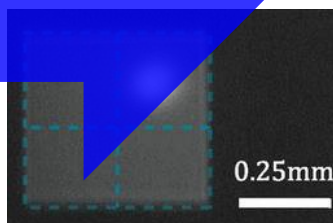
Ground state cooling



cantilever, 2 ng  
[Taufel+ \(2011\)](#)

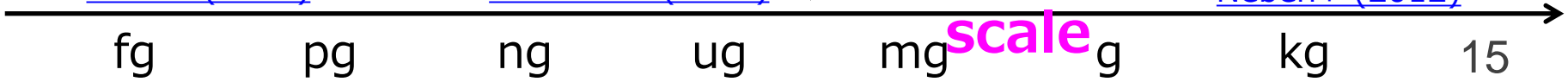


nanobeam, 331 fg  
[Chan+ \(2011\)](#)



membrane, 7 ng  
[Peterson+ \(2016\)](#)

Mesoscopic scale



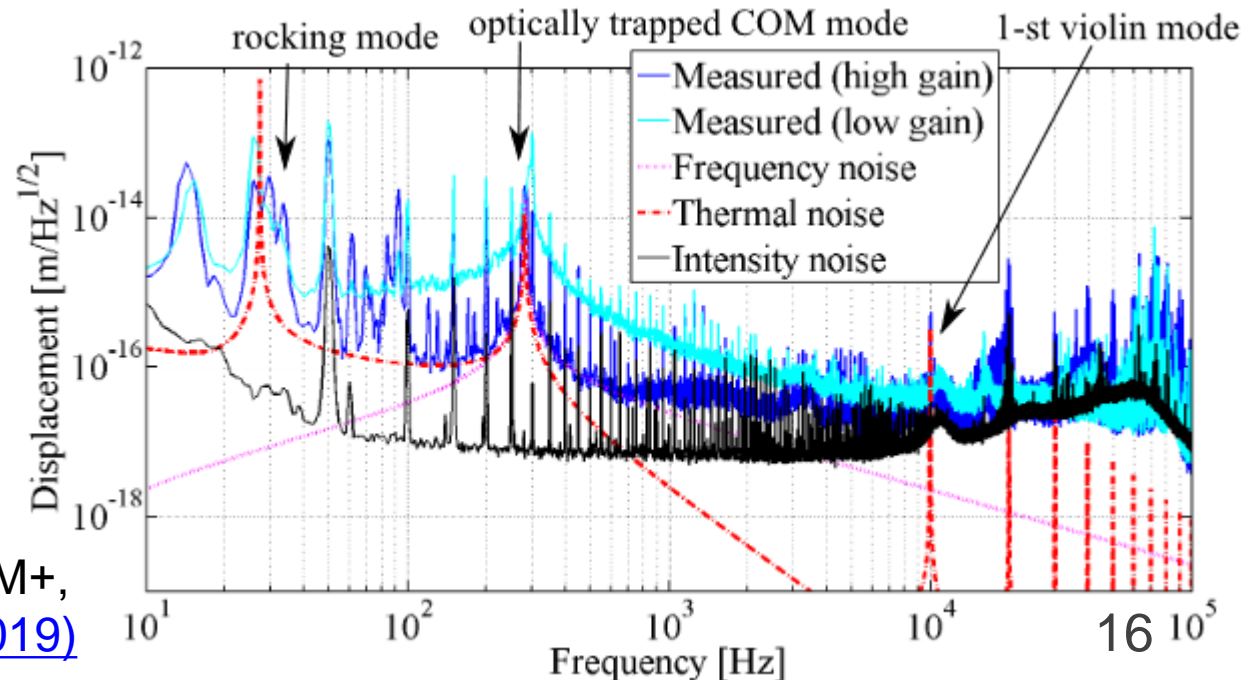
# 7 mg Suspended Disk Experiment

- Displacement sensitivity at  **$3e-14$  m/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  @ 280 Hz**
- Thermal noise limited ( $Q=1.1e5$ )
- Possible to measure 100 mg gravity in a second
- Also developed lower mechanical loss pendulum for better sensitivity ( $Q=2e6$ )



[PRL 124, 221102 \(2020\)](#)

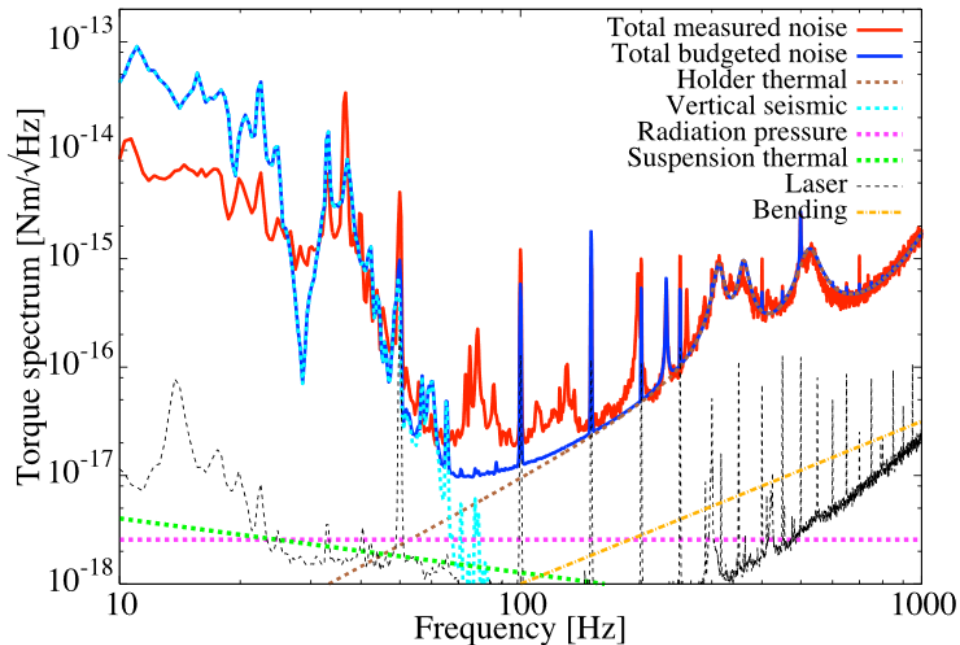
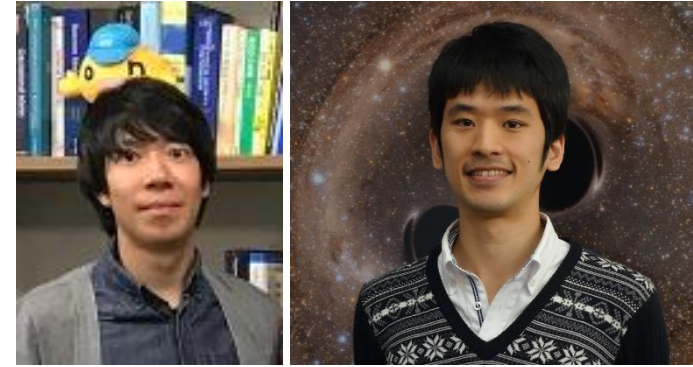
N. Matsumoto, ..., YM+,  
[PRL 122, 071101 \(2019\)](#)



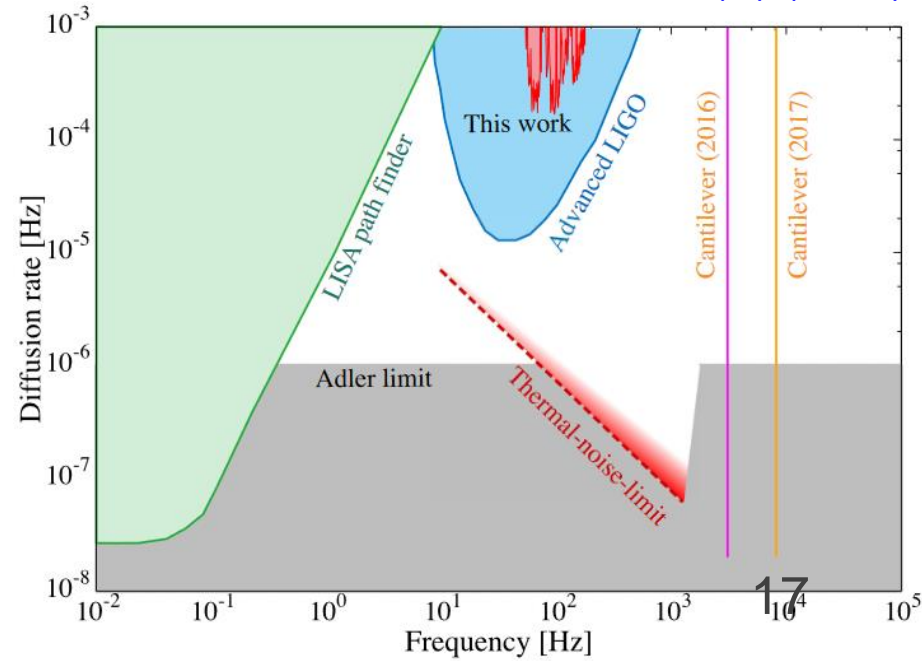


# 10 mg Suspended Bar Experiment

- Rotation is readout by two cavities
- **Highest torque sensitivity** at milligram scale
- Limit on parameters of CSL (continuous spontaneous localization) model

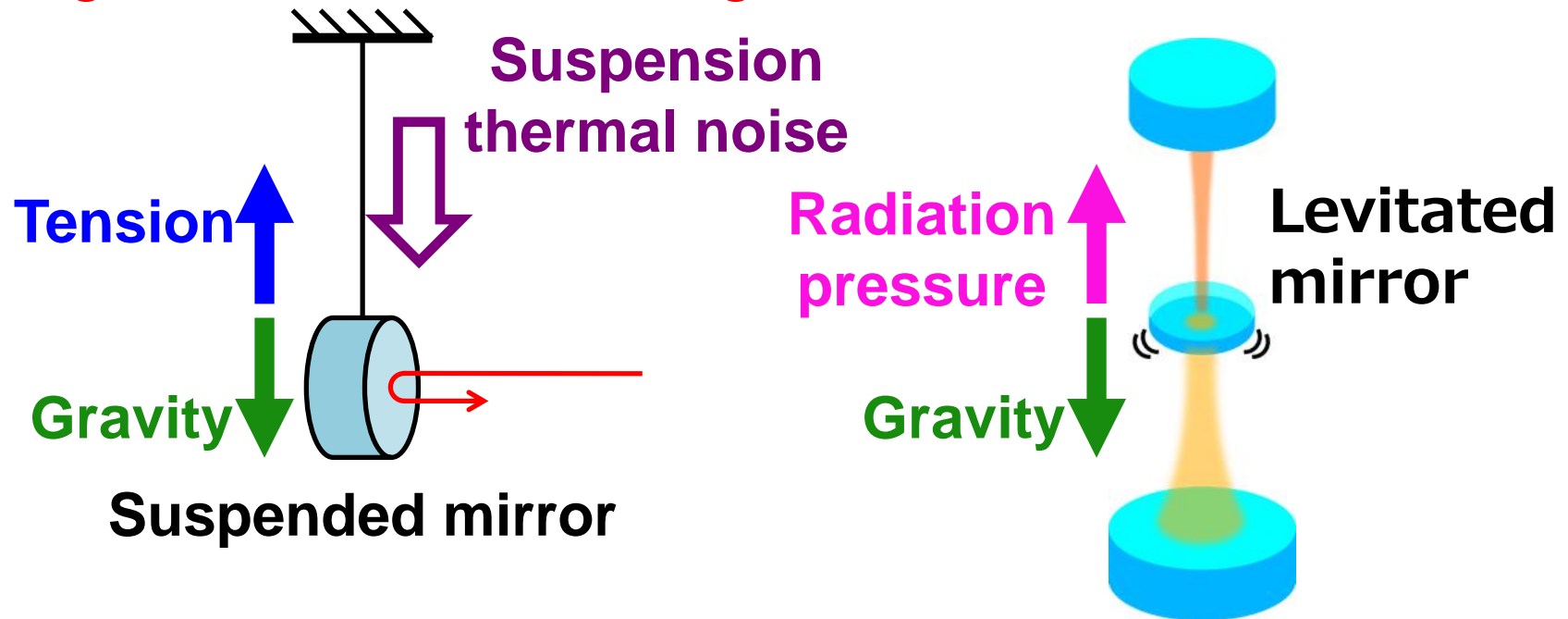


K. Komori, ..., YM+, [PRA 101, 011802\(R\) \(2020\)](#)



# Optical Levitation

- Alternative approach is to support a mirror with **radiation pressure alone**
- Both suspended mirror and levitated mirror will be ultimately limited by thermal noise from **residual gas and mirror coating**



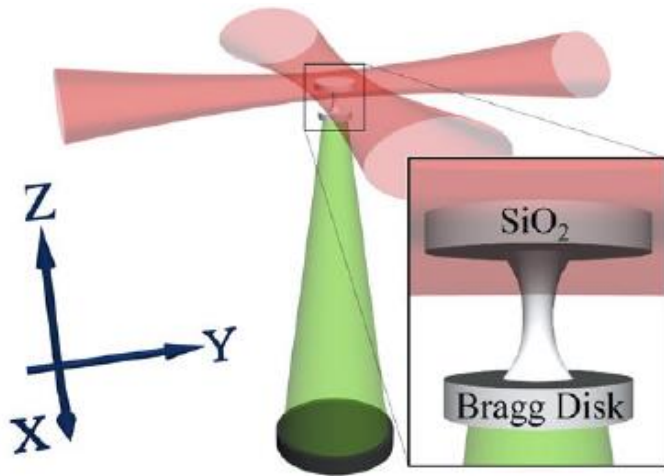
# Sandwich Configuration

- Optical levitation have never been realized
- Simpler configuration than previous proposals

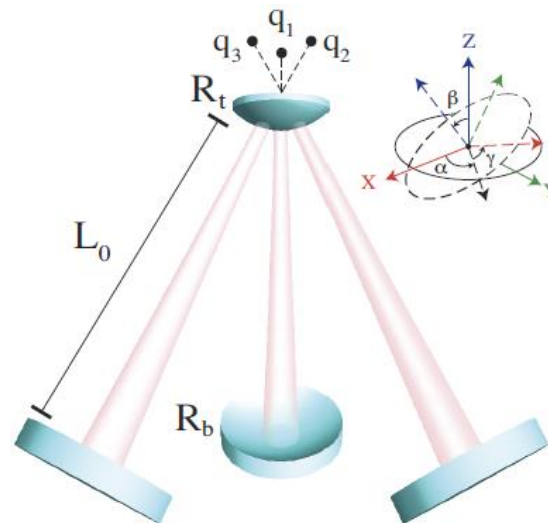
YM, Y. Kuwahara+, [Optics Express 25, 13799 \(2017\)](#)

- Proved that stable levitation is possible and SQL can be reached

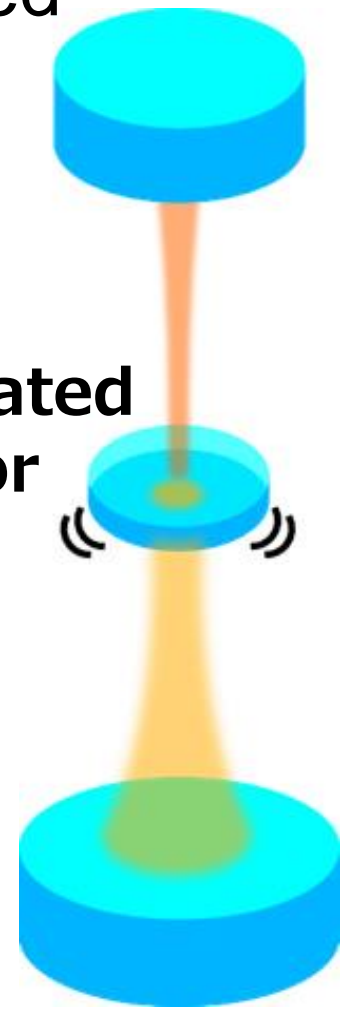
**Levitated mirror**



S. Singh+: [PRL 105, 213602 \(2010\)](#)

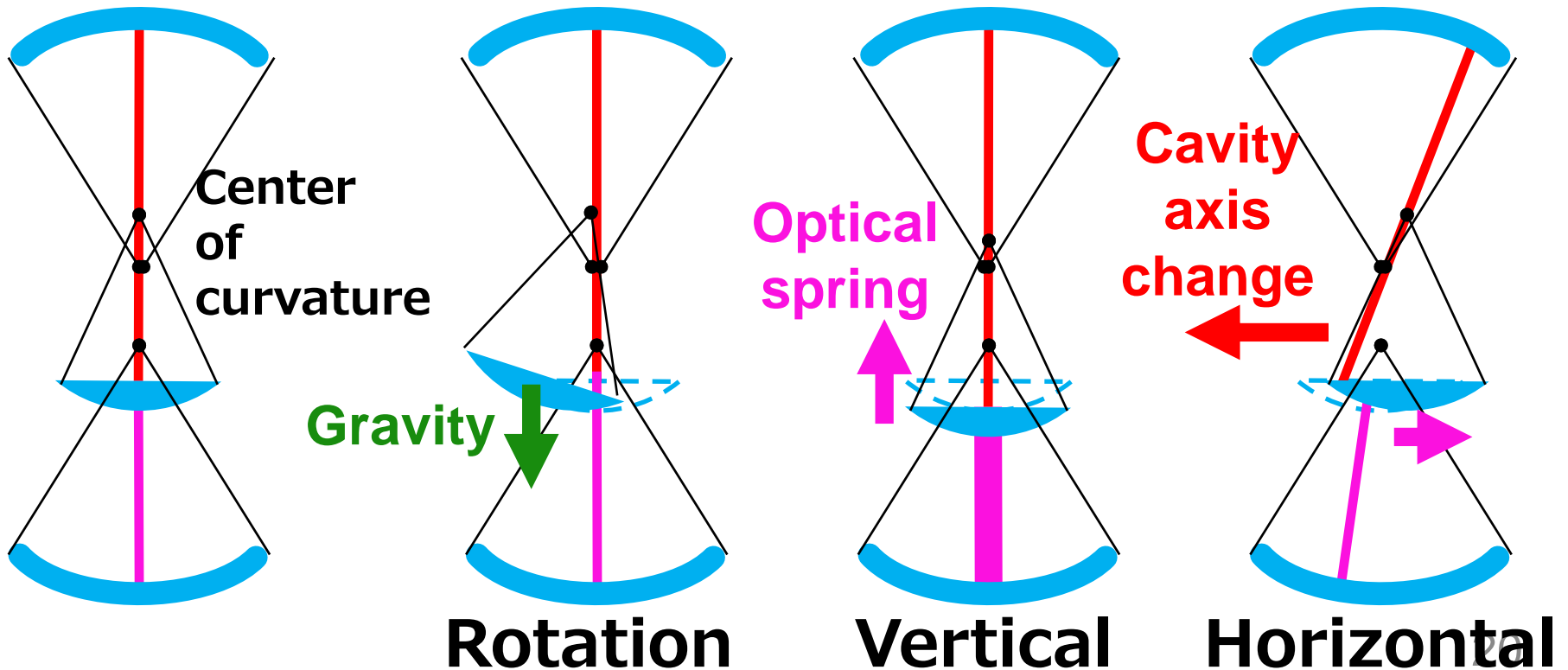


G. Guccione+: [PRL 111, 183001 \(2013\)](#)



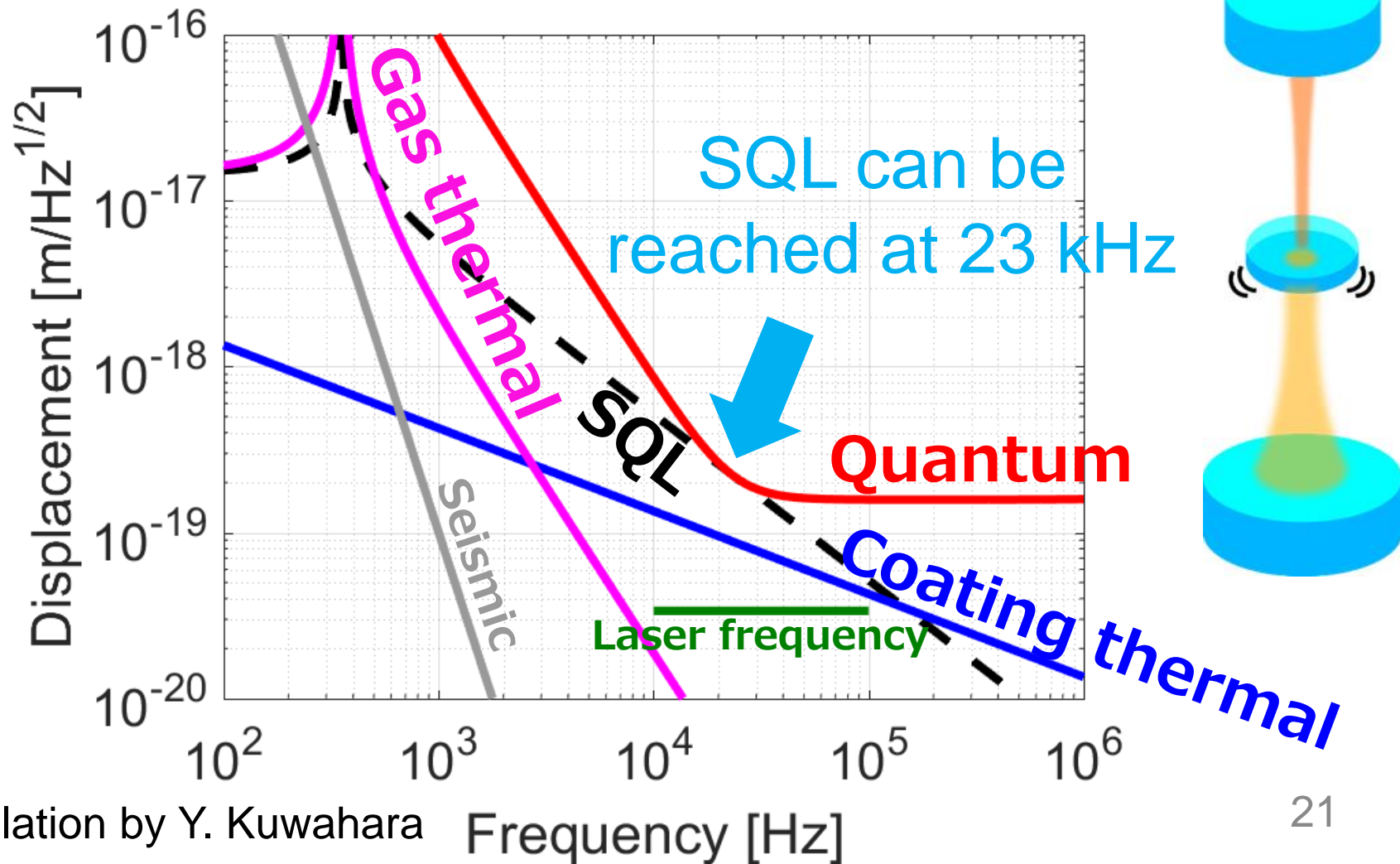
# Stability of Levitation

- Rotational motion is stable with **gravity**
- Vertical motion is stable with **optical spring**
- Horizontal motion is stable with **cavity axis change**



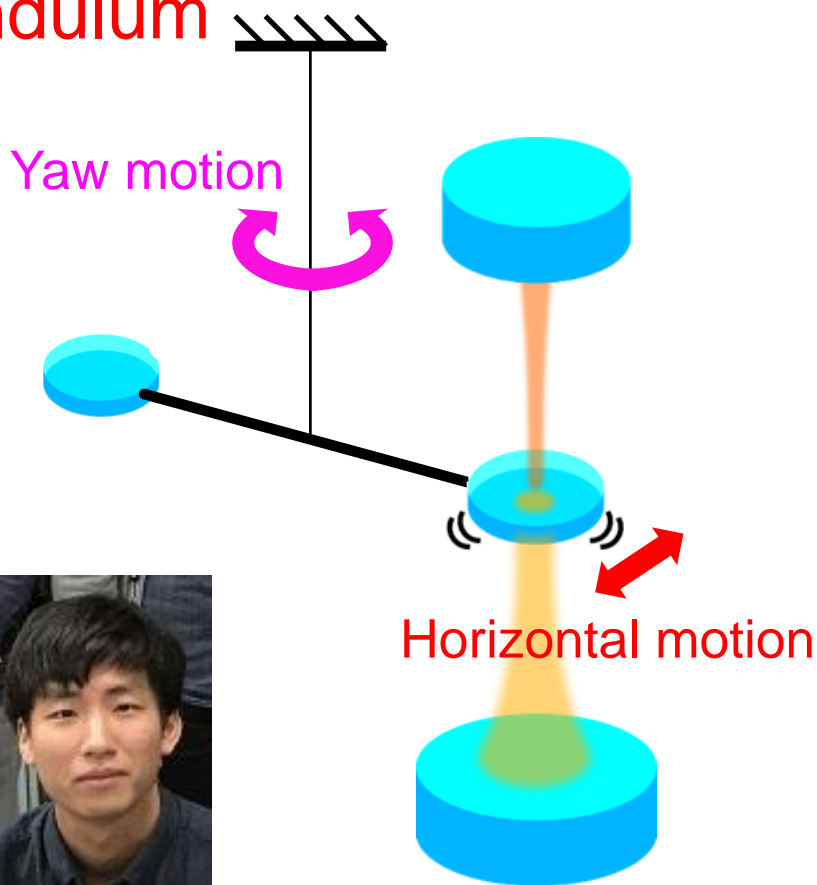
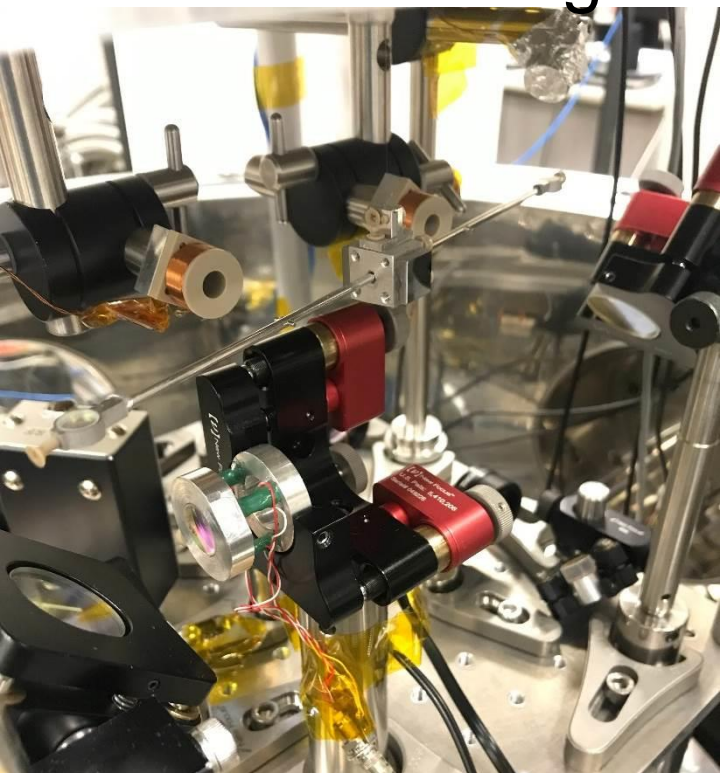
# Reaching SQL

- **0.2 mg** fused silica mirror, Finesse of 100, 13 W + 4 W input



# Experiment to Verify the Stability

- Especially, stability of the horizontal motion is special for this sandwich configuration
- Experiment with **torsion pendulum** was performed to measure the restoring force



# Experiment to Verify the Stability

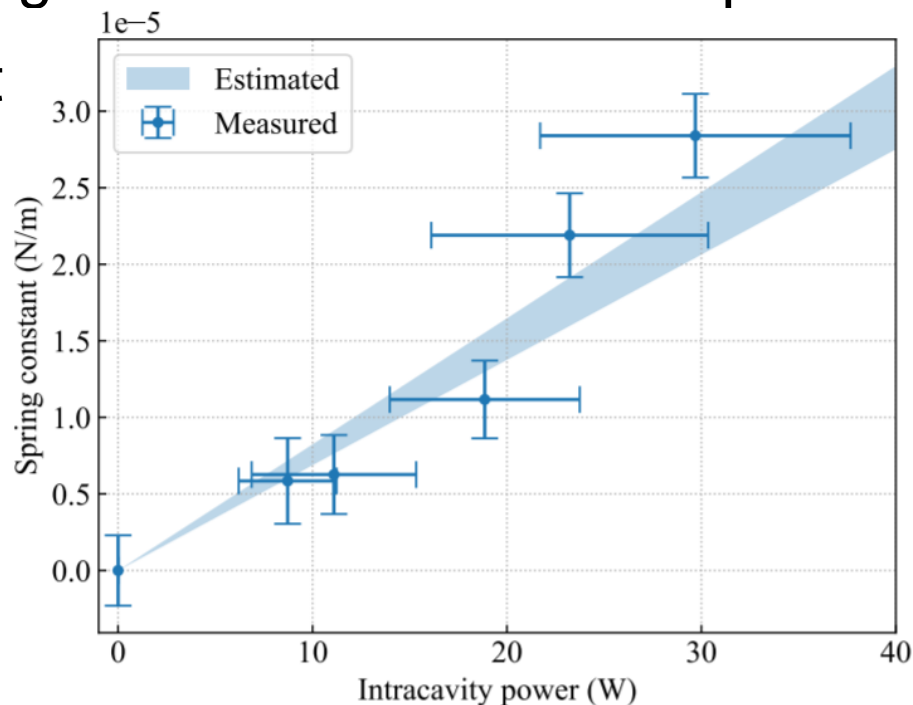
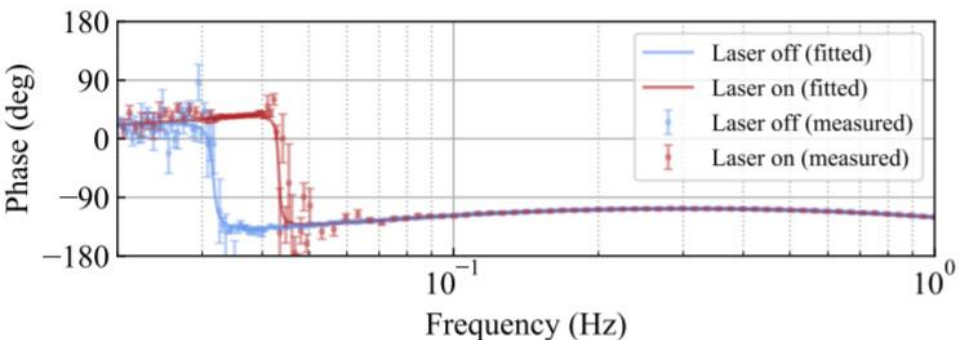
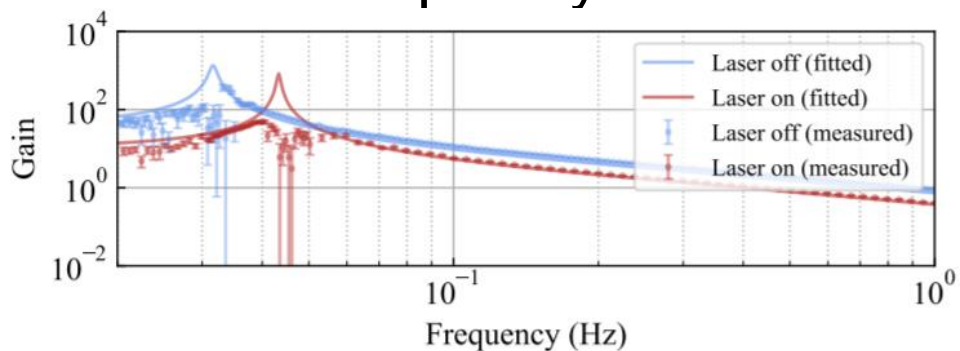
- Resonant frequency of torsion pendulum increased when optical cavity is locked

→ **Successfully measured the restoring force**

T. Kawasaki, ..., YM,  
[PRA 102, 053520 \(2020\)](#)

Spring constant increase with power

## Resonant frequency measurement



# Fabrication of Levitation Mirrors

- In 2014, fused silica mirror with dielectric multilayer coating have been tried
- Cracks due to coating stress

	For SQL	Prototype	For suspended experiment
Mass	0.2 mg	~1.6 mg	~ 7 mg
Size (mm)	$\phi$ 0.7 mm t 0.23 mm	$\phi$ 3 mm t 0.1 mm	$\phi$ 3 mm t 0.5 mm
RoC	30 mm convex	30 $\pm$ 10 mm convex (measured: 15.9 $\pm$ 0.5 mm)	100 mm concave (previously flat ones were used)
Reflectivity	97 % (finesse 100)	>99.95 % (measured: >99.5%)	99.99%
Comment	<a href="#">Optics Express 25, 13799 (2017)</a>	Only one out of 8 without big cracks	Succeeded





# New Approach for Fused Silica

## 2014 Approach

(1) Make 3 mm dia. lens



(2) Coat



CRACKED!

## 2020-2021 Approach

(1) Make 1 inch dia.  
0.1 mm thick disk



(2) Coat (bend due to stress)



(3) Cut into 3 mm dia.

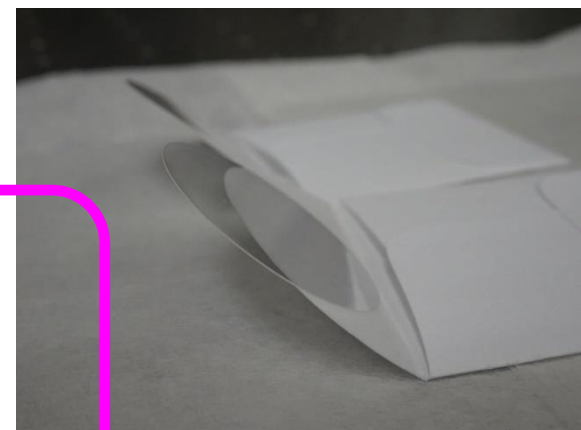


So far successful upto (2)

- R=96%, RoC=500<sup>+2000</sup><sub>-300</sub> mm

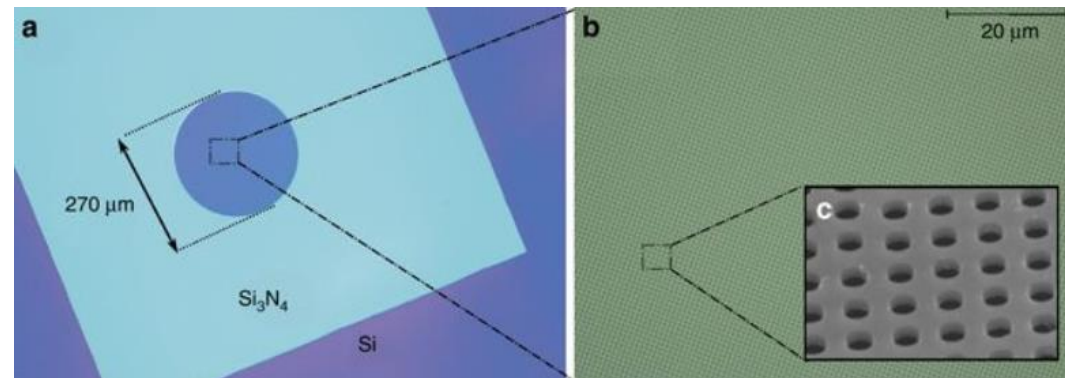
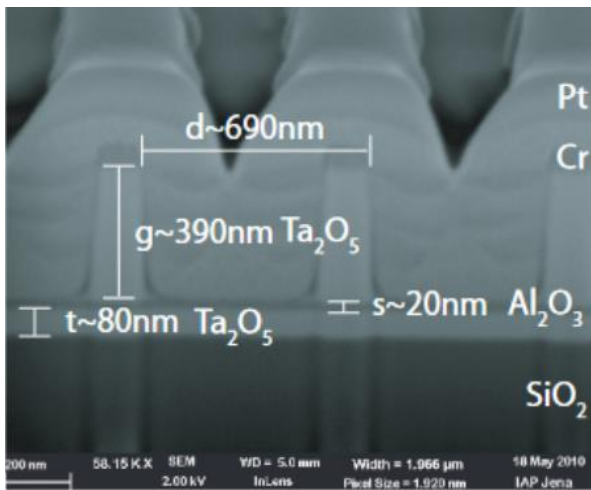
- R=94%, RoC=400<sup>+1000</sup><sub>-200</sub> mm

Trying (3) and thicker coating



# Another Approach: Photonic Crystal

- High reflectivity demonstrated, also in the context of gravitational wave detector to reduce coating thermal noise
  - D. Friedrich+, [Optics Express 19, 14955 \(2011\)](#)  
 **$R=99.2\%$  @  $\lambda=1064\text{ nm}$**
  - X. Chen+, [Light: Science & Applications 6, e16190 \(2017\)](#)  
 **$R = 0$  to  $99.9470 \pm 0.0025\%$  @  $\lambda=1\mu\text{m}$**



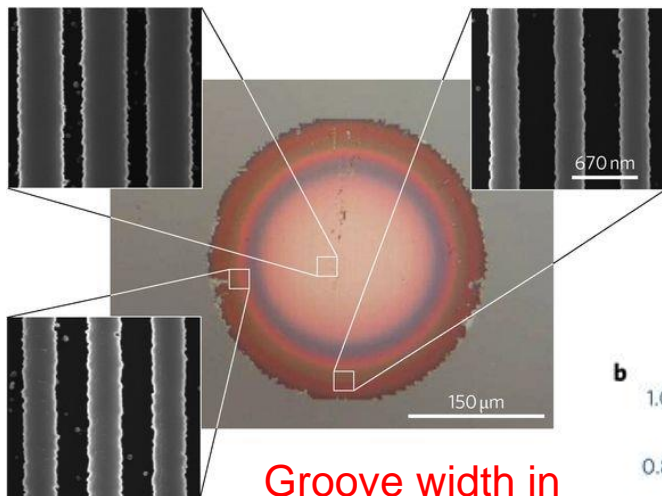
# Curved Mirror Seems Possible

- D. Fattal+, [Nature Photonics 4, 466 \(2010\)](#)

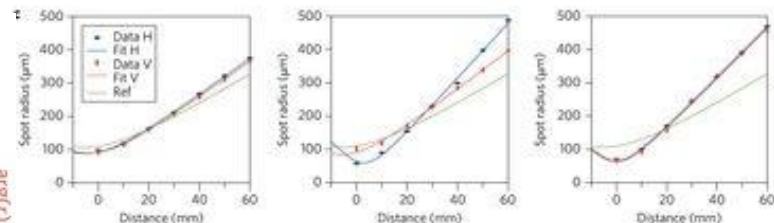
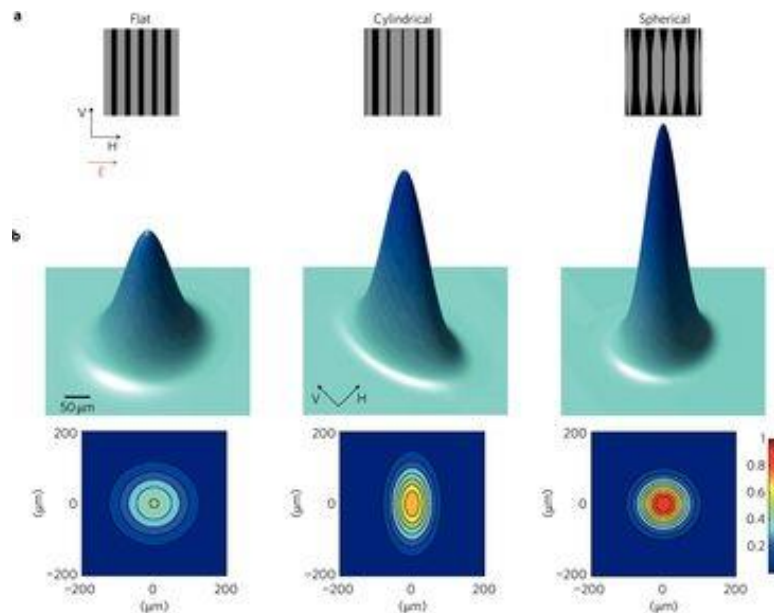
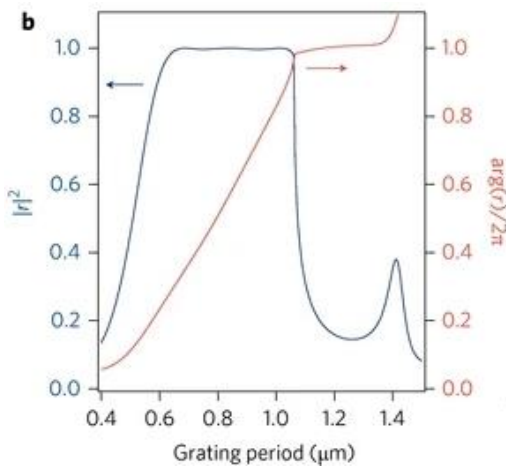
$R = 80-90\%$

$RoC = 20 \pm 3 \text{ mm}$

- Beam focusing confirmed



Groove width in various locations



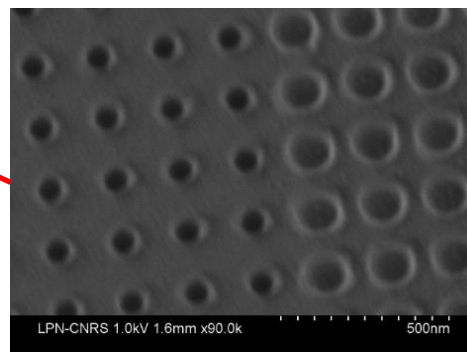
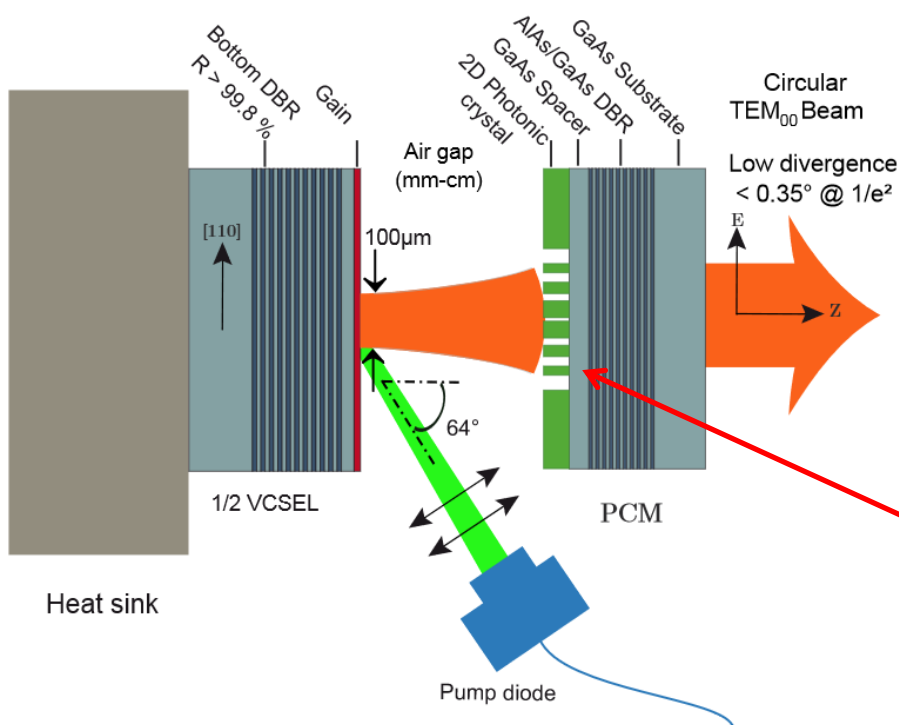
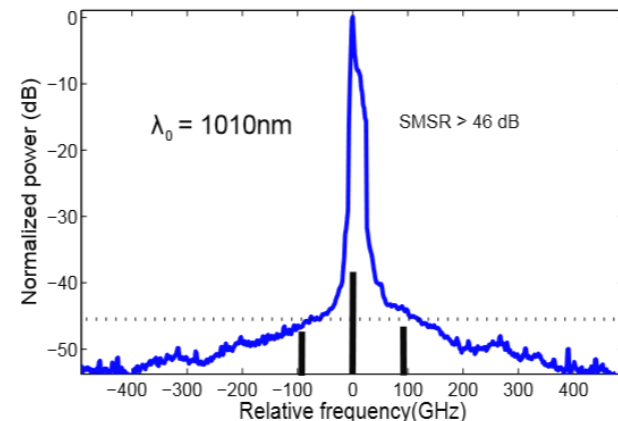
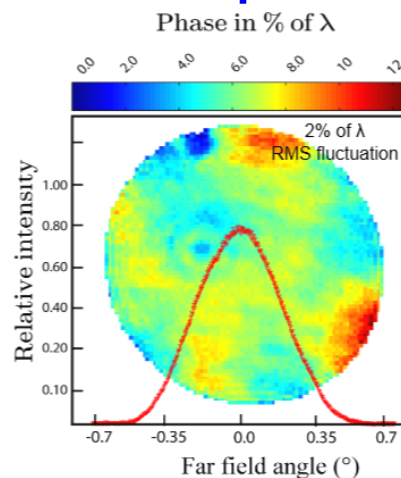
# Curved Mirror Seems Possible

- M. S. Seghilani+, [Optics Express 22, 5962 \(2014\)](#)

$R > 99\%$

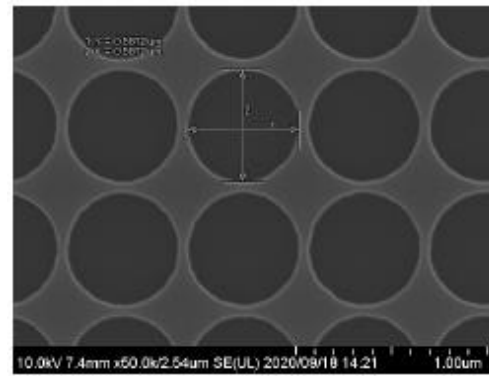
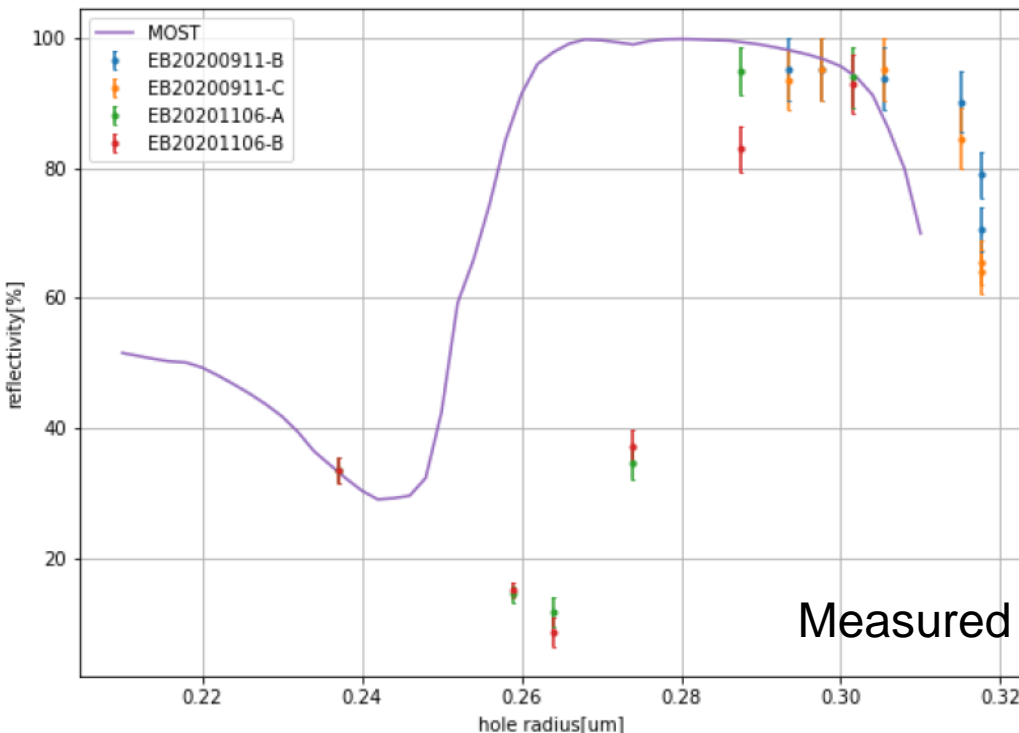
RoC = 20 mm

Distributed Bragg reflector (DBR) for high reflectivity

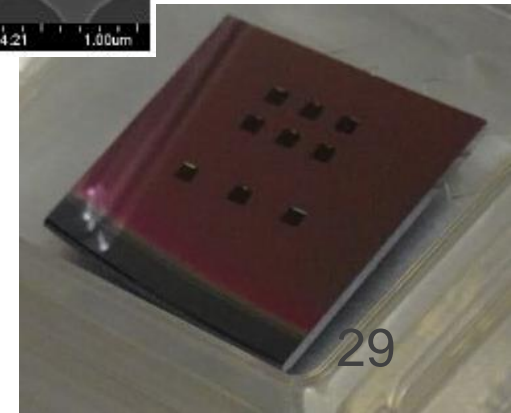


# Preliminary Results

- **Si** photonic crystal mirror samples are fabricated by Iwamoto Group at IIS, UTokyo
- So far achieved  **$R \sim 95\%$  @ 1064 nm** with a simple periodic structure (1 mm x 1 mm)
- Next step is to make an effective curvature



Measured by H. Chiyoda

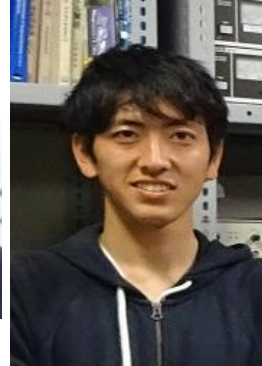
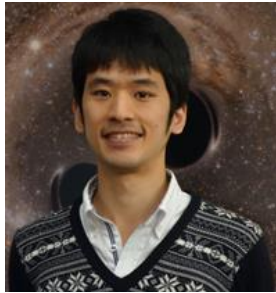


# Summary

- **Milligram scale** is interesting for probing the boundary between classical and quantum world  
YM, K. Komori, [EPJD 74, 126 \(2020\)](#)
- **Optical levitation** of a mirror is a promising way to prepare a system to test **quantum mechanics at macroscopic scales**
- Milligram scale mirror can be levitated with realistic parameters  
YM, Y. Kuwahara+, [Optics Express 25, 13799 \(2017\)](#)
- Succeeded in experimentally verifying the **stability** of the levitation  
T. Kawasaki, ..., YM, [PRA 102, 053520 \(2020\)](#)
- Trying different approaches for the **fabrication** of a milligram mirror with high reflectivity and curvature (thin mirror and photonic crystal mirror)

# Acknowledgements

- Students and graduates in Ando Group, UTokyo



- Thin fused silica mirrors are coated by LMA  
Jerome Degallaix
- Photonic crystal mirrors are fabricated at Iwamoto Group @ IIS, UTokyo  
Satoshi Iwamoto, Satomi Ishida
- JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Challenging Research (Exploratory) 18K18763
- JST CREST JPMJCR1873 (ANR-JST joint research)
  - Lead by Kentaro Somiya @ Tokyo Tech
  - Team: Nobuyuki Matsumoto @ Tohoku U (Gakushuin U)  
Koji Usami @ RCAST, UTokyo  
Kazuyuki Takeda @ Kyoto U  
Hiroki Takahashi @ OIST

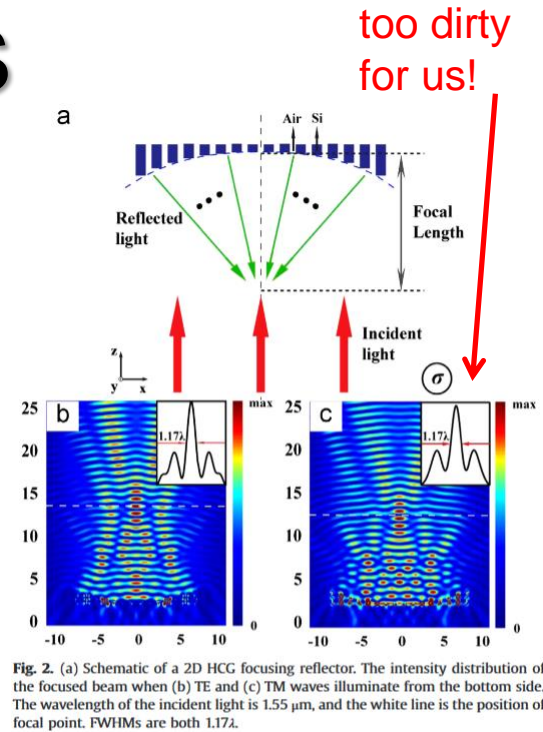


# Bonus Slides



# Other Proposals

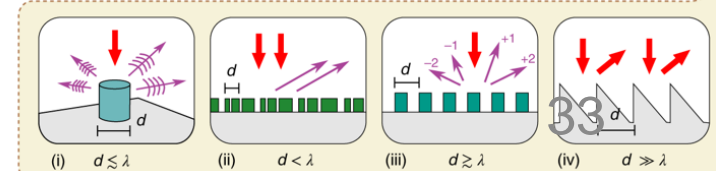
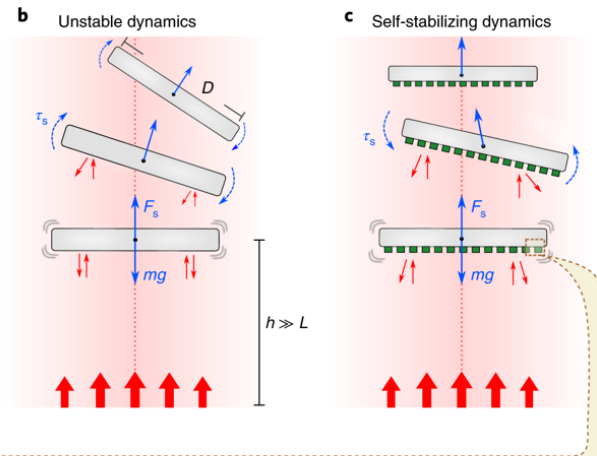
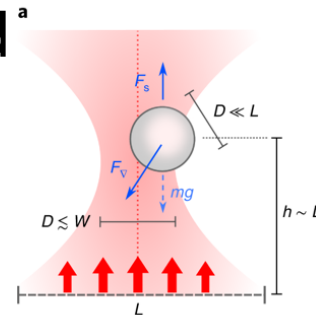
- Polarization-independent beam focusing by high-contrast grating reflectors  
 W. Su+, [Optics Communications 325, 5 \(2014\)](#)
  - curved mirror by grating with parabolic surface
  - ~9 um focal length ← *too small for us!*
  - focusing consistent with diffraction limit



- **Self-stabilizing** photonic levitation and propulsion of nanostructured<sup>a</sup> macroscopic objects

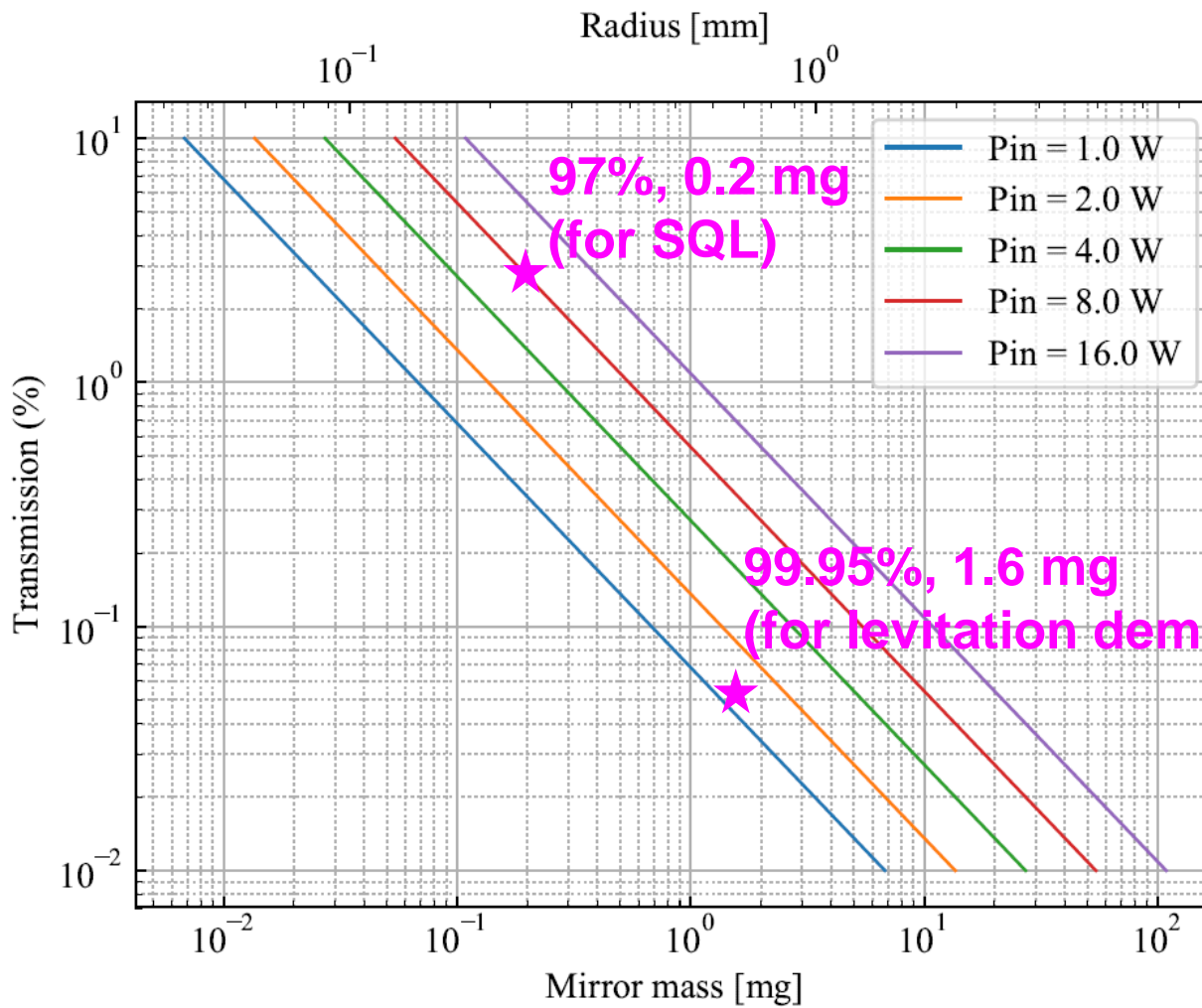
O. Ilic & H. A. Atwater,  
[Nature Photonics 13, 289 \(2019\)](#)

- levitation by tailoring asymmetric scattering of light



# Transmission vs Mirror Mass

- Mirror reflectivity can be smaller if the mirror mass is smaller and with higher input power



If critical couple, no detuning

$$mg \approx \frac{2P_{\text{circ}}}{c} = \frac{2P_{\text{in}}}{cT}$$

$\uparrow$  9.8 m/s<sup>2</sup>  
 $\uparrow$  Intra-cavity power  
 $\uparrow$  Mirror power transmission (R=1-T)

Calculation by T. Kawasaki  
(Mirror thickness 0.5 mm,  
fused silica assumed to calculate radius.)

# PhC: Model vs Measurement

- There's a possibility that the structure is tapered when the hole radius is small

