

# Laser interferometric searches for signatures of dark matter and quantum gravity



**Yuta Michimura**

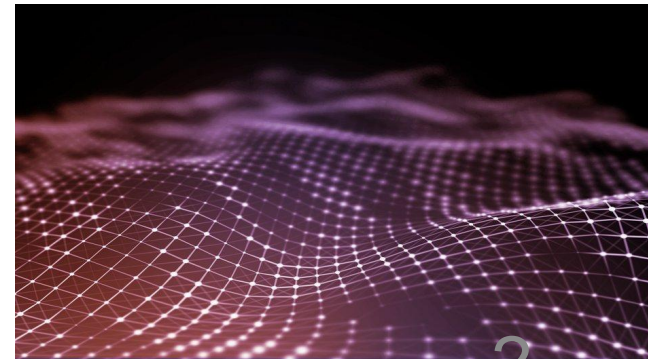
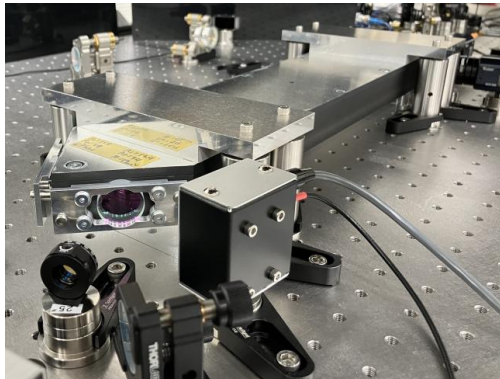
**道村 唯太**

**RESCEU, University of Tokyo**  
**[michimura@resceu.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:michimura@resceu.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp)**



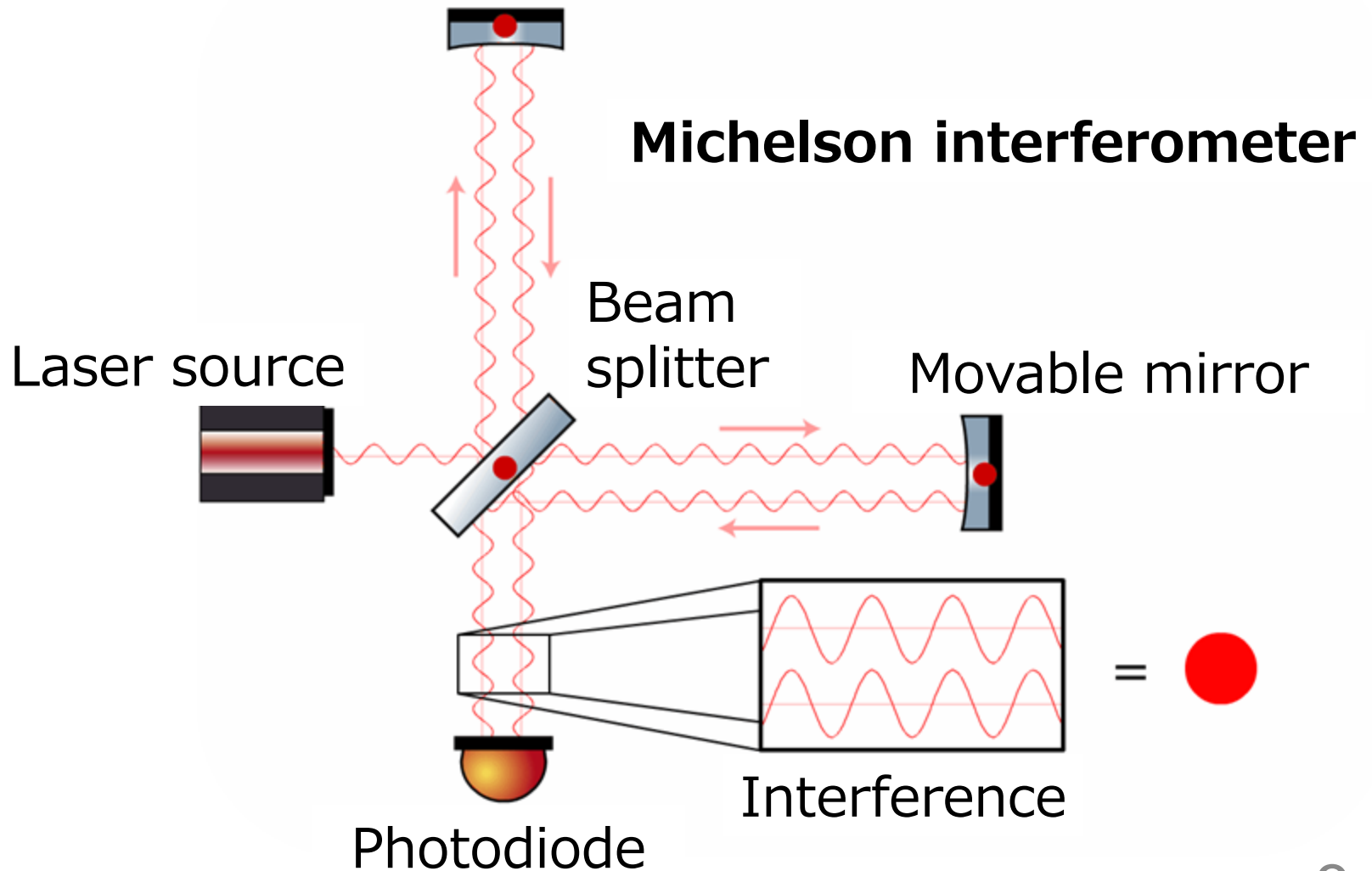
# Plan of the Talk

- **Basics of laser interferometry**
- **Search for ultralight vector dark matter**
  - LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA, [PRD 110, 042001 \(2024\)](#)
- **Search for ultralight axion dark matter**
  - K. Nagano, T. Fujita, YM, I. Obata, [PRL 123, 111301 \(2019\)](#)
  - Y. Oshima+, [PRD 108, 072005 \(2023\)](#)
- **Testing quantum nature of gravity**
  - T. Fujita, Y. Kaku, A. Matsumura, YM, [arXiv:2308.14552](#)
- **Search for quantum fluctuations of space-time**



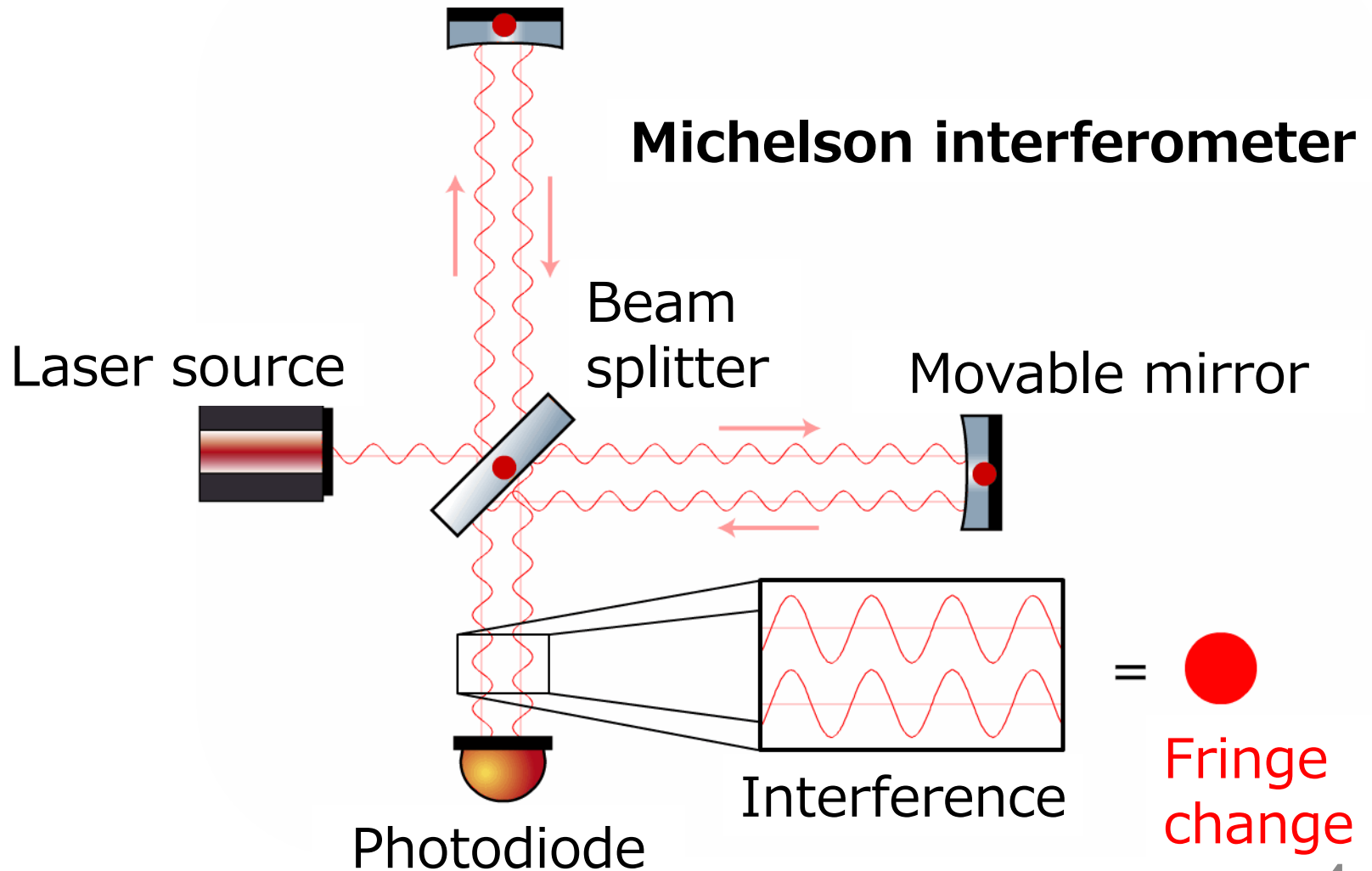
# Laser Interferometry

- measures **differential** arm length change

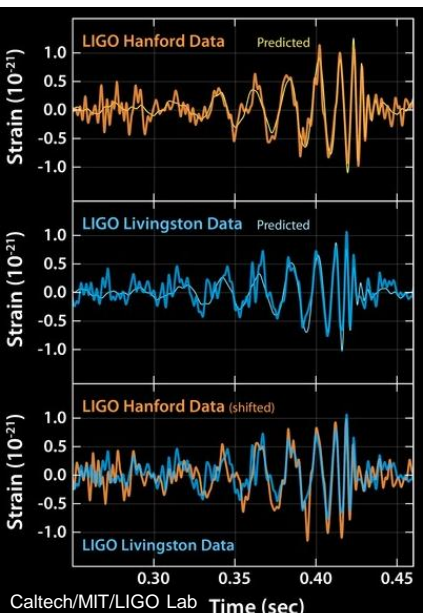
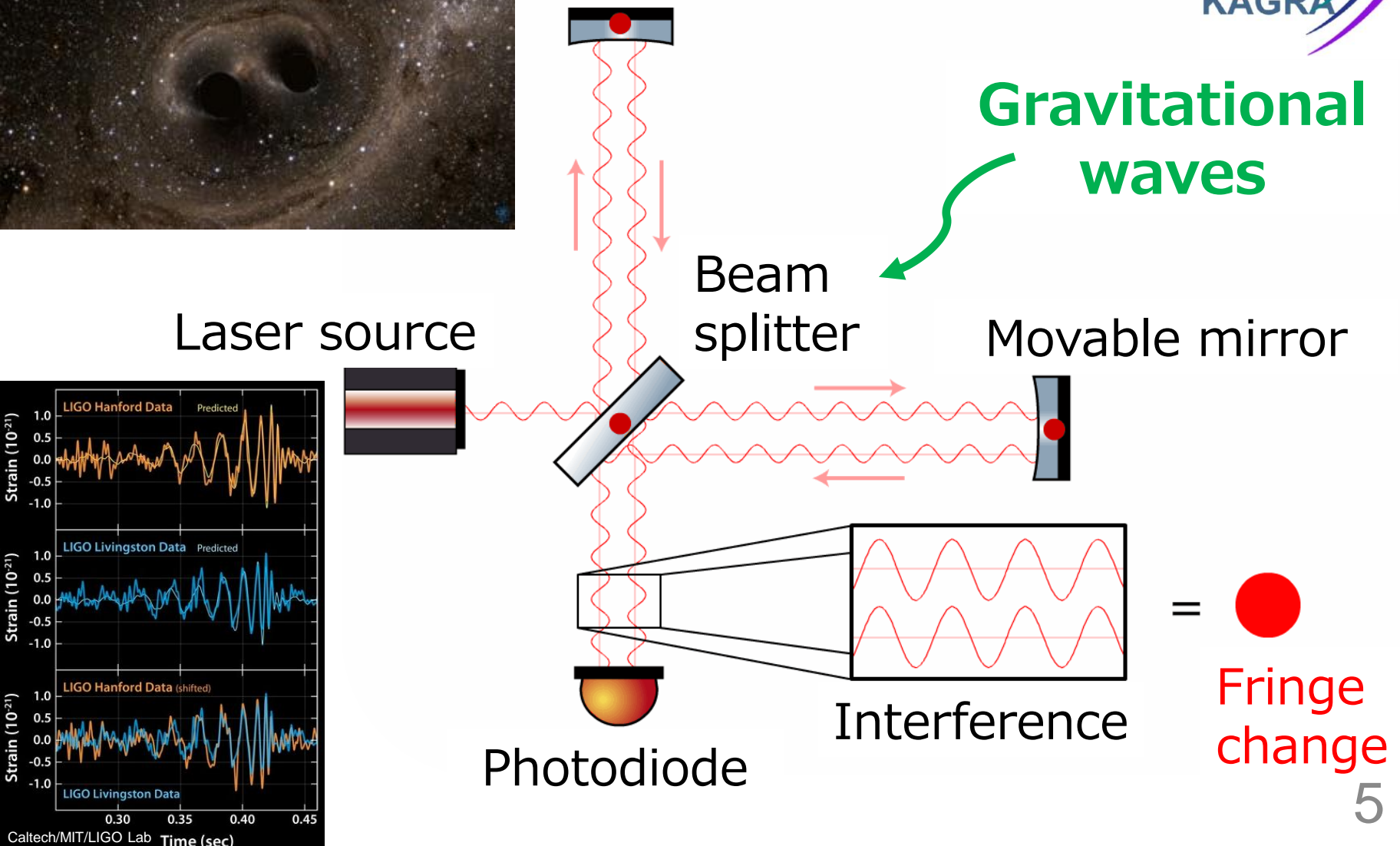
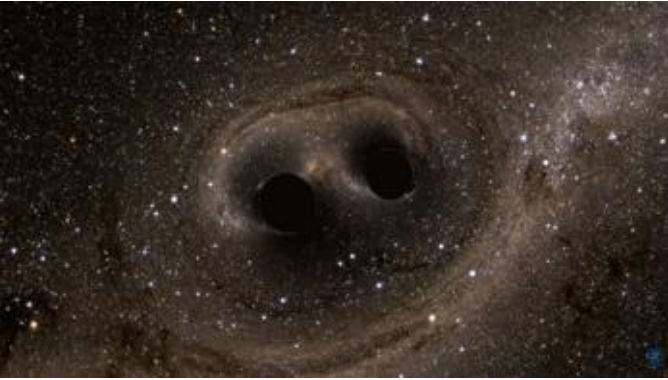


# Laser Interferometry

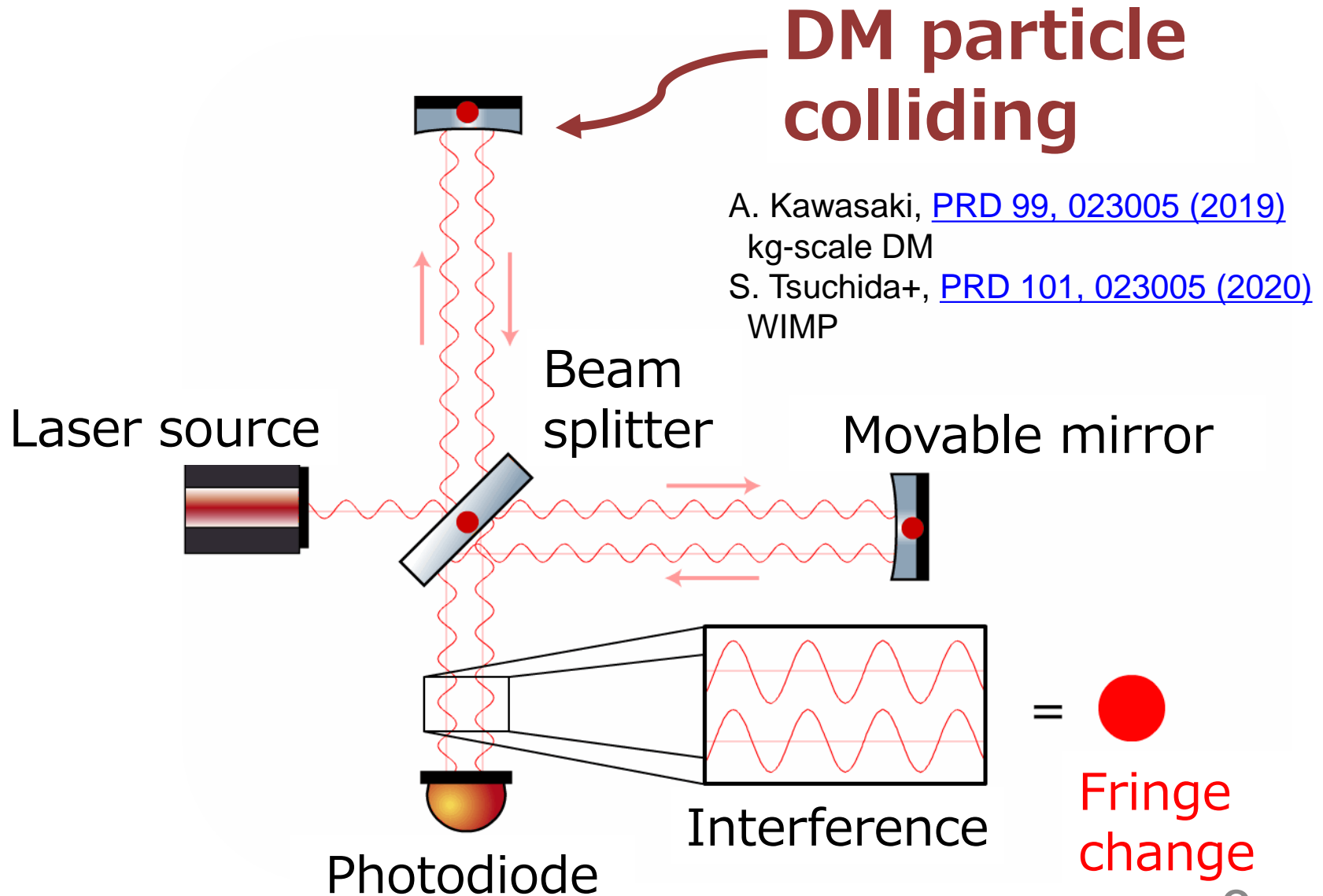
- measures **differential** arm length change



# For Gravitational Waves



# For Particle Dark Matter



# For Ultralight Dark Matter

**Tiny forces from vector DM**

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA,  
[PRD 105, 063030 \(2022\)](#)  
**LIGO/Virgo O3 analysis**  
LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA,  
[PRD 110, 042001 \(2024\)](#)  
**KAGRA O3GK analysis**

**Speed of light changes from axion DM**

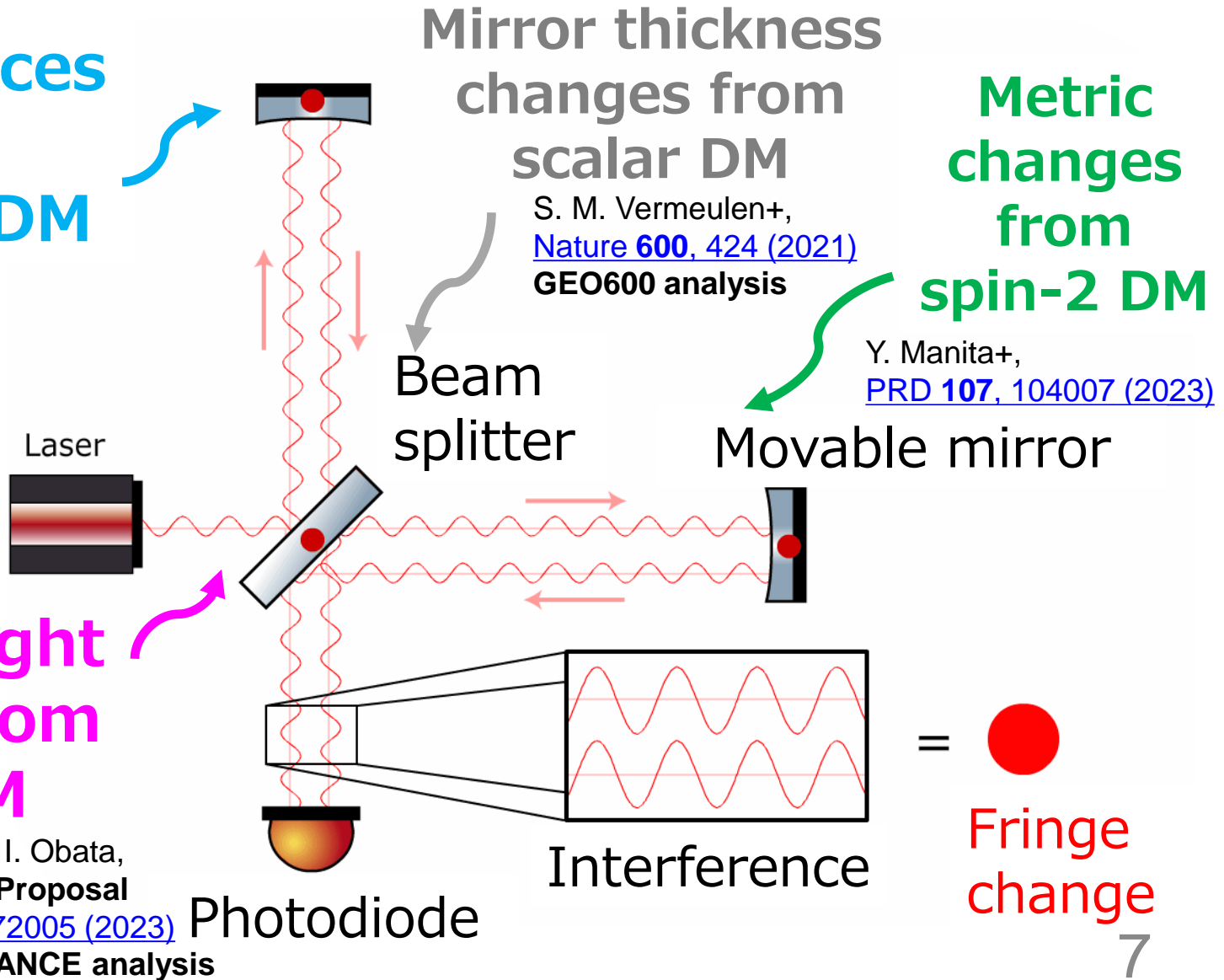
K. Nagano, T. Fujita, YM, I. Obata,  
[PRL 123, 111301 \(2019\)](#) **Proposal**  
Y. Oshima+, [PRD 108, 072005 \(2023\)](#)  
**Table-top experiment DANCE analysis**

**Mirror thickness changes from scalar DM**

S. M. Vermeulen+,  
[Nature 600, 424 \(2021\)](#)  
**GEO600 analysis**

**Metric changes from spin-2 DM**

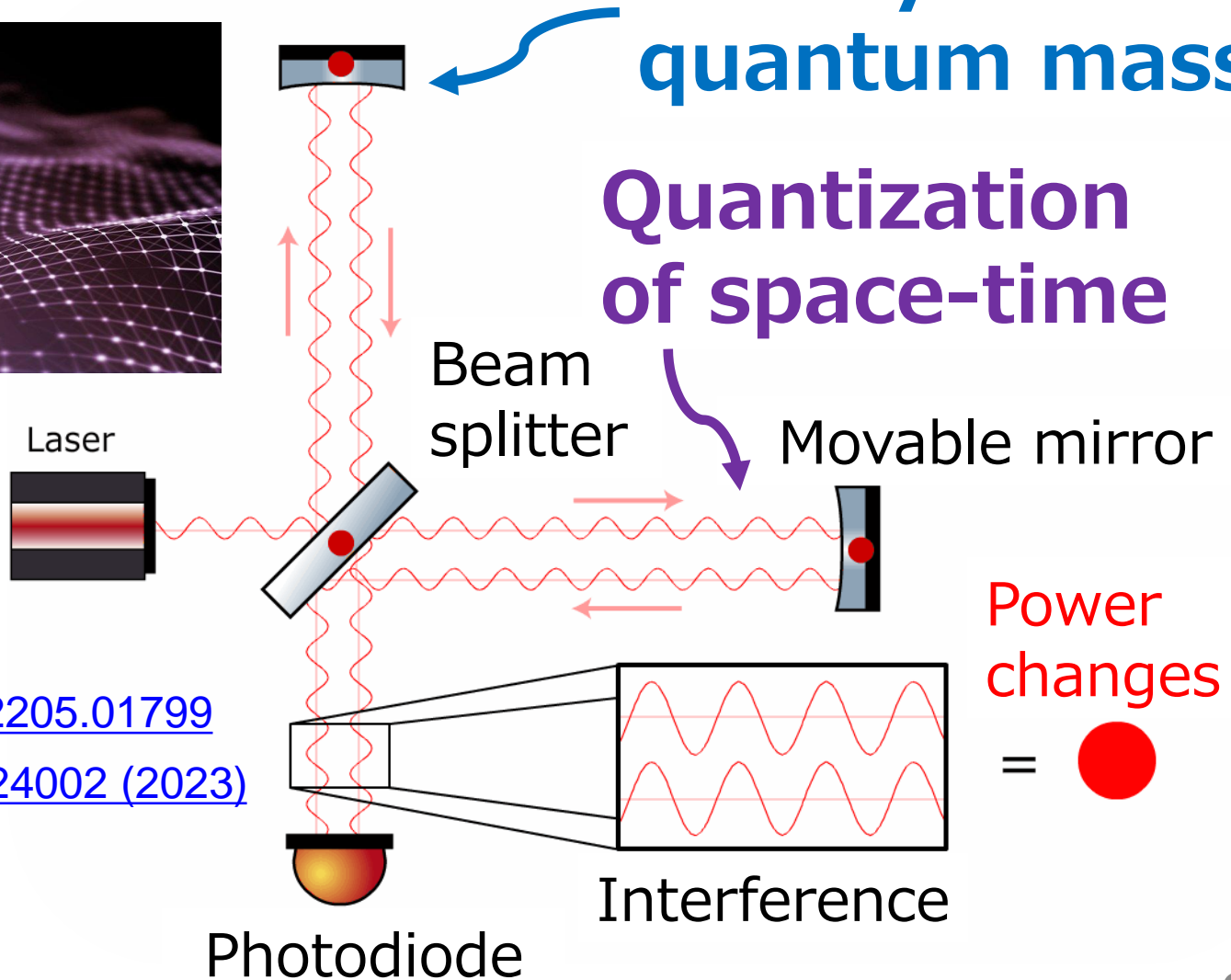
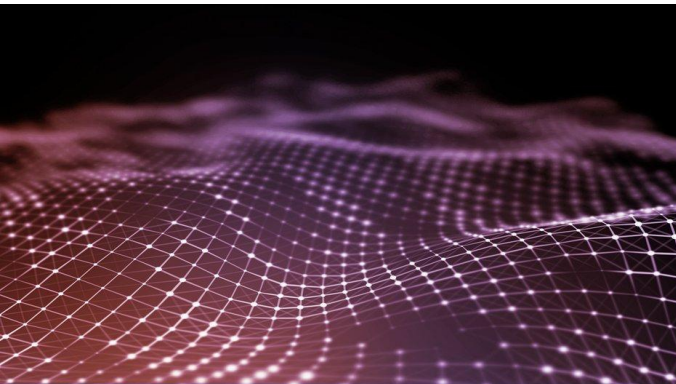
Y. Manita+,  
[PRD 107, 104007 \(2023\)](#)



# For Quantum Gravity

Gravity from quantum mass

Quantization of space-time



K. M. Zurek, [arXiv:2205.01799](https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.01799)

D. Li+, [PRD 107, 024002 \(2023\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/2205.01799)





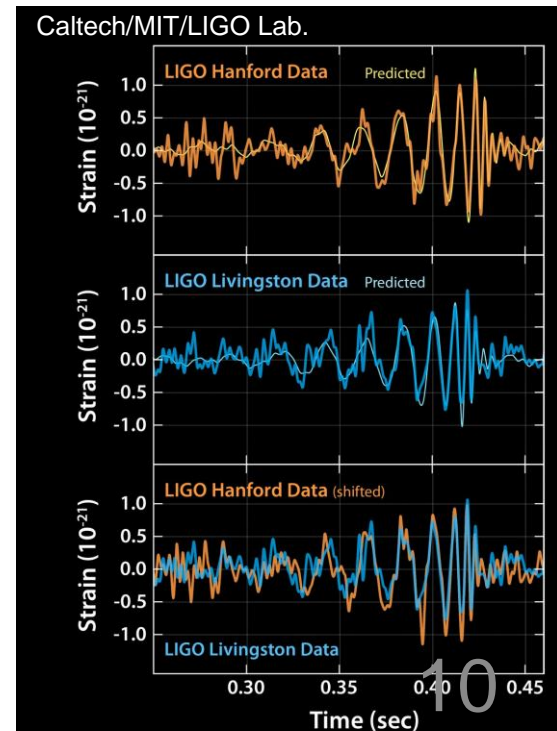
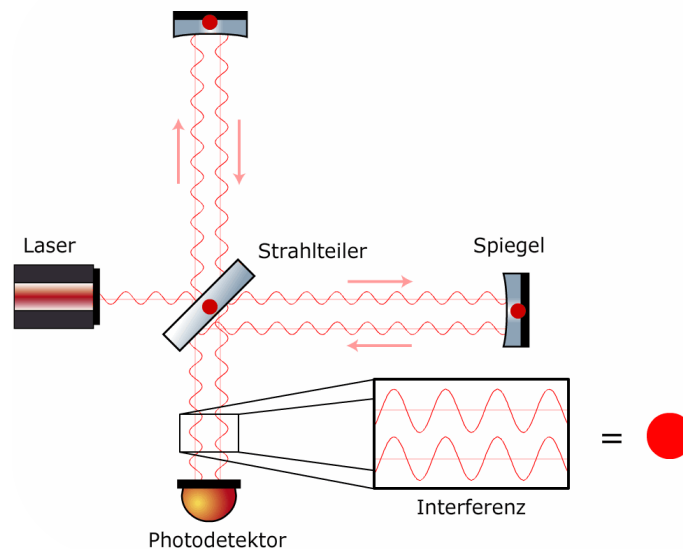
# Ultralight Dark Matter Searches

# Ultralight Dark Matter

- Bosonic ultralight field ( $< \sim 1$  eV) are well-motivated from cosmology

- Behaves as **classical waves**
- $$f = 242 \text{ Hz} \left( \frac{m_{\text{DM}}}{10^{-12} \text{ eV}} \right)$$

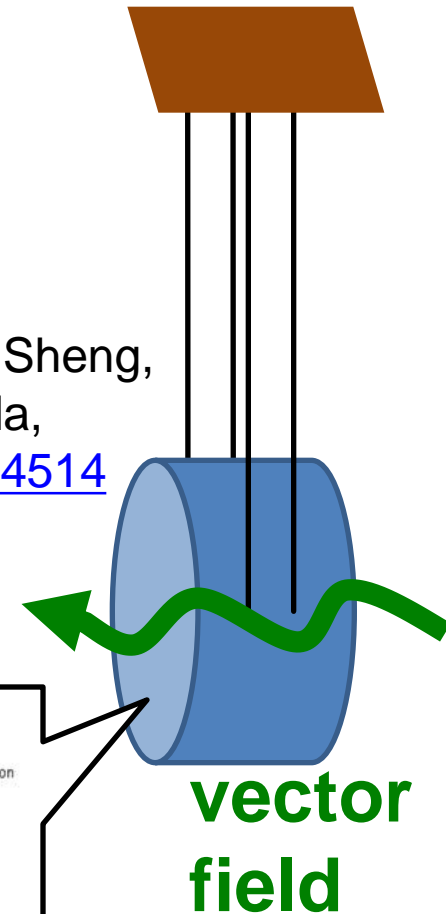
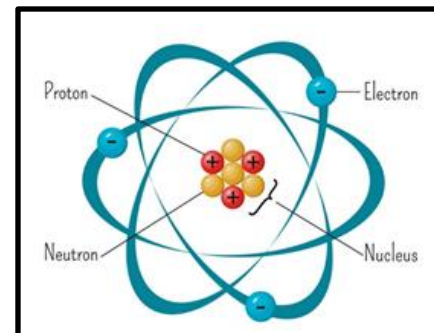
- **Laser interferometers** are sensitive to such oscillating changes (rather than “pulse” signals from particles)



# Vector Boson Dark Matter

- Possible **new physics** beyond the standard model:  
New gauge symmetry and gauge boson
- New gauge boson can be dark matter
- **B-L** (baryon minus lepton number)
  - Conserved in the standard model
  - Motivations from neutrino mass, matter-antimatter asymmetry
  - Roughly 0.5 per neutron mass, but slightly **different between materials**  
Fused silica: 0.501  
Sapphire: 0.510
- Gauge boson DM gives **oscillating force**

Y. Cheng, J. Sheng,  
T. T. Yanagida,  
[arXiv:2402.14514](https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.14514)



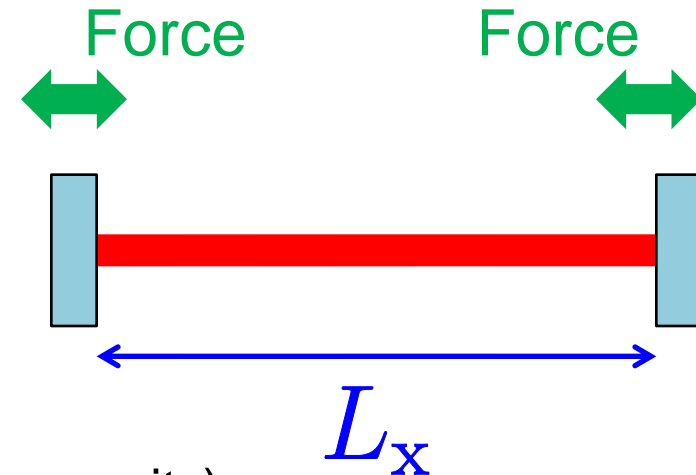
# Oscillating Force from Gauge Field

- Acceleration of mirrors

$$\vec{a}(t, \vec{x}) = \epsilon_D e \frac{q_D}{M} \sqrt{2\rho_{DM}} \vec{e}_A \sin(m_A t - \vec{k} \cdot \vec{x})$$

charge (pointing to  $q_D$ )  
 gauge boson mass (pointing to  $m_A$ )  
 coupling (pointing to  $\epsilon_D e$ )  
 mirror mass (pointing to  $M$ )  
 DM density (pointing to  $\rho_{DM}$ )  
 polarization (pointing to  $\vec{e}_A$ )  
 different phase at different position (pointing to  $\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}$ )

- Gauge boson mass and coupling can be measured by measuring the **oscillating** mirror displacement
- Almost no signal for symmetric cavity if cavity length is short (phase difference is  $10^{-5}$  rad @ 100 Hz for km cavity)



- How about using interferometric **GW detectors**?

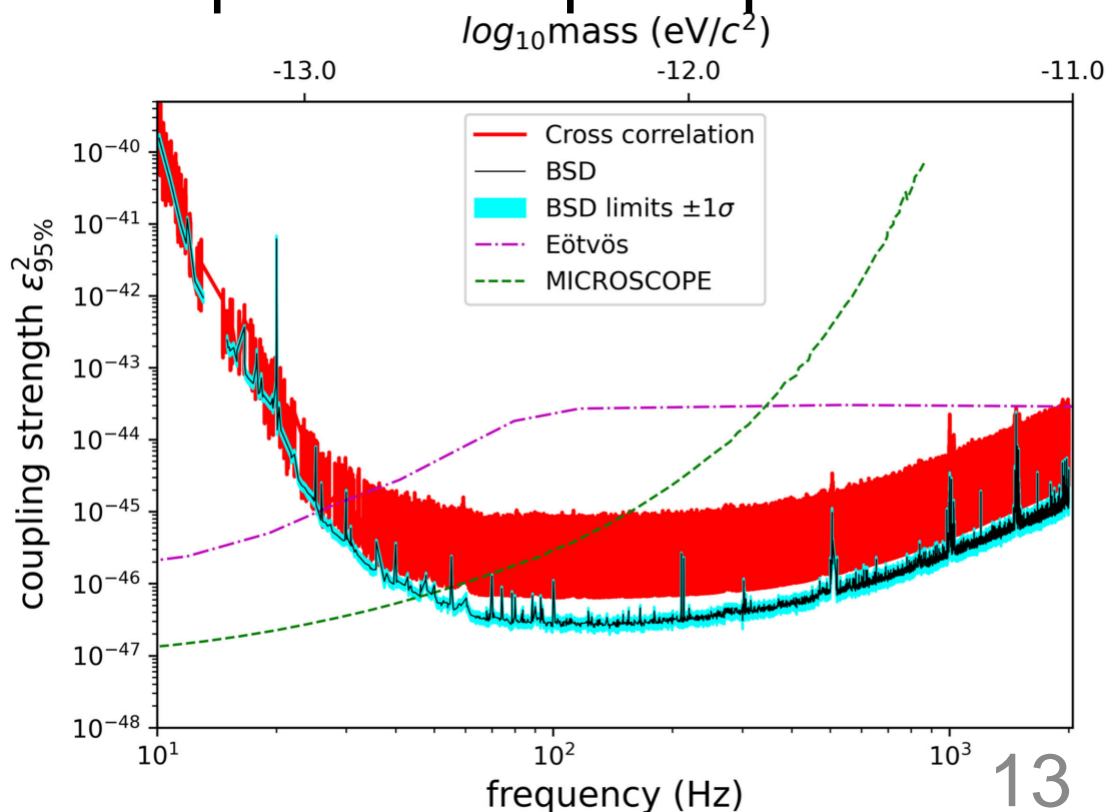
# Previous Searches with LIGO/Virgo

- Gauge boson dark matter search with **LIGO O1** data and **LIGO/Virgo O3** data have been done

H-K Guo+, [Communications Physics 2, 155 \(2019\)](#)

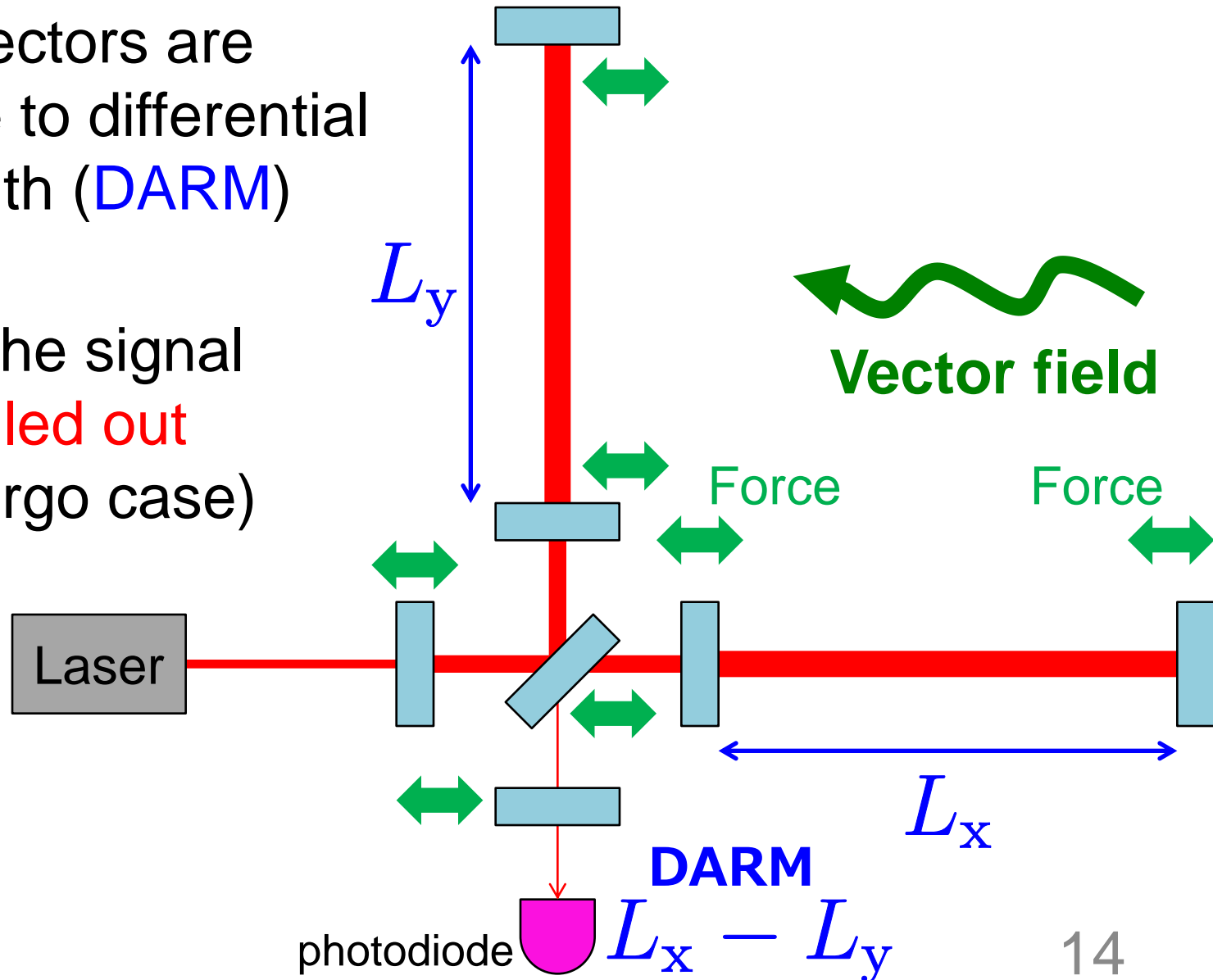
LIGO, Virgo, KAGRA Collaboration, [PRD 105, 063030 \(2022\)](#)

- **Better constraint** than equivalence principle tests
- Even better constraint could be obtained from KAGRA



# Search with GW Detectors

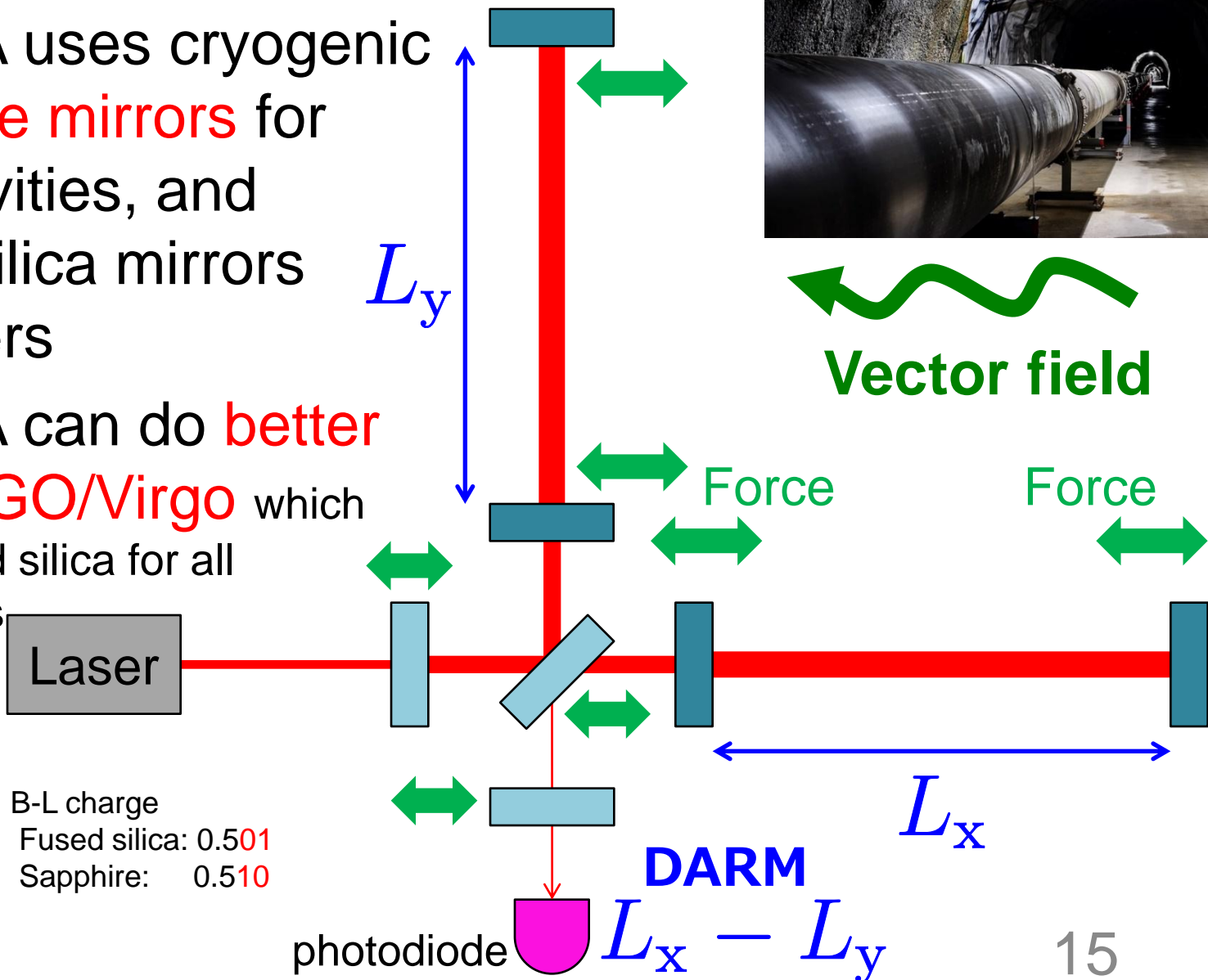
- GW Detectors are sensitive to differential arm length (**DARM**) change
- Most of the signal is **cancelled out** (LIGO/Virgo case)



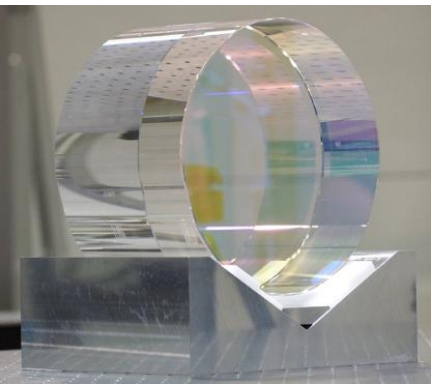
# Search with KAGRA



- KAGRA uses cryogenic **sapphire mirrors** for arm cavities, and fused silica mirrors for others
- KAGRA can do **better than LIGO/Virgo** which uses fused silica for all the mirrors



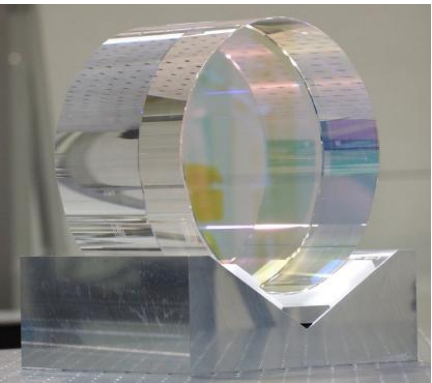
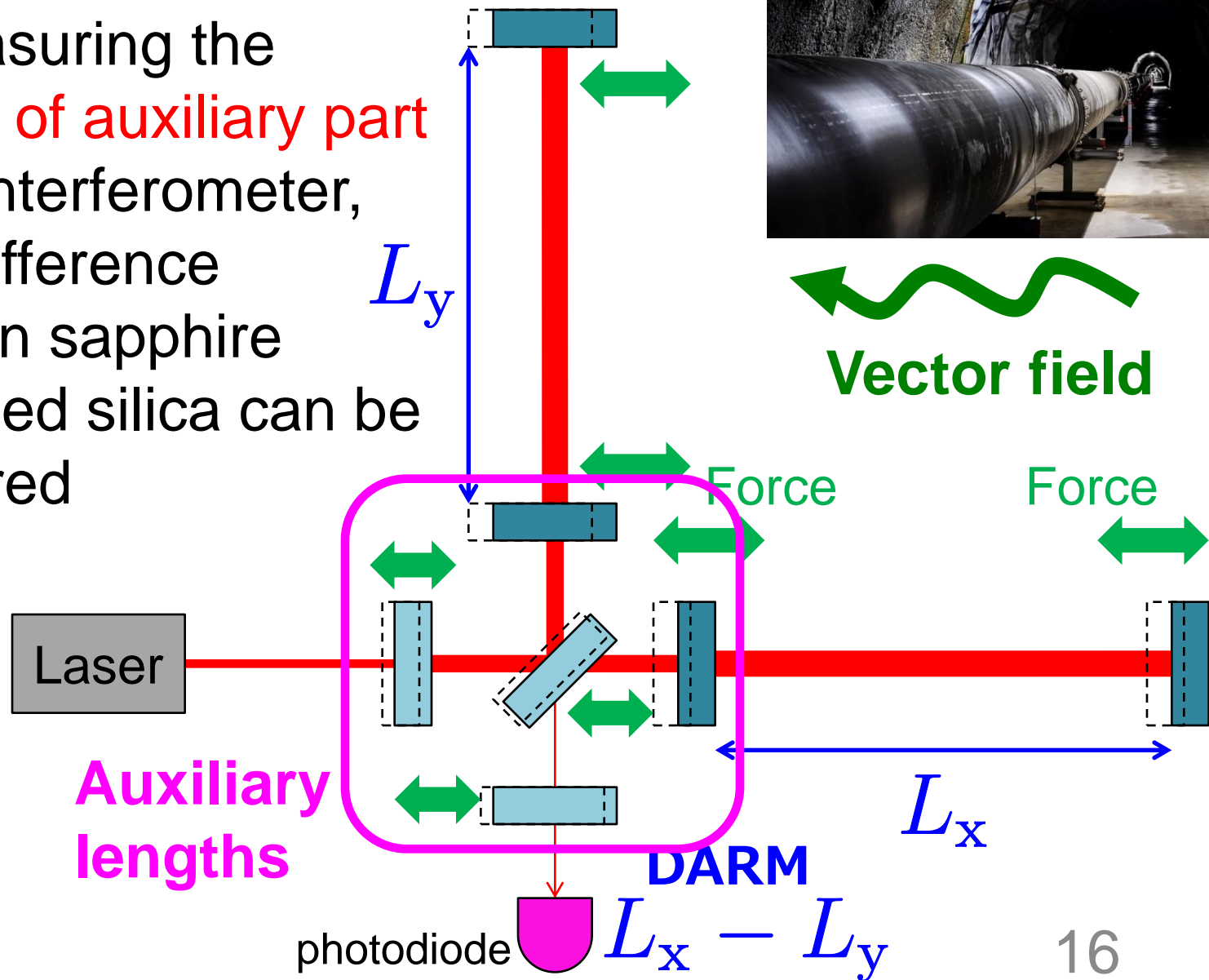
B-L charge  
 Fused silica: 0.501  
 Sapphire: 0.510



# Search with KAGRA



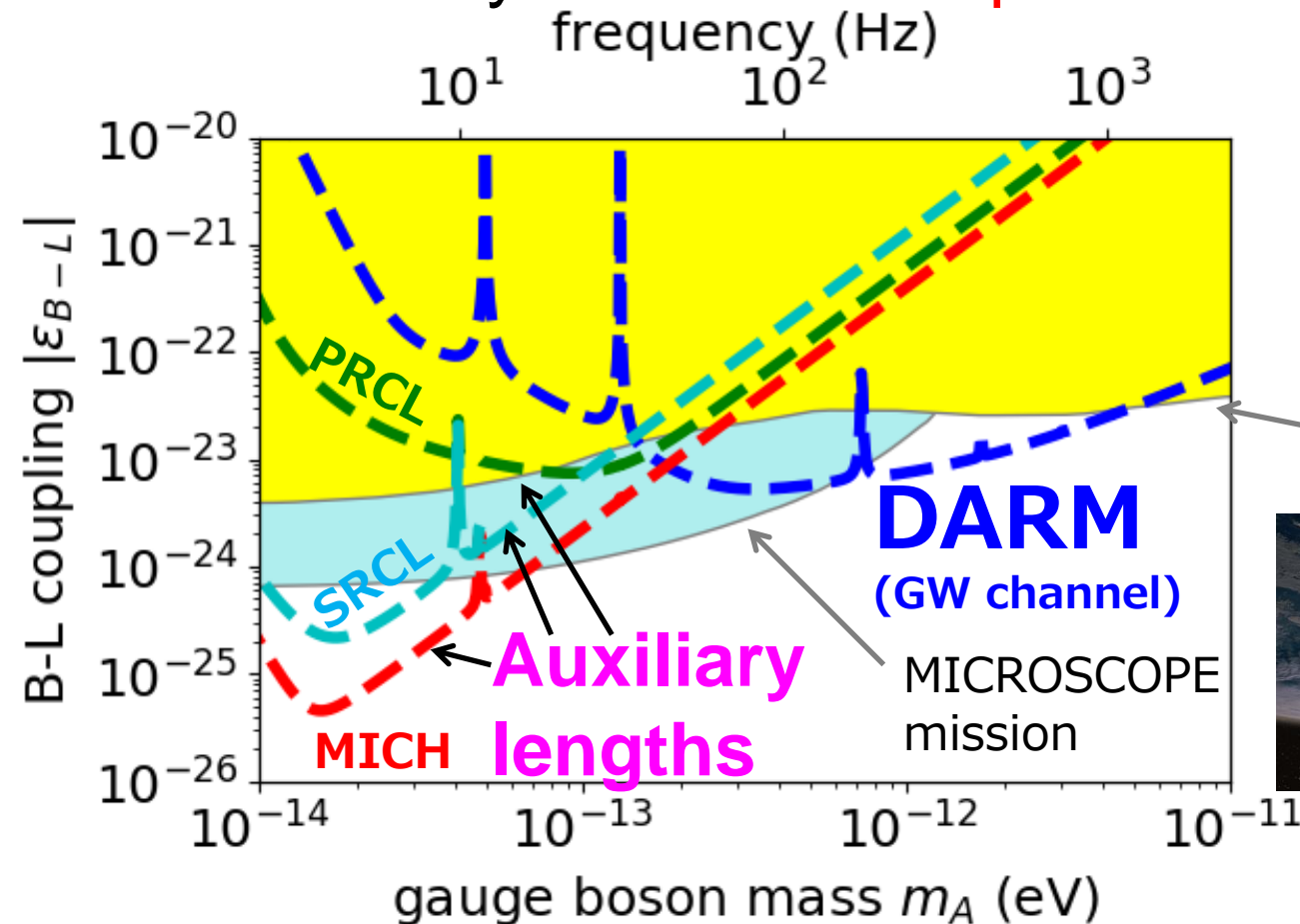
- By measuring the **lengths of auxiliary part** of the interferometer, force difference between sapphire and fused silica can be measured





# KAGRA Vector DM Sensitivity

- Auxiliary length channels have better design sensitivity than DARM (GW channel) at low mass range
- Sensitivity **better than equivalence principle tests**



YM, T. Fujita, S. Morisaki,  
H. Nakatsuka, I. Obata,  
[PRD 102, 102001 \(2020\)](#)

S. Morisaki, T. Fujita, YM,  
H. Nakatsuka, I. Obata,  
[PRD 103, L051702 \(2021\)](#)

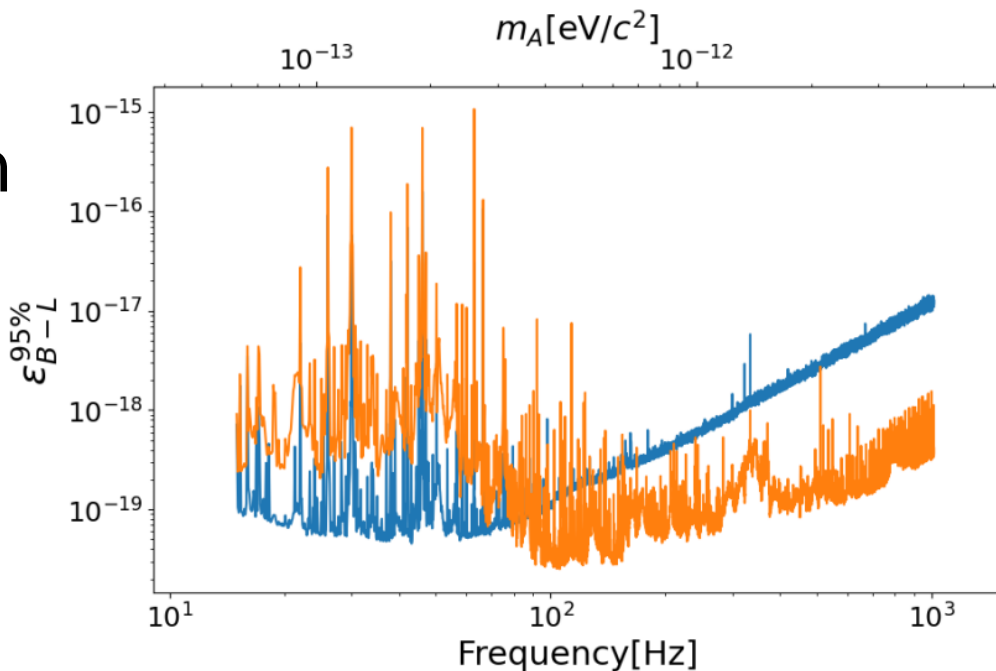
Eöt-Wash  
torsion pendulum



# KAGRA First Results from KAGRA

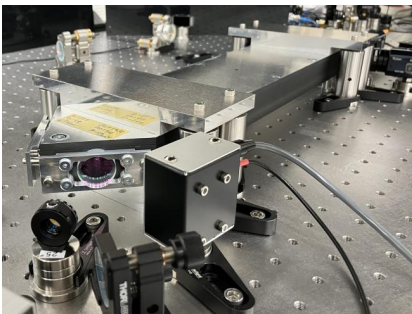
- Using data from KAGRA O3GK run in 2020
- Still ~5 orders of magnitude worse than equivalence principle tests
- Demonstrated the feasibility of using **auxiliary channels for astrophysics**
- New data will be available from O4b (~June 2025) and beyond

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA, [PRD 110, 042001 \(2024\)](#)  
(Paper written by J. Kume with 1800 authors!)

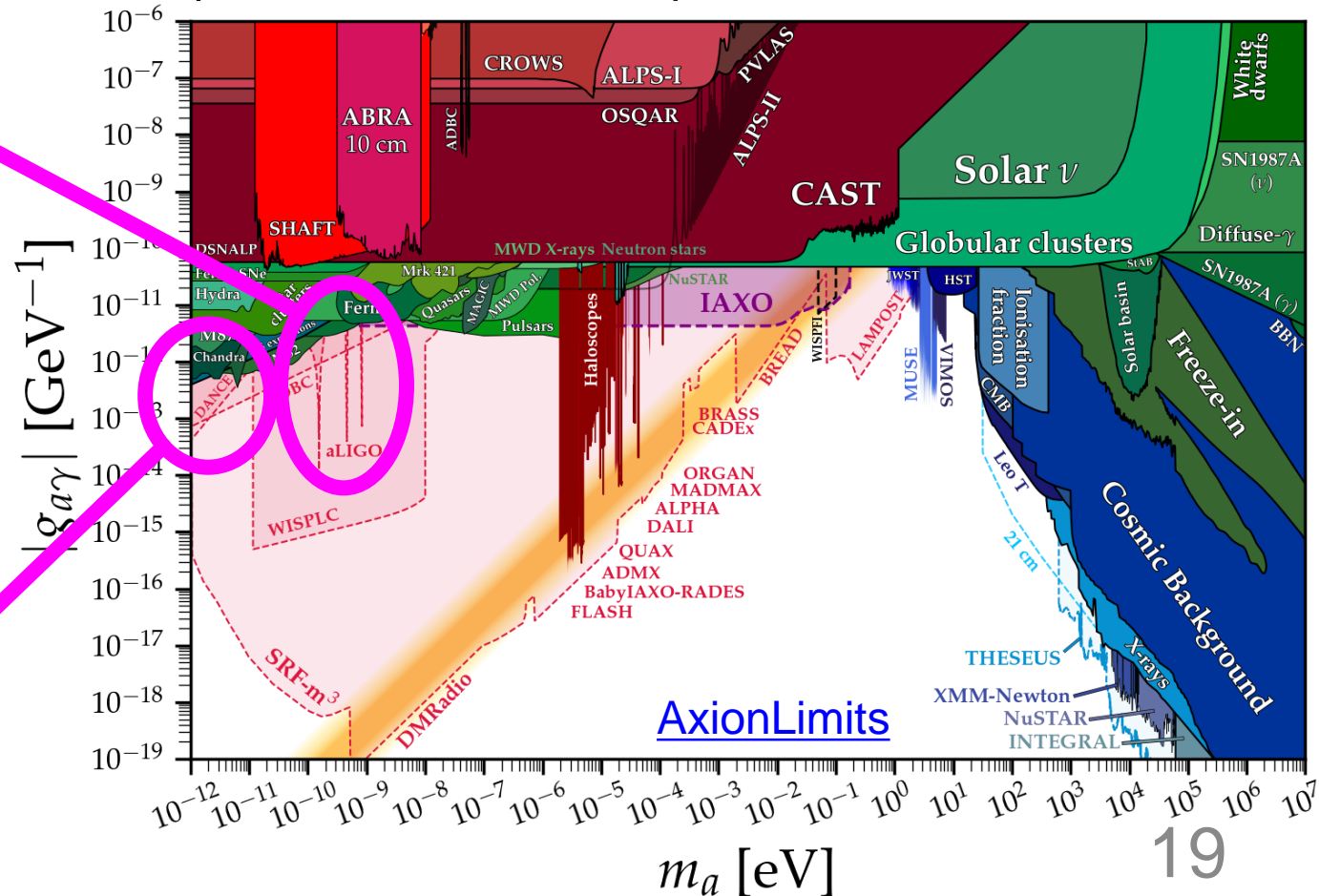


# Axion Dark Matter

- Many experiments to search for ALPs through **axion-photon coupling**, especially by using **magnetic fields** (but **ours don't**)



DANCE



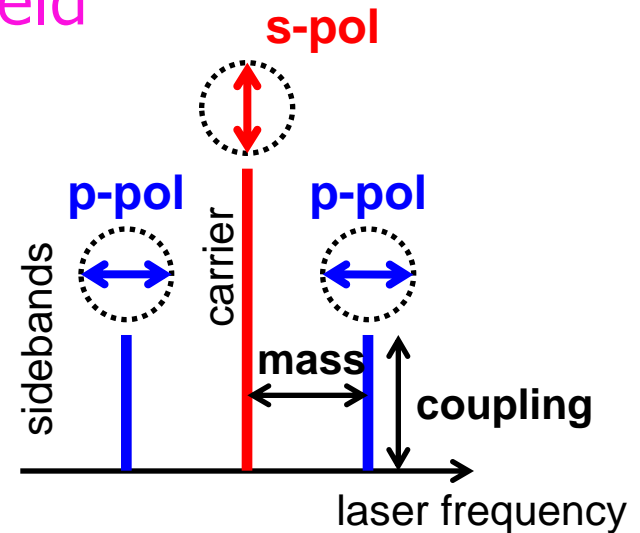
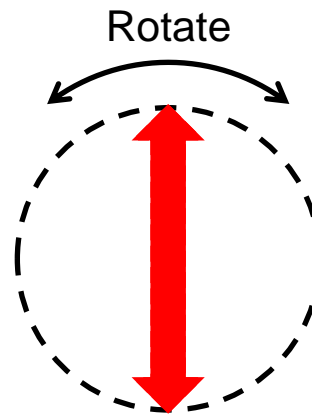
# Polarization Modulation from Axions

- Axion-photon coupling ( $\frac{g_{a\gamma}}{4} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$ ) gives **different phase velocity** between left-handed and right-handed circular polarizations

$$c_{L/R} = \sqrt{1 \pm \frac{g_{a\gamma} a_0 m_a}{k} \sin(m_a t + \delta_\tau)}$$

↖ coupling constant     ↖ axion field     ↖ axion mass

- Linear polarization will be **modulated**  
p-pol sidebands will be generated from s-pol
- Search can be done **without magnetic field**

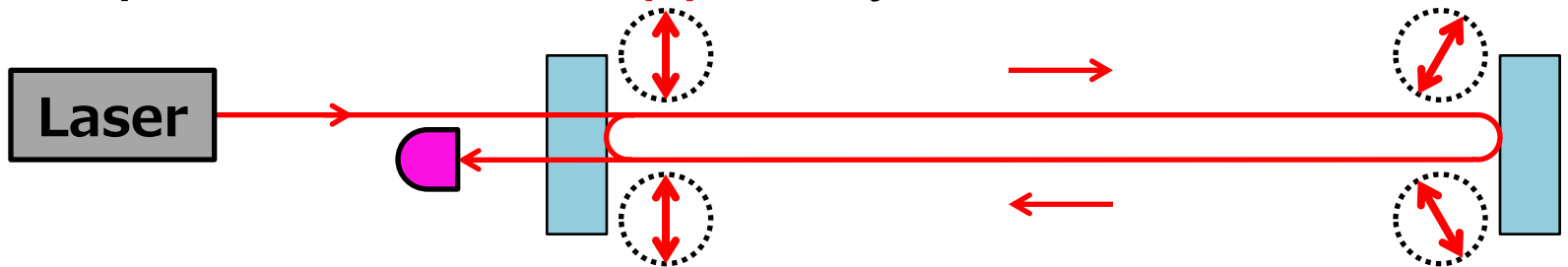


# Optical Cavity to Amplify the Signal

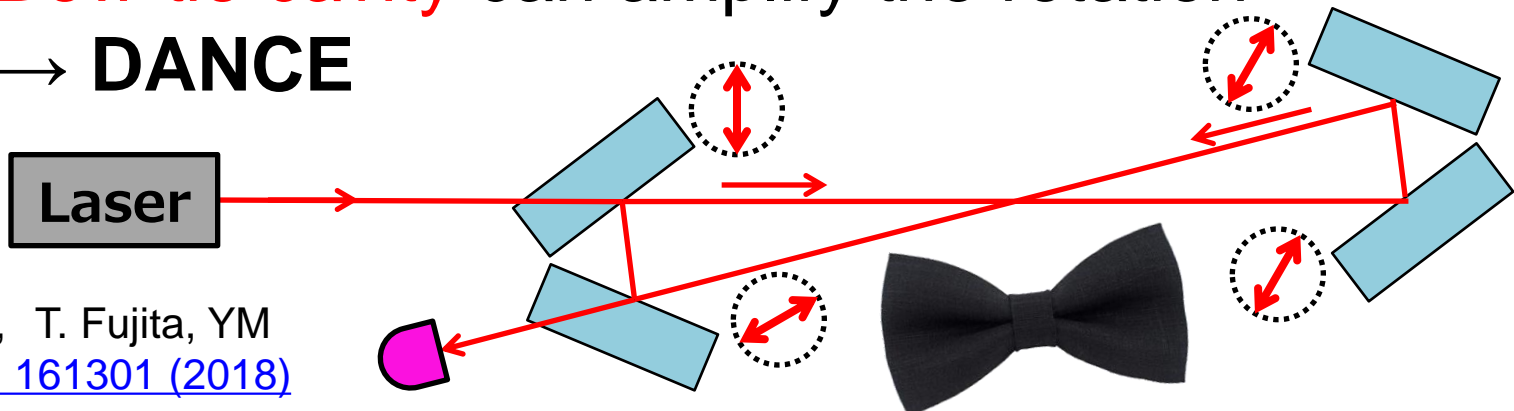
- Polarization rotation is small for short optical path



- Optical cavities can increase the optical path, but the polarization is **flipped** by mirror reflections

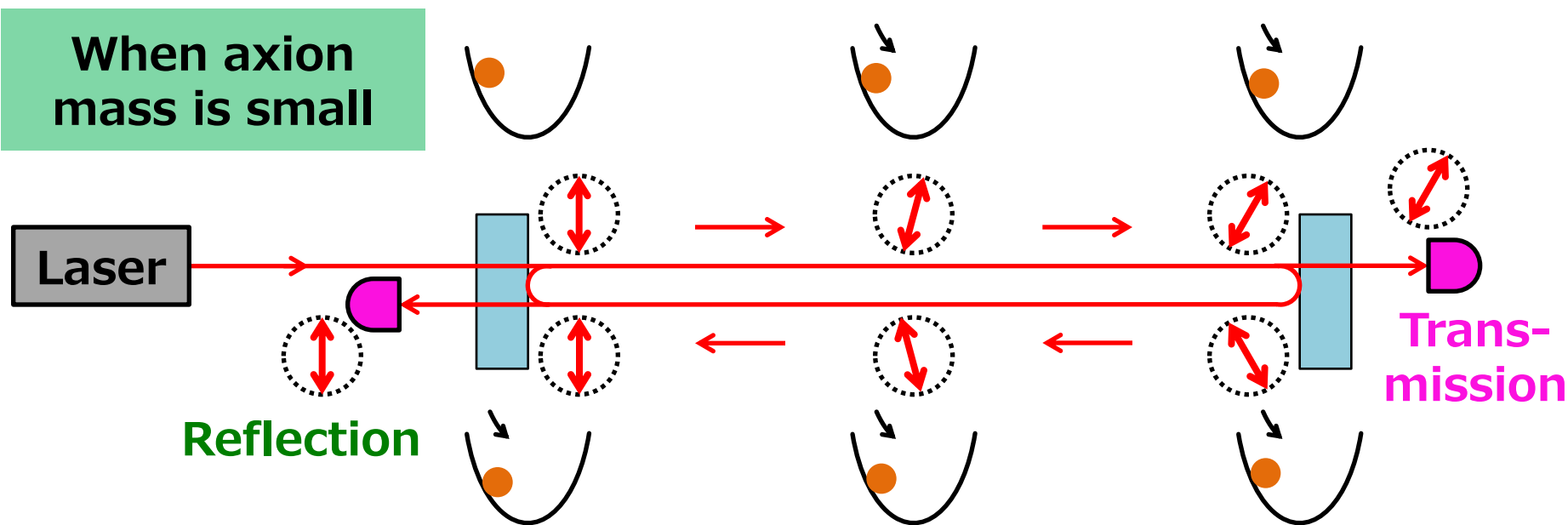


- **Bow-tie cavity** can amplify the rotation  
→ **DANCE**



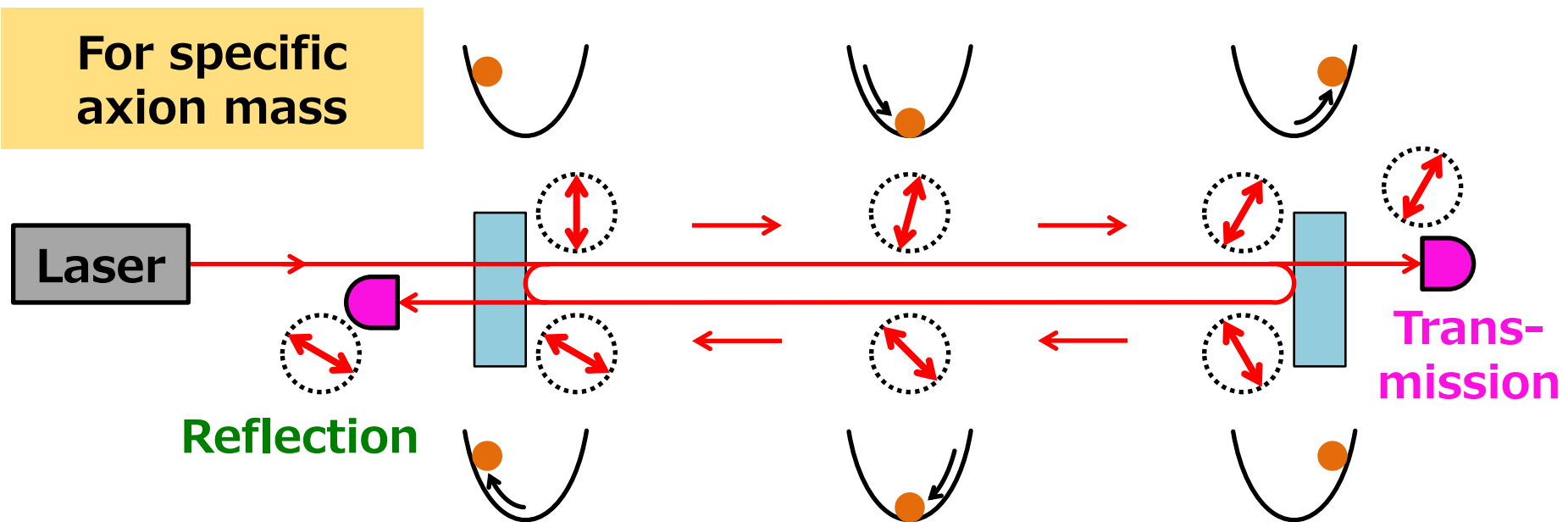
# Linear Cavities for Axion Search

- Polarization flip at mirror reflection can be used to enhance the signal when the **round-trip time equals** odd-multiples of **axion oscillation period**
- Long baseline linear cavities in **gravitational wave detectors** are suitable



# Linear Cavities for Axion Search

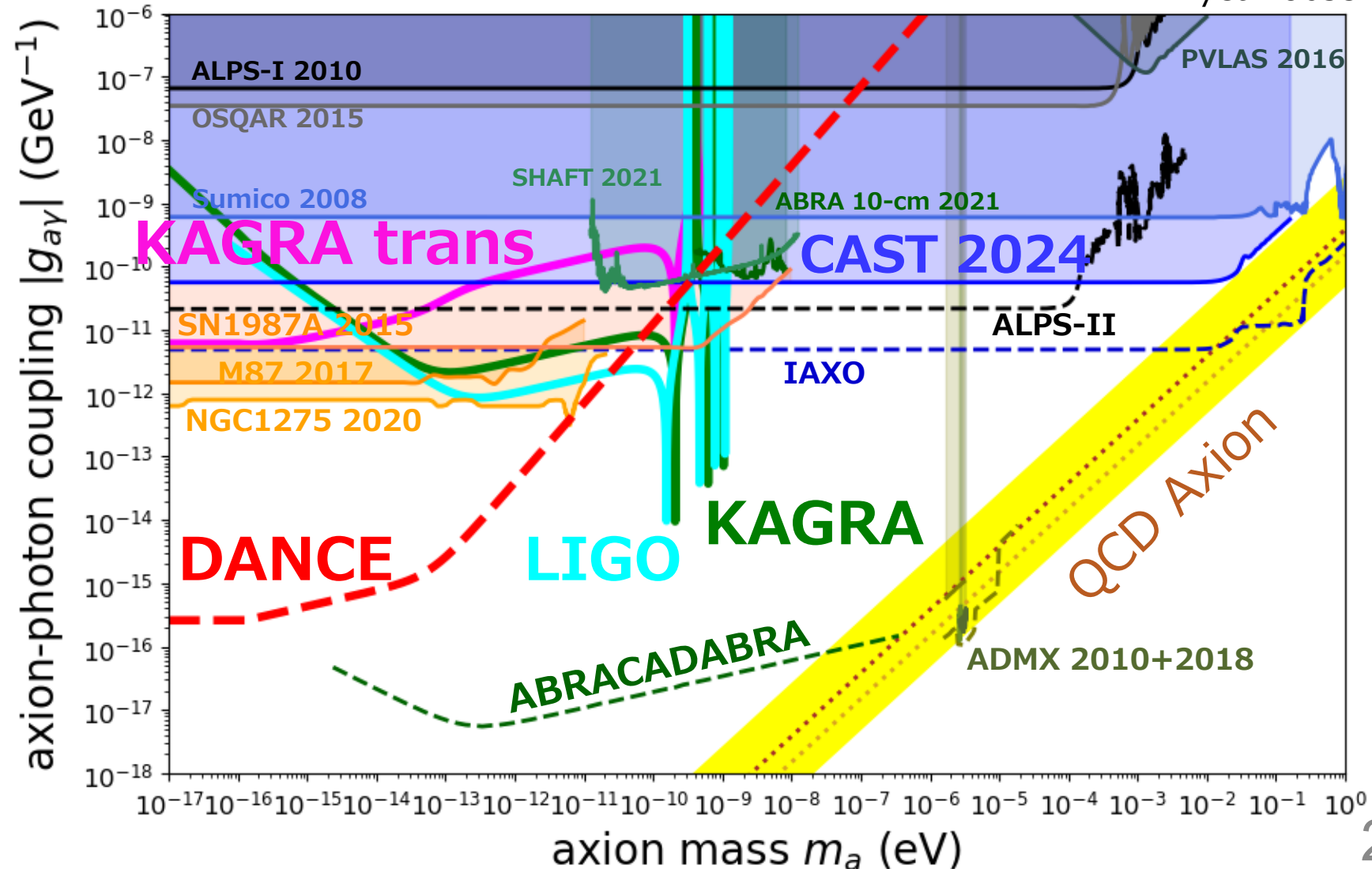
- Polarization flip at mirror reflection can be used to enhance the signal when the **round-trip time equals** odd-multiples of **axion oscillation period**
- Long baseline linear cavities in **gravitational wave detectors** are suitable



# Estimated Reach

- Better than CAST below  $10^{-10}$  eV

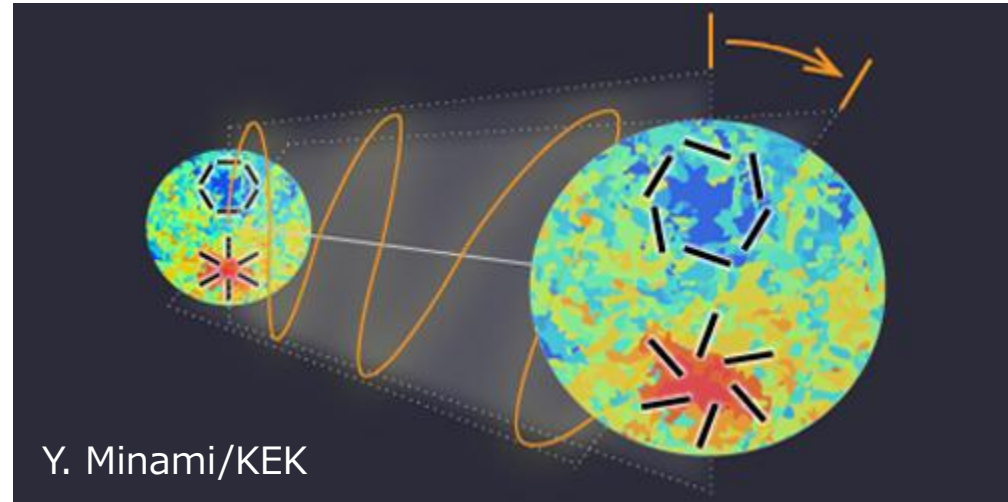
\* Shot noise limited, 1-year observation



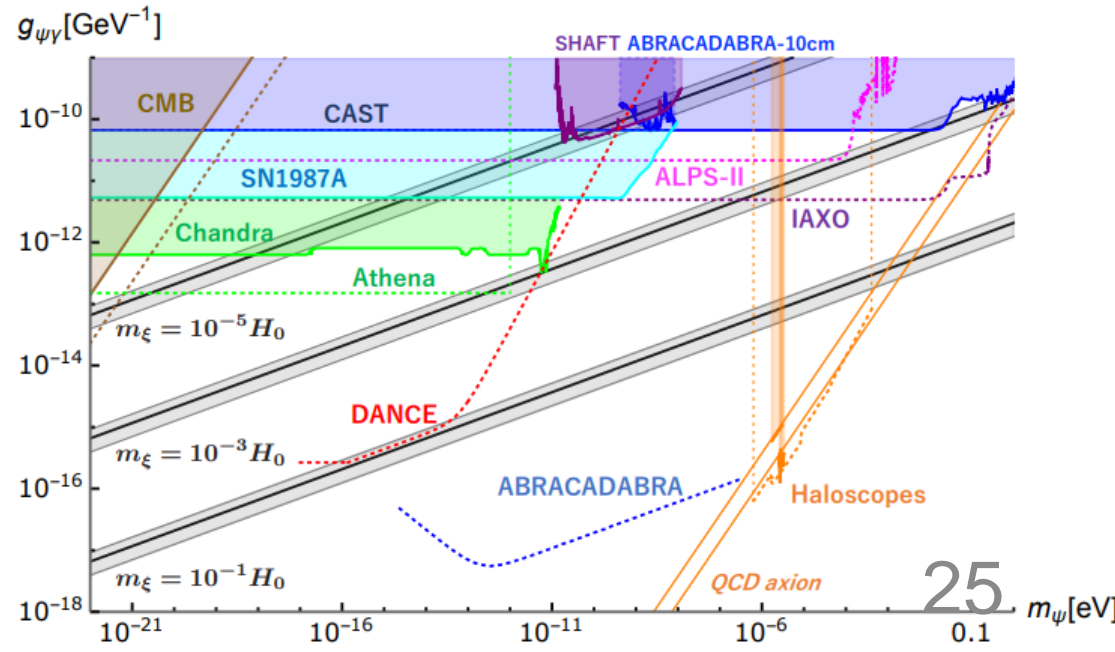


# Relationship with Cosmic Birefringence

- Same principle
- **Two-axion** model can explain both cosmic birefringence and dark matter in the **mass range of DANCE and GW detectors**

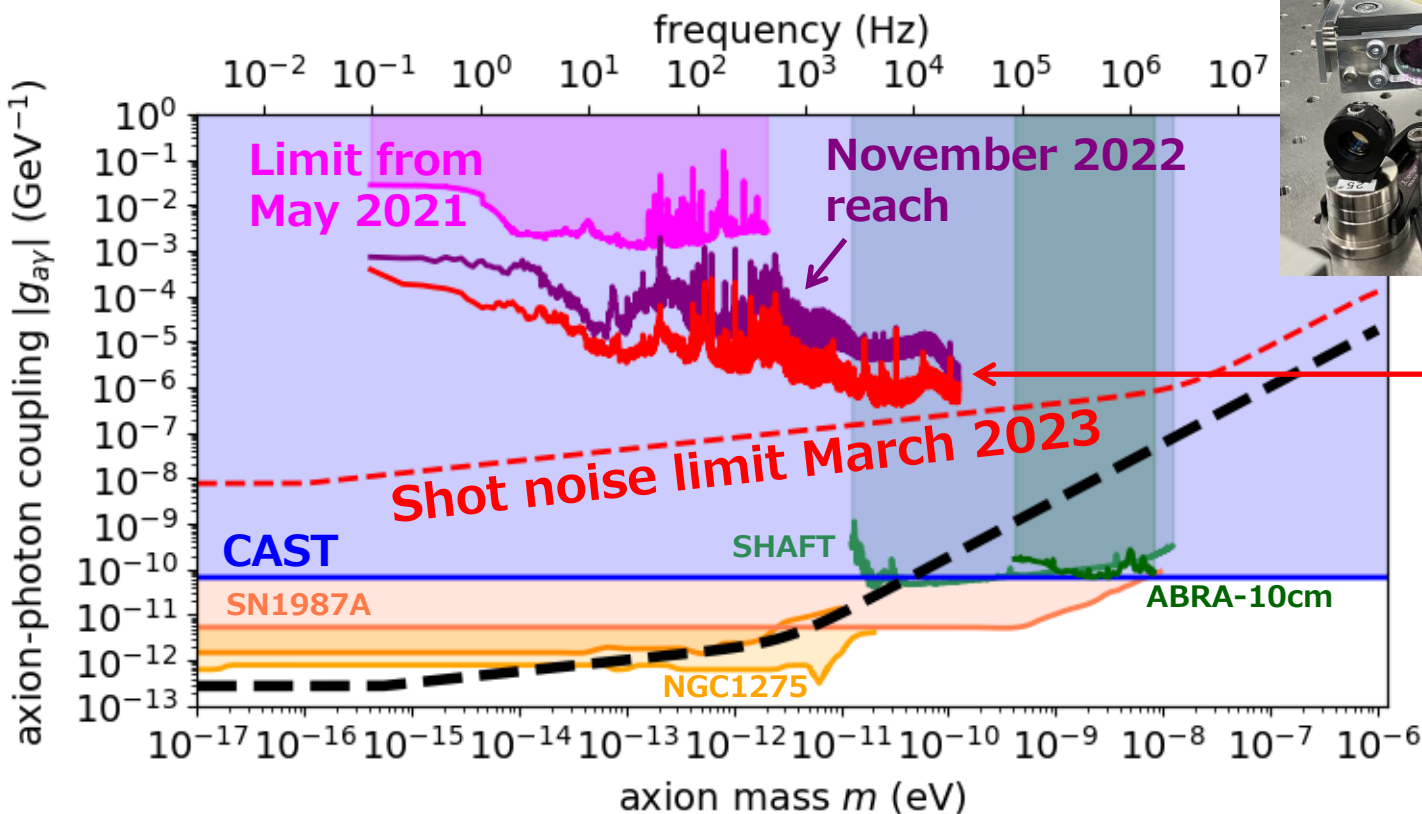
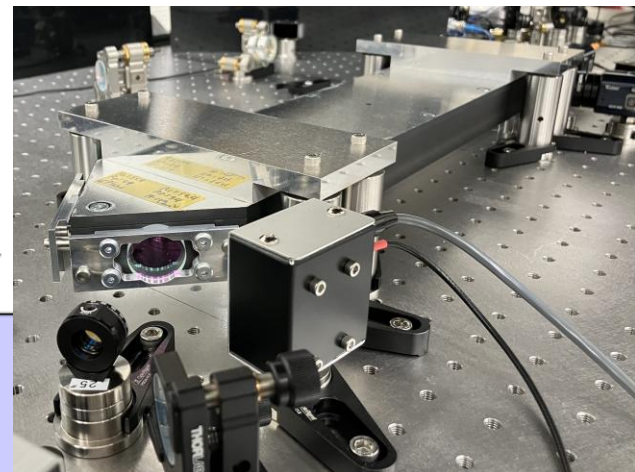


I. Obata,  
[JCAP 09, 062 \(2022\)](#)



# Status of DANCE

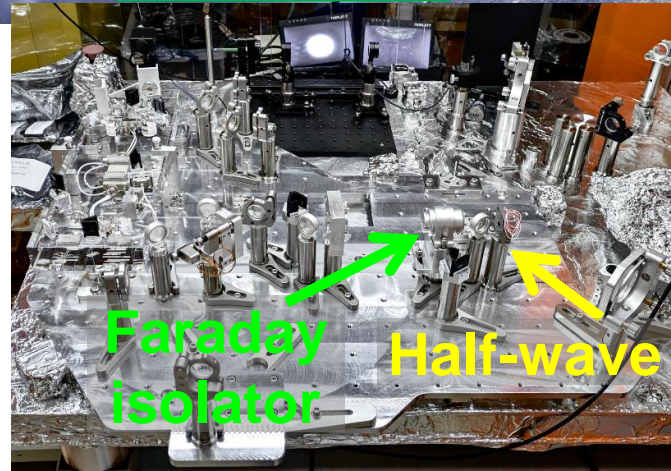
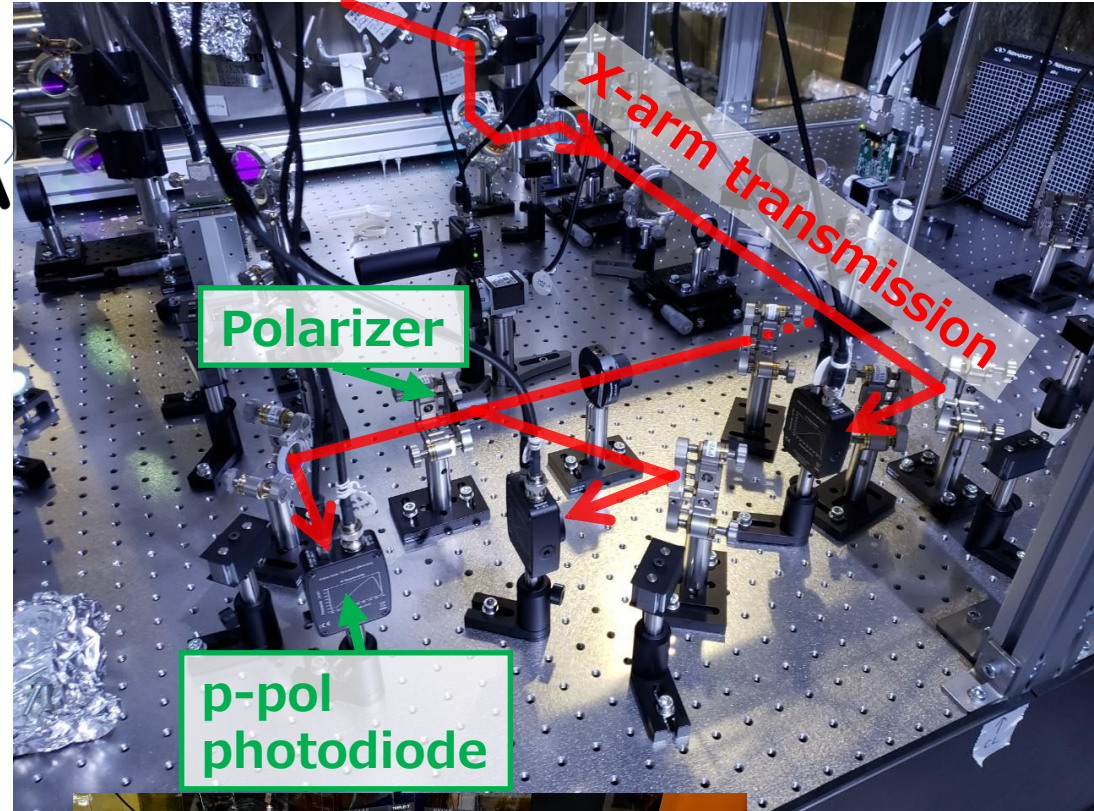
- First result from May 2021 run  
Y. Oshima+, [PRD 108, 072005 \(2023\)](#)
- Major upgrade **using wavelength tunable laser** ongoing



**Estimated reach with sensitivity in March 2023 (assuming 1-year observation)**

# Axion Search with GW Detectors

- Polarization optics installed in **KAGRA** transmission in 2021
  - First data taking from June 2025
- Prototype experiment using **Caltech 40m interferometer** also ongoing to test calibration methods



[klog #17692](#)

WAIT, NO... THIS  
ISN'T RIGHT!  
THE CAT'S SUPPOSED TO  
GO IN THE BOX, NOT  
THE SCIENTIST!

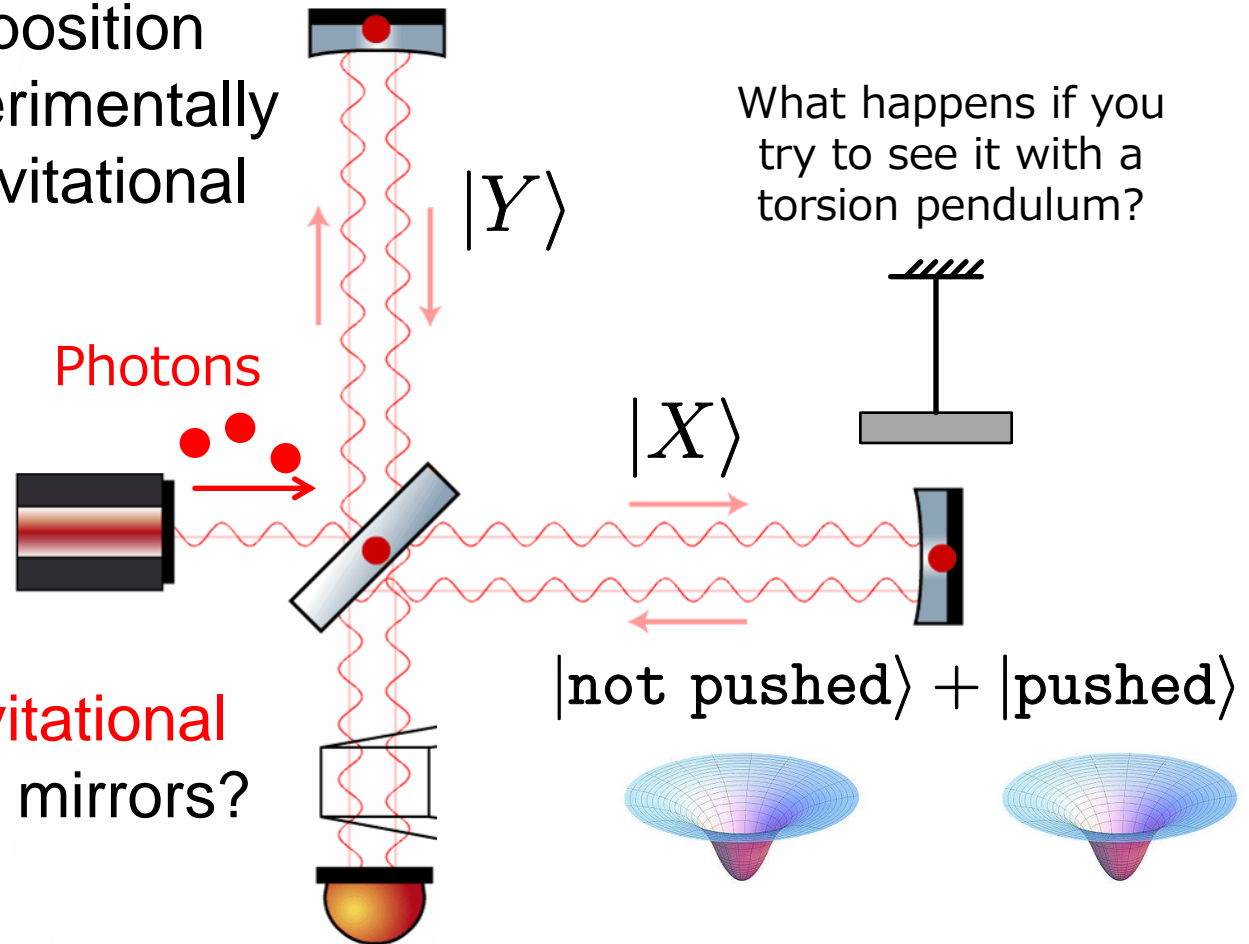


# Quantum Nature of Gravity

JSPAILLY

# Testing Quantum Nature of Gravity

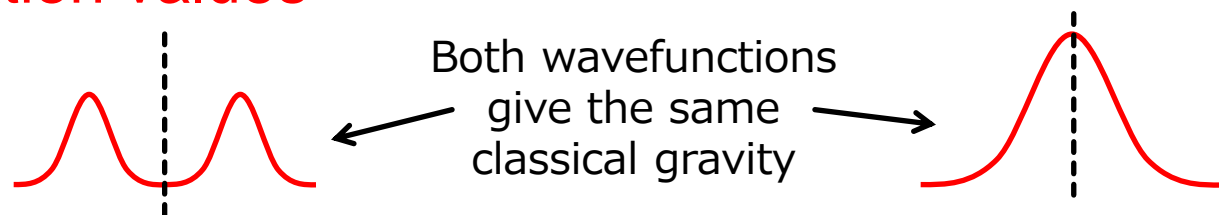
- Photon going to X arm or Y arm is in **quantum superposition**
- Mirrors **pushed or not pushed** by radiation pressure is in quantum superposition (this is not experimentally verified yet; gravitational decoherence?)



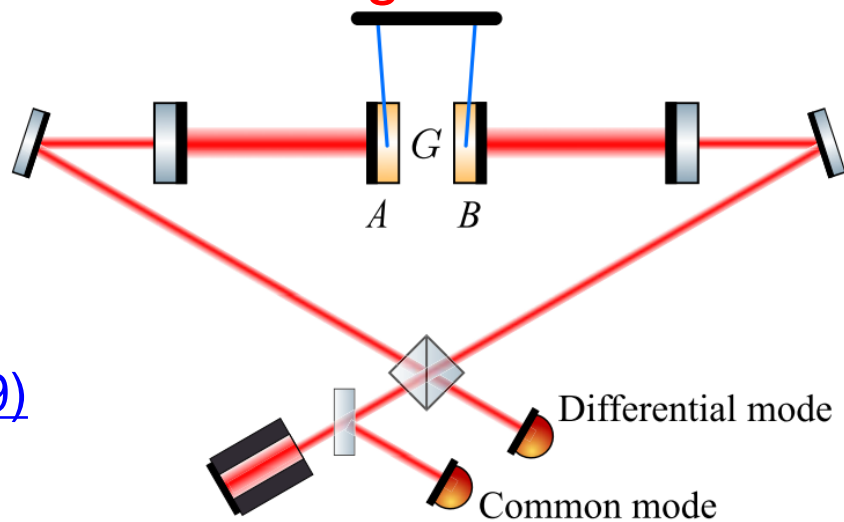
- How about **gravitational field** of massive mirrors?

# Semiclassical Gravity

- In semiclassical gravity (Schrödinger-Newton model), quantum matter is coupled to a classical gravitational field through **expectation values**



- People have been proposing experiments to falsify this
- For example, through **gravity-induced entanglement**

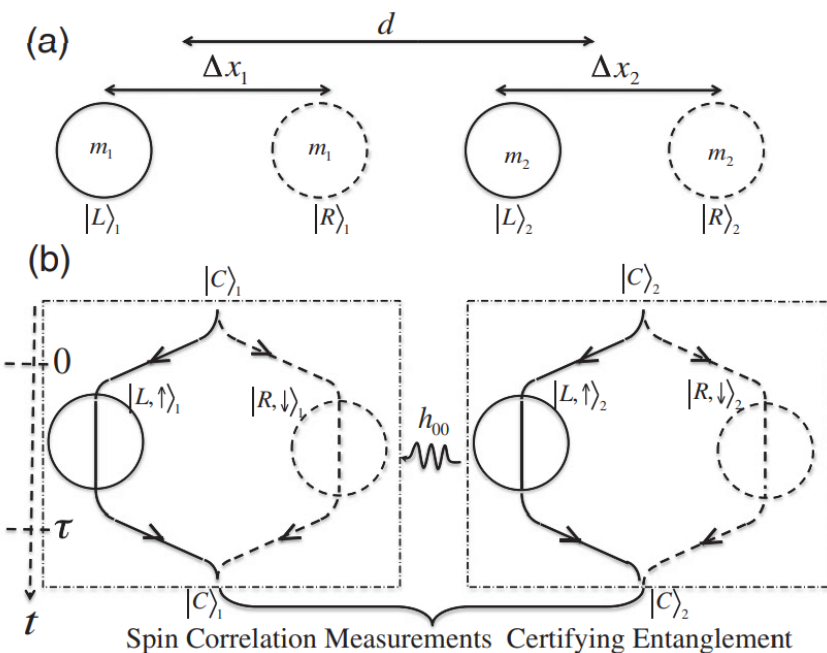


- For review, see  
D. Carney+, [CQG 36, 034001 \(2019\)](#)
- Also, see  
H. Miao+, [PRA 101, 063804 \(2020\)](#)  
A. Datta & H. Miao, [Quantum Science and Technology 6, 045014 \(2021\)](#)

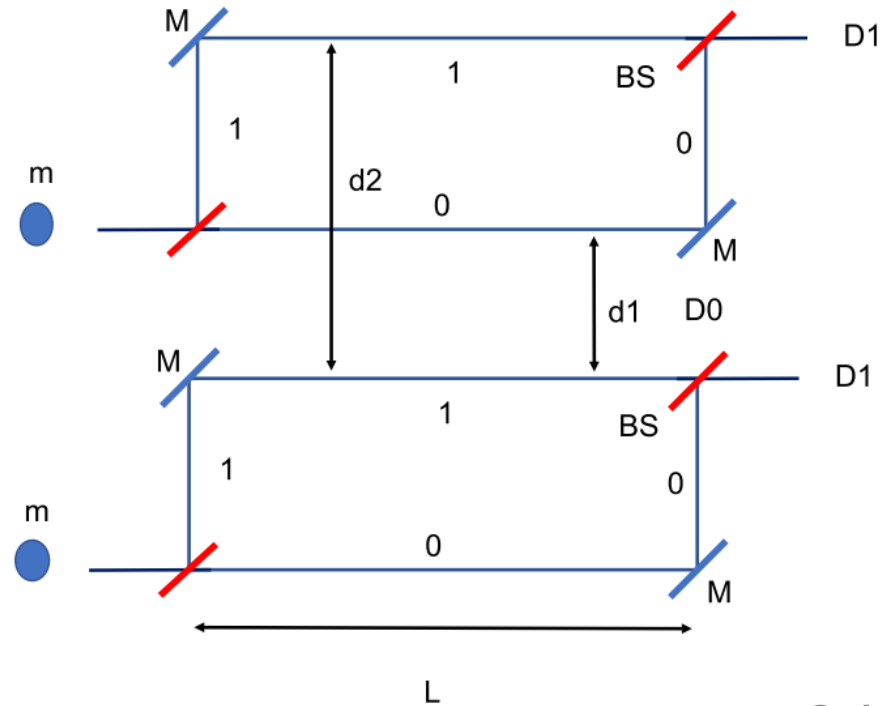
# BMV Experiment Proposals

- Gravity-induced entanglement can be tested with **adjacent matter interferometers**

S. Bose+,  
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 240401 \(2017\)](#)



C. Marletto & V. Vedral,  
[Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 240402 \(2017\)](#)



# Decoherence and Free-Fall Time

- Decoherence estimates suggest  
 $T < 1 \text{ K}$  and  $P < 10^{-16} \text{ Pa}$  are required
- Also, free-fall time and height are in the orders of  
 $\sim 1 \text{ sec}$  and  $\sim 10 \text{ m}$
- Sounds tough...



**Table 3.** Free-fall times  $t$  and heights  $h = \frac{1}{2}gt^2$ , with  $g \simeq 9.8 \text{ m s}^{-2}$ , required to generate the amount  $E$  of entanglement at fixed values of temperature  $T$  and pressure  $P$  for the proposals of BM and Krisnanda.

Proposal	$T$ (K)	$P$ (Pa)	$E$	$T$ (s)	$H$ (m)
BM	1	$10^{-16}$	$10^{-2}$	0.15	0.1
	1	$10^{-16}$	$10^{-1}$	1.5	11
	1	$10^{-15}$	No generation	/	/
	$10^{-2}$	$10^{-15}$	No generation	/	/
Krisnanda	1	$10^{-16}$	$10^{-2}$	1.1	6.2
	1	$10^{-16}$	$10^{-1}$	2.9	42
	1	$10^{-15}$	No generation	/	/
	$10^{-2}$	$10^{-15}$	$10^{-2}$	1.2	7.6



# What is the Best Oscillator?

- We computed the amount of entanglement for **arbitrary quadratic potential**

- Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i=1,2} \left( \frac{p_i^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} k_i x_i^2 \right) + \frac{Gm^2}{d^3} (x_1 - x_2)^2$$

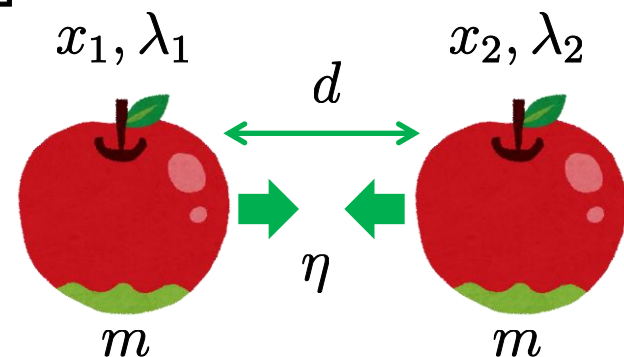
$$= \frac{\omega}{2} \left[ \sum_{i=1,2} (P_i + \lambda_i X_i^2) + \eta (x_1 - x_2)^2 \right]$$

Distance between masses

Sign of potential  
+1 for harmonic  
0 for free-falling  
-1 for inverted

Strength of gravitational coupling

$$\eta = \frac{2Gm}{\omega^2 d^3}$$



# Inverted Oscillators are the Best

- Logarithmic negativity when  $\lambda \equiv \lambda_1 = \lambda_2$

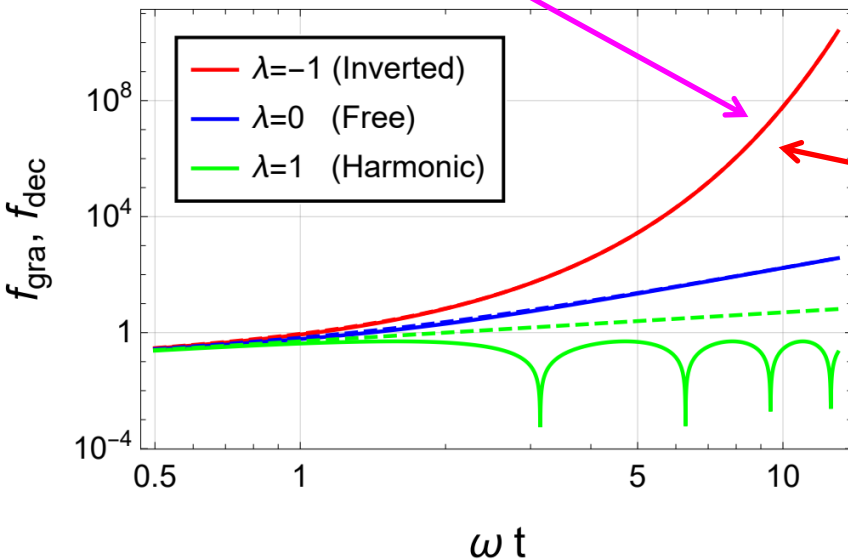
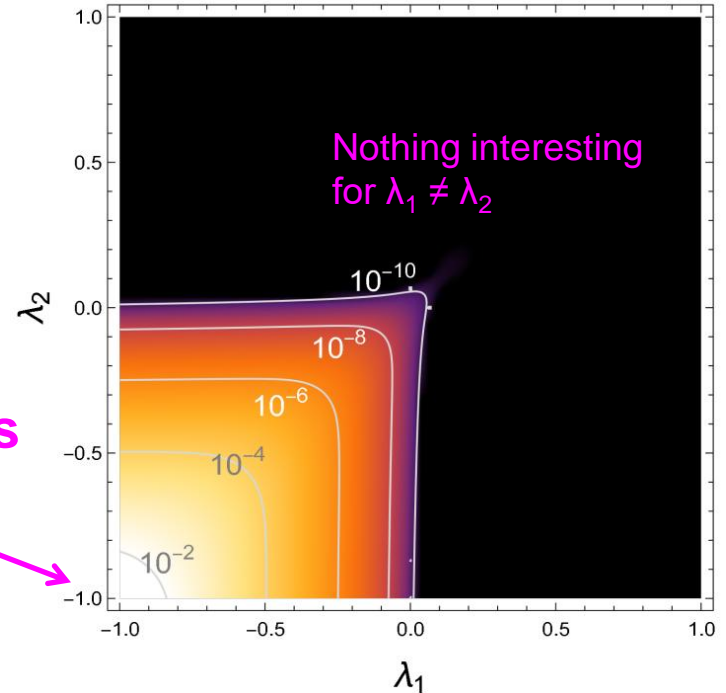
$$E_N \simeq 3[\eta f_{\text{gra}}(t) - \mu f_{\text{dec}}(t)]$$

Strength of gravitational coupling

Amount of decoherence

Exponential growth of entanglement

Inverted oscillators are the best



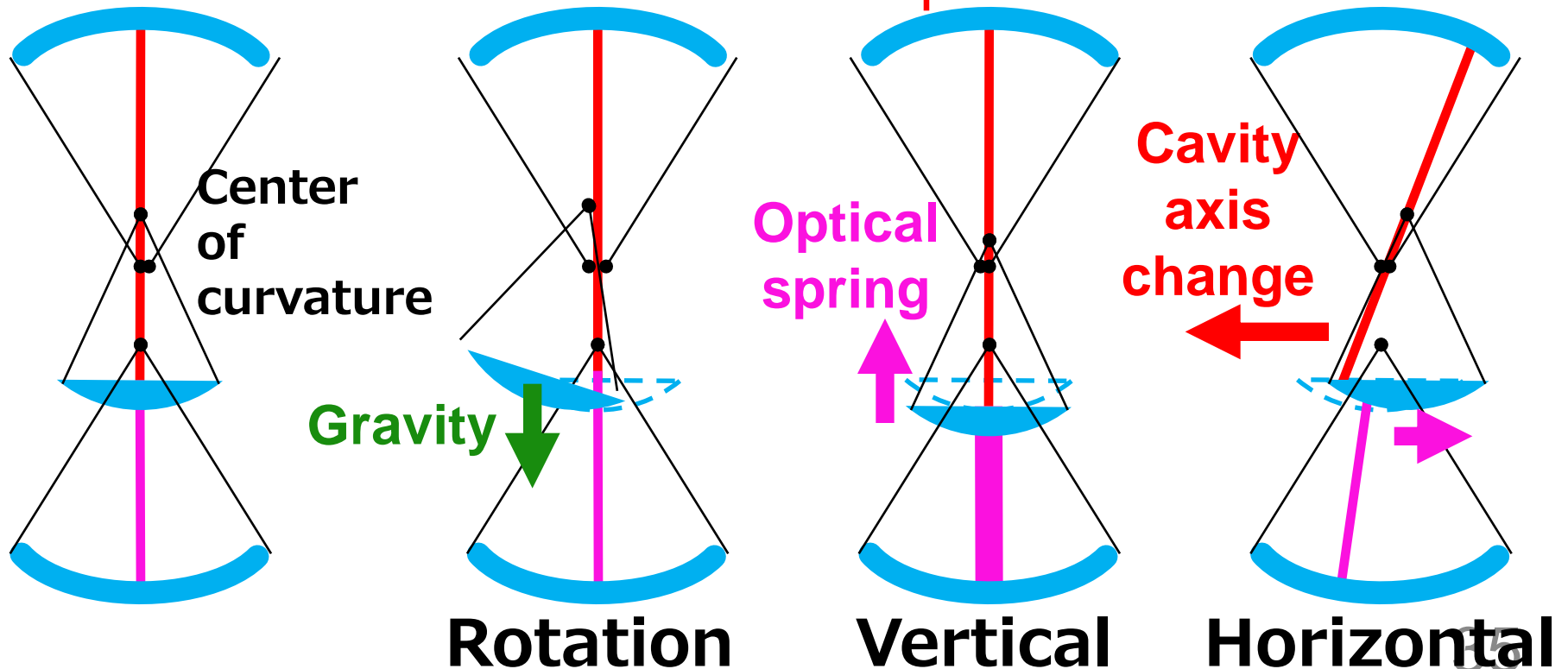
$$f_{\text{gra}}(t) \simeq f_{\text{dec}}(t) \simeq \frac{1}{8} e^{2\omega t}$$

$$f_{\text{gra}}(t) \simeq f_{\text{dec}}(t) \simeq \frac{1}{8} (\omega t)^3$$

$$f_{\text{gra}}(t) \simeq \frac{1}{2} |\sin(\omega t)|, \quad f_{\text{dec}}(t) \simeq \frac{1}{2} \omega t$$

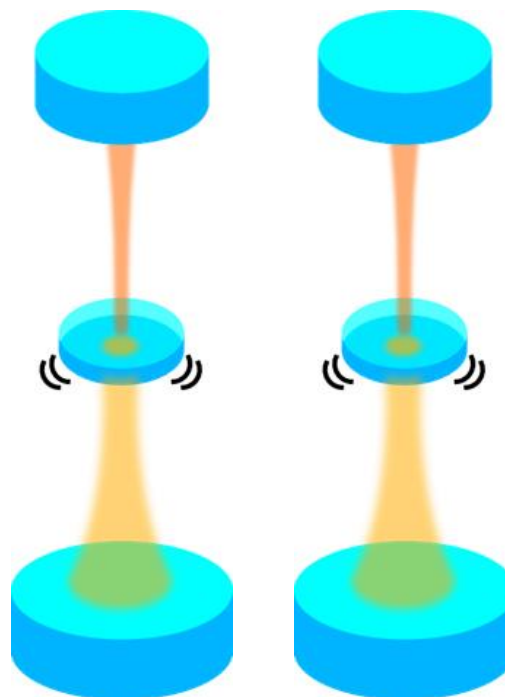
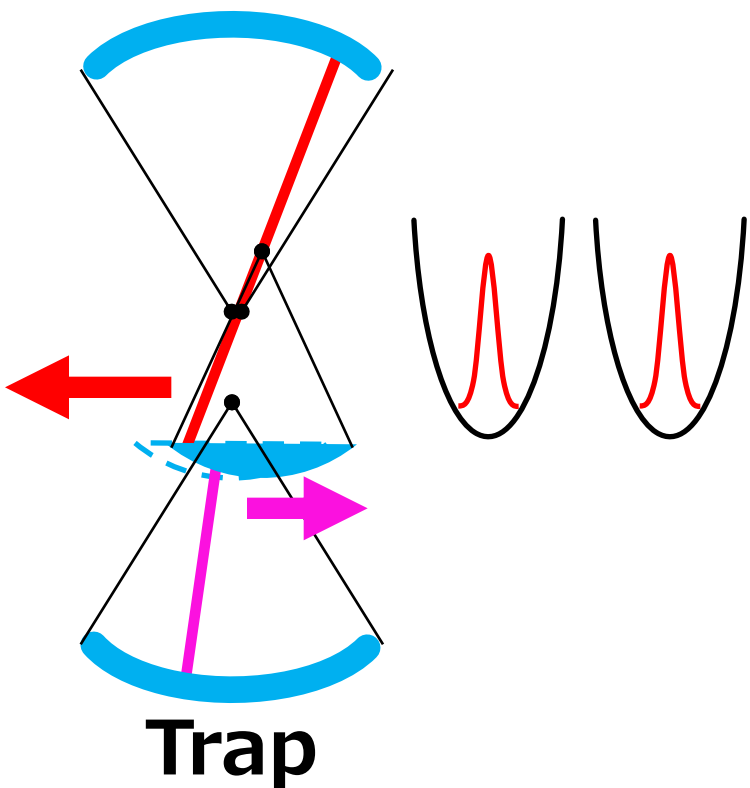
# Preparing Inverted Oscillators

- Sandwich configuration for trapping a mirror all optically YM, Y. Kuwahara+, [Optics Express 25, 13799 \(2017\)](#)
- Trap in **horizontal motion** demonstrated T. Kawasaki+, [PRA 102, 053520 \(2020\)](#)
- Can also be used to **anti-trap**



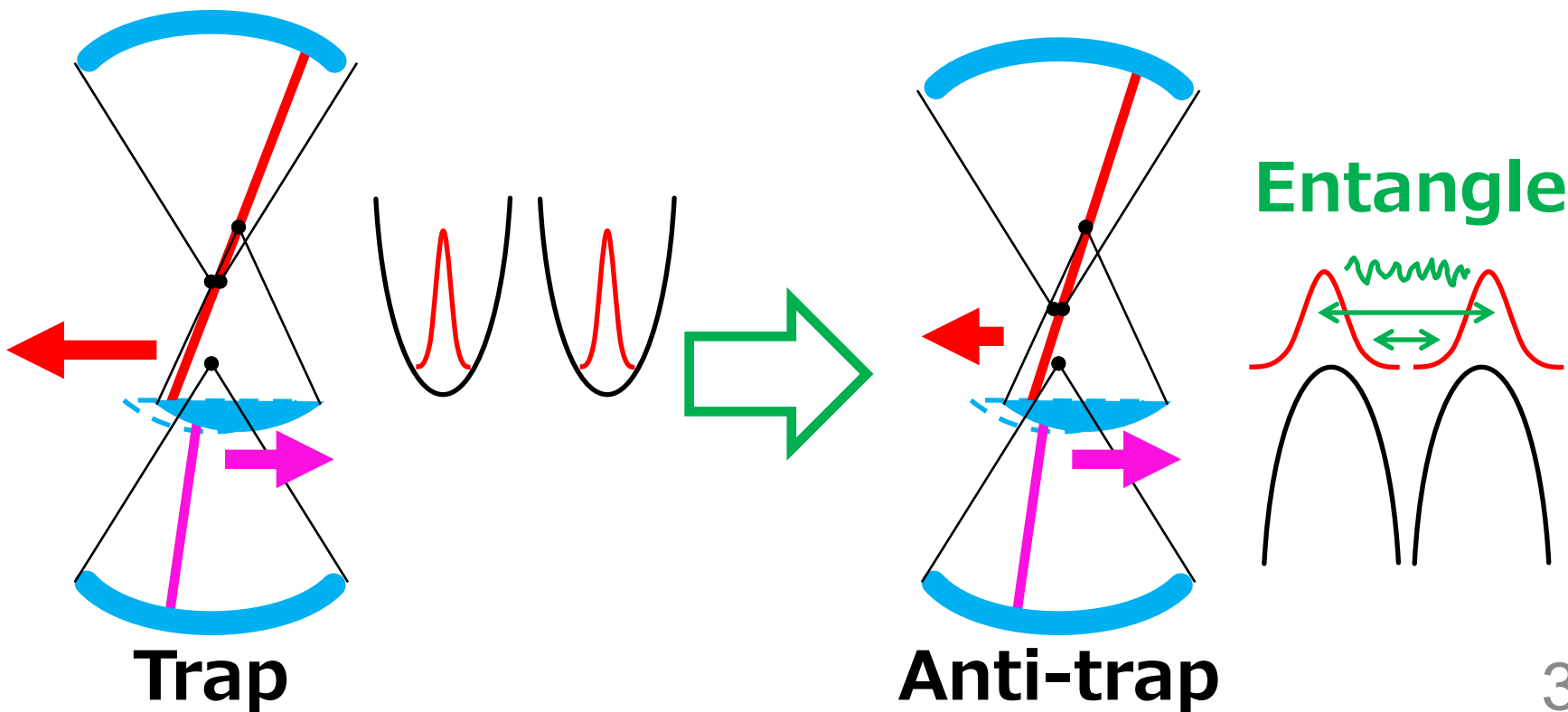
# Procedure to Switch the Trap

- First, trap strongly to prepare narrow wavefunctions



# Procedure to Switch the Trap

- First, trap strongly to prepare narrow wavefunctions
- And then **switch to anti-trap** to broaden the wavefunction fast (this can be done by effectively switching the cavity geometry)



# Example Setup

- ~1 kHz anti-spring for 0.1 mg mirror can be created with intra-cavity power of **~30 kW**

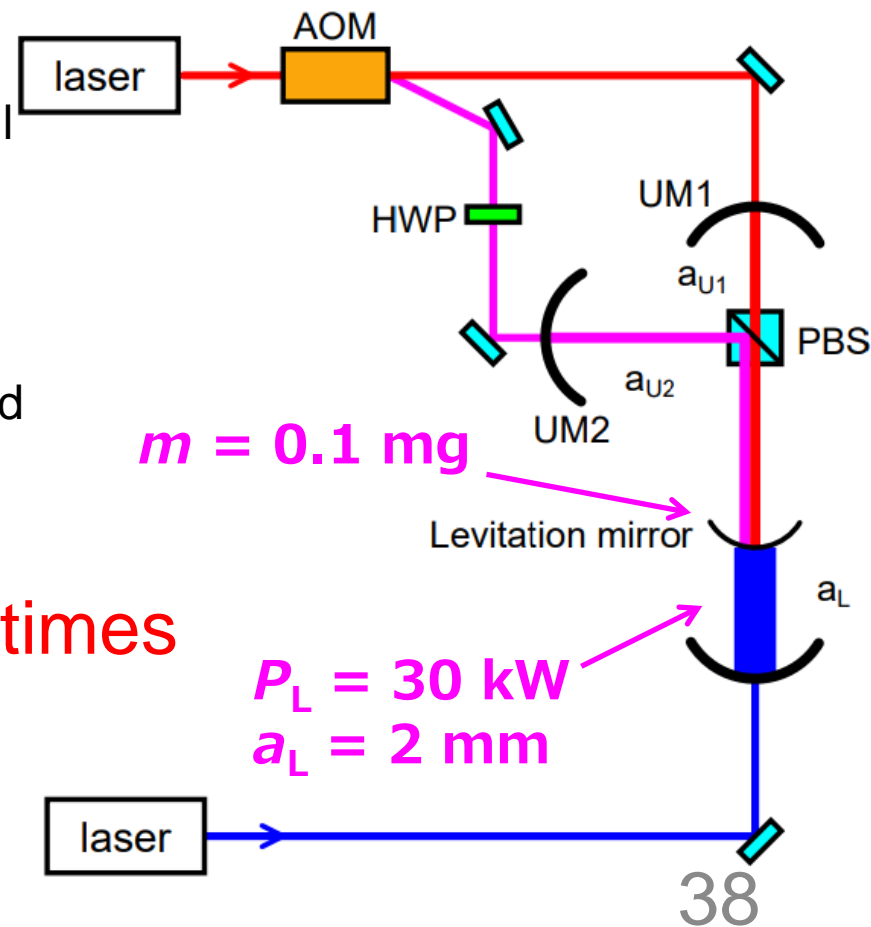
- Time to generate  $E_N = 10^{-2}$

$$\tau_{\text{ent}} = 4.2 \omega_{\text{kHz}}^{-1/3} \text{ sec} \quad \text{for free-fall}$$

**300 times faster**

$$\tau_{\text{ent}} = 1.3 \times 10^{-2} \omega_{\text{kHz}}^{-1/3} \text{ sec} \quad \text{for inverted}$$

- No free-fall necessary
- Can be **repeated multiple times** to improve statistics

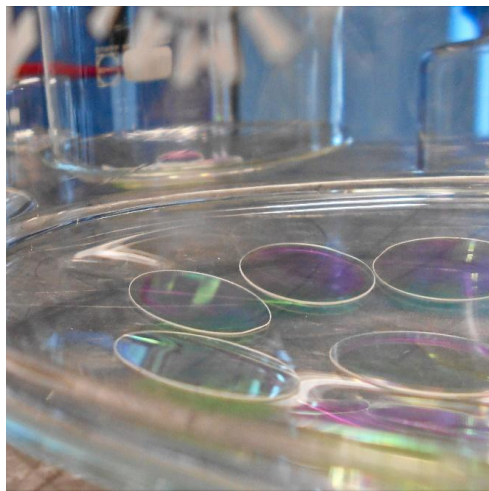
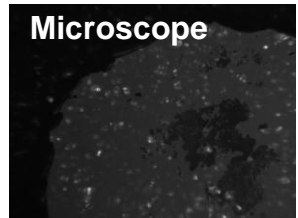


# Status of the Levitation Experiment

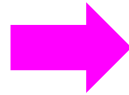
- **Fabrication of 0.1-1 mg scale mirror** with a curvature is a challenge, and we are collaborating with LMA and ANU for mirror fabrication and characterization



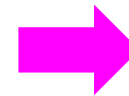
Australian  
National  
University



Coated 1-inch dia.  
0.1 mm thick mirrors



Cut into 3 mm dia.



Characterization at UTokyo/ANU



# Quantum fluctuations of spacetime



# Quantum Fluctuations of Spacetime

- According to pixellon model (quantum gravity with a **scalar field**), length fluctuates with

$$\delta L^2 \sim \alpha l_p L / (4\pi)$$

Planck length

Arm length

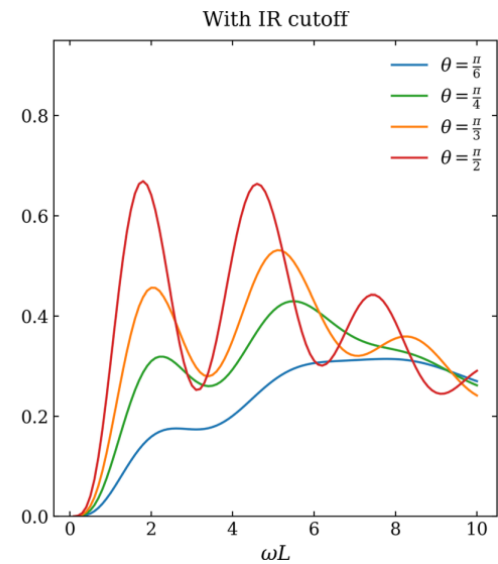
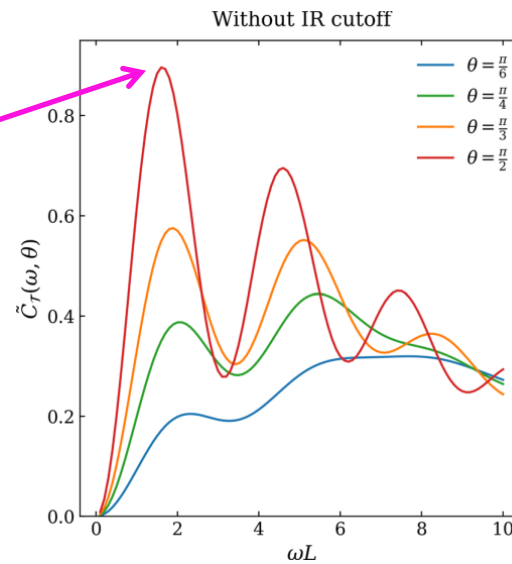
not  $\delta L \sim l_p$

Verlinde & Zurek,  
[PLB 822, 136663 \(2021\)](#)  
 K. M. Zurek,  
[arXiv:2205.01799](#)

- Parametrized by the power of noise  $\alpha$   
 (Natural benchmark  $\alpha \sim 1$ )

Displacement noise peaks at odd  $\times c/(4L)$  ( $\sim 18.8$  kHz for LIGO)

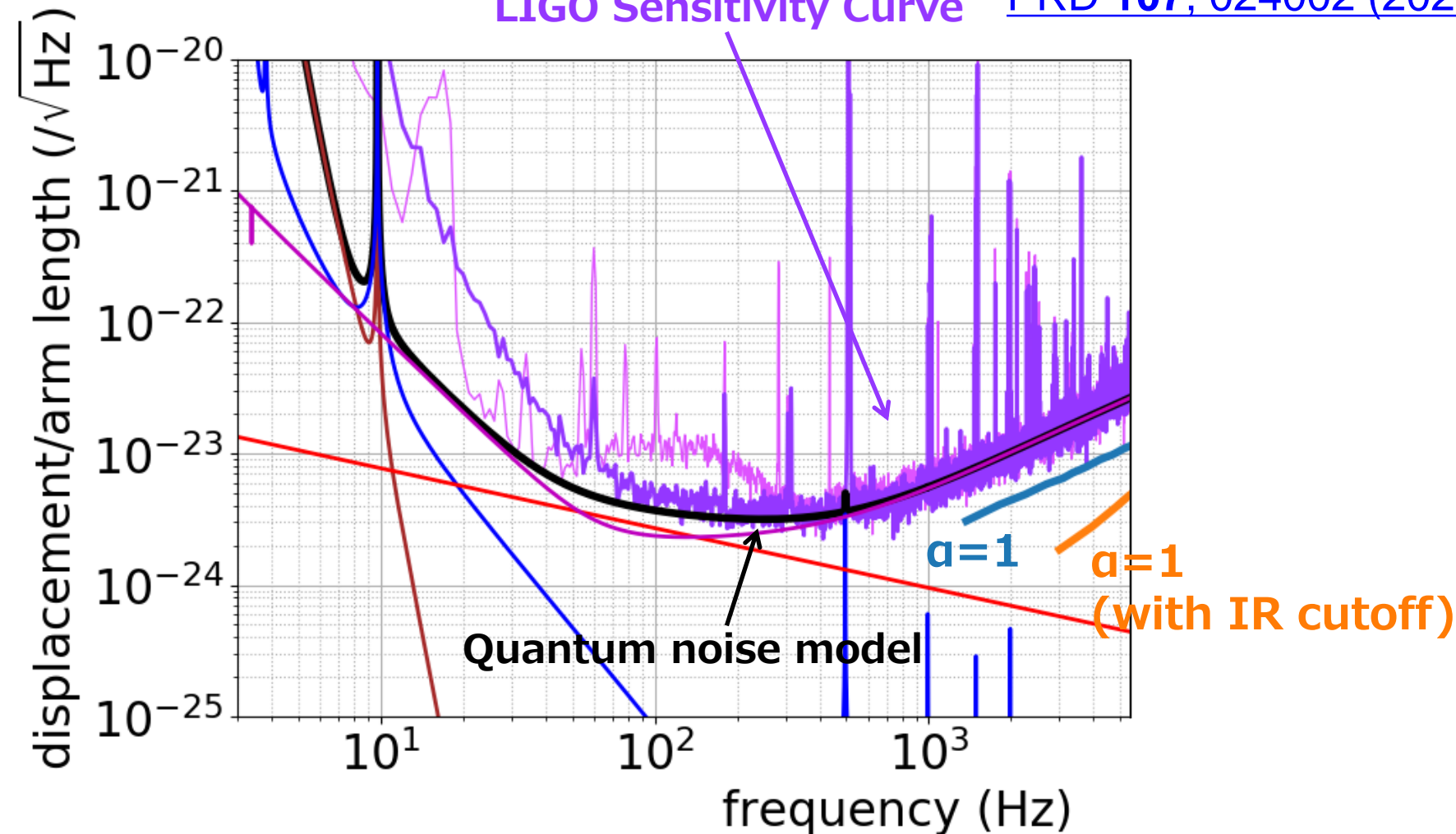
D. Li+,  
[PRD 107, 024002 \(2023\)](#)



# Search with LIGO Detector

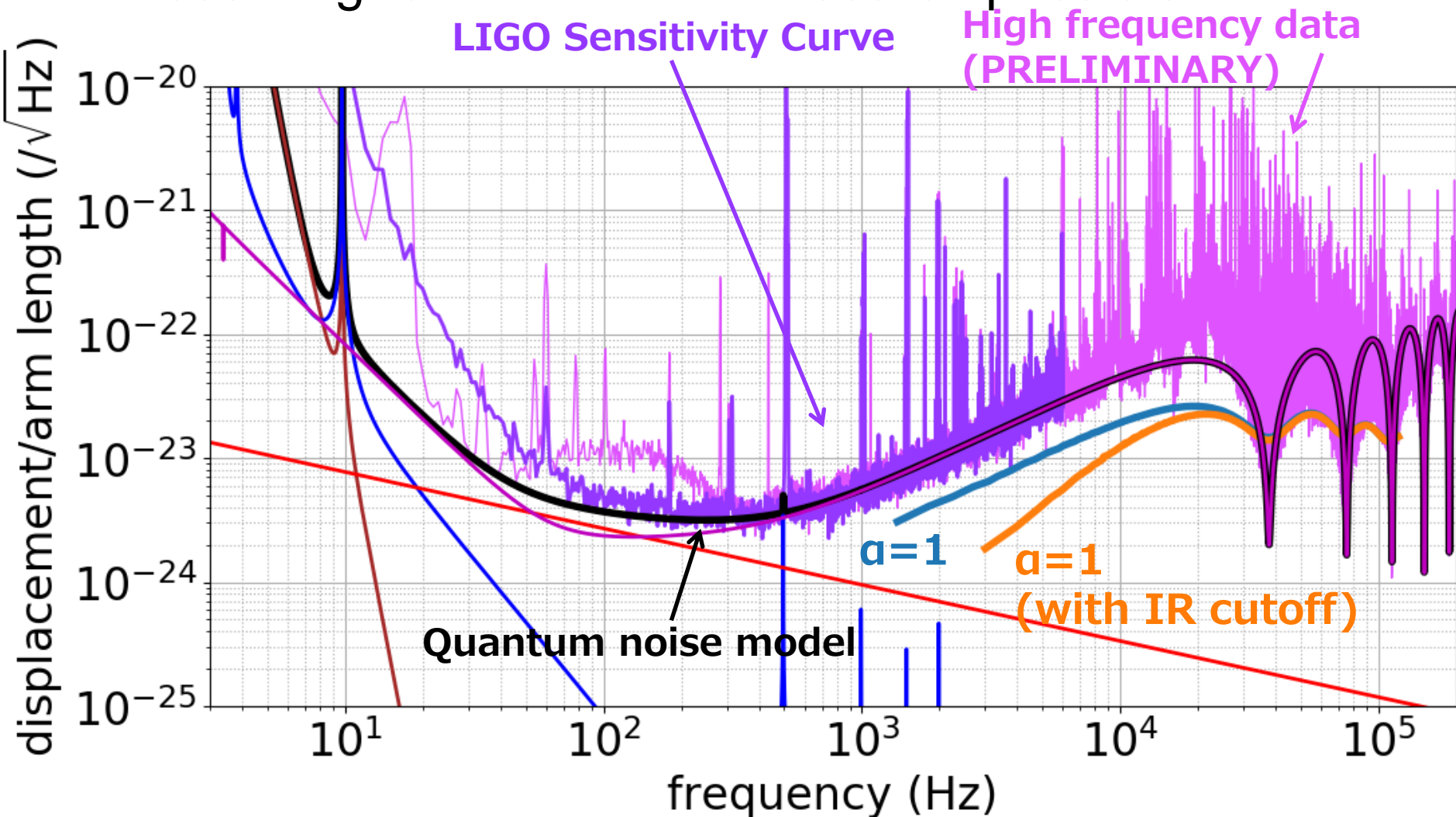
- Search below signal peak done with 2019-2020 data

D. Li+,  
[PRD 107, 024002 \(2023\)](#)



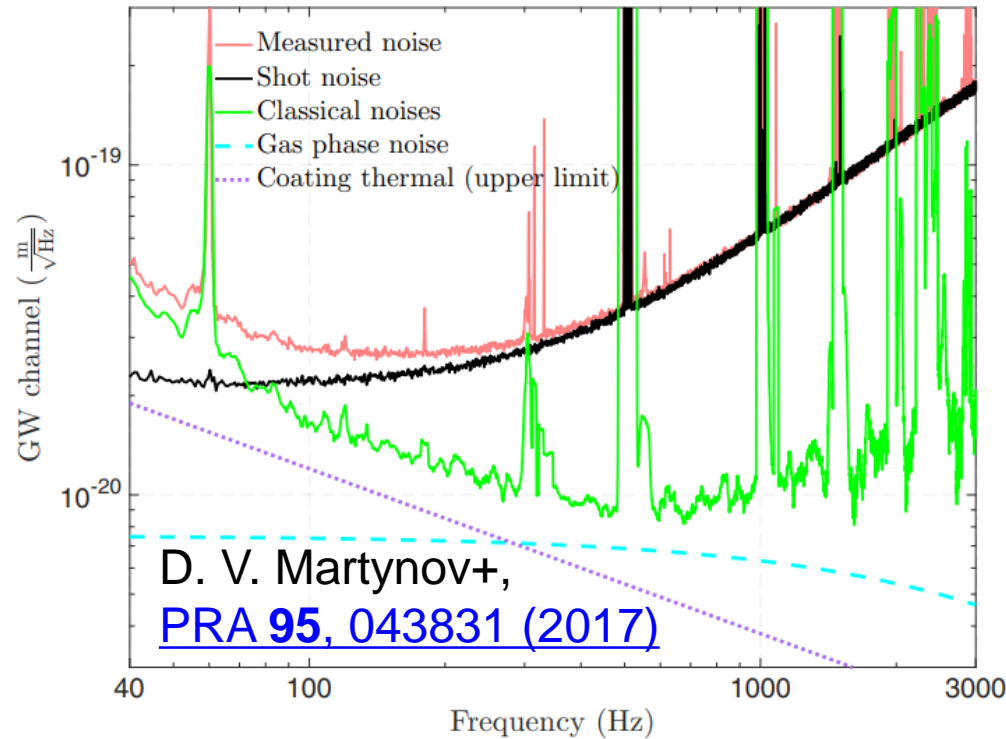
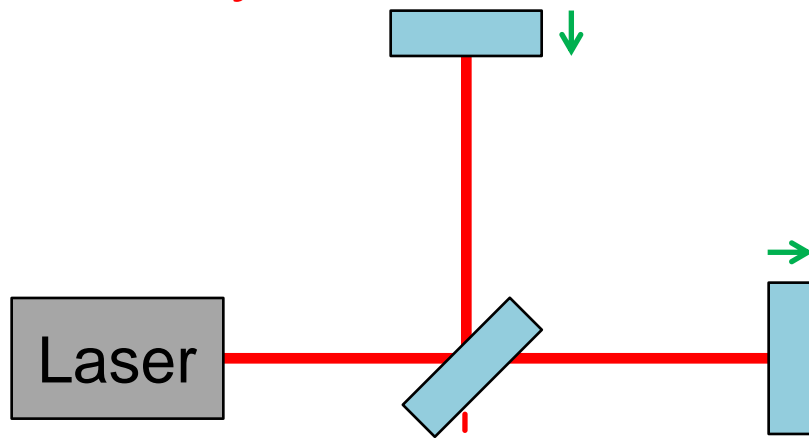
# Search with High Frequency Data

- Data acquisition at 524 kHz installed for current observing run  $\rightarrow \alpha \sim 10^{-2}$  search possible

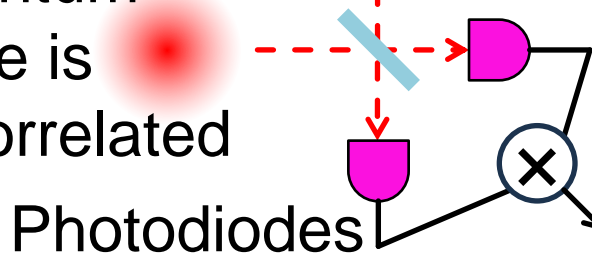


# Quantum Correlation Enhancement

- Quantum correlation will enhance the sensitivity **beyond shot noise limit**



Quantum noise is uncorrelated



Displacement signal is correlated between photodiodes

Quantum correlation

# Summary

- You can do many things with laser interferometers
  - Ultralight dark matter
  - Quantum nature of gravity
  - Quantum fluctuations of space-time

## Acknowledgements

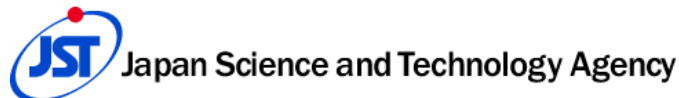
ダークマターの正体は何か？

広大なディスカバリースペースの網羅的研究

What is dark matter? - Comprehensive study of the huge discovery space in dark matter



文部科学省  
科学研究費助成事業  
学術変革領域研究  
(2020-2024)



公益財団法人 住友財団  
The Sumitomo Foundation