University of South Carolina

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Gravitational Waves

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What is the "gravitational waves"?

Gravitation Force

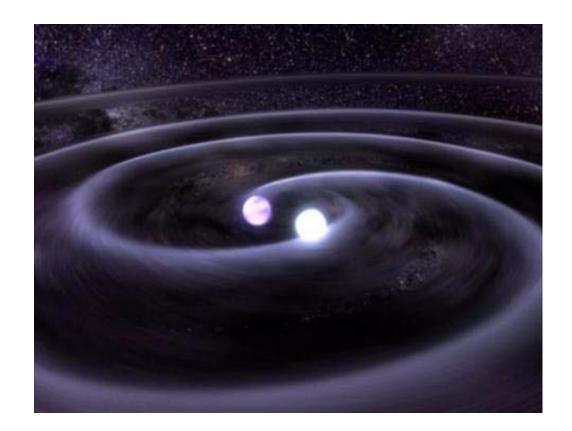
Michelson Interferometer

LIGO Experiment

Result & Analysis

What is the "Gravitational Waves"?







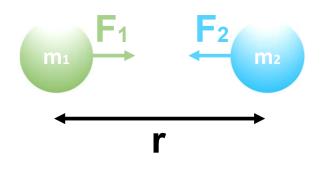
The Novel Prize in Physics 2017

Gravitational waves are waves that are carried out at the speed of light by fluctuating curvature of the gravitational field in space-time by mass.

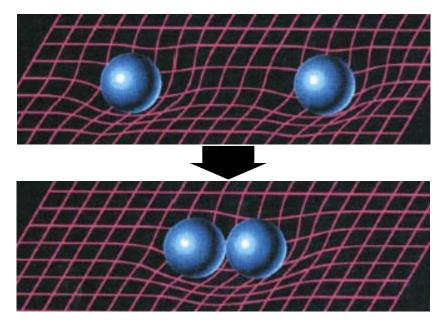
Gravitation Force



Newton's gravitation force perspective

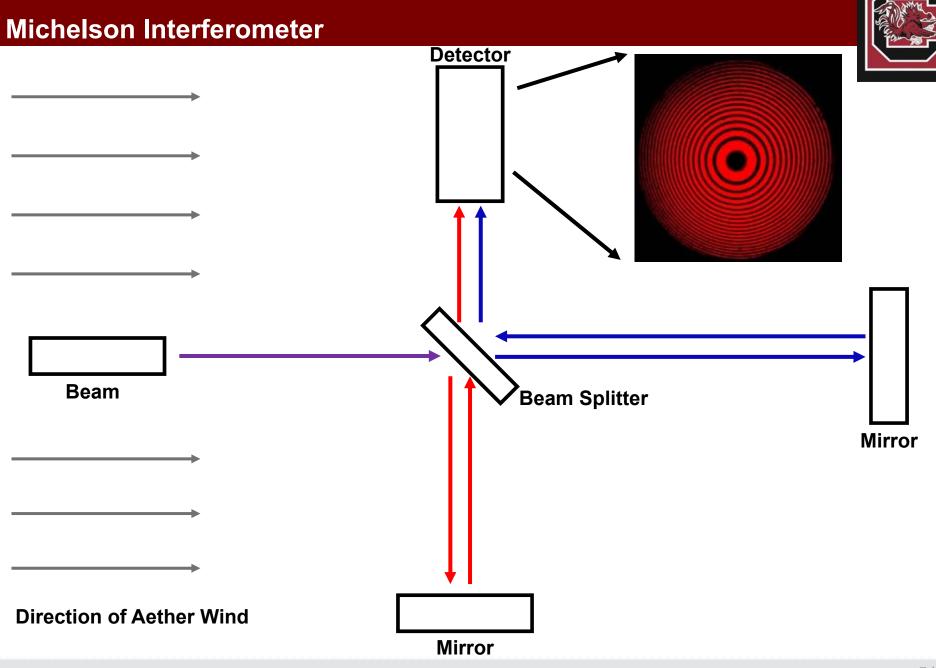


Einstein's gravitation field perspective



$$\mathbf{F_1} = \mathbf{F_2} = G \, \frac{m_1 \times m_2}{r^2}$$

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu}$$



LIGO Experiment

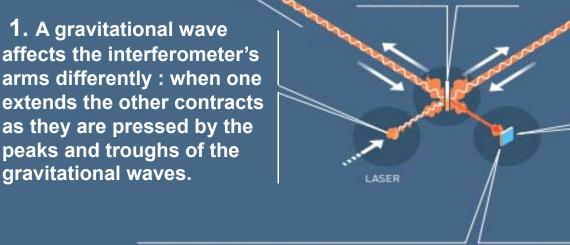
gravitational waves.

LIGO - A GIGANTIC INTERFEROMETER



3. The light waves bounce and return.

2. A "beam splitter" splits the light and sends out two identical beams along the 4 km long arms.

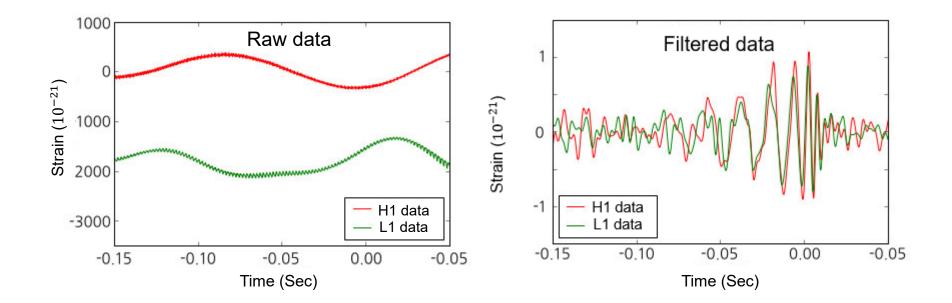


4. A gravitational wave affects the interferometer's arms differently : when one extends the other contracts as they are pressed by the peaks and troughs of the gravitational waves.

5. If the arms are disturbed by a gravitational wave. The light waves will have travelled different distances. Light then escapes through the splitter and hits the detector.

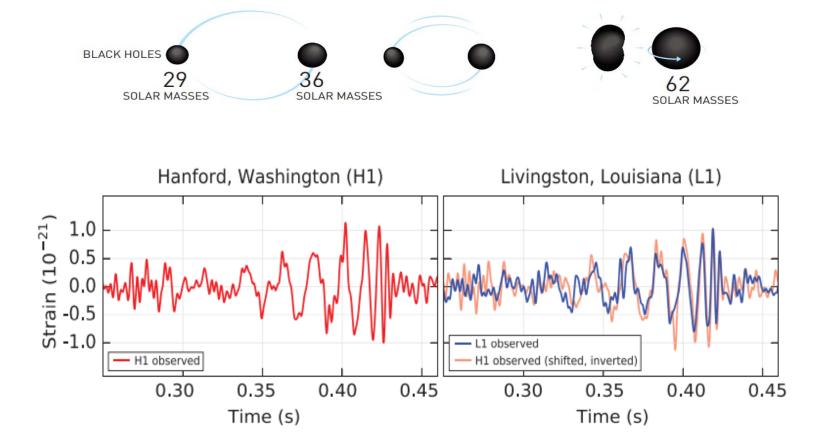


$$Strain = \frac{Distance \ difference}{LIGO \ length} \ (10^{-21})$$

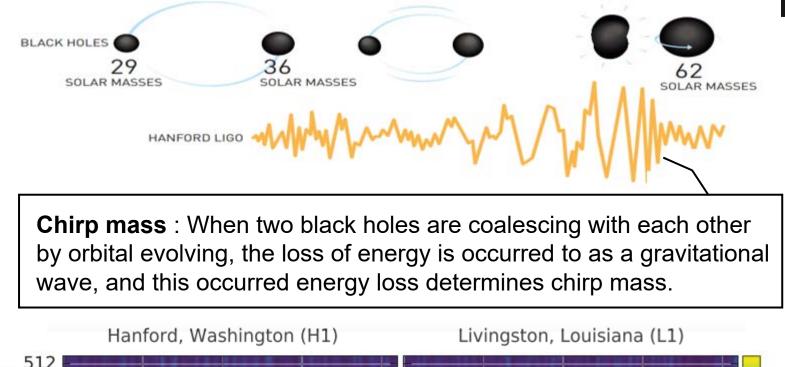


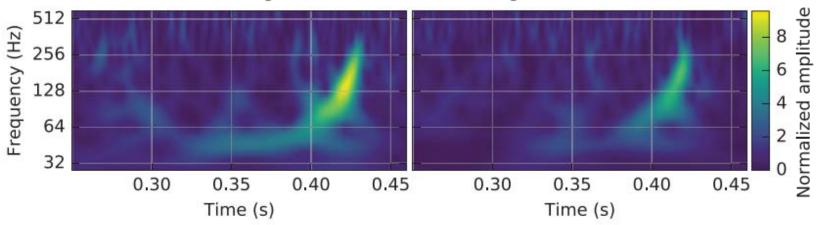
Hanford, Washington (H1) Livingston, Louisiana (L1)



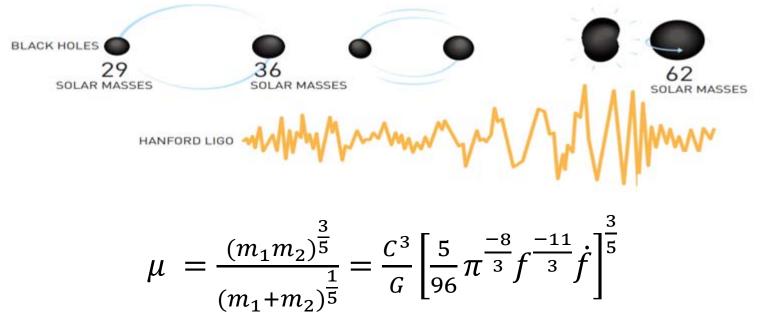












 μ : Chrip mass, $m_1 = m_2 = Mass$ of blackhole, f: Observed frequency, f: Observed frequency time derivative, G: Gravitational constant, C: Speed of light

Primary black hole mass $36^{+5}_{-4}M$ Secondary black hole mass $29^{+4}_{-4}M$ Final black hole mass $62^{+4}_{-4}M$



"Novel Prize" website

Dissertation named "Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Black Hole Merger"

LOGO website