

# Gravitational waves

## THEORETICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL ASPECTS

Gianluca Gemme, Andrea Chincarini, Fiodor Sorrentino

## PART I

---

### The weak field limit of General Relativity

1. General Relativity in a nutshell
  - 1.1. *Fundamental ideas*
  - 1.2. *The Einstein equivalence principle*
  - 1.3. *Tensors*
  - 1.4. *Covariant derivative*
  - 1.5. *Geodesic equation and geodesic deviation*
  - 1.6. *The Einstein equation*
2. The weak-field limit of the Einstein equation
  - 2.1. *Expansion around flat spacetime*
  - 2.2. *The Lorentz gauge*
  - 2.3. *The transverse-traceless gauge*
3. Interaction of GWs with test masses
  - 3.1. *TT frame and proper detector frame*

## PART II

---

### Interferometric detection of GWs

4. A simple Michelson interferometer
  - 4.1. *The interaction with GWs in the TT gauge*
  - 4.2. *The interaction in the proper detector frame*
5. Interferometers with Fabry-Pérot cavities
  - 5.1. *Electromagnetic fields in a FP cavity*
  - 5.2. *Interaction of a FP cavity with GWs*
  - 5.3. *Increasing the circulating power – The Power Recycling technique*
  - 5.4. *Angular sensitivity and pattern functions*
6. Toward a real GW interferometer
  - 6.1. *Beam optics and high order transverse modes*
  - 6.2. *Paraxial propagator*
  - 6.3. *Gaussian beams*
  - 6.4. *Cavity stability*
7. Readout, sensing and control
  - 7.1. *The Pound-Drever-Hall technique*
  - 7.2. *Frontal modulation*
  - 7.3. *Schnupp asymmetry*
  - 7.4. *Homodyne detection*
  - 7.5. *Basic optical layout*
  - 7.6. *Longitudinal control of the interferometer*
  - 7.7. *Lock acquisition in PR configuration*
  - 7.8. *Laser frequency stabilization*
  - 7.9. *Angular control*
  - 7.10. *Actuation: how to apply forces to the mirrors*
  - 7.11. *Hierarchical control*
8. Noise sources

- 8.1. *The noise spectral density*
- 8.2. *Optical readout noise*
  - 8.2.1. Shot Noise
  - 8.2.2. Radiation pressure
  - 8.2.3. The standard quantum limit
- 8.3. *Displacement noise*
  - 8.3.1. Thermal noise and the Fluctuation-Dissipation theorem
  - 8.3.2. Seismic and Newtonian noise
- 8.4. *Other noise sources*

## PART III

---

### Advanced Detectors technologies

- 9. Optical configurations
  - 9.1. *Signal recycling cavities*
- 10. Thermal compensation
  - 10.1. *Compensation optics*
  - 10.2. *Adaptive optics methods*
- 11. Squeezing
  - 11.1. *Quantum states of light and quantum fluctuations*
  - 11.2. *Squeezed light generation via optical parametric oscillators*
  - 11.3. *Frequency-dependent squeezing*
- 12. Technologies for the third generation detectors
  - 12.1. *Cryogenics*
  - 12.2. *Newtonian noise mitigation*
  - 12.3. *Alternative technologies (atomic sensors, torsion bars)*

## PART IV

---

### Data analysis

- 13. Matched filtering
- 14. Coalescence of compact binaries (BBH, BNS)
- 15. BBH detections and tests of general relativity
- 16. GW170817 and multi-messenger astronomy

## References

---

1. M. Maggiore, *Gravitational Waves – Volume 1: Theory and Experiments*, Oxford, 2008
2. M. Maggiore, *Gravitational Waves – Volume 2: Astrophysics and Cosmology*, Oxford, 2018
3. P.R. Saulson, *Fundamentals of interferometric gravitational wave detection*, World Scientific, 1994
4. J. D. Creighton and W.G. Anderson, *Gravitational-Wave physics and astronomy*, Wiley, 2011
5. M. Bassan (ed.), *Advanced interferometers and the search for gravitational waves*, Springer, 2014
6. Virgo Collaboration, Advanced Virgo Technical Design Report, <https://tds.ego-gw.it/ql/?c=8940>
7. F. Acernese, et. al, Advanced Virgo: a 2nd generation interferometric gravitational wave detector, *Class. Quantum Grav.* 32 024001 (2015), [arxiv:1408.3978](https://arxiv.org/abs/1408.3978)
8. Einstein Telescope, Conceptual Design Study, [https://tds.virgo-gw.eu/?call\\_file=ET-0106C-10.pdf](https://tds.virgo-gw.eu/?call_file=ET-0106C-10.pdf)