



LIGO Science & Public Outreach

October, 2005

Dale Ingram
LIGO Hanford Observatory

The LIGO logo consists of the word "LIGO" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the left of the text are several concentric, light gray circles of varying radii, resembling a ripple effect or a stylized representation of gravitational waves.

LIGO

The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory

LIGO (Washington)

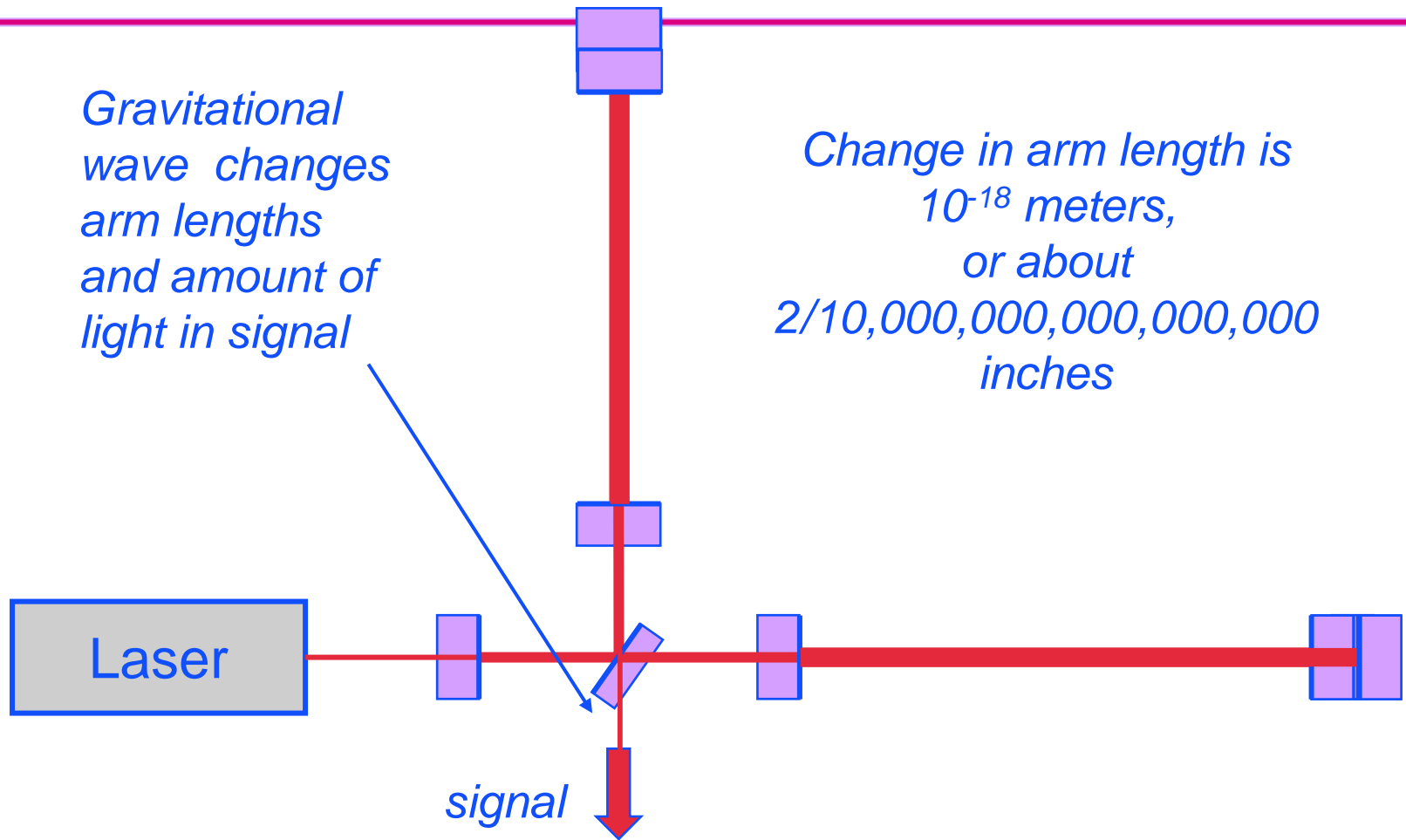


LIGO (Louisiana)

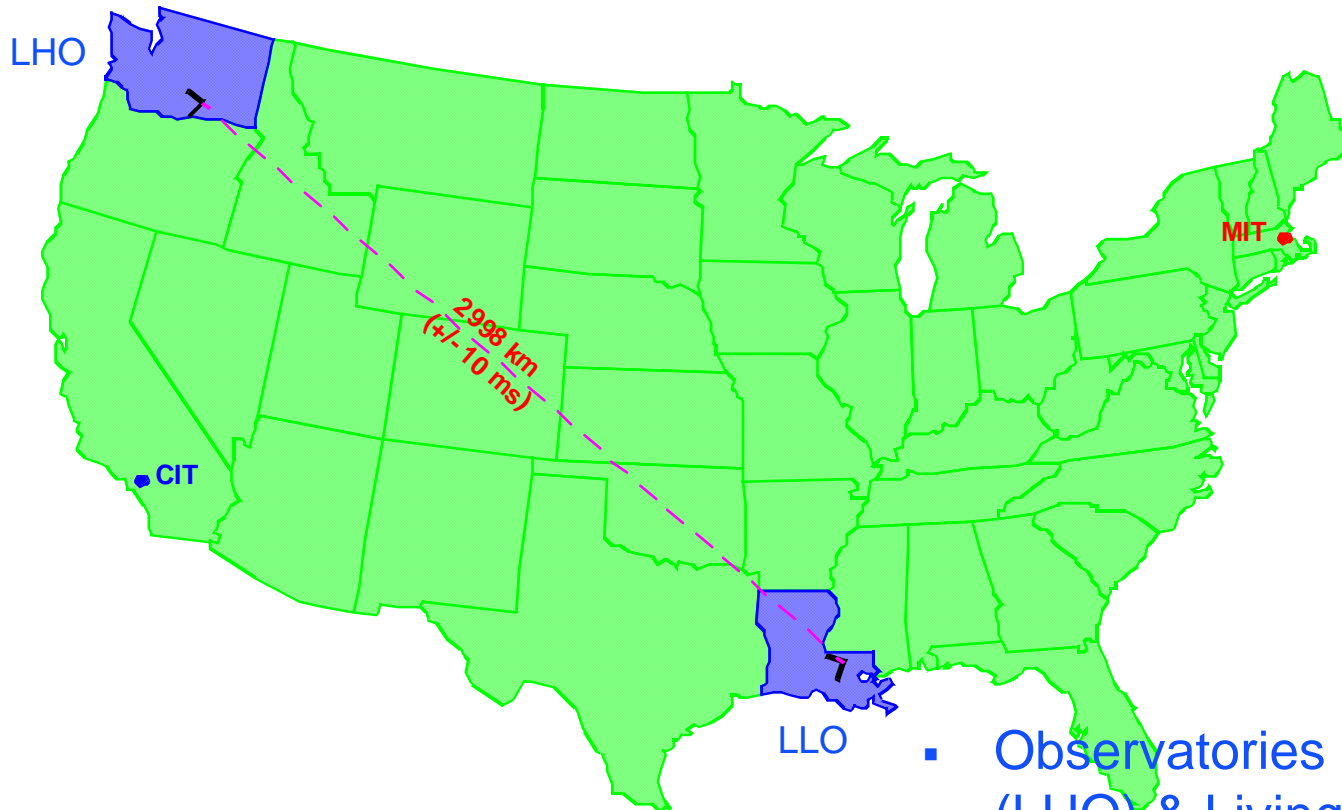


Brought to you by the National Science Foundation; operated by Caltech and MIT; the research focus for more than 500 LIGO Scientific Collaboration members worldwide.

LIGO: Long-baseline Power-recycled Interferometers with Fabry-Perot Cavities



Three Instruments at Two Sites Comprise the LIGO Detector

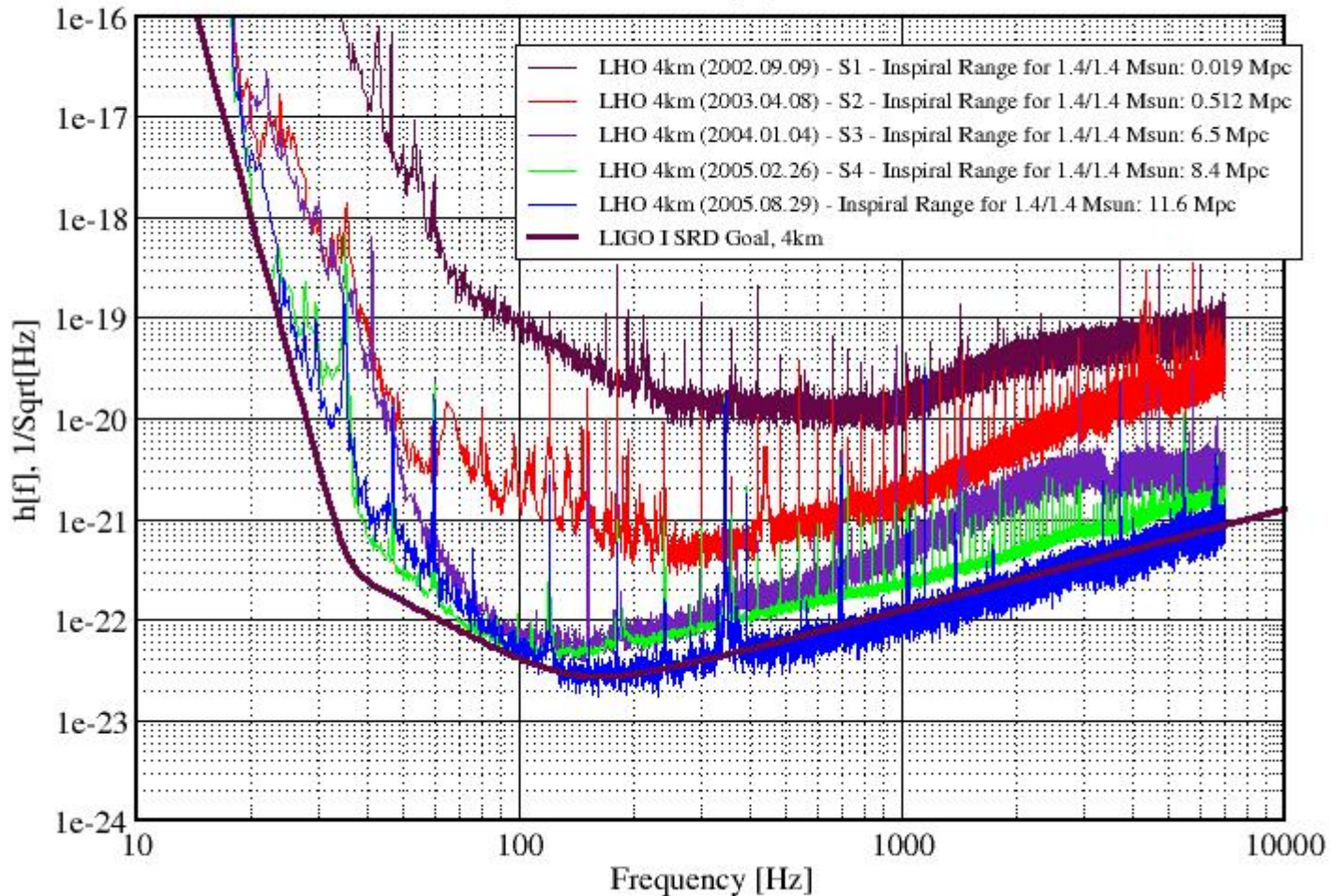


- Observatories at Hanford, WA (LHO) & Livingston, LA (LLO)
- Support Facilities @ Caltech & MIT campuses

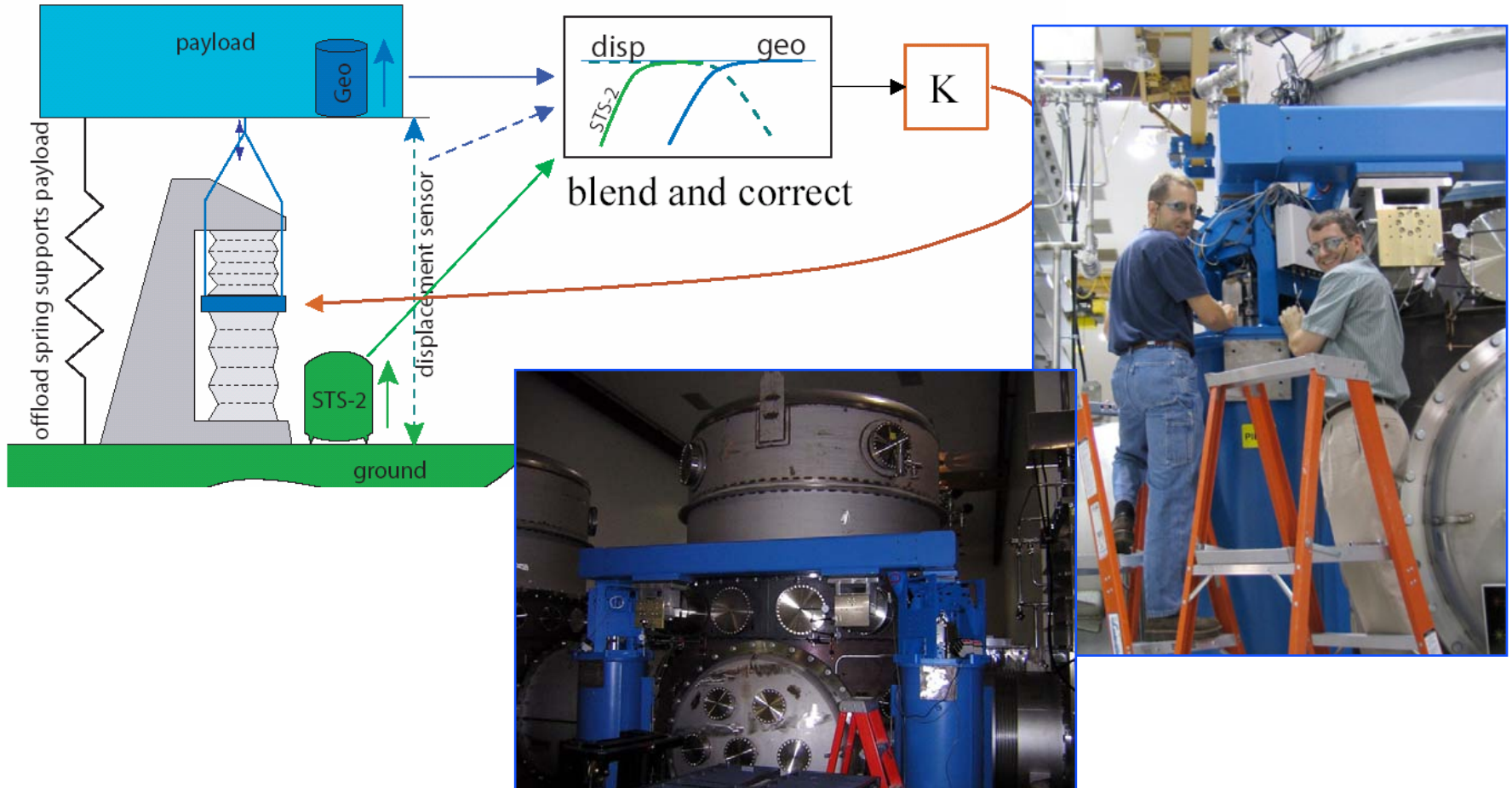
Continued progress has brought LIGO to the verge of its Design Sensitivity in preparation for the S5 Science Run

Strain Sensivities for the LIGO Interferometers

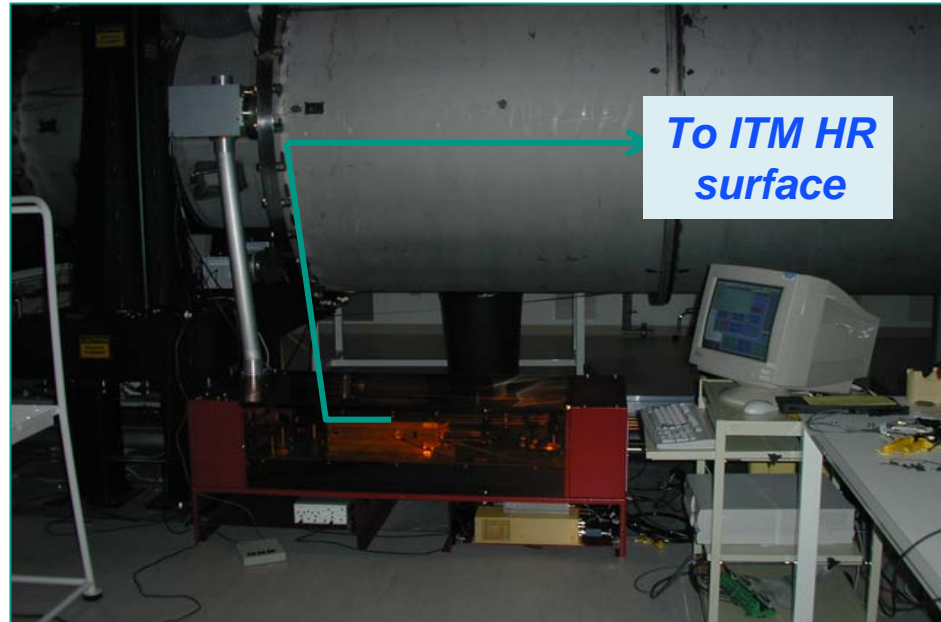
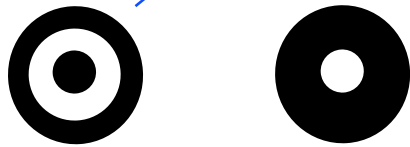
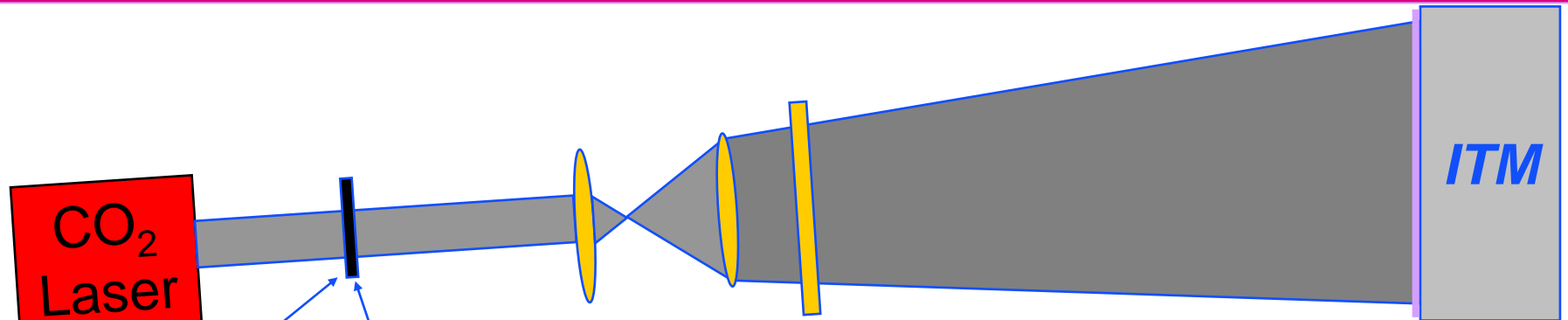
H1 Performance Comparison: S1 through post S4 LIGO-G050483-01-Z



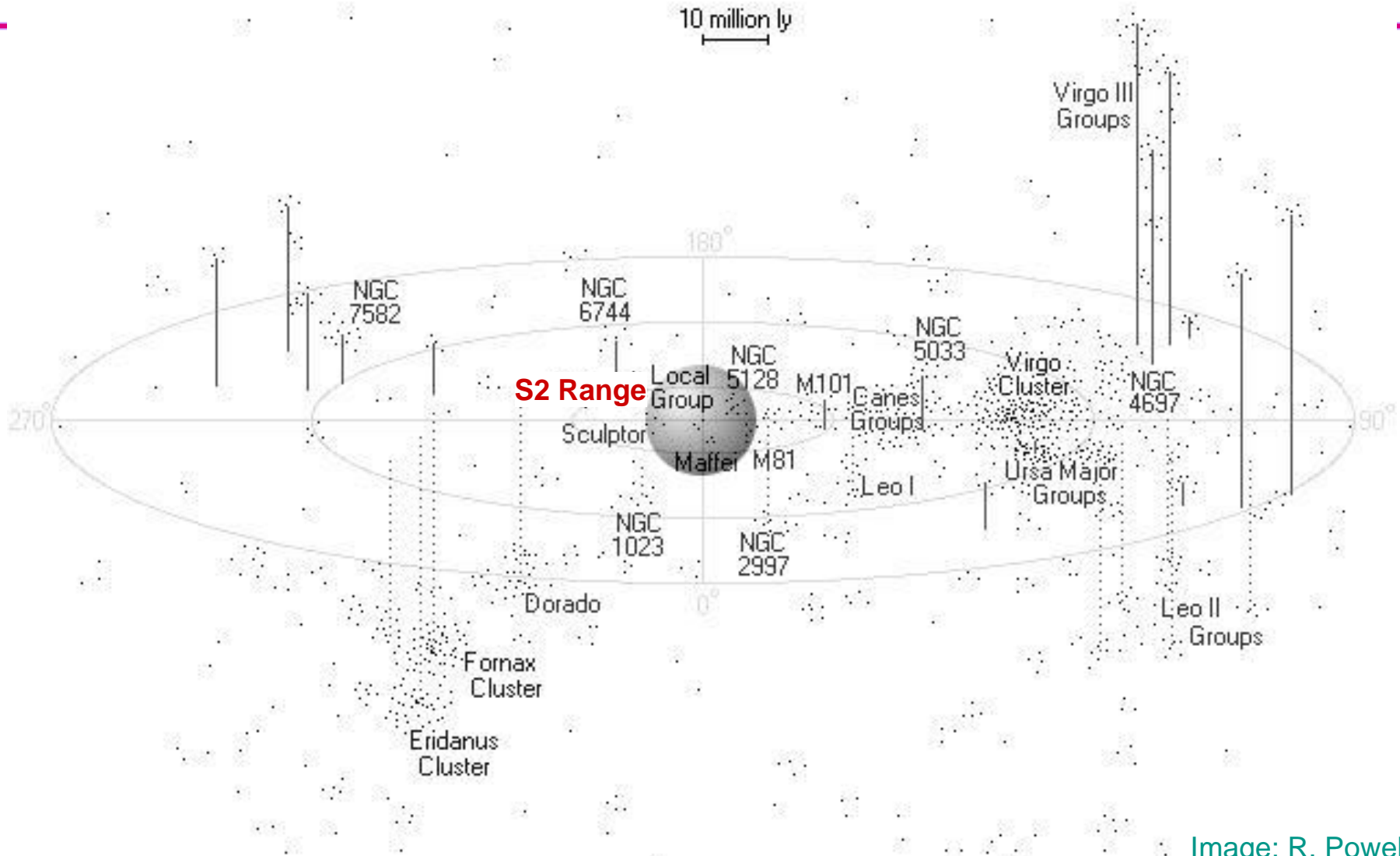
Installation of HEPI at Livingston has improved the stability of L1



TCS system improves recycling cavity stability, facilitates the use of higher laser power in the interferometers



S5 range for binary neutron star inspirals will reach to ~35M light years (H1 and L1)



These are exciting times!

FEATURE

Cosmic Explosion Among the Brightest in Recorded History

02.18.05

Scientists have detected a flash of light from across the Galaxy so powerful that it bounced off the Moon and lit up the Earth's upper atmosphere. The flash was brighter than anything ever detected from beyond our Solar System and lasted over a tenth of a second. NASA and European satellites and many radio telescopes detected the flash and its aftermath on December 27, 2004. Two science teams report about this event at a special press event today at NASA headquarters. A multitude of papers are planned for publication.



Cosmic Mystery Solved

FEATURE

Swift Spacecraft Solves Mystery of Short Gamma-Ray Bursts

10.05.05

Scientists have solved a 35-year-old mystery of the origin of powerful, split-second flashes of light called short gamma-ray bursts. These flashes, brighter than a billion suns yet lasting only a few milliseconds, have been simply too fast to catch... until now.

If you guessed that a black hole is involved, you are at least half right. Short gamma-ray bursts arise from collisions between a black hole and a neutron star or between two neutron stars. In the first scenario, the black hole gulps down the neutron star and grows bigger. In the second scenario, the two neutron stars create a black hole.



Click on images for high resolution

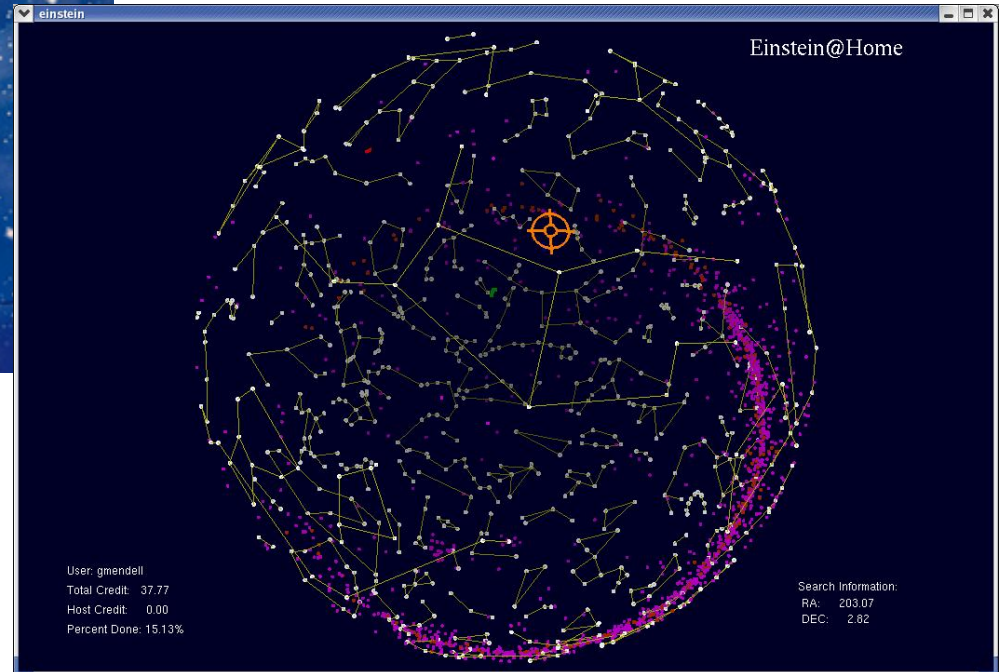


These NASA summaries describe recent types of events which are of interest to LIGO as potential sources

Sharing the Excitement with the Public . . .



<http://einstein.phys.uwm.edu>

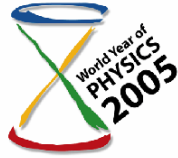


LIGO

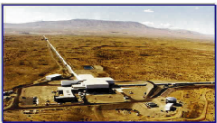
*Celebrate the
International Year of Physics*

with the

LIGO Hanford Observatory

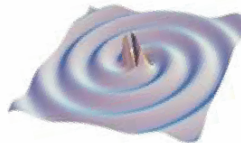


Event	Date	Appetizer
Say Hello to Einstein@Home	Saturday, January 8	Enjoy an evening of Einstein and neutron stars. Learn how to search for gravitational waves on your own computer
Einstein@The Movies	Saturday, February 5	A showing and discussion of the film "Runaway Universe" in LIGO's auditorium
Einstein@The Movies	Saturday, March 5	"Death Star." View and discuss this fascinating glimpse into gamma ray bursts, perhaps the most violent events in the universe
National Astronomy Day	Saturday, April 16	Explore the wonders of the night sky. All ages and levels of experience are welcome
El Cielo en Mayo	Saturday, May 21	Un acontecimiento de la astronomía de la lengua Española para las familias
Shadows, Sticks, the Earth & You	Saturday, June 18	Welcome the Summer Solstice by measuring the size of the earth. We'll provide the sticks!
Einstein@The Movies	Saturday, July 16	"Time Travel." Join us for a viewing and discussion of this mind-bending aspect of Einstein's legacy
Watch the Space Rocks Roll	Friday, August 12	Take in the Perseid Meteor Shower from the darkness of the LIGO night sky
LIGO Public Lecture	Sunday, August 14	Learn how Einstein's ideas continue to influence the big questions in astrophysics
Einstein@The Movies	Saturday, Sept. 17	"The Elegant Universe, Part One." Einstein's work set in motion the quest for a theory of everything
Einstein@The Movies	Saturday, October 15	"The Elegant Universe, Part Two." What are strings, and are they part of everything?
Einstein@The Movies	Saturday, Nov. 19	"The Elegant Universe, Part Three." 3 dimensions, or 4, or 10? How many are there, and where are they hiding?
Here Comes the Sun	Saturday, Dec. 17	Winter Solstice means more daylight is on the way. Get ready - come and build a take-home Sundial!

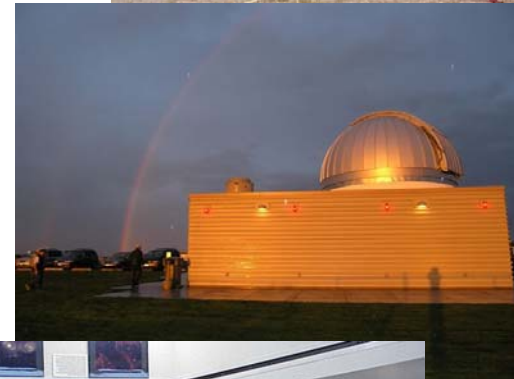


Free Observatory Tours on the 2nd Saturday of every month

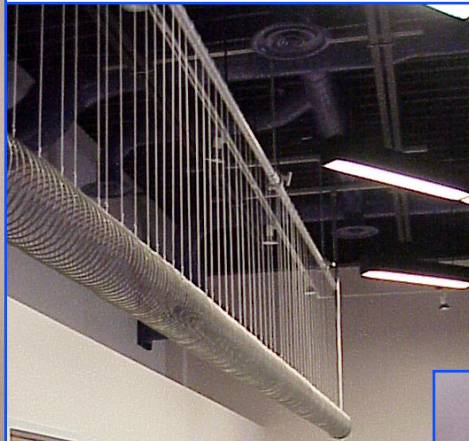
For times, driving directions and more information about World Year of Physics events, find LIGO Hanford on the Web at <http://www.ligo-wa.caltech.edu> or call 509-372-8300 ext 248



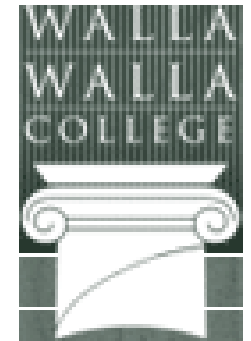
Free admission for all events



Interactive Exhibits at the Site



College/University Opportunities



Visits are routinely scheduled

Summer Research



WSU-TC T&L 523 for Teachers



Please contact us if we can
be of service

Dale Ingram

LIGO Hanford Observatory

dingram@ligo-wa.caltech.edu

509-372-8300 ext 248

