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Relativistic quantum metrology

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14. ABSTRACT Quantum technologies are getting deployed in space. The target sensitivity, stability and precision of these system may be affected by relativistic effects and in turn allow their use as new probes of fundamental physics. The objectives were to: Characterize localization of photons and effects of gravity in optical interferometry, Identify the effects of spin-gravity couplings in metrology and time keeping, and Design space-based all-optical test of the Einstein Equivalence Principle (EEP). A novel noise-mitigation scheme was developed.			
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Relativistic quantum metrology

1. EEP all-optical test

Background

Quantum technologies are getting deployed in space. The target sensitivity, stability and precision of these system may be affected by relativistic effects and in turn allow their use as new probes of fundamental physics

Objectives

- Characterize localization of photons and effects of gravity in optical interferometry
- Identify the effects of spin-gravity couplings in metrology and time keeping
- Design space-based all-optical test of the Einstein Equivalence Principle (EEP)

Impact

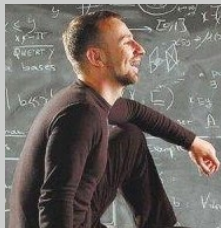
Test the basic premises of Einstein's relativity in a new setting
Identify the form & design new test of spin interaction with inertia and acceleration

Funding Profile

AOARD: \$36k (2017-2020; extended until 2021/07/02)

Principal Investigator

Dr. Daniel Terno, A/ Prof, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia



Key effect to look for: gravitational red shift

Key objective: interferometric determination of the red shift for light from a single source, without comparison with frequency standards

Main challenge: the gravitational red shift is dwarfed by the linear Doppler effect by a factor of 100,000

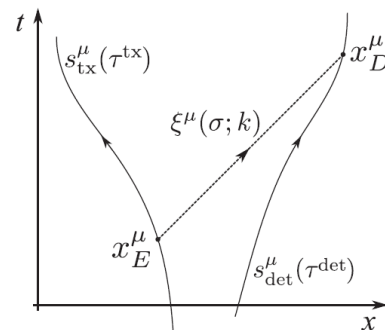
Subproject:

Interferometry in curved spacetime

The necessary calculation tool that had to be devised: a systematic treatment of the phase difference evaluation

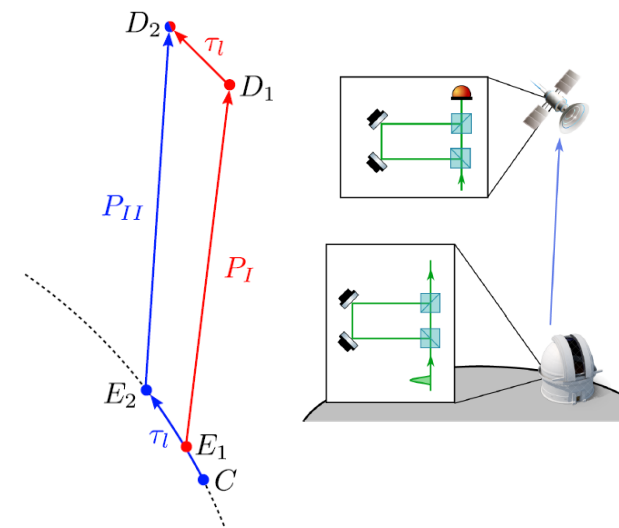
Results:

- A unified scheme to calculate the phase difference for any set-up and any precision of the post-Newtonian approximation



◀ The basic idea is very simple: the phase is constant along the ray

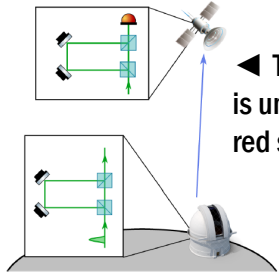
For two pulses from a single stable source the key quantity is the proper delay time between the emissions (E_1 and C) ▶



D. R. Terno, F. Vedovato, G. Vallone, and P. Villoriesi, *Large-scale optical interferometry in general spacetimes*, Phys. Rev. D **101**, 104052 (2020)

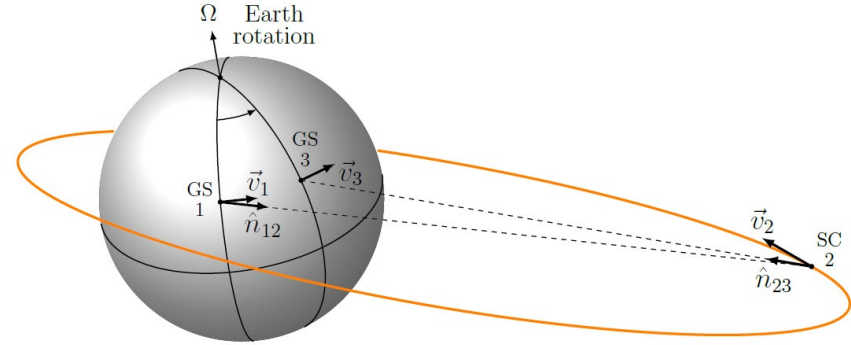
Relativistic quantum metrology

1. EEP all-optical test



◀ The Doppler effect (linear and quadratic) is unavoidably mixed with the gravitational red shift in the original scheme (2012)

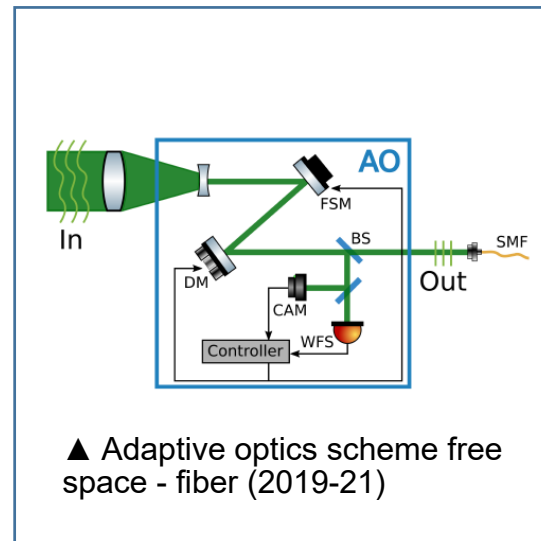
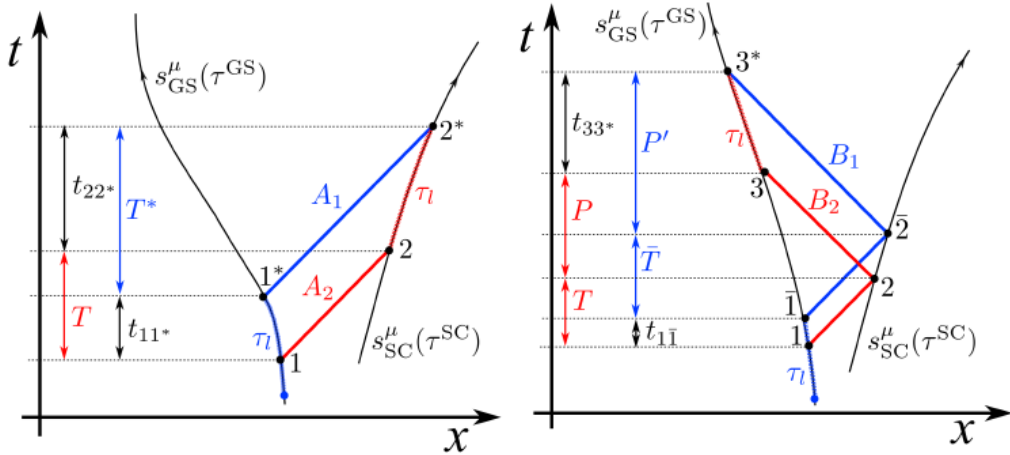
Solution (in principle) (2018)
post-processing of two time-delayed outputs of equal imbalance interferometers



$$S = \varphi_{SC} - \frac{1}{2} \varphi_{GS}$$

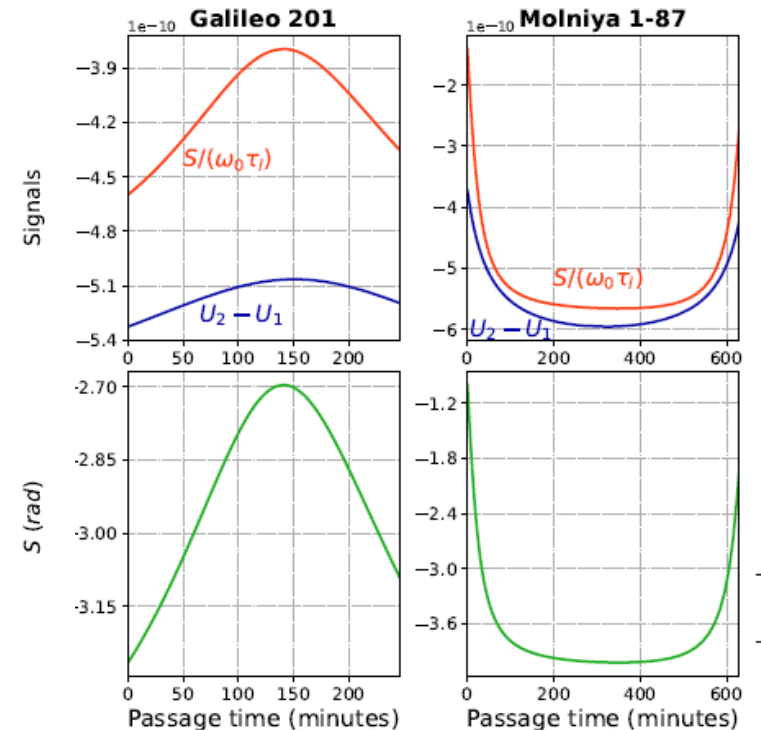
◀ the signal, includes gravity and the 2nd order effects of relative velocity

The pulse scheme used to evaluate the phases (2019-20) ▼



▲ Adaptive optics scheme free space - fiber (2019-21)

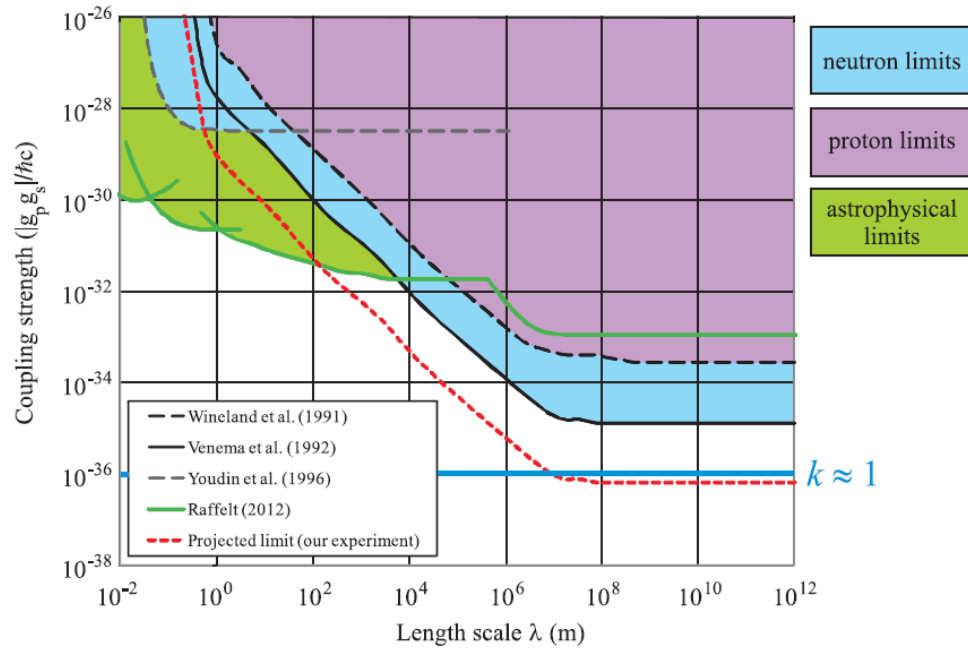
2nd order phase shift and the extracted signal (blue), for optimal orbits (2021)



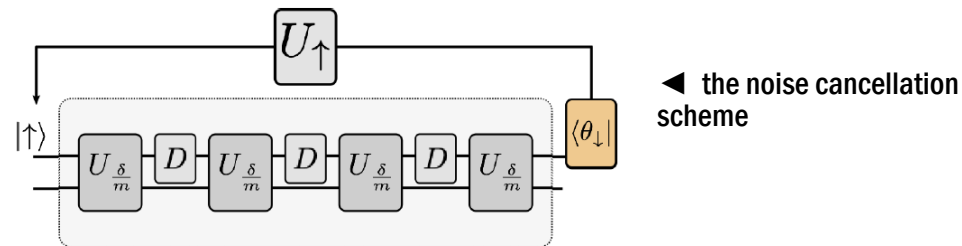
D. R. Terno, F. Vedovato, M. Schiavon, A. R. H. Smith, P. Magnani, G. Vallone, and P. Villoresi, *Proposal for an optical test of the Einstein Equivalence Principle* arXiv: 1811.04835v2 (2018); Detailed optical scheme and simulations (in preparation)

Relativistic quantum metrology

Subproject: spin-gravity coupling



▲ Known limits on k . Kimball et al, Ann. Phys. (Berlin) **525**, 514 (2013)



■ The direct acceleration/gravity-spin coupling is a possible feature of modified theories of gravity. The value of parameter k is unknown

$$H_{\text{ext}} = \frac{\hbar k}{2c} \vec{a} \cdot \vec{\sigma}$$

Fundamental **science** challenge: what is there beyond general relativity?

Space **technology** challenge: if such effects exist, they have to be taken into account/countered in order to achieve the proposed performance targets

Key idea (2019): The effect looks like coupling of spin to magnetic field. Method of *weak measurement* allows to trade the size of the effect for low probability of success of the measurement.

Key innovation (2020-21): Quantum Zeno effect (the result of appropriately tailed pulse sequences) is used to reduce the effects of noise

Results:

A proposal for optical magnetometry for fields up to 10^{-19} Tl (two orders of magnitude improvement) that is robust against the typical sources of noise (2019-20)



S. Ghosh, L.-C. Kwek, D. R. Terno, and S. Vinjanampathy, *Weak-value magnetometry for precision tests of fundamental physics*, arXiv: 1912.10693



P. Magnani, M. Schiavon, A. R. H. Smith, D. R. Terno, G. Vallone, F. Vedovato, P. Villorresi, and S. Vinjanampathy, *Quantum satellites and tests of relativity*, in *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Marcel Grossman Meeting on General Relativity* (World Scientific, Singapore, 2021)

Future:

A novel scheme for error-mitigation that is based on quantum Zeno effect, potentially applicable in a variety of system. This is subject of the current (20021-) Macquarie U/IIT Bombay collaboration

Brief Narrative

1. We introduce a convenient formalism to evaluate the phase of a light signal propagating on a general curved background. It allows us to obtain a transparent relation between the frequency-shift and the phase difference in large-scale optical interferometry for a general relativistic setting, as well as to derive compact expressions generalizing the Doppler effect in one-way and two-way schemes. Our recipe is easily applicable to stationary spacetimes, and in particular to the near-Earth experiments where the geometry is described in the parametrized post-Newtonian approximation.

2. The local position invariance of non-gravitational experiments, which entails the gravitational red-shift is the key element of the Einstein Equivalence Principle (EEP). Precision measurements of the gravitational red-shift tightly bound violations of the EEP only in the fermionic sector of the Standard Model. Proposals exploiting light interferometry suffer from the first-order Doppler effect, which dominates the weak gravitational signal necessary to test the EEP, making them unfeasible. Here, we propose a novel scheme to test the EEP, which is based on a double large-distance optical interferometric measurement. By manipulating the phase-shifts detected at two locations at different gravitational potentials it is possible to cancel-out the first-order Doppler effect and observe the gravitational red-shift implied by the EEP, bounding its potential violation to its natural precision limit of $\sim 10^{-5}$. We present the detailed analysis of the proposal within the post-Newtonian framework and the simulations of the expected signals, particularly focusing on high-excentricity orbits that allow to differentiate between the signal and the Doppler shift.

3. Progress in testing fundamental physics relies on our ability to measure exceedingly small physical quantities. Using a $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$ trapped ion system as an example we show that an exceedingly weak synthetic magnetic field (at the scale of 10^{-19} T) can be measured with current technology. This improved sensitivity can be used to test the effects of spin coupling that affect the equivalence principle and, if present, may impact the performance of the proposed entangled optical clocks arrays. The novel noise-mitigation scheme is based on the quantum Zeno effect and will be investigated as a part of error correction protocols in certain classes of quantum optimisation algorithms.