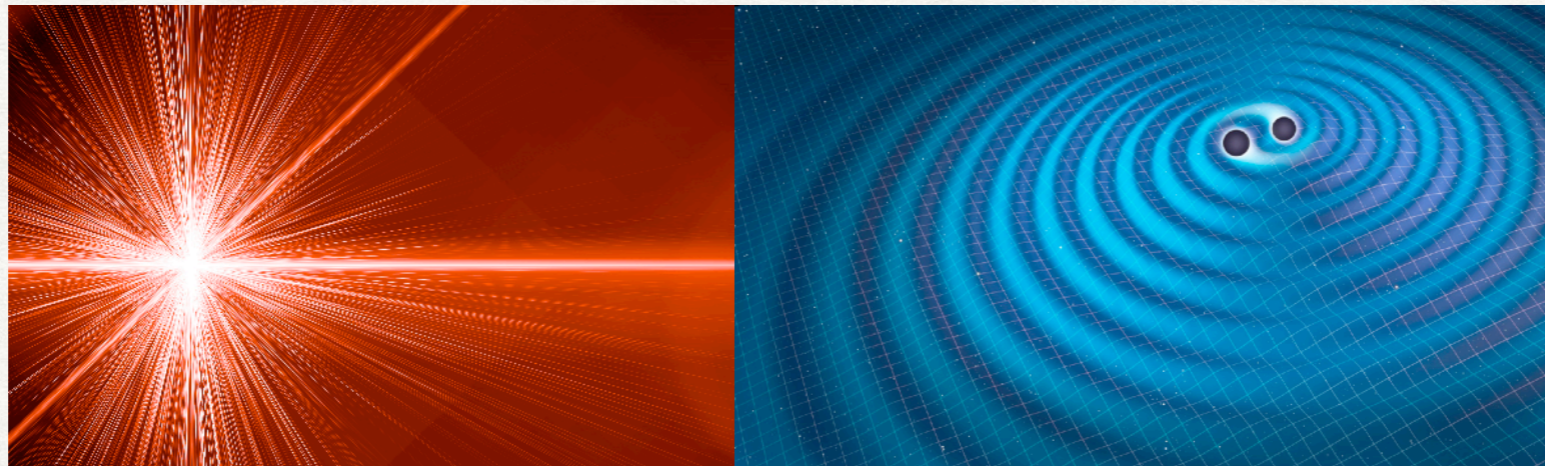


Ultra-high frequency gravitational waves from (twisted) light-beams: where do we stand?



Based on: 2309.04191 and 2501.11723

In collaboration with Ramy Aboushelbaya¹, Eduard Atonga¹,
Aurélien Barrau², and Peter Norreys¹

¹ : *Clarendon laboratory, Oxford*

² : *LPSC, Grenoble*

Question:

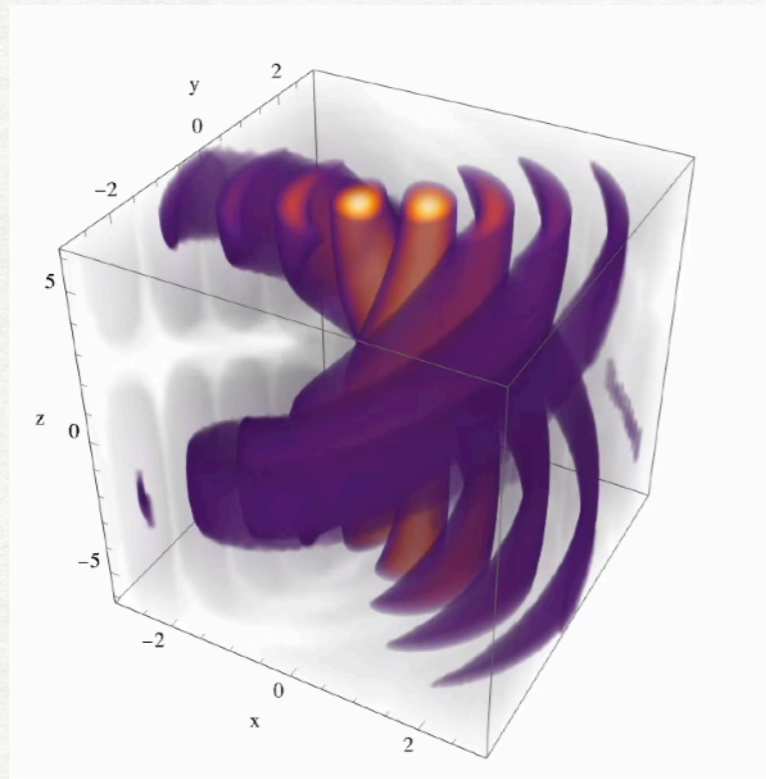
Can high-power laser systems open the path towards a generation/detection setup of laboratory-controlled gravitational waves?

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

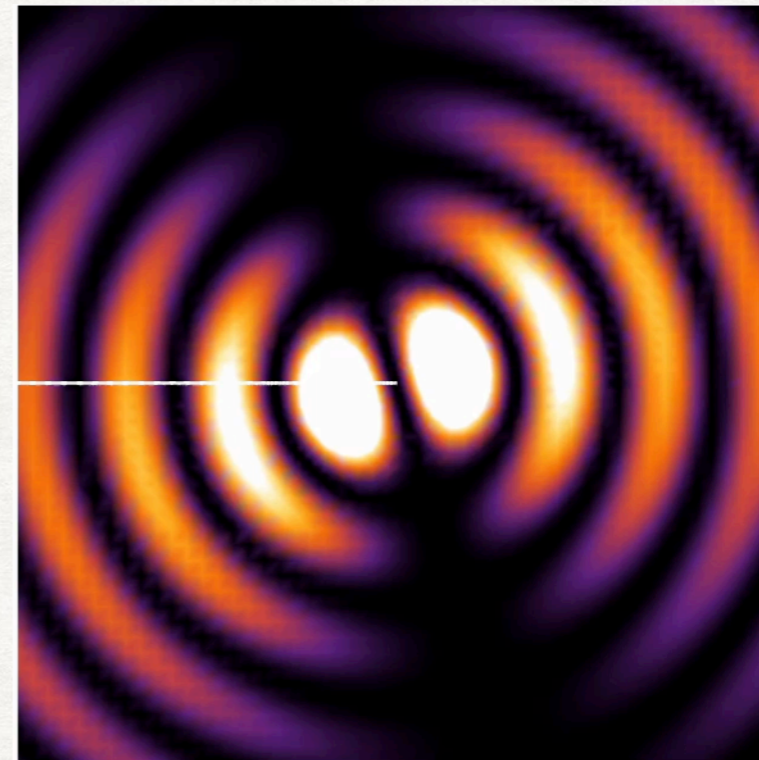
- Light can carry orbital angular momentum (OAM)

The OAM is characterized by an azimuthal phase dependence of the electromagnetic field.

$$E(x^\mu) \propto e^{il\phi}, l \in \mathbb{Z}$$



*l = 1 twisted light
propagating along the z-axis*



Projection onto the azimuthal plane

Generates gravitational perturbations?

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

Pros and cons of using light as a source

- Signal emitted by a binary system of masses in circular orbit:

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$$h \simeq \frac{4G}{c^4} \frac{\mu \omega_s^2 R^2}{r}$$

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

Pros and cons of using light as a source

- Signal emitted by a binary system of masses in circular orbit:

Reduced mass: $\mu = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$

Solar mass: 10^{30} kg

MJ laser: 10^{-11} kg



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LVK black holes mergers events: 10^9 ly $\approx 10^{24}$ m



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$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \omega_s \approx 10^{15} \text{ Hz} \\ R \approx 10^{-8} \text{ m} \end{array} \right\}$$

speed of light



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speed of light

+

LVK black holes mergers events: 10^9 ly $\approx 10^{24}$ m

+

- The radiated power increases heavily with the GWs frequency

$$\mathcal{F}_{GW} = \frac{c^3}{16\pi G} \langle \dot{h}_+^2 + \dot{h}_\times^2 \rangle \approx 10^{34} \omega_g^2 h^2 \text{ W.m}^{-2}$$

High-Power LASER	GW15094 LVK signal
$\mathcal{F}_{GW} = 1.4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ W.m}^{-2}$	$\mathcal{F}_{GW} = 3.6 \times 10^{-6} \text{ W.m}^{-2}$
<i>Close to the pulse</i>	<i>At the detector location</i>

E. Atonga et. al, arXiv:2501.11723

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

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- Must deal with relativistic sources

The formalism heavily relies on a v/c expansion:

Usual formulae are no longer valid:

$$h_{ij}^{\text{TT}}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{4G}{c^4} \Lambda_{ij,kl}(\hat{\mathbf{n}}) \left[S^{kl} + \frac{1}{c} n_m \dot{S}^{kl,m} + \frac{1}{2c^2} n_m n_p \ddot{S}^{kl,mp} + \dots \right]_{\text{ret}} \rightarrow \cancel{[h_{ij}^{\text{TT}}(t, \mathbf{x})]_{\text{quad}} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{2G}{c^4} \ddot{Q}_{ij}^{\text{TT}}(t - r/c).}$$

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

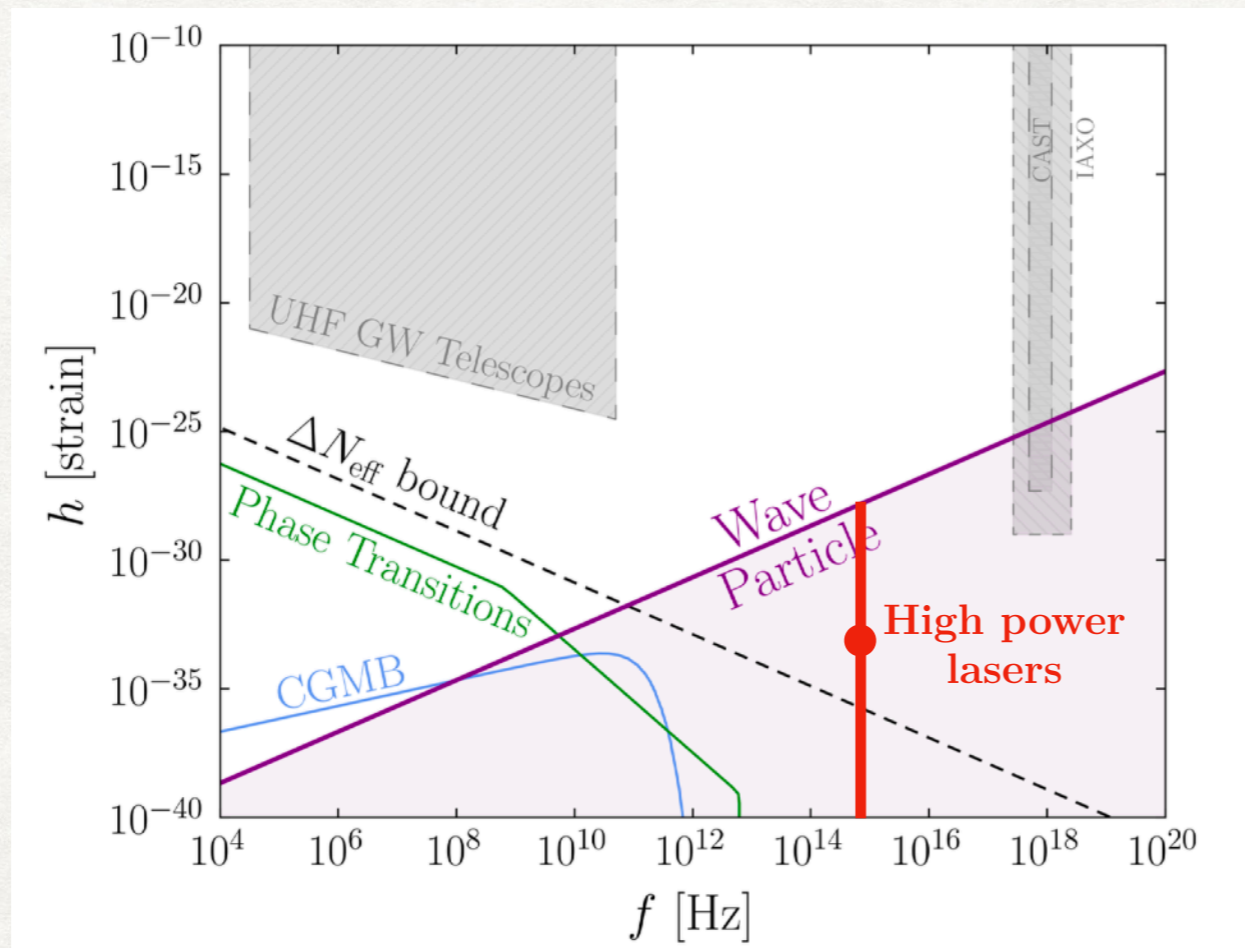
Pros and cons of using light as a source

- Open the path towards quantum gravity?

Quantumness of a gravitational signal:

$$N = \frac{c^5}{32\pi G\hbar} \frac{h^2}{f_{GW}^2} \approx 10^{85} \frac{h^2}{f_{GW}^2}$$

Dyson number



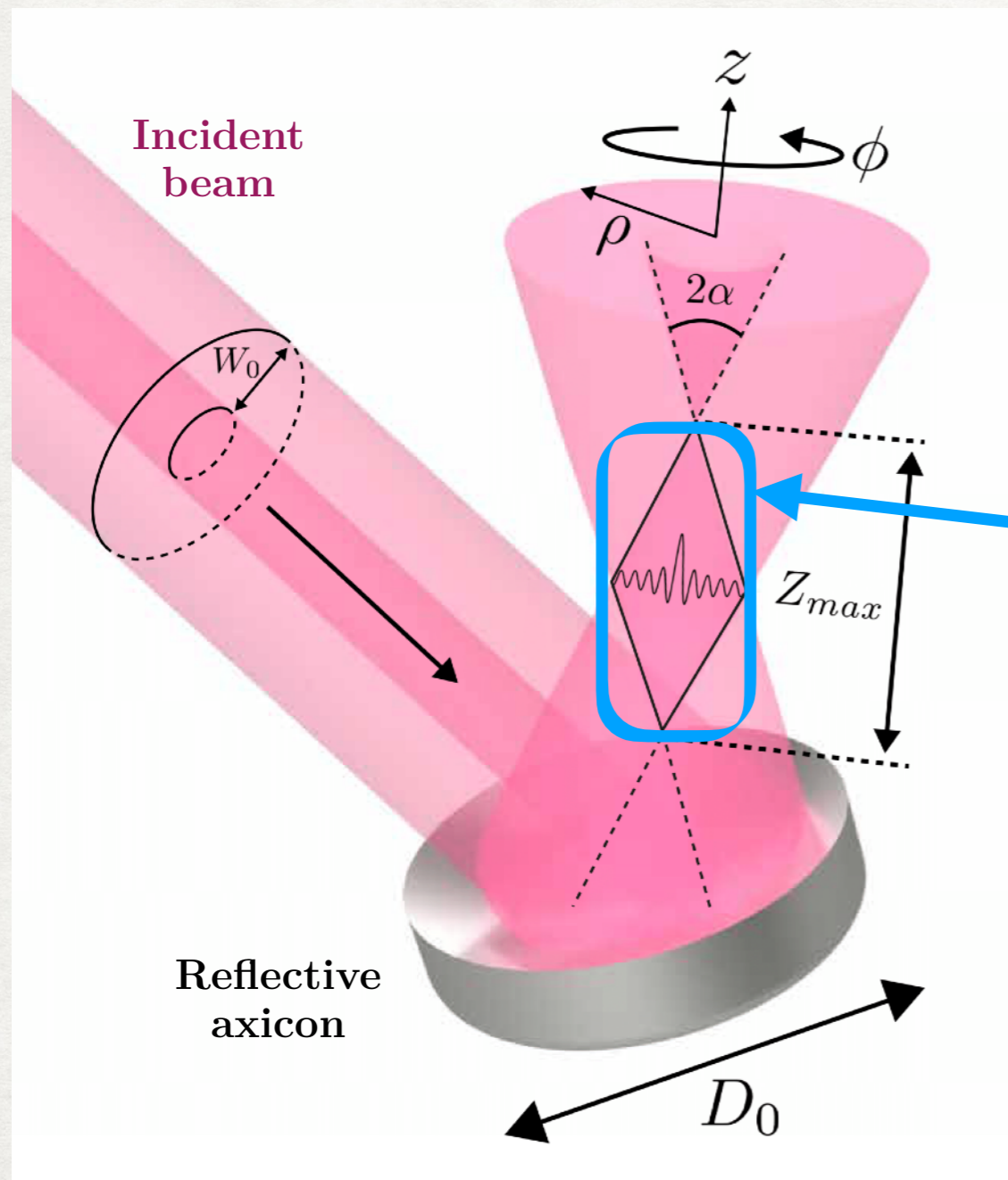
Signals sensitive to quantum effects of gravity

From D. Carney, V. Domcke, N. L. Rodd, *arXiv:2308.12988*

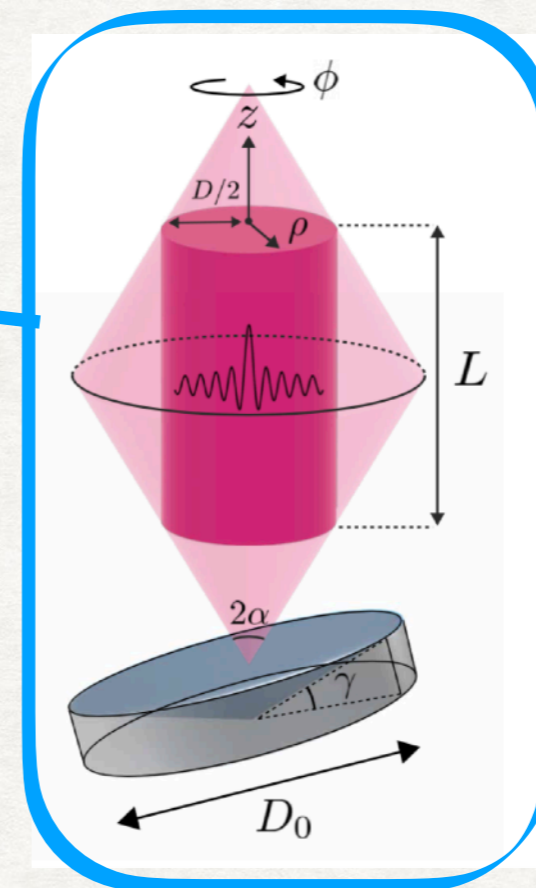
Gravitational waves from twisted beams

Generation of Bessel modes

E. Atonga, K.M, R. Aboushelbaya, A. Barrau et. al.. 2309.04191



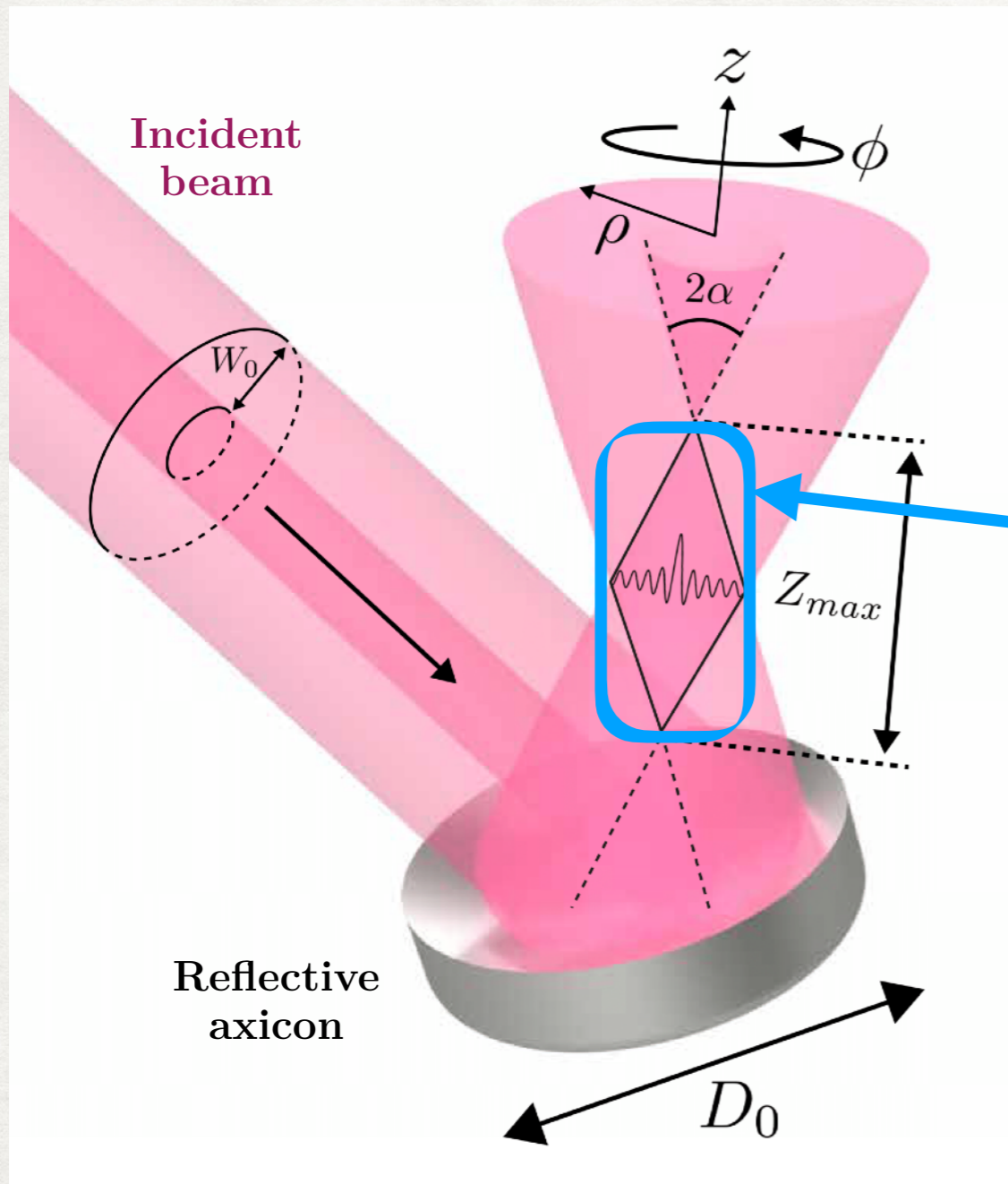
Region over which twisted light is generated



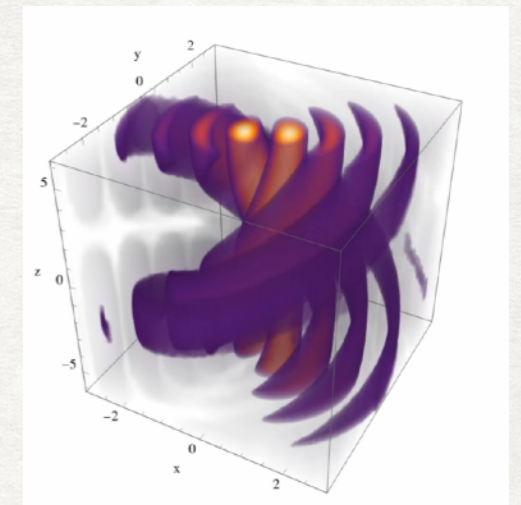
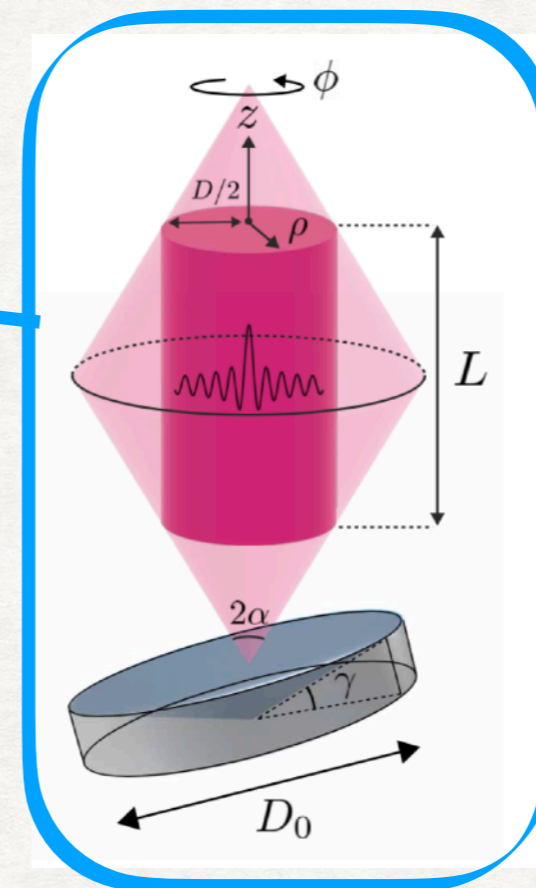
Gravitational waves from twisted beams

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Region over which twisted light is generated



Gravitational waves from twisted beams

- Bessel modes can be modeled as an infinite superposition of plane waves:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} i^l E_0 e^{i(k_\mu(\phi)x^\mu + l\phi)} \hat{n}(\phi) d\phi$$

$\phi \equiv \arctan(y/x)$
*Azimuthal position on
the conical surface*

- Bessel mode E-field orbital angular momentum

$$\vec{J} = \iint \frac{\epsilon_0 E_0}{c} \frac{l}{k} J_l^2(\beta\rho) \hat{z} dS$$

l : OAM parameter
 J_l : Bessel functions

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- Fields components

$$E_x = \frac{E_0}{2} [J_{l+1}(\beta\rho) \sin(\omega t - k_z z + (l+1)\phi) - J_{l-1}(\beta\rho) \sin(\omega t - k_z z + (l-1)\phi)]$$

$$E_y = -\frac{E_0}{2} [J_{l+1}(\beta\rho) \cos(\omega t - k_z z + (l+1)\phi) + J_{l-1}(\beta\rho) \cos(\omega t - k_z z + (l-1)\phi)]$$

$$E_z = 0$$

ω : Pulse
frequency

α : Half-cone
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$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

$$B_x = \cos(\alpha) \frac{E_0}{2} [J_{l+1}(\beta\rho) \cos(\omega t - k_z z + (l+1)\phi) + J_{l-1}(\beta\rho) \cos(\omega t - k_z z + (l-1)\phi)]$$

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$$B_z = \sin(\alpha) \frac{E_0}{c} J_l(\beta\rho) \cos(\omega t - k_z z + l\phi)$$

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

- Stress-energy tensor of the system *E. Atonga, K.M, R. Aboushelbaya, A. Barrau et. al.. 2309.04191*

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} u & \vec{N}/c \\ \vec{N}/c & -\sigma_{i,j} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$u = \frac{\epsilon_0 c}{2} (E^2 + c^2 B^2)$$

EM field energy density

$$\vec{N} = \frac{\vec{E} \times \vec{B}}{\mu_0}$$

Poynting vector

$$\sigma_{ij} = \epsilon_0 c (E_i E_j + c^2 B_i B_j) - u \delta_{i,j}$$

Maxwell tensor

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

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Maxwell tensor

- Associated spacetime deformations

$$\bar{h}^{\mu\nu}(t, \vec{x}) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{4G}{c^4} \int_{\mathcal{V}} T^{\mu\nu} \left(t - \frac{r}{c} + \frac{\vec{x}' \cdot \hat{n}}{c}, \vec{x}' \right) d^3 x'$$

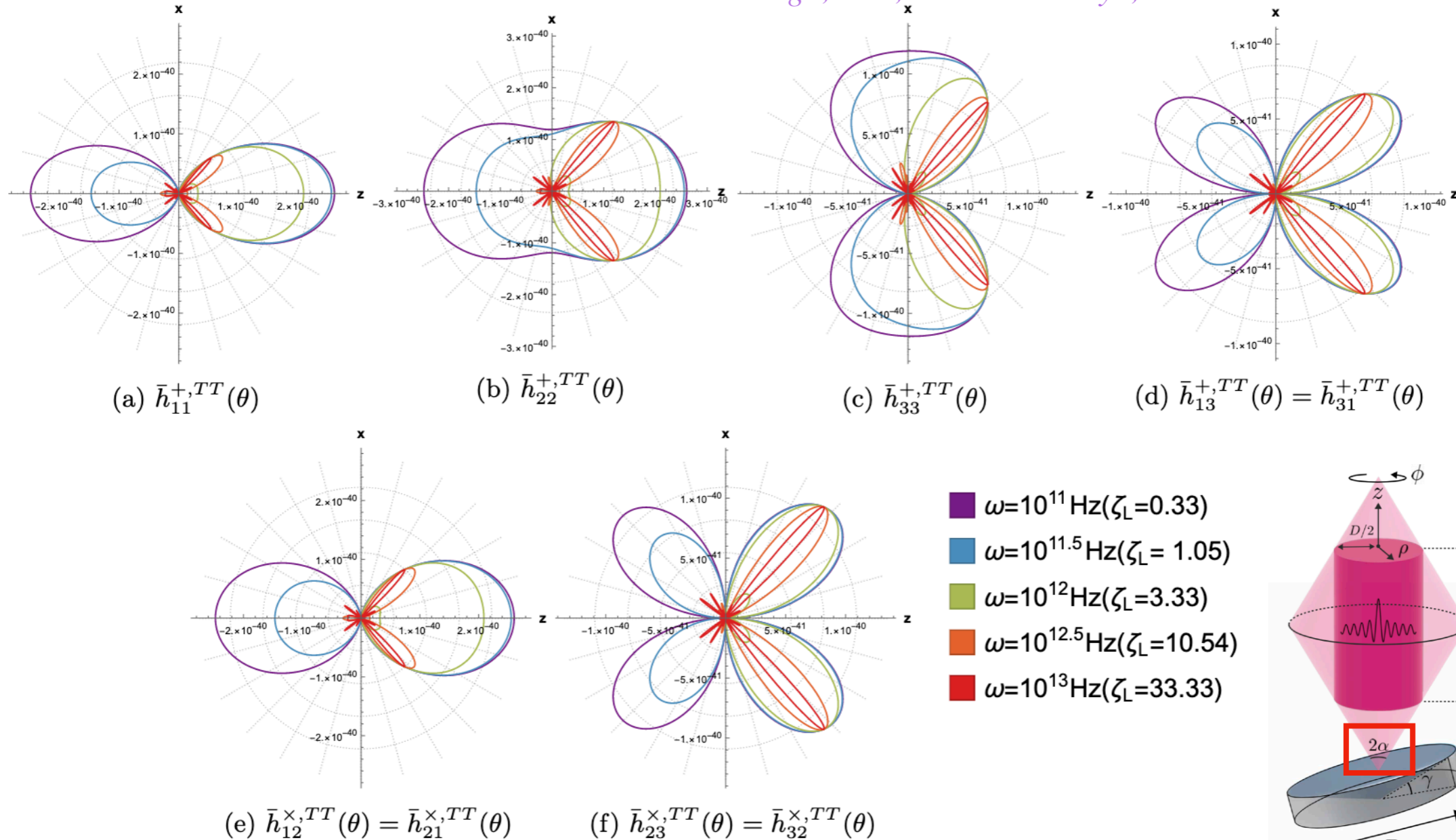
$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_D &\equiv \frac{1}{2} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q), \\ \bar{h}_{ZZ} &\equiv 2\bar{h}_0(r) [1 + \cos^2(\alpha)] \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \\ &\quad \times \cos(\psi_q), \\ \bar{h}_+^{(Q)} &\equiv \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_Q(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q), \\ \bar{h}_\times^{(Q)} &\equiv \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_Q(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q), \\ \bar{h}_{XZ}^{\pm,(s)} &\equiv \frac{1}{4} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin(2\alpha) \Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q) \\ \bar{h}_{YZ}^{\pm,(s)} &\equiv \frac{1}{4} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin(2\alpha) \Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q) \\ \bar{h}_N &\equiv 2\bar{h}_0(r) \cos(\alpha) \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_0(r) &\equiv \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 c E_0^2 G L}{\beta^2 c^5 r}, \\ \psi_q(t, r) &\equiv 2\omega \left(t - \frac{r}{c} \right) + 2q(\phi - \pi/2), \\ \Gamma_q(\theta) &\equiv \int_0^{\frac{D\beta}{2}} \tau J_q^2(\tau) J_{2q} \left(\frac{\omega\tau}{c\beta} \sin(\theta) \right) d\tau, \\ \Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) &\equiv \int_0^{\frac{D\beta}{2}} \tau J_l(\tau) J_{l\pm 1}(\tau) J_s \left(\frac{\omega\tau}{c\beta} \sin(\theta) \right) d\tau \\ \eta(\theta) &\equiv \frac{\omega L}{c} [\cos(\theta) - \cos(\alpha)], \end{aligned}$$

L : Interaction length
 ω : Pulse frequency
 α : Half-cone angle
 β : Beam waist
D : Interaction region width

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

E. Atonga, K.M, R. Aboushelbaya, A. Barrau et al.. 2309.04191



When $\zeta_L \equiv \omega L/c > 1$ \longrightarrow Beaming effect towards the half-cone angle α

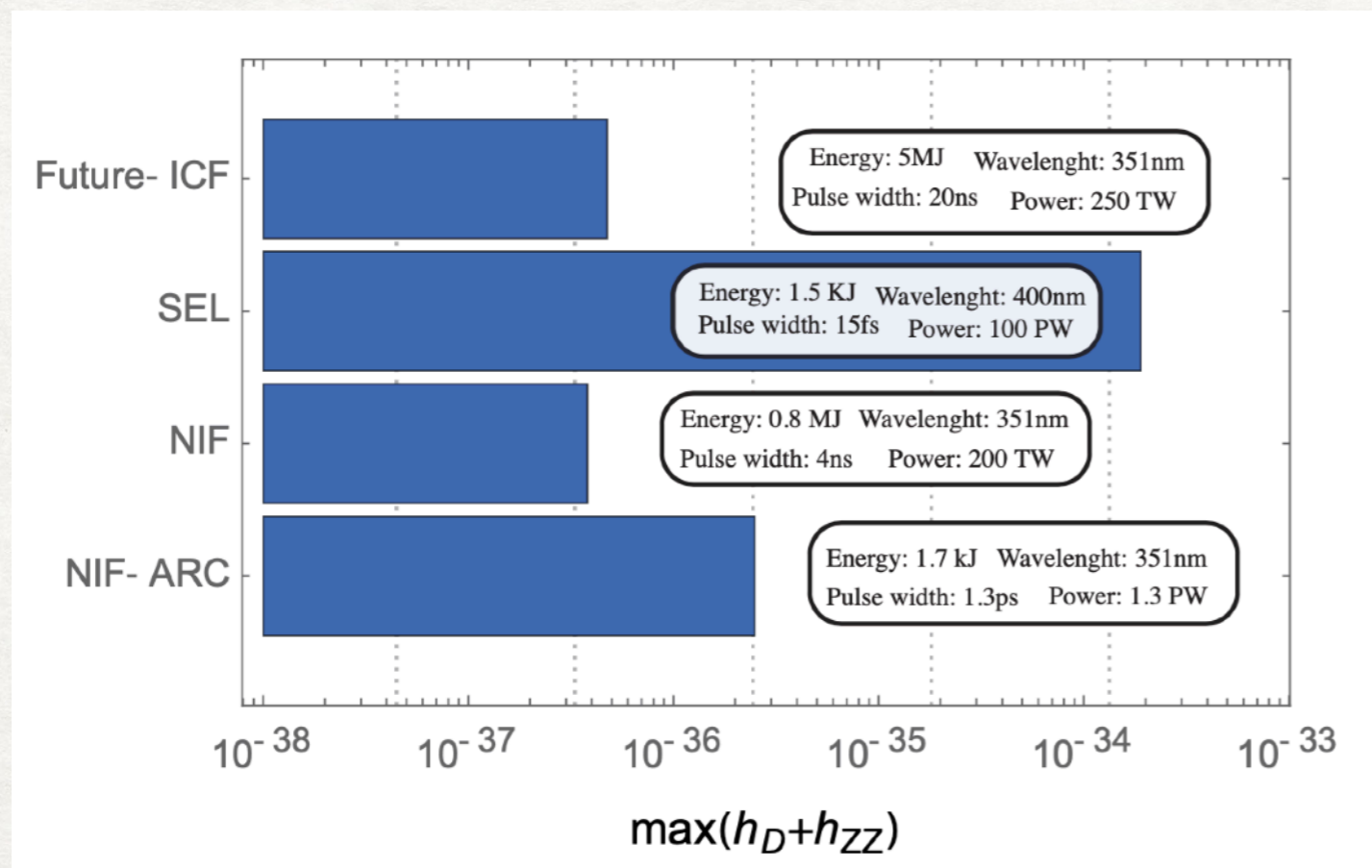
Gravitational waves from twisted beams

- Frequency

$$\omega_{GW} = 2\omega_{\text{pulse}} \simeq 8.55 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$$

For a NIF's 351 nm laser pulse

- Strain



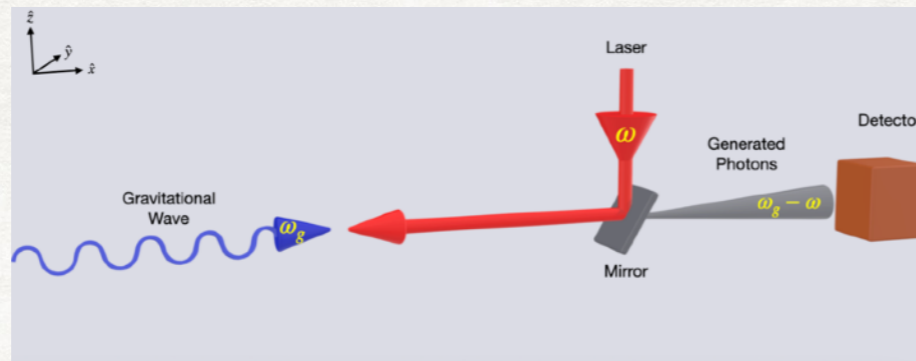
$$h \sim 1.90 \times 10^{-36} \left(\frac{P}{1 \text{ PW}} \right) \left(\frac{r}{1.36 \mu\text{m}} \right)^{-1}$$

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

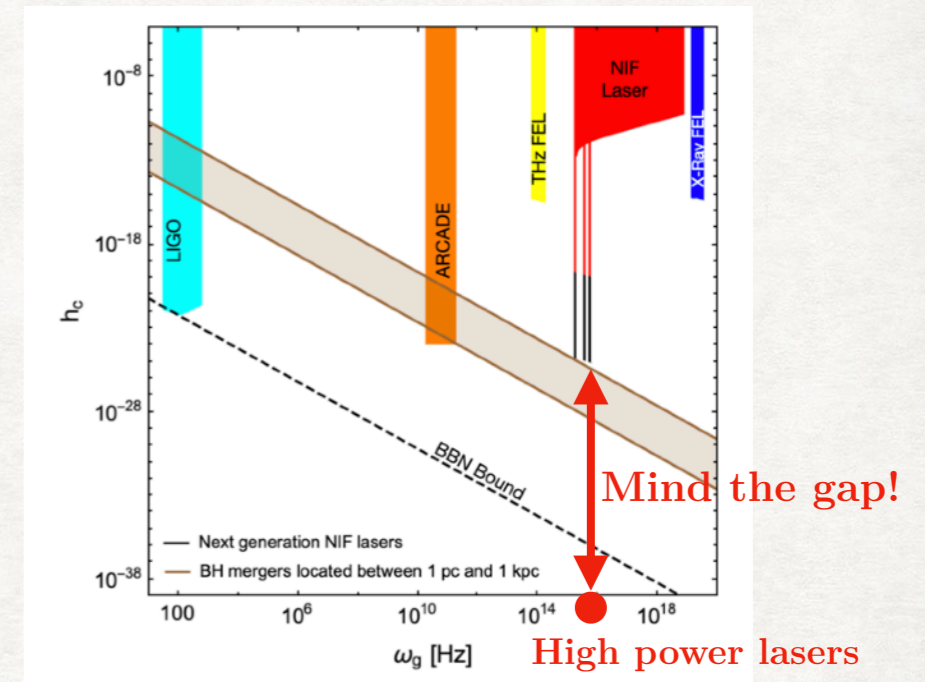
Detection scheme proposals at optical frequencies

- With high-energy pulsed lasers

G. Vacalis, et al., arXiv:2301.08163, Class. Quantum Grav. 40 (2023)



$$h_{\min}^{\text{opt,fut}} = 6.3 \times 10^{-26} \left(\frac{8.6 \times 10^8}{n_s} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{8.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}}{\omega_g/2\pi} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{20 \text{ ns}}{\tau} \right) \left(\frac{1.8 \text{ mJ}}{E_{\text{las}}} \right)^{1/2}$$

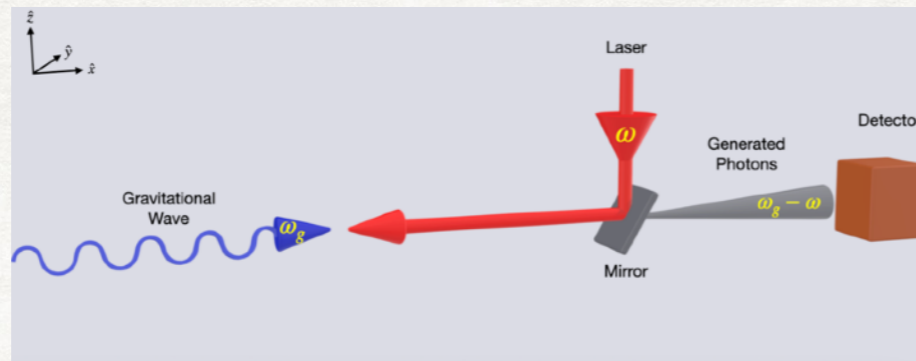


Gravitational waves from twisted beams

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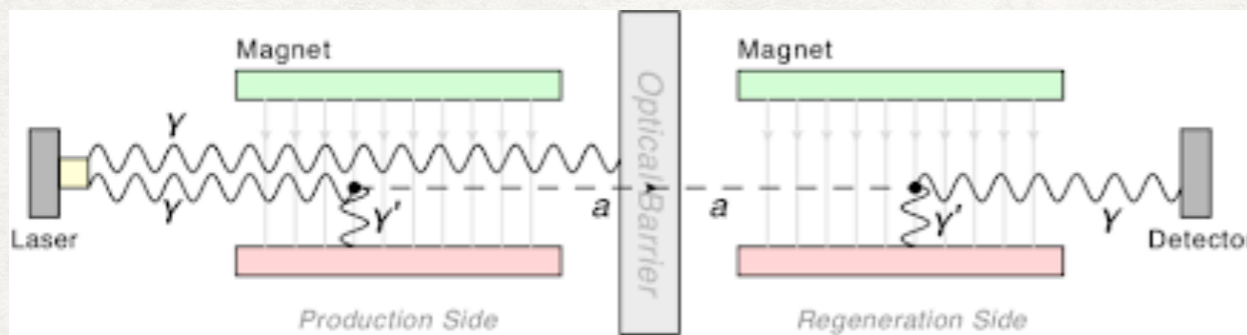
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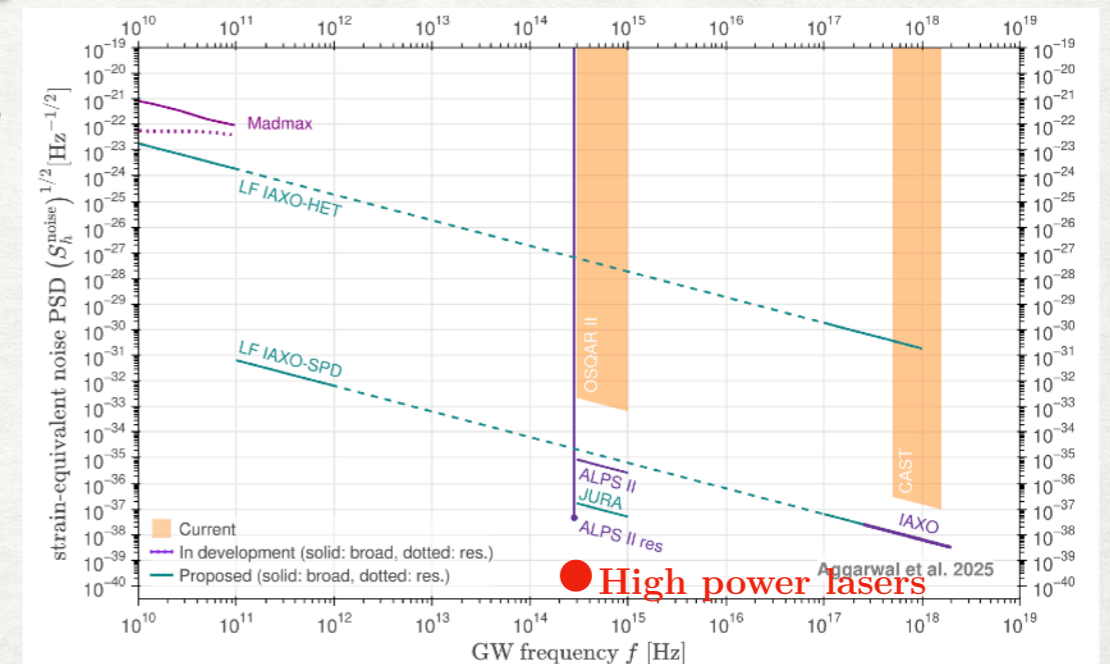
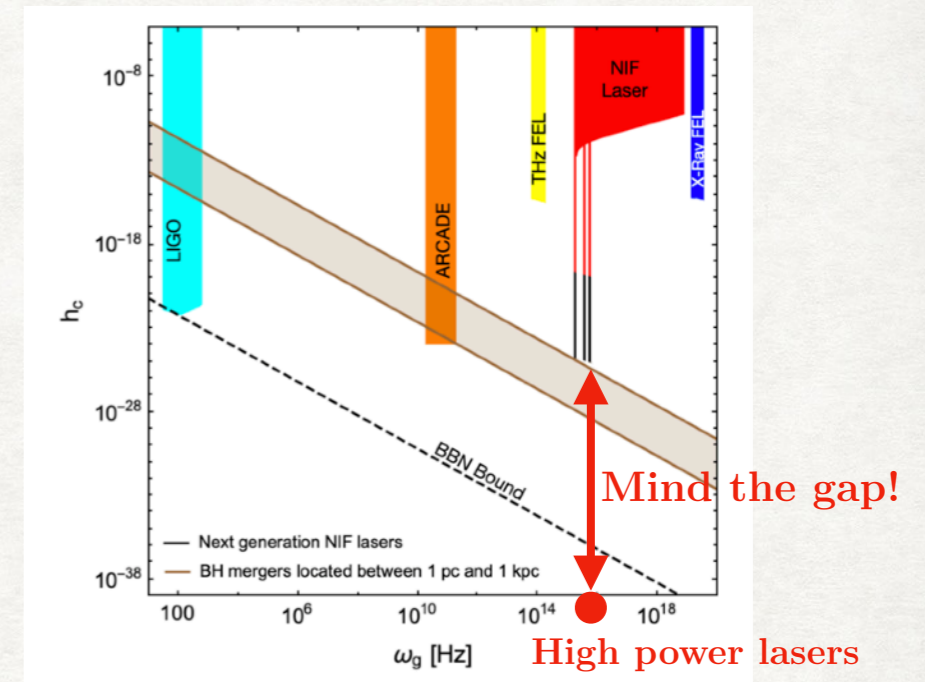
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- Using regeneration cavities in LSW experiments

Review paper: arXiv:2501.11723



Credits: R. Battesti et. al., High magnetic fields for fundamental physics. Physics reports, 765-766 (2018)



Gravitational waves from high-power twisted beams

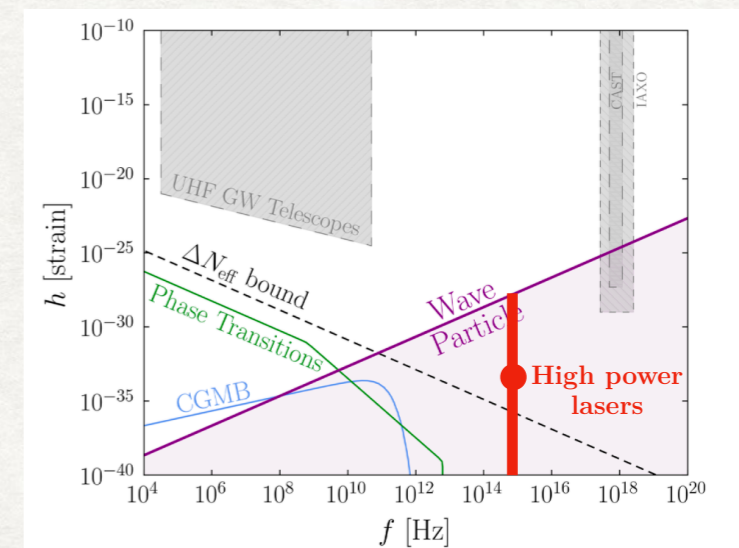
Take-away messages

- Twisted beams of light such as Bessel beams do generate gravitational waves

- ✓ {
 - The optical setup provides a very good control over the GWs properties (frequency, direction of emission, polarisation states)
 - Subtle and unexpected effects do appear (Beaming effect towards the half-cone angle α , ...)

- ✗ ● Many orders of magnitude are missing for any detection to be expected

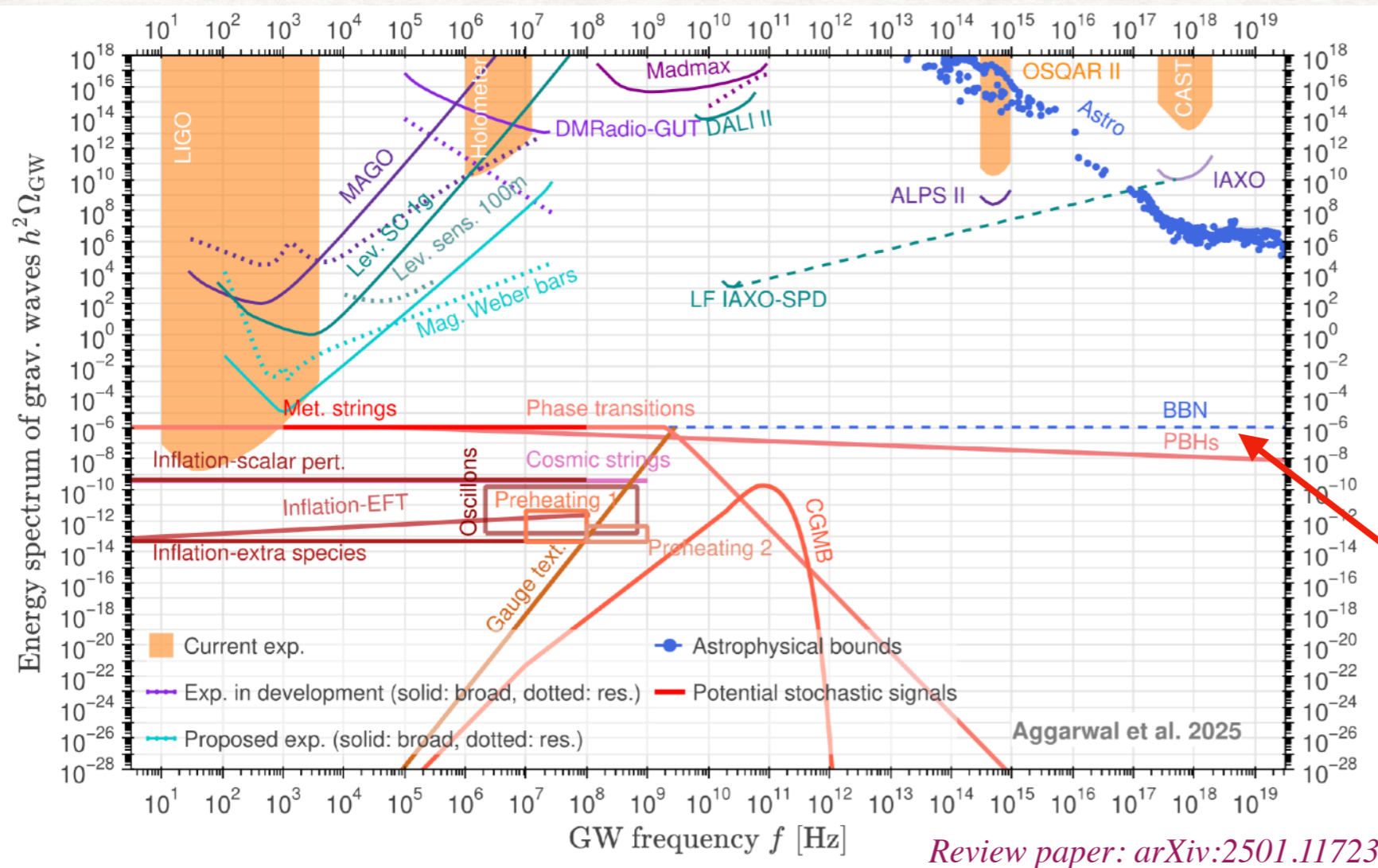
- Quantum description of the emitted signal?



From D. Carney, V. Domcke, N. L. Rodd, arXiv:2308.12988

Thank you!

Few words about stochastic GW backgrounds



The total energy density of a GW background decays as $\rho_{\text{GW}} \propto a^{-4}$.

↓
Additional source of radiation in the Universe

↓
Stringent constraints coming from CMB and BBN

↓
When combined:

$$\Omega_{\text{GW},0} h^2 < 1.1 \times 10^{-6}$$

with $h \equiv \frac{H_0}{100 \text{ km.s}^{-1} \cdot \text{Mpc}^{-1}} \approx 0.7$

No experiment operating at high frequencies gets even close to the BBN/CMB bound.

Gravitational waves from twisted beams

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{TT} = \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{D,TT} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{ZZ,TT} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{+,TT} + \bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{\times,TT}$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{D,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] & 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] \\ 0 & 0 & \cos(2\theta) - 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] & 0 & \sin^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_D$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{ZZ,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] & 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] \\ 0 & 0 & \cos(2\theta) - 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \cos(\theta) \sin(\theta) [\cos(2\theta) - 1] & 0 & \sin^2(\theta) [1 - \cos(2\theta)] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_{ZZ}$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{+,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \cos^2(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} [1 + \cos^2(\theta)] & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} \sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(\theta) [\cos^2(\theta) + 1] \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_+$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu}^{\times,TT} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \cos^2(\theta) & 0 \\ 0 & \cos^2(\theta) & 0 & -\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) \\ 0 & 0 & -\sin(\theta) \cos(\theta) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \bar{h}_\times$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}_+ &\equiv 2\bar{h}_+^{(2)} + \bar{h}_+^{(l+1)} + \bar{h}_+^{(l-1)}, \\ \bar{h}_\times &\equiv 2\bar{h}_\times^{(2)} + \bar{h}_\times^{(l+1)} + \bar{h}_\times^{(l-1)}, \\ \bar{h}_{XZ} &\equiv \bar{h}_{XZ}^{+, (1)} + \bar{h}_{XZ}^{-, (1)} + \bar{h}_{XZ}^{+, (2l+1)} + \bar{h}_{XZ}^{-, (2l-1)} \\ \bar{h}_{YZ} &\equiv \bar{h}_{YZ}^{+, (1)} - \bar{h}_{YZ}^{-, (1)} + \bar{h}_{YZ}^{+, (2l+1)} - \bar{h}_{YZ}^{-, (2l-1)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{h}_D \equiv \frac{1}{2} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q),$$

$$\bar{h}_{ZZ} \equiv 2\bar{h}_0(r) [1 + \cos^2(\alpha)] \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \times \cos(\psi_q),$$

$$\bar{h}_+^{(Q)} \equiv \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_Q(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q),$$

$$\bar{h}_\times^{(Q)} \equiv \bar{h}_0(r) \sin^2(\alpha) \Gamma_Q(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q),$$

$$\bar{h}_{XZ}^{\pm, (s)} \equiv \frac{1}{4} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin(2\alpha) \Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q)$$

$$\bar{h}_{YZ}^{\pm, (s)} \equiv \frac{1}{4} \bar{h}_0(r) \sin(2\alpha) \Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \sin(\psi_q)$$

$$\bar{h}_N \equiv 2\bar{h}_0(r) \cos(\alpha) \Gamma_l(\theta) \text{Sinc}[\eta(\theta)] \cos(\psi_q).$$

$$\bar{h}_0(r) \equiv \frac{4\pi\epsilon_0 c E_0^2 G L}{\beta^2 c^5 r},$$

$$\psi_q(t, r) \equiv 2\omega(t - r/c) + 2q(\phi - \pi/2),$$

$$\Gamma_q(\theta) \equiv \int_0^{\frac{D\beta}{2}} \tau J_q^2(\tau) J_{2q} \left(\frac{\omega\tau}{c\beta} \sin(\theta) \right) d\tau,$$

$$\Lambda_s^\pm(\theta) \equiv \int_0^{\frac{D\beta}{2}} \tau J_l(\tau) J_{l\pm 1}(\tau) J_s \left(\frac{\omega\tau}{c\beta} \sin(\theta) \right) d\tau$$

$$\eta(\theta) \equiv \frac{\omega L}{c} [\cos(\theta) - \cos(\alpha)],$$

L : Interaction length

ω : Pulse frequency

α : Half-cone angle

β : Beam waist

D : Interaction region width