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Geometric contoured Euler spring for vertical vibration isolation in future gravitational wave detectors

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Why do we need vertical vibration isolation?



Vibration isolation systems at the Gingin facility



Euler springs for vertical vibration isolation



J. Winterflood et al., "Using Euler buckling springs for vibration isolation", Classical and Quantum Gravity 19(7), 1639–1645 (2002)

Blade under angle lowers resonance frequency



L. Wood, "Euler Buckling Springs for Isolation in Gravitational Wave Detectors", Master's thesis, University of Western Australia, 2018



Cutting away mass from low stress areas...



Natural shape of an rectangular Euler spring is an *elastica*, and has an uneven stress distribution

L. Wood, "Euler Buckling Springs for Isolation in Gravitational Wave Detectors", Master's thesis, University of Western Australia, 2018



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... increases the internal mode frequencies



Where do we cut away material?



- Rectangular shape is not evenly stressed, so we change the shape to allow for circular bending
- For symmetry reasons, a monolithic double blade was fabricated



Theoretical stiffness $F_{load}/2L$ slope now $F_{load}/3L$



- Curvature is known, so we know energy stored as function of buckling distance;
- Differentiate this to obtain the force as a function of buckling distance as $F = \frac{dE_{stored}}{dE_{stored}}$

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Contoured Euler springs in compression tester





We need a material that would snap rather then deform;

We chose Tungsten Carbide to try first.

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First results look promising for this geometry...



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... but Tungsten Carbide is not good enough



We changed to glassy metal blades

Zirconium based alloy;

Amorphous atomic structure;

High yield strength (2GPa) and elasticity (2%).





Preliminary results for LM105 glassy metal



Finite element modeling to find optimal shape



Combining two ideas into a pre-isolation stage



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Vertical pre-isolation makes life easier



- ➤ 10⁻¹⁶ m/VHz at 2 Hz requires < 10⁻⁶ isolation;
- With a 50 mHz pre-isolator and two 0.4 Hz stages this is within reach;
- A Virgo SA has 1.5 x 10⁻⁶ at 2.25 Hz (source: ET-025-09)

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Summary

Putting the blade under an angle and changing its shape lowers the stiffness and increases the internal mode frequencies;

Tungsten carbide blade measurements have shown us the promise of the contouring;

Glassy metals results are not fully understood, but are not lossy and constant slope;

We propose combining the two improvements in Euler spring design to conceive a vertical pre-isolator for future detectors.





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MELBOURNE

CSIRO



2G and 3G detector sensitivities



20 | 18

Launching angle can cancel slopes



An ideal versus a real Euler spring



What about thermal noise?

Suspension-thermal noise in spring-antispring systems for future gravitational-wave detectors

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It seems 'cheating' with the resonance frequency does not give (much) in terms of thermal noise

So we propose to do the same trick as is done in horizontal: a very high Q final stage in vertical

Optimised Euler Spring blade





Glassy metals: amorphous non-crystalline structure



Liquidmetal[®] Design Guide

Intermezzo: quality factor of a spring



Quality factor determined from areas

