# Retrofitting the Readout of a Large Interferometer in Washington

by

Nicolas de Mateo Smith

Submitted to the Department of Physics in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

at the

#### MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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#### Abstract

The road approaching a direct detection of Gravitational Waves is long and hard, I am just one of many to walk this road. Here is my story.

Thesis Supervisor: Nergis Mavalvala

Title: Professor

Thesis Co-supervisor: Peter Fritschel Title: Principal Research Scientist

### Acknowledgments

This is the acknowledgements section. You should replace this with your own acknowledgements.

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### **Gravitational Radiation**

## **Experimental Efforts for Detection**

#### 2.1 iLIGO Interferometers

### Interferometer Retrofitting

- 3.1 Increased Input Laser Power
- 3.2 Re-engineered Thermal Compensation
- 3.3 Non-modulated Signal Extraction
- 3.3.1 Optical SNR as Compared to RF Modulated Extraction
- 3.3.2 Laser Noise Coupling
- 3.3.3 The Need for a Mode Cleaner at the Output Port
- 3.4 Quantum Shot Noise Reduction with Squeezed
  Light Injection

### The Output Mode Cleaner

- 4.1 Optical Design
- 4.1.1 Optical Parameters
- 4.2 Mechanical Design and Seismic Isolation
- 4.3 Servomechanisms
- 4.3.1 Cavity Length Control
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- 4.4 Noise Sources Introduced in the OMC
- 4.4.1 OMC Length Noise
- 4.4.2 Beam Jitter Noise

Sensitivity to Beam Motion

Sources of Beam Jitter

# Appendix A

### **Tables**

Table A.1: Armadillos

Armadillos	are
our	friends

# Appendix B

# Figures

Figure B-1: Armadillo slaying lawyer.

Figure B-2: Armadillo eradicating national debt.

# Bibliography