

Compact Four-degree-of-freedom Seismometer with Capacitive readout

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Yulin Xia (夏煜林)

Supervisor: Haixing Miao (缪海兴)

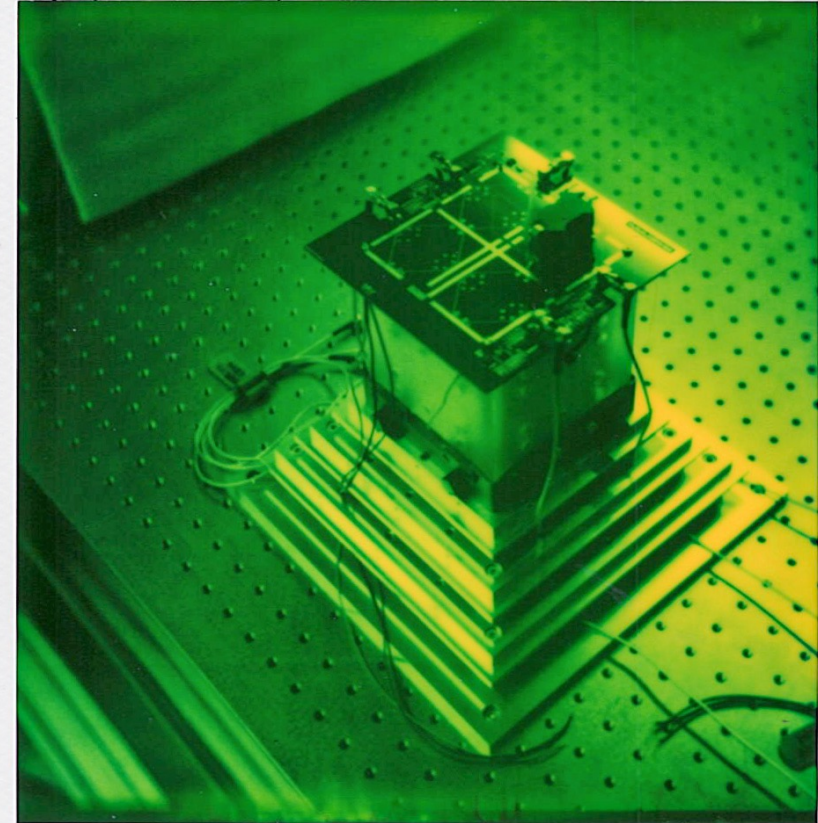
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2025.08.28 Xichang Sichuan

Outline



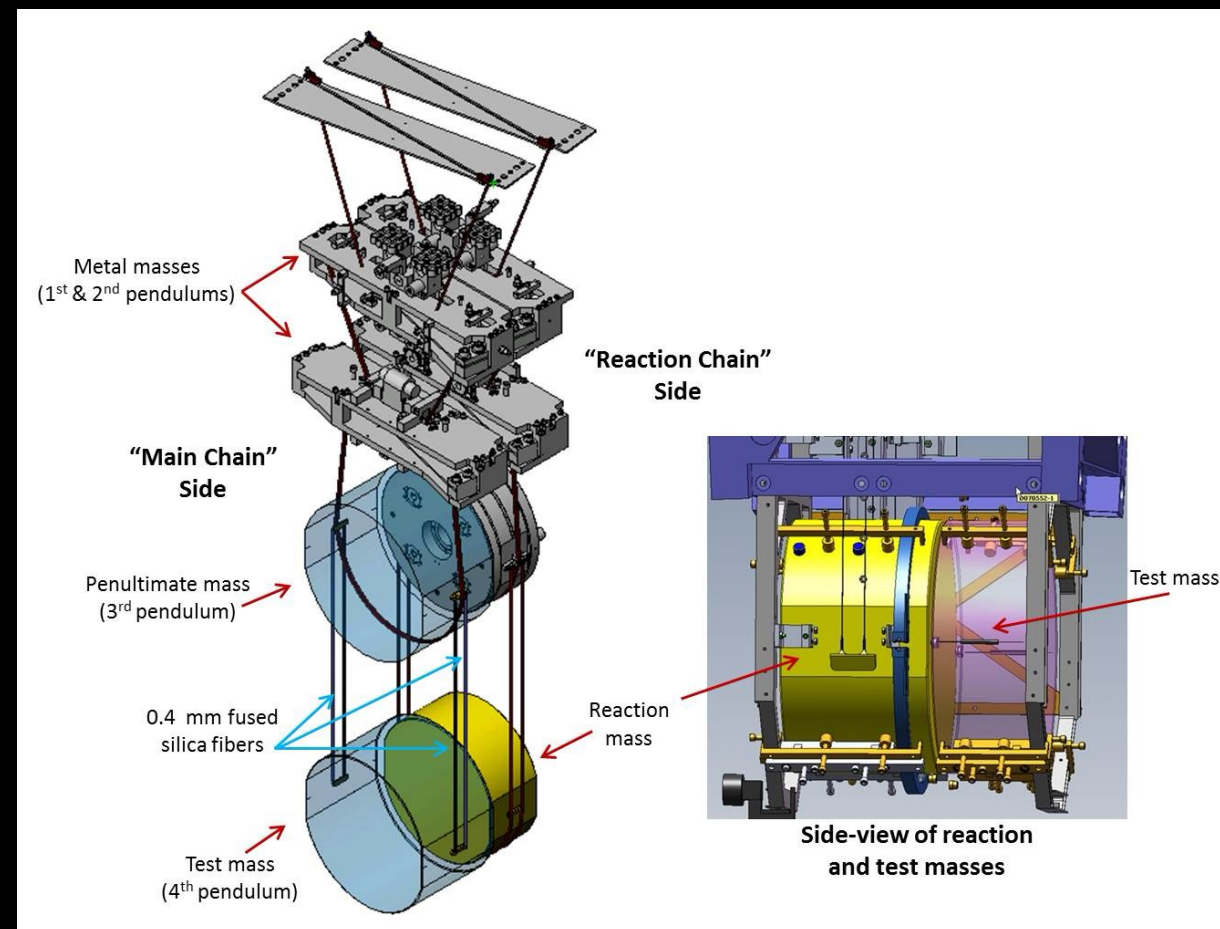
- Background
- Mechanical design
- Motion Sensing design
- Noise Budget and Measurement
- Conclusion



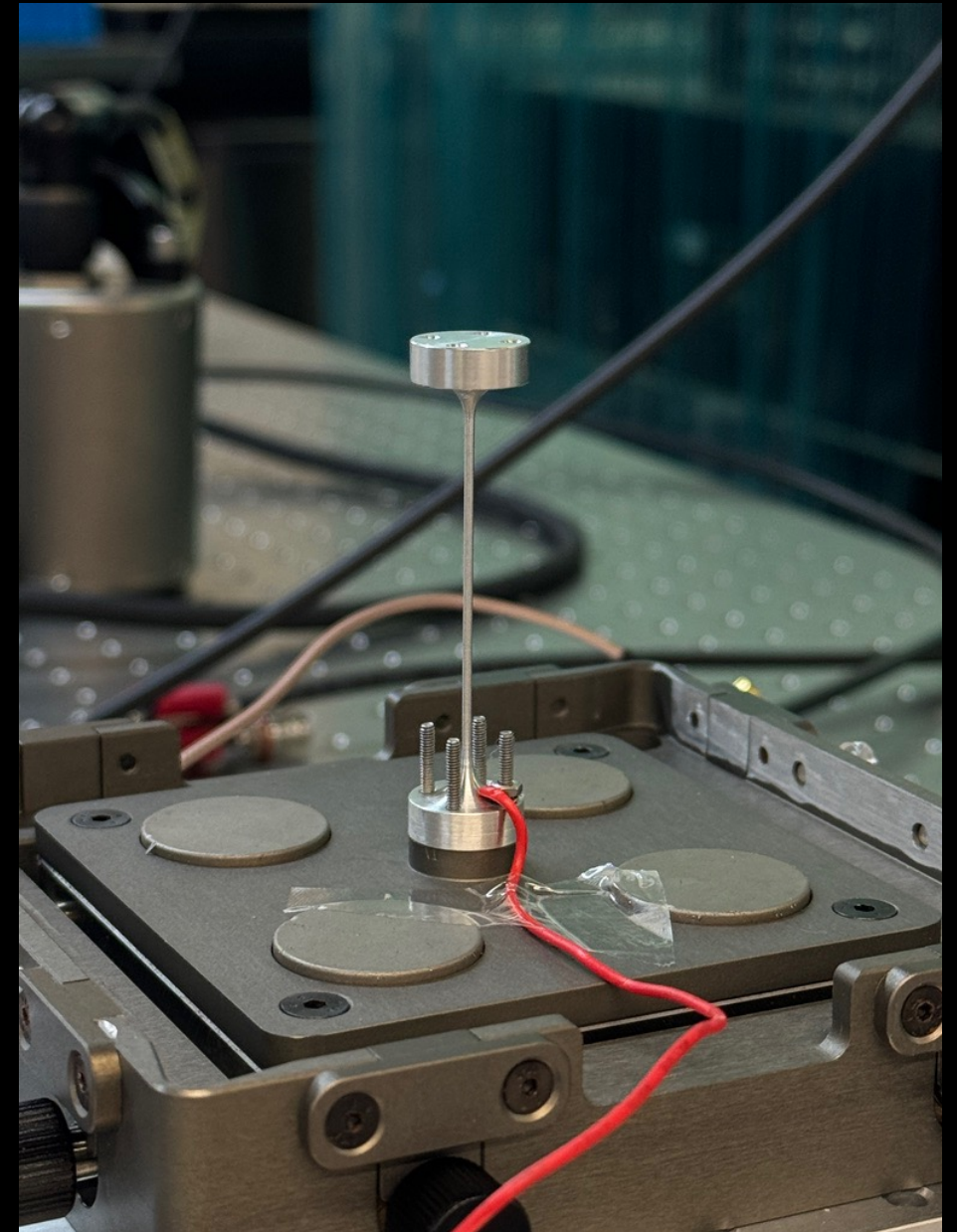
Background



- Ground-base high-precision
- Gravitational-wave observatory
 - Advance LIGO 10^{-14} m RMS
 - Seismic noise 10^{-6} m RMS
- Active vibration isolation system
 - **Seismometer**



- Background
- **Mechanical design**
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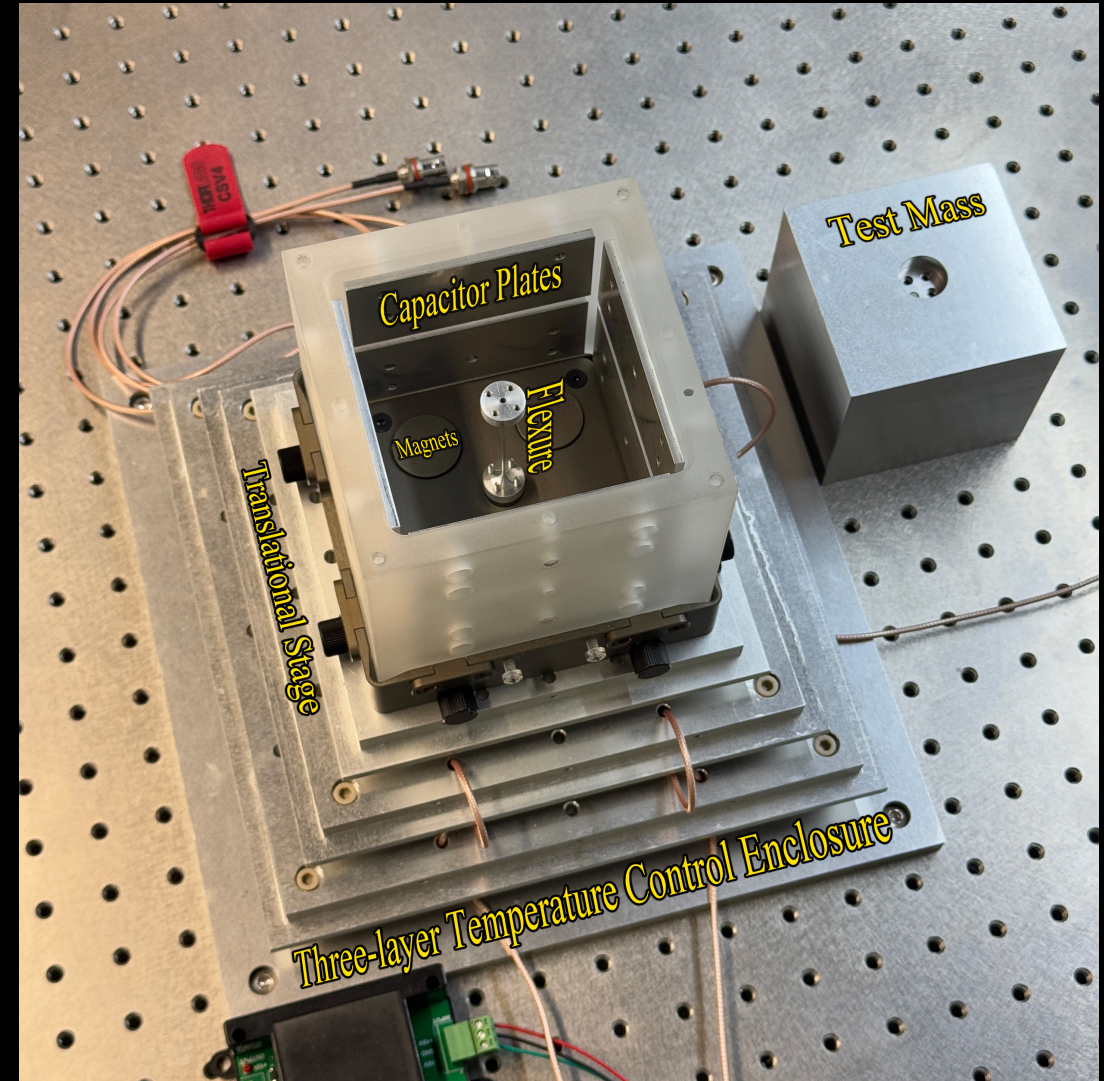


Test Mass design



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- Inverted pendulum
 - Size: 8.8cm cube
 - Eigenmode:
 - 0.86Hz, 3.75Hz
- Four-degree-of-freedom response
 - (X, RY) & (Y, RX)

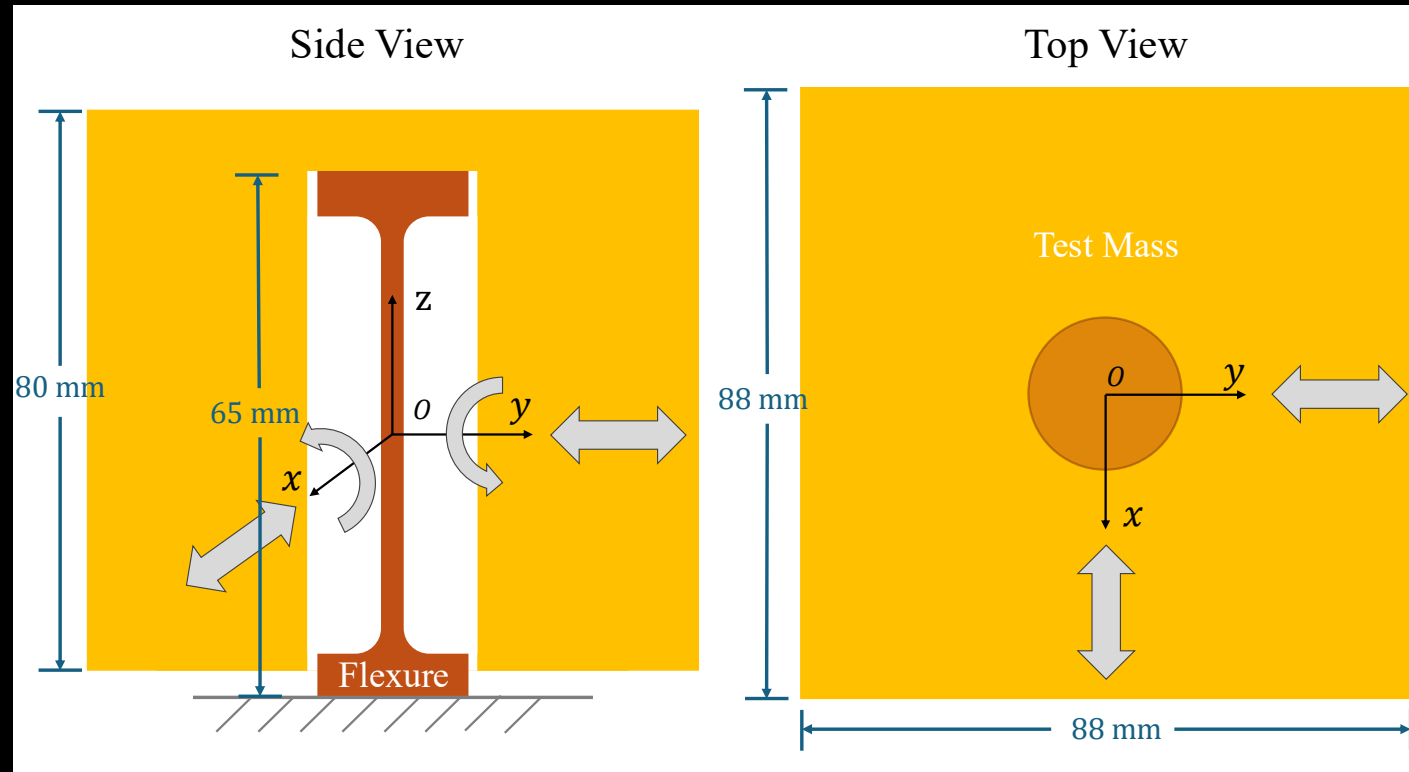


Test Mass design

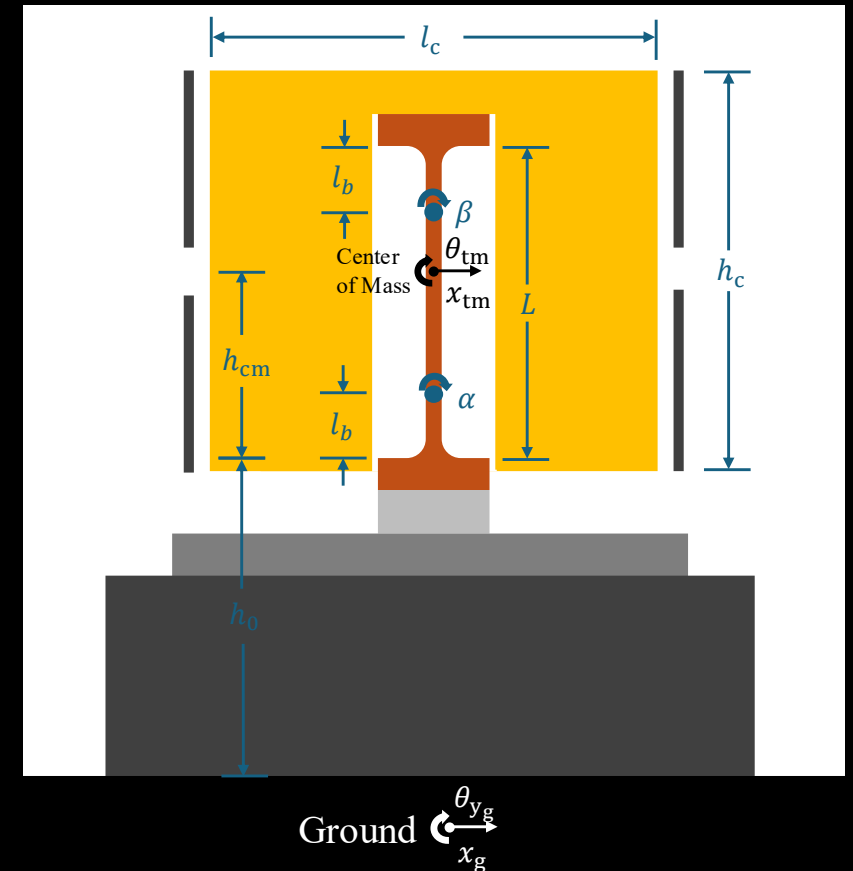


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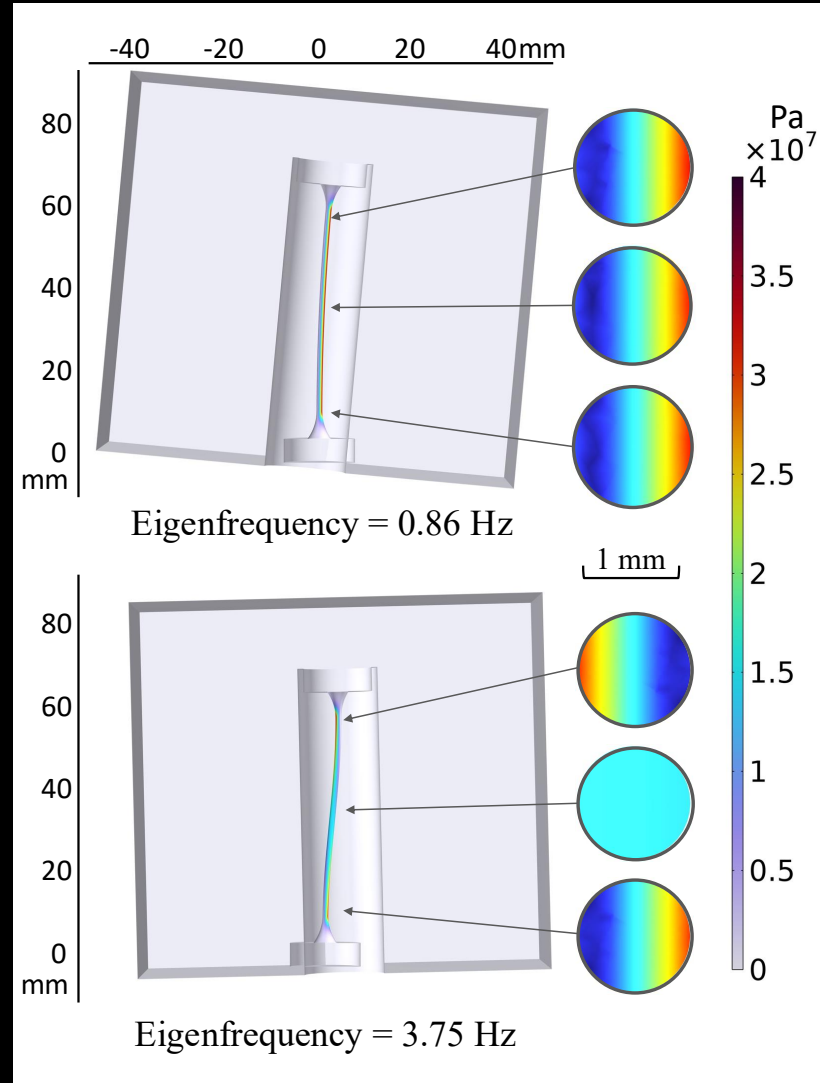
- Inverted pendulum design



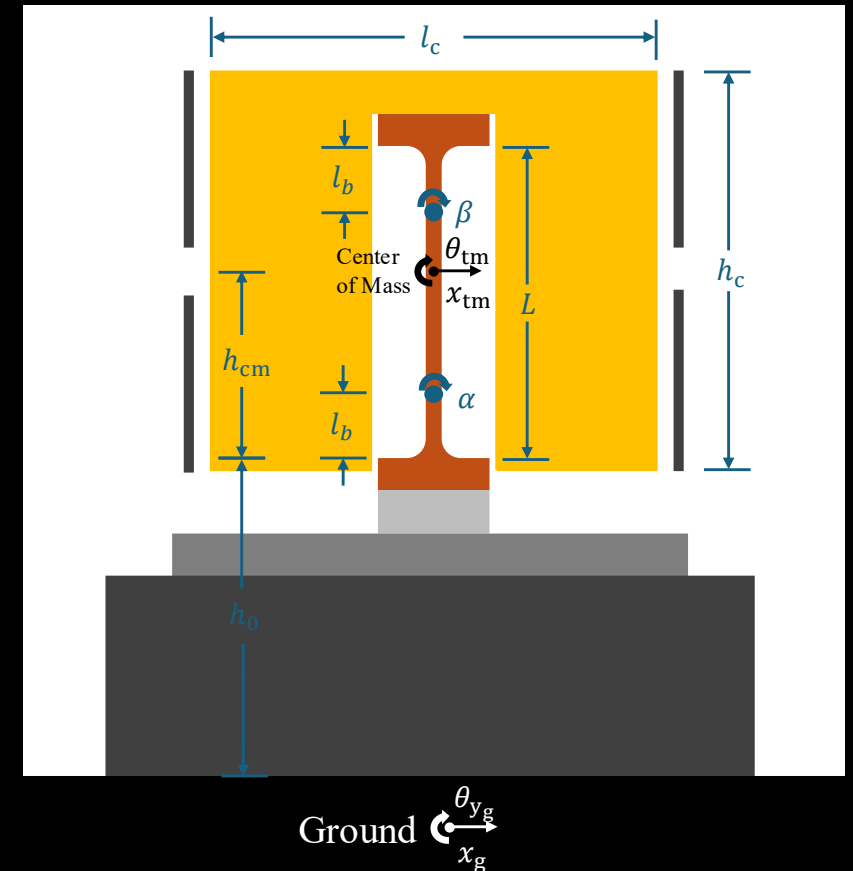
- Two Bending Point Model



Dynamical Model



• Two Bending Point Model

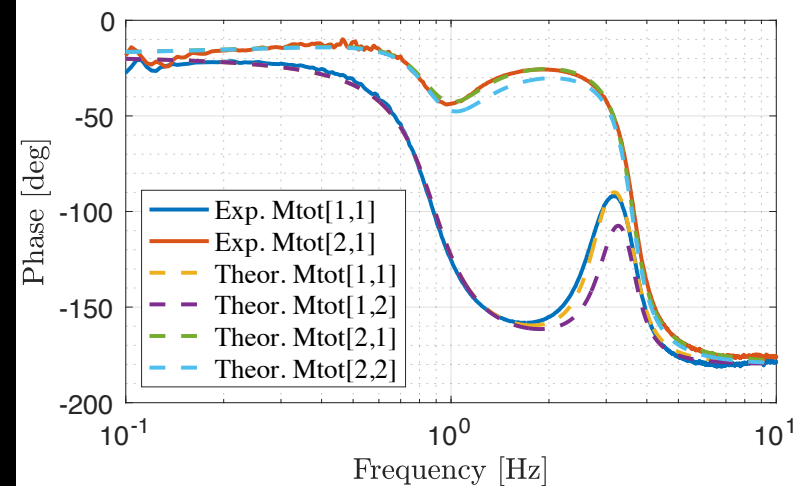
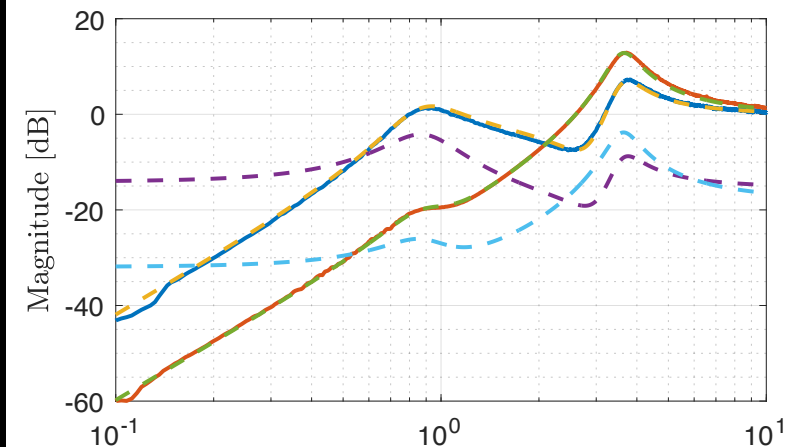
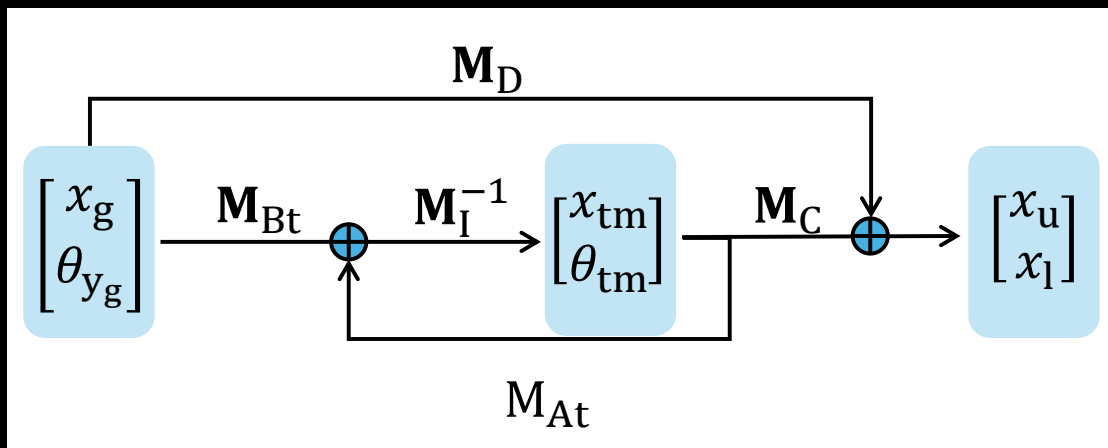


Dynamical Model

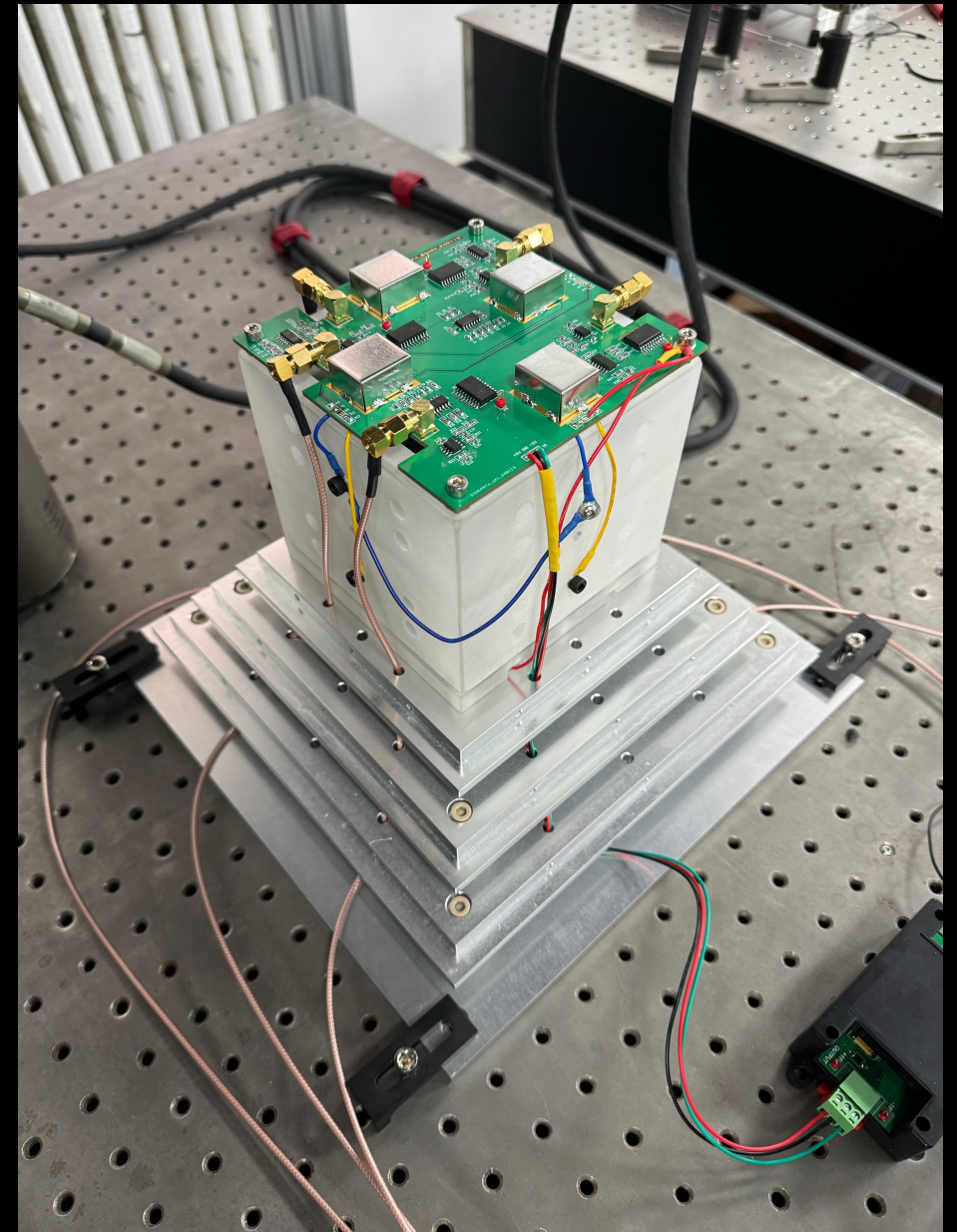


- Mechanical Transfer Function matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_u \\ x_l \\ y_u \\ y_l \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{M}_{\text{tot}} & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{M}_{\text{tot}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_g \\ \theta_{y_g} \\ y_g \\ \theta_{x_g} \end{bmatrix}$$



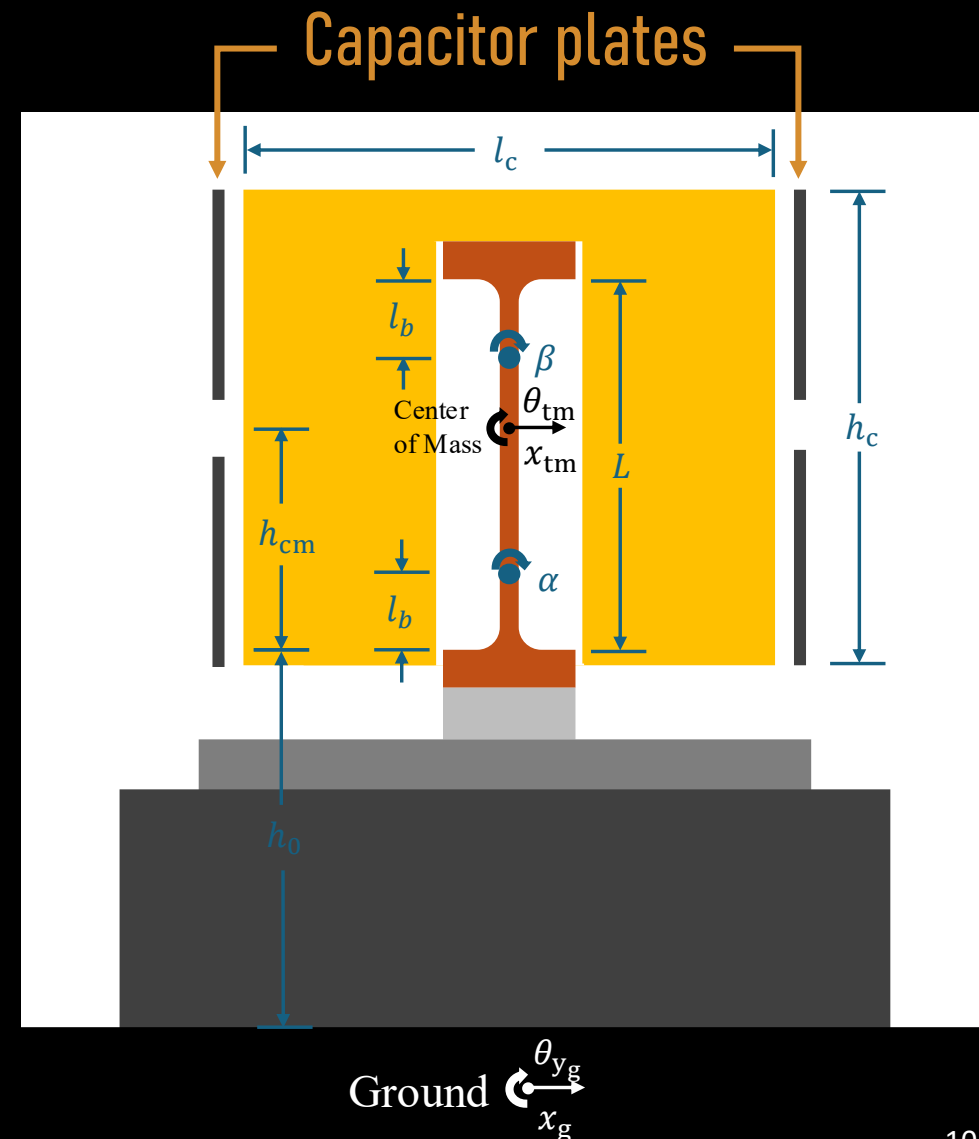
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Motion Sensing design



- Capacitive sensing
 - Capacitor pair
 - $C_1 \approx C_0 \left(1 - \frac{\Delta d}{d_0}\right)$, $C_2 \approx C_0 \left(1 + \frac{\Delta d}{d_0}\right)$
- Differential capacitor bridge
 - $V \propto |C_1 - C_2| = 2\Delta C \approx \frac{2C_0}{d_0} \Delta d$.



- High-frequency Modulated Bridge

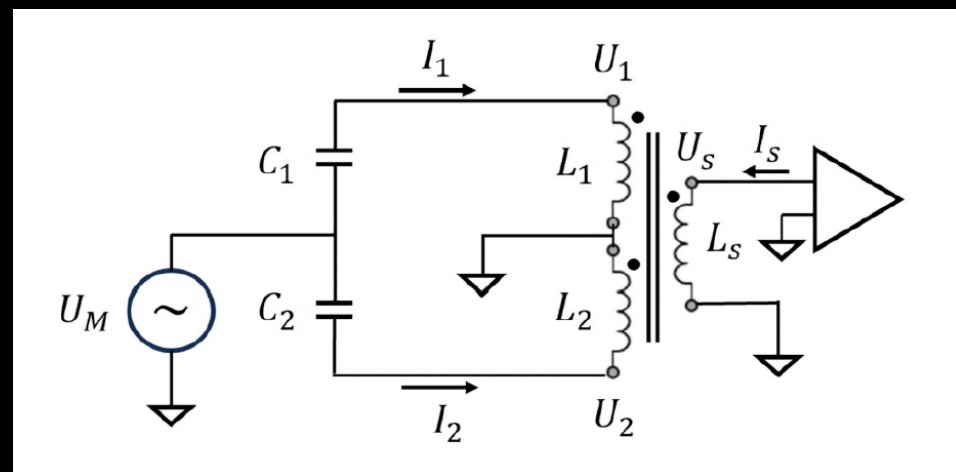
For two differential capacitors $C_1 = C_0 + \Delta C$ and $C_2 = C_0 - \Delta C$, then

$$U_S = -\frac{2\omega^2 L U_M}{1 - 2\omega^2 L C_0} \Delta C.$$

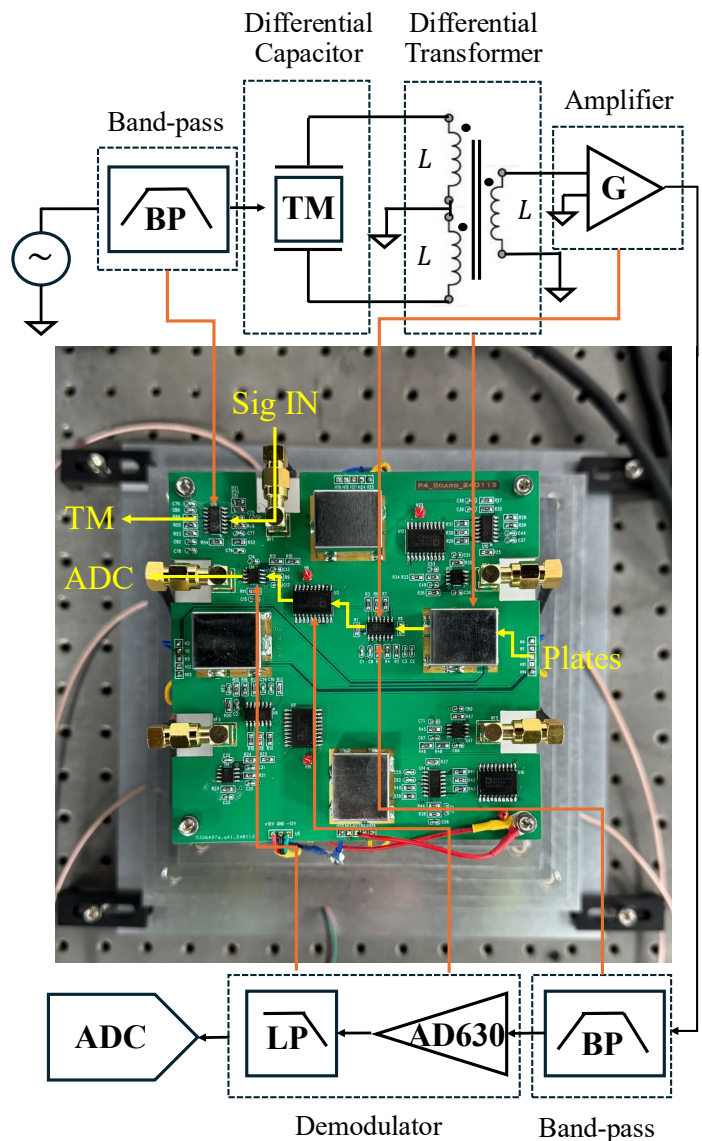
And choose a modulation frequency $\omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L C_0}}$,

$$U_S = 2U_M \frac{\Delta C}{C_0} = 2U_M \frac{\Delta d}{d_0}.$$

Then obtain $\frac{U_S}{\Delta d} = 1.80 \times 10^4 \text{ V/m}$ as $d_0 = 500 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and $U_M = 4.5 \text{ V}$.



Motion Sensing design



- High-frequency Modulated Bridge
 - Modulation Frequency @178 kHz
 - Amplifier Gain = 400
- Analog Demodulation (AD630 Chip)
- Physical Parameters:
 - Driving Voltage $U_M = 4.5V$
 - Gap = 0.5 mm

Motion Sensing design

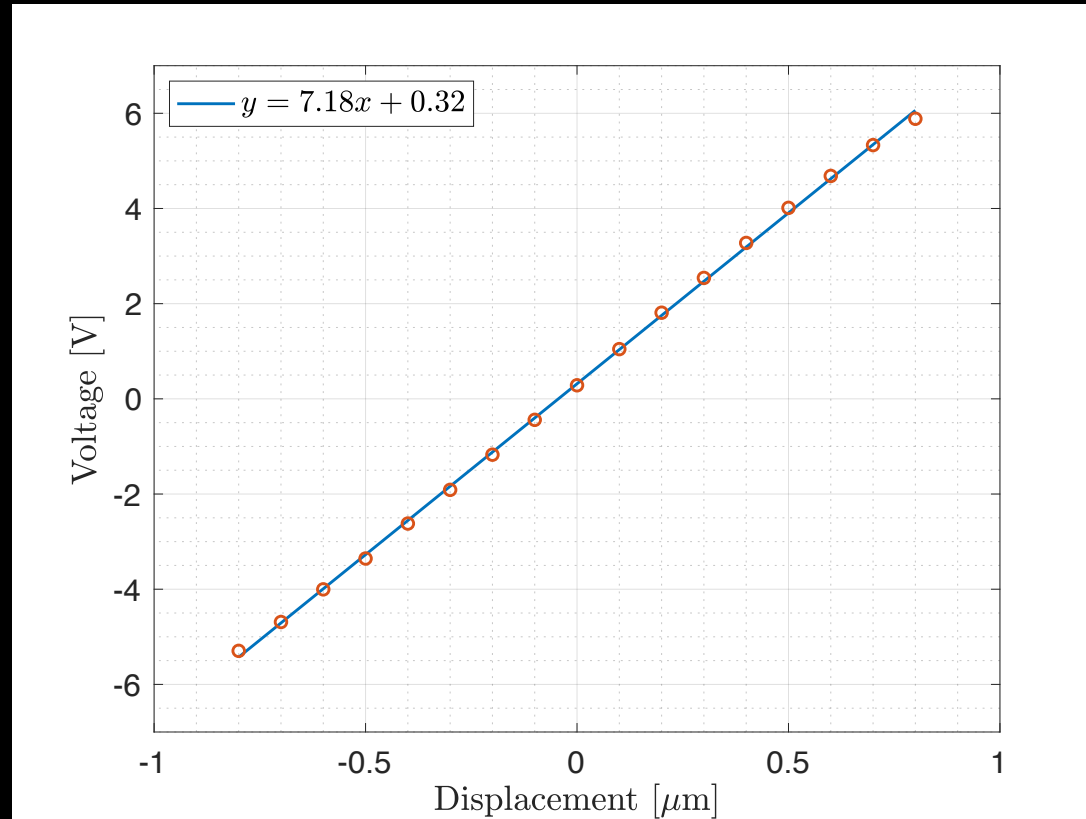
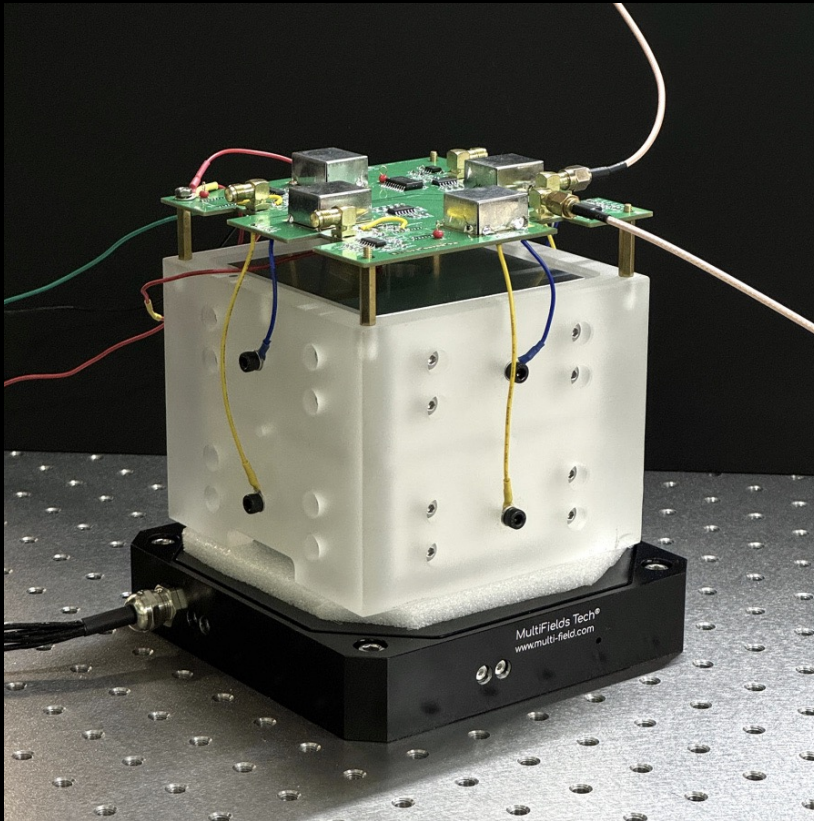


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- Displacement-to-Voltage Calibration

Theor. $7.20 \text{ V}/\mu\text{m}$

Exp. $7.18 \pm 0.08 \text{ V}/\mu\text{m}$



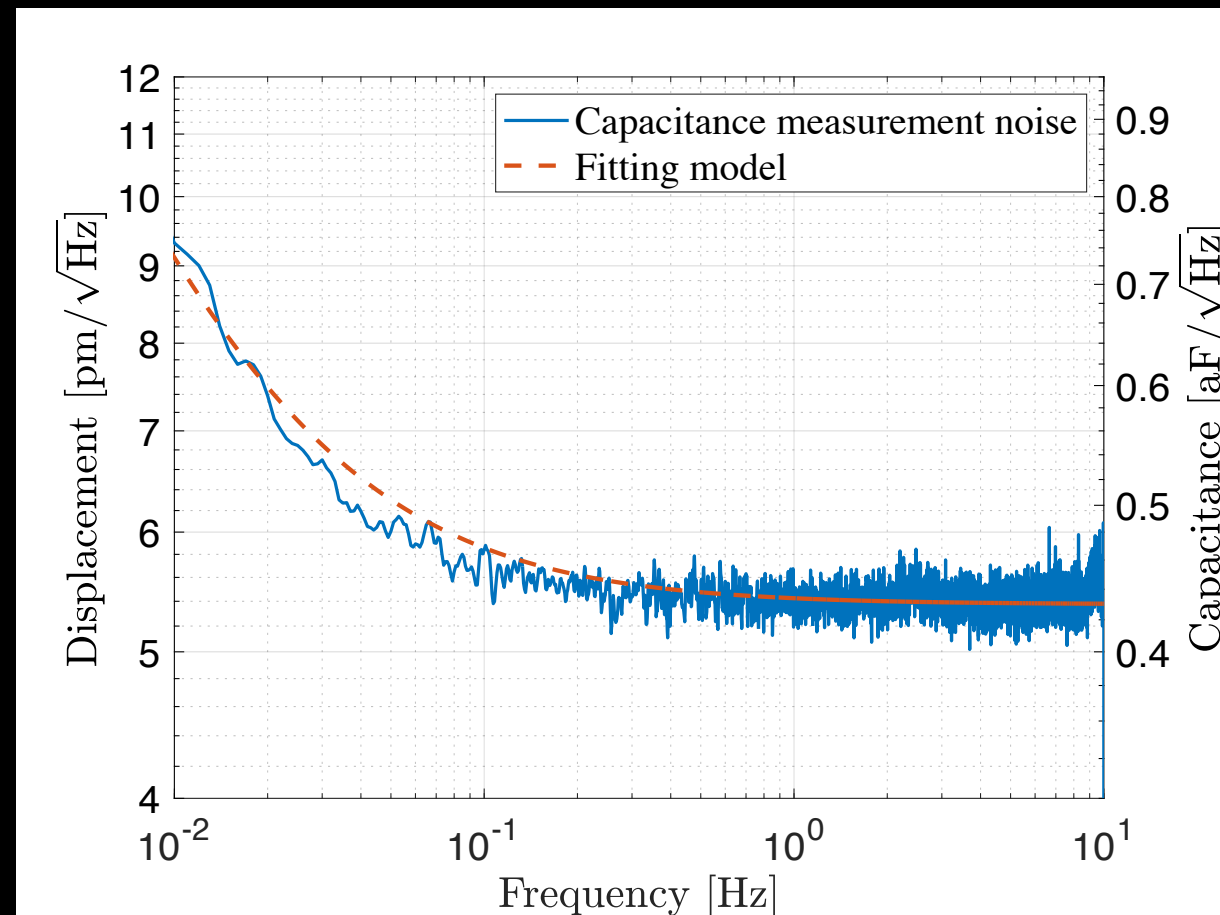
Motion Sensing design



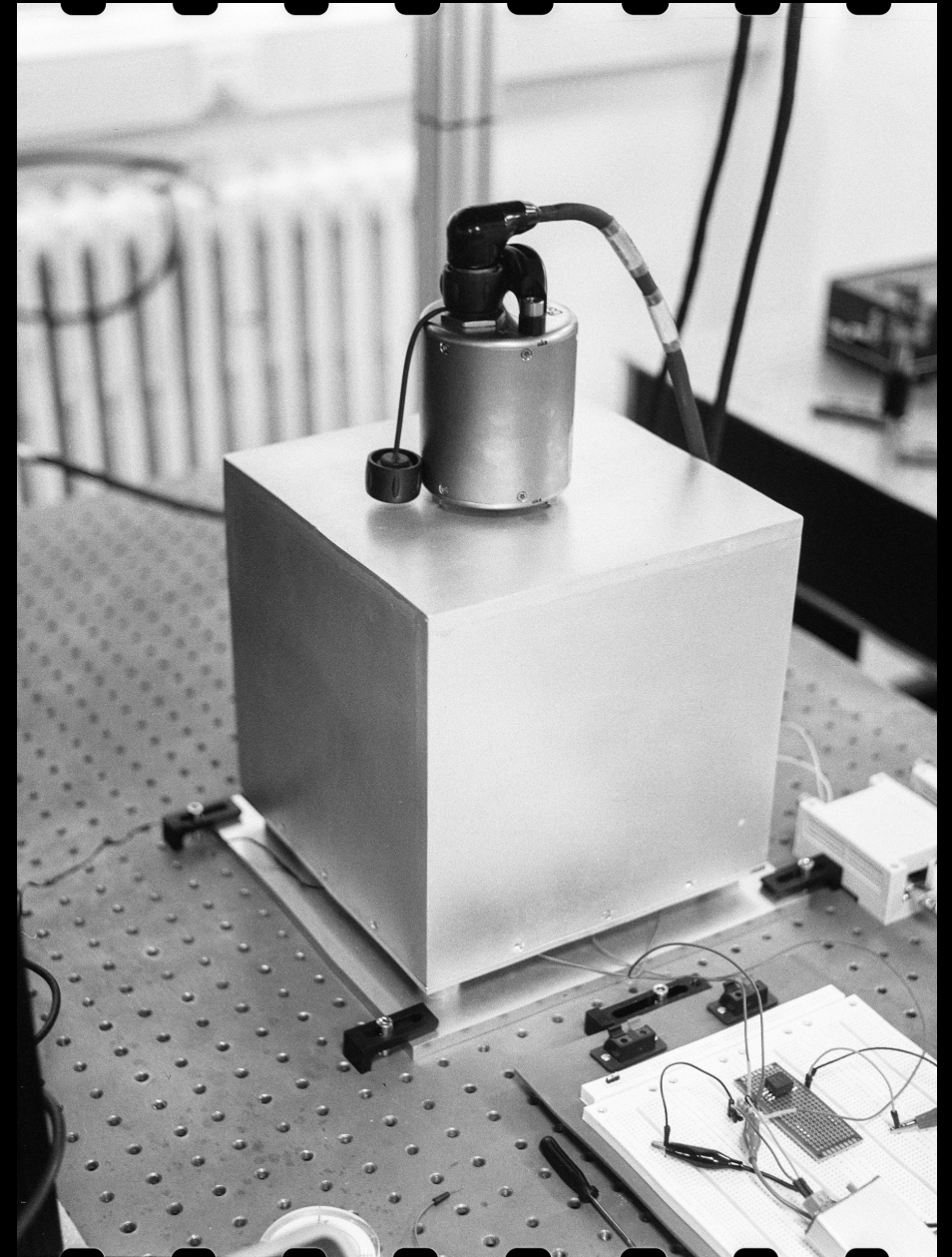
- Range: $\pm 1 \mu\text{m}$
- Resolution: 16 pm @10Hz
- Dynamic Range: 102 dB

1/f low-frequency component and a flat high-frequency white-noise

$$\text{PSD} = 5.38^2 \left(1 + \frac{0.02 \text{ Hz}}{f} \right) \left[\frac{\text{pm}^2}{\text{Hz}} \right].$$



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- Two Usage Scenario:

- Low-angular-motion Scenario: 2D seismometer

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_u \\ x_l \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} M_{\text{tot}}[1,1] \\ M_{\text{tot}}[2,1] \end{bmatrix} x_g, \quad \begin{bmatrix} y_u \\ y_l \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} M_{\text{tot}}[1,1] \\ M_{\text{tot}}[2,1] \end{bmatrix} y_g.$$

Low-angular-motion approximation: $\frac{g}{\omega^2} \theta_{x_g} \ll y_g, \frac{g}{\omega^2} \theta_{y_g} \ll x_g$.

- High-angular-motion Scenario: 4D seismometer

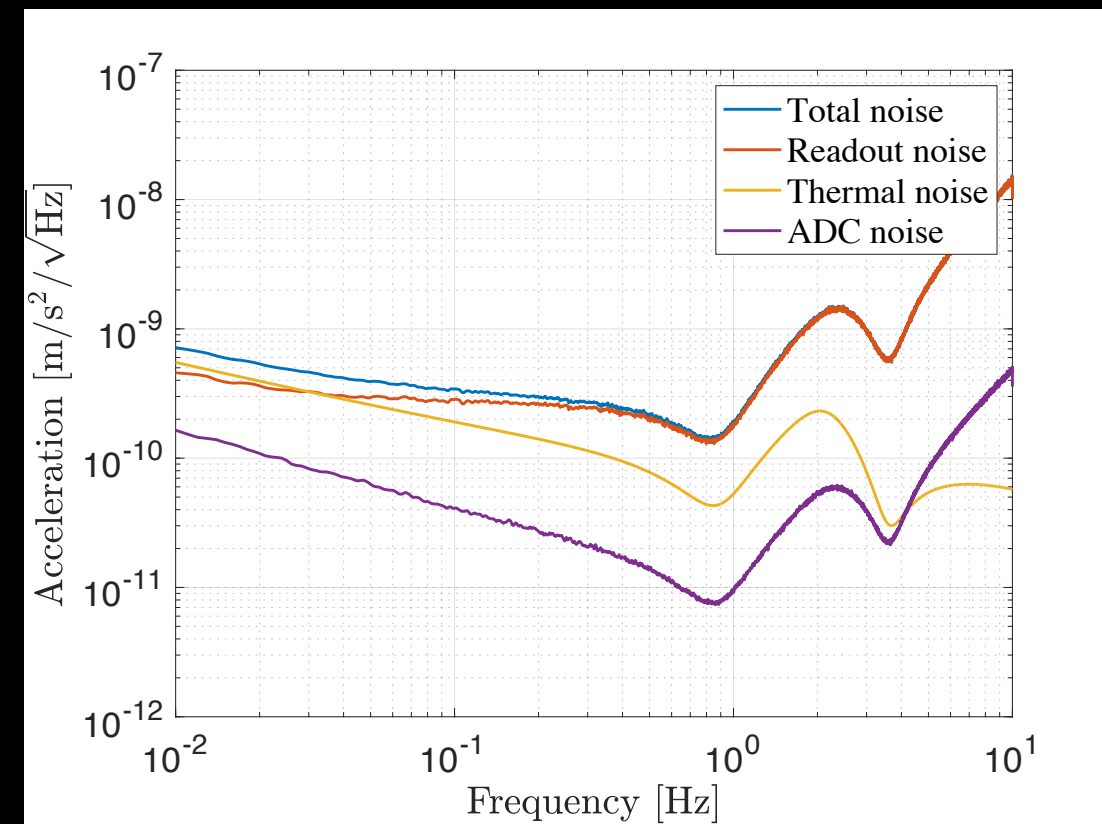
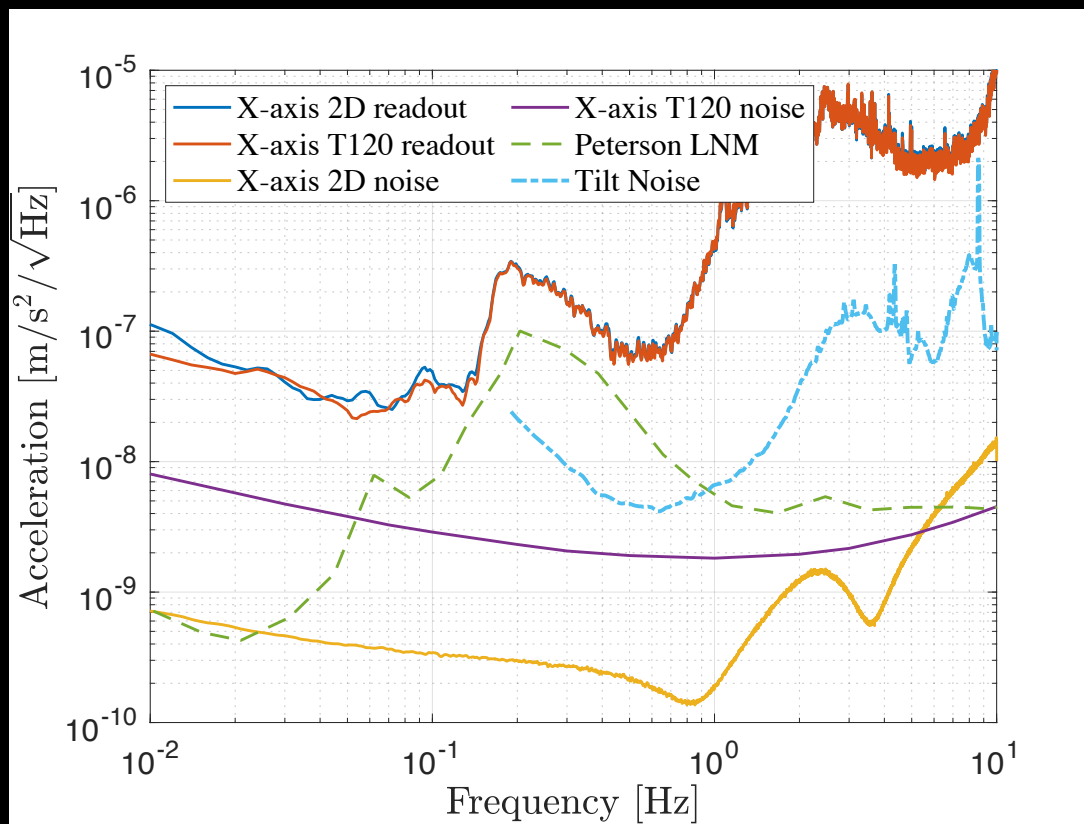
$$\begin{bmatrix} x_g \\ \theta_{y_g} \\ y_g \\ \theta_{x_g} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} M_{\text{tot}}^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & M_{\text{tot}}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_u \\ x_l \\ y_u \\ y_l \end{bmatrix}$$

Noise Budget and Measurement



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- Low-angular-motion Usage: 2D Mode

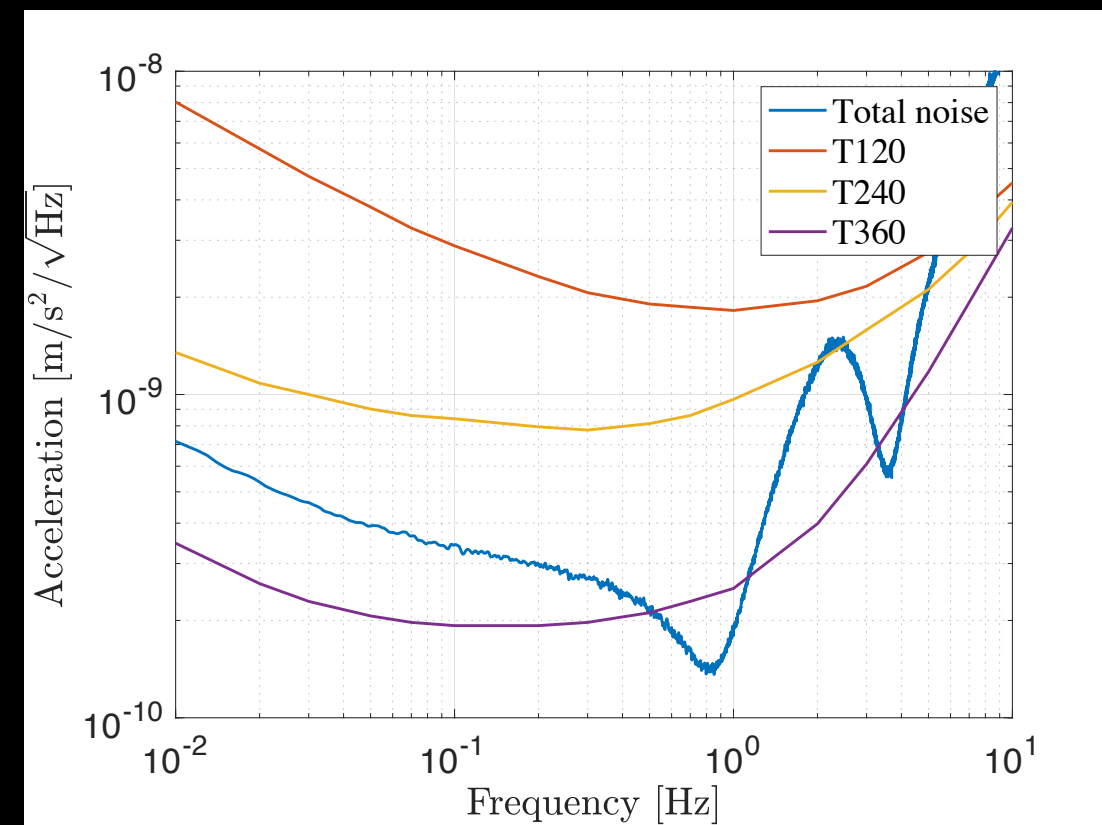
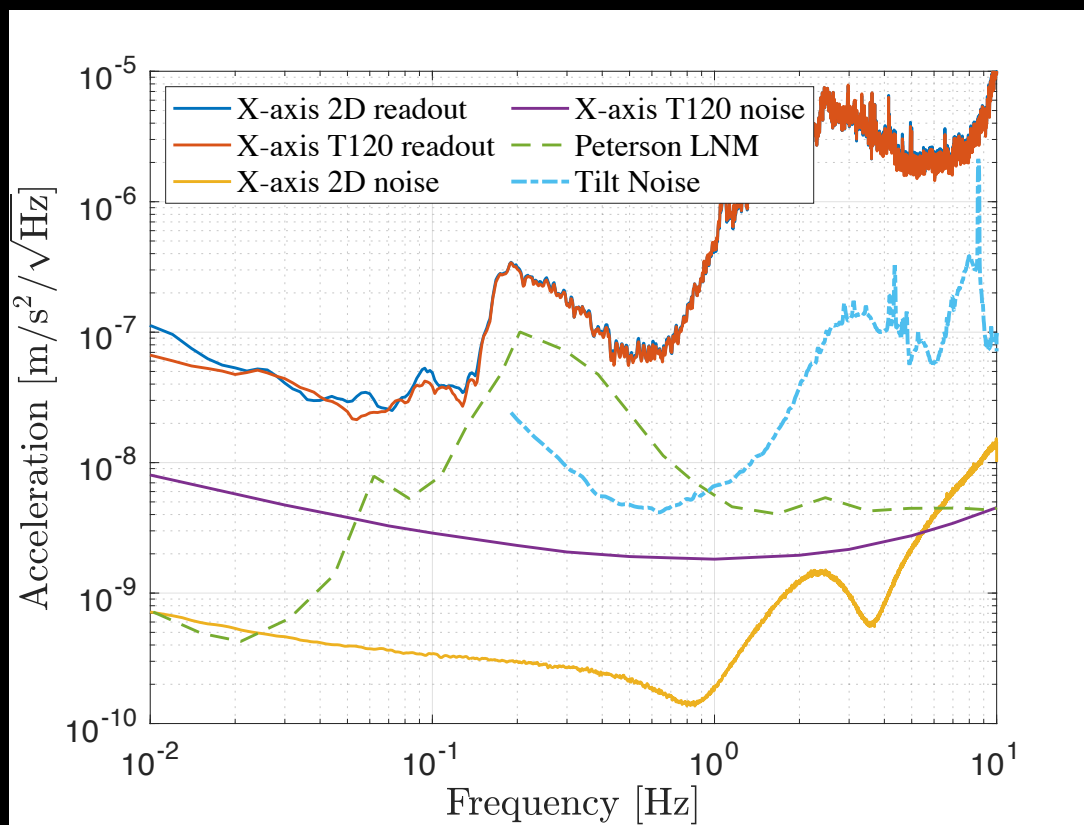


Noise Budget and Measurement



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- Noise comparison in 2D Mode

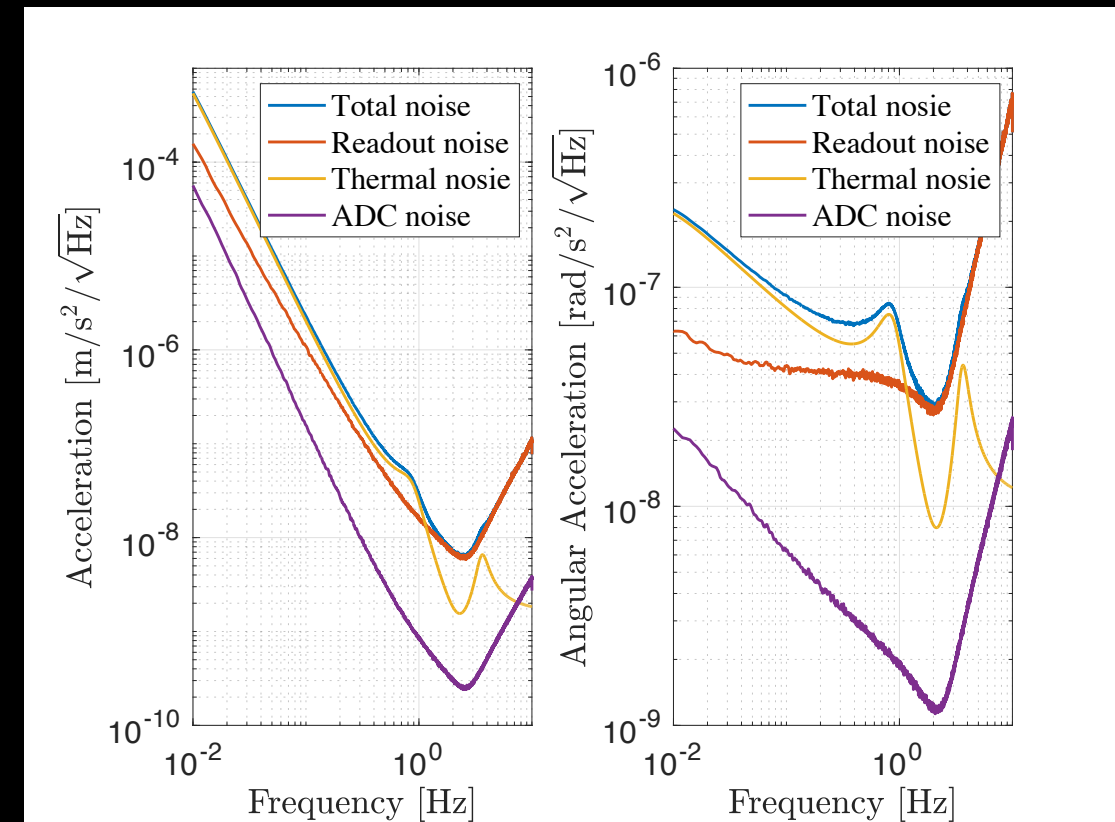
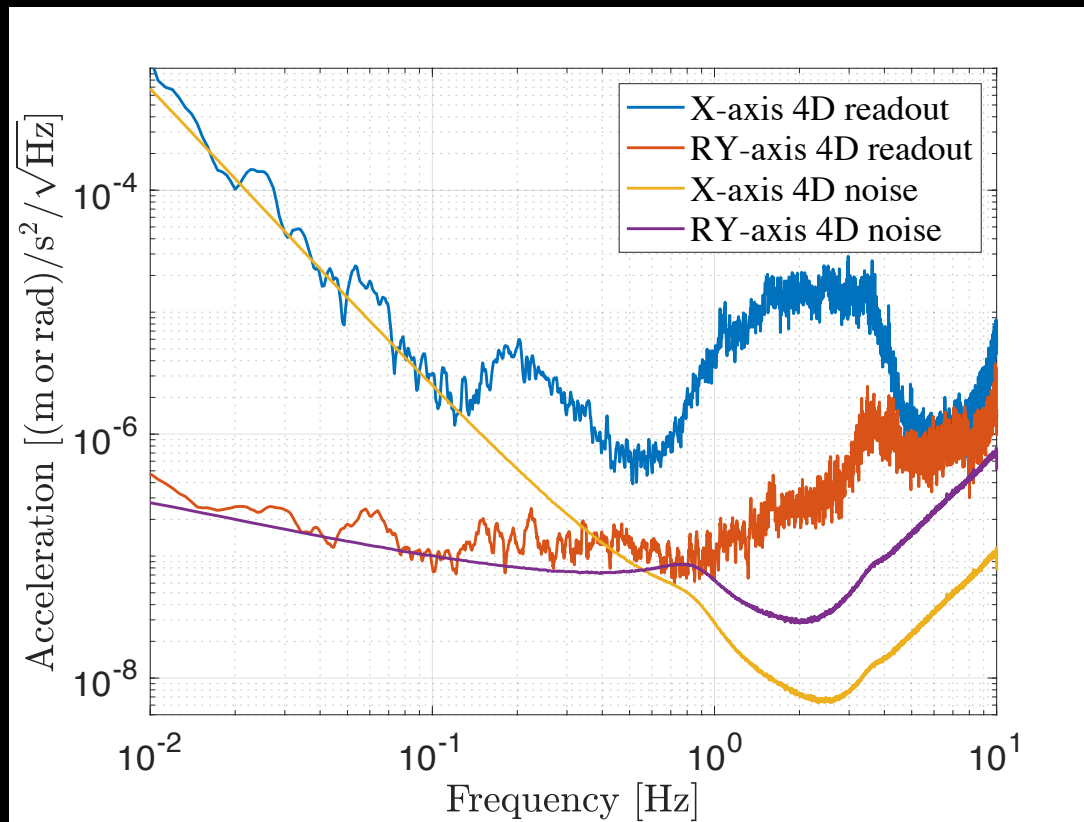


Noise Budget and Measurement



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- High-angular-motion Usage: 4D Mode



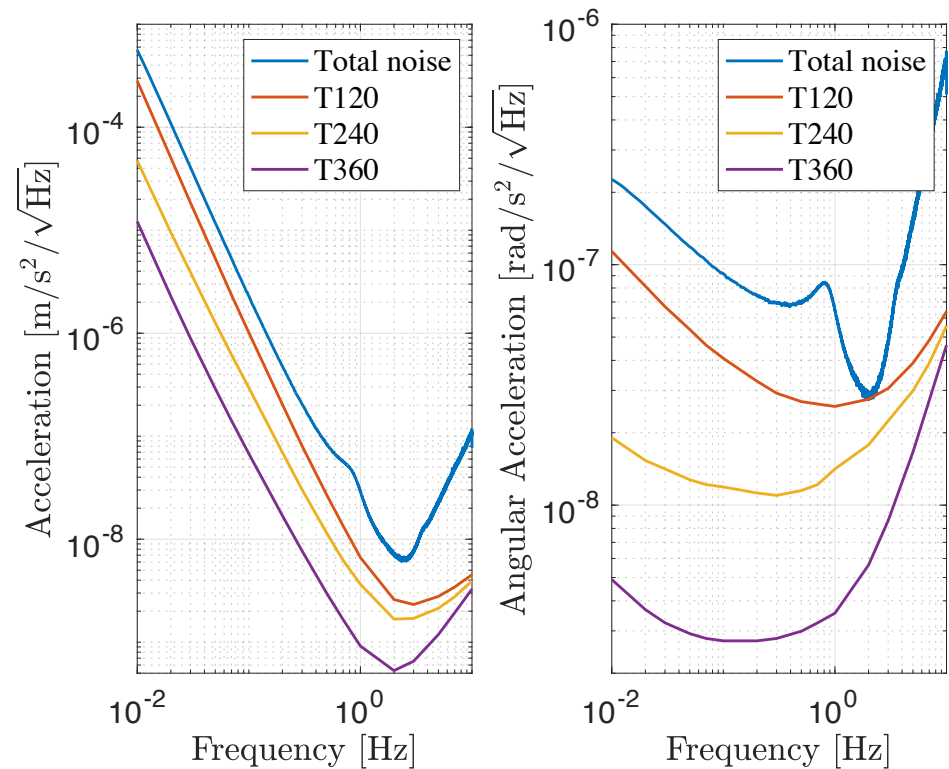
• Noise comparison in 4D Mode

To obtain angular motion, two T120s are spatially separated along x-axis, separated by distance ΔL . Then the angular motion is estimated by $\theta_{T120} = (z_1 - z_2)/\Delta L$. The two-degree-of-freedom transfer function matrix can be written as

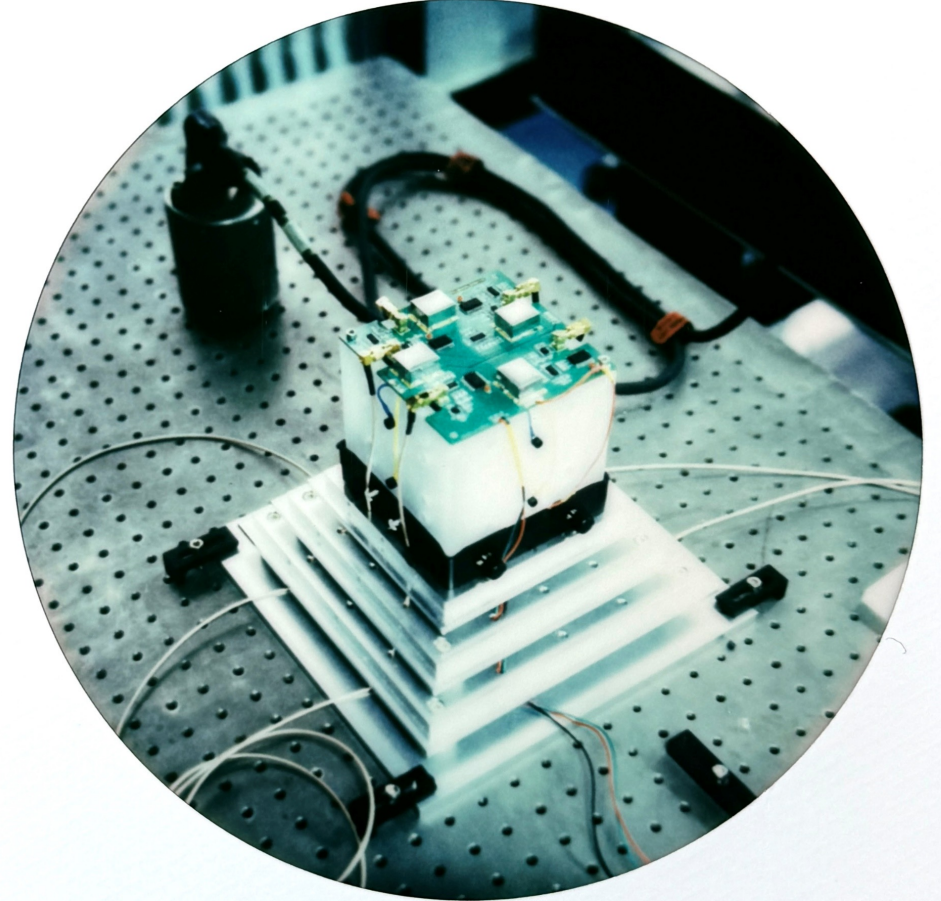
$$\begin{bmatrix} x_{T120} \\ \theta_{T120} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{g}{\omega^2} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_g \\ \theta_{yg} \end{bmatrix}.$$

The decoupled noise spectrum for the translational and angular motion can be obtained by inverting the above matrix, leading to

$$S_{T120}^x = S_{T120} \left(1 + \frac{2g^2}{\omega^4 \Delta L^2} \right),$$
$$S_{T120}^\theta = S_{T120} \frac{2}{\Delta L^2}.$$



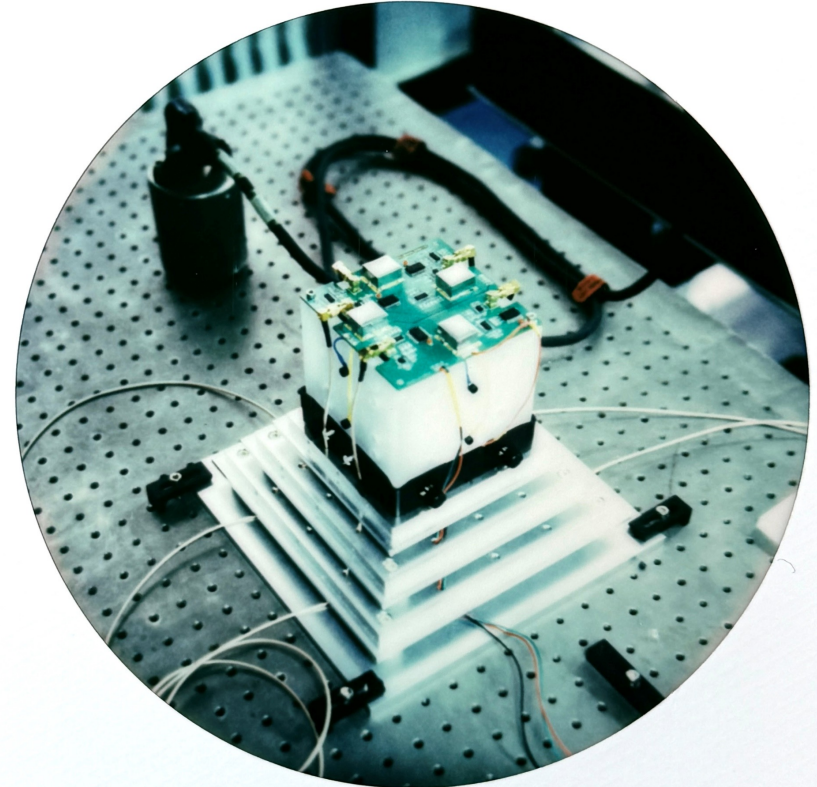
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Conclusion



- Compact size
- Low frequency performance
- Four-degree-of-freedom response
- Active vibration isolation system
- Inertial control of satellites



Thank you