

APR10-2009-020074

Abstract for an Invited Paper
for the APR10 Meeting of
the American Physical Society

The LIGO and Virgo Gravitational Wave Detectors

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Since 2008, the LIGO and Virgo interferometers have been undergoing substantial upgrades. These include increases of the laser power, improvements in the signal readout hardware, upgrades of the thermal adaptive optics, and improved seismic isolation. I will describe each of these upgrades and how they contribute to the overall sensitivity improvement of the interferometers.