Quantum-Assisted Optical Interferometry for Precision Astrometry

Andrei Nomerotski, BNL

with Paul Stankus, Anze Slosar, Stephen Vintskevich, Raphael Abrahao, Jesse Crawford, Sergei Kulkov, Jakub Jirsa, Steve Bellavia, Michael Keach, Justine Haupt, Edoardo Charbon, Claudio Bruschini, Ermanno Bernasconi, Michal Marčišovský, Aaron Mueninghoff, Brianna Farella et al



Astronomy picture of the decade



Black hole in the center of M87 imaged at 1.3mm

Achieved by radio interferometry with ~10000 km baselines

Classical interferometry

In classical times



Michelson Stellar Interferometer at Mt. Wilson c. 1920, after original idea by Michelson & Fizeau c. 1890





Can literally record entire waveform, over some band, separately at each receiver station and interfere later offline



One photon at a time! Need to bring paths to common point in real time

Need path length *compensated* to better than *c*/bandwidth

Need path length *stabilized* to better than λ

Accuracy ~ 1 mas Max baselines to ~ 100 m

Two-photon techniques

Second photon for quantum assist



- Measure photon wave function phase difference performing Bell State Measurement at one station so teleporting the sky photon to the other station
- Need to transfer the photon quantum state → can use quantum networks, this will allow long distances
- Enables long baselines and could improve astrometric precision by orders of magnitude
- Major impact on astrophysics and cosmology

Quantum Network

- Attenuation in fibers → need quantum repeater to reproduce qubits
 Simple amplification will not conserve the quantum state
- Qubit teleportation: produce entangled photons and send them to two locations
- Bell State Measurement (BSM) on one photon will collapse the wave function of the other one (or swap entanglement, or teleport photon)





with pair source and spectral binning



What do we measure?



$$\Psi^{\text{Output}} = (1/4)(\hat{c}^{\dagger}\hat{c}^{\dagger} - \hat{d}^{\dagger}\hat{d}^{\dagger} + e^{i(\delta_{1} + \delta_{2})}(\hat{g}^{\dagger}\hat{g}^{\dagger} - \hat{h}^{\dagger}\hat{h}^{\dagger}) + (e^{i\delta_{1}} + e^{i\delta_{2}})(\hat{c}^{\dagger}\hat{g}^{\dagger} - \hat{d}^{\dagger}\hat{h}^{\dagger}) + (e^{i\delta_{1}} - e^{i\delta_{2}})(\hat{c}^{\dagger}\hat{h}^{\dagger} + \hat{d}^{\dagger}\hat{g}^{\dagger}))$$

$$P(c^{2}) = P(d^{2}) = P(g^{2}) = P(h^{2}) = 1/8$$

$$P(cg) = P(dh) = (1/8)(1 + \cos(\delta_{1} - \delta_{2}))$$

$$P(ch) = P(dg) = (1/8)(1 - \cos(\delta_{1} - \delta_{2}))$$

Idea: use two sky photons



The Open Journal of Astrophysics

Instrumentation and Methods for Astrophysics

Vol. 5, 2022 • November 01, 2022 IST

Two-photon amplitude interferometry for precision astrometry

Paul Stankus, Andrei Nomerotski, Anže Slosar, Stephen Vintskevich https://doi.org/10.21105/astro.2010.09100

Sensitive to *difference* in path length differences repeating angle!

Does *not* require live optical link between stations; can use arbitrary baseline, similar advantage as HBT.

Does require coincidence of sky photons, similar drawback as HBT

Quantum Astrometry

Idea: use another star as source of coherent states for the interference



- Relative path phase difference $\delta_1 \delta_2$ can be extracted from the coincidence rates of four single photon counters: c, d, g and f
- Can provide 10 microarcsec resolution for bright stars
- Perfect to start exploring this approach

Stellar Intensity Interferometry



Detectors



arXiv.org > astro-ph > arXiv:1810.08023

Astrophysics > Instrumentation and Methods for Astrophysics Intensity Interferometry revival on the Côte d'Azur

Olivier Lai, William Guerin, Farrokh Vakili, Robin Kaiser, Jean Pierre Rivet, Mathilde Fouché, Guillaume Labeyrie Etienne Samain, David Vernet

(Submitted on 18 Oct 2018)



Hanbury Brown, Davis, Allen, Rome; MNRAS 137, (1967) p393-417

Hanbury Brown – Twiss Interferometry

HBT with two sources?



Earth rotation fringe scan

$$\langle N(xy)\rangle = \frac{k(S_1 + S_2)^2}{8} \left[1 \pm V_{2PS} \cos\left[\frac{2\pi B}{\lambda}(\sin\theta_1 - \sin\theta_2) + \frac{2\pi\Delta L}{\lambda}\right] \right]$$

This will evolve as the Earth rotates

 $\langle N_{xy} \rangle (t) = \bar{N}_{xy} \left[1 \pm V \cos \left(\omega_f t + \Phi \right) \right]$

Coincidence rates oscillate



Can measure with high precision

PHYSICAL REVIEW D 107, 023015 (2023)

Astrometry in two-photon interferometry using an Earth rotation fringe scan

Zhi Chen[®] Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York 11794, USA and Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, USA

Andrei Nomerotski and Anže Slosar Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, USA

Paul Stankus Instrumentation Division, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, New York 11973, USA

Stephen Vintskevich© Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Dolgoprudny, Moscow Region 141700, Russia



example of oscillations for pair of stars





World-competitive precision

$$\sigma\left[\Delta\theta\right] = \sqrt{\frac{6}{\pi^2\kappa}} \frac{1}{V} \frac{\lambda}{B} \frac{1}{T\Omega_{\oplus}\sin\theta_0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{nT}}$$

 \overline{n} = average pair rate T = total observation time

A modest experiment:

- Bright stars, mag 2
- 1 m² collecting area
- 10⁴ seconds observation
- 0.15 nsec time resolution
- 10⁴ spectral channels

$$\sigma[\Delta\theta] \sim 10\mu \text{as} ~(\sim 10^{-11} \text{ rad})$$

Idea: Dynamic Astrometry

Track day-over-day changes in $\Delta\theta$ to observe parallax, proper motion, orbital motion, gravitational lensing

1 mas HIPPARCOS (1989-1993) 7 μas GAIA (2013-)

Possible impact on astrophysics and cosmology

https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.09100

offers orders of magnitude better astrometry with major impact

- Parallax: improved distance ladder (DE)
- Proper star motions (DM)
- Microlensing, see shape changes (DM)
- Black hole imaging
- Gravitational waves in μ Hz nHz: coherent motions of stars
- Exoplanets



Experimental Astronomy (2021) 51:1333–1383 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10686-021-09709-9

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Unveiling the gravitational universe at $\mu\text{-Hz}$ frequencies

Paper is a proposal for a giant post-LISA space-based interferometer with 400MKm baselines. Very far future but contains many useful references on GW sources



If we track individual arriving wave/pulse fronts then we see an alternating quadrupole pattern of early and late arrivals.



The surfaces of constant phase are bent along the diagonal directions, which must correspond to a change in apparent incoming direction/sky position.



Astrometric Gravitational-Wave Detection via Stellar Interferometry

Michael A. Fedderke⁽⁰⁾,^{1,*} Peter W. Graham⁽⁰⁾,^{2,3,†} Bruce Macintosh⁽⁰⁾,^{3,‡} and Surjeet Rajendran⁽⁰⁾,[§]

 ¹ The William H. Miller III Department of Physics and Astronomy, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA
 ² Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics, Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA ³ Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics & Cosmology, Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA (Dated: July 6, 2022)

Requirements for detectors



- Photons must be close enough in frequency and time to interfere → temporal & spectral binning: need ~ 0.01 nm * 20 ps
- Fast imaging techniques are the key
 - Several promising technologies: CMOS pixels+MCP, **SPADs**, SNSPDs
 - Target sub-100 ps resolution
- Spectral binning: diffraction gratings, echelle spectrometers
- High photon detection efficiency

Experiments in progress



Bench-top model of two-photon interferometry

Ar vapor lamps with ultra-narrow band filters Superconducting nanowire single-photon detectors Strong HBT peak with single lamp





Supported by DOE HEP QuantISED program

2022: benchtop verification

arxiv.org/abs/2301.07042



Unpolarized







Hong-Ou-Mandel effect



HOM dip for coincidences of two outputs





1&3

2&3

3&4

4

ż







Phase dependence



Visibility and phase

arxiv.org/abs/2301.07042

All as expected

Paper submitted

Towards Quantum Telescopes: Demonstration of a Two-Photon Interferometer for Quantum-Assisted Astronomy

Jesse Crawford ^A, Denis Dolzhenko ^A, Michael Keach ^A, Aaron Mueninghoff ^B, Raphael A. Abrahao ^A, Julian Martinez-Rincon ^A, Paul Stankus ^A, Stephen Vintskevich^c, Andrei Nomerotski ^A

sign flip, in anti-phase

0.225 4.0 SPAD noPol SNSPD noPol SNSPD Pol - VV 0 0 0 SPAD noPol SNSPD noPol SNSPD Pol 0 0 0.200 3.5 ф **Oscillation Visibility** 000 0.175 000 3.0 Φ **Relative Phase** 0.150 2.5 φ 0.125 2.0 0.100 Φ Φ 1.5 ۲ Ð 0.075 1.0 0.050 0 0 ۲ 0 0.5 0.025 000 0.0 000 0.000 13 14 23 24 -0.5 **Channels Pair** 13 14 23 24 Channel Pair visibility in phase

Next step: spectral binning

Spectral binning

Two beams \rightarrow diffraction grating Based on intensified Tpx3Cam, ns time resolution





spectral resolution for Ar lines ~0.15 nm

A.Nomerotski et al. Intensified Tpx3Cam, a fast data-driven optical camera with nanosecond timing resolution for single photon detection in quantum applications, arxiv.org/abs/2210.13713, published in JINST

Timepix3 Camera → Tpx3Cam

Camera = sensor + ASIC + readout

Timepix3 ASIC:

- 256 x 256 array, 55 x 55 micron pixel
 14 mm x 14 mm active area
- 1.56 ns timing resolution
- Data-driven readout, 600 e min threshold, 80 Mpix/sec, no deadtime
- each pixel measures time and flux,
 ~1µs pixel deadtime when hit

T. Poikela et al, Timepix3: a 65k channel hybrid pixel readout chip with simultaneous ToA/ToT and sparse readout, Journal of Instrumentation 9 (05) (2014) C05013.

Sensor is bump-bonded to chip

Use existing x-ray readouts: SPIDR (Nikhef & ASI) www.amscins.com

Zhao et al, Coincidence velocity map imaging using Tpx3Cam, a time stamping optical camera with 1.5 ns timing resolution, Review of Scientific Instruments 88 (11) (2017) 113104.

Intensified camera: use off-the-shelf image intensifier

Intensified cameras are common: iCCD iCMOS cameras

Image intensifier (Photonis PP0360EG)

SPDC source in spectrometer

Next steps: spectrometer based on LinoSPAD2

Two diffracted photon stripes projected on to single linear array

Spectrometer time resolution: ns \rightarrow 50 ps

LinoSPAD2 linear SPAD array

SPAD = single photon avalanche device p-n junction with amplification

- 512 x 1 pixels
- 24 x 24 micron pixels
- Max PDE (with microlenses) ~ 30%
- Fill factor ~ 40%
- DCR ~ 30 Hz /pix @ room T
- Deadtime ~ 100ns
- Asynchronous readout of pixels

Developed by AQUA group in EPFL (Switzerland) E.Charbon et al

C. Bruschini, S. Burri, E. Bernasconi, T. Milanese, A. C. Ulku, H. Homulle, and E. Charbon, Linospad2: a 512x1 linear spad camera with system-level 135-ps sptr and a reconfigurable computational engine for time-resolved single-photon imaging, in *Quantum Sensing and Nano Electronics and Photonics XIX*, Vol. 12430 (SPIE, 2023) pp. 126–135.

Close-up of SPADs

SPAD arrays with 50 ps resolution

HBT peaks in LinoSPAD2

Spectrometer with LinoSPAD2

Used Ar lamp coupled to SM fiber

Achieved 0.04 nm spectral and 40 ps timing resolution (only x10 above Heisenberg hbar/2 limit) ⁴¹

arxiv.org/abs/2304.11999

Wavelength anti-correlation in LinoSPAD2

- Combine signal and idler in single fiber so can use single spectrometer channel
- At 50 mW signal and idler spectra do not overlap

Spectrometer with 0.04 nm and 40 ps resolutions \rightarrow near Heisenberg limit

Dual spectrometer

- Can see two Ne spectra
- Chasing spectral resolution
 - Increased scale, now 20 pix/nm →
 13 nm range for 256 pixels
 - Neon 693 and 703 nm lines

Next step: broadband HBT

- Each spectral line is a separate experiment
- Step 1: interfere neon lines
- Step 2: interfere spectral bins, this is what we need for quantum-assisted astrometry

7.5 ps superSPAD sensor

F. Gramuglia, M.-L. Wu, C. Bruschini, M.-J. Lee, and E. Charbon, A low-noise CMOS SPAD pixel with 12.1 ps SPTR and 3 ns dead time, IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Quantum Electronics **28**, 1 (2022).

- Developed in AQUA group in EPFL
- 7.5 ps FWHM time resolution
- Starting tests at BNL

FIGURE 1 | (A): SPAD cross section. **(B)**: Micrograph of the implemented chip embedding 25 μm diameter SPADs with integrated pixel circuit [21].

superSPAD

4-channel sensor

Ideas for fast sensor R&D

8*512 pixel array where each column is 8-pixel SiPM

SiPM approach

- Collaboration with EPFL, CzTU and FIU groups
- Wide sensor: easy to align, can be mass produced and used in field
- Time resolution is preserved or improved (goal 10 ps)
- Can count photons: detect coincidences in dual spectrometer, in spectral bins

telescopes

On-sky measurements

- Experimenting with SM fiber coupling
- Trying adaptive optics

On-sky measurements

Mizar and Alcor, 50 ms Exposure

Mizar A & B

- 50 ms exposure
- 15 arcsec separation

Jitter of two stars is correlated and could cancel in differential measurement

Future steps

- Setting up 4 telescopes
- Exploring options for adaptive optics (AO)
 - Coupling starlight to SMF will require this (due to atmosphere)
- Exploring tradeoffs of MMF
 - Easier to collect light, may not need AO
 - More difficult to focus in spectrometer

Optica Quantum 2.0 Conference and Exhibition

Hybrid Event - Mountain Daylight/Summer Time (UTC - 06:00)

18 - 22 June 2023

Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center Denver, Colorado United States

Special Programs

- Quantum-Enhanced Telescopy Workshop
- Nobel Symposium: Foundations on Quantum Physics

Quantum-Enhanced Telescopy Workshop

Sunday, 18 June 09:00 - 17:30

The angular resolution of conventional very long-baseline interferometry (VLBI) in the optical (visible and near-infrared) spectrum is currently limited by the need to combine coherent optical fields collected by separated telescopes. This becomes impractical over more than a few hundred meters. Recent proposals that utilize quantum resources, such as quantum memories and entanglement, have shown promise to obviate the need to directly combine the signals from separated telescopes and thus enable significantly longer baselines, leading to greatly increased resolution.

The workshop aims to bring together astronomers and quantum information scientists to discuss the emerging role of quantum technologies for improved astronomical observations. It will highlight current experimental and theoretical progress as well as future areas of research.

Registration for the workshop is included with the free Events and Exhibits Pass. Please see the Registration page for details.

Organizers

Paul Kwiat, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA John Monnier, University of Michigan, USA Andrei Nomerotski, Brookhaven National Laboratory, USA Mike Raymer, University of Oregon, USA Brian Smith, University of Oregon, USA

Speakers

To sum up

Main points to take home

- Classical, single-photon interferometry reaches much higher resolutions than single telescopes; but practical issues limit maximum baselines
- Two-photon interferometry can permit independent stations over longer baselines
- Two-photon techniques are in general quantum mechanical; new ideas suggest quantum technology can enhance interferometry
- Collaboration with intensity interferometry astro community, overlap in instrumentation

Main publications

- Original idea: <u>https://doi.org/10.21105/astro.2010.09100</u>
- Earth rotation fringe scanning: doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.107.023015
- Experimental proof of principle: <u>https://arxiv.org/abs/2301.07042</u>
- Fast spectrometer: <u>https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.11999</u>
- See <u>https://www.quantastro.bnl.gov/node/3</u> for the full list

• Our web site

www.quantastro.bnl.gov

Eden Figueroa Paul Stankus Tom Tsang Justine Haupt Mael Flament Guodong Cui Sonali Gera **Dimitros Katramatos** Michael O'Connor Gabriella Carini Anand Kandasamy Michael Keach Steven Paci Alex Parsells Jonathan Schiff Denis Dolzhenko Stepan Vintskevich Anze Slosar Zhi Chen Jesse Crawford Aarom Mueninghoff

Jingming Long Martin van Beuzekom Bram Bouwens Erik Maddox Jord Prangsma **Duncan England** Yingwen Zhang **Boris Blinov** Mila Zhukas Maverick Millican Alex Kato Peter Svihra Michal Marcisovsky Sergei Kulkov Jakub Jirsa Raphael Abrahao Brianna Farella Ryan Mahon

Acknowledgements

Ermanno Bernasconi Claudio Bruschini Samuel Burri Tommaso Milanese Edoardo Charbon

Questions?