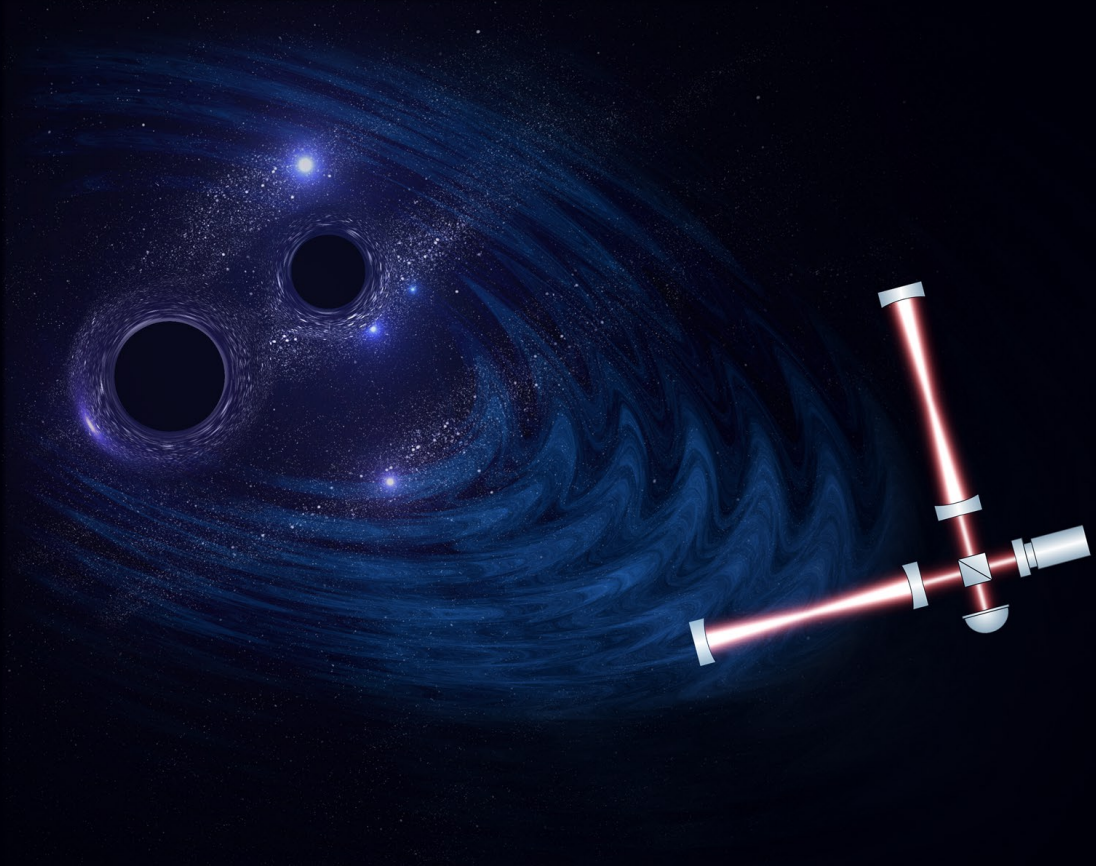


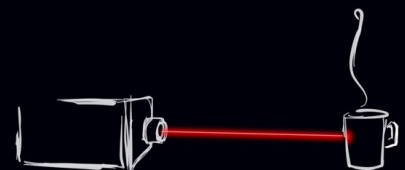
# Stretch and Squash

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**Stretch and Squash** illustrates the effects that gravitational waves would have on you or the LIGO detectors. Here, the stretching and squashing is exaggerated visually in order to emphasise the effect.

Gravitational waves are ripples in the fabric of space-time. They are produced by violent cosmic events, such as the collision of black holes. These ripples then travel through the universe at the speed of light. Gravitational wave detectors have been built to measure these waves using kilometer-sized laser interferometers.



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