

Beam would improve at the unknown cost of Moon location, power generation, and infrastructure. Beam quality is however only one part of the challenge. However the first problem to solve is the pointing of an ideal Gaussian laser beam of $\lambda \cong 1 \mu\text{m}$, from a $\phi = 1 \text{ km}$ mirror to a 16 m^2 sail at distances up to 20 Gm . A number of conditions have to be met:

- 1) Pointing in αC direction with 1 AU accuracy; including proper motion of αC and its planets, gravitational fields and radiation of Sun and αC systems.
- 2) Sail to remain on central power lobe of beam and not tumble.
- 3) Sail temperature not to exceed melting point
- 4) Stress on sail not to exceed tensile limits

a) Diffraction limit is in range; beam diameter D at maximum range $x_f = 20 \text{ Gm}$:

$$D \cong \frac{\lambda}{\phi/x_f} = 20 \text{ m};$$

b) Heating of sail for coatings of LIGO quality mirrors $R = 1\text{-}15 \text{ ppm}$, $Ab \cong T \cong 1 \text{ ppm}$. $R = 1 - (S + Ab + T)$, (Reflectivity, Scattering, Absorption, Transmission). For back of sail acting as black body $\varepsilon = 1$, and $Ab/\varepsilon = 10^{-6}$, temperature has margin $T = 360 \text{ K}$. Ab and ε margin of $Ab/\varepsilon \leq 2 \times 10^{-5}$ to maintain $T \leq 750 \text{ K}$

$$T = \left(\frac{Ab \cdot P}{\varepsilon \cdot \sigma_B \cdot A_S} \right)^{1/4} = \left(\frac{10^{-6} \times 15 \times 10^9 \text{ W}}{5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{K}^{-4} \times 16 \text{ m}^2} \right)^{1/4} = 360 \text{ K};$$

<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/beyersdorf/Archive/Phys208F07/Coatings%20in%20LIGO.pdf>

http://www.phys.ufl.edu/ireu/IREU2009/pdf_reports/Badolato_Paper.pdf

c) Stresses on sail. (Sail subscript S)

$$m_S = 5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ Kg}, \quad A_S = 16 \cdot \text{m}^2, \quad \rho_S \approx 2 \cdot 10^3 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-3}, \quad d_S = \frac{m_S}{\rho_S \cdot A_S} \cong 15 \text{ nm},$$

$$F_{Beam} \leq 50 \text{ N}, \quad S_S \equiv \frac{F_{Beam}}{\sqrt{A_S \cdot d_S}} < 1 \text{ GPa}$$

Modern materials and fibers have tensile strength of a few GPa.

d) Spinning the sail.

For sail rim centrifugal acceleration (at $R_S = 2.25 \text{ m}$) to match beam acceleration $a_0 = 10^5 \text{ m/s}^2$ we need $\omega_S = 210 \text{ rad/s}$ or $f_S = 34 \text{ Hz}$, achievable.

e) Sail position and/or attitude correction with photon thrusters not feasible while main beam on. Beam force transfer 100 N while $P_{pt} = 1 \text{ W}$ photon thruster produces 3 nN .

f) Sail shaping that passively preserves position and attitude in beam might be possible. Baseline approach should be a combination of sail shape and beam shaping with feedback from light reflected from sail. Due to the long delay times, up to 140 sec round trip, forward predicting algorithms and filters will be used.