

Upper limit on scalar field dark matter from LIGO-Virgo third observation run

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If dark matter is a light scalar field weakly interacting with elementary particles, such a field induces oscillations of the physical constants, which results in a time-varying force acting on macroscopic objects. In this paper, we report on a search for such a signal in the data of the two LIGO detectors during their third observing run. We focus on the mass of the scalar field in the range of $10^{-13} - 10^{-11}$ eV for which the signal falls within the detectors' sensitivity band. We first formulate the cross-correlation statistics that can be readily compared with publicly available data. It is found that inclusion of the anisotropies of the velocity distribution of dark matter caused by the motion of the Solar System in the Milky Way Galaxy enhances the signal by a factor of ~ 2 except for the narrow-mass range around $\simeq 3 \times 10^{-13}$ eV for which the correlation between the interferometer at Livingston and the one at Hanford is suppressed. From the nondetection of the signal, we derive the upper limits on the coupling constants between the elementary particles and the scalar field for five representative cases. For all the cases in which the weak equivalence principle is not satisfied, tests of the violation of the weak equivalence principle provide the tightest upper limit on the coupling constants. Upper limits from the fifth-force experiment are always stronger than the ones from LIGO, but the difference is less than a factor of ~ 5 at large-mass range. Our study demonstrates that gravitational-wave experiments are starting to bring us meaningful information about the nature of dark matter. The formulation provided in this paper may be applied to the data of upcoming experiments as well and is expected to probe a much wider parameter range of the model.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Although there is little doubt of the existence of dark matter, its nature is still elusive. There is considerable uncertainty in the mass constituting an elementary particle or object: the allowed mass range is $10^{-19} \lesssim m \lesssim 10^{60}$ eV. Many models of dark matter, such as weakly interacting massive particles, axions, and primordial black holes, have been proposed in the literature. Different models predict different observational signals and various experiments suited for detecting specific types of dark matter have been conducted. Yet, no robust detection is reported (for a review of dark matter, see, e.g., [1]). In light of this situation, it is important to consider utilizing even available experiments whose main target is not dark matter.

A dark matter model we consider in this paper is a light scalar field dark matter weakly interacting with elementary particles in the standard model of particle physics. Such a scalar field may be realized in string landscape (see, e.g., [2,3]), although seeking the fundamental origin is not our focus and we remain at the phenomenological level in this paper. If the mass of the boson is $m \ll 10$ eV, the dark matter behaves as a classical wave [4]. Such a wave induces time variation of the physical constants and leads to detectable signals, such as in the atomic transitions [3,5–9] and the laser interferometers [3,10–14]. Searches for vector field dark matter with data from advanced LIGO (aLIGO) [15] have already been carried out [16,17]. The scalar wave can also manifest itself as the violation of the equivalence principle [18–21] and the fifth force [22]. Since the amplitude of the scalar wave increases toward higher redshift, the scalar dark matter also affects the abundance of light elements produced by big bang nucleosynthesis and the temperature anisotropies of the cosmic microwave background [23].

If the mass is in the range $(10^{-13}, 10^{-11})$ eV, the frequency of the signal falls in the range relevant to the

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ground laser interferometers. In [3,12], it was suggested that the laser interferometers can probe the scalar field dark matter by measuring the motion of mirrors caused by the scalar field. When the scalar field interacts with elementary particles, the mass of the mirror varies in responding to the value of the scalar field at the mirror's location. As a result, the mirror under the influence of the scalar field accelerates toward a direction along which the mirror minimizes its energy (= mass). Since the mass of an atom dominantly originates from the sector of the strong interaction, the scalar force that accelerates the mirror is most sensitive to the coupling to the gluon fields.

In the nonrelativistic limit of the mirror's motion, the force appears only when the scalar field ϕ varies in space, which means that the scalar force is parallel to $\nabla\phi$. Such a force causes the modulation of the round-trip time of light between the front and the end mirrors, which eventually leads to the detectable signal in the interferometers. There are two physical effects that contribute to such modulation of the round-trip time: (i) finiteness of speed of light, which produces a signal even if the front and end mirrors are perfectly synchronized (denoted by δt_1 in [12]), and (ii) difference of the displacement between the front and end mirrors due to spatial variation of the scalar field (denoted by δt_2 in [12]). For aLIGO, the former (latter) becomes dominant if the frequency of the scalar field oscillation is larger (smaller) than 20 Hz.

The papers [3,12] give an expected upper limit on the magnitude of interaction between the scalar field dark matter and elementary particles for laser interferometers such as aLIGO. To the best of our knowledge, there is no study that derived the upper limit by confronting the predicted signal with the real data obtained by the currently operating laser interferometers. In this paper, we report the result of our analysis using the real data of two LIGO detectors taken during their third observation run. In the analysis, we take into account the stochastic nature of the scalar field, velocity dispersion of dark matter, and anisotropic distribution of velocity of dark matter due to rotation of the Solar System in the Milky Way Galaxy. Formulation to compute the signal that includes the above effects and can be readily compared with the data released by the LVK Collaboration is developed in Sec. II. The upper limits based on our analysis are given in Sec. III.

Before closing this section, it should be mentioned that the scalar field not only exerts the force but also changes the size of the bodies, such as beam splitters and mirrors. The latter phenomenon occurs due to the variation of the atomic size (\simeq Bohr radius), which depends on the fine-structure constant and the electron mass. It was recognized in [13] that the time variation of the beam splitter produces a detectable signal that is more prominent in the GEO600 interferometer than aLIGO. The reason why GEO600 is more powerful than aLIGO is because GEO600 has a direct sensitivity to the signal, while in aLIGO, the strength of the

signal is attenuated by a factor of arm cavity finesse. Thus, GEO600 is suited for probing the couplings of the scalar field to the photons and electrons and plays a role complementary to aLIGO, which is sensitive to the coupling to the gluons. In [24], the signal was searched for in the data of GEO600 and the upper limits on the couplings to photons and electrons were derived.

II. FORMULATION OF THE SIGNAL

In this section, we first give the Lagrangian of the model in which the dark matter is a classically oscillating massive scalar field weakly interacting with elementary particles such as electrons, quarks, photons, and gluons and give a brief overview of how dark matter yields signals in the laser interferometers. We then develop the formulation that enables us to directly compare the predicted signal with public data provided by the LVK Collaboration.

A. Model considered in this paper

The mathematical framework of the model we consider is given in [18]. In this model, the scalar field ϕ that comprises all dark matter is assumed to interact linearly with standard model (SM) particles. The Lagrangian density for the scalar field is given by

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{m^2}{2}\phi^2 + \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}, \quad (2.1)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = -\kappa\phi \left[\frac{d_e}{4e^2} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{d_g\beta_3}{2g_3} G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{A\mu\nu} - \sum_{i=e,u,d} (d_{m_i} + \gamma_{m_i} d_g) m_i \bar{\psi}_i \psi_i \right]. \quad (2.2)$$

Here $\kappa \equiv \frac{\sqrt{4\pi}}{M_{\text{pl}}}$, $M_{\text{pl}} = 1/\sqrt{G} \simeq 1.22 \times 10^{19}$ GeV is the Planck mass, β_3 is the QCD β function, and γ_{m_i} is the anomalous dimension. The first, second, and third term in \mathcal{L}_{int} represents interaction between ϕ and electromagnetic field, gluon fields, and fermions, including electrons, up quarks, and down quarks, respectively. In the low-energy regime where heavy quarks and leptons become irrelevant, the Lagrangian \mathcal{L}_{int} represents the general dimension-five operators respecting the gauge invariance of the SM, and the magnitude of each interaction is parametrized by dimensionless constants d_e, d_g, d_{m_i} , which we treat as free parameters. These types of interactions may be realized by the dilaton string theory [3,18]. In this paper, we do not assume such a particular UV theory but treat the above Lagrangian as a phenomenological model.

One interesting example in which these five parameters are parametrized by a single parameter as $d_g = d_i$, $d_e = 0$ ($i = e, u, d$) is realized if the scalar field has the nonminimal coupling to gravity in the Jordan frame. Description of this model is given in the Appendix.

The parameters appearing in the interaction Lagrangian are bare quantities and we can translate the effect of \mathcal{L}_{int} into equivalent but more physically relevant representation by considering the renormalization-group flow,

$$\alpha(\varphi) = (1 + d_e \varphi) \alpha, \quad (2.3)$$

$$\Lambda_3(\varphi) = (1 + d_g \varphi) \Lambda_3, \quad (2.4)$$

$$m_e(\varphi) = (1 + d_{m_e} \varphi) m_e, \quad (2.5)$$

$$m_{u,d}(\varphi) = (1 + d_{m_u, m_d} \varphi) m_{u,d}(\Lambda_3). \quad (2.6)$$

Here, $\varphi \equiv \kappa \phi$ is the scalar field normalized by the Planck scale. α is the fine-structure constant, Λ_3 is the QCD mass scale, and $m_{u,d}$ are the quark masses defined at the QCD mass scale. Because of the presence of φ , these physical constants deviate from those in the absence of φ . We assume that the mass m is in the range $10^{-13} \lesssim m \lesssim 10^{-11}$ eV. In this case, the ϕ field as dark matter behaves as a classically oscillating wave since the corresponding occupation number is huge (e.g., [4]). In the Fourier domain, frequencies are sharply localized at $f \simeq \frac{m}{2\pi}$ within the width $\Delta f/f = \frac{v_*^2}{2} \simeq 10^{-6}$, where $v_* = 220$ km/s is the velocity dispersion of dark matter. Thus, oscillations of ϕ produce almost monochromatic time variation of the physical constants listed in

Eqs. (2.3)–(2.6). The frequency range corresponding to the mass range $10^{-13} \lesssim m \lesssim 10^{-11}$ eV is $10 \lesssim \frac{m}{2\pi} \lesssim 10^3$ Hz, which falls in the frequency band of the ground-based laser interferometers.

As it is argued in [18], coupling to the fermion kinetic term can be eliminated by the field redefinition. To see this, let us suppose that the ϕ couples to the kinetic term of the fermion as

$$\mathcal{L} = -e^{f(\phi)} \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi - \frac{1}{2} e^{f(\phi)} \partial_\mu f \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi, \quad (2.7)$$

where we leave $f(\phi)$ unspecified to keep the generality of our argument. The second term is necessary to make the kinetic term be Hermitian. Then, by changing the variable as $\psi \rightarrow e^{-\frac{1}{2}f} \psi$, the kinetic term in terms of the new field becomes

$$\mathcal{L} = -\bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi, \quad (2.8)$$

and the coupling $f(\phi)$ has been completely absorbed into the field redefinition.

Since mass of an atom depends on physical constants, it depends on φ through Eqs. (2.3)–(2.6). Denoting the mass of an atom by $m_A(\varphi)$, m_A in the small φ limit is approximately written as [18]

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_A &\equiv \frac{d \ln m_A(\varphi)}{d\varphi} \\ &\simeq d_g^* + \left[-\frac{0.036}{A^{\frac{1}{3}}} - 0.02 \frac{(A-2Z)^2}{A^2} - 1.4 \times 10^{-4} \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{\frac{4}{3}}} \right] (d_{\hat{m}} - d_g) \\ &\quad - 2.7 \times 10^{-4} \frac{A-2Z}{A} (d_{m_e} - d_g) + \left(-4.1 \frac{A-2Z}{A} + 7.7 \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{\frac{4}{3}}} \right) \times 10^{-4} d_e, \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

and d_g^* is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} d_g^* &= d_g + 0.093(d_{\hat{m}} - d_g) + 2.7 \times 10^{-4}(d_{m_e} - d_g) \\ &\quad + 2.7 \times 10^{-4} d_e, \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

where A and Z are the mass number and the atomic number, respectively, and

$$d_{\hat{m}} \equiv \frac{d_{m_u} m_u + d_{m_d} m_d}{m_u + m_d}. \quad (2.11)$$

As it is clear, d_g^* represents a part independent of the atomic species and the remaining terms are dependent on the atomic species. Thus, any model belonging to a class satisfying $d_{\hat{m}} = d_{m_e} = d_g, d_e = 0$ does not violate the weak equivalence principle. A nonminimal coupling model described in the Appendix belongs to this class.

The time variation of the mass of atoms due to the oscillations of ϕ causes the time variation of the mass $M(\varphi)$ of a macroscopic object. The equation of motion of the macroscopic object under the influence of φ is given by (e.g., [12])

$$\frac{d^2 \mathbf{x}}{dt^2} \simeq -\langle \alpha_A \rangle \nabla \varphi, \quad (2.12)$$

where $\langle \alpha_A \rangle$ is α_A averaged over different types of molecules constituting the macroscopic object. The mirrors installed in the interferometers are purely made of silica (= SiO₂). In this case, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2} &\simeq d_g + 0.083(d_{\hat{m}} - d_g) + 2.7 \times 10^{-4}(d_{m_e} - d_g) \\ &\quad + 3.1 \times 10^{-3} d_e. \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

It is seen that the mirrors are mostly sensitive to the coupling to the gluon fields d_g and the couplings to electrons and photons are suppressed. This is because the mass of nucleons is mainly determined by the strong interaction.

B. Scalar field in the Milky Way Galaxy

1. Scalar field in the Galaxy's center-of-mass frame

Inside the Milky Way Galaxy, dark matter is virialized. The oscillating scalar field at the location of the Solar System in the Galaxy's center-of-mass frame may be modeled as a stochastic wave with stationary and isotropic velocity distribution with velocity dispersion $v_* \simeq 220$ km/s. In this coordinate system, the scalar dark matter may be expressed as the superposition of plane waves as

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \int d\hat{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} df e^{-2\pi i f(t - \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{x})} u(f, \hat{\Omega}). \quad (2.14)$$

Here, η is defined by

$$\eta = \sqrt{1 - \frac{\mu^2}{f^2}}, \quad \left(\mu = \frac{m}{2\pi} \right), \quad (2.15)$$

and $\hat{\Omega}$ is the unit vector representing the propagation direction of the plane wave $u(f, \hat{\Omega})$. From the reality of ϕ , we have $u^*(f, \hat{\Omega}) = u(-f, \hat{\Omega})$. From the stationarity and isotropy condition, we assume that the ensemble average of the stochastic variable $u(f, \hat{\Omega})$ can be written as

$$\langle u^*(f, \hat{\Omega}) u(f', \hat{\Omega}') \rangle = \delta(f - f') \frac{1}{4\pi} \delta(\hat{\Omega}, \hat{\Omega}') \times \frac{1}{2} P_\phi(f). \quad (2.16)$$

Here, $P_\phi(f)$ is the power spectrum of ϕ for which the shape may be determined by comparing the energy density of the scalar field evaluated in the wave picture with that in the particle picture in the following way. Let us first evaluate the energy density in the wave picture. The energy density of the scalar field is given by

$$\rho_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \phi^2. \quad (2.17)$$

Using Eq. (2.14), the ensemble average of ρ_ϕ becomes

$$\langle \rho_\phi \rangle = \int_{\mu}^{\infty} df (2\pi f)^2 P_\phi(f). \quad (2.18)$$

Next, we evaluate the same quantity in the particle picture. In this picture, we interpret the stochastic scalar field as a collection of randomly moving particles with mass m , for which we can introduce a notion of the

distribution function $g(\mathbf{v})$ in the velocity space. As it is usually done, we assume that the distribution of the particles obeys the Boltzmann distribution as

$$g(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{3^{3/2} \rho_{\text{loc}}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} m v_*^3} \exp\left(-\frac{3v^2}{2v_*^2}\right). \quad (2.19)$$

Here $v = |\mathbf{v}|$, and v_* is the velocity dispersion of dark matter. The normalization constant is fixed by requiring that the integral of $g(\mathbf{v})$ coincides with the local number density of dark matter particles,

$$\int d\mathbf{v} g(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{\rho_{\text{loc}}}{m}. \quad (2.20)$$

Therefore, we have

$$\int dv \frac{3^{3/2} \rho_{\text{loc}}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} v_*^3} \exp\left(-\frac{3v^2}{2v_*^2}\right) = \rho_{\text{loc}}. \quad (2.21)$$

In order to compare, we change the integration variable from v to f by using the relation

$$f^2 = \mu^2 (1 + v^2). \quad (2.22)$$

In terms of f , Eq. (2.21) becomes

$$\int_{\mu}^{\infty} df \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{3/2} \frac{4\rho_{\text{loc}}}{\sqrt{\pi} \mu^3 v_*^3} f^2 \eta \exp\left(-\frac{3f^2 \eta^2}{2v_*^2 \mu^2}\right) = \rho_{\text{loc}}. \quad (2.23)$$

By identifying this equation with Eq. (2.18), we can express $P_\phi(f)$ in terms of the Boltzmann distribution function as

$$P_\phi(f) = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{3/2} \frac{4\rho_{\text{loc}}}{\pi^{5/2} \mu^3 v_*^3} \eta \exp\left(-\frac{3f^2 \eta^2}{2v_*^2 \mu^2}\right). \quad (2.24)$$

Figure 1 shows a plot of $P_\phi(f)$ for $\mu = 100$ Hz, $v_* = 220$ km/s.

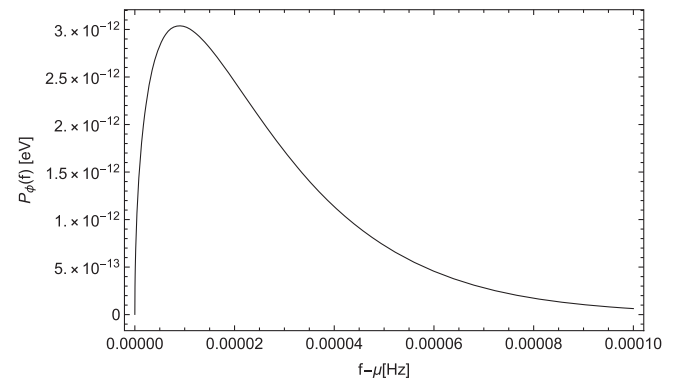


FIG. 1. Plot of $P_\phi(f)$ for $\mu = 100$ Hz, $v_* = 220$ km/s.

2. Scalar field in Earth's rest frame

Since observations by the terrestrial detectors are conducted on Earth, we need to translate the scalar field represented in the Galaxy's center-of-mass frame into the one in Earth's rest frame. Although Earth, which is orbiting in the Milky Way Galaxy, is accelerating with respect to the center-of-mass frame of the Galaxy, we ignore the effect of the acceleration and make an approximation that Earth is moving with a constant velocity \mathbf{v}_0 in the Galaxy. We also ignore Earth's orbital motion around the Sun since the orbital velocity ($\simeq 30$ km/s) is much smaller than $|\mathbf{v}_0| \simeq 200$ km/s. To be definite, we put "prime" on coordinates and relevant quantities when they are defined in the Galaxy's rest frame. For instance, spacetime coordinates are written as (t', \mathbf{x}') , and frequency and the propagation direction are written as $(f', \hat{\Omega}')$. On the other hand, quantities without prime are defined in Earth's rest frame. Based on our assumptions, both frames are inertial systems and quantities in different frames are related by the Lorentz transformation. Frequency f and the wave number vector \mathbf{k} transform as

$$f' = \gamma \left(f + \frac{\mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \mathbf{k}}{2\pi} \right), \quad \gamma \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v_0^2}}, \quad (2.25)$$

$$\mathbf{k}' = \gamma (\mathbf{k} + 2\pi f \mathbf{v}_0). \quad (2.26)$$

Since motions are nonrelativistic [i.e., $|\mathbf{v}_0| \simeq v_* = \mathcal{O}(10^{-3}) \ll 1$], we retain only the relevant lowest order

terms in \mathbf{v}_0 or k/m in the above relations. After some manipulations, we obtain

$$f' = f + \frac{\mu}{2} v_0^2 + \mu \eta \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \hat{\Omega}, \quad (2.27)$$

$$\mathbf{k}' = \left| \hat{\Omega} + \frac{\mathbf{v}_0}{\eta} \right| k, \quad (2.28)$$

$$\hat{\Omega}' = \left| \hat{\Omega} + \frac{\mathbf{v}_0}{\eta} \right|^{-1} \left(\hat{\Omega} + \frac{\mathbf{v}_0}{\eta} \right). \quad (2.29)$$

Since ϕ itself is Lorentz invariant, Eq. (2.14), which is expressed in terms of the variables of the Galaxy's rest frame, may be directly used to represent ϕ in Earth's rest frame. We note that a combination $kdf d\hat{\Omega}$, where k is the wave number, is Lorentz invariant,

$$k' df' d\hat{\Omega}' = kdf d\hat{\Omega}. \quad (2.30)$$

By exploiting this relation, Eq. (2.14) may be written as

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \int d\hat{\Omega} df \frac{k}{k'} e^{-2\pi i f (t - \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{x})} u(f', \hat{\Omega}'). \quad (2.31)$$

Note that (t, \mathbf{x}) are coordinates in Earth's rest frame. Plugging the transformation rules for f' , k' , and $\hat{\Omega}'$, we have

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \int d\hat{\Omega} df e^{-2\pi i f (t - \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{x})} \left| \hat{\Omega} + \frac{\mathbf{v}_0}{\eta} \right|^{-1} u \left(f + \frac{\mu}{2} v_0^2 + \mu \eta \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \hat{\Omega}, \frac{\eta \hat{\Omega} + \mathbf{v}_0}{|\eta \hat{\Omega} + \mathbf{v}_0|} \right). \quad (2.32)$$

For notational convenience, we introduce a new function $\bar{u}(f, \hat{\Omega})$ by

$$\bar{u}(f, \hat{\Omega}) = \left| \hat{\Omega} + \frac{\mathbf{v}_0}{\eta} \right|^{-1} u \left(f + \frac{\mu}{2} v_0^2 + \mu \eta \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \hat{\Omega}, \frac{\eta \hat{\Omega} + \mathbf{v}_0}{|\eta \hat{\Omega} + \mathbf{v}_0|} \right), \quad (2.33)$$

so that ϕ may be written as

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \int d\hat{\Omega} df e^{-2\pi i f (t - \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{x})} \bar{u}(f, \hat{\Omega}). \quad (2.34)$$

This is the expression of ϕ that is used in the rest of this paper.

C. Detector's signal of the scalar field

A mirror obeys the equation of motion given by Eq. (2.12) and undergoes oscillations caused by the scalar

force $\nabla\phi$. Response of a mirror by the action of the scalar field was computed in [12]. For the scalar field given by Eq. (2.34), the mirror's motion is written as

$$\delta \mathbf{x}(t) = -\kappa \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2} \int d\hat{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{df}{2\pi i f} \eta e^{-2\pi i f (t - \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{x})} \bar{u}(f, \hat{\Omega}) \hat{\Omega}. \quad (2.35)$$

Then, using the result in [12], the signal $s(t)$ of the Michelson-type interferometer located at \mathbf{x} , which is the phase difference of the lasers propagating along each arm, can be computed. The result is given by

$$s(t) = \int d\hat{\Omega} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} df F(\hat{\Omega}, f) e^{-2\pi i f (t - \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{x})} \bar{u}(f, \hat{\Omega}), \quad (2.36)$$

where the detector pattern function is given by

$$F(\hat{\Omega}, f) = -\frac{\kappa\alpha_{\text{SiO}_2}}{\pi i L f} (\hat{m} \cdot \hat{\Omega} - \hat{n} \cdot \hat{\Omega}) \eta \sin^2(\pi f L) - \kappa\alpha_{\text{SiO}_2} ((\hat{m} \cdot \hat{\Omega})^2 - (\hat{n} \cdot \hat{\Omega})^2) \eta^2. \quad (2.37)$$

Here \hat{m} and \hat{n} are unit vectors, each of which is parallel to one of the two arms of the detector. The first (second) term corresponds to δt_1 (δt_2) defined in [12], respectively. This function satisfies $F^*(\hat{\Omega}, f) = F(-\hat{\Omega}, f)$.

The Fourier transform of the signal is given by

$$\tilde{s}(f) = \int d\hat{\Omega} F(\hat{\Omega}, f) e^{2\pi i f \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \tilde{u}(f, \hat{\Omega}). \quad (2.38)$$

1. Two detectors' correlation

In the observation, the detector's output $S(t)$ consists of the signal s (if it exists) and the noise n as

$$S(t) = s(t) + n(t). \quad (2.39)$$

Since φ is a stochastic variable, the signal $s(t)$ also behaves in a stochastic manner. Practically, it is difficult to distinguish the signal from the noise. As it is usually done, we thus consider correlation of the outputs between two detectors in order to extract the signal from the noise.

Using Eqs. (2.16), (2.33), and (2.38), we can compute the cross-correlation of the outputs between detector 1 and detector 2 as

$$\langle \tilde{S}_1^*(f) \tilde{S}_2(f') \rangle = \int \frac{d\hat{\Omega}}{4\pi} F_1^*(\hat{\Omega}, f) F_2(\hat{\Omega}, f) e^{2\pi i f \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x}} \times \frac{1}{2} \delta(f - f') P_\phi \left(f + \frac{\mu}{2} v_0^2 + \mu \eta \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \hat{\Omega} \right). \quad (2.40)$$

Here, it has been assumed that the correlation of the noise between the two detectors is zero. $\Delta \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_1$ is the separation between the two detectors. Defining the overlap function $\Gamma_\phi(f)$ in the absence of Earth's motion as

$$\Gamma_\phi(f) \equiv \int \frac{d\hat{\Omega}}{4\pi} F_1^*(\hat{\Omega}, f) F_2(\hat{\Omega}, f) e^{2\pi i f \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x}}, \quad (2.41)$$

the cross-correlation becomes

$$\langle \tilde{S}_1^*(f) \tilde{S}_2(f') \rangle = \frac{\delta(f - f')}{2} \Gamma_\phi(f) P_\phi(f) \varepsilon(f). \quad (2.42)$$

Here $\varepsilon(f)$, defined by

$$\varepsilon(f) \equiv \frac{1}{\Gamma_\phi(f) P_\phi(f)} \int \frac{d\hat{\Omega}}{4\pi} F_1^*(\hat{\Omega}, f) F_2(\hat{\Omega}, f) e^{2\pi i f \eta \hat{\Omega} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x}} P_\phi \left(f + \frac{\mu}{2} v_0^2 + \mu \eta \mathbf{v}_0 \cdot \hat{\Omega} \right), \quad (2.43)$$

quantifies the change of the correlation signal caused by the motion of the Solar System with respect to the rest frame of the Milky Way Galaxy. Notice that $\varepsilon(f)$ is a complex number.

From the relation $F^*(\hat{\Omega}, f) = F(-\hat{\Omega}, f)$, we can verify that $\Gamma_\phi(f)$ is a real function. For LIGO interferometers, we have $fL \ll 1$ and $2\pi f \eta |\hat{\Omega} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x}| \ll 1$. Thus, it is a good approximation to ignore the phase proportional to $\Delta \mathbf{x}$ in Eq. (2.41). With this approximation, we can perform the angular integration analytically,

$$\Gamma_\phi(f) \approx (\kappa\alpha_{\text{SiO}_2} \eta)^2 (a_1 (fL)^2 + a_2 \eta^2), \quad (2.44)$$

where a_1, a_2 are defined by

$$a_1 = \frac{\pi^2}{3} (\hat{m}_1 - \hat{n}_1) \cdot (\hat{m}_2 - \hat{n}_2), \quad (2.45)$$

$$a_2 = \frac{2}{15} [((\hat{m}_1 + \hat{n}_1) \cdot \hat{m}_2)((\hat{m}_1 - \hat{n}_1) \cdot \hat{m}_2) - (\hat{m}_2 \leftrightarrow \hat{n}_2)]. \quad (2.46)$$

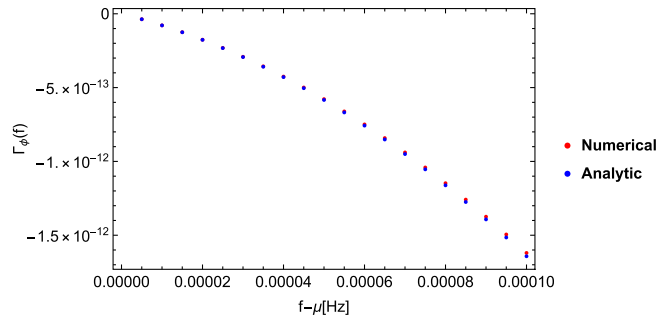


FIG. 2. Plot of $\Gamma_\phi(f)$ for $\mu = 100$ Hz, $\kappa\alpha_{\text{SiO}_2} = 1$.

Figure 2 shows numerically computed $\Gamma_\phi(f)$ and the approximate one (2.44) for $\kappa\alpha_{\text{SiO}_2} = 1$.¹ Clearly, the approximate formula nicely reproduces the exact one.

Our formulation expanded up to this point assumes infinitely long observation time T . However, in reality, the processed public data that we can use is obtained for $T = 192$ s. Thus, we need to relate the real observable with what we have computed for $T \rightarrow \infty$. First, suppose that the

¹Numerical values of the vectors \hat{m}, \hat{n} for the existing detectors can be found at https://lscsoft.docs.ligo.org/lalsuite/lal/_l_a_l_detectors_8h_source.html.

data $S(t)$ was taken during the period $(-T/2, T/2)$. We define the Fourier transformation of the data $S(t)$ as

$$\tilde{S}_T(f) = \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt e^{2\pi i f t} S(t) W_T(t), \quad (2.47)$$

where $W_T(t)$ is the Hann window function which is used by the LVK Collaboration. On the left-hand side, we have put the subscript ‘‘T’’ to emphasize that it is directly computed from data. Meanwhile, the original Fourier transformation is defined by

$$\tilde{S}(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{2\pi i f t} S(t). \quad (2.48)$$

From these equations, we find that $\tilde{S}_T(f)$ and $\tilde{S}(f)$ are related as

$$\tilde{S}_T(f) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} df' \tilde{S}(f') \tilde{W}_T(f - f'), \quad (2.49)$$

where $\tilde{W}_T(f)$ is defined by

$$\tilde{W}_T(f) = \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} dt e^{2\pi i f t} W_T(t) = \sqrt{\frac{8}{3}} \frac{\sin(\pi f T)}{2\pi f (1 - f^2 T^2)}, \quad (2.50)$$

and in the last equation we have given an explicit expression for the Hann window function. Using this relation, we can derive the cross-correlation of $\tilde{S}_T(f)$ in terms of $P_\phi(f)$ and $\Gamma_\phi(f)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \tilde{S}_{1,T}^*(f) \tilde{S}_{2,T}(f) \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\tilde{W}_T(f - f')|^2 \Gamma_\phi(f') P_\phi(f') \varepsilon(f') df'. \end{aligned} \quad (2.51)$$

To evaluate this integral approximately, we note $P_\phi(f')$ is sharply peaked at $\mu \leq f' \lesssim \mu + \mu v_*^2$. Thus, the integration is contributed only from this short interval. Since $\mu v_*^2 \ll 1/T$, the window function remains almost constant in this interval. Then, it is a good approximation to replace f' with μ in $\tilde{W}_T(f - f')$ and pull it out of the integration,

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \tilde{S}_{1,T}^*(f) \tilde{S}_{2,T}(f) \rangle \\ & \approx \frac{1}{2} |\tilde{W}_T(\mu - f)|^2 \left(\int_{\mu}^{\infty} \Gamma_\phi(f') P_\phi(f') df' \right) Q(\mu). \end{aligned} \quad (2.52)$$

Here $Q(\mu)$, defined by

$$Q(\mu) \equiv \frac{\int_{\mu}^{\infty} \Gamma_\phi(f) P_\phi(f) \varepsilon(f) df}{\int_{\mu}^{\infty} \Gamma_\phi(f) P_\phi(f) df}, \quad (2.53)$$

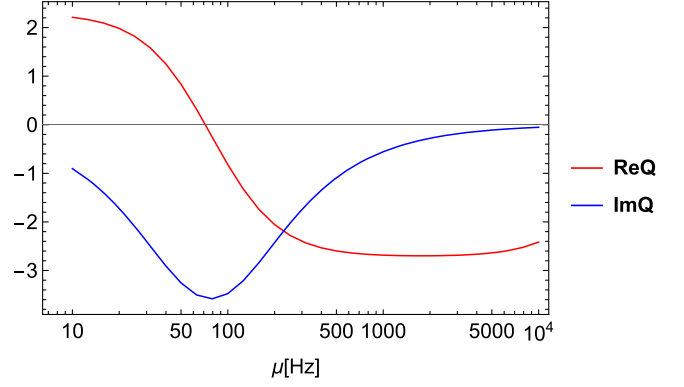


FIG. 3. Plot of $\text{Re}Q(\mu)$ and $\text{Im}Q(\mu)$.

quantifies the effect caused by the motion of the Solar System. Because $\varepsilon(f)$ is a complex number, $Q(\mu)$ is also a complex number. Figure 3 shows a plot of $\text{Re}Q(\mu)$ and $\text{Im}Q(\mu)$. In making this plot, it is assumed that dark matter wind comes from the direction specified by $(\ell, b) = (270^\circ, 0)$ in the Galactic coordinates that correspond to $(\alpha, \delta) = (3.70231, -0.81267)$ in the equilateral coordinates and the signal is averaged over α to take into account Earth’s daily rotation. We find that the signal is suppressed at $\mu \simeq 70$ Hz ($m \simeq 3 \times 10^{-13}$ eV), whereas it is enhanced by a factor of ~ 2 at other frequencies. We expect that the imaginary part of Q may be used as additional observable to increase the sensitivity of the search of the scalar dark matter by using the laser interferometers. Since only the real part of the cross-correlation is publicly available, we do not make use of $\text{Im}Q$ in our analysis.

It is possible to perform the integral $\int_{\mu}^{\infty} \Gamma_\phi P_\phi df$ analytically to a good approximation. To this end, using Eqs. (2.24) and (2.44), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mu}^{\infty} \Gamma_\phi(f) P_\phi(f) df & \approx (\kappa \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2})^2 \int_{\mu}^{\infty} df \eta^2 (a_1 \mu^2 L^2 + a_2 \eta^2) \\ & \times \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{4 \rho_{\text{loc}} \eta}{\pi^{5/2} \mu^3 v_*^3} \exp\left(-\frac{3\eta^2}{2v_*^2}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (2.54)$$

where we have replaced f which is not in η with μ . By changing variable from f to v by the relation (2.22), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mu}^{\infty} \Gamma_\phi(f') P_\phi(f') df' \\ & \approx (\kappa \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2})^2 \frac{\rho_{\text{loc}} v_*^2}{2\pi^2 \mu^2} \left(2a_1 \mu^2 L^2 + \frac{10}{3} a_2 v_*^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.55)$$

Thus, our final expression of the cross-correlation becomes

$$\langle \tilde{S}_{1,T}^*(f) \tilde{S}_{2,T}(f) \rangle \approx (\kappa \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2})^2 \frac{\rho_{\text{loc}} v_*^2}{2\pi^2 \mu^2} \left(a_1 \mu^2 L^2 + \frac{5}{3} a_2 v_*^2 \right) |\tilde{W}_T(\mu - f)|^2 Q(\mu). \quad (2.56)$$

The cross-correlation statistic $\hat{C}(f)$ given by the LVK Collaboration is defined as a summation over discretized frequency bins with its width $1/T$,

$$\hat{C}(f) = \frac{1}{T^2 \Delta f} \sum_{i=0}^5 \frac{\text{Re}[\tilde{S}_1^*(f_i) \tilde{S}_2(f_i)]}{\gamma_T(f_i) S_0(f_i)} \quad (\Delta f = 0.03125 \text{ Hz}, T = 192 \text{ s}), \quad (2.57)$$

where $f_i = f - \Delta f/2 + i/T$, γ_T is the overlap reduction function for gravitational waves, and $S_0 \equiv 3H_0^2/(10\pi^2 f^3)$. In the presence of the scalar field dark matter, using Eq. (2.56), the expectation value of $\hat{C}(f)$ becomes

$$\langle \hat{C}(f) \rangle = \frac{(\kappa \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2})^2 \rho_{\text{loc}} v_*^2}{2\pi^2 \mu^2 T^2 \Delta f} \left(a_1 \mu^2 L^2 + \frac{5}{3} a_2 v_*^2 \right) \text{Re} Q(\mu) \sum_{i=0}^5 \frac{|\tilde{W}_T(\mu - f_i)|^2}{\gamma_T(f_i) S_0(f_i)}. \quad (2.58)$$

This is the actual signal that we seek in the gravitational-wave (GW) data provided by the LVK Collaboration.

III. RESULTS

We search for the signal given by Eq. (2.58) in the data of the two LIGO detectors during their third observing run (O3). The LVK Collaboration gives the cross-correlation statistics that have been obtained by computing \hat{C} for each segment containing data of duration T and averaging them [25]. Thus, the cross-correlation statistics obey the Gaussian distribution, and the likelihood becomes [26]

$$p(\hat{C}|\Theta) \propto \exp \left(- \sum_f \frac{(\hat{C}(f) - \langle \hat{C}(f) \rangle)^2}{2\sigma^2(f)} \right), \quad (3.1)$$

where $\Theta = \{\mu, \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2}\}$ is a set of parameters characterizing the scalar field model.

In our analysis, we employ the Bayesian inference. We first fix μ and compute the posterior on α_{SiO_2} by adopting two priors (uniform in α_{SiO_2} and uniform in $\ln \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2}$). We then repeat this calculation by scanning the relevant range of μ . We did not find any conclusive evidence of a signal in

data. As a result, we are able to place an upper limit on α_{SiO_2} for various values of μ .

Figure 4 is one of the main results. Each black dot in both panels shows the upper limit for a corresponding value of m . The left (right) panel assumes uniform prior for α_{SiO_2} ($\ln \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2}$). Although the original data of the cross-correlation statistics are given with frequency interval $\delta f \simeq 0.03$ Hz, we did not use data for all frequencies but picked up data only at a frequency interval $10\delta f$ in order to reduce the file size of Fig. 4. Vertical white bands in both panels where there are no black dots are due to deficit of data. The spike at $m \simeq 3 \times 10^{-13}$ eV reflects the effect of the motion of Earth with respect to the rest frame of the Milky Way Galaxy (see discussion regarding Fig. 3). The finite spread of the black dots (i.e., that difference of values of the y axis between neighboring dots fluctuate) is caused by the fluctuations of the cross-correlation data that exist even among slightly different frequencies. We find that there is no significant difference between the left and right panels. Thus, we use only the left panel for the following results.

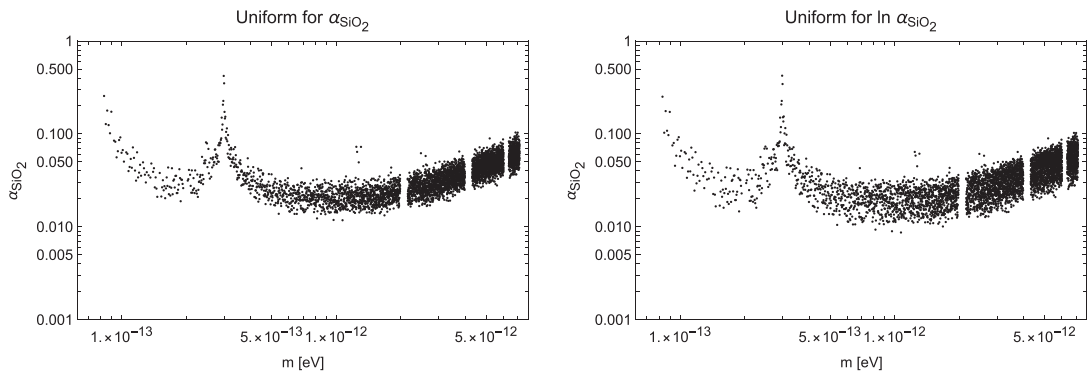


FIG. 4. Upper limit on α_{SiO_2} obtained by LIGO O3 data. The left (right) panel assumes uniform prior for α_{SiO_2} ($\ln \alpha_{\text{SiO}_2}$).

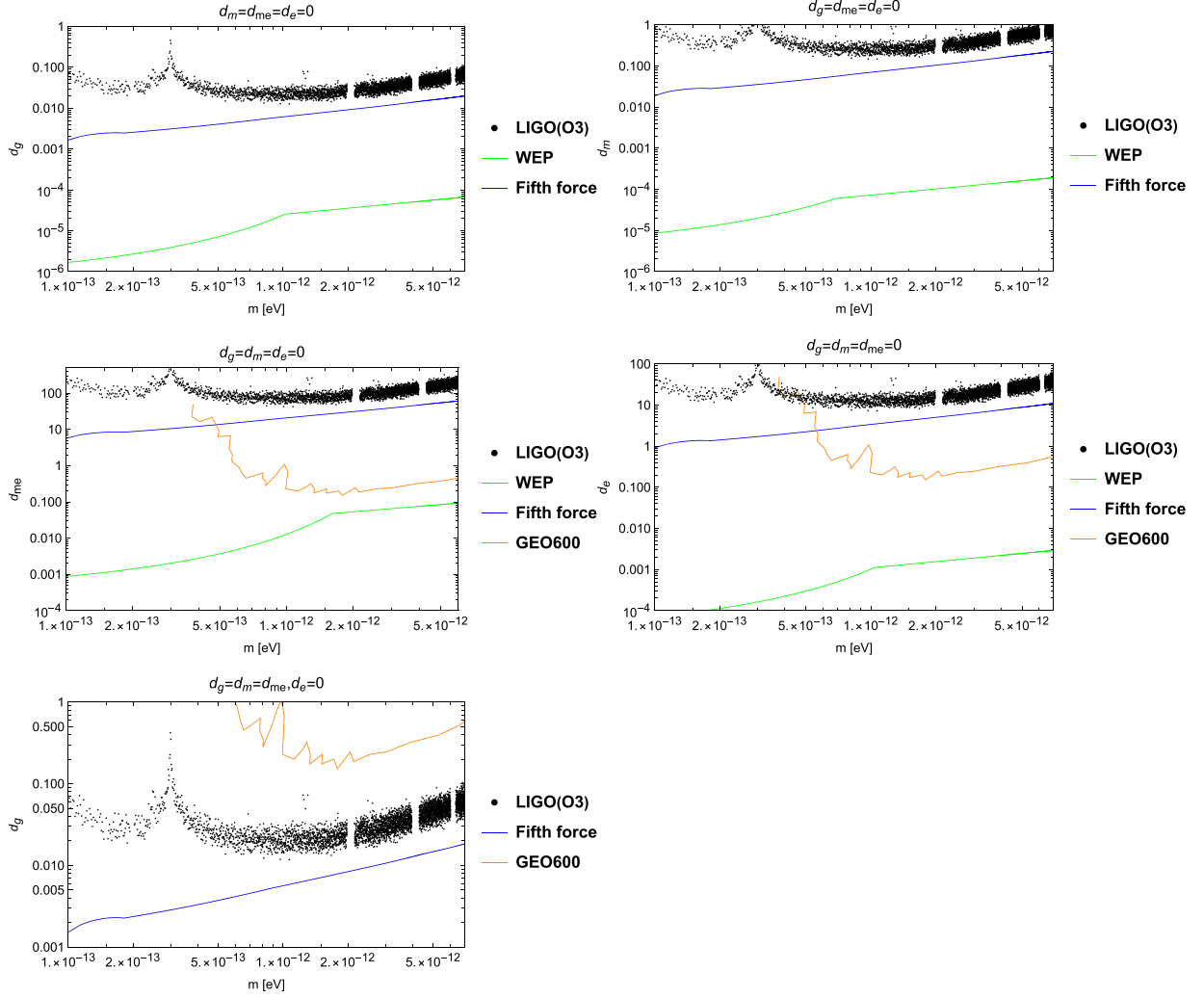


FIG. 5. Upper limits on the coupling constants for five representative cases, which have been obtained by translating Fig. 4 using Eq. (2.13). Top left panel: upper limit on d_g assuming $d_{\hat{m}} = d_{m_e} = d_e = 0$. Top right panel: upper limit on $d_{\hat{m}}$ assuming $d_g = d_{m_e} = d_e = 0$. Middle left panel: upper limit on d_{m_e} assuming $d_g = d_{\hat{m}} = d_e = 0$. Middle right panel: upper limit on d_e assuming $d_g = d_{\hat{m}} = d_{m_e} = 0$. Bottom panel: upper limit on d_g assuming $d_g = d_{\hat{m}} = d_{m_e}, d_e = 0$, which is the model of the gravitational nonminimal coupling discussed in the Appendix.

Figure 5 shows translation of Fig. 4 into the upper limits on the four coupling constants ($d_g, d_{\hat{m}}, d_{m_e}, d_e$) for five representative cases by using Eq. (2.13). In addition to our constraint by LIGO O3 data, we also show constraints from another GW experiment (GEO600) [24], which measures change of the size of the beam splitter and is sensitive only to d_{m_e} and d_e , as well as other non-GW experiments including test of violation of the weak equivalence principle (WEP) [21,27,28] and the fifth-force experiment [22]. Experiments of WEP such as the MICROSCOPE mission and the torsion balance are only sensitive to the difference of gravitational accelerations between different materials. The effect of the violation of WEP is normally expressed by the Eötvös parameter η defined by [28]

$$\begin{aligned} \eta &= \frac{2(a_A - a_B)}{a_A + a_B} \\ &= \alpha_E(\alpha_A - \alpha_B)\Phi(mR_E)(1 + mr)e^{-mr} \propto (\alpha_A - \alpha_B). \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Here a_A (a_B) is the gravitational acceleration of material A (B) measured at distance r from the center of Earth and α_E is $\langle \alpha_A \rangle$ for materials constituting Earth. R_E is the mean Earth radius and $\Phi(x) \equiv 3(x \cosh x - \sinh x)/x^3$. In our analysis, we assume that Earth is made of silica (50%) and magnesium oxide (50%). For the MICROSCOPE mission, A and B are beryllium and platinum. For the torsion balance experiment, A and B are beryllium and titanium. The fifth-force experiments measure extra force operating between two materials in addition to the gravitational

force. For a pair of material A and Earth, the experiment can probe a direct product $\alpha_A \alpha_E$. We make an approximation that the material used in [22] is purely aluminium. The quantity $\alpha_{Al} \alpha_E$ does not vanish for all the five cases in Fig. 5. Thus, the upper limit set by the fifth-force experiment is present in all the panels and is shown as a blue curve.

Let us now consider the upper limit for each case one by one. The first case in which only d_g is assumed to be nonvanishing is shown in the top left panel. Since both d_{m_e} and d_e are zero, GEO600 does not give any meaningful constraint in this case. Since the component-dependent part of Eq. (2.9) contains d_g , WEP experiments can probe d_g . The upper limit set by WEP is shown as a green curve. We find that WEP provides the most stringent constraint by several orders of magnitude stronger than the other constraints. Even the LIGO at design sensitivity will not be able to reach the current constraint by WEP. However, Cosmic Explorer, a planned third GW detector, may be able to have better sensitivity than WEP [12]. The second case in which only $d_{\hat{m}}$ is assumed to be nonvanishing is shown in the top right panel. This case is similar to the first case except that all the constraints are weaker than the ones in the first case. This is because α_E is less sensitive to $d_{\hat{m}}$ than d_g , namely, $\alpha_E \simeq 0.9d_g$ ($0.08d_{\hat{m}}$) for the first (second) case. The third case in which only d_{m_e} is assumed to be nonvanishing is shown in the middle left panel. In this case, GEO600 gives a stronger constraint than LIGO for $m \gtrsim 3 \times 10^{-13}$ eV. The WEP still provides the tightest upper limit on d_{m_e} . The fourth case in which only d_e is assumed to be nonvanishing is shown in the middle right panel. This case is similar to the third case except that WEP is much stronger. This can be understood from Eq. (2.9) that the component-dependent term proportional to d_{m_e} is suppressed by a factor $(A - 2Z)/A$ compared to d_e . The fifth case in which $d_g = d_{\hat{m}} = d_{m_e}$ and $d_e = 0$ is assumed is shown in the bottom panel. In this case, the WEP constraint is not present. The LIGO (O3) constraint is weaker than the fifth-force experiment, although the difference is less than a factor of ~ 5 at the large-mass side. The upgraded LIGO observation is expected to exceed the fifth-force constraint [12].

IV. CONCLUSION

If dark matter is a light scalar field weakly interacting with elementary particles, such a field induces oscillations of the physical constants, which results in a time-varying force acting on macroscopic objects. We searched for the signal of the scalar field in the latest data of LIGO observations (O3 run) and placed upper limits on the

coupling strength between the mirrors in the laser interferometers and the scalar field. To this end, we first formulated the cross-correlation statistics that can be readily compared with publicly available data. It has been found that inclusion of the anisotropies of the velocity distribution of dark matter enhances the signal by a factor of ~ 2 except for the narrow-mass range around $\simeq 3 \times 10^{-13}$ eV, for which the correlation between the interferometer at Livingston and the one at Hanford is blind to the signal.

From the nondetection of the signal, we also derived the upper limits on the coupling constants between the elementary particles and the scalar field for five representative cases. For all the cases where the weak equivalence principle is not satisfied, tests of the violation of the weak equivalence principle provides the tightest upper limit on the coupling constants. Upper limits from the fifth-force experiment are always stronger than the ones from LIGO, but the difference is less than a factor of ~ 5 at large-mass range, which vividly demonstrates that the gravitational-wave experiments have been coming close to the sensitivity of the fifth-force experiment. For the models where only the coupling to electrons or photons is nonvanishing, upper limits from GEO600 are stronger than those from LIGO at large-mass range, while LIGO provides stronger limits for the case where the weak equivalence principle is not violated.

Our study presents that gravitational-wave experiments are starting to bring us meaningful information to constrain the nature of dark matter. The formulation provided in this paper may be applied to the data of upcoming experiments as well and is expected to probe much wider parameter range of the model.

The supporting data for this paper are available at [25].

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APPENDIX: NONMINIMAL COUPLING MODEL

We assume that the scalar field dark matter does not directly interact with standard model fields and is only nonminimally coupled to gravity through the kinetic term mixing between the gravitons and the scalar field. In the Jordan frame, the action is defined as

$$S[\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, \Phi, \Psi] = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left(\frac{1}{16\pi G} \tilde{R} - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \Phi \partial_\nu \Phi - \kappa^{-1} \zeta \tilde{R} \Phi - \frac{M^2}{2} \Phi^2 \right) + S_m[\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, \Psi]. \quad (\text{A1})$$

Here $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ and Φ is the Jordan frame metric and scalar field, respectively. The standard model fields are symbolically denoted by Ψ . The mass term is parametrized by M and the dimensionless parameter ζ represents the strength of the kinetic term mixing.

In the standard manner [29], we can move to the Einstein frame where the gravitational action takes the Einstein-Hilbert form by the following conformal transformation:

$$\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{1 - 4\zeta\kappa\Phi} g_{\mu\nu}. \quad (\text{A2})$$

In the Einstein frame, Φ is not a canonical field (i.e., coefficient of the kinetic term is not $-\frac{1}{2}$) and the canonical field ϕ is obtained from Φ by

$$\phi = \int_0^\Phi \frac{\sqrt{1 + 12\zeta^2 - 4\zeta\kappa x}}{1 - 4\zeta\kappa x} dx = \sqrt{1 + 12\zeta^2}\Phi + \mathcal{O}(\Phi^2). \quad (\text{A3})$$

Then, at the leading order in ϕ , the action in the Einstein frame becomes

$$S[g_{\mu\nu}, \phi, \Psi] = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{1}{16\pi G} R - \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - \frac{m^2}{2} \phi^2 \right) + S_m[\Omega^2(\phi)g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi], \quad (\text{A4})$$

where the mass m of ϕ and the conformal function $\Omega(\phi)$ are given by

$$m = \frac{M}{\sqrt{1 + 12\zeta^2}}, \quad \Omega(\phi) = 1 + \frac{2\zeta}{\sqrt{1 + 12\zeta^2}} \kappa \phi + \mathcal{O}(\phi^2). \quad (\text{A5})$$

The presence of the conformal function leads to the dependence of the energy scale E inherent in S_m on the value of ϕ as $E(\phi) = \Omega(\phi)E$. Consequently, the low-energy physical constants listed in Eqs. (2.3)–(2.6) depends on ϕ as

$$\alpha(\phi) = \alpha, \quad (\text{A6})$$

$$\Lambda_3(\phi) = \left(1 + \frac{2\zeta}{\sqrt{1 + 12\zeta^2}} \varphi \right) \Lambda_3, \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$m_e(\phi) = \left(1 + \frac{2\zeta}{\sqrt{1 + 12\zeta^2}} \varphi \right) m_e, \quad (\text{A8})$$

$$m_{u,d}(\phi) = \left(1 + \frac{2\zeta}{\sqrt{1 + 12\zeta^2}} \varphi \right) m_{u,d}(\Lambda_3). \quad (\text{A9})$$

Thus, the model defined by Eq. (A1) corresponds to a set of parameter values

$$d_g = d_{m_e} = d_{m_{u,d}} = \frac{2\zeta}{\sqrt{1 + 12\zeta^2}}, \quad d_e = 0. \quad (\text{A10})$$

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