

Time crystals as regenerative frequency dividers

and other time and frequency applications of low noise photonic systems

Andrey B. Matsko

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology





- Background on low loss systems and (some) of their uses at JPL
 - JPL's Frequency and Timing Advanced Instrument Development group: main activities and interests
- Early studies of dissipative solitons and parametric instabilities in low loss photonic systems
 - ➤Low loss resonant (micro)systems
 - Dissipative solitons in high-Q systems
 - >Use of dissipative solitons (and not only the solitons) in clocks and oscillators
- Recent developments
 - Fundamental limitations of spectral purity of photonic oscillators: theory and experiments
 - Photonic time crystals as ideal frequency dividers and their use in clocks
- Outlook





Background on low loss systems and (some) of their uses at JPL

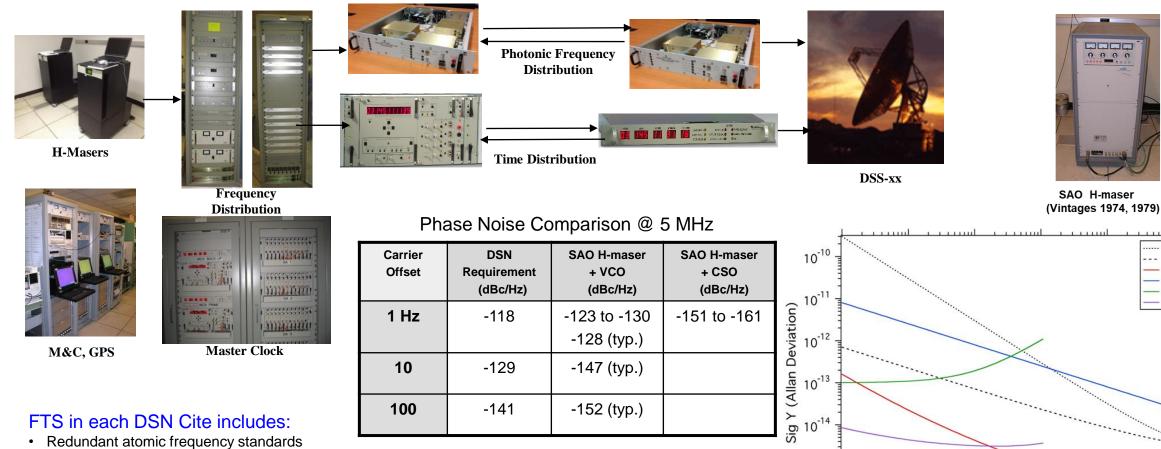
JPL's Frequency and Timing Advanced Instrument Development group: main activities and interests

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Deep Space Network Clocks and Oscillators

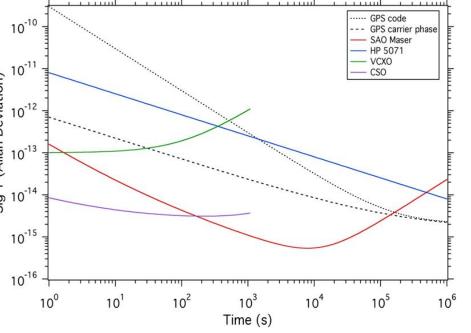




- Redundant clocks ٠
- Signal distribution via fiber optic links
- S, X, Ka phase reference combs
- Performance measurement and calibration capabilities

C. Thornton and J. Border, 2003, Radiometric Tracking Techniques for Deep Space Navigation, JPL Deep Space Communications and Navigation Series (John Wiley & Sons, New York).

This is not research but hard-core engineering Allowed operation disruption is 8 min per year

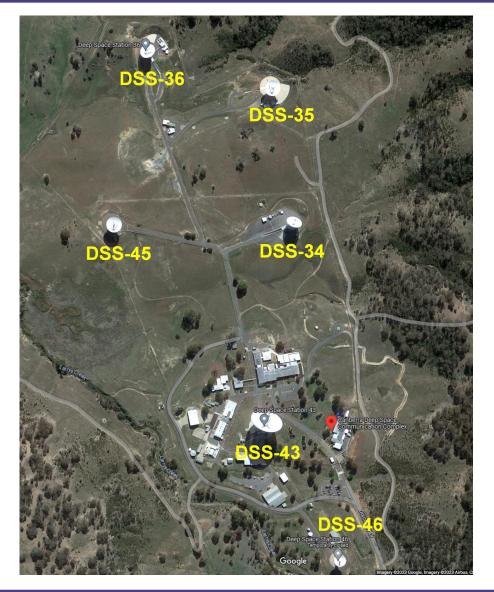




Canberra Site a Week Ago





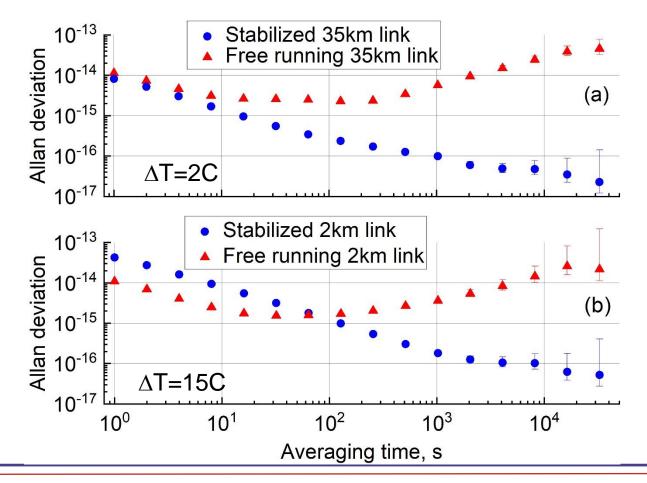


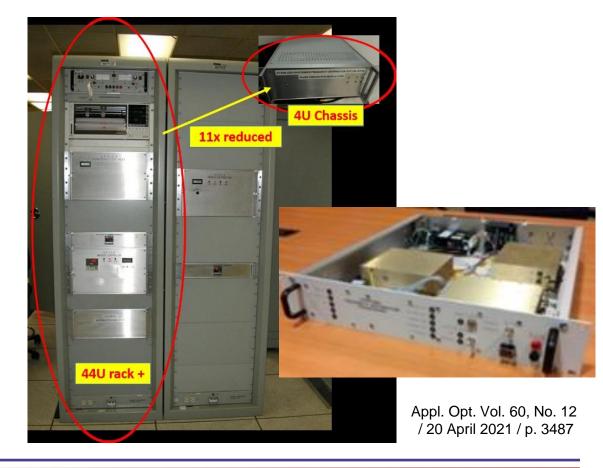
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- JPL time and frequency group was the first one to utilize optical fibers for time and frequency transfer [G. Lutes, "Experimental optical fiber communications link," TDA Prog. report 42-59 (Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 1980), pp. 77–85]
- Stability of existing links is better than the stability of a maser.







More than 20 years history of Mercury Ion Clock development



Achievable Stability:

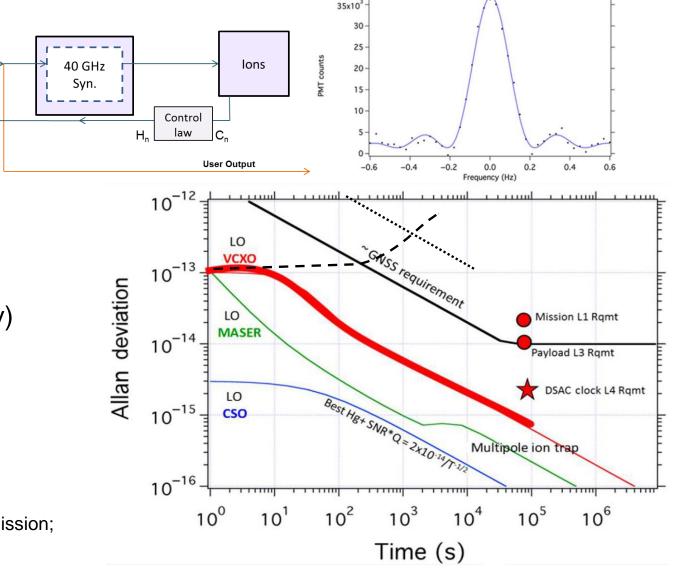
Many people have been involved

LO

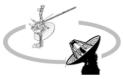
- Local Oscillator (< 10s)
- SNR*Q (~10s to 1 day)
- Systematic offsets/environment (> 1 day)
 - Magnetic Shifts
 - Number (Doppler Shifts) QP only
 - Collision Shifts
 - Light Shifts QP only

Please note that **Q** is important here

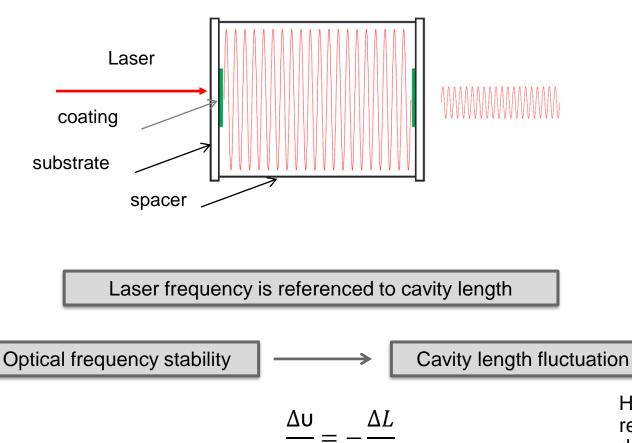
Mercury Ion Clock for a NASA Technology Demonstration Mission; IEEE UFFC Transactions, Vol. 63, No.7, July 2016.



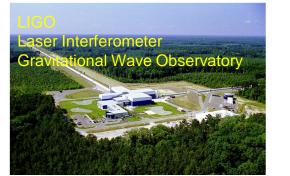




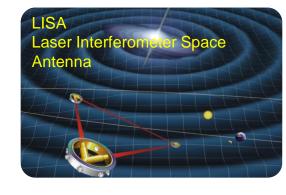
Stable laser based on Fabry Perot etalon:

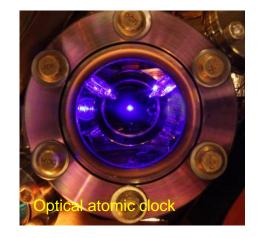


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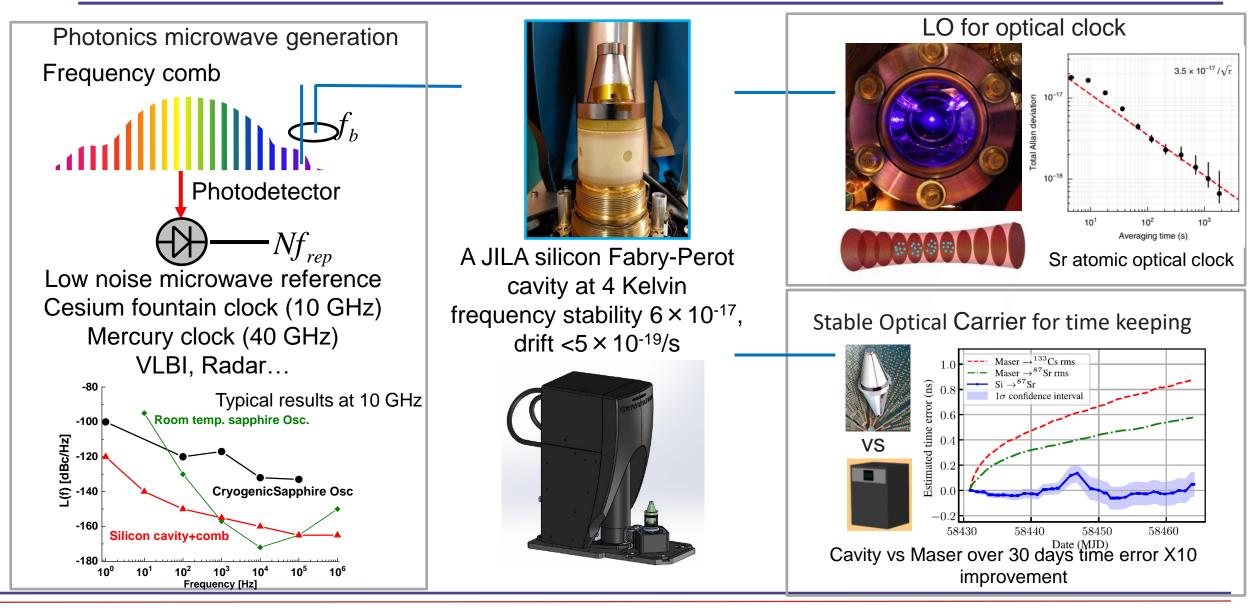
Highly stable optical frequency is critical in a variety of advanced research direction: optical atomic clock, gravational wave detection, very long base line interferometry, geodesy...

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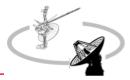


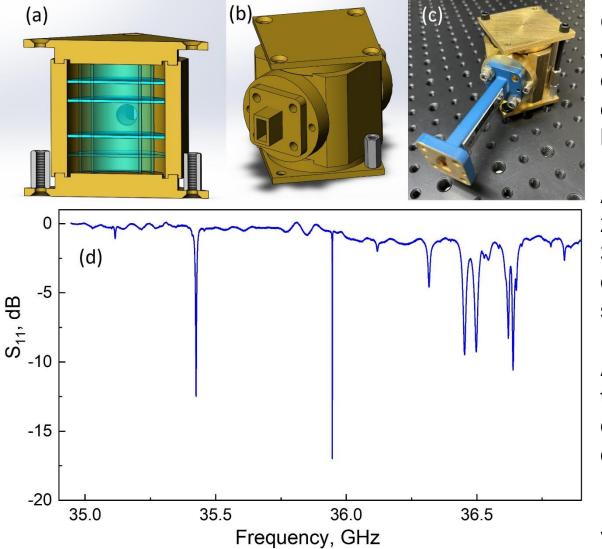




Wei Zhang et al. ⁹



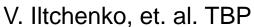


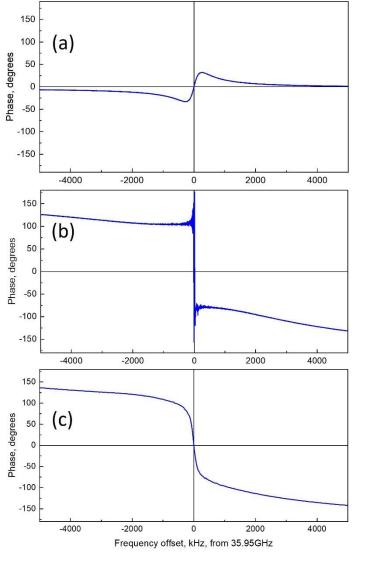


Goal: Support legacy of John Dick, Lute Maleki and others and develop RF oscillators based on low loss crystals.

An intrinsic Q-factor of 2×10^5 is demonstrated at 36 GHz for the lowest order TE-mode of a sapphire DBR.

An oscillator suitable for the mercury clock operation is the next step of the development.

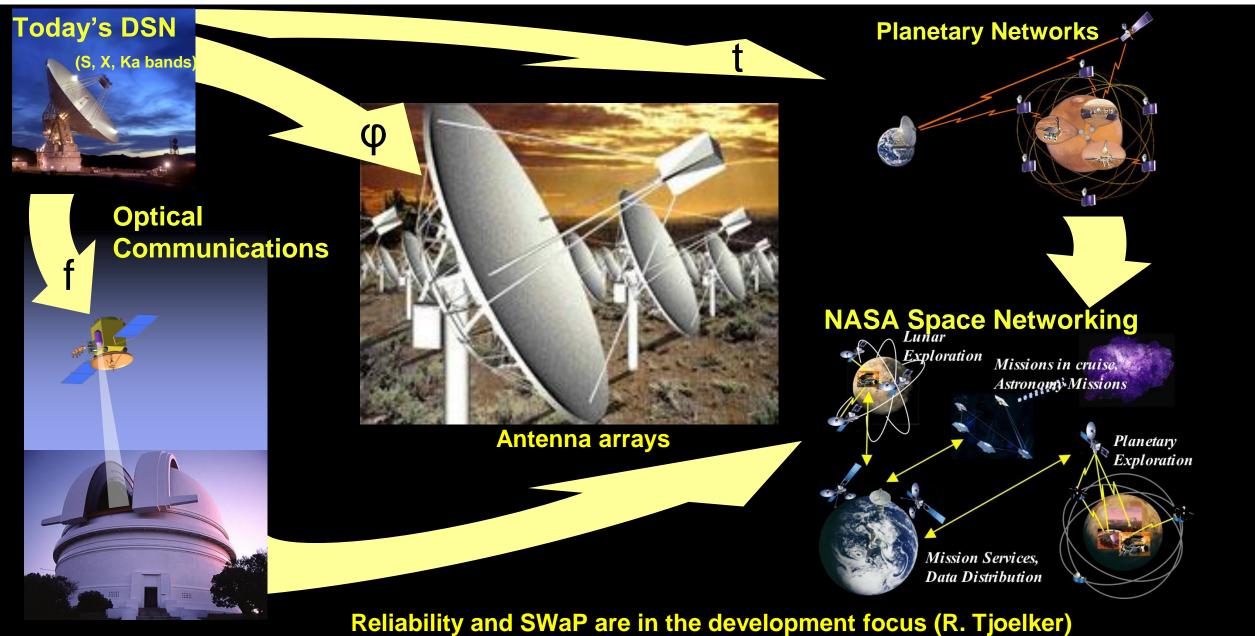






Future Drivers of the Frequency & Timing Systems Development









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How the modern (micro) photonics can help to push forward our time and frequency applications?

- Stable and spectrally pure (UV) lasers
- Stable and spectrally pure photonic oscillators





Cavities enable stable oscillators. **Q-factor** of a cavity is ultimately determined by the material attenuation α :



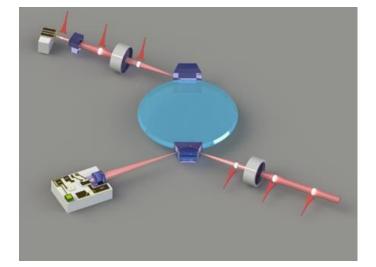
Solid state optical resonators with dimensions ranging from 10's of micron to a few mm, to support various applications

Extremely high Q's (record > 10^{11} in CaF₂) ~ $1x10^9$ LiTaO₃

Easy to T control/ encapsulate

Can support any broad range of wavelengths (unique feature)

A toolbox of low loss optical coupling solutions is developed



$$(2\gamma)^{-1} = n_0 (\alpha c)^{-1} \qquad Q = \frac{2\pi n}{\alpha \lambda}$$

For
$$\alpha \simeq \alpha_{UV} \ e^{\lambda_{UV}/\lambda} + \alpha_R \ \lambda^{-4} + \alpha_{IR} \ e^{-\lambda_{IR}/\lambda}$$

E.D.Palik, "Handbook on optical constants of solids", Academic, NY, 1998

CaF ₂	3x10 ⁻⁷ cm ⁻¹
SiO ₂ (optical fiber)	5x10 ⁻⁶ cm ⁻¹
Al ₂ O ₃	1x10 ⁻⁵ cm ⁻¹
SiO ₂ (crystal)	1x10 ⁻⁵ cm ⁻¹
Si (crystal)	8x10 ⁻⁵ cm ⁻¹
LiNbO ₃ /LiTaO ₃	1x10 ⁻⁴ cm ⁻¹
Si ₃ N ₄ /Hydex	1x10 ⁻² cm ⁻¹
Polymers	1x10 ⁻¹ cm ⁻¹

*Transparency of most of the optical materials is not well documented in literature and the documented values vary by an order of magnitude





Conduction band

$$\alpha(\lambda) \simeq \alpha_{UV} e^{\lambda_{UV}/\lambda}$$

The density of states is not zero at the band edge. There are always band tails in non ideal crystals.

F. Urbach, *Phys. Rev.* 92, 1324 (1953)

Valence band

$$\alpha(\lambda) \simeq \alpha_{IR} e^{-\lambda_{IR}/\lambda}$$

The multiphonon absorption occurs due to unharmonicity of internal vibrational modes of an ideal crystalline lattice

M. Sparks and L. J. Sham, Phys. Rev. B 8, 3037 (1973)

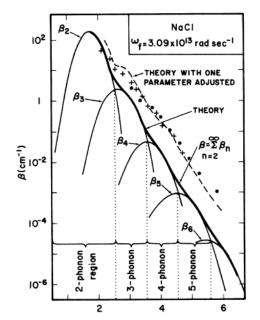
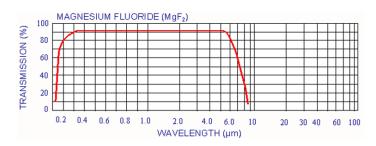


FIG. 10. Theoretical estimates of β_n at room temperature for NaCl. Experimental points from Fig. 1 are shown for comparison.

In the center of the transparency window the attenuation is given by the impurities and scattering



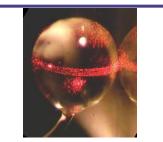
Surface scattering is the leading effect in crystalline cavities

$$Q_{\rm ss} = \frac{K_{\rm TE}}{1 + K_{\rm TE}} \frac{3\lambda^3 a}{8n \, \pi^2 B^2 \sigma^2}.$$

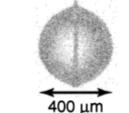
M.L Gorodetsky et al., Opt. Lett. 21, 453 (1996);
D.W. Vernooy et al., Opt. Lett.23, 247 (1998);
L. Collot et al., Europhys. Lett. 23, 327 (1993);
V.B. Braginsky et al., Phys. Lett. A 137, 393 (1989).







Fused silica: Gorodetsky et al., OL **21**, 453 (1996).



Solid H₂: K. Hakuta et al. OL **27** (2002)



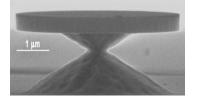
LN WGM: D.A. Cohen CaF₂ and A.F.J. Levi, Electron. Sch Lett. **37** (1) , 2001.



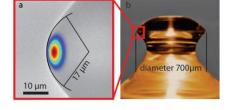
Fused silica: K. Vahala et

al., Nature **421**, 925 (2003)

CaF₂ Q_m>10⁵: J. Hofer, A. Schliesser, P. Del'Haye, and T. Kippenberg (CLEO'09)



Si: Appl. Phys. Lett. 85 (2004)



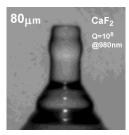
MgF₂ resonator, C. Y. Wang, T. Herr, P. Del'Haye, A. Schliesser, J. Hofer, R. Holzwarth, T. W. Hänsch, N. Picqué, T. J. Kippenberg, arXiv:1109.2716

Please note, the first crystalline WGMRs were created well before 1996.

C. G. B. Garrett, W. Kaiser, and W. L. Bond, "Stimulated emission into optical whispering gallery modes of spheres", Phys. Rev. **124**, 1807-1809 (1961).

P. Walsh and G. Kemeny, "Laser operation without spikes in a ruby ring", J. Appl. Phys. **34**, 956-957 (1963).

D. Roess and G. Gehrer, "Selection of discrete modes in toroidal lasers", Proc. of IEEE **52**, 1359-1360 (1964).



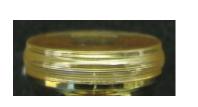
Calcium fluoride resonators that have $Q=2 \times 10^{10}$

CaF₂: Savchenkov et al, PRA

70, 051804 (2004); OE 15, 6768

(2007).

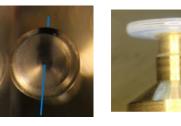
Grudinin et al Opt. Commun. 265, 33-38 (2006).



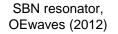
LN WGM resonator, D. Haertle, T. Beckmann, J. Schwesyg, S. Hermann, A. Zimmermann, K. Buse Photonics West 2009



MgF₂ resonator, OEwaves (2011)



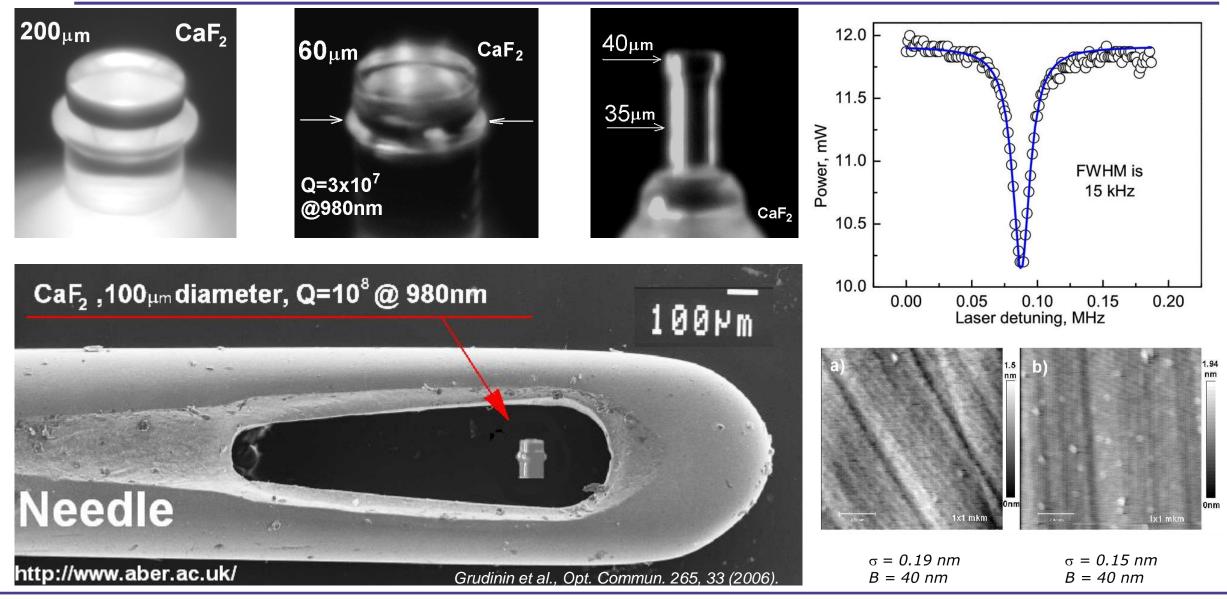
BBO resonator, JPL, 2012





Resonators of nearly any reasonable size can be created by mechanical polishing

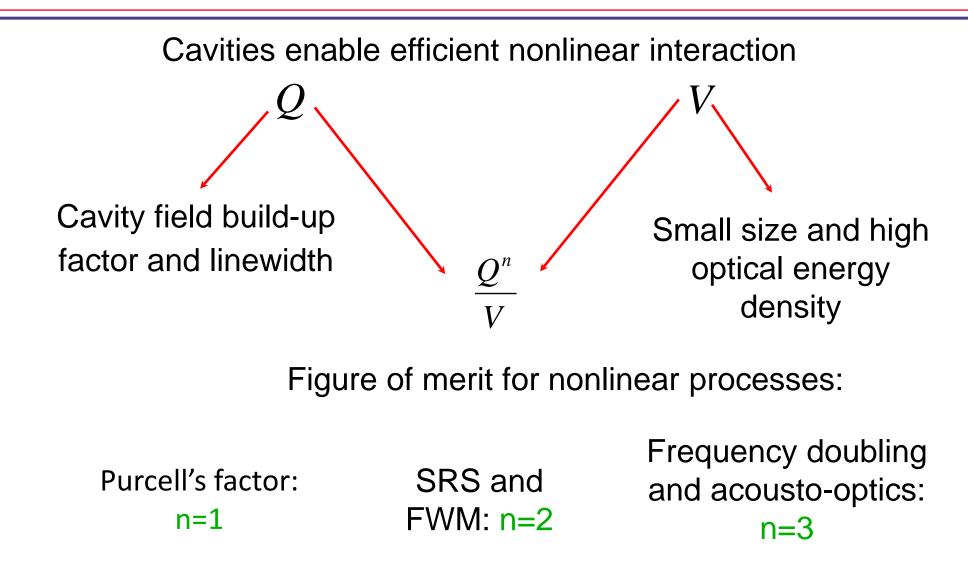




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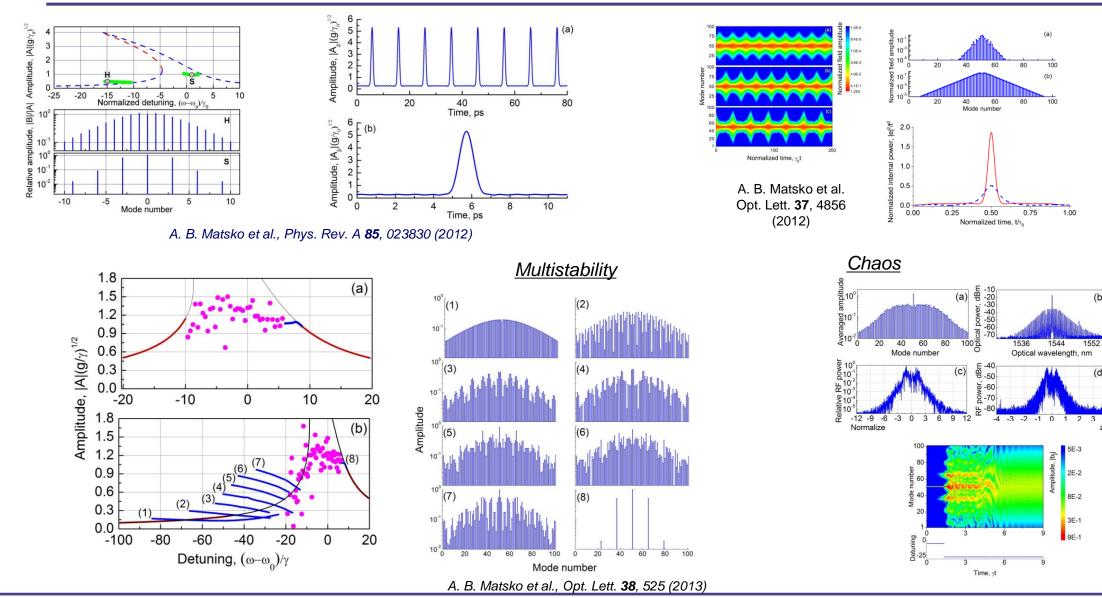




Microcavity-based dissipative solitons: some early studies



(b)



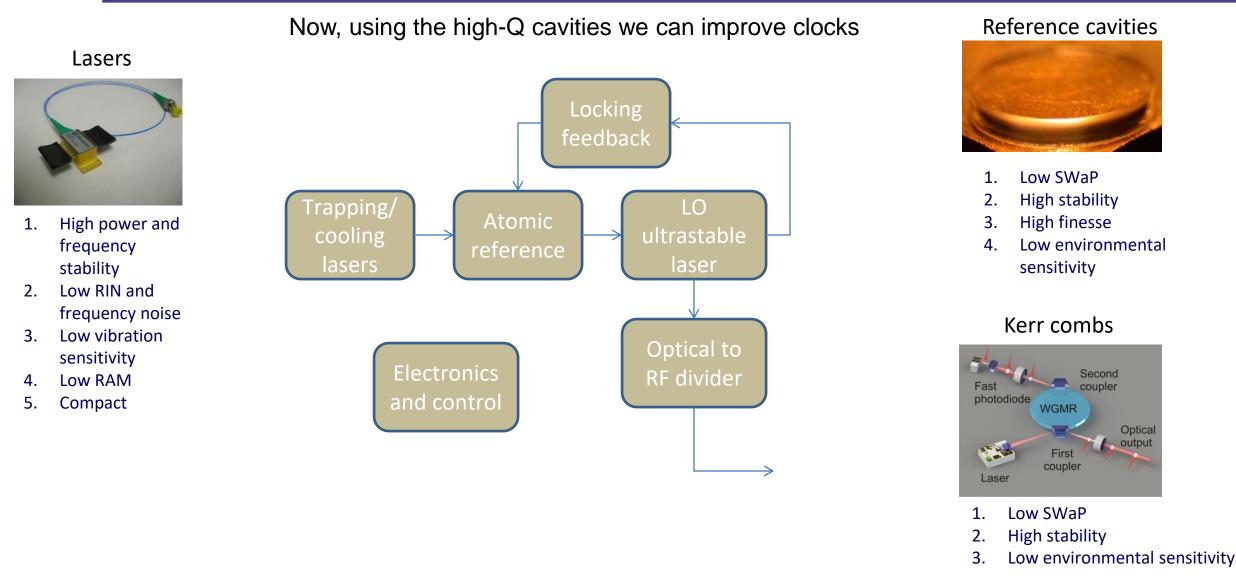




Optical clocks using high-Q microcavities







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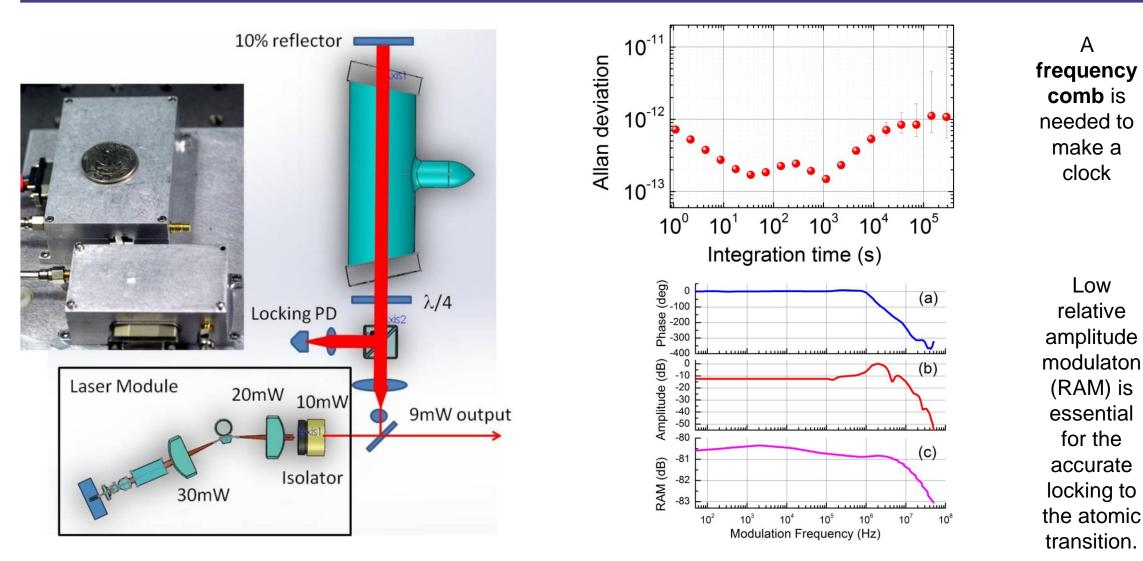
Α

make a clock

Low

relative

for the



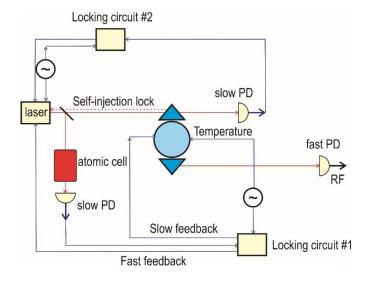
W. Liang et al., Appl. Opt. 54, 3353-3359 (2015)

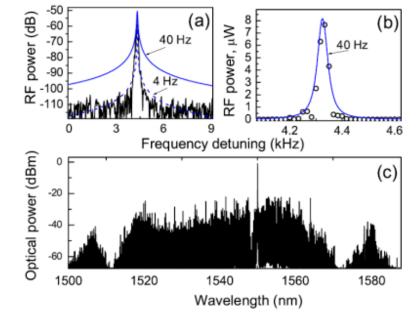
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22 Was supported by DARPA



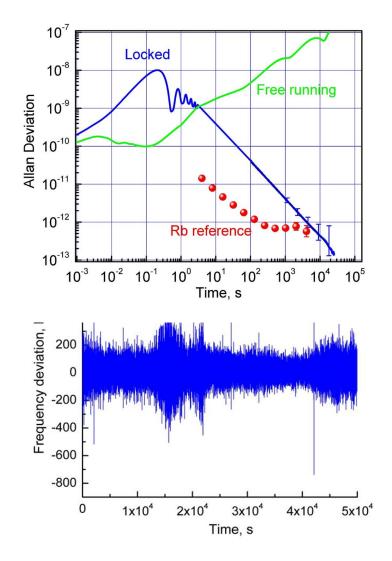






Main idea: Frequency stability can be transferred from optical frequency to microwave frequency using an optical comb. The stabilization goes through the resonator stability. Does not works well because of the efficiency dips.

A microwave signal is generated by demodulating the Kerr comb with a highfrequency photodiode. (a) The signal on logarithmic scale; (b) the same signal on linear scale; (c) optical comb used in the experiment. Linear fit of the microwave line gives a 40 Hz linewidth.



The idea still can work IF/WHEN a good single mode cavity will be created



Stabilized Blue Lasers

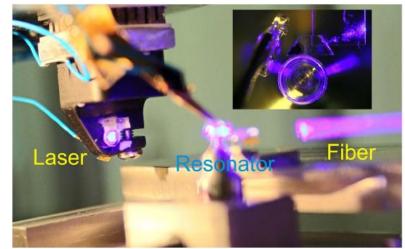


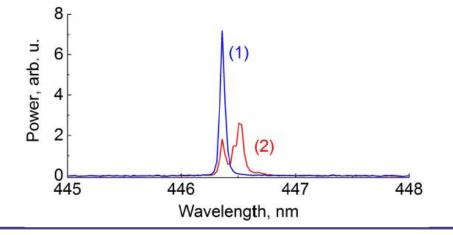
IOP Publishing

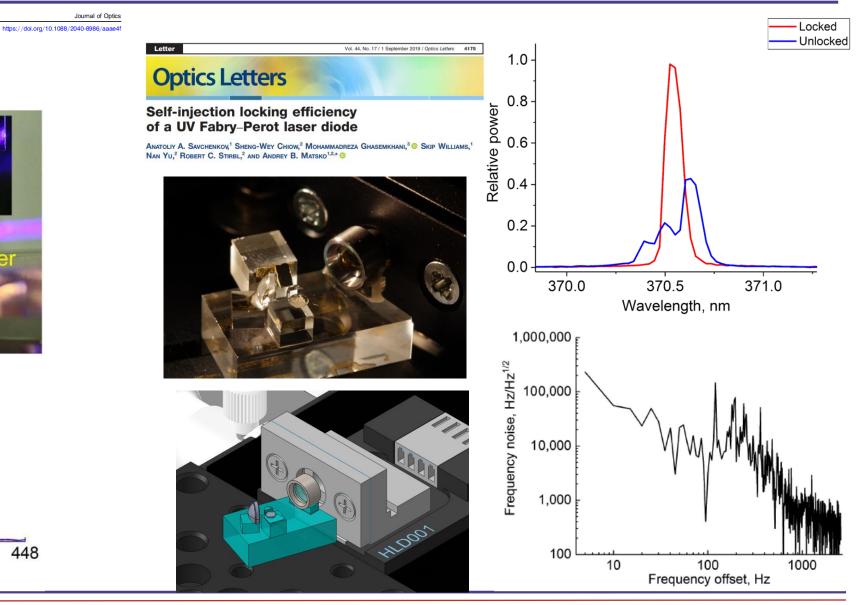
J. Opt. 20 (2018) 045801 (5pp)

Self-injection locked blue laser

Prathamesh S Donvalkar, Anatoliy Savchenkov and Andrey Matsko®



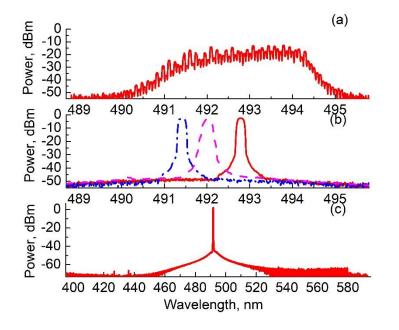


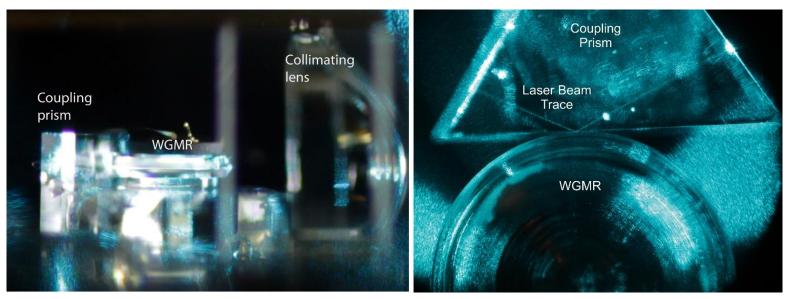


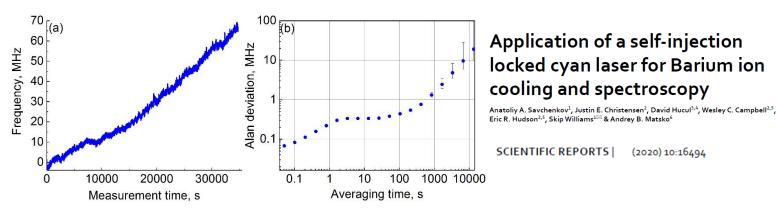


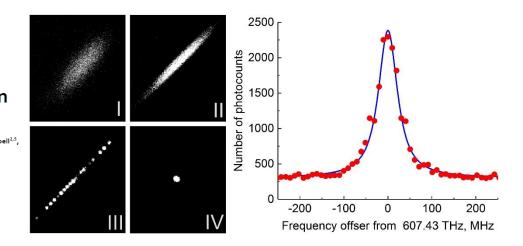
Stabilized Magenta Lasers















Need to create a laser at 194 nm





RF oscillators based on dissipative solitons





RF oscillators are needed in a variety of systems including:

- Radar
- Direction finding of signals of interest
- Applications related to coherent operation across multiple segmented platforms

Radar operational requirements include ever-increasing demands for lowerphase noise signal and waveform generation

Existing electronic technologies cannot meet these demands concurrently within environmental and tactical requirements

RF <u>photonic</u> oscillators are characterized with

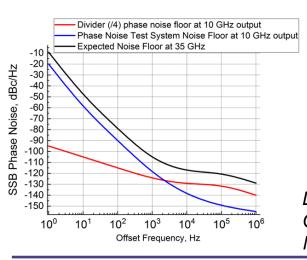
✓ High Spectral Purity ✓ Low Environmental sensitivity
✓ Convenient Signal Distribution

✓ Small SWaP



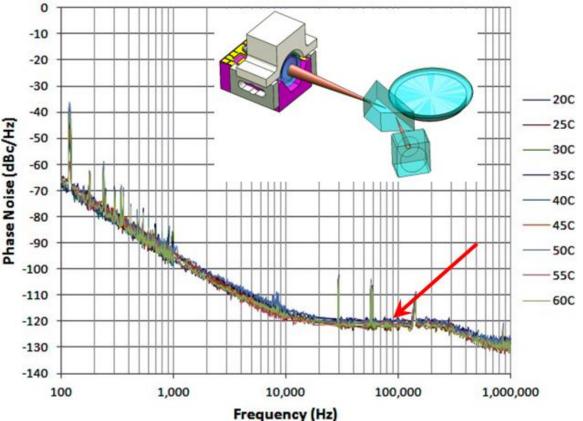


- High transparency/Low loss materials
- Low bending and radiative losses
 - Allows for direct generation of high frequency
 - Small size
- Low vibration sensitivity
 - Small size
- Superior phase noise owing to high-Q
- Relatively simple design
- Division of the optical frequency noise



The phase noise measurement is limited by performance of the phase noise measurement setup.

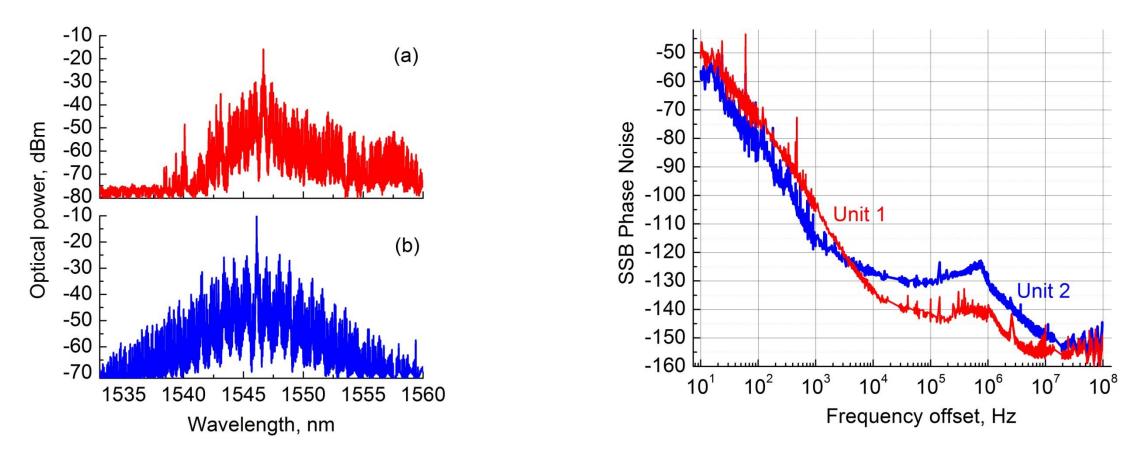
D Seidel et al., "Minituarized Ka-band Photonic Oscillators", 2018 International Topical Meeting on Microwave Photonics



Phase noise of the 28 GHz signal generated by the packaged photonic oscillator. Inset represents Laser, Resonator and Coupling optics layout. 28 GHz resonator ~ 2.5 mm in diameter. <u>Non-soliton regime is utilized.</u>







Unit 1 produces irregular combs. Unit 2 produces symmetric multi-soliton combs. RF phase noise is comparable -> solitons are unnecessary for good RF performance.

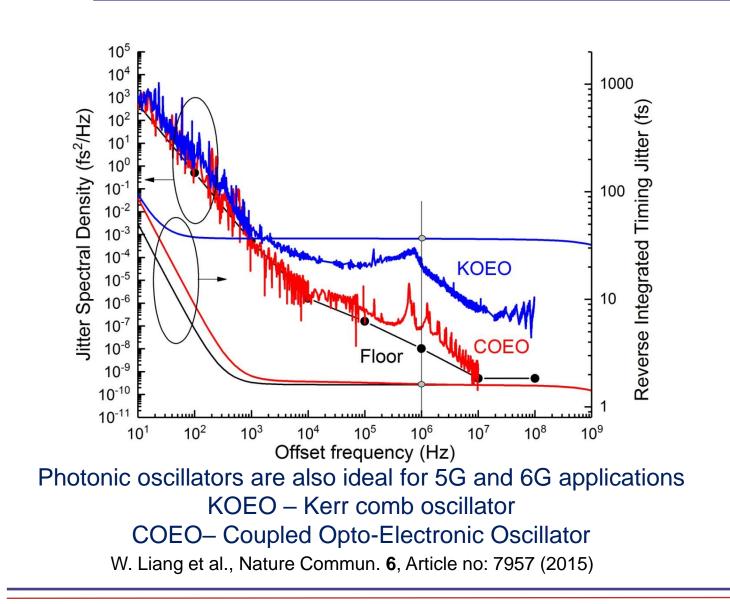
A. Matsko, et al. "Turn-key operation and stabilization of Kerr frequency combs" 2016 IEEE International Frequency Control Symposium (IFCS).

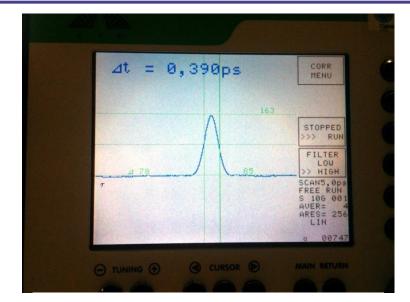
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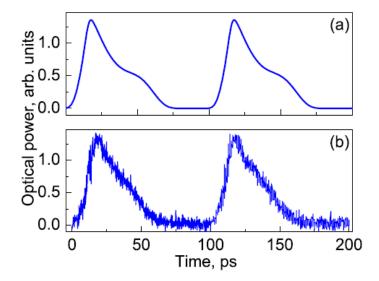
















• Need to reach AD~10⁻¹³ at 1s





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 - Dissipative solitons in high-Q systems

>Use of dissipative solitons (and not only the solitons) in clocks and oscillators

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Fundamental limitations of spectral purity of Kerr comb oscillators: theory and experiment





Kerr frequency combs can be analyzed using Lugiato-Lefever (LL) equation accompanied by the standard high finesse cavity input-output equation:

$$T_{R}\frac{\partial A}{\partial T} + \frac{i}{2}\beta_{2\Sigma}\frac{\partial^{2} A}{\partial t^{2}} - i\gamma_{\Sigma}|A|^{2}A = -\left(\alpha_{\Sigma} + \frac{T_{c}}{2} + i\delta_{0}\right)A + i\sqrt{T_{c}P_{in}}e^{i\varphi_{in}},$$

 $A_{out} = \sqrt{P_{in}} e^{i\varphi_{in}} + i\sqrt{T_c} A;$

or by two input-output equations, in the case of two optical couplers:

$$\begin{split} T_{R} \frac{\partial A}{\partial T} + \frac{i}{2} \beta_{2\Sigma} \frac{\partial^{2} A}{\partial t^{2}} - i \gamma_{\Sigma} |A|^{2} A &= -\left(\alpha_{\Sigma} + \frac{T_{c1} + T_{c2}}{2} + i \delta_{0}\right) A + i \sqrt{T_{c} P_{in}} e^{i \varphi_{in}} ,\\ A_{out1} &= \sqrt{P_{in}} e^{i \varphi_{in}} + i \sqrt{T_{c1}} A, \end{split}$$

A. B. Matsko et al., "Whispering gallery mode oscillators and optical comb generators," Proc. of 7th Symp.
 Frequency Standards and Metrology, ed. L. Maleki, pp. 539–558 (World Scientific, New Jersey, 2009).
 A. B. Matsko et al., "Mode-locked Kerr frequency combs," Opt. Lett. 36, 2845–2847 (2011).

A. B. Matsko and L. Maleki Optics Express **21** (23), 28862 (2013).

 $A_{out2} = i\sqrt{T_{c2}}A;$



A P

The solution is assumed in an autosoliton form

$$\begin{aligned} A(T,t) &= A_c + A_p(T,t), \\ A_c &= \sqrt{P_c} e^{i\varphi_c}, \\ A_p(T,t) &= \sqrt{\frac{P_p}{2}} \left[\sec h \left(\frac{t-\xi}{\tau} \right) \right]^{1+iq} e^{i\Omega(t-\xi)+i\varphi_p} \end{aligned}$$

Then the parameters of the solution are found using perturbed Lagrange equations derived from Lagrange operator:

$$L = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left\{ \frac{T_R}{2} \left(A_p^* \frac{\partial A_p}{\partial T} - A_p \frac{\partial A_p^*}{\partial T} \right) - \frac{i}{2} \left(\beta_{2\Sigma} \left| \frac{\partial A_p}{\partial t} \right|^2 + \gamma_{\Sigma} \left| A_p \right|^4 \right) \right\} dt$$

H. A. Haus and A. Mecozzi, "Noise of mode-locked lasers", IEEE J. Quantum. Electron. 29, 983–996 (1993). A. Hasegawa, "Soliton-based optical communications: an overview," IEEE J. Sel. Top. Quantum Electron. 6, 1161–1172 (2000).

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A. B. Matsko and L. Maleki Optics Express **21** (23), 28862 (2013).

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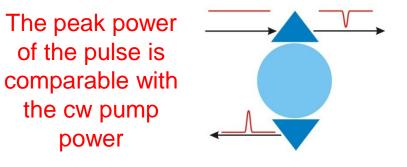
$$\tau^{2} = -\frac{2\beta_{2\Sigma}}{\gamma_{\Sigma}P_{p}}; \quad P_{p} = \frac{4\delta_{0}}{\gamma_{\Sigma}};$$

$$\sin\left(\varphi_{c} - \varphi_{p}\right) = -\sqrt{\frac{8\delta_{0}\left(\alpha_{\Sigma} + T_{c}/2\right)^{2}}{\pi^{2}T_{c}\gamma_{\Sigma}P_{in}}} \Rightarrow \delta_{0} \leq \frac{\pi^{2}T_{c}\gamma_{\Sigma}P_{in}}{8\left(\alpha_{\Sigma} + T_{c}/2\right)^{2}}$$

Unless the pump light is filtered out the output pulses are "dark" solitons

$$\frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} \cong \left[1 - \frac{\pi}{2} \sin^2 (\varphi_c - \varphi_p) \sec h \left(\frac{t}{\tau} \right) \right]^2$$

In the case of two couplers
$$\frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} \cong \left[\frac{\pi}{2} \sin^2 (\varphi_c - \varphi_p) \sec h \left(\frac{t}{\tau} \right) \right]^2$$



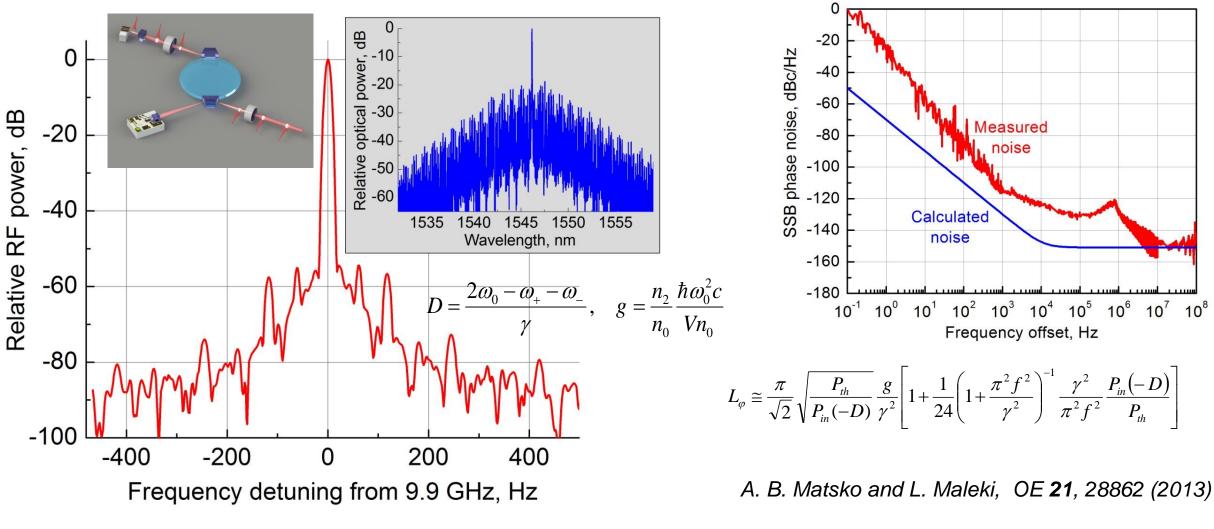
A. B. Matsko and L. Maleki, OE **21**, 28862 (2013)

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Phase Noise Limit of Kerr Comb Oscillator



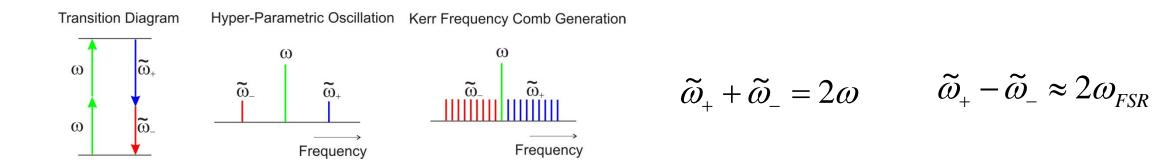


Oscillators are useful for clocks as flywheels

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Sidebands are always equidistant because of energy and photon number conservation, but the repetition rate of the comb can change.

$$\sigma \cong \frac{g^{1/2}}{\sqrt{2}\omega_{FSR}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\tau}} \qquad g = \frac{n_2}{n} \frac{\hbar \omega_0^2 c}{V n}, \quad \sigma \cong \frac{4(-D)^{1/4} g^{1/2}}{5\omega_{FSR}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\tau}}$$

$$\tilde{V} = -\frac{g}{2} (\hat{e}^+)^2 \hat{e}^2, \quad \text{Minimum Alan deviation for fundamental soliton Kerr comb}}$$

Minimum Allan deviation for two sidebands A. B. Matsko, et al., Phys. Rev. A **71**, 033804 (2005)

 $\hat{e} = \sum \hat{a}$

A. B. Matsko and L. Maleki, OE 21, 28862 (2013)

$$\frac{d}{dt}\hat{a}_{j} = -(\gamma + i\omega_{j})\hat{a}_{j} + \frac{i}{\hbar}[\hat{V}, \hat{a}_{j}] + Fe^{-i\omega t}\delta_{(N+1)/2, j}$$

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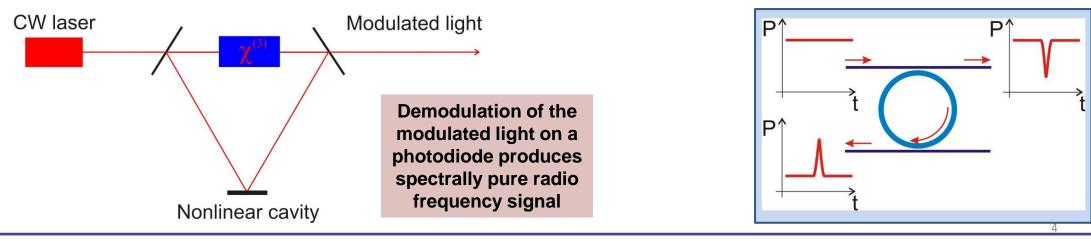




For the same oscillation frequency the better performance has an oscillator with larger mode volume and smaller nonlinearity

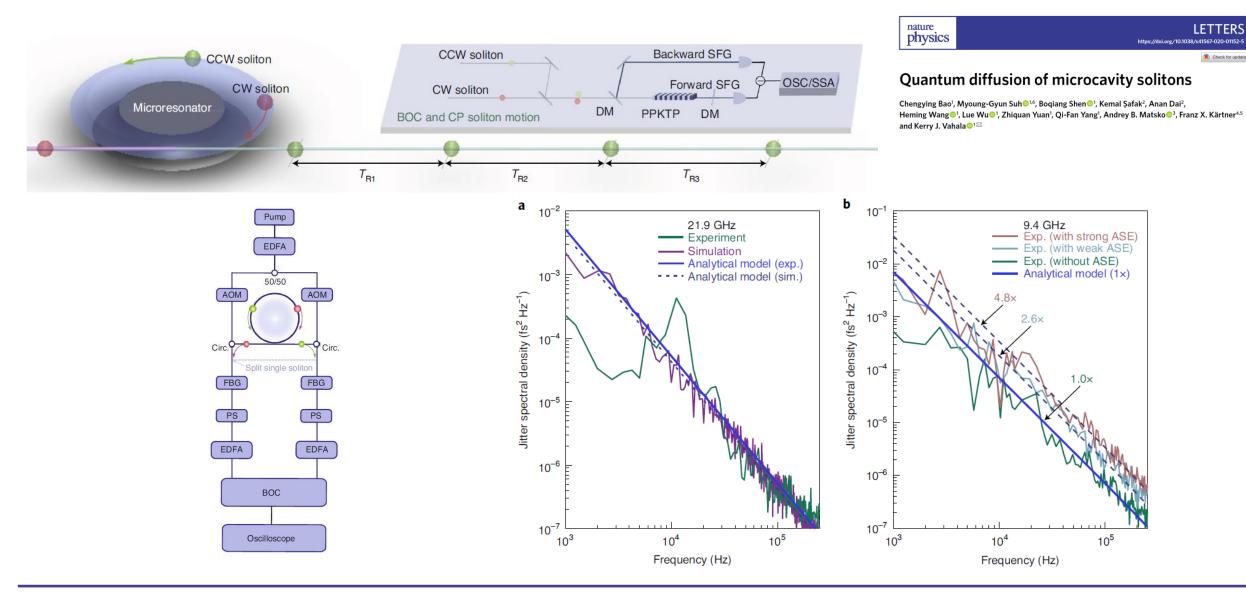
$$\sigma \cong \frac{g^{1/2}}{\sqrt{2}\omega_{FSR}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\tau}} \qquad g = \frac{n_2}{n} \frac{\hbar \omega_0^2 c}{V n},$$

The time averaged input power is equal to time averaged output power. The energy is conserved. No attenuation is present, in the global sense. The signal is generated at the photodiode that performs the measurement.







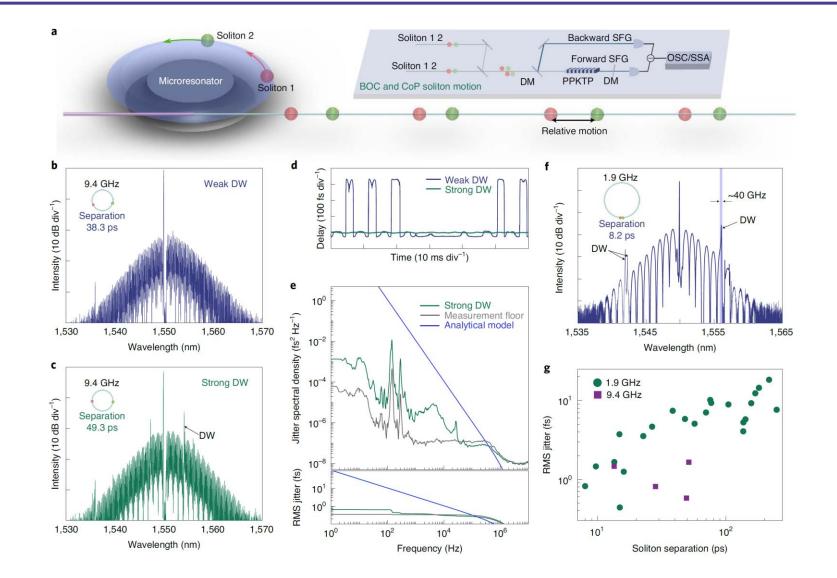


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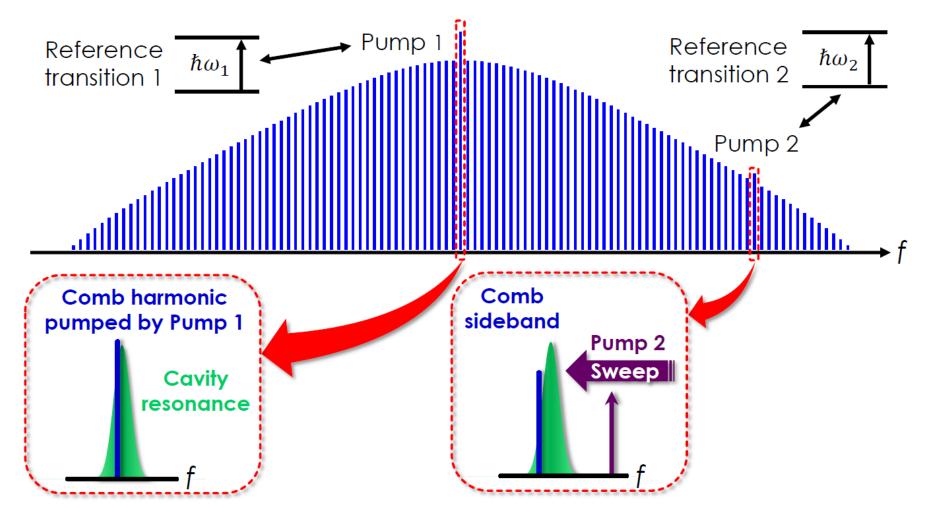




Time crystals as ideal frequency dividers



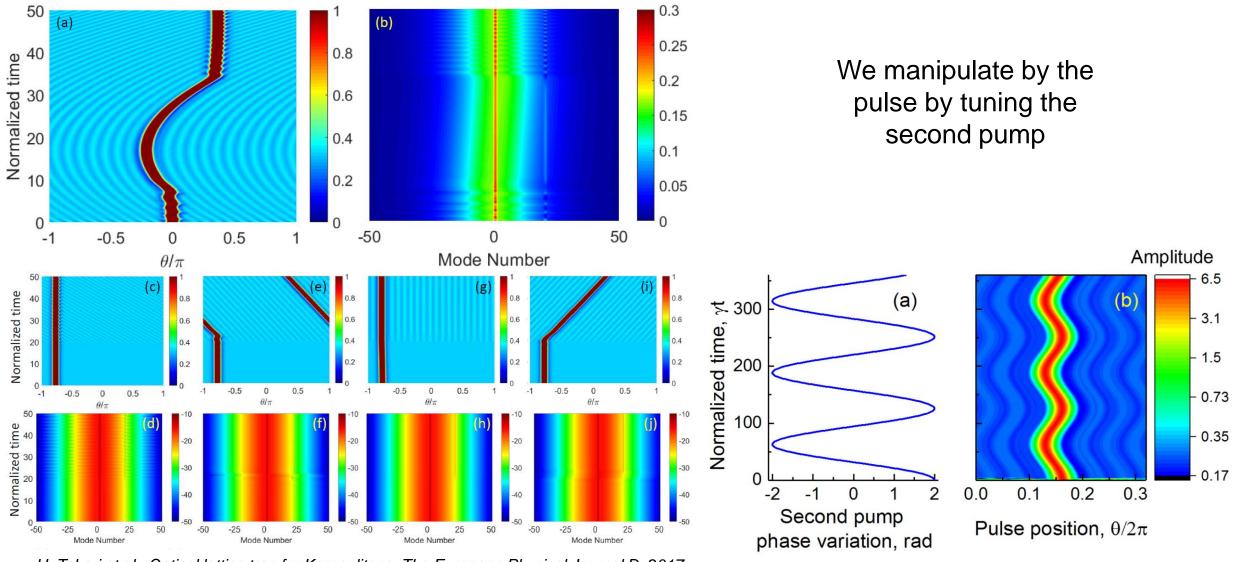




H. Taheri et al., Optical lattice trap for Kerr solitons. The European Physical Journal D. 2017



A trap for solitons



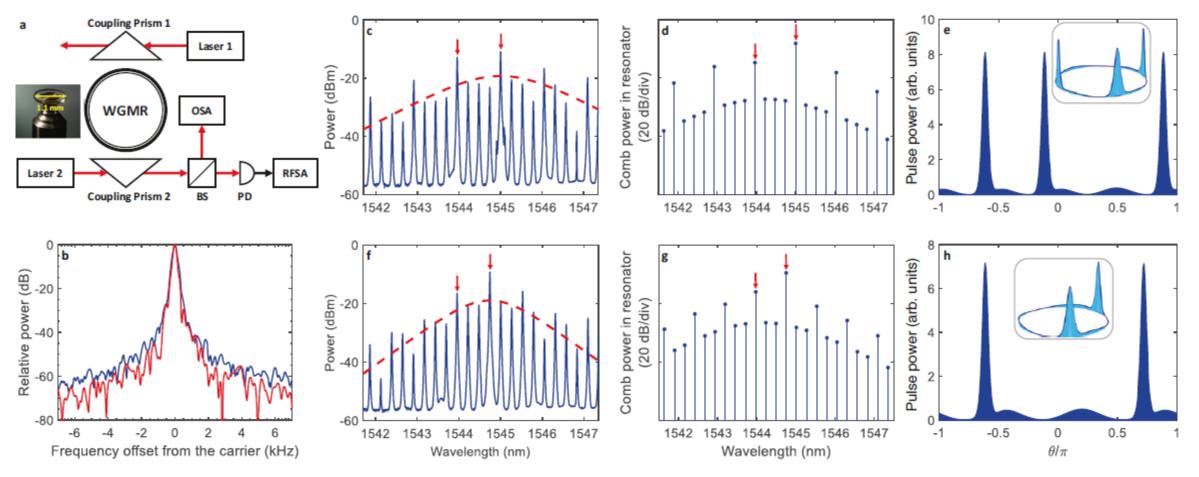
H. Taheri et al., Optical lattice trap for Kerr solitons. The European Physical Journal D. 2017

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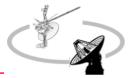
Time symmetry breaking, similar to a high order parametric oscillator. This is not a soliton trap!



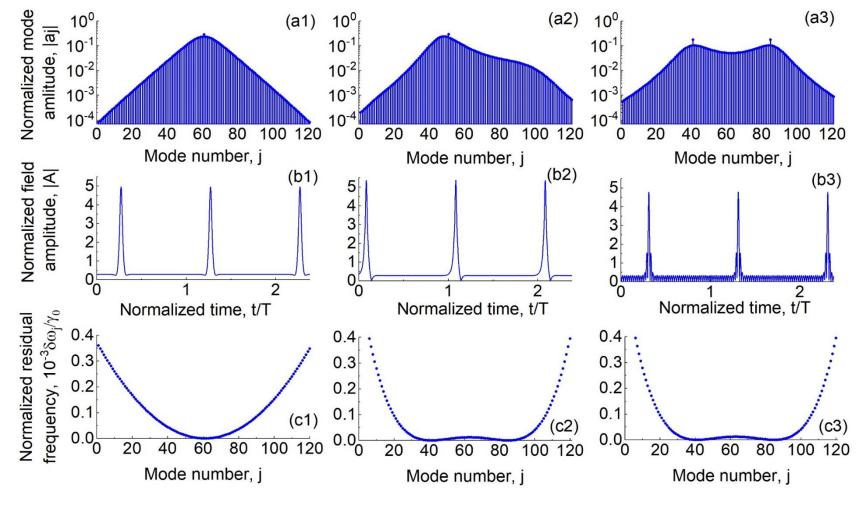
The phase noise of the laser beat note is divided!

H. Taheri at al., Nature Communications 13 (1), 848 (2022).





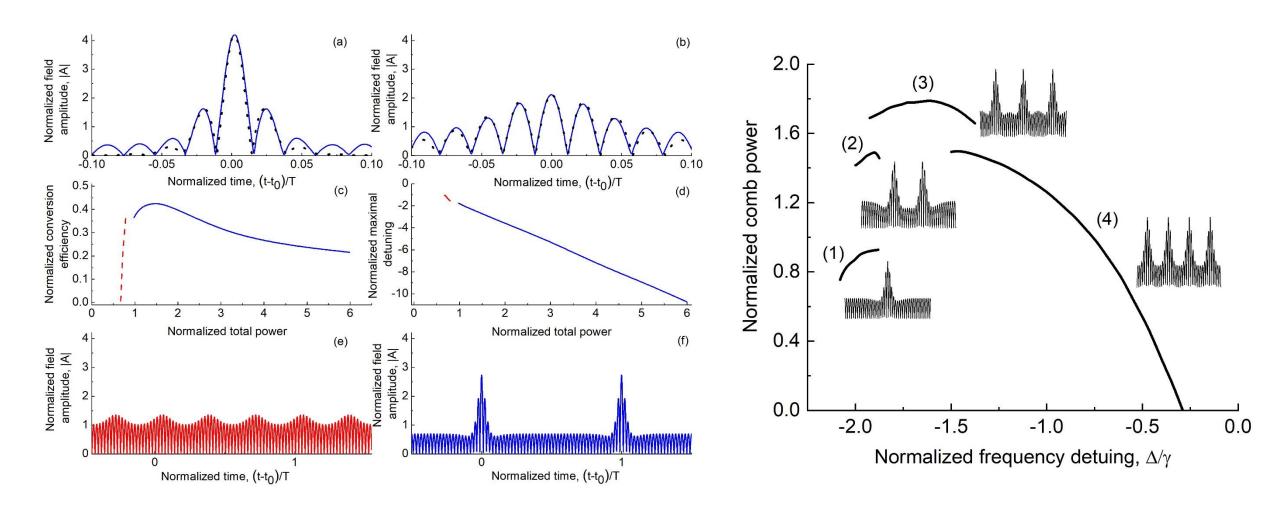
The main idea is to match the group velocity of the beat note of the two pumps and group velocity of the dissipative soliton



A. B. Matsko and L. Maleki, Optics Letters 48, 715 (2023)







A. B. Matsko and L. Maleki, Optics Letters 48, 715 (2023)





- Nan Yu (JPL)
- Robert Tjoelker (JPL)
- Eric Burt (JPL)
- Vladimir Iltchenko (JPL)
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