

Direct Frequency Comb Spectroscopy on Gas-filled Fiber References

Kristan L. Corwin



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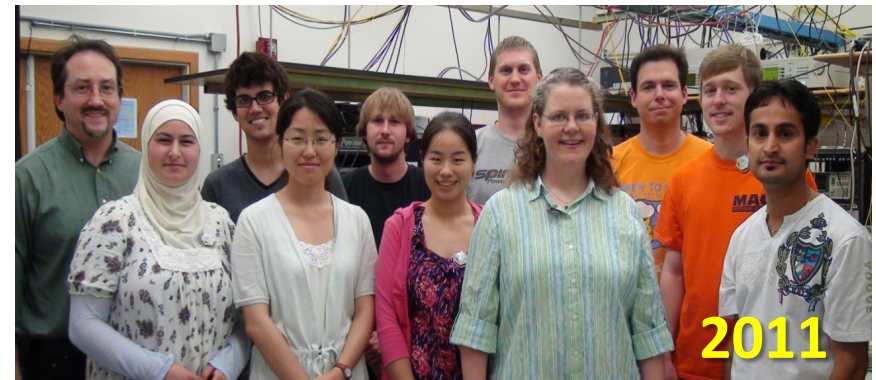
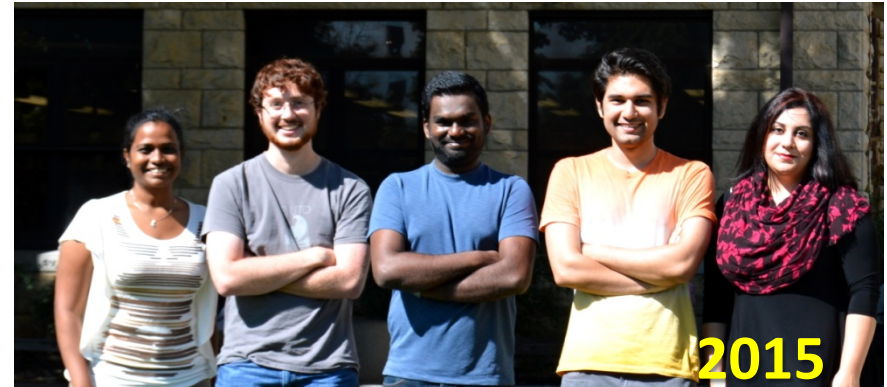
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Acknowledgements

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 - Larry Weaver, Brett DePaola, Mikes Wells and the JRM staff
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 - AFOSR & DEPSCoR, NSF CAREER, ARO STTR (Precision Photonics) , Kansas NSF EPSCoR program, Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation
- Thanks ICTP!

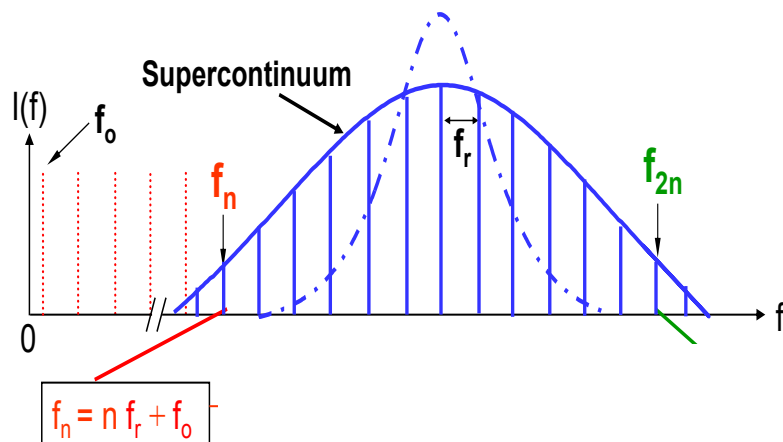


Outline

- I. Gas-filled hollow fiber frequency references
 - Near-IR Portable frequency references in 2001
 - Acetylene gas
 - Goal: Sub-Doppler and portable frequency reference
- II. Photonic Microstructure Fibers
- III. Comb-assisted spectroscopy: Gas-filled fibers for near-IR frequency references
- IV. Direct frequency comb spectroscopy on gas-filled fibers
 - Isolating single comb tooth



Every comb needs a reference



Reference:

GPS-disciplined Rb:

10^{-11} @1 s,
 10^{-13} accuracy

(poor short-term stability, noise multiplies)

Ultracold atoms/ions:

$< 10^{-15}$ @1s
($< 10^{-17}$) "accuracy"

Vapor cells/optical cavities 2×10^{-12} @1 s

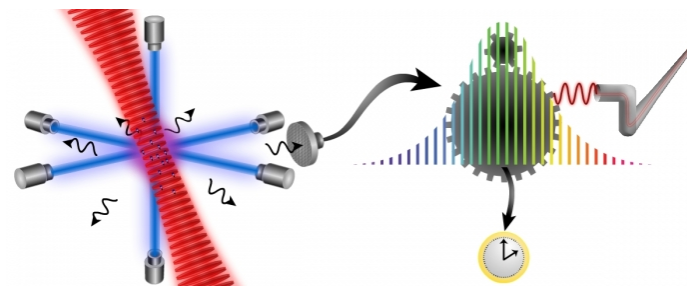
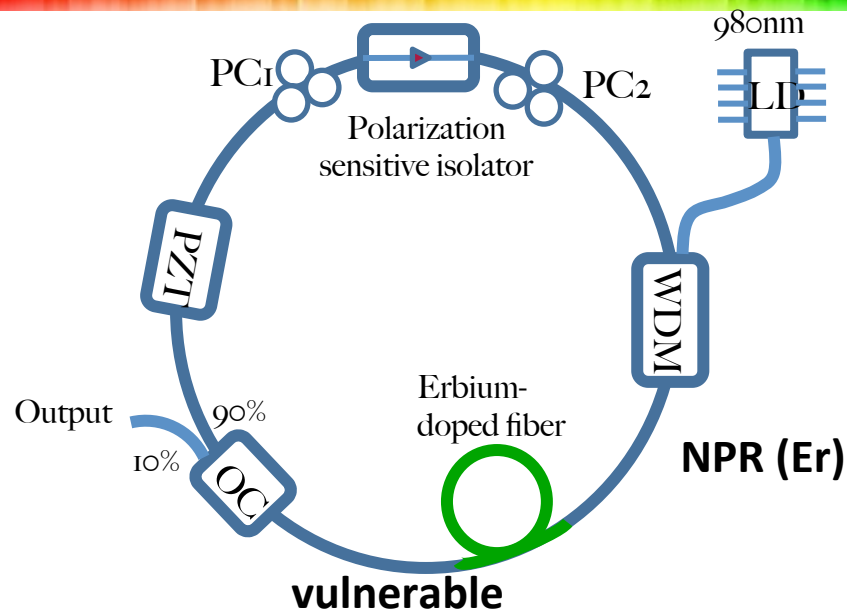
~ 1 kHz ($\sim 5 \times 10^{-12}$) accuracy

Free-space

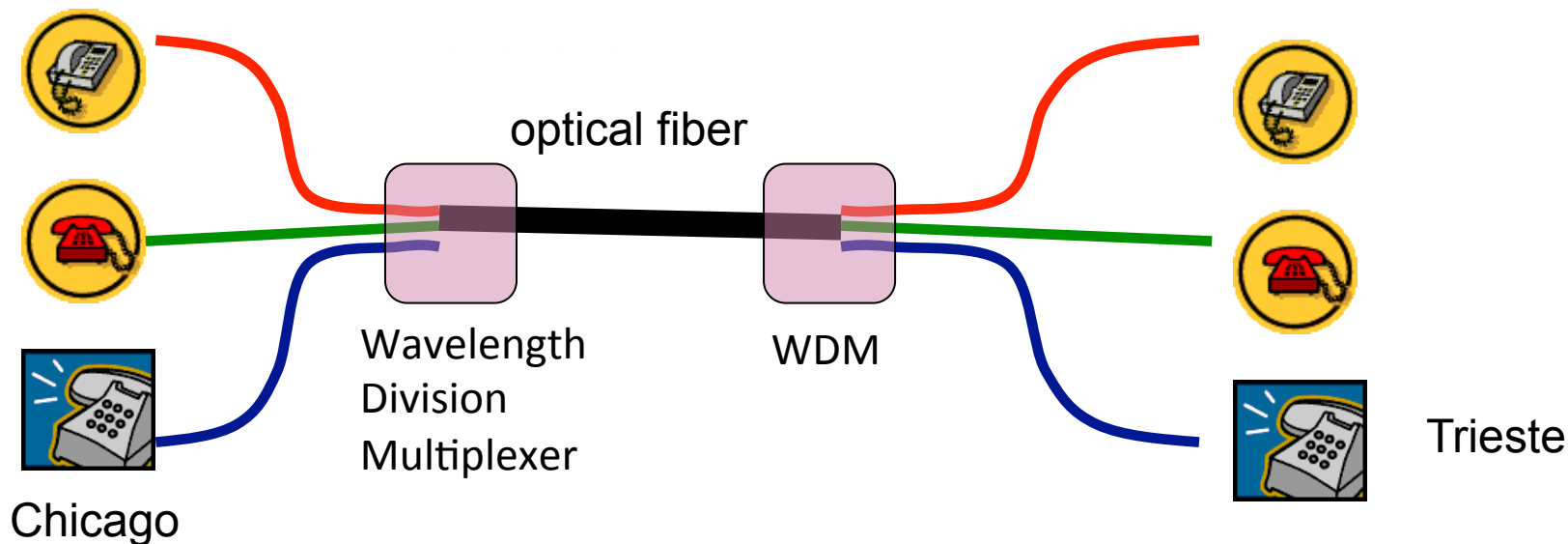
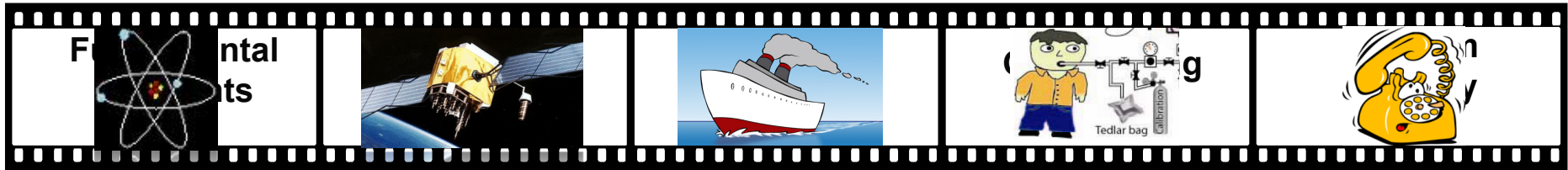
Gas-filled hollow fiber
(our work)

10^{-11} @1 s
10 kHz ($\sim 5 \times 10^{-11}$) accuracy

all-fiber



Uses of portable frequency references:



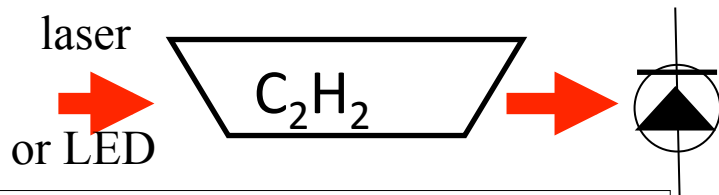
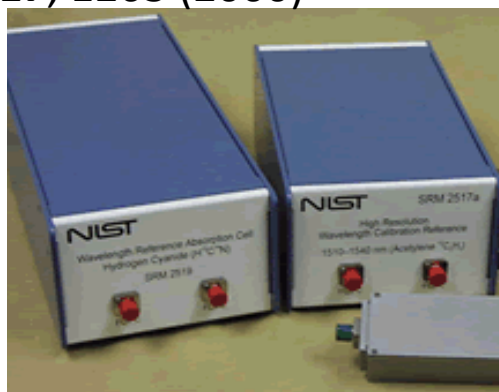
- Telecommunications industry
 - Dense wavelength division multiplexing

Optical Spectrum Analyzers
with internal calibration.

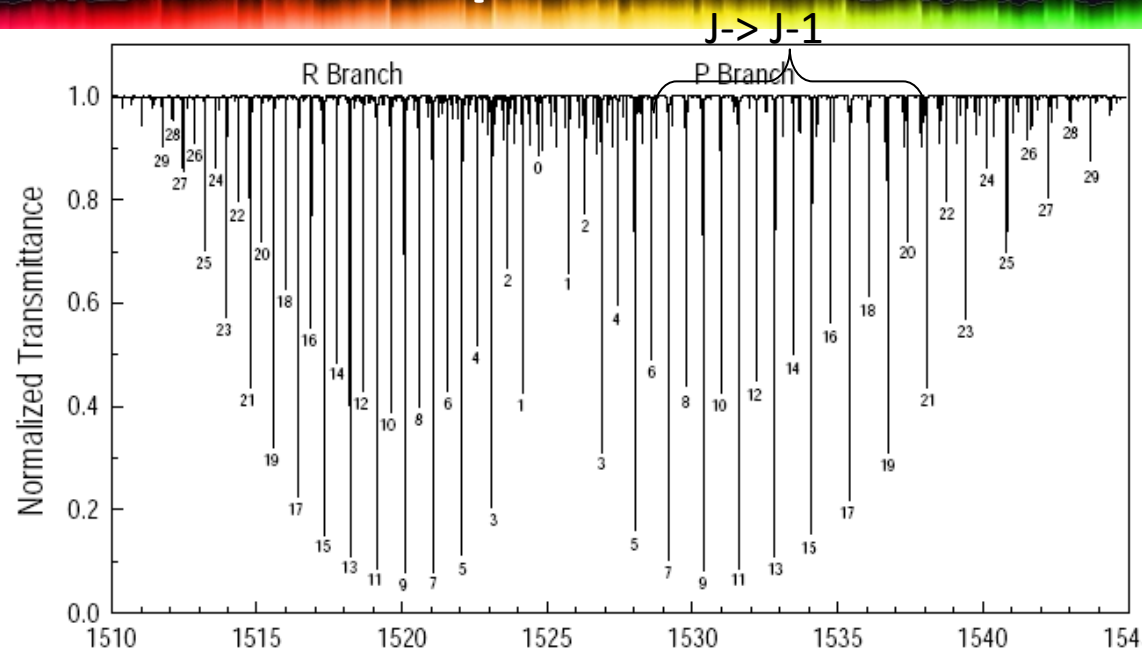
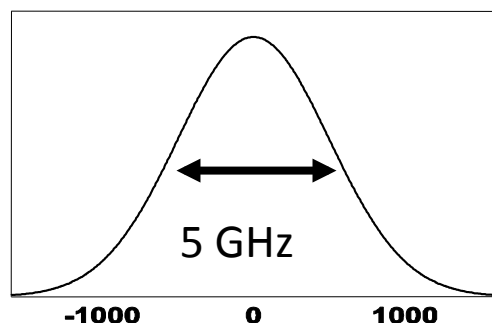


Portable acetylene frequency references: Doppler-broadened vapor cells

- moderate accuracy
 - (~10 MHz)
- Swann and Gilbert, JOSA B, **17**, 1263 (2000)



Absorption



Advantages:

Practical, stable, robust

- Readily built into spectrometers

Doppler-broadening OK

- Low-power

Pressure broadening

- short interaction lengths
- width = spectrometer resolution

Wavelength (nm)
 $\nu_1 + \nu_3$ (No C-C stretch)



Portable Near-IR frequency references in 1999

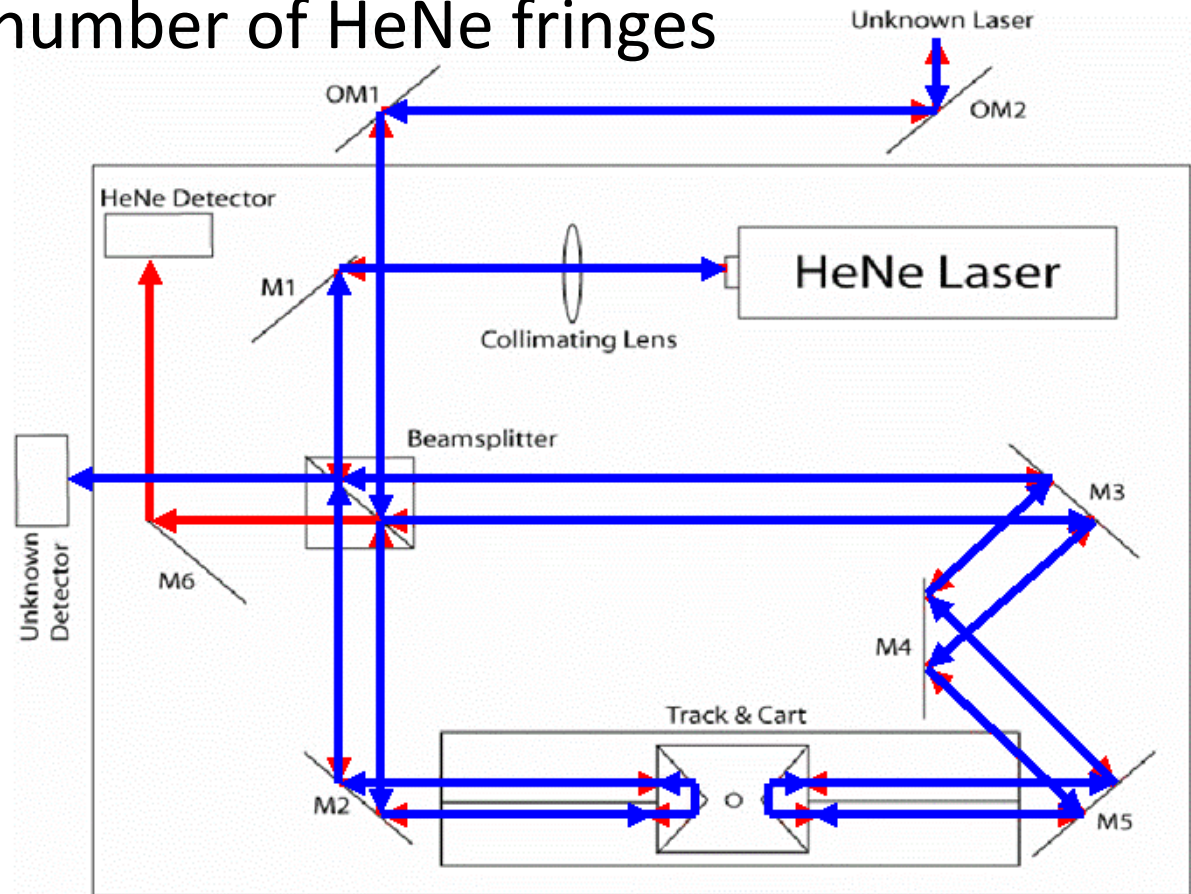
N_k = number of HeNe fringes

$$\lambda_u = (N_k/N_u) * \lambda_k$$

$$f = c/(n \lambda)$$

Accuracy depends on:
cart speed,
stability of air
(n , index of refraction)

N_u



← Cart Velocity v

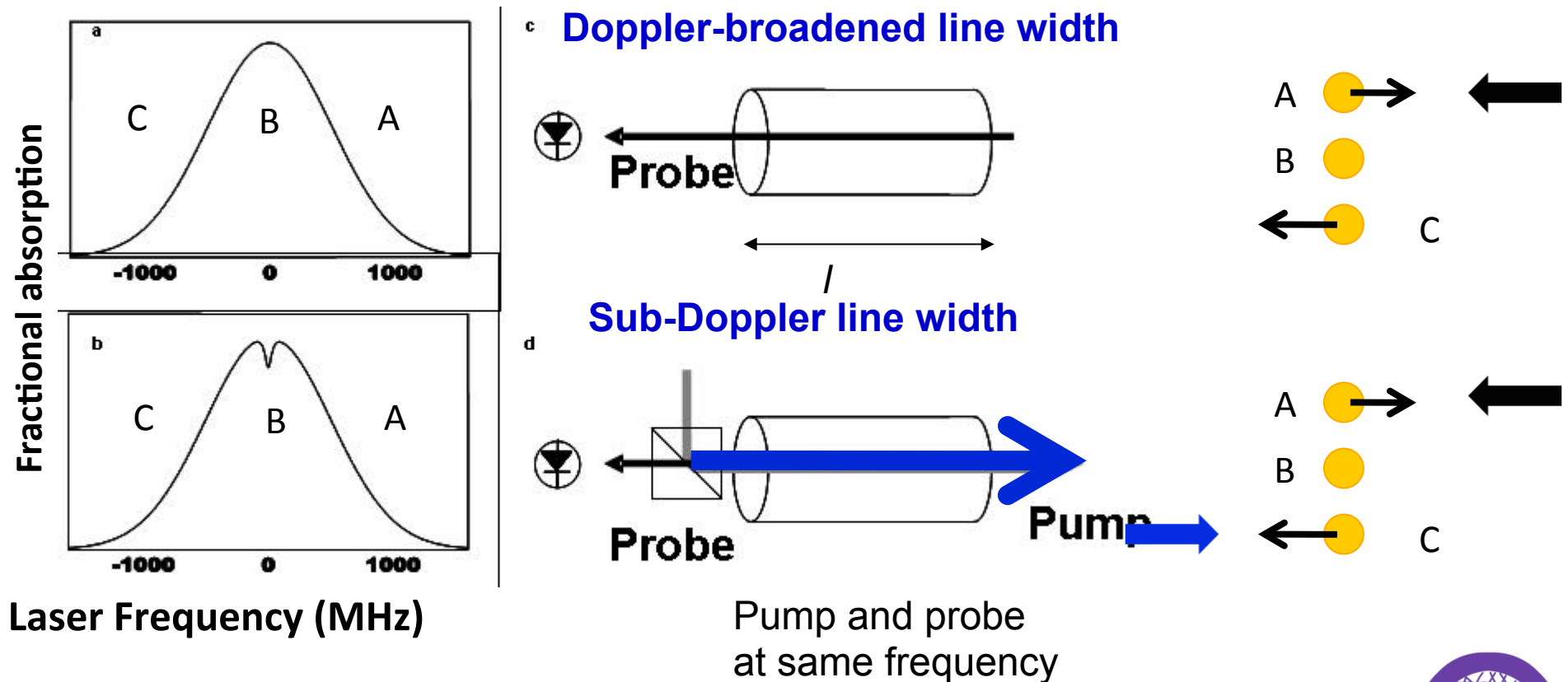
<http://hdl.handle.net/1811/30758>

- NIST: Sarah Gilbert, Bill Swann



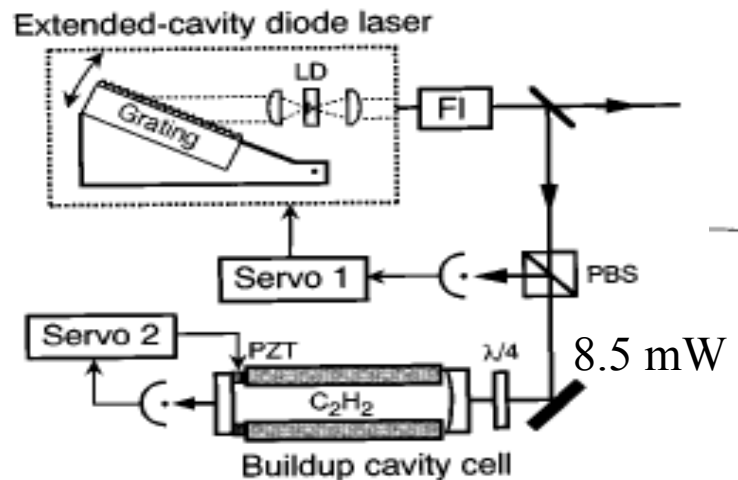
Sub-Doppler Spectroscopy: Saturated Absorption

Pump burns hole in velocity distribution,
probe samples different velocity class, except when on resonance.



Higher-accuracy near-IR wavelength standard: nonlinear spectroscopy

- Comité International des Poids et Measures, 2000
 - $^{13}\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$ P(16) ± 100 kHz (2000)
 - Comb-based meas. ± 2 kHz (2005)
- Great Britain, Japan, Canada, Japan

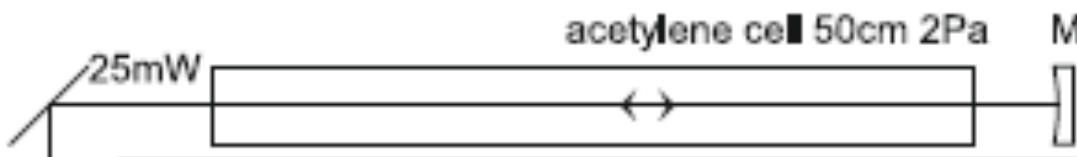


■ Cavity: weak overtone transitions require

- Long interaction length
- High intracavity power
- Cavity and laser locked to resonance independently

Figure from: 100 mW

K. Nakagawa, M. de Labachellerie, Y. Awaji, and M. Kourogi, JOSAB 13, 2708 (1996)



P. Balling, M. Fischer, P. Kubina, R. Holzwarth, Opt. Express 13, 9196 (2005)



Our goal: portability and accuracy



Motivation for hollow fibers:

Nonlinear Optics in Gasses

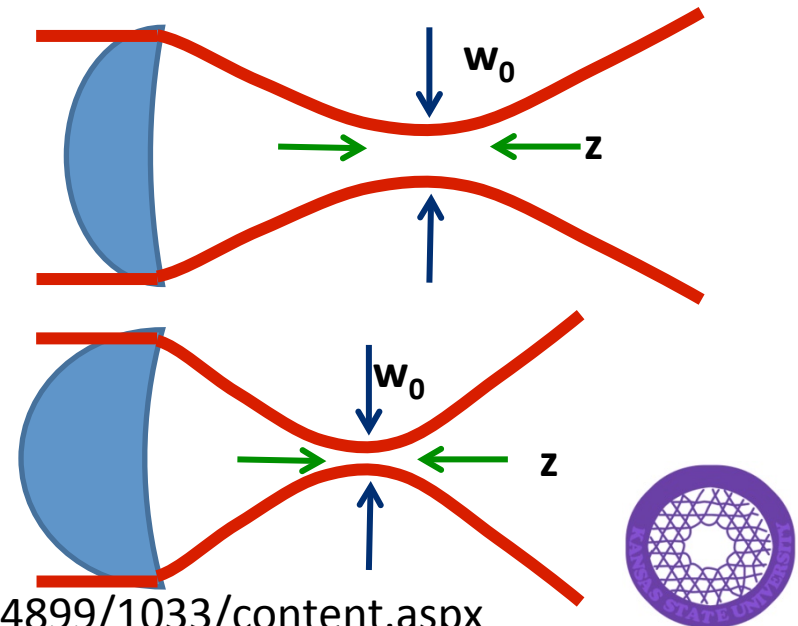
- Saturated absorption
- Optical Gain (population inversion)

Require:

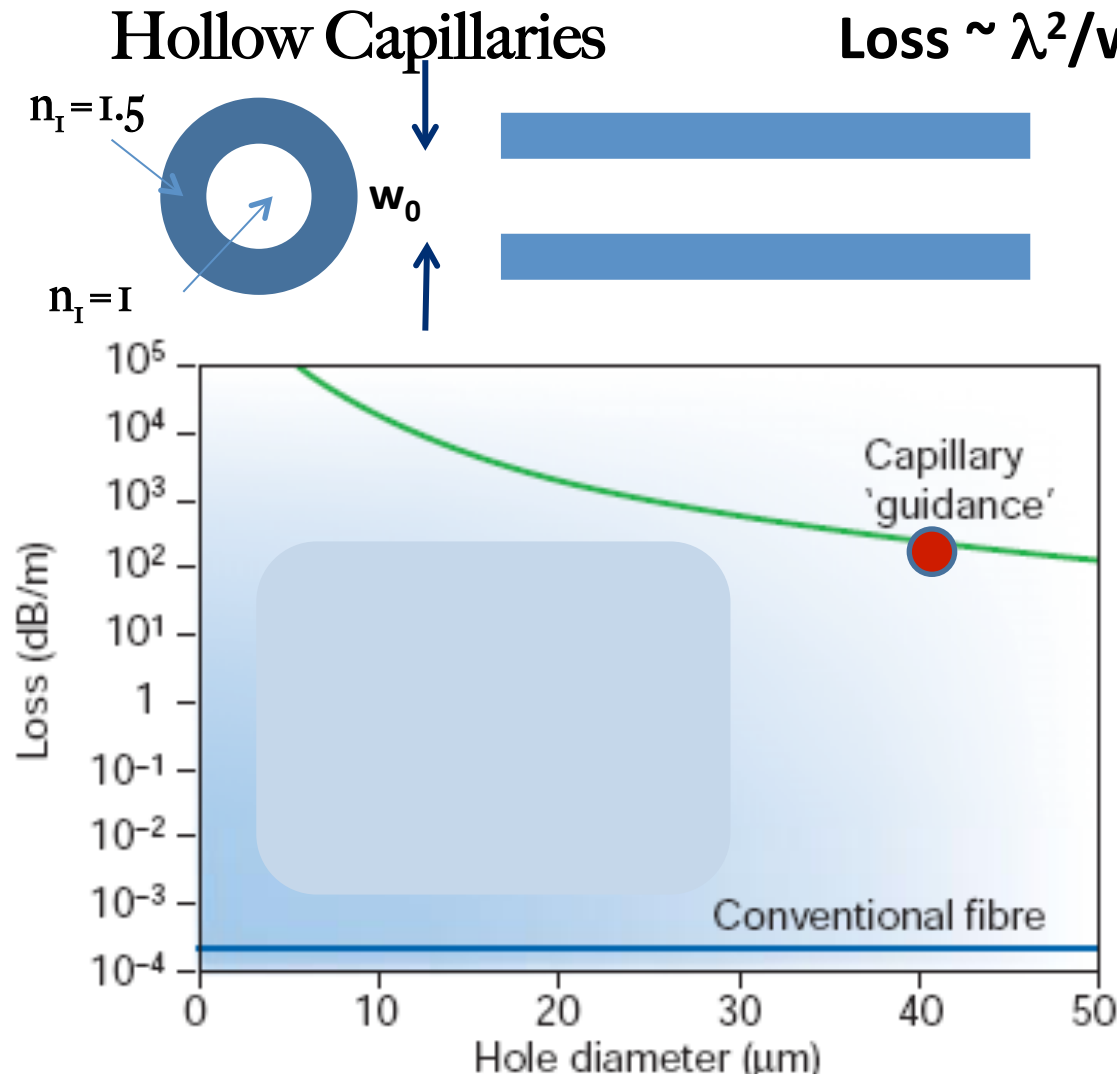
- High Intensities
- Long interaction lengths, and/or high densities

Free Space Limitation:

- **Diffraction!**
 - Tight focus = fast divergence
 - $w_0 \sim f$ $z \sim f^2$



Hollow dielectric Waveguides:



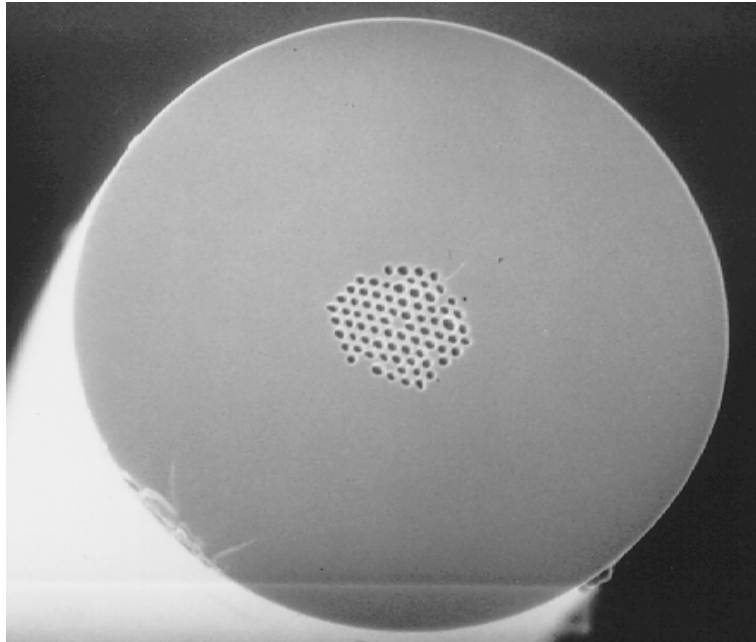
Marcatili and Schmeltzer,
Bell System Technical Journal,
43, (1964), pp. 1783-1809

“Hence, dielectric materials do not seem suitable for use in hollow circular waveguides for long distance optical transmission because of the high loss introduced by even mild curvature... **very attractive as guiding media for gaseous amplifiers and oscillators**”

**6.2 cm attenuation length
at 780 nm for 40 μm dia.**



1999-2000: Honeycomb Microstructure Optical Fiber – enabling a Nobel prize



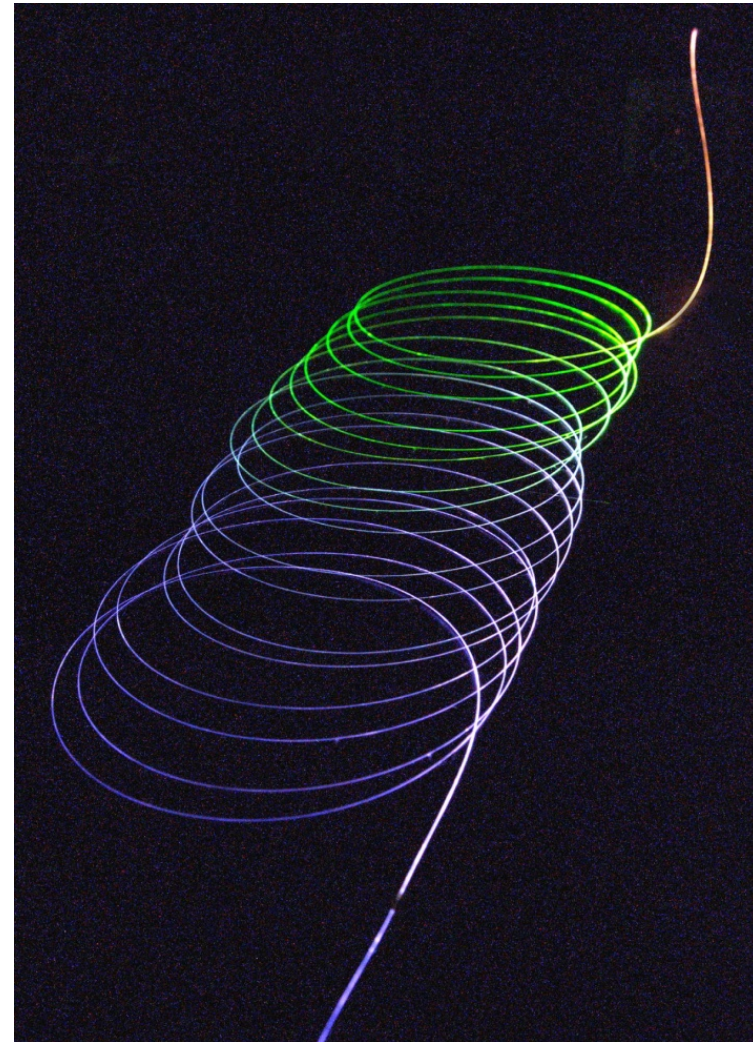
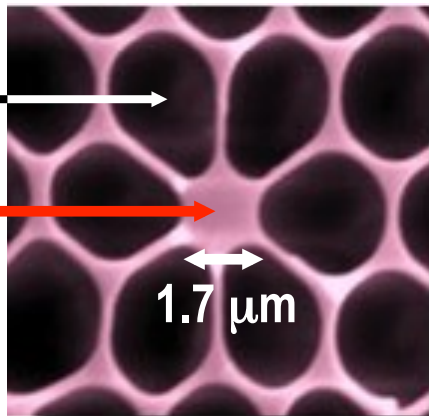
J. Ranka, R. Windeler, A. Stentz, Opt. Lett. **25**, 25 (2000).

air cladding →

Fused silica core →

$n_1 = 1.5$

$n_2 = 1.0$

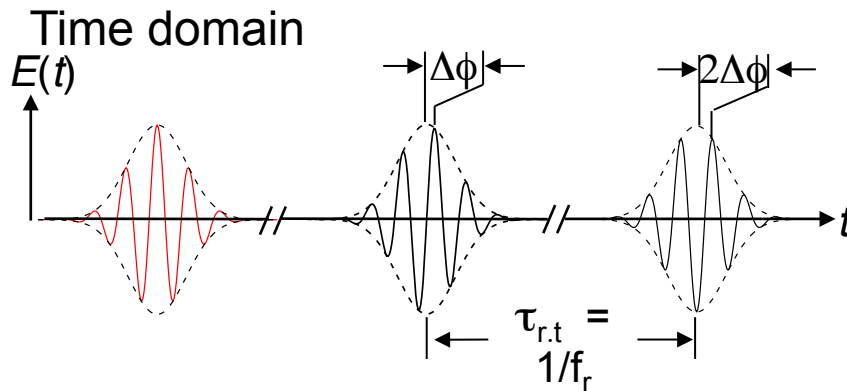


courtesy of Jinendra Ranka

Lucent Technologies
Bell Labs Innovations



Supercontinuum generation for f_0 stabilization

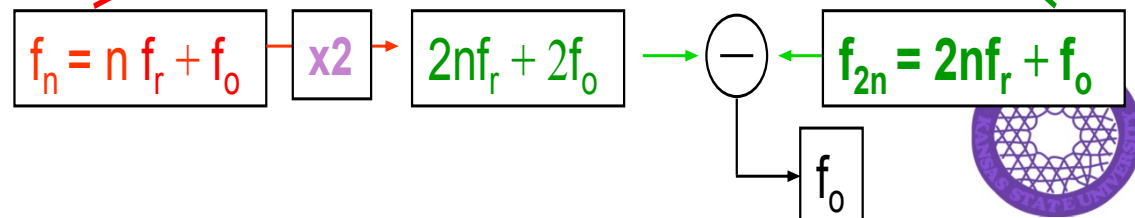
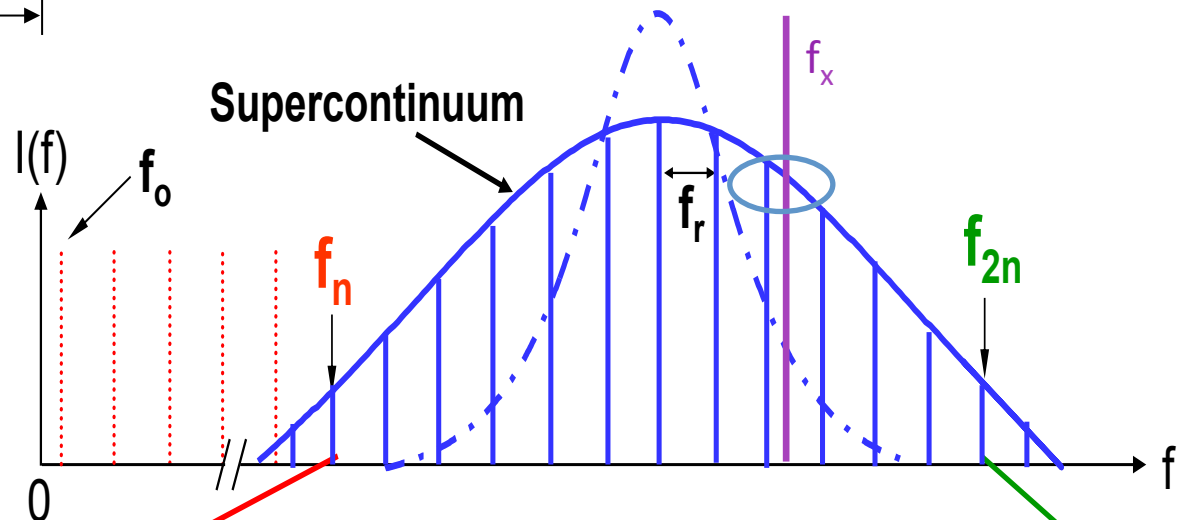


D. J. Jones *et al.*, Science 288, 635 (2000)

S. Diddams *et al.*, Science, vol. 293 (2001)

“Self-Referenced”
Optical Frequency Comb

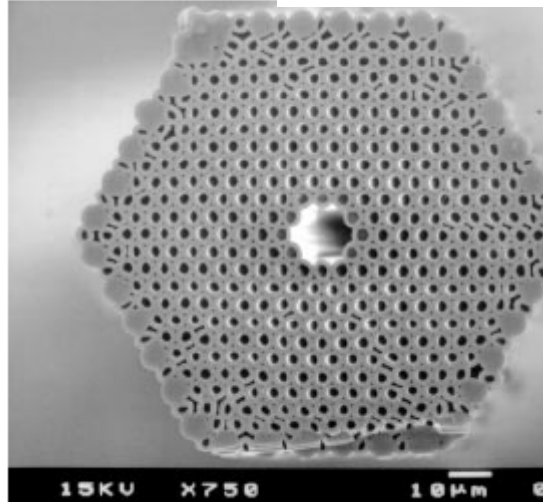
Beat note gives f_x



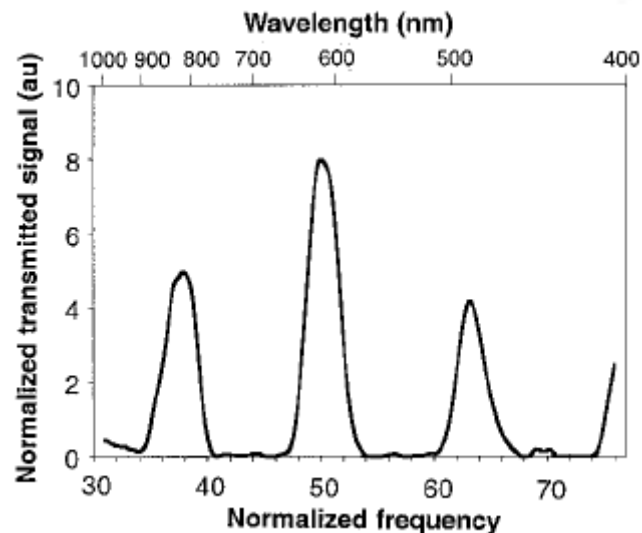
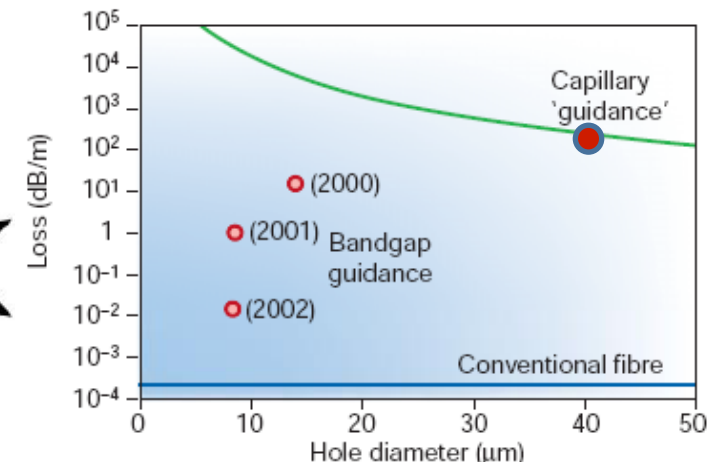
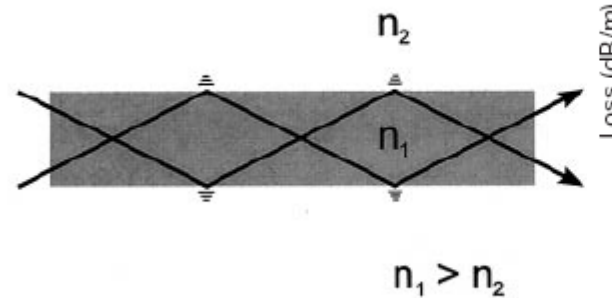
Single-Mode Photonic Band Gap Guidance of Light in Air

R. F. Cregan,¹ B. J. Mangan,¹ J. C. Knight,¹ T. A. Birks,¹
P. St. J. Russell,^{1*} P. J. Roberts,² D. C. Allan³

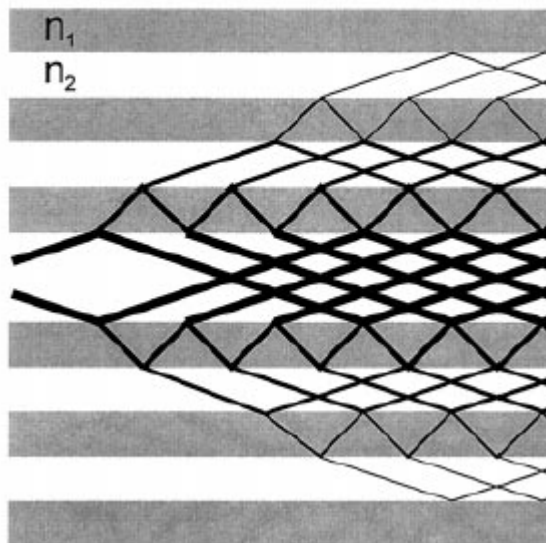
A



A Conventional TIR guidance



C Bragg PBG guidance

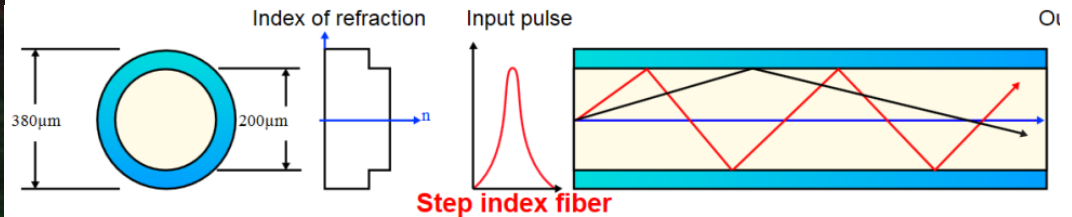
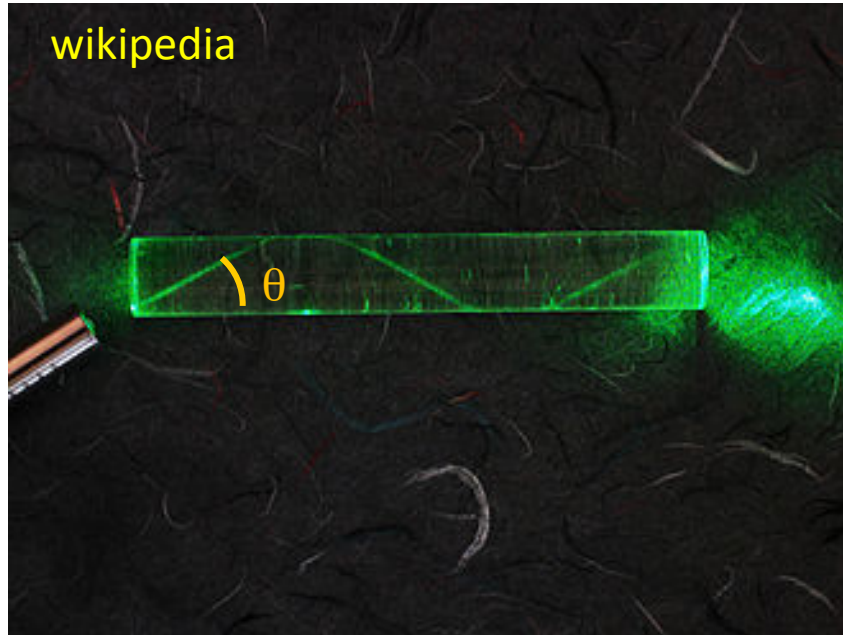


Knight, J.C., *Photonic crystal fibers*.
Nature, 2003. **424**: p. 847.

**6.2 cm
attenuation
length
at 780 nm for
40 μm dia.**



Fiber propagation



Vacuum wavelength λ_0 , wavevector $k_0 = 2\pi/\lambda_0$ ($= \omega/c$)

In medium with index n , $\lambda_n = \lambda_0/n$

- $\lambda_{\text{eff}} = \lambda_n \cos \theta$
- $\beta = k_z = 2\pi/\lambda_{\text{eff}}$;
- for higher-order modes, λ_{eff} smaller, β bigger

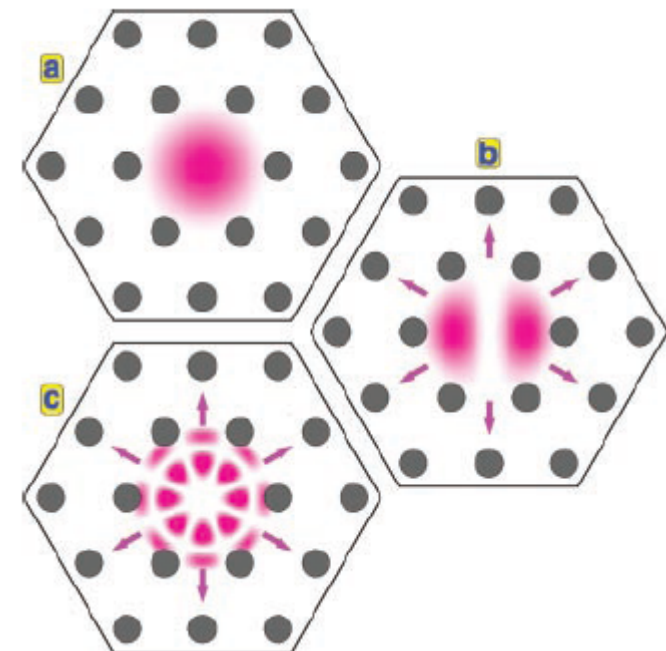
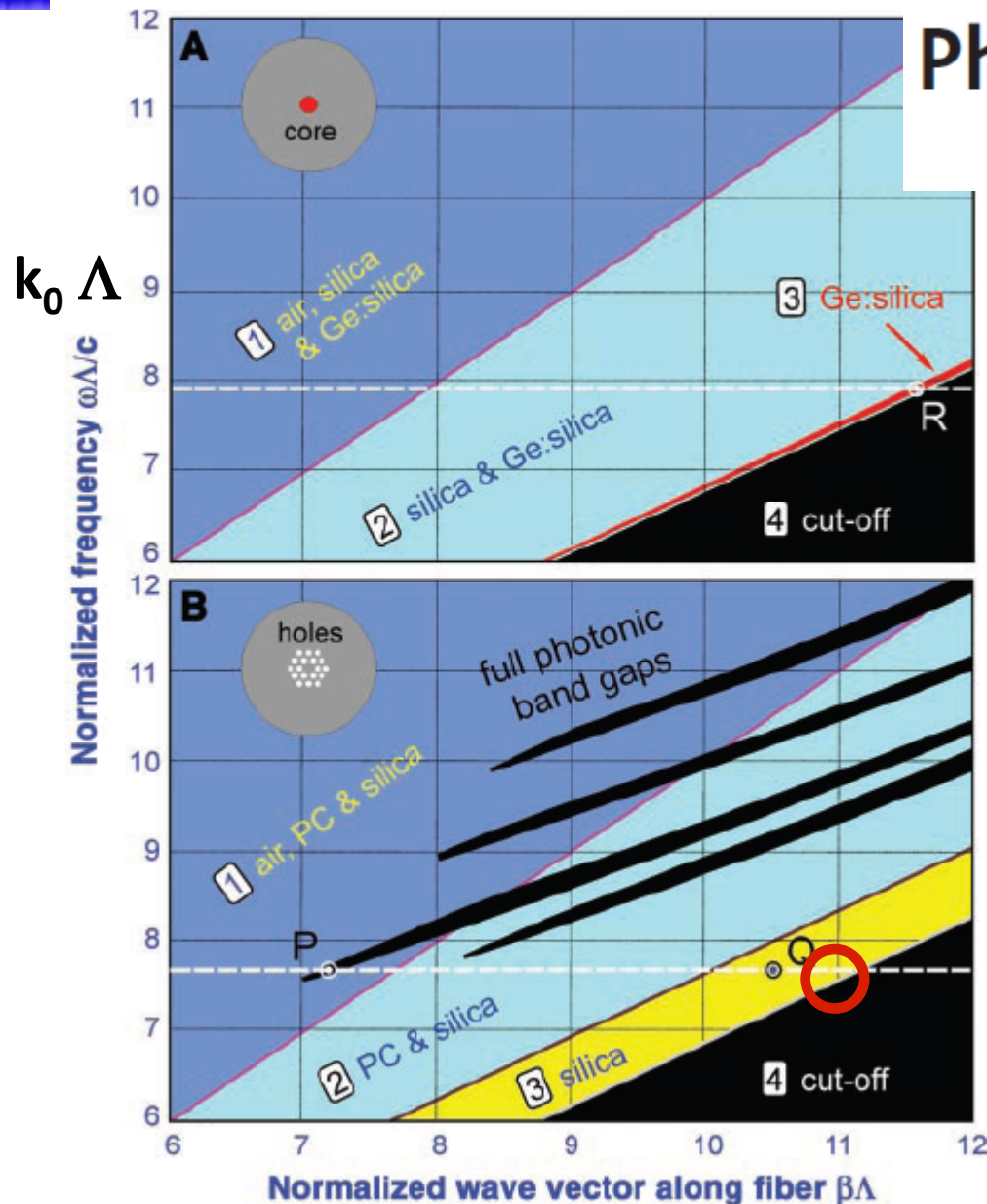


How PBG fibers work

Photonic Crystal Fibers

Philip Russell

17 JANUARY 2003 VOL 299 SCIENCE

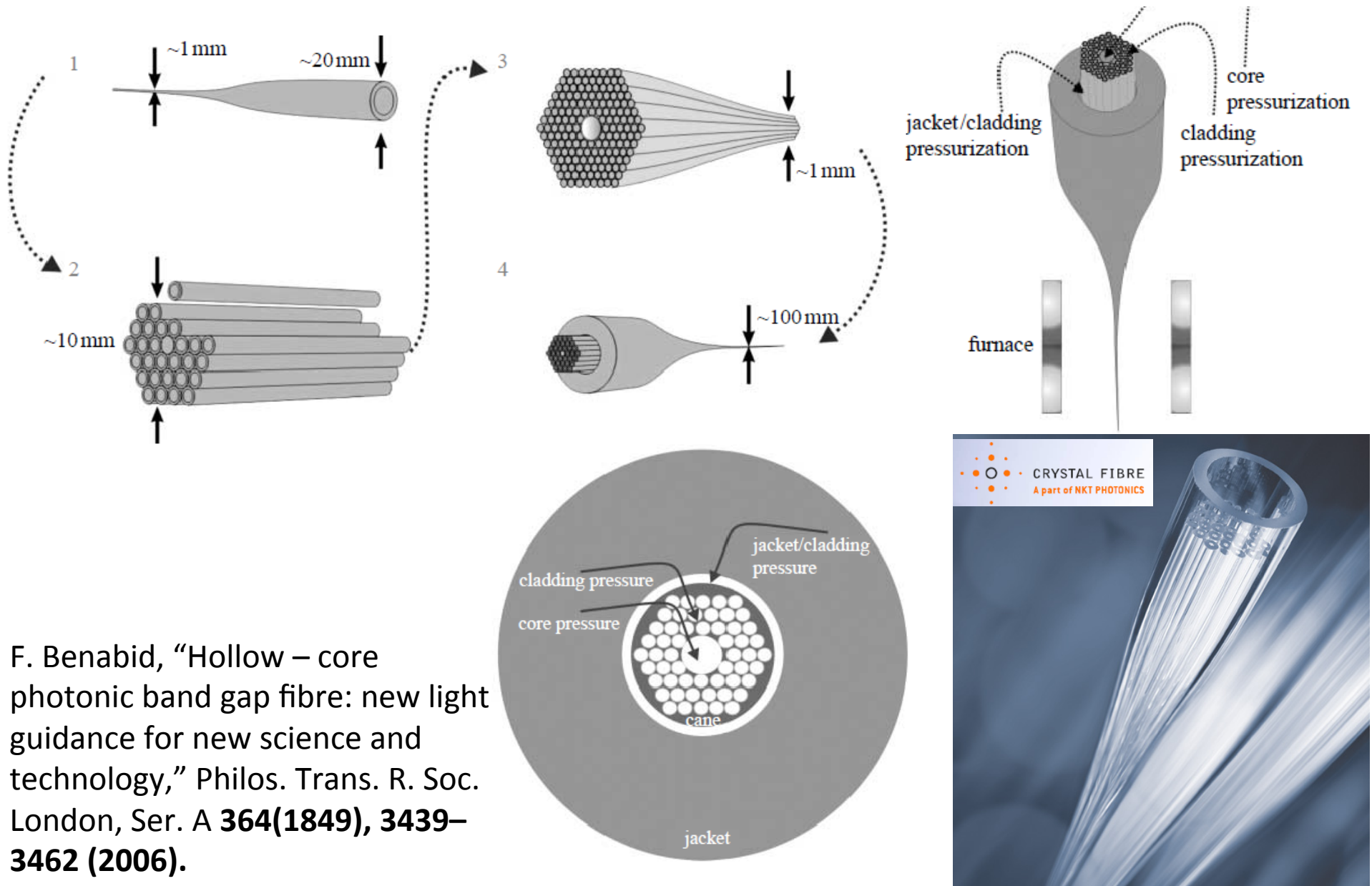


Solid-core PBG
“endlessly single-mode”

$$N = 1.5, 11/1.5 = 7.3$$

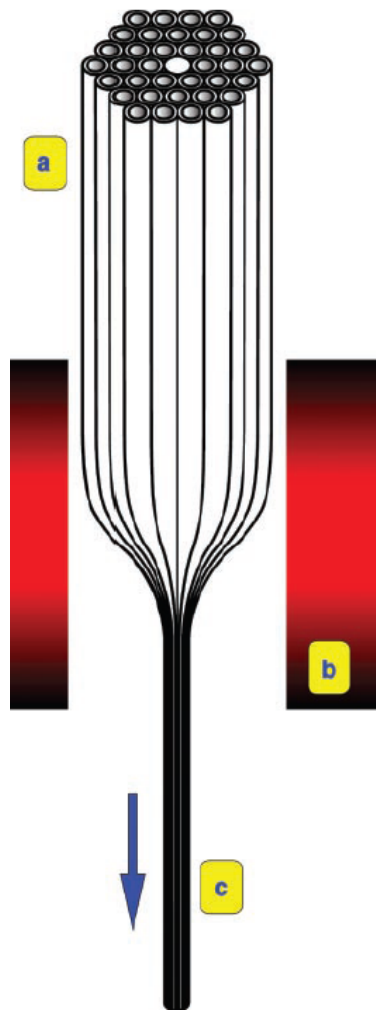


Fabrication, Pressurization



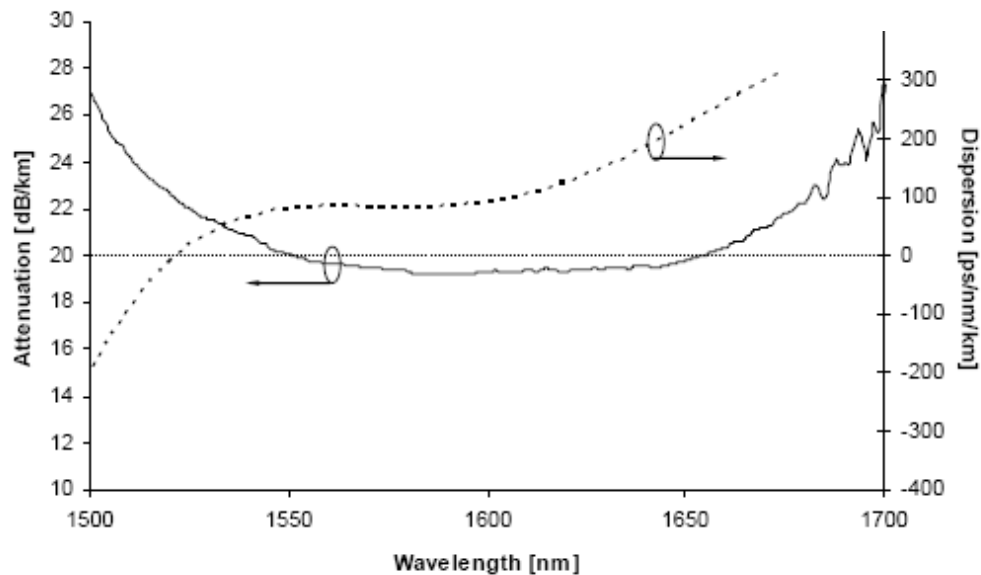
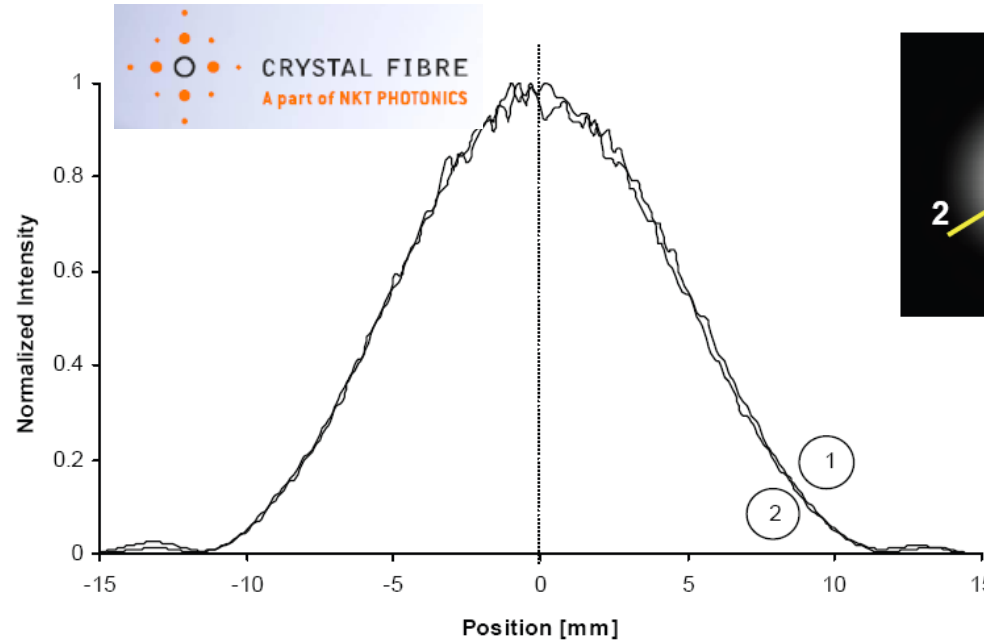
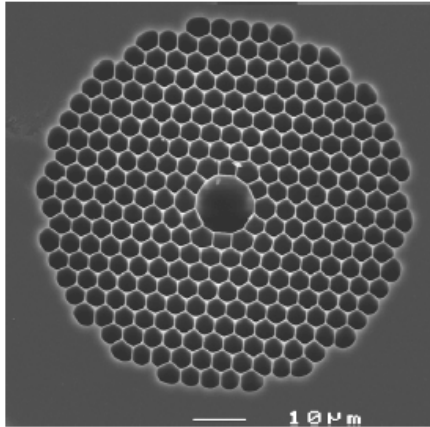
F. Benabid, "Hollow – core photonic band gap fibre: new light guidance for new science and technology," Philos. Trans. R. Soc. London, Ser. A **364(1849)**, 3439–3462 (2006).

Fabrication



Photonic Bandgap Fibers

20 μm core size



- Only 3% of power in cladding.



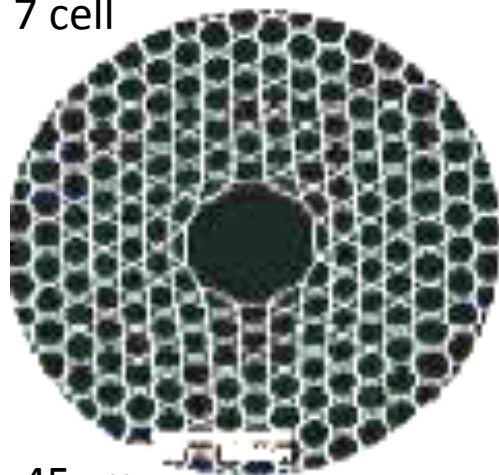
Kagome fiber

Large-pitch kagome-structured hollow-core photonic crystal fiber

F. Couny, F. Benabid, and P. S. Light

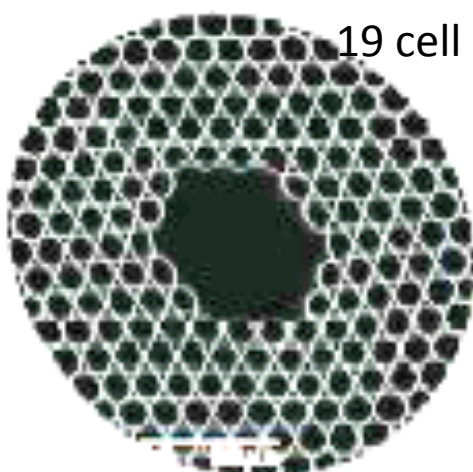
Centre for Photonics and Photonic Materials, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY, UK

7 cell

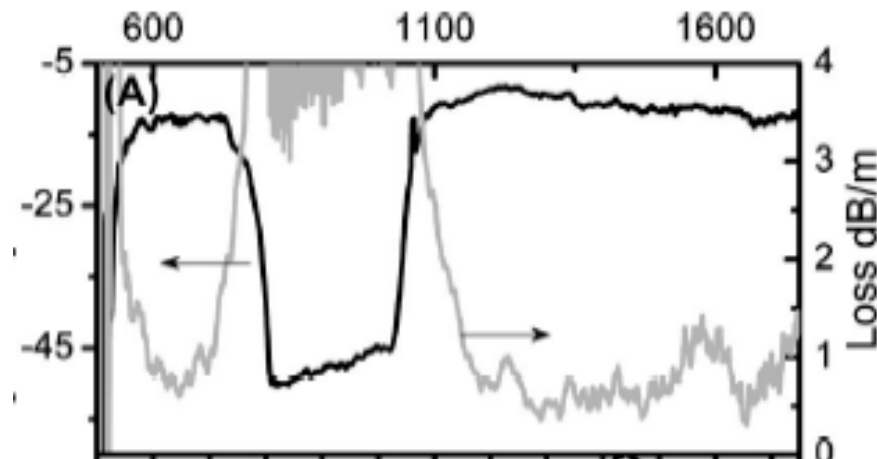


45 μm

19 cell



48 x 68 μm



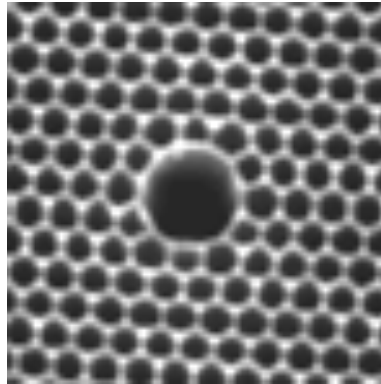
- Advantages:
 - larger core for narrower lines
 - flatter backgrounds – reduced surface modes
- Potential Disadvantage: multi-mode
- Made by accident, full power not initially realized!

http://www.fz-juelich.de/iff/e_news_09-02-2007

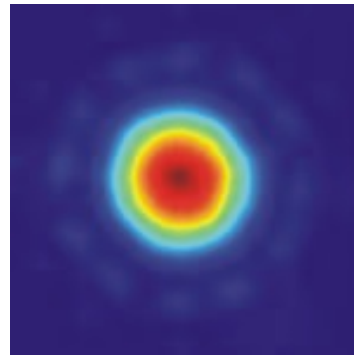


Surface Modes

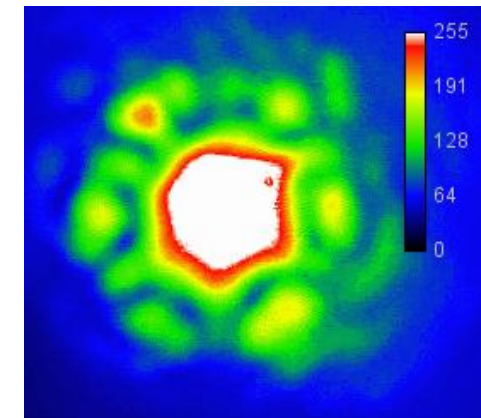
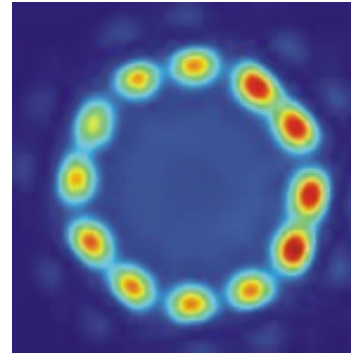
PCF



Core Mode

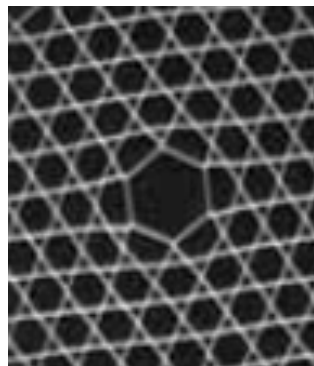


Surface Mode

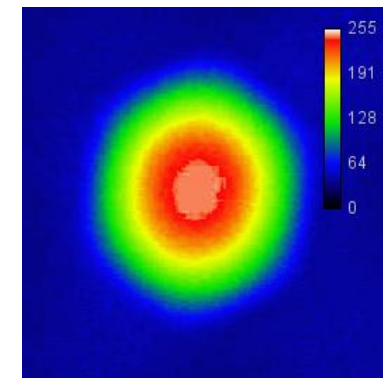
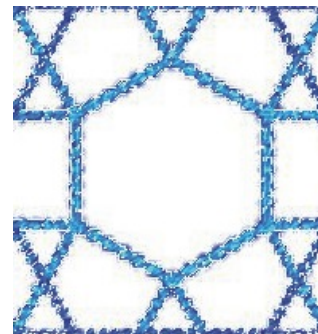
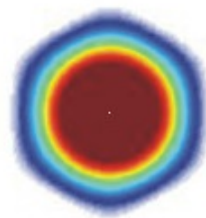


Smith, West, et al. Nature 2003

- Coupling between core modes and surface modes in PCF cause oscillatory transmission dependence



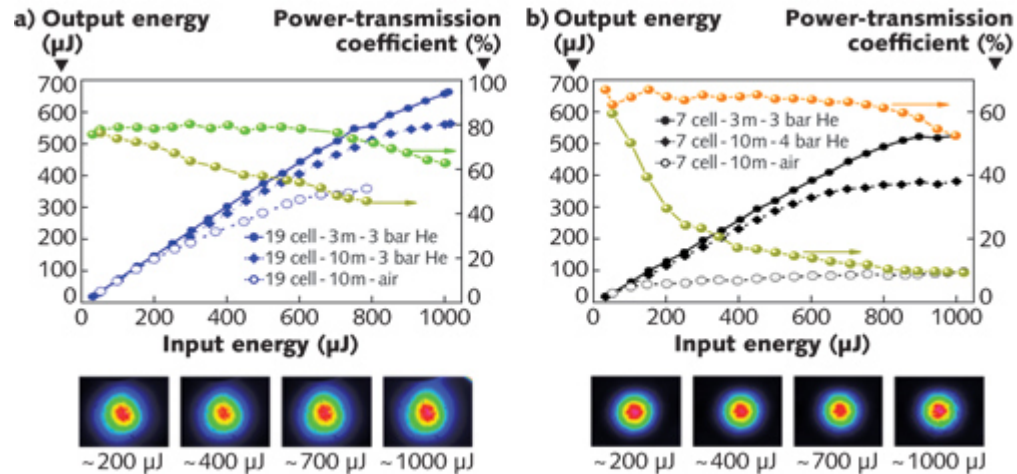
Kagome



F. Couny, *et al.* Science
2007



Hypocycloid fibers



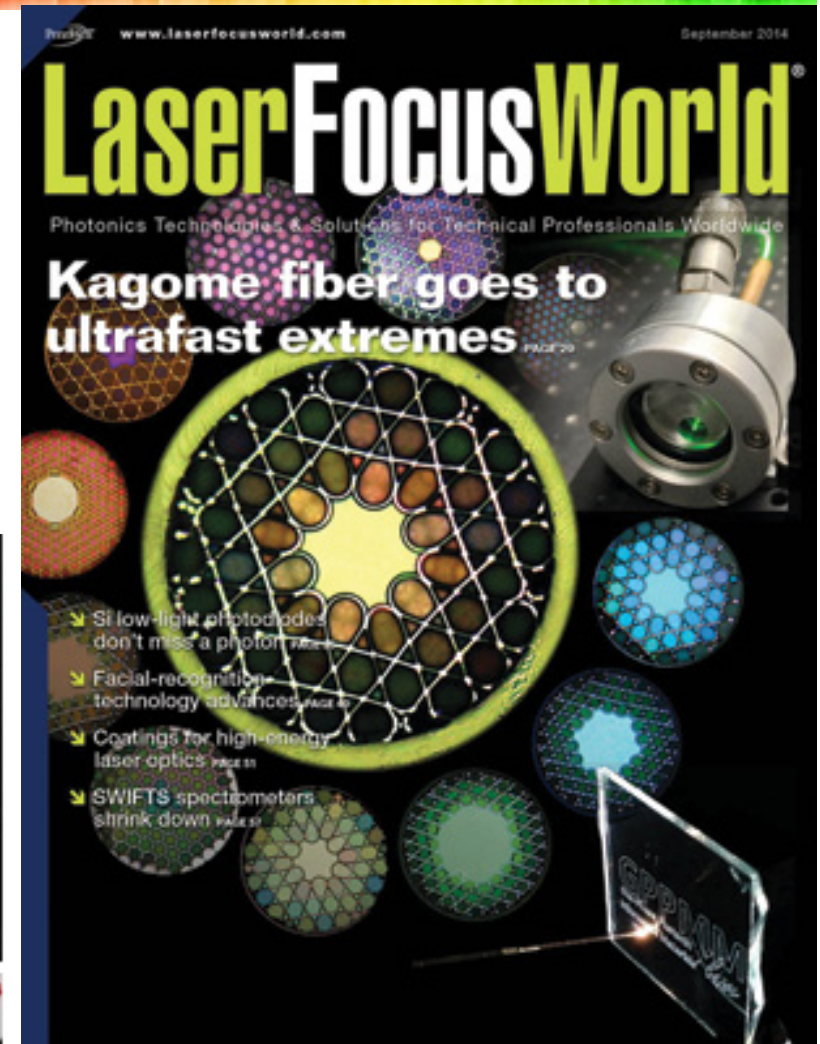
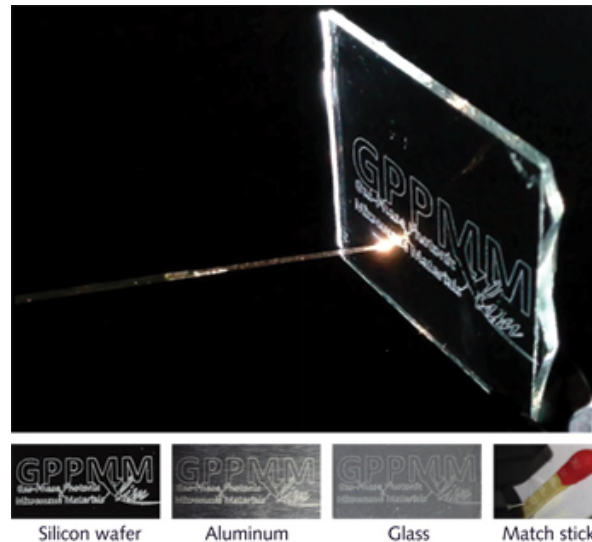
Loss ~ 3 dB/km

(SMF .2 dB/km)

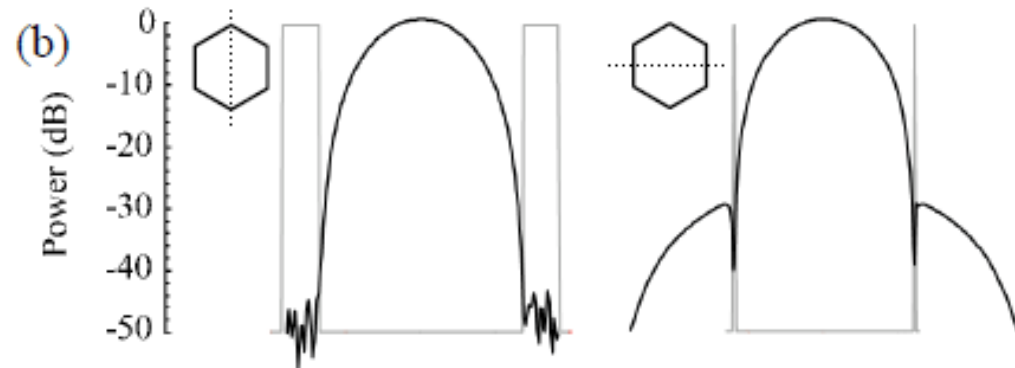
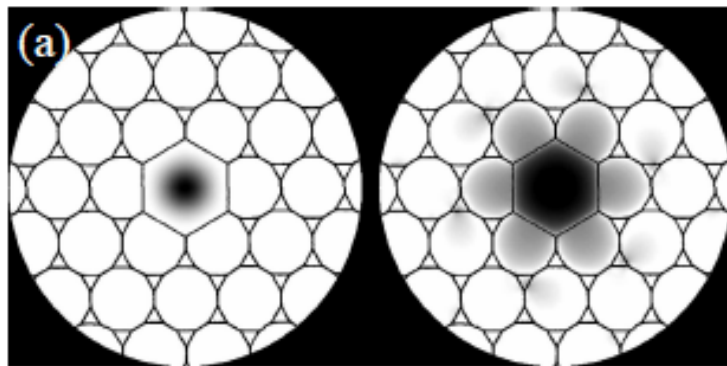
Ultrashort pulse delivery

< 49 fs, ~ 1 mJ input pulses, 0.7 mJ transmitted

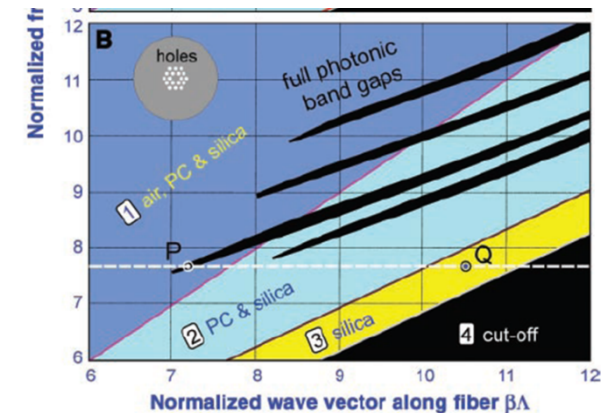
Fluence \gg damage thresh of fused silica



Guiding mechanism: frustrated coupling



- Factors determining coupling of core->cladding modes:
 - Mismatch in propagation constant ($\Delta\beta$)
 - Spatial overlap of two modes
 - Overlap with solid part of microstructure
 - Perturbations in microstructure



A. Argyros, and J. Pla, "Hollow-core polymer fibres with a kagome lattice: potential for transmission in the infrared," Opt. Express **15(12)**, 7713–7719 (2007), <http://www.opticsinfobase.org/oe/abstract.cfm?URI=oe-15-12-7713>.



Demonstration of a waveguide regime for a silica hollow - core microstructured optical fiber with a negative curvature of the core boundary in the spectral region $> 3.5 \mu\text{m}$

Andrey D. Pryamikov,* Alexander S. Biriukov, Alexey F. Kosolapov,
Victor G. Plotnichenko, Sergei L. Semjonov, and Evgeny M. Dianov

Fiber Optics Research Center of Russian Academy of Sciences, 38 Vavilov street, Moscow, 119333, Russia

**pryamikov@fo.gpi.ru*

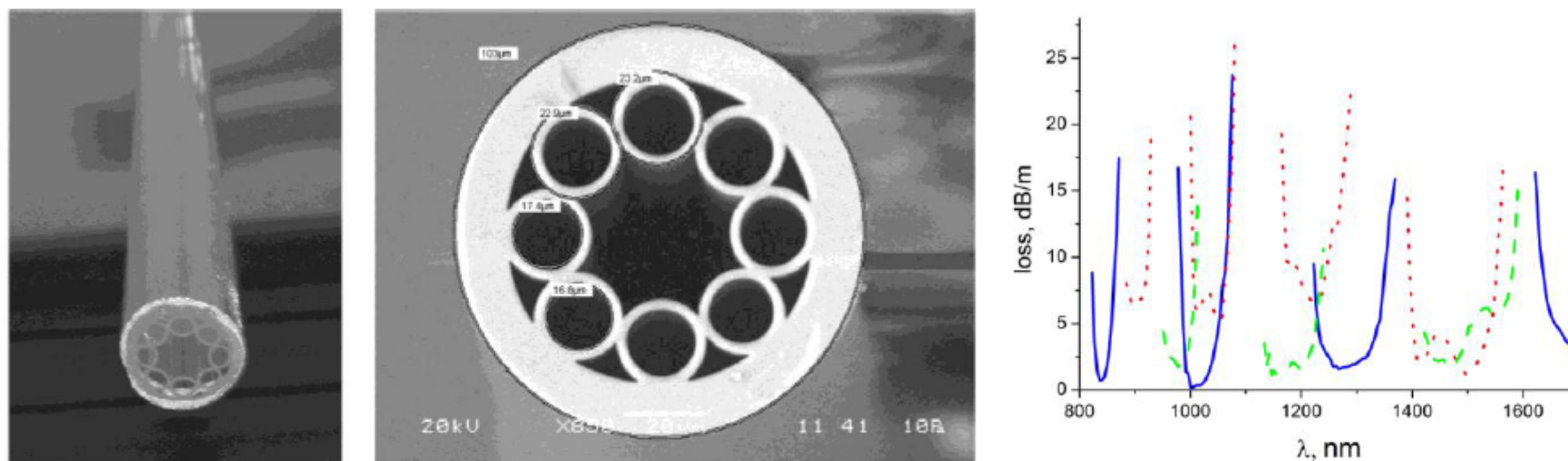
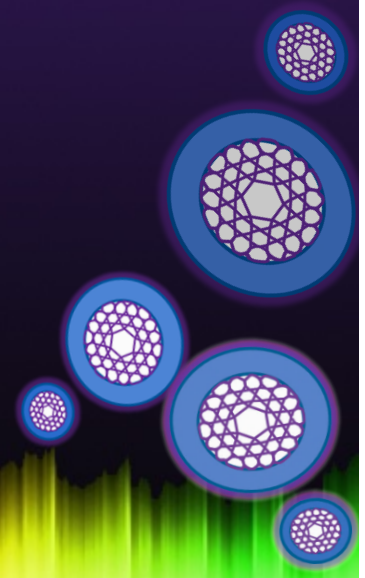
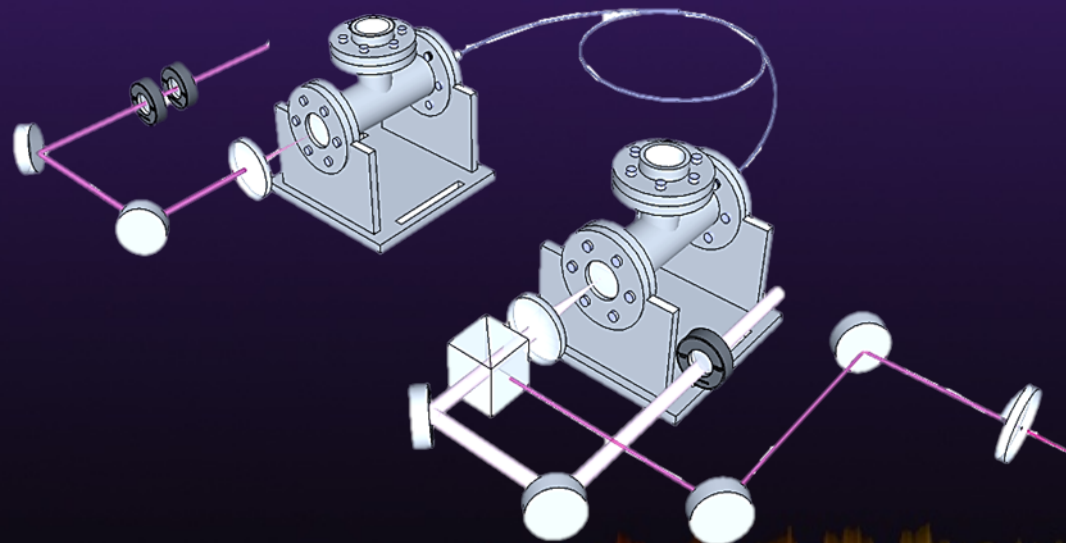


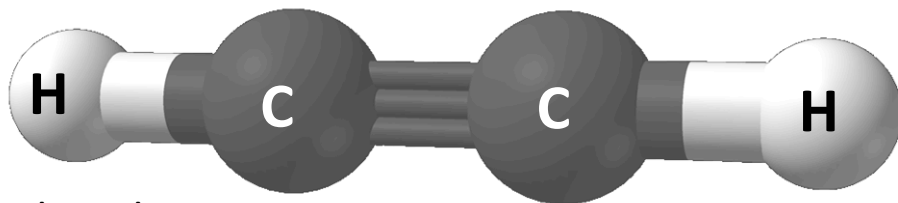
Fig. 4. The preform (left) and cross section of HC MOF (right) with the cladding consisting of eight capillaries and $D_{\text{core}} \approx 36 \mu\text{m}$.



Fiber-based frequency references

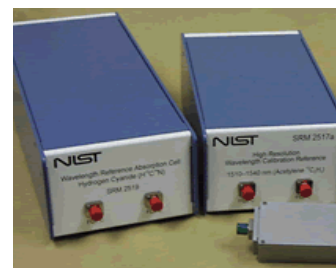


acetylene references

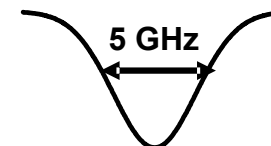


wikipedia.org

- NIST pressure-broadened cells: cheap, lower accuracy

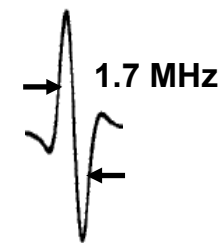
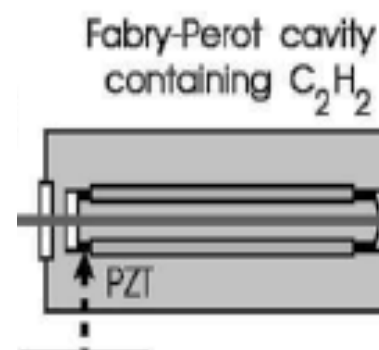
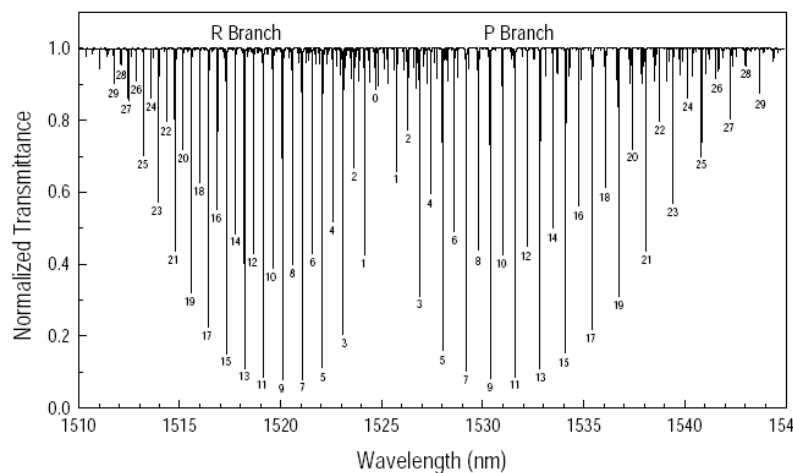


Moderate accuracy
(± 100 MHz)



Portable
robust

W.C. Swann
NIST (2000)



Accurate
(1kHz)

A.A. Madej
INMS (2006)

- Sub Doppler free-space: Power build-up cavities and vapor cells
 - More complex, bulky;



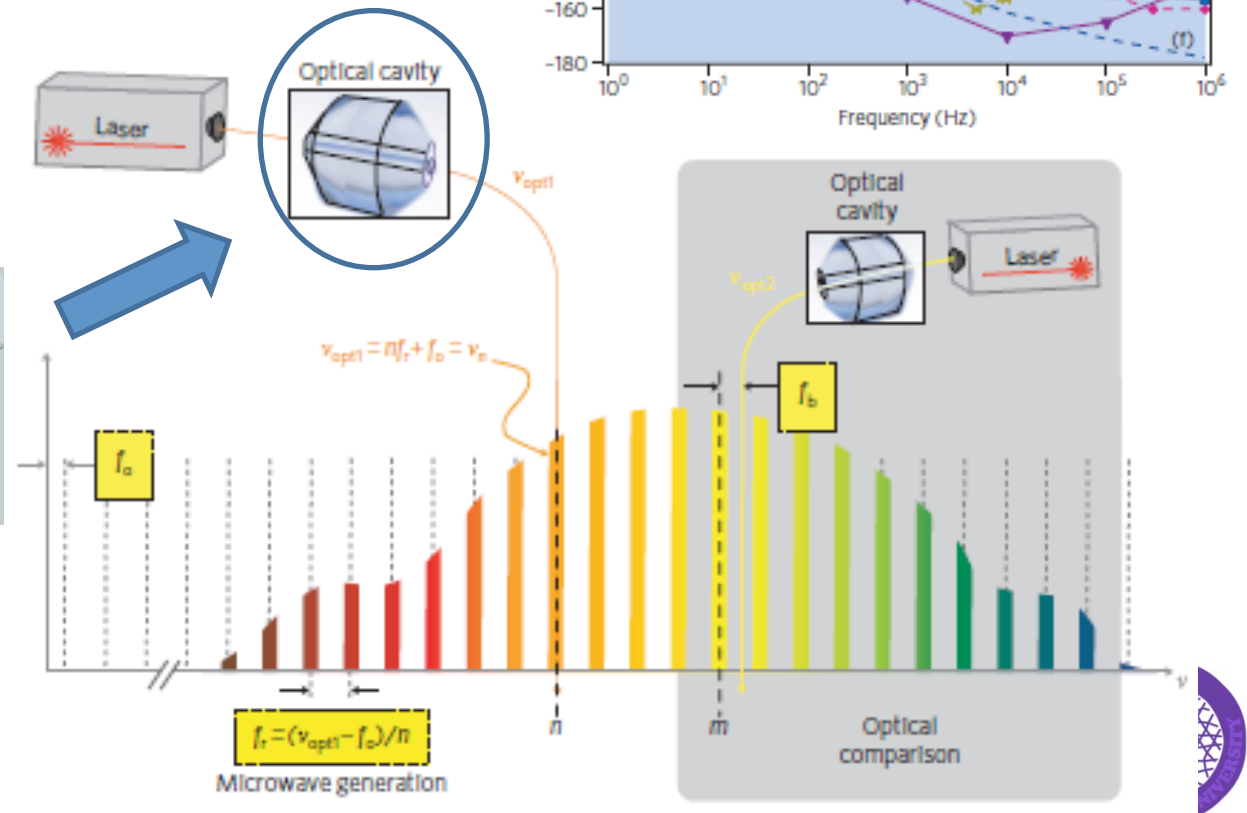
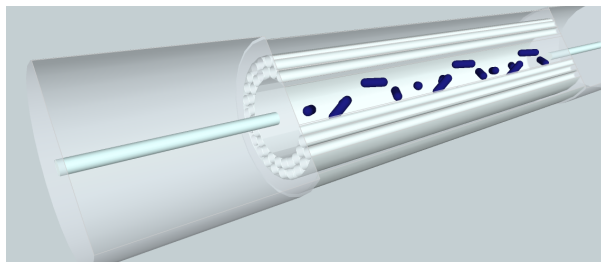
Motivation: Best microwaves come from optical references

Generation of ultrastable microwaves via optical frequency division

T. M. Fortier*, M. S. Kirchner, F. Quinlan, J. Taylor, J. C. Bergquist, T. Rosenband, N. Lemke, A. Ludlow, Y. Jiang, C. W. Oates and S. A. Diddams*

NATURE PHOTONICS | VOL 5 | JULY 2011 |

- 10 GHz signal
– $< 8 \times 10^{-16}$ at 1 s

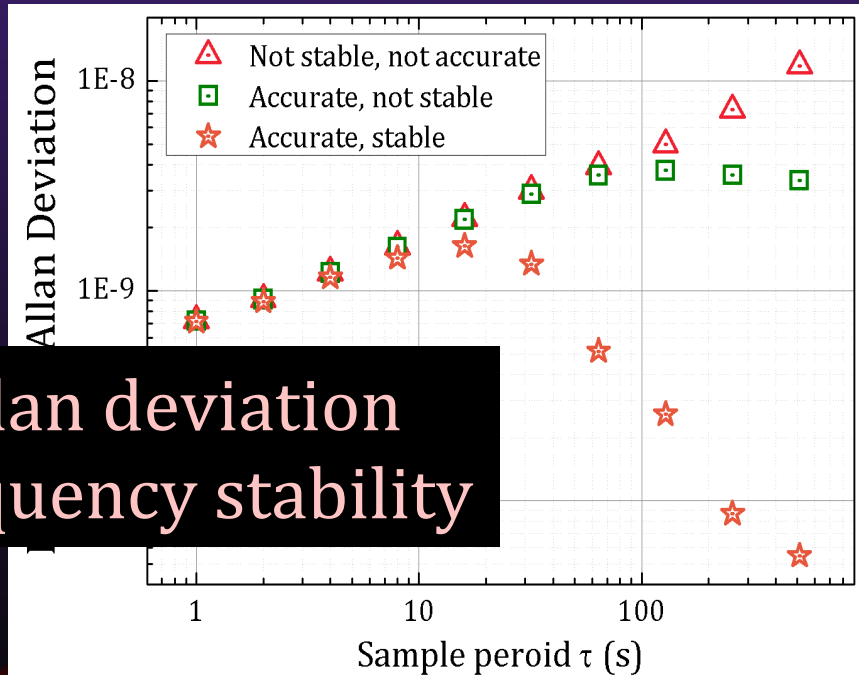
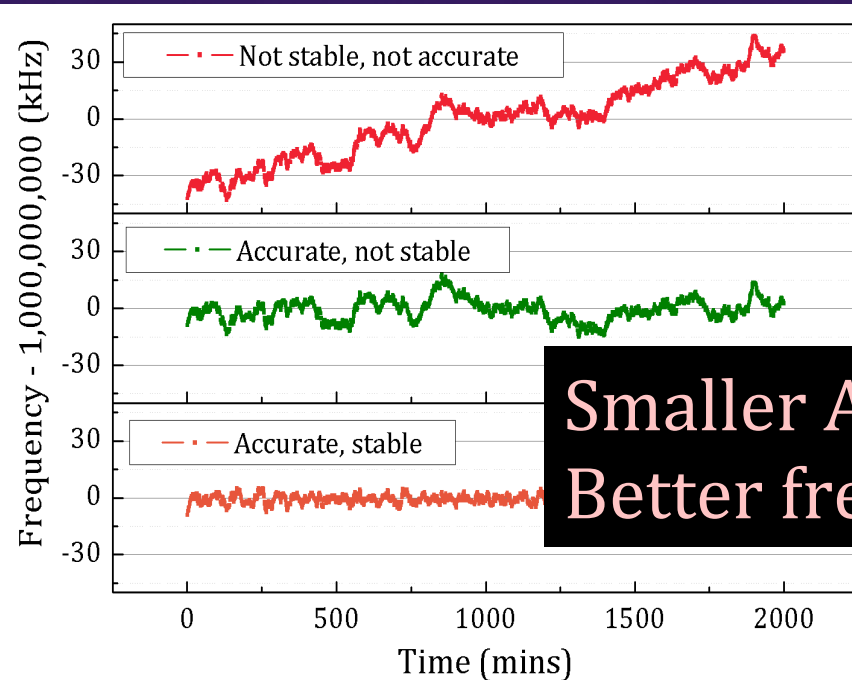


Allan deviation

Allan variance : Two-sample variance to measure the frequency stability in clocks, oscillators and amplifiers.

Allan deviation: $\sqrt{\text{Allan variance}}$, measure the point to point fluctuations.

$$\sigma_y(\tau) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2(M-1)} \sum_{i=1}^{M-1} (y_{i+1} - y_i)^2}$$

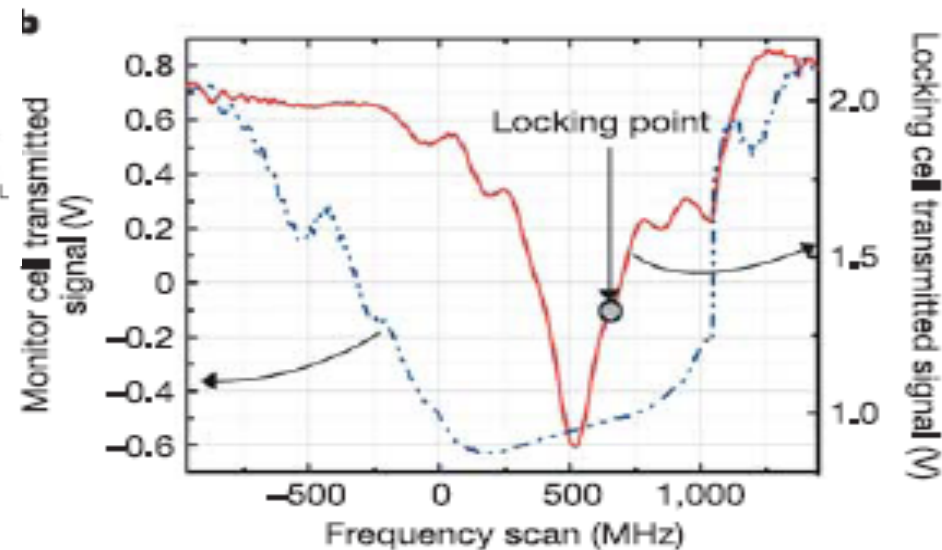
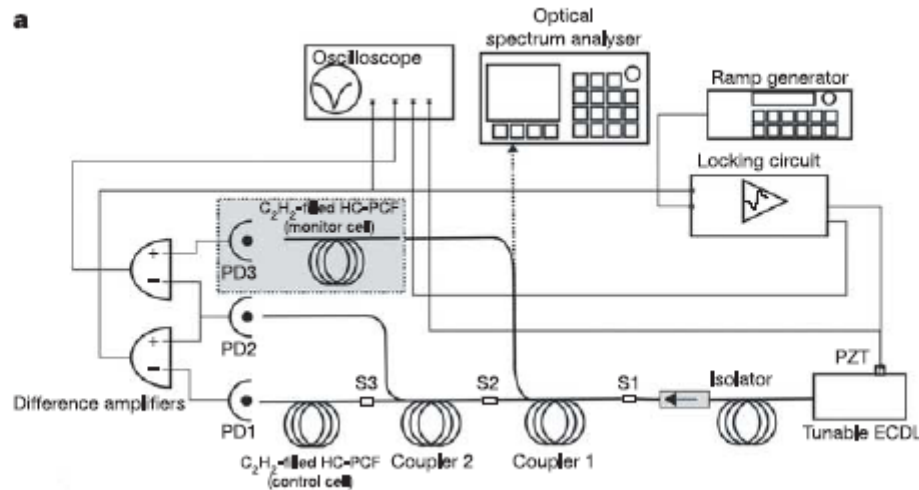
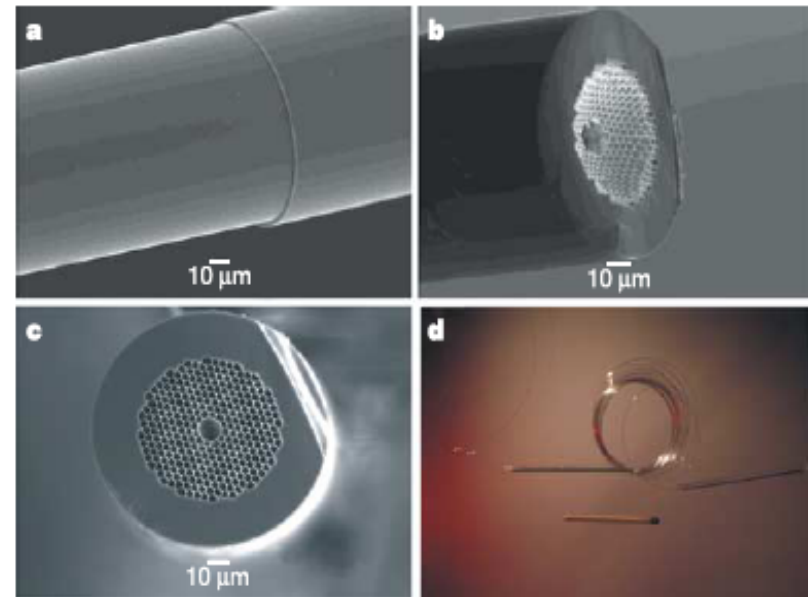


Smaller Allan deviation
Better frequency stability

Early PBG fiber reference

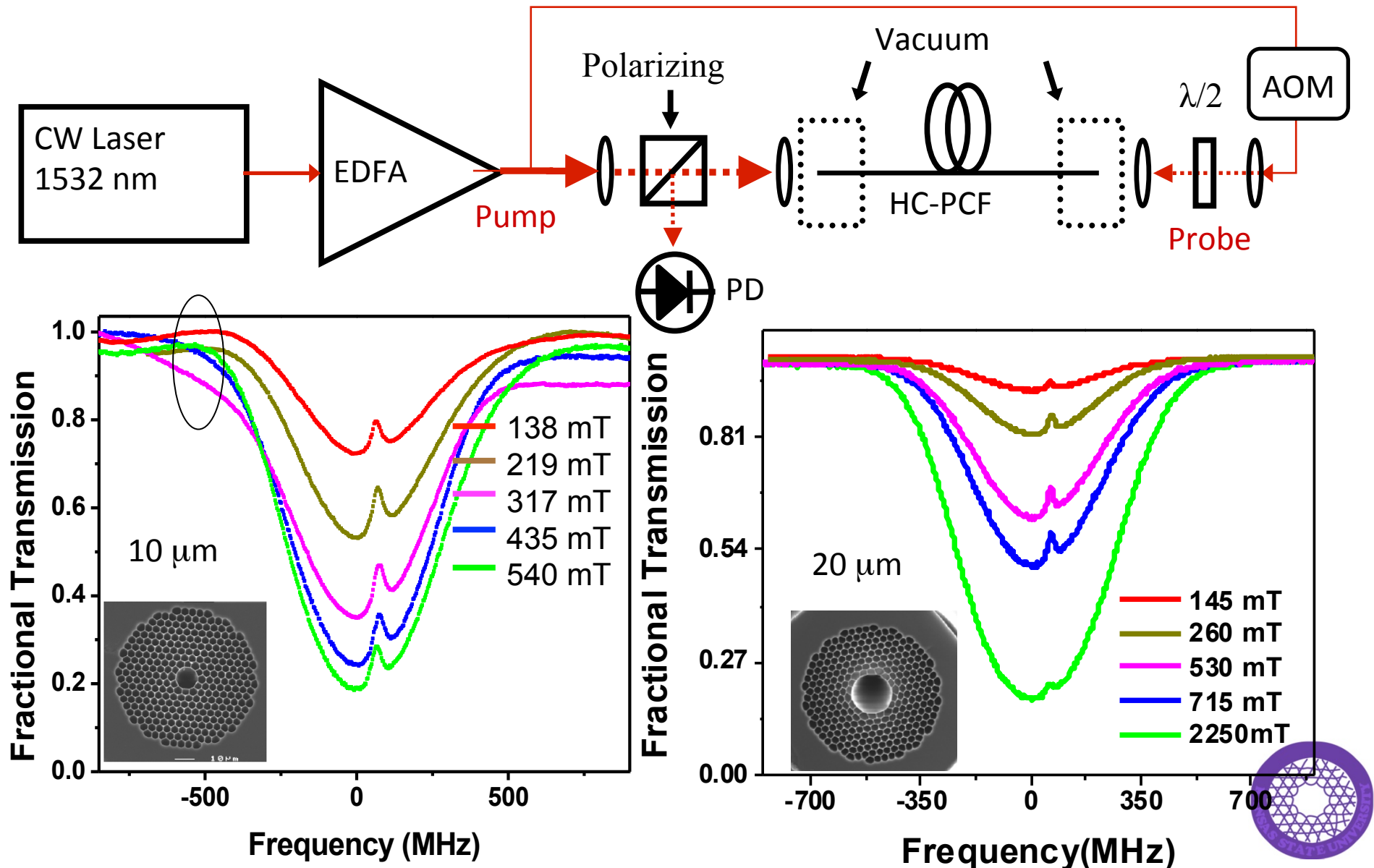
Compact, stable and efficient all-fibre gas cells using hollow-core photonic crystal fibres

F. Benabid, F. Couny, J. C. Knight, T. A. Birks & P. St J. Russell



In-loop noise, $\sim 10^{-11}/\text{Hz}^{-1/2}$
Odd lineshape
Doppler-Broadened

Saturated Absorption spectroscopy in PCF



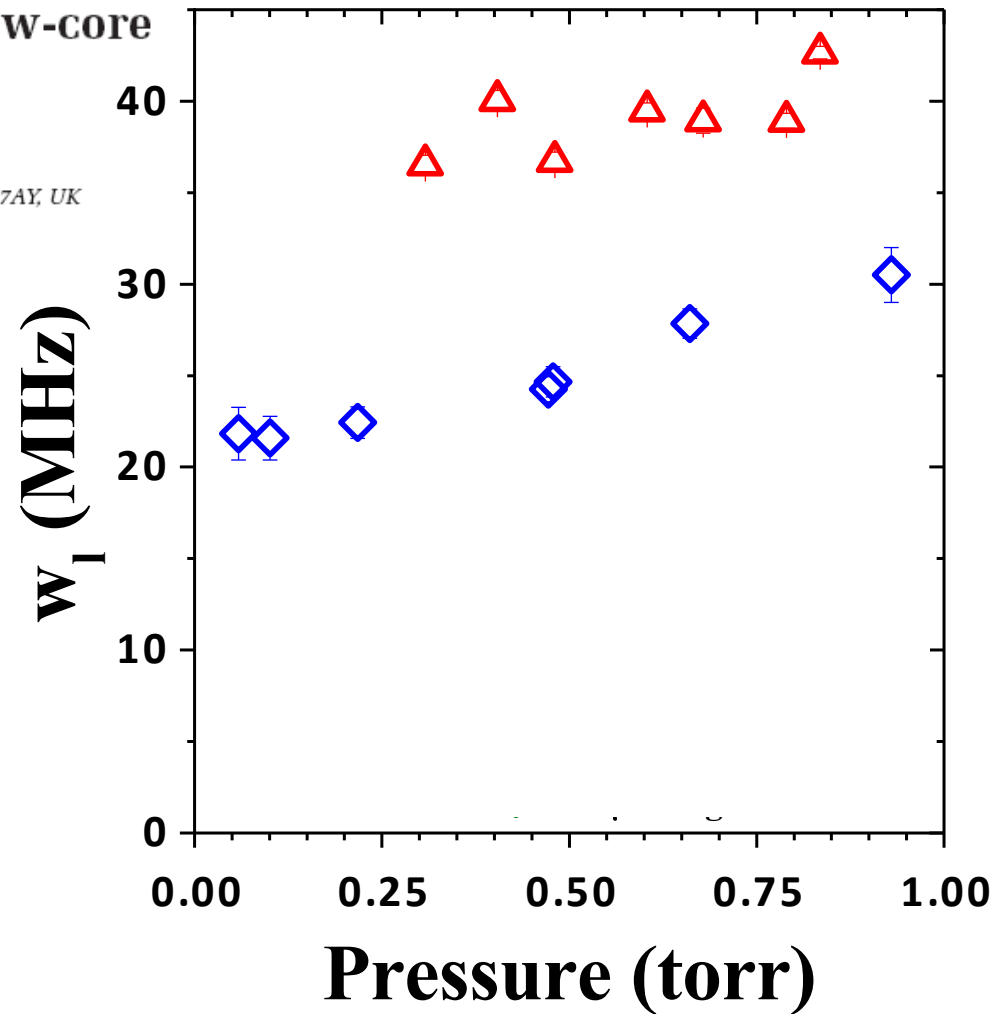
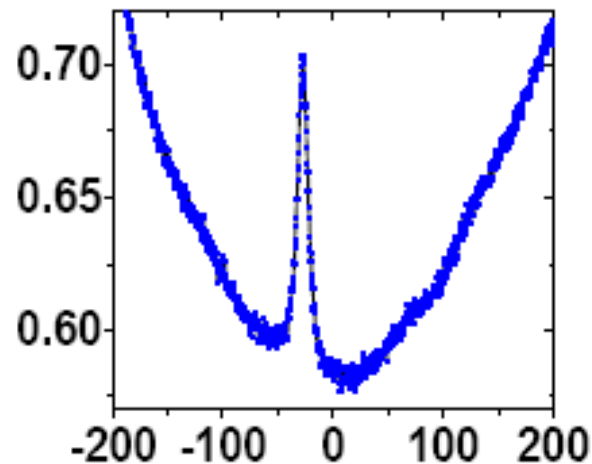
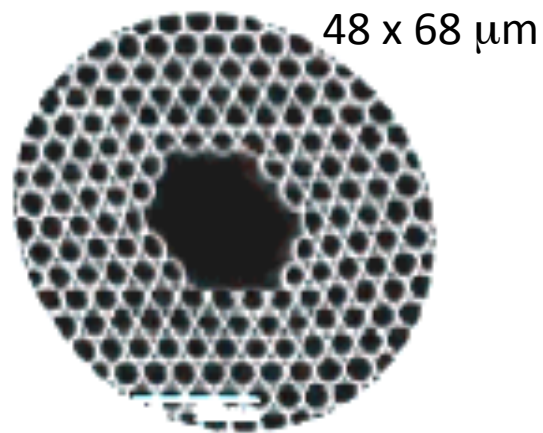
Sub-Doppler Widths in Kagome

3574 OPTICS LETTERS / Vol. 31, No. 24 / December 15, 2006

Large-pitch kagome-structured hollow-core photonic crystal fiber

F. Couny, F. Benabid, and P. S. Light

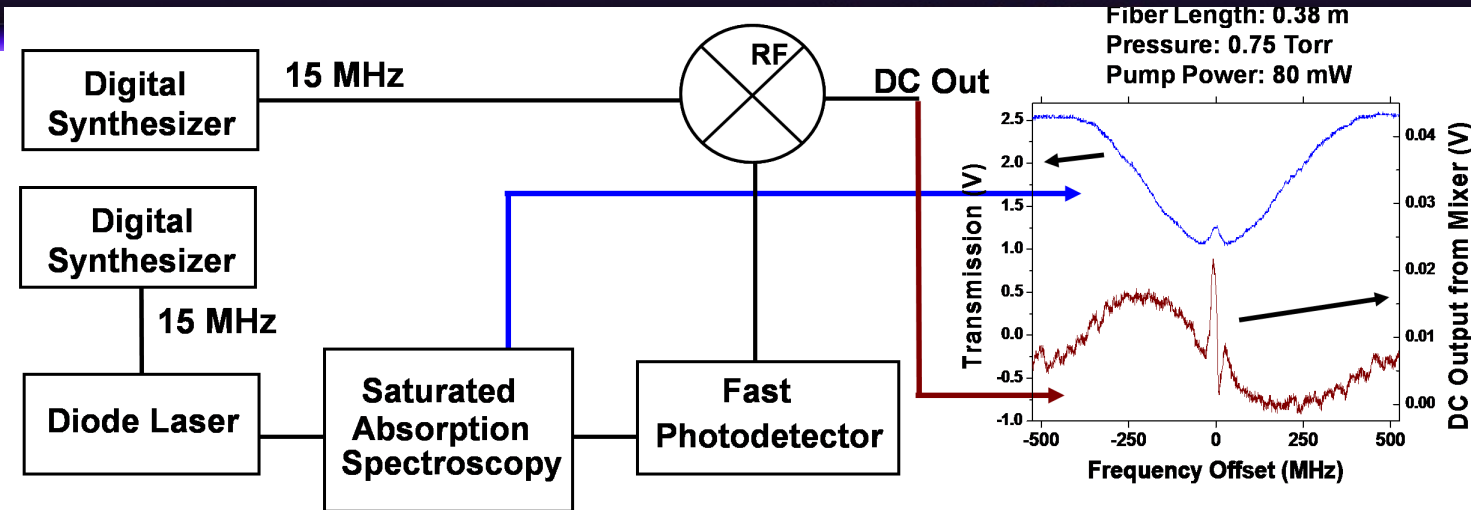
Centre for Photonics and Photonic Materials, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY, UK



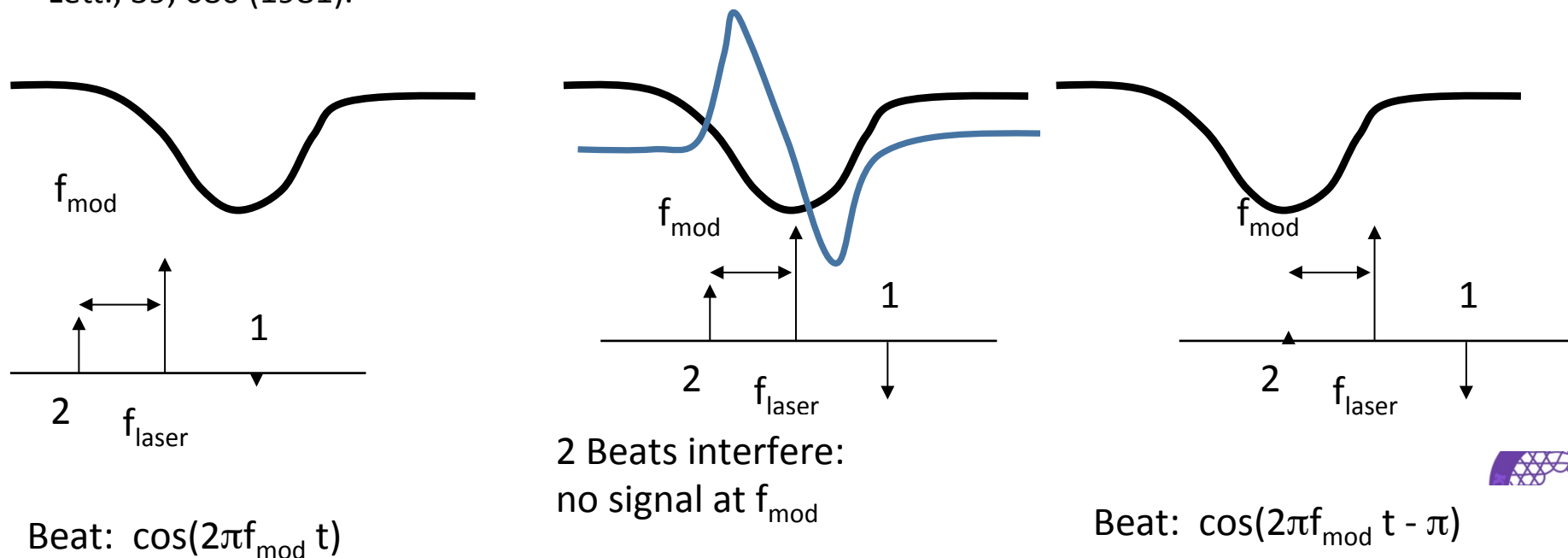
Transit Time Broadening!



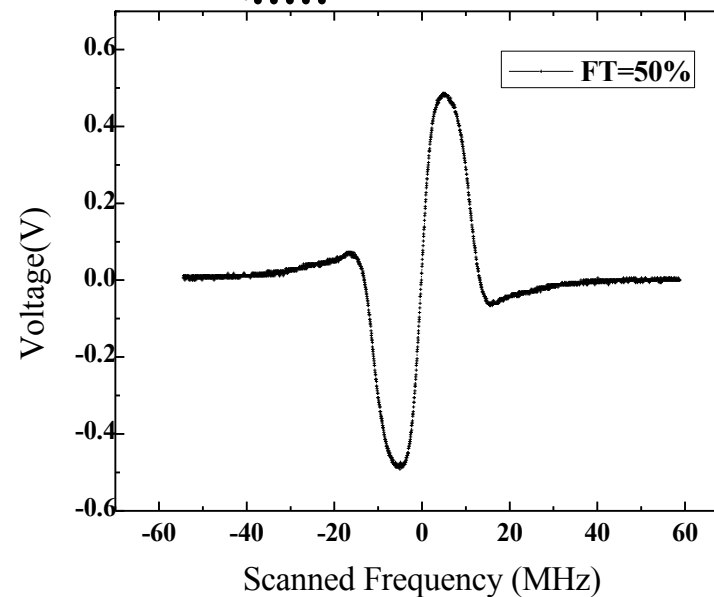
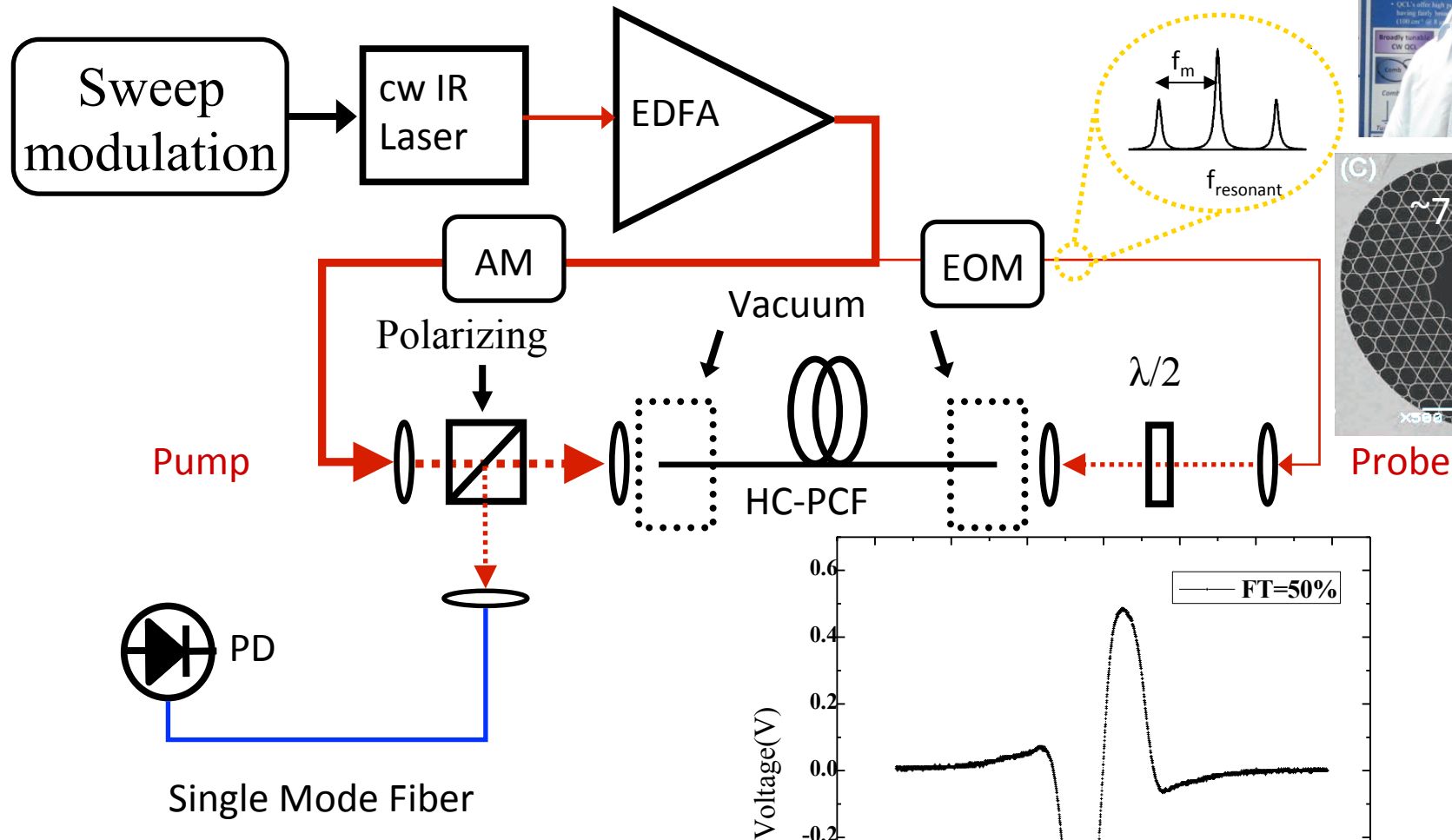
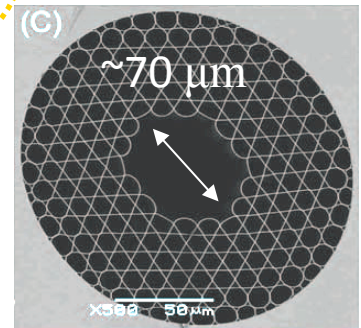
Using RF locking techniques to stabilize laser



J. L. Hall, L. Hollberg, T. Baer, and H. G. Robinson, "Optical heterodyne saturation spectroscopy," Appl. Phys. Lett., 39, 680 (1981).



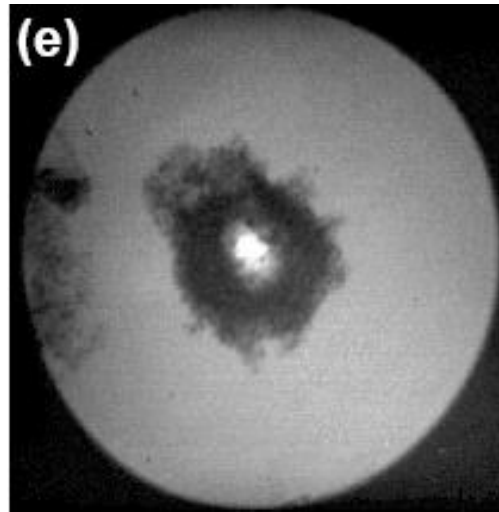
Laser Locked to Sub-Doppler Feature



Drever, Hall, et. al. Appl. Opt. B (1983).

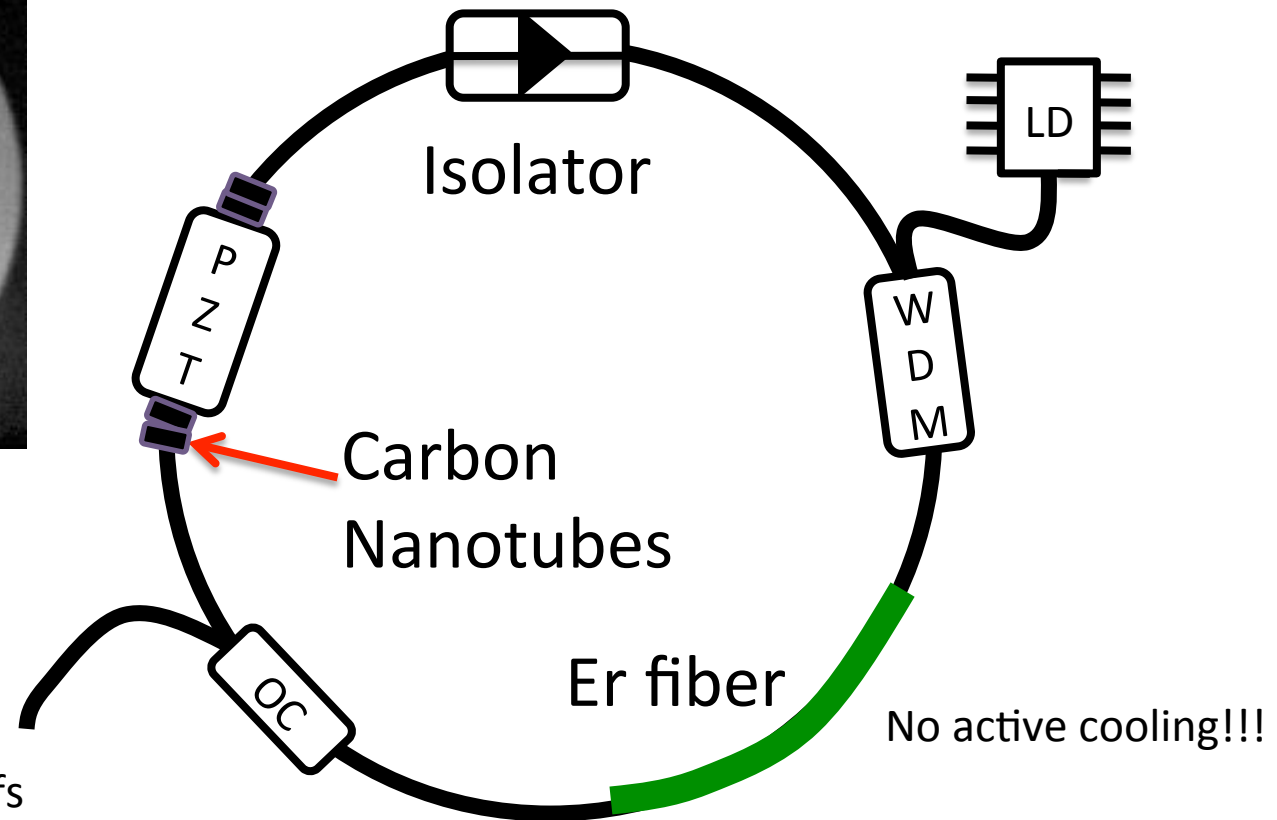


167 MHz repetition frequency carbon nanotube fiber laser (CNFL)



Leading Optical Innovations

~ 1 mW and 250 fs



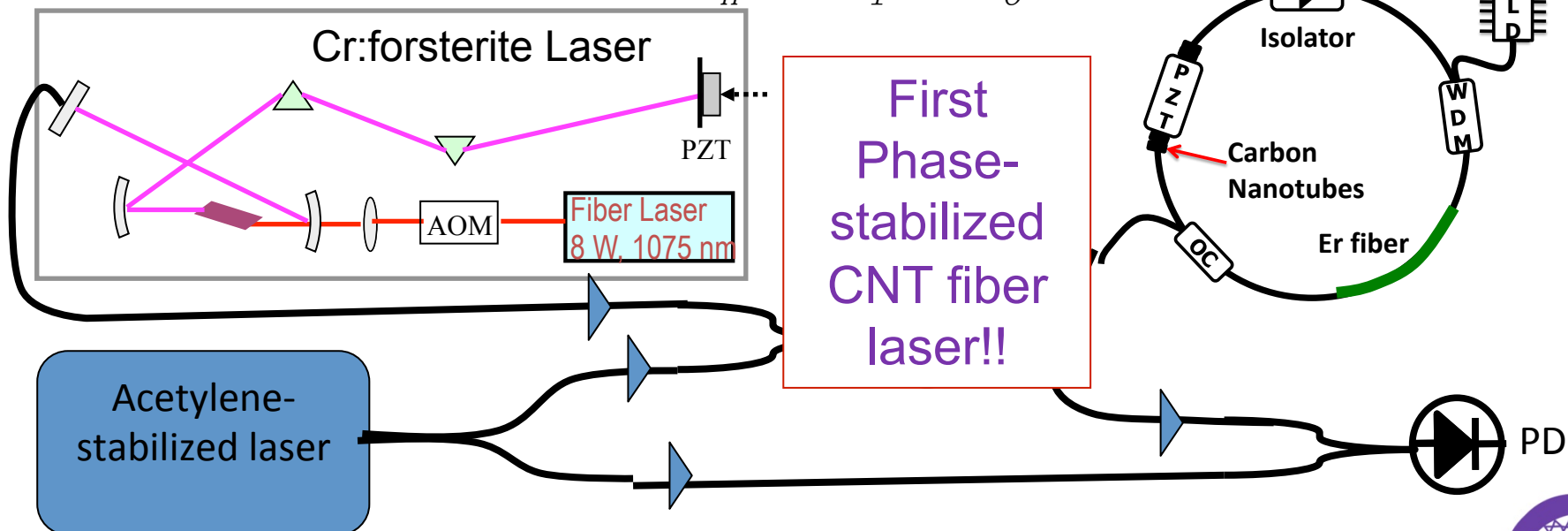
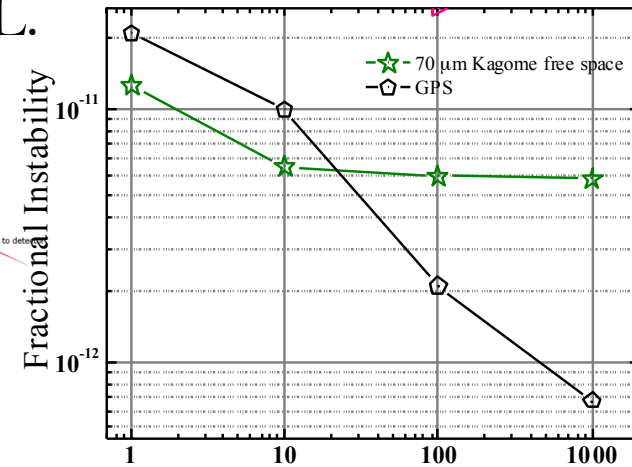
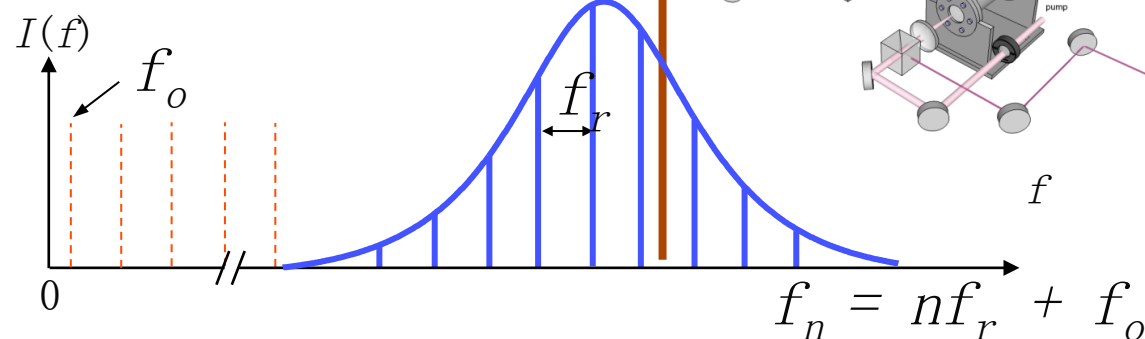
- J. W. Nicholson et al. "Optically driven deposition of single-walled carbon-nanotube saturable absorbers on optical fiber end-face," *Opt. Express* 15, 9176-9183 (2007)
- J. W. Nicholson and D. J. DiGiovanni, "High repetition frequency, low noise, fiber ring lasers modelocked with carbon nanotubes," *IEEE Photon. Technol. Lett.* 20, 2123-2125 (2008).



Frequency Combs: Cr:forsterite and Carbon Nanotube

- Rb/GPS stability transferred to both Cr:f and CNFL.

Frequency domain

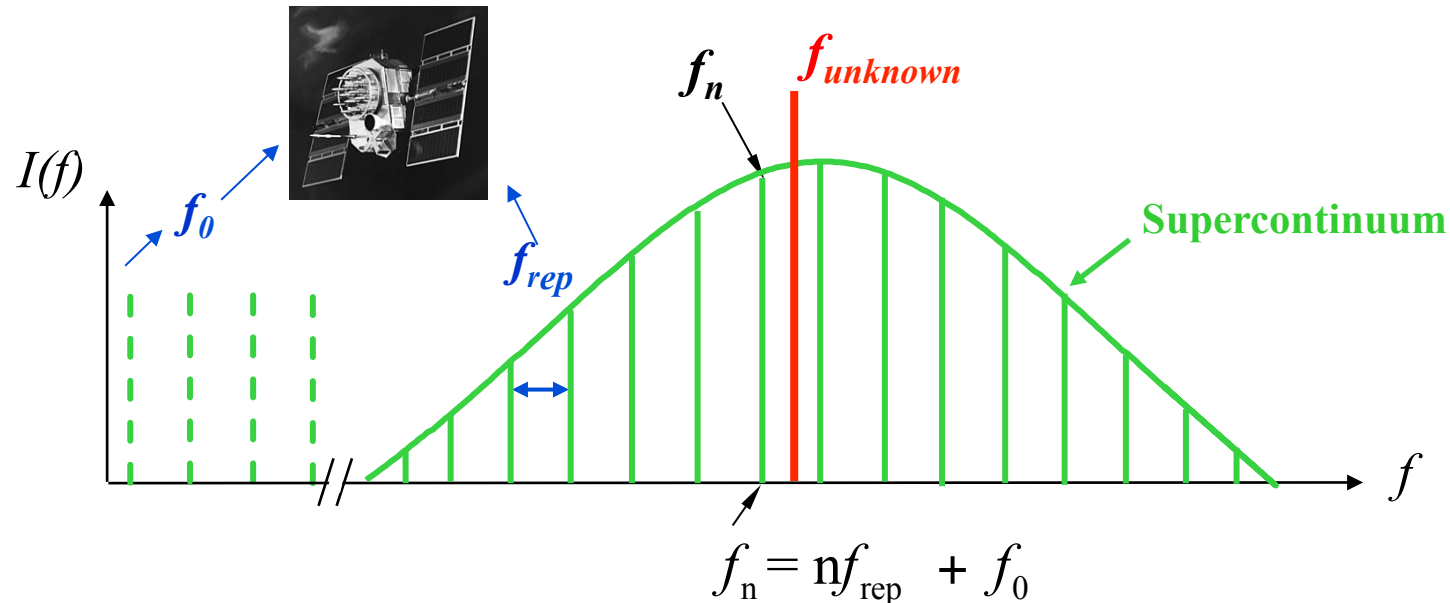


J. K. Lim *et al.*, Opt. Express 17, 14115-14120 (2009).

Karl A. Tillman *et al.*, Appl. Opt. 48, 6980-6989 (2009)



Absolute frequency measurements



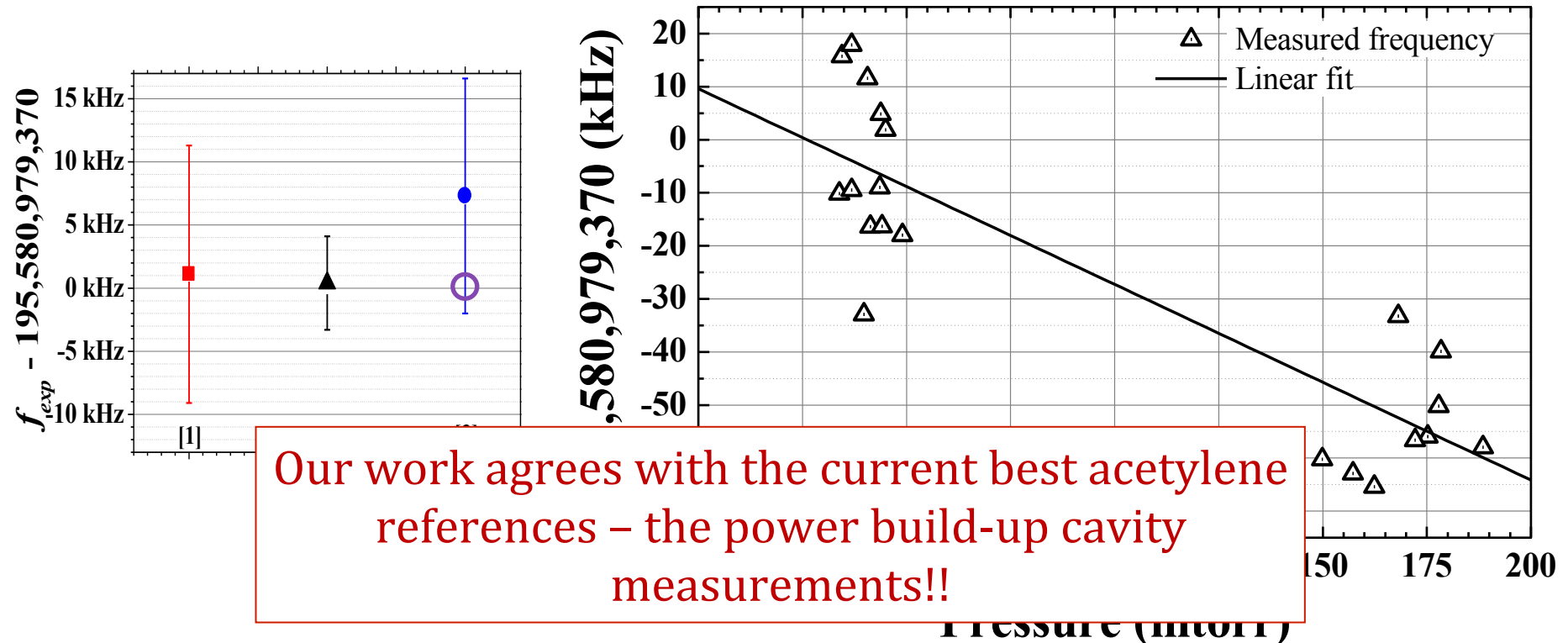
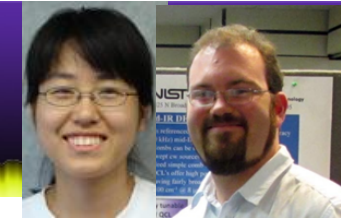
$$f_{\text{unknown}} = \pm f_n \quad m f_{\text{beat}} = \pm n f_{\text{rep}} \pm f_0 \quad m f_{\text{beat}}$$

Example:

- $\uparrow f_{\text{rep}} \rightarrow$ if $f_{\text{beat}} \uparrow \rightarrow$ opp. sign for f_{rep} and f_{beat}
- $\uparrow f_0 \rightarrow$ if $f_{\text{beat}} \downarrow \rightarrow$ same. sign for f_0 and f_{beat}

$$f_{\text{unknown}} = n f_{\text{rep}} - f_0 - f_{\text{beat}}$$

Absolute frequency of gas-filled kagome reference



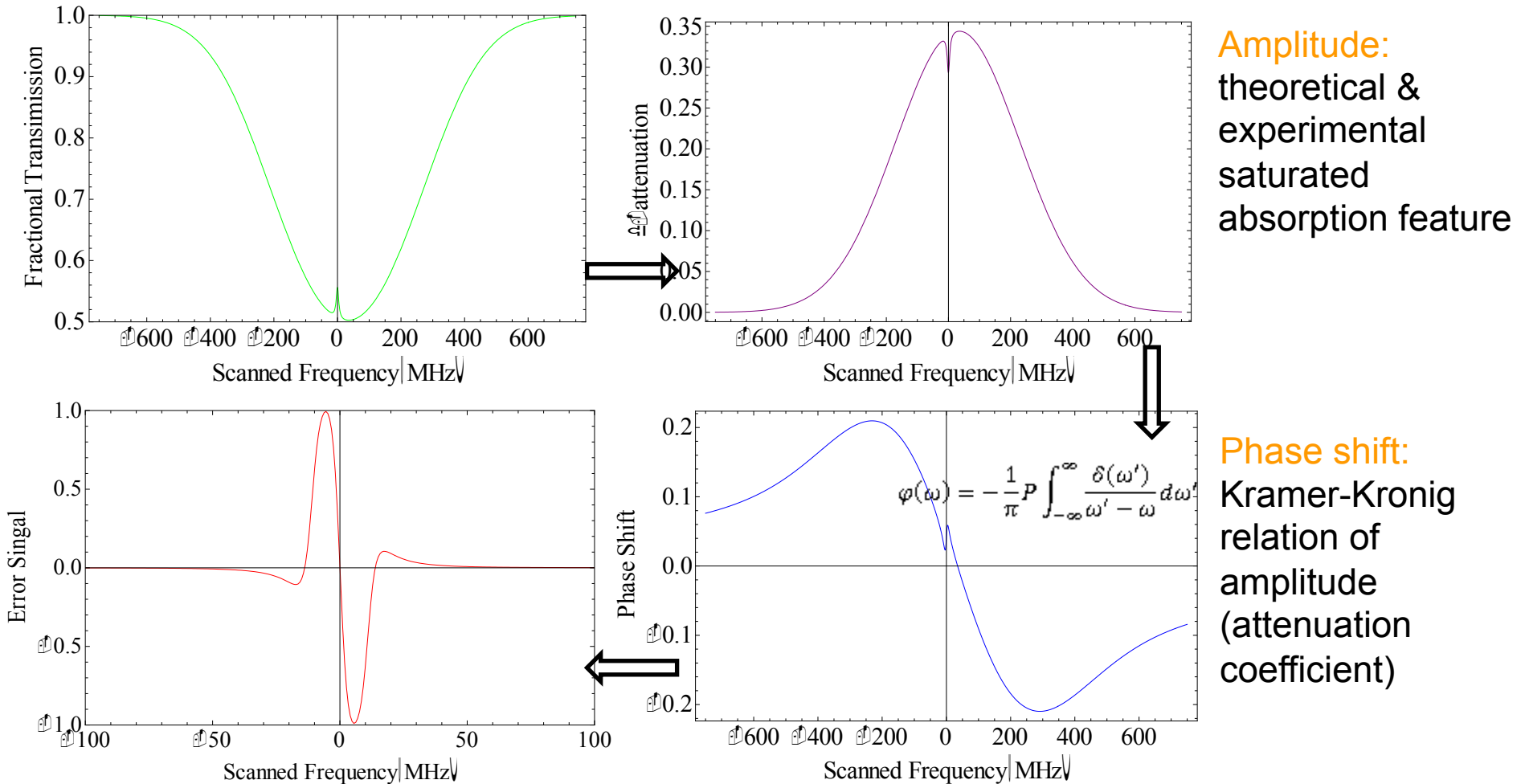
- [1] C. S. Edwards, et.al., Journal of Mol. Spec. **234**, 143-148 (2005).
- [2] A. A. Madej, et.al., JOSAB **23**, 2200-2208 (2006).
- [3] Our work: K. Knabe, et.al., Opt. Express **17**(18), 16017 - 16026 (2009).

Modification: C. Wang, et.al. Appl. Opt. **52**, 5430-5439 (2013).



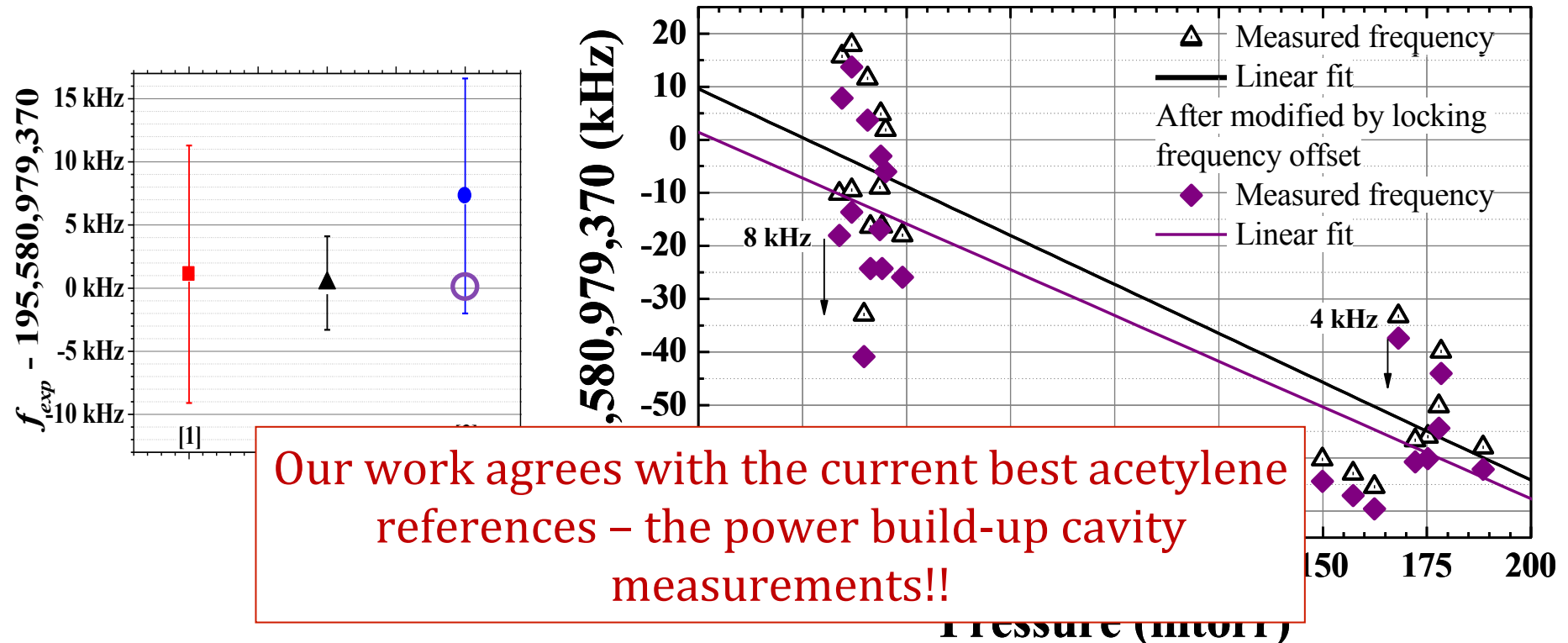
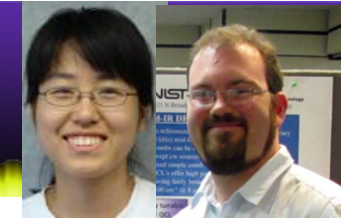
FM MODELING: DISPERSIVE ERROR SIGNAL CALCULATION

The Pound-Drever-Hall (PDH) locking technique used in the SAS depends on the complete information of the **amplitude** and **phase shift** on the carrier and two modulated sidebands (± 22 MHz).



Bjorklund et. al. Appl. Phys. B 32, 145-152 (1983)

Absolute frequency of gas-filled kagome reference



[1] C. S. Edwards, et.al., Journal of Mol. Spec. **234**, 143-148 (2005).

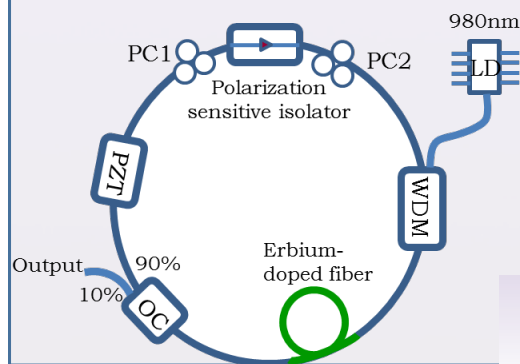
[2] A. A. Madej, et.al., JOSAB **23**, 2200-2208 (2006).

[3] Our work: K. Knabe, et.al., Opt. Express **17**(18), 16017 - 16026 (2009).

Modification: C. Wang, et.al. Appl. Opt. **52**, 5430-5439 (2013).



Goal: all-fiber comb and all-fiber reference



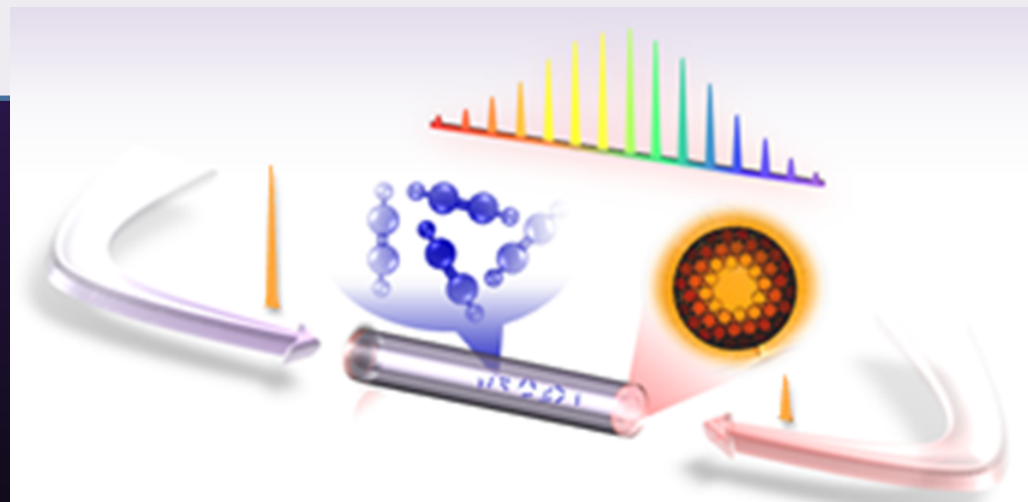
**fs Er-doped
fiber laser** +



gas-filled fiber

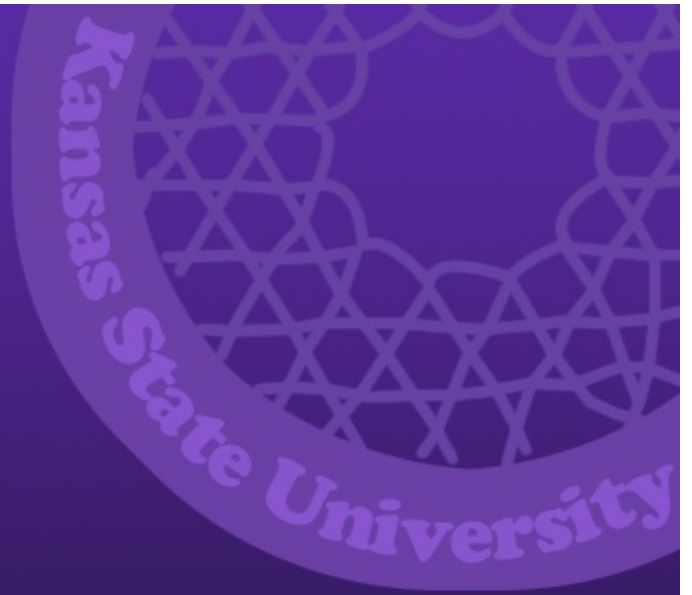
=

**Optically referenced
portable
frequency comb system**



*(no ultrastable
RF required)*

Direct comb stabilization to gas-filled fiber reference



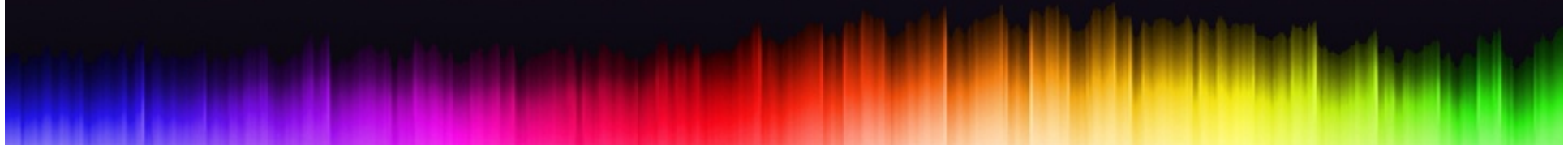
Motivation

Stabilization of single tooth to C_2H_2 transition

Single tooth amplification from nW to 10's of mW

Saturated Absorption Spectroscopy

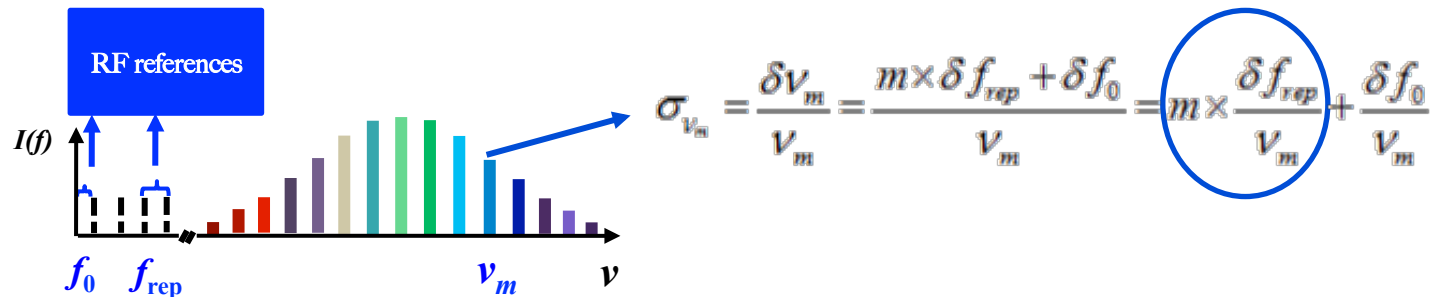
Stability analysis



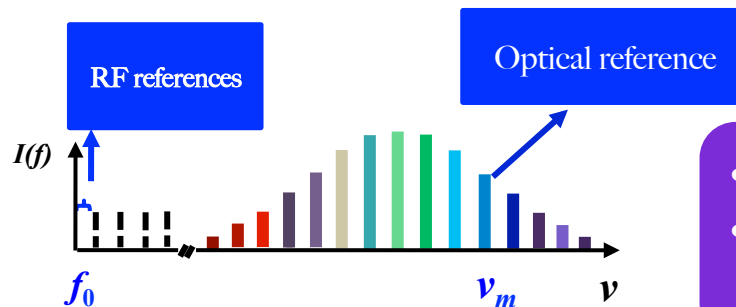
Advantages of optical referencing

■ Stabilization of frequency combs

◆ RF referenced combs



◆ Optically referenced combs



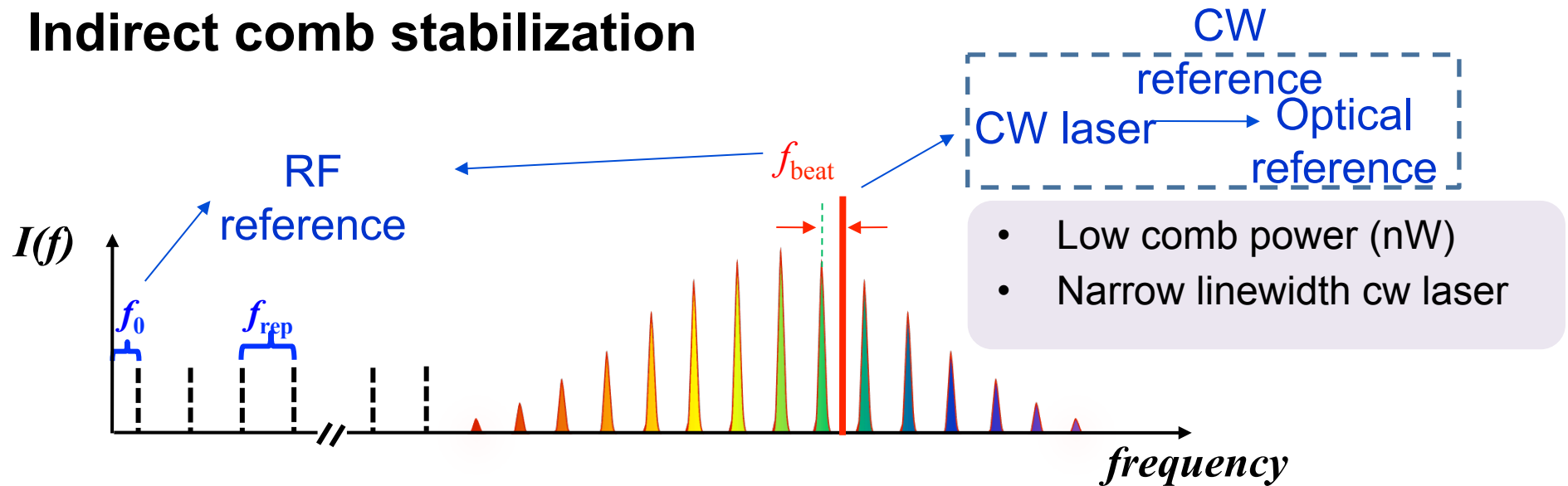
Advantages:

- Short term stability across optical spectrum
- Stable RF read out at f_{rep}

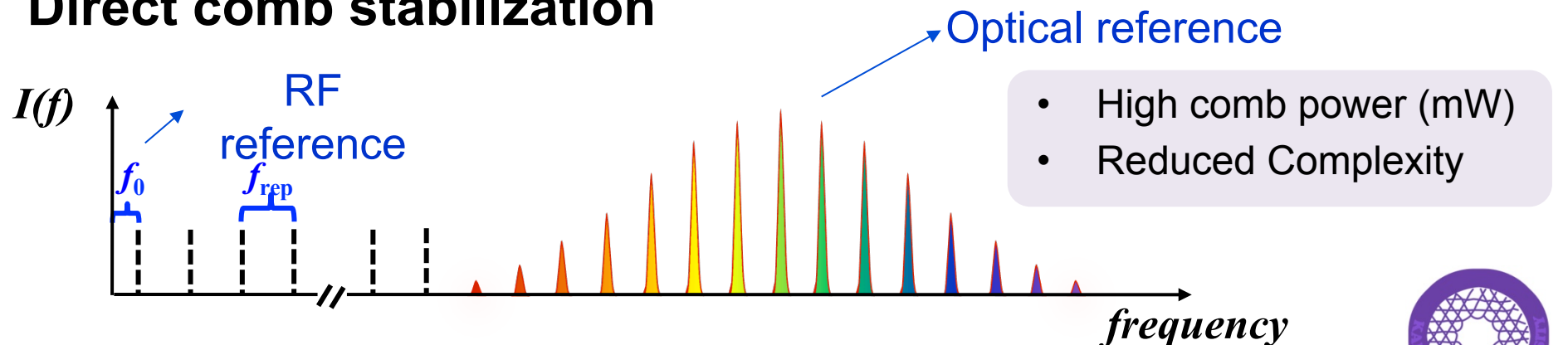


Indirect vs. Direct comb stabilization

Indirect comb stabilization



Direct comb stabilization



Ti:Sapph direct stabilization single-tooth sub-Doppler spectroscopy

PHYSICAL REVIEW A 80, 053806 (2009)

Optical frequency stabilization of a 10 GHz Ti:sapphire frequency comb by saturated absorption spectroscopy in ^{87}Rb

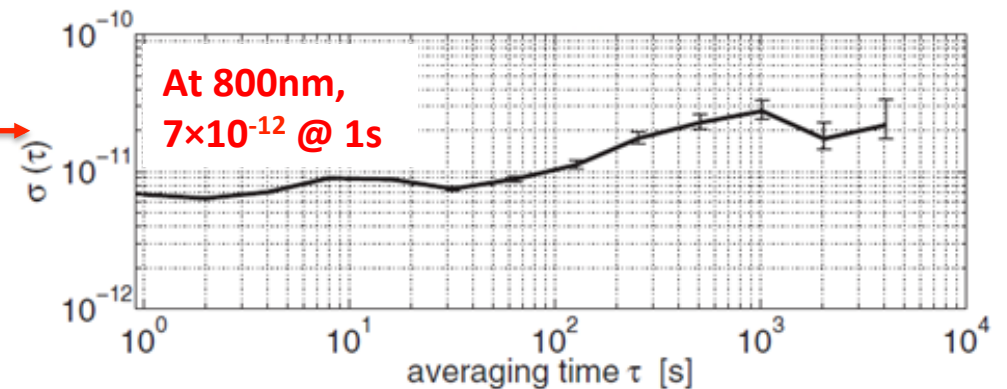
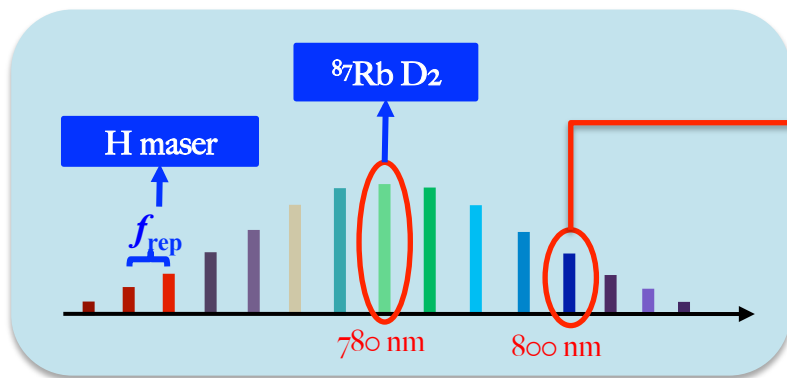
D. C. Heinecke,^{1,2,*} A. Bartels,^{2,3} T. M. Fortier,¹ D. A. Braje,¹ L. Hollberg,⁴ and S. A. Diddams^{1,†}

¹National Institute of Standards and Technology, 325 Broadway M.S. 847, Boulder, Colorado 80305, USA

²Center for Applied Photonics, University of Konstanz, Universitätsstrasse 10, 78457 Konstanz, Germany

³Gigaoptics GmbH, Blarerstrasse 56, 78462 Konstanz, Germany

⁴



- 10 GHz rep rate, mW/tooth directly from Ti:S oscillator (no amplification)
- Rb saturates with few mW.



Related work

PHYSICAL REVIEW A 80, 053806 (2009)

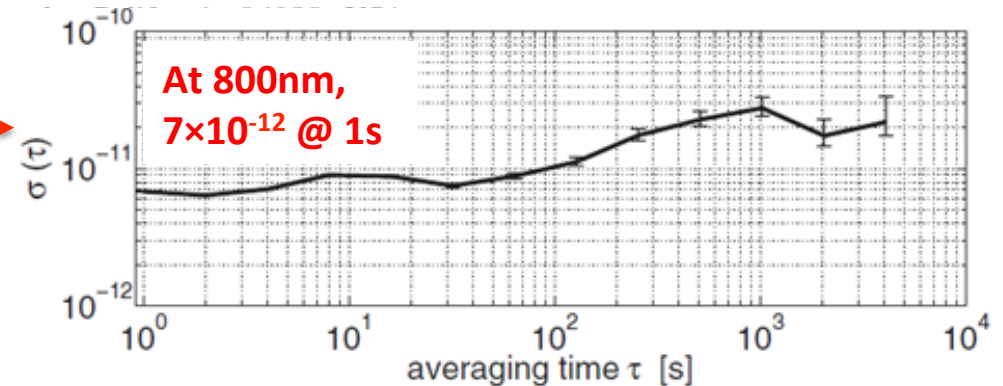
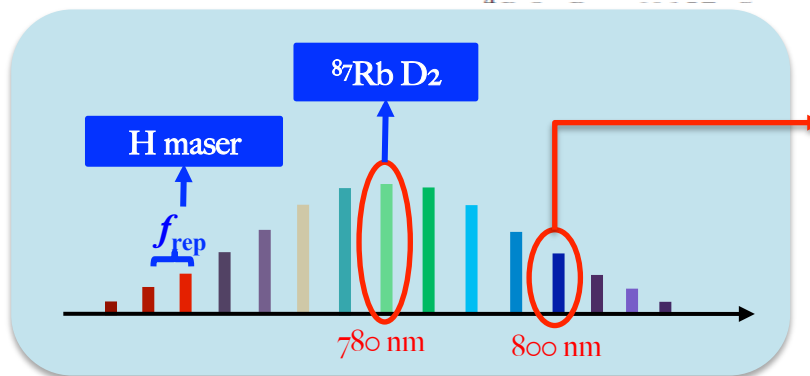
Optical frequency stabilization of a 10 GHz Ti:sapphire frequency comb by saturated absorption spectroscopy in ^{87}Rb

D. C. Heinecke,^{1,2,*} A. Bartels,^{2,3} T. M. Fortier,¹ D. A. Braje,¹ L. Hollberg,⁴ and S. A. Diddams^{1,†}

¹National Institute of Standards and Technology, 325 Broadway M.S. 847, Boulder, Colorado 80305, USA

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³Gigaoptics GmbH, Blarerstrasse 56, 78462 Konstanz, Germany



Challenges for fiber combs:

◆ nW per tooth (vs. mW for NIST Ti:S) for Direct Comb Spectroscopy

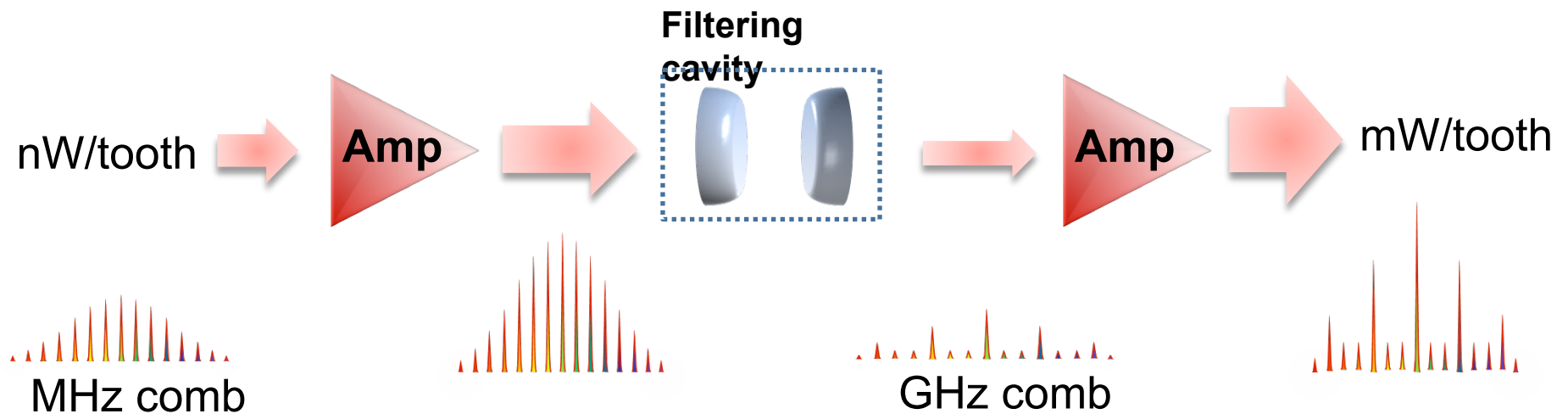
Requires power amplification by a factor of 10^6



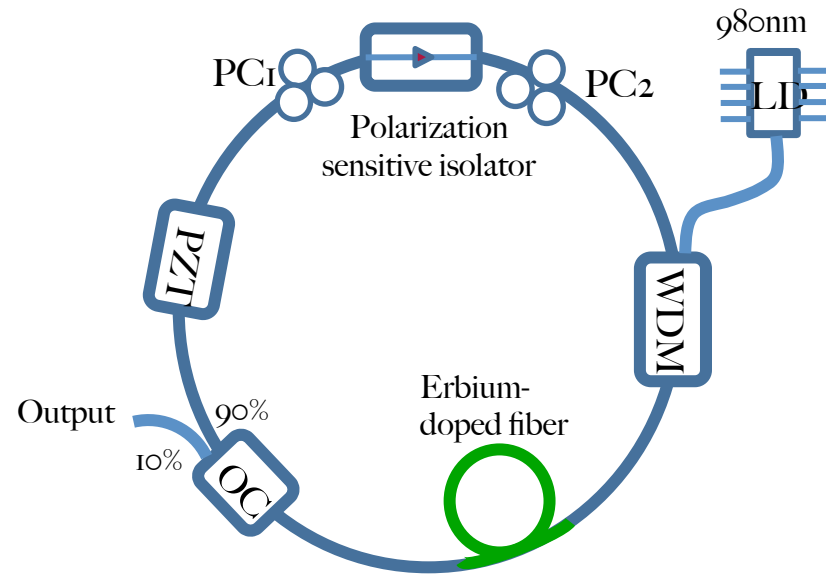
Challenge for comb amplification

Amplifying MHz fiber comb

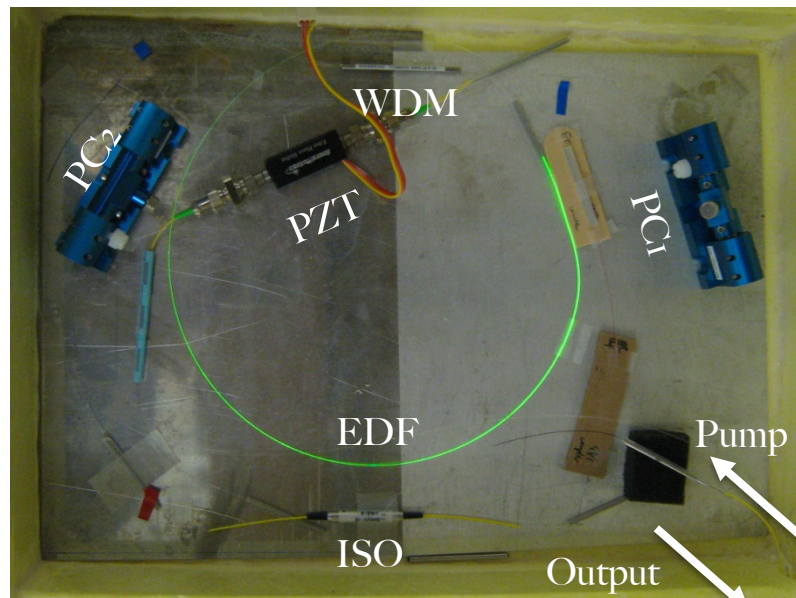
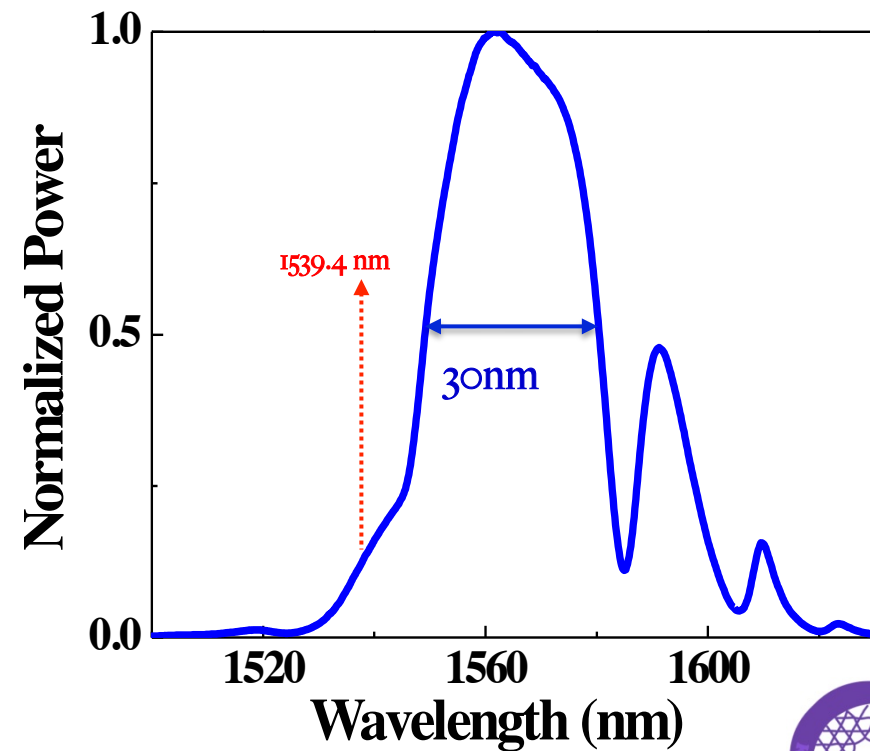
- Our solution:



Modelocked Fiber Laser

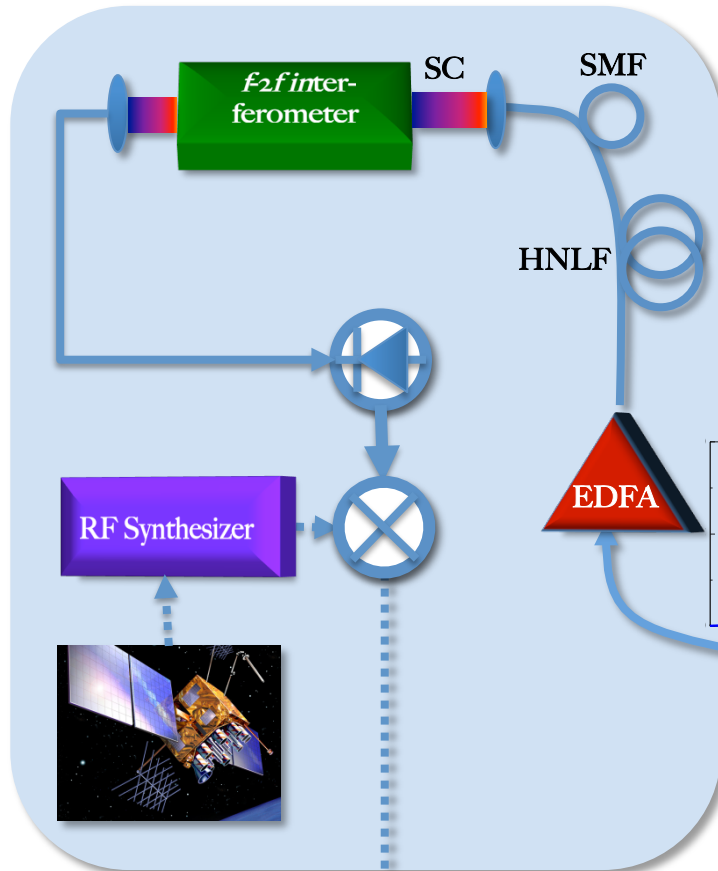


- ◆ EDF 110 as gain medium
- ◆ Pumped by 300 mW 980 nm LD
- ◆ Nonlinear Polarization Rotation
- ◆ $f_{\text{rep}} = 89 \text{ MHz}$
- ◆ Output power $\sim 4 \text{ mW}$

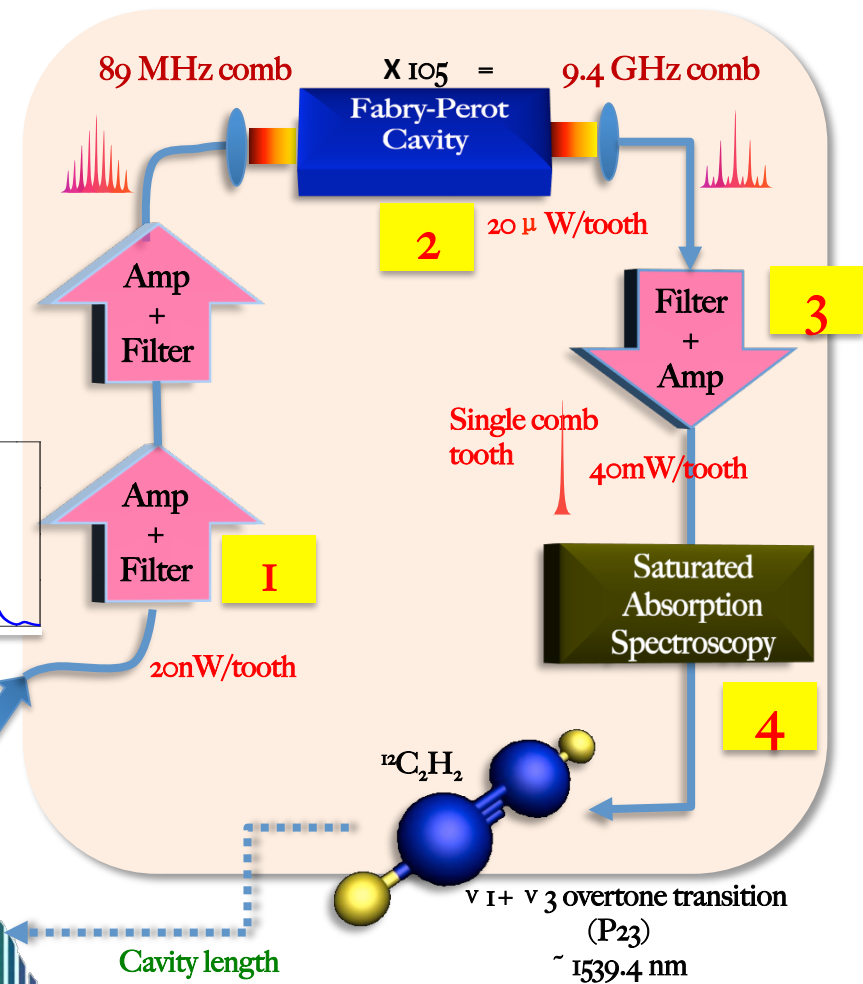


Comb Stabilization

f_0 stabilization

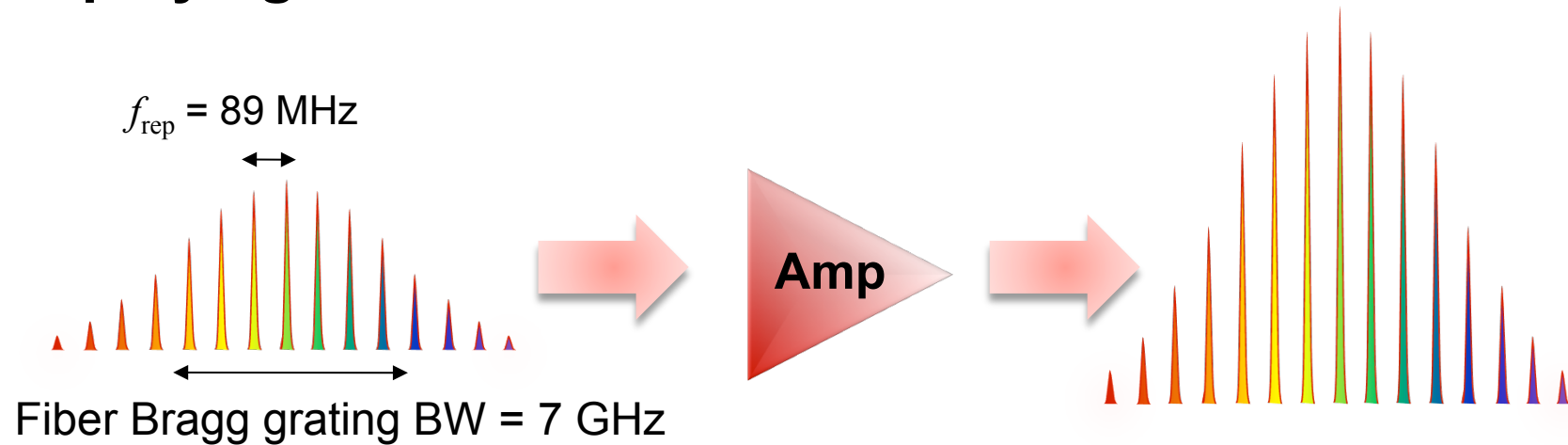


Single optical tooth stabilization



Challenge for comb amplification

Amplifying MHz fiber comb



$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 79 \text{ teeth} & \times & 40 \text{ mW/tooth} & = & \text{Requires } 3 \text{ W average power !} \\ \text{(P}_{\text{avg}} = 1.5 \text{ }\mu\text{W)} & & \uparrow & & \\ & & \text{Single comb tooth} & & \\ & & \text{saturation} & & \end{array}$$

- Significant amplification => degradation of comb SNR

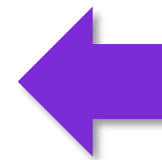
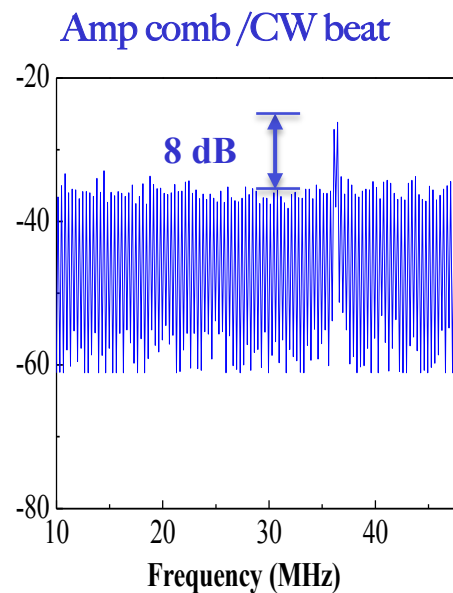
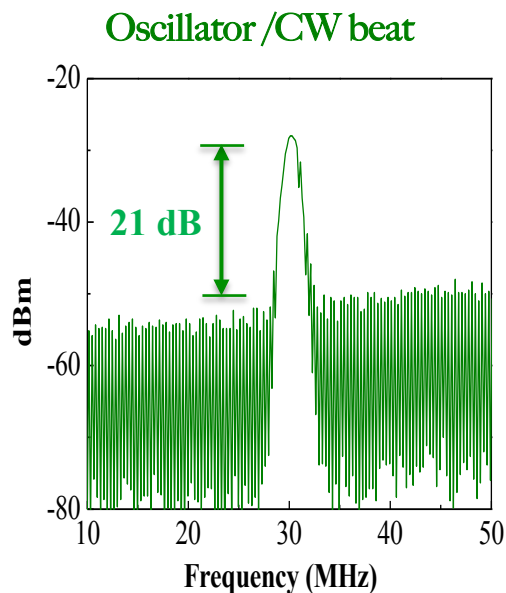
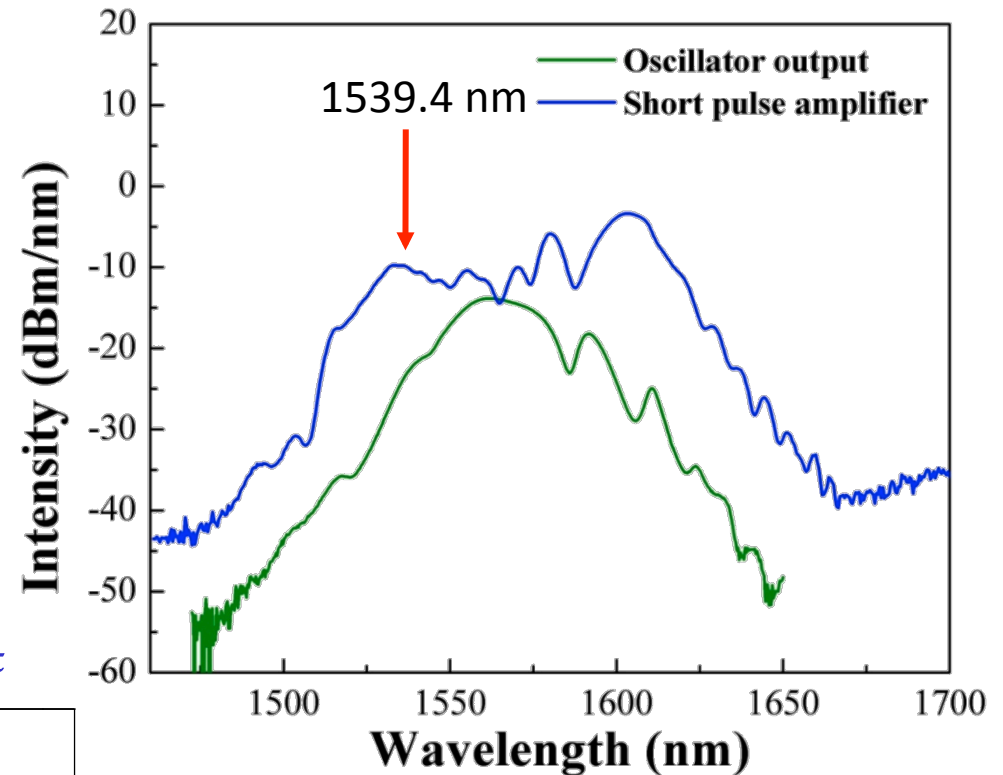


Home-made pre-amplifier



Short pulse fiber amplifier

- ◆ Seeded by the oscillator comb
- ◆ EDF fiber as gain fiber
- ◆ **Backward pumped** by 1480 nm diode
- ◆ amplify and temporally compress pulses via solitonic effects



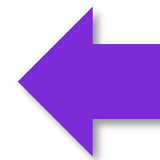
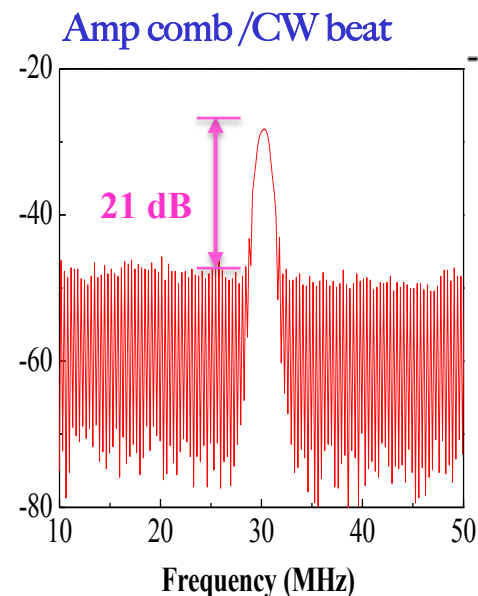
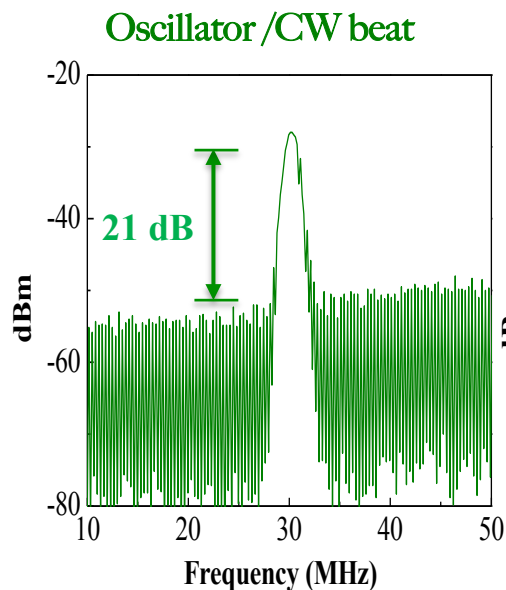
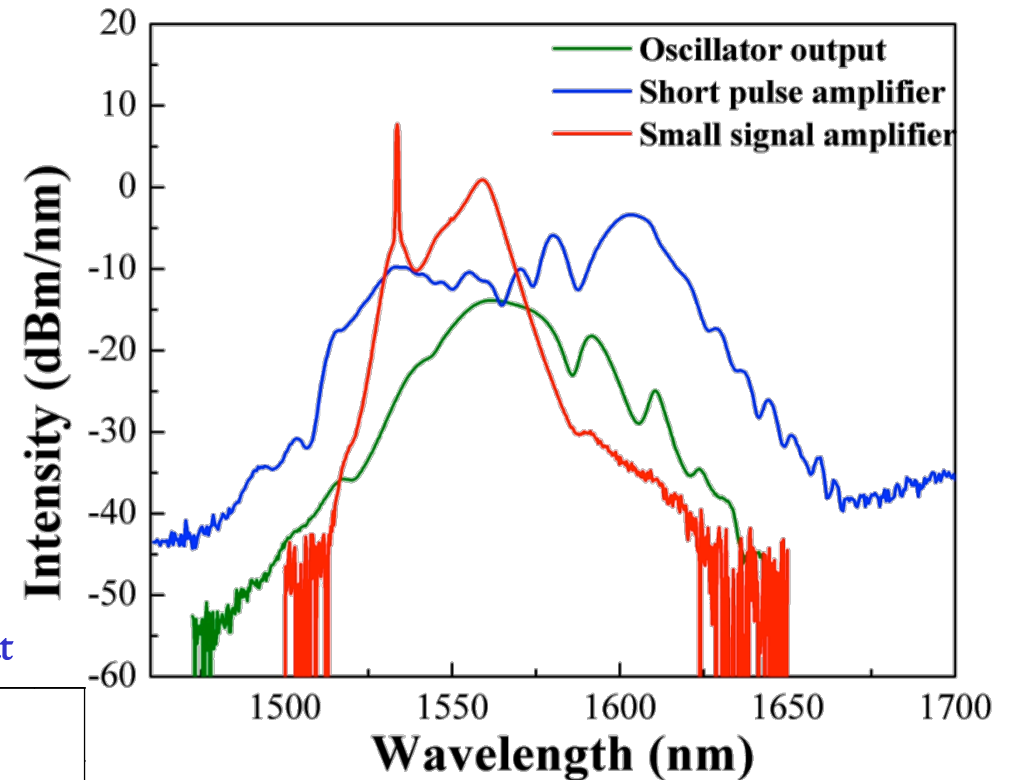
Degraded comb SNR



Home-made pre-amplifier

✓ Small signal gain CW amplifier

- ◆ EDF 80, 1 meter length
- ◆ Mainly **forward pumped** by 980 nm LD
- ◆ Seed in with **0.4 nm BW** comb

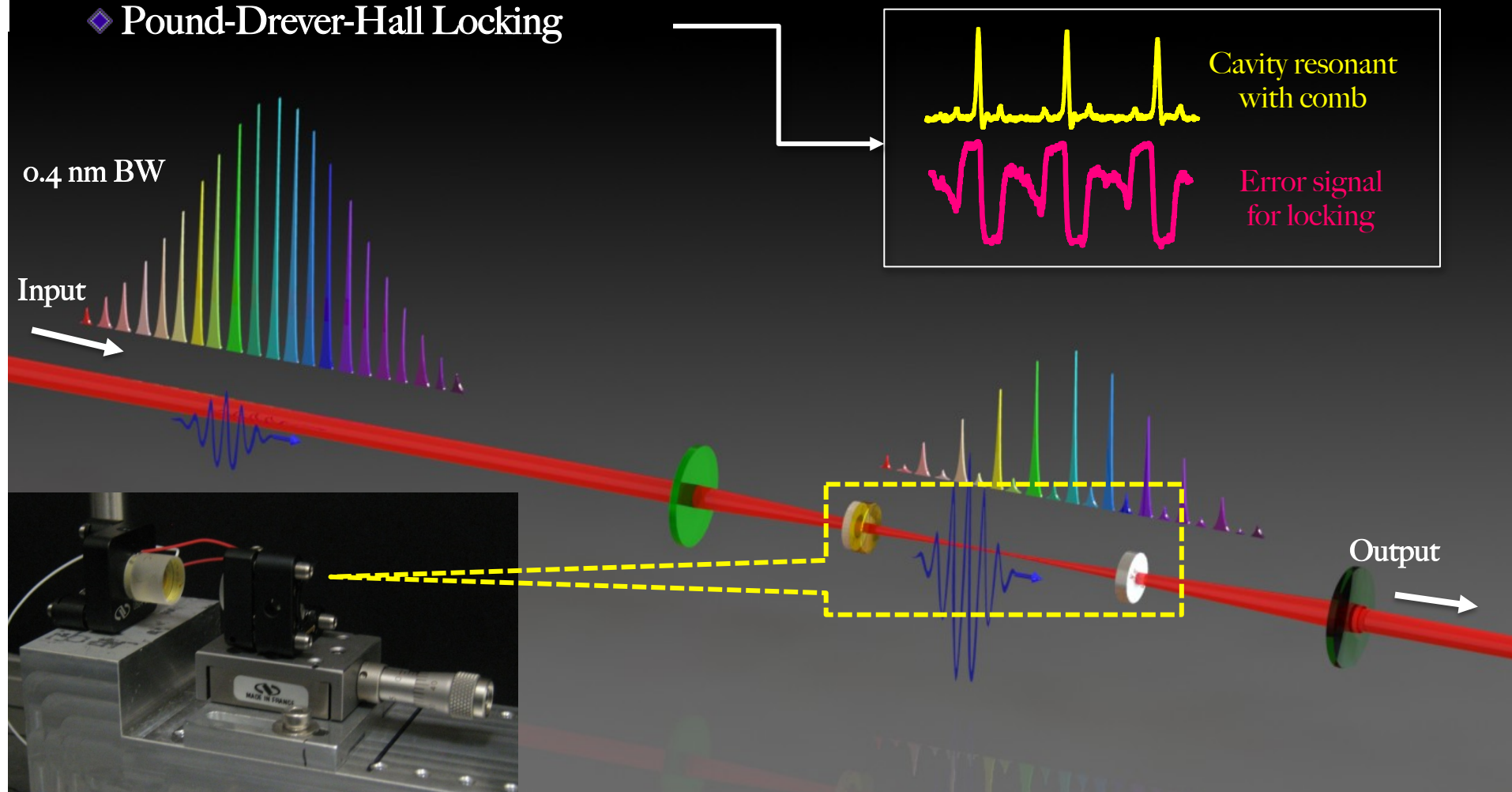


Preserved comb SNR

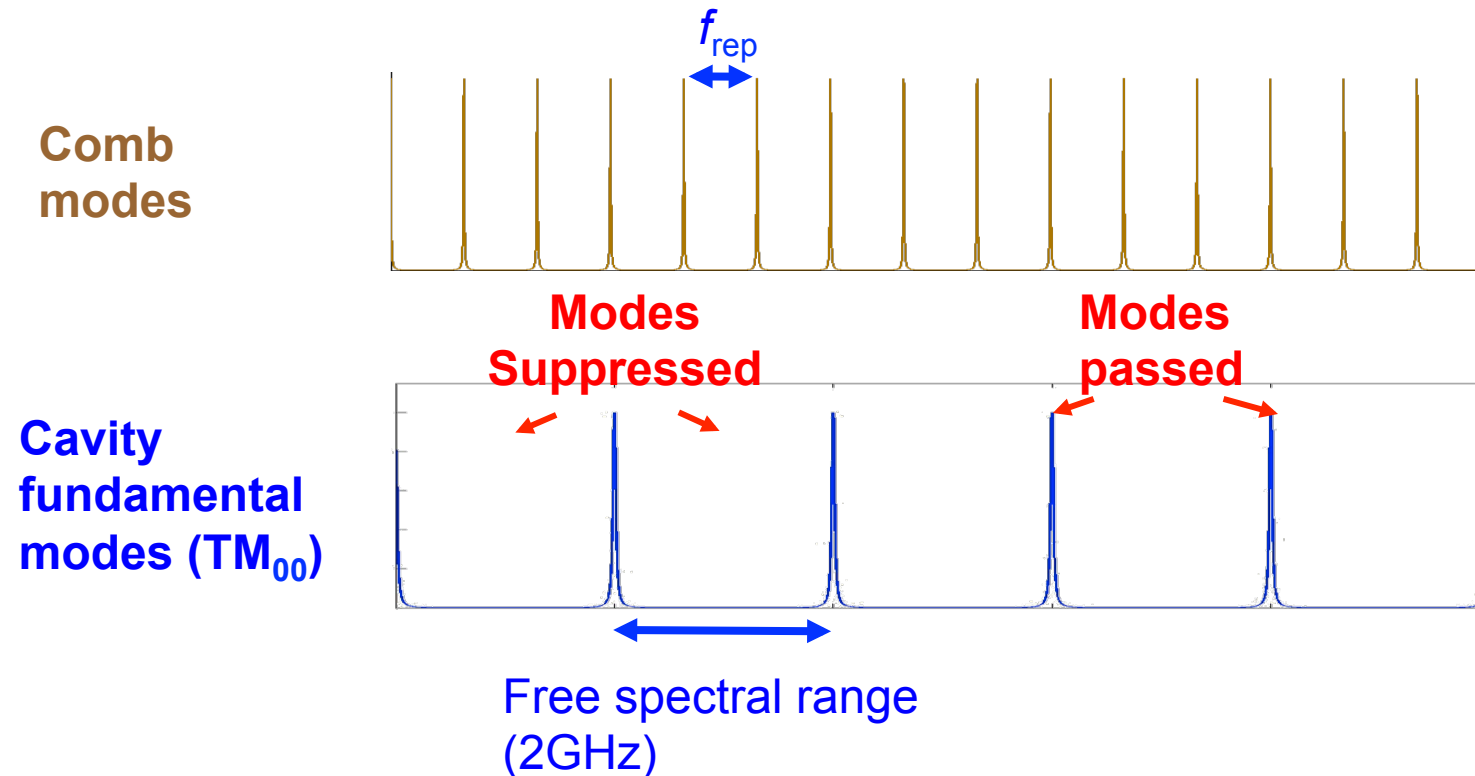


Fabry-Perot Filtering Cavity

- ◆ Free spectral range (FSR) ~ 9.4 GHz ($10^5 : 1$ selection ratio)
- ◆ Suppression ratio ~ 25 dB
- ◆ Pound-Drever-Hall Locking



Filtering Cavity

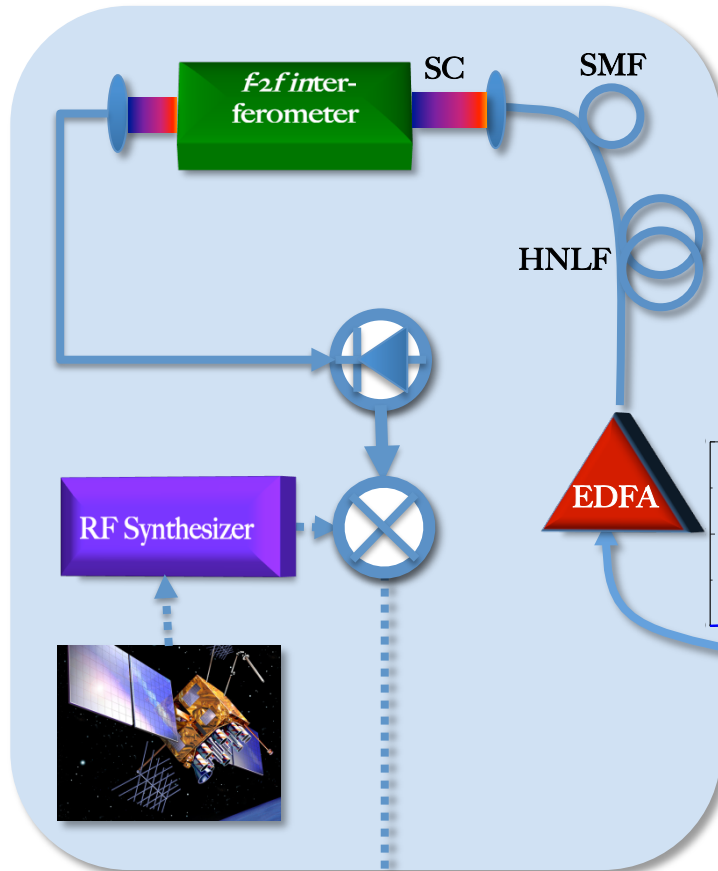


- Mode suppression (cavity finesse)
- Cavity spatial mode filtering (ROC)
- Mode matching (beam size, wave front matching)
- Cavity stability

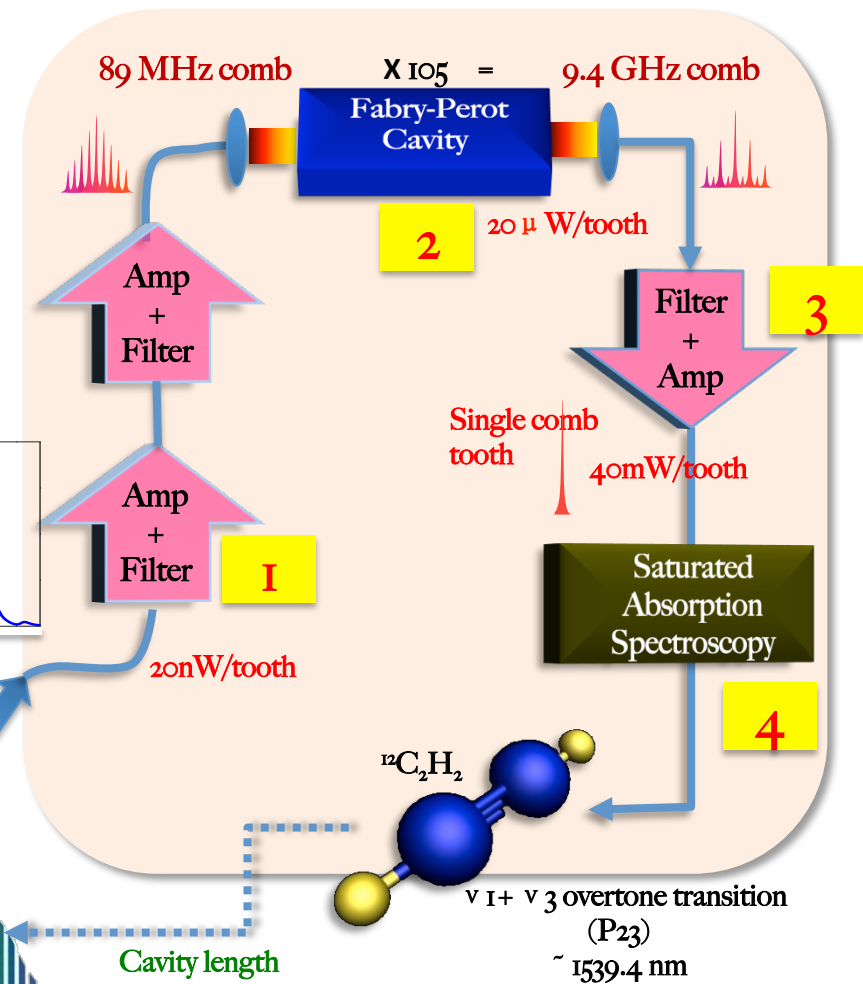


Comb Stabilization

f_0 stabilization



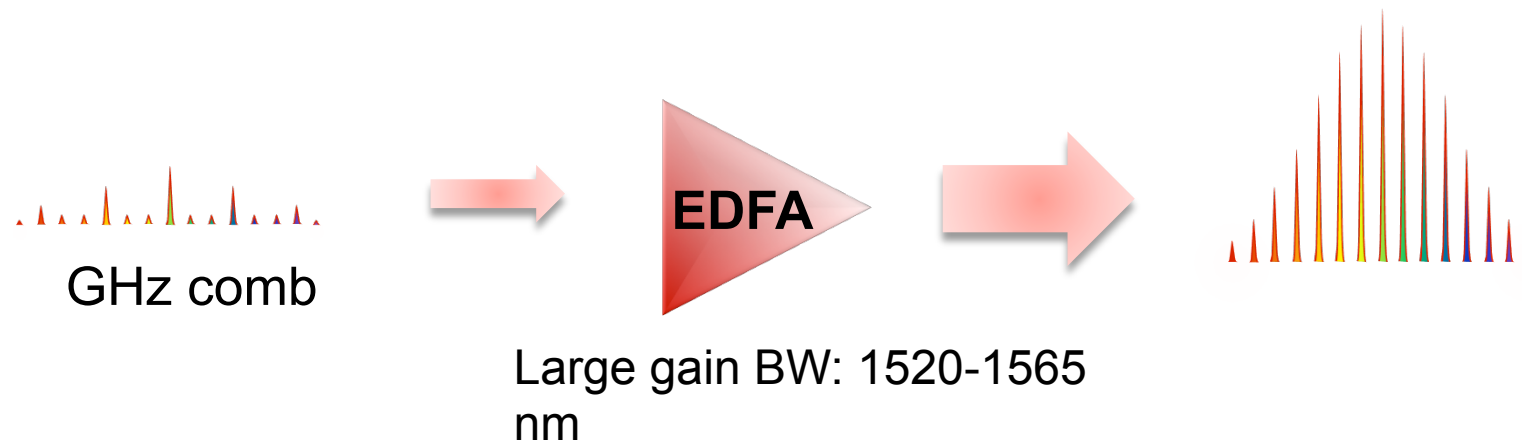
Single optical tooth stabilization



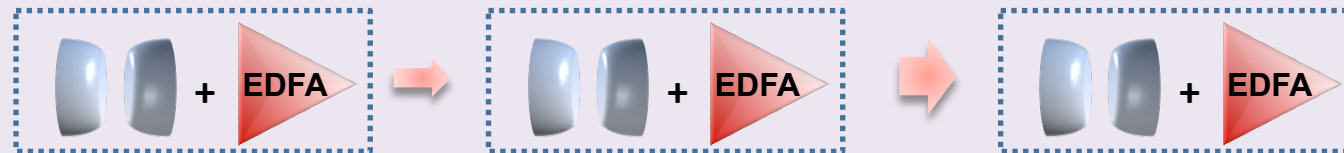
GHz comb amplification

Problem:

- Re-amplification of suppressed teeth
- Degradation of comb SNR



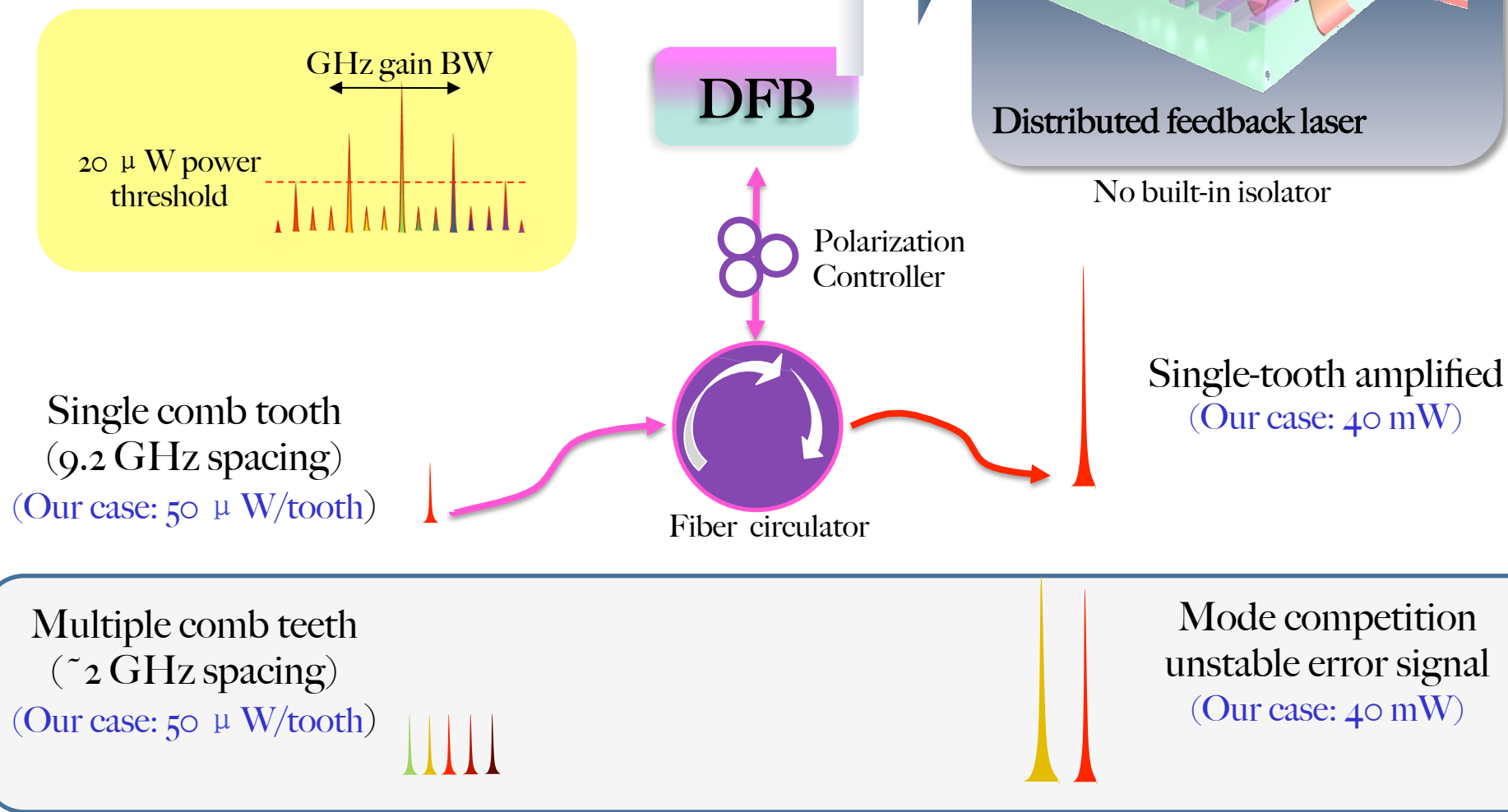
Astrocomb:



GHz comb amplification

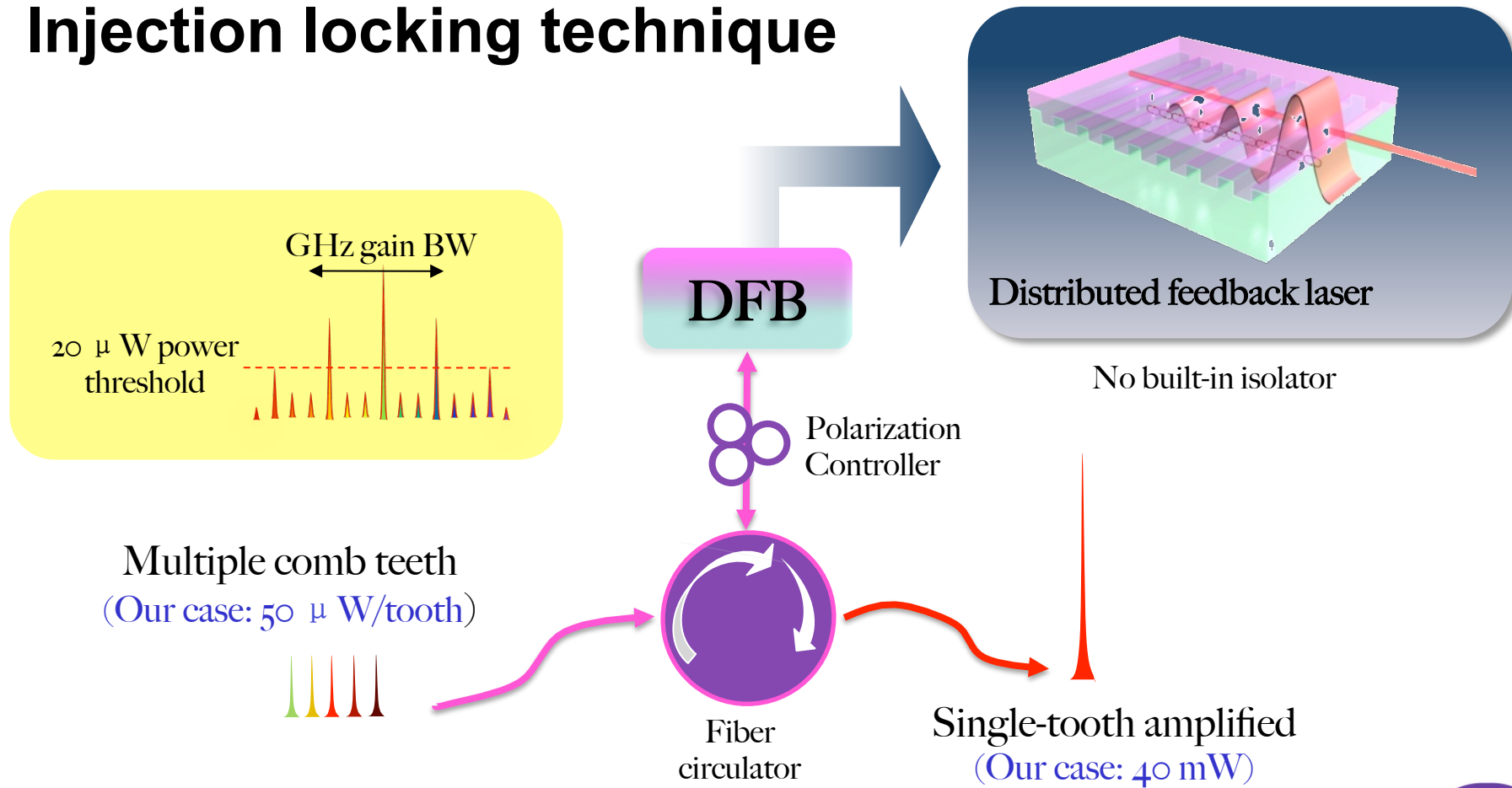
H. Y. Ryu et. al., *Opt. Express*, 16, 2867 (2008)

Our solution: Injection locking technique



GHz comb amplification

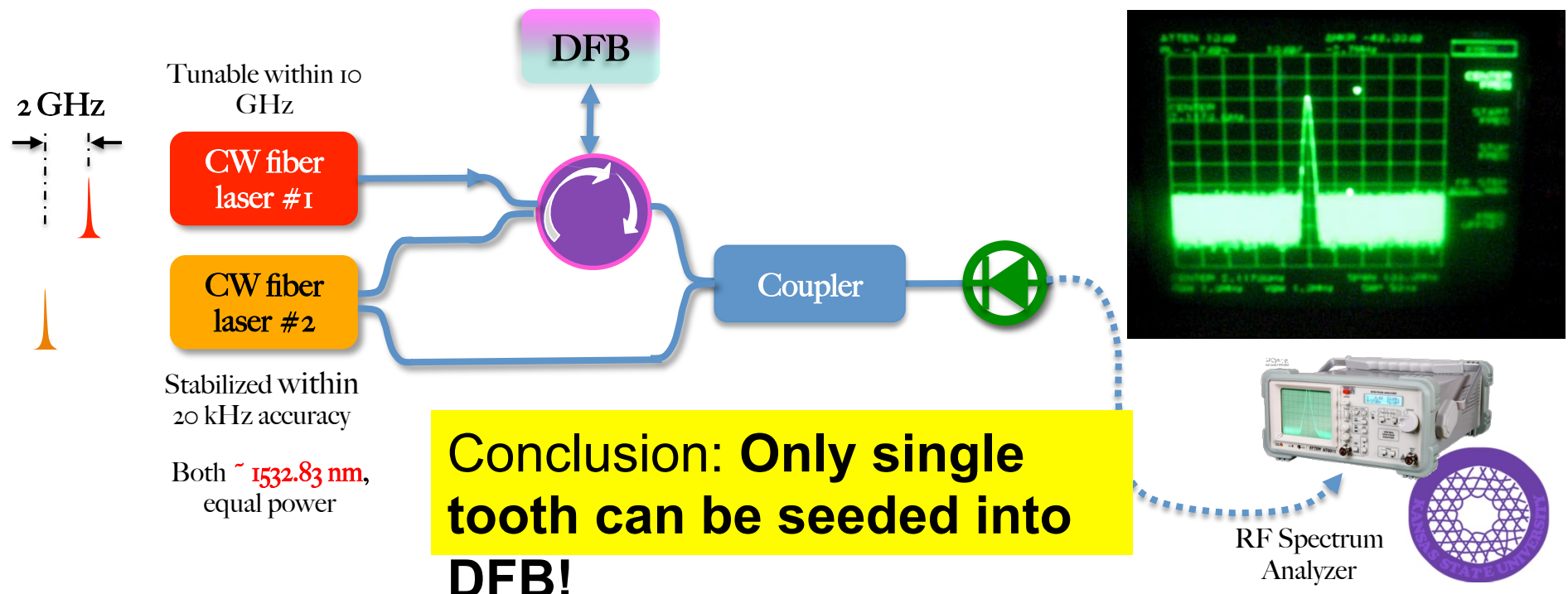
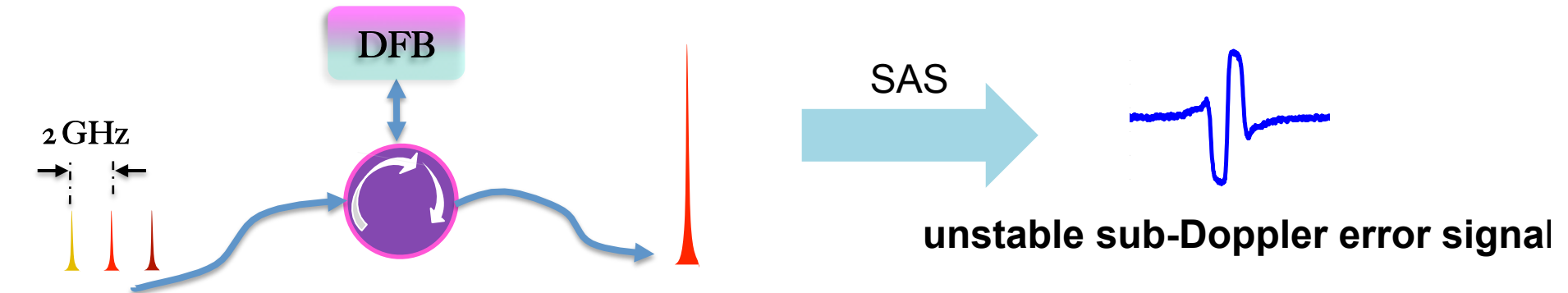
Our solution: Injection locking technique



3

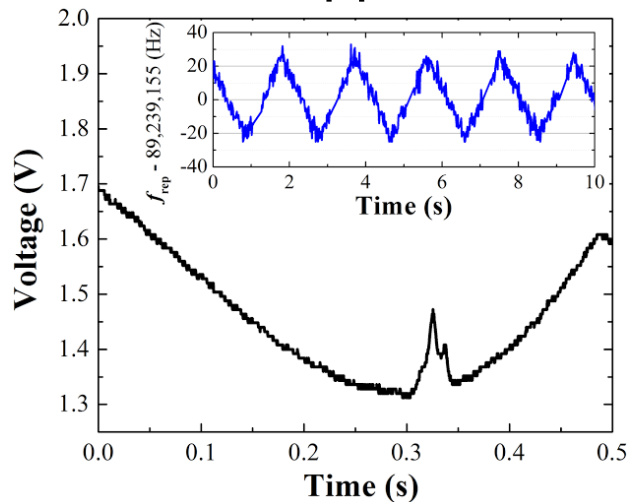
GHz comb amplification

Mode competition for injection locking

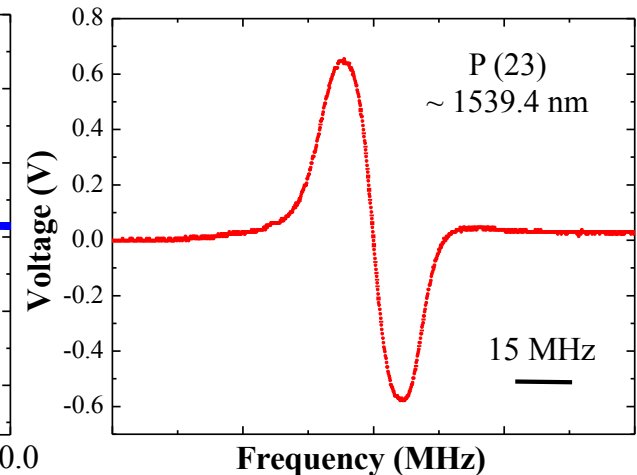
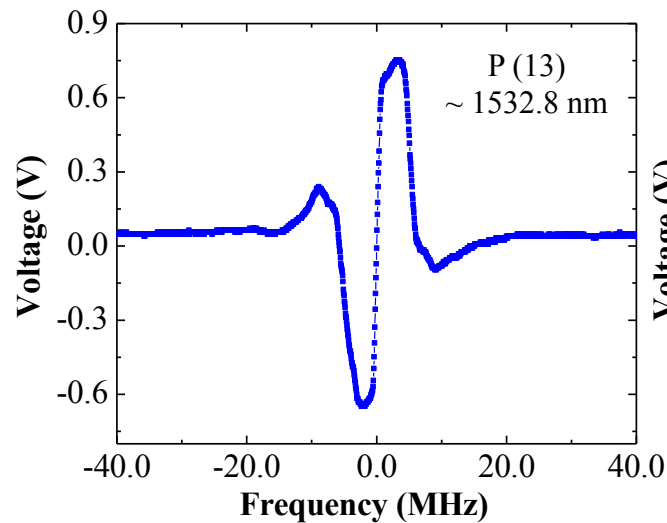


Direct optical comb locking

Sub-Doppler feature

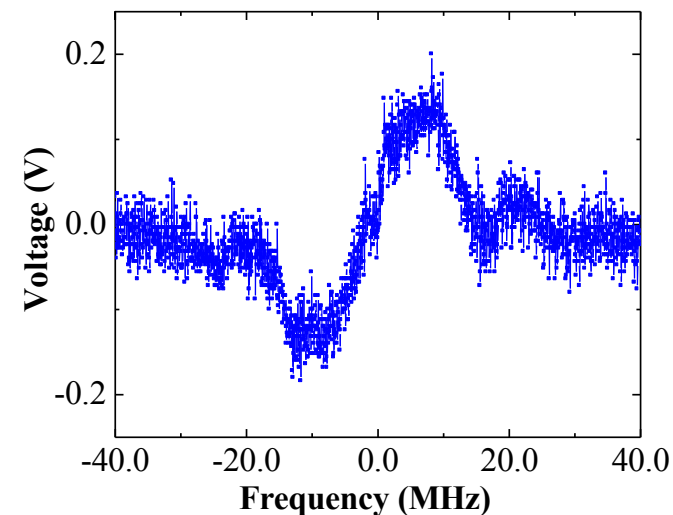
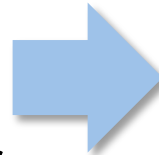


Error signals



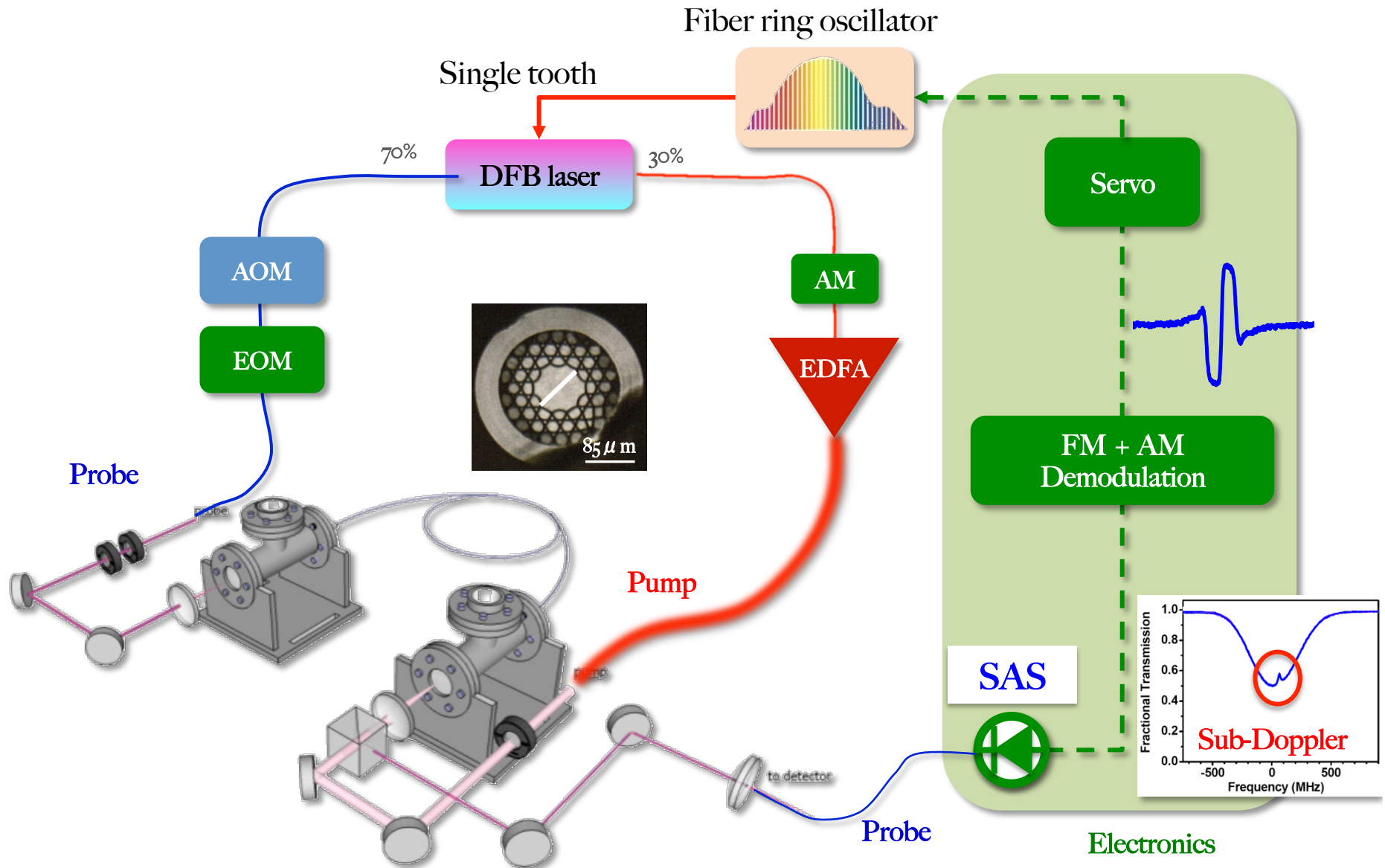
If EDFA is used
instead of
injection locking DFB laser

SAS



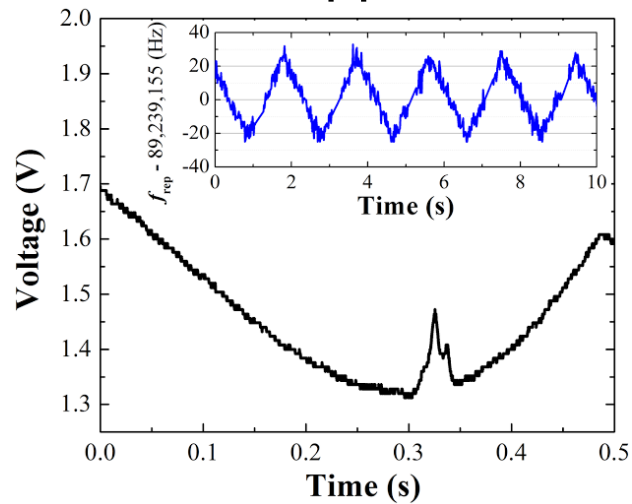
4

Direct optical comb locking

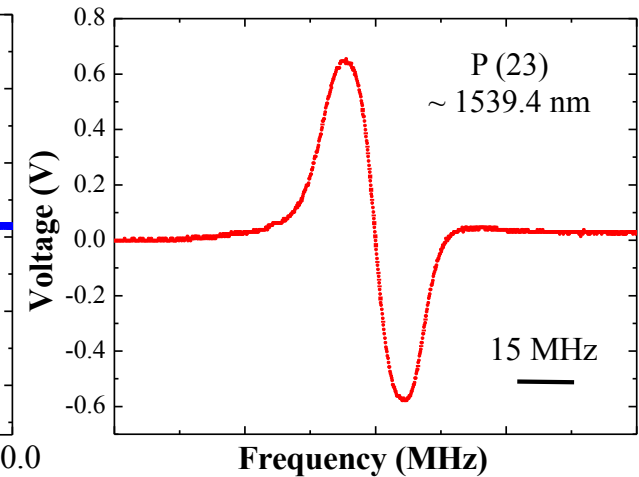
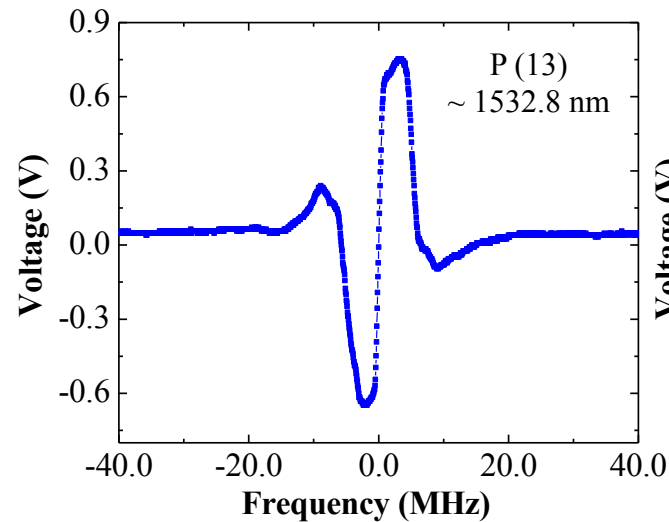


Direct optical comb locking

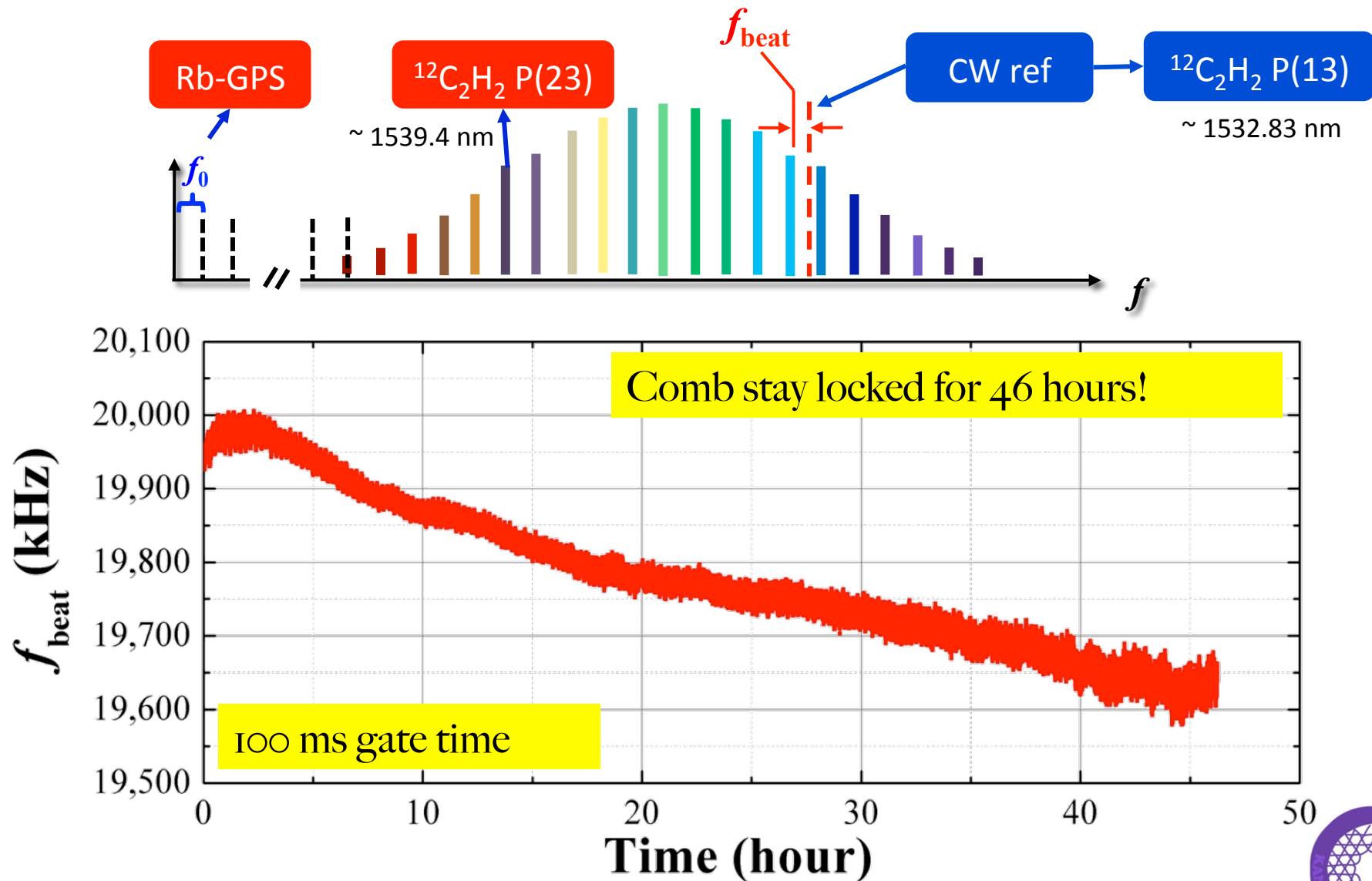
Sub-Doppler feature



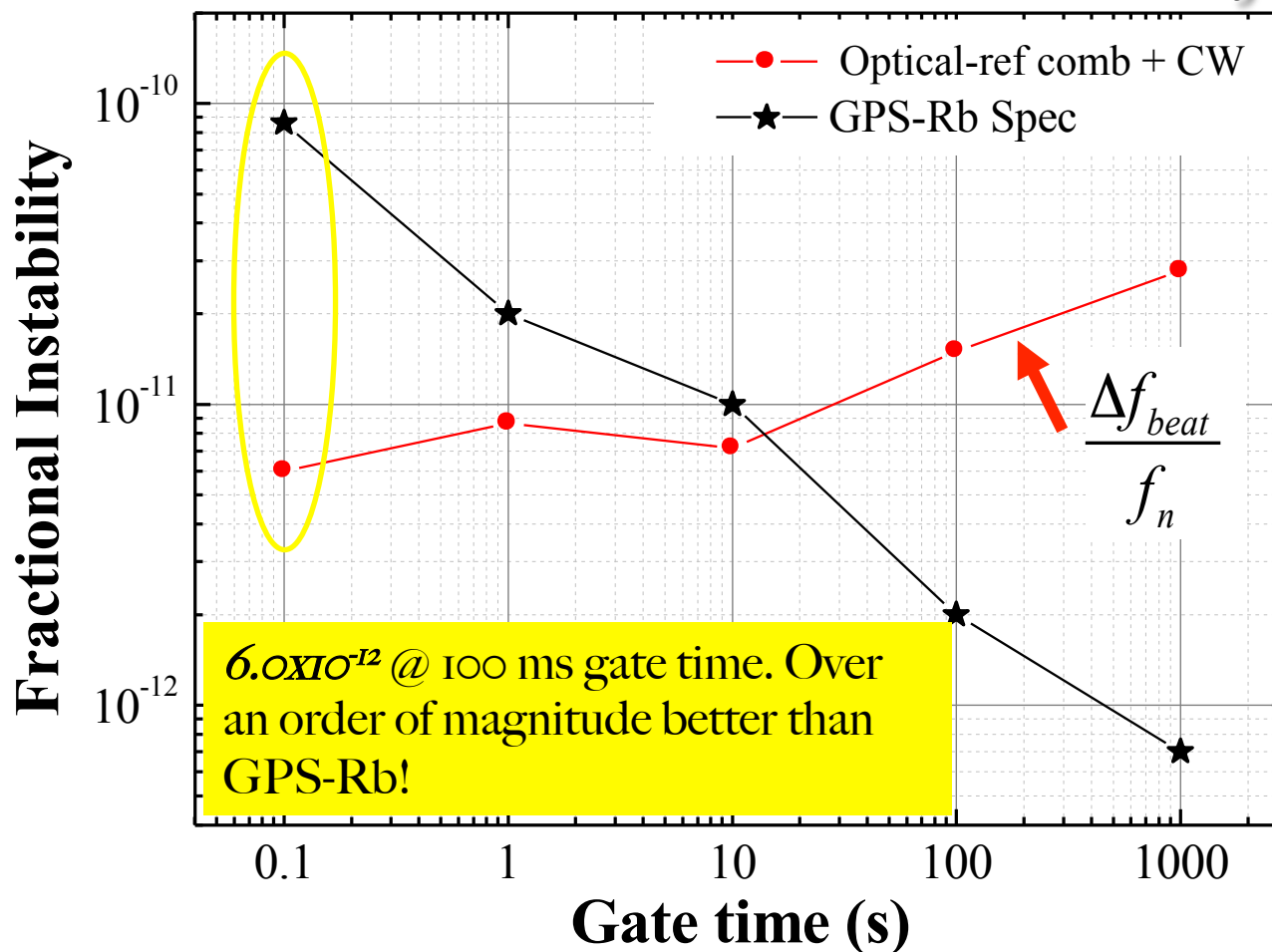
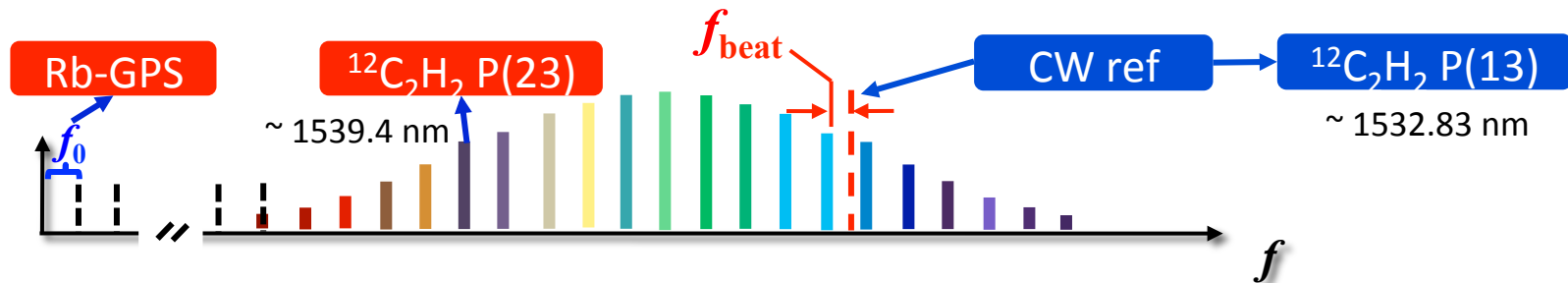
Error signals



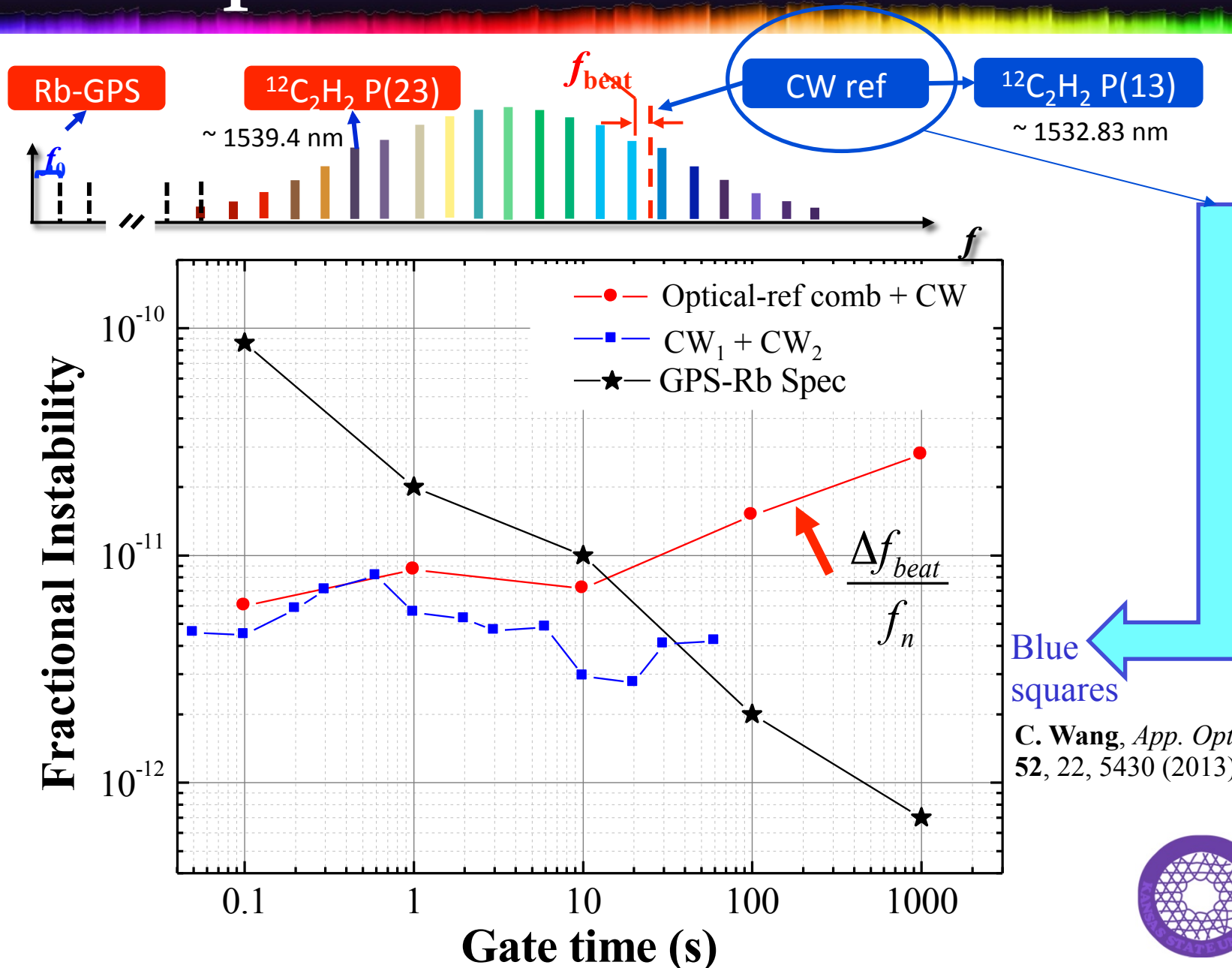
Stability measurement



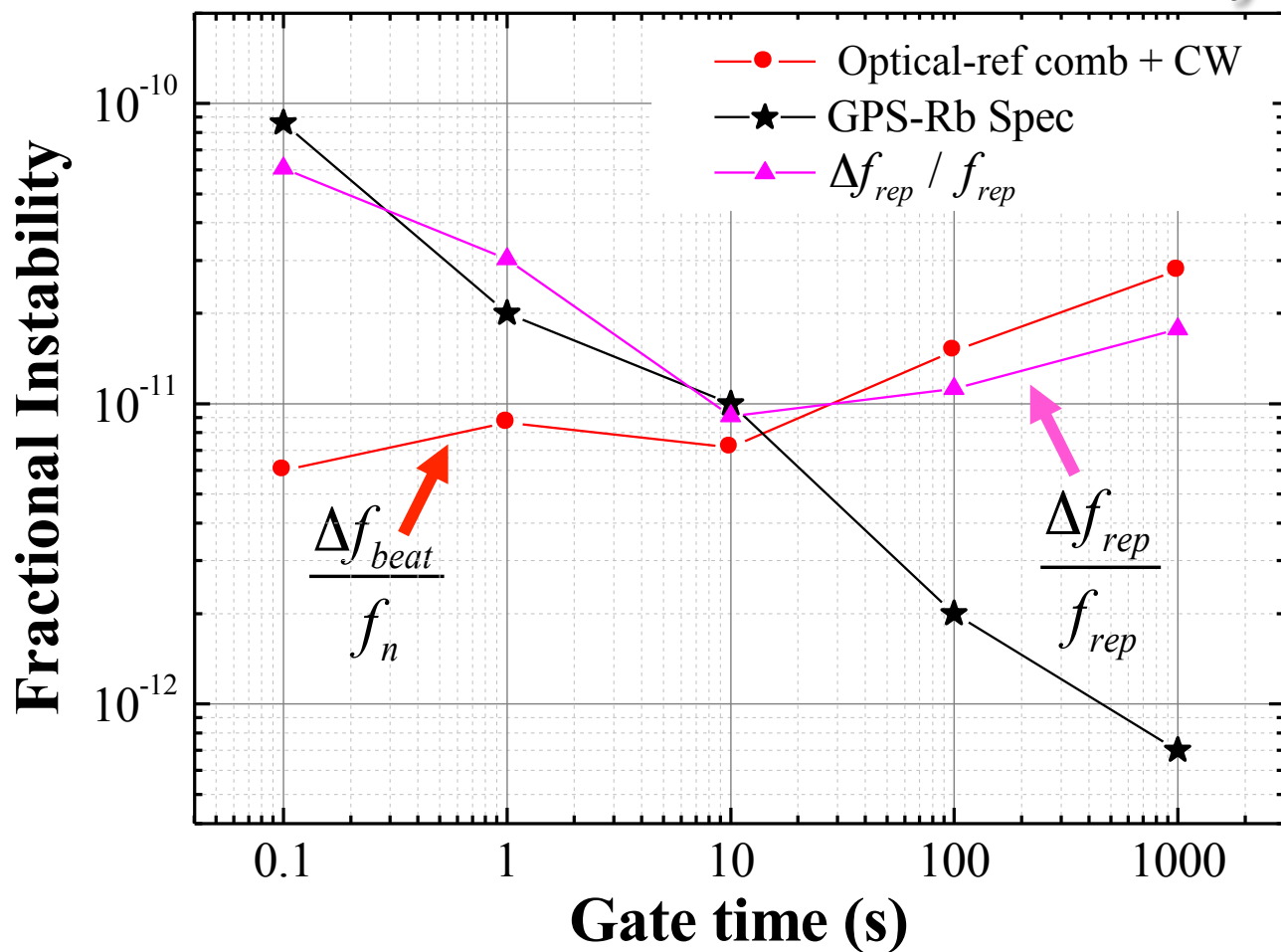
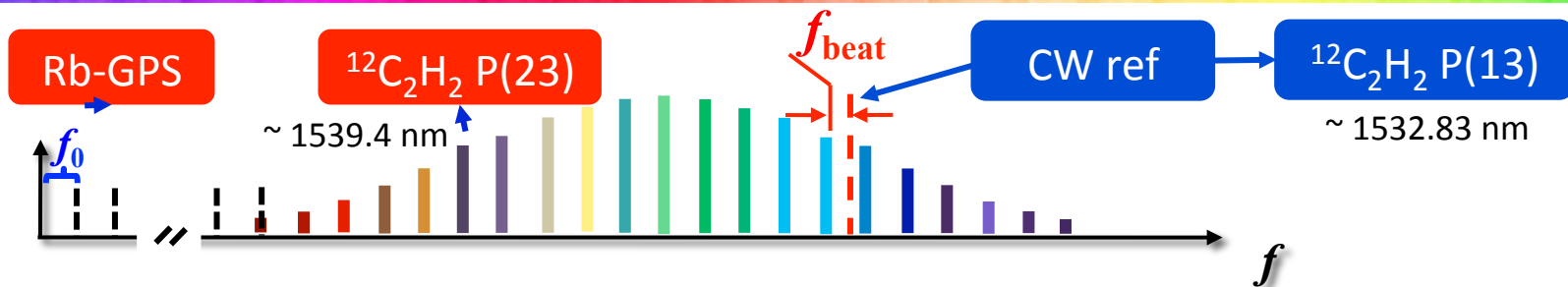
Stability measurement



Compare with CW reference



Microwave stability



Comparable to related work

PHYSICAL REVIEW A 80, 053806 (2009)

Optical frequency stabilization of a 10 GHz Ti:sapphire frequency comb by saturated absorption spectroscopy in ^{87}Rb

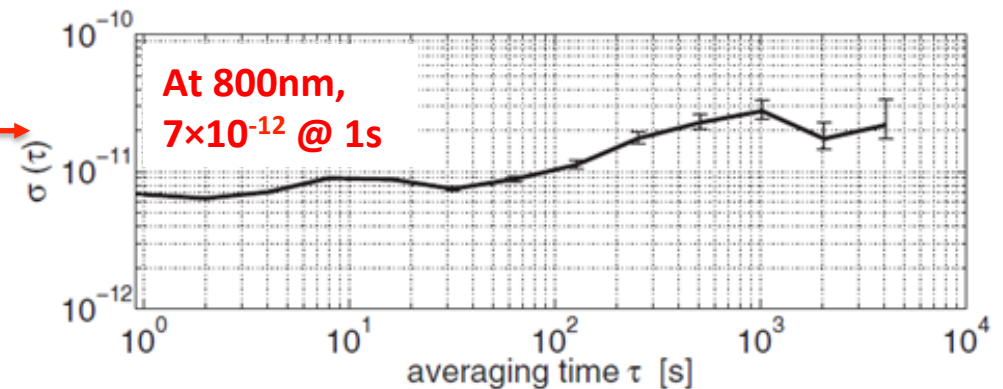
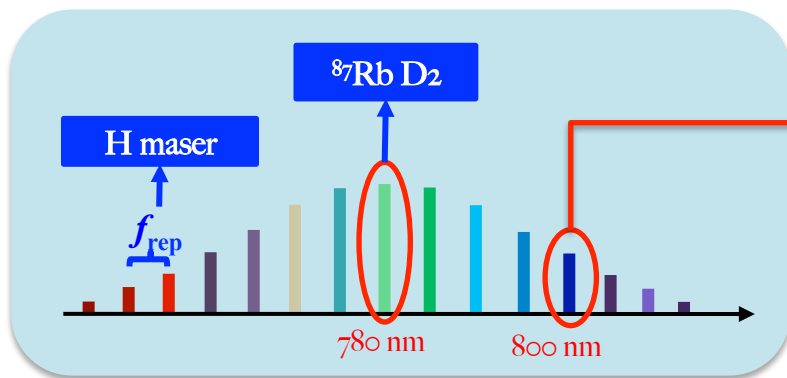
D. C. Heinecke,^{1,2,*} A. Bartels,^{2,3} T. M. Fortier,¹ D. A. Braje,¹ L. Hollberg,⁴ and S. A. Diddams^{1,†}

¹National Institute of Standards and Technology, 325 Broadway M.S. 847, Boulder, Colorado 80305, USA

²Center for Applied Photonics, University of Konstanz, Universitätsstrasse 10, 78457 Konstanz, Germany

³Gigaoptics GmbH, Blarerstrasse 56, 78462 Konstanz, Germany

⁴



- Comparable to NIST high rep rate comb
- Promising all-fiber referenced comb, especially with higher rep rate comb.



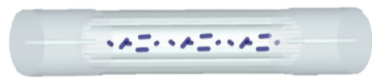
Key Points

- An potentially all-fiber portable comb is demonstrated via:
 - Direct stabilization:
 - 1) single tooth isolated and amplified to > 40 mW, high fidelity. (power amplification of 10^6)
 - 2) comb locked directly to an acetylene transition at 1539.4 nm (f_0 to modestly stable rf source).
- 7 nm away from the fixed tooth (at 1532.8 nm) shows fractional instability of 6×10^{-12} at 100 ms gate time, over an order of magnitude better than GPS-Rb.
- Stability of the optical reference is well transferred to the measured tooth.
- Gas-filled fibers suitable for directly referencing GHz combs without ultrastable rf.



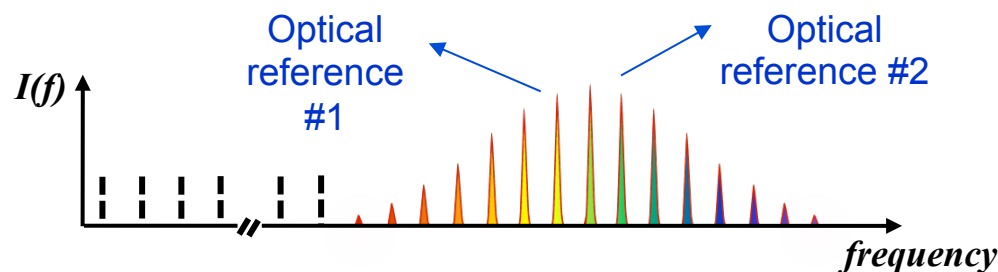
Future directions

- Improve long term stability.
- Replace Fabry-Perot cavity with a high rep rate fiber comb.

- Replace  by 
Acetylene fiber-cell reference

Improve
portability

- Alternate locking scheme

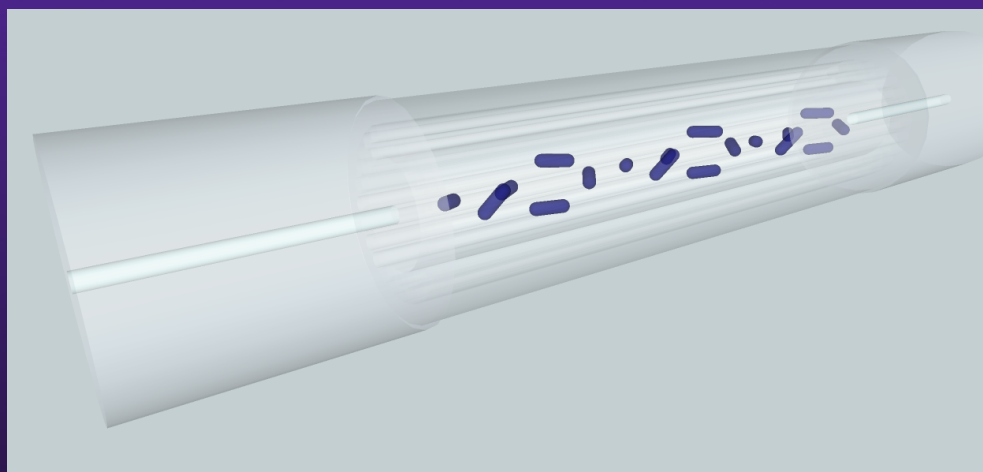


Challenge:

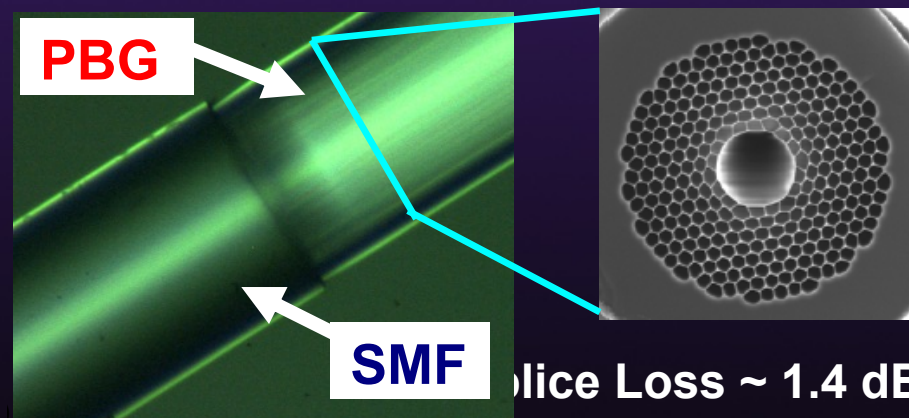
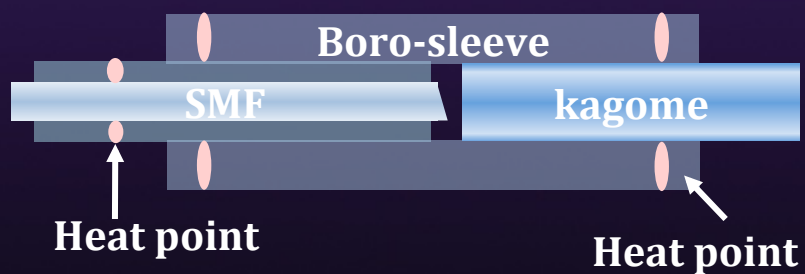
- Two comb teeth needs to be at least 100 nm apart to avoid fast degradation over large spectral bandwidth.



Sealed Photonic Microcells as references



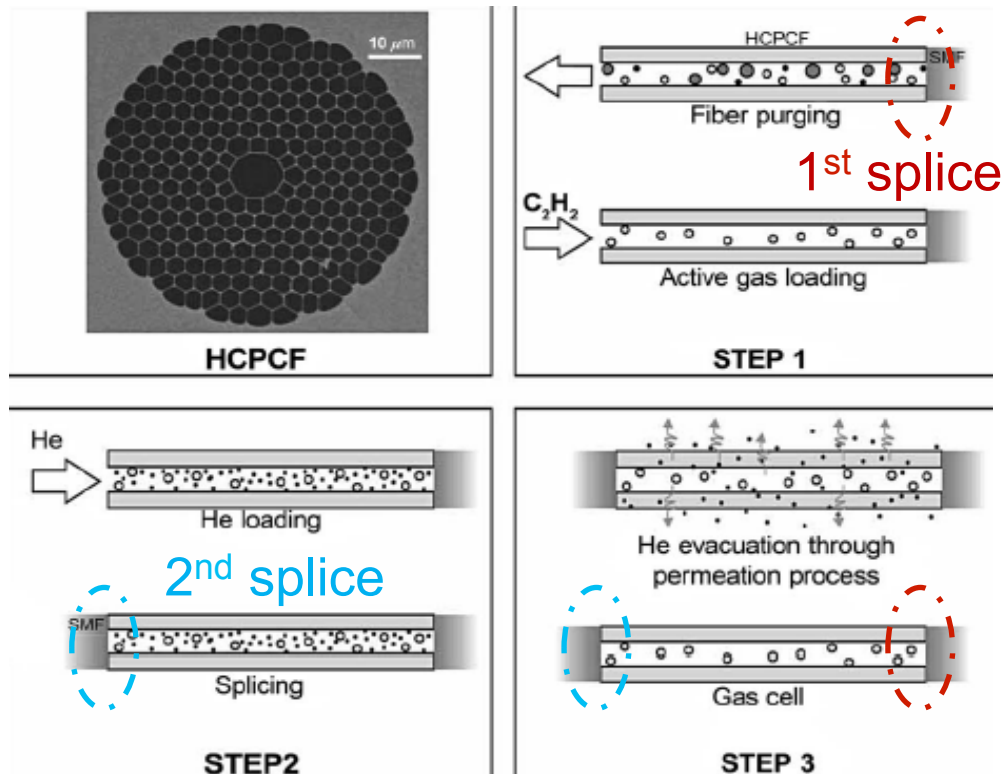
K-State Spliced Fiber (2005)



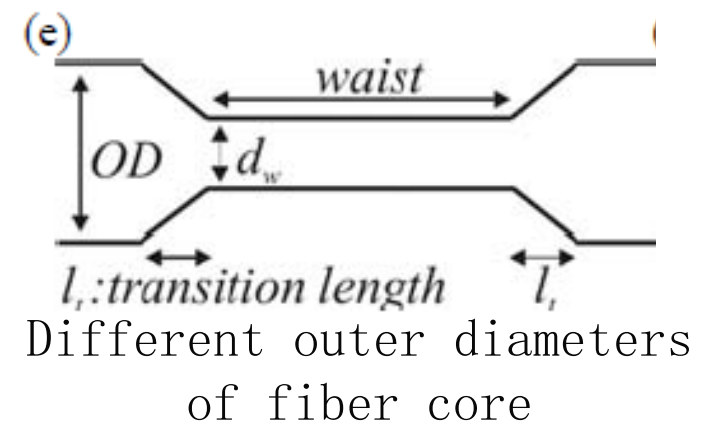
Electric Arc Splicer

Sealing gas inside fibers

- Trapping gas during splice

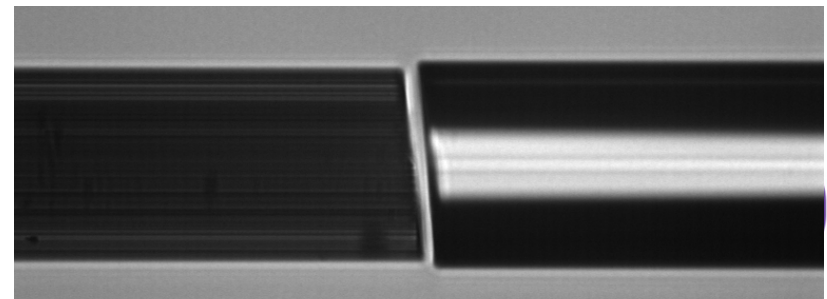


- Size mismatch

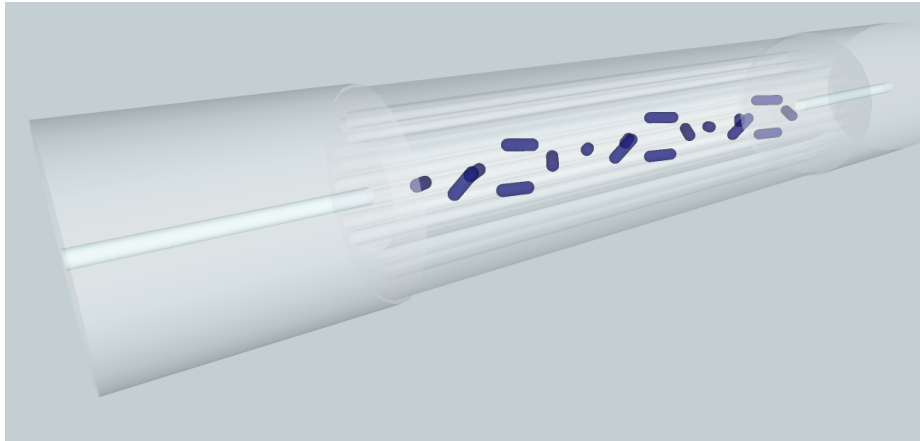


Light, et. al., University of Bath,
Opt. Lett. 31, 2538 (2006).

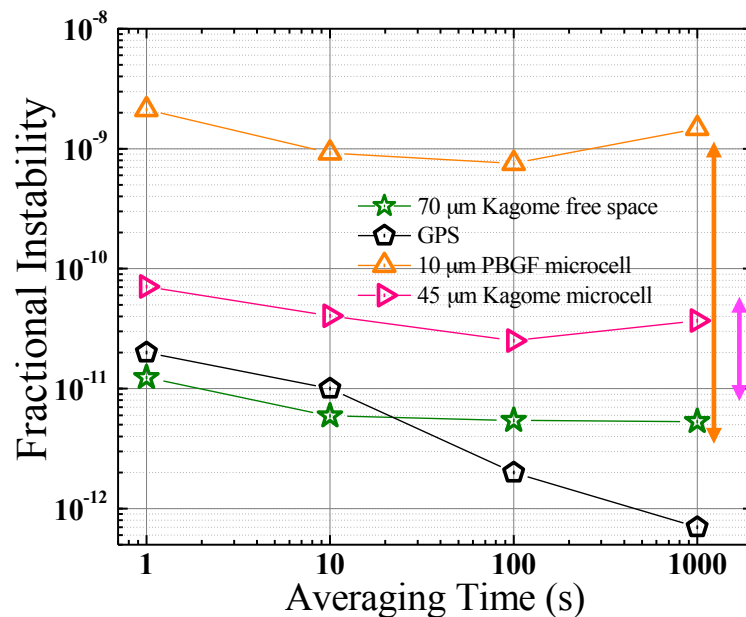
Splice reflections: "angle splice"



Sealed photonic microcell frequency references



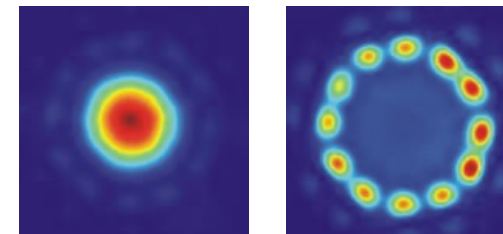
- Fabricated with ~11% transmission
- tested over 2 years; small (factor 2) SNR degradation over 1-2 years
- Within order of magnitude of VC reference



Surface modes

Factor 4:
Small fiber core size

Core Mode Surface Mode

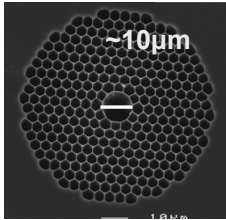


Smith, West, *et al.* Nature (2003)

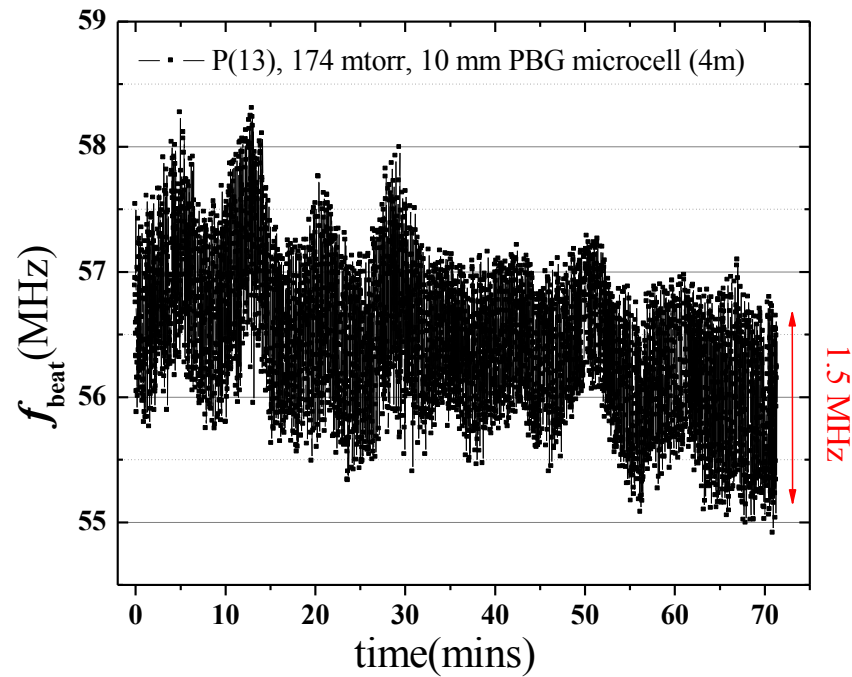


TWO PHOTONIC MICROCELLS

PBGF



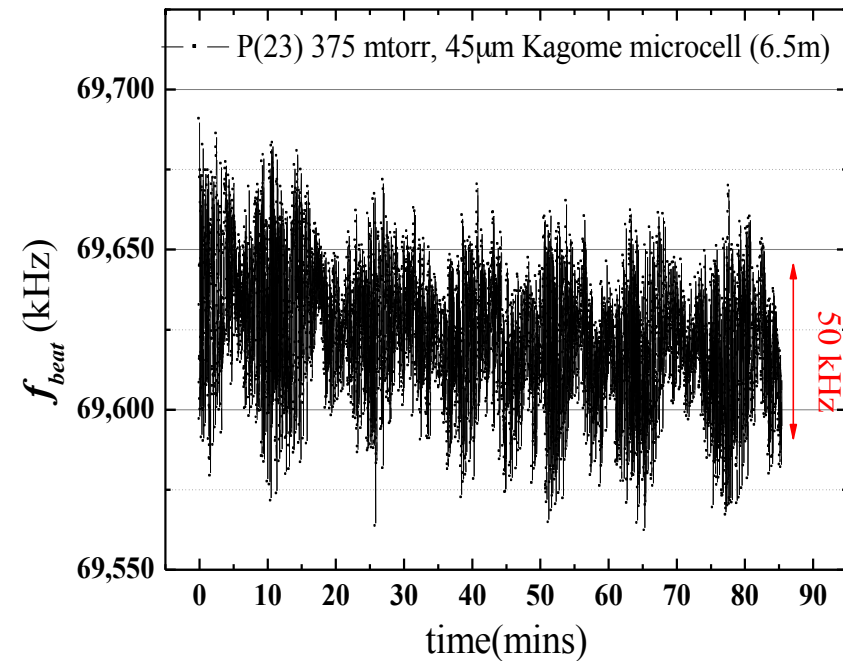
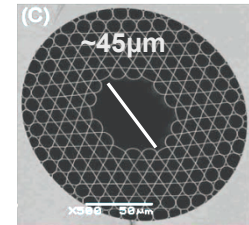
Fiber length: 4 m
 C_2H_2 pressure of 174 mtorr



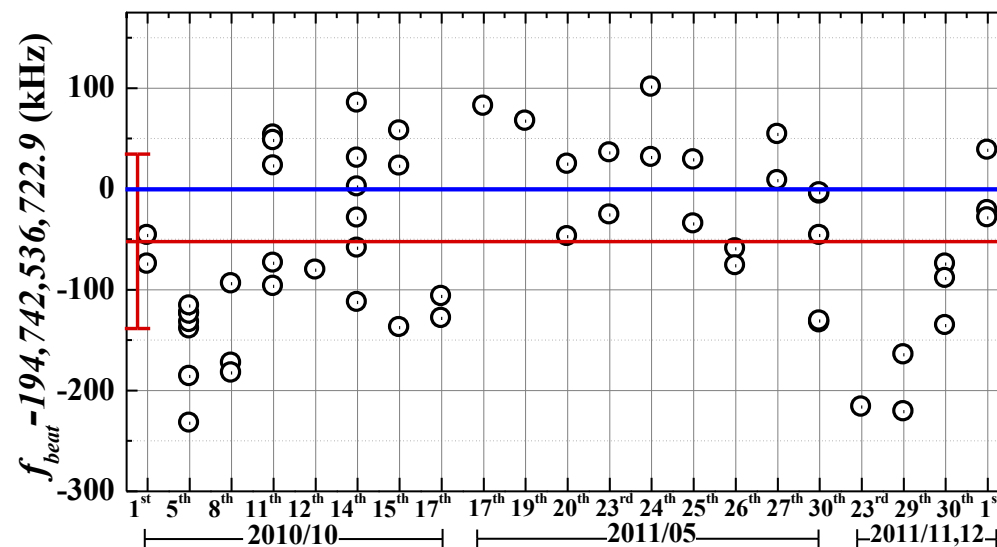
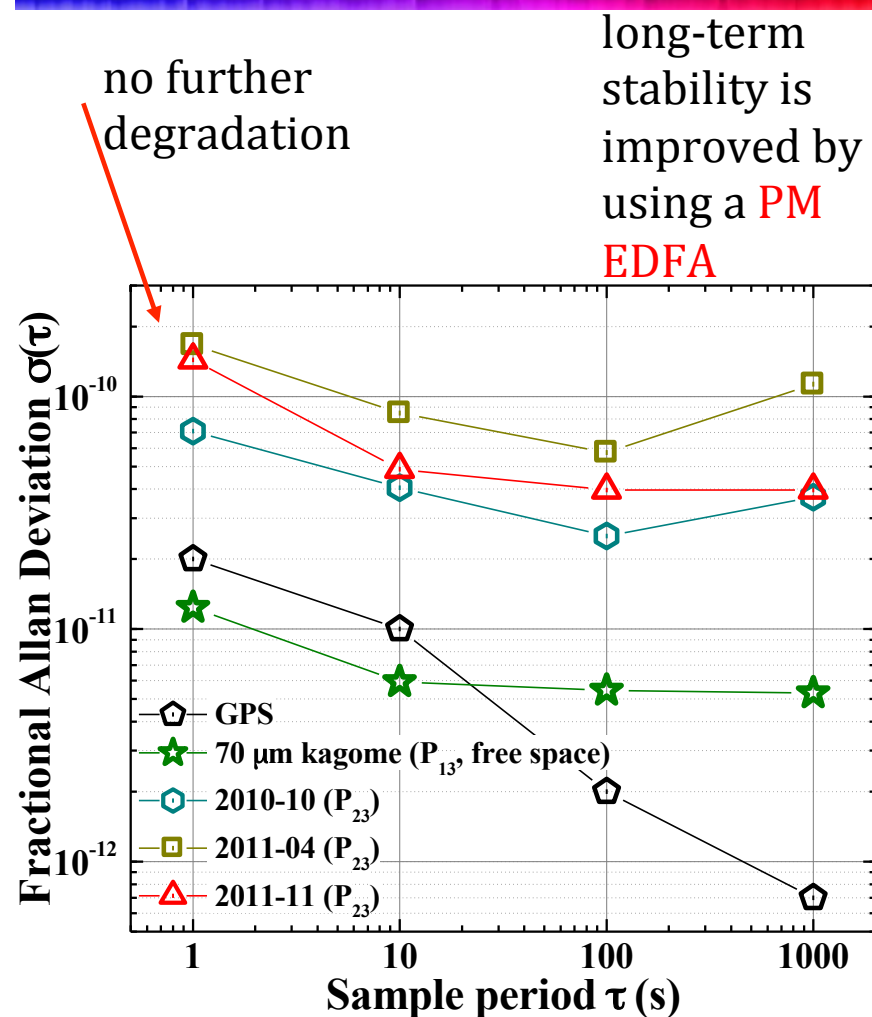
kagome

Fiber length: 6.5 m
 C_2H_2 pressure of 375 mtorr

N. V. Wheeler, *et. al.*, **CLEO**,
CTuS5, San Jose, CA (2010)



Photonic Microcell - Performance



$\sigma = 86$ kHz,
 $3\sigma = 258$ kHz

Repeatability
within ± 200 kHz

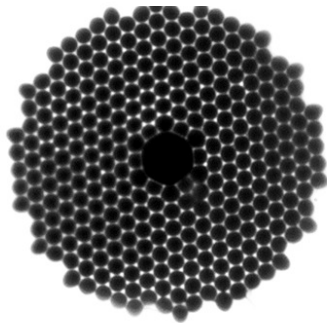
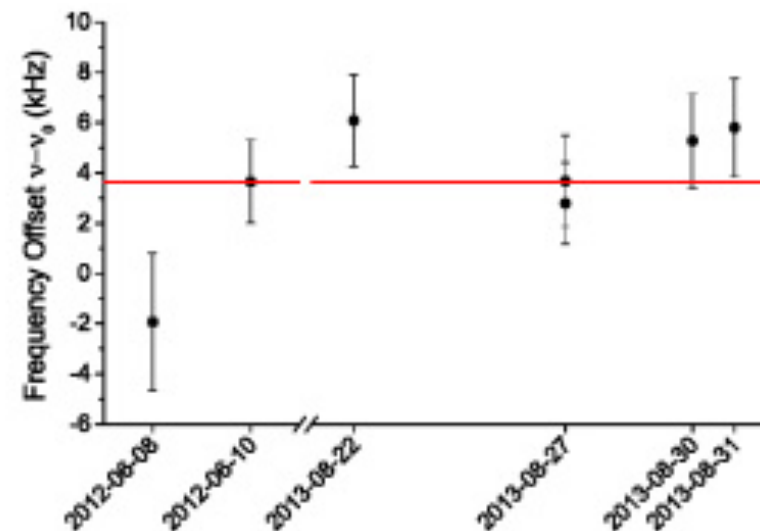
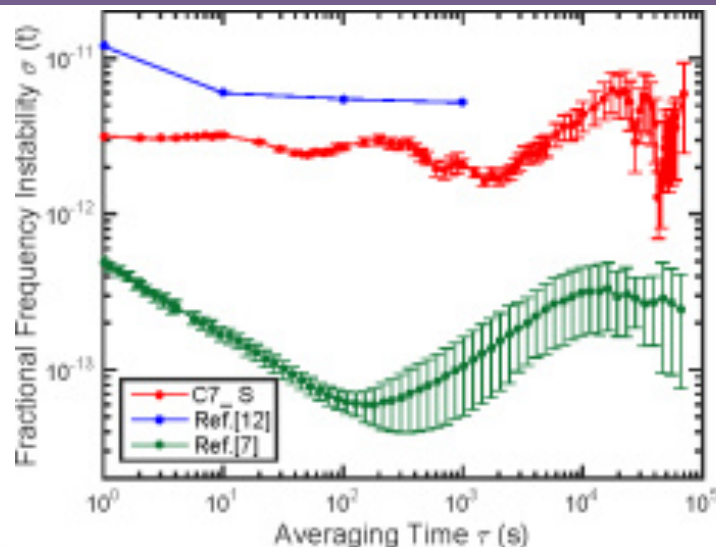
Accurate ($\sim 10^{-10}$) all-fiber optical
frequency reference does not
require alignment!!

Experimentally measured absolute
frequency of the $P(23) \nu_1 + \nu_3$
transition in $^{12}\text{C}_2\text{H}_2$ over 1 year.



Optical frequency standard using acetylene-filled hollow-core photonic crystal fibers

Marco Triches, Mattia Michieletto, Jan Hald, Jens K. Lyngsø, Jesper Lægsgaard, and Ole Bang



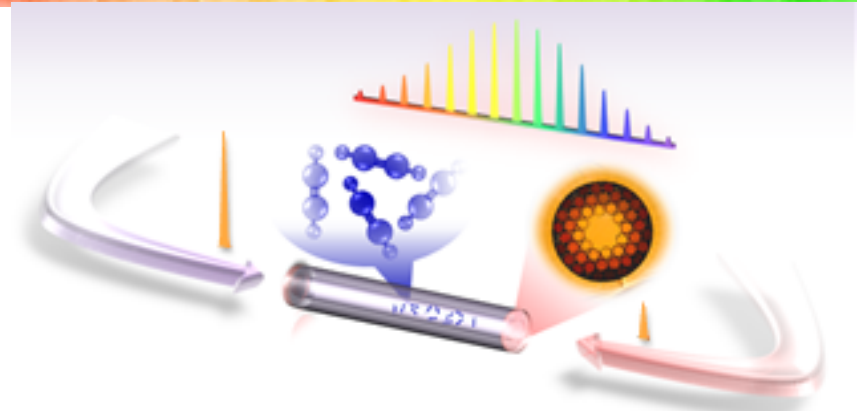
Left: Summary of the performance achieved using the C7_S fiber in a temperature stabilized environment (red). The system is compared with the reference laser [7] stabilized to a bulk glass cell (green) and with the best performance reported in [12] for an gas-filled HC-fiber stabilized laser (blue). Right: The lock-point repeatability over 7 measurements. The error bars represent the root mean square value of the measured data

Marco Triches, Mattia Michieletto, Jan Hald, Jens K. Lyngsø, Jesper Lægsgaard, and Ole Bang, "Optical frequency standard using acetylene-filled hollow-core photonic crystal fibers," Opt. Express **23**, 11227-11241 (2015)



Summary

- Microstructured optical fiber
 - Revolutionary technology
- Sub-Doppler gas-filled fiber references promising and improving technology
- Direct comb stabilization to gas-filled fiber
 - 6×10^{-12} stability at 100 ms
 - Single tooth amplification to >40 mW demonstrated, preserving SNR
 - Promising for direct optical stabilization of any GHz comb
- Mid-IR ns lasers improving



Left out:

- *CW low Quantum defect lasers*
 - *Active research area*



