

List of Figures

- 2.1 Schematic diagram of OPLL
- 2.2 The frequency domain representation of OPLLs
- 2.3 The Bode plot of a PLL with a second-order low-pass filter. The gain margin is $G_m = 10.5dB$ and the phase margin is $P_m = 38^\circ$
- 2.4 Sources of phase noise in an OPLL
- 2.5 The spectral density function of the differential phase error ϕ_e for different small signal loop gain K . K_m is the maximum allowable loop gain determined by the stability criterion. (a) No loop filter is used. (b) An active second-order filter $(1 + f/f_0)/(f/f_0)$ is used. In both (a) and (b), a loop delay of 100ns is assumed.
- 2.6 Temporal dependence of $\sin \phi_e$ for different DC loop gain K_{dc} . A 5ns delay and a 2MHz free-running frequency difference are assumed in the simulation.
- 2.7 The variance of the differential phase error as a function of the normalized summed laser linewidth $\Delta f / f_\pi$. $f_\pi = 1/4\tau_d$ is the π phase lag frequency given by the loop delay. T_{cs} is the average time between cycle slips defined in Eq. (2.25).
- 2.8 FM response of single-section DFB lasers calculated with the modified low-pass filter model. The fitting parameters are: $f_c = 1MHz$ and $b = 1, 2, \text{ and } 3$.
- 2.9 (a) The Bode plot of the open loop transfer functions for different values of the fitting parameter b in Eq. (2.34). (b) The variance of the differential phase error as a function of the normalized laser linewidth $\Delta f / f_\pi$.
- 3.1 Schematic diagram of a FM response measurement setup

- 3.2 Variation of the photocurrent at the output of a frequency discriminator as a function of the differential time delay τ without modulation
- 3.3 Measurement (blue line) and theoretical fitting (red line) of the FM response of a JDSU DFB laser. The fitting parameters are: $b = 1.98$ and $f_c = 1.6\text{MHz}$
- 3.4 Measured FM response of the JDSU DFB laser with different bias currents
- 3.5 Measured spectrum of the heterodyne beat signal between two JDSU DFB lasers
- 3.6 Schematic diagram of a heterodyne OPLL
- 3.7 (a) A picture of the JDSU OPLL experimental setup. (b) Measured spectra of the locked beat signal of the JDSU OPLL for different loop gain
- 3.8 (a) A picture of the QPC OPLL experimental setup. (b) Measured spectrum of the locked beat signal
- 3.9 Measured spectrum of the locked beat signal of the IPS OPLL
- 3.10 (a) Open loop transfer function of the JDSU OPLL with and without a lead-lag filter. (b). Corresponding power spectral density of the differential phase error. The FM response of the slave laser is described by Eq. (3.47) with $b = 2.6$, $f_c = 1\text{MHz}$. The transfer function of the filter is $F = (1 + \tau_2 s) / (1 + \tau_1 s)$ with $\tau_1 = 8\text{ns}$ and $\tau_2 = 40\text{ns}$
- 3.11 The variance of the differential phase error as a function of the summed laser linewidth Δf normalized by the π phase lag frequency f_π , with and without a lead-lag filter
- 3.12 Schematic diagram of the feedback circuit with a lead-lag filter
- 3.13 Measured spectra of the locked beat signal of the JDSU OPLL without and with a lead-lag filter. The loop gain is increased in (b) such that the π phase lag frequency f_π can be estimated from the ringing frequency.
- 3.14 (a) Transfer function of a lag-lead filter. (b). The open loop transfer function of

the JDSU OPLL without and with a lag-lead filter. Eq. (3.47) and the parameters $b = 2.6$, $f_c = 1\text{MHz}$ are used in the calculation. The transfer function of the filter is $F = (1 + \tau_2 s) / (1 + \tau_1 s)$ with $\tau_1 = 124\mu s$ and $\tau_2 = 6\mu s$.

- 3.15 Schematic diagram of the lag-lead filter circuit
- 3.16 (a) Schematic diagram of a second-order active filter. (b) Schematic diagram of an active lag-lead filter
- 3.17 Circuit diagram of the active lag-lead filter
- 3.18 Schematic diagram of an aided acquisition circuit

- 4.1 (a) Schematic diagram of coherent beam combining of two SCLs locked to a common master laser. (b) Time domain measurement of the combined power. The blue dots are the measured data. The red solid line is the smoothed data.
- 4.2 (a) Time domain measurement of the coherently combined power of (a) two QPC MOPAs. (b) two IPS external cavity SCLs.
- 4.3 (a) Schematic diagram of the phase control of the individual MOPA. (b) Comparison of the output waveforms of the two independent OPLLs. (c)-(d) Lissajou curves reflecting the control of the relative phase between the two OPLLs' output signals.
- 4.4 (a) Schematic diagram of combining two OPLLs with an additional RF phase shifter loop. (b). Graphic tools to find the steady-state solution of the RF phase shifter feedback loop. (c). Steady state solution of the differential phase error ϕ_e between the combined individual beams as a function of the phase noise ϕ_n induced by the differential optical path-length variation. The solution depends on both the value and the history of ϕ_n .
- 4.5 Coherently combined power of two IPS lasers with the servo system made of a RF phase shifter feedback loop without the use of an unwrapping circuit (Fig.

- 4.4(a))
- 4.6 Schematic diagram of combining two OPLLs using a VCO feedback loop to correct for the optical path-length variation
- 4.7 Steady state phase model of the combining system with the VCO loop. The LO laser 2 is locked to the master laser in OPLL2, and is not shown here
- 4.8 Schematic diagram of the phase noise propagation in the coupled OPLLs.
- 4.9 Simplified picture of the VCO servo system
- 4.10 Linearized model of the VCO loop
- 4.11 (a) A typical power spectrum of the locked beat signal in an IPS laser OPLL. (b) Measured combined signal of two IPS lasers. The differential optical path-length variation in the fiber is corrected for by the VCO loop
- 5.1 Example of coherent beam combining using a beam splitter. r is the reflectivity of the beam splitter
- 5.2 Schematic diagram of a 2-level binary-tree filled-aperture CBC system
- 5.3 Calculated combining efficiency as a function of the residual differential phase noise
- 5.4 Schematic diagram of a binary-tree filled-aperture CBC system using the VCO loops to correct for the optical path-length variation in fibers
- 5.5 (a) Combining efficiency as a function of the normalized frequency detuning $x = (\omega_{os} - \omega_{v,f}) / \sigma_{\omega}$ given $\sigma_{\omega} / K_v = 0.05$. A maximum value can be reached by picking the appropriate x value. (b) Maximum combining efficiency as a function of the normalized VCO frequency jitter σ_{ω} / K_v . ω_{os} is the frequency of the RF offset signal provided by the signal generator, $\omega_{v,f}$ is the frequency of the free-running VCO, and σ_{ω} is the rms frequency jitter of the VCO. K_v is the VCO loop gain. The number of element beams is 2^n .

- 5.6 Two scenarios of phase front deformation caused by the combining optics
- 5.7 Splitting (a) the one-side phase error into (b) two-side phase errors. Four cases need to be considered to calculate the combining efficiency (Eq. (5.19)). Case 1: both beams i and j are from the same node a or b. Case 2: one beam is from node a and the other beam is from node b. Case 3: one beam (e.g., i) is from this triangle and the other beam is not. i' is the image of beam i in this triangle. Case 4: neither i nor j goes through this triangle.
- 5.8 (a) Self-heterodyne fiber amplifier phase noise measurement setup. (b)-(d) Predicted beat spectra with (b) no amplifier noise, (c) multiplicative phase noise and (d) additive phase noise
- 5.9 Experimental results of the Self-heterodyne fiber amplifier phase noise measurement with span of (a) 10MHz and (b) 1kHz
- 5.10 (a) Experimental setup to measure the fiber amplifier phase noise added to the OPLL. (b) and (c) Beat spectra at the photodetectors PD1 and PD2 in (a)
- 6.1 Schematic diagram of the delayed self-heterodyne interferometer lineshape measurement setup
- 6.2 Small signal noise propagation in an OPLL with the RIN of the master laser being considered
- 6.3 (a) Frequency noise, (b) Allan deviation, (c) Degree of coherence and (d) single-sided lineshape of free-running and phase-locked JDSU DFB laser. White frequency noise is assumed for the free-running master and slave lasers. In the simulation I have assumed a loop gain margin of $G_{mg}=10\text{dB}$ and used the FM response of the JDSU laser obtained in Section 3.1.2
- 6.4 Schematic diagram of the RIN measurement setup
- 6.5 (a) Measured RIN of the Agilent laser. The black curve is the instrument noise floor. (b) Comparison of the residual frequency noise of the locked slave laser due to the to the free-running noise of the slave laser (red curve) and the RIN of

- the Agilent laser (blue curve). In the calculation I have used Eq. (6.32) and assumed that the slave laser is the JDSU DFB laser of 0.3MHz FWHM linewidth
- 6.6 Measured frequency noise (blue curve) of the Agilent laser. The red curve is a theoretical fitting assuming a white frequency noise corresponding to 2kHz FWHM linewidth. The dip at about 40MHz is given by the free-spectral-range of the Mach Zehnder interferometer of ~ 5 m differential delay. The green curve represents the contribution of the RIN in the frequency noise measurement.
- 6.7 Delayed self-heterodyne lineshape measurement of the master laser, the free-running slave laser and the locked slave laser. (a) A JDSU DFB is used as the slave laser and (b) A QPC MOPA is used as the slave laser. The master laser is an Agilent tunable laser.
- 6.8 Measured (a) RIN and (b) frequency noise of the free-running JDSU DFB laser. In (b), the red curve is a theoretical fitting assuming a white frequency noise corresponding to a FWHM linewidth of 0.3MHz.
- 6.9 Comparison of the frequency noise of the Agilent master laser (black curve), the free-running (blue curve) and the phase locked JDSU slave laser (red curve). The green curve is a theoretical fitting of the frequency noise of the locked JDSU laser using the measured frequency noise of the free-running JDSU laser, the Agilent laser, and the loop transfer function. The measured data shown here are smoothed with a 5 points moving average algorithm.
- 6.10 (a) Measured RIN of the NP fiber laser under both the free-running and the RIN suppression modes. (b) Calculated residual frequency noise of the locked slave laser(JDSU DFB) due to its free-running frequency noise (green curve) and to the RIN of the master laser (red curve). A white frequency noise corresponding to a FWHM linewidth of 0.3MHz is assumed for the free-running slave laser.
- 6.11 (a) Comparison of the measured frequency noises of the NP fiber laser. The green curve is measured in Orbitlightwave, Inc., using a real time spectrum analyzer

by taking the FFT of the output of the Mach Zehnder interferometer near the quadrature point. The red curve is measured by averaging a large number of traces taken by a sweep-filter type spectrum analyzer. In both measurements the differential delay of the interferometer is $\sim 50\text{m}$. (b) Comparison of the measured frequency noise of the master laser (NP fiber laser), the free-running and the locked JDSU laser. The red curve between 1kHz and 1MHz is measured at the quadrature point of an interferometer of 5m differential delay. The blue line is measured by averaging a large number of the frequency noise spectra using an interferometer of 50m differential delay. The green curve is a theoretical fitting of the frequency noise of the locked JDSU laser using Eq. (6.32).

- 6.12 Measured lineshapes of the master laser (NP fiber laser), the free-running and locked slave laser (JDSU DFB) on a (a) 5MHz span and (b) 0.5MHz span.
- 7.1 Schematic diagram of an OPLL with a phase modulator (PM) feedback loop.