Planar External Cavity Low Noise Narrow Linewidth Lasers

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Outline

- 1550 nm narrow linewidth lasers for fiber optic sensing
- Planar External Cavity PLANEX Laser Design
- Phase noise and linewidth reduction in the external cavity
- PLANEX phase noise and linewidth
- Wavelength and power stability
- Wavelength tunability
- Direct frequency modulation
- Direct power modulation/pulsing
- Phase locking
- RIO laser products

Optical Sensing

Applications

Military/security

Perimeter intrusion detection

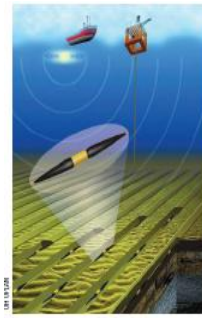
Navy acoustic detection

Oil and Gas

Seismic Reservoir Monitoring

Down well and SAGD

Pipeline Intrusion and Leakage Detection



Avionics/Space

LIDAR

RFOG

Wind Metrology

Wind energy

Air traffic control

Sensing Technologies

Interferometric

Coherent Rayleigh

C-OTDR

Lasers

Low Noise

Narrow

Linewidth

Coherent

Doppler LIDAR

Brillouin

DTSS

BOTDA/R

Photonic Doppler

Velocimetry /Vibrometery

Structural Monitoring

Static strain detection

Dynamic strain/vibration detection

R&D/ Industrial/ Military,

metrology and process control

Laser for Distributed Sensing: Key Requirements and Features

- Optical sensing market challenges for sustainable laser business
  - Market size it relatively small
  - Requirements vary significantly for various sensing technologies
  - Critical to make laser source suitable for multiple technologies and applications
- Performance
  - Low Phase/ Frequency Noise, Narrow linewidth, low RIN
  - 1550 nm wavelength range to utilize other Telco solutions availability
- Features
  - Small size, suitable for large multi-laser system integration
  - Frequency modulation and wavelength tunability
- Field deployable
  - Stability in harsh environmental conditions (temperature range, vibration)
  - Reliability qualification to industry standards (Telcordia, MIL, Space)

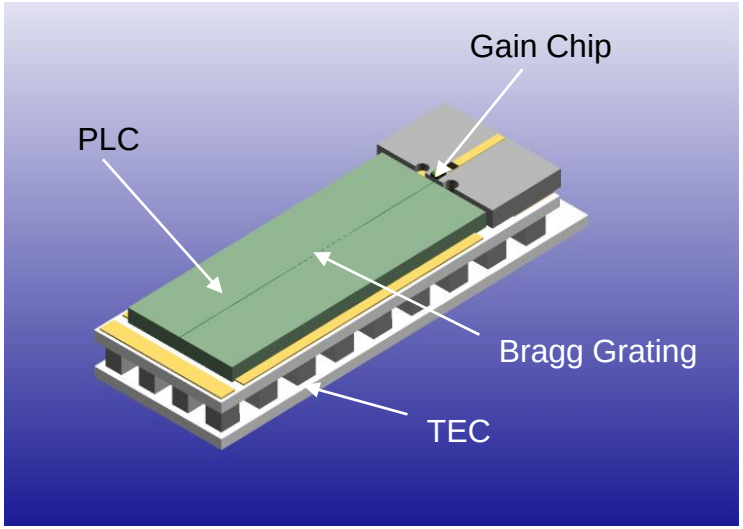
1550 nm Lasers Previously Used for Optical Sensing

- Semiconductor DFB
- Fiber Lasers

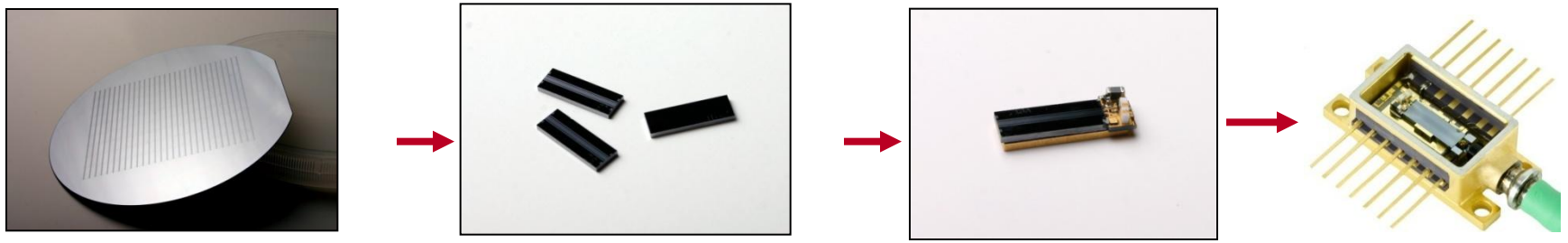
Laser Type	DFB Laser	Fiber Laser
Phase Noise	High	Low
Linewidth	>200 kHz	1-10 kHz
FM modulation bandwidth	> 100 MHz	< 100 kHz
RIN	Low	High
Form-factor	Small	Large
Environmental sensitivity	High	High
Reliability	Excellent	?
Power Consumption	Low	High
Cost	~$ 1,000	~$10,000

- Need for a new solution to combine
  - high performance of fiber lasers
  - cost efficiency, small size and high reliability of semiconductor lasers

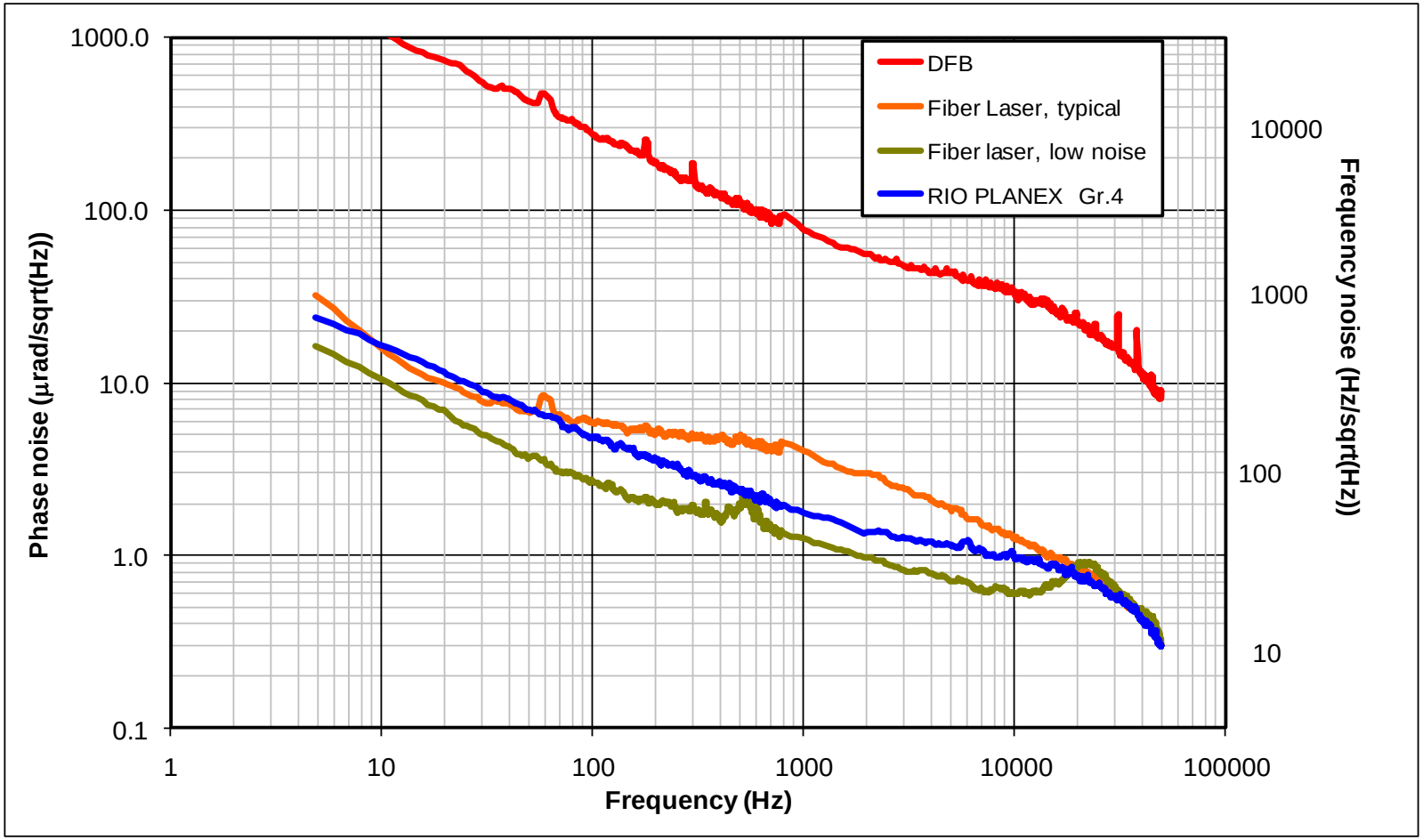
Planar External Cavity Laser PLANEX™



- PLC with Bragg grating on silicon wafers
- Gain: optimized InP MQW chip
- Packaging: 14-pin butterfly package, proven processes and materials



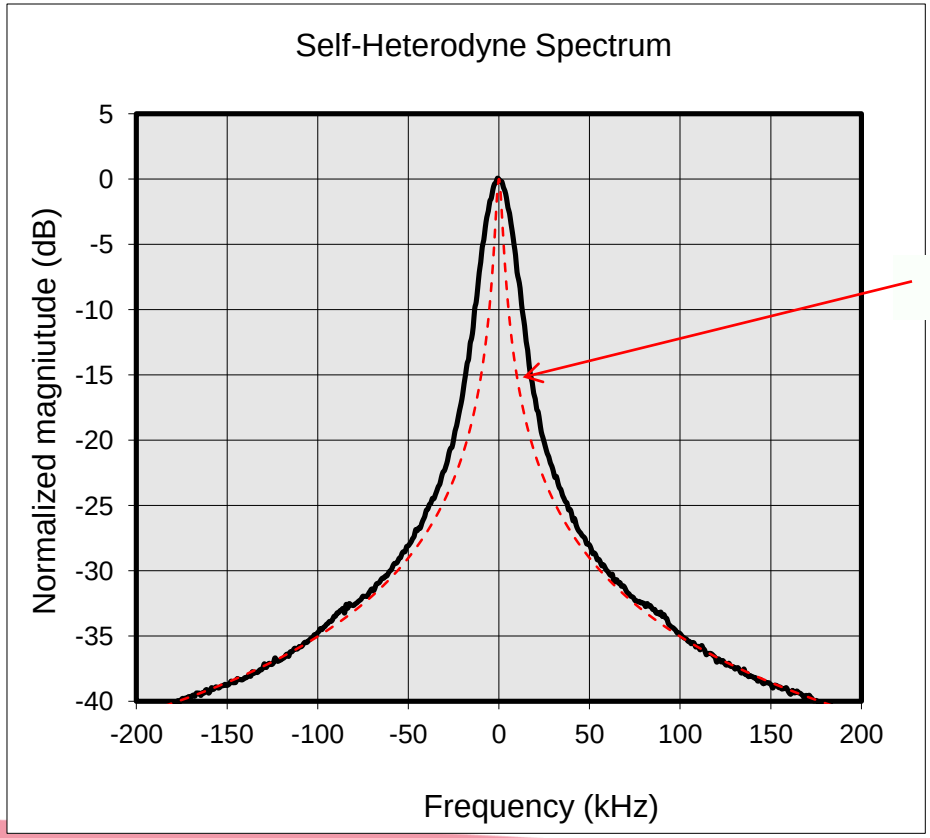
PLANEX™ Laser Phase Noise



Linewidth

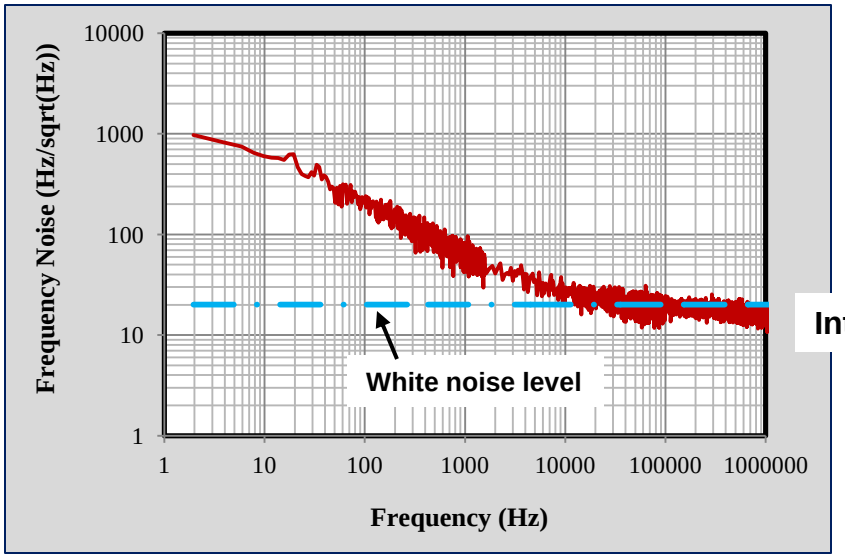
- Measured with self-heterodyne, 50 km fiber delay line
- Spectral profile
  - Gaussian shape from the peak till ~ -7 dB
  - Lorentzian shape at lower levels

Lorentzian FWHM, kHz	
Measured @-30 dB	1.8
Measured @-20 dB	2.4



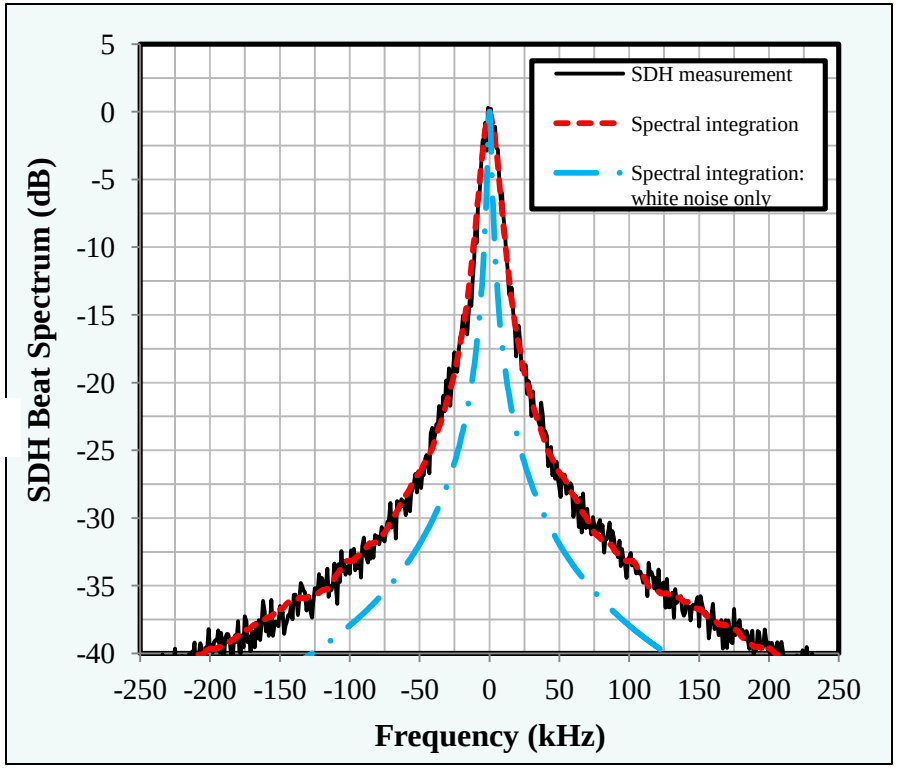
Linewidth Measurement vs. Spectral Integration

ORION Laser Frequency Noise



Integration

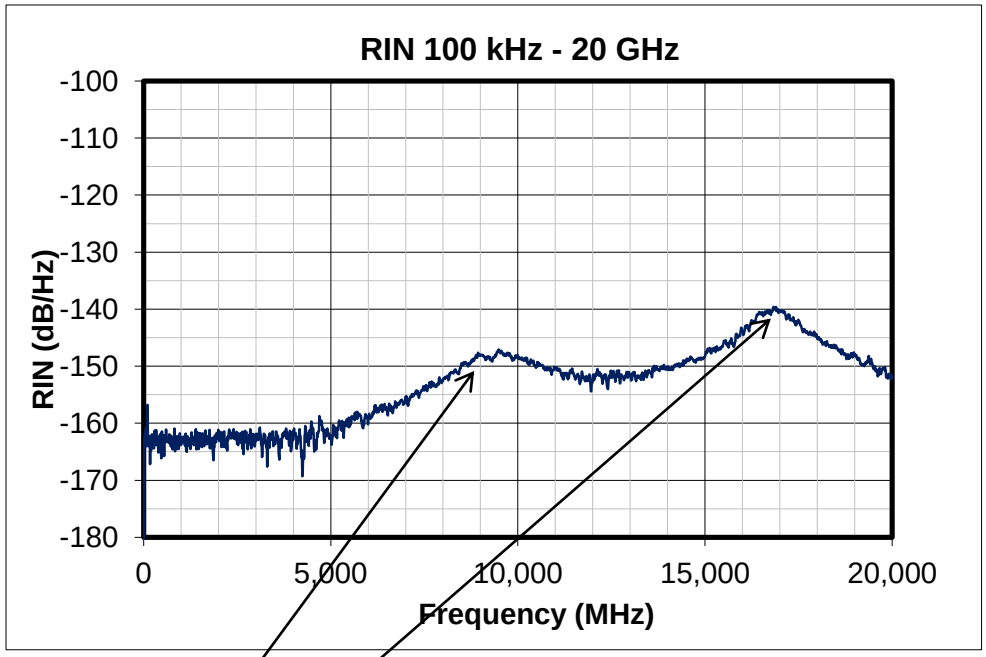
Laser Linewidth SDH Beat Spectrum

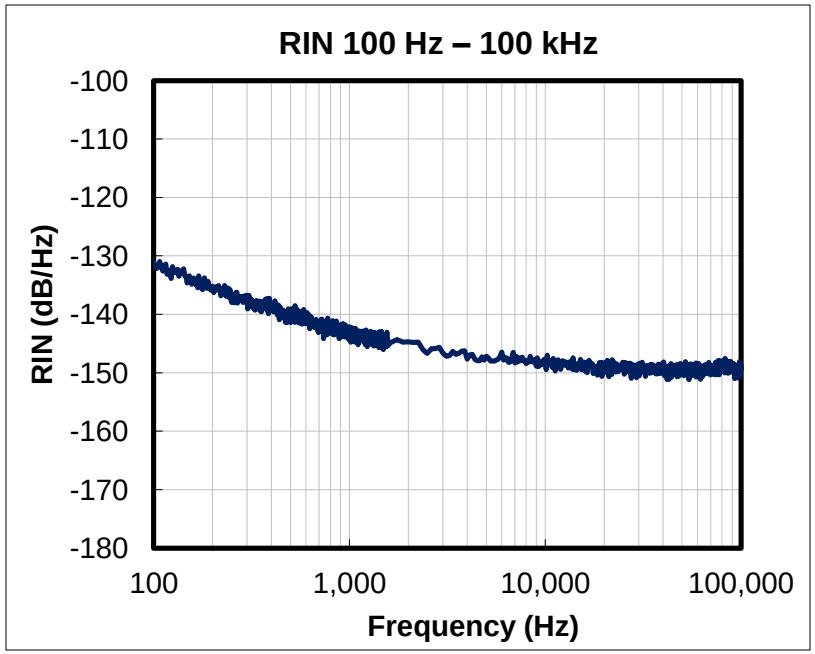


- Observation time on SI: 30 msec.
- SI for white noise only is done with fiber delay 400 km.

- ❑ Both measurement and spectral integration match well down to -40 dB level on Linewidth (LW) spectrum. (LW ~ 2.7 kHz @ -20 dB)
- ❑ When only white noise level is integrated, SI provides pure Lorentzian LW ~ 1.2 kHz.

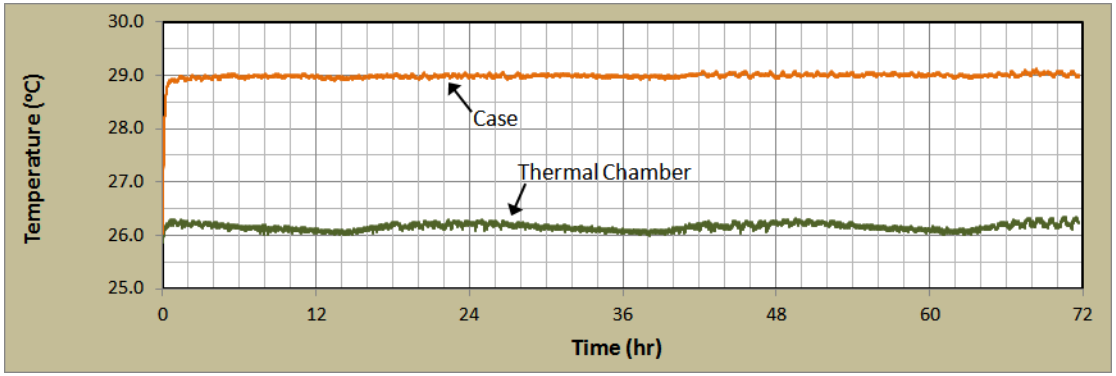
PLANEX RIN – Shot noise limited up to 5GHz

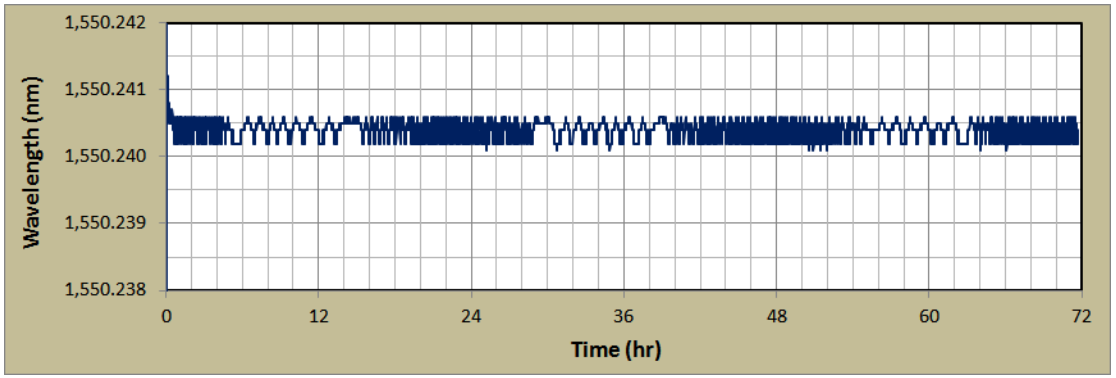


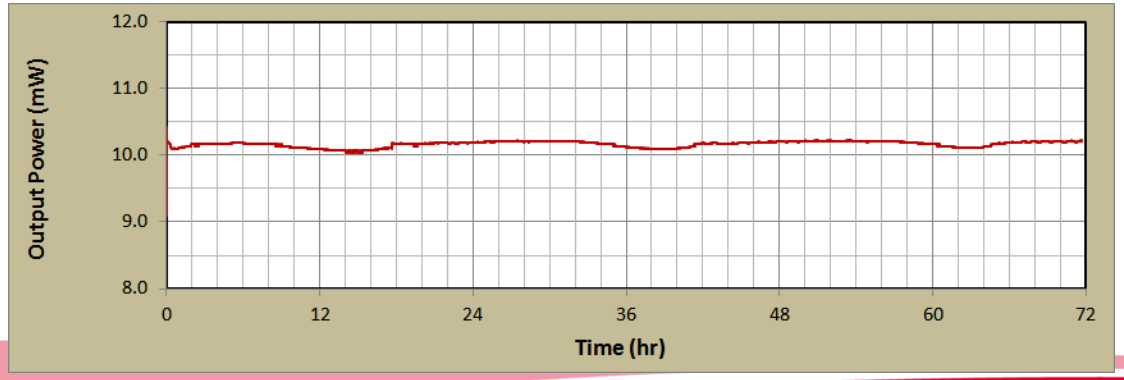


- High frequencies of relaxation oscillations
  - Electron – Photon resonance
  - Photon-photon resonance (cavity round-trip)
- RIN
  - <– 140 dB/Hz at frequency > 2 kHz.
  - Shot noise limited up to 5 GHz

Power and Wavelength Stability







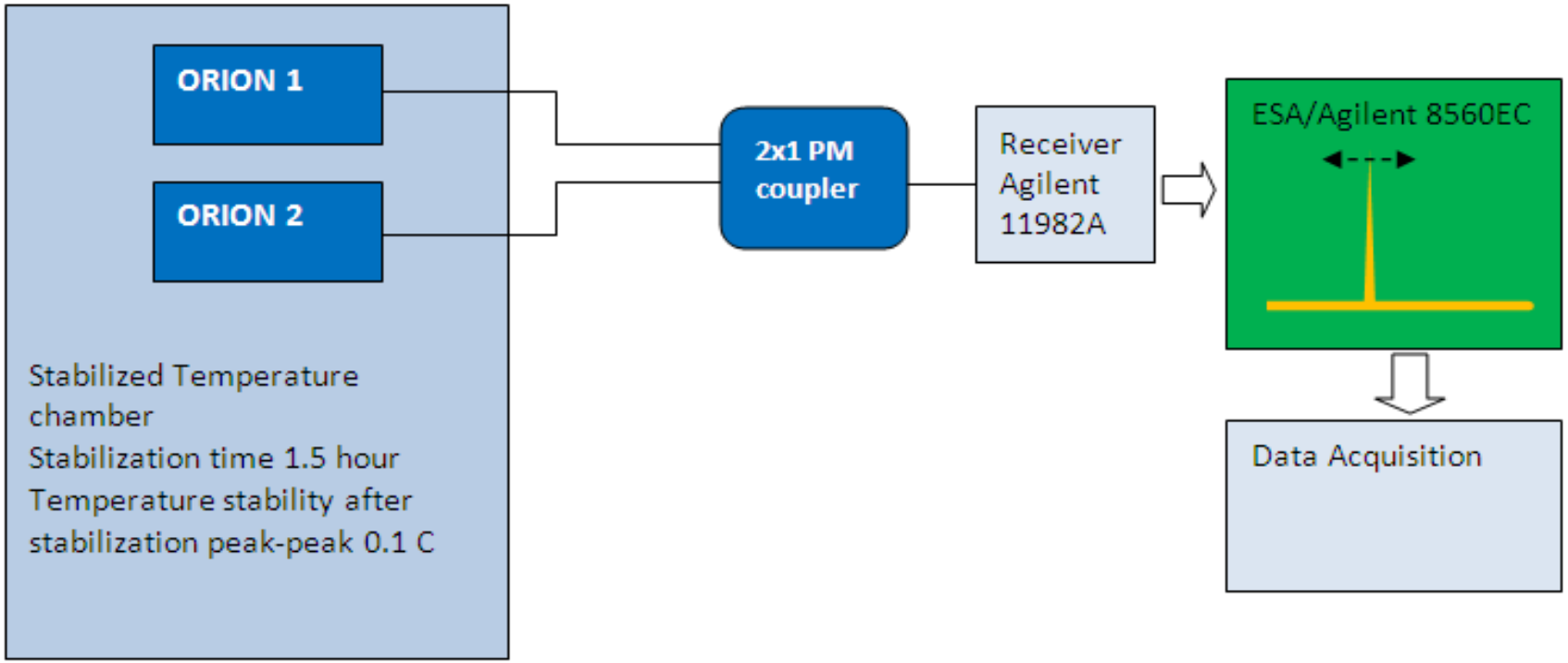
- Tested w. 10 mW ORION laser
- ORION laser is stabilized in thermal chamber
- Tested over 3 days
- ORION case reaches near const. case temp. after 30 min. of power-up

- Pk-Pk wavelength change over 3 days: 0.6 pm
  (NOTE: measured with Agilent 86122A WM, WL differential accuracy: +/- 0.4 pm)

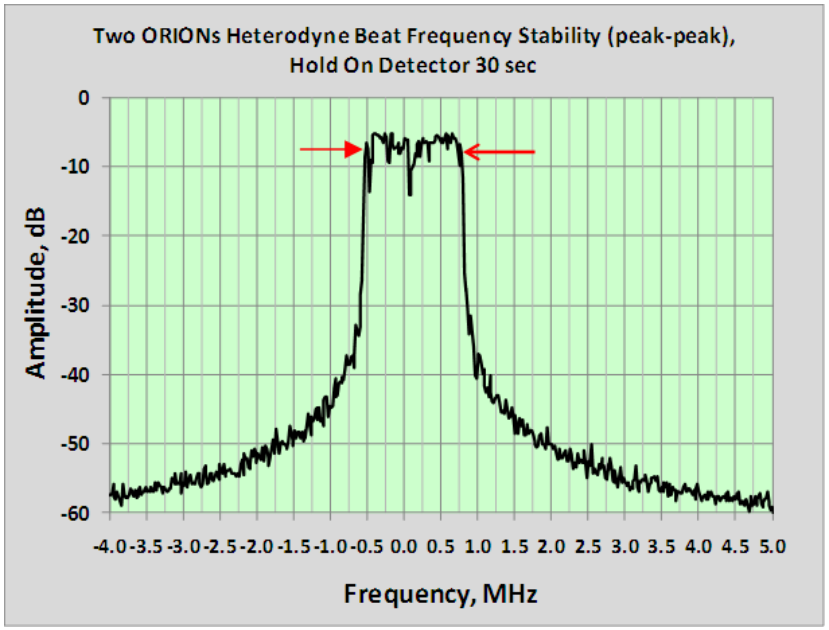
- Pk-Pk output power change over 3 days: 0.19 mW
  (NOTE: measured with Agilent 86122A WM, P calibration accuracy: +/- 0.5 dB)

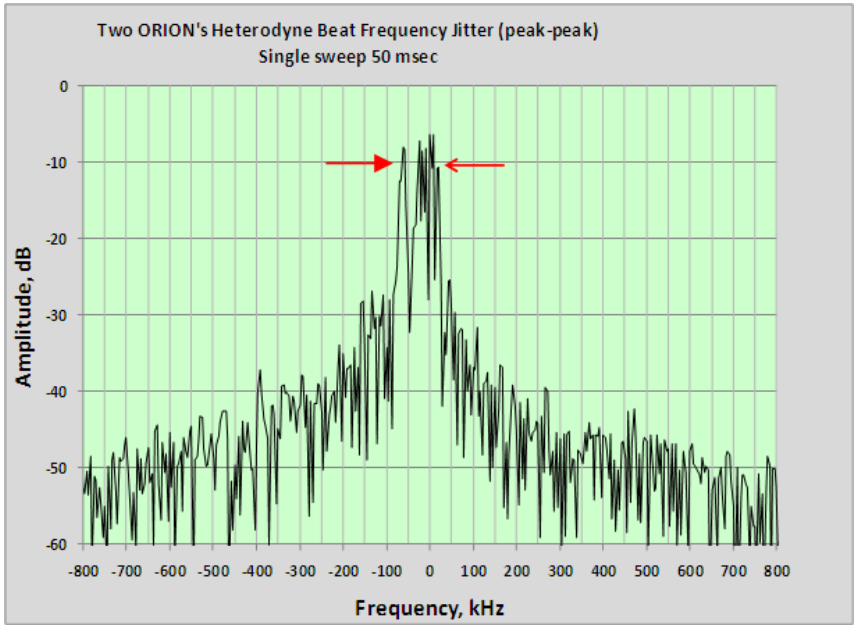
Frequency Stability

- ORION lasers modules (free running) frequency stability measured with heterodyne mixing of two lasers
- Laser stabilization time <1 s after turn on or re-tuning



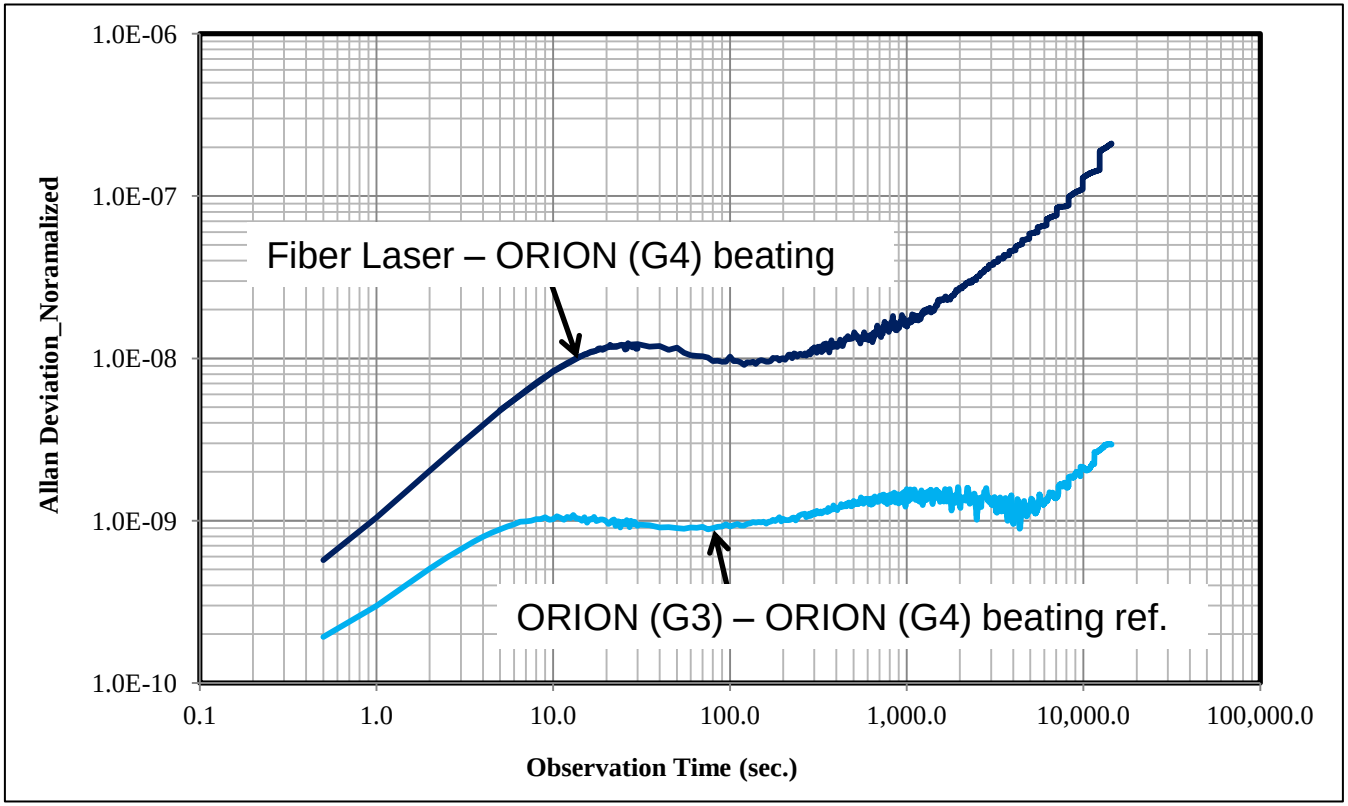
ORION Laser Frequency Stability





Measurement Time	Frequency stability
50 msec	150 kHz p-p
30 sec	1.5 MHz p-p
1 hour	4 MHz p-p
12 hours	20 MHz p-p

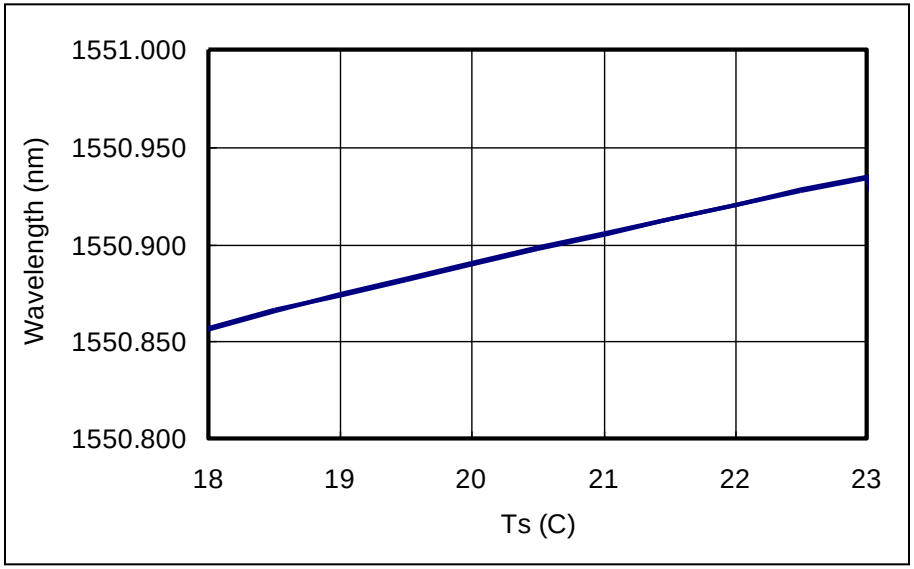
ORION Laser Allan Deviation

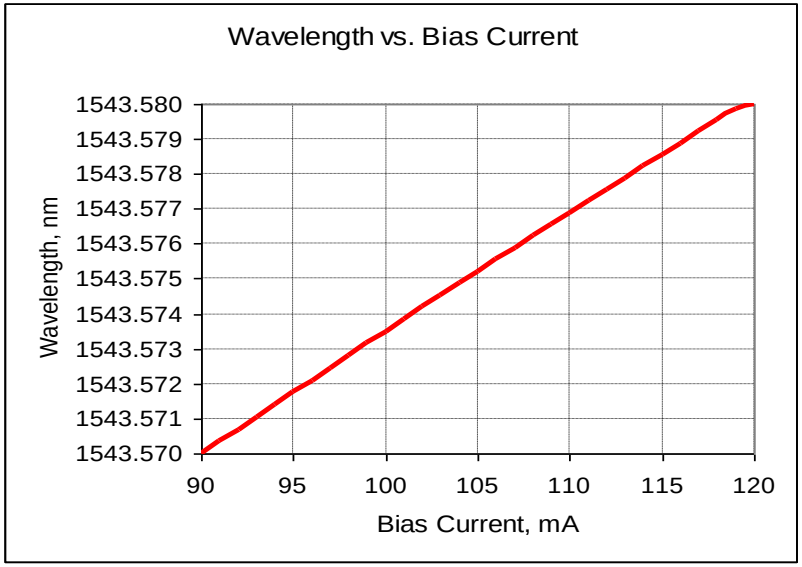


- Free-running. Case temperature stabilized : <0.2ºC over 3 h
- Allan deviation normalized optical frequency of 1550 nm ~1.93×10^{14} Hz

Wavelength Tunability

- Wavelength vs. TEC temperature: ~15 pm/ºC
- Wavelength vs. bias current, CW: 0.4 -0.5 pm/mA (40-60 MHz/mA)

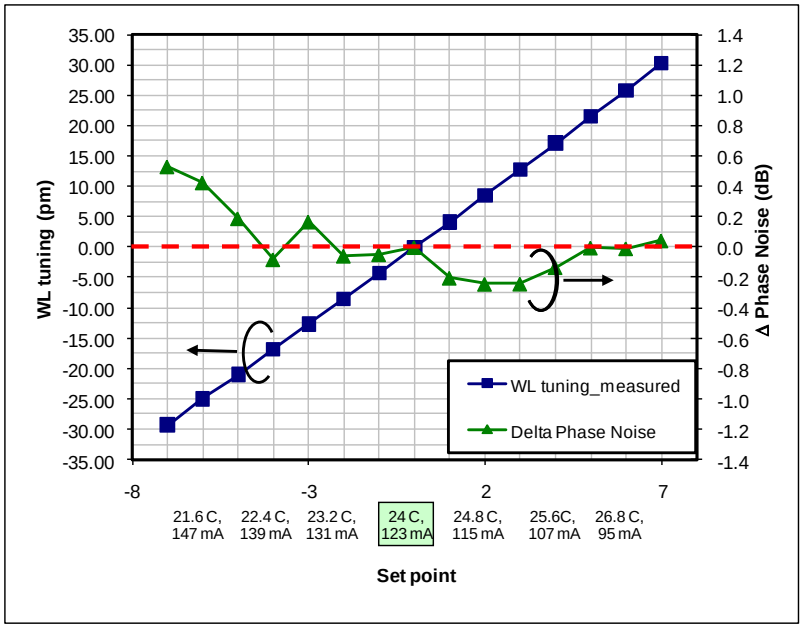


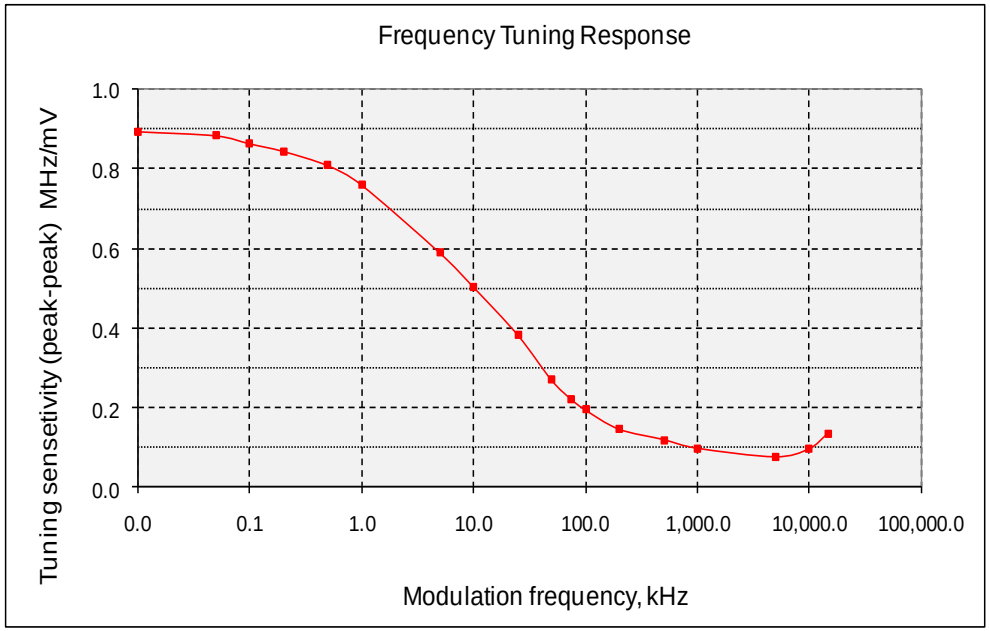


- Phase continuous temperature tuning range 30 pm (4 GHz)
- Fast wavelength tuning via bias current up to 4 pm (500 MHz)
- Frequency tuning via bias current leads to simultaneous power modulation

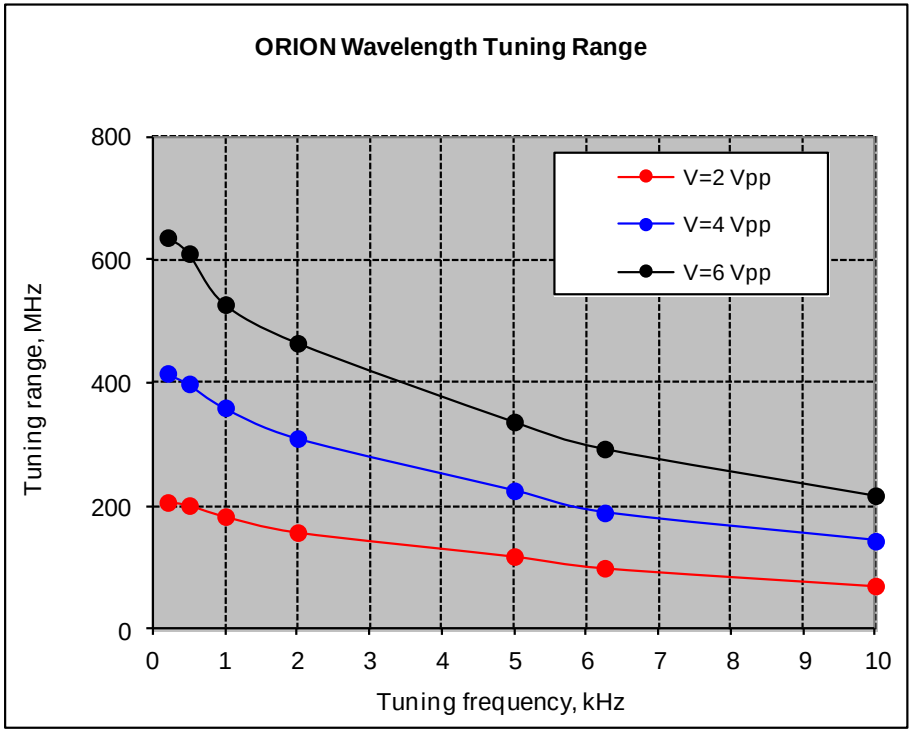
Wavelength Tuning and Direct FM

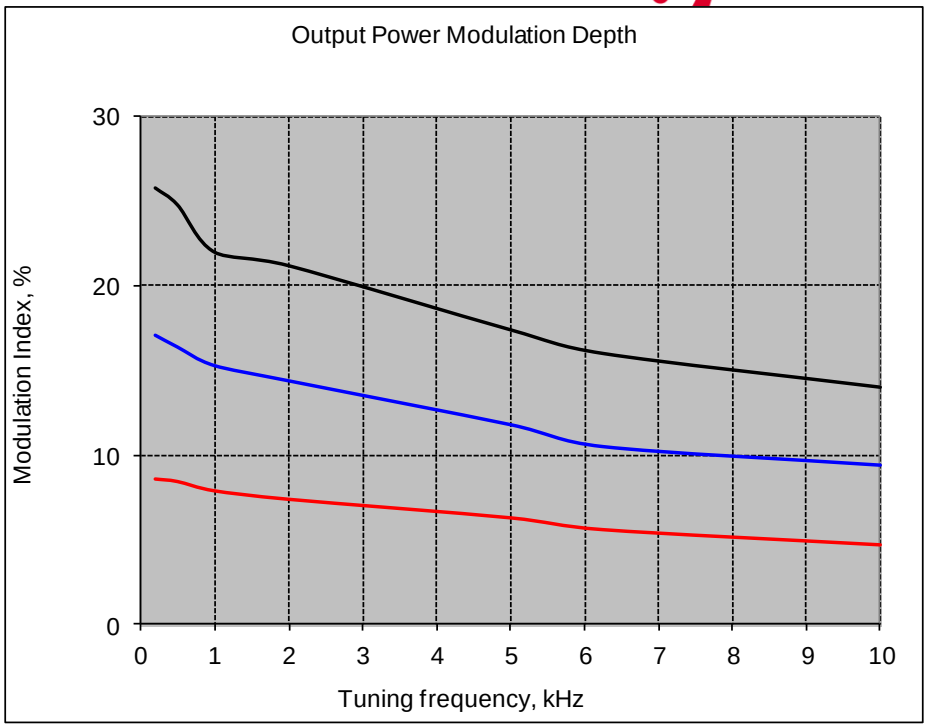
- Tuning TEC Temperature and Bias Current
  - Slow thermal tuning up to +/- 30 pm (+/- 4 GHz)
  - Fast direct frequency modulation efficiency
    - CW : 0.9 MHz/mV (~ 50 MHz/mA)
    - 10 kHz: 0.5MHz/mV





PLANEX and ORION Fast Tuning/FM



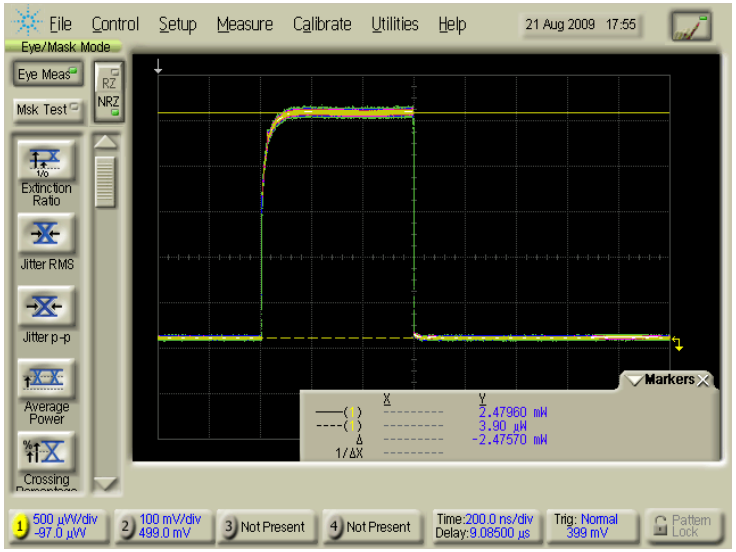


- Direct wavelength tuning and power modulation at various input voltages
  - Tuning range>500 MHz
  - Power modulation index is correlated with tuning range

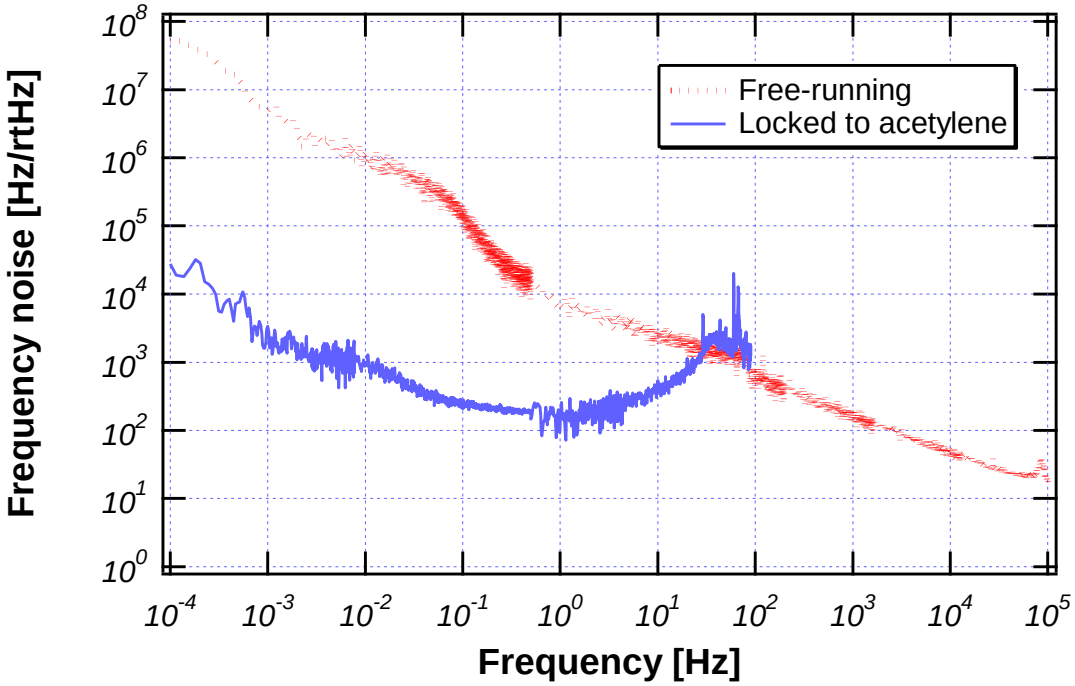
Direct Modulation/Pulsing of PLANEX laser

- ❑ PLANEX laser modulation bandwidth > 1 GHz
- ❑ 25 Ohms impedance input
- ❑ Unique direct modulation/pulsing while mountings narrow linewidth performance
- ❑ Minimal pulse shape distortion

Pulse Width	> 5 nsec
Pulse Repetition Frequency	up to 10 MHz
Extinction Ratio	25-32 dB
Linewidth	< 15 kHz at pulse plateau
Pulse shape distortion	Minimum or none
RMS Jitter	150 ps max



Reference Locking



- Frequency noise spectrum of the PLANEX laser with (blue) and without (red) frequency stabilization.
- Within the control bandwidth of ~60 Hz, the noise was suppressed by a factor up to ~1000.

Performance of planar-waveguide external cavity laser for precision measurements.
Kenji Numata, Jordan Camp, Michael A. Krainak, and Lew Stolpner. October 2010 / Vol. 18, No. 22 / OPTICS EXPRESS

RIO Product Offering

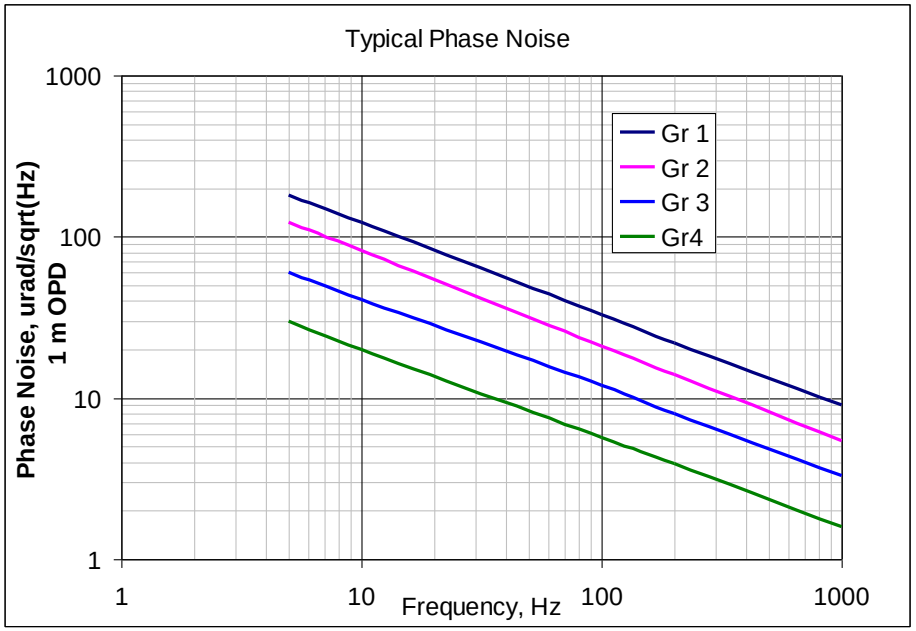
- Wavelength
  - ITU DWDM or custom wavelength
- 4 Grades of linewidth/phase noise performance
- PMF and SMF options

PLANEX™ and ORION™

- > 10 mW
- > 20 mW

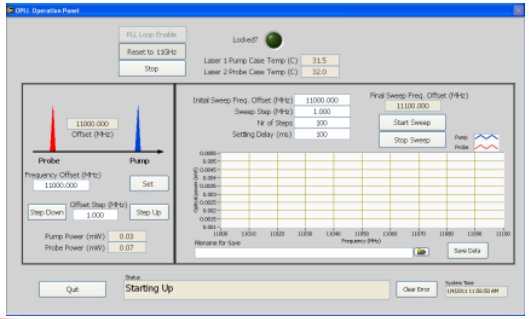
RIO Grande

- >1 W
- > 2 W



Linewidth, kHz	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
	<15	<10	<5	<3

Optical Phase Locked Loop (OPLL)

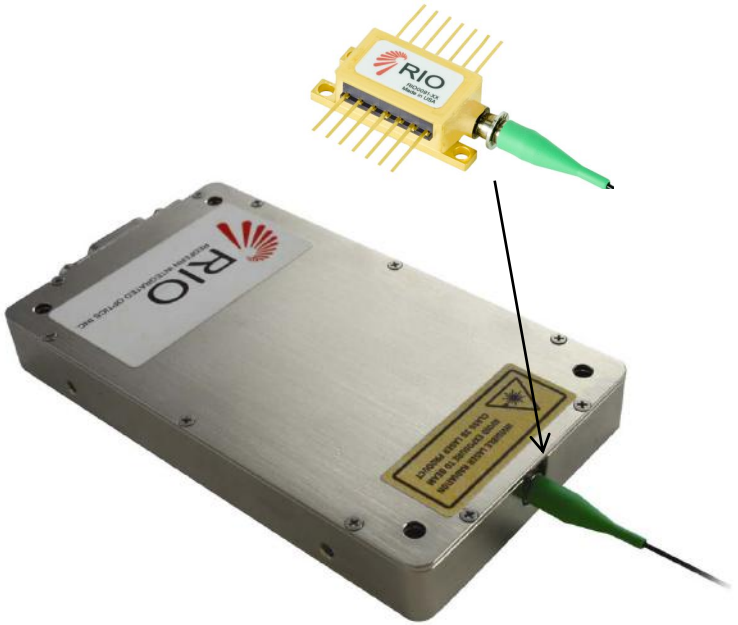


ORION Laser Module

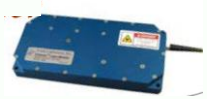
Features

- Low noise current source and TEC controller
- Input for direct modulation and wavelength tuning
- Controller with SPI, RS-232 and RS-485 interface options, GUI
- Low power dissipation

Storage Temp, ° C	**-40 to +85**
Size, mm	**100x56x13**
Operational Temp Range, °C	**0-70**
Power supply	**5 V**
Power Dissipation,	**< 6 W**
@ 35 C case temperature	**<3 W**
@ 50 C case temperature	**<4 W**



ORION and Fiber Laser Comparison

Parameter	RIO008X ORION 	Koheras Basik 	NP Photonics Rock 	Orbits Ethernal 
Power	**>10 mW**	**>10 mW**	**>25mW**	**>10 mW**
RIN	**<-140 dB/Hz (>1 kHz)**	**<-115 dB/Hz (@1 MHz)**	**<-110 dB/Hz (@1 MHz)**	**-120 dB/Hz (@ 1MHz)**
WL stability (FR), p-p	**4 MHz 1 hour 20 MHz 12 h**	**20 MHz 1 h**	**20 MHz 1 h 50 MHz, 12 h**	**20 MHz 1 h**
Storage Temp, ° C	**-40 to +85**	**-20 to +50**	**-20 to +50**	**-20 to +50**
Size, inches	**4x2.25x0.5**	**8x4x1**	**8x5x1**	**7x3X1**
Operational Temp Range, ºC	**0-70**	**15-50**	**15-35**	**10-55**
Power supply	**5 V**	**12 V**	**5V**	**5V**
Power Dissipation, over specified case temp range	**< 6 W**	**>10 W**	**20 W**	**>10 W**
@ 35 C case temperature	**<3 W**		**20 W**	
@ 50 C case temperature	**<4 W**	**>10 W**		

PLANEX™ and ORION Lasers Reliability

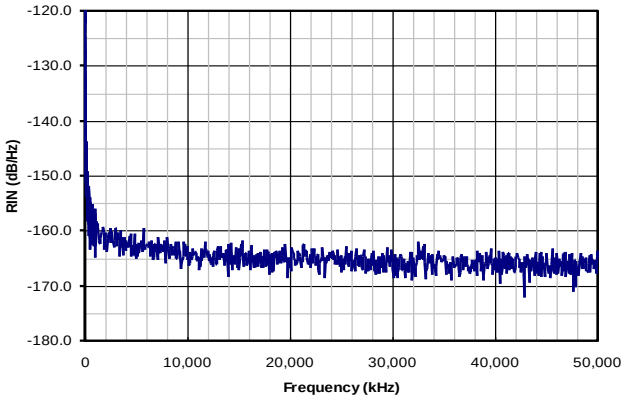
- Proven Telcordia qualified technology
  - All components are qualified by vendors, key components also qualified by RIO
  - RIO manufacturing is done in high quality / military level assembly environment using proven manufacturing processes and materials.

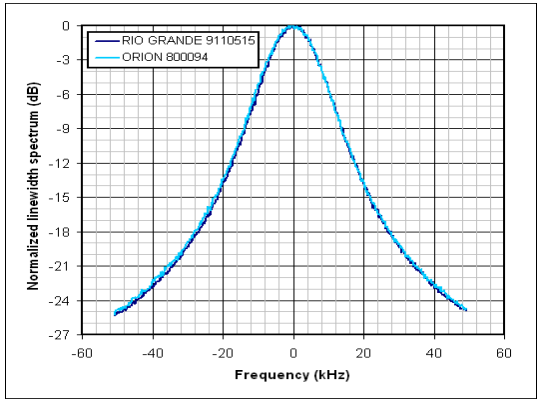
- Telcordia GR-468 reliability qualification of PLANEX and ORION low noise lasers completed in 2009

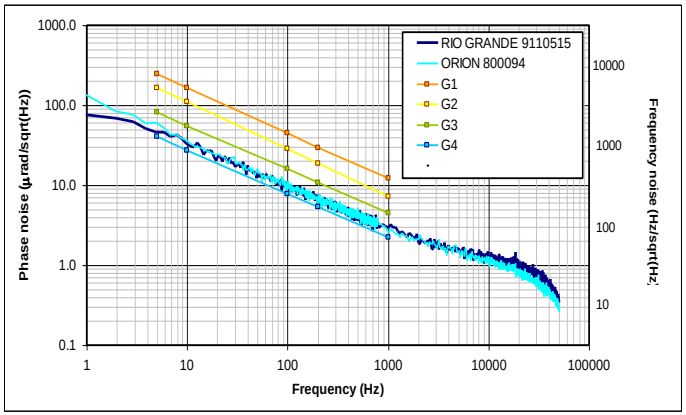
- Additional reliability testing, qualification and field data
  - 4 million device-hours have been accumulated on PLANEX lasers in the field, without failures.
  - Low FIT rates.
  - Aerospace qualification testing
    - 500+ extended temperature cycles confirmed excellent product stability.
    - Successful vacuum and radiation testing for space applications

RIO GRANDE: Amplified High Power Modules

- Power 0.1 W up to 2 W,
- Low phase noise
- Ultra low RIN
- Narrow linewidth
- High OSNR

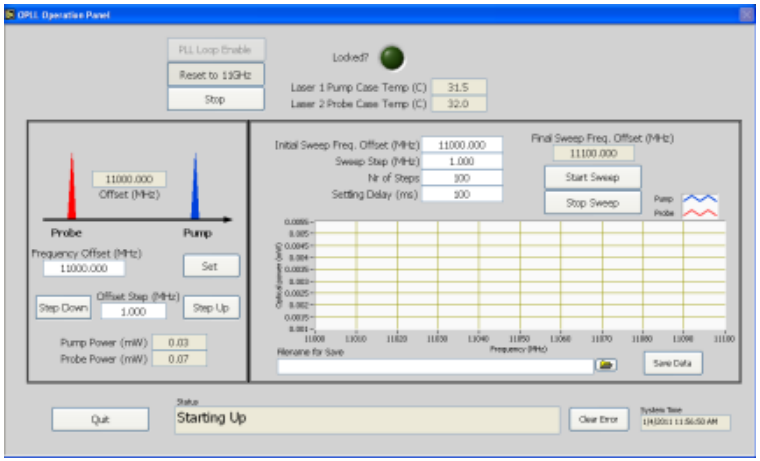


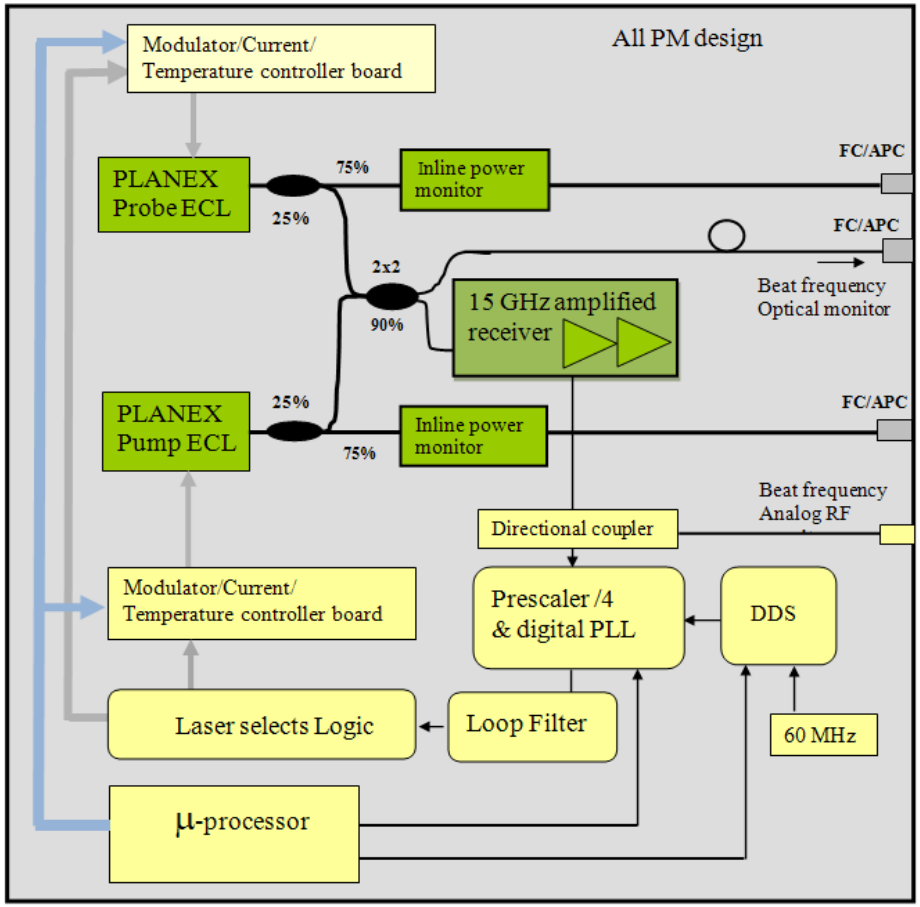




OPLL - Dual Laser Source

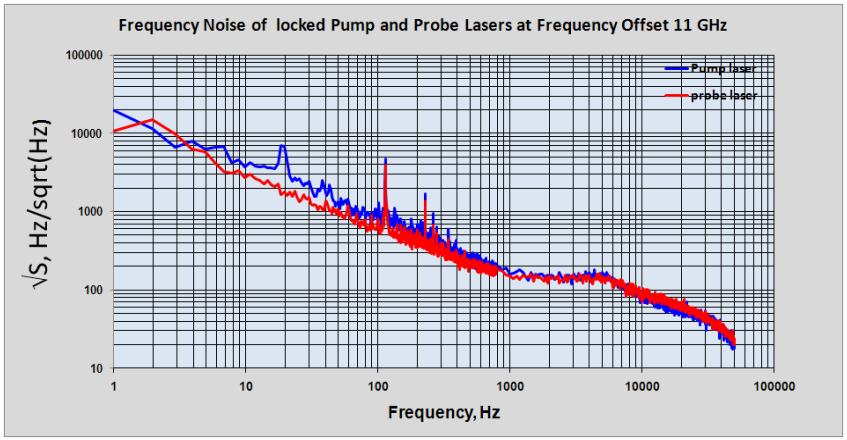
- OPLL for distributed sensing and coherent metrology applications:
  - Distributed Brillouin Fiber Optic Sensing (BOTDA/BOTDR)
  - Heterodyne/ Coherent Metrology

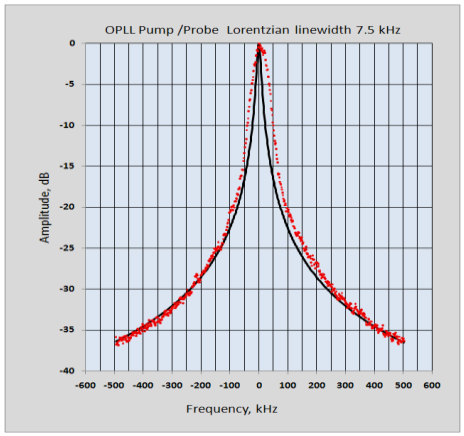


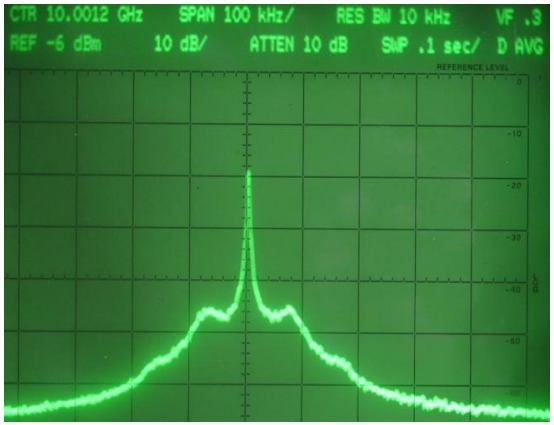


OPLL Key Performance Specs and Features

Parameter	Value	Note
CW power	> 5 mW	average, two PM optical outputs
Laser frequency noise	10^3 Hz/√Hz @ 100 Hz	under locking conditions:
Linewidth	<10 kHz	
Phase noise	-65 dB/Hz	at 100 kHz offset
Frequency offset	From 8 to 14 GHz	step tuning
Tuning resolution	10 kHz	
Continuous sweep tuning	over 1GHz	resolution 10 kHz @ 50μsec speed
Locked step response time	5 μsec	at 10 MHz step







Thank you.