

Siena/Ferrara laboratory for birefringence measurements of substrates and reflective coatings

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F. Della Valle, University of Siena and INFN Pisa

Group composition:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Guido Zavattini | Staff Ferrara, optics |
| Max Aurélie Mailliet | Post-Doc Ferrara, optics |
| Alina Soflau | Master's student Ferrara |
| Andrea Mazzolari | Staff Ferrara, silicon |
| Giovanni Di Domenico | Staff Ferrara, tomography |
| Federico Della Valle | Staff Siena, optics |
| Carmen Marinelli | Staff Siena, optics |
| Emilio Mariotti | Staff Siena, optics |

Summary

- Brief background
- Birefringence noise from high finesse mirrors
- Birefringence measurements in transmission
- Birefringence measurements in reflection

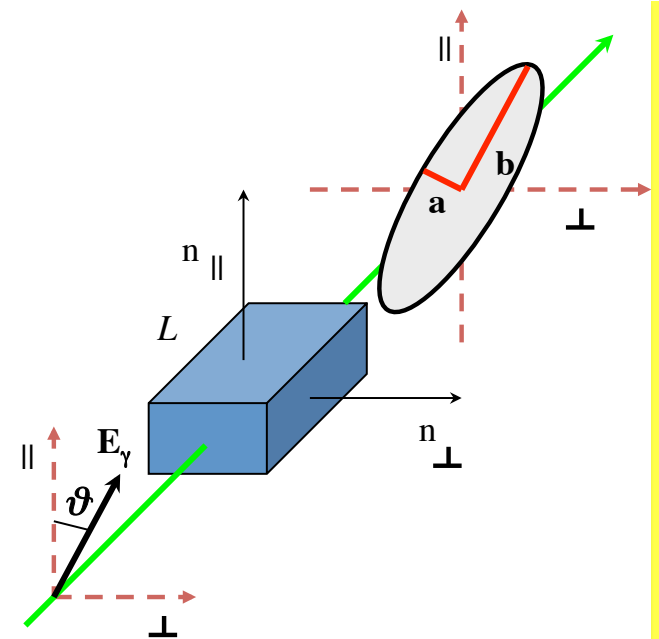
La Fisica: birifrangenza ed ellitticità

- In un mezzo birifrangente $n_{\parallel} \neq n_{\perp}$
- Attraversando un mezzo birifrangente un fascio linearmente polarizzato acquisisce un'ellitticità $\psi = \pm a/b$ (il segno distingue i due versi di rotazione di \mathbf{E}_{γ})

$$\mathbf{E}_{\gamma} = E_{\gamma} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \Delta\phi = \frac{2\pi(n_{\parallel} - n_{\perp})L}{\lambda}$$

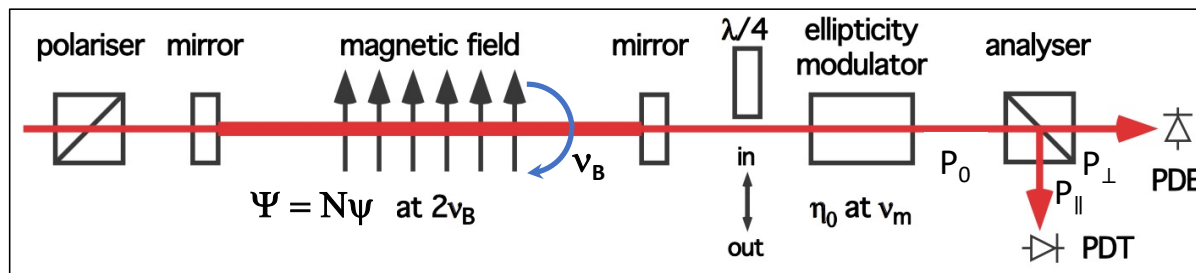
$$\mathbf{E}'_{\gamma} = E_{\gamma} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + i\frac{\Delta\phi}{2} \cos 2\vartheta \\ i\frac{\Delta\phi}{2} \sin 2\vartheta \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Delta\phi \ll 1$$

$$\psi = \pm \frac{a}{b} \approx \frac{\Delta\phi}{2} \sin 2\theta = \frac{\pi(n_{\parallel} - n_{\perp})L}{\lambda} \sin 2\vartheta$$



$$\Delta n \approx 10^{-7}, \quad L \approx 10 \text{ cm}, \quad N \approx 10, \quad \lambda = 1064 \text{ nm} \longrightarrow \Delta\phi \approx 0.6 \text{ rad} \approx 34^{\circ}$$

PVLAS general scheme



F. Della Valle et al. Eur. Phys. J. C (2016) 76:24

A. Ejlli et al. Physics Reports 871 (2020) 1–74

- L is the length of the birefringent medium (in PVLAS experiment $\Delta n_B \propto B^2$)
- Single pass ellipticity: $\psi = \frac{\pi \Delta n_B L}{\lambda} \sin 2\vartheta(t) = \psi_0 \sin 2\vartheta(t)$
- The Fabry-Perot cavity amplifies ψ by a factor $N = 2\mathcal{F}/\pi$. We had $\mathcal{F} = 7 \times 10^5$.
- The ellipticity modulator allows heterodyne detection which linearizes the ellipticity ψ to be measured and allows the distinction between a rotation and an ellipticity. The insertion of the $\lambda/4$ wave plate allows measuring rotations.
- The rotating magnetic field modulates the desired signal due to VMB.

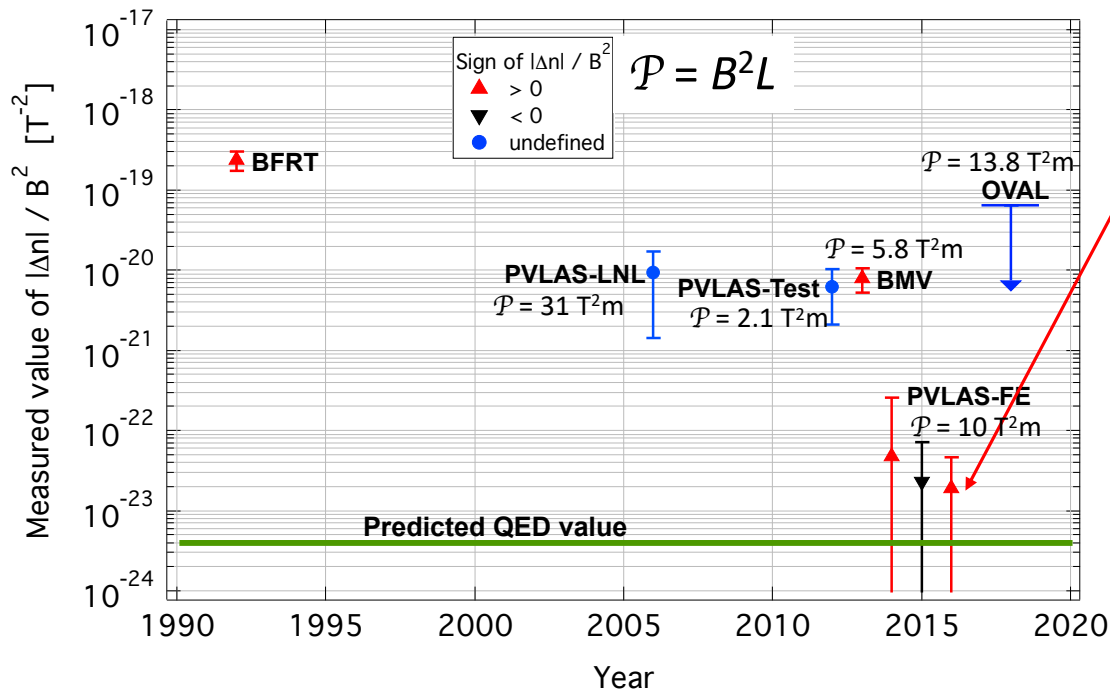
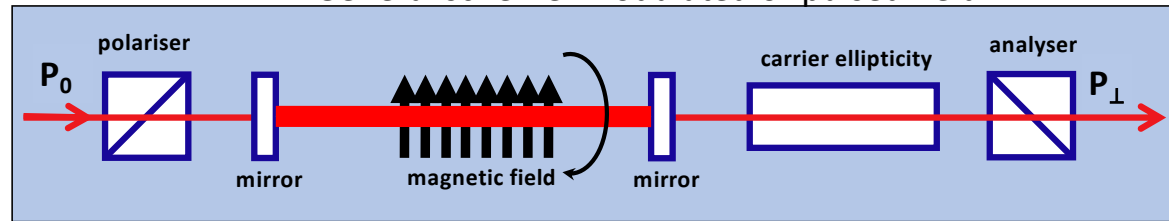
$$\begin{aligned} @ B_{\text{ext}} &= 2.5 \text{ T} \\ \Delta n &= 2.5 \times 10^{-23} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow I_{\text{out}} \simeq I_0 \left\{ \eta^2(t) + 2\eta(t)N\psi(t) + 2\eta(t)\Gamma(t) + \dots \right\}$$

F. Della Valle, Virgo Pisa internal workshop, 22/05/24

State of the art

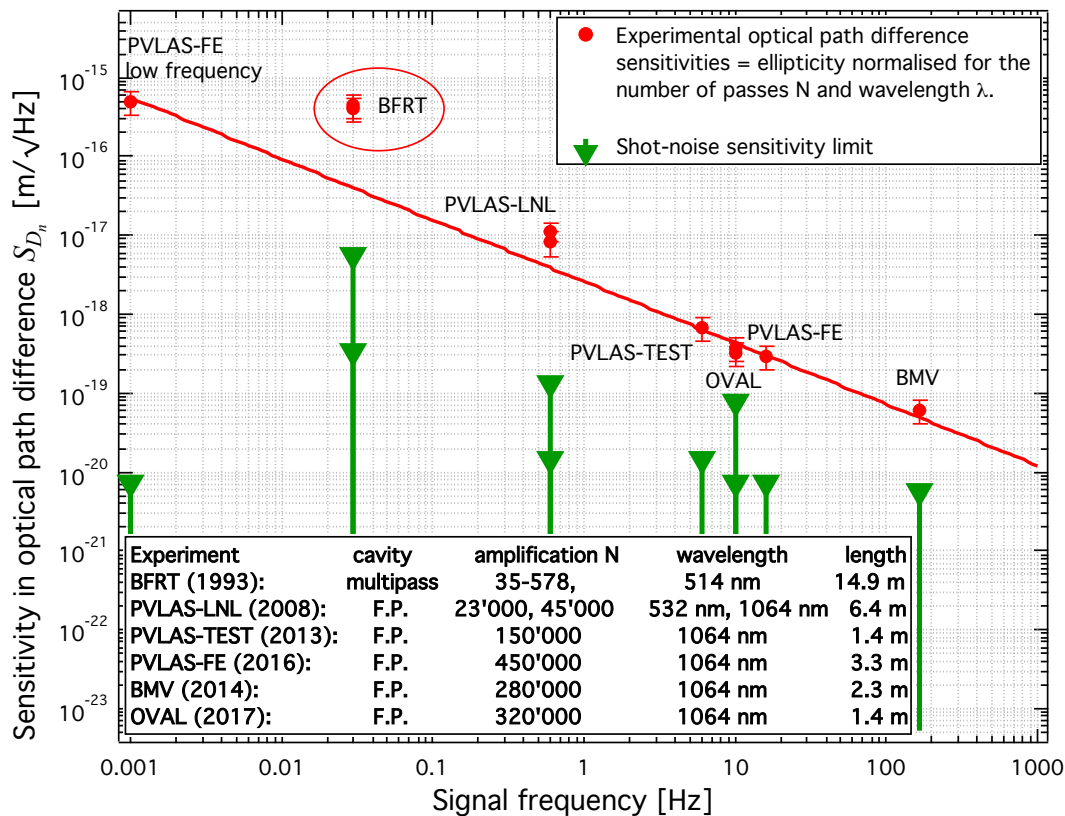
General scheme: modulated or pulsed field



- The PVLAS - FE result remains the most sensitive measurement yet performed: $\Delta n/B^2 = (1.9 \pm 2.7) \times 10^{-23} \text{ T}^{-2}$ with 2.5 T
- Permanent magnets allowed careful debugging of systematics: $B^2L = 10 \text{ T}^2\text{m}$
- Optical path difference sensitivity: $S_{\text{OPD}} = 4 \times 10^{-19} \text{ m/VHz @ } \approx 16 \text{ Hz}$
- Cavity amplification was $N \approx 4.5 \times 10^5$
- Intrinsic noise from the mirrors limited the sensitivity and the SNR
- Measured noise: x50 shot-noise @ 16 Hz

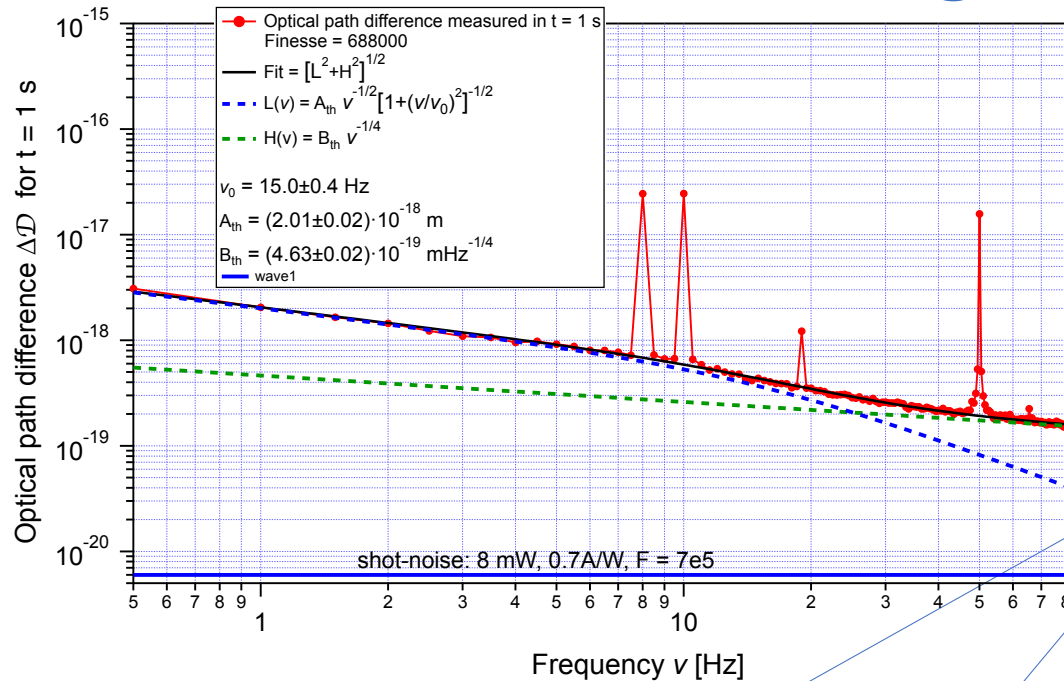
Intrinsic mirror birefringence noise

Limits in the sensitivity of a polarimeter



- No experimental effort has reached shot-noise sensitivity (green) with a high finesse F.P.
- There seems to be a common problem afflicting all experiments
- This noise seems to be an intrinsic property of the cavity mirrors
- With a low finesse cavity one does reach shot-noise. The limit is not the method.

Intrinsic mirror birefringence noise

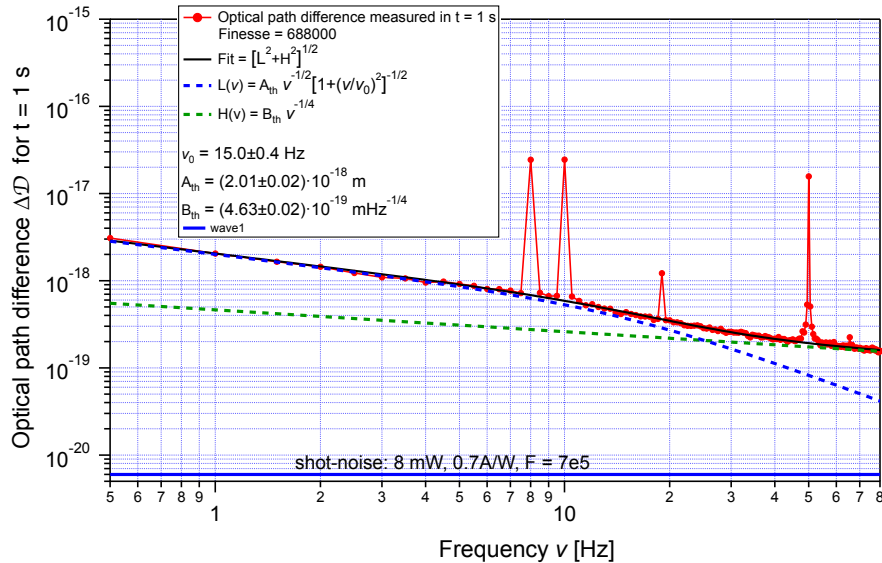


- Typical PVLAS-FE optical path difference noise
- Finesse = 6.88×10^5
- Peaks at 8 Hz and 10 Hz represent Cotton-Mouton calibration signals from 850 μ bar Argon gas.
- The peak at 19 Hz is generated by a Faraday rotation leakage due to the total cavity static birefringence from the mirrors.
- Brownian? Why the cut-off?
- Thermo-elastic model points to tantala.
- For ET we can measure new coatings. Finesse must be $F \geq 5e4$ ($R \geq 99.995\%$): the amplified mirror noise must be greater than shot-noise.
- Will be testing crystalline GaAs/AlGaAs mirrors.

$$S_{OPD}(\nu) = \sqrt{\left(\frac{A_{th}\nu^{-1/2}}{\sqrt{1 + (\nu/\nu_0)^2}}\right)^2 + (B_{th}\nu^{-1/4})^2}$$

$$A_{th} = (2.01 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-18} \text{ m}, \quad \nu_0 = (15.0 \pm 0.4) \text{ Hz}, \quad B_{th} = (4.63 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-19} \text{ m/Hz}^{1/4}$$

Intrinsic mirror birefringence noise



- Estimated the thermoelastic birefringence noise in reflection (Physics Reports 871 (2020) 1–74)
- C_{SO} = stress optic coefficient
- Y = Young's modulus
- α_T = thermal expansion coefficient
- r_0 = beam radius on mirror
- C_T = specific heat capacity
- ρ = density
- λ_T = thermal conductivity

Temperature spectral density

$$S_T(\nu) = \sqrt{\frac{8k_B T^2}{\pi r_0^2 \sqrt{\pi \rho C_T \lambda_T \nu}}} \propto \nu^{-1/4}$$

Optical path difference spectrum

$$S_{\Delta D} = 2d_e \sqrt{2} C_{SO} Y \alpha_T S_T(\nu)$$

Fused silica

$$S_{\Delta D}^{(FS)} \sim 4 \times 10^{-21} \text{ m}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \quad @ \quad 1 \text{ Hz}$$

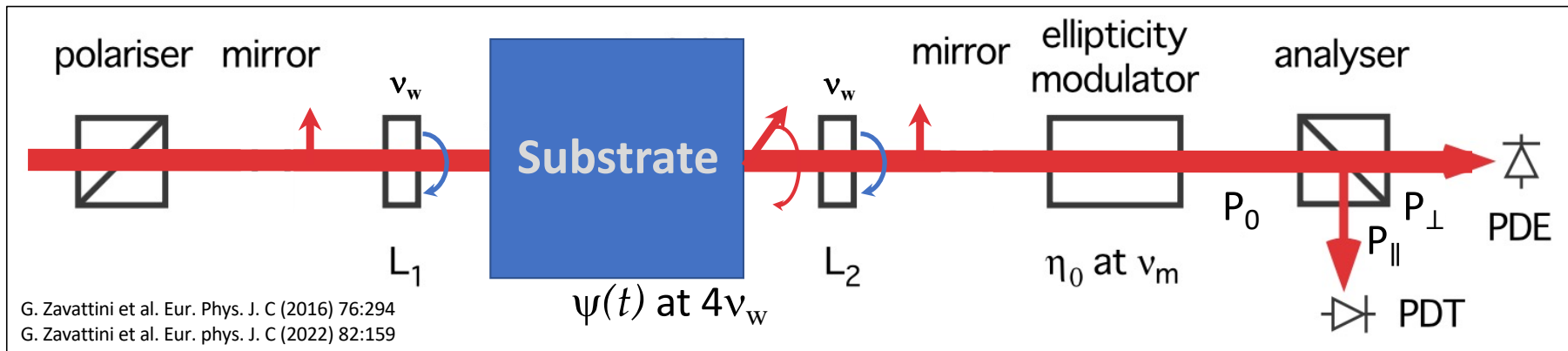
Tantala

$$S_{\Delta D}^{(Ta)} \sim (1 \div 5) \times 10^{-19} \text{ m}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \quad @ \quad 1 \text{ Hz}$$

Compatible with $B_{th} = (4.63 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-19} \text{ m}/\text{Hz}^{1/4}$

Substrate birefringence measurements

- Single pass ellipticity: $\psi(t) = \frac{\pi \int \Delta n dL}{\lambda} \sin 2\vartheta(t) = \psi_0 \sin 2\vartheta(t)$.
- Here $\vartheta(t)$ is the angle between the polarisation and the birefringence axis. $\phi(t)$ is the HWP angle: $\vartheta(t) = 2\phi(t)$



$$\psi(t) = \psi_0 \sin 4\phi(t) + \frac{\alpha_1(t)}{2} \sin 2\phi(t) + \frac{\alpha_2(t)}{2} \sin[2\phi(t) + 2\Delta\phi(t)]$$

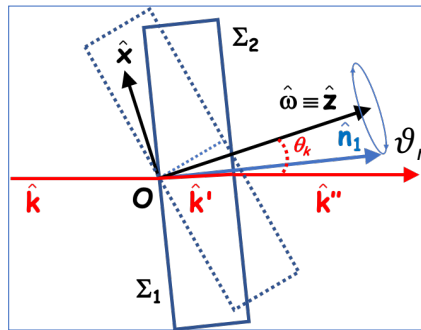
- $\alpha_{1,2}$ are the residual retardations from π of the HWPs. The modulator's frequency is $\nu_m = 50$ kHz.
- The detected intensity is **demodulated** at the modulator's frequency ν_m to obtain the ellipticity spectrum.
- The ellipticity spectrum includes the desired signal, systematic effects and noise

$$I_{\text{out}} \simeq I_0 \{ \eta^2(t) + 2\eta(t)\psi(t) + 2\eta(t)\Gamma(t) + \dots \}$$

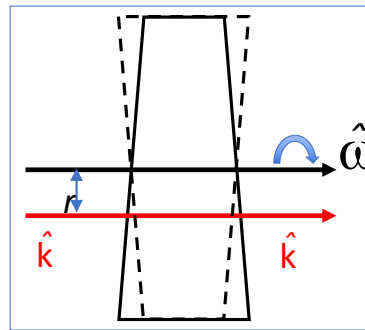
Generation of spurious harmonics from rotating HWPs

$$\alpha_{1,2}(\phi, T, r) = \alpha_{1,2}^{(0)}(T) + \alpha_{1,2}^{(1)} \cos \phi(t) + \alpha_{1,2}^{(2)} \cos 2\phi(t) + \dots$$

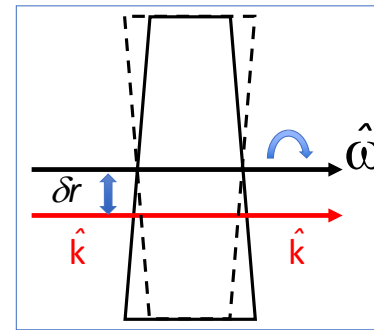
Temperature dependence of $\alpha_{1,2}^{(0)}(T) = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \int \Delta n \, dL$



ALIGNMENT



WEDGE β



WEDGE + OSCILLATION @ v_w

$$\alpha_{1,2}^{(1)} \approx \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta n \frac{D}{n^2} \vartheta_n \vartheta_k$$

$$\alpha_{1,2}^{(1)} \approx \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta n \Delta r_0 \beta$$

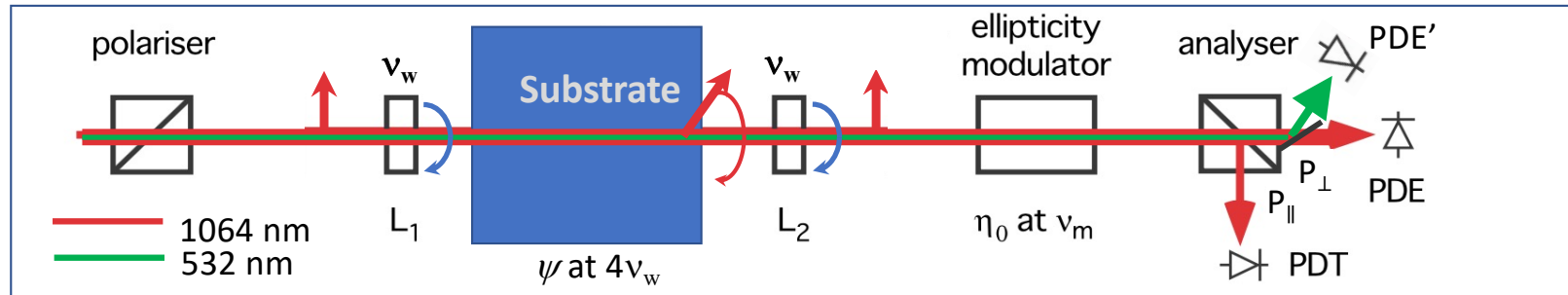
$$\alpha_{1,2}^{(2)} \approx \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta n \delta r \beta$$

$$\alpha_{1,2}^{(2)} \approx \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta n \frac{D}{4n^2} \vartheta_n^2 \vartheta_k^2$$

Generate 4th harmonic but can be controlled to $< 10^{-5}$ level corresponding to an optical path difference $\int \Delta n \, dL \lesssim 10^{-12} \text{ m}$

✓ The HWPs can be aligned separately using a frequency doubled laser @ 532 nm

Baseline scheme for substrate birefringence measurements



$$\psi(t) = \underbrace{\psi_0 \sin 4\phi(t)}_{\text{Signal @ } 4\nu_w} + \underbrace{\frac{\alpha_1(t)}{2} \sin 2\phi(t)}_{\substack{\text{Spurious signals} \\ \text{Contain harmonics of } \nu_w}} + \underbrace{\frac{\alpha_2(t)}{2} \sin[2\phi(t) + 2\Delta\phi(t)]}_{\substack{\text{Relative rotation phase error} \\ \text{Degrades extinction}}}$$

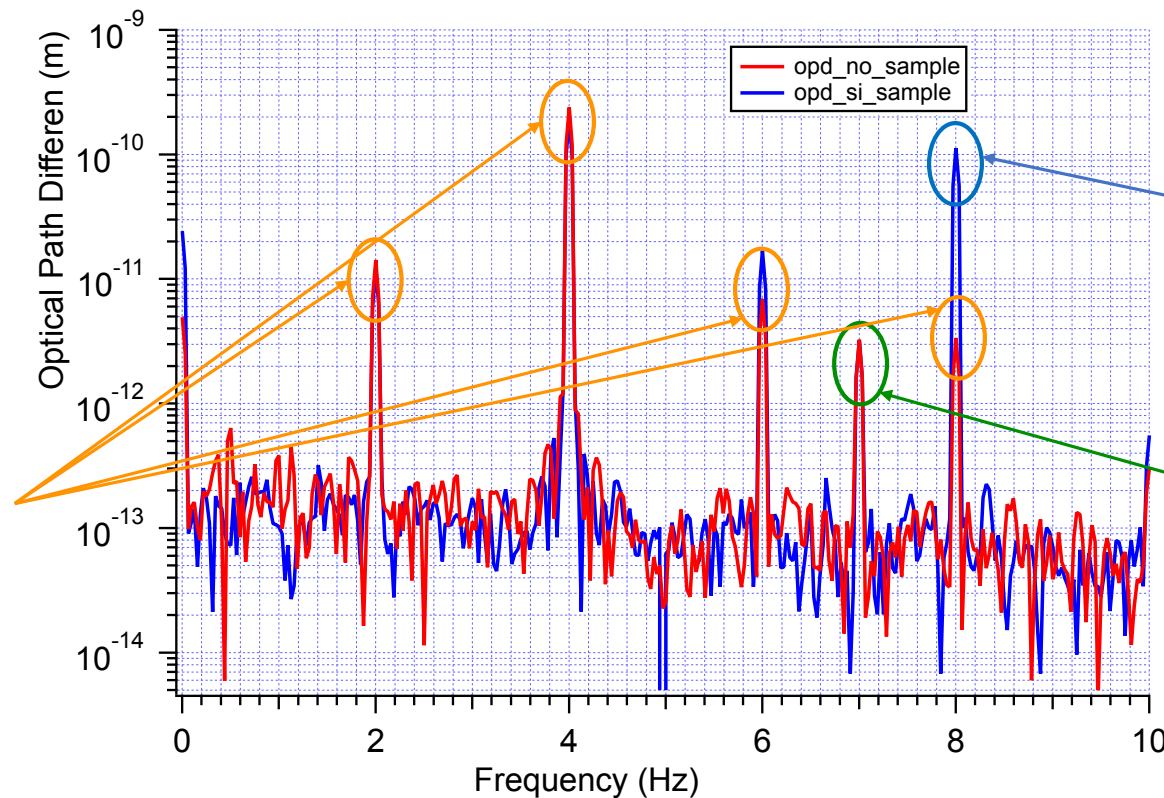
$\alpha_{1,2}$ are the phase errors from π of the two HWPs and $\phi(t)$ is their rotation angle

- ✓ 532 nm beam (HWP → FWP) allows independent alignment of the rotating HWPs to reduce 1st, 3rd and 4th harm.
- ✓ At 1064 nm, control the temperature of the wave-plates to reduce the dominating 2nd harmonic
- ✓ Reduced systematic peaks such that $\alpha_{1,2}^{(1,2,3)} \lesssim 10^{-4}$ at all relevant harmonics and in particular, for the 4th harmonic, $\alpha_{1,2}^{(4)} \lesssim 10^{-5}$. Can be subtracted vectorially → Ellipticity sensitivity $\psi_0 \approx 10^{-6}$
- ✓ Can produce X-Y 'maps' of the static average birefringence of a substrate: $\Delta n = \frac{\psi_0 \lambda}{\pi L}$
- ✓ Optical path difference sensitivity $S_{OPD} \lesssim 10^{-12} \text{ m}$
- ✓ Calibration with the Cotton-Mouton effect in air using a rotating 2.5 T permanent magnet

Example: spectrum of a 1-mm thick Si sample

$$OPD = \Delta n L = \frac{\psi_0 \lambda}{\pi}$$

Integration time = 32 s; Hanning window.

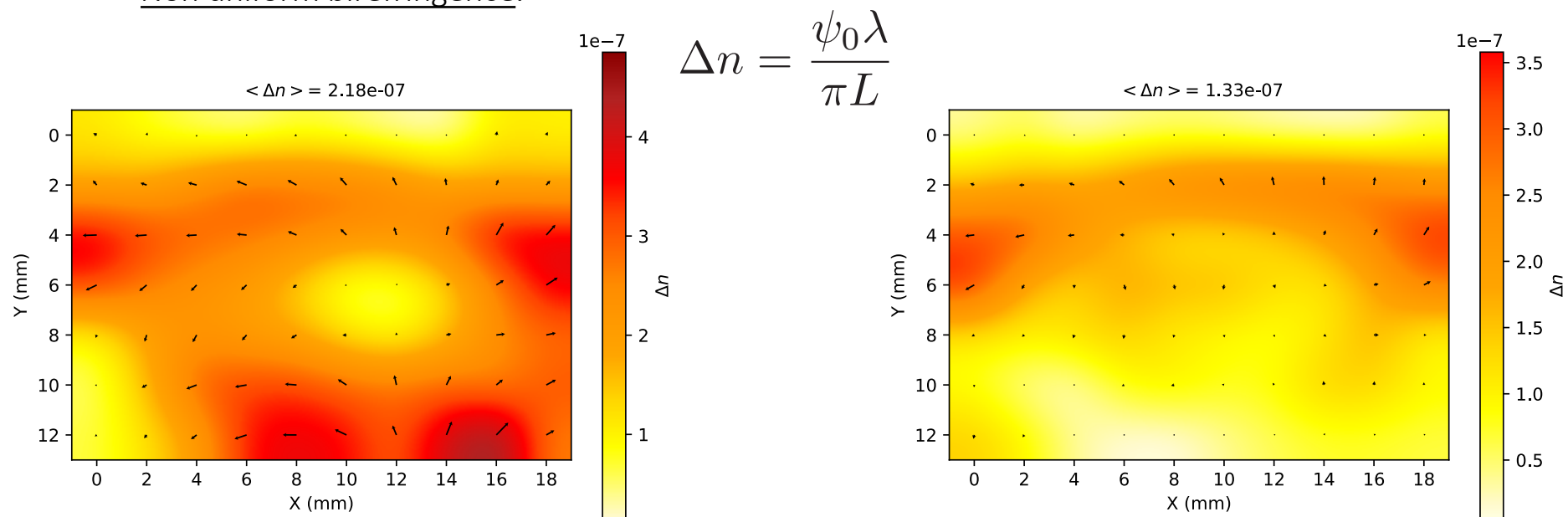


- Spurious harmonics from temperature and misalignment.

- Peak due to silicon birefringence:
 $\Delta n = 1.1 \times 10^{-7}$; $L = 1 \text{ mm}$
- Calibration Cotton-Mouton peak of air.
 $\Delta n = 3.9 \times 10^{-12}$; $L = 0.84 \text{ m}$

Example of birefringent map: first samples

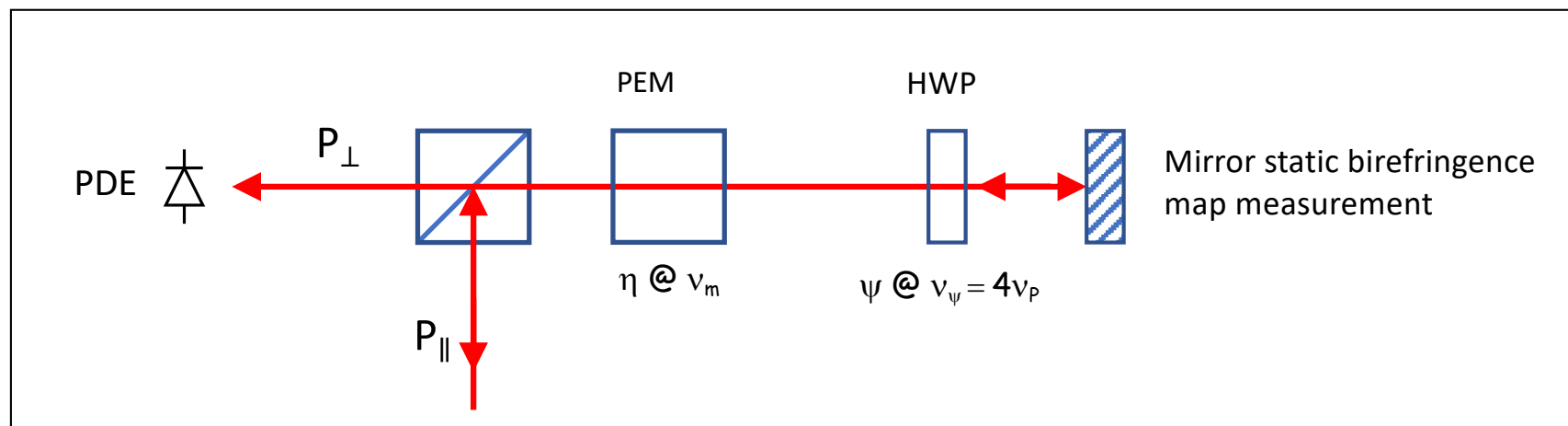
- Silicon crystal samples (100), L = 1-mm thick, 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm, cut in house from larger sample
- Measurements using 1064nm (significant absorption). Will be repeated with 1550nm
- Subtracted vectorially the waveplate contribution (small effect)
- Held with clamp from bottom edge (left): extra stress can be seen due to clamp.
- Held without clamp (right). Upper half maintains same optical path difference.
- Non uniform birefringence.



Reflective coating birefringence measurements

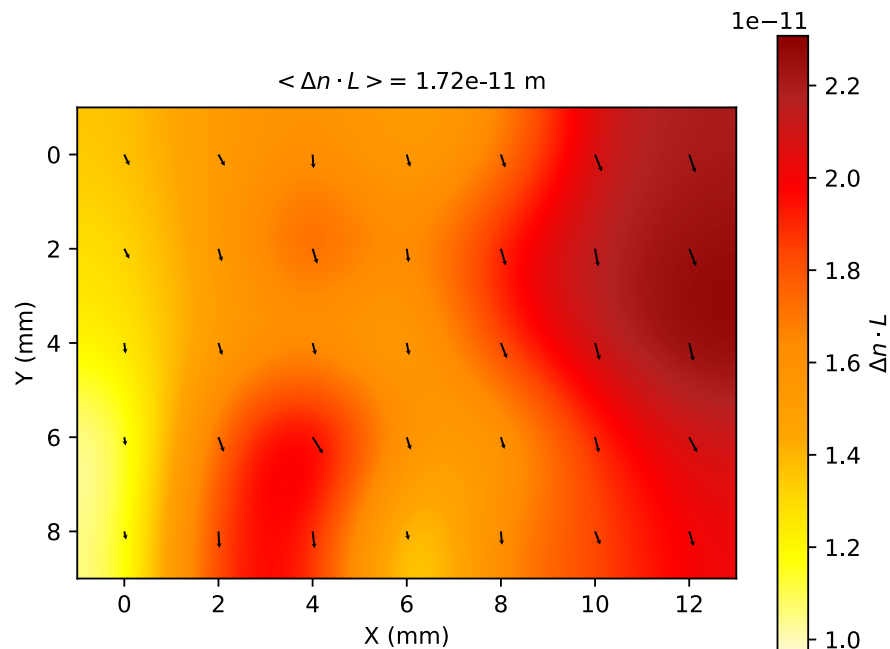
Reflection scheme for static birefringence maps of reflective coatings:

- At present we have a 1064 nm beam aligned.
- With a silver mirror the induced ellipticity is minimum and is, at present, associated to the rotating HWP.
- Will implement a 532 nm beam to distinguish the rotating HWP effect from the mirror effect.
- Will also introduce a rotating magnet for calibration.

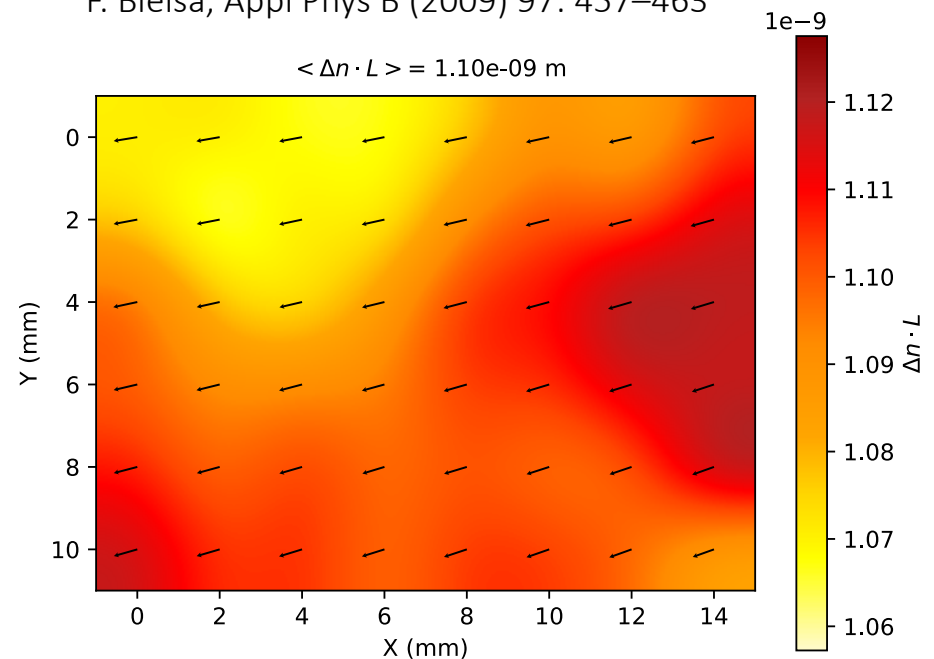


Example of birefringent map of coatings: first samples

- Silver mirror.
- Very low birefringence.
- Measured ellipticity is dominated by the rotating half-waveplate.



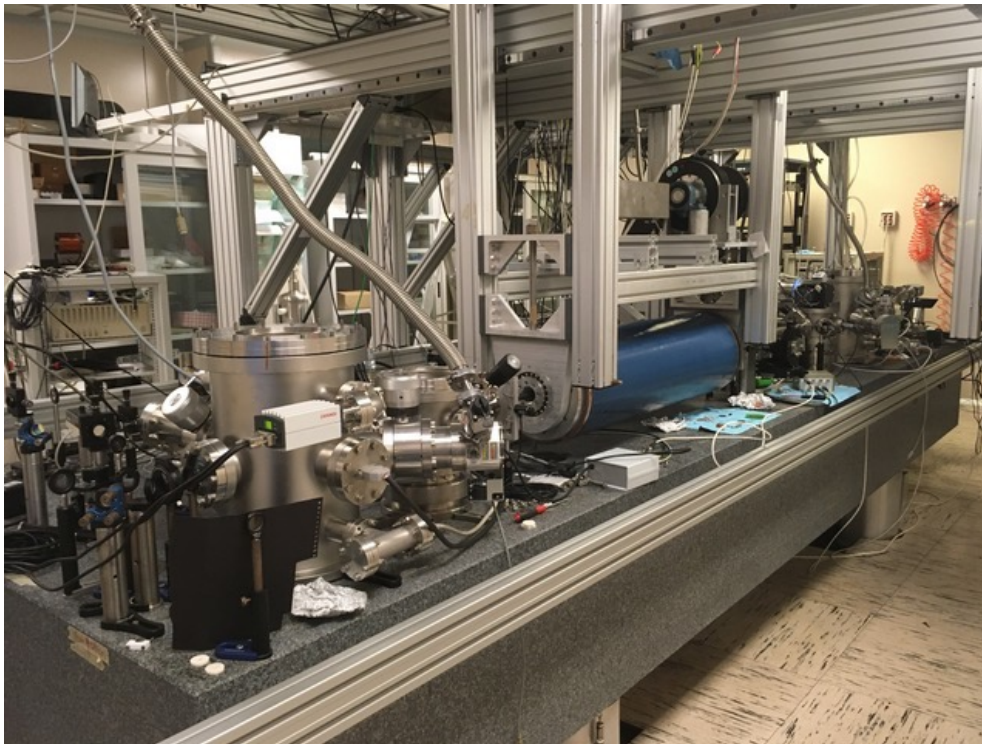
- Dielectric mirror with $T \approx 10^{-3}$. 'Uniform'.
- Polarization can be aligned in cavities.
- Higher reflectivity, lower birefringence. For $F \approx 10^5$, $\Delta n \cdot L \approx 3 \times 10^{-13} \text{ m}$.
- Brandi et al. Appl. Phys. B 65, 351–355 (1997);
F. Bielsa, Appl Phys B (2009) 97: 457–463



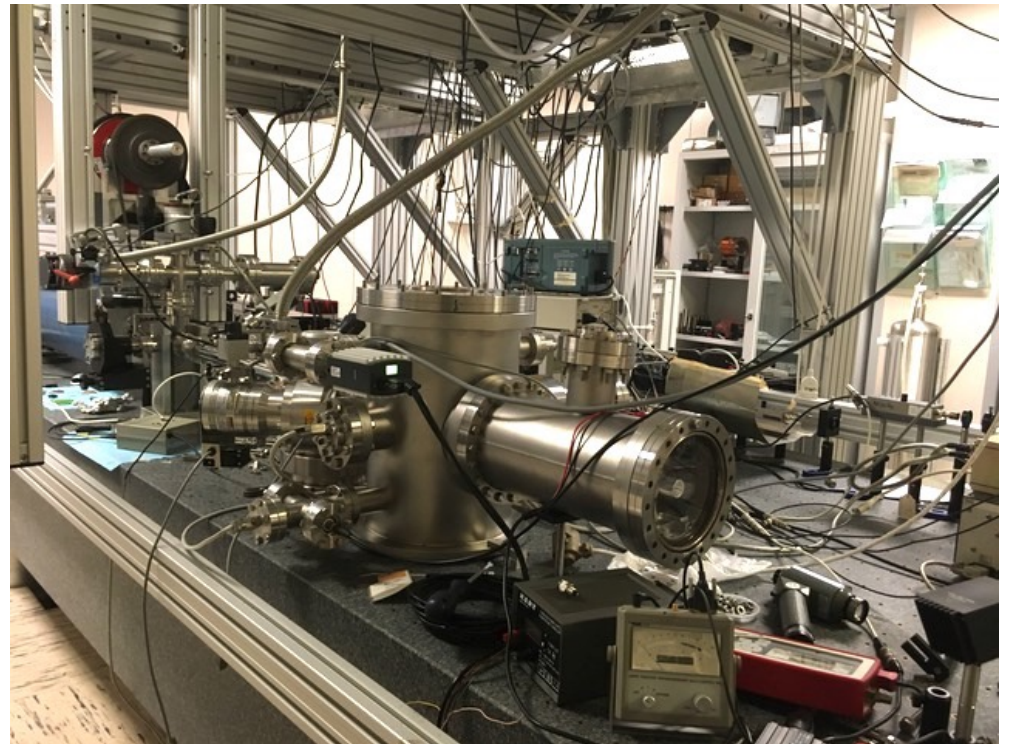
Pictures

At present being used with rotating HWPs.

General view from input side

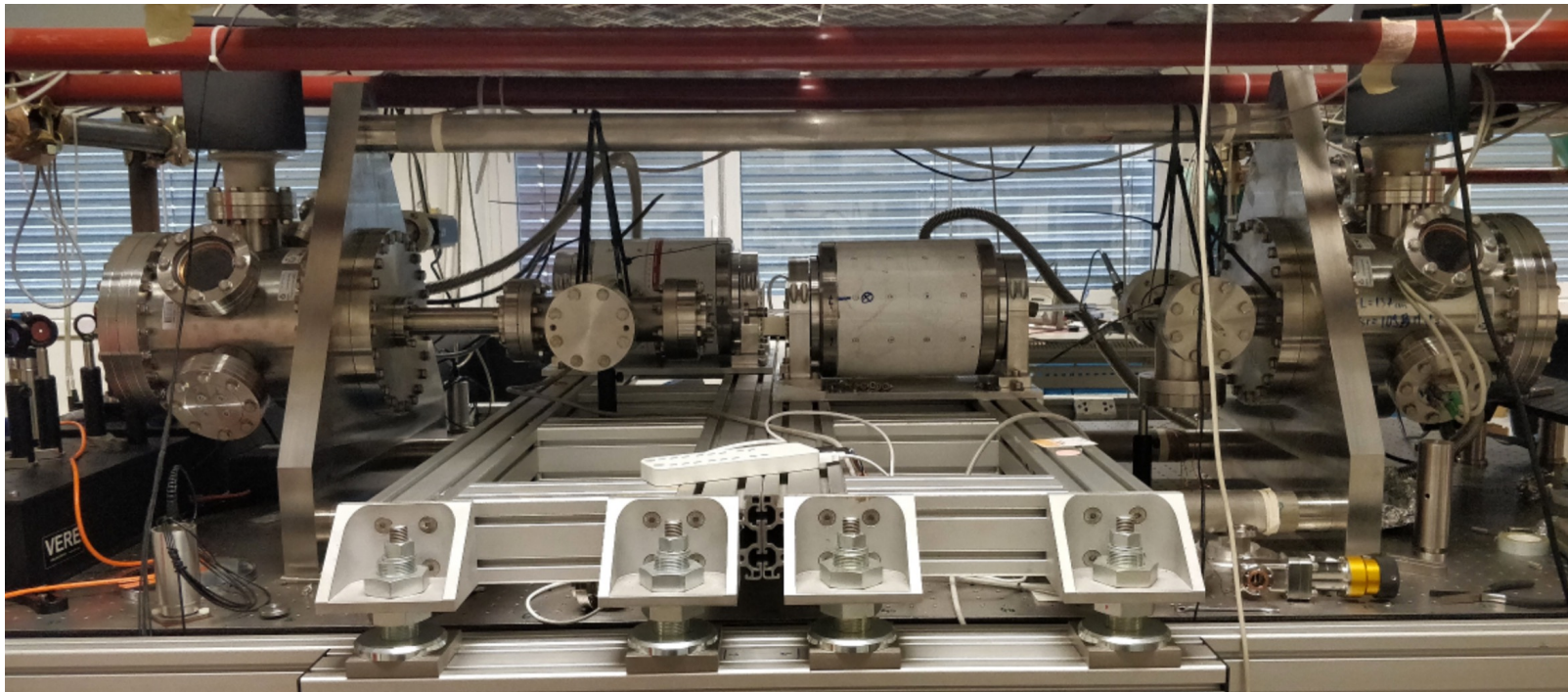


General view from output side



Pictures: lab2

Polarimeter at present being used with a low finesse cavity ($F \approx 3000$).



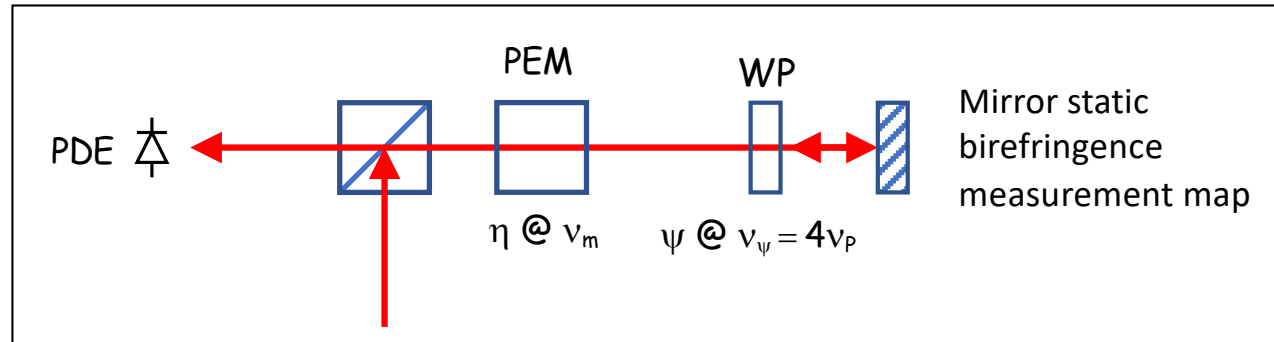
Near future: will be dedicated to birefringence measurements with the rotating HWPs at 1064nm and 1550nm.

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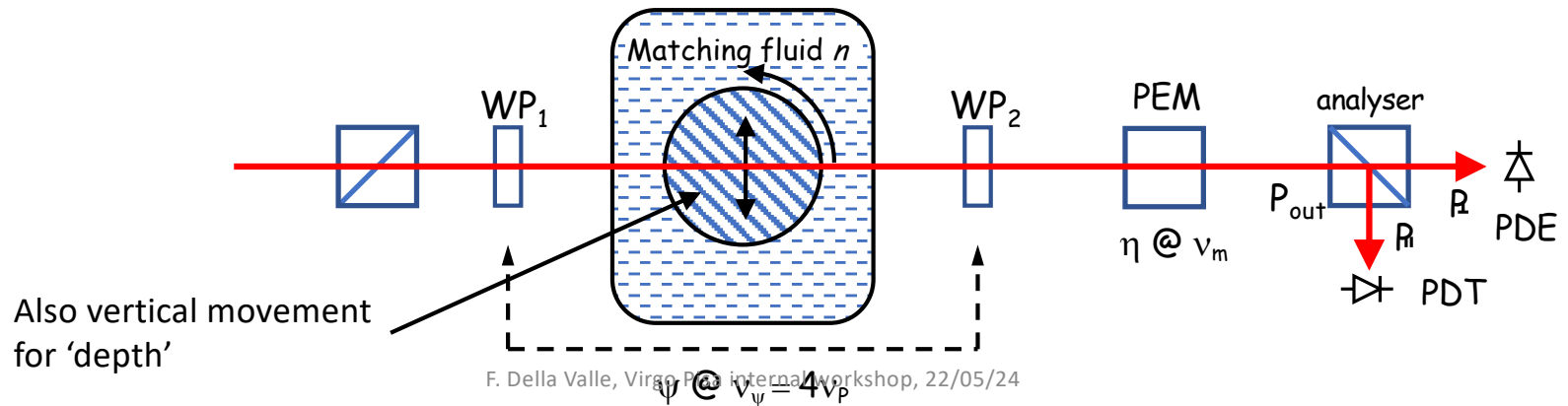
Thank you

To be implemented

Very near future:
Reflection scheme
for coatings

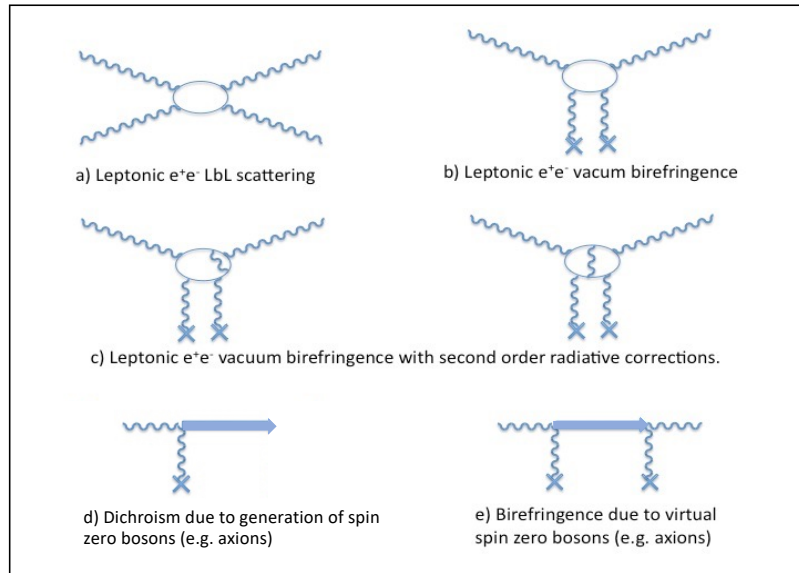


Near future: Birefringence measurements as a function of depth?
Is birefringence tomography possible?



Background work in sensitive polarimetry

Experimental study of the induced birefringence by an external magnetic field in vacuum



Light-by-light interaction and vacuum magnetic birefringence.
Must be there: $\Delta n = 4 \times 10^{-24} B^2$ with B in Tesla.
Includes MCPs

Radiative correction 1.45%

Contributions from hypothetical neutral light particles coupling to two photons: ALPs

Euler-Kockel-Heisenberg Lagrangian predicts VMB

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EK}} = \frac{1}{2\mu_0} \left(\frac{E^2}{c^2} - B^2 \right) + \frac{A_e}{\mu_0} \left[1 \left(\frac{E^2}{c^2} - B^2 \right)^2 + 7 \left(\frac{\vec{E}}{c} \cdot \vec{B} \right)^2 \right] + \dots$$

$$A_e = \frac{2}{45\mu_0} \frac{\alpha^2 \lambda_e^3}{m_e c^2} = 1.32 \times 10^{-24} \text{ T}^{-2}$$

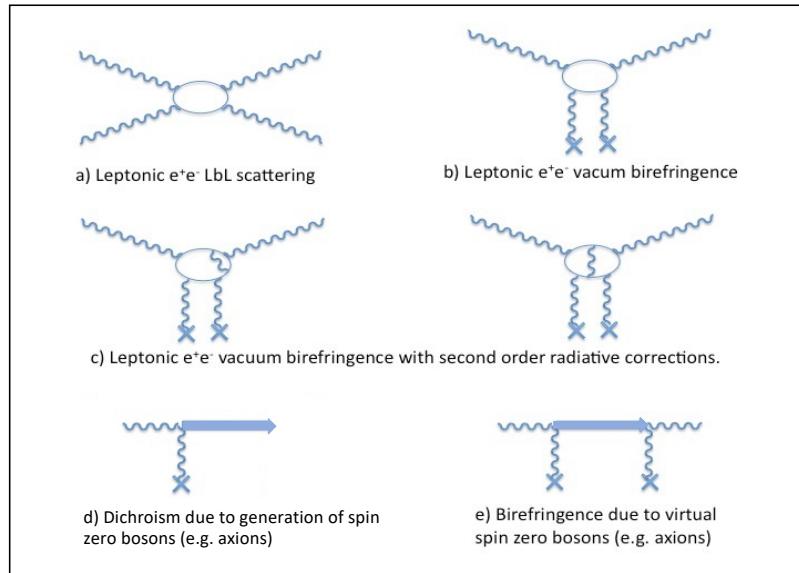
$$\Delta n = 3A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2$$

$$\text{@ } B_{\text{ext}} = 2.5 \text{ T}$$

$$\Delta n = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-23}$$

Background work in sensitive polarimetry

Experimental study of the speed of light in an external magnetic field in vacuum



Light-by-light interaction and vacuum magnetic birefringence.
Must be there: $\Delta n = 4 \times 10^{-24} B^2$ with B in Tesla.
Includes MCPs

Radiative correction 1.45%

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Euler-Kockel-Heisenberg Lagrangian predicts VMB

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21

$$\Delta n = 3A_e B_{\text{ext}}^2$$

@ $B_{\text{ext}} = 2.5 \text{ T}$
 $\Delta n = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-23}$

Comments and questions: 1

KAGRA

- Birefringence $\Delta n \approx 10^{-6}$ with 15 cm thick sapphire substrate. Projected 2D map
- Non uniform birefringence map of substrate (amplitude and direction). Phase shifts of 4 rad effect
- $\Delta n \approx 10^{-7}$ in silicon. Non uniform here too. For ET the desired thickness is 67 cm.
- ➔ Total phase shift ≈ 1 rad
- Is $\Delta n \approx 10^{-7}$ still too large? If uniform, align polarization with axis of system birefringence. If non uniform...

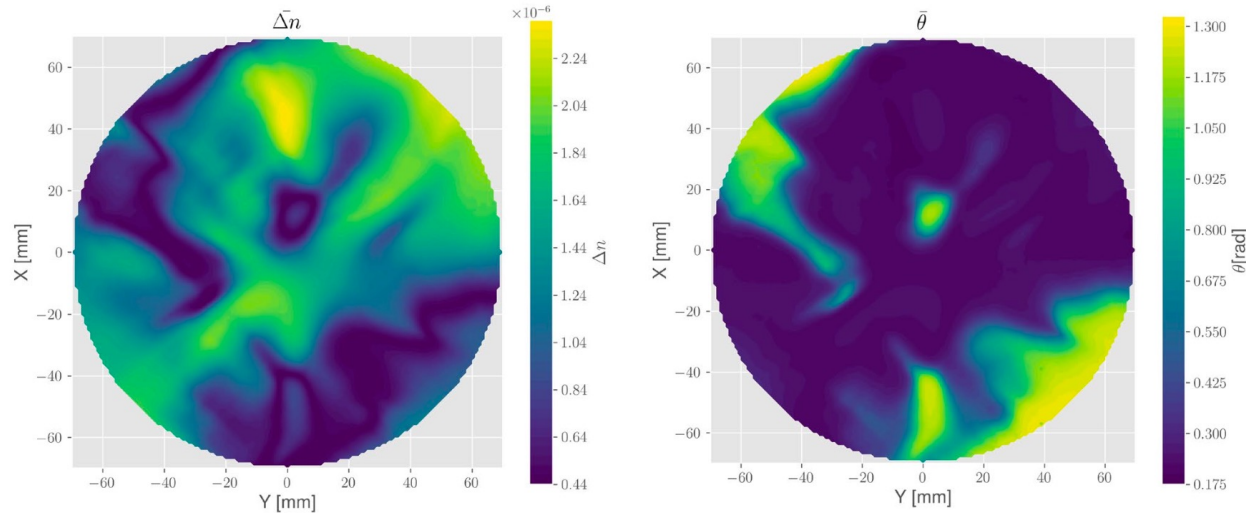


Figure 4. Mean distribution of both birefringence Δn and θ angle, calculated from the six input-polarization combinations which led to no miscalculations.

Comments and questions: 2

MIRRORS

- Our experience and other's too (Toulouse BMV group) have found that the static birefringence of coatings:

$$\Delta n_{\text{high finesse}} < \Delta n_{\text{low finesse}}$$

- There seems to be a 'more' uniform map compared to substrates (over \approx few centimeters).
- Origin not clear. C. Rizzo's, Toulouse, group attribute to first layer near substrate (F. Bielsa, Appl Phys B (2009) 97: 457–463).
- With stoichiometry of silicon nitride coatings one can control stress on silicon. Maybe birefringence of mirrors with silicon nitride?
- In our Fabry-Perot based polarimeters the static mirror birefringences were oriented to subtract each other and the polarisation aligned to the axis of the cavity as a whole. In this way the two eigenmodes of the cavity are almost superimposed.

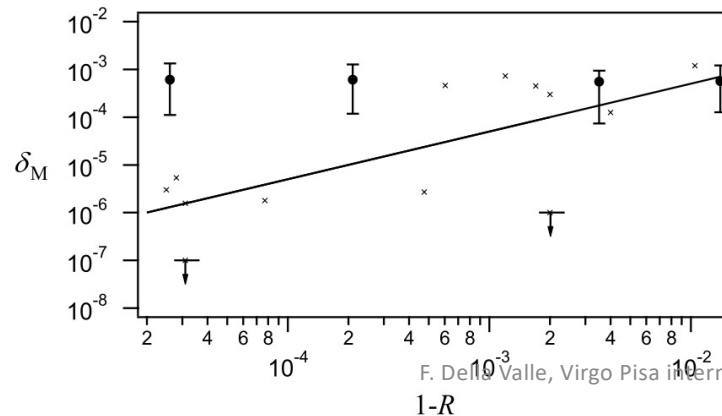
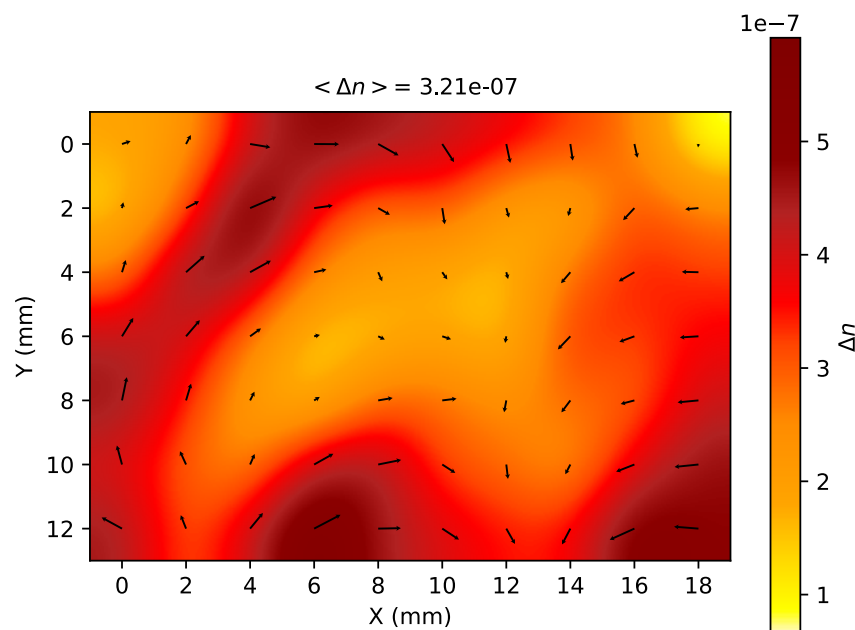


Fig. 6 Two different numerical calculations for the induced phase retardation per reflection as a function of $(1 - R)$. *Solid curve*: birefringence only for the first layer just after the substrate. *Dots with error bars*: calculation with random birefringence per each layer. *Crosses*: measurements plotted in Fig. 3

Example of birefringent map: first examples

- Silicon crystal samples (100), L = 1 mm thick, 3x3 cm, cut in house
- Measurements using 1064nm (significant absorption). Will be repeated with 1550nm
- Held from bottom edge: extra stress can be seen due to clamp like in the previous sample.
- Residual stress at edges from cutting of samples?
- This particular sample had a broken corner. Other than the clamp effect (bottom) residual stress is seen.



$$\Delta n = \frac{\psi_0 \lambda}{\pi L}$$

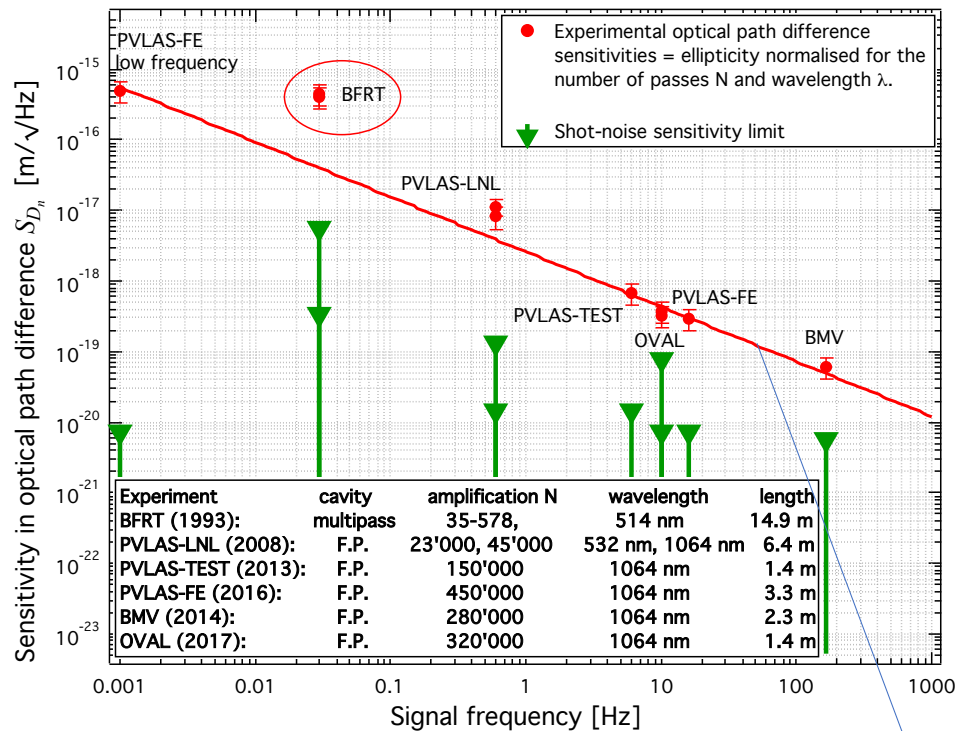
Induced birefringence from stress

- Residual stress will generate a (static) birefringence map inside the sample
- External stress will also generate a birefringence

$$\Delta n = C_{\text{SOC}} (\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)$$

- C_{SOC} = Stress optic coefficient [Pa^{-1}], σ_1 and σ_2 stress along perpendicular directions [Pa]
- Typical values of stress optic coefficient: $C_{\text{SOC}} \approx 10^{-12} \text{Pa}^{-1}$
- Fused silica: $3.4 \times 10^{-12} \text{Pa}^{-1}$
- Crystalline Silicon (axes): $(0.6 \div 1) \times 10^{-12} \text{Pa}^{-1}$
- Some initial work done for stress induced birefringence in Silicon as ET-LF substrate:
C. Krüger et al. Class. Quantum Grav. 33 (2016) 015012
- Sapphire: could not find a value for C_{SOC} .

Intrinsic mirror birefringence noise

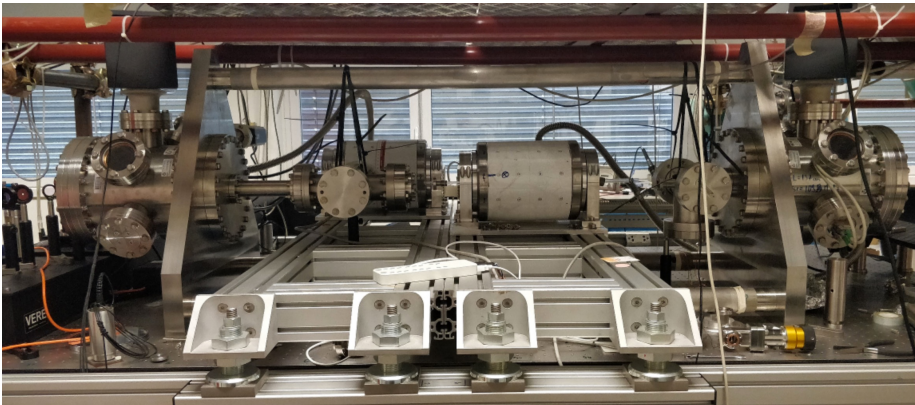


- No experimental effort has reached shot-noise sensitivity (green) with a high finesse F.P.
- There seems to be a common problem afflicting all experiments
- This noise seems to be an intrinsic property of the cavity mirrors (thermal noise in the tantala layers)
- With low finesse one does reach shot-noise.
The limit is not the heterodyne method

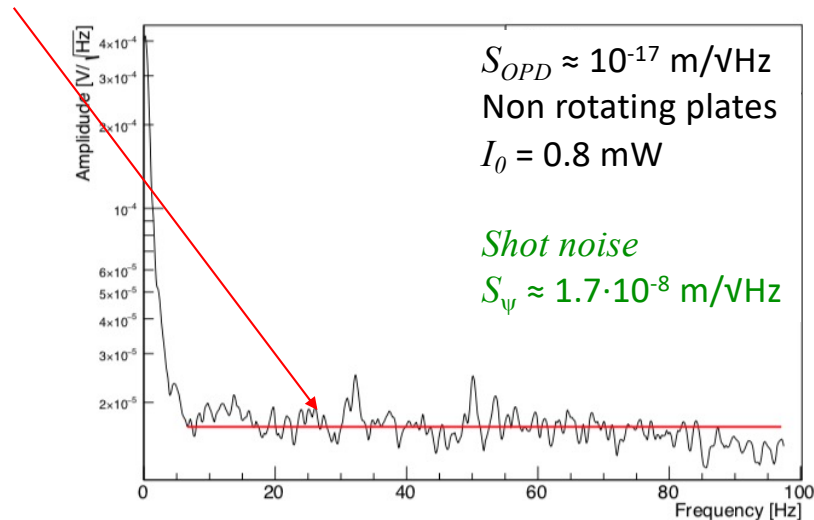
$$S_{\text{OPD}} \approx 2.6 \times 10^{-18} \nu^{-0.77} \text{ m}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}} \quad \text{intrinsic noise}$$

Noise with non-rotating HWPs inside the F.P.

- Important issue: Could a static birefringence from the HPWs degrade the sensitivity?
- Laser locking worked normally
- Measured a finesse of $F = 850$
- Sensitivity did not degrade with the presence of the HWPs and was compatible with shot-noise



Mirror birefringence $\approx 10^{-6}$ /reflection



$OPD_{\text{mirrors}} \approx 10^{-12}$ m per reflection ($\approx 1 \mu\text{m}$ thick)

$OPD_{\text{intrinsic}}$ in experiments $> 10^{-19}$ m/VHz

$\Rightarrow OPD_{\text{intrinsic}}/OPD_{\text{mirrors}} > 10^{-7}$ 1/VHz

$\Delta n_{\text{quartz}} = 0.01$: thickness ≈ 1 mm $\Rightarrow OPD_{\text{quartz}} \approx 10^{-5}$ m $\Rightarrow S_{OPD} \approx (OPD_{\text{intrinsic}}/OPD_{\text{mirrors}}) \cdot OPD_{\text{quartz}} \approx 10^{-13}$ m/VHz

If the OPD noise was proportional to the absolute OPD \Rightarrow sensitivity would have been $\approx 10^{-13}$ m/VHz

HWP defect issues: temperature and alignment

$$\psi(t) = \underline{\psi_0 \sin 4\phi(t)} + \frac{\alpha_1(t)}{2} \sin 2\phi(t) + \frac{\alpha_2(t)}{2} \sin[2\phi(t) + 2\Delta\phi(t)]$$

Generating 4th harmonic from $\alpha_{1,2}(t)$ in $\psi(t)$: Expansion of the intrinsic HWP defects $\alpha_{1,2}(t)$:

$$\alpha_{1,2}(\phi, \mathbf{T}, r) = \alpha_{1,2}^{(0)}(\mathbf{T}) + \alpha_{1,2}^{(1)}(\mathbf{r}(t)) \cos \phi(t) + \alpha_{1,2}^{(2)} \cos 2\phi(t) + \dots$$

- $\alpha^{(0)}_{1,2}$ (from manufacturer) depends on TEMPERATURE \mathbf{T} and appears @ 2nd harmonic in $\psi(t)$
- $\alpha^{(1)}_{1,2}$ depends on WEDGE of wave-plates and their ALIGNMENT: appears @ 1st and 3rd harmonic in $\psi(t)$
- $\alpha^{(2)}_{1,2}$ depends on ALIGNMENT generating 4th harmonic in $\psi(t)$ just like a birefringence signal.
- Time modulation of $\alpha^{(1)}_{1,2}$ due to transverse axis oscillation will also generate a 4th harmonic in $\psi(t)$

$$r(t) = r_0 + \delta r \cos(\phi(t) + \phi_{\delta r})$$

The resulting ellipticity is the combination of the two HWPs.

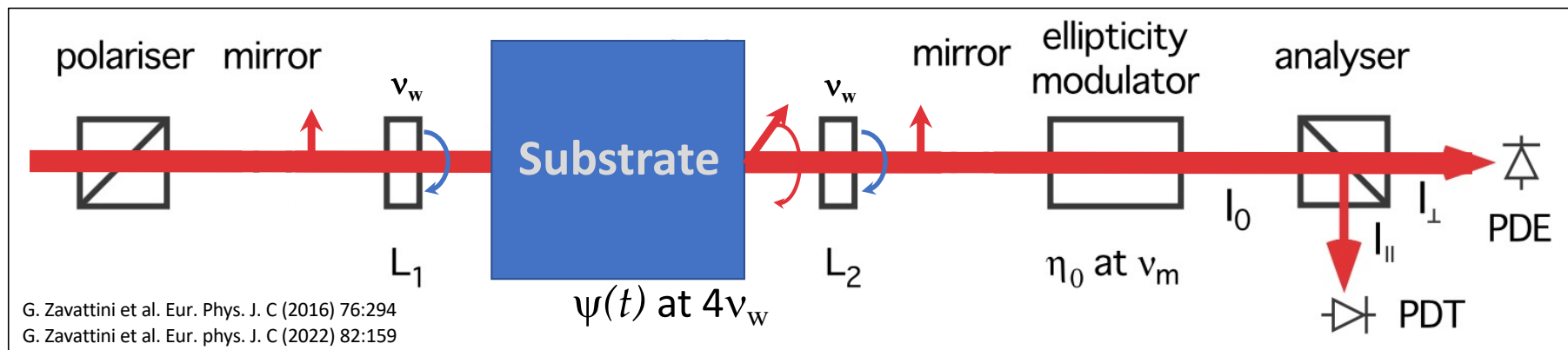
✓ They can be aligned separately using a frequency doubled laser @ 532 nm

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Substrate birefringence measurements

Polarisation modulation scheme

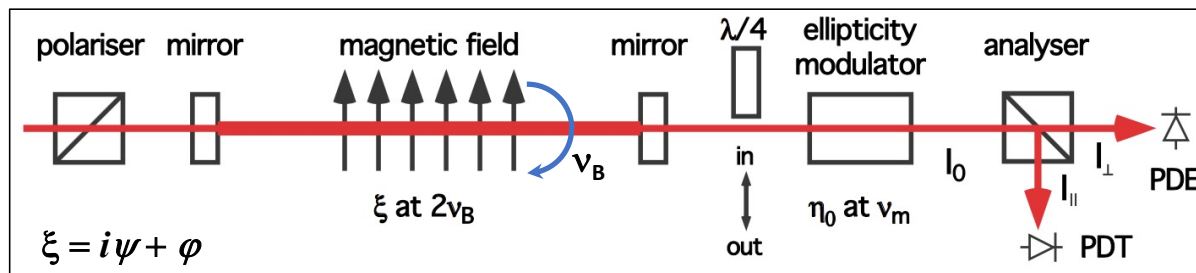
- Method: rotate polarisation inside the substrate. Developed for the VMB@CERN experiment
- Insert two co-rotating half wave plates @ ν_w with a fixed relative angle $\Delta\phi$
- Heterodyne detection linearizes the ellipticity $\psi(t)$ to be measured.
- We have 1064 nm working system and are buying a new 1550 nm laser (Thorlabs ULN15TK)



$$I_{\text{out}} \simeq I_0 \left\{ \eta^2(t) + 2\eta(t)\psi(t) + 2\eta(t)\Gamma(t) + \dots \right\}$$

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General scheme



F. Della Valle et al. Eur. Phys. J. C (2016) 76:24

A. Ejlli et al. Physics Reports 871 (2020) 1–74

- L is the length of the birefringent medium (in our experiment $\Delta n_B \propto B^2$)
- Single pass ellipticity: $\psi = \frac{\pi \Delta n_B L}{\lambda} \sin 2\vartheta(t) = \psi_0 \sin 2\vartheta(t)$
- The Fabry-Perot cavity amplifies ψ by a factor $N = 2\mathcal{F}/\pi$. We had $\mathcal{F} = 7 \times 10^5$.
- The ellipticity modulator allows heterodyne detection which linearizes the ellipticity ψ to be measured and allows the distinction between a rotation and an ellipticity. The insertion of the $\lambda/4$ wave plate allows measuring rotations.
- The rotating magnetic field modulates the desired signal due to VMB

$$I_{\text{out}} \simeq I_0 \left\{ \eta^2(t) + 2\eta(t)\psi(t) + 2\eta(t)\Gamma(t) + \dots \right\}$$

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