Schematic of adaptive optics system

Light From
Telescope

Adaptive
Mirror

Distorted
Wavefront

Feedback loop:
next cycle
corrects the
(small) errors of
the last cycle

Control
System

Beamsplitter

Corrected
Wavefront

Wavefront
Sensor

High-resolution
Camera
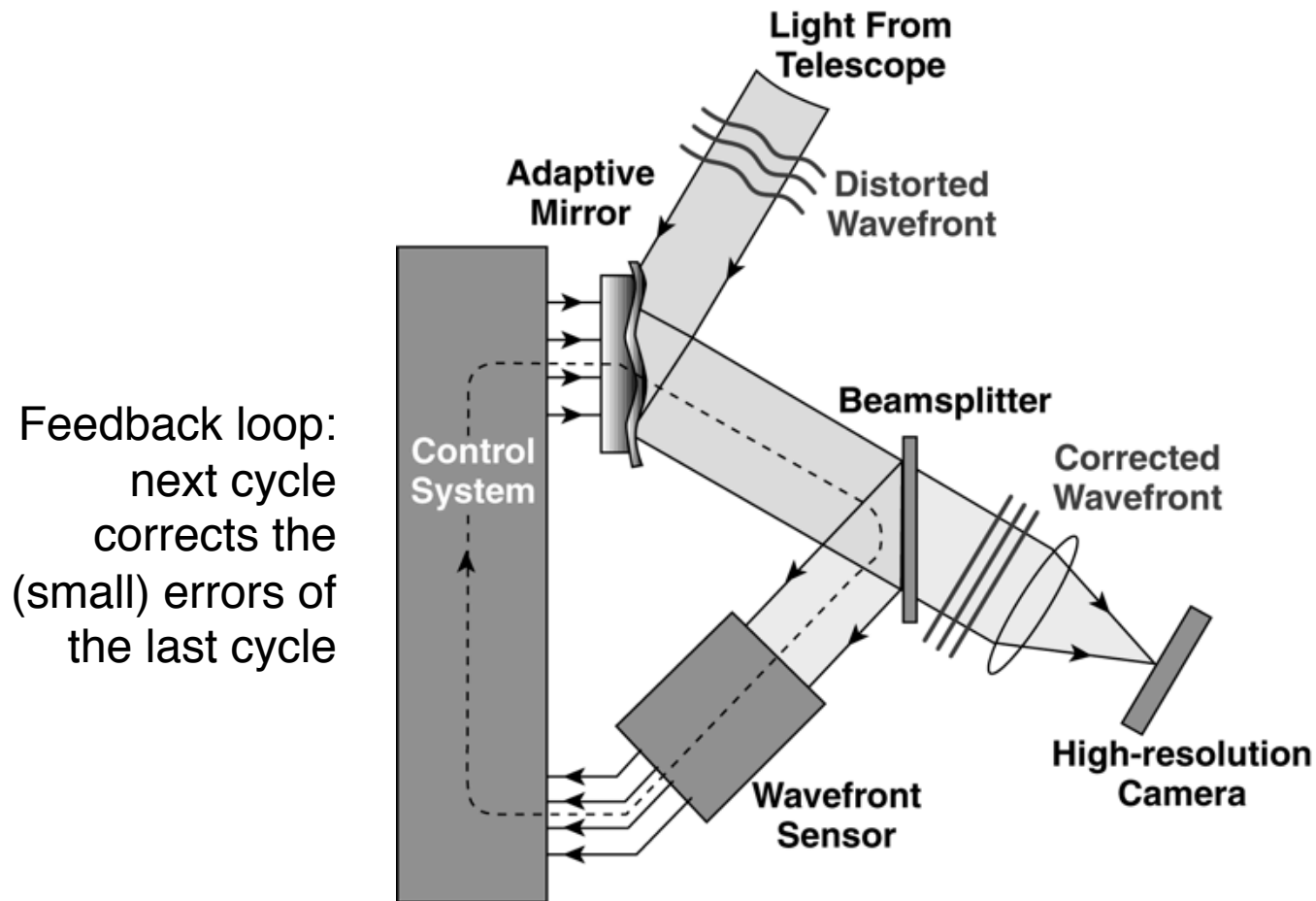
e.g. SHACK-HARTMANN WAVEFRONT SENSOR
or PYRAMID WAVEFRONT SENSOR