



Testbed for Validating Second-Generation TDI and Clock Noise Correction for LISA

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THE SPECTRUM OF GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

Observatories
& experiments

Ground-based
experiment



Space-based observatory



Pulsar timing array



Cosmic microwave
background polarisation



Timescales

milliseconds

seconds

hours

years

billions of years

Frequency (Hz)

100

1

10^{-2}

10^{-4}

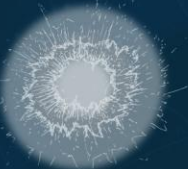
10^{-6}

10^{-8}

10^{-16}

Cosmic fluctuations in the early Universe

Cosmic
sources



Supernova



Pulsar



Compact object falling
onto a supermassive
black hole



Merging supermassive black holes



Merging neutron
stars in other galaxies

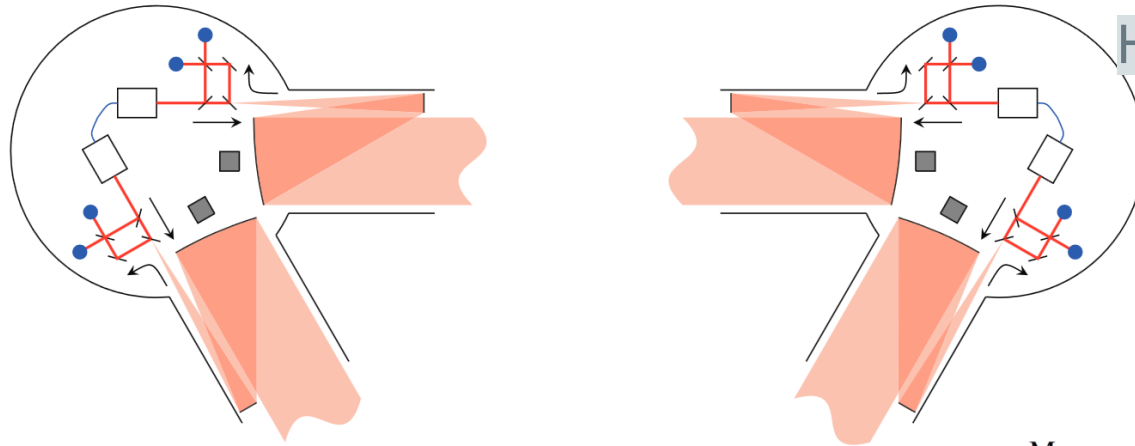


Merging stellar-mass black holes
in other galaxies



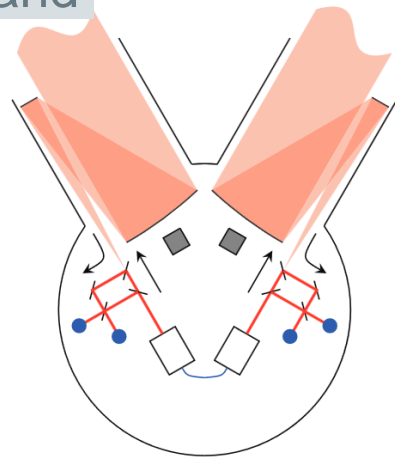
Merging white dwarfs
in our Galaxy

The LISA Satellites

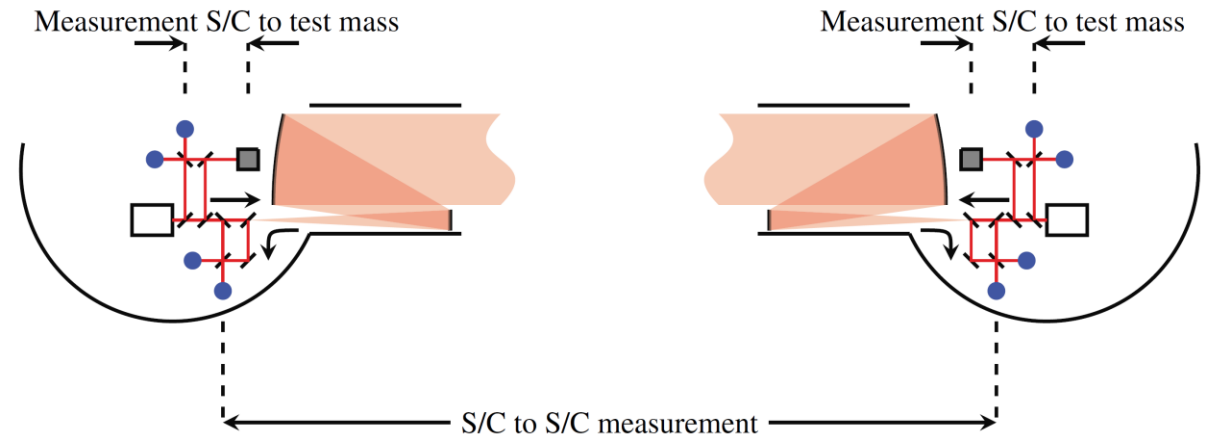


Heterodyne interferometry

Unequal arm lengths and
laser frequency noise



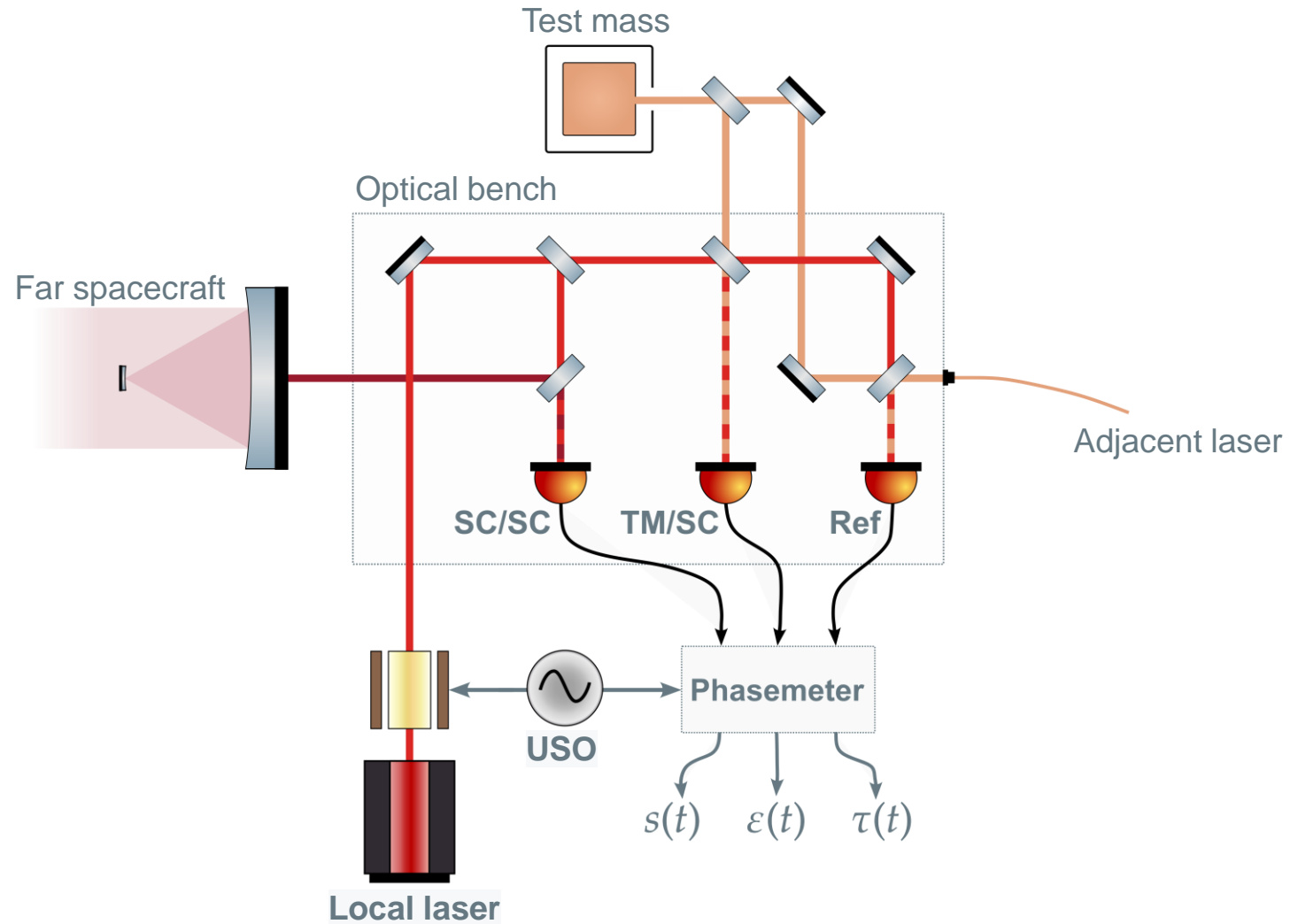
Split interferometry



LISA Interferometric Metrology System



MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
FÜR GRAVITATIONSPHYSIK
(Albert-Einstein-Institut)



USO – Ultra Stable Oscillator

$s(t)$ – science beat note

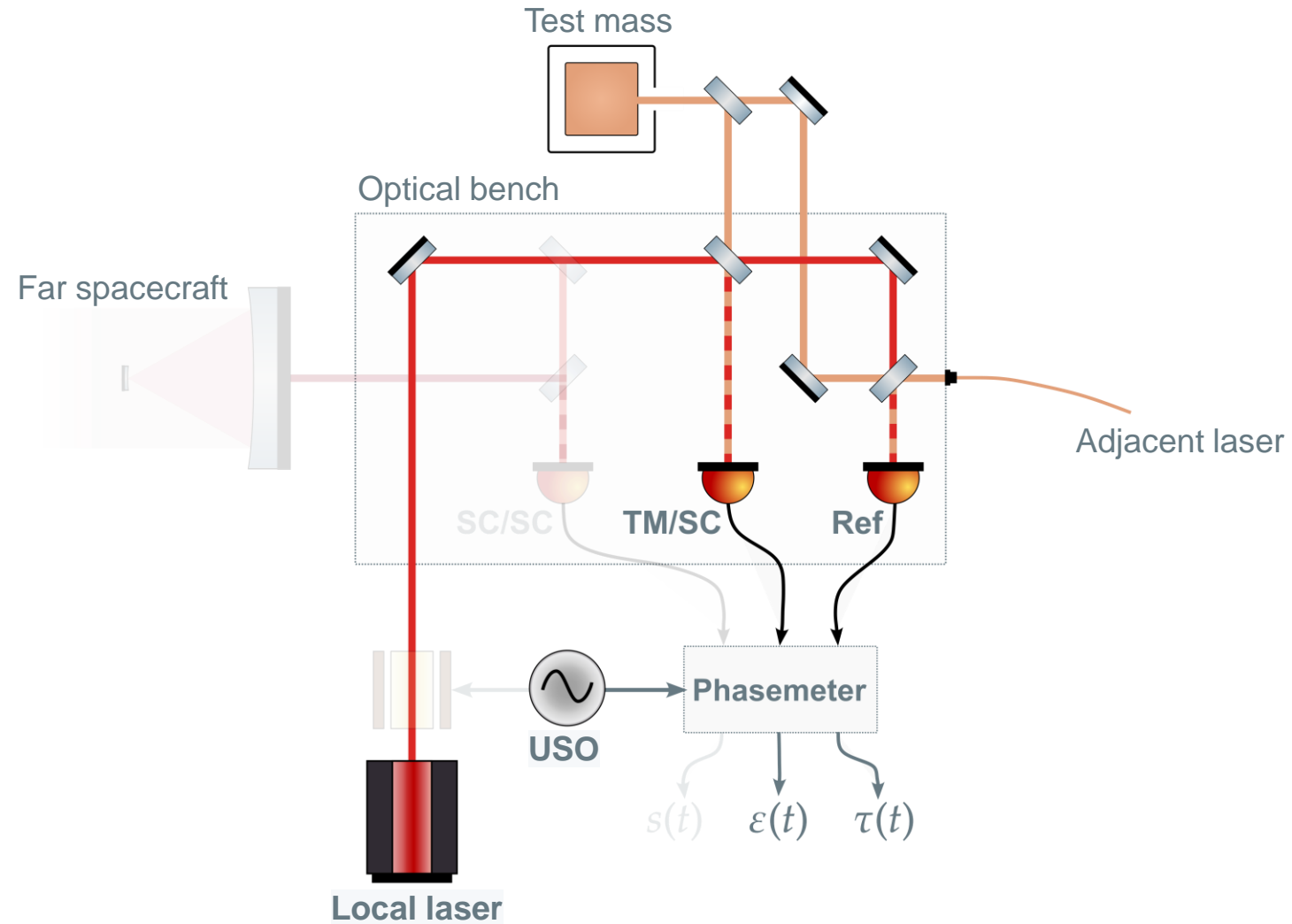
$\varepsilon(t)$ – test mass beat note

$\tau(t)$ – reference beat note

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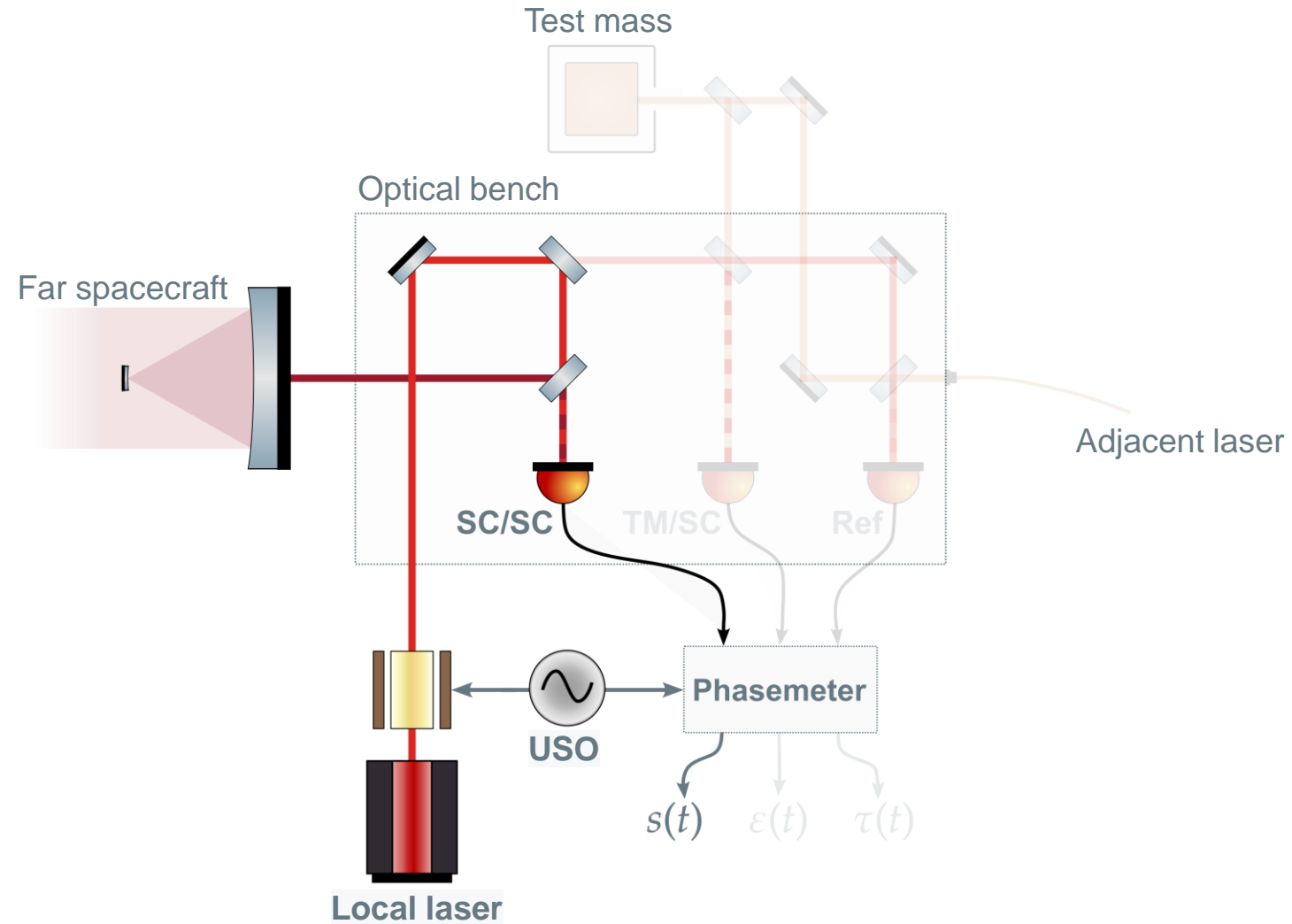
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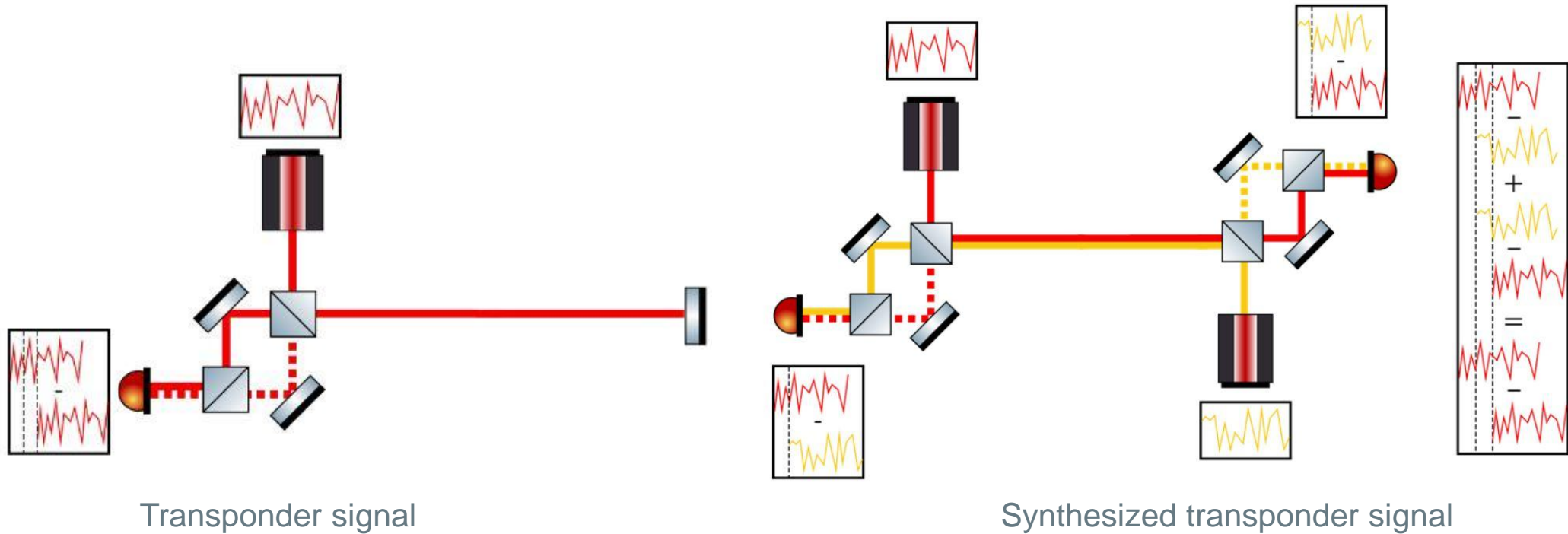
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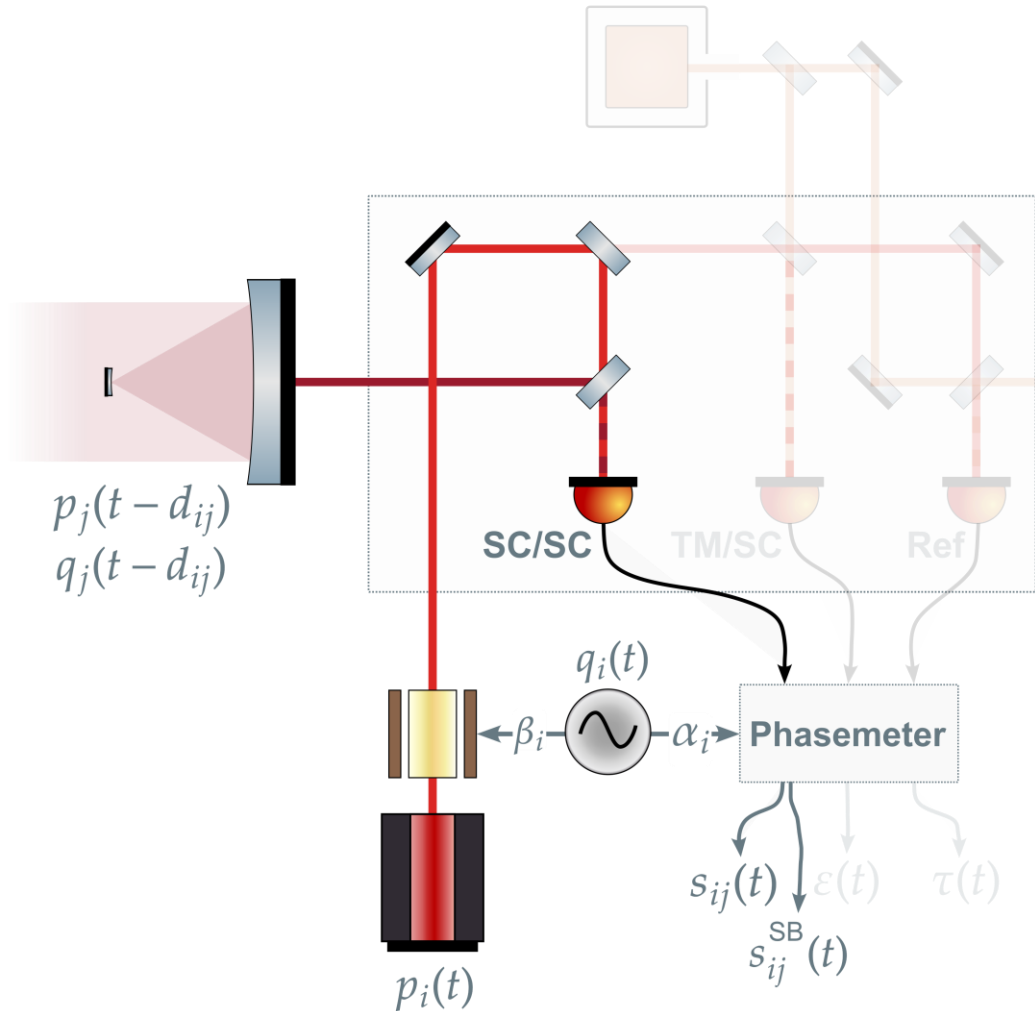
Laser Noise Reduction via TDI



Time Delay Interferometry (TDI) is a cluster of methods to construct virtual equal arms in post-processing.



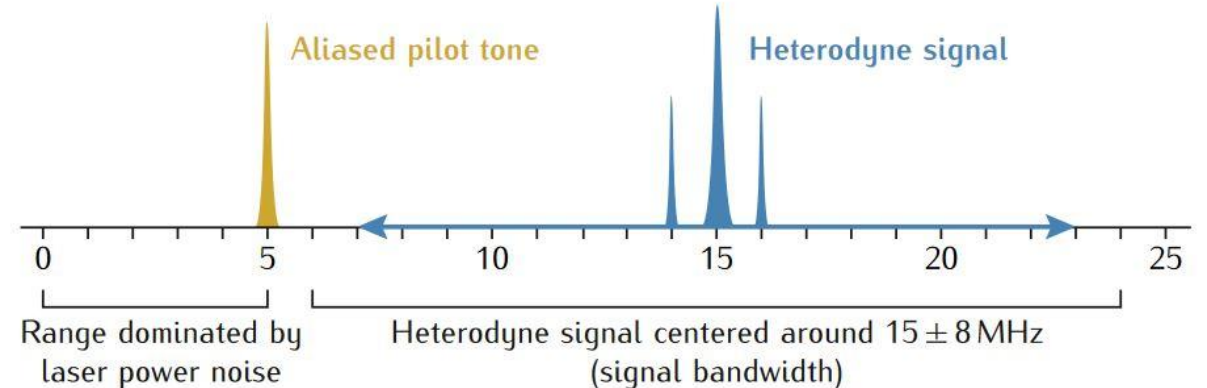
Clock Noise Reduction



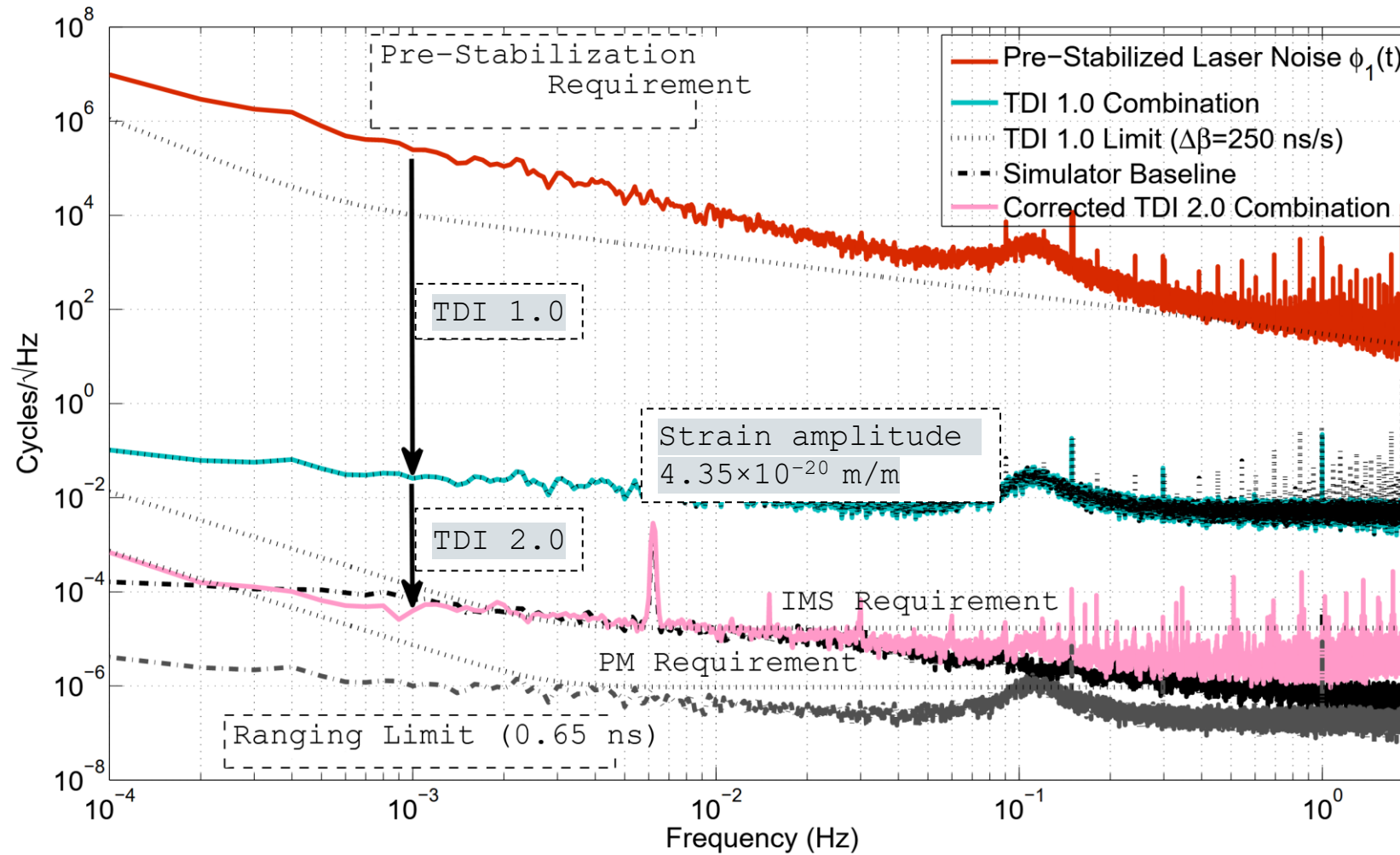
After demodulation, considering laser noise and clock jitter:

$$s_{ij}(t) = p_i(t) - p_j(t - d_{ij}) + \alpha_i q_i(t)$$

$$s_{ij}^{SB}(t) = p_i(t) - p_j(t - d_{ij}) + \beta_i q_i(t) - \beta_j q_j(t - d_{ij}) + \alpha_i^{SB} q_i(t)$$



Previous Experiment



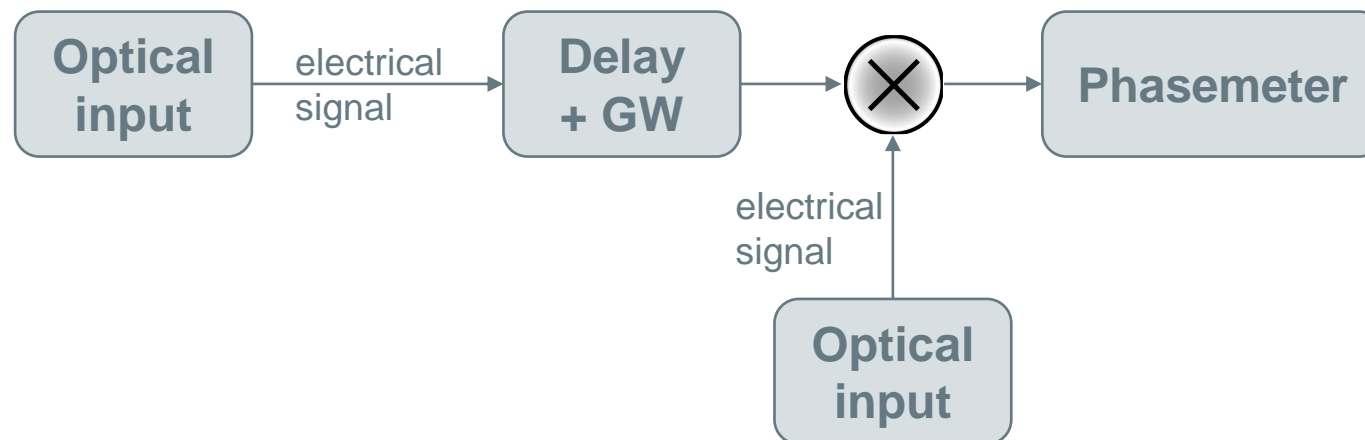
miniLISA



miniLISA is a hardware testbed that aims to simulate LISA's signal chain and test whether we can recover a gravitational wave signal from a realistic, noisy system.

To start with, we want to test the combination of **second generation TDI** and the **clock noise removal** post-processing methods on **experimental data**.

miniLISA could also offer a substitute to modelled noise sources included in current data analysis.

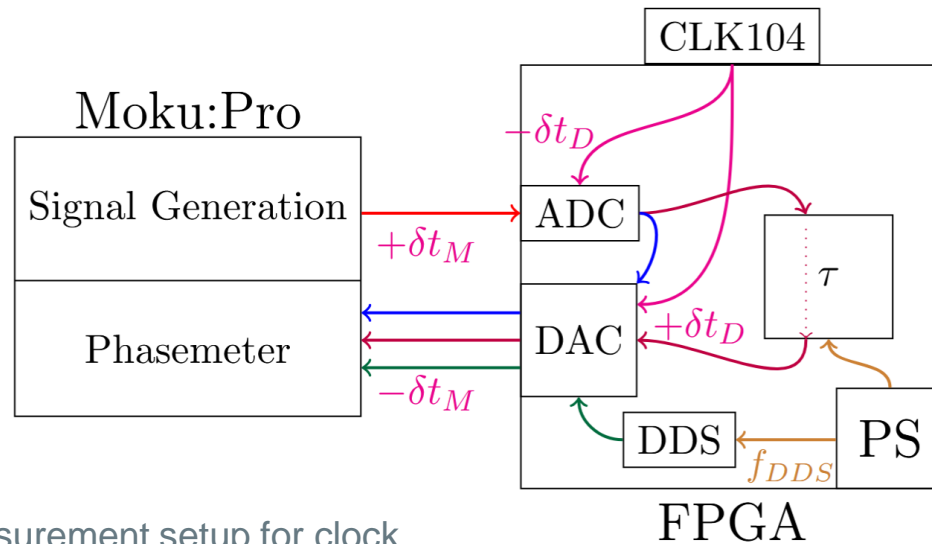


Current Status



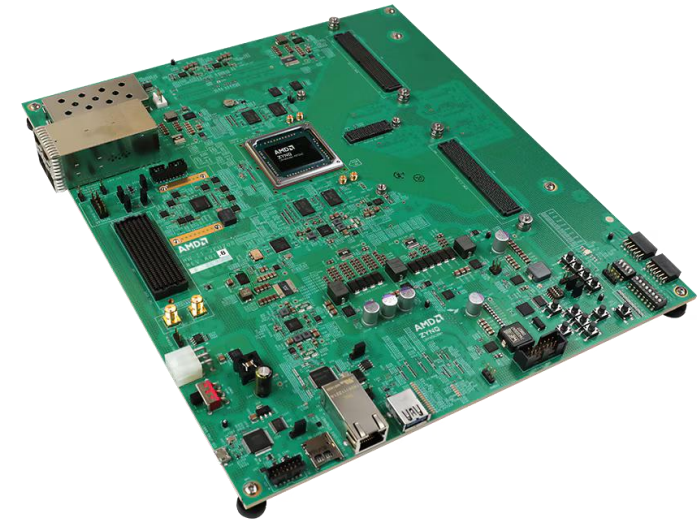
A fully electronic implementation of the interferometry system together with a delay and gravitational wave injection has already been developed and is being tested.

- Time varying delays
- Doppler shifts for both the carrier and sidebands
- Gravitational wave injection



Measurement setup for clock jitter analysis in the delay line

Ferguson, 2025

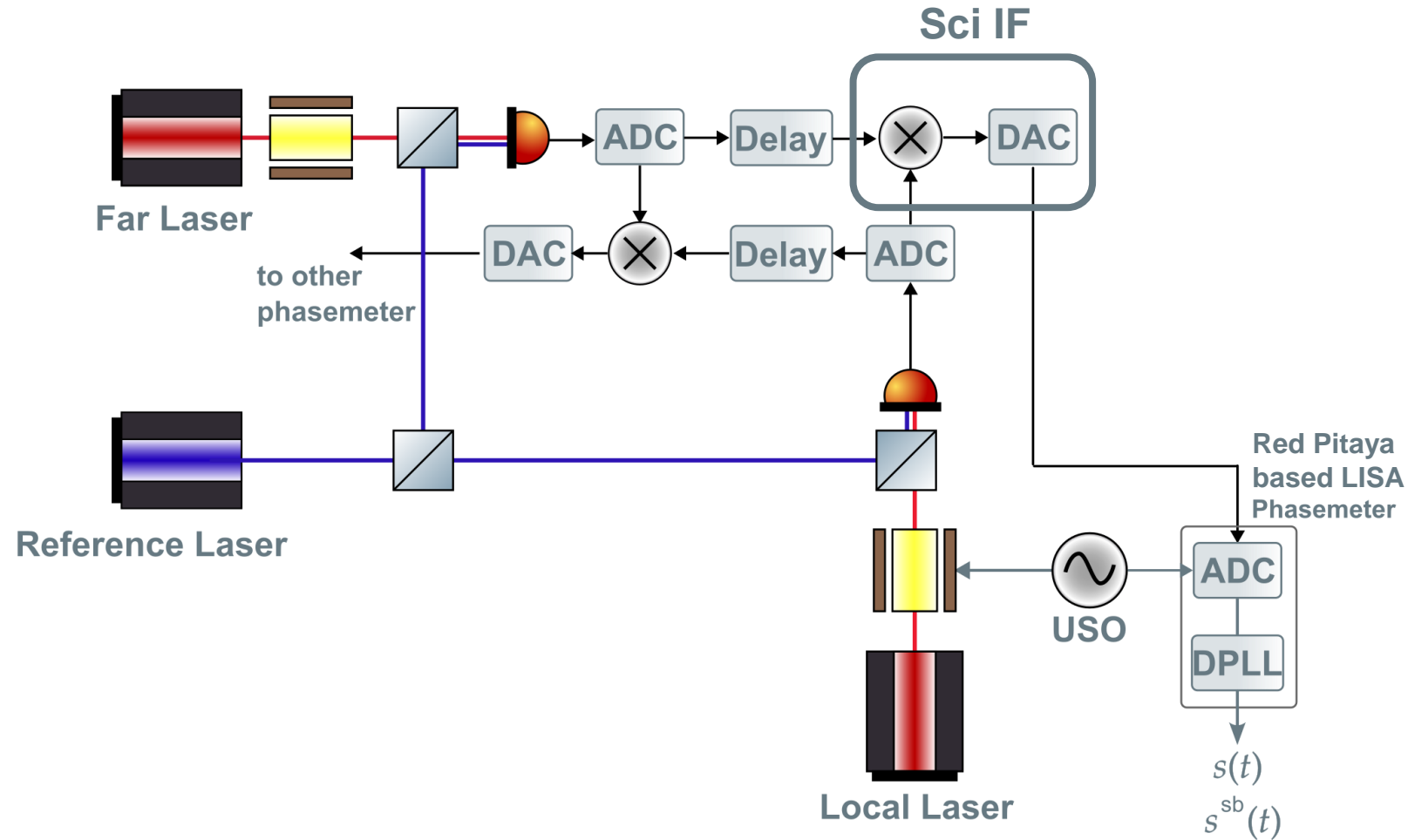


AMD Zynq™ UltraScale+™ RFSoc ZCU208 Evaluation Kit

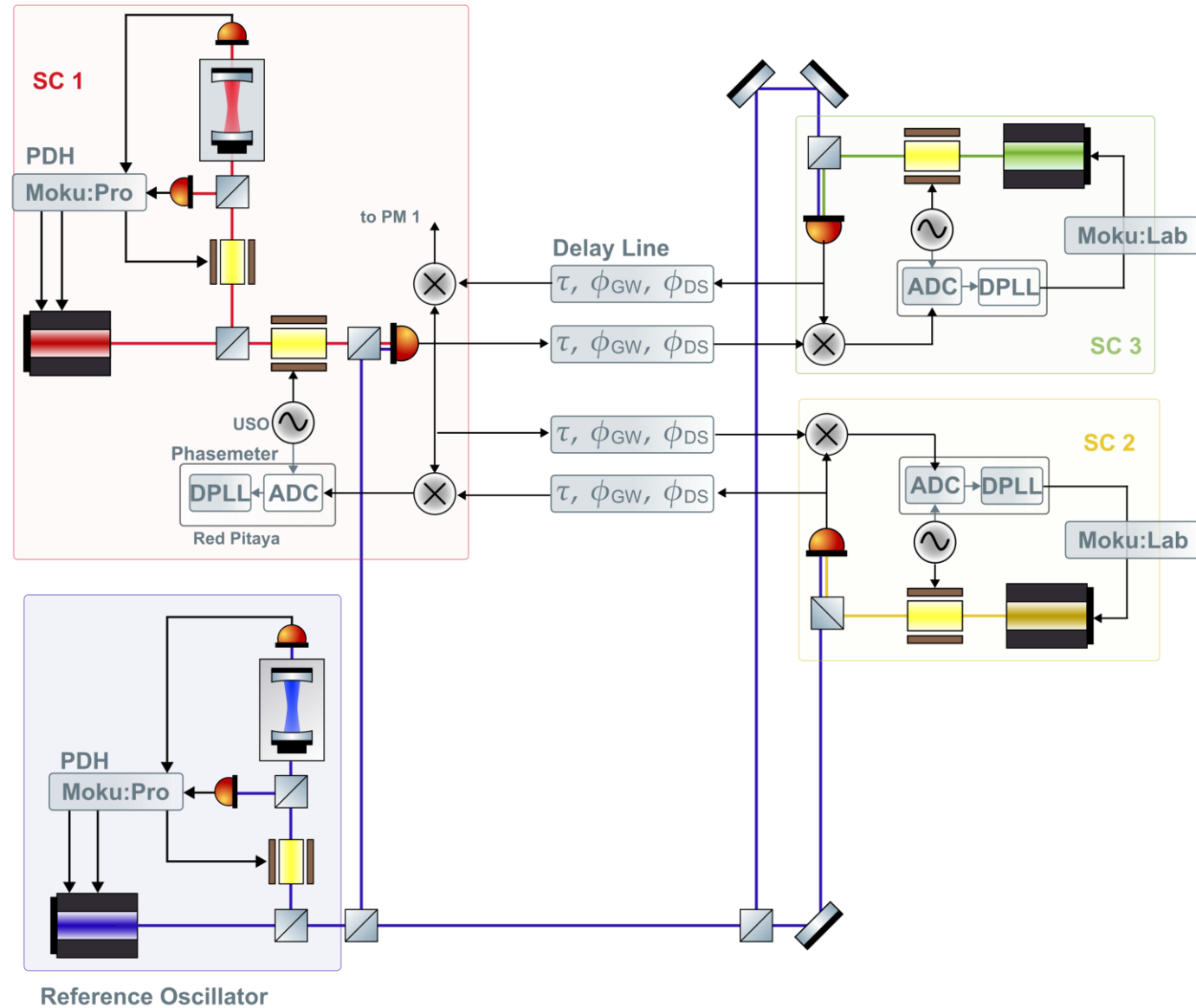
One-arm Phase Measurement



Set up for generating one LISA-like arm link.



Two-arm Testbed



Possible Additions



- Third arm connection
 - for better parameter estimation and data analysis
- More elaborate clocking system
 - To better replicate the clock noise removal in LISA

The background is a deep blue space filled with numerous small white stars. Several large, bright galaxies are visible, including a prominent spiral galaxy in the upper left, a barred spiral in the center, and an edge-on galaxy in the lower right. A network of thin, light-colored lines crisscrosses the entire scene, representing gravitational well lines or spacetime curvature. A large, glowing red triangle is superimposed on the left side, with its vertices at approximately (50, 300), (530, 550), and (110, 960). The triangle's edges are thick and have a bright white glow, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

Thank you for listening!