

Cosmic Explorer Intensity Noise Controllers

Craig Cahillane

July 28, 2025

CE Optical Design Call

Problem

Low frequency intensity noise may be a limiting noise factor for Cosmic Explorer gravitational wave sensitivity.

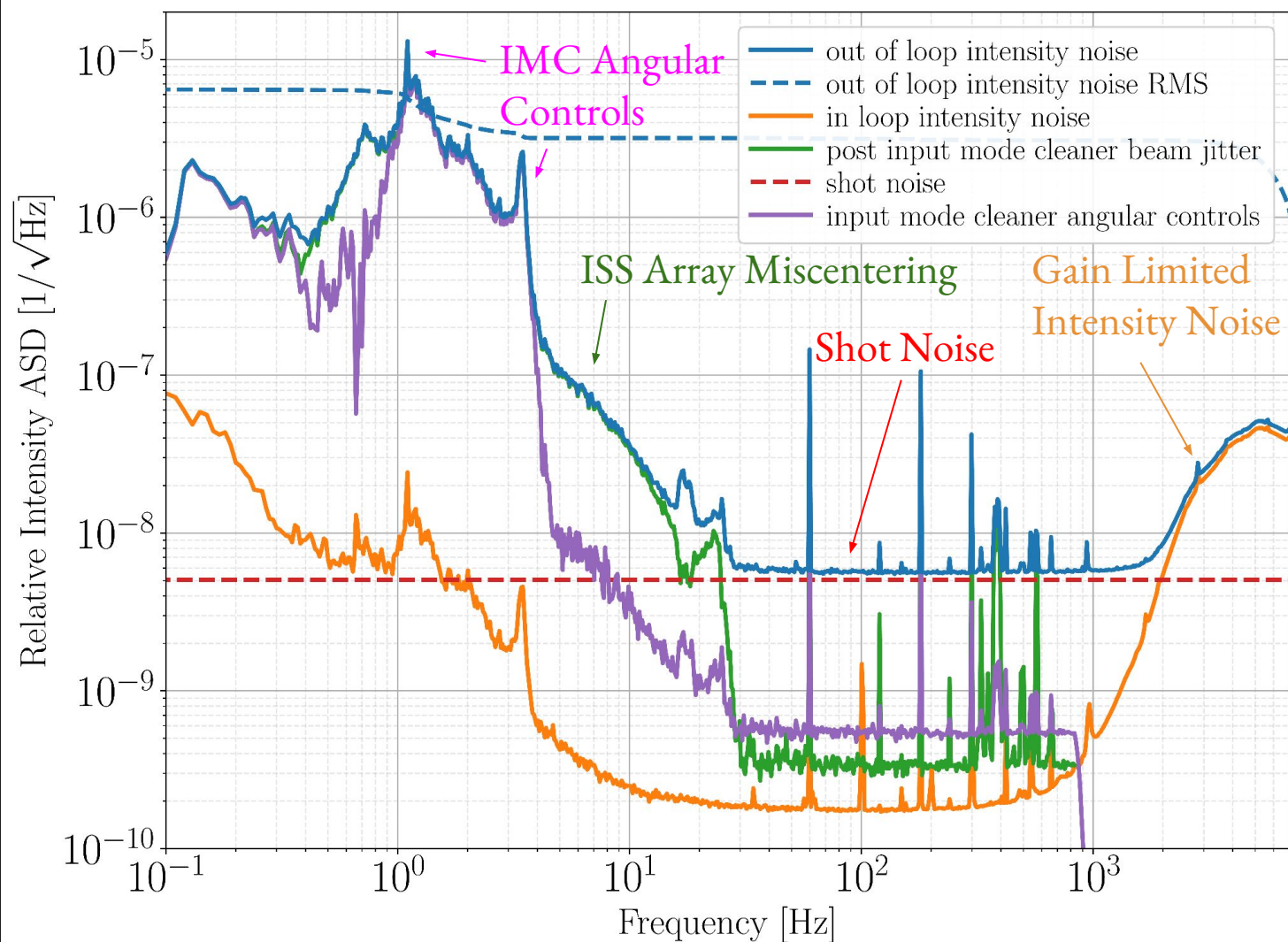
Particularly bad could be the intensity-to-frequency noise radiation-pressure-based cross-coupling.

This I2F cross-coupling has the ability to impose frequency noise in a low-frequency regime *using the input mode cleaners themselves*,
at a point in the input optics chain where we have little recourse to correct for it.

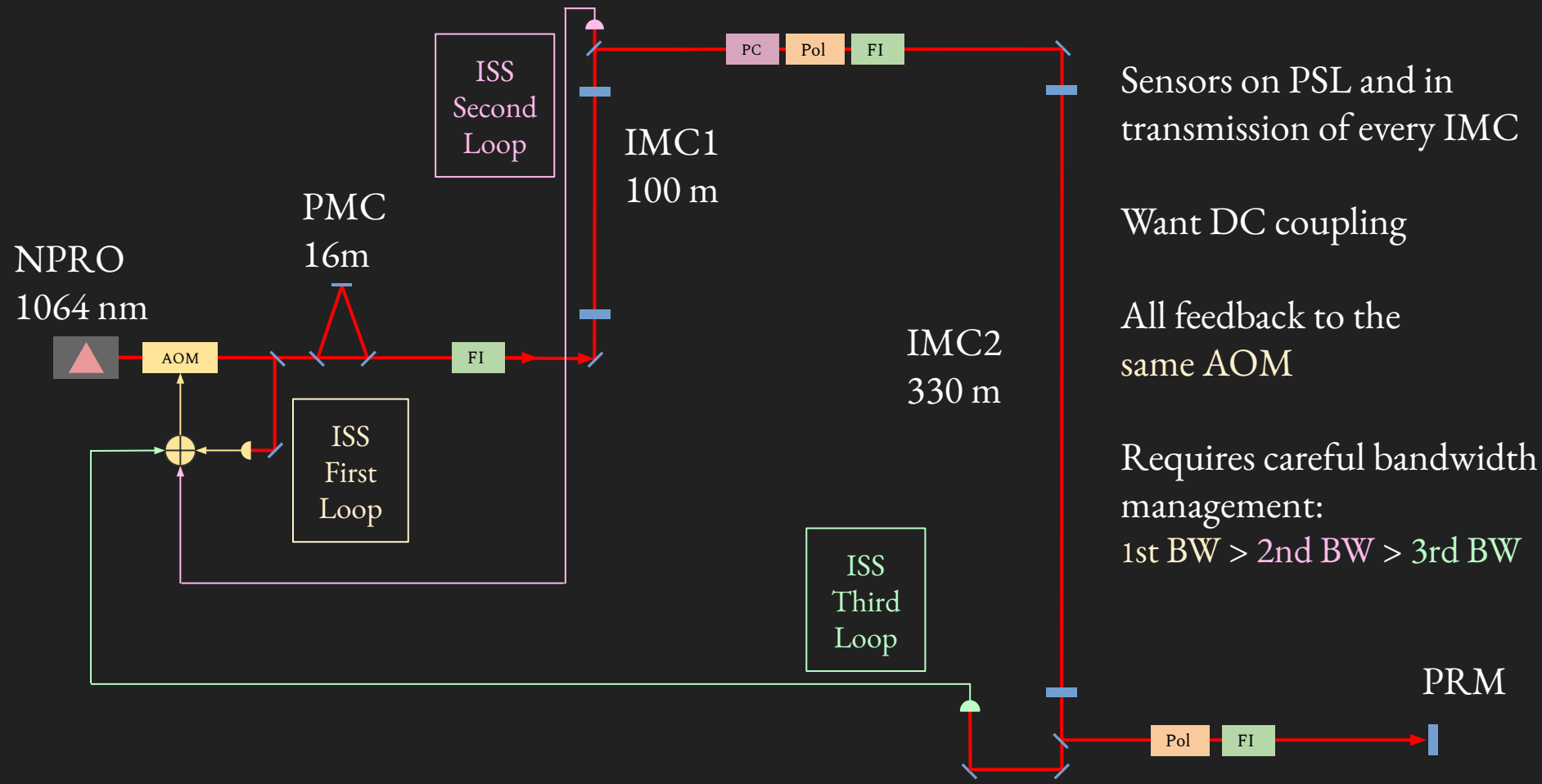
What are some options to combat intensity noise?

Intensity
noise in
O3

Similar to
O4

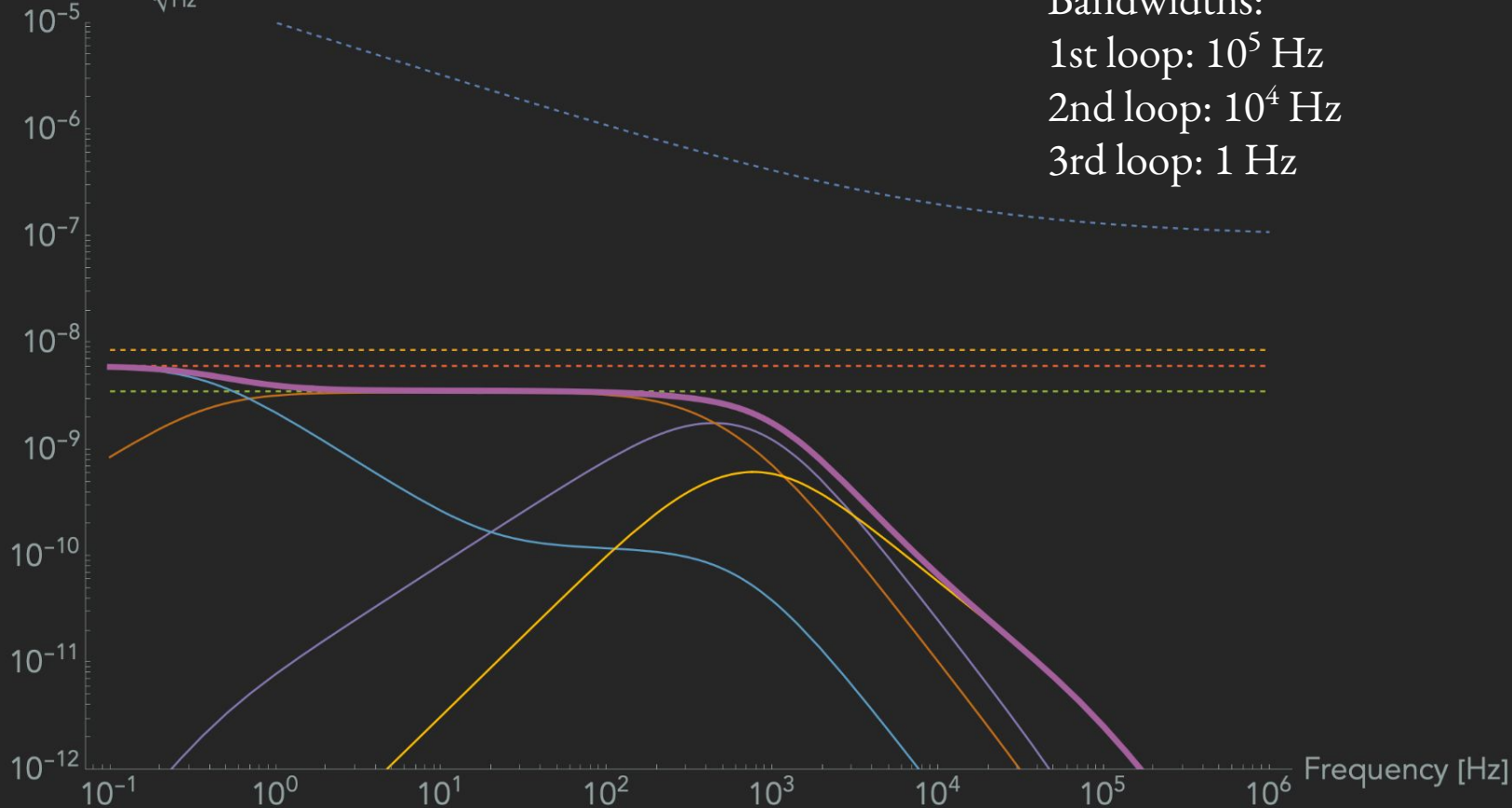


Straightforward Hierarchical Intensity Control Scheme



CE Intensity Noisebudget (first pass)

Incident RIN [$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\text{Hz}}}$]



Optical AC Coupling



$$\frac{\text{RIN}_{\text{refl}}}{\text{RIN}_{\text{in}}} = \frac{1 - (1 - a)h(f)}{a}$$

where a is impedance matching
and $h(f)$ is the normalized cavity pole TF
Cavity must be undercoupled, or else
control loop is unstable

Idea: Reduce shot noise limit by detecting
AC fluctuations above cavity pole directly.
Hurts sensitivity at low frequency

Derived in Patrick Kwee's thesis from AEI,
studied by Kwee and Willke [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#),
and measured at LIGO Livingston [\[4\]](#)

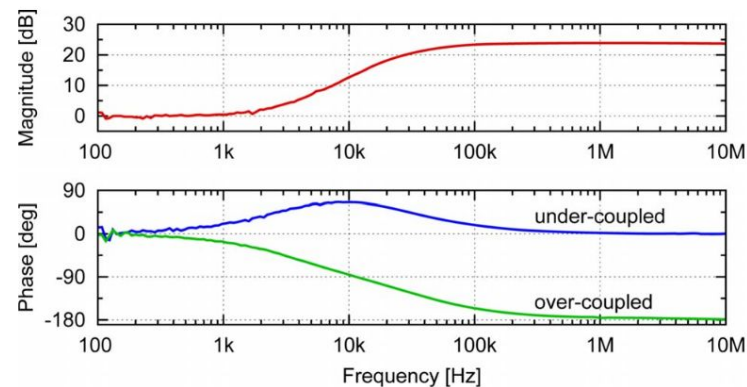


Fig. 2. (Color online) Measured transfer function $G(f)$ of RPN from the ACC input beam to the reflected beam using detectors HPD and LPD. The maximum gain was $|g| = 15.3$ with an upper corner frequency of $f_0 = 34$ kHz. The phase depended on the impedance matching of the ACC.

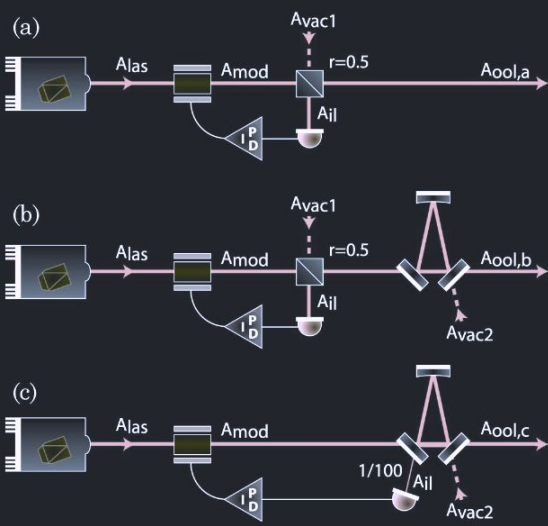


Fig. 1. (Color online) Models used for calculating the quantum noise limit of three different power stabilization schemes: (a) traditional power stabilization, (b) traditional power stabilization with additional resonator in the out-of-loop path, and (c) power stabilization with optical ac coupling. The relative power noise of the out-of-loop fields $A_{ool,a}$, $A_{ool,b}$, and $A_{ool,c}$ were calculated as functions of the input field A_{las} and the vacuum fields A_{vac} .

Optical AC coupling only helps the shot noise limit at high frequencies above the cavity pole.

Not where we really want the improvement.

fluctuations A_{vac2} for frequencies above the resonator bandwidth. As the absolute power of $A_{ool,b}$ is again a factor of 2 smaller than the original beam power, the relative power noise of $A_{ool,b}$ is 3 dB above the power noise of A_{las} for high frequencies [Fig. 2(b)].

In a stabilization scheme with optical ac coupling [Fig. 1(c)] a better power stability can be achieved for frequencies above the ac-coupling resonator (ACC) bandwidth. The transfer function $G(f)$ from relative power fluctuations in front of the ACC to relative power fluctuation in reflection of the resonator was

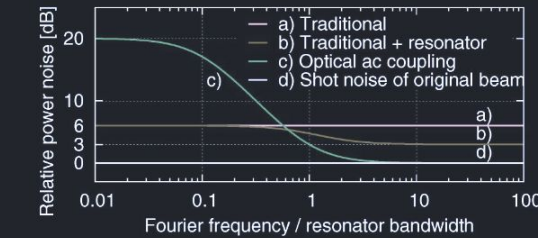


Fig. 2. (Color online) Shot-noise limit for different power stabilization schemes. The limits are given in relation to the relative shot noise of the original beam. Traditional power stabilizations are always 3 to 6 dB above this reference. A stabilization with optical ac coupling is very close to the relative shot noise of the original beam for Fourier frequencies above the resonator bandwidth.

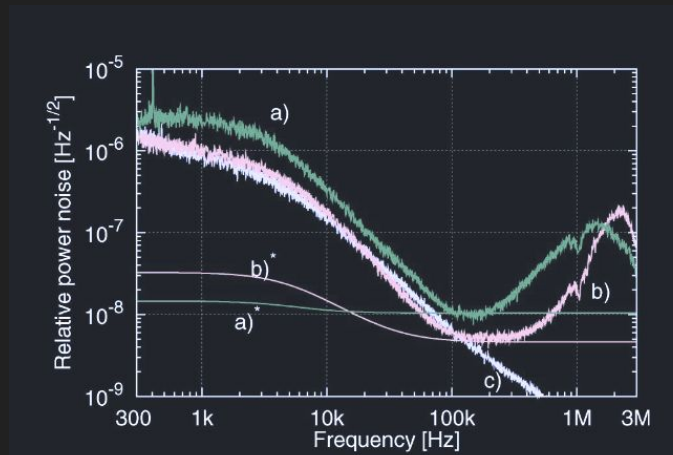
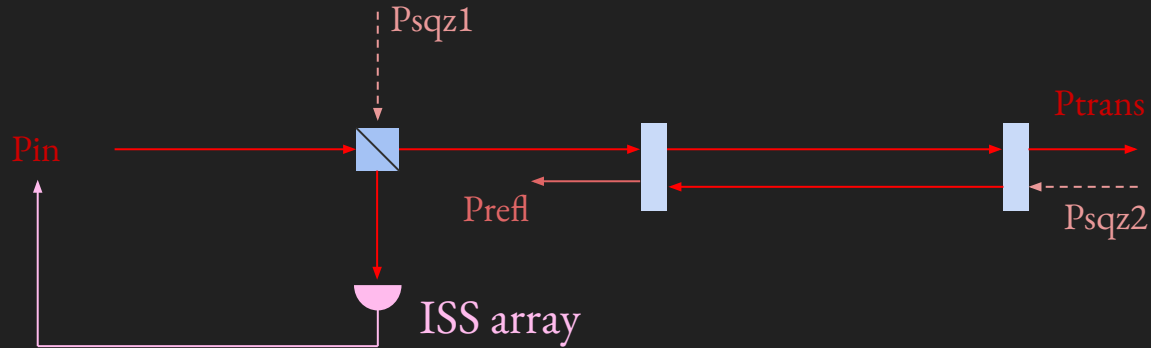


Fig. 5. (Color online) Typical out-of-loop power noise measurements performed with the HPD detector. Scattering to higher-order modes (curve a) or into the countercirculating fundamental mode (curve b) limited the power stability. The expected limits without any scattering are shown as smooth solid curve (curves a^* , b^*). For the case of scattering to the countercirculating fundamental mode, a projection of the power noise due to scattering is shown (curve c, see Subsection 4.B).

Squeezing and Intensity Noise



Can inject squeezing into the ISS improve the shot noise limit on P_{trans}

P_{sqz1} is the main squeezed light path for reducing the intensity noise.

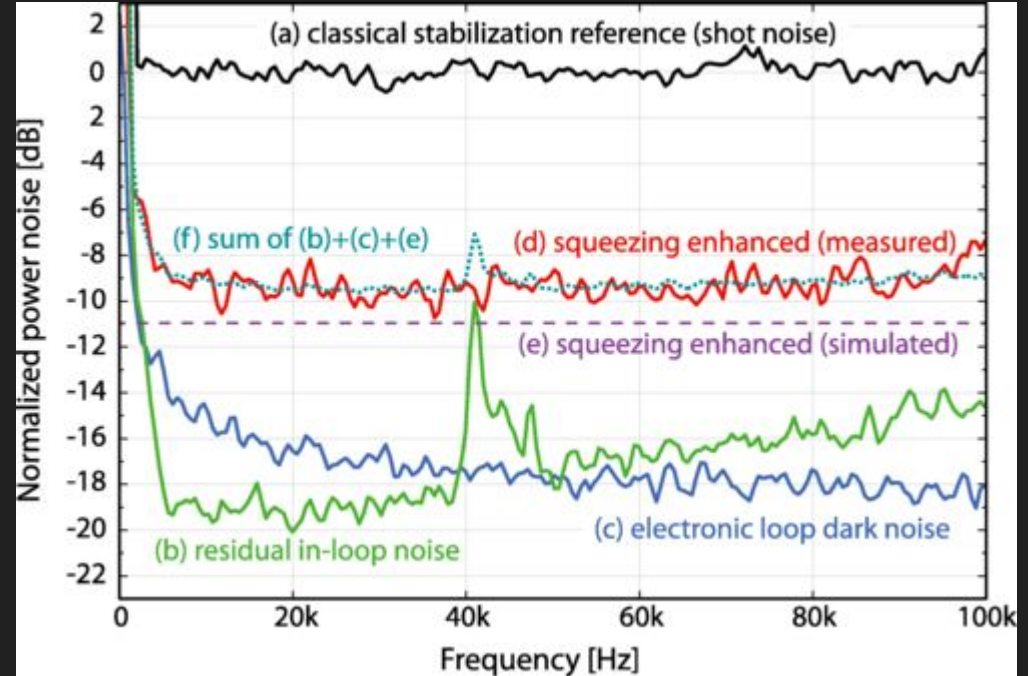
P_{sqz2} is another path by which quantum noise will be imposed upon P_{trans} .

Proof of principle: Valbrutch et. al.

<https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevLett.121.173601>

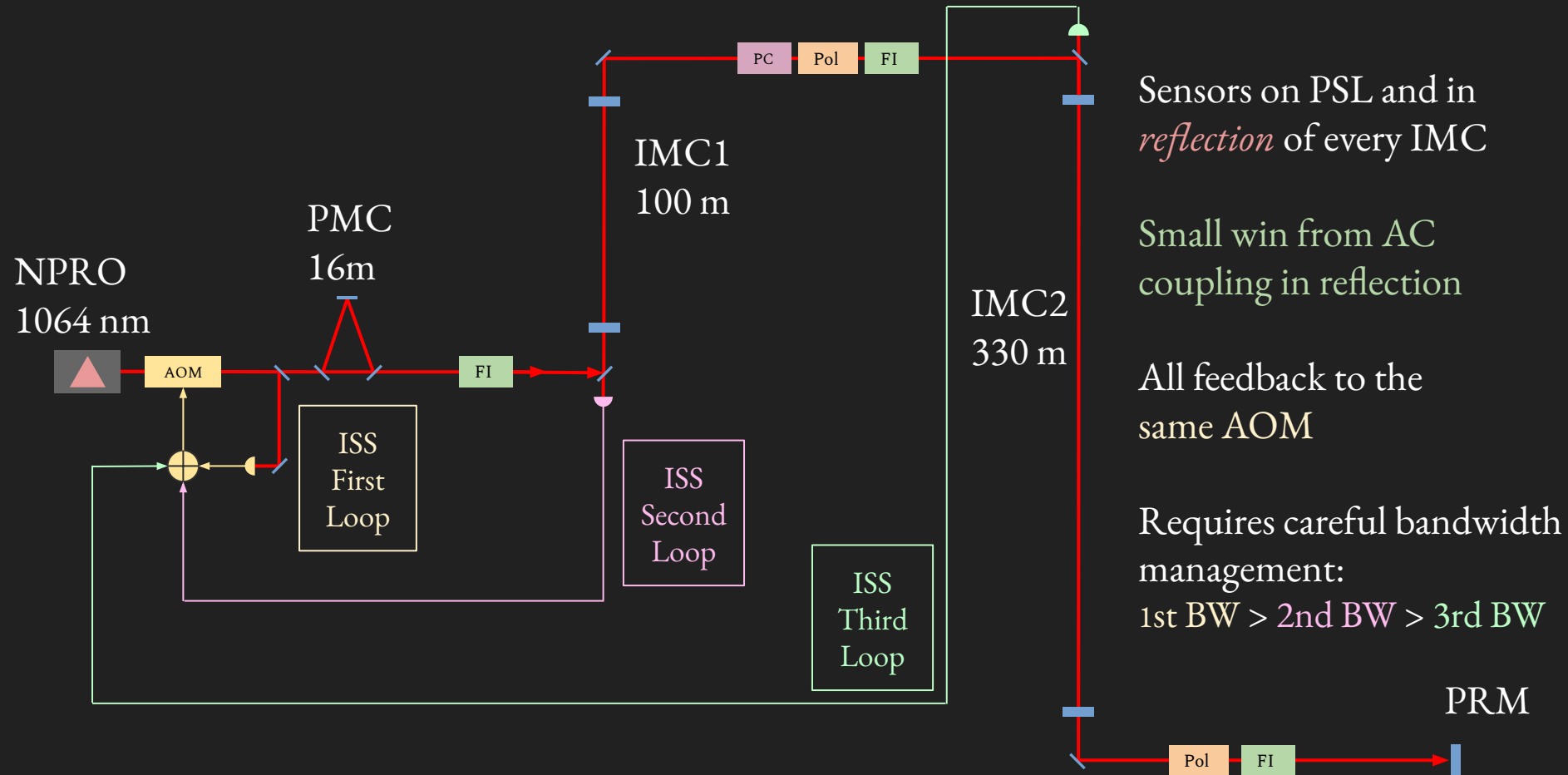
Advantages of Squeezed intensity loop:

1. Improves low frequency intensity noise (if shot noise limited)
2. Easy to implement (for LIGO)
3. Lots of experience in LIGO
4. Don't necessarily have to use



Valbrutch et. al. FIG. 3

Optical AC Coupling Hierarchical Intensity Control Scheme



Serial Intensity Control Scheme

NPRO
1064 nm



AOM1



PMC
16m

ISS
First
Loop

FI

IMC1
100 m

ISS
Second
Loop

ISS Third Loop

AOM2

PC

Pol

FI

IMC2
330 m

Sensors on PSL and in
reflection of every IMC

Small win from AC
coupling in reflection

Feedback to
different AOMs

Can have high bandwidth
in all serial loops.

PRM

Pol

FI

Conclusions

Options to combat intensity noise

1. Push down IMC angular control resonances to be < 1 Hz to avoid limiting CE at 5 Hz.
 - a. Will aLIGO quad suspensions be enough? Probably close enough.
2. Make ISS array easier to align
 - a. Can investigate ultra-high power photodiodes, see if they can perform for 10000 hours with 100 mW incident.
3. Squeezed light injection into main ISS array