

Designing a frequency offset locking loop for the 40m prototype Arm Length Stabilization System

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Outline of the Talk

- What is Arm Length Stabilization (ALS)?
- Issues in the ALS system.
- Solving the issue: Frequency Offset Locking (FOL) Loop.
- Building the FOL control loop.
- Challenges faced.
- Testing and Commissioning

Advanced LIGO Optical Configuration



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Pound Drever Hall (PDH) Scheme



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- Multicolour laser interferometry technique
- Length information from Pound Drever Hall(PDH) scheme.
- Beat note between the Green Auxiliary(AUX) laser and the infrared Pre-Stabilised(PSL) used to stabilize the length of the cavity using a digital servo.

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- Frequencies of two lasers hugely different (could vary by few GHz).
- The PDH control loop of the AUX laser allows its frequency to follow the motion of the cavity length.
- The laser cavity Piezoelectric(PZT) actuator has a control range of a few hundred MHz and an actuator response of around 5 MHz/V.
- The PZT control becomes ineffective when the beat note between the lasers crosses the actuator range mainly due to green PD range.



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- Slow control: Temperature Actuation -- larger response (1 GHz/K).
- Tracks the infrared (PSL) beat note frequency and pushes it within the efficient working range of ALS (<100 MHz).
- So we build an automated Servo using a Proportional-Integral-Derivative controller (PID).
- FOL Works even when the green arm is not locked unlike the already existing temperature loop.

FOL Loop



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LIGO Building the Digital Feedback System



ARM Processor



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Control Sensor

RF Frequency Counter-

- Mini-Circuits Model UFC-6000 RF Frequency Counter
- Frequency range of 1 MHz- 6000 MHz.



LIGO Resolving Timing Issues of R Pi and FC

- Raspberry Pi: not an RTOS
- Issues in clock synchronization of R Pi and FC.
- Setup external clock to synchronously read data from the FC





Transfer Function of the Frequency Counter



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Noise Characterization in FC



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LIGO Transfer Function of the Plant: Thermal Actuator

• Thermal Actuator- Slow control actuator : Actuates on the temperature of the NPRO



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Interface with EPICS Channels

- Experimental Physics and Industrial Control System (EPICS): set of software components and tools used to create control systems.
- IOC: Input / Output Controller Network and device interface









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Testing and Commissioning

- Setup tested with existing green laser beat note.
- To be tested with the infrared PSL after completion of optics installation.
- The FOL box will be permanently placed inside the 40m and the software issues can be remotely debugged.



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Thank You

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