

# Toward intelligence in photonic systems

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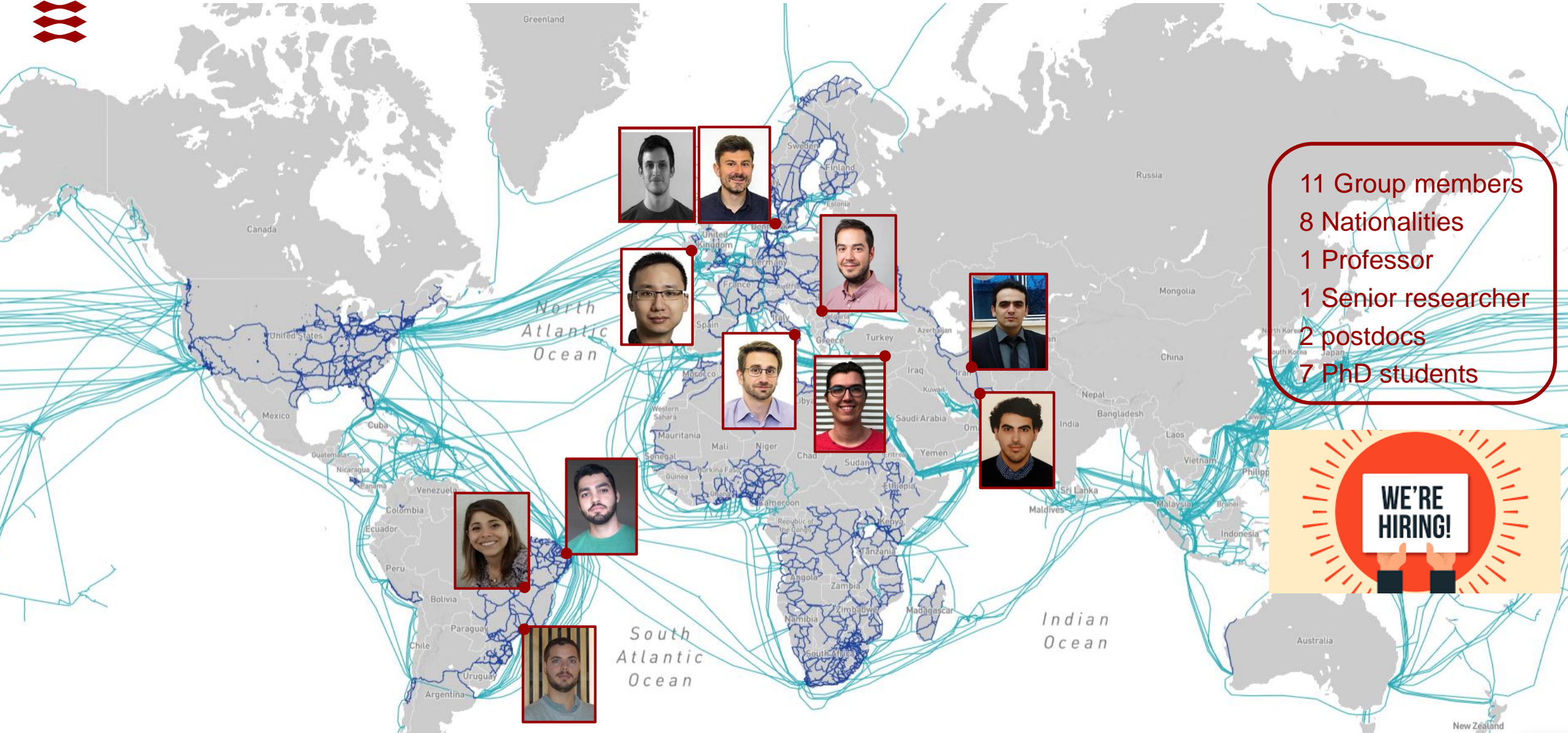
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# Machine Learning in Photonic Systems Group



11 Group members  
8 Nationalities  
1 Professor  
1 Senior researcher  
2 postdocs  
7 PhD students



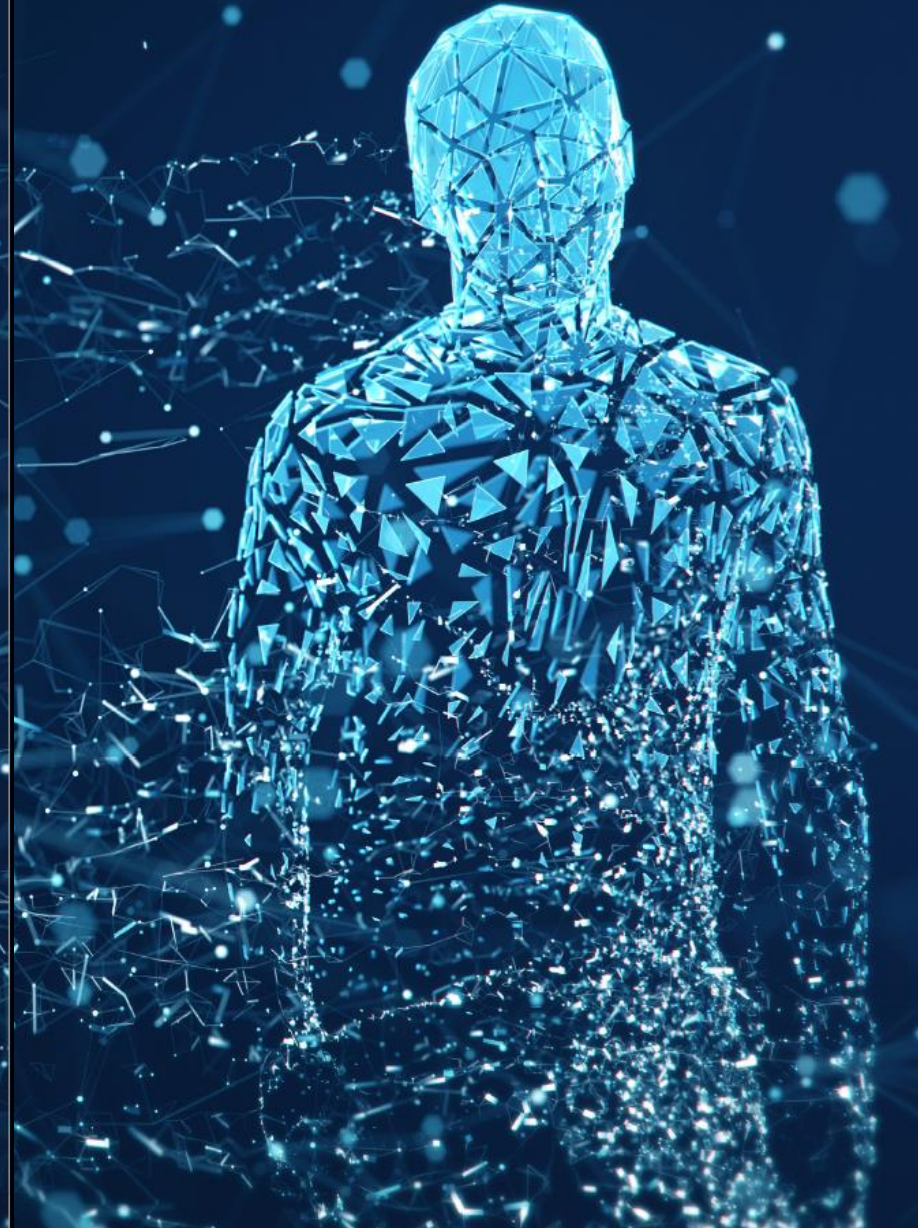


Darko Zibar, Francesco Da Ros, Giovanni Brajato and Uiara C. de Moura

# Toward Intelligence in Photonic Systems

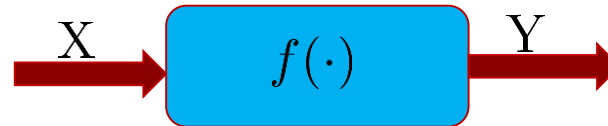
*In the not-too-distant future,  
advances in machine learning  
will spur a new, transformative  
generation of optical communication  
and measurement systems.*

Getty Images

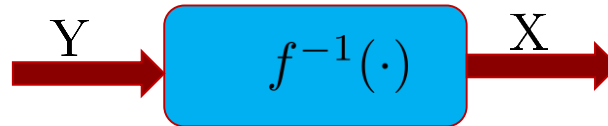


# Where does machine learning excel?

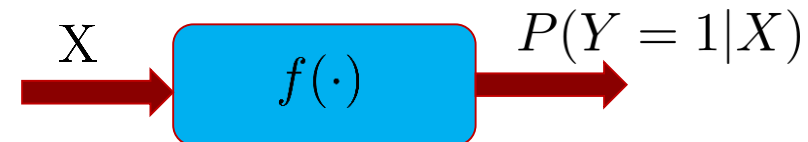
- Learning complex **direct** mappings:



- Learning complex **inverse** mappings:



- Learning **decision rules** for complex mappings:



Use neural networks to learn  $f(\cdot)$  and  $f^{-1}(\cdot)$

# Problems that could benefit from ML

- Communication over the nonlinear fiber-optic channel:
  - Channel highly complex
  - Capacity **unknown?**
  - Optimum receiver architecture **unknown**
  - Optimum modulation and pulse-shapes **unknown**
- Optical amplifiers for multiband-wavelength and SDM systems:
  - Complex relation between pumps and gain
  - Optimization of pump powers and wavelengths for target gain profiles
  - Optimization of pump powers and wavelengths for target mode dependent
- Design of optical components (inverse system design):
  - Given laser bandwidth and noise find the physical parameters
  - Given modulator BW find the physical parameters
  - Instead of running time-consuming simulation build fast ML based models
- Noise characterization of lasers and frequency combs:
  - Amplitude and phase tracking at the quantum limit
  - Extraction of noise correlation matrices, e.e amplitude, phase, amplitude-phase
  - Macroscopic comb parameters, i.e. timing jitter, amplitude jitter, carrier envelope offset

# Research topics and collaborations



Machine learning enabled ultra-wideband amplifier design



POLITECNICO DI TORINO

Unifying framework for lasers and frequency combs noise characterization

Machine learning techniques for communicate over complex channels

Optical technologies to accelerate AI

**MenloSystems**

Quantum phase tracking and communication

**Infinera**

Highly-sensitive fiber based sensing systems

**TU/e** EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



CHALMERS  
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Technische Universität München



**NOKIA**  
Bell Labs

DTU Compute  
Institut for Matematik og Computer Science

DTU Physics  
Department of Physics

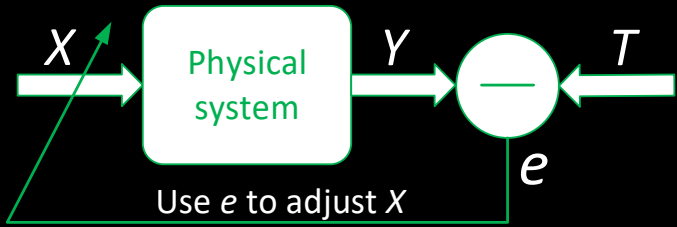
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität  
Erlangen-Nürnberg





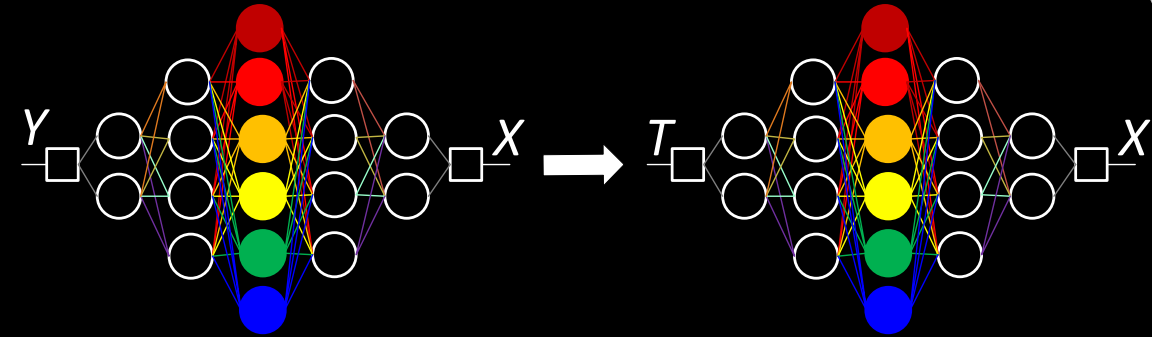
# Inverse system learning

## #1 Problem statement:

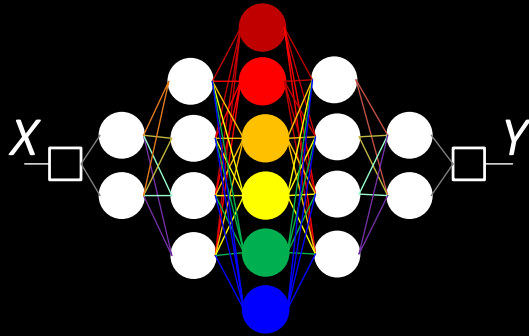


A physical system describing relation between input  $X$  and output  $Y$  is given. The objective is to determine input  $X$  that would result in a targeted output  $T$ .

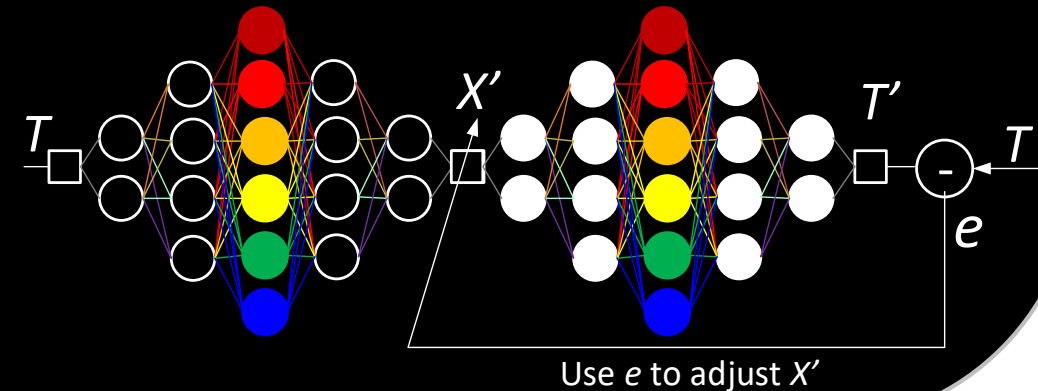
## #2 Train neural network to learn *inverse* mapping (from $X$ to $Y$ ):



## #3 Train neural network to learn *forward* mapping (from $X$ to $Y$ ):



## #4 Perform *final* optimization:

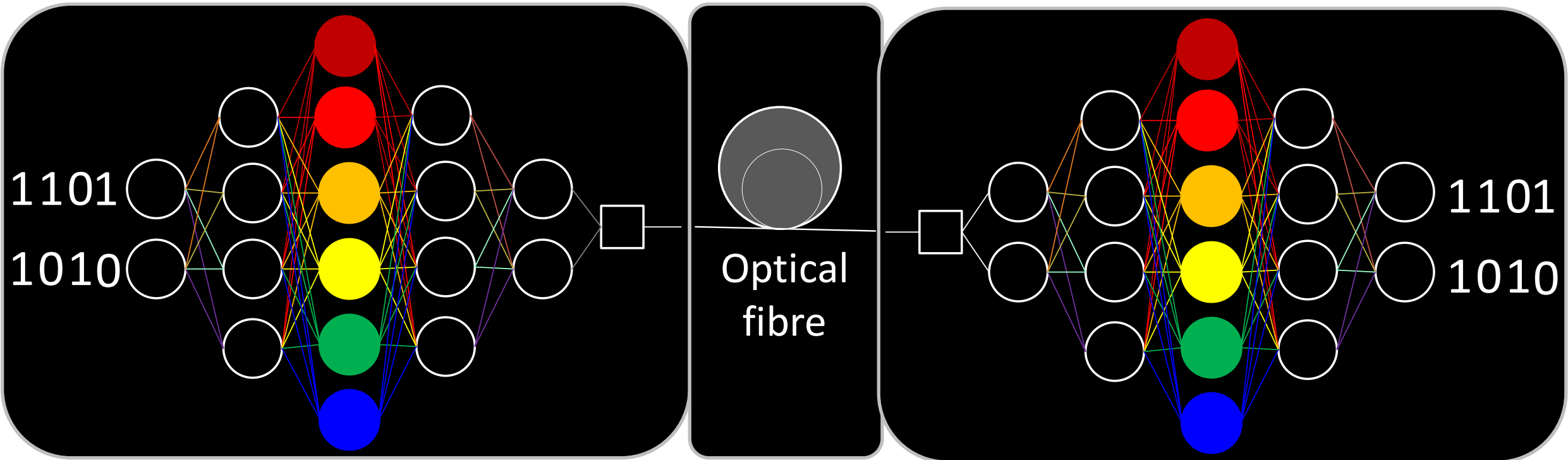


[1] D. Zibar et al., "Inverse system design using machine learning: the Raman amplifier case," *Journal of Lightwave technology*, 2019

[2] U. C. de Moura et al., "Multi-band programmable Raman amplifier," *Journal of Lightwave technology*, 2020



# Learning to communicate over complex channels



[1] R. Jones, et al., ECOC 2018

[2] R. Jones, et al., ECOC 2019

[3] S. Gaiarin et al., JLT, 2020

[4] O. Jovanovic et al., et al, JLT 2021

## Characterizing frequency comb noise

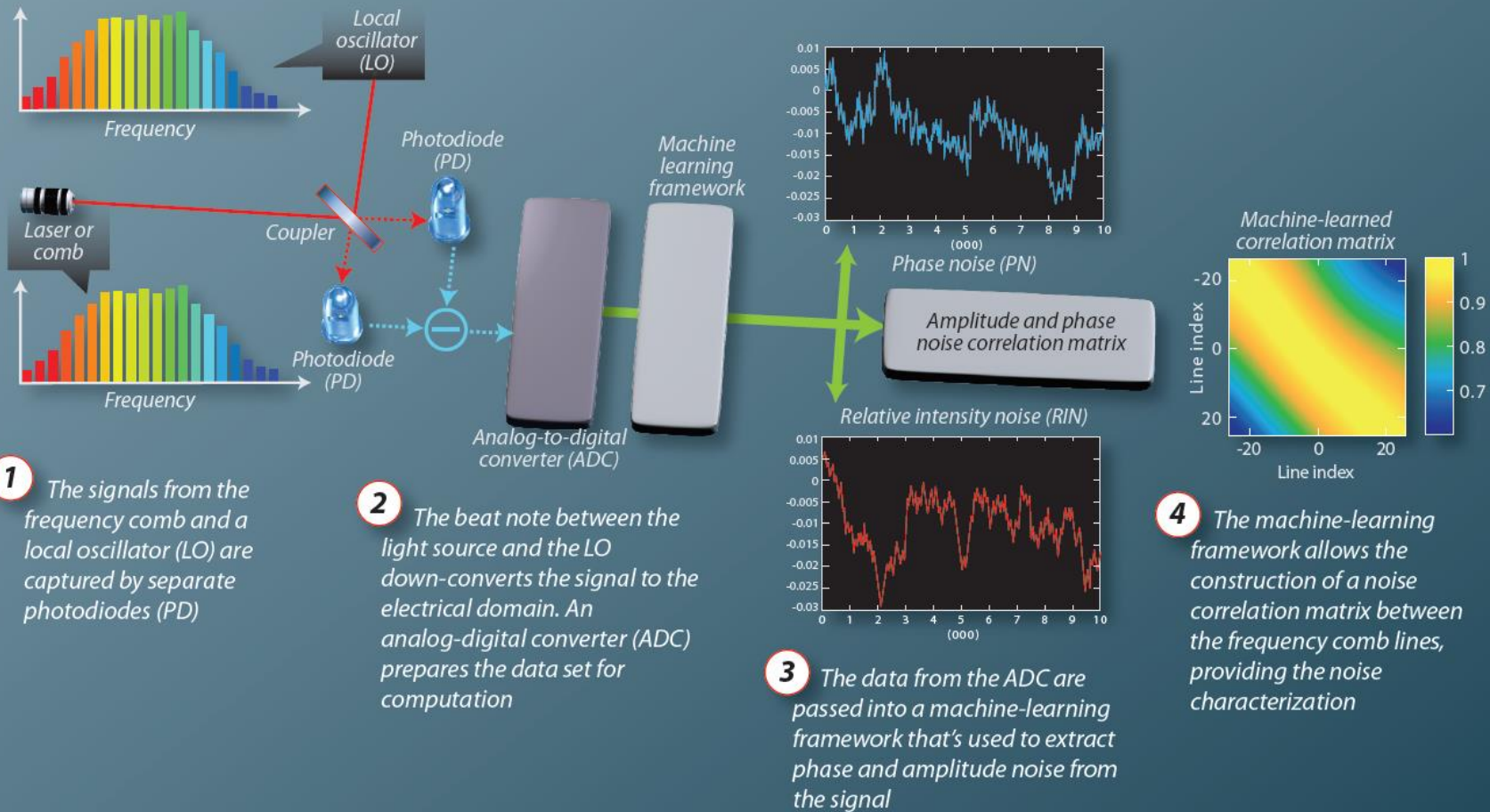


Illustration by Phil Saunders

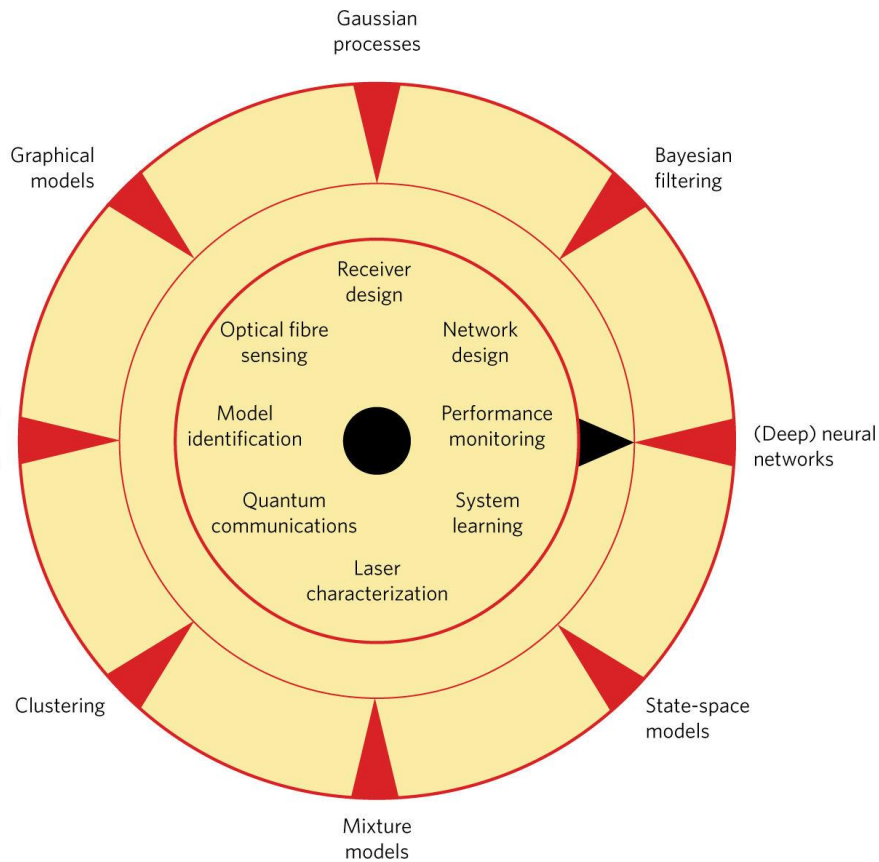
[1] D. Zibar et al., PTL 2019

[2] G. Brajatto et al, Optics Express, 2020

## New topics anno 2020-2021:

- Photonic reservoir computing<sup>1</sup>
- Optical amplifier and laser design<sup>2-3</sup>
- End-to-end learning<sup>4</sup>
- Back-propagation learning<sup>5</sup>
- Optical network optimization<sup>6-7</sup>
- Frequency comb noise characterization<sup>8</sup>
- Photonic component design

- [1] S. Ranzini, "Tuneable optoelectronic..." JSTQE 2020
- [2] D. Zibar, "Inverse system design..." JLT 2019
- [3] Z. Ma, "Parameter extraction and inverse," Optics Express 2020
- [3] Karanov, "End-to-end deep learning..." JLT 2018
- [4] C. Hager, "Revisiting multi-step..." ECOC 19
- [5] F. Musemehci, "An overview on..." IEEE Comm. survey, 2019
- [6] F. N. Khan, "An optical communication persp..." JLT 2019
- [7] G. Brajato, "Bayesian filtering..." Optics Express, 2020
- [8] U. C. de Moura, "Multi-band optical program. Amplifier," JLT 2020
- [9] K. Kojima, "Inverse Design of Nanophotonic Devices..." OFC 2020
- [10] G. Genty, "Machine learning in ultrafast photonics," Nat. Phot., 2020



D. Zibar et al., Nature Photonics, (11) 749-751, 2017

Will machine learning be a *game changer*?

- **Record -sensitive and -accurate optical phase measurement<sup>1,2</sup> (quantum limited operation)**
  - Identification of fundamental laser linewidth
  - Identification of frequency comb noise sources
  - Optimum phase measurement in the presence of amplifier noise
- **Machine learning enabled ultra-wideband Raman amplifiers<sup>3,4,5,6</sup>**
  - Arbitrary gain profiles in S-C-L band
  - *Gain and power profile shaping in distance and frequency*
  - Noise figure prediction of Raman amplifiers
- **Learning optimum transmitter and receivers architectures<sup>7,8,9</sup>**
  - Channel tailored constellation
  - SNR and linewidth robust constellation
  - Equalization of IM/DD using reservoir computing

1. D. Zibar et al., *Optica*, 2021
2. G. Brajato et al. *Opt. Express*, 2020
3. D. Zibar, *J. Lightwave Technol.*, 2020 (top cited JLT paper in 2020)
4. M. Soltani, *Optics Letters*, 2021
5. U. de Moura, *J. Lightwave Technol.*, 2020
6. U. de Moura, *Optics Letters*, 2021
7. R. Jones et al, *ECOC 2019*
8. O. Jovanovic et al., *sub to JLT*, 2021
9. F. Da Ros, *IEEE J. Select. Topics Quant. El.* 2020



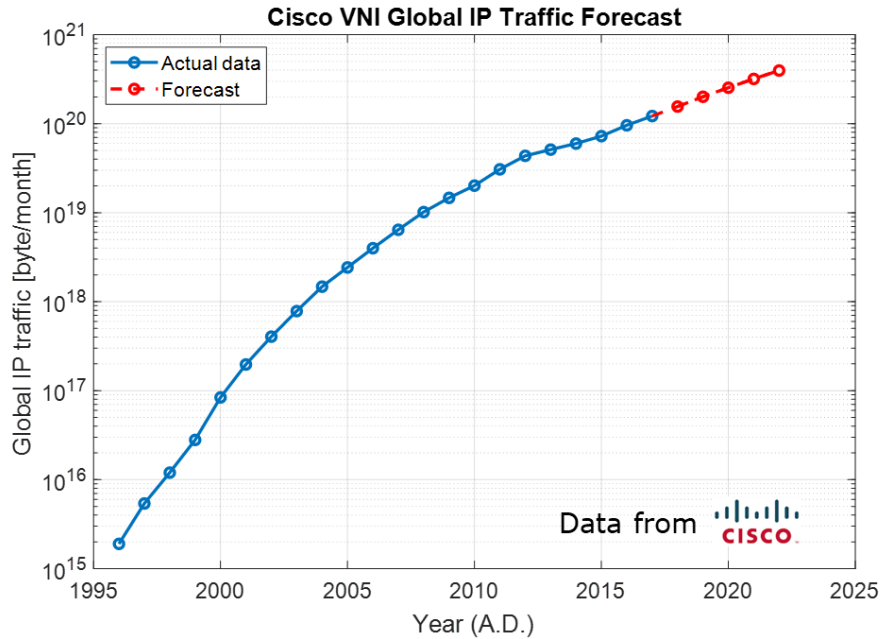
# Challenges to be addressed

- Fields focuses on the experimental demonstrations
- ML benefits on experimental data should be ideally shown
- Noise in experimental set-ups (non Gaussian, non additive)
- Experimental-set ups are prone drifts and fluctuations
- Automatizing experimental-set ups for training data acquisition (noise, drift,)
- Training of NNs using gradients computation - challenging in experimental environments
- Deep understanding of statistics, linear algebra, optimization and experimental set-up debugging necessary not to end in pitfalls

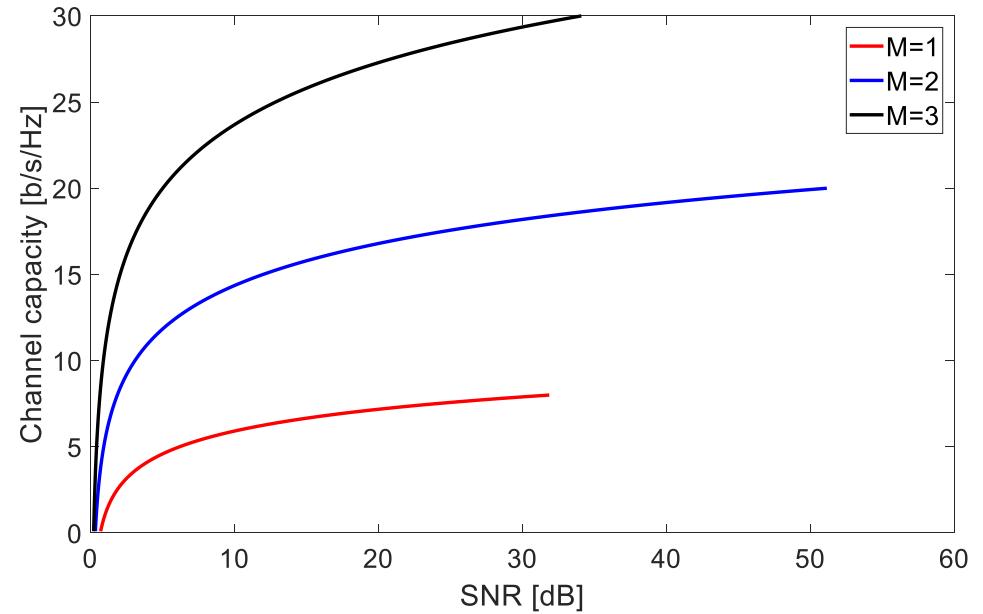
# *Application of multi-layer neural networks for design of Raman amplifiers*

- [1] *D. Zibar, A. M. Rosa Brusin, U. C. de Moura, F. Da Ros, V. Curri, Andrea Carena, "Inverse system design using machine learning: The Raman amplifier case," Journal of Lightwave Technology, vol. 38, no. 4, 2020*
- [2] *M. Soltani, F. Da Ros, A. Carena, D. Zibar, "Inverse design of a Raman amplifier in frequency and distance domains using convolutional neural networks," Optics Letters, vol. 46, no. 11, 2021*
- [3] *A. M. Rosa Brusin, V. Curri, D. Zibar, and A. Carena, "An ultrafast method for gain and noise prediction of Raman amplifiers," in proceedings of European Conference on Optical Communication, ECOC, 2019*
- [4] *U. C. de Moura, F. Da Ros, A. M. Rosa Brusin, A. Carena, and D. Zibar, "Experimental demonstration of arbitrary Raman gain-profile designs using machine learning, " in Optical Fiber Communication Conference (OFC) 2019, OSA Technical Digest (Optical Society of America), 2020*
- [5] *U. C. de Moura, Md A. Iqbal, M. Kamalian, L. Krzczanowicz, F. Da Ros, A. M. Rosa Brusin, A. Carena, W. Forysiak, S. Turitsyn and D. Zibar, "Multi-band programmable gain Raman amplifier," Journal of Lightwave Technology, 2020*

# Increasing the bandwidth of optical systems



(a) Future data projection



(b) Channel capacity

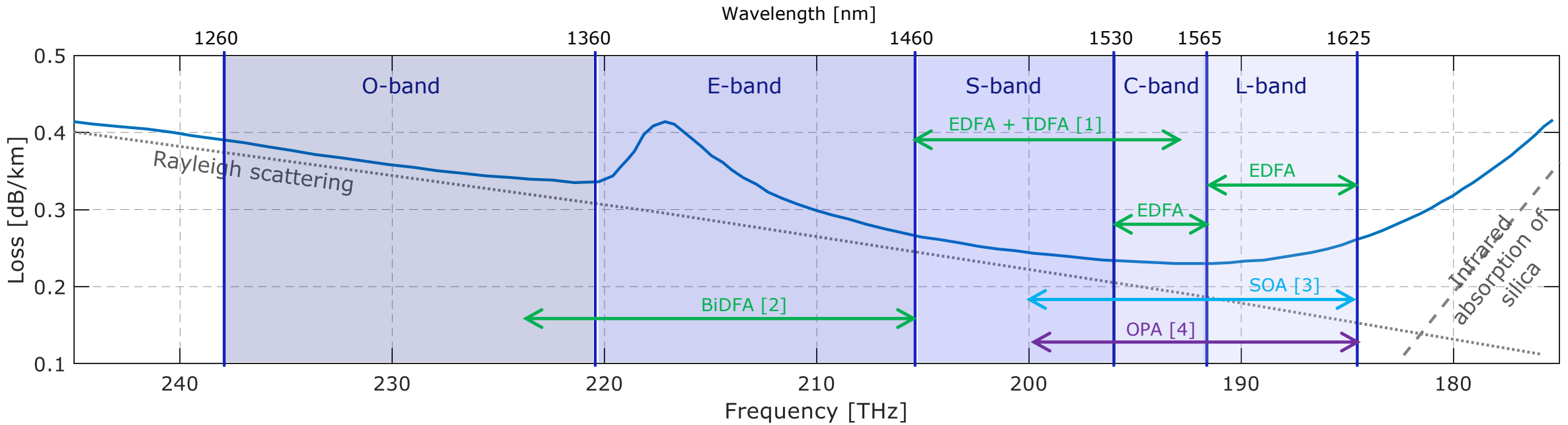
$$\frac{C}{B} = M \log \left( 1 + \frac{E_b}{N_0} \frac{C}{B} \right) \quad [\text{b/s/Hz}]$$

$C$ : capacity  
 $M$ : spatial paths  
 $B$ : bandwidth  
 $\frac{E_b}{N_0}$ : signal-to-noise ratio

Significantly higher gains by increasing spatial paths than SNR

# Ultra-wideband optical amplification

Raman amplifiers [5, 6]



xDFA: doped fiber amplifier

SOA: semiconductor optical amplifier

OPA: optical parametric amplifier

[1] T. Sakamoto, JLT, vol. 24, no. 6, 2006

[2] Y. Wang, OFC 2020, Th4B.1

[3] J. Renaudier, ECOC, 2018

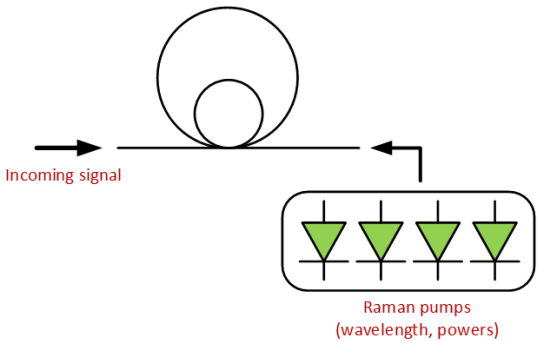
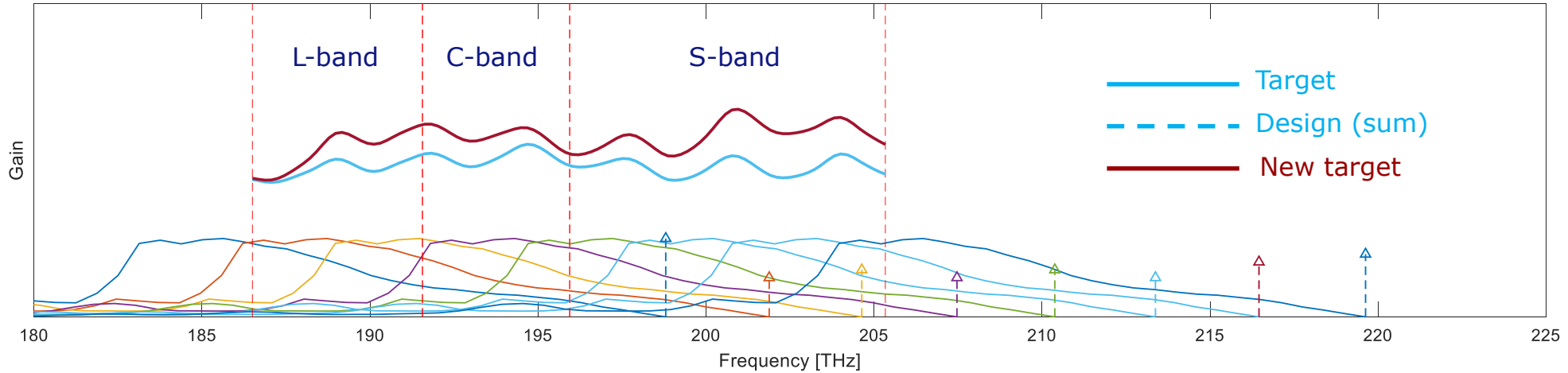
[4] T. Kobayashi, OFC 2020, Th4C.7

[5] J. Chen, IEEE Photonics Journal, vol. 10, 2018

[6] M. A. Iqbal, OFC 2020, W3E.4



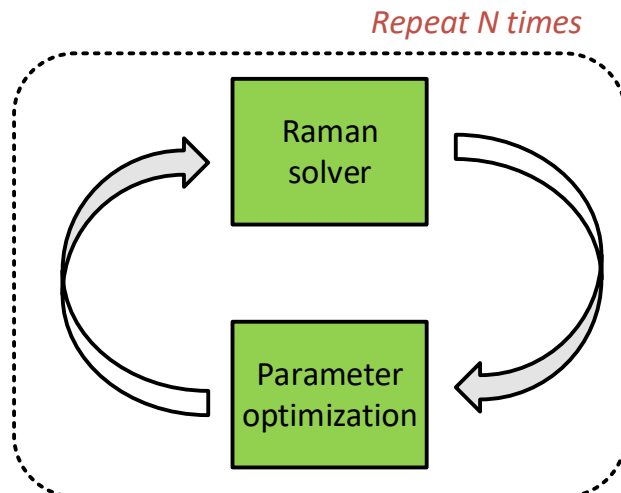
# Arbitrary gain Raman amplifiers



$$\frac{dP_s}{dz} = -\alpha_s P_s + C_R(\lambda_s, \lambda_p) [P_p^+ + P_p^-] P_s \quad (1)$$

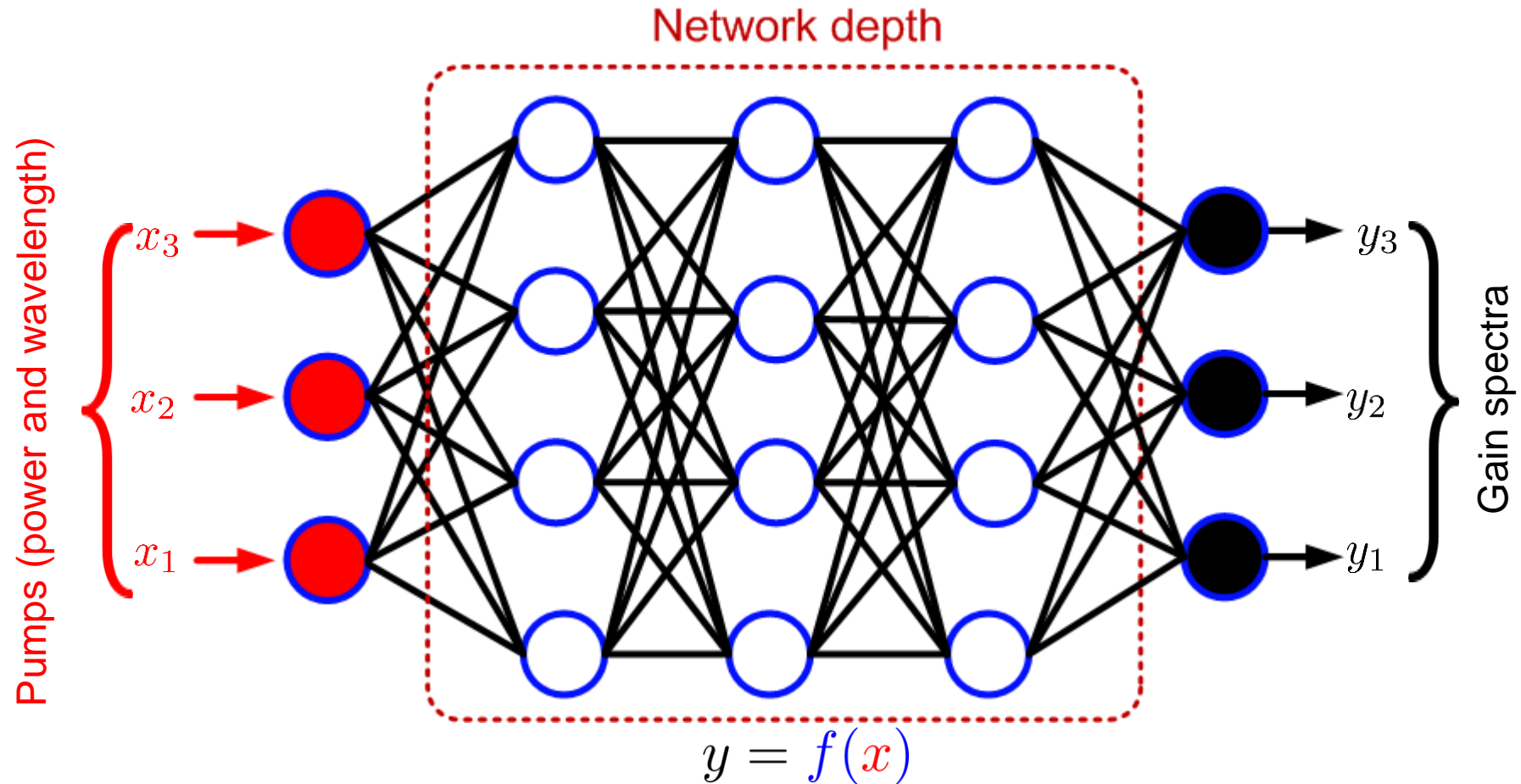
$$\pm \frac{dP_p^\pm}{dz} = -\alpha_p P_p^\pm - \left(\frac{\lambda_s}{\lambda_p}\right) C_R(\lambda_s, \lambda_p) P_s P_p^\pm \quad (2)$$

$$\pm \frac{dP_A^\pm}{dz} = -\alpha_A P_A^\pm + C_R(\lambda_A, \lambda_p) P_p P_A^\pm + C_R(\lambda_A, \lambda_p) [1 + \eta(T)] h\nu_A B_{ref} P_p \quad (3)$$



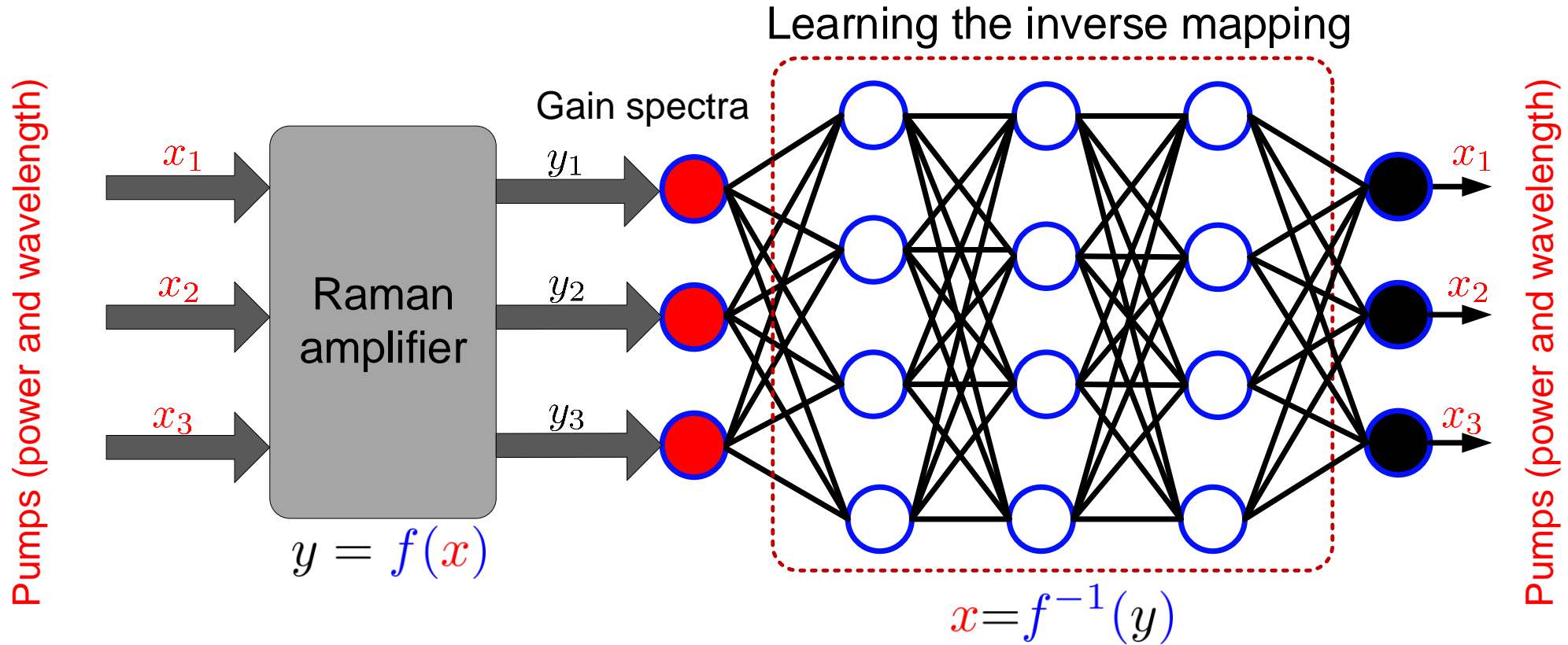
- High complexity due to Raman solver
- Long convergence time
- Restart optimization for new gain profile
- Rely on evolutionary algorithms

# Approximating Raman amplifier with NN



Neural network learns forward mapping,  $f(\cdot)$ , using training data and perform predictions for *new input* data:  $y_{new} = f(x_{new})$

# Learning inverse mapping



Learning the inverse mapping allows for designing arbitrary gain profile

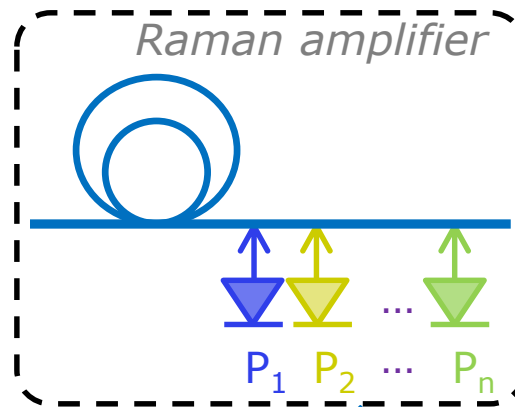
# Building the model from the data

Given  $N$  pumps generate  $M$  gain profiles

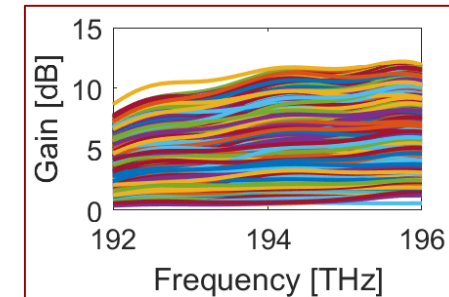
$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_1 &\sim U[\lambda_{1,\min}; \lambda_{1,\max}] \text{ nm} \\
 \lambda_2 &\sim U[\lambda_{2,\min}; \lambda_{2,\max}] \text{ nm} \\
 &\dots \\
 \lambda_N &\sim U[\lambda_{n,\min}; \lambda_{n,\max}] \text{ nm} \\
 \\ 
 P_1 &\sim U[P_{1,\min}; P_{1,\max}] \text{ W} \\
 P_2 &\sim U[P_{2,\min}; P_{2,\max}] \text{ W} \\
 &\dots \\
 P_N &\sim U[P_{n,\min}; P_{n,\max}] \text{ W}
 \end{aligned}$$

Numerically

Experimentally



$M$  gain profiles each with  $K$  points



Data-set  $\Rightarrow$

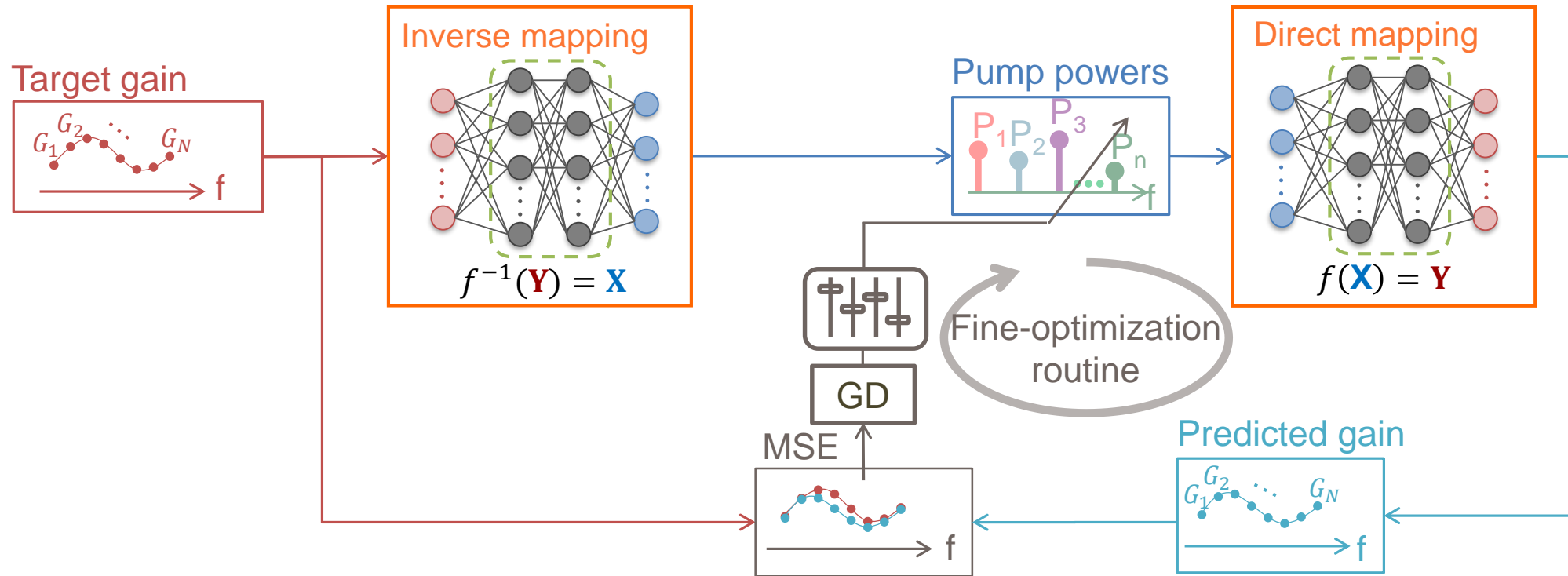
$$\mathcal{D} = \{(\lambda_1^i, \lambda_2^i, \dots, \lambda_N^i, P_1^i, P_2^i, \dots, P_N^i, G_1^i, G_2^i, \dots, G_K^i) \mid i = 1, \dots, M\}$$

Training

Validation



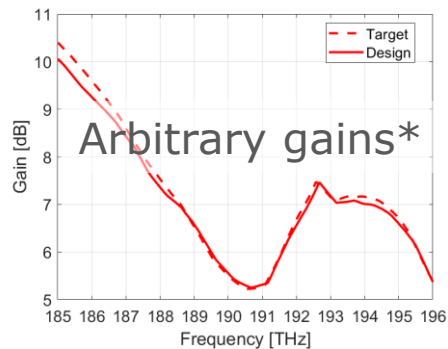
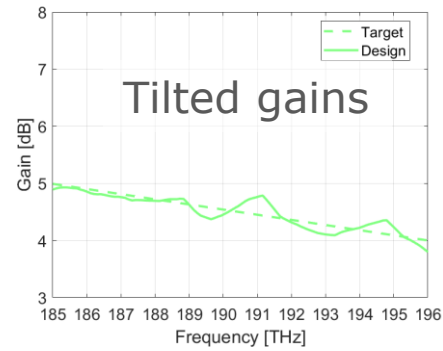
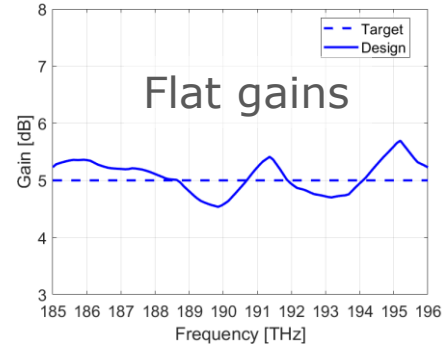
# The machine learning framework



MSE: mean squared error

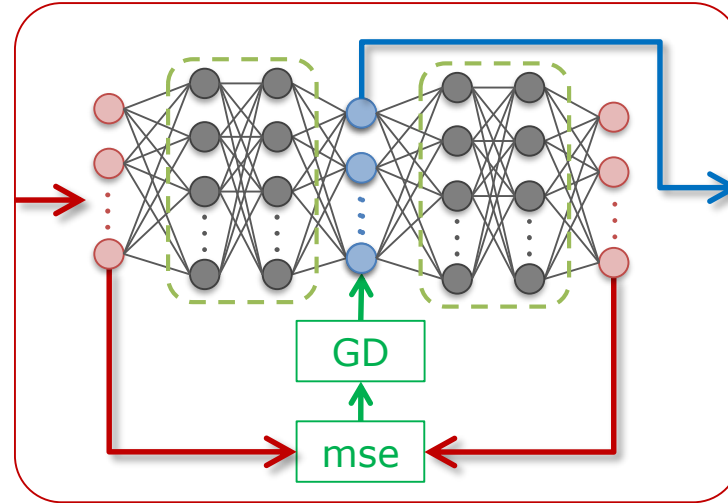
GD: gradient descent

# Experimental validation of the learned model



Target gains

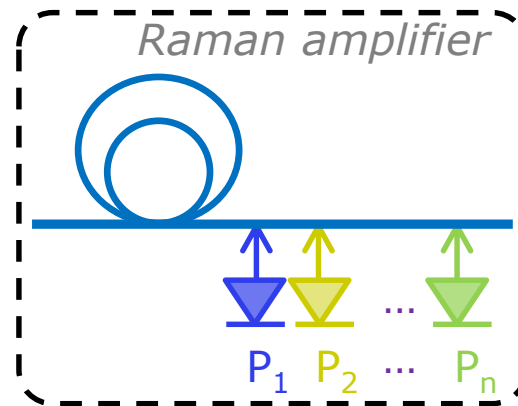
Measured gains



Pump powers

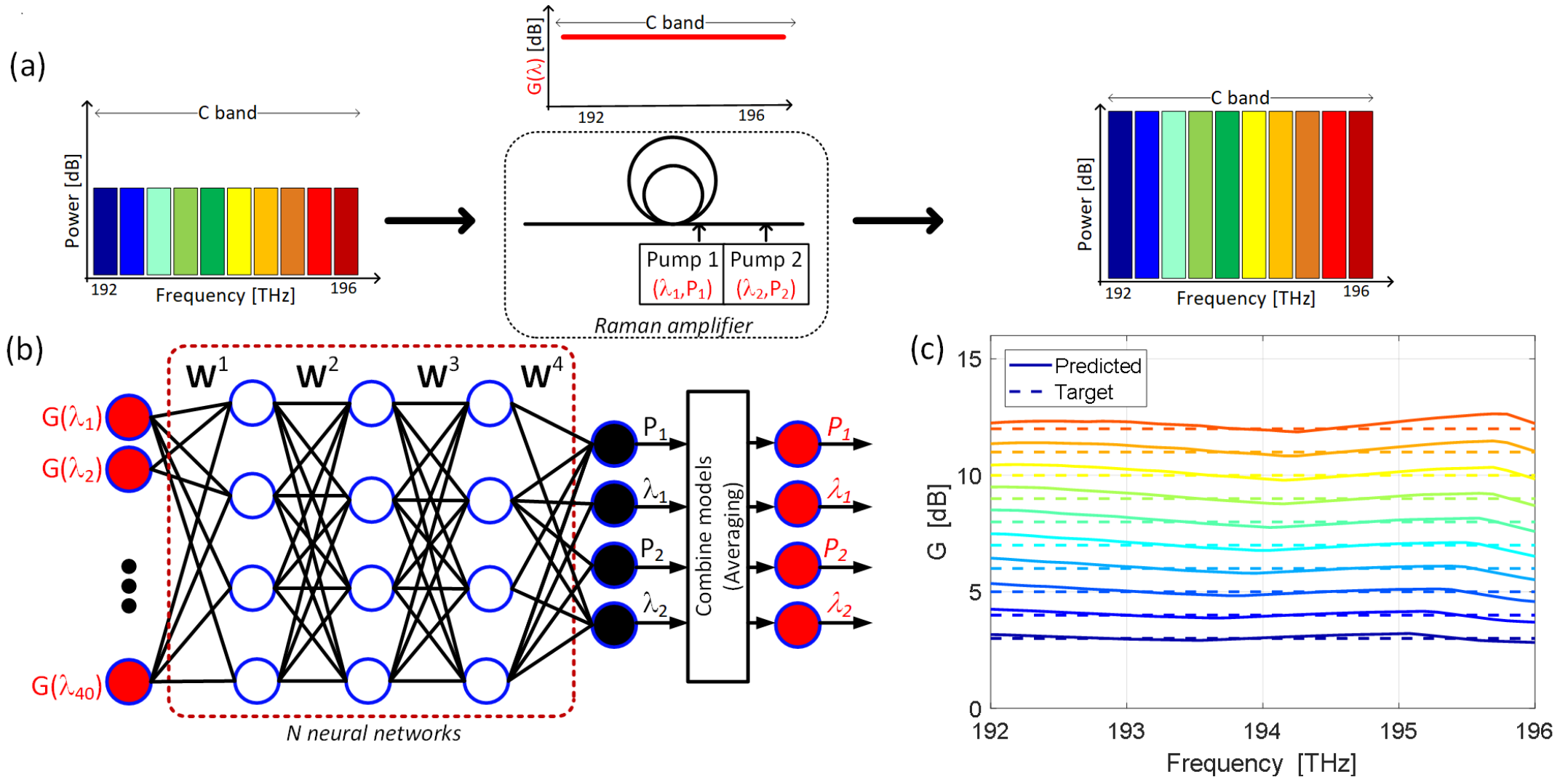
P (mW)
2.87
52.57
84.94
0.00

Numerical/Experiment

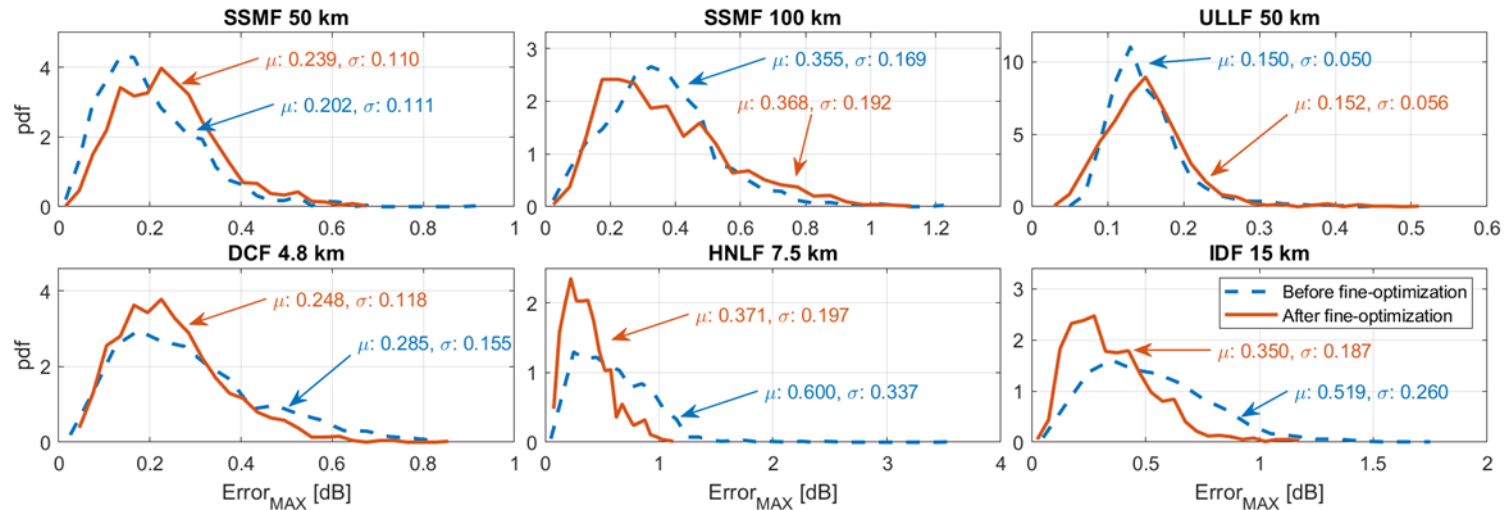
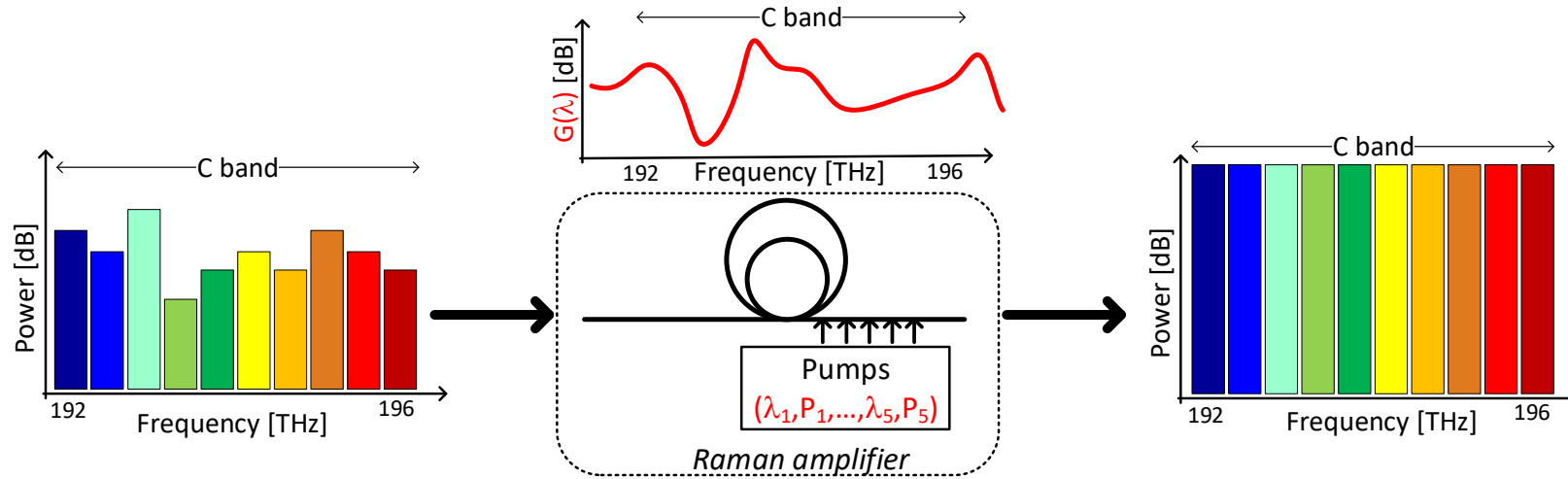


\* Part from the acquired data not used on training

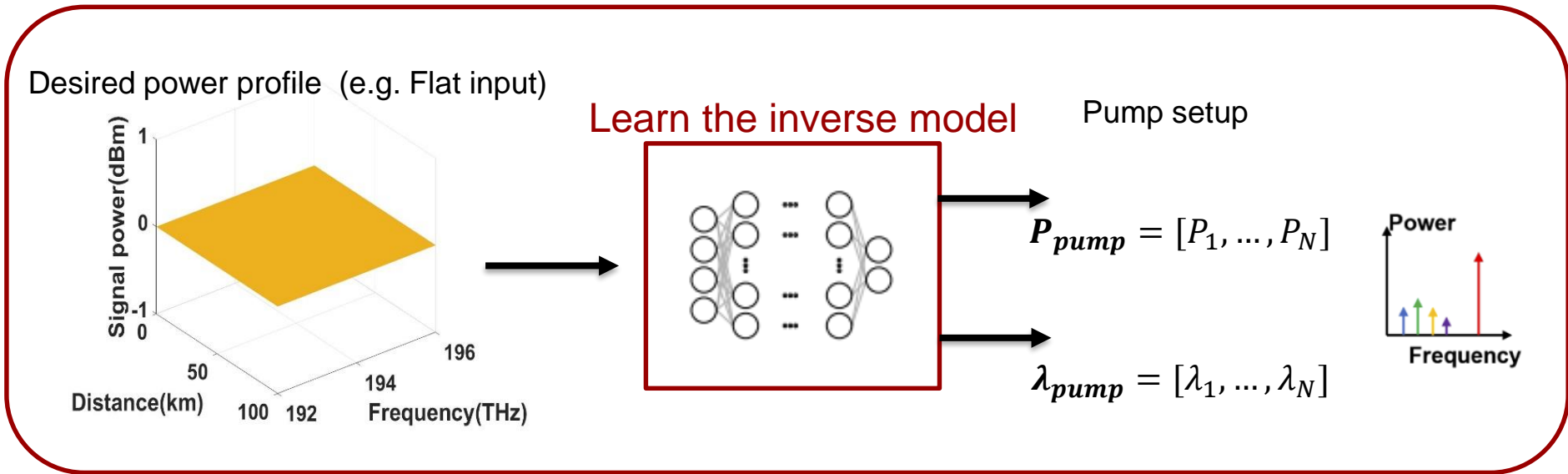
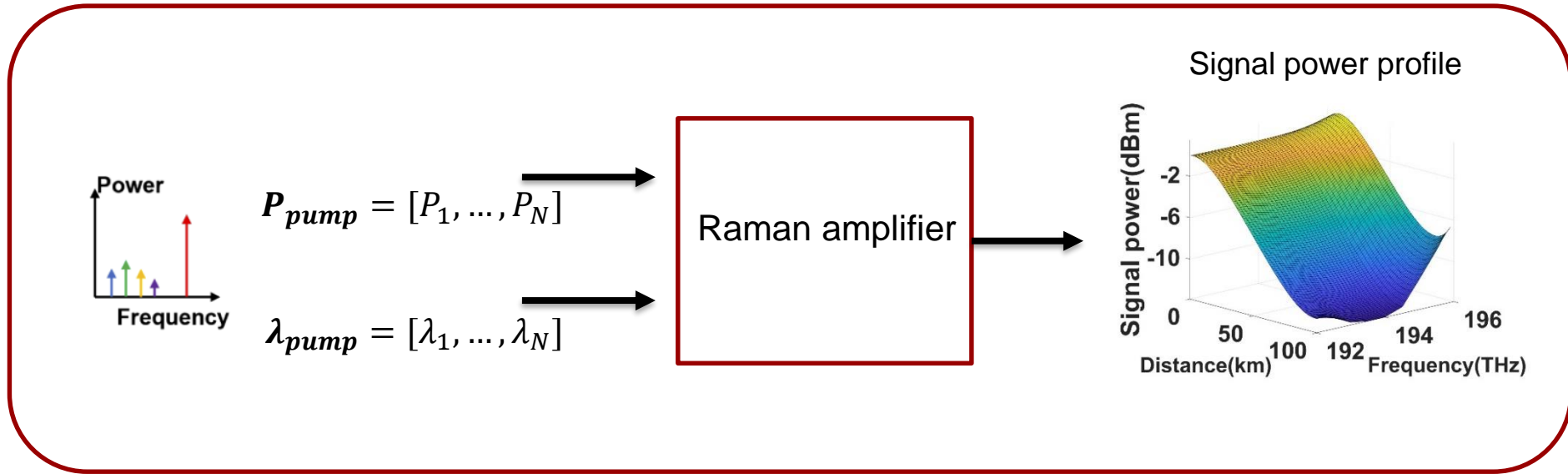
# Flat gain profile design (C band)



# Arbitrary gain profile design (C band)



# Arbitrary distance and gain profile



# Power profile and gain shaping

**Quasi-lossless transmission with uniform distribution of power resulting in:**

- Minimizing the amplified spontaneous emission (ASE) noise level
- Requirement for Nonlinear Fourier Transform (NFT) - NFT assumes lossless transmission

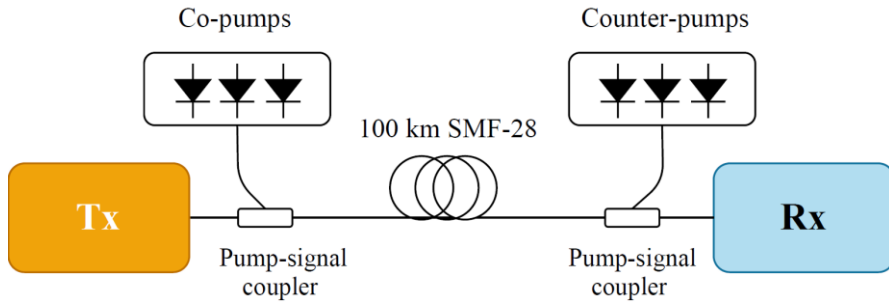
**Symmetric power distribution:**

- A requirement for nonlinearity mitigation using optical phase conjugation (OPC)



# Bi-directional Raman amplifier

Direct model (Raman Solver)  
Computationally demanding

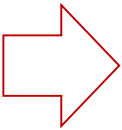
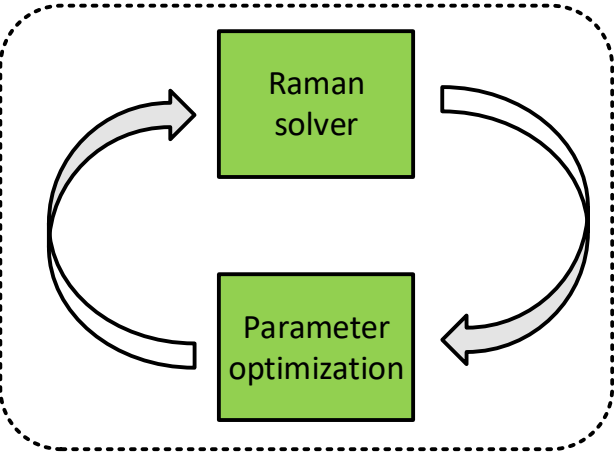


$$\frac{dP_s}{dz} = g_R P_p P_s - \alpha_s P_s,$$

$$\pm \frac{dP_p}{dz} = -\frac{\omega_p}{\omega_s} g_R P_p P_s - \alpha_p P_p,$$

Inverse model  
No closed-form solution!

Repeat N times



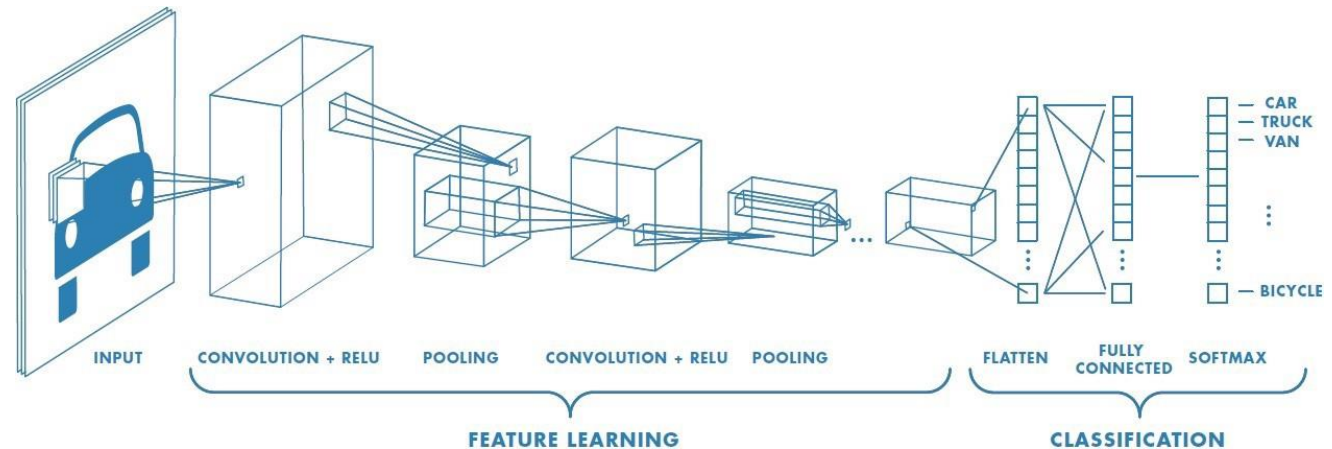
- Long convergence time
- Restart optimization for new gain profile
- Usually based on evolutionary algorithms

## Using State-of-the-art networks :

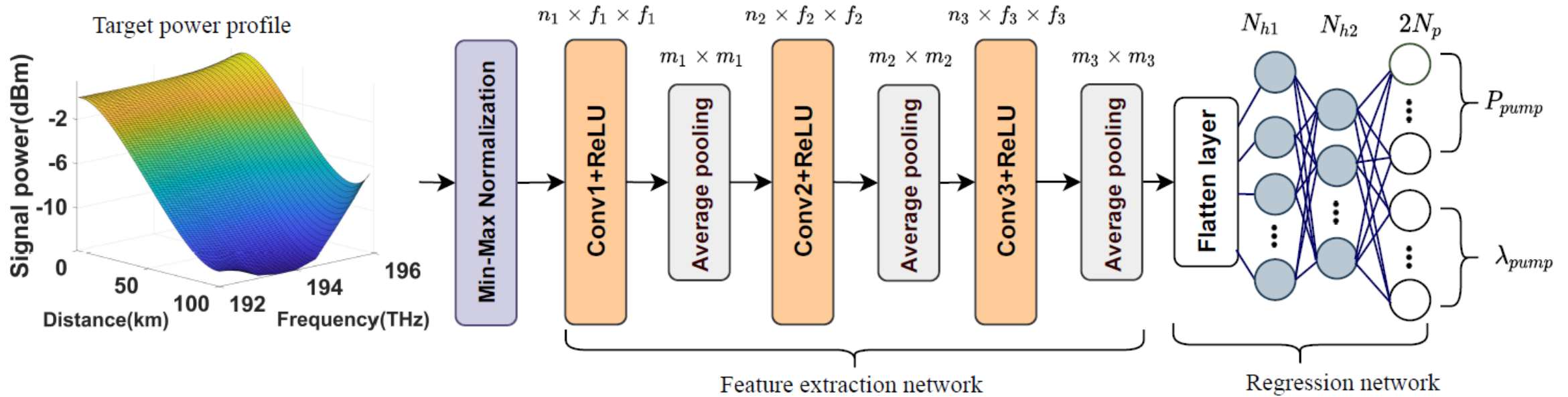
- Requires vectorising the input without removing the spatial relevancy
- Number of training parameters goes extremely high
- High training time
- Overfitting

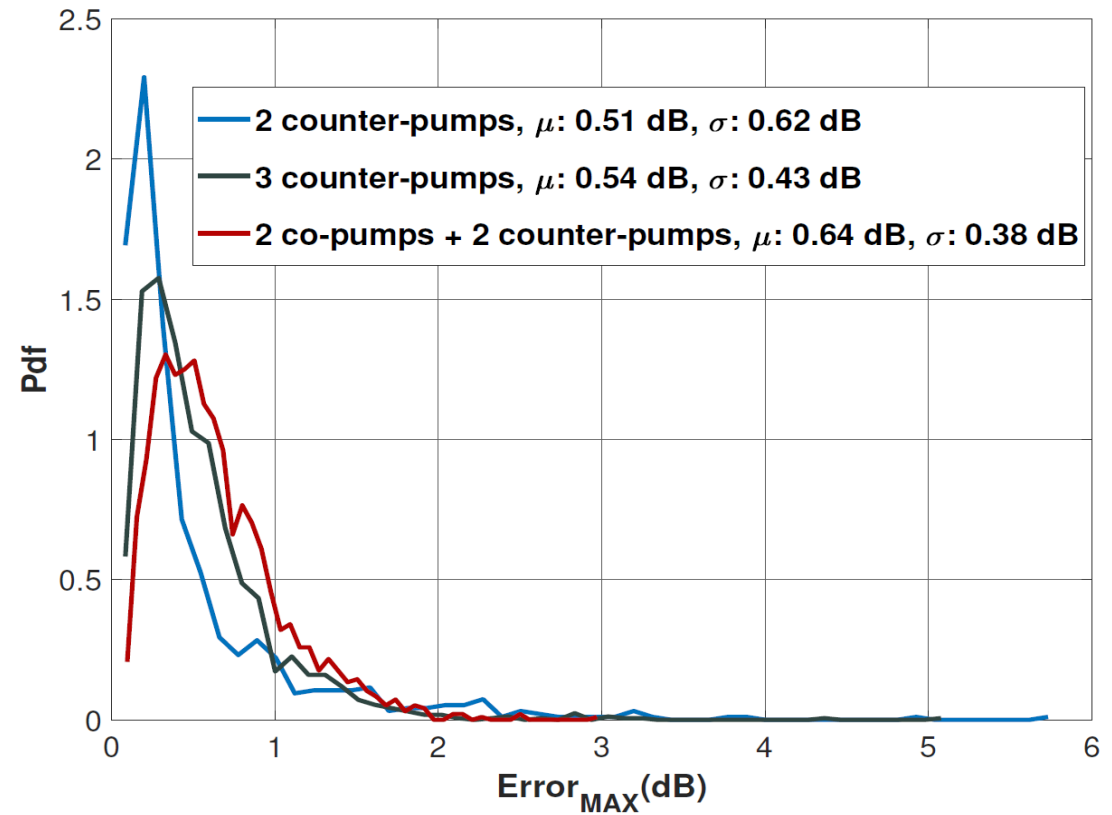
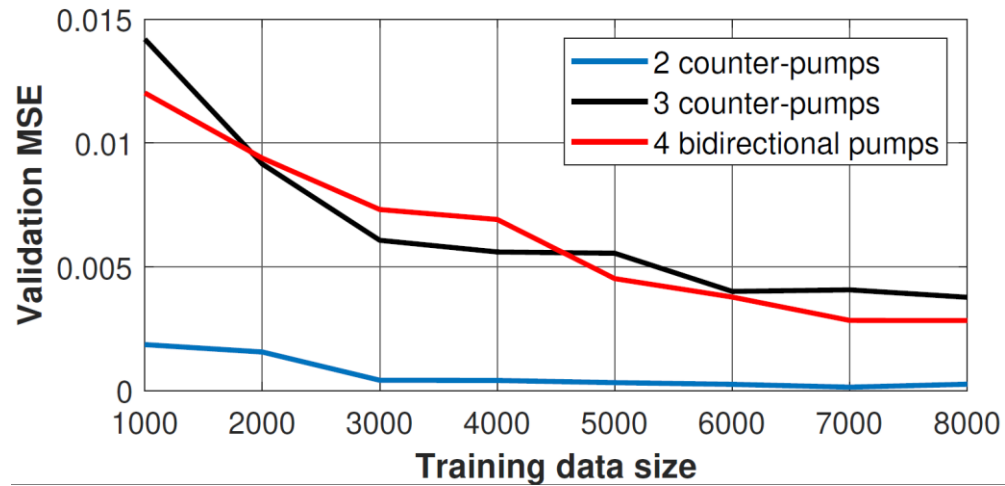
## Using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)

- 2D power profile is resembled as an image
- Extracts the spatial information and decrease the redundancy
- Higher training speed and Extremely lower number of parameters



# Proposed network for inverse design

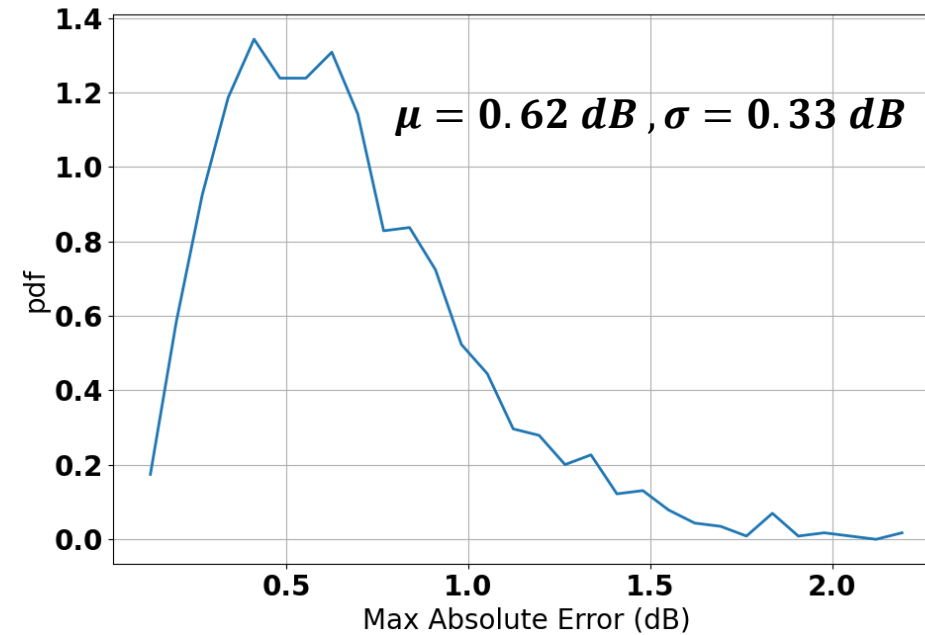




# Simulation results – 2<sup>nd</sup> order pumping test results

Pump parameters for 8 pumps case

Pumps	Power range	Wavelengths (fixed)
2 <sup>nd</sup> order co-pump	0.2 – 1.2 W	1366 nm
2 <sup>nd</sup> order counter-pump	0.2 – 1.2 W	1366 nm
3 1 <sup>st</sup> co-pumps	5 – 150 mW	[1425, 1455, 1475]
3 1 <sup>st</sup> counter-pumps	5 – 150 mW	[1425, 1455, 1475]



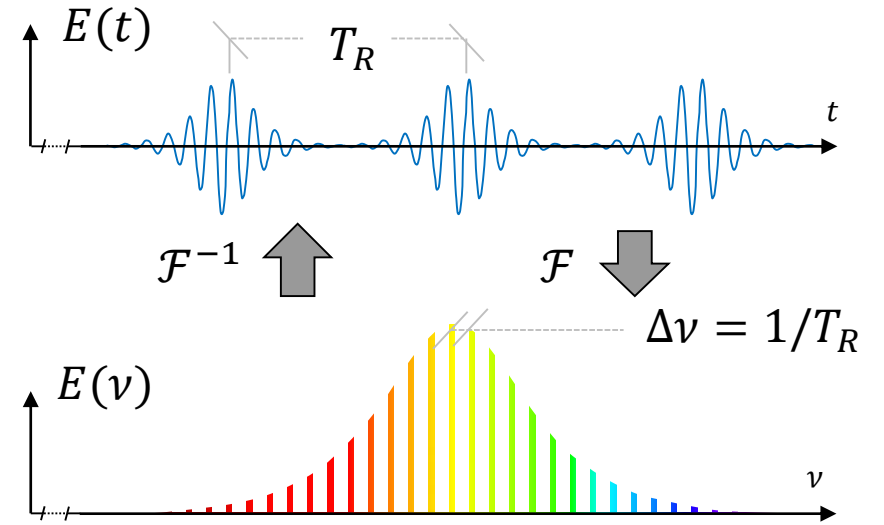
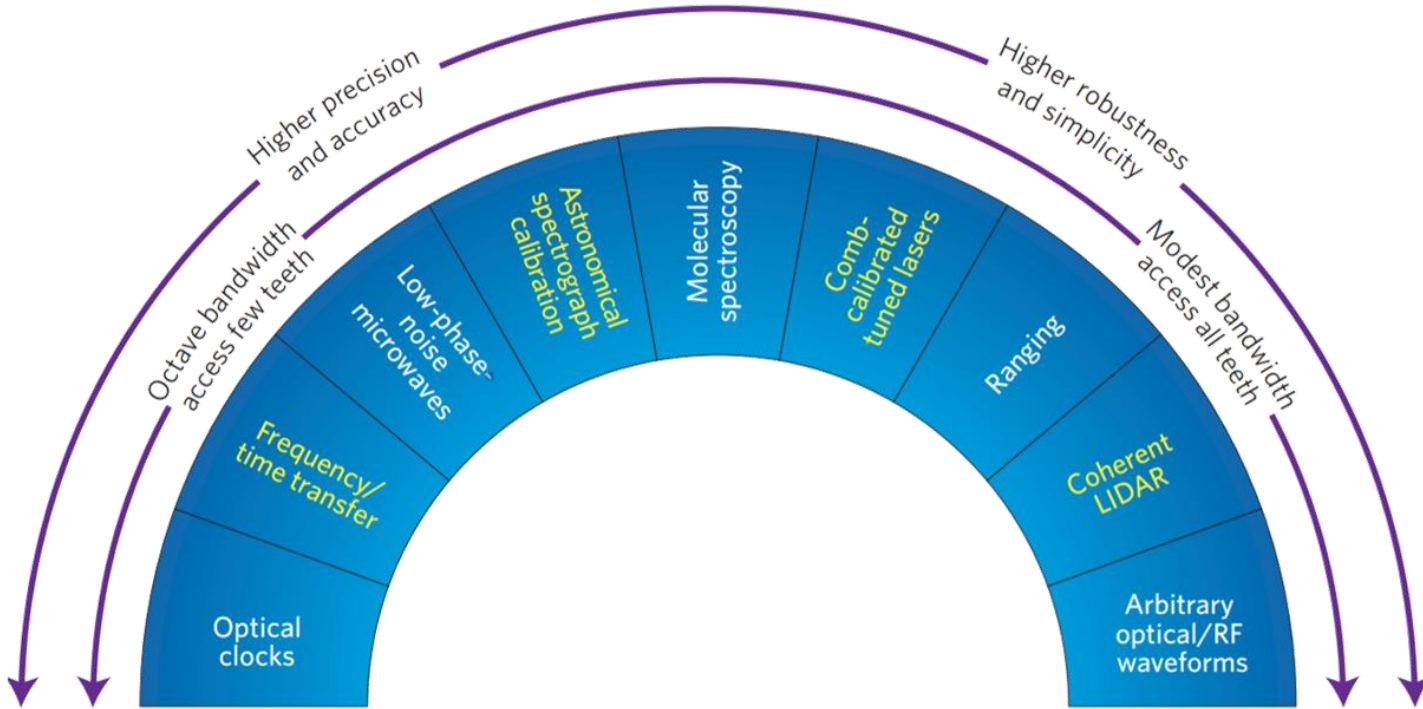
- Multi-layer and convolutional neural networks can learn Raman amplifier direct and inverse mappings
- Learned mappings useful for optimization of pump powers and wavelengths for:
  - *Generation of arbitrary gain profiles*
  - *Generation of arbitrary **power** and **gain** profiles*
- Maximization of information rate for ultra-wideband optical networks requires **power** and **gain** optimization
- The framework brings significant advantages for **complex** experimental optimization procedures
- Machine-learning enabled inverse system design relevant for a variety of problems in photonics



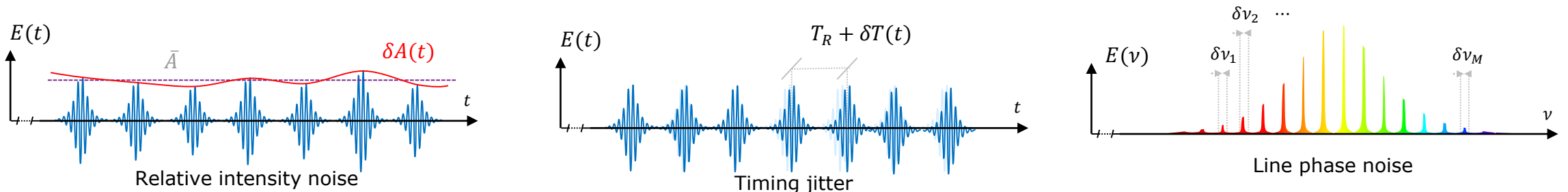
# *Unifying framework for noise characterization of lasers and frequency combs*

- [1] D. Zibar et al., "Ultra-sensitive phase and frequency noise measurement technique using Bayesian filtering," Photonics Technology Letters, 2019 (invited paper)*
- [2] D. Zibar et al., "Towards intelligence in photonic systems," Optics & Photonics News, 2020*
- [3] G. Brajato et al., "Bayesian filtering framework for noise characterization of frequency combs," Optics Express 2020*
- [4] H. M. Chin et al. "Machine learning aided carrier recovery in quantum key distribution," npj Qunatum Inf. 2020*
- [5] N. Von Bandel et al., "Time-dependent laser linewidth: beat-note digital acquisition," Optics Express, 2016*
- [6] X. Xie et al., "Phase noise characterization of sub-hertz linewidth lasers via digital cross correlation," Opt. Lett. 2017*
- [7] D. Zibar et al., "Optimum phase measurement in the presence of amplifier noise," under review in Optica (<https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.03577>)*

# Optical frequency combs

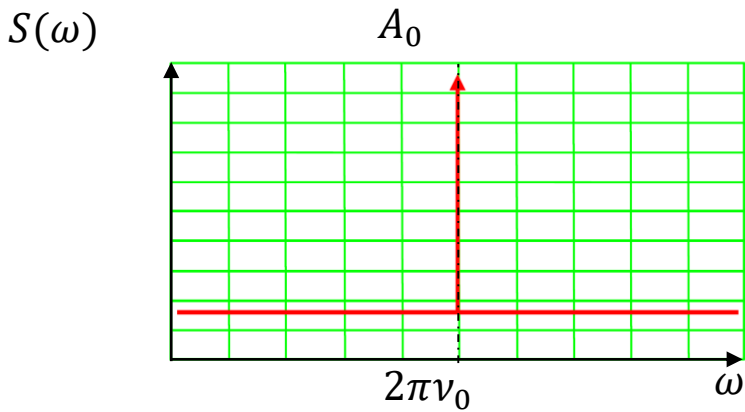


- Comb applications **performance** heavily relies on the macroscopic comb noise properties:



# Noise definitions

## Ideal oscillator



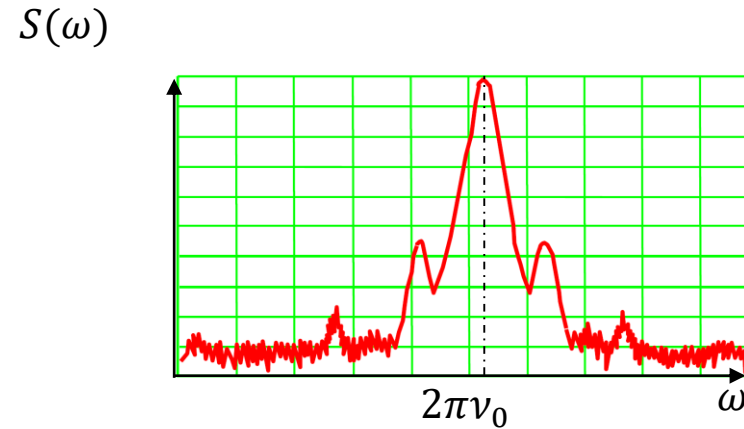
$$s(t) = \underbrace{A_0}_{\text{Mean amplitude}} \cos(\underbrace{2\pi\nu_0 t}_{\text{Mean frequency}})$$

Mean amplitude    Mean frequency

$$\underbrace{\tilde{\phi}(t)}_{\text{Total phase}} = 2\pi\nu_0 t + \phi(t) \quad \text{Sum of a linear growing trend and a stochastic term}$$

Total phase

## Real oscillator



$$s(t) = A_0 \left( 1 + \underbrace{a(t)}_{\text{Relative intensity noise}} \right) \cos\left( 2\pi\nu_0 t + \underbrace{\phi(t)}_{\text{Phase noise}} \right) + \underbrace{r(t)}_{\text{Measurement noise}}$$

Relative intensity noise    Phase noise    Measurement noise

$$\underbrace{\nu(t)}_{\text{Instantaneous frequency}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d\tilde{\phi}(t)}{dt} = \nu_0 + \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d\phi(t)}{dt} = \underbrace{\nu_0}_{\text{Frequency noise}} + \delta\nu(t)$$

Sum of a constant term and a stochastic term

# Noise in time and frequency domain

	Intensity noise	Phase noise	Measurement noise
time	<p> <math>s(t)</math>  <math>A_0</math>  <math>\delta A(t) = a(t)A_0</math>  <math>t</math> </p>	<p> <math>s(t)</math>  <math>A_0</math>  <math>\phi(t)</math>  <math>t</math> </p>	<p> <math>s(t)</math>  <math>A_0</math>  <math>r(t)</math>  <math>t</math> </p>
frequency	<p> <math>S(\omega)</math>  <math>A_0</math>  <math>2\pi\nu_0</math>  <math>\omega</math>            RIN         </p>	<p> <math>S(\omega)</math>  <math>A_0</math>  <math>A_0/2</math>  <math>2\pi\nu_0</math>  <math>\omega</math>            FWHM         </p>	<p> <math>S(\omega)</math>  <math>A_0</math>  <math>2\pi\nu_0</math>  <math>\omega</math>            NF         </p>

# The importance of measuring the optical phase

- Optical communication systems (DSP free data-center links)
- Noise characterization of lasers and frequency combs
- Quantum key distribution
- Classical and quantum sensing
- Gravitation wave interferometry

Lower bound on laser phase noise dictated by quantum noise – *how do we measure it?*

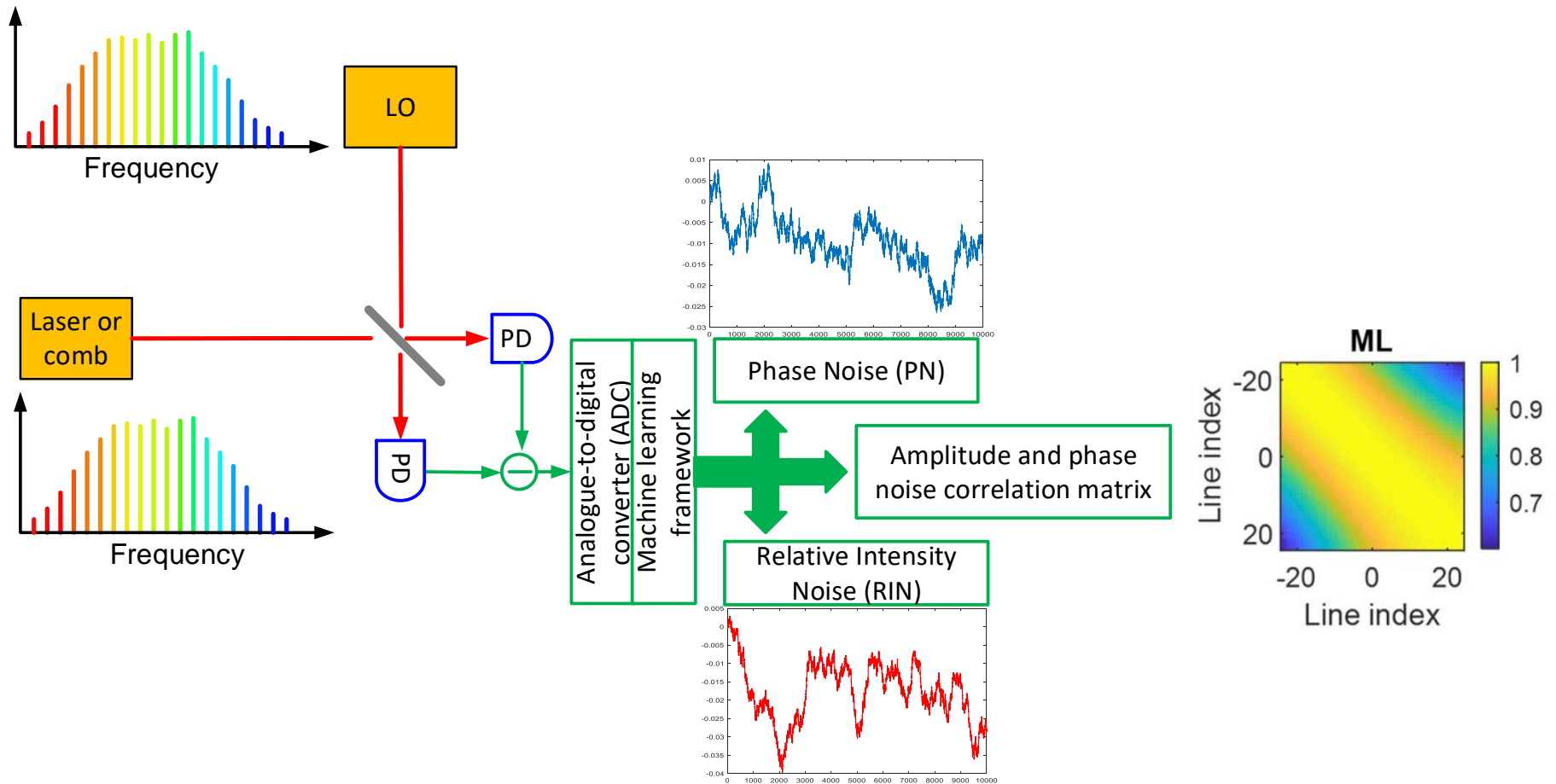
# Limitation of the state-of-the-art

- Conventional methods based on delay-interferometer or cross-correlation
- Impact of optical amplifier and electronic noise
- Measurement noise floor sets a limit on frequency range ( $<10$  MHz)
- Measurement noise floor sets a limit on range ( $<150$  dB rad<sup>2</sup>/Hz)
- Require relatively high input powers ( $>0$  dBm)
- Cannot distinguish noise contribution from cavity itself and optical amplifier

State-of-the-art methods are not optimal according to statistical learning theory



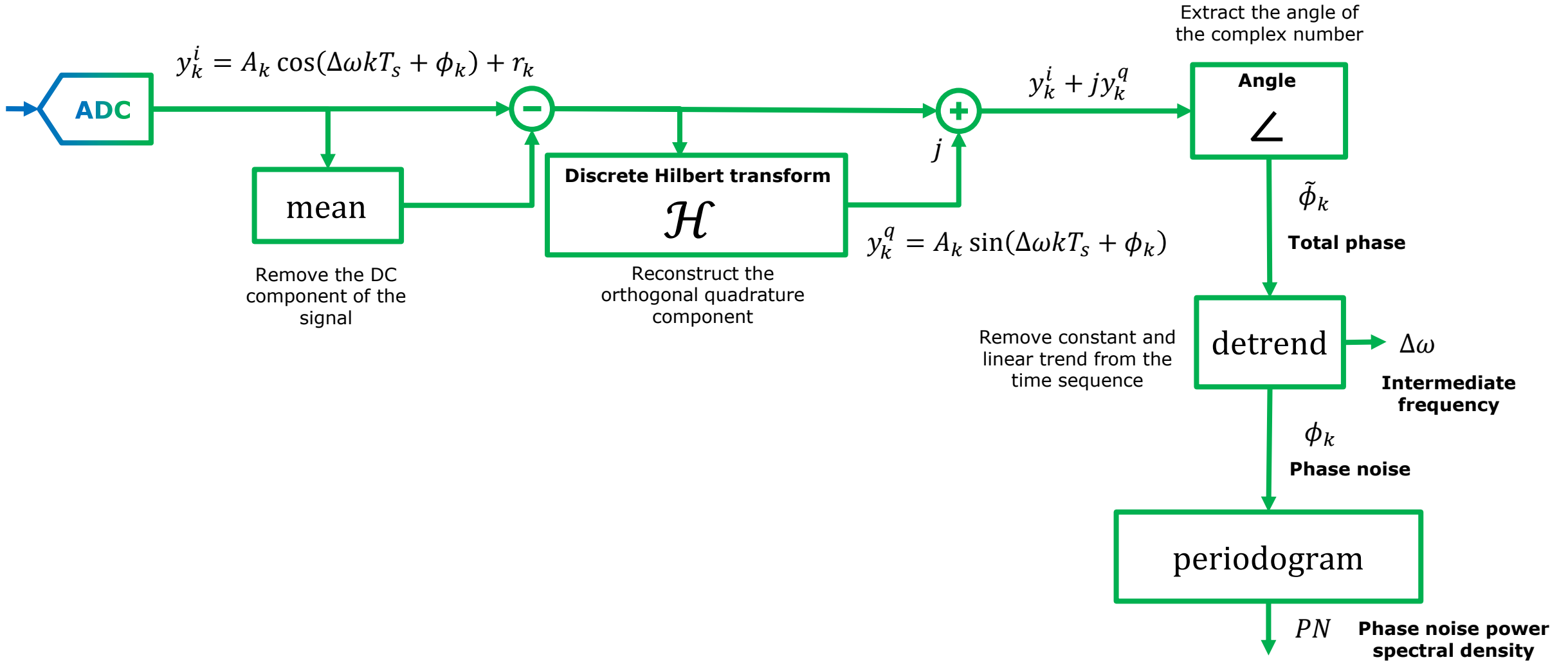
# Unifying framework for noise characterization



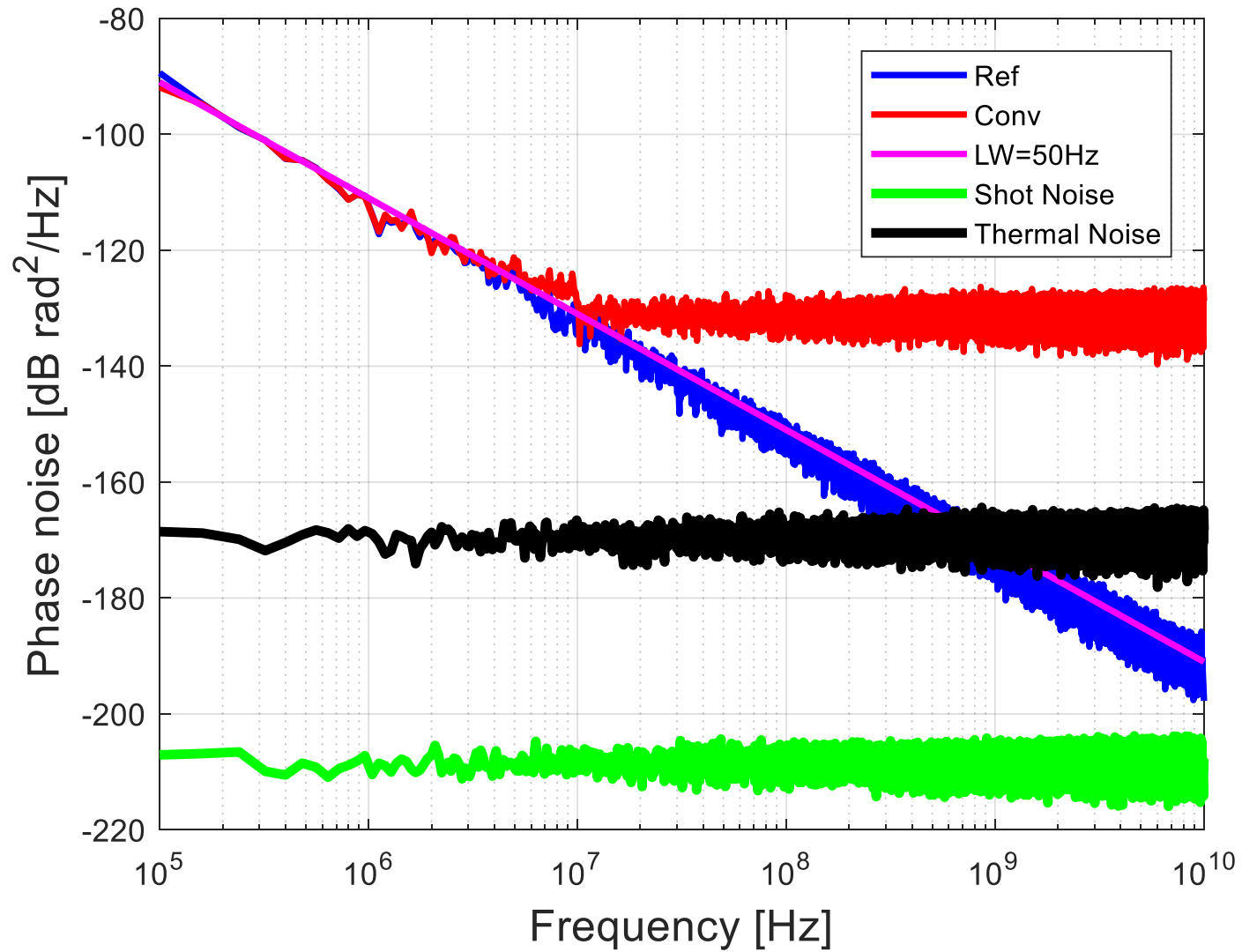
[1] D. Zibar et al, PTL 2019

Record sensitive optical phase measurement demonstrated ( $-75 \text{ dBm}$ ,  $-200 \text{ dB rad}^2/\text{Hz}$ ,  $20 \text{ GHz}$ )

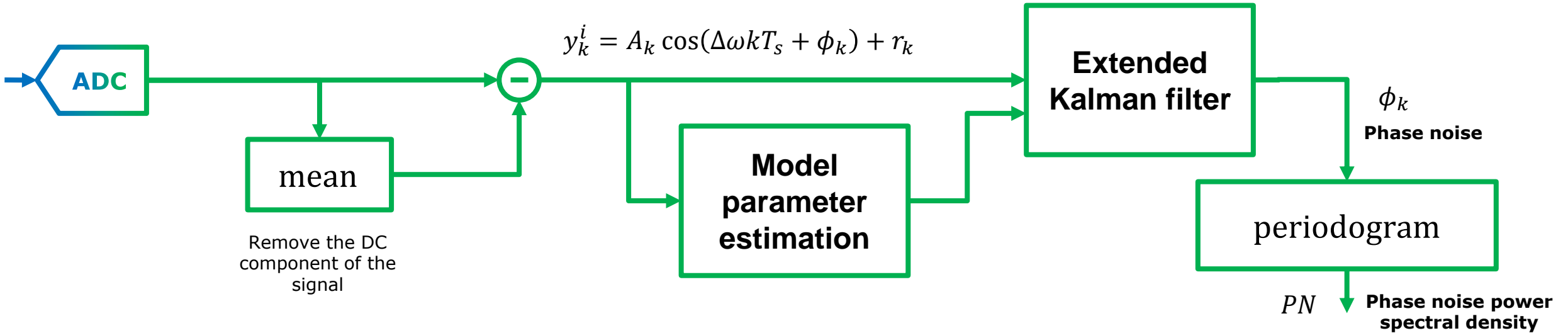
# Conventional phase measurement



## Numerical illustration



# Bayesian filtering based phase extraction



The model we are using

$$\phi_k = \phi_{k-1} + q_k^\phi$$

$$y_k^i = A \cos(\Delta\omega kT_s + \phi_k) + r_k$$

$$q_k^\phi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_\phi^2)$$

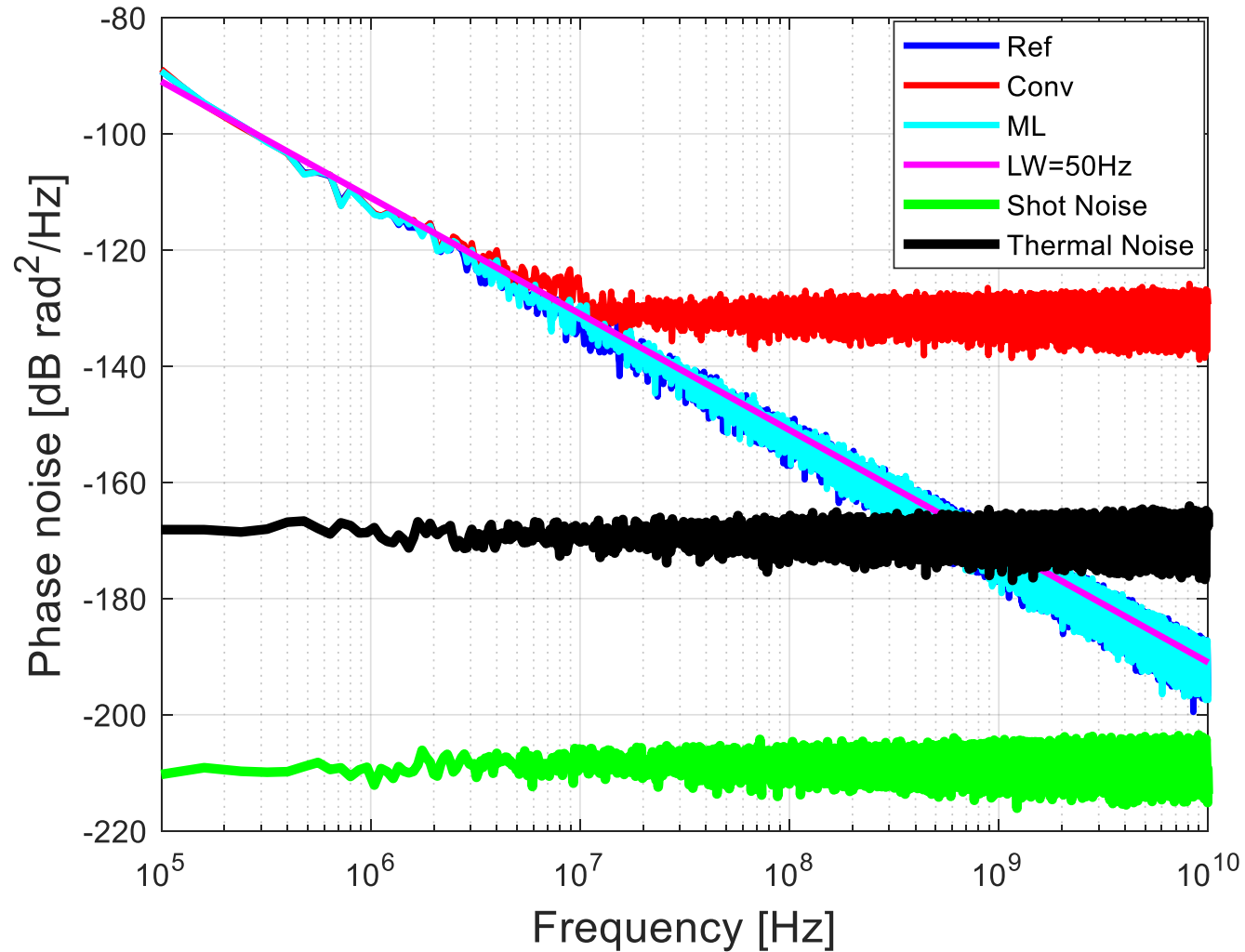
$$r_k \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_r^2)$$

The parameters:

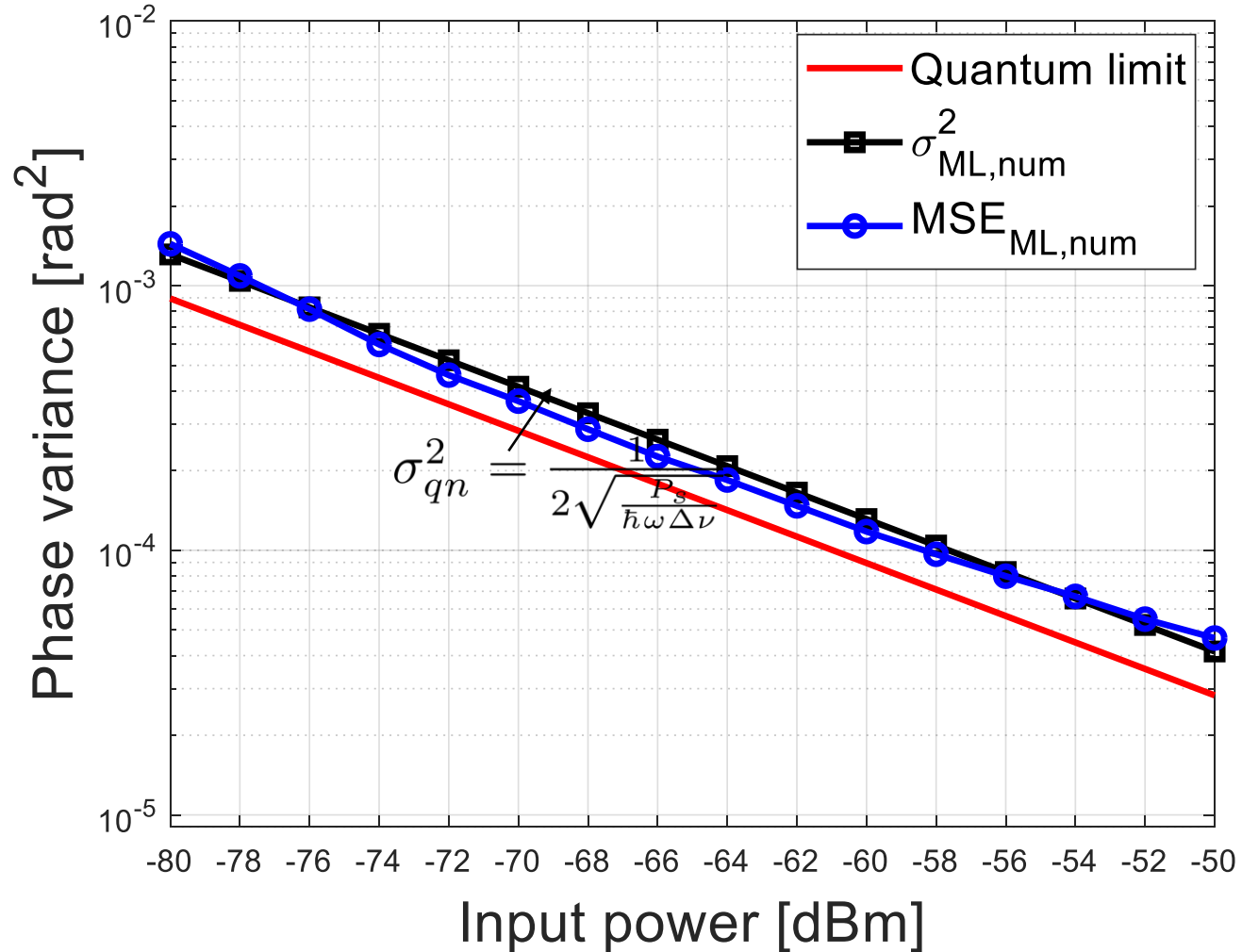
- $\sigma_\phi^2$     **Phase noise variance**
- $\sigma_r^2$     **Measurement noise variance**

- $\Delta\omega$     **Intermediate angular frequency**
- $A$         **Average signal amplitude**

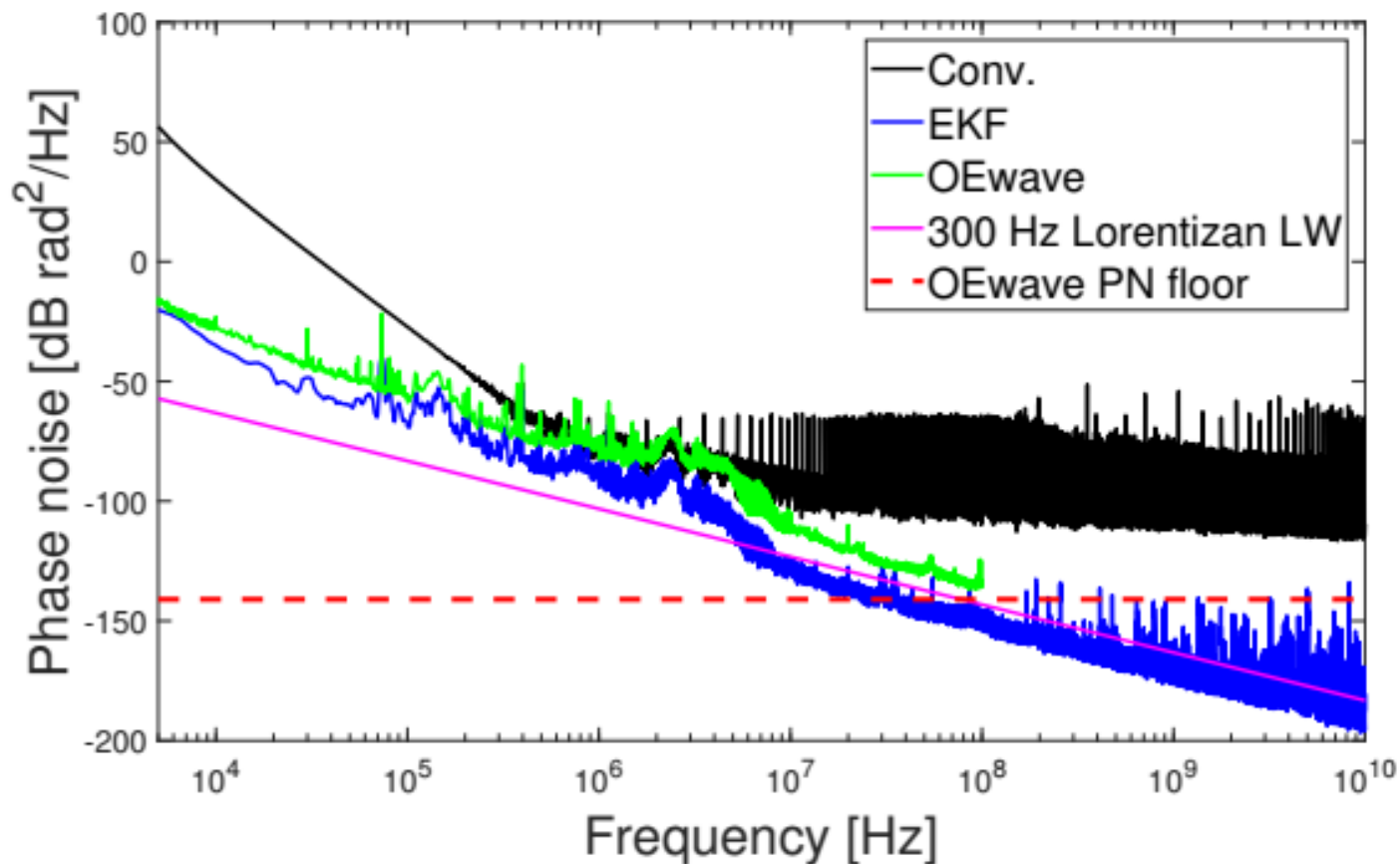
# Bayesian filtering approach not limited by thermal noise



# Quantum limited phase estimation

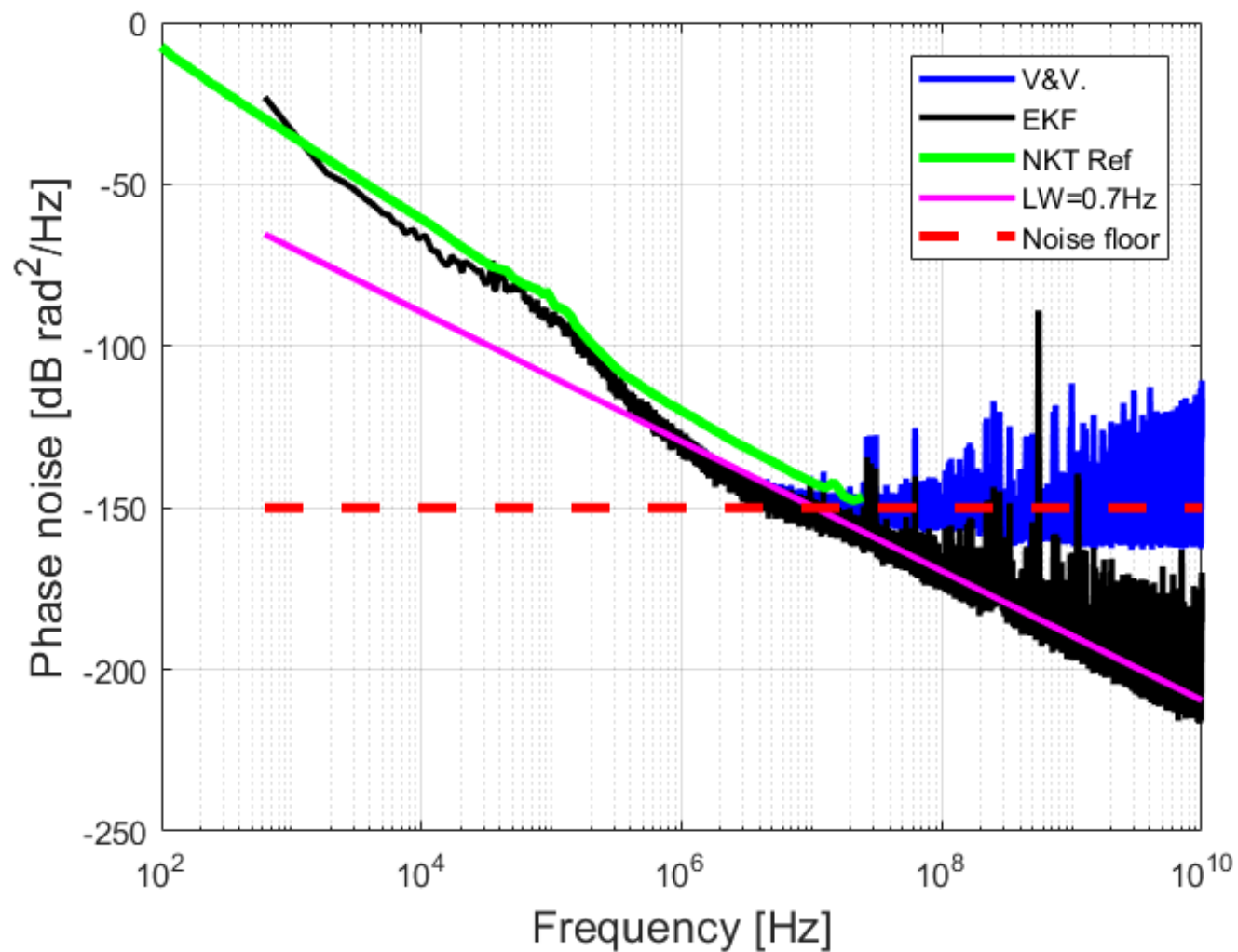




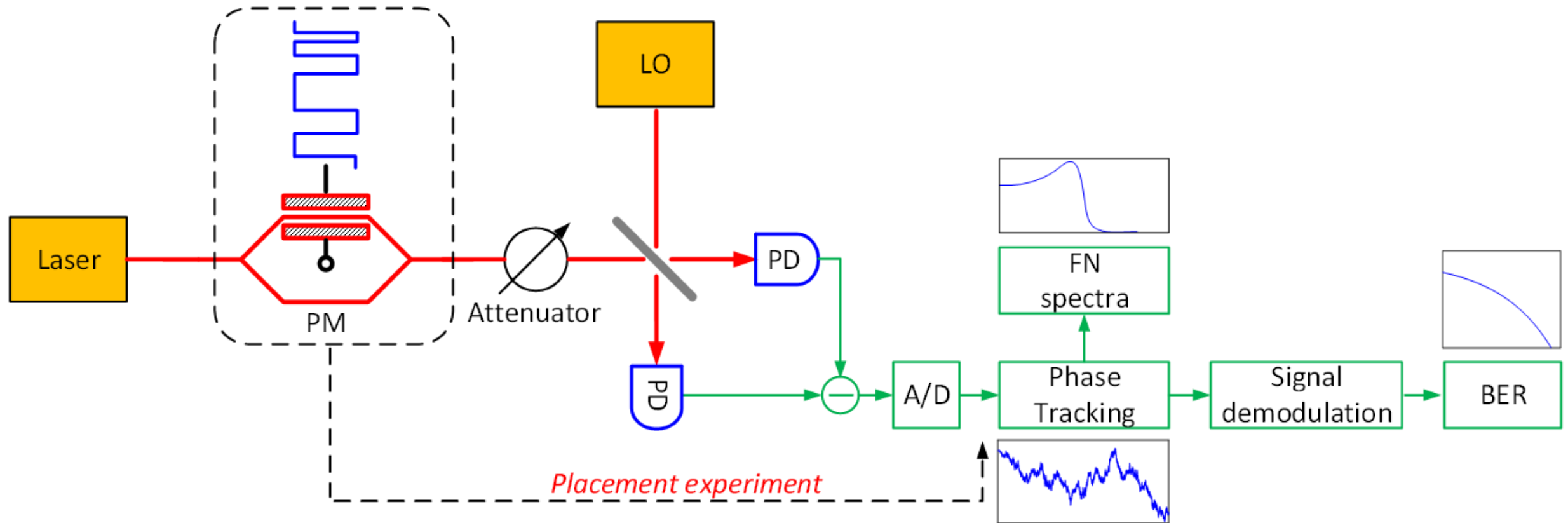


Identification of quantum noise contribution – lower bound on phase noise

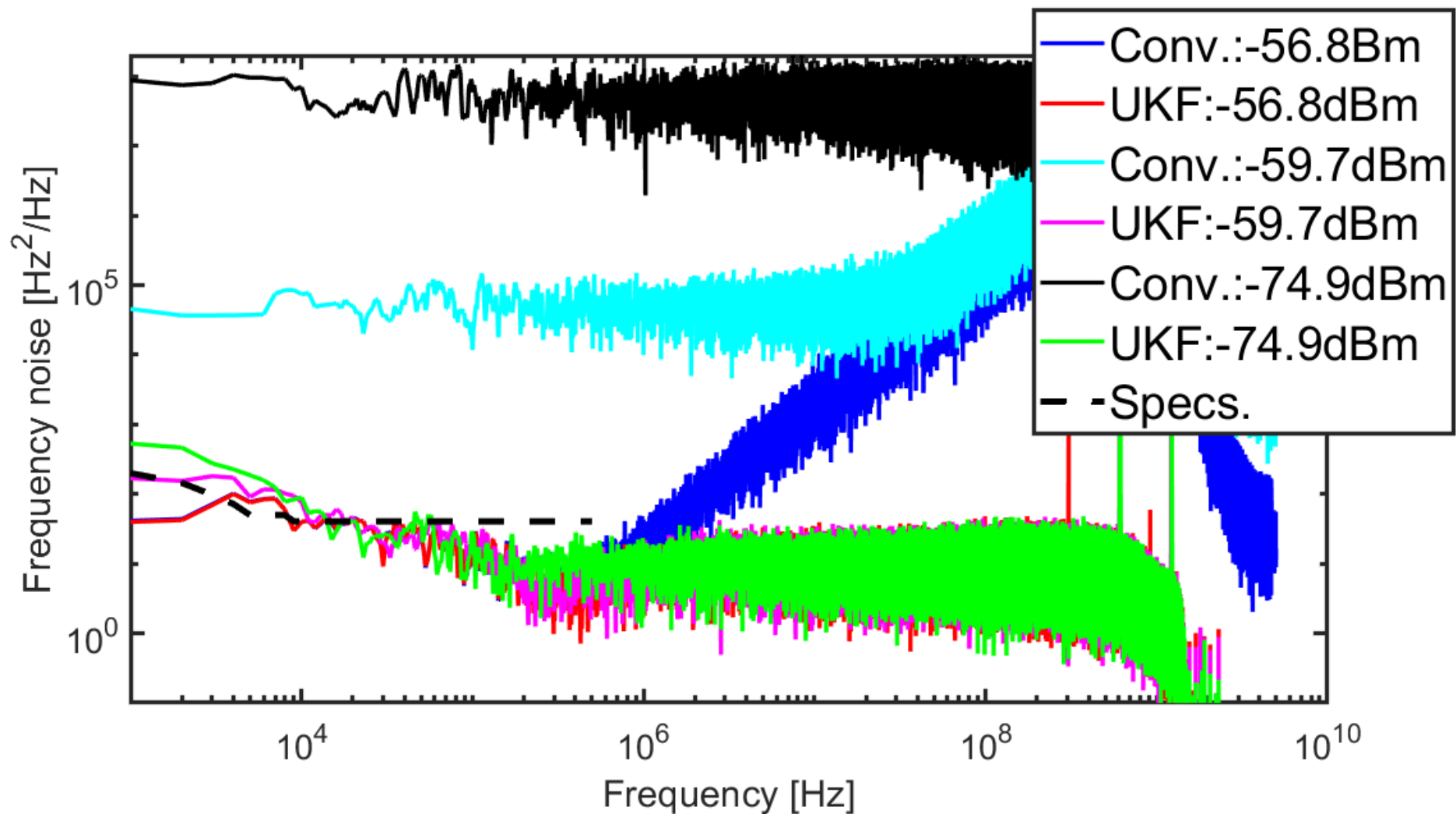
## Identification of fundamental linewidth (ultra low-noise fiber laser)



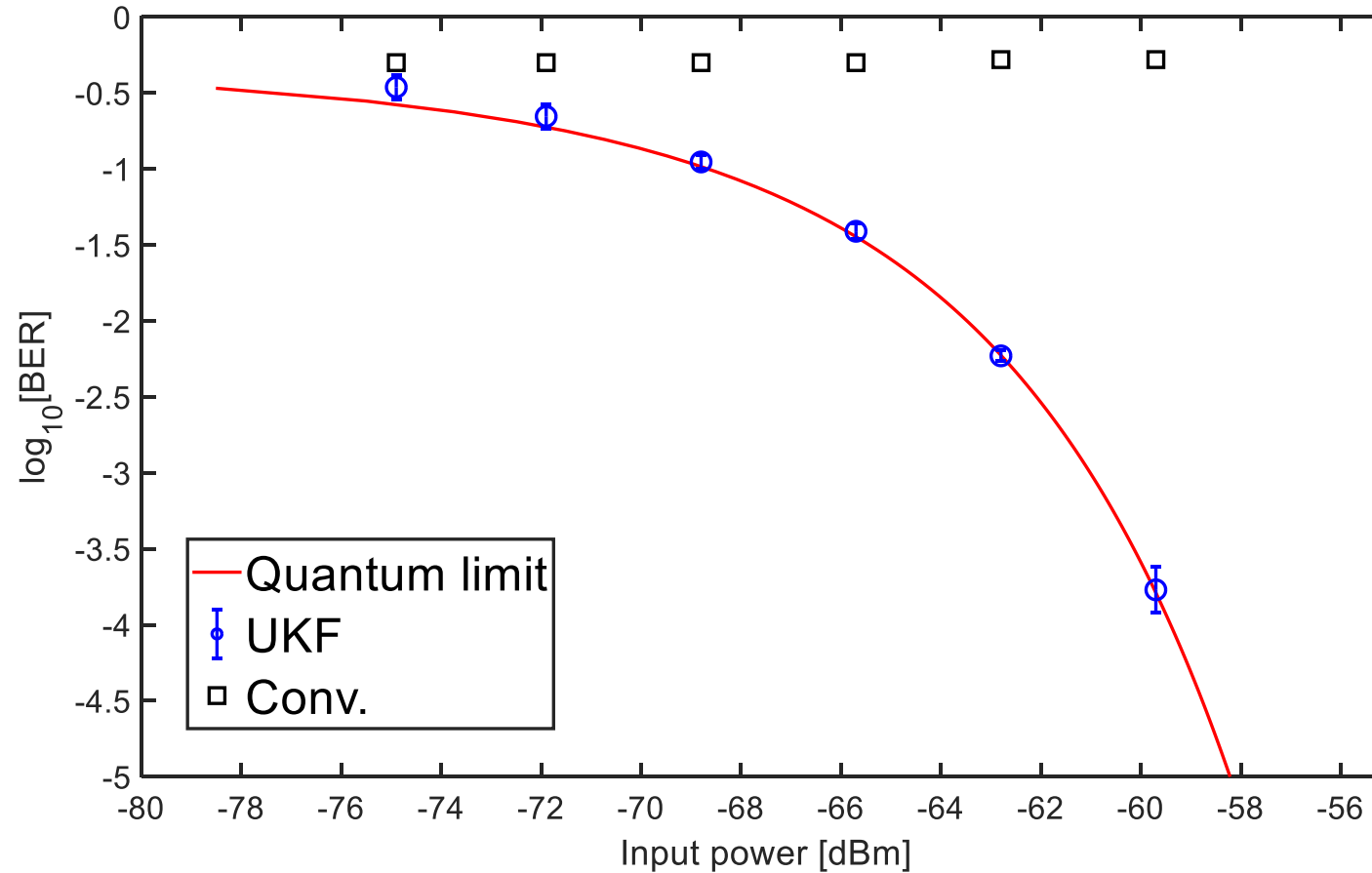
# Quantum-limited optical communication



# Ultra-sensitive frequency noise measurement



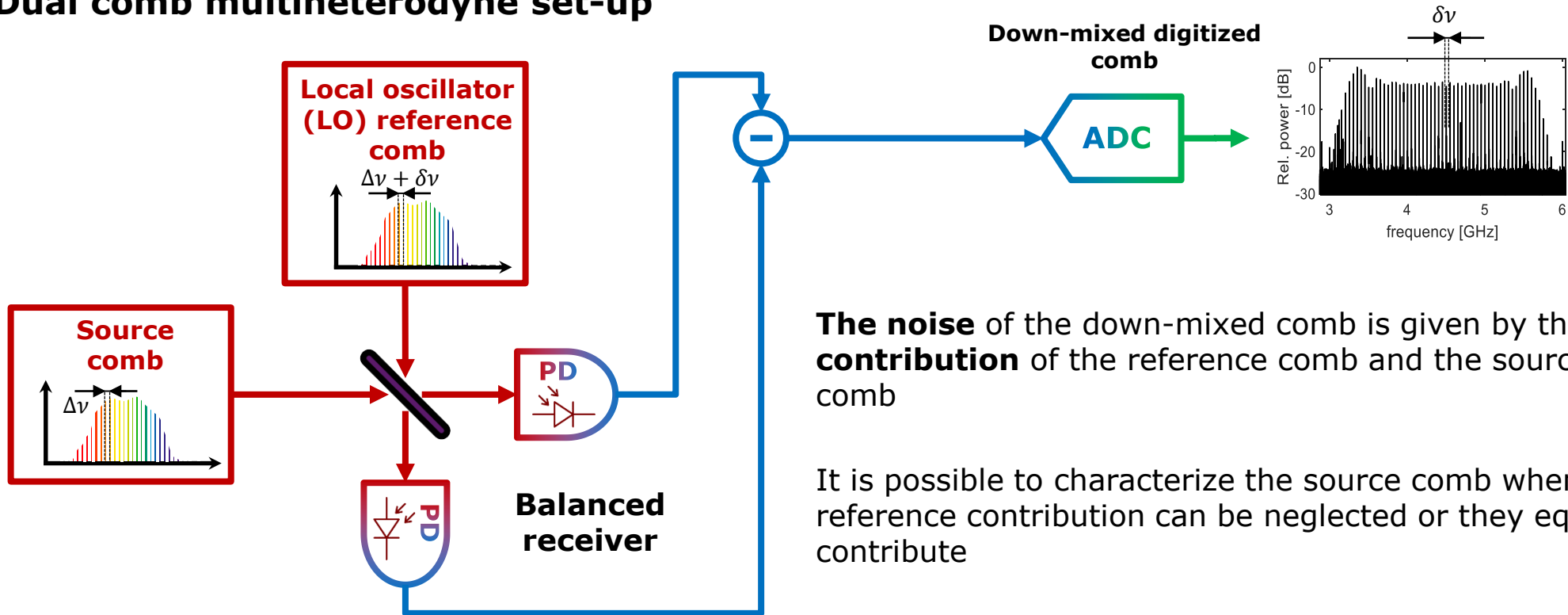
# Quantum limited Bit error rate performance



Negligible penalty compared to the quantum limit bit error rate

# Characterization of frequency combs

## Dual comb multiheterodyne set-up



The **noise** of the down-mixed comb is given by the **contribution** of the reference comb and the source comb

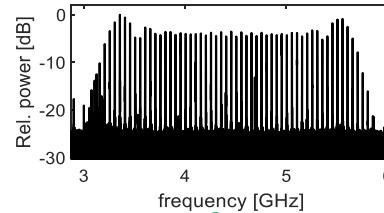
It is possible to characterize the source comb when the reference contribution can be neglected or they equally contribute

The **k-th sample of the down-digitized comb** can be described in time domain as a summation of beating tones

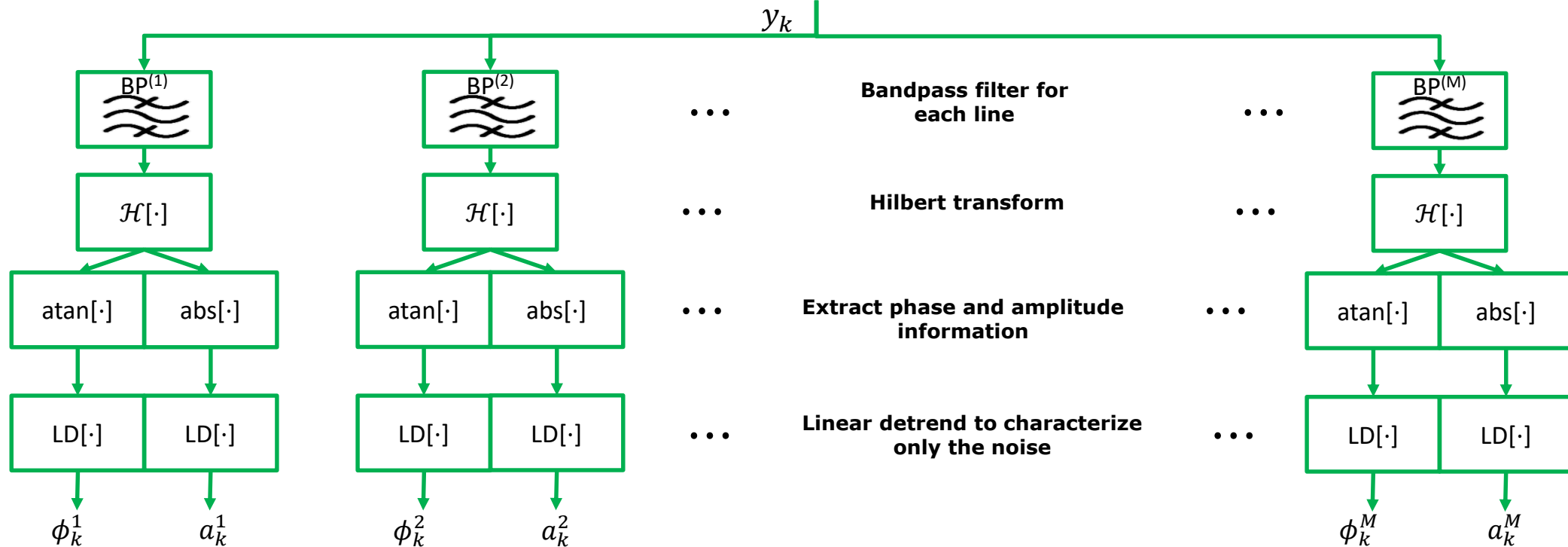
$$y_k = \sum_{m=1}^M \bar{A}^m (1 + a_k^m) \cos(\Delta\omega_m k T_S + \phi_k^m) + n_k$$

# Conventional phase noise extraction

From the downconverted comb, extraction of amplitude and phase noise



Parallel processing of all the frequency lines (generalization of a single line)



**Problem! Measurement noise** affect the comb noise estimation

# Bayesian filtering for joint amplitude and phase noise estimation

Hidden state: phase and amplitude noise of all lines

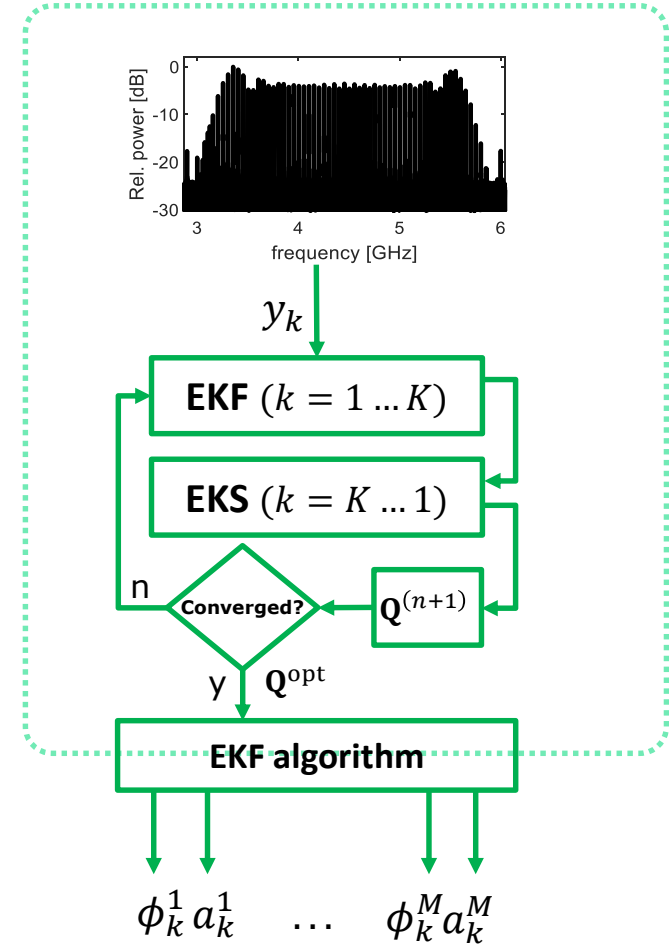
Phase and amplitude model: **Multidimensional Gaussian random walk**

$$\boldsymbol{\phi}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_k^1 \\ \phi_k^2 \\ \vdots \\ \phi_k^M \end{bmatrix} \quad \boldsymbol{\delta A}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \delta A_k^1 \\ \delta A_k^2 \\ \vdots \\ \delta A_k^M \end{bmatrix}$$

With M lines, we have M phase noise sequences and M amplitude noise sequences

$$\begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\phi}_k \\ \boldsymbol{\delta A}_k \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\phi}_{k-1} \\ \boldsymbol{\delta A}_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} + \mathbf{q}_{k-1}, \quad \text{with } \mathbf{q}_{k-1} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{Q}), \mathbf{Q} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Q}_\phi & \mathbf{Q}_{\phi A} \\ \mathbf{Q}_{A\phi} & \mathbf{Q}_A \end{bmatrix}$$

$$y_k = \sum_{m=1}^M \bar{A}^m (1 + \delta A_k^m) \cos(\Delta\omega_m k T_S + \phi_k^m) + n_k$$

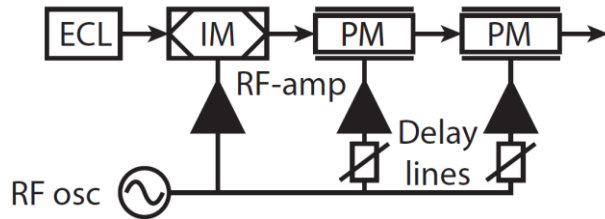


[1] G. Brajato et al, Optics Express 2020



# Data generation: EO combs

## Electro optic comb generation



$$\phi_k^m = \phi_k^L + m\phi_k^{RF}$$

The phase noise of each line has two independent contributions

$$m = -H, -H + 1, \dots, 0, \dots, H - 1, H$$

Relative line index

$$H = \left\lfloor \frac{M}{2} \right\rfloor + 1$$

### Covariance of the phases

$$\text{Var}[\phi_k^m] = \text{Var}[\phi_k^L] + m^2 \text{Var}[\phi_k^{RF}]$$

$$\text{Cov}[\phi_k^m \phi_k^n] = \text{Var}[\phi_k^L] + mn \text{Var}[\phi_k^{RF}]$$

The covariance matrix describe how the noise variance affect different comb lines

$$\text{Cov}[\boldsymbol{\phi}_k \boldsymbol{\phi}_k^T] = \boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \mathbf{c}\mathbf{c}^T \sigma_L^2 + \mathbf{h}\mathbf{h}^T \sigma_{RF}^2$$

$$\mathbf{c} = \underbrace{[1, 1, \dots, 1]^T}_{M \text{ lines}}$$

$$\mathbf{h} = \underbrace{[-H, -H + 1, \dots, 0, \dots, H - 1, H]^T}_{M \text{ lines}}$$

### Correlation of the phases

$$\text{Corr}[\phi_k^m \phi_k^n] = \frac{\text{Cov}[\phi_k^m \phi_k^n]}{\text{std}[\phi_k^m] \text{std}[\phi_k^n]}$$

The correlation matrix is re-scaled such that it's maximum value is 1.

Correlation describes how similar are two lines.

1 = perfectly correlated lines

0 = uncorrelated lines

-1 = anticorrelated lines

# Building phase correlation matrices

The covariance can be estimated after estimating the phases

$$\Sigma_{N,l} = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{k=l}^{l+N} (\phi_k - \bar{\phi})(\phi_k - \bar{\phi})^T$$

We are free to choose:

- **The starting point**  $l$  for estimating the covariance matrix
- **The number of contiguous samples**  $N$  we use for estimating a covariance matrix

We can **define the observation time**  $\tau_{obs} = NT_s$

We can calculate a covariance matrix, hence do an **eigenvalue decomposition for different observation times**

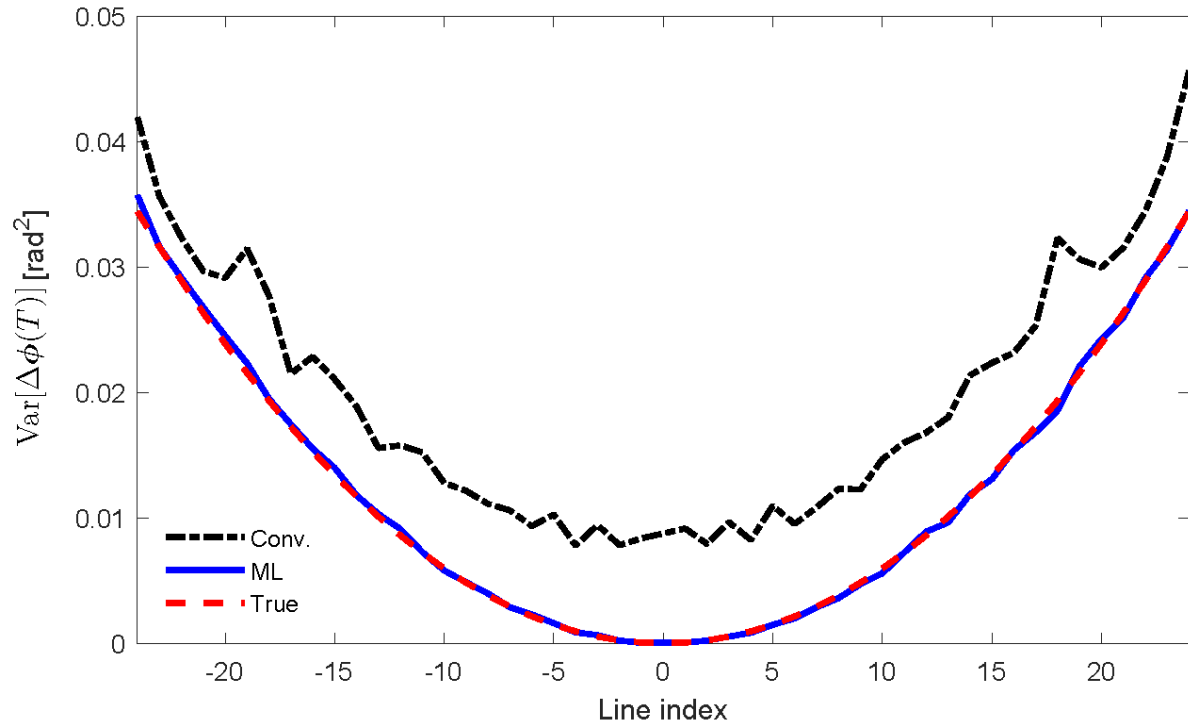
This allow to identify **what are the dominant noise sources at shorter and longer timescales**

The noise sources will be identified by the corresponding eigenvector

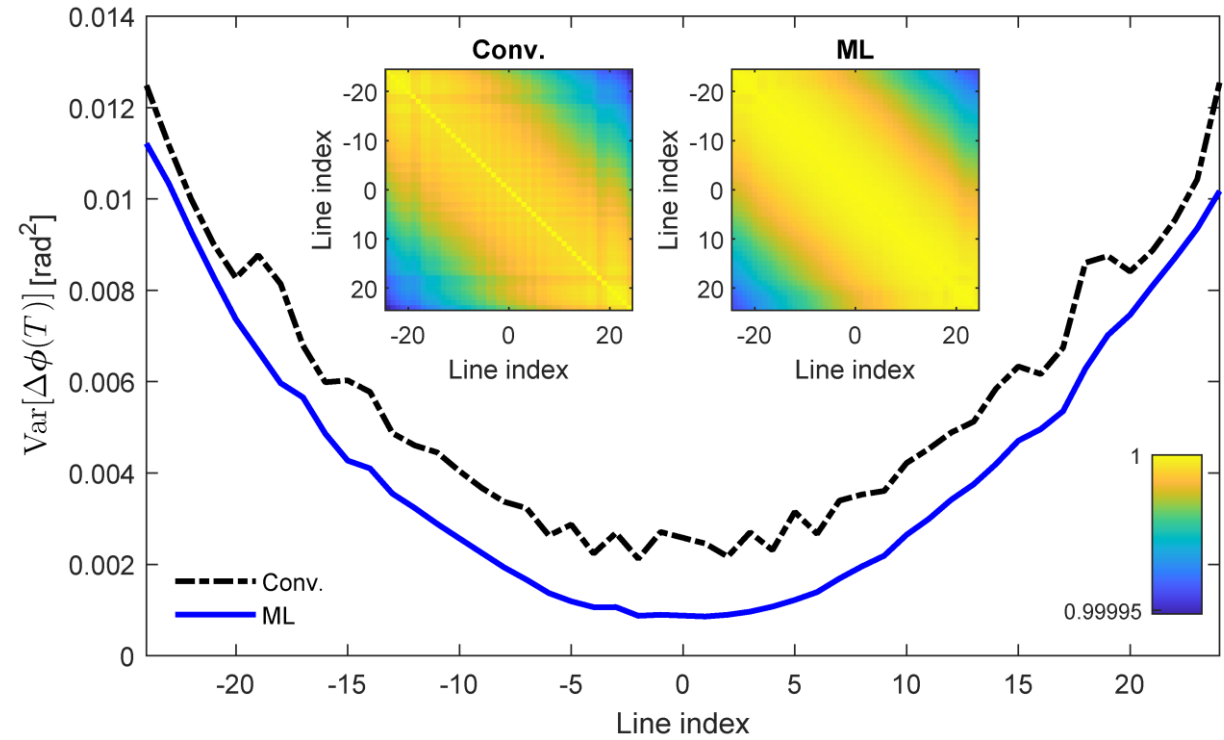
The difference with PCA: PCA does the same but using the full signal length, this approach shows the principal component at different observation times



# Combs lines phase variance



(a) Simulations



(b) Experimental

Machine learning methods provides more accurate estimations

# Sub-space analysis: Eigenvalue decomposition

$$\text{Cov}[\boldsymbol{\phi}_k \boldsymbol{\phi}_k^T] = \boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \mathbf{c}\mathbf{c}^T \sigma_L^2 + \mathbf{h}\mathbf{h}^T \sigma_{RF}^2 = \mathbf{V}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{V}^T = \sum_{i=1}^M \mathbf{v}^i \lambda_i \mathbf{v}^{i^T}$$

$\lambda_i$  is the eigenvalue

$\mathbf{v}^i$  is the **orthonormalized** eigenvalue (or eigenmode)

In our case, we find that only two eigenvalues are significant ( by comparing both sides and orthogonality arguments)

By normalizing  $\mathbf{c}$  and  $\mathbf{h}$ , and exploiting the symmetry

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}} \sigma_L^2 \|\mathbf{c}\|^2 + \hat{\mathbf{h}} \sigma_{RF}^2 \|\mathbf{h}\|^2 = \mathbf{v}^1 \lambda_1 + \mathbf{v}^2 \lambda_2$$

$$\sigma_L^2 \|\mathbf{c}\|^2 = \lambda_1$$

**Eigenvalues are "proportional" to the strength** (variance) of the noise sources

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}} = \mathbf{v}^1$$

**Eigenvectors describe the direction of the noise source**, in this case what comb lines are affected by a given noise source

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}} \|\mathbf{c}\|^2 = \mathbf{c}$$

$$\sigma_{RF}^2 \|\mathbf{h}\|^2 = \lambda_2$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}} = \mathbf{v}^2$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{h}} \|\mathbf{h}\|^2 = \mathbf{h}$$

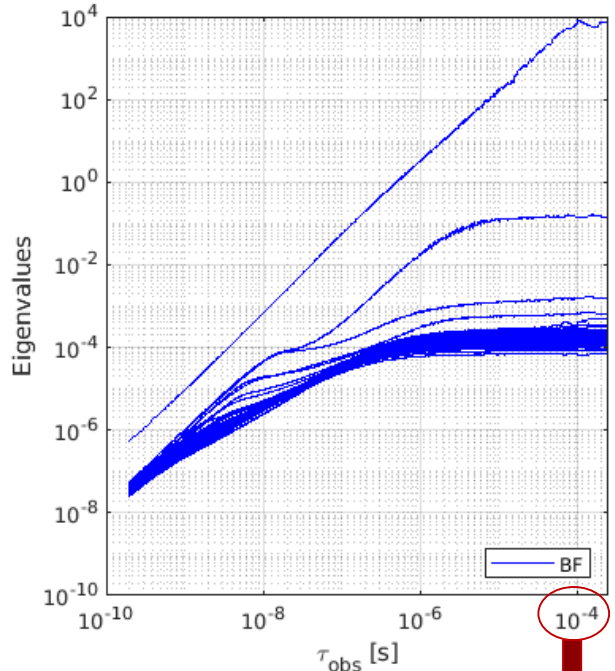
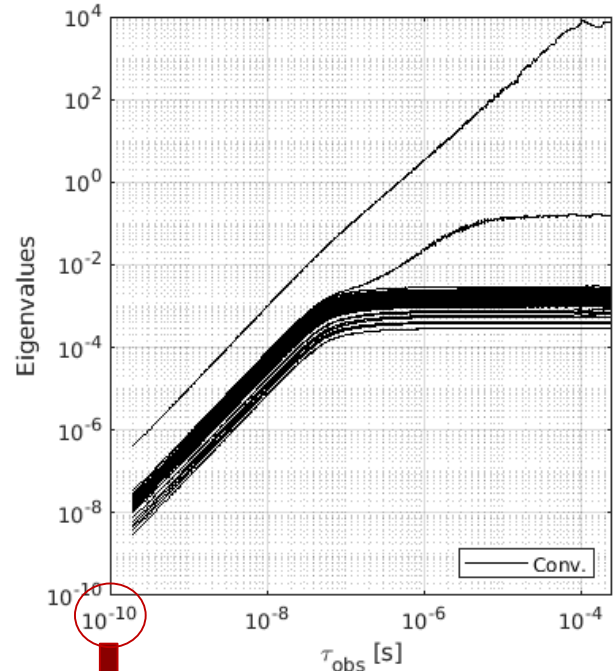
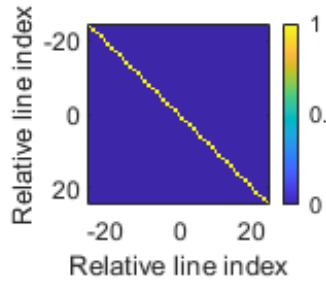
Eigenvalue decomposition on the covariance matrix helps to identify the independent and meaningful components.

$$\mathbf{c} = \underbrace{[1, 1, \dots, 1]}_{M \text{ lines}}^T$$

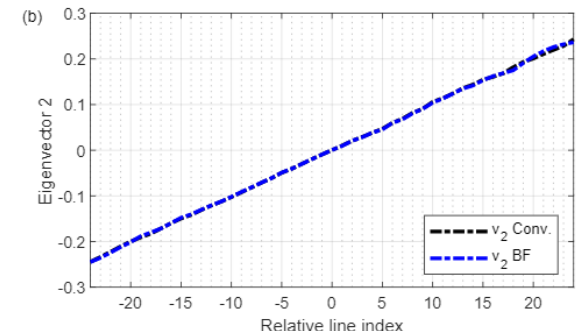
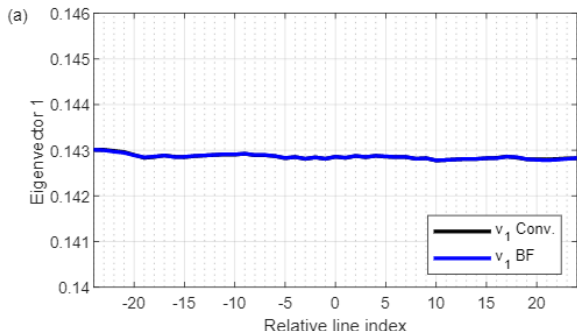
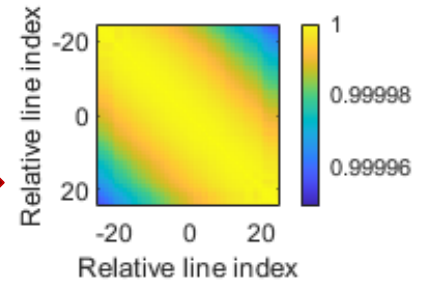
$$\mathbf{h} = \underbrace{[-H, -H + 1, \dots, 0, \dots, H - 1, H]}_{M \text{ lines}}^T$$

# Covariance Eigenvalue dynamics (experimental)

Uncorrelated phases for short observation times

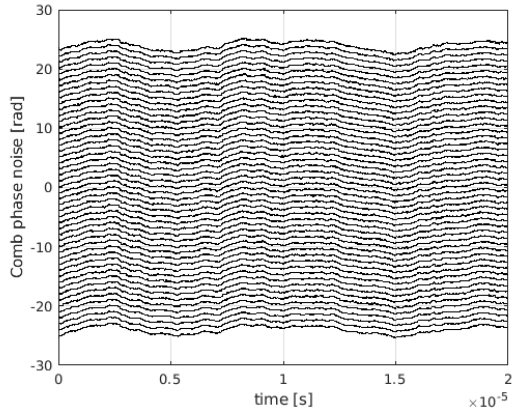


Correlated phases for long observation times

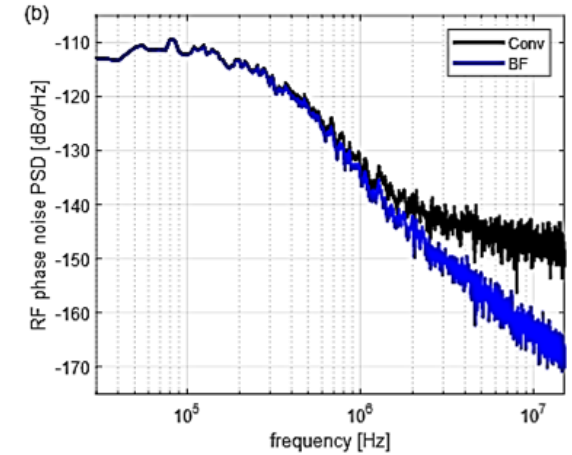
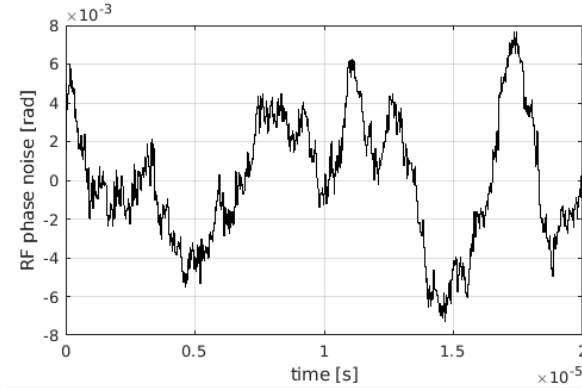


# Extraction of laser and RF noise contributions

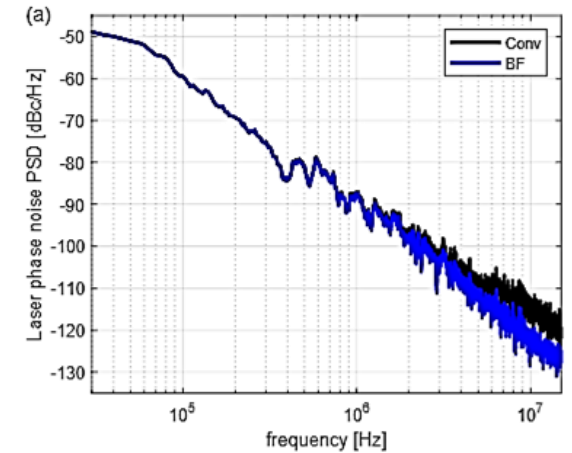
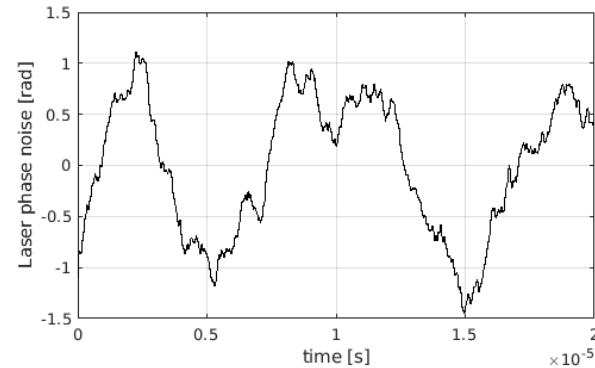
Similar to principal component projection



$$\Phi^T \cdot \frac{\mathbf{h}}{\|\mathbf{h}\|^2} = \phi^{RF}$$



$$\Phi^T \cdot \frac{\mathbf{c}}{\|\mathbf{c}\|^2} = \phi^L$$



$$\phi_{1:T} := \Phi \quad M \times T$$

$$\mathbf{c} = \underbrace{[1, 1, \dots, 1]^T}_{M \text{ lines}} \quad M \times 1$$

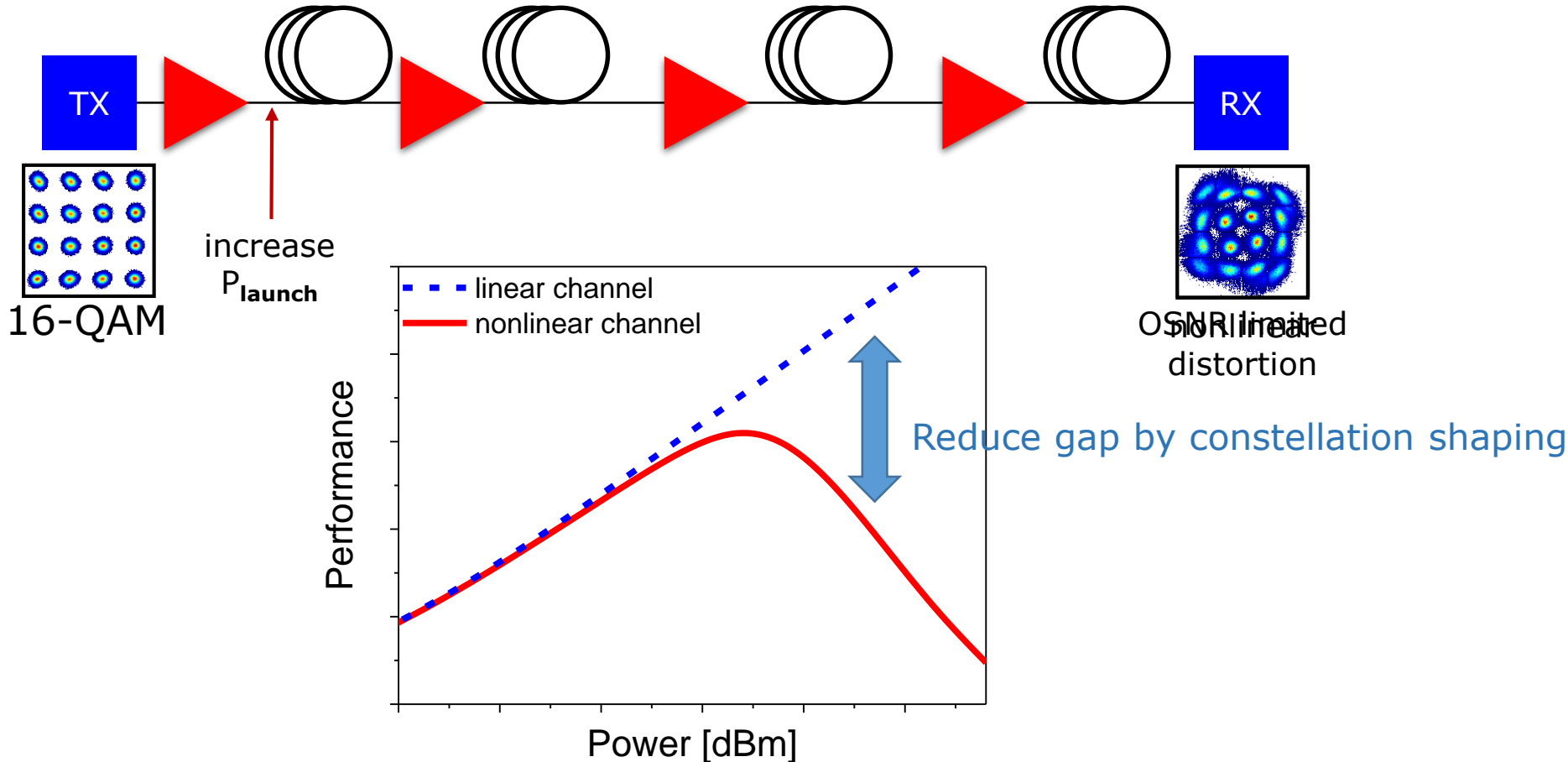
$$\mathbf{h} = \underbrace{[-H, -H + 1, \dots, 0, \dots, H - 1, H]^T}_{M \text{ lines}} \quad M \times 1$$

# End-to-end learning for fiber-optic channels

- [1] T. O'Shea and J. Hoydis "An introduction to deep learning for the physical layer," *IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COGNITIVE COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING*, VOL. 3, NO. 4, 2017
- [2] B. Karanov et al., "End-to-end deep learning of optical fibre communication," *Journal of Lightwave Technology*, vol. 36, no. 20, 2018
- [3] R. Jones, D. Zibar et al., "Deep learning of geometric constellation shaping including fiber nonlinearities," in *Proceedings of ECOC 2018*
- [4] R. Jones, D. Zibar et al., "End-to-end for GMI optimized geometric deep learning of geometric constellation shaping including Fiber," in *Proceedings of ECOC 2019*
- [5] O. Jovanovic, D. Zibar et al. "Gradient-Free Training of Autoencoders for Non-Differentiable Communication Channels," *Journal*," vol. 31, no. 20, 2021
- [6] O. Jovanovic, D. Zibar et al., "End-to-end learning of a Constellation Shape Robust to variations in SNR and laser Linewidth," In *Proceedings of European Conference on Optical Communication (ECOC), 2021, (2<sup>nd</sup> place ADVA best paper award)*
- [7] J. Aoudia et al., "End-to-end learning of communications systems without a channel model." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1804.02276 (2018)*



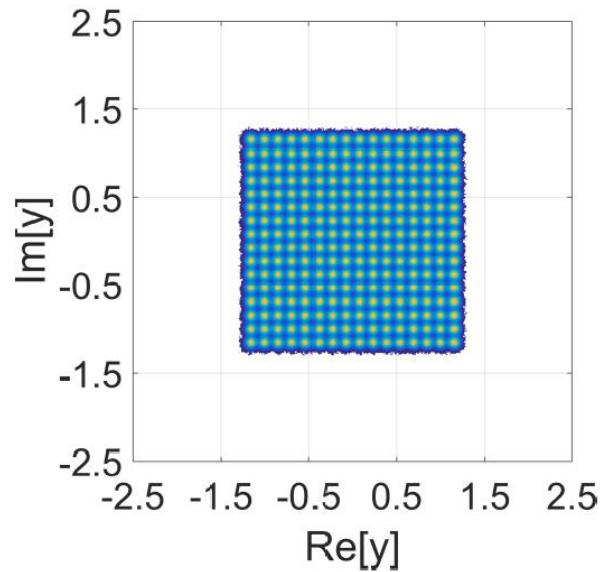
# Standard coherent communications



Kerr nonlinearity is one of the ultimate limits to increasing system performance

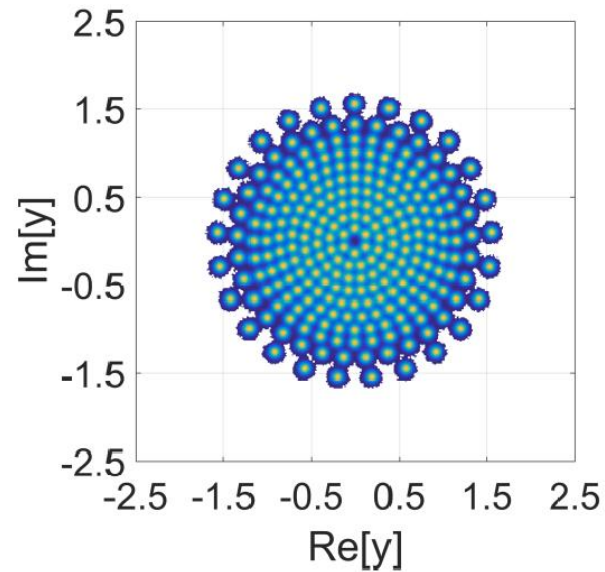
# Typical optimization strategies

Signal  $\hat{Y}$ , AWGN channel with SNR=25dB



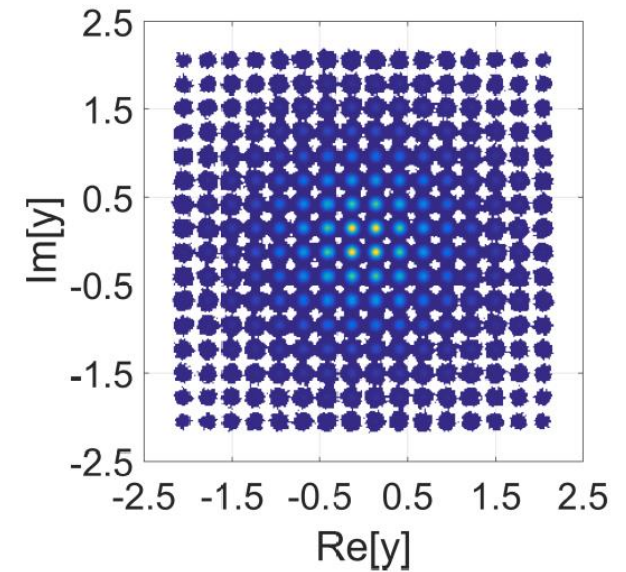
## **Geometric shaping**

– optimize the set of points  $\mathcal{X}$ . Typically assume  $P_X(X) \sim \mathcal{U}(0, P_{av})$



## **Probabilistic shaping**

– optimize the probability mass function  $P_X(X)$  for a given constellation set  $\mathcal{X}$



# Forward channel model for the optical fiber

$$\frac{dA}{dz} = \underbrace{-\frac{\alpha}{2} A}_{\text{Fiber loss}} - \overbrace{i \frac{\beta_2}{2} \frac{d^2 A}{dt^2}}^{\text{Chromatic dispersion}} + \underbrace{i \gamma |A|^2 A}_{\text{Nonlinear Kerr effect}}$$

The nonlinear interference noise (NLIN) model:

$$y[k] = x[k] + n[k]$$

$$n[k] \sim N(0, \sigma_{\text{ASE}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{NLIN/GN}}^2(P_{\text{Tx}}, \mu_6, C))$$

Average power

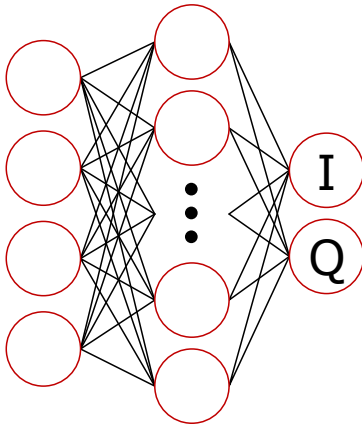
Modulation  
property (peak power)

*Dual power constraint – nonobvious optimal characteristics and optimization strategies*

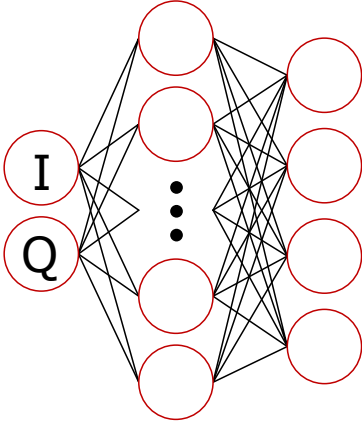
# Learning to mapping using auto-encoders

Input Space:

1	0	0	0
0	1	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	0	0	1

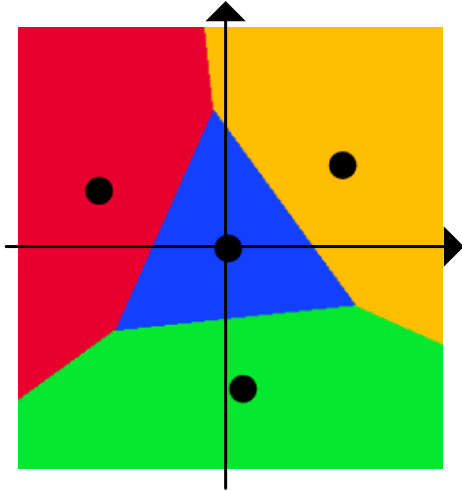
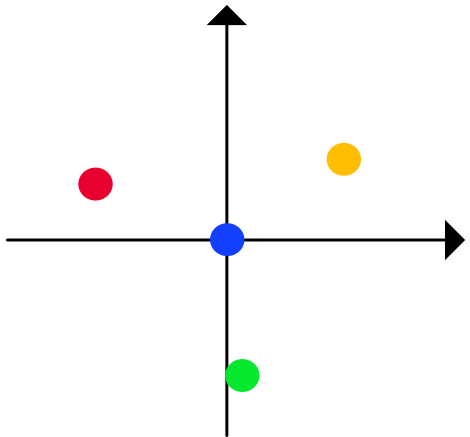


Fiber Channel Model



Output Space:

.8	.1	.1	.0
.1	.8	.0	.1
.1	.0	.8	.1
.0	.1	.1	.8



Auto-encoder learns constellation robust to channel impairments

# Channel Models

## Fiber Channel:

5 WDM Channel System

50 GHz Channel spacing

SSMF

32 GHz Bandwidth

2000 km transmission

20 Spans

- GN Model and NLIN Model<sup>[1,2]</sup> for **learning**
- **Propagation** using SSFM
- For the NLIN Model the nonlinearities depend on the moment of the constellation

For 64 QAM:

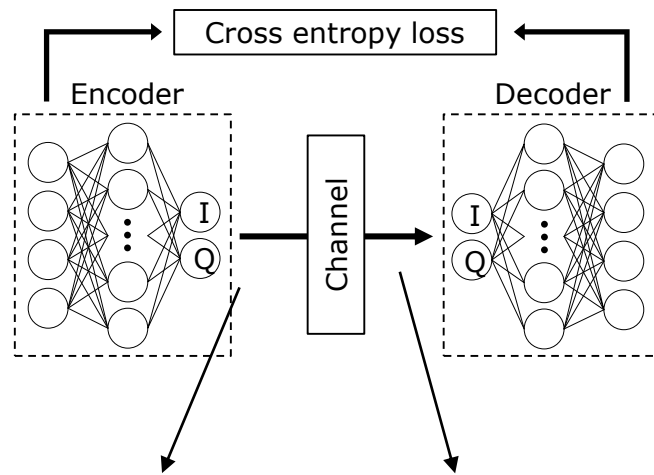
$$\text{4th order moment} = 1.38 \frac{(\mathbb{E}[b]^2)^4}{(\mathbb{E}[b]^2)^2}$$

$$\text{6th order moment} = 2.23 \frac{(\mathbb{E}[b]^2)^6}{(\mathbb{E}[b]^2)^3}$$

[1] A. Carena, et al., "Modeling of the impact of nonlinear propagation effects in uncompensated optical coherent transmission links," J. Lightw. Technol., vol. 30, no. 10, pp. 1524-1539, May 15, 2012.

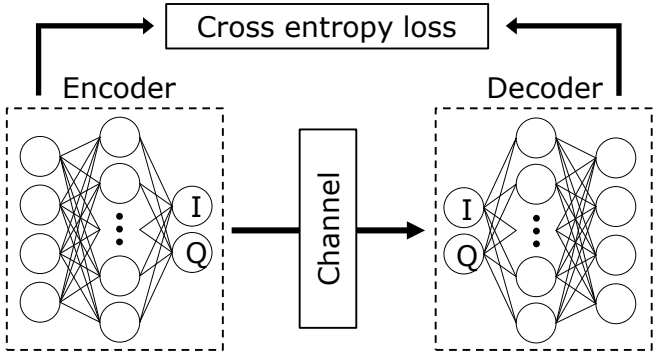
[2] R. Dar et al. "Properties of nonlinear noise in long, dispersion-uncompensated fiber links." Opt. Exp. 21.22 (2013): 25685-25699.

# Training process

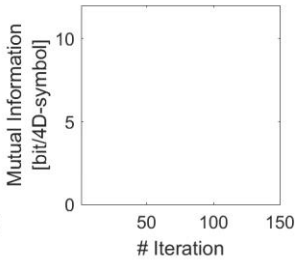
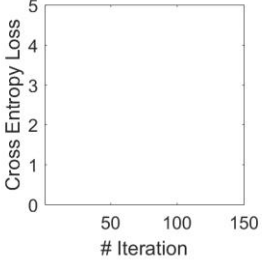
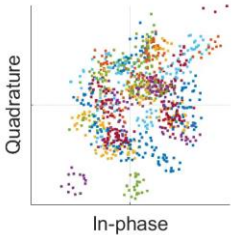
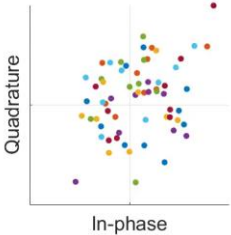


- Stochastic optimization
- Iterative training process
- Gradient based

# Training process

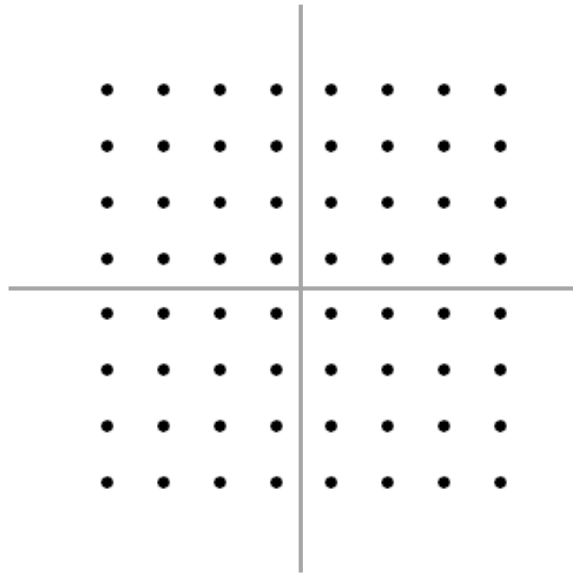


- Stochastic optimization
- Iterative training process
- Gradient based

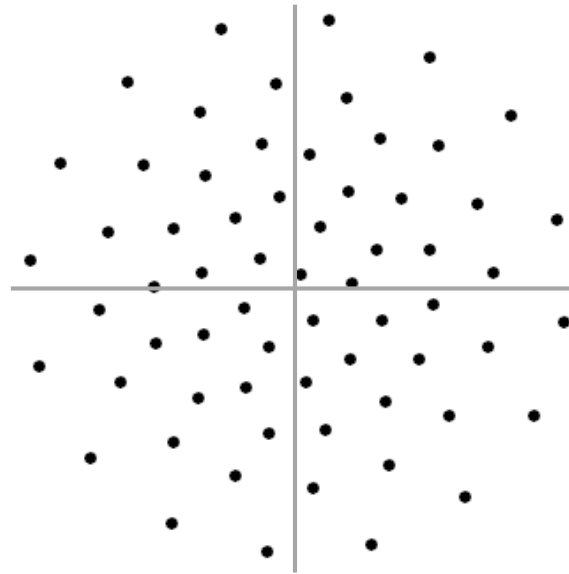


**Order 64**

# Comparison of constellations

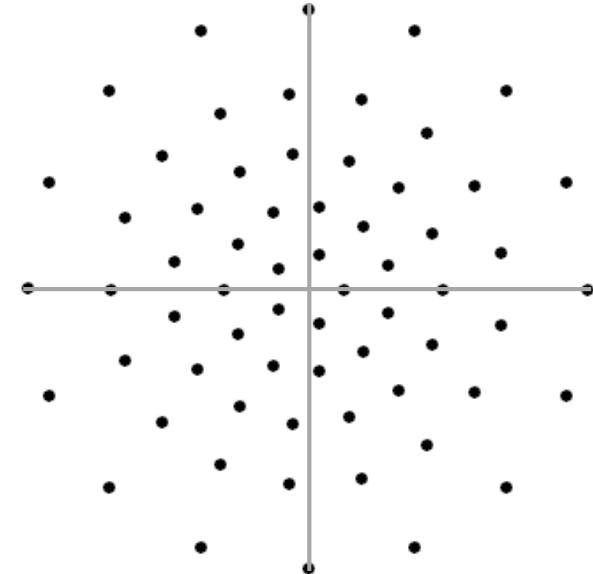


64 QAM



64 Auto-encoder

*Trained via NLIN Model  
with optimized moments*



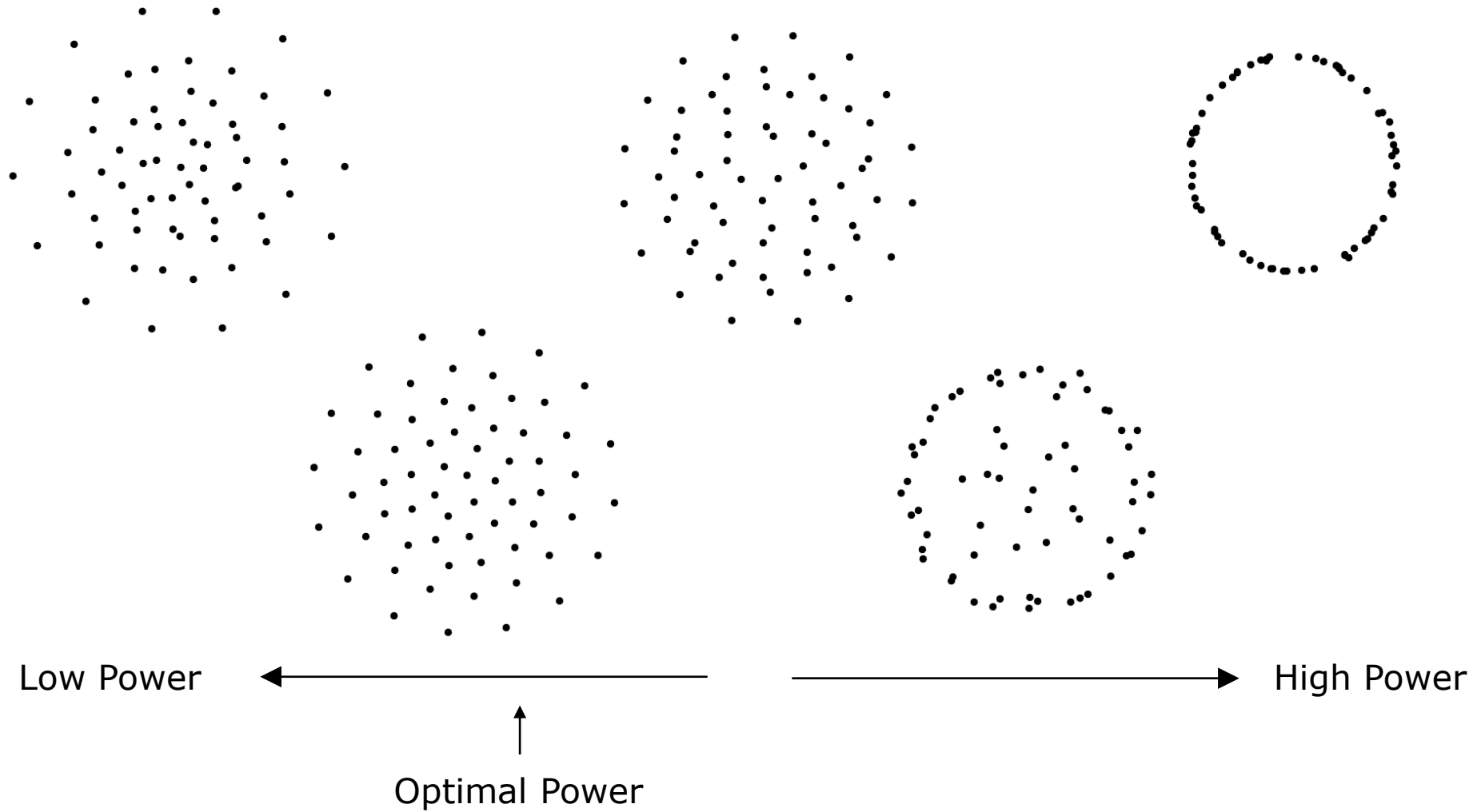
64 IPM<sup>[6]</sup>

*Gaussian channel  
assumption*

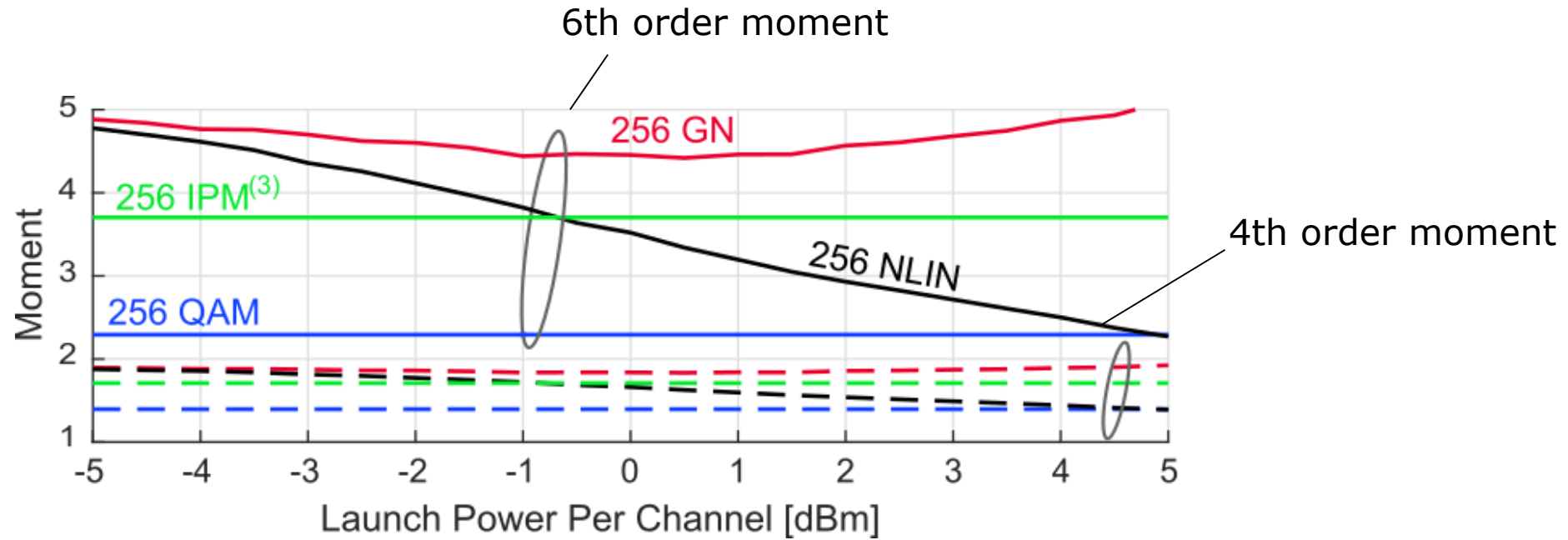
[1] I. B. Djordjevic et al. "Coded polarization-multiplexed iterative polar modulation (PM-IPM) for beyond 400 Gb/s serial optical transmission." OFC, paper OMK2, (2010).



# Evolution of learned constellations

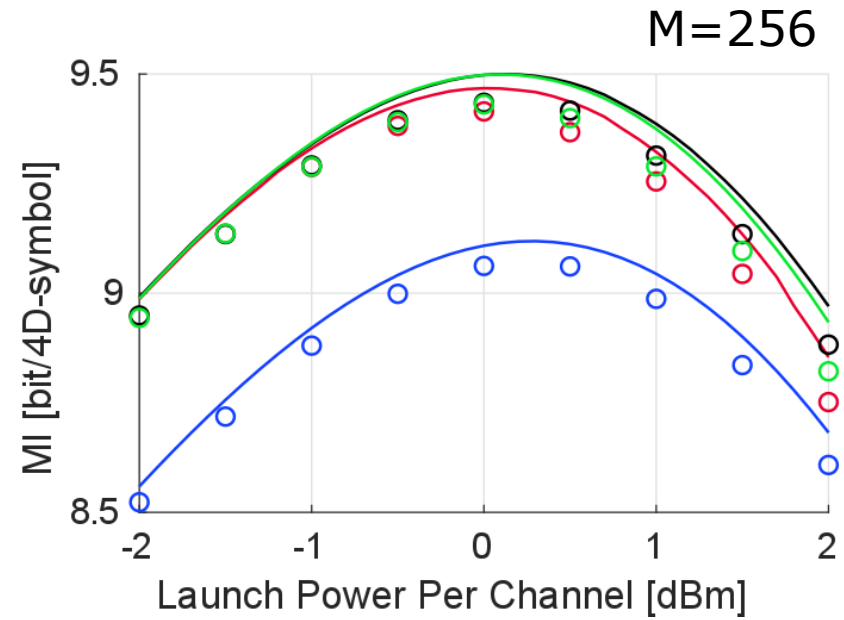
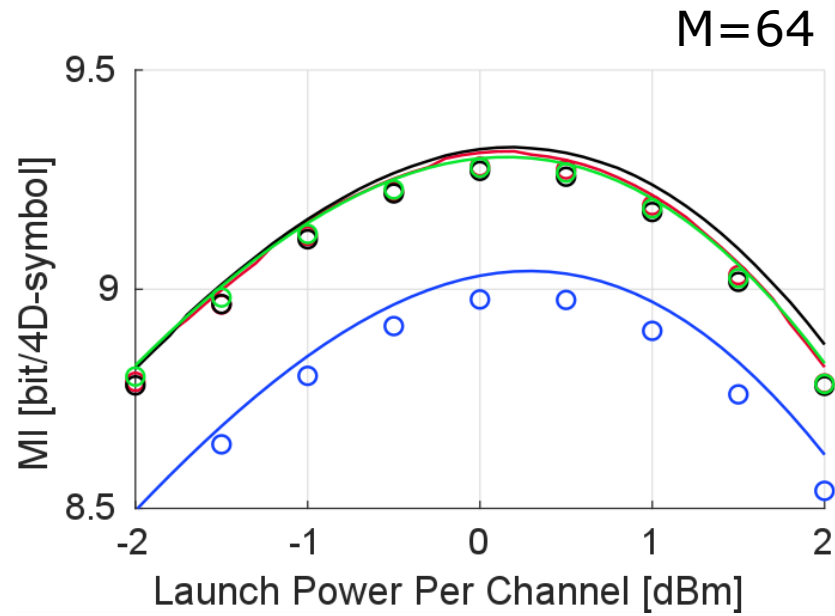


# Scaling of the moments of learned constellations



Auto-encoder learns constellation with reduced moment

# Simulation results



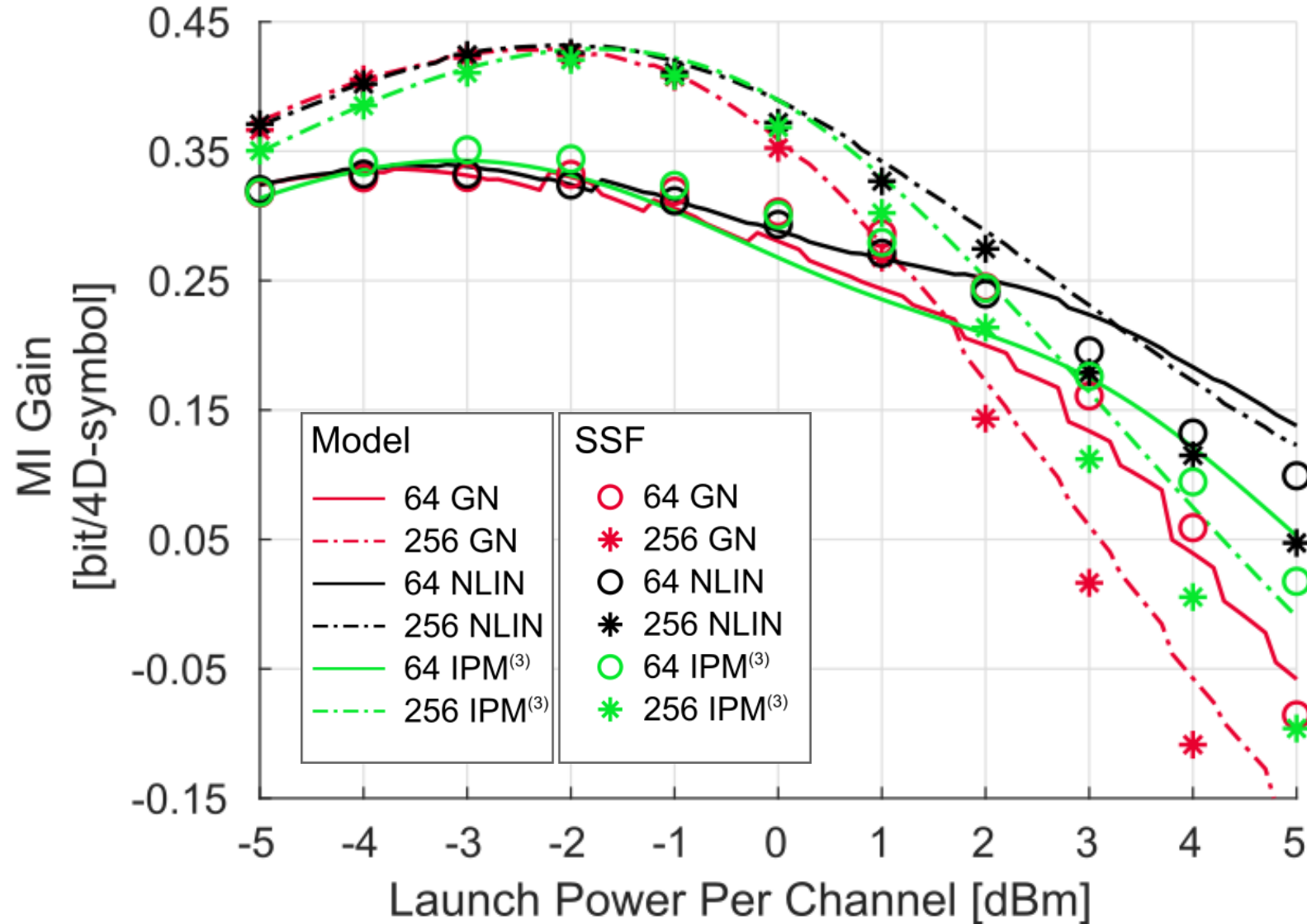
Analytical Model (NLIN)

— M QAM — M GN — M NLIN — M IPM<sup>(3)</sup>

Split-Step Fourier Method

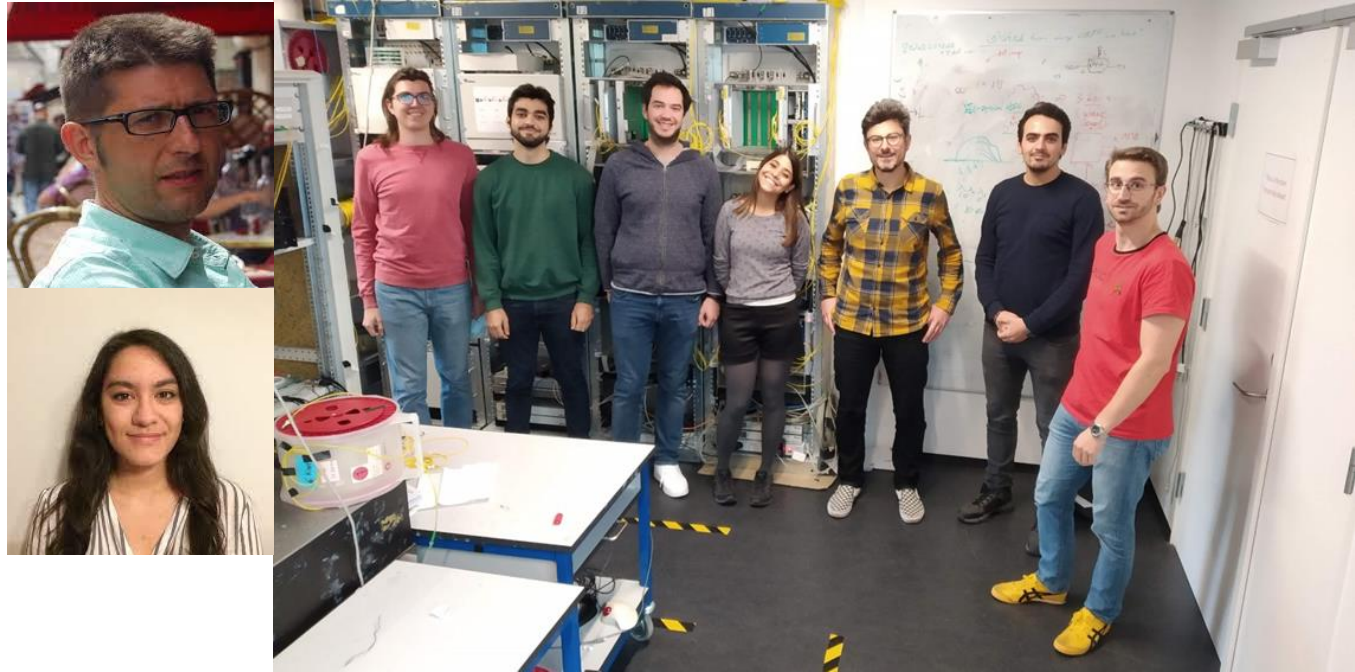
○ M QAM ○ M GN ○ M NLIN ○ M IPM<sup>(3)</sup>

# Gains compared to the standard QAM



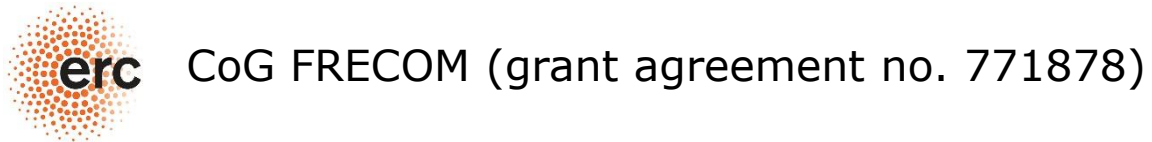
# Conclusion and outlook

- Machine learning toolbox brings significant advantages to photonics
- Machine learning effective in learning complex mappings
  - Optical amplifier design
  - Communication over fiber-optic channel
  - Noise characterization of lasers and frequency combs
  - Quantum noise limited tracking
- Many other problems could benefit from ML (e.g. component design, power allocation etc)
- A lot of room for interesting research problems
- ML toolbox part of electrical and photonics engineering curriculum
- Lack of researchers that understand ML and optics to advance the field



Acknowledgements

Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca (PRIN 2017, Project FIRST).



Villum Foundations (VYI grant OPTIC-AI no.29344),