

Session 4P10b: Optics and Fiber Laser
20/06/2019 Room 12 - Mezzanine

Towards Mode-locking of an active Whispering-Gallery-Mode microresonator

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Imamura¹, Mizuki Ito¹, Hideyuki Maki^{2,5}, Lan Yang³, Sze Yun Set⁴ and
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2. Applied Physics and Physico-Informatics, Keio Univ.

3. School of Engineering and Applied Science, Washington Univ. in St. Louis

4. Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, The University of Tokyo

5. JST-PRESTO



Keio Univ



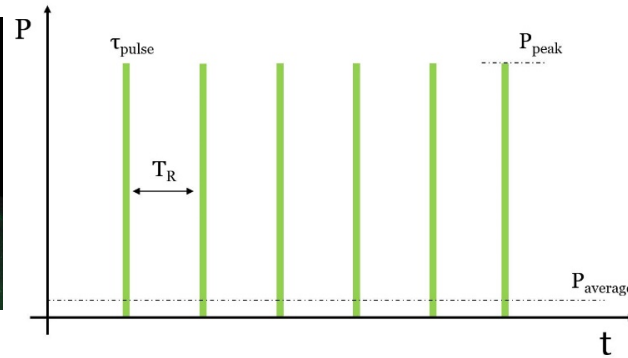
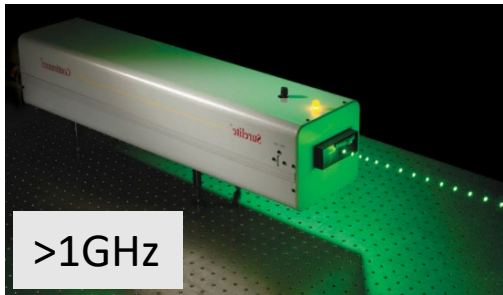
Outline

- Background & Motivation
- Device Fabrication
- Numerical work
- Summary & Future work



Background & Motivation

High repetition rate Modelocked Lasers (HR ML)



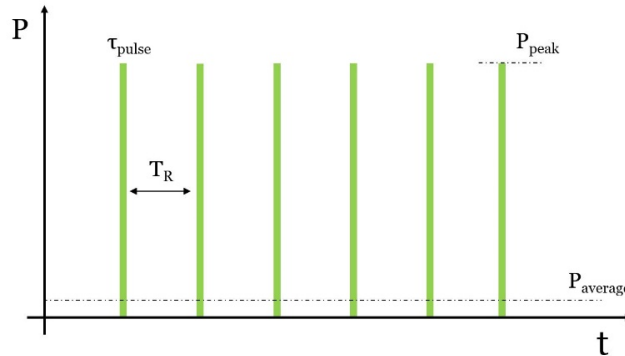
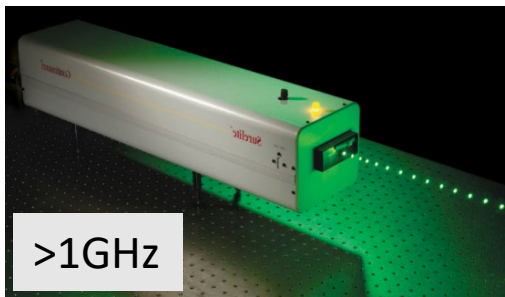
Applications

- Laser processing
- Optical communication
- Optical signal processing
- LIDAR and remote sensing
- Spectroscopy



Background & Motivation

High repetition rate Modelocked Lasers (HR ML)



Applications

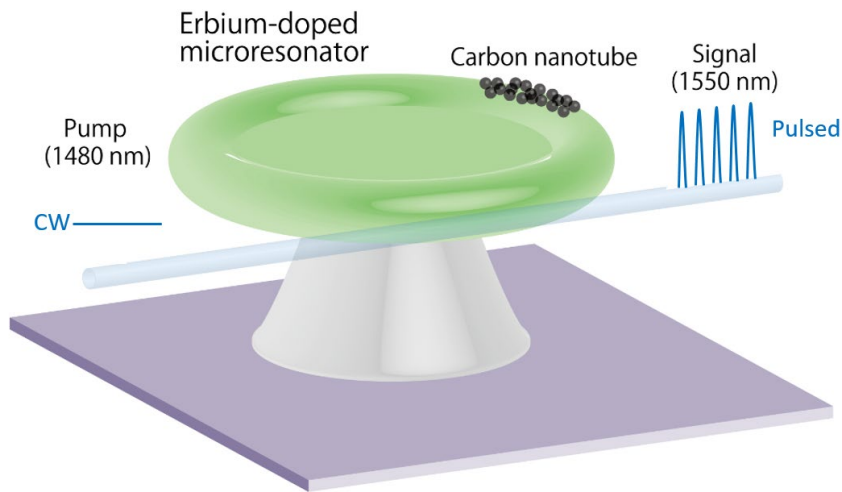
- Laser processing
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HR ML platforms	Semiconductor ML Laser Ogura, I. et al., <i>Optical and Quantum Electronics</i> 33 , 709–725 (2001).	ML Bulk Laser Liu, Y. et al., <i>Applied Physics B: Lasers and Optics</i> 104 , 835–838 (2011)	ML fiber ring Laser Nicholson, J. et al., <i>IEEE Photonics Technology Letters</i> 20 , 2123–2125 (2008)	WGM microlaser Yang, L. et al., <i>Applied Physics Letters</i> 83 , 825–826 (2003).	
	F_{rep}	$F_{rep} > 10\text{GHz}$	$F_{rep} > 100\text{ GHz}$	$F_{rep} < 1\text{GHz}$	✗
	Fabrication & Cost	✗	✗	○	○
	Integration	○	✗	○	○



Objective of the research

Modelocking of Whispering Gallery Mode Microlaser



$$\text{Repetition rate} \propto \frac{1}{\text{size}}$$

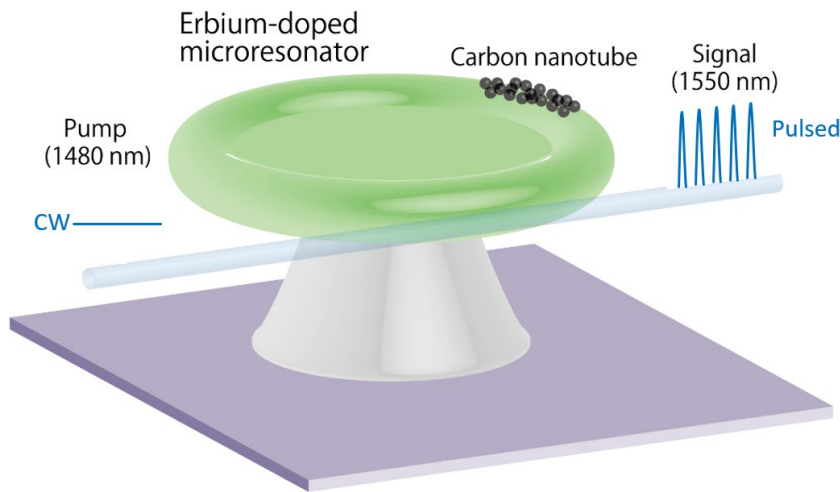
$D=300\mu\text{m} \rightarrow 220\text{GHz}$

- ✓ High repetition rate (>100GHz)
- ✓ Small footprint
- ✓ Low power consumption
- ✓ Cost effective
- ✓ On-chip integrability



Objective of the research

Modelocking of Whispering Gallery Mode Microlaser

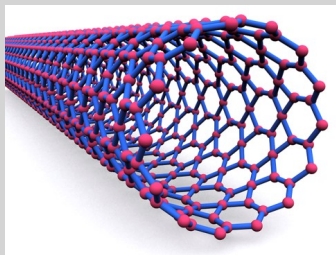


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Carbon nanotubes (CNT) as saturable absorber



- ✓ Simple fabrication
- ✓ Cost effective
- ✓ Easy integration to fiber systems

$$\alpha(I) = a_{ns} + \frac{a_0}{1 + \frac{I}{I_{sat}}}$$

a_0 : Modulation depth

I_{sat} : Saturation Intensity

a_{ns} : Non-saturable loss



Outline

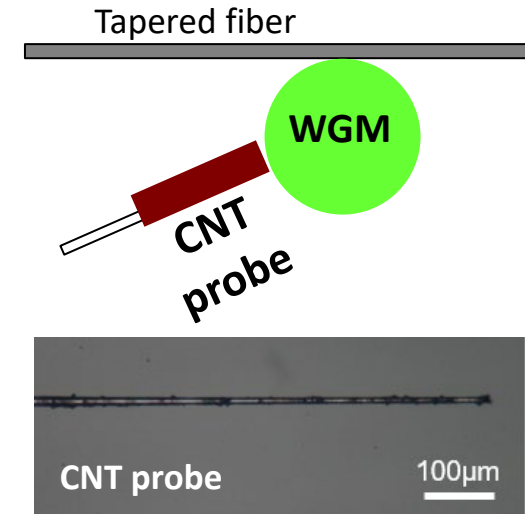
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 - WGM Modelocked Microlaser
- Device Fabrication
 - Carbon nanotube integration
 - Erbium doping technique
- Numerical work
 - WGM microlaser modelocking regime investigation
- Summary & Future work



CNT integration

CNT integration methods	Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD)	CNT-embedded polymer coating	CNT probe
Q factor	✘	△	○
fabrication	✘	△	○
SA properties	△	○	◎

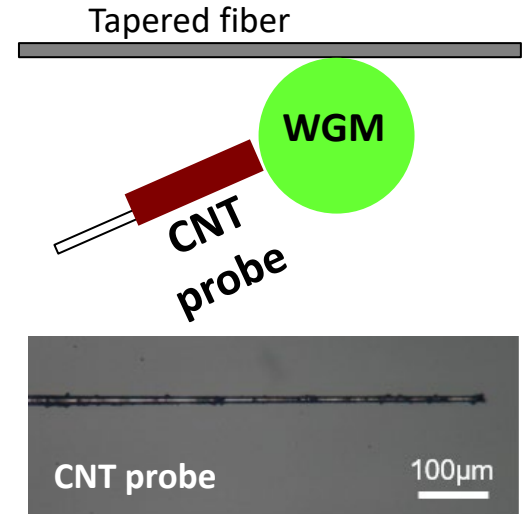
Kumagai, T. *et al.* *Journal of Applied Physics* **123**, (2018)



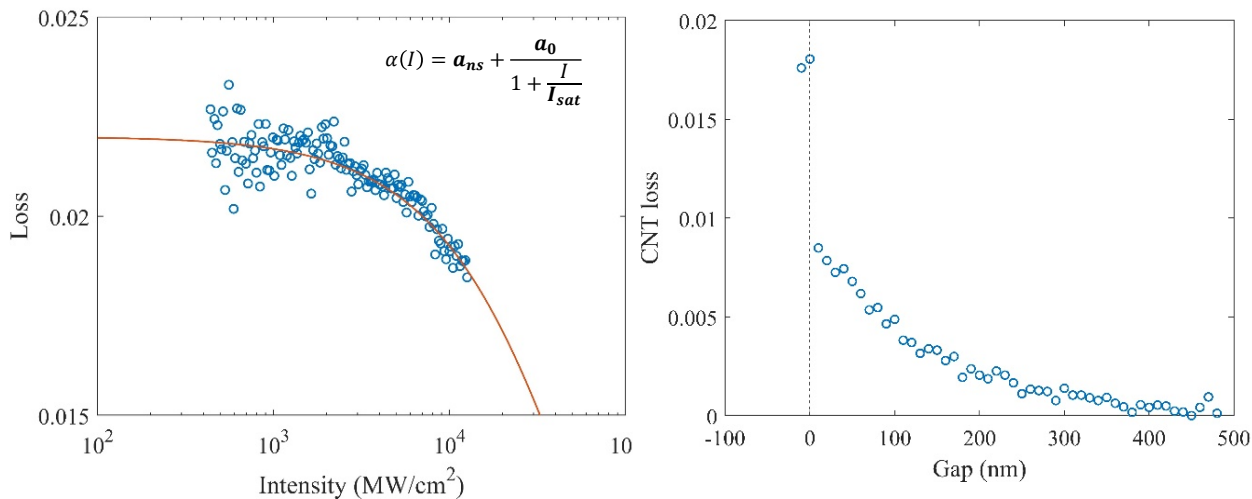


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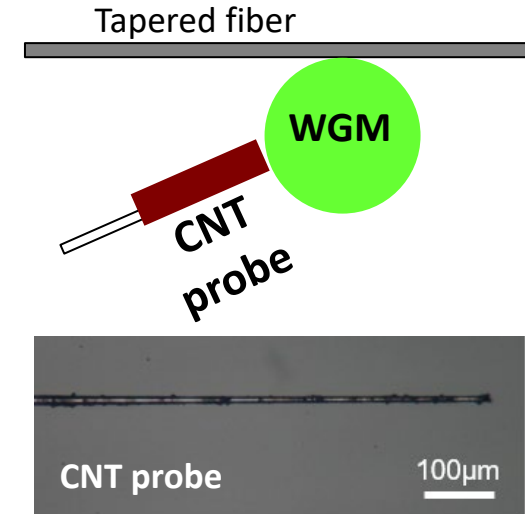
CNT probe as saturable absorber



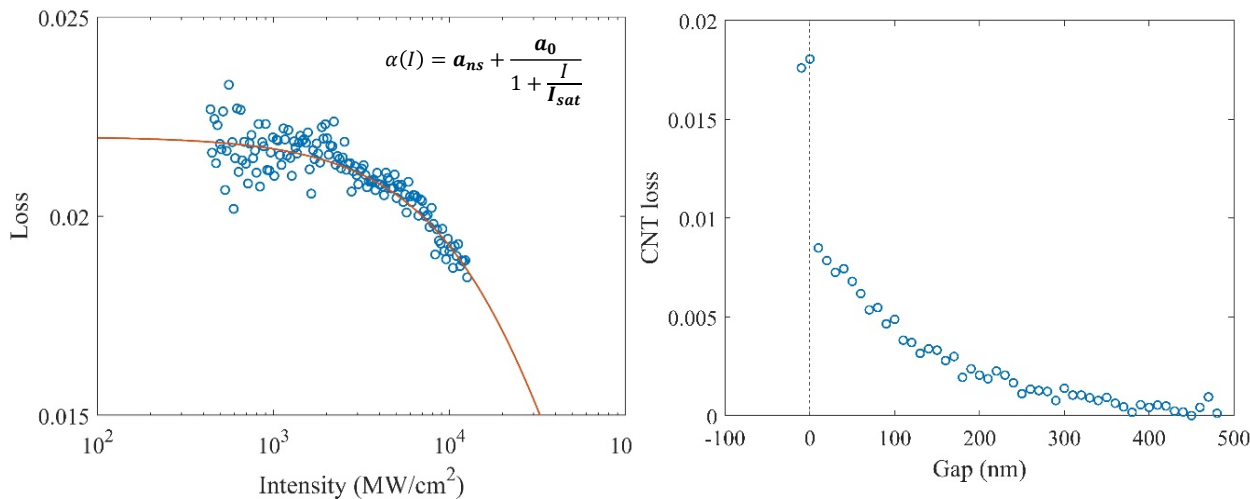


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CNT probe as saturable absorber



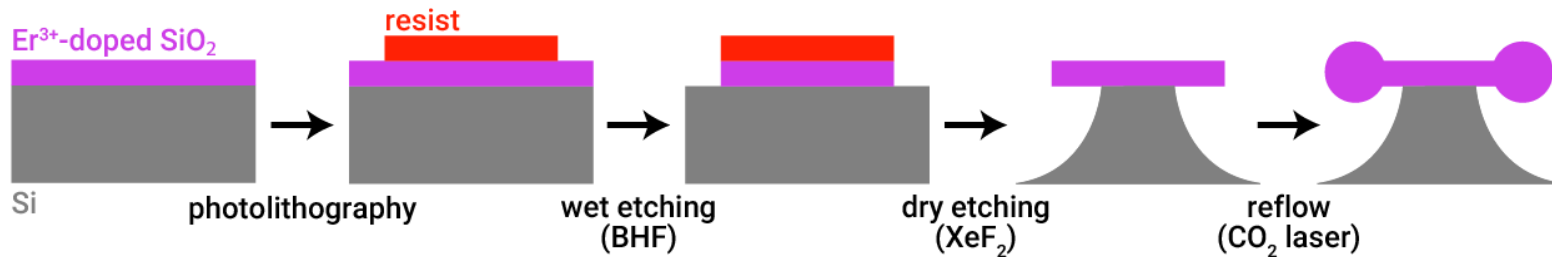
- ✓ Low loss
- ✓ Simple fabrication
- ✓ Adjustable SA parameters



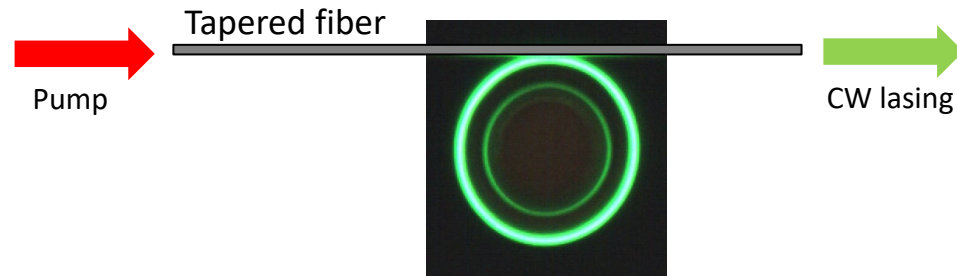
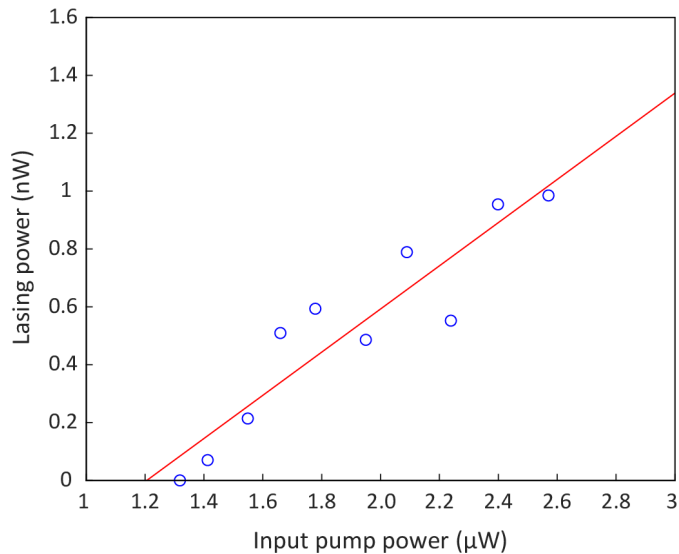
Er³⁺-doped WGM microtoroid

Fabrication by sol-gel method

Sigoli, F. A., *Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids*, 352(32–35), 3463–3468 (2006).



Evaluation



$Q = 10^7$ (@1545nm)

Diameter: 40 μm

Er concentration: $1.9 \times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$

Threshold power: 1.2 μW



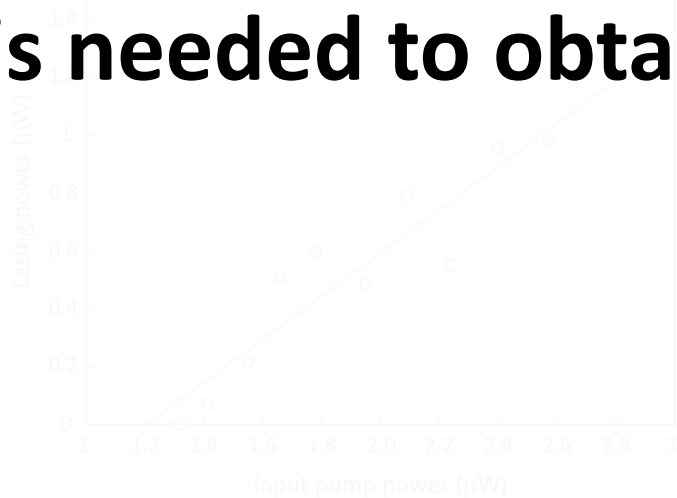
Er³⁺-doped WGM microtoroid

Fabrication by sol-gel method

Sigoli, F. A., *Journal of Non-Crystalline Solids*, 352(32–35), 3463–3468 (2006).



But, how much erbium and carbon nanotube is needed to obtain modelocking?



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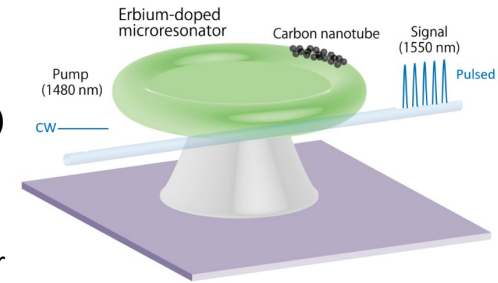


Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation

Modified Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial T} A(T, t) = \left(-iD \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + i\delta |A|^2 \right) A(T, t) + \left(\underset{\substack{\downarrow \\ \text{Gain}}}{g + \frac{g}{\omega_g^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}} - \underset{\substack{\downarrow \\ \text{Loss (Q factor)+ saturable absorber}}}{(l + q(T, t))} \right) A(T, t)$$

Dispersion Self-Phase Modulation (SPM)

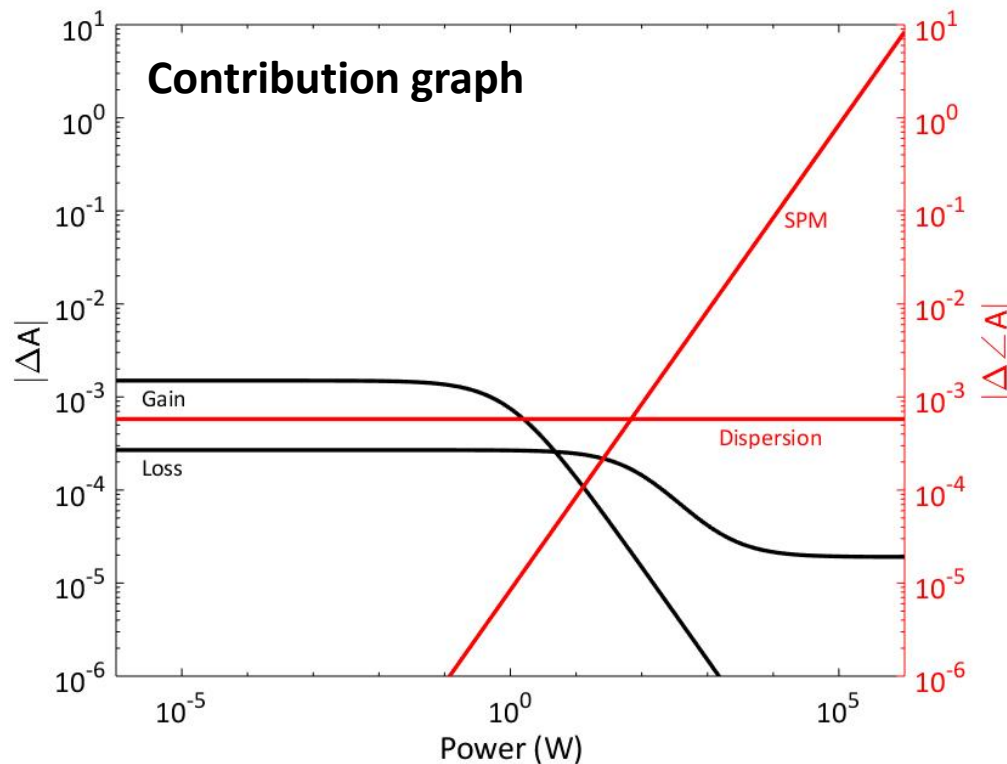
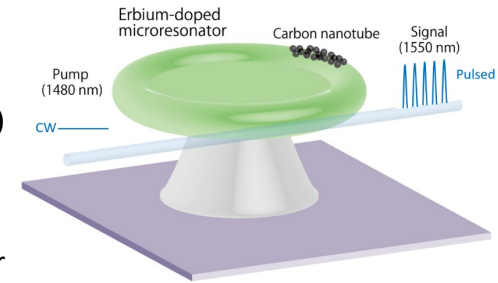




Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation

Modified Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial T} A(T, t) = \left(\underbrace{-iD \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}}_{\text{Dispersion}} + \underbrace{i\delta|A|^2}_{\text{Self-Phase Modulation (SPM)}} \right) A(T, t) + \left(\underbrace{\left(g + \frac{g}{\omega_g^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} \right)}_{\text{Gain}} - \underbrace{(l + q(T, t))}_{\text{Loss (Q factor) + saturable absorber}} \right) A(T, t)$$



- ✓ Improved device understanding
- ✓ Predictive capability



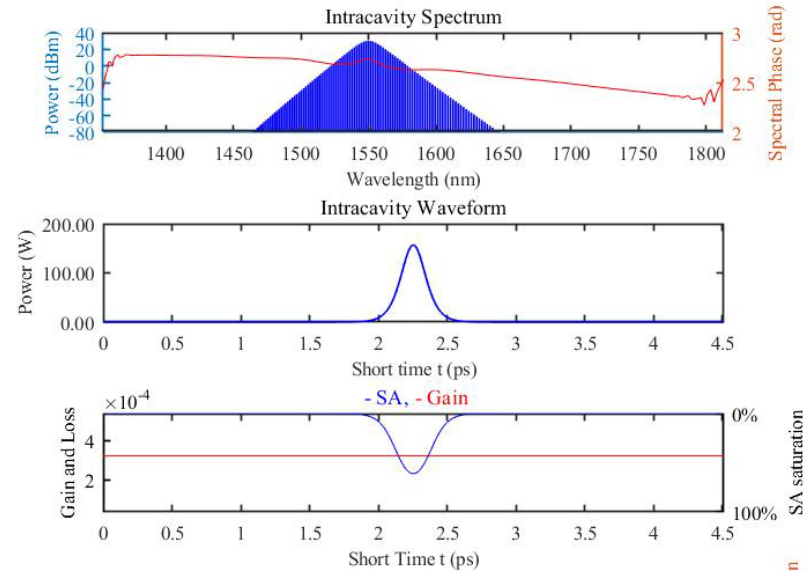
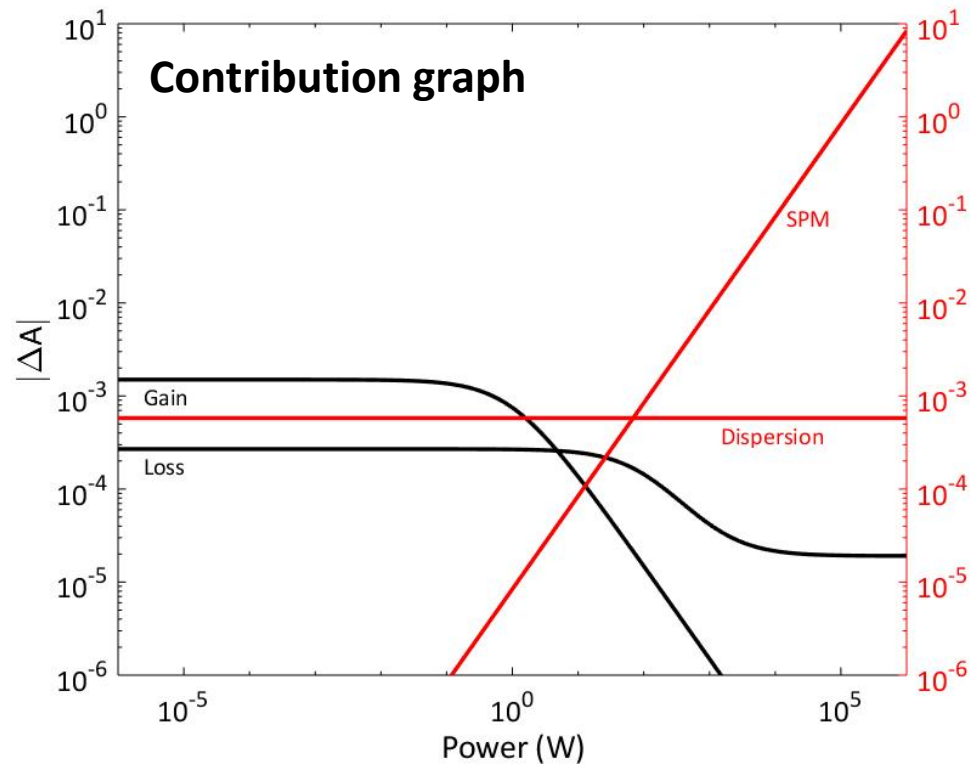
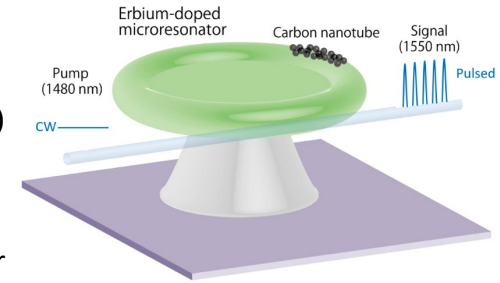
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Modified Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation

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Dispersion
Gain

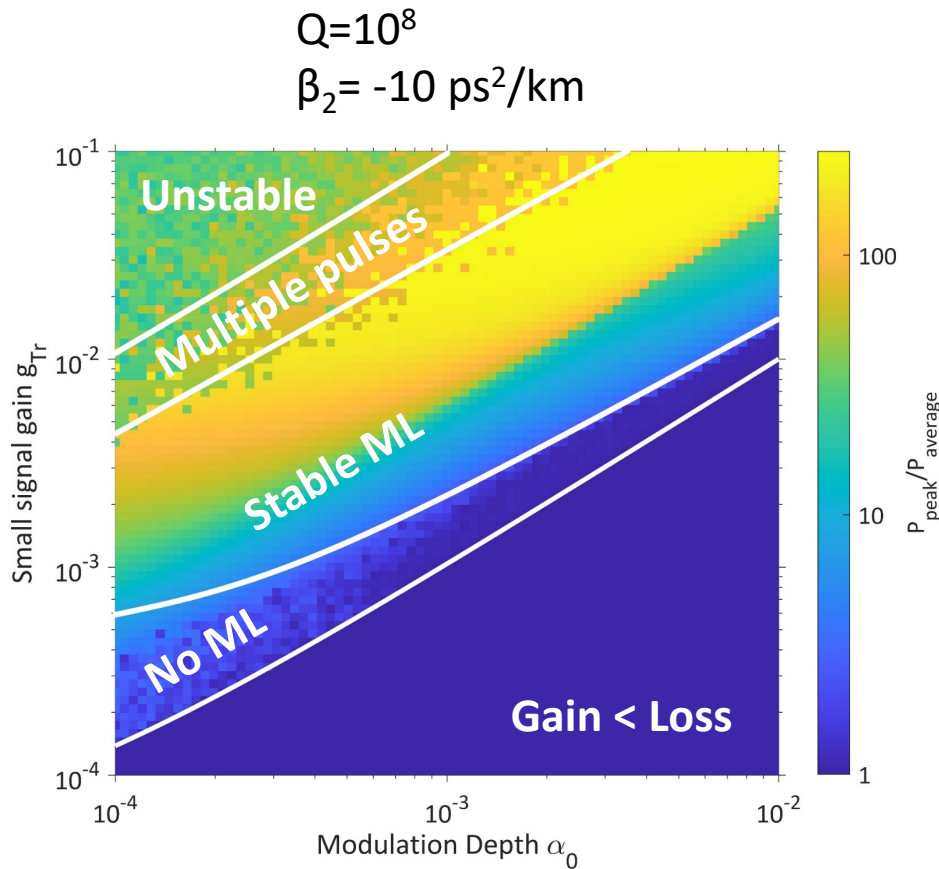
Self-Phase Modulation (SPM)
Loss (Q factor)+ saturable absorber



- ✓ Improved device understanding
- ✓ Predictive capability

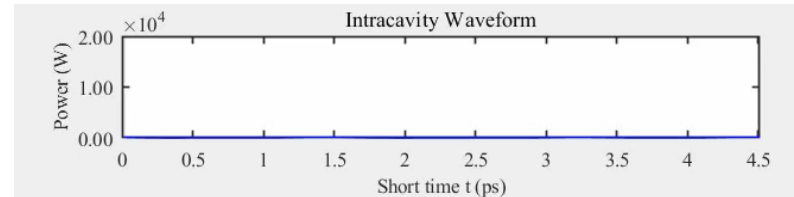


Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation

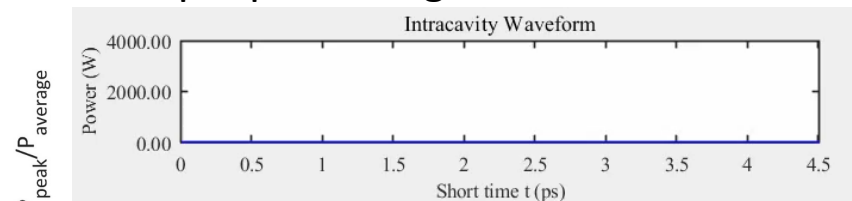


Modelocking regime was investigated

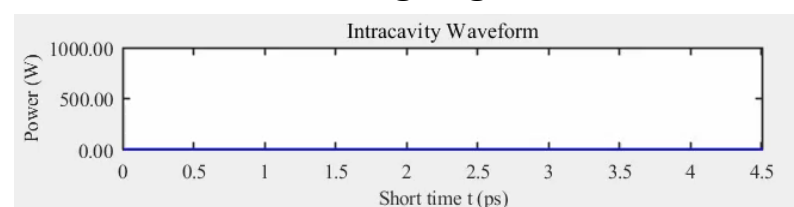
Unstable regime



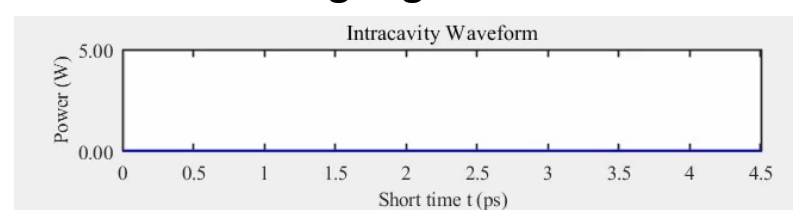
Multiple pulses regime



Stable modelocking regime



No modelocking regime

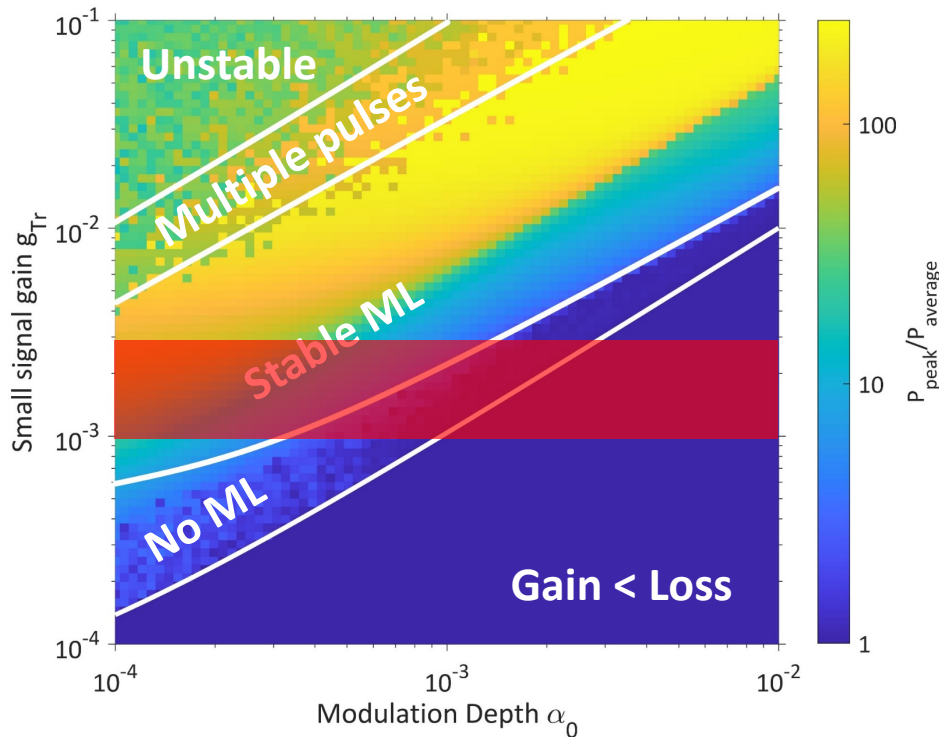




Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation

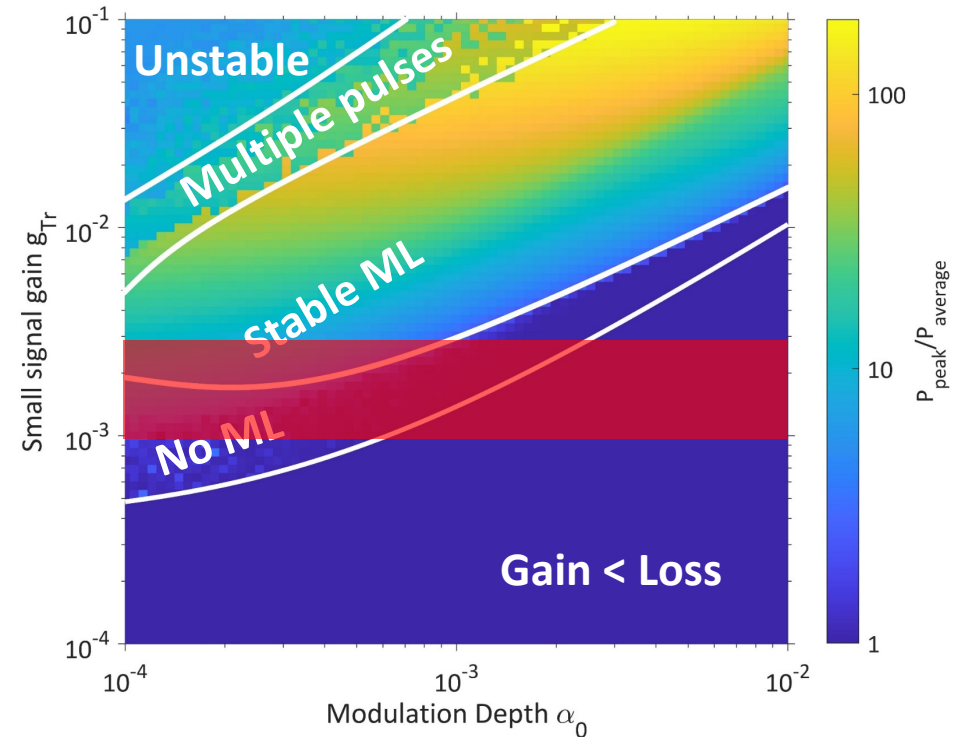
$$Q=10^8$$

$$\beta_2 = -10 \text{ ps}^2/\text{km}$$



$$Q=10^7$$

$$\beta_2 = -10 \text{ ps}^2/\text{km}$$

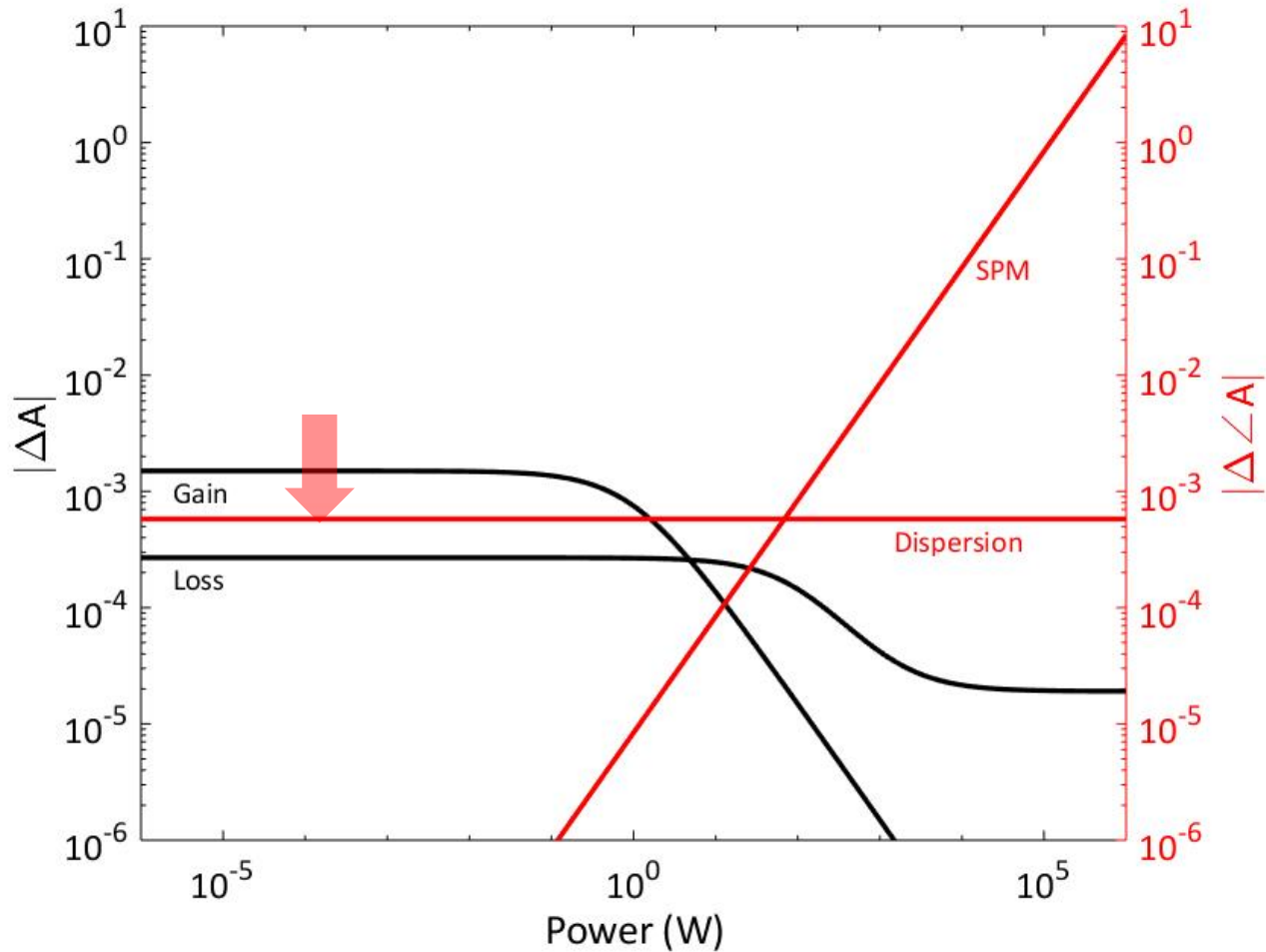


Gain is limiting factor:

- **Ultra high Q ($>10^7$)** cavity is necessary for modelocking at low gain
- Gain $>$ loss for CW lasing
 - Nonlinear loss by SA dominates loss for pulse formation

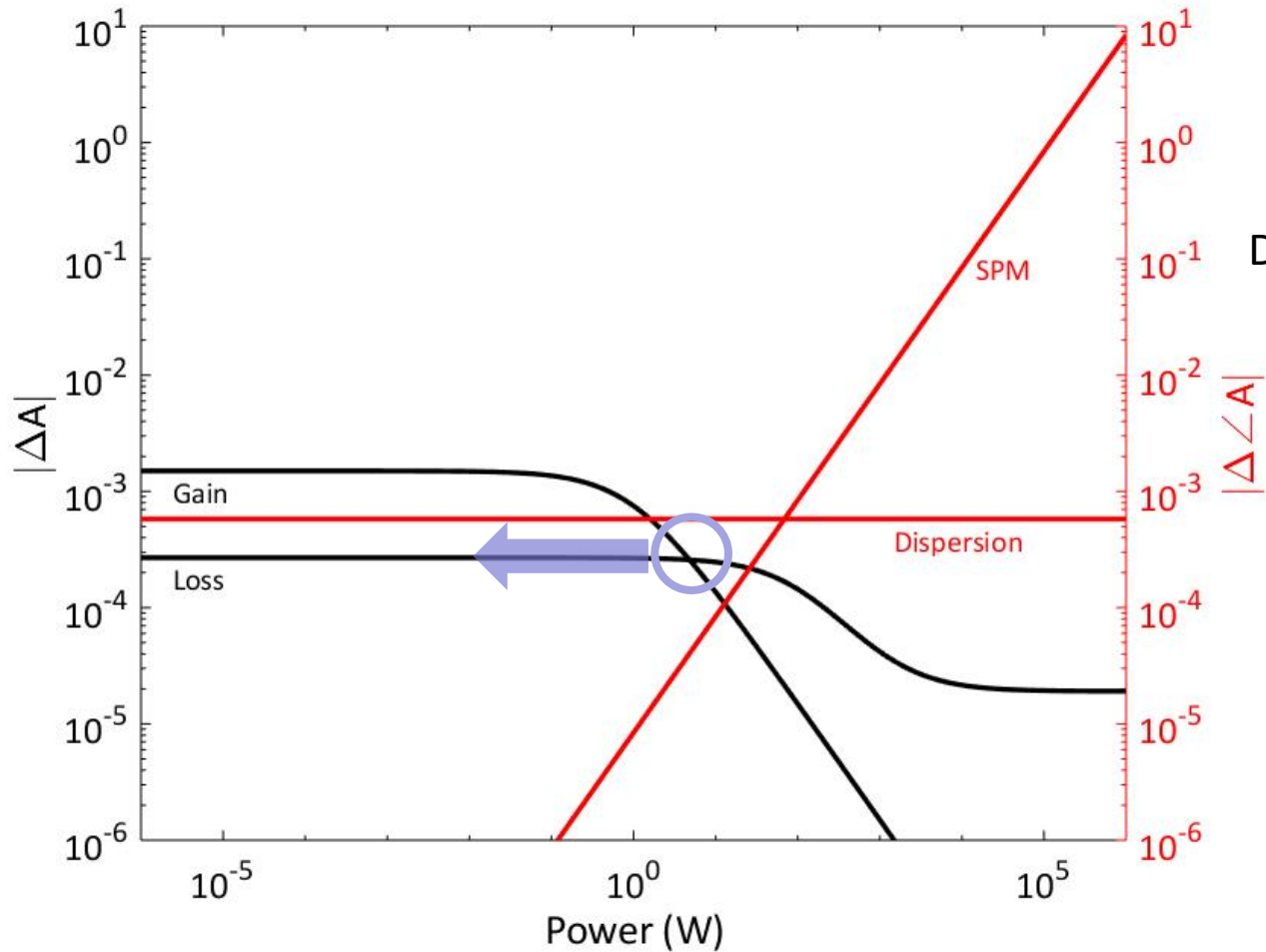


Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation





Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation



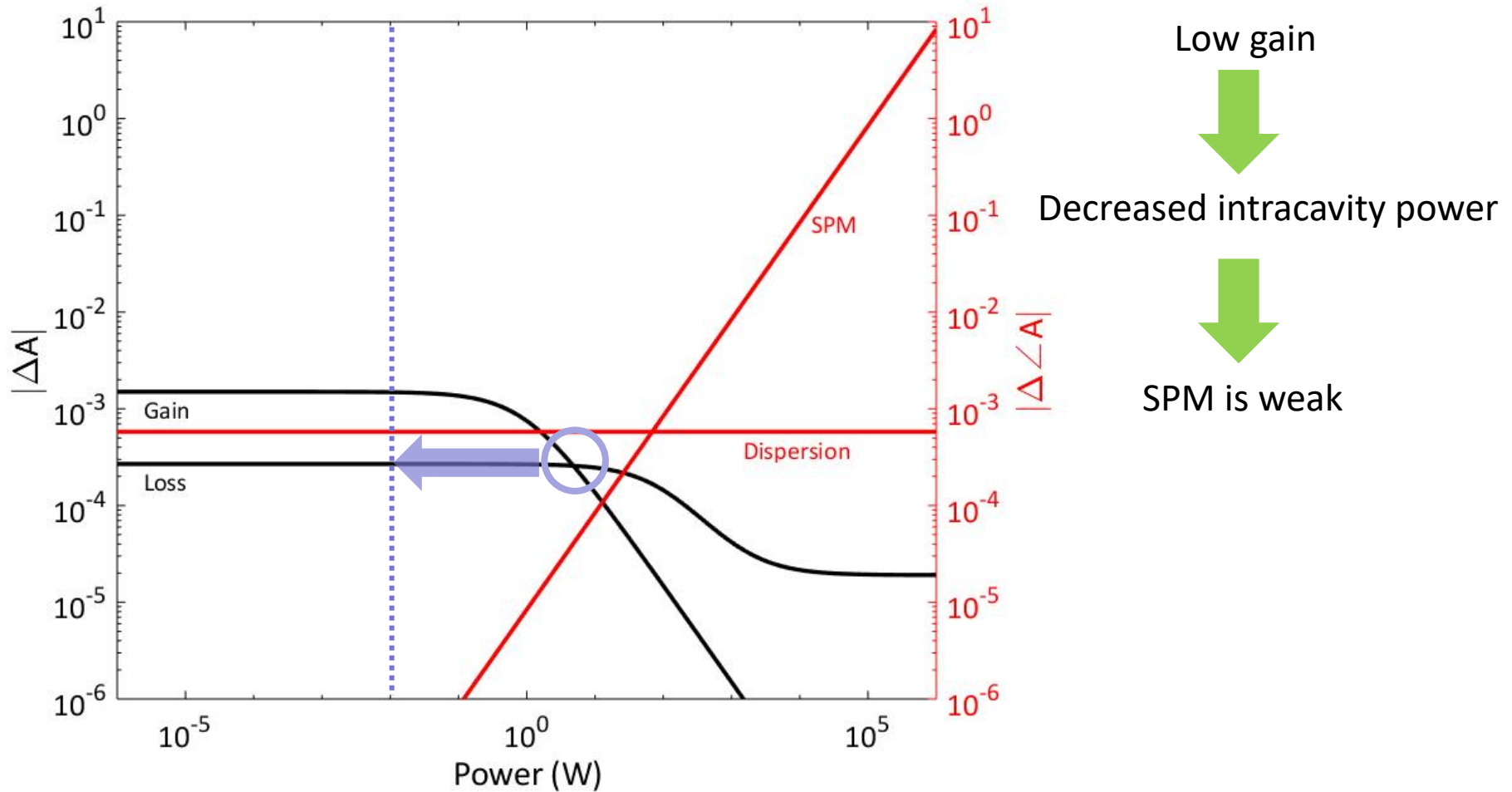
Low gain



Decreased intracavity power

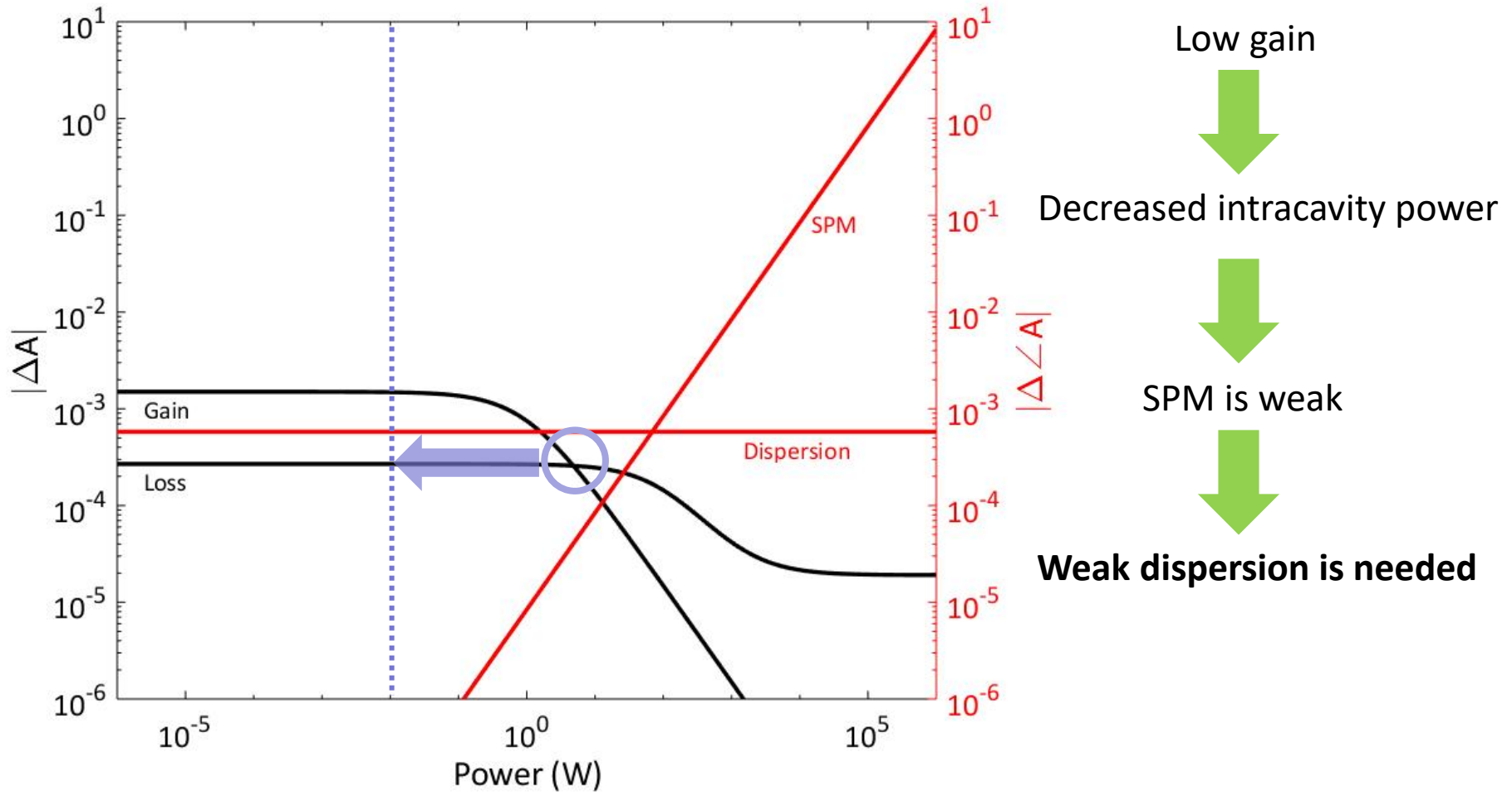


Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation





Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation

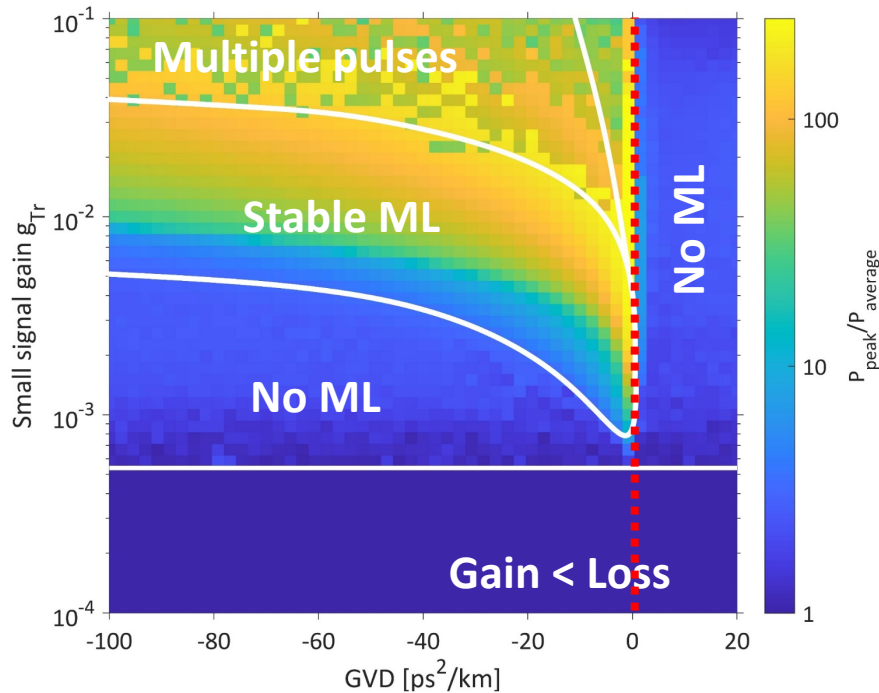




Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation

$$Q=10^8$$

$$\alpha_0=0.0005$$



Weak anomalous dispersion is necessary for modelocking at low gain

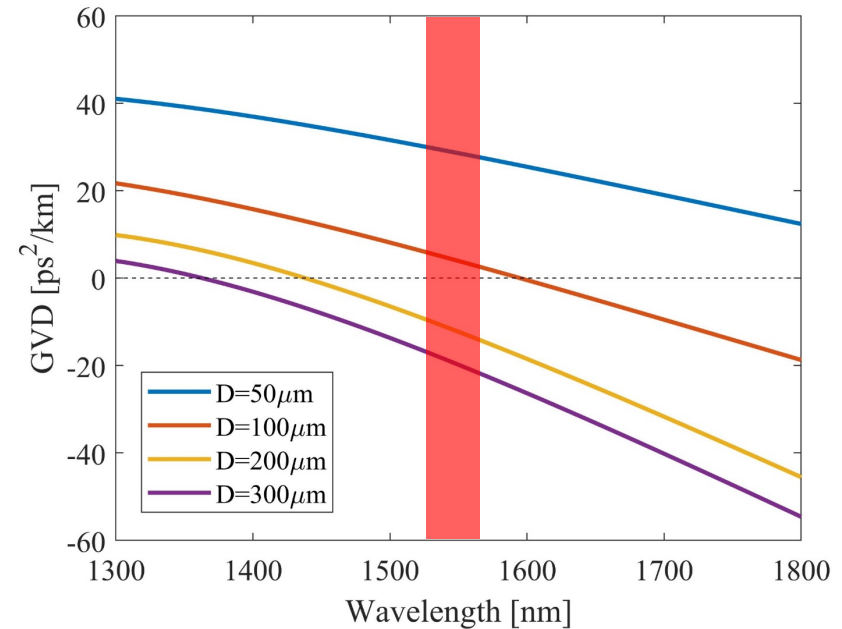
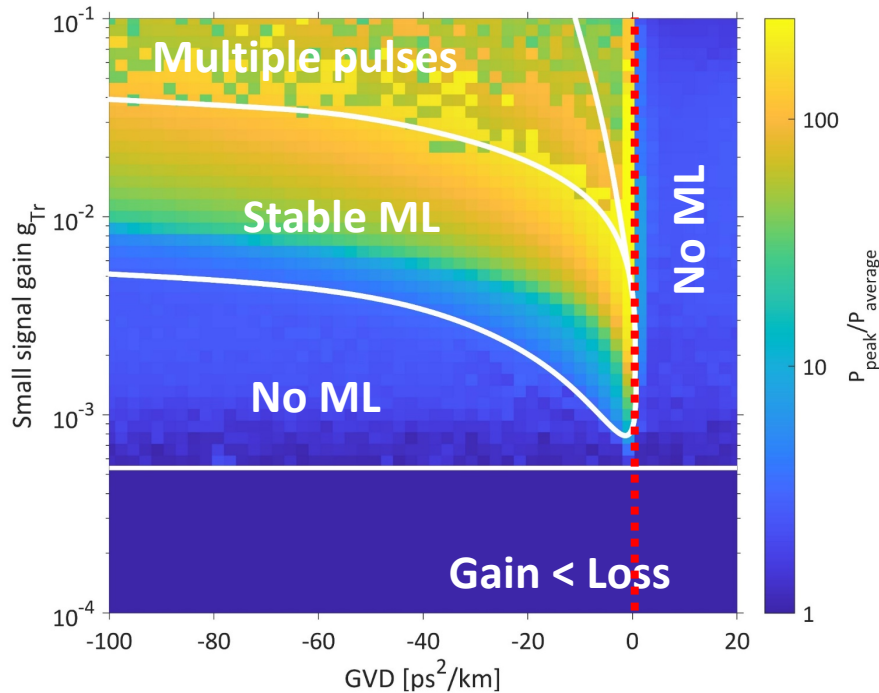
- Pulse formation is the result of gain and nonlinear loss action
- Careful cavity dispersion engineering is necessary



Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation

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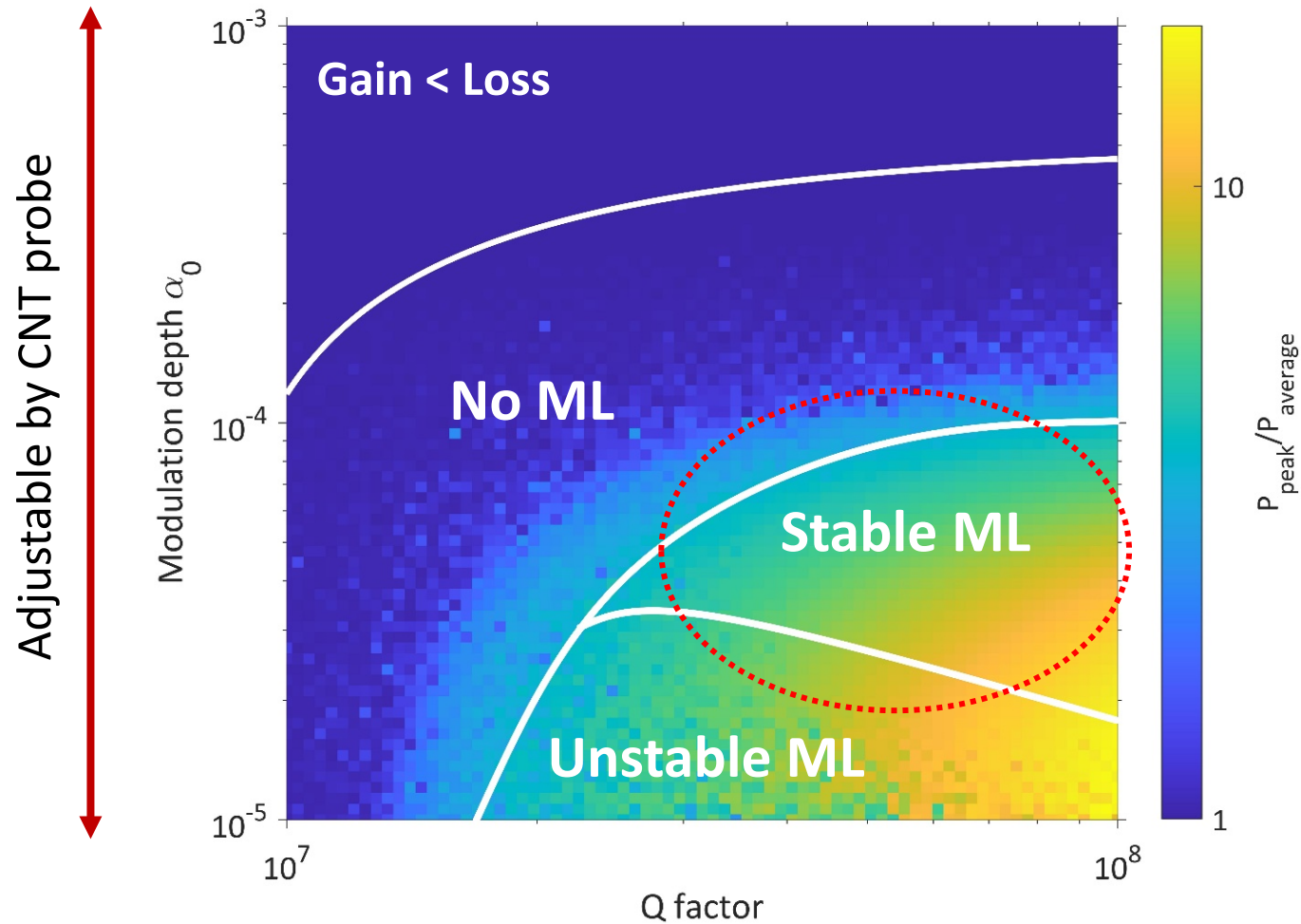


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Modelocked WGM microlaser - simulation





Summary & Future work

Modelocking of Whispering Gallery Mode Microlaser

[Device fabrication]

- We developed CNT integration method
 - CNT probe allows adjustable modulation depth
- We fabricated er-doped WGM microtoroids by sol-gel method
 - Low-threshold CW lasing was observed

[Numerical work]

- We investigated WGM microlaser modelocking regime
- Design guidelines for stable modelocking:

Diameter	D=150 μ m
Q factor	> 10 ⁷
Saturable absorber	CNT probe ($\alpha_0 = 10^{-5} \sim 10^{-4}$)

Keio University

Thank you for your attention.



This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI (JP18K19036, JP19H00873), Amada Foundation, and MEXT Q-LEAP.

