



# Superconducting cavity control and operation

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# Cavity RF control

**There are numerous applications of superconducting cavities:**

- Pulsed machines, electrons, protons
- Low-Q cavities in high current synchrotrons
- High-Q cavities in radioactive beam facilities, crabs etc.

**This tutorial focuses on narrow bandwidth, continuous wave cavities, operated with low beam loading**

**Concepts are the same, but each field has its specific set of challenges and caveats**

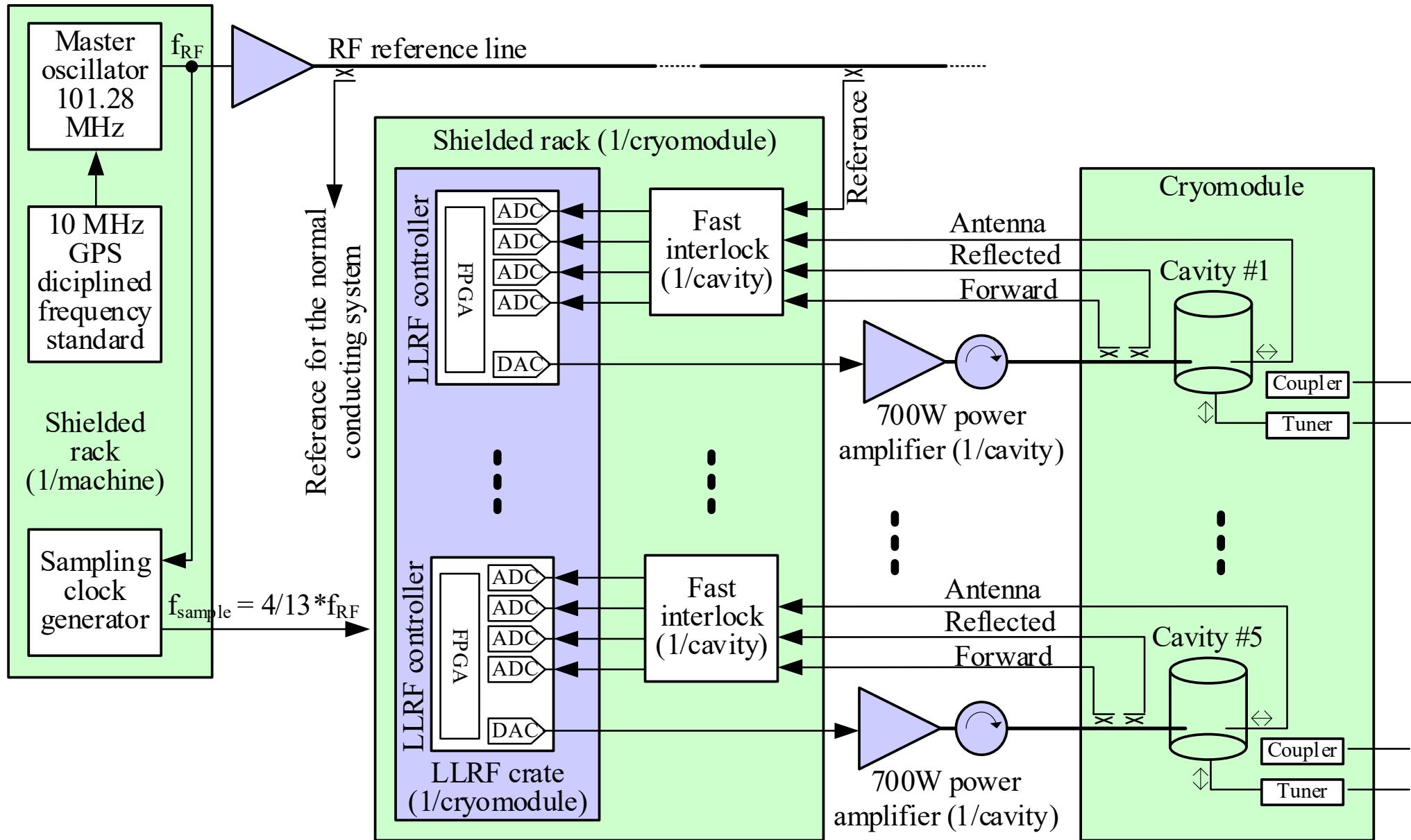


# Cavity RF control

## What do we want to control?

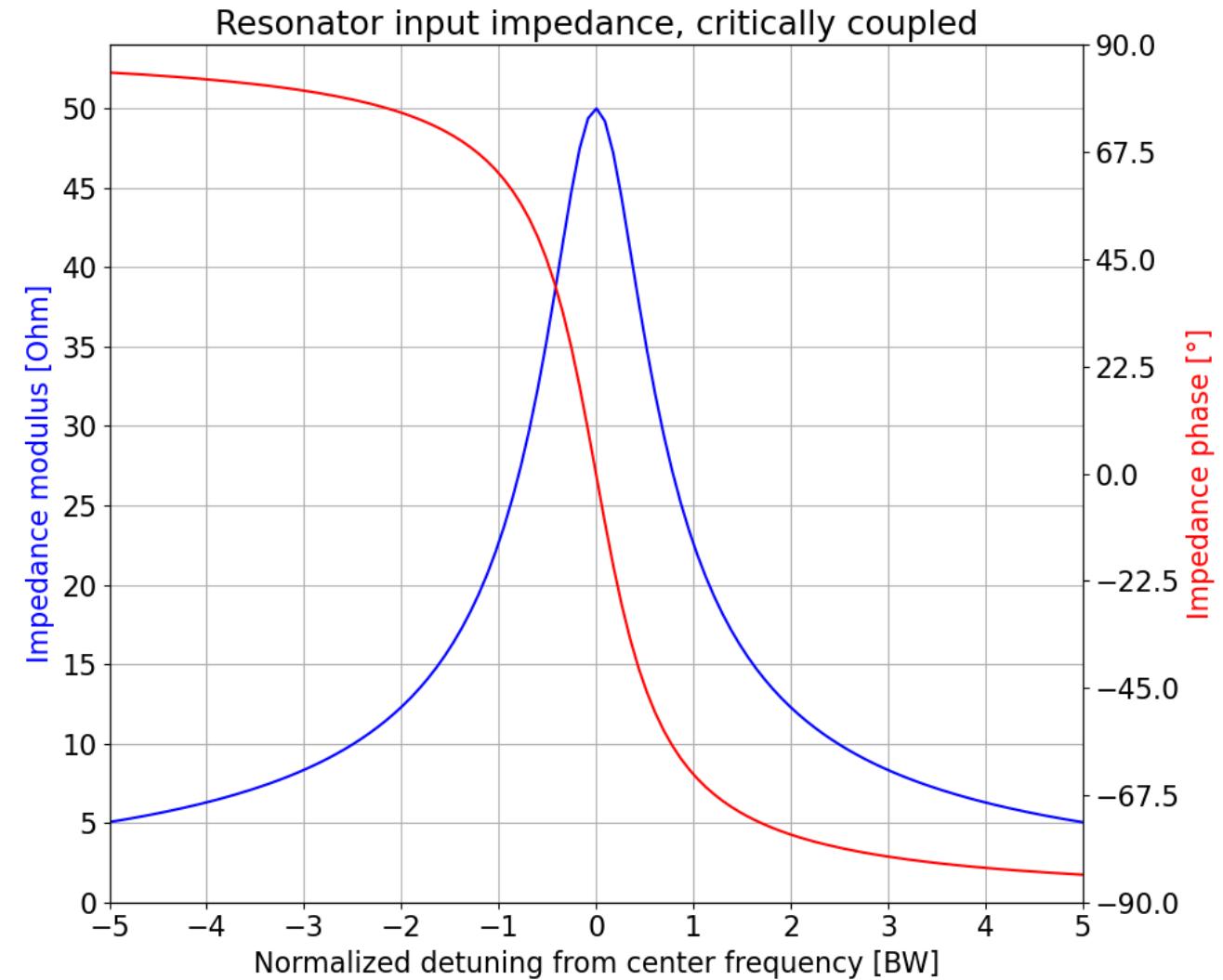
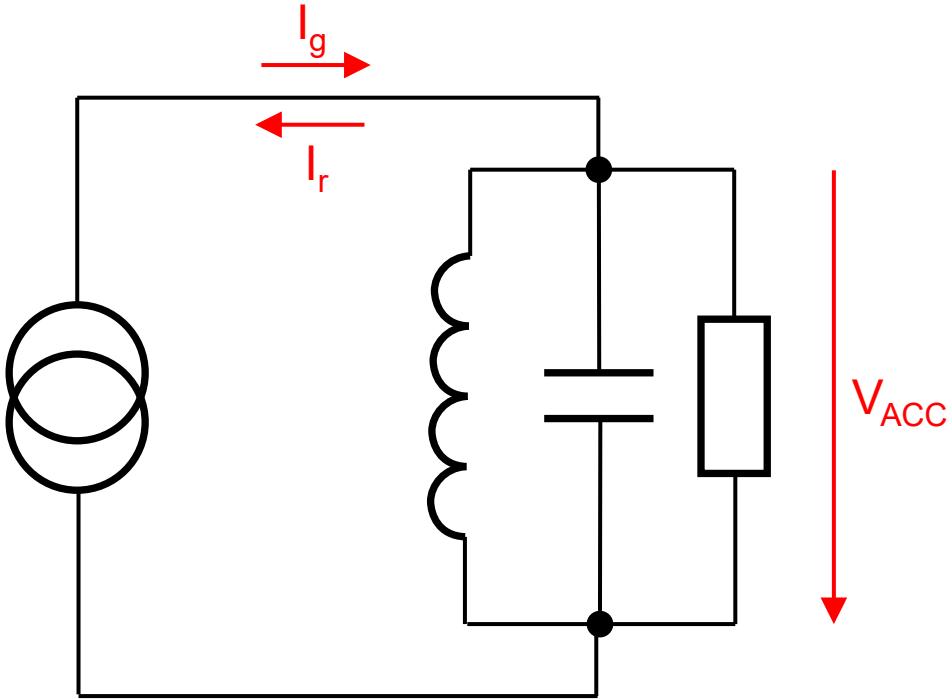
- For cavities at the test stand, R&D
- While testing and qualifying the finished cavities and cryomodules
- Cavities in the machine





# Accelerating cavity as an ideal device

Nothing else than a resonant circuit...



# Accelerating cavity as an electrical device

Few important parameters:

- $Q_0$ ,  $Q_L$ ,  $R/Q\dots$
- Required accelerating gradient
- Lorentz force detuning and the sensitivity to
- Sensitivity to microphonics and amount of external mechanical perturbation
- Sensitivity to liquide He pressure variations
- Tuning range
- ...



# Accelerating cavity as an electrical device

RF power requirement to obtain desired accelerating voltage [3]

$$I_g = \left[ \frac{V}{2(R/Q)} \left( \frac{1}{Q_{ext}} + \frac{1}{Q_0} \right) + I_{b,DC} F_b \sin(\phi) \right] + i \left[ I_{b,DC} F_b \cos(\phi) - \frac{V\Delta\omega}{\omega(R/Q)} \right]$$

$$I_r = \left[ \frac{V}{2(R/Q)} \left( \frac{1}{Q_{ext}} - \frac{1}{Q_0} \right) - I_{b,DC} F_b \sin(\phi) \right] - i \left[ I_{b,DC} F_b \cos(\phi) - \frac{V\Delta\omega}{\omega(R/Q)} \right]$$

$$P_g = \frac{1}{2}(R/Q) Q_{ext} |I_g|^2$$

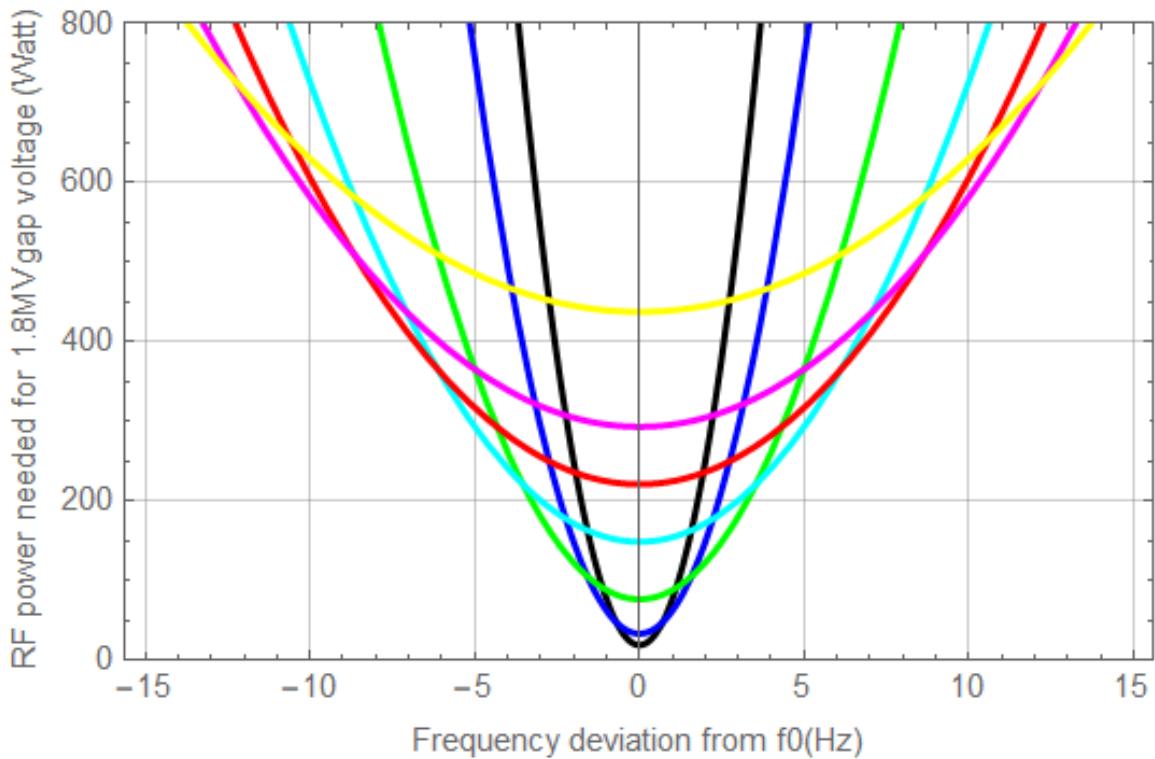
$$P_r = \frac{1}{2}(R/Q) Q_{ext} |I_r|^2$$

**... but this is not the required amplifier power!**



# Accelerating cavity as an electrical device

In a real world system if we can chose the  $Q_{\text{LOADED}}$



Cavity forward power  $P_g$  as a function of the operational bandwidth. Black 1Hz, blue 2Hz, green 5Hz, cyan 10Hz, red 15Hz, magenta 20Hz, yellow 30Hz

HIE Isolde QWR band- width (Hz)	$Q_{\text{loaded}}$	Forward power $P_g$ (W) in resonanc e	Reflected power $P_r$ (W) in resonanc e	Dissipate d power by resonator (W)	Required $P_g$ (W) for 1 BW detuning	Required $P_g$ (W) for 2 BW detuning
1	$1.012 \times 10^8$	19.2	10.3	8.86	33.7	77.0
2	$5.060 \times 10^7$	33.5	24.6	8.86	62.4	149
5	$2.024 \times 10^7$	76.7	67.9	8.86	149	366
10	$1.012 \times 10^7$	149	140	8.86	293	727
15	$6.747 \times 10^6$	221	212	8.86	438	1088
20	$5.060 \times 10^6$	293	284	8.86	582	1449
30	$3.373 \times 10^6$	438	429	8.86	871	2172

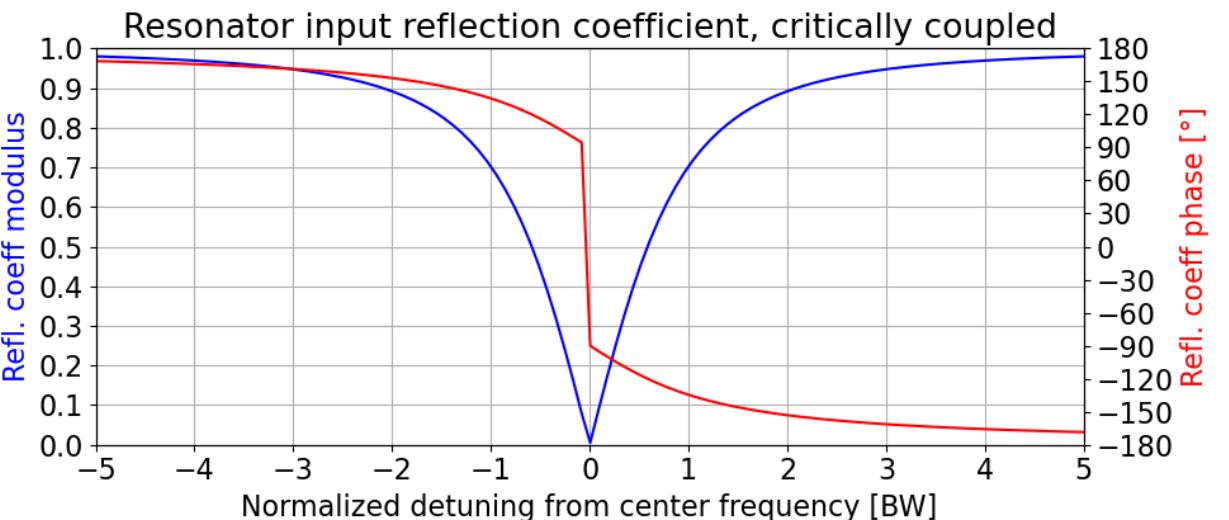
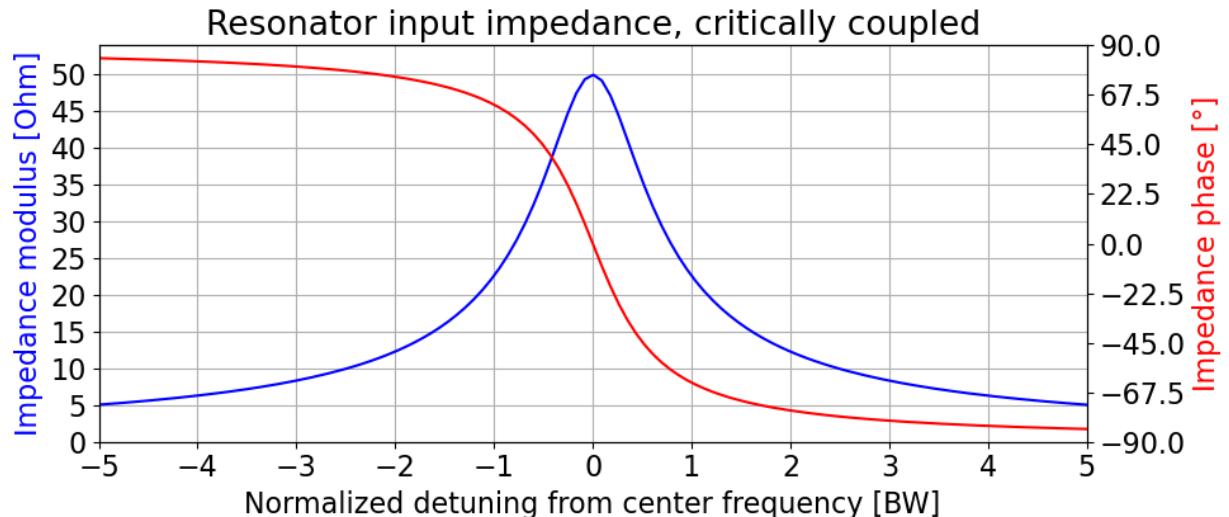
# Powering the cavity

In order to excite field in the cavity, we need to:

1. Provide RF power
2. Cavity must accept it

The generator usually runs at a fixed and defined frequency.

Cavity is typically in an undefined state (in terms of resonant frequency).



# Powering the cavity – two modes

## Generator driven mode:

- We inject a defined amount of power at the generator frequency.
- Cavity may, or may not accept it, depending on its tune state

Mode used for operation in an accelerator



# Powering the cavity – two modes

## **Self-excited mode:**

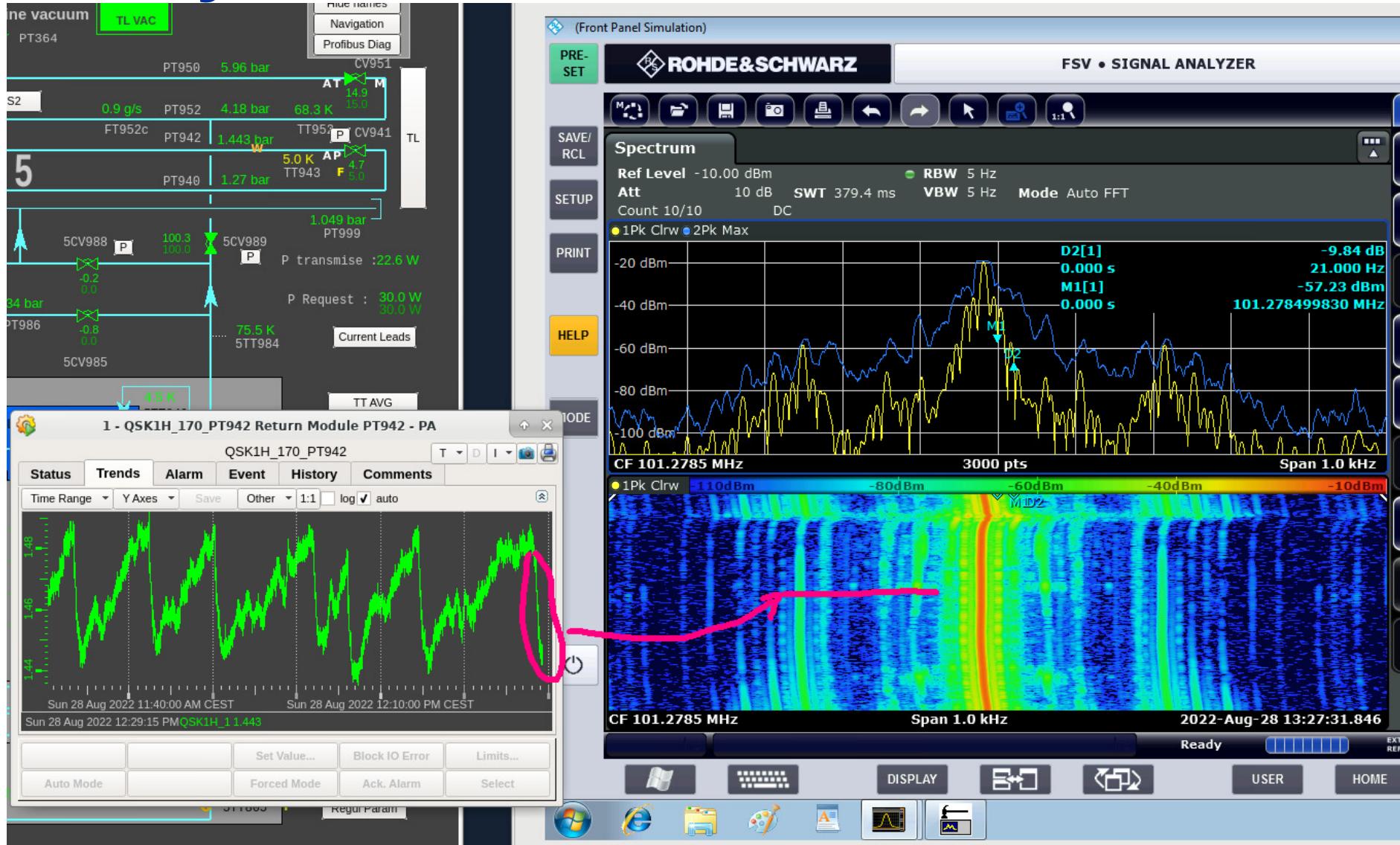
- By means of an active feedback, we inject a defined amount of power at a frequency, which is defined by the instantaneous cavity resonant frequency
- Cavity is always “on tune”, so it accepts all the power
- The loop tracks the cavity resonant frequency

**Mode used for testing/measurement/R&D, or starting up sequence in a machine**



# Powering the cavity – two modes

Self-excited mode:



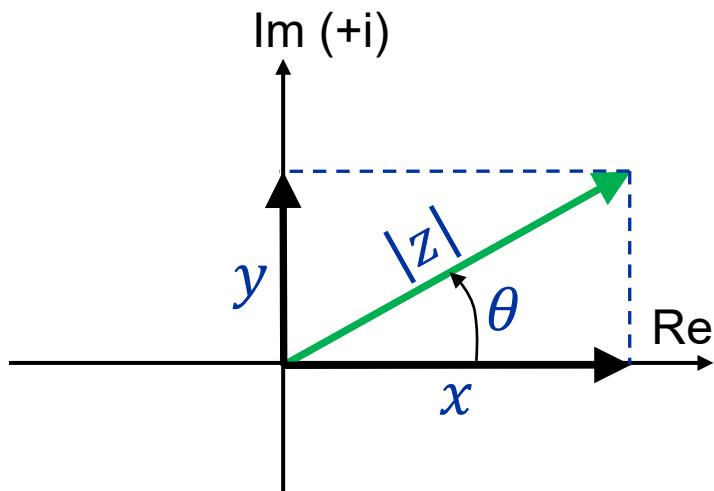
# On complex numbers...

We always want to control the accelerating gradient as a phasor.

## Popular complex number representations

In mathematics:

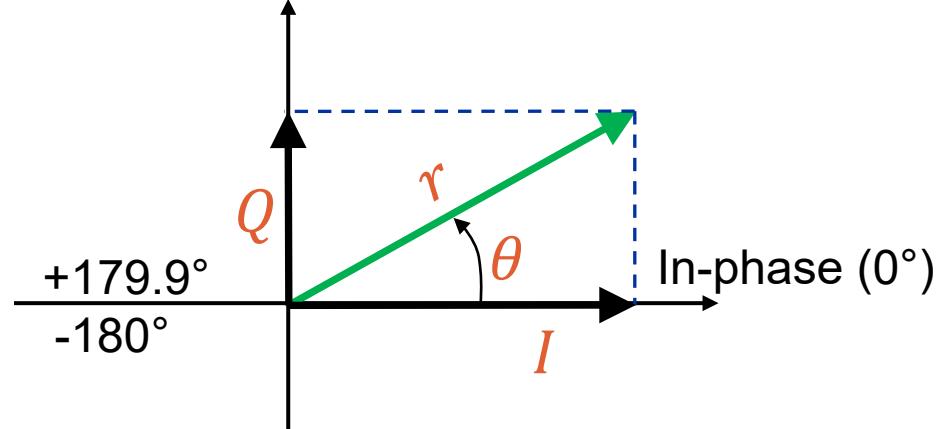
$$z = x + iy = |z|e^{i\theta}$$



In engineering:

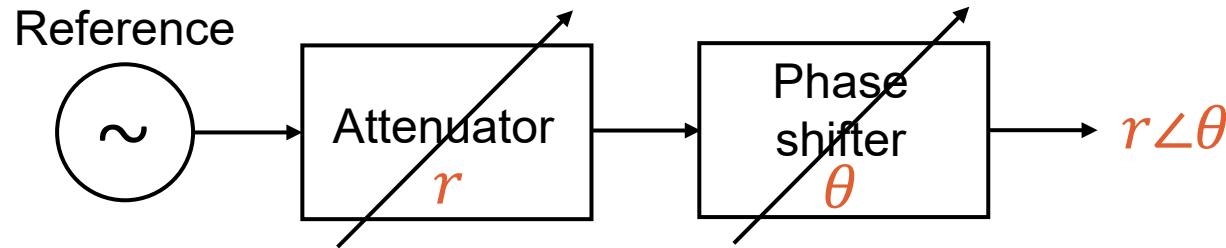
$$z = I + jQ = r\angle\theta$$

Quadrature ( $90^\circ$ )

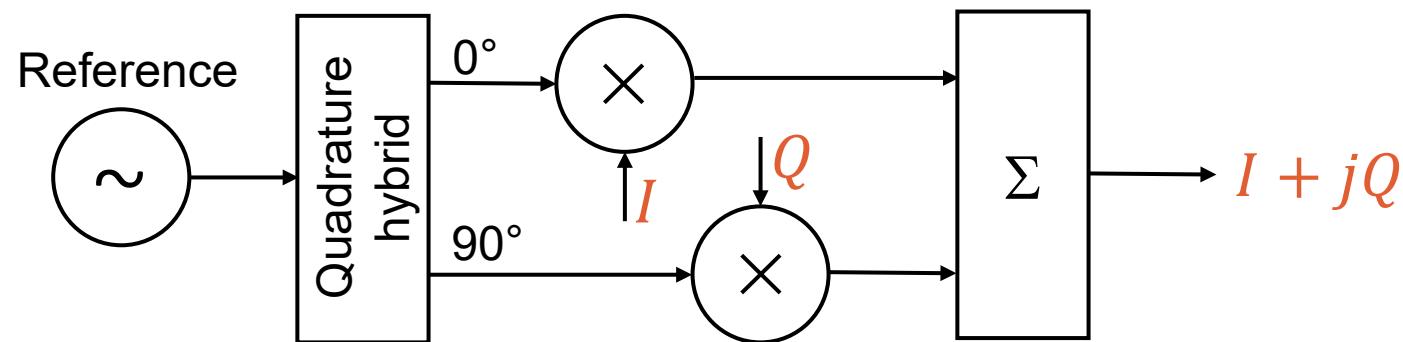


# Complex numbers in engineering

In analogue world:

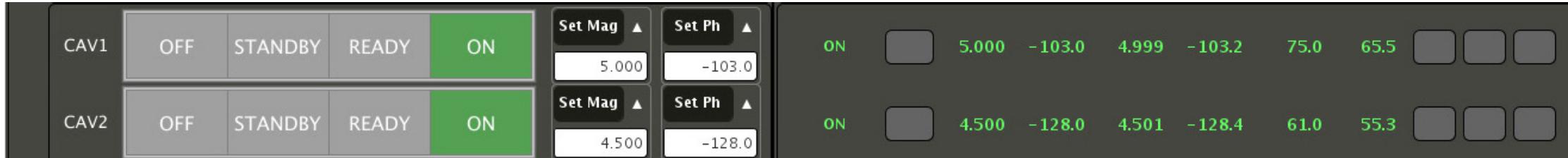


In digital world:

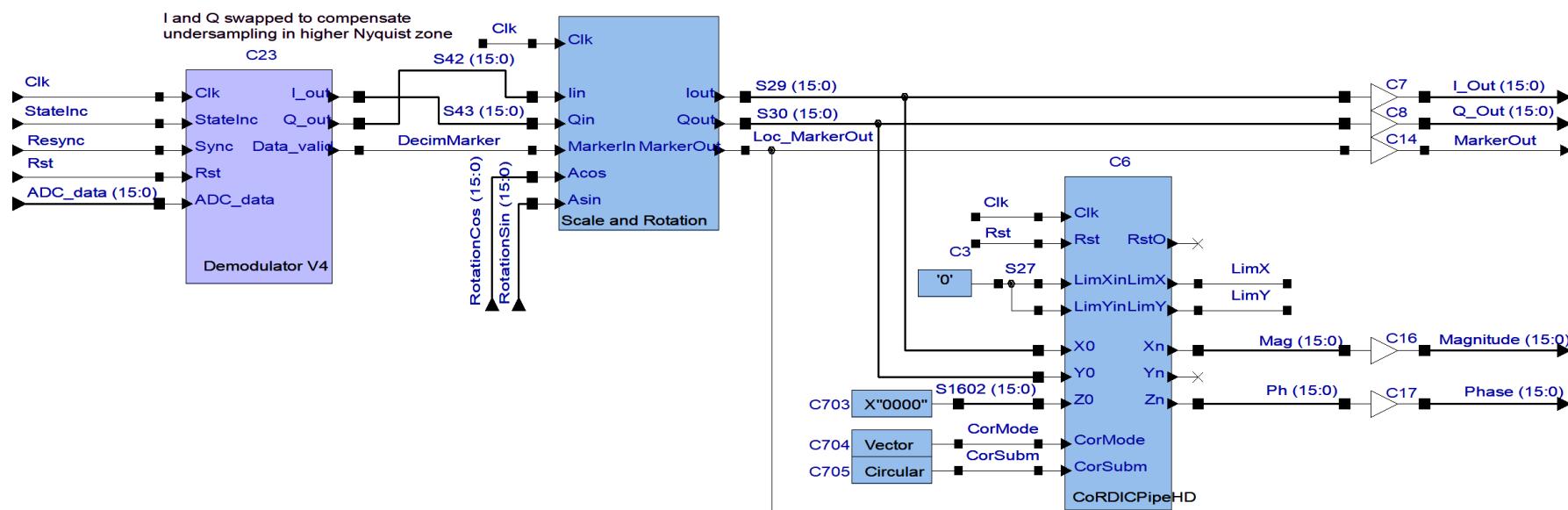


# Complex numbers in engineering

Operators want to set degrees and megavolts



But feedback loops work in I and Q. Bit of a headache as sin/cos are difficult in digital.



# Feedback loop

**Function of a feedback loop is to make value of the measured quantity equal to the value of the setpoint.**

Credits: Camran Iqbal: Introduction to Control Systems [1]



# Feedback loop

**Function of a feedback loop is to make value of the measured quantity equal to the value of the setpoint.**

**In accelerators, we want to control at least:**

- Phasor of the **Accelerating gradient** (i.e. amplitude and phase)
- **Cavity tune state**

**These setpoints can change in time**

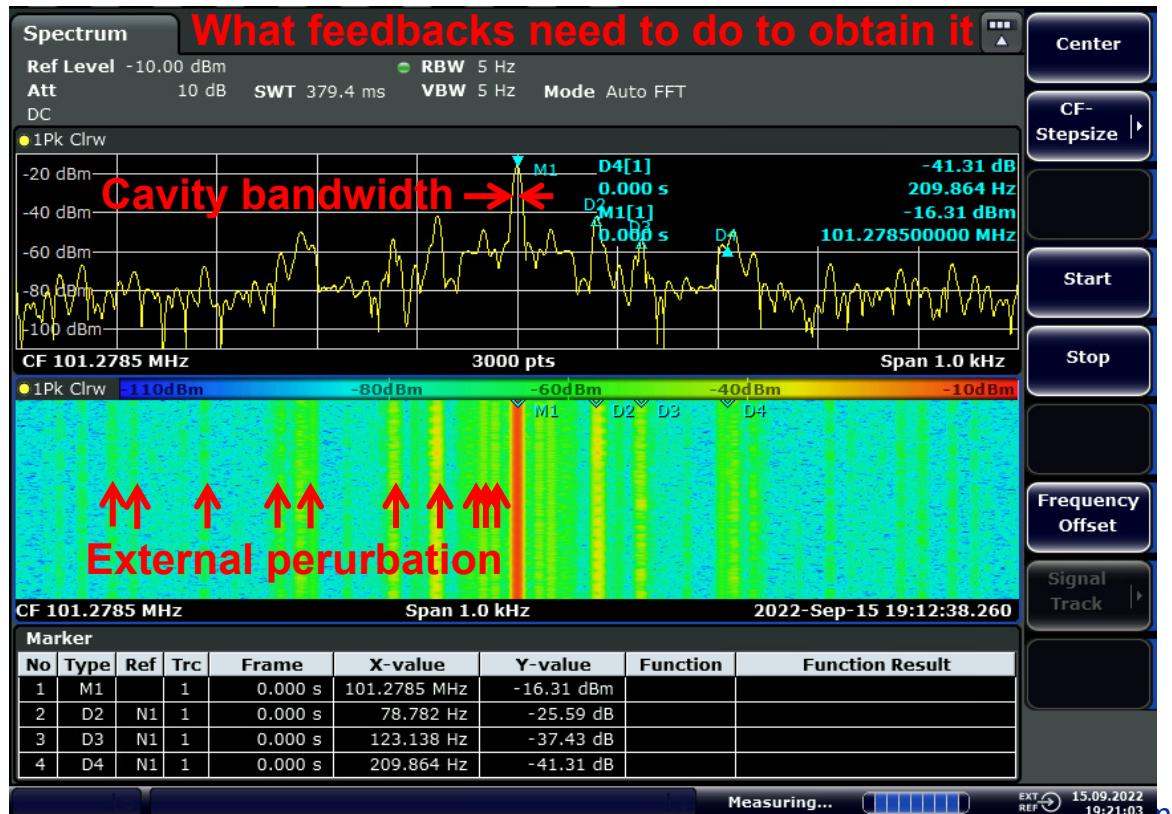
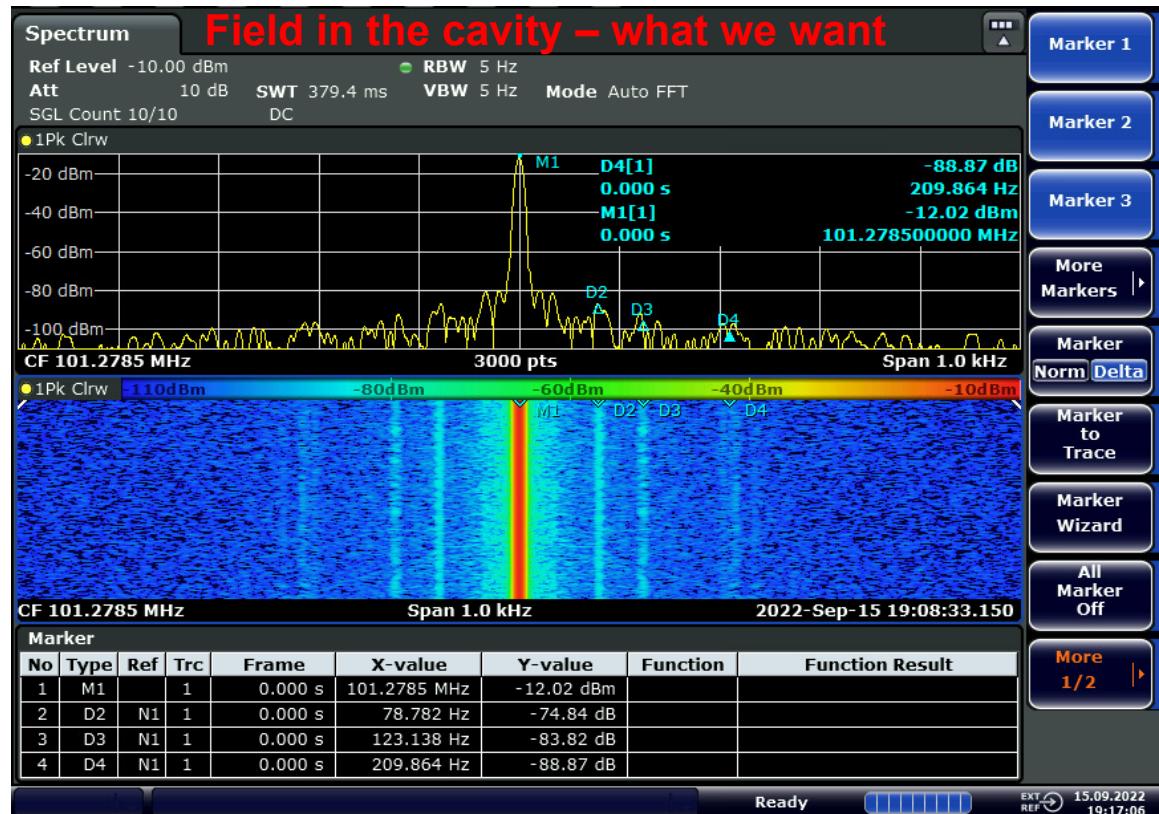
**Cavity can be very sensitive to fast changes**

Credits: Camran Iqbal: Introduction to Control Systems [1]



# Feedback loop

Function of a feedback loop is to make value of the measured quantity equal to the value of the setpoint.



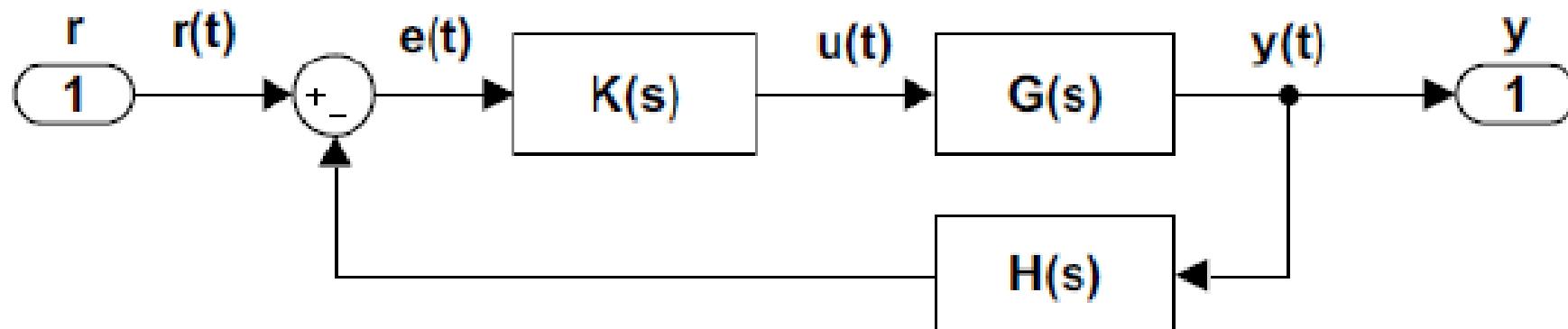
# Feedback loop

Function of a feedback loop is to make value of a measured quantity equal to the value of the setpoint.

## 3.1: Static Feedback Controller

### Feedback Control System

The standard block diagram of a single-input single-output (SISO) feedback control system includes a plant,  $G(s)$ , a controller,  $K(s)$ , and a sensor,  $H(s)$ , where  $H(s) = 1$  is often assumed.

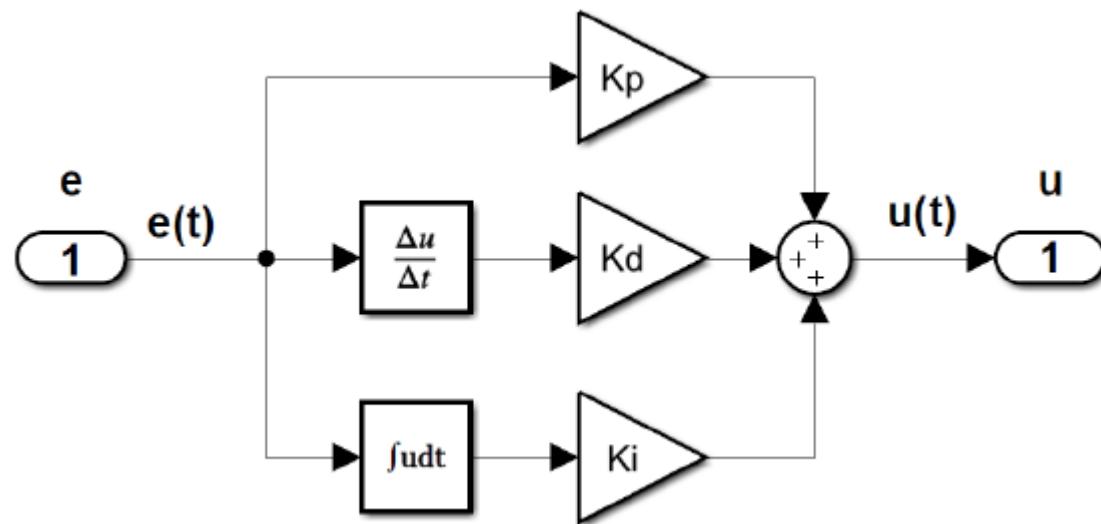


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# Feedback loop

Controller  $K(s)$  – e.g. a simplest PID regulator

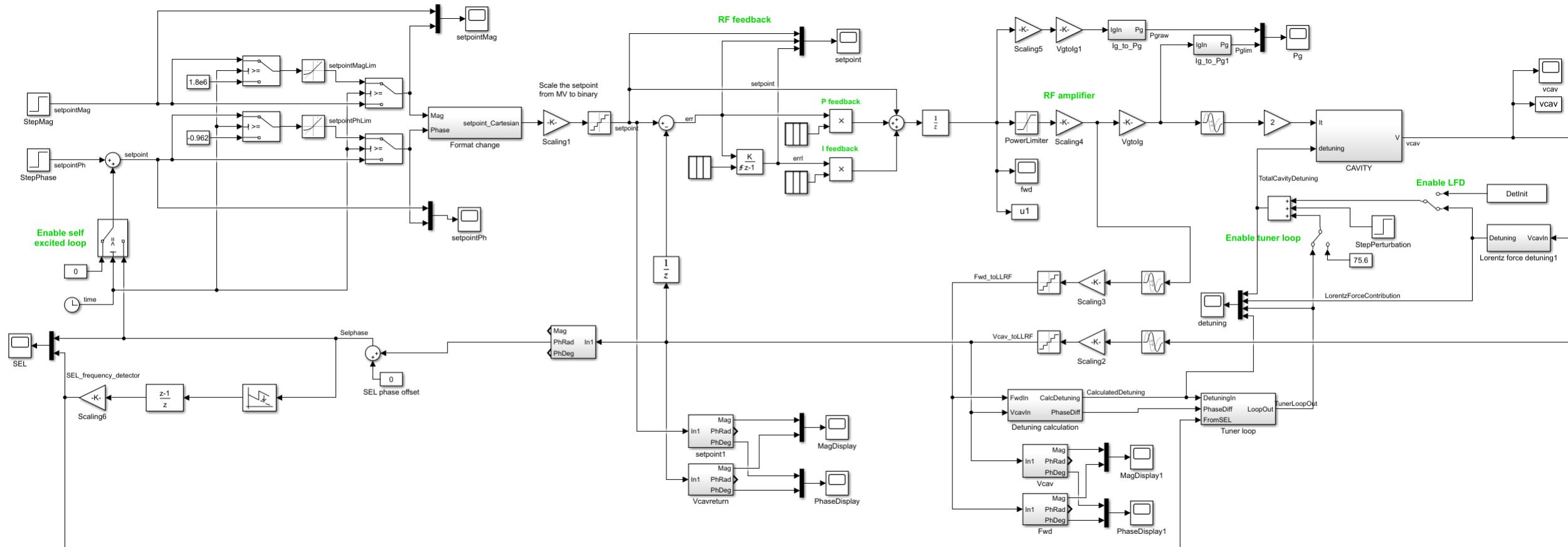


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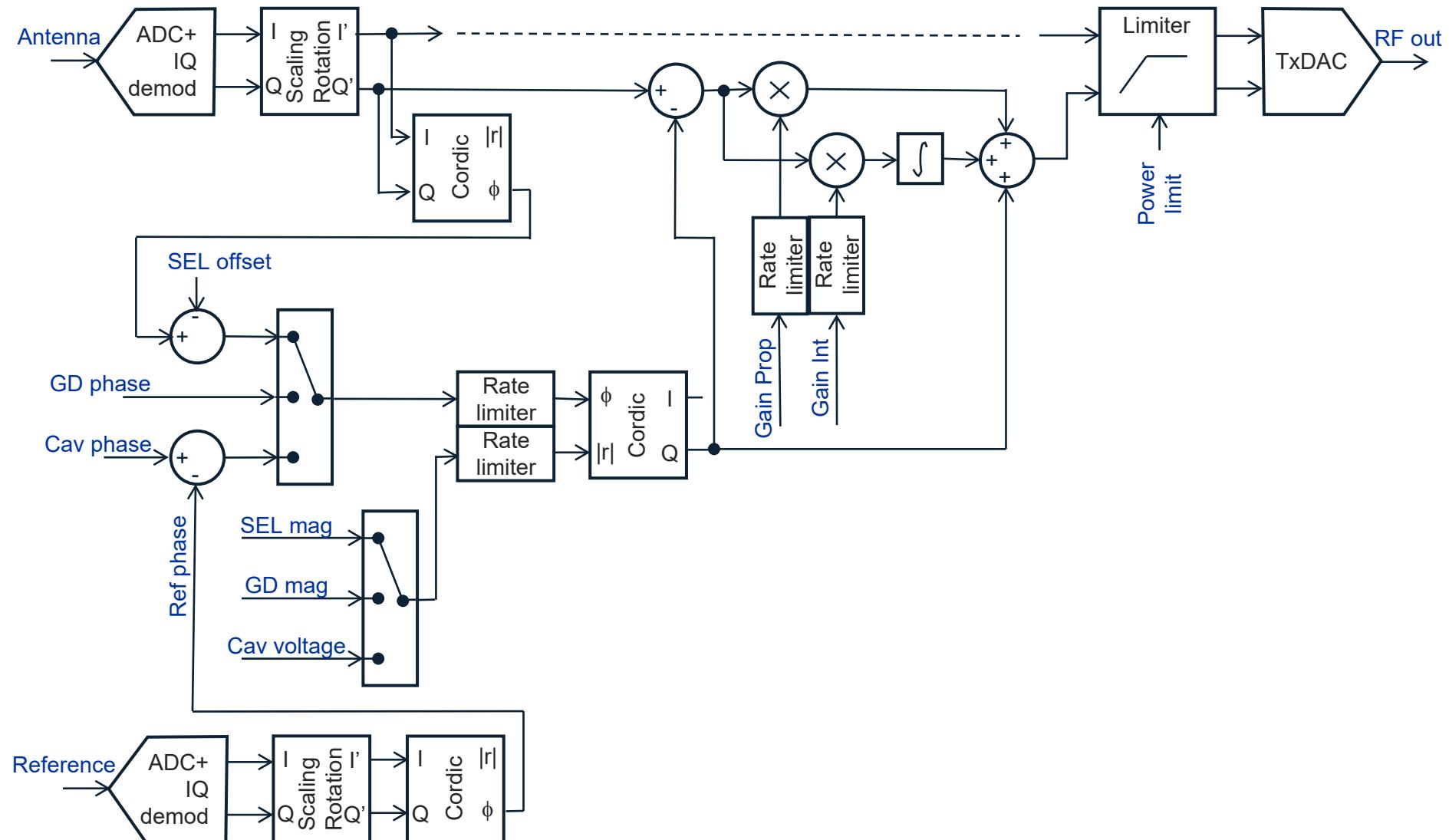


# Feedback loop

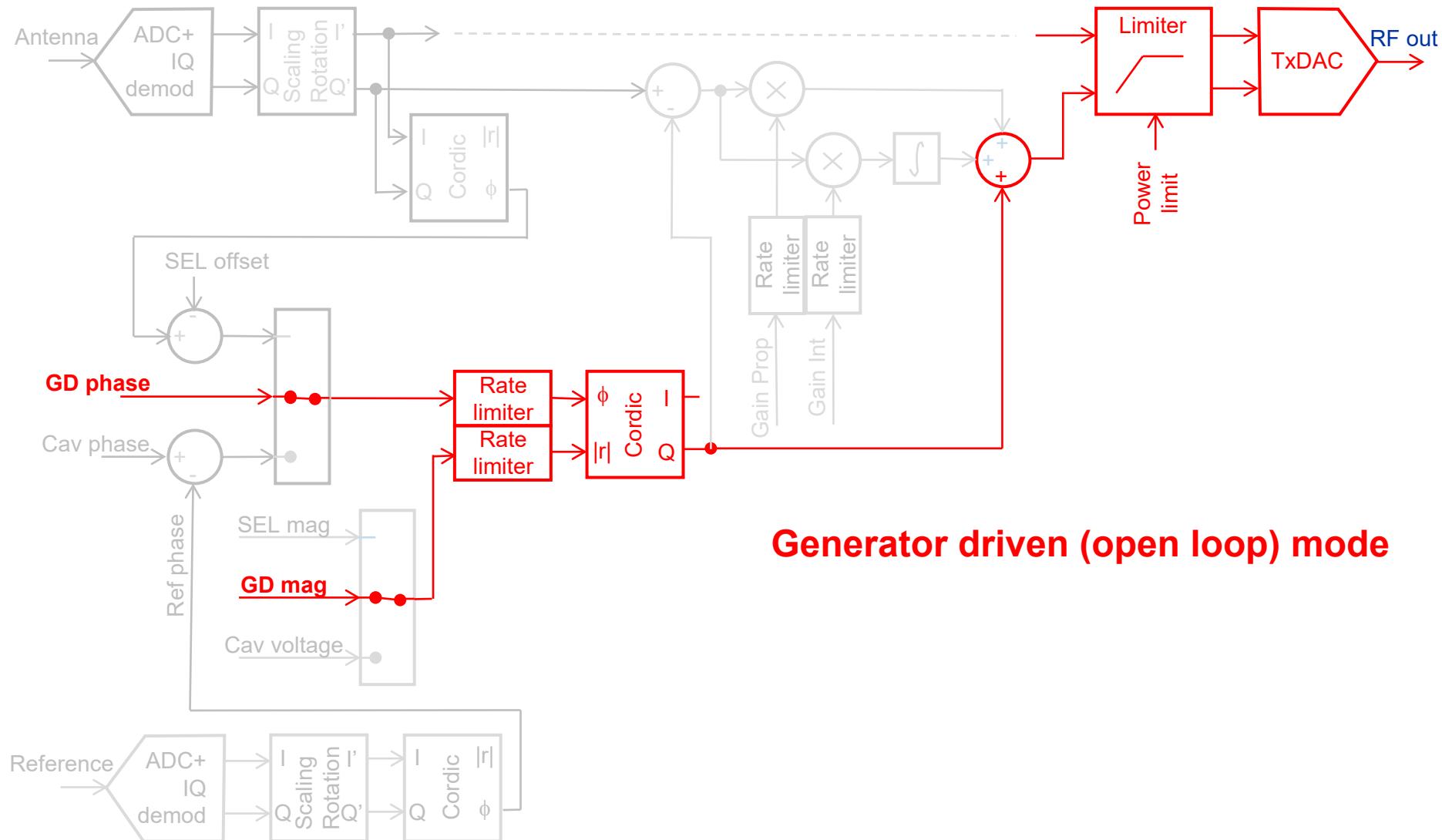
## Simulink model of the HIE-Isolde LLRF controller



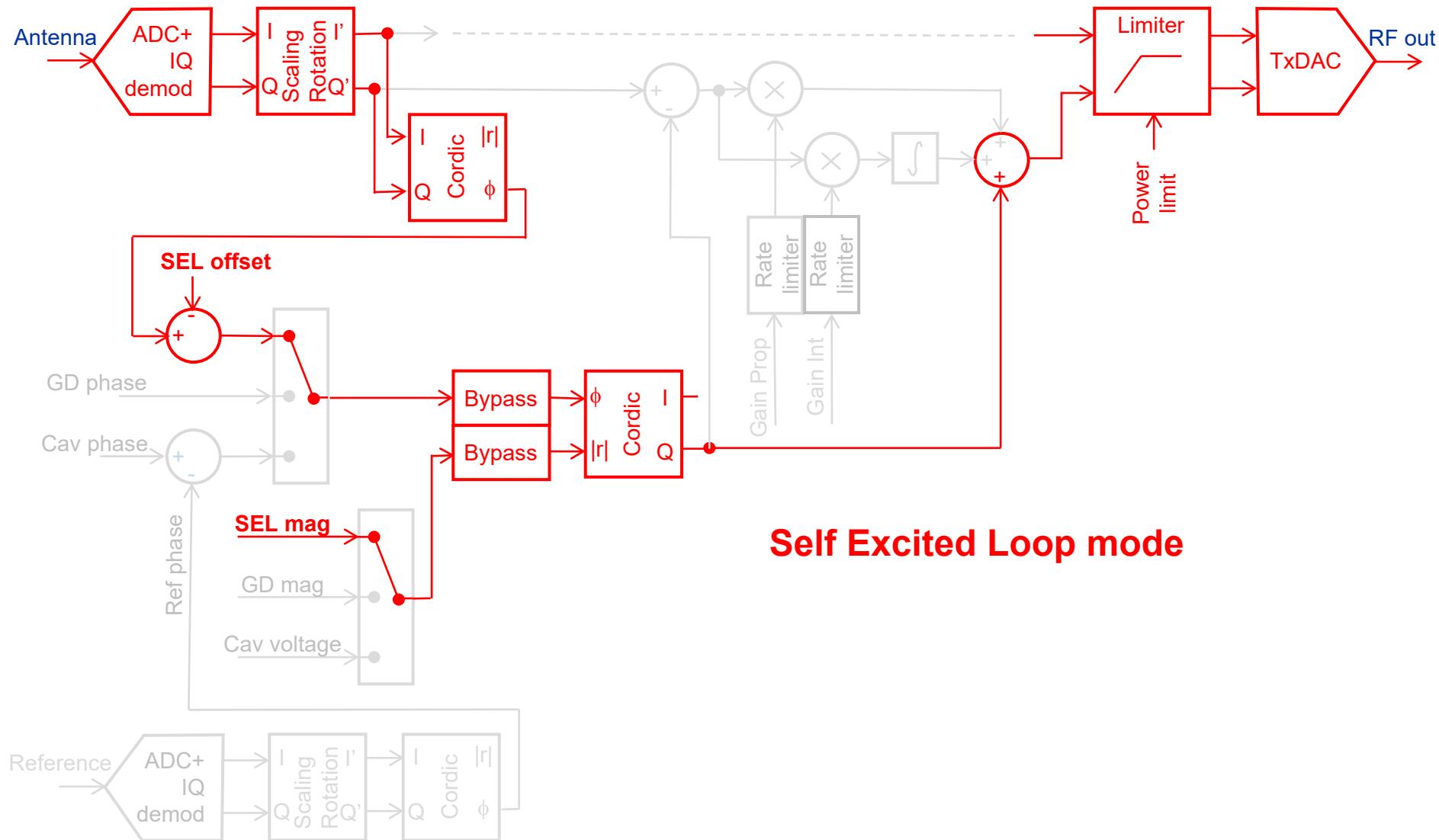
# Example of a feedback controller – HIE Isolde



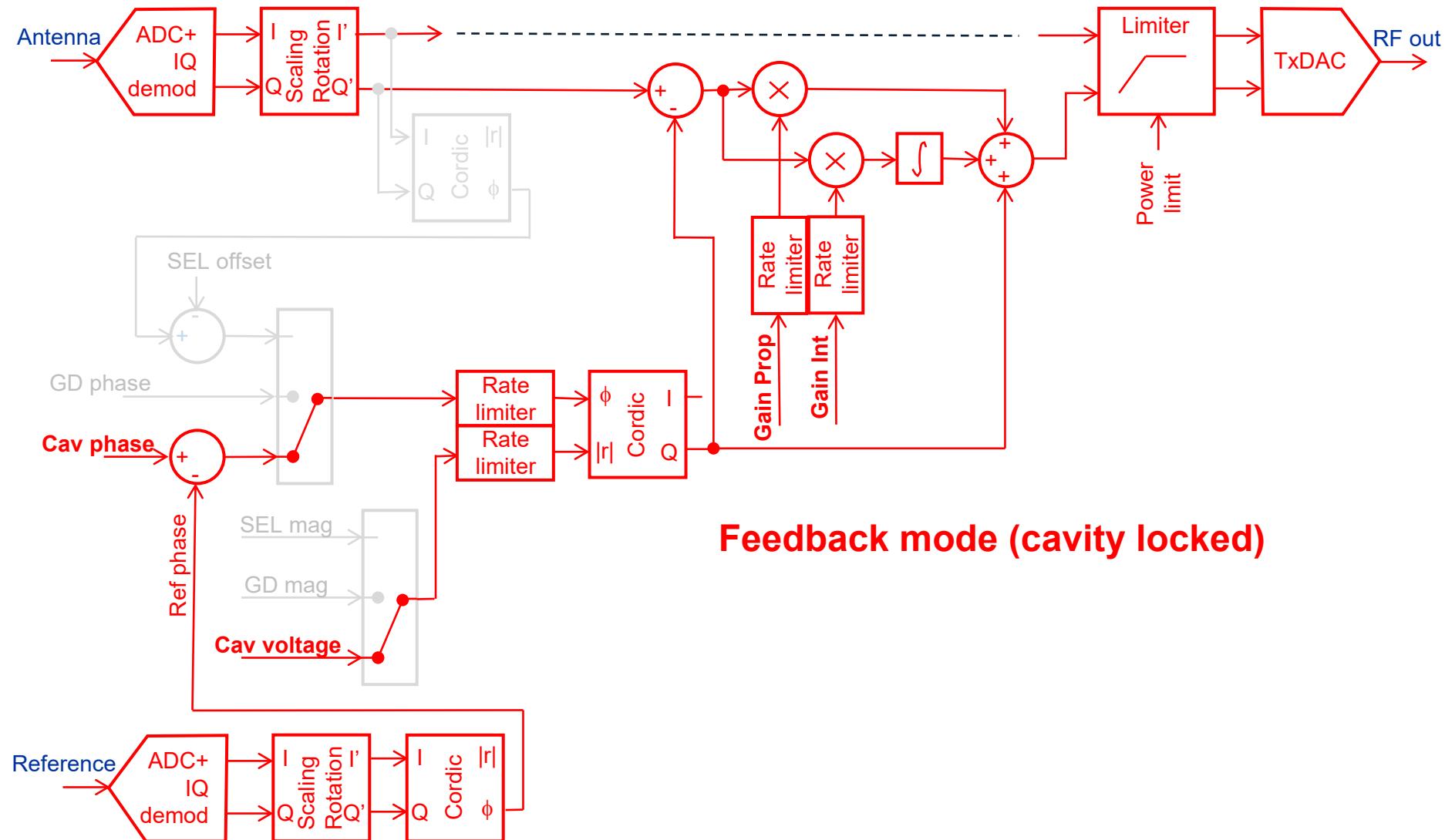
# Example of a feedback controller – HIE Isolde



# Example of a feedback controller – HIE Isolde



# Example of a feedback controller – HIE Isolde



# Feedback loop gain limits

**Loop gain defines the field quality and suppression of external perturbations**

**Maximum feedback loop gain is limited by gain/phase margin of the loop**

**Contributing factors:**

- **Loop delay**
- **Cavity bandwidth**

**For more details - one of (many) readings e.g. [2]**

## CAVITY MODEL

The plant to be controlled in this control system is a radio frequency cavity used to accelerate particles. A cavity can be modeled for design purposes as a parallel RLC resonator with impulse response given by [1]:

$$h(t) = 2R\sigma e^{-\sigma t} \left( \cos \omega_D t - \frac{\sigma}{\omega_D} \sin \omega_D t \right) \quad (2)$$

Where  $\omega_D = \sqrt{\omega_R^2 - \sigma^2}$ ,  $\omega_R$  is the cavity resonant frequency in rad/s,  $\sigma$  is half the cavity bandwidth and  $R$  is the cavity shunt impedance. For our two-variable control system, we need two transfer functions:  $H_s(s)$  representing the transfer function from I input to I output (and also from Q input to Q output), and  $H_c(s)$  representing the transfer function from I input to Q output and from -Q input to I output. For a cavity driven by a sine wave at its resonant frequency, it can be shown that [1]:

$$H_S(s) = \frac{\sigma R}{s + \sigma} \quad H_C(s) = \frac{\sigma^2 R}{\omega_D(s + \sigma)} \quad (3)$$

so that the system behaves as a classical low-pass filter, where to first order we can ignore the  $H_c(s)$  terms ( $\omega_D \gg \sigma$ ) and implement two independent controllers for I and Q to compensate for the dynamics of  $H_s(s)$ .

## CONTROLLER DESIGN

The pole in the cavity's transfer function limits the bandwidth of the controller-cavity system frequency response. In order to get a larger bandwidth and hence faster response to perturbations, we need to cancel that pole so that the 3 dB bandwidth can extend further. A PI controller has the following transfer function:

$$G_{PI}(s) = K_P + \frac{K_I}{s} = \frac{K_P \left( s + \frac{K_I}{K_P} \right)}{s} \quad (4)$$

The zero of the controller can therefore be used to cancel the pole of the cavity response by setting  $\frac{K_I}{K_P} = \sigma$ . In order to have values for both  $K_P$  and  $K_I$ , we need another equation, which we get from stability considerations. Let's consider the open loop gain of our system:

$$G_{PI}(s) \cdot H_S(s) = \frac{K_P \left( s + \frac{K_I}{K_P} \right)}{s} \cdot \frac{\sigma}{s + \sigma} = \frac{K_P \sigma}{s} = \frac{K_I}{s} \quad (5)$$

If we target a phase margin of  $45^\circ$  for the frequency corresponding to an open loop gain of unity, and considering that the  $s$  in the denominator contributes  $-90^\circ$  throughout, that leaves us  $45^\circ$  to be spent in different kinds of transport delay. In our case, we have:



# Feedback loop gain limits - example

Assume cavity  $QL = 10^7$ , i.e. bandwidth 10 Hz

System RF frequency  $f_{RF} = 101.28$  MHz, sampling frequency  $f_{sample} = 81.024$  MHz

Amplifier delay 100 ns, both forward and antenna cables 25 m / 97.5 ns

Digital quadrature demodulation 4 clk periods, Feedback controller 4 clk periods

DAC and modulator delay 4 clk periods

Delay demodulator **49.37** ns

Delay modulator + DAC **49.37** ns

Total loop delay **443.1** ns

Feedback parameters **Ki=1772491, Kp=55707.08**



# Feedback loop gain limits - example

Assume cavity  $QL = 10^7$ , i.e. bandwidth 10 Hz

System RF frequency  $f_{RF} = 101.28$  MHz, sampling frequency  $f_{sample} = 81.024$  MHz

Amplifier delay 100 ns, both forward and antenna cables 25 m / 97.5 ns

Digital quadrature demodulation **32\*4 clk periods**, Feedback controller 4 clk periods

DAC and modulator delay 4 clk periods + 1.2  $\mu$ s (e.g. TxDAC)

Delay demodulator **1579.78** ns

Delay modulator + DAC **1249.37** ns

Total loop delay **4703.9** ns

Feedback parameters **Ki=166967, Kp=5247.54**



# Feedback loop gain limits - example

Assume cavity  $QL = 20000$ , i.e. bandwidth 10 Hz

System RF frequency  $f_{RF} = 400.8$  MHz, sampling frequency  $f_{sample} = 80.000$  MHz

Amplifier delay 150 ns, both forward and antenna cables 35 m / 136.5 ns

Digital quadrature demodulation 4 clk periods, Feedback controller 4 clk periods

DAC and modulator delay 4 clk periods

Delay demodulator **50.00** ns

Delay modulator + DAC **50.00** ns

Total loop delay **573.0** ns

Feedback parameters **Ki=1370677, Kp=21.77**



# Feedbacks for other SRF cavity applications

**Machines with high beam loading, or pulsed operation require more sophisticated control**

- LQG (Linear–quadratic–Gaussian control)
- Kalman filters
- Adaptive feed forward
- One turn feedback
- ...



# Cavity dynamic behaviour

**Lorentz force detuning**

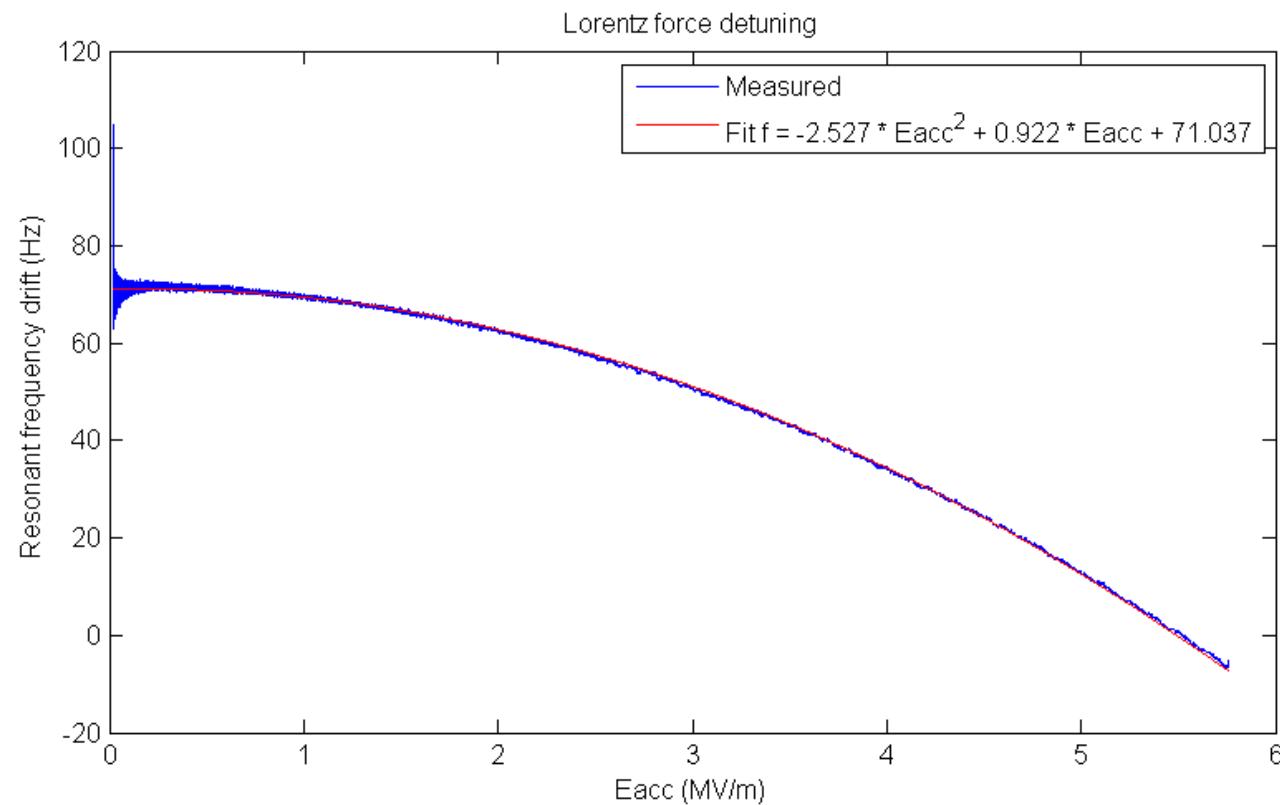
**Ponderomotive instability**

**Microphonics**

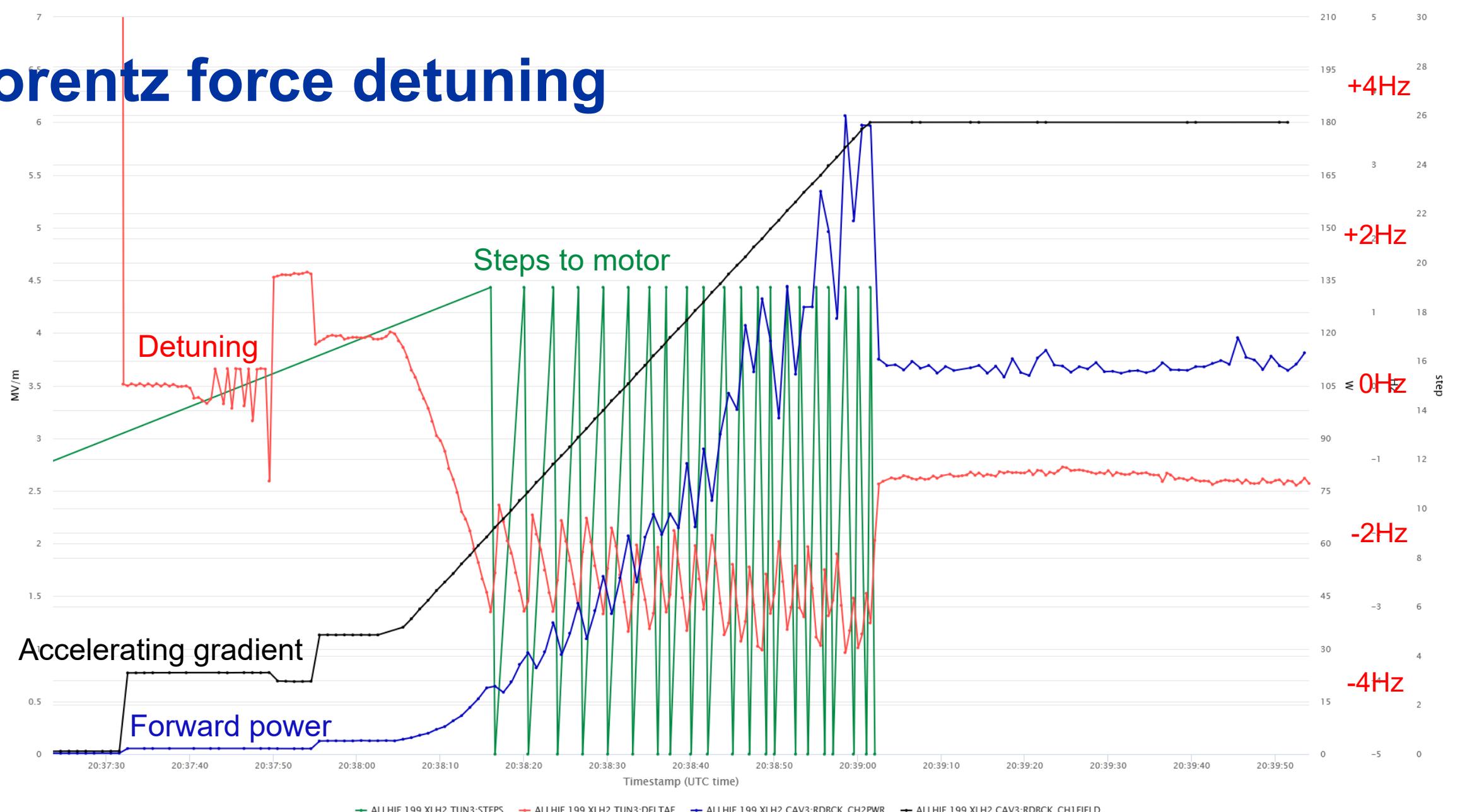


# Lorentz force detuning

Instantaneous frequency shift  $\Delta f \propto K_L |E_{\text{acc}}|^2$

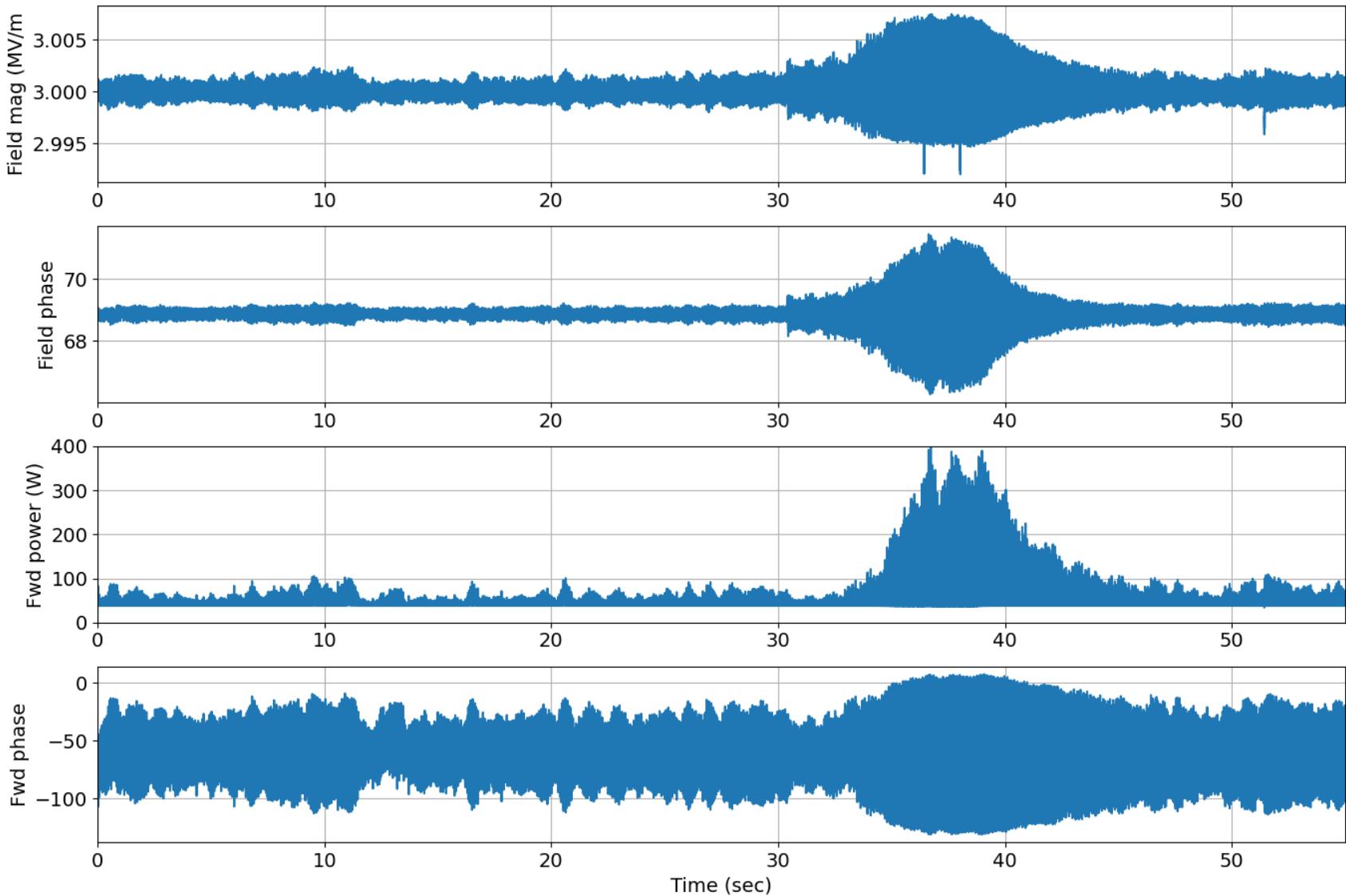


# Lorentz force detuning



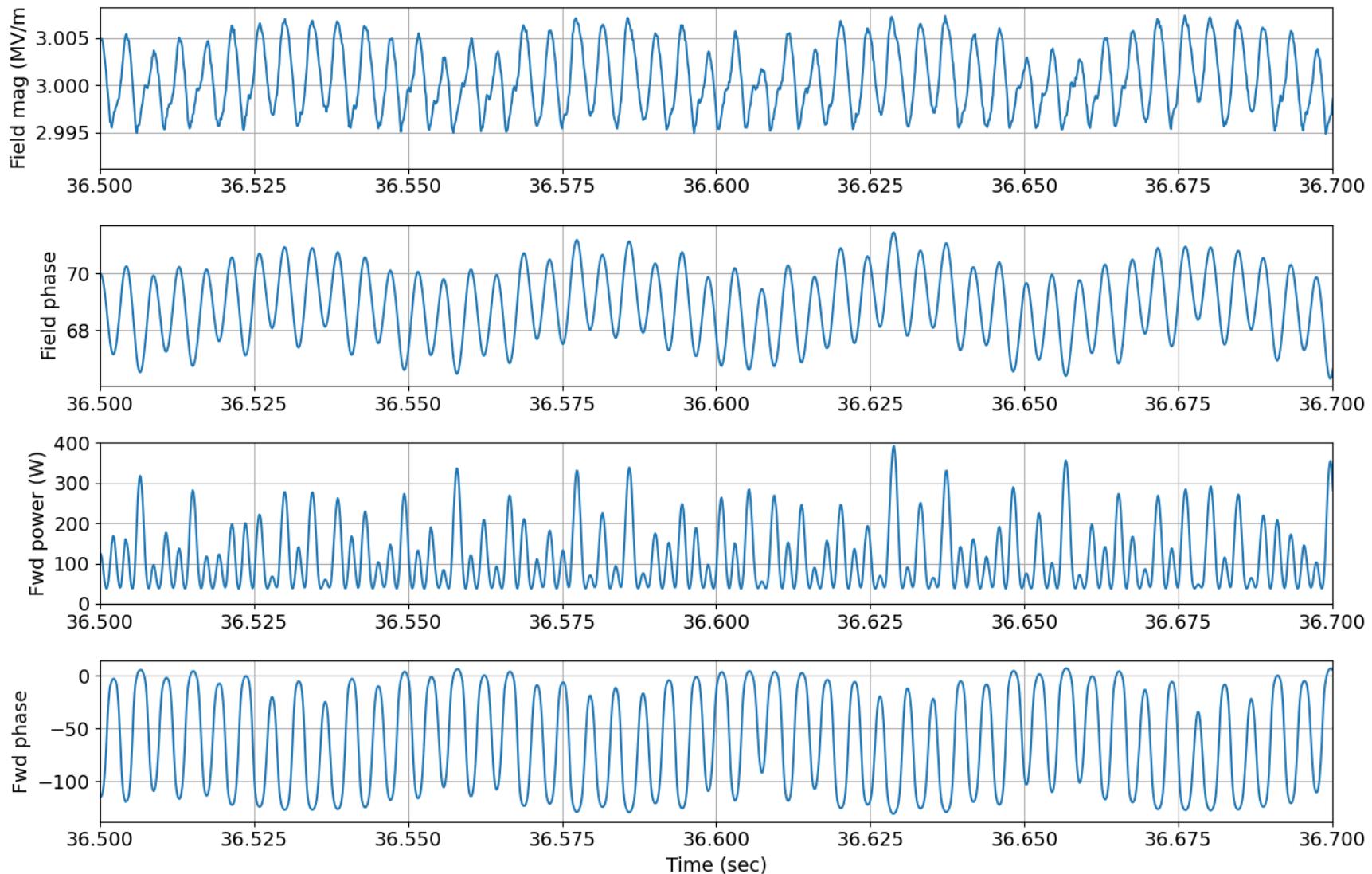
# Ponderomotive instability

Lorentz force detuning and mechanical properties of the cavity (stiffness, mechanical resonant frequency) may lead to a field driven electromechanical resonance



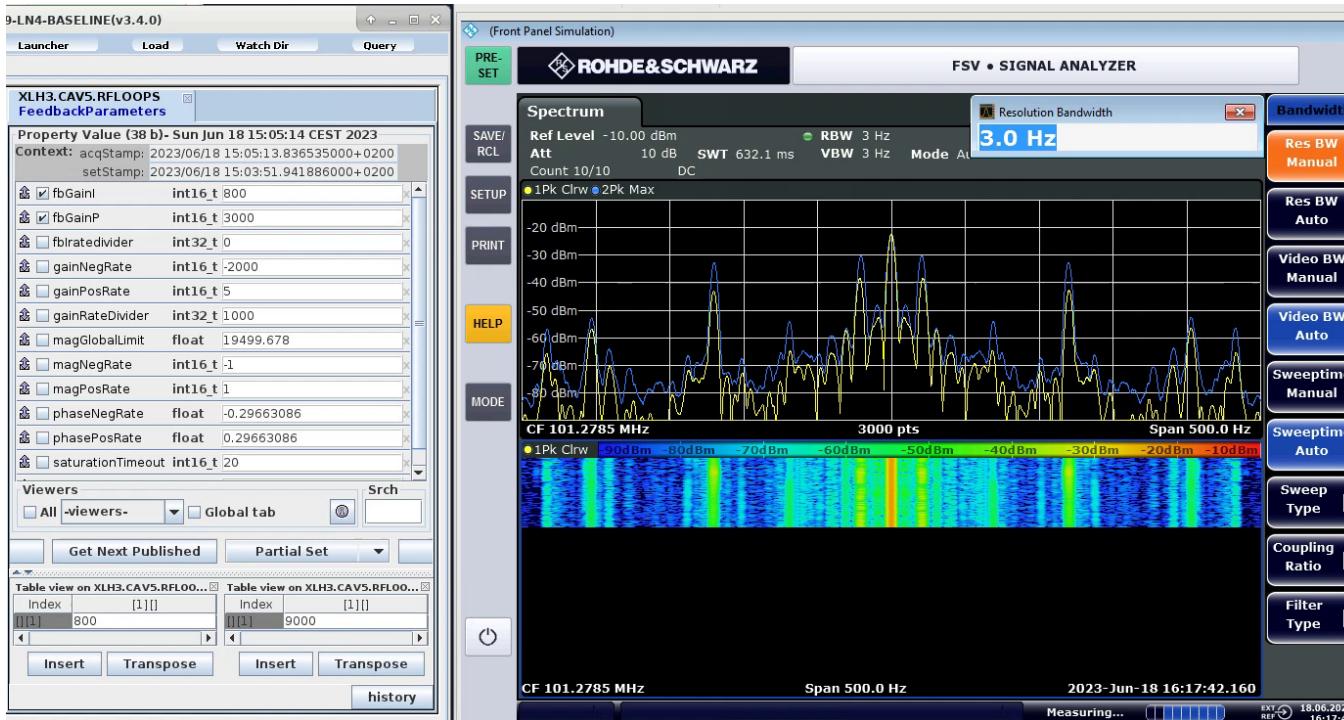
# Ponderomotive instability

Lorentz force detuning and mechanical properties of the cavity (stiffness, mechanical resonant frequency) may lead to a field driven electromechanical resonance



# Ponderomotive instability

ponderomotive\_instability\_\_Record\_2023\_06\_18\_15\_05\_35\_719.mp4



# Resonance control

**Resonant frequency of the cavity is moving all the time**

- Fast variation – microphonics
- Slow variation – I-He pressure fluctuations, Lorentz force detuning
- LFD can be very nasty to control...

**Small changes (<BW) are compensated by LLRF. It is fast and costs only RF power**

**Large changes (>BW) must be compensated by tuners. Comparably slow and rather complex process...**



# Resonance control

**Knowledge of the instantaneous cavity resonant frequency is the key**

**Observables: Forward, Reflected, Antenna (probe) phasors**

**Methods:**

- 1. Transmitted power method (Fwd, Ant)**
- 2. Reflection coefficient method (Fwd, Rfl)**
- 3. Alternative methods (e.g. internal regulator signals)**

# Resonance control – Transmitted power method

The instantaneous cavity tune state can be calculated from the forward and antenna signals.

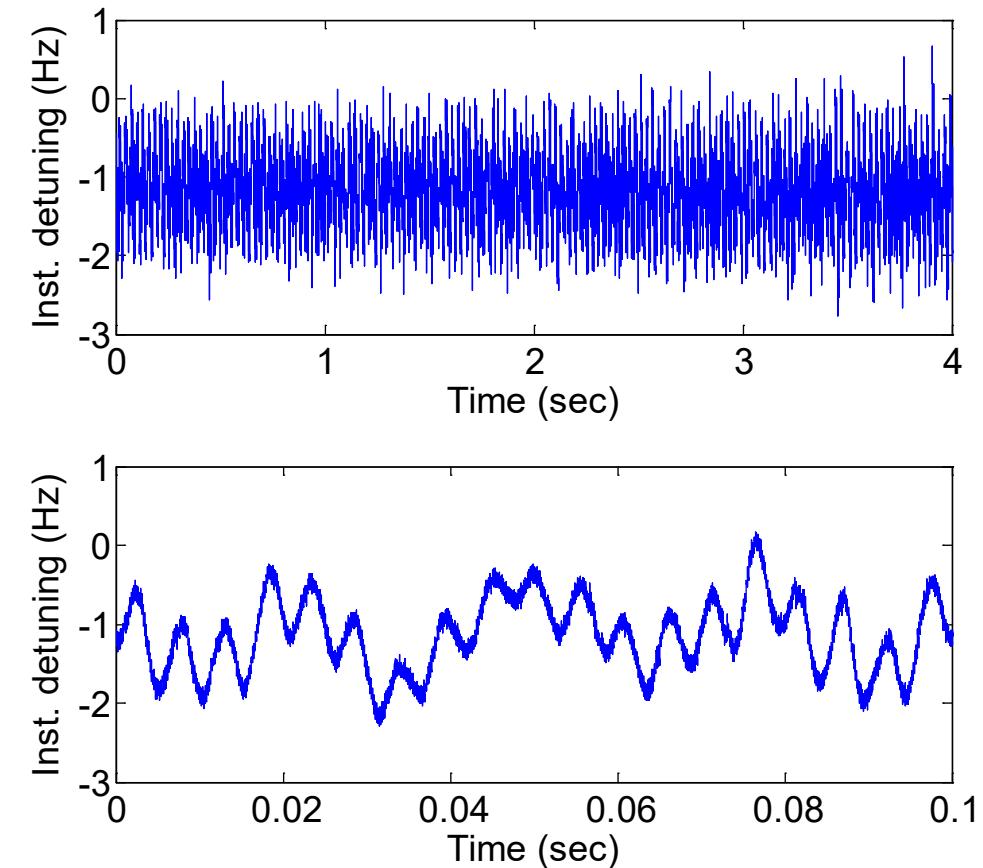
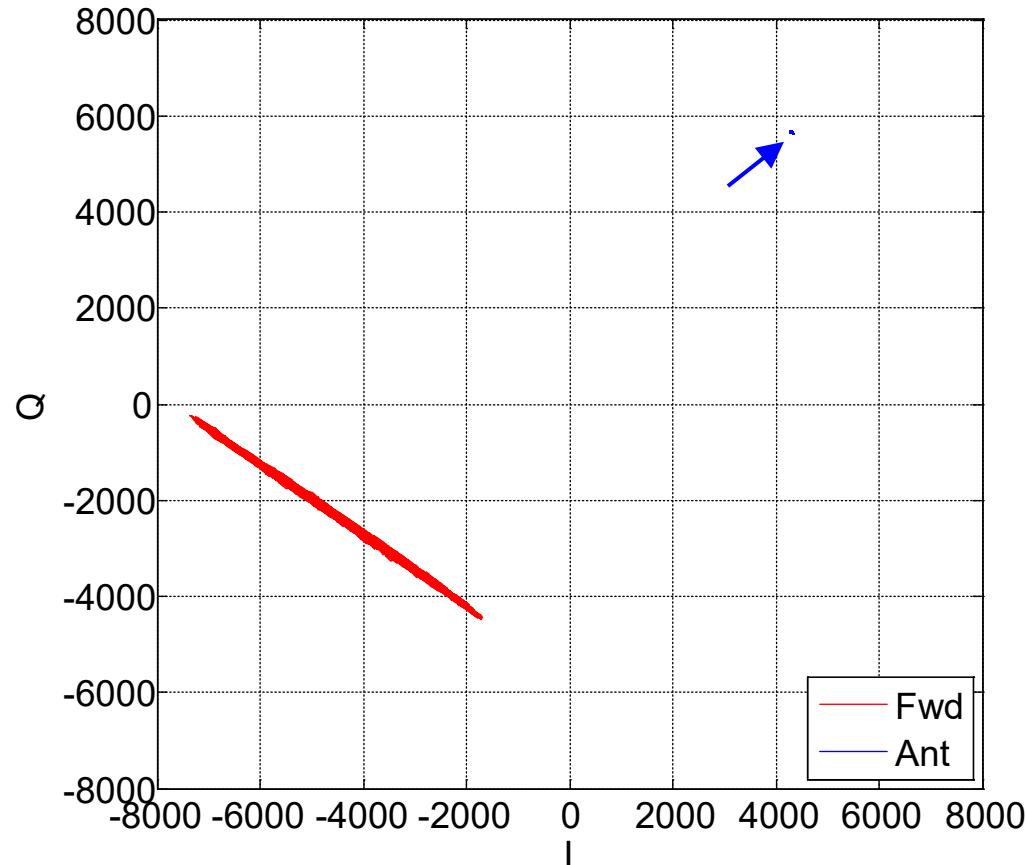
At least some transmission is needed to get started – fails for large detuning

$$\Delta f = \frac{1}{2} BW \frac{|V_{fwd}|}{|V_{ant}|} \sin(\varphi_{ant} - \varphi_{fwd})$$



# Resonance control – Transmitted power method

Not trivial if cavity bandwidth  $\approx$  microphonics



# Resonance control – Reflection coefficient method

The instantaneous cavity tune state can be calculated from the measured complex reflection coefficient.

Best results for critically coupled cavities.

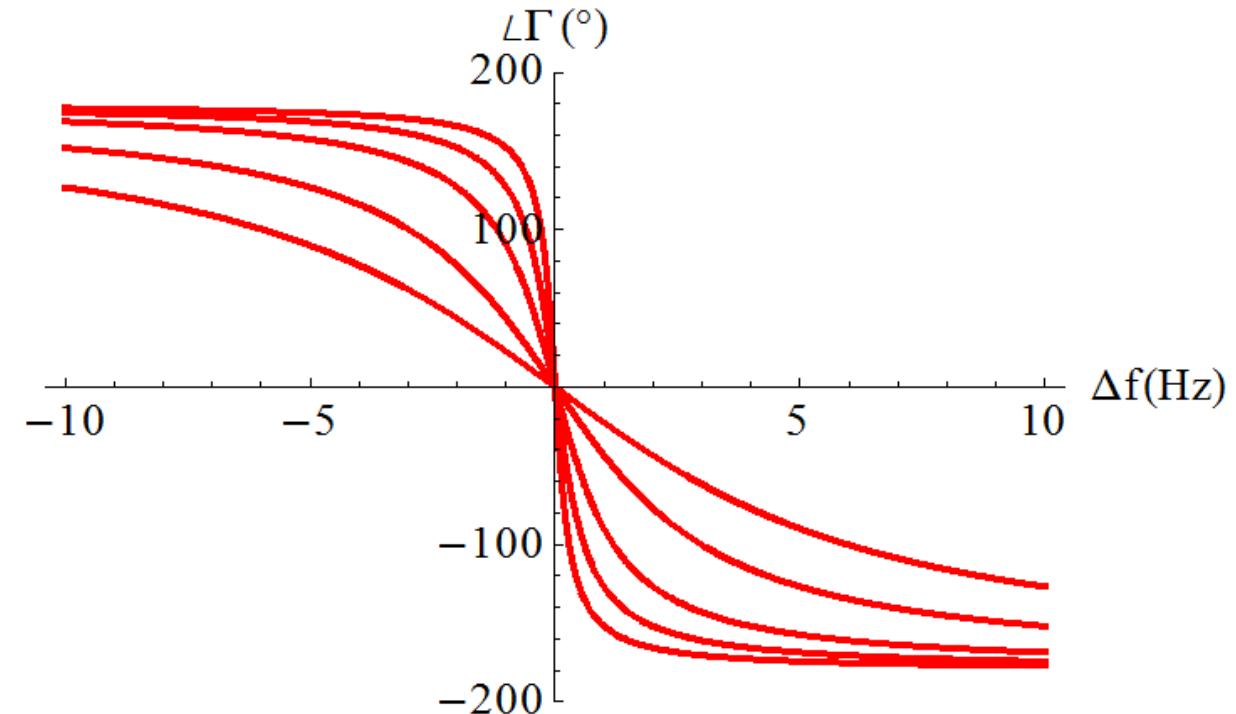
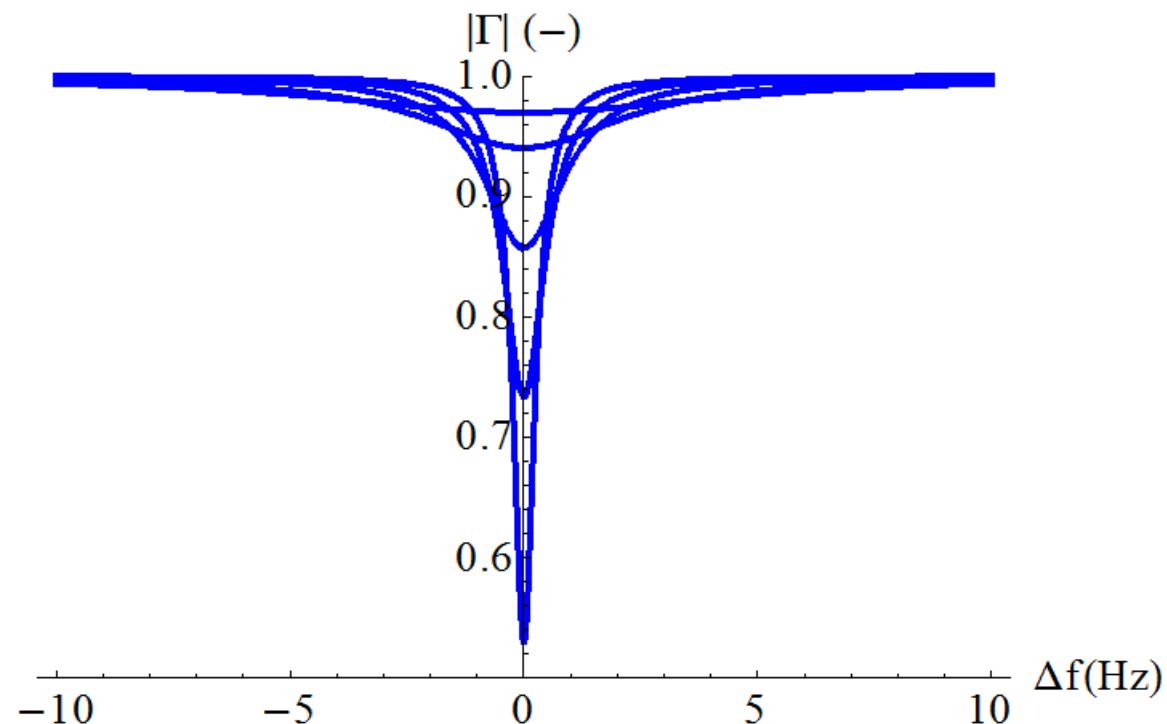
Difficult for strongly overcoupled SC cavities  $|\Gamma| \sim 1$



# Resonance control – Reflection coefficient method

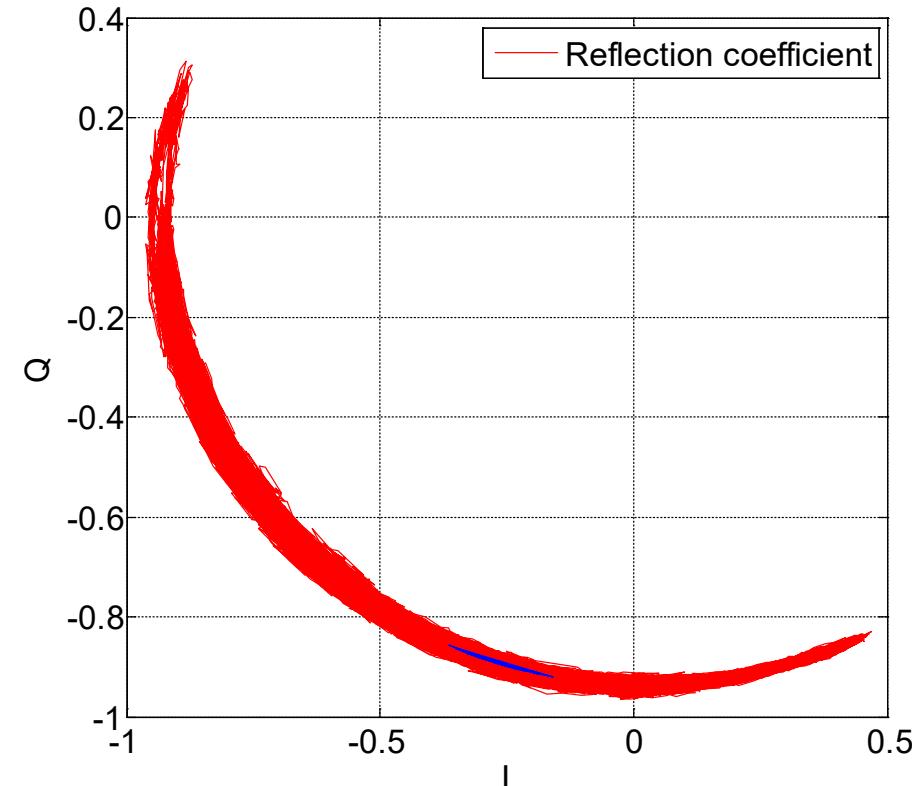
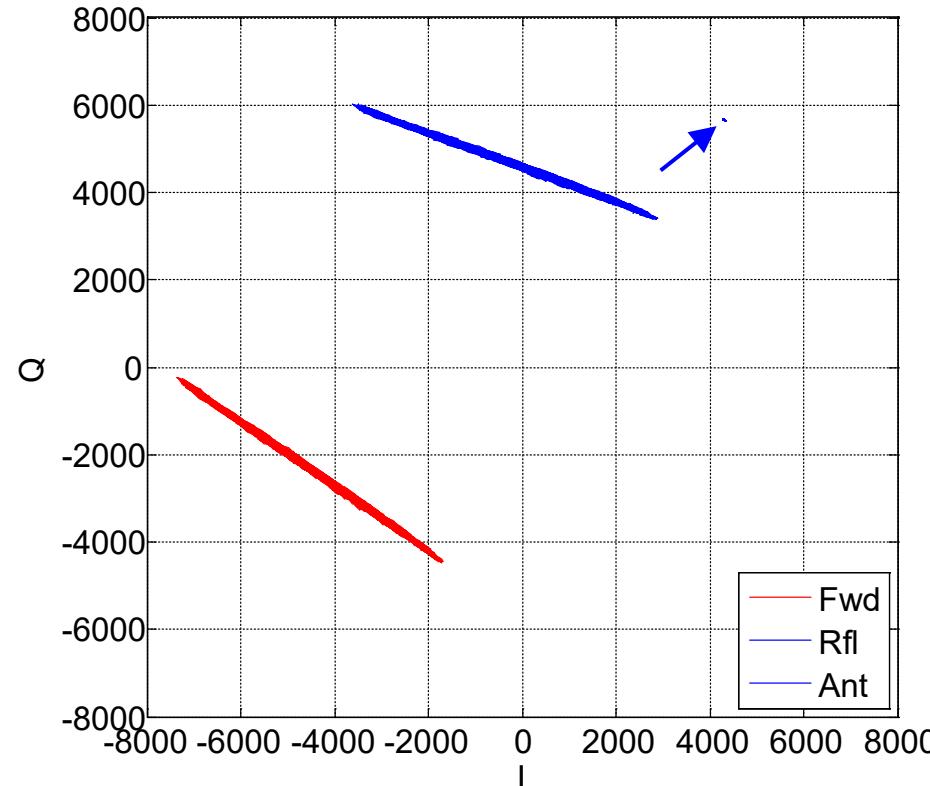
The instantaneous cavity tune state can be calculated from the measured complex reflection coefficient.

For overcoupled cavities it provides at least the direction where to tune.



# Resonance control – Reflection coefficient method

The instantaneous cavity tune state can be calculated from the measured complex reflection coefficient.



# Resonance control – Alternative methods

**Modern digital LLRF systems provide access to the direct observables (Fwd, Rfl, Antenna) but also any internal signals from the feedback regulators**

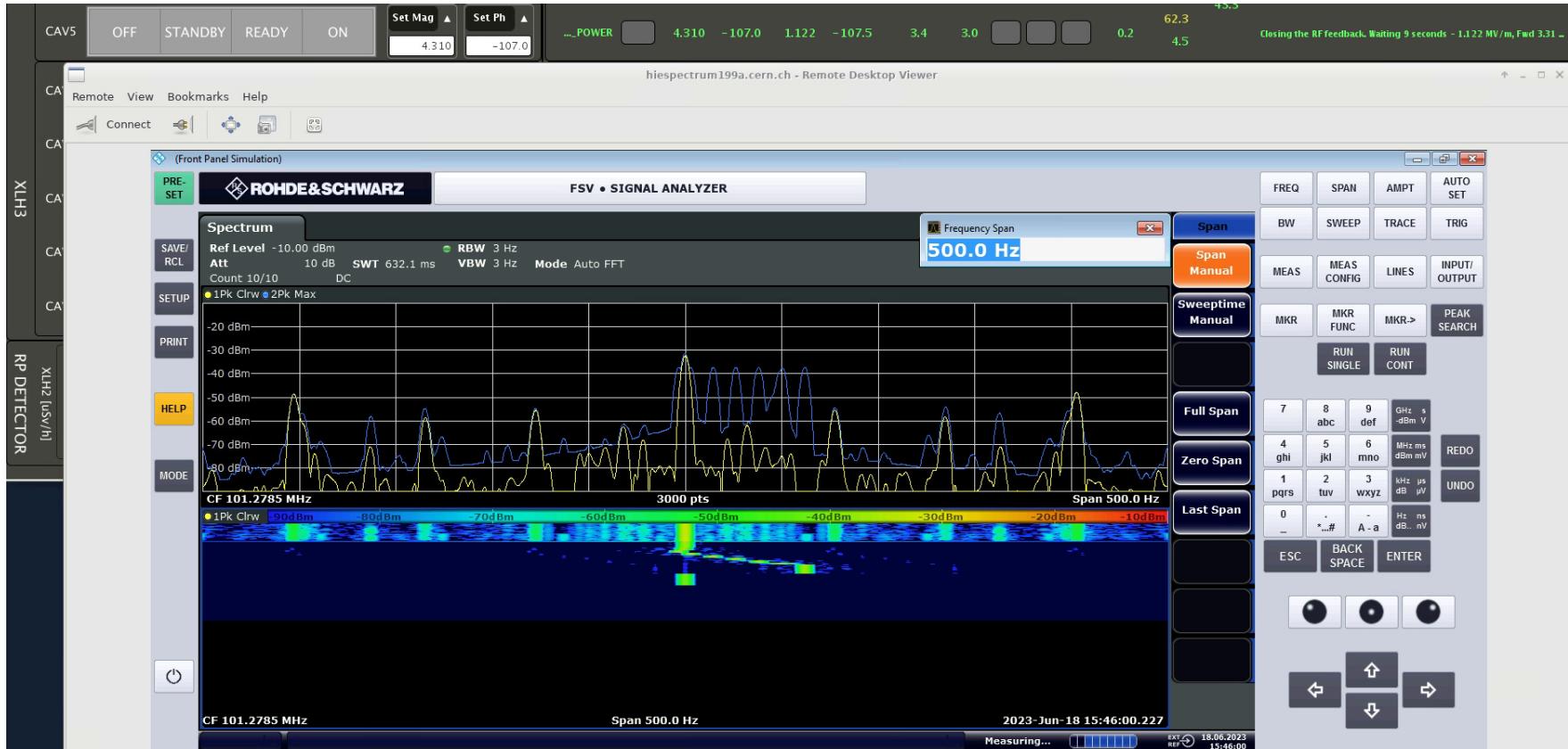
**Together with computing and signal processing capabilities, one may try alternative methods to find the instantaneous cavity tune state...**



# Starting up the cavity from “dark and cold” state



# Starting up sequence HIE-Isolde



# Starting up sequence HIE-Isolde

Clear all interlocks, start up the amplifiers, check LLRF

...

State STANDBY reached

Lifting RF veto and closing the RF switch. Excitation enabled from now on.

Reference ADC phase is correct

Lifting RF veto and starting up the cavity

Waiting 1 seconds - Field: 0.021 MV/m

Reference DAC phase is correct

Reached intermediate state READY

Lifting RF veto and starting up the cavity

Switching GD off and switching SEL on for device XLH2.CAV5.SEQ

Waiting 30 seconds - Field: 0.682 MV/m

Cavity bandwidth within limits: 6.515 Hz (Limits: 3.000 - 20.000 Hz)

Sending 100 steps to the tuner XLH2.CAV5.TUNER to reach nominal linac frequency

Sending 100 steps to the tuner XLH2.CAV5.TUNER to reach nominal linac frequency

Sending 52 steps to the tuner XLH2.CAV5.TUNER to reach nominal linac frequency

Sending 26 steps to the tuner XLH2.CAV5.TUNER to reach nominal linac frequency



# Starting up sequence HIE-Isolde

Enabling the tuner loop...

Waiting 3 seconds - 0.671 MV/m, Fwd 1.12 W, Rfl 1.01 W

Waiting 1 seconds - 0.670 MV/m, Fwd 1.11 W, Rfl 1.01 W

Switching over from GD to feedback mode

Waiting 3 seconds - 1.111 MV/m, Fwd 3.48 W, Rfl 3.20 W

Waiting 1 seconds - 1.120 MV/m, Fwd 3.16 W, Rfl 2.94 W

Closing the RF feedback. Waiting 1 seconds - 1.120 MV/m, Fwd 3.12 W, Rfl 2.86 W

Closing the RF feedback. Waiting 9 seconds - 1.122 MV/m, Fwd 3.31 W, Rfl 2.97 W

Setting setpoint cavity voltage and phase

Waiting 3 seconds - 1.190 MV/m, Fwd 4.18 W, Rfl 3.77 W

Waiting 2 seconds - 1.279 MV/m, Fwd 5.27 W, Rfl 4.80 W

Waiting 1 seconds - 1.366 MV/m, Fwd 5.43 W, Rfl 4.83 W

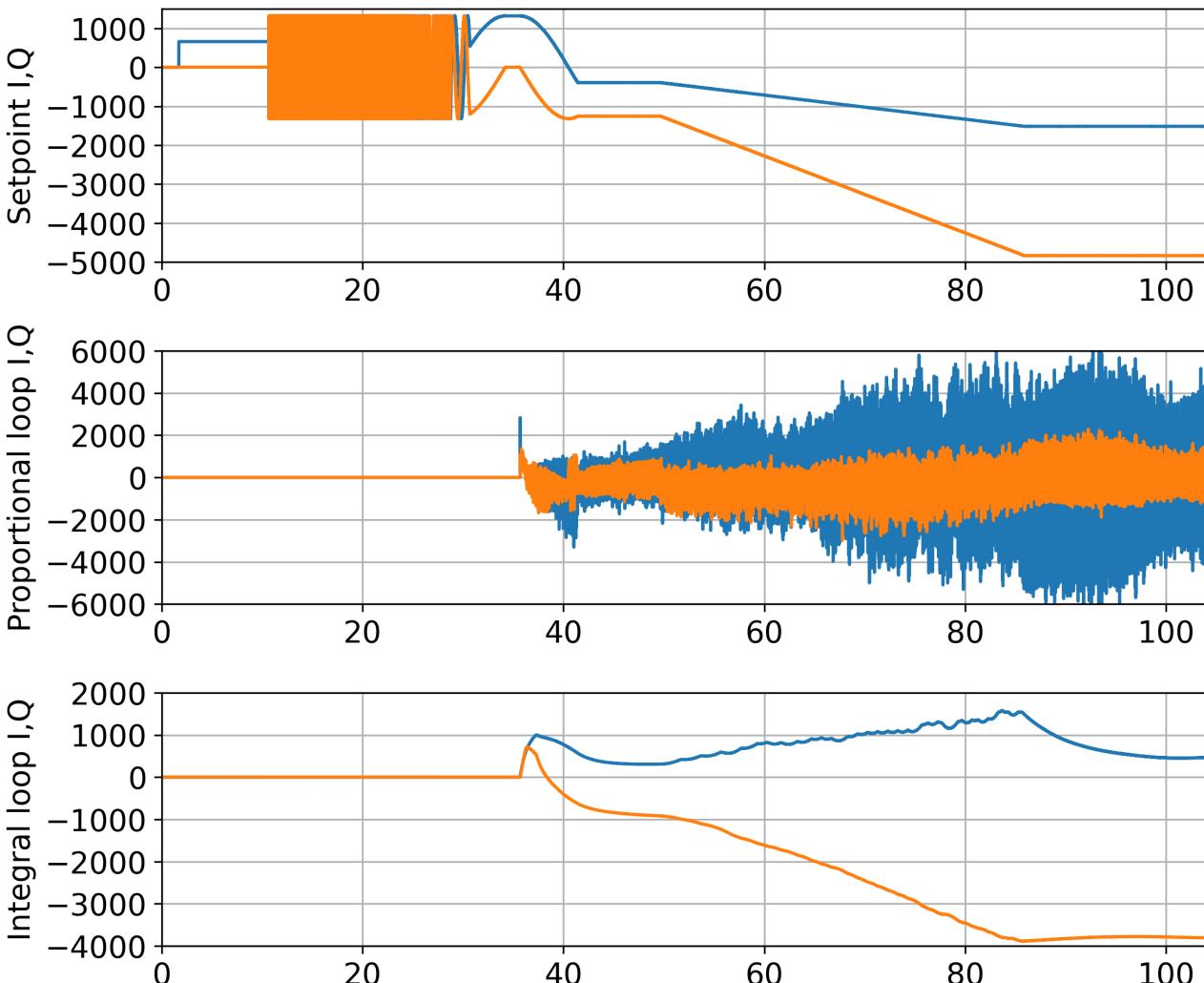
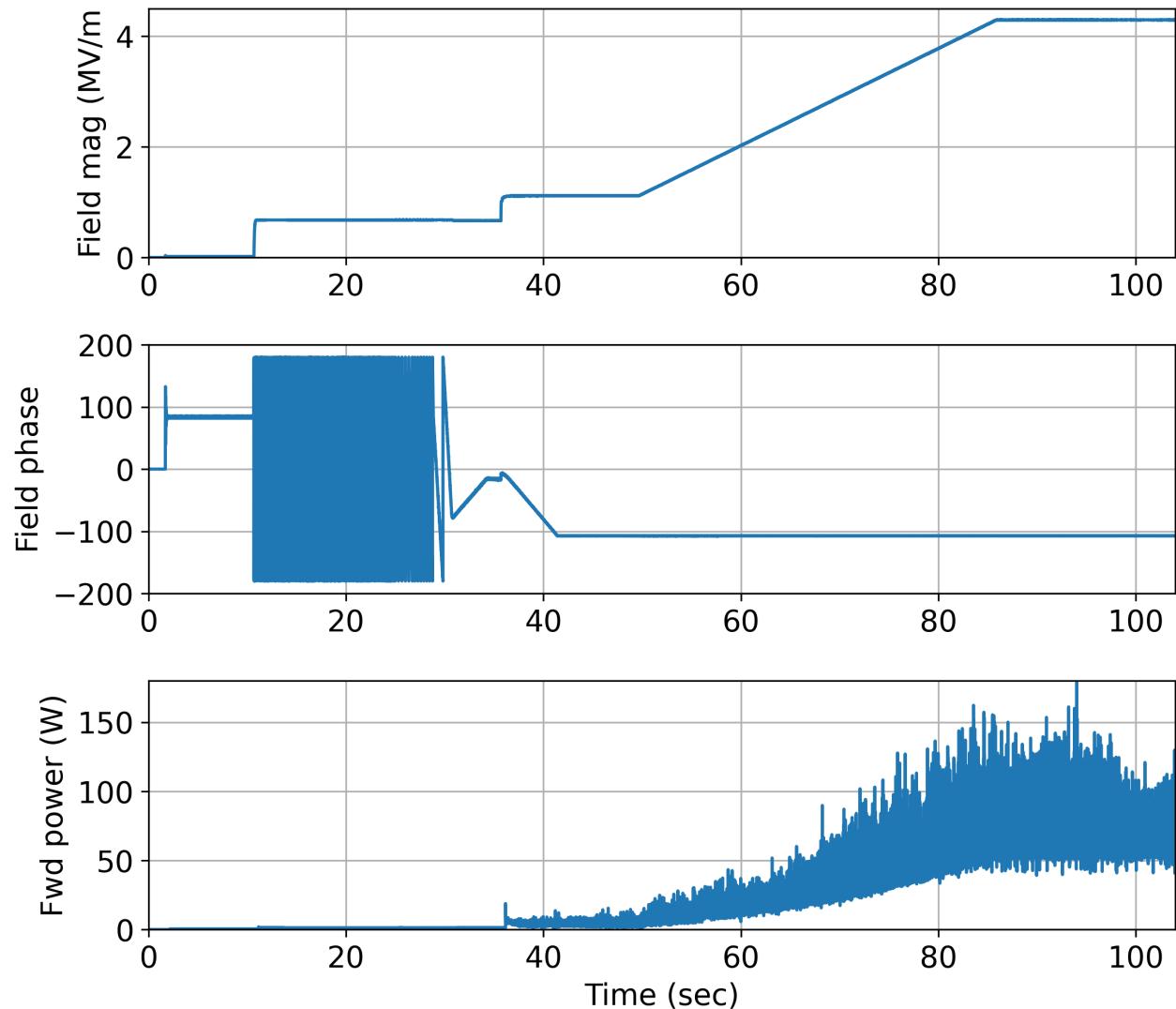
Ramping set points. Waiting 1 seconds - 1.455 MV/m, Fwd 6.78 W, Rfl 6.21 W

Ramping set points. Waiting 36 seconds - 4.309 MV/m, Fwd 50.38 W, Rfl 41.64 W

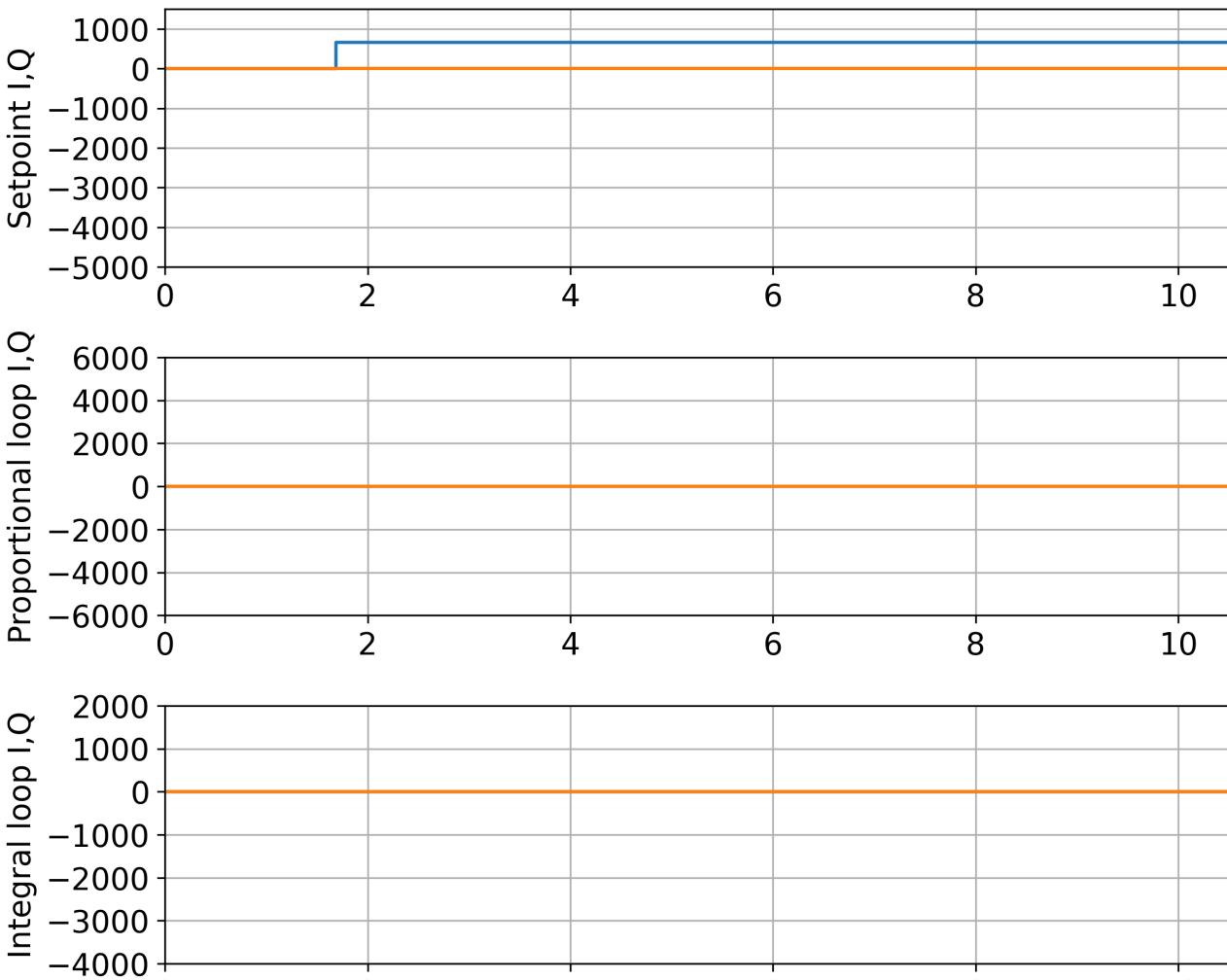
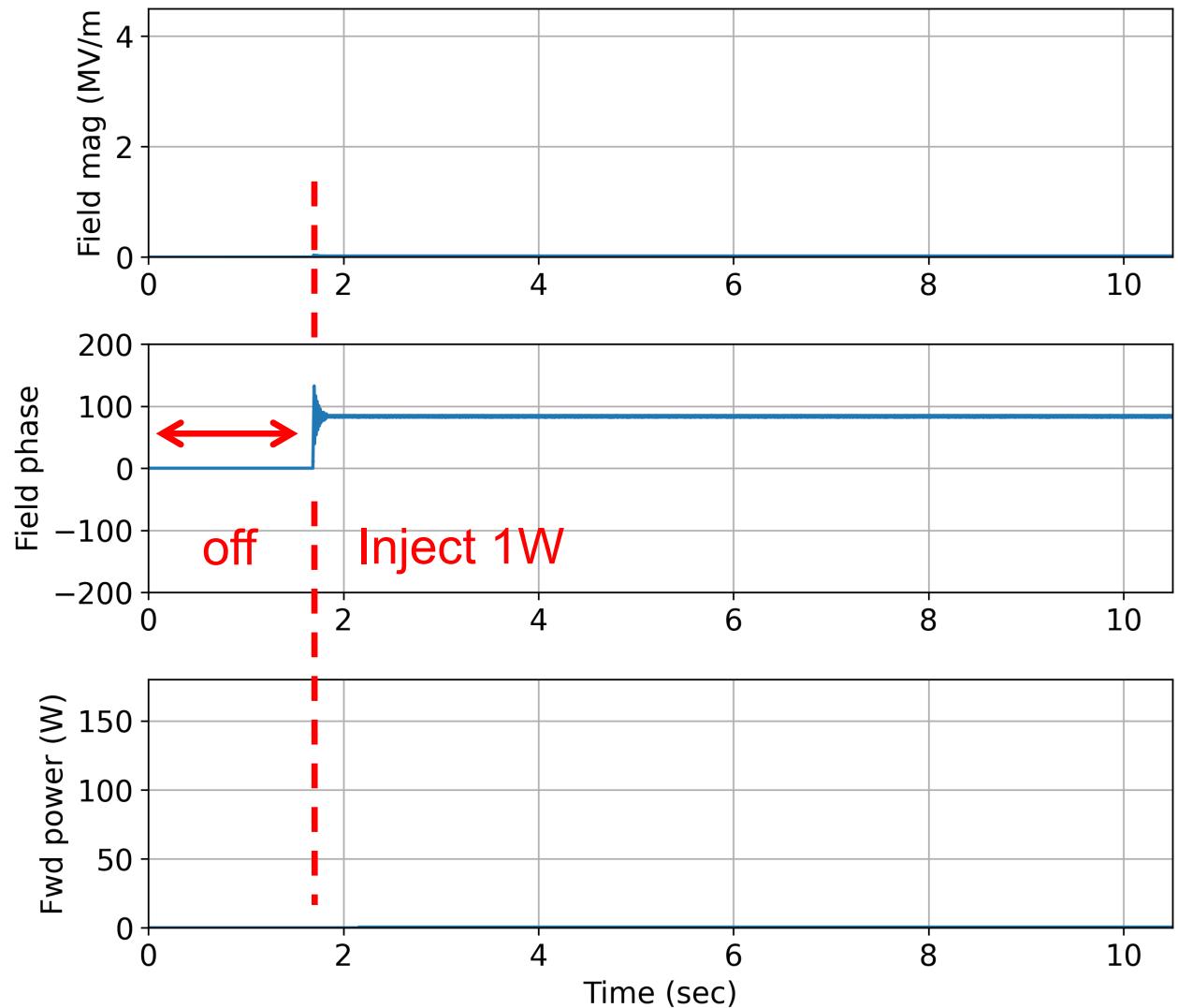
State ON reached



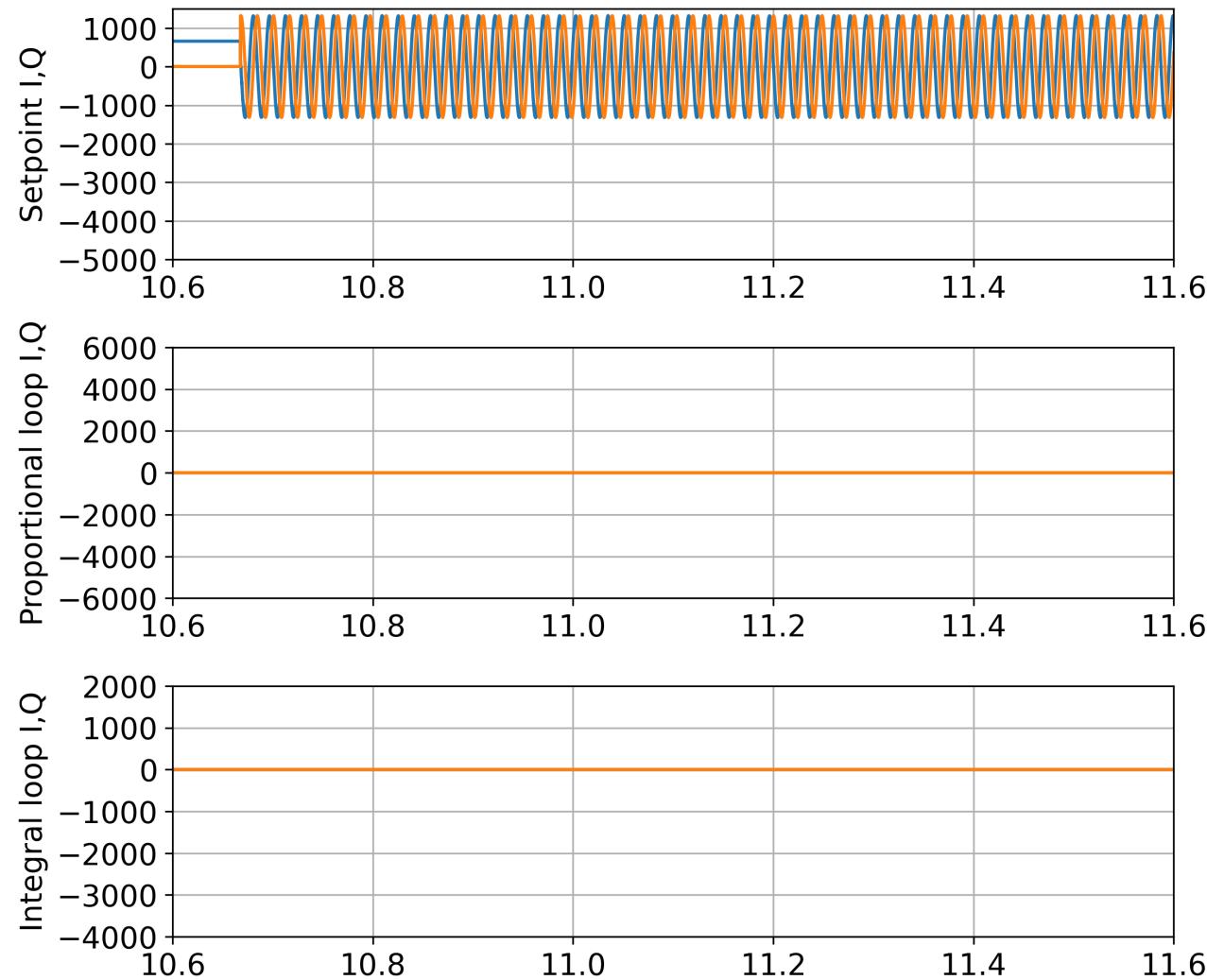
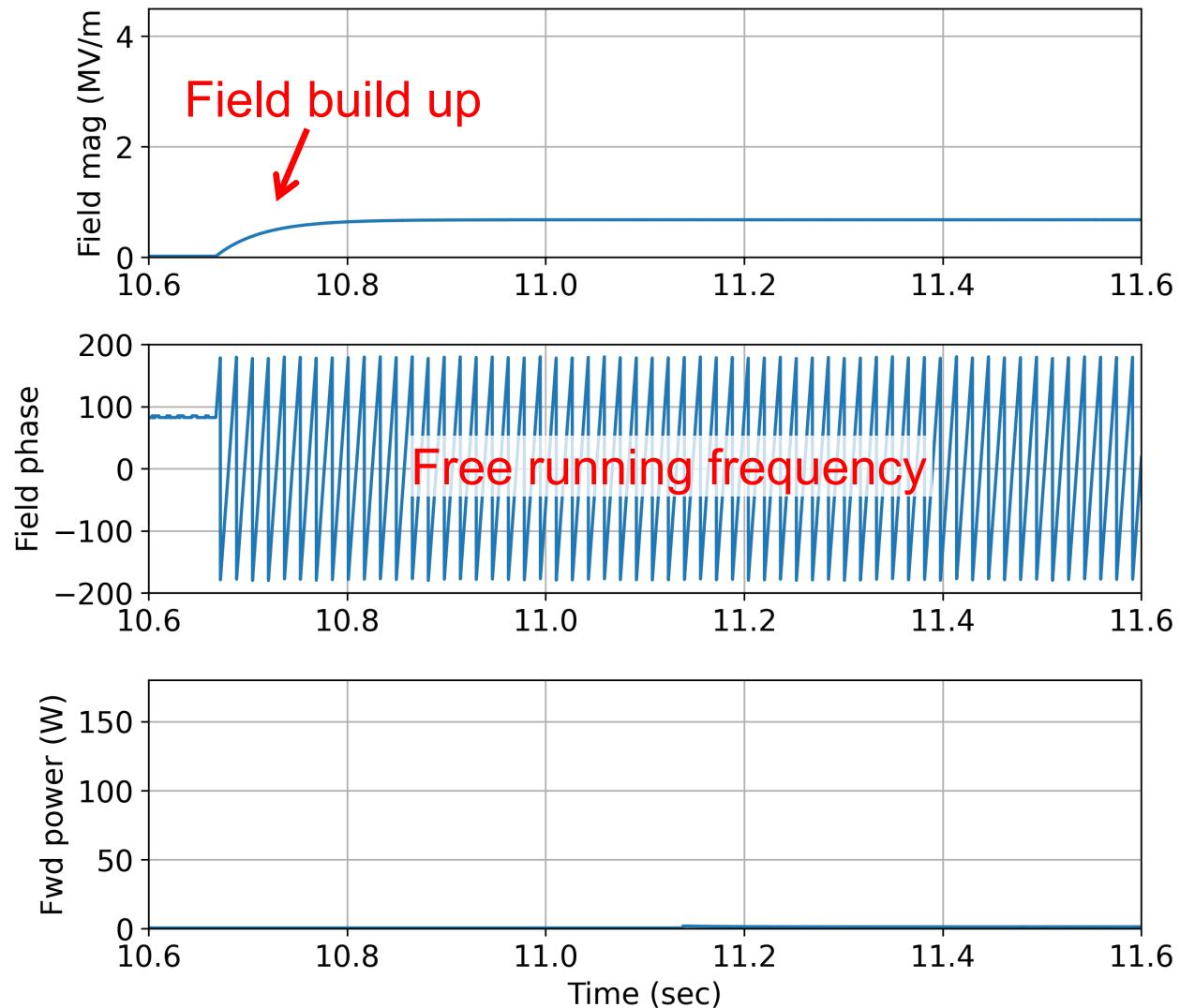
# Starting up sequence – overview



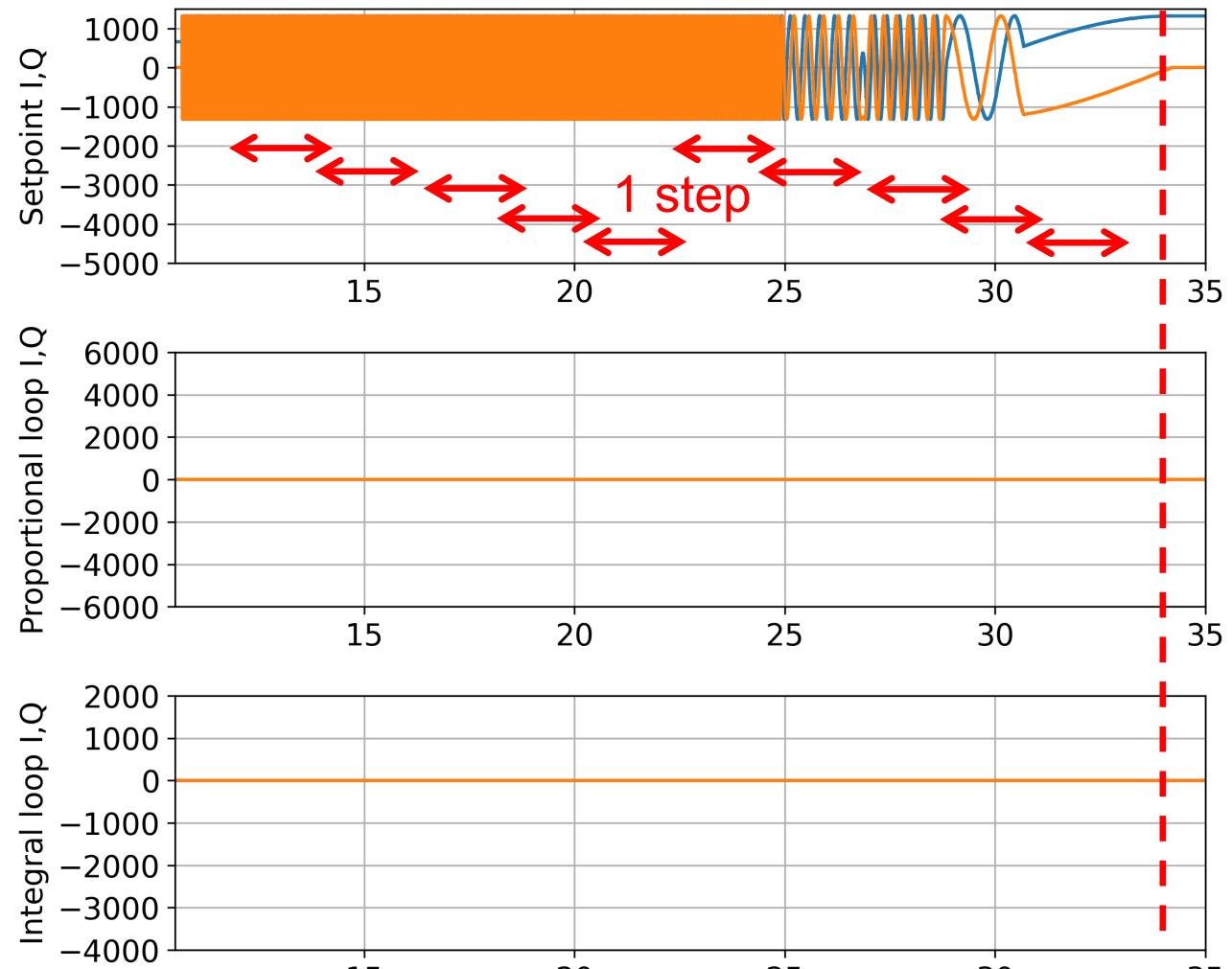
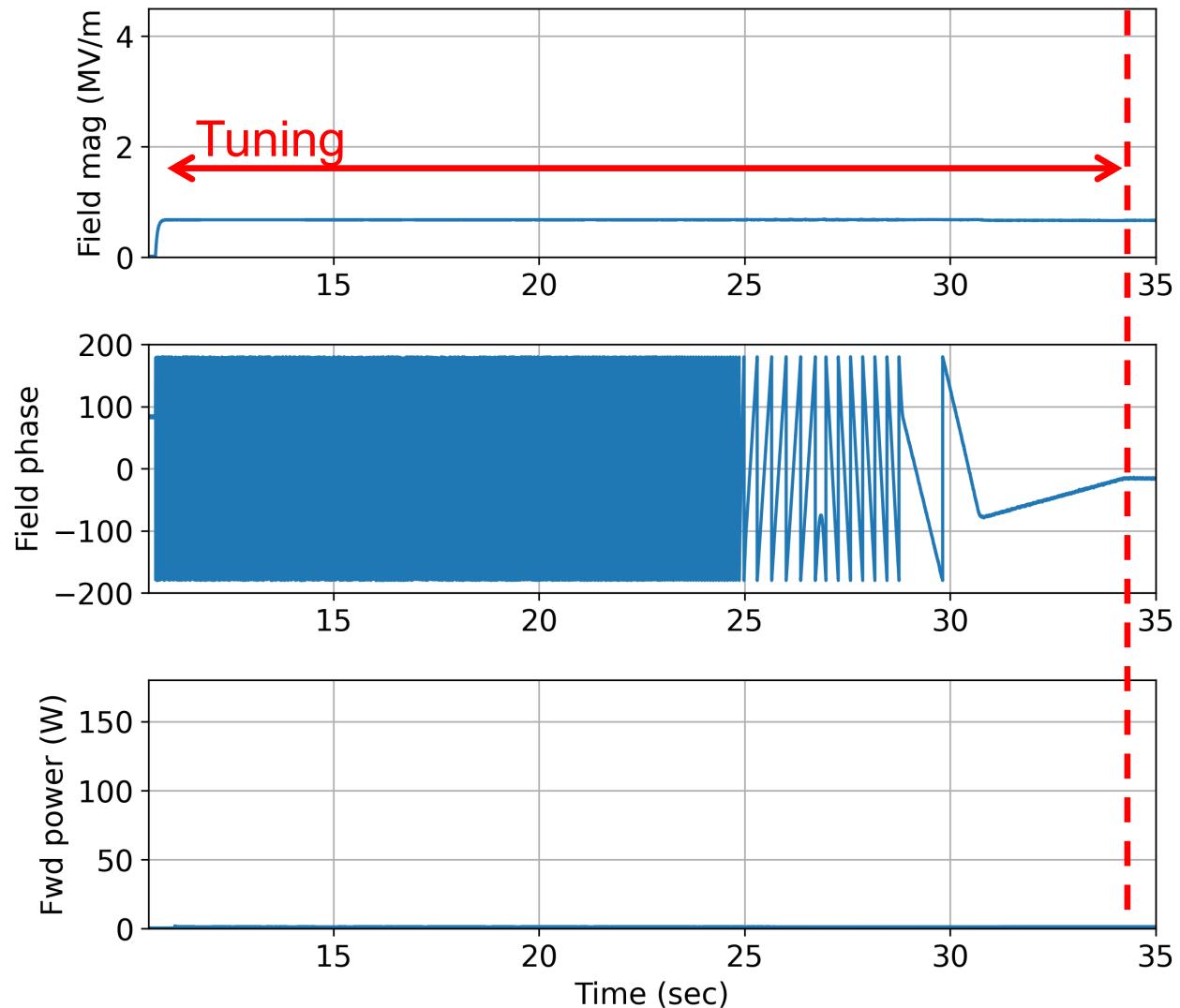
# 1. Low power checks



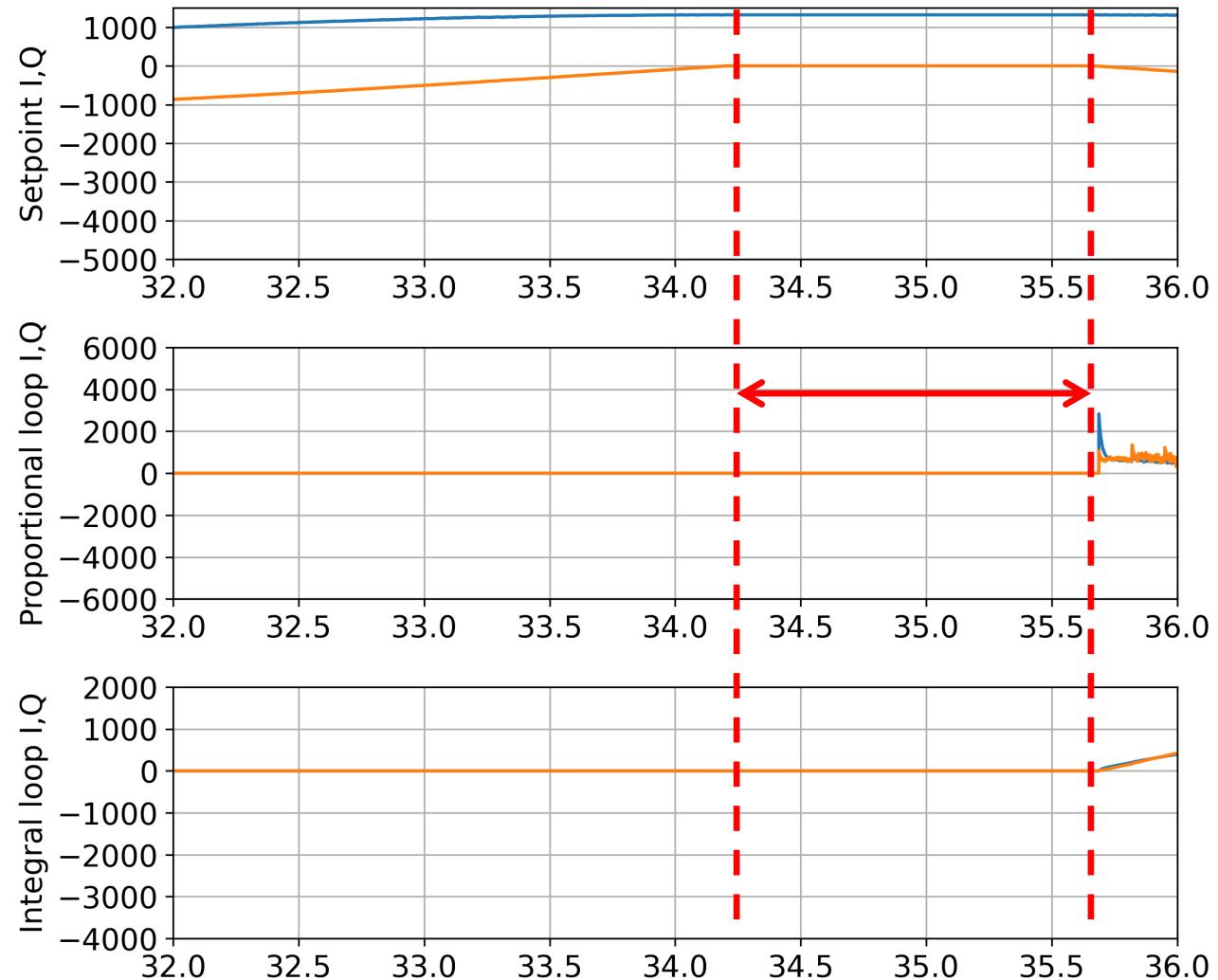
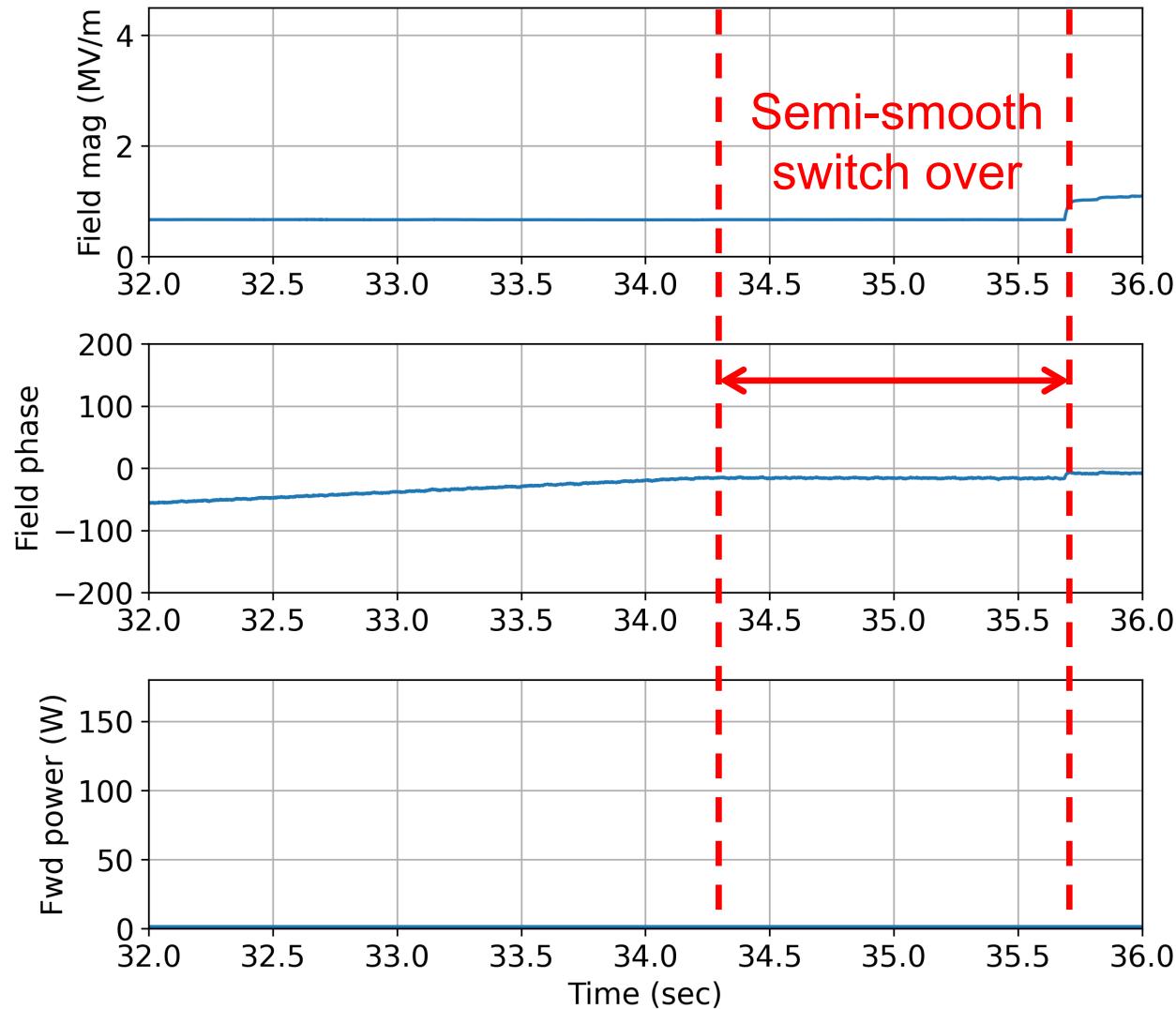
# 1. Excite field with SEL, measure the cavity frequency



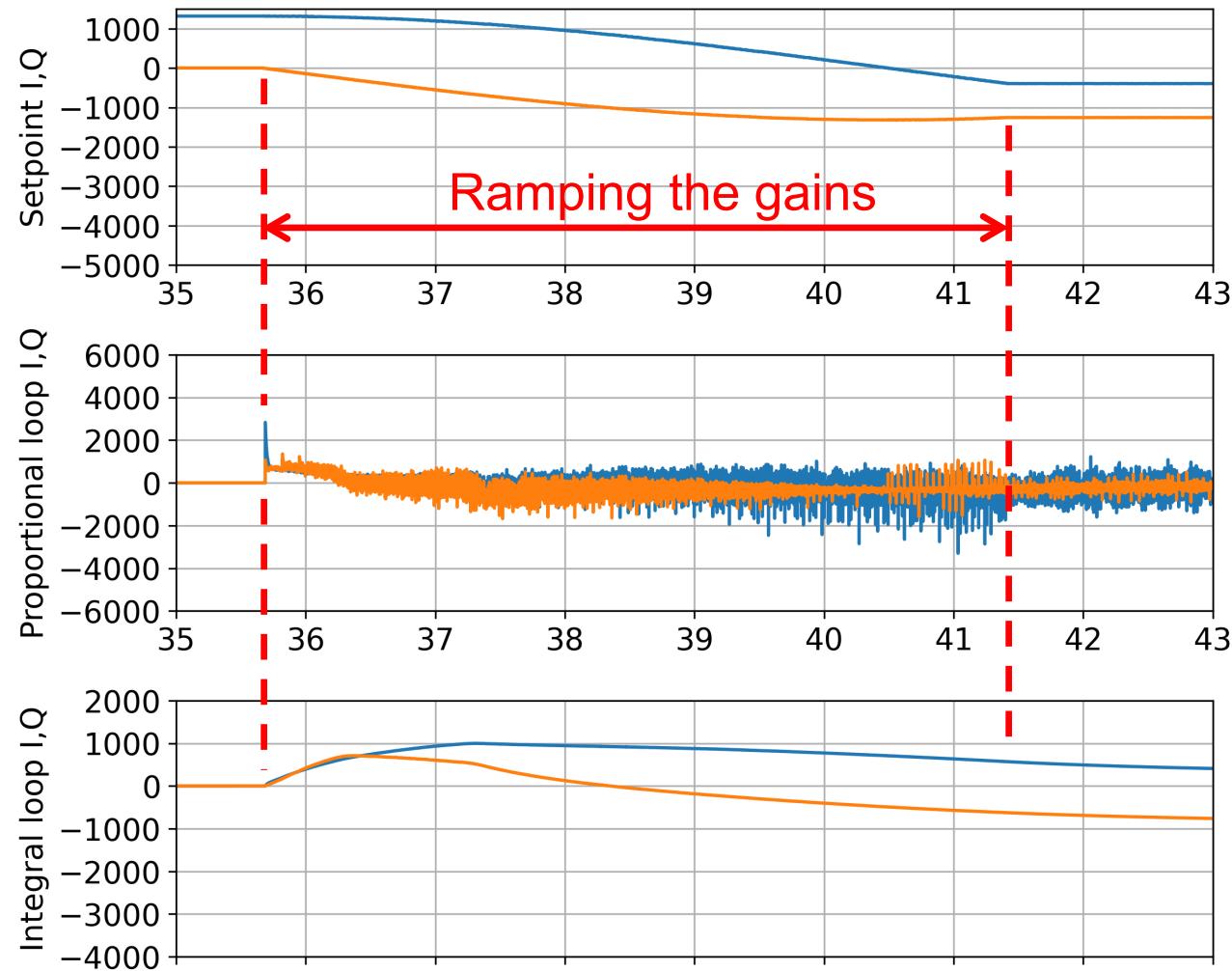
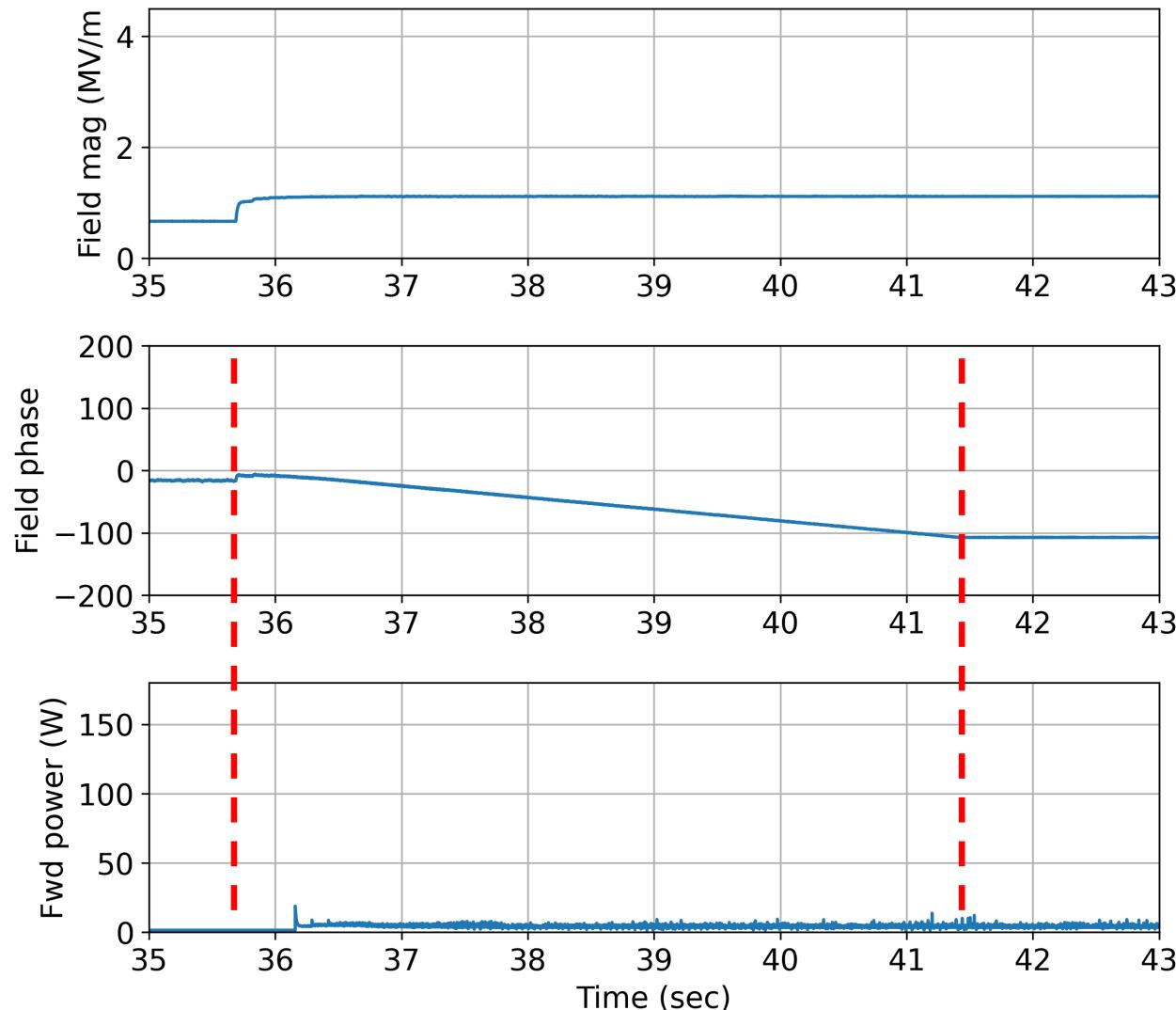
### 3. Tune to nominal freq.



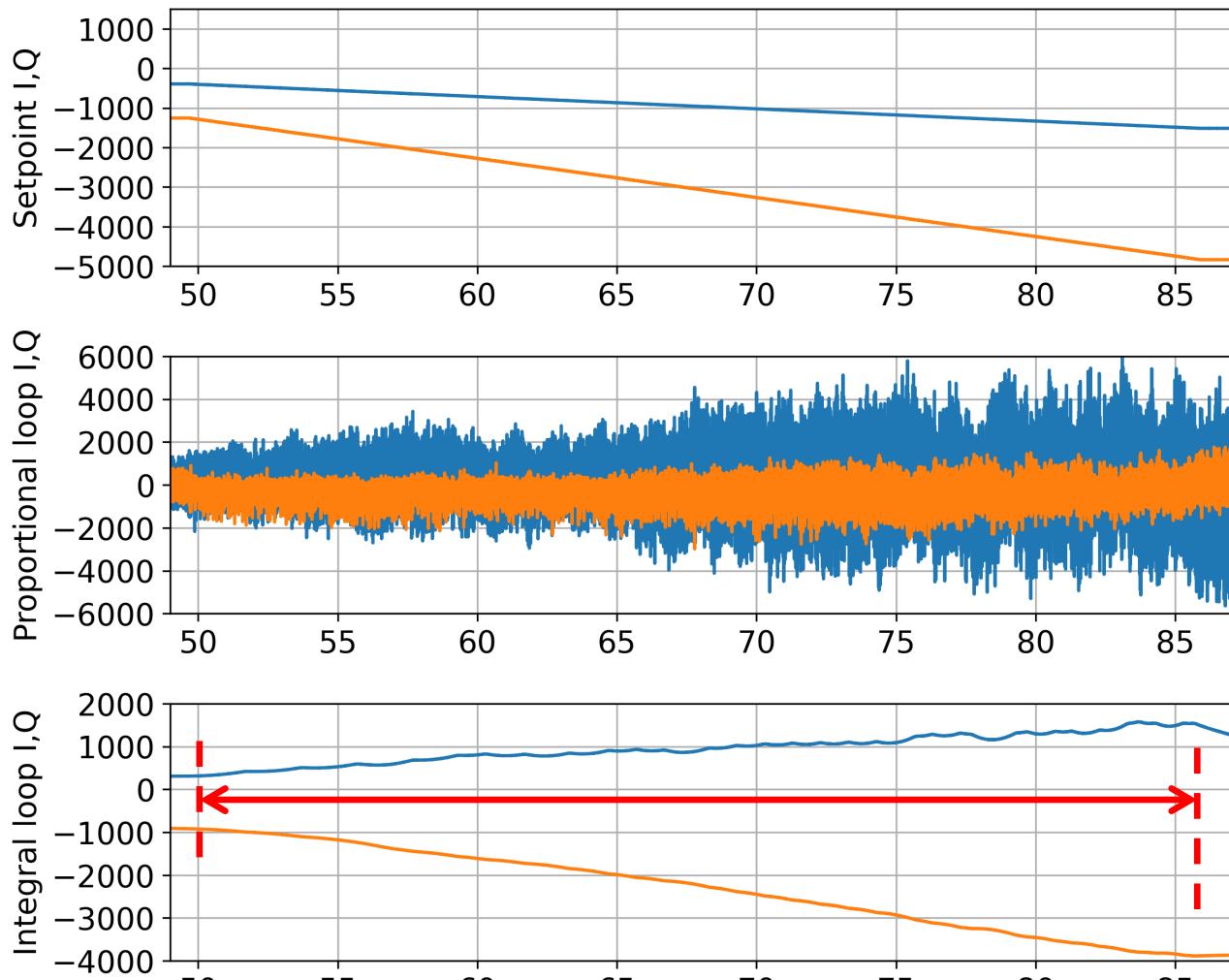
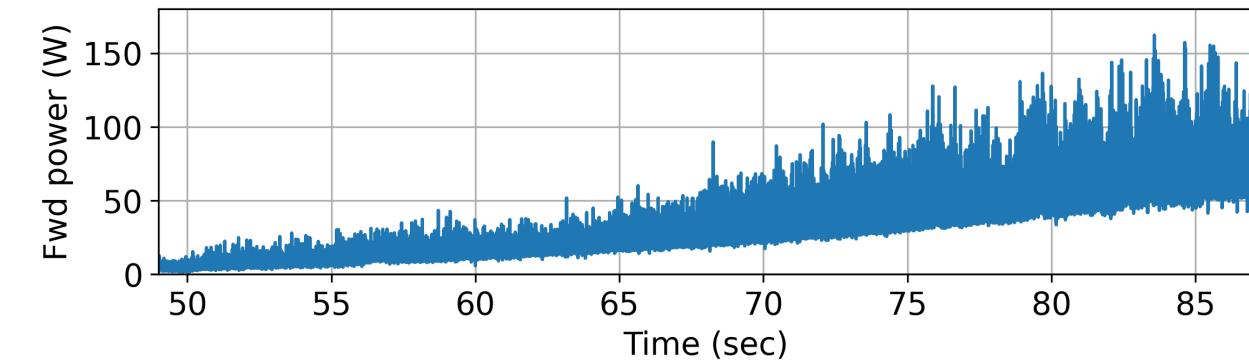
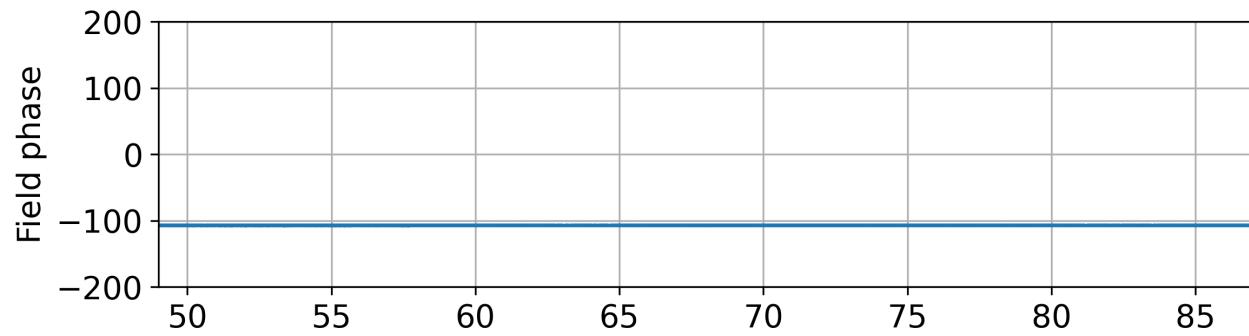
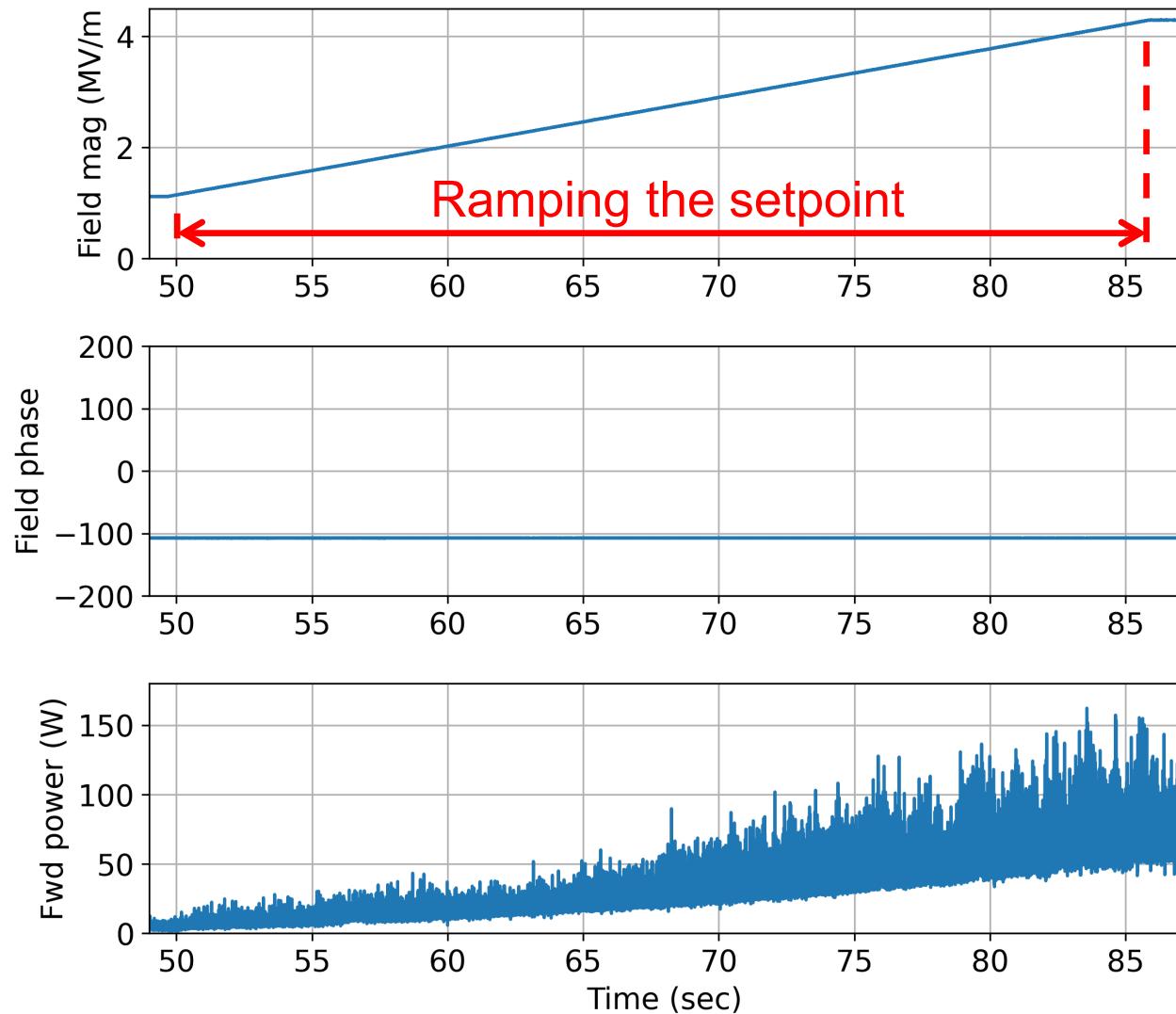
# 4. Switch to Generator Driven mode



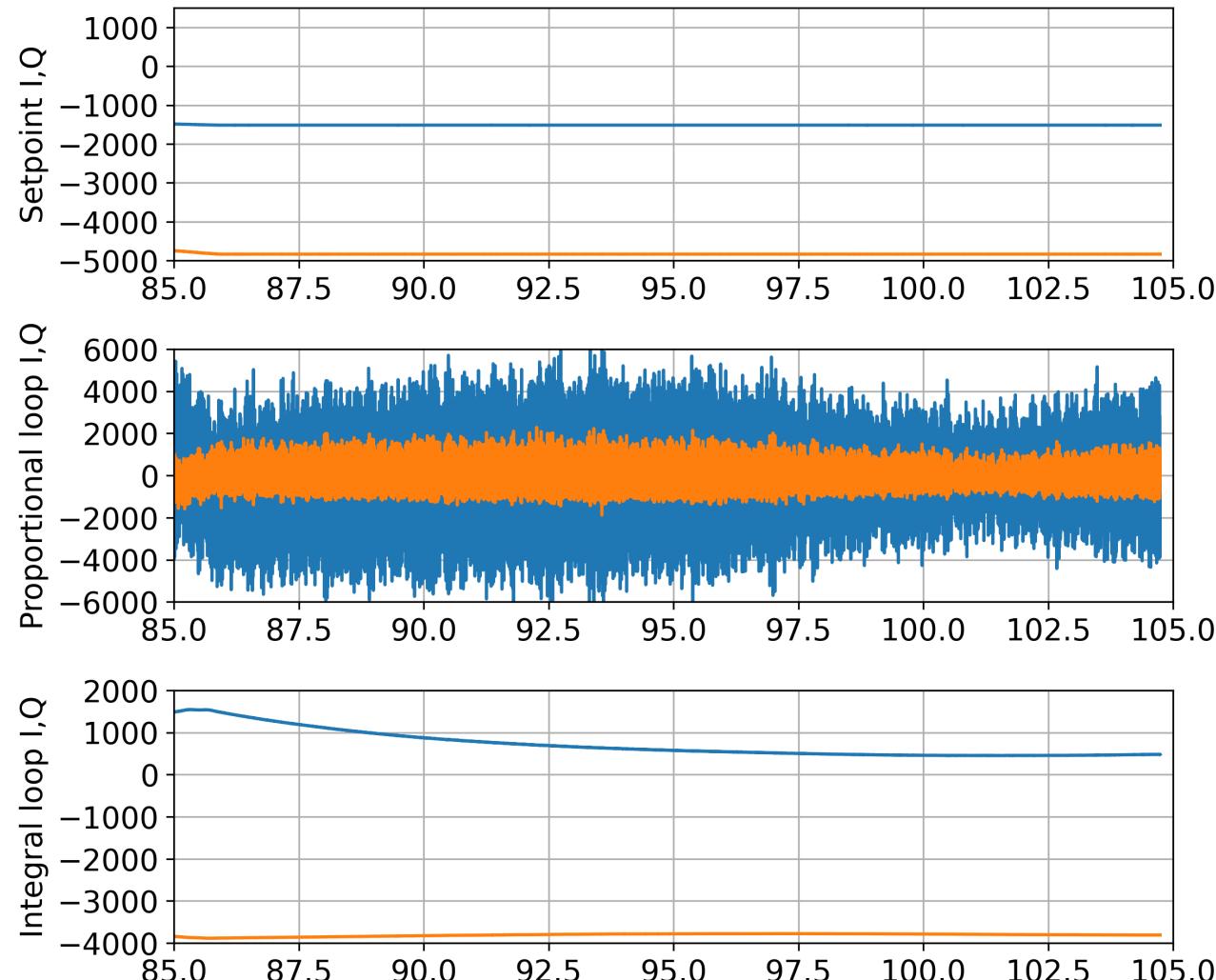
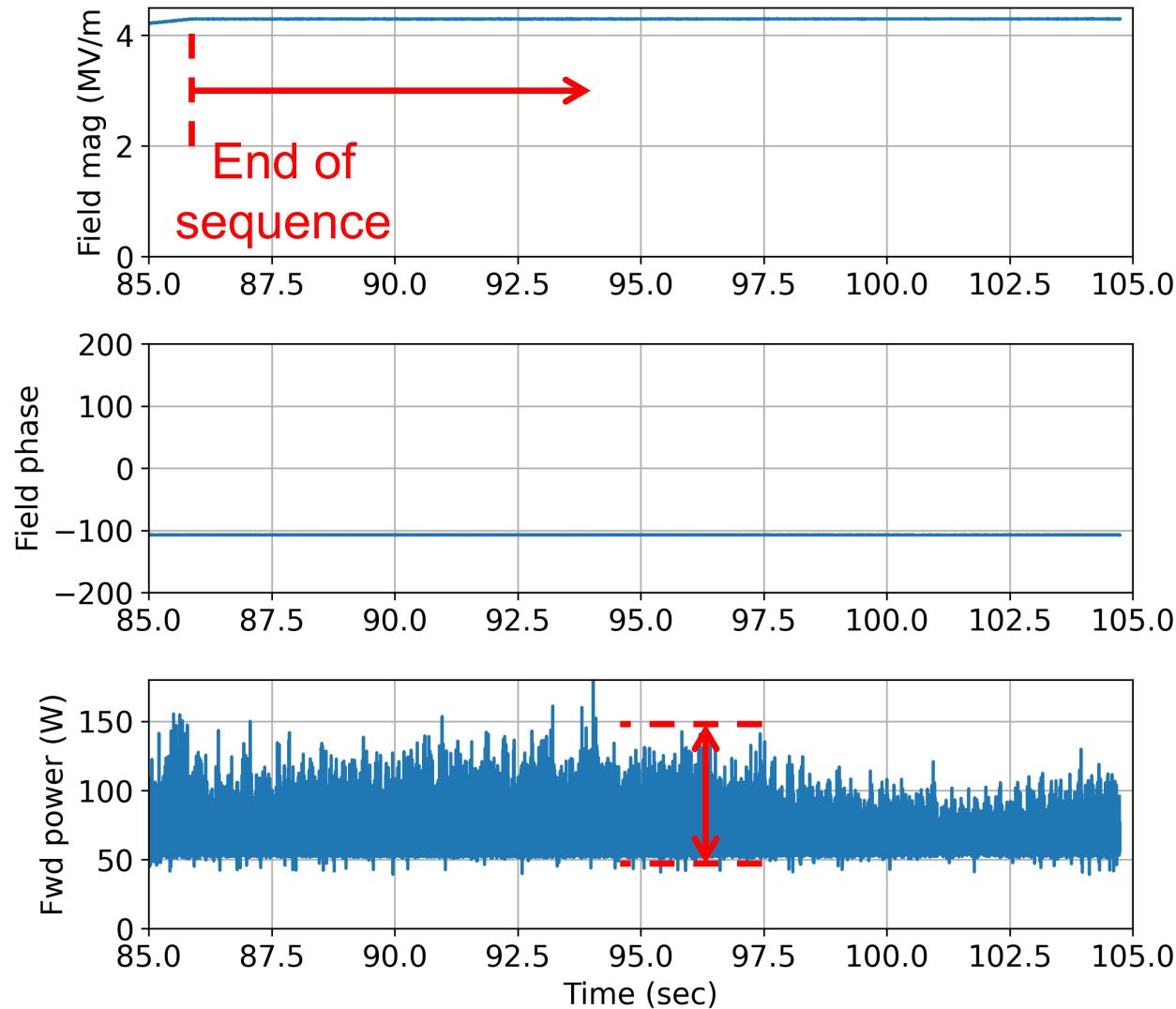
# 5. Enable feedback and ramp the gain



## 6. Ramp the setpoint to nom. values (while locked)



# 7. Fully locked at nominal accelerating gradient



# Cavity conditioning

Conditioning of **multipacting** – “dump” power to reduce SEY of the surface by electron bombardment. Typically low energy phenomena. Q constant, but the power is absorbed, field is not increasing with increased power.

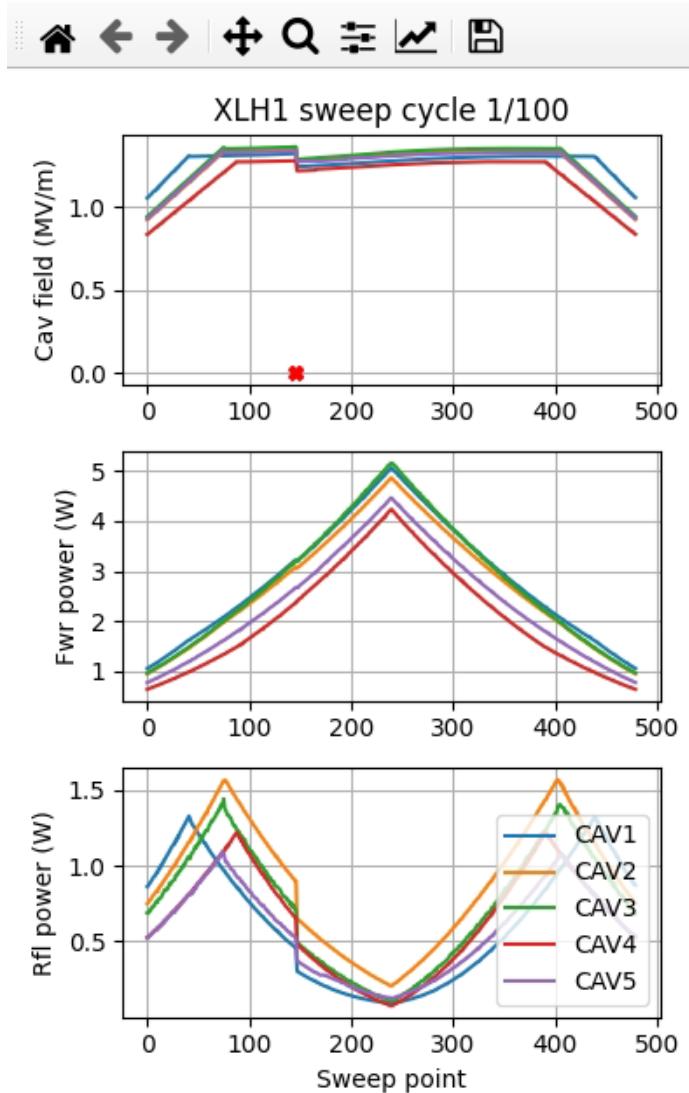
Conditioning of **field-emission** – “burn” local field emitters. High field, high power phenomena. Field increases with fwd power, but the Q drops. Often very high power, pulsed conditioning.

**Typically, self excited loop is used, as it naturally follows the cavity parameter fluctuations (Q, fc)**

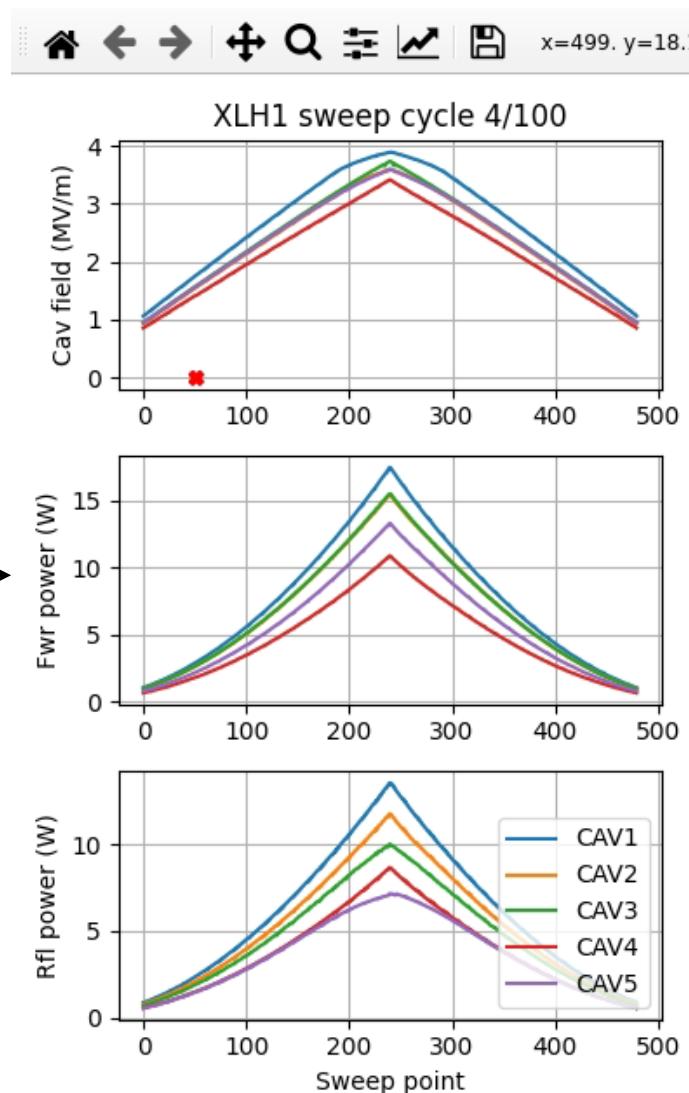


# Cavity conditioning

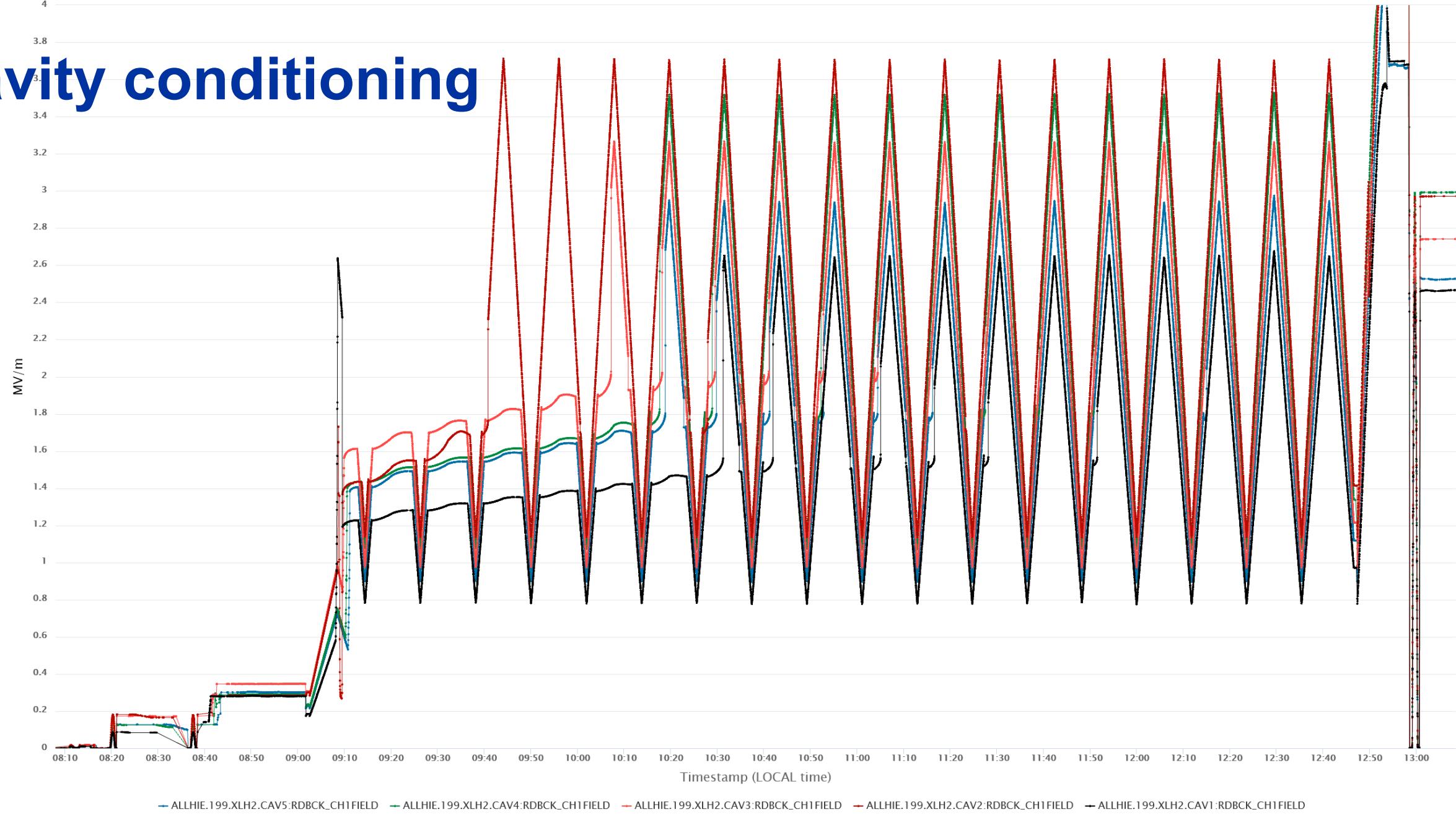
Typically, self excited loop is used, as it naturally follows the cavity fluctuations ( $Q$ ,  $f_c$ )



One day later →



# Cavity conditioning



# Few notes on feedbacks

Recap: ***Function of a feedback loop is to make the value of the measured quantity equal to the value of the setpoint.***

Feedbacks always try to keep the two equal, until they run out of power or authority



# Few notes on feedbacks

Recap: ***Function of a feedback loop is to make the value of the measured quantity equal to the value of the setpoint.***

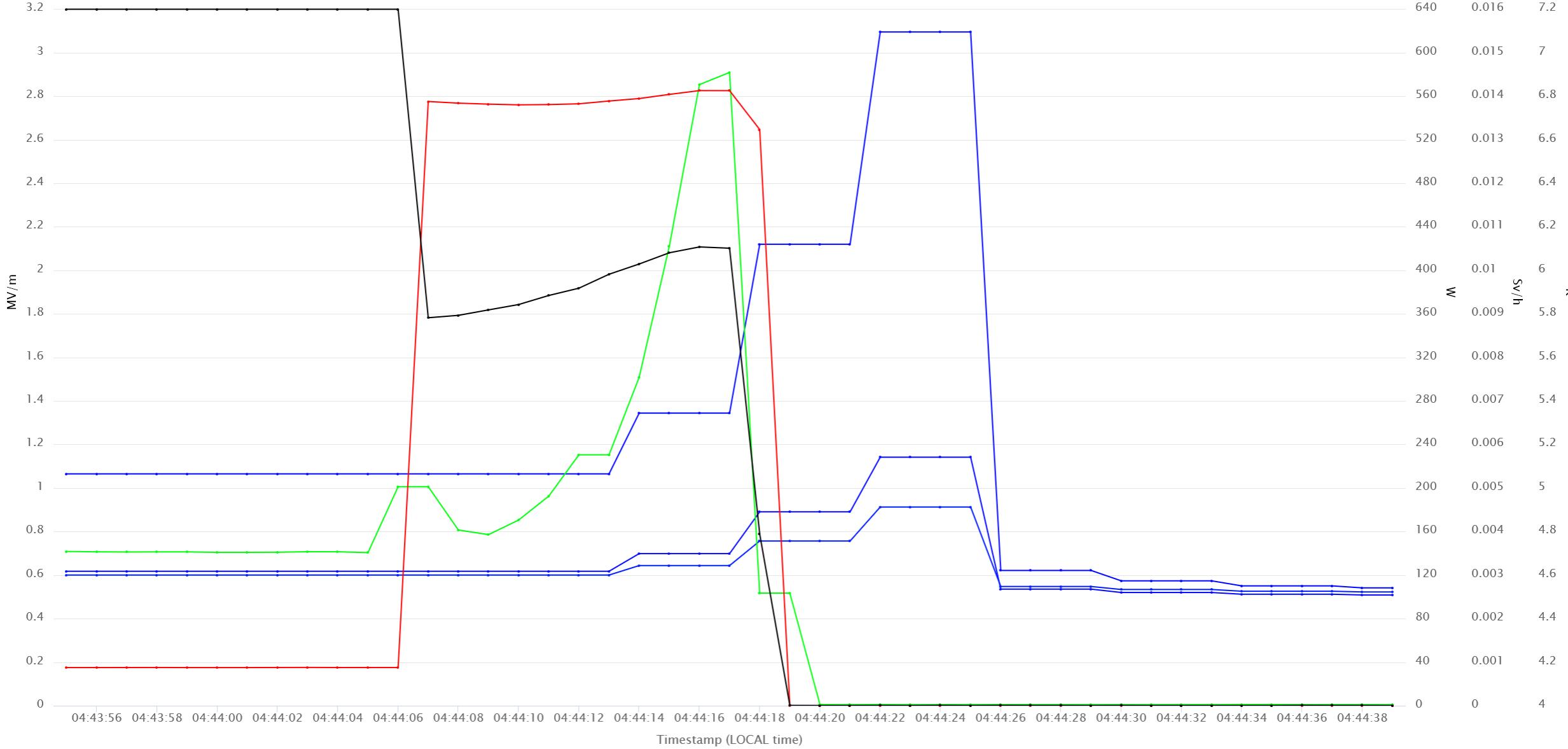
Feedbacks always try to keep the two equal, until they run out of power or authority

Always think of a “safety net” to catch unexpected behaviour

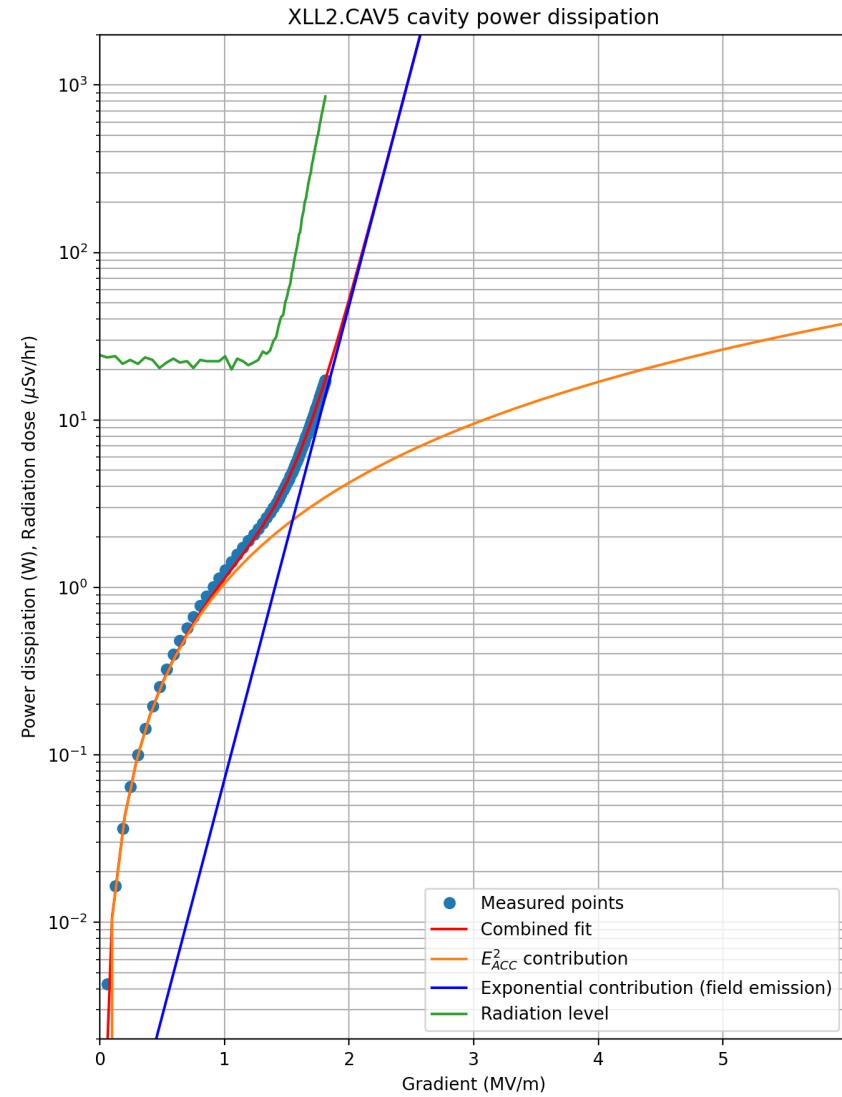
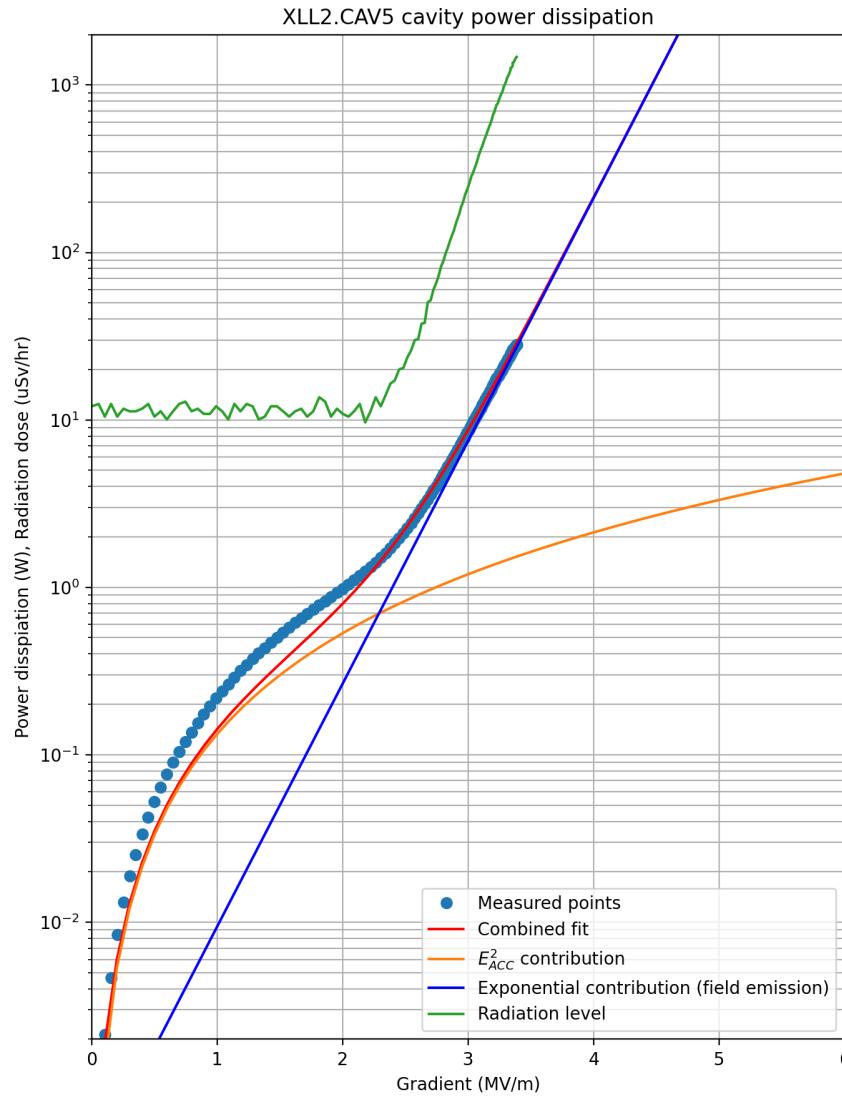
- **Regulator saturation timeout** (e.g. in HIE-Isolde 10-15 seconds)
- **Maximum error timeout** (e.g. if error > 5% for 5 sec)
- **Average power interlock** (e.g. in HIE-Isolde 350 W for 5 min, 250 W for 30 min, 200 W for 2 hours)...



# Cavity quench with all feedbacks active



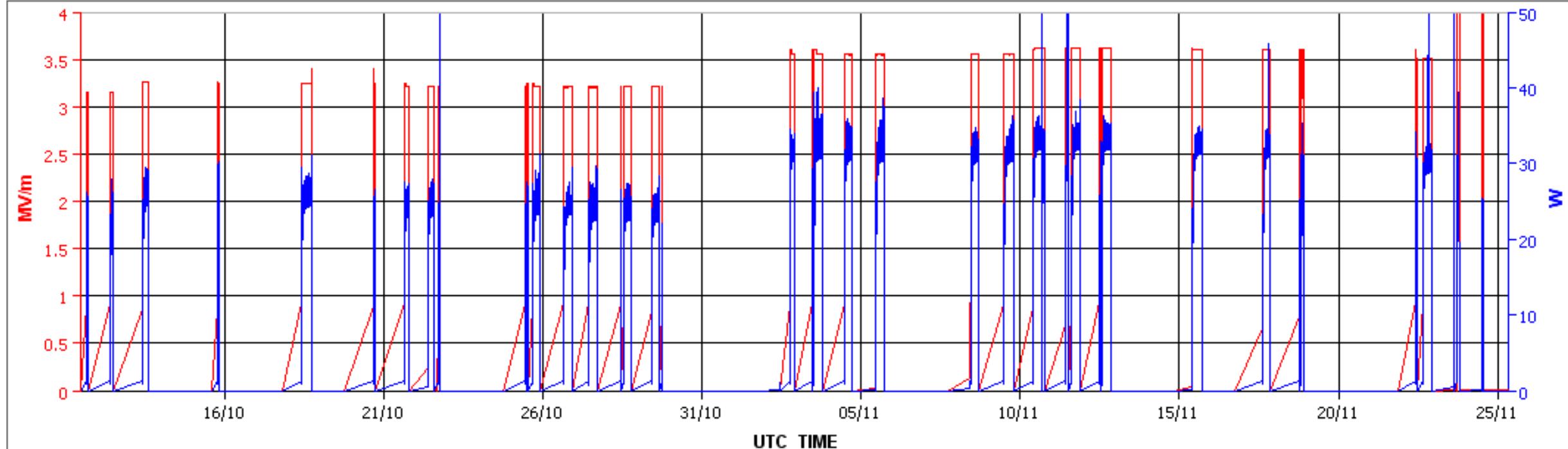
# Cavity quench with all feedbacks active



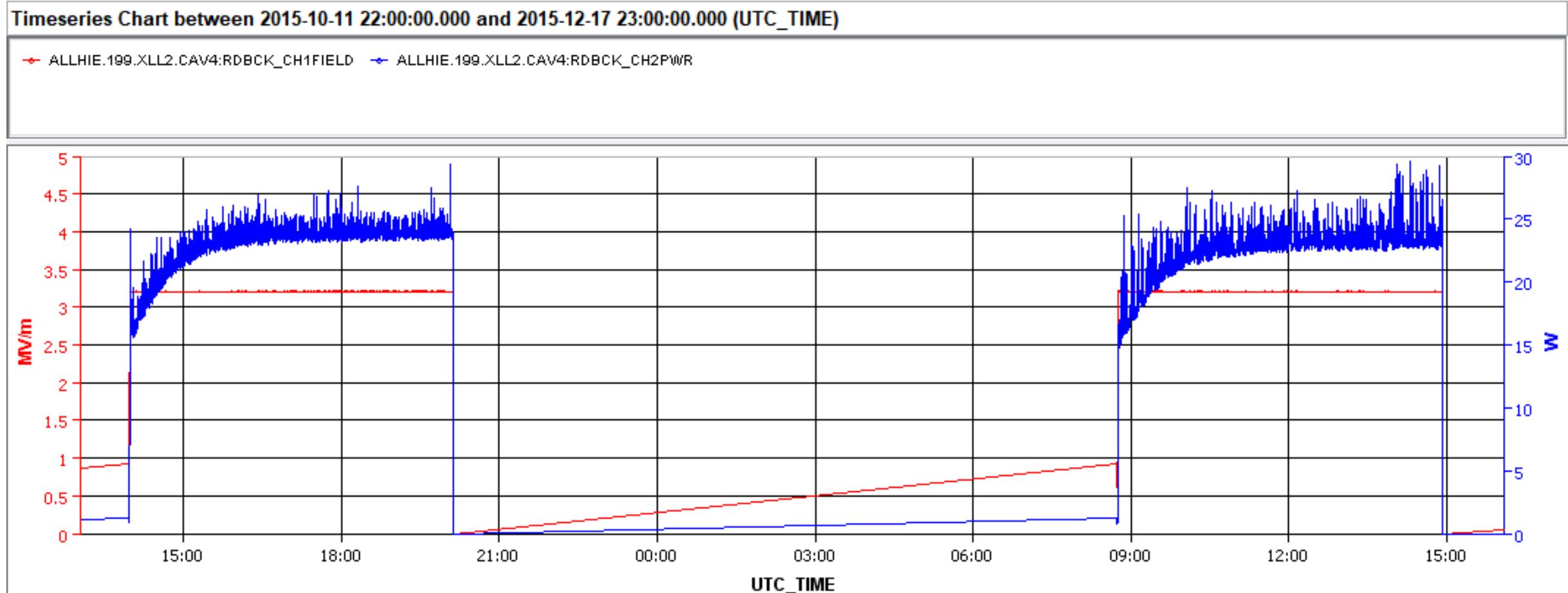
# Keeping the field up\*

Timeseries Chart between 2015-10-11 22:00:00.000 and 2015-12-17 23:00:00.000 (UTC\_TIME)

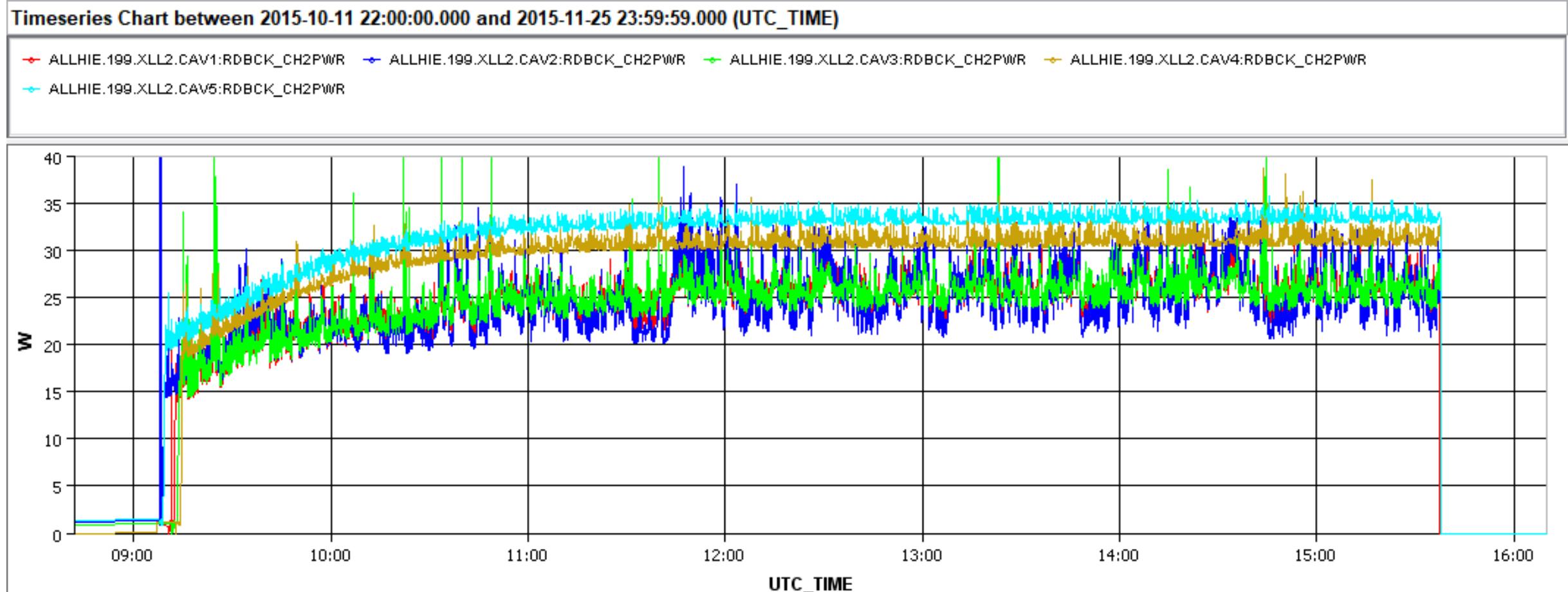
→ ALLHIE.199.XLL2.CAV4:RDBCK\_CH1FIELD    ← ALLHIE.199.XLL2.CAV4:RDBCK\_CH2PWR



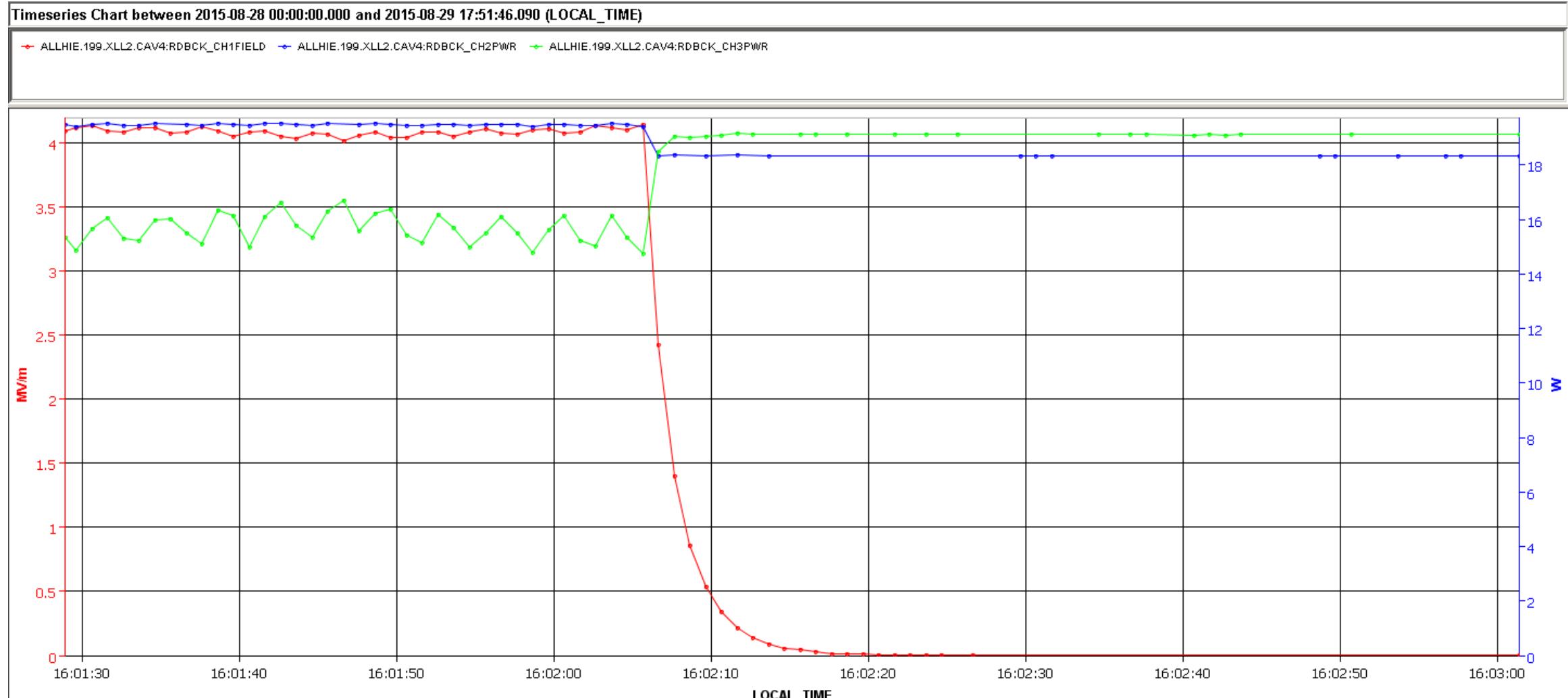
# Keeping the field up\*



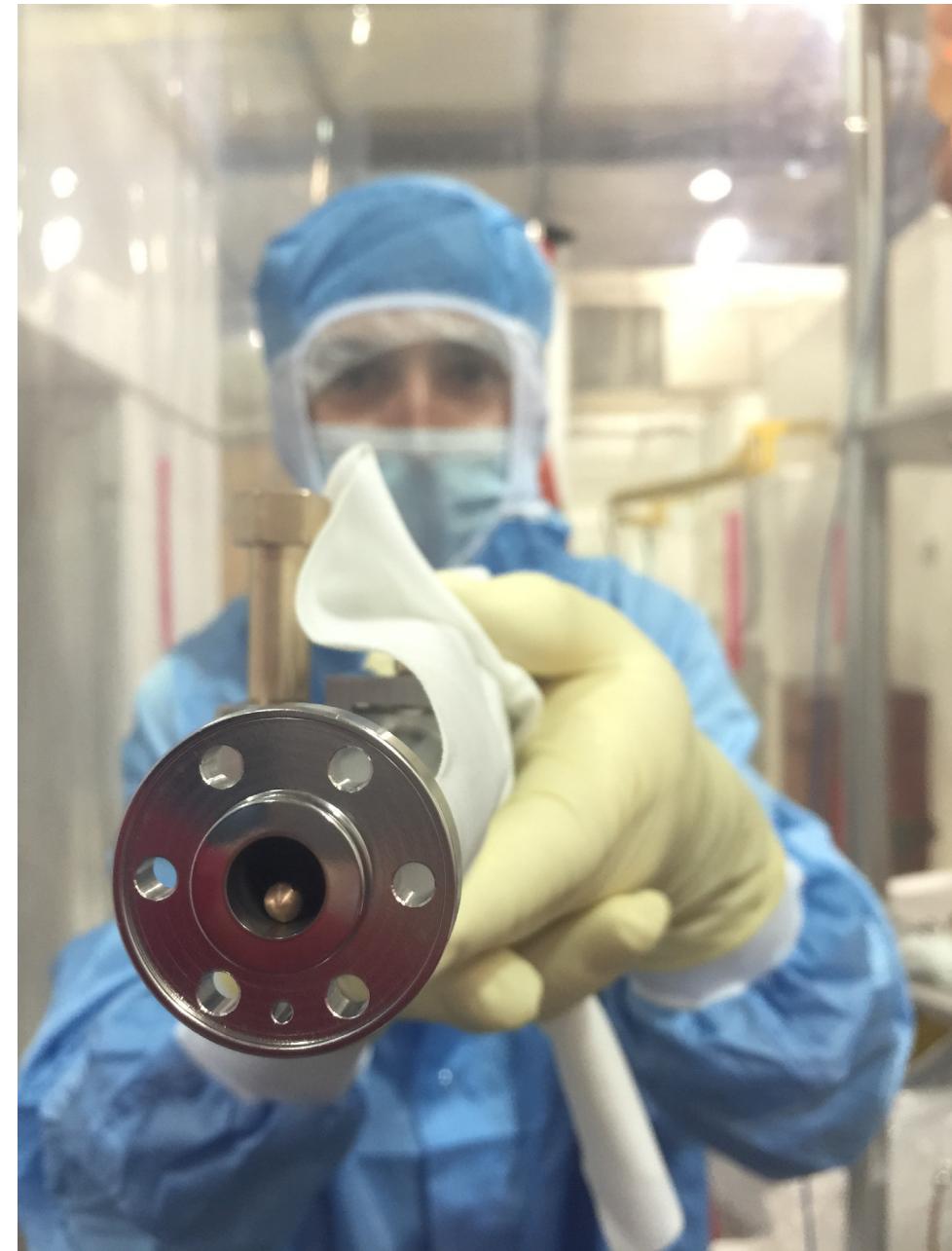
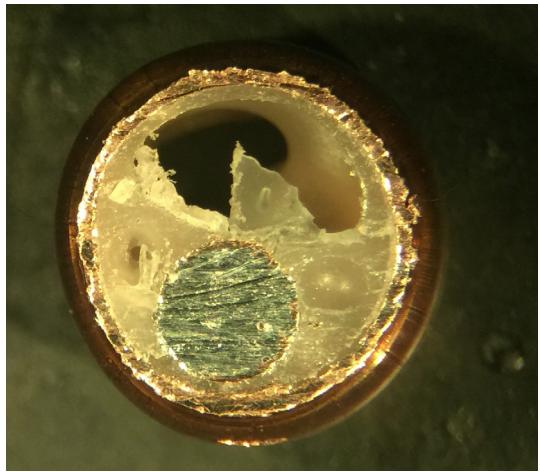
# Keeping the field up\*



# Keeping the field up\*



# Keeping the field up\*



\* regardless how much you melt the fundamental power coupler

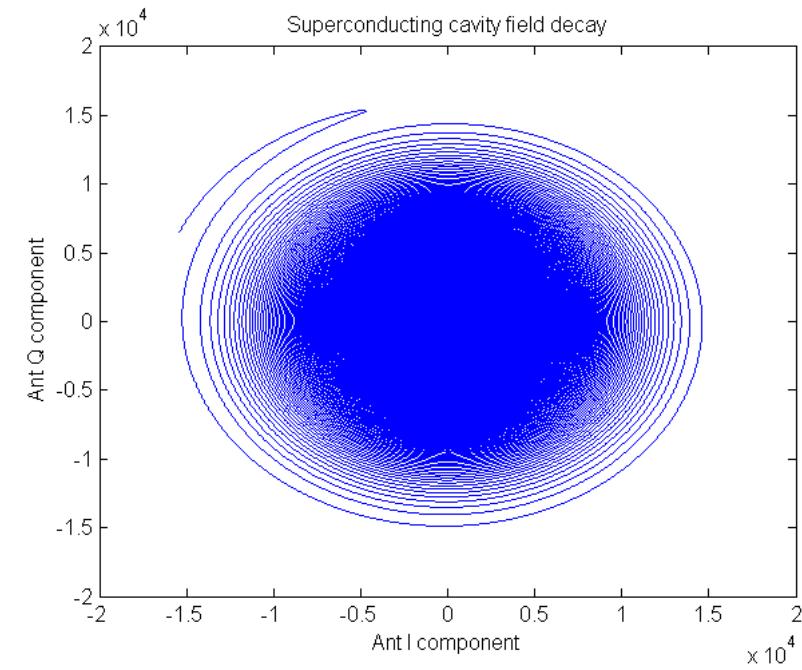
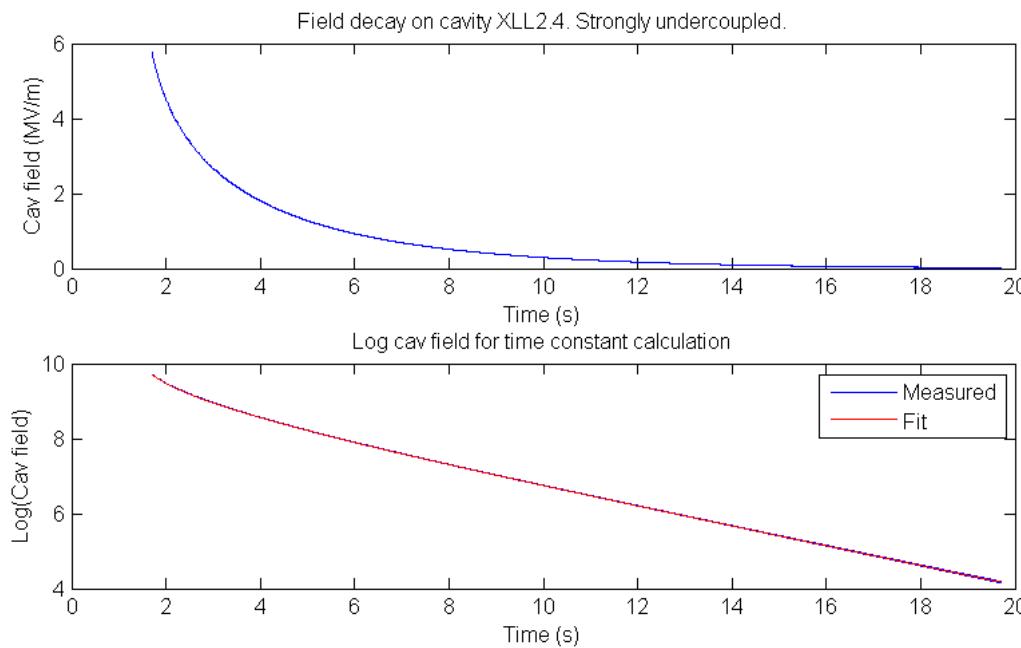


# Extracting information from the field decay transient

Digital systems allow to record time series of measured signals

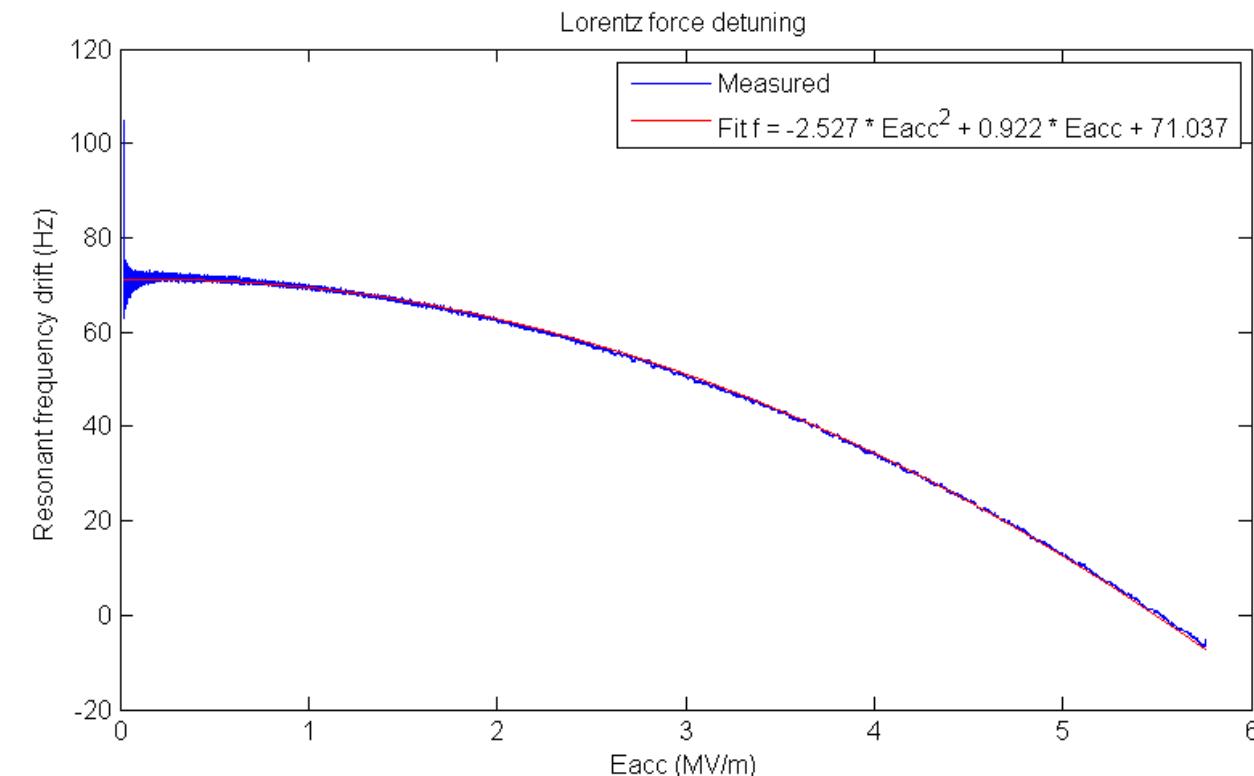
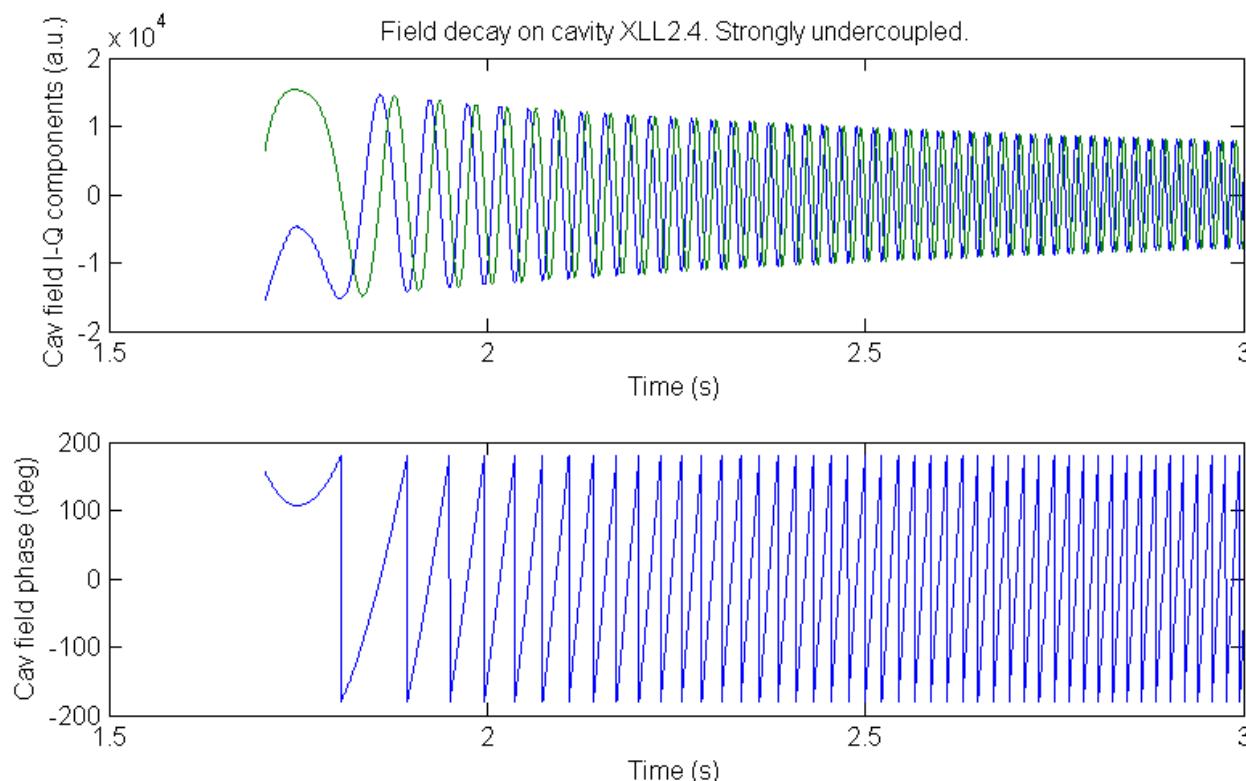
We have forward, reflected and transmitted signals available

How much information can be extracted from a single field decay transient?



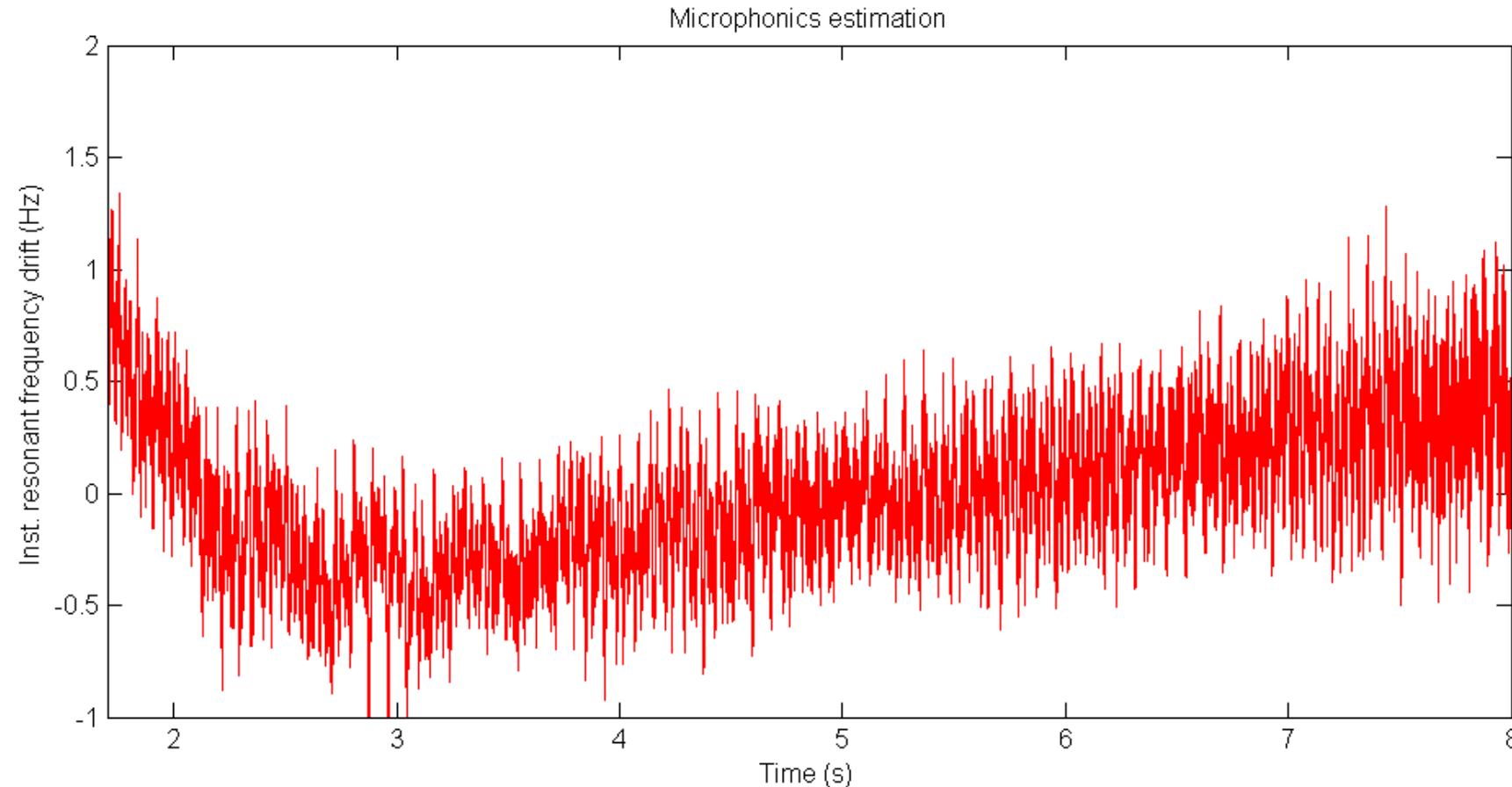
# Extracting information from the field decay transient

Instantaneous frequency shift  $\Delta f \propto K_L |E_{\text{acc}}|^2$



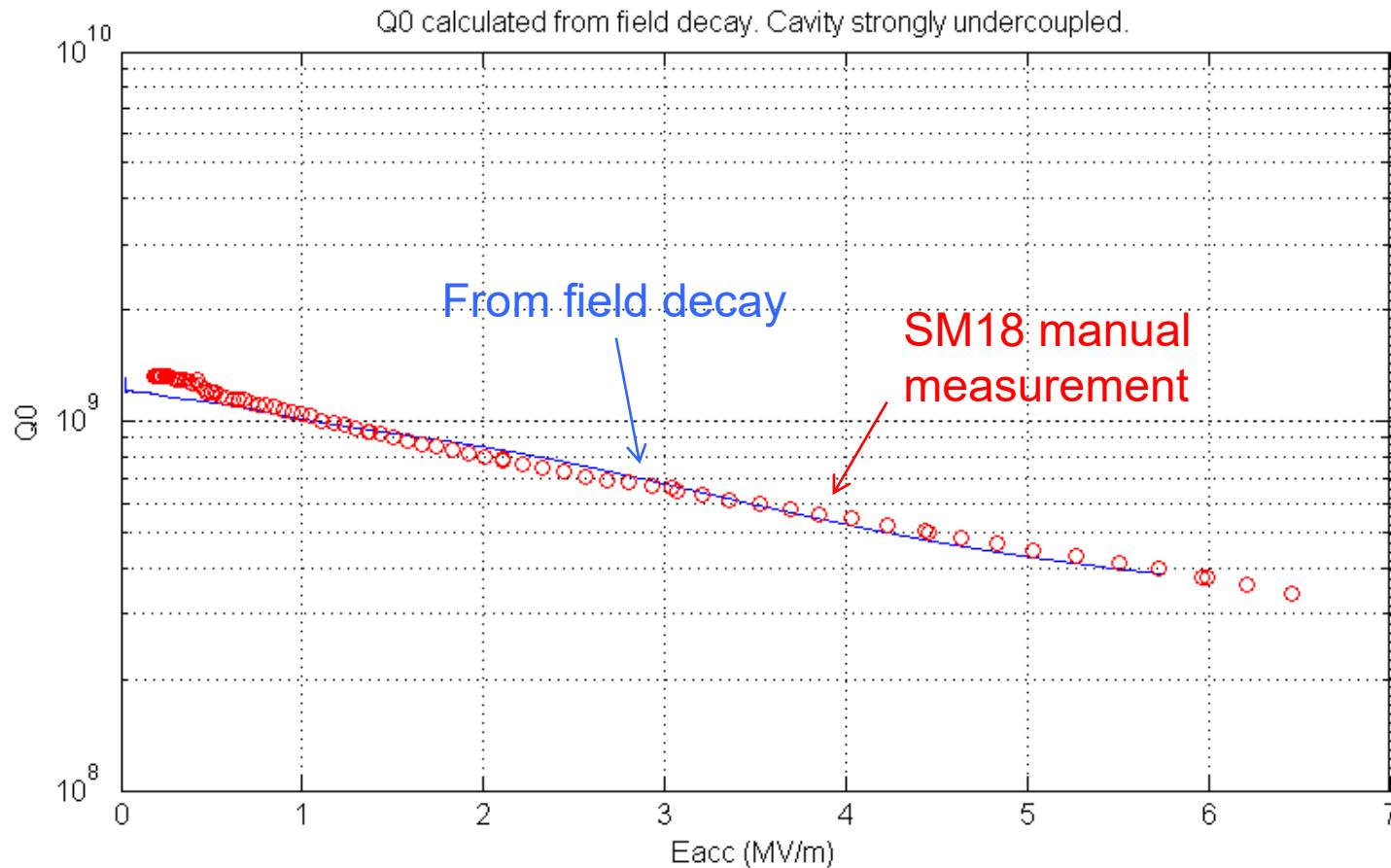
# Extracting information from the field decay transient

When the LFD component is removed, we can estimate the cavity microphonics  $\Delta f(t)$



# Extracting information from the field decay transient

If the cavity is strongly undercoupled, we can directly calculate also the  $Q_0$  vs.  $E_{\text{acc}}$



# Operator vs. equipment expert view

Control of SC cavity is a complex art.

There can be 100+ parameters to control one single cavity...

The image displays four separate windows from a control system interface, likely SIMATIC Manager or similar, illustrating the complexity of cavity control:

- ALLHieRFLoops 3.2.0**: Shows a tree view of device and cycle selection, and a list of properties for the **XLH3.CAV1.RFLOOPS FeedbackParameters** class. Properties include `fbGainL`, `fbGainP`, `fblratedivider`, etc. A message at the bottom says "There are no active viewers".
- XLH3.CAV1.RFLOOPS TunerLoopControl**: Shows a list of properties for the **XLH3.CAV1.RFLOOPS TunerLoopControl** class. Properties include `AmplitudeCoeff`, `CavityBW`, `Control`, `Deadzone`, etc. A message at the bottom says "No help available".
- XLH3.CAV1.SEQ ExpertCfg**: Shows a list of properties for the **XLH3.CAV1.SEQ ExpertCfg** class. Properties include `AntennaCoeff`, `CavityBW_max`, `CavityBW_min`, `MaxFreqCorrection`, etc. A message at the bottom says "Get Next Published" and "Set".
- XLH3.CAV1.RFLOOPS TunerLoopControl**: Shows a list of properties for the **XLH3.CAV1.RFLOOPS TunerLoopControl** class. Properties include `SetpointCavPhase`, `SetpointCavVoltage`, `SetpointStablePhase`, etc. A message at the bottom says "Get Next Published" and "Set".

# Operator vs. equipment expert view

**Equipment expert needs all the knobs...**

**But how much control the machine operator needs?**



# Operator vs. equipment expert view

Equipment expert needs all the knobs...

But how much control the machine operator needs?



\* footnote: Use physical units for setpoints

# Operator vs. equipment expert view



# Sources

[1] Amran Iqbal: Introduction to Control Systems

[https://eng.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Industrial\\_and\\_Systems\\_Engineering/Book%3A\\_Introduction\\_to\\_Control\\_Systems\\_%28Iqbal%29/03%3A\\_Feedback\\_Control\\_System\\_Models/3.3%3A\\_PI%2C\\_PD%2C\\_and\\_PID.Controllers](https://eng.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Industrial_and_Systems_Engineering/Book%3A_Introduction_to_Control_Systems_%28Iqbal%29/03%3A_Feedback_Control_System_Models/3.3%3A_PI%2C_PD%2C_and_PID.Controllers)

[2] J. Serrano, A. Rohlev, I. Kozsar: FPGA-based low level control of CERN'S LINAC 3 cavities. In 10th ICALEPS Int. Conf. on Accelerator & Large Expt. Physics Control Systems. Geneva, 10 - 14 Oct 2005, MO4B.1-2O (2005)

[3] Joachim Tuckmantel: Cavity-Beam-Transmitter Interaction Formula Collection with Derivation, CERN-ATS-Note-2011-002 TECH



# Thank you for your attention!



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