

The loaded resonator quality Q_L defines the oscillator phase noise!

$$L(\Delta f) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left[1 + \left(\frac{f_0}{2 Q_L \Delta f} \right)^2 \right] \cdot \frac{k_B T_0 F}{P_0} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{f_c}{|\Delta f|} \right)$$

Variable-frequency oscillators

Q_L

RC VCO

~ 1

BWO tube

~ 1

Varactor-tuned LC VCO

$10 \leftrightarrow 30$

YIG ($Y_3Fe_5O_{12}$) oscillator

$300 \leftrightarrow 1000$

Fixed-frequency oscillators

Q_L

RC multivibrator

~ 1

LC resonator

$30 \leftrightarrow 100$

Cavity resonator

$1000 \leftrightarrow 3000$

Ceramic dielectric resonator

$1000 \leftrightarrow 3000$

AT-cut quartz crystal (fundamental mode)

$3000 \leftrightarrow 10000$

AT-cut quartz crystal (third/fifth overtone)

$10000 \leftrightarrow 30000$

Electro-optical delay line (\$)

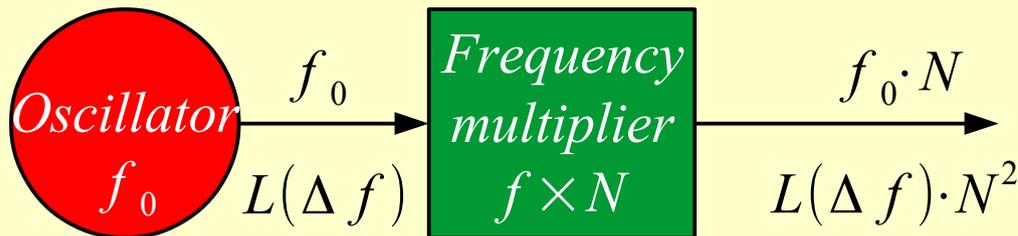
$\sim 10^6$ (noisy!)

Sapphire dielectric resonator (\$\$\$)

$\sim 3 \cdot 10^5$

Red HeNe LASER

$\sim 10^8$



The phase noise multiplies with the square of the frequency multiplication factor!