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Generalized analysis of quantum noise and dynamic back-action in signal-recycled Michelson-type laser interferometers

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We analyze the radiation pressure induced interaction of mirror motion and light fields in Michelson-type interferometers used for the detection of gravitational waves and for fundamental research in table-top quantum optomechanical experiments, focusing on the asymmetric regime with a (slightly) unbalanced beamsplitter and a (small) offset from the dark port. This regime, as it was shown recently, provides new interesting features, in particular a stable optical spring and optical cooling on cavity resonance.

We show that generally the nature of optomechanical coupling in Michelson-type interferometers does not fit into the standard dispersive/dissipative dichotomy. In particular, a symmetric Michelson interferometer with signal-recycling but without power-recycling cavity is characterized by a purely dissipative optomechanical coupling; only in the presence of asymmetry, additional dispersive coupling arises. In gravitational waves detectors possessing signal- and power-recycling cavities, yet another, “coherent” type of optomechanical coupling takes place.

We develop here a generalized framework for the analysis of asymmetric Michelson-type interferometers which also covers the possibility of the injection of carrier light into both ports of the interferometer. Using this framework, we analyze in depth the “anomalous” features of the Michelson-Sagnac interferometer which were discussed and observed experimentally in previous works [1–3].

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Michelson interferometer was first used in 1887 in the famous experiment by A. Michelson and E. Morley [4]. Since then, it became a standard tool being routinely employed in high-precision optical measurements. Currently, the most conspicuous devices based on the Michelson interferometer topology are gravitational-wave (GW) detectors, like LIGO [5, 6], VIRGO [7, 8], and GEO-600 [9, 10], which have arm lengths varying from several hundreds of meters to several kilometers.

The typical optical layout of GW detectors is shown in Fig. 1. In addition to the end mirrors (the end test masses, ETMs), it could include up to four additional ones. Two of them (the input test masses, ITMs), form, together with the ETMs, two Fabry-Perot arm cavities, which increase the light’s storage time for improving the interferometer’s signal response. Two so-called recycling mirrors, the power- and the signal-recycling mirror (PRM and SRM) allow to independently tune the bandwidths and the detunings of its two optical modes, the common and the differential ones [11, 12]. Detuning of the SR mirror can also result in a sensitivity improvement via

the so-called ‘optical spring’ [13]. Since it is dynamically unstable, also schemes exploiting two bright light fields were researched in order to provide a stable optical spring [14, 15].

Several years ago, the Michelson interferometer topology was adopted also for table top quantum optomechanical experiments, with partly translucent silicon-nitride membranes playing the role of the test mass [16]. The motivations of these experiments are manifold, starting from increasing of sensitivity of small forces and displacements sensors to fundamental tests of applicability of quantum physics to macroscopic mechanical objects [17–20].

These membranes have very small masses ($m \lesssim 100\text{ng}$) and low optical and mechanical losses and provide a suitable platform for quantum optomechanical experiments [21]. They have, however, a relatively low reflectivity, which does not allow to use them as end mirrors in high-finesse optical resonators. Instead, the *Michelson-Sagnac* topology was proposed in Ref. [16], see Fig. 2 [35]. It can be viewed as a derivative of the dual-recycled (signal- and power-recycled) Michelson topology of laser GW detectors. By folding the Michelson arms towards each other, light that is transmitted through the membrane does not leave the interferometer, and the membrane takes the role of the end mirror of both Michelson arms. In turn, the Michelson interferometer can be treated as a special case of the Michelson-Sagnac interferometer, when setting the membrane transmissivity equal to zero. The general

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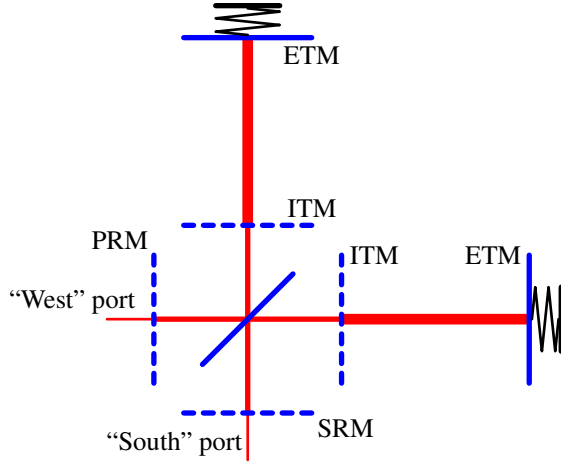


FIG. 1. The dual-recycled Michelson/Fabry-Perot topology of the modern laser GW detectors. PRM: the power recycling mirror; SRM: the signal recycling mirror; ITM: the input test mass; ETM: the end test masses. The optional mirrors are shown by dashed lines (in the real GW detectors, either ITMs, or PRM and/or SRM can be absent).

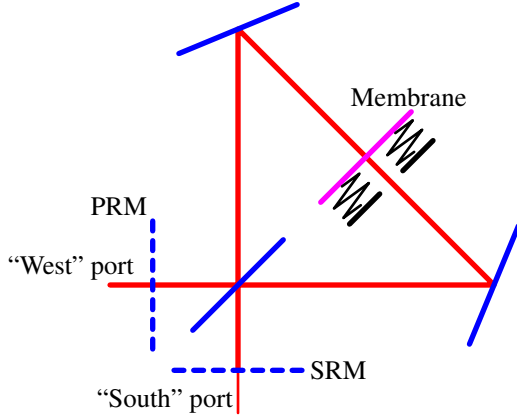


FIG. 2. The Michelson-Sagnac interferometer. PRM: the power recycling mirror; SRM: the signal recycling mirror. The optional mirrors are shown by dashed lines.

theory of the dual-recycled Michelson-Sagnac interferometer presented in this article can be applied to all *Michelson-type interferometers* – the Michelson-Sagnac, the pure Michelson and the Michelson-Fabry-Perot interferometer.

The standard and well-explored regime of these interferometers assumes a balanced beam splitter, interferometer arms of identical length and optical loss as well as an operation at (or very close to) a dark fringe. This is what we call ‘*the symmetric regime*’. A detailed analysis of the dual-recycled Michelson-Fabry-Perot interferometer in the symmetric regime was presented in [22]. It was shown, that the complete interferometer can be mapped to a single Fabry-Perot cavity with effective parameters (the so-called scaling law theorem). Later the analysis was extended to the symmetric Michelson-Sagnac interferometer [18].

The first analysis in the *asymmetric* regime of the Michelson-Sagnac interferometer was performed in [1]. Here,

it was in particular shown that optical ground state cooling is possible even outside good cavity regime [17], which is due to a “Fano resonance” shape of the radiation pressure noise spectral density [23, 24]. In [2, 25], the dynamic back action (that is, the optical spring features [13]) of the asymmetric Michelson-Sagnac was analyzed and it was shown, that in contrast to the symmetric case, both the optical damping and the optical rigidity in an asymmetric Michelson-Sagnac interferometer could acquire a nonzero value on the optical resonance, and additional stability and instability regions exist on either side of the resonance. Later, this non-canonical behavior was demonstrated experimentally [3].

Here we present the generalized framework for the analysis of asymmetric cavity-enhanced Michelson-type interferometers that includes not only dynamical optomechanical back-action but also the light’s quantum noise. In particular, we assume that both input/output ports of the interferometer can be pumped; this assumption simplifies the analysis of the interferometer and provides insights into the internal structure of the equations obtained in [2]. In Sec. II we show that the character of the optomechanical coupling in Michelson-type interferometers depends on whether one or two recycling mirrors are present. In Sec. III, we analyze in detail the case of just one (signal-) recycling cavity, using the developed framework to explain the “anomalous” features of [2, 3]. In Sec. IV we provide the optimization of optical cooling in Michelson-type interferometers.

II. OPTOMECHANICAL COUPLING IN MICHELSON-TYPE INTERFEROMETERS

In order to provide the starting point for our consideration below, let us start with the well-explored case of a single optical mode whose eigenfrequency depends on the position of the mechanical object. This type of the optomechanical coupling is known as the *dispersive* one. The Hamiltonian of this system can be presented in the standard form

$$\mathcal{H} = \hbar(\omega_o - g\hat{x})(\hat{e}^\dagger\hat{e} + 1/2) + \mathcal{H}_m + \mathcal{H}_{\text{rest}}, \quad (1)$$

where \hbar is the reduced Plank constant, \hat{e} and \hat{e}^\dagger are the annihilation and creation operators of the intracavity field (we reserve the notation \hat{a} for the incident field), \hat{x} is the mechanical coordinate, ω_o and g are the optical eigenfrequency and the optomechanical coupling factor, \mathcal{H}_m is a mechanical Hamiltonian and $\mathcal{H}_{\text{rest}}$ is the Hamiltonian describing all other optical degrees of freedom, including the optical pump(s) and the optical losses. Note that the Fabry-Perot cavity treatment can be reduced to this lumped mode model, provided that one of its optical modes is selected by the strong classical pump with the frequency ω_p close to this mode eigenfrequency.

Following Sec. III of the review paper [17], we rewrite the Hamiltonian (1) in the frame rotating with the frequency ω_p :

$$\mathcal{H} = -\hbar(\delta + g\hat{x})(\hat{e}^\dagger\hat{e} + 1/2) + \mathcal{H}_m + \mathcal{H}_{\text{rest}}, \quad (2)$$

where $\delta = \omega_p - \omega_o$ is the detuning of the pump frequency ω_p from cavity resonance ω_o . Then we extract explicitly from the

field \hat{e} the classical mean part E created by the optical pump, $\hat{e} \rightarrow E + \hat{e}$:

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} = -\hbar(\delta + g\hat{x})(|E|^2 + E^*\hat{e} + E\hat{e}^\dagger + \hat{e}^\dagger\hat{e} + 1/2) + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_m + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{rest}}. \quad (3)$$

The term $-\hbar(\delta + g\hat{x})|E|^2$ here just create a static radiation pressure on the mechanical object, which can be compensated by some means; the term $-\hbar\delta(E^*\hat{e} + E\hat{e}^\dagger)$ does not depend on \hat{x} and we absorb it into $\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{rest}}$; and the term $-\hbar g\hat{x}(\hat{e}^\dagger\hat{e} + 1/2)$ is of the second order of smallness and can be neglected. The remaining terms form the following canonical linearized optomechanical Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} = -\hbar\delta(\hat{e}^\dagger\hat{e} + 1/2) - \hbar g(E^*\hat{e} + \text{h.c.})\hat{x} + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_m + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{rest}}, \quad (4)$$

where “h.c.” stands for the Hermitian conjugate.

As the next step, consider the Michelson/Fabry-Perot interferometer shown in Fig. 1, *assuming the symmetry condition* (the consideration below actually reproduces in a simplified form the scaling law theorem of [22]). Suppose here for simplicity that both recycling mirrors are absent. This scheme can be described by the sum of two single-mode Hamiltonians (1) of the arm Fabry-Perot cavities:

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} = \hbar[(\omega_o - g\hat{x}_N)(\hat{e}_N^\dagger\hat{e}_N + 1/2) + (\omega_o - g\hat{x}_E)(\hat{e}_E^\dagger\hat{e}_E + 1/2)] + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_m + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{rest}}, \quad (5)$$

where the subscripts N and E stand for the “north” and the “east” (as shown in Fig. 1) arms, respectively. This Hamiltonian, similar to (1), describes dispersive coupling.

Then introduce the common and the differential optical modes as follows:

$$\hat{e}_\pm = \frac{\hat{e}_N \pm \hat{e}_E}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{e}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{e}_+ \\ \hat{e}_- \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

In these notations,

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} = \hbar[(\omega_o - g\hat{y})(\hat{\mathbf{e}}^\dagger\hat{\mathbf{e}} + 1) - g\hat{x}\hat{\mathbf{e}}^\dagger\mathbb{X}\hat{\mathbf{e}}] + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_m + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{rest}}, \quad (7)$$

where

$$y = \frac{x_N + x_E}{2}, \quad x = \frac{x_N - x_E}{2} \quad (8)$$

are coordinates of the common (symmetric) and the differential (antisymmetric) mechanical modes, and \mathbb{X} is the Pauli x -matrix [see Eq. (A1)]. For the common mode y , this Hamiltonian still retains the dispersive coupling structure. But the optomechanical coupling with the differential mode x is of a different nature: in this case, the *coupling* of the two modes \hat{e}_+ and \hat{e}_- is proportional to the mechanical displacement x . We will refer to this term as *coherent optomechanical coupling*. Note that opposite to (5), the Hamiltonian (7) is valid in the case of the general dual recycled interferometer as well [12, 22] and, in particular, in the case of the pure Michelson interferometer (without the ITM mirrors). In the particular case of a very broadband common optical mode, that is with the bandwidth much broader than all other characteristic frequencies of the system (with the evident exception of

ω_o, ω_p), the common optical mode degenerates to an (almost) free space optical field. In this case, the bandwidth of the differential optical mode becomes dependent of x . This is the so-called *dissipative* optomechanical coupling [23, 24]. This simple example shows, that in multi-mode systems the type of the optomechanical coupling can not be categorized in a simple and unique way; it depends on a non-unique choice of the optical modes.

Now, following the above treatment of the Fabry-Perot cavity, we introduce explicitly the classical pumping fields by replacing $\hat{e}_\pm \rightarrow E_\pm + \hat{e}_\pm$ and retrace the equations (2-4). This gives the following linearized Hamiltonian

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} = -\hbar\delta(\hat{\mathbf{e}}^\dagger\hat{\mathbf{e}} + 1) - \hbar g\hat{y}(E^\dagger\hat{\mathbf{e}} + \text{h.c.}) - \hbar g\hat{x}(E^\dagger\mathbb{X}\hat{\mathbf{e}} + \text{h.c.}) + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_m + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{rest}}, \quad (9)$$

where

$$\mathbf{E} = \begin{pmatrix} E_+ \\ E_- \end{pmatrix}. \quad (10)$$

Note the similarity between this Hamiltonian and the one for the Fabry-Perot interferometer (4).

Moreover, if the differential optical mode is not excited, $E_- = 0$ (which corresponds to the canonical regime of both the GW detectors and membrane interferometers), then the common optical mode is coupled only with the common mechanical one and the differential optical mode — only with the differential mechanical one

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} = -\hbar\delta(\hat{\mathbf{e}}^\dagger\hat{\mathbf{e}} + 1) - \hbar g\hat{y}(E_+^\dagger\hat{e}_+ + \text{h.c.}) - \hbar g\hat{x}(E_+^\dagger\hat{e}_- + \text{h.c.}) + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_m + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{rest}}. \quad (11)$$

Of these two mechanical modes, only the differential one is of interest in both the laser GW detectors and in the small-scale membrane interferometers. In the former case, it is this mode that is coupled with the gravitational waves. In the latter case, the mechanical common mode corresponds to the membrane thickness oscillations, which are characterized by very high (hundreds of gigahertz) eigenfrequency and low Q -factor and hardly can be used in optomechanical experiments. Therefore, the part of the Hamiltonian (11) referring to common modes can be omitted, which gives the following Hamiltonian

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} = -\hbar\delta(\hat{e}_-^\dagger\hat{e}_- + 1/2) - \hbar g\hat{x}(E_+^\dagger\hat{e}_- + \text{h.c.}) + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_m + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{rest}}. \quad (12)$$

Up to the notations, it is identical to the Hamiltonian (4), despite the completely different types of the optomechanical coupling — the dispersive one in (4) and the coherent or the dissipative one in (12).

III. ANALYSIS OF THE ASYMMETRIC INTERFEROMETER

Now, having discussed the various types of optomechanical coupling in Michelson-type interferometers, we are in position to consider in depth the asymmetric case. In the

rest of this paper, we focus on the above mentioned case of a very broadband common optical mode, which is characterized by the dissipative (in contrast to coherent) optomechanical coupling. This case is typical for table-top interferometers researching fundamental optomechanics, because in this case much lower optical powers than in the large-scale gravitational-wave detectors is required. Due to this reason, we do not consider here the common mechanical mode. At the same time, both common and differential optical modes will be taken into account.

In the calculations below, we use the Heisenberg picture (that is the input/output relations approach) which is more convenient for analysis of sophisticated optomechanical systems, see *e.g.* [22, 27, 28]. In this picture, the linearized dynamics of a two-port optomechanical system can be described by two matrix equations. The first one is the optical input/output relation:

$$\hat{\mathbf{b}}(\omega) = \mathbb{R}_{\text{ifo}}(\omega) [\hat{\mathbf{a}}(\omega) + ik_p \mathbb{G}(\Omega) \mathbf{E} \hat{x}(\Omega)], \quad (13)$$

where \mathbb{R}_{ifo} and \mathbb{G} are 2×2 matrices,

$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{a}_+ \\ \hat{a}_- \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{b}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{b}_+ \\ \hat{b}_- \end{pmatrix} \quad (14)$$

are two-components vectors for the input and output optical fields in the “west” and the “south” (as shown in Fig. 2) ports of the interferometer, Ω is a sideband frequency, see Eq. (A6),

$$k_p = \omega_p/c, \quad (15)$$

and c is the speed of light. The second equation describes the radiation pressure force acting on the mechanical object:

$$\hat{F}(\Omega) = \hat{F}_{\text{fl}}(\Omega) - K(\Omega) \hat{x}(\Omega), \quad (16)$$

where

$$\hat{F}_{\text{fl}}(\Omega) = \hbar k_p \mathbf{E}^\dagger \mathbb{F}(\Omega) \hat{\mathbf{a}}(\omega) + \text{C.C.} \quad (17)$$

is the stochastic part of the radiation pressure force, “C.C.” stands for the “Caves-Schumaker conjugate” [26] of the previous term, see Eq. (C2),

$$K(\Omega) = \hbar k_p^2 \mathbf{E}^\dagger \mathbb{K}(\Omega) \mathbf{E} \quad (18)$$

is the optical rigidity, and \mathbb{F} , \mathbb{K} are 2×2 matrices. The explicit equations for the matrices \mathbb{R}_{ifo} , \mathbb{G} , \mathbb{F} , and \mathbb{K} are quite cumbersome; they are derived in the Appendix, see Eqs. (B22, B23, C7, C10), respectively. The non-symmetrized spectral density \tilde{S}_F of the force \hat{F}_{fl} can be obtained from Eq. (17) using directly the definition (A7). In particular, if the incident quantum fields are in vacuum, then the spectral density is equal to

$$\tilde{S}_F(\Omega) = \hbar^2 k_p^2 \mathbf{E}^\dagger \mathbb{F}(\Omega) \mathbb{F}^\dagger(\Omega) \mathbf{E}. \quad (19)$$

An interesting feature of Eqs. (13) and (16) is the following symmetry condition [see Eqs. (B23, C7)]:

$$\mathbb{G}(\Omega) = \mathbb{F}^\dagger(\Omega). \quad (20)$$

It is the two-port analog of the well-known relation between the measurement noise and the radiation pressure noise in ordinary (single-port) interferometers [22, 27, 29], which gives rise to the uncertainty relation between the radiation pressure noise and the measurement noise spectral densities of these devices [22, 27, 28] (which, in turn, is a particular case of the general uncertainty relation for the continuous linear quantum measurement [30]).

As we have mentioned, in this paper we focus on the case without power-recycling,

$$R_W = 0, \quad (21)$$

where R_W is the power recycling mirror reflectivity. In addition, we assume the lumped mode approximation (that is, the high finesse limit), which is a good approximation in common setups and significantly simplify the equations. Namely, we suppose that: (i) the transmissivity T_S of the signal recycling mirror is small:

$$T_S^2 = 4\gamma_S \tau_S \ll 1, \quad (22a)$$

where $\tau_S = L_S/c$ and L_S is the optical distance between the SRM and the symmetry position of the membrane; (ii) the signal recycling cavity is tuned close to the resonance:

$$e^{i\omega \tau_S} = e^{i(\delta_S + \Omega) \tau_S + i\theta}, \quad |\delta_S + \Omega| \tau_S \ll 1, \quad (22b)$$

where

$$\theta = \arctan \frac{T_m}{R_m},$$

R_m , T_m are the membrane amplitude reflectivity and transmissivity, and δ_S is the detuning of the “south” arm; and (iii) the asymmetry of the interferometer is small:

$$p^2 = \varepsilon^2 + \varkappa^2 \ll 1, \quad (22c)$$

where \varkappa , ε are, respectively, are asymmetries of the membrane placement and of the beamsplitter, see Eqs. (B2, B11). We assume the following relations between these small values:

$$\gamma_S \tau_S \sim |\delta_S + \Omega| \tau_S \sim p^2. \quad (23)$$

Then, keeping in *each component* of the matrices \mathbb{F} and \mathbb{K} [see Eqs. (C7, C10)] only the leading non-vanishing terms, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{G}^\dagger(\Omega) &= \mathbb{F}(\Omega) = \frac{2R_m}{\tau_S \ell(\Omega)} \\ &\times \begin{pmatrix} ip \sin(\alpha - \theta) & \sqrt{\gamma_S \tau_S} e^{-i\theta} \\ [\tau_S \ell_S(\Omega) + ip^2 \sin 2\alpha/2] e^{i\theta} & -\sqrt{\gamma_S \tau_S} p e^{i(\theta - \alpha)} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (24) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{K}(\Omega) &= -\frac{2iR_m}{\tau_S \ell(\Omega)} \begin{pmatrix} R_m & -R_m p e^{-i\alpha} \\ -R_m p e^{2i(\theta - \alpha)} & [\tau_S \ell_S(\Omega) + \varepsilon^2] e^{i\theta} \end{pmatrix} \\ &+ \text{C.C.}, \quad (25) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\ell(\Omega) = \gamma - i(\delta + \Omega), \quad (26a)$$

$$\ell_S(\Omega) = \gamma_S - i(\delta_S + \Omega), \quad (26b)$$

$$\gamma = \gamma_S + \gamma_m, \quad (27a)$$

$$\delta = \delta_S + \delta_m \quad (27b)$$

are the total bandwidth and the detuning of the interferometer,

$$\gamma_m = \frac{p^2 \sin^2(\theta - \alpha)}{\tau_S}, \quad (28a)$$

$$\delta_m = \frac{p^2 R_m \sin(\theta - 2\alpha)}{\tau_S} \quad (28b)$$

are the components of γ, δ due to the asymmetry of the interferometer, and the angle α is defined as follows:

$$\varepsilon = p \cos \alpha, \quad \varkappa = p \sin \alpha. \quad (29)$$

The dispersive and dissipative coupling factors can be readily derived from Eqs. (28):

$$g_{\text{disp}} = -k_p \frac{\partial \delta_m}{\partial \varkappa} = \frac{2k_p R_m p}{\tau_S} \cos(\theta - \alpha), \quad (30a)$$

$$\frac{g_{\text{diss}}}{\sqrt{2}\gamma_m} = k_p \frac{\partial \sqrt{2}\gamma_m}{\partial \varkappa} = \frac{2k_p R_m}{\sqrt{\tau_S}} \text{sign}(\theta - \alpha) \quad (30b)$$

(note that it is the combination (30b), but not just g_{diss} appears in the dissipative coupling Hamiltonian, see *e.g.* Eq. (1) of [1]).

The upper row terms in the matrix (24) has the order of magnitude of $\mathcal{O}(p^{-1})$, while the lower row ones — of $\mathcal{O}(1)$. Correspondingly, the matrix $\mathbb{F}\mathbb{F}^\dagger$, which appears in Eq. (19), has the following structure:

$$\mathbb{F}(\Omega)\mathbb{F}^\dagger(\Omega) \sim \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{O}(p^{-2}) & \mathcal{O}(p^{-1}) \\ \mathcal{O}(p^{-1}) & \mathcal{O}(1) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (31)$$

Suppose now that either the classical field amplitudes E_\pm are of the same order of magnitude, or E_+ dominates:

$$E_+ \gtrsim E_-. \quad (32)$$

In this case, the spectral density (19) is dominated by the term proportional to $|E_+|^2$, with the other terms being small corrections which have to be neglected for the sake of consistency with the already made approximations. This consideration gives the following equations for the non-symmetrized and symmetrized [see Eq. (A8)] radiation pressure noise spectral densities:

$$\tilde{S}_F(\Omega) = \frac{4\hbar^2 k_p^2 R_m^2 |E_+|^2 \gamma}{\tau_S |\ell(\Omega)|^2}, \quad (33a)$$

$$S_F(\Omega) = \frac{4\hbar^2 k_p^2 R_m^2 |E_+|^2 \gamma}{\tau_S} \frac{\gamma^2 + \delta^2 + \Omega^2}{|\ell(\Omega)|^2 |\ell(-\Omega)|^2}. \quad (33b)$$

The matrix (25) also has the structure (31). Therefore, the above consideration is valid for the optical rigidity as well, giving:

$$K(\Omega) = \frac{4\hbar^2 k_p^2 R_m^2 |E_+|^2 \delta}{\tau_S \ell(\Omega) \ell^*(-\Omega)}. \quad (34)$$

Equations (33, 34) do not depend on the interferometer asymmetry and differ from the well-known “canonical” ones [22, 28] only by the well-expected factor R_m^2 .

It follows from this consideration, that the “non-canonical” features, predicted in [1, 2] and observed in [3], evidently, originates from a violation of the assumption (32). In fact, it follows from Eq. (B24), with account of the assumption (21) and approximations (22), that the classical amplitudes of the intracavity fields are equal to

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E} &= \frac{1}{\tau_S \ell(0)} \begin{pmatrix} \tau_S \ell_S(0) + ip^2 \sin 2\alpha/2 & -\sqrt{\gamma_S \tau_S} p e^{-i\alpha} \\ ip e^{i\theta} \sin(\alpha - \theta) & \sqrt{\gamma_S \tau_S} \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad \times \begin{pmatrix} A_+ e^{i\omega_p \tau_W} \\ A_- e^{i\omega_p \tau_S} \end{pmatrix} \\ &\sim \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{O}(1) & \mathcal{O}(1) \\ \mathcal{O}(p^{-1}) & \mathcal{O}(p^{-1}) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A_+ e^{i\omega_p \tau_W} \\ A_- e^{i\omega_p \tau_S} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (35) \end{aligned}$$

where A_+, A_- are the classical amplitudes of the input optical fields in the “west” and the “south” (as shown in Fig. 2) ports of the interferometer. This means that *typically*, instead of (32),

$$E_- \sim \frac{E_+}{p} \gg E_+. \quad (36)$$

This resonance-enhanced value of E_- emphasizes the smaller terms in the matrices (24, 25), making their contribution comparable with one of the “canonical” terms.

In particular, in the case of $A_- = 0$, which was considered in [1, 2],

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{S}_F(\Omega) &= \frac{4\hbar^2 k_p^2 R_m^2 |A_+|^2}{\tau_S |\ell(0)|^2 |\ell(\Omega)|^2} \left\{ \gamma_m (2\delta_S - 2\varepsilon \varkappa / \tau_S + \Omega)^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \gamma_S [\gamma^2 + (\delta_S - \delta_m - 2\varepsilon \varkappa / \tau_S)^2] \right\}. \quad (37) \end{aligned}$$

Note the “non-canonical” Fano-resonance term, discussed in [1, 23], which provides a minimum of $\tilde{S}_F(\Omega)$ at $\Omega = -2\delta_S + 2\varepsilon \varkappa / \tau_S$. It is evident, however, that by fine tuning of the values of A_\pm , any ratio of E_+/E_- can be obtained. In particular, as we show in the next section, the most effective optical cooling can be achieved by the ideally symmetric field, $E_- = 0$.

IV. OPTIMAL OPTICAL COOLING IN MICHELSON-TYPE INTERFEROMETERS

The optomechanical cooling aimed at preparation of a mechanical resonator in its ground state attracted great attention during the last decade, see the review papers [17, 18]. These experiments pave the road to future more advanced ones. In

particular, the ground state preparation can be considered as the first step to preparation of macroscopic mechanical objects in more sophisticated quantum states.

The silicon-nitride membranes are well suited for these experiments. As we have mentioned in the Introduction, their only weak point is the relatively low reflectivity, which, however, can be compensated by using the Michelson-Sagnac topology. As it follows from our consideration in [1, 2] and here, in the symmetric regime, it, up to the scaling of the required optical power by R_m^2 , is isomorphic to the ordinary single-cavity setup with the ideally reflective movable mirror, and in the asymmetric one, it could provide new interesting features.

In the recent experimental work [3] optical cooling in the regime of interfering dispersive and dissipative coupling in an asymmetric Michelson-Sagnac interferometer was observed. Here we use our general framework to calculate the optimal cooling regime in the asymmetric Michelson-type interferometers for a given, fixed value of the optical power circulating in the interferometer.

We start with the two well known fundamental interrelations between any source of dissipation and the thermal noise \hat{F}_T associated with it. The first one is the Fluctuation-Dissipation Theorem (FDT) [31]:

$$S_T(\Omega) = \hbar |\Omega H| (2n_T + 1), \quad (38)$$

where

$$S_T(\Omega) = \frac{\tilde{S}_T(\Omega) + \tilde{S}_T(-\Omega)}{2} \quad (39)$$

is the symmetrized spectral density of this noise, $\tilde{S}_T(\Omega)$ is the corresponding non-symmetrized spectral density, see Eqs. (A7, A8), H is the friction factor, n_T is the effective number of thermal quanta defined by

$$2n_T + 1 = \coth \frac{\hbar |\Omega|}{2\kappa_B T}, \quad (40)$$

κ_B is Boltzmann constant and T is the temperature. The second one is the Kubo theorem [32]:

$$\Omega H = \frac{\tilde{S}_T(\Omega) - \tilde{S}_T(-\Omega)}{2\hbar}. \quad (41)$$

Assuming that $H > 0$ (stable system dynamics) and $\Omega > 0$, it is easy to get from Eqs. (38, 41), that

$$\frac{1}{n_T} + 1 = \frac{\tilde{S}_T(\Omega)}{\tilde{S}_T(-\Omega)}. \quad (42)$$

In optical cooling experiments, the “native” mechanical heat bath is supplemented by the low temperature optomechanical one. In this case, the steady state mean number of phonons in the mechanical oscillator is given by

$$2\langle n \rangle + 1 = \frac{S_T(\Omega_m) + S_F(\Omega_m)}{\hbar \Omega_m (H + H_{\text{opt}})}, \quad (43)$$

where S_F is the symmetrized spectral density of the radiation pressure noise, H_{opt} is the optical damping:

$$\Omega H_{\text{opt}} = -\text{Im} K, \quad (44)$$

and we absorbed the shift of the mechanical resonance frequency imposed by the optical spring into Ω_m .

Rewriting the Kubo theorem for the optical damping:

$$\Omega H_{\text{opt}} = \frac{\tilde{S}_F(\Omega) - \tilde{S}_F(-\Omega)}{2\hbar}, \quad (45)$$

it is easy to show that

$$\frac{1}{\langle n \rangle} + 1 = \frac{\tilde{S}_T(\Omega_m) + \tilde{S}_F(\Omega_m)}{\tilde{S}_T(-\Omega_m) + \tilde{S}_F(-\Omega_m)}. \quad (46)$$

In the Michelson-Sagnac interferometer, the explicit form of \tilde{S}_F is rather sophisticated, see Eqs. (19, 24), and the direct analytical optimization of (46) is hardly possible. However, under common experimental conditions the spectral densities \tilde{S}_F and \tilde{S}_T satisfy strong inequalities which significantly simplify this task. Really, starting values of the thermal occupation number of the real mechanical resonators are big, even in the cryogenic microwave experiments; correspondingly, asymmetry of the thermal noise spectral density is small:

$$\tilde{S}_T(\Omega_m) - \tilde{S}_T(-\Omega_m) \ll \tilde{S}_T(\pm\Omega_m). \quad (47)$$

Therefore, in order to provide effective optical cooling, asymmetry of the radiation pressure noise spectral density has to be strong:

$$\tilde{S}_F(\Omega_m) \gg \tilde{S}_F(-\Omega_m). \quad (48)$$

At the same time, due to technical constrains in contemporary optical cooling experiments, while $\tilde{S}_F(\Omega_m)$ could be close or even exceeds the thermal noise spectral density, its negative-frequency counterpart is small:

$$\tilde{S}_F(-\Omega_m) \ll \tilde{S}_T(\pm\Omega_m). \quad (49)$$

(this inequality was fulfilled with very good margin even in the record-breaking works [33, 34]). These assumptions simplify Eq. (46) to

$$\langle n \rangle = \frac{\tilde{S}_T(-\Omega_m)}{\tilde{S}_F(\Omega_m)}. \quad (50)$$

In this case, minimization of $\langle n \rangle$ is simply equivalent to maximization of $\tilde{S}_F(\Omega)$.

Of the mentioned above technical constrains, the most serious ones are limitations on the value of the optical power inside the interferometer imposed by various undesirable effects, like heating, mechanical nonlinearities, instabilities *etc.* Therefore consider maximization of $\tilde{S}_F(\Omega)$, assuming a given optical energy in the interferometer, which is proportional to

$$\mathcal{E} \propto |E_+|^2 + |E_-|^2. \quad (51)$$

We describe the membrane by the symmetric reflectivity/transmissivity matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} R_m & iT_m \\ iT_m & R_m \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{A2})$$

and the beamsplitter and the recycling mirrors — by the real ones

$$\begin{pmatrix} R & T \\ T & -R \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} R_{W,S} & T_{W,S} \\ T_{W,S} & -R_{W,S} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{A3})$$

with the negative reflectivities indicated by “−” in Fig. 3. The subscripts “W” and “S” stand here for the “west” and the “south” ports, that is for the power and the signal mirrors, respectively.

The quantum field sideband amplitudes are denoted by the lowercase roman letters

$$\hat{a}, \hat{b}, \dots \quad (\text{A4})$$

and the classical amplitudes — by the corresponding uppercase roman ones

$$A, B, \dots \quad (\text{A5})$$

We denote high (optical) frequencies by ω and low (mechanical) ones by Ω . If they appear together in the same equation, then

$$\Omega = \omega - \omega_p \quad (\text{A6})$$

The non-symmetrized spectral density \tilde{S} of any noise process \hat{F} is defined by

$$\langle \hat{F}(\Omega) \hat{F}(\Omega') \rangle = 2\pi \tilde{S}(\Omega) \delta(\Omega + \Omega'), \quad (\text{A7})$$

and the corresponding symmetrized one S — by

$$S(\Omega) = \frac{\tilde{S}(\Omega) + \tilde{S}(-\Omega)}{2}. \quad (\text{A8})$$

Appendix B: Optical fields

We assume that the D.C. displacement of the membrane from its symmetry position X is small and neglect the term $(k - k_p)X = \Omega X/c$. In this case, the equations for the quantum field sideband amplitudes are the following [28] [see the notations in Fig. (3)]:

$$\hat{b}_+(\omega) = -R_W \hat{a}_+(\omega) + T_W \hat{c}_+(\omega), \quad (\text{B1a})$$

$$\hat{b}_-(\omega) = -R_S \hat{a}_-(\omega) + T_S \hat{c}_-(\omega), \quad (\text{B1b})$$

$$\hat{c}_+(\omega) = [R \hat{f}_N(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau_W} + T \hat{f}_E(\omega) e^{-i\omega\tau_S}] e^{i\omega\tau_W}, \quad (\text{B1c})$$

$$\hat{c}_-(\omega) = [T \hat{f}_N(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau_W} - R \hat{f}_E(\omega) e^{-i\omega\tau_S}] e^{i\omega\tau_S}, \quad (\text{B1d})$$

$$\hat{d}_+(\omega) = T_W \hat{a}_+(\omega) + R_W \hat{c}_+(\omega), \quad (\text{B1e})$$

$$\hat{d}_-(\omega) = T_S \hat{a}_-(\omega) + R_S \hat{c}_-(\omega), \quad (\text{B1f})$$

$$\hat{e}_N(\omega) = [R \hat{d}_+(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau_W} + T \hat{d}_-(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau_S}] e^{i\omega\tau_W}, \quad (\text{B1g})$$

$$\hat{e}_E(\omega) = [T \hat{d}_+(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau_W} - R \hat{d}_-(\omega) e^{i\omega\tau_S}] e^{-i\omega\tau_S}, \quad (\text{B1h})$$

$$\hat{f}_N(\omega) = R_m \hat{e}_N(\omega) + iT_m \hat{e}_E(\omega) + 2ik_p R_m E_N \hat{x}(\Omega), \quad (\text{B1i})$$

$$\hat{f}_E(\omega) = R_m \hat{e}_E(\omega) + iT_m \hat{e}_N(\omega) - 2ik_p R_m E_E \hat{x}(\Omega). \quad (\text{B1j})$$

Here $\tau_{W,S} = L_{W,S}/c$, $L_{W,S}$ are the optical distances between the symmetry position of the membrane and the PRM/SRM, respectively, and

$$\varkappa = X/k_p. \quad (\text{B2})$$

Introduce the common and differential optical modes:

$$\hat{e}_\pm = \frac{\hat{e}_N \pm \hat{e}_E}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \hat{f}_\pm = \frac{\hat{f}_N \pm \hat{f}_E}{\sqrt{2}}. \quad (\text{B3})$$

Using these modes:

$$\hat{\mathbf{b}}(\omega) = -\mathbb{R} \hat{\mathbf{a}}(\omega) + \mathbb{T} \hat{\mathbf{c}}(\omega), \quad (\text{B4a})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}}(\omega) = \mathbb{A}(\omega) \mathbb{Q}^\top \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\omega), \quad (\text{B4b})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{d}}(\omega) = \mathbb{T} \hat{\mathbf{a}}(\omega) + \mathbb{R} \hat{\mathbf{c}}(\omega), \quad (\text{B4c})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{e}}(\omega) = \mathbb{Q} \mathbb{A}(\omega) \hat{\mathbf{d}}(\omega), \quad (\text{B4d})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}(\omega) = \mathbb{M} \hat{\mathbf{e}}(\omega) + 2ik_p R_m \mathbb{X} \mathbf{E} \hat{x}(\Omega), \quad (\text{B4e})$$

where

$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{a}_+ \\ \hat{a}_- \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{b}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{b}_+ \\ \hat{b}_- \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B5a})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{c}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{c}_+ \\ \hat{c}_- \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{d}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{d}_+ \\ \hat{d}_- \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B5b})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{e}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{e}_+ \\ \hat{e}_- \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{\mathbf{f}} = \begin{pmatrix} \hat{f}_+ \\ \hat{f}_- \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B5c})$$

$$\mathbb{R} = \begin{pmatrix} R_W & 0 \\ 0 & R_S \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbb{T} = \begin{pmatrix} T_W & 0 \\ 0 & T_S \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B6})$$

$$\mathbb{A}(\omega) = \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\omega\tau_W} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\omega\tau_S} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B7})$$

$$\mathbb{M} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\theta} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B8})$$

$$\mathbb{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} C & -S^* \\ S & C^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B9})$$

$$C = \cos \varepsilon \cos \varkappa + i \sin \varepsilon \sin \varkappa, \quad (\text{B10a})$$

$$S = \sin \varepsilon \cos \varkappa + i \cos \varepsilon \sin \varkappa, \quad (\text{B10b})$$

and

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\pi}{4} - \arctan \frac{T}{R}. \quad (\text{B11})$$

Eqs. (B4) can be reduced to the following two:

$$\mathbb{D}_e(\omega) \hat{\mathbf{e}}(\omega) = \tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega) \hat{\mathbf{a}}(\omega) + 2ik_p r \tilde{\mathbb{R}}(\omega) \mathbb{Q}^\top \mathbb{X} \mathbf{E} x(\Omega), \quad (\text{B12a})$$

$$\mathbb{D}_e(\omega) \mathbb{M}^\dagger \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\omega) = \tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega) \hat{\mathbf{a}}(\omega) + 2ik_p r \mathbb{Q}^\dagger \mathbb{M}^\dagger \mathbb{X} \mathbf{E} x(\Omega), \quad (\text{B12b})$$

where

$$\mathbb{D}_e(\omega) = \mathbb{Q}^\dagger - \tilde{\mathbb{R}}(\omega)\mathbb{Q}^\mathsf{T}\mathbb{M}, \quad (\text{B13})$$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{R}}(\omega) = \mathbb{A}(\omega)\mathbb{R}\mathbb{A}(\omega) = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{R}_W(\omega) & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{R}_S(\omega) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B14})$$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega) = \mathbb{A}(\omega)\mathbb{T} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{T}_W(\omega) & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{T}_S(\omega) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B15})$$

$$\tilde{R}_{W,S}(\omega) = R_{W,S}e^{2i\omega\tau_{W,S}}, \quad \tilde{T}_{W,S}(\omega) = T_{W,S}e^{i\omega\tau_{W,S}}. \quad (\text{B16})$$

The solution to Eqs. (B12) is

$$\hat{\mathbf{e}}(\omega) = \mathbb{D}_e^{-1}(\omega) [\tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega)\hat{\mathbf{a}}(\omega) + 2ik_p r \tilde{\mathbb{R}}(\omega)\mathbb{Q}^\mathsf{T} \mathbb{X} \mathbf{E} x(\Omega)], \quad (\text{B17a})$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{f}}(\omega) = \mathbb{M} \mathbb{D}_e^{-1}(\omega) [\tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega)\hat{\mathbf{a}}(\omega) + 2ik_p r \mathbb{Q}^\dagger \mathbb{M}^\dagger \mathbb{X} \mathbf{E} x(\Omega)], \quad (\text{B17b})$$

where

$$\mathbb{D}_e^{-1}(\omega) = \frac{\mathbb{Q} - \mathbb{M}^\dagger \mathbb{Q}^* \tilde{\mathbb{R}}(\omega)}{D(\omega)}, \quad (\text{B18})$$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{R}}(\omega) = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{R}_S(\omega) & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{R}_W(\omega) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B19})$$

$$D(\Omega) = \det \mathbb{D}_e(\omega). \quad (\text{B20})$$

Then, it follows from Eqs. (B4a, B4b, B17b), that:

$$\hat{\mathbf{b}}(\omega) = -\mathbb{R}\hat{\mathbf{a}}(\omega) + \tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega)\mathbb{Q}^\mathsf{T}\hat{\mathbf{f}}(\omega), \quad (\text{B21})$$

which gives Eq. (13) with

$$\mathbb{R}_{\text{ifo}}(\omega) = -\mathbb{R} + \frac{\tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega) [\mathbb{Q}^\mathsf{T} \mathbb{M} \mathbb{Q} - \tilde{\mathbb{R}}(\omega)] \tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega)}{D(\omega)}, \quad (\text{B22})$$

$$\mathbb{G}(\Omega) = \frac{2r}{D^*(\Omega)} \mathbb{T}^\dagger(\Omega) [\mathbb{Q}^\dagger \mathbb{M}^\dagger - \tilde{\mathbb{R}}^\dagger(\Omega) \mathbb{Q}^\mathsf{T}] \mathbb{X}. \quad (\text{B23})$$

The classical amplitudes vector \mathbf{E} can be obtained from Eq. (B17a) by setting there $\omega = \omega_p$ and $x = 0$:

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbb{D}_e^{-1}(\omega_p) \tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega_p) \mathbf{A}. \quad (\text{B24})$$

Appendix C: Radiation pressure force

The A.C. optical force acting on the membrane is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{F}(\Omega) &= \hbar k_p [\mathbf{E}_N^* \hat{\mathbf{e}}_N(\omega_p + \Omega) + \mathbf{F}_N^* \hat{\mathbf{f}}_N(\omega_p + \Omega) \\ &\quad - \mathbf{E}_E^* \hat{\mathbf{e}}_E(\omega_p + \Omega) - \mathbf{F}_E^* \hat{\mathbf{f}}_E(\omega_p + \Omega)] + \text{C.C.} \\ &= \hbar k_p [\mathbf{E}^\dagger \mathbb{X} \hat{\mathbf{e}}(\omega_p + \Omega) + \mathbf{F}^\dagger \mathbb{X} \hat{\mathbf{f}}(\omega_p + \Omega)] + \text{C.C.}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C1})$$

where

$$\forall f(\omega) : f(\Omega) + \text{C.C.} = f(\Omega) + f^\dagger(-\Omega) \quad (\text{C2})$$

and the dagger means the Hermitian conjugation both for matrices and quantum operators.

It follows from Eq. (B4e), that

$$\hat{F}(\Omega) = \hat{F}_1(\Omega) - K_2(\Omega)x(\Omega), \quad (\text{C3})$$

where

$$\hat{F}_1(\Omega) = 2\hbar k_p r \mathbf{E}^\dagger \mathbb{X} \mathbb{M} \hat{\mathbf{e}}(\Omega) \quad (\text{C4})$$

and

$$K_2(\Omega) = \hbar k_p^2 \mathbf{E}^\dagger \mathbb{K}_2(\Omega) \mathbf{E}, \quad (\text{C5a})$$

$$\mathbb{K}_2(\Omega) = -2ir\mathbb{M}^\dagger + \text{C.C.} = -4rt\mathbb{Z} \quad (\text{C5b})$$

is the part of the optical rigidity created by electrostatic attraction of the membrane into the standing wave antinode.

Then, using Eq. (B17), we obtain, that:

$$\hat{F}_1(\Omega) = \hat{F}_\Pi(\Omega) - K_1(\Omega)x(\Omega), \quad (\text{C6})$$

where \hat{F}_Π is the stochastic force described by Eq. (17), with

$$\mathbb{F}(\Omega) = \frac{2r}{D(\Omega)} \mathbb{X} [\mathbb{M} \mathbb{Q} - \mathbb{Q}^* \tilde{\mathbb{R}}(\omega)] \tilde{\mathbb{T}}(\omega), \quad (\text{C7})$$

and

$$K_1(\Omega) = \hbar k_p^2 \mathbf{E}^\dagger \mathbb{K}_1(\Omega) \mathbf{E}, \quad (\text{C8a})$$

$$\mathbb{K}_1(\Omega) = -\frac{4ir^2}{D(\Omega)} \mathbb{X} [\mathbb{M} \mathbb{Q} \tilde{\mathbb{R}}(\omega) \mathbb{Q}^\mathsf{T} - \tilde{R}_W(\omega) \tilde{R}_S(\omega) \mathbb{I}] \mathbb{X} + \text{C.C.} \quad (\text{C8b})$$

is the part of the optical rigidity created by the modulation of the intracavity optical field by the membrane motion, that is the optical spring proper.

Correspondingly, the total optical rigidity

$$K(\Omega) = K_1(\Omega) + K_2(\Omega) \quad (\text{C9})$$

is equal to (18), with

$$\mathbb{K}(\Omega) = \mathbb{K}_1(\Omega) + \mathbb{K}_2(\Omega). \quad (\text{C10})$$

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