

# The Compute and Control for Adaptive Optics (cacao) real-time control software package

Arnaud Sevin,  
Julien Bernard,  
Damien Gradatour

Observatoire de Paris,  
(France)

**Software engineering & development**  
**Integration with COMPASS simulation environment, RT hardware (GPU, FPGA) and RT processes management/monitoring**



**SCExAO** **Subaru Coronagraphic Extreme Adaptive Optics**

Olivier Guyon, Julien Lozi,  
Nour Skaf

Subaru Telescope / SCExAO  
(US, Japan)

*cacao development and On-sky testing for ExAO applications*

جامعة الملك عبد الله  
للتكنولوجيا

King Abdullah University of  
Science and Technology



Hatem Ltaief & Dalal Sukkari  
KAUST (Saudi Arabia)

**HPC expertise**  
**Develop and provide linear algebra libraries for Machine Learning**



## Users / co-developers

Keck Observatory  
Sylvain Cetre



Kernel project/OCA  
Frantz Martinache



MagAO-X  
Jared Males



Subaru Telescope  
Christophe Clergeon



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

Alison Wong & Barnaby Norris

**Machine learning / AI**  
**Neural Networks**

**Facility-class AO**  
(NGS & LGS)

**Focal plane WFS/C**

**Extreme-AO**

**Facility-class AO**  
(NGS & LGS)

# cacao's goals

## **Support today & tomorrow's off-the-shelf powerful computing hardware**

- manycore systems (CPU, GPU) and FPGAs
- high performance computing engine to requirements of large scale AO systems

## **Support and enable advanced AO systems and algorithms**

- flexible modular software architecture
- scalable solution
- built-in (and growing) machine learning support for predictive control, sensor fusion
- facilitates asynchronous links between sensors and loops
- full speed telemetry to disk for post-processing

**Foreseen applications : Extreme-AO, MCAO, Tomographic AO ...**

## **Community effort, fully open-source**

- no proprietary / closed source roadblocks
- enables easy/quick implementation of new algorithms
- adopts standard data stream format

## **Easy to adopt and use: short path from ideas to real-time implementation**

- abstract away / hide HPC complexity
- manage challenging real-time timing constraints for the user
- provide high-level GPU/CPU configuration

# Current Status

## **Provides low-latency to run control loops**

- Use mixed CPU & GPU resources, configured to RTC computer system
- On SCExAO, control matrix is 14,000 x 2000. Matrix-vector computed in ~100us using 15% of RTC resources @ 3kHz

## **Portable, open source, modular, COTS hardware**

- No closed-source driver
- std Linux install (no need for real-time OS)
- using NVIDIA GPUs, also working on FPGA use
- All code on github: <https://github.com/cacao-org/cacao>

## **Easy for collaborators to improve/add processes**

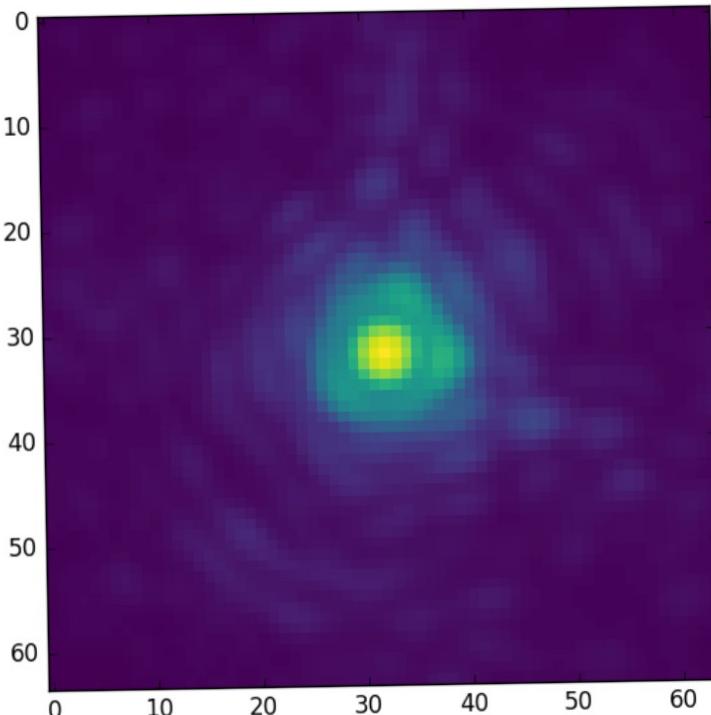
- Hooks to data streams in Python or C
- Template code, easy to adapt and implement new algorithms
- Provide abstraction of link between loops
- Toolkit includes viewers, data logger, low-latency TCP transfer of streams

# cacao RTC: current status & on-sky performance for ExAO

Supports high frame rate conventional ExAO operation

*SCEExAO: 1200 modes corrected at 3.5 kHz  
(input: 120x120 Pyramid image,  
output: 2000 actuator DM)*

On-sky visible image (750nm), log scale (VAMPIRES)



Supports advanced operation modes for enhanced science performance ... Why ?

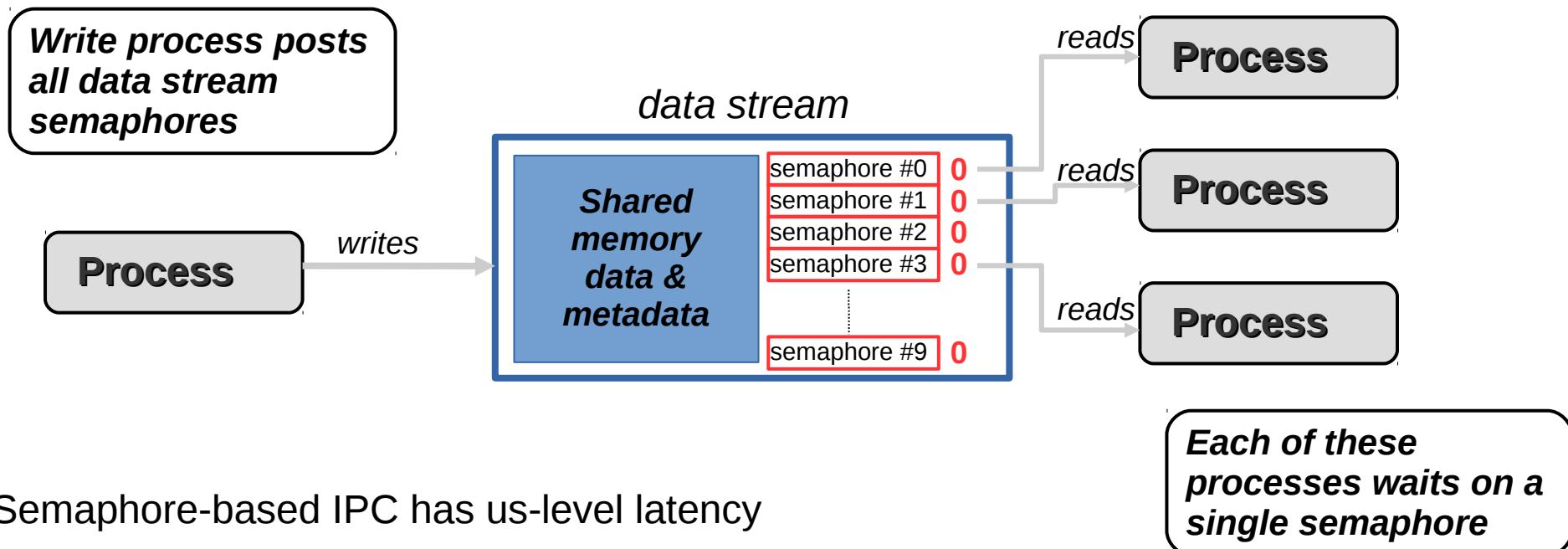
Mixed CPU/GPU solution provides ample computing power and also supports advanced operation modes:

- **Model-free predictive control** using machine learning approach → **deeper contrast, fainter stars**
- **On-sky response matrix acquisition** while loop is running (<2 sec to acquire 2000-mode response matrix) → improved calibration → **higher performance control**
- **Real-time links between control loops, sensor fusion** → **speckle control, low-order modes correction**

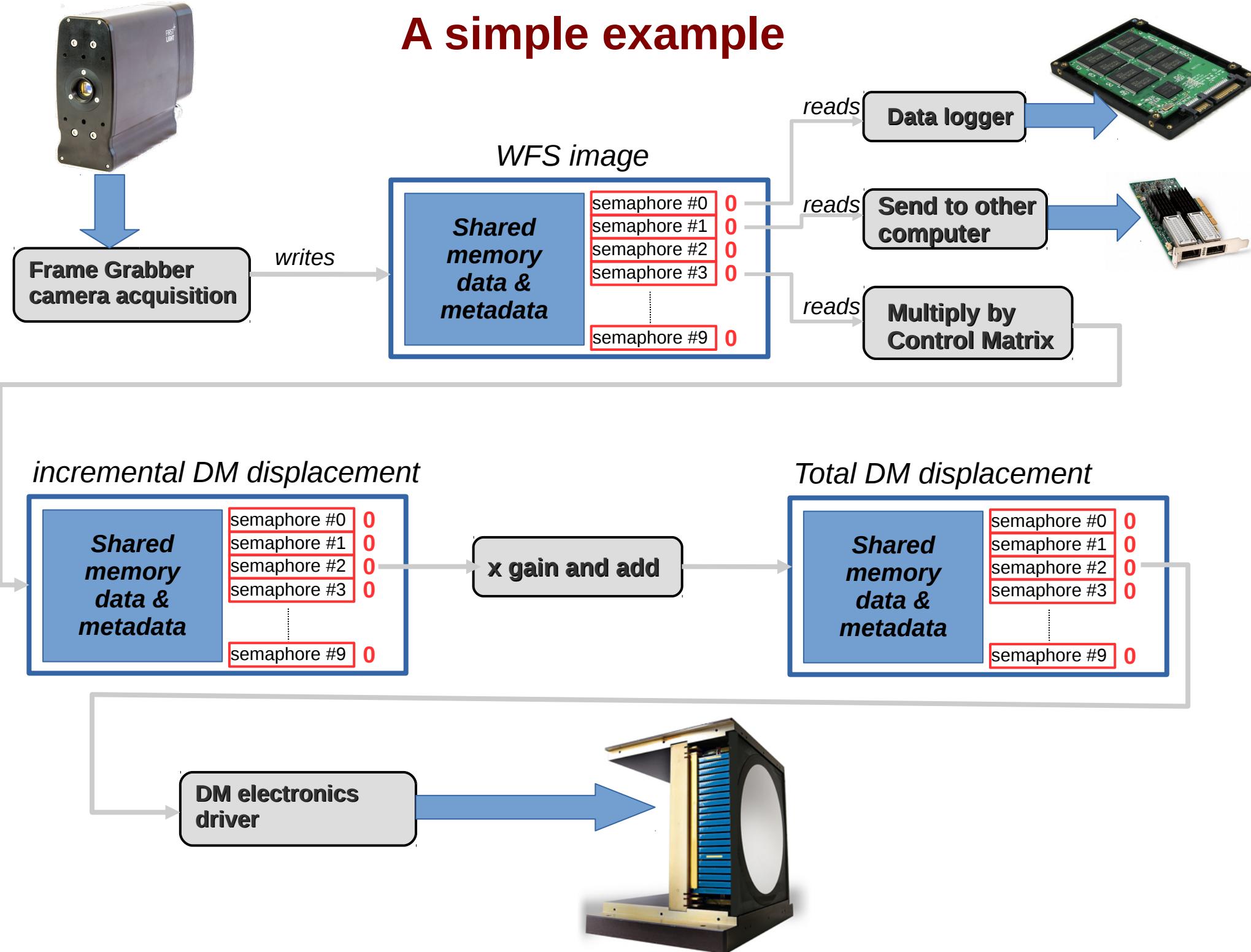
# Main Guiding Principle: data owns IPC Processes sign up to semaphores

Build AO control loop as a finite set of CPU-managed processes.  
Processes can manage computations on GPGPU(s)

**Interprocess communication (IPC) is contained in data:** cacao streams are held in shared memory and contain semaphores  
→ Complexities of IPC are handled by compiler and Kernel (semaphores, shared memory)

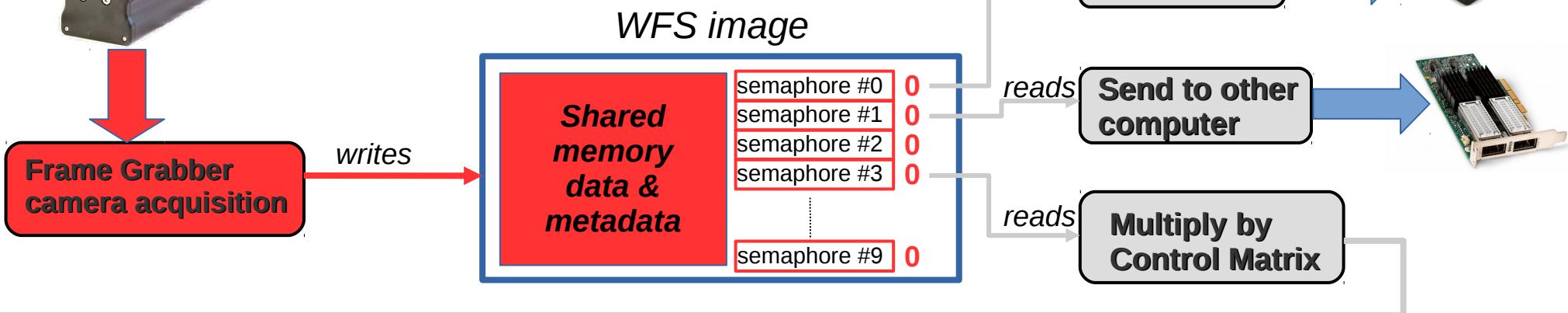


# A simple example

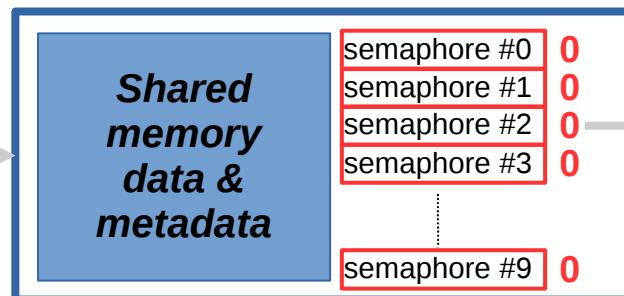




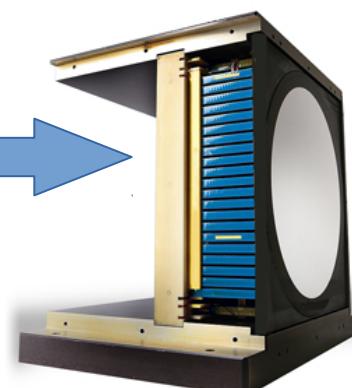
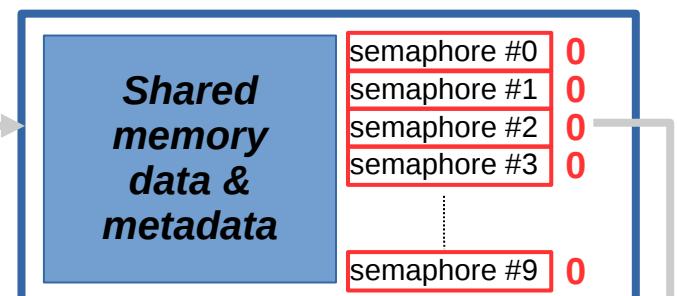
## Cam read



incremental DM displacement

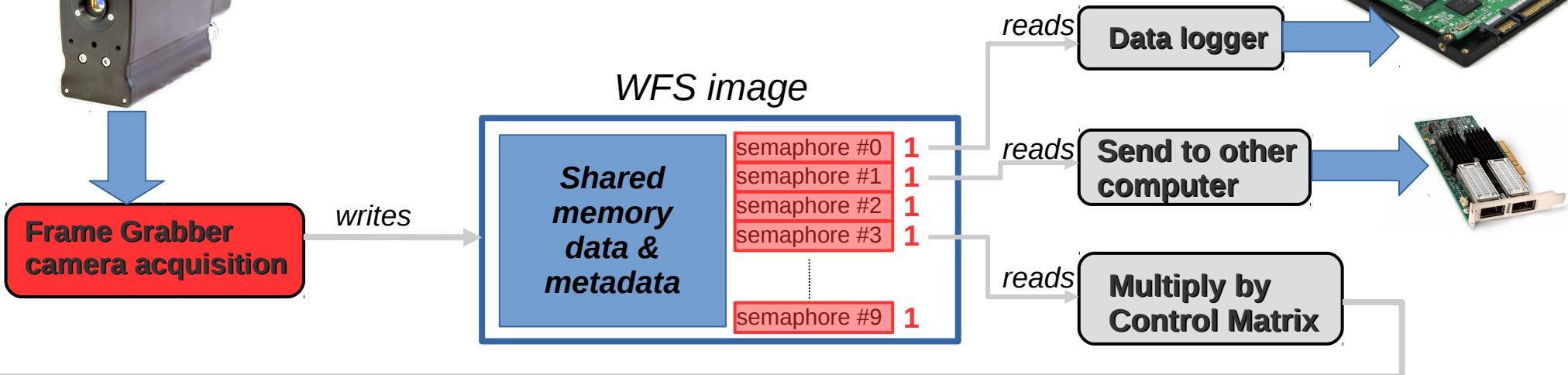


Total DM displacement

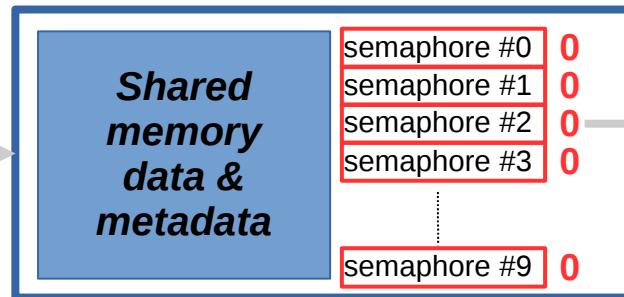




## Process posts semaphores

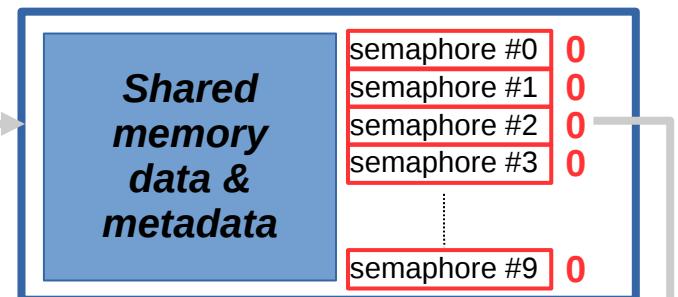


incremental DM displacement

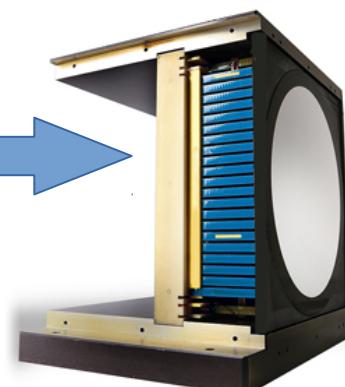


x gain and add

Total DM displacement

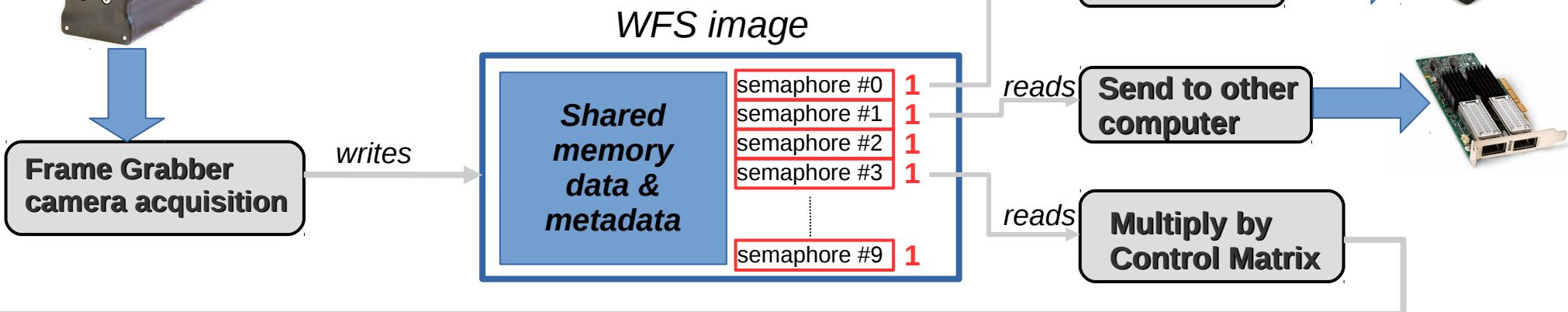


DM electronics driver

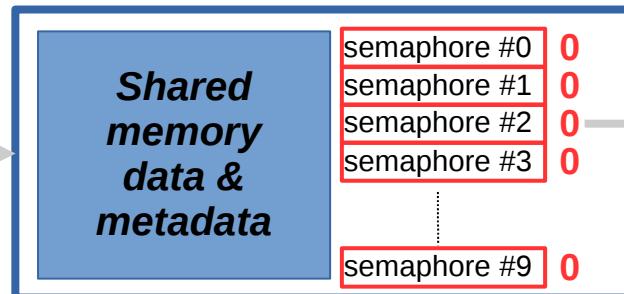




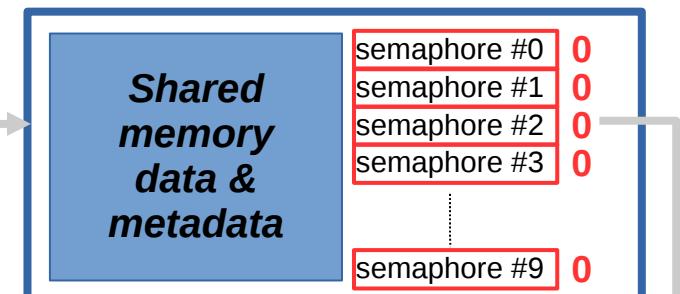
## Semaphores posted



incremental DM displacement

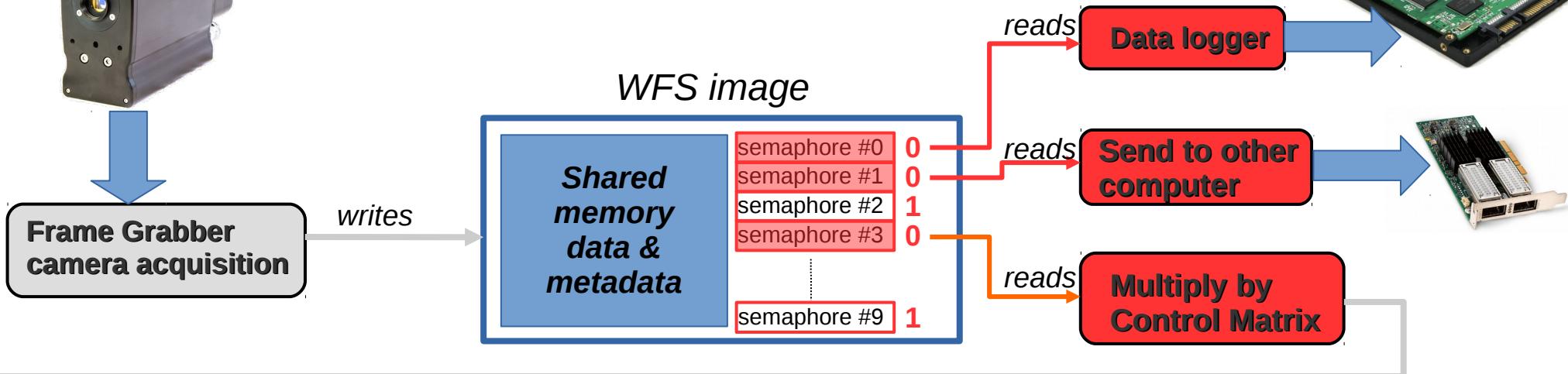


Total DM displacement

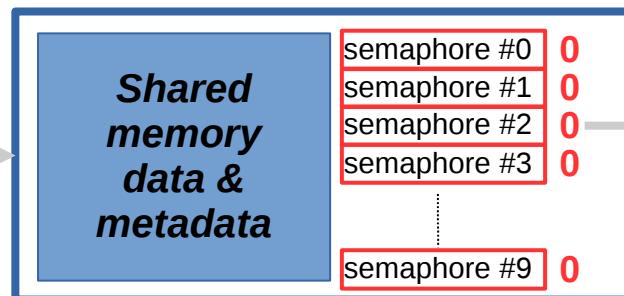




## sem\_wait launches next processes

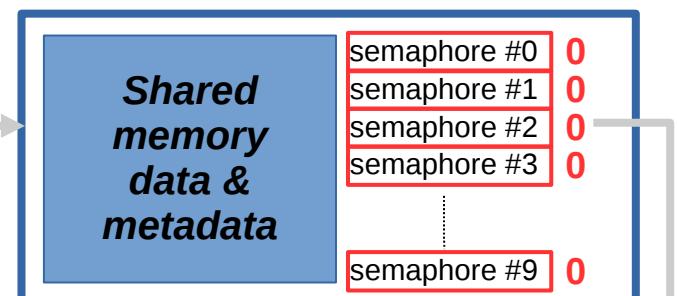


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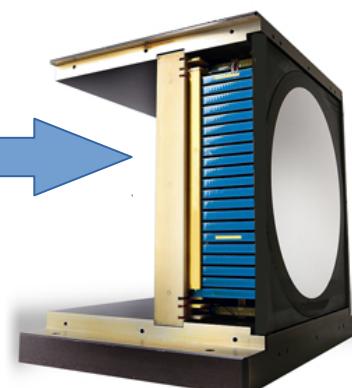


x gain and add

Total DM displacement

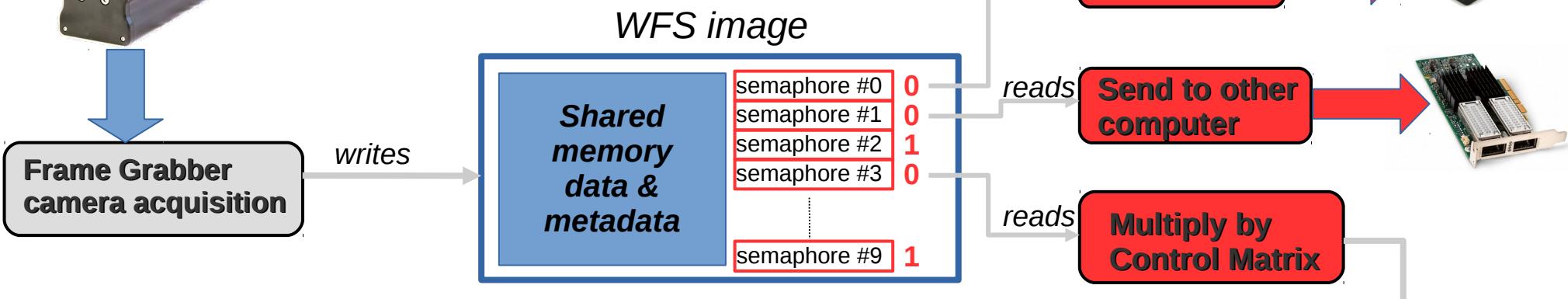


DM electronics driver

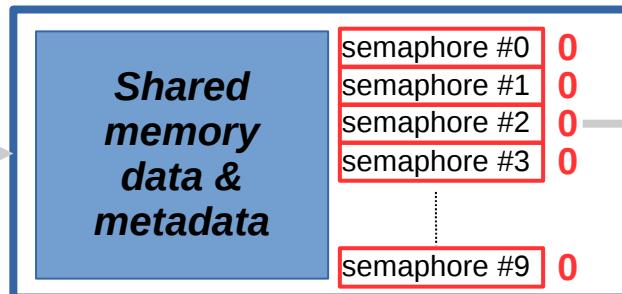




processes run...

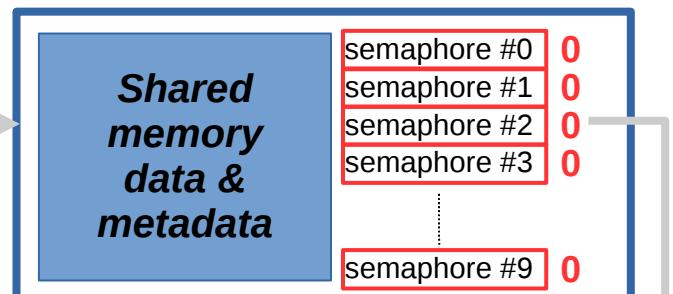


incremental DM displacement



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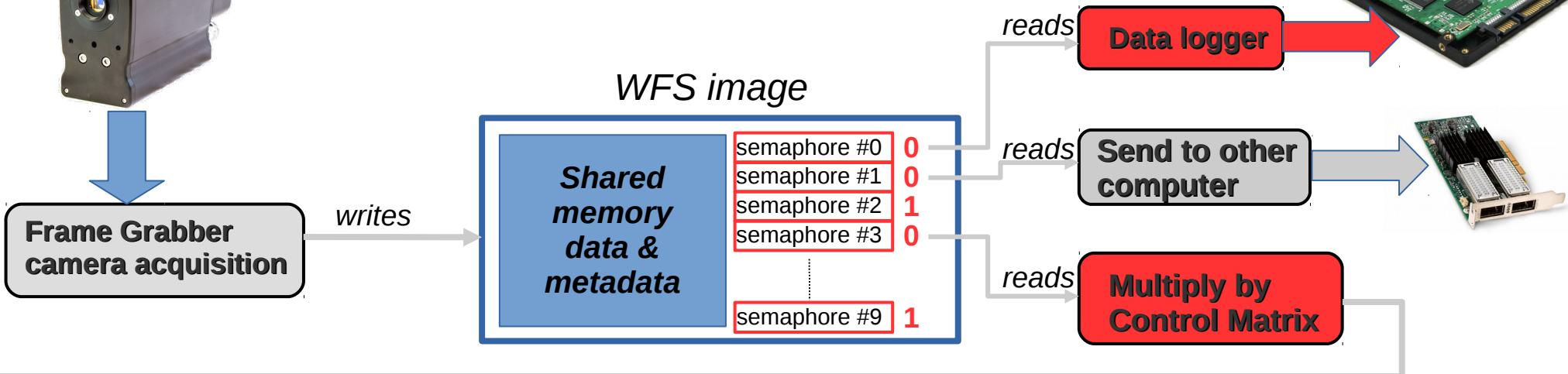


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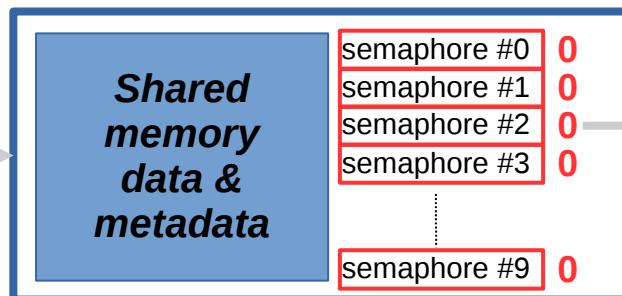




... asynchronously

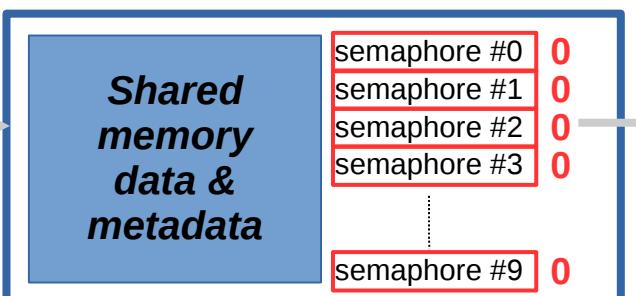


incremental DM displacement

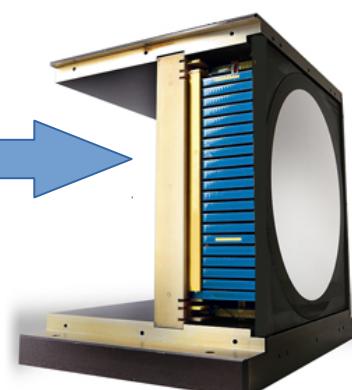


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Total DM displacement



DM electronics driver





Frame Grabber  
camera acquisition

writes

*WFS image*

Shared  
memory  
data &  
metadata

semaphore #0	0
semaphore #1	0
semaphore #2	1
semaphore #3	0
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semaphore #9	1

Data logger

reads

Send to other  
computer

reads

Multiply by  
Control Matrix

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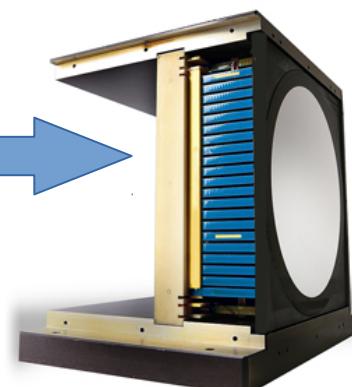
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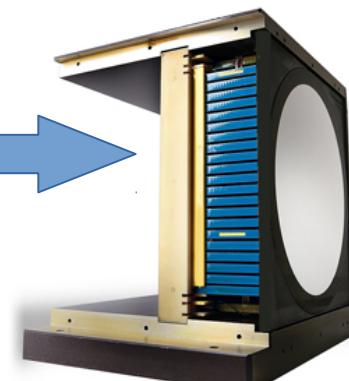
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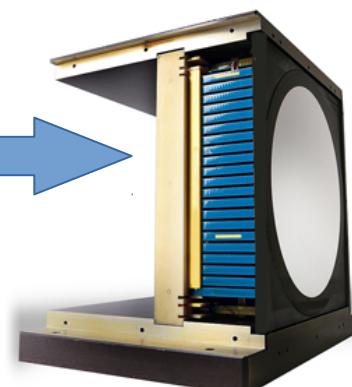
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DM electronics  
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Frame Grabber  
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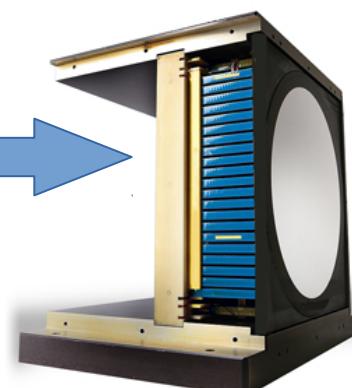
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DM electronics  
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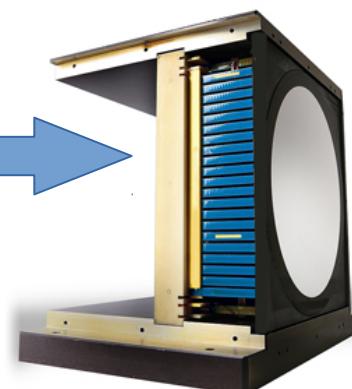
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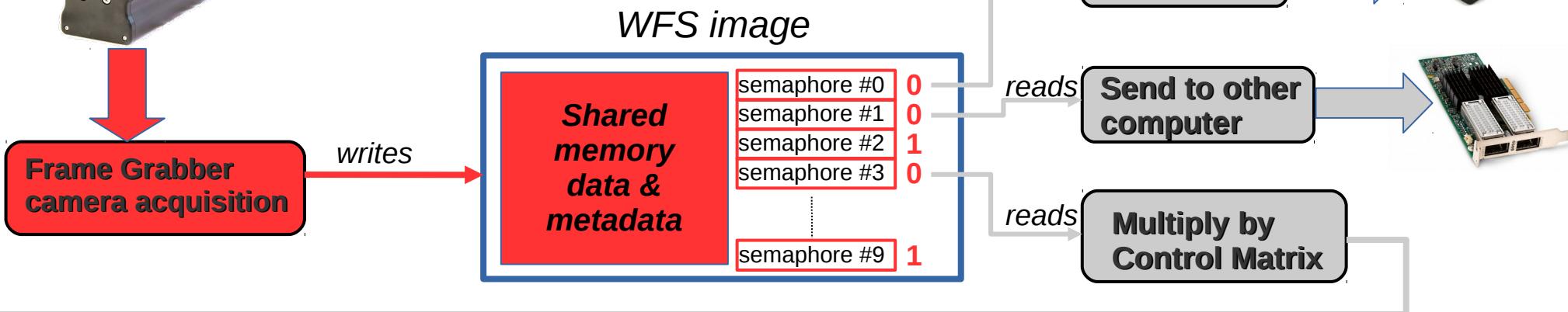
semaphore #0	1
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DM electronics  
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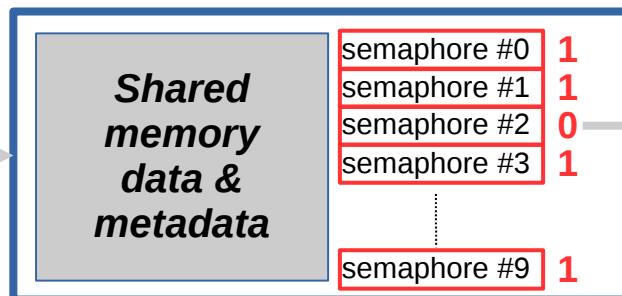




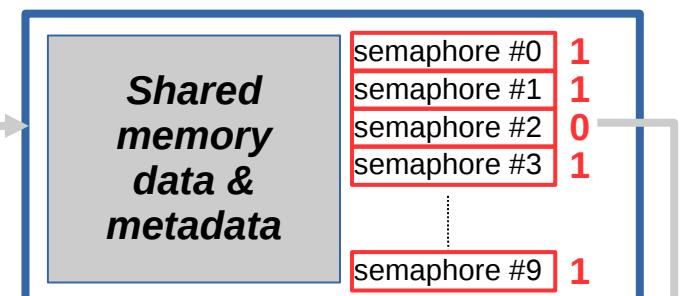
# processes execution can overlap



incremental DM displacement



Total DM displacement



DM electronics driver





Frame Grabber  
camera acquisition

writes

*WFS image*

**Shared  
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semaphore #0	0
semaphore #1	0
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Data logger

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Control Matrix

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incremental DM displacement

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semaphore #9	1

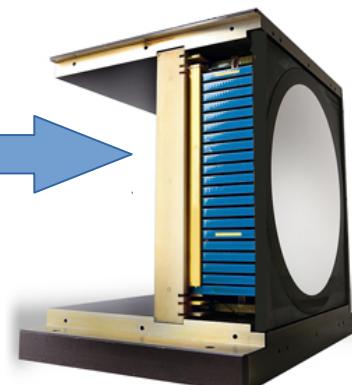
x gain and add

Total DM displacement

**Shared  
memory  
data &  
metadata**

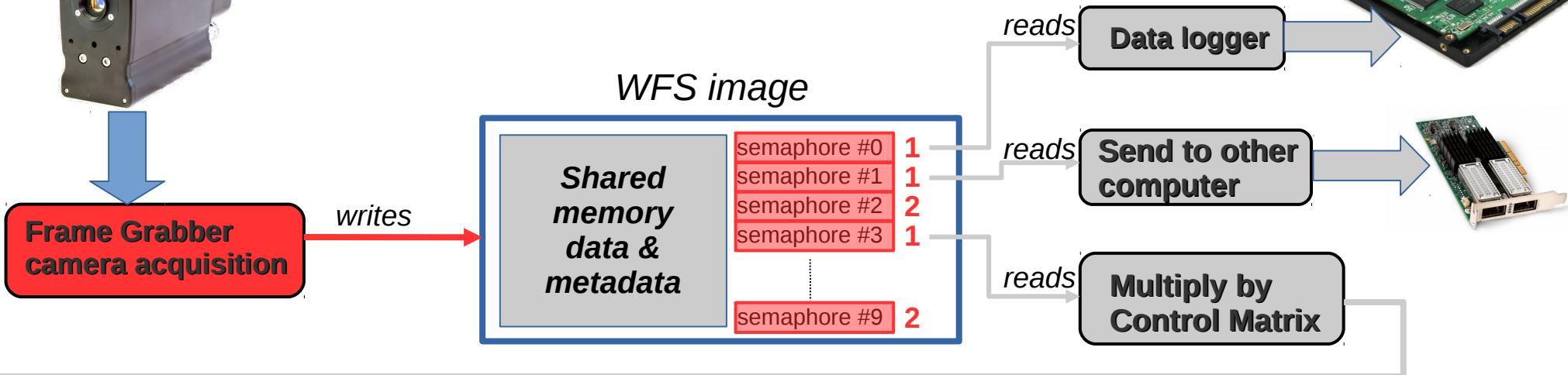
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semaphore #3	1
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semaphore #9	1

DM electronics  
driver

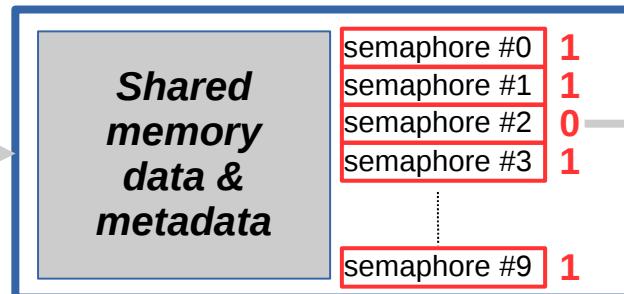




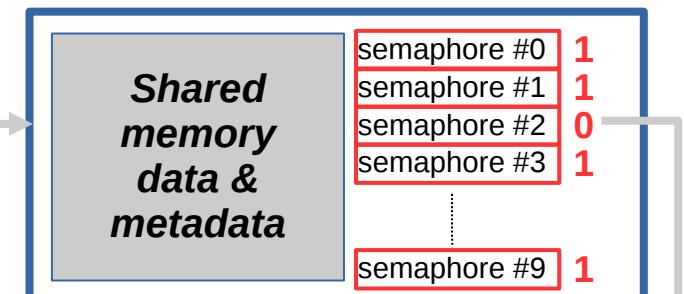
# Unused semaphores go >1



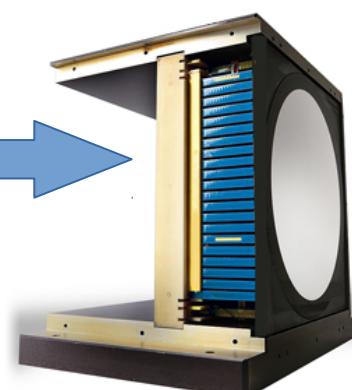
incremental DM displacement

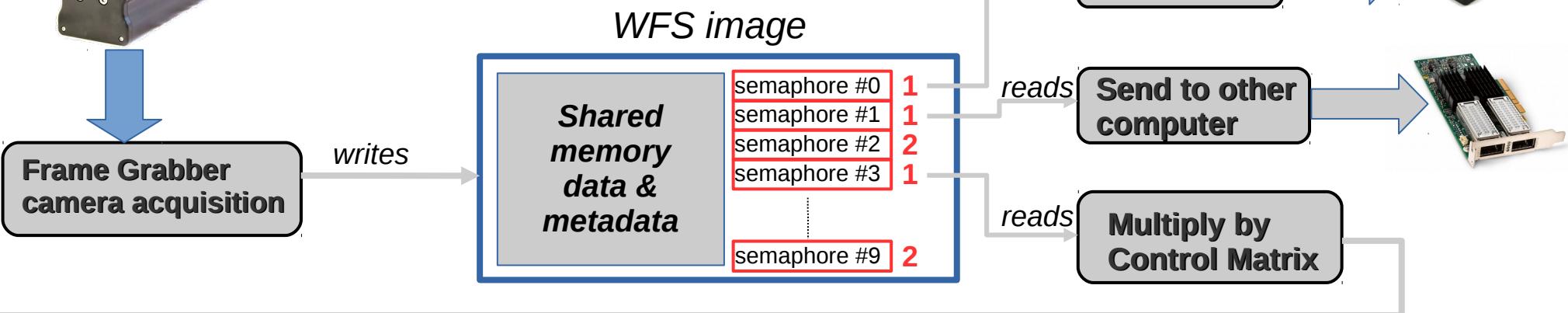


Total DM displacement

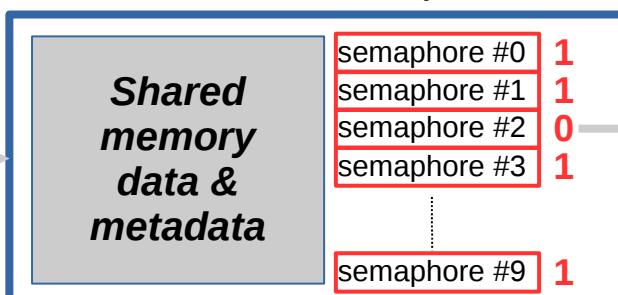


DM electronics driver



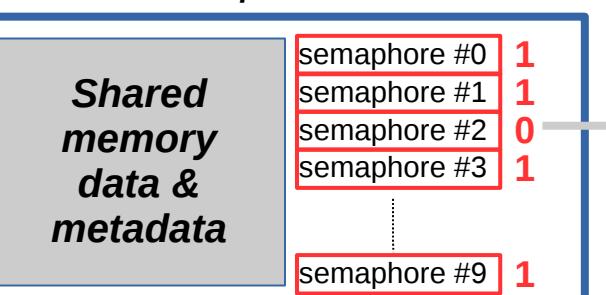


incremental DM displacement

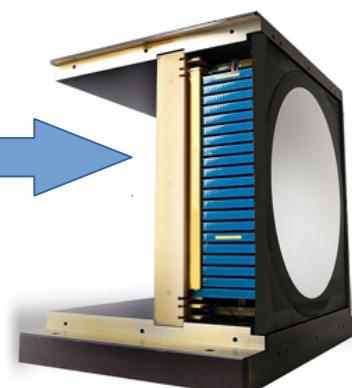


x gain and add

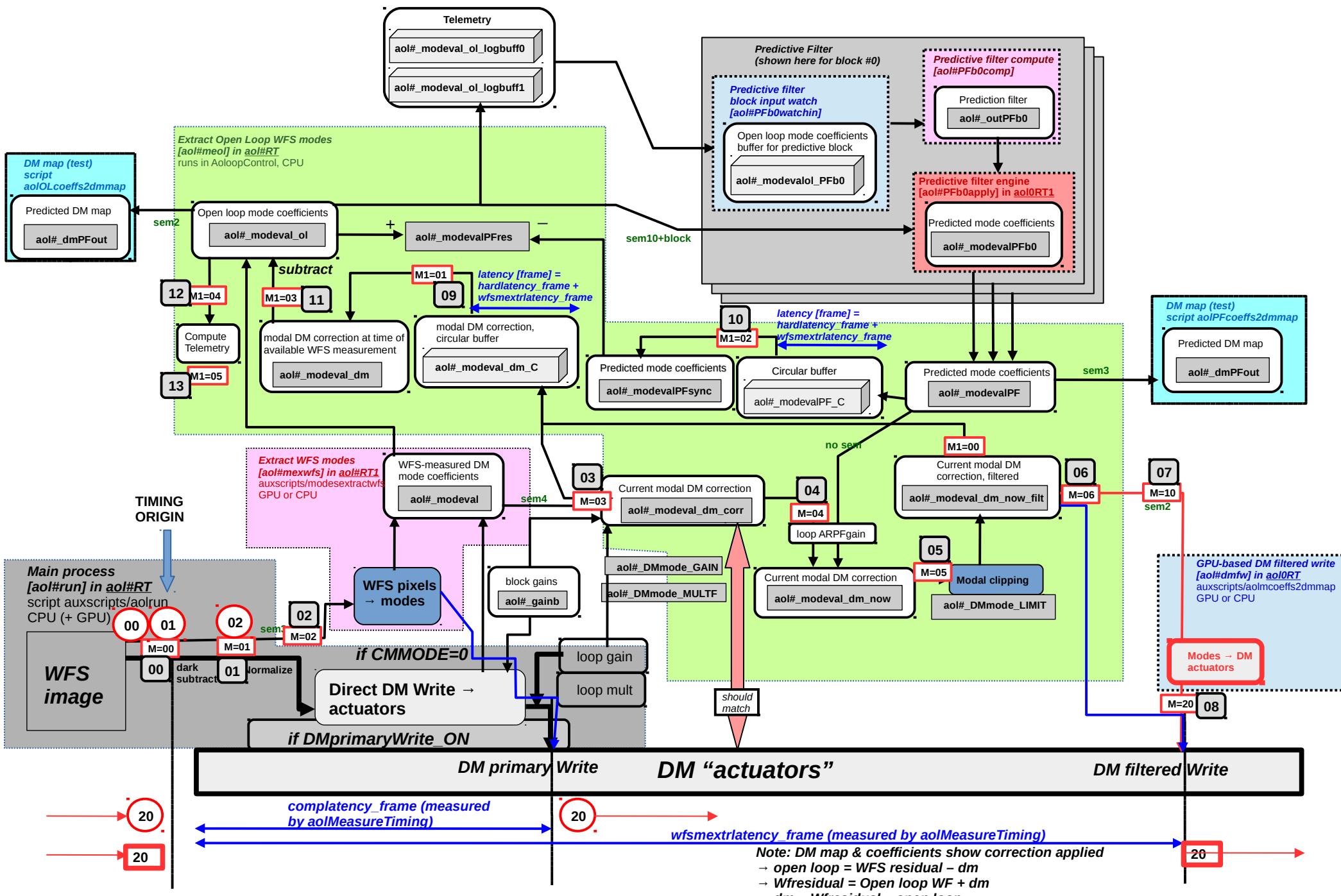
Total DM displacement



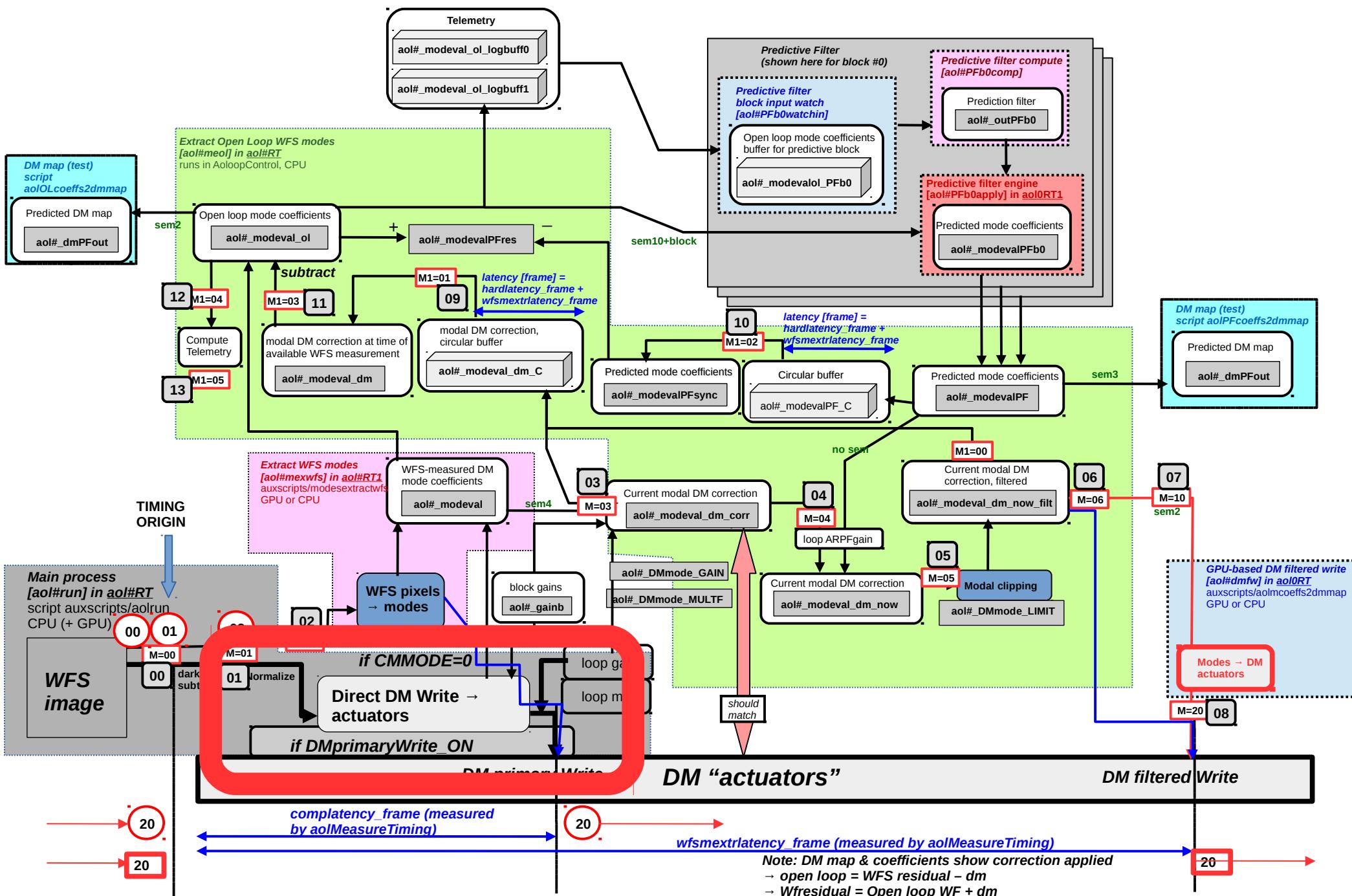
DM electronics driver



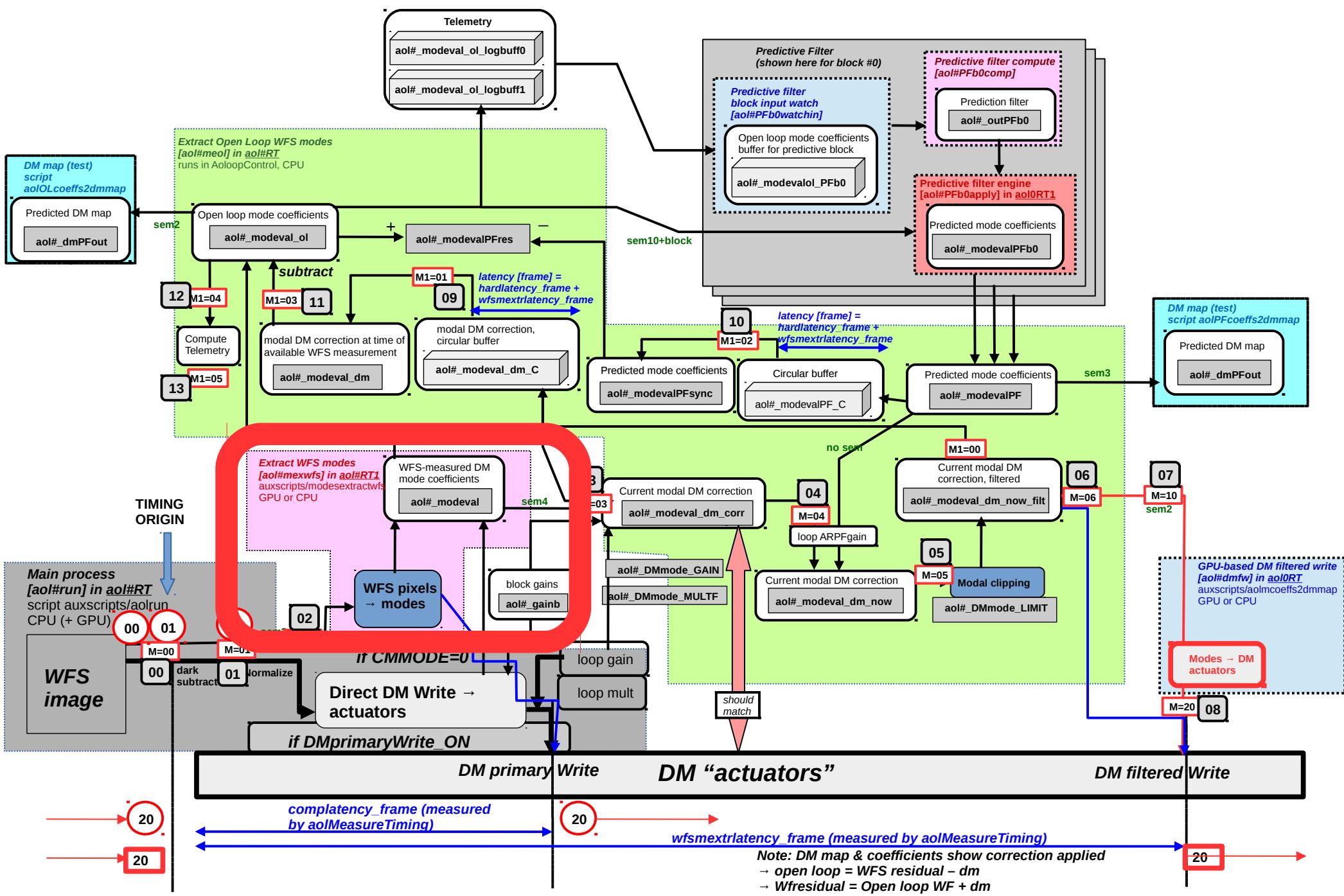
# A more powerful example (SCExAO control loop)



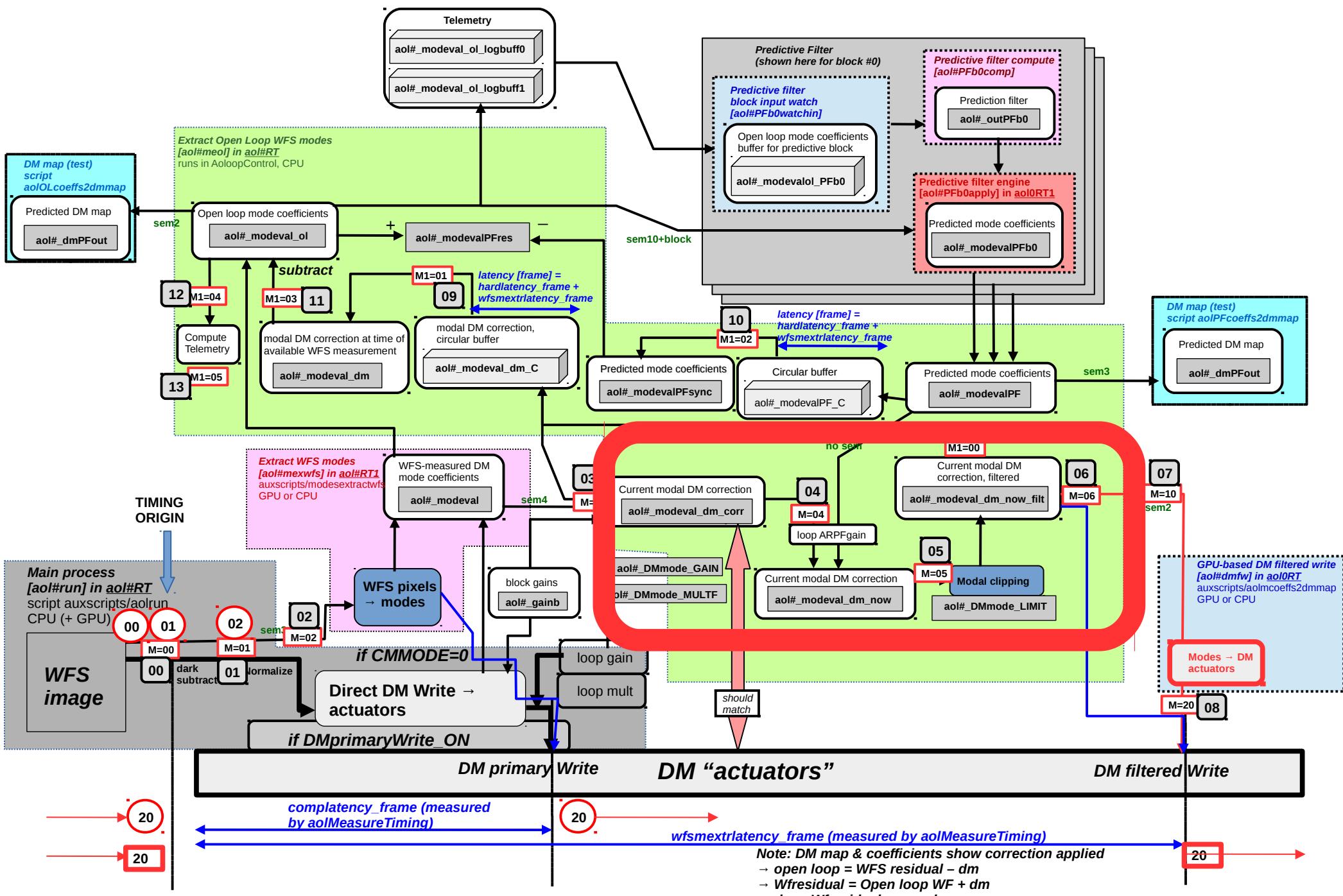
# Fastest way to write on DM is to multiply WFS image by control matrix → DM actuators



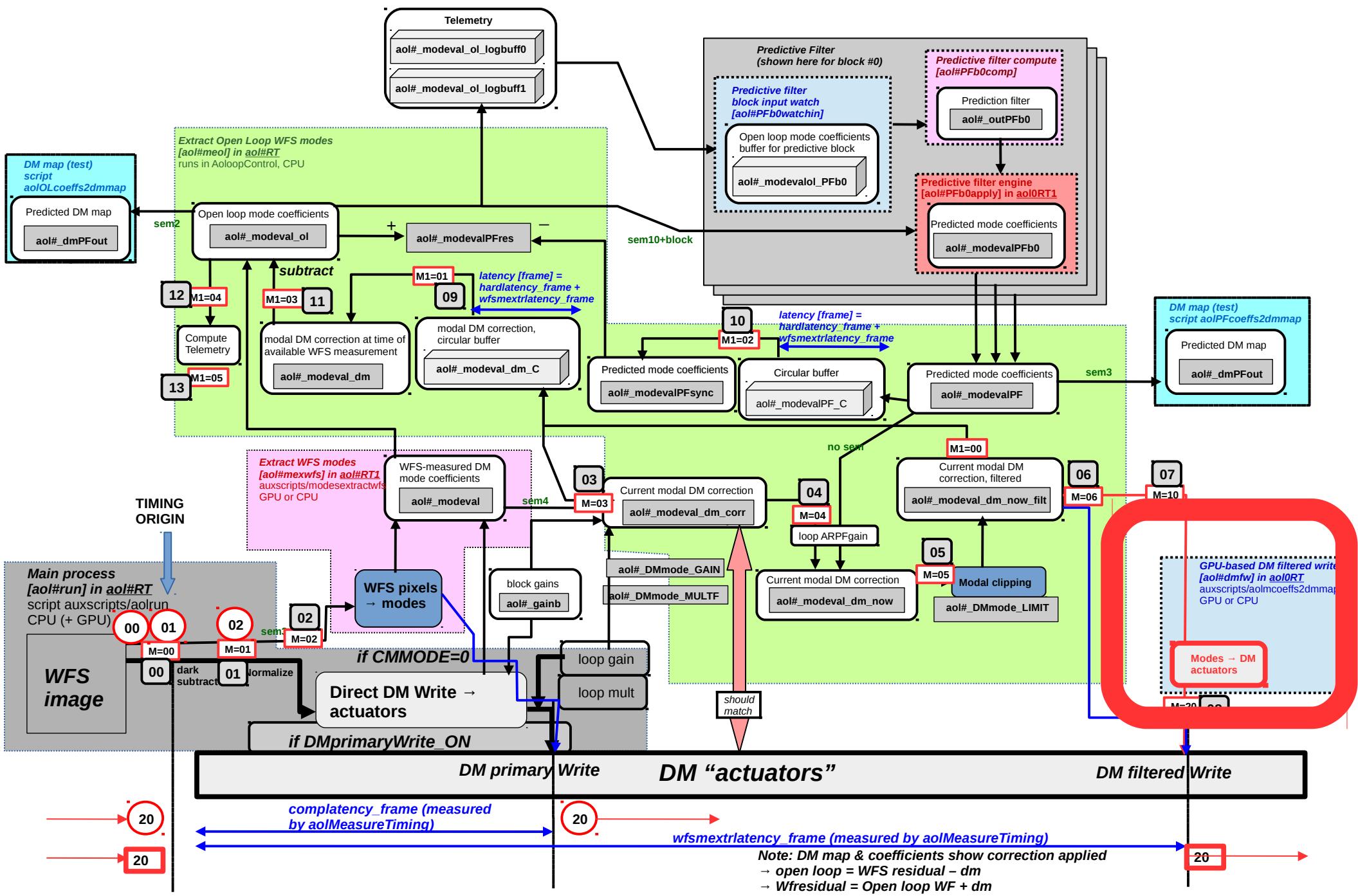
# Modal reconstruction: compute WF modes from WFS image (usually GPU-based)



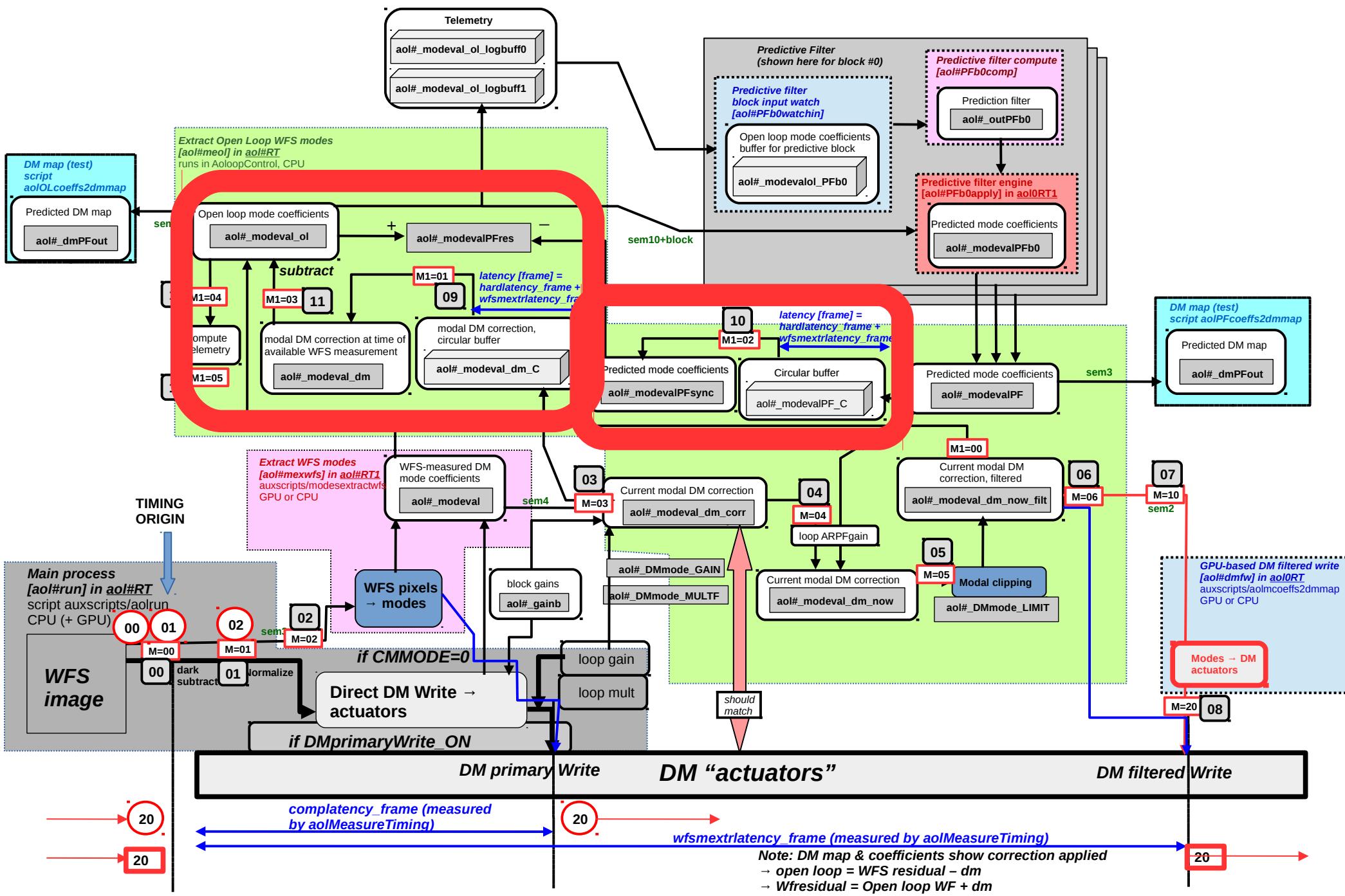
# Modal filtering



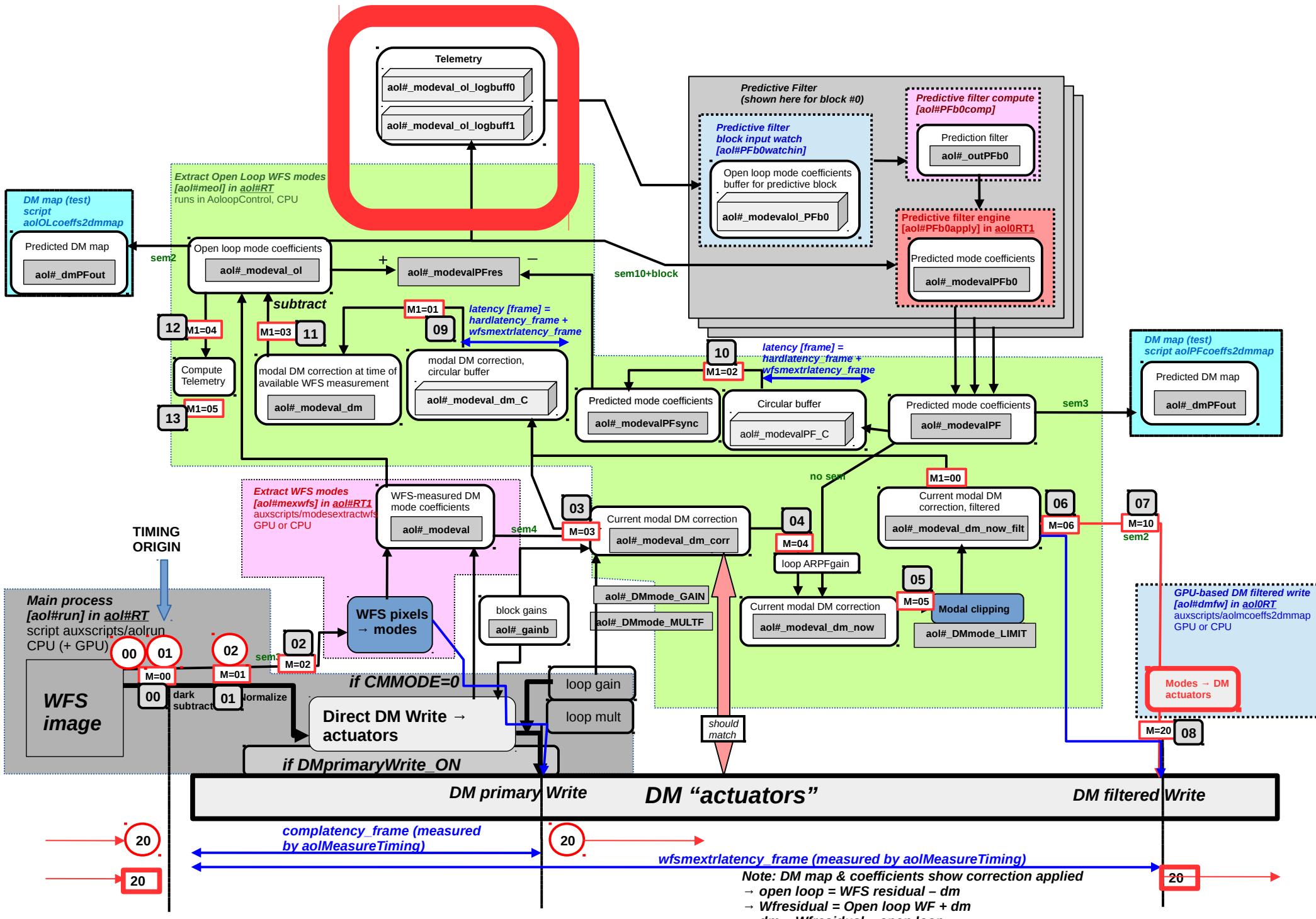
# Modes → DM actuators (MVM operation)



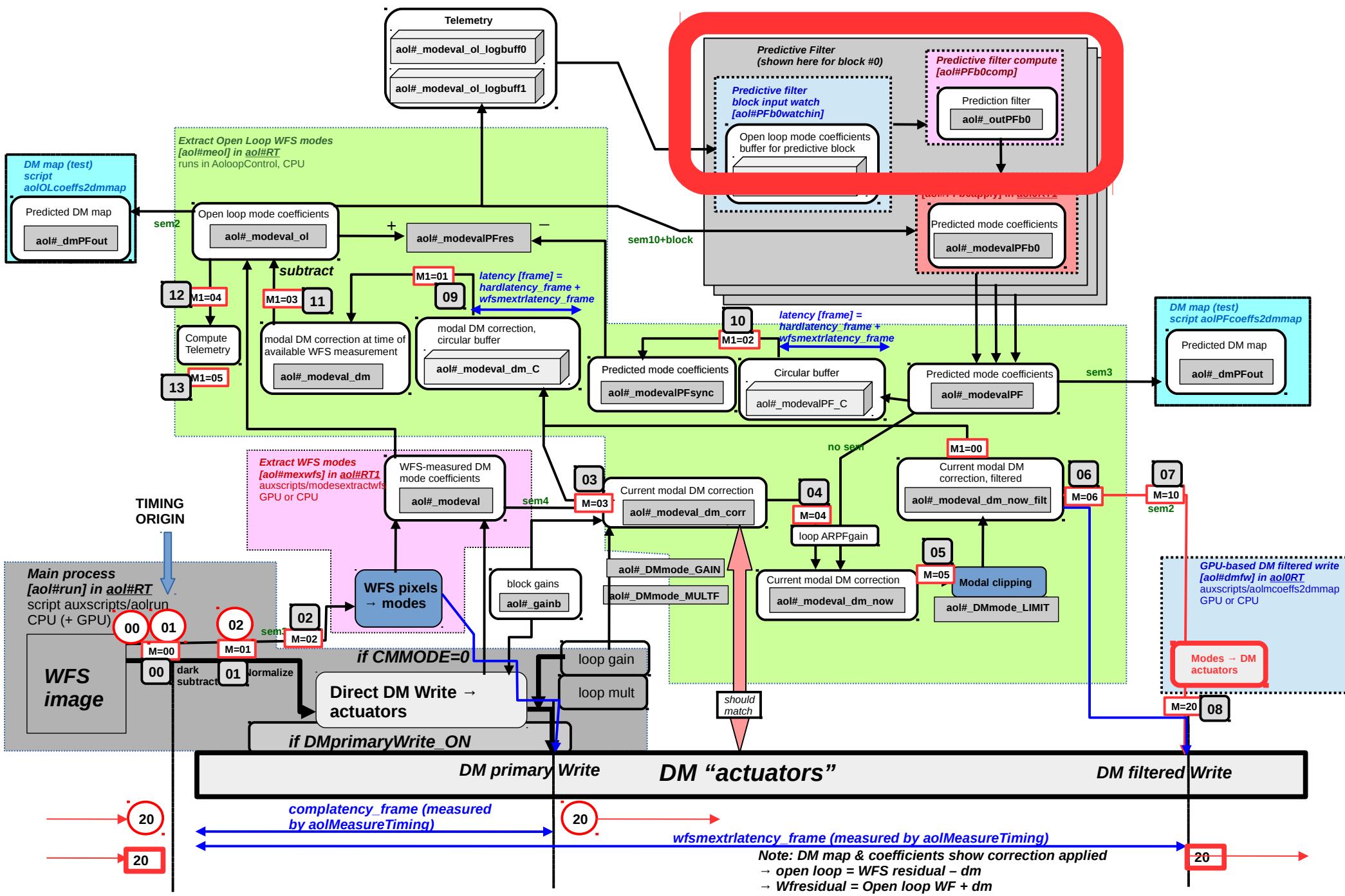
# Modal pseudo-open loop reconstruction



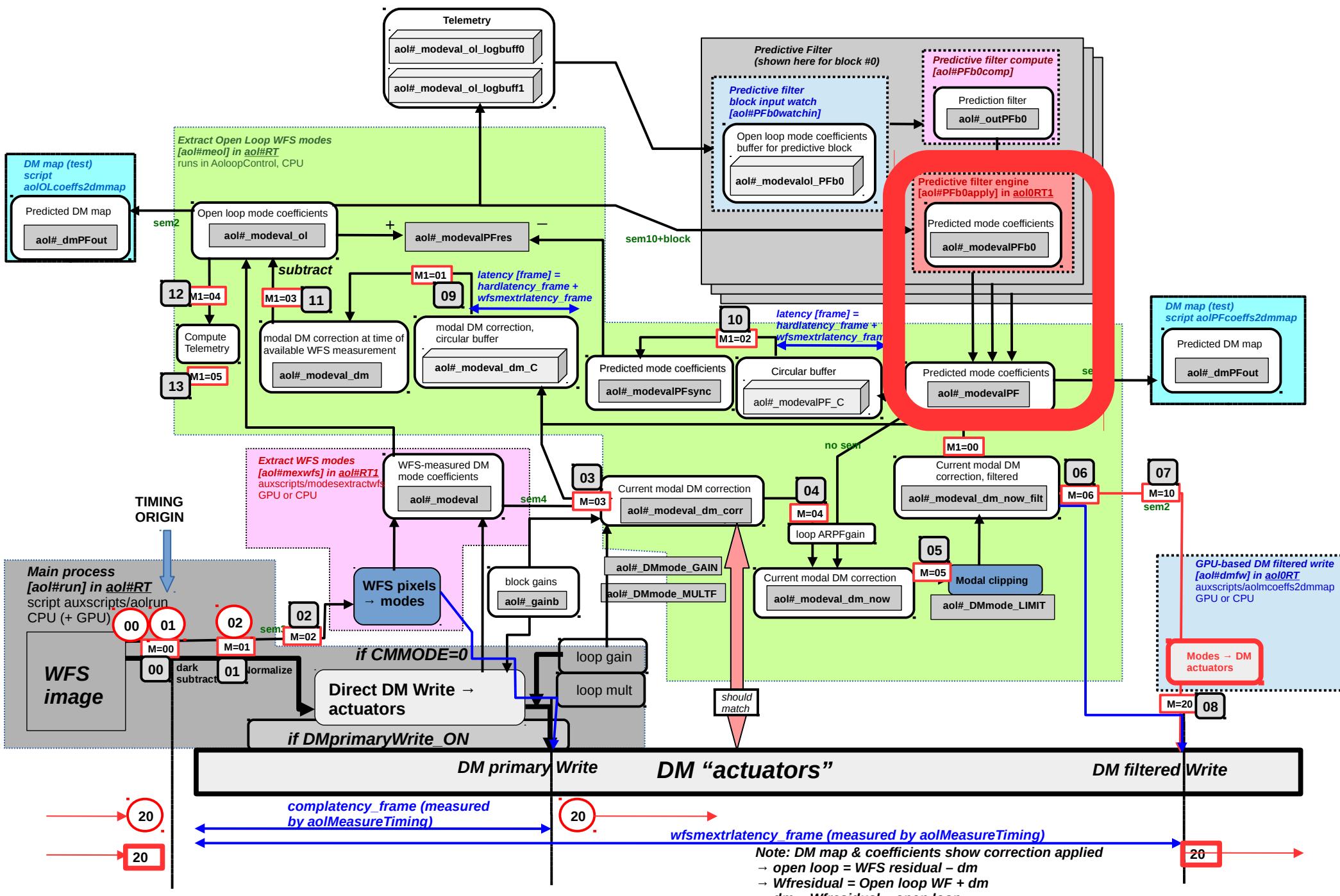
# Write modal telemetry buffers



# Compute Predictive Filter (soft real-time)



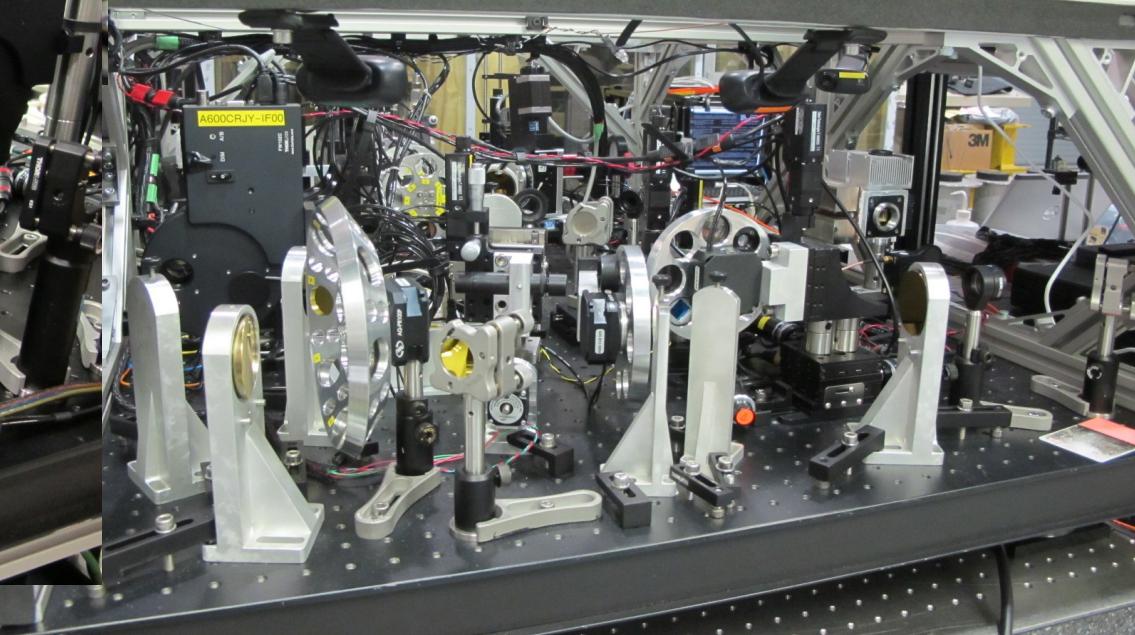
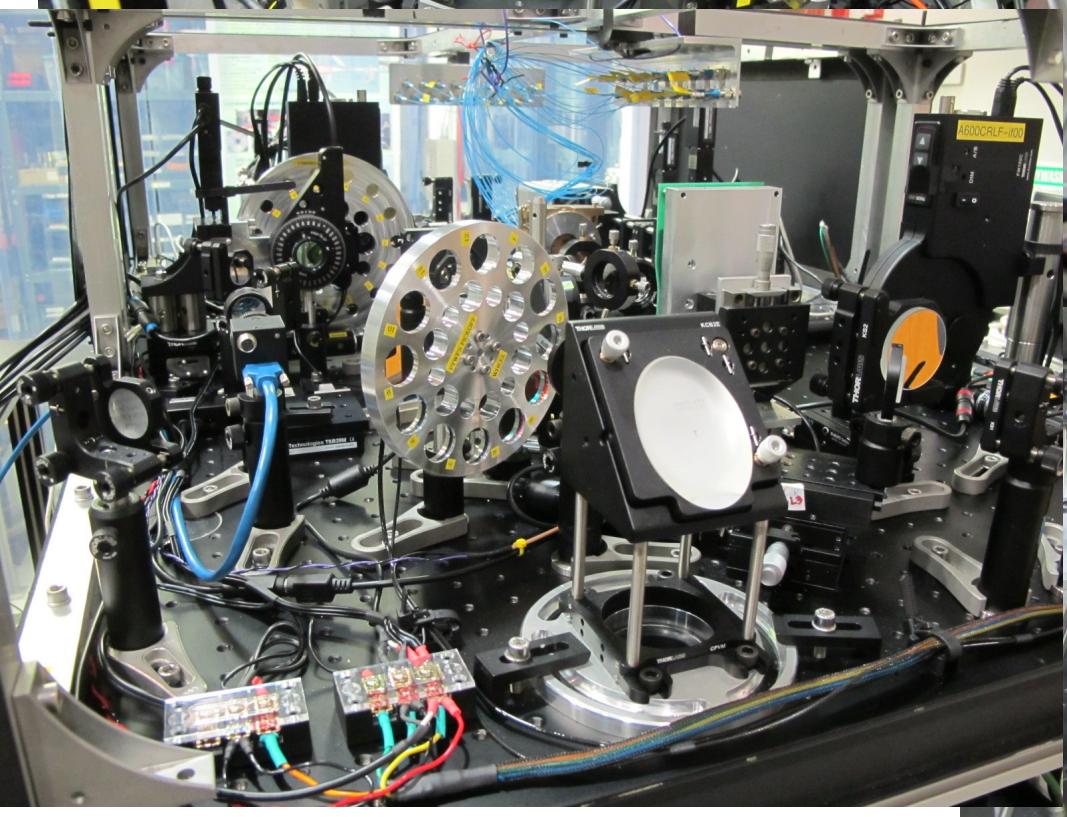
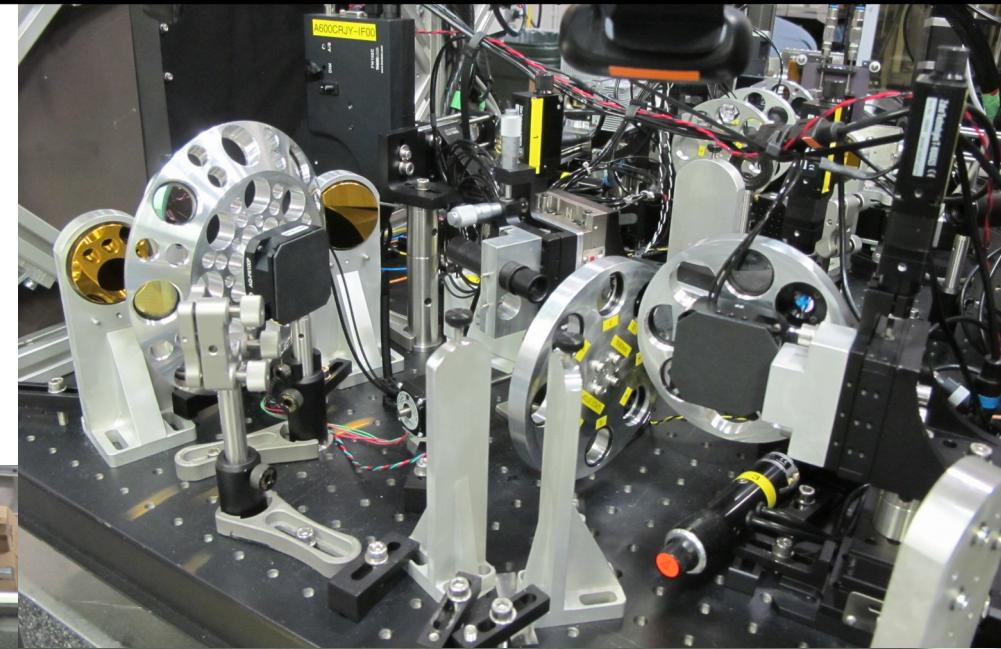
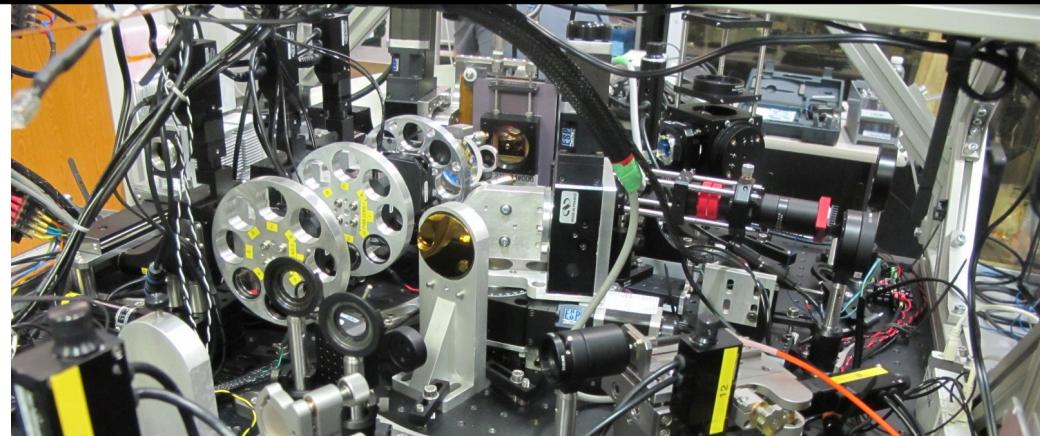
# Apply Predictive Filter



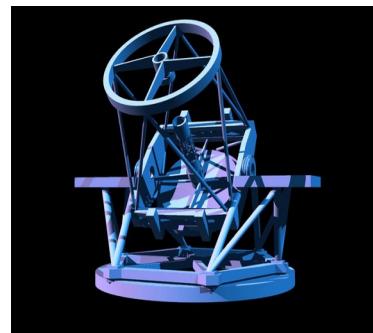
# **Linking loops / handling multiple WFSs and DMs**



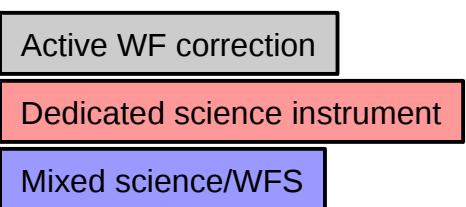
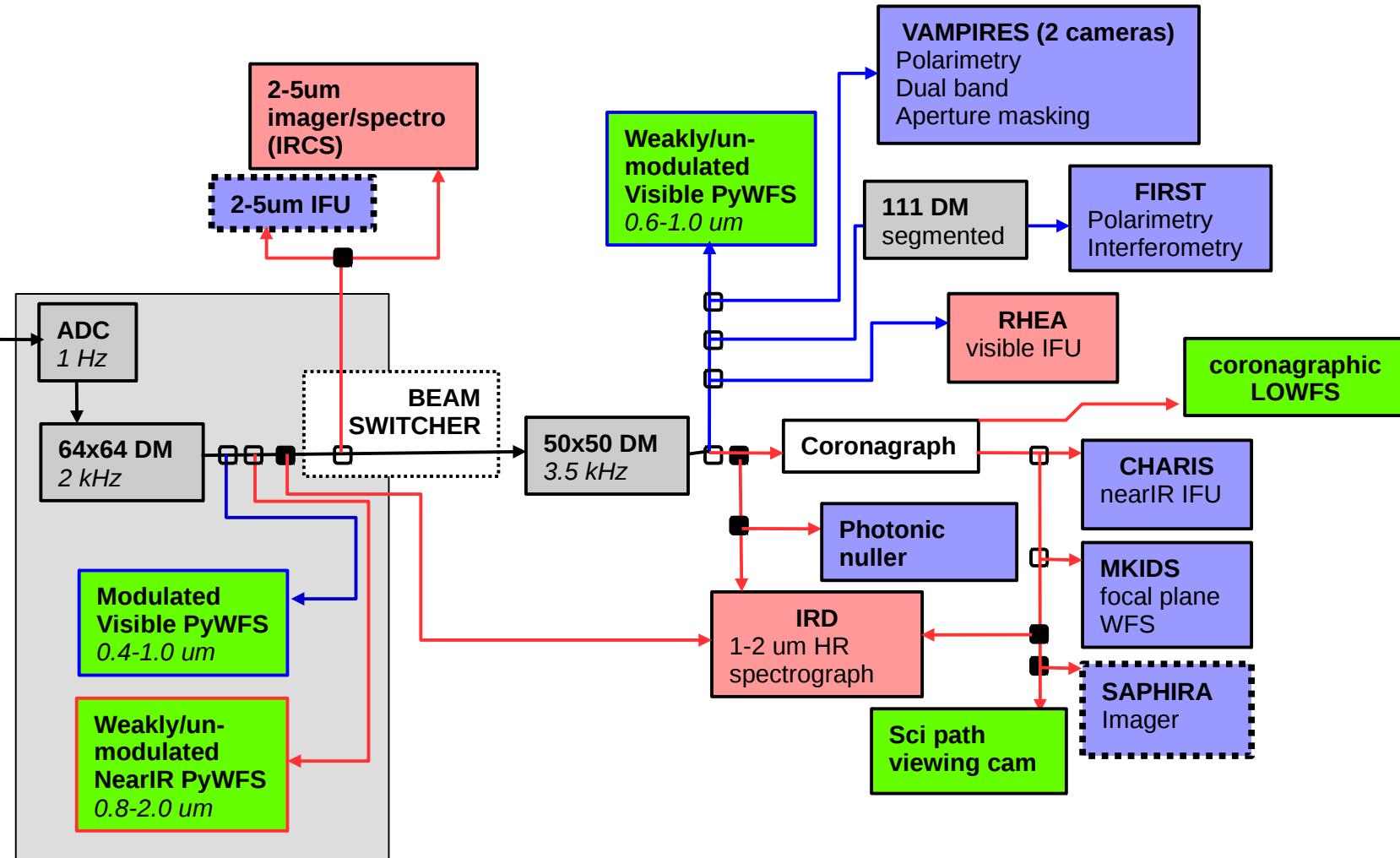
# Subaru Coronagraphic Extreme Adaptive Optics



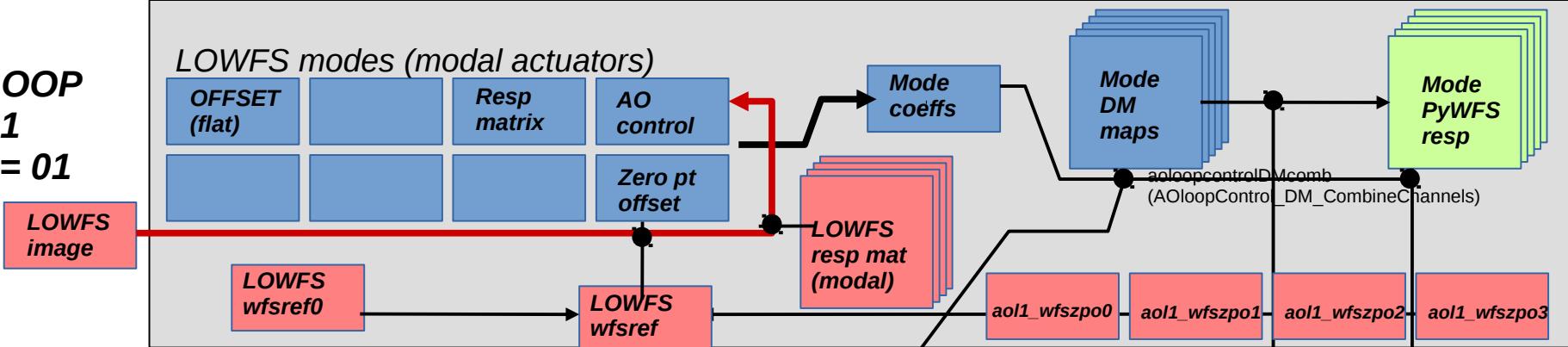
# SCExAO Light path



Facility AO

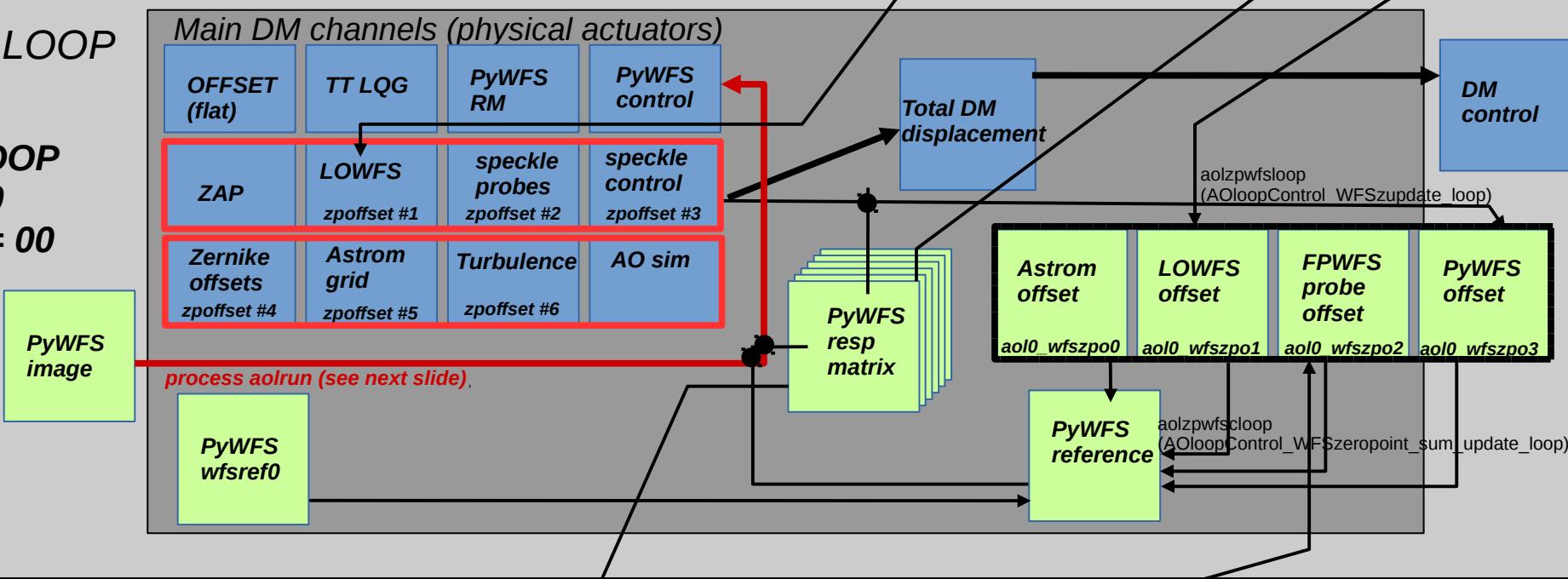


**LOWFS LOOP**  
**loopnb = 1**  
**DMindex = 01**

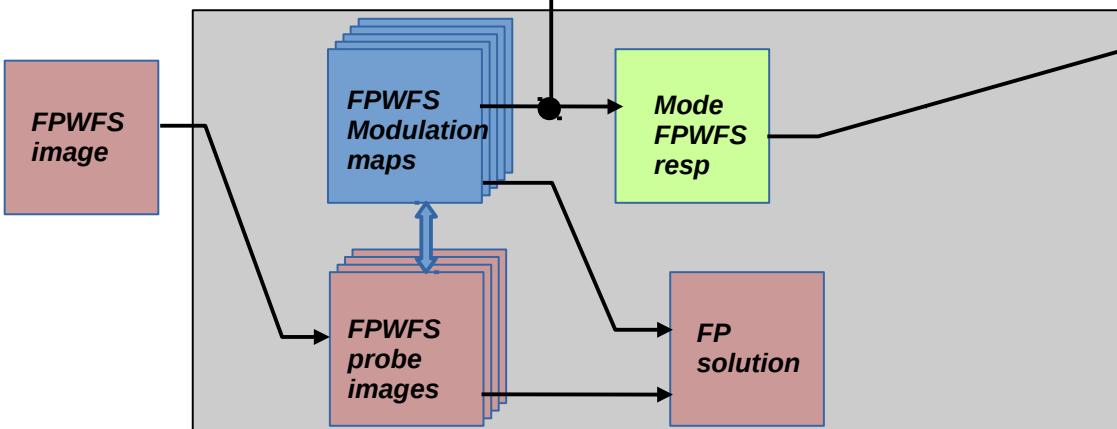


**MASTER LOOP**

**PyWFS LOOP**  
**loopnb = 0**  
**DMindex = 00**



**FPWFS LOOP**  
**loopnb = 2**



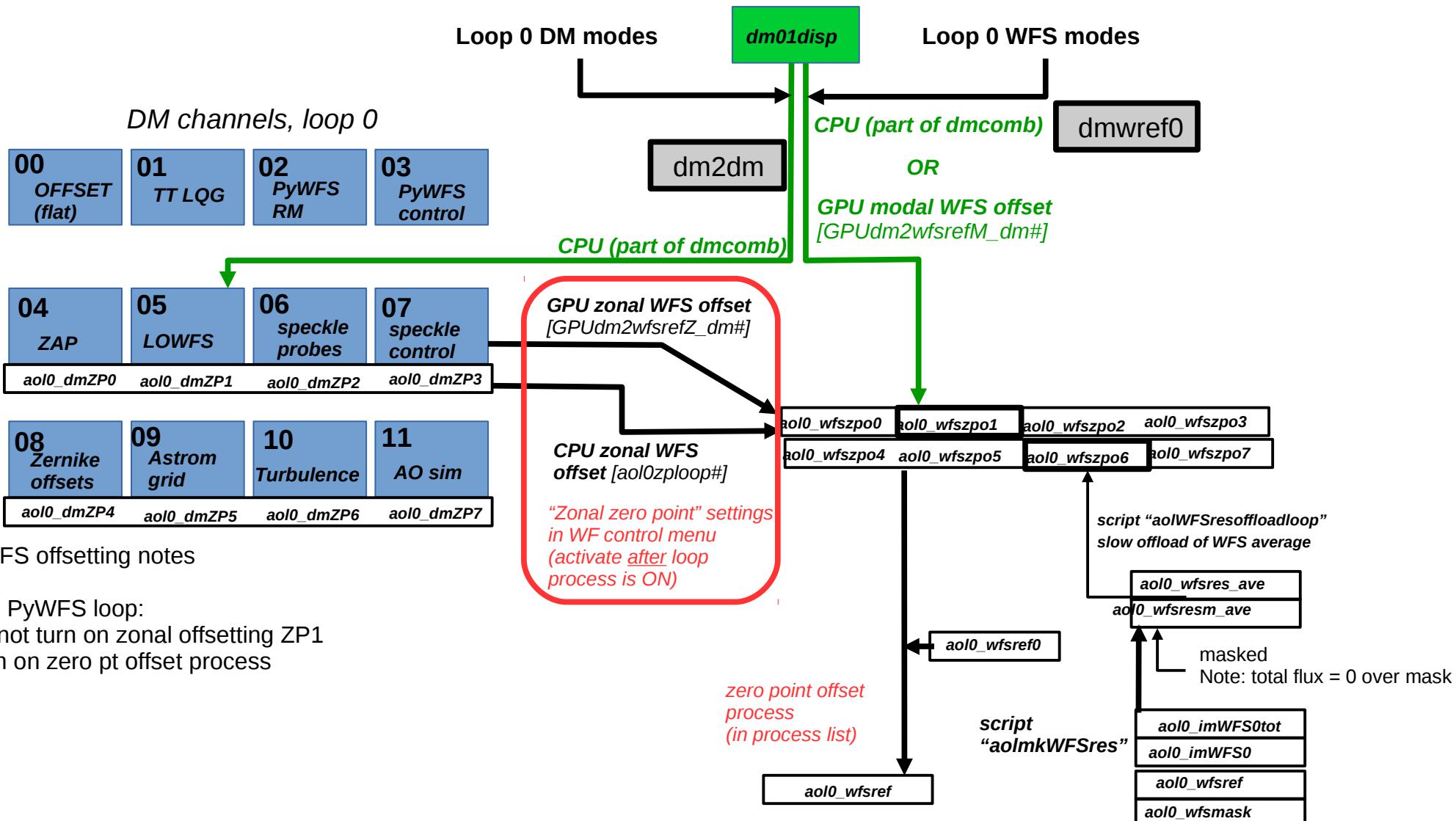
**LOWFS + HOWFS + FPWFS**  
**wavefront control**  
**architecture**

# Linking multiple control loops (zero point offsetting)

A control loop can offset the convergence point of another loop @> kHz (GPU or CPU)

Example: speckle control, LOWFS need to offset pyramid control loop

**THIS IS DONE TRANSPARENTLY FOR USER** → don't pay attention to the diagram below !

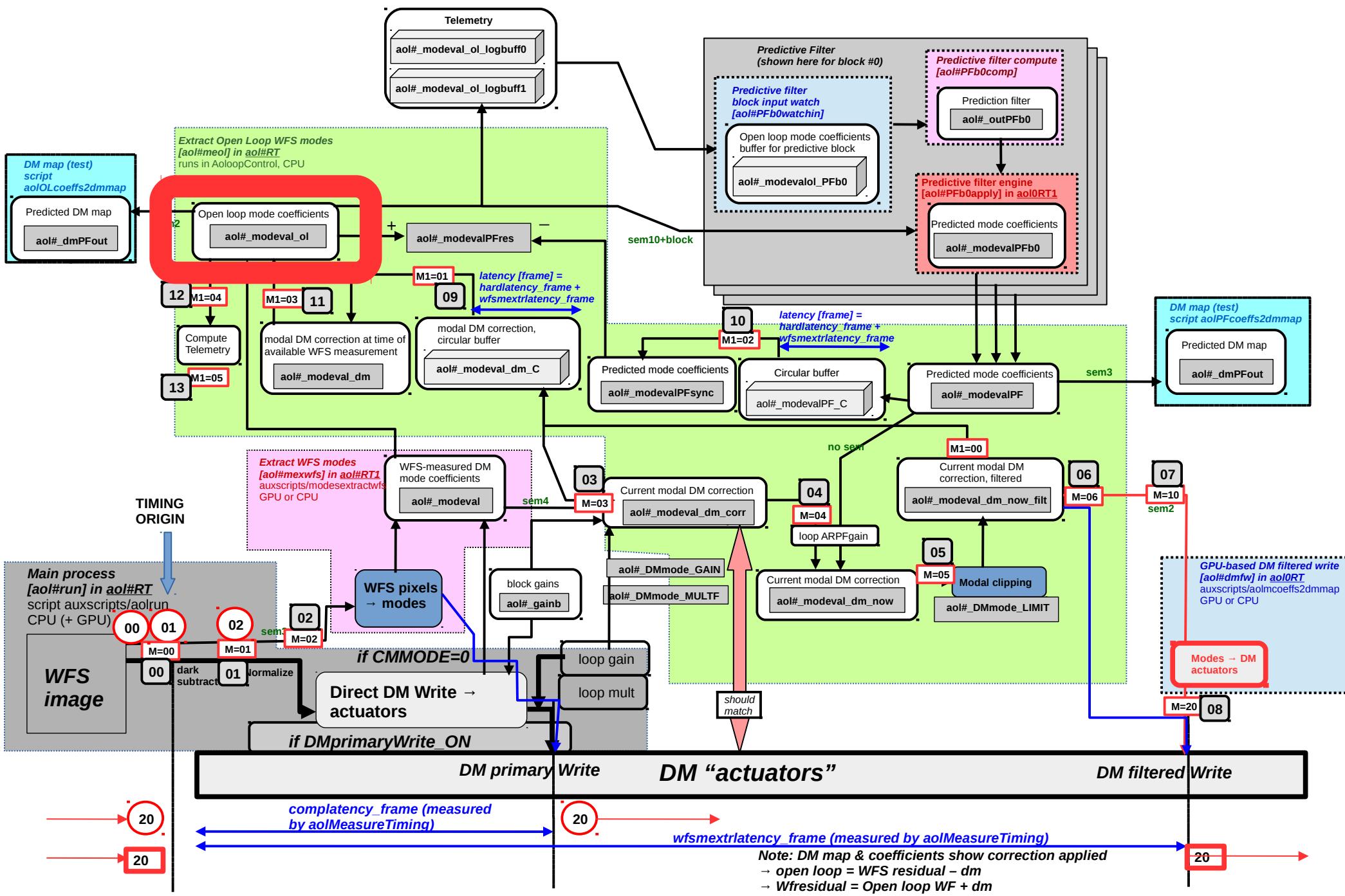


# Timing is everything

Good timing knowledge and stability is essential for:

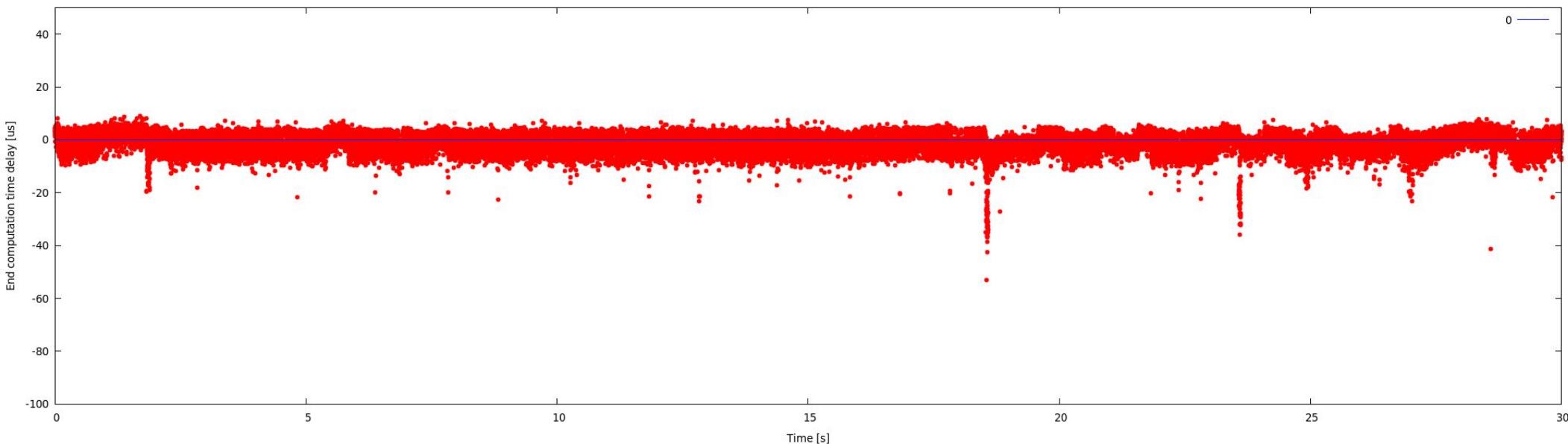
- Pseudo-open loop reconstruction
- Fast response matrix acquisition
- Predictive control

# End of real-time computation processes



# End-to-end Timing Jitter

## RMS < 5 us, max delay ~50us

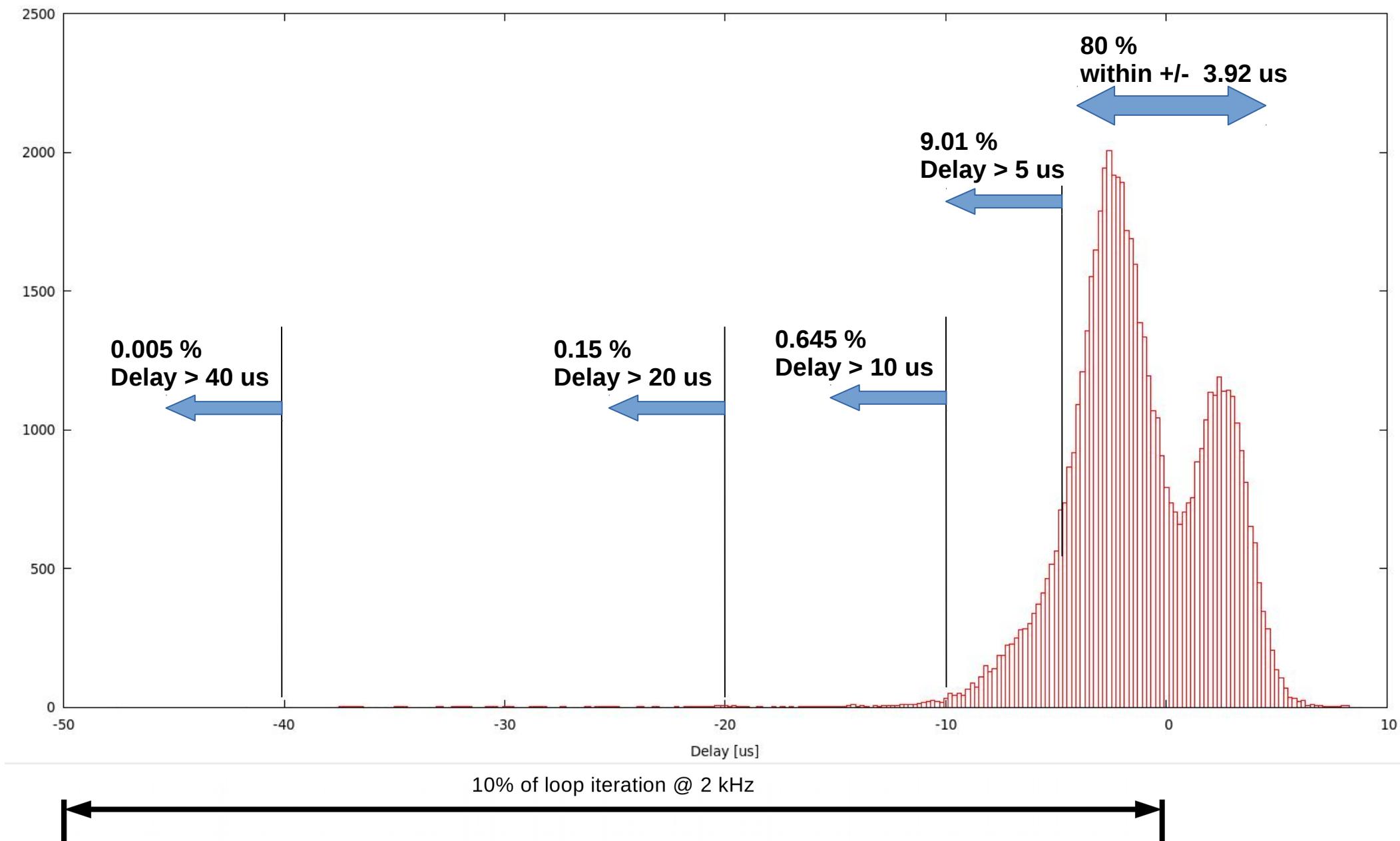


End-to-end timing jitter measured by monitoring completion time of last real-time stream: modal pseudo-open loop coefficients.

Jitter includes following components:

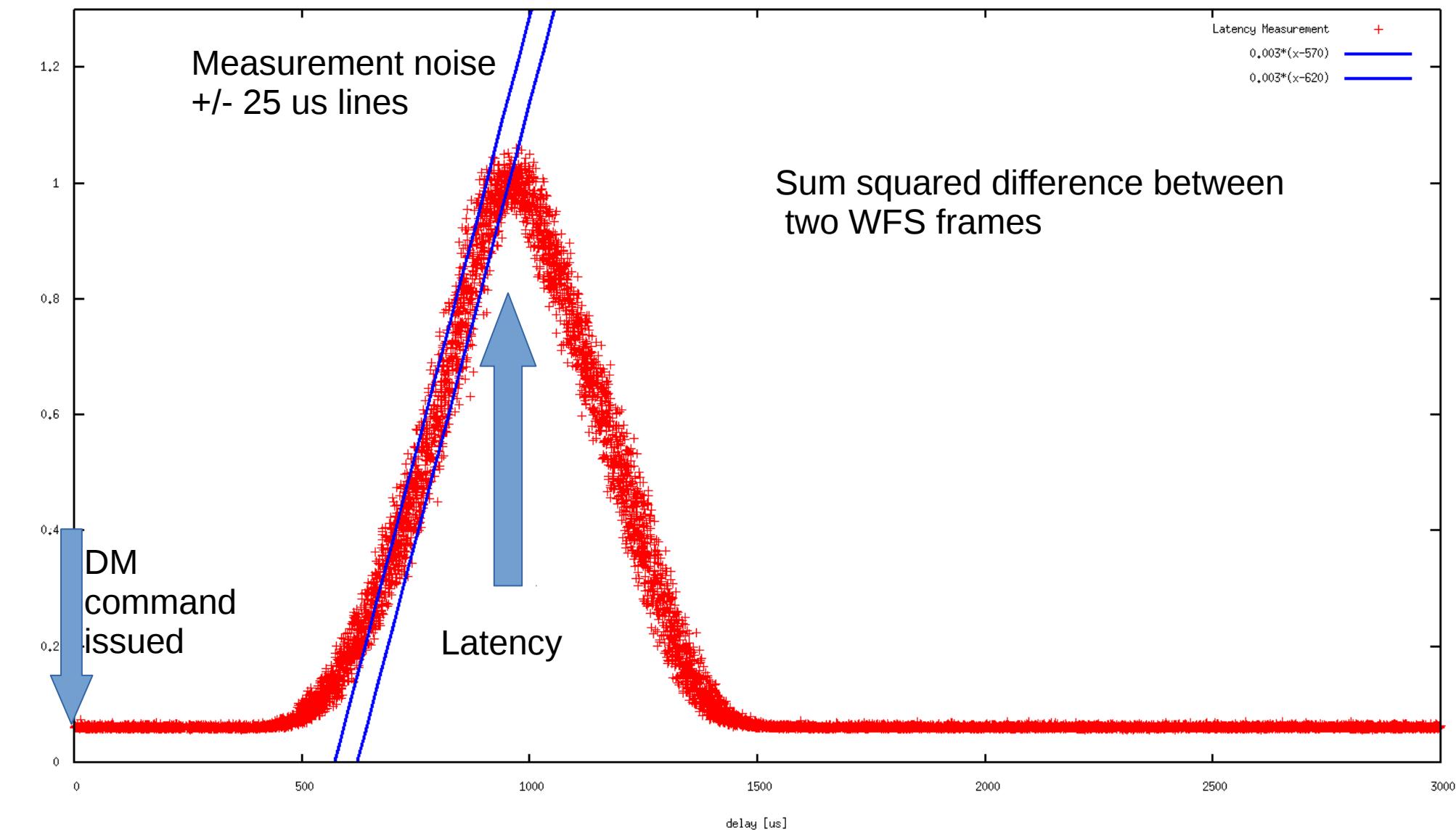
- Hardware synchronization (PyWFS tip-tilt mirror)
- Camera readout
- Data transfer over TCP link
- All real-time computations, CPU and GPU
- Time measurement errors

# End-to-end Timing Jitter Histogram, measured @ 2kHz



# Hardware Latency measured on SCExAO

Time between DM command issued and corresponding WFS signal observed  
(Camera readout + TCP transfer + processing + DM electronics)



# Hardware Latency

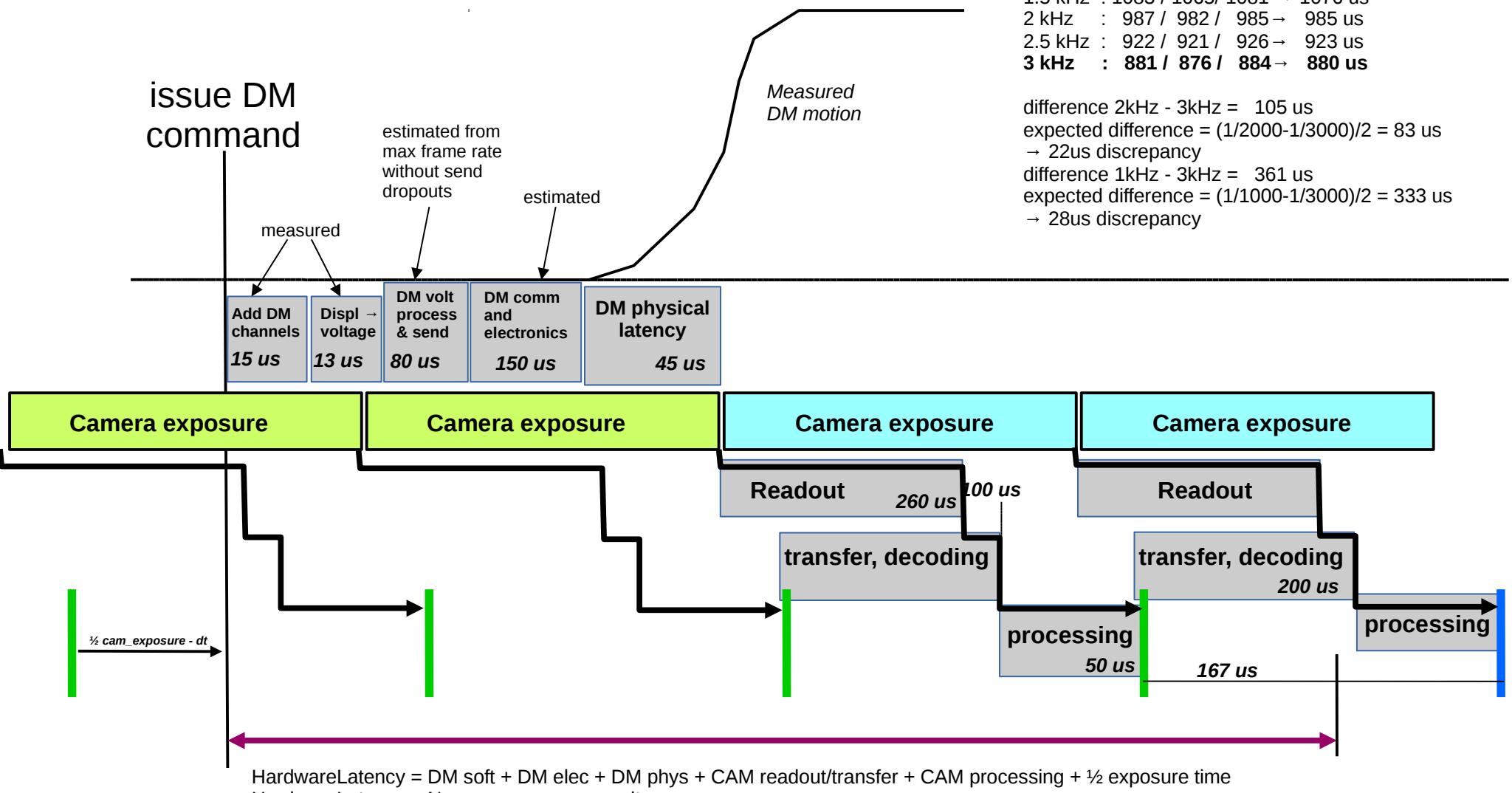
*Definition:*

Time offset between **DM command issued**, and **mid-point between 2 consecutive WFS frames with largest difference**

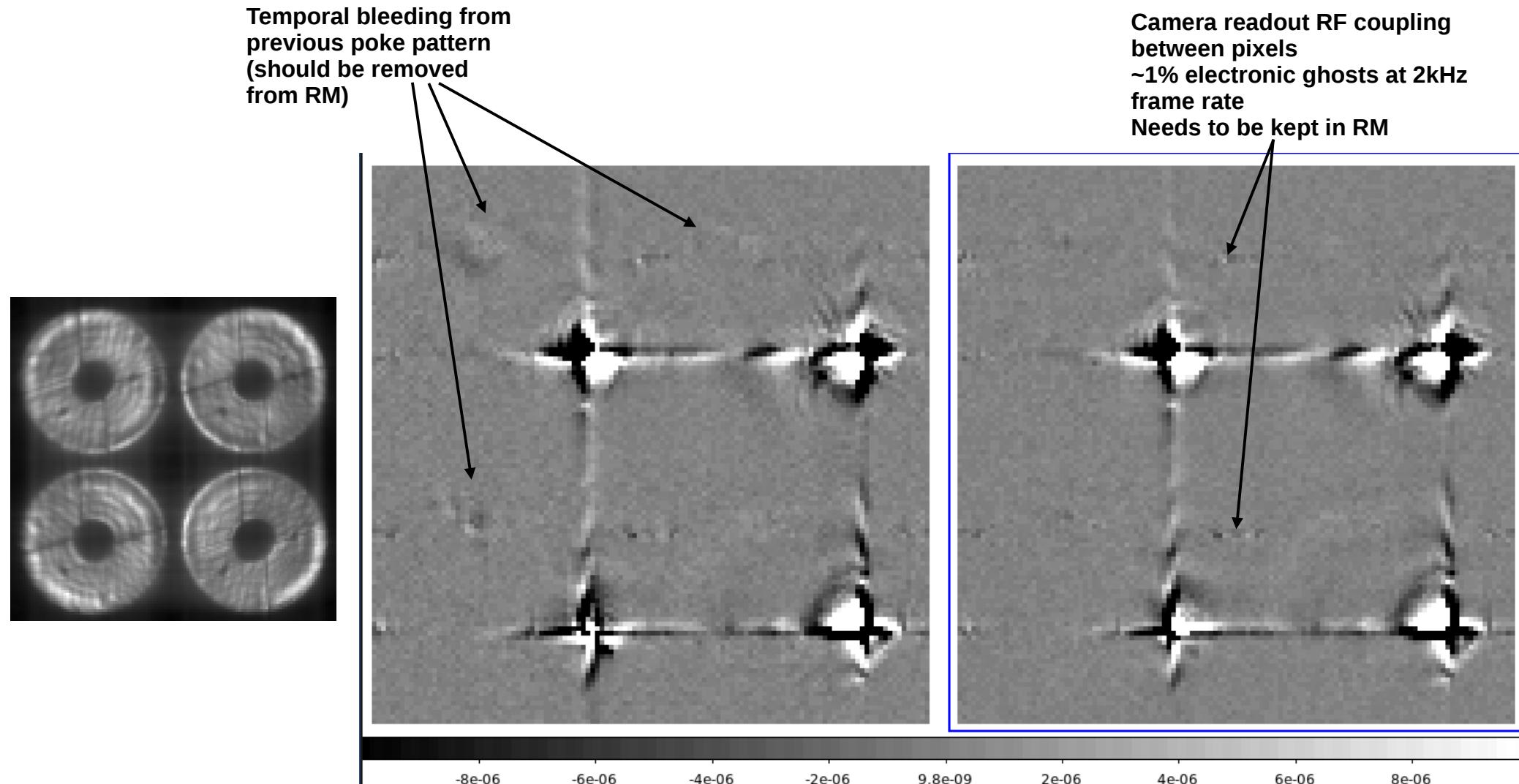
SCExAO measured hardware latencies:

1 kHz	:	1253 / 1260 / 1269	→ 1261 us
1.5 kHz	:	1083 / 1065 / 1081	→ 1076 us
2 kHz	:	987 / 982 / 985	→ 985 us
2.5 kHz	:	922 / 921 / 926	→ 923 us
3 kHz	:	881 / 876 / 884	→ 880 us

difference 2kHz - 3kHz = 105 us  
 expected difference =  $(1/2000-1/3000)/2 = 83$  us  
 → 22us discrepancy  
 difference 1kHz - 3kHz = 361 us  
 expected difference =  $(1/1000-1/3000)/2 = 333$  us  
 → 28us discrepancy



# Fast RM acquisition (4000 Hadamard pokes in 2s @ 2 kHz) + Removing temporal DM response from response matrix by using two poke sequences

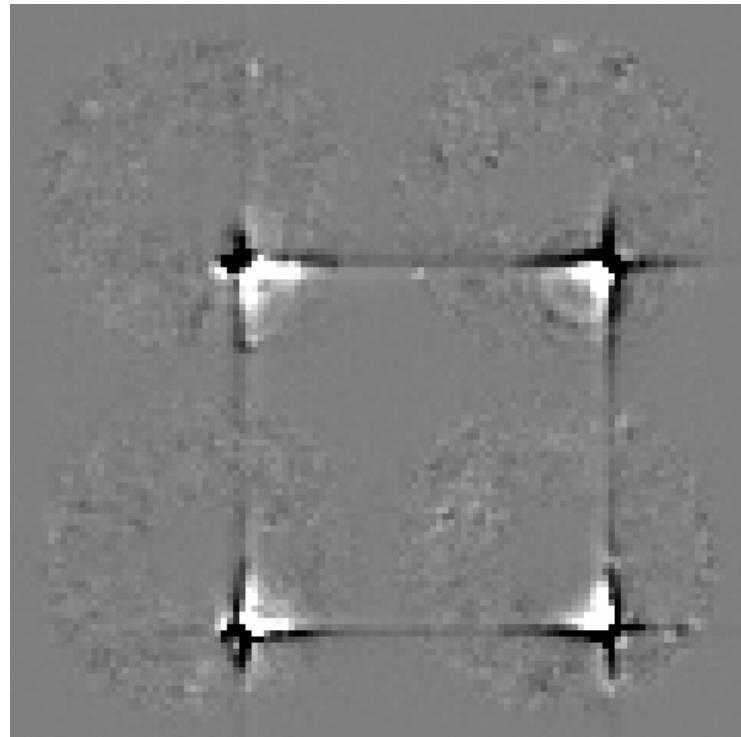
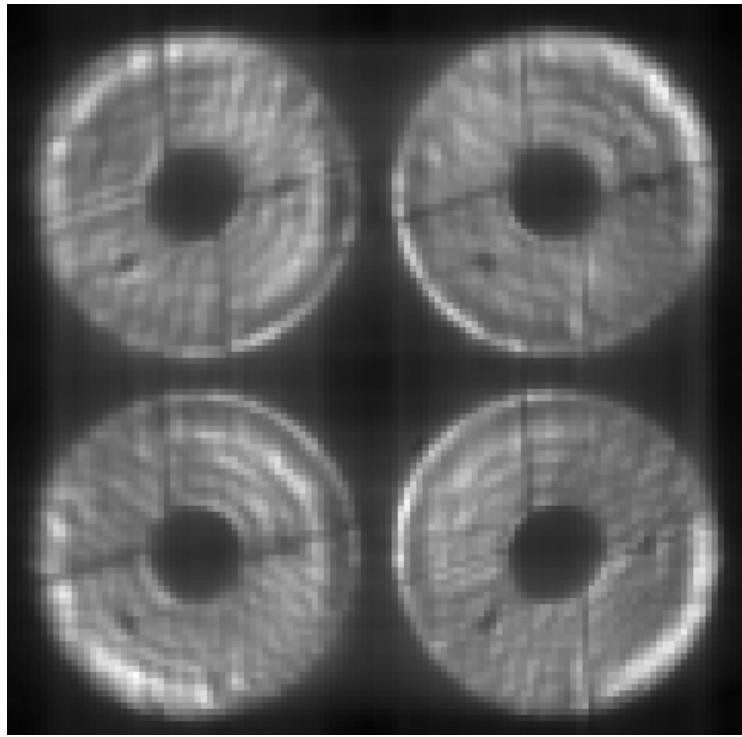


RM assembled from single poke sequence:  
++ -+ -+ +-

RM assembled from average of two poke sequences:  
++ -+ -+ +-  
+- -+ +- --

RMs reconstructed from Hadamard pokes, 2kHz modulation (DM moves during EMCCD frame transfer)

# Multi-channel DM virtualization & timing knowledge/stability → on-sky response matrix acquisition, while ExAO loop running



Left: WFS reference

Right: Response to single actuator poke (one of 2000)

RM measurement @ 2kHz takes 4000 pokes = 2 sec

Multiple RMs averaged to increase SNR

# Self-learning AO control

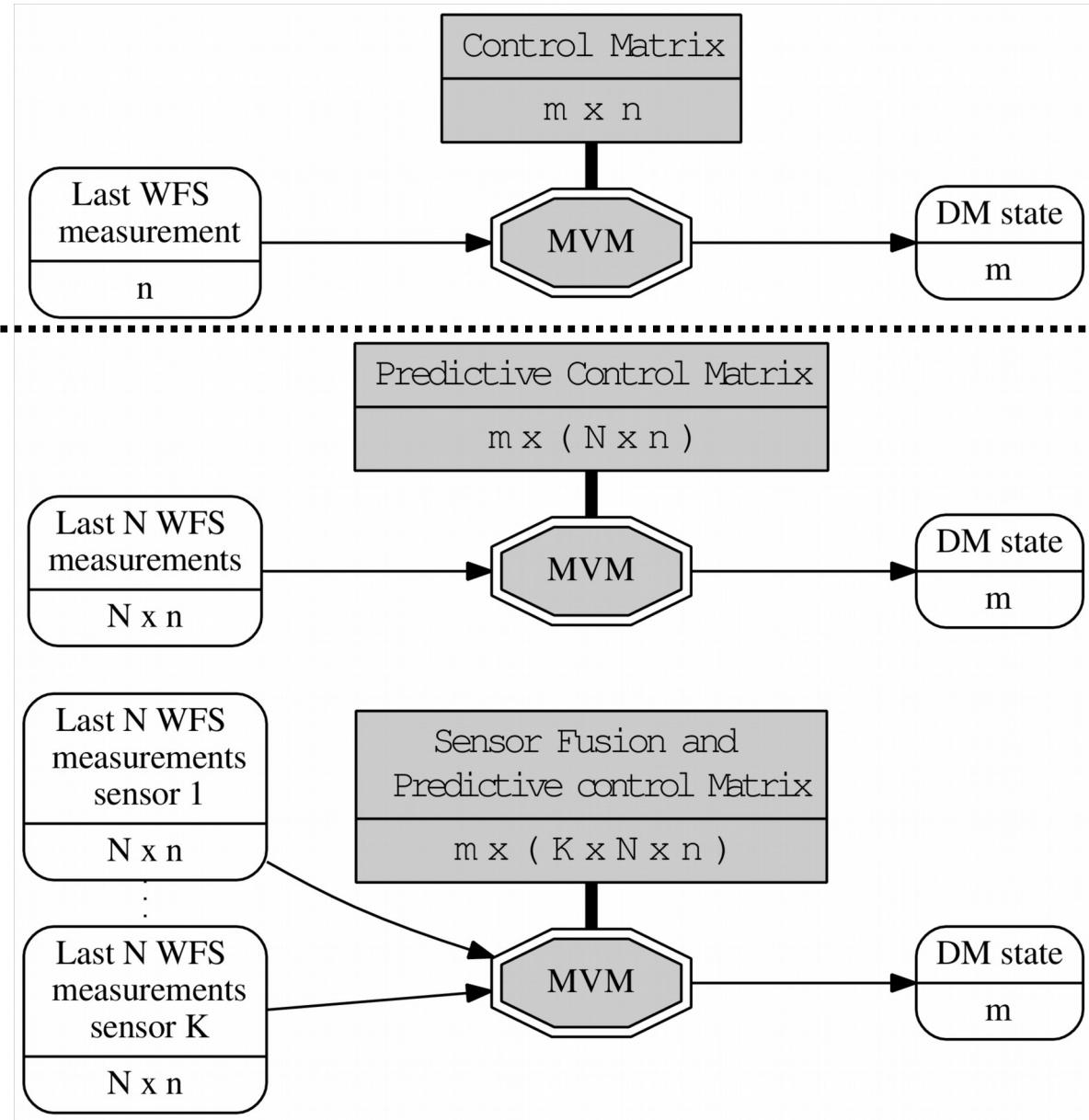
## Conventional AO:

Resp Matrix is measured  
CM computed as pseudo-inverse of RM

## Self-learning AO control:

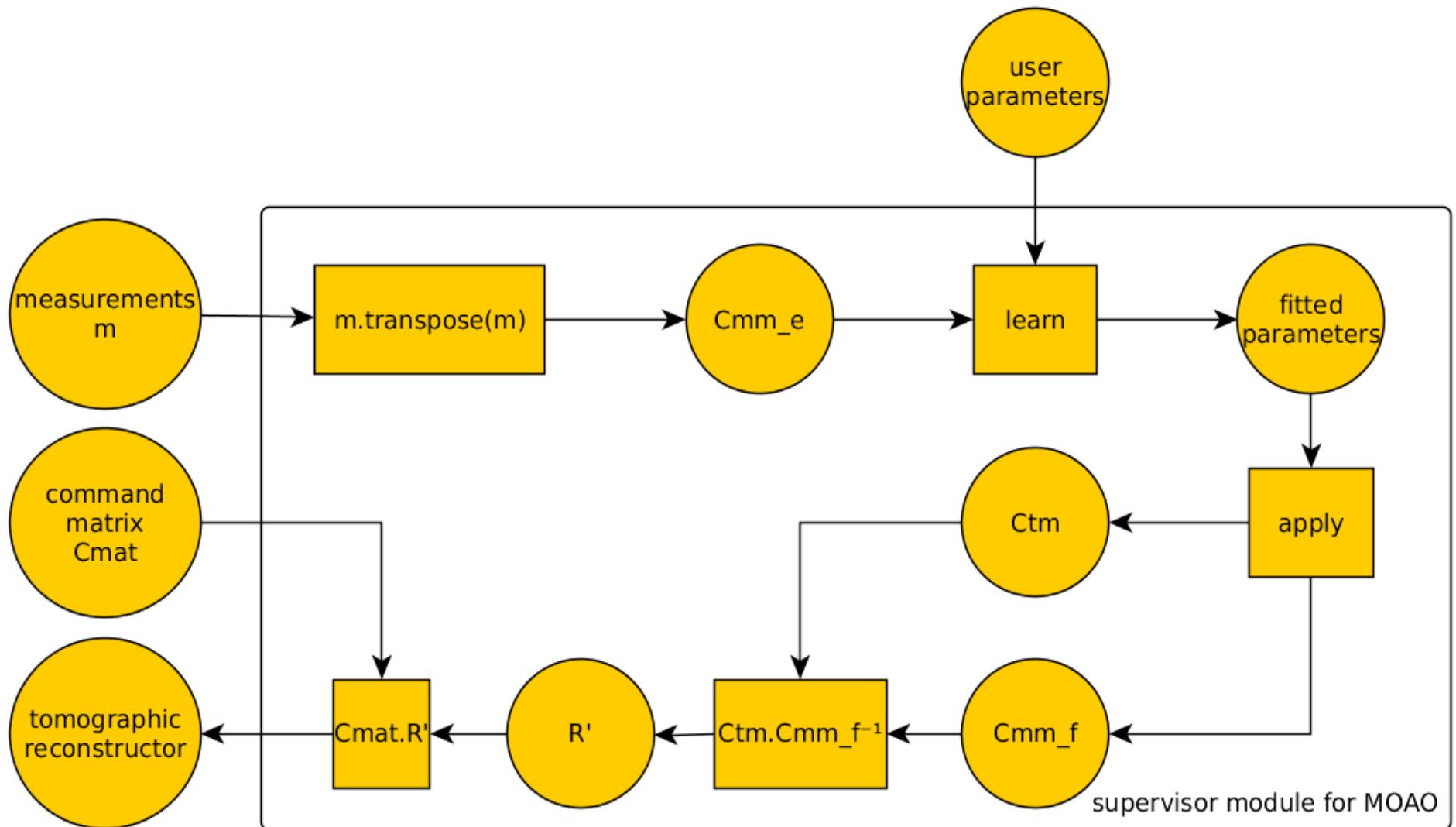
Optimally use recent (predictive control) and auxiliary (sensor fusion) measurements → control matrix is very big, and usually impossible to measure

CM is derived from WFS(s) telemetry using machine learning approaches



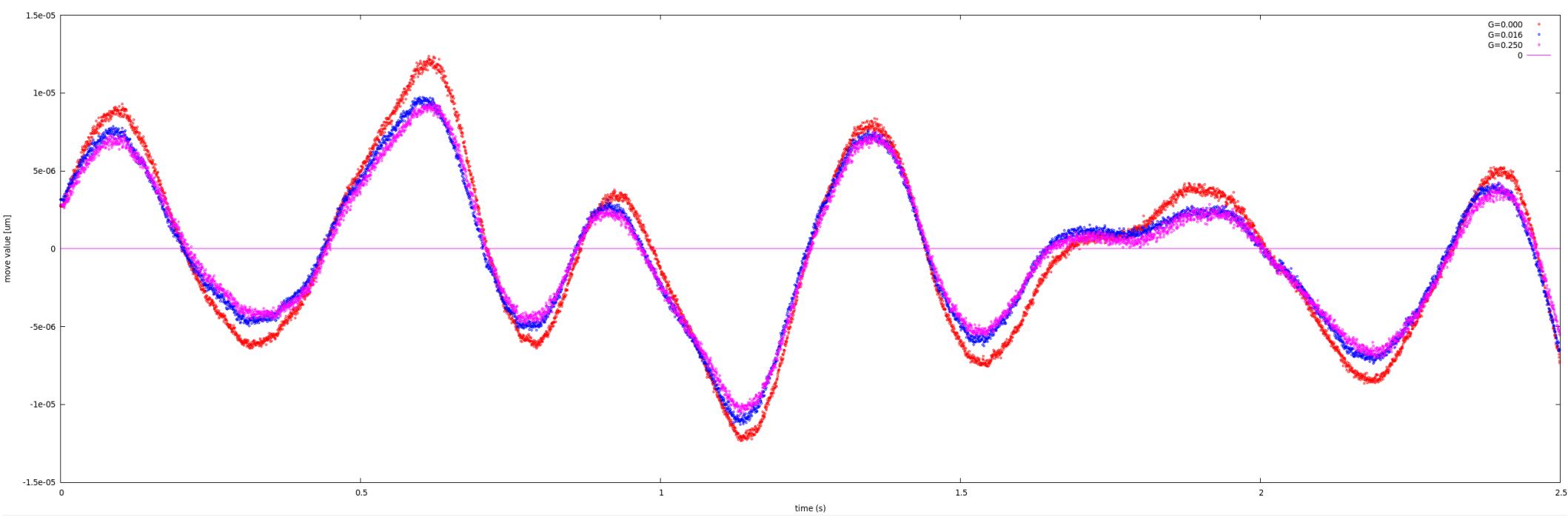
# Loop supervision module

Mix of cost function optimization for parameters identification (“Learn” process) and linear algebra for reconstructor matrix computation (“apply” process)



# Open loop reconstruction Comparison between gain values

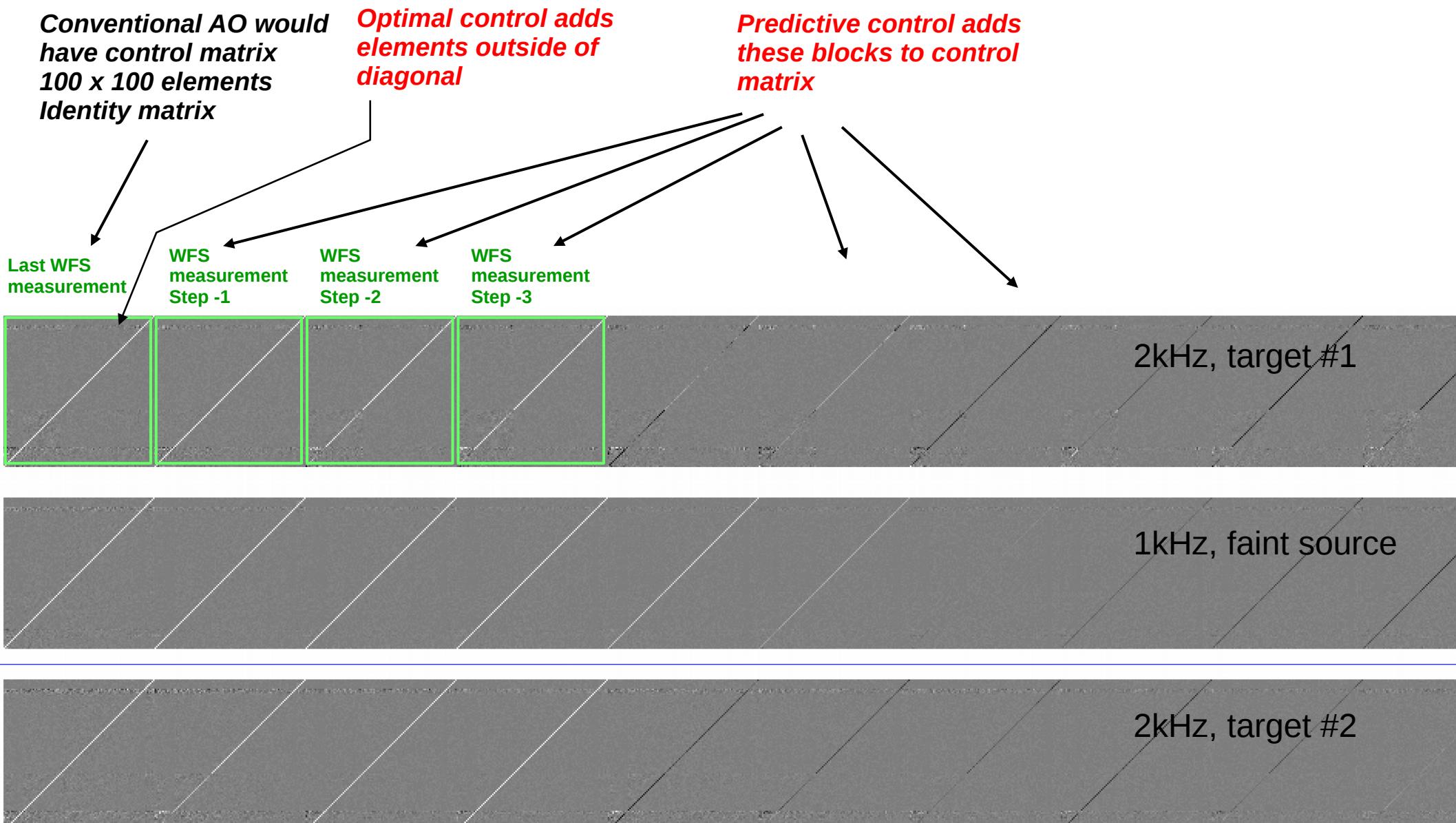
G=0.000 → over-estimates OL values  
All G>0.0 reconstructions match at %-level



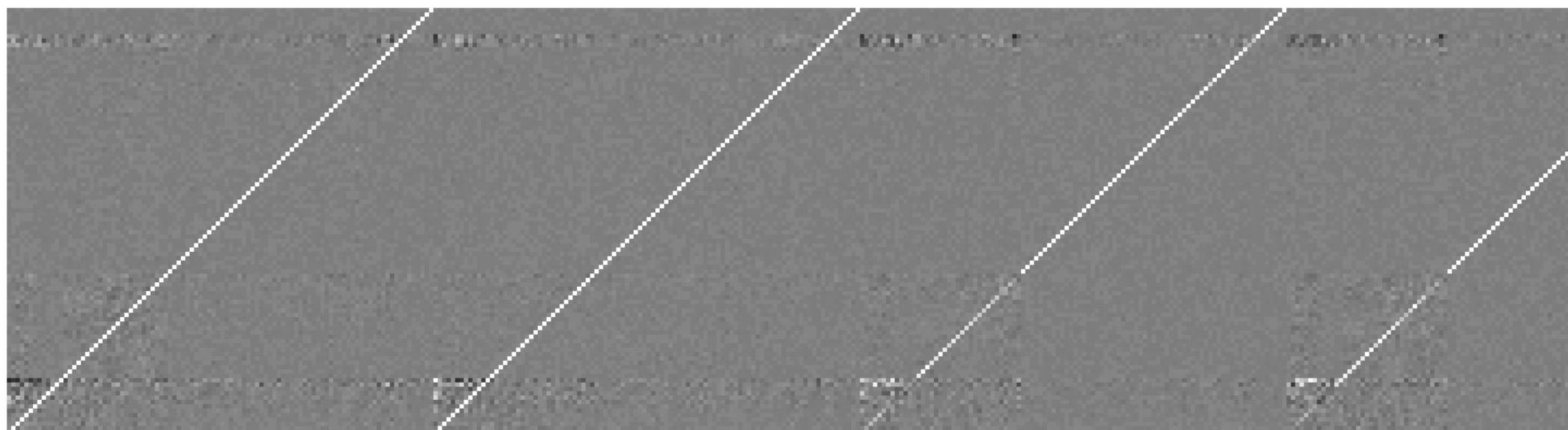
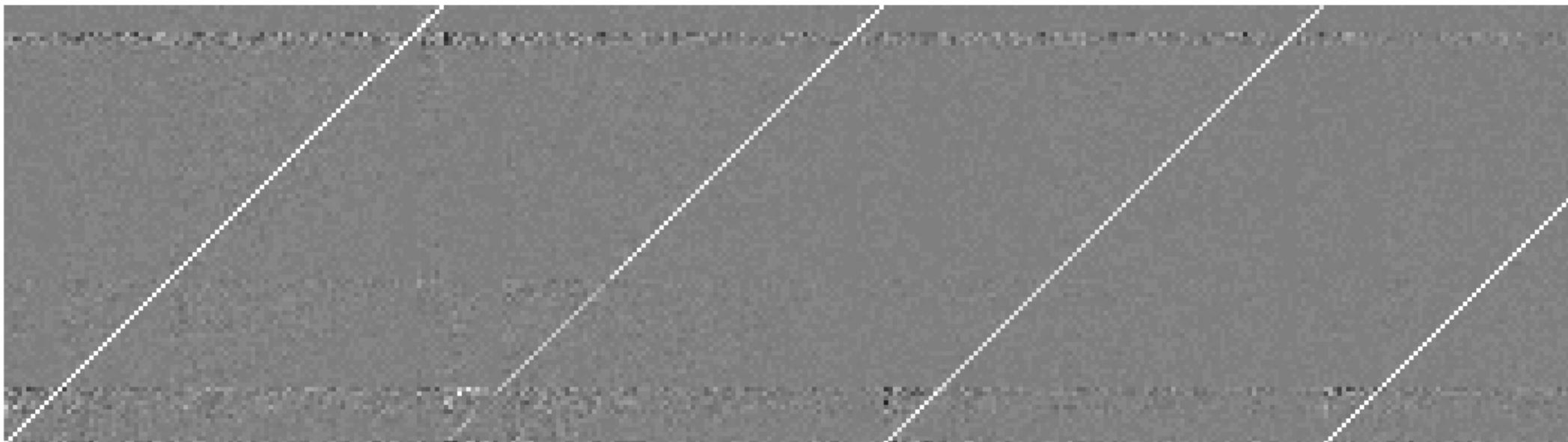
G=0.000 test relies entirely on WF residuals for OL estimation  
G>0.000 tests rely mostly on DM values for OL estimation

***Test shown here uses full speed RM acquisition which underestimates RM by ~15% due to DM time-of-motion → reconstructed WFs from WFS are over-estimated by ~15%***

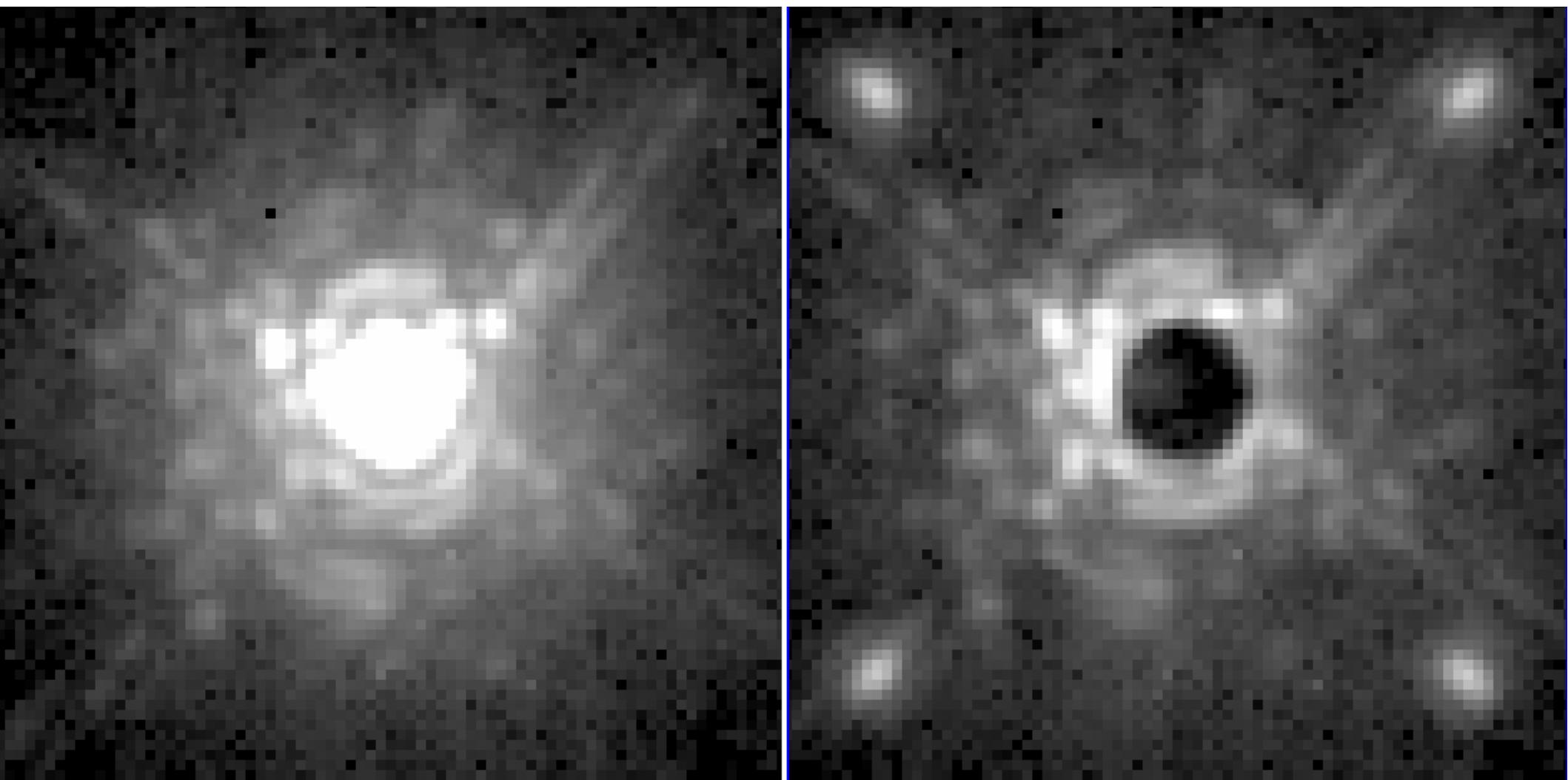
# On-sky predictive control matrix (modal representation, 100 modes shown)



# Prediction control matrix



# On-sky results (2 kHz, 50 sec update)

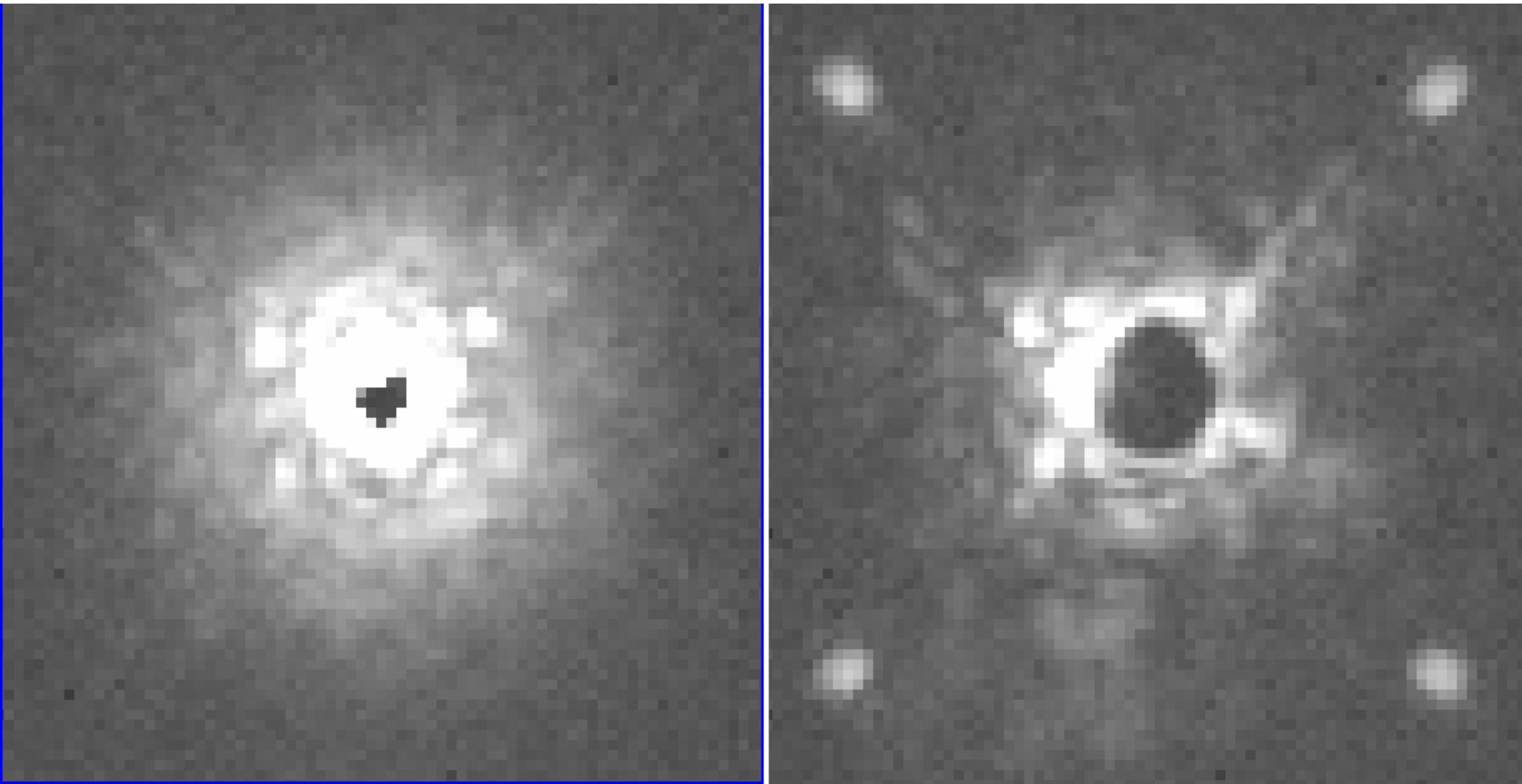


*OFF (integrator, gain=0.2)*

*ON*

Average of 54 consecutives 0.5s images (26 sec exposure), 3 mn apart  
Same star, same exposure time, same intensity scale

# Standard deviation improved by 2.5x



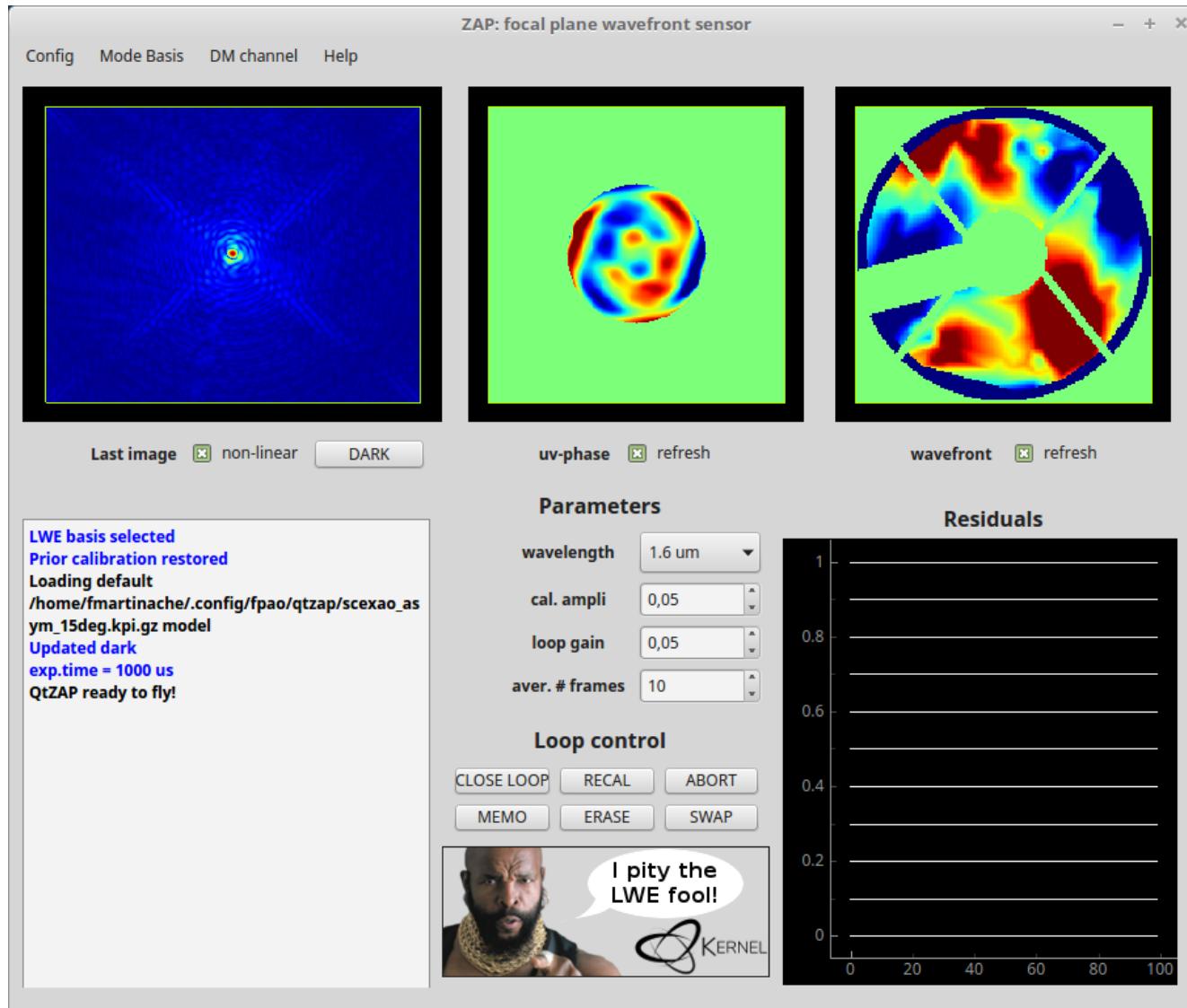
*OFF (integrator, gain=0.2)*

*ON*

Standard deviation of 54 consecutives 0.5s images (26 sec exposure), 3 mn apart  
Same star, same exposure time, same intensity scale

# **Focal Plane WFS/C**

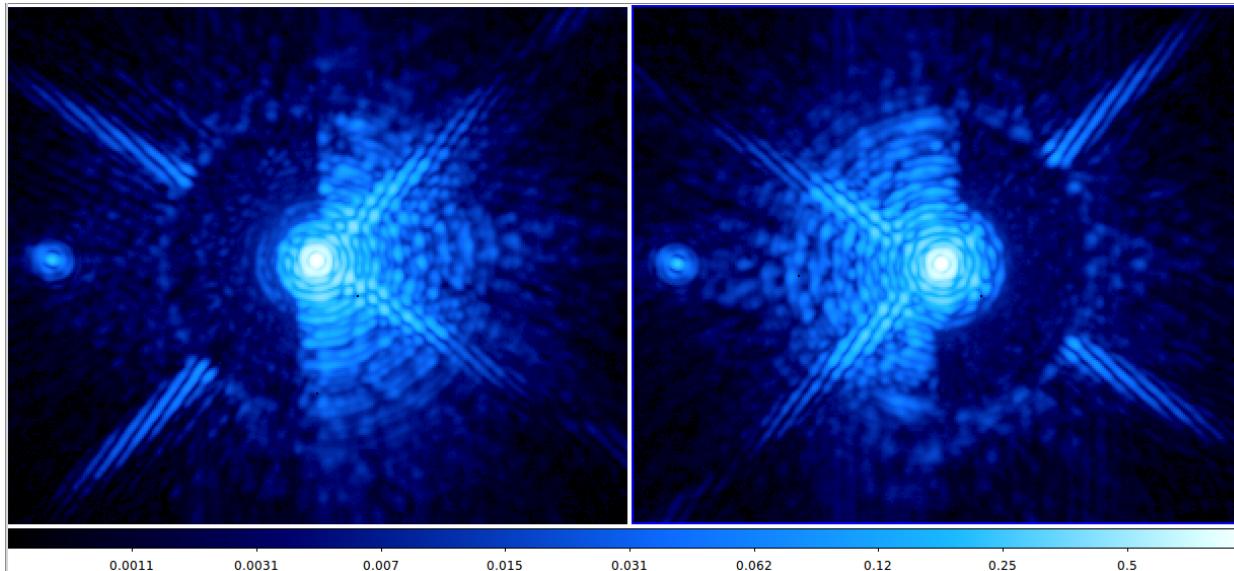
# OCA/KERNEL – developed software



- Address NCPA
- Asymmetric mask (pupil)
- On-sky closed-loop control
- Focal plane based WFS  
Low-order (Zernike and LWE) modes.
- mode compatible with coronagraphy in development



# Speckle Control



Experience limited by detector readout noise and speed.

KERNEL project: C-RED-ONE camera.

From:

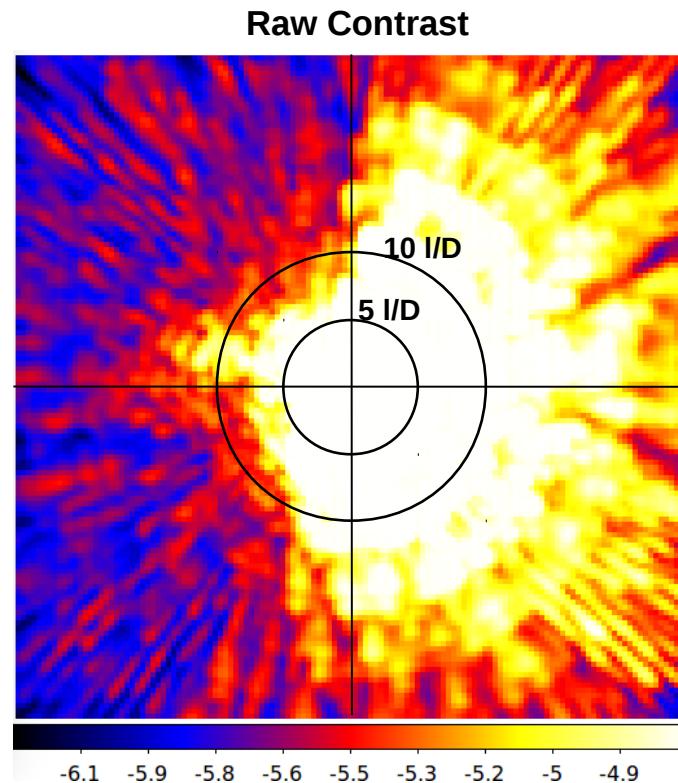
- 114 e- RON
- 170 Hz frame rate

To:

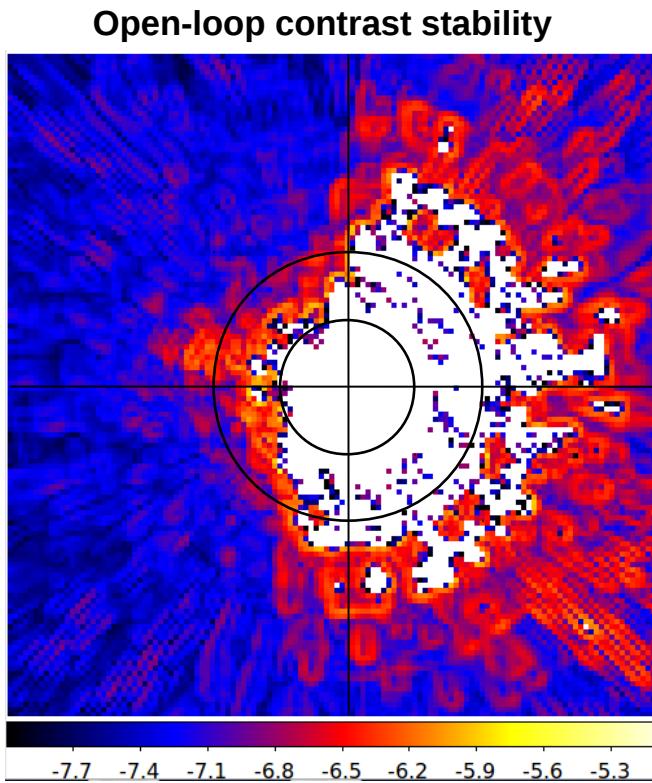
- 0.8 e- RON
- 3500 Hz frame rate

Expect some updates

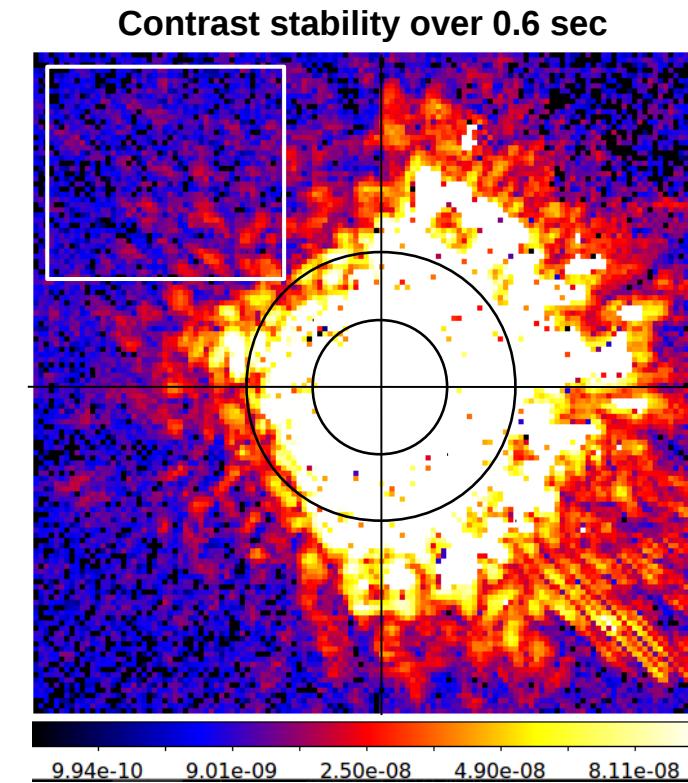
# Conventional Lyot Coronagraph, Broadband light: 0.9-1.7 um (62% wide band)



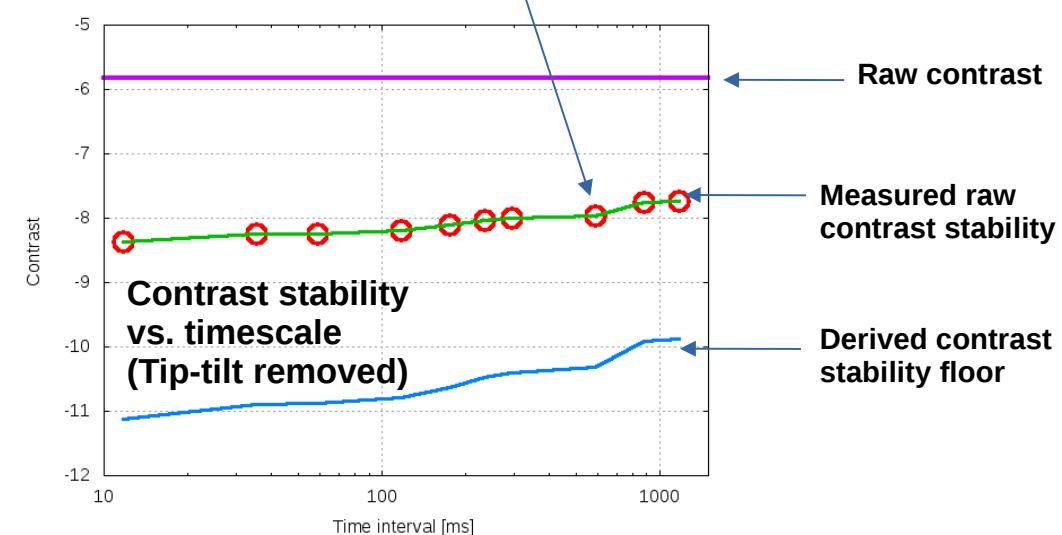
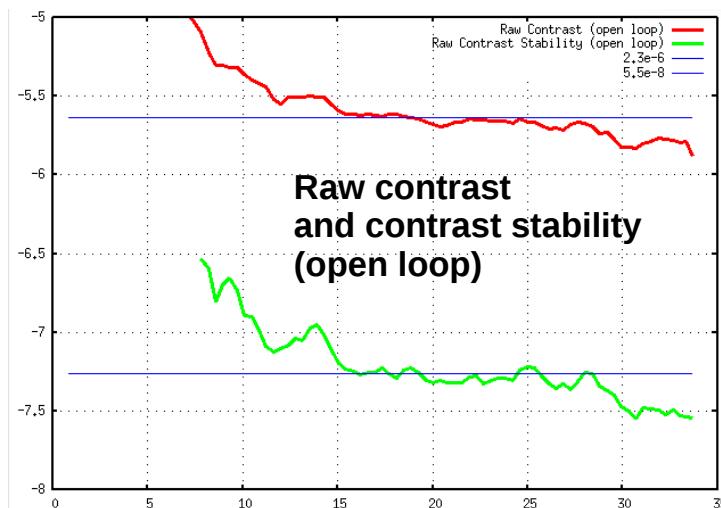
Average raw contrast [15-20 I/D]  
 $= 2.3e-6$



Average raw contrast stability [15-20 I/D]  
 $= 5.5e-8$



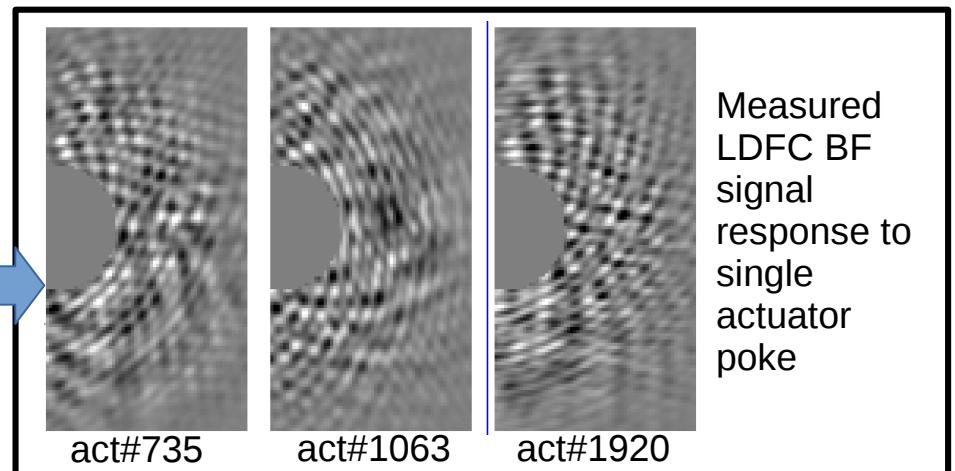
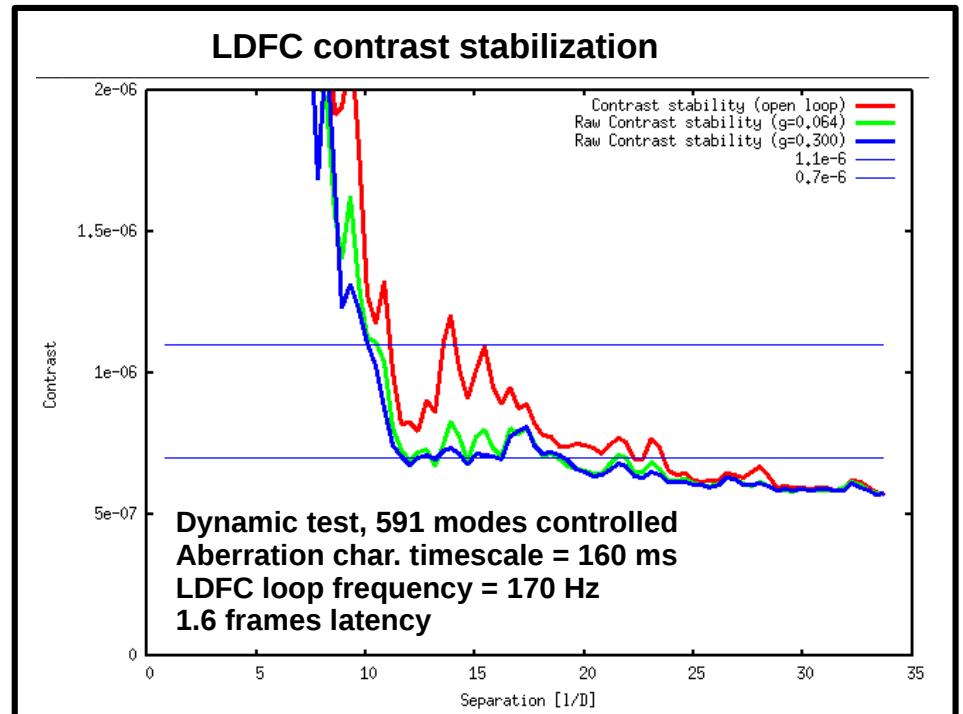
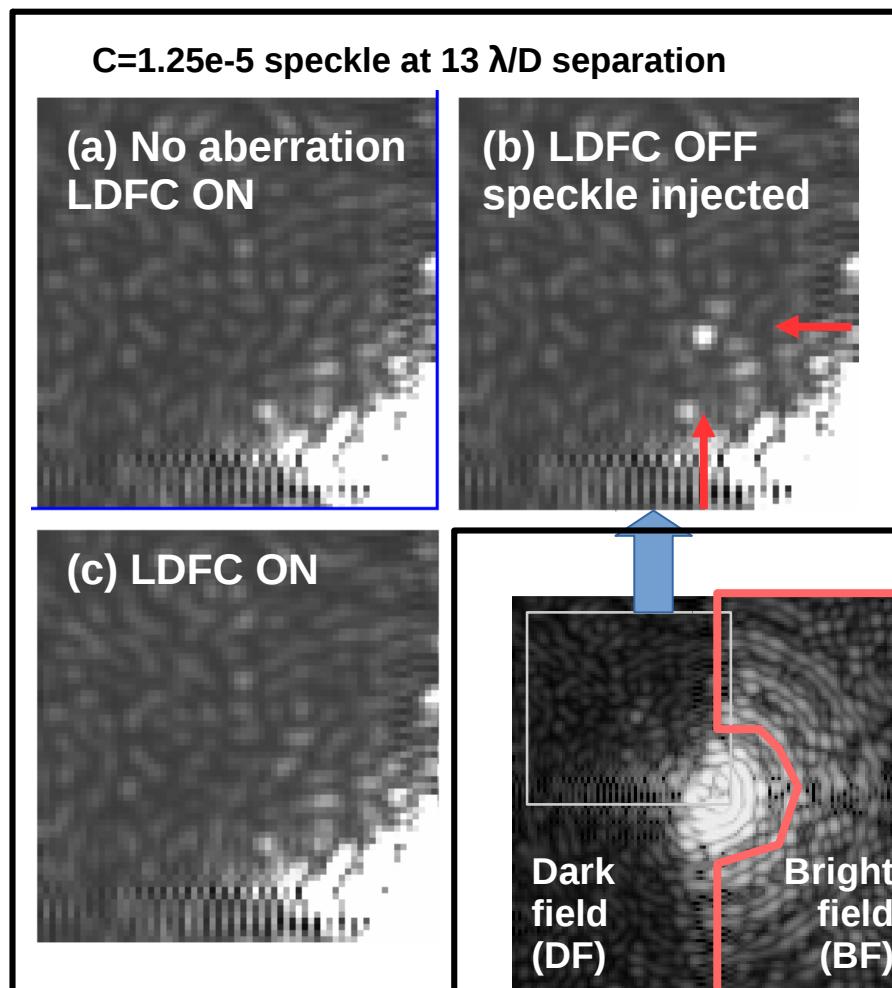
Average raw contrast stability [11-34 I/D]  
 $= 1.1e-8$  (averaged value within white box)



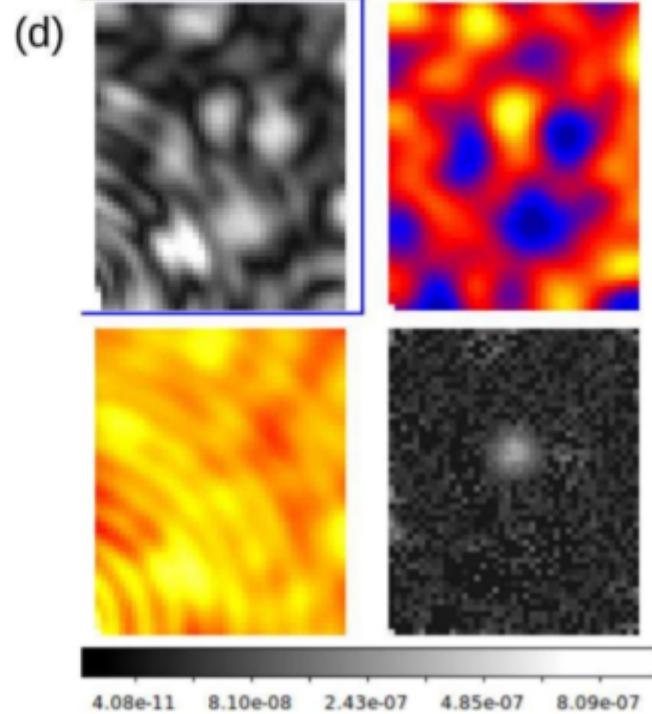
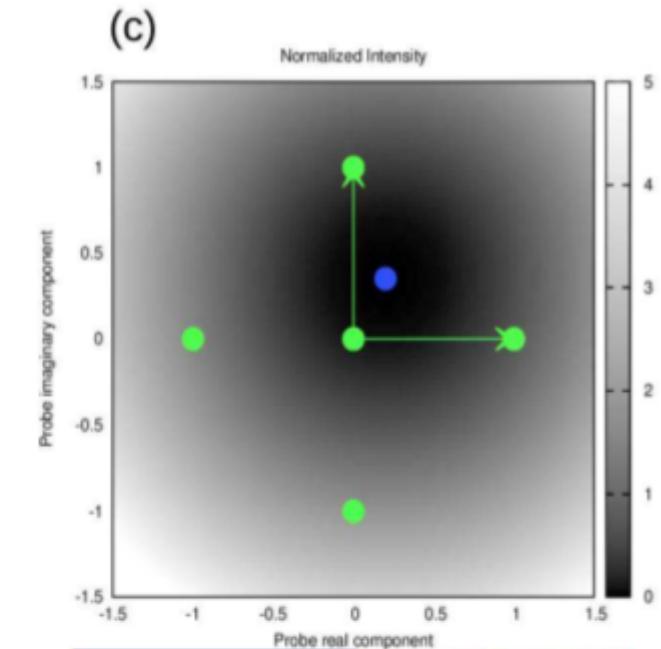
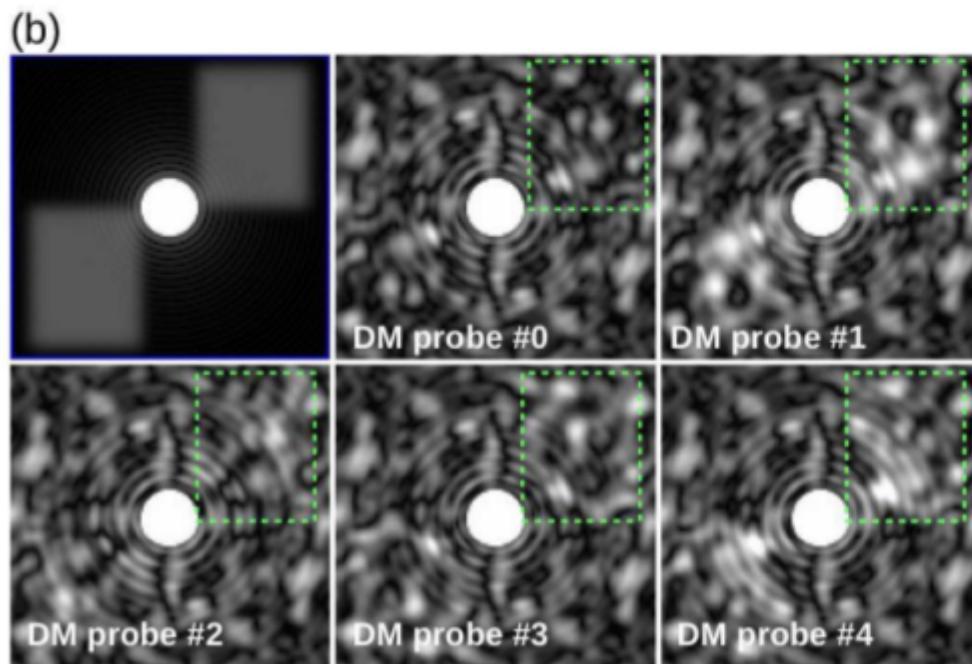
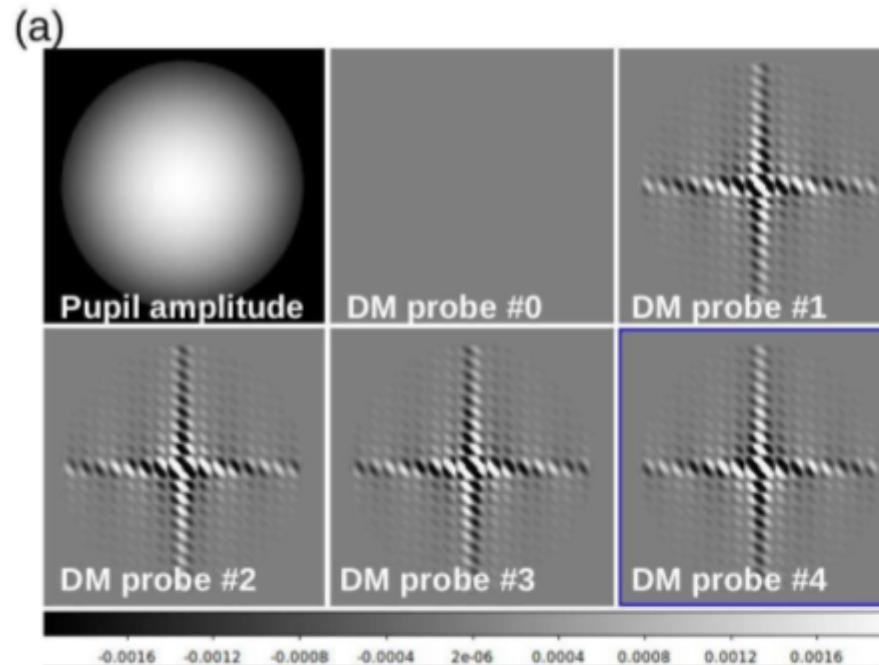
# Linear Dark Field Control (internal source)

## Near-IR spatial LDFC validation @ SCExAO

Frame rate = 170 Hz, Lyot coronagraph in near-IR  
(1.55um, 50nm wide band)



# Coherent Speckle Differential Imaging



# User Interface and programming / scripting

Top-level ASCII-based menus  
launch cacao programs in  
tmux sessions

bash scripts assist with:  
- sequencing between tasks  
- hardware resources allocation  
(CPU cores, GPUs, memory)



To be upgraded by more capable  
KRAKENS python-based tool  
(currently in development)

Users can code new  
processes in C or Python



Developing well-documented  
examples users can modify

# Example control GUI (bash scripts)

**TOP MENU** [Active conf = ] [ Mon Apr 10 12:48:10 UTC 2017 ]

**DM CHANNELS AND OUTPUT (dmcomb process)**

```

S      [00] Set DM index
dnsx   [50] Set DM x size (if modal control, = number of modes)
dnyz   [50] Set DM y size (if modal control)

nolink Auto-configure: main DM (no link) -> DM actuators are physical actuators
dnolink Auto-configure: DM output linked to other loop -> DM actuators represent modes

DM is ZONAL Modes constructed from spatial DM actuators (select to toggle to MODAL)
dn2dmModel [ OFF ] DM-to-DM is OFF (select to activate virtual (modal) DM to physical DM mode)

dmref1 [ OFF ] CPU-based dmcomb output WFS ref is OFF (select for DM output applied as WFS offset)
dmrefRM [ MISSING ] WFS Resp Matrix aol0_dmrefRM -> empty
dmref0 [ MISSING ] WFS zp output stream aol0_dmref0 -> empty

dmvolt0 [ ON ] De-activate DM volt output [-> dmvolt]

dmcomban [0] DM combination averaging mode

setDMdelayval [0] Set DM delay value [us]
setDMdelayon [DM delay is OFF] press to toggle DM delay to ON state

initDM (re)-START DM comb process (-> dm00disp0..07 dm00disp)

2 -> AO CONFIGURE AND CONTROL

C0 CALIBRATE SYSTEM [CPAmax = 22.0] RM, CM -> staged (compute masks)
C00 CALIBRATE SYSTEM [CPAmax = 22.0] RM -> staged (re-use masks)
C01 RM -> CM (staged)
C1 ADOPT CALIBRATION: staged -> conf, SharedMem

M load all (Memory)
C (Configure/Link AO loop
CM Modes and Control Matrix

L Control AO (Loop)

3 -> PREDICTIVE CONTROL

P Predictive Control
F1 Filtering

4 -> TEST AND MONITOR

T List running AO processes, locks
V Test mode: simulated AO system
V View / monitor

5 -> DATA LOGGING / ANALYSIS

R Record / analyze

6 -> CUSTOM EXTERNAL SCRIPTS

A Align
HC Hardware Control

```

<Select> < Exit >

**ALIGNMENT - LOOP SCExAOPyWFS (0)**

TT loop is : OFF  
Pcam Loop is : OFF  
Pyr Filter : 3

```

1 ->

```

	Pypr05	Pypr10	Pypr15	Pypr20	Pypr25	Pypr30	Pypr35	Pymd005	Pymd010	Pymd015	Pymd020	Pymd025	Pymd030	Pymd035	Pymd040	Pymd045	Pymd050	Pymd055	Pymd060	Pymd065	Pymd070	Pymd075	Pymd080	Pymd085	Pymd090	Pymd095	Pymd100	
	freq = 0.5 kHz	freq = 1.0 kHz	freq = 1.5 kHz	freq = 2.0 kHz	freq = 2.5 kHz	freq = 3.0 kHz	freq = 3.5 kHz	modulation amplitude = 0.05	modulation amplitude = 0.15	modulation amplitude = 0.15	modulation amplitude = 0.20	modulation amplitude = 0.25	modulation amplitude = 0.25	modulation amplitude = 0.30	modulation amplitude = 0.35	modulation amplitude = 0.40	modulation amplitude = 0.45	modulation amplitude = 0.50	modulation amplitude = 0.55	modulation amplitude = 0.60	modulation amplitude = 0.65	modulation amplitude = 0.70	modulation amplitude = 0.75	modulation amplitude = 0.80	modulation amplitude = 0.85	modulation amplitude = 0.90	modulation amplitude = 0.95	modulation amplitude = 1.00
								(modulation radius = 12.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 25.0 mas)	(modulation radius = 37.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 50.0 mas)	(modulation radius = 62.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 75.0 mas)	(modulation radius = 87.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 100.0 mas)	(modulation radius = 112.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 125.0 mas)	(modulation radius = 137.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 150.0 mas)	(modulation radius = 162.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 175.0 mas)	(modulation radius = 187.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 200.0 mas)	(modulation radius = 212.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 225.0 mas)	(modulation radius = 237.5 mas)	(modulation radius = 250.0 mas)	

```

pywf005 PWFs filter 1 (Open)
pywf010 PWFs filter 2 (700 nm, 50 nm BW)
pywf015 PWFs filter 3 (850 nm, 50 nm BW)
pywf020 PWFs filter 4 (750 nm, 50 nm BW)
pywf025 PWFs filter 5 (850 nm, 25 nm BW)
pywf030 PWFs filter 6 (850 nm, 40 nm BW)

pypick01 PWFs pickoff 01 (Open)
pypick02 PWFs pickoff 02 (Silver mirror)
pypick03 PWFs pickoff 03 (50/50 splitter)
pypick04 PWFs pickoff 04 (650 nm SP)
pypick05 PWFs pickoff 05 (700 nm SP)
pypick06 PWFs pickoff 06 (750 nm SP)
pypick07 PWFs pickoff 07 (850 nm SP)
pypick08 PWFs pickoff 08 (850 nm SP)
pypick09 PWFs pickoff 09 (750 nm LP)
pypick10 PWFs pickoff 10 (850 nm LP)
pypick11 PWFs pickoff 11 (850 nm LP)
pypick12 PWFs pickoff 12 (Open)

```

**Pyramid TT Align ( 90.3 mas/V )**

```

2 ->

```

```

tz Current position : scale = 90.3 mas/V ) = -5.023 -4.403
Zero TT align ( .5 .0 .5 )
ttr Move to TT reference position [ - .268 -4.401 ]
tts Store current position as reference
tts0 alignment step = 0.05
tts1 alignment step = 0.1
tts2 alignment step = 0.2
tts3 alignment step = 0.5
txm TT x -0.2 (PWFs bottom left )
typ TT y -0.2 (PWFs top right)
typ TT y +0.2 (PWFs top left )
typ TT y +0.2 (PWFs bottom right)
ts ===== Start TT align =====

tg py TT loop gain = 0.1
tg Monitor TT align tmux session

```

**Pyramid Camera Align ( 5925 steps / pix )**

```

3 ->

```

```

pz Zero Pcam align ( 143736 60198 )
ps10 alignment step = 50000
ps11 alignment step = 100000
ps20 alignment step = 3000
ps30 alignment step = 1000
psm Pcam x -10000 (right)
psm Pcam x +10000 (left)
psm Pcam y -10000 (top)
psm Pcam y +10000 (bottom)
psm ===== Start Pcam align =====

pg Pcam loop gain = 0.4
pg Monitor Pcam align tmux session

```

**DM Flatten**

```

4 ->

```

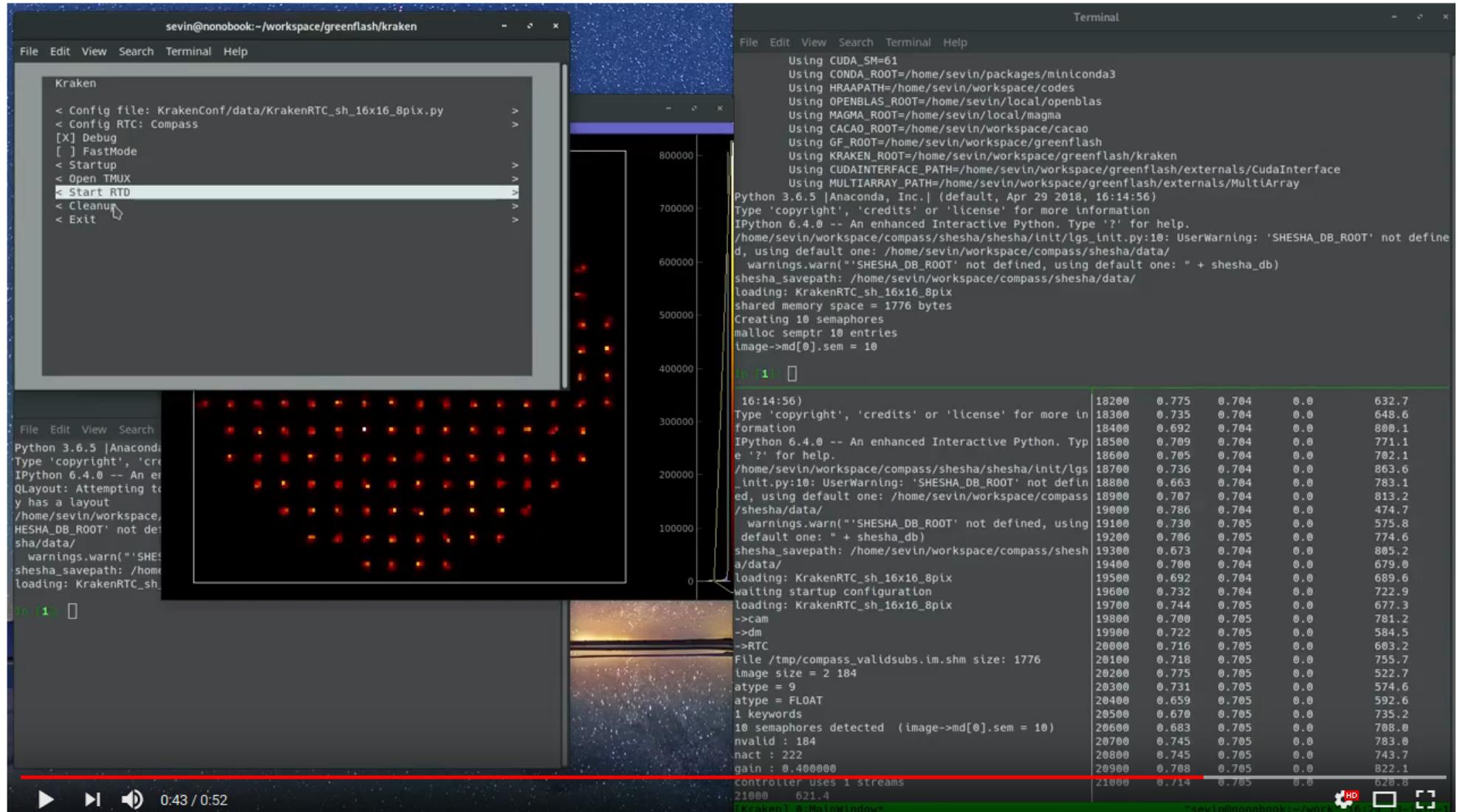
```

f1k Flatten DM for pyWFS
f1k End flatten DM process
f1k Remove flatten DM solution
f1a Apply flatten DM solution
f1m Monitor DM flatten tmux session

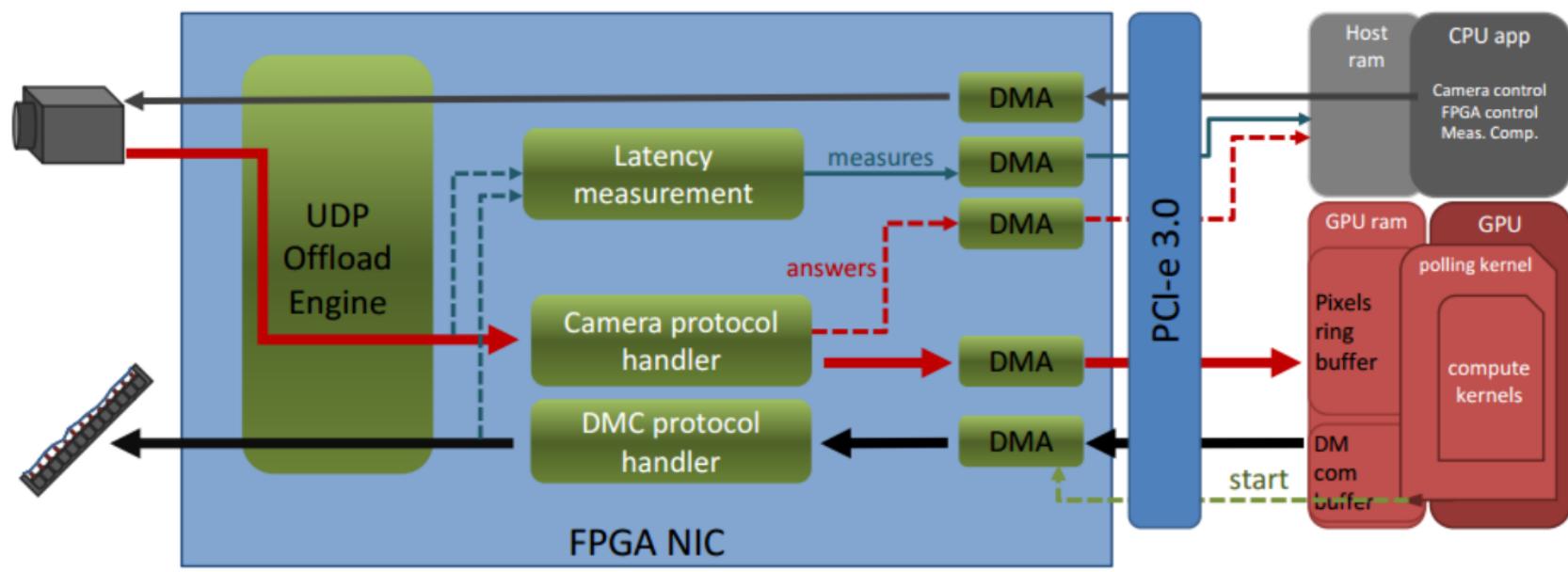
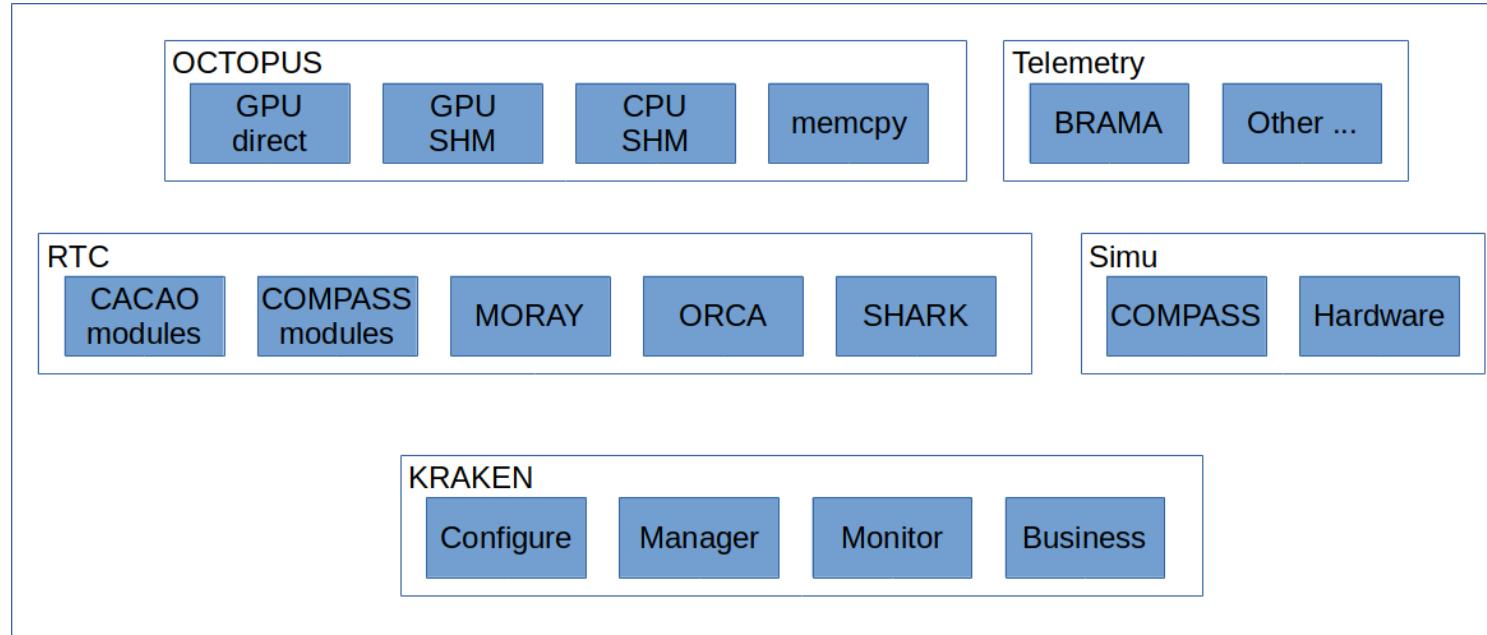
```

<Select> < Top > < Exit >

# Software ecosystem integration & High performance hardware abstraction



# Software ecosystem integration & High performance hardware abstraction



# Thank you !

<https://github.com/cacao-org/cacao>