



Quantum Fluids of Light

*from superfluid light to Mott insulators and
fractional quantum Hall liquids*

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Why not hydrodynamics of light ?

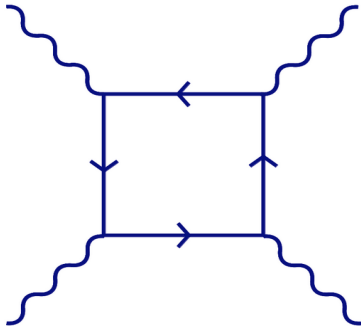
Light field/beam composed by a huge number of photons

- in vacuo photons travel along straight line at c
- (practically) do not interact with each other
- in standard cavity, thermalization via walls and absorption/emission

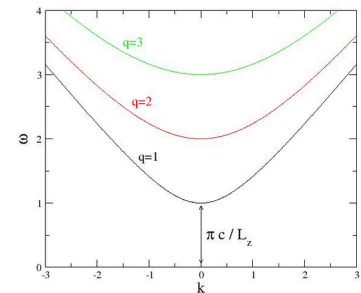
optics in vacuo typically dominated by single-particle physics

In suitable photonic structures:

- spatial confinement \rightarrow effective photon mass
- $\chi^{(3)}$ nonlinearity \rightarrow photon-photon interactions



Collective behaviour of *quantum fluid of light*

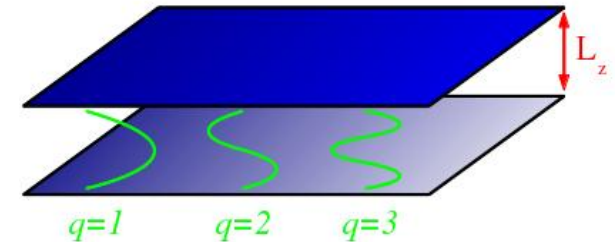


What about mass?

In vacuo: photons massless, dispersion $\omega = c |k|$

In planar cavity \rightarrow confinement along z , free propagation along x,y

Quantization along z : $k_z^{(q)} = q \pi / L_z$

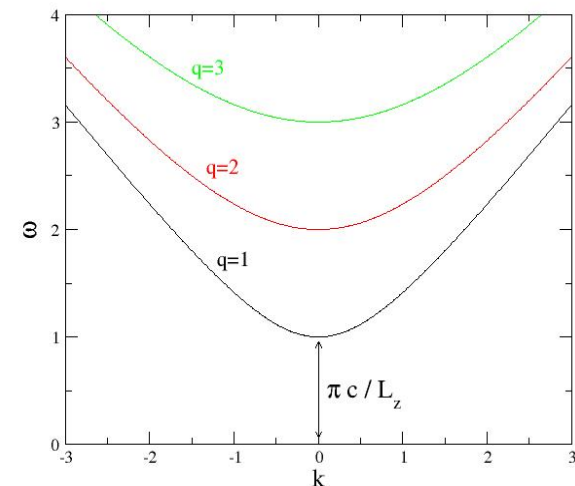


Massive dispersion along x,y :

$$\omega^{(q)}(\mathbf{k}_{\parallel}) = c \sqrt{[k_z^{(q)}]^2 + \mathbf{k}_{\parallel}^2} = c \sqrt{\left(\frac{q\pi}{L_z}\right)^2 + \mathbf{k}_{\parallel}^2} \simeq ck_z^{(q)} + \frac{c}{2k_z^{(q)}} \mathbf{k}_{\parallel}^2$$

Confinement gives effective photon mass $m_{ph}c^2 = \hbar ck_z^0$

- Rest mass \rightarrow cut-off in the dispersion
- Inertial mass \rightarrow curvature of dispersion



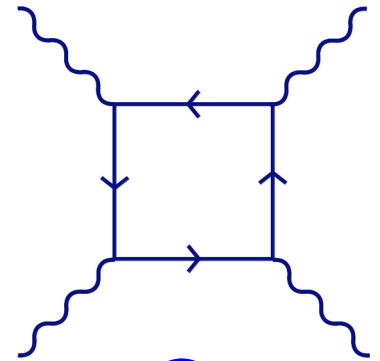
What about interactions?

Photon-photon interactions exist in QED:

Heisenberg-Euler processes via electron-positron exchange

... but cross section ridiculously small for visible light

(recent experiment in accelerator → Nat. Phys. 2017)



$$\sigma \sim \alpha^4 \frac{\hbar^2}{m^2 c^2} \left(\frac{\hbar \omega}{mc^2} \right)^6$$

Compton $\lambda \rightarrow$ pm range

How to enhance it ?

Replace electron-positron pair ($E \sim 1\text{MeV}$) with
electron-hole pair ($E \sim 1\text{eV}$) → gain factor $(10^6)^6 = 10^{36}$!!

In optical language:

- $\chi^{(3)}$ nonlinearity ↔ local photon-photon interactions
- typical material → spatially local (or quasi-local) $\chi^{(3)}$

Modern exceptional media:

- Rydberg atoms
 - Ultra-large, long-range nonlinearity in Rydberg-EIT config.
- Superconducting circuits
 - Strong coupling to macroscopic oscillation mode of superconductor device

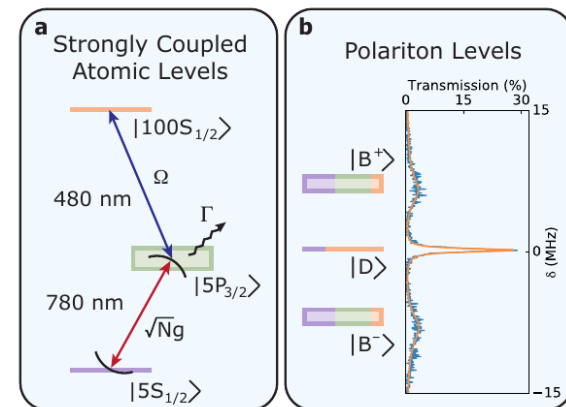
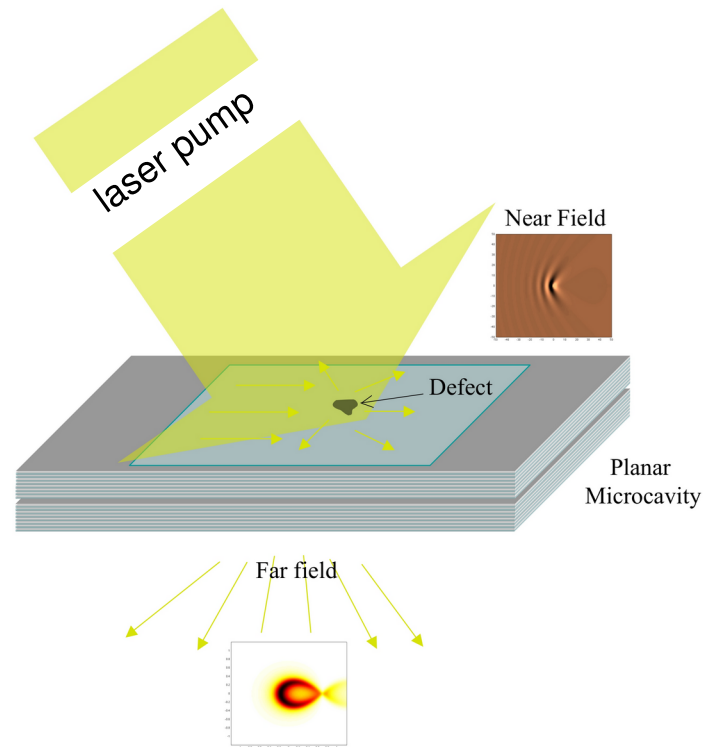


Figure: J. Simon's group @ U. Chicago

How to create and detect the photon gas?



Pump needed to compensate losses: stationary state is NOT thermodynamical equilibrium

- Coherent laser pump: directly injects photon BEC in cavity, may lock BEC phase
- Incoherent (optical or electric) pump: BEC transition similar to laser threshold
spontaneous breaking of U(1) symmetry

Classical and quantum correlations of in-plane field directly transfer to emitted radiation

Part 2:

Weakly interacting fluids of light

Superfluid light &

Non-Equilibrium Statistical Mechanics

Mean-field theory: generalized GPE

$$i \frac{d\psi}{dt} = \left[\omega_o - \frac{\hbar \nabla^2}{2m} + V_{ext} + g |\psi|^2 + \frac{i}{2} \left(\frac{P_0}{1 + \alpha |\psi|^2} - \gamma \right) \right] \psi + F_{ext}$$

Time-evolution of macroscopic wavefunction ψ of photon/polariton condensate

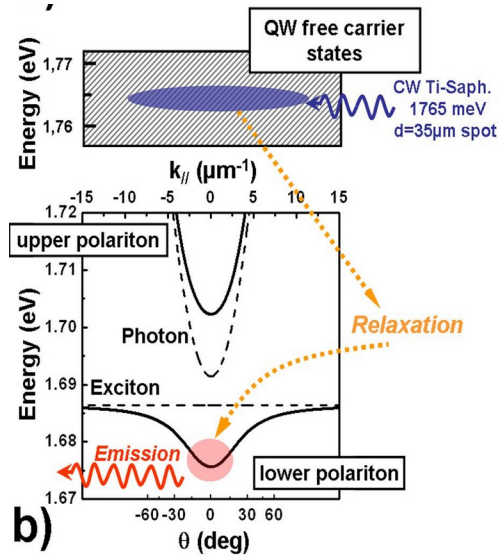
- standard terms: kinetic energy, external potential V_{ext} , interactions g , losses γ
- under coherent pump: forcing term
- under incoherent pump: polariton-polariton scattering from thermal component give saturable amplification term as in semiclassical theory of laser

→ a sort of Complex Landau-Ginzburg equation

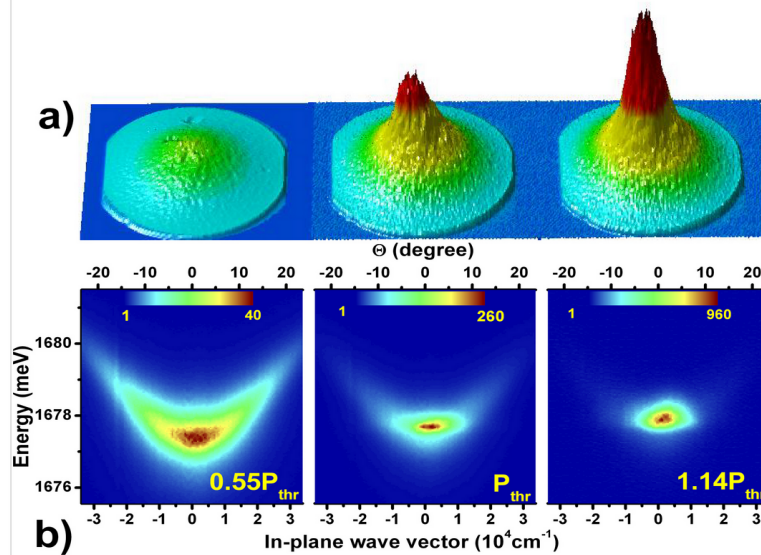
To go beyond mean-field theory:

- Exact diagonalization, Wigner representation, Keldysh diagrams, ...

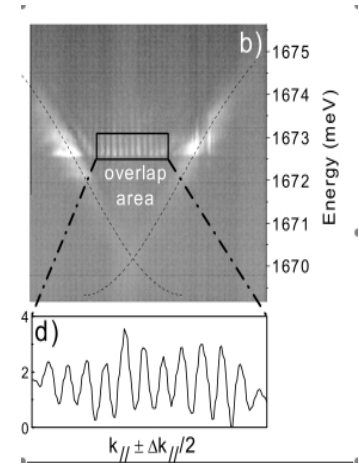
2006 - Photon Bose-Einstein condensation



b) Figure from Kasprzak et al., Nature 2006

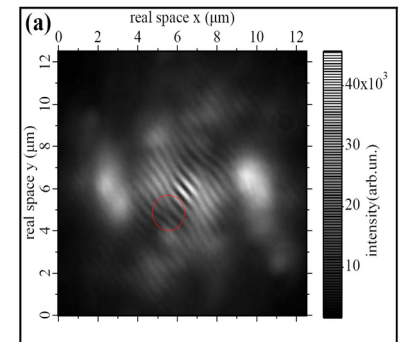


Momentum distribution
 Kasprzak et al., Nature 443, 409 (2006)



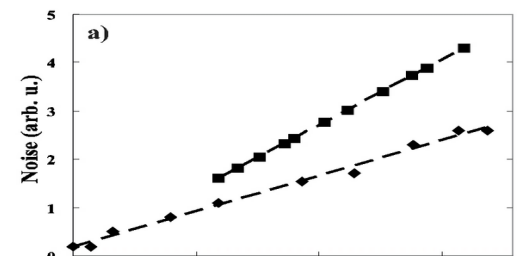
Interference

Richard et al., PRL 94, 187401 (2005)



Quantized vortices

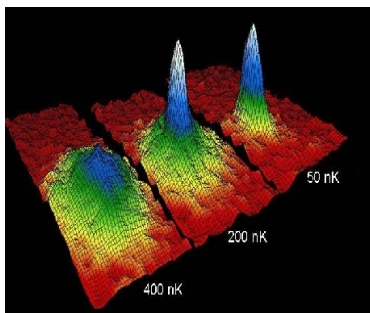
K. Lagoudakis et al.
 Nature Physics 4, 706 (2008).



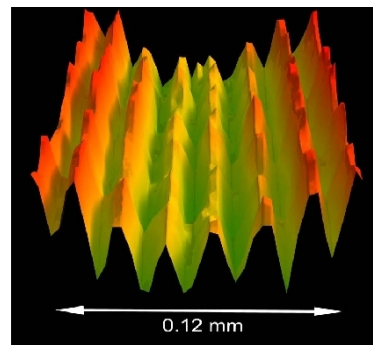
Suppressed fluctuations

A. Baas et al., PRL 96, 176401 (2006)

Many features very similar to atomic BEC

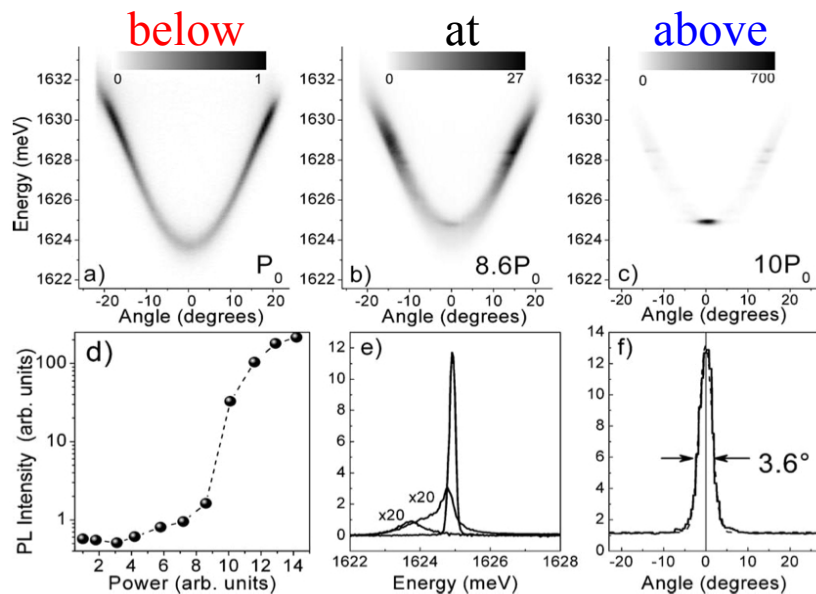


The first atomic BEC
 M. H. Anderson et al.
 Science 269, 198 (1995)



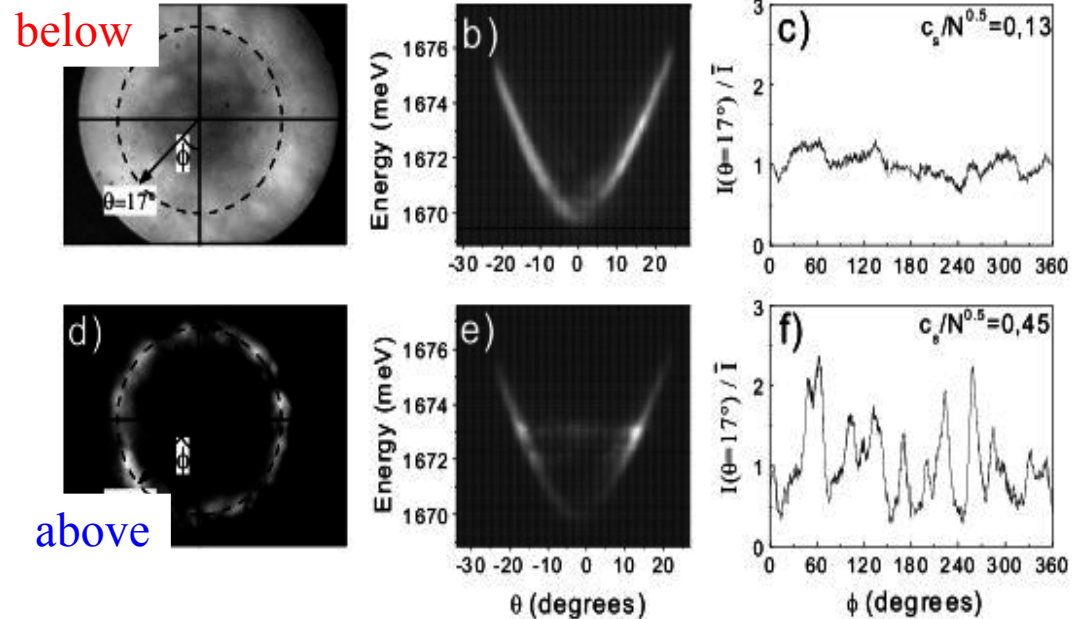
Interference pattern of two
 expanding atomic BECs
 M. R. Andrews, Science 275, 637 (1995)

A crucial difference: the shape of a non-equilibrium BEC



wide pump spot: 20 μm

M. Richard et al., PRB 72, 201301 (2005)



narrow pump spot: 3 μm

M. Richard et al., PRL 94, 187401 (2005)

Experimental observations **under non-resonant pump**:

- condensate shape depends on **pump spot size**
 - **wide pump spot**: condensation at **$k=0$**
 - **narrow pump spot**: condensation on a **ring of modes** at **finite $|k|$**

Analogous experiments in J. Bloch's group @ LPN in 1D geometry: Wertz et al. Nat. Phys 2008

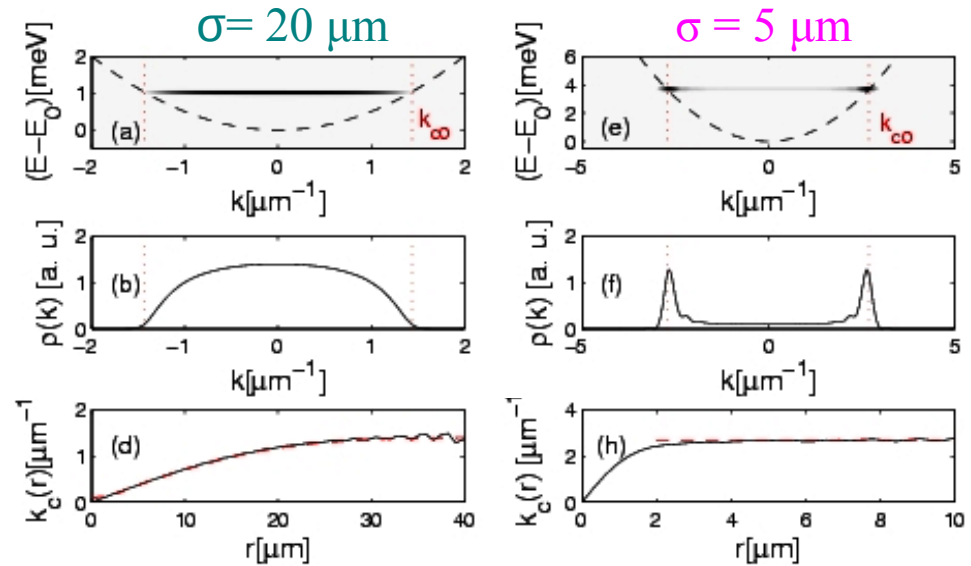
Physical interpretation of condensation at $k \neq 0$

Repulsive interactions

- outward radial acceleration
- energy conservation

$$E = k^2/2m + U_{\text{int}}(r)$$

- radially increasing flow velocity
- coherent ballistic flow



M. Wouters, IC, and C. Ciuti, PRB 77, 115340 (2008)

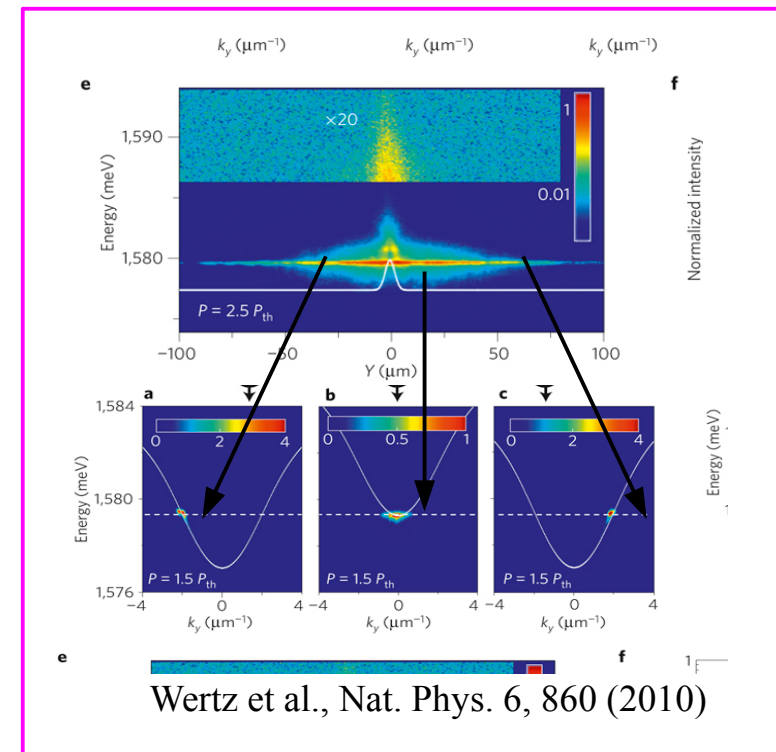
Narrow spot:

- ballistic free flight outside pump spot $U_{\text{int}}(r)=0$
- emission mostly on free particle dispersion

Later expts confirm mechanism →

T-reversal breaking:

- allowed by non-equilibrium
- allows for non-zero current
- also visible as $n(k) \neq n(-k)$



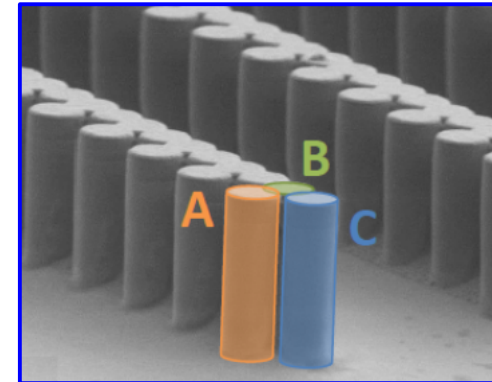
Quasi-condensation features

Hohenberg-Mermin-Wagner theorem:

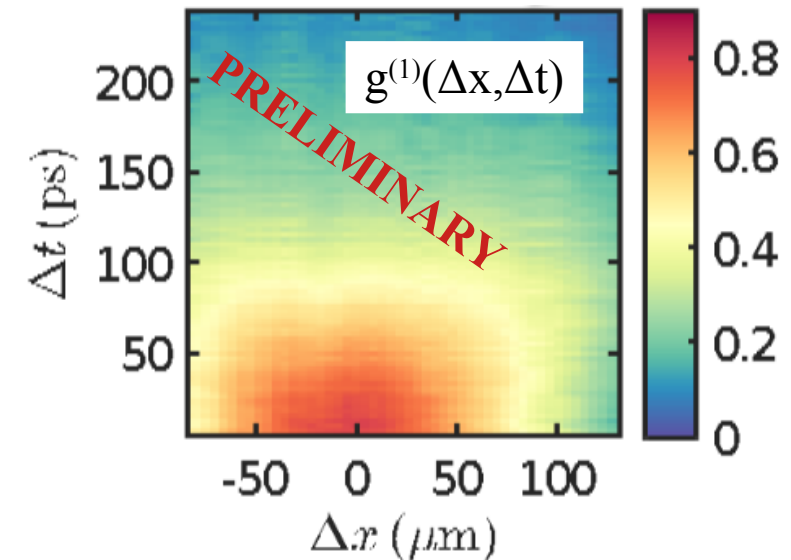
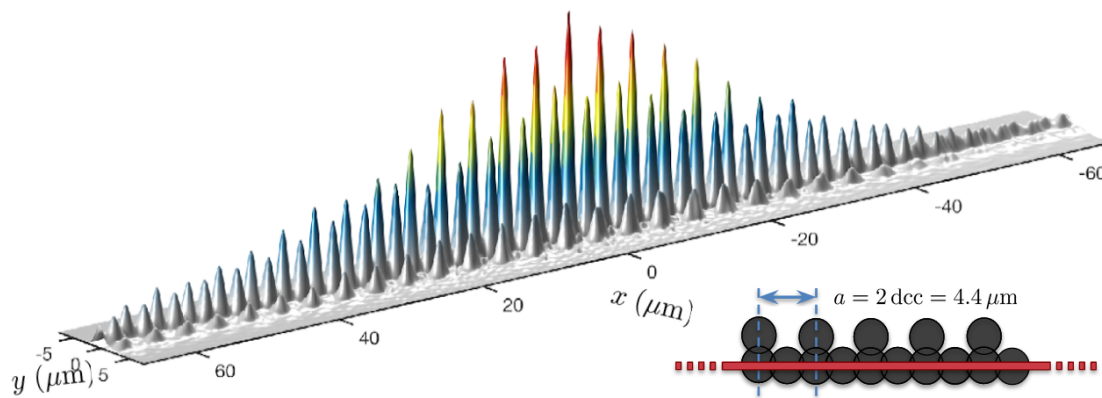
- at equilibrium, no BEC in $d < 3$

Non-equilibrium condensation or lasing:

- no BEC in 1D: exponential decay of $g^{(1)}(x)$
(Graham-Haken, 1970; Wouters-IC, PRB 2006)
- debate in 2D: KPZ nonlinearities destroy BKT transition?
(Dagvadorj et al., PRX 2015; Altman et al., PRX 2015; Zamora et al., PRX 2017)



Experiment: 1D lattice with array of semiconductor micropillars

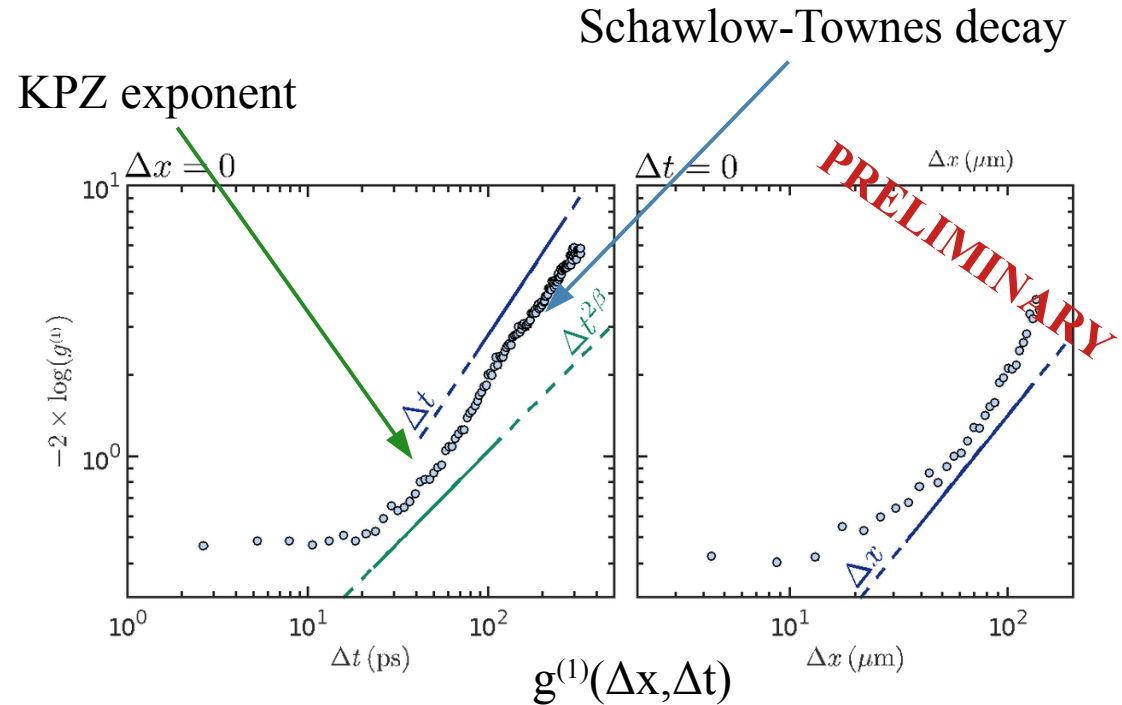
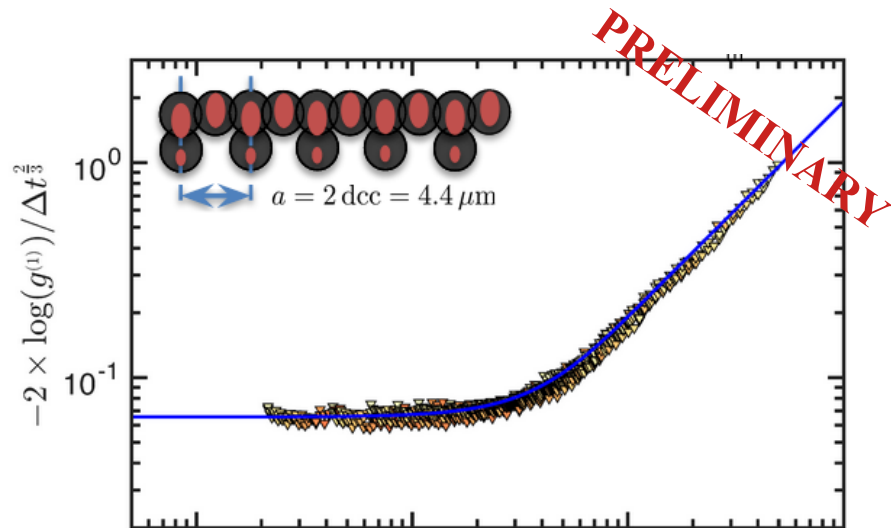


Expt data: Q. Fontaine at C2N – group of J. Bloch, S. Ravets, A. Amo

Non-equilibrium KPZ features

KPZ features in $g^{(1)}(x,t) \rightarrow$ signature of **non-equilibrium** quasi-condensation process

Power laws in the decay of $g^{(1)}(\Delta x, \Delta t)$



Collapse of cuts of $g^{(1)}(\Delta x, \Delta t)$
on Kardar-Parisi-Zhang universal curve

2008 - Superfluid light (under coherent pump)

scattering
on weak defect

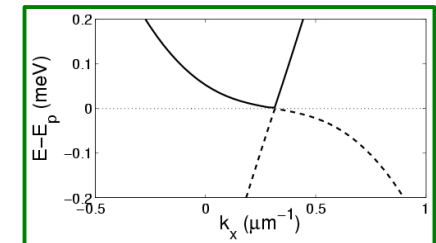
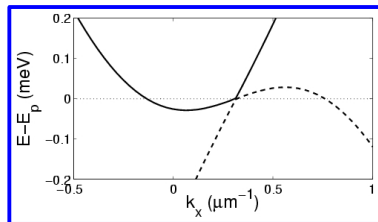
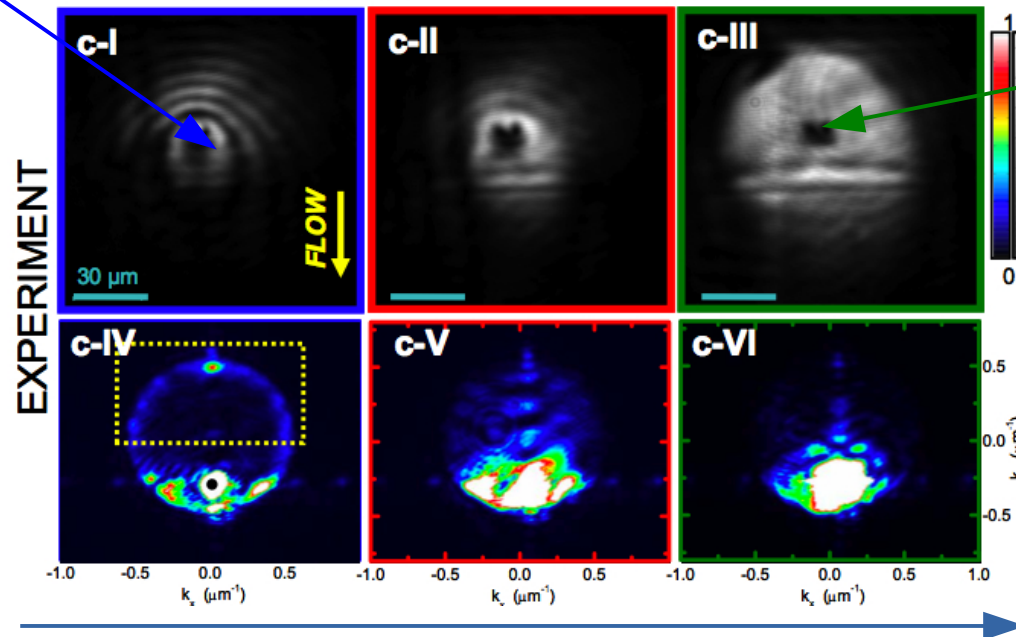
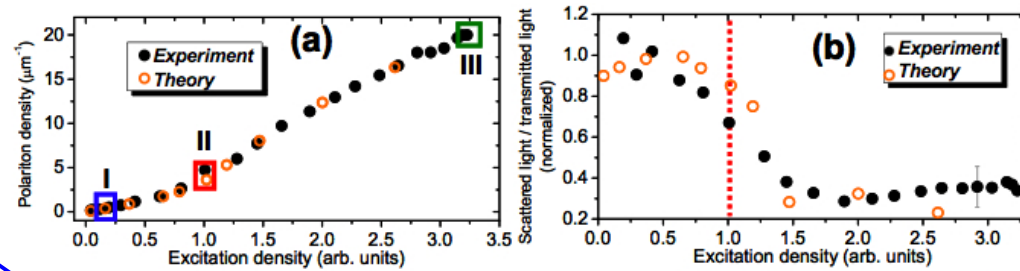


Figure from LKB-P6 group:

A.Amo, J. Lefrère, S.Pigeon, C.Adrados, C.Ciuti, IC, R. Houdré, E.Giacobino, A.Bramati, *Observation of Superfluidity of Polaritons in Semiconductor Microcavities*, Nature Phys. **5**, 805 (2009)

Theory: IC and C. Ciuti, PRL **93**, 166401 (2004).

Sound in photon BECs: non-equilibrium effects

Polariton BEC regime under incoherent pump (i.e. polariton lasing)

Linearize GPE around steady state

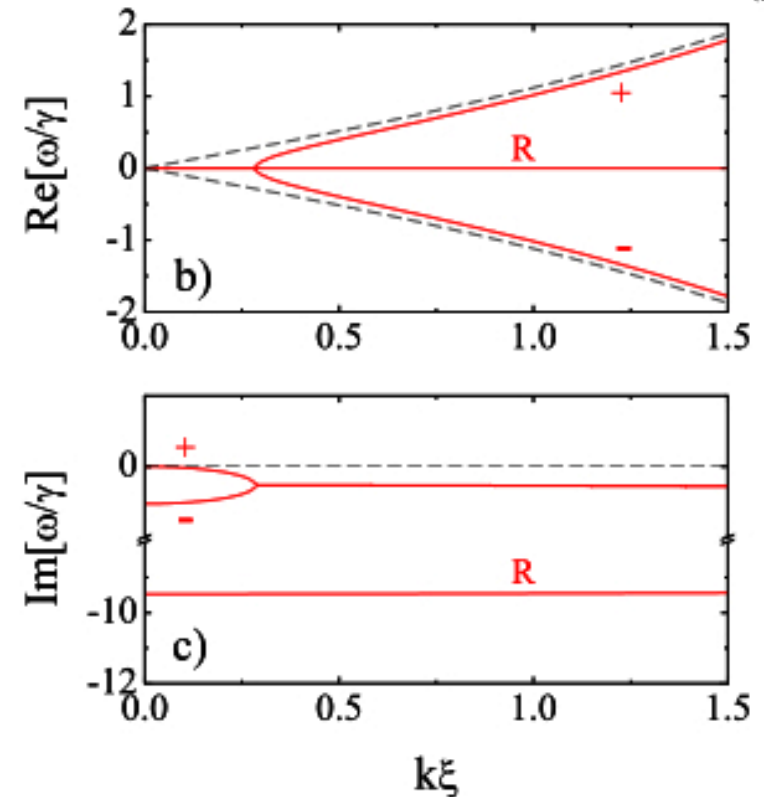
→ Reservoir R mode at $-i\gamma_R$

→ Condensate density and phase modes at:

$$\omega_{\pm}(k) = -\frac{i\Gamma}{2} \pm \sqrt{[\omega_{Bog}(k)]^2 - \frac{\Gamma^2}{4}}$$

with:

$$\omega_{Bog}(k) = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar k^2}{2m_{LP}} \left(\frac{\hbar k^2}{2m_{LP}} + 2\mu \right)}$$



→ density (-) and phase (+) oscillations decoupled around $k=0$

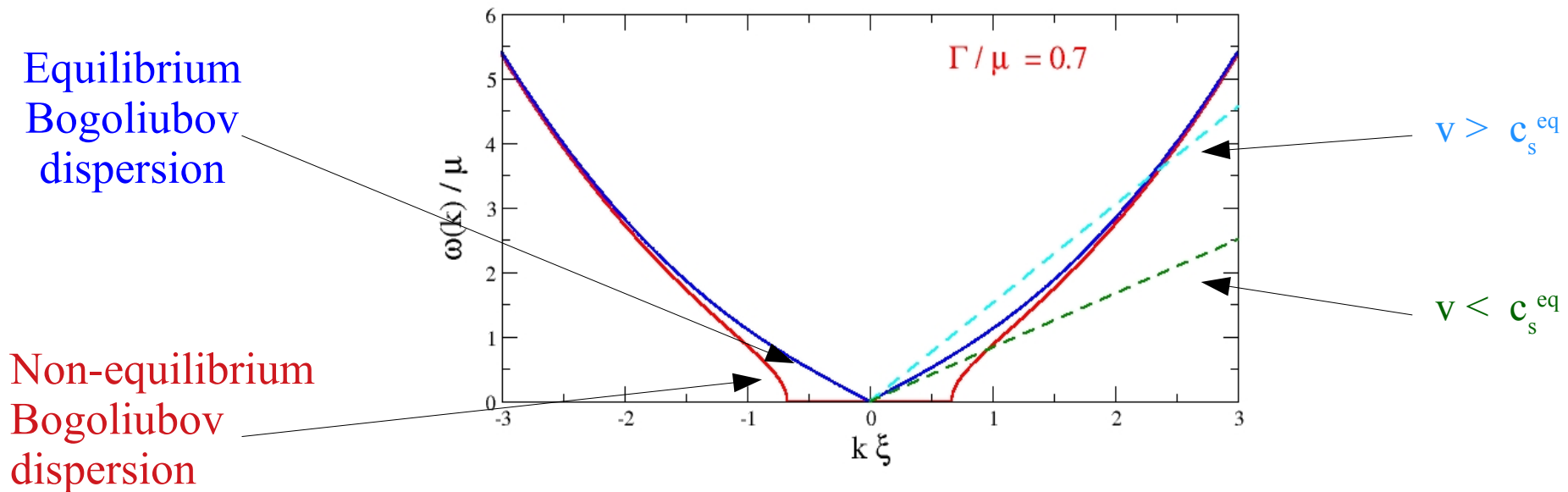
→ Goldstone phase (+) mode is diffusive

M. Wouters and IC, *Excitations in a non-equilibrium polariton BEC*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **99**, 140402 (2007)

Similar results in: M. H. Szymanska, J. Keeling, P. B. Littlewood, PRL **96**, 230602 (2006)

Not yet experimentally observed

Consequences on superfluidity



Long-range coherence → metastability of supercurrents (mode stability of ring lasers)

Interaction with defect: naïf Landau argument

- Landau critical velocity $v_L = \min_k [\omega(k) / k] = 0$ at non-equilibrium BEC
- Any moving defect expected to emit phonons

But nature is always richer than expected...

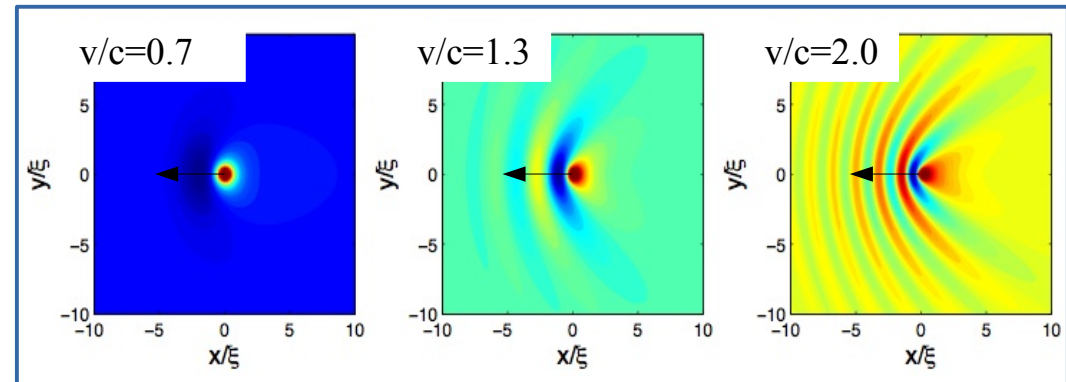
Steady-state \rightarrow well defined ω

Defect \rightarrow k not a good quantum number

(Complex) k vs. (real) ω dispersion

Low v :

- emitted k_{\parallel} purely imaginary
- no real propagating phonons
- perturbation localized around defect

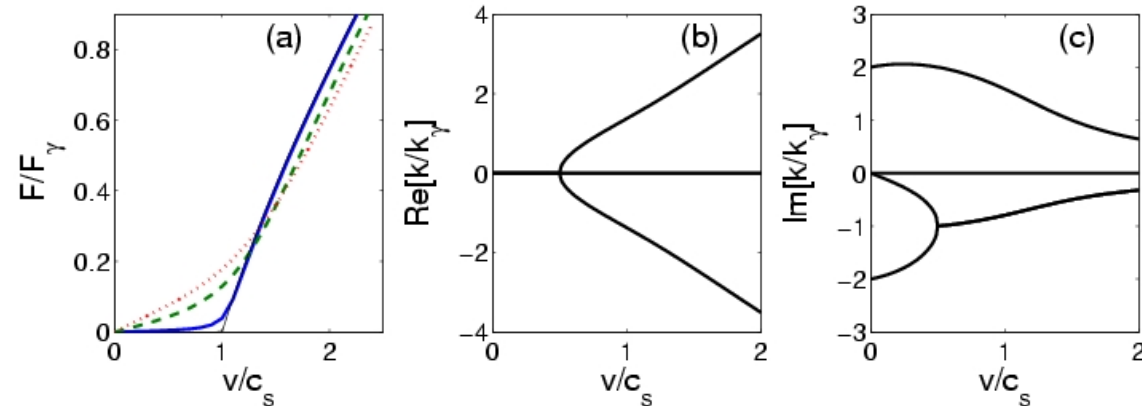


Critical velocity $v_c < c$:

- corresponds to bifurcation point
- decreases with Γ / μ

High v :

- emitted propagating phonons:
 - \rightarrow Cerenkov cone
 - \rightarrow parabolic precursors
- spatial damping of Cerenkov cone

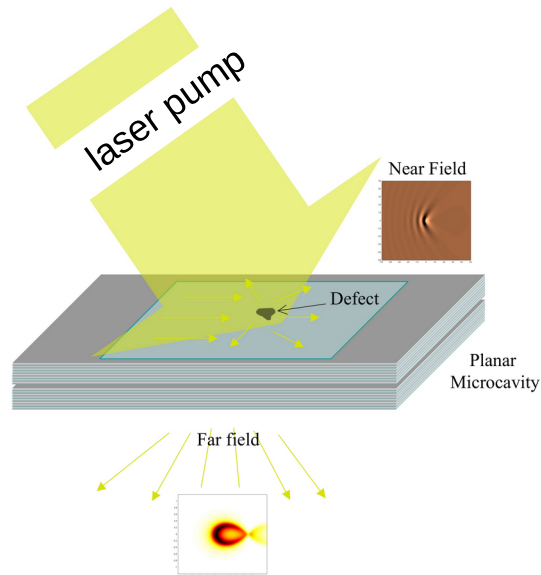


Part 3:

Quantum fluids of light
with a unitary dynamics

Field equation of motion

Planar microcavities & cavity arrays



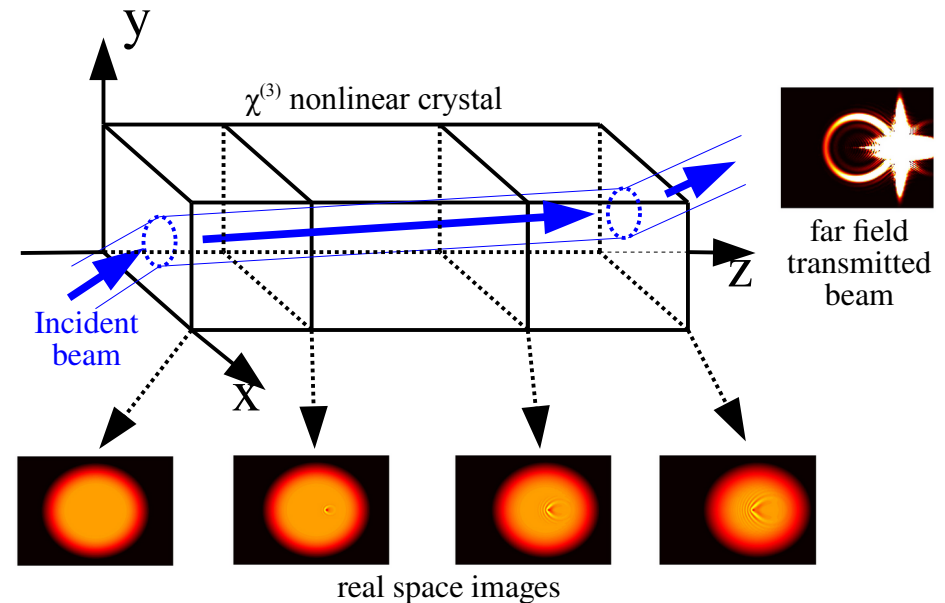
Pump needed to compensate losses:
driven-dissipative dynamics in real time
stationary state \neq thermodyn. equilibrium

Driven-dissipative CGLE evolution

$$i \frac{dE}{dt} = \left[\omega_o - \frac{\hbar \nabla^2}{2m} + V_{ext} + g |E|^2 + \frac{i}{2} \left(\frac{P_0}{1 + \alpha |E|^2} - \gamma \right) \right] E + F_{ext}$$

Quantum correl. sensitive to dissipation

Propagating geometry



Monochromatic beam

Incident beam sets initial condition @ $z=0$

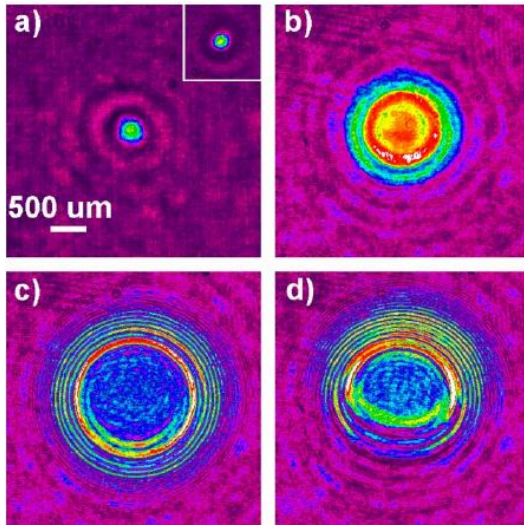
MF \rightarrow Conserv. paraxial propag. \rightarrow GPE

$$i \frac{dE}{dz} = \left[-\frac{\hbar \nabla_{xy}^2}{2\beta} + V_{ext} + g |E|^2 E \right] E$$

- V_{ext} , g proportional to $-(\epsilon(r)-1)$ and $\chi^{(3)}$
- Mass \rightarrow diffraction (xy)

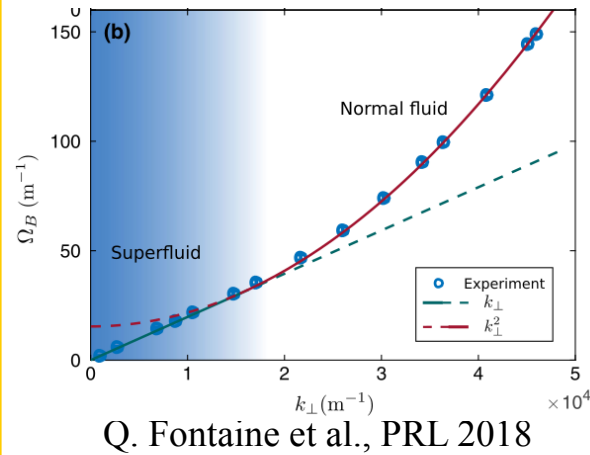
A few landmark experiments (among many)

Dispersive superfluid-like shock waves

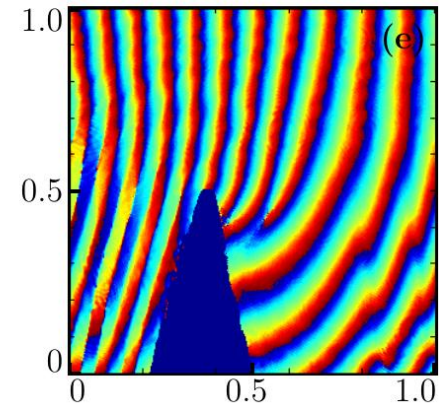
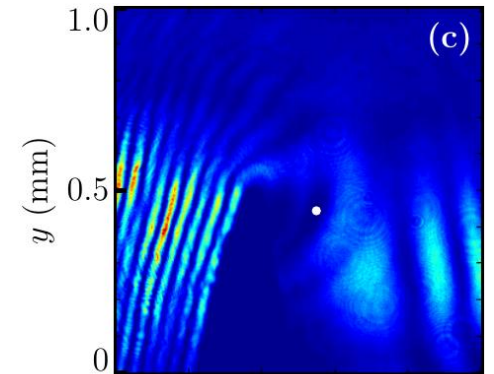


Wan et al., Nat. Phys. 3, 46 (2007)

Bogoliubov dispersion of collective excitations

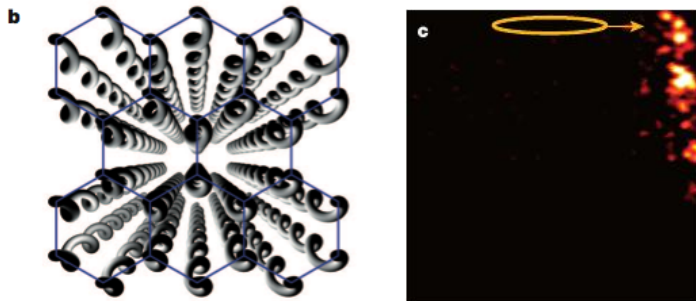


Hydrodynamic nucleation of quantized vortices



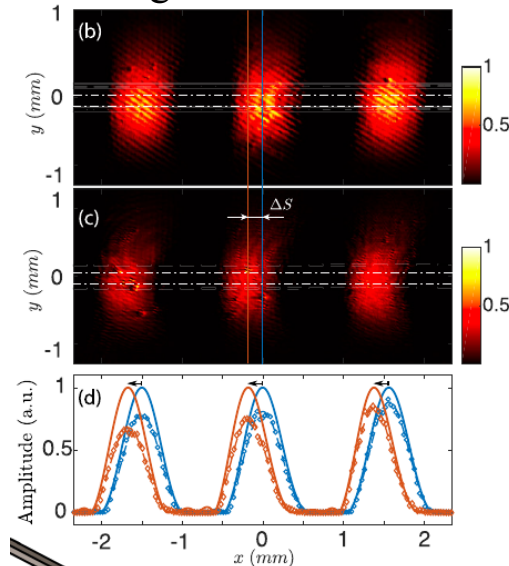
D. Vocke et al., PRA (2016)

Chiral edge states in (photonic) Floquet topological insulator



Rechtsman, et al., Nature 496, 196 (2013)

Microscopic structure of Bogoliubov modes



Q. Fontaine et al., Phys. Rev. Res. (2020)

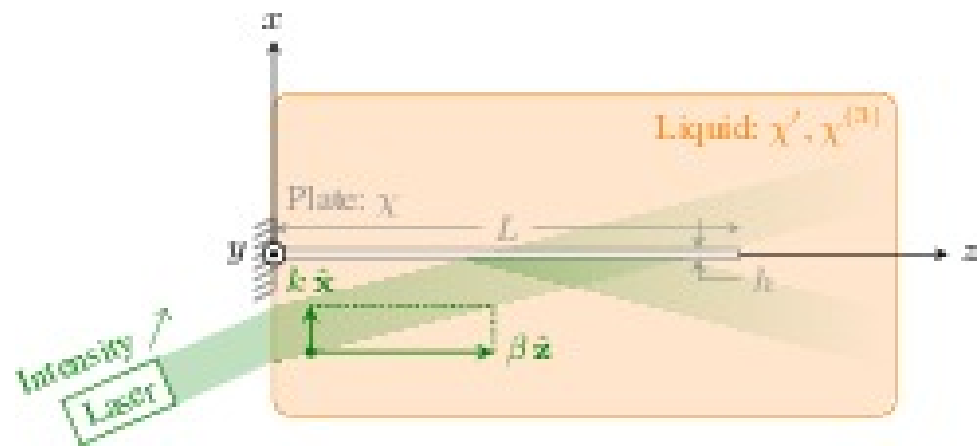
Frictionless flow of superfluid light (I)

All superfluid light experiments so far:

- Planar microcavity device with stationary obstacle in flowing light
- Measure response on the **fluid density/momentum pattern**
- Obstacle typically is defect **embedded in semiconductor material**
- **Impossible to measure mechanical friction force exerted onto obstacle**

Propagating geometry more flexible:

- Obstacle can be solid dielectric slab with different refractive index
- Immersed in **liquid nonlinear medium**, so can move and deform
- **Mechanical force measurable from magnitude of slab deformation**



Frictionless flow of superfluid light (II)

Numerics for **propagation GPE** of **monochromatic laser**:

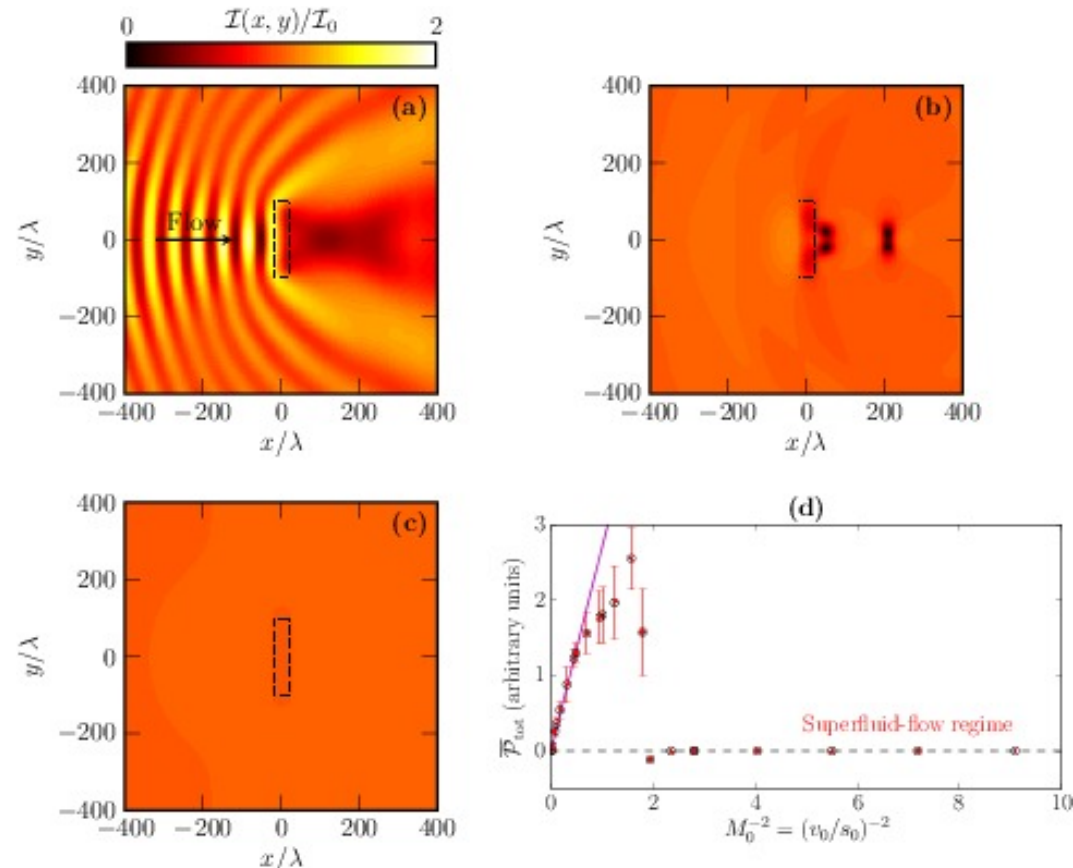
$$i \partial_z E = -\frac{1}{2\beta} (\partial_{xx} + \partial_{yy}) E + V(r) E + g |E|^2 E$$

with $V(r) = -\beta \Delta \varepsilon(r) / (2\varepsilon)$ with rectangular cross section and $g = -\beta \chi^{(3)} / (2\varepsilon)$

For growing light power, **superfluidity** visible:

- Intensity modulation disappears
- Suppression of opto-mechanical force

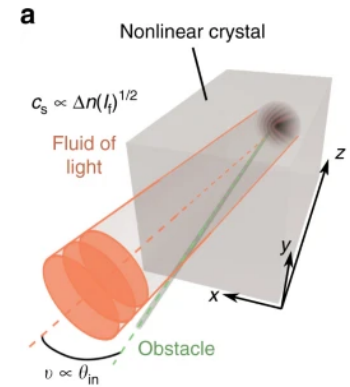
Fused silica slab:
deformation almost in
the μm range



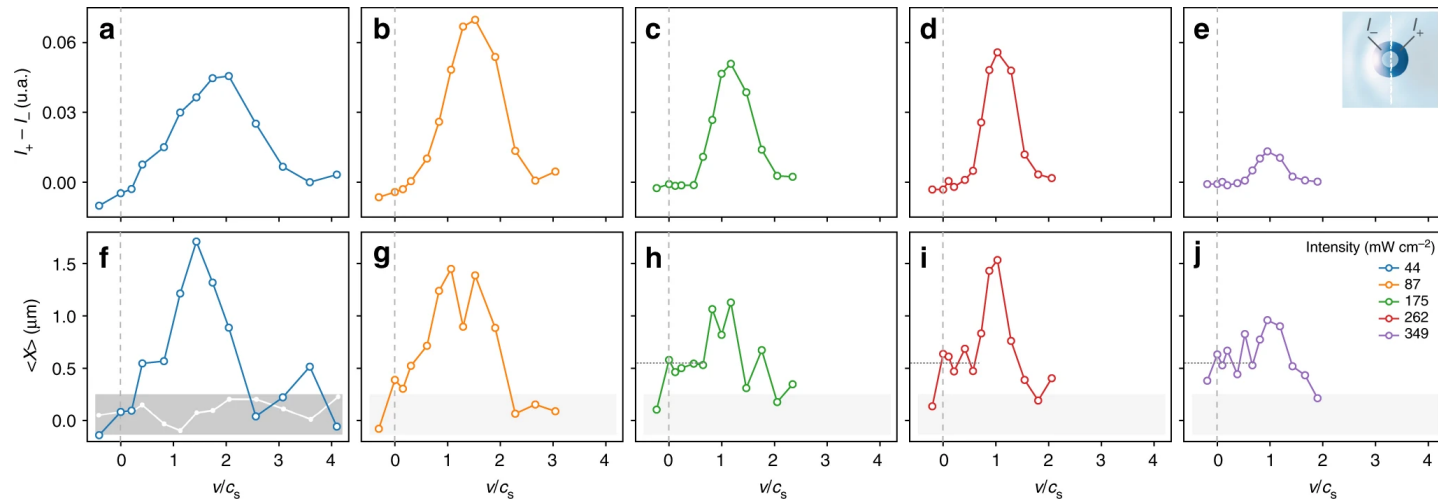
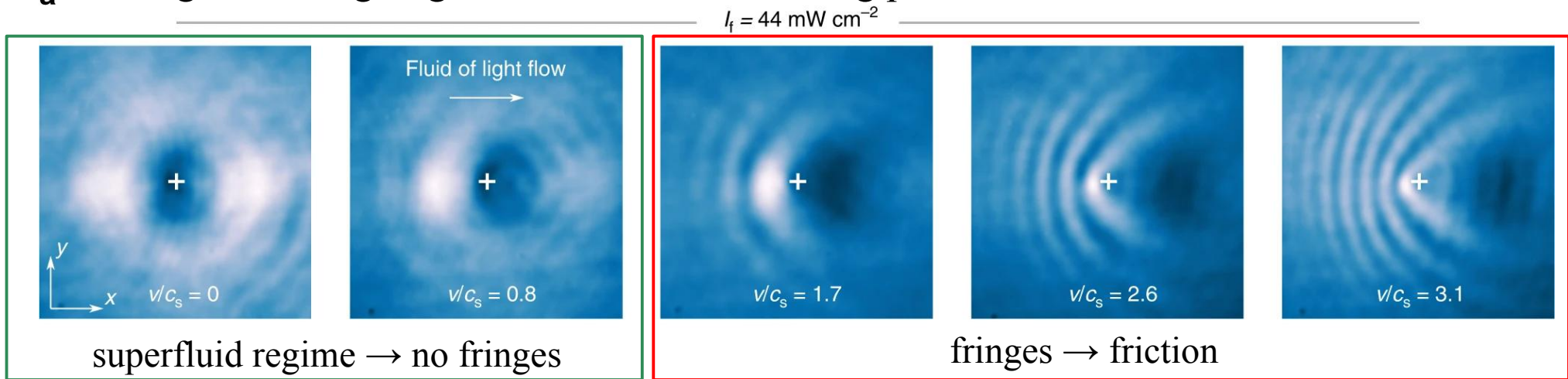
Frictionless flow of superfluid light (III)

Smarter all-optical design:

- defect \rightarrow static Δn by additional beam
- friction force measured by displacement of **defect beam**

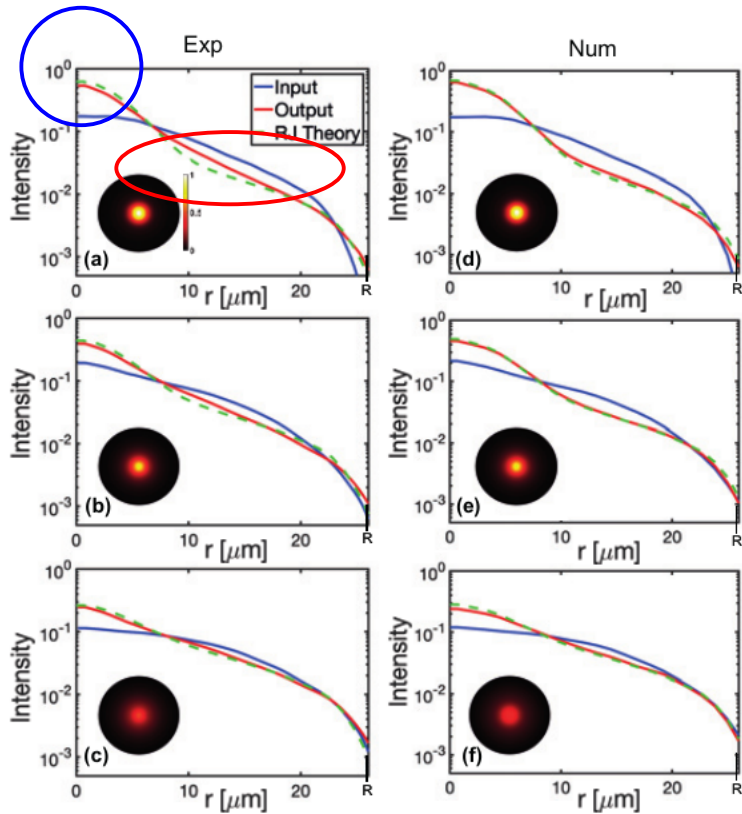


a Images of out-going **fluid beam** for increasing power



Figures from:
 C. Michel et al.,
 Nat. Comm. 2018

Condensation of classical waves

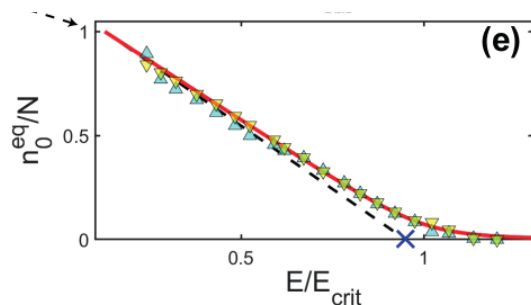


Monochromatic beam
with noisy spatial profile
injected into multi-mode fiber

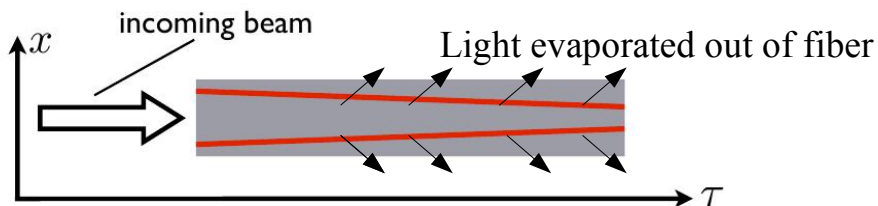
Classical nonlinearity → stays monochromatic
GPE evolution during propagation

Thermalizes to:

- classical condensate
- thermal cloud with Rayleigh-Jeans $1/k^2$ high- k tail



- What about quantum effects?
- How to recover Planckian?
- Can be used for evaporative cooling of light?
New source of coherent light



Images from Baudin PRL (2020) + EPL (2020)
Earlier expts in Sun et al., Nature Physics 8, 470 (2012)
Other works by Krupa, Wabnitz, etc.

More sophisticated theory: Chiocchetta et al., EPL 2016

How to include quantum fluctuations beyond MF

Requires going beyond monochromatic beam and explicitly including physical time

Gross-Pitaevskii-like eq. for propagation of quasi-monochromatic field

$$i \frac{\partial E}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{2\beta_0} \left(\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial y^2} \right) - \frac{1}{2D_0} \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial t^2} + V(r)E + g|E|^2 E$$

Propagation coordinate $z \rightarrow$ time

Physical time \rightarrow extra spatial variable, dispersion $D_0 \rightarrow$ temporal mass

Upon quantization \rightarrow conservative many-body evolution in z : $i \frac{d}{dz} |\psi\rangle = H |\psi\rangle$

$$\text{with } H = N \iiint dx dy dt \left[\frac{1}{2\beta_0} \nabla \hat{E}^\dagger \nabla \hat{E} - \frac{D_0}{2} \frac{\partial \hat{E}^\dagger}{\partial t} \frac{\partial \hat{E}}{\partial t} + V \hat{E}^\dagger \hat{E} + \hat{E}^\dagger \hat{E}^\dagger \hat{E} \hat{E} \right]$$

Same z commutator $[\hat{E}(x, y, t, z), \hat{E}^\dagger(x', y', t', z)] = \frac{c \hbar \omega_0 v_0}{\epsilon} \delta(x - x') \delta(y - y') \delta(t - t')$

P.-E. Larré, IC, *Propagation of a quantum fluid of light in a cavityless nonlinear optical medium: General theory and response to quantum quenches*, PRA **92**, 043802 (2015)

See also old work by Lai and Haus, PRA 1989

Dynamical Casimir emission at quantum quench (I)

Monochromatic wave @ normal incidence

Slab of weakly nonlinear medium

→ **Weakly interacting Bose gas at rest**

Air / nonlinear medium interface

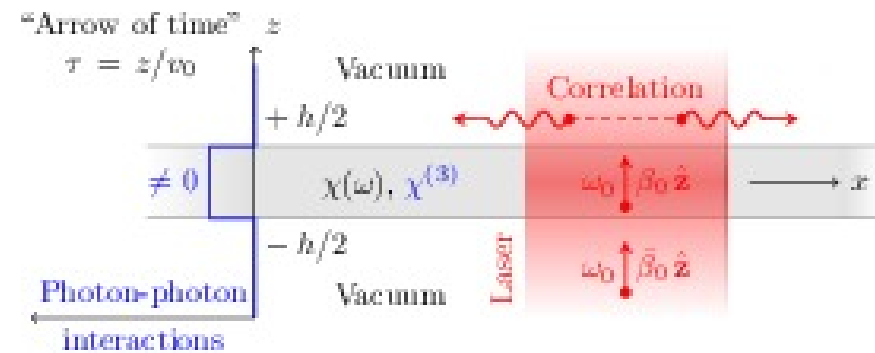
→ **sudden jump** in interaction constant when moving along z

Mismatch of Bogoliubov ground state in air and in nonlinear medium

→ emission of phonon pairs at opposite k on top of fluid of light

Propagation along z

→ **conservative quantum dynamics**



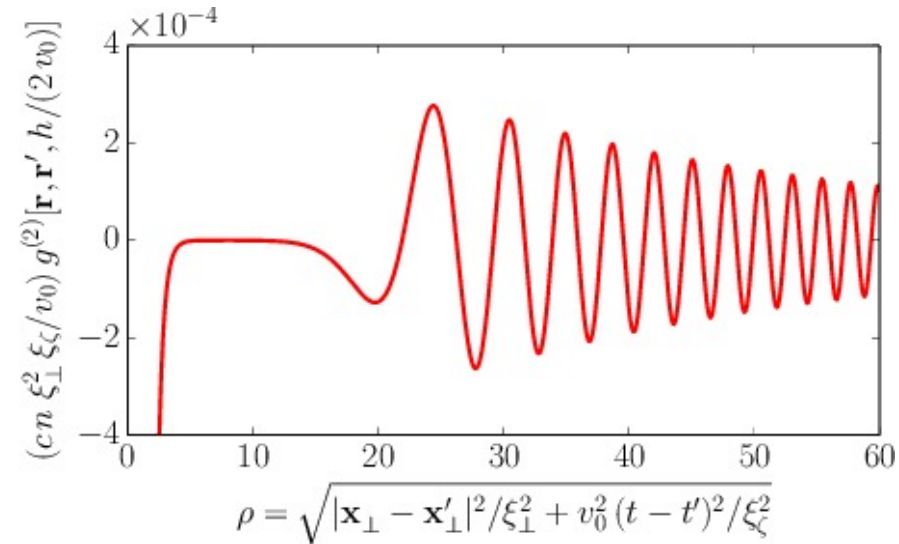
Important question: what is quantum evolution at late times? Thermalization?

Dynamical Casimir emission at quantum quench (II)

Observables:

- **Far-field** → correlated pairs of photons at opposite angles
- **Near-field** → peculiar pattern of intensity noise correl.

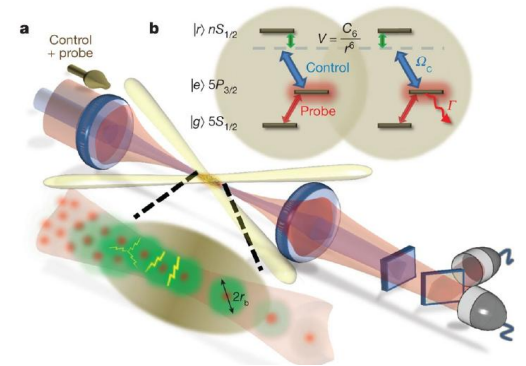
First peak propagates at the **speed of sound c_s**



quantum simulation of fluctuations in early universe

:

Quantum dynamics most interesting in strongly nonlinear media, e.g. Rydberg polaritons

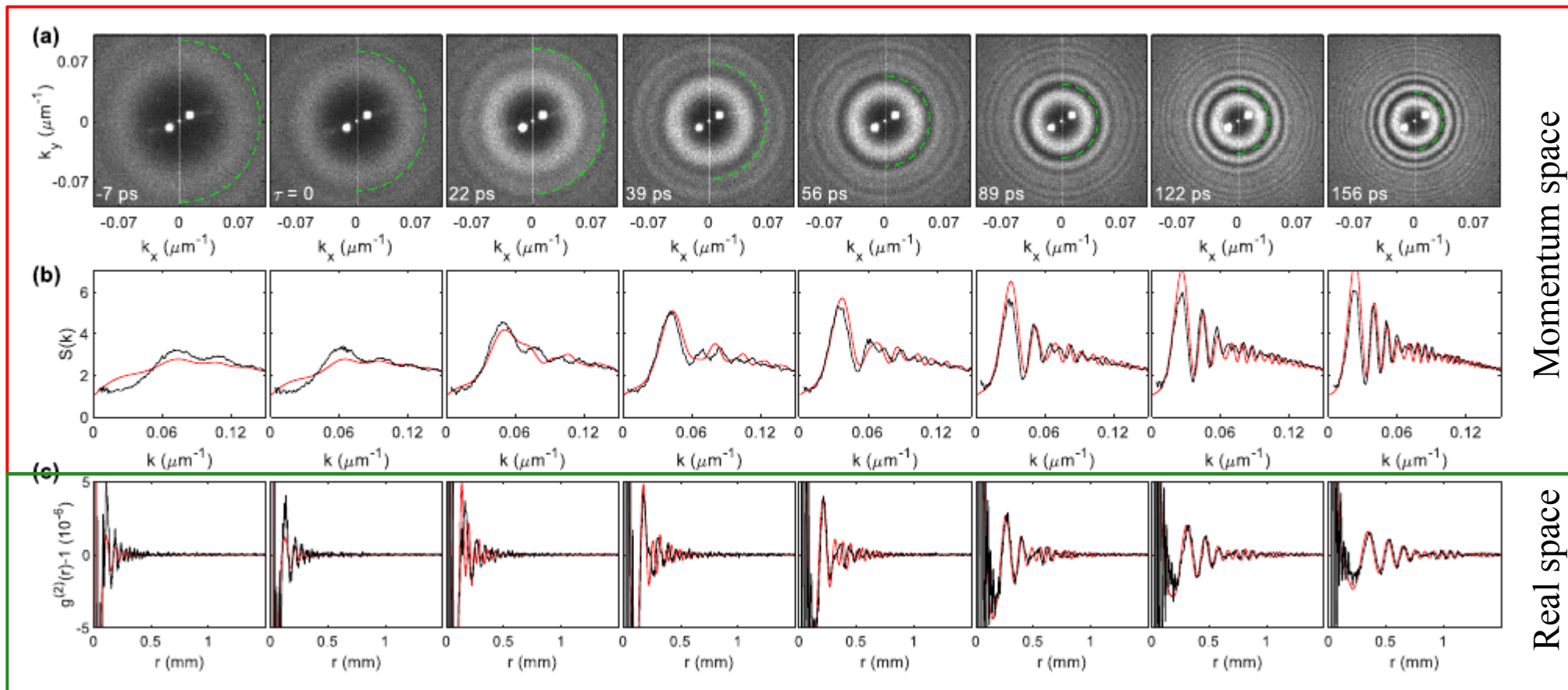


Dynamical Casimir emission at quantum quench (III)

Experimental data from: Steinhauer, Abuzarli, Bienaimé, Piekarski,
Liu, Aladjidi, Giacobino, Bramati, Glorieux (2021)

“Spontaneous and stimulated dynamical Casimir effects in a quantum fluid of light”

Experimental correlation pattern in outgoing beam



A potentially important technological issue...

Long-distance fiber-optic set-ups
→ telecom over distances $\sim 10^4$ km

Can optical coherence be preserved?

Several disturbing effects:



- (extrinsic) fluctuations of fiber temperature, length, etc.
- (intrinsic) Fiber material has some (typically weak) $\chi^{(3)}$
Shot noise on photon number gives fluctuations of $n_{\text{refr}} \sim n_0 + \chi^{(3)} I$

Statistical mechanics suggests that phase fluctuations destroy 1D BEC

→ light at the end of fiber has lost its (temporal) phase coherence

Is this intuitive picture correct? How to tame phase decoherence?

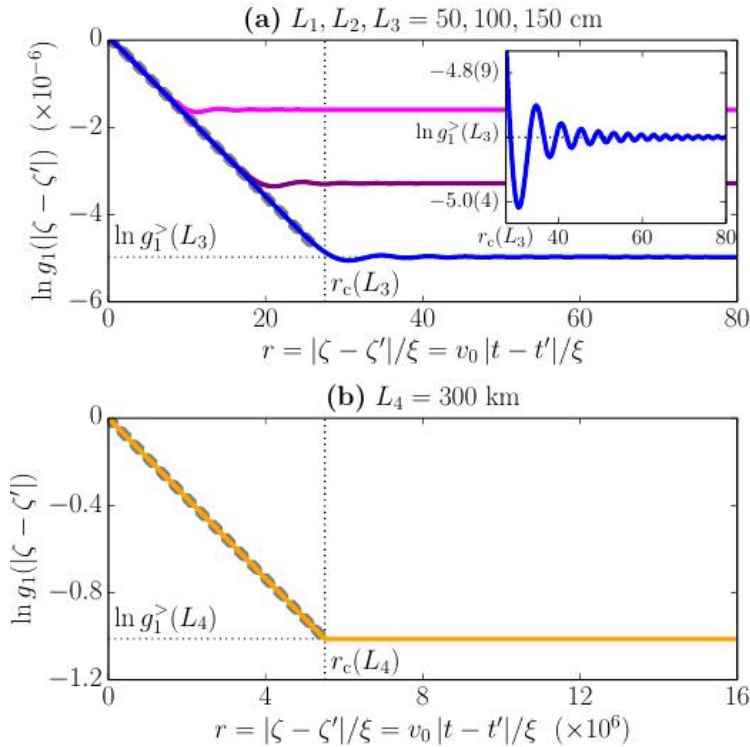
“Pre-thermalized” 1D photon gas

Perfectly coherent light injected into 1D optical fiber:

- quantum quench of interactions $\sim \chi^{(3)}$
- pairs of Bogoliubov excitations generated

Resulting **phase decoherence** in $g^{(1)}(t-t')$:

- **Exponential decay** at short $|t-t'| < 2z / c_s$
(c_s = speed of Bogol. sound)
- Plateau at long $|t-t'| > 2z / c_s$
- Low-k modes eventually tends to **thermal** $T_{\text{eff}} = \mu / 2$
- Hohenberg-Mermin-Wagner theorem prevents long-range order in 1D quasi-condensates at finite T

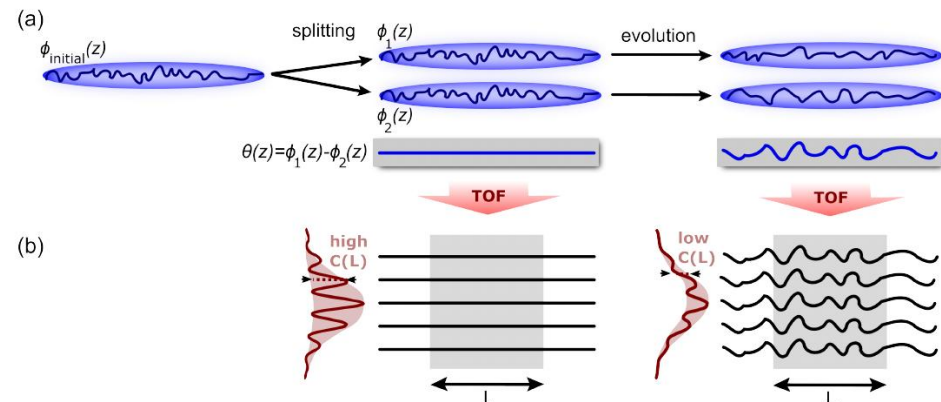


Effect small for typical Si fibers, still potentially harmful on long distances

Decoherence slower if tapering used to “adiabatically” inject light into fiber

Related cold atom expts by J. Schmiedmayer when 1D quasi-BEC suddenly split in two

Nature Physics 9, 640–643 (2013)

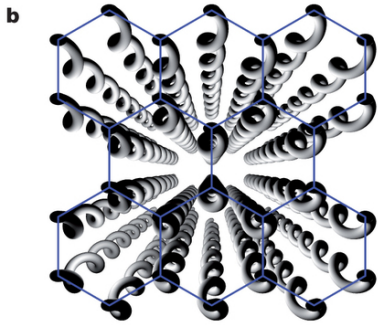


A quite generic quantum simulator

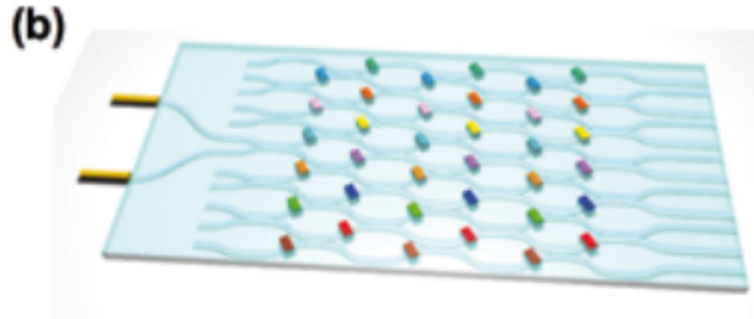
Quantum many-body evolution in z :

$$i \frac{d}{dz} |\psi\rangle = H |\psi\rangle \quad \text{with:} \quad H = N \iiint dx dy dt \left[\frac{1}{2\beta_0} \nabla \hat{E}^\dagger \nabla \hat{E} - \frac{D_0}{2} \frac{\partial \hat{E}^\dagger}{\partial t} \frac{\partial \hat{E}}{\partial t} + V \hat{E}^\dagger \hat{E} + \hat{E}^\dagger \hat{E}^\dagger \hat{E} \hat{E} \right]$$

- Physical time t plays role of extra spatial coordinate
- Same z commutator: $[\hat{E}(x, y, t, z), \hat{E}^\dagger(x', y', t', z)] = \frac{c \hbar \omega_0 v_0}{\epsilon} \delta(x - x') \delta(y - y') \delta(t - t')$



Rechtsman et al., Nature 2012



Clever design of $V(x, y, z) \rightarrow$ simulate wide variety of physical systems:

- Arbitrary splitting/recombination of waveguides \rightarrow quench of tunneling
- Modulation along $z \rightarrow$ Floquet topological insulators
- In addition to photonic circuit \rightarrow many-body due to photon-photon interactions
- On top of moving fluid of light \rightarrow simulate general relativistic QFT

Topological photonics

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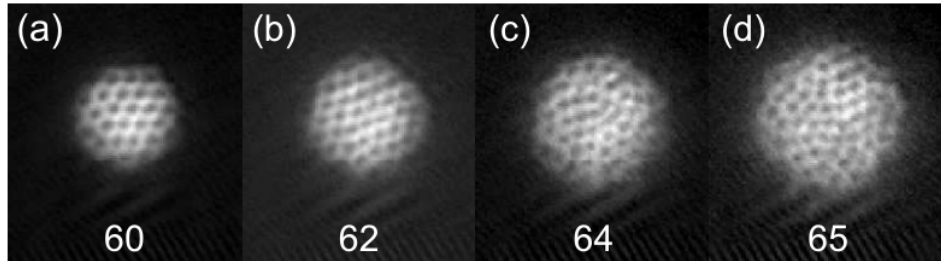
Iacopo Carusotto

INO-CNR BEC Center and Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Trento, I-38123 Povo, Italy

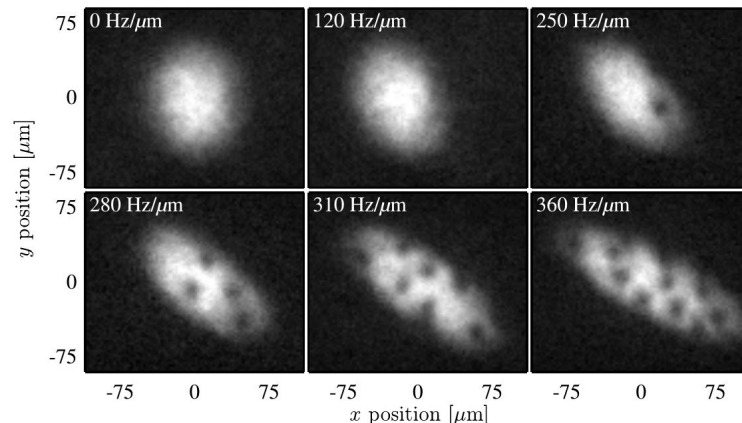
 (published 25 March 2019)

Part 4: a brief journey through the early days of topological photonics

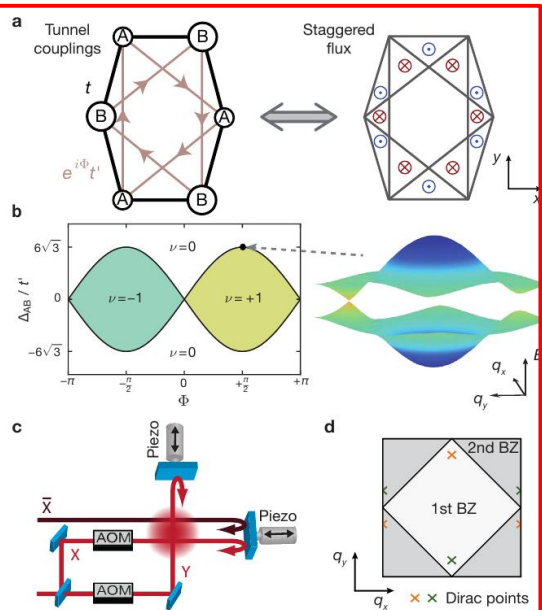
Prehistory: Synthetic gauge fields for atoms



Coriolis force in rotating frame: **vortices in atomic gas**
Bretin et al., PRL 92, 050403 (2004)

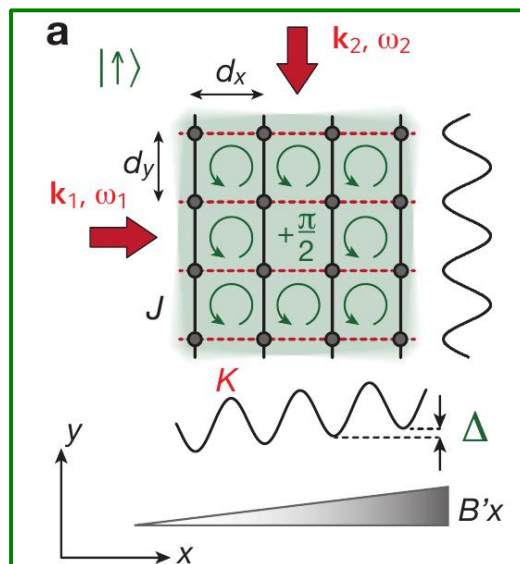


Synthetic gauge field by Raman + magnetic field
Lin et al. Nature 471, 83 (2011)

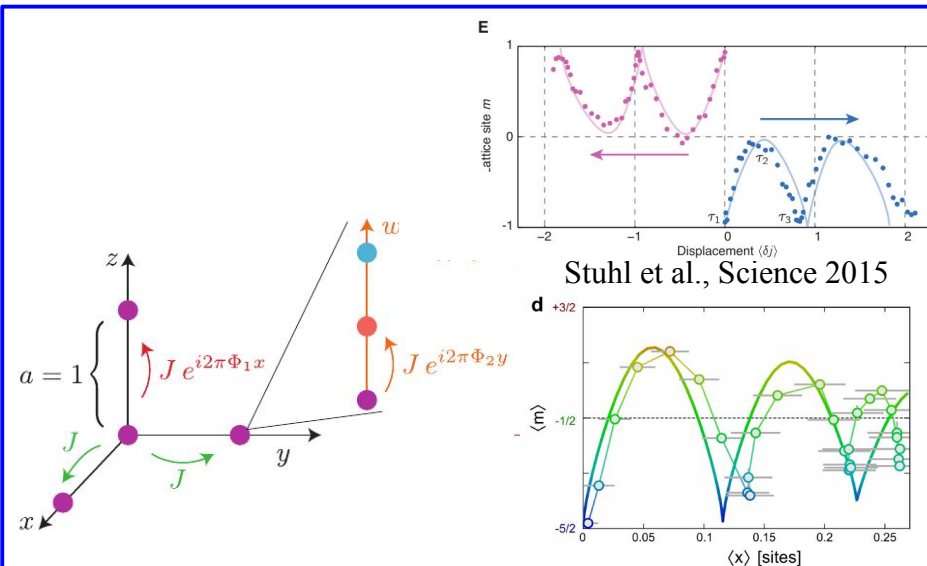


Haldane model for atoms

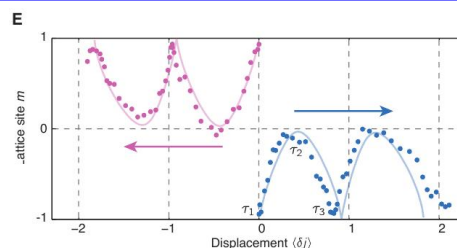
Jotzu et al., Nature 515, 237 (2014)



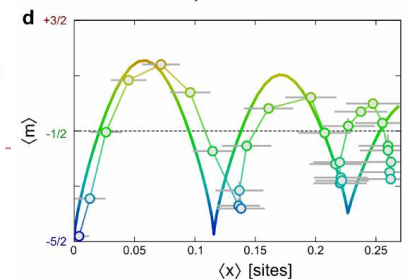
**Laser-assisted hopping
2D Harper-Hofstadter model**
Aidelsburger et al., PRL 111, 185301 (2013)



**Synthetic dimensions (so far 1+1D = 2D)
Chiral edge states in synthetic Hall ribbons**



Stuhl et al., Science 2015



Mancini et al., Science 2015.

2008-9 – The birth of *topological photonics* (th)

PRL **100**, 013904 (2008)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
11 JANUARY 2008

Possible Realization of Directional Optical Waveguides in Photonic Crystals with Broken Time-Reversal Symmetry

F. D. M. Haldane and S. Raghu*

Department of Physics, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544-0708, USA

(Received 23 March 2005; revised manuscript received 30 May 2007; published 10 January 2008)

We show how, in principle, to construct analogs of quantum Hall edge states in “photonic crystals” made with nonreciprocal (Faraday-effect) media. These form “one-way waveguides” that allow electromagnetic energy to flow in one direction only.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevLett.100.013904](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.100.013904)

PACS numbers: 42.70.Qs, 03.65.Vf

- IQH depends on **geometrical properties of Bloch band states** (“TKNN” Thouless et al. PRL 1982):

- Berry connection
$$\mathcal{A}_n^a = \frac{\langle u_n | \mathbf{B}_0(\omega_n) | \nabla_k^a u_n \rangle - \langle \nabla_k^a u_n | \mathbf{B}_0(\omega_n) | u_n \rangle}{2i \langle u_n | \mathbf{B}_0(\omega_n) | u_n \rangle},$$

- Berry curvature
$$\mathcal{F}_n^{ab}(\tilde{\mathbf{k}}) = \nabla_k^a \mathcal{A}_n^b - \nabla_k^b \mathcal{A}_n^a$$

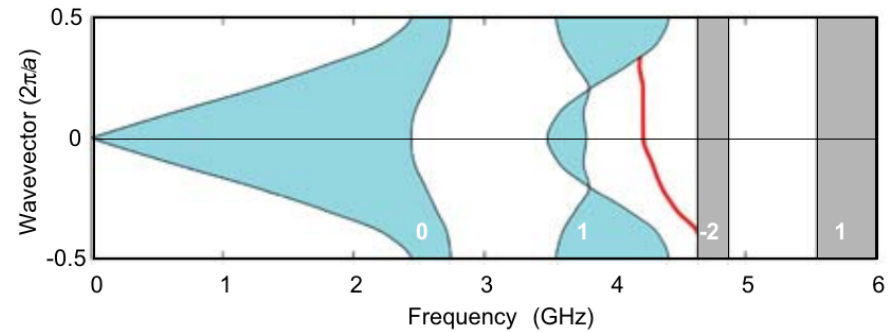
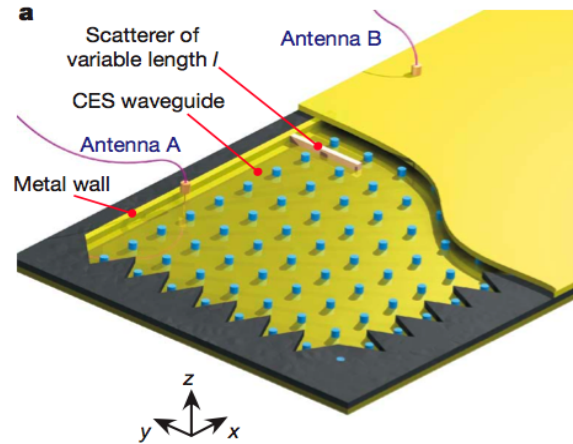
- Integer-valued Chern number
$$C_n^{(1)}(\Sigma) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \iint_{\Sigma} dk_a \wedge dk_b \mathcal{F}_n^{ab}.$$

- C_n fixes transverse conductivity σ_H and number of edge states (bulk-boundary correspondence)

- Haldane-Raghu → **IQH not specific to fermionic electrons**

- ✓ Complex band structures can be realized for photons in periodic structures, aka **photonic crystals**
- ✓ Need to break T-reversal to have $C_n \neq 0$ → include **magnetic elements**
- ✓ σ_H not directly defined, but chiral edge states give **one-way waveguide on the edge**

2008-9 – The birth of *topological photonics* (expt)

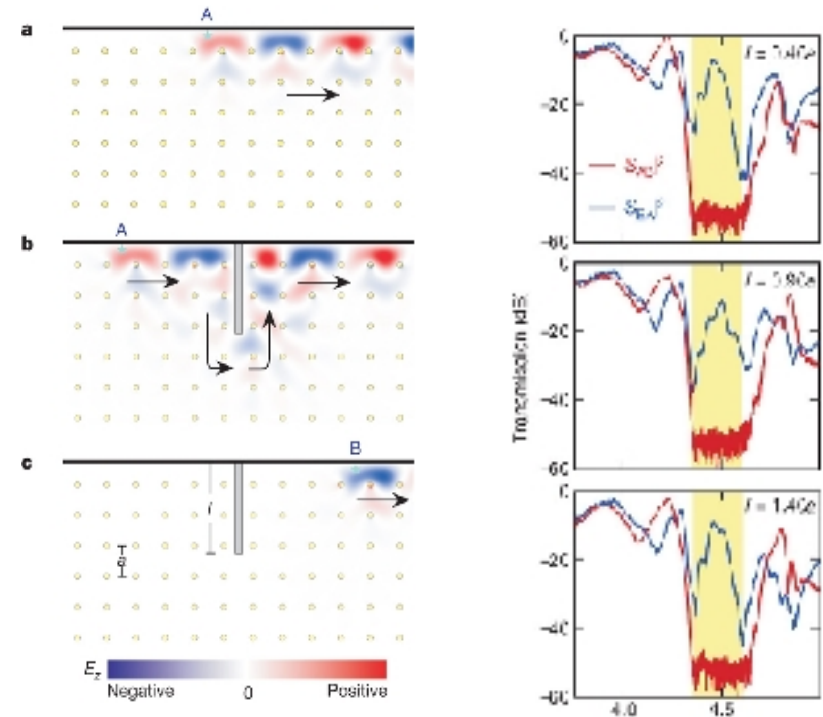


Magneto-optical photonic crystals for μ -waves

- T-reversal broken by magnetic elements
- Band with non-trivial Chern number:
→ chiral edge states within gaps

Experiment:

- measure transmission from antenna to receiver
- only in one direction → unidirectional propagation
- immune to back-scattering by defects → topologically protected



2013 - Harper-Hofstadter & Haldane models for visible photons

Goal:

- avoid the need of magnetic materials
- scale up to visible light where optical nonlinearities and quantum emitters easily accessible

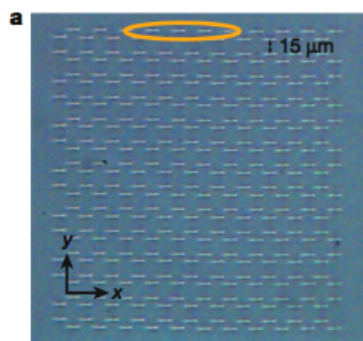
Many proposals: geometrical phases (Umucalilar), opto-mechanics (Rabl), ...

2D lattice of coupled cavities with tunneling phase

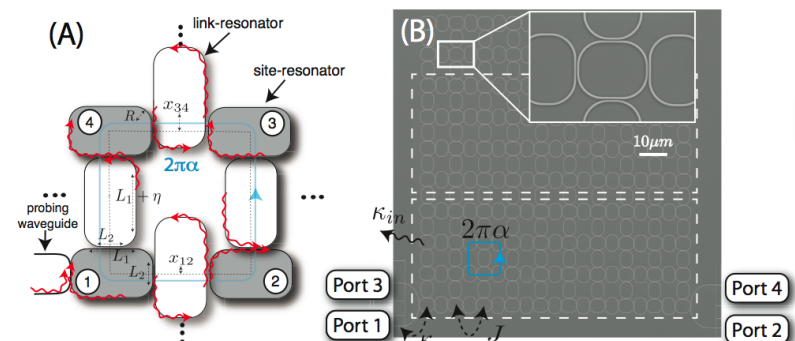
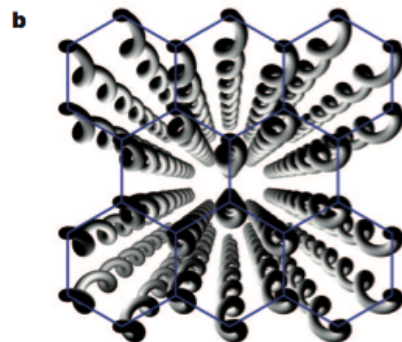
$$H = \sum_i \hbar\omega_o \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_i - \hbar J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j e^{i\phi_{ij}} + \sum_i \left[\hbar F_i(t) \hat{a}_i^\dagger + \text{h.c.} \right]$$

Experiments along these lines:

- Floquet bands in helically deformed **honeycomb waveguide lattices** → [Rechtsman/Szameit/Segev](#)
- **silicon ring cavities** → [Hafezi/Taylor \(JQI\)](#)
- **electronic circuits** with lumped elements → [J. Simon \(Chicago\)](#)
- **strained honeycomb lattice** for photons/polaritons → [A. Amo/J.Bloch \(C2N\)](#); [Bellec et al. \(Nice\)](#)



[Rechtsman, Plotnik, et al., Nature 496, 196 \(2013\)](#)



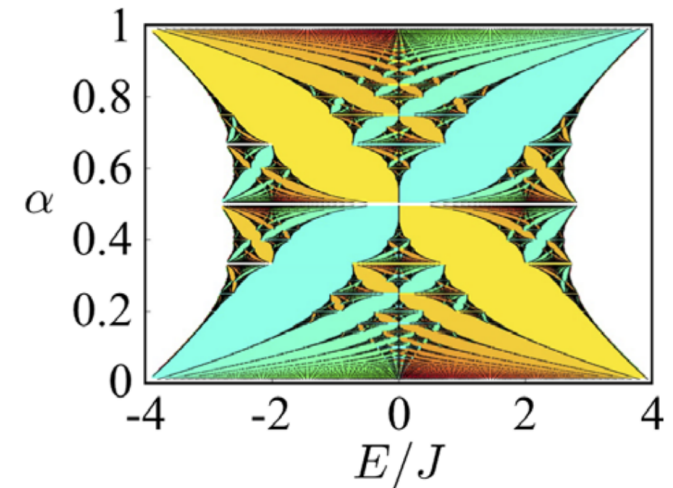
[Hafezi et al., Nat. Phot. 7, 1001 \(2013\)](#)

2013 - Imaging chiral edge states

2D square lattice of coupled resonators
at large magnetic flux

Eigenstates organize in **bulk Hofstadter bands**

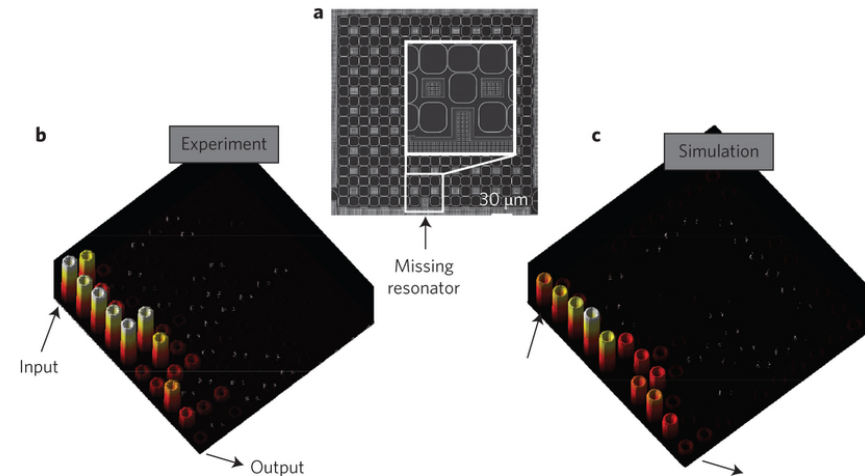
- **Berry connection in k-space:** $A_{n,k} = i \langle u_{n,k} | \nabla_k u_{n,k} \rangle$
- **Berry curvature** $\Omega_n(\mathbf{k}) = i(\langle \partial_{k_x} u_{n,k} | \partial_{k_y} u_{n,k} \rangle - \langle \partial_{k_y} u_{n,k} | \partial_{k_x} u_{n,k} \rangle)$
- **Chern number** $C_n = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\text{BZ}} d^2k \Omega_n(k_x, k_y),$



Bulk-edge correspondance:

$A_{n,k}$ has non-trivial **Chern number** $C_n \neq 0$
→ **chiral edge states** within gaps

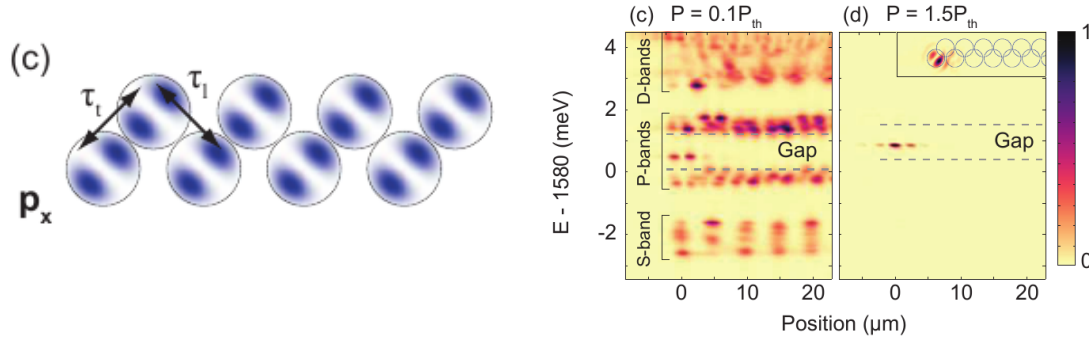
- unidirectional propagation
- (almost) immune to scattering by defects



Hafezi et al., Nat. Phot. 7, 1001 (2013)
Similar images for Haifa expt

2017 – Topological lasing

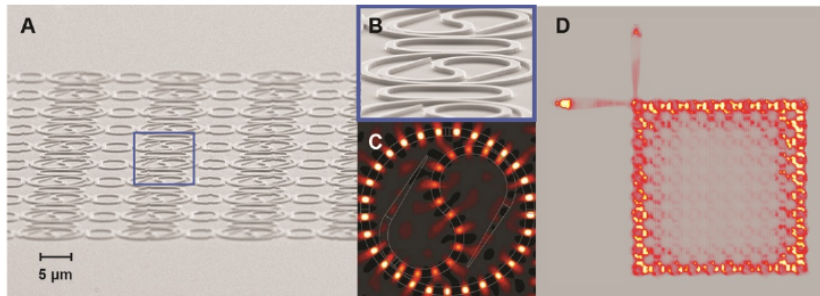
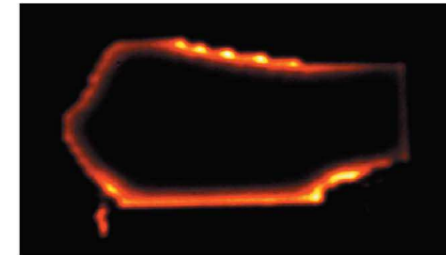
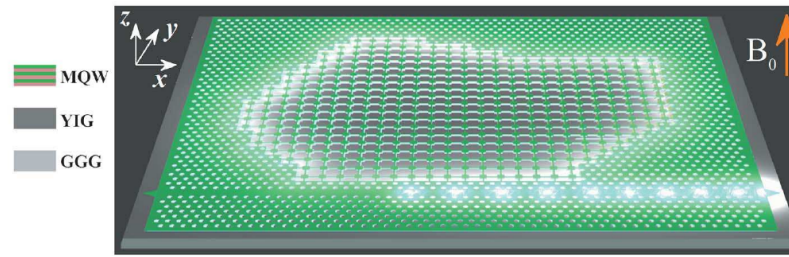
What happens if one adds gain to a topological model ?



St. Jean, et al., Nat. Phot. '17
System: 1D SSH array of micropillar cavities for exciton-polaritons under incoherent pump

Bahari et al., Science 2017

System: 2D photonic crystal slab, amplification by QWs, magnetic field to break T



Bandres et al., Science 2018

System: array of Si-based ring resonators with optically pumped III-V amplifier layer.
 Tai-Ji shape to break inversion symmetry

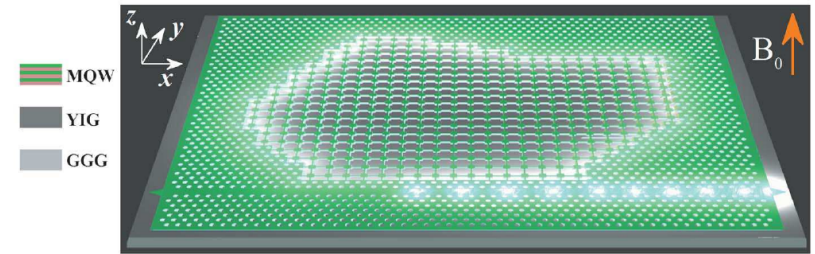
Early theoretical work by Conti & Pilozzi, Solnyshkov, Nalitov & Malpuech.

Other expts: Khajavikhan's group, PRL 2018...

Coherence of topolaser emission

Technologically important in laser technology:

- Chiral motion → phase lock many individual sites
- **Strong emission intensity and high coherence**

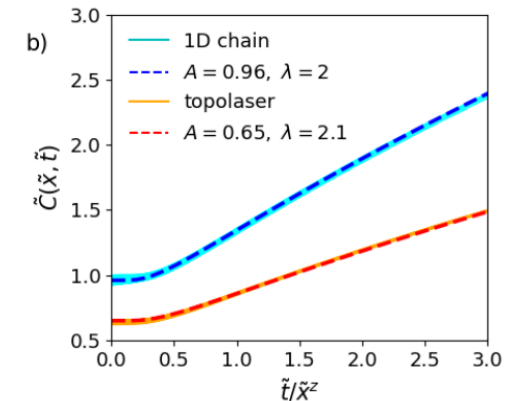


Important fundamental & applied questions:

- What are ultimate limitations of coherence?
- How robust is coherence to disorder?
- What advantage over standard lasers?

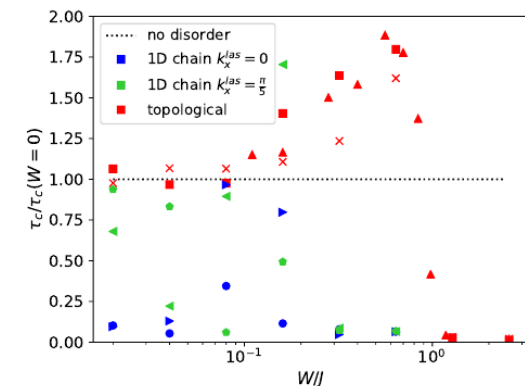
Laser operation in spatially extended system:

- Kardar-Parisi-Zhang model of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics (Altman/Diehl, Wouters, Canet/Minguzzi)
- spatio-temporal scaling properties of phase-coherence



In the presence of static disorder:

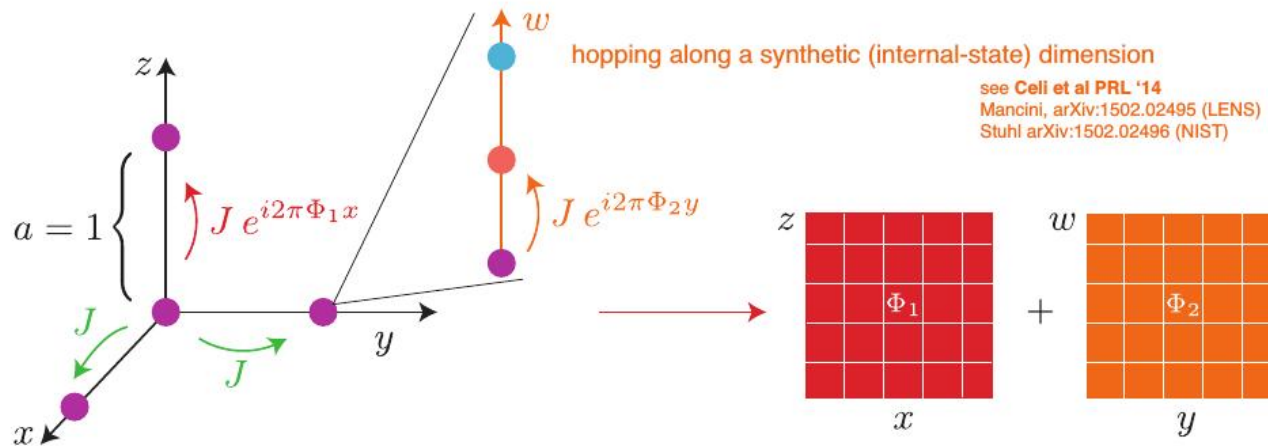
- **Non-Topological**: weak disorder suppresses temporal coherence (mode fragmentation, multimode emission, localization, etc.)
- **Topological**: robust spatio-temporal coherence, chiral propagation travels through/around defects without backscattering.



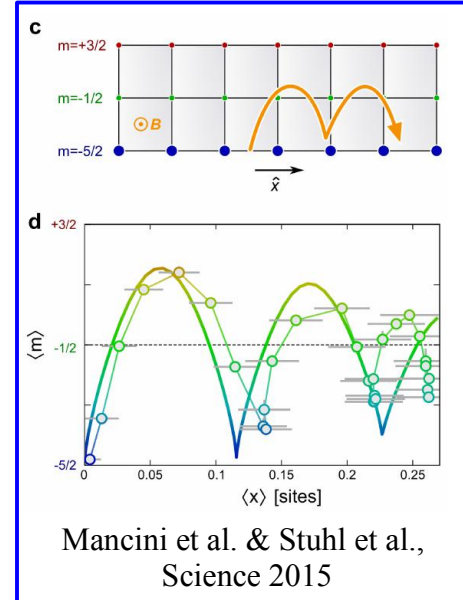
Part 4bis:

Towards higher dimensions

How to create 4D system with atoms?



Internal state \rightarrow Synthetic dimension w



Raman processes give tunneling along w

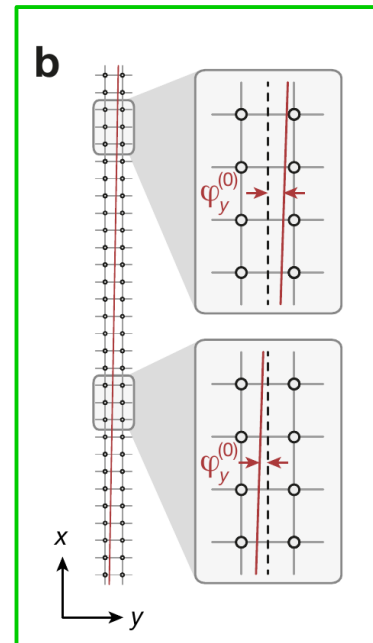
Spatial phase of Raman beams give Peierls phase in xw , yw , zw
Standard synthetic-B in xy and/or yz and/or zx

First experimental realization:

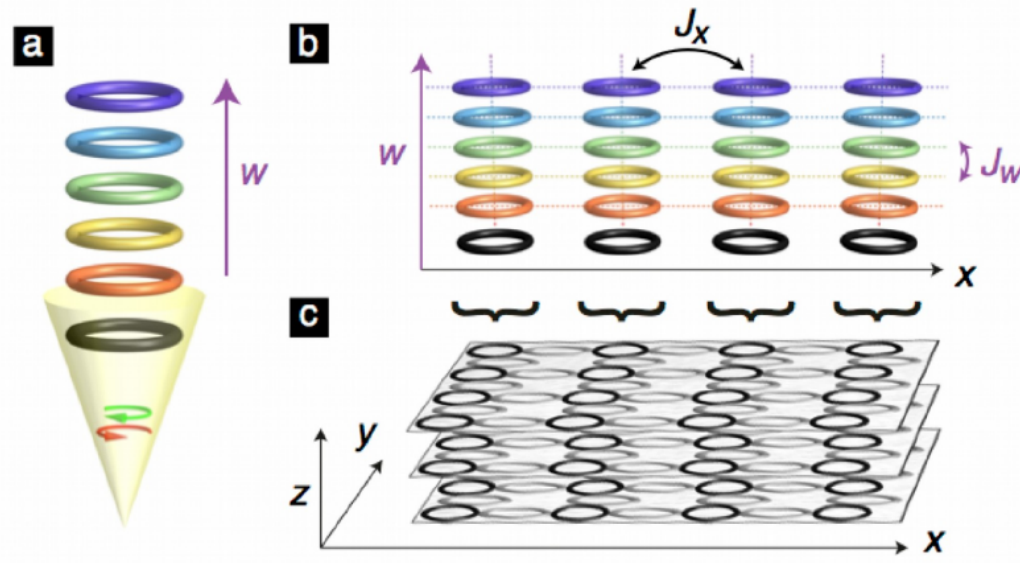
- 1+1 dims. using 3 spin states
- Cyclotron + Reflection on edges

Recently: 2D topological pumping in 2D system \rightarrow analogous to 4D IQHE

(Lohse, Price, et al., Nature 2018; similar results in photonics in Zilberberg et al., Nature 2018)



How to create synthetic dimensions for photons?



Different modes of ring resonators \rightarrow synthetic dimension w

Tunneling along synthetic w :

- strong beam modulates resonator ϵ_{ij} at ω_{FSR} via optical $\chi^{(3)}$
- neighboring modes get linearly coupled
- phase of modulation \rightarrow Peierls phase along synthetic w

Extends Fan's idea of synthetic gauge field via time-dependent modulation (Nat. Phys. 2008)

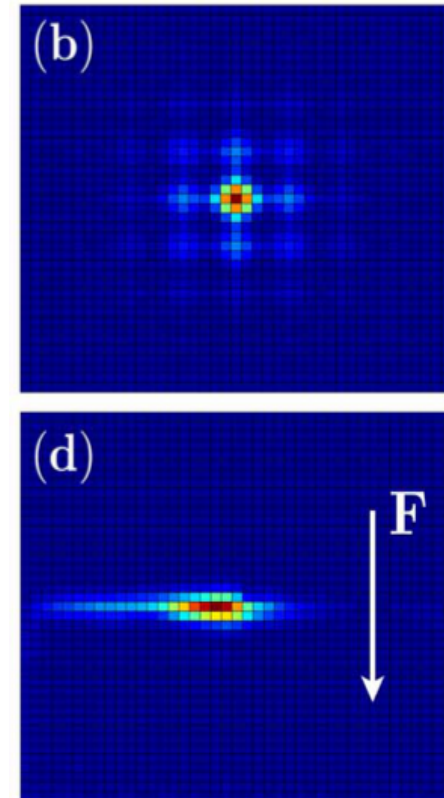
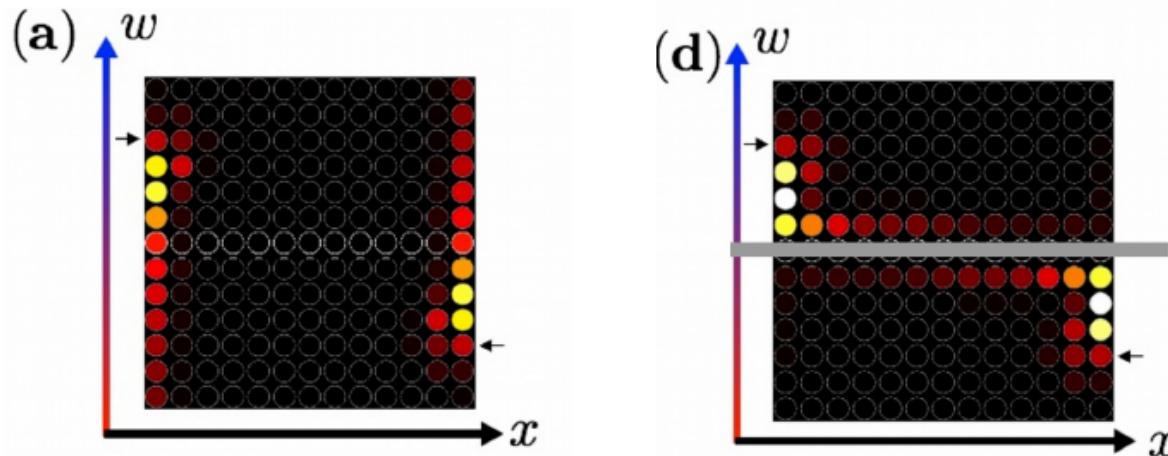
Peierls phase along $x,y,z \rightarrow$ Hafezi's ancilla resonators

Differently from atoms: can work with long synthetic dimension w with uniform tunneling

1+1 array: chiral edge states & optical isolation

1 (physical) + 1 (synthetic) dimensions: Hofstadter model

- Bulk topological invariant \rightarrow Chern number
 - measured via Integer Quantum Hall effect
- Chiral states on edges:
 - Physical edges along x
 - Synthetic edges via design of $\epsilon(\omega)$
(e.g. inserting absorbing impurities in chosen sites)
 \rightarrow topologically protected optical isolator



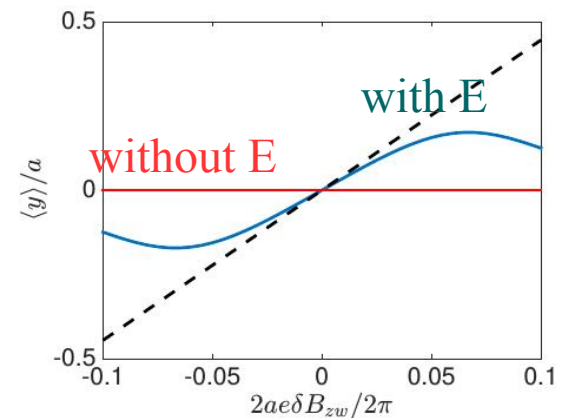
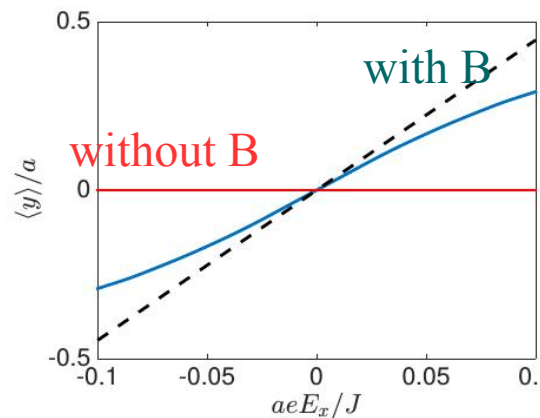
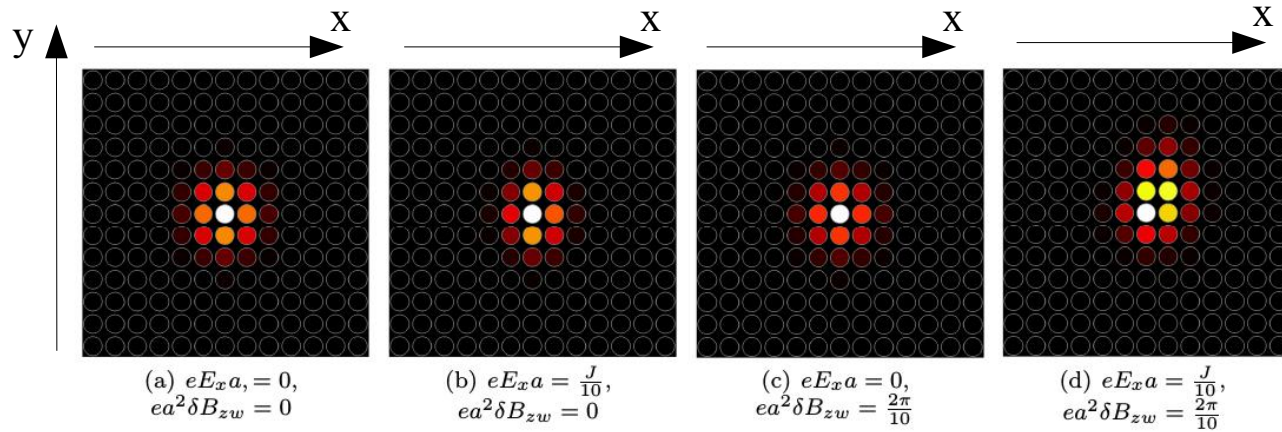
Absorbing
row of sites

3+1 array: 4D Quantum Hall physics

4D magneto-electric response
Nonlinear integer QH effect

Lateral shift of photon intensity distribution in response to external synth-E and synth-B:

- only present with both E & B
- proportional to 2nd Chern



$$j^\mu = E_\nu \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \int_{\mathbb{T}^4} \Omega^{\mu\nu} d^4k + \frac{\nu_2}{4\pi^2} \varepsilon^{\mu\alpha\beta\nu} E_\nu B_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$\nu_2 = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_{\mathbb{T}^4} \Omega^{xy} \Omega^{zw} + \Omega^{wx} \Omega^{yz} + \Omega^{zx} \Omega^{yw} d^4k$$

T. Ozawa, N. Goldman, O. Zilberberg, H. M. Price, and IC, *Synthetic Dimensions in Photonic Lattices: From Optical Isolation to 4D Quantum Hall Physics*, PRA 93, 043827 (2016)

See also recent charge pumping experiments with atoms (Lohse et al. Nature '18) and light (Zilberberg et al. Nature '18)

Part 5:

The future:

Strongly interacting fluids of light

*Mott insulators &
Fractional Quantum Hall liquids*

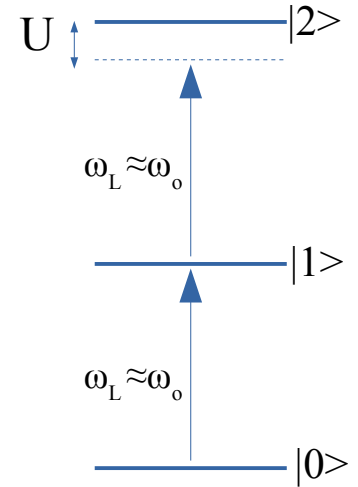
Photon blockade

Driven-dissipative Bose-Hubbard model:

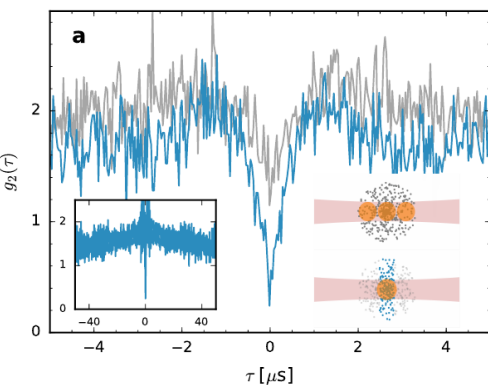
$$H_0 = \sum_i \hbar\omega_o \hat{b}_i^\dagger \hat{b}_i - \hbar J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \hat{b}_i^\dagger \hat{b}_j + \hbar \frac{U}{2} \sum_i \hat{n}_i (\hat{n}_i - 1) + \sum_i F_i(t) \hat{b}_i + h.c.$$

- Array of single-mode cavities at ω_o , tunnel coupling J , losses γ
- Polariton interactions: on-site interaction U due to optical nonlinearity
- If $U \gg \gamma$ & J , coherent pump resonant with $0 \rightarrow 1$, but not with $1 \rightarrow 2$.

Photon blockade \rightarrow Effectively impenetrable photons
 Opposite regime than non-interacting photons of Maxwell's eqs.

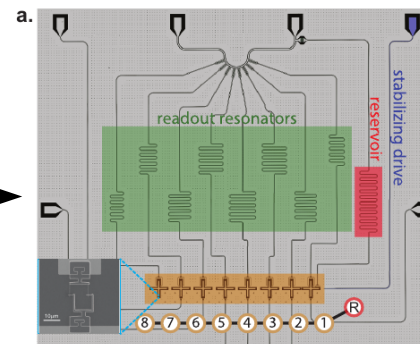


Single-cavity blockade observed in many platforms since the 2000s,
 present challenge \rightarrow scale up to many-cavity geometry

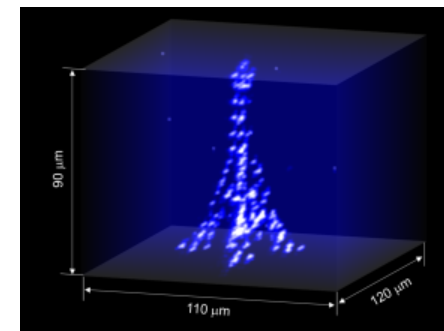


Polariton blockade
 via Rydberg-EIT

Circuit QED device \rightarrow



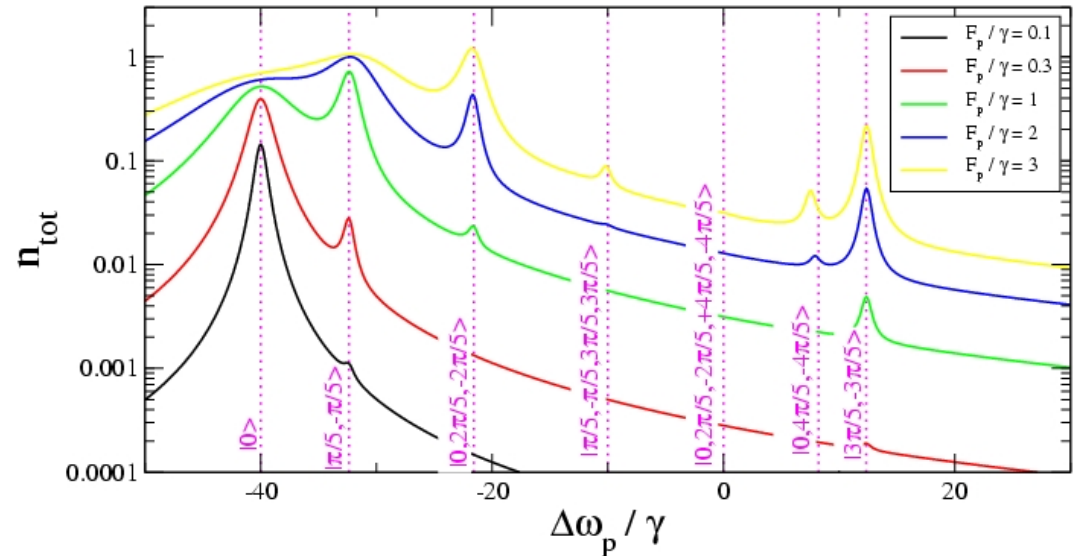
Fluid of spin excitations in
 lattice of Rydberg atoms.
 (Broways, Lukin,...)



Impenetrable “fermionized” photons in 1D necklaces

Many-body eigenstates of
Tonks-Girardeau gas
of impenetrable photons

Coherent pump
selectively addresses
specific many-body states



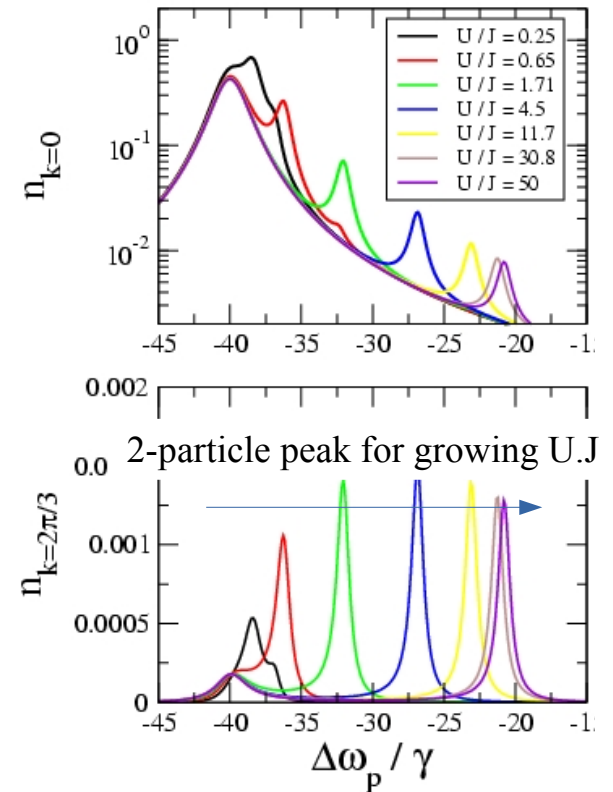
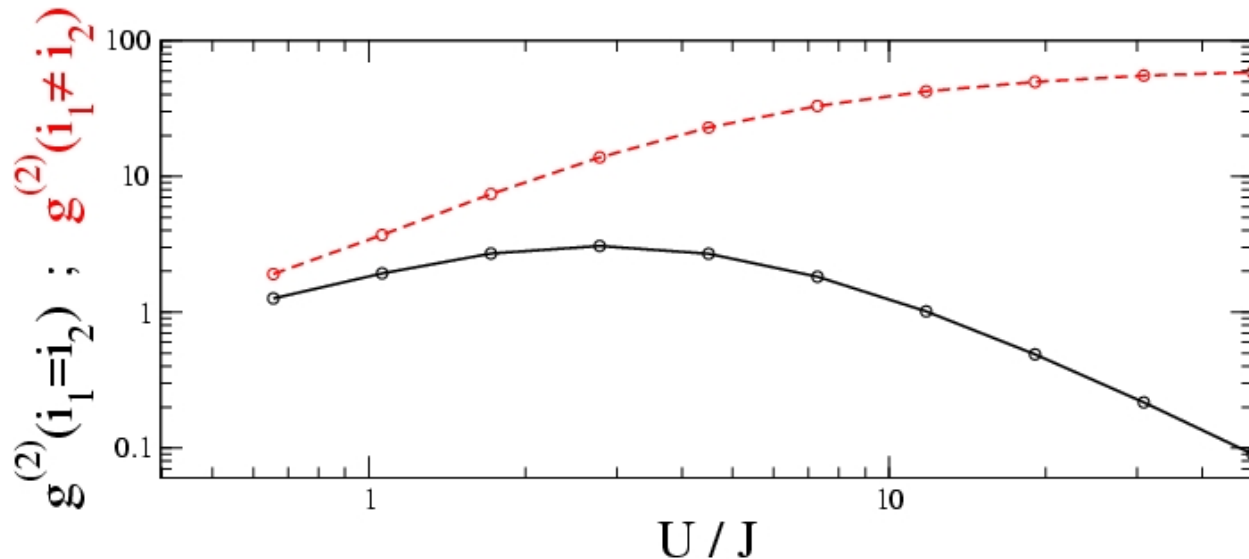
Transmission spectrum as a function pump frequency for fixed pump intensity:

- each peak corresponds to a Tonks-Girardeau many-body state $|q_1, q_2, q_3, \dots\rangle$
- q_i quantized according to PBC/anti-PBC depending on $N=\text{odd/even}$
- $U/J \gg 1$: efficient photon blockade, impenetrable photons.

N -particle state excited by N photon transition:

- Plane wave pump with $k_p=0$: selects states of total momentum $P=0$
- Monochromatic pump at ω_p : resonantly excites states of many-body energy E such that $\omega_p = E / N$

State tomography from emission statistics



Finite U/J , pump laser tuned on two-photon resonance

- intensity correlation between the emission from cavities i_1, i_2
- at large U/γ , larger probability of having $N=0$ or 2 photons than $N=1$
 - low $U \ll J$: bunched emission for all pairs of i_1, i_2
 - large $U \gg J$: antibunched emission from a single site
positive correlations between different sites
- Idea straightforwardly extends to more complex many-body states.

Photon blockade + synthetic gauge field = FQHE for light

Bose-Hubbard model:

$$H_0 = \sum_i \hbar\omega_0 \hat{b}_i^\dagger \hat{b}_i - \hbar J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \hat{b}_i^\dagger \hat{b}_j e^{i\varphi_{ij}} + \hbar \frac{U}{2} \sum_i \hat{n}_i (\hat{n}_i - 1)$$

gauge field gives phase in hopping terms

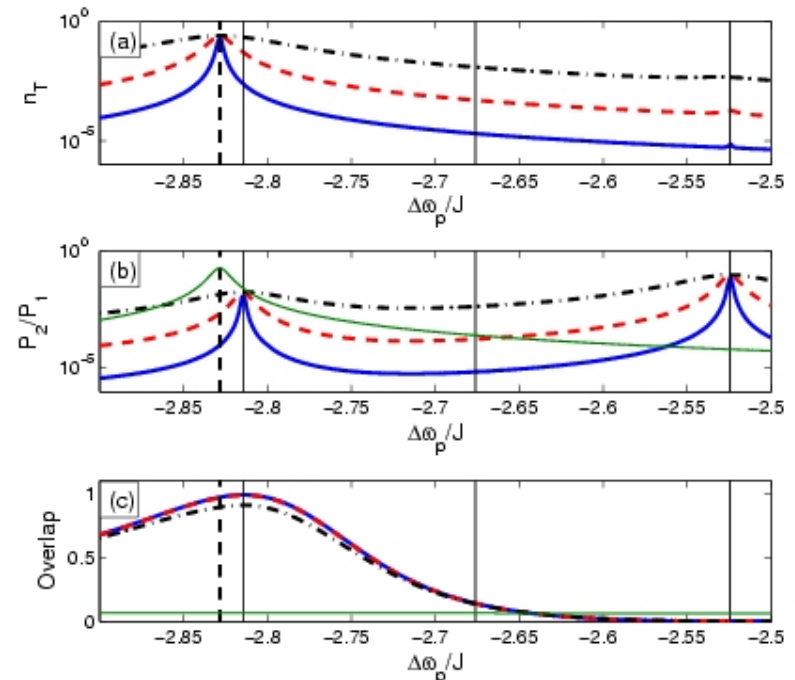
with usual coherent drive and dissipation → look for non-equil. steady state

Transmission spectra:

- peaks correspond to many-body states
- comparison with eigenstates of H_0
- good overlap with Laughlin wf (with PBC)

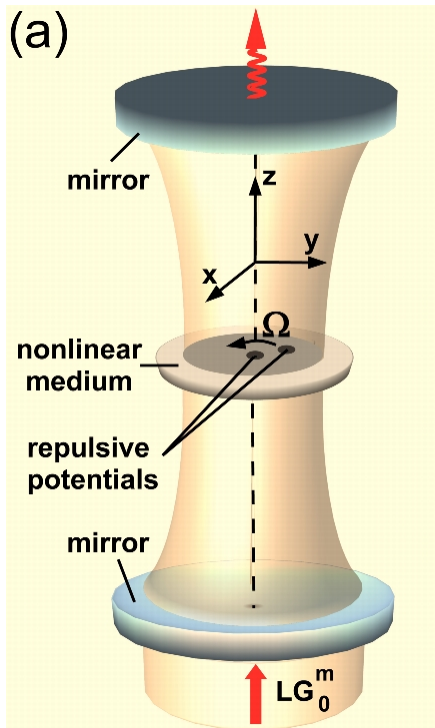
$$\psi_l(z_1, \dots, z_N) = \mathcal{N}_L F_{\text{CM}}^{(l)}(Z) e^{-\pi\alpha \sum_i y_i^2} \times \prod_{i < j} \left(\vartheta \left[\begin{matrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{matrix} \right] \left(\frac{z_i - z_j}{L} \middle| i \right) \right)^2$$

- no need for adiabatic following, etc....



Continuous space FQH physics

Single cylindrical cavity. No need for cavity array



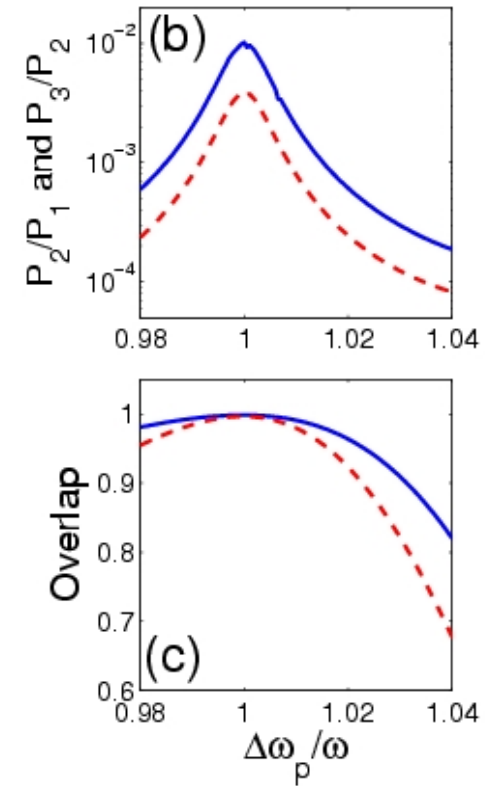
same form \rightarrow Coriolis $F_c = -2m\Omega \times v$
 \rightarrow Lorentz $F_L = e v \times B$

Photon gas injected by Laguerre-Gauss pump
 with finite orbital angular momentum

Strong repuls. interact., e.g. layer of Rydberg atoms

Resonant peak in transmission due to Laughlin state:

$$\psi(z_1, \dots, z_N) = e^{-\sum_i |z_i|^2/2} \prod_{i < j} (z_i - z_j)^2$$

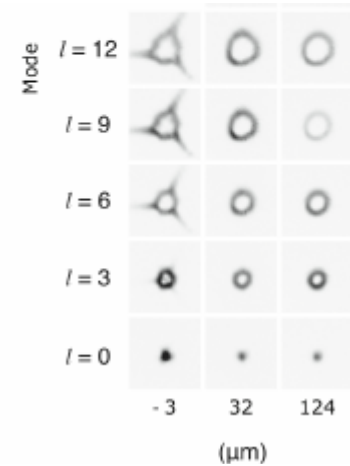
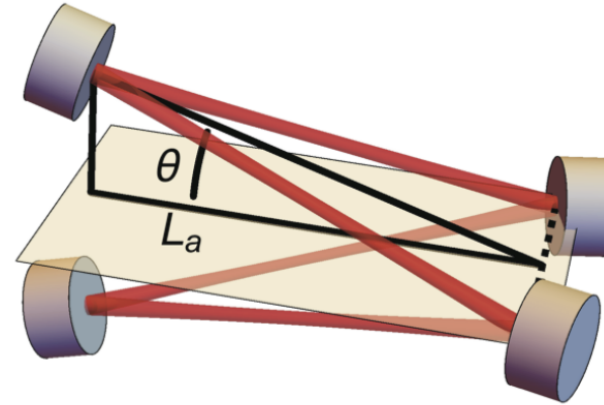


Experiment @ Chicago

A far smarter design

Non-planar ring cavity:

- Parallel transport → synthetic B
- Landau levels for photons observed

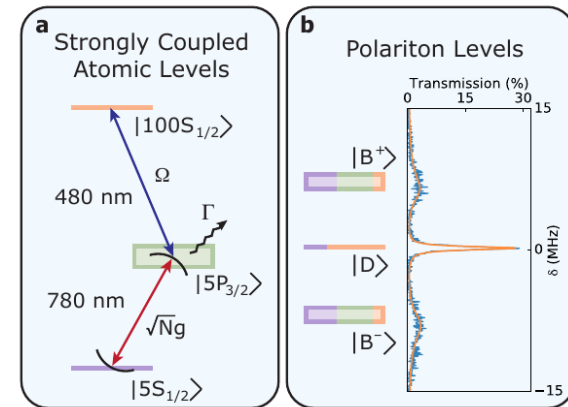


Crucial advantages:

- Narrow frequency range relevant
- Integrated with Rydberg-EIT reinforced nonlinearities

Polariton blockade on lowest (0,0) mode

- Equivalent to $\Delta_{\text{Laughlin}} > \gamma$



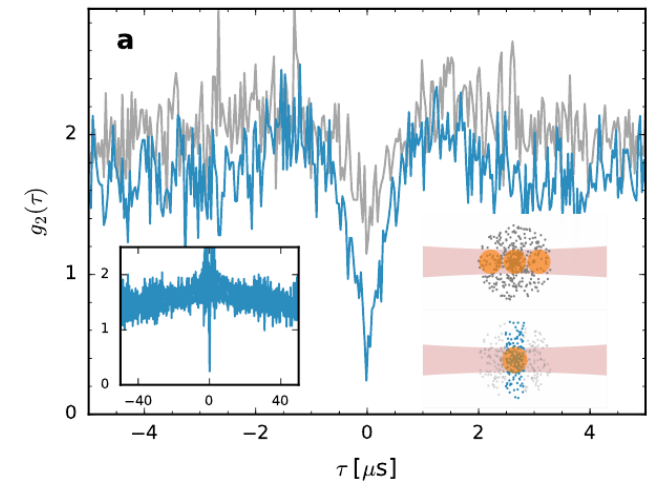
Easiest strategy for Laughlin

- Coherent pumping → multi-photon peaks to few-body states
- Laughlin state → quantum correlations between orbital modes

(Umucalilar-Wouters-IC, PRA 2014)

Breaking news: 2-photon Laughlin state realized

(Clark et al., Nature 2020)



Figures from J. Simon's group @ U. Chicago
Schine et al., Nature 2016; Jia et al. 1705.07475

Experiment @ Chicago (II)

PHYSICAL REVIEW A **89**, 023803 (2014)

Probing few-particle Laughlin states of photons via correlation measurements

R. O. Umucalilar* and M. Wouters

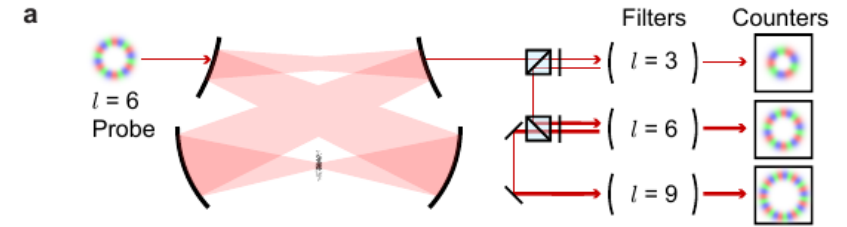
TQC, Universiteit Antwerpen, Universiteitsplein 1, B-2610 Antwerpen, Belgium

I. Carusotto

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(Received 29 November 2013; published 5 February 2014)

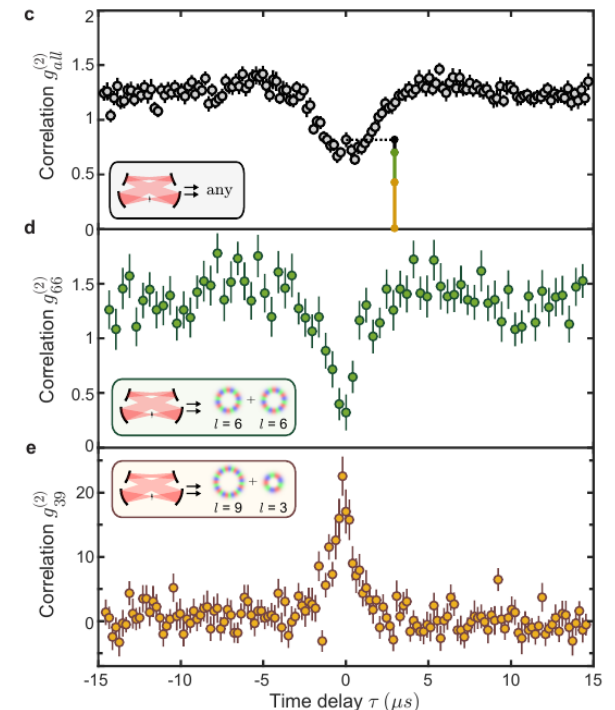
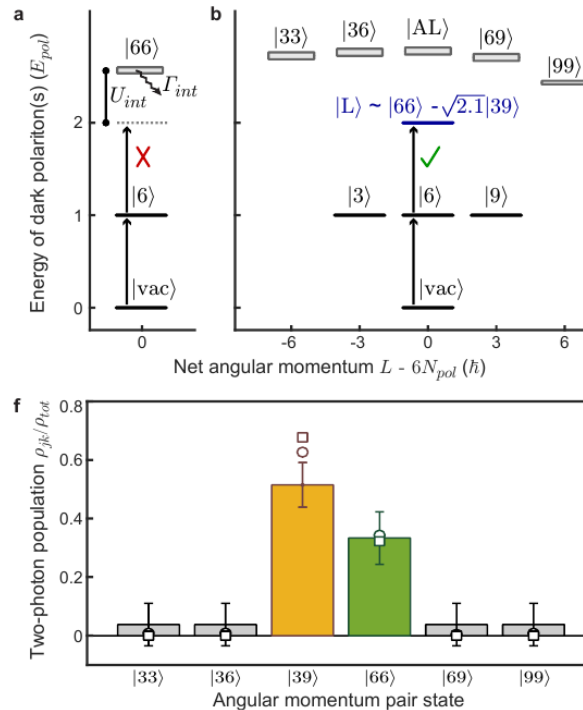
We propose methods to create and observe Laughlin-like states of photons in a strongly nonlinear optical cavity. Such states of strongly interacting photons can be prepared by pumping the cavity with a Laguerre-Gauss beam, which has a well-defined orbital angular momentum per photon. The Laughlin-like states appear as sharp resonances in the particle-number-resolved transmission spectrum. Power spectrum and second-order correlation function measurements yield unambiguous signatures of these few-particle strongly correlated states.



Quantum optical tricks
to highlight generation
of two-photon
Laughlin state

Challenge: scale up to larger
number of particles

Coherent pump scheme scales
very bad with N for topological
states

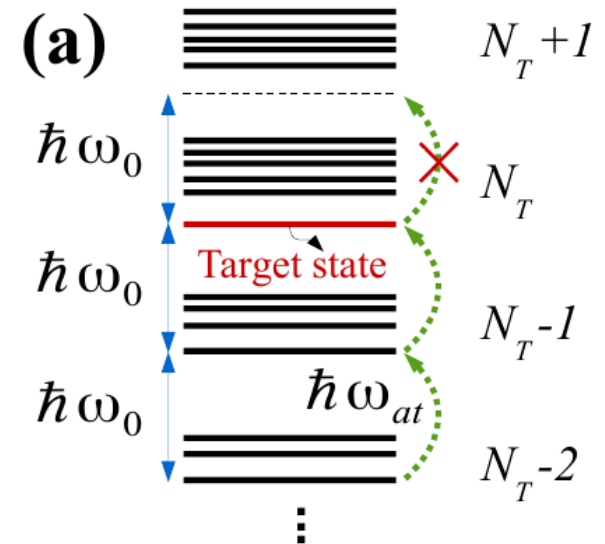
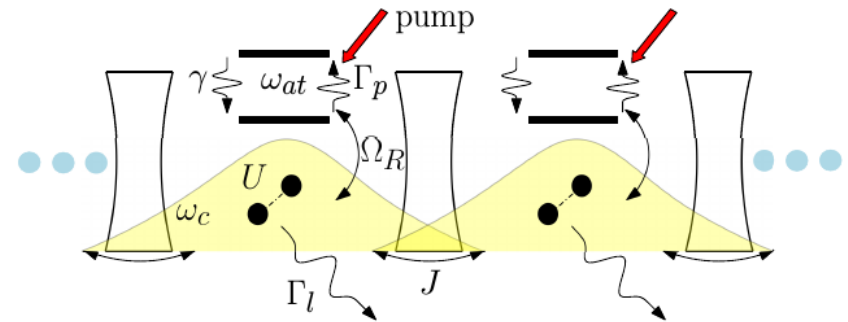


How to access larger particle numbers

Coherent pump only able to selectively excite few-photon states

→ Frequency-dependent incoherent pumping, e.g. collection of inverted emitters

- Lorentzian emission line around ω_{at}
sophisticated schemes → other spectral shapes
- Emission only active if many-body transition is near resonance
- Injects photons until band is full (MI) or many-body gap develops (FQH)
- Many-body gap blocks excitation of higher states



General idea:

Kapit, Hafezi, Simon, PRX 2014

Lebreuilly et al. CRAS (2016)

Umucalilar-IC, PRA 2017

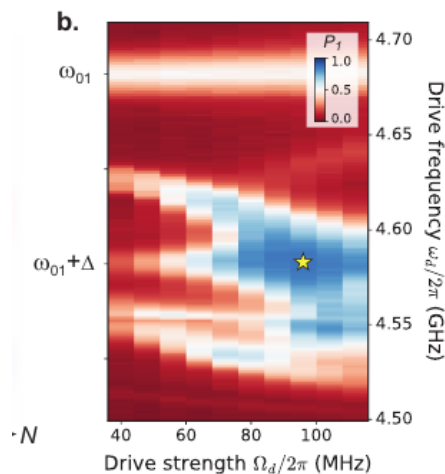
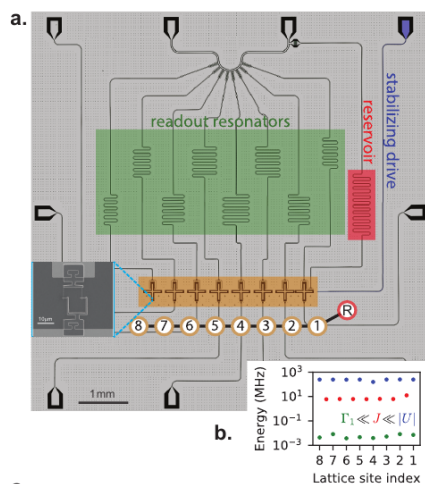
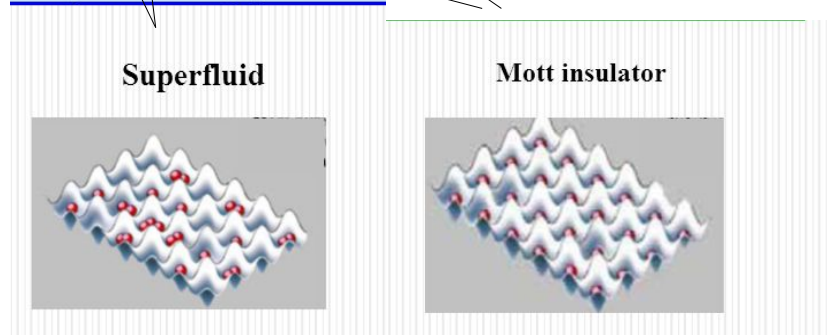
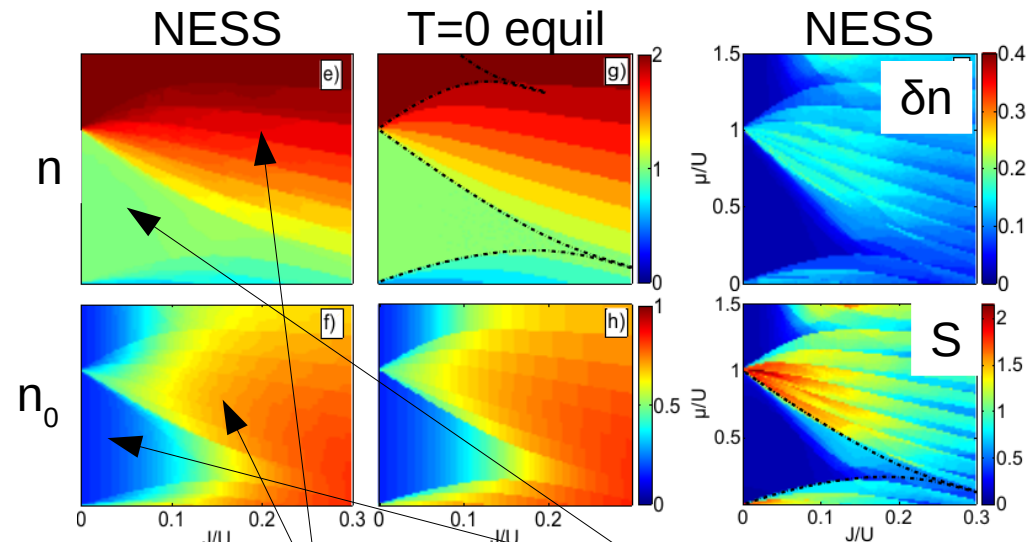
Lebreuilly, Biella et al., PRA 2017

Mott insulators of light

- non-Markovian master equation:
frequency-dependent emission
→ rescaled jump operators
- driven-dissipative steady state stabilizes
strongly correlated many-body states
e.g. Mott-insulator, FQH...
- resembles low-T equilibrium
(but interesting deviations in some cases)
- (in principle) no restriction to small N_{ph}
only requirement → many-body energy gap

$$\bar{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{em}}(\rho_{\text{ph}}) = \frac{\Gamma_{\text{em}}}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k \left[2\bar{a}_i^\dagger \rho_{\text{ph}} \bar{a}_i - \bar{a}_i \bar{a}_i^\dagger \rho_{\text{ph}} - \rho_{\text{ph}} \bar{a}_i \bar{a}_i^\dagger \right]$$

$$\langle f' | \bar{a}_i^\dagger | f \rangle = \frac{\Gamma_{\text{pump}}/2}{\sqrt{(\omega_{\text{at}} - \omega_{f',f})^2 + (\Gamma_{\text{pump}}/2)^2}} \langle f' | a_i^\dagger | f \rangle$$



Lebreuilly, Biella et al., 1704.01106 & 1704.08978
(published on PRA, 2017)

First expt: Ma *et al.* Nature 2019

Related work in Kapit, Hafezi, Simon, PRX 2014

What about large FQH fluids?

Coherent pump:

- Able to selectively generate few-body states
- Limited by (exponentially) decreasing matrix element for larger systems

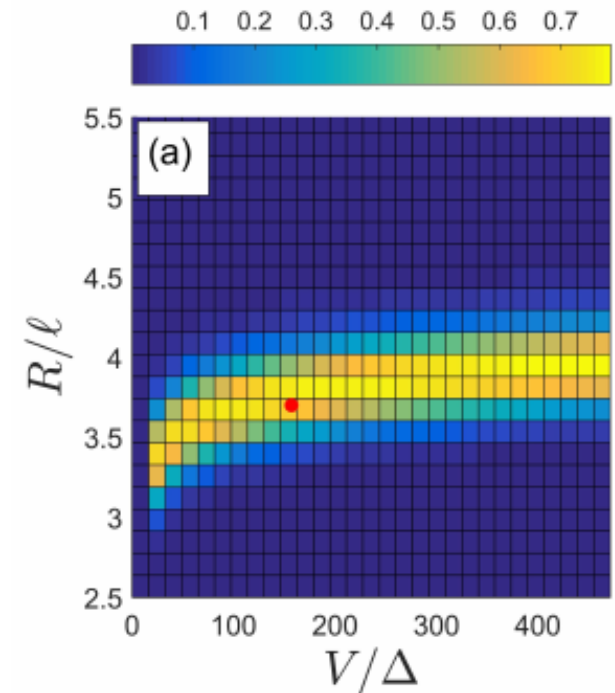
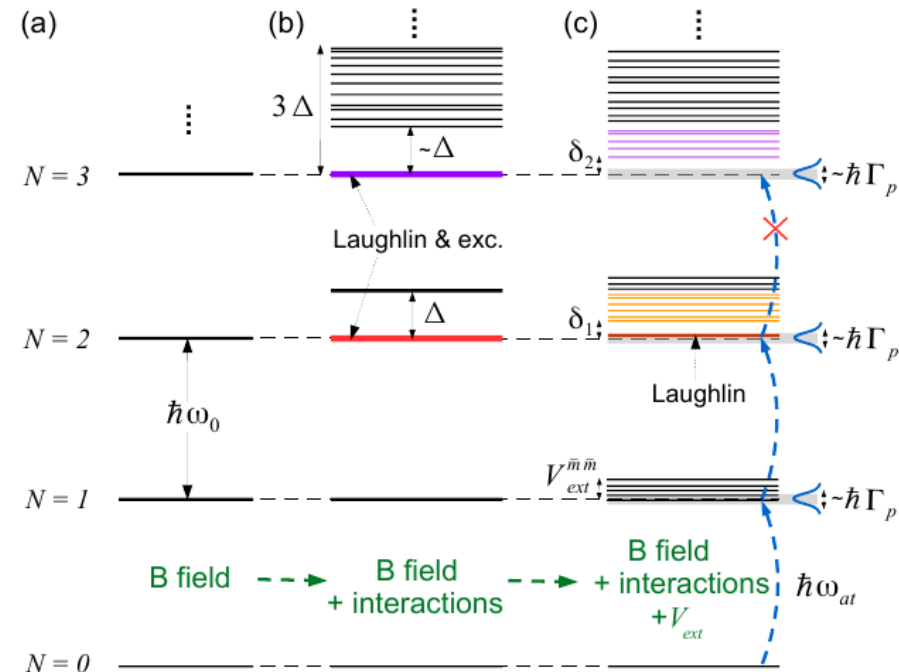
Frequency-dependent incoherent pump:

- Interactions \rightarrow many-body gap Δ
- Edge excitations not gapped. Hard-wall confinement gives small δ
- Non-Markovianity blocks excitation to higher states

Calculations only possible for small systems:

- Large overlap with Laughlin states
- Excitations localized mostly on edge

Open question: what are ultimate limitations of this pumping method?



If you wish to know more...



REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS, VOLUME 85, JANUARY–MARCH 2013

Quantum fluids of light

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Cristiano Ciuti†

Laboratoire Matériaux et Phénomènes Quantiques, Université Paris Diderot-Paris 7 et CNRS, Bâtiment Condorcet, 10 rue Alice Domon et Léonie Duquet, 75205 Paris Cedex 13, France

I. Carusotto, C. Ciuti, Rev. Mod. Phys. **85**, 299 (2013)



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nature
physics

FOCUS | REVIEW ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41567-020-0815-y>

Check for updates

Photonic materials in circuit quantum electrodynamics

Iacopo Carusotto¹, Andrew A. Houck², Alicia J. Kollár^{3,4}, Pedram Roushan⁵, David I. Schuster^{6,7} and Jonathan Simon^{6,7}

Review article on Nature Physics (2020)

REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS, VOLUME 91

Topological photonics

Review article arXiv:1802.04173 by Ozawa, Price, Amo, Goldman, Hafezi, Lu, Rechtsman, Schuster, Simon, Zilberberg, IC, RMP **91**, 015006 (2019)

Spontaneous coherence in spatially extended photonic systems: Non-Equilibrium BEC, J. Bloch, IC, M. Wouters arXiv:2106.11137

We acknowledge generous financial support from:



PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI TRENTO



Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation



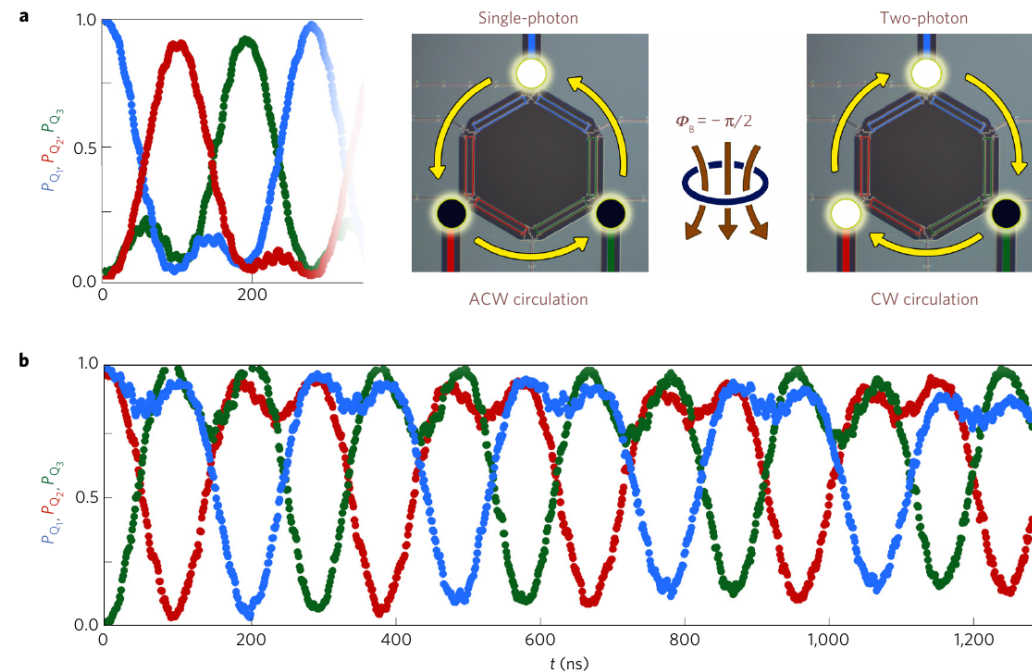
Part 6:

How to observe anyonic statistics
of quasi-hole excitations?

Conservative dynamics in circuit-QED experiment: interplay of strong interactions & synthetic magnetic field

Ring-shaped array of qubits in a superconductor-based circuit-QED platform

- Transmon qubit: two-level system
→ Impenetrable microwave photons
- Time-modulation of couplings
→ synthetic gauge field
- Independently initialize sites
- Follow unitary evolution until bosons lost
(microwave photons → long lifetime)
- Monitor site occupation in time

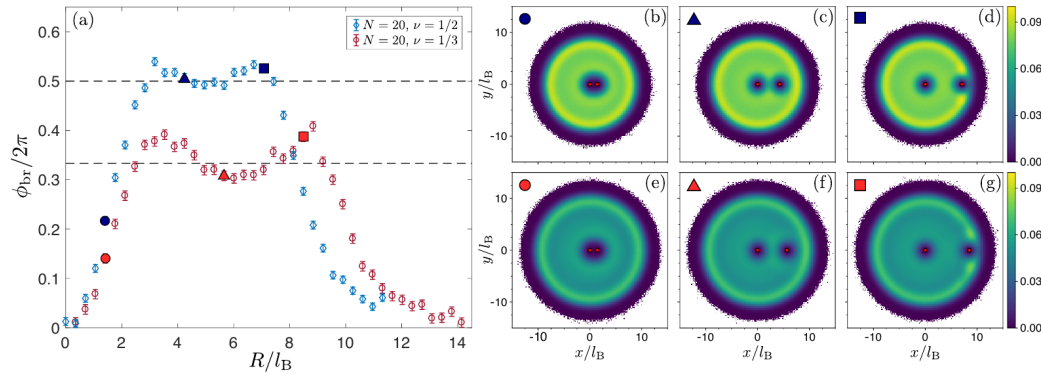


Roushan et al., Nat. Phys. 2016

“Many”-body effect:

two-photon state → opposite rotation compared to one-photon state
(similar to cold-atom experiment in Greiner’s lab: Tai et al., Nature 2017)

Observing anyonic statistics via time-of-flight measurements



Braiding phase \rightarrow Berry phase when two quasi-holes are moved around each other

$$\varphi_B(R) = i \oint_R \langle \Psi(\theta) | \partial_\theta | \Psi(\theta) \rangle d\theta.$$

Braiding operation can be generated by rotations, so braiding phase related to L_z

$$\varphi_B(R) = \frac{1}{\hbar} \oint_R \langle \Psi(\theta) | L_z | \Psi(\theta) \rangle d\theta = \frac{2\pi}{\hbar} \langle L_z \rangle$$

Self-similar expansion of lowest-Landau-levels $\rightarrow L_z$ can be measured in time-of-flight via size of the expanding cloud

$$\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{tof}} = \frac{1}{N} \left(\frac{\hbar t}{\sqrt{2M}l_B} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\langle L_z \rangle}{\hbar} + N \right) = \left(\frac{\hbar t}{2Ml_B^2} \right)^2 \langle r^2 \rangle$$

Can be applied to both cold atoms or to fluids of light looking at far-field emission pattern
 Difficulty \rightarrow small angular momentum difference of QH compared to total L_z

Quasi-Hole structure vs. anyon statistics (I)

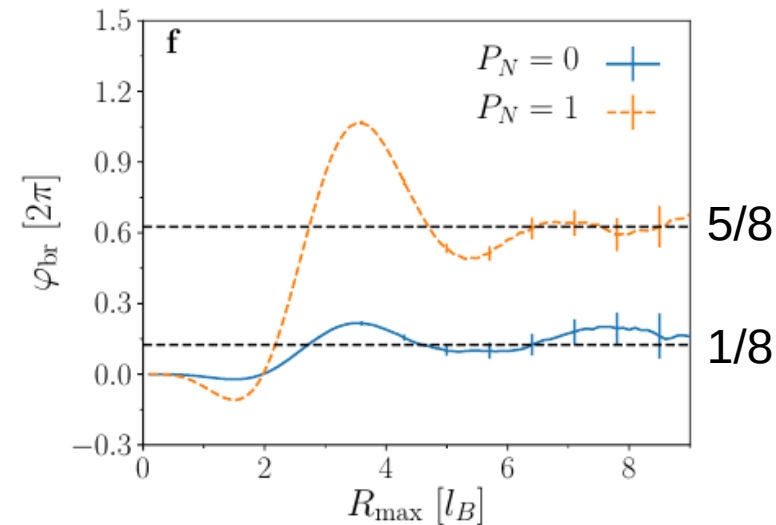
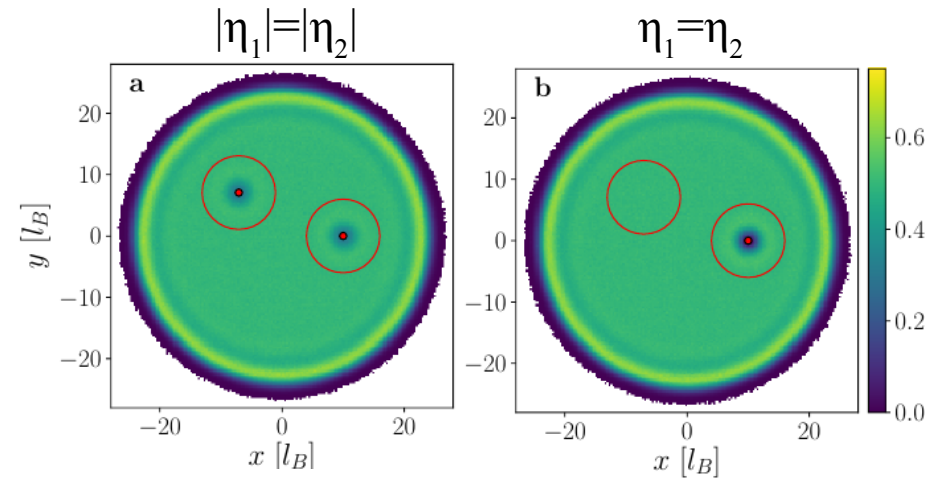
- Compare (two) single quasi-holes and overlapping pair of quasi-holes:

$$\frac{\varphi_{\text{br}}}{2\pi} = \frac{1}{\hbar} \left[\langle \hat{L}_z \rangle_{|\eta_1|=|\eta_2|} - \langle \hat{L}_z \rangle_{\eta_1=\eta_2} \right].$$

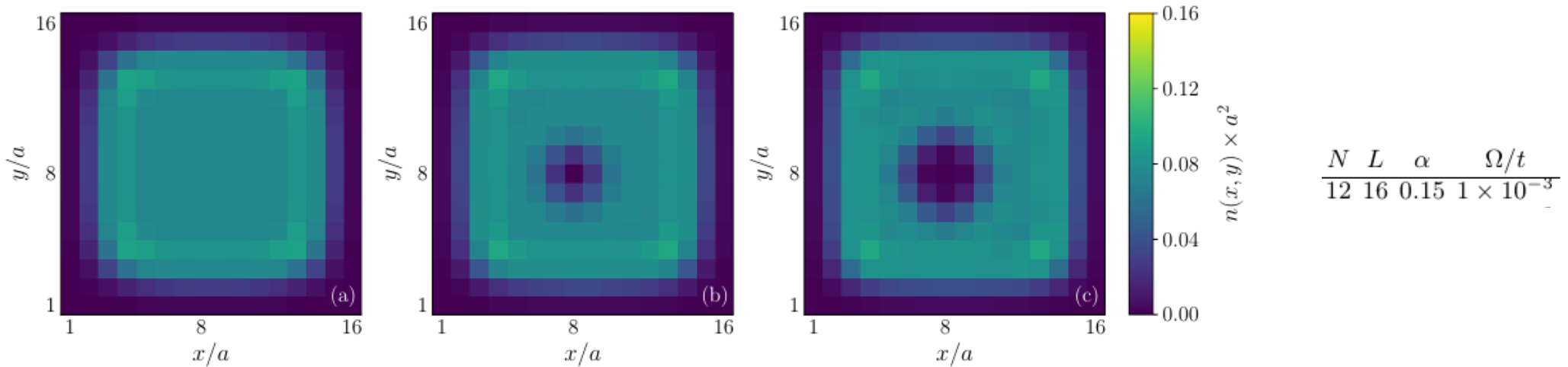
- Relates to difference of density profiles:

$$\frac{\varphi_{\text{br}}}{2\pi} = \frac{N}{2l_B^2} \left[\langle r^2 \rangle_{|\eta_1|=|\eta_2|} - \langle r^2 \rangle_{\eta_1=\eta_2} \right],$$

- Incompressibility \rightarrow external region unaffected
- Statistics inferred from local density difference around QH core, i.e. variance of density depletion
- Insensitive to spurious excitation of (ungapped) edge states
- Numerical calculation using Moore-Read wavefunction allows to distinguish fusion channels of even/odd total particle number



Quasi-Hole structure vs. anyon statistics (II)



Discrete lattice model \rightarrow Harper-Hofstadter-Bose-Hubbard

Ground state using **Tree-Tensor-Network** ansatz

- experimentally realistic “large” system
- open boundary conditions with harmonic trap
- repulsive potentials to pin quasi-holes

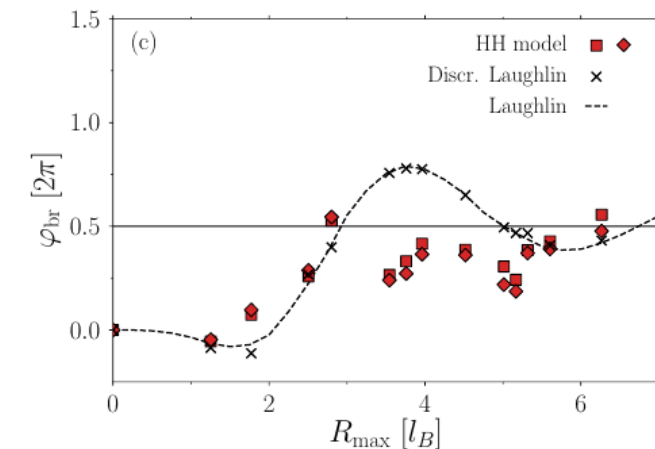
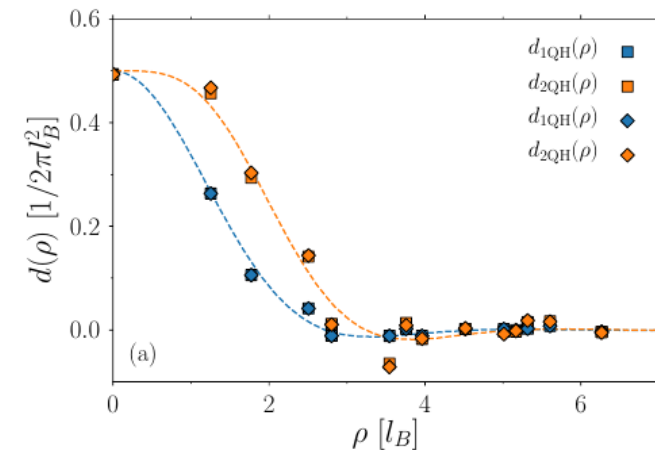
Apply discretized version of **braiding phase formula**

$$\frac{\varphi_{\text{br}}}{2\pi} = \frac{N}{2l_B^2} [\langle r^2 \rangle_{|\eta_1|=|\eta_2|} - \langle r^2 \rangle_{\eta_1=\eta_2}],$$

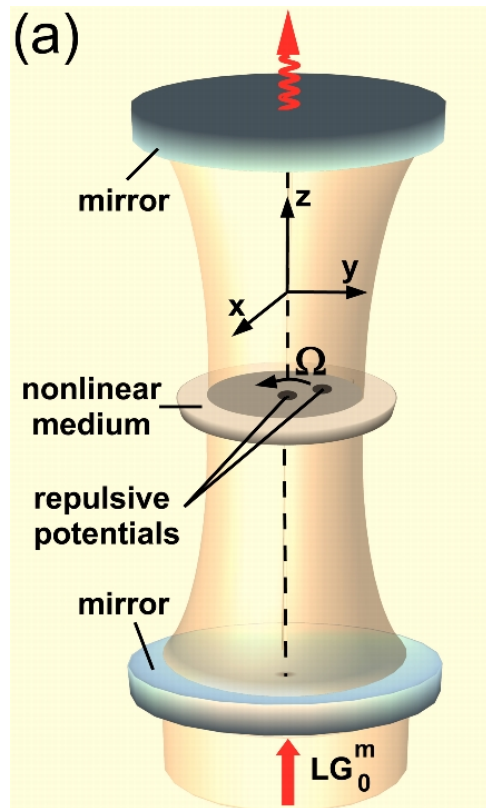
to physical ground state wavefunction

\rightarrow Accurate reconstruction of **anyonic statistics**

\rightarrow Experiment accessible in state-of-the-art **circuit-QED systems**

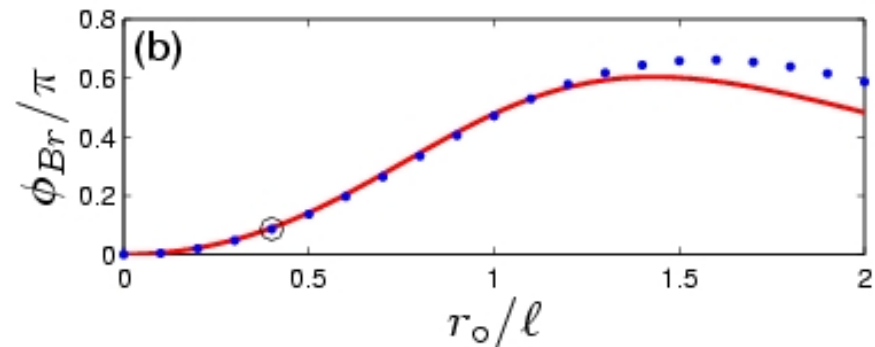
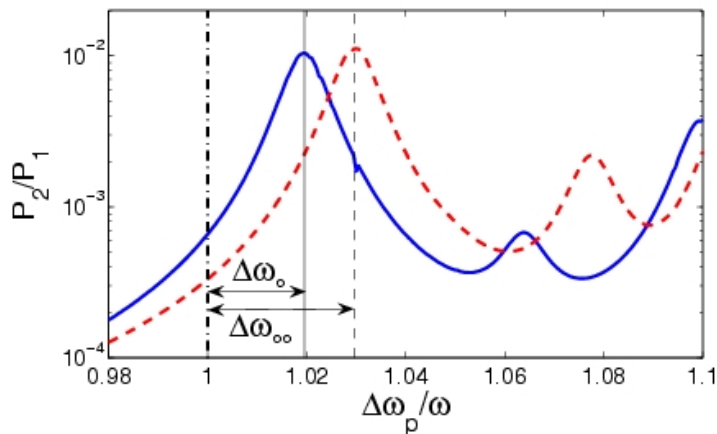


Optical signatures of the anyonic braiding phase



- LG pump to create and maintain quantum Hall liquid
- Localized repulsive potentials in trap:
 - create quasi-hole excitation in quantum Hall liquid
 - position of holes adiabatically braided in space
- Anyonic statistics of quasi-hole: many-body Berry phase ϕ_{Br} when positions swapped during braiding
- Berry phase extracted from shift of transmission resonance while repulsive potential moved with period T_{rot} along circle

$$\phi_{Br} \equiv (\Delta\omega_{oo} - \Delta\omega_o) T_{rot} [2\pi]$$



Quantum mechanics of anyons (I) – single particle

Laughlin wavefunction of Fractional Quantum Hall:

- quasi-holes \rightarrow no E_{kin} , no independent life
- dressed by heavy impurity \rightarrow anyonic molecule
- full-fledged mechanical degree of freedom

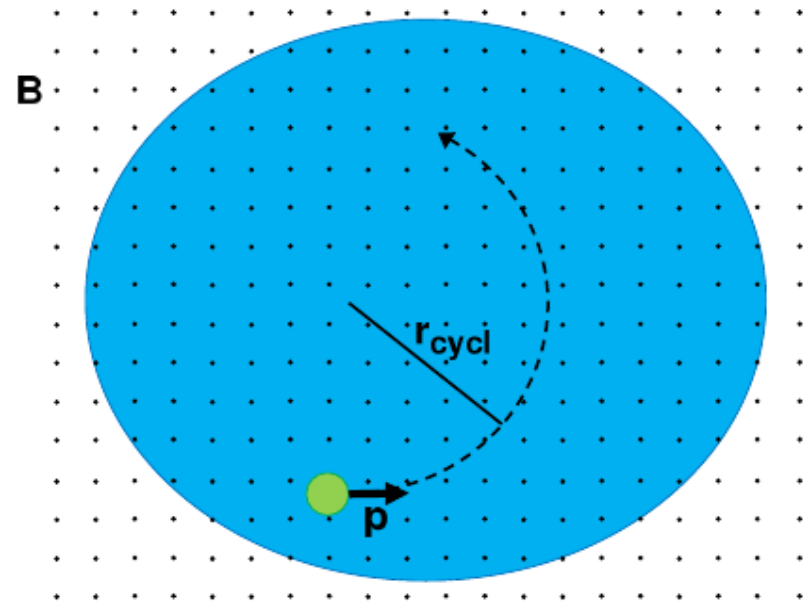
Born-Oppenheimer approx:

- Heavy impurity \rightarrow slow Degree of Freedom
- Light FQH particles \rightarrow fast DoF

$$H_{\text{eff}} = \frac{[-i\nabla_{\mathbf{R}} - (Q - \nu q) \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{R})]^2}{2\mathcal{M}}$$

- Mass $M \rightarrow M$ (impurity) + QH dragging effect
- Impurity & FQH particles feel (Synth-)B,
so synth-Charge $\rightarrow Q$ (impurity) $- \nu q$ (QH)

Cyclotron orbit \rightarrow **fractional charge** and BO mass correction



Quantum mechanics of anyons (II) – two particles

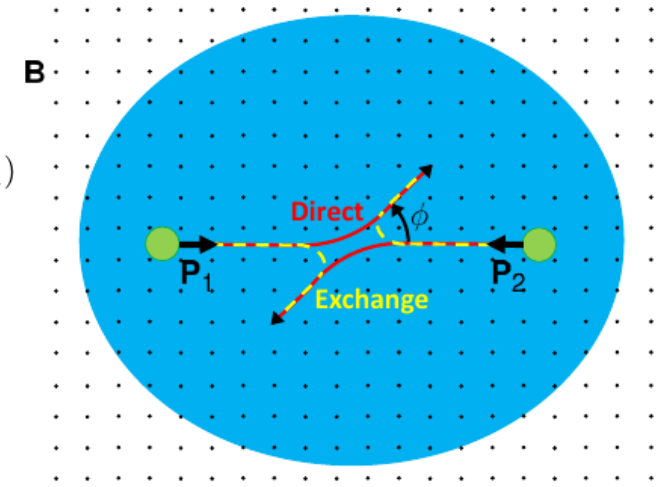
Each particle \rightarrow attached flux $\mathcal{A}_j(\mathbf{R}) = \mathcal{A}_q(\mathbf{R}_j) + \mathcal{A}_{\text{stat},j}(\mathbf{R})$

$$= \frac{\mathcal{B}_q}{2} \mathbf{u}_z \times \mathbf{R}_j + (-1)^j \frac{\nu}{R_{\text{rel}}^2} \mathbf{u}_z \times \mathbf{R}_{\text{rel}}$$

Relative motion:

- inter-particle potential
- statistical \mathbf{A}_{rel} due to attached flux

$$H_{\text{rel}} = \frac{[\mathbf{P}_{\text{rel}} + \mathbf{A}_{\text{rel}}(\mathbf{R}_{\text{rel}})]^2}{2\mathcal{M}_{\text{rel}}} + V_{\text{ii}}(R_{\text{rel}})$$



2-body scattering: interference of direct & exchange

- fringes in differential cross section
- fringe position depends on attached flux, i.e. fractional statistics

Measures **fractional statistics**

Scheme works best with polar molecules (heavy + long-range interactions) in atoms (light FQH gas)

