

A scenic view of a pond with a stone walkway, trees, and a small boat. The pond is surrounded by lush greenery and a stone walkway. A small boat is visible on the water. The background is filled with dense trees and foliage.

Experimental Quantum Optics

Konrad Banaszek

I. Fluctuations

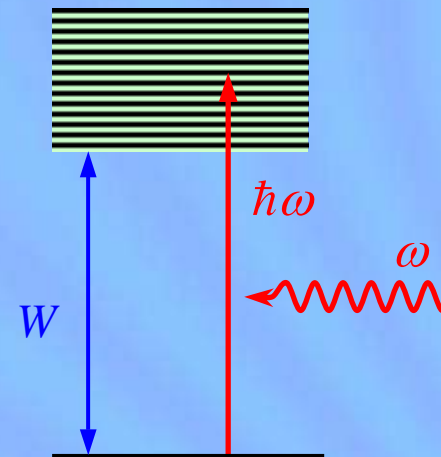
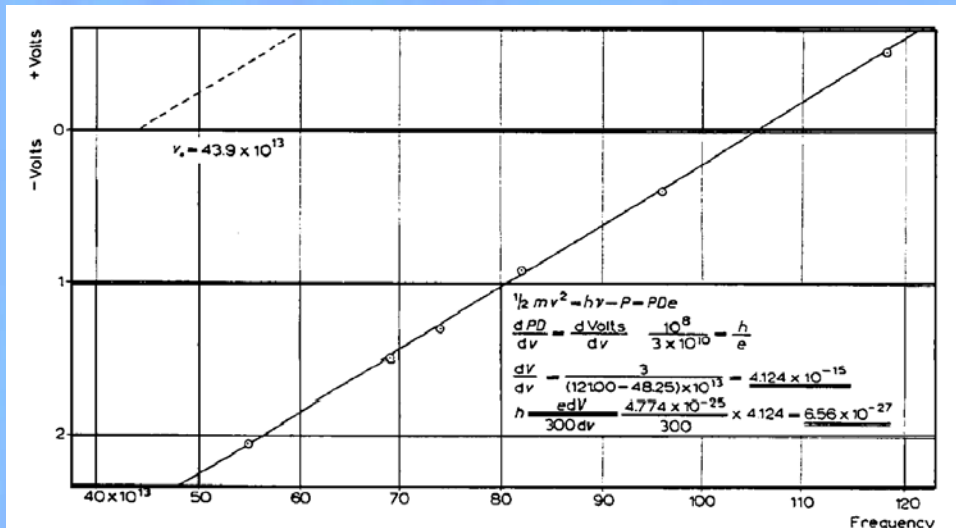
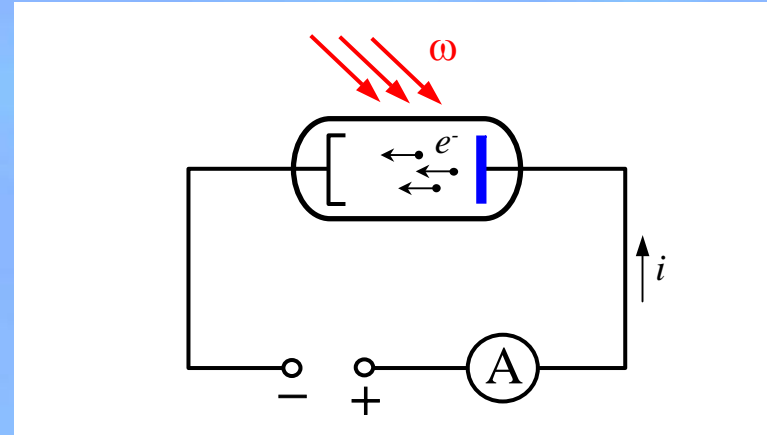
Photoelectric effect

Maximum kinetic energy:

$$E_{\max} = \hbar\omega - W$$

ω – light frequency

W – work function



R. A. Millikan, Phys. Rev. **7**, 355 (1916)

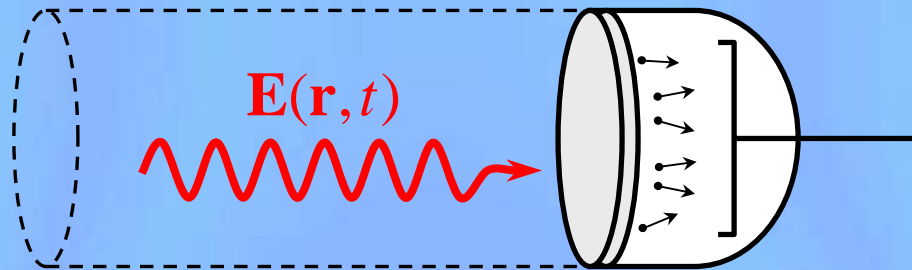
Photocount statistics

Quasi-monochromatic (central frequency ω_0) single-mode field:

$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \alpha \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \text{c.c.}$$

where α is a complex dimensionless field amplitude.

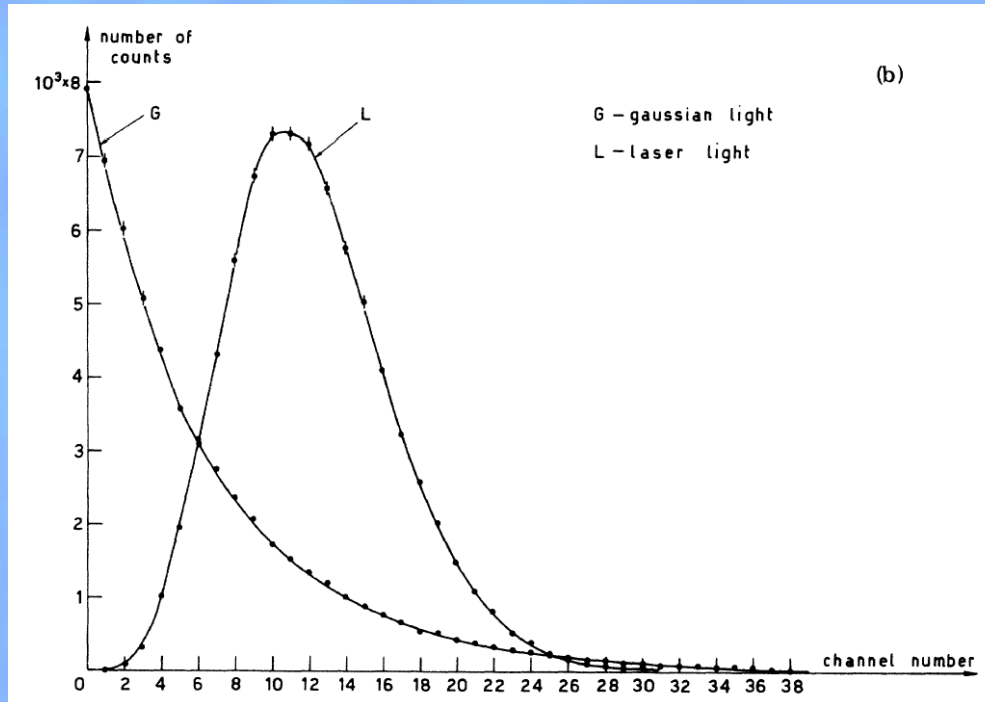
The *mode function* $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ is normalized such that the energy contained in the field is $\hbar\omega_0 |\alpha|^2$



Probability of generating n photoelectrons (in the absence of losses) is given by the Poissonian distribution:

$$p_n(\alpha) = \exp(-|\alpha|^2) \frac{|\alpha|^{2n}}{n!}$$

Coherent and thermal light



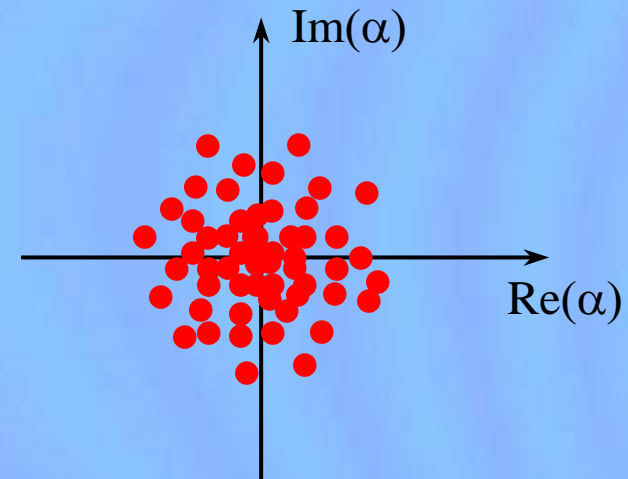
F. T. Arecchi, Phys. Rev. Lett. **15**, 912 (1965)

G – Bose-Einstein statistics (thermal light)

L – Poissonian statistics (coherent light)

Thermal fluctuations:

$$P(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\pi \bar{I}} \exp\left(-|\alpha|^2 / \bar{I}\right)$$

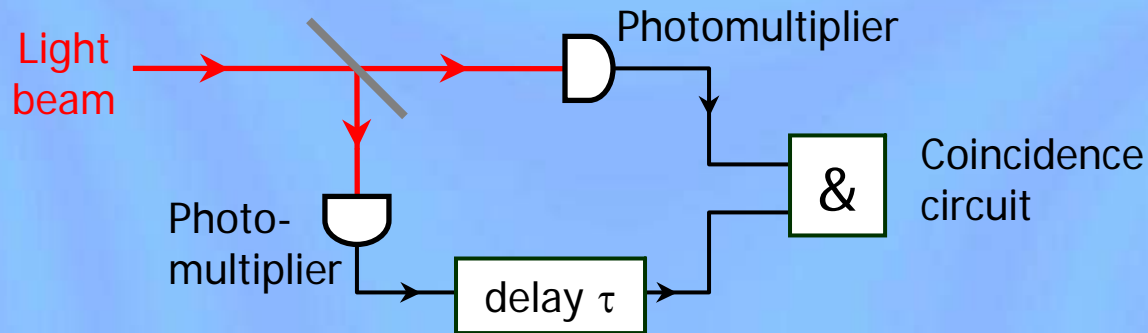


$$p_n = \langle p_n(\alpha) \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{1 + \bar{I}} \left(\frac{\bar{I}}{1 + \bar{I}} \right)^n$$

Intensity correlations

Measurement of the two-time intensity correlation function:



Probability of a click over a short counting time from t to $t+\Delta t$: $p_1 \propto \mathcal{J}(t) \Delta t$

Schwarz inequality:

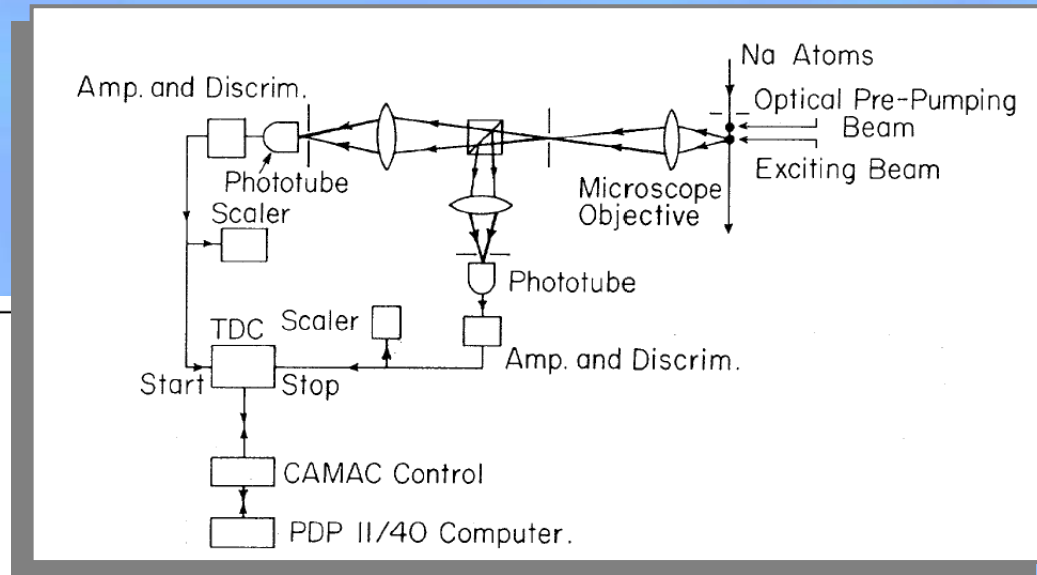
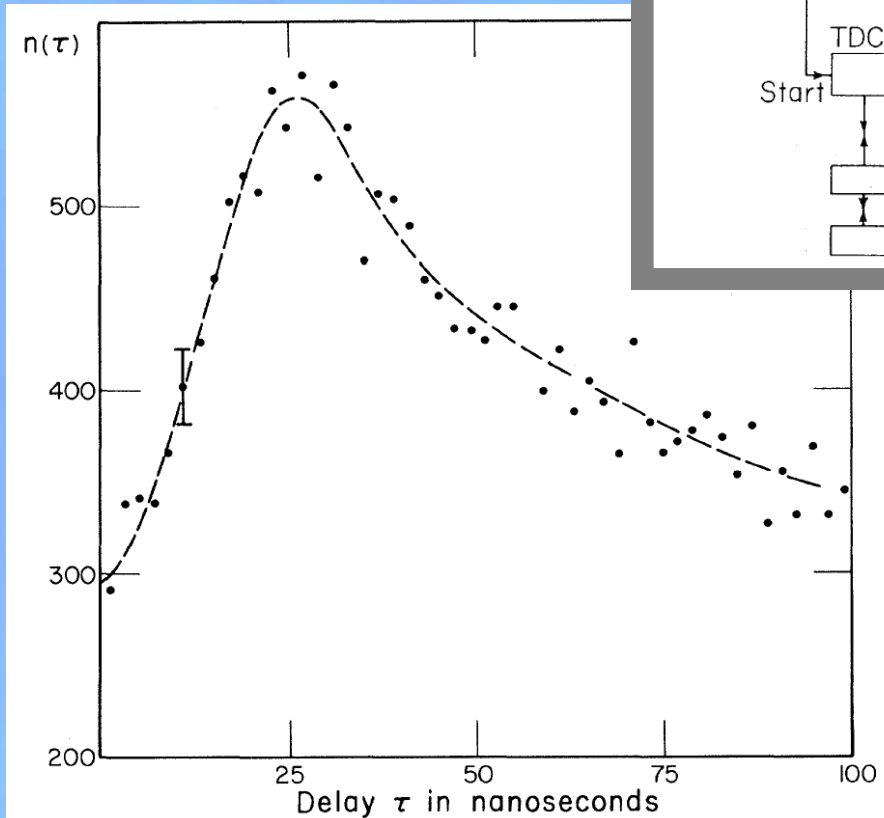
$$\langle \mathcal{J}(t) \mathcal{J}(t+\tau) \rangle \leq \sqrt{\langle \mathcal{J}^2(t) \rangle \langle \mathcal{J}^2(t+\tau) \rangle}$$

For a stationary source $\langle \mathcal{J}^2(t) \rangle = \langle \mathcal{J}^2(t+\tau) \rangle$ and

$$\langle \mathcal{J}(0) \mathcal{J}(\tau) \rangle \leq \langle \mathcal{J}^2(0) \rangle$$

Photon antibunching

H. J. Kimble, M. Dagenais,
and L. Mandel, Phys. Rev.
Lett. **39**, 691 (1977)



A single atom can
emit only **one**
photon at once!

Field quantization

Electric field operator:

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \hat{a} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \text{H.c.}$$

(+ other modes)

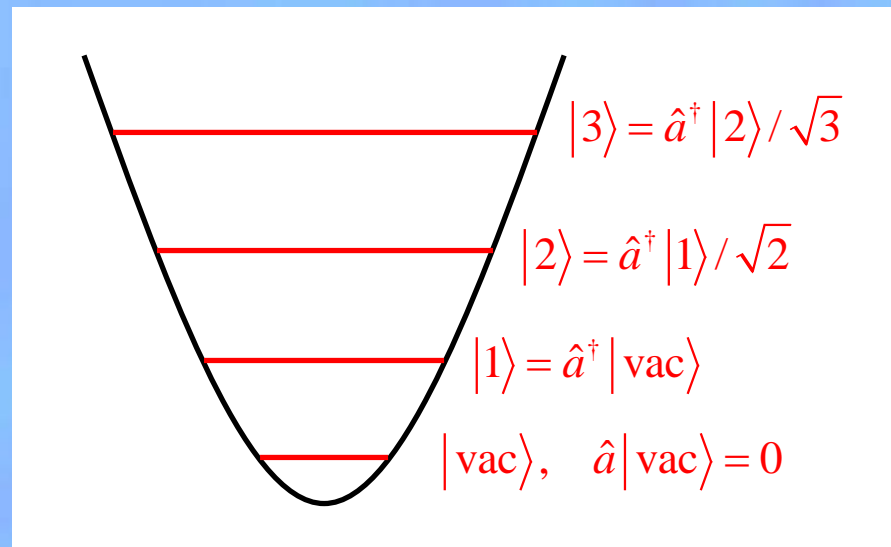
The complex amplitude α becomes an annihilation operator satisfying bosonic commutation relations:

$$[\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] = 1$$

Eigenstates of $\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}$:

$$\hat{a}^\dagger |n\rangle = \sqrt{n+1} |n+1\rangle$$

$$\hat{a} |n\rangle = \sqrt{n} |n-1\rangle$$



Quantum states of a light mode

Fock (number) states:

$$|n\rangle = \frac{(\hat{a}^\dagger)^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |\text{vac}\rangle$$

Coherent states:

$$|\alpha\rangle = e^{-|\alpha|^2/2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$$

Thermal states:

$$\hat{\rho}_{\text{th}} = \frac{1}{\pi\bar{I}} \int d^2\alpha e^{-|\alpha|^2/\bar{I}} |\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha| = \frac{1}{1+\bar{I}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(1+1/\bar{I})^n} |n\rangle\langle n|$$

General classical state of radiation:

$$\hat{\rho} = \int d^2\alpha P(\alpha) |\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha|$$

Quantum theory of photodetection

Probability of generating n photoelectrons by a perfect photodetector ($\eta=1$):

$$p_n = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} |n\rangle\langle n|)$$

For a coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$ statistical predictions are the same as of the semiclassical theory:

$$p_n = |\langle n|\alpha\rangle|^2 = e^{-|\alpha|^2} \frac{|\alpha|^{2n}}{n!}$$

Ideal photodetection realises measurement of the photon number operator:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n |n\rangle\langle n| = \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}$$

Moments of the photocount statistics:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^m p_n = \left\langle \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^m |n\rangle\langle n| \right\rangle = \left\langle (\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a})^m \right\rangle$$

Photoelectric current fluctuations

Moments of the photoelectron statistics for classical light ($\mathcal{J} = |\alpha|^2$):

$$\langle n \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n p_n = \langle \mathcal{J} \rangle$$

$$\langle n^2 \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 p_n = \langle \mathcal{J}^2 \rangle + \langle \mathcal{J} \rangle$$

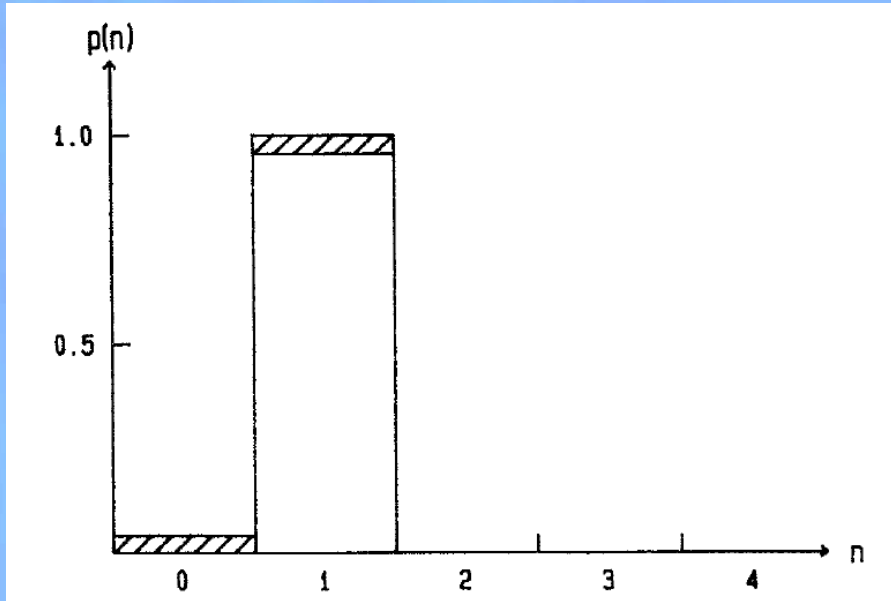
Fluctuations of the photoelectron number:

$$\langle (\Delta n)^2 \rangle = \langle n^2 \rangle - \langle n \rangle^2 = \langle \mathcal{J}^2 \rangle + \langle \mathcal{J} \rangle - \langle \mathcal{J} \rangle^2 = \langle (\Delta \mathcal{J})^2 \rangle + \langle \mathcal{J} \rangle$$

Fluctuations of
field intensity

Shot
noise

Sub-Poissonian statistics

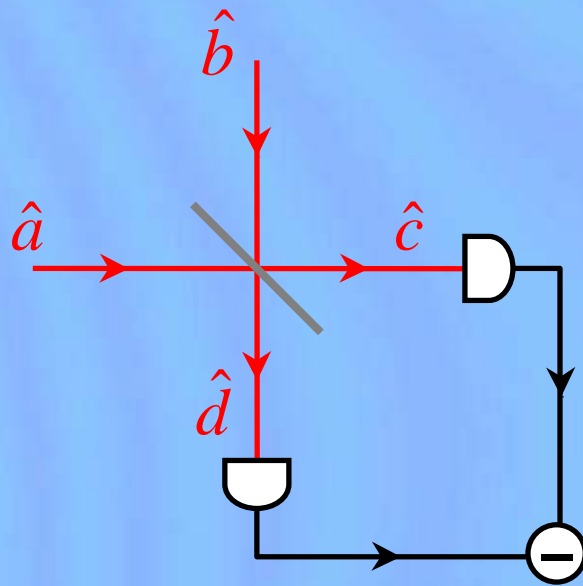


C. K. Hong and L. Mandel,
Phys. Rev. Lett. **56**, 58 (1986).

Observed data	Counting probabilities	Background probabilities	Derived photon probabilities
$N = 6\,000\,000$ $N(0) = 5\,985\,901$ $N(1) = 14\,098$ $N(2) = 1$	$P(0) = N(0)/N = 0.997\,65$ $P(1) = N(1)/N = 0.002\,35$ $P(2) = N(2)/N < 10^{-6}$	$p_b(0) \approx 1$ $p_b(1) \approx 8.8 \times 10^{-5}$ $p_b(2) \approx 0$	$p(0) \approx -0.17$ to 0.04 $p(1) \approx 1.06 \pm 10\%$ $p(2) \approx 0$

Quantum mechanics helps to suppress fluctuations!

Homodyne detection



50:50 Beam splitter transformation:

$$\hat{c} = \frac{\hat{a} + \hat{b}}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \hat{d} = \frac{\hat{a} - \hat{b}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Photoelectron number difference:

$$\hat{I}_- = \hat{c}^\dagger \hat{c} - \hat{d}^\dagger \hat{d} = \hat{a} \hat{b}^\dagger + \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{b}$$

For the mode \hat{b} in a strong coherent state $|\beta\rangle$ with $\beta = e^{i\theta} |\beta|$ we define:

$$\hat{x}_\theta = \frac{\hat{I}_-}{\sqrt{2}|\beta|} \approx \frac{\hat{a}\beta^* + \hat{a}^\dagger\beta}{\sqrt{2}|\beta|} = \frac{\hat{a}e^{-i\theta} + \hat{a}^\dagger e^{i\theta}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Quadrature fluctuations

For a coherent state $|\alpha\rangle$:

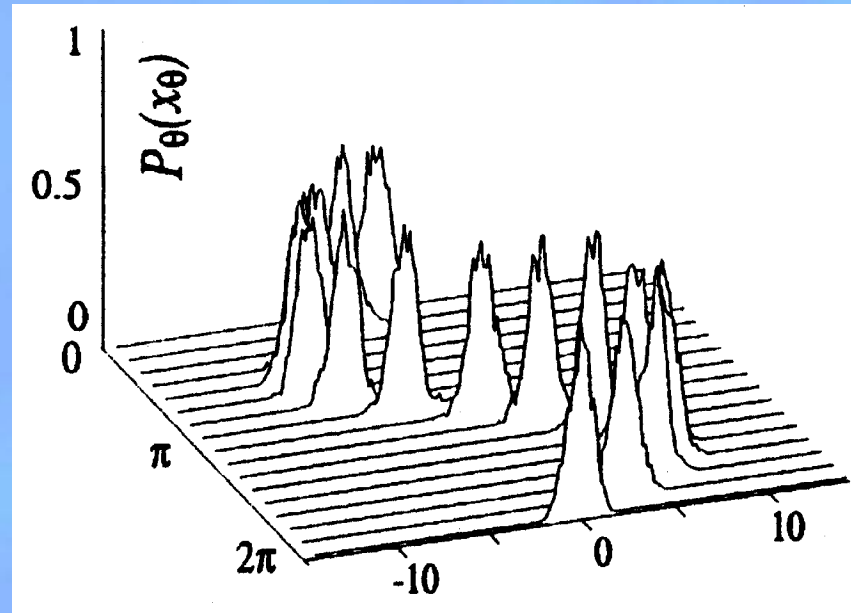
$$\langle \hat{x}_\theta \rangle = \langle \alpha | \hat{x}_\theta | \alpha \rangle = \sqrt{2} \operatorname{Re}(e^{-i\theta} \alpha) = \sqrt{2} (\operatorname{Re} \alpha \cos \theta + \operatorname{Im} \alpha \sin \theta)$$

Fluctuations:

$$\langle (\Delta \hat{x}_\theta)^2 \rangle = \langle \alpha | \hat{x}_\theta^2 | \alpha \rangle - \langle \hat{x}_\theta \rangle^2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

For classical states, i.e. coherent states and their statistical mixtures:

$$\langle (\Delta \hat{x}_\theta)^2 \rangle \geq \frac{1}{2}$$



G. Breitenbach, S. Schiller, and J. Mlynek,
Nature **387**, 471 (1997).

Conjugate quadratures

$$\hat{q} = \hat{x}_0 = \frac{\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\hat{p} = \hat{x}_{\pi/2} = \frac{\hat{a} - \hat{a}^\dagger}{\sqrt{2}i}$$

(**NOT** physical position and momentum!)

Commutation relation:

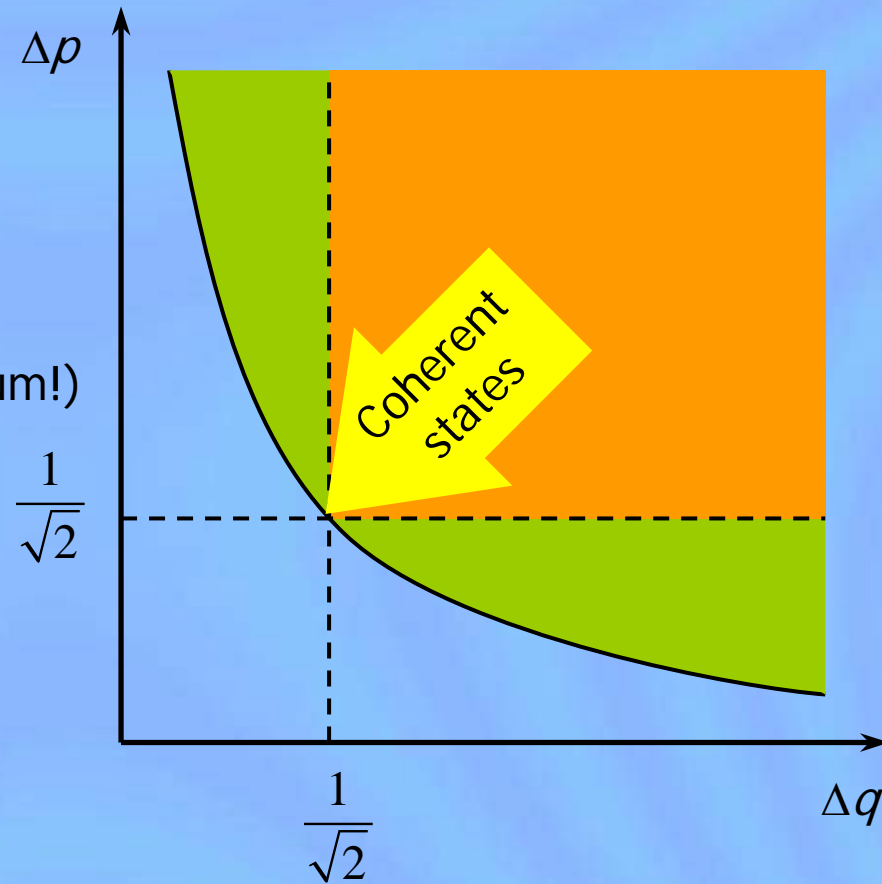
$$[\hat{q}, \hat{p}] = i$$

Heiseberg uncertainty principle:

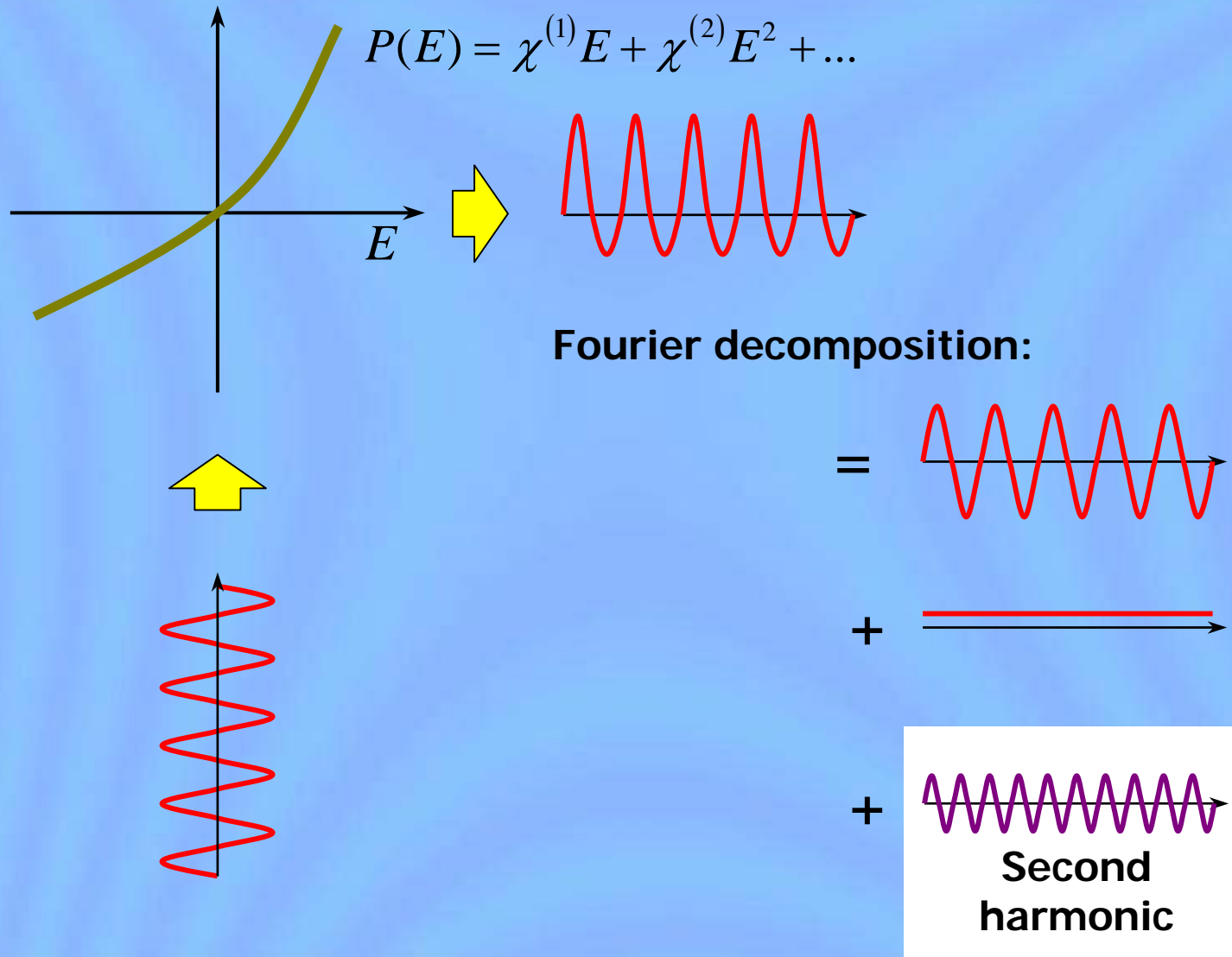
$$\Delta q \cdot \Delta p \geq \frac{1}{2} \quad (\odot)$$

This condition is weaker that the constraints for classical fields:

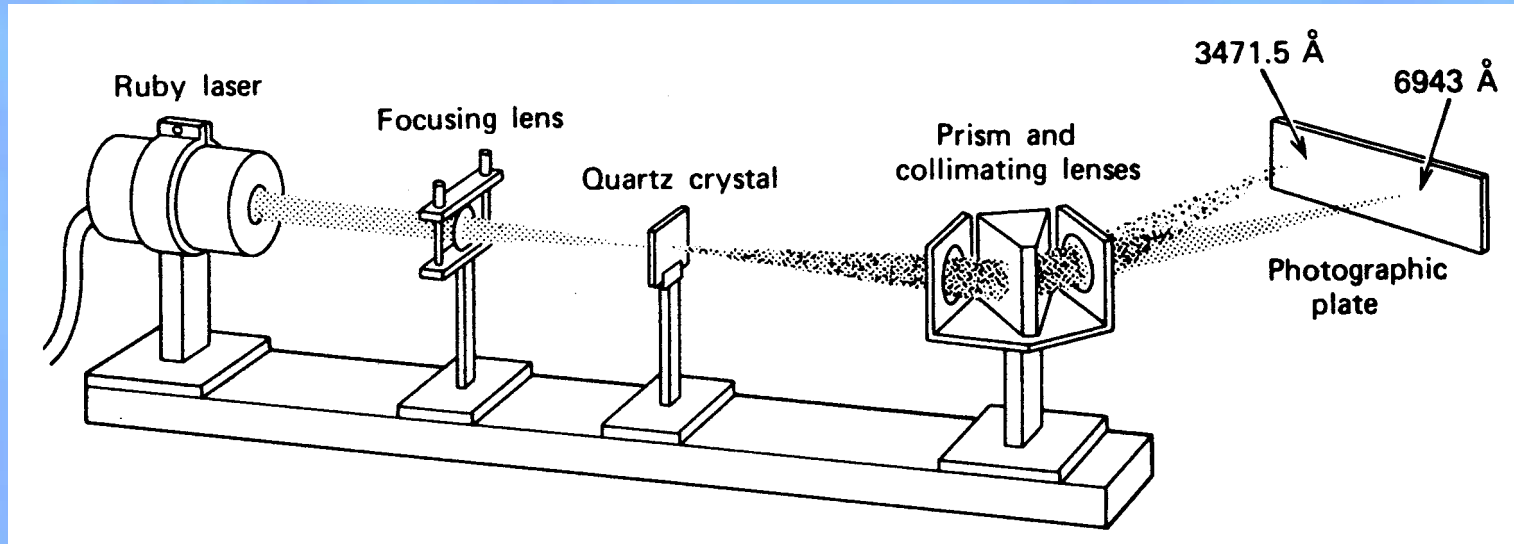
$$\Delta q \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta p \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad (\odot)$$



Nonlinear susceptibility



Second harmonic generation



VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

AUGUST 15, 1961

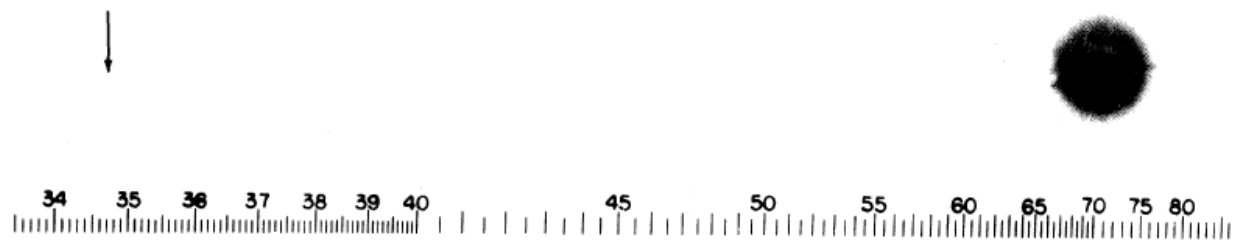
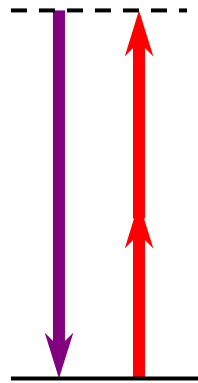


FIG. 1. A direct reproduction of the first plate in which there was an indication of second harmonic. The wavelength scale is in units of 100 Å. The arrow at 3472 Å indicates the small but dense image produced by the second harmonic. The image of the primary beam at 6943 Å is very large due to halation.

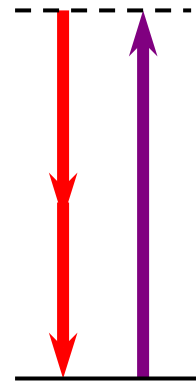
Quantum picture

Interaction Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \kappa \left(\hat{c}^\dagger \hat{a}^2 + (\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 \hat{c} \right)$$



**Second
harmonic
generation**



**Parametric
down-
conversion**

Squeeze operator

Strong classical pump $\hat{c} \rightarrow i\gamma$:

$$\hat{H} \approx i\kappa\gamma \left((\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 - \hat{a}^2 \right)$$

Unitary evolution operator:

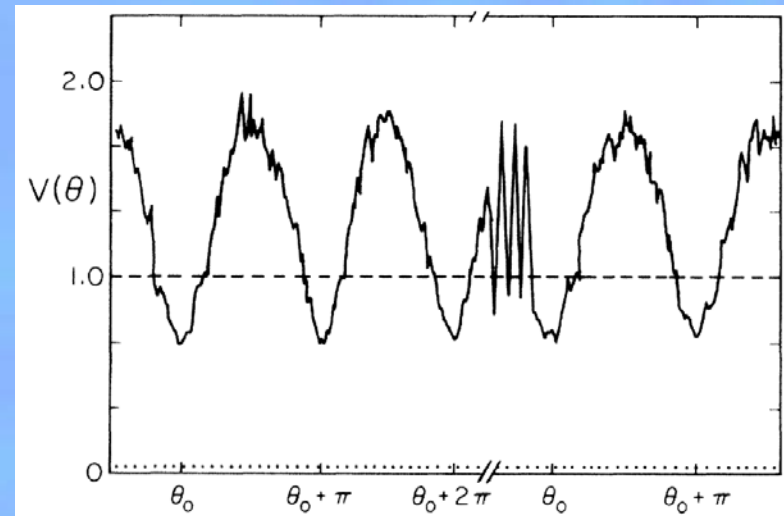
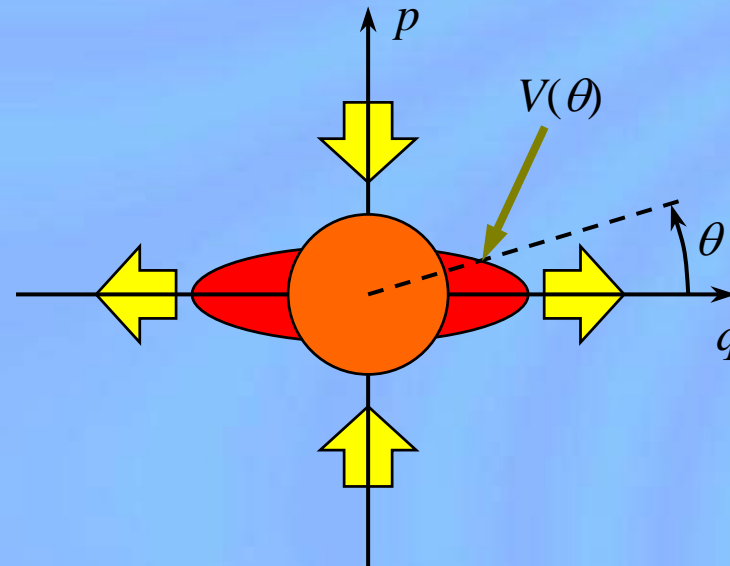
$$\begin{aligned} \hat{U}(r) &= \exp(-i\hat{H}t/\hbar) \\ &= \exp\left[\frac{r}{2} \left((\hat{a}^\dagger)^2 - \hat{a}^2 \right)\right] \end{aligned}$$

where r is the effective interaction time: $r = 2\gamma\kappa t/\hbar$

Evolution of quadratures:

$$\hat{q}(r) = \hat{U}^\dagger(r) \hat{q} \hat{U}(r) = e^r \hat{q}$$

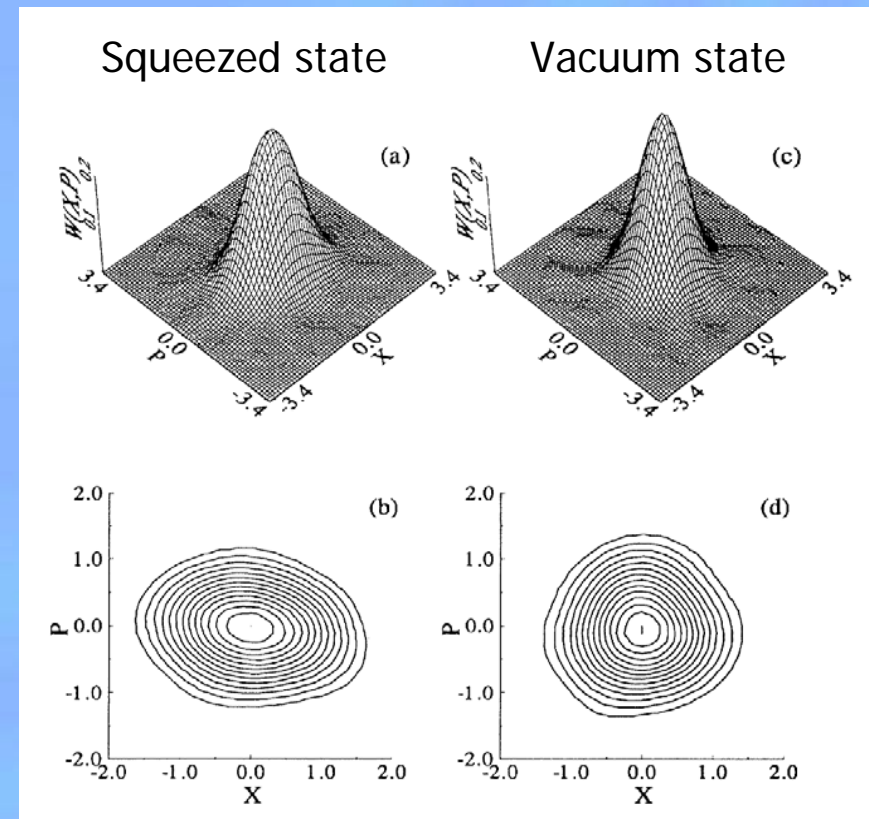
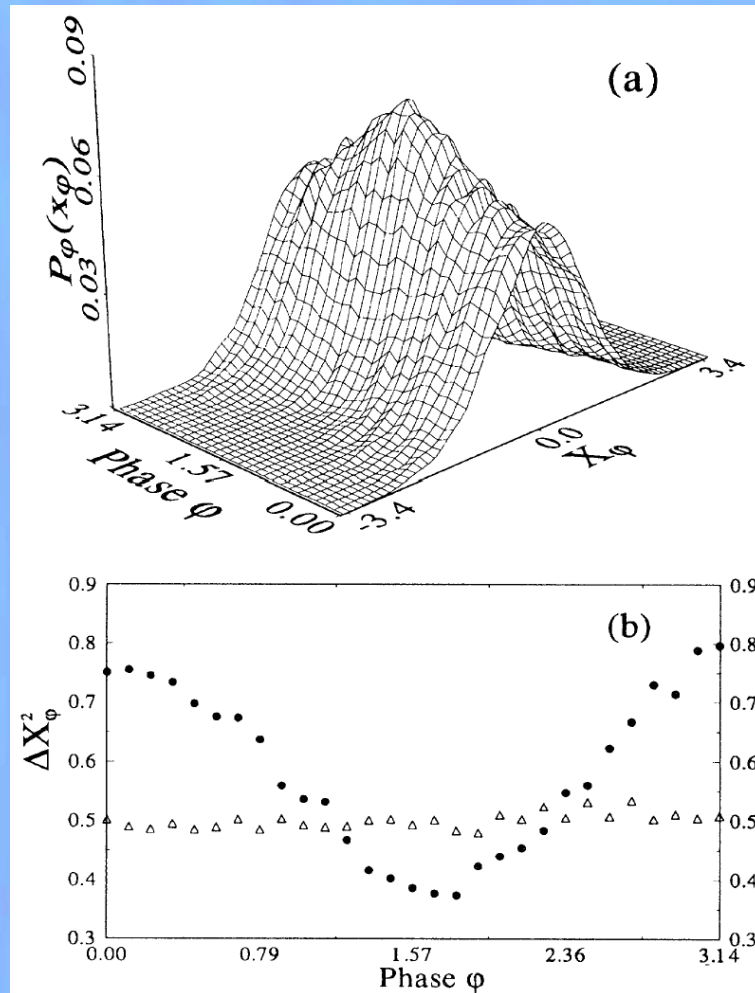
$$\hat{p}(r) = \hat{U}^\dagger(r) \hat{p} \hat{U}(r) = e^{-r} \hat{p}$$



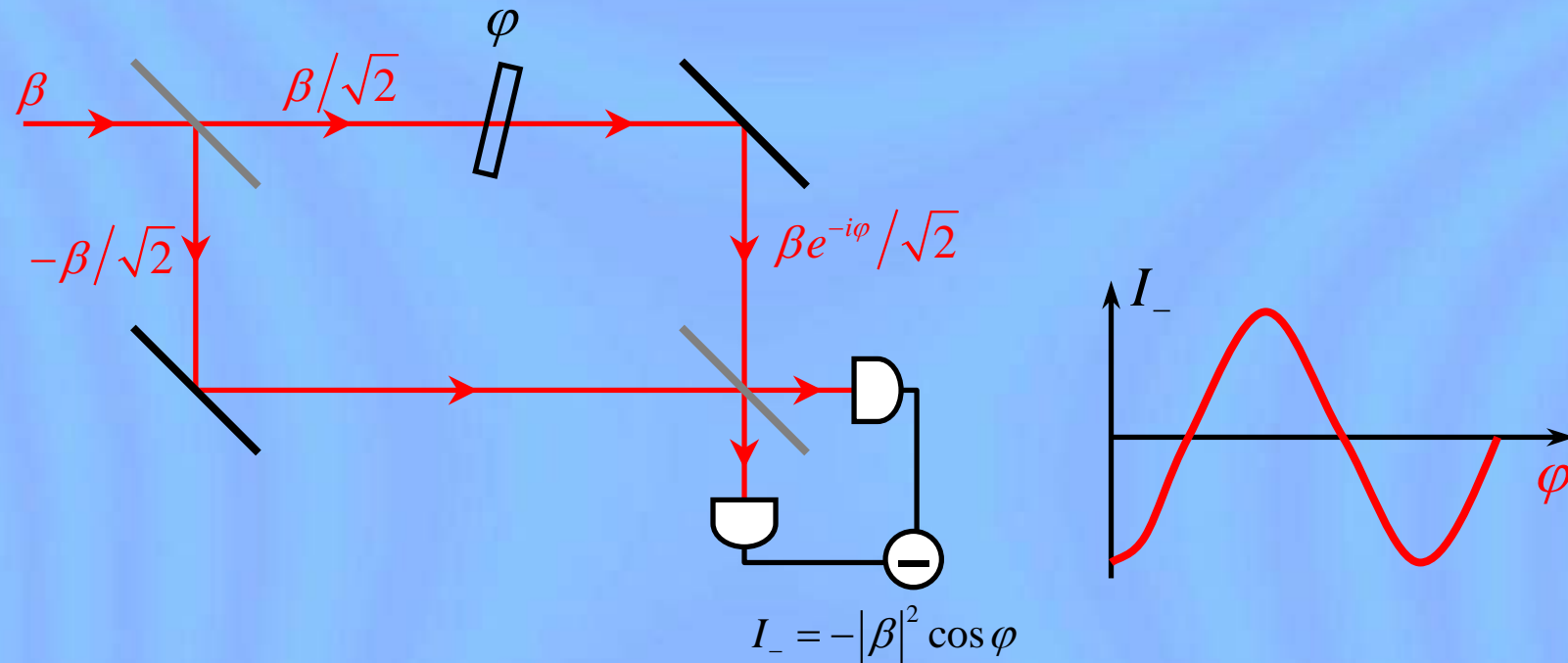
L.-A. Wu, H. J. Kimble, J. L. Hall, and H. Wu,
Phys. Rev. Lett. **57**, 2520 (1986)

Wigner function

D. T. Smithey, M. Beck,
M. G. Raymer, and A. Faridani,
Phys. Rev. Lett. **70**, 1244 (1993)



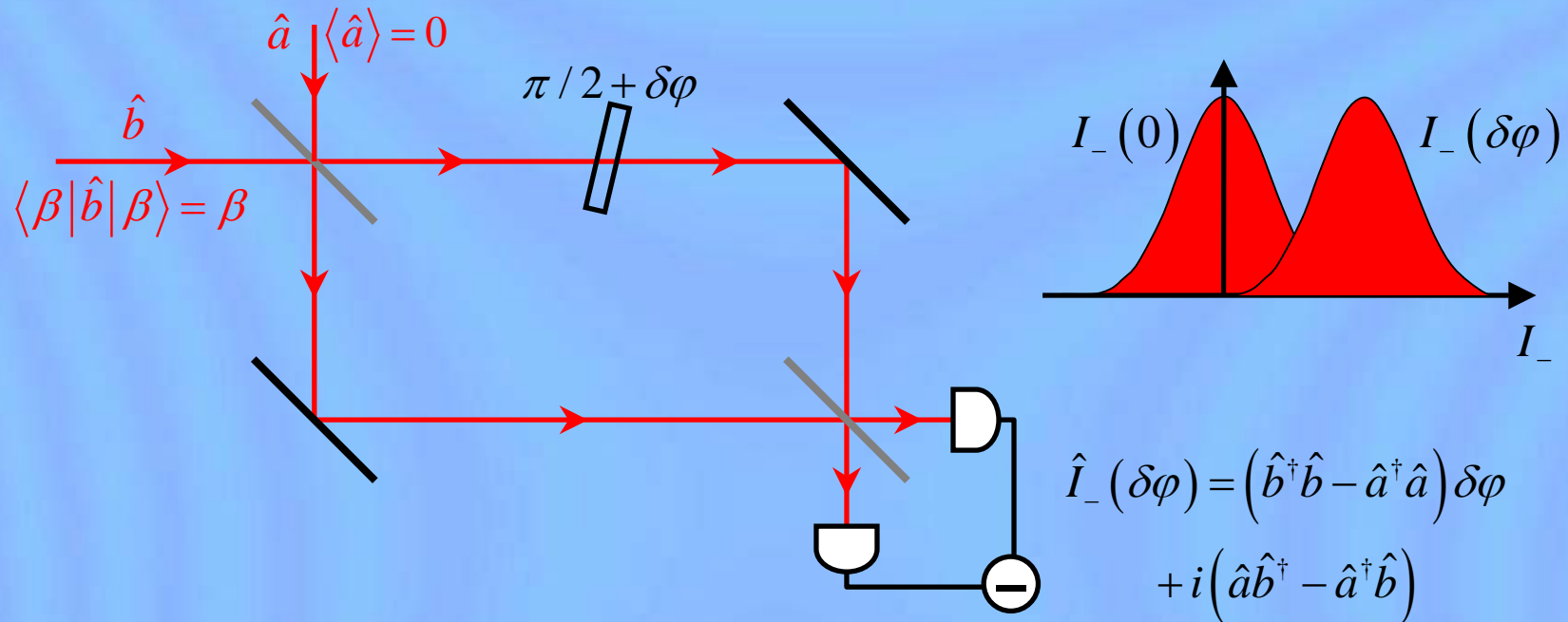
Detection of phase shift



Best sensitivity for the phase φ around $\pi/2$: when $\varphi = \pi/2 + \delta\varphi$

$$I_-(\delta\varphi) = |\beta|^2 \delta\varphi$$

Shot-noise limit



Expectation value:

$$\langle \hat{I}_- \rangle \approx |\beta|^2 \delta\varphi$$

Dispersion:

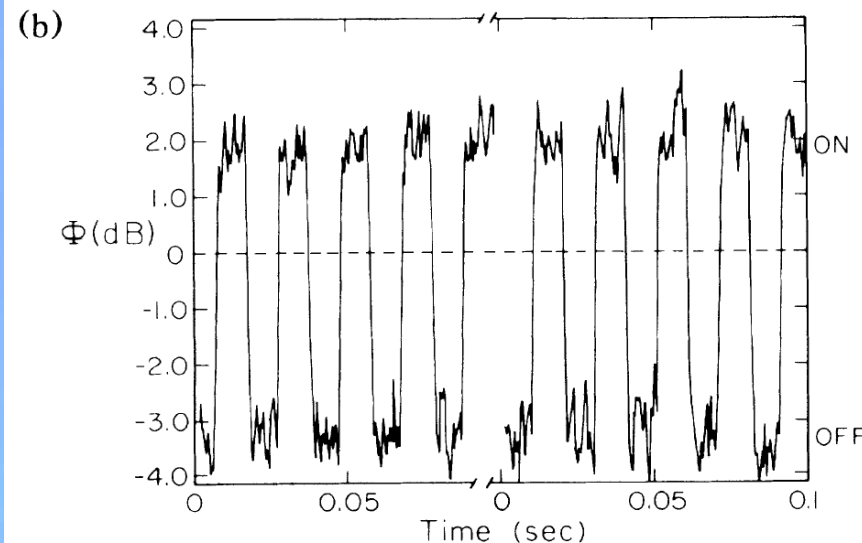
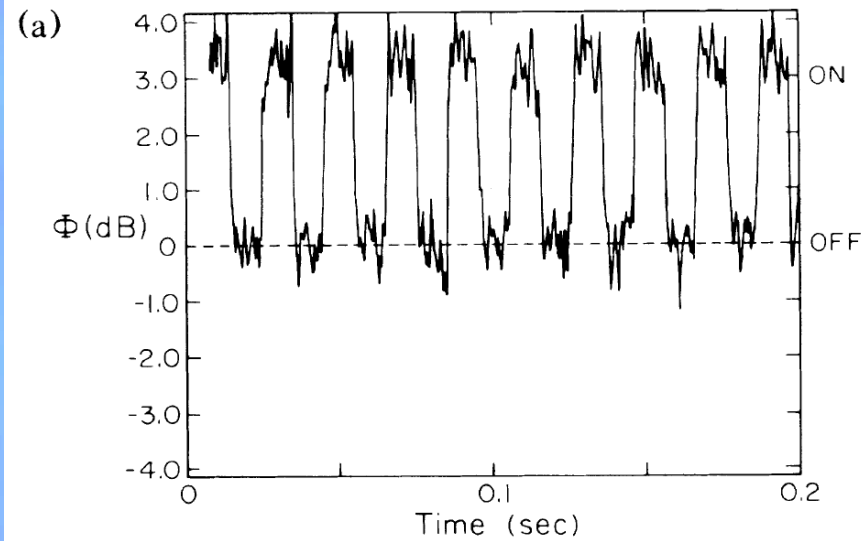
$$\langle (\Delta \hat{I}_-)^2 \rangle \approx 2 |\beta|^2 \langle (\Delta \hat{p}_a)^2 \rangle$$

Signal-to-Noise Ratio:

$$SNR = \frac{\langle \hat{I}_- \rangle}{\sqrt{\langle (\Delta \hat{I}_-)^2 \rangle}} = \frac{|\beta| \delta\varphi}{\sqrt{2 \langle (\Delta \hat{p}_a)^2 \rangle}}$$

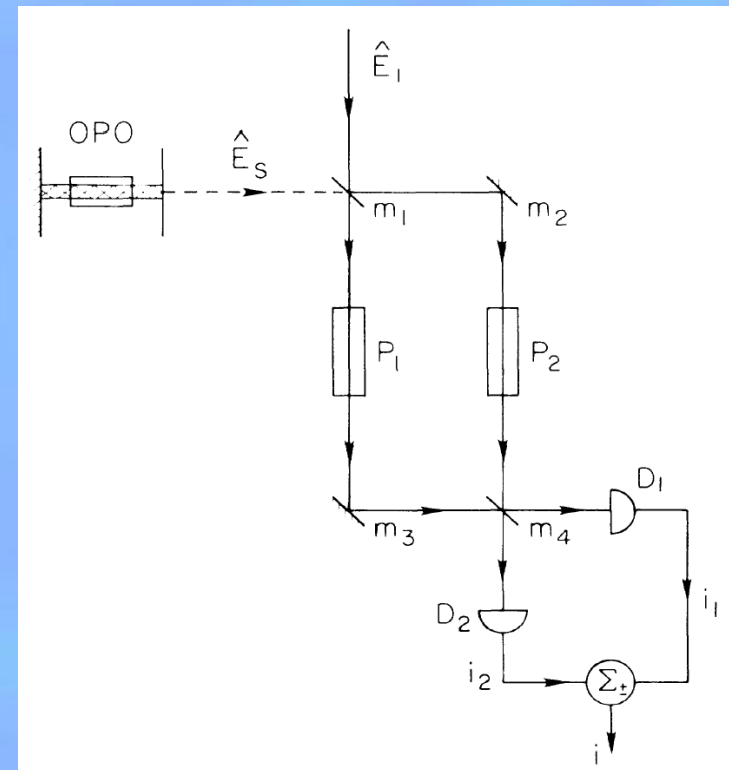
Application of squeezed input is more efficient in terms of the average number of used photons!

Sub-shot-noise interferometry



(a) vacuum input

(b) squeezed input



M. Xiao, L.-A. Wu, and H. J. Kimble,
Phys. Rev. Lett. **59**, 278 (1987)

A scenic landscape featuring a pond on the left, a large yellow-green tree in the center, and a dense forest of green trees in the background. The text "Experimental Quantum Optics" is overlaid at the top in white, with a horizontal line below it. The text "Konrad Banaszek" is overlaid on the right side in white. The text "II. Correlations" is overlaid in the center in white.

Experimental Quantum Optics

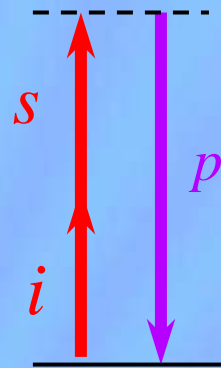
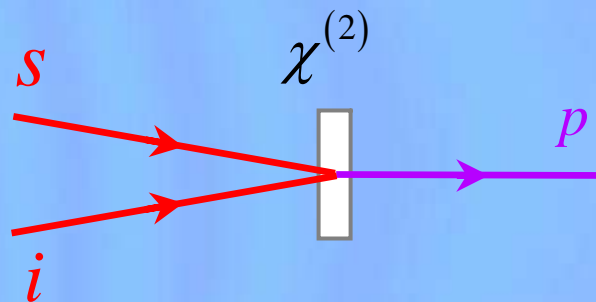
Konrad Banaszek

II. Correlations

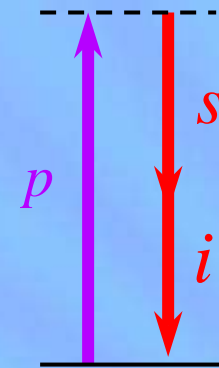
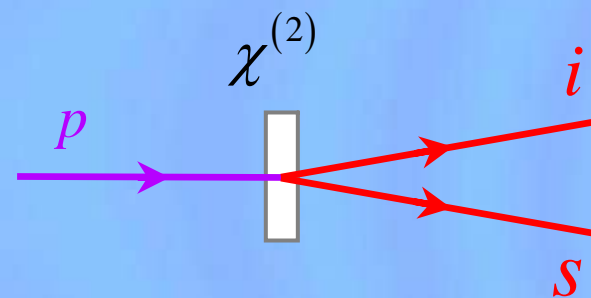
Three-wave mixing

Non-degenerate frequency conversion in $\chi^{(2)}$ crystals:

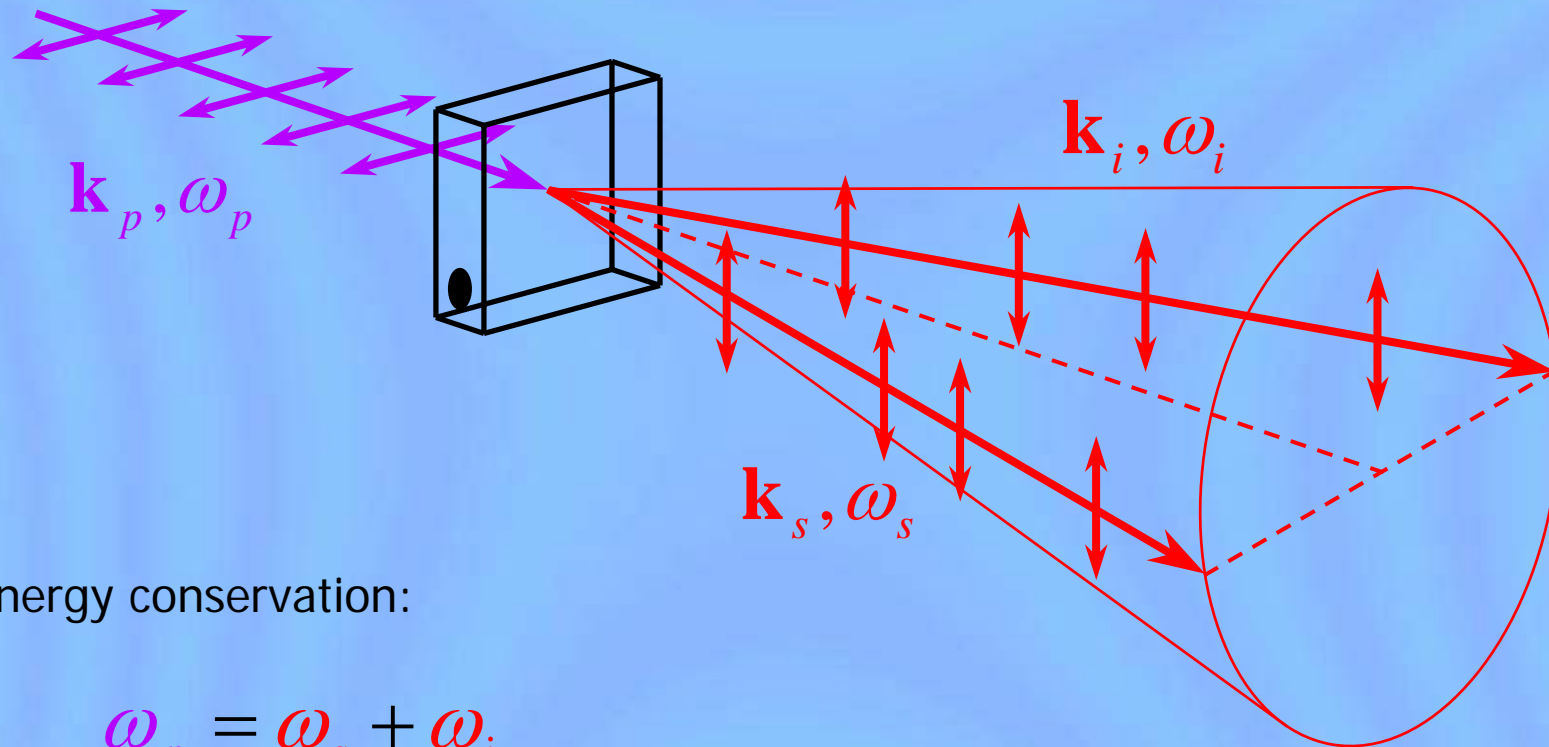
Sum frequency generation:



Parametric down-conversion:



Type-I process



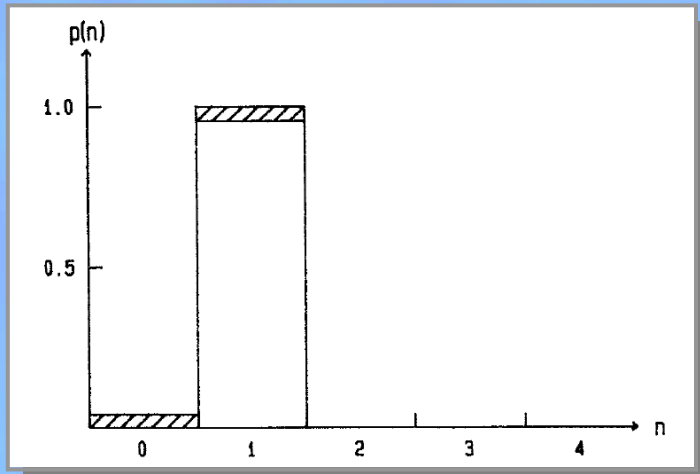
Energy conservation:

$$\omega_p = \omega_s + \omega_i$$

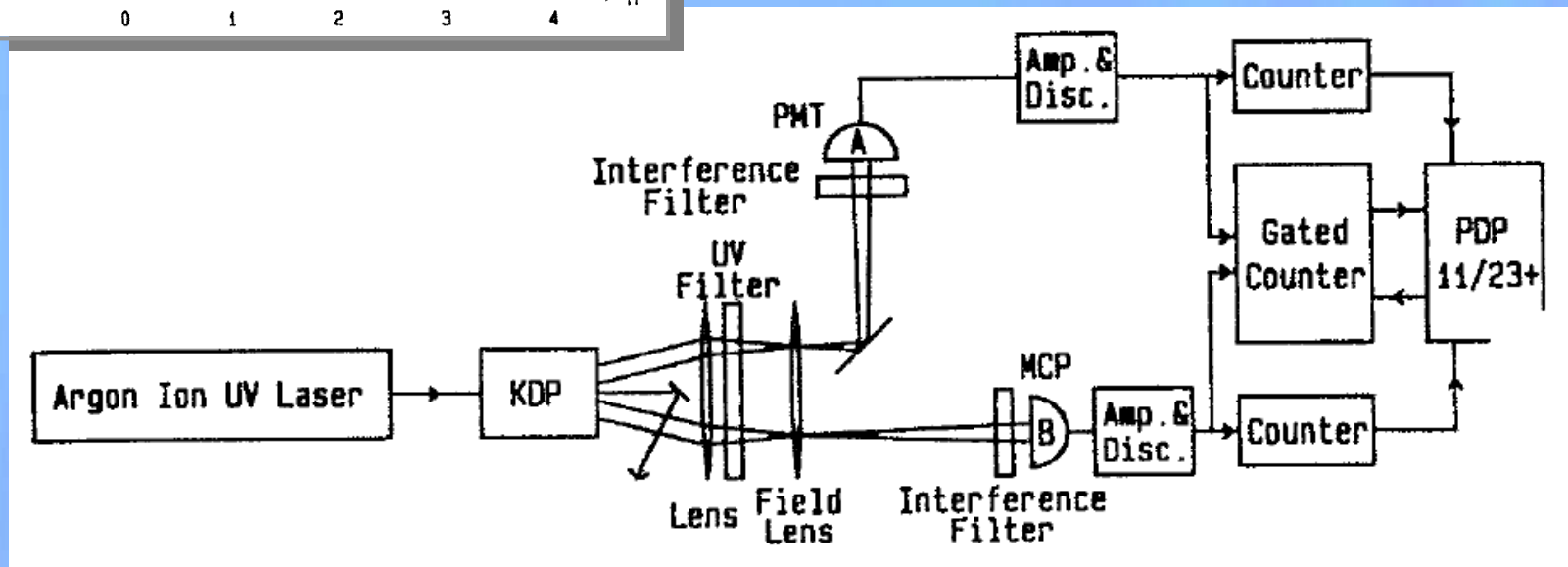
Momentum conservation:

$$\mathbf{k}_p \approx \mathbf{k}_s + \mathbf{k}_i$$

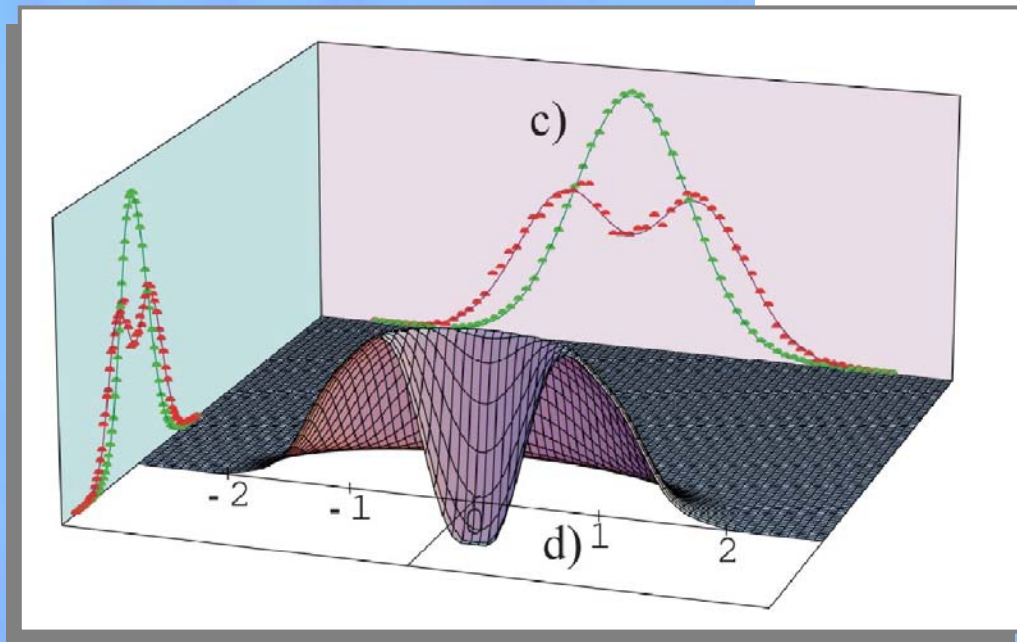
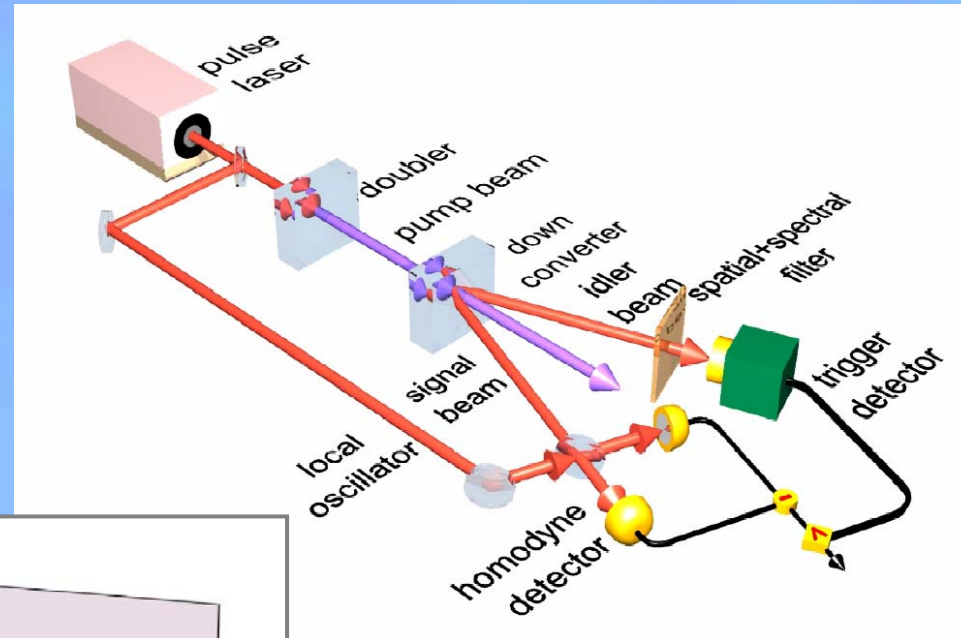
Localised one-photon Fock state



C. K. Hong and L. Mandel,
Phys. Rev. Lett. **56**, 58 (1986).



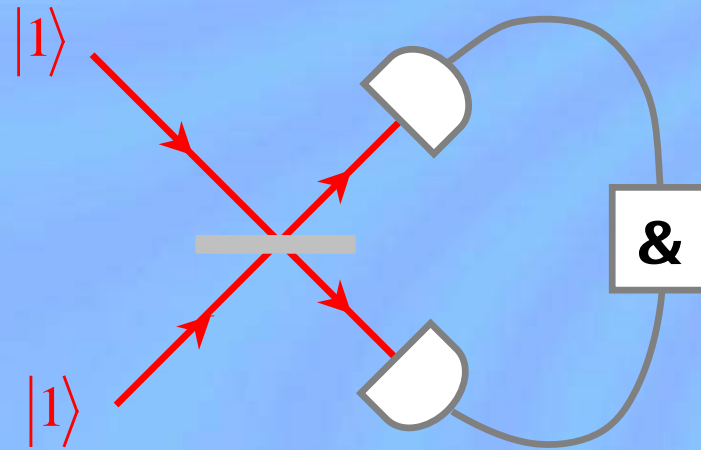
Homodyning Fock state



A. I. Lvovsky, H. Hansen, T. Aichele,
O. Benson, J. Mlynek, and S. Schiller,
Phys. Rev. Lett. **87**, 050402 (2001)

Two-photon interference I

Two-photon interference
on a balanced beam
splitter:



We have four probability amplitudes:

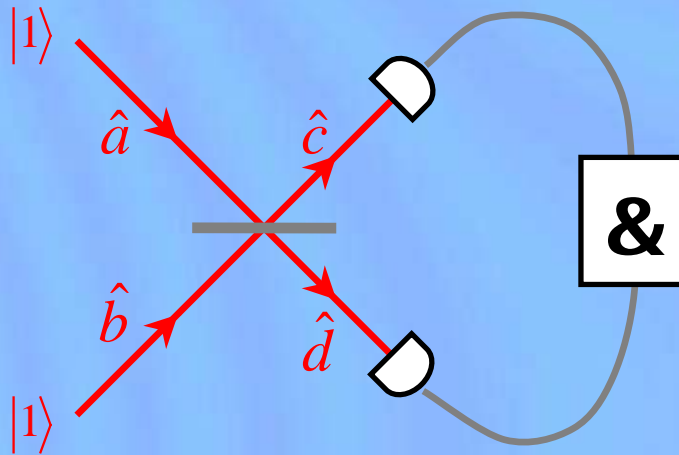
$$\frac{1}{2} \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1} \\ \text{Diagram 2} \\ \text{Diagram 3} \\ \text{Diagram 4} \end{array} \right]$$

The diagram shows four paths of two photons through a beam splitter, enclosed in large square brackets. The paths are: 1) Both photons reflect off the beam splitter. 2) Both photons transmit through the beam splitter. 3) The top photon reflects and the bottom photon transmits. 4) The top photon transmits and the bottom photon reflects. The second and third diagrams are grouped together by a horizontal curly brace underneath them.

These amplitudes cancel when
photons are indistinguishable!

For distinguishable photons all four amplitudes contribute equally.

Two-photon interference II



Incoming modes representation:

$$|1_a 1_b\rangle = \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{b}^\dagger |\text{vac}\rangle$$

Mode transformation:

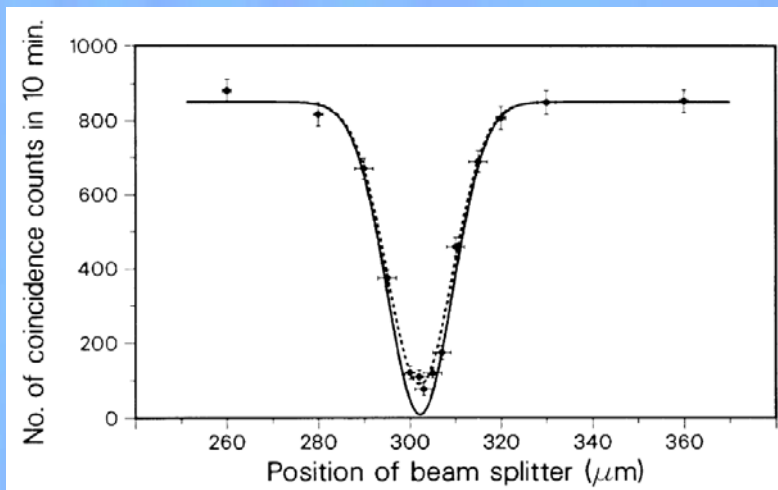
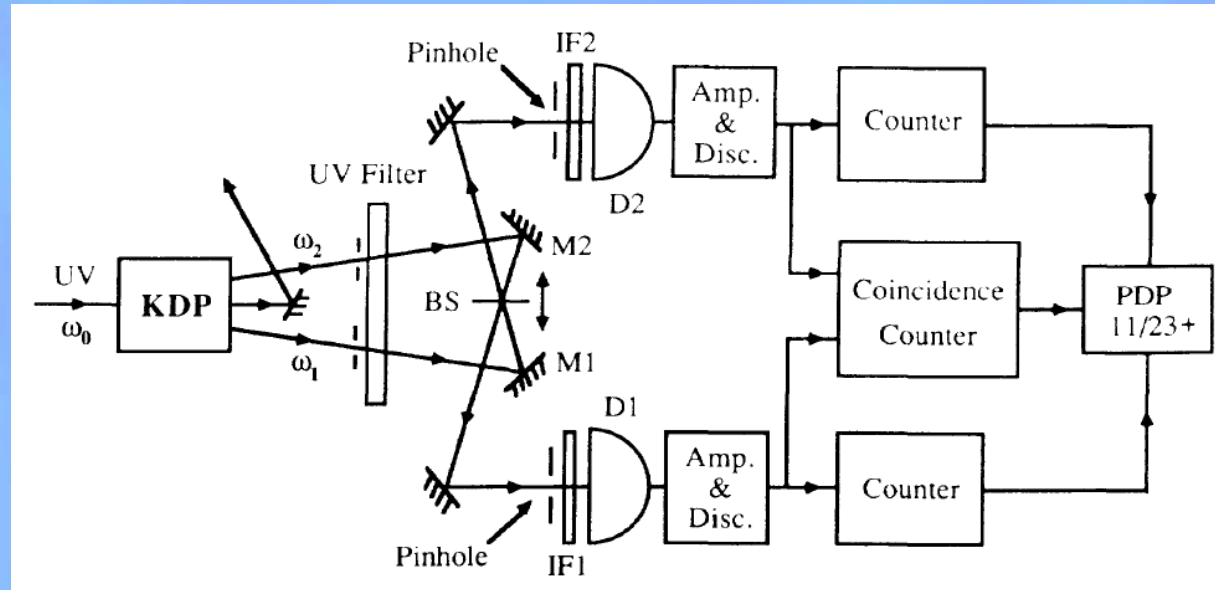
$$\hat{a} = \frac{\hat{c} + \hat{d}}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \hat{b} = \frac{\hat{c} - \hat{d}}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Outgoing modes representation:

$$\begin{aligned} |1_a 1_b\rangle &= \frac{1}{2} (\hat{c}^\dagger + \hat{d}^\dagger) (\hat{c}^\dagger - \hat{d}^\dagger) |\text{vac}\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \left[(\hat{c}^\dagger)^2 - \hat{c}^\dagger \hat{d}^\dagger + \hat{d}^\dagger \hat{c}^\dagger - (\hat{d}^\dagger)^2 \right] |\text{vac}\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[(\hat{c}^\dagger)^2 - (\hat{d}^\dagger)^2 \right] |\text{vac}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|2_c 0_d\rangle - |0_c 2_d\rangle) \end{aligned}$$

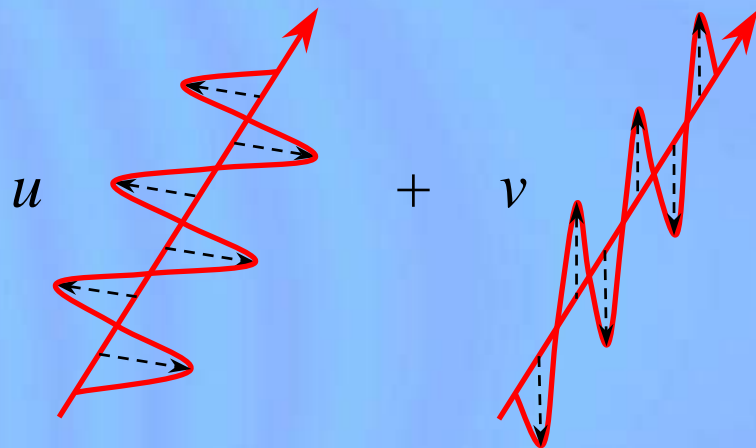
Hong-Ou-Mandel interferometer

C. K. Hong, Z. Y. Ou,
and L. Mandel,
Phys. Rev. Lett. **59**,
2044 (1987)



Polarization qubit

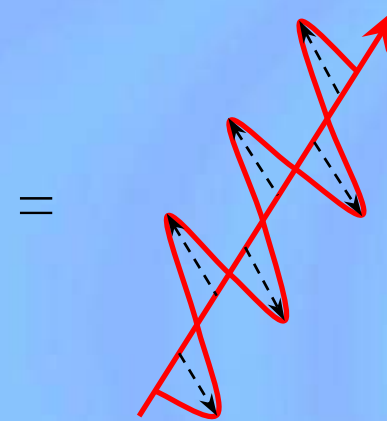
Two modes, orthogonally polarized,
but otherwise indistinguishable:



$$|\leftrightarrow\rangle = a_{\leftrightarrow}^{\dagger} |\text{vac}\rangle$$

$$|\updownarrow\rangle = a_{\updownarrow}^{\dagger} |\text{vac}\rangle$$

General superposition:



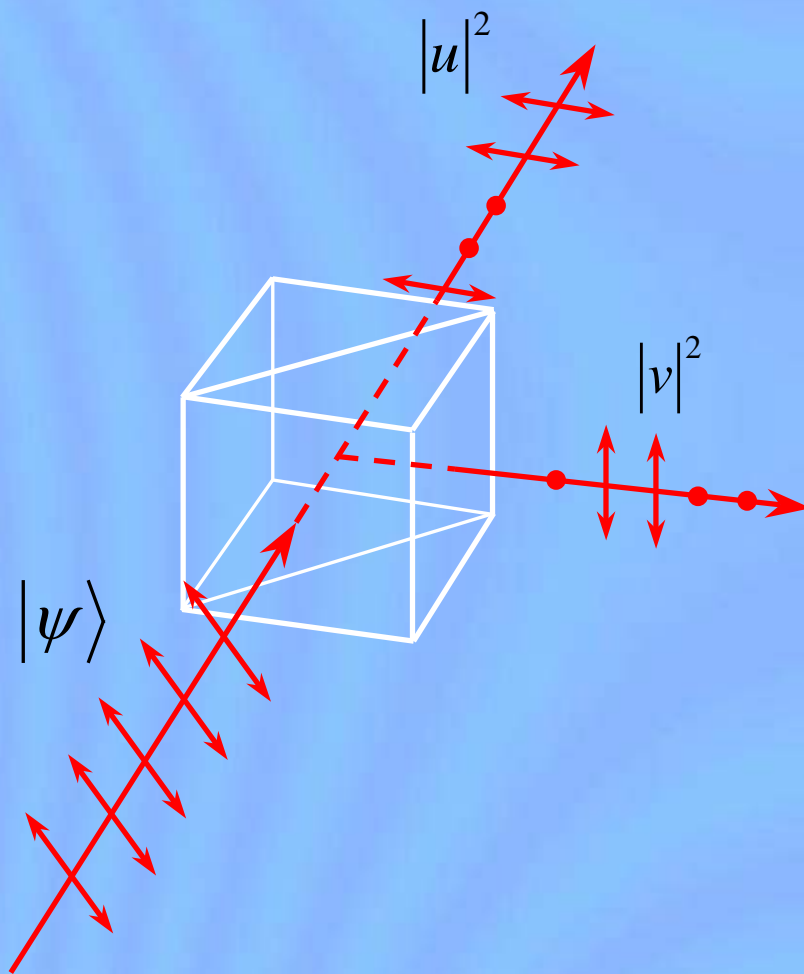
$$|\psi\rangle = u|\leftrightarrow\rangle + v|\updownarrow\rangle$$

$$= (u\hat{a}_{\leftrightarrow}^{\dagger} + v\hat{a}_{\updownarrow}^{\dagger}) |\text{vac}\rangle \equiv \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

Normalization requires that:

$$|u|^2 + |v|^2 = 1$$

Polarization measurement



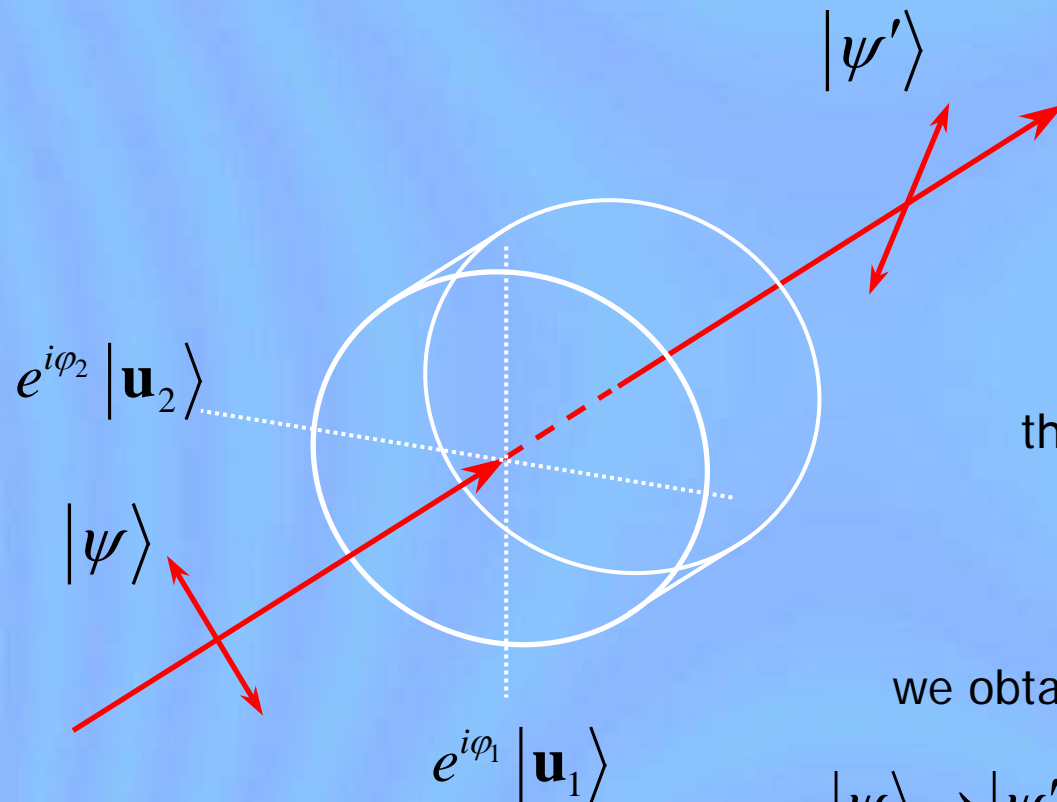
Probability of registering a photon

- transmitted: $|\langle \leftrightarrow | \psi \rangle|^2 = |u|^2$
- reflected: $|\langle \updownarrow | \psi \rangle|^2 = |v|^2$

A single measurement yields only partial information about the input state $|\psi\rangle$

Single-qubit gates

A wave-plate made of a birefringent material introduces phase delays φ_1 and φ_2 in directions \mathbf{u}_1 and \mathbf{u}_2 :



If:

$$|\mathbf{u}_1\rangle \rightarrow e^{i\varphi_1} |\mathbf{u}_1\rangle$$

$$|\mathbf{u}_2\rangle \rightarrow e^{i\varphi_2} |\mathbf{u}_2\rangle$$

then for a general state

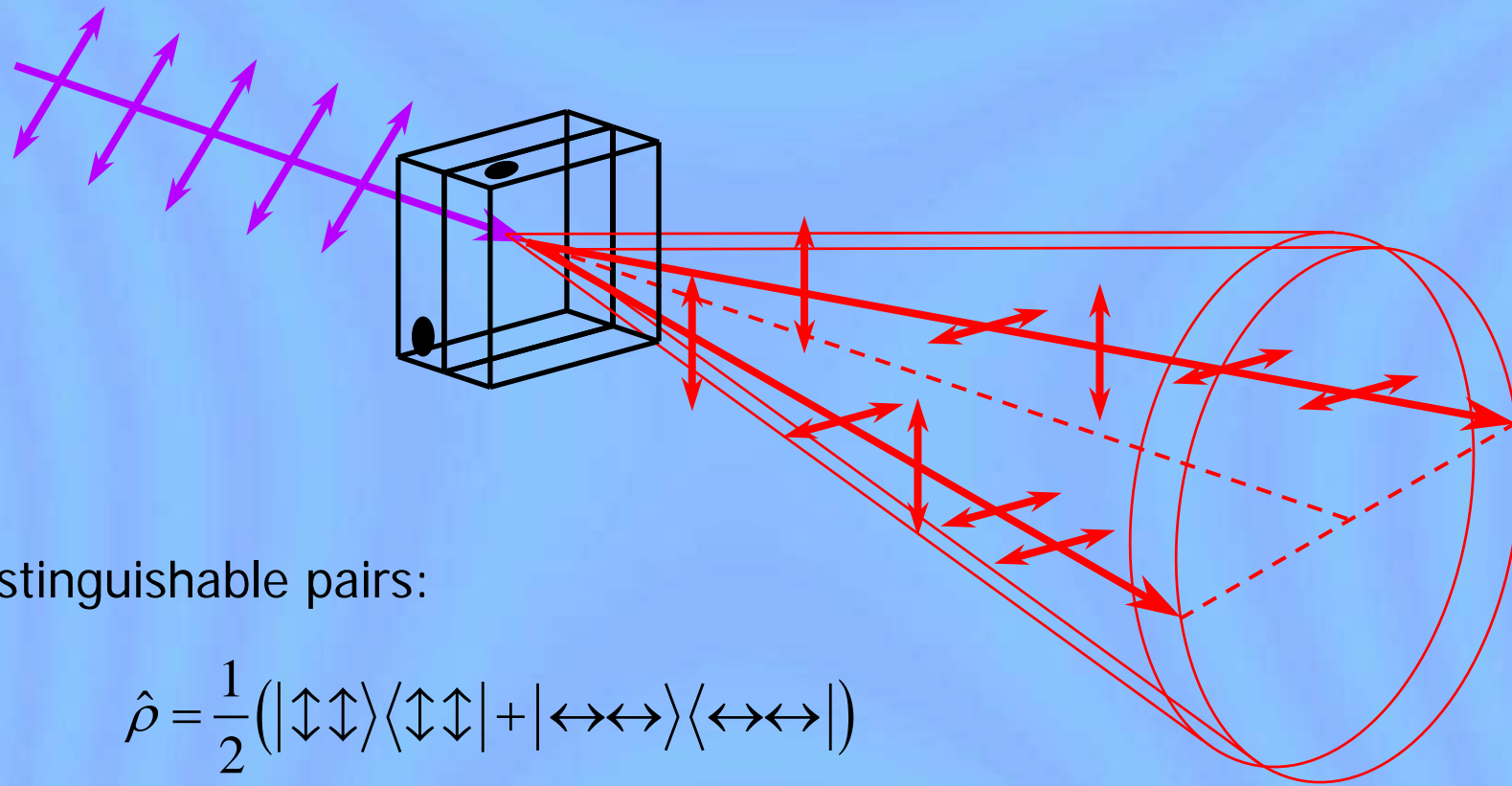
$$|\psi\rangle = \psi_1 |\mathbf{u}_1\rangle + \psi_2 |\mathbf{u}_2\rangle$$

we obtain:

$$|\psi\rangle \rightarrow |\psi'\rangle = e^{i\varphi_1} \psi_1 |\mathbf{u}_1\rangle + e^{i\varphi_2} \psi_2 |\mathbf{u}_2\rangle$$

This is a unitary transformation: $\hat{U} = e^{i\varphi_1} |\mathbf{u}_1\rangle\langle\mathbf{u}_1| + e^{i\varphi_2} |\mathbf{u}_2\rangle\langle\mathbf{u}_2|$

Two equally pumped crystals



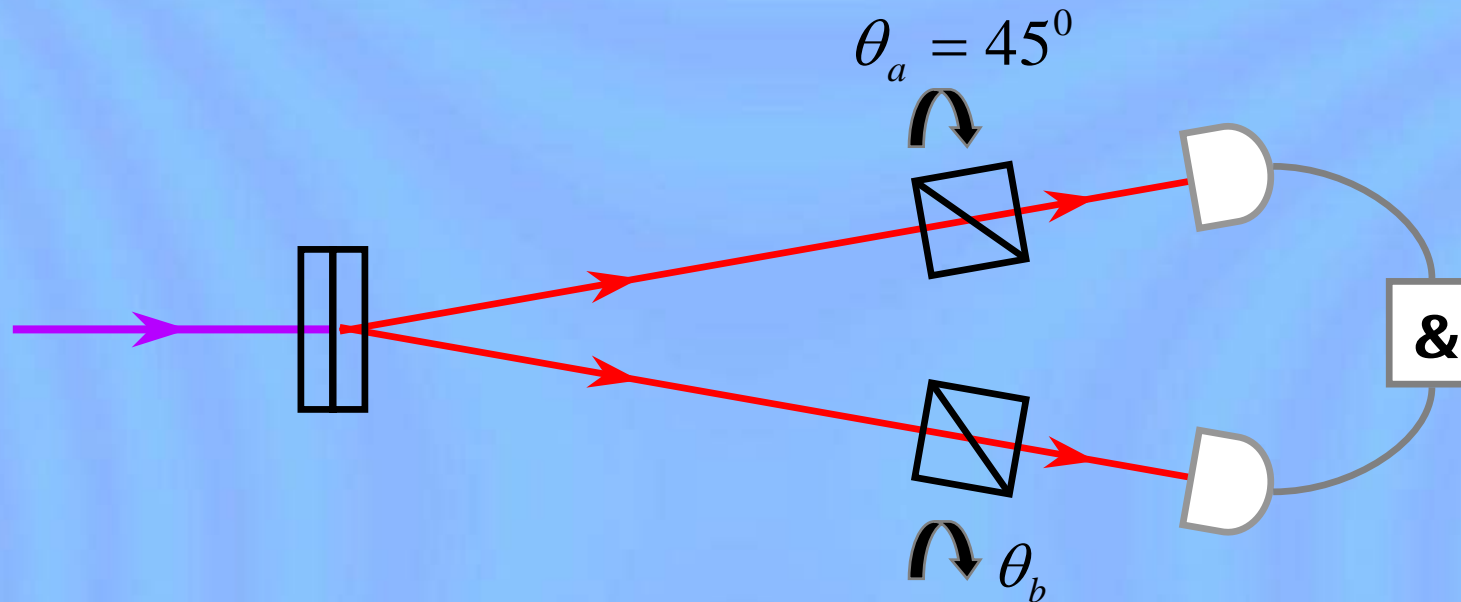
Distinguishable pairs:

$$\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{2} (|\uparrow\uparrow\rangle\langle\uparrow\uparrow| + |\leftrightarrow\leftrightarrow\rangle\langle\leftrightarrow\leftrightarrow|)$$

Indistinguishable pairs (later we will set $\phi = 0$):

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\uparrow\rangle - e^{i\phi} |\leftrightarrow\leftrightarrow\rangle)$$

Verifying entanglement



Coincidence probability for distinguishable pairs:

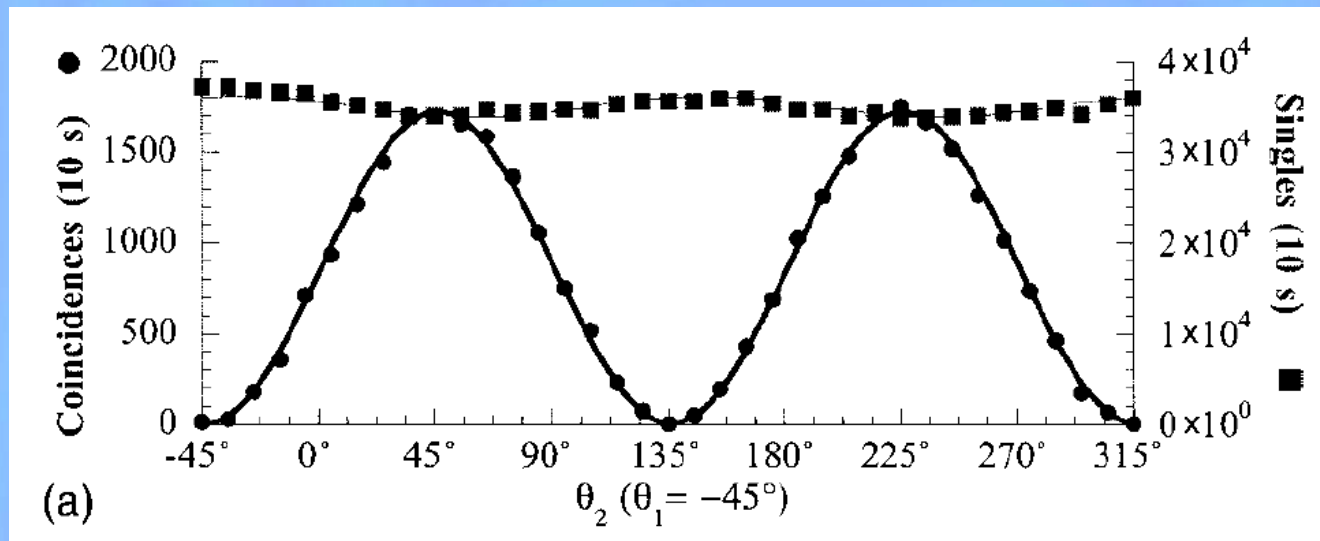
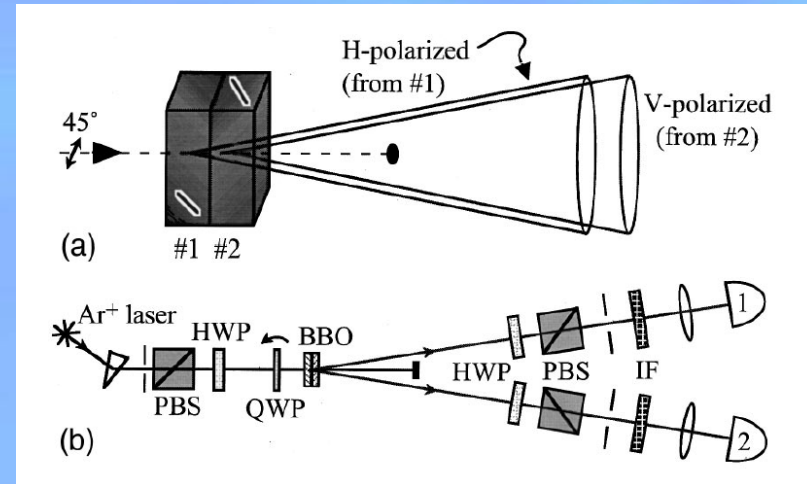
$$p(\theta_b | \theta_a = 45^\circ) = \frac{1}{2}$$

Coincidence probability for indistinguishable pairs:

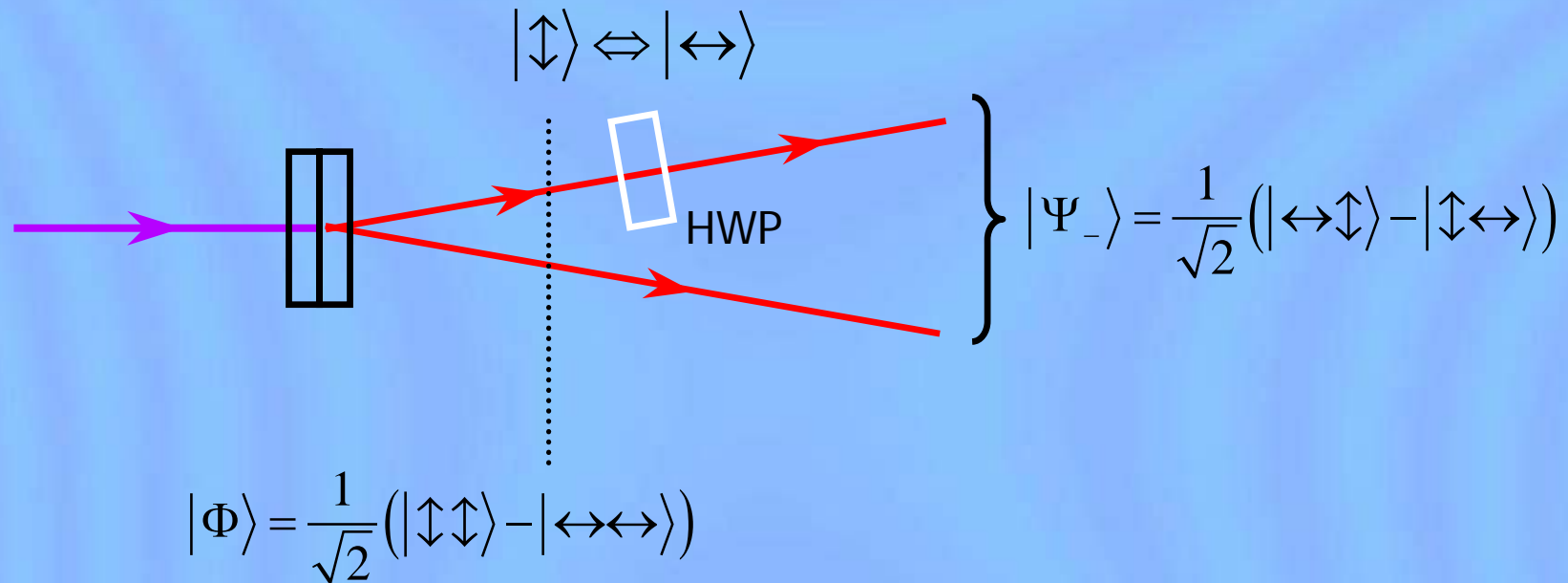
$$p(\theta_b | \theta_a) = \cos^2(\theta_a + \theta_b)$$

Down-conversion source

P. G. Kwiat, E. Waks, A. G. White,
I. Appelbaum, and P. H. Eberhard,
Phys. Rev. A **60**, R773 (1999)



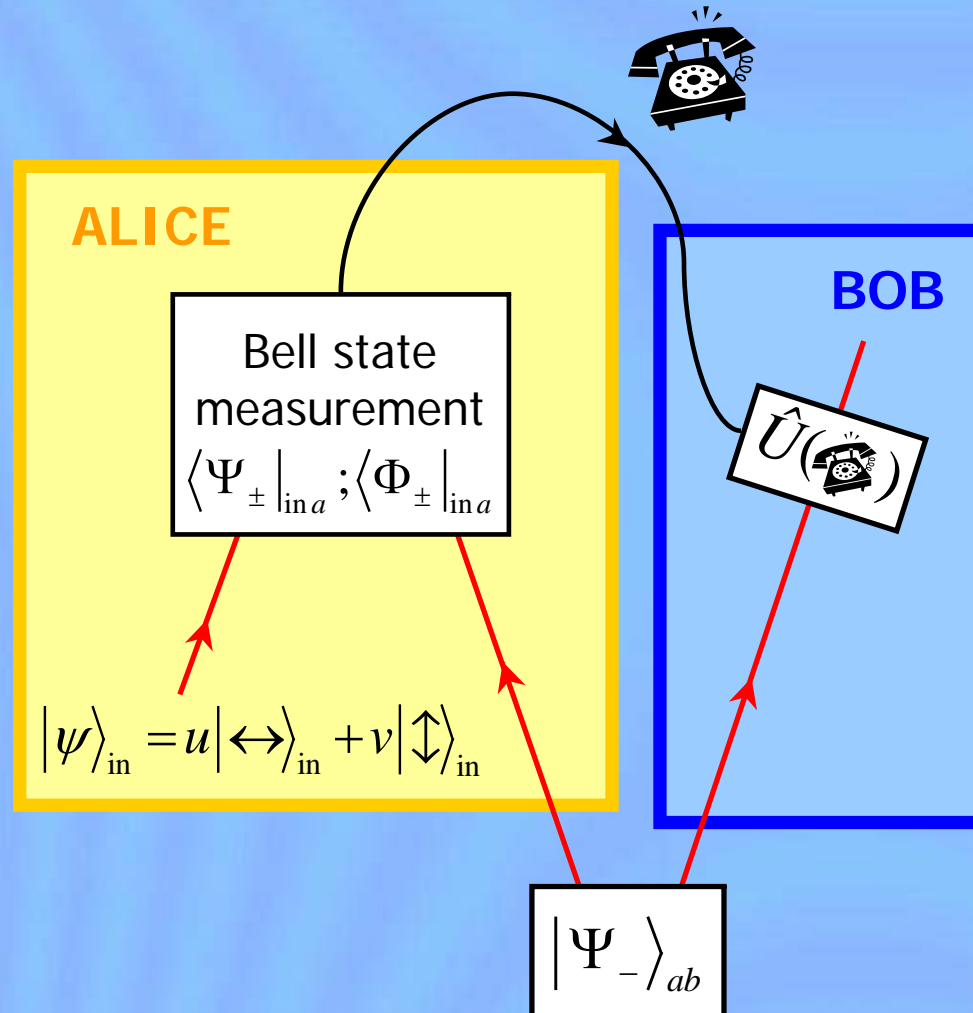
Singlet state



Singlet state looks the same in *any* orthonormal basis:

$$|\Psi_{-}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\leftrightarrow\updownarrow\rangle - |\updownarrow\leftrightarrow\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\nearrow\swarrow\rangle - |\swarrow\nearrow\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\odot\rangle|\ominus\rangle - |\ominus\rangle|\odot\rangle)$$

Qubit teleportation



Bell state basis:

$$|\Psi_{\pm}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\leftrightarrow\rangle|\updownarrow\rangle \pm |\updownarrow\rangle|\leftrightarrow\rangle)$$

$$|\Phi_{\pm}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\leftrightarrow\rangle|\leftrightarrow\rangle \pm |\updownarrow\rangle|\updownarrow\rangle)$$

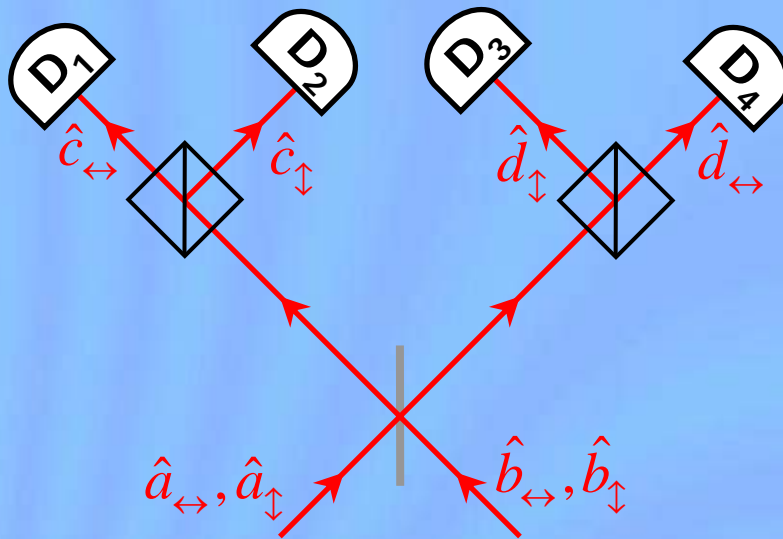
Complete wave function:

$$\begin{aligned} & (u|\leftrightarrow\rangle_{in} + v|\updownarrow\rangle_{in}) |\Phi_{+}\rangle_{ab} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [-|\Psi_{-}\rangle_{in a} (u|\leftrightarrow\rangle_b + v|\updownarrow\rangle_b) \\ & \quad + |\Psi_{+}\rangle_{in a} (-u|\leftrightarrow\rangle_b + v|\updownarrow\rangle_b) \\ & \quad + |\Phi_{-}\rangle_{in a} (u|\updownarrow\rangle_b + v|\leftrightarrow\rangle_b) \\ & \quad + |\Phi_{+}\rangle_{in a} (u|\updownarrow\rangle_b - v|\leftrightarrow\rangle_b)] \end{aligned}$$

Bell state measurement

Coincidence on D_1 and D_3 :

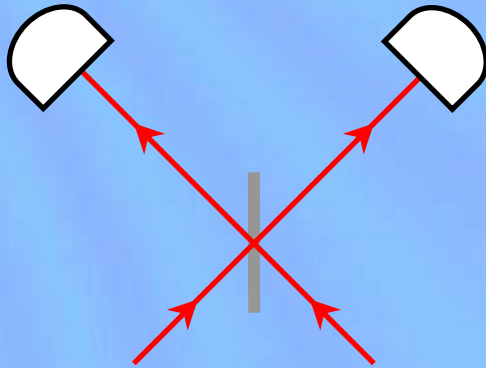
$$\begin{aligned} \langle \text{vac} | \hat{c}_{\leftrightarrow} \hat{d}_{\uparrow} &= \frac{1}{2} \langle \text{vac} | \left(\hat{a}_{\leftrightarrow} + \hat{b}_{\leftrightarrow} \right) \left(\hat{a}_{\uparrow} - \hat{b}_{\uparrow} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \langle \text{vac} | \left(\hat{a}_{\leftrightarrow} \hat{a}_{\uparrow} - \hat{b}_{\leftrightarrow} \hat{b}_{\uparrow} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \langle \text{vac} | \left(\hat{a}_{\uparrow} \hat{b}_{\leftrightarrow} - \hat{a}_{\leftrightarrow} \hat{b}_{\uparrow} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\langle \uparrow \leftrightarrow | - \langle \leftrightarrow \uparrow | \right) \end{aligned}$$



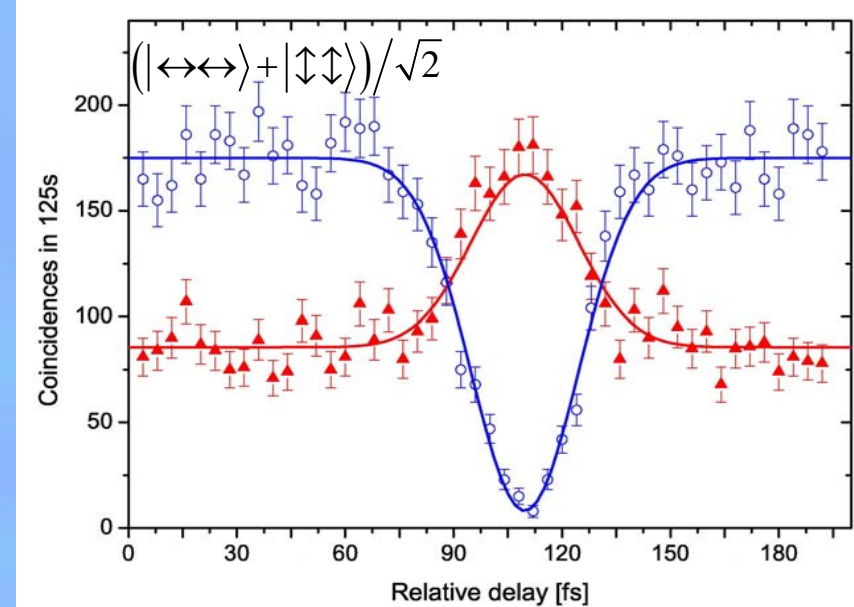
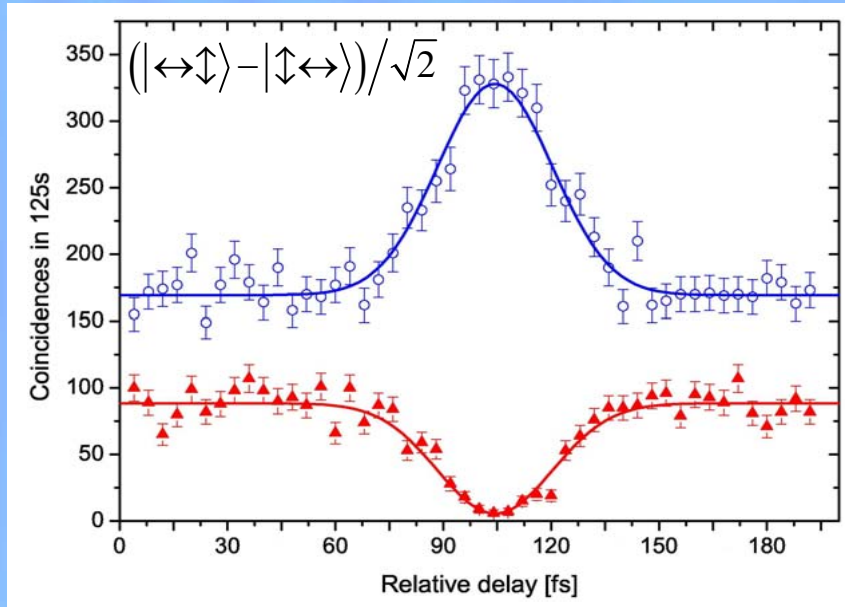
D_1 & D_3 or D_2 & D_4	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\langle \uparrow \leftrightarrow - \langle \leftrightarrow \uparrow \right)$
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D_1 & D_2 or D_3 & D_4	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\langle \uparrow \leftrightarrow + \langle \leftrightarrow \uparrow \right)$
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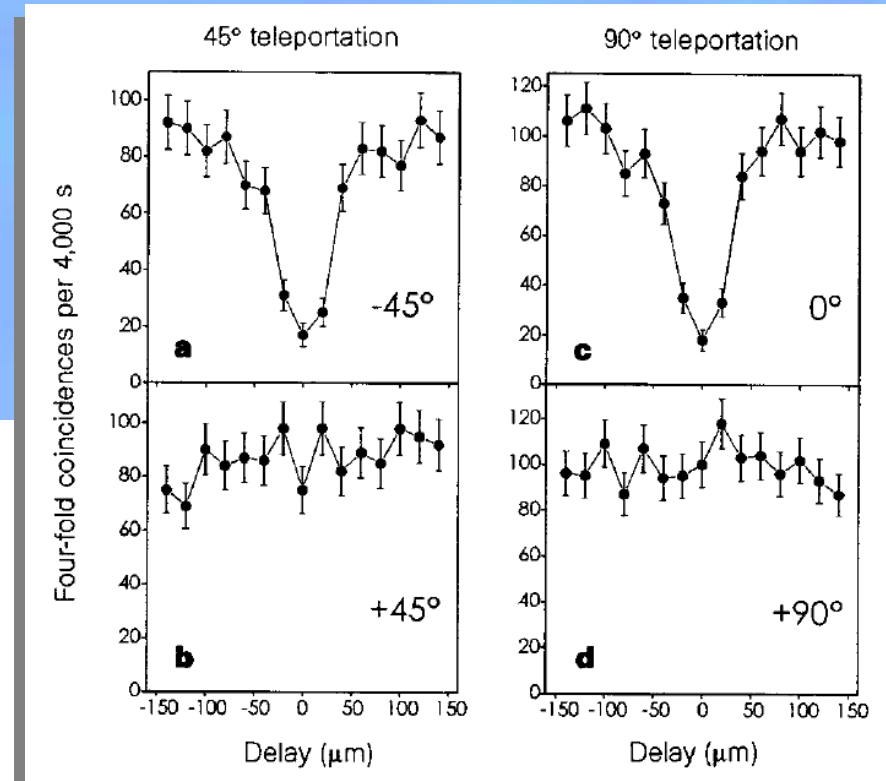
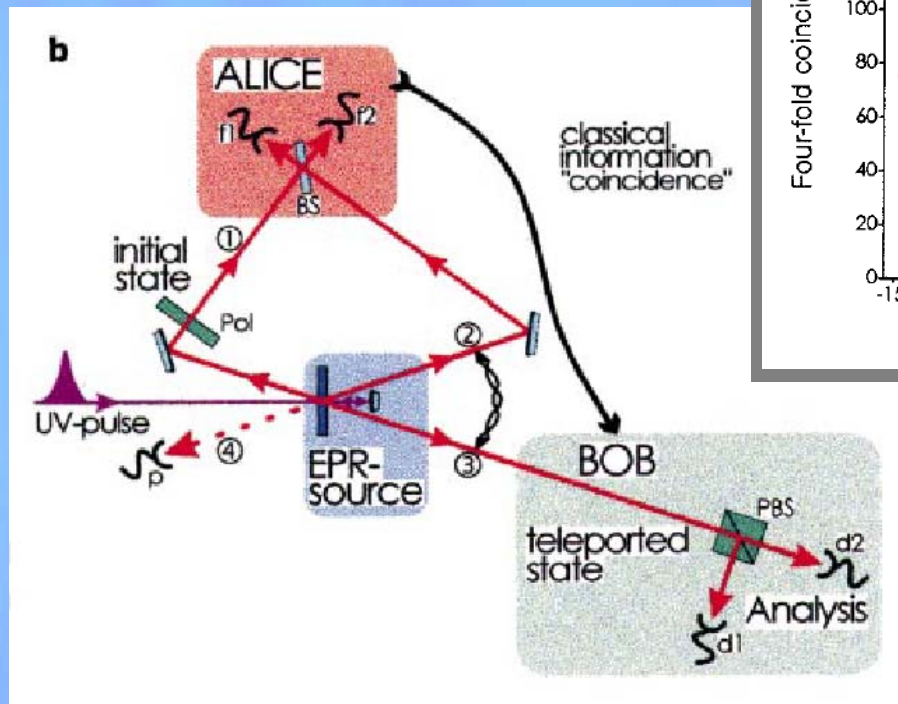
Singlet state vs. all the rest



○	1 & 1	$ \Psi_{-}\rangle\langle\Psi_{-} $
▲	2 & 0 or 0 & 2	$ \Phi_{-}\rangle\langle\Phi_{-} + \Phi_{+}\rangle\langle\Phi_{+} $ $+ \Psi_{+}\rangle\langle\Psi_{+} $



Experimental teleportation



D. Bouwmeester, J. W. Pan, K. Mattle, M. Eibl, H. Weinfurter, and A. Zeilinger, *Nature* **390**, 575 (1997)