

Photon Production from the Quantum Vacuum: Taking a break from the bits

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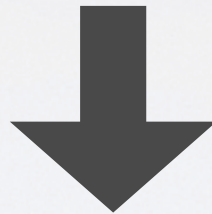
6th Winter School on Quantum Information Science
& Quantum Phenomena

Essence of the Quantum Vacuum:

$$[x, p] = i\hbar$$

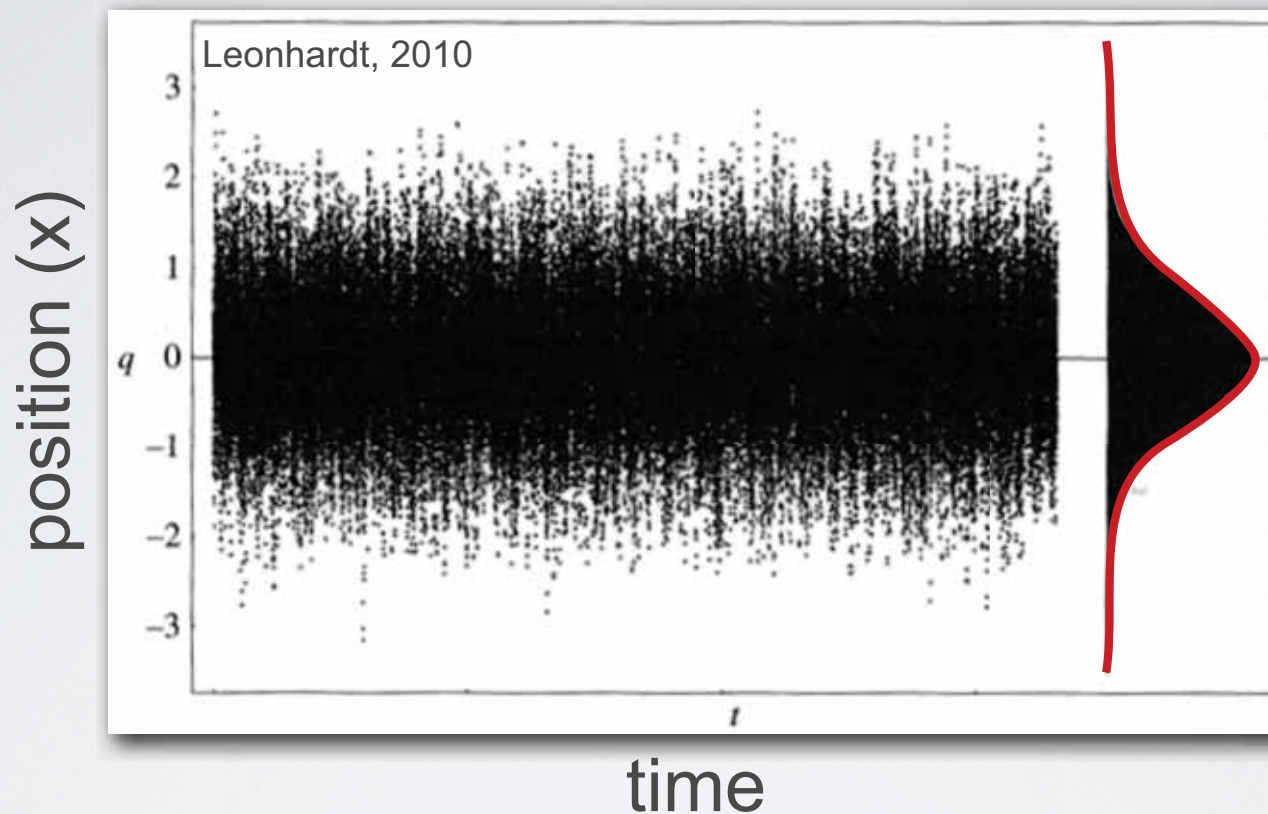
+

$$\langle (\Delta A)^2 \rangle \langle (\Delta B)^2 \rangle \geq \frac{1}{4} |\langle [A, B] \rangle|^2$$



$$\langle (\Delta x)^2 \rangle \langle (\Delta p)^2 \rangle \geq \frac{\hbar^2}{4}$$

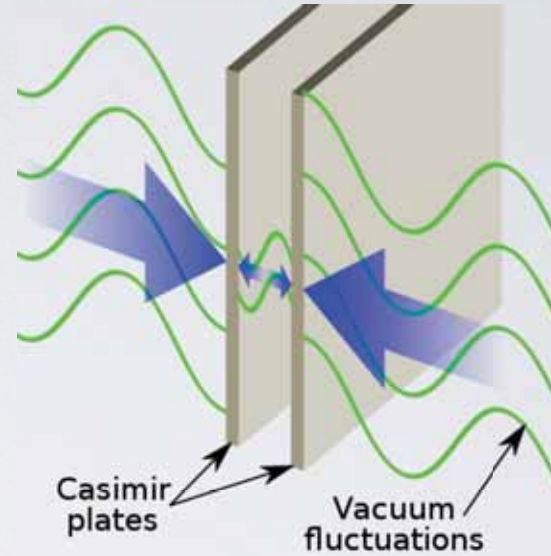
The quantum vacuum state is ALWAYS fluctuating:



Origin of some of the most important physical processes in the universe.



spontaneous emission



Casimir effect



large-scale structure



cosmological constant

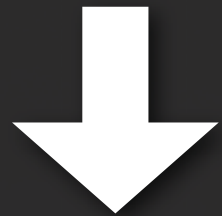
These are all STATIC vacuum effects

DYNAMICAL vacuum amplification:

Dynamics driven by energy source

spontaneous emission

Casimir effect

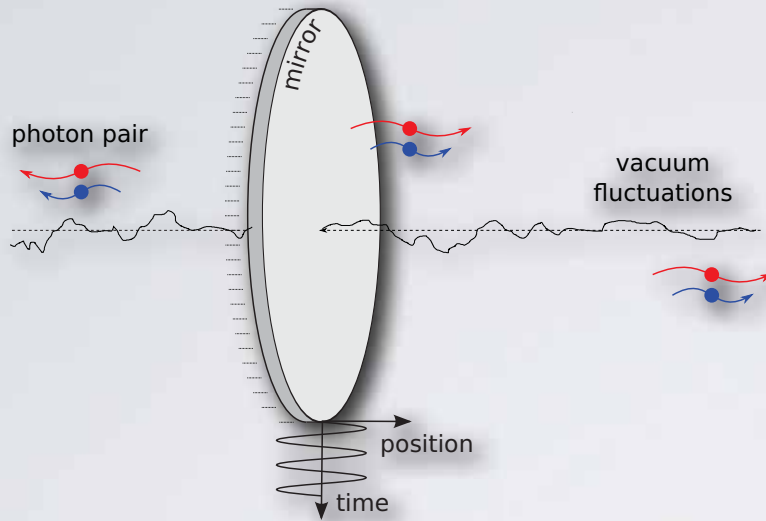


Particle production

large-scale structure

cosmological constant

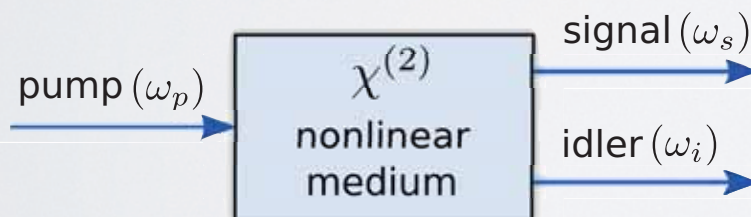
Dynamical Quantum Vacuum Effects:



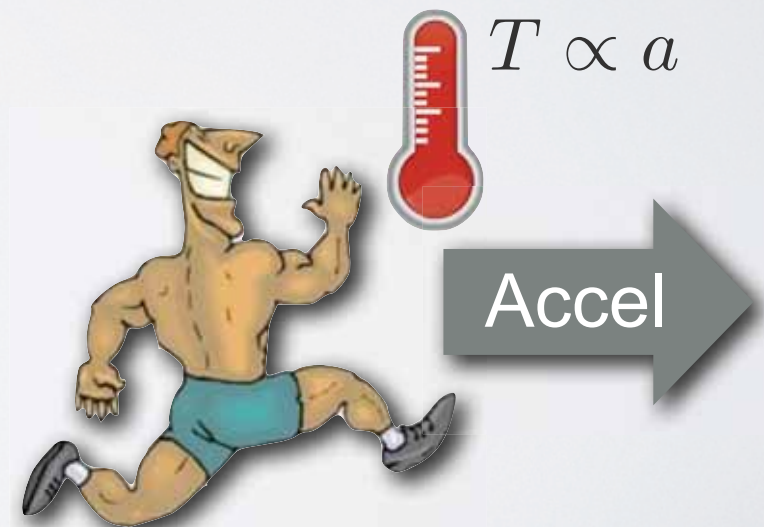
Dynamical Casimir



Hawking Radiation



Parametric Amplifier



Unruh Effect

Why so hard to detect?

Dynamical Casimir: $\langle N \rangle \propto v/c$

- Need small mass / massless mirror.

Unruh effect: $k_B T_U \propto a/c$

- Requires very large accelerations.
- Detector must be accelerating.

Hawking radiation: $k_B T_H \propto \kappa/c$

- For small black hole $T_H \sim 10^{-9}$ K.
- No way to verify photons come from black hole.

Goal #1:

#1: Introduce vacuum photon amplification effects, highlighting relationship to quantum parametric amplifier.

I. Standard quantum optics effect.

II. Workhorse of quantum optics, circuit-QED,...

nonclassical states, wave-particle duality, quantum erasers, **quantum teleportation**, heralded photons...

III. Contains the basic ingredients of all vacuum amplifiers.

Goal #2:

#2: Demonstrate the use of superconducting circuits to realize these effects.

- Low noise and dissipation.
 - I. Photons can travel 10km before dissipation.
 - II. Can maintain entanglement
- Controllability on the single-photon level.
 - I. Single photons on demand.
 - II. Controlled generation of quantum cavity states.
 - III. Nonlinearities on the single-photon level.
- Single-shot photon detection (PRL **107** 217401)
 - I. Can detect and measure single photon pairs

Parametric amplifiers:

Castellanos-Beltran, Nat. Phys. **4**, 929 (2008)

Bergeal, Nature **465**, 64 (2010)

Roch, PRL (In Press) (2012), arXiv:1202.1315

Hawking radiation:

Nation, PRL **103**, 087004 (2009)

Dynamical Casimir Effect:

Johansson, PRL **103**, 143003 (2009)

Wilson, Nature **479**, 376 (2011)

Lähteenmäki, arXiv:1111.5608 (2011)

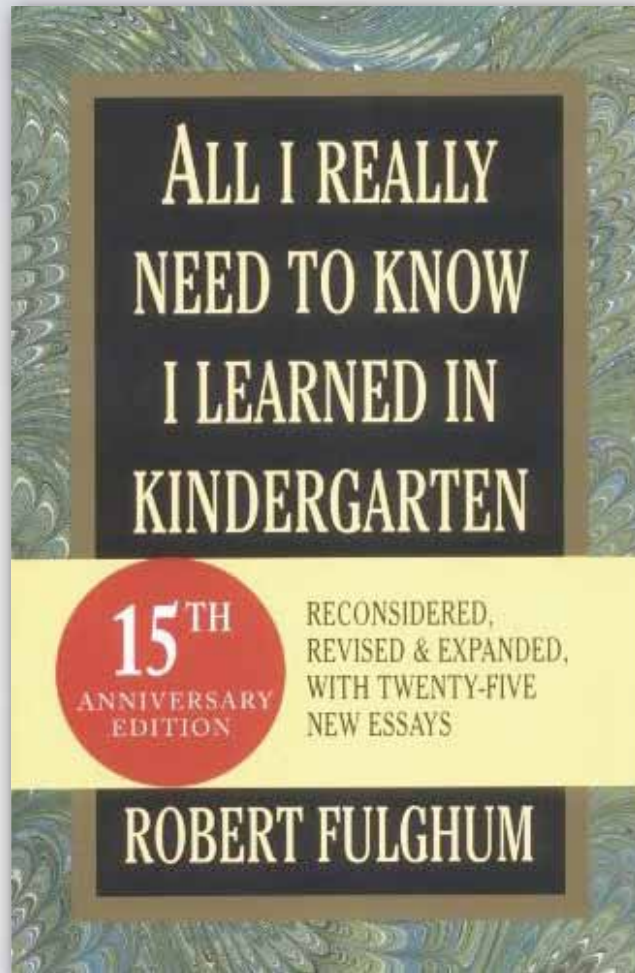
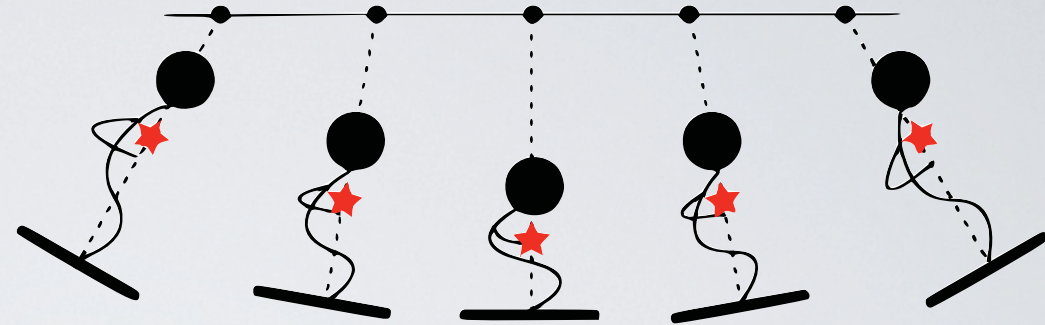
Rev. Mod. Phys. **84**, 1 (2012)

Classical Parametric Amplifier

Def: A **parametric amplifier** is a system that amplifies an input by varying a parameter (frequency) of the system.

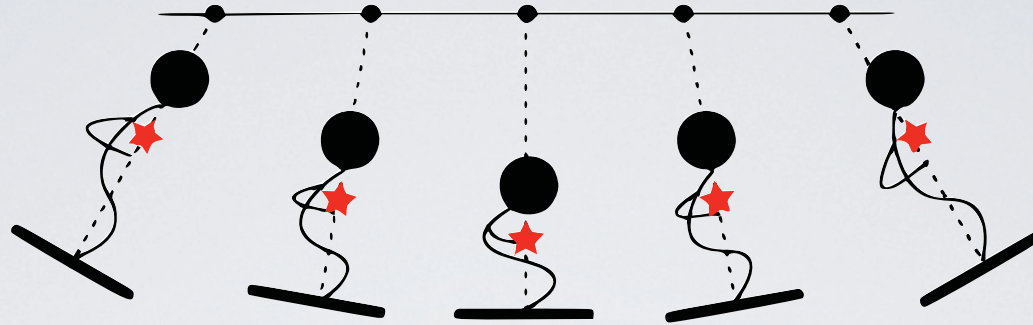
So easy, a child can understand!

Classical Parametric Amplifier



ROBERT FULGHUM

Classical Parametric Amplifier



Harmonic oscillator: $\theta(t) = \theta(0) \cos(\omega_s t) + \frac{L(0)}{m\omega_s l} \sin(\omega_s t)$

Modulate center of mass (★): $\omega_s(t) = \omega_s(0) + \epsilon \sin(\omega_{\text{cm}} t)$

if $\omega_{\text{cm}} = 2\omega_s$:

$$\theta(t) = \theta(0) \underline{e^{\epsilon t/2}} \cos(\omega_s t) + \frac{L(0)}{m\omega_s l} \underline{e^{-\epsilon t/2}} \sin(\omega_s t)$$

Occurs only if system is initially displaced.

In classical physics: $\theta(0) = L(0) = 0$ 

Quantum physics: $[\theta, L] \neq 0 \rightarrow \theta(0) = \text{X} (0) = 0$

Can parametrically amplify any state,
even the vacuum!

Closely related to particle production in
quantum field theory.

Prelude to quantum amplification

Harmonic oscillator: $H = p^2 / (2m) + m\omega^2 x^2 / 2$

$$[x, p] = m [x, \dot{x}] = i\hbar$$

Work in Heisenberg picture: $\ddot{x} + \omega^2 x = 0$

Decompose into creation and destruction operators:

$$x(t) = f(t)a + \bar{f}(t)a^\dagger$$

complex conjugate

“mode function” (not operator)

Mode functions satisfy: $\ddot{f}(t) + \omega^2 f(t) = 0$

Plug $x(t)$ into commutator:

demand = 1 for all time

$$\frac{m}{i\hbar} [x, \dot{x}] = \frac{m}{i\hbar} \left(f(t) \dot{\bar{f}}(t) - \bar{f}(t) \dot{f}(t) \right) [a, a^\dagger] = 1$$

Define inner-product: (Klein-Gordon inner-product)

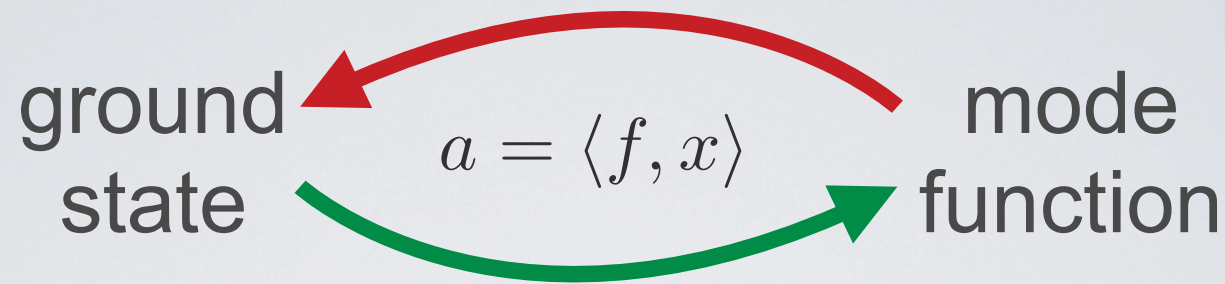
$$\langle f, g \rangle \equiv \frac{im}{\hbar} \left[\bar{f}(t) \dot{g}(t) - g(t) \dot{\bar{f}}(t) \right]$$

Gives:

$$\langle f, f \rangle = 1 \quad \langle f, \bar{f} \rangle = 0$$

orthogonal

$$a^\dagger = -\langle \bar{f}, x \rangle \quad a = \langle f, x \rangle$$



Ground state: $a|0\rangle = 0$

Want ground state as eigenstate of H:

$$\begin{aligned}
 H|0\rangle &= \left(\frac{m\dot{x}^2}{2} + \frac{m\omega^2 x^2}{2} \right) |0\rangle \\
 &= \frac{m}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\dot{f}(t)^2 + \omega^2 f(t)^2 \right] |2\rangle + \frac{m}{2} \left[|\dot{f}(t)|^2 + \omega^2 |f(t)|^2 \right] |0\rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

Solutions: $(x_{zp} = \sqrt{\hbar/2m\omega})$

$$f(t) = x_{zp} \exp(-i\omega t)$$

“positive frequency”
solution

$$\bar{f}(t) = x_{zp} \exp(+i\omega t)$$

“negative frequency”
solution

thus:

$$x(t) = x_{\text{zp}} \left(\underline{e^{-i\omega t} a} + \underline{e^{+i\omega t} a^\dagger} \right)$$

let us now modulate frequency (like the swing):

$$\ddot{x} + \omega(t)^2 x = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{in: } \omega(t \rightarrow -\infty) = \omega_{\text{in}} & \longrightarrow & \text{out: } \omega(t \rightarrow \infty) = \omega_{\text{out}} \\ \hline a_{\text{in}} & & a_{\text{out}} \\ |0\rangle_{\text{in}} & & |0\rangle_{\text{out}} \end{array}$$

$$f_{\text{in}}(t)|_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \sim \exp(-i\omega_{\text{in}} t) \quad f_{\text{out}}(t)|_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \sim \exp(-i\omega_{\text{out}} t)$$

In general,

$$x(t) = f_{\text{in}}(t)a_{\text{in}} + \bar{f}_{\text{in}}(t)a_{\text{in}}^\dagger = f_{\text{out}}(t)a_{\text{out}} + \bar{f}_{\text{out}}(t)a_{\text{out}}^\dagger$$

Interested in “out” state given “in” is vacuum

- I know f_{in}

need 2 linearly independent solutions:

$$\langle f, \bar{f} \rangle = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad f_{\text{out}} = \alpha f_{\text{in}} + \beta \bar{f}_{\text{in}}$$

using $a_{\text{out}} = \langle f_{\text{out}}, x \rangle$:

$$a_{\text{out}} = \alpha a_{\text{in}} - \bar{\beta} a_{\text{in}}^{\dagger} \quad ; \quad |\alpha|^2 - |\beta|^2 = 1$$

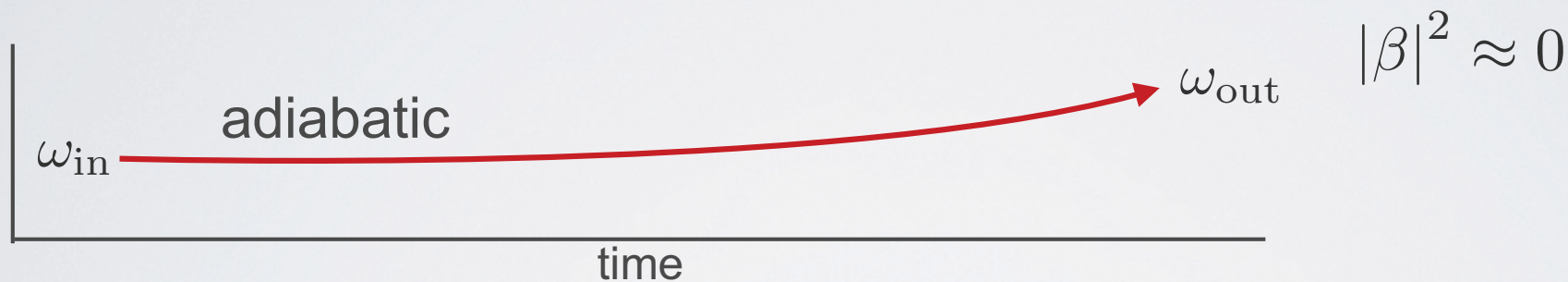
Bogoliubov transformation

All quantum amplifiers can be cast as Bogoliubov transformations.

if “in” state $|0\rangle_{\text{in}}$, then particle # at “out” state:

$$N_{\text{out}} = \langle 0|a_{\text{out}}^\dagger a_{\text{out}}|0\rangle_{\text{in}} = |\beta|^2$$

Particle # at “out” determined by negative frequency (a_{in}^\dagger) coefficient



Take home message:

All amplifiers described by Bogoliubov transform:

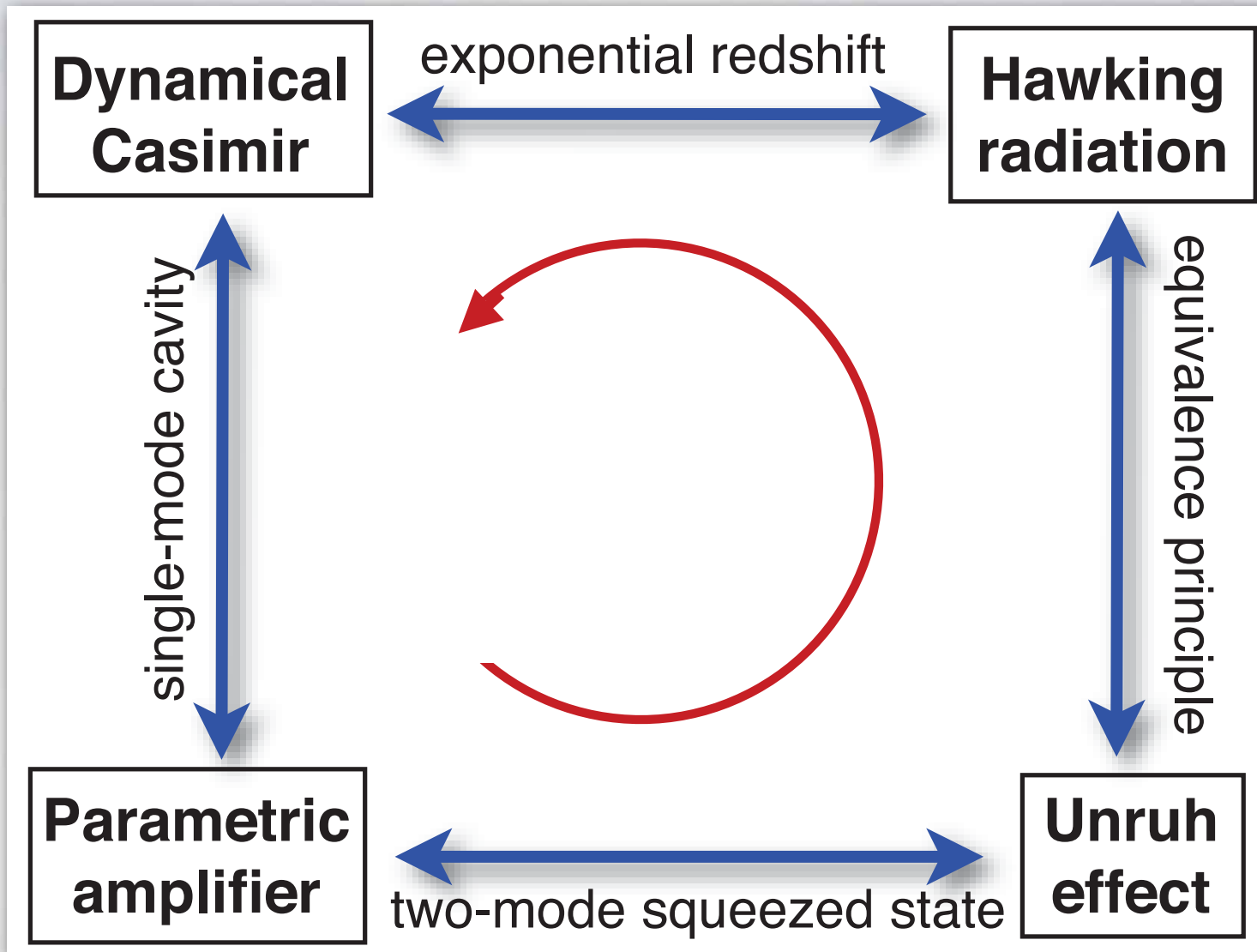
$$a_{\text{out}} = \alpha a_{\text{in}} - \bar{\beta} a_{\text{in}}^{\dagger} \quad |\alpha|^2 - |\beta|^2 = 1$$

Vacuum defined via positive-frequency ($a e^{-i\omega t}$) components by choice of mode function.

Particles at “output” given by coefficient of negative-frequency “input state”: $\bar{\beta} a_{\text{in}}^{\dagger}$

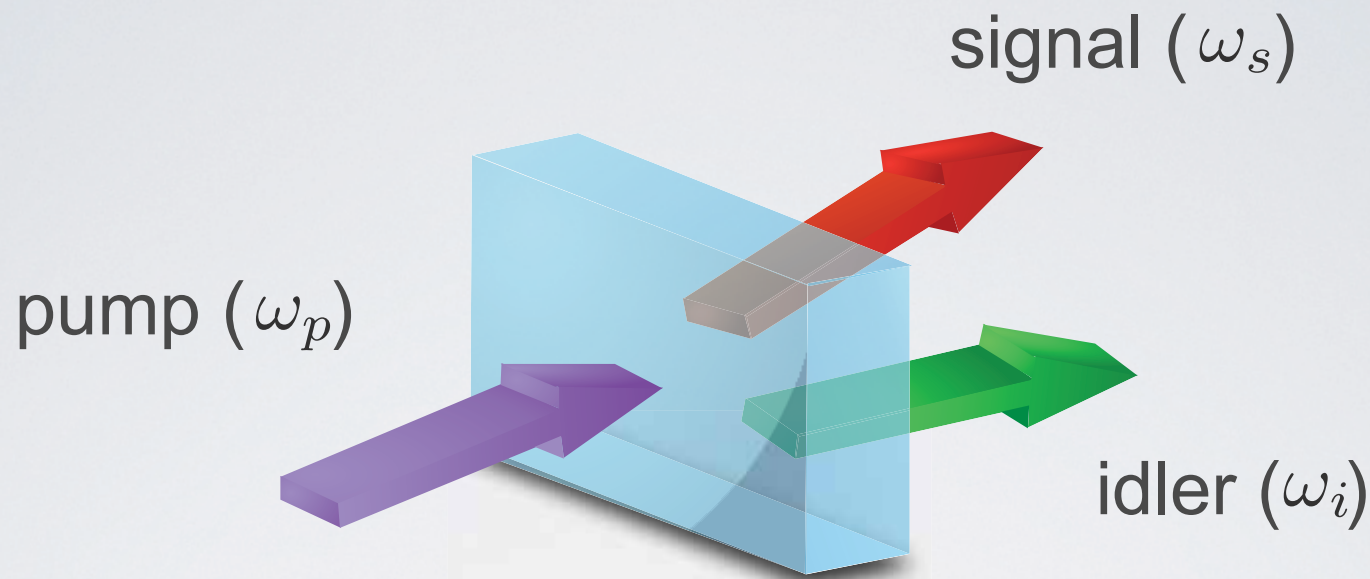
Nonzero β generated by modulating mode frequency non-adiabatically.

Vacuum Photon Production Methods



Quantum Parametric Amplifier

Simplest nonlinear photon interaction



Energy conservation: $\omega_p = \omega_s + \omega_i$

Optical par. amp. needs nonlinear medium (BBO, KTP)

Works for any system with effective $\chi^{(2)}$ nonlinearity.

Will assume pump mode is classical drive, unaffected by loss of photons.

i.e. unlimited, fixed amplitude supply of energy

Hamiltonian (rotating frame): $H = i\hbar\eta(b_s^\dagger b_i^\dagger - b_s b_i)$

Pump amplitude in coupling constant: η (frequency)

Two modes of operation:

Degenerate (DPA): $\omega_s = \omega_i$

Non-degenerate (NDPA): $\omega_s \neq \omega_i$

DPA

Solve Heisenberg Eq. of Motion for $b_s = b_i = b$

$$b(t) = b(0) \cosh(2\eta t) + b(0)^\dagger \sinh(2\eta t),$$

Bogoliubov transformation:

$$\alpha = \cosh(2\eta t) \qquad \beta = \sinh(2\eta t)$$

If mode initially in ground state:

$$N = \langle b^\dagger(t)b(t) \rangle = |\beta|^2 = \sinh^2(2\eta t)$$

of particles from vacuum

DPA

If $b_s = b_i = b \rightarrow \omega_p = 2\omega_b$ (like the swing)

let $X_1 = b + b^\dagger$, $X_2 = -i(b - b^\dagger)$

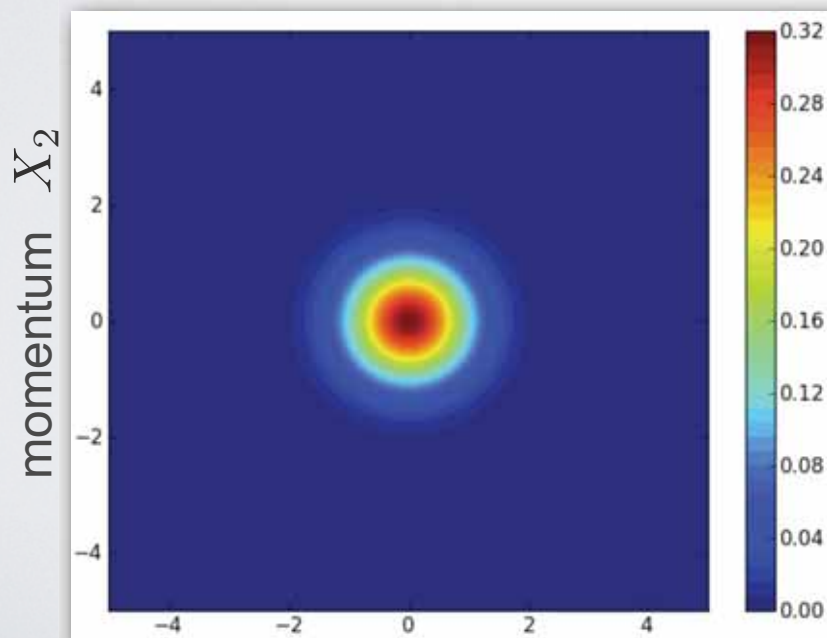
$$X_1(t) = e^{2\eta t} X_1(0)$$

$$X_2(t) = e^{-2\eta t} X_2(0)$$

squeezing parameter

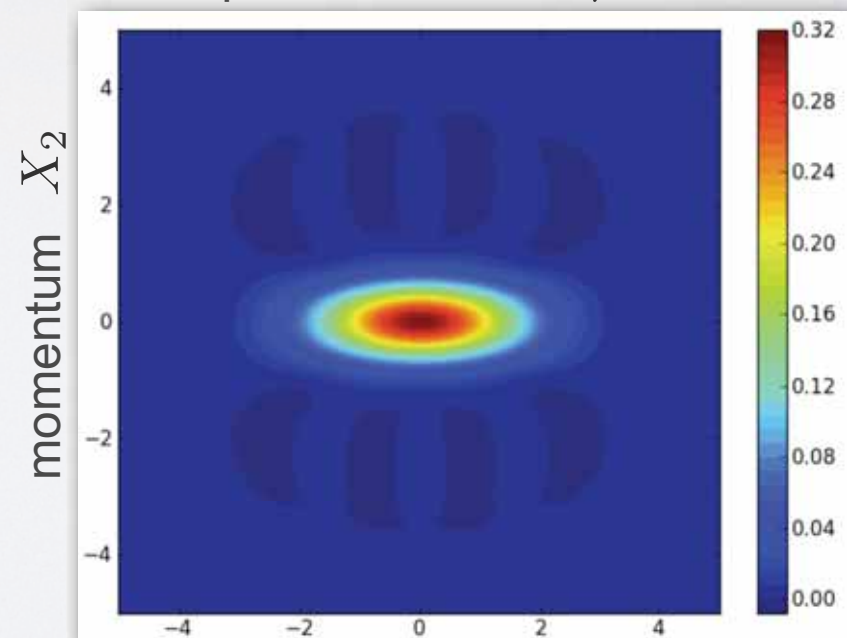
Squeezed State

Ground State



position X_1

Squeezed state: $2\eta t = 0.5$



position X_1

NDPA

More general case: $\omega_s \neq \omega_i$

Heisenberg eqs. of motion:

$$b_s(t) = b_s(0) \cosh(\eta t) + b_i^\dagger(0) \sinh(\eta t)$$

$$b_i(t) = b_i(0) \cosh(\eta t) + b_s^\dagger(0) \sinh(\eta t)$$

$$N_s = N_i = \sinh^2(\eta t)$$

In Schrödinger picture: **two-mode squeezed state**

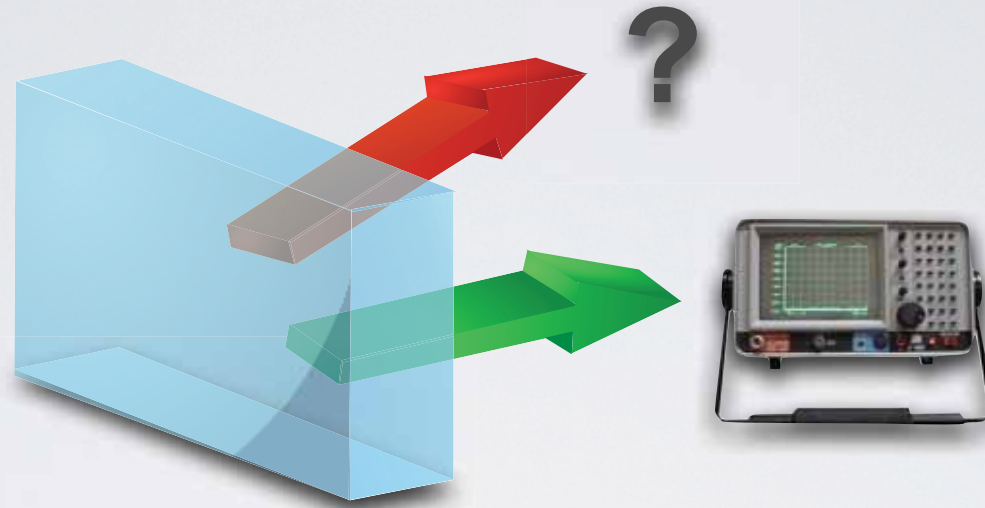
$$|\Psi(t)\rangle = \frac{1}{\cosh \eta t} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\tanh \eta t)^n |n\rangle_s \otimes |n\rangle_i$$

↑
squeezing parameter

Example of EPR state; mode-mode correlations stronger than classically allowed.

NDPA

What if only single-mode is observable?



Can do a partial trace, or we can think about it ...

Energy conservation \rightarrow Implicitly know energy of other mode

Missing information \leftrightarrow Entropy

Find max. entropy constrained by energy

NDPA

Gives entropy for single-mode thermal state:

$$S = -\ln \left[1 - e^{-\hbar\omega_s/k_B T(t)} \right] - \frac{\hbar\omega_s}{k_B T(t)} \left[1 - e^{\hbar\omega_s/k_B T(t)} \right]^{-1}$$

Temperature given via:

$$\tanh^2 \eta t = \exp \left[-\frac{\hbar\omega_s}{k_B T(t)} \right]$$

Temperature is determined by squeezing parameter.

Bipartite system so both modes in thermal state.

Unruh Effect

Simplest particle production method: just accelerate!

Accelerating system called “Observer”

Need two coordinate systems (constant a):

$a = 0$: Minkowski Coordinates (ct, x)

$a > 0$: Rindler Coordinates $(c\tau, \xi)$

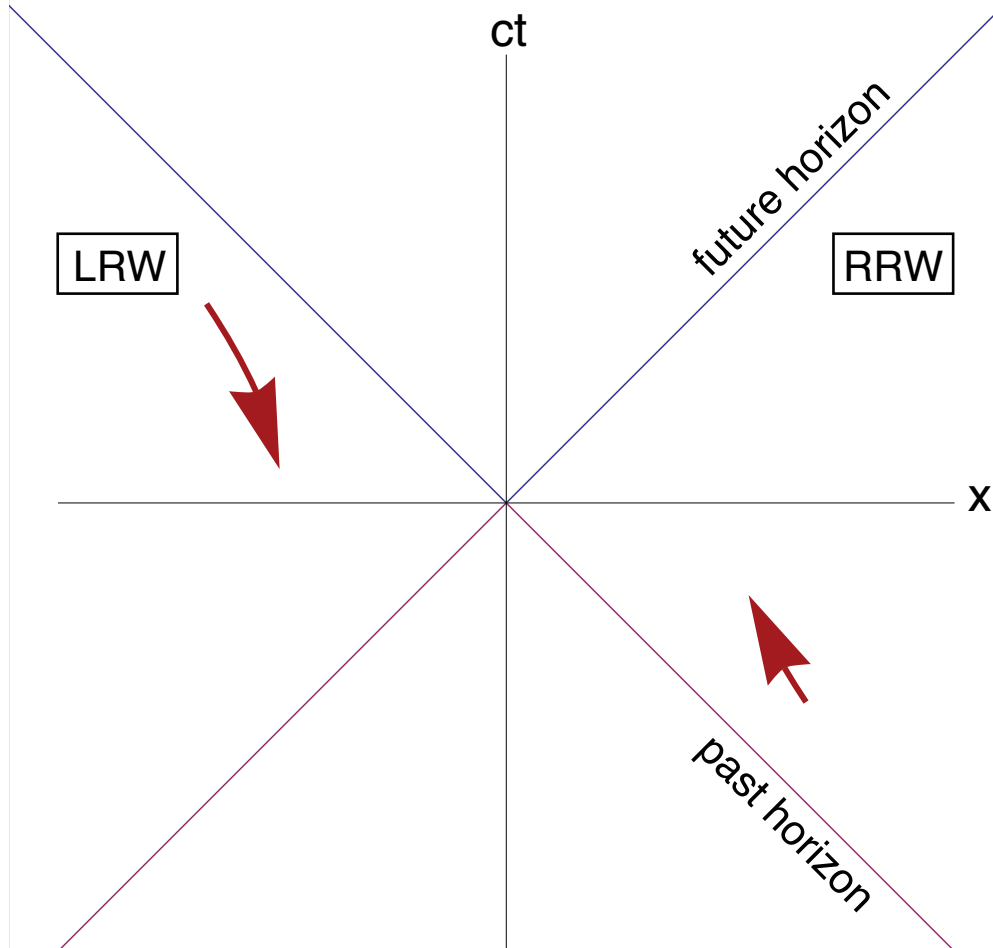
Rindler coordinates defined by relations:

$$ct = \xi \sinh \left(\frac{a\tau}{c} \right) \quad x = \xi \cosh \left(\frac{a\tau}{c} \right)$$

$$\xi = c^2/a$$

$$\alpha = a/c \quad \text{acceleration frequency}$$

Rindler coordinates are hyperbolas in Minkowski coordinates:



Minkowski space-partitioned into two

Sections causally separated by horizon at $x = ct$

Observer confined to Rindler Wedge

Observer reaches $x = ct$

Can define "Left Rindler Wedge" via:

In LRW, observer moves backward in Minkowski time

Goal: Determine what Minkowski vacuum looks like in observers (Rindler) frame.

Follow harmonic oscillator example:

- I. Find mode functions & vacuum states in both space-times.
- II. Calculate Bogoliubov transformation linking operators in both space-times.
- II. Evaluate number operator and determine quantum state.

Minkowski Space-time: (inertial observer)

Consider scalar-field: $\phi = \sum_j u_{\omega_j}^M a_{\omega_j}^M + \bar{u}_{\omega_j}^M a_{\omega_j}^{M,\dagger}$

Solution to wave equation: $\omega_j = c|k_j| \quad -\infty \leq j \leq \infty$

$$\left[\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} \right] \phi = 0$$

$$u_{\omega_j}^M = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi\omega_j}} e^{ik_j x - i\omega_j t}$$

Minkowski time

Vacuum state:

$$|0\rangle^M = \prod_j |0_{\omega_j}\rangle^M$$

$$a_{\omega_j}^M |0\rangle^M = 0 \quad \forall j$$


Rindler Space-time: (accel. observer)

Defines vacuum in Rindler coordinates $(c\tau, \xi)$

RRW:

$$|0\rangle^{\text{R}} = \prod_j |0_{\omega_j}\rangle^{\text{R}} \quad u_{\omega_j}^{\text{R}} \propto \exp(-i\omega_j\tau)$$

proper time



LRW has its own independent vacuum state:

$$|0\rangle^{\text{L}} = \prod_j |0_{\omega_j}\rangle^{\text{L}} \quad u_{\omega_j}^{\text{L}} \propto \exp(i\omega_j\tau)$$

Positive and negative frequency
switch roles in LRW!

Need both LRW & RRW to get complete Minkowski

Guess the Bogoliubov transformation:

Remember vacuum defined by positive freq. terms

$$a_{\omega_j}^{\text{M}} = C_1 a_{\omega_j}^{\text{R}} + C_2 a_{\omega_j}^{\text{L},\dagger} \quad |C_1|^2 - |C_2|^2 = 1$$



positive frequency
in LRW

Minkowski vacuum should have particles when
viewed by Rindler observer!

Single mode transformations:

$$b_{\omega_j}^{(1),M} = a_{\omega_j}^R \cosh(r) + a_{\omega_j}^{\dagger,L} \sinh(r)$$

$$b_{\omega_j}^{(2),M} = a_{\omega_j}^L \cosh(r) + a_{\omega_j}^{\dagger,R} \sinh(r)$$

Operators transform exactly like NDPA!

$$\tanh r = \exp(-\pi\omega_j/\alpha) \quad \text{squeezing parameter}$$

Same two-mode squeezed state:

$$|0_{\omega_j}\rangle^M = \frac{1}{\cosh r} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (\tanh r)^n |n_{\omega_j}\rangle^L \otimes |n_{\omega_j}\rangle^R$$

particles in LRW particles in RRW

Thermal state determined by squeezing parameter:

$$\tanh^2 (r) = e^{-2\pi\omega/\alpha} = \exp\left(-\frac{\hbar\omega}{k_{\text{B}}T_{\text{U}}}\right)$$

Defines **Unruh temperature**:

$$T_{\text{U}} = \frac{\hbar\alpha}{2\pi k_{\text{B}}} \quad \text{depends only on accel. freq: } \alpha = a/c$$

Same temperature for all frequencies; real thermal state (not true for NDPA)

Why thermal?

Observer confined to RRW

?

Thermal from lack of information
due to presence of horizon.

How do mode frequencies transform?

Plane wave: $\phi(x, t) = \exp[-i\Omega(t - x/c)]$

Rewrite in Rindler coordinates:

$$\phi(\tau) = \exp\left[i\frac{\Omega}{\alpha} \left(e^{-\alpha\tau}\right)\right]$$

mode frequency
exponentially
red-shifted


Red-shifting gives rise to thermal spectrum.

- General property of horizons

Where does energy come from?

Have assumed constant acceleration.

Acceleration driven by fixed amplitude, classical unlimited source of energy.

 Exact same assumption as parametric amplifier.

Note:

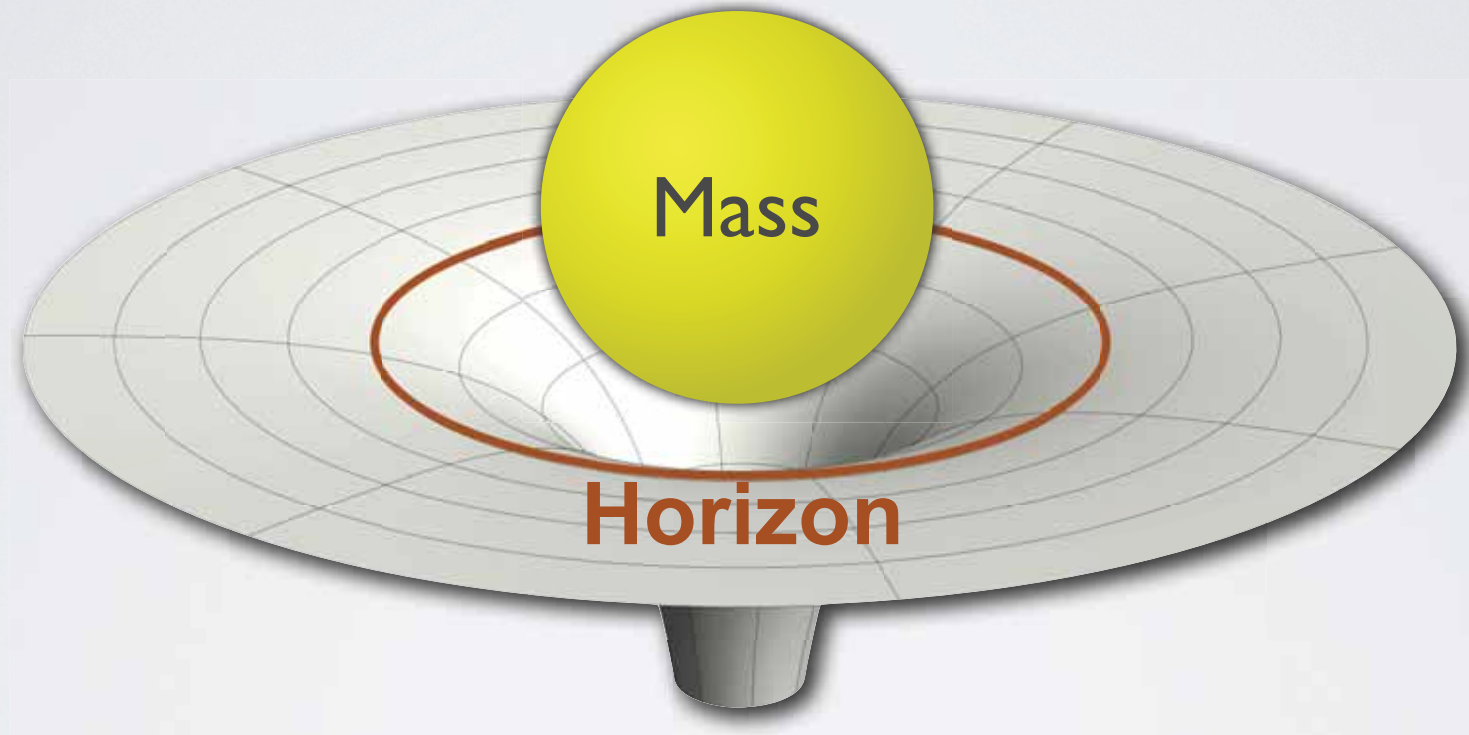
Acceleration  Temperature  Decoherence

Testbed for relativistic quantum information.

Hawking Radiation

Black Hole: Region of space-time separated from the rest of the universe by a horizon inside which gravity is so strong that not even light can escape.

Schwarzschild black hole; depends only on mass.



Horizon acts like unidirectional surface

can go inside; can not come out

➔ causally disconnected from outside



slow
water



fast
water

horizon



Horizons in the kitchen



Horizon located at **Schwarzschild radius**:

$$r_s = 2GM/c^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad A_{\text{BH}} = 4\pi r_s^2$$

Use Einstein $E = Mc^2$ for energy conservation relation

$$dE = c^2 dM = \frac{\kappa c^2}{8\pi G} dA_{\text{BH}}$$

$$\text{surface gravity: } \kappa = \frac{c^4}{4GM}$$

The force/mass needed to keep a small test mass stationary at the horizon as viewed at infinity.

Horizon unidirectional; mass can only increase:

$$dA_{\text{BH}} \geq 0$$

Looks like 1st-law of thermodynamics: $dS \geq 0$

$$dE = c^2 dM = \frac{\kappa c^2}{8\pi G} dA_{\text{BH}}$$



$$dE = T_{\text{H}} dS_{\text{BH}} = \frac{\hbar \kappa}{8\pi k_{\text{B}} c} \lambda dS_{\text{BH}}$$

Implies that a black hole has a temperature

Hawking (1974) showed that it does: (**Hawking temp.**)

$$T_H = \frac{\hbar\gamma}{2\pi k_B} \quad \gamma = \kappa/c \quad \text{characteristic frequency}$$

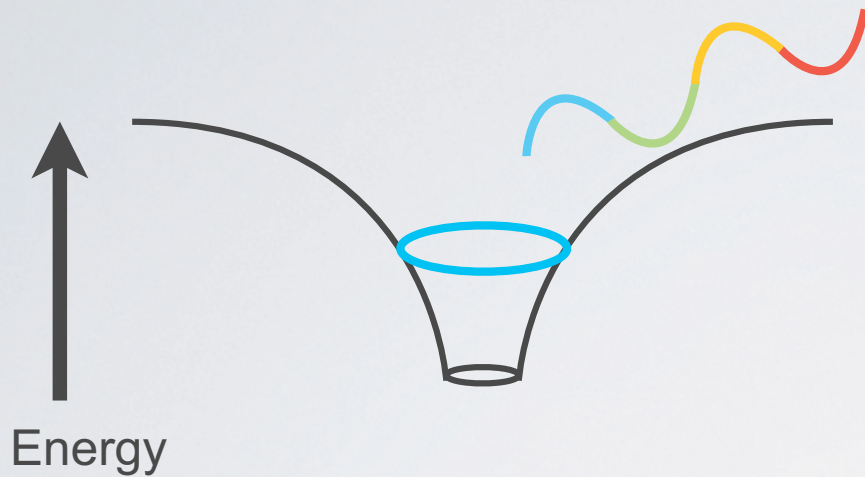
Hawking radiation as particle production:



It is the Unruh effect! Viewed by a different observer.

Hawking radiation viewed at infinity

$\gamma = \kappa/c$ includes redshift factor:



$$\kappa = V a|_{r=r_s}$$

$$V(r) = \sqrt{1 - r_s/r}$$

$$a(r) = \frac{GM}{r^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{r_s}{r}}}$$

What does observer stationary at horizon see?

$$r \rightarrow r_s \quad T \rightarrow \frac{\hbar(a/c)}{2\pi k_B} = \frac{\hbar\alpha}{2\pi k_B} \quad \text{Recover Unruh effect}$$

Einstein's Equivalence Principle in Action!

Where does energy come from?

Energy in Hawking radiation must be balanced by loss of mass:

$$(Mc^2 - E_H) + E_H$$



Black hole energy



radiation energy

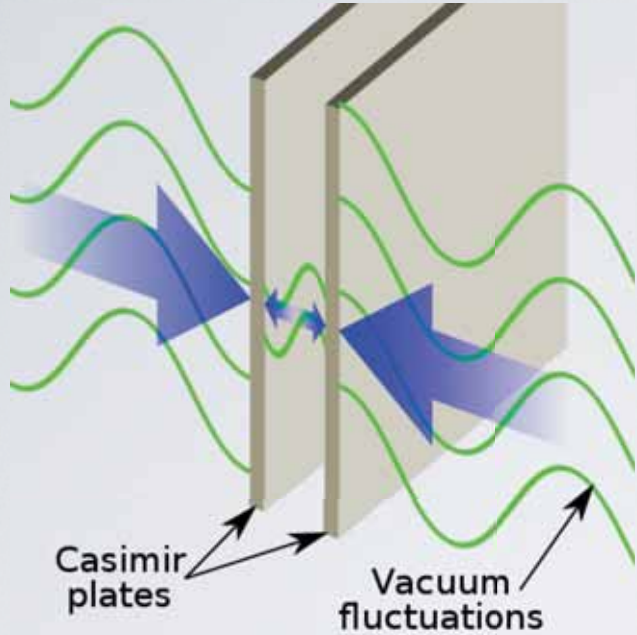
Black hole mass assumed fixed in calculation

- Energy source classical & fixed amplitude

Valid only for large black holes: $\delta M/M \ll 1$

Dynamical Casimir Effect (DCE)

Dynamical Casimir (Moore) effect:

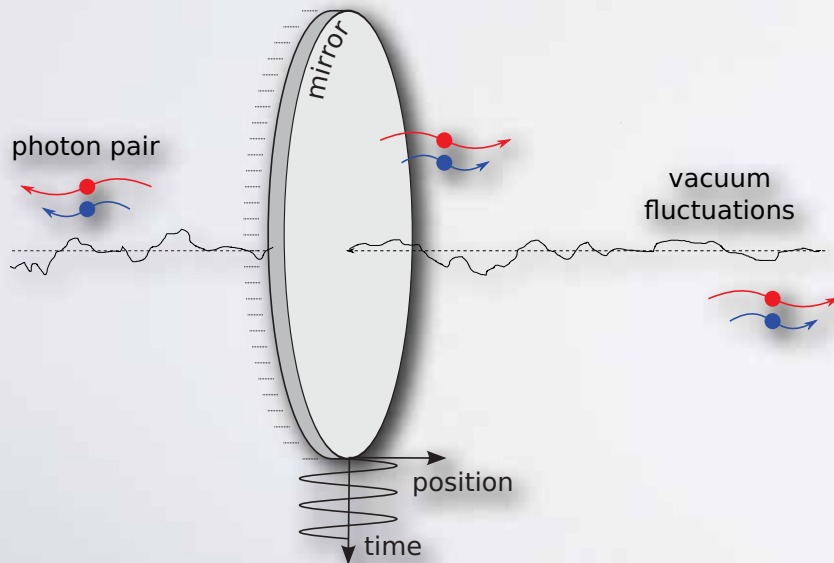


- Boundary conditions lead to discrete mode structure.
- “Shake” one of the mirrors:

$$\omega_n = \frac{2\pi c_0}{\lambda_n} \quad \text{Modulates frequency}$$

← changes wavelength

1D Mirror - Fulling & Davies:



- Continuum of modes
- Path modifies exponent of modes negative frequency term

$$e^{i\omega u} \rightarrow e^{i\omega(u - \tau u)} \quad \text{path dependent}$$

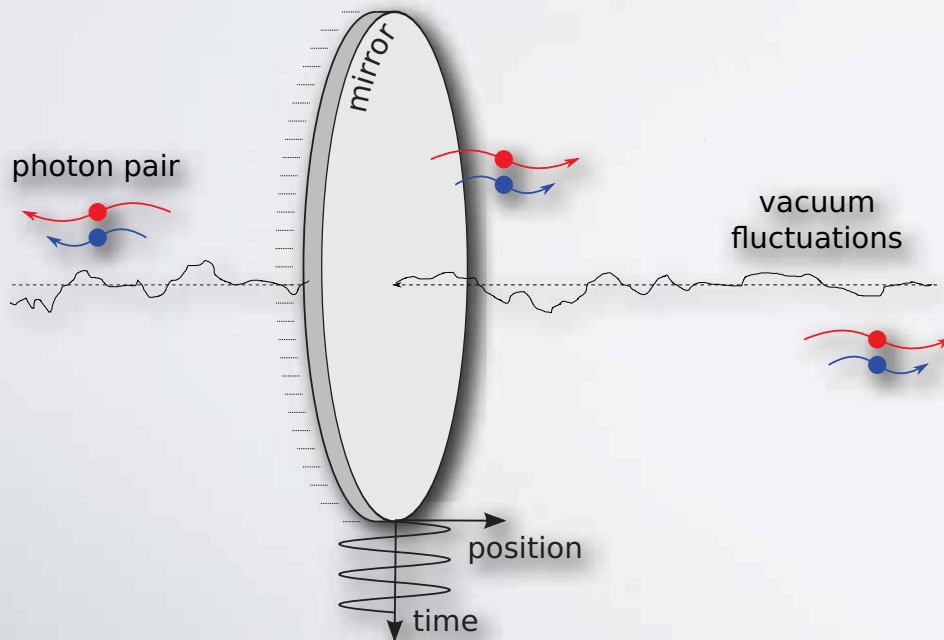
← path dependent

Can choose any mirror trajectory you like.

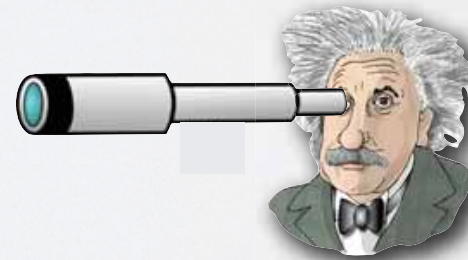
Experimentalist: Sinusoidal

Theorist: $x(t) = -t - A \exp(-\kappa t) + B$

➔ Exponential red-shift of frequency
& thermal state

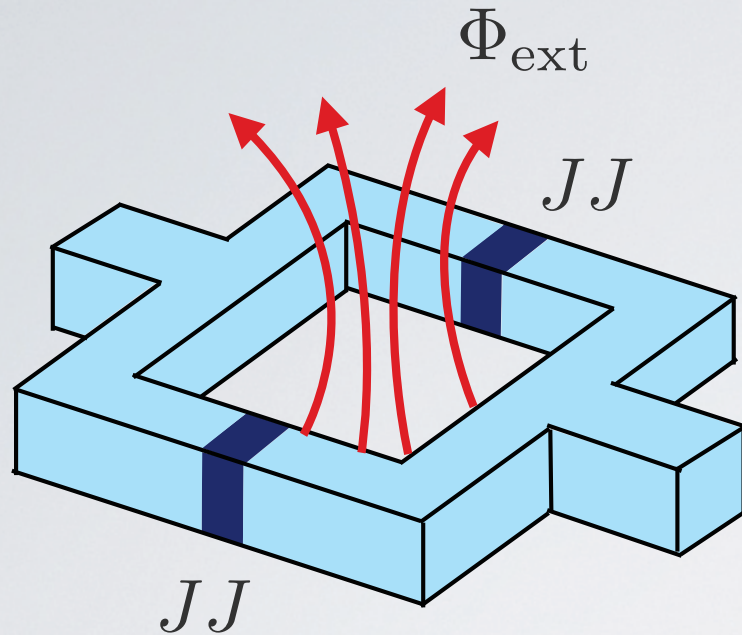


$$T = \frac{\hbar\gamma}{2\pi k_B}$$



Dynamical Casimir Effect in Circuit-QED

dc-SQUID



Flux through loop changes characteristic energy scale

$$E_J (\Phi_{\text{ext}}) = 2E_J \left| \cos \left(\pi \frac{\Phi_{\text{ext}}}{\Phi_0} \right) \right|$$

Also can be thought of as nonlinear inductor:

$$L (\Phi_{\text{ext}}) = \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi I_c} \sec \left(\pi \frac{\Phi_{\text{ext}}}{\Phi_0} \right)$$

Recall LC-oscillator:

$$\omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \omega (\Phi_{\text{ext}}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L (\Phi_{\text{ext}}) C}}$$

Dynamical Casimir (1D type):

Wilson et al., Nature 479, 376 (2011)

SQUID gives perfect mirror boundary condition:

$$\Phi(x = L_{\text{eff}}^0, t) = 0$$

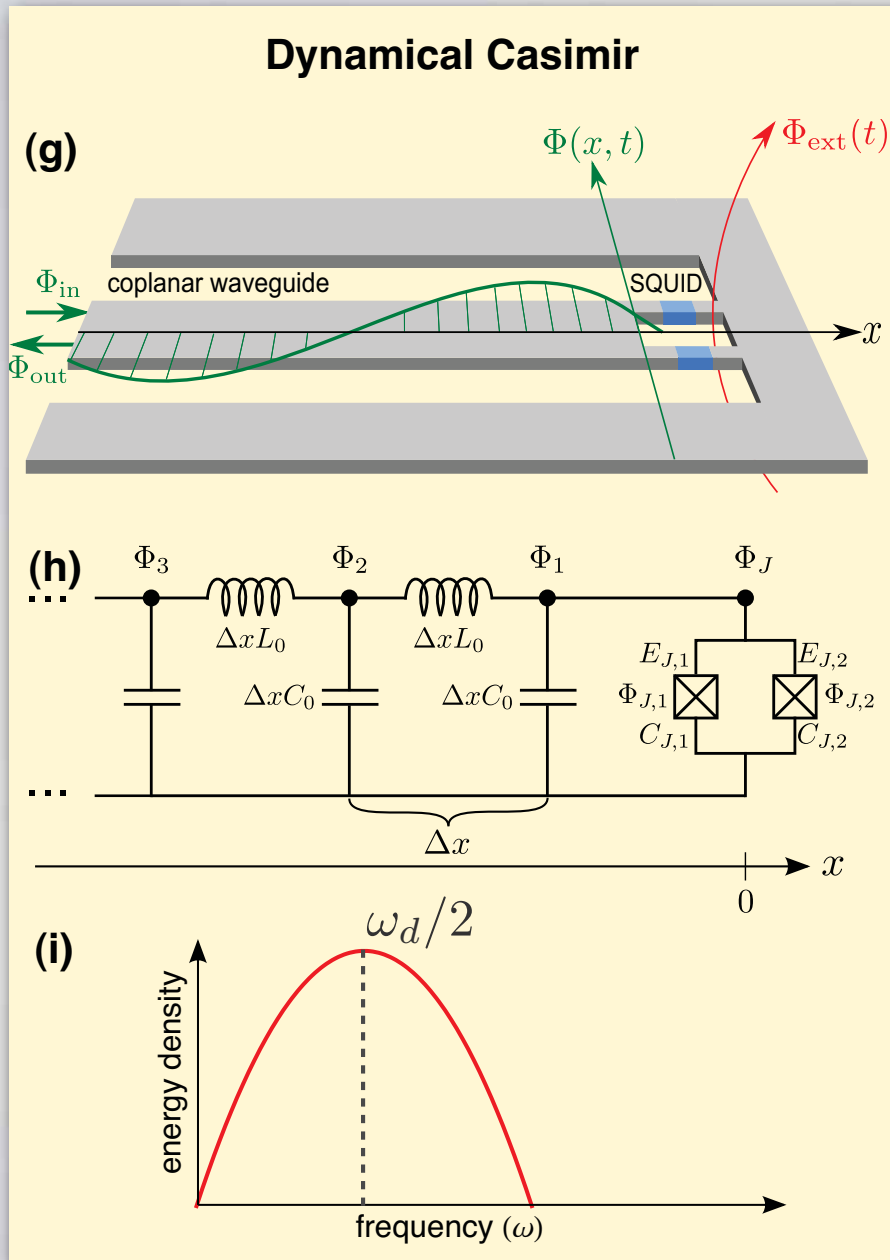
Sinusoidal modulation:

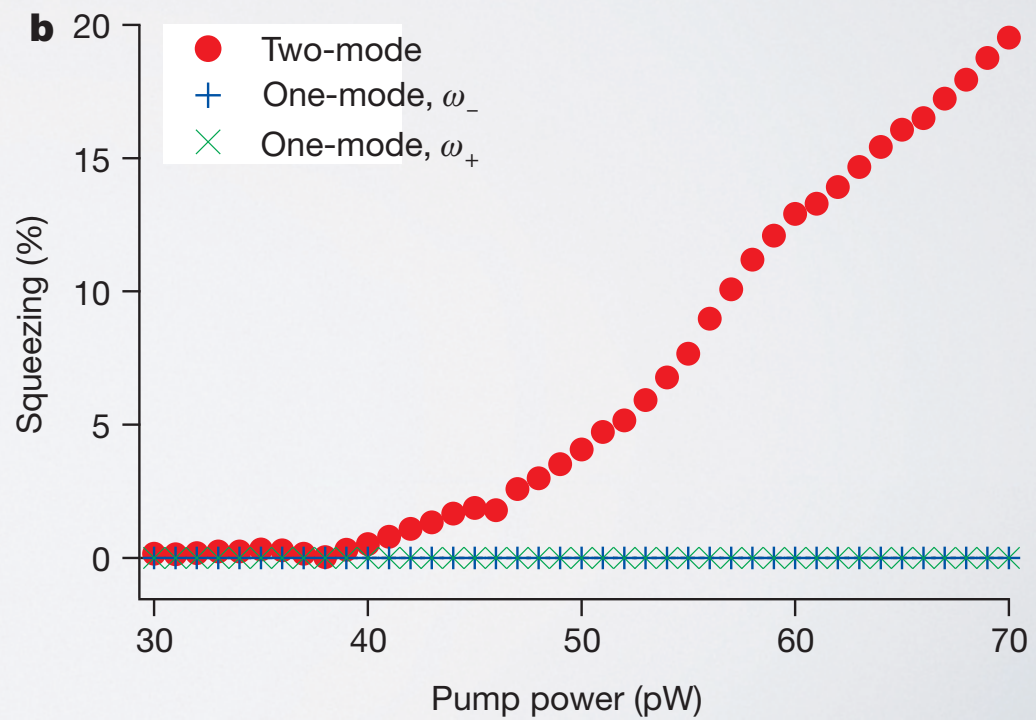
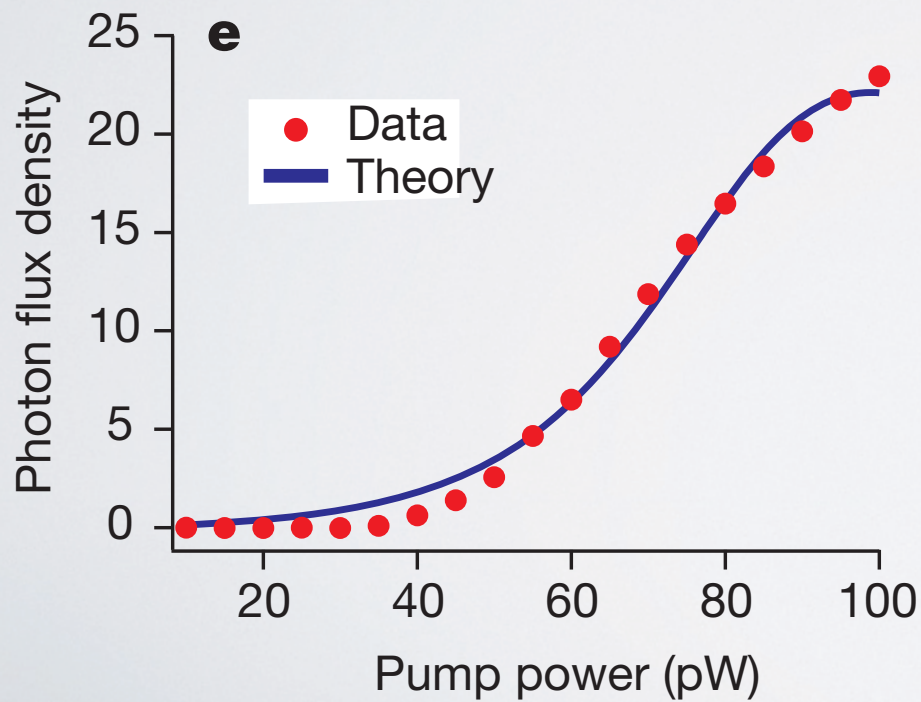
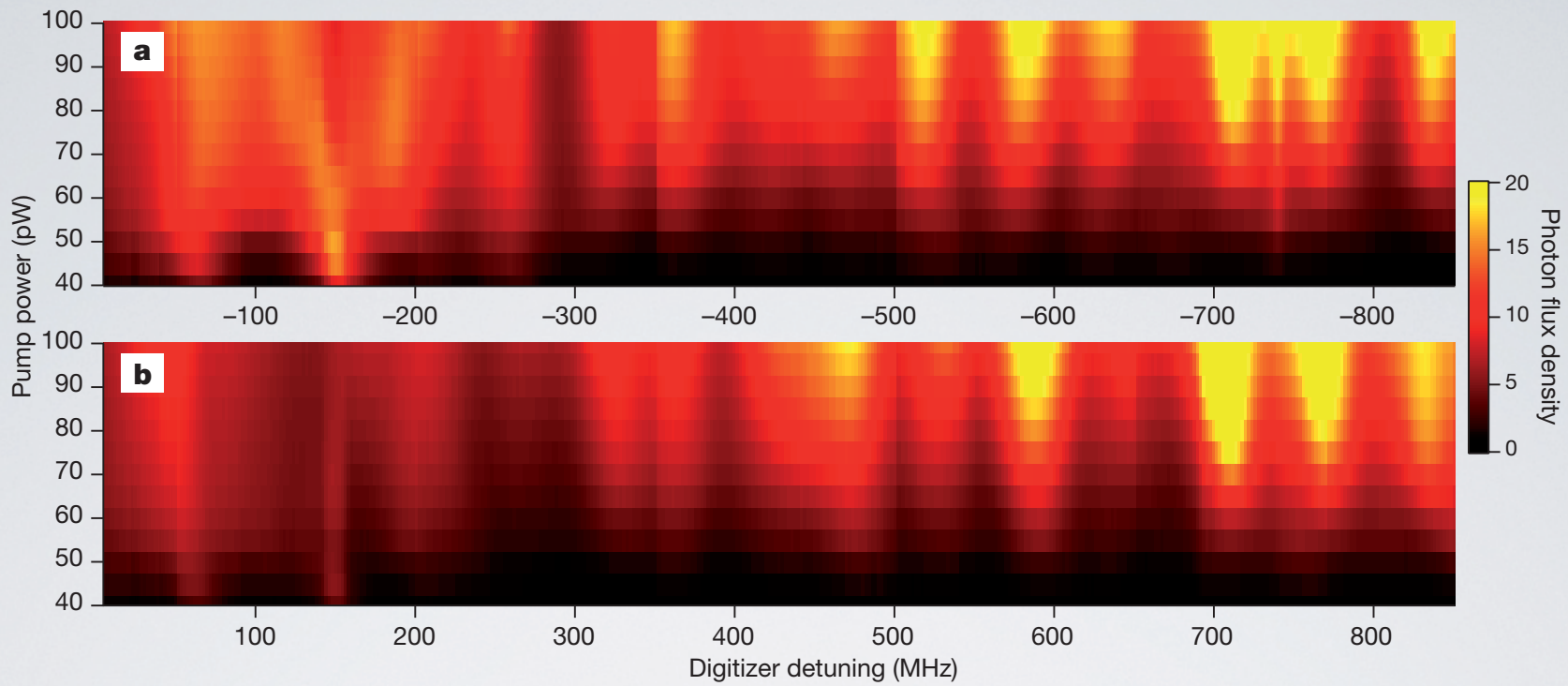
$$E_J = E_J^0 + \delta E_J \cos(\omega_d t)$$

Effective length change:

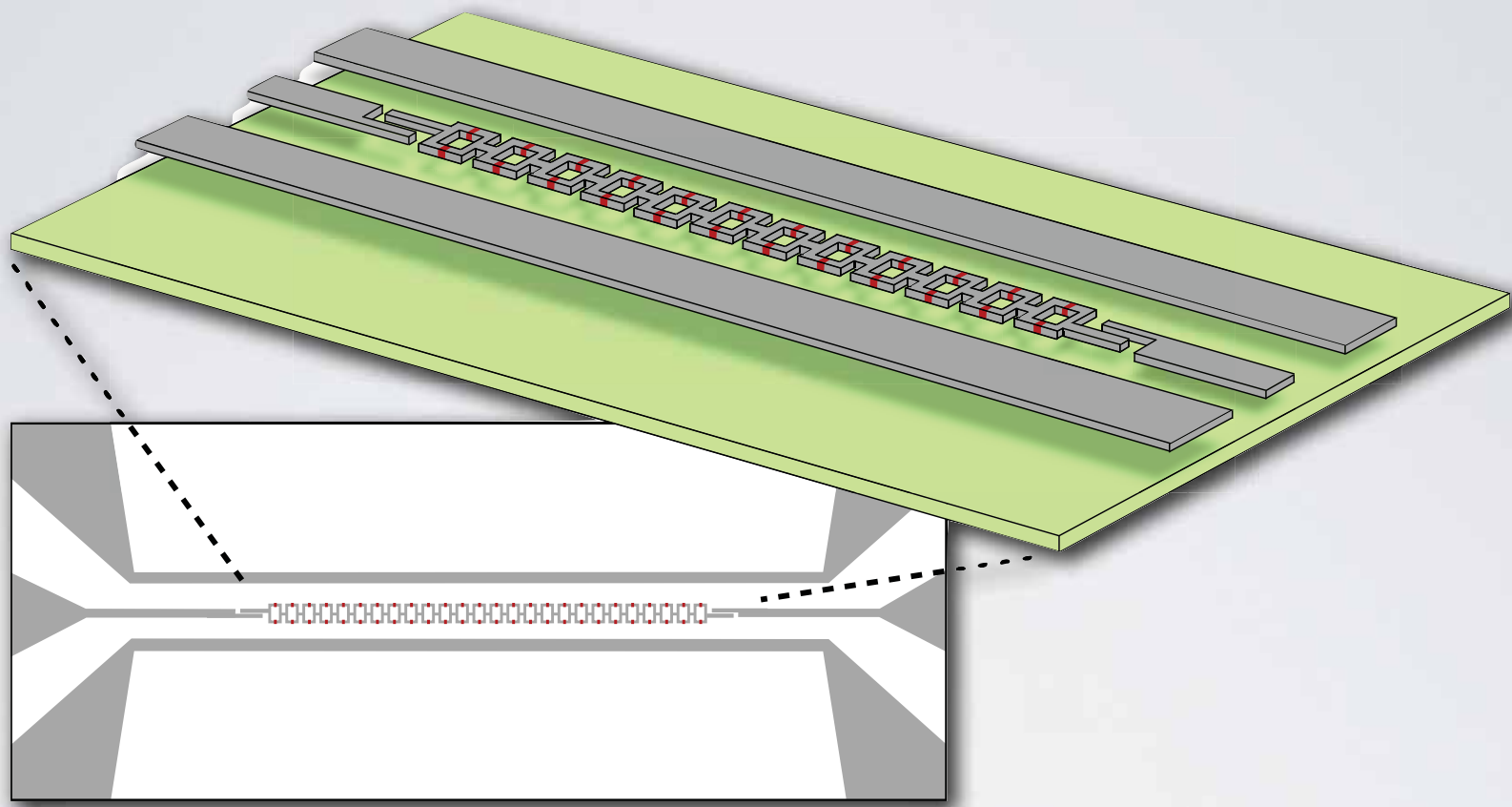
$$\delta L_{\text{eff}} = L_{\text{eff}}^0 \delta E_J / E_J^0$$

Spectrum symmetric about: $\omega_d/2$





Dynamical Casimir (cavity type):



Microwave photons travel in medium (not vacuum)

$$\omega_n = \frac{2\pi c_{sq}}{\lambda_n}$$

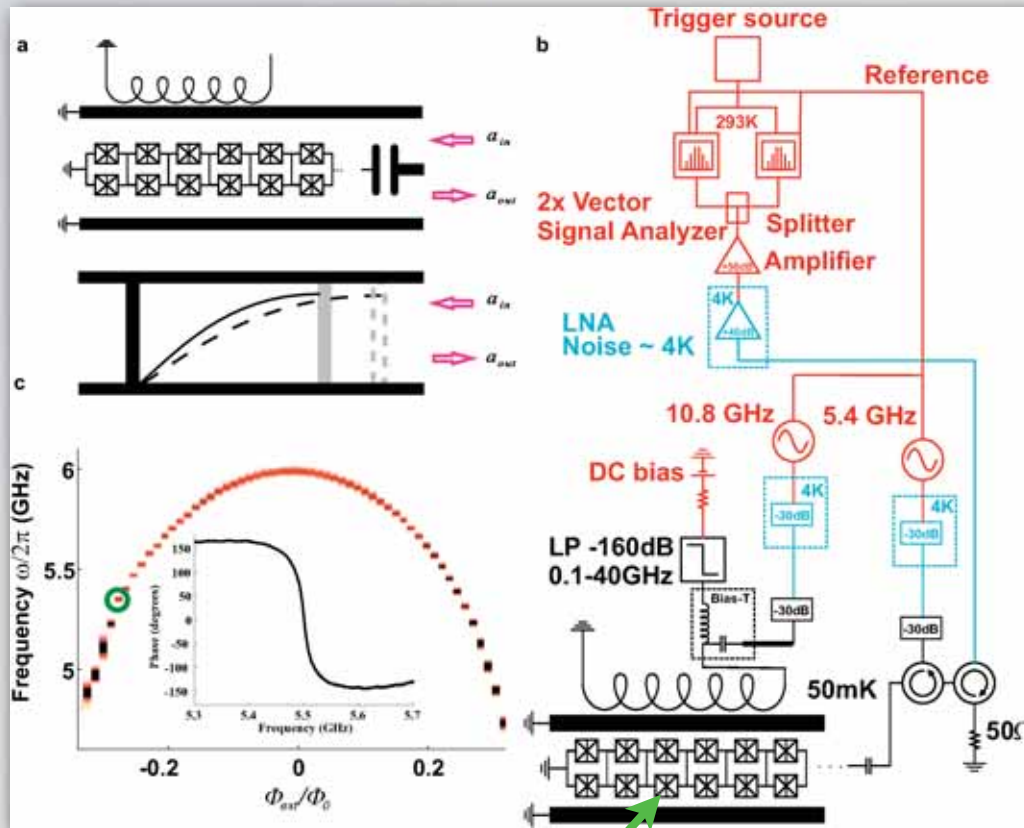
λ_n ← fixed

$$c_{sq} = 1/\sqrt{l(\Phi_{ext})} c$$

$l(\Phi_{ext})$ ← per unit length

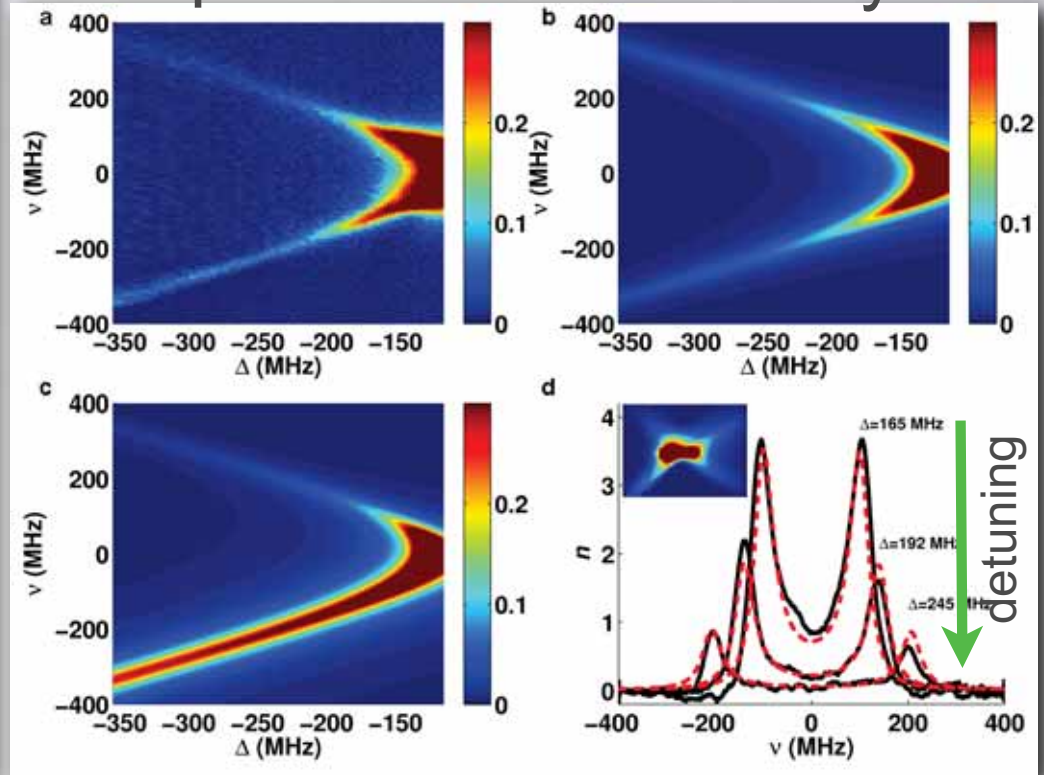
Dynamical Casimir:

Lähteenmäki et al., arXiv:1111.5608 (2011)



Experiment

Theory



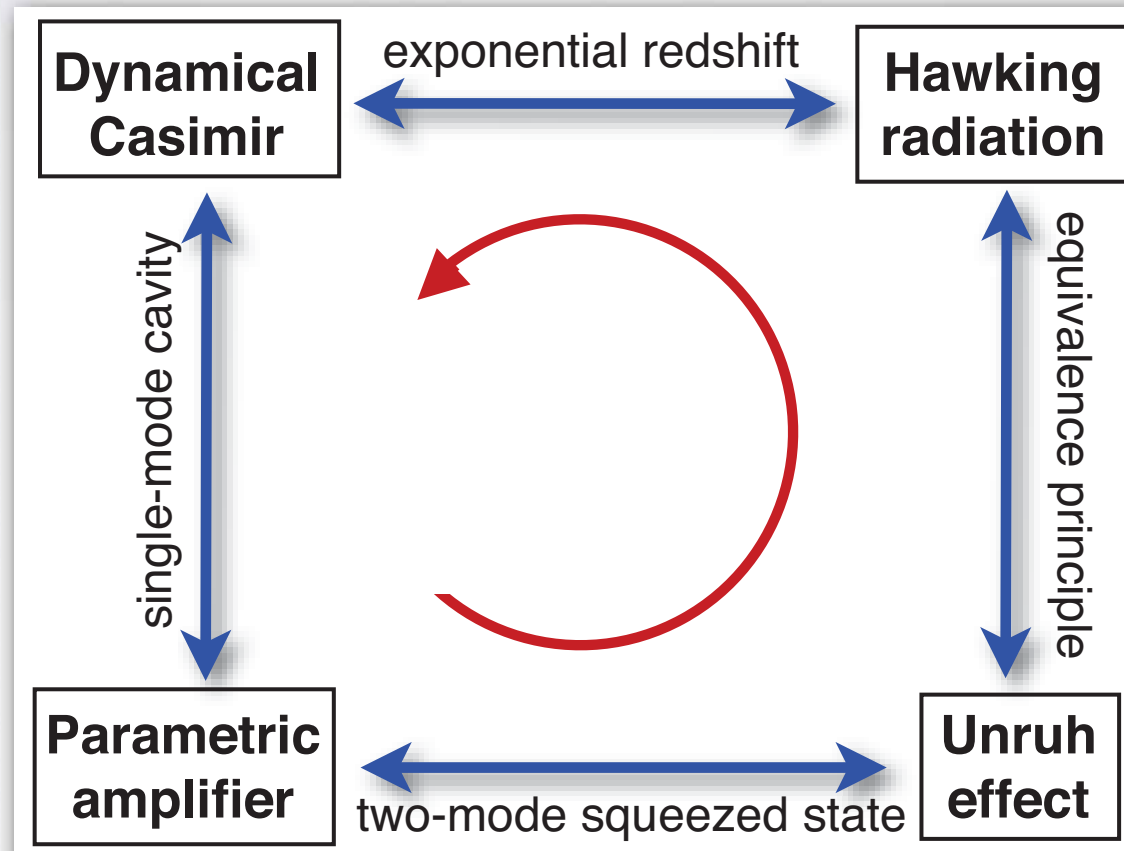
Classical

Cavity: 250 SQUIDs tunable by bias line

Similar to Castellanos-Beltran 2007 & 2008

For single cavity mode:

$$H_{\text{DCE}} = \frac{\delta L_{\text{eff}}}{4d_{\text{eff}}} \frac{\hbar\omega_d}{2} \left[(a^\dagger)^2 - a^2 \right] \quad \text{DPA Hamiltonian}$$

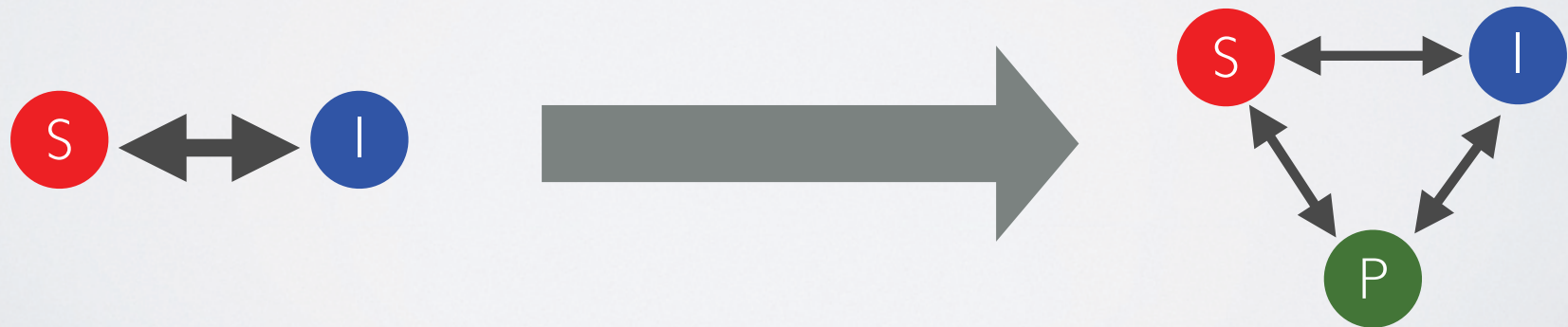


Summary

Can learn a lot by playing outside!

Surprising generality to quantum vacuum amplification.

- Described by Bogoliubov transforms
- Modulate system frequencies
- Same quantum states
- * - Same classical fixed amplitude energy source approximation.



Thermal character of states vanishes!