

# Rotating wave approximation and its causality consequences

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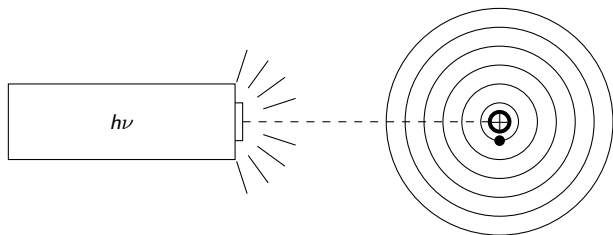
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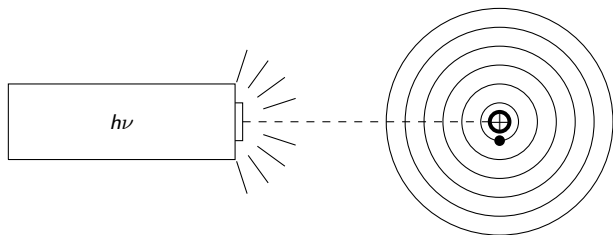
Work done in collaboration with Eduardo Martín-Martínez

## Approximations in light-matter interaction



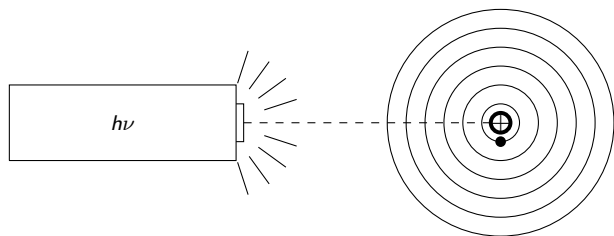
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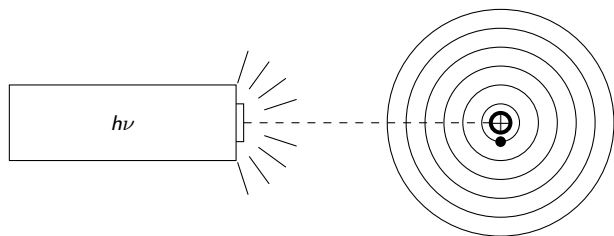
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- Dipole approximation: Quantum EM field ( $\hat{A}_\mu$ ) and dipole interaction ( $\hat{\mathbf{r}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{E}}$ ),

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- Unruh DeWitt: Quantum scalar field ( $\hat{\phi}$ ) and monopole coupling ( $\hat{\sigma}_x \hat{\phi}$ ).

# Approximations in light-matter interaction



- Full model: Quantum EM field ( $\hat{A}_\mu$ ) and minimal interaction ( $\hat{\mathbf{p}} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{A}}$ ),
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- Unruh DeWitt: Quantum scalar field ( $\hat{\phi}$ ) and monopole coupling ( $\hat{\sigma}_x \hat{\phi}$ ).
- Further approximations: Rotating wave approximation (RWA) and single mode approximation (SMA).

UdW: (Note:  $\omega = |\mathbf{k}|$  and  $\Omega$  is the detector energy gap.)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{H}_I^{\text{UdW}} &= \chi(t) \hat{\sigma}_x(t) \int d^3 \mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t) \\
 &= \chi(t) \left( \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{i\Omega t} + \hat{\sigma}^- e^{-i\Omega t} \right) \int d^3 \mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2\omega}} \left( \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-i\omega t + i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} + \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger e^{i\omega t - i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \right) \\
 &= \chi(t) \int d^3 \mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2\omega}} \left( \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{-i(\omega - \Omega)t + i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} + \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}^- e^{i(\omega - \Omega)t - i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\sigma}^- e^{-i(\omega + \Omega)t + i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} + \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{i(\omega + \Omega)t - i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

RWA:

$$\hat{H}_I^{\text{RWA}} = \chi(t) \int d^3 \mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2\omega}} \left( \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{-i(\omega - \Omega)t + i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} + \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}^- e^{i(\omega - \Omega)t - i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \right).$$

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RWA: "Excitation preserving"

$$\hat{H}_I^{\text{RWA}} = \chi(t) \int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2\omega}} \left( \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{-i(\omega-\Omega)t + i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} + \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}^- e^{i(\omega-\Omega)t - i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \right).$$

Hydrogen Absorption Spectrum



Hydrogen Emission Spectrum



400nm

700nm

Lore: RWA is good for long times.

UdW probability of vacuum qubit excitation:

$$P(|-z\rangle \rightarrow |+z\rangle) = \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega} |F(\mathbf{k})|^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 \chi\left(\frac{t_1}{T}\right) e^{-i(\omega+\Omega)t_1} \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt'_1 \chi\left(\frac{t'_1}{T}\right) e^{i(\omega+\Omega)t'_1}}_{\rightarrow \delta(\omega+\Omega)},$$

UdW probability of vacuum qubit emission:

$$P(|+z\rangle \rightarrow |-z\rangle) = \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega} |F(\mathbf{k})|^2 \overbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 \chi\left(\frac{t_1}{T}\right) e^{-i(\omega-\Omega)t_1}}^{\rightarrow \delta(\omega-\Omega)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt'_1 \chi\left(\frac{t'_1}{T}\right) e^{i(\omega-\Omega)t'_1},$$

RWA claim: The RWA transition probabilities become exact when  $T\Omega \gg 1$ .



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We will present:

- RWA acausal energy density plots and asymptotic behaviour.
- Exact description of interaction Hamiltonian non-locality.
- A stronger criterion for RWA applicability.
- How results change within a cavity.

- $\hat{H}_I^{\text{RWA}}$  cannot be written with local operators (Clerk and Sipe 1998).

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H}_I^{\text{RWA}} &= \chi(t) \int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2\omega}} \left( \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{-i(\omega-\Omega)t + i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} + \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}^- e^{i(\omega-\Omega)t - i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \right), \\ &\neq \chi(t) \int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \left( \lambda \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t) + \mu \hat{\pi}(\mathbf{x}, t) \right)\end{aligned}$$

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$$\hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int d^3\mathbf{x} \left( \sqrt{\frac{\omega}{2}} \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t) + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2\omega}} \hat{\pi}(\mathbf{x}, t) \right) e^{i\omega t - i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}},$$

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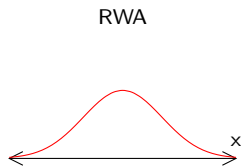
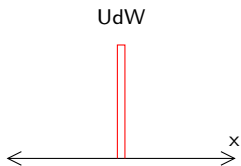
$$\neq \chi(t) \int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \left( \lambda \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t) + \mu \hat{\pi}(\mathbf{x}, t) \right)$$

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$$\int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \hat{\sigma}_x(t) \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \left( \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{i\Omega t} + \hat{\sigma}^- e^{-i\Omega t} \right) \int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

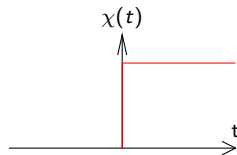
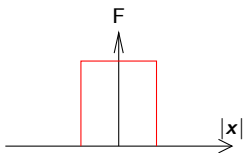
$$- \frac{i}{(2\pi)^2} \left( \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{i\Omega t} - \hat{\sigma}^- e^{-i\Omega t} \right) \int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \int d^3\mathbf{y} \frac{\hat{\pi}(\mathbf{y}, t)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|^2},$$



Now consider

$$F(\mathbf{x}) = \Theta(R - |\mathbf{x}|),$$

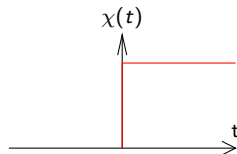
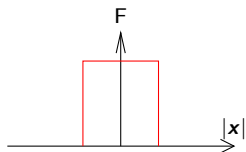
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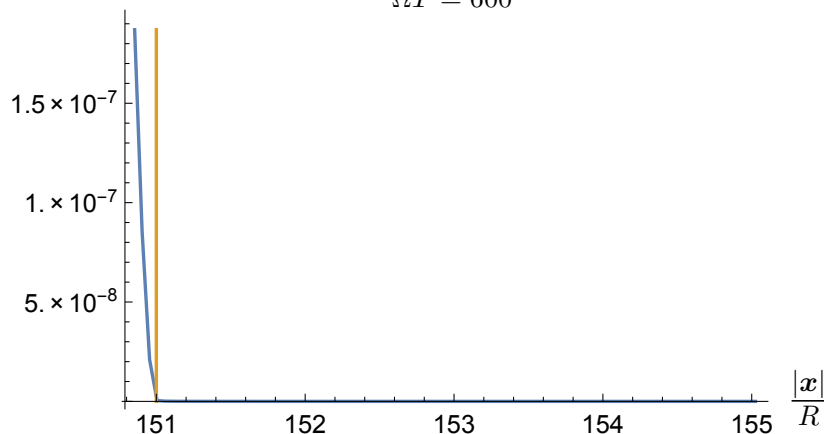


$$\hat{U} |0\rangle | +z \rangle = \left( \mathbb{I} - i \int_{-\infty}^T dt_1 \hat{H}_I(t_1) - \int_{-\infty}^T dt_1 \int_{-\infty}^{t_1} dt_2 \hat{H}_I(t_1) \hat{H}_I(t_2) \right) |0\rangle | +z \rangle,$$

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$$\hat{H}_I^{\text{RWA}} = \chi(t) \int d^3 \mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2\omega}} \left( \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{-i(\omega - \Omega)t + i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} + \hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}^- e^{i(\omega - \Omega)t - i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \right).$$

$\lambda^{-2} R^4 \langle : \hat{T}_{00}(\mathbf{x}) : \rangle$  Energy distribution - No Approx,  $T = 150 R$   
 $\Omega T = 600$

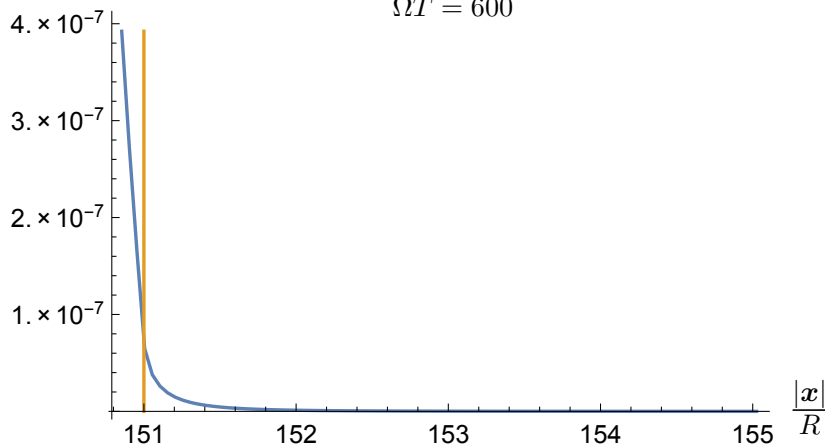


$\Omega = 4R^{-1}$ . Causal boundary/light cone surface at  $|x|/R = 150 + 1$ .



$\lambda^{-2} R^4 \langle : \hat{T}_{00}(\mathbf{x}) : \rangle$  Energy distribution - RWA,  $T = 150 R$

$\Omega T = 600$



$\Omega = 4R^{-1}$ . Causal boundary/light cone surface at  $|x|/R = 150 + 1$ . Note: No improvement with time.

## Should RWA be used for field observable expectations?

$$\begin{aligned}\langle : \hat{\phi}^2(\mathbf{x}, t) : \rangle_{\text{Full}} &= \frac{\lambda^2}{4(2\pi)^6} \left( 2|M_e^1|^2 - M_e^2 - M_e^{2*} \right), \\ \langle : \hat{\phi}^2(\mathbf{x}, t) : \rangle_{\text{RWA}} &= \frac{\lambda^2}{4(2\pi)^6} \left( 2|M_e^1|^2 \right), \\ M_e^1(\mathbf{x}, t) &:= \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{\omega} \tilde{F}(\mathbf{k}) e^{i\omega t - i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \int_{-t}^t dt_1 \chi(t_1) e^{-i(\omega - \Omega)t_1}, \\ M_e^2(\mathbf{x}, t) &= 2 \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k} d^3\mathbf{k}'}{\omega\omega'} \tilde{F}(\mathbf{k}) \tilde{F}(\mathbf{k}') e^{i\omega t - i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} e^{i\omega' t - i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{x}} \\ &\quad \int_{-t}^t dt_1 \int_{-t}^{t_1} dt_2 \chi(t_1) \chi(t_2) e^{-i(\omega + \Omega)t_1 - i(\omega' - \Omega)t_2}.\end{aligned}$$

Note,  $M_e^2$  requires 2nd order Dyson expansion.

$$M_e^2(\mathbf{x}, t) = 2 \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k} d^3\mathbf{k}'}{\omega\omega'} \tilde{F}(\mathbf{k}) \tilde{F}(\mathbf{k}') e^{i\omega t - i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} e^{i\omega' t - i\mathbf{k}'\cdot\mathbf{x}}$$

$$\int_{-t}^t dt_1 \int_{-t}^{t_1} dt_2 \chi(t_1) \chi(t_2) e^{-i(\omega+\Omega)t_1 - i(\omega' - \Omega)t_2},$$

i.e. Light cone is at  $|\mathbf{x}| = 2t$ .

$$= \frac{2}{(2\pi)^4 |\mathbf{x}|^2} \int d\omega d\omega' \tilde{F}(\omega) \tilde{F}(\omega')$$

$$\frac{1}{-i(\omega' - \Omega)} \left[ \frac{e^{i(\omega+\omega')|\mathbf{x}|} - e^{i(\omega+\omega')(2t+|\mathbf{x}|)}}{-i(\omega + \omega')} - \frac{e^{-2i\Omega t + i\omega|\mathbf{x}| + i\omega'(2t+|\mathbf{x}|)} - e^{i(\omega+\omega')(2t+|\mathbf{x}|)}}{-i(\omega + \Omega)} \right]$$

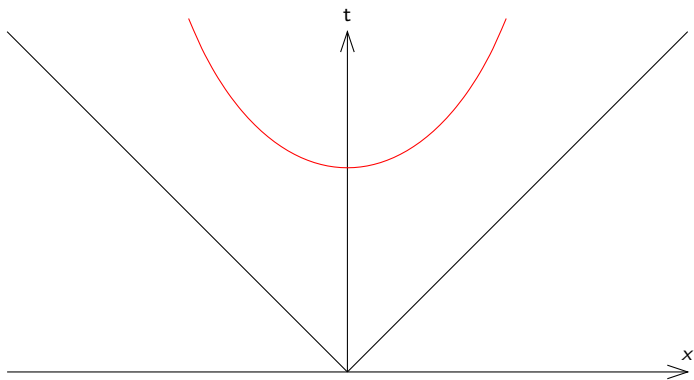
$$+ \frac{i}{-i(\omega' - \Omega)} \left[ \frac{e^{i(\omega-\omega')|\mathbf{x}|} - e^{i\omega(2t+|\mathbf{x}|) + i\omega'(2t-|\mathbf{x}|)}}{-i(\omega + \omega')} - \frac{e^{-2i\Omega t + i\omega|\mathbf{x}| + i\omega'(2t-|\mathbf{x}|)} - e^{i\omega(2t+|\mathbf{x}|) + i\omega'(2t-|\mathbf{x}|)}}{-i(\omega + \Omega)} \right]$$

$$+ \frac{i}{-i(\omega' - \Omega)} \left[ \frac{e^{-i(\omega-\omega')|\mathbf{x}|} - e^{i\omega(2t-|\mathbf{x}|) + i\omega'(2t+|\mathbf{x}|)}}{-i(\omega + \omega')} - \frac{e^{-2i\Omega t - i\omega|\mathbf{x}| + i\omega'(2t+|\mathbf{x}|)} - e^{i\omega(2t-|\mathbf{x}|) + i\omega'(2t+|\mathbf{x}|)}}{-i(\omega + \Omega)} \right]$$

$$- \frac{1}{-i(\omega' - \Omega)} \left[ \frac{e^{-i(\omega+\omega')|\mathbf{x}|} - e^{i(\omega+\omega')(2t-|\mathbf{x}|)}}{-i(\omega + \omega')} - \frac{e^{-2i\Omega t - i\omega|\mathbf{x}| + i\omega'(2t-|\mathbf{x}|)} - e^{i(\omega+\omega')(2t-|\mathbf{x}|)}}{-i(\omega + \Omega)} \right].$$

RWA  $\rightarrow$  UdW as  $\Omega t \rightarrow \infty$ , provided  $|\mathbf{x}| \ll 2t$ .

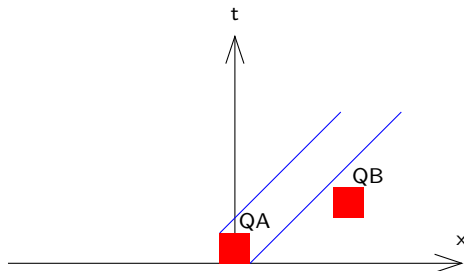
## Where can we use RWA?



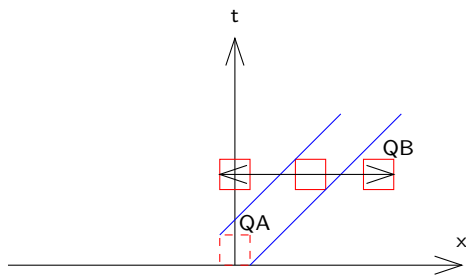
Now consider 2 qubits

$$F_j(\mathbf{x}) = \Theta(R_j - |\mathbf{x}|),$$

$$\chi_j(t) = \Theta(t - t_j^i)\Theta(t_j^f - t).$$

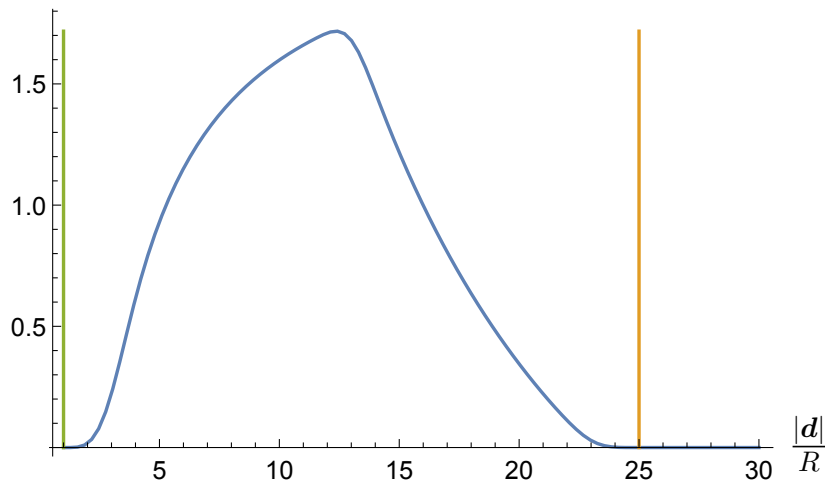


Martín-Martínez (2015), PRD 92,104019

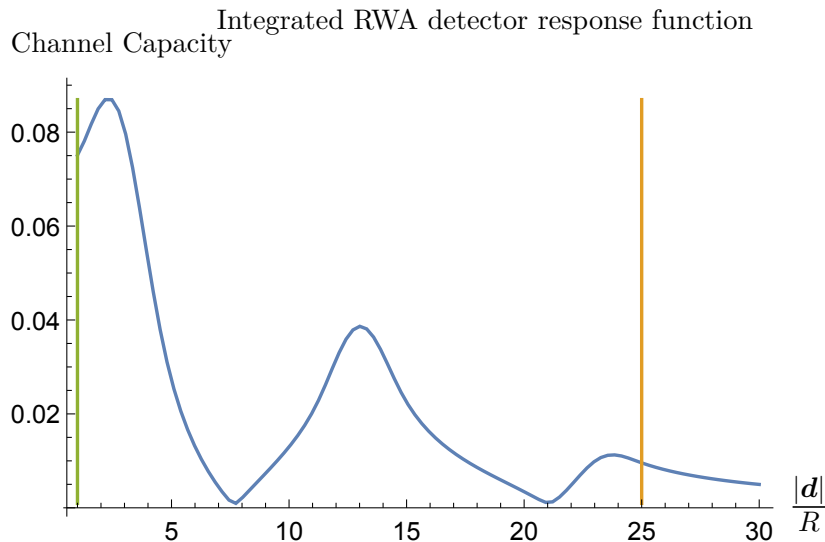


Martín-Martínez (2015), PRD 92,104019

Channel Capacity Integrated no approx detector response function



$R_A = R_B = 1$ ,  $\Omega_A = \Omega_B = 1$ .  $\chi_A = 1$  for  $t \in (0, 10)$ ,  $\chi_B = 1$  for  $t \in (13, 23)$ .



$R_A = R_B = 1, \Omega_A = \Omega_B = 1. \chi_A = 1$  for  $t \in (0, 10), \chi_B = 1$  for  $t \in (13, 23)$ .



- $\chi(t) = \Theta(t)$ , i.e. sudden switching,  $F(\mathbf{x}) = \Theta(R - |\mathbf{x}|)$ , i.e. solid sphere, hard cutoff.

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$$\langle : \hat{T}_{00}(\mathbf{x}) : \rangle_{\text{RWA}} \sim \frac{16\lambda^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{t\Omega}{2}\right)}{9\pi^2 |\mathbf{x}|^6 \Omega^2}, \quad \langle : \hat{\phi}^2(\mathbf{x}) : \rangle_{\text{RWA}} \sim \frac{8\lambda^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{t\Omega}{2}\right)}{9\pi^2 \Omega^2 |\mathbf{x}|^4},$$
$$\text{Channel capacity} \sim \frac{1}{|\mathbf{d}|^2}$$

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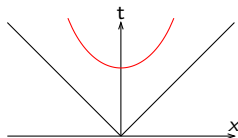
$$\langle : \hat{T}_{00}(\mathbf{x}) : \rangle_{\text{RWA}} \sim \frac{16\lambda^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{t\Omega}{2}\right)}{9\pi^2 |\mathbf{x}|^6 \Omega^2}, \quad \langle : \hat{\phi}^2(\mathbf{x}) : \rangle_{\text{RWA}} \sim \frac{8\lambda^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{t\Omega}{2}\right)}{9\pi^2 \Omega^2 |\mathbf{x}|^4},$$
$$\text{Channel capacity} \sim \frac{1}{|\mathbf{d}|^2}$$

- Polynomial violations of causality,  $|\mathbf{x}| \gg t$ .
- This decay rate is independent of  $t\Omega$ .
- Causality violation does not improve with increasing  $t\Omega$ .

- $\chi(t) = \Theta(t)$ , i.e. sudden switching,  $F(\mathbf{x}) = \Theta(R - |\mathbf{x}|)$ , i.e. solid sphere, hard cutoff.

$$\langle : \hat{T}_{00}(\mathbf{x}) : \rangle_{\text{RWA}} \sim \frac{16\lambda^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{t\Omega}{2}\right)}{9\pi^2 |\mathbf{x}|^6 \Omega^2}, \quad \langle : \hat{\phi}^2(\mathbf{x}) : \rangle_{\text{RWA}} \sim \frac{8\lambda^2 \sin^2\left(\frac{t\Omega}{2}\right)}{9\pi^2 \Omega^2 |\mathbf{x}|^4},$$
$$\text{Channel capacity} \sim \frac{1}{|\mathbf{d}|^2}$$

- Polynomial violations of causality,  $|\mathbf{x}| \gg t$ .
- This decay rate is independent of  $t\Omega$ .
- Causality violation does not improve with increasing  $t\Omega$ .
- RWA does not always work for long times!

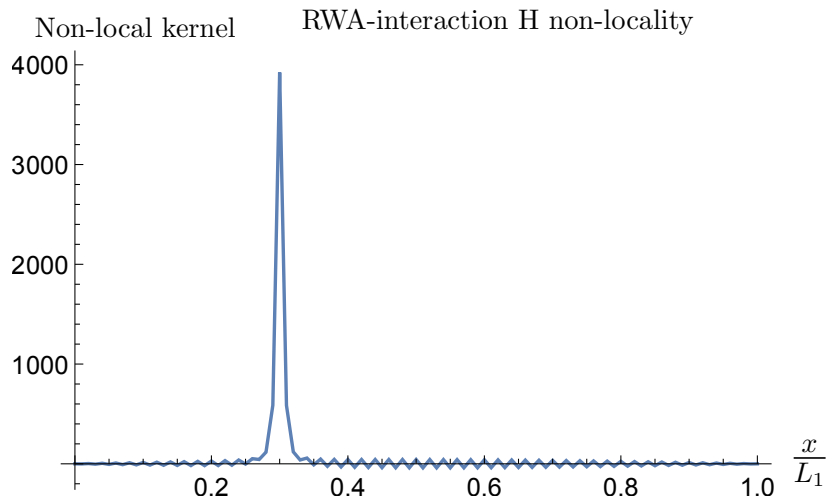


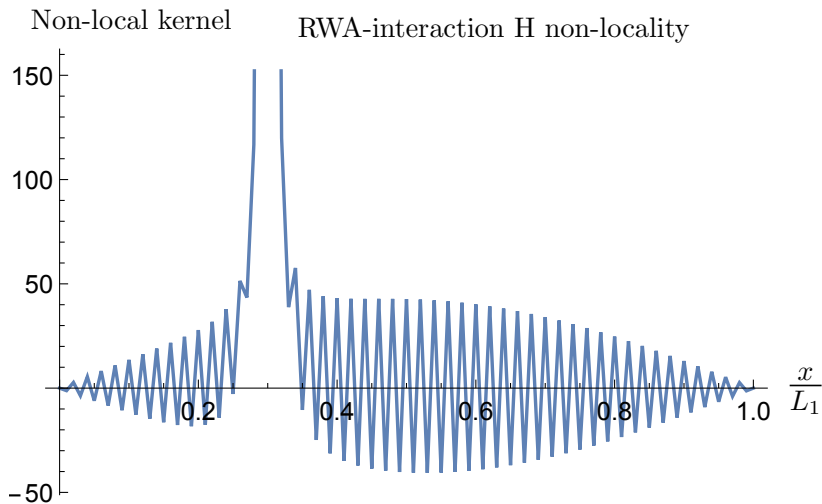
## What about cavities?

$$\int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \hat{\sigma}_x(t) \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \left( \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{i\Omega t} + \hat{\sigma}^- e^{-i\Omega t} \right) \int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t) \\ - \frac{i}{(2\pi)^2} \left( \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{i\Omega t} - \hat{\sigma}^- e^{-i\Omega t} \right) \int d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \int d^3\mathbf{y} \frac{\hat{\pi}(\mathbf{y}, t)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|^2}.$$

Consider a cavity  $[0, L_1] \times [0, L_2] \times [0, L_3]$

$$\int_0^{L_j} d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \hat{\sigma}_x(t) \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \left( \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{i\Omega t} + \hat{\sigma}^- e^{-i\Omega t} \right) \int_0^{L_j} d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \hat{\phi}(\mathbf{x}, t) \\ + \frac{4i}{\pi^3} \left( \hat{\sigma}^+ e^{i\Omega t} - \hat{\sigma}^- e^{-i\Omega t} \right) \int_0^{L_j} d^3\mathbf{x} F(\mathbf{x}) \int_0^{L_j} d^3\mathbf{y} \hat{\pi}(\mathbf{y}, t) \\ \times \underbrace{\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\Delta\mathbf{k}}{\omega_m} \prod_{i=1}^3 \sin\left(\frac{\pi m_i x_i}{L_i}\right) \sin\left(\frac{\pi m_i y_i}{L_i}\right)}_{\text{Non-local kernel}}.$$





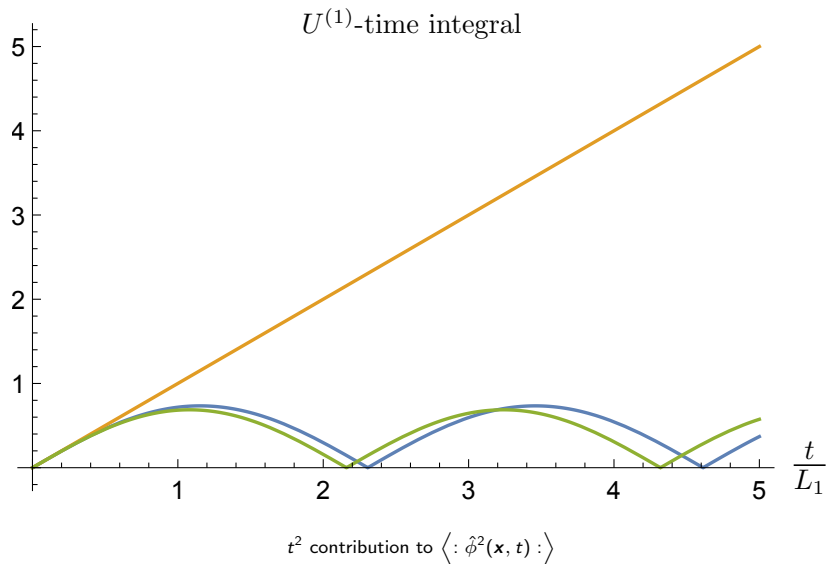
$$M_e^1 = \sum_{m \neq 0} \frac{\Delta \mathbf{k}}{\omega} \frac{\mathcal{G}(\mathbf{k})}{i} e^{i(\omega t - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x})} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 \chi(t_1) e^{-i(\omega - \Omega)t_1},$$

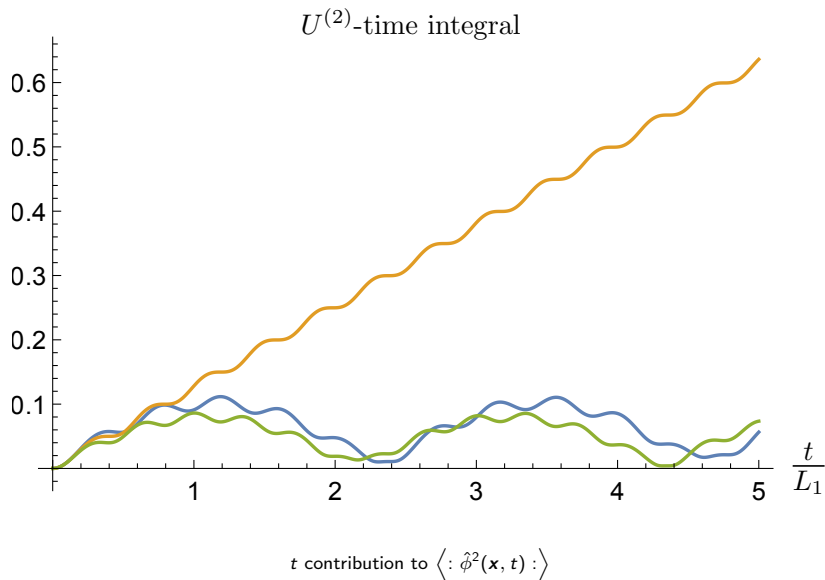
$$M_e^2 = \sum_{m, m' \neq 0} \frac{\Delta \mathbf{k}^2}{\omega \omega'} (-1) \mathcal{G}(\mathbf{k}) \mathcal{G}(\mathbf{k}') e^{i(\omega t - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}) + i(\omega' t - \mathbf{k}' \cdot \mathbf{x})}$$

$$\times \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt_1 \int_{-\infty}^{t_1} dt_2 \chi(t_1) \chi(t_2) \left( e^{-i(\omega + \Omega)t_1} e^{-i(\omega' - \Omega)t_2} + e^{-i(\omega' + \Omega)t_1} e^{-i(\omega - \Omega)t_2} \right),$$

$$\langle : \hat{\phi}^2(\mathbf{x}, t) : \rangle_{\text{Full}} = \frac{\lambda^2}{4(2\pi)^6} \sum_{i \in \{e, g\}} \hat{\Pi}_i \left[ 2 |M_i^1|^2 - M_i^2 - (M_i^2)^* \right]$$

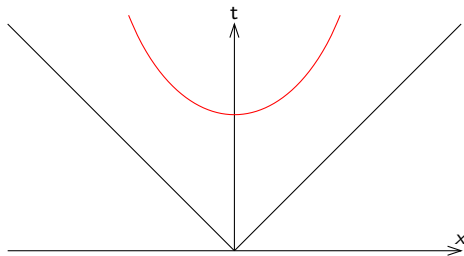






# Conclusion

- The RWA always gives polynomial causality violations.
- RWA should not be used to model detectors measuring correlations (non-locality/causality violations taint prediction)
- Inside the lightcone, far from light surface and qubit the RWA works best, for field and qubit observables.
- Cavities also suffer polynomial non-localities.



arXiv: 1905.02235