

Modes & States in Quantum Optics

Claude Fabre



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*Introduction:
modes in Quantum Optics*

What is a mode ?

mode :

a normalized solution $f_1(\mathbf{r}, t)$ of Maxwell equations

mode basis :

a complete orthonormal set (f_n) of modes

Description of a classical multimode field

general expression for the complex electric field:

$$\mathbf{E}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n E_n \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

complex amplitude

$$\mathbf{E}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n (E_{n,X} + iE_{n,P}) \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

"quadrature components"

Description of a **quantum** multimode field

$$\mathbf{E}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n E_n \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

$$\mathbf{E}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n (E_{n,X} + iE_{n,P}) \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

general expression for the complex electric field **operator**:

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n E_0 \hat{a}_n \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

$$[\hat{a}_n, \hat{a}_{n'}^\dagger] = \delta_{n,n'}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n (\hat{E}_{n,X} + i\hat{E}_{n,P}) \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

$$[\hat{E}_{nX}, \hat{E}_{n'P}] = 2iE_0^2 \delta_{n,n'}$$

Description of a **quantum** multimode field

$$\mathbf{E}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n E_n \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

$$\mathbf{E}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n (E_{n,X} + iE_{n,P}) \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

general expression for the complex electric field **operator**:

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QUANTUM

$$[\hat{E}_{nX}, \hat{E}_{n'P}] = 2iE_0^2 \delta_{n,n'}$$

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QUANTUM OPTICS

$$[\hat{E}_{nX}, \hat{E}_{n'P}] = 2iE_0^2 \delta_{n,n'}$$

the double linearity of quantum optics

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n (\hat{E}_{n,X} + i\hat{E}_{n,P}) \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

-linearity of Quantum Mechanics

-linearity of Maxwell equations

Two Hilbert spaces to consider

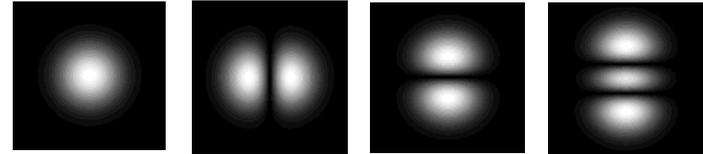
- the **quantum Hilbert space** H^q of quantum states of light
- the **modal Hilbert space** H^{mod} of solutions of Maxwell equations

Different mode bases

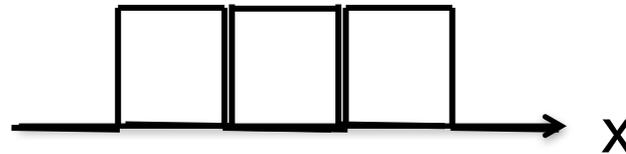
- the travelling plane wave $e^{i(\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{r}-\omega t)}$

spatial modes

- Hermite Gauss modes

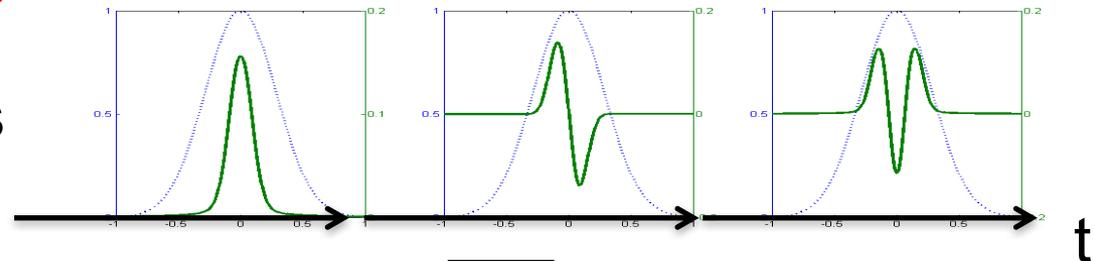


- the pixel modes

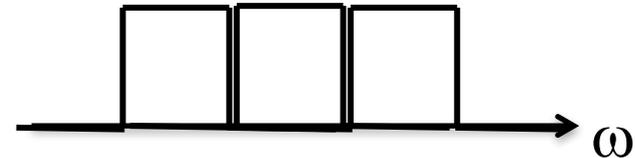


temporal/frequency modes

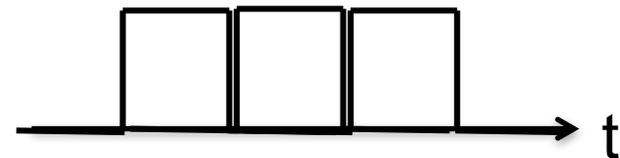
-the Hermite Gauss pulses



-the "frequency band" modes



-the time bin modes



Quantum state in mode basis change

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \{ \mathbf{f}_n \} \longleftrightarrow \{ \mathbf{g}_\ell \} \\
 & \{ \hat{a}_n \} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{U}_{mod}} \{ \hat{b}_\ell \} \\
 |\Psi\rangle &= \sum_{p_1} \sum_{p_2} \dots A_{p_1, p_2, \dots} |p_1 : \mathbf{f}_1, p_2 : \mathbf{f}_2, \dots\rangle \\
 &= \sum_{q_1} \sum_{q_2} \dots B_{q_1, q_2, \dots} |q_1 : \mathbf{g}_1, q_2 : \mathbf{g}_2, \dots\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

the same quantum state $|\Psi\rangle$ has different expressions in different mode bases

two-mode example:

$$|\Psi\rangle = |1 : \mathbf{f}_1, 1 : \mathbf{f}_2\rangle$$

$$|\Psi\rangle = |2 : \mathbf{g}_+, 0 : \mathbf{g}_-\rangle - |0 : \mathbf{g}_+, 2 : \mathbf{g}_-\rangle$$

with $\mathbf{g}_\pm = (\mathbf{f}_1 \pm \mathbf{f}_2)/\sqrt{2}$

factorized

entangled

Quantum state in mode basis change

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 &= \sum_{q_1} \sum_{q_2} \dots B_{q_1, q_2, \dots} |q_1 : \mathbf{g}_1, q_2 : \mathbf{g}_2, \dots\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

the same quantum state $|\Psi\rangle$ has different expressions in different mode bases

two-mode example:

$$|\Psi\rangle = |squeezed\ vac : \mathbf{f}_1\rangle \otimes |squeezed\ vac : \mathbf{f}_2\rangle$$

factorized

$$|\Psi\rangle = |EPR\ entangled\ state\rangle$$

entangled

on basis $\mathbf{g}_\pm = (\mathbf{f}_1 \pm \mathbf{f}_2) / \sqrt{2}$

mode basis-independent, or "intrinsic", quantities ?

- total photon number:

$$\hat{N}_{tot} = \sum_{\ell} \hat{b}_{\ell}^{\dagger} \hat{b}_{\ell} = \sum_n \hat{a}_n^{\dagger} \hat{a}_n$$

- Wigner function values:

$$W_b(\beta_1, \dots) = W_a(\alpha_1, \dots)$$

$$\text{with } (\beta_1, \dots)^T = U(\alpha_1, \dots)^T$$

W(0) does not depend on mode basis

"negativity" of W is intrinsic

- P function values:

"non-classicality" is intrinsic

the number of excited modes is **depends on the mode basis**
is there a minimum number of modes in which a state lives?

to count modes: use the **coherence matrix**

$$C_{coherence}^{i,j} = \langle \hat{a}_i^\dagger \hat{a}_j \rangle$$

two-mode case:

$$C_{coherence} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_1 \rangle & \langle \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_2 \rangle \\ \langle \hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_1 \rangle & \langle \hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_2 \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

the matrix can be diagonalized
by a **mode basis change**

for example, case of two non-zero eigenvalues

$$C_{complex} = \begin{bmatrix} N_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & N_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{p_1, p_2} A_{p_1, p_2} |p_1 : \mathbf{g}_1, p_2 : \mathbf{g}_2, 0 : \mathbf{g}_3\rangle \quad \text{intrinsic two-mode state}$$

the number of non-zero eigenvalues (rank) of covariance matrix
is the **minimum number of modes** needed
to describe the quantum state

the corresponding Hilbert space is the **smallest space**
in which the state is living

useful for example to make full tomography of the state

intrinsic single mode state

its coherence matrix has only one nonzero eigenvalue

there is a mode basis $\{\mathbf{g}_\ell\}$
in which it is single mode

$$|\Psi\rangle = \left(\sum A_{q_1} |q_1 : \mathbf{g}_1\rangle \right) \otimes |0 : \mathbf{g}_2\rangle \otimes |0 : \mathbf{g}_3\rangle \otimes \dots$$

example: the **single photon state**

defined as eigenstate of \hat{N}_{tot} with eigenvalue 1

$$|\Psi_1\rangle = \sum_n A_n |1 : \mathbf{f}_n\rangle$$

can be written: $|\Psi_1\rangle = |1 : \mathbf{g}_1\rangle \otimes |0, 0, \dots\rangle$

with
$$\mathbf{g}_1 = \sum_n A_n \mathbf{f}_n$$

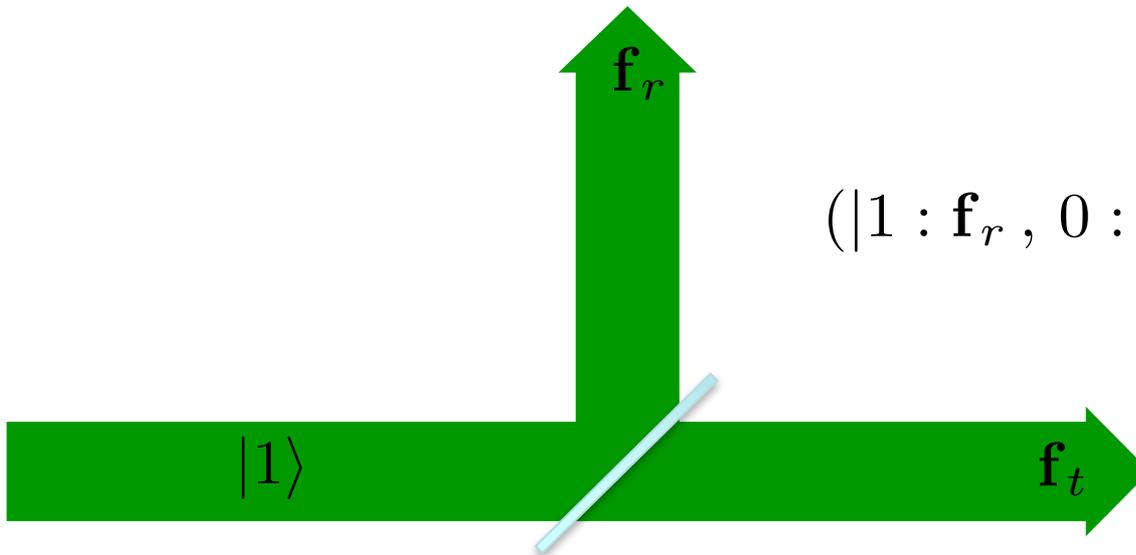
a single photon state is always a single mode state

a single photon state cannot be defined independently of the mode in which it is defined

its properties depend on this mode

example:

single photon through beamsplitter



$$(|1 : \mathbf{f}_r, 0 : \mathbf{f}_t\rangle + |0 : \mathbf{f}_r, 1 : \mathbf{f}_t\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$$

single photon in single mode $\mathbf{g}_1 = (\mathbf{f}_r + \mathbf{f}_t)/\sqrt{2}$

single mode states and optical coherence

in any single mode state :

$$|g^{(1)}| = 1$$

with

$$g^{(1)} = \frac{\langle E^{(-)}(\mathbf{r}, t) E^{(+)}(\mathbf{r}', t') \rangle}{(\langle E^{(-)}(\mathbf{r}, t) E^{(+)}(\mathbf{r}, t) \rangle \langle E^{(-)}(\mathbf{r}', t') E^{(+)}(\mathbf{r}', t') \rangle)^{1/2}}$$

**interferences are of perfect visibility
whatever the quantum state**

interference visibility: a **mode** property, not a **state** property

(R. Glauber)

Complete characterization
of multimode **Gaussian** states

the *coherence* matrix can be used to count modes on any quantum state, but gives partial information

in contrast **Gaussian states** are completely characterized by the **covariance matrix**

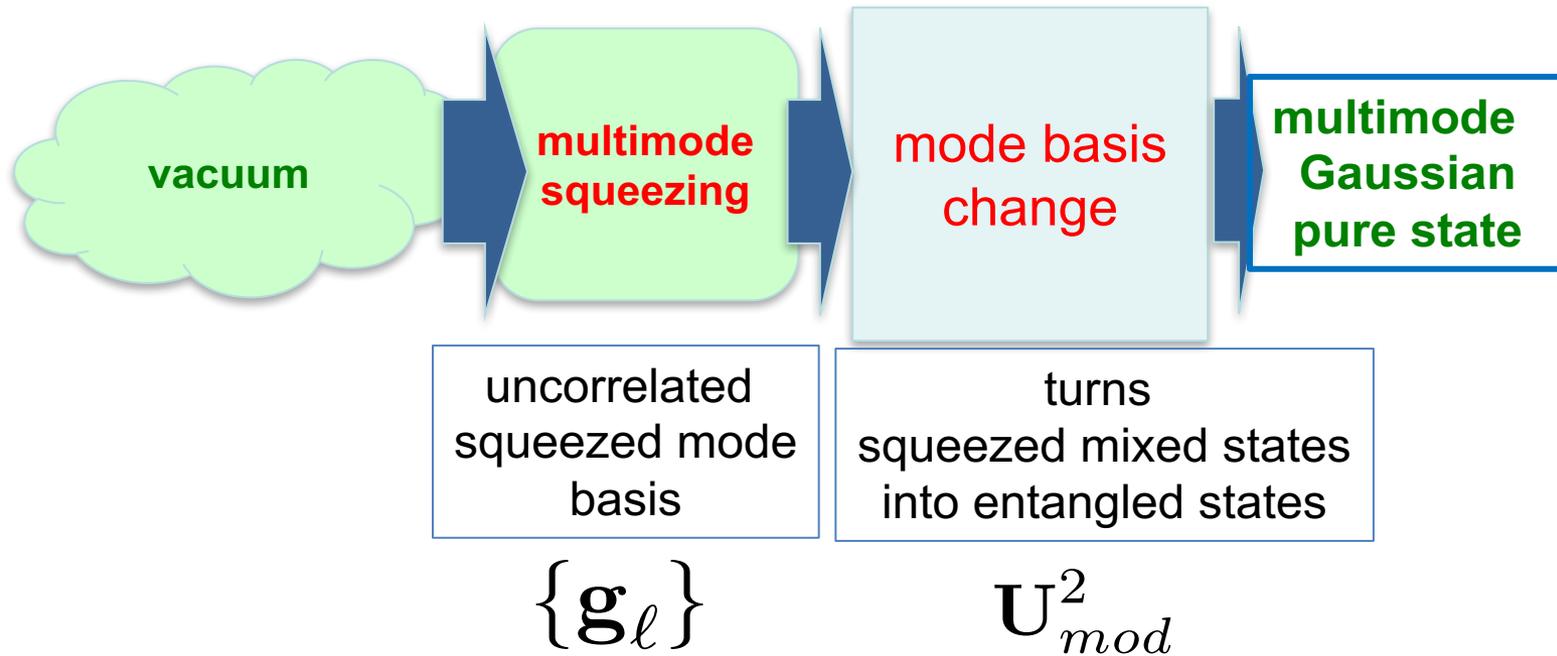
$$\left[\begin{array}{cccc} \Delta^2 E_{X1} & \langle E_{X1} E_{X2} \rangle & \langle E_{X1} E_{P1} \rangle & \langle E_{X1} E_{P2} \rangle \\ \langle E_{X2} E_{X1} \rangle & \Delta^2 E_{X2} & \langle E_{X2} E_{P1} \rangle & \langle E_{X2} E_{P2} \rangle \\ \langle E_{P1} E_{X1} \rangle & \langle E_{P1} E_{X2} \rangle & \Delta^2 E_{P1} & \langle E_{P1} E_{P2} \rangle \\ \langle E_{P2} E_{X1} \rangle & \langle E_{P2} E_{X2} \rangle & \langle E_{P2} E_{P1} \rangle & \Delta^2 E_{P2} \end{array} \right]$$

of dimension $(2N_{modes}) \times (2N_{modes})$

it can be diagonalized, but the corresponding linear transformation is **not a mode basis change**

characterization of a multimode Gaussian quantum state:

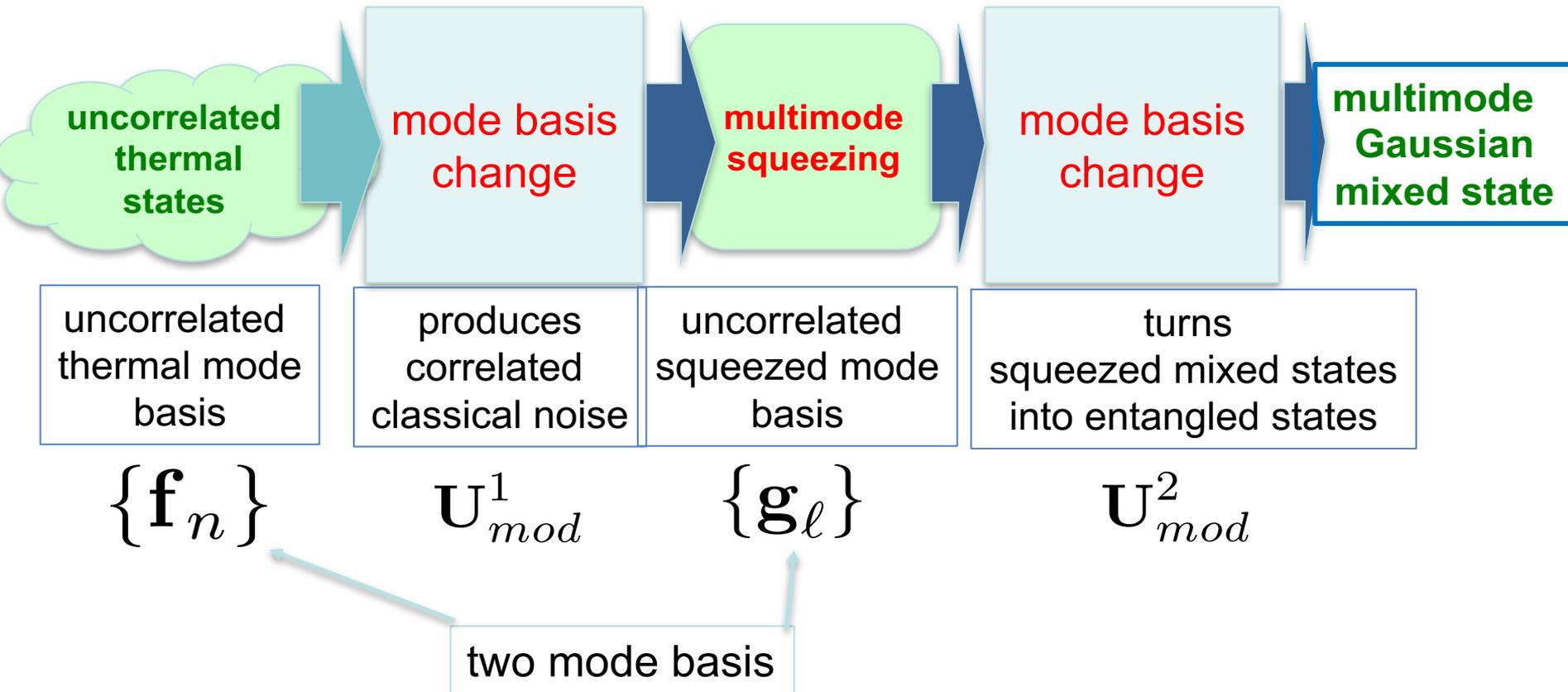
for a pure state:



Bloch Messiah (or Singular Value) decomposition

characterization of a multimode Gaussian quantum state:

for a mixed state:



Bloch Messiah Williamson reduction

characterization of a multimode Gaussian quantum state:

- all **pure** multimode Gaussian states are **factorizable**
there is a mode basis in which:

$$W(x_1, p_1, \dots, x_n, p_n) = W_1(x_1, p_1) \times \dots \times W_n(x_n, p_n)$$

- all **mixed** multimode Gaussian states are **separable**
there is a mode basis in which

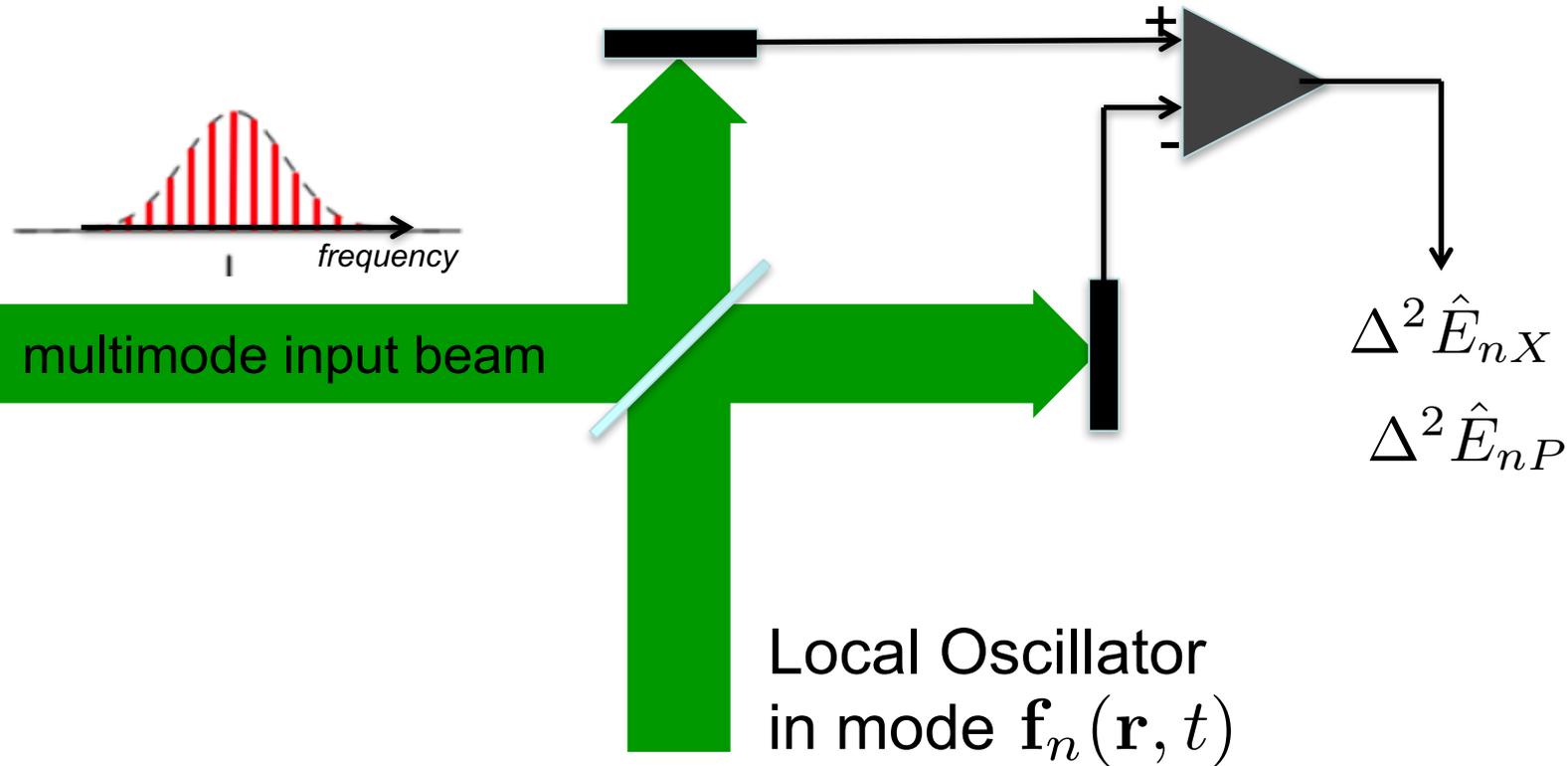
$$W(x_1, p_1, \dots, x_n, p_n) = \int d\lambda p(\lambda) W_{1,\lambda}(x_1, p_1) \times \dots \times W_{n,\lambda}(x_n, p_n)$$

there are **no intrinsically entangled** Gaussian states

*How to measure the
quadrature covariance matrix?*

How to measure the covariance matrix?

balanced homodyne detection gives information about the **projection** of the multimode state on the local oscillator mode

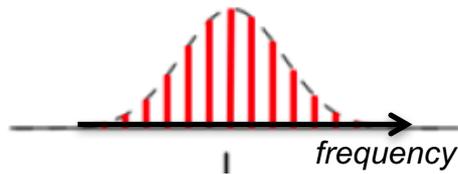


➔ make a series of homodyne measurements using a set of orthogonal modes $\mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$

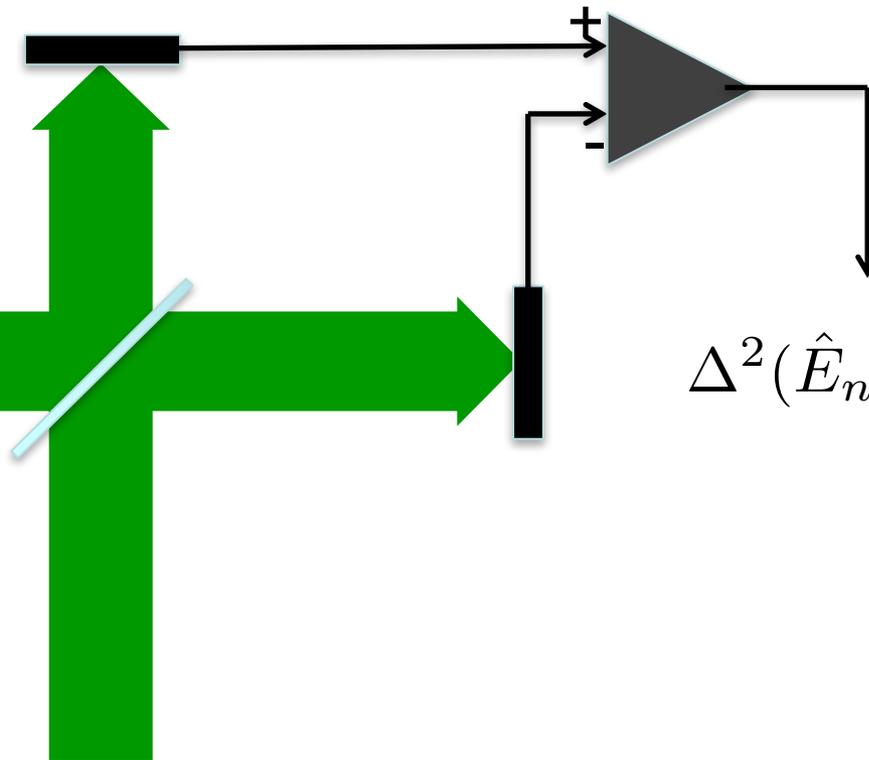
How to measure the off-diagonal part of the covariance matrix?

make homodyne measurements
using **the sum of two modes**

$$\langle \hat{E}_{nX} \hat{E}_{n'X} \rangle = (\Delta^2(\hat{E}_{nX} + \hat{E}_{n'X}) - \Delta^2 \hat{E}_{nX} - \Delta^2 \hat{E}_{n'X})/2$$



multimode input beam



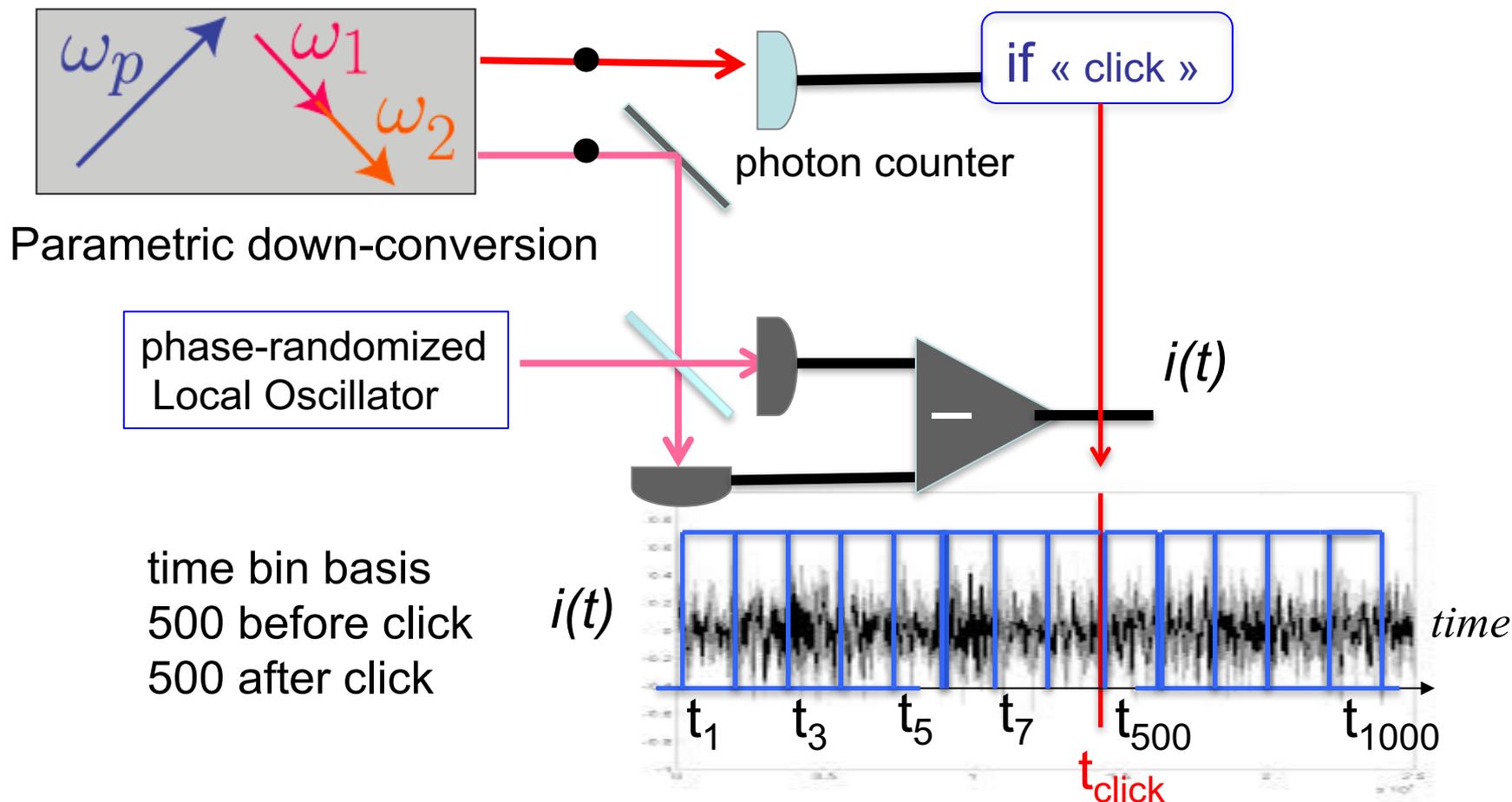
$$\Delta^2(\hat{E}_{n,X} + \hat{E}_{n'X})$$

Local Oscillator
in mode $\mathbf{f}_n + \mathbf{f}_{n'}$

*experimental determination of the
mode of an intrinsic single photon*

determination of the coherence matrix of a heralded single photon

O. Morin, C. Fabre, J. Laurat PRL **111**, 213602 (2013)



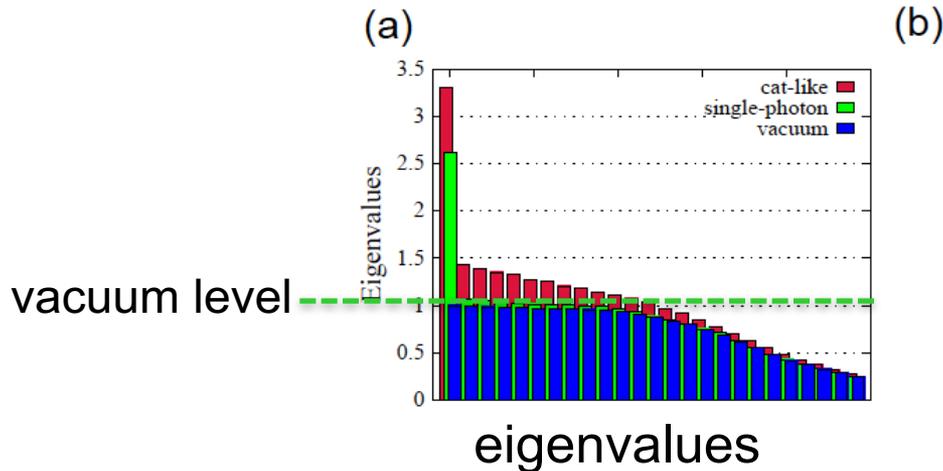
A. Mc Rae et al PRL **109**, 033601 (2012)

one gets a 1000×1000 matrix :

averaged over
a great number of clicks

$$C_{n,n'}^{exp} = \overline{i(t_n)i(t_{n'})}$$
$$= 2C_{coherence} + 1$$

diagonalisation of C^{exp} :

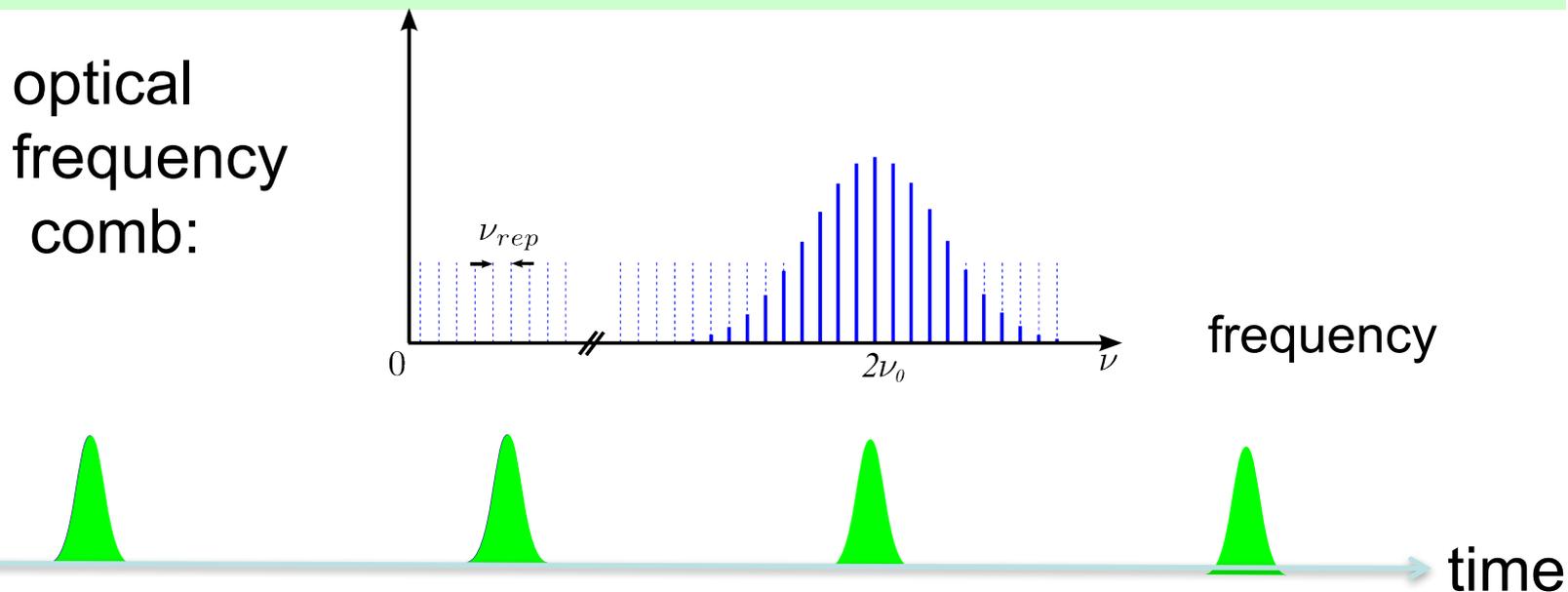


only one eigenvalue different from vacuum fluctuations
the generated state is indeed single mode

the corresponding eigenstate gives the
shape of the temporal mode of the single photon

*Characterization
of a highly multimode
Gaussian non-classical state*

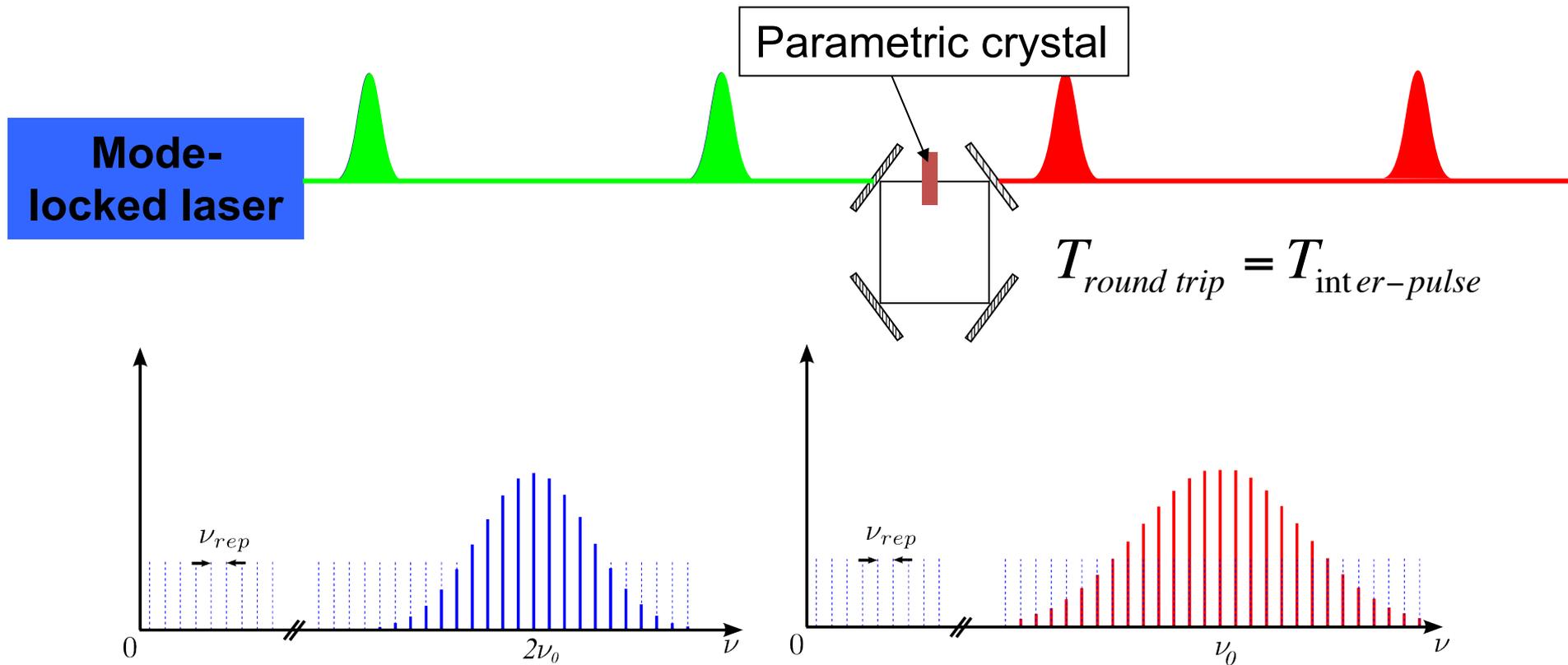
A multi-frequency-mode light: the frequency comb generated by a mode-locked laser



Frequency modes of a mode-locked laser: **about 100.000**

a quantum frequency comb ?

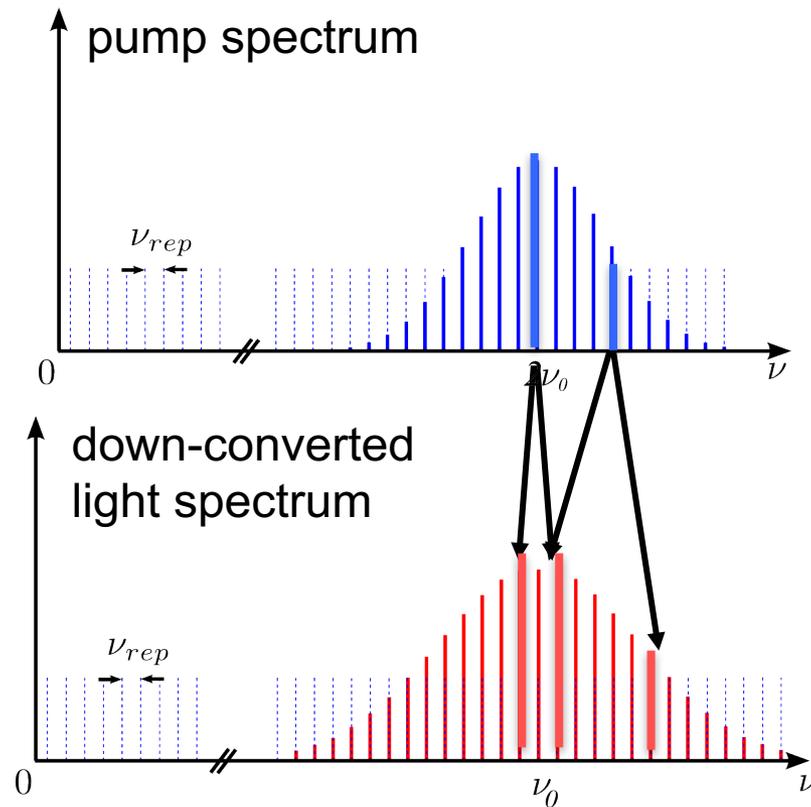
generation by parametric down conversion
of a mode-locked laser



the 10^5 frequency modes : are they entangled ?

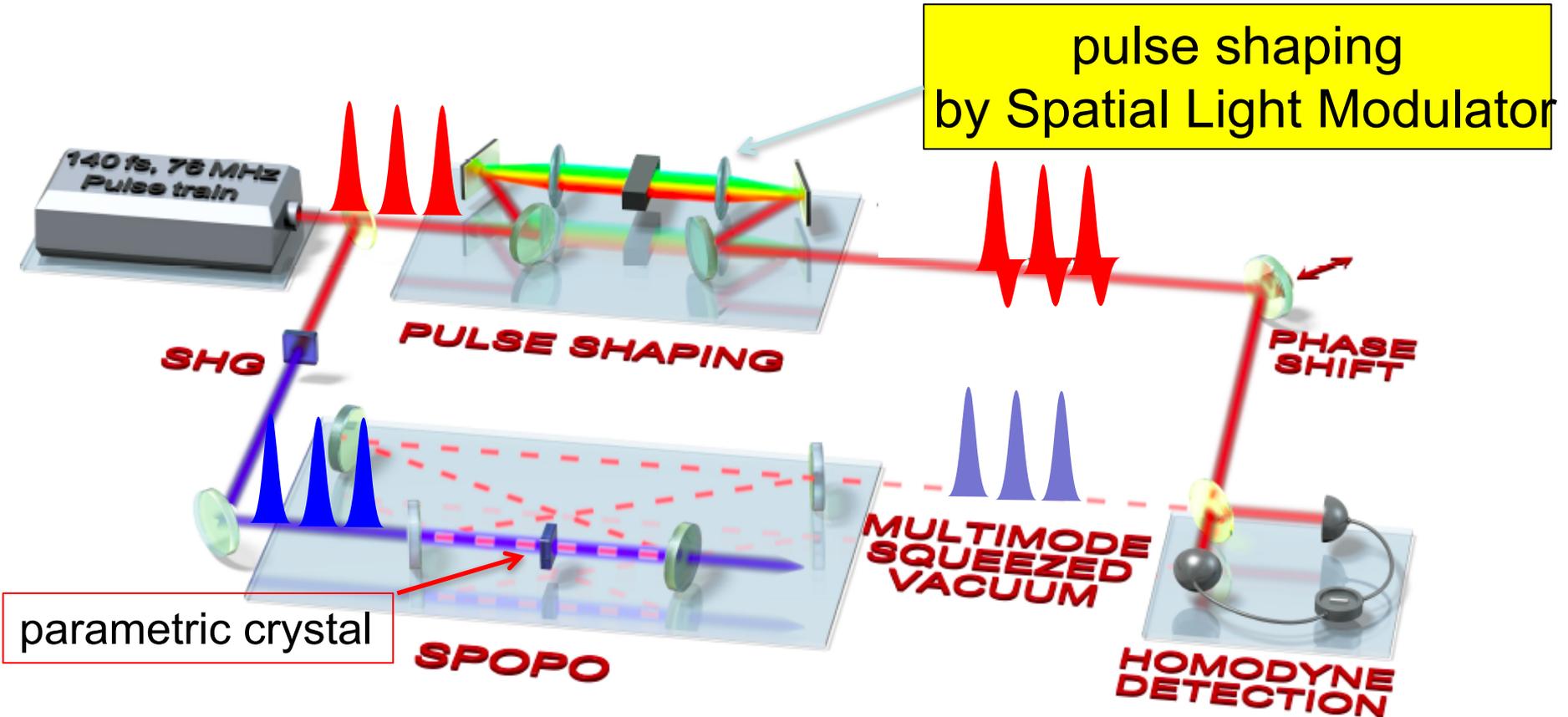
Generation of a multimode quantum state from multimode pump

parametric down conversion of a monochromatic pump
gives rise to EPR entangled signal and idler beams



**all couples of frequencies
modes should be entangled !**

Experimental set-up



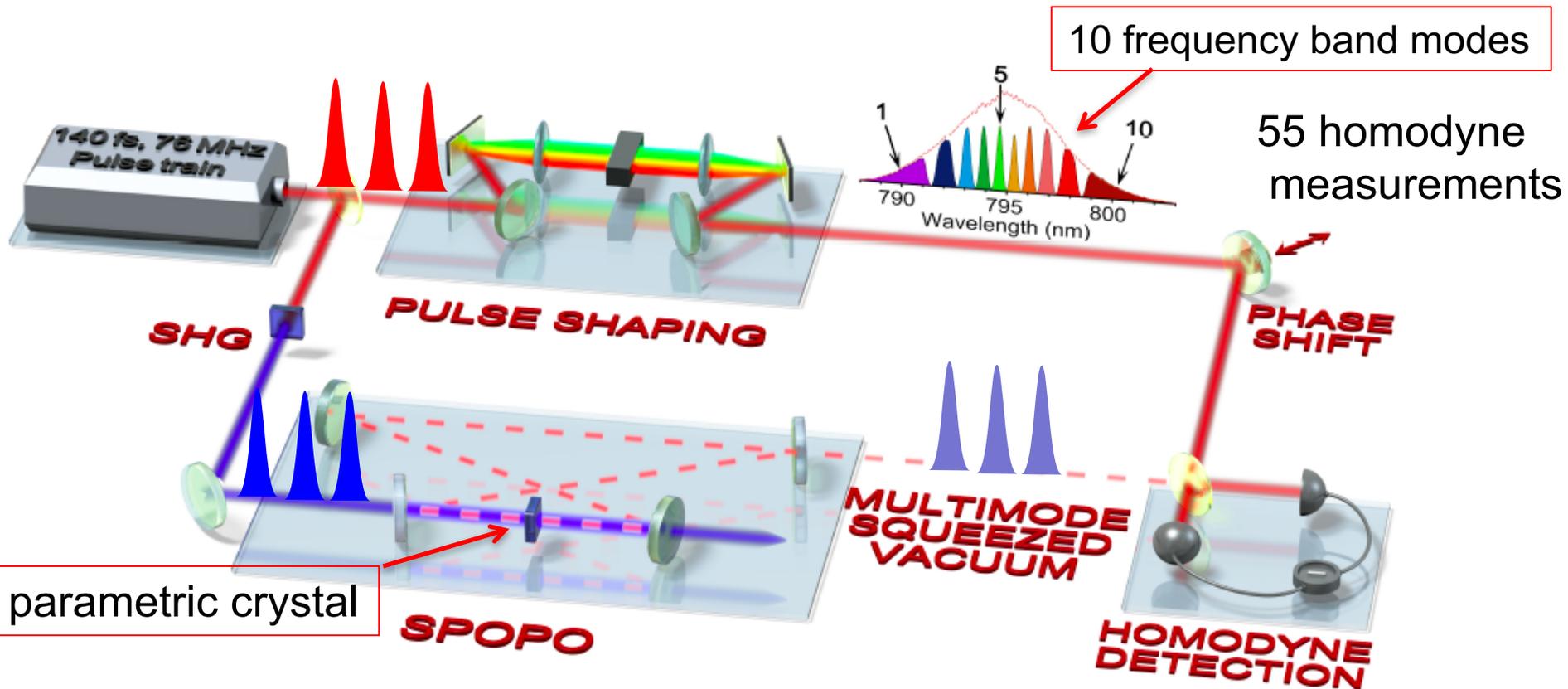
O. Pinel et al, Phys. Rev. Letters **108**, 083601 (2012)

J. Roslund et al, Nature Photonics, **8**, 109 (2014)

R. Medeiros de Araujo et al, Phys Rev A **89**, 053828 (2014)

Yan Cai et al, Nature Com **8**, 15645 (2017)

Experimental set-up



experimental value of the 20 by 20 covariance matrix

x quadratures

p quadratures

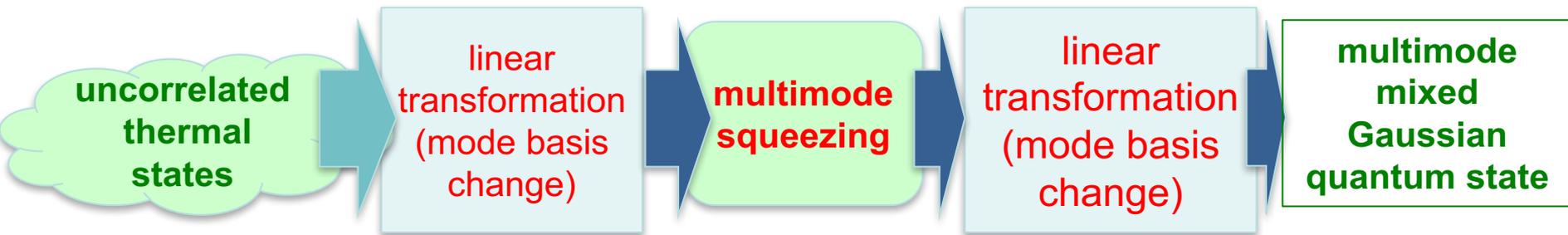
```
( 1.66  0.25  0.09  0.08 -0.03 -0.05 -0.08 -0.11 -0.42 -1.23 )  
( 0.25  1.33  0.19  0.15  0.06 -0.06 -0.17 -0.33 -0.59 -0.51 )  
( 0.09  0.19  1.22  0.07 -0.01 -0.08 -0.21 -0.34 -0.44 -0.20 )  
( 0.08  0.15  0.07  1.08 -0.02 -0.12 -0.21 -0.24 -0.25 -0.07 )  
( -0.03  0.06 -0.01 -0.02  0.92 -0.13 -0.14 -0.11 -0.09  0.01 )  
( -0.05 -0.06 -0.08 -0.12 -0.13  0.89 -0.07  0.02  0.02  0.04 )  
( -0.08 -0.17 -0.21 -0.21 -0.14 -0.07  1.02  0.12  0.10  0.20 )  
( -0.11 -0.33 -0.34 -0.24 -0.11  0.02  0.12  1.14  0.29  0.22 )  
( -0.42 -0.59 -0.44 -0.25 -0.09  0.02  0.10  0.29  1.36  0.40 )  
( -1.23 -0.51 -0.20 -0.07  0.01  0.04  0.20  0.22  0.40  1.88 )
```

[0]

[0]

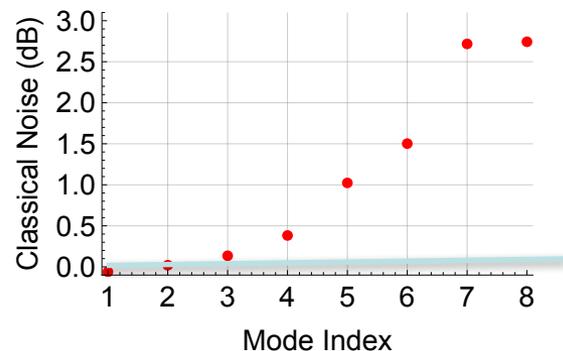
```
( 1.66  0.25  0.09 -0.02  0.04  0.00  0.01  0.09  0.39  1.19 )  
( 0.25  1.33  0.19  0.05  0.13  0.12  0.14  0.28  0.50  0.53 )  
( 0.09  0.19  1.22  0.17  0.21  0.28  0.32  0.37  0.39  0.26 )  
( -0.02  0.05  0.17  1.31  0.35  0.38  0.37  0.33  0.26  0.12 )  
( 0.04  0.13  0.21  0.35  1.38  0.47  0.43  0.31  0.22  0.10 )  
( 0.00  0.12  0.28  0.38  0.47  1.42  0.42  0.30  0.19  0.10 )  
( 0.01  0.14  0.32  0.37  0.43  0.42  1.34  0.27  0.21  0.08 )  
( 0.09  0.28  0.37  0.33  0.31  0.30  0.27  1.30  0.22  0.15 )  
( 0.39  0.50  0.39  0.26  0.22  0.19  0.21  0.22  1.36  0.40 )  
( 1.19  0.53  0.26  0.12  0.10  0.10  0.08  0.15  0.40  1.88 )
```

characterization of the multimode state by Williamson Bloch Messiah reduction



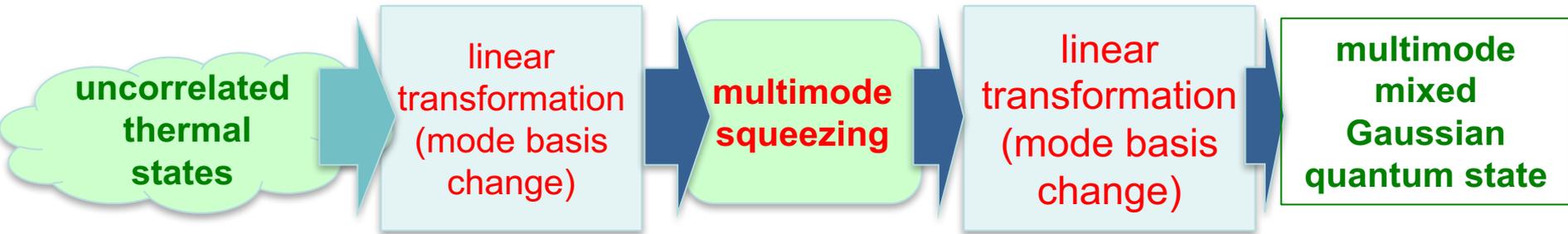
Determinant of covariance matrix gives purity: $\text{Tr}\rho^2 = 0.14$

excess noise of
input thermal
modes:

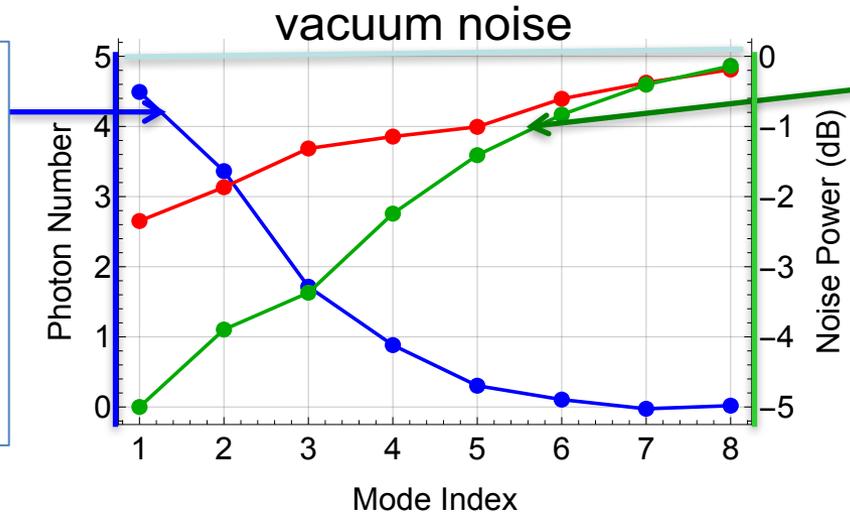


vacuum noise

characterization of the multimode state by Williamson Bloch Messiah reduction

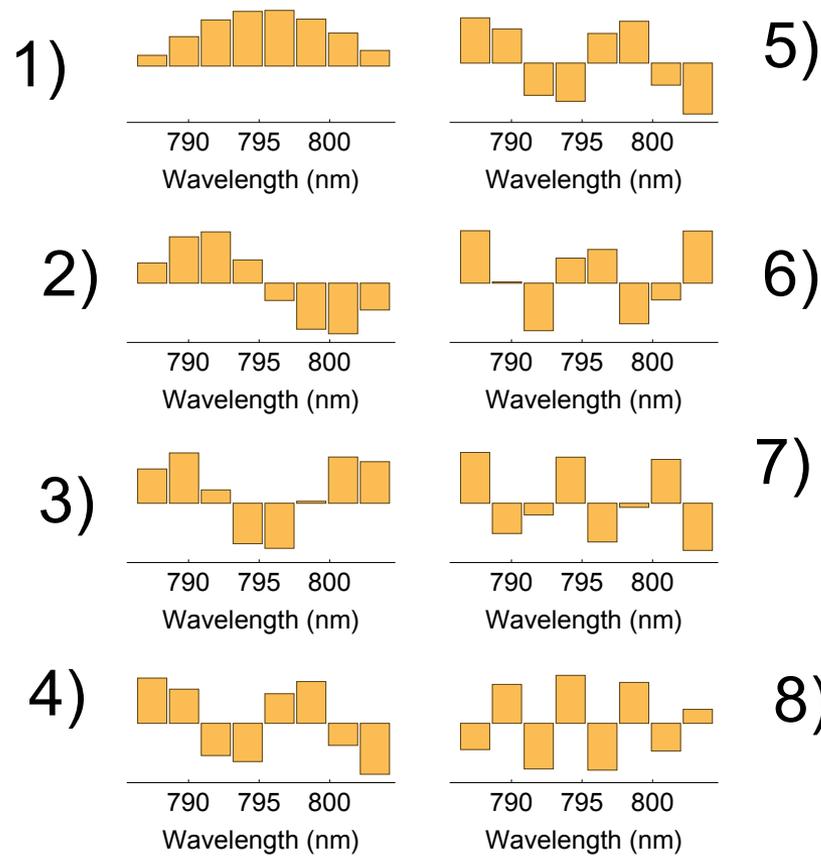


mean photon number in each eigenmode of the coherence matrix

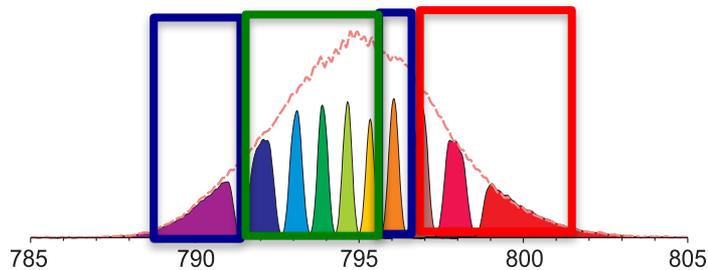


squeezing in the different modes

frequency shape of the squeezed eigenmodes



multi-partite entanglement

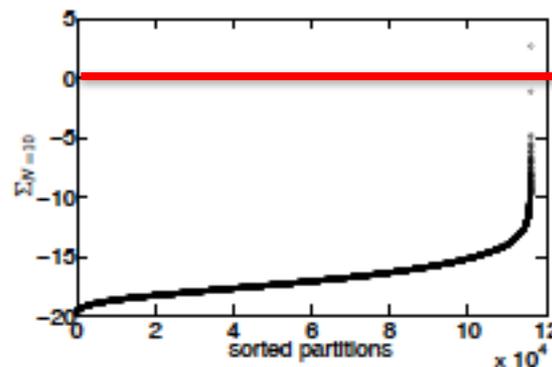


115 974
possible multipartitions
with 10 bands

multipartite optimal entanglement witnesses from
covariance matrix:

J. Sperling and W. Vogel, Phys. Rev. Lett. **111**, 110503 (2013).

S. Gerke, J. Sperling,
W. Vogel, Y. Cai,
J. Roslund,
N. Treps, C. Fabre,
Phys. Rev. Letters
114, 050501 (2015)



limit of
multi-entanglement

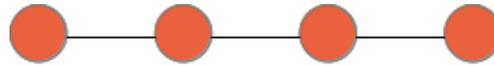
FIG. 3. The verified entanglement for all 115974 nontrivial partitions – sorted by significance Σ – for the 10-mode frequency-comb Gaussian state.

all 115 974 multipartitions are entangled !

*Application to measurement-based
quantum computing*

Measurement Based Quantum Computing

Briegel et al



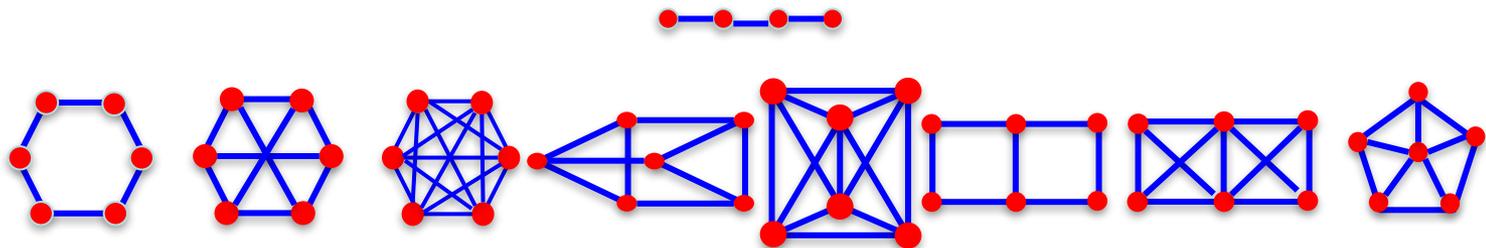
Starting element : the **cluster state**,
An entangled quantum state spanning on several « **nodes** »

Nodes can be **light modes**

(Furusawa, Van Loock, Menicucci, Pfister, ...)

New possibilities offered by manipulation of modes,
much simpler than manipulation of qubits in different ions
more easily scalable to many nodes

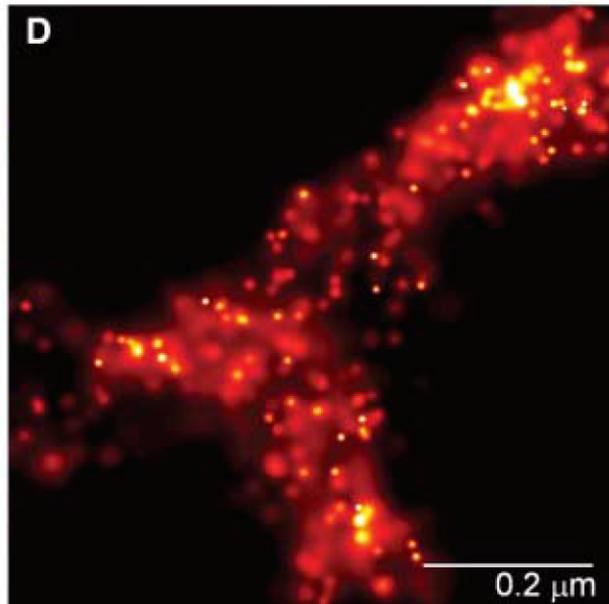
SPOPO: no manipulation of experimental set-up needed



*Mode optimization
to reduce quantum limits in
parameter estimation*

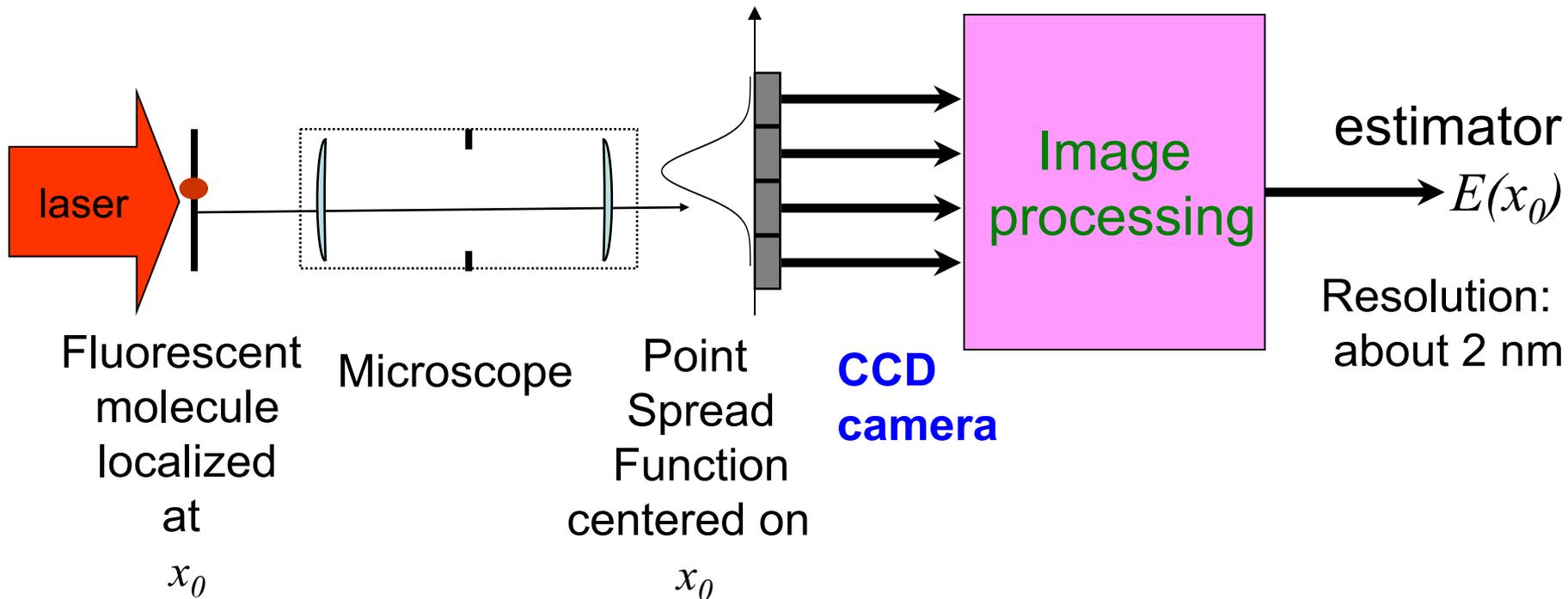
Very sensitive optical measurements:

- Interferometry: estimation of phase shift
- Ranging : estimation of time delay
- Imaging : estimation of **transverse position** x_0, y_0 of point-like sources
- ...



Imaging Intracellular Fluorescent
Proteins at Nanometer Resolution
E. Betzig et al Science **313** 1642 (2006)

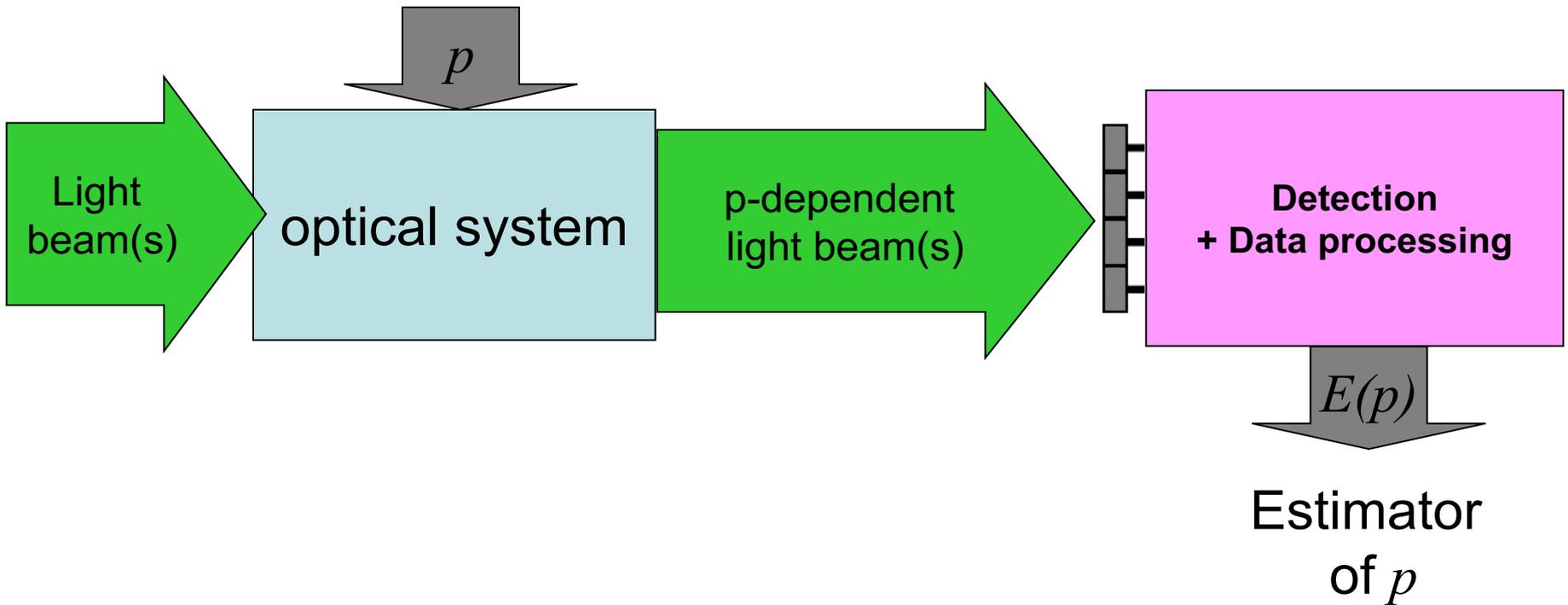
Strategy of measurement:



total image recorded by **CCD camera** :
the information needed for the estimation of x_0
is **distributed over many pixels**

data processing is necessary to extract the estimator

General scheme for estimating a parameter p
using information carried by light



What is the smallest measurable variation of p around value p_0 ,
for a given mean photon number ?

Quantum Cramer Rao Bound

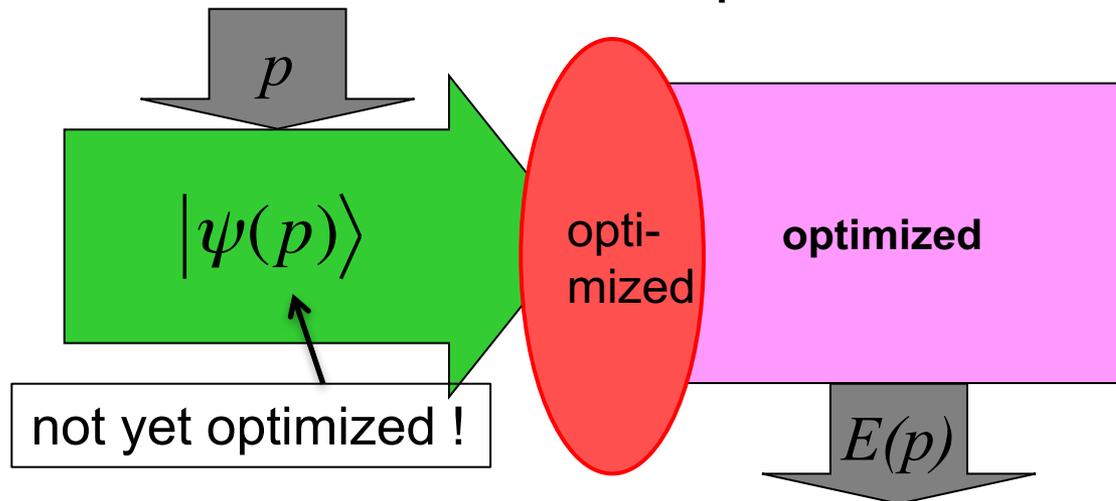
Gives the minimum variance of the estimator

the bound is valid

**independently of the detection device used
and of the precise strategy** used in data processing

It depends only

on the characteristics of the quantum state of light



choice of light state $|\psi(p)\rangle$?

best choice for an experimentalist in Quantum Optics:

- large mean photon number N

quantum limits scale as $1/N^x$

- multimode state

more adapted to a multiplexed measurement

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}^+(\mathbf{r}, t) = \sum_n E_0 \hat{a}_n \mathbf{f}_n(\mathbf{r}, t)$$

QUANTUM

OPTICS

choice of multimode quantum state

choice of mode shape

our choice : the multimode Gaussian pure state

choice left for :

- the number of modes,
- the spatio-temporal shape of modes
- the Gaussian quantum state of light

includes a **wide class of non-classical states**

- single and multimode squeezed states
- Einstein Podolsky Rosen (EPR) state
- multipartite quadrature entangled state
- + coherent state

$$\langle N \rangle \approx 10^{15}$$

excludes states which are « more quantum »,
but not scalable to very large N value

Useful mode 1: the « mean field mode »

$$u_{mean}(x, y, t, p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \langle \psi(p, t) | \hat{E}^{(+)}(x, y) | \psi(p, t) \rangle$$

contains the spatio-temporal dependence of the mean field.

Useful mode 2: the « detection mode »

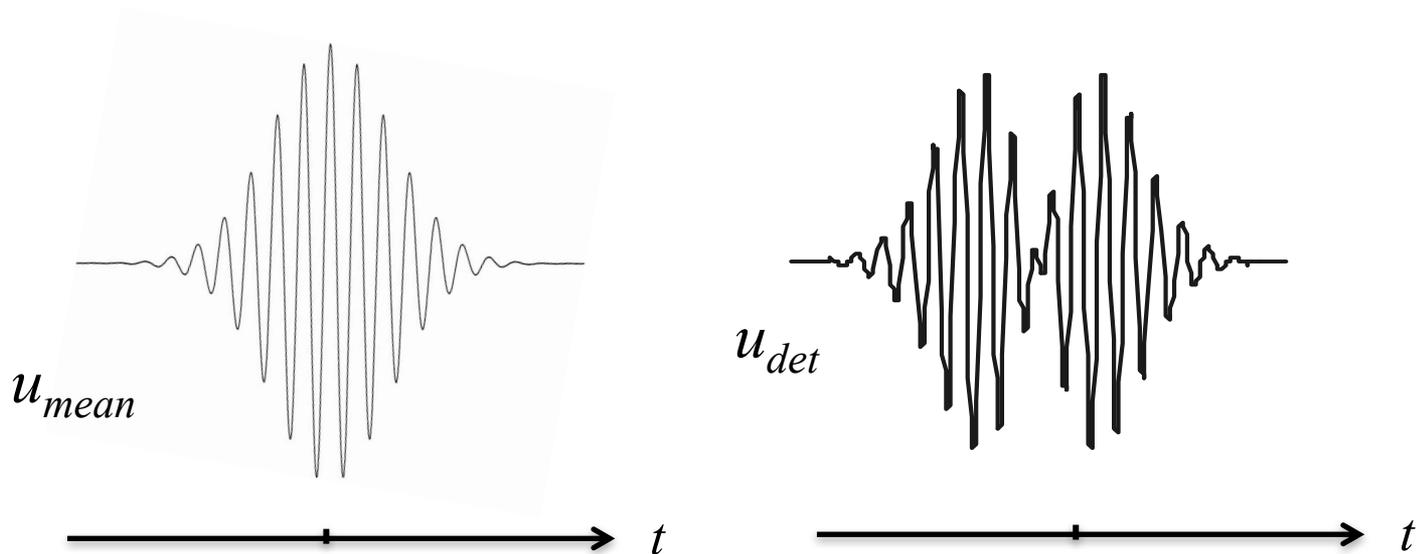
$$u_{det}(x, y, t) = p_c \left. \frac{\partial u_{mean}}{\partial p} \right|_{p=p_0}$$

normalizing factor



Laser ranging

delay in the arrival of a light pulse



Quantum Cramer Rao bound for Gaussian pure states

p-sensitivity

expression in the high N limit:

$$\Delta p_{QCRb} = \frac{p_c}{2\sqrt{N}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{(\Gamma^{-1})_{11}}}$$

« shot noise »

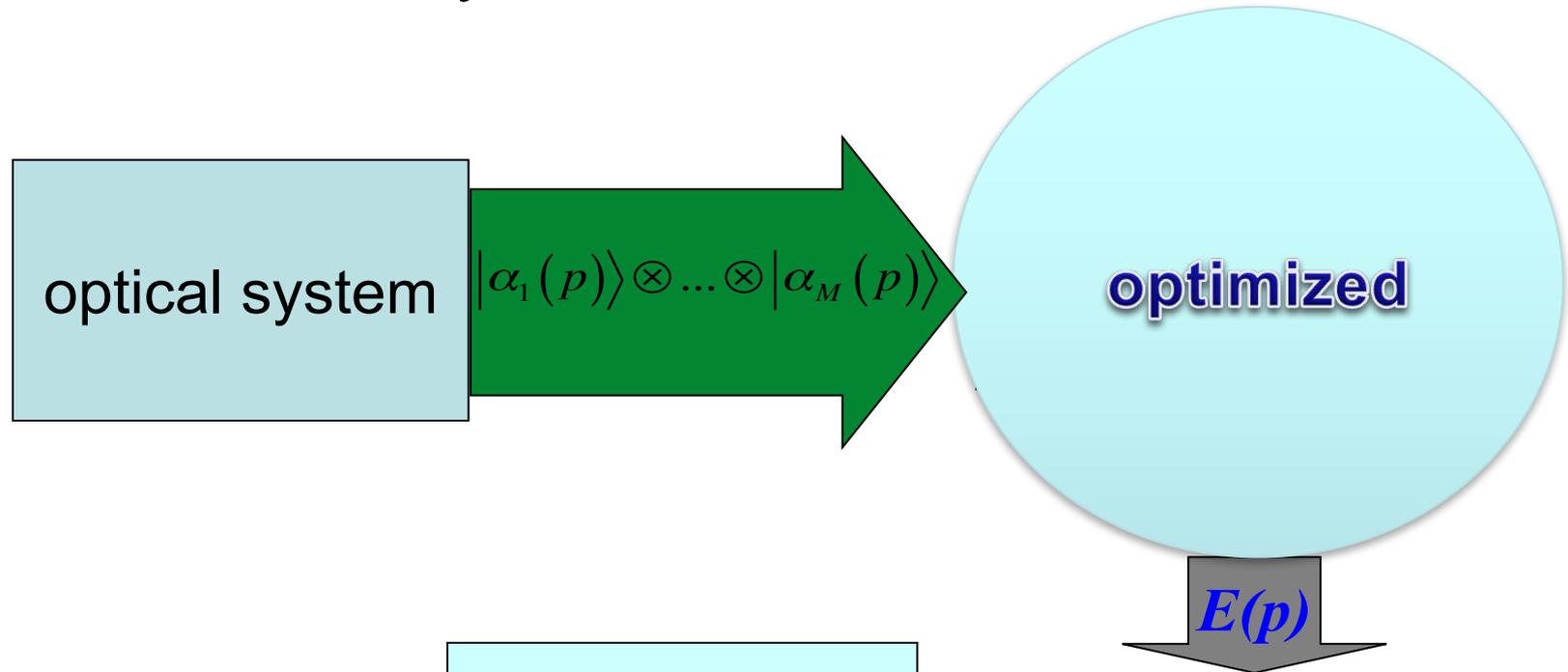
noise term

Diagonal element of the inverse covariance matrix in the **detection mode** u_{det}

value independent of the fluctuations of all other modes

Standard Quantum Cramer Rao bound

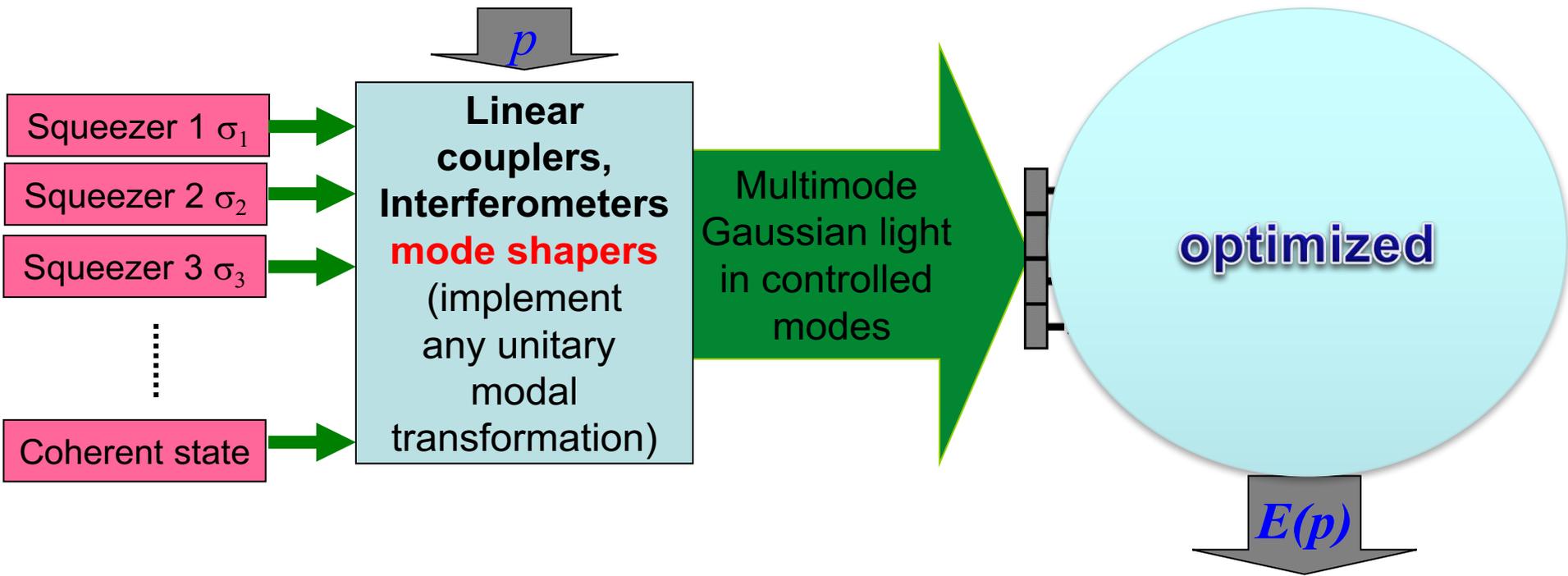
When only coherent states are used



$$\Delta p_{SCRb} = \frac{p_c}{2\sqrt{N}}$$

optimized shot noise limit

Quantum Cramér Rao bound using several vacuum squeezed states



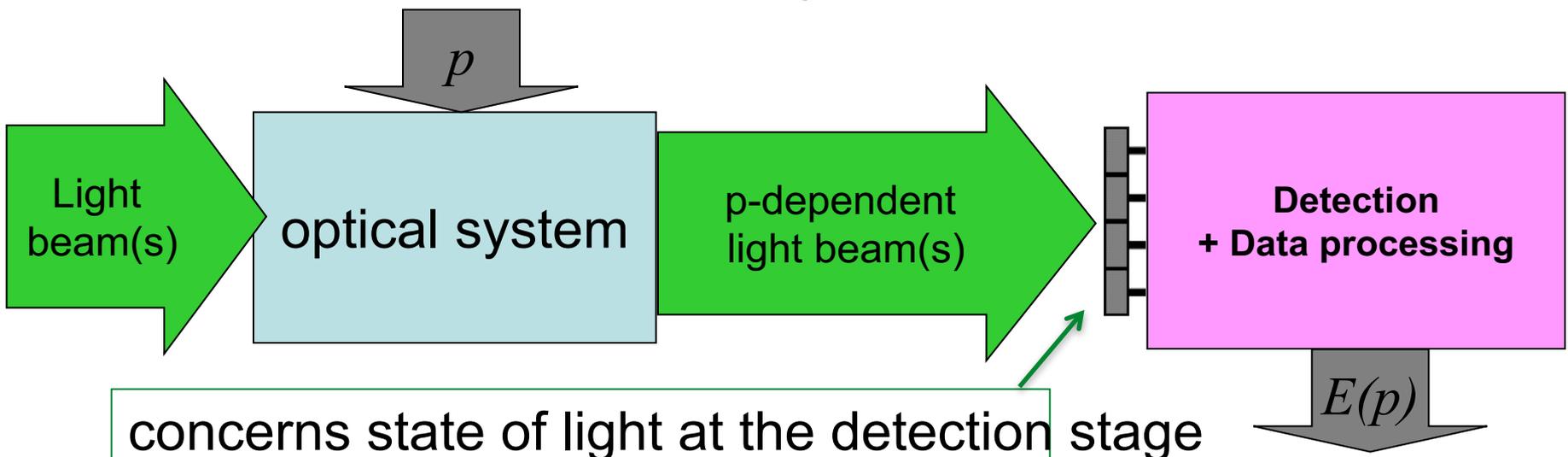
$$\Delta p_{CRb} = \frac{p_c}{2\sqrt{N}} \sqrt{\sigma_{\min}}$$

$$\sigma_{\min} = \text{Min}\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_s\}$$

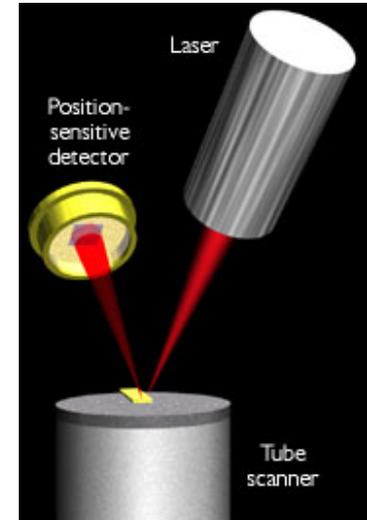
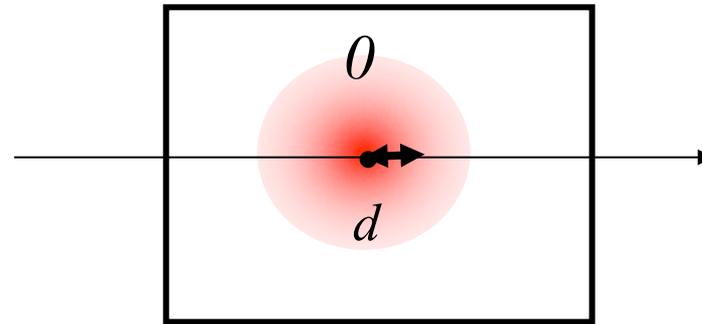
Conclusions for the experimentalist

To get the lowest possible Quantum Cramer Rao bound

- **Put maximum power in coherent mode**
- **Squeeze one mode only**
squeezing is not « additive »
- **Squeeze the right mode**
squeeze the detection mode
- **Do not entangle detection mode with other modes**
entangling modes actually reduces the squeezing



Example: beam displacement

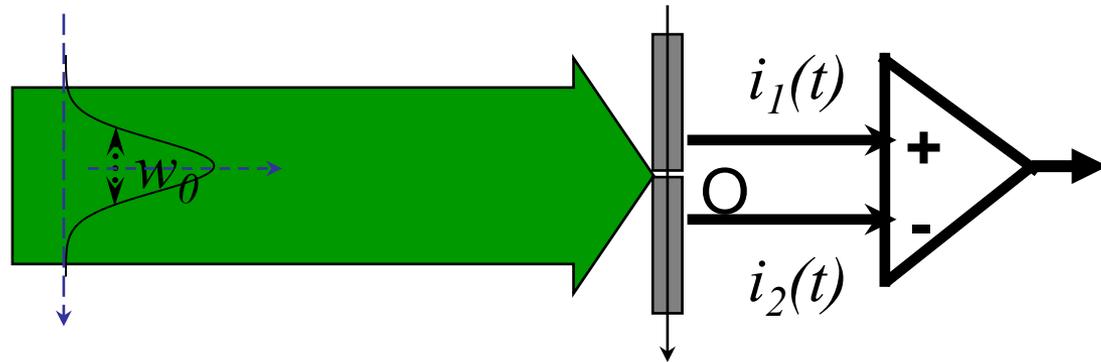


Quantum Cramer Rao bound for a coherent TEM₀₀ beam:



$$(\Delta p)_{S-CRb} = \frac{w_0}{2\sqrt{N}}$$

The usual technique: the split detector method



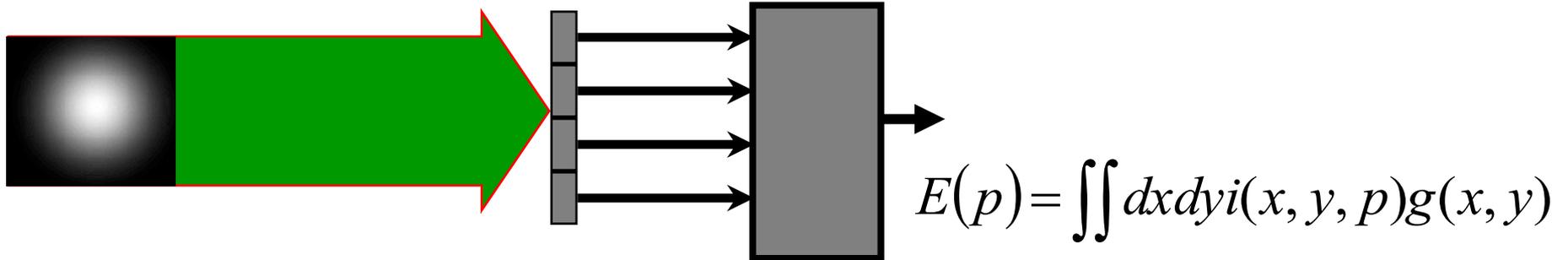
$$i_1(t) - i_2(t) = E(p)$$

quantum limit for a TEM₀₀ coherent beam:

$$\Delta p = \frac{\sqrt{8}}{\pi} \frac{w_0}{\sqrt{N}}$$

**The split detector method is not the optimal technique
(by 22%)**

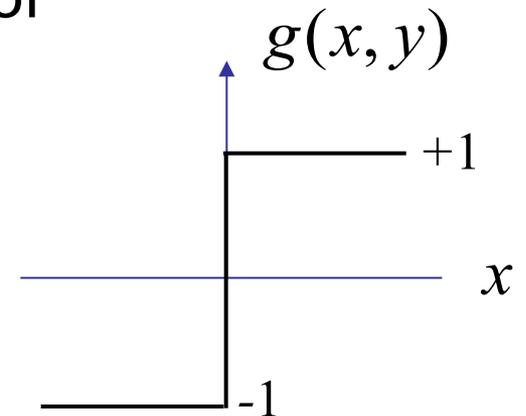
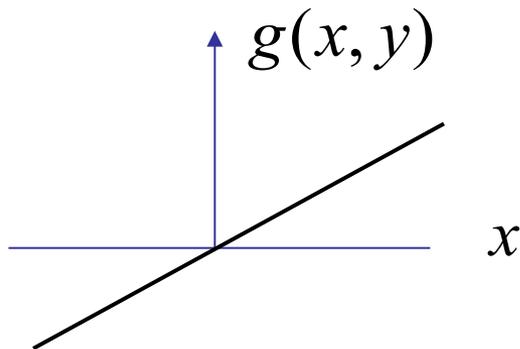
optimized technique n° 1



optimized choice of $g(x, y)$ for a TEM₀₀ beam:

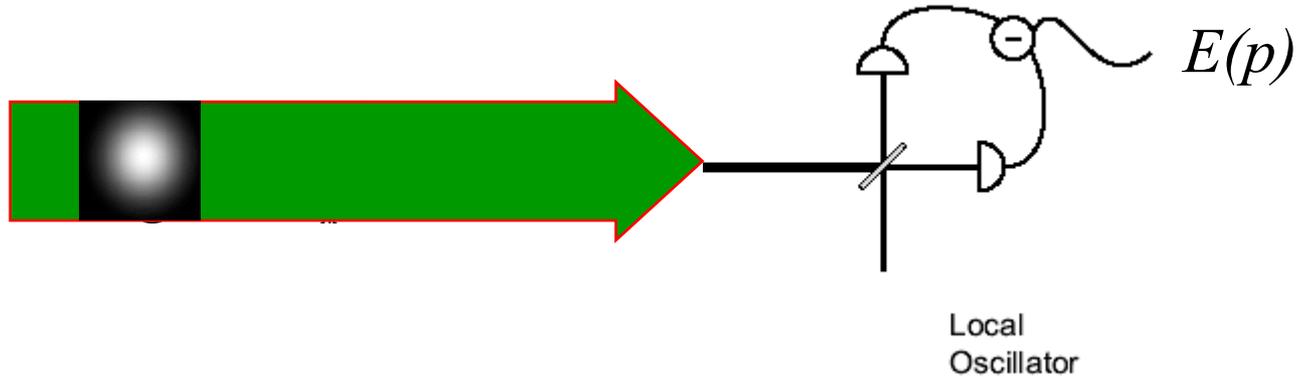
$$g(x, y) = x$$

instead of

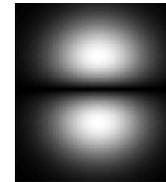


Standard Quantum Cramer Rao Bound reached

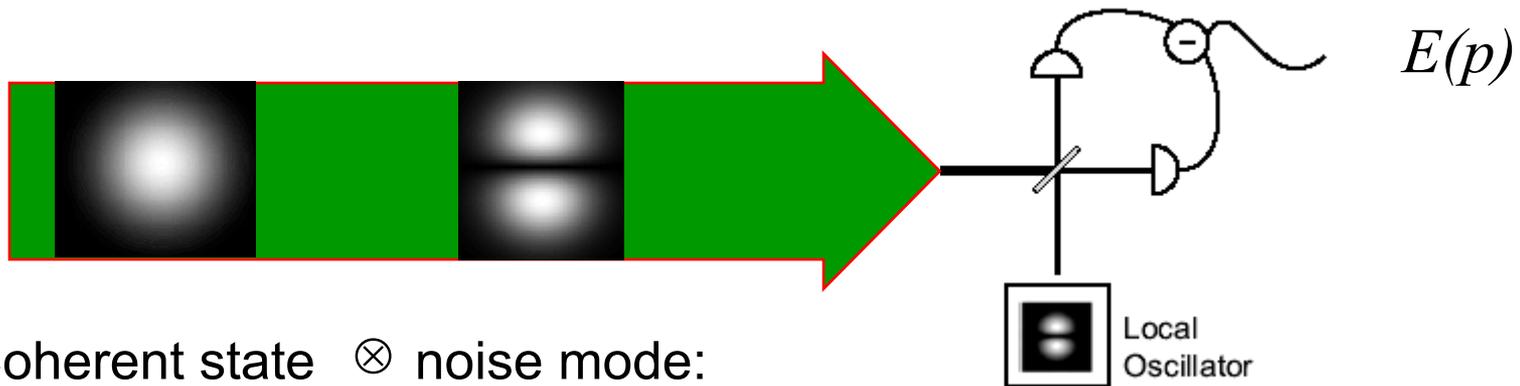
Optimized technique n° 2 : homodyne detection



Detection mode ? $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} TEM_{00} \propto TEM_{01}$

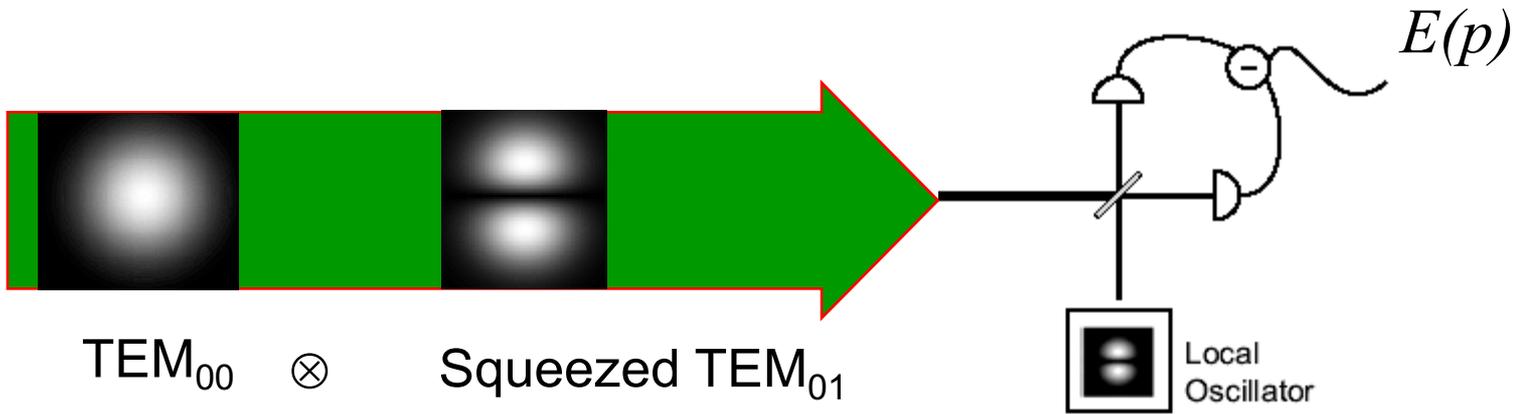


Beyond the standard quantum noise



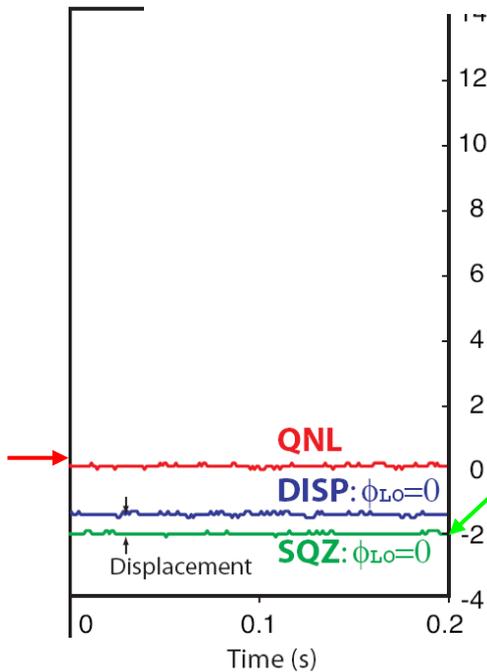
Coherent state \otimes noise mode:
 TEM_{10} in squeezed vacuum state

Experimental implementation



M. Lassen et al.
Phys. Rev Letters
98, 083602 (2007)

Standard
Cramer Rao
bound



Reduced noise floor
using squeezed TEM_{10}

Conclusion

considering not only the quantum state,
but the modes in which it exists, is a fruitful approach

mode basis change

-is rather easy to implement experimentally

-provides different points of view on the same quantum state

easy scalability

applications to quantum information processing
and quantum metrology

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