

Excitations and dynamics of fractional quantum Hall fluids of light (and of atoms)

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Why not hydrodynamics of light ?

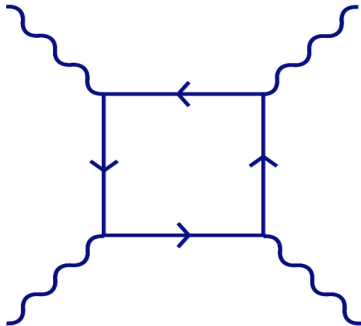
Light field/beam composed by a huge number of photons

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

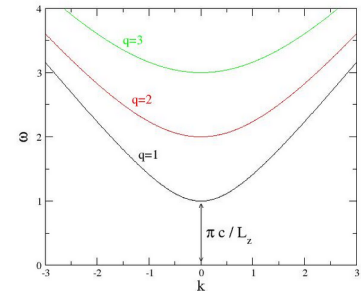
optics in vacuo typically dominated by single-particle physics

In suitable photonic structures:

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



Collective behaviour of *quantum fluid of light*

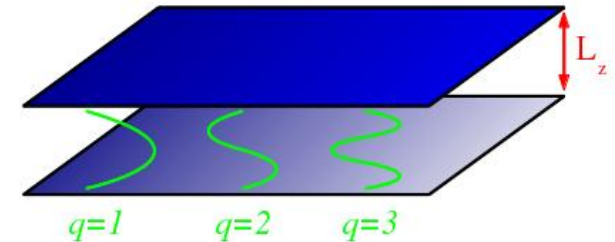


What about mass?

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

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

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

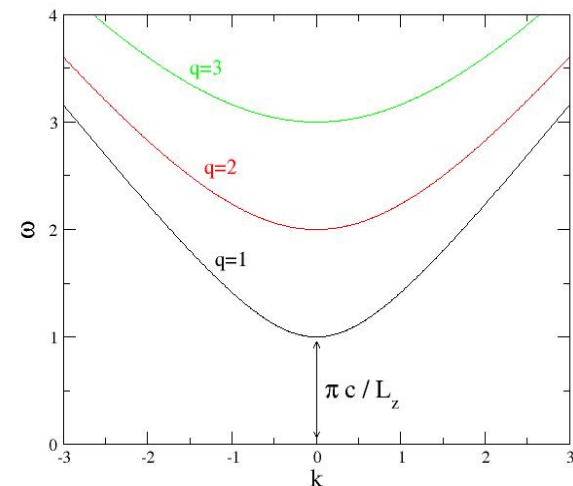


Massive dispersion along x,y :

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

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

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



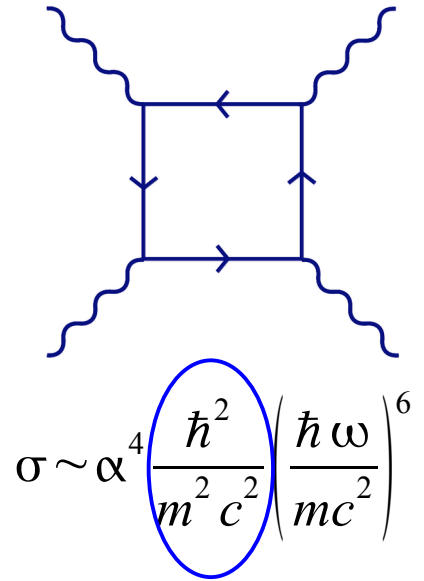
What about interactions?

Photon-photon interactions exist in QED:

Heisenberg-Euler processes via electron-positron exchange

... but cross section ridiculously small for visible light

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



Compton $\lambda \rightarrow$ pm range

How to enhance it ?

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

In optical language:

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

Modern exceptional media:

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

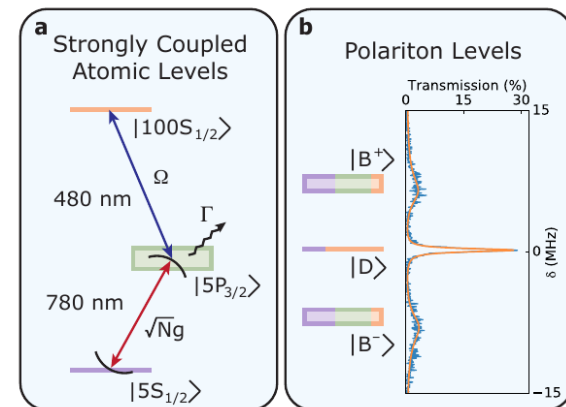


Figure: J. Simon's group @ U. Chicago

What about (orbital) magnetic effects ?

REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS, VOLUME 91, JANUARY–MARCH 2019

Topological photonics

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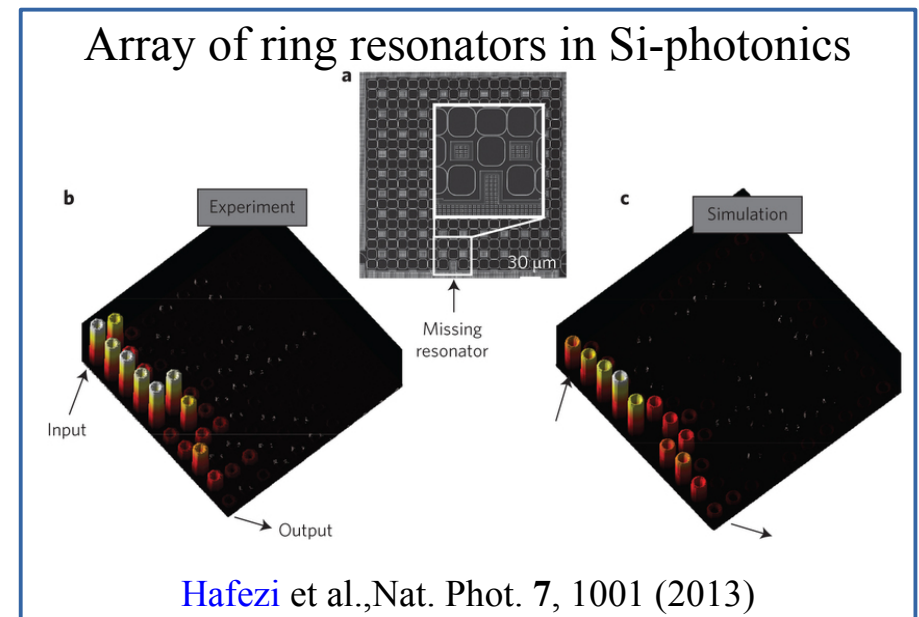
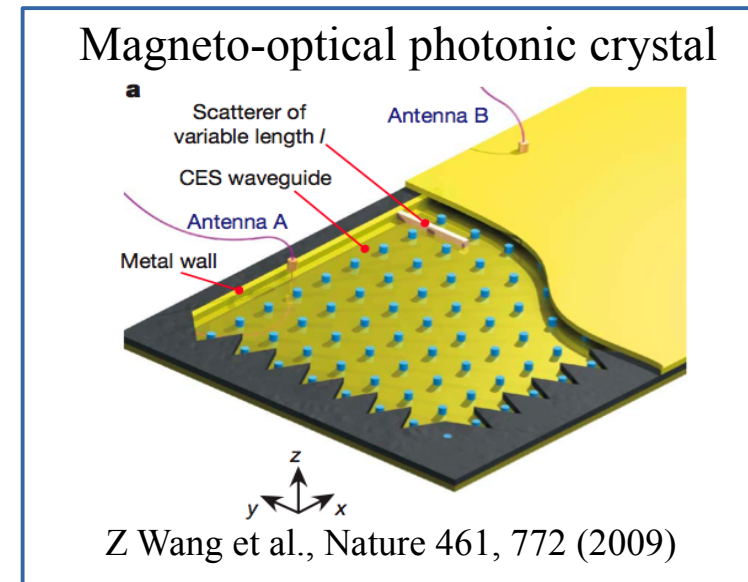
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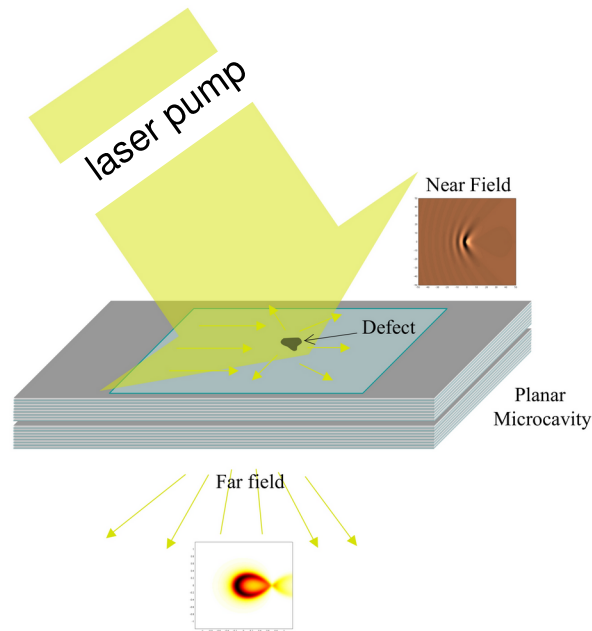
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 (published 25 March 2019)



Non-equilibrium: a bug or a feature ?



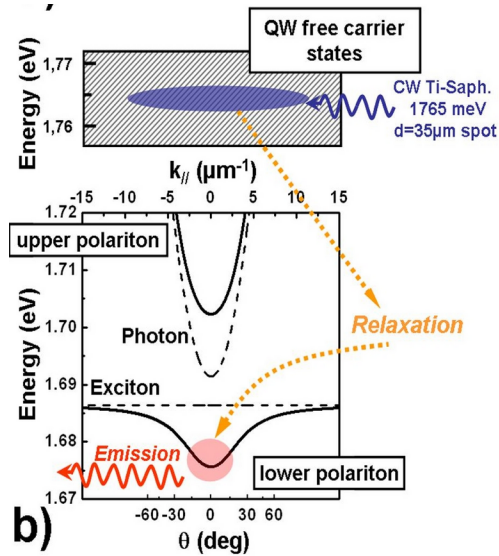
Pump needed to compensate losses: stationary state is **NOT** thermodynamical equilibrium

A variety of sophisticated pumping schemes available; no need for cooling

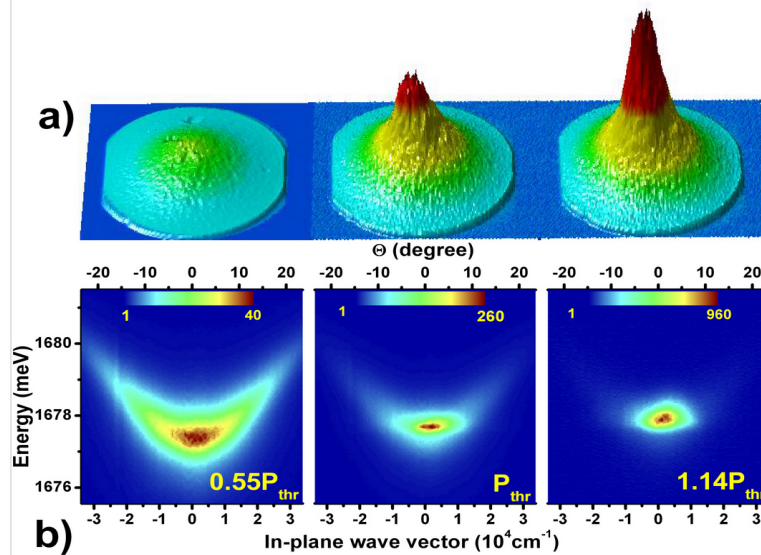
- Coherent laser pump: directly injects photon BEC in cavity, may lock BEC phase
- Incoherent (optical or electric) pump: BEC transition similar to laser threshold
spontaneous breaking of U(1) symmetry

Quantum correlations of in-plane field directly transfer to emitted radiation in real time

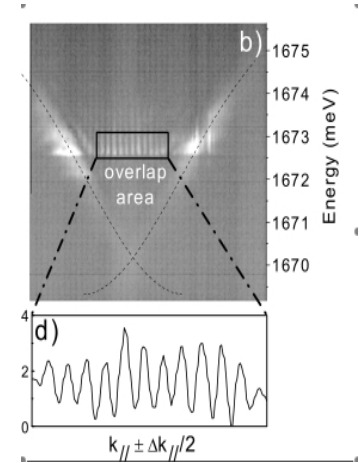
Milestone I: 2006 - Photon BEC



b) Figure from Kasprzak et al., Nature 2006



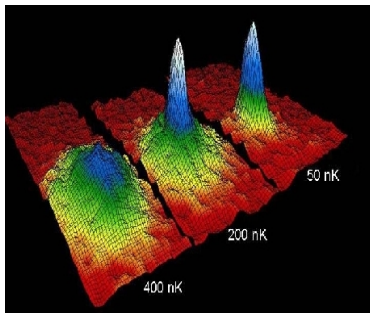
Momentum distribution
Kasprzak et al., Nature 443, 409 (2006)



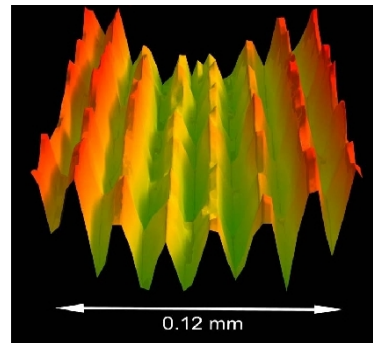
Interference

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

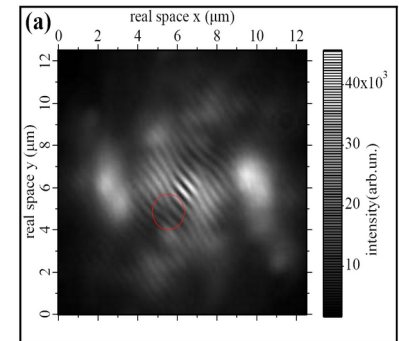
Many features very similar to atomic BEC



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

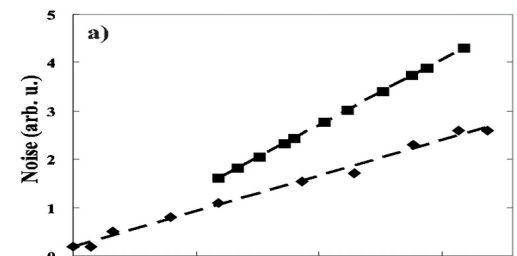


Interference pattern of two
expanding atomic BECs
M. R. Andrews, Science 275, 637 (1995)



Quantized vortices

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

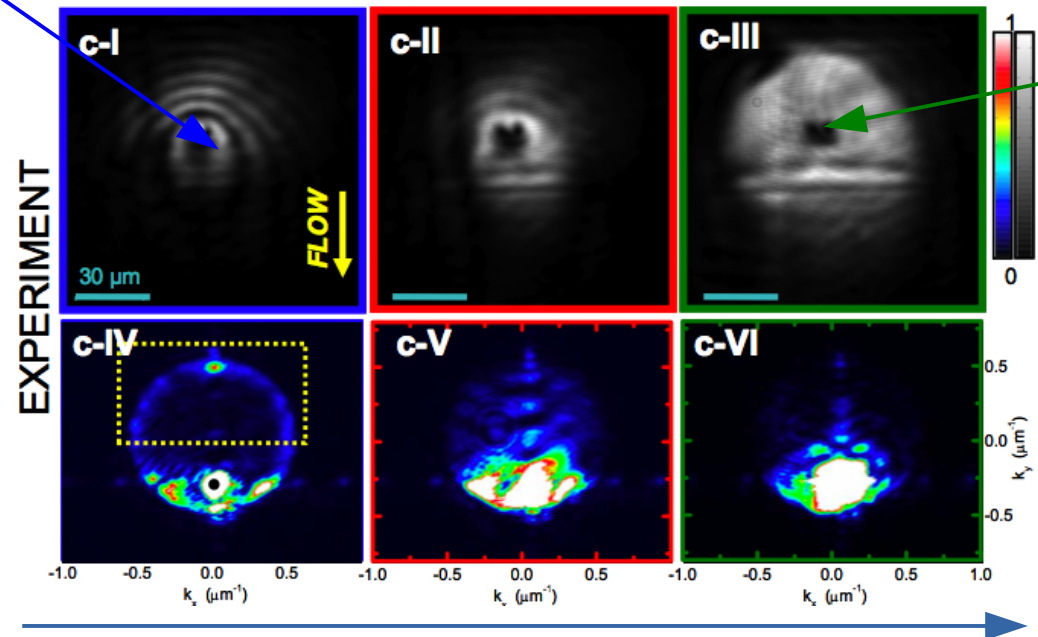
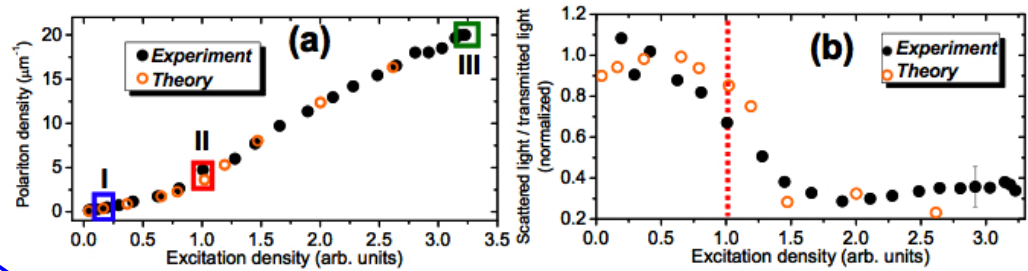


Suppressed fluctuations

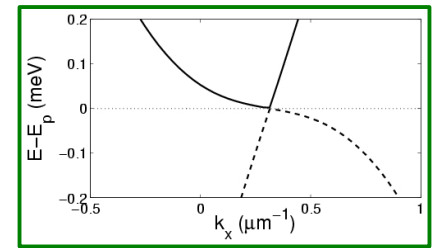
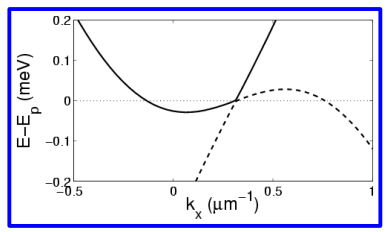
A. Baas et al., PRL 96, 176401 (2006)

Milestone II: 2008 - Superfluid light

scattering
on weak defect



superfluid flow



increase polariton density

Figure from LKB-P6 group:

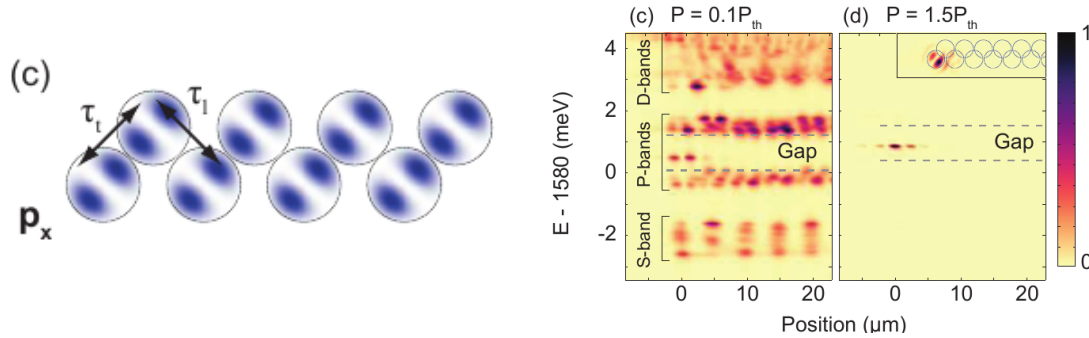
A.Amo, J. Lefrère, S.Pigeon, C.Adrados, C.Ciuti, IC, R. Houdré, E.Giacobino, A.Bramati, *Observation of Superfluidity of Polaritons in Semiconductor Microcavities*, Nature Phys. 5, 805 (2009)

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

Milestone III: 2017 - Topological lasing

a.k.a. non-equilibrium BEC in a topological edge state

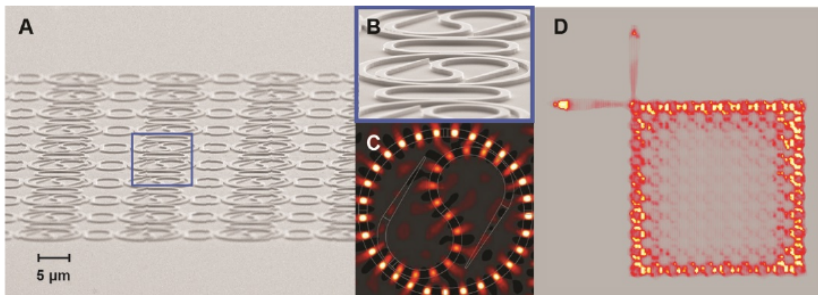
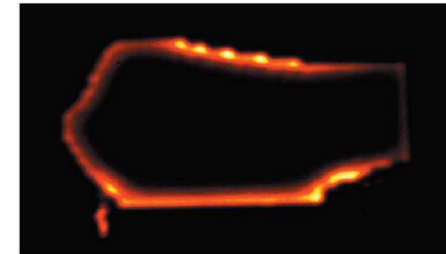
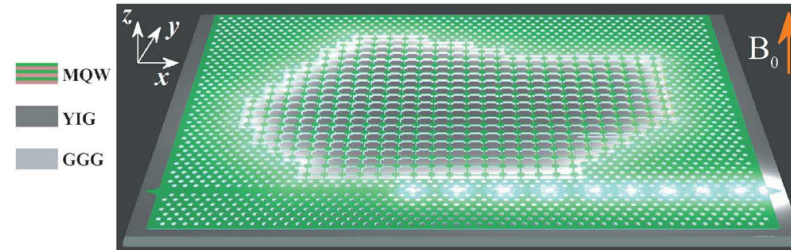
In other words: what happens if gain added to topological photonics model ?



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

Bahari et al., Science 2017

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



Bandres et al., Science 2018

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

Exciting for opto-electronic applications:

- robust platform to ensure large-area coherence in high-power laser source
- interesting Kardar-Parisi-Zhang stat-mech – Amelio-IC, PRX 2021; Fontaine et al., Nature 2022

The future:

Strongly interacting fluids of light

*Mott insulators &
Fractional Quantum Hall liquids*

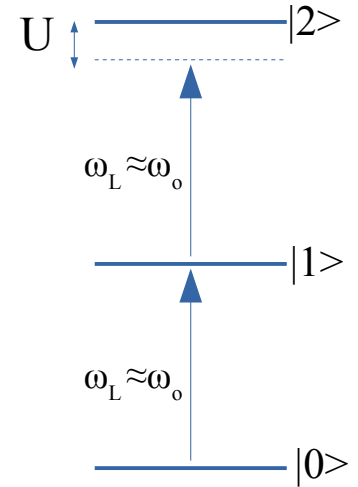
Photon blockade

Driven-dissipative Bose-Hubbard model:

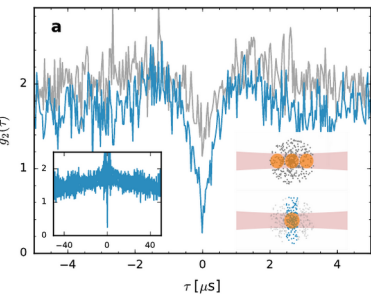
$$H_0 = \sum_i \hbar\omega_0 \hat{b}_i^\dagger \hat{b}_i - \hbar J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \hat{b}_i^\dagger \hat{b}_j + \hbar \frac{U}{2} \sum_i \hat{n}_i (\hat{n}_i - 1) + \sum_i F_i(t) \hat{b}_i + h.c.$$

- Array of single-mode cavities at ω_0 , tunnel coupling J , losses γ
- Polariton interactions: on-site interaction U due to optical nonlinearity
- If $U \gg \gamma$ & J , coherent pump resonant with $0 \rightarrow 1$, but not with $1 \rightarrow 2$.

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

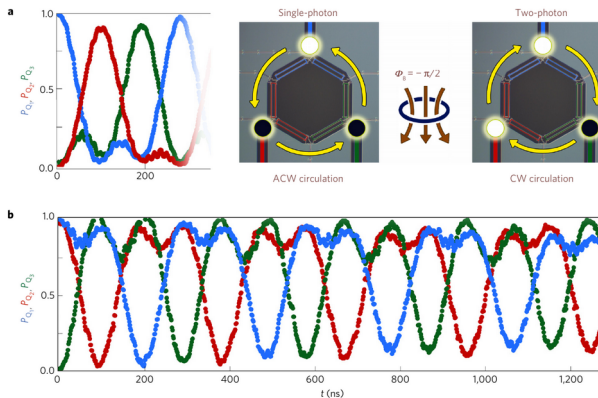


Single-cavity blockade observed in many platforms since the 2000s,
 present challenge \rightarrow scale up to many-cavity geometry

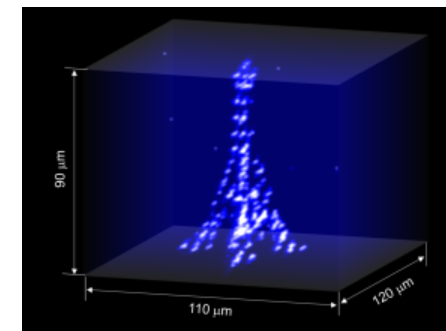


Polariton blockade via Rydberg-EIT (@ Chicago)

Circuit QED device (@GoogleLabs)



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



Photon blockade + synthetic gauge field = FQHE for light

Bose-Hubbard model:

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

gauge field gives phase in hopping terms

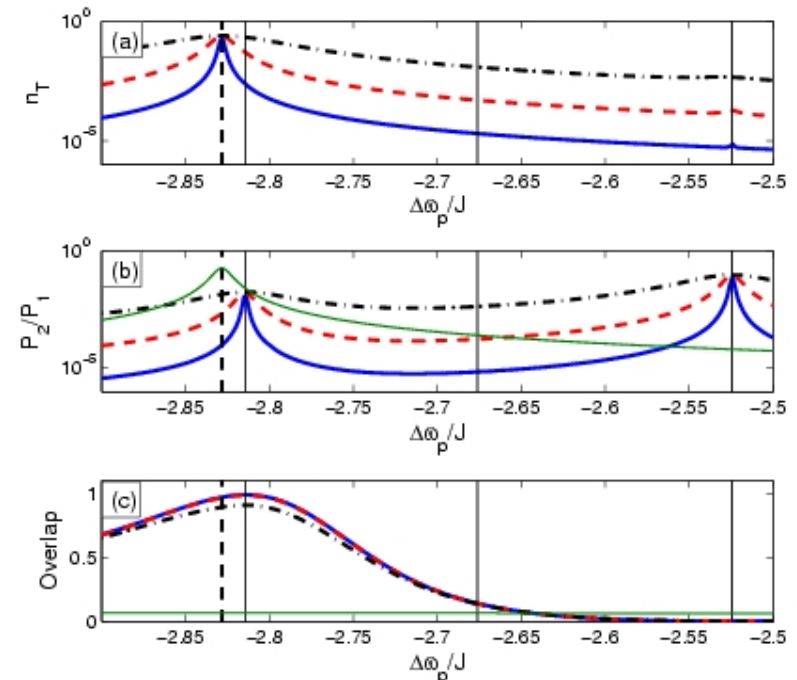
with usual coherent drive and dissipation → look for non-equil. steady state

Transmission spectra:

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

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

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

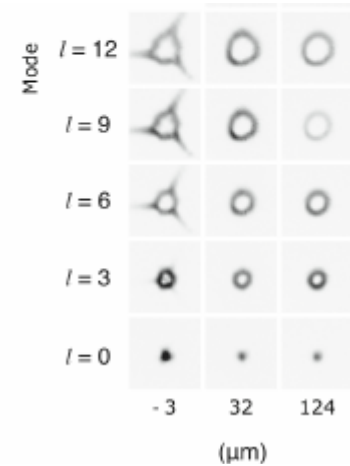
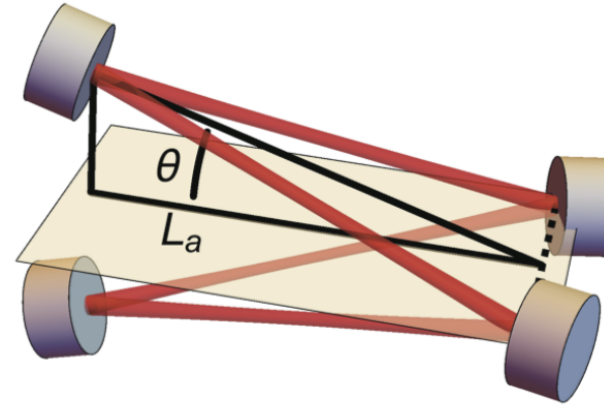


Experiment @ Chicago

A far smarter design

Non-planar ring cavity:

- Parallel transport \rightarrow synthetic B
- Landau levels for photons observed

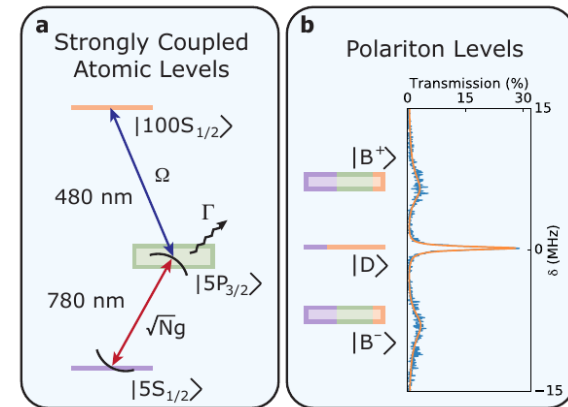


Crucial advantages:

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

Polariton blockade on lowest (0,0) mode

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



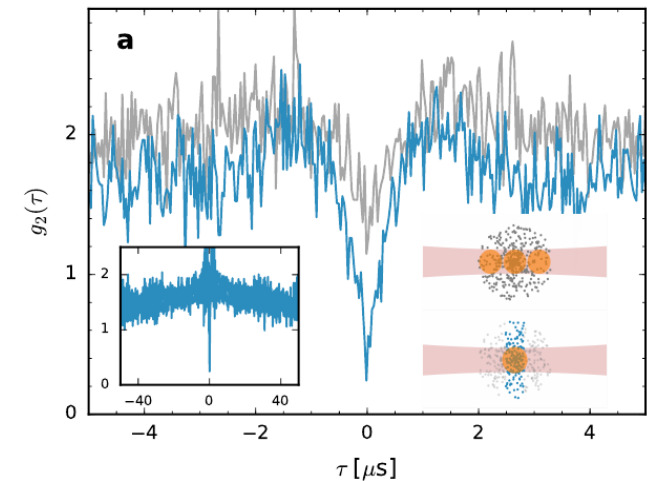
Easiest strategy for Laughlin

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

(Umucalilar-Wouters-IC, PRA 2014)

Breaking news: 2-photon Laughlin state realized

(Clark et al., Nature 2020)



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

Experiment @ Chicago (II)

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

Probing few-particle Laughlin states of photons via correlation measurements

R. O. Umucalilar* and M. Wouters

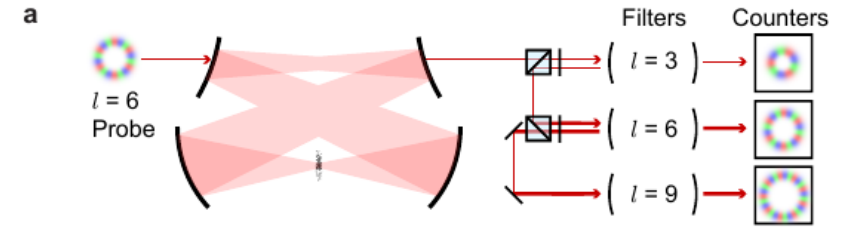
TQC, Universiteit Antwerpen, Universiteitsplein 1, B-2610 Antwerpen, Belgium

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(Received 29 November 2013; published 5 February 2014)

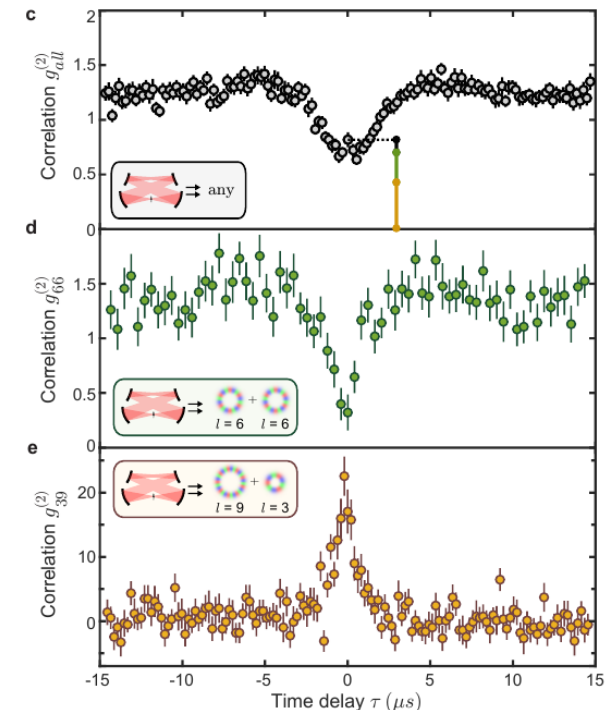
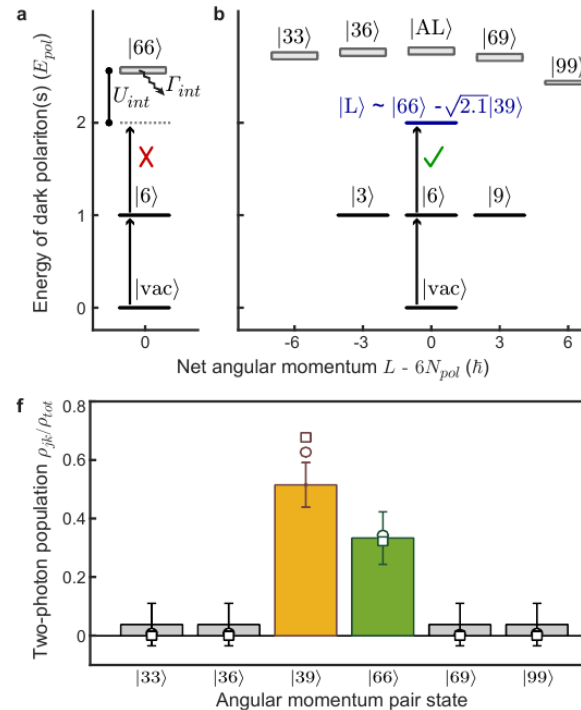
We propose methods to create and observe Laughlin-like states of photons in a strongly nonlinear optical cavity. Such states of strongly interacting photons can be prepared by pumping the cavity with a Laguerre-Gauss beam, which has a well-defined orbital angular momentum per photon. The Laughlin-like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



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

Challenge: scale up to larger
number of particles

Coherent pump scheme scales
badly with N for topological states

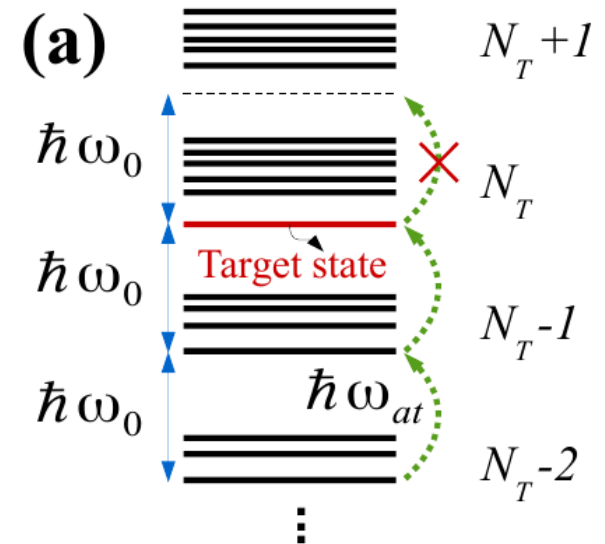
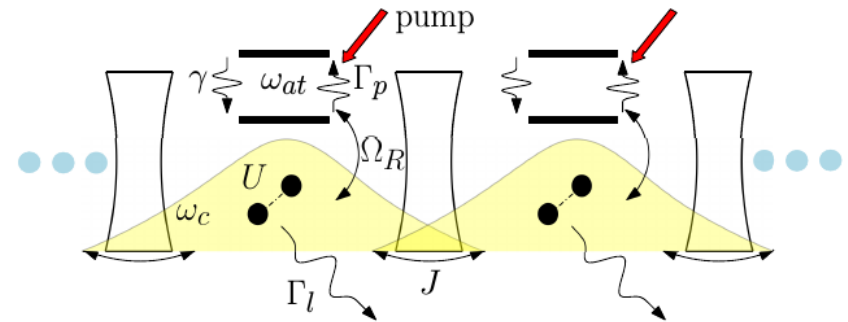


How to access larger particle numbers

Coherent pump only able to selectively excite few-photon states

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

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



General idea:

Kapit, Hafezi, Simon, PRX 2014

Lebreuilly et al. CRAS (2016)

Umucalilar-IC, PRA 2017

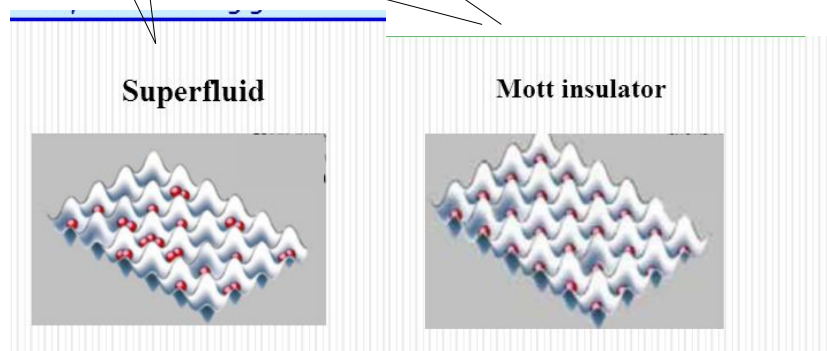
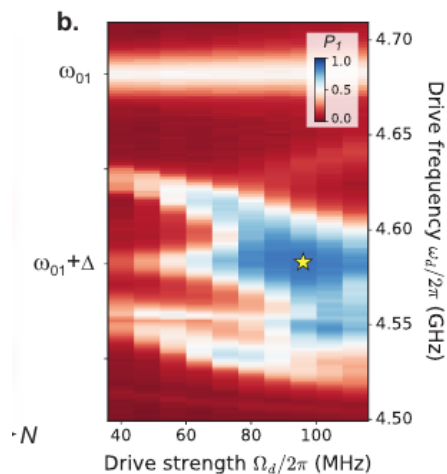
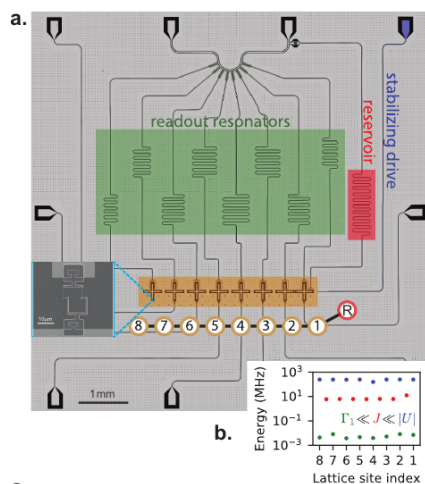
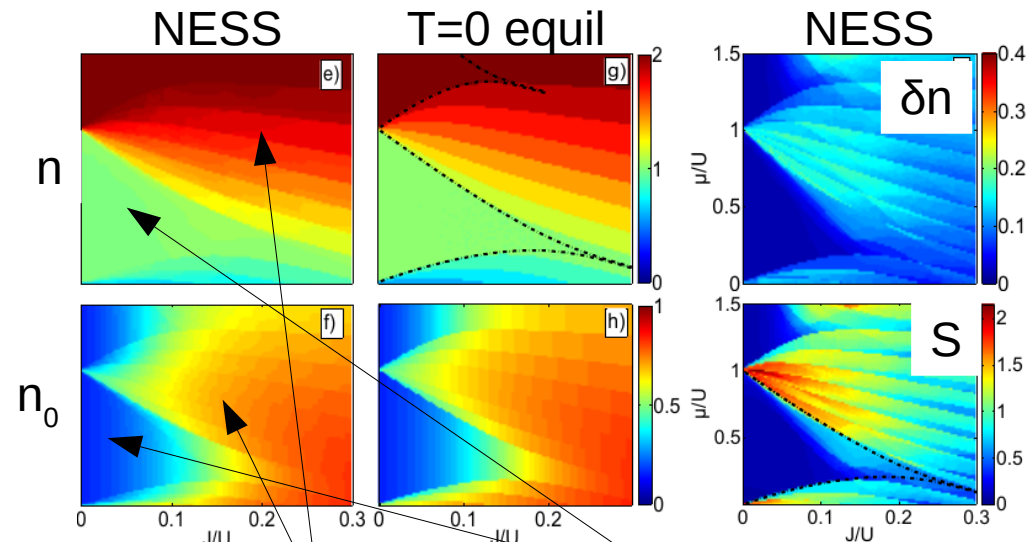
Lebreuilly, Biella et al., PRA 2017

Mott insulators of light

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

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

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



First expt: Ma *et al.* Nature 2019

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

Related work in Kapit, Hafezi, Simon, PRX 2014

What about large FQH fluids?

Coherent pump:

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

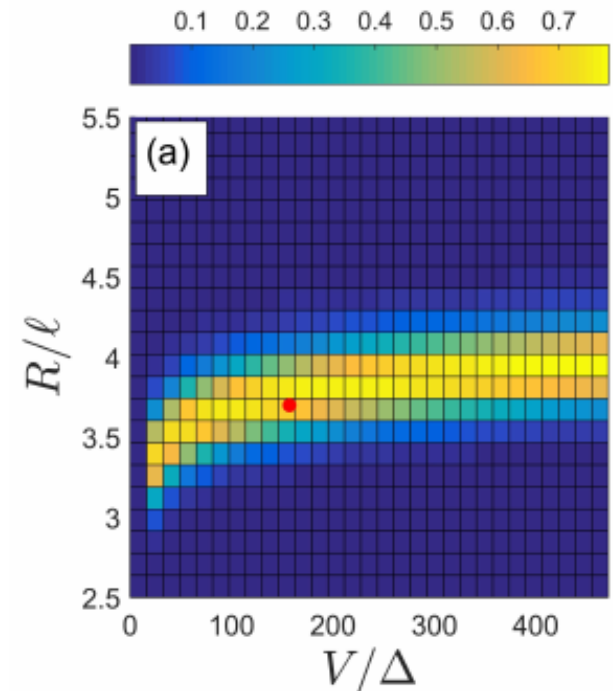
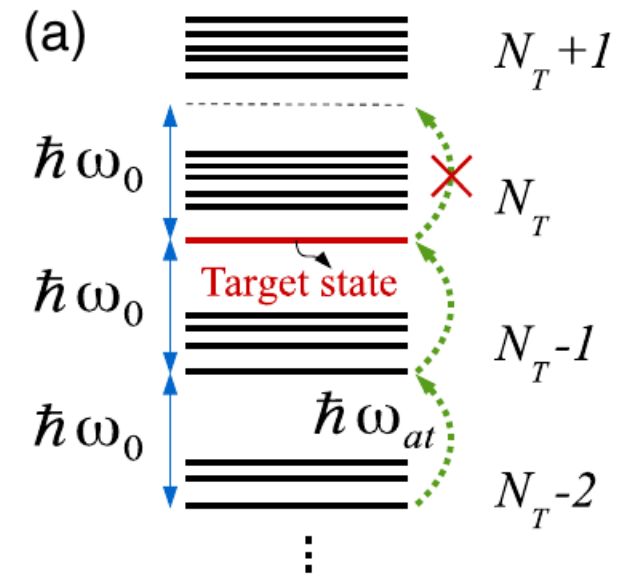
Frequency-dependent incoherent pump:

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

Calculations only possible for small systems:

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

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



A long-term objective:
Probing anyonic statistics
of quasi-holes

Quantum mechanics of anyons (I) – single particle

Laughlin wavefunction of Fractional Quantum Hall:

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

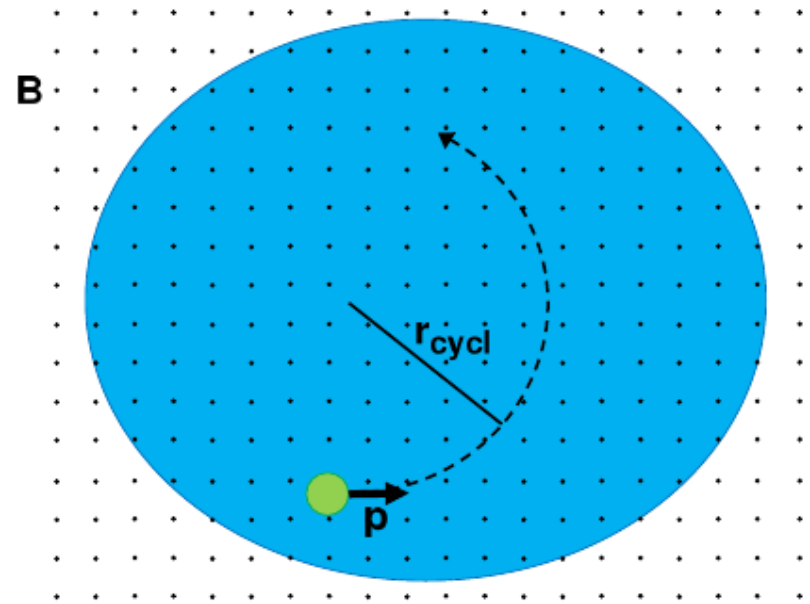
Born-Oppenheimer approx:

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

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

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

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



Quantum mechanics of anyons (II) – two particles

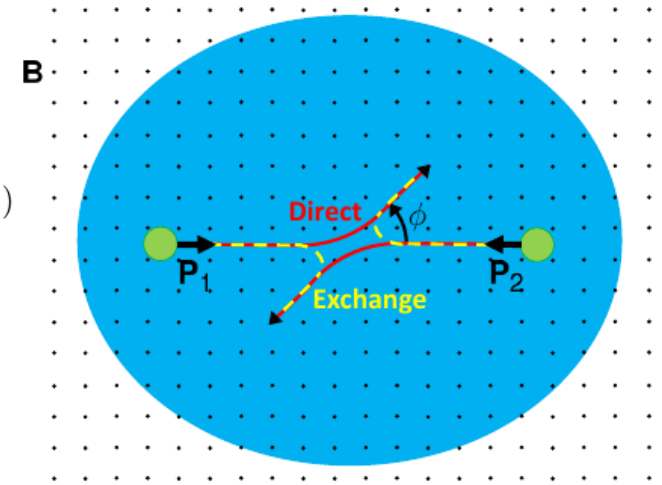
Each particle \rightarrow attached flux $\mathcal{A}_j(\mathbf{R}) = \mathcal{A}_q(\mathbf{R}_j) + \mathcal{A}_{\text{stat},j}(\mathbf{R})$

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

Relative motion:

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

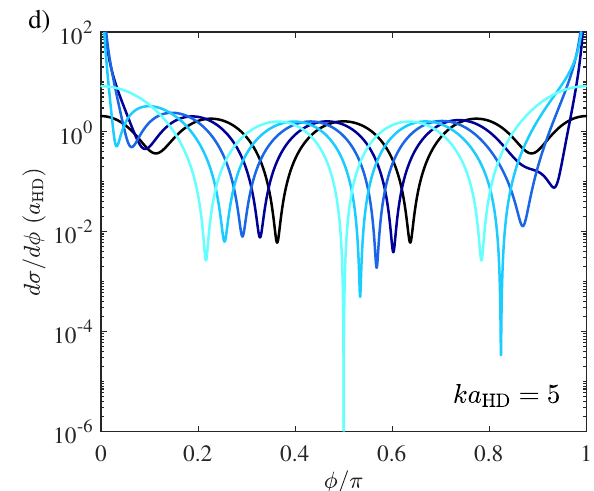
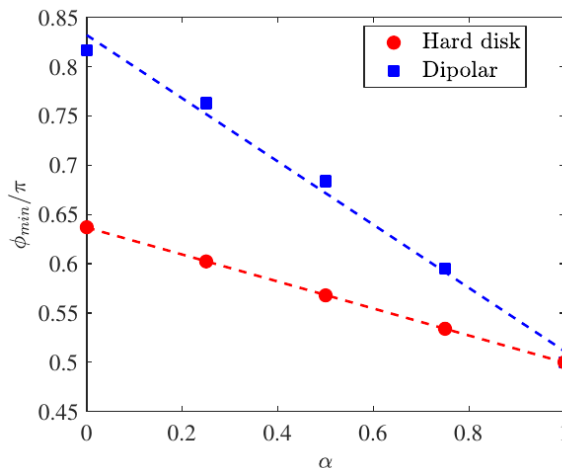
$$H_{\text{rel}} = \frac{[\mathbf{P}_{\text{rel}} + \mathbf{A}_{\text{rel}}(\mathbf{R}_{\text{rel}})]^2}{2\mathcal{M}_{\text{rel}}} + V_{\text{ii}}(R_{\text{rel}})$$



2-body scattering: interference of direct & exchange

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

- Scheme works with polar molecules (heavy + long-range interactions) in atoms (light FQH gas)
- What about Rydberg polaritons?



Optical signatures of the anyonic braiding phase

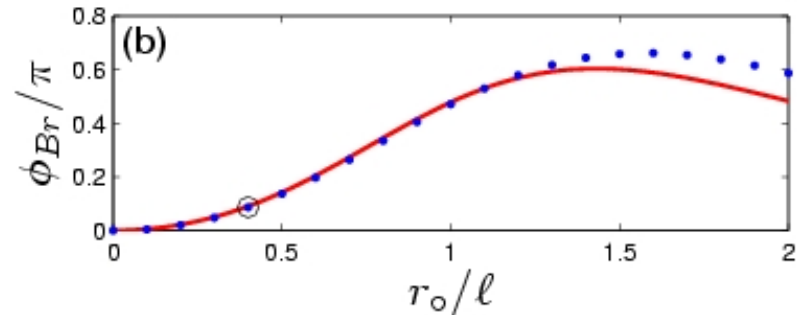
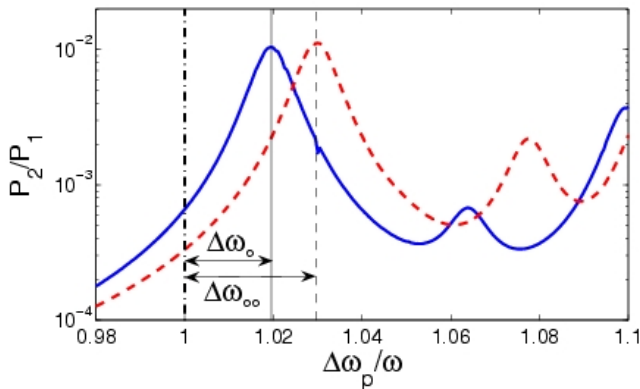
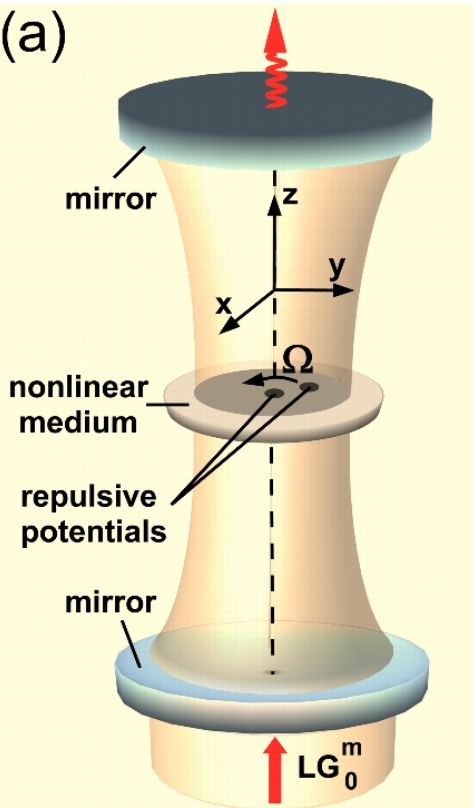
Anyonic statistics of quasi-holes: many-body Berry phase ϕ_{Br} when positions swapped during braiding

In a photonic system:

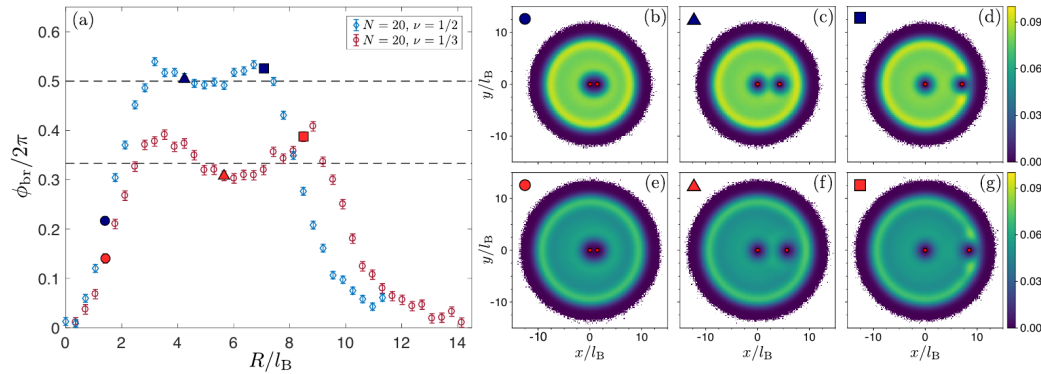
- LG pump to create and maintain quantum Hall liquid
- Localized repulsive potentials in trap:
 - create quasi-hole excitation in quantum Hall liquid
 - position of holes adiabatically braided in space
- Berry phase extracted from shift of transmission resonance while repulsive potential moved with period T_{rot} along circle

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

How to measure ϕ_{Br} without an actual braiding?



Observing anyonic statistics via time-of-flight measurements



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Quasi-Hole structure vs. anyon statistics (I)

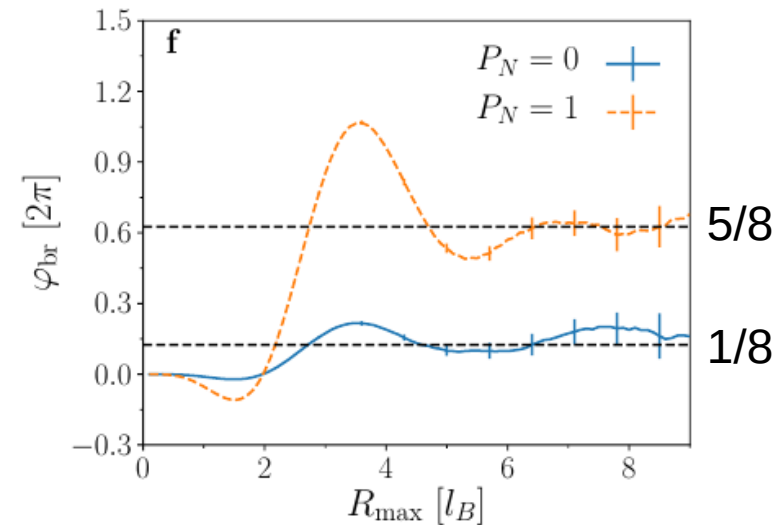
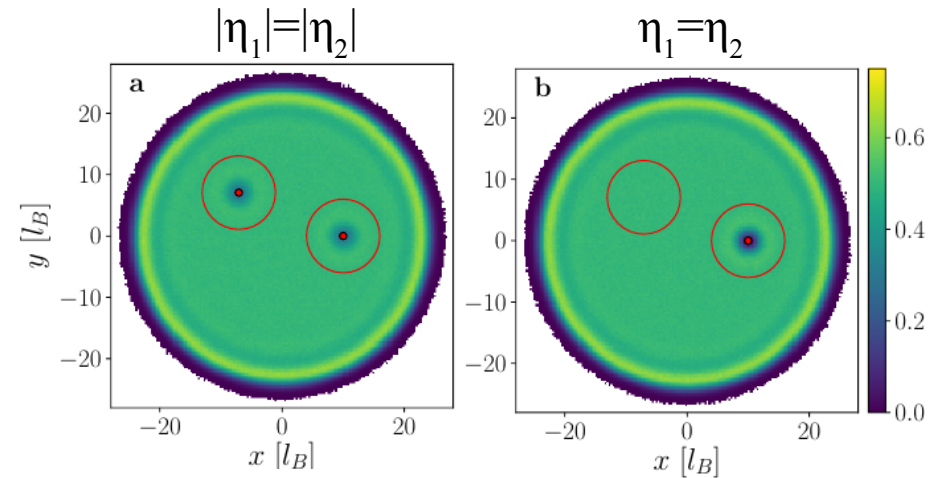
- Compare (two) single quasi-holes and overlapping pair of quasi-holes:

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

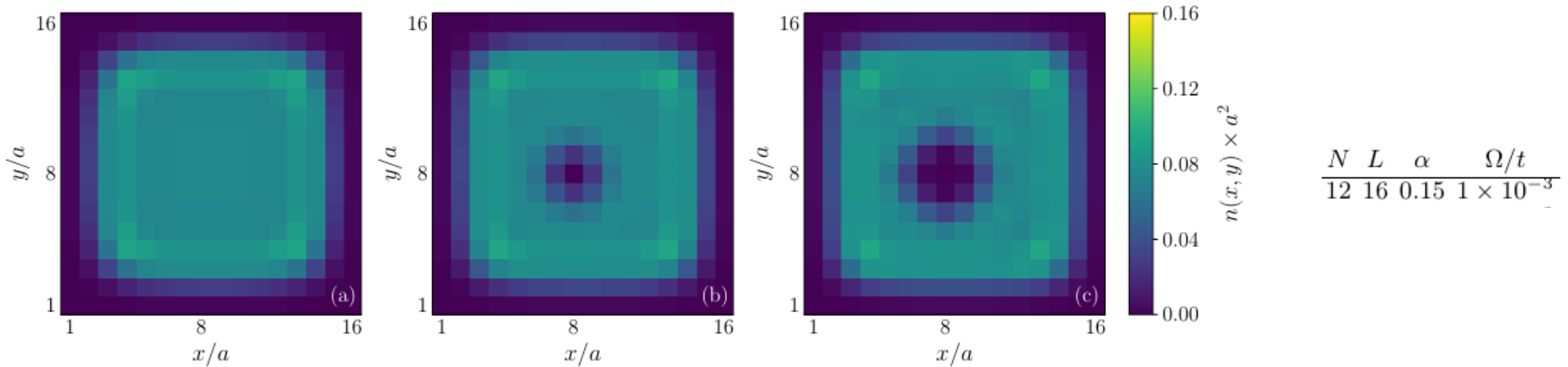
- Relates to difference of density profiles:

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

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



Quasi-Hole structure vs. anyon statistics (II)



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

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

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

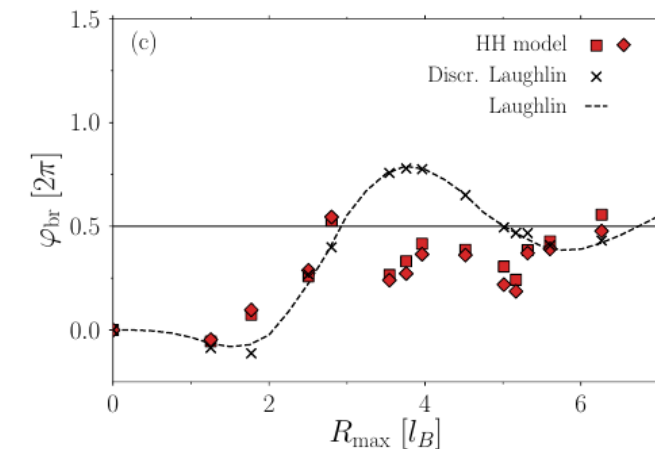
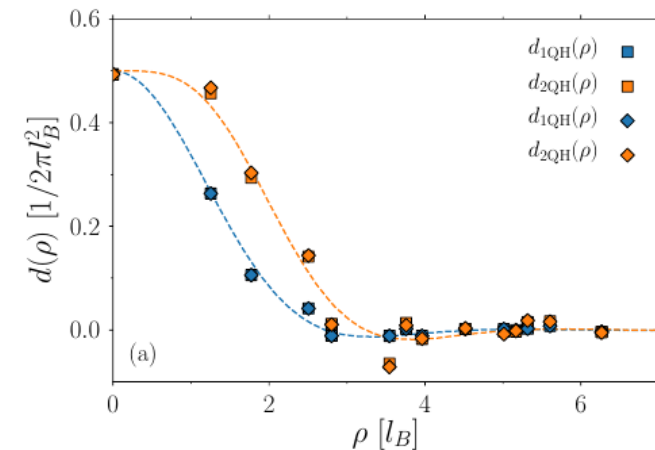
Apply discretized version of **braiding phase formula**

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

to physical ground state wavefunction

\rightarrow Accurate reconstruction of **anyonic statistics**

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

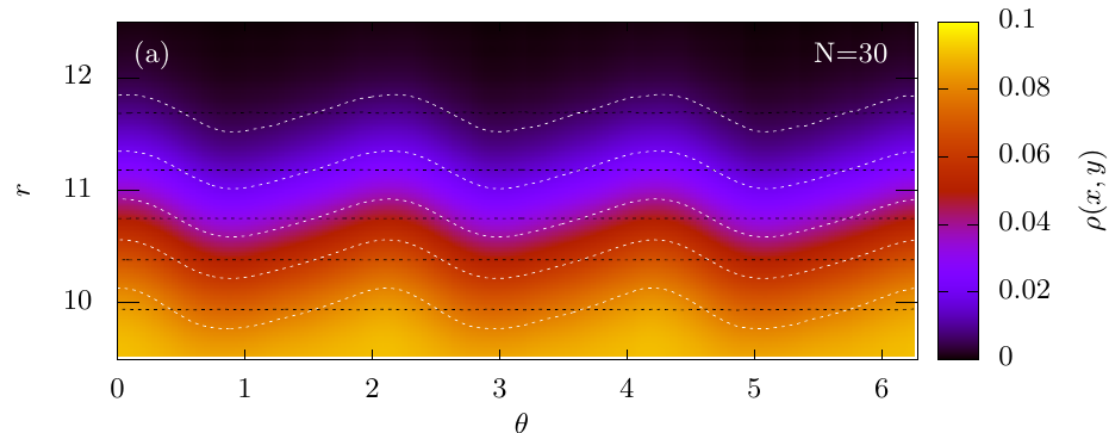
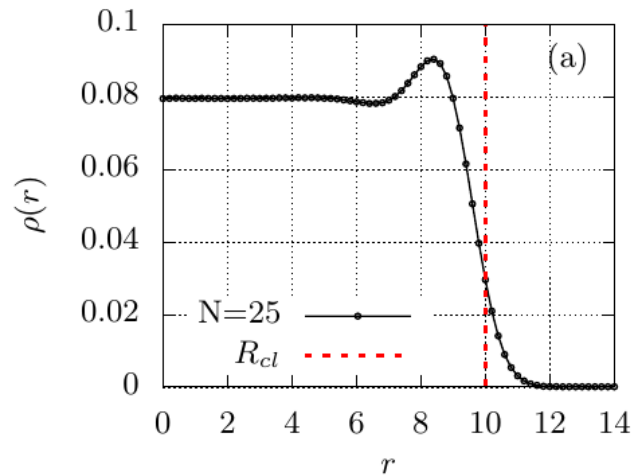


On-going work:

Linear and nonlinear edge dynamics of FQH clouds

- A. Nardin, IC, Non-linear edge dynamics of an integer quantum Hall fluid, Europhys. Lett. 132, 10002 (2020).
- A. Nardin, IC, *Linear and nonlinear edge dynamics of trapped fractional quantum Hall droplets beyond the chiral Luttinger liquid paradigm*, arXiv:2203.02539

Response of trapped FQH cloud to external potential (I)



Trapping potential $V_{\text{conf}}(\mathbf{r}) = \lambda r^\delta$

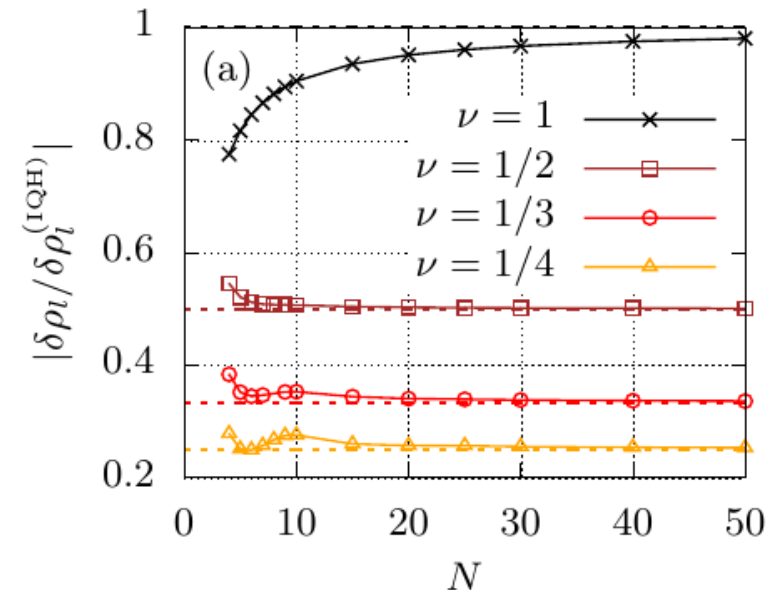
ED calculations by MC evaluation of matrix elements via Metropolis (works well upto ~ 50 particles)

Time-dependent perturbation $U(r, \theta; t)$:

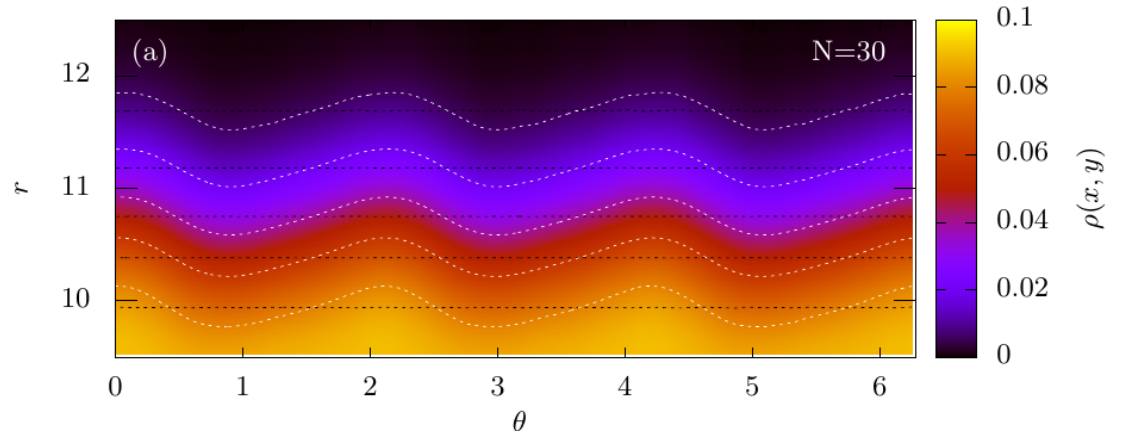
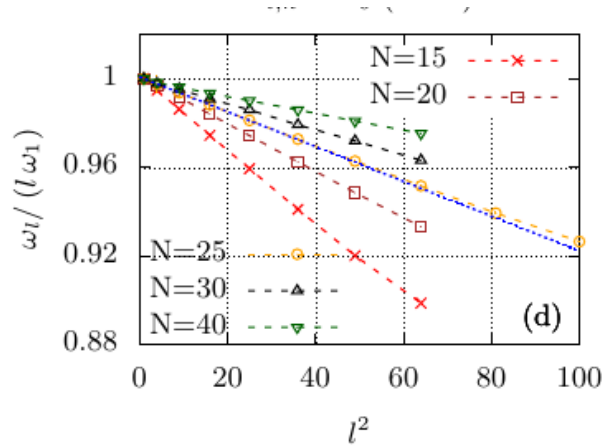
- generates oscillatory perturbation on edge

Weak perturbation limit:

- linear response proportional to filling ν
- related to quantized transverse conductivity of FQH
- matches chiral Luttinger liquid picture...



Response of trapped FQH cloud to external potential (II)



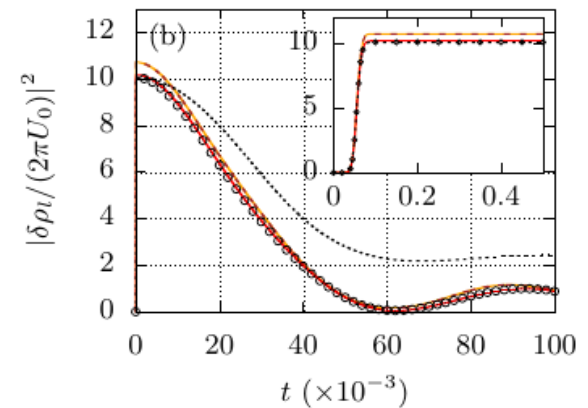
Linear response matches χ LL...but much more physics hidden in edge perturbation $\sigma(z,t)$:

- free oscillation frequency shift $\sim k^3 \rightarrow$ **group velocity dispersion**
- **nonlinear effects** \rightarrow frequency shift proportional to amplitude σ (due to radially increasing trapping force)

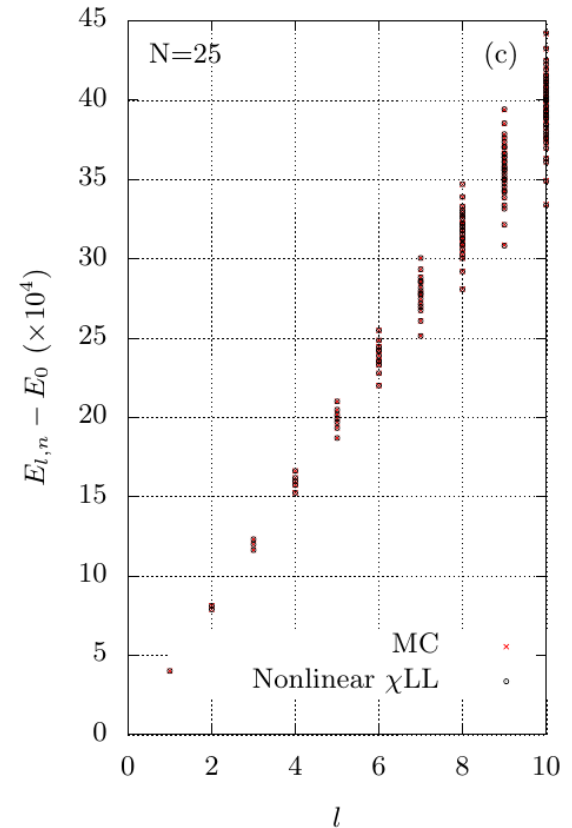
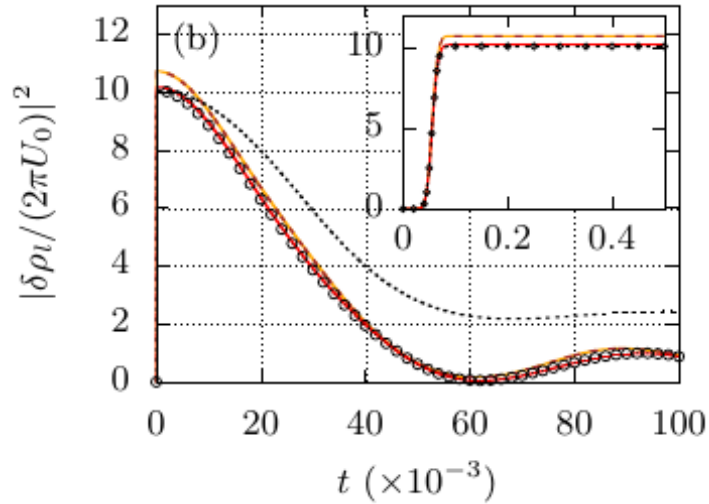
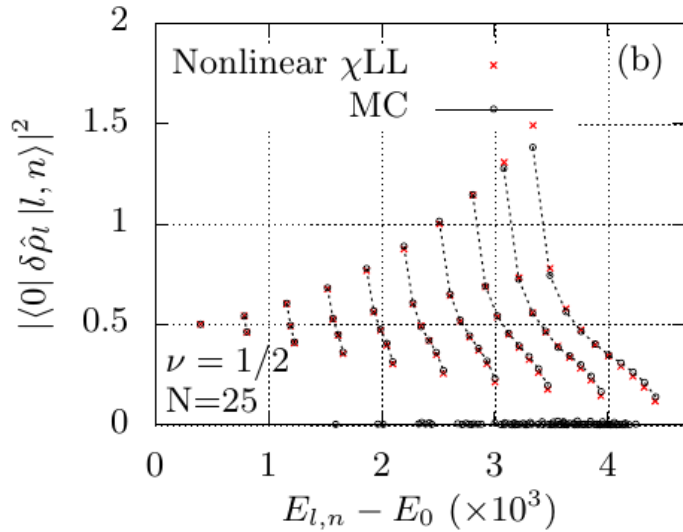
Well captured by classical evolution eq.

$$\frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial t} = - \left[v_0 - \frac{2\pi \tilde{c}_0}{\nu} \sigma \right] \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial \zeta} - \beta_m \tilde{c}_0 \frac{\partial^3 \sigma}{\partial \zeta^3} - \frac{\nu}{2\pi} \frac{\partial U}{\partial \zeta}$$

- but also temporal decay of oscillation...
...which requires further refinements...



Response of trapped FQH cloud to external potential (III)



Broadening associated to damping captured by quantum- χ LL

$$\hat{H}_{\chi\text{LL}}^{NL} = \int d\zeta \left[\frac{\pi v_0}{\nu} \hat{\sigma}^2 - \frac{\pi \beta_m \tilde{c}_0}{\nu} \left(\frac{\partial \hat{\sigma}}{\partial \zeta} \right)^2 + \frac{2\pi^2 \tilde{c}_0}{3\nu^2} \hat{\sigma}^3 + U(\zeta, t) \hat{\sigma} \right]$$

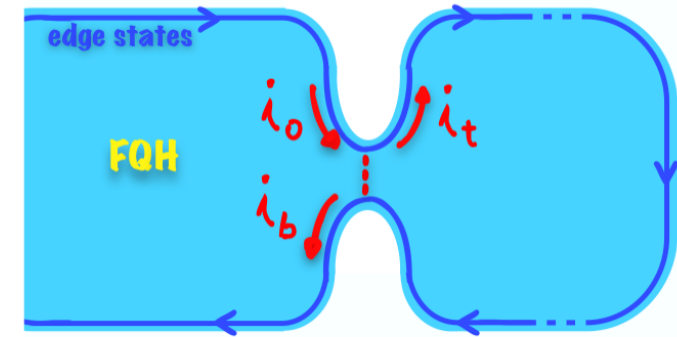
$$\text{with } [\hat{\sigma}(\zeta), \hat{\sigma}(\zeta')] = -i \frac{\nu}{2\pi} \partial_\zeta \delta(\zeta - \zeta').$$

Quantum- χ LL eigenstates well match ED results, as well as temporal evolution of observables

(Preliminary) Quantum dynamics at quantum point contact

χ LL dynamics of edge, intrinsic nonlinearity at junction

Truncated-Wigner description of bosonic χ LL DoF



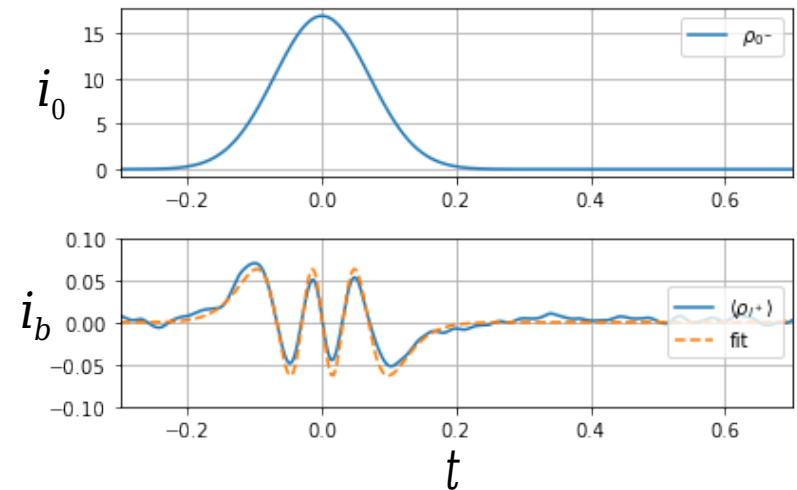
$$\partial_t \rho_s(x, t) + v \partial_x \rho_s(x, t) = -\Gamma \sin(2\pi q_s(t)) (\delta(x) - \delta(x-l))$$

$$\rho_s(x, t=0) = \sum_{k>0} r_k \alpha_k e^{ikx} + h.c.$$

$$\langle \rho_s(0^-, 0) \rho_s(0^-, t) \rangle \propto -\frac{1}{mt^2}$$

- Reproduces many features of FQH edge dynamics:
- Crystallization of high-charge wavepackets
- Gives hints of fractional shot-noise in current
- Better performance for large $1/v$: fractional charge ν of FQH makes semi-classical picture more accurate

$Q=3$



Conclusions

1-body magnetic/topological effects for photons in synthetic gauge field:

- Unidirectional and topologically protected edge states (2009-)
- Geometrical properties of bulk & anomalous current (2016-)
- Landau levels in cylindrical trap; smart tricks to generate conical geometry (2016-)

Interplay of (weak) nonlinearities and topology:

- Topological solitons (2020-)
- Topolasing, a.k.a. BEC in topological edge state (2017-) → **optoelectronics applications**

First steps in strongly correlated many-body physics:

- Mott-insulator → **recent experimental observation @ Chicago – Schuster/Simon**
- Chain of strongly interacting bosons in synthetic gauge field → **expt @ GoogleLabs**
- Few-body Laughlin states → **recently 2-body baby-Laughlin-state @ Chicago – Simon**

Dynamical properties of FQH clouds:

- Apply equally well to photon as well as to **atomic fluids**
- Observable signatures of **fractional anyonic statistics** of quasi-hole excitations
- Rich linear and nonlinear dynamics of IQH and FQH edges. Even richer in presence of quantum point contact

If you wish to know more...



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

Quantum fluids of light

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

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



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nature
physics

FOCUS | REVIEW ARTICLE

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

Check for updates

Photonic materials in circuit quantum electrodynamics

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

Review article on Nature Physics (2020)

REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS, VOLUME 91

Topological photonics

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

We acknowledge generous financial support from:



PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI TRENTO



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



Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation



Topological lasers

What new physics in there?

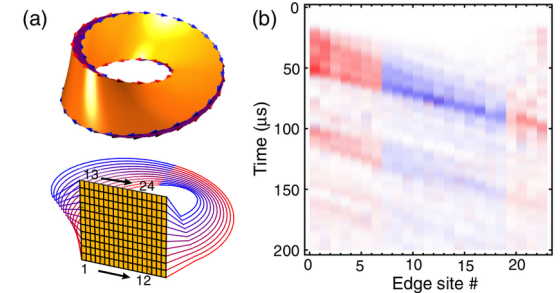
Perspectives for quantum technologies

Fractional quantum Hall fluids in **topologically non-trivial geometries**

→ **topologically degenerate ground state**

No mixing by 1-body observables: $\langle \psi_i | \hat{O} | \psi_j \rangle \sim O \delta_{ij}$

- Information can be stored in topological ground states
- Quantum operations by braiding non-abelian anyonic excitations
→ in large systems, **quantum operations protected by topology**



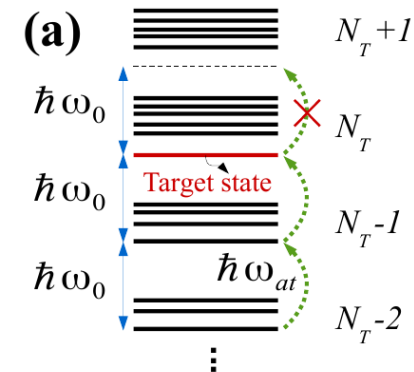
Topological photonics on Moebius band
Ningyual et al., PRX 2015

In optical systems:

- standard quantum superpositions $|\text{coh}:\alpha\rangle + |\text{coh}:-\alpha\rangle$ fragile against losses
- **which-way information leaks out into dissipation, e.g. radiative emission**

Topological ground states **not distinguishable from their emission**

→ **no which-way info leaks into losses, quantum superposition robust**

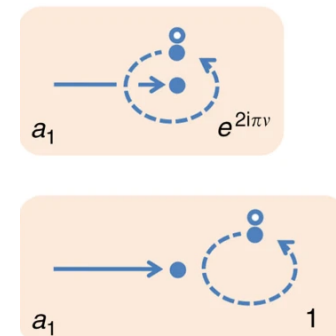


In other terms, loss of 1 particle creates several quasi-holes:

- mixing of topological states requires quasi-holes to be randomly braided
- this not possible if pump refilling is quick enough

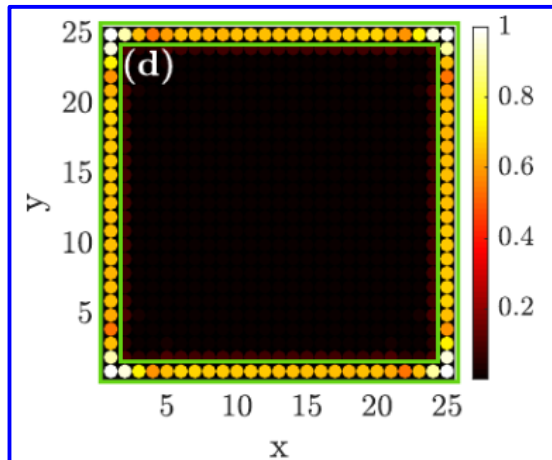
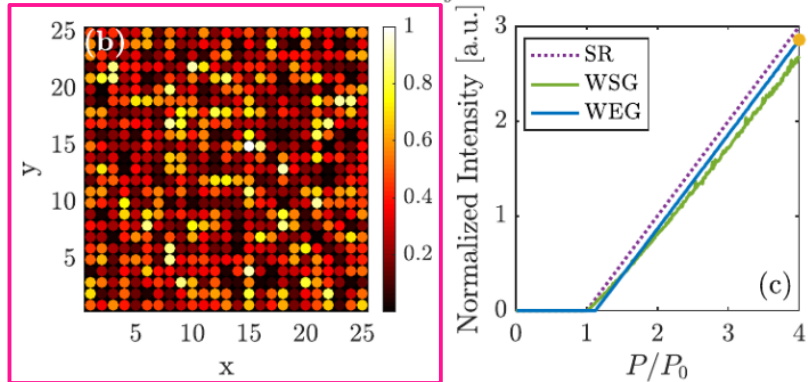
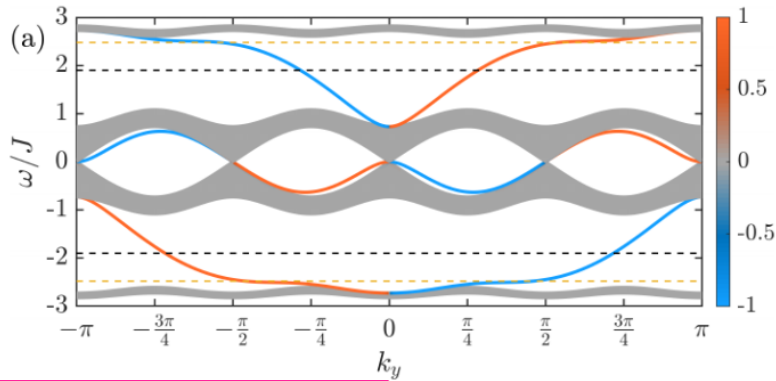
Non-Abelian fractional quantum Hall fluids of light

→ a promising avenue for topological quantum computing



Sketch from Han et al.,
Nat. Comm. 2016

Topological lasing in 2D models: why interesting?



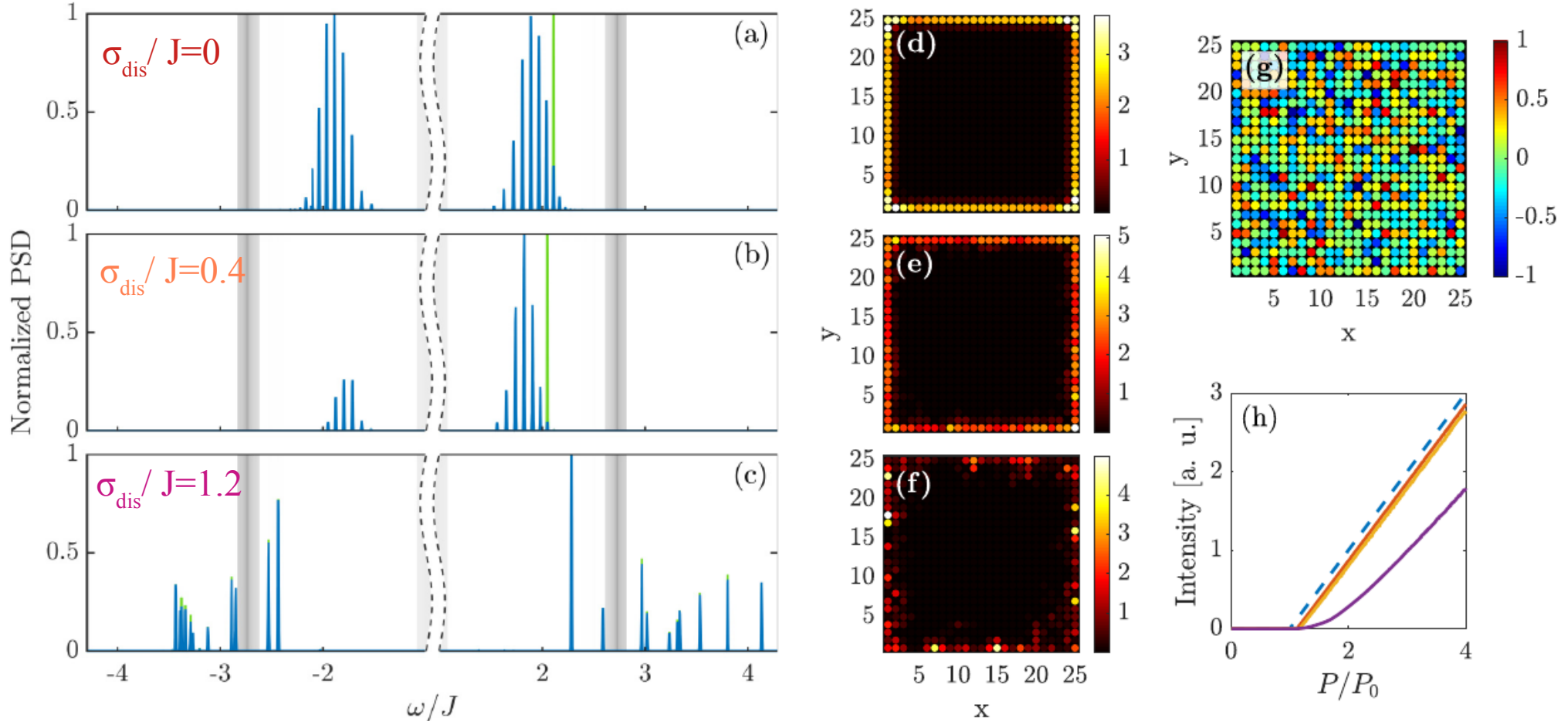
Topologically trivial system:

- pumping many cavities gives complicate many-mode emission
- hard to preserve coherence and fully exploit gain when gain distributed on many sites to increase emission power
- serious technological problem for high-power semiconductor laser applications

Topological system:

- 2D Topolaser operation into edge mode when edge only is pumped (WEG)
- Chiral motion → phase lock many individual sites

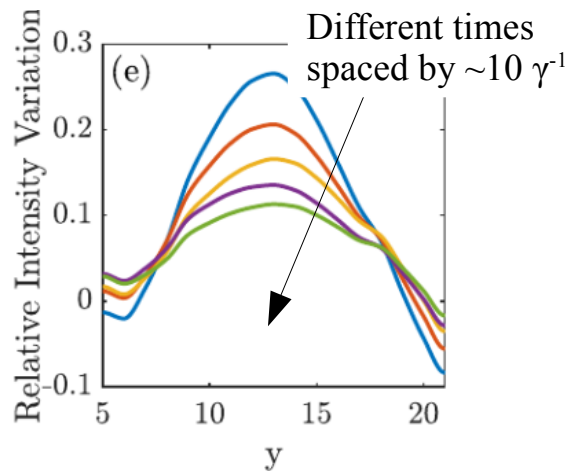
Topological lasing in 2D models: immune to disorder



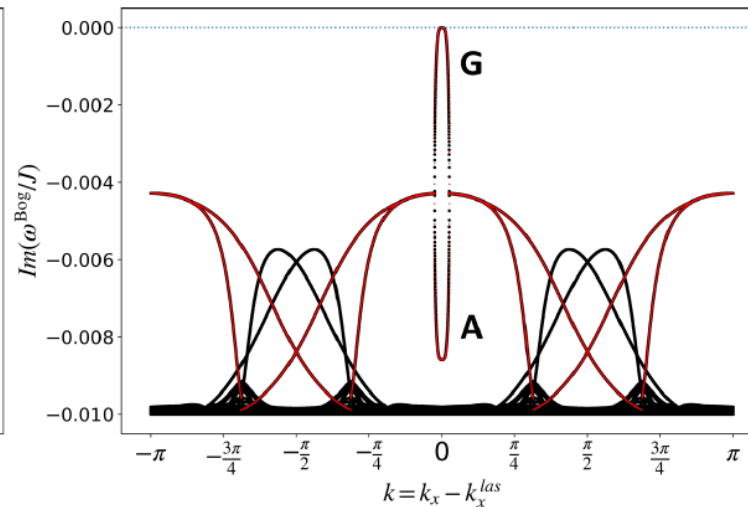
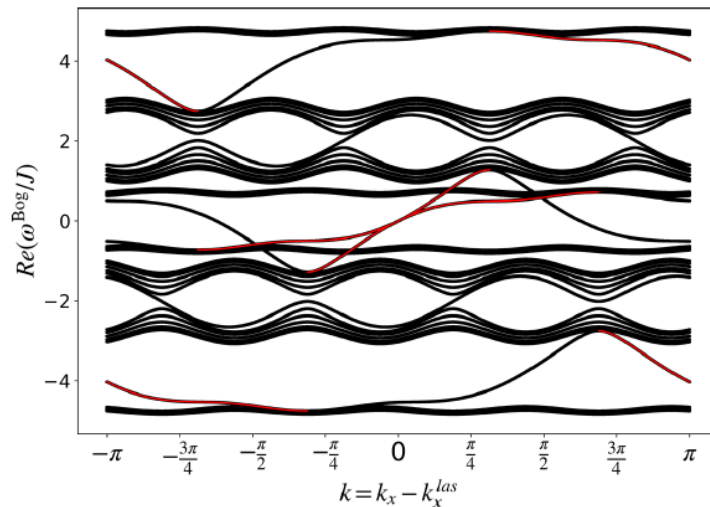
- Chiral propagation immune to disorder
- Efficient single mode lasing with high slope efficiency
- Lasing mode randomly selected via periodic boundary conditions
– like in any ring laser

Mean-field
(semiclassical)
calculation

Goldstone mode & slow relaxation



Ultra-slow relaxation of fluctuations
Simulation from Seclì et al., Phys. Rev. Research 2019



Collective excitations:

- **Goldstone mode** \rightarrow (almost) flat real part, small imaginary part
- **Higgs-like** fast amplitude mode

A. Loirette-Pelous' stage report @ ENS-Cachan, 2019

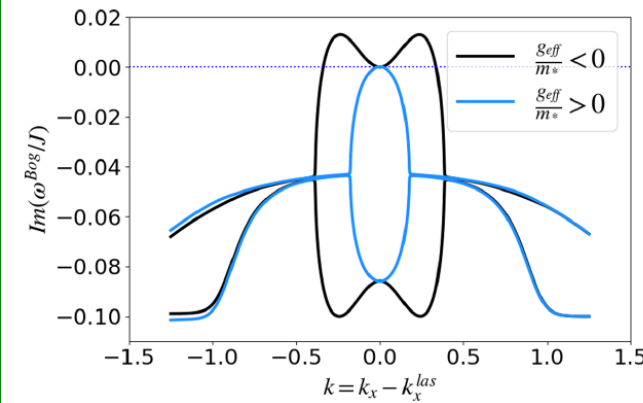
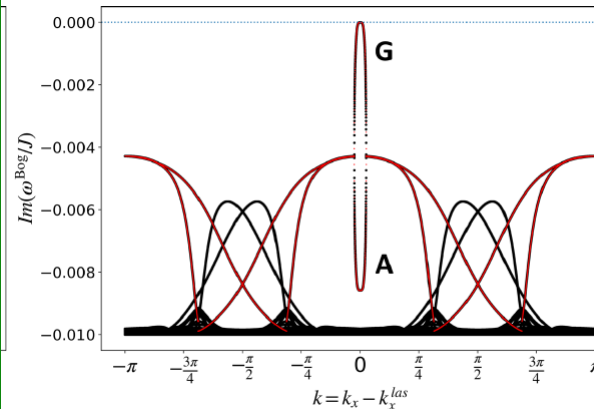
A. Loirette-Pelous et al., *Linearized theory of the fluctuation dynamics in 2D topological lasers*, PRA 2021

See also interesting related work by Zapletal et al., Optica 2020

Fluctuation dynamics & topolaser stability

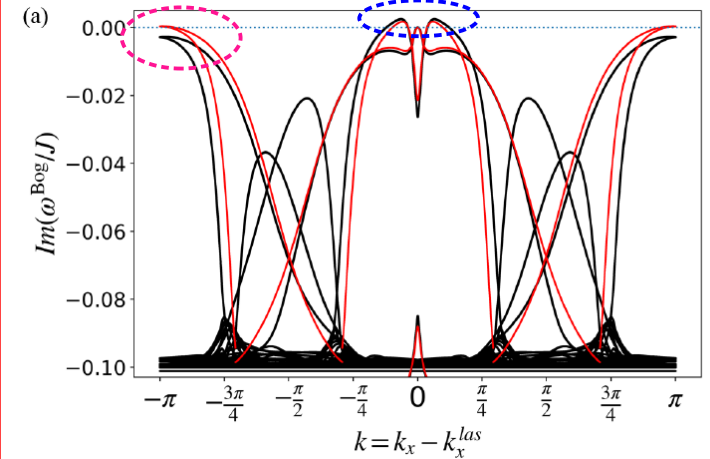
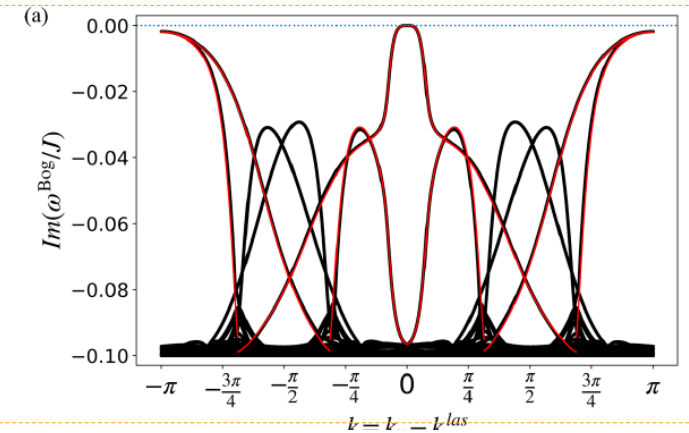
only gain saturation;
no intensity-dependent
refractive index
 $g = g_R = 0$

Class A topolaser $\gamma_R \gg \gamma$



Modulational instability
stable topolasing in one gap only

Class B topolaser $\gamma_R \leq \gamma$



Interactions with reservoir

cf. polariton BECs: Baboux et al., Optica 2018
can be stabilized via edge localization

Counter-propagating edge mode
frequency-dependency gain
single-gap topological model

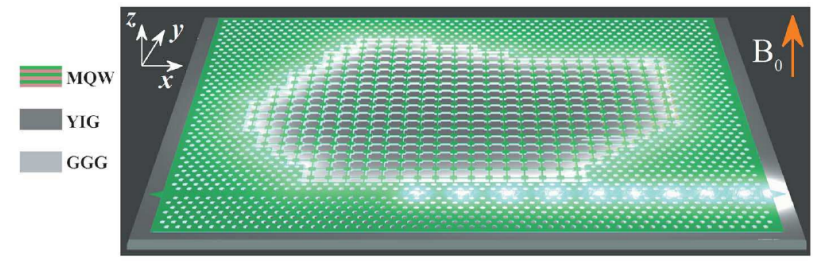
Coherence properties
of
topological lasers

What are the ultimate limits
on coherence?

Coherence of topolaser emission (I)

Important fundamental & applied questions:

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



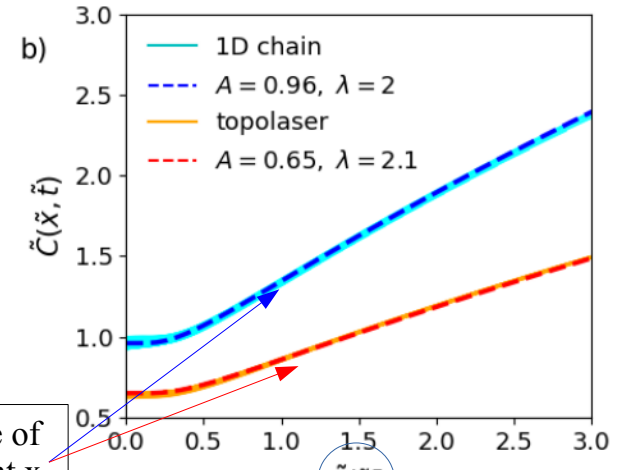
Laser operation in spatially extended system:

- Include **quantum fluctuations**, e.g. as **noise terms** in dynamics
- Linearized theory not enough, crucial role of **nonlinearities**
- **Kardar-Parisi-Zhang model** of non-equilibrium stat mech (Altman/Diehl, Gladilin/Wouters, Canet/Minguzzi)
- **spatio-temporal scaling properties of phase-coherence**

Topological laser:

- One-dimensional edge state gives effective 1D dynamics
- KPZ spatio-temporal scaling of $g^{(1)}(x,t)$
- Periodic boundary conditions around device

$$\tilde{C}(\tilde{t}, \tilde{x}^z) \equiv -2(\phi^*)^{-2} \tilde{x}^{-2z} \log g_{CM}^{(1)}(\tilde{x}, \tilde{t})$$

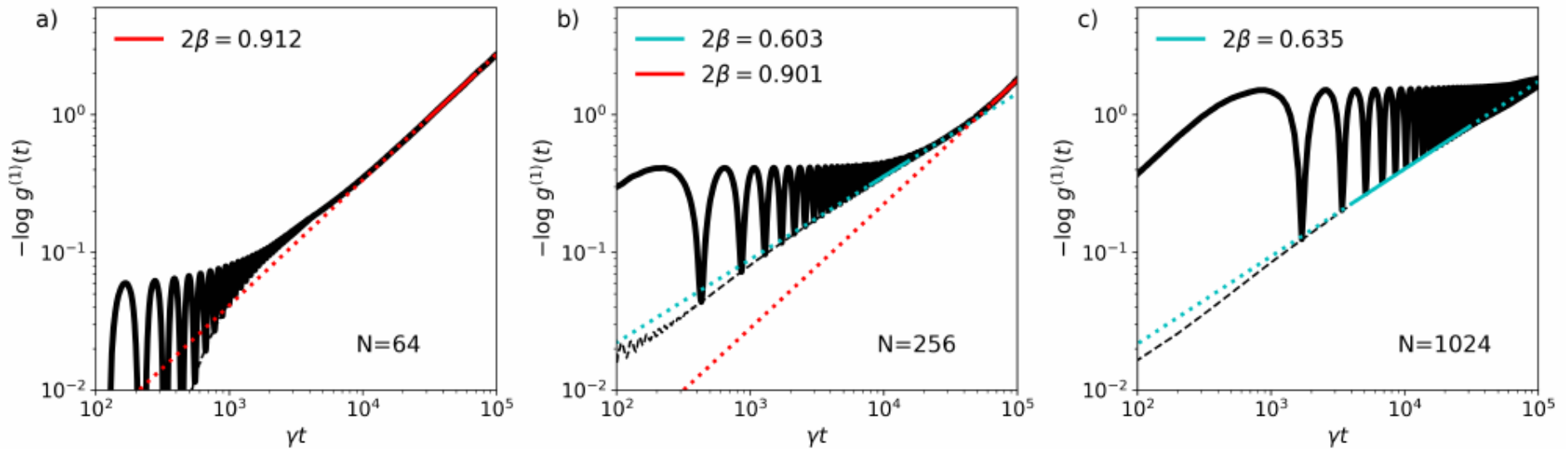


collapse of different x curves

KPZ exponent $z=3/2$

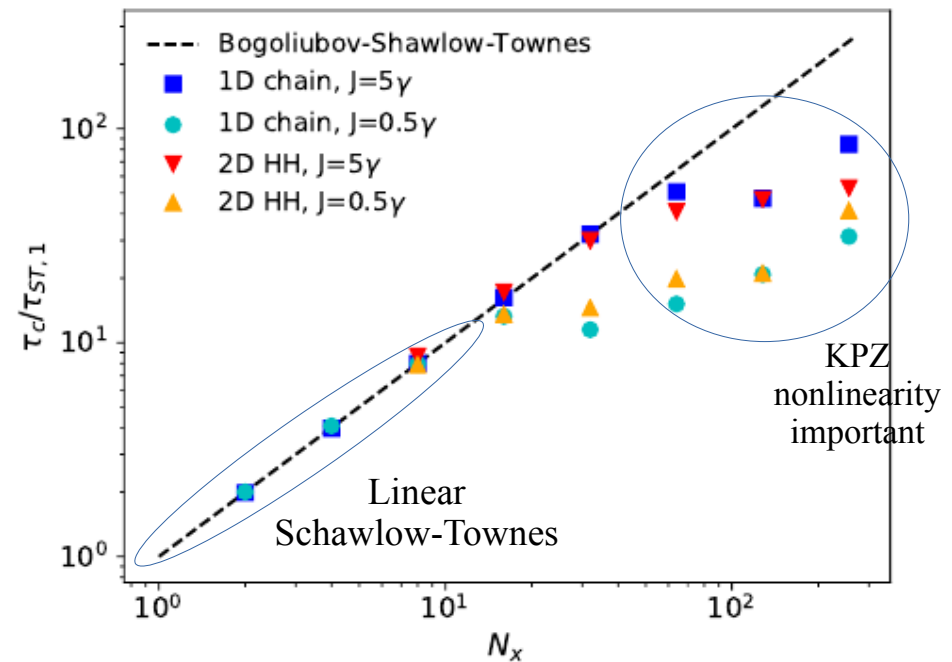
Teaser: experimental evidence of KPZ using polariton quasi-condensates @ C2N don't miss Quentin Fontaine's poster

Coherence of topolaser emission (II)

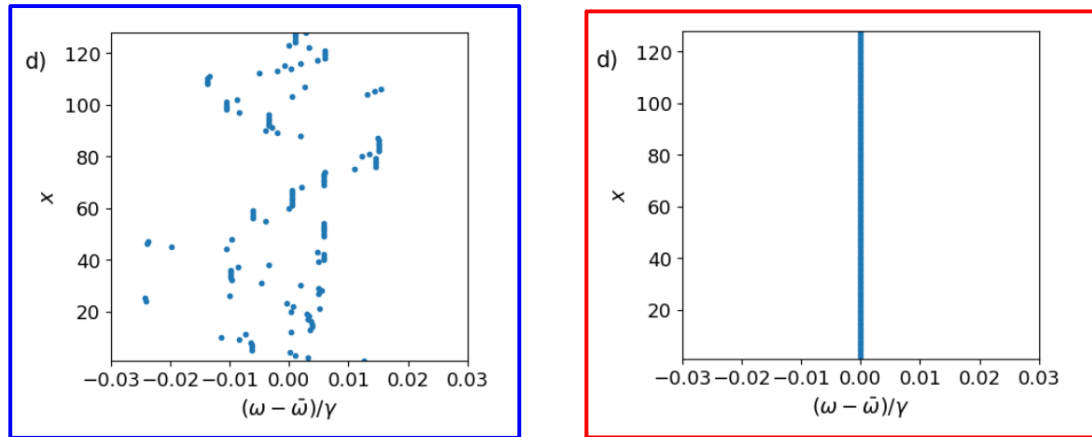


Coherence of laser emission:

- Physical system necessarily finite
→ crossover from **stretched-exp** to **exp** decay at long times for given size N_x
- crossover from Schawlow-Townes τ_c to KPZ at long times for increasing size N_x
- imposes fundamental limitation to τ_c
- physics similar to 1D chains, but...

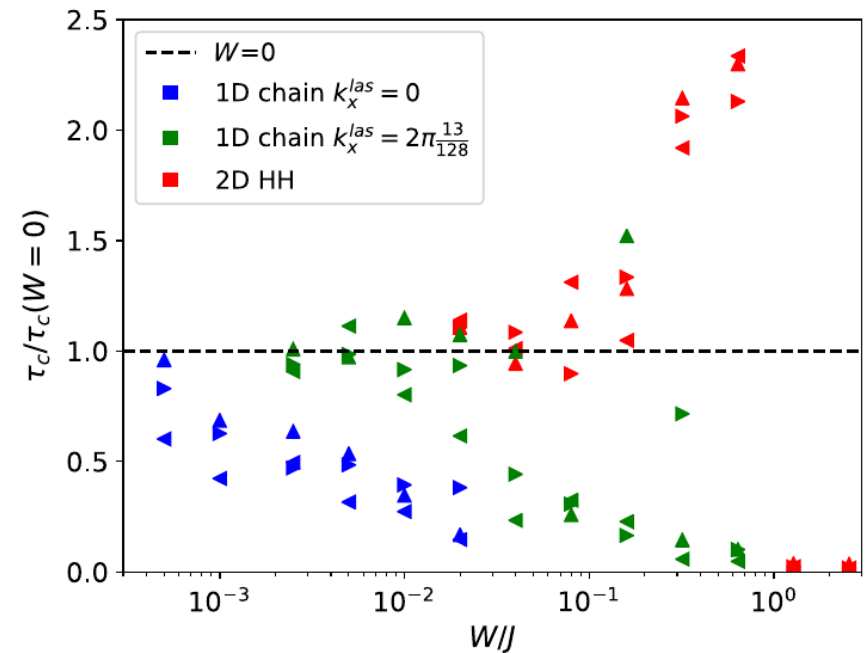


Coherence of topolaser emission (III)



In the presence of static disorder:

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



Technologically important in (semiconductor) laser technology:

Allows to phase lock many individual lasers \rightarrow strong intensity and high coherence

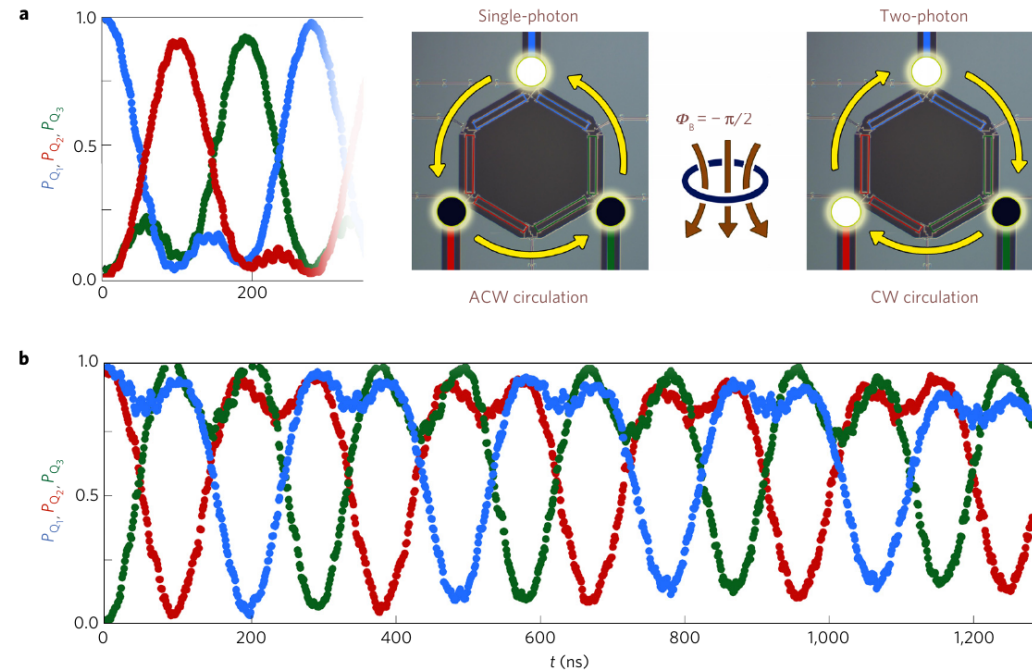
Next steps: extend theory to Class-B lasers. Control instabilities and maintain single-mode emission

Fundamental question \rightarrow effect of convective/absolute instability on coherence properties

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

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

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



Roushan et al., Nat. Phys. 2016

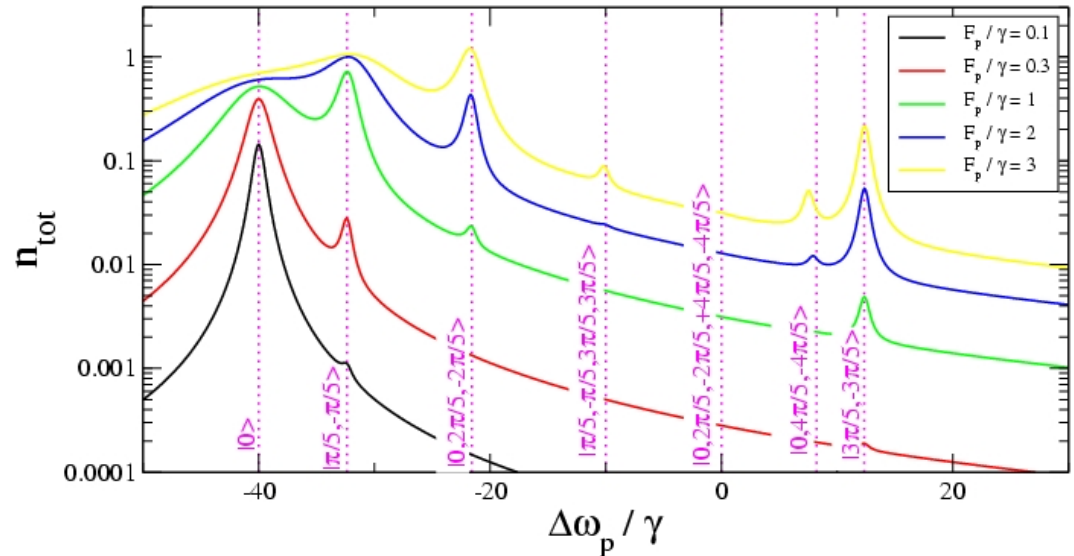
“Many”-body effect:

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

Impenetrable “fermionized” photons in 1D necklaces

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

Coherent pump
selectively addresses
specific many-body states



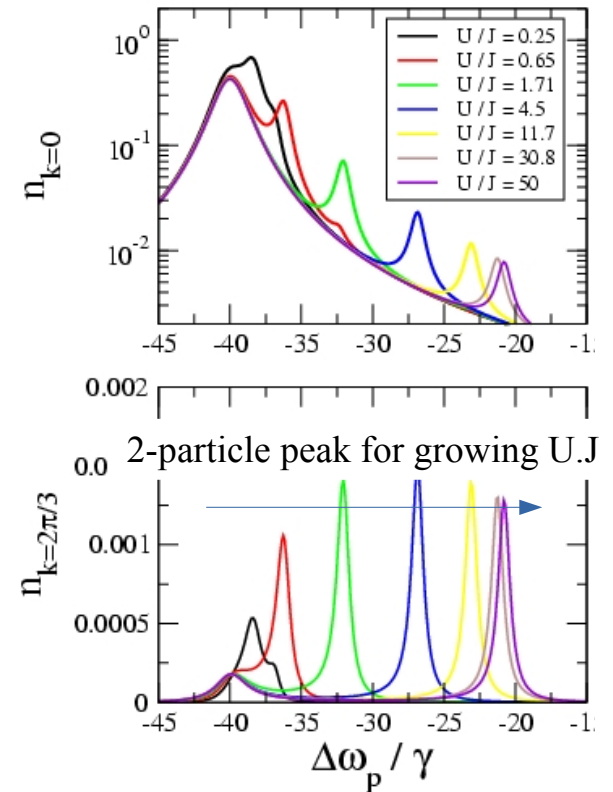
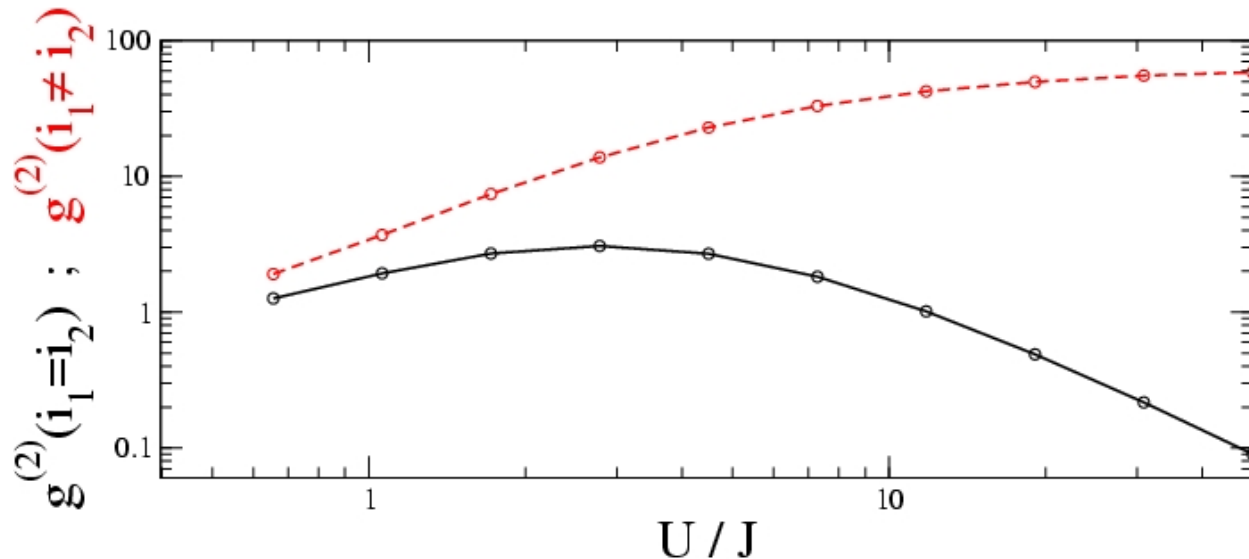
Transmission spectrum as a function pump frequency for fixed pump intensity:

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

N -particle state excited by N photon transition:

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

State tomography from emission statistics

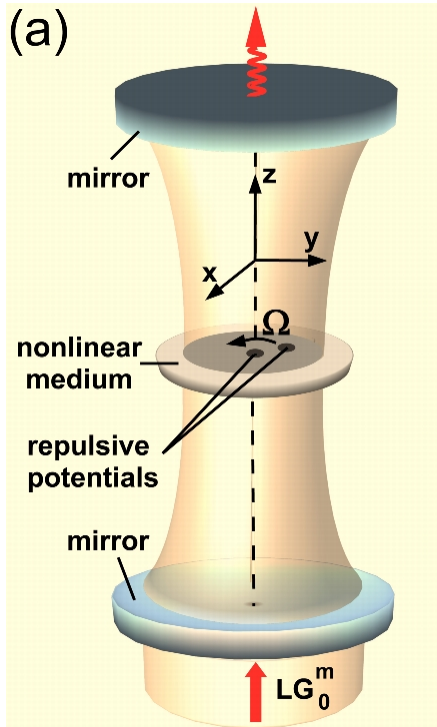


Finite U/J , pump laser tuned on two-photon resonance

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

Continuous space FQH physics

Single cylindrical cavity. No need for cavity array



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

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

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

Resonant peak in transmission due to Laughlin state:

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

