

From weak to ultra-strong matter-light coupling with organic materials

Jonathan Keeling



University of
St Andrews

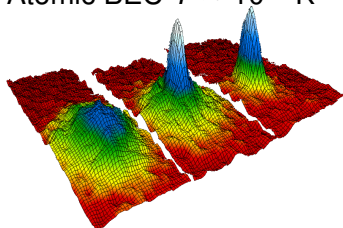
1413-2013

Yale, February 2015



Coherent states of matter and light

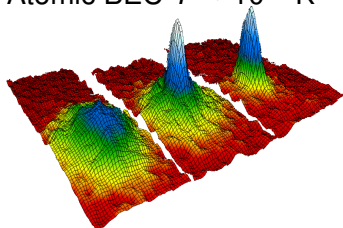
Atomic BEC $T \sim 10^{-7}\text{K}$



[Anderson *et al.* Science '95]

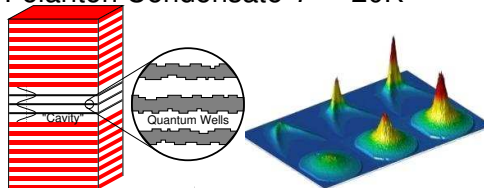
Coherent states of matter and light

Atomic BEC $T \sim 10^{-7}\text{K}$



[Anderson *et al.* Science '95]

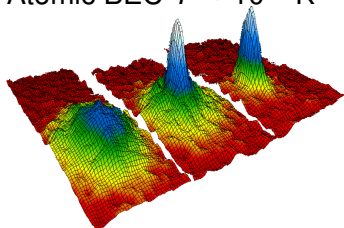
Polariton Condensate $T \sim 20\text{K}$



[Kasprzak *et al.* Nature, '06]

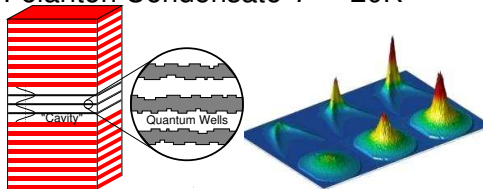
Coherent states of matter and light

Atomic BEC $T \sim 10^{-7}\text{K}$



[Anderson *et al.* Science '95]

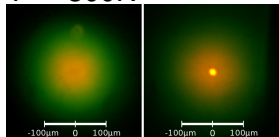
Polariton Condensate $T \sim 20\text{K}$



[Kasprzak *et al.* Nature, '06]

Photon Condensate

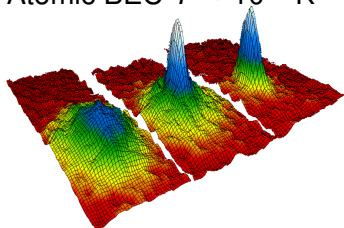
$T \sim 300\text{K}$



[Klaers *et al.* Nature, '10]

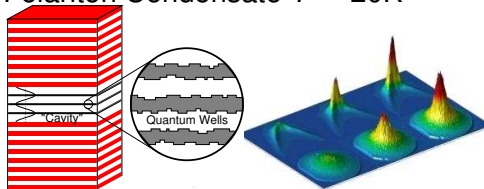
Coherent states of matter and light

Atomic BEC $T \sim 10^{-7}\text{K}$



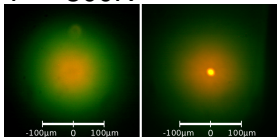
[Anderson *et al.* Science '95]

Polariton Condensate $T \sim 20\text{K}$



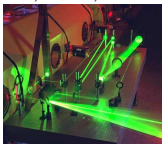
[Kasprzak *et al.* Nature, '06]

Photon Condensate
 $T \sim 300\text{K}$



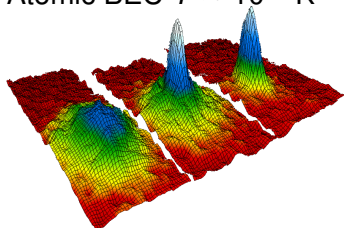
[Klaers *et al.* Nature, '10]

Laser
 $T \sim ?, < 0, \infty$



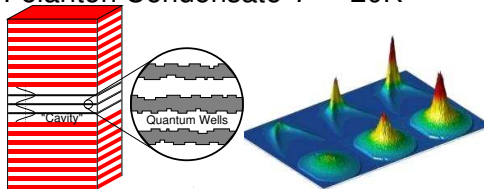
Coherent states of matter and light

Atomic BEC $T \sim 10^{-7}\text{K}$



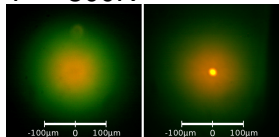
[Anderson *et al.* Science '95]

Polariton Condensate $T \sim 20\text{K}$



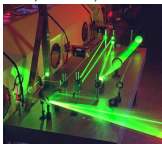
[Kasprzak *et al.* Nature, '06]

Photon Condensate
 $T \sim 300\text{K}$

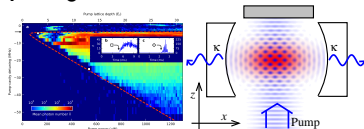


[Klaers *et al.* Nature, '10]

Laser
 $T \sim ?, < 0, \infty$



Superradiance transition
 $T \sim 0$



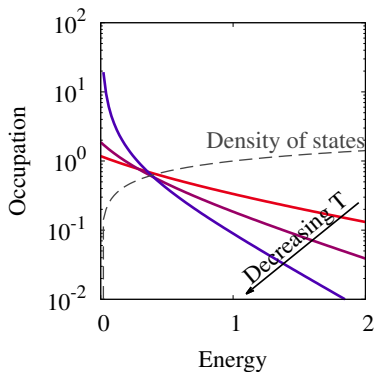
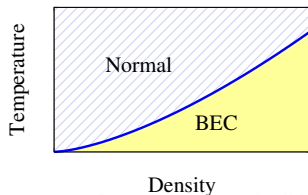
[Baumann *et al.* Nature, '10]

“Textbook” BEC

• Non-interacting viewpoint

▶ BE distribution: $\mu < \omega_0$

▶ $T_c = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m} \left(\frac{n}{\xi_d} \right)^{2/d}$



• Interacting approach (WIDBG)

$$H = \sum_k \omega_k \psi_k^\dagger \psi_k + \frac{g}{2V} \sum_{k,k',q} \psi_{k+q}^\dagger \psi_{k-q}^\dagger \psi_k \psi_{k'}$$

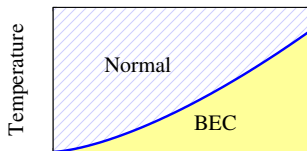
• Mean field: $|\psi_0|^2 = (\mu - \omega_0)/V$

“Textbook” BEC

- **Non-interacting** viewpoint

- ▶ BE distribution: $\mu < \omega_0$

- ▶ $T_c = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m} \left(\frac{n}{\xi_d} \right)^{2/d}$

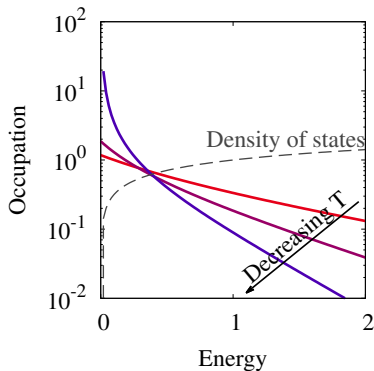


- **Interacting** approach (WIDBG)

$$H = \sum_k \omega_k \psi_k^\dagger \psi_k + \frac{g}{2V} \sum_{k,k',q} \psi_{k+q}^\dagger \psi_{k'-q}^\dagger \psi_{k+q} \psi_k$$

- ▶ Mean field: $|\psi|^2 = (\mu - \omega_0)/V$

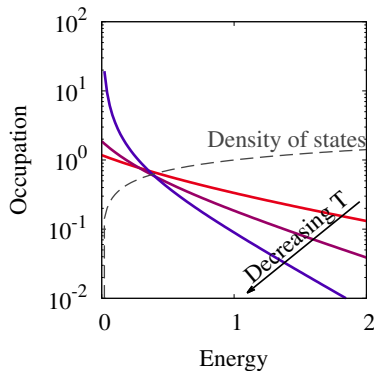
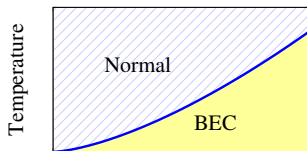
Fluctuations deplete condensate vanishes at $T > T_c$



“Textbook” BEC

• Non-interacting viewpoint

- ▶ BE distribution: $\mu < \omega_0$
- ▶ $T_c = \frac{2\pi\hbar^2}{m} \left(\frac{n}{\xi_d} \right)^{2/d}$



• Interacting approach (WIDBG)

$$H = \sum_k \omega_k \psi_k^\dagger \psi_k + \frac{g}{2V} \sum_{k,k',q} \psi_{k+q}^\dagger \psi_{k'-q}^\dagger \psi_{k+q} \psi_k$$

- ▶ Mean field: $|\psi|^2 = (\mu - \omega_0)/V$
- ▶ Fluctuations deplete condensate, vanishes at $T > T_c$

“Textbook” Laser: Maxwell Bloch equations

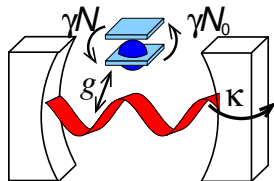
$$H = \omega_0 \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \epsilon_{\alpha} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g_{\alpha, \mathbf{k}} \left(\psi \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} + \psi^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \right)$$

Maxwell-Bloch eqns: $P = -i\langle \sigma^{-} \rangle$, $N = 2\langle \sigma^z \rangle$

$$\partial_t \psi = -i\omega_0 \psi - \kappa \psi + \sum_{\alpha} g_{\alpha} P_{\alpha}$$

$$\partial_t P_{\alpha} = -2i\epsilon_{\alpha} P_{\alpha} - 2\gamma P_{\alpha} + g_{\alpha} \psi N_{\alpha}$$

$$\partial_t N_{\alpha} = 2\gamma(N_0 - N_{\alpha}) - 2g_{\alpha}(\psi^* P_{\alpha} + P_{\alpha}^* \psi)$$



“Textbook” Laser: Maxwell Bloch equations

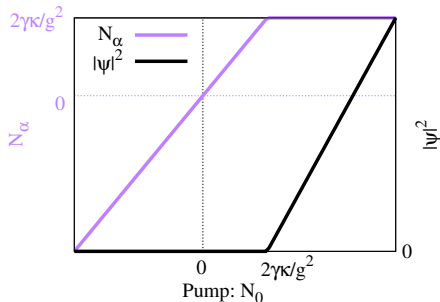
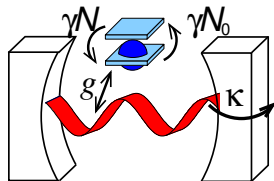
$$H = \omega_0 \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \epsilon_{\alpha} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g_{\alpha, \mathbf{k}} \left(\psi \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} + \psi^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \right)$$

Maxwell-Bloch eqns: $P = -i\langle \sigma^{-} \rangle$, $N = 2\langle \sigma^z \rangle$

$$\partial_t \psi = -i\omega_0 \psi - \kappa \psi + \sum_{\alpha} g_{\alpha} P_{\alpha}$$

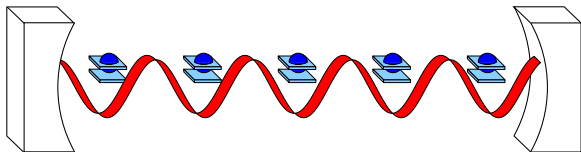
$$\partial_t P_{\alpha} = -2i\epsilon_{\alpha} P_{\alpha} - 2\gamma P_{\alpha} + g_{\alpha} \psi N_{\alpha}$$

$$\partial_t N_{\alpha} = 2\gamma(N_0 - N_{\alpha}) - 2g_{\alpha}(\psi^* P_{\alpha} + P_{\alpha}^* \psi)$$



$$|\psi|^2 > 0 \text{ if } N_0 g^2 > 2\gamma\kappa$$

“Textbook” Dicke-Hepp-Lieb superradiance

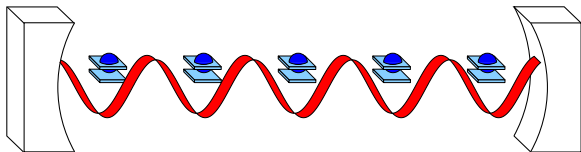


$$H = \omega \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \epsilon \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g \left(\psi^\dagger \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} + \psi \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} \right)$$

- Coherent state: $|\Psi\rangle \rightarrow e^{\lambda \psi^\dagger + \eta \psi} |\Omega\rangle$
- Small g , min at $\lambda, \eta = 0$

[Hepp, Lieb, Ann. Phys. '73]

“Textbook” Dicke-Hepp-Lieb superradiance



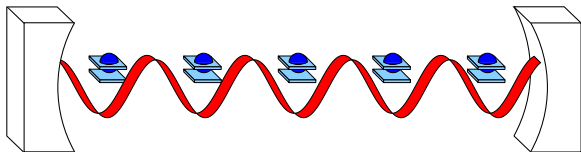
$$H = \omega \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \epsilon \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g \left(\psi^\dagger \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} + \psi \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} \right)$$

• Coherent state: $|\Psi\rangle \rightarrow e^{\lambda \psi^\dagger + \eta \sigma^+} |\Omega\rangle$

• Small g , min at $\lambda, \eta = 0$

[Hepp, Lieb, Ann. Phys. '73]

“Textbook” Dicke-Hepp-Lieb superradiance



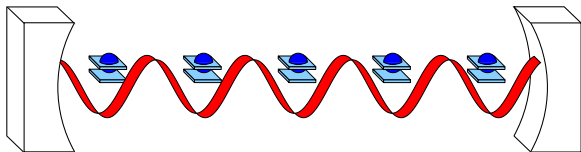
$$H = \omega \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \epsilon \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g \left(\psi^\dagger \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} + \psi \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} \right)$$

- Coherent state: $|\Psi\rangle \rightarrow e^{\lambda \psi^\dagger + \eta \sigma^+} |\Omega\rangle$
- Small g , min at $\lambda, \eta = 0$

Spontaneous polarisation if: $Ng^2 > \omega\epsilon$

[Hepp, Lieb, Ann. Phys. '73]

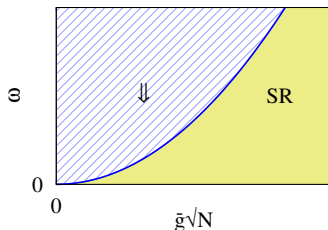
“Textbook” Dicke-Hepp-Lieb superradiance



$$H = \omega \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \epsilon \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g \left(\psi^\dagger \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} + \psi \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} \right)$$

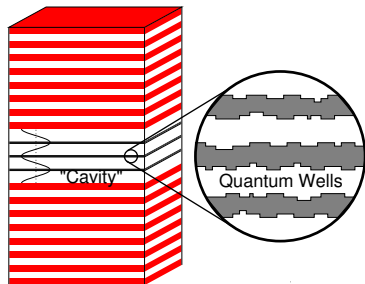
- Coherent state: $|\Psi\rangle \rightarrow e^{\lambda \psi^\dagger + \eta \sigma^+} |\Omega\rangle$
- Small g , min at $\lambda, \eta = 0$

Spontaneous polarisation if: $Ng^2 > \omega\epsilon$

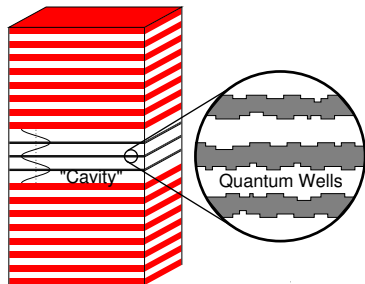


[Hepp, Lieb, Ann. Phys. '73]

Microcavity polaritons

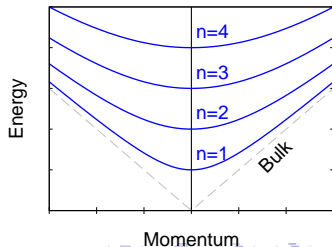


Microcavity polaritons

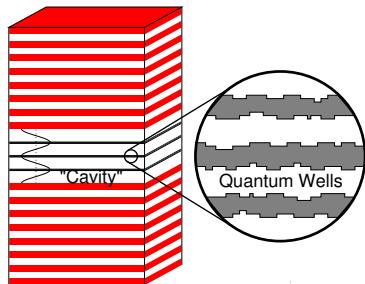


Cavity photons:

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_k &= \sqrt{\omega_0^2 + c^2 k^2} \\ &\simeq \omega_0 + k^2/2m^* \\ m^* &\sim 10^{-4} m_e\end{aligned}$$

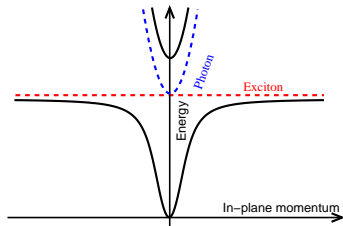


Microcavity polaritons

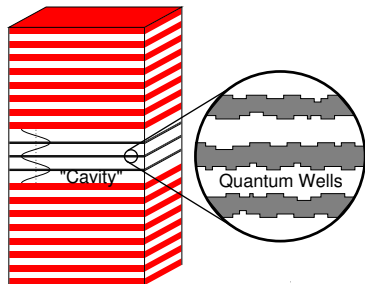


Cavity photons:

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_k &= \sqrt{\omega_0^2 + c^2 k^2} \\ &\simeq \omega_0 + \frac{k^2}{2m^*} \\ m^* &\sim 10^{-4} m_e\end{aligned}$$

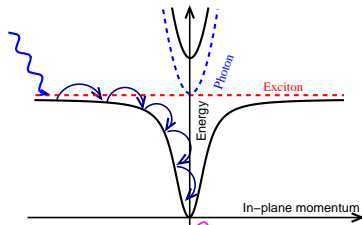


Microcavity polaritons

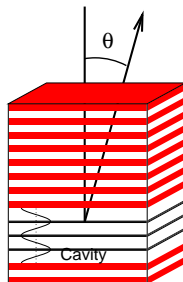
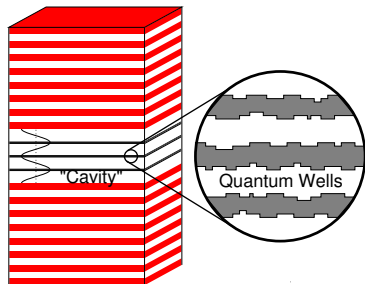


Cavity photons:

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_k &= \sqrt{\omega_0^2 + c^2 k^2} \\ &\simeq \omega_0 + \frac{k^2}{2m^*} \\ m^* &\sim 10^{-4} m_e\end{aligned}$$

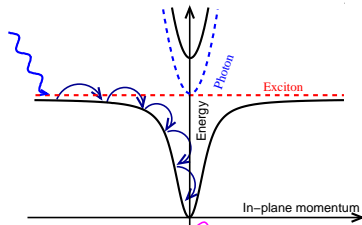


Microcavity polaritons

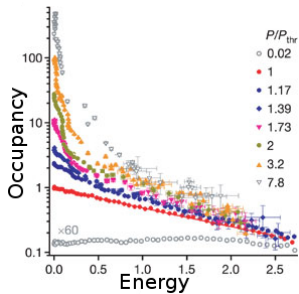
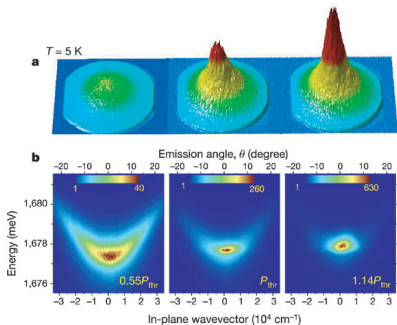


Cavity photons:

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_k &= \sqrt{\omega_0^2 + c^2 k^2} \\ &\simeq \omega_0 + \frac{k^2}{2m^*} \\ m^* &\sim 10^{-4} m_e\end{aligned}$$

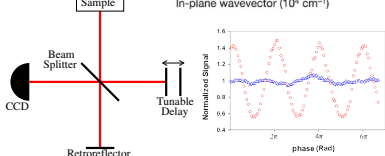
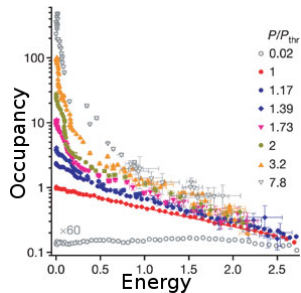
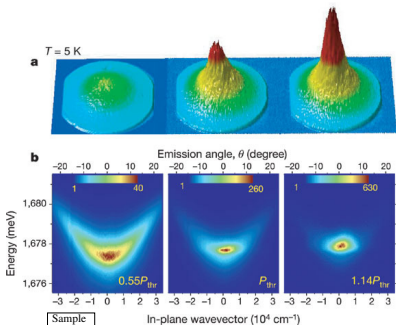


Polariton experiments: occupation and coherence

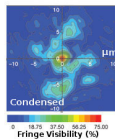
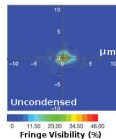
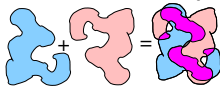


[Kasprzak, *et al.* Nature, '06]

Polariton experiments: occupation and coherence



Coherence map:



[Kasprzak, *et al.* Nature, '06]

Condensation-superradiance crossover

- Use model that can show lasing and condensation:
Generalised Dicke model:

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \psi_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g_{\alpha, \mathbf{k}} \left(\psi_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} + \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \right) \right]$$

• Grand canonical equilibrium, $\hat{H} - \mu \hat{N}$. Dicke superradiance:

• Many modes — fluctuations restore $T_c \propto n^2/d$

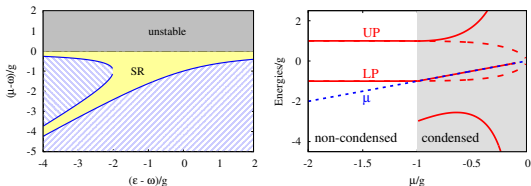
[JK et al, PRL '04, PRB '05, Review: Semicond. Sci. Tech. '07]

Condensation-superradiance crossover

- Use model that can show lasing and condensation:
Generalised Dicke model:

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \psi_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g_{\alpha, \mathbf{k}} \left(\psi_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} + \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \right) \right]$$

- Grand canonical equilibrium, $\hat{H} - \mu \hat{N}$. Dicke superradiance:



• Many modes — fluctuations restore $T_c \propto n^{\frac{1}{d}}$

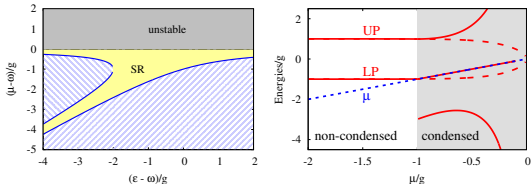
[JK et al, PRL '04, PRB '05, Review: Semicond. Sci. Tech. '07]

Condensation-superradiance crossover

- Use model that can show lasing and condensation:
Generalised Dicke model:

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \psi_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g_{\alpha, \mathbf{k}} \left(\psi_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} + \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \right) \right]$$

- Grand canonical equilibrium, $\hat{H} - \mu \hat{N}$. Dicke superradiance:



- Many modes — fluctuations restore $T_c \propto n^{2/d}$

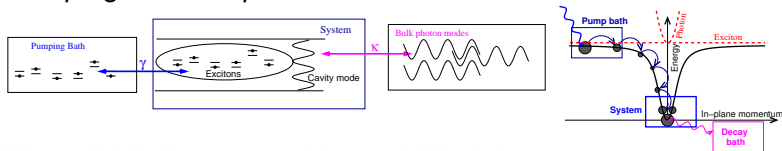
[JK et al, PRL '04, PRB '05, Review: Semicond. Sci. Tech. '07]

Lasing-condensation crossover

Generalised Dicke model:

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \psi_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g_{\alpha, \mathbf{k}} \left(\psi_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} + \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \right) \right]$$

● Pumping and dissipation



- Mean field, $\tau_{\text{diss}} \rightarrow \infty$, Maxwell Bloch Laser
- Pump and decay $\rightarrow 0$, Equilibrium condensate

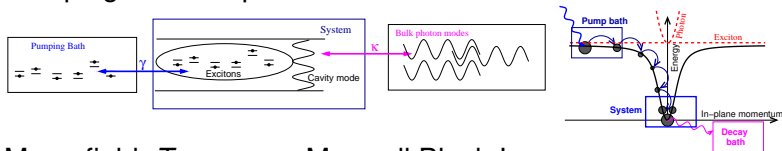
[Szymanska et al, PRL '06, PRB '07, Reviews: '10, '13

Lasing-condensation crossover

Generalised Dicke model:

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \psi_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g_{\alpha, \mathbf{k}} \left(\psi_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} + \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \right) \right]$$

- Pumping and dissipation



- Mean field, $T_{\text{bath}} \rightarrow \infty$, Maxwell Bloch Laser

→ Pump and decay $\rightarrow 0$, Equilibrium condensate

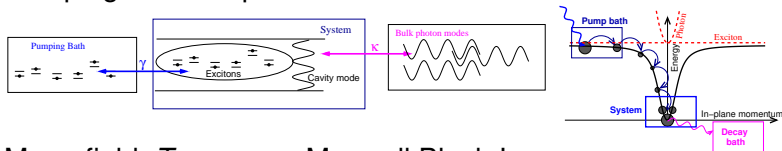
[Szymanska et al, PRL '06, PRB '07, Reviews: '10, '13

Lasing-condensation crossover

Generalised Dicke model:

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \psi_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g_{\alpha, \mathbf{k}} \left(\psi_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} + \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \right) \right]$$

- Pumping and dissipation



- Mean field, $T_{\text{bath}} \rightarrow \infty$, Maxwell Bloch Laser
- Pump and decay $\rightarrow 0$, Equilibrium condensate

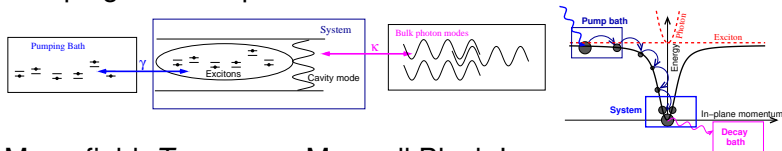
[Szymanska et al, PRL '06, PRB '07, Reviews: '10, '13

Lasing-condensation crossover

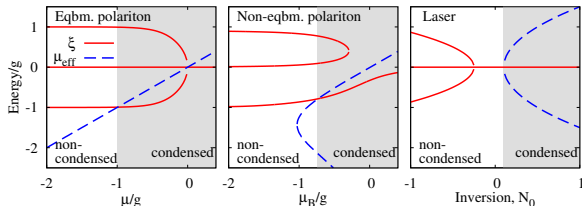
Generalised Dicke model:

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \psi_{\mathbf{k}} + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g_{\alpha, \mathbf{k}} \left(\psi_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{\alpha}^{+} + \psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \right) \right]$$

- Pumping and dissipation



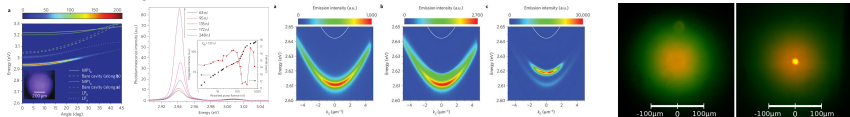
- Mean field, $T_{\text{bath}} \rightarrow \infty$, Maxwell Bloch Laser
- Pump and decay $\rightarrow 0$, Equilibrium condensate



[Szymanska et al, PRL '06, PRB '07, Reviews: '10, '13

Matter-Light coupling with organic molecules

• What & why?



[Kena Cohen and Forrest, Nat. Photon '10; Plumhoff *et al.* Nat. Materials '14, Daskalakis *et al.* *ibid* '14] [Klaers *et al.* Nature '10]

- ▶ Wide variety of systems:
polymers, fluorenes, J-aggregates, molecular crystals.

▶ Open large polariton splitting, $g\sqrt{N} \sim 0.1 \text{ eV} \leftrightarrow 100\text{K}$

• Theory questions/challenges

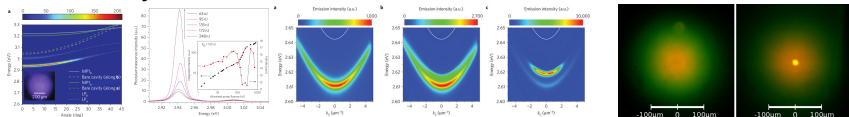
▶ Ultrastrong coupling

▶ Vibrational modes

▶ (Partial) thermalisation

Matter-Light coupling with organic molecules

• What & why?



[Kena Cohen and Forrest, Nat. Photon '10; Plumhoff *et al.* Nat. Materials '14, Daskalakis *et al.* *ibid* '14] [Klaers *et al.* Nature '10]

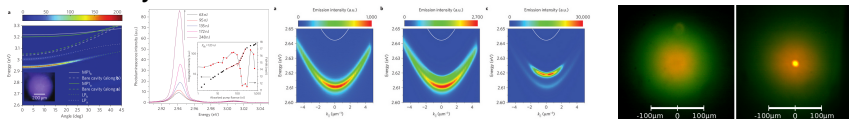
- ▶ Wide variety of systems:
polymers, fluorenes, J-aggregates, molecular crystals.
- ▶ Often large polariton splitting, $g\sqrt{N} \sim 0.1 \text{ eV} \leftrightarrow 1000\text{K}$

• Theory questions/challenges

- ▶ Ultrastrong coupling
- ▶ Vibrational modes
- ▶ (Partial) thermalisation

Matter-Light coupling with organic molecules

● What & why?



[Kena Cohen and Forrest, Nat. Photon '10; Plumhoff *et al.* Nat. Materials '14, Daskalakis *et al.* *ibid* '14] [Klaers *et al.* Nature '10]

- ▶ Wide variety of systems:
polymers, fluorenes, J-aggregates, molecular crystals.
- ▶ Often large polariton splitting, $g\sqrt{N} \sim 0.1 \text{ eV} \leftrightarrow 1000\text{K}$

● Theory questions/challenges

- ▶ Ultrastrong coupling
- ▶ Vibrational modes
- ▶ (Partial) thermalisation

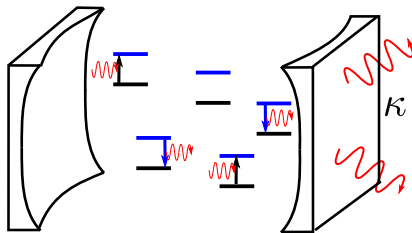
Dicke Holstein Model

- Dicke model: 2LS \leftrightarrow photons

- Molecular vibrational mode

- Phonon frequency Ω

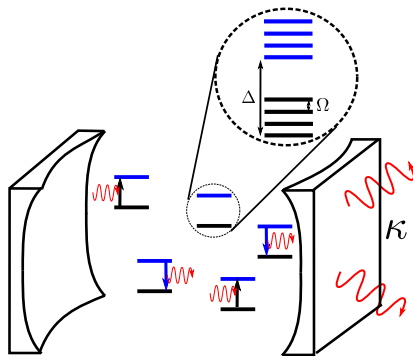
- Huang-Rhys parameter S —
coupling strength



$$H_{\text{sys}} = \omega \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g (\psi + \psi^\dagger) (\sigma_{\alpha}^+ + \sigma_{\alpha}^-) \right]$$

Dicke Holstein Model

- Dicke model: 2LS \leftrightarrow photons
- Molecular vibrational mode
 - ▶ Phonon frequency Ω
 - ▶ Huang-Rhys parameter S — coupling strength



$$H_{\text{sys}} = \omega \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_{\alpha}^z + g (\psi + \psi^\dagger) (\sigma_{\alpha}^+ + \sigma_{\alpha}^-) \right] + \sum_{\alpha} \Omega \left\{ b_{\alpha}^\dagger b_{\alpha} + \sqrt{S} \sigma_{\alpha}^z (b_{\alpha}^\dagger + b_{\alpha}) \right\}$$

Overview

1 Introduction

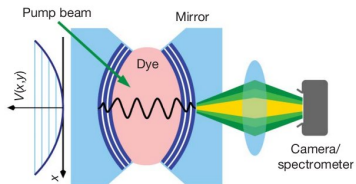
2 Weak coupling: Photon BEC

- Model & threshold
- Time evolution
- Pump-spot size dependence

3 Ground state spectrum

- Ultra strong coupling & reconfiguration
- Vibrational sidebands in spectrum

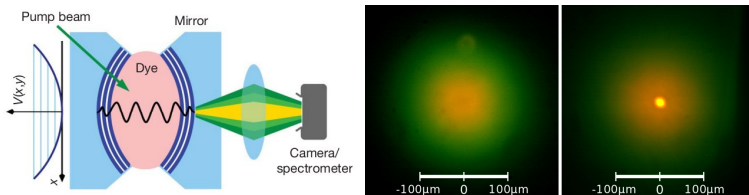
Photon BEC experiments



- Dye filled microcavity

[Klaers et al, Nature, 2010]

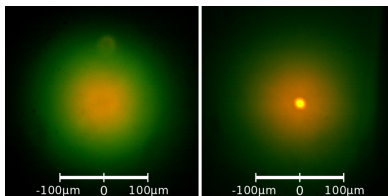
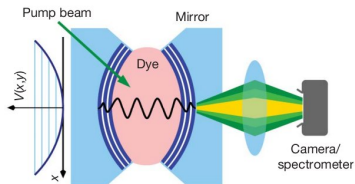
Photon BEC experiments



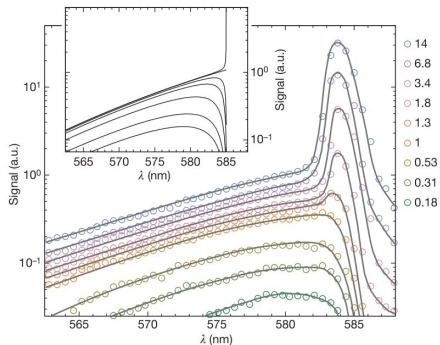
- Dye filled microcavity

[Klaers et al, Nature, 2010]

Photon BEC experiments



- Dye filled microcavity



[Klaers et al, Nature, 2010]

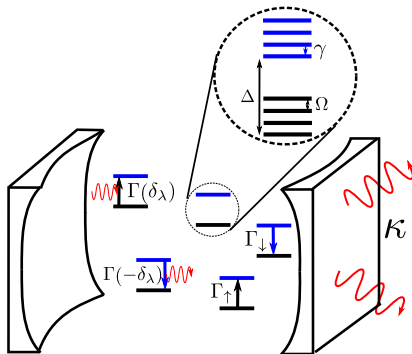
Modelling

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_m \omega_m \psi_m^\dagger \psi_m + \sum_\alpha \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_\alpha^z + g (\psi_m \sigma_\alpha^+ + \text{H.c.}) \right] \\ + \sum_\alpha \Omega \left\{ b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha + \sqrt{S} \sigma_\alpha^z (b_\alpha^\dagger + b_\alpha) \right\}$$

- **2D** harmonic oscillator

$$\omega_m = \omega_{\text{cutoff}} + m\omega_{H.O.}$$

- Incoherent processes: excitation, decay, loss, vibrational thermalisation.
- Weak coupling, perturbative in g

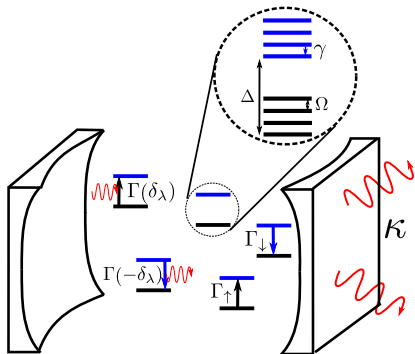


Modelling

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_m \omega_m \psi_m^\dagger \psi_m + \sum_\alpha \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_\alpha^z + g (\psi_m \sigma_\alpha^+ + \text{H.c.}) \right] \\ + \sum_\alpha \Omega \left\{ b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha + \sqrt{S} \sigma_\alpha^z (b_\alpha^\dagger + b_\alpha) \right\}$$

- **2D** harmonic oscillator
 $\omega_m = \omega_{\text{cutoff}} + m\omega_{H.O.}$
- Incoherent processes: excitation, decay, loss, vibrational thermalisation.

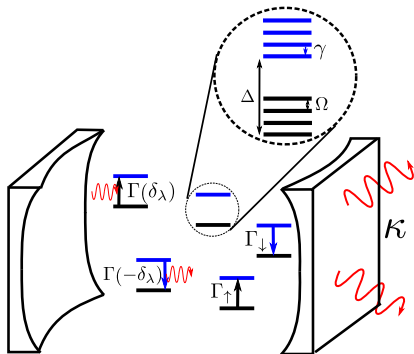
• Weak coupling, perturbative in g



Modelling

$$H_{\text{sys}} = \sum_m \omega_m \psi_m^\dagger \psi_m + \sum_\alpha \left[\frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_\alpha^z + g (\psi_m \sigma_\alpha^+ + \text{H.c.}) \right] \\ + \sum_\alpha \Omega \left\{ b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha + \sqrt{S} \sigma_\alpha^z (b_\alpha^\dagger + b_\alpha) \right\}$$

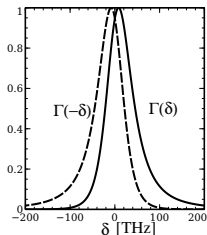
- **2D** harmonic oscillator
 $\omega_m = \omega_{\text{cutoff}} + m\omega_{H.O.}$
- Incoherent processes: excitation, decay, loss, vibrational thermalisation.
- Weak coupling, perturbative in g



Modelling

Master equation

$$\dot{\rho} = -i[H_0, \rho] - \sum_m \frac{\kappa}{2} \mathcal{L}[\psi_m] - \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}}{2} \mathcal{L}[\sigma_{\alpha}^{+}] + \frac{\Gamma_{\downarrow}}{2} \mathcal{L}[\sigma_{\alpha}^{-}] \right] \\ - \sum_{m, \alpha} \left[\frac{\Gamma(\delta_m = \omega_m - \epsilon)}{2} \mathcal{L}[\sigma_{\alpha}^{+} \psi_m] + \frac{\Gamma(-\delta_m = \epsilon - \omega_m)}{2} \mathcal{L}[\sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \psi_m^{\dagger}] \right]$$



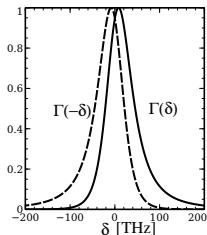
• Kennard-Stepanov
 $\Gamma(+\delta) \simeq \Gamma(-\delta) e^{\beta \hbar \delta}$

[Marthaler et al PRL '11, Kirton & JK PRL '13]

Modelling

Master equation

$$\dot{\rho} = -i[H_0, \rho] - \sum_m \frac{\kappa}{2} \mathcal{L}[\psi_m] - \sum_{\alpha} \left[\frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}}{2} \mathcal{L}[\sigma_{\alpha}^{+}] + \frac{\Gamma_{\downarrow}}{2} \mathcal{L}[\sigma_{\alpha}^{-}] \right] \\ - \sum_{m, \alpha} \left[\frac{\Gamma(\delta_m = \omega_m - \epsilon)}{2} \mathcal{L}[\sigma_{\alpha}^{+} \psi_m] + \frac{\Gamma(-\delta_m = \epsilon - \omega_m)}{2} \mathcal{L}[\sigma_{\alpha}^{-} \psi_m^{\dagger}] \right]$$



- Kennard-Stepanov
 $\Gamma(+\delta) \simeq \Gamma(-\delta) e^{\beta\delta}$

[Marthaler et al PRL '11, Kirton & JK PRL '13]

Distribution $g_m n_m$

- Master equation \rightarrow Rate equation

$$\partial_t n_m = -\kappa n_m + \Gamma(-\delta_m)(n_m + 1)N_{\uparrow} - \Gamma(\delta_m)n_m N_{\downarrow}$$

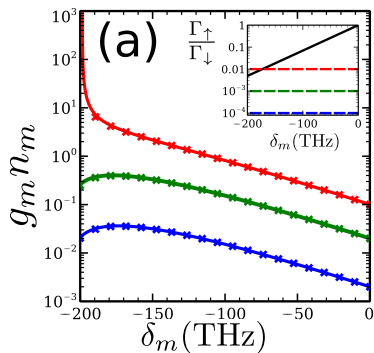
- Bose-Einstein distribution without losses

Distribution $g_m n_m$

- Master equation \rightarrow Rate equation

$$\partial_t n_m = -\kappa n_m + \Gamma(-\delta_m)(n_m + 1)N_{\uparrow} - \Gamma(\delta_m)n_m N_{\downarrow}$$

- Bose-Einstein distribution without losses



Low loss: Thermal

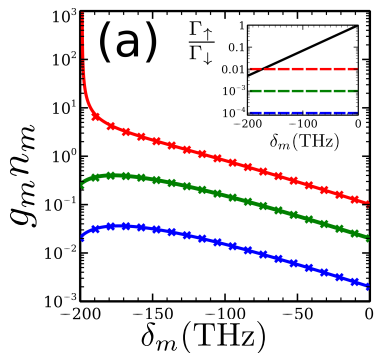
[Kirton & JK PRL '13]

Distribution $g_m n_m$

- Master equation \rightarrow Rate equation

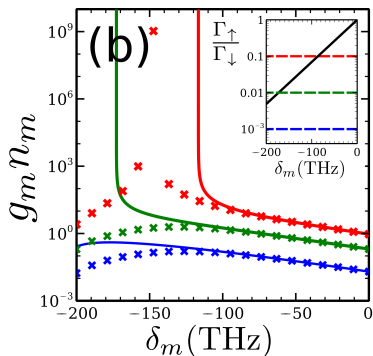
$$\partial_t n_m = -\kappa n_m + \Gamma(-\delta_m)(n_m + 1)N_{\uparrow} - \Gamma(\delta_m)n_m N_{\downarrow}$$

- Bose-Einstein distribution without losses



Low loss: Thermal

[Kirton & JK PRL '13]

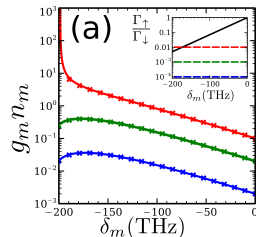


High loss \rightarrow Laser

Chemical potential?

- Steady state distribution:

$$\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} = \frac{\Gamma(-\delta_m) N_{\uparrow}}{\kappa + \Gamma(\delta_m) N_{\downarrow}}$$



- $\kappa \ll N\Gamma(\delta)$, Kennard-Stepanov

$$\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} = e^{-N\delta_m + \beta\mu}, \quad e^{\beta\mu} = \frac{N_{\uparrow}}{N_{\downarrow}} = \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow} + \sum_m \Gamma(\delta_m) n_m}{\Gamma_{\downarrow} + \sum_m \Gamma(-\delta_m) (n_m + 1)}$$

- Below threshold, $\mu = k_B T \ln[\Gamma_{\uparrow}/\Gamma_{\downarrow}]$
- Above threshold, $\mu \rightarrow \delta_0$

Chemical potential?

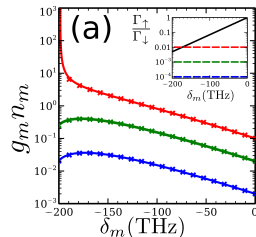
- Steady state distribution:

$$\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} = \frac{\Gamma(-\delta_m) N_{\uparrow}}{\kappa + \Gamma(\delta_m) N_{\downarrow}}$$

- $\kappa \ll N\Gamma(\delta)$, Kennard-Stepanov

$$\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} = e^{-\beta\delta_m + \beta\mu}, \quad e^{\beta\mu} \equiv \frac{N_{\uparrow}}{N_{\downarrow}} = \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow} + \sum_m \Gamma(\delta_m) n_m}{\Gamma_{\downarrow} + \sum_m \Gamma(-\delta_m) (n_m + 1)}$$

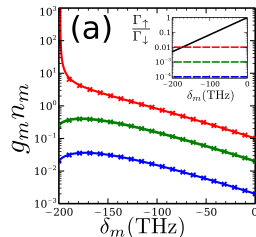
- Below threshold, $\mu = k_B T \ln[\Gamma_{\uparrow}/\Gamma_{\downarrow}]$
- Above threshold, $\mu \rightarrow \delta_0$



Chemical potential?

- Steady state distribution:

$$\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} = \frac{\Gamma(-\delta_m) N_{\uparrow}}{\kappa + \Gamma(\delta_m) N_{\downarrow}}$$



- $\kappa \ll N\Gamma(\delta)$, Kennard-Stepanov

$$\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} = e^{-\beta\delta_m + \beta\mu}, \quad e^{\beta\mu} \equiv \frac{N_{\uparrow}}{N_{\downarrow}} = \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow} + \sum_m \Gamma(\delta_m) n_m}{\Gamma_{\downarrow} + \sum_m \Gamma(-\delta_m) (n_m + 1)}$$

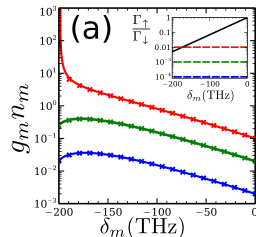
- Below threshold, $\mu = k_B T \ln[\Gamma_{\uparrow}/\Gamma_{\downarrow}]$

• At/above threshold, $\mu \rightarrow \delta_0$

Chemical potential?

- Steady state distribution:

$$\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} = \frac{\Gamma(-\delta_m) N_{\uparrow}}{\kappa + \Gamma(\delta_m) N_{\downarrow}}$$



- $\kappa \ll N\Gamma(\delta)$, Kennard-Stepanov

$$\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} = e^{-\beta\delta_m + \beta\mu}, \quad e^{\beta\mu} \equiv \frac{N_{\uparrow}}{N_{\downarrow}} = \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow} + \sum_m \Gamma(\delta_m) n_m}{\Gamma_{\downarrow} + \sum_m \Gamma(-\delta_m) (n_m + 1)}$$

- Below threshold, $\mu = k_B T \ln[\Gamma_{\uparrow}/\Gamma_{\downarrow}]$
- At/above threshold, $\mu \rightarrow \delta_0$

Time evolution

1 Introduction

2 Weak coupling: Photon BEC

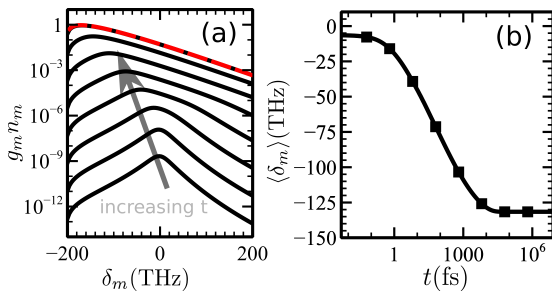
- Model & threshold
- **Time evolution**
- Pump-spot size dependence

3 Ground state spectrum

- Ultra strong coupling & reconfiguration
- Vibrational sidebands in spectrum

Time evolution

- Initial state: excited molecules
 - Initial emission, follows gain peak
 - Thermalisation by repeated absorption

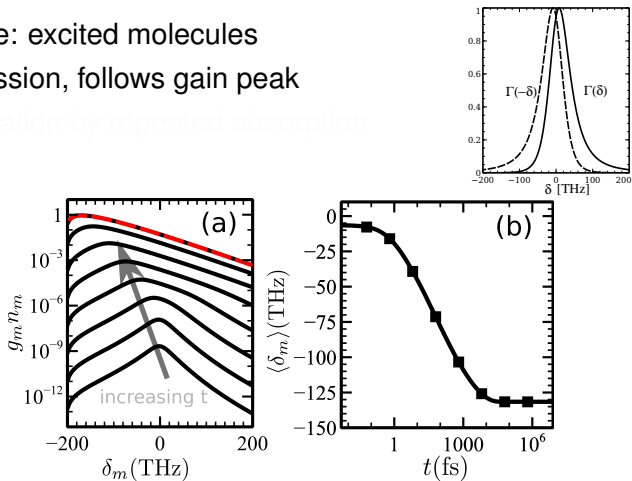


[Kirton & JK arXiv:1410.6632]

Time evolution

- Initial state: excited molecules
- Initial emission, follows gain peak

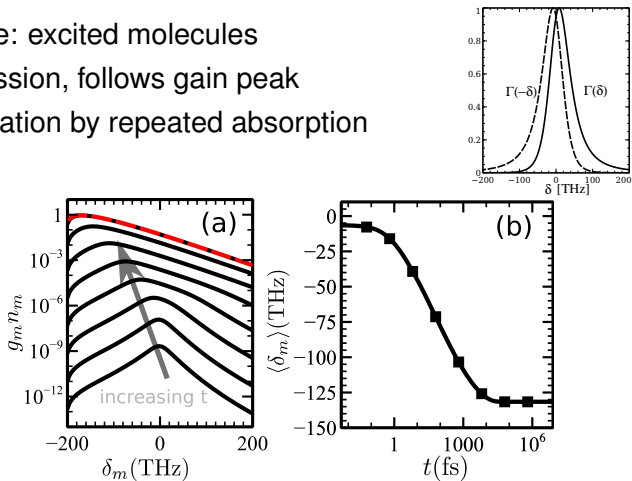
◦ Thermalisation by repeated absorption



[Kirton & JK arXiv:1410.6632]

Time evolution

- Initial state: excited molecules
- Initial emission, follows gain peak
- Thermalisation by repeated absorption



[Kirton & JK arXiv:1410.6632]

Pump spot size

1 Introduction

2 Weak coupling: Photon BEC

- Model & threshold
- Time evolution
- Pump-spot size dependence

3 Ground state spectrum

- Ultra strong coupling & reconfiguration
- Vibrational sidebands in spectrum

Spatially varying pump intensity

- Consider effects of pump profile, $\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) = \Gamma_{\uparrow} \exp(-r^2/2\sigma_{\text{pump}}^2)$

• Experiments: [Marelic & Nyman, arXiv:1410.6822]

- Varying excited density – differential coupling to modes

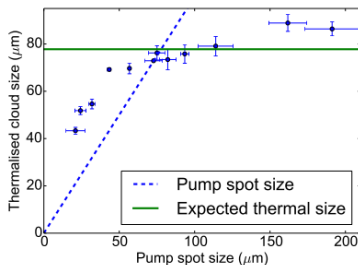
$$\partial_t \rho_{\uparrow}(r) = -\bar{\Gamma}_{\downarrow}(r) \rho_{\uparrow}(r) + \bar{\Gamma}_{\uparrow}(r) \rho_{\downarrow}(r)$$

$$\partial_t n_m = \Gamma(-\delta_m) O_m (n_m + 1) - [\kappa + \Gamma(\delta_m) (\rho_m - O_m)] n_m$$

$$O_m = \int dr \rho_{\uparrow}(r) |\psi_m(r)|^2, \quad \rho_{\uparrow} + \rho_{\downarrow} = \rho_m$$

Spatially varying pump intensity

- Consider effects of pump profile, $\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) = \Gamma_{\uparrow} \exp(-r^2/2\sigma_{\text{pump}}^2)$
- Experiments: [Marelic & Nyman, arXiv:1410.6822]



- Varying excited density – differential coupling to modes

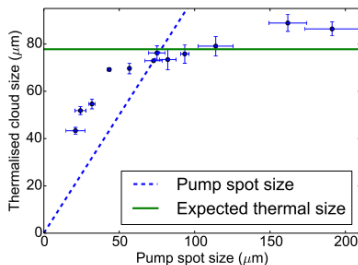
$$\partial_t \rho_1(r) = -\bar{\Gamma}_1(r) \rho_1(r) + \bar{\Gamma}_1(r) \rho_2(r)$$

$$\partial_t n_m = \Gamma(-\delta_m) Q_m (n_m + 1) - [\kappa + \Gamma(\delta_m) (\rho_m - Q_m)] n_m$$

$$Q_m = \int d\mathbf{r} \rho_1(r) |\psi_m(r)|^2, \quad \rho_1 + \rho_2 = \rho_m$$

Spatially varying pump intensity

- Consider effects of pump profile, $\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) = \Gamma_{\uparrow} \exp(-r^2/2\sigma_{\text{pump}}^2)$
- Experiments: [Marelic & Nyman, arXiv:1410.6822]



- Varying excited density – differential coupling to modes

$$\partial_t \rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) = -\tilde{\Gamma}_{\downarrow}(\mathbf{r})\rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) + \tilde{\Gamma}_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})\rho_{\downarrow}(\mathbf{r})$$

$$\partial_t n_m = \Gamma(-\delta_m) O_m (n_m + 1) - [\kappa + \Gamma(\delta_m)(\rho_m - O_m)] n_m$$

$$O_m = \int d\mathbf{r} \rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2, \quad \rho_{\uparrow} + \rho_{\downarrow} = \rho_m$$

Spatially varying pump: below threshold

- Far below threshold:

- ▶ Excitation: $\rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \rho_m \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} \ll \rho_m$

- ▶ If $\kappa \ll \rho_m \Gamma(\delta_m)$, $\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} \simeq e^{-\beta \delta_m} \times \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$

• Resulting profile, $I(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_m n_m |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$

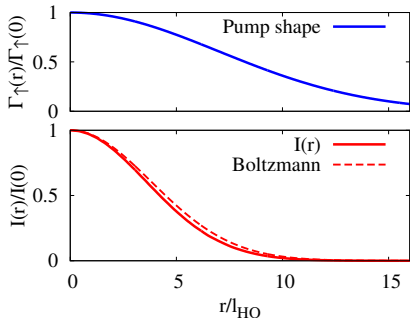
Spatially varying pump: below threshold

- Far below threshold:

- Excitation: $\rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \rho_m \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} \ll \rho_m$

- If $\kappa \ll \rho_m \Gamma(\delta_m)$, $\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} \simeq e^{-\beta \delta_m} \times \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$

- Resulting profile, $I(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_m n_m |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$



$$n_m = \frac{\kappa}{\rho_m \max_{\mathbf{r}} |\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})|}$$

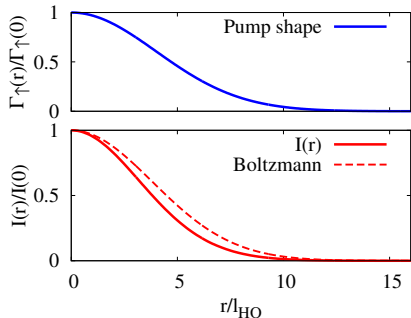
Spatially varying pump: below threshold

- Far below threshold:

- Excitation: $\rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \rho_m \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} \ll \rho_m$

- If $\kappa \ll \rho_m \Gamma(\delta_m)$, $\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} \simeq e^{-\beta \delta_m} \times \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$

- Resulting profile, $I(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_m n_m |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$



$$\rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \frac{\kappa}{\rho_m \max_i |\Gamma_i(\mathbf{r})|}$$

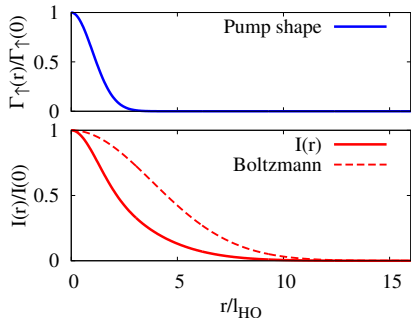
Spatially varying pump: below threshold

- Far below threshold:

- Excitation: $\rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \rho_m \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} \ll \rho_m$

- If $\kappa \ll \rho_m \Gamma(\delta_m)$, $\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} \simeq e^{-\beta \delta_m} \times \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$

- Resulting profile, $I(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_m n_m |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$



$$I(r) = \frac{\kappa}{\rho_m \max[\Gamma(r)]}$$

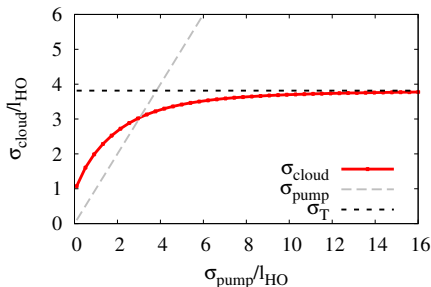
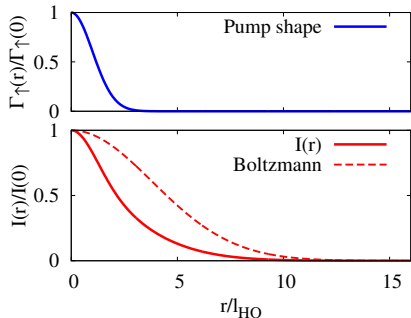
Spatially varying pump: below threshold

- Far below threshold:

- Excitation: $\rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \rho_m \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} \ll \rho_m$

- If $\kappa \ll \rho_m \Gamma(\delta_m)$, $\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} \simeq e^{-\beta \delta_m} \times \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$

- Resulting profile, $I(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_m n_m |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$



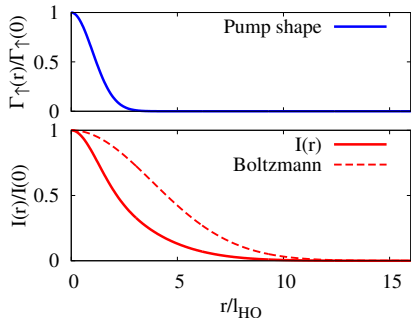
Spatially varying pump: below threshold

- Far below threshold:

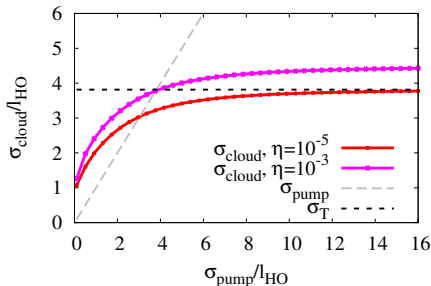
- Excitation: $\rho_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r}) \simeq \rho_m \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} \ll \rho_m$

- If $\kappa \ll \rho_m \Gamma(\delta_m)$, $\frac{n_m}{n_m + 1} \simeq e^{-\beta \delta_m} \times \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{\Gamma_{\uparrow}(\mathbf{r})}{\Gamma_{\downarrow}} |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$

- Resulting profile, $I(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_m n_m |\psi_m(\mathbf{r})|^2$



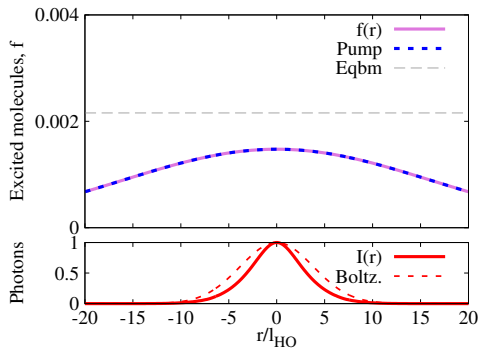
- $\eta = \frac{\kappa}{\rho_m \max[\Gamma(\delta)]}$



Near threshold behaviour

- Large spot, $\sigma_{\text{pump}} \gg l_{\text{HO}}$

- Non Boltzmann peak — BEC
- "Gain saturation" at centre

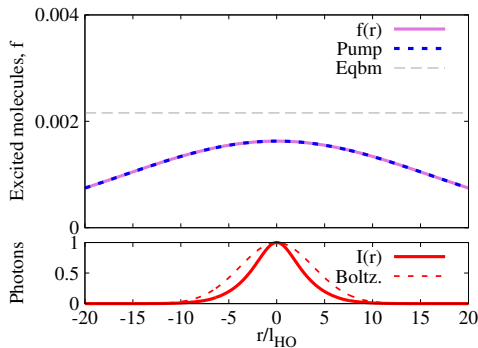


- Saturation of $f(r) = 1/(1 + e^{-\beta \mu})$ — spatial equilibration

Near threshold behaviour

- Large spot, $\sigma_{\text{pump}} \gg l_{\text{HO}}$

- Non Boltzmann peak — BEC
- "Gain saturation" at centre

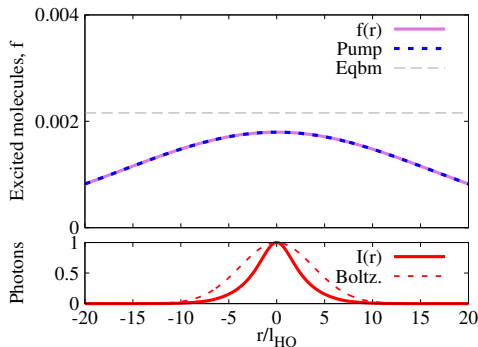


- Saturation of $f(r) = 1/(1 + e^{-\beta\epsilon})$ — spatial equilibration

Near threshold behaviour

- Large spot, $\sigma_{\text{pump}} \gg l_{\text{HO}}$

- Non Boltzmann peak — BEC
- "Gain saturation" at centre

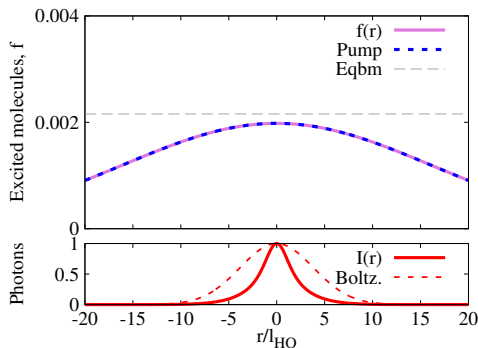


- Saturation of $f(r) = 1/(1 + e^{-\beta \mu})$ — spatial equilibration

Near threshold behaviour

- Large spot, $\sigma_{\text{pump}} \gg l_{\text{HO}}$

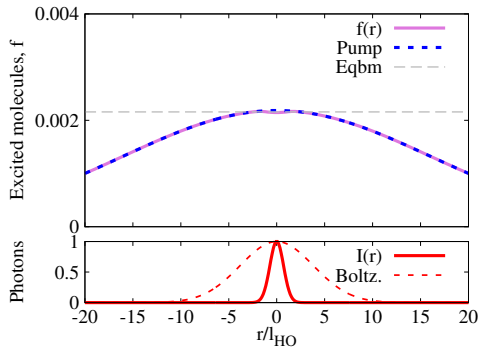
- Non Boltzmann peak — BEC
- "Gain saturation" at centre



- Saturation of $f(r) = 1/(1 + e^{-\beta \mu})$ — spatial equilibration

Near threshold behaviour

- Large spot, $\sigma_{\text{pump}} \gg l_{\text{HO}}$
- Non Boltzmann peak — BEC

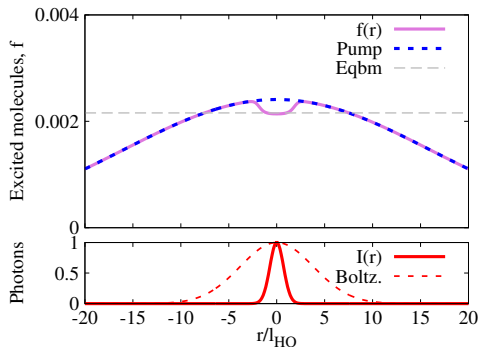


• "Gain saturation" at centre

• Saturation of $f(r) = 1/(1 + e^{-\beta h\nu})$ — spatial equilibration

Near threshold behaviour

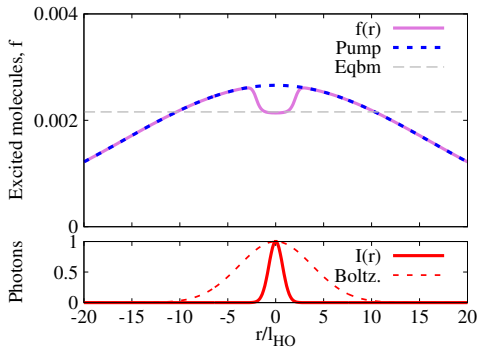
- Large spot, $\sigma_{\text{pump}} \gg l_{\text{HO}}$
- Non Boltzmann peak — BEC
- “Gain saturation” at centre



• Saturation of $I(r) = 1/(1 + e^{-\beta h\nu})$ — spatial equilibration

Near threshold behaviour

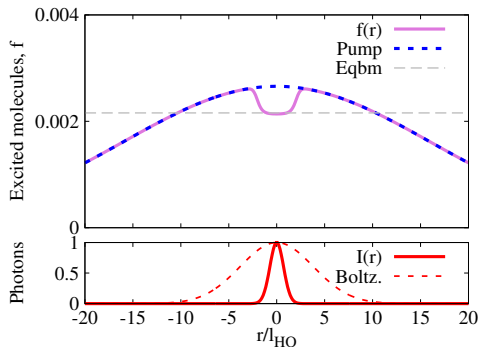
- Large spot, $\sigma_{\text{pump}} \gg l_{\text{HO}}$
- Non Boltzmann peak — BEC
- “Gain saturation” at centre



• Saturation of $I(r) = 1/(1 + e^{-2r})$ — spatial equilibration

Near threshold behaviour

- Large spot, $\sigma_{\text{pump}} \gg l_{\text{HO}}$
- Non Boltzmann peak — BEC
- “Gain saturation” at centre



- Saturation of $f(r) = 1/(1 + e^{-\beta\mu})$ — spatial equilibration

1 Introduction

2 Weak coupling: Photon BEC

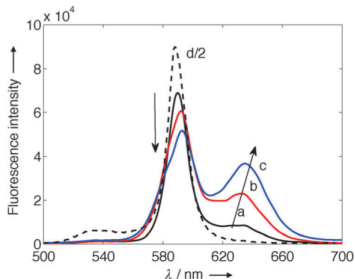
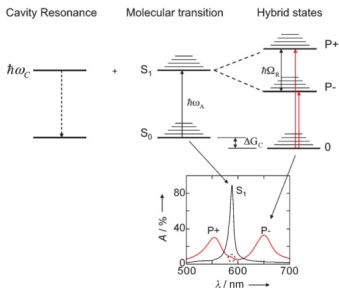
- Model & threshold
- Time evolution
- Pump-spot size dependence

3 Ground state spectrum

- Ultra strong coupling & reconfiguration
- Vibrational sidebands in spectrum

Ultra-strong coupling, changing configuration

- Ultra-strong coupling: $\omega, \epsilon \sim g\sqrt{N} \propto \sqrt{\text{concentration}}$
- Normal state: configuration of molecules



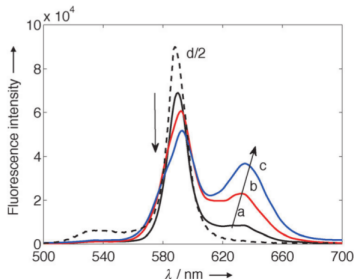
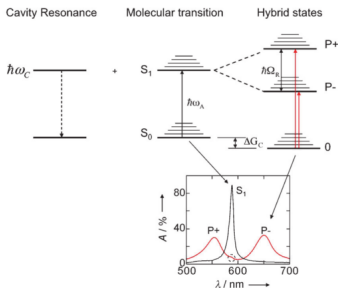
[Canaguier-Durand *et al.* Angew. Chem. '13]

- Polariton vs molecular spectral weight – chemical eqbm
- Temperature dependent

● Questions:

Ultra-strong coupling, changing configuration

- Ultra-strong coupling: $\omega, \epsilon \sim g\sqrt{N} \propto \sqrt{\text{concentration}}$
- Normal state: configuration of molecules



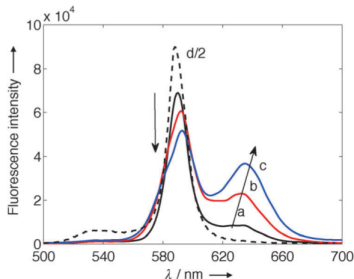
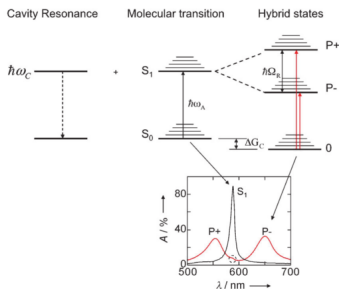
[Canaguier-Durand *et al.* Angew. Chem. '13]

- ▶ Polariton vs molecular spectral weight – chemical eqbm
- ▶ Temperature dependent

Questions

Ultra-strong coupling, changing configuration

- Ultra-strong coupling: $\omega, \epsilon \sim g\sqrt{N} \propto \sqrt{\text{concentration}}$
- Normal state: configuration of molecules



[Canaguier-Durand *et al.* Angew. Chem. '13]

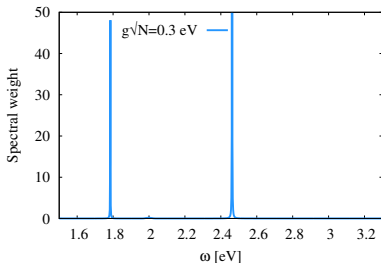
- ▶ Polariton vs molecular spectral weight – chemical eqbm
- ▶ Temperature dependent
- Questions:
 - ▶ Microscopic picture?
 - ▶ Vibrationally dressed spectrum + disorder

Disordered molecules — spectrum

- Calculate Green's function $G^R(\nu)$:

$$T(\nu) \propto |G^R(\nu)|^2, \quad A(\nu) \propto -\Im[G^R(\nu)] + (\text{interference})$$

• Ultra-strong coupling — renormalised photon



• Central peak:

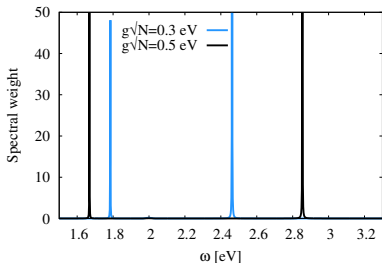
• Temperature independent (for $k_B T \ll g\sqrt{N}$)

Disordered molecules — spectrum

- Calculate Green's function $G^R(\nu)$:

$$T(\nu) \propto |G^R(\nu)|^2, \quad A(\nu) \propto -\Im[G^R(\nu)] + (\text{interference})$$

• Ultra-strong coupling — renormalised photon



• Central peak:

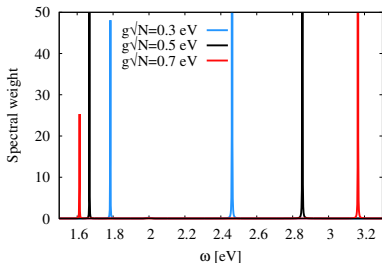
• Temperature independent (for $k_B T \ll g\sqrt{N}$)

Disordered molecules — spectrum

- Calculate Green's function $G^R(\nu)$:

$$T(\nu) \propto |G^R(\nu)|^2, \quad A(\nu) \propto -\Im[G^R(\nu)] + (\text{interference})$$

- Ultra-strong coupling — renormalised photon

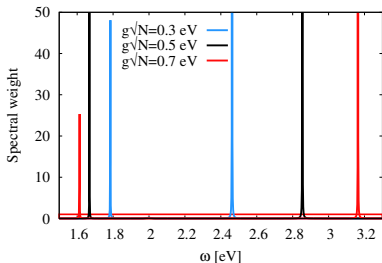


Disordered molecules — spectrum

- Calculate Green's function $G^R(\nu)$:

$$T(\nu) \propto |G^R(\nu)|^2, \quad A(\nu) \propto -\Im[G^R(\nu)] + (\text{interference})$$

- Ultra-strong coupling — renormalised photon

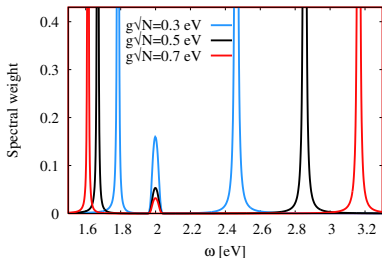


Disordered molecules — spectrum

- Calculate Green's function $G^R(\nu)$:

$$T(\nu) \propto |G^R(\nu)|^2, \quad A(\nu) \propto -\Im[G^R(\nu)] + (\text{interference})$$

- Ultra-strong coupling — renormalised photon



• Central peak

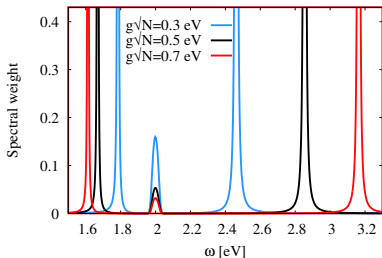
• Temperature independent (for $k_B T \ll g\sqrt{N}$)

Disordered molecules — spectrum

- Calculate Green's function $G^R(\nu)$:

$$T(\nu) \propto |G^R(\nu)|^2, \quad A(\nu) \propto -\Im[G^R(\nu)] + (\text{interference})$$

- Ultra-strong coupling — renormalised photon



- Central peak:

$$G^R(\nu) = \frac{1}{\nu + i\kappa/2 - \omega_k - g^2 G_{Exc.}^R(\nu)}$$
$$A(\nu) \sim \left(\frac{\kappa}{2} - \Im[G_{Exc.}^R] \right) |G^R(\nu)|^2$$

[Houdré *et al.*, PRA '96]

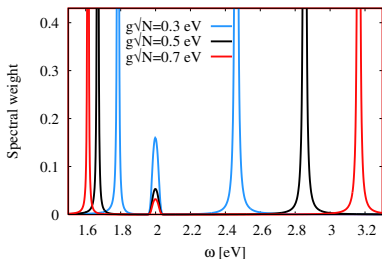
• Temperature independent (for $k_B T \ll g\sqrt{N}$)

Disordered molecules — spectrum

- Calculate Green's function $G^R(\nu)$:

$$T(\nu) \propto |G^R(\nu)|^2, \quad A(\nu) \propto -\Im[G^R(\nu)] + (\text{interference})$$

- Ultra-strong coupling — renormalised photon



- Central peak:

$$G^R(\nu) = \frac{1}{\nu + i\kappa/2 - \omega_k - g^2 G_{\text{Exc.}}^R(\nu)}$$
$$A(\nu) \sim \left(\frac{\kappa}{2} - \Im[G_{\text{Exc.}}^R] \right) |G^R(\nu)|^2$$

[Houdré *et al.*, PRA '96]

- Temperature independent (for $k_B T \ll g\sqrt{N}$)

Molecular reconfiguration

- Central peak — depends on g , not T .

- Can g_{eff} depend on T ?

- Rotational degrees of freedom

$$H = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\dots + g_{\alpha,k} \cos(\theta_{\alpha}) (\psi_k^{\dagger} + \psi_{-k}) \sigma_{\alpha}^x + E_0(\theta_{\alpha}) \right]$$

- Schrieffer-Wolff, $\delta H = \sum_{\alpha,k} g_{\alpha,k} (\psi_k^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^+ + \text{H.c.})$:

$$H_{\text{eff}} = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[K_0 \cos^2(\theta_{\alpha}) + E_0(\theta) \right], \quad K_0 = \sum_k \frac{g_k^2}{\omega_k + \epsilon}$$

Molecular reconfiguration

- Central peak — depends on g , not T .
- Can g_{eff} depend on T ?

• Rotational degrees of freedom

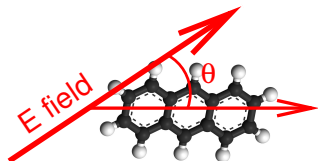
$$H = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\dots + g_{\alpha,k} \cos(\theta_{\alpha}) (\psi_k^{\dagger} + \psi_{-k}) \sigma_{\alpha}^x + E_0(\theta_{\alpha}) \right]$$

• Schrieffer-Wolff, $\delta H = \sum_{\alpha,k} g_{\alpha,k} (\psi_k^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^x + \text{H.c.})$:

$$H_{\text{eff}} = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[K_0 \cos^2(\theta_{\alpha}) + E_0(\theta) \right], \quad K_0 = \sum_k \frac{g_k^2}{\omega_k + \epsilon}$$

Molecular reconfiguration

- Central peak — depends on g , not T .
- Can g_{eff} depend on T ?
- Rotational degrees of freedom



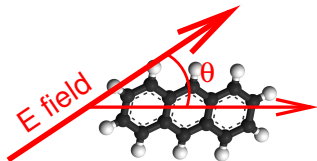
$$H = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\dots + g_{\alpha,k} \cos(\theta_{\alpha}) (\psi_k^{\dagger} + \psi_{-k}) \sigma_{\alpha}^x + E_0(\theta_{\alpha}) \right]$$

• Schrieffer-Wolff, $\delta H = \sum_{\alpha,k} g_{\alpha,k} (\psi_k^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^x + \text{H.c.})$

$$H_{\text{eff}} = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[K_0 \cos^2(\theta_{\alpha}) + E_0(\theta) \right], \quad K_0 = \sum_k \frac{g_k^2}{\omega_k + \epsilon}$$

Molecular reconfiguration

- Central peak — depends on g , not T .
- Can g_{eff} depend on T ?
- Rotational degrees of freedom



$$H = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\dots + g_{\alpha,k} \cos(\theta_{\alpha}) (\psi_k^{\dagger} + \psi_{-k}) \sigma_{\alpha}^x + E_0(\theta_{\alpha}) \right]$$

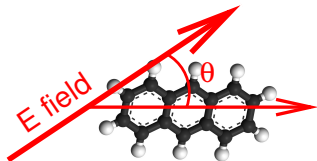
- Schrieffer-Wolff, $\delta H = \sum_{\alpha,k} g_{\alpha,k} (\psi_k^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^+ + \text{H.c.})$:

$$H_{\text{eff}} = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[K_0 \cos^2(\theta_{\alpha}) + E_0(\theta) \right], \quad K_0 = \sum_k \frac{g_k^2}{\omega_k + \epsilon}$$

• No \sqrt{N} enhancement — K_0 small, independent of density

Molecular reconfiguration

- Central peak — depends on g , not T .
- Can g_{eff} depend on T ?



- Rotational degrees of freedom

$$H = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\dots + g_{\alpha,k} \cos(\theta_{\alpha}) (\psi_k^{\dagger} + \psi_{-k}) \sigma_{\alpha}^x + E_0(\theta_{\alpha}) \right]$$

- Schrieffer-Wolff, $\delta H = \sum_{\alpha,k} g_{\alpha,k} (\psi_k^{\dagger} \sigma_{\alpha}^+ + \text{H.c.})$:

$$H_{\text{eff}} = \dots + \sum_{\alpha} \left[K_0 \cos^2(\theta_{\alpha}) + E_0(\theta) \right], \quad K_0 = \sum_k \frac{g_k^2}{\omega_k + \epsilon}$$

- ▶ No \sqrt{N} enhancement — K_0 small, independent of density

Vibrational reconfiguration

- Schrieffer-Wolff – mixes vibrational states

$$H_{\text{eff}} = H_0 - \frac{g^2 N}{2(\epsilon + \omega)} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\Omega \sqrt{S}(b + b^\dagger)}{\epsilon + \omega} + \mathcal{O} \left[\left(\frac{\Omega}{\epsilon} \right)^2, \frac{g\sqrt{N}}{\epsilon} \right] \right\}$$

- Reduced vibrational offset

$$S \rightarrow S(1 - 2K_V), \quad K_V = \sum_k \frac{g_k^2}{(\omega_k + \epsilon)^2}$$

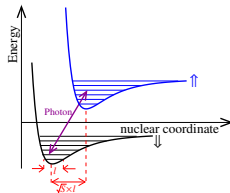
Vibrational reconfiguration

- Schrieffer-Wolff – mixes vibrational states

$$H_{\text{eff}} = H_0 - \frac{g^2 N}{2(\epsilon + \omega)} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\Omega \sqrt{S}(b + b^\dagger)}{\epsilon + \omega} + \mathcal{O} \left[\left(\frac{\Omega}{\epsilon} \right)^2, \frac{g\sqrt{N}}{\epsilon} \right] \right\}$$

- Reduced vibrational offset

$$S \rightarrow S(1 - 2K_1), \quad K_1 = \sum_k \frac{g_k^2}{(\omega_k + \epsilon)^2}$$



- Increased effective coupling: $g_{\text{eff}} = g^2 \exp(-S)$
- Again, $K_1 \ll 1$, independent of density.

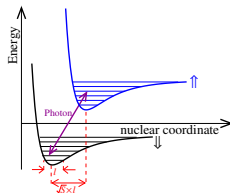
Vibrational reconfiguration

- Schrieffer-Wolff – mixes vibrational states

$$H_{\text{eff}} = H_0 - \frac{g^2 N}{2(\epsilon + \omega)} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\Omega \sqrt{S}(b + b^\dagger)}{\epsilon + \omega} + \mathcal{O} \left[\left(\frac{\Omega}{\epsilon} \right)^2, \frac{g\sqrt{N}}{\epsilon} \right] \right\}$$

- Reduced vibrational offset

$$S \rightarrow S(1 - 2K_1), \quad K_1 = \sum_k \frac{g_k^2}{(\omega_k + \epsilon)^2}$$



- ▶ Increased effective coupling: $g_{\text{eff}}^2 = g^2 \exp(-S)$

▶ Again, $K_1 \ll 1$, independent of density.

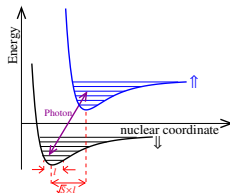
Vibrational reconfiguration

- Schrieffer-Wolff – mixes vibrational states

$$H_{\text{eff}} = H_0 - \frac{g^2 N}{2(\epsilon + \omega)} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\Omega \sqrt{S}(b + b^\dagger)}{\epsilon + \omega} + \mathcal{O} \left[\left(\frac{\Omega}{\epsilon} \right)^2, \frac{g\sqrt{N}}{\epsilon} \right] \right\}$$

- Reduced vibrational offset

$$S \rightarrow S(1 - 2K_1), \quad K_1 = \sum_k \frac{g_k^2}{(\omega_k + \epsilon)^2}$$



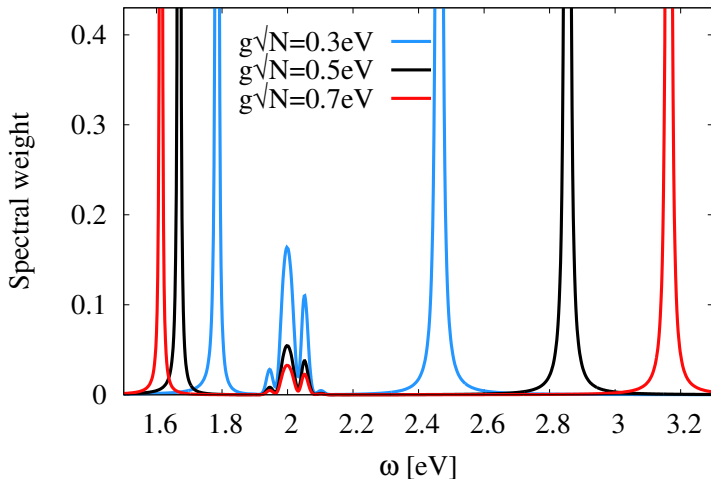
- ▶ Increased effective coupling: $g_{\text{eff}}^2 = g^2 \exp(-S)$
- ▶ Again, $K_1 \ll 1$, independent of density.

Disordered molecules — vibrational mode

- But: spectrum with vibrational sidebands, $S = 0.02$

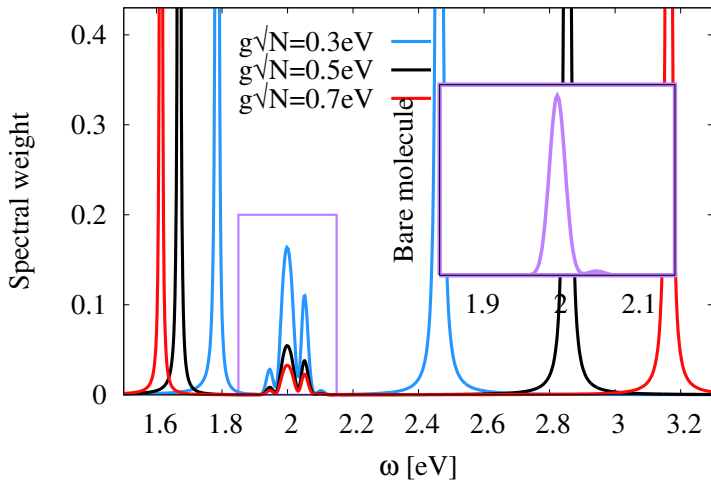
Disordered molecules — vibrational mode

- But: spectrum with vibrational sidebands, $S = 0.02$



Disordered molecules — vibrational mode

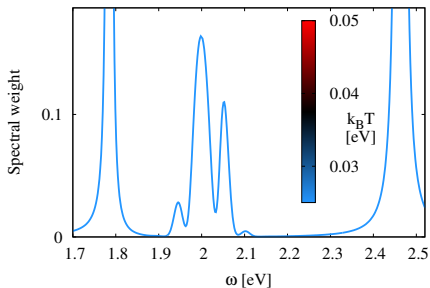
- But: spectrum with vibrational sidebands, $S = 0.02$



Disordered molecules + vibrations – vs temperature

- vs vs temperature

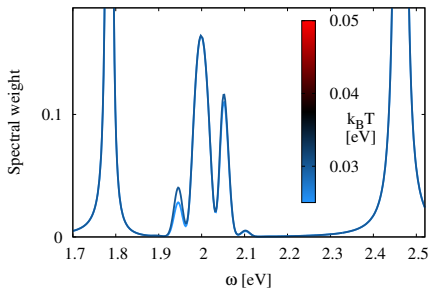
• Stronger disorder &
 $S = 0.5, \sigma = 0.025\text{eV}$



Disordered molecules + vibrations – vs temperature

- vs vs temperature

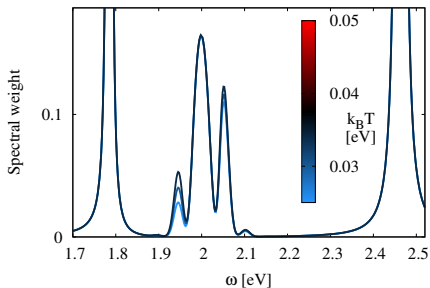
• Stronger disorder &
 $S = 0.5, \sigma = 0.025\text{eV}$



Disordered molecules + vibrations – vs temperature

- vs vs temperature

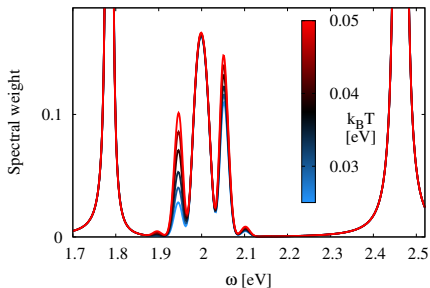
• Stronger disorder &
 $S = 0.5, \sigma = 0.025\text{eV}$



Disordered molecules + vibrations – vs temperature

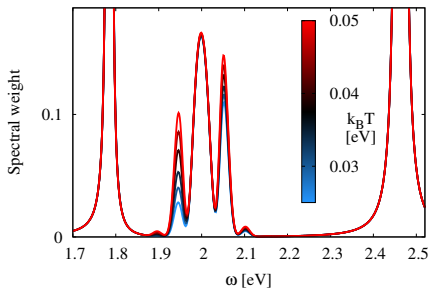
- vs vs temperature

• Stronger disorder &
 $S = 0.5, \sigma = 0.025\text{eV}$

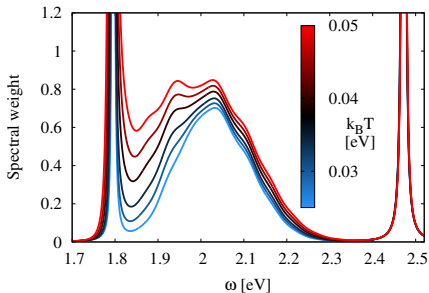


Disordered molecules + vibrations – vs temperature

- vs vs temperature
 $S = 0.02, \sigma = 0.01\text{eV}$



- Stronger disorder &
 $S = 0.5, \sigma = 0.025\text{eV}$



Acknowledgements

GROUP:



COLLABORATORS: Szymanska (UCL), Littlewood (ANL & Chicago), De Liberato (Southampton)

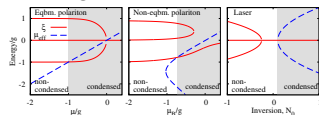
FUNDING:



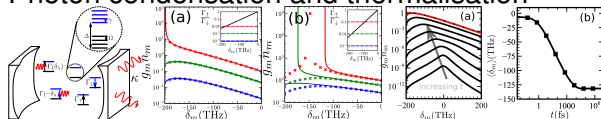
The Leverhulme Trust

Summary

- Lasing, condensation, superradiance

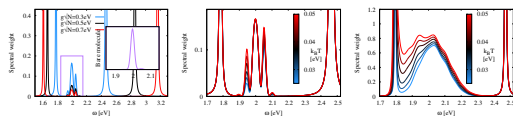


- Photon condensation and thermalisation



[Kirton & JK, PRL '13, arXiv:1410.6632]

- Vibrational configuration



[Cwik, Kirton, De Liberato, JK in preparation]

Extra Slides

- 4 Microscopic calculation of $\Gamma(\delta)$
- 5 Threshold vs temperature
- 6 Threshold vs pump size
- 7 Strong coupling: polaritons
- 8 Anticrossing vs ρ
 - Polariton spectrum & sidebands
- 9 Ultra-strong phonon coupling?

Microscopic model – calculating $\Gamma(\delta)$

How to calculate $\Gamma(\delta)$

- Polaron transform (exact)

$$h_\alpha = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_\alpha^z + g (\psi_m \sigma_\alpha^+ D_\alpha + \text{H.c.}) + \Omega b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha,$$

$$D_\alpha = \exp \left[2\sqrt{S}(b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha) \right]$$

- Correlation function:

$$\Gamma(\delta) = 2g^2 \Re \int dt \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle \exp \left[-(\Gamma_\uparrow + \Gamma_\downarrow) \frac{t}{2} \right] e^{-i\delta t}$$

- Exponential of bosonic correlations $\langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle$

Microscopic model – calculating $\Gamma(\delta)$

How to calculate $\Gamma(\delta)$

- Polaron transform (exact)

$$h_\alpha = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_\alpha^z + g (\psi_m \sigma_\alpha^+ D_\alpha + \text{H.c.}) + \Omega b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha,$$
$$D_\alpha = \exp \left[2\sqrt{S} (b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha) \right]$$

- Correlation function:

$$\Gamma(\delta) = 2g^2 \Re \int dt \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle \exp \left[-(\Gamma_\uparrow + \Gamma_\downarrow) \frac{t}{2} \right] e^{-i\delta t}$$

- Exponential of bosonic correlations $\langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle$

Microscopic model – calculating $\Gamma(\delta)$

How to calculate $\Gamma(\delta)$

- Polaron transform (exact)

$$h_\alpha = \frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_\alpha^z + g (\psi_m \sigma_\alpha^+ D_\alpha + \text{H.c.}) + \Omega b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha,$$
$$D_\alpha = \exp \left[2\sqrt{S} (b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha) \right]$$

- Correlation function:

$$\Gamma(\delta) = 2g^2 \Re \int dt \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle \exp \left[-(\Gamma_\uparrow + \Gamma_\downarrow) \frac{t}{2} \right] e^{-i\delta t}$$

- Exponential of bosonic correlations $\langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle$

Microscopic model – requirements for Kennard-Stepanov

- Correlation function

$$\Gamma(\delta) = 2g^2 \Re \int dt \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle \exp \left[-(\Gamma_\uparrow + \Gamma_\downarrow) \frac{t}{2} \right] e^{-i\delta t}$$

- Kubo-Martin-Schwinger condition:

$$\langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle = \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(-t - i\beta) D_\alpha(0) \rangle$$

- $\Gamma(+\delta) = \Gamma(-\delta) e^{\beta\delta}$

Microscopic model – requirements for Kennard-Stepanov

- Correlation function

$$\Gamma(\delta) = 2g^2 \Re \int dt \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle \exp \left[-(\Gamma_\uparrow + \Gamma_\downarrow) \frac{t}{2} \right] e^{-i\delta t}$$

- Kubo-Martin-Schwinger condition:

$$\langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle = \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(-t - i\beta) D_\alpha(0) \rangle$$

$$\bullet \Gamma(+\delta) = \Gamma(-\delta) e^{\beta\delta}$$

Microscopic model – requirements for Kennard-Stepanov

- Correlation function

$$\Gamma(\delta) = 2g^2 \Re \int dt \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle \exp \left[-(\Gamma_\uparrow + \Gamma_\downarrow) \frac{t}{2} \right] e^{-i\delta t}$$

- Kubo-Martin-Schwinger condition:

$$\langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle = \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(-t - i\beta) D_\alpha(0) \rangle$$

$$\bullet \Gamma(+\delta) = \Gamma(-\delta) e^{\beta\delta}$$

Microscopic model – requirements for Kennard-Stepanov

- Correlation function

$$\Gamma(\delta) = 2g^2 \Re \int dt \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle \exp \left[-(\Gamma_\uparrow + \Gamma_\downarrow) \frac{t}{2} \right] e^{-i\delta t}$$

- Kubo-Martin-Schwinger condition:

$$\langle D_\alpha^\dagger(t) D_\alpha(0) \rangle = \langle D_\alpha^\dagger(-t - i\beta) D_\alpha(0) \rangle$$

- $\Gamma(+\delta) = \Gamma(-\delta) e^{\beta\delta}$

Threshold condition

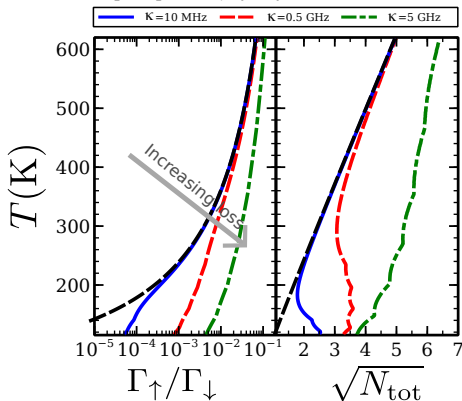
Use: $\max[n_m] = 1/(\beta\epsilon) \rightarrow k_B T_c = \sqrt{6/\pi^2\epsilon}\sqrt{N}$.

- Pump rate (Laser)
- Critical density (condensate)

- Thermal at low κ /high temperature
- High loss, κ competes with $\Gamma(\pm\delta_0)$
- Low temperature, $\Gamma(\pm\delta_0)$ shrinks

Threshold condition

$$\text{Use: } \max[n_m] = 1/(\beta\epsilon) \rightarrow k_B T_c = \sqrt{6/\pi^2\epsilon}\sqrt{N}.$$



Compare threshold:

- Pump rate (Laser)
- Critical density (condensate)

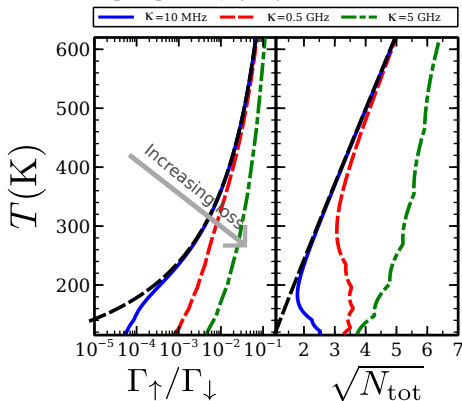
- Thermal at low κ /high temperature

→ High loss, κ competes with $\Gamma(\pm\delta_0)$

→ Low temperature, $\Gamma(\pm\delta_0)$ shrinks

Threshold condition

Use: $\max[n_m] = 1/(\beta\epsilon) \rightarrow k_B T_c = \sqrt{6/\pi^2} \epsilon \sqrt{N}$.

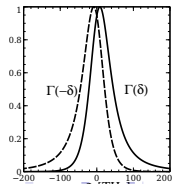


Compare threshold:

- Pump rate (Laser)
- Critical density (condensate)

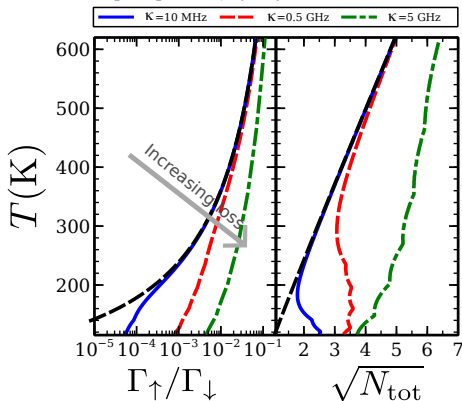
- Thermal at low κ /high temperature
- High loss, κ competes with $\Gamma(\pm\delta_0)$

• Low temperature, $\Gamma(\pm\delta_0)$ shrinks



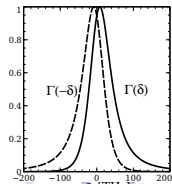
Threshold condition

$$\text{Use: } \max[n_m] = 1/(\beta\epsilon) \rightarrow k_B T_c = \sqrt{6/\pi^2} \epsilon \sqrt{N}.$$



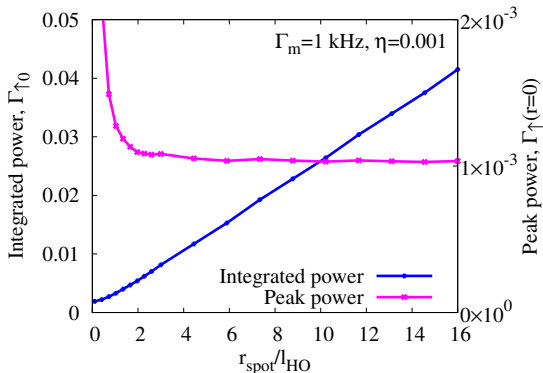
Compare threshold:

- Pump rate (Laser)
 - Critical density (condensate)
- Thermal at low κ /high temperature
 - High loss, κ competes with $\Gamma(\pm\delta_0)$
 - Low temperature, $\Gamma(\pm\delta_0)$ shrinks



Effect of spot size on threshold

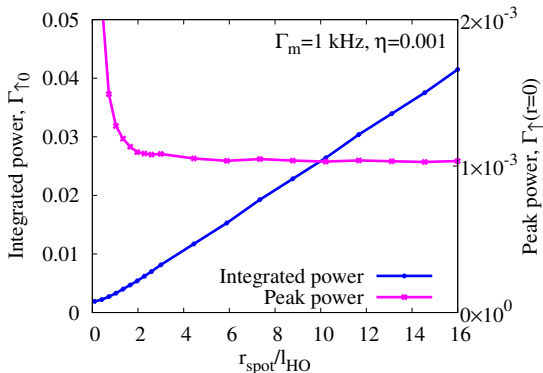
Threshold power: $\Gamma_{\uparrow}(r) = \Gamma_{\uparrow,0} \frac{\exp(-(r/\sigma_p)^2/2)}{(2\pi\sigma_p^2)^{d/2}}$



- Small spot, integrated power saturates
- Large spot, peak power saturates

Effect of spot size on threshold

Threshold power: $\Gamma_{\uparrow}(r) = \Gamma_{\uparrow,0} \frac{\exp(-(r/\sigma_p)^2/2)}{(2\pi\sigma_p^2)^{d/2}}$

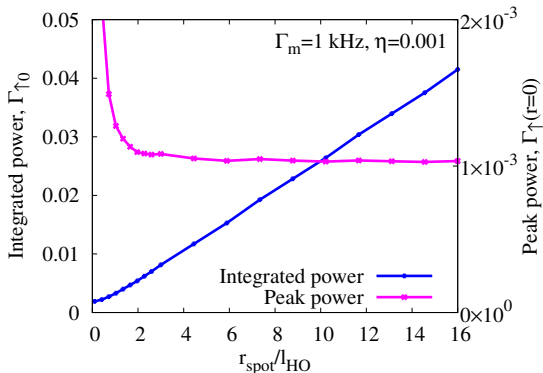


- Small spot, integrated power saturates

• Large spot, peak power saturates

Effect of spot size on threshold

Threshold power: $\Gamma_{\uparrow}(r) = \Gamma_{\uparrow,0} \frac{\exp(-(r/\sigma_p)^2/2)}{(2\pi\sigma_p^2)^{d/2}}$



- Small spot, integrated power saturates
- Large spot, peak power saturates

Strong coupling: polaritons

- 4 Microscopic calculation of $\Gamma(\delta)$
- 5 Threshold vs temperature
- 6 Threshold vs pump size
- 7 Strong coupling: polaritons**
- 8 Anticrossing vs ρ
 - Polariton spectrum & sidebands
- 9 Ultra-strong phonon coupling?

Strong coupling phase diagram — mean field

- Mean field — single photon mode

$$H = \omega \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\epsilon \mathbf{S}_{\alpha}^z + g \left(\psi \mathbf{S}_{\alpha}^+ + \psi^\dagger \mathbf{S}_{\alpha}^- \right) + \Omega \left\{ b_{\alpha}^\dagger b_{\alpha} + \sqrt{S} \left(b_{\alpha}^\dagger + b_{\alpha} \right) \mathbf{S}_{\alpha}^z \right\} \right]$$

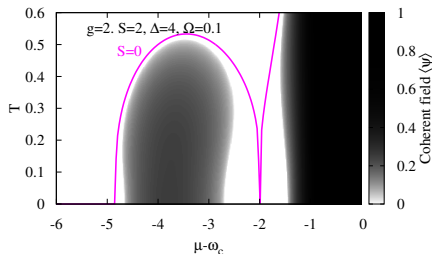
- $\epsilon = \omega - \Delta$
- Mot lobes if $\epsilon < \omega - 2g$
- S reduces g_{eff}

- Reentrant behaviour — Min μ at $k_B T \sim 0.1 \Omega$

Strong coupling phase diagram — mean field

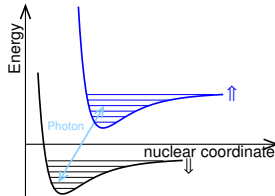
- Mean field — single photon mode

$$H = \omega \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\epsilon S_{\alpha}^z + g \left(\psi S_{\alpha}^+ + \psi^\dagger S_{\alpha}^- \right) + \Omega \left\{ b_{\alpha}^\dagger b_{\alpha} + \sqrt{S} \left(b_{\alpha}^\dagger + b_{\alpha} \right) S_{\alpha}^z \right\} \right]$$



- $\epsilon = \omega - \Delta$,
Mott lobes if $\epsilon < \omega - 2g$

- S reduces g_{eff}

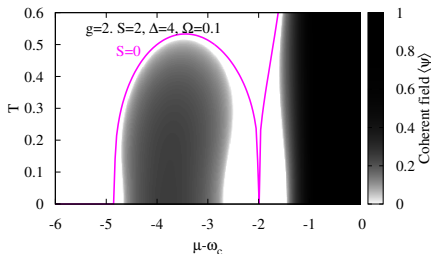


• Reentrant behaviour — Min μ at $k_B T \sim 0.1 \Omega$

Strong coupling phase diagram — mean field

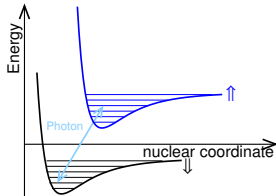
- Mean field — single photon mode

$$H = \omega \psi^\dagger \psi + \sum_{\alpha} \left[\epsilon S_{\alpha}^Z + g \left(\psi S_{\alpha}^+ + \psi^\dagger S_{\alpha}^- \right) + \Omega \left\{ b_{\alpha}^\dagger b_{\alpha} + \sqrt{S} \left(b_{\alpha}^\dagger + b_{\alpha} \right) S_{\alpha}^Z \right\} \right]$$



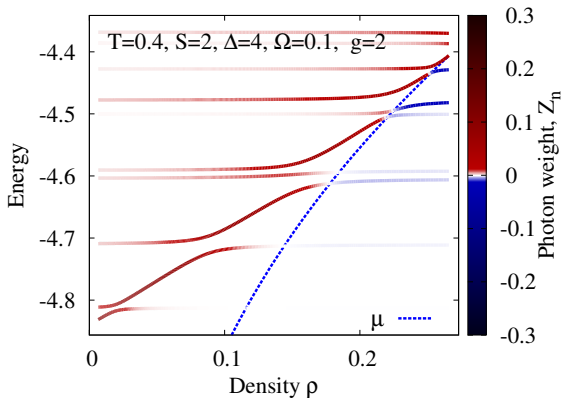
- $\epsilon = \omega - \Delta$,
Mott lobes if $\epsilon < \omega - 2g$

- S reduces g_{eff}



- Reentrant behaviour — Min μ at $k_B T \sim 0.1\Omega$

Polariton spectrum: photon weight



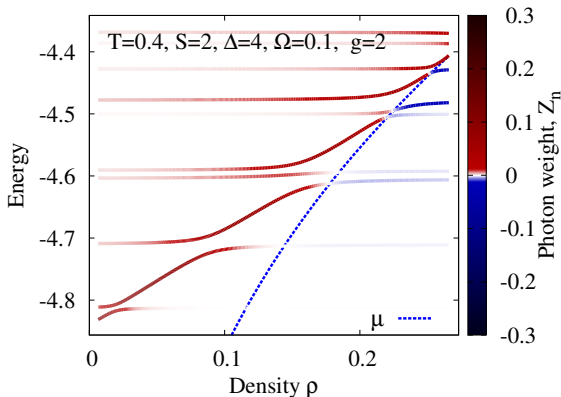
- Saturating 2LS: $g_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim g^2(1 - 2\rho)$

• What is nature of polariton mode?

• $G^{\beta}(\tau) = -i \langle \psi^{\beta}(\tau) \psi^{\beta}(0) \rangle$, $G^{\beta}(\omega) = \sum_n \frac{Z_n}{\omega - \omega_n}$

[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Polariton spectrum: photon weight

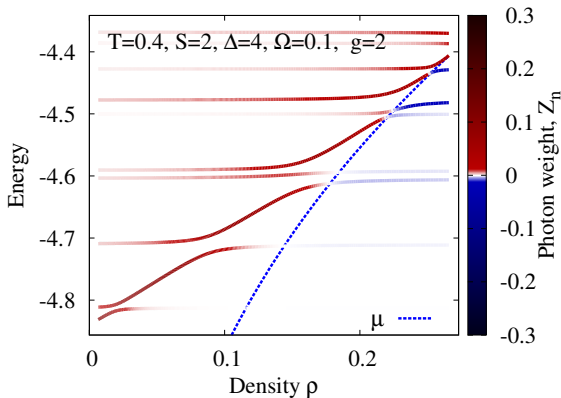


- Saturating 2LS: $g_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim g^2(1 - 2\rho)$
- What is nature of polariton mode?

$$g^2(\rho) = \langle \psi(\rho) | \psi(0) \rangle, \quad g^2(\rho) = \sum_n \frac{Z_n}{\omega - \omega_n}$$

[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Polariton spectrum: photon weight



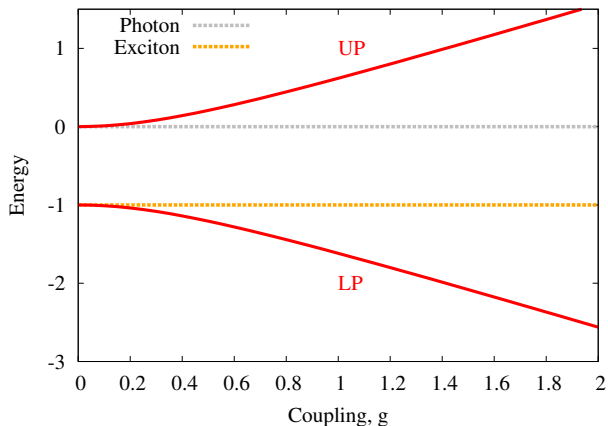
- Saturating 2LS: $g_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim g^2(1 - 2\rho)$
- What is nature of polariton mode?

- $G^R(t) = -i\langle \psi^\dagger(t)\psi(0) \rangle, \quad G^R(\nu) = \sum_n \frac{Z_n}{\nu - \omega_n}$

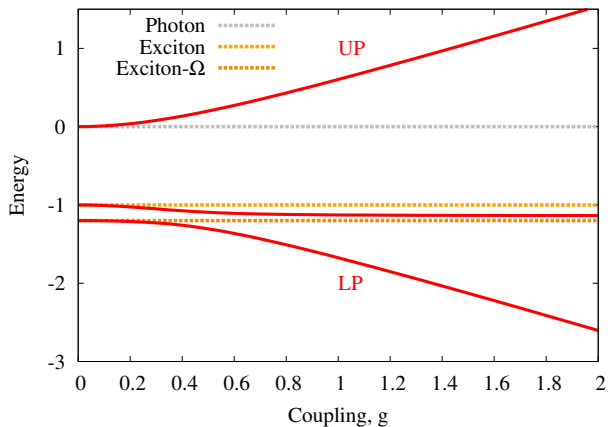
[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Polariton spectrum — coupled oscillators

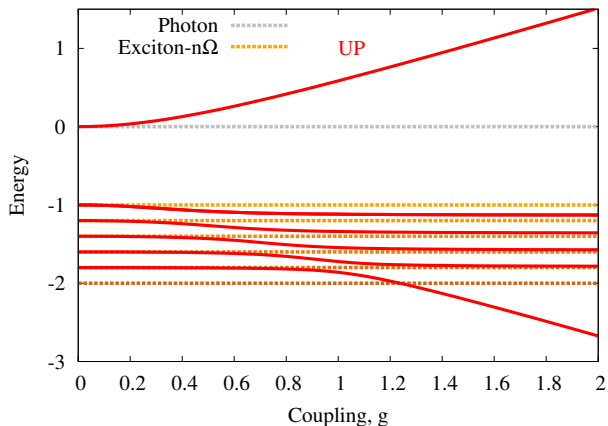
Polariton spectrum — coupled oscillators



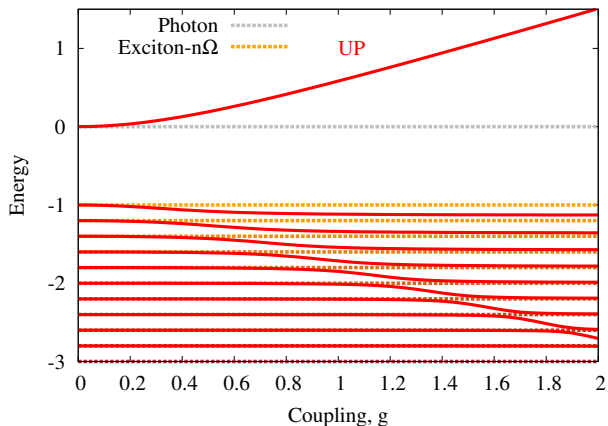
Polariton spectrum — coupled oscillators



Polariton spectrum — coupled oscillators



Polariton spectrum — coupled oscillators



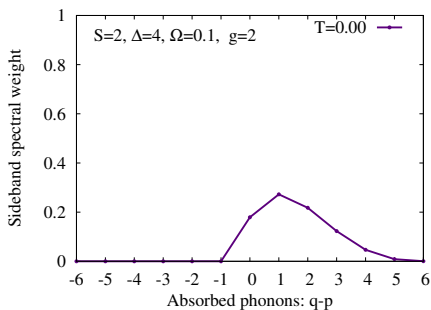
Polariton spectrum: what condensed

- Repeat weight for n -phonon channel
- Eigenvector that is macroscopically occupied
- Optimal $T \sim 2\Omega$

[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Polariton spectrum: what condensed

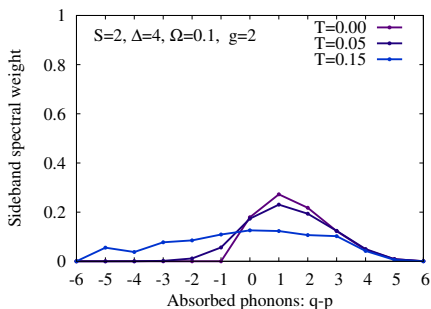
- Repeat weight for n -phonon channel
- Eigenvector that is macroscopically occupied



[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Polariton spectrum: what condensed

- Repeat weight for n -phonon channel
- Eigenvector that is macroscopically occupied

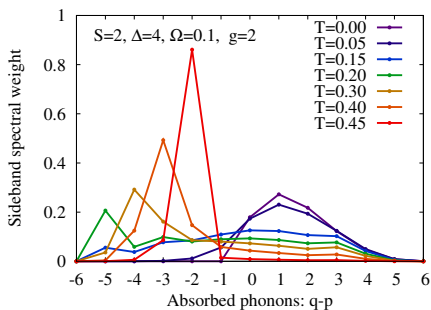


Optimal $T \sim 2\Omega$

[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Polariton spectrum: what condensed

- Repeat weight for n -phonon channel
- Eigenvector that is macroscopically occupied

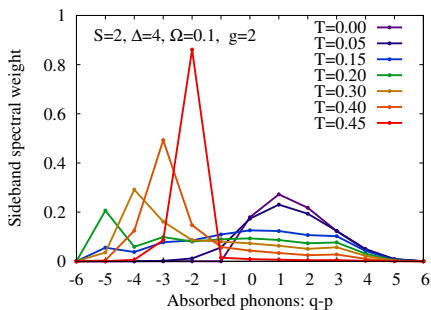


Optimal $T \sim 2\Omega$

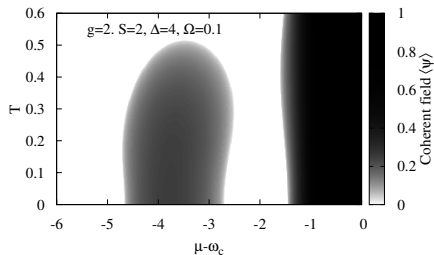
[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Polariton spectrum: what condensed

- Repeat weight for n -phonon channel
- Eigenvector that is macroscopically occupied



- Optimal $T \sim 2\Omega$

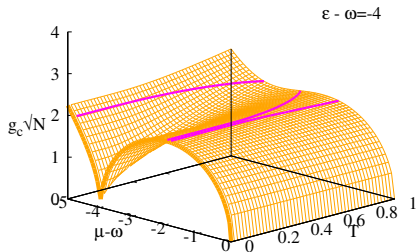


[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Critical coupling with increasing S

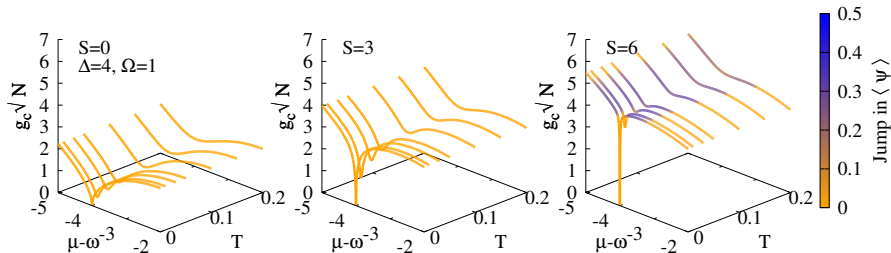
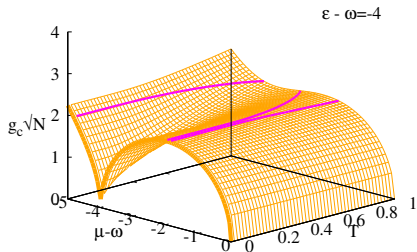
- Re-orient phase diagram
- g vs μ, T

• Colors \rightarrow Jump of $\langle \psi \rangle$



Critical coupling with increasing S

- Re-orient phase diagram
- g vs μ, T
- Colors \rightarrow Jump of $\langle \psi \rangle$



Explanation: Polaron formation

- Unitary transform

$$H_\alpha \rightarrow \tilde{H}_\alpha = e^{K_\alpha} H_\alpha e^{-K_\alpha} \quad K = \sqrt{S} S_\alpha^z (b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)$$

- Coupling moves to S^\pm

$$\tilde{H}_\alpha = \text{const.} + \epsilon S_\alpha^z + \Omega b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha + g \left[\psi S_\alpha^+ e^{\sqrt{S}(b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)} + \text{H.c.} \right]$$

- Optimal phonon displacements, $\sim \sqrt{S}$
- Reduced $g_{\text{eff}} \sim g \times \exp(-S/2)$
- For $\psi \neq 0$, competition

$$\text{Variational MFT } |\psi\rangle_\alpha \sim \exp(-\eta K_\alpha - \zeta (b_\alpha^\dagger)) |0, S\rangle_\alpha$$

Explanation: Polaron formation

- Unitary transform

$$H_\alpha \rightarrow \tilde{H}_\alpha = e^{K_\alpha} H_\alpha e^{-K_\alpha} \quad K = \sqrt{S} S_\alpha^z (b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)$$

- Coupling moves to S^\pm

$$\tilde{H}_\alpha = \text{const.} + \epsilon S_\alpha^z + \Omega b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha + g \left[\psi S_\alpha^+ e^{\sqrt{S}(b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)} + \text{H.c.} \right]$$

- Optimal phonon displacements, $\sim \sqrt{S}$
- Reduced $g_{\text{eff}} \sim g \times \exp(-S/2)$
- For $\psi \neq 0$, competition
Variational MFT $|\psi\rangle_\alpha \sim \exp(-\eta K_\alpha - \zeta (b_\alpha^\dagger)) |0, S\rangle_\alpha$

Explanation: Polaron formation

- Unitary transform

$$H_\alpha \rightarrow \tilde{H}_\alpha = e^{K_\alpha} H_\alpha e^{-K_\alpha} \quad K = \sqrt{S} S_\alpha^z (b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)$$

- Coupling moves to S^\pm

$$\tilde{H}_\alpha = \text{const.} + \epsilon S_\alpha^z + \Omega b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha + g \left[\psi S_\alpha^+ e^{\sqrt{S}(b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)} + \text{H.c.} \right]$$

- Optimal phonon displacements, $\sim \sqrt{S}$

• Reduced $g_{\text{eff}} \sim g \times \exp(-S/2)$

• For $\psi \neq 0$, competition

Variational MFT $|\psi\rangle_\alpha \sim \exp(-\eta K_\alpha - \zeta (b_\alpha^\dagger)) |0, S\rangle_\alpha$

Explanation: Polaron formation

- Unitary transform

$$H_\alpha \rightarrow \tilde{H}_\alpha = e^{K_\alpha} H_\alpha e^{-K_\alpha} \quad K = \sqrt{S} S_\alpha^z (b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)$$

- Coupling moves to S^\pm

$$\tilde{H}_\alpha = \text{const.} + \epsilon S_\alpha^z + \Omega b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha + g \left[\psi S_\alpha^+ e^{\sqrt{S}(b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)} + \text{H.c.} \right]$$

- Optimal phonon displacements, $\sim \sqrt{S}$
- Reduced $g_{\text{eff}} \sim g \times \exp(-S/2)$

• For $\psi \neq 0$, competition

Variational MFT $|\psi\rangle_\alpha \sim \exp(-\eta K_\alpha - \zeta (b_\alpha^\dagger)) |0, S\rangle_\alpha$

Explanation: Polaron formation

- Unitary transform

$$H_\alpha \rightarrow \tilde{H}_\alpha = e^{K_\alpha} H_\alpha e^{-K_\alpha} \quad K = \sqrt{S} S_\alpha^z (b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)$$

- Coupling moves to S^\pm

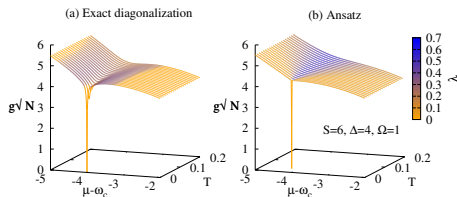
$$\tilde{H}_\alpha = \text{const.} + \epsilon S_\alpha^z + \Omega b_\alpha^\dagger b_\alpha + g \left[\psi S_\alpha^+ e^{\sqrt{S}(b_\alpha^\dagger - b_\alpha)} + \text{H.c.} \right]$$

- Optimal phonon displacements, $\sim \sqrt{S}$
- Reduced $g_{\text{eff}} \sim g \times \exp(-S/2)$
- For $\psi \neq 0$, competition

Variational MFT $|\psi\rangle_\alpha \sim \exp(-\eta K_\alpha - \zeta b_\alpha^\dagger) |0, \mathbf{S}\rangle_\alpha$

Collective polaron formation

- Compares well at $S \gg 1$
- Coherent bosonic state



- Feedback: Large/small $g_{\text{eff}} \leftrightarrow \lambda = \langle \psi \rangle$
- Variational free energy

$$F = (\omega_c - \mu)\lambda^2 + N \left\{ \Omega \left[\zeta^2 - S \frac{\eta(2 - \eta)}{4} \right] - T \ln \left[2 \cosh \left(\frac{\xi}{T} \right) \right] \right\}$$

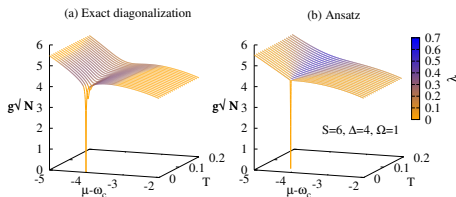
Effective 2LS energy in field:

$$\zeta^2 = \left(\frac{\epsilon - \mu}{2} + \Omega \sqrt{S(1 - \eta)} \zeta \right)^2 + g^2 \lambda^2 e^{-2\eta}$$

[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Collective polaron formation

- Compares well at $S \gg 1$
- Coherent bosonic state



- Feedback: Large/small $g_{\text{eff}} \leftrightarrow \lambda = \langle \psi \rangle$

• Variational free energy

$$F = (\omega_c - \mu)\lambda^2 + N \left\{ \Omega \left[\zeta^2 - S \frac{\eta(2 - \eta)}{4} \right] - T \ln \left[2 \cosh \left(\frac{\xi}{T} \right) \right] \right\}$$

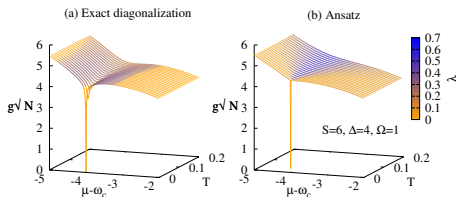
Effective 2LS energy in field:

$$\zeta^2 = \left(\frac{\omega_c - \mu}{2} + \Omega \sqrt{S} (1 - \eta) \zeta \right)^2 + g^2 \lambda^2 e^{-2\eta/T}$$

[Cwik *et al.* EPL '14]

Collective polaron formation

- Compares well at $S \gg 1$
- Coherent bosonic state



- Feedback: Large/small $g_{\text{eff}} \leftrightarrow \lambda = \langle \psi \rangle$
- Variational free energy

$$F = (\omega_c - \mu)\lambda^2 + N \left\{ \Omega \left[\zeta^2 - S \frac{\eta(2-\eta)}{4} \right] - T \ln \left[2 \cosh \left(\frac{\xi}{T} \right) \right] \right\}$$

Effective 2LS energy in field:

$$\xi^2 = \left(\frac{\epsilon - \mu}{2} + \Omega \sqrt{S} (1 - \eta) \zeta \right)^2 + g^2 \lambda^2 e^{-S\eta^2}$$