# Calorimetry of & symmetry breaking in a photon Bose-Einstein condensate

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## What are we dealing with?

System:  $10^4 - 10^5$  Photons "ultracold": 300K Box: Curved mirror cavity A few µm long



1) Photon BEC: HowTo

2) Thermodynamic Properties of Photons

3) Fluctuations & Symmetry Breaking

Work done with

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## 1) Photon BEC: HowTo

2) Thermodynamic Properties of Photons

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The box: Dispersion

$$E = \frac{\hbar c}{n} \sqrt{k_z^2 + k_r^2} \approx \frac{\hbar c}{n} \left( k_z + \frac{k_r^2}{2 k_z^2} \right)$$

$$= \frac{\pi \hbar c q}{n D_0} + \frac{\pi \hbar c q}{n R D_0^2} r^2 + \frac{\hbar c D_0}{2\pi q n} k_r^2$$
$$= m_0 c^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_0 \Omega^2 r^2 + \frac{k_r^2}{2m_0}$$

- $\Rightarrow$  Photons in the microcavity behave as
- Massive particles
- Two-dimensional
- Harmonically trapped





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Dye reservoir:

- Thermalizes gas
- Sets chemical potential

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## **Scales**



#### Energy scales

- Trap frequency Thermal energy Cavity cutoff
- $\hbar \Omega \approx 150 \mu eV$  $k_B T \approx 25 m eV$  $\hbar \omega_{cutoff} \approx 2.1 eV$
- →Photon mass  $\approx 10^{-7} m_e$
- →Critical particle number

$$N_c \cong \frac{\pi^2}{3} \left( \frac{k_{\rm B}T}{\hbar \Omega} \right)^2 \approx 80.000 \ @ \ 300K$$

→Critical phase space density

$$n_c \cong 1.3/\mu m^2$$

Klaers, Schmitt, Vewinger & Weitz, *Nature* **468**, 545 (2010) See also Marelic & Nyman, PRA **91**, 033826 (2015)



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Brute force theory: Appl Phys B 105, 17–33 (2011)

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Microscopic models: de Leeuw, PRA 88, 033829 (2013). Kirton/Keeling, PRL 111,100404 (2013) Kopylov et al., PRA 92, 063832 (2015)

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## **Experimental setup**





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photo multiplier



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# **Properties?**





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## 1) Photon BEC: HowTo

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### **Condensate Fraction**













## **Entropy per Particle**



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## **Coherence of a Bose-Einstein condensate**

P. W. Anderson (1986): "Do two superfluids which have never 'seen' one another possess a relative phase?"

#### Spontaneous symmetry breaking





#### Phase selection: long-range order



Andrews et al., Science 275 (1997)

#### **Damping of density fluctuations**





## **Coherence of a Bose-Einstein condensate**

P. W. Anderson (1986): "Do two superfluids which have never 'seen' one another possess a relative phase?"





#### Closed vs. open system





 $\Delta n, \Delta E \simeq 0$ 

 $\Delta n, \Delta E \neq 0$ 

#### Phase selection: long-range order



Andrews et al., Science 275 (1997)

#### **Damping of density fluctuations**





#### $\rightarrow$ BEC correlations in open environments?

## Heat bath and particle reservoir for light



Grand canonical ensemble,  $\Omega(T, V, \mu)$  if  $M \gg n$ 



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Sob'yanin, *PRE* 85 (2012)

## Limiting cases for BEC number statistics

Grand-canonical ensemble (  $M \gg n^2$  )



Bose-Einstein statistics ("flickering" BEC)

Canonical ensemble (  $M < n^2$  )



#### Poisson statistics ("quiet" BEC)





## **Experiment: intensity correlations of BEC**



Schmitt et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **112**, 030401 (2014) see also: *Physics* **7** (2014)



## **Experiment: intensity correlations of BEC**



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Response of condensate phase  $\phi(t)$  to statistical fluctuations?





Response of condensate phase  $\phi(t)$  to statistical fluctuations?



Canonical ensemble (  $M \leq \bar{n}^2$  , second-order coherence)



Schmitt et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 033604 (2016)



Response of condensate phase  $\phi(t)$  to statistical fluctuations?



Schmitt et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 033604 (2016)



Response of condensate phase  $\phi(t)$  to statistical fluctuations?



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- Rate of fluctuations & phase jumps (1/ $\tau_{\rm c}^{(2)}$  &  $\Gamma_{\rm PJ}$ ) vs. increasing system size  $\bar{n}$
- Suppressed fluctuations & phase jumps



Schmitt et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **116**, 033604 (2016) **Analysis ignores phase diffusion**,



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## 1) Photon BEC: HowTo

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# 4) Conclusion

## **Photon BEC: Summary**

Photon BEC  $\rightarrow$  versatile platform

- grand canonical physics
- open & closed system dynamics
- reservoir effects
- mediated interaction

#### Statistics:

(a)

Tunable from canonical to grand canonical  $\rightarrow$ Effective temperature

#### **Calorimetry:**

"Textbook" properties of the ideal Bose gas



Phase evolution: Fluctuation-induced phase jumps



# Spatial phase coherence Arbitrary potentials Time

#### Josephson physics with reservoir



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Bonn-Cologne Graduate School of Physics and Astronomy



## What's next?

