Collective phenomena in light-matter interfaces

Ana Asenjo Garcia



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Light-matter interfaces are a cornerstone of quantum optics

Quantum information science

Photons in free space do not interact with each other: good candidates to transmit information

However: we need light-matter interfaces for processing that information

Quantum non-linear optics

Bulk materials are weakly non linear

However atoms are ultimate non-linear element



Exotic many body physics for photons and atoms

Metrology, sensing, imaging

. . .

In free-space, atom-photon coupling is weak



Probability of interaction $\sim \lambda^2/A \ll 1$ due to diffraction limit

How to increase atom-photon interaction?

Option 1: use multiple atoms (ensemble)

Option 2: use a cavity or other nanophotonic structures



Option 3: combine both and take advantage of interactions between atoms

Disordered atomic ensembles are a very common light-matter interface



Guerin et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 083601 (2016)

Solano et al. , Nat. Commun. 8, 1857(2017)

Conventional ways of enhancing atom-light interactions

In cavity QED, figure of merit is $C=g^2/\kappa\Gamma'$



Conventional ways of enhancing atom-light interactions

In cavity QED, figure of merit is C=g²/ $\kappa\Gamma$ '



In waveguide QED, that is $D=\Gamma_{1D}/\Gamma'$



Conventional ways of enhancing atom-light interactions

In cavity QED, figure of merit is $C=g^2/\kappa\Gamma' \longrightarrow C=Ng^2/\kappa\Gamma'$



In waveguide QED, that is $D=\Gamma_{1D}/\Gamma' \longrightarrow D=N\Gamma_{1D}/\Gamma'$



Nanophotonic structures add versatility, allowing to go beyond cavity QED

cQED: infinite interaction range between atoms inside cavity



SC waveguide, Painter (2019) · NV in diamond waveguide, Lukin (2016)

Recent development: ordered atomic arrays with optical tweezers



Nature **561**, 79 (2018)

In these systems, interference in photon emission leads to correlation: atom arrays can behave as "quantum nanostructures"

Other possibility: quantum gas microscopes



Mazurenko et al., Nature **545**, 462 (2017)

Greif et al., Science 351, 953 (2016)

Atom arrays as light-matter interfaces



Similar physics (universality) for SC qubits and solid-state emitters



Mirhosseini et al., Nature **569**, 692 (2019)

Si-vacancies in diamond



Sipahigil et al., Science 354, 847 (2016)

Also in quantum dots, molecules...

Outline of the lectures

Lecture 1: Atom-light interaction as a spin model

Lecture 2: Atom arrays as light-matter interfaces

Lecture 3: Atom-atom interactions in non-conventional baths

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Ordered atomic arrays with optical tweezers: perfect playground for correlated dissipation



Nature **561**, 79 (2018)

In these systems, interference in photon emission leads to correlation: atom arrays can behave as "quantum nanostructures"

Atom arrays as light-matter interfaces



Early treatment of collective effects: Dicke model

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 93, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1, 1954

Coherence in Spontaneous Radiation Processes

R. H. DICKE Palmer Physical Laboratory, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey (Received August 25, 1953)

TN the usual treatment of spontaneous radiation by **L** a gas, the radiation process is calculated as though the separate molecules radiate independently of each other. To justify this assumption it might be argued that, as a result of the large distance between molecules and subsequent weak interactions, the probability of a given molecule emitting a photon should be independent of the states of other molecules. It is clear that this model is incapable of describing a coherent spontaneous radiation process since the radiation rate is proportional to the molecular concentration rather than to the square of the concentration. This simplified picture overlooks the fact that all the molecules are interacting with a common radiation field and hence cannot be treated as independent. The model is wrong in principle and many of the results obtained from it are incorrect.

Small volume approximation:

- atoms interact with either one field mode (cavity)
- atoms are in same spatial location

Question:

what is the physics of subradiant states in ordered atomic arrays?

Photon emission is a wave phenomenon

Interference leads to correlated decay



For 2 atoms, we have two atomic modes:

- One that decays faster than Γ_0 : superradiant (constructive interference)
- One that decays slower than Γ_0 : subradiant (destructive interference)

What happens for large atom number?

Conventional paradigm: Maxwell-Bloch equations for disordered ensembles



Field equation (quasi-1D preferred mode):

$$\left(\frac{1}{c}\partial_t + \partial_z\right) \hat{E}(z,t) = i \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma_{1\mathrm{D}}}{2}} \hat{P}_{ge}(z,t) \ \cdots \ \begin{array}{c} \text{continuous atomic} \\ \text{polarization density} \end{array} \right)$$

Atomic equation:

$$\partial_t \hat{P}_{ge}(z,t) = -\frac{\Gamma'}{2} \hat{P}_{ge}(z,t) + i\sqrt{\frac{\Gamma_{1\mathrm{D}}}{2}} \hat{E}(z,t)$$

independent emission into other modes!

Quantum optics 101 has a problem

Atom-light interaction as a spin model

Starting from full atom-field Hamiltonian, we integrate out the field and find that the atoms density matrix follows

$$\dot{\hat{
ho}} = -rac{i}{\hbar}[\mathcal{H},\hat{
ho}] + \mathcal{L}[\hat{
ho}]$$

where

$$\mathcal{H} = \hbar \omega_0 \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{\sigma}_{ee}^i + \hbar \sum_{i,j=1}^N J_{ij} \hat{\sigma}_{eg}^i \hat{\sigma}_{ge}^j$$

resonance frequency $J_{ij} \propto \operatorname{Re}\{G(\mathbf{r}_i,\mathbf{r}_j)\}$ coherent evolution

and

$$\mathcal{L}[\hat{\rho}] = \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} \frac{\Gamma_{ij}}{2} \left(2\hat{\sigma}_{ge}^{j} \hat{\rho} \hat{\sigma}_{eg}^{i} - \hat{\sigma}_{eg}^{i} \hat{\sigma}_{ge}^{j} \hat{\rho} - \hat{\rho} \hat{\sigma}_{eg}^{i} \hat{\sigma}_{ge}^{j} \right)$$

 $\prod_{ij} \propto \operatorname{Im} \{ G(\mathbf{r}_i, \mathbf{r}_j) \}$ collective dissipation $\neq \Gamma_{ii} \delta_{ij}$

Atom-light interaction as a spin model

Equivalently:
$$\mathcal{H}_{eff} = -\mu_0 \omega_0^2 \sum_{i,j=1}^N \wp^* \cdot \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_i, \mathbf{r}_j, \omega_0) \cdot \wp \ \hat{\sigma}_{eg}^i \hat{\sigma}_{ge}^j + quantum jumps$$

Insight 1: light-matter interaction recast into a dissipative, driven, longrange spin interaction (non-unitary dynamics)

Insight 2: describes field properties even when we have integrated out the field in the first place

Collective modes of a 1D atomic chain in free space (single excitation manifold)

For many atoms, in the single excitation manifold, the Hamiltonian can be written as a NxN matrix, in the basis where only 1 atom is excited:

$$|egg...g\rangle, |geg...g\rangle, ..., |gg...ge\rangle$$

Eigenvalues inform about:

- \bullet Frequency shift from bare atomic resonance ω_0
- $^{\bullet}$ Enhanced/inhibited decay rate with respect to single atom Γ_{0}

Collective modes of a 1D atomic chain in free space (single excitation manifold)



Spatial profile of most subradiant atomic mode

Spatial profile of most subradiant eigenstate $|\psi\rangle = \sum_{j} c_{j} \sigma_{eg}^{j} |g\rangle^{\otimes N}$

dipole phases anti-align



For a finite chain, radiative losses occur only at the edges



Intensity profile generated by most subradiant eigenstate





Longitudinal wave-vector kz



Emergent power law behavior in the decay rates and lifetimes



Universality: 1/N³ scaling seems to be universal for 1D arrays

- similar scaling found in generic open quantum systems with boundary dissipation, Znidaric (2015)

Emergent power law behavior in the decay rates and lifetimes



Universality: 1/N³ scaling seems to be universal for 1D arrays

- similar scaling found in generic open quantum systems with boundary dissipation, Znidaric (2015)

Depends on array dimensionality and topology

Guiding light in an atomic waveguide: reflection





Guiding light in an atomic waveguide: flipped atom





d=0.1 λ_0 , ρ =0.5 d (preliminary)

The problem of subradiant modes is that they are hard to excite

What does that imply for light-matter interactions? Can we use subradiance to our advantage?

Yes, if we find a way to access the subradiant manifold
The problem of subradiant modes is that they are hard to excite



The presence of a fiber allows to excite selectively radiant modes



The presence of a fiber allows to excite selectively radiant modes:

- superradiant to fiber
- subradiant to free-space

Application: a quantum memory for light

PRL 98, 123601 (2007)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 23 MARCH 2007

Universal Approach to Optimal Photon Storage in Atomic Media

 Alexey V. Gorshkov,¹ Axel André,¹ Michael Fleischhauer,² Anders S. Sørensen,³ and Mikhail D. Lukin¹
 ¹Physics Department, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA
 ²Fachbereich Physik, Technische Universität Kaiserslautern, 67633 Kaiserslautern, Germany
 ³QUANTOP, Danish National Research Foundation Centre of Quantum Optics, Niels Bohr Institute, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
 (Received 6 April 2006; published 19 March 2007)

We present a universal physical picture for describing storage and retrieval of photon wave packets in a Λ -type atomic medium. This physical picture encompasses a variety of different approaches to pulse storage ranging from adiabatic reduction of the photon group velocity and pulse-propagation control via off-resonant Raman fields to photon-echo-based techniques. Furthermore, we derive an optimal control strategy for storage and retrieval of a photon wave packet of any given shape. All these approaches, when optimized, yield identical maximum efficiencies, which only depend on the optical depth of the medium.

infidelity ~ 1/D, with optical depth $D=N\Gamma_{1D}/\Gamma'$

Quantum memories require three level atoms: photon storage

N atom array



Quantum memories require three level atoms: photon retrieval

N atom array



Atoms now interact both through free space and through the fiber

Coupling through guided modes:



guided mode wave vector



Atoms now interact both through free space and through the fiber

Coupling through non-guided modes:

$$\mathcal{H}' = -\frac{3\pi\hbar\Gamma_0}{k_0} \sum_{i,j=1}^N G'_{\rho\rho}(\mathbf{r}_i, \mathbf{r}_j, \omega_0) \,\hat{\sigma}^i_{eg} \hat{\sigma}^j_{ge}$$

non-guided Green's



Correlated dissipation improves the fidelity of photon retrieval exponentially, well beyond previously known bounds



2D atomic arrays also work as good memories





Debate: is subradiance a classical or a quantum phenomena?

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My view: It is quantum for

- more than one excitation
- several ground states
- maybe other situations?

Subradiance as a many-body problem: example of two excitations

Single excitation (classical, linear optics):

$$|\psi
angle \propto S^{\dagger}|g
angle^{\otimes N} = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i |e_i
angle$$
 , decays as 1/N³

Apply excitation twice: $|\psi\rangle \propto (S^{\dagger})^{2}|g\rangle^{\otimes N} = \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} c_{ij}|e_{i}e_{j}\rangle$

This is not an eigenstate! Spins are not bosons.



Subradiance as a many-body problem: example of two excitations



Excitations obey effective Pauli exclusion principle in space

We write ansatz for $|\psi^{(2)}
angle$ found by "fermionizing" single-excitation wf's

This holds whenever the number of excitations n is small (n << N)

Follow up: can entanglement help guide light?

00

an array of classical dipoles guides light

atomic ground states can behave as defects





Previous work, not applicable to arrays

PRL 118, 143602 (2017)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending 7 APRIL 2017

Subradiance via Entanglement in Atoms with Several Independent Decay Channels

Martin Hebenstreit, Barbara Kraus, Laurin Ostermann, and Helmut Ritsch^{*} Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Innsbruck, Technikerstrasse 21a, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria (Received 17 January 2017; published 7 April 2017)



distances much smaller than the transition wavelength, all $\Gamma_j^{ik} = \Gamma_j$ become independent of the atomic indexes (i, k), reducing to a single constant Γ_j . For simplicity, we also assume equal decay rates on all transitions $\Gamma_j = \Gamma$, i.e., equal dipole moments and Clebsch-Gordan coefficients

Hyperfine "à la Dicke": small volume approximation, neglect of photon polarization

Hyperfine structure breaks down the toy-model of two-level atoms



Hyperfine structure breaks down the toy-model of two-level atoms



The many-body complexity of the hyperfine problem (even for single excitation)

2-level atoms

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = \hbar \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} (J_{ij} - i\Gamma_{ij}/2) \hat{\sigma}_{eg}^{i} \hat{\sigma}_{ge}^{j}$$

Multilevel atoms

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} = \hbar \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} \sum_{q,q'=-1}^{1} \left(J_{ijqq'} - i \frac{\Gamma_{ijqq'}}{2} \right) \Sigma_{iq}^{\dagger} \Sigma_{jq'}$$
$$\Sigma_{iq}^{\dagger} = \sum_{m_g=-F_g}^{F_g} C_{m_g q} \hat{\sigma}_{F_e m_g - q, F_g m_g}^{i}$$

unique ground state

$$dim = 1 \\ |g\rangle^{\otimes N}$$

N=4: $|g g g g g\rangle$

degenerate ground state $dim = 2^N$

 $\begin{array}{l} |0\,0\,0\,0\rangle, |0\,0\,0\,1\rangle, |0\,0\,1\,0\rangle, |0\,1\,0\,0\rangle, \\ |1\,0\,0\,0\rangle, |1\,0\,0\,1\rangle, |1\,0\,1\,0\rangle, |1\,1\,0\,0\rangle, \\ |0\,1\,1\,0\rangle, |0\,0\,1\,1\rangle, |0\,1\,0\,1\rangle, |0\,1\,1\,1\rangle, \\ |1\,0\,1\,1\rangle, |1\,1\,0\,1\rangle, |1\,1\,1\,0\rangle, |1\,1\,1\,1\rangle. \end{array}$

States of a 1D chain along z can be classified according to angular momentum projection F_z

Most subradiant states are "defect states"

Similar to 2-level atom subradiant states, with decay Γ ~ 1/N³

Defect is pushed to the edge, and does not see light intensity For low angular momentum: emergence of domain walls

However, there are also exotic, and very non-classical subradiant states

No analogy with the physics of 2-level atoms

They are highly symmetrical and appear in the minimum angular momentum subspace

In the thermodynamic limit, we have an ansatz for them, which works well for the finite chain. Decay $^{\rm \sim 1/N^3}$

$$|\psi_{\text{dark}}\rangle \sim \sum_{j} e^{ik_s z_j} \left(|2_j\rangle |\mathcal{D}_{3/2}^j\rangle + |3_j\rangle |\mathcal{D}_{1/2}^j\rangle + |4_j\rangle |\mathcal{D}_{-1/2}^j\rangle + |5_j\rangle |\mathcal{D}_{-3/2}^j\rangle \right)$$

Dicke state with angular momentum projection $F_z=3/2$

However, there are also exotic, and very non-classical subradiant states

Problems:

We do not know how to access them

They appear for small distances or modified dispersion relations

Experimentalists: beware

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cavity QED and waveguide QED

In cavity QED, figure of merit is C=g²/ $\kappa\Gamma$ '

In waveguide QED, that is $D=\Gamma_{1D}/\Gamma'$

Nanophotonic structures add versatility, allowing to go beyond cavity QED

cQED: infinite interaction range between atoms inside cavity

SC waveguide, Painter (2019) · NV in diamond waveguide, Lukin (2016)

Figures of merit of different systems

atom+fiber

 $\Gamma_{\rm 1D}/\Gamma'\sim 0.05$

atom+PhC

QD+PhC

 $\Gamma_{1D}/\Gamma' \sim 10$

SC qubit+transmission line

 $\Gamma_{\rm 1D}/\Gamma' \sim 100$

Nanophotonics brings many opportunities

Review paper: Chang et al., RMP 90, 031002 (2018)

Example of dispersion engineering: Photonic crystal waveguides

Example of dispersion engineering: Photonic crystal waveguides

Example of dispersion engineering: Photonic crystal waveguides

More recent: Douglas (2015), Gonzalez Tudela (2015)

Work at Caltech: the alligator photonic crystal waveguide

Feeding the atoms to the alligator

N~ 10⁶ Cs atoms at ρ ~ 10¹⁰/cm³ T ~ 30 μ K

The alligator photonic crystal waveguide

The atoms are trapped above the alligator



The atoms are trapped above the alligator



Alligator dispersion relation

Simulated dispersion relation





How does the coupling between atom and light relate to measurable observables?



How does the coupling between atom and light relate to measurable observables?



Transmission spectrum gives information about atom-light interactions.

Transmission spectra without atoms





Transmission spectra with atoms





On resonance cavity, symmetric spectrum, dissipative interaction

Transmission spectra with atoms





Out of resonance cavity, asymmetric spectrum, coherent interaction

Transmission spectra with atoms





Into the bandgap, asymmetric spectrum, coherent interaction

We obtain the coherent and dissipative rates from the spectra measurements



Transmission coefficient



We obtain the transmission coefficient from plugging the solution of Heisenberg equations to the field equation

$$\mathcal{H}_{eff} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} d \, \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{p}(\mathbf{r}_{i}) \, \hat{\sigma}_{eg}^{i} - \sum_{i=1}^{N} \hbar \left(\Delta_{A} + i \frac{\Gamma'}{2} \right) \sigma_{ee}^{i} - \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} \hbar \left(J_{1D}^{ij} + i \frac{\Gamma_{1D}^{ij}}{2} \right) \hat{\sigma}_{eg}^{i} \hat{\sigma}_{ge}^{j} - \sum_{\text{solve for } \sigma_{eg}} \hat{\sigma}_{ge}^{i}$$

$$\text{solve for } \sigma_{eg}^{i}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}_{out}, t) = \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{p}(\mathbf{r}_{out}, t) + \mu_{0}\omega_{A}^{2}d \sum_{j=1}^{N} \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{r}_{out}, \mathbf{r}_{j}, \omega_{A}) \, \hat{\sigma}_{ge}^{j}(t)$$

$$\frac{t(\Delta_{A})}{t_{0}(\Delta_{A})} = \prod_{\xi=1}^{N} \frac{\Delta_{A} + i\Gamma'/2}{(\Delta_{A} + J_{\xi,1D}) + i(\Gamma' + \Gamma_{\xi,1D})/2}$$

$$\text{transmission}$$

$$\text{coherent rate} \quad \text{dissipative rate}$$

$$\text{without atoms}$$

Dispersive/coherent atom-light interactions give rise to a Fano-like transmission spectrum

For a single atom:
$$\frac{t(\Delta_A)}{t_0(\Delta_A)} = \frac{\Delta_A + i\Gamma'/2}{(\Delta_A + J_{1D}) + i(\Gamma' + \Gamma_{1D})/2}$$

Dissipative atom-light interaction ($J_{1D}=0$)

Dispersive atom-light interaction



Degree of asymmetry $\sim J_{1D}/\Gamma_{1D}$

The future: atoms as quantum photonic structures





Summary

Physics of correlated quantum dipoles with dissipation and long range interactions

Not much is known, new playground for multidisciplinary physics

| Quantum info protocols | | Increasing complexity | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Fundamental limits and error bounds | | Open quantum many body system | |
| Entanglement protocols with | | | Multilevel atoms, disorder |
| ensembles, quantum gates | Corre | elated | Self organization |
| Metrology | dissipation | | |
| Quantum dielectrics | Gibbip | | Experimental platforms |
| nanophotonic analogues with | | | Atoms, SC qubits, solid-state |
| atoms | | | emitters |
| role of topology and dimension | | Tweezers, quantum microscopes | |
| intrinsic quantum non-linearity | | Interface with nanophotonics | |