Some Topics in Quantum Photonics

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Some Topics in Quantum Photonics

1. Overview of “Ghost Imaging”

2. “Interaction-Free” Ghost Imaging

3. New Photonic Material for Quantum Information

4. Quantum Key Distribution with Many Bits per Photon
Ghost (Coincidence) Imaging

- Obvious applicability to remote sensing! (imaging under adverse situations, bio, two-color, etc.)
- Is this a purely quantum mechanical process? (No)
- Can Brown-Twiss intensity correlations lead to ghost imaging? (Yes)


Padgett Group
Is Ghost Imaging a Quantum Phenomenon?

Entangled Imaging and Wave-Particle Duality: From the Microscopic to the Macroscopic Realm

A. Gatti, E. Brambilla, and L. A. Lugiato

INFM, Dipartimento di Scienze CC.FF.MM., Università dell’Insubria, Via Valleggio 11, 22100 Como, Italy
(Received 11 October 2002; published 3 April 2003)

We formulate a theory for entangled imaging, which includes also the case of a large number of photons in the two entangled beams. We show that the results for imaging and for the wave-particle duality features, which have been demonstrated in the microscopic case, persist in the macroscopic domain. We show that the quantum character of the imaging phenomena is guaranteed by the simultaneous spatial entanglement in the near and in the far field.

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Good imaging observed in both the near and far field.

Good imaging can be obtained only in near field or far field.

Detailed analysis shows that in the quantum case the space-bandwidth exceeded the classical limit by a factor of three.
Thermal Ghost Imaging

Instead of using quantum-entangled photons, one can perform ghost imaging using the correlations of a thermal light source, as predicted by Gatti et al. 2004.

Recall that the intensity distribution of thermal light looks like a speckle pattern.

We use pseudothermal light in our studies: we create a speckle pattern with the same statistical properties as thermal light by scattering a laser beam off a rotating ground glass plate.

How does thermal ghost imaging work?

- Ground glass disk (GGD) and beam splitter (BS) create two identical speckle patterns
- Many speckles are blocked by the opaque part of object (O), but some are transmitted, and their intensities are summed by bucket detector (BD)
- CCD camera measures intensity distribution of speckle pattern
- Each speckle pattern is multiplied by the output of the BD
- Results are averaged over a large number of frames.
Origin of Thermal Ghost Imaging

Create identical speckle patterns in each arm.

Object arm (bucket detector)

Reference arm (pixelated imaging detector)

\[ g_1(x,y) = \text{(total transmitted power)} \times \text{(intensity at each point x,y)} \]

Average over many speckle patterns
Two-Color Ghost Imaging

New possibilities afforded by using different colors in object and reference arms.

Thermal ghost imaging

But no obvious way to make identical speckle patterns at two wavelengths.

Quantum ghost imaging

Spatial resolution depends on wavelength used to illuminate object.

Wavelength-Shifted (Two-Color Ghost) Microscopy

- Pump at 355 nm produces signal at 460 nm and idler at 1550 nm
- Object is illuminated at 1550 nm, but image is formed (in coincidence) at 460 nm
- Wavelength ratio of 3.4 is the largest yet reported.

Setup

Typical images
Nearly “ideal” CCD cameras are now commercially available!

(An ideal camera would have 100% detection quantum efficiency and a vanishing dark-count rate.)

The fine print (or, if you prefer, the details).

• Intensified CCD (ICCDs) cameras have a detection quantum efficiency of only about 20%, but can be gated in such a way that there are essentially no dark counts in an integration time.

• Electron multiplied CCD (EMCCDs) cameras have a detection quantum efficiency of about 90%, but have a background dark-count rate of about 0.02 counts per pixel per readout. This is almost (but not quite) good enough.
Imaging high-dimensional spatial entanglement with a camera

M.P. Edgar, D. S. Tasca, F. Izdebski, R.E. Warburton, J. Leach, M. Agnew, G. S. Buller, R.W. Boyd & M.J. Padgett

Large number of entangled modes in PDC field
But we can access them only one mode at a time using APDs
Need a camera with unit quantum efficiency and no dark signal
Modern EMCCD cameras provide a close approximation

Andor iXon3:
90% quantum efficiency
dark signal of 0.02 events per pixel per readout

This performance is adequate for studies in quantum information.

Imaging high-dimensional spatial entanglement with a camera

- Correlations:
  - near-field (position)
  - far-field (momentum)

2500 spatial modes are entangled!

- Our data shows violations of the Reid EPR criterion

\[
\Delta_{\text{min}}^2(x_1 | x_2) \Delta_{\text{min}}^2(p_{x_1} | p_{x_2}) = (6.6 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{-4} \hbar^2,
\]

\[
\Delta_{\text{min}}^2(x_2 | x_1) \Delta_{\text{min}}^2(p_{x_2} | p_{x_1}) = (6.2 \pm 0.9) \times 10^{-4} \hbar^2,
\]
EPR-based ghost imaging using a single-photon-sensitive camera

Reuben S Aspden, Daniel S Tasca, Robert W Boyd and Miles J Padgett


Essentially “ideal” cameras now are available!

When time gated, essentially all background noise is eliminated!


1. Overview of “Ghost Imaging”

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3. New Photonic Material for Quantum Information

4. Quantum Key Distribution with Many Bits per Photon
Interaction-Free Ghost Imaging

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What Constitutes a Quantum Measurement?

- Situation 1

  single photon
  \[\rightarrow\]
  beam splitter
  \[\rightarrow\]
  detector clicks

- Situation 2

  single photon
  \[\rightarrow\]
  beam splitter
  \[\rightarrow\]
  photon must be here
  detector does not click

Quantum Imaging by Interaction-Free Measurement

Interaction-Free Measurements and Entangled Photons

If detector D2 clicks, will the spot size on the detector array measured in coincidence become smaller?

- Does an interaction-free measurement constitute a “real” measurement?
- Does it lead to the collapse of the wavefunction of its entangled partner?
- More precisely, does the entire two-photon wavefunction collapse?
Interaction-Free Ghost Imaging

Experimental Setup

IF = interference filter
BS = beam splitter
ICCD = intensified CCD camera
Experimental Results

Interaction-free ghost image of a straight wire

- Note that the interaction-free ghost image is about five times narrower than full spot size on the ICCD camera.

- This result shows that interaction-free measurements lead to wavefunction collapse, just like standard measurements.
Was this experiment even worth doing?

We could instead have simply answered the question theoretically (of whether interaction-free measurements lead to wavefunction collapse).

My response: Physics is an experimental science. Theoretical models are developed to explain the results of experiment, and not vice versa.

In their mathematical treatment of interaction-free measurements, Elitzur and Vaidman state: “Assuming that detectors cause the collapse of the quantum state . . .” (Emphasis mine.)

Is interaction-free imaging useful?

Interaction-free imaging allows us to see what something looks like in the dark!

Could be extremely useful for biophysics. What does the retina look like when light does not hit it?
Summary

- Laboratory results show that an “interaction-free” measurement of one member of an entangled two-photon state leads to the collapse of the entire two-photon state.

- As such, it is possible to combine ghost imaging with interaction-free imaging to produce interaction-free ghost imaging.

- Interaction-free ghost imaging holds promise for “imaging in the dark,” with important implications for biophotonics and surveillance for national security.

- Work is ongoing to achieve greater transverse spatial resolution.
Quantum Imaging Overview

Ghost Imaging (Shih)
- object to be imaged
- "bucket" detector
- coincidence circuit
- photodetector array
- entangled photon pair
- PDC

Imaging with Undetected Photons (Zeilinger)

Interaction-Free Imaging (White)
- single photon
- no object

Interaction-Free Ghost Imaging (this talk)
- 355nm
- BBO
- Delay line
- ICCD
- Filter
- Object
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2. New Nonlinear Optical Material for Quantum Information Processing

- We want all-optical switches that work at the single-photon level
- We need photonic materials with a much larger NLO response
- I report a new NLO material with an $n_2$ value 100 times larger than any previously reported results (but with background absorption).

(First release: M. Z. Alam et al., Science 10.1126/science.aae0330 2016.)
What Makes a Good (Kerr-Effect) Nonlinear Optical Material?

Want \( n_2 \) large (\( \Delta n = n_2 I \)). We also want \( \Delta n^{(\text{max})} \) large.

These are distinct concepts! Damage and saturation can limit \( \Delta n^{(\text{max})} \)

![Graph showing \( \Delta n \) vs. \( I_{\text{damage}} \) and \( n_2 \) slope.]

We report a material for which both \( n_2 \) and \( \Delta n^{(\text{max})} \) are extremely large!

(M. Z. Alam et al., Science 10.1126/science.aae0330 2016.)

For ITO at ENZ wavelength, \( n_2 = 1.1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^2/\text{W} \) and \( \Delta n^{(\text{max})} = 0.8 \)

(For silica glass \( n_2 = 3.2 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^2/\text{W} \), \( I_{\text{damage}} = 1 \text{ TW/cm}^2 \), and thus \( \Delta n^{(\text{max})} = 3 \times 10^{-4} \) )
Nonlinear Optical Properties of Indium Tin Oxide (ITO)

ITO is a degenerate semiconductor (so highly doped as to be metal-like).

It has a very large density of free electrons, and a bulk plasma frequency corresponding to a wavelength of approximately 1.24 μm.

Recall the Drude formula

\[ \varepsilon(\omega) = \varepsilon_\infty - \frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega(\omega + i\gamma)} \]

Note that \( \text{Re} \varepsilon = 0 \) for \( \omega = \omega_p/\sqrt{\varepsilon_\infty} \equiv \omega_0 \).

The region near \( \omega_0 \) is known as the epsilon-near-zero (ENZ) region.

There has been great recent interest in studies of ENZ phenomena:

The Epsilon-Near-Zero (ENZ) region of Indium Tin Oxide (ITO)

Measured real and imaginary parts of the dielectric permittivity.

Commercial ITO sample, 310 nm thick on a glass substrate

Note that $\text{Re}(\epsilon)$ vanishes at 1.24 mm, but that the loss-part $\text{Im}(\epsilon)$ is non-zero.

Drude fit
\[ \epsilon_{\infty} = 3.77 \]
\[ \gamma = 0.0468 \ \omega_p \]
\[ \omega_p / 2\pi = 473 \ \text{THz} \]
Implications of ENZ Behavior for Nonlinear Optics

Here is the intuition for why the ENZ conditions are of interest in NLO.

Recall the standard relation between \( n_2 \) and \( \chi^{(3)} \):

\[
    n_2 = \frac{3\chi^{(3)}}{4\epsilon_0 c n_0 \text{Re}(n_0)}
\]

Note that for ENZ conditions the denominator becomes very small, leading to a very large value of \( n_2 \).
The NLO Response Is Even Larger at Oblique Incidence

Standard boundary conditions show that:

\[ E_{\text{in}, \parallel} = E_{\text{out}, \parallel} = E_{\text{out}} \cos \theta \]

\[ D_{\text{in}, \perp} = D_{\text{out}, \perp} \implies E_{\text{in}, \perp} = E_{\text{out}, \perp} / \epsilon = E_{\text{out}} \cos \theta / \epsilon \]

Thus the total field inside of the medium is given by

\[ E_{\text{in}} = E_{\text{out}} \sqrt{\cos^2 \theta + \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\epsilon}} \]

Note that, for \( \epsilon < 1 \), \( E_{\text{in}} \) exceeds \( E_{\text{out}} \) for \( \theta \neq 0 \).

Note also that, for \( \epsilon < 1 \), \( E_{\text{in}} \) increases as \( \theta \) increases.
Huge Nonlinear Optical Response of ITO

Z-scan measurements for various angles of incidence

Wavelength dependence of $n_2$

- Note that $n_2$ is positive (self focusing) and $\beta$ is negative (saturable absorption).
- Both $n_2$ and nonlinear absorption increase with angle of incidence
- $n_2$ shows a maximum value of $0.11 \text{ cm}^2/\text{GW} = 1.1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^2/\text{W}$ at $1.25 \text{ \mu m}$ and $60 \text{ deg}$.

Variation with incidence angle
Beyond the $\chi^{(3)}$ limit

The nonlinear change in refractive index is so large as to change the transmission, absorption, and reflection!

Note that transmission is increased at high intensity.

Here is the refractive index extracted from the above data.

Note that the total nonlinear change in refractive index is $\Delta n = 0.8$.

The absorption decreases at high intensity, allowing a predicted NL phase shift of 0.5 radians.
Measurement of Response Time of ITO

- We have performed a pump-probe measurement of the response time. Both pump and probe are 100 fs pulses at 1.2 μm.
- Data shows a rise time of no longer than 200 fs and a recover time of 360 fs.
- Results suggest a hot-electron origin of the nonlinear response.
- ITO will support switching speeds as large as 1.5 THz.
Implications of the Large NLO Response of ITO

Indium Tin Oxide at its ENZ wavelength displays enormously strong NLO properties:

\[ n_2 \text{ is } 3.4 \times 10^5 \text{ times that of fused silica} \]
\[ \text{Nonlinear change in refractive index as large as 0.8} \]

Note that the usual “power-series” description of NLO is not adequate for describing this material. (We can have fun reformulating the laws of NLO!)

Some possible new effects

- Waveguiding outside the “weakly-guiding” regime
- Efficient all-optical switching
- No need for phase-matching
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Use of Quantum States for Secure Optical Communication

• The celebrated BB84 protocol for quantum key distribution (QKD) transmits one bit of information per received photon.

• We have built a QKD system that can carry more than one bit per photon.
  – Note that in traditional telecom, one uses many photons per bit!

• Our procedure is to encode using beams that carry orbital angular momentum (OAM), such as the Laguerre-Gauss states, which reside in an infinite dimensional Hilbert space.
We are constructing a QKD system in which each photon carries many bits of information.

We encode in states that carry OAM such as the Laguerre-Gauss states.

As a diagnostic, we need to be able to measure the statevector of OAM states.

**Single Photon States**

**Laguerre-Gaussian Basis** \( \ell = -13, \ldots, 13 \)

\[
\Psi_{AB}^N = \frac{1}{\sqrt{27}} \sum_{l=-13}^{13} \text{LG}_{l,0} \exp(i2\pi N l/27)
\]
A mode sorter

- Single photon with transverse structure
- Multiplexed hologram (quantum state sorter)
- Each output beam represents a different quantum eigenstate
Optically implement the transformation $\phi \rightarrow x$

$e^{i \ell \phi}$

$y \phi + x \log r - x$

$-\exp(-x) \cos(y)$

Position of spot determines OAM

Experimental Results (CCD images in output plane)

-Can also sort angular position states.

-Limited by the overlap of neighboring states.


Our Laboratory Setup

We use a seven-dimensional state space.

Laboratory Results - OAM-Based QKD

We use a 7-letter alphabet, and achieve a channel capacity of 2.1 bits per sifted photon.

We do not reach the full 2.8 bits per photon for a variety of reasons, including dark counts in our detectors and cross-talk among channels resulting from imperfections in our sorter.

Nonetheless, our error rate is adequately low to provide full security,
Next Step: gigabit-per-second OAM-based QKD system

- Use direct modulation of laser diode to encode at gigabits per sec.
bp
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