

University
of Basel

Classical and quantum synchronization

Christoph Bruder - University of Basel



Basel Center for
Quantum Computing
& Quantum Coherence



National Centre of Competence in Research

global outline

- Lecture I: classical synchronization
- Lecture II: quantum synchronization
- Lecture III: topics in quantum synchronization

lecture II: quantum synchronization

- experimental examples: synchronization in microsystems
- toy model: quantum van der Pol oscillator
- damping and driving in quantum mechanics; master equation
- application to quantum vdP oscillator
- spectral function and observed frequency
- two dissipatively coupled vdP oscillators

quantum synchronization

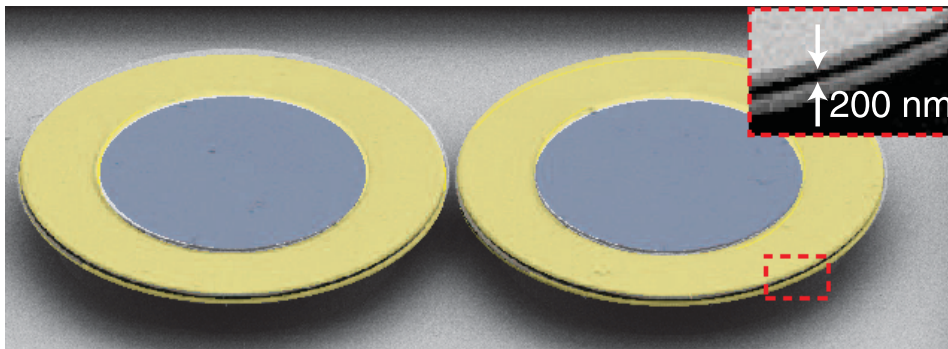
so far only **classical** non-linear systems

synchronization in **quantum** systems:

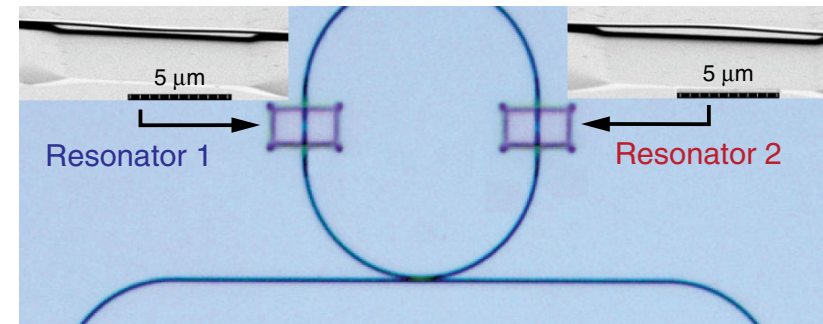
- experimental situation?
- does it exist at all?
- how to quantify and measure it?
- relation to other measures of 'quantumness' (entanglement, mutual information,...)

synchronization in microsystems

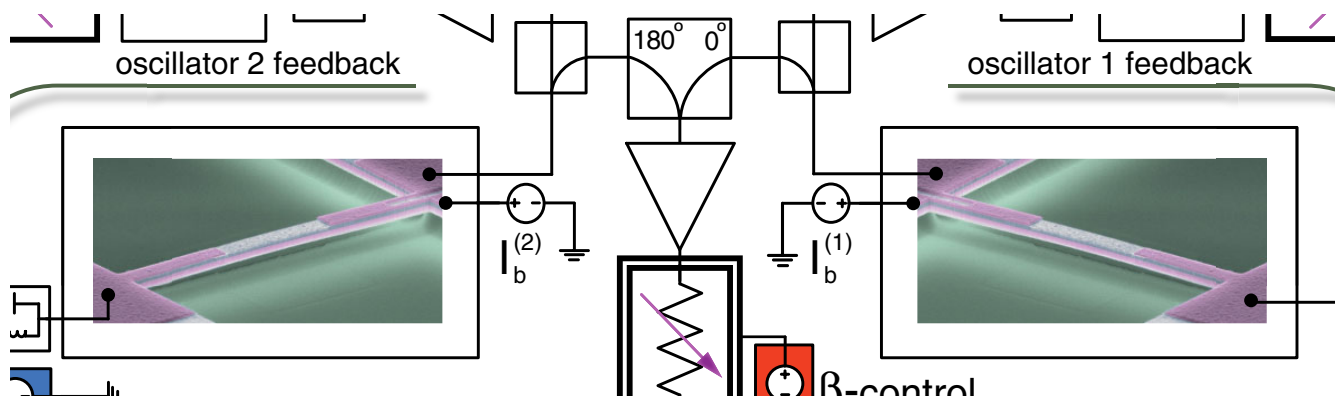
experiments on micro-mechanical systems (not quantum yet)



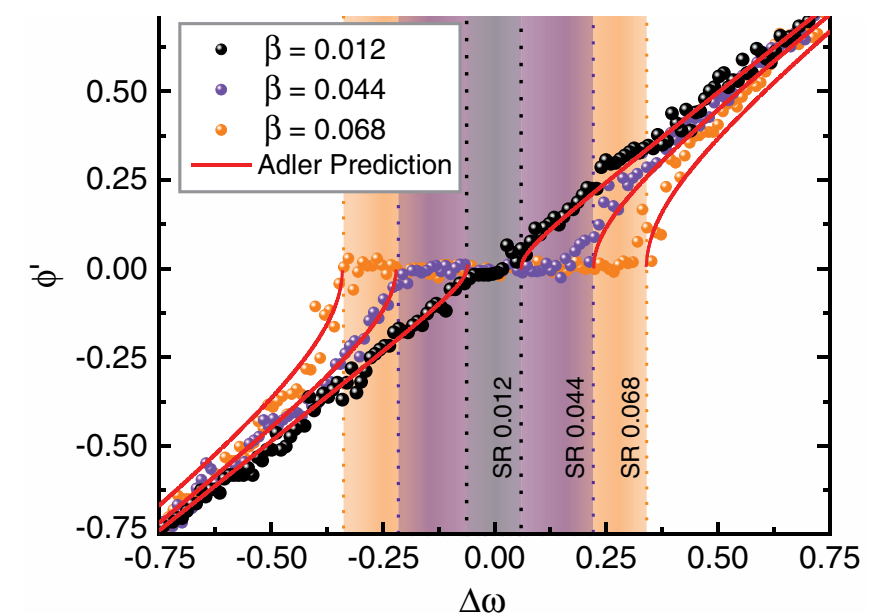
M. Zhang, G. S. Wiederhecker, S. Manipatruni,
A. Barnard, P. McEuen, and M. Lipson
PRL 109, 233906 (2012); PRL 115, 163902 (2015)



M. Bagheri, M. Poot, L. Fan,
F. Marquardt, and H. X. Tang
PRL 111, 213902 (2013)

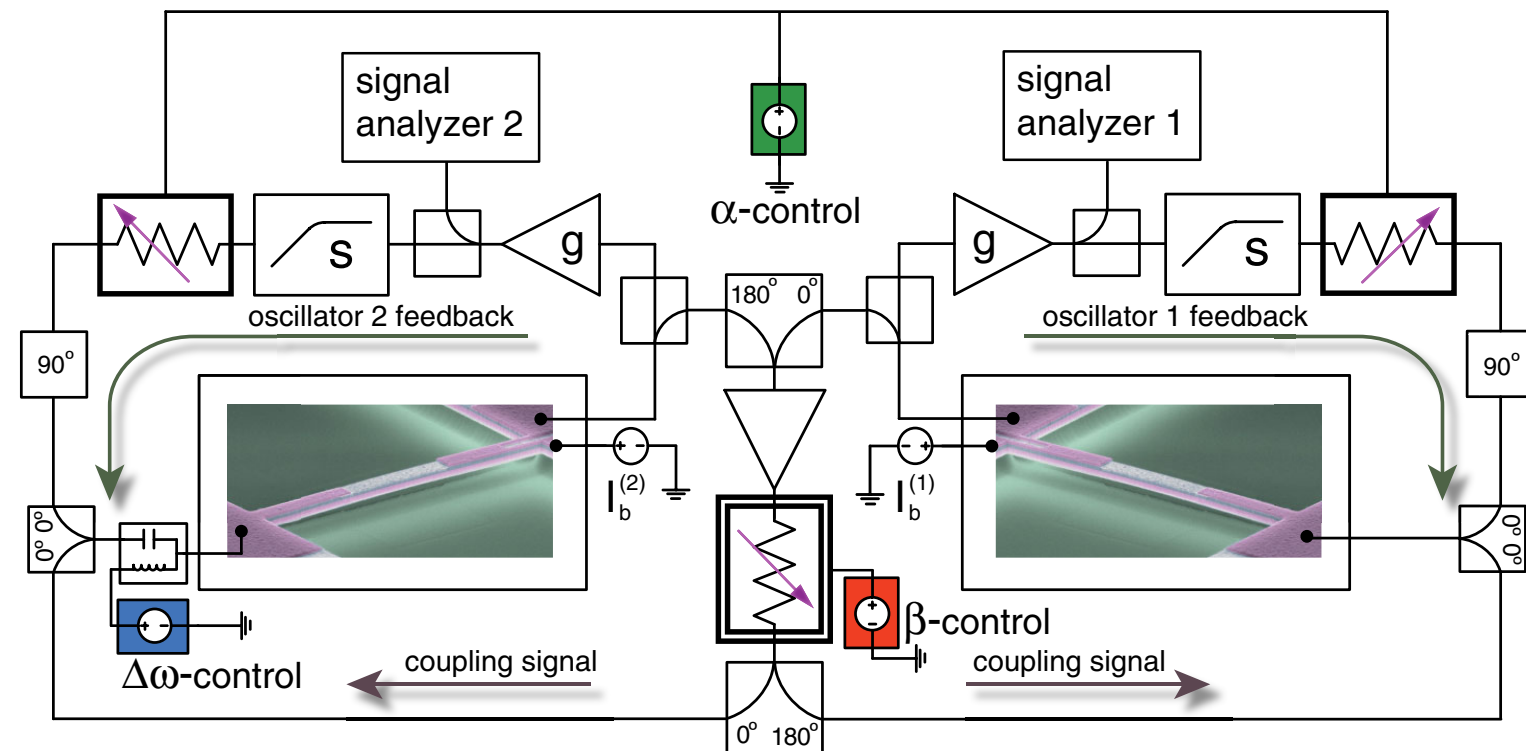


M. H. Matheny, M. Grau, L. G. Villanueva, R. B. Karabalin,
M. C. Cross, and M. L. Roukes
PRL 112, 014101 (2014)



synchronization in microsystems: Roukes et al.

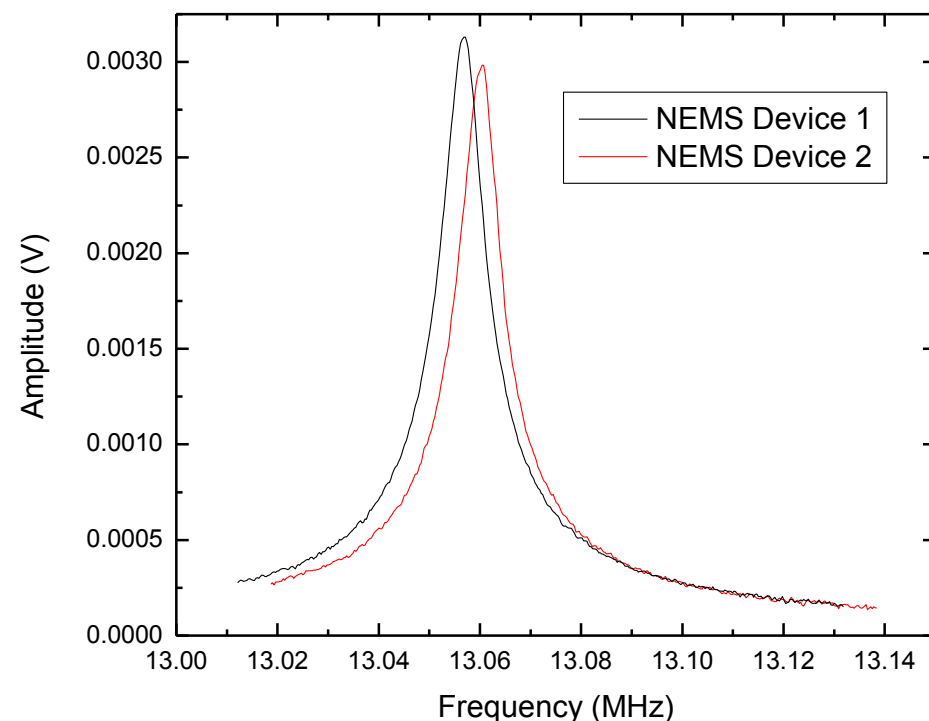
M.H. Matheny, M. Grau, L.G. Villanueva, R.B. Karabalin, M.C. Cross, and M.L. Roukes, PRL 112, 014101 (2014)



two doubly clamped beams, 10 μm long, 210 nm thick, and 400 nm wide

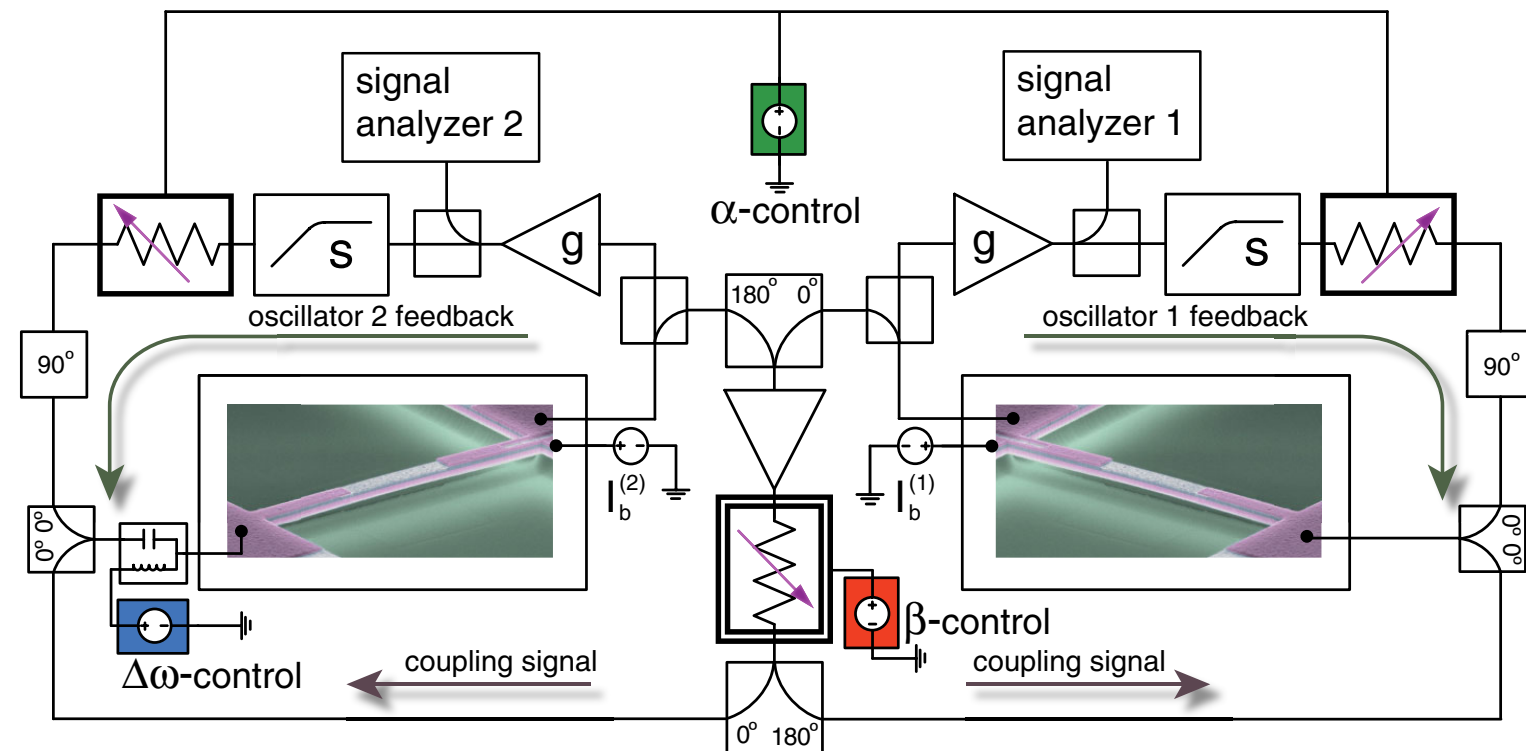
piezoelectrically actuated, piezo-resistively detected

reactive coupling



synchronization in microsystems: Roukes et al.

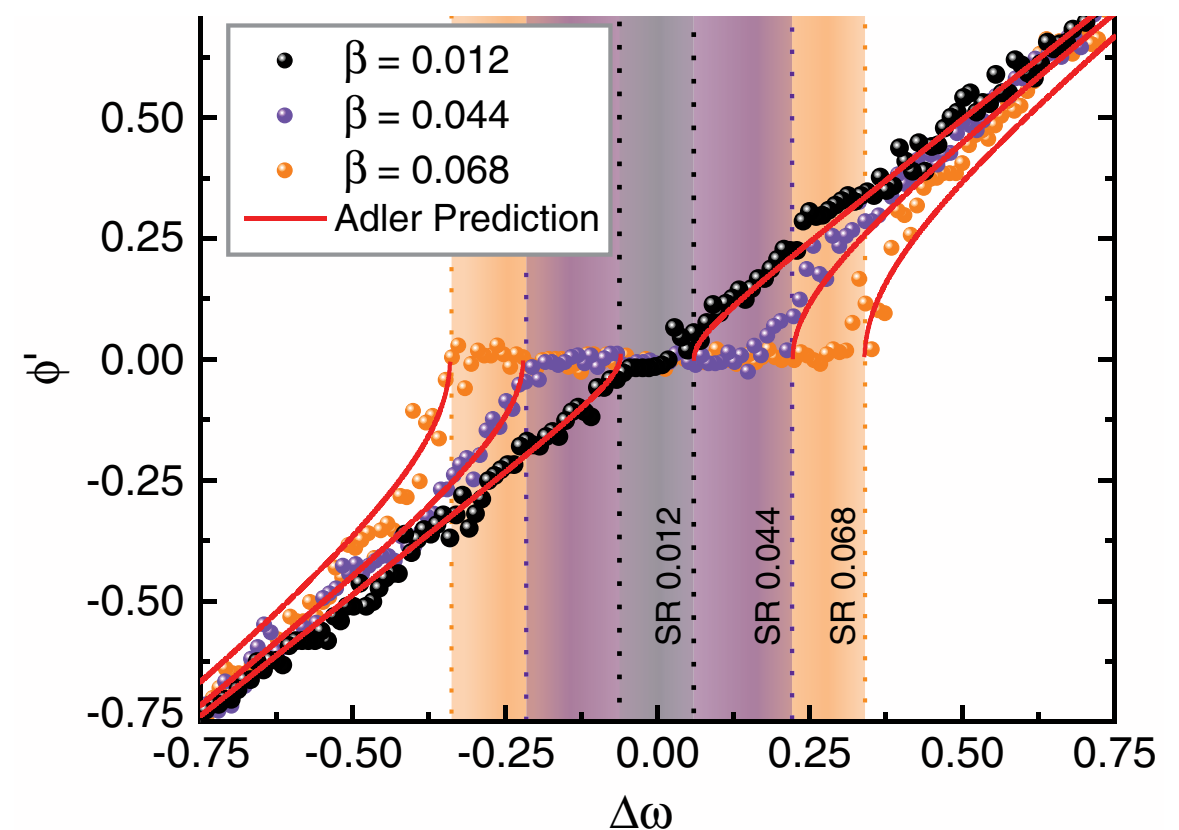
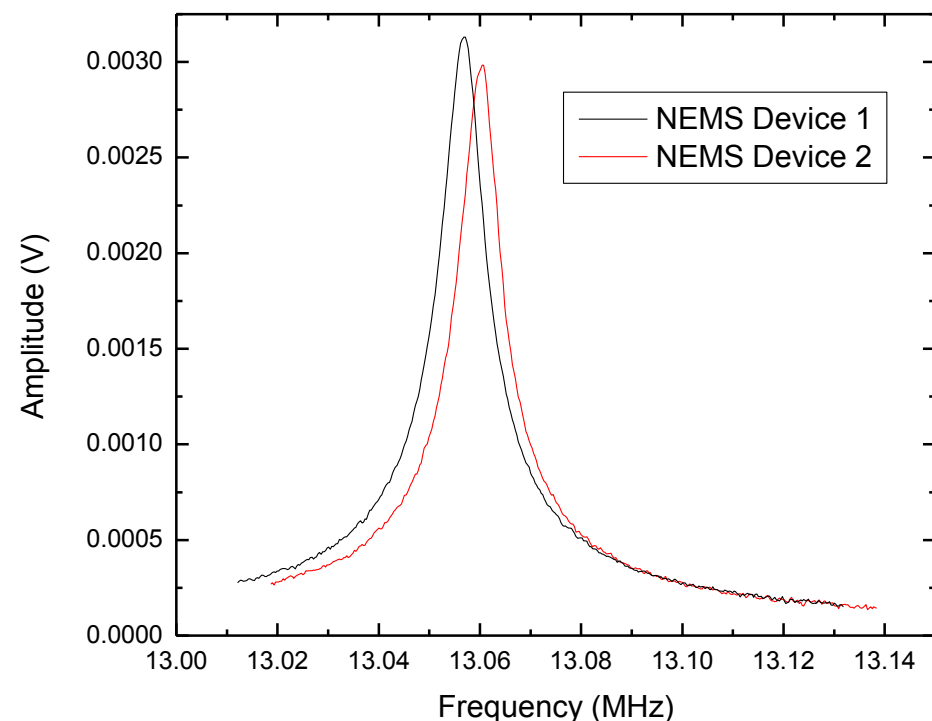
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how close to quantum?!

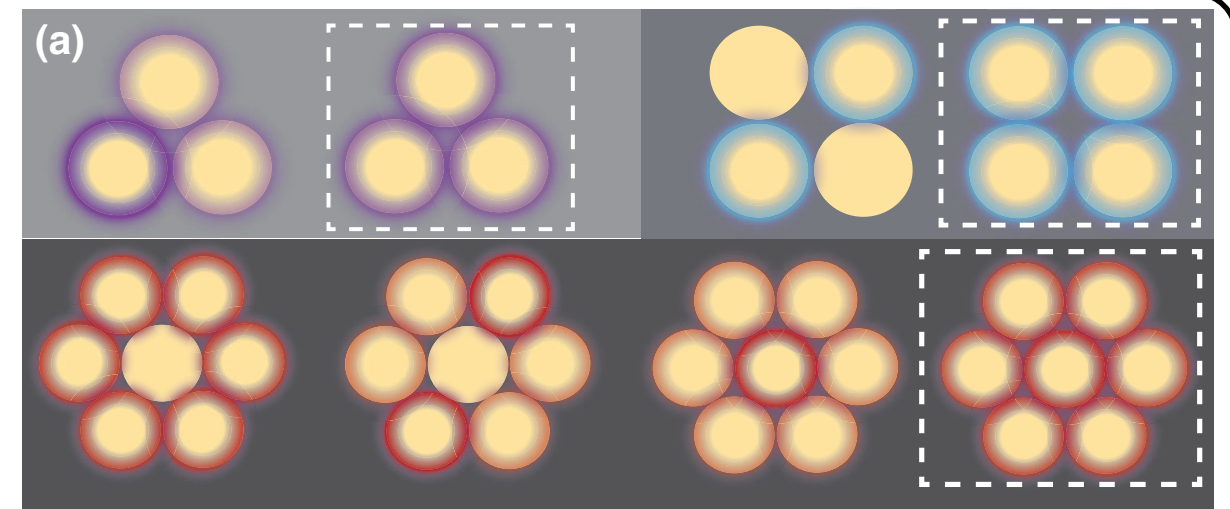
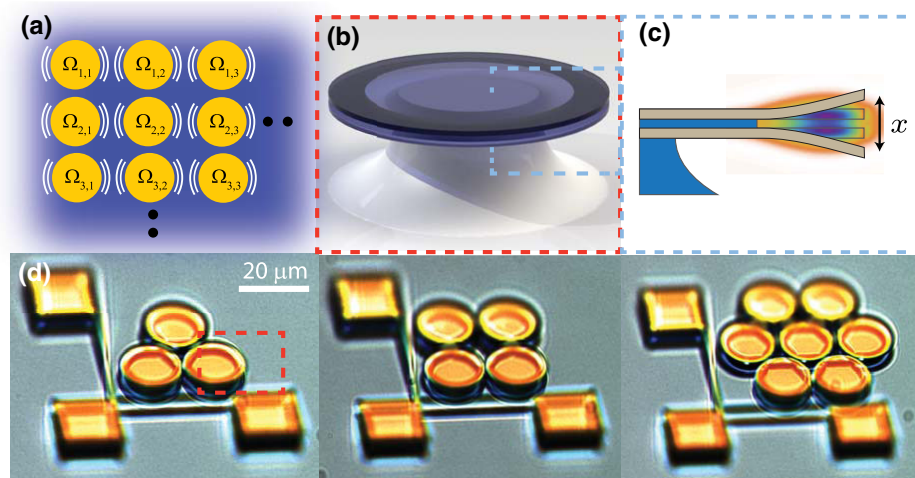
oscillator frequency 13 MHz
ambient temperature

important frequency/temperature/voltage scale

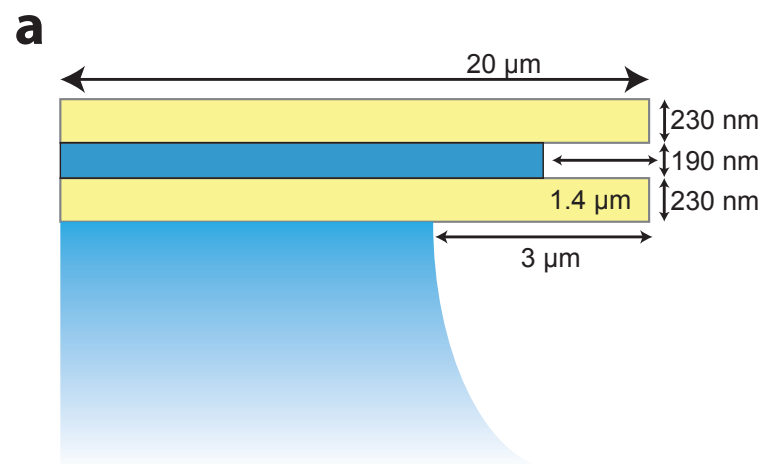
$$20 \text{ GHz} \sim 1 \text{ K} \sim 0.1 \text{ meV}$$

⇒ Roukes experiment is (very) classical

synchronization in microsystems: Lipson et al.



M. Zhang, S. Shah, J. Cardenas, and M. Lipson PRL 115, 163902 (2015)



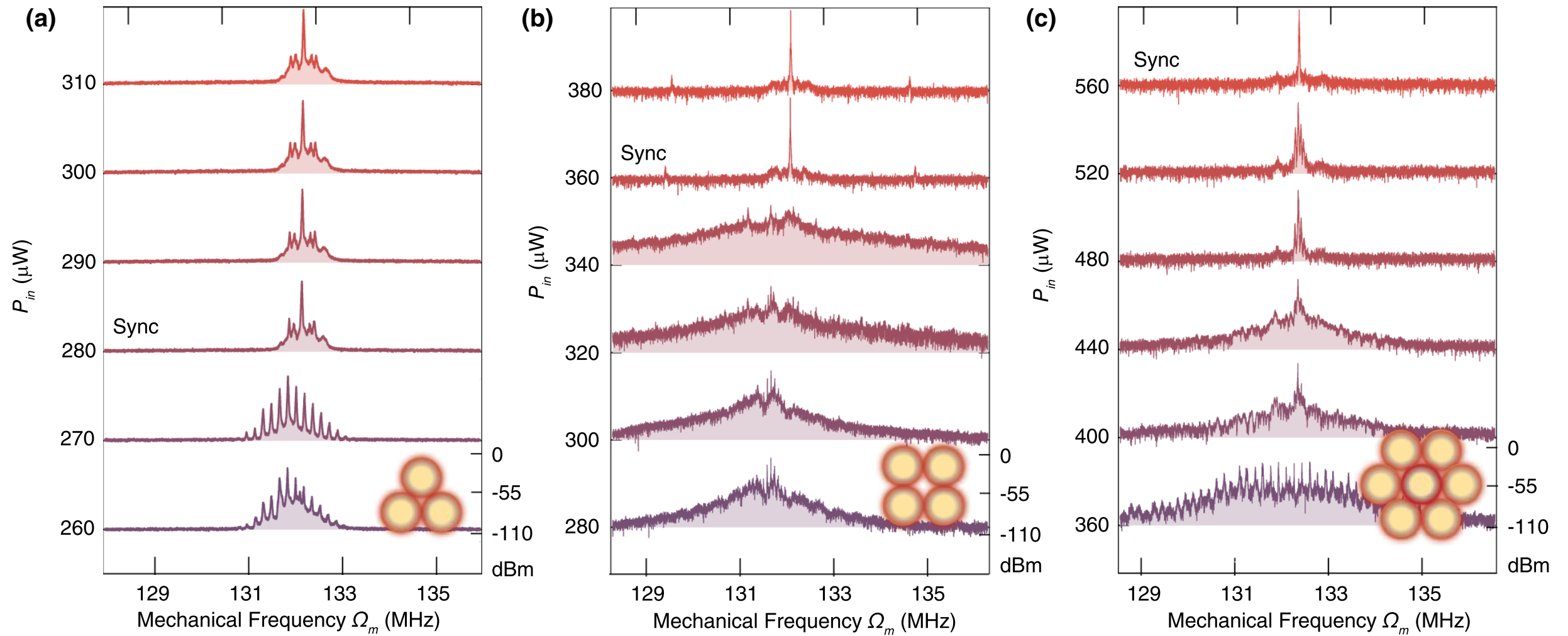
double-disk optomechanical oscillators
composed of two free-standing silicon
nitride circular edges

high-Q optical and mechanical modes

mechanical frequency around 132 MHz

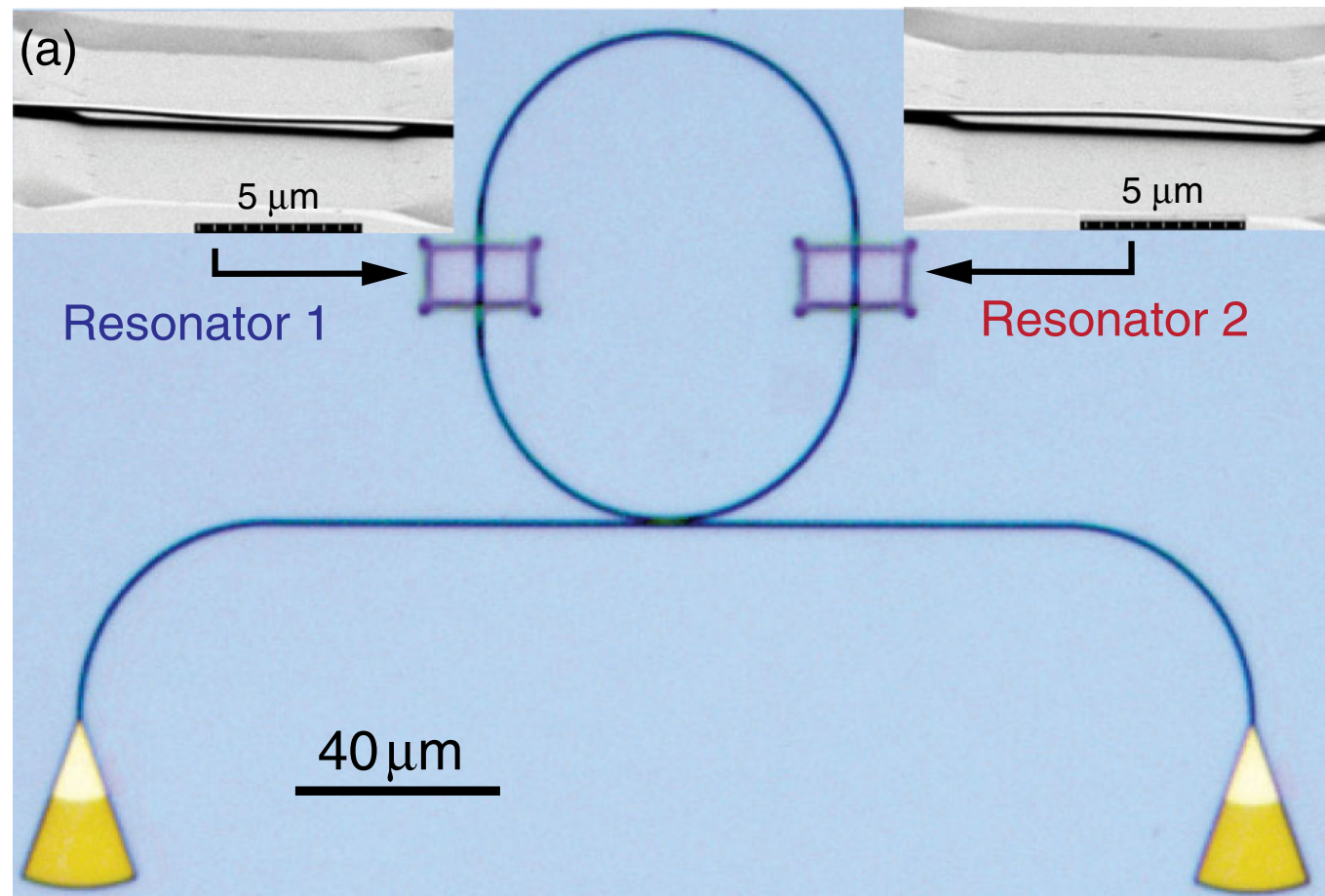
coupling by evanescent field via narrow
gap (150 nm)

optical power spectrum



synchronization in microsystems: Tang et al.

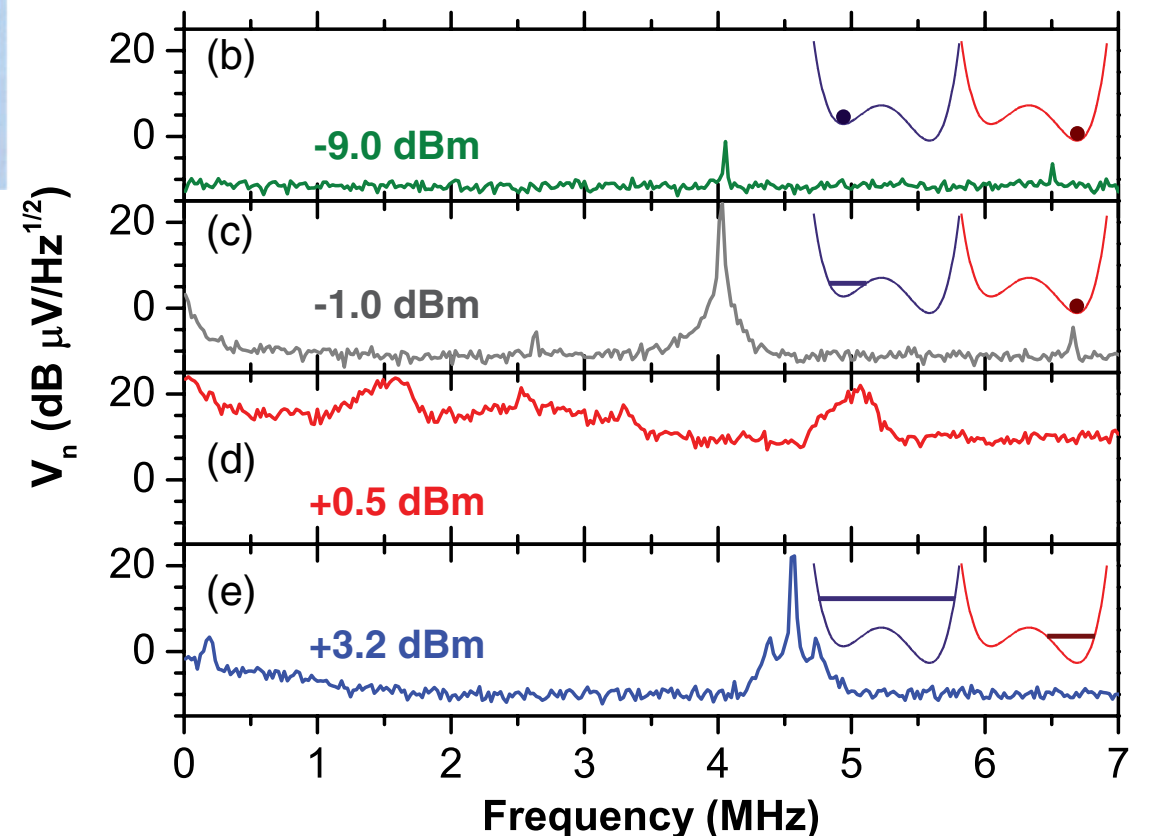
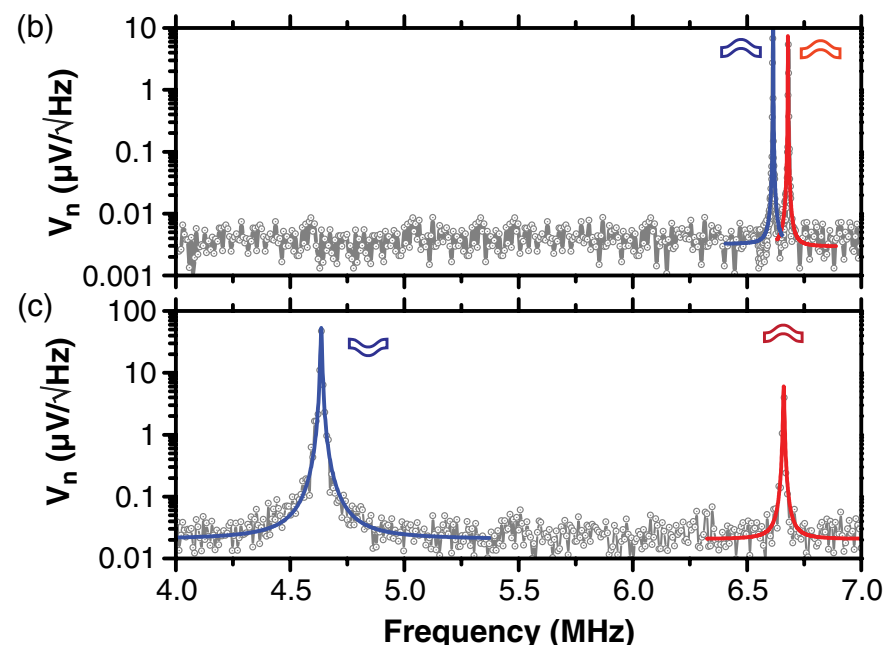
M. Bagheri, M. Poot, L. Fan, F. Marquardt, and H.X. Tang PRL 111, 213902 (2013)



two nanomechanical resonators
integrated in an optical racetrack cavity;
10 μm long, 110 nm thick, 500 nm wide

frequency of 6.5 MHz (buckled-up)

V_n : power spectrum of transmitted light

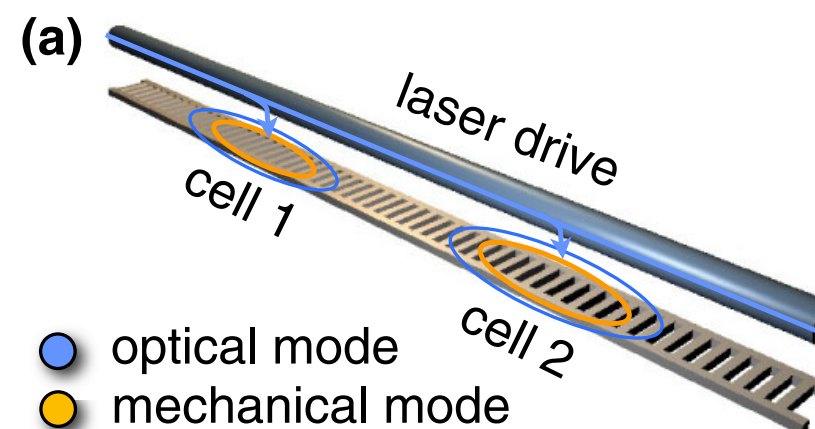


optomechanical systems look favorable

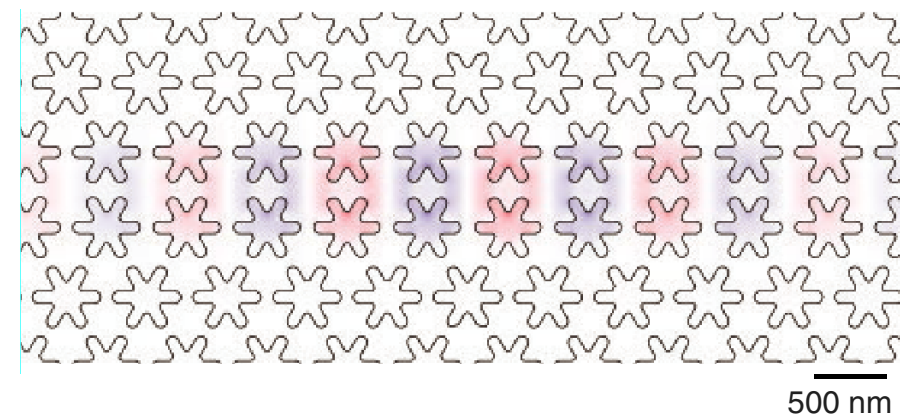
both **ground-state cooling** and **self-sustained oscillations** have been demonstrated

J. D. Teufel *et al.*, *Nature* 475, 359 (2011);
A. H. Safavi-Naeini *et al.*, *PRL* 108, 033602 (2011);
theory: F. Marquardt *et al.*, *PRL* 96, 103901 (2006)

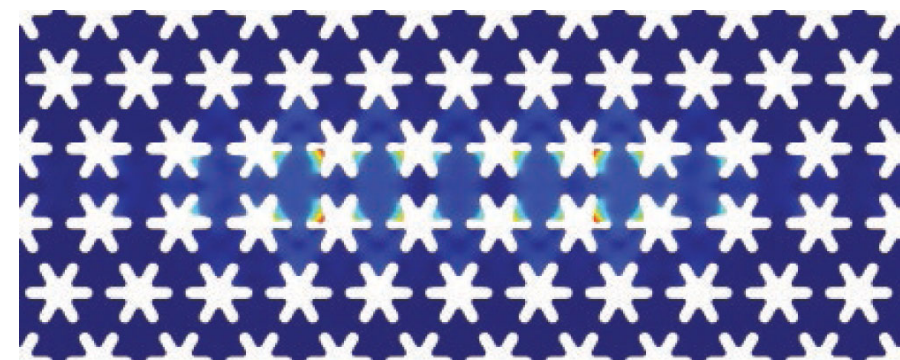
optomechanical arrays
(combined photonic and phononic crystals)



G. Heinrich *et al.*,
PRL 107, 043603 (2011)



E_y component
of electric field

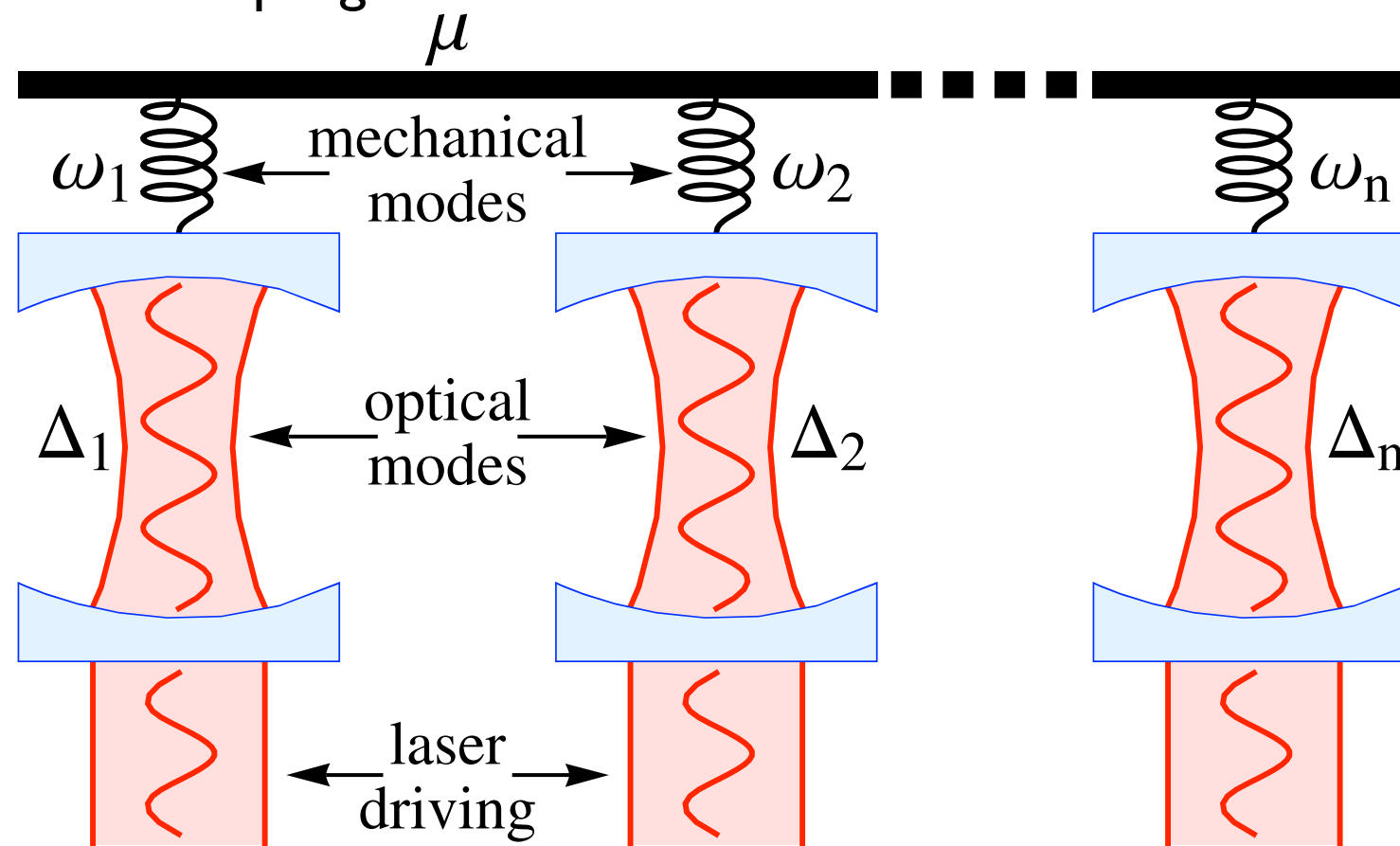


A. H. Safavi-Naeini *et al.*,
PRL 112, 153603 (2014)

optomechanical systems look favorable

coupled optomechanical cells =
plausible candidate for quantum synchronization experiments

mechanical coupling



Mari *et al.*, PRL 111, 103605 (2013)

toy model: quantum vdP oscillator

simplest model to study quantum synchronization:
driven quantum van der Pol oscillator

classical case $\ddot{x} + (-\gamma_1 + \gamma_2 x^2)\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = \Omega \cos(\omega_d t)$

γ_1 negative damping (“battery”)

γ_2 nonlinear damping

Ω strength of the external driving field

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QM formalism

density operator (density matrix)

p_n probability that state $|n\rangle$ is occupied

$$\rho = \sum_n p_n |n\rangle \langle n|$$

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time evolution
(von Neumann equation)

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} \rho(t) = [H, \rho(t)]$$

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→ unitary time evolution, no damping/relaxation

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how to describe damping?!

how to describe the harmonic drive?

“open quantum system” approach

couple system to an environment
(infinitely many degrees of freedom; continuous spectrum)

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(infinitely many degrees of freedom; continuous spectrum)
time evolution of ρ_{total} (system + environment) is unitary;
 $\rho_{\text{system}} \equiv \rho$ obeys a quantum master equation

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time evolution of ρ_{total} (system + environment) is unitary;
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$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = \frac{-i}{\hbar}[H, \rho] + \sum_j \gamma_j \mathcal{D}_j \rho$$

$\mathcal{D}_j \rho$: dissipator terms

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$\mathcal{D}_j \rho$: dissipator terms

example: damped harmonic oscillator (bath with $T = 0$)

$$H = \hbar\omega_0 b^\dagger b; \quad \mathcal{D}\rho = b\rho b^\dagger - \frac{1}{2}\{b^\dagger b, \rho\}$$

example: damped harmonic oscillator

$$H = \hbar\omega_0 b^\dagger b; \quad \mathcal{D}\rho = b\rho b^\dagger - \frac{1}{2}\{b^\dagger b, \rho\}$$

damping constant γ

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = -i\omega_0 b^\dagger b\rho + i\omega_0 \rho b^\dagger b + \gamma b\rho b^\dagger - \frac{1}{2}\gamma(b^\dagger b\rho + \rho b^\dagger b)$$

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matrix elements with Fock states $\rho_{nm} = \langle n|\rho|m\rangle$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho_{nm} = \left(-\frac{\gamma}{2} - i\omega_0\right)n\rho_{nm} + \left(-\frac{\gamma}{2} + i\omega_0\right)m\rho_{nm} + \gamma\sqrt{n+1}\sqrt{m+1}\rho_{n+1,m+1}$$

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diagonal matrix elements

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho_{nn} = -\gamma n\rho_{nn} + \gamma(n+1)\rho_{n+1,n+1}$$

exponential decay to stationary solution $\rho_{00} = 1, \quad \rho_{nn} = 0 \quad n \geq 1$

quantum van der Pol equation

Markovian quantum master equation with dissipative terms

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho(t) = \frac{-i}{\hbar}[H, \rho(t)]$$

$$+ \gamma_1(b^\dagger \rho b - \frac{1}{2}\{bb^\dagger, \rho\})$$

negative damping,
adds a phonon at rate $\sim \gamma_1$

$$+ \gamma_2(b^2 \rho b^{\dagger 2} - \frac{1}{2}\{b^{\dagger 2} b^2, \rho\})$$

nonlinear damping,
removes two phonons
at rate $\sim \gamma_2$

harmonic drive

$$H = \hbar\omega_0 b^\dagger b + \frac{\Omega}{x_0} x \cos \omega_d t = \hbar\omega_0 b^\dagger b + \Omega(b^\dagger + b) \cos \omega_d t$$

transformation to the frame of the drive $U = \exp(i\omega_d b^\dagger b t)$

$$\begin{aligned} H &\rightarrow U^\dagger H U + i\hbar U^\dagger \dot{U} \\ &= \hbar(\omega_0 - \omega_d) b^\dagger b + \Omega(b^\dagger + b) \end{aligned}$$

driven quantum vdP oscillator

master equation for the density matrix

$$\Delta = \omega_0 - \omega_d$$

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = -i \left[\overset{\text{drive}}{\Delta b^\dagger b} + \Omega(b^\dagger + b), \rho \right] + \overset{\text{non-linear damping}}{\gamma_1 \mathcal{D}[b^\dagger] \rho} + \gamma_2 \mathcal{D}[b^2] \rho$$

detuning negative damping

$$\mathcal{D}[O]\rho = O\rho O^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} \{O^\dagger O, \rho\}$$

driven quantum vdP oscillator

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detuning negative damping

$$\mathcal{D}[O]\rho = O\rho O^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} \{O^\dagger O, \rho\}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}\beta = i\Delta\beta + \frac{\gamma_1}{2}\beta - \gamma_2|\beta|^2\beta - \Omega \quad \left| \quad \begin{aligned} dr/dt &= (\gamma_1/2 - \gamma_2 r^2)r - \Omega \cos \phi \\ d\phi/dt &= \Delta + (\Omega/r) \sin \phi \end{aligned} \right.$$

$\beta = r e^{i\phi} = \langle \hat{b} \rangle$
classical vdP equation

classical and quantum limit

$$\gamma_1 \gg \gamma_2$$

- negative damping dominates
- many oscillator levels are populated
- classical limit

$$\gamma_1 \ll \gamma_2$$

- nonlinear damping dominates
- few oscillator levels are populated
(only two for $\gamma_2/\gamma_1 \rightarrow \infty$, since
2-phonon processes cannot relax $|1\rangle$)
- quantum limit

phase-space trajectory and Wigner function

classical phase space trajectory

$$\text{Re}[\beta(t)] \sim x(t) \quad \text{Im}[\beta(t)] \sim p(t)$$

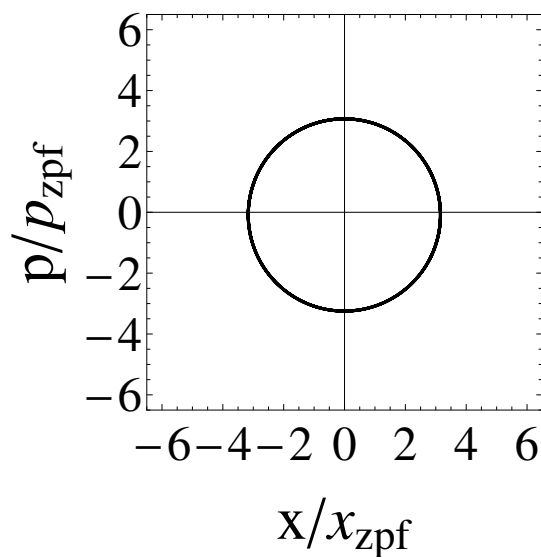
vs.

quantum phase-space

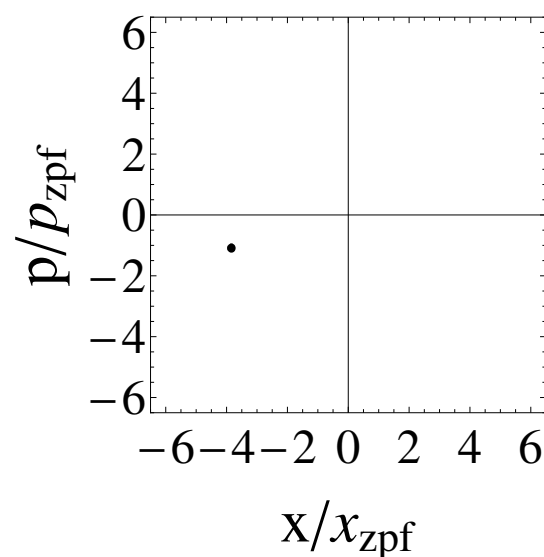
$$W_{ss}(x, p) \sim \int dy e^{-2ipy} \langle x + y | \rho_{ss} | x - y \rangle$$

$$\gamma_2 < \gamma_1$$

$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 16$$

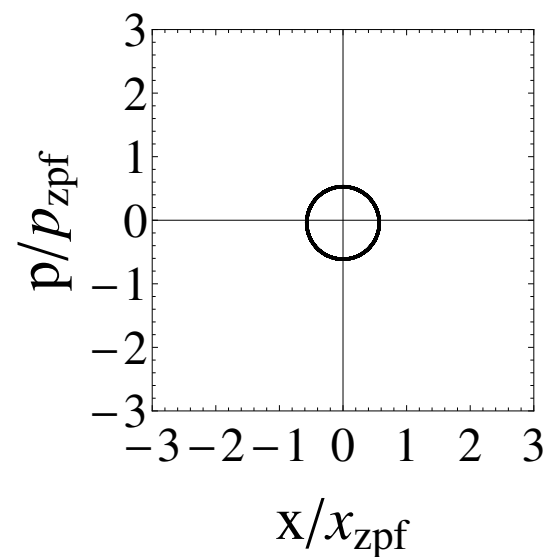


$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$

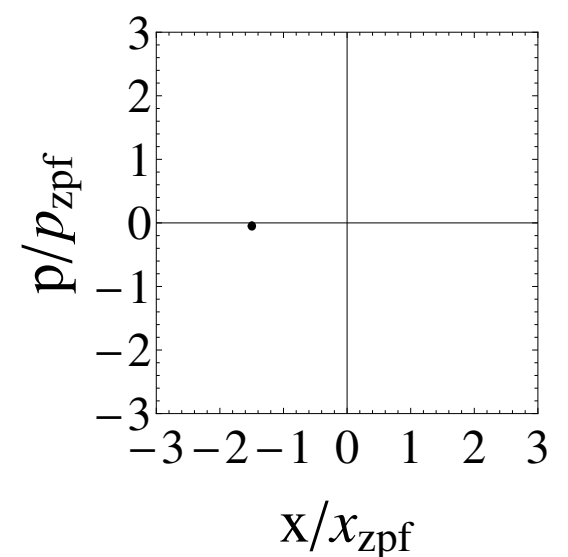


$$\gamma_2 > \gamma_1$$

$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 100$$



$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$



phase-space trajectory and Wigner function

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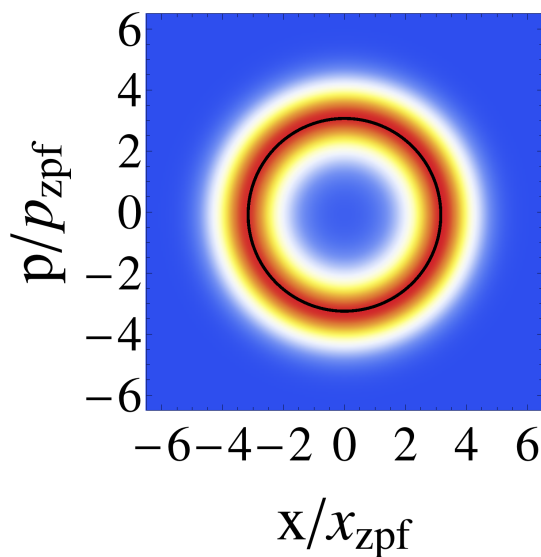
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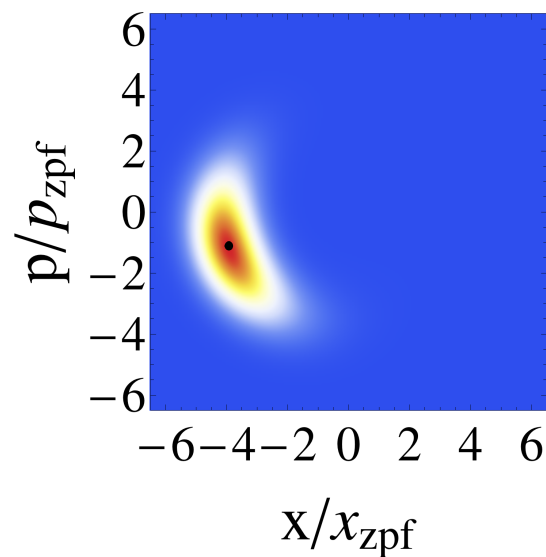
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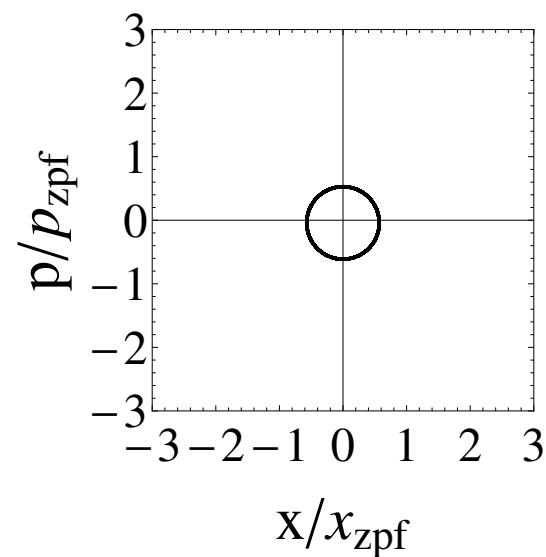


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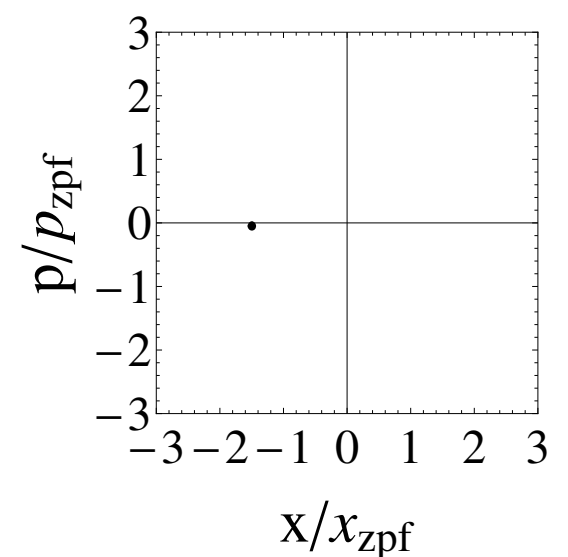


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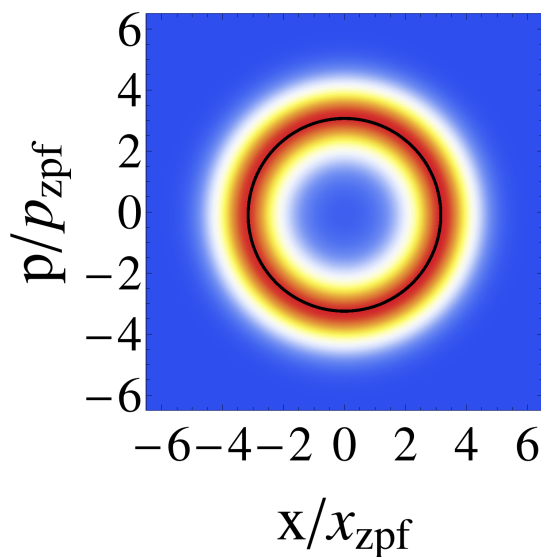
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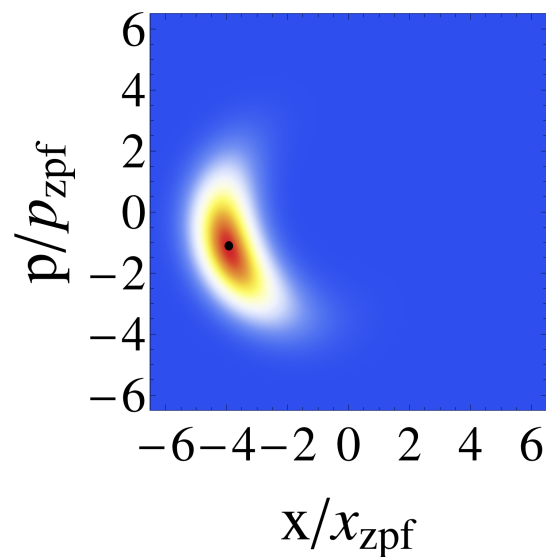
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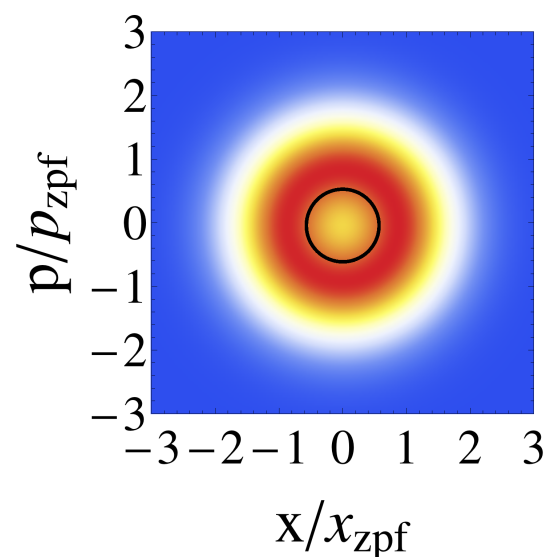


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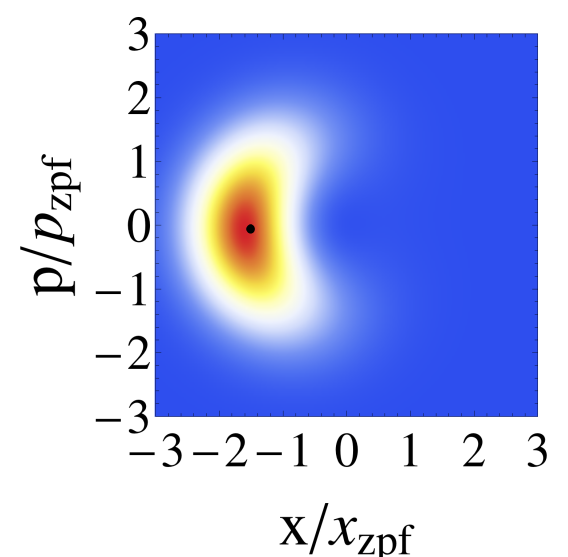


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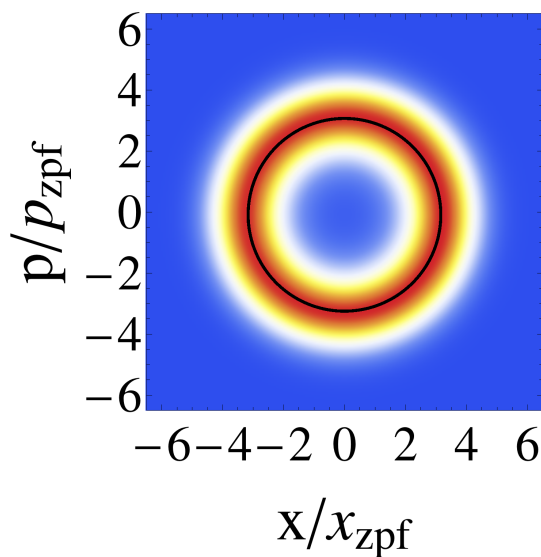
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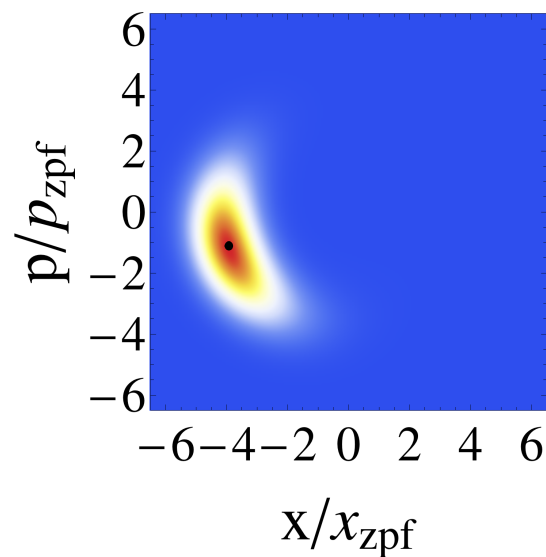
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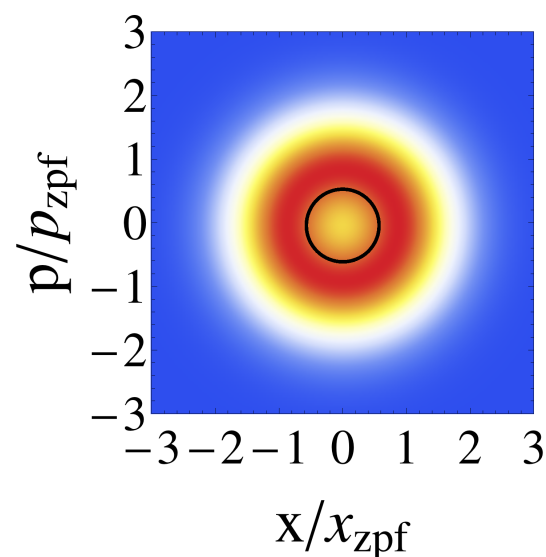
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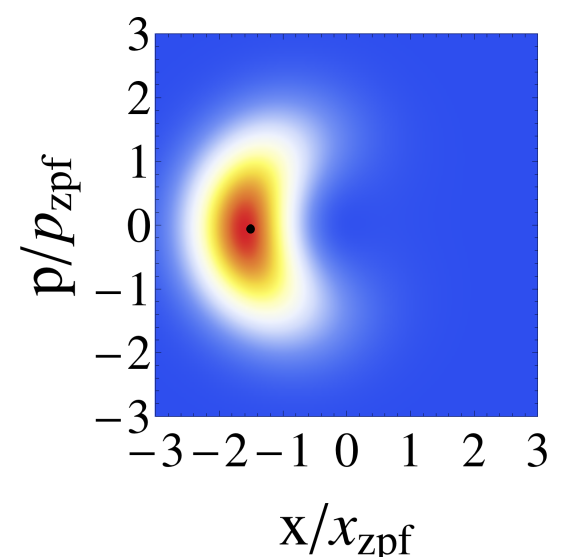
“more classical”

$$\gamma_2 > \gamma_1$$

$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 100$$



$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$



“more quantum”

phase-space trajectory and Wigner function

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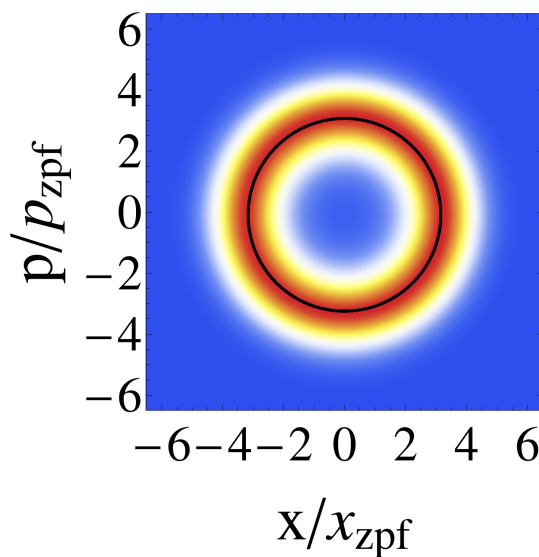
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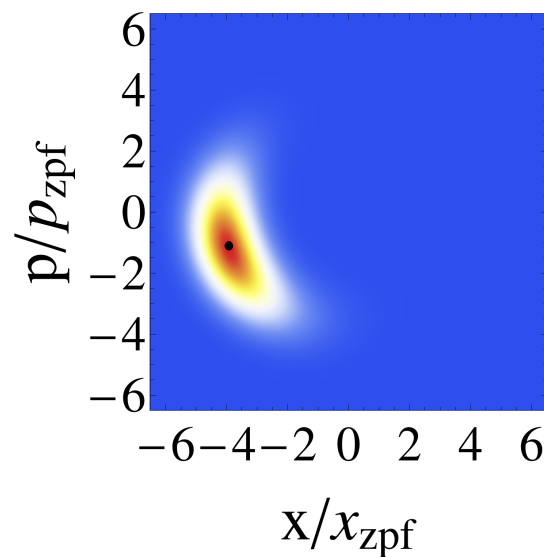
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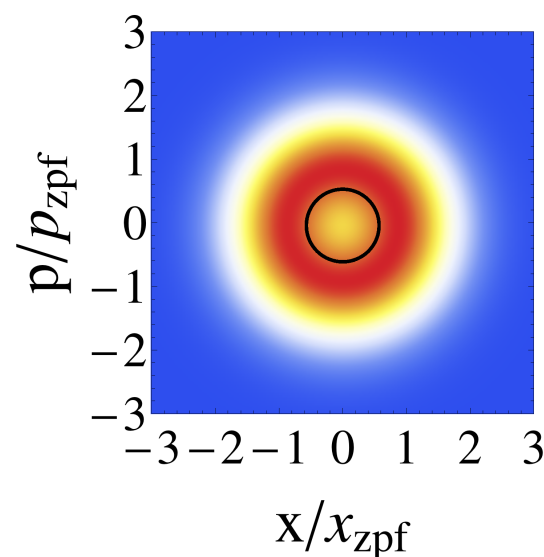
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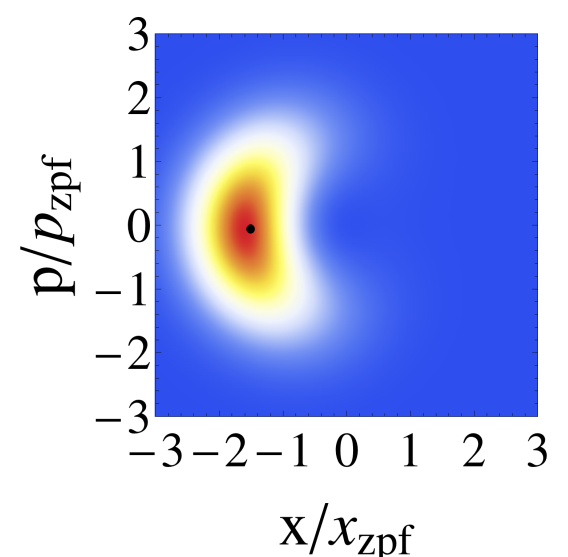
“more classical”

$$\gamma_2 > \gamma_1$$

$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 100$$



$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$



“more quantum”

however:
no information on frequency!

phase-space trajectory and Wigner function

classical phase space trajectory

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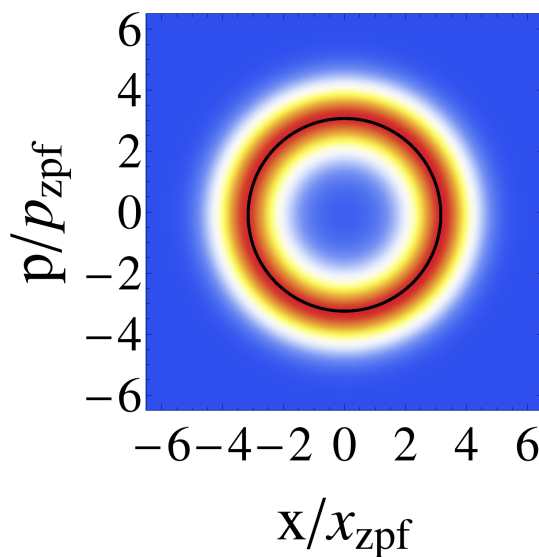
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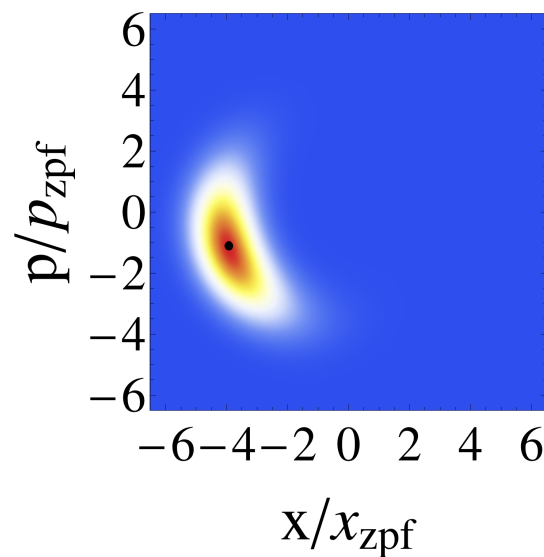
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$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 16$$



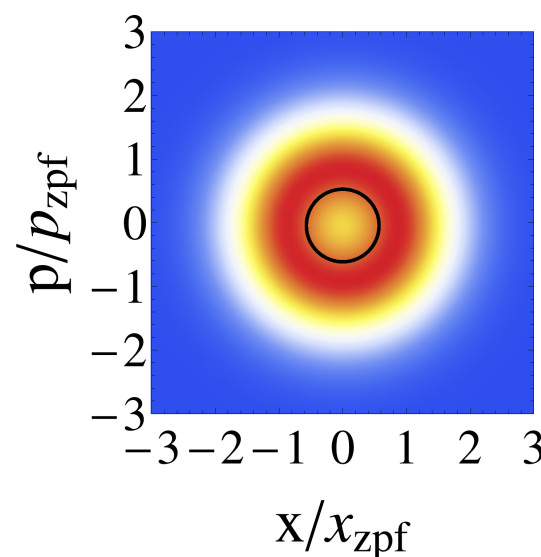
$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$



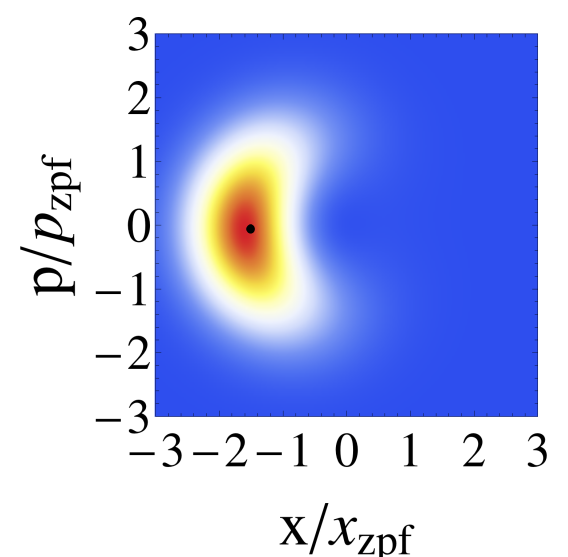
“more classical”

$$\gamma_2 > \gamma_1$$

$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 100$$

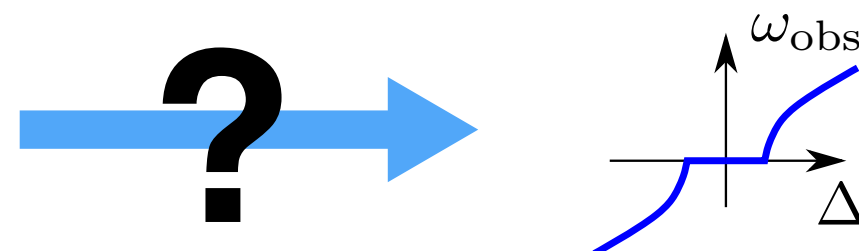


$$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$



“more quantum”

however:
no information on frequency!



spectral function

spectra and observed frequency:

$$S_{cl}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} \beta^*(t) \beta(0) \quad \Bigg| \quad S_{qm}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{i\omega t} \langle \hat{b}^\dagger(t) \hat{b}(0) \rangle$$

see also Cresser et al., PRA 1982; Schleich and Scully PRA 1988

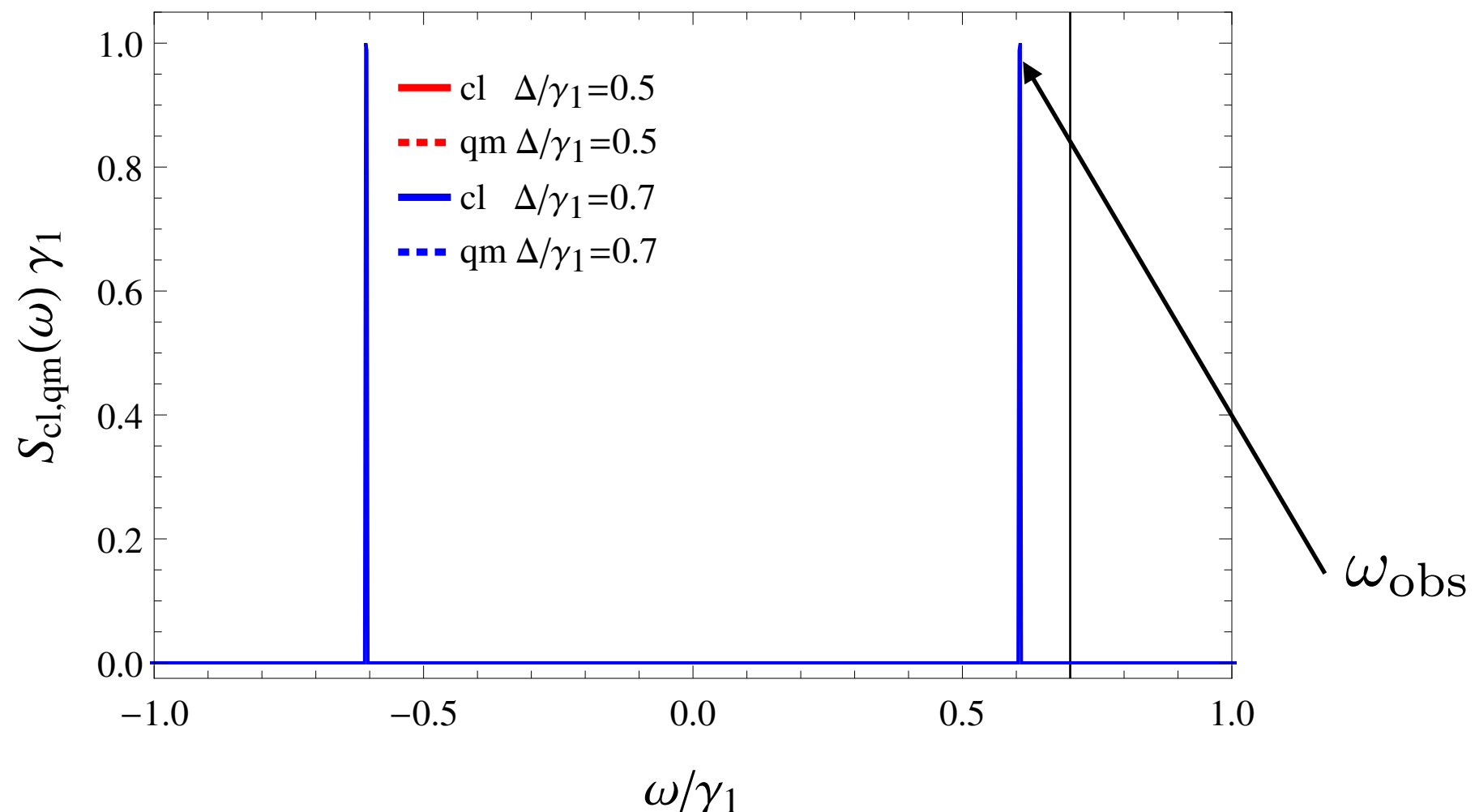
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see also Cresser et al., PRA 1982; Schleich and Scully PRA 1988

$$\Omega/\gamma_1 = 1$$
$$\gamma_2/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$



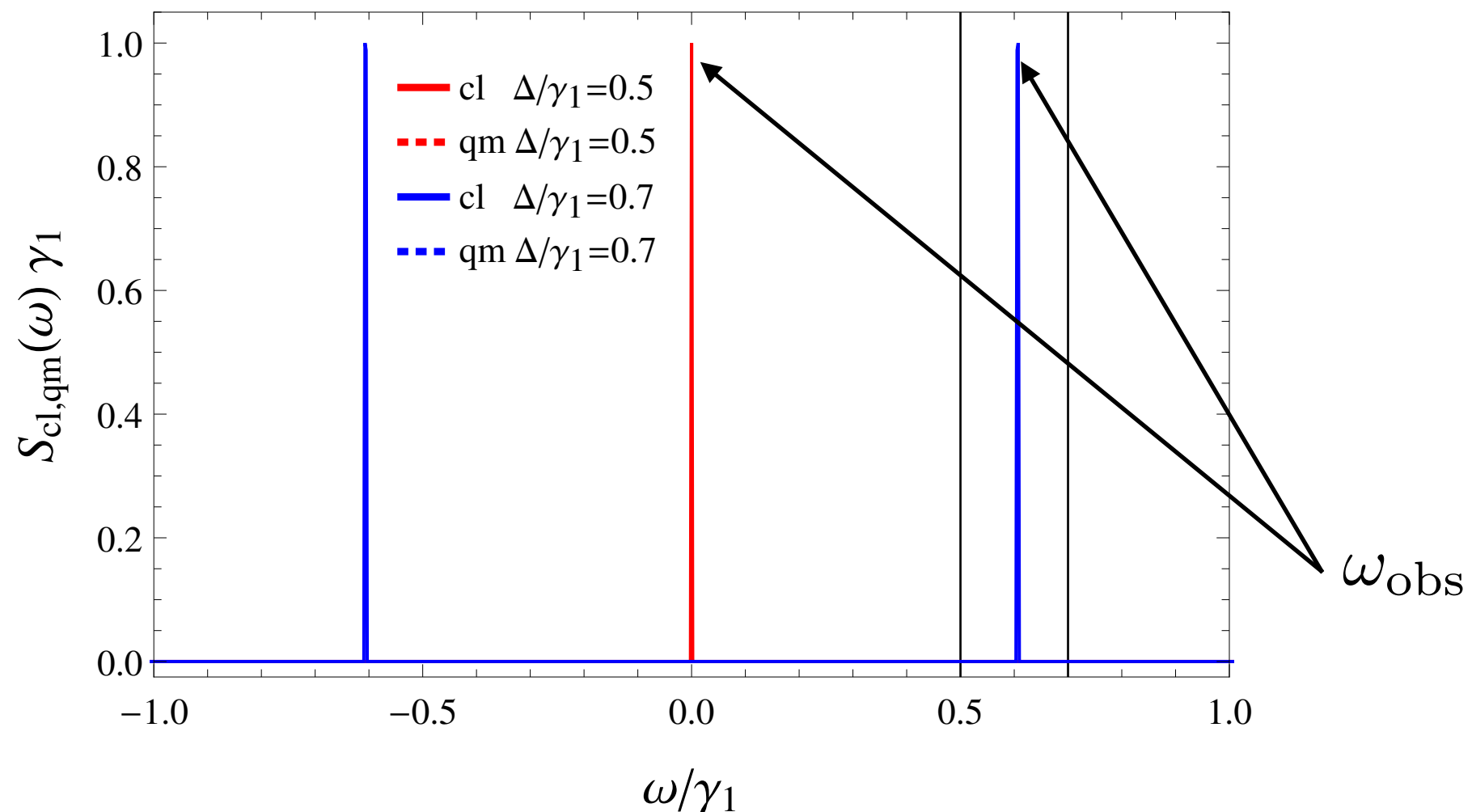
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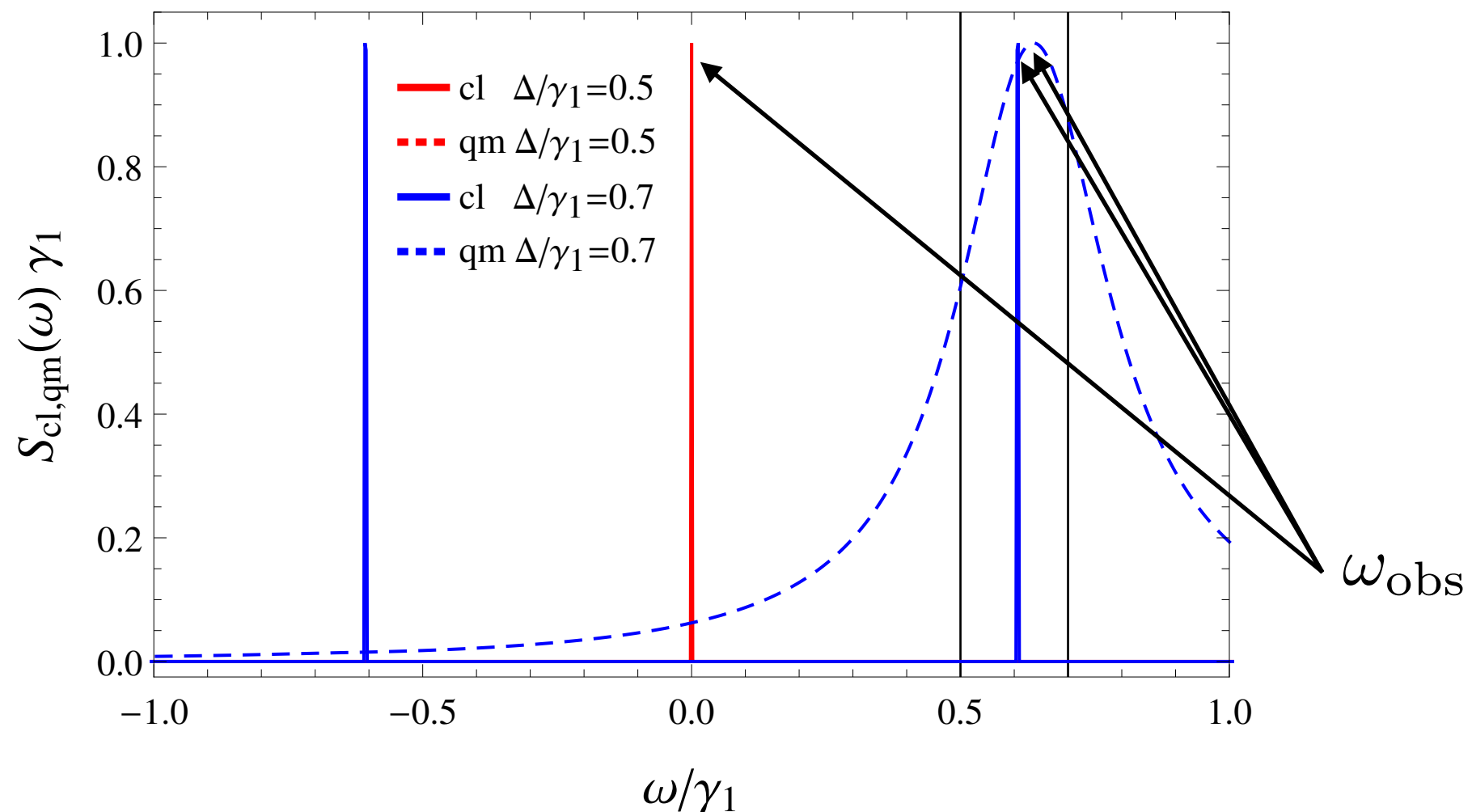
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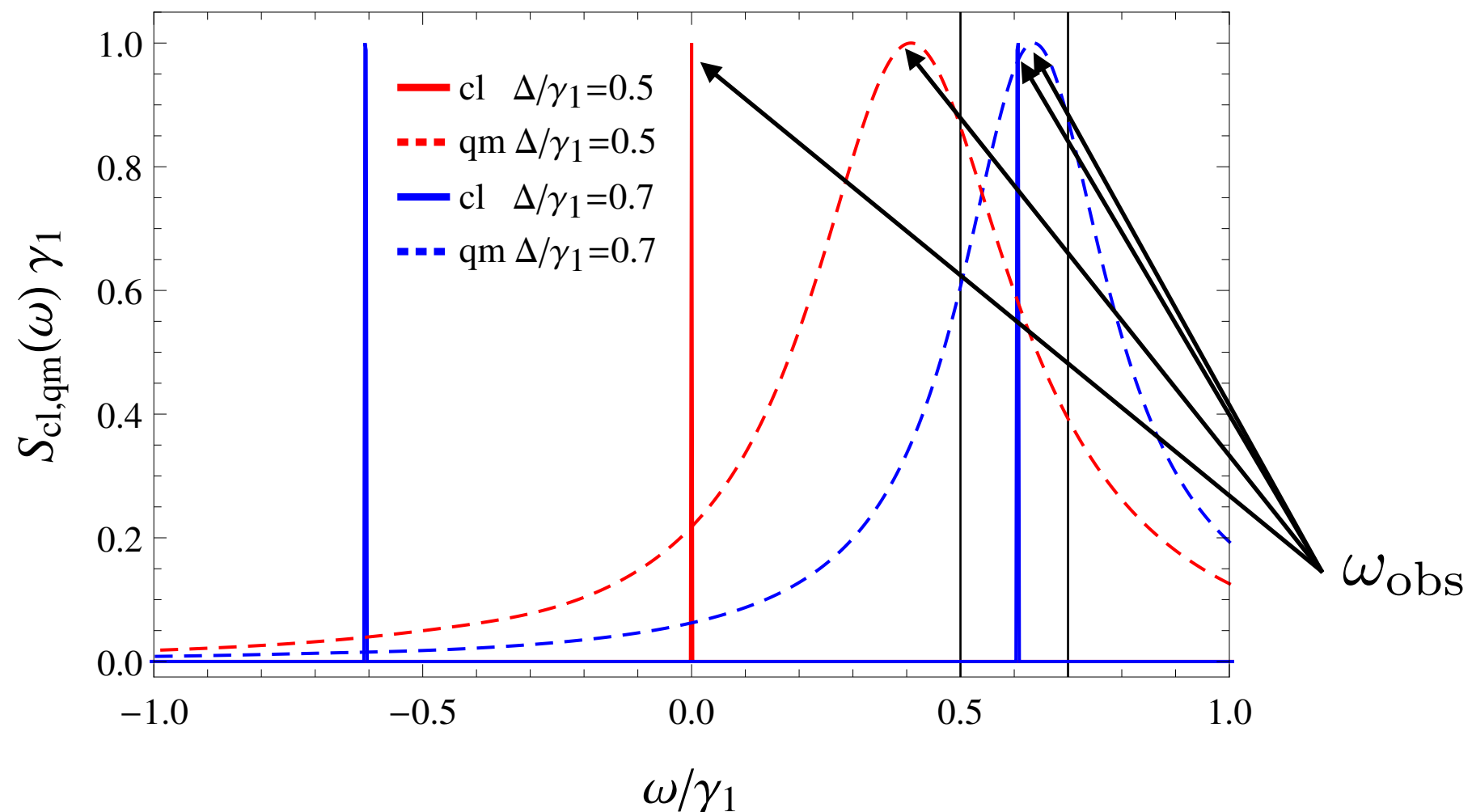
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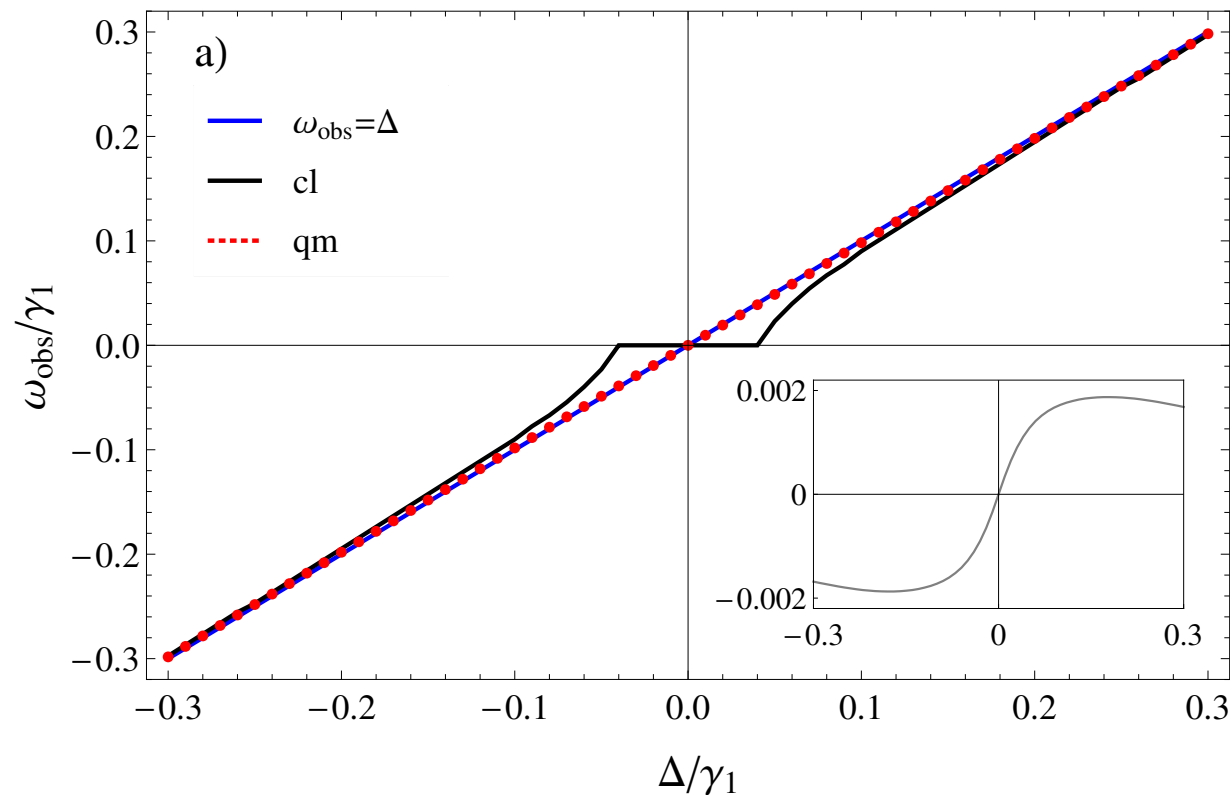
$$\Omega/\gamma_1 = 1$$
$$\gamma_2/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$



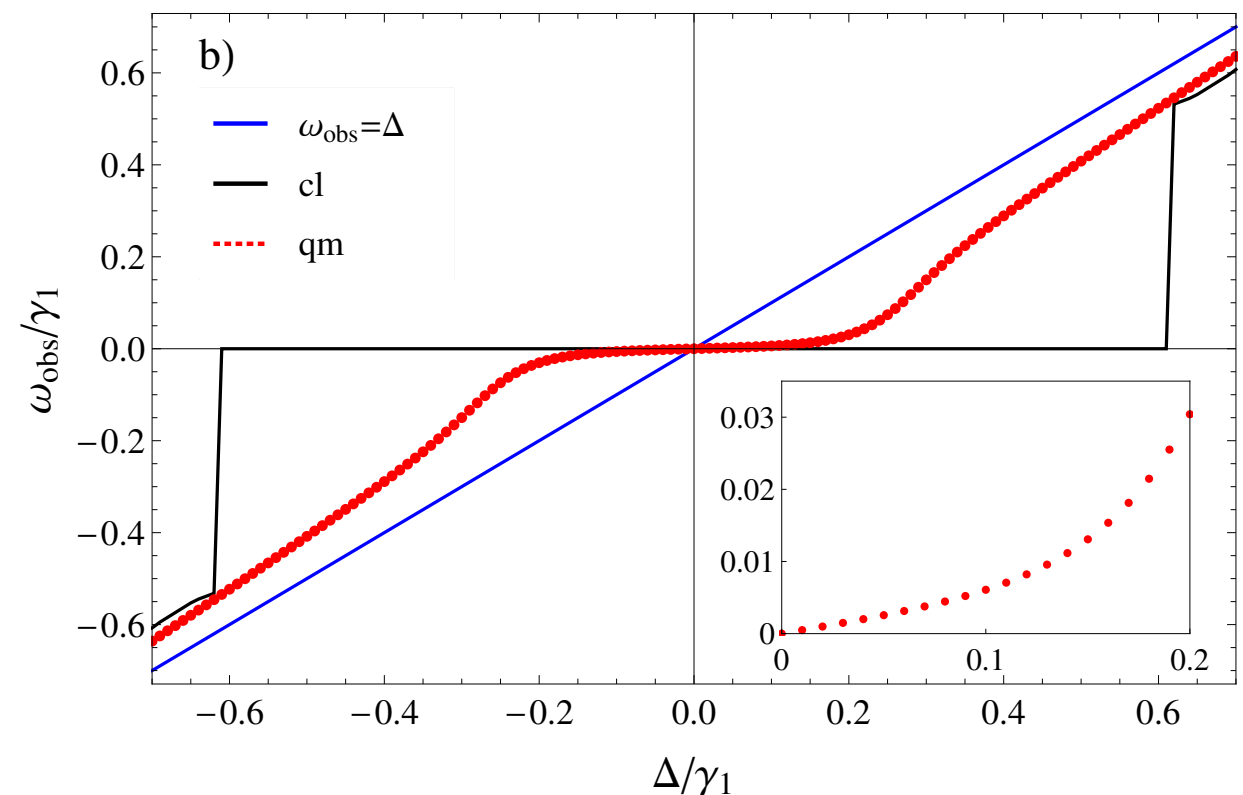
observed frequency vs. detuning

$$\gamma_2/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$

$$\Omega/\gamma_1 = 0.1$$



$$\Omega/\gamma_1 = 1$$



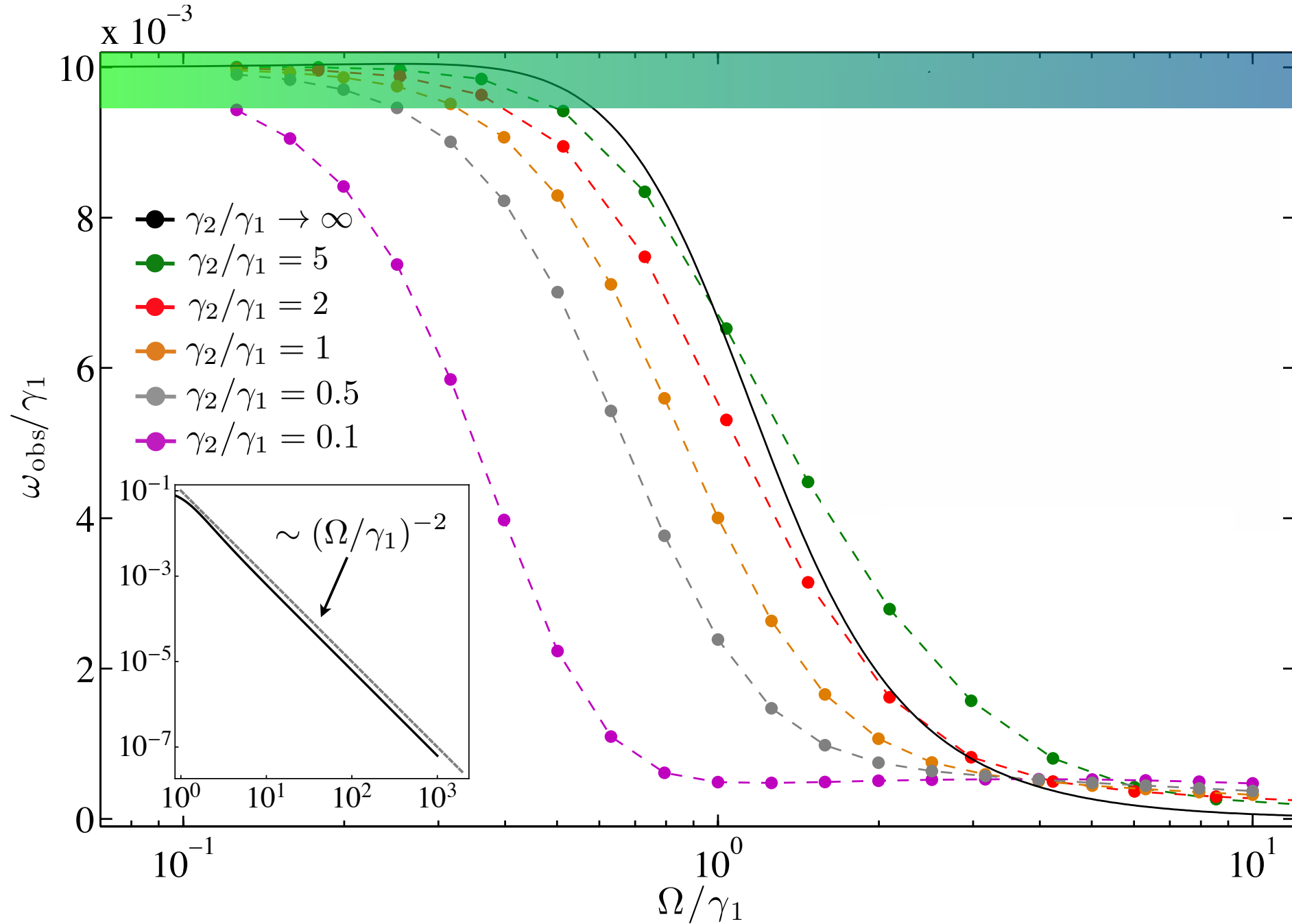
no plateau \rightarrow absence of exact frequency locking

interpretation: quantum noise suppresses synchronization

S. Walter, A. Nunnenkamp, and C. Bruder, Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 094102 (2014)

observed frequency vs. driving strength

$\Delta/\gamma_1 = 0.01$ weak crossover strong
 entrainment entrainment



black line: analytical result

physical realization

engineer dissipative processes in a “membrane-in-the-middle” optomechanical setup using two lasers

J.D. Thompson, B.M. Zwickl, A.M. Jayich, F. Marquardt, S.M. Girvin, and J.G.E. Harris, Nature 452, 72 (2008)

quadratic optomechanical coupling to favor two-phonon processes

A. Nunnenkamp, K. Børkje, J.G.E. Harris, and S.M. Girvin, PRA 82, 021806(R) (2010)

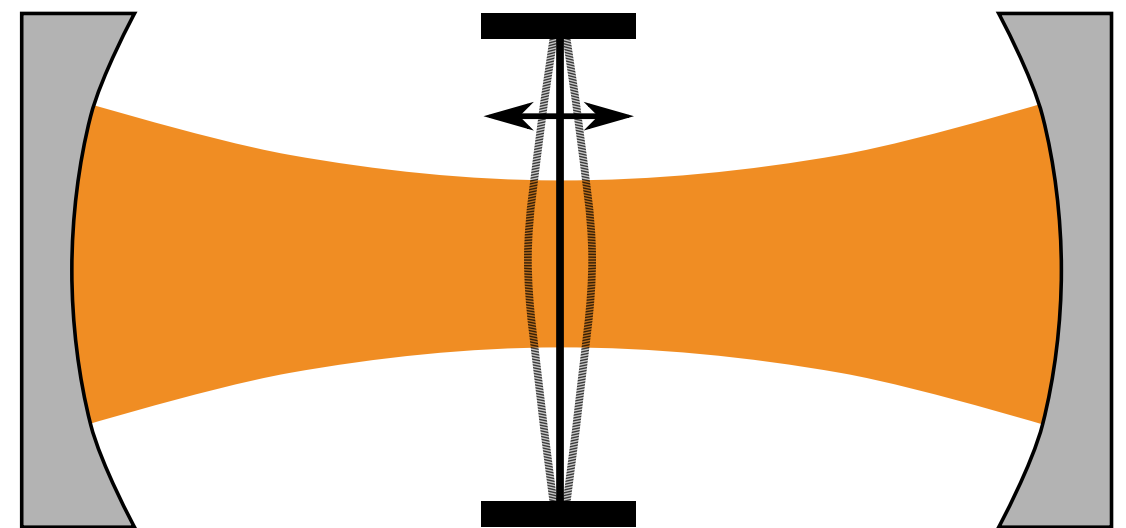
detuned to the **red** two-phonon sideband

→ non-linear damping $\gamma_2 \mathcal{D}[\hat{b}^2]$



detuned to the **blue** one-phonon sideband

→ negative damping $\gamma_1 \mathcal{D}[\hat{b}^\dagger]$



two coupled oscillators

different types of coupling:

two coupled oscillators

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reactive = via a term in the Hamiltonian, e.g.

$$\frac{g}{2}(x_1 - x_2)^2 \quad \text{classical}$$

$$g(b_1^\dagger b_2 + b_2^\dagger b_1) \quad \text{quantum}$$

two coupled oscillators

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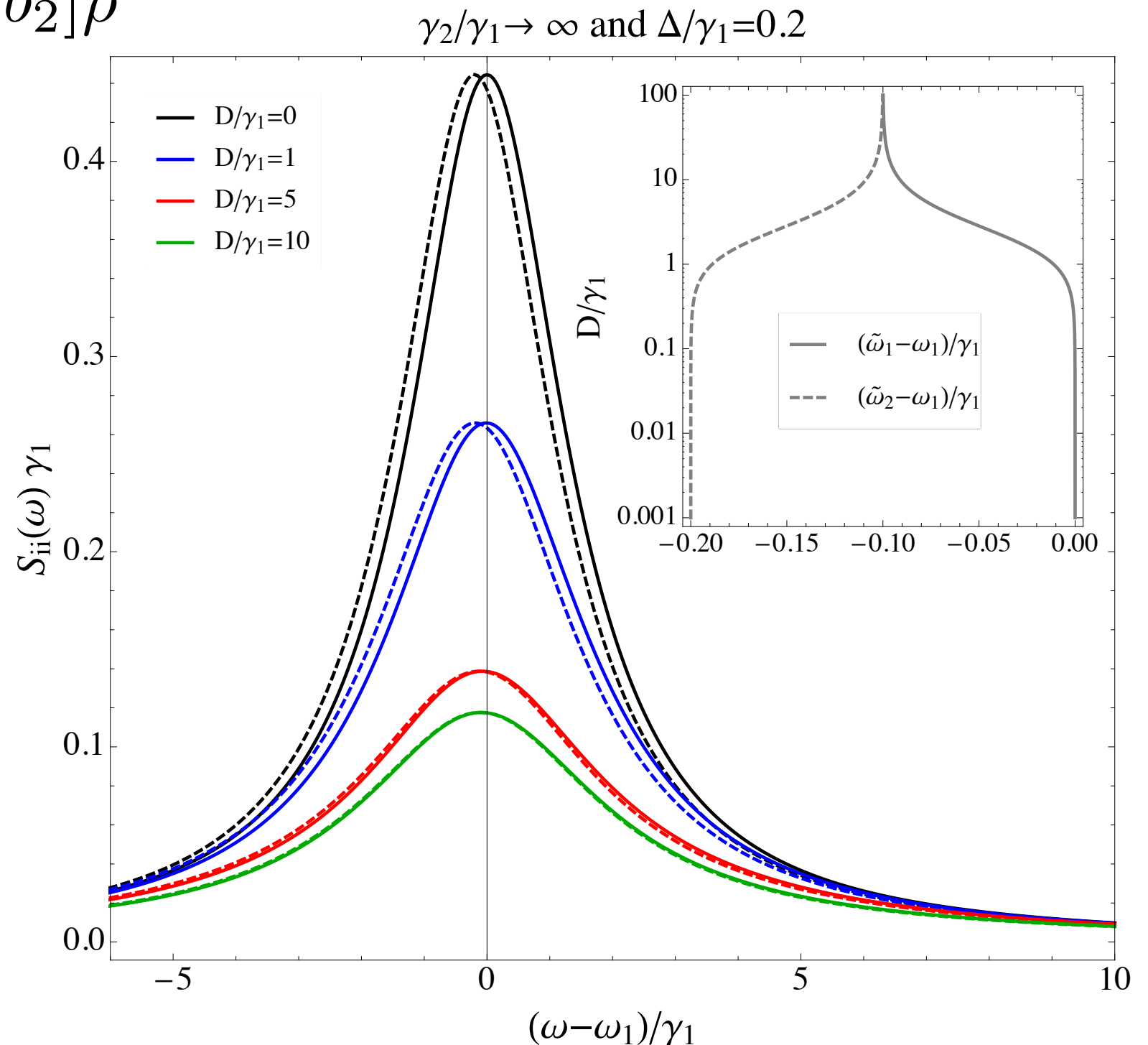
dissipative = via a term in the equation of motion, e.g.

$$D(\dot{x}_2 - \dot{x}_1) \quad \text{classical}$$

$$D\mathcal{D}[b_1 - b_2]\rho \quad \text{quantum}$$

two dissipatively coupled oscillators

$$\dot{\rho} = \mathcal{L}_0 \rho + D\mathcal{D}[b_1 - b_2]\rho$$



conclusion

- experiments in microsystems are approaching the quantum threshold
- toy model: driven quantum van der Pol oscillator
- phase space plots: hint towards quantum synchronization
- power spectrum as important observable
- absence of true frequency locking due to quantum noise
- similar for two dissipatively coupled vdP oscillators

appendix

collaborators

Ehud Amitai

Niels Lörch

Andreas Nunnenkamp, Basel → Cambridge

Stefan Walter, Basel → Erlangen

S. Walter, A. Nunnenkamp, and C. Bruder, Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 094102 (2014)

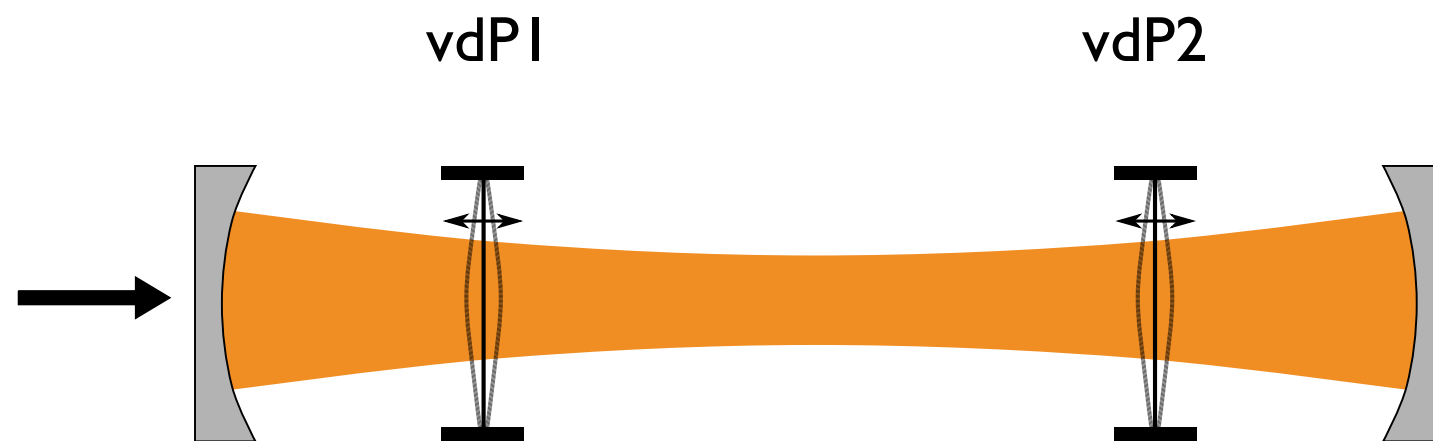
S. Walter, A. Nunnenkamp, and C. Bruder, Ann. Phys. (Berlin) 527, 131 (2015)

N. Lörch, E. Amitai, A. Nunnenkamp, and C. Bruder, arXiv:1603.01409

two dissipatively coupled oscillators

possible realization:

couple two vdP oscillators to a common optical mode c



$$\chi = \rho_c \otimes \rho$$

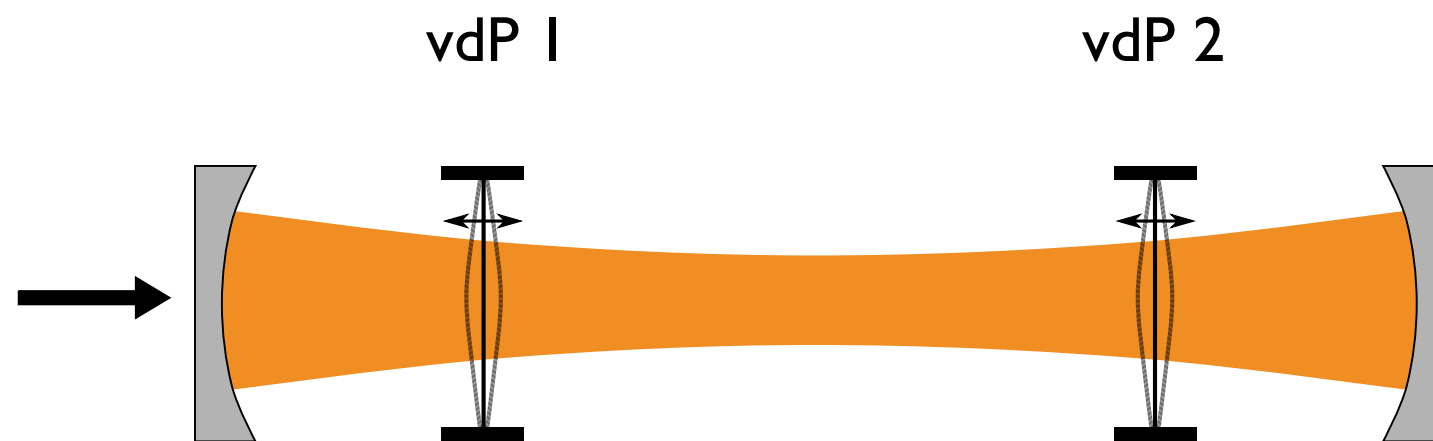
$$\dot{\chi} = -i [H_{tot}, \chi] + \kappa \mathcal{D}[c] \chi + \sum_{i=1,2} \gamma_1^{(i)} \mathcal{D}[b_i^\dagger] \chi + \gamma_2^{(i)} \mathcal{D}[b_i^2] \chi$$

$$H_{tot} = -\Delta_c c^\dagger c + \sum_{i=1,2} \omega_i b_i^\dagger b_i + G_i (c + c^\dagger) (b_i + b_i^\dagger)$$

two dissipatively coupled oscillators

possible realization:

couple two vdP oscillators to a common optical mode c



a) $\omega_i \gg \kappa \gg G_i, \gamma_1^{(i)}, \gamma_2^{(i)}$

eliminate mode c

b) choose $\Delta_c \approx -\omega_{1,2}$

c) choose $G_1 = G_2 = G$

$$\dot{\rho} = \sum_{i=1,2} -i \left[\omega_i b_i^\dagger b_i, \rho \right] + \gamma_1^{(i)} \mathcal{D}[b_i^\dagger] \rho + \gamma_2^{(i)} \mathcal{D}[b_i^2] \rho + \frac{4G^2}{\kappa} \mathcal{D}[b_1 + b_2] \rho$$