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Quantum tomography enhanced through parametric amplification

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PAPER

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and DOI.E Knyazev¹ , K Yu Spasibko^{2,3} , M V Chekhova^{1,2,3} and F Ya Khalili^{1,4}¹ Faculty of Physics, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, 119991 Moscow, Russia² Max-Planck-Institute for the Science of Light, Staudtstrasse 2, D-91058 Erlangen, Germany³ Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Staudtstrasse 7/B2, D-91058 Erlangen, Germany⁴ Russian Quantum Center, 143025 Skolkovo, RussiaE-mail: ev.knyazev@physics.msu.ru and khalili@phys.msu.ru**Keywords:** quantum tomography, optical losses, non-classical light, Wigner function**Abstract**

Quantum tomography is the standard method of reconstructing the Wigner function of quantum states of light by means of balanced homodyne detection. The reconstruction quality strongly depends on the photodetectors quantum efficiency and other losses in the measurement setup. In this article we analyze in detail a protocol of enhanced quantum tomography, proposed by Leonhardt and Paul [1] which allows one to reduce the degrading effect of detection losses. It is based on phase-sensitive parametric amplification, with the phase of the amplified quadrature being scanned synchronously with the local oscillator phase. Although with sufficiently strong amplification the protocol enables overcoming any detection inefficiency, it was so far not implemented in the experiment, probably due to the losses in the amplifier. Here we discuss a possible proof-of-principle experiment with a traveling-wave parametric amplifier. We show that with the state-of-the-art optical elements, the protocol enables high fidelity tomographic reconstruction of bright non-classical states of light. We consider two examples: bright squeezed vacuum and squeezed single-photon state, with the latter being a non-Gaussian state and both strongly affected by the losses.

1. Introduction

During the last couple of decades, quantum optics experienced outstanding progress in the generation and application of non-classical light, which is considered a necessary tool for many applications, ranging from quantum information processing [2–6] to high-precision interferometry [7–10] and quantum optomechanics [11–13], including the preparation of mechanical objects in non-Gaussian quantum states [14–18].

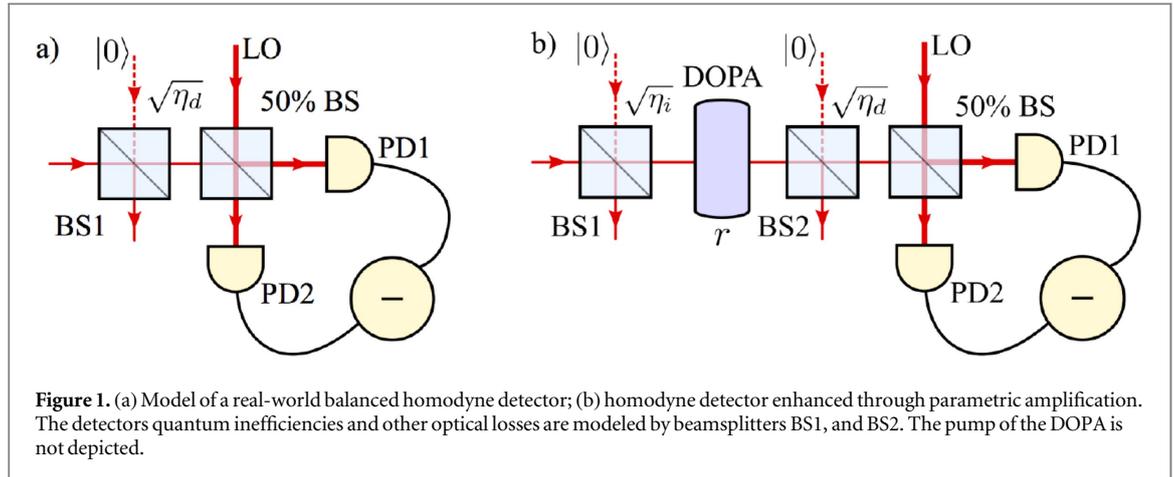
The standard method to characterize and verify the generated optical quantum states is quantum tomography [19–21], which allows one to reconstruct the Wigner function [22, 23] of a quantum state through balanced homodyne detection. The Wigner function possesses an important feature of a probability distribution: it yields marginal distributions of single variables. At the same time, unlike a ‘true’ classical probability distribution, the Wigner function can take negative values, revealing the non-classical features of the corresponding states.

The idea of the homodyne tomography is shown in figure 1(a). Here the signal field is combined on a 50/50% beamsplitter with a much stronger local oscillator field, forming the balanced homodyne detector. For any given phase θ of the local oscillator, it measures the quadrature

$$\hat{q}_\theta = \hat{q} \cos \theta + \hat{p} \sin \theta \quad (1)$$

of the signal field defined by this phase (q and p are the dimensionless generalized position and momentum of the optical mode). A set of probability distributions $w_\theta(q_\theta)$ for different quadratures q_θ allows one to calculate the Wigner function using the inverse Radon transform.

The quality of the Wigner function reconstruction strongly depends on the optical losses in the homodyne detection setup and, in particular, on the quantum efficiency of photodetectors. The optical losses, by mixing the explored quantum state with the optical field in the ground state, lead to the Gaussian blurring of the Wigner



function, washing out its subtle details (see equation (13) below). Bright non-classical states of light are affected most strongly by this blurring. Note that although the state-of-the-art homodyne detectors can reach 98.5% detection efficiency [24], far better efficiencies are needed to reconstruct the Wigner function of a bright non-Gaussian state, for example, a strongly squeezed single-photon state. Moreover, due to various technical reasons, like a non-perfect mode-matching, the overall detection efficiency in practical applications can be still as low as $\eta_d \sim 0.5$ [9], which is sufficient to completely remove the non-classical negative-valued area of the Wigner function of a single-photon state, even without squeezing.

A similar problem exists in high-precision optical interferometric phase measurements. In 1981 Caves proposed to use an anti-squeezer (a degenerate optical parametric amplifier, DOPA) at the output of a squeezed light fed interferometer, in order to suppress the influence of the optical losses in the output path [7]. Later this idea was further developed in several papers [8, 25, 26] and demonstrated experimentally [27–29]. An anti-squeezer can also be used instead of the local oscillator [30]. A similar method was recently applied to spin measurements of atomic ensembles [31].

In 1994, Leonhardt and Paul proposed to use the same pre-amplification principle in homodyne optical tomography [1], see figure 1(b). Here, a phase-sensitive amplifier (a DOPA) is used to amplify the measured quadrature \hat{q}_θ . Evidently, to achieve this goal, the amplification phase has to be synchronized with the local oscillator phase.

However, this approach requires nonlinear optical element(s) which are typically much more lossy than linear ones. A serious problem is that at least part of the vacuum noise caused by these losses is amplified together with the incident light and therefore influences the performance much more strongly than the ordinary inefficiency of detectors.

Here, we analyze a possible proof-of-principle *enhanced homodyne tomography* experiment [1], taking into account losses in the DOPA. As for the DOPA, we consider a traveling-wave parametric amplifier based on a $\chi^{(2)}$ nonlinear crystal pumped with strong pulses. We show that using the state-of-the-art optical elements, it is possible to significantly improve the quality of the Wigner function reconstruction.

This article is organized as follows. In the next section, we briefly review the principle of the quantum tomography and discuss the role of the optical losses. In section 3 we analyze the enhanced homodyne tomography scheme of [1], taking into account the losses in the amplifier. Then in section 4 we discuss a possible proof-of-principle experiment and consider examples of bright squeezed vacuum and squeezed single-photon (SSP) states.

2. Homodyne tomography

2.1. Lossless case

In order to provide the reference point for our consideration below, we start with an ideal lossless case. Following the seminal paper [18], we use the convenient and mathematically transparent approach, based on the characteristic functions.

The characteristic function of the quadrature (1) is defined as

$$C_\theta(\xi) = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} e^{i\xi \hat{q}_\theta}) = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} e^{i\xi(\hat{a}e^{-i\theta} + \hat{a}^\dagger e^{i\theta})/\sqrt{2}}), \quad (2)$$

where $\hat{\rho}$ is the density operator of the quantum state-of-an optical mode and \hat{a} is the annihilation operator of this mode. One can show that it is equal to the Fourier transform of the probability distribution $w_\theta(q_\theta)$ of \hat{q}_θ :

$$C_\theta(\xi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} w_\theta(q_\theta) e^{i\xi q_\theta} dq_\theta. \quad (3)$$

On the other hand, the Wigner function $W(q, p)$ can be defined as the inverse Fourier transform of the symmetrized joint characteristic function $C(z)$ for q and p [19]:

$$W(q, p) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} C(z) e^{-i(z'q+z''p)} dz' dz'', \quad (4)$$

where

$$C(z) = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} e^{i(z'\hat{x}+iz''\hat{p})}) = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho} e^{i(z^*\hat{a}+z\hat{a}^\dagger)/\sqrt{2}}), \quad (5)$$

and $z = z' + iz''$. It follows from equations (2) and (5) that

$$C(\xi e^{i\theta}) = C_\theta(\xi). \quad (6)$$

The chain of equations (3)→(6)→(4) constitutes in essence the inverse Radon transform.

2.2. Detection losses

We model the quantum inefficiency of the homodyne detection scheme by means of an imaginary beamsplitter BS1, see figure 1(a), which mixes the input field with the vacuum field, having the annihilation operator \hat{z}_d [32]. The density operator of the resulting damped quantum state can be represented as (we denote the damped state with the prime throughout the article)

$$\hat{\rho}' = \text{Tr}_z(\hat{U}_d \hat{\rho} \otimes |0\rangle\langle 0| \hat{U}_d^\dagger), \quad (7)$$

where Tr_z is the partial trace taken over the vacuum field subspace, and the unitary operator \hat{U}_d describes the action of the BS1. In particular, the annihilation operator of an incident field is transformed as

$$\hat{U}_d^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{U}_d = \sqrt{\eta_d} \hat{a} + \sqrt{1-\eta_d} \hat{z}_d, \quad (8)$$

where η_d is the power transmissivity of the BS1. The corresponding characteristic function for the damped quadrature \hat{q}_θ is

$$C'_\theta(\xi) = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}' e^{i\xi \hat{q}_\theta}) = C_\theta(\sqrt{\eta_d} \xi) e^{-(1-\eta_d)\xi^2/4}. \quad (9)$$

Direct application of relation (6) to this characteristic function yields

$$C'(z) = C(\sqrt{\eta_d} z) e^{-(1-\eta_d)|z|^2/4}, \quad (10)$$

which transforms into the Wigner function of the actual quantum state after the losses, e.g. see equation (18) of [21], and is accessible directly in the experiment. The structure of (10) reflects the interplay of the attenuation and the noise which takes place in a lossy dynamics. The scaling factor $\sqrt{\eta_d}$ describes the attenuation, while the exponential one, the Gaussian blurring of the Wigner function due to the injected vacuum noise.

The previous approach yields values of q and p shrunk by a factor of $\sqrt{\eta_d}$, but in order to restore the initial quantum state with high fidelity, it is natural to rescale the variables back (translate to the input) by using, instead of (6), another transformation

$$C'(\sqrt{\eta_d} \xi e^{i\theta}) = C'_\theta(\xi), \quad (11)$$

which when applied to (9), gives

$$C'(z) = C(z) e^{-\epsilon_d |z|^2/4} \quad (12)$$

instead of (10). Here $\epsilon_d = (1 - \eta_d)/\eta_d$ is the normalized loss factor. C' is the unbiased reconstruction of the initial characteristic function C . The term ‘unbiased’ means that C' gives the correct mean values of q and p . One can explain this transformation simply as a convenient practical procedure for representing the Wigner function of the quantum state with a correct size after the action of the losses. From the experimental point of view, the rescaling described by (11) is tolerant to the errors in the estimation of detector efficiency η_d . These errors affect only the size, not the shape of the Wigner function.

The inverse Fourier transform of (12) gives the corresponding unbiased reconstruction of the initial (before loss) Wigner function:

$$W'(q, p) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} C'(z) e^{-i(z'q+z''p)} \frac{dz' dz''}{(2\pi)^2} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} W(q', p') B(q - q', p - p') dq' dp', \quad (13)$$

where the blurring kernel is Gaussian

$$B(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi \epsilon_d} e^{-(q^2+p^2)/\epsilon_d}. \quad (14)$$

An attempt to undo the influence of the noise with the data processing requires very precise knowledge of detection inefficiency η_d . This procedure involves the multiplication of $C'_\theta(\xi/\sqrt{\eta_d})$ by the factor $e^{\epsilon_d \xi^2/4}$. This factor increases exponentially with ξ . Therefore we should know extremely precisely also the probability distributions $w_\theta(q_\theta)$, especially their high-frequency components, which is impossible experimentally. Therefore, this option is not considered as a practical one [1, 33].

3. Enhanced homodyne tomography

Now, following [1], suppose that a degenerate parametric amplifier with a gain r is added to our scheme, see figure 1(b). In a real-world experiment, one has to take into account the losses in the DOPA itself. In the general case, three kinds of losses have to be distinguished: (i) the input loss, whose noise is amplified by the DOPA to the same extent as the incident optical field; (ii) the loss inside the DOPA, whose noise is partially amplified; and (iii) the output loss, whose noise is not amplified. In the case of a single-pass DOPA, they correspond to, respectively: (i) absorption and reflection in the input anti-reflective coating of the nonlinear crystal; (ii) absorption in the crystal bulk; and (iii) absorption and reflection of the output coating. It is evident that the latter can be included into the detector inefficiency, therefore, below we will not consider it separately.

In figure 1(b), the DOPA input losses and the detector inefficiency (including the DOPA output losses) are modeled by beamsplitters BS1 and BS2 with the power transmissivities η_i and η_d , correspondingly, located in front of and on the rear of the DOPA.

With an account for all these losses and the parametric amplification, equation (7) takes a more sophisticated form,

$$\hat{\rho}' = \text{Tr}_z[\hat{U}_d \hat{S}(r, \theta) \hat{U}_i \hat{\rho} \otimes |0\rangle\langle 0| \hat{U}_i^\dagger \hat{S}^\dagger(r, \theta) \hat{U}_d^\dagger]. \quad (15)$$

Here \hat{U}_i is the evolution operator of damping defined similar to (8),

$$\hat{U}_i^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{U}_i = \sqrt{\eta_i} \hat{a} + \sqrt{1 - \eta_i} \hat{z}_i, \quad (16)$$

and \hat{S} is the squeezing operator which also takes into account the absorption inside the DOPA:

$$\hat{S}^\dagger(r, \theta) \hat{q}_a \hat{S}(r, \theta) = (\hat{q}_\theta + \hat{q}_a) e^r, \quad (17)$$

where \hat{q}_a is the quadrature of the introduced noise translated to the DOPA input, and r is the effective squeezing defined in (A3). The explicit form of \hat{q}_a for the case of a single-pass DOPA is calculated in appendix, with the variance σ_a^2 given by

$$\sigma_a^2 = \frac{kd}{4r} (1 - e^{-2r}), \quad (18)$$

where k and d are correspondingly absorption coefficient and length of the crystal. The above equations give the following characteristic function of quadrature q_θ :

$$C'_\theta(\xi) = C_\theta(\sqrt{\eta_i \eta_d} \xi e^r) \exp \left[-\frac{\xi^2}{2} \left(\frac{(1 - \eta_i) \eta_d}{2} e^{2r} + \sigma_a^2 \eta_d e^r + \frac{1 - \eta_d}{2} \right) \right]. \quad (19)$$

In order to obtain the Wigner function of the quantum state translated to the input, we use the same rescaling ('unbiased') approach as in section 2.2. It is especially useful in the case of pre-amplification due to the large factor e^{2r} . Namely, we assume that

$$C'(\sqrt{\eta_i \eta_d} e^r \xi e^{i\theta}) = C'_\theta(\xi). \quad (20)$$

In this case,

$$C'(z) = C(z) e^{-\epsilon_r |z|^2/4}, \quad (21)$$

where

$$\epsilon_r = \epsilon_i + \frac{2\sigma_a^2 + \epsilon_d e^{-2r}}{\eta_i} \quad (22)$$

is the new effective loss factor and $\epsilon_i = (1 - \eta_i)/\eta_i$ is its component due to the input losses. Note that the noise stemming from the detector inefficiency is suppressed exponentially in r , that is linearly in the amplification factor. The noise created by the crystal absorption is also suppressed, but only logarithmically in the amplification factor, see equation (18). Nevertheless, for relatively high r , the main noise influence comes from the input losses, which can be extremely small, see section 4.

Finally, the inverse Fourier transform of (21) gives the same result (13) for the Wigner function reconstruction, but with the blurring kernel depending on the loss factor ϵ_r :

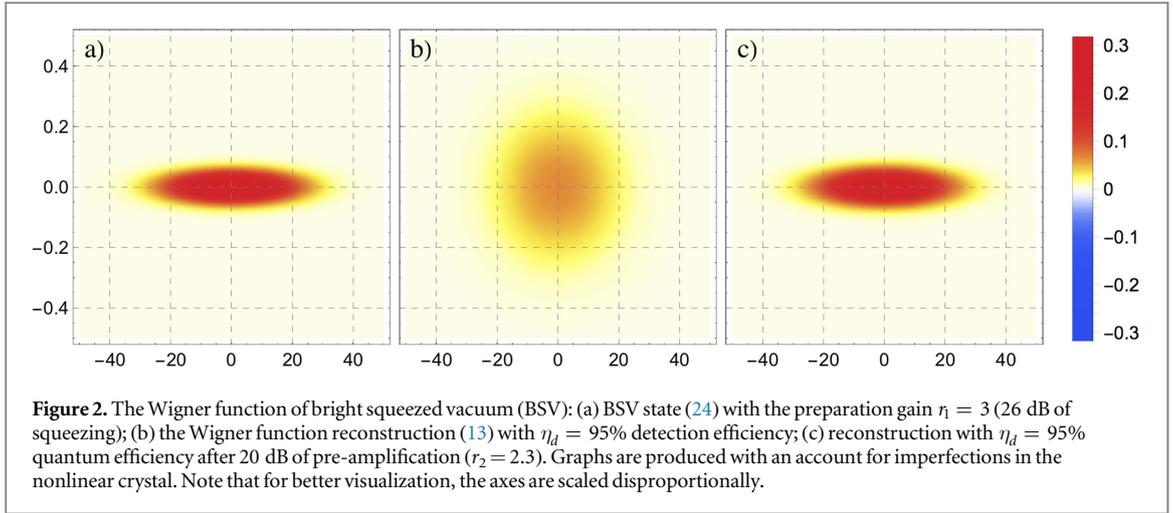


Figure 2. The Wigner function of bright squeezed vacuum (BSV): (a) BSV state (24) with the preparation gain $r_1 = 3$ (26 dB of squeezing); (b) the Wigner function reconstruction (13) with $\eta_d = 95\%$ detection efficiency; (c) reconstruction with $\eta_d = 95\%$ quantum efficiency after 20 dB of pre-amplification ($r_2 = 2.3$). Graphs are produced with an account for imperfections in the nonlinear crystal. Note that for better visualization, the axes are scaled disproportionally.

$$B(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi \epsilon_r} e^{-(q^2 + p^2) / \epsilon_r}. \quad (23)$$

As in the case of (11), the experimental ‘unbiased’ reconstruction requires approximate knowledge of $\sqrt{\eta_i \eta_d} e^r$ factor. The main part $\sqrt{\eta_d} e^r$ can be obtained from the calibration measurement with the vacuum field as an input state, and the input losses η_i can be estimated by means of a separate measurement, e.g. by measuring the reflectivity of the crystal surface.

4. Performance and estimates

It follows from the above analysis that the pre-amplification will dramatically improve the homodyne tomography of any quantum state whose features are strongly affected by losses. In particular, equation (22) means that in principle, any detection inefficiency can be compensated for by a sufficiently strong amplification (anti-squeezing). However, due to the structure of (22), only large values of amplification could compensate for the losses in the amplifier itself, therefore very accurate experimental planning is required in order to obtain a high fidelity of reconstruction.

Throughout this section, we consider a BBO crystal of length $d = 1$ mm for the phase-sensitive pre-amplification, with the value of bulk absorption of $k = 0.1 \text{ m}^{-1}$ [34]. We also consider the commercially available anti-reflective coating with the reflectivity $\eta_i = 99.99\%$ at 800 nm [35]. All figures and estimations are given for these parameters of crystal reflection and absorption.

4.1. Bright squeezed vacuum

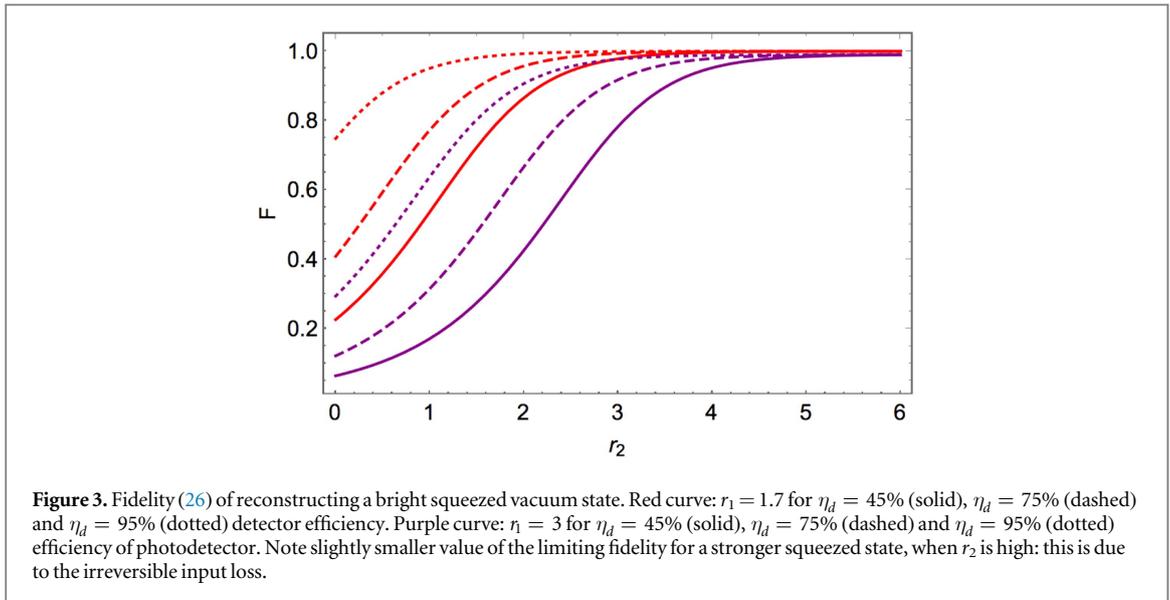
The simplest case is a bright squeezed vacuum, which can be generated at the output of an unseeded strongly pumped DOPA. This is a Gaussian state with the Wigner function

$$W_{\text{BSV}}(q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-q^2 s^{-1} - p^2 s}, \quad (24)$$

with $s = e^{2r_1}$, r_1 being the parametric gain, which also determines the mean number of photons $N = \sinh^2 r_1$.

Consider a state with the mean number of photons $N \approx 100$, which corresponds to a strong squeezing of 26 dB, that is $r_1 \approx 3$ (note that much stronger squeezing is achievable by pumping a BBO crystal with picosecond pump pulses with energy approximately equal to 0.1 mJ [36]). The corresponding Wigner function is shown in figure 2(a). However, this impressive degree of squeezing is impossible to observe in practice: a detection loss $1 - \eta_d$ exceeding $e^{-2r_1} \approx 0.0025$ will almost completely destroy the purity of the state. Homodyne detection after such a loss will retrieve not the squeezed quadrature uncertainty, but mainly the amount of loss, see figure 2(b), where the rescaled reconstruction of W_{BSV} (13) is plotted for the case of $1 - \eta_d = 0.05$.

At the same time, if the quadrature under measurement is amplified before the homodyne detection, by sending the state to another DOPA with a sufficiently large parametric gain r_2 , both the initially squeezed and the initially anti-squeezed quadratures will become anti-squeezed, the Wigner function distribution will be simply rescaled, and the measurement will correctly retrieve its aspect ratio e^{2r_1} and hence the degree of squeezing.



Indeed, the reconstructed Wigner function after the amplification, with losses taken into account, is

$$W'_{\text{BSV}}(q, p) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{q^2}{\epsilon_r + s} - \frac{p^2}{\epsilon_r + s^{-1}}\right)}{\pi\sqrt{(\epsilon_r + s)(\epsilon_r + s^{-1})}}, \quad (25)$$

where ϵ_r is given by (22), (18), and (A3) with $r = r_2$. We see that if $\epsilon_r \ll s^{-1}$, then the reconstruction (25) coincides with the initial Wigner function (24).

In figure 2(c), the reconstructed Wigner function (25) is plotted for the case of $r_2 = 2.3$ (20 dB). One can see that although only $1 - \eta_d = 5\%$ of detection loss completely change the initial shape of the distribution, the relatively moderate pre-amplification enables the reconstruction of the shape. Even though the reflection loss is irreversible, modern experimental techniques allow one to achieve a very low amount of input loss, therefore enabling the efficient experimental implementation of the squeezing-enhanced tomography.

A certain difficulty while reconstructing a strongly squeezed state will arise due to the narrow range of phases for which squeezing can be observed. Within this range, whose width is given by the inverse aspect ratio of the Wigner function distribution, the phase should be scanned with a very high resolution: in this example, about 10^{-3} rad.

As a measure of reconstruction quality, we consider the fidelity, defined as the overlap of the corresponding Wigner functions. In the simple case of a squeezed vacuum state, the analytical expression for the fidelity can be obtained:

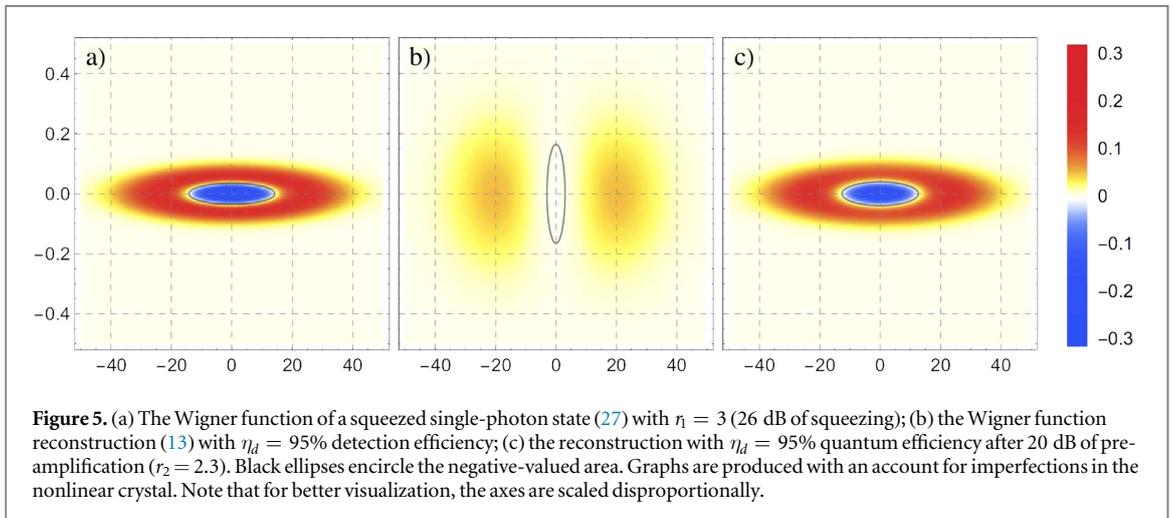
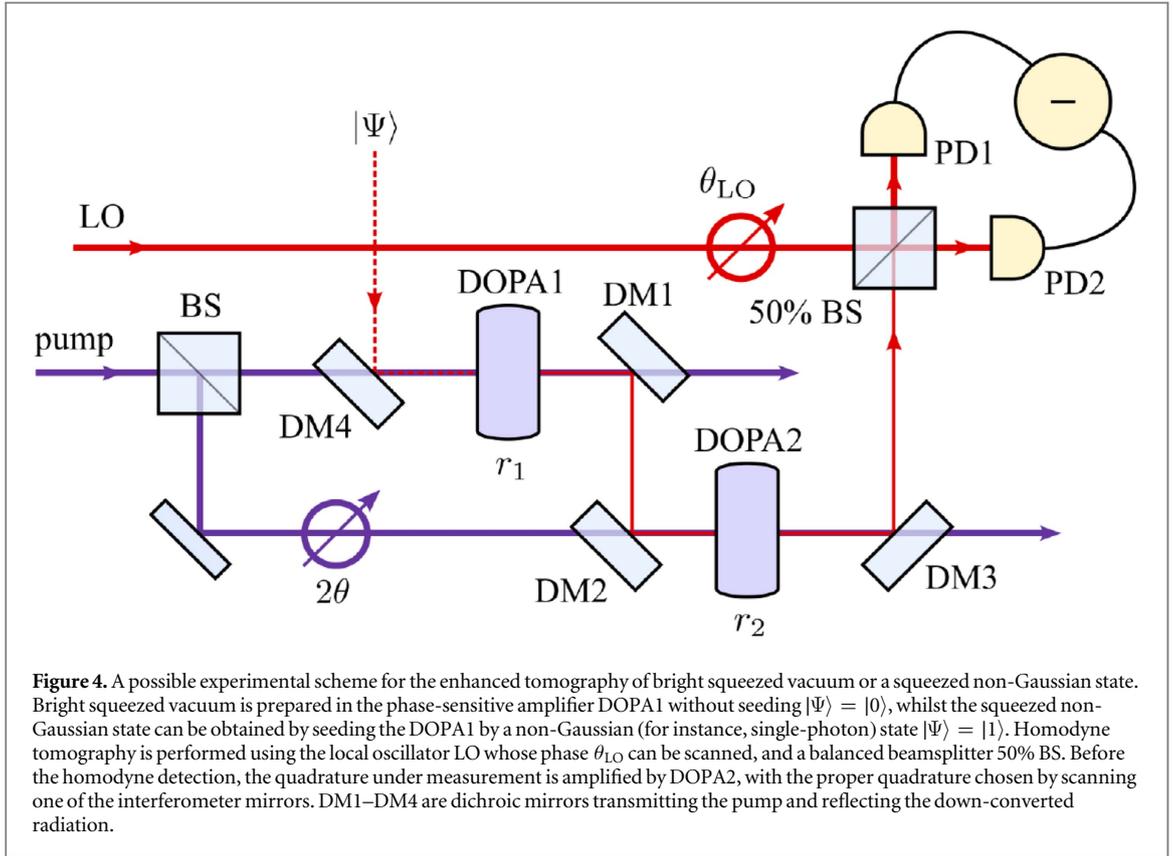
$$F = \frac{2}{\sqrt{(\epsilon_r e^{2r_1} + 2)(\epsilon_r e^{-2r_1} + 2)}}. \quad (26)$$

This parameter is plotted in figure 3 as a function of the phase-sensitive pre-amplification gain r_2 . One can notice that strong pre-amplification allows one to achieve a high, but limited value of fidelity, which is due to the irreversible reflection loss $\eta_i \neq 1$. Anyway, for the state-of-the-art anti-reflection coatings and high-gain parametric amplification, the satisfactory value of $F \approx 0.99$ is achievable.

Figure 4 shows a possible experimental setup. Both amplifiers, DOPA1 generating bright squeezed vacuum and DOPA2 amplifying the quadrature under measurement, are parts of an SU(1,1) interferometer [26], in which the pump power can be distributed unequally by the beamsplitter BS, and hence the parametric gain values $r_{1,2}$ could be different. The state produced by DOPA1 is sent for pre-amplification to DOPA2 through dichroic mirrors DM1 and DM2, while the amplification phase θ is varied in the pump beam synchronously with the phase θ_{LO} of the local oscillator LO used for the homodyne detection.

4.2. SSP state

Even more dramatic is the effect of phase-sensitive amplification on the homodyne tomography of bright non-Gaussian states, for example, a SSP state $\hat{S}|1\rangle$, see the review papers [6, 21] and the references therein, as well as the recent works [37, 38]. Its Wigner function has the form

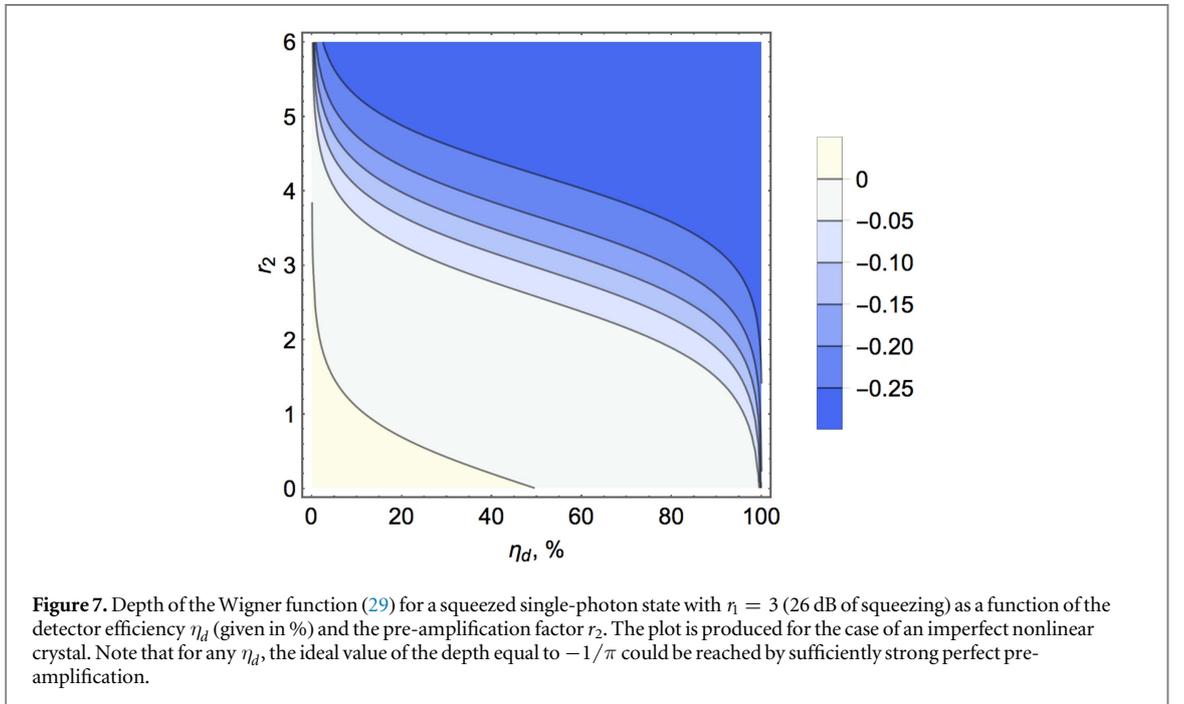
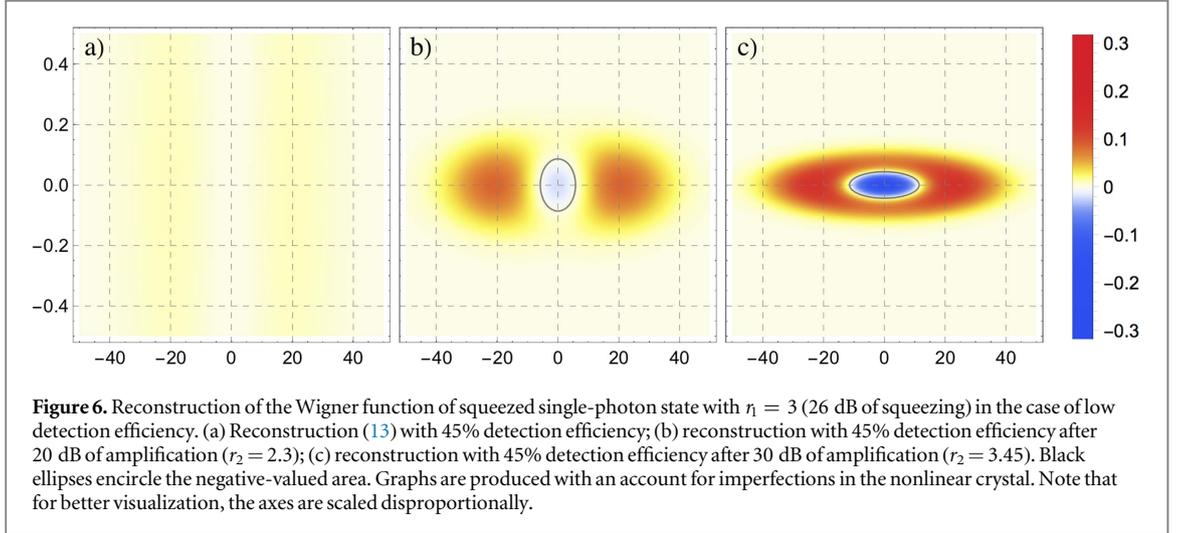


$$W_{SSP}(q, p) = \frac{2s^{-1}q^2 + 2sp^2 - 1}{\pi} \exp(-q^2s^{-1} - p^2s), \quad (27)$$

and contains a negative-valued area stretched along one quadrature and squeezed along the other, see figure 5(a).

This state can be generated by seeding DOPA1 in figure 4 with single photons prepared, for example, through the heralding procedure [39]. We assume the same degree of the preparation squeezing as in the previous example: $r_1 \approx 3$ (26 dB), which corresponds to the mean number of photons $N = 3 \sinh^2 r_1 + 1 \approx 300$. Note that such a highly-non-classical multi-photon quantum states could be very interesting for the non-Gaussian quantum optomechanics due to its much stronger interaction with the mechanical objects in comparison with e.g. just single-photon ones.

The initial Wigner function is shown in figure 5(a). It has a narrow negative area along the direction of squeezing (enclosed by the ellipse), therefore being even more susceptible to losses than a non-squeezed state. The conventionally reconstructed (without pre-amplification) Wigner function is plotted in figure 5(b), for the case of $1 - \eta_d = 0.05$. Here the shape of the Wigner function is highly distorted and only a very shallow negative-valued area remains. The reconstructed Wigner function after phase-sensitive amplification and loss is



$$W'_{SSP}(q, p) = \frac{2q^2 \frac{\epsilon_r + 1}{\epsilon_r + s} + 2p^2 \frac{\epsilon_r + s}{s\epsilon_r + 1} + \epsilon_r^2 - 1}{\pi [(\epsilon_r + s)(\epsilon_r + s^{-1})]^{3/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{q^2}{\epsilon_r + s} - \frac{p^2}{\epsilon_r + s^{-1}}\right), \quad (28)$$

which is plotted for the value of $r_2 = 2.3$ (20 dB), see figure 5(c).

As another example, we consider the case of low detection efficiency $\eta_d = 0.45$, which corresponds to $\epsilon = 1.2$. In this case, the losses completely wash out the negative-valued area, see figure 6(a). However, the pre-amplification allows one to recover the negativity, see figure 6(b), and sufficiently strong pre-amplification restores the initial Wigner function, see figure 6(c).

As a quantitative measure of non-classicality for the squeezed single-photon state, we consider the maximal negative depth of the Wigner function, which corresponds to its value at $q = p = 0$ (see e.g. [37]):

$$W(0, 0) = \frac{\epsilon_r^2 - 1}{\pi [(\epsilon_r + e^{2r_1})(\epsilon_r + e^{-2r_1})]^{3/2}}, \quad (29)$$

which we plot in figure 7 for the SSP state with $r_1 = 3$, as a function of the detector inefficiency η_d and the pre-amplification factor r_2 . Note that for SSP state the existence of the non-classical negative-valued area does not depend on the initial squeezing r_1 , but in the realistic lossy case its depth value decreases sharply with the increase of r_1 : $|W(0, 0)| \propto e^{-3r_1}$. Here again the perfect, or close to perfect pre-amplification allows, in principle, to restore the ideal value of the depth $-1/\pi$.

5. Conclusion

We have studied the protocol for the enhancement of the Wigner function tomography with real-world balanced homodyne detectors. The protocol relies on the phase-sensitive amplification of the quadrature under measurement before its homodyne detection. Our consideration includes the effect of losses in the nonlinear crystal serving as the traveling-wave phase-sensitive amplifier. We show that with this pre-amplification being sufficiently strong, one can reconstruct the quantum state close to the input one for any reasonable value of the detection loss. In particular, this protocol enables the observation of the Wigner function negativity for a single-photon state under less than 50% detector efficiency. As practical examples, we considered bright squeezed vacuum and SSP states, which are both strongly affected by optical losses and limited quantum efficiency. We showed that this protocol allows one to reconstruct the initial Wigner functions of these quantum states even in the presence of strong losses. This method promises considerable progress in future quantum optical and optomechanical experiments, especially with non-classical states.

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Appendix. Absorption in the bulk of the DOPA

We treat the crystal as a set of $N \rightarrow \infty$ layers with the thickness $d/N \rightarrow 0$, where d is the total thickness of the crystal. The input/output relation for the amplified quadrature for layer j is

$$(\hat{q}_\theta)_j = \sqrt{1 - \frac{kd}{N}} (\hat{q}_\theta)_{j-1} e^{r'} + \sqrt{\frac{kd}{N}} (\hat{q}_a)_j, \quad (\text{A1})$$

where $j = 0 \dots N$, $r' = r_{\text{raw}}/N$ is the parametric gain per layer in the absence of losses, $(\hat{q}_\theta)_j$ is the amplified quadrature at the output of the j th layer, and $(\hat{q}_a)_j$ is the corresponding quadrature of the vacuum field injected into this layer due to the loss. Taking into account that the absorption per layer $kd/N \rightarrow 0$, this equation can be recast as

$$(\hat{q}_\theta)_j = (\hat{q}_\theta)_{j-1} e^{r/N} + \sqrt{\frac{kd}{N}} (\hat{q}_a)_j, \quad (\text{A2})$$

where

$$r = r_{\text{raw}} - \frac{kd}{2} \quad (\text{A3})$$

is the total effective squeezing, which is being detected in the experiment.

Using equation (A1) iteratively for N layers, we obtain

$$(\hat{q}_\theta)_N = [(\hat{q}_\theta)_0 + \hat{q}_a] e^r, \quad (\text{A4})$$

where

$$\hat{q}_a = \sqrt{\frac{kd}{N}} \sum_{j=1}^N (\hat{q}_a)_j e^{-jr/N} \quad (\text{A5})$$

is the total noise introduced by the bulk and translated to the input of the DOPA device.

Variances of all quadratures $(\hat{q}_a)_j$ are equal to $1/2$ (vacuum state). Therefore, variance of \hat{q}_a is equal to

$$\sigma_a^2 = \frac{kd}{2N} \sum_{j=1}^N e^{-2jr/N} = \frac{kd}{2N} \frac{1 - e^{-2r}}{e^{2r/N} - 1}, \quad (\text{A6})$$

which in the limiting case of $N \rightarrow \infty$ reduces to (18).

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