

Squeezed-state generation for two-level atoms in a spatially varying field mode

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A spatially varying field mode is included in calculating the squeezing effect for a system of two-level atoms in the good-cavity limit. Two examples of a Gaussian mode field in a ring cavity and a plane-wave field in a standing-wave interferometer are used to demonstrate the quite general method. In qualitative terms, the squeezing predicted for plane waves is preserved. However, for a given value of atomic cooperativity parameter C , there is a degradation in squeezing because of the spatially varying field structure.

Squeezed-state generation in an atomic vapor interacting with a cavity field mode has been intensively discussed both experimentally¹⁻³ and theoretically^{1,4-8} in recent years. Some experiments^{1,2} have been quite successful in observing squeezing effects at a respectable level. Most theories describing these systems take the cavity field as a plane wave for simplicity. This makes it hard for experiments to be compared quantitatively with the theory. In this paper we illustrate how the spatially varying field mode alters squeezing in a simple system consisting of two-level atoms interacting with a single mode of a high-finesse cavity. We use the general formulas developed earlier in Ref. 9. Two examples, a Gaussian mode in a ring cavity and a plane wave in a standing-wave cavity, are given to illustrate the effect of field variations. Figures and discussions are given for each case and compared with the existing plane-wave theory.⁵

Following Ref. 9, we consider a single, quantized, spatially varying cavity mode, interacting with a collection of N homogeneously broadened two-level atoms that are driven by a coherent classical field of amplitude ϵ . The master equation for the density operator $\hat{\rho}$ of the atom-field system following from the Hamiltonian in the electric-dipole, rotating-wave and Markovian approximations can be written as¹⁰⁻¹²

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \hat{\rho}}{\partial t} = & \frac{1}{i\hbar} \left\{ \hbar\omega_c [\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}, \hat{\rho}] + \frac{1}{2} \hbar\omega_a \sum_{\mu=1}^N [\hat{\sigma}_\mu^z, \hat{\rho}] \right\} \\ & + \sum_{\mu=1}^N \{ g_\mu \exp(-ik \cdot \mathbf{r}_\mu) [\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}_\mu^-, \hat{\rho}] - g_\mu \exp(ik \cdot \mathbf{r}_\mu) \\ & \times [\hat{a} \hat{\sigma}_\mu^+, \hat{\rho}] + \sum_{\mu=1}^N \{ (\frac{1}{2}\gamma_{\parallel}) ([\hat{\sigma}_\mu^-, \hat{\rho}, \hat{\sigma}_\mu^+] + [\hat{\sigma}_\mu^-, \hat{\rho} \hat{\sigma}_\mu^+]) \} \\ & + (\frac{1}{4}\gamma_p) ([\hat{\sigma}_\mu^z \hat{\rho}, \hat{\sigma}_\mu^z] + [\hat{\sigma}_\mu^z, \hat{\rho} \hat{\sigma}_\mu^z]) + \kappa [\hat{a} \hat{\rho}, \hat{a}^\dagger] \\ & + [\hat{a}, \hat{\rho} \hat{a}^\dagger] \} + \kappa \{ \epsilon \exp(-i\omega_f t) [\hat{a}^\dagger, \hat{\rho}] - \epsilon^* \exp(i\omega_f t) [\hat{a}, \hat{\rho}] \}. \quad (1) \end{aligned}$$

The operators \hat{a}^\dagger and \hat{a} are the single-mode creation and annihilation operators, while $\hat{\sigma}_\mu^z$ and $\hat{\sigma}_\mu^\pm$ are the Pauli atom-

ic operators, ω_c is the cavity resonance frequency, ω_a is the atomic resonance frequency, and ω_f is the driving-field frequency. g_μ is the coupling coefficient between the cavity field mode and an atom at position \mathbf{r}_μ and is given in terms of the normalized mode function $U(\mathbf{r}_\mu)$ by¹³

$$g_\mu = \left(\frac{\mu^2 \omega_c}{2\hbar \epsilon_0} \right)^{1/2} |U(\mathbf{r}_\mu)| \equiv g_0 |U(\mathbf{r}_\mu)|. \quad (2)$$

κ is the cavity damping rate, γ_{\parallel} is the Einstein A coefficient for spontaneous emission, and γ_p is the rate of collision-induced phase decay, so that the total rate of decay of the atomic polarization γ_{\perp} is given by $\gamma_{\perp} = \gamma_{\parallel/2} + \gamma_p$. The thermal photon numbers in both the atom and cavity-mode reservoirs are set to zero.

We divide the cavity mode into M small sections, according to the mode structure, so that the field can be viewed as effectively constant across each section. The sections are still assumed to be large enough so that the number of atoms in the j th section $N_j \gg 1$ for all j . We checked this assumption for realistic experimental situations with different mode structures and found that it can be reasonably well satisfied. Following Refs. 9-11, we transform the operator master equation (1) into a c -number generalized Fokker-Planck equation in the positive P representation.^{11,14,15} Owing to the condition $N_j \gg 1$ for each section, we can truncate this generalized Fokker-Planck equation to second order and write corresponding Ito stochastic differential equations.^{16,17} For a high- Q cavity ($\gamma_{\perp}, \gamma_{\parallel} \gg \kappa$), we then adiabatically eliminate atomic variables to arrive at equations for field variables alone.

By setting the derivatives to zero and neglecting the fluctuations in the resulting stochastic differential equations for the field, we find that the steady-state solution satisfies

$$Y = X \left| 1 + i\phi + \frac{2(1-i\delta)}{1+\delta^2} \cdot \frac{C}{s} \sum_{j=1}^M \frac{|U(\mathbf{r}_j)|^2 \Delta V_j}{1 + \frac{V_{\text{eff}}}{s} X \frac{|U(\mathbf{r}_j)|^2}{1+\delta^2}} \right|^2. \quad (3)$$

$X = xx^*$ and $Y = yy^*$ are cavity- and input-field intensities, where $(x, x^*) = (\alpha/\sqrt{n_0}, \alpha^*/\sqrt{n_0})$ are the cavity-field amplitude variables at steady state and $(y, y^*) = (\epsilon/\sqrt{n_0}, \epsilon^*/\sqrt{n_0})$ are the input-field amplitude variables, normalized by the saturation photon number $n_0 = (\gamma_\perp \gamma_\parallel V_{\text{eff}})/(4g_0^2 s)$. $\delta = (\omega_a - \omega_l)/\gamma_\perp$ is the dimensionless atomic detuning, and $\phi = (\omega_c - \omega_l)/\kappa$ is the dimensionless cavity detuning, with s as the ratio of the atomic sample length to the cavity length, the cooperativity parameter $C = (g_0^2 \rho s)/(2\gamma_\perp \kappa)$, where ρ is the density of the uniformly distributed atomic sample, and ΔV_j is the volume of the j th section ($N_j = \rho \Delta V_j$). The effective mode volume is written as¹³

$$V_{\text{eff}} = s^2 \iiint_{\bar{V}} |U(\mathbf{r})|^4 d^3r, \quad (4)$$

with \bar{V} the interaction volume. We can take the statistical limit $M \rightarrow \infty$ and $\Delta V_j \rightarrow 0$, so that the summation in Eq. (3) can be replaced by an integration:

$$\lim_{\substack{M \rightarrow \infty \\ \Delta V_j \rightarrow 0}} \sum_{j=1}^M \Delta V_j = \iiint_{\bar{V}} d^3r. \quad (5)$$

Since we are studying fluctuations around the steady state, we linearize the differential equations for field variables by defining $\delta \bar{x} \equiv \bar{x} - x$, and $\delta \bar{x}^\dagger \equiv \bar{x}^\dagger - x^*$. The cavity-field amplitude variables $(\bar{x}, \bar{x}^\dagger)$ are not complex conjugate in the positive P representation, except at steady states when they take values (x, x^*) . The linearized field equations read as

$$\begin{pmatrix} \delta \dot{\bar{x}} \\ \delta \dot{\bar{x}}^\dagger \end{pmatrix} = -M_{\text{ss}} \begin{pmatrix} \delta \bar{x} \\ \delta \bar{x}^\dagger \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{n_0}} B \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1(\tau) \\ \xi_2(\tau) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

where $\langle \xi_i(\tau) \xi_j(\tau') \rangle = \delta(\tau - \tau') \delta_{ij}$ and $B^T B = D_{\text{ss}}$, with

$$M_{\text{ss}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b^* & a^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad D_{\text{ss}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} -P_{\text{ss}} & Q_{\text{ss}} \\ Q_{\text{ss}}^* & -P_{\text{ss}}^* \end{pmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

The linearized drift and diffusion coefficients are calculated at the steady-state value. With the Eq. (5), we have, from Eqs. (11) and (17) of Ref. 9,

$$\begin{aligned} a &= 1 + i\phi + \frac{2(1-i\delta)C}{s} \iiint_{\bar{V}} \frac{|U(\mathbf{r})|^2 d^3r}{1 + \delta^2 + \frac{V_{\text{eff}} X}{s} |U(\mathbf{r})|^2} \\ &\quad - \frac{2(1-i\delta)XCV_{\text{eff}}}{s^2} \iiint_{\bar{V}} \frac{|U(\mathbf{r})|^4 d^3r}{\left[1 + \delta^2 + \frac{V_{\text{eff}} X}{s} |U(\mathbf{r})|^2\right]^2}, \\ b &= -\frac{2(1-i\delta)x^2 CV_{\text{eff}}}{s^2} \iiint_{\bar{V}} \frac{|U(\mathbf{r})|^4 d^3r}{\left[1 + \delta^2 + \frac{V_{\text{eff}} X}{s} |U(\mathbf{r})|^2\right]^2}. \quad (8) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\text{ss}} &= \frac{2Cx^2 V_{\text{eff}}}{s^2} \iiint_{\bar{V}} \frac{d^3r |U(\mathbf{r})|^4}{\left[1 + \delta^2 + \frac{XV_{\text{eff}}}{s} |U(\mathbf{r})|^2\right]^3} \left[(1-i\delta)^3 f \right. \\ &\quad \left. + i\delta(1-i\delta)(1-f) \frac{XV_{\text{eff}}}{s} |U(\mathbf{r})|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{X^2 V_{\text{eff}}^2}{s^2} |U(\mathbf{r})|^4 \right], \\ Q_{\text{ss}} &= \frac{2CXV_{\text{eff}}}{s^2} \iiint_{\bar{V}} \frac{d^3r |U(\mathbf{r})|^4}{\left[1 + \delta^2 + \frac{XV_{\text{eff}}}{s} |U(\mathbf{r})|^2\right]^3} \left\{ (1 + \delta^2) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times (1-f) + [2 + (1-f)\delta^2] \frac{XV_{\text{eff}}}{s} |U(\mathbf{r})|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \cdot \frac{X^2 V_{\text{eff}}^2}{s^2} |U(\mathbf{r})|^4 \right\}, \quad (9) \end{aligned}$$

where $f = \gamma_\parallel/2\gamma_\perp$ is the measure of the collision damping.

The question of squeezed-state production is addressed by considering the spectrum of squeezing $S^{\text{out}}(\Omega, \theta)$ for the output field transmitted by one of the cavity mirrors with decay constant κ_1 . In terms of the intracavity operators

$$\hat{A}_\theta(t) = [\hat{a}(t)e^{-i\theta} + \hat{a}^\dagger(t)e^{i\theta}], \quad (10)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} S^{\text{out}}(\Omega, \theta) &= 2\kappa_1 \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\tau \langle T: \hat{A}_\theta(t) \hat{A}_\theta(t + \tau): \rangle e^{-i\Omega\tau} \\ &= 2\kappa_1 [S_{12}(\Omega) + S_{21}(\Omega) + S_{11}(\Omega)e^{-2i\theta} + S_{22}(\Omega)e^{2i\theta}], \quad (11) \end{aligned}$$

with T denoting time order and the colons normal order. The spectral matrix S_{ij} of amplitude fluctuation of the complex field $(\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger)$ can be calculated from M_{ss} and D_{ss} as^{18,19}

$$S(\Omega) = \frac{1}{n_0} (M_{\text{ss}} + i\Omega I)^{-1} D_{\text{ss}} (M_{\text{ss}}^T - i\Omega I)^{-1}. \quad (12)$$

Since squeezing is optimized at a particular frequency Ω_0 by the choice of phase

$$e^{2i\theta} = -\frac{S_{22}^*(\Omega_0)}{|S_{22}(\Omega_0)|}, \quad (13)$$

we have, with the choice of this phase,

$$S^{\text{out}}(\Omega) = 2\kappa_1 \left\{ S_{12}(\Omega) + S_{21}(\Omega) - 2 \text{Re} \left[\frac{S_{22}^*(\Omega_0) S_{22}(\Omega)}{|S_{22}(\Omega_0)|} \right] \right\}. \quad (14)$$

For a given spatial mode $U(\mathbf{r})$, we can calculate a, b, P_{ss} , and D_{ss} by using Eqs. (8) and (9) and then solve Eq. (12) to find the matrix elements S_{ij} required by Eq. (14). For this system, the best squeezing always occurs at $\Omega_0 = 0$; therefore we set $\Omega = \Omega_0 = 0$ in what follows. We further assume an ideal, single-sided cavity, so that $\kappa_1 = \kappa$. We now discuss the results for two particular examples.

For our first example we take a Gaussian profile in a ring cavity. We divide the Gaussian beam into M cylindrical shells along the cavity axis, each with radius r_j and thickness Δr_j . When the Rayleigh length is much longer than the sample length, as is usually the case,¹ we can neglect the z

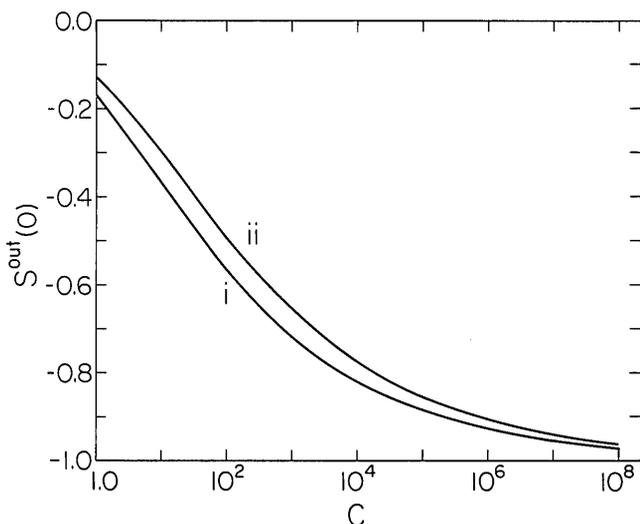


Fig. 1. Optimal squeezing $S^{\text{out}}(0)$ versus atomic cooperativity parameter C . Curve i, plane wave in a ring cavity; curve ii, Gaussian mode in a ring cavity. δ , ϕ , and X are optimized at each point to give best squeezing. Representative values are as follows: $C = 10$: i, $\delta = 7.20$, $\phi = 1.92$, $X = 8.64$; ii $\delta = 7.18$, $\phi = 2.10$, $X = 6.92$. $C = 10^2$: i, $\delta = 28.2$, $\phi = 6.00$, $X = 73.9$; ii, $\delta = 26.5$, $\phi = 6.60$, $X = 54.2$. $C = 10^3$: i, $\delta = 111$, $\phi = 16.7$, $X = 556$; ii, $\delta = 101$, $\phi = 18.6$, $X = 388$. $C = 10^4$: i, $\delta = 438$, $\phi = 44.2$, $X = 3.87 \times 10^3$; ii, $\delta = 392$, $\phi = 49.7$, $X = 2.64 \times 10^3$. $C = 10^5$: i, $\delta = 1.73 \times 10^3$, $\phi = 114$, $X = 2.58 \times 10^4$; ii, $\delta = 1.52 \times 10^3$, $\phi = 130$, $X = 1.70 \times 10^4$. $C = 10^6$: i, $\delta = 6.86 \times 10^3$, $\phi = 290$, $X = 1.70 \times 10^5$; ii, $\delta = 5.72 \times 10^3$, $\phi = 348$, $X = 9.97 \times 10^4$. $C = 10^7$: i, $\delta = 2.73 \times 10^4$, $\phi = 731$, $X = 1.11 \times 10^6$; ii, $\delta = 2.54 \times 10^4$, $\phi = 785$, $X = 9.05 \times 10^5$. $C = 10^8$: i, $\delta = 1.07 \times 10^5$, $\phi = 1.87 \times 10^3$, $X = 6.76 \times 10^6$; ii, $\delta = 1.03 \times 10^5$, $\phi = 1.94 \times 10^3$, $X = 5.90 \times 10^6$.

dependence of the beam waist W . For the normalized mode function we take

$$U(\mathbf{r}) = \left(\frac{2}{\pi L W^2} \right)^{1/2} \exp(-r^2/W^2), \quad (15)$$

which with

$$d^3r = (2\pi r dr) L s \quad (16)$$

gives from Eq. (4)

$$V_{\text{eff}} = (\pi W^2 L) s. \quad (17)$$

Substituting from Eqs. (15)–(17) into Eqs. (8) and (9) and computing the integrals, we find the explicit linearized drift and diffusion coefficients

$$a = (1 + i\phi) + \frac{2C(1 - i\delta)}{1 + \delta^2 + 2X},$$

$$b = \frac{(1 - i\delta)Cx^2}{X} \left[\frac{2}{1 + \delta^2 + 2X} - \frac{1}{X} \ln \left(1 + \frac{2X}{1 + \delta^2} \right) \right] \quad (18)$$

and

$$P_{\text{ss}} = Cx^2 \left(\frac{1}{(1 + \delta^2 + 2X)^2} \left\{ \frac{2(1 - i\delta)^3 f}{1 + \delta^2} + 4X + 3[\delta^2(1 + 2f) - 2i\delta(1 - f) + 3] + \frac{1 + \delta^2}{X} [(1 + 2f)\delta^2 - 2i\delta(1 - f) + 3] \right\} - \frac{(1 + 2f)\delta^2 - 2i\delta(1 - f) + 3}{2X^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{2X}{1 + \delta^2} \right) \right),$$

$$Q_{\text{ss}} = C \left\{ \frac{4X^2 - (1 + 2f)(1 - 3\delta^2)X - (1 + \delta^2)[1 - \delta^2(1 + 2f)]}{(1 + \delta^2 + 2X)^2} + \frac{1 - \delta^2(1 + 2f)}{2X} \ln \left(1 + \frac{2X}{1 + \delta^2} \right) \right\}. \quad (19)$$

With Eqs. (18) and (19), we can compute the squeezing effect for a Gaussian mode from Eqs. (7), (12), and (14).

In Fig. 1, $S^{\text{out}}(0)$ is plotted against atomic cooperativity C , where curve i is for a plane wave in a ring cavity and curve ii is for a Gaussian mode in a ring cavity. δ , ϕ , and X are optimized to give the best squeezing at each point along the curves. It can be seen that squeezing is preserved for the Gaussian profile but degraded relative to the plane-wave case for a given value of C . At lower C values (10^2 – 10^3) the discrepancy can be as large as 10% or more, which is important for a quantitative comparison between experiment and theory. The same degree of squeezing as in the plane-wave case can be recovered for the Gaussian profile only by increasing the atomic cooperativity C , the atomic and cavity detunings, and the field intensity. The convergence of the two curves at large C is a consequence of the fact that, in the dispersive limit to which one is driven at large C , all effects

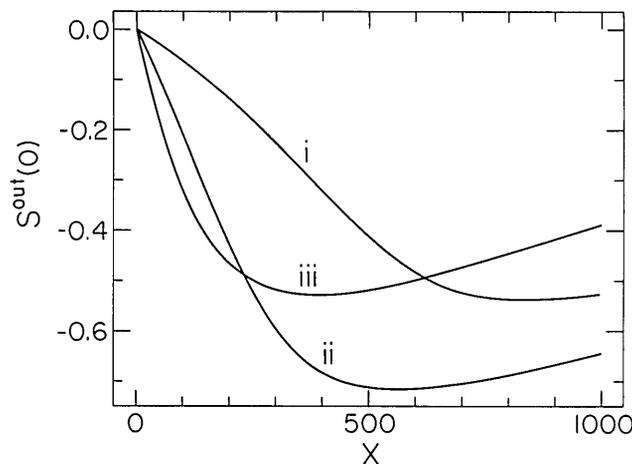


Fig. 2. Squeezing $S^{\text{out}}(0)$ versus intensity X for the plane-wave case. Curve i: $C = 10^3$, $\delta = 111$ (optimal for given C), $\phi = 15.0$; curve ii: $C = 10^3$, $\delta = 111$, $\phi = 16.7$ (optimal); curve iii: $C = 10^3$, $\delta = 111$, $\phi = 18.0$.

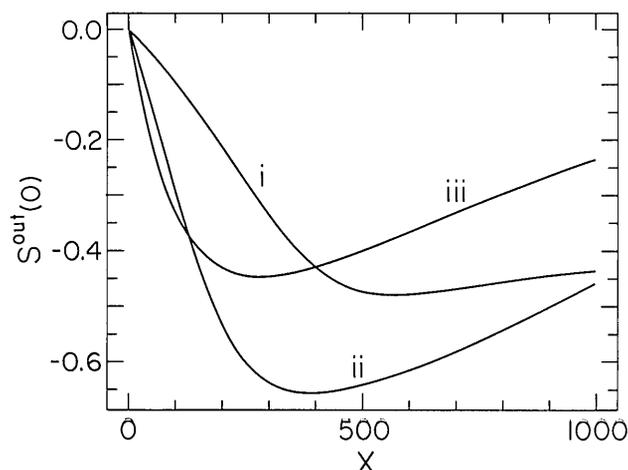


Fig. 3. Squeezing $S^{\text{out}}(0)$ versus intensity X for the Gaussian case. Curve i: $C = 10^3$, $\delta = 101$ (optimal for given C), $\phi = 17.0$; curve ii: $C = 10^3$, $\delta = 101$, $\phi = 18.6$ (optimal); curve iii: $C = 10^3$, $\delta = 101$, $\phi = 20.0$.

resulting from the spatially varying field mode vanish.^{9,13} There are two reasons why we have computed our results out to the high- C limit shown in Fig. 1. One is to observe the approach to the dispersive limit, and the other is to compare with the results of Reid and Walls.⁵ At $C = 2 \times 10^6$, the value on curve i for plane waves is in agreement with their result.

In Figs. 2 and 3 we plot the degree of squeezing $S^{\text{out}}(0)$ versus intensity X for $C = 10^3$ and for three different values of ϕ for plane-wave and Gaussian cases, respectively. δ is fixed for all three curves to be its optimal value for the given value of C ; ϕ is varied slightly around its optimal value. It is clear that the squeezing is very sensitive to cavity detuning. It can also be noticed that the best squeezing in this cross section of the multidimensional parameter space becomes somewhat smaller and more sensitive to the change in intensity for the Gaussian mode structure.

Turning next to the case of a standing-wave cavity with a plane-wave transverse profile, we divide the cavity into regions of length $\lambda/4$ and these regions into M small sections in the z direction. Each region of length $\lambda/4$ makes an identical contribution to the sum over atoms. The normalized mode function is

$$U(\mathbf{r}) = \left(\frac{2}{AL}\right)^{1/2} \cos(kz) \quad (20)$$

and

$$d^3r = Adz, \quad (21)$$

where A is the cross-sectional area of the cavity and k is the wave vector. With Eqs. (20) and (21), Eq. (4) becomes

$$V_{\text{eff}} = \left(\frac{2}{3}AL\right)s. \quad (22)$$

Substituting Eqs. (20)–(22) into Eqs. (8) and (9), we have

$$a = (1 + i\phi) + \frac{2C(1 - i\delta)}{(1 + \delta^2) \left[1 + \frac{4X}{3(1 + \delta^2)}\right]^{3/2}},$$

$$b = \frac{(1 - i\delta)3C}{x^{*2}} \left\{ \frac{2X + 1 + \delta^2}{(1 + \delta^2) \left[1 + \frac{4X}{3(1 + \delta^2)}\right]^{3/2}} - 1 \right\}, \quad (23)$$

and

$$P_{\text{ss}} = Cx^2 \left\{ \frac{(1 + 2f) - \delta^2[4f + \delta^2(1 - 2f)] - i\delta[4f(1 - \delta^2) + 2(1 + \delta^2)]}{(1 + \delta^2)^3 \left[1 + \frac{4X}{3(1 + \delta^2)}\right]^{5/2}} + \frac{1}{X} + \frac{2[1 + f\delta^2 - i\delta(1 - f)]}{X(1 + \delta^2) \left[1 + \frac{4X}{3(1 + \delta^2)}\right]^{3/2}} - \frac{3}{X^2} \left[1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{4X}{3(1 + \delta^2)}}}\right] \left[\frac{3}{2} + \frac{\delta^2}{2}(1 + 2f) - i\delta(1 - f) \right] \right\},$$

$$Q_{\text{ss}} = C \left\{ 1 - \frac{X}{(1 + \delta^2)^2 \left[1 + \frac{4X}{3(1 + \delta^2)}\right]^{5/2}} [(1 + 2f) + \delta^2(1 - 2f)] - \frac{2(1 - f\delta^2)}{(1 + \delta^2) \left[1 + \frac{4X}{3(1 + \delta^2)}\right]^{3/2}} + \frac{3}{X} \left[1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{4X}{3(1 + \delta^2)}}}\right] \left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\delta^2}{2}(1 - 2f) \right] \right\}. \quad (24)$$

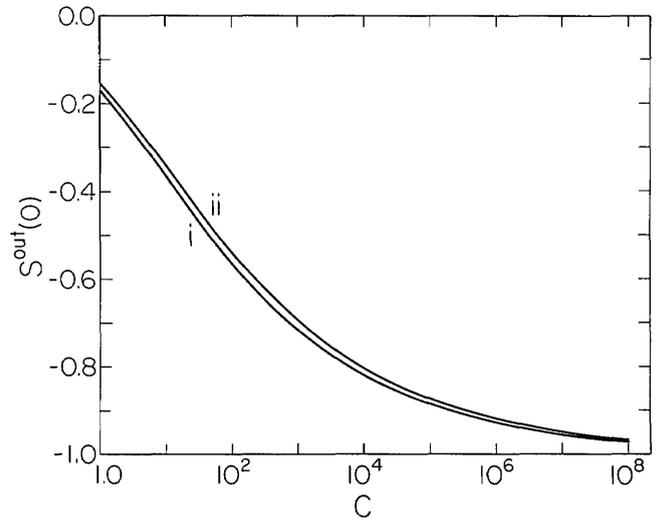


Fig. 4. Optimal squeezing $S^{\text{out}}(0)$ versus atomic cooperativity parameter C . Curve i, plane wave in a ring cavity; curve ii, standing-wave longitudinal structure with plane-wave transverse profile. δ , ϕ , and X are optimized at each point to give best squeezing. Representative values are as follows: $C = 10$: i, $\delta = 7.20$, $\phi = 1.92$, $X = 8.64$; ii, $\delta = 7.19$, $\phi = 1.99$, $X = 7.98$. $C = 10^2$: i, $\delta = 28.2$, $\phi = 6.00$, $X = 73.9$; ii, $\delta = 27.5$, $\phi = 6.22$, $X = 65.8$. $C = 10^3$: i, $\delta = 111$, $\phi = 16.7$, $X = 556$; ii, $\delta = 107$, $\phi = 17.4$, $X = 486$. $C = 10^4$: i, $\delta = 438$, $\phi = 44.2$, $X = 3.87 \times 10^3$; ii, $\delta = 420$, $\phi = 46.2$, $X = 3.36 \times 10^3$. $C = 10^5$: i, $\delta = 1.73 \times 10^3$, $\phi = 114$, $X = 2.58 \times 10^4$; ii, $\delta = 1.66 \times 10^3$, $\phi = 119$, $X = 2.30 \times 10^4$. $C = 10^6$: i, $\delta = 6.86 \times 10^3$, $\phi = 290$, $X = 1.70 \times 10^5$; ii, $\delta = 6.64 \times 10^3$, $\phi = 300$, $X = 1.51 \times 10^5$. $C = 10^7$: i, $\delta = 2.73 \times 10^4$, $\phi = 731$, $X = 1.11 \times 10^6$; ii, $\delta = 2.70 \times 10^4$, $\phi = 738$, $X = 1.07 \times 10^6$. $C = 10^8$: i, $\delta = 1.07 \times 10^5$, $\phi = 1.87 \times 10^3$, $X = 6.76 \times 10^6$; ii, $\delta = 1.00 \times 10^5$, $\phi = 2.00 \times 10^3$, $X = 6.11 \times 10^6$.

Figure 4 plots $S^{\text{out}}(0)$ versus atomic cooperativity for plane-wave and standing-wave cases. Again, each point is plotted with δ , ϕ , and X optimized to give best squeezing. As for the Gaussian mode, the standing-wave longitudinal structure also degrades squeezing for given C but by a smaller amount. This is consistent with the results for $g^2(0) - 1$ and $\delta I_{\text{inc}}/I_{\text{coh}}$ in Ref. 9. Figure 5 plots squeezing versus intensity for $C = 10^3$, δ optimized, and three values of ϕ . The results are comparable with these values for the Gaussian mode case.

In conclusion, the optimum squeezing $S^{\text{out}}(0)$ was calculated for a two-level atomic system interacting with a spatially varying field mode of a cavity of damping rate that is

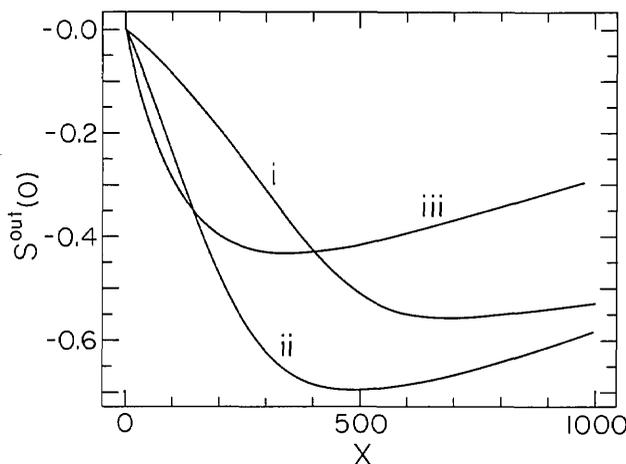


Fig. 5. Squeezing $S^{out}(0)$ versus intensity X for the standing-wave case. Curve i, $C = 10^3$, $\delta = 107$ (optimal for given C), $\phi = 16.0$; curve ii, $C = 10^3$, $\delta = 107$, $\phi = 17.4$ (optimal); curve iii, $C = 10^3$, $\delta = 107$, $\phi = 19.0$.

small compared with the atomic relaxation rate. Explicit results for two examples, a Gaussian ring interferometer, and a standing-wave interferometer with transverse structure of a plane wave were obtained and compared with existing theory for a plane-wave ring interferometer. Of course, current generations of experiments are far short of achieving the extremely large values of C required to obtain the very large degrees of squeezing shown on the figures. In addition, the nondegenerate case is far more favorable than the degenerate case that we analyzed.^{1,2,4,7} However, we believe that our calculation should indicate that the spatial variations of the intracavity field do have a nonnegligible effect (about 10%) on the degree of squeezing that can be achieved in realistic experimental situations. The case of a Gaussian mode standing-wave, which is most relevant in current experiments, can also be treated with the formalism developed in Ref. 9 and here.

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