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**6.453 Quantum Optical Communication**  
**Lecture 17**

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## **6.453 Quantum Optical Communication - Lecture 17**

- Announcements
  - Pick up graded mid-term exam, lecture notes, slides
- Quantization of the Electromagnetic Field
  - Maxwell's equations
  - Plane-wave mode expansions
  - Multi-mode number states and coherent states

## Classical Electromagnetic Fields in Free Space

- Maxwell's Equations in Differential Form:

$$\nabla \times \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = -\mu_0 \frac{\partial \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t}, \quad \nabla \cdot \epsilon_0 \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$$

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- Vector Potential  $\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$  in Coulomb Gauge,  $\nabla \cdot \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = 0$  :

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv -\frac{\partial \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t}, \quad \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv \frac{1}{\mu_0} \nabla \times \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)$$

- 3-D Vector Wave Equation:

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{A}(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} = \vec{0}$$

## Classical Electromagnetic Waves in Free Space

- Separation of Variables in the 3-D Vector Wave Equation:

$$\vec{A}(\vec{r}, t) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\epsilon_0}} \sum_{\vec{l}, \sigma} q_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(t) \vec{u}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(\vec{r}) + cc$$

- Separation Condition and Separation Constant:

$$\frac{\nabla^2 \vec{u}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(\vec{r})}{\vec{u}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(\vec{r})} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{d^2 q_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(t)/dt^2}{q_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(t)} \equiv -\frac{\omega_{\vec{l}}^2}{c^2}$$

- Helmholtz Equation and Harmonic Oscillator Equation:

$$\nabla^2 \vec{u}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(\vec{r}) + \frac{\omega_{\vec{l}}^2}{c^2} \vec{u}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(\vec{r}) = \vec{0}$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2} q_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(t) + \omega_{\vec{l}}^2 q_{\vec{l}, \sigma}(t) = 0$$

## Periodic Boundary Conditions → Plane Waves

- Periodic Boundary Conditions for  $L \times L \times L$  Cube:

$$\vec{u}_{\vec{l},\sigma}(\vec{r}) = \vec{u}_{\vec{l},\sigma}(\vec{r} + n_x L \vec{i}_x + n_y L \vec{i}_y + n_z L \vec{i}_z)$$

- Plane Wave Solutions:

$$\vec{u}_{\vec{l},\sigma}(\vec{r}) = \frac{1}{L^{3/2}} e^{j\vec{k}_{\vec{l}} \cdot \vec{r}} \vec{e}_{\vec{l},\sigma} \rightarrow \text{plane waves}$$

$$\vec{e}_{\vec{l},\sigma} \cdot \vec{k}_{\vec{l}} = 0, \text{ for } \sigma = 0, 1 \rightarrow \text{transversality}$$

$$\vec{k}_{\vec{l}} = \frac{2\pi}{L} [l_x \quad l_y \quad l_z]^T, \quad \frac{\omega_{\vec{l}}^2}{c^2} = \vec{k}_{\vec{l}} \cdot \vec{k}_{\vec{l}}$$

## Dimensionless Reformulation and the Hamiltonian

- Define:  $a_{\vec{l},\sigma}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{\omega_{\vec{l}}}{2\hbar}} q_{\vec{l},\sigma}(t) = \text{dimensionless}$

- Electric and Magnetic Fields:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) = \sum_{\vec{l},\sigma} j \sqrt{\frac{\hbar\omega_{\vec{l}}}{2\epsilon_0 L^3}} a_{\vec{l},\sigma} e^{-j(\omega_{\vec{l}} t - \vec{k}_{\vec{l}} \cdot \vec{r})} \vec{e}_{\vec{l},\sigma} + \text{cc}$$

$$\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) = \sum_{\vec{l},\sigma} j \sqrt{\frac{\hbar c^2}{2\mu_0 \omega_{\vec{l}} L^3}} a_{\vec{l},\sigma} e^{-j(\omega_{\vec{l}} t - \vec{k}_{\vec{l}} \cdot \vec{r})} \vec{k}_{\vec{l}} \times \vec{e}_{\vec{l},\sigma} + \text{cc}$$

- Hamiltonian:

$$\begin{aligned} H &= \int_{L \times L \times L} d^3 \vec{r} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_0 \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) \cdot \vec{E}(\vec{r}, t) + \frac{1}{2} \mu_0 \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) \cdot \vec{H}(\vec{r}, t) \right] \\ &= \sum_{\vec{l},\sigma} \hbar \omega_{\vec{l}} a_{\vec{l},\sigma}^* a_{\vec{l},\sigma} \end{aligned}$$

## Quantized Electromagnetic Field

- Field Operators:

$$\hat{\vec{E}}(\vec{r}, t) = \underbrace{\sum_{\vec{l}, \sigma} j \sqrt{\frac{\hbar \omega_{\vec{l}}}{2\epsilon_0 L^3}} \hat{a}_{\vec{l}, \sigma} e^{-j(\omega_{\vec{l}} t - \vec{k}_{\vec{l}} \cdot \vec{r})} \vec{e}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}}_{\hat{\vec{E}}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t)} + \text{hc}$$

$$\hat{\vec{H}}(\vec{r}, t) = \underbrace{\sum_{\vec{l}, \sigma} j \sqrt{\frac{\hbar c^2}{2\mu_0 \omega_{\vec{l}} L^3}} \hat{a}_{\vec{l}, \sigma} e^{-j(\omega_{\vec{l}} t - \vec{k}_{\vec{l}} \cdot \vec{r})} \vec{k}_{\vec{l}} \times \vec{e}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}}_{\hat{\vec{H}}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t)} + \text{hc}$$

- Commutators:  $[\hat{a}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}, \hat{a}_{\vec{l}', \sigma'}^\dagger] = \delta_{\vec{l}\vec{l}'} \delta_{\sigma\sigma'}$  and  $[\hat{a}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}, \hat{a}_{\vec{l}', \sigma'}] = 0$

- Hamiltonian:  $\hat{H} = \sum_{\vec{l}, \sigma} \hbar \omega_{\vec{l}} \left[ \hat{a}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\vec{l}, \sigma} + \frac{1}{2} \right]$

## Multi-Mode Number States and Coherent States

- Modal Number Operators:  $\hat{N}_{\vec{l}, \sigma} \equiv \hat{a}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}$
- Modal Number States:  $\hat{N}_{\vec{l}, \sigma} |n_{\vec{l}, \sigma}\rangle_{\vec{l}, \sigma} = n_{\vec{l}, \sigma} |n_{\vec{l}, \sigma}\rangle_{\vec{l}, \sigma}$
- Multi-Mode Number States:  $|\mathbf{n}\rangle \equiv \otimes_{\vec{l}, \sigma} |n_{\vec{l}, \sigma}\rangle_{\vec{l}, \sigma}$
- Modal Coherent States:  $\hat{a}_{\vec{l}, \sigma} |\alpha_{\vec{l}, \sigma}\rangle_{\vec{l}, \sigma} = \alpha_{\vec{l}, \sigma} |\alpha_{\vec{l}, \sigma}\rangle_{\vec{l}, \sigma}$
- Multi-Mode Coherent States:  $|\boldsymbol{\alpha}\rangle \equiv \otimes_{\vec{l}, \sigma} |\alpha_{\vec{l}, \sigma}\rangle_{\vec{l}, \sigma}$

## Coherent States are Field-Operator Eigenkets

- Classical Positive-Frequency Field Associated with  $|\alpha\rangle$  :

$$\vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t) \equiv \sum_{\vec{l}, \sigma} j \sqrt{\frac{\hbar \omega_{\vec{l}}}{2\epsilon_0 L^3}} \alpha_{\vec{l}, \sigma} e^{-j(\omega_{\vec{l}} t - \vec{k}_{\vec{l}} \cdot \vec{r})} \vec{e}_{\vec{l}, \sigma}$$

- Field Operator Eigenket Relation:

$$|\vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t)\rangle \equiv |\alpha\rangle$$

$$\hat{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t) |\vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t)\rangle = \vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t) |\vec{E}^{(+)}(\vec{r}, t)\rangle$$

## Simplified Model: Photodetection Theory Prelude

- Assumption 1: Only one polarization is excited
- Assumption 2: Only  $+z$ -going plane wave is excited
- Assumption 3: Only narrow bandwidth about  $\omega_o$  is excited
- Assumption 4: Work with photon-units baseband operator
- Assumption 5: Quantization interval  $\rightarrow t \in (-\infty, \infty)$
- Fourier-integral field operator relationships

$$\hat{E}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \hat{\mathcal{E}}(\omega) e^{-j\omega t}$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{E}}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \hat{E}(t) e^{j\omega t}$$

- Field-Operator Commutators:

$$[\hat{E}(t), \hat{E}^\dagger(u)] = \delta(t - u) \quad \text{and} \quad [\hat{\mathcal{E}}(\omega), \hat{\mathcal{E}}^\dagger(\omega')] = 2\pi\delta(\omega - \omega')$$

## Coming Attractions: Mid-Term + Lectures 18, 19

- Lectures 18, 19:  
Continuous-Time Photodetection
  - Semiclassical theory: Poisson-distributed shot noise
  - Quantum theory: Photon-flux operator measurement
  - Continuous-time signatures of non-classical light

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