

Exceptional points are useless for quantum sensing

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Enhancing **quantum sensors** by exploiting the **non-Hermitian** description of their dynamics

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Operating quantum systems at singular (unstable) points within linear response theory: new prospects for sensing

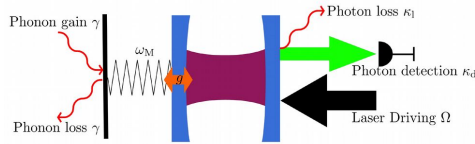
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“Non-Hermitian” quantum sensors: motivation

Quantum-enhanced/entanglement-driven quantum sensors:



[L.Clark, B.Markowicz & JK, Quantum 6, 812 (2022)]

AIM: Use *quantum effects* to boost the performance of a quantum sensor.

In particular, **entanglement:**

PROBLEM: *impact of noise.*

separable states

$$\Delta^2 \tilde{B} \sim \frac{1}{N}$$

SQL

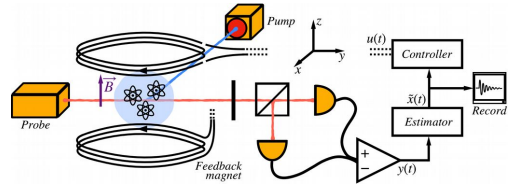
entangled states

$$\Delta^2 \tilde{B} \sim \frac{1}{N^2}$$

HL

any local noise

$$\Delta^2 \tilde{B} \sim \frac{\text{const}}{N}$$

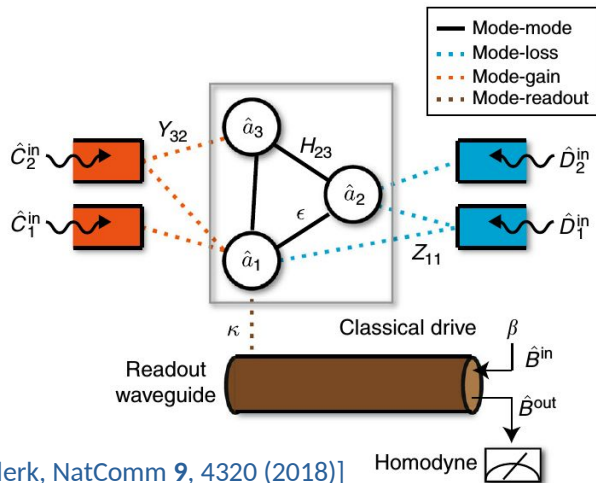


[J. Amoros-Binefa & JK, NJP 23 123030 (2021)]

CHANGE OF PARADIGM: “instability-tuned” dissipative quantum sensors:

AIM: Control and *fine-tune the noise*, so that the quantum system is very sensitive to small perturbations.

Linear quantum sensors within the **input-output (Langevin)** formalism:



[H.-K. Lau & A.A. Clerk, NatComm 9, 4320 (2018)]

$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} := \{\hat{a}_1, \hat{a}_2, \dots\}^T$$

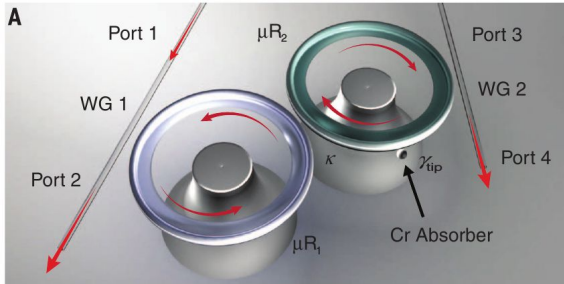
$$\partial_t \hat{\mathbf{a}} = -i \mathbf{H} \hat{\mathbf{a}} + \hat{\mathbf{C}}_{\text{in}} + \hat{\mathbf{D}}_{\text{in}} + \hat{\mathbf{B}}_{\text{in}},$$

Non-Hermitian dynamical generator

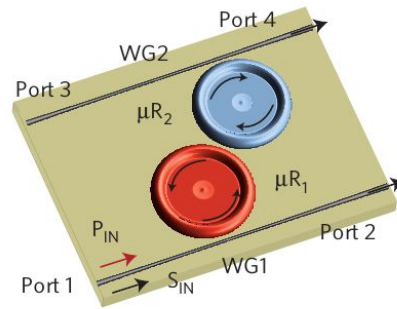
Measured **signal modes:**

$$\hat{B}_{\ell, \text{out}}(t) = \hat{B}_{\ell, \text{in}}(t) - \sqrt{\kappa} \hat{a}_\ell(t)$$

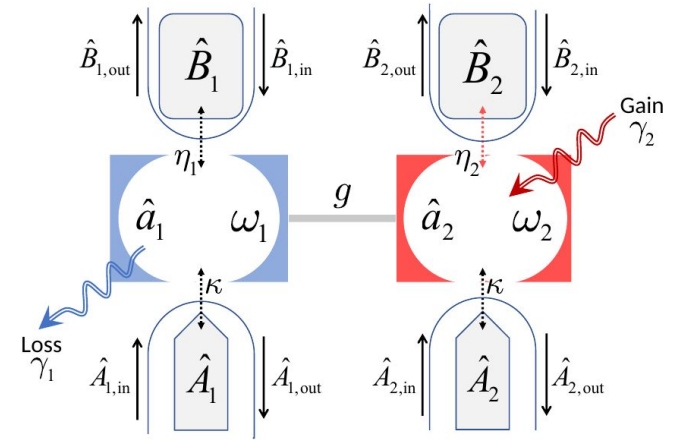
Canonical two-cavity system



[Peng et al, Science **346**, 328 (2014)]



[Peng et al, NatPhys **10**, 394 (2014)]



Reduced dynamics of the cavities with equal internal frequencies: $\omega_0 := \omega_1 = \omega_2$

$$\hat{H} = \omega_0(\hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_1 + \hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_2) + g(\hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_1 + \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_2)$$

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = -i[\hat{H}, \rho] + \gamma_1 \left(\hat{a}_1 \rho \hat{a}_1^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} \{ \hat{a}_1^\dagger \hat{a}_1, \rho \} \right) + \gamma_2 \left(\hat{a}_2 \rho \hat{a}_2^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} \{ \hat{a}_2^\dagger \hat{a}_2, \rho \} \right)$$



$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} := \{ \hat{a}_1, \hat{a}_2 \}^T$$

$$\partial_t \hat{\mathbf{a}} = -i(\omega_0 \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{H}) \hat{\mathbf{a}}$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma_1 & g \\ g & +i\gamma_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Non-Hermitian dynamical generator

Exceptional point (EP)

when both eigenvalues and eigenvectors coalesce ($g = \gamma_+$)

Consider perturbation @ an EP, e.g. internal frequency or loss rate:

$$\mathbf{H}' = \mathbf{H} + \epsilon \mathbf{V} \quad \mathbf{V} = \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$



$$\Delta\lambda \sim \sqrt{\epsilon} + O(\epsilon^{3/2})$$

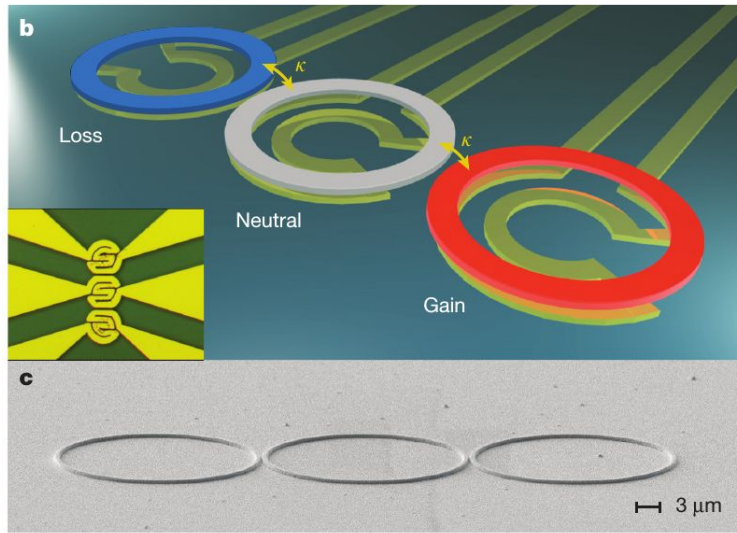
$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \Delta\lambda \sim \epsilon^{1/n} \\ \text{At an EP of the } n^{\text{th}}\text{-order} \end{array} \right]$$

**Infinitely steep signal
in the limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$!!!**

$$\lambda_{\pm} = -i\gamma_{\pm} \pm \sqrt{g^2 - \gamma_{\pm}^2}, \quad |e_{\pm}\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma_{\pm} \pm \sqrt{g^2 - \gamma_{\pm}^2} \\ g \end{pmatrix}, \quad \gamma_{\pm} = \frac{\gamma_1 \pm \gamma_2}{2}$$

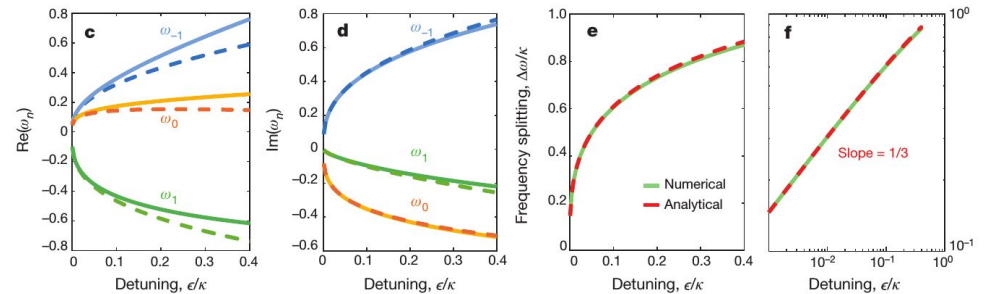
“EP-enhanced” sensing

Three-cavity system → 3rd order EP:

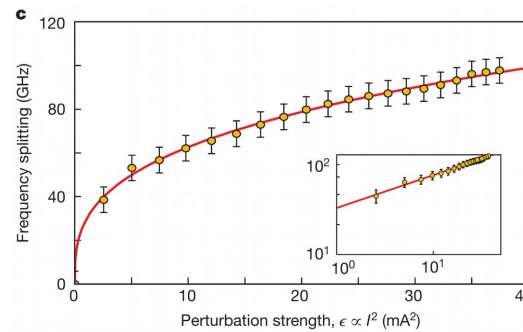
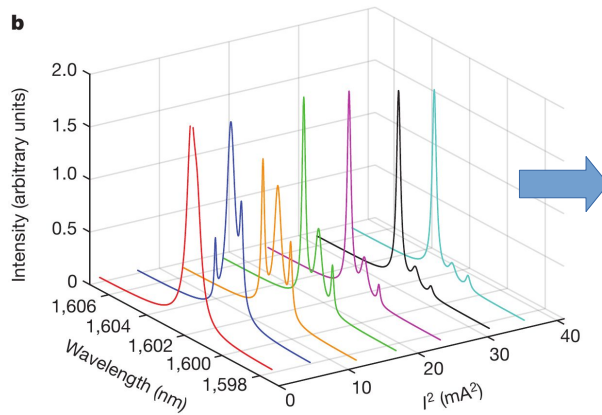


Perturbation of gain in the 1st cavity:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} ig + \epsilon & \kappa & 0 \\ \kappa & 0 & \kappa \\ 0 & \kappa & -ig \end{pmatrix}$$



Spectral density measurement as a function of perturbation ($\epsilon = I^2$):



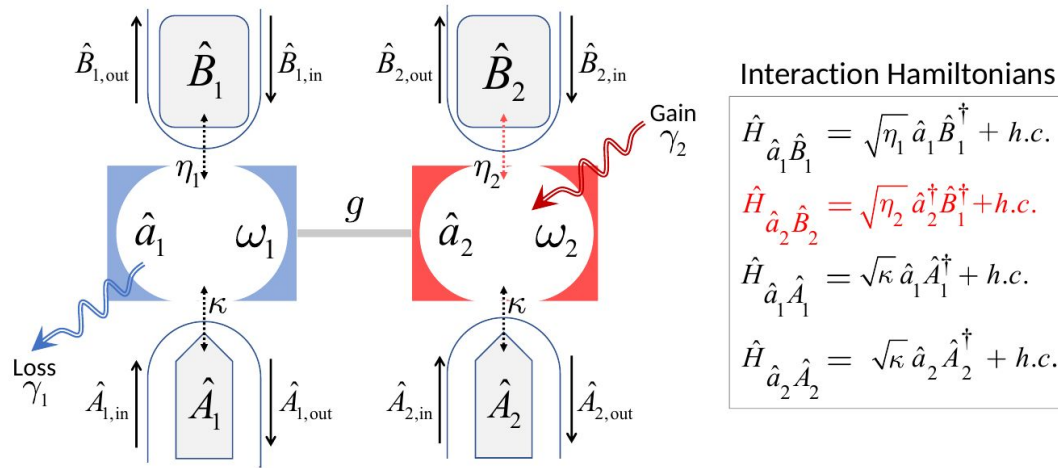
$$\Delta\lambda \sim \epsilon^{1/3}$$

Ok, signal is very sensitive
(steep slope)
to small ϵ variations....

But what is the level of
(quantum) noise ???

Canonical two-cavity system: quantum model

[arXiv:2303.05532]



Input-output (linear) dynamics including *probing* (A) and *scattering* (B) modes:

$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} := \{\hat{a}_1, \hat{a}_2\}^T \quad (\omega_0 := \omega_1 = \omega_2)$$

As before: $\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma_1 & g \\ g & +i\gamma_2 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\partial_t \hat{\mathbf{a}} = -i(\omega_0 \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{H}) \hat{\mathbf{a}} + \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{\text{in}} + \hat{\mathbf{B}}_{\text{in}}$$

$$\gamma_1 = \frac{\eta_1 + \kappa}{2}, \quad \gamma_2 = \frac{\eta_2 - \kappa}{2}$$

Gaussian state of the output mode *measured at the frequency* ω :

$$\hat{A}_{\ell, \text{out}}[\omega] := \int dt e^{i\omega t} \hat{A}_{\ell, \text{out}}(t) \quad \text{"on resonance" measurement: } (\omega = \omega_0)$$

Gaussian input-output relations for mode at frequency ω :

mean: $\mathbf{S}_{\text{out}}^A = (\mathbf{I} - \kappa \mathbf{G}) \mathbf{S}_{\text{in}}^A$

variance: $\mathbf{V}_{\text{out}}^A = (\mathbf{I} - \kappa \mathbf{G}) \mathbf{V}_{\text{in}}^A (\mathbf{I} - \kappa \mathbf{G})^T + \kappa \mathbf{G} \Xi \tilde{\mathbf{V}}_{\text{in}}^B \Xi^T \mathbf{G}^T$



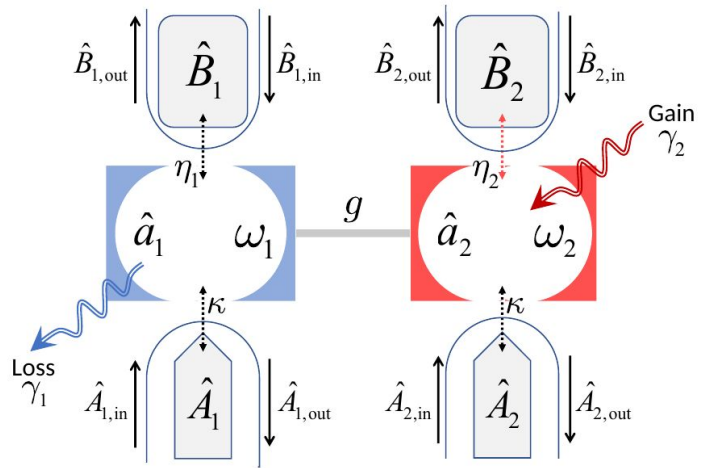
Central object: linear response

$$\mathbf{G}[\omega = \omega_0] = \mathbf{J} (\epsilon \mathbf{V} - \mathbf{H})^{-1}$$

$$\mathbf{H} := \begin{pmatrix} \Re[\mathbf{H}] & -\Im[\mathbf{H}] \\ \Im[\mathbf{H}] & \Re[\mathbf{H}] \end{pmatrix}$$

Canonical two-cavity system: quantum model

[arXiv:2303.05532]



Interaction Hamiltonians

$$\hat{H}_{\hat{a}_1 \hat{B}_1} = \sqrt{\eta_1} \hat{a}_1 \hat{B}_1^\dagger + h.c.$$

$$\hat{H}_{\hat{a}_2 \hat{B}_2} = \sqrt{\eta_2} \hat{a}_2 \hat{B}_2^\dagger + h.c.$$

$$\hat{H}_{\hat{a}_1 \hat{A}_1} = \sqrt{\kappa} \hat{a}_1 \hat{A}_1^\dagger + h.c.$$

$$\hat{H}_{\hat{a}_2 \hat{A}_2} = \sqrt{\kappa} \hat{a}_2 \hat{A}_2^\dagger + h.c.$$

Gaussian input-output relations:
(mean, variance)

$$\mathbf{S}_{\text{out}}^A = (\mathbf{I} - \kappa \mathbf{G}) \mathbf{S}_{\text{in}}^A$$

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{out}}^A = (\mathbf{I} - \kappa \mathbf{G}) \mathbf{V}_{\text{in}}^A (\mathbf{I} - \kappa \mathbf{G})^T + \kappa \mathbf{G} \Xi \tilde{\mathbf{V}}_{\text{in}}^B \Xi^T \mathbf{G}^T$$

Gaussian formalism for sensing **multiparameter** linear perturbations

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} := \{\theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots\}$$

$$\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{J} (\epsilon \mathbf{V} - \mathbf{H})^{-1}$$



$$\mathbf{G}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \mathbf{J} \left(\sum_{i=0}^m \theta_i \mathbf{V}_i - \mathbf{H} \right)^{-1} = \mathbf{J} (\theta_0 \mathbf{n}_0 - \mathbf{H}_{\bar{\boldsymbol{\theta}}})^{-1}$$

nuisance

Quantum Cramer-Rao Bound for Gaussian states:

$$\Delta^2 \tilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}} := \mathbb{E} [(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \boldsymbol{\theta})(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}} - \boldsymbol{\theta})^T]$$

$$\nu \Delta^2 \tilde{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \geq \mathbf{F}^{-1} \geq \mathcal{F}^{-1}$$

Fisher Information matrices:

classical (CFIM):
$$\mathbf{F}_{jk} = \frac{1}{2} [\mathbf{C}^{-1} (\partial_j \mathbf{C}) \mathbf{C}^{-1} (\partial_k \mathbf{C})] + (\partial_j \bar{\mathbf{x}})^T \mathbf{C}^{-1} (\partial_k \bar{\mathbf{x}})$$

e.g. heterodyne

$$\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{S}_{\text{out}}^A$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{V}_{\text{out}}^A + \mathbf{I}$$

“noisy” quantum (QFIM):
$$\mathcal{F}_{jk} \approx \frac{1}{2} [(\mathbf{V}_{\text{out}}^A)^{-1} (\partial_j \mathbf{V}_{\text{out}}^A) (\mathbf{V}_{\text{out}}^A)^{-1} (\partial_k \mathbf{V}_{\text{out}}^A)] + (\partial_j \mathbf{S}_{\text{out}}^A)^T (\mathbf{V}_{\text{out}}^A)^{-1} (\partial_k \mathbf{S}_{\text{out}}^A)$$

Canonical two-cavity system: quantum model

Linear response determines the behaviour of the **single-parameter QFI**:

$$G_\theta = J(\theta_0 V_0 - H)^{-1} \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}_{00} \approx \frac{1}{2} [(V_{\text{out}}^A)^{-1} (\partial_0 V_{\text{out}}^A) (V_{\text{out}}^A)^{-1} (\partial_0 V_{\text{out}}^A)] + (\partial_0 S_{\text{out}}^A)^T (V_{\text{out}}^A)^{-1} (\partial_0 S_{\text{out}}^A)$$

Result 1:

non-singular
dynamical
generator

$$\det \mathbf{H} \neq 0$$

linear response admits
Neumann series:

$$G_{\theta_0} = -JH^{-1} \left(I + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \theta_0^k (n_0 H^{-1})^k \right) \longrightarrow \lim_{\theta_0 \rightarrow 0} G_{\theta_0} = -JH^{-1}$$

no possibility for the divergence of the QFI
i.e. precision.

$$\mathcal{F}_{00} \approx \text{const} + O(\theta_0)$$

Consequence: Satisfying EP cannot have impact on its own. ($g = \gamma_+$)

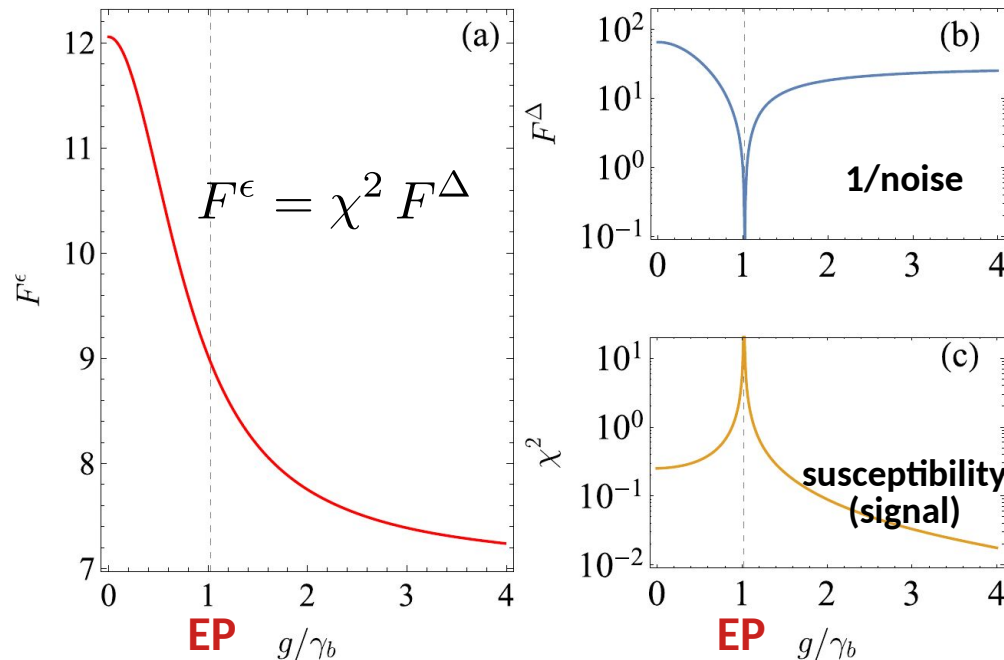
[Chen et al, NJP 21, 083002 (2019)]

$$(g^2 \neq \gamma_1 \gamma_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma_1 & g \\ g & +i\gamma_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Take home lesson:

verify whether conclusions
Gaussian input-output relations:
are not consequences of just
(mean, variance)
the mathematical description
itself, rather that the actual
physics of the system.
 $V_{\text{out}}^A = (I - \kappa G) V_{\text{in}}^A (I - \kappa G)^T$
Example: coordinates
(Schwarzschild \rightarrow Lemaitre)
in black-hole description.



Canonical two-cavity system: quantum model

[arXiv:2303.05532]

Linear response determines the behaviour of the **single-parameter QFI**:

$$G_\theta = J(\theta_0 V_0 - H)^{-1} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{F}_{00} \approx \frac{1}{2} [(V_{\text{out}}^A)^{-1} (\partial_0 V_{\text{out}}^A) (V_{\text{out}}^A)^{-1} (\partial_0 V_{\text{out}}^A)] + (\partial_0 S_{\text{out}}^A)^T (V_{\text{out}}^A)^{-1} (\partial_0 S_{\text{out}}^A)$$

Result 2:

singular
dynamical
generator



linear response must be expanded around the *singularity* (Sain-Massey expansion):

$$G_{\theta_0} = J \theta_0^{-s} \sum_{k=0}^r \theta_0^k X_k$$



$$\mathcal{F}_{00}^S \approx \theta_0^{-2s} (\text{const} + O(\theta_0))$$

QFI diverges at the rate given by the **pole order** s of the linear-response function

$$\det \mathbf{H} = 0$$

$$(g^2 = \gamma_1 \gamma_2)$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma_1 & g \\ g & +i\gamma_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Cramer-Rao Bound:

$$\delta_Q \theta_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mathcal{F}_{00}}} \propto \theta_0^s$$

**Error is vanishing as $\theta_0 \rightarrow 0$,
i.e. perfect precision at a singularity**

@ *singularity*:

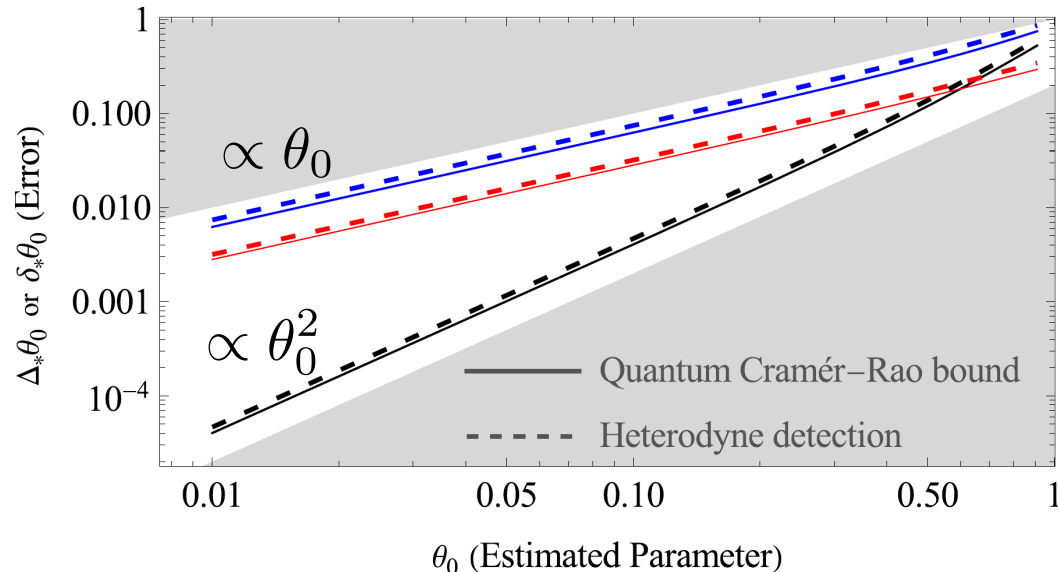
$$\mathbf{H}' = \mathbf{H} + \theta_0 \mathbf{V}$$

two-mode perturbation:

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \longrightarrow \quad s = 2 \text{ pole order}$$

single-mode perturbation:

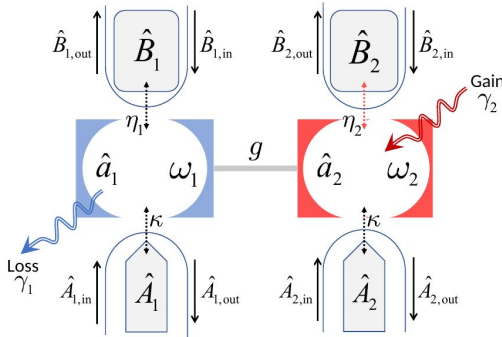
$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \longrightarrow \quad s = 1 \text{ pole order}$$



Canonical two-cavity system: quantum model

[arXiv:2303.05532]

Physical interpretation of the *singularity-enhanced sensing*:



$$\hat{\mathbf{a}} := \{\hat{a}_1, \hat{a}_2\}^T \quad (\omega_0 := \omega_1 = \omega_2)$$

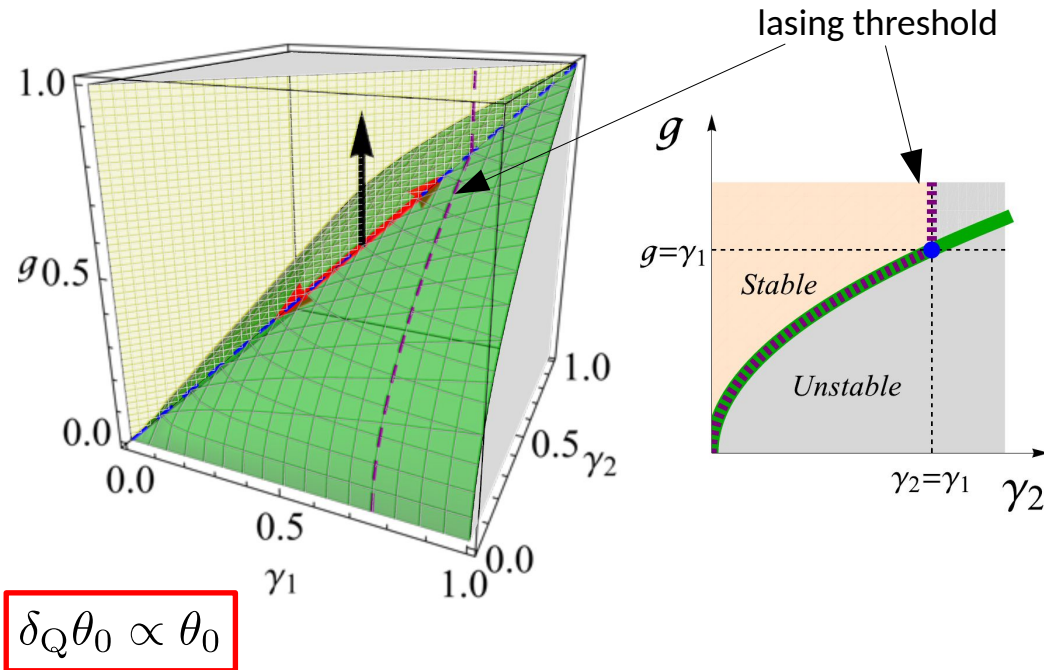
$$\partial_t \hat{\mathbf{a}} = -i(\omega_0 \mathbf{I} + \mathbf{H}) \hat{\mathbf{a}} + \hat{\mathbf{A}}_{\text{in}} + \hat{\mathbf{B}}_{\text{in}}$$

$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma_1 & g \\ g & +i\gamma_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_{\pm} = -i\gamma_{\pm} \pm \sqrt{g^2 - \gamma_{\pm}^2}$$

“on resonance” measurement: $(\omega = \omega_0)$

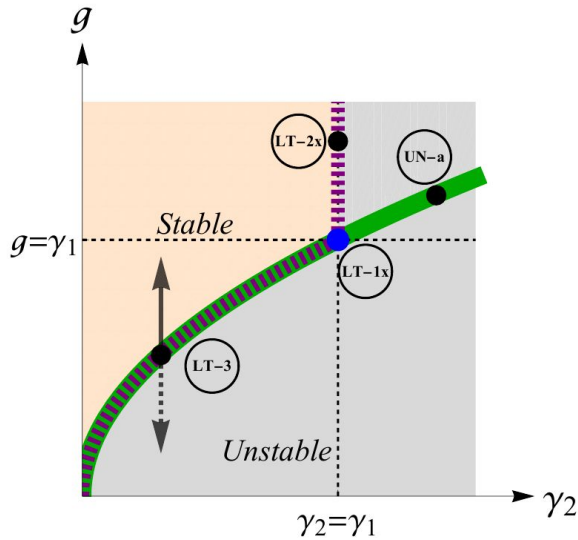
Different dynamical conditions in the space of parameters:

- 1) **Singularity** yields the *green surface* in the parameter space.
 $\det \mathbf{H} = 0 \quad (g^2 = \gamma_1 \gamma_2)$
- 2) **Exceptional point** is nothing special, but works in the special case of a *balanced system* (*blue dashed line*). $(g = \gamma \text{ with } \gamma := \gamma_1 = \gamma_2)$
- 3) **IMPORTANT:** The system becomes unstable when eigenvalues have positive imaginary part (*grey regimes*), corresponding to the **lasing threshold**, but singularity is not equivalent.
- 4) If one introduces a **nuisance parameter**—whose variations (*red arrow*, in contrast to *black arrow*) preserve the singularity, then the error behaviour gets degraded: $\delta_Q \theta_0 \propto \theta_0^2 \rightarrow \delta_Q \theta_0 \propto \theta_0$



Canonical two-cavity system: quantum model

Different ways to **operate** (on a singular point!) the system v.s. **perturb** the system:

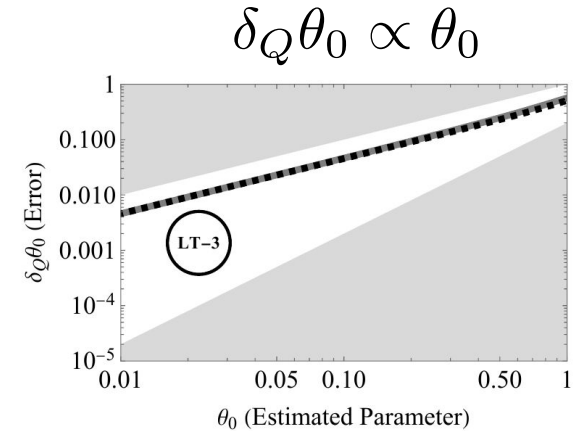


Perturbing the coupling constant g at the **lasing threshold** (LT):

$$G[\omega = \omega_0] = J (\epsilon V - H)^{-1}$$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma_1 & g \\ g & +i\gamma_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$V = \pm \sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow s = 1 \text{ pole order}$$



Generalise to measurements
"beyond resonance"

$$(\omega \neq \omega_0)$$

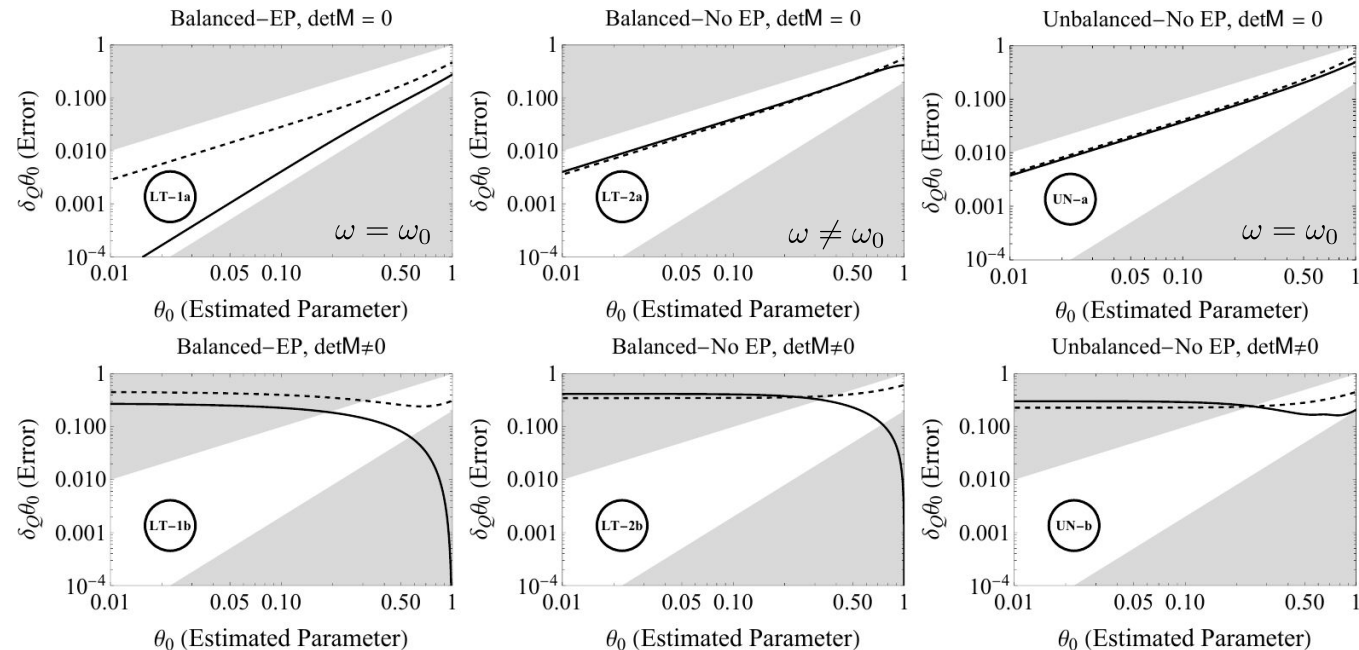
$$G[\omega] = J (\epsilon V + M[\omega])^{-1}$$

$$M[\omega] = (\omega - \omega_0)I - H$$

now, the **effective dynamical generator** (in the Fourier space), whose singularity is essential!

two-mode freq. perturbation $\rightarrow V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

single-mode freq. perturbation $\rightarrow V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$



Summary

- 1) **Non-Hermitian sensors** involve systems described by **Hermitian Hamiltonians!**
...but the *nomenclature of non-Hermitian Hamiltonians* is used to describe dynamical generators...
- 2) It is *not* enough to study the behaviour of the measured signal:
i.e. it is always the **signal-to-noise ratio** (SNR) that correctly quantifies the precision.
Such an issue is naturally taken care of by classical/quantum **Fisher information** (FI).
- 3) It is the **singularity of the linear-response** (Green's) **function** that leads to the divergence of the FI – infinite precision at the singular point (*criticality*).
- 4) However, all this relies on **fine-tuning of the system**:
Even within the *local (frequentist) approach* to estimation the sensing capabilities depend on the ability to estimate other (irrelevant) parameters – **nuisance parameters**.



**Thank you very much for
your attention!**



Sain-Massey procedure: singular-matrix perturbations

Let $A(z) = A_0 + zA_1 + z^2A_2 + \dots$ be an analytic matrix-valued function of z in some non-empty neighbourhood of $z = 0$, such that $A^{-1}(z)$ exists in some (possibly punctured) disc centered at $z = 0$.

Then, $A^{-1}(z)$ possesses a Laurent series expansion

$$A^{-1}(z) = \frac{1}{z^s} (X_0 + zX_1 + z^2X_2 + \dots),$$

where $X_0 \neq 0$ and s is a natural number, known as the order of the pole at $z = 0$. The pole order s and the coefficient-matrices X_i can be determined by the *Sain-Massey* (SM) procedure as follows.

Firstly, compute the so-called *augmented matrix* as

$$\mathcal{A}^{(t)} := \begin{pmatrix} A_0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ A_1 & A_0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ A_2 & A_1 & A_0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ A_t & A_{t-1} & A_{t-2} & \dots & A_0 \end{pmatrix},$$

Secondly, compute the (Moore–Penrose) *pseudoinverse* of the augmented matrix at the pole level ($t = s$), i.e.:

$$\mathcal{G}^{(s)} := [\mathcal{A}^{(s)}]^+.$$



and stop at t such that $\mathcal{A}^{(t)} - \mathcal{A}^{(t-1)} = n$, where n is the dimension of $A(z)$. The *order of the pole* s is then given by such smallest possible value of t .

Now, the first (coefficient) matrix in the expansion is given by the top-right block of the matrix $\mathcal{G}^{(s)}$, i.e. $X_0 = \mathcal{G}_{0s}^{(s)}$ with

$$\mathcal{G}^{(s)} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{G}_{00}^{(s)} & \dots & \mathcal{G}_{0s}^{(s)} \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \mathcal{G}_{s0}^{(s)} & \dots & \mathcal{G}_{ss}^{(s)} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The higher X_k with $k = 1, 2, \dots$ are obtained with help of other blocks via the recursive formula:

$$X_k = \sum_{j=0}^s \mathcal{G}_{0j}^{(s)} \left(\delta_{j+k,s} - \sum_{i=1}^k A_{i+j} X_{k-i} \right).$$