

Uncertainty in number of quanta.

Suppose the field is initially in a coherent state, i.e. the probability of measuring n photons at $t=0$ is:

$$P_n(0) = \frac{\langle n \rangle^n}{n!} e^{-\langle n \rangle} \quad \text{where } \langle n \rangle \text{ is the average photon number} \quad \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\langle n \rangle^n}{n!} e^{-\langle n \rangle} = e^{\langle n \rangle} e^{-\langle n \rangle} = 1 \right)$$

\Rightarrow If the atom is initially in the ground state:

$$|\Psi(0)\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\langle n \rangle^n}{n!} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{\langle n \rangle}{2}} |g, n\rangle$$

$$|\Psi(t)\rangle = \hat{U}(t) |\Psi(0)\rangle \quad \text{Assuming resonance}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\langle n \rangle^n}{n!} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{\langle n \rangle}{2}} (-i \sin(\lambda \sqrt{n} t) |e, n-1\rangle + \cos(\lambda \sqrt{n} t) |g, n\rangle)$$

\Rightarrow The probability of measuring excited state:

$$P_e(t) = \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\langle n \rangle^n}{n!} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{\langle n \rangle}{2}} \sin(\lambda \sqrt{n} t) \right)^2$$