Parameter estimation with correlated photon pairs

Jan Gößwein

Institute of Applied Physics

Jena, November 27, 2025

Motivation

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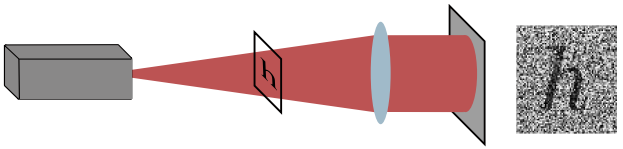

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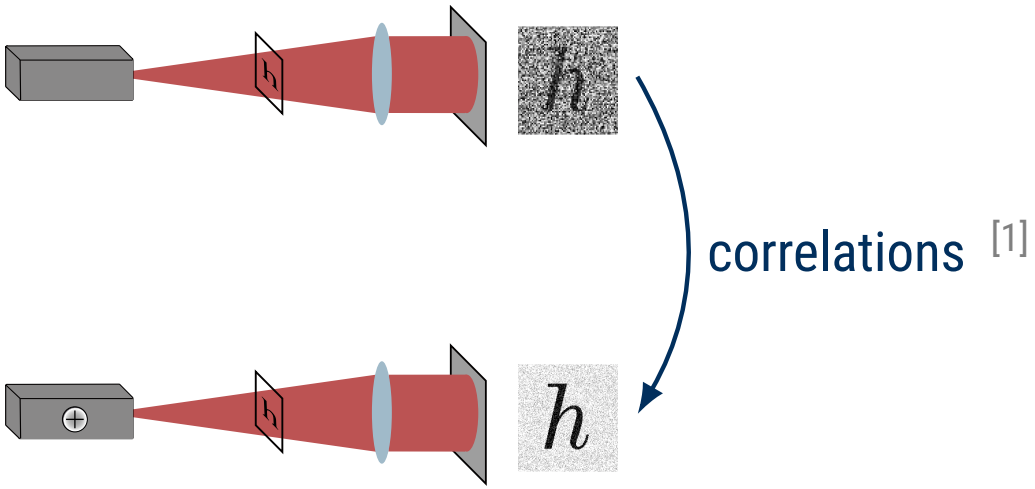

[1] Brida, Genovese, and Ruo Berchera, “Experimental Realization of Sub-Shot-Noise Quantum Imaging”, Apr. 2010

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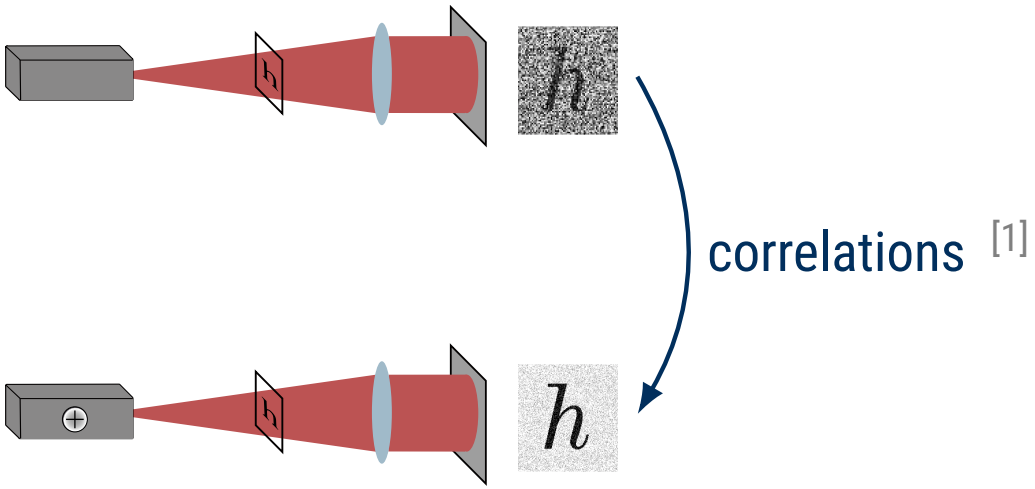

Objective: Can correlated photons provide advantages in terms of precision in noisy regimes for parameter estimation?

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Spontaneous parametric down-conversion

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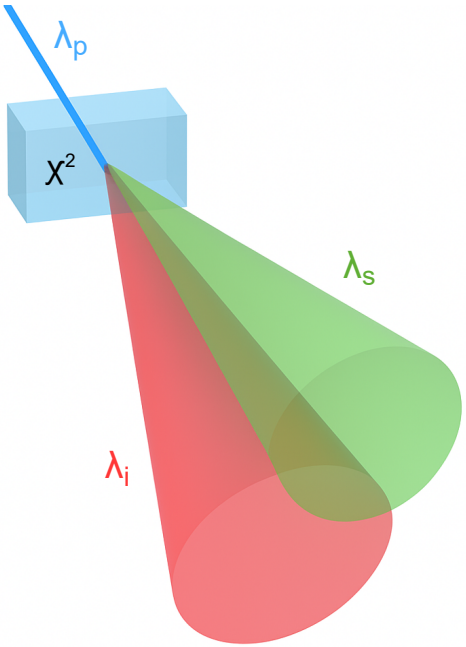

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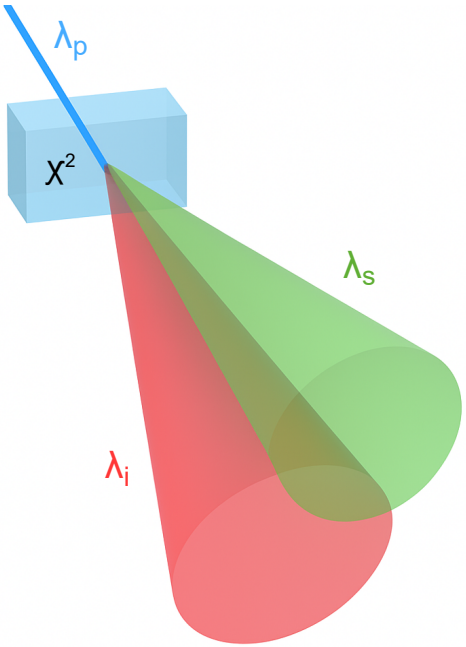

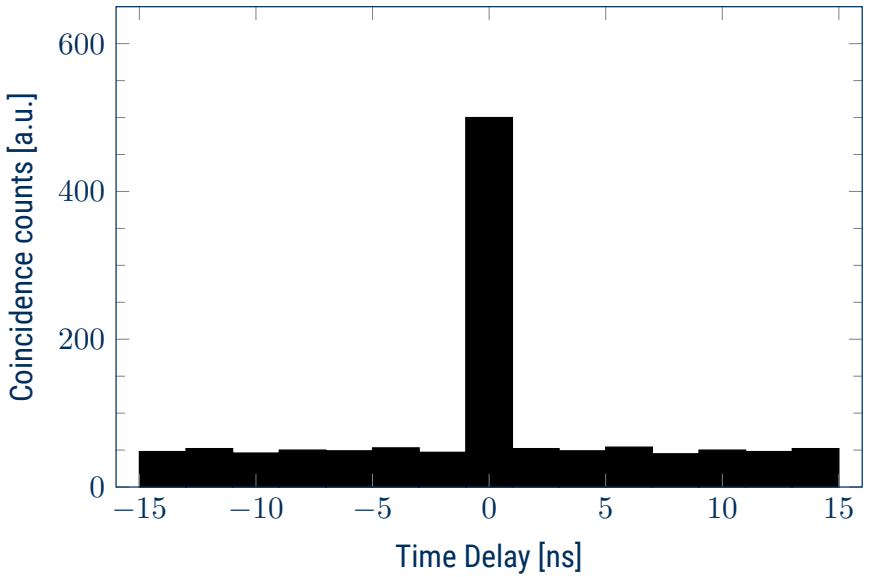

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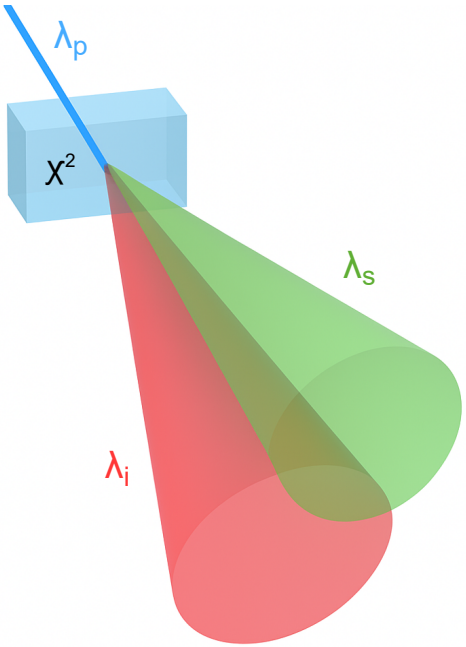

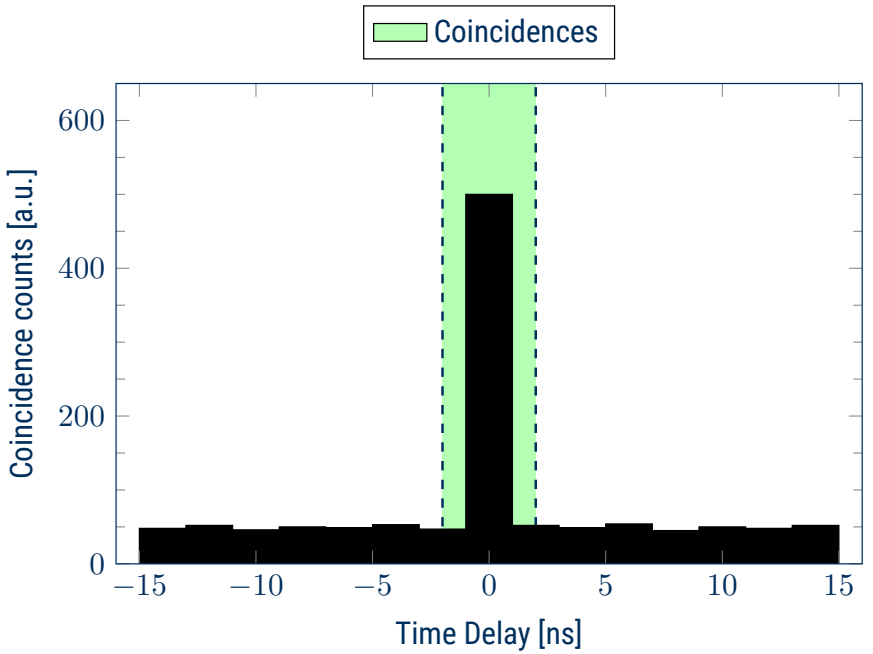

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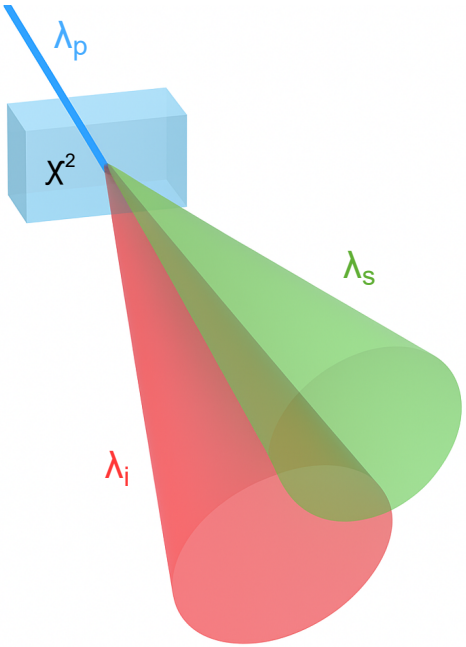

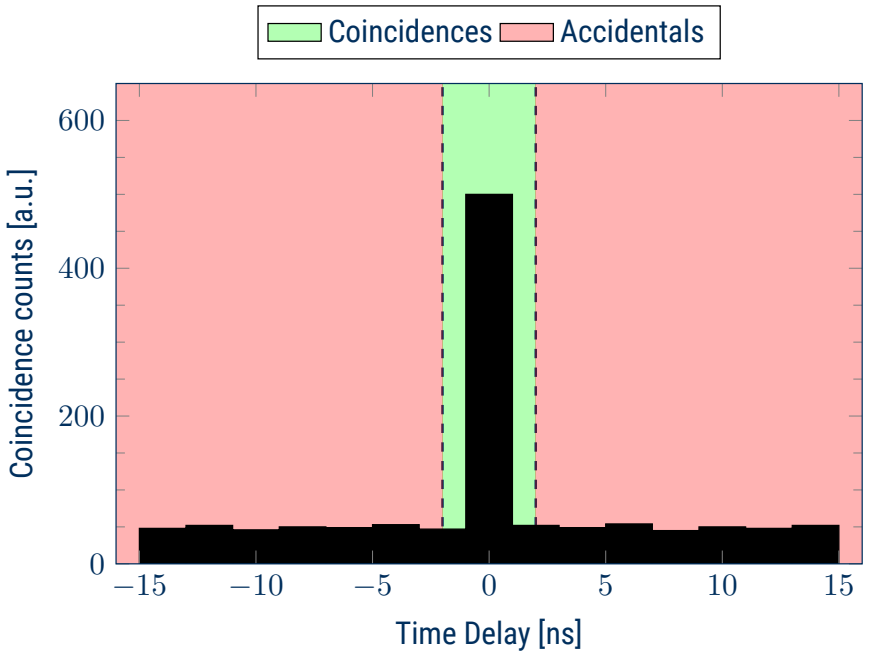

Parameter estimation

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Setup: Transmission setup

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Precision: Var(T)

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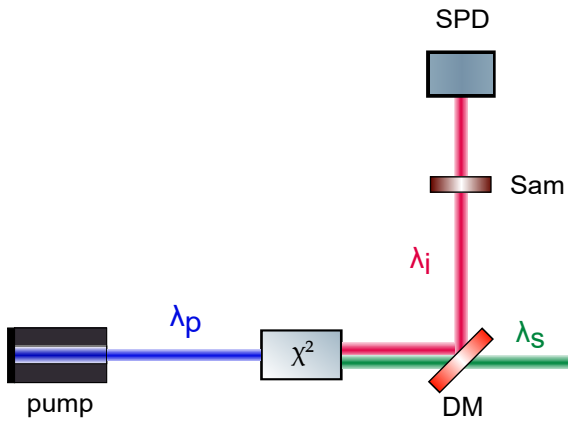
Conventional approach:



Parameter estimation

Setup: Transmission setup
Parameter: Transmittance T
Precision: Var(T)

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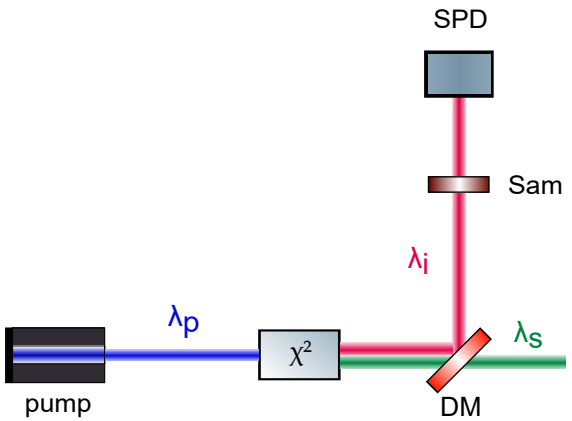

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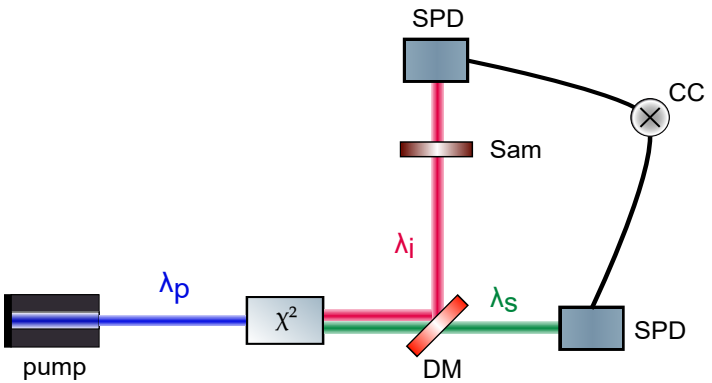

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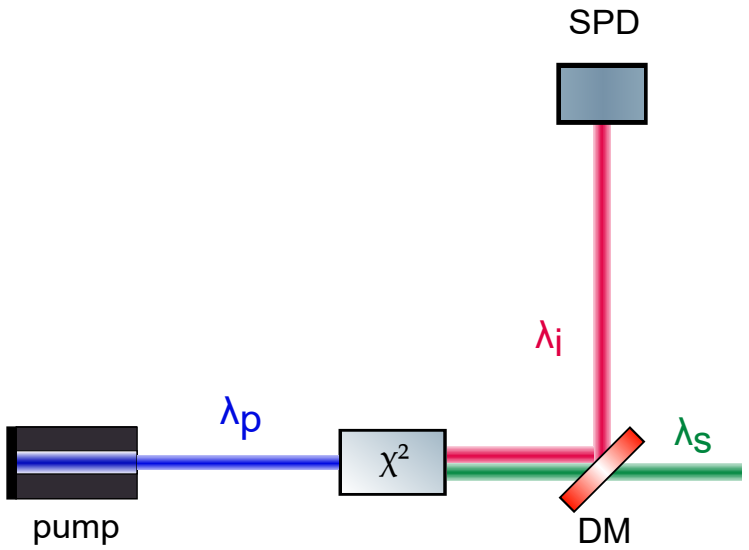
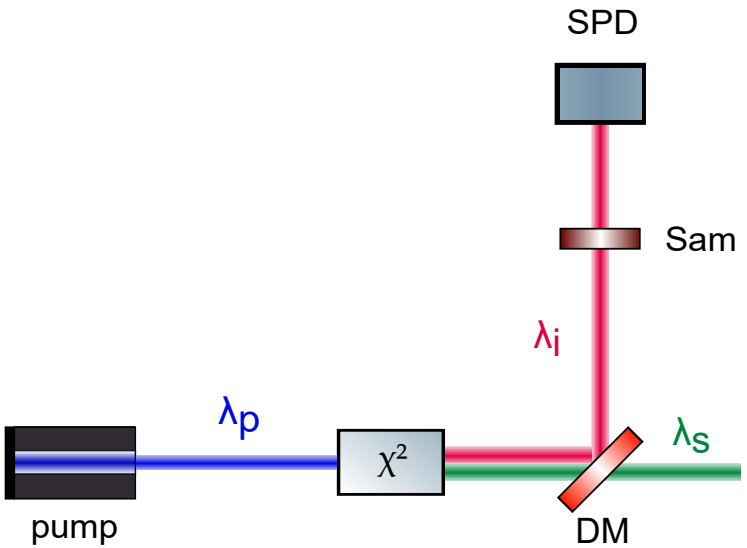


$$N_{\text{sing}}^{\text{ref}} = \eta_{\text{idl}} N_{\text{g}} + N_{\text{noise}}^{\text{ref}}$$

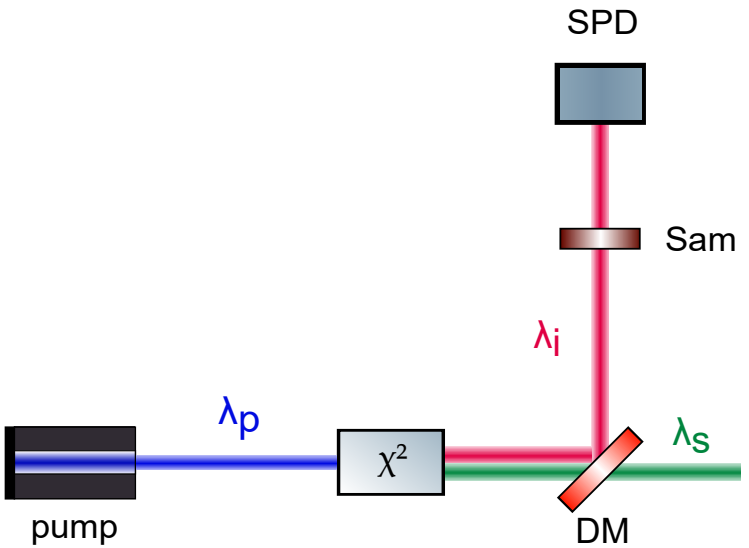
Conventional approach



$$N_{\text{sing}}^{\text{ref}} = \eta_{\text{idl}} N_{\text{g}} + N_{\text{noise}}^{\text{ref}}$$

$$N_{\text{sing}}^{\text{sam}} = T\,\eta_{\text{idl}} N_{\text{g}} + N_{\text{noise}}^{\text{sam}}$$

Conventional approach



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$$N_{\text{sing}}^{\text{sam}} = T\,\eta_{\text{idl}} N_{\text{g}} + N_{\text{noise}}^{\text{sam}}$$

$$\Rightarrow T = \frac{N_{\text{sing}}^{\text{sam}} - N_{\text{noise}}^{\text{sam}}}{N_{\text{sing}}^{\text{ref}} - N_{\text{noise}}^{\text{ref}}}$$

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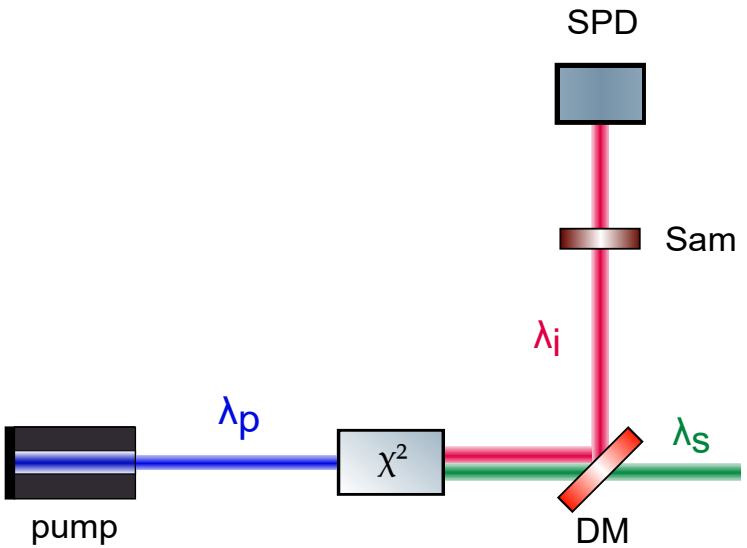

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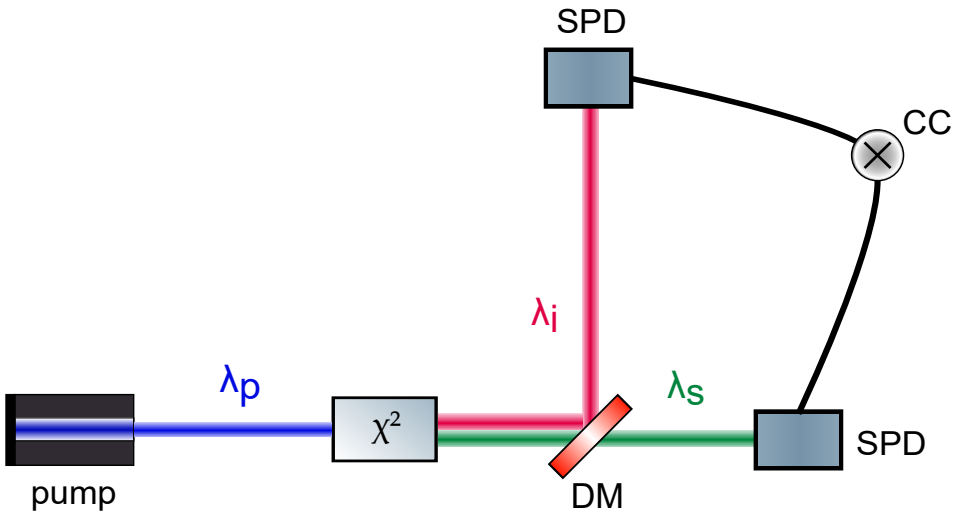
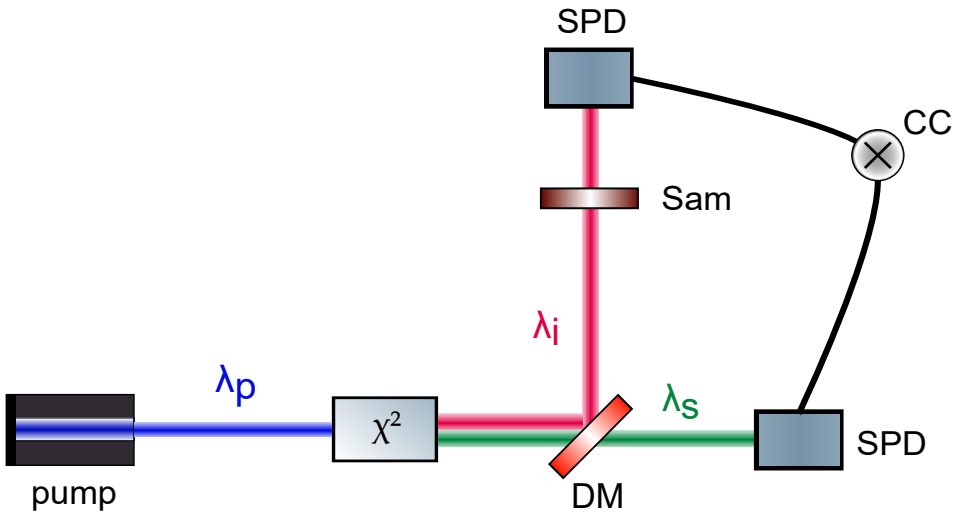
$$\text{Var}(T) = (\eta_{\text{idl}}\, N_{\text{g}})^{-2} \left[\text{Var}\left(N_{\text{sing}}^{\text{sam}}\right) + \text{Var}\left(N_{\text{noise}}^{\text{sam}}\right) + T^2 \left[\text{Var}\left(N_{\text{sing}}^{\text{ref}}\right) + \text{Var}\left(N_{\text{noise}}^{\text{ref}}\right) \right] \right]$$

Coincidence approach



$$N_{\text{coin}}^{\text{ref}} = \eta_{\text{idl}}\,\eta_{\text{sig}}\,N_{\text{g}} + N_{\text{ac}}^{\text{ref}}$$

Coincidence approach



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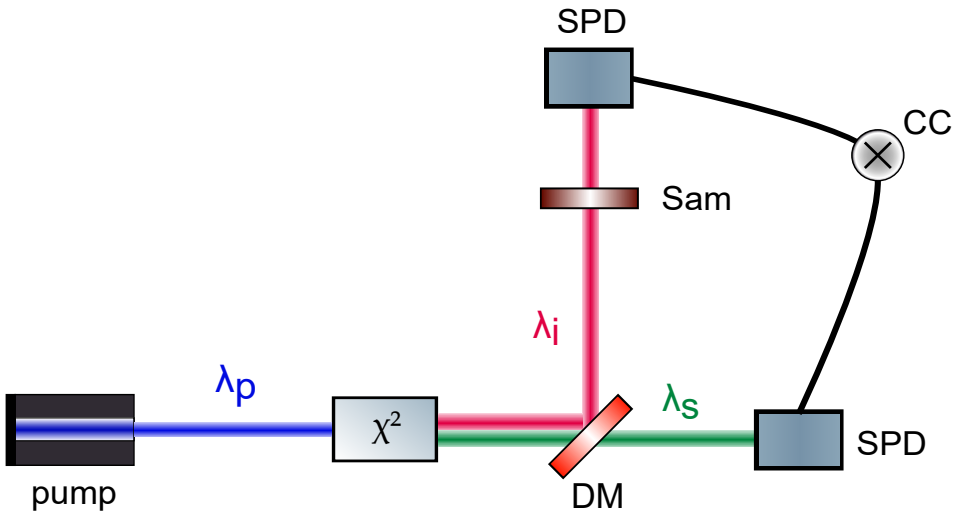

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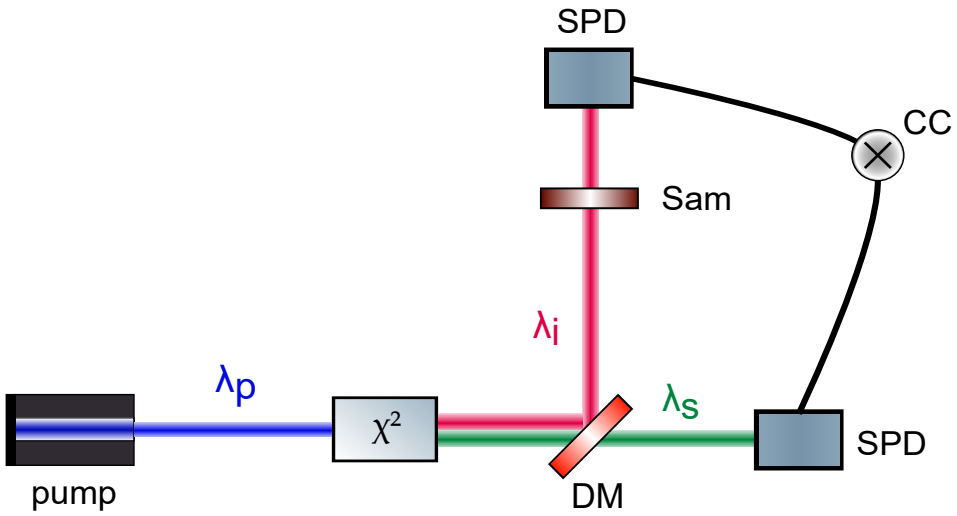

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Transmittance model

Conventional approach:

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Photon statistics

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Poisson distribution (coherent light):

$$\mathcal{P}(n) = \frac{\langle n \rangle^n}{n!} e^{-\langle n \rangle}$$
$$\mathrm{Var}(n) = \langle n \rangle$$

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Poisson distribution (coherent light): [2][3]

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[2] Kim et al., "Photon-Counting Statistics-Based Support Vector Machine with Multi-Mode Photon Illumination for Quantum Imaging", Oct. 2022

[3] Fouche, "Detection and False-Alarm Probabilities for Laser Radars That Use Geiger-mode Detectors", Sept. 2003

Photon statistics

Poisson distribution (coherent light): [2][3]

$$\mathcal{P}(n) = \frac{\langle n \rangle^n}{n!} e^{-\langle n \rangle}$$
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Multi-mode Bose-Einstein distribution (thermal light): [2]

$$\mathcal{P}_m(n) = \frac{(n+m-1)!}{(m-1)!\,n!} \frac{m^m \langle n \rangle^n}{(m+\langle n \rangle)^{n+m}}$$
$$\mathrm{Var}(n) = \langle n \rangle \left(1 + \frac{\langle n \rangle}{m}\right)$$

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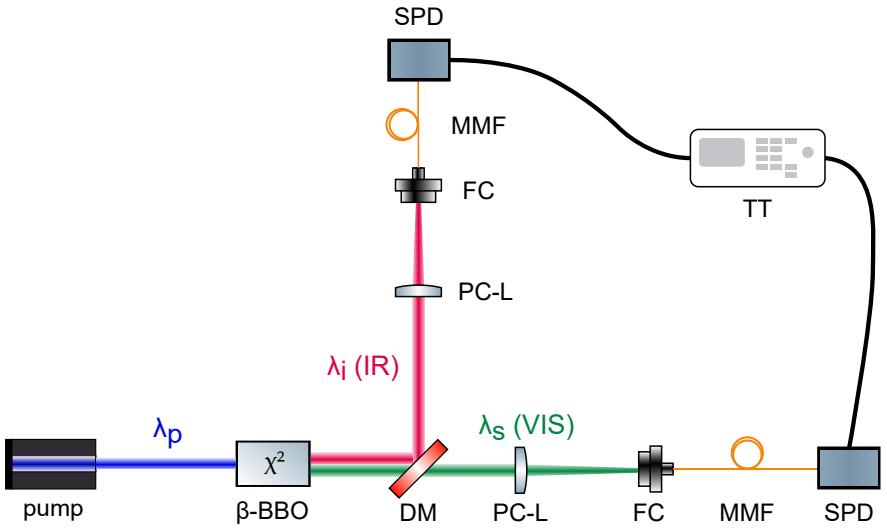
Experimental setup



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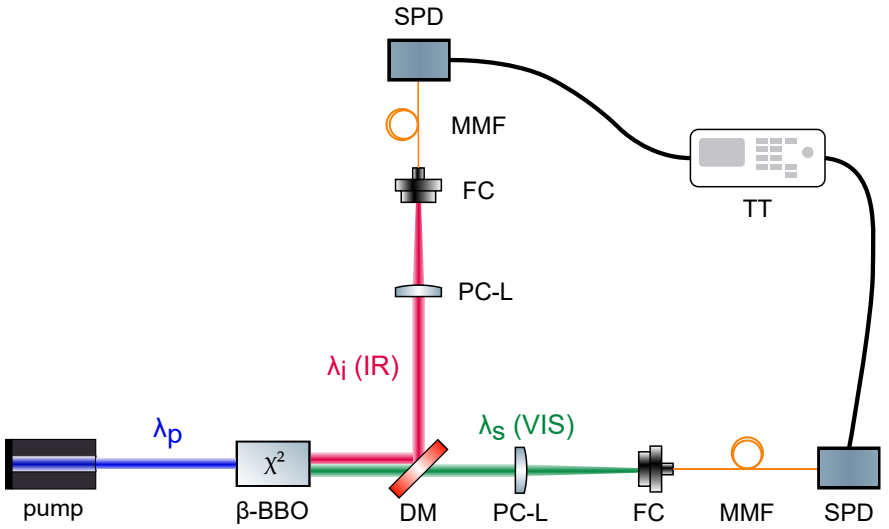

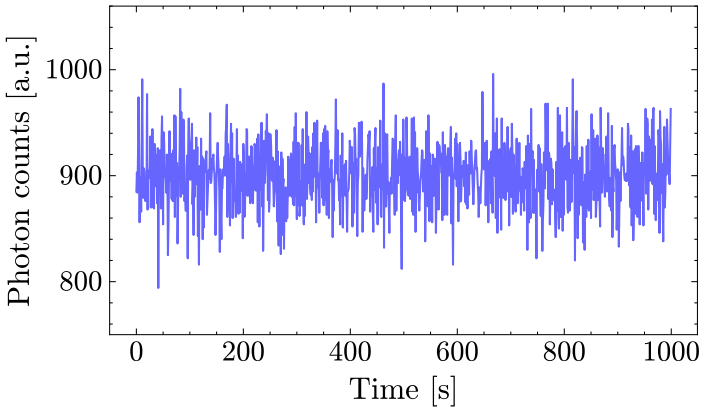

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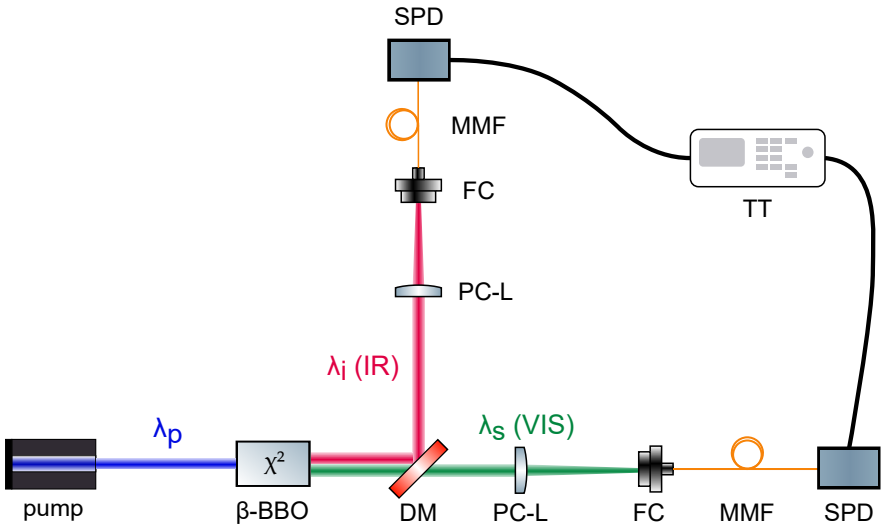

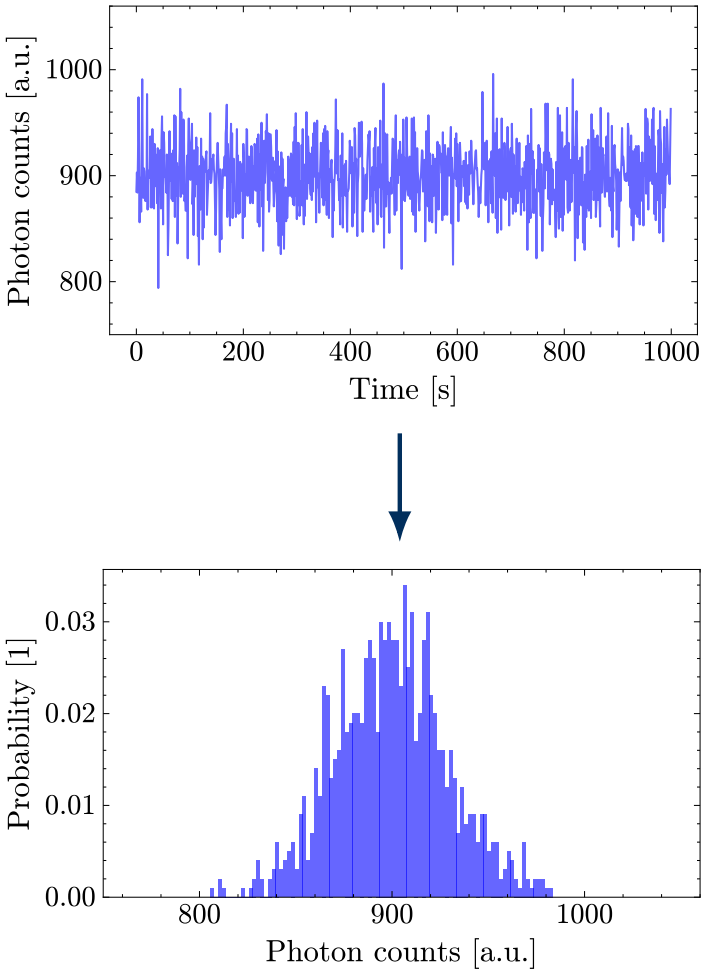

Dark counts, $\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{noise}})$

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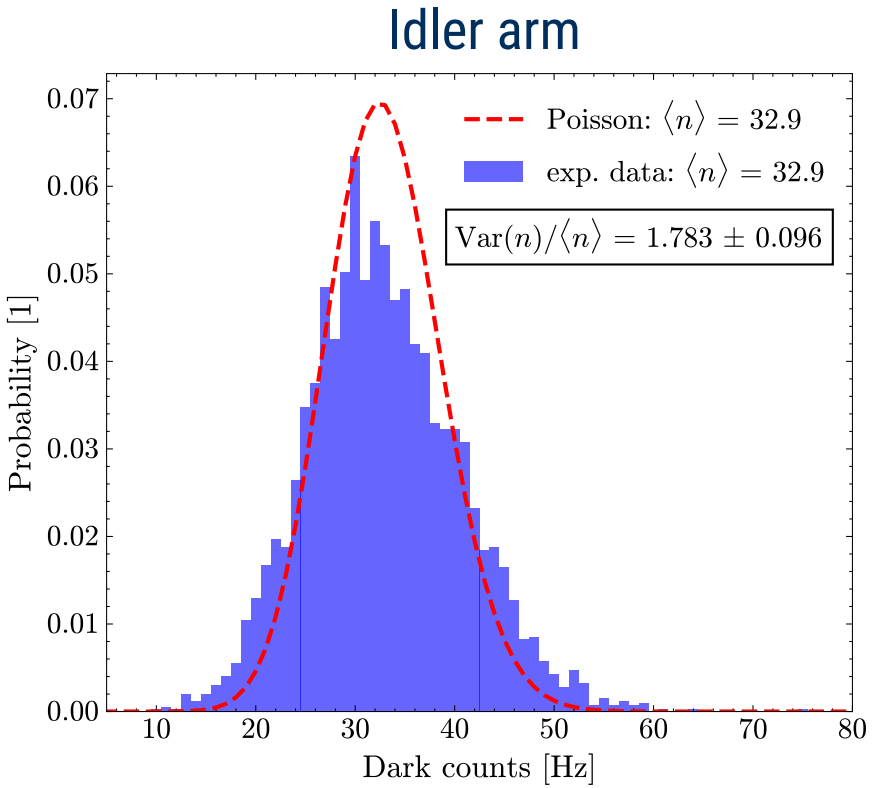

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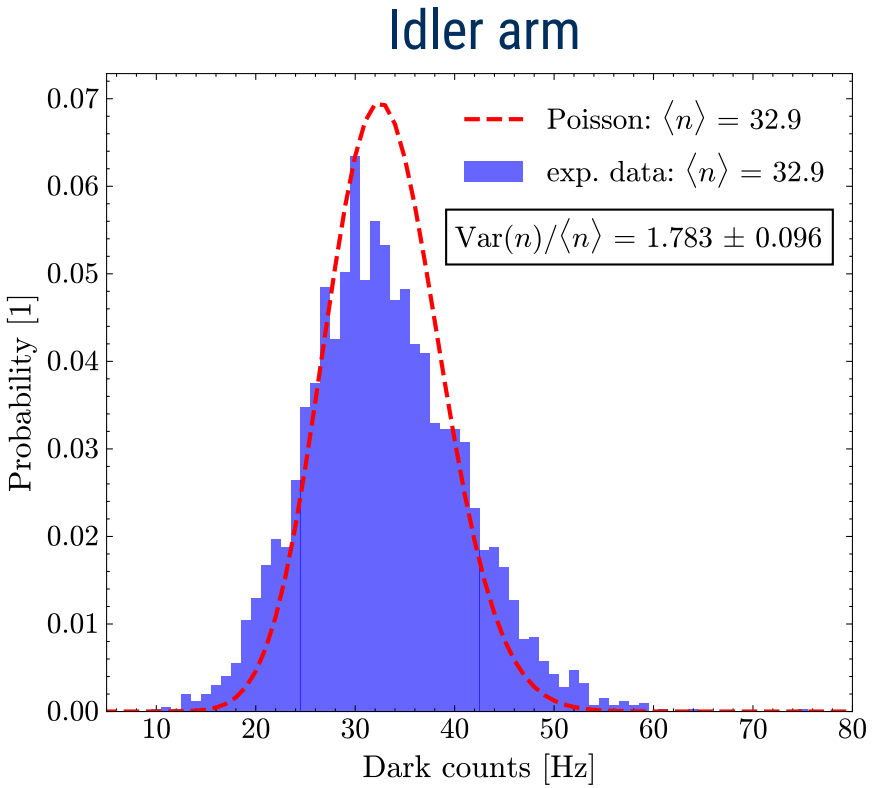

$$\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{noise}}) = 1.8 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{noise}} \rangle$$

Single counts, $\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{sing}})$

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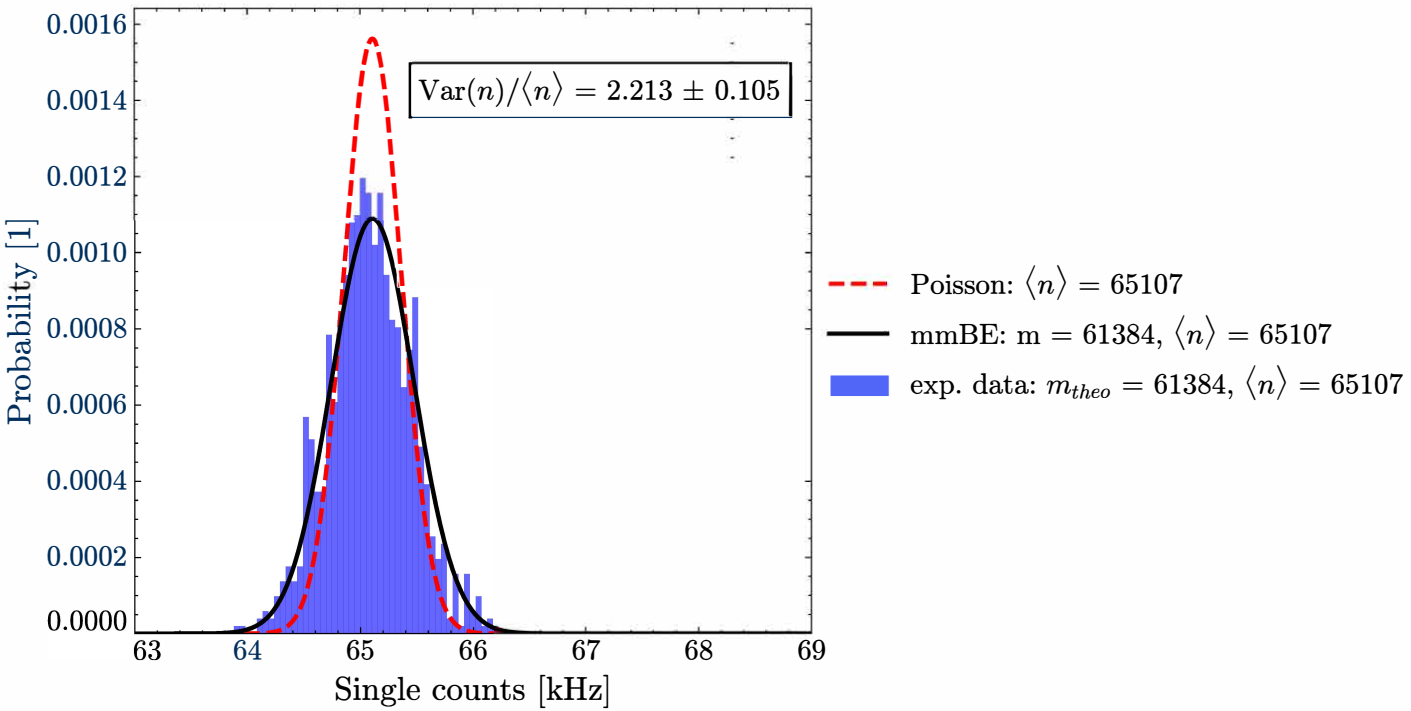
Idler arm



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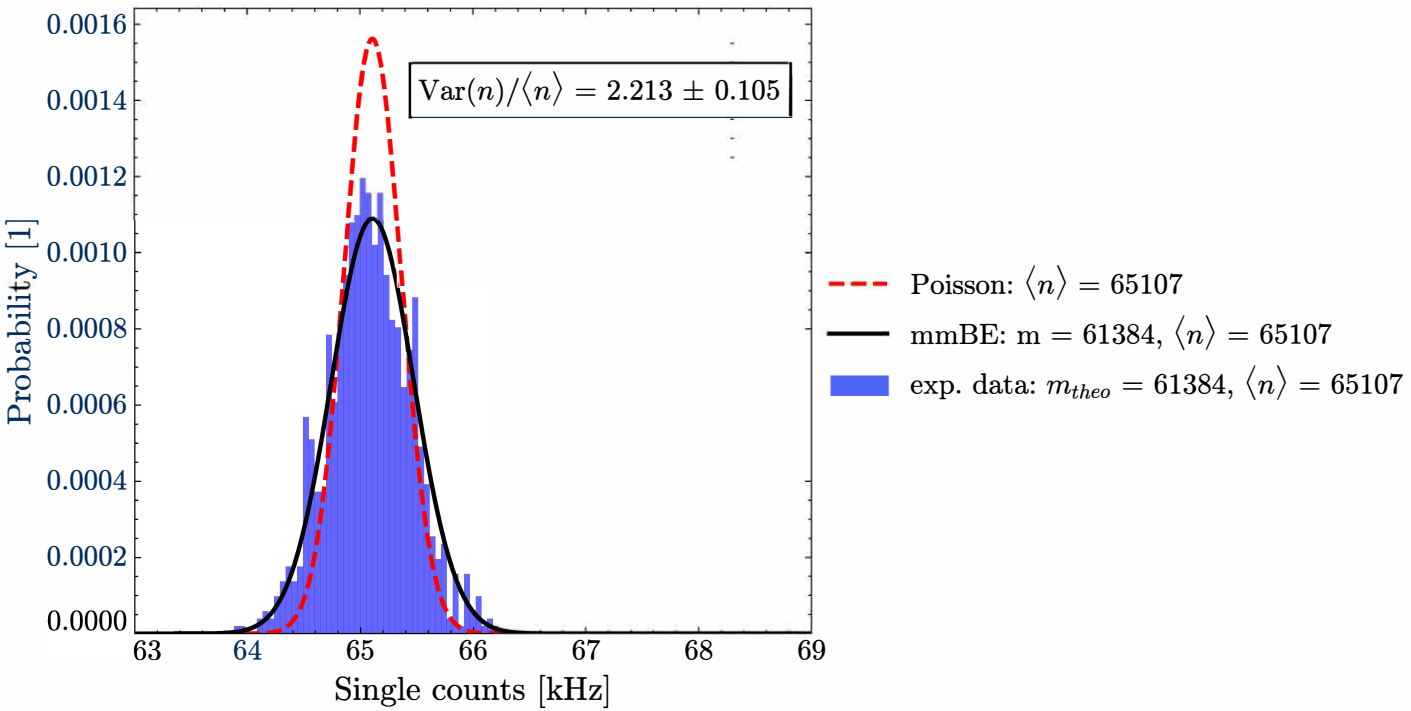
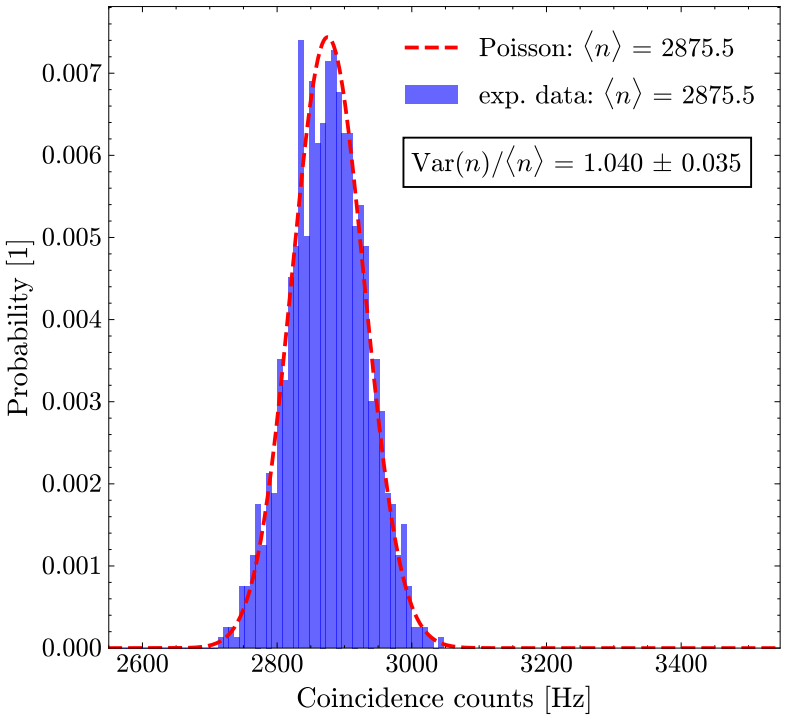


$$\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{sing}}) = 2.2 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{sing}}\rangle$$

Coincidence counts, $\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{coin}})$

Coincidence counts, $\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{coin}})$

Coincidences



Coincidence counts, $\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{coin}})$

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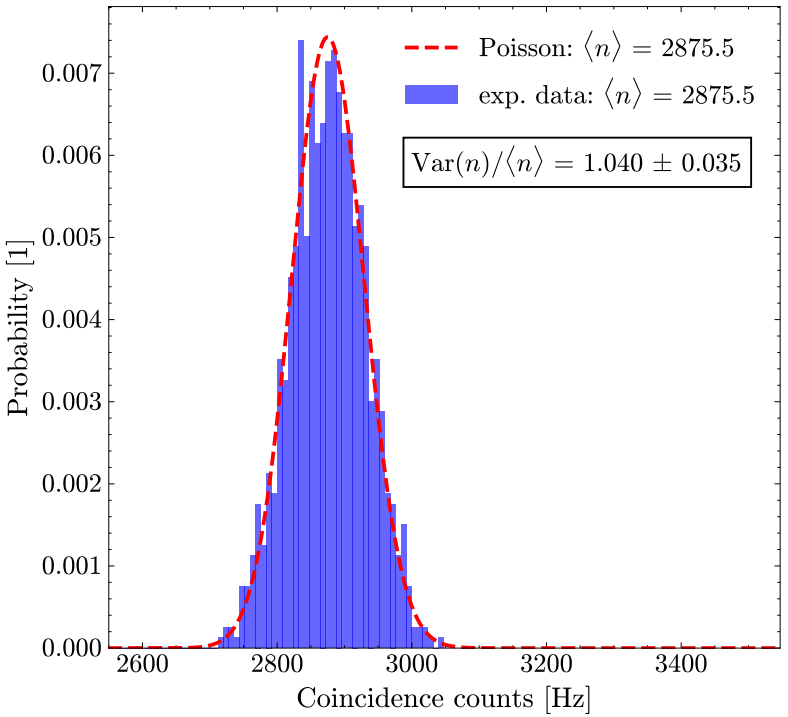
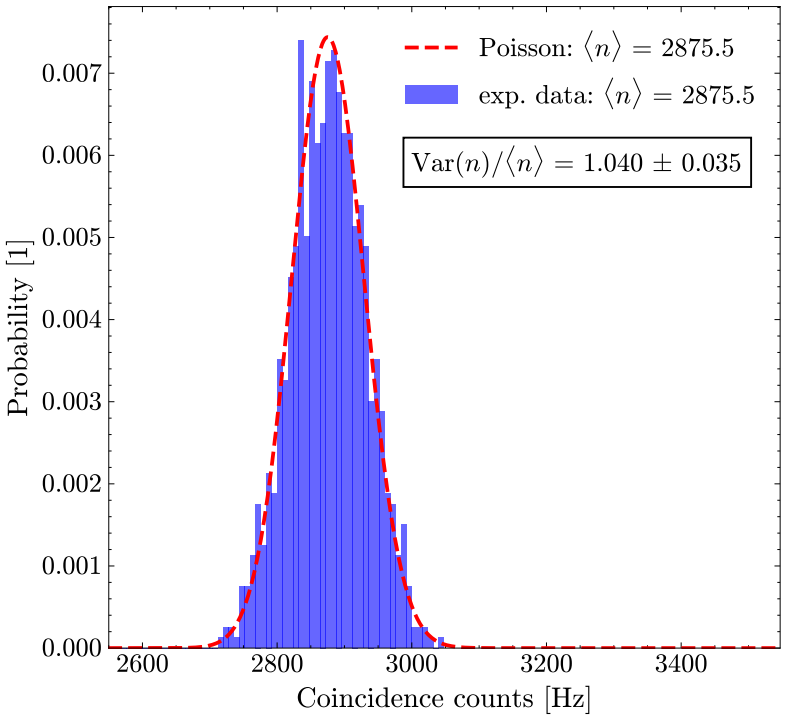


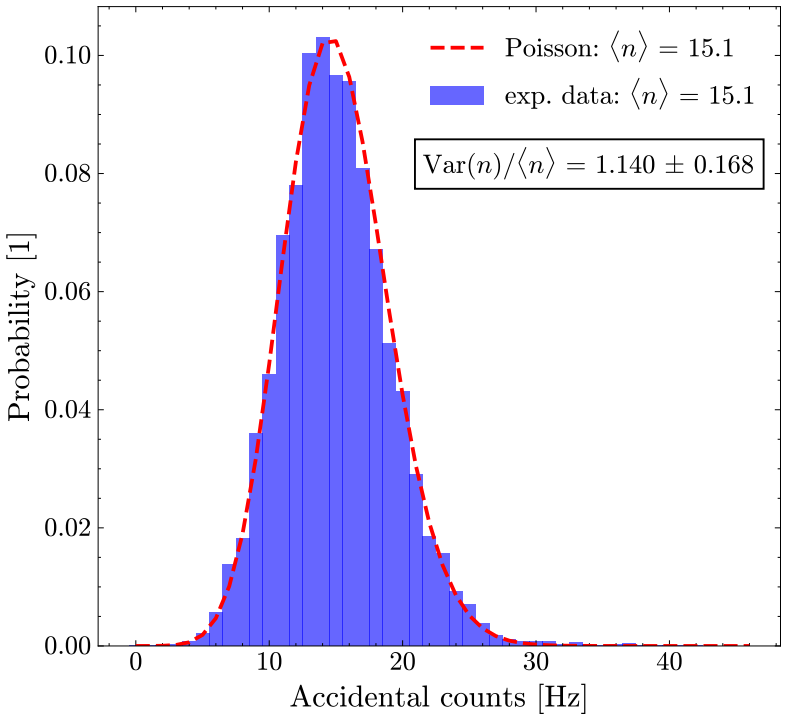
$$\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{coin}}) = \langle N_{\mathrm{coin}} \rangle$$

Coincidence counts, $\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{coin}})$

Coincidences



Accidentals



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Coincidence counts, $\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{coin}})$

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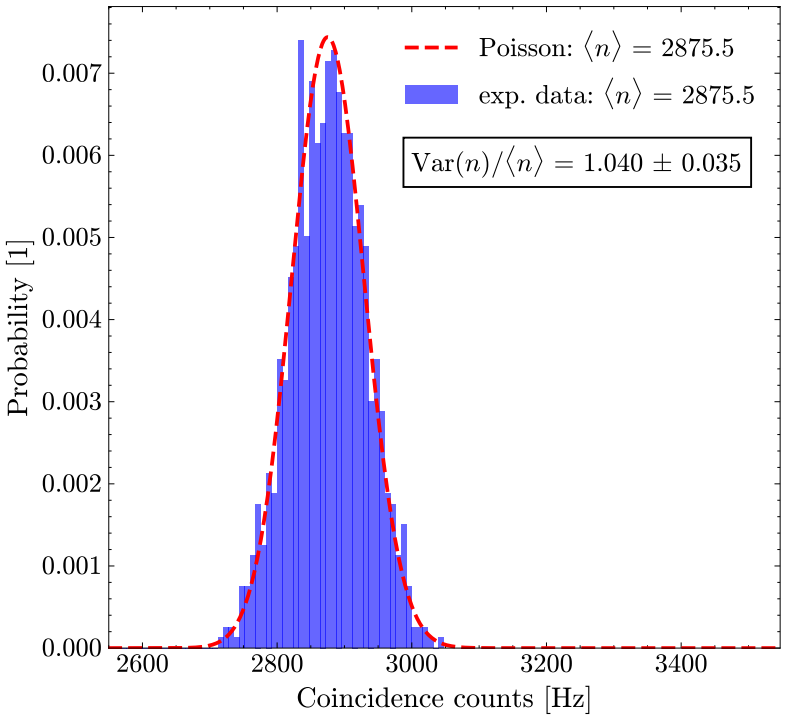

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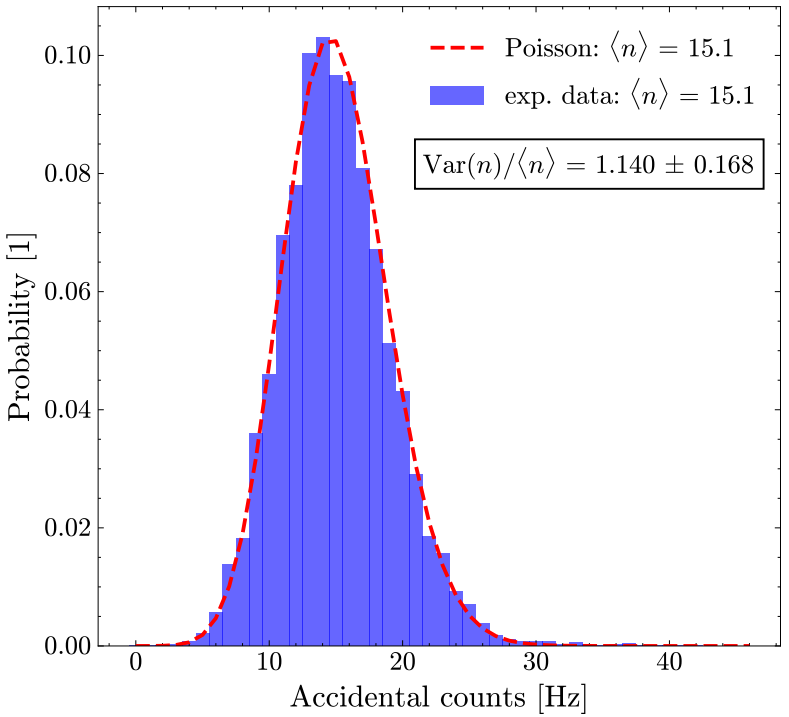


$$\mathrm{Var}(N_{\mathrm{ac}}) = \langle N_{\mathrm{ac}} \rangle$$

Simulation

Conventional approach:

$$\mathrm{Var}(T) = (\eta_{\mathrm{idl}}\, N_{\mathrm{g}})^{-2} \left[\mathrm{Var}\left(N^{\mathrm{sam}}_{\mathrm{sing}}\right) + \mathrm{Var}\left(N^{\mathrm{sam}}_{\mathrm{noise}}\right) + T^2 \left[\mathrm{Var}\left(N^{\mathrm{ref}}_{\mathrm{sing}}\right) + \mathrm{Var}\left(N^{\mathrm{ref}}_{\mathrm{noise}}\right) \right] \right]$$

Simulation

Conventional approach:

$$\mathrm{Var}(T) = (\eta_{\mathrm{idl}}\, N_{\mathrm{g}})^{-2} \left[2.2 \cdot \langle N^{\mathrm{sam}}_{\mathrm{sing}} \rangle + 1.8 \cdot \langle N^{\mathrm{sam}}_{\mathrm{noise}} \rangle + T^2 \left[2.2 \cdot \langle N^{\mathrm{ref}}_{\mathrm{sing}} \rangle + 1.8 \cdot \langle N^{\mathrm{ref}}_{\mathrm{noise}} \rangle \right] \right]$$

Simulation

Conventional approach:

$$\mathrm{Var}(T) = (\eta_{\mathrm{idl}}\, N_{\mathrm{g}})^{-2} \left[2.2 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{sing}}^{\mathrm{sam}} \rangle + 1.8 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{noise}}^{\mathrm{sam}} \rangle + T^2 \left[2.2 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{sing}}^{\mathrm{ref}} \rangle + 1.8 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{noise}}^{\mathrm{ref}} \rangle \right] \right]$$

Coincidence approach:

$$\mathrm{Var}(T) = \left(\eta_{\mathrm{sig}}\, \eta_{\mathrm{idl}}\, N_{\mathrm{g}}\right)^{-2} \left[\mathrm{Var}\left(N_{\mathrm{coin}}^{\mathrm{sam}}\right) + \mathrm{Var}\left(N_{\mathrm{ac}}^{\mathrm{sam}}\right) + T^2 \left[\mathrm{Var}\left(N_{\mathrm{coin}}^{\mathrm{ref}}\right) + \mathrm{Var}\left(N_{\mathrm{ac}}^{\mathrm{ref}}\right) \right] \right]$$

Simulation

Conventional approach:

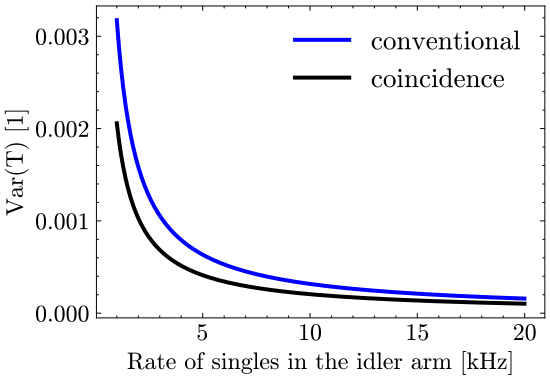
$$\mathrm{Var}(T) = (\eta_{\mathrm{idl}}\, N_{\mathrm{g}})^{-2} \left[2.2 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{sing}}^{\mathrm{sam}} \rangle + 1.8 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{noise}}^{\mathrm{sam}} \rangle + T^2 \left[2.2 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{sing}}^{\mathrm{ref}} \rangle + 1.8 \cdot \langle N_{\mathrm{noise}}^{\mathrm{ref}} \rangle \right] \right]$$

Coincidence approach:

$$\mathrm{Var}(T) = (\eta_{\mathrm{sig}}\, \eta_{\mathrm{idl}}\, N_{\mathrm{g}})^{-2} \left[\langle N_{\mathrm{coin}}^{\mathrm{sam}} \rangle + \langle N_{\mathrm{ac}}^{\mathrm{sam}} \rangle + T^2 \left[\langle N_{\mathrm{coin}}^{\mathrm{ref}} \rangle + \langle N_{\mathrm{ac}}^{\mathrm{ref}} \rangle \right] \right]$$

Simulation

Simulation

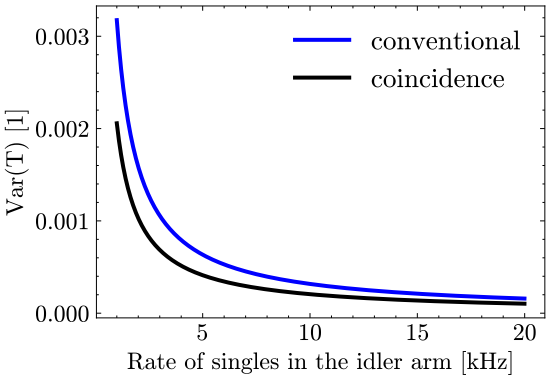


$\eta_{\text{idl}} = 70\%$

$\eta_{\text{sig}} = 70\%$

$R_{\text{noise,idl}} = 0\ \text{Hz}$

Simulation



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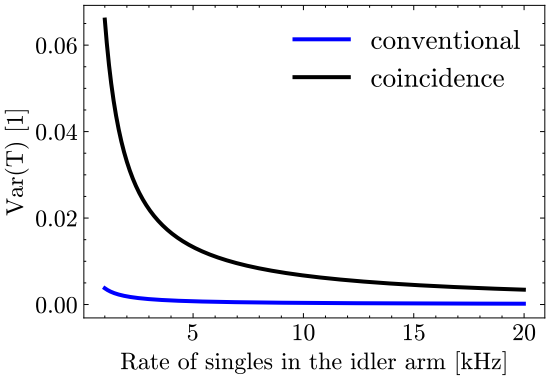
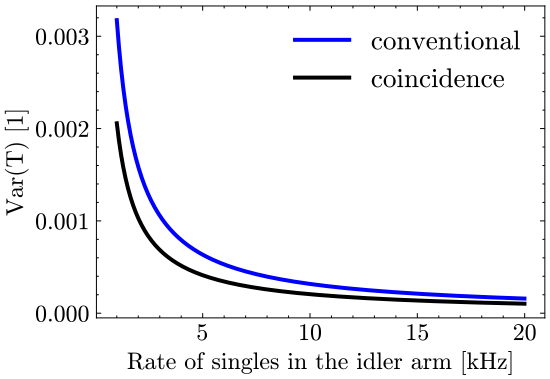


$\eta_{\text{idl}} = 0.09\%$

$\eta_{\text{sig}} = 2.6\%$

$R_{\text{noise,idl}} = 0\ \text{Hz}$

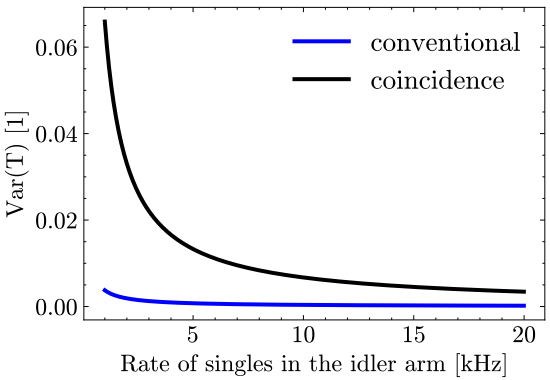
Simulation



$\eta_{idl} = 70\%$

$\eta_{sig} = 70\%$

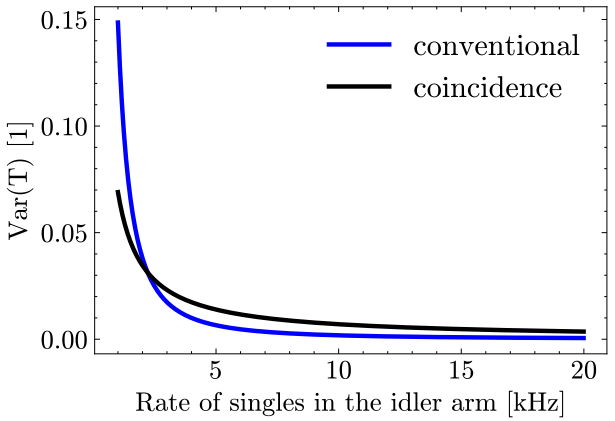
$R_{noise,idl} = 0$ Hz



$\eta_{idl} = 0.09\%$

$\eta_{sig} = 2.6\%$

$R_{noise,idl} = 0$ Hz

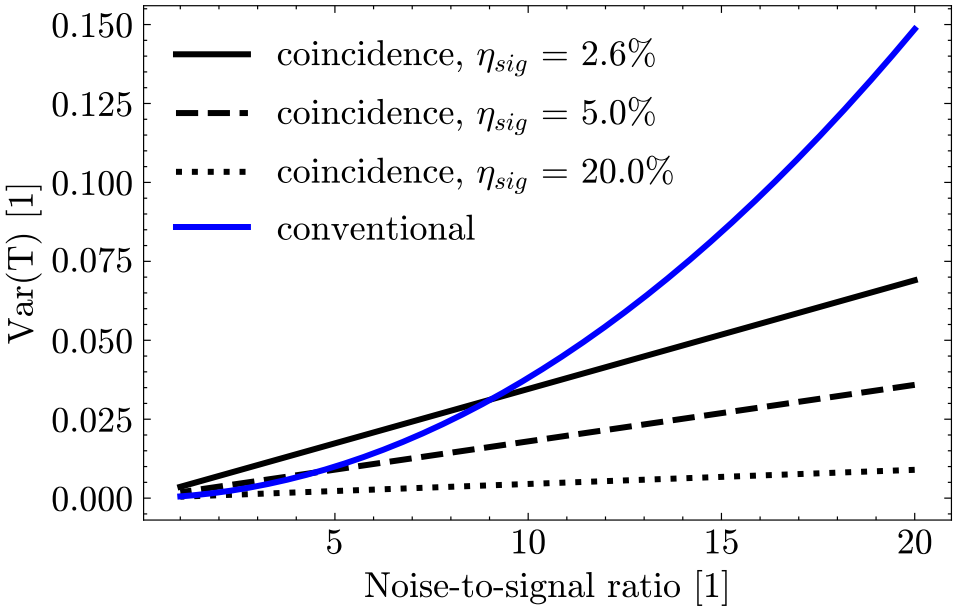


$\eta_{idl} = 0.09\%$

$\eta_{sig} = 2.6\%$

$R_{noise,idl} = 20$ kHz

Noise-to-signal ratio



Parameter	Value
η_{idl} (%)	0.09
η_{sig} (%)	2.6, 5, 20
R_{idl} (kHz)	1 - 20
$R_{noise,idl}$ (kHz)	20
$R_{noise,sig}$ (Hz)	7
T (1)	0.9

Summary and Outlook

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- Established a model for the variance of transmittance
- Experimental verification of photon statistics
- Found regions where coincidence approach offers higher precision

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- Established a model for the variance of transmittance
- Experimental verification of photon statistics
- Found regions where coincidence approach offers higher precision

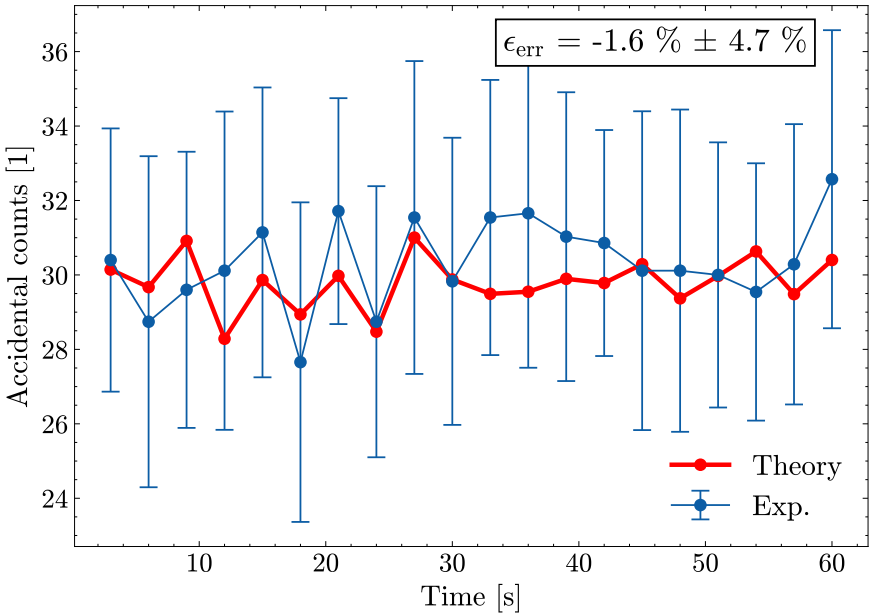
Outlook:

- Experimental verification of the found parameter regions
- Determine the experimental limiations for the variance measurement

Thanks for your attention

Any questions?

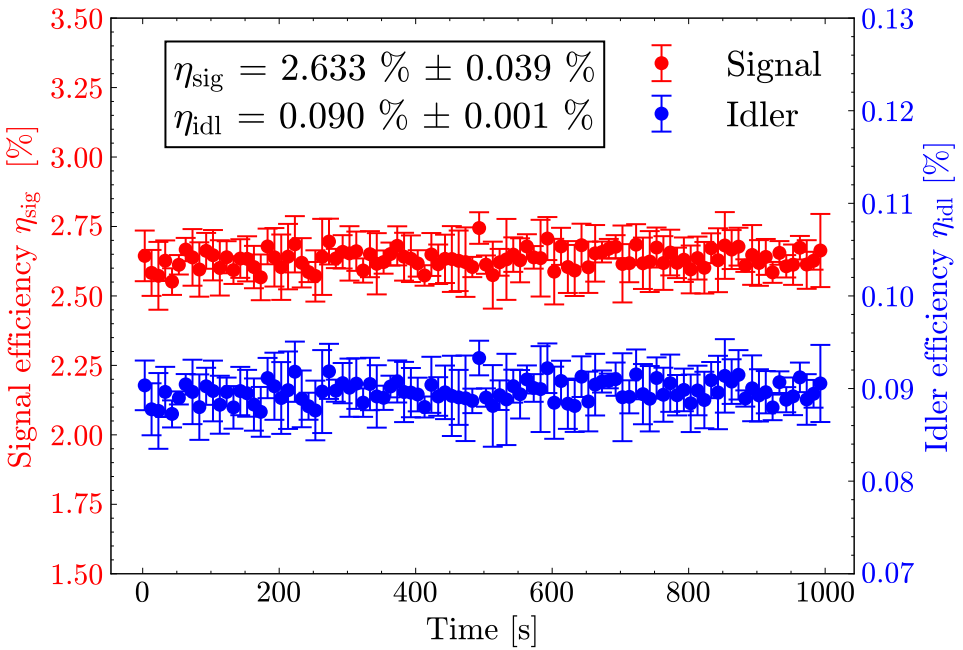
Accidental counts



$$R_{\mathrm{ac}}^{\mathrm{sam}} = \left(T\,\eta_{\mathrm{idl}}\,R_{\mathrm{g}} + R_{\mathrm{dc,idl}} - R_{\mathrm{cc,pure}}^{\mathrm{sam}}\right)\cdot \left(\eta_{\mathrm{sig}}\,R_{\mathrm{g}} + R_{\mathrm{dc,sig}} - R_{\mathrm{cc,pure}}^{\mathrm{sam}}\right)\cdot \tau_{\mathrm{cw}}$$

$$R_{\mathrm{ac}}^{\mathrm{ref}} = \left(\eta_{\mathrm{idl}}\,R_{\mathrm{g}} + R_{\mathrm{dc,idl}} - R_{\mathrm{cc,pure}}^{\mathrm{ref}}\right)\cdot \left(\eta_{\mathrm{sig}}\,R_{\mathrm{g}} + R_{\mathrm{dc,sig}} - R_{\mathrm{cc,pure}}^{\mathrm{ref}}\right)\cdot \tau_{\mathrm{cw}}$$

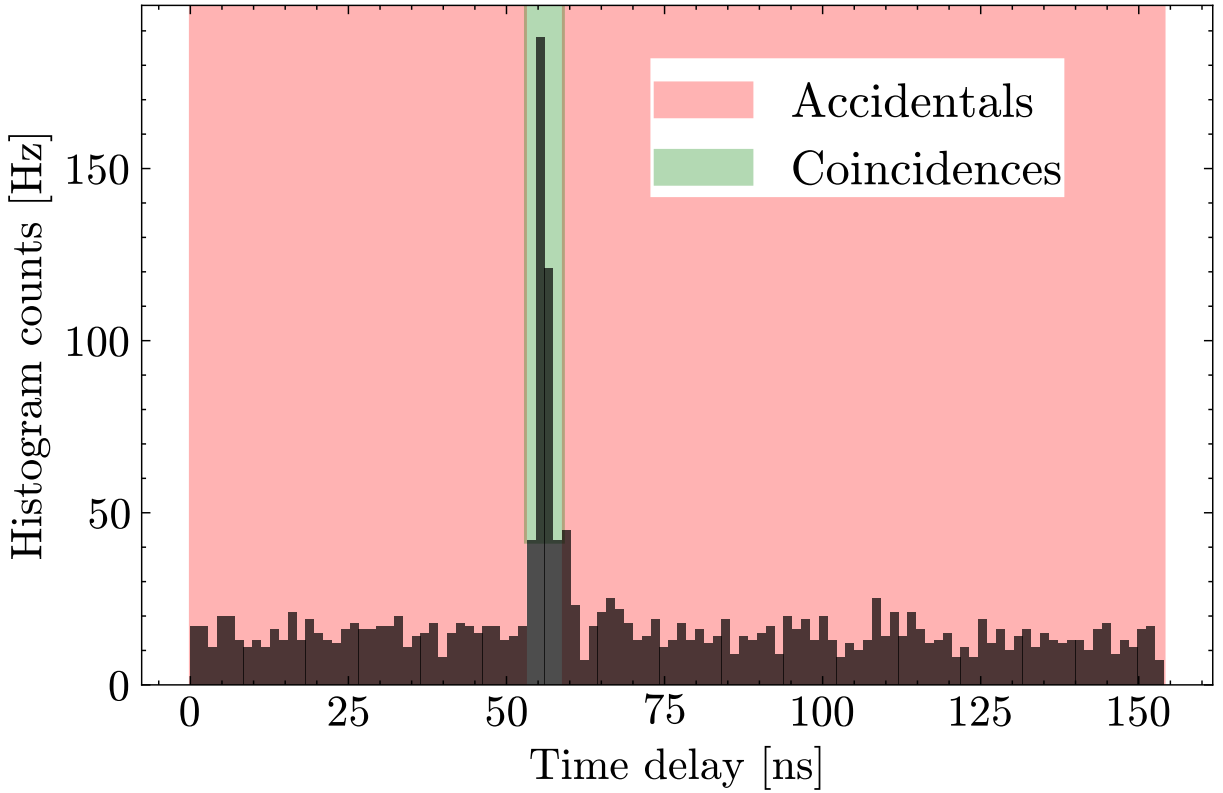
Heralding efficiencies



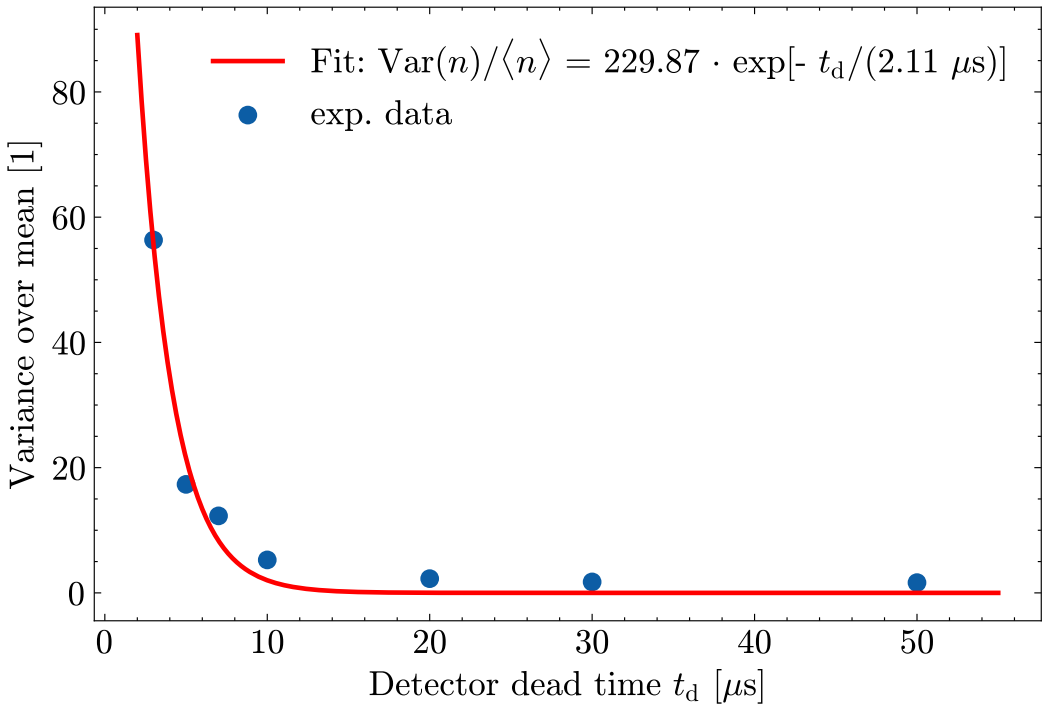
$$\eta_{sig} = \frac{N_{coin} - N_{ac}}{N_{sing,idl} - N_{noise}} = \frac{\eta_{sig}\eta_{idl}N_g}{\eta_{idl}N_g}$$

$$\eta_{idl} = \frac{N_{coin} - N_{ac}}{N_{sing,sig} - N_{noise}} = \frac{\eta_{sig}\eta_{idl}N_g}{\eta_{sig}N_g}$$

Histogram


Accidentals
Coincidences
Histogram counts [Hz]
0
50
100
150
0
25
50
75
100
125
150
Time delay [ns]

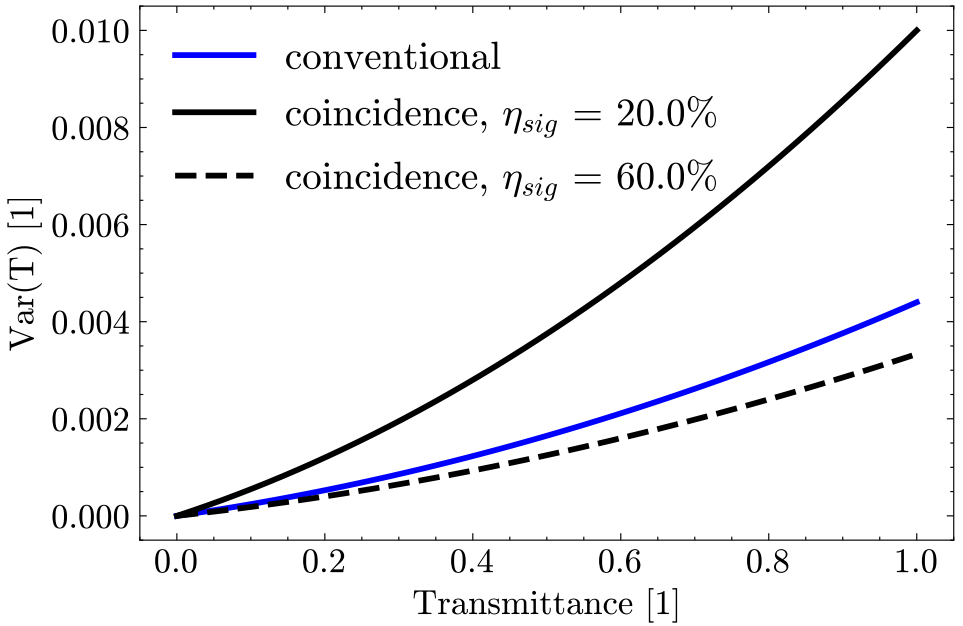
Afterpulsing



$$R_{aft} \propto e^{-\frac{t_d}{\tau_{de}}}$$ [4]

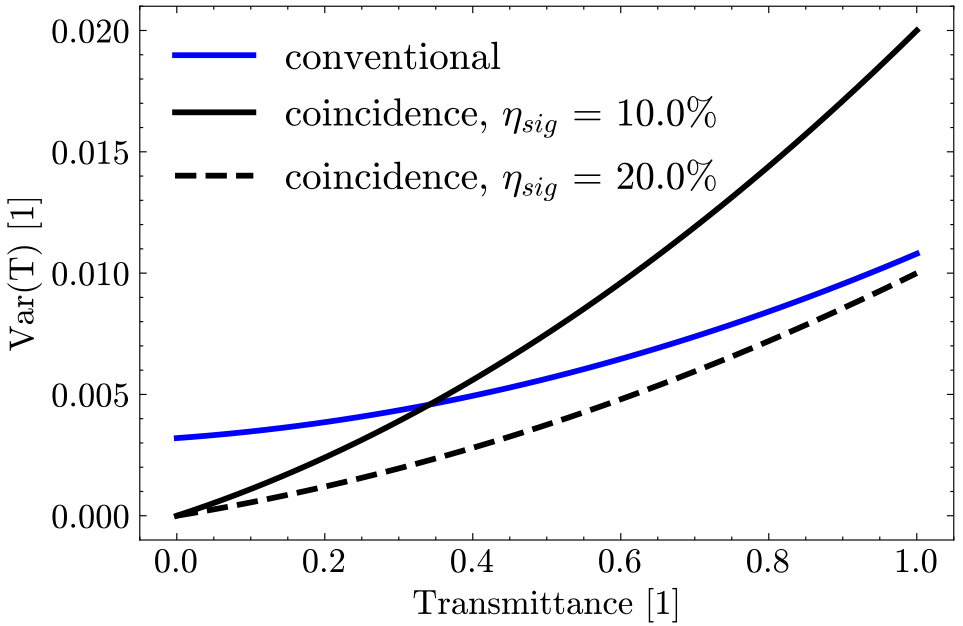
[4] Humer et al., "A Simple and Robust Method for Estimating Afterpulsing in Single Photon Detectors", July 2015

Noiseless case



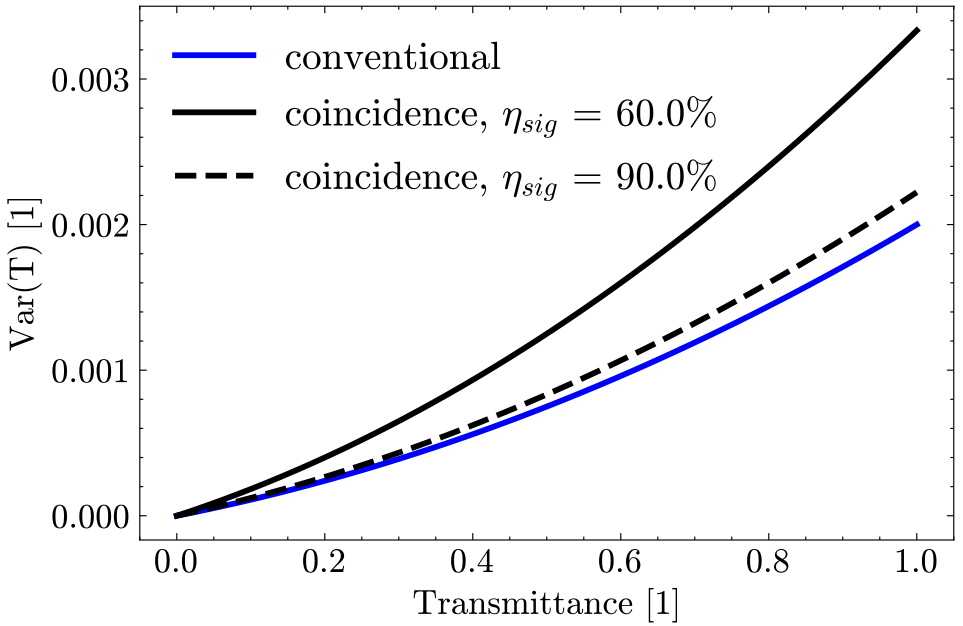
Parameter	Value
η_{idl} (%)	60
η_{sig} (%)	20, 60
R_{idl} (kHz)	1
$R_{noise,idl}$ (kHz)	0
$R_{noise,sig}$ (Hz)	7
T (1)	0 - 1

In presence of noise



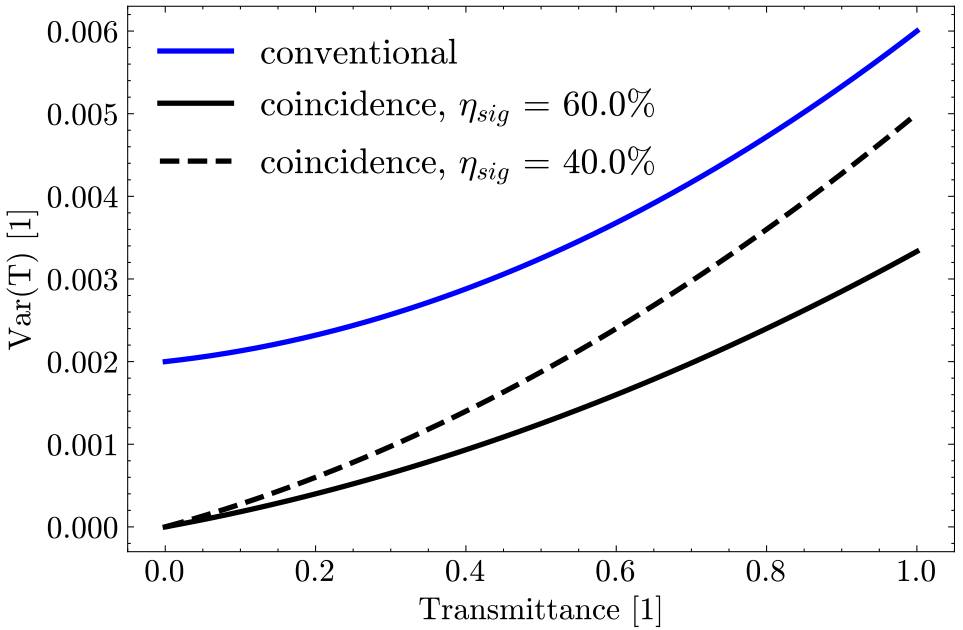
Parameter	Value
η_{idl} (%)	60
η_{sig} (%)	10, 20
R_{idl} (kHz)	1
$R_{noise,idl}$ (kHz)	1
$R_{noise,sig}$ (Hz)	7
T (1)	0 - 1

Coherent Illumination, noiseless



Parameter	Value
η_{idl} (%)	60
η_{sig} (%)	60, 90
R_{idl} (kHz)	1
$R_{noise,idl}$ (kHz)	0
$R_{noise,sig}$ (Hz)	7
T (1)	0 - 1

Coherent Illumination, with noise



Parameter	Value
η_{idl} (%)	60
η_{sig} (%)	40, 60
R_{idl} (kHz)	1
$R_{noise,idl}$ (kHz)	1
$R_{noise,sig}$ (Hz)	7
T (1)	0 - 1