

$$G^{(1)}(x_i, x_j) = \text{Tr} (\hat{\mathcal{S}} \hat{E}^{(+)}(x_i) \hat{E}^{(+)}(x_j)) \quad i,j = 1,2 \quad (12.38)$$

1st order correlation function

$G^{(1)}(x, x)$  ... special case, corresponds to Intensity arriving from  $x$

$\Rightarrow$  First - order quantum coherence function:

$$g^{(1)}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{G^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)}{\sqrt{G^{(1)}(x_1, x_1) G^{(1)}(x_2, x_2)}} \quad (12.39)$$

Properties:

- $0 \leq |g^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)| \leq 1$   $(12.40)$

- 3 possible cases (similar to classical):

$|g^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)| = 1 \Rightarrow$  fully coherent

$0 < |g^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)| < 1 \Rightarrow$  partially coherent

$|g^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)| = 0 \Rightarrow$  fully incoherent

- maximal visibility of interference signal, if

$$|g^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)| = 1$$

Example : single-mode field (plane wave with wave-vector  $\vec{k}$ )

$$\Rightarrow \hat{E}^{(+)}(x) = \epsilon \hat{a} e^{i(\vec{k}\vec{r} - \omega t)} \quad (12.41)$$

$$\text{with } \xi = \sqrt{\frac{\omega}{2\epsilon_0 V}}$$

case (a): field in Fock-state  $|n\rangle$

$$\Rightarrow G^{(1)}(x_1, x_2) = \langle n | \hat{E}^{(-)}(x_1) \hat{E}^{(+)}(x_2) | n \rangle \quad (12.42)$$

$$= \xi^2 n e^{i(\vec{k}(\vec{r}_2 - \vec{r}_1) - \omega(t_2 - t_1))}$$

$$\Rightarrow |G^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)| = 1 \quad (12.43)$$

case (b): field in coherent-state  $|\alpha\rangle$

$$\Rightarrow G^{(1)}(x_1, x_2) = \langle \alpha | \hat{E}^{(-)}(x_1) \hat{E}^{(+)}(x_2) | \alpha \rangle \quad (12.44)$$

$$= \xi^2 |\alpha|^2 e^{i(\vec{k}(\vec{r}_2 - \vec{r}_1) - \omega(t_2 - t_1))}$$

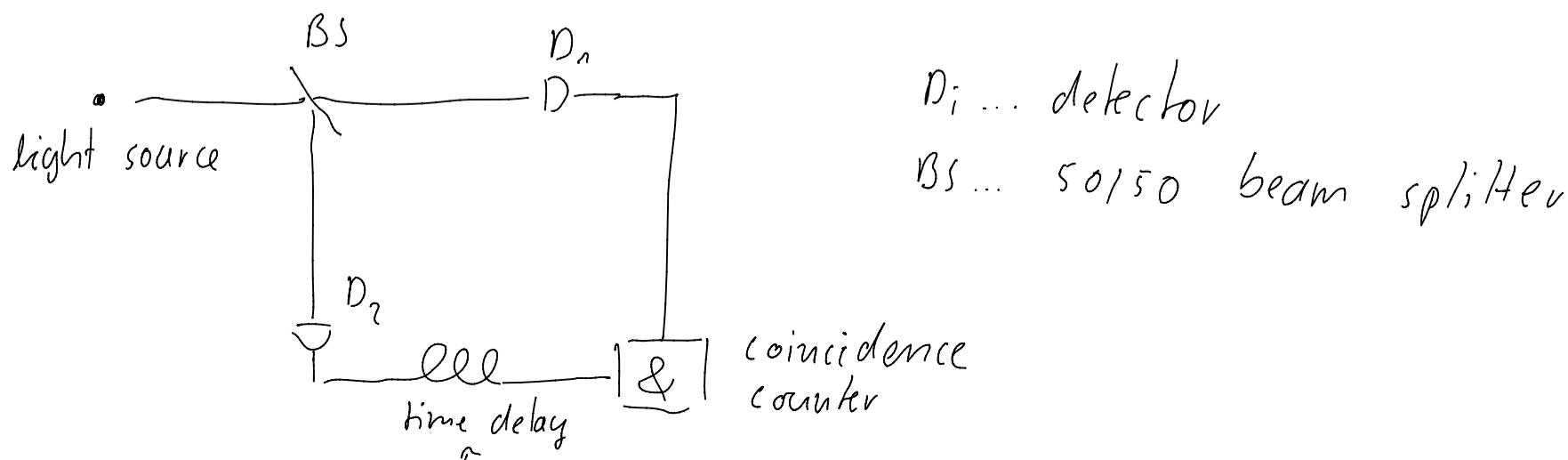
$$\Rightarrow |G^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)| = 1 \quad (12.45)$$

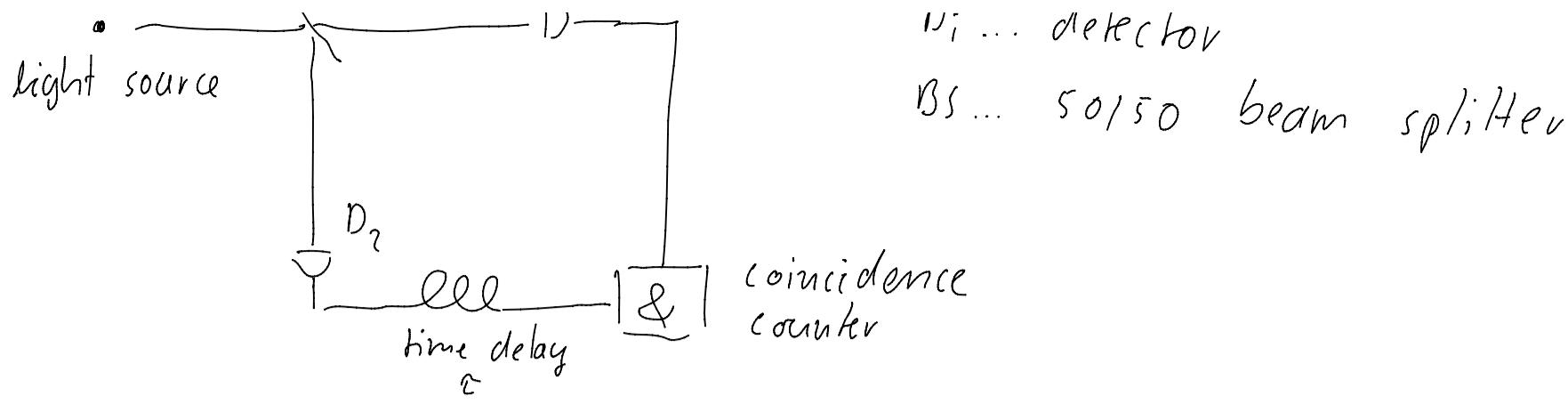
From (12.42) - (12.45):

first order coherence contains information about coherence length of light but not about statistical properties (Fock state as well as coherent state are fully coherent in first order)

### 12.3 Higher order coherence functions

Typical setup: Hanbury-Brown-Twiss - Experiment.





Note:

- correlation measurement of intensities, not fields
- setup measures delayed coinc. rate, i.e. event in D<sub>1</sub> at  $t=t+\tau$  and in D<sub>2</sub> at  $t$
- for  $\tau < \tau_0$  (coherence time) measurement contains info about statistics of the light

Normalized probability to obtain a coincidence count:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma^{(2)}(x_1, x_2) &= \frac{\langle I(x_1) I(x_2) \rangle}{\langle I(x_1) \rangle \langle I(x_2) \rangle} \quad (\text{2nd order coherence function}) \\
 &= \frac{\langle E^*(x_1) E^*(x_2) E(x_2) E(x_1) \rangle}{\langle |E(x_1)|^2 \rangle \langle |E(x_2)|^2 \rangle} \quad (12.46)
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $I(x_i)$  ... intensity at the detectors and  
 $\langle \dots \rangle$  ... time average

Note:- a field is (classically) coherent up to 2nd order, when  $|\gamma^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)| = 1$  and  $|\gamma^{(2)}(x_1, x_2)| = 1$  (12.47)

- for  $\vec{r}_1 = \vec{r}_2$ :

$$\gamma^{(2)}(x_1, x_2) = \gamma^{(2)}(\tau) = \frac{\langle I(t) I(t+\tau) \rangle}{\langle I(t) \rangle^2} \quad (12.48)$$

Properties:

- $\gamma^{(2)}$  is not limited (in contrast to  $\gamma^{(1)}$ ):

-  $\gamma^{(2)}$  is not limited (in contrast to  $\gamma^{(n)}$ ):

$$\gamma^{(2)}(\tau=0) = \frac{\langle I(+)^2 \rangle}{\langle I(+)\rangle^2} \quad (12.49)$$

Cauchy's inequality:  $\langle I(+)^3 \rangle \geq \langle I(+) \rangle^2$  (12.50)

$$\Rightarrow 1 \leq \gamma^{(2)}(0) < \infty \quad (12.50)$$

↑ no upper limit!

for  $\tau \neq 0$  one can show:

$$0 \leq \gamma^{(2)}(\tau) < \infty \quad (12.51)$$

- Maximum at  $\tau=0$ :

Cauchy-Schwarz inequ:  $\langle I(+) I(+\tau) \rangle \leq \langle I(+)^2 \rangle$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\gamma^{(2)}(\tau) \leq \gamma^{(2)}(0)} \quad (12.53)$$

- (12.50) and (12.53) limit  $\gamma^{(2)}$  for classical (!) fields

Examples:

- Plane wave in z-direction (12.20)

$$\Rightarrow \langle E^*(+) E^*(+\tau) E(+) E(\tau) \rangle = E_0^4 \quad (12.54)$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma^{(2)}(\tau) = 1$$

- in general: for every field with constant (non-fluctuating) intensity

$$I(+) = I(+\tau) = I_0 \quad (12.55)$$

$$\gamma^{(2)}(\tau) = 1$$

$$I(+)=I(+\tau)=I_0 \quad (12.55)$$

$$\gamma^{(2)}(\tau) = 1$$

- Now light-source that consists of large number of independent, collisionally broadened atoms:  
One can show:

$$\gamma^{(2)}(\tau) = 1 + |\gamma^{(1)}(\tau)|^2 \quad (12.56)$$

From  $0 \leq |\gamma^{(1)}(\tau)| \leq 1$ :

$$1 \leq \gamma^{(2)}(\tau) \leq 2 \quad (12.57)$$

For light with Lorentz-type spectrum one gets

$$|\gamma^{(1)}(\tau)| = e^{-\frac{|\tau|}{\tau_0}} \quad (12.58)$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma^{(2)}(\tau) = 1 + e^{-2\frac{|\tau|}{\tau_0}} \quad (12.59)$$

Note:

- For  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ :  $\gamma^{(2)}(\tau) = 1$

- For  $\tau \rightarrow 0$ :  $\gamma^{(2)}(0) = 2$

- if light measured at detector  $D_1$  would be independent of  $D_2$  one would expect  $\gamma^{(2)}(\tau) = 1$ .

But one expects (12.59) where, e.g.,  $\gamma^{(2)}(0) = 2 \gamma^{(2)}(\infty)$

$\Rightarrow$  Photons arrive pairwise for  $\tau=0$  and independent for  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ .

$\Rightarrow$  case  $\tau=0$  is called "photon bunching"

- from (12.59): measurement of  $\gamma^{(2)}(\tau)$  allows one to determine ...

Measurement of  $\gamma(t)$  allows one to determine coherence time  $\tau_0$  of the light field.

## Quantummechanical description:

- Transition probability for absorption of 2 photons (see 12.32)

$$| \langle A | \hat{E}^{(+)}(x_2) \hat{E}^{(+)}(x_1) | i \rangle |^2 \quad (12.60)$$

- Summing over all final states

$$\langle i | \hat{E}^{(-)}(x_1) \hat{E}^{(-)}(x_2) \hat{E}^{(+)}(x_2) \hat{E}^{(-)}(x_1) | i \rangle \quad (12.61)$$

- generalizing to mixed states gives second order quantum correlation function

$$G^{(2)}(x_1, x_2) = \text{Tr} [\hat{\rho} \hat{E}^{(-)}(x_1) \hat{E}^{(-)}(x_2) \hat{E}^{(+)}(x_2) \hat{E}^{(+)}(x_1)]$$

$\Rightarrow$  second-order quantum coherence function:  $(12.62)$

$$g^{(2)}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{G^{(2)}(x_1, x_2)}{G^{(1)}(x_1, x_1) G^{(1)}(x_2, x_2)} \quad (12.63)$$

Note:

- order of operators  $\hat{E}^{(-)}, \hat{E}^{(+)}$  is important (normal order)
- $g^{(2)}(x_1, x_2)$  is proportional to the probability to detect a photon at  $\vec{r}_1$  at time  $t_1$  and a second photon at  $\vec{r}_2$  and time  $t_2$ .
- one defines a quantum field as coherent

- one defines a quantum field as coherent up to 2nd order if  $|g^{(1)}(x_1, x_2)| = 1$  and  $g^{(2)}(x_1, x_2) = 1$ .

- for a fixed position  $g^{(2)}$  only depends on  $\tau = t_2 - t_1$ :

$$g^{(2)}(\tau) = \frac{\langle E^{(-)}(+), E^{(-)}(++\tau), E^{(+)}(+\tau), E^{(+)}(+) \rangle}{\langle E^{(-)}(+), E^{(+)}(+) \rangle \langle E^{(-)}(+\tau), E^{(+)}(+\tau) \rangle} \quad (12.64)$$

- for a single mode field (12.41) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} g^{(2)}(\tau) &= \frac{\langle a^\dagger a^\dagger a a \rangle}{\langle a^\dagger a \rangle^2} = \frac{\langle \hat{n}(\hat{n}-1) \rangle}{\langle \hat{n} \rangle^2} \\ &= 1 + \frac{\Delta n^2 - \langle \hat{n} \rangle^2}{\langle \hat{n} \rangle^2} \quad (12.65) \end{aligned}$$

which is independent of  $\tau$

here  $\Delta n = \sqrt{\langle n^2 \rangle - \langle n \rangle^2}$  is the photon number fluctuation

### Examples:

- coherent state  $|z\rangle$ :

$$g^{(2)}(\tau) = 1 \quad (12.66)$$

- multimode thermal state

$$g^{(2)}(\tau) = 1 + |g^{(1)}(\tau)|^2 \quad (12.67)$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 \leq g^{(2)}(\tau) \leq 2 \quad (\text{as in classical case})$$

For Lorentzian spectrum:

$$g^{(1)}(\tau) = e^{-i\omega_0\tau - \frac{1}{2}\gamma\tau_0} \quad (12.68)$$

$$\Rightarrow g^{(2)}(\tau) = 1 + e^{-2\frac{|\tau|}{\tau_0}} \quad (12.69)$$

$$\Rightarrow g^{(2)}(0) = 2 \quad (\text{as in classical case})$$

$\Rightarrow$  photon bunching

However:

- Now it is also possible to obtain  $g^{(2)}(\tau) < 1$  (impossible for classical case)

- from (12.65):  $g^{(2)}(\tau) < 1$  if

$$\Delta n^2 < \langle \hat{n} \rangle \quad (12.70)$$

$\Rightarrow$  this is the case for Fock states ( $\Delta n^2 = 0$ )

$$\Rightarrow g^{(2)}(\tau) = g^{(2)}(0) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } n=0,1 \\ 1 - \frac{1}{n} & \text{for } n \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

- Interpretation: Quantum mechanical violation of Cauchy inequality (negative probabilities)

- The (classical impossible) case  $g^{(2)}(0) < g^{(2)}(\tau)$  is called "photon anti-bunching"

$\Rightarrow$  photons arrive with "fixed" time delay at the detectors

$\Rightarrow$  slides . . .