

# Ab initio few-mode theory

for quantum potential scattering problems

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### Quantum potential scattering

Wave equations with a potential [1, 2]:

$$i\psi = [-\nabla^2 + V(r)]\psi \quad \text{Schrödinger equation}$$

$$\epsilon(r)\hat{\mathbf{A}} = -\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A} \quad \text{Maxwell wave equation}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Quantized Hamiltonian:  $\hat{H}_{\text{cav}} = \int dk \omega(k) \hat{c}^\dagger(k) \hat{c}(k)$

$\Rightarrow$  With interactions: **hard problem**

Canonical Hamiltonian  $\xrightarrow{\text{diagonalisation}}$  Few-mode Hamiltonian  $\xrightarrow{\text{input-output formalism}}$  Full scattering

standard scattering theory  $\xrightarrow{\text{equivalent}}$  Full scattering

### Ab initio few-mode theory

System-bath  $\hat{H}_{\text{cav}}$  equivalent to diagonal scattering

$$\hat{H}_{\text{cav}} = \sum_{\lambda} \hbar \omega_{\lambda} \hat{a}_{\lambda}^{\dagger} \hat{a}_{\lambda} + \int dk \hbar \omega_k \hat{b}_{\lambda}^{\dagger} \hat{b}_{\lambda} + \int dk \sum_{\lambda} \mathcal{W}_{\lambda k} \hat{a}_{\lambda}^{\dagger} \hat{b}_{\lambda} + h.c.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Gardiner-Collett Hamiltonian [3, 4]

$\Rightarrow$  Discrete set of system modes

$\Rightarrow$  Solvable via input-output formalism [3, 4]

Canonical Hamiltonian  $\xrightarrow{\text{projection}}$  Few-mode Hamiltonian  $\xrightarrow{\text{input-output formalism}}$  Full scattering

equivalent  $\xrightarrow{\text{diagonalisation}}$  Full scattering

### The formalism

Feshbach projections [5, 6] gives system-bath expansion of normal mode operators

$$\hat{c}(k) = \sum_{\lambda} \alpha_{\lambda}(k) \hat{a}_{\lambda} + \int dk' \beta(k, k') \hat{b}_k$$

$\Rightarrow$  Choose states to extract resonances

- Simplify continuum structure
- Relevant dynamical degrees of freedom captured

### Illustration of the concept

Chosen few-mode basis  $\chi_1$  only

• Resonance selection without approximation

• Example: Fabry-Perot

Full transmissivity, Input-output, Background

Overlapping modes regime!

Lentrott & Evers, Phys. Rev. X 10, 011008 (2020)

### Effective few-mode expansions

• Extract relevant degrees of freedom from a continuum in an open quantum system + reduce Hilbert space size

• Simplifies the theoretical pictures  $\Rightarrow$  Many methods already exist in few-mode theory!

• Our ab initio theory provides practical advantages to phenomenological models!

cavity/potential  $\xrightarrow{\text{Effective few-mode expansion}}$  cavity/potential

Interfaces with recent developments [7, 8, 9]

### Multi-mode convergence

Advantages:

- Non-interacting system treated exactly!
- Systematic expansion disentangles approximations
- Direct connection to existing toolbox
- Access to extreme regimes

Convergence of light-matter coupling models is non-trivial [e.g. 10]

### Many-body cavity QED at the energy frontier [11, 12, 13, ...]

Hard X-ray cavity QED with Mössbauer nuclei

### Beyond input-output models [6]

Collective Lamb shift [11]

### Mode contributions in control-field-free EIT [14]

• First observed in [15]

• EIT without a control field

• Two similar configurations:  $\Rightarrow$  Only one shows EIT!  $\Rightarrow$  Why?

$\Rightarrow$  Phase sensitive mode coupling

$\Rightarrow$  Towards designing effective nuclear level schemes

$\Rightarrow$  More insights from Green's function methods [17, 18]

### Ab initio quantum parameters [16]

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