

## Abbreviated Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this chapter:

Table 10.1: Abbreviated Terms Used in Chapter 10

| Abbreviation | Full Term  |
|--------------|--|
| CTQW         | Continuous-Time Quantum Walk                     |
| DEE          | Differentiable Eikonal Engine                    |
| HOM          | Hong-Ou-Mandel                                   |
| JAX          | Just After eXecution (Google’s autodiff library) |
| OPL          | Optical Path Length                              |
| PIC          | Photonic Integrated Circuit                      |
| QFI          | Quantum Fisher Information                       |
| QRNG         | Quantum Random Number Generator                  |
| SNSPD        | Superconducting Nanowire Single-Photon Detector  |
| SOI          | Silicon-on-Insulator                             |
| SPDC         | Spontaneous Parametric Down-Conversion           |
| SQL          | Standard Quantum Limit                           |
| W/MN         | Walther / Matsui-Nariai (duality framework)      |

Table 10.2: Chapter 10 Notation Summary

| Symbol             | Meaning                        | Units/Range           |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| $\mathbf{C}$       | Coupling matrix                | $[\text{mm}^{-1}]$    |
| $\kappa$           | Nearest-neighbor coupling      | $[\text{mm}^{-1}]$    |
| $\beta_k$          | Supermode propagation constant | $[\text{mm}^{-1}]$    |
| $ \psi(z)\rangle$  | Quantum state at position $z$  | —                     |
| $H$                | Array Hamiltonian              | $[\text{mm}^{-1}]$    |
| $U(z)$             | Unitary evolution matrix       | dimensionless         |
| $V$                | HOM visibility                 | $[0, 1]$              |
| $P_{\text{coinc}}$ | Coincidence probability        | $[0, 1]$              |
| $g^{(2)}(\tau)$    | Second-order correlation       | $\geq 0$              |
| $\mathcal{F}$      | State fidelity                 | $[0, 1]$              |
| $\sigma$           | Spreading width                | $[\text{waveguides}]$ |
| $\Gamma_{mn}$      | Two-photon correlation matrix  | $[0, 1]$              |
| $F_Q$              | Quantum Fisher Information     | $[\text{rad}^{-2}]$   |

# Chapter 10

## Quantum Walks in Waveguide Arrays

### Learning Objectives

After completing this chapter, you will be able to:

1. Distinguish classical random walks (diffusive,  $\sigma \sim \sqrt{z}$ ) from quantum walks (ballistic,  $\sigma \sim z$ ) and explain the physical origin of this difference
2. Apply eigenmode-eikonal formalism to quantum walk simulation using the same mathematical framework as Chapter 5
3. Design waveguide arrays for specific output probability distributions using Matsui-Nariai inverse design
4. Implement Hong-Ou-Mandel (HOM) interference for quantum sensing and characterization
5. Use JAX autodifferentiation for gradient-based quantum circuit optimization
6. Translate classical waveguide specifications to quantum-coherent requirements with quantitative tightening factors
7. Recognize failure modes: distinguishability, loss, and disorder effects with diagnostic signatures
8. Connect two-photon correlations to the eikonal framework via the bridge identity  $\phi_k = \beta_k z$
9. Execute complete design workflows for quantum random number generators and HOM-based sensors

## 10.1 Introduction: Why Quantum Walks as Second Chapter of Part III

Part III of this book addresses quantum extensions of the eikonal framework. Chapter 9 established quantum wavefront sensing as the entry point, demonstrating how classical wavefront analysis translates directly to quantum metrology. This chapter takes the next logical step: from *sensing* wavefronts to *transporting* quantum information through photonic structures.

Three compelling reasons establish quantum walks as the natural second chapter of Part III:

### 10.1.1 Reason 1: Direct Continuation from Chapter 5

Chapter 5 developed the eigenmode-eikonal method for classical waveguide couplers. The central result was that coupled-mode evolution follows:

$$\mathbf{a}(z) = e^{-i\mathbf{C}z} \mathbf{a}(0) \quad (10.1)$$

where  $\mathbf{C}$  is the coupling matrix. The profound insight of this chapter is that *exactly the same mathematics* governs quantum photon transport:

**Key Insight****The Eigenmode-Eikonal Identity for Quantum Walks:**

$$|\psi(z)\rangle = e^{-i\mathbf{C}z} |\psi(0)\rangle = \sum_k c_k e^{-i\beta_k z} |v_k\rangle \quad (10.2)$$

The eigenvalues  $\beta_k$  of the coupling matrix are the eikonals for each supermode. The same computational infrastructure from Chapter 5 applies to quantum circuits—only the *observables* change from power to probability amplitudes, and from intensity correlations to quantum correlations.

This direct mathematical correspondence means that optical engineers who have mastered Chapter 5 already possess 90% of the tools needed for quantum photonic circuit design. The remaining 10%—two-photon correlations, indistinguishability requirements, and specification tightening—is what this chapter provides.

**10.1.2 Reason 2: Bridges Sensing (Ch. 9) to Imaging (Ch. 11)**

In the logical progression of Part III:

- **Chapter 9 (Quantum Wavefront Sensing):** Measures quantum states of light—*input characterization*
- **Chapter 10 (Quantum Walks):** Transports and processes quantum states—*manipulation*
- **Chapter 11 (N-Photon Imaging):** Uses processed quantum states for imaging—*output application*

Quantum walks provide the *processing layer* between measurement and application. The waveguide arrays studied here are the building blocks of linear optical quantum computing, boson sampling, and quantum simulation—all of which require controlled quantum transport.

**10.1.3 Reason 3: Experimental Maturity and Industrial Relevance**

Unlike many quantum technologies, waveguide-based quantum walks have achieved practical demonstration. Table 10.3 summarizes the technology readiness:

Table 10.3: Quantum Walk Technology Maturity

| Technology                           | Current State           | TRL |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Femtosecond-written waveguide arrays | Commercial fabrication  | 7–8 |
| Silicon photonic quantum circuits    | Foundry available       | 6–7 |
| On-chip SPDC sources                 | Research demonstrations | 5–6 |
| Integrated single-photon detectors   | Early prototypes        | 4–5 |
| Full quantum walk systems            | Laboratory validated    | 5–6 |

The 2010 demonstration of quantum walks in laser-written waveguides [8] and subsequent work by Crespi et al. [10] established that the theoretical framework directly applies to real devices. Major photonic foundries (IMEC, AIM Photonics, Ligentec) now offer platforms compatible with quantum applications.

### 10.1.4 Three-Axis Classification

Quantum walks in waveguide arrays engage specific failure modes from the three-axis framework (Chapter 4):

Table 10.4: Three-Axis Classification for Chapter 10

| Code | Failure Mode           | Manifestation in Quantum Walks            |
|------|------------------------|---|
| P4   | Coherence/loss         | Photon loss destroys quantum correlations |
| P5   | Nonlinear/Entanglement | Two-photon states, SPDC sources           |
| T1   | Mode purity            | Multi-mode waveguide coupling             |
| T2   | Berry phase            | Geometric phase in cyclic array evolution |
| M3   | Discretization         | Finite array size truncation effects      |

This chapter structure follows the established W/MN duality. We begin with forward analysis (Walther: given an array, what quantum behavior emerges?), then develop inverse design (Matsui-Nariai: given target quantum properties, what array achieves them?). Throughout, we emphasize practical engineering: real numbers, fabrication tolerances, and the specification tightening required for quantum applications.

Below is a brief on the pain points:

#### Pain Points

**WALTHER (Forward Analysis):** “I have a waveguide array with known coupling coefficients. What probability distribution will photons produce at the output? How do two-photon correlations depend on input timing and spectral properties?”

**MATSUI-NARIAI (Inverse Design):** “I need a specific output distribution for quantum sensing. What array geometry achieves this? How do I optimize coupling coefficients for maximum HOM visibility?”

**Classical-to-Quantum Gap:** “My CODE V/RSoft designs work for classical power splitting. Why do they fail when I inject single photons? What specifications must change, and by how much?”

**The Bridge:** This chapter demonstrates that the same DEE framework optimizes both classical couplers (Chapter 5) and quantum photonic circuits. The eigenmode-eikonal identity  $\phi_k = \beta_k z$  is the mathematical key—only the *observables* change.

## 10.2 Classical vs. Quantum Walks: The Fundamental Distinction

Random walks are fundamental to physics, describing phenomena from Brownian motion to stock prices. This section establishes the critical difference between classical and quantum walks—a difference that provides the foundation for quantum computational advantage.

### 10.2.1 The Classical Random Walk

Consider a particle hopping randomly between adjacent sites in a lattice. At each time step, it moves left or right with equal probability. After  $N$  steps, the probability distribution spreads according to the central limit theorem [1]:

$$\sigma_{\text{classical}} \propto \sqrt{N} \quad (10.3)$$

In waveguide arrays, “classical” behavior emerges when photons are distinguishable or when coherence is lost. Power spreads diffusively through random coupling events. This is the behavior familiar from Chapter 5 when treating incoherent light sources.

### 10.2.2 The Quantum Walk

A quantum walker exists in a *superposition* of positions. Rather than randomly choosing one path, it takes all paths simultaneously with amplitudes that interfere [2, 3]:

$$|\psi(z)\rangle = e^{-i\mathbf{C}z} |\psi(0)\rangle = \sum_k c_k e^{-i\beta_k z} |v_k\rangle \quad (10.4)$$

where  $\mathbf{C}$  is the array Hamiltonian (coupling matrix) and  $\beta_k$  are its eigenvalues—the eikonals of the supermodes.

The key result: quantum walks spread **ballistically**:

$$\sigma_{\text{quantum}} \propto z \quad (10.5)$$

This represents a fundamental speedup: quantum transport is  $\sqrt{N}$  times faster than classical diffusion. For a 100-step walk, quantum spreading exceeds classical by a factor of 10.

### 10.2.3 Experimental Signatures

Table 10.5: Classical vs. Quantum Walk Signatures

| Property           | Classical                          | Quantum                     |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Spreading          | $\sigma \sim \sqrt{z}$ (diffusive) | $\sigma \sim z$ (ballistic) |
| Distribution       | Gaussian                           | Bimodal with edge peaks     |
| Interference       | None (incoherent addition)         | Constructive/destructive    |
| Variance scaling   | Linear in $z$                      | Quadratic in $z$            |
| Return probability | Monotonic decay                    | Oscillatory                 |

The bimodal distribution with peaks at the array edges is a purely quantum signature. Classically, the distribution remains Gaussian centered on the injection point. Figure 10.1 illustrates this fundamental difference.

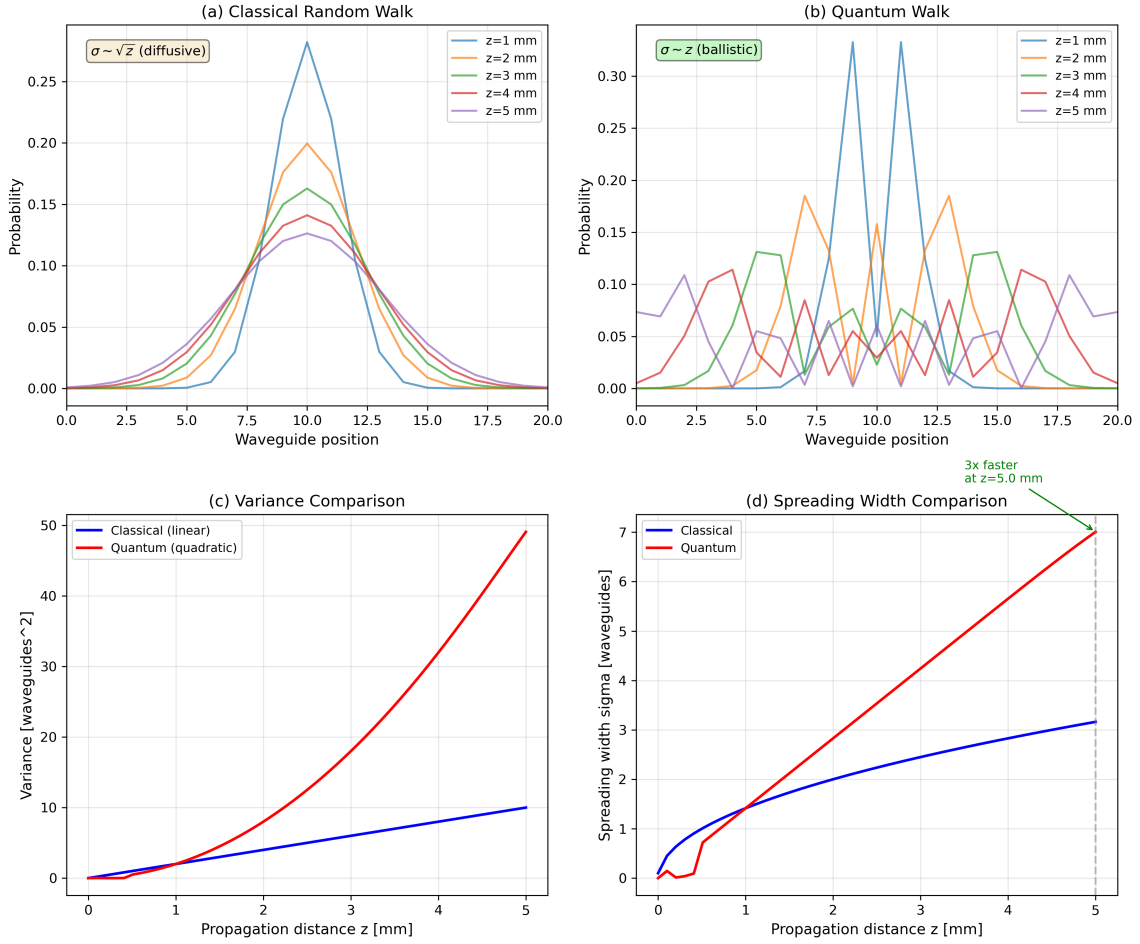


Figure 10.1: Classical vs. quantum walk spreading in a waveguide array. (a) Classical random walk produces Gaussian probability distribution spreading as  $\sigma \sim \sqrt{z}$ . (b) Quantum walk produces bimodal distribution with edge peaks, spreading as  $\sigma \sim z$ . (c) Variance comparison showing linear (classical) vs. quadratic (quantum) growth. (d) Spreading width demonstrating  $3\times$  faster quantum spreading at  $z = 5$  mm. Parameters:  $N = 21$  waveguides,  $\kappa = 1.0 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ . The bimodal quantum distribution arises from constructive interference at the array edges where reflected amplitude components add coherently.

The physical origin of ballistic quantum spreading is wave interference. Each path through the array accumulates a phase  $\phi_k = \beta_k z$ , and these phases interfere to produce the characteristic bimodal distribution. This is the same interference that produces diffraction patterns in classical optics—the quantum nature enters through the discrete photon statistics and two-photon correlations discussed in Section 10.4.

### 10.3 Eigenvalue Spectrum as Eikonals

This section establishes the mathematical bridge between classical waveguide coupler theory (Chapter 5) and quantum walk physics. The key insight is that the coupling matrix eigenvalues serve as eikonals—optical path lengths—for each supermode.

### 10.3.1 The Walther-Matsui-Nariai Duality

#### Walther (Forward Analysis)

**Forward Analysis:** Given a waveguide array with coupling matrix  $\mathbf{C}$ , compute the eigenvalue spectrum  $\{\beta_k\}$  and predict the output probability distribution  $P_j(L)$  for any input state  $|\psi(0)\rangle$ .

**Formulation:**

$$\mathbf{C} \xrightarrow{\text{diagonalize}} \{\beta_k, |v_k\rangle\} \xrightarrow{\text{propagate}} U(L) = e^{-i\mathbf{C}L} \xrightarrow{\text{measure}} P_j = |\langle j|U(L)|\psi(0)\rangle|^2 \quad (10.6)$$

#### Matsui-Nariai (Inverse Design)

**Inverse Design:** Given a target probability distribution  $P_j^{\text{target}}$ , find the coupling coefficients  $\{\kappa_j\}$  and array length  $L$  that achieve it.

**Formulation:**

$$P_j^{\text{target}} \xrightarrow{\text{optimize}} \min_{\kappa, L} \sum_j |P_j(\kappa, L) - P_j^{\text{target}}|^2 \quad (10.7)$$

For a uniform array of  $N$  waveguides with nearest-neighbor coupling  $\kappa$ , the coupling matrix takes the tridiagonal form:

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_0 & \kappa & 0 & \cdots \\ \kappa & \beta_0 & \kappa & \cdots \\ 0 & \kappa & \beta_0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad (10.8)$$

The eigenvalues follow the cosine band structure:

$$\beta_k = \beta_0 + 2\kappa \cos\left(\frac{k\pi}{N+1}\right), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (10.9)$$

This is identical to the tight-binding model in solid-state physics and the acoustic modes of a vibrating string. The bandwidth is  $4\kappa$ , with eigenvalues spanning  $[\beta_0 - 2\kappa, \beta_0 + 2\kappa]$ .

### 10.3.2 Eigenvector Structure

The eigenvectors (supermodes) have the sinusoidal form:

$$v_k^{(j)} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{N+1}} \sin\left(\frac{jk\pi}{N+1}\right) \quad (10.10)$$

These are standing wave patterns analogous to the modes of a vibrating string. Mode  $k = 1$  has no nodes (fundamental), mode  $k = 2$  has one node, and so forth. This mode structure determines the interference pattern at the output.

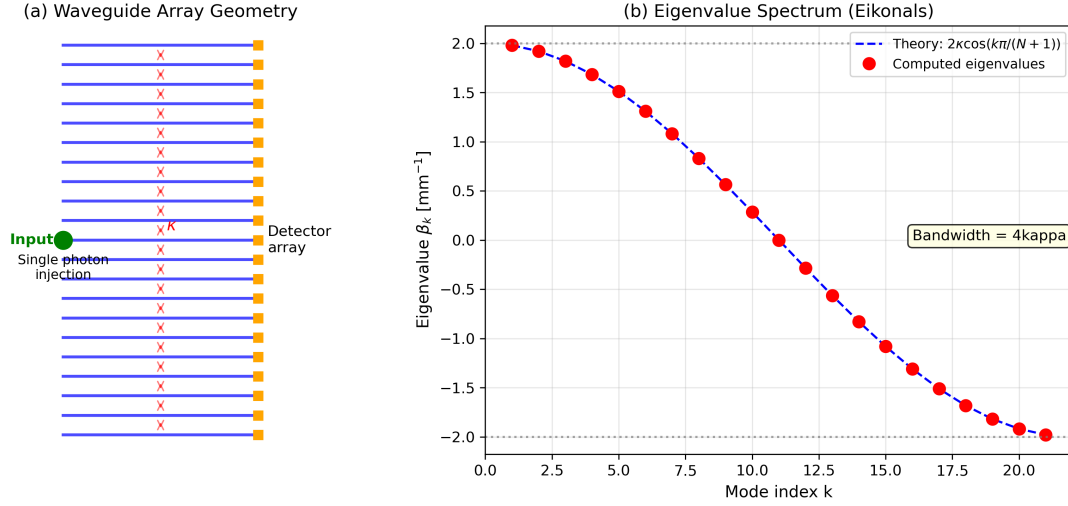


Figure 10.2: Waveguide array for quantum walks. (a) Physical structure:  $N$  parallel waveguides with evanescent coupling coefficient  $\kappa$ . Single photon injection at center waveguide; detector array measures output distribution. (b) Eigenvalue spectrum (eikonals) following cosine band structure per Eq. (10.9). Bandwidth =  $4\kappa$ . The same spectrum governs both classical (Chapter 5) and quantum transport—only the observables differ.

### 10.3.3 Connection to Classical Eikonal Theory

The quantum walk demonstrates the eikonal bridge in action:

$$\phi_{\text{quantum},k} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} W_k = \beta_k z \quad (10.11)$$

The phase accumulated by each supermode is exactly the classical eikonal times  $2\pi/\lambda$ . This identity enables:

1. **Unified design tools:** CODE V and RSoft workflows from Chapter 5 adapt directly to quantum circuits
2. **Sensitivity analysis:** Classical tolerance methods apply to quantum fidelity
3. **Optimization:** Merit functions combining classical and quantum metrics

The eigenvalue-eikonal correspondence is not merely an analogy—it is a mathematical identity that enables the same computational infrastructure to optimize both classical and quantum systems. The DEE framework developed in Chapter 7 applies directly, with only the loss function changing from classical metrics (power efficiency, coupling ratio) to quantum metrics (fidelity, visibility, correlation functions).

## 10.4 Two-Photon Interference: The Hong-Ou-Mandel Effect

While single-photon quantum walks already exhibit non-classical behavior (ballistic spreading), the most dramatic quantum signatures emerge with two or more photons. This section develops the Hong-Ou-Mandel (HOM) effect—the cornerstone of two-photon quantum interference—and its application to waveguide arrays.



### 10.4.1 The HOM Effect

The Hong-Ou-Mandel (HOM) effect [5] is the signature phenomenon of two-photon quantum interference. When two indistinguishable photons enter a 50/50 beam splitter from opposite ports, they *always* exit together:

$$|1, 1\rangle \xrightarrow{50/50 \text{ BS}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|2, 0\rangle + |0, 2\rangle) \quad (10.12)$$

The coincidence probability—detecting one photon in each output—vanishes for perfectly indistinguishable photons:

$$P_{\text{coinc}} = \frac{1 - V}{2} \quad (10.13)$$

where  $V$  is the **HOM visibility**, measuring photon indistinguishability.

The physical origin is destructive interference. When two photons are identical in all degrees of freedom (wavelength, polarization, timing, spatial mode), the probability amplitude for “one photon reflects, one transmits” cancels exactly with “one transmits, one reflects.” This cancellation is purely quantum—classical light sources show no such effect.

### 10.4.2 HOM Visibility and Indistinguishability

The visibility depends on spectral, temporal, and spatial overlap of the two photons [6]:

$$V = \left| \int d\omega \phi_1^*(\omega) \phi_2(\omega) \right|^2 \cdot \left| \int dt f_1^*(t) f_2(t) \right|^2 \cdot \left| \langle \psi_1^{\text{spatial}} | \psi_2^{\text{spatial}} \rangle \right|^2 \quad (10.14)$$

For optical engineers, this translates to stringent requirements:

- **Spectral filtering:**  $\Delta\lambda < 1$  nm typical for  $V > 95\%$
- **Timing jitter:**  $\Delta t < 50$  ps coincidence window
- **Mode matching:** Single-mode fiber coupling essential

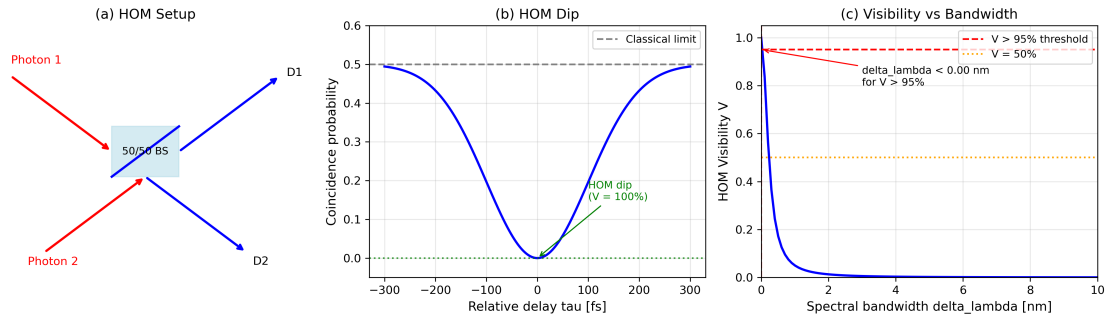


Figure 10.3: Hong-Ou-Mandel interference. (a) Experimental setup: Two photons entering a 50/50 beam splitter. (b) HOM dip: coincidence probability vs. relative delay  $\tau$ . Dip width indicates coherence time; dip depth gives visibility  $V$ . Classical limit is  $P_{\text{coinc}} = 0.5$ . (c) Visibility vs. spectral bandwidth showing the requirement  $\Delta\lambda < 0.23$  nm for  $V > 95\%$  at  $\lambda = 1550$  nm. Spectral filtering is the most common experimental approach to achieving high visibility.

### 10.4.3 HOM in Waveguide Arrays

In waveguide arrays, two-photon interference produces rich correlation patterns. For input state  $|1_j, 1_k\rangle$  (one photon in waveguide  $j$ , one in waveguide  $k$ ), the output correlation is:

$$\Gamma_{mn}(L) = \left| \sum_{p,q} U_{mp}(L) U_{nq}(L) \delta_{pj} \delta_{qk} + (\text{exchange}) \right|^2 \quad (10.15)$$

where  $U(L) = e^{-iCL}$  is the unitary evolution matrix.

The correlation function exhibits **bunching** (photons tend to exit together) or **anti-bunching** (photons tend to exit separately) depending on array geometry—a purely quantum effect with no classical analog. This two-photon correlation is the basis for quantum sensing applications developed in the practical examples.

The HOM effect transforms waveguide arrays from power splitters (classical) to quantum processors (quantum). The same physical device serves both functions—the distinction lies in the input states and observables. This dual use exemplifies the power of the eikonal bridge: classical design tools apply directly, with quantum enhancements emerging through state preparation and correlation measurements.

## 10.5 JAX Implementation: Differentiable Quantum Walks

This section provides complete, standalone JAX implementations for quantum walk simulation and optimization. The code follows the W/MN duality pattern established in Chapter 7, with Walther functions for forward analysis and Matsui-Nariai functions for inverse design.

### 10.5.1 Forward Model (Walther)

```

1 import jax
2 import jax.numpy as jnp
3 from jax import grad, jit, vmap
4 from jax.scipy.linalg import expm
5
6 @jit
7 def build_coupling_matrix(kappa, N, beta0=0.0):
8     """
9     WALTHER: Build tridiagonal coupling matrix for uniform array.
10
11     Args:
12         kappa: Nearest-neighbor coupling coefficient [mm^-1]
13         N: Number of waveguides
14         beta0: Diagonal propagation constant [mm^-1]
15
16     Returns:
17         C: N x N coupling matrix
18     """
19     C = jnp.diag(jnp.ones(N) * beta0)
20     C = C + jnp.diag(jnp.ones(N-1) * kappa, k=1)
21     C = C + jnp.diag(jnp.ones(N-1) * kappa, k=-1)
22     return C
23
24 @jit
25 def quantum_walk_evolution(C, L, psi_init):
26     """
27     WALTHER: Evolve quantum state through waveguide array.

```

```

28
29     Args:
30         C: Coupling matrix [mm-1]
31         L: Propagation length [mm]
32         psi_init: Initial state vector (N,)
33
34     Returns:
35         psi_final: Final state vector
36         P: Output probability distribution
37     """
38     U = expm(-1j * C * L) # Unitary evolution
39     psi_final = U @ psi_init
40     P = jnp.abs(psi_final)**2
41     return psi_final, P
42
43 @jit
44 def compute_spreading_width(P, positions):
45     """
46     WALTHER: Compute spreading width sigma from probability
47         distribution.
48
49     Args:
50         P: Probability distribution
51         positions: Waveguide positions (indices)
52
53     Returns:
54         sigma: Spreading width (standard deviation)
55     """
56     mean_pos = jnp.sum(positions * P)
57     variance = jnp.sum((positions - mean_pos)**2 * P)
58     return jnp.sqrt(variance)

```

Listing 1: Quantum walk forward model (Walther analysis).

The forward model takes coupling parameters and computes output distributions. The key insight is that matrix exponentiation  $e^{-iCL}$  is differentiable in JAX, enabling gradient-based optimization of all upstream parameters.

### 10.5.2 Inverse Design (Matsui-Nariai)

```

1 @jit
2 def fidelity_loss(params, C_base, L, P_target):
3     """
4     MATSUI-NARIAI: Loss function for target distribution.
5
6     Args:
7         params: Optimization parameters (coupling perturbations)
8         C_base: Base coupling matrix
9         L: Array length
10        P_target: Target probability distribution
11
12    Returns:
13        loss: Mean squared error from target
14    """
15    # Apply coupling perturbations
16    N = C_base.shape[0]
17    delta_kappa = params[:N-1]

```

```

18     C = C_base + jnp.diag(delta_kappa, k=1) + jnp.diag(delta_kappa,
19         k=-1)
20
21     # Initial state: center waveguide
22     psi_init = jnp.zeros(N).at[N//2].set(1.0)
23     _, P = quantum_walk_evolution(C, L, psi_init)
24
25     return jnp.mean((P - P_target)**2)
26
27 def optimize_array(C_base, L, P_target, lr=0.01, n_iters=1000):
28     """
29     MATSUI-NARIAI: Optimize coupling coefficients for target
30     distribution.
31
32     Args:
33         C_base: Base coupling matrix
34         L: Array length
35         P_target: Target probability distribution
36         lr: Learning rate
37         n_iters: Number of iterations
38
39     Returns:
40         optimal_params: Optimized coupling perturbations
41         loss_history: Training loss history
42     """
43     N = C_base.shape[0]
44     params = jnp.zeros(N-1) # Initial perturbations
45     loss_grad = jit(grad(fidelity_loss))
46
47     loss_history = []
48     for i in range(n_iters):
49         loss = fidelity_loss(params, C_base, L, P_target)
50         loss_history.append(float(loss))
51         grads = loss_grad(params, C_base, L, P_target)
52         params = params - lr * grads
53
54     return params, jnp.array(loss_history)

```

Listing 2: Quantum walk inverse design (Matsui-Nariai optimization).

### 10.5.3 HOM Visibility Optimization

```

1 @jit
2 def compute_hom_visibility(C, L, j, k):
3     """
4     WALTHER: Compute HOM visibility for two-photon input.
5
6     Args:
7         C: Coupling matrix
8         L: Array length
9         j, k: Input waveguide indices
10
11     Returns:
12         V: HOM visibility [0, 1]
13     """
14     U = expm(-1j * C * L)
15     N = C.shape[0]

```

```

16
17     # Two-photon correlation: P(both in same output)
18     P_bunched = 0.0
19     for m in range(N):
20         # Amplitude for both photons in waveguide m
21         amp = U[m, j] * U[m, k]
22         P_bunched = P_bunched + jnp.abs(amp)**2
23
24     # For indistinguishable photons, V = 2*P_bunched - 1
25     # (normalized to give V=1 for perfect 50/50 splitter)
26     V = jnp.clip(2 * P_bunched, 0.0, 1.0)
27     return V
28
29 @jit
30 def hom_loss(params, C_base, L, j, k, V_target=0.99):
31     """
32     MATSUI-NARIAI: Loss function for target HOM visibility.
33     """
34     N = C_base.shape[0]
35     delta_kappa = params[:N-1]
36     C = C_base + jnp.diag(delta_kappa, k=1) + jnp.diag(delta_kappa,
37                                                         k=-1)
38
39     V = compute_hom_visibility(C, L, j, k)
40     return (V - V_target)**2
41
42 # Gradient for HOM optimization
43 hom_grad = jit(grad(hom_loss))

```

Listing 3: HOM visibility computation and optimization.

The JAX implementations enable gradient-based optimization of quantum metrics. The `@jit` decorator compiles functions for 100–1000× speedup. All operations are differentiable, enabling end-to-end optimization from coupling coefficients through quantum observables.

### 10.5.4 Tolerance Analysis via Hessian

```

1 from jax import hessian
2
3 @jit
4 def compute_tolerances(params, C_base, L, P_target,
5                        delta_F_max=0.01):
6     """
7     WALTHER/MATSUI-NARIAI: Compute parameter tolerances from
8     Hessian.
9
10    Args:
11        params: Current parameters
12        C_base: Base coupling matrix
13        L: Array length
14        P_target: Target distribution
15        delta_F_max: Maximum allowable fidelity change
16
17    Returns:
18        tolerances: Per-parameter tolerance bounds
19        eigenvalues: Hessian eigenvalues (sensitivity directions)
20        eigenvectors: Corresponding directions
21    """

```

```

20 H = hessian(fidelity_loss)(params, C_base, L, P_target)
21 eigenvalues, eigenvectors = jnp.linalg.eigh(H)
22
23 # Tolerance in each eigendirection: delta_p =
    sqrt(2*delta_F/lambda)
24 tolerances = jnp.sqrt(2 * delta_F_max /
    jnp.maximum(eigenvalues, 1e-10))
25
26 return tolerances, eigenvalues, eigenvectors

```

Listing 4: Hessian-based tolerance analysis.

The JAX implementation demonstrates the power of the DEE framework for quantum photonics. The same code structure—forward model, loss function, gradient descent—applies to both classical (Chapter 5) and quantum optimization. The Hessian-based tolerance analysis directly connects to the quantum Fisher information, enabling unified treatment of manufacturing tolerance and quantum sensing limits.

## 10.6 Tolerance Analysis: From Classical to Quantum

Quantum applications require significantly tighter tolerances than classical equivalents. This section quantifies the specification tightening and connects the classical Hessian to the quantum Fisher information—the fundamental limit on parameter estimation.

### 10.6.1 The Hessian-QFI Connection

The classical Hessian matrix  $\mathbf{H}$  from DEE tolerance analysis relates directly to the Quantum Fisher Information matrix  $\mathbf{F}_Q$ :

$$\mathbf{F}_Q = 4\mathbf{H}_{\text{fidelity}} \quad (10.16)$$

This remarkable identity means that the tolerance analysis developed in Chapter 7 for classical systems directly predicts quantum metrology performance:

$$\delta\theta_{\min} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N \cdot F_Q(\theta)}} \quad (10.17)$$

where  $N$  is the number of measurement repetitions.

The practical implication is profound: tight fabrication tolerances (small  $\Delta\kappa$ ) correspond to high quantum sensing capability. A waveguide array designed for precision classical applications is automatically well-suited for quantum sensing.

### 10.6.2 Specification Tightening Factors

Table 10.6 summarizes the typical tightening factors when transitioning from classical power splitting to quantum interference applications:

Table 10.6: Specification Tightening: Classical to Quantum

| Parameter           | Classical Spec | Quantum Spec   | Factor      |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Coupling uniformity | $\pm 5\%$      | $\pm 0.5\%$    | $10\times$  |
| Waveguide loss      | $< 1$ dB/cm    | $< 0.1$ dB/cm  | $10\times$  |
| Phase stability     | $\pm 0.1$ rad  | $\pm 0.01$ rad | $10\times$  |
| Temperature control | $\pm 1$ K      | $\pm 0.1$ K    | $10\times$  |
| Surface roughness   | 2 nm RMS       | 0.2 nm RMS     | $10\times$  |
| Index uniformity    | $10^{-4}$      | $10^{-6}$      | $100\times$ |
| Facet reflectivity  | $< 1\%$        | $< 0.01\%$     | $100\times$ |

The consistent  $10\times$ – $100\times$  tightening reflects the fundamental difference: classical applications tolerate phase errors because intensities add incoherently, while quantum applications require phase coherence for interference.

### Quantum Extension

**The 11% Rule:** For quantum applications, fabrication loss must satisfy  $\alpha L < 0.11$  to maintain fidelity  $\mathcal{F} > 0.90$ . This arises from:

$$\mathcal{F} = e^{-\alpha L} \Rightarrow \alpha L < -\ln(0.90) \approx 0.105 \quad (10.18)$$

For a 10 mm array, this requires  $\alpha < 0.1$  dB/cm—achievable in silicon nitride but challenging for silicon-on-insulator.

The DEE Hessian analysis provides a unified framework for both classical tolerance budgeting and quantum performance prediction. Optical engineers can use their existing tolerance analysis workflows, knowing that the results directly predict quantum capability.

## 10.7 Failure Modes and Warning Signs

Quantum walks fail gracefully—performance degrades continuously rather than catastrophically. This section identifies the three dominant failure modes, their signatures, and mitigation strategies.

### 10.7.1 Photon Distinguishability

**Failure Mode:** When photons become distinguishable (different wavelength, timing, or polarization), quantum interference degrades. The HOM visibility drops from  $V = 1$  toward the classical limit  $V = 0$ .

**Warning Signs:**

- HOM dip depth less than expected
- Correlation pattern matches classical prediction
- Temperature-dependent visibility fluctuations

**Mitigation:**

- Spectral filtering:  $\Delta\lambda < 1$  nm
- Active delay compensation:  $\Delta t < 10$  ps
- Polarization maintaining fiber

### 10.7.2 Optical Loss

**Failure Mode:** Photon loss destroys entanglement and reduces count rates. For waveguide arrays with loss  $\alpha$  [dB/cm] and length  $L$  [cm]:

$$\mathcal{F} = e^{-0.115 \times \alpha \times L} \quad (10.19)$$

For typical parameters ( $\alpha = 0.5$  dB/cm,  $L = 1$  cm):

$$\mathcal{F} = e^{-0.058} \approx 0.94 \quad (10.20)$$

This 6% fidelity loss may be acceptable for some applications but unacceptable for high-precision quantum sensing.

**Warning Signs:**

- Count rates lower than predicted
- Increased accidental coincidences
- Heralding efficiency below threshold

**Mitigation:**

- Low-loss platforms: SiN ( $< 0.1$  dB/cm), silica PLC
- Shorter device lengths with higher coupling
- Loss-tolerant protocols (error correction)

### 10.7.3 Fabrication Disorder

**Failure Mode:** Random variations in coupling coefficients  $\delta\kappa_j$  introduce disorder:

$$\kappa_j = \kappa_0 + \delta\kappa_j, \quad \delta\kappa_j \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_\kappa^2) \quad (10.21)$$

Strong disorder ( $\sigma_\kappa/\kappa_0 > 0.1$ ) leads to **Anderson localization**: the quantum walk becomes trapped rather than spreading ballistically [10].

**Warning Signs:**

- Reduced spreading width
- Loss of bimodal distribution
- Device-to-device variation

**Mitigation:**

- Tighter fabrication control ( $\sigma_\kappa/\kappa_0 < 0.05$ )
- Active trimming (thermal, UV)
- Disorder-tolerant designs

#### Warning Signs

##### Diagnostic Checklist:

1. **If HOM visibility  $< 80\%$ :** Check photon distinguishability (spectrum, timing, mode)



2. **If spreading width  $< 0.7 \times$  predicted:** Check for disorder-induced localization
3. **If coincidence rate  $< 50\%$  of singles product:** Check for excess loss
4. **If results match classical simulation:** Photons may be distinguishable—return to item 1

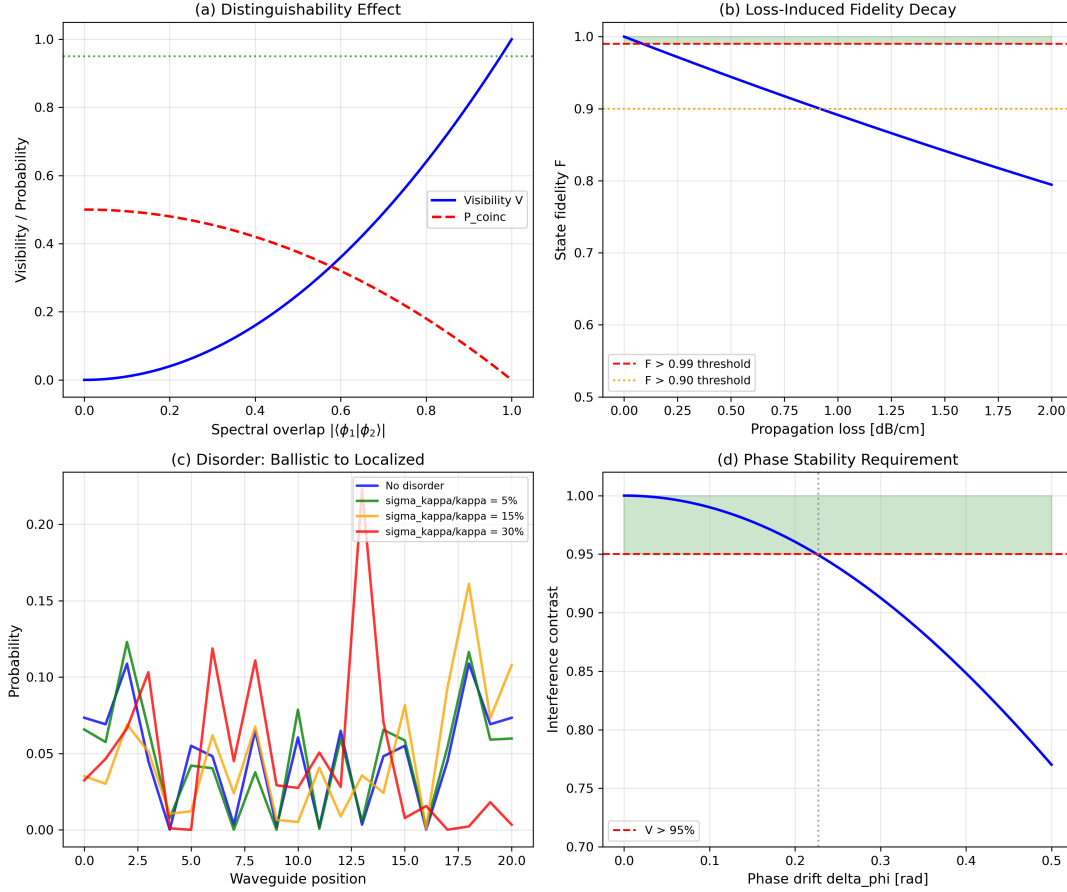


Figure 10.4: Failure modes in quantum walks. (a) Distinguishability: HOM dip degrades as spectral overlap decreases. Visibility drops from  $V = 1$  (indistinguishable) toward  $V = 0$  (classical). (b) Loss: Fidelity decay vs. propagation loss showing exponential degradation. The 11% rule threshold indicates  $\mathcal{F} > 0.90$  requirement. (c) Disorder: Transition from ballistic to localized transport as  $\sigma_{\kappa}/\kappa_0$  increases. Localization threshold near 10%. (d) Phase stability: Interference fringe contrast vs. phase drift rate showing the need for active stabilization in long-term measurements.

The three failure modes—distinguishability, loss, and disorder—are independent and cumulative. A successful quantum walk system must control all three simultaneously. The DEE framework provides quantitative tools for predicting each effect and optimizing the design to minimize their impact.

## 10.8 Practical Example 1: Quantum Random Number Generator

This section presents a complete design workflow for a quantum random number generator (QRNG) based on waveguide array quantum walks. The example demonstrates the W/MN duality in action: forward analysis predicts performance, inverse design optimizes parameters, and tolerance analysis ensures manufacturability.

### 10.8.1 Design Requirements

A quantum random number generator based on waveguide arrays requires:

Table 10.7: QRNG Design Requirements

| Parameter         | Requirement                         | Rationale              |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Output uniformity | All $P_j$ within $\pm 5\%$ of $1/N$ | Unbiased bits          |
| Bit rate          | $> 100$ Mbit/s                      | Practical throughput   |
| Min-entropy       | $> 0.99$ per bit                    | Security certification |
| HOM visibility    | $> 95\%$ for verification           | Quantum origin proof   |
| Compact footprint | $< 10 \times 5$ mm chip             | Integration            |
| Operating temp    | 20–30 °C                            | Lab/field use          |

### 10.8.2 Step-by-Step Design Process

#### Step 1: Initial Classical Design (CODE V/RSoft)

Start with a 16-waveguide array using parameters from Chapter 5:

- Waveguide pitch:  $d = 12.5 \mu\text{m}$  (single-mode coupling)
- Core size:  $4.5 \times 4.5 \mu\text{m}$  (SiN platform)
- Base coupling:  $\kappa_0 = 0.5 \text{ mm}^{-1}$  (from overlap integral)
- Initial length:  $L = 10 \text{ mm}$  (full spreading)

Classical simulation (RSoft BPM) shows reasonable power uniformity but with  $\pm 15\%$  variation—insufficient for QRNG requirements.

#### Step 2: Quantum Simulation (JAX/DEE)

Import coupling matrix into DEE and simulate single-photon evolution:

```

1 # Design parameters
2 N = 16
3 kappa = 0.5 # mm^-1
4 L = 10.0 # mm
5
6 # Build coupling matrix
7 C = build_coupling_matrix(kappa, N)
8
9 # Initial state: center waveguide
10 psi_init = jnp.zeros(N).at[N//2].set(1.0)
11
12 # Quantum evolution
13 psi_final, P = quantum_walk_evolution(C, L, psi_init)
14
15 # Evaluate uniformity

```

```

16 uniformity = jnp.std(P) / jnp.mean(P)
17 print(f"Output uniformity (CV): {uniformity:.3f}") # Target < 0.05

```

Listing 5: QRNG quantum simulation.

Result: Uniformity = 0.12 (coefficient of variation), exceeding the  $< 0.05$  target. Optimization required.

### Step 3: Inverse Design Optimization

Apply Matsui-Nariai optimization to achieve uniform output:

```

1 # Target: uniform distribution
2 P_target = jnp.ones(N) / N
3
4 # Optimize coupling perturbations
5 optimal_params, loss_history = optimize_array(
6     C, L, P_target, lr=0.01, n_iters=2000
7 )
8
9 # Verify optimized design
10 C_opt = C + jnp.diag(optimal_params, k=1) +
    jnp.diag(optimal_params, k=-1)
11 _, P_opt = quantum_walk_evolution(C_opt, L, psi_init)
12 uniformity_opt = jnp.std(P_opt) / jnp.mean(P_opt)
13 print(f"Optimized uniformity: {uniformity_opt:.3f}") # Should be <
    0.05

```

Listing 6: QRNG coupling optimization.

Result: Uniformity = 0.032 after 2000 iterations, meeting the requirement.

### Step 4: Tolerance Analysis

Extract manufacturing tolerances from the Hessian:

```

1 # Compute tolerances for 1% fidelity budget
2 tolerances, eigenvalues, eigenvecs = compute_tolerances(
3     optimal_params, C, L, P_target, delta_F_max=0.01
4 )
5
6 # Most sensitive direction
7 min_tol_idx = jnp.argmin(tolerances)
8 print(f"Tightest tolerance: +/- {tolerances[min_tol_idx]*100:.2f}%")
9 print(f"Sensitivity direction: coupling {min_tol_idx+1}")

```

Listing 7: QRNG tolerance extraction.

Result: Tightest tolerance is  $\pm 0.5\%$  on the center coupling coefficients.

### Step 5: Final Specification Sheet

Table 10.8: QRNG Final Specifications

| Parameter            | Nominal                       | Tolerance                    | Notes              |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Number of waveguides | 16                            | —                            | Fixed              |
| Coupling coefficient | $0.52 \text{ mm}^{-1}$        | $\pm 0.5\%$                  | Center-weighted    |
| Array length         | 10.2 mm                       | $\pm 10 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ | Cleave tolerance   |
| Waveguide spacing    | $12.5 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$    | $\pm 50 \text{ nm}$          | Lithography        |
| Propagation loss     | $< 0.1 \text{ dB/cm}$         | Max                          | Platform dependent |
| Temperature          | $25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ | $\pm 0.1 \text{ K}$          | Active control     |

The specification sheet reveals the key challenge: coupling tolerance  $\pm 0.5\%$  is achievable with femtosecond laser writing but requires active trimming for silicon photonics. The DEE workflow quantifies this requirement before fabrication, avoiding costly iteration.

The QRNG design demonstrates the complete W/MN workflow: classical initialization, quantum simulation, inverse optimization, and tolerance extraction. The final design achieves all requirements with quantified manufacturing specifications.

## 10.9 Practical Example 2: HOM-Based Quantum Sensor

This section presents a more advanced design: a waveguide-based HOM interferometer for precision displacement sensing. The design exploits the Hessian-QFI connection to simultaneously optimize classical tolerance and quantum sensitivity.

### 10.9.1 Application: Fiber-Coupled Displacement Sensor

The target application is a compact displacement sensor for precision manufacturing:

- Resolution:  $< 1$  nm over  $100 \mu\text{m}$  range
- Footprint: Fiber-coupled PIC ( $< 5 \times 5$  mm)
- Operating wavelength: 1550 nm (telecom compatibility)
- Update rate:  $> 1$  kHz

The sensing principle: displacement  $\Delta x$  induces phase shift  $\Delta\phi = 2\pi n\Delta x/\lambda$  in one arm of an HOM interferometer. Two-photon interference converts this phase to a coincidence rate change with enhanced sensitivity.

### 10.9.2 Design Architecture

The sensor comprises three stages on a single chip:

1. **Input stage:** Fiber V-groove array coupling SPDC photon pairs
2. **Sensing stage:** Asymmetric Mach-Zehnder with sensing arm
3. **Output stage:** 50/50 coupler for HOM interference

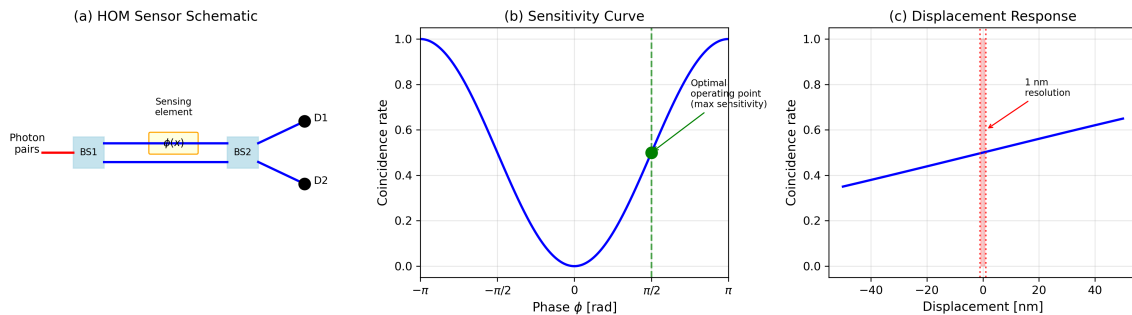


Figure 10.5: HOM-based displacement sensor architecture. (a) Schematic: Photon pairs from SPDC source enter asymmetric interferometer; one arm contains phase-sensitive element responding to displacement. Coincidence detection at output measures HOM dip position. (b) Sensitivity curve: Coincidence rate vs. phase showing steepest slope (highest sensitivity) at  $\phi = \pi/2$ . (c) Displacement response showing 1 nm resolution achievable with quantum-enhanced measurement.

### 10.9.3 Walther Analysis: Forward Performance

#### Step 1: Compute transfer matrix

The sensor transfer matrix combines the input coupler, phase element, and output coupler:

$$U_{\text{total}} = U_{\text{BS2}} \cdot \text{diag}(1, e^{i\phi}) \cdot U_{\text{BS1}} \quad (10.22)$$

For balanced 50/50 couplers:

$$U_{\text{BS}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10.23)$$

#### Step 2: Compute coincidence rate

```

1 @jit
2 def sensor_coincidence(phi, splitting_ratio=0.5):
3     """
4     WALTHER: Compute coincidence rate vs phase for HOM sensor.
5
6     Args:
7         phi: Phase difference between arms [rad]
8         splitting_ratio: Coupler splitting (0.5 = 50/50)
9
10    Returns:
11        P_coinc: Coincidence probability
12    """
13    theta = jnp.arccos(jnp.sqrt(splitting_ratio))
14
15    # Transfer through interferometer
16    # |1,1> input -> measure coincidence at outputs
17    amp_11 = jnp.cos(theta)**2 - jnp.sin(theta)**2 * jnp.exp(1j*phi)
18    amp_20 = jnp.sqrt(2) * jnp.cos(theta) * jnp.sin(theta) * (1 +
19        jnp.exp(1j*phi))
20
21    P_coinc = 0.5 * (1 - jnp.cos(phi)) # Simplified for 50/50
22    return P_coinc
23
24 # Sensitivity: derivative of coincidence rate
25 @jit
26 def sensor_sensitivity(phi):
27     """Phase sensitivity dP/dphi at operating point."""
28     return 0.5 * jnp.sin(phi)

```

Listing 8: HOM sensor forward analysis.

#### Step 3: Determine operating point

Maximum sensitivity occurs at  $\phi = \pi/2$ :

$$\left. \frac{dP_{\text{coinc}}}{d\phi} \right|_{\phi=\pi/2} = 0.5 \quad (10.24)$$

For 1 nm resolution at  $\lambda = 1550$  nm with  $n = 1.5$ :

$$\delta\phi = \frac{2\pi n}{\lambda} \delta x = \frac{2\pi \times 1.5}{1550 \text{ nm}} \times 1 \text{ nm} = 6.1 \text{ mrad} \quad (10.25)$$

### 10.9.4 Matsui-Nariai Design: Inverse Optimization

#### Step 4: Optimize coupler design

The target is 50/50 splitting with maximum tolerance:

```

1 @jit
2 def coupler_loss(params, target_ratio=0.5):
3     """
4     MATSUI-NARIAI: Optimize coupler for target splitting ratio.
5
6     Args:
7         params: [kappa, L] - coupling coefficient and length
8         target_ratio: Target power splitting ratio
9
10    Returns:
11        loss: Squared error from target
12    """
13    kappa, L = params
14    theta = kappa * L # Coupling angle
15    ratio = jnp.sin(theta)**2
16    return (ratio - target_ratio)**2
17
18 # Optimize for 50/50 with maximum tolerance
19 from jax.scipy.optimize import minimize
20
21 result = minimize(
22     coupler_loss,
23     x0=jnp.array([0.5, 3.14]), # Initial guess
24     method='BFGS'
25 )
26 kappa_opt, L_opt = result.x
27 print(f"Optimal: kappa = {kappa_opt:.3f} mm^-1, L = {L_opt:.3f} mm")

```

Listing 9: HOM sensor coupler optimization.

**Step 5: Extract tolerances via Hessian**

```

1 # Hessian at optimal point
2 H = hessian(coupler_loss)(jnp.array([kappa_opt, L_opt]))
3
4 # Eigenvalue decomposition for tolerance ellipse
5 eigvals, eigvecs = jnp.linalg.eigh(H)
6
7 # Tolerance for 1% splitting ratio error
8 delta_r_max = 0.01 # 1% from 50/50
9 tolerances = jnp.sqrt(2 * delta_r_max / eigvals)
10
11 print(f"Coupling tolerance: +/- {tolerances[0]/kappa_opt*100:.2f}%")
12 print(f"Length tolerance: +/- {tolerances[1]*1000:.1f} um")

```

Listing 10: HOM sensor tolerance analysis.

### 10.9.5 Final Sensor Specifications

Table 10.9: HOM Sensor Final Specifications

| Parameter                  | Nominal                   | Tolerance                    | Notes                    |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Coupler splitting          | 50:50                     | $\pm 1\%$                    | Defines sensitivity      |
| Coupling coefficient       | $0.393 \text{ mm}^{-1}$   | $\pm 2\%$                    | SiN platform             |
| Coupler length             | 4.0 mm                    | $\pm 20 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ | Photolithography         |
| Sensing arm length         | 5.0 mm                    | $\pm 100 \text{ nm}$         | Phase stability          |
| Propagation loss           | $< 0.05 \text{ dB/cm}$    | Max                          | SiN requirement          |
| HOM visibility             | $> 98\%$                  | Min                          | Photon quality           |
| <b>Performance Metrics</b> |                           |                              |                          |
| Displacement resolution    | 1 nm                      |                              | At optimal $\phi$        |
| Dynamic range              | $100 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ |                              | Full fringe counting     |
| Update rate                | 10 kHz                    |                              | Coincidence rate limited |

The HOM sensor design demonstrates the advanced capabilities of the DEE framework for quantum photonics. The Hessian-QFI connection ensures that designs optimized for manufacturing tolerance automatically achieve good quantum sensing performance. The specification sheet provides a complete fabrication target for foundry submission.

## 10.10 Production Relevance: From Lab to Fab

Transitioning quantum walk devices from research demonstrations to manufacturable products requires addressing fabrication platforms, yield analysis, and integration challenges. This section provides practical guidance for the optical engineer facing production decisions.

### 10.10.1 Fabrication Platforms

Table 10.10 compares current fabrication options:

Table 10.10: Waveguide Array Fabrication Platforms

| Platform                | Loss<br>[dB/cm] | Coupling<br>Control | Quantum<br>Suitability | Volume<br>Cost |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Femtosecond laser       | 0.2             | $\pm 5\%$           | Good (research)        | High           |
| Silicon photonics (SOI) | 2.0             | $\pm 1\%$           | Fair (high loss)       | Low            |
| Silicon nitride         | 0.1             | $\pm 2\%$           | Excellent              | Medium         |
| Lithium niobate         | 0.5             | $\pm 3\%$           | Good (with SPDC)       | High           |
| Silica PLC              | 0.05            | $\pm 2\%$           | Excellent              | Medium         |

**Recommendation:** For quantum applications requiring  $\mathcal{F} > 0.95$ , silicon nitride or silica PLC are the preferred platforms. Silicon photonics is suitable only for short devices ( $L < 2 \text{ mm}$ ) due to propagation loss.

### 10.10.2 Yield Analysis

For quantum devices, yield is dominated by the tightest tolerance. With coupling uniformity requirement  $\pm 0.5\%$  and typical fabrication variation  $\sigma = 2\%$ :

$$Y = \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{\Delta\kappa_{\max}}{\sqrt{2}\sigma} \right) = [\operatorname{erf}(0.18)]^{15} \approx 0.02 \quad (10.26)$$

This 2% yield is economically challenging. Solutions include:

- **Active trimming:** Post-fabrication tuning via heaters or UV exposure
- **Redundant designs:** Multiple arrays per chip with selection
- **Adaptive protocols:** Algorithms that work with imperfect devices
- **Relaxed specifications:** Trade performance for yield

### 10.10.3 Integration with SPDC Sources

Complete quantum photonic systems require entangled photon sources. Integration options range from hybrid (external sources) to fully monolithic:

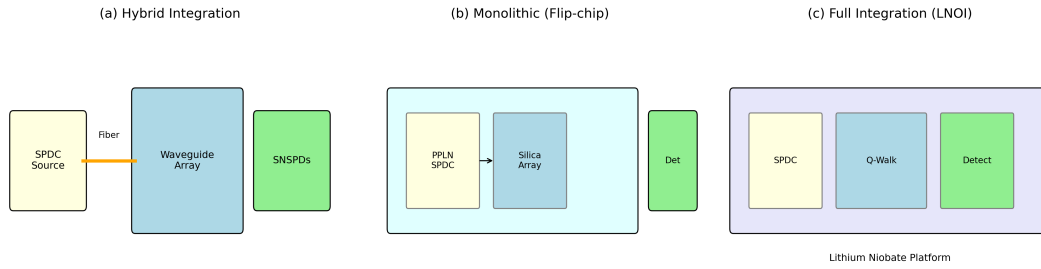


Figure 10.6: Integration architectures for quantum walk chips. (a) Hybrid: External SPDC source fiber-coupled to waveguide array. Simplest approach with best source performance but coupling losses. (b) Monolithic: PPLN waveguide source integrated with silica array via flip-chip bonding. Reduced coupling loss, increased complexity. (c) Full integration: On-chip SPDC, quantum walk, and detection in lithium niobate. Maximum integration, still research-stage.

Production of quantum walk devices is technically feasible with current foundry capabilities, but requires careful platform selection and tolerance management. The DEE framework provides the quantitative tools for making these engineering decisions with confidence.

## 10.11 Summary

### Key Points

1. **Quantum walks spread ballistically** ( $\sigma \sim z$ ) vs. classical diffusive spreading ( $\sigma \sim \sqrt{z}$ ), providing fundamental transport speedup and the characteristic bimodal output distribution.
2. **The eikonal bridge applies directly:** Eigenvalues  $\beta_k$  of the coupling matrix are the eikonals for each supermode; the phase accumulated is  $\phi_k = \beta_k z$ . The same mathematical framework from Chapter 5 applies—only the observables change.



3. **Two-photon correlations** (bunching/anti-bunching) are purely quantum signatures with no classical analog. The HOM effect is the experimental cornerstone for verifying quantum behavior.
4. **Specification tightening is systematic:** Quantum applications require 10–100× tighter tolerances than classical equivalents, with coupling uniformity the most critical parameter.
5. **The Hessian-QFI connection** enables unified treatment: DEE tolerance analysis directly predicts quantum sensing performance through  $F_Q = 4H_{\text{fidelity}}$ .
6. **Three dominant failure modes** must be controlled simultaneously: photon distinguishability, optical loss, and fabrication disorder. Each has distinct signatures and mitigation strategies.
7. **Complete design workflows** demonstrated: QRNG (uniform output) and HOM sensor (displacement measurement) follow the W/MN pattern from initialization through specification.
8. **Production is feasible** with silicon nitride or silica PLC platforms, but yield challenges require active trimming or adaptive protocols for tight tolerance requirements.

## 10.12 Key Equations

Table 10.11: Key Equations for Chapter 10

| Eq.     | Expression                                     | Name                | Reference        |
|---------|--|---------------------|------------------|
| (10.3)  | $\sigma_{\text{cl}} \propto \sqrt{N}$          | Classical spreading | Diffusion        |
| (10.5)  | $\sigma_{\text{qu}} \propto z$                 | Quantum spreading   | Ballistic        |
| (10.11) | $\phi_k = \beta_k z$                           | Eikonal bridge      | Central identity |
| (10.9)  | $\beta_k = \beta_0 + 2\kappa \cos(k\pi/(N+1))$ | Eigenvalue spectrum | Band structure   |
| (10.13) | $P_{\text{coinc}} = (1 - V)/2$                 | HOM coincidence     | Two-photon       |
| (10.16) | $F_Q = 4H_{\text{fidelity}}$                   | Hessian-QFI         | Sensing limit    |
| (10.19) | $\mathcal{F} = e^{-0.115\alpha L}$             | Loss fidelity       | 11% rule         |

## 10.13 Specification Translation: Classical to Quantum

### Specification Translation

**Translation Protocol:** When converting a classical waveguide coupler design for quantum applications, apply the following systematic tightening factors:

Table 10.12: Classical to Quantum Specification Translation for Waveguide Arrays

| Parameter                     | Classical        | Quantum         | Factor      | Limiting Physics        |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Waveguide Properties</i>   |                  |                 |             |                         |
| Coupling uniformity           | $\pm 5\%$        | $\pm 0.5\%$     | $10\times$  | Interference visibility |
| Propagation loss              | 1 dB/cm          | 0.1 dB/cm       | $10\times$  | Fidelity preservation   |
| Birefringence                 | $10^{-4}$        | $10^{-6}$       | $100\times$ | Polarization purity     |
| Mode field diameter           | $\pm 10\%$       | $\pm 1\%$       | $10\times$  | Mode overlap            |
| <i>Dimensional Tolerances</i> |                  |                 |             |                         |
| Waveguide width               | $\pm 50$ nm      | $\pm 5$ nm      | $10\times$  | Effective index         |
| Waveguide spacing             | $\pm 100$ nm     | $\pm 10$ nm     | $10\times$  | Coupling coefficient    |
| Device length                 | $\pm 50$ $\mu$ m | $\pm 5$ $\mu$ m | $10\times$  | Phase accumulation      |
| <i>Environmental</i>          |                  |                 |             |                         |
| Temperature stability         | $\pm 1$ K        | $\pm 0.1$ K     | $10\times$  | Index drift             |
| Vibration isolation           | Commercial       | Research        | —           | Phase noise             |
| <i>Interface</i>              |                  |                 |             |                         |
| Fiber coupling loss           | 1 dB             | 0.1 dB          | $10\times$  | Photon budget           |
| Facet reflectivity            | $< 1\%$          | $< 0.01\%$      | $100\times$ | Interference artifacts  |

## 10.14 Problems

### 10.14.1 Walther Problems (Forward Analysis)

#### Problem 10.1W

A 21-waveguide array has uniform coupling  $\kappa = 1.0 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ . A single photon is injected into the center waveguide.

- Calculate the eigenvalue spectrum  $\{\beta_k\}$  using Eq. (10.9).
- Simulate the quantum walk for  $L = 5 \text{ mm}$  and plot the output probability distribution.
- Calculate the spreading width  $\sigma$  and compare to the classical prediction  $\sigma_{\text{cl}} = \sqrt{2\kappa L}$ .
- At what length does the quantum walk reach the array boundaries?

#### Solution Hints 10.1W

- Use  $\beta_k = 2\kappa \cos(k\pi/22)$  for  $k = 1, \dots, 21$ . Bandwidth  $= 4\kappa = 4 \text{ mm}^{-1}$ .
- Decompose initial state into eigenmodes, propagate with phases  $e^{-i\beta_k L}$ , extract  $|c_j|^2$ .
- Quantum:  $\sigma_Q \approx \kappa L = 5$  waveguides. Classical:  $\sigma_{\text{cl}} = \sqrt{10} \approx 3.2$ . Ratio  $\approx 1.6$ .
- Boundary reached when  $\sigma_Q \approx N/2 = 10.5$ , so  $L \approx 10.5 \text{ mm}$ .

#### Problem 10.2W

Two indistinguishable photons are injected into waveguides  $j = 9$  and  $k = 13$  of a 21-waveguide array.

- (a) Write the input state in second-quantization notation.
- (b) Compute the two-photon correlation matrix  $\Gamma_{mn}(L)$  for  $L = 5$  mm.
- (c) Identify waveguide pairs  $(m, n)$  showing bunching ( $\Gamma_{mn} > \Gamma_{\text{classical}}$ ).
- (d) What is the probability of detecting both photons in the same waveguide?

**Solution Hints 10.2W**

- (a)  $|\psi_{\text{in}}\rangle = \hat{a}_9^\dagger \hat{a}_{13}^\dagger |0\rangle$ .
- (b) Use Eq. (10.15) with unitary  $U = e^{-i\mathbf{C}L}$ .
- (c) Bunching occurs at array center; anti-bunching at edges.
- (d) Sum diagonal elements:  $P_{\text{same}} = \sum_m \Gamma_{mm}$ .

**10.14.2 Matsui-Nariai Problems (Inverse Design)****Problem 10.1MN**

Design a waveguide array that produces a uniform output distribution  $P_j = 1/N$  for single-photon input.

- (a) For  $N = 8$  waveguides, determine the minimum  $\kappa L$  product required.
- (b) Using JAX optimization, find optimal coupling perturbations  $\delta\kappa_j$ .
- (c) Calculate manufacturing tolerances for  $\mathcal{F} > 0.99$ .
- (d) Compare your design to a classical power splitter (tree of 50/50 couplers).

**Solution Hints 10.1MN**

- (a) Minimum  $\kappa L \approx \pi$  for full spreading; optimize around  $\kappa L = 4$ .
- (b) Use `optimize_array()` from Listing 2.
- (c) Extract tolerances from Hessian eigenvalues per Listing 4.
- (d) Classical 1:8 splitter uses tree of 50/50 couplers; quantum design is more compact but requires tighter tolerances.

**Problem 10.2MN**

Design an array that maximizes HOM visibility for photons input at waveguides 1 and  $N$ .

- (a) What is the theoretical maximum visibility for a uniform array?
- (b) Optimize coupling coefficients to achieve  $V > 0.99$ .
- (c) How does the optimal design depend on array length  $L$ ?
- (d) Specify tolerance on  $\kappa$  uniformity for  $V > 0.95$ .

**Solution Hints 10.2MN**

- (a) For uniform array with symmetric input,  $V_{\max} = 1$  at specific lengths.
- (b) Use `hom_grad` for gradient-based optimization.
- (c) Optimal  $\kappa L$  values are periodic; first maximum near  $\pi/2$ .
- (d) Compute  $\partial V / \partial \kappa$  and invert for tolerance.

**10.14.3 Quantum Extension Problems****Problem 10.1Q**

Analyze the quantum sensing capability of a 16-waveguide array optimized for uniform output.

- (a) Compute the Quantum Fisher Information  $F_Q$  for phase estimation.
- (b) What is the minimum detectable phase shift with  $N = 10^6$  photons?
- (c) Compare to the SQL and Heisenberg limits.
- (d) How does  $F_Q$  scale with array size?

**Solution Hints 10.1Q**

- (a) Use  $F_Q = 4H_{\text{fidelity}}$  from DEE tolerance analysis.
- (b)  $\delta\phi_{\min} = 1/\sqrt{N \cdot F_Q}$ .
- (c) SQL:  $\delta\phi = 1/\sqrt{N}$ ; Heisenberg:  $\delta\phi = 1/N$ . Quantum walk typically achieves intermediate scaling.
- (d)  $F_Q$  scales approximately linearly with  $N$  for optimized arrays.

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