Variational theory of the ground state of cavity quantum electrodynamics

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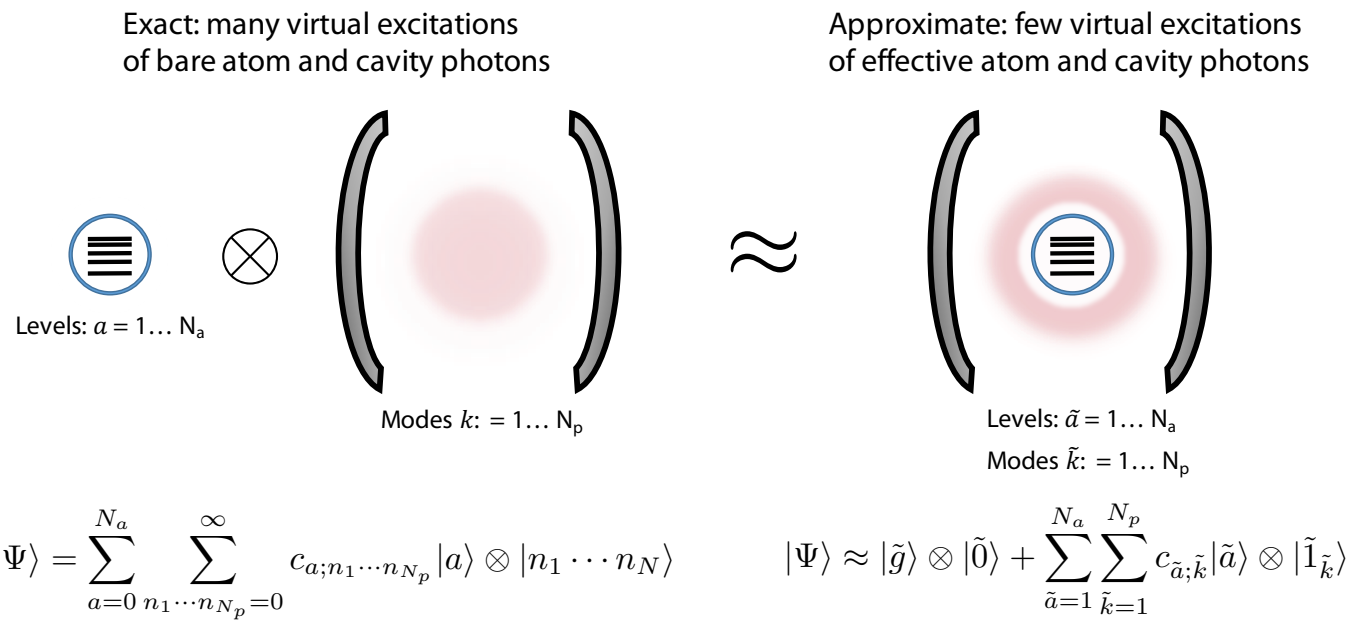

Fig. 1. **Ground-state ansatz applied to matter in a cavity: effectively decoupled matter and photons.** .