

CP*



Light

- → Also known as:
 - ◆ Electromagnetic radiation
 - ◆ Solutions to Maxwell's equations
- → Includes visible spectrum that we can see
- → Usually behaves like a wave

Some history

- → 1900 Planck's theory of blackbody radiation
- → 1905 Einstein explains photoelectric effect
- → 1925 Schrödinger equation
- → 1927 Quantization of the electromagnetic field

Quantized electromagnetic field

→ Model of field as oscillator

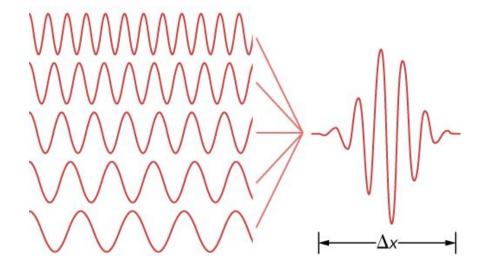
$$E = \sum_{k} h\nu \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

- → Photon emerges as smallest increment in energy
- → Definite momentum/wavelength, non-localizable

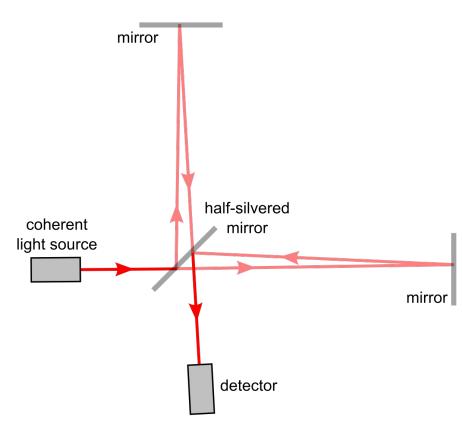


Coherent states

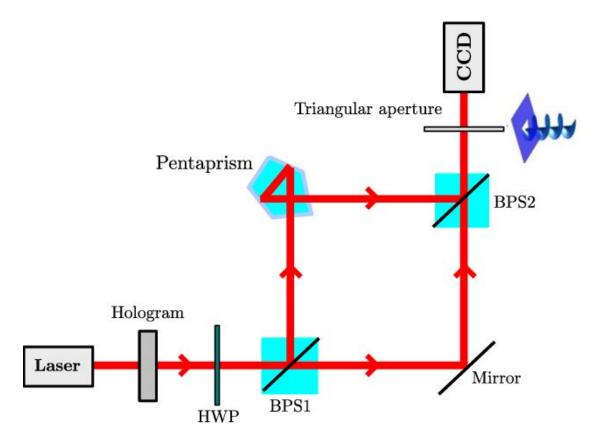
- → Localized wave packet
- \rightarrow Saturates Heisenberg uncertainty principle $\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}$



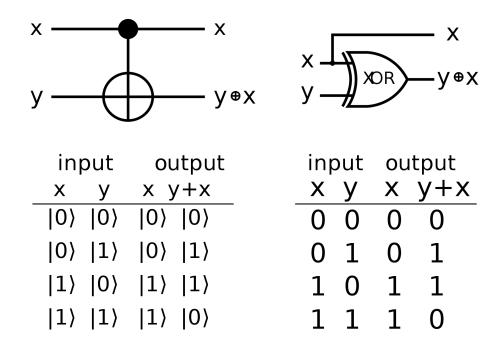
Interferometry



Controlled NOT (CNOT) circuit



CNOT circuit logic



So... what is a photon?

- → Word used for two different concepts
- → Einstein's version: smallest possible packet of energy
- → Coherent states: localized wave packet with range of frequencies