

# Probing non-equilibrium many body systems by correlations

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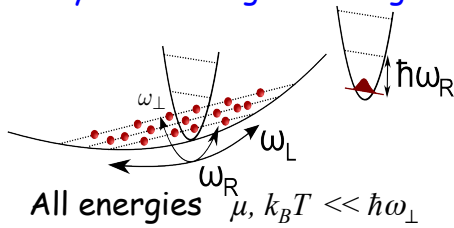
## Quantum fields $\leftrightarrow$ Correlation functions



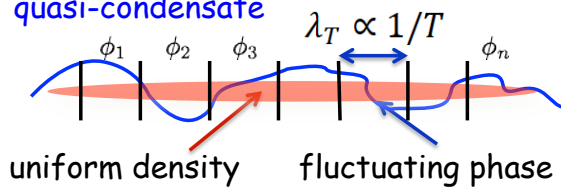
*On the Green's functions of quantized fields*  
J. Schwinger PNAS (1951)

- ✧ Solving a quantum many-body problem is equivalent to knowing **all** its **correlation functions**.
- ✧ In practice, an observer can only measure a **finite** number of correlations describing the propagation and scattering of excitations.
- ✧ To solve a problem one needs to **find degrees of freedom** where only few (low order) correlation functions are relevant.
- ✧ If one finds the degrees of freedom (basis) where the **correlation functions factorize**, this is equivalent to **diagonalization of the many body Hamiltonian**.

## Weakly interacting 1d Bose gas



### quasi-condensate



$$\hat{\psi}(x) = e^{i\hat{\phi}_1(x)} \sqrt{\rho + \hat{n}_1(x)}$$

thermally populated

### Lieb-Liniger model

- Exactly solvable integrable theory

low energy effective field theory:

### Luttinger-liquid

$$H = \frac{c}{2} \int dx \left[ \frac{K}{\pi} (\nabla\varphi)^2 + \frac{\pi}{K} \hat{n}^2 \right]$$

- excitations are soundwaves (phonons)
- linear dispersion relation

coupled 1d systems:

### Sine-Gordon model

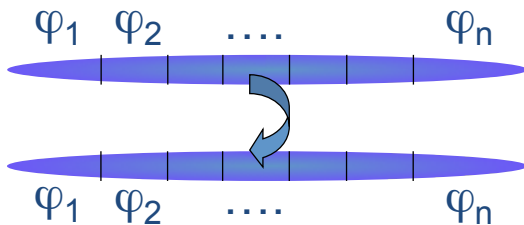
$$\hat{H}_{SG} = \frac{\hbar c}{2} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} dz \left[ \frac{\pi}{K} \hat{n}^2(z) + \frac{K}{\pi} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{\theta}(z) \right)^2 \right] - 2n_{1D} J \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} dz \cos[\sqrt{2} \hat{\theta}(z)]$$

Model for interacting many body systems which can be described by a field theory with long lived excitations.

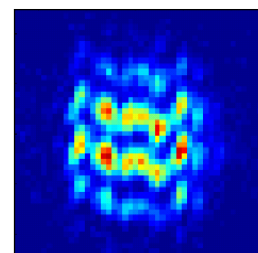
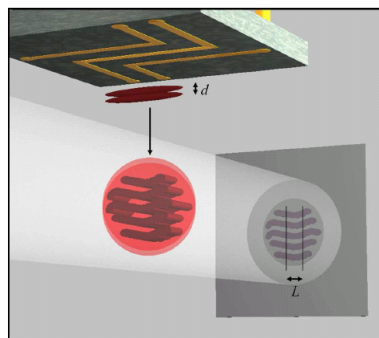
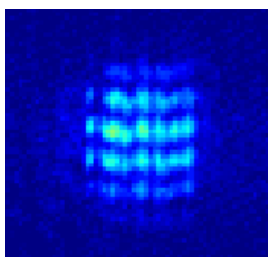
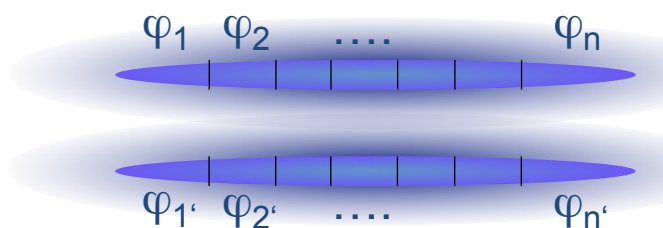
The longitudinal phase fluctuations are key for our experiments

## Study the dynamics of excitations on a quantum field

create a copy by splitting  
quantum connected



create two independent samples  
classically separated



## Correlation functions

- fields  $\leftrightarrow$  phase  $\leftrightarrow$  excitations

## Characterizing the pre-thermalized state

- Generalized Gibbs ensemble

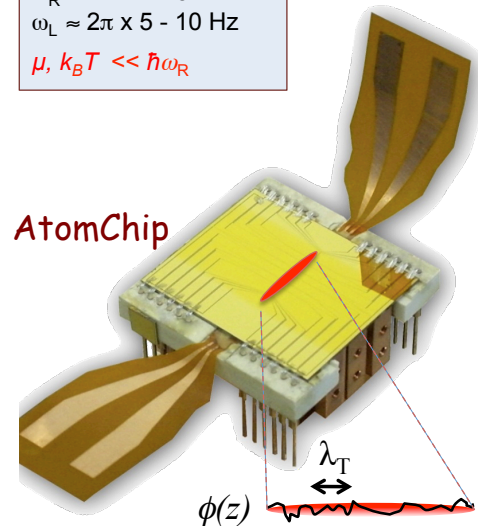
## High order correlation functions

- Quantifying factorization
- Sine-Gordon model
- Quench to a free system

## Outlook

- entanglement and spin squeezing
- quantum state tomography
- relaxation in SG model

1000-10000 Rb atoms  
 $T = 10-100$  nK  
 $\omega_R \approx 2\pi \times 2 - 3$  kHz  
 $\omega_L \approx 2\pi \times 5 - 10$  Hz  
 $\mu, k_B T \ll \hbar\omega_R$



# Correlation functions

fields  $\leftrightarrow$  phase  $\leftrightarrow$  excitations

experiments in a trap

$\rightarrow$  non translation invariant correlation functions

$$C(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\langle \Psi_1(z_1) \Psi_2^\dagger(z_1) \Psi_1^\dagger(z_2) \Psi_2(z_2) \rangle}{\langle |\Psi_1(z_1)|^2 \rangle \langle |\Psi_2(z_2)|^2 \rangle}$$

with

$$\Psi(z) = e^{i\theta(z)} \sqrt{\rho_0(z) + \delta\hat{n}(z)}$$

$$\varphi(z) = \theta_1(z) - \theta_2(z)$$

neglecting  $\delta\hat{n}(z)$



$$C(z_1, z_2) \approx \langle \exp[i\varphi(z_1) - i\varphi(z_2)] \rangle$$

4<sup>th</sup> order:

$$C(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = \frac{\langle \Psi_1(z_1) \Psi_2^\dagger(z_1) \Psi_1^\dagger(z_2) \Psi_2(z_2) \Psi_1(z_3) \Psi_2^\dagger(z_3) \Psi_1^\dagger(z_4) \Psi_2(z_4) \rangle}{\langle |\Psi_1(z_1)|^2 \rangle \langle |\Psi_1(z_2)|^2 \rangle \langle |\Psi_2(z_3)|^2 \rangle \langle |\Psi_2(z_4)|^2 \rangle}$$

$$C(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) \approx \langle \exp[i\varphi(z_1) - i\varphi(z_2) + i\varphi(z_3) - i\varphi(z_4)] \rangle$$

in experiment we measure the phase  $\varphi(z)$  directly

$\rightarrow$  look at phase correlators

$$C^{(2)}(z_1, z_2) = \langle [\varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2)]^2 \rangle = \langle [\Delta\varphi(z_1, z_2)]^2 \rangle$$

with  $\Delta\varphi(z_1, z_2) = \varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2)$  **Note:  $\Delta\varphi$  is NOT restricted to  $2\pi$**

using

$$\varphi(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L}} \sum_{k \neq 0} \left[ (-i) \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{|k|K}} (b_k^\dagger - b_{-k}) e^{ikz} \right]$$

$$\longrightarrow \langle [\varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2)]^2 \rangle = \sum_{k_1, k_2} \frac{\pi}{K \sqrt{|k_1 k_2|}} b_{k_1}^\dagger b_{-k_2} e^{ik_1 z_1 + ik_2 z_2} + \dots$$

$\rightarrow$  phase correlators are related to the **quasi particles**

4<sup>th</sup> order

$$C^{(4)}(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = \langle [\varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2)]^2 [\varphi(z_3) - \varphi(z_4)]^2 \rangle$$

$$\propto b_{k_1}^\dagger b_{k_2}^\dagger b_{-k_3} b_{-k_4} + \dots$$

$\rightarrow$  quasi particle scattering

# Probing dynamics after quench

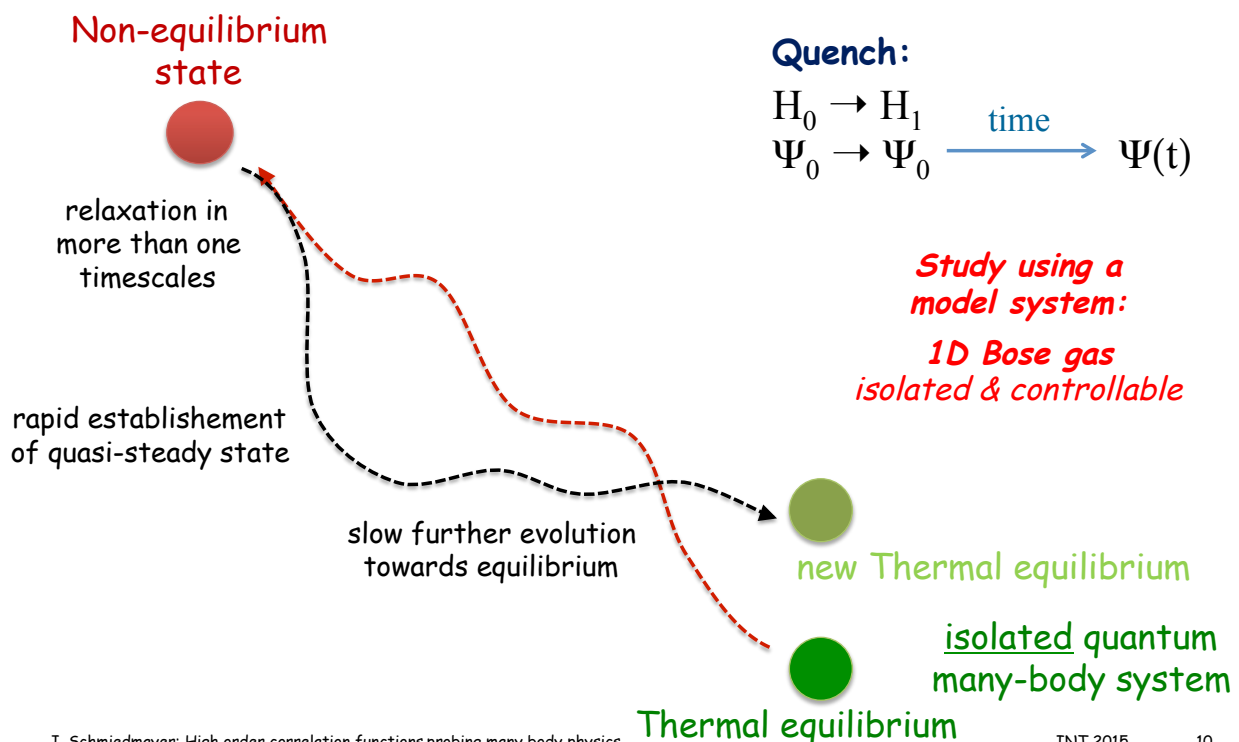
## (de) coherence

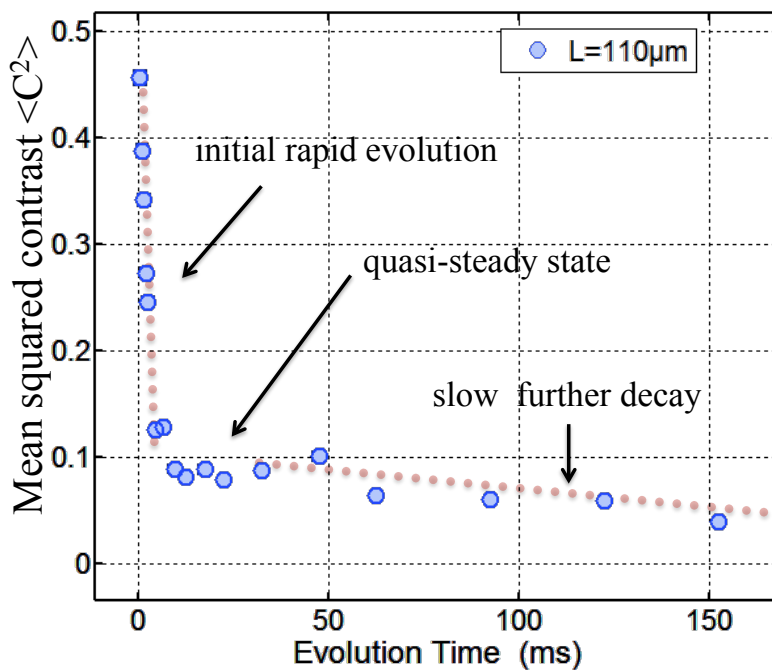
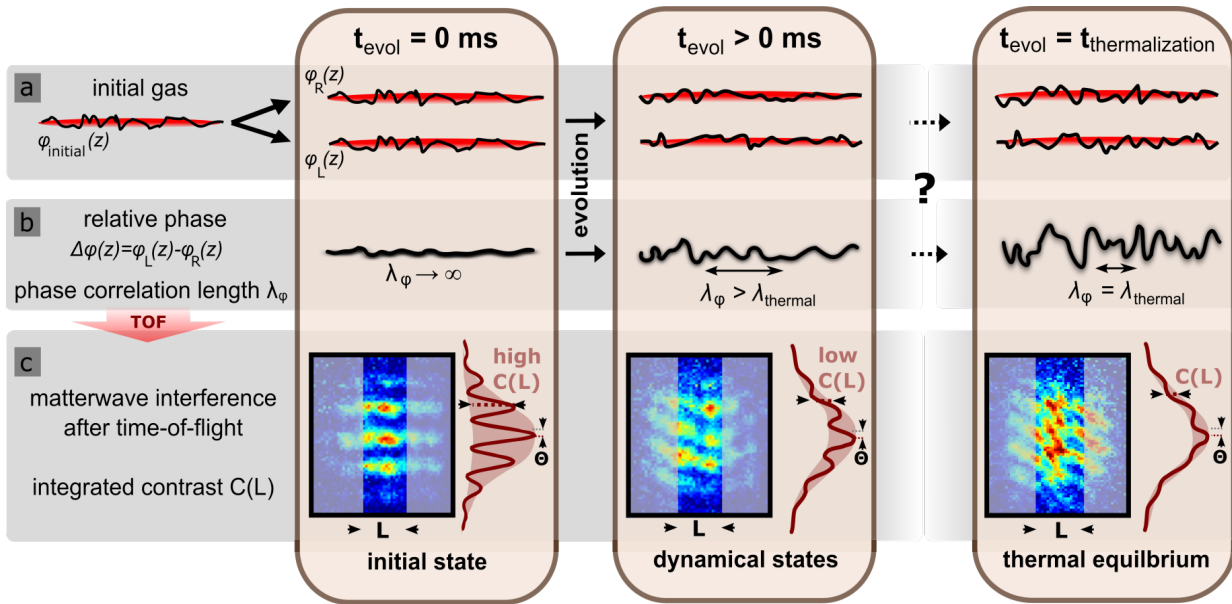
Experiment: M. Gring, M. Kuhnert, T. Langen et al. (VCQ, Vienna)  
 Theory: T. Kitagawa, E. Demler (Harvard)  
 I. Mazets (VCQ, Vienna)

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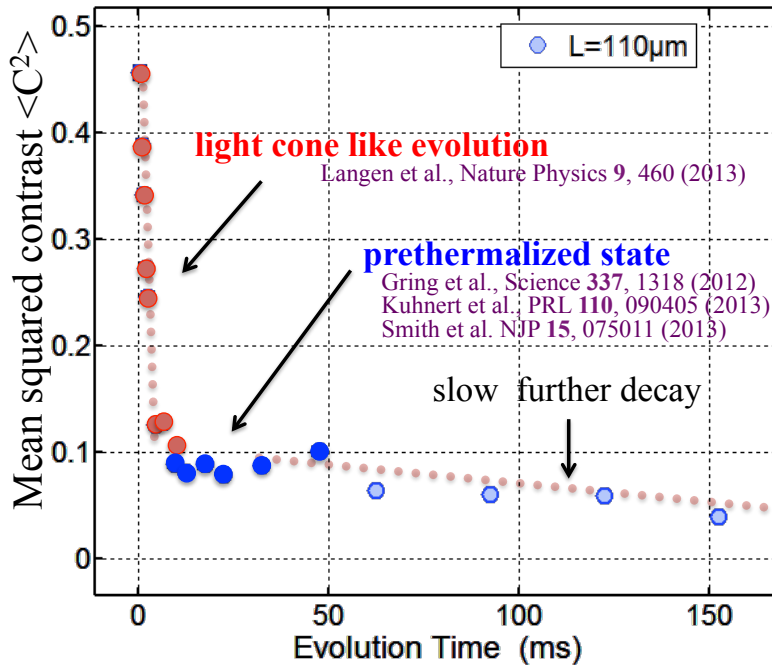


## Relaxation in a nearly integrable quantum system

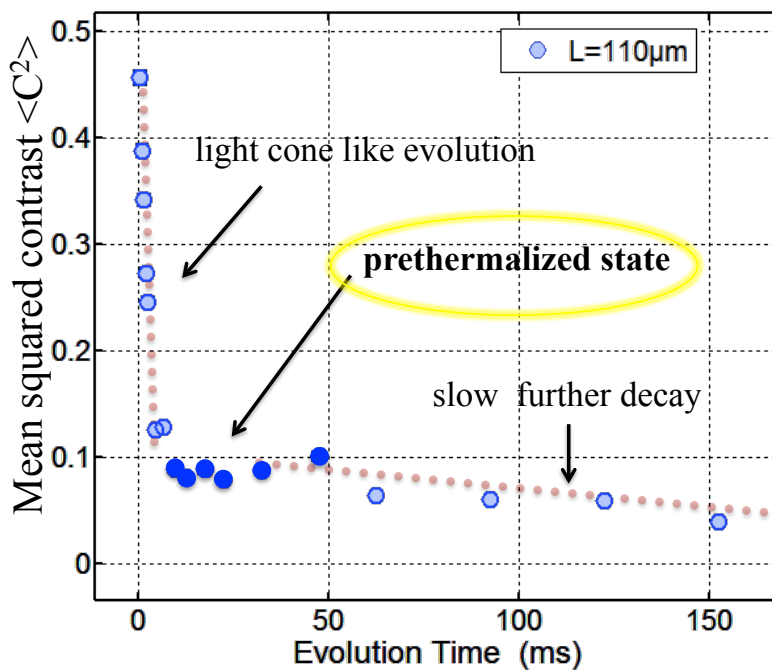




# Decay of the mean contrast



# Decay of the mean contrast



# Generalized Gibbs Ensemble

## pre-thermalized state

Langen et al. Science 2015

arXiv:1411.7185

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## The generalized Gibbs ensemble



1D Bose gas is a (nearly) integrable system

→ many conserved quantities  
inhibit thermalization

$$\hat{H}_{\text{eff}} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^L \epsilon_{\alpha} \hat{I}_{\alpha},$$



Conjecture:

Quantum system to **relax to maximum entropy state**  
described by a **Generalized Gibbs Ensemble**:

$$\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{Z} \exp \left( - \sum_m \lambda_m \hat{I}_m \right)$$

partition  
function

Lagrange multiplier  
 $\lambda_m \rightarrow \beta_m = 1/k_B T_m$

conserved quantities:  
mode occupations

**striking feature: a temperature for every mode!**

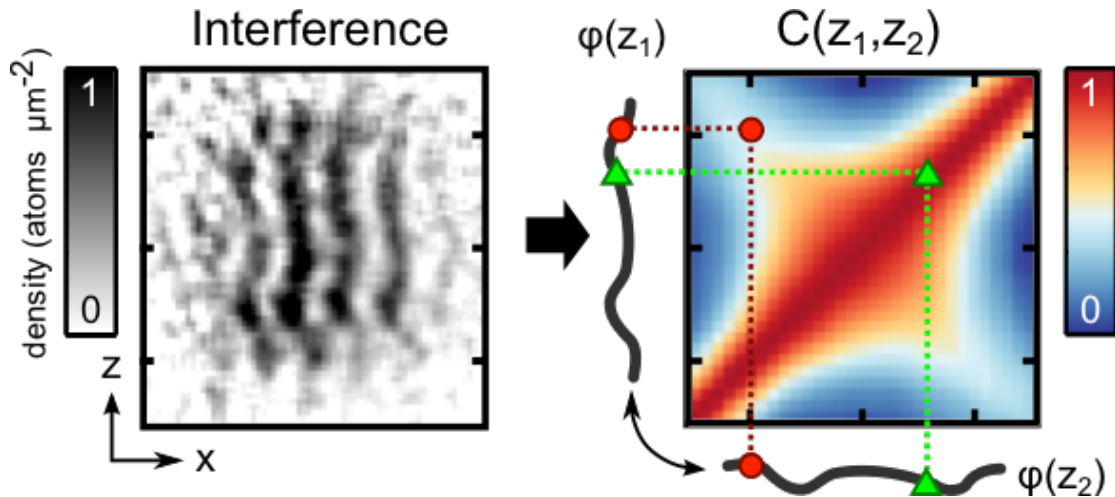
E. T. Jaynes, Phys. Rev. **106**, 620 (1957); Phys. Rev. **108**, 171 (1957)  
M. A. Cazalilla, Phys. Rev. Lett. **97**, 156403 (2006)  
M. Rigol, et al, Phys. Rev. Lett. **98**, 050405 (2007)  
C. Cramer et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **100**, 030602 (2008)



# Non-Translation Invariant Correlation Functions

T. Langen et al. Science 2015, arXiv:1411.7185

$$C(z_1, z_2) = \left\langle e^{i(\varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2))} \right\rangle$$



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# 2d phase correlation function for 'Light Cone'

T. Langen et al. Science 2015, arXiv:1411.7185

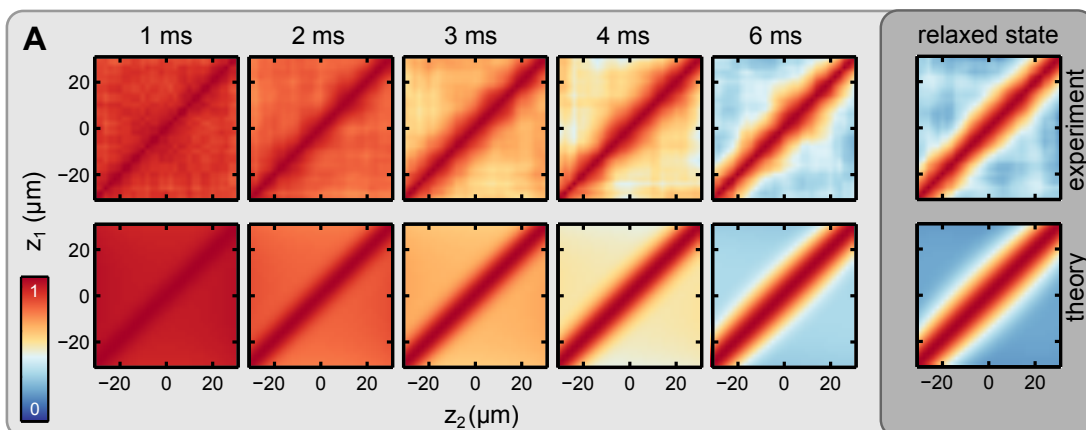
## instantaneous Quench

Choose different starting points to evaluate the phase correlation function  $C(z_1, z_2)$

$$C(z_1, z_2) = \left\langle e^{i(\varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2))} \right\rangle$$

Observation: the decay of phase correlation function is independent on starting point  $z_1$

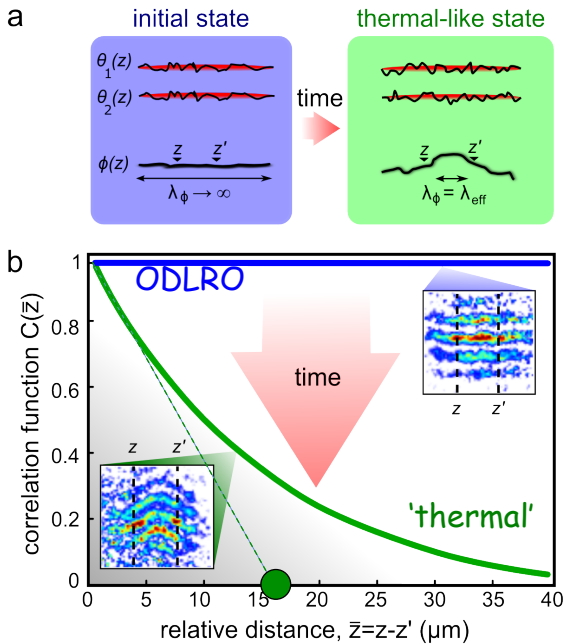
Data is described by a model with a single temperatures for ponon modes in the *anti symmetric* state.



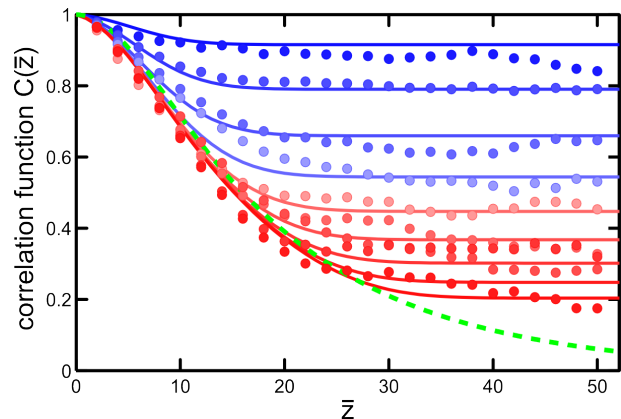
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Light cone evolution: T. Langen et al NatPhys 9, 460 (2013)

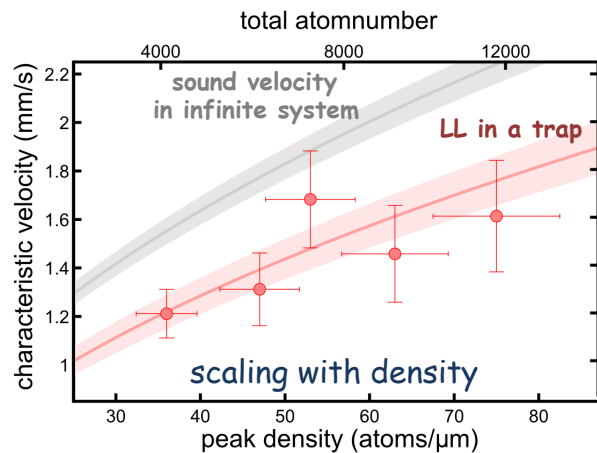
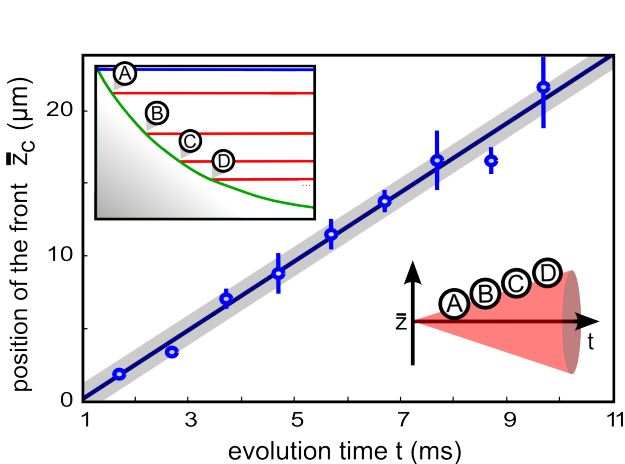
T. Langen et al NatPhys 9, 460 (2013)  
 LL theory in trap: R. Geiger et al. arXiv:1312.7568



Time evolution of the phase correlation function

$$C(\bar{z} = z - z') = \left\langle e^{i(\phi(z) - \phi(z'))} \right\rangle$$


T. Langen et al NatPhys 9, 460 (2013)  
 LL theory in trap: R. Geiger et al. NJP 16, 053034 (2014)



## Linear dispersion relation -> Light-Cone dynamics

The region with the final form of the phase correlation function expands with **sound velocity**

Linear dispersion relation of the phonons relates to the questions asked in:

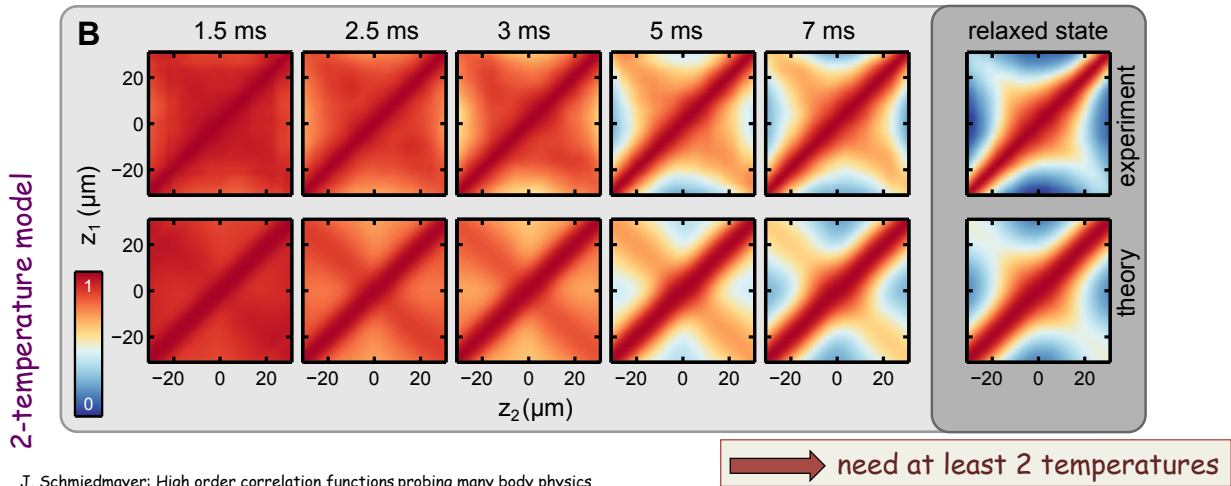
- CFT: Calabrese, P. & Cardy, J. Phys. Rev. Lett. 96, 011368 (2006)
- Lattice model: Cramer, M., et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. 100, 030602 (2008).

## slow-fast Quench

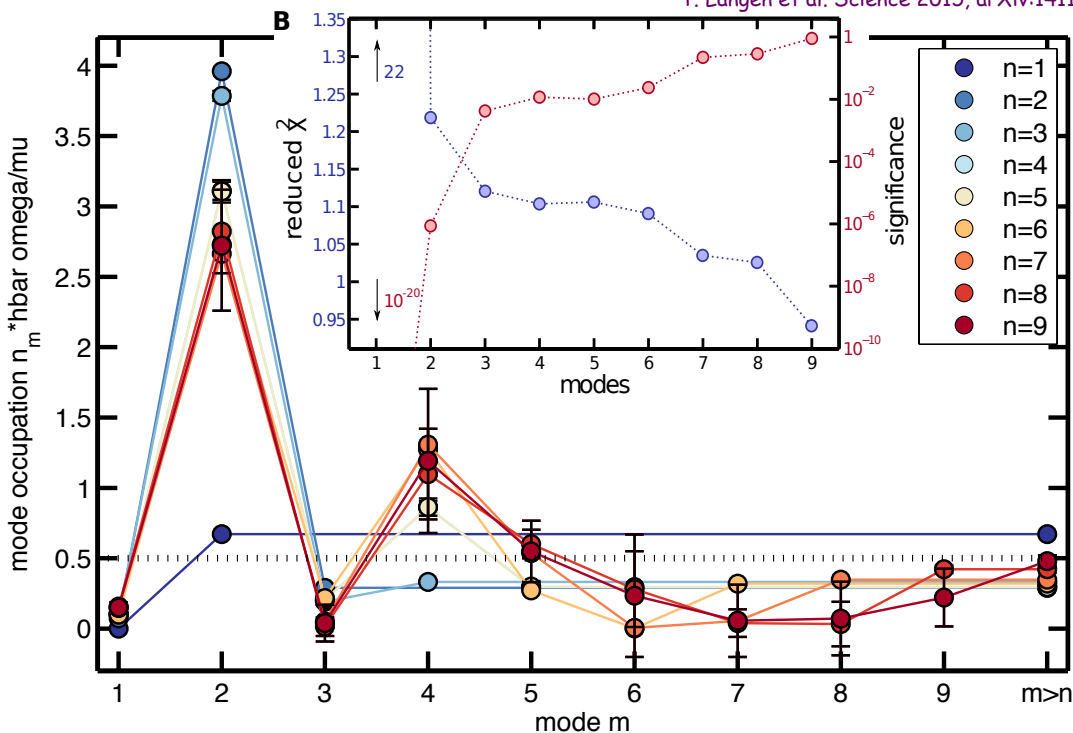
Observation: For specific splitting procedures the decay of phase correlation function depends on starting point  $z_1$  and shows 'revivals' of coherence

$$C(z_1, z_2) = \left\langle e^{i(\varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2))} \right\rangle$$

Data is better described by a model with different temperatures for *even* phonon modes and *odd* phonon modes in the *anti symmetric* state.



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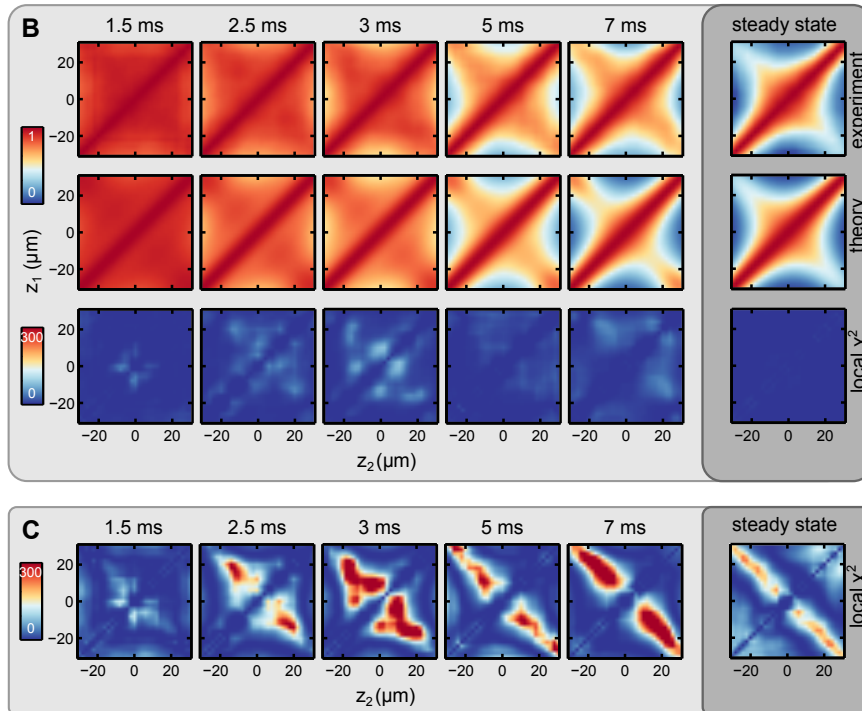


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# Generalized Gibbs Ensemble

T. Langen et al. Science 2015, arXiv:1411.7185

8 temperature model



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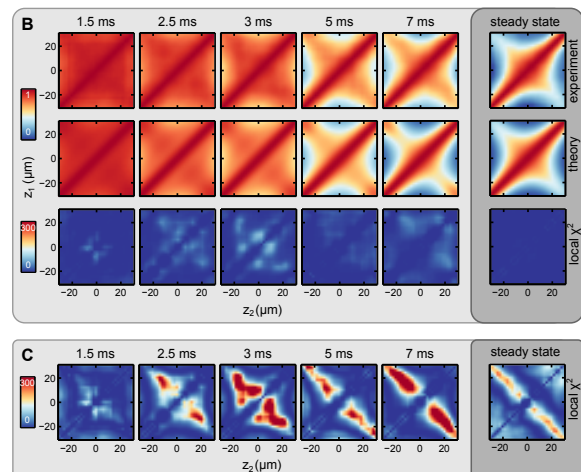
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# Generalized Gibbs Ensemble

T. Langen et al. Science 2015, arXiv:1411.7185

- Correlations outside the 'Light-cone', imprinted by the quench
- 8 temperature model describes the relaxed state
- number of parameters limited by experimental resolution + occupation numbers
- a single temperature model (Gibbs ensemble) shows very large deviations
- 8 temperature model describes approximately the evolution to the state
- Conjecture: Differences due to the initial phase of the excitations (in the model we assumed zero phase, as in prethermlisation)
- -> path to reconstruct the initial state

8 temperature model



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# Higher order phase correlation functions

T. Langen et al. Science 2015, arXiv:1411.7185

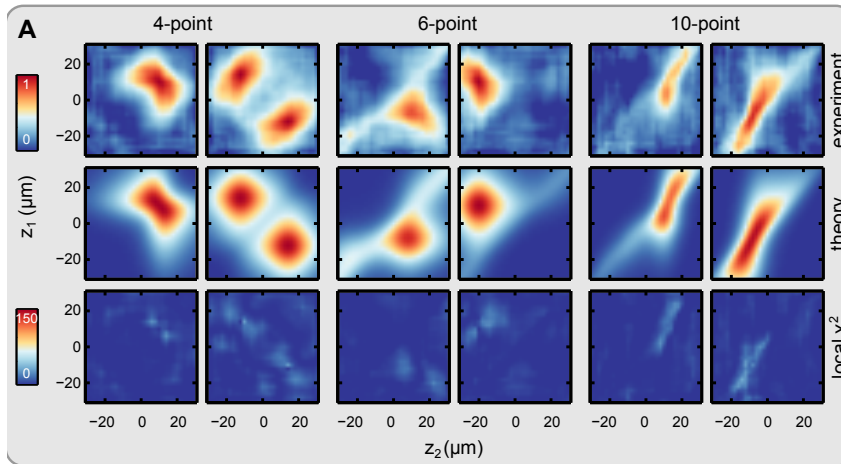
$$C(z_1, z_2) \approx \langle \exp[i\varphi(z_1) - i\varphi(z_2)] \rangle,$$

$$C(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) \approx \langle \exp[i\varphi(z_1) - i\varphi(z_2) + i\varphi(z_3) - i\varphi(z_4)] \rangle,$$

$$\vdots$$

Regular fast Quench (1 temperature)

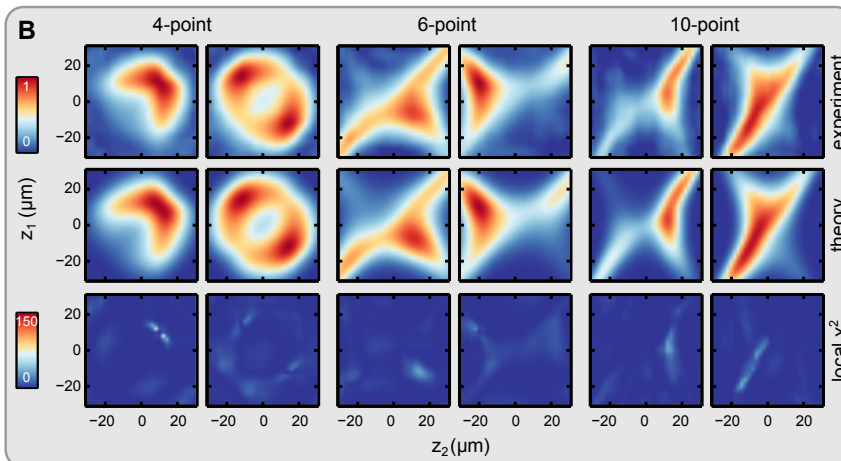
Data well described by  
Gibbs Ensemble



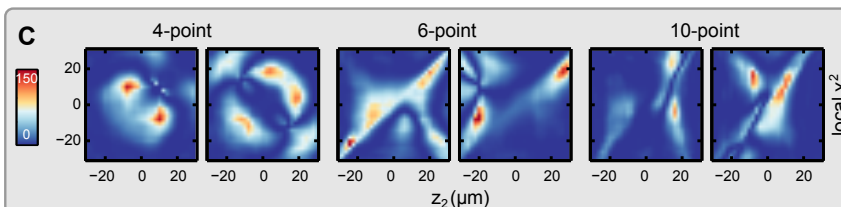
# Higher order phase correlation functions

T. Langen et al. Science 2015, arXiv:1411.7185

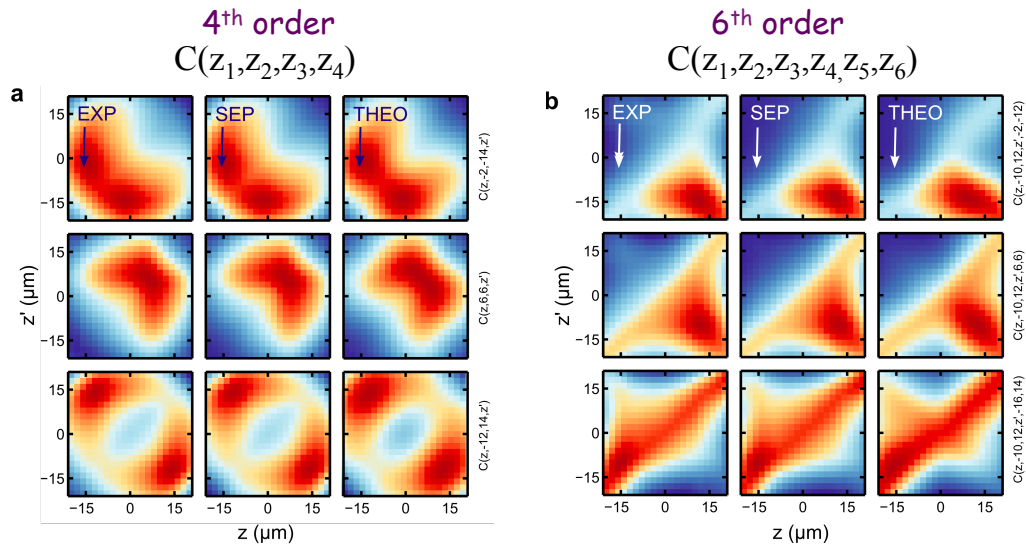
Data well described by  
Generalized Gibbs Ensemble



Gibbs  
Ensemble

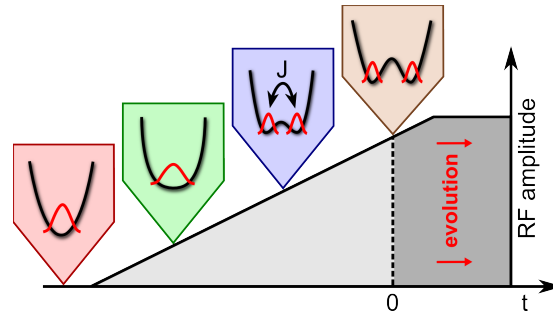


The Luttinger Liquid Hamiltonian is quadratic:  
Correlations factorize into 2-point functions



collaboration with Berges & Gasenzer groups, Heidelberg

## When do higher Correlation Functions factorize?



### Quantum Sine-Gordon model:

$$\hat{H}_{\text{SG}} = \frac{\hbar c}{2} \int_{-\mathcal{L}/2}^{\mathcal{L}/2} dz \left[ \frac{\pi}{K} \hat{n}^2(z) + \frac{K}{\pi} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{\theta}(z) \right)^2 \right] - 2n_{1D} J \int_{-\mathcal{L}/2}^{\mathcal{L}/2} dz \cos[\sqrt{2} \hat{\theta}(z)]$$

that's what we have seen so far ...  
"uncoupled harmonic oscillators"

anharmonic, non-gaussian,  
gapped, universality?

experiments probe the phase

-> look at the **'connected part'** of the phase correlation function

Gaussian fluctuations

$$\langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle_c = \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle$$

Variance

$$\langle (\Delta\varphi)^4 \rangle_c = \langle (\Delta\varphi)^4 \rangle - 3 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle^2$$

$$= 0$$

$$\langle (\Delta\varphi)^6 \rangle_c = \langle (\Delta\varphi)^6 \rangle - 15 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^4 \rangle \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle^2 + 30 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle^3$$

$$= 0$$

$$\langle (\Delta\varphi)^8 \rangle_c = \langle (\Delta\varphi)^8 \rangle + 420 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^4 \rangle \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle - 630 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle^4 - 35 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^4 \rangle^2 - 28 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^6 \rangle \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle = 0$$

characterized by **'Kurtosis'**

Gaussian fluctuations

$$\gamma_2 = \frac{\langle (\Delta\varphi)^4 \rangle}{3 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle^2} - 1$$

$$= 0$$

$$\gamma_3 = \frac{\langle (\Delta\varphi)^6 \rangle}{15 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^4 \rangle \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle^2 - 30 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle^3} - 1$$

$$= 0$$

$$\gamma_4 = \frac{\langle (\Delta\varphi)^8 \rangle}{630 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle^4 + 35 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^4 \rangle^2 + 28 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^6 \rangle \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle - 420 \langle (\Delta\varphi)^4 \rangle \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle} - 1 = 0$$

correlation functions for the fields:

$$C(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\langle \Psi_1(z_1) \Psi_2^\dagger(z_1) \Psi_1^\dagger(z_2) \Psi_2(z_2) \rangle}{\langle |\Psi_1(z_1)|^2 \rangle \langle |\Psi_2(z_2)|^2 \rangle}$$

$$C(z_1, z_2) \approx \langle \exp[i\varphi(z_1) - i\varphi(z_2)] \rangle$$

$C(z_1, z_2)$  contains all orders of connected parts

$$C(z_1, z_2) = \exp \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^k \frac{\langle (\Delta\varphi)^{2k} \rangle_c}{(2k)!} \right]$$

for Gaussian fluctuations

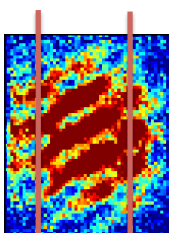
$$C(z_1, z_2) = \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \langle (\Delta\varphi)^2 \rangle \right]$$

to study factorization of correlation functions we look at

$$C^{(2)}(z_1, z_2) = \langle [\varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2)]^2 \rangle = \langle [\Delta\varphi(z_1, z_2)]^2 \rangle$$

$$C^{(4)}(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = \langle [\varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2)]^2 [\varphi(z_3) - \varphi(z_4)]^2 \rangle = \langle [\Delta\varphi(z_1, z_2)]^2 [\Delta\varphi(z_3, z_4)]^2 \rangle,$$

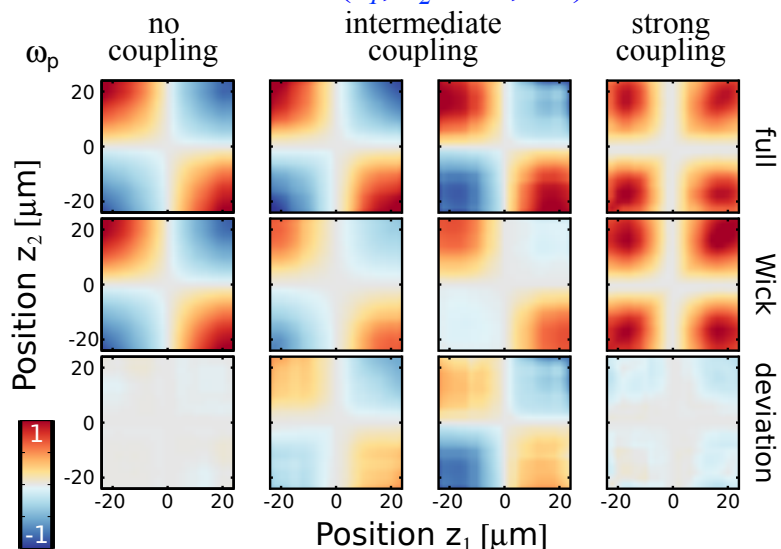
$\Delta\varphi(z_1, z_2) = \varphi(z_1) - \varphi(z_2)$   
 $\Delta\varphi$  is NOT restricted to  $2\pi$



$\Delta\varphi > 2\pi$

experiment: T. Schweigler et al.  
 theory: V. Kasper, S. Erne

$C^{(4)}(z_1, z_2, -15, 15)$





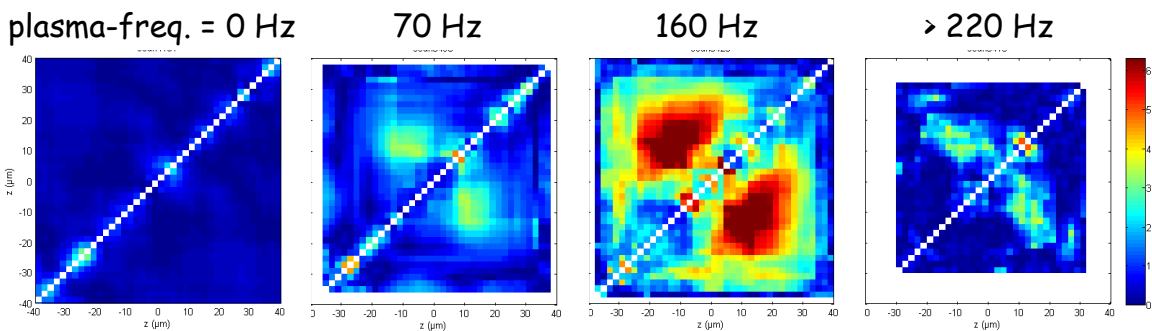
# Characterising non-Gaussian phase fluctuations

experiment: T. Schweigler et al.  
theory: V. Kasper, S. Erne

Characterising the factorisation by the connected part:  $\langle(\Delta\varphi)^4\rangle_c = \langle(\Delta\varphi)^4\rangle - 3\langle(\Delta\varphi)^2\rangle^2$

excess Kurtosis 
$$\gamma_2 = \frac{\langle(\Delta\varphi)^4\rangle}{3\langle(\Delta\varphi)^2\rangle^2} - 1$$

Experimental data, thermal state in a double well

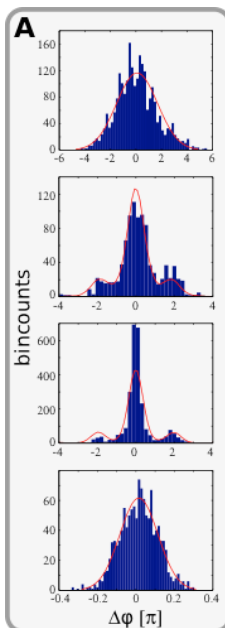


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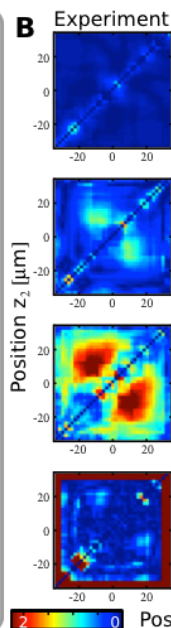
# Quantifying factorization of correlation functions

experiment: T. Schweigler et al.  
theory: V. Kasper, S. Erne

full distribution function

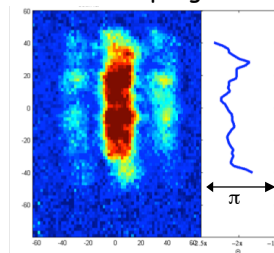


Kurtosis

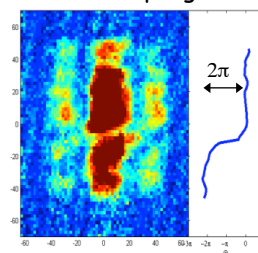


- the breakdown of factorization is evident in the **full distribution functions** of the phase by new peaks at multiples of  $2\pi$
- caused by the  $2\pi$  **periodic** SG Hamiltonian  $\rightarrow 2\pi$  phase jumps, 'kinks', SG solitons

strong coupling



intermediate coupling

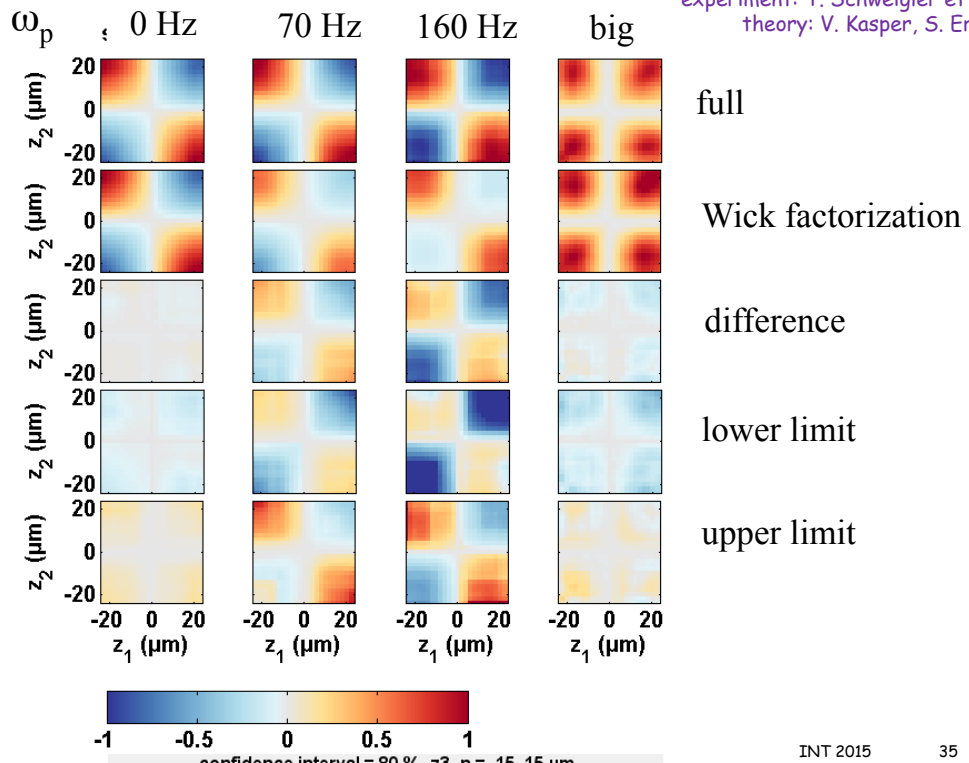


- SG Solitons are topological excitations
- Phase fluctuations around *topologically different vacua*

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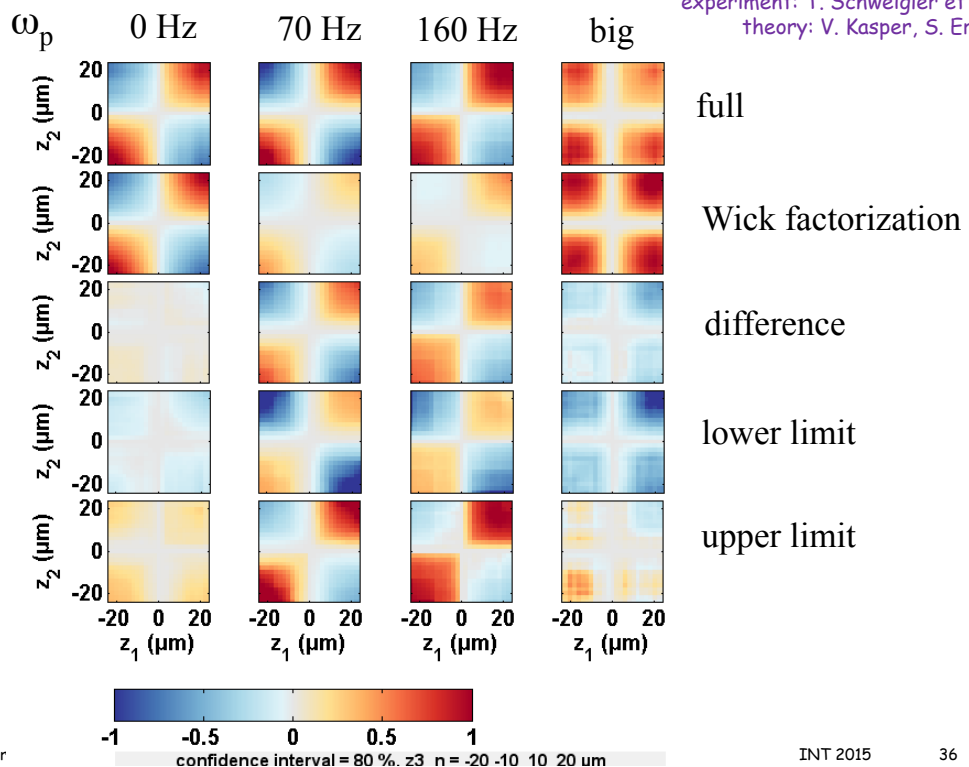
# 4-point phase correlators

experiment: T. Schweigler et al.  
theory: V. Kasper, S. Erne



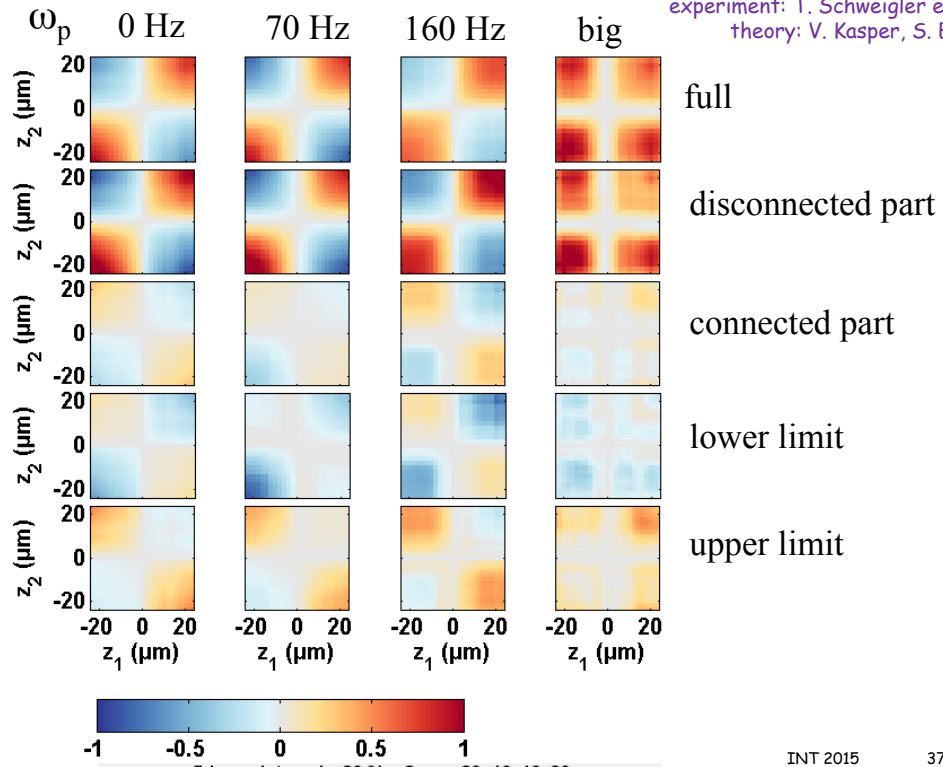
# 6-point Phase correlators

experiment: T. Schweigler et al.  
theory: V. Kasper, S. Erne



# 6-point phase correlators, connected part

experiment: T. Schweigler et al.  
theory: V. Kasper, S. Erne

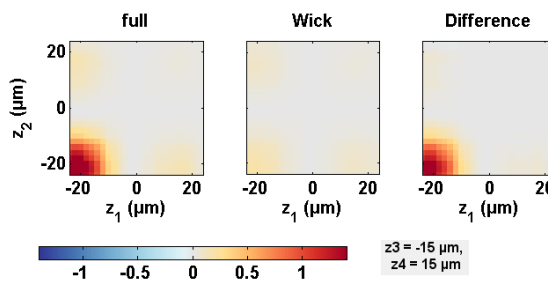


# Remove Solitons

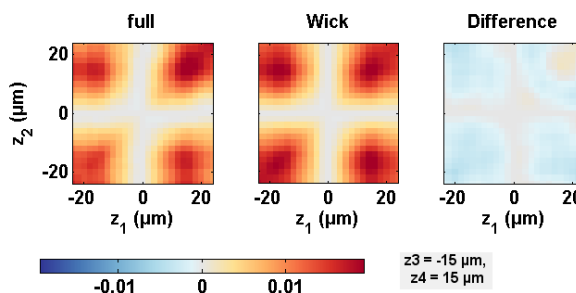
Strongly coupled  $\omega_p > 500$  Hz

experiment: T. Schweigler et al.  
theory: V. Kasper, S. Erne

4-point correlator does not factorize:



without Solitons:

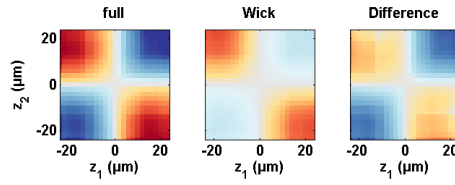


# Remove Solitons

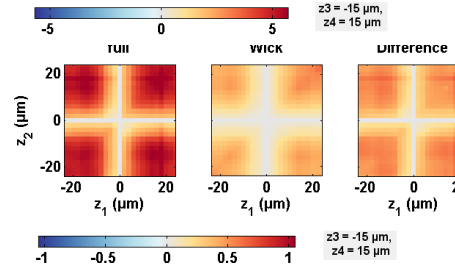
intermediate coupling  $\omega_p = 160$  Hz

experiment: T. Schweigler et al.  
theory: V. Kasper, S. Erne

4-point correlator does not factorize:

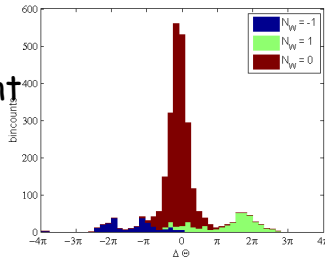


without Solitons:

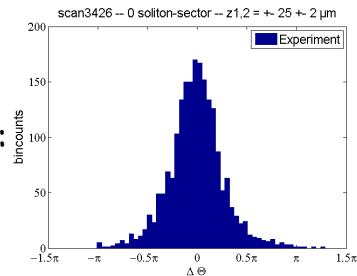


phase distribution:

different sectors:



without solitons:

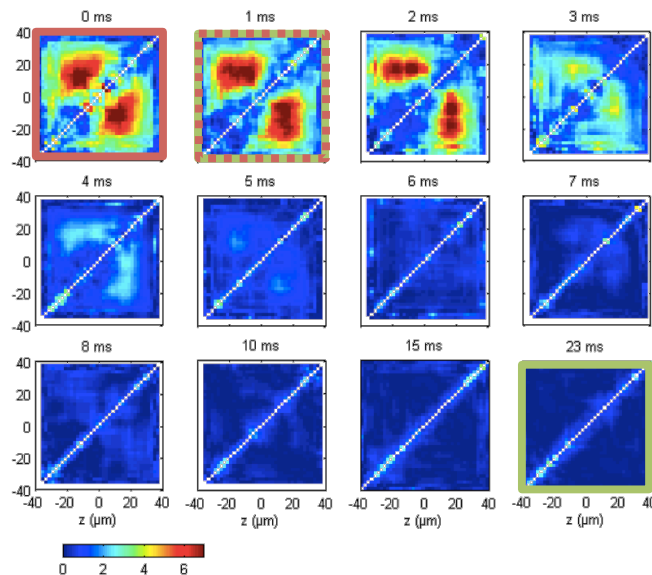


# Quench from $J > 0$ to $J = 0$

experiment: T. Schweigler et al.  
theory: V. Kasper, S. Erne

very preliminary

Initial state non-Gaussian, dynamics Gaussian



# Outlook

Quantum state tomography  
Non trivial (squeezed) initial states  
Relaxation in SG moel

[www.AtomChip.org](http://www.AtomChip.org)

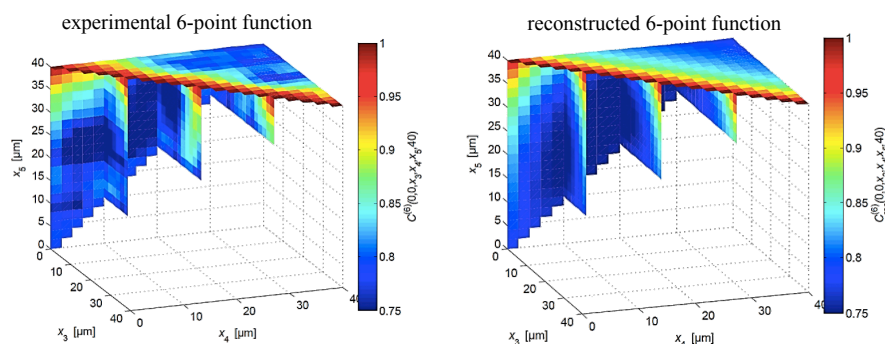


## Quantum state tomography



A. Steffens et al. arxiv:1406.3632

Use 2- and 4-point functions to reconstruct higher-order functions via continuous matrix product states with bond length 2

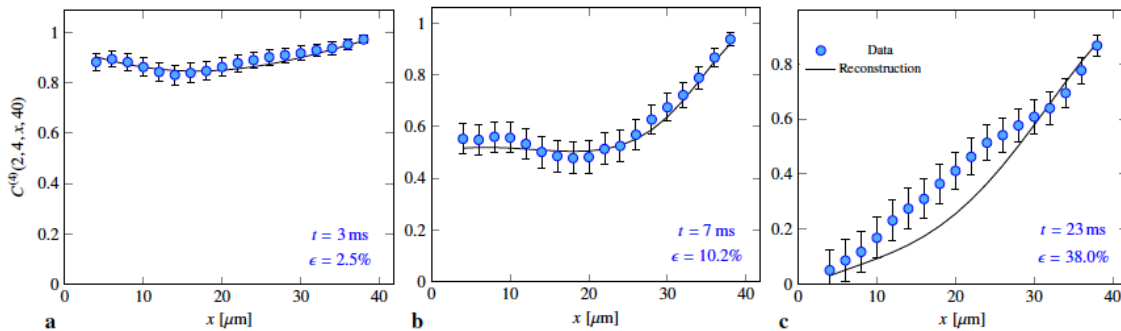


State reconstruction with very weak assumptions

Theory:

A. Steffens, C. Riofrio, R. Hubener, and J. Eisert, "Quantum field tomography," NJP 16 (2014) 123010.

Use 2- and 4-point functions to reconstruct higher-order functions via continuous matrix product states with bond length 2



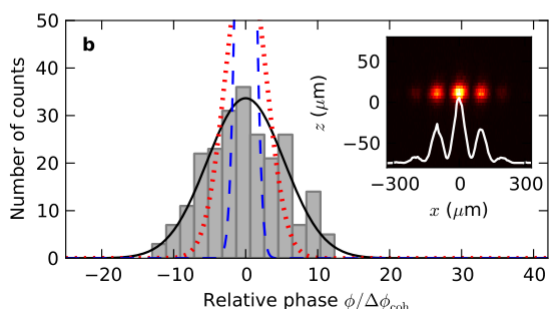
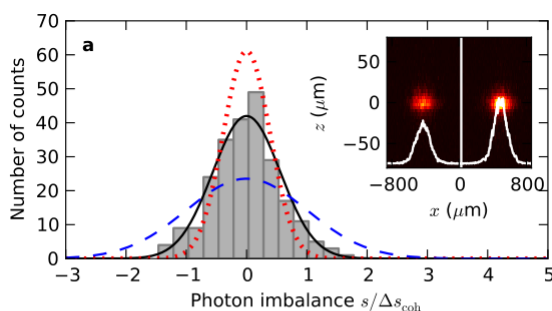
State reconstruction gets worse with time

C-MPS with bond length 2 have finite entanglement

Question: Can one build a measure for entanglement growth after the quench?

## number and phase distribution

(black: measured, blue: binomial, red: detection noise)



RMS fluctuations of the **number difference**

$$n \equiv N_L - N_R$$

$$\Delta n = 14(3) \text{ atoms}$$

Whereas  $\sqrt{N} = 35$   
Spin squeezing:  $\xi_S^2 \equiv \frac{\xi_N^2}{\langle \cos \phi \rangle^2} = -7.7$  dB

**Implies that  $\approx 150$  atoms are entangled!**

RMS fluctuations of the **phase**

$$\Delta \phi = 0.168(8) \text{ rad}$$

Whereas  $1/\sqrt{N} = 0.03$

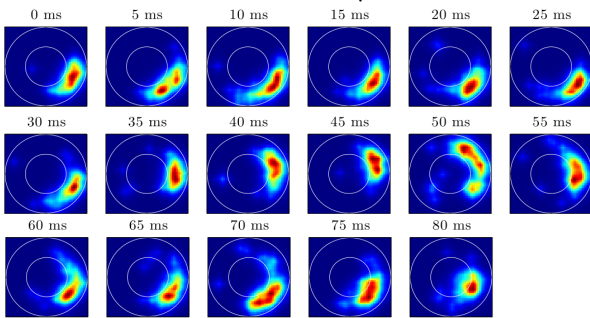
$$\Delta n \Delta \phi = 2.3 (7)$$

when correcting for measurement noise:

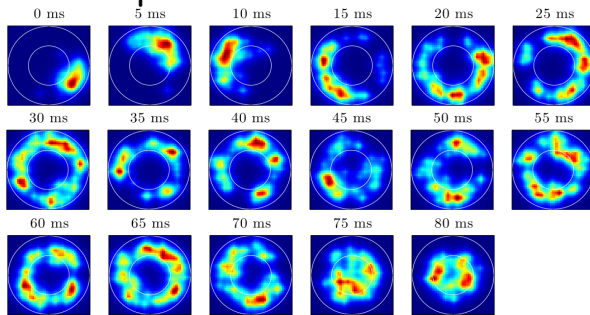
$$\Delta n \Delta \phi \sim 1$$

# Evolution of $\xi^2 \sim -8\text{dB}$ 1d gas

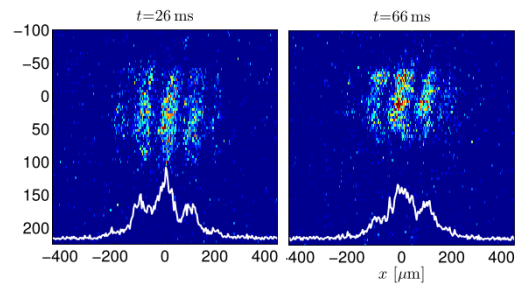
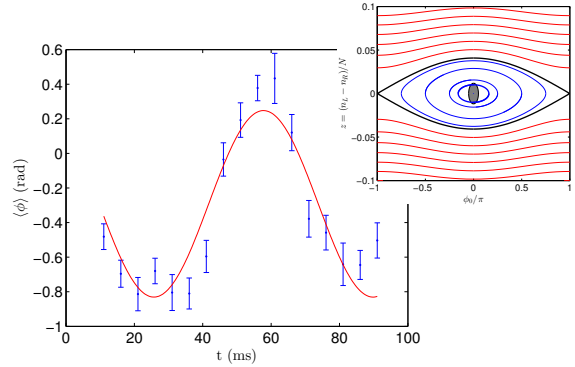
Tunnel Coupled  $\omega_p = 14\text{Hz}$



Separated



T. Berrada preliminary

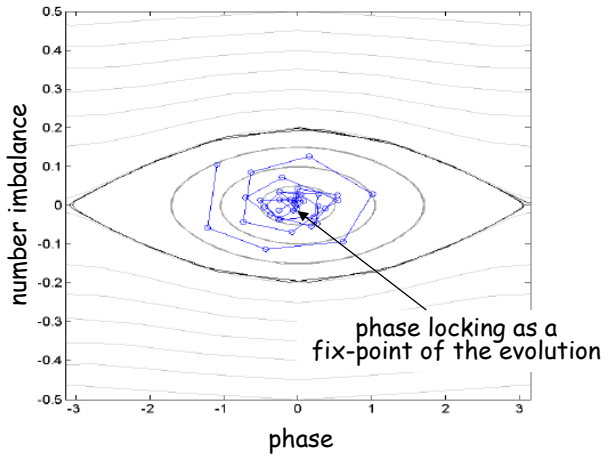
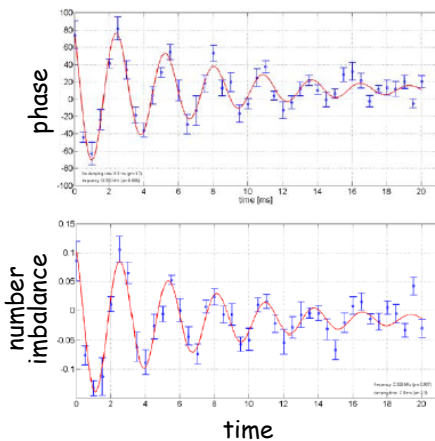
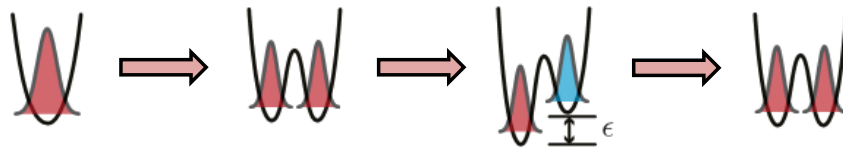


J. Schmiedmayer: High order correlation functions probing many body physics

# Relaxation in coupled superfluids

re-coupling starts SG model with a specific phase  
 -> study phase locking

experiment: M. Pigneur  
 theory: E. DelaTorre, E. Demler



J. Schmiedmayer: High order correlation functions probing many body physics

# What have we learned

- Relaxation in quantum systems does not proceed through a simple path: **'prethermalization'**
- Relaxed state emerges locally and spreads throughout the system in a **light cone** like fashion
- Prethermalized state is associated with a **Generalized Gibbs Ensemble**
- **Higher order correlation functions** and the question if they factorize (**full distribution functions**) gives insight in the effective theories describing the many body system
- Experiments allow to probe how classical statistical properties emerge from microscopic quantum evolution through de-phasing of many body eigenstates.



Gring et al., Science **337**, 1318 (2012)  
 Kuhnert et al., PRL **110**, 090405 (2013)  
 Smith et al. NJP **15**, 075011 (2013)  
 Langen et al., Nature Physics **9**, 460 (2013)  
 R. Geiger et al. NJP **16** 053034 (2014)  
 Langen et al. Science (2015) arXiv:1411.7185

T. Berrada, et al., Nat. Comm **4**, 2077 (2013)  
 S. Van Frank, et al., Nat. Comm **5**, 4009 (2014)  
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J. Schmiedmayer: High order correlation functions probing many body physics

## Atom Chip Experiment

S. Manz, T. Betz, R. Bücker, T. Berrada, S. vanFrank,  
 M. Pigneur, A. Perrin, T Schumm, JF Schaff, R. Wu,  
 M. Bonneau

M. Kuhnert, M. Gring, B. Rauer, Th. Schweigler  
 D. Smith, Remi Geiger, T. Langen

## Atom Chip Fabrication

D. Fischer, M. Trinker, M. Sch...  
 S. Groth (HD), Israel B...

## Theory

J. G...  
 T. Gasenz...

Wien

# PhD and PostDoc position available

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[www.CoQuS.at](http://www.CoQuS.at)

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