Quantum enhanced phase estimation in the presence of loss

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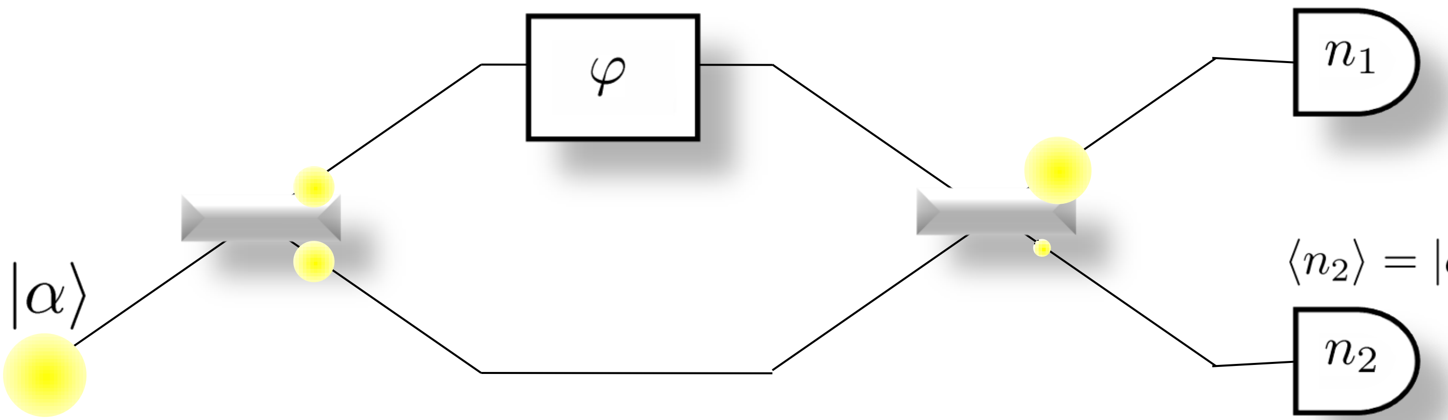
Interferometry

- **Mach-Zehnder Interferometer**

$$\langle n_1 \rangle = |\alpha|^2 (1 + \cos\varphi)/2$$



$$\langle n_2 \rangle = |\alpha|^2 (1 - \cos\varphi)/2$$

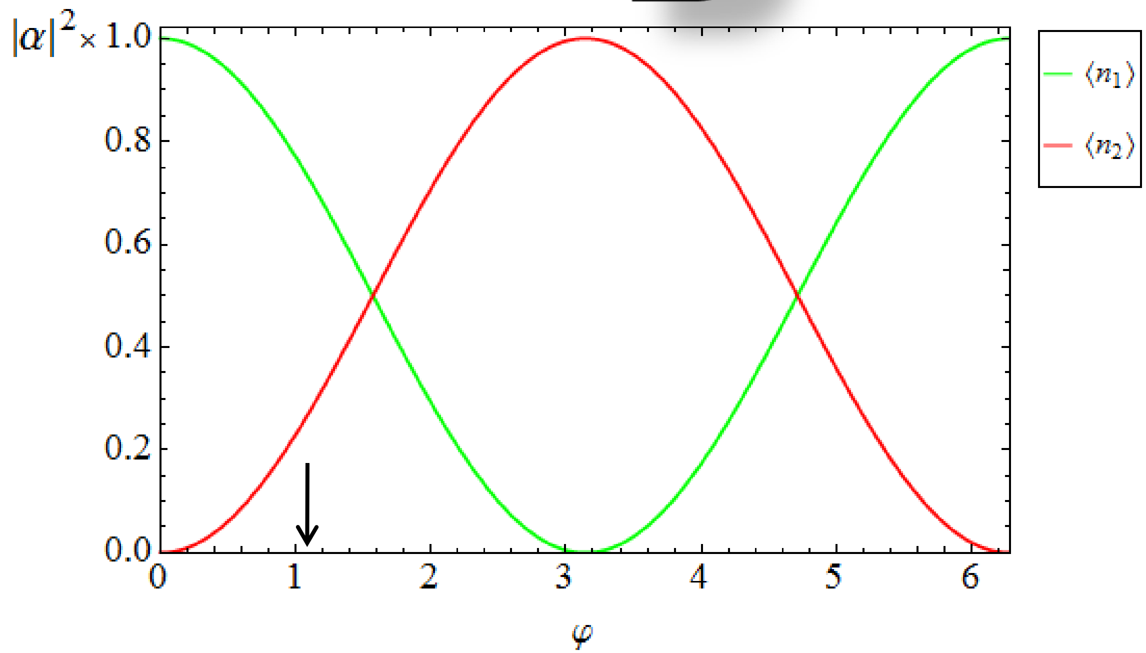
detecting n_1 and n_2

+

knowing theoretical dependence of n_1, n_2 on φ

↓

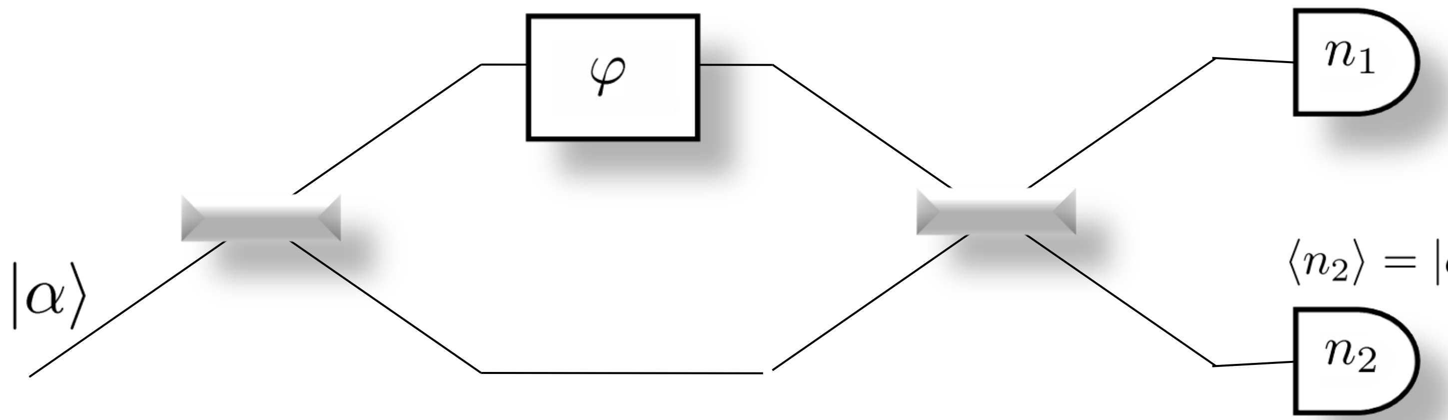
we can estimate φ



Interferometry

- **Mach-Zehnder Interferometer**

$$\langle n_1 \rangle = |\alpha|^2(1+\cos\varphi)/2$$



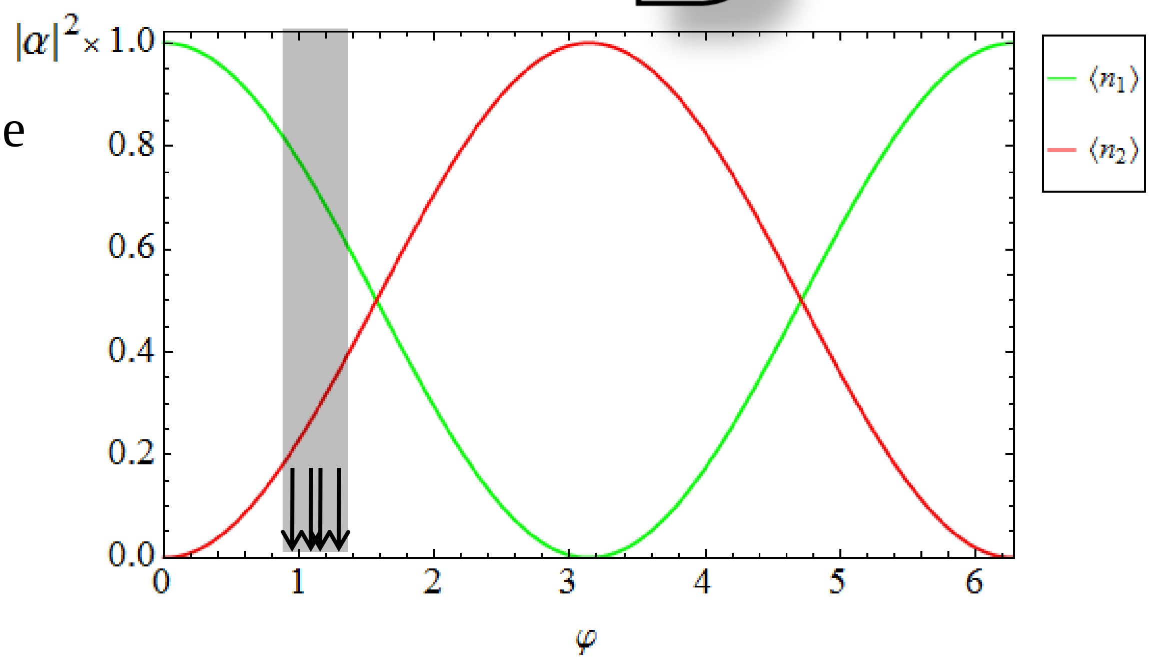
$$\langle n_2 \rangle = |\alpha|^2(1-\cos\varphi)/2$$

n_1 and n_2 are subject to shot noise

each measurement yields a bit different φ

$$\delta\varphi \propto \frac{1}{|\alpha|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\bar{n}}}$$

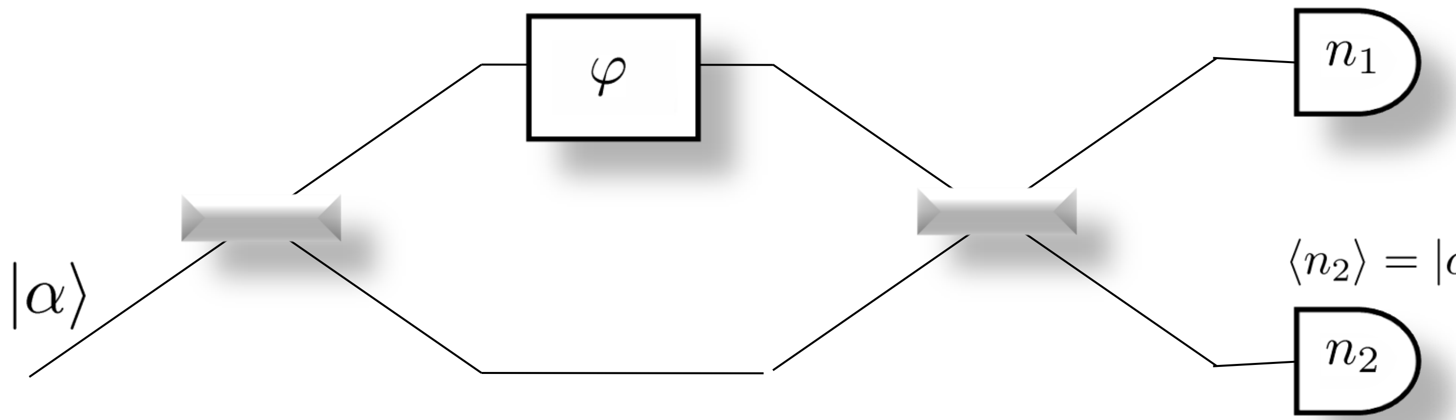
Standard scaling



Interferometry

- **Mach-Zehnder Interferometer**

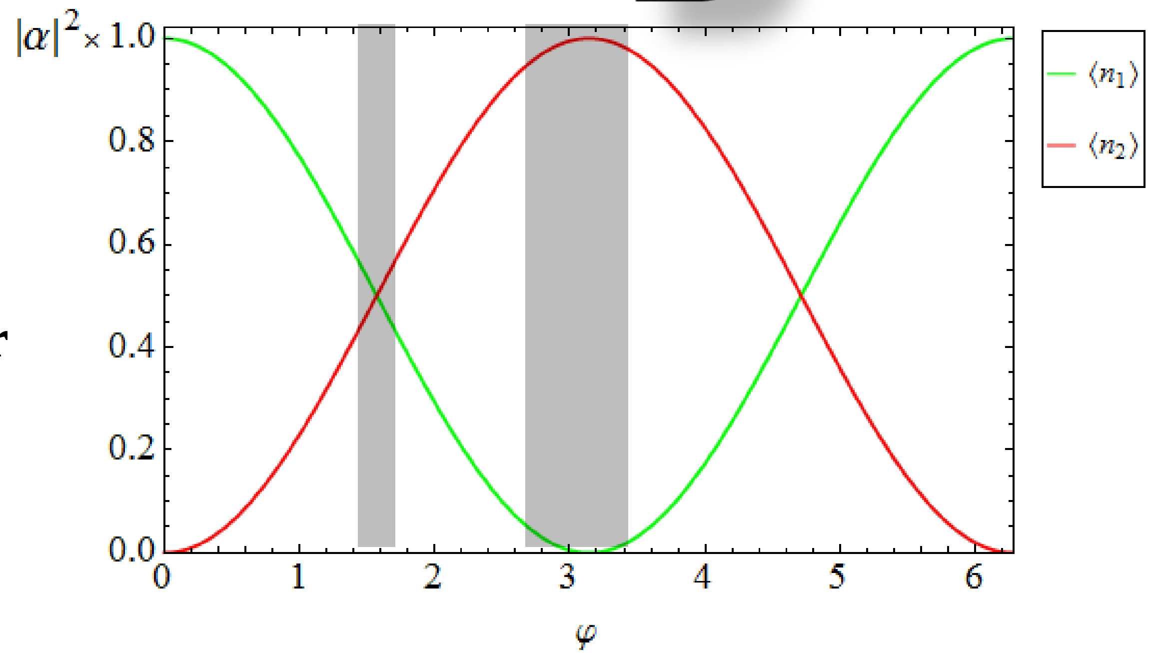
$$\langle n_1 \rangle = |\alpha|^2 (1 + \cos\varphi)/2$$



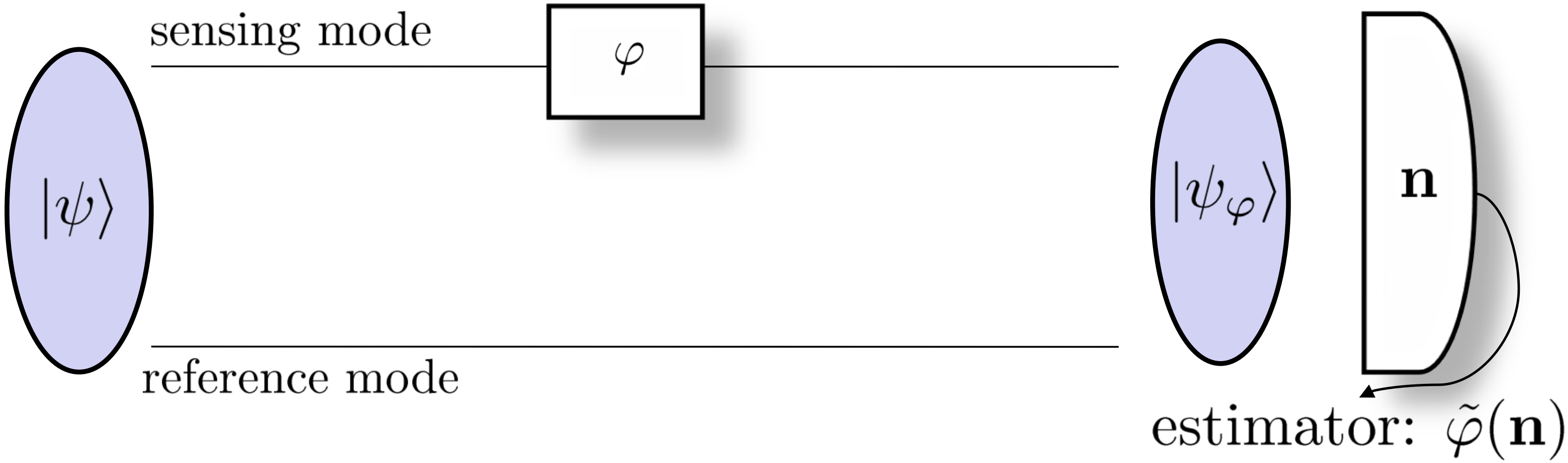
$$\langle n_2 \rangle = |\alpha|^2 (1 - \cos\varphi)/2$$

In general the exact formula for precision depends on φ

The steeper curves, the better precission



Heisenberg scaling - Quantum Cramer-Rao bound



For arbitrary measurement on $|\psi_\varphi\rangle$ and arbitrary estimator $\tilde{\varphi}(\mathbf{n})$, the minimial variance of the estimator is bounded by:

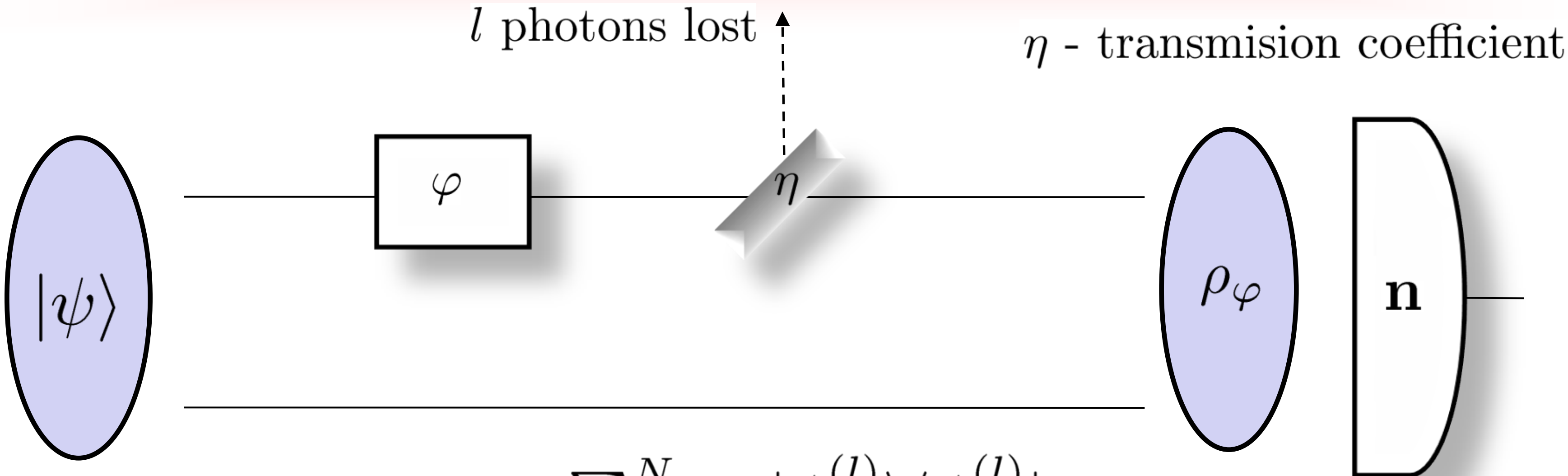
$$\delta\tilde{\varphi} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{F}}, \quad F = 4\Delta n_1 = 4[\langle\psi|\hat{n}_1^2|\psi\rangle - \langle\psi|\hat{n}_1|\psi\rangle^2]$$

Given N photons

$$\Delta n_1 \leq N^2/4 \qquad \boxed{\delta\tilde{\varphi} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{N^2}} = \frac{1}{N}} \qquad |\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|N,0\rangle + |0,N\rangle)$$

What are the optimal *N* photon states if there are losses ?

Lossy interferometry



$$\rho_\varphi = \sum_{l=0}^{N} p_l |\psi_\varphi^{(l)}\rangle\langle\psi_\varphi^{(l)}|$$

- **NOON state** $|\psi_\varphi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|N,0\rangle e^{-iN\varphi} + |0,N\rangle)$

- **Even if a single photon is lost**

$|\psi\rangle \longrightarrow |\psi_\varphi^{(1)}\rangle \propto |N-1,0\rangle$ we lose all phase information!

Cramer-Rao bound for mixed states

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{N} \alpha_n |n, N-n\rangle \longrightarrow \rho_\varphi = \sum_{l=0}^{N} p_l |\psi_\varphi^{(l)}\rangle\langle\psi_\varphi^{(l)}|$$

- **Subspaces with different *l* are orthogonal**

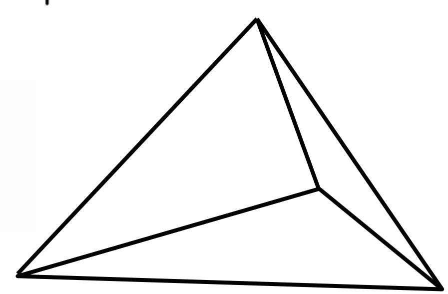
$$\delta\tilde{\varphi} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{F}} \qquad F = \sum_{l=0}^{N} p_l F_l$$

$$F_l = 4(\Delta n_1)_l = 4(\langle\psi^{(l)}|\hat{n}_1^2|\psi^{(l)}\rangle - (\langle\psi^{(l)}|\hat{n}_1|\psi^{(l)}\rangle)^2)$$

$$F = F(x_0, \ldots, x_N) \qquad x_n = |\alpha_n|^2$$

concave function

- **Problem: maximization of a concave function over a convex set**

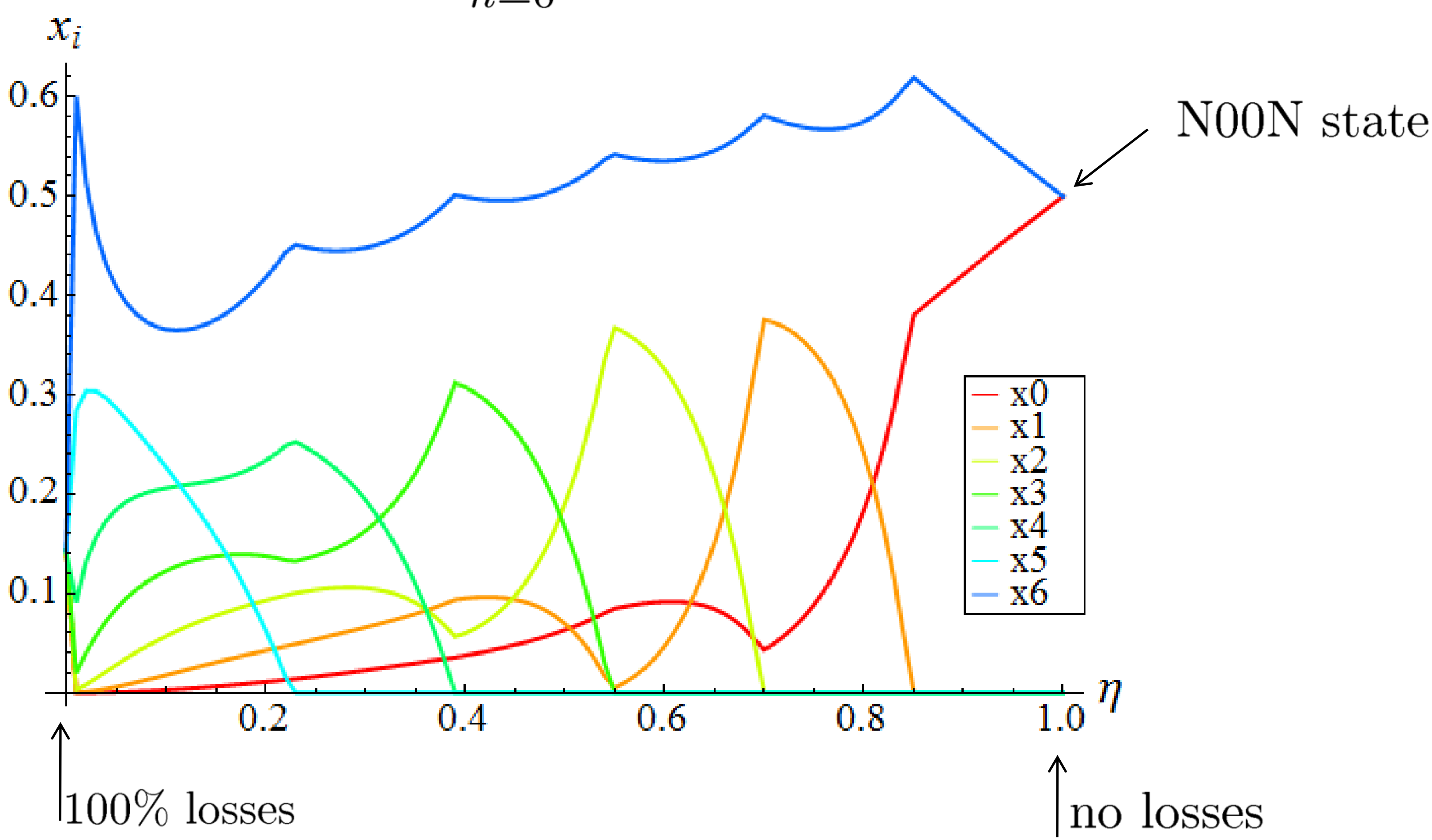


$$x_n \geq 0$$

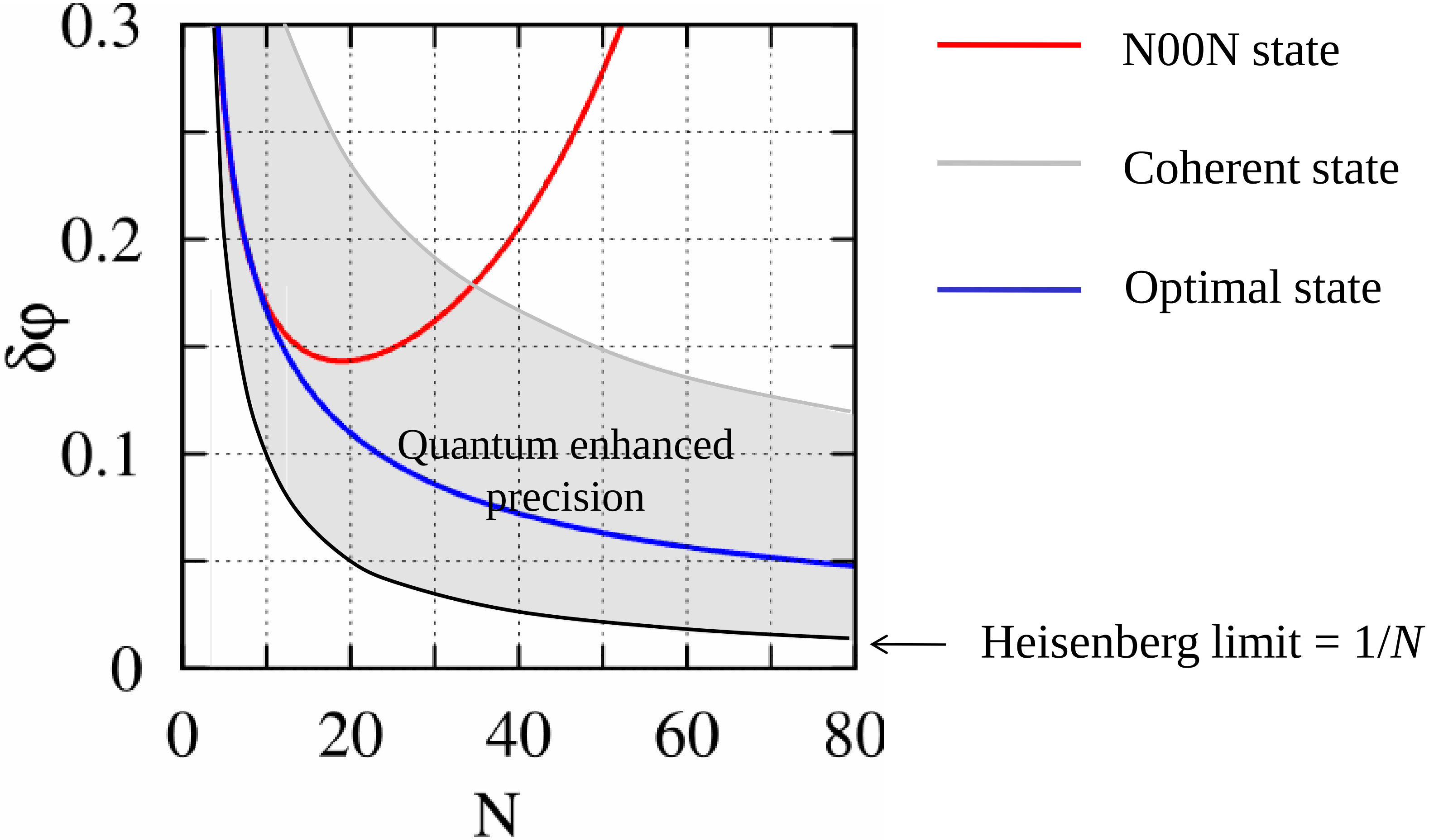
$$\sum_{n=0}^{N} x_n = 1$$

Optimal N=6 photon state

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{N} \sqrt{x_n} |n, N-n\rangle$$



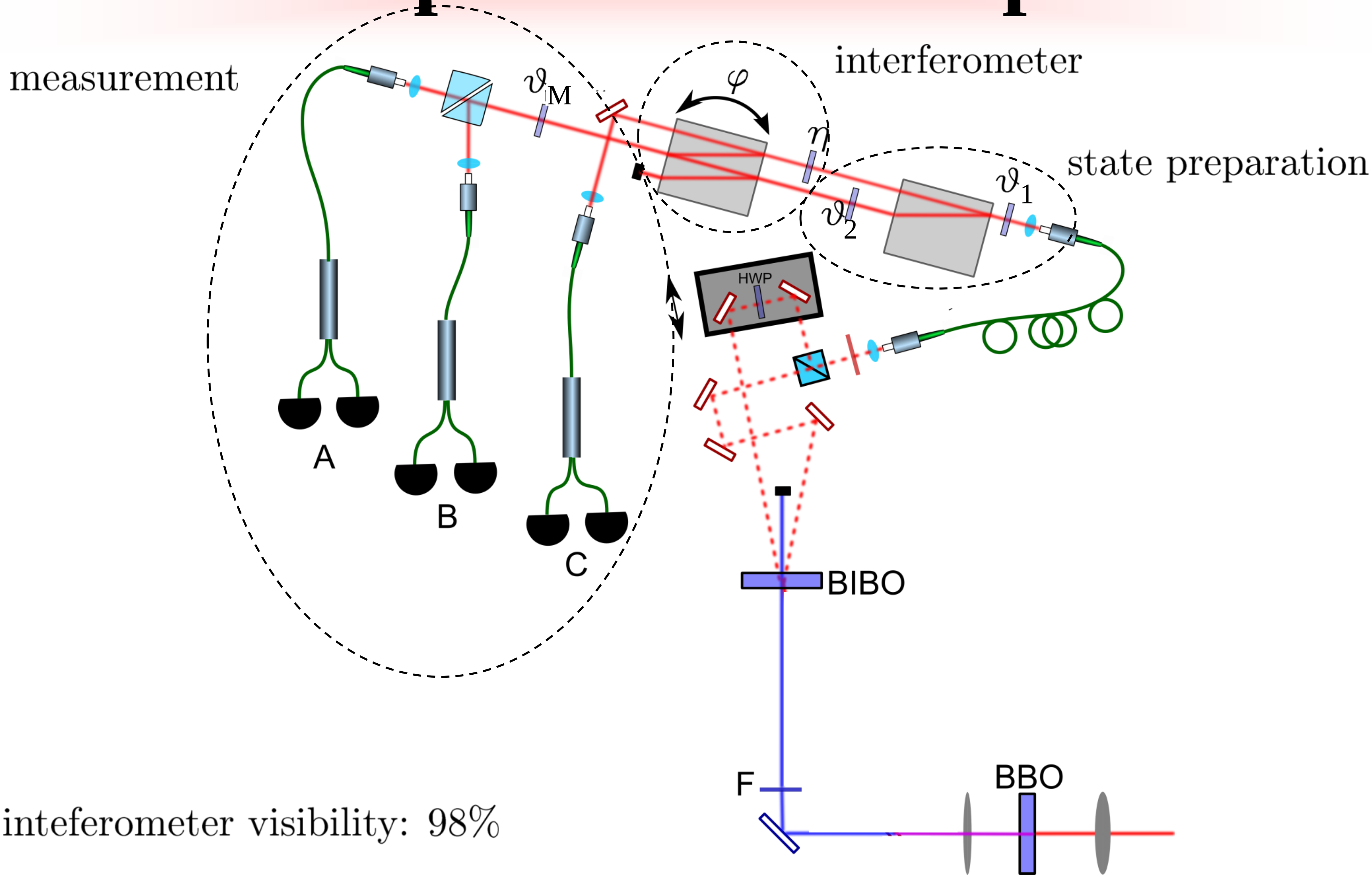
Optimal vs. NOON states
scaling with N, for $\eta = 0.9$



For arbitrary small losses, if N is large enough, the scaling becomes $\delta\varphi \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$

Experimental lossy phase estimation using the optimal N=2 states

Experimental setup

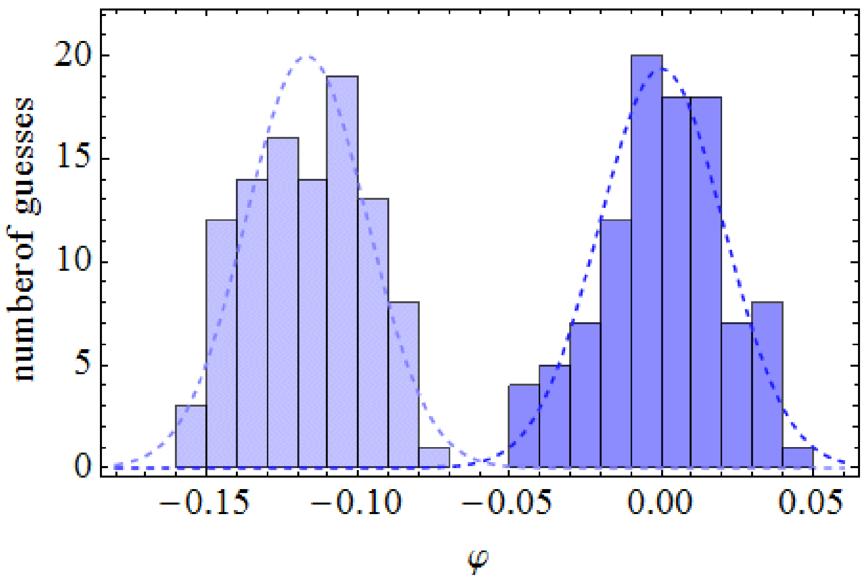


inteferometer visibility: 98%

Experimental estimation of two phases separated by 0.12 rad (η=0.361)

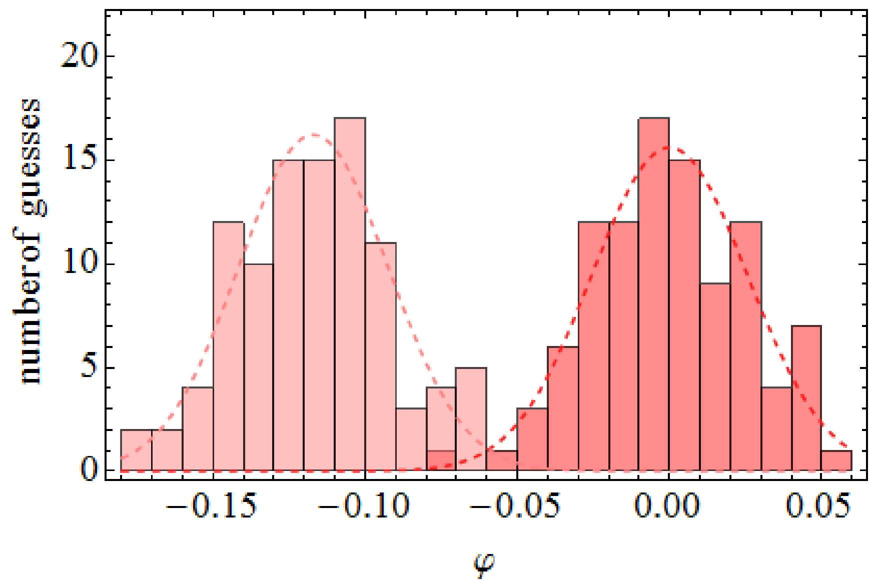
- **100 times repeated estimation of the phases with approximately 2000 photon pairs in each shot**

the optimal state



$\delta\varphi = 0.02060$

the NOON state: $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|2,0\rangle + |0,2\rangle)$



$\delta\varphi = 0.02556$

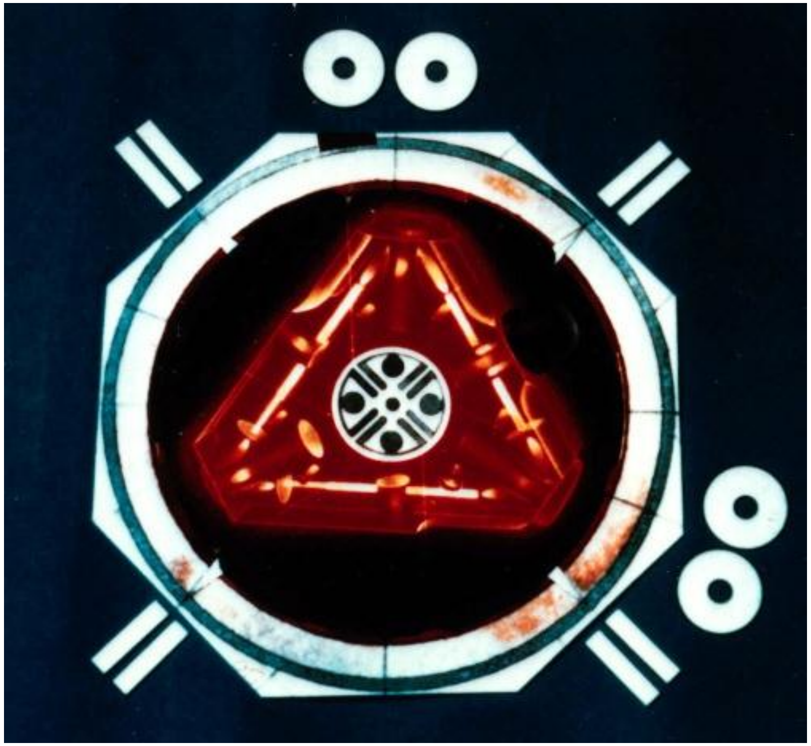
the Cramer-Rao bound: $\delta\varphi \geq 0.01906$

the Cramer-Rao bound (with 98% interferometer visibility): $\delta\varphi \geq 0.02001$

Maybe one day...

Gravitational wave detectors

Laser gyroscopes



Summary

Theory [Phys. Rev. Lett. 102, 040403 (2009), arXiv:0904.0456 (2009)]

- Optimal *N*-photon states for lossy phase estimation found
- Numerical evidence for lack of asymptotic better-than-standard scaling of precision when losses are present
- ...

Experiment [arXiv: 0906.3511 (2009)]

- Design of preparation and measurement scheme able to reach the Cramer-Rao bound
- Experimental two photon phase estimation performed using coherent, N00N and the optimal states