

# Multi-component slow light in atomic media

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## 1 Introduction

- Slow light
- Storing of slow light
- Stationary light

## 2 Multi-component slow light

- Neutrino-type oscillations for slow light
- Photonic band-gap for slow light
- Multi-component stationary light

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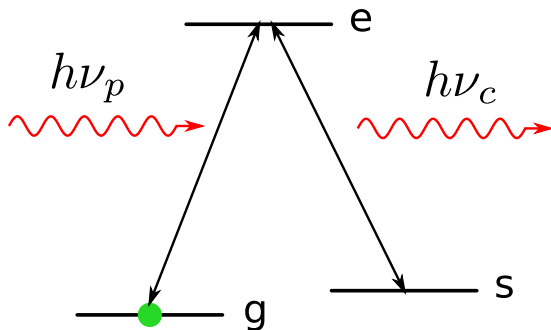
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# Three level $\Lambda$ system



Probe beam:  $\Omega_p = \mu_{ge} E_p$

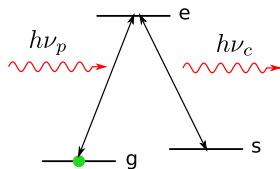
Control beam:  $\Omega_c = \mu_{se} E_c$

# Three level $\Lambda$ system

- Dark state

$$|D\rangle \sim \Omega_c|g\rangle - \Omega_p|s\rangle$$

- Transitions  $g \rightarrow e$  and  $s \rightarrow e$  interfere destructively
- Cancellation of absorption
- Electromagnetically induced transparency—EIT
- Very fragile
- Very narrow transparency window

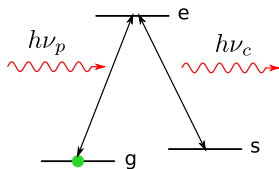


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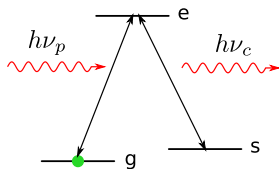


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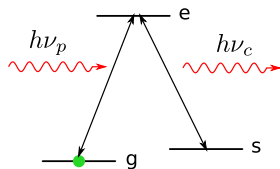


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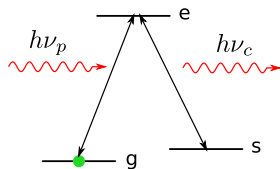


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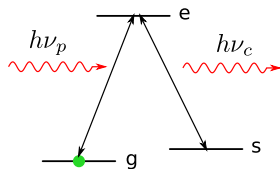


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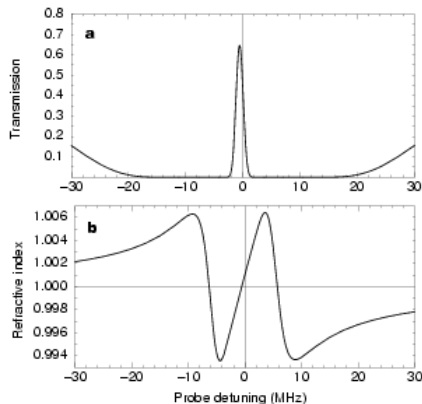
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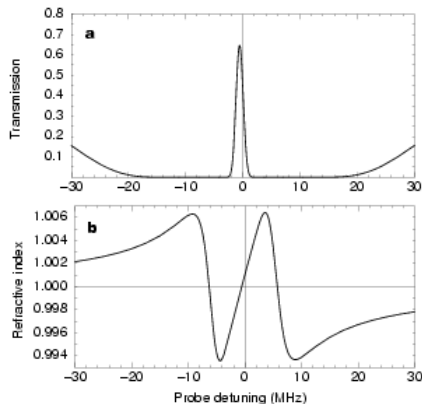


# Slow light



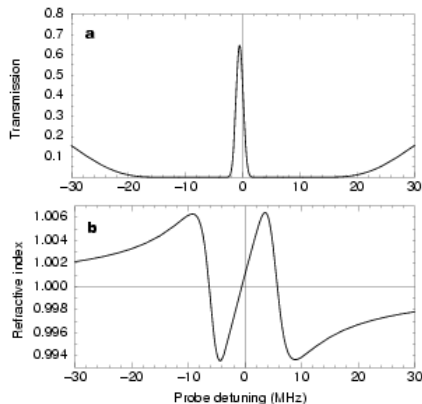
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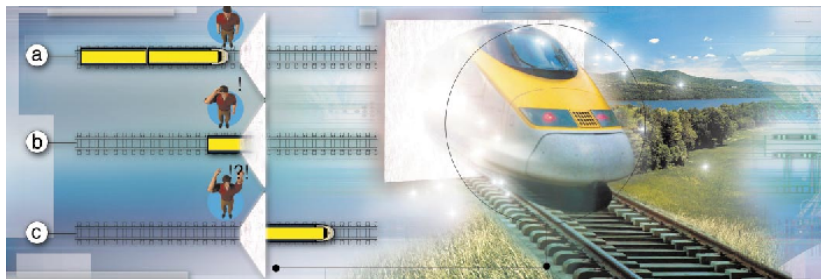
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# Storing of slow light

Nature, Hau *et al*, 2001



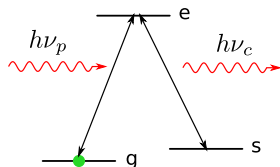


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- Releasing—switch on control beam

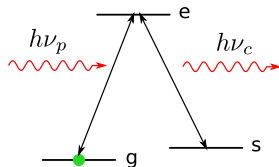


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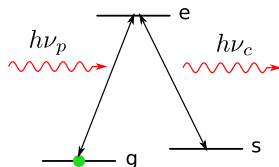


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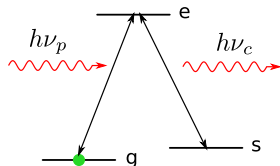


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- Later improvement:
  - Storage time 240 ms:  
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## Stationary light:

Storing **without** switching off the control fields

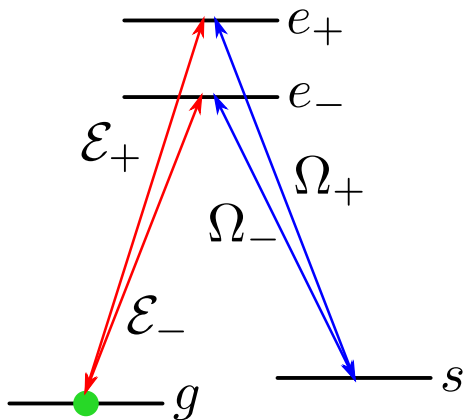
### Theory:

- A. Moiseev and B. S. Ham, Phys. Rev. A **73**, 033812 (2006).
- F. E. Zimmer, J. Otterbach, R. G. Unanyan, B. W. Shore, and M. Fleischhauer, Phys. Rev. A **77**, 063823 (2008).
- M. Fleischhauer, J. Otterbach, and R. G. Unanyan, Phys. Rev. Lett. **101**, 163601 (2008).
- J. Otterbach, J. Ruseckas, R. G. Unanyan, G. Juzeliūnas, and M. Fleischhauer, Phys. Rev. Lett. **104**, 033903 (2010).

### Experiment:

- Y.-W. Lin *et al.*, I. A. Yu, Phys. Rev. Lett. **102**, 213601 (2009).

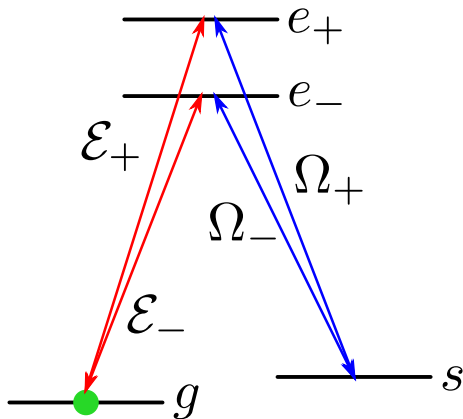
# Double $\Lambda$ scheme



- An additional excited state
- An additional, counter-propagating control laser beam

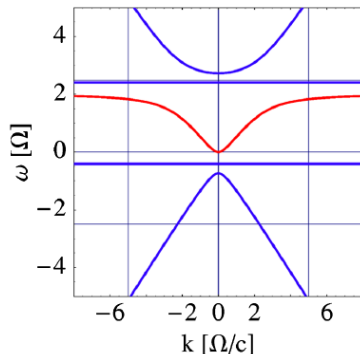
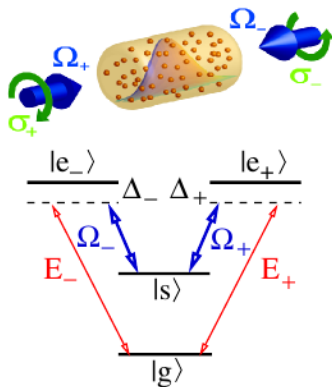


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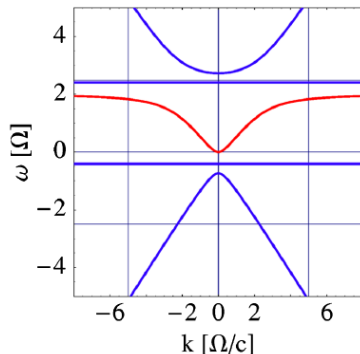
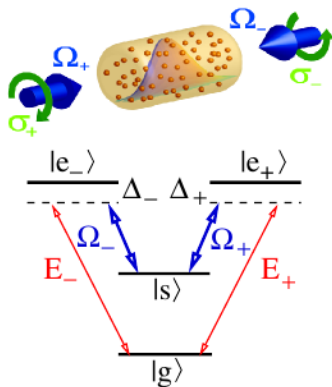
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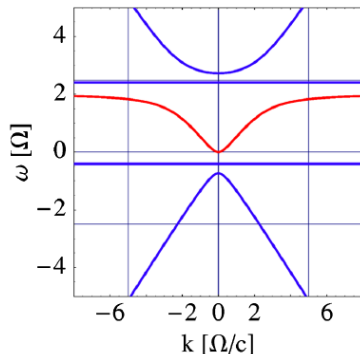
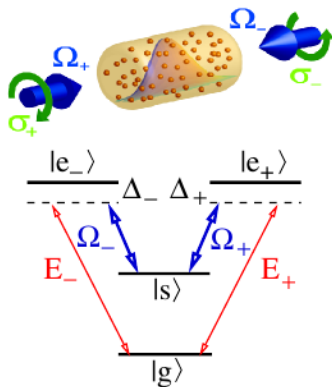
- Quadratic dispersion
- Stationary polariton (normal mode of the radiation) with non-zero  $m_{\text{eff}}$
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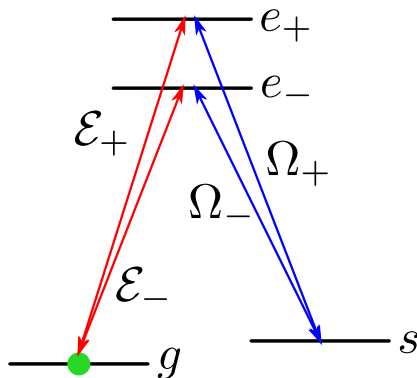
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- Quadratic dispersion
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- **Stationary light**

Slow light consisting of **several connected** fields?

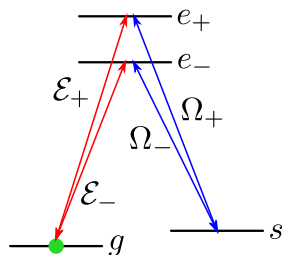
# First try: double $\Lambda$ scheme



Used for **stationary light**

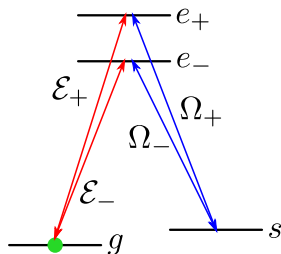
# Double $\Lambda$ scheme: bad for our purposes

- Only **one** dark state can be formed
- Only **one** dark state polariton (propagating without absorption)
- For multicomponent slow light we need to add **more** levels.



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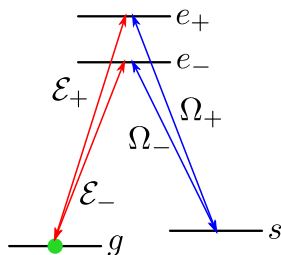
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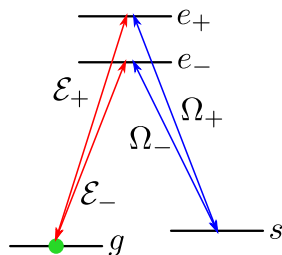
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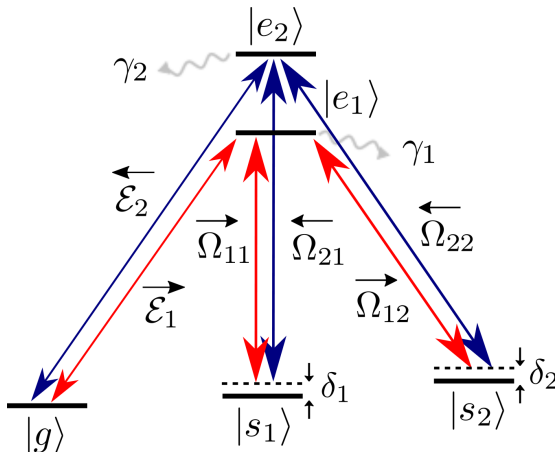


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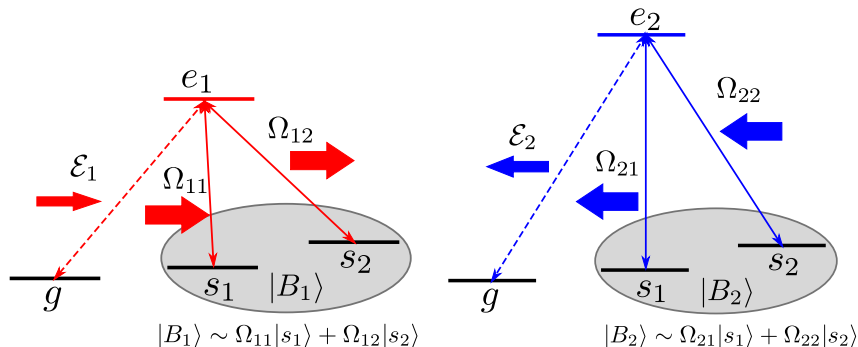


# Double tripod setup



- R. G. Unanyan, J. Otterbach, M. Fleischhauer, J. Ruseckas, V. Kudriašov, G. Juzeliūnas, Phys. Rev. Lett. **105**, 173603 (2010).
- J. Ruseckas, V. Kudriašov, G. Juzeliūnas, R. G. Unanyan, J. Otterbach, M. Fleischhauer, Phys. Rev. A **83**, 063811 (2011).

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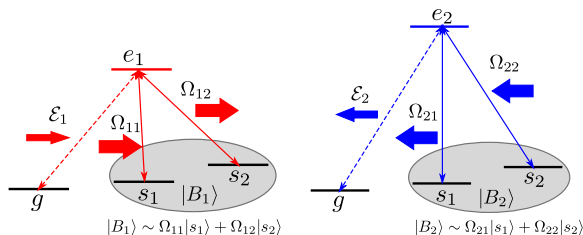


Probe fields  $\mathcal{E}_1$  and  $\mathcal{E}_2$  are **coupled** via atomic coherences if  $\langle B_1 | B_2 \rangle \neq 0$

# Double tripod setup

## Limiting cases:

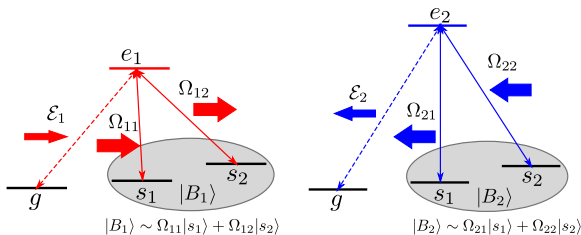
- $\langle B_1|B_2\rangle = 0$  — two not connected tripods
- $\langle B_1|B_2\rangle = 1$  — double Lambda setup
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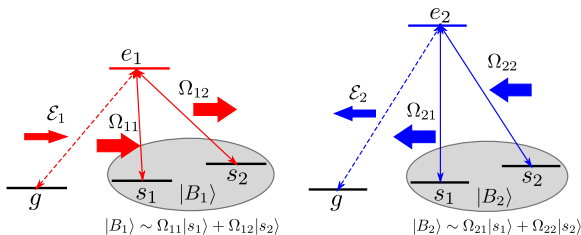
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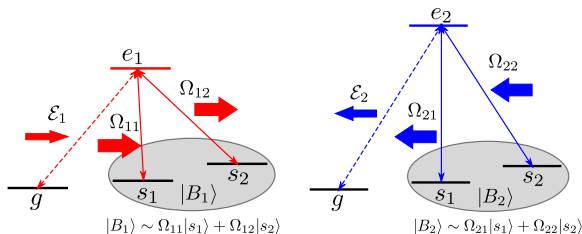
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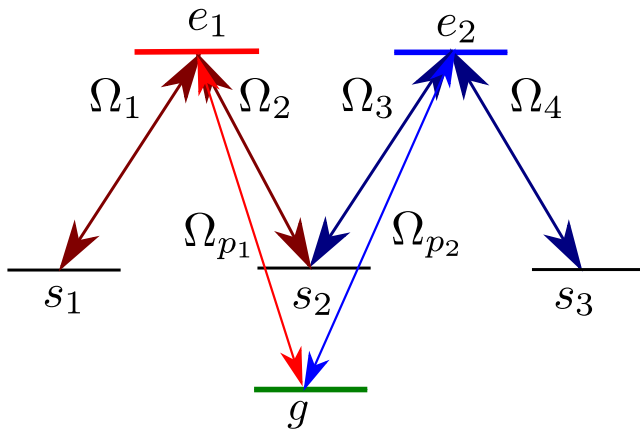
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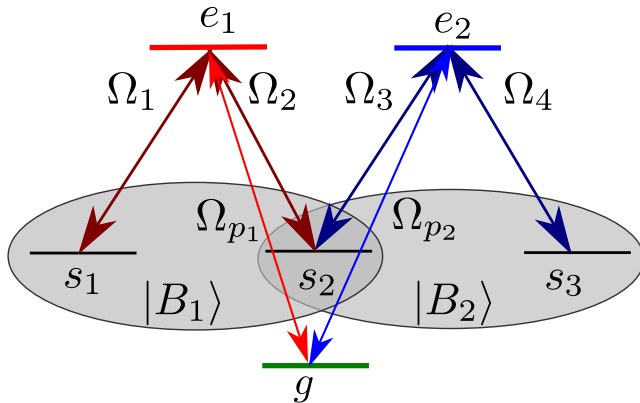




# Another scheme



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# Propagation of slow light

Matrix representation — **Spinor slow light**:

$$\mathcal{E} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{E}_1 \\ \mathcal{E}_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Equation for two-component probe field in the atomic cloud:

$$(c^{-1} + \hat{v}^{-1}) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mathcal{E} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \mathcal{E} + i \hat{v}^{-1} \hat{D} \mathcal{E} = 0$$

**Similar** to the equation for probe field in  $\Lambda$  scheme, only with matrices. Here  $\hat{v}^{-1}$  is a **matrix** of inverse group velocity (not necessarily diagonal).

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- The group velocity is a **non-diagonal matrix**
- Individual probe fields **do not have a definite group velocity**
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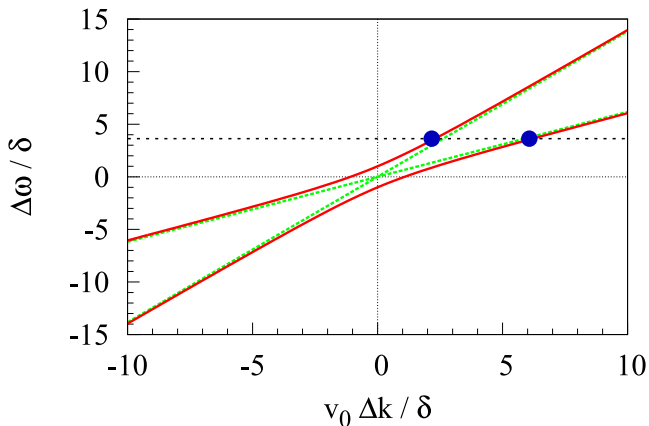
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# Neutrino-type oscillations for slow light



Light is converted to a superposition of modes with different wave vectors.

# Neutrino-type oscillations for slow light

- Copropagating beams, only one probe beam  $\mathcal{E}_1$  is incident on the atomic cloud.
- Oscillations of transmission probabilities  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  occur.
- Inclusion of non-adiabatic losses leads to attenuation of the intensity of transmitted beams  $\sim \exp(-2\phi^2/\alpha)$ , where  $\phi$  is a phase of oscillations.

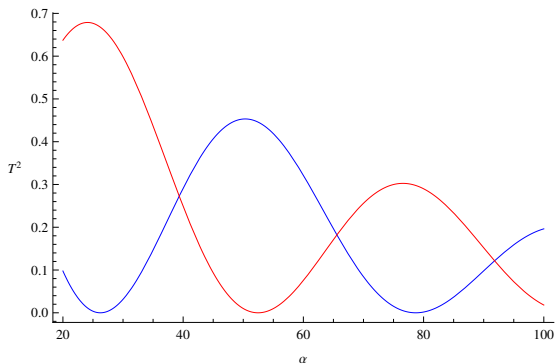
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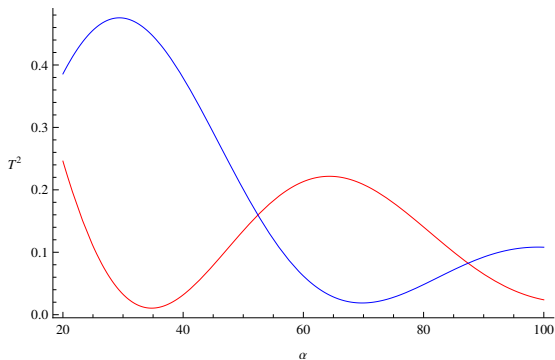
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# Oscillations in double tripod setup



Dependence of transmission probabilities  $|T_1|^2$  (blue line) and  $|T_2|^2$  (red line) on the optical density  $\alpha$ .

# Oscillations in another scheme



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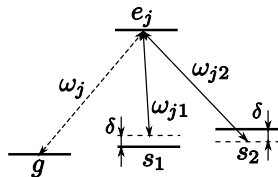
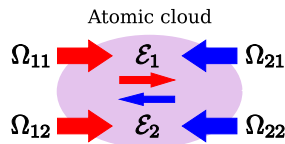
# Photonic band-gap for two-component slow light

- Counter-propagating beams in double tripod setup
- Non-zero two photon detuning  
 $\delta_1 = -\delta_2 \equiv \delta \neq 0$
- Dirac type equation with non-zero mass for two component slow light:

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \tilde{\mathcal{E}} = -i v_0 \sigma_z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \tilde{\mathcal{E}} + \delta \sigma_y \tilde{\mathcal{E}}$$

Here  $v_0 = \frac{c\Omega^2}{g^2 n}$

- A gap in dispersion (“electron-positron” type spectrum)



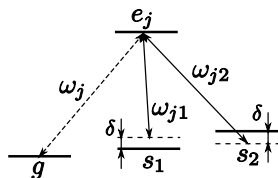
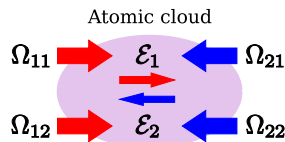
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- **Non-zero two photon detuning**  
 $\delta_1 = -\delta_2 \equiv \delta \neq 0$
- **Dirac type equation** with non-zero mass for two component slow light:

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \tilde{\mathcal{E}} = -i v_0 \sigma_z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \tilde{\mathcal{E}} + \delta \sigma_y \tilde{\mathcal{E}}$$

Here  $v_0 = \frac{c\Omega^2}{g^2 n}$

- A **gap in dispersion** (“electron-positron” type spectrum)



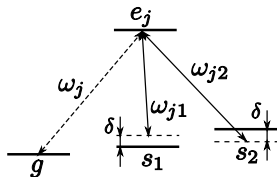
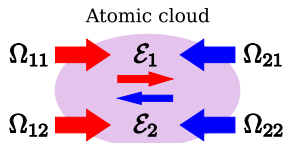
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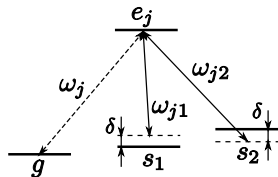
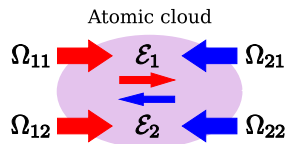
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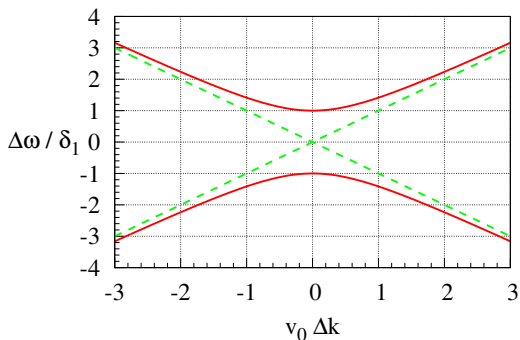
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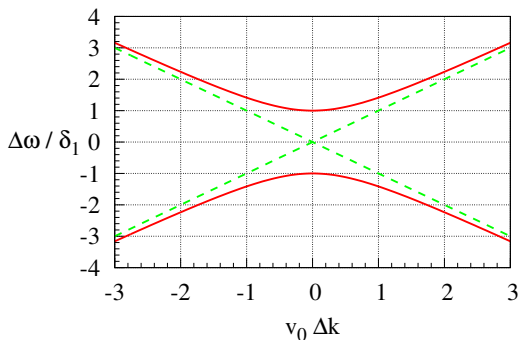


- Relativistic particle-antiparticle dispersion:

$$\Delta\omega^\pm = \pm\sqrt{v_0^2\Delta k^2 + \delta^2}$$

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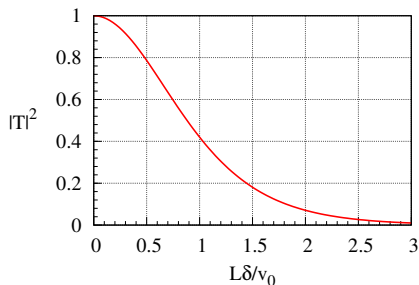


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# Dirac equation for two-component slow light

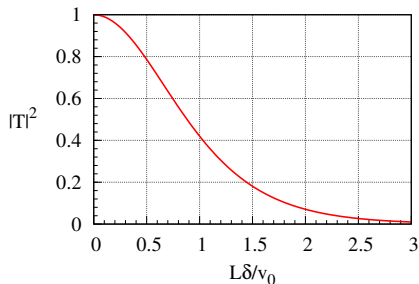


- Reflection and transmission coefficients at the gap center ( $\Delta\omega = 0$ ):

$$T = \cosh^{-1}(L/\lambda_C), \quad R = \tanh(L/\lambda_C)$$

- $\lambda_C = \hbar/mv_0 = v_0/\delta$  — Compton wave-length of the polariton.
- The Compton wave-length determines the polariton tunneling length.

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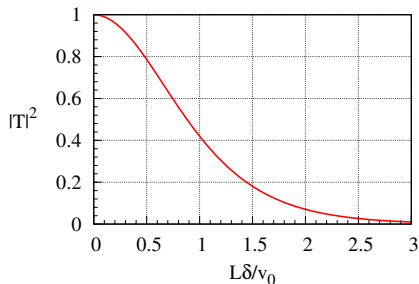
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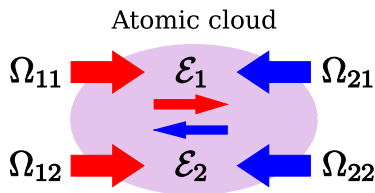
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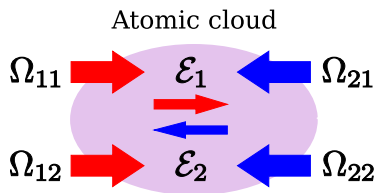
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- Double tripod configuration with counter-propagating beams.
- Initially two-photon detuning  $\delta$  is zero
- and only one probe beam  $\mathcal{E}_1$  with central frequency  $\Delta\omega = 0$  is incident on the atomic cloud
- resulting in slow light, propagating with the velocity  $v_0$



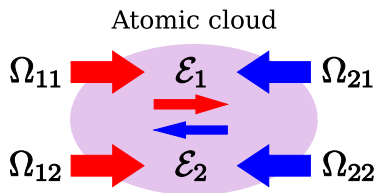
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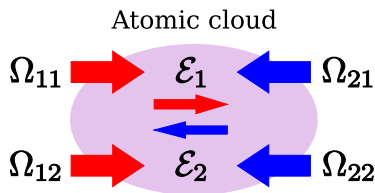
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- When the wave packet of the beam  $\mathcal{E}_1$  is inside the cloud, the two-photon detuning is **suddenly increased** from 0 to  $\delta$
- A gap in the dispersion forms
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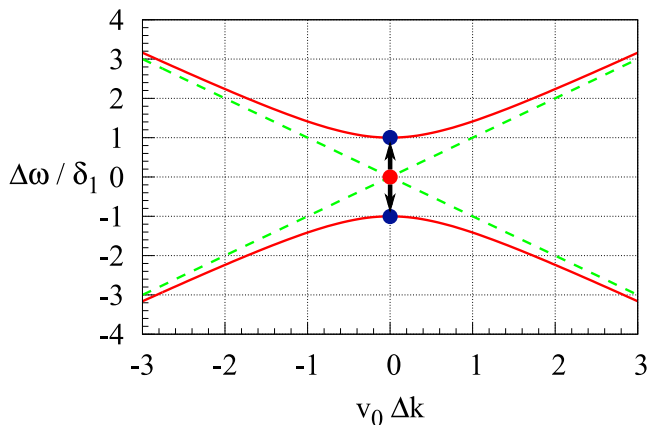
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Light is converted to superposition of eigenstates with positive and negative frequencies.

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- Instead of propagating, light **oscillates** between two probe fields:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{E}_1 \\ \mathcal{E}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\delta t) \\ \sin(\delta t) \end{pmatrix}$$

- At later time  $t = t_r$ , decreasing the two-photon detuning  $\delta$  back to zero, the stationary light is **converted back** to slow light

Probe beam can be frozen in the medium forming a two-component stationary light and subsequently released.

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- Two component slow and stationary light exhibits a number of distinct properties, such as the neutrino type oscillations between the components of light.
- Under certain conditions the slow light can be described by a relativistic equation of the Dirac-type for a particle of a finite mass, dispersion branches are separated by an energy gap.
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Thank you for your attention!