

# Does an isolated Quantum System relax?

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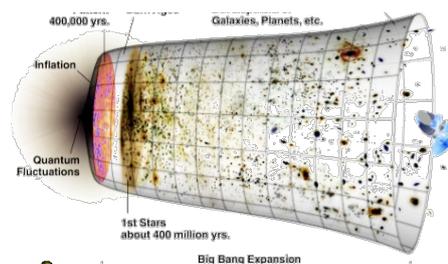


## Non-equilibrium systems: examples in quantum physics



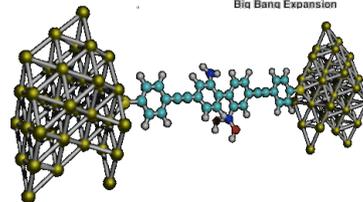
- Particle creation and expansion in the early universe:

- *Baryogenesis, Inflation*



- Electron transport :

- *molecular electronics*



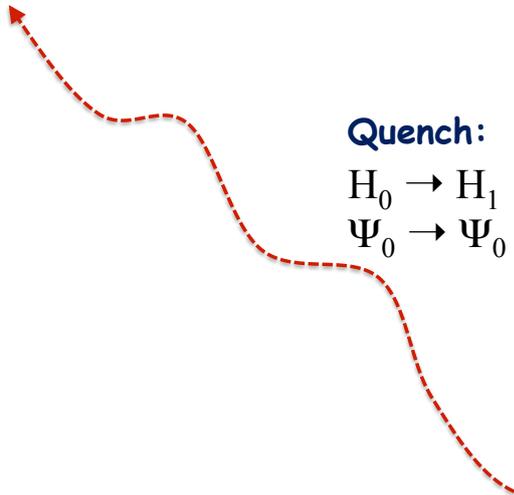
- De-Coherence :

- *Measurement problem*
- *Quantum Computer*



# Motivation

Non-equilibrium state



Quench:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 H_0 \rightarrow H_1 \\
 \Psi_0 \rightarrow \Psi_0 \xrightarrow{\text{time}} \Psi(t)
 \end{array}$$

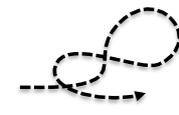
isolated quantum many-body system



Thermal equilibrium

# Motivation

Non-equilibrium state

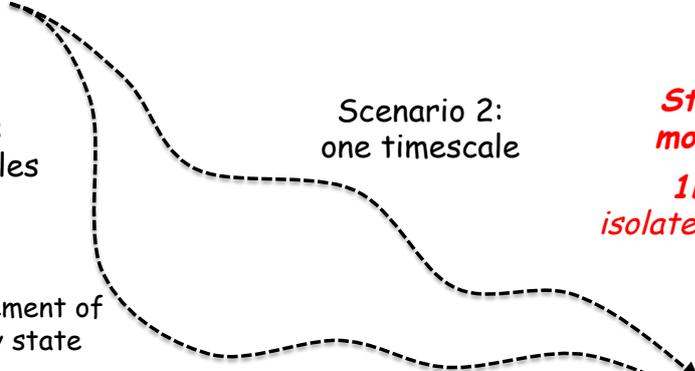


Scenario 1:  
unitary evolution  
without relaxation

*Open problem on vastly different energy, time and length scales!*

Scenario 3:  
more timescales

rapid establishment of a quasi-steady state



Scenario 2:  
one timescale

*Study using a model system:  
1D Bose gas  
isolated & controllable*

slow further evolution towards equilibrium



Thermal equilibrium

## Non-equilibrium system

- Coherently split 1d quantum gas

## Tools to probe the quantum states

- Full distribution functions of interference

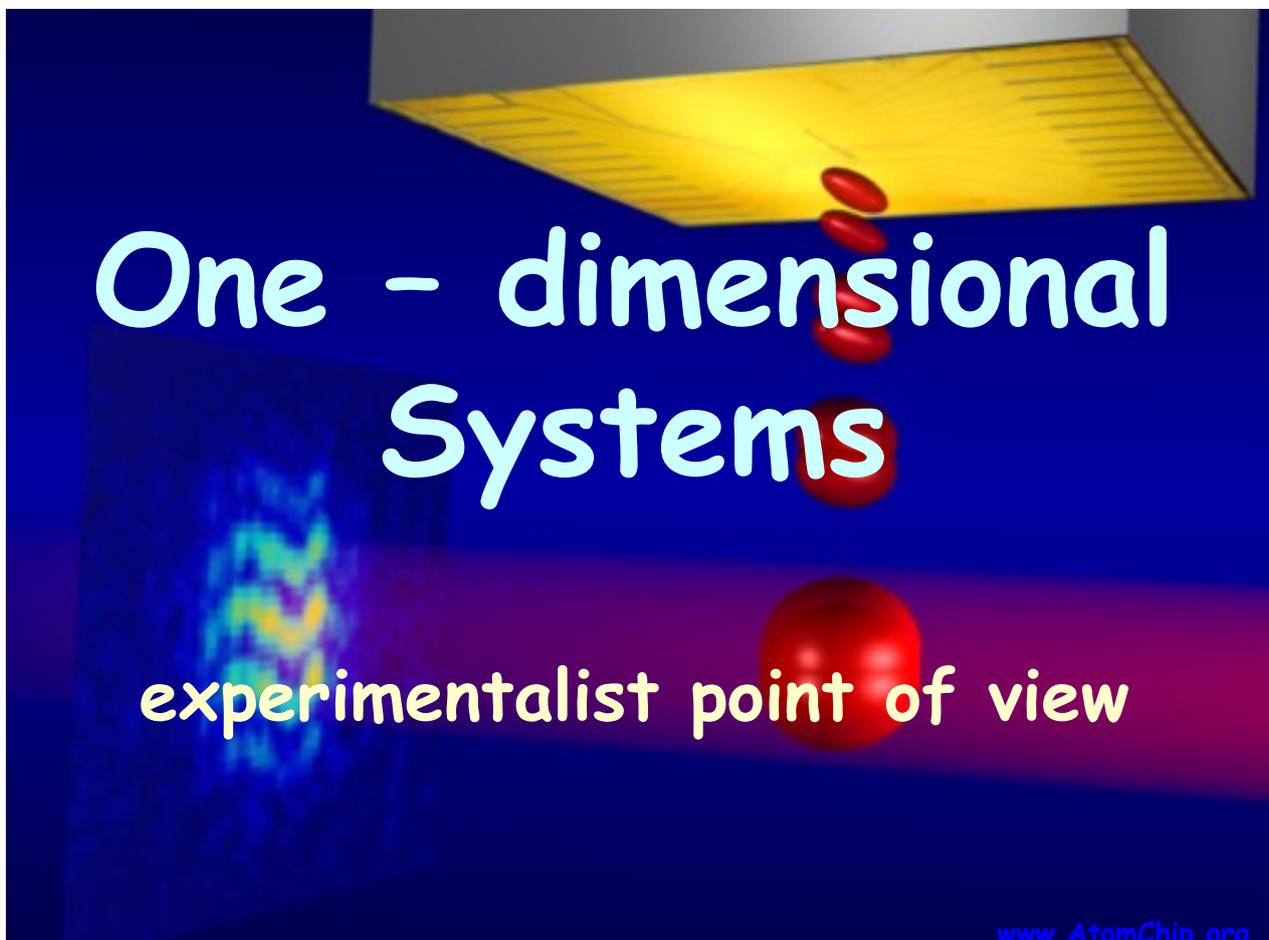
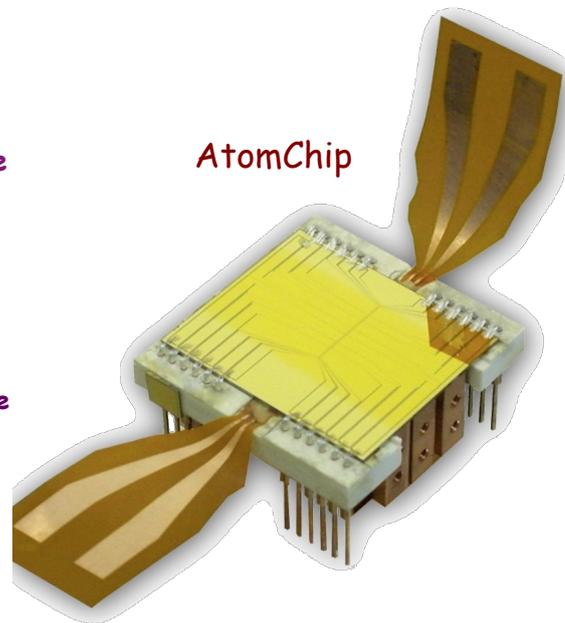
## Approach towards equilibrium

- Probing dynamics
  - Pre-Thermalization
  - Emergence of a new length scale
  - Light cone like spreading of de-coherence
  - Generalized Gibbs ensemble
  - Relaxation from the pre-thermalized state
- Improving Interferometry
  - Large spin squeezing and entanglement

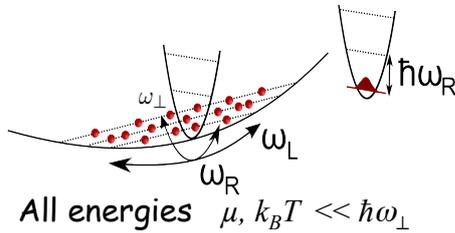
## Other Non-equilibrium systems

- Decay of excited state -> twin beams
- Fast cooling in 1d

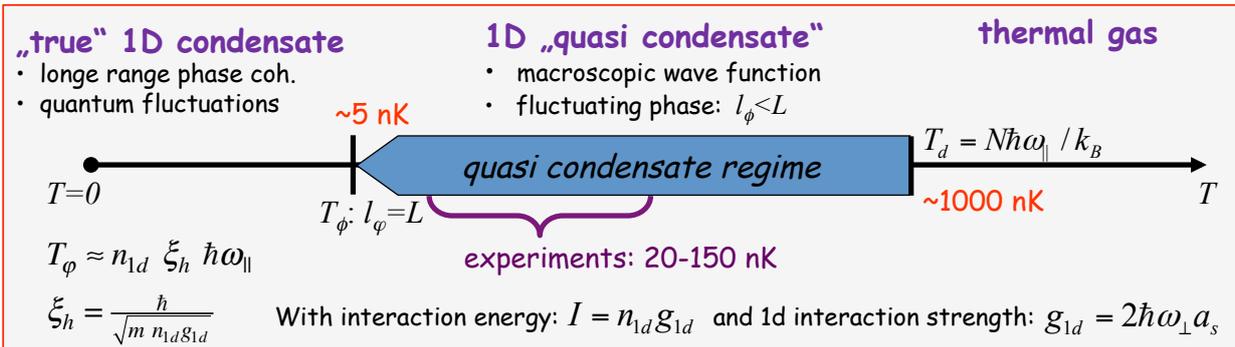
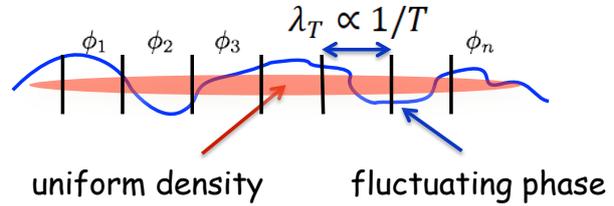
## Outlook



## Weakly interacting 1d Bose gas



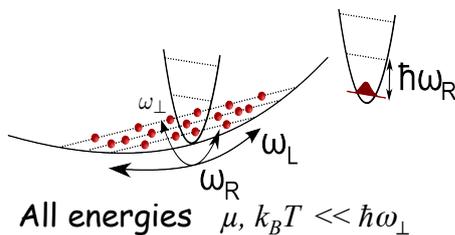
## quasi-condensate



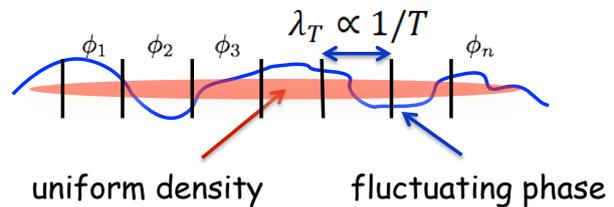
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## Weakly interacting 1d Bose gas



## quasi-condensate



**Theory: Lieb-Liniger model**

- Exactly solvable Integrable theory

**Luttinger-liquid**

- excitations are soundwaves (phonons), which do NOT interact
- Linear dispersion relation
- dynamics described through the **dephasing of the phonons**

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

Excitations play an enhanced role in 1d

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

thermally populated

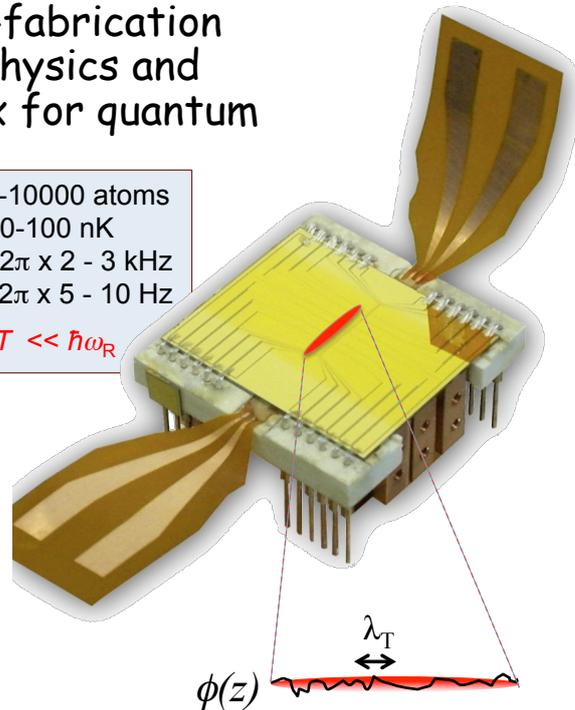
**The longitudinal phase fluctuations are key for our experiments**

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Combine the robustness of nano-fabrication on the quantum tools of atomic physics and quantum optics to build a toolbox for quantum experiments

- 1d elongated traps
- Easy to create a BEC
- Very stable and reproducible laboratory for quantum experiments
- Fast operation
- Well controlled splitting and interference

3000-10000 atoms  
 $T = 20-100$  nK  
 $\omega_R \approx 2\pi \times 2 - 3$  kHz  
 $\omega_L \approx 2\pi \times 5 - 10$  Hz  
 $\mu, k_B T \ll \hbar \omega_R$



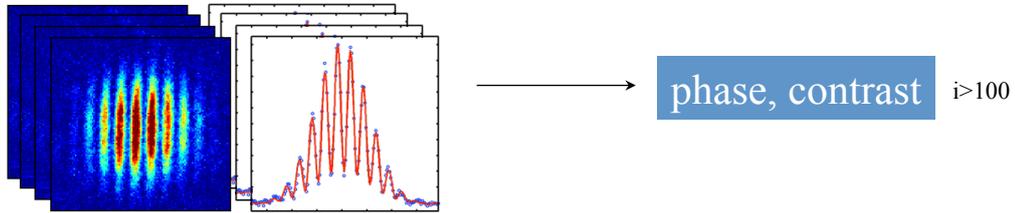
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# Probing the quantum state

## full distribution function of interference

- Matter-wave interferometry: **repeat many times**



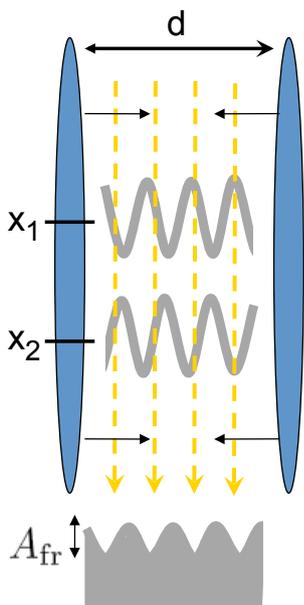
- Plot as circular statistics **full distribution function of phase & contrast**



Theory: Polkovnikov et al. PNAS **103**, 6125 (2006)  
 Gritsev et al. Nature Phys. **2**, 705 (2006)  
 Exp: Hofferberth et al. Nature Phys. **4**, 489 (2008)

**FDF contains information about all order correlation functions**  
 in solid state: Full Counting Statistics

A. Polkovnikov, et al., PNAS **103**, 6125 (2006)  
 V. Gritsev, et al., Nature Phys. **2**, 705 (2006)  
 A. Imambekov et al. Phys. Rev. A **77**, 063606 (2008)



A is a quantum operator.  
 Its measured value will fluctuate from shot to shot.

$$A = \frac{1}{n_{1d}} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} a_1^+(z) a_2(z) dz$$

For independent BEC's: expectation value of contrast:  
 $\langle A \rangle = 0$  due to random rel. Phases

Look at  $\langle |A|^2 \rangle$

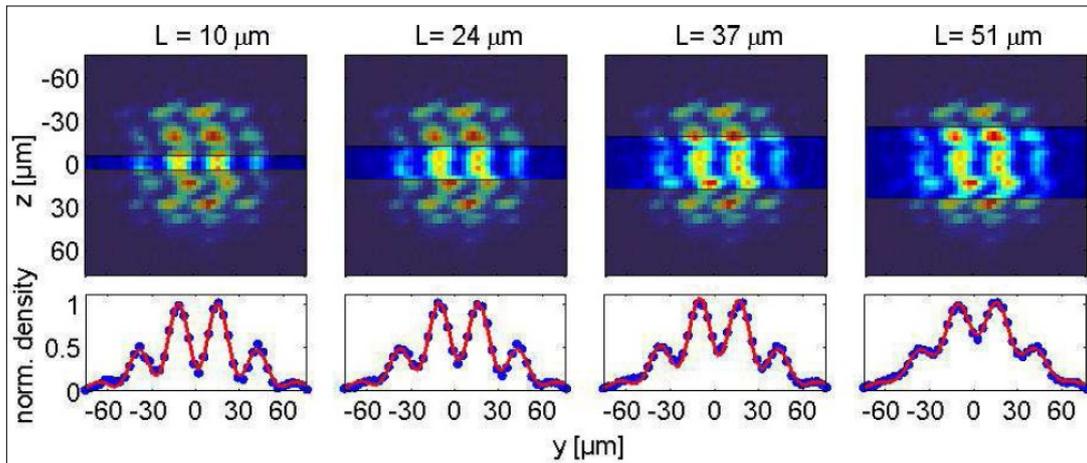
$$\langle |A|^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{n_{1d}^2} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} dz_1 \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} dz_2 \langle a_1^+(z_1) a_1(z_2) \rangle \langle a_2^+(z_2) a_2(z_1) \rangle$$

2<sup>nd</sup> moment of fringe („average contrast“)

2<sup>nd</sup> order correlation function

# Analysis of interference patterns: contrast analysis

Hofferberth et al Nature Phys. 4, 489 (2008)



wave vector of fringe separation:

$$Q = \frac{md}{\hbar t_{TOF} / L/2}$$

contrast of integrated profile:

$$A_Q = \frac{1}{n_{1d}} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} a_1^+(z) a_2(z) dz$$

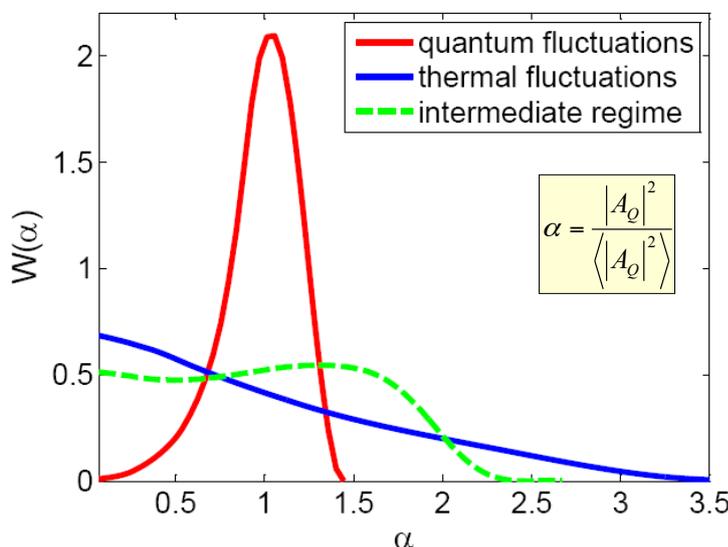
expectation value of contrast:

$$\langle A_Q \rangle = 0 \quad \text{due to random rel. phases}$$

# full contrast statistics theory predictions

A. Polkovnikov, et al., PNAS 103, 6125 (2006)  
 V. Gritsev, et al., Nature Phys. 2, 705 (2006)  
 A. Imambekov et al. Phys. Rev. A 77, 063606 (2008)

theoretically expected distribution functions for the average contrast:



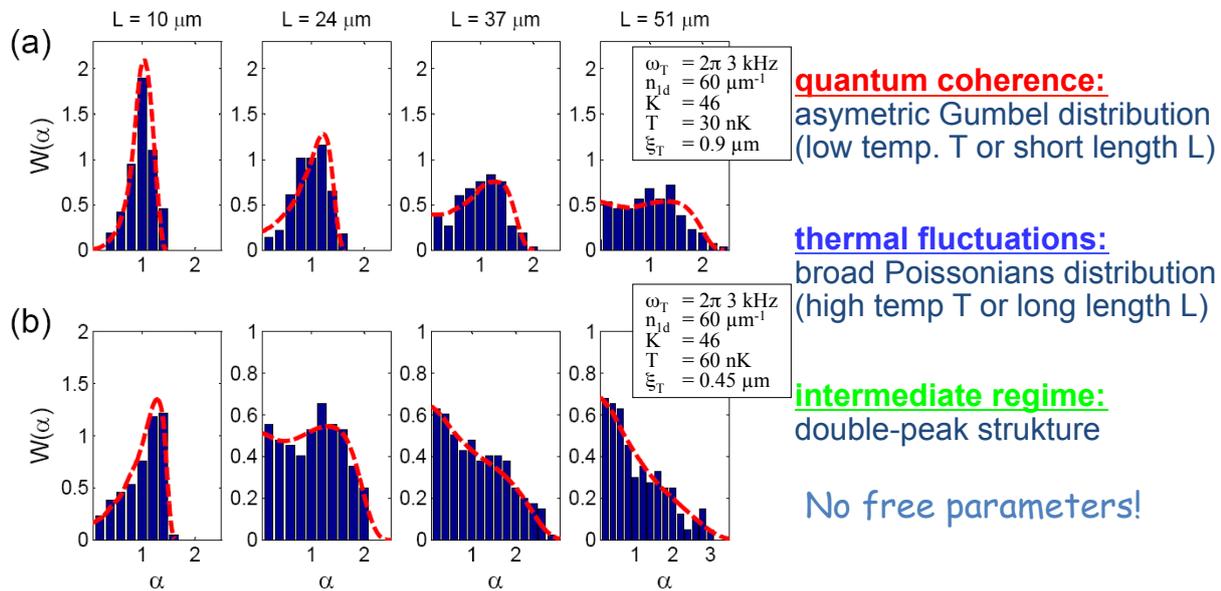
**quantum coherence:**  
 asymmetric Gumbel distribution  
 (low temp. T or short length L)

**thermal fluctuations:**  
 broad Poissonians distribution  
 (high temp T or long length L)

**intermediate regime:**  
 double-peak structure

Semi-classical approach: Stimming et al. et al. PRL (2010)

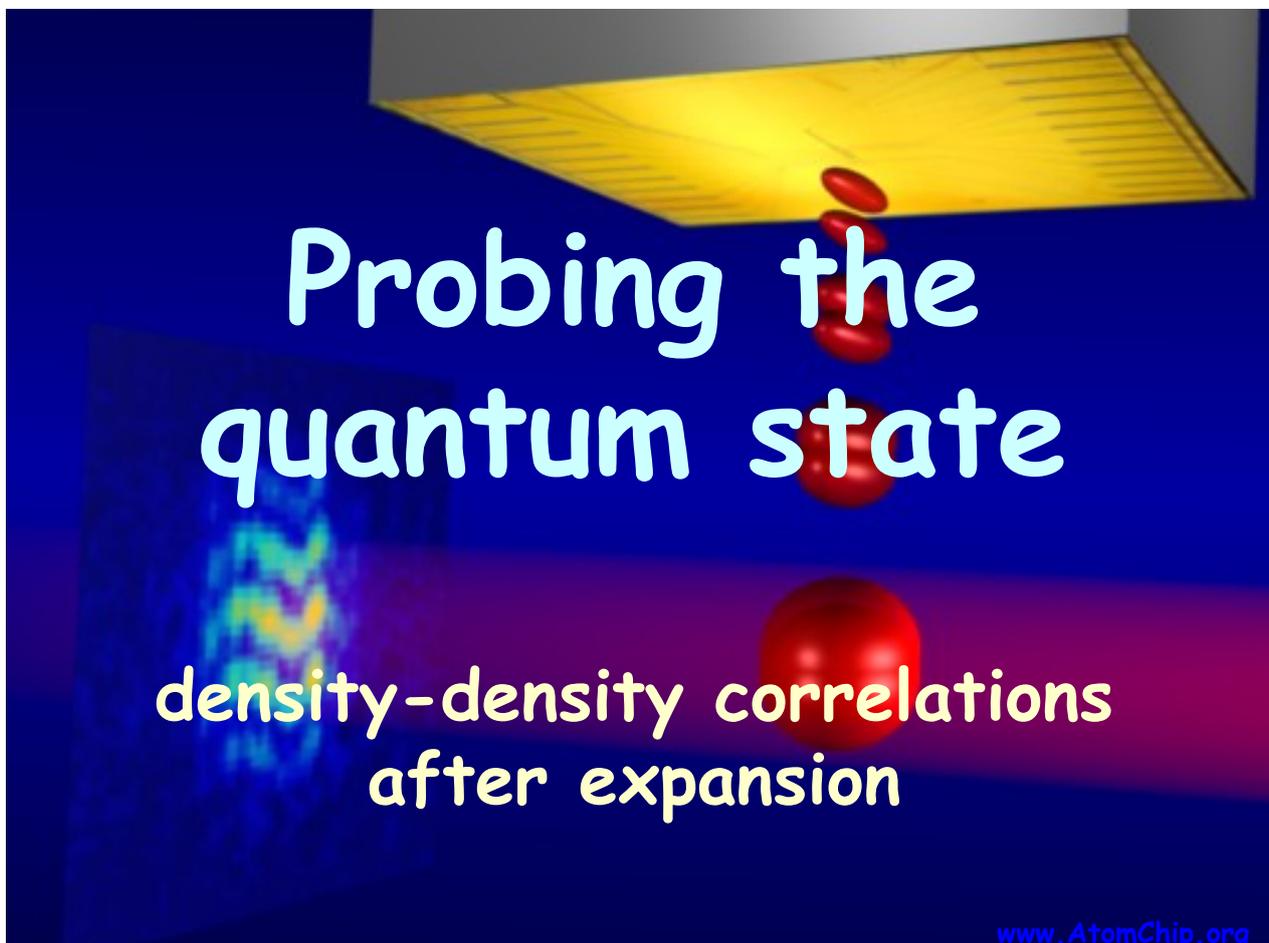
experimentally measured distribution functions for the average contrast: Hofferberth et al Nature Phys. 4, 489 (2008)



experiment records entire distribution function of interference contrast  
 → high order correlations can be derived

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A. Imambekov et al PRA 80, 33604 (2009)

Phase fluctuations in the trapped quantum gas will translate into density fluctuations

Interference leads to a **matter wave spackle pattern**

If the propagation is free (no final state interaction) one can infer back to the properties of the trapped quantum gas

relevant timescale:

$$m\lambda_c^2/\hbar$$

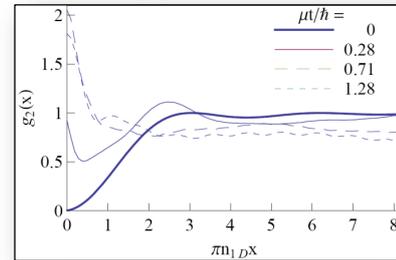
strongly interacting:  
 $\lambda_c$ : particle distance

weakly interacting  
 $\lambda_c$ : coherence length

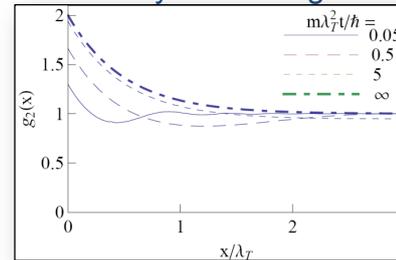
**Conclusion:**  
don't take TOF too long or look in-situ

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strongly interacting

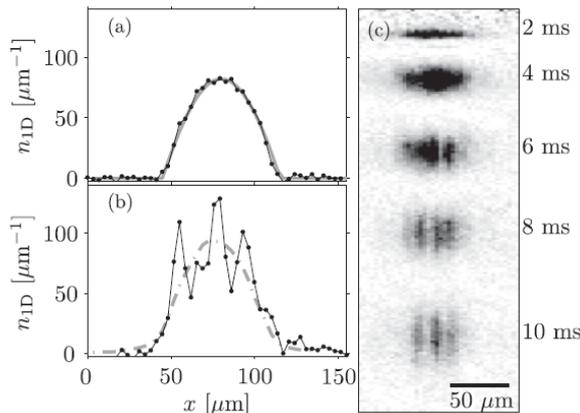


weakly interacting



for long TOF, everything looks like an ideal gas

absorption images of expanding BEC

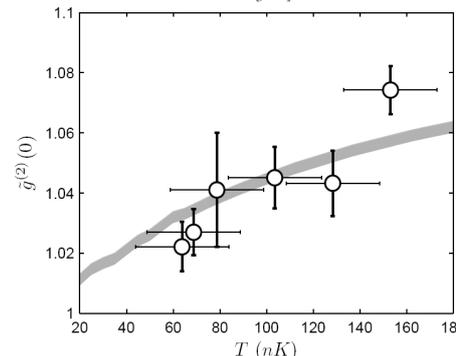
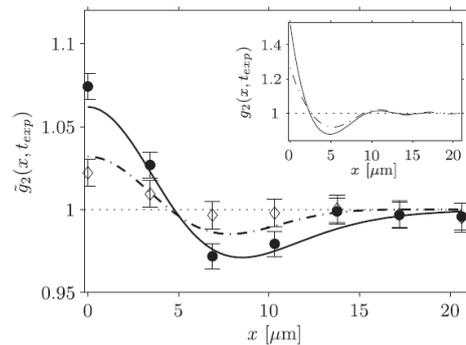


In 1d system we can neglect the interactions in expansion and get information about the properties of the trapped 1d gas

Recent experiments for 2d systems:

Jae-yoon Choi, Sang Won Seo, Woo Jin Kwon, Yong-il Shin  
Probing Phase Fluctuations in a 2D Degenerate Bose Gas by Free Expansion

Th: A. Imambekov et al PRA 80, 33604 (2009)  
Exp: St. Manz et al Phys. Rev. A 81, 031610 (2010)



# Creating a non equilibrium state by coherent splitting a 1d system

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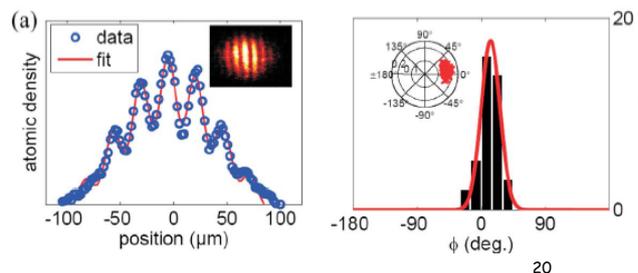
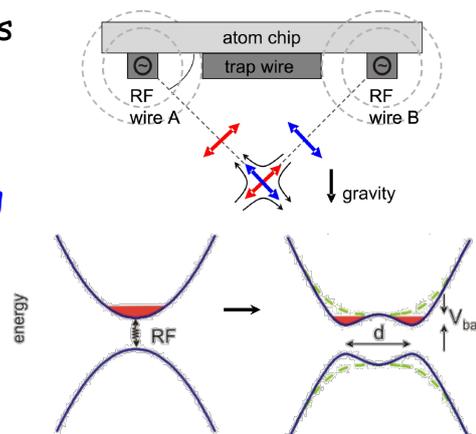
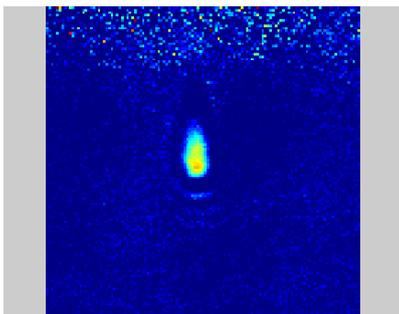


## Coherent splitting of a 1d BEC RF traps on a chip



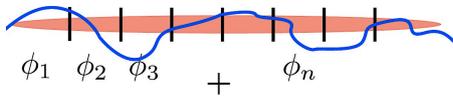
Schumm et al, Nature Phys. 1, 57 (2005)

- Deform the single trap into a double-well by coupling of atomic states by RF fields
- **A coherent beamsplitter for matterwaves!**
- **Observe the interference by releasing the BEC and let it expand to overlap in time of flight**



# Split 1d-bose-gas as non-equilibrium system

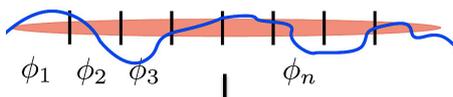
**Initial state**  
coherently split quantum gas



$$\hat{n}_1(x), \hat{\phi}_1(x)$$

symmetric

$$\hat{n}_s = \hat{n}_1 + \hat{n}_2, \quad \hat{\phi}_s = \hat{\phi}_1 + \hat{\phi}_2$$



$$\hat{n}_2(x), \hat{\phi}_2(x)$$

anti symm.

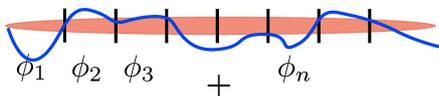
$$\hat{n}_a = \hat{n}_1 - \hat{n}_2, \quad \hat{\phi}_a = \hat{\phi}_1 - \hat{\phi}_2$$

thermally populated

populated by quantum fluctuations

hold time

**Thermal equilibrium state**  
two independent quantum gases



equal  
(thermal)  
populated

symmetric

$$\hat{n}_s = \hat{n}_1 + \hat{n}_2, \quad \hat{\phi}_s = \hat{\phi}_1 + \hat{\phi}_2$$

anti symm.

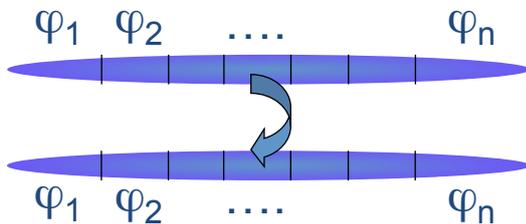
$$\hat{n}_a = \hat{n}_1 - \hat{n}_2, \quad \hat{\phi}_a = \hat{\phi}_1 - \hat{\phi}_2$$

equal thermal population

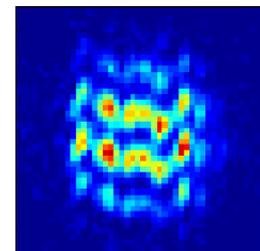
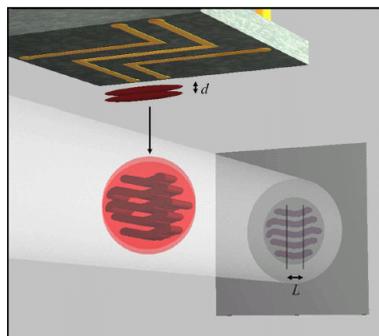
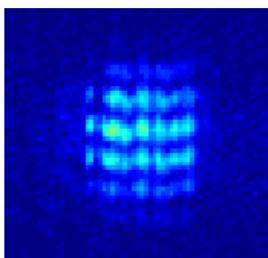
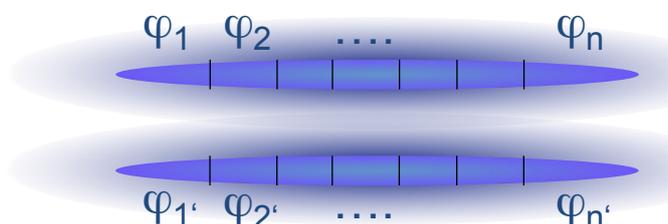
# interference of phase fluctuating 1D condensates

Study the dynamics of excitations on a quantum field

create a copy by splitting  
quantum connected



create two independent samples  
classically separated



# Probing the Dynamics of (de) coherence

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

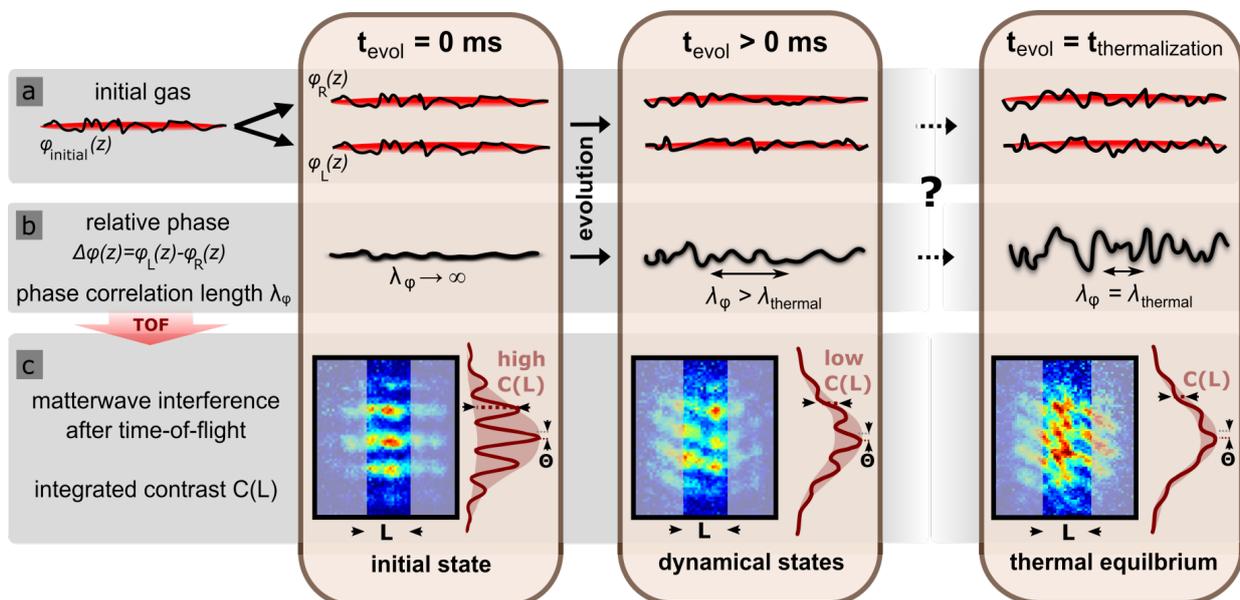
[www.AtomChip.org](http://www.AtomChip.org)



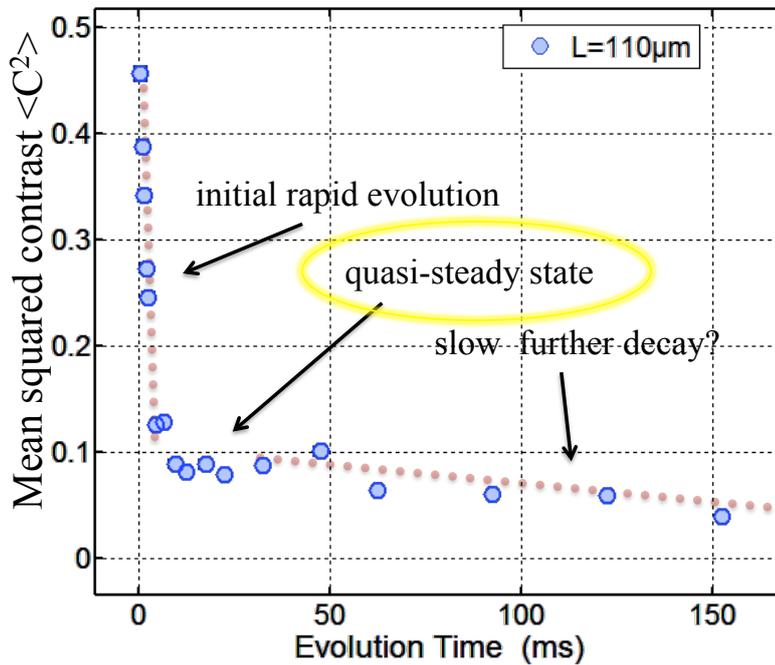
## Experimental Procedure



Gring et al., Science 337, 1318 (2012)



# Decay of the mean contrast



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# Experimental observation two regimes

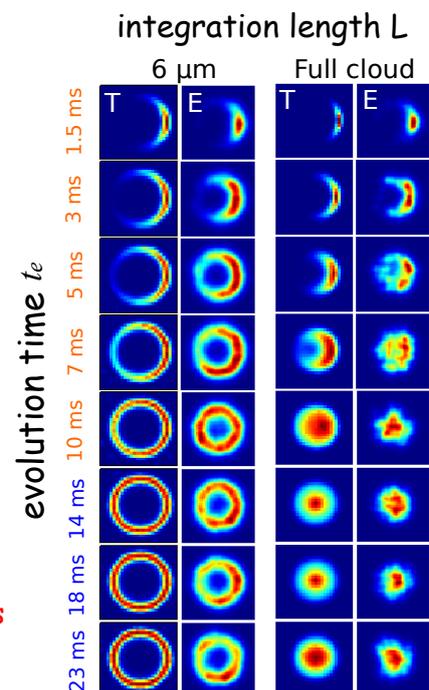
theory: Kitagawa et al., PRL 104, 255302 (2010); NJP 13 073018 (2011)  
 exp: Kuhnert et al., PRL 110, 090405 (2013)

Initially reduced phase spread shows coherence of the splitting. Over time, two regimes emerge:

- long length scale:**  
 significant occupation of phonon modes with  $\lambda < L$  leads to random phases within  $L$  and to loss of contrast on the same timescale as the phase diffuses  
**contrast decay regime** (spin decay)
- short length scale:**  
 only significant occupation of phonon modes with  $\lambda > L$   
 -> only phase diffusion  
**phase diffusion regime** (spin diffusion)

Theory description: Luttinger-liquid

- Excitations are soundwaves (phonons)
- dynamics described through the **dephasing of the phonons**  
 does not describe a thermalisation process



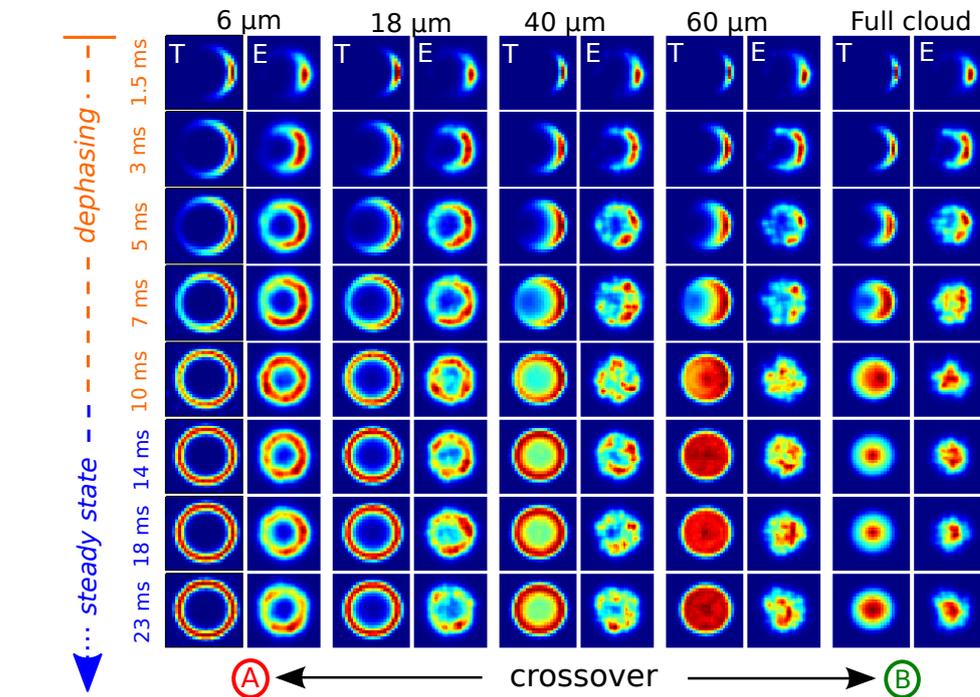
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# FDF of Phase and Contrast comparison to theory

theory: Kitagawa et al.

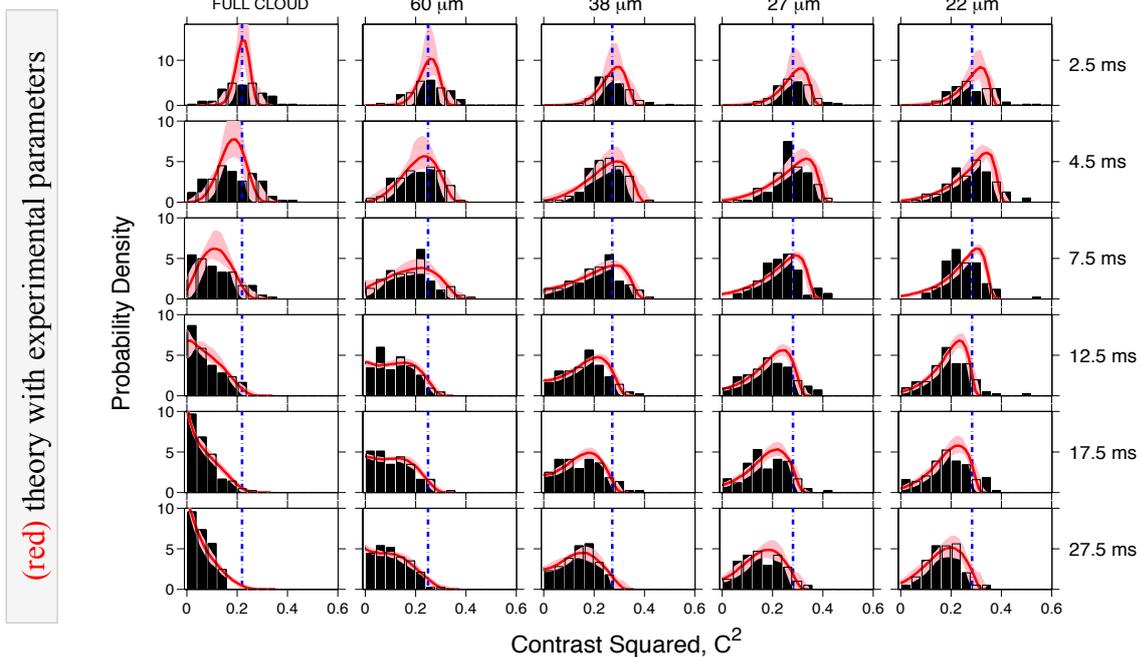
Kuhnert et al., PRL 110, 090405 (2013)



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# FDF of $(\text{Contrast})^2$

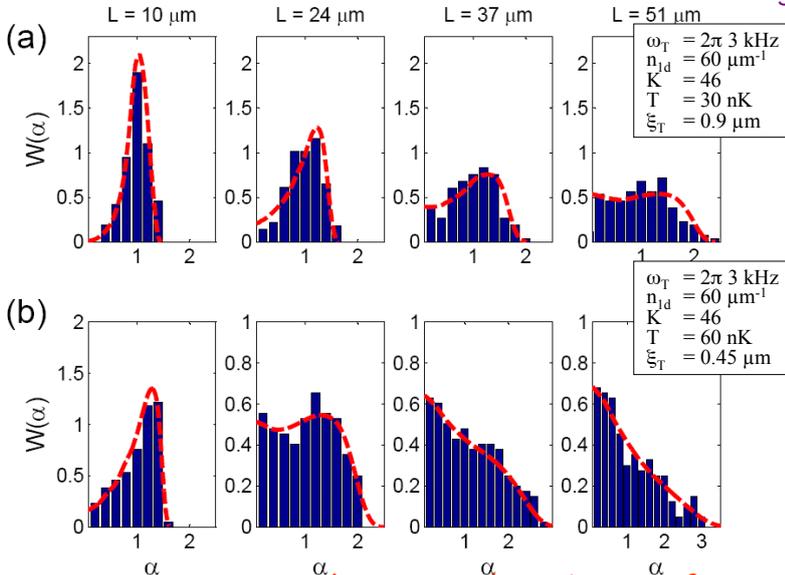
Gring et al., Science 337, 1318 (2012)



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experimentally measured distribution functions for the average contrast:

Theory:  
 A. Polkovnikov, et al., PNAS 103, 6125 (2006).  
 V. Gritsev, et al., Nature Phys. 2, 705 (2006).  
 Experiment:  
 S. Hofferberth et al Nature Phys. 4, 489 (2008)



**quantum coherence:**  
 asymmetric Gumbel distribution  
 (low temp. T or short length L)

**thermal fluctuations:**  
 broad Poissonians distribution  
 (high temp T or long length L)

**intermediate regime:**  
 double-peak structure

No free parameters!

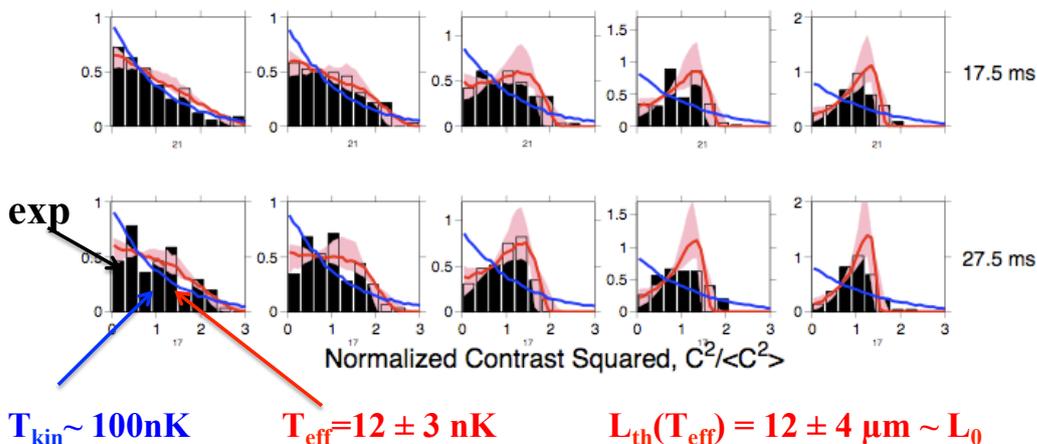
experiment records entire distribution function of interference contrast  
 → high order correlations can be derived

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Gring et al., Science 337, 1318 (2012)

Measure effective temperature by comparing to equilibrium distributions:



**Effective temperature is ~ 8 times colder than the initial kinetic temperature!**

Theory for equilibrium :  
 A. Polkovnikov, et al., PNAS 103, 6125 (2006).  
 V. Gritsev, et al., Nature Phys. 2, 705 (2006).  
 Experiment for equilibrium:  
 S. Hofferberth et al Nature Phys. 4, 489 (2008)

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# Interpretation

theory: Kitagawa et al., PRL 104, 255302 (2010); NJP 13 073018 (2011)

Gring et al., Science 337, 1318 (2012)  
 Kuhnert et al., PRL 110, 090405 (2013)  
 Smith et al., NJP 15, 075011 (2013)

- Our 1d many body quantum system is close to an integrable system (perfect 1d system)
- Fast evolution is the de-phasing of the phonon modes of the initial state of the split 1d system ('relaxation' in an integrable system)
- (quasi) steady state is the quantum state the integrable system relaxes to. It can be described by a generalized Gibbs ensemble
  - Quasi steady state is determined by the conserved quantities in the 1d Luttinger liquid model (phonon occupation numbers)
  - The fast splitting process leads to equipartition of energy in the (antisymmetric) modes  $\Rightarrow$  thermal like state
  - Prediction: effective temperature for the quasi steady state given by the quantum shot noise introduced by the splitting process

$$k_B T_{\text{eff}} = g\rho/2$$

- Expect: - Revivals by re-phasing of the phonons  
 - Over long times the quasi steady state should slowly decay
- Example of a Pre-thermalized state (Berges 2004)

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# Scaling of $T_{\text{eff}}$

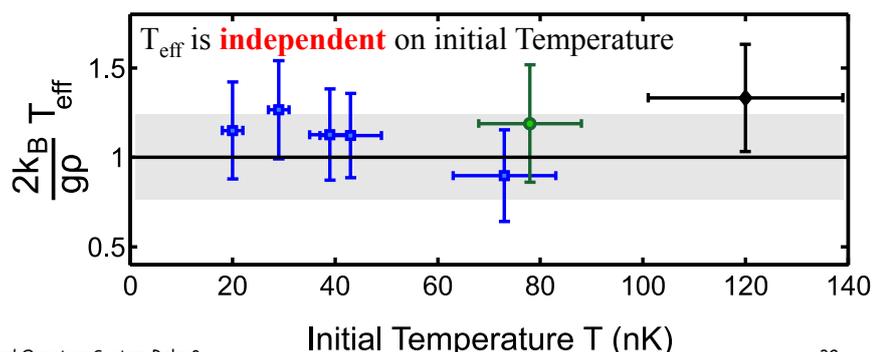
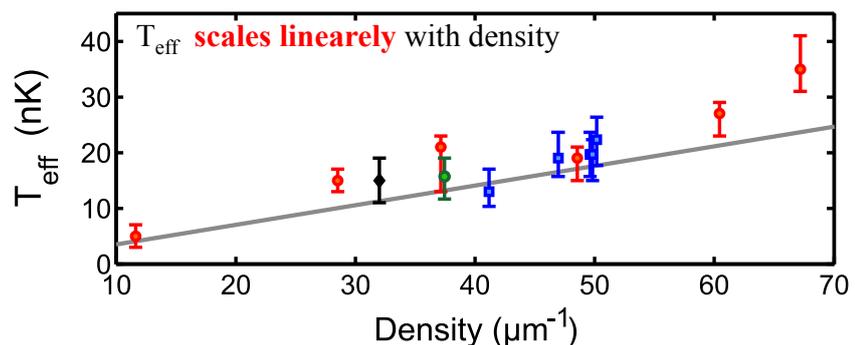
theory: Kitagawa et al., PRL 104, 255302 (2010); NJP 13 073018 (2011)

Gring et al., Science 337, 1318 (2012)

Luttinger liquid prediction

$$k_B T_{\text{eff}} = g\rho/2$$

effective temperature for the quasi steady state given by the quantum shot noise introduced by the splitting process



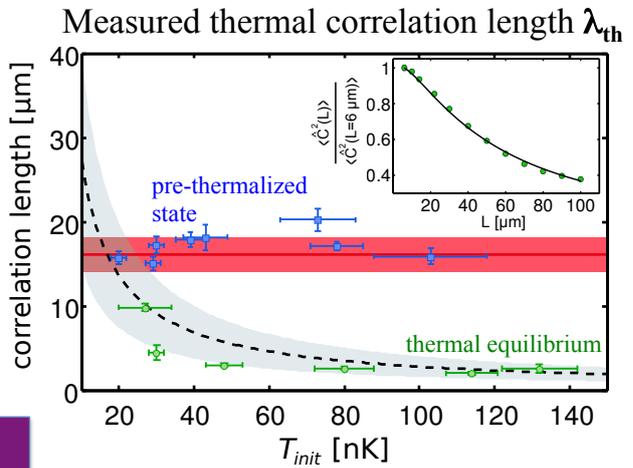
# Pre-Thermalization Effective length scale

Kuhnert et al., PRL 110, 090405 (2013)  
theory: Kitagawa et al., PRL 104, 255302 (2010);  
NJP 13 073018 (2011)

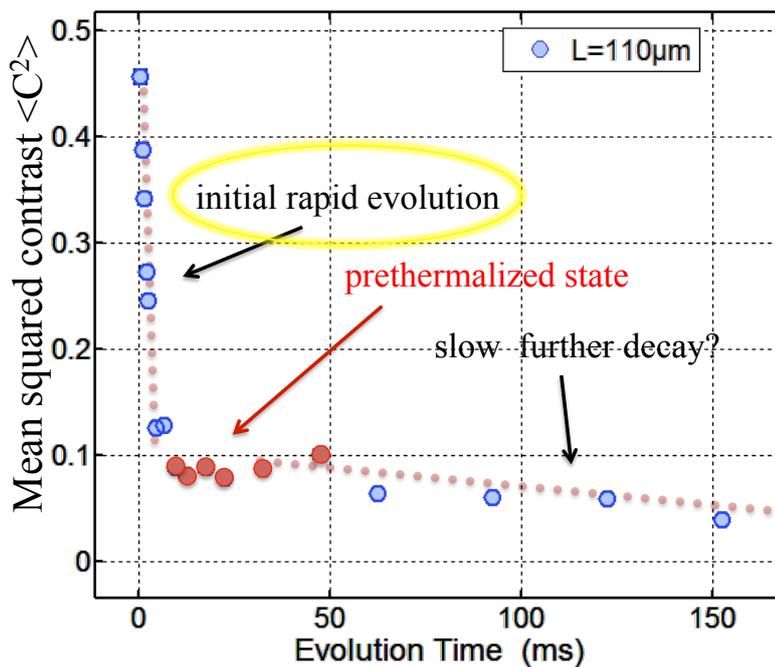
Theory introduces a new characteristic  
“thermal-like” length scale  $L_0$ :

- Transition between decay and diffusion regime occurs around integration length  $L_0 = 8K^2/\pi^2n_{1d}$
- This is much longer than the thermal coherence length:

Theory:  $L_0 = 15.8 \pm 0.9 \mu\text{m}$   
 Measured:  $\lambda_{\text{th}}(T_{\text{eff}}) = 16.9 \pm 0.9 \mu\text{m} \sim L_0$   
 Initial T :  $\lambda_{\text{th}} \sim 1/T = 1.5 \rightarrow 10 \mu\text{m}$



# Decay of the mean contrast



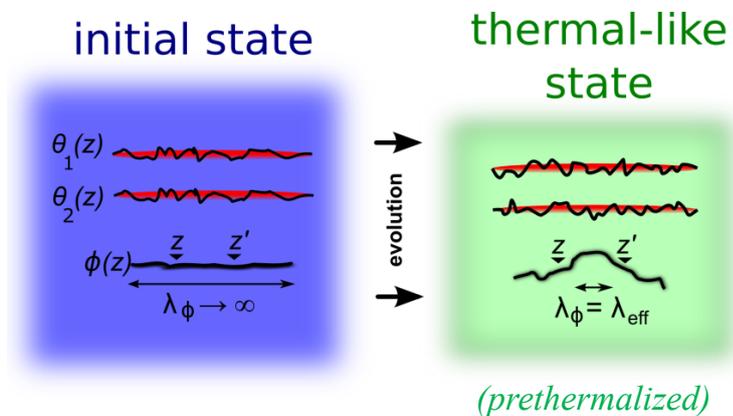


## Local observation of relaxation



T. Langen et al NatPhys 9, 460 (2013)

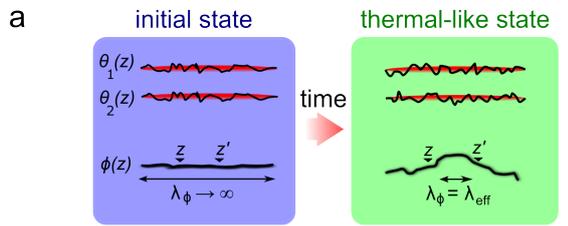
How does the system acquire thermal-like properties?



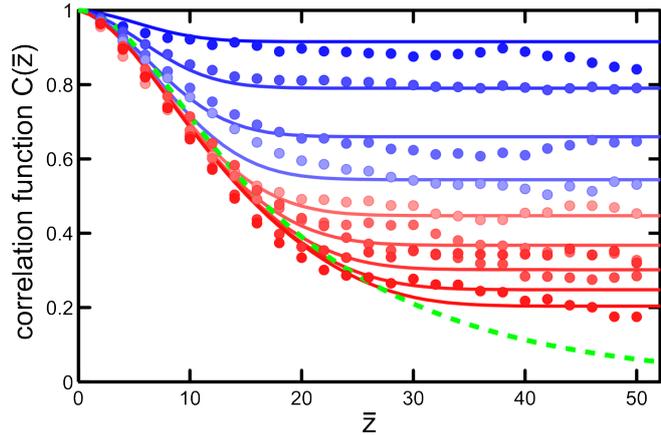
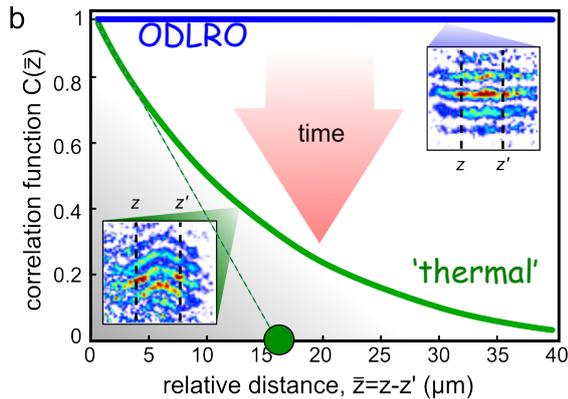
Linear dispersion relation of the phonons relates this to the questions asked by: Calabrese, P. & Cardy, J. Phys. Rev. Lett. 96, 011368 (2006)

# Decay of coherence

T. Langen et al NatPhys 9, 460 (2013)



Time evolution of the phase correlation function

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


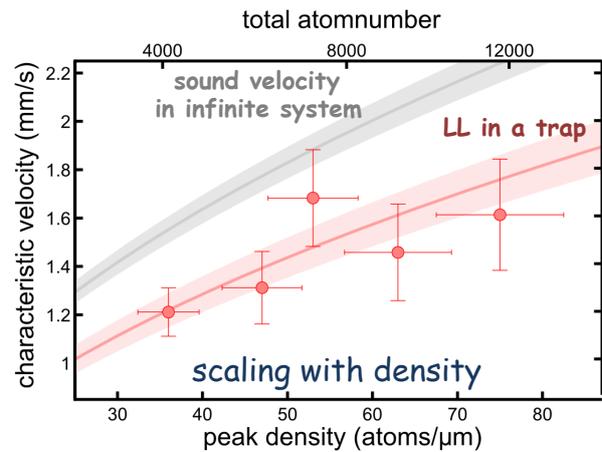
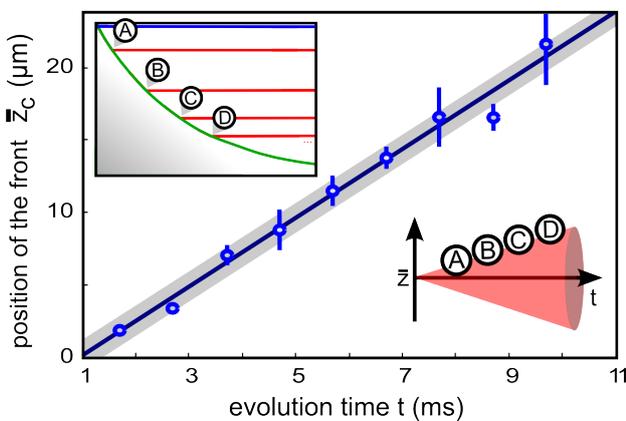
J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

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# Light-Cone dynamics in the decay of coherence

T. Langen et al NatPhys 9, 460 (2013)

LL theory in trap: R. Geiger et al. arXiv:1312.7568



**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).

J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

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## Phase correlation function:

$$C(z, z', t) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\langle\Delta\phi_{zz'}(t)^2\rangle)$$

Initially the spitting process creates excitations (phonons with  $\omega_k=c_0k$ ) in the density quadrature. (density fluctuations from the beam splitter)

With time the density quadrature of the phonons oscillate into the phase quadrature (with  $\omega_k$ )

Equipartition created by a fast splitting results in a  $1/k$  population of the modes

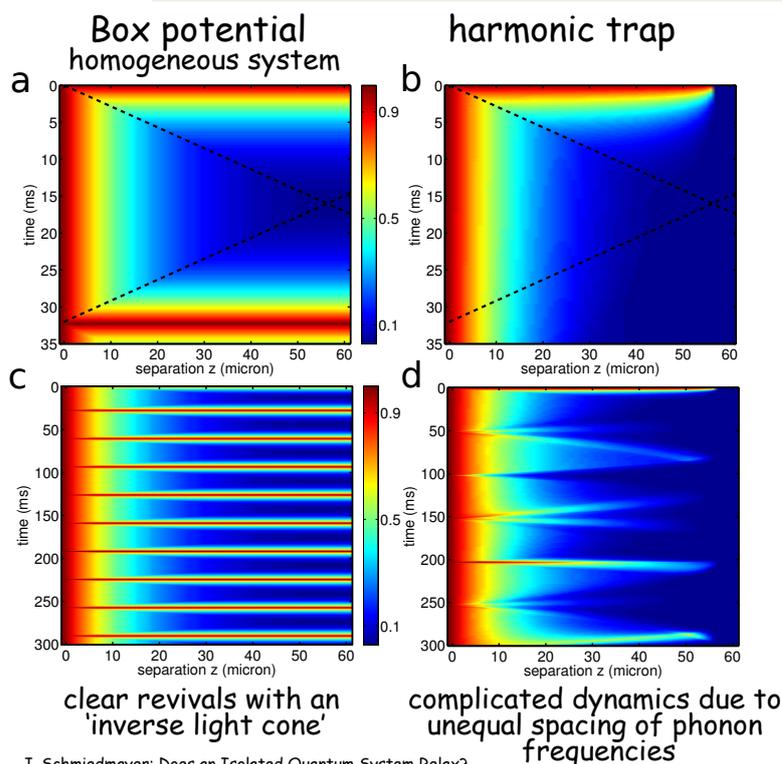
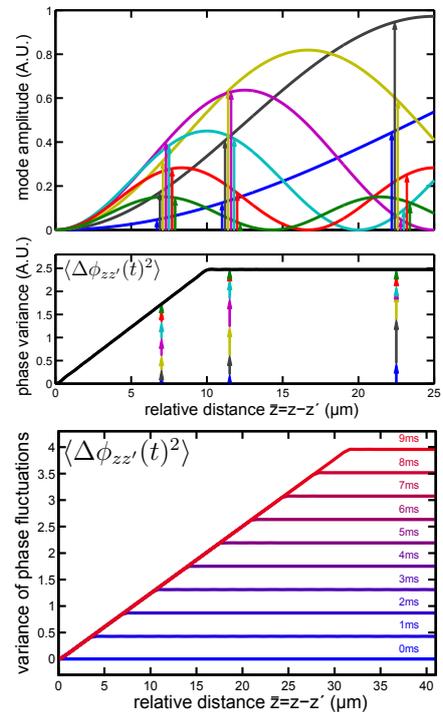
## Time evolution of the phase variance:

$$\langle\Delta\phi_{zz'}(t)^2\rangle = \frac{2\pi^2}{LK^2} \sum_{k\neq 0} \frac{\sin(\omega_k t)^2}{k^2} (1 - \cos(k\bar{z}))$$

Fourier decomposition of a ramp with a flat plateau starting at  $z=c_0t$

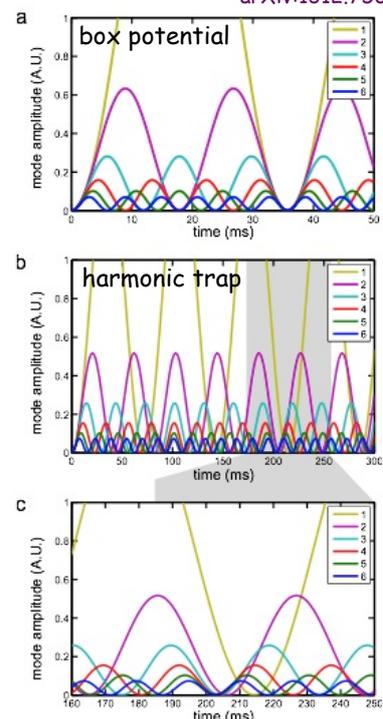
J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

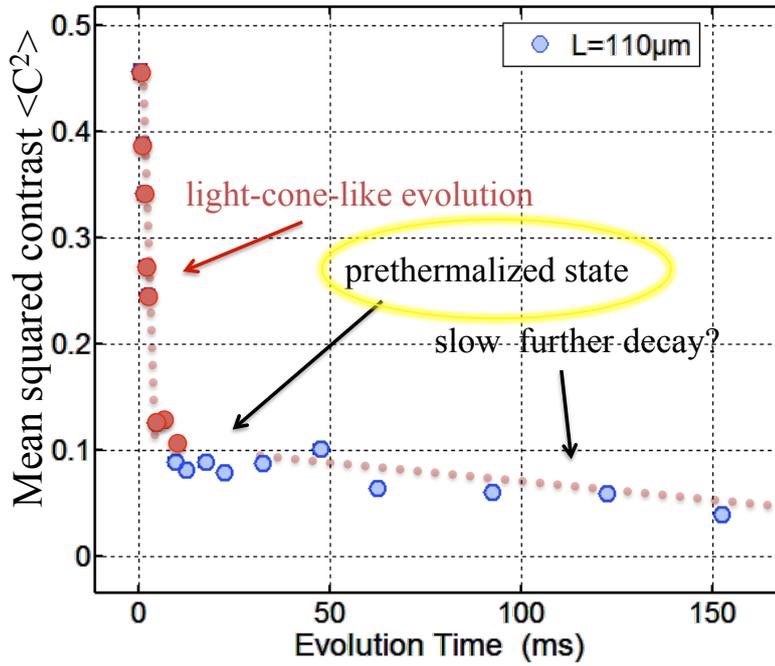
R. Geiger et al. NJP 16 053034 (2014)  
arXiv:1312.7568



J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

R. Geiger et al. NJP 16 053034 (2014)  
arXiv:1312.7568





# The generalized Gibbs ensemble



1D Bose gas is a (nearly) integrable system  
 → many conserved quantities inhibit thermalization

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  $\lambda_m$  → Lagrange multiplier  $\beta_m = 1/k_B T_m$  conserved quantities: mode occupations

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

# 2d phase correlation function for 'Light Cone'

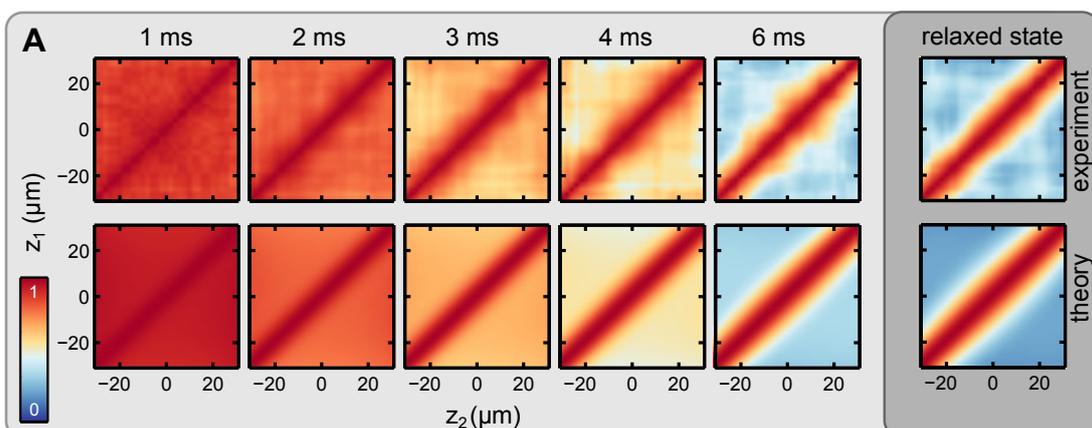
T. Langen et al. (2014)

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 phonon modes in the *anti symmetric* state.



# Generalized Gibbs Ensemble

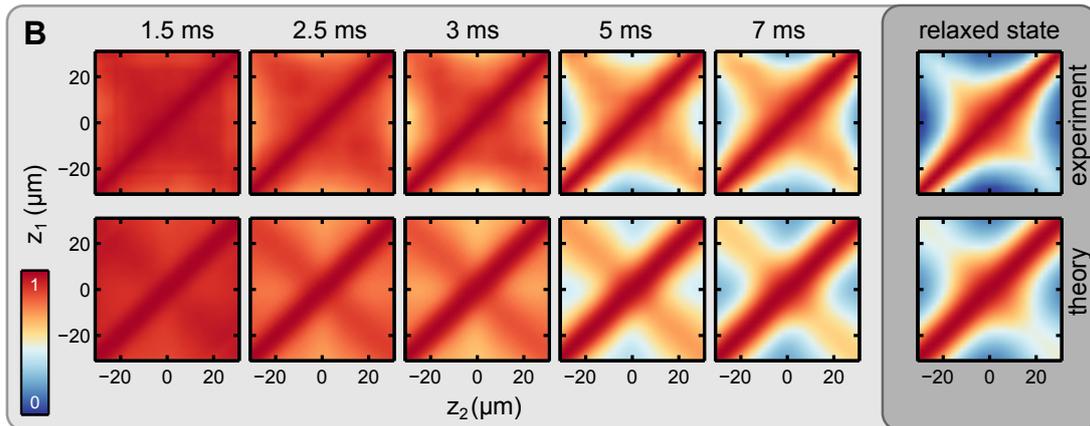
T. Langen et al. (2014)

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

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

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

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



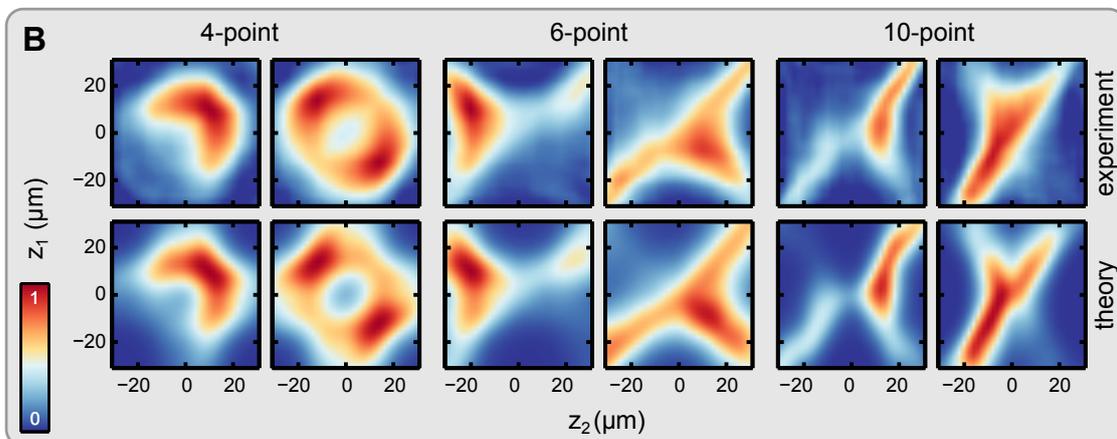
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→ need at least 3 temperatures

# Higher order phase correlation functions

## Evaluation of higher order correlation functions

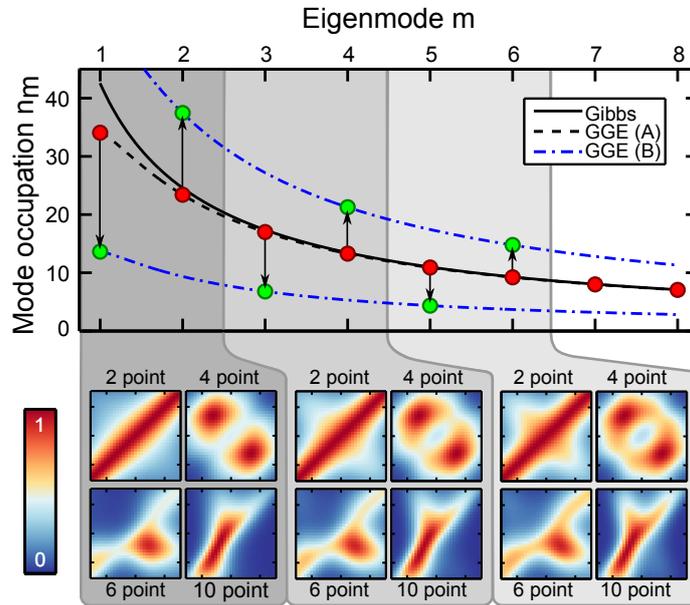
Data is well described by GGE



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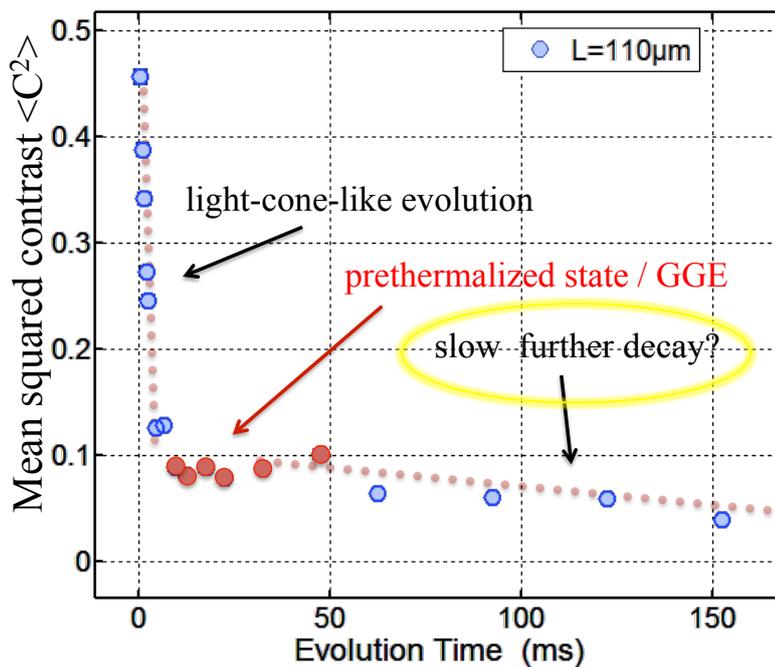
# Higher order phase correlation functions

## Which modes contribute to GGE



J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

# Decay of the mean contrast



J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

# Decay of the pre-thermalized state

## scattering of phonons beyond Luttinger Liquid

www.AtomChip.org

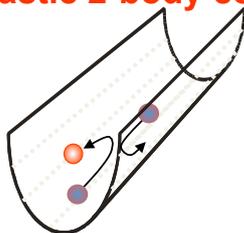


### Possible sources of thermalization in 1d systems



#### Elastic 2-body collisions

...can only contribute to thermalization if they lead to **transverse excitations** in the final state



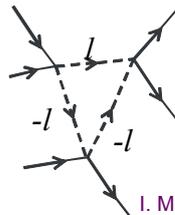
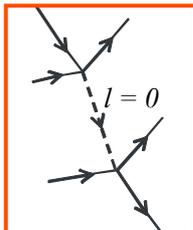
$$\Gamma_{2b} \approx \sqrt{8} \omega_{\perp} \xi e^{-\frac{2\hbar\omega_{\perp}}{k_B T}}$$

$$\xi = \frac{n_{1D} a_0^2}{a_{\perp}}$$

drops exponentially for  $k_B T < \hbar\omega_{\perp}$

Experiment:  $\Gamma_{2b} \approx 0.02 \text{ s}^{-1}$

#### Effective 3-body collisions via virtual excited states



effective 3-body collisions lead to **thermalization**

$$\Gamma_{3b} \approx C_{3b} \omega_{\perp} \xi^2 \quad C_{3b} \approx 5.57 \text{ independent of temp.}$$

I. Mazets et al. PRL **100**, 210403 (2008), PRA **79**, 061603 (2009), NJP **12**, 055023 (2010)  
see also: Shina Tan et al. PRL **105**, 090404 (2010)

#### Phonon – Phonon scattering

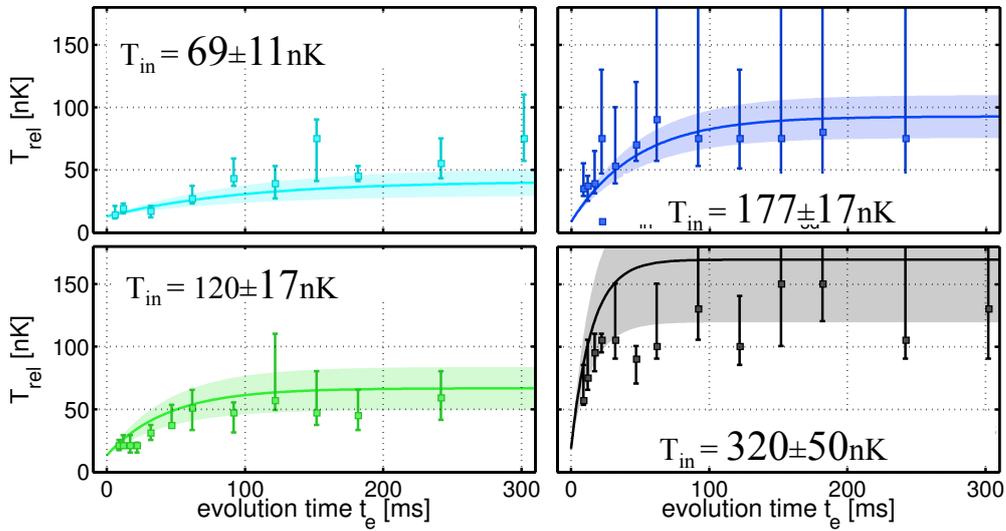
Linear dispersion relation prevents thermalizing phonon phonon scattering in LL.

**Andreev:** Assume k-state with finite width and determine width self-consistently:

$$\rightarrow \Gamma_k \sim k^{3/2}$$

A.F. Andreev, Sov. Phys. JETP **51**, 1038 (1980)

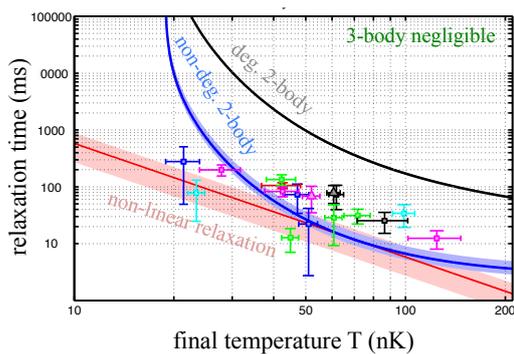
# Time evolution of the relative phase



System reaches final steady state!

# Relaxation rate

M. Kuhnert et al., in preparation  
Theory by I. Mazets



final temperature  $T$  (nK)

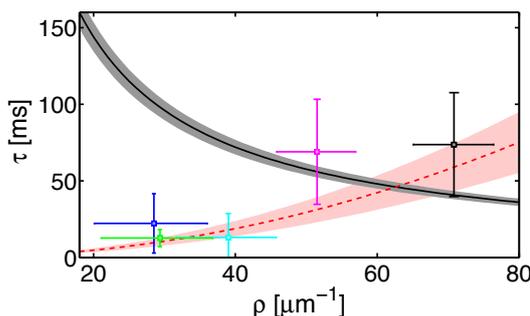
$\langle T(\infty) \rangle \approx 51.1 \pm 6.8$  nK

Phonon-phonon scattering:  
Assume that each  $k$ -state has its finite width and determine this width self-consistently:

$$\Gamma_k \sim k^{3/2}$$

Relaxation of 1D Bose gas:

- 1) Dephasing of excitations
- 2) Damping of excitations from effective phonon-phonon scattering

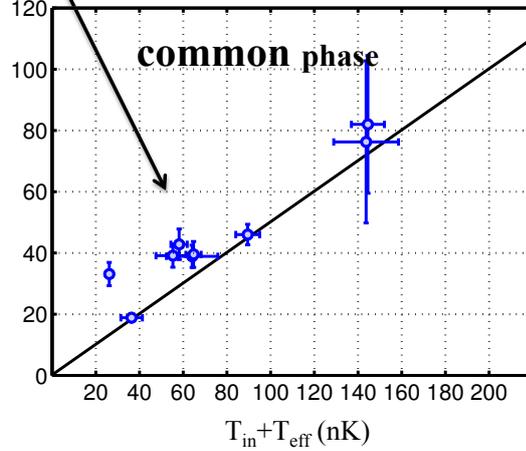
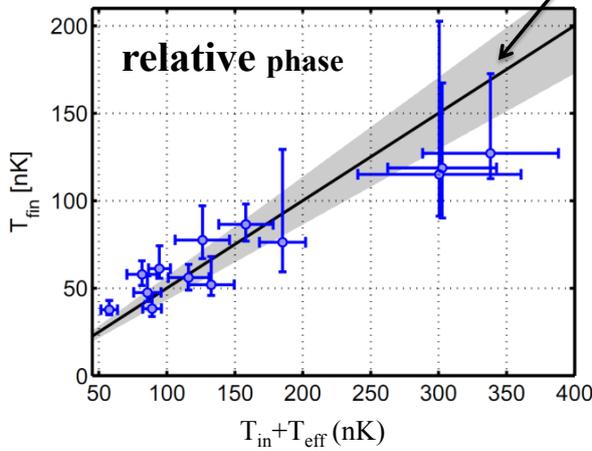


# Steady state

long time limit

$$T_{\text{fin}} = (T_{\text{com,in}} + T_{\text{rel,in}}) / 2$$

M. Kuhnert et al., in preparation  
Theory by I. Mazets

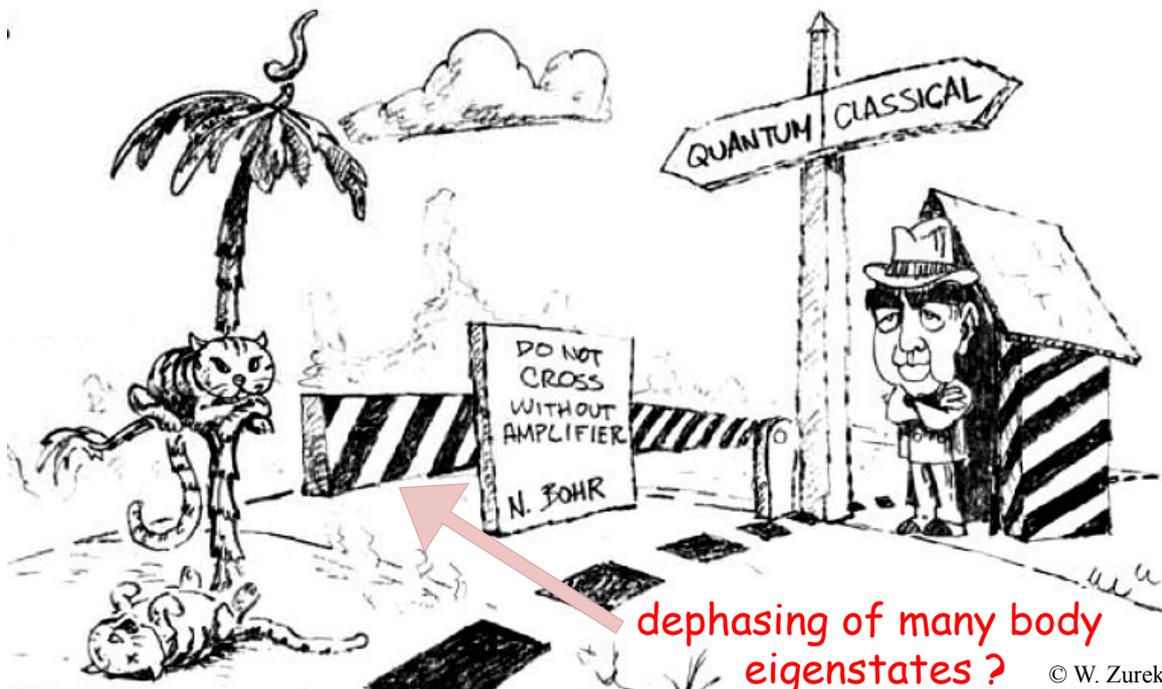


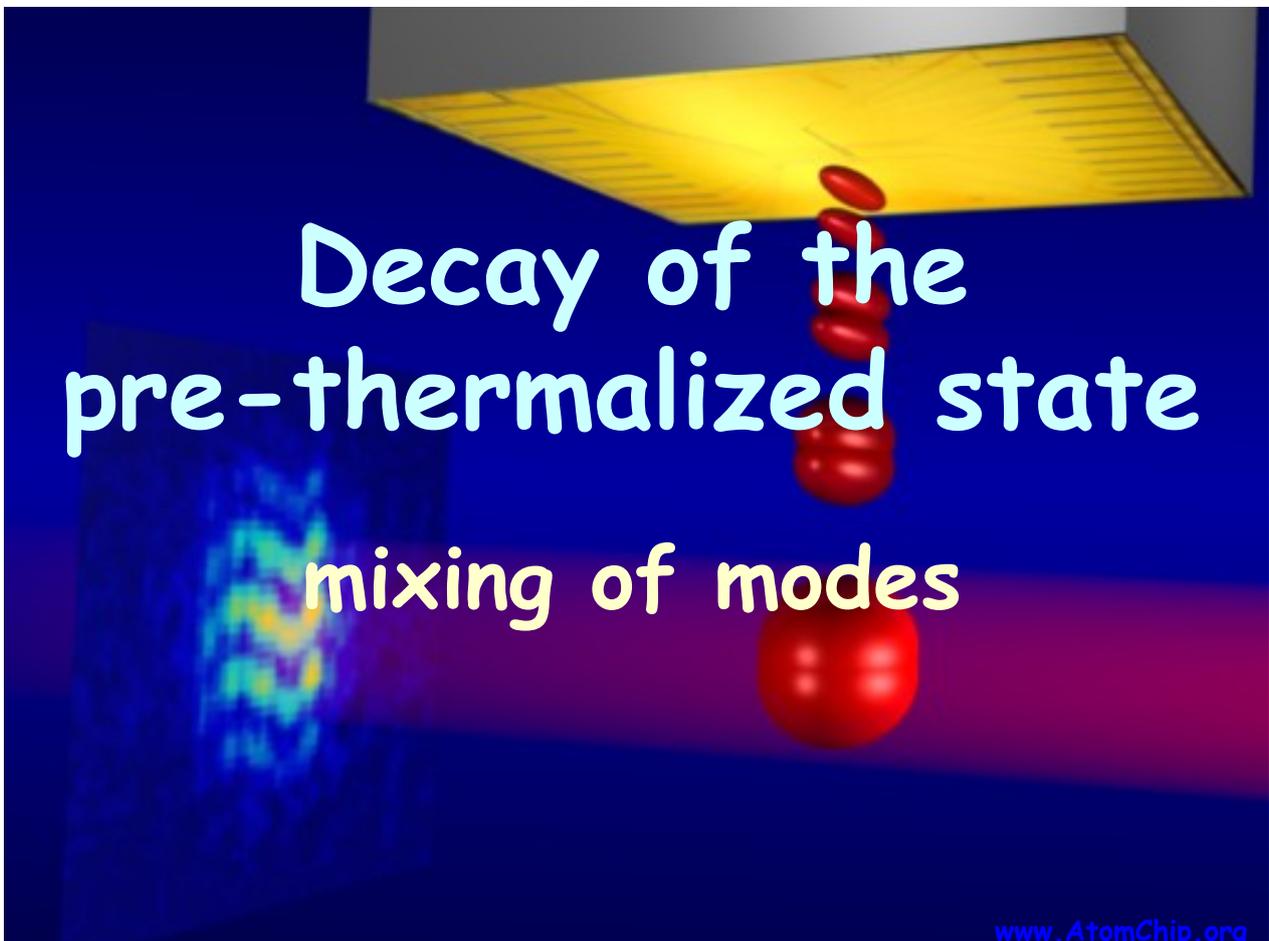
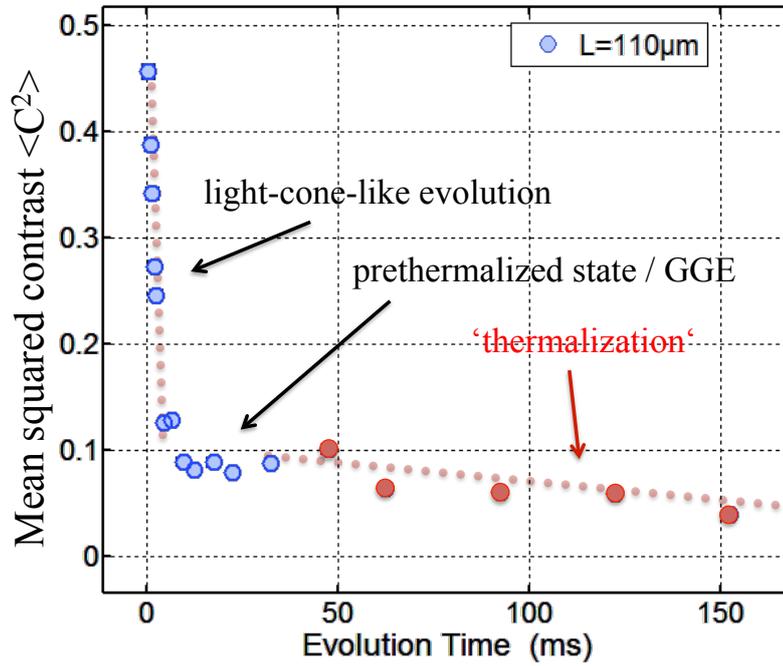
## Relaxation of 1D Bose gas:

- 1) Dephasing of excitations → Prethermalized State
- 2) Damping of excitations from effective phonon-phonon scattering

After relaxation the system looks like two separately created 1d quantum gases

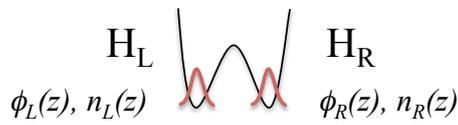
# Emergence of classical world from quantum evolution





# Imbalanced double well

## Balanced double well



$H_+$

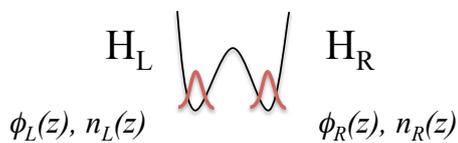
common phase  
 $\phi = [\phi_L(z) + \phi_R(z)]/2$

$H_-$

relative phase  
 $\Delta\phi = \phi_L(z) - \phi_R(z)$

Phonon modes are 'identical' in left and right mode ( $n_L \approx n_R$ )  
Mixing between  $H_+$  and  $H_-$  only through processes *beyond* the 1D model

## Imbalanced double well



$H_+$

common phase  
 $\phi = [\phi_L(z) + \phi_R(z)]/2$

$H_-$

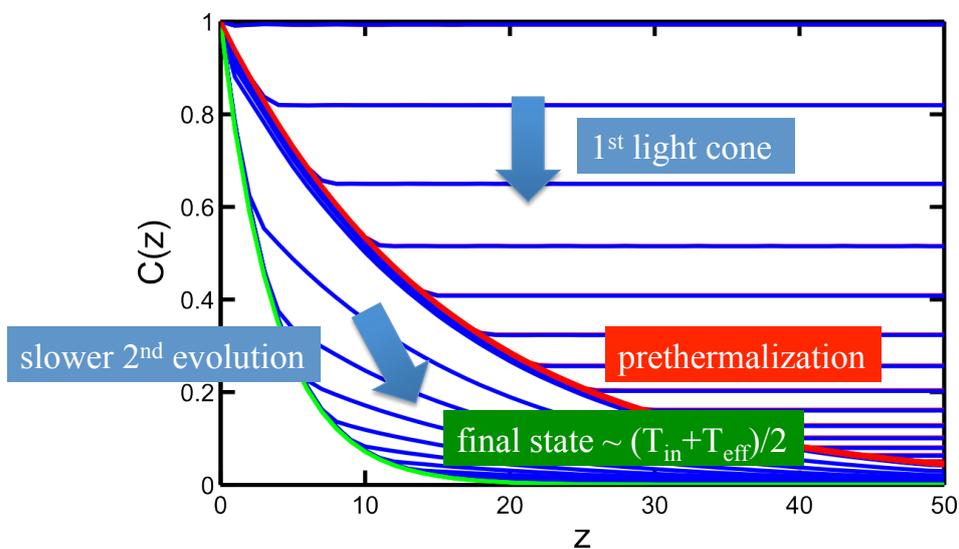
relative phase  
 $\Delta\phi = \phi_L(z) - \phi_R(z)$

Phonon modes are different in left and right mode ( $n_L \neq n_R$ )  
 $H_+$  and  $H_-$  are *not* eigenmodes  $\Rightarrow$  *mixing though dephasing*

$$H_{\text{mix}} \sim (n_1 - n_2) T$$

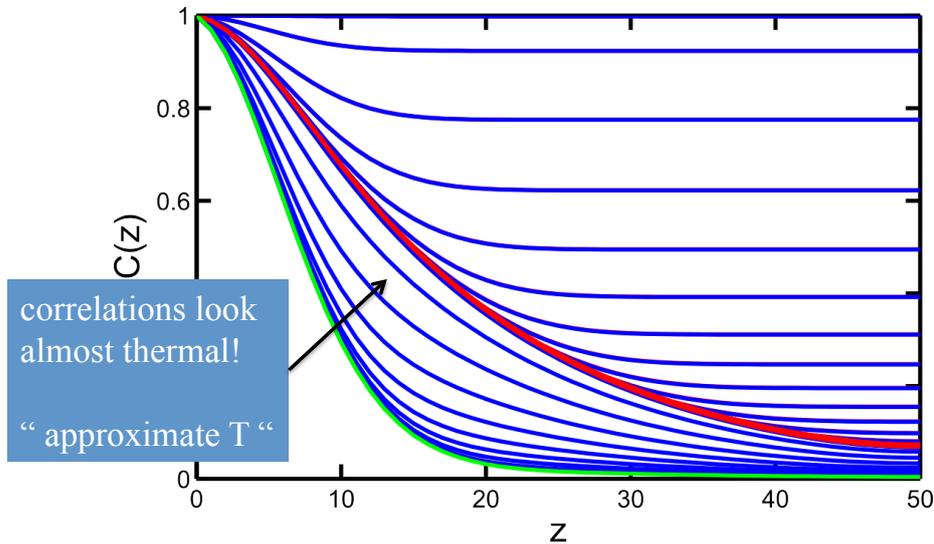
# Imbalanced double well

## Evolution of phase correlations



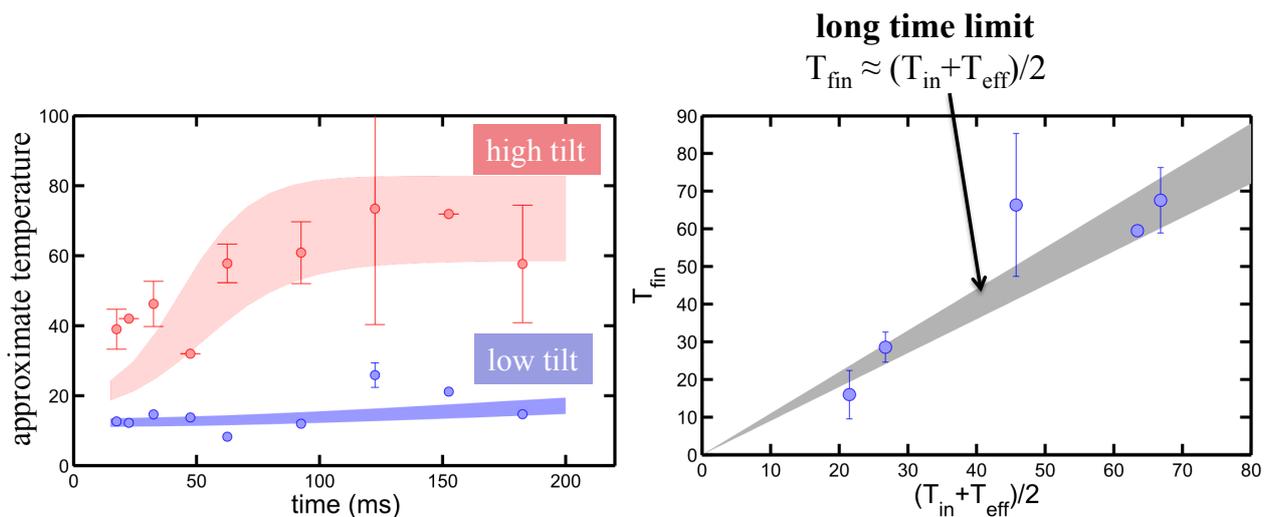
How can we probe this?

# Phase correlations with imaging resolution



Optical resolution works in our favour!

# Apparent thermalization by dephasing



A non-equilibrium system approaches to appears thermal, if one looks at an observable *not connected* to conserved quantities

# Non trivial (squeezed) initial states

## Improved interferometry

www.AtomChip.org



### Optimal Control of Splitting fast squeezing in a multi mode system

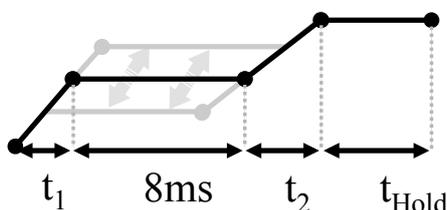
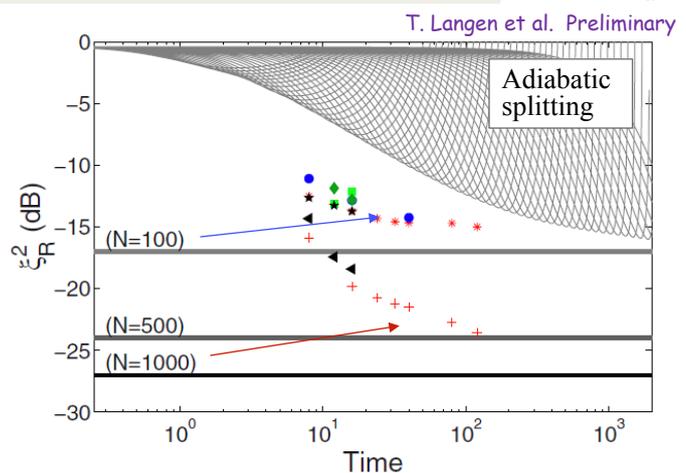


Optimal Control applied to the problem of the fluctuation properties in splitting a BEC

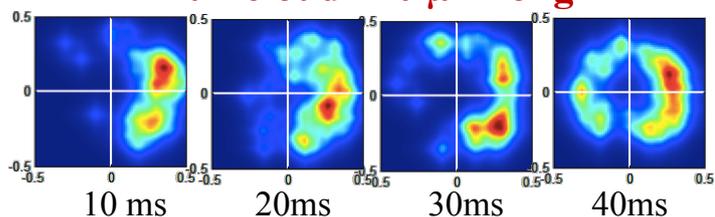
J. Grond et al. PRA 79, 021603 R (2009)

J. Grond et al. PRA 80, 053625 (2009)

- Fancy splitting ramps inspired by OCT:  $t_1 + t_2 = 17\text{ms}$
- Leads to dramatic change of statistical distribution of interference



full cloud 140  $\mu\text{m}$  long



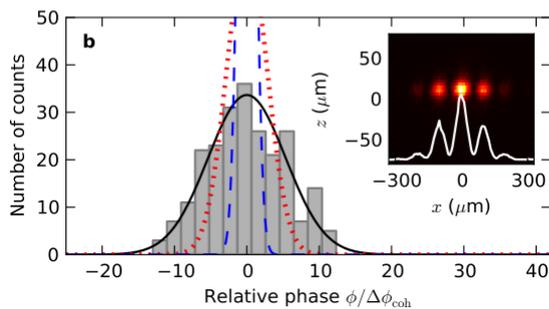
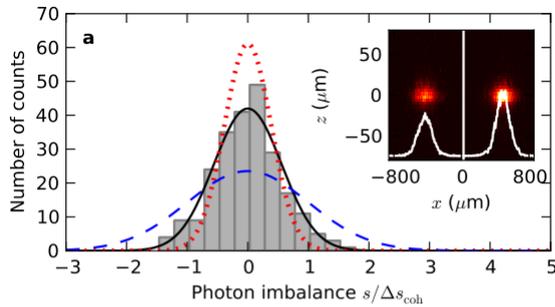
# Squeezing

$N = 1200$  atoms,  $\mu \simeq 0.5$  kHz,  $T \simeq 25$  nK (0.5 kHz)

T. Berrada, et al., Nat. Comm 4, 2077 (2013)

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

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

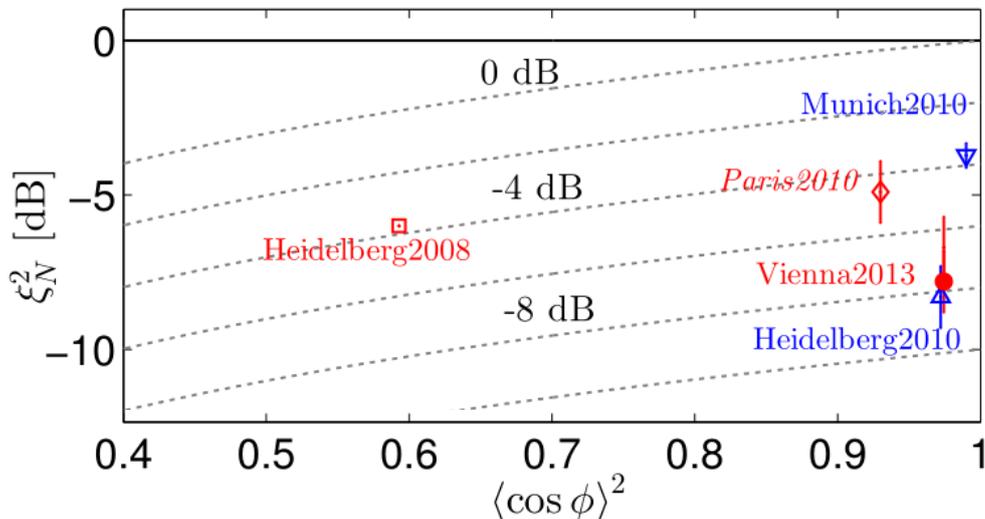
**Almost ground state**

63

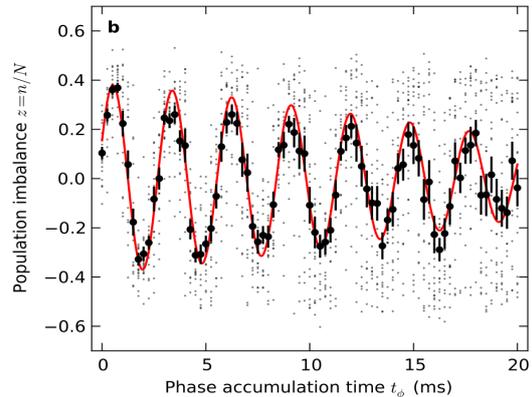
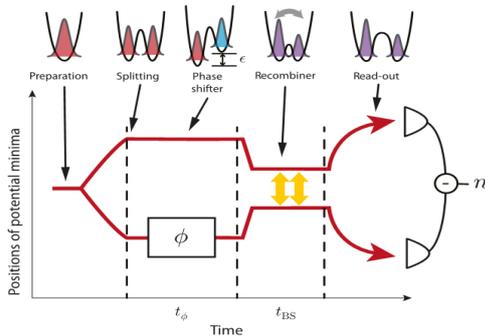
# Squeezing

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T. Berrada, et al., Nat. Comm 4, 2077 (2013)



T. Berrada, et al., Nat. Comm 4, 2077 (2013)



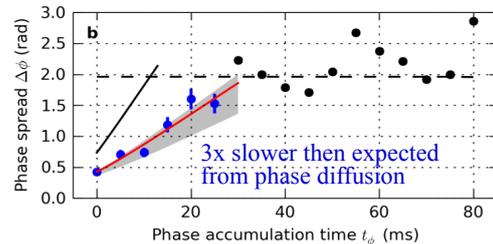
### Phase diffusion

Castin & Dalibard, PRA 55, 4330 (1997)  
Javanainen & Wilkens, PRL 78, 4675 (1997)

$$\Delta\phi^2 = \Delta\phi_0^2 + (R t_\phi)^2$$

$$\text{with } R = \frac{\xi_N \sqrt{N}}{\hbar} \left. \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial N} \right|_{N=N/2}$$

Number squeezing reduces phase diffusion

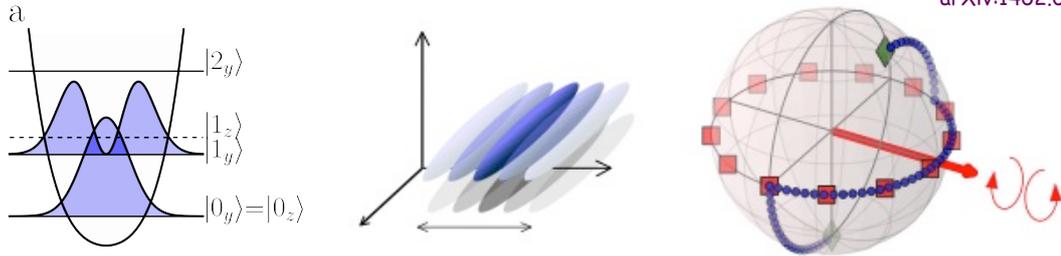


Interferometer signal stays with full contrast for  $t > 80\text{ms}$  !  $\rightarrow$  1d dephasing is irrelevant  
 $\Rightarrow$  **emerging prethermalized lengthscale  $\gg$  system size**

J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

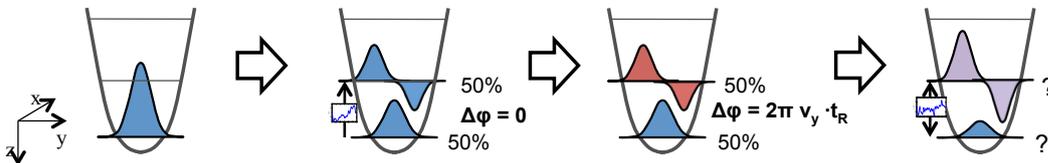
65

# Interferometry with non classical trapped states of a BEC



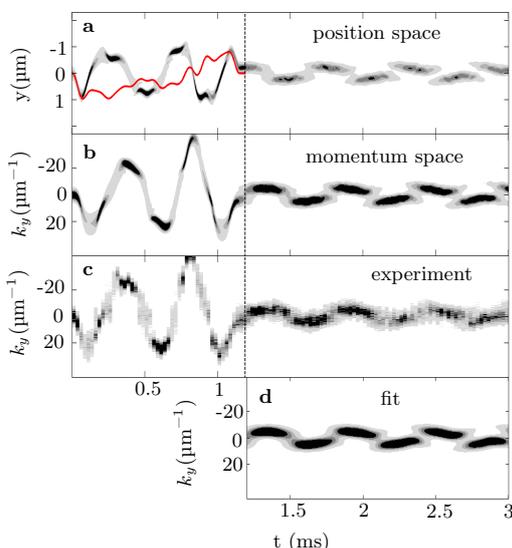
Together with T. Calarco, we developed an OCT sequence to build a Ramsey interferometer with trapped atoms, the two arms being internal motional states of the trap.

**Challenge:** design an OCT sequence that is a  $\pi/2$  pulse for any initial condition in an interferometer.



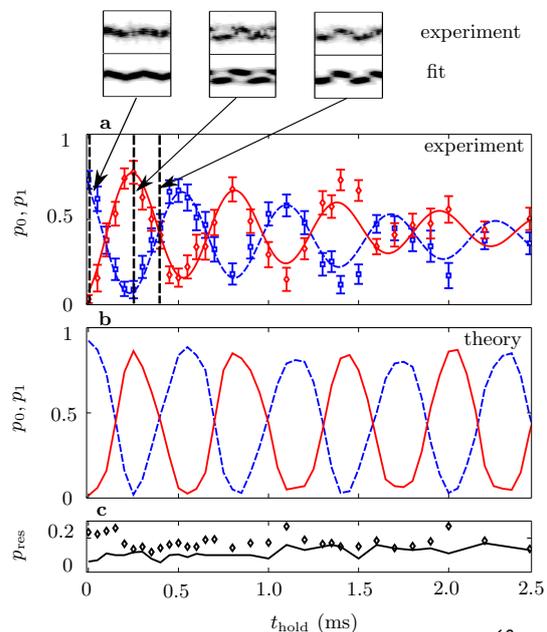
J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

$\pi/2$  pulse

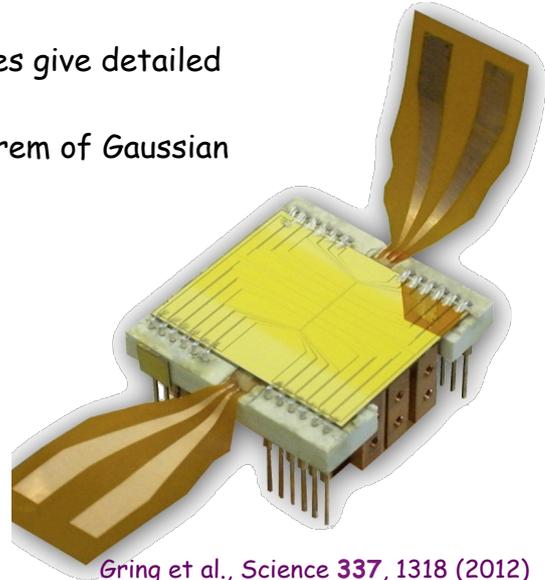


J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

final interferometer sequence



- generalization of homodyne measurement: the full distribution functions of observables give detailed insight into (quantum) physics
- in ensemble averages the central limit theorem of Gaussian statistics hides the (quantum) physics
- Relaxation in quantum systems does not proceed through a simple path.
- establishment of a 'prethermalized' state Generalized Gibbs Ensemble
- Relaxed state emerges locally and spreads throughout the many body system in a light cone like fashion
- 'prethermalized' state decays by non trivial phonon-phonon processes
- Experiments allow to probe how classical statistical properties emerge from microscopic quantum evolution through dephasing 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)  
 T. Berrada, et al., Nat. Comm **4**, 2077 (2013)  
 S. Van Frank, et al., Nat. Comm **5**, 4009 (2014)

J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System Relax?

## Decay of an excited 1d system

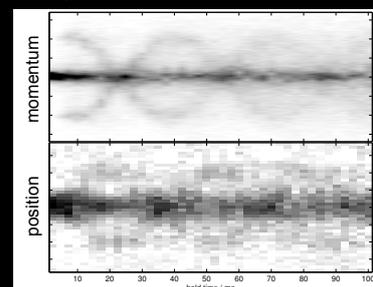
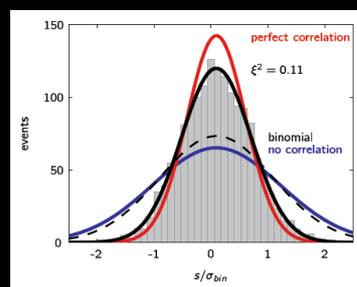
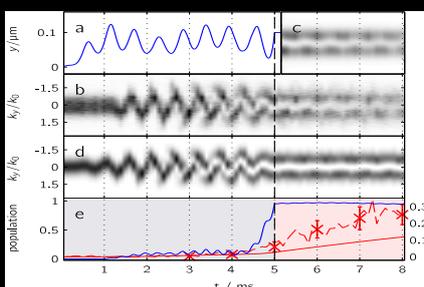
### -> Single mode Twin Atoms

- Use OCT to create a BEC in transverse excited state
- Trap level design and Bose statistics ensures a single decay channel
- Collisions between atoms create pairs
- Sub shot noise atom number statistics better than 0.11 x shot noise
- dynamics of a matter wave OPO

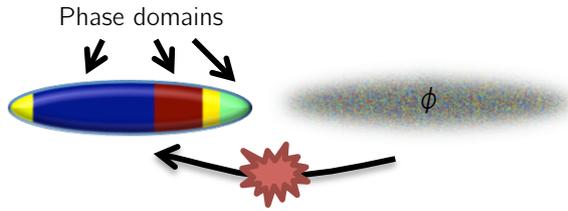
#### Outlook:

two-particle interference  
 CV entanglement

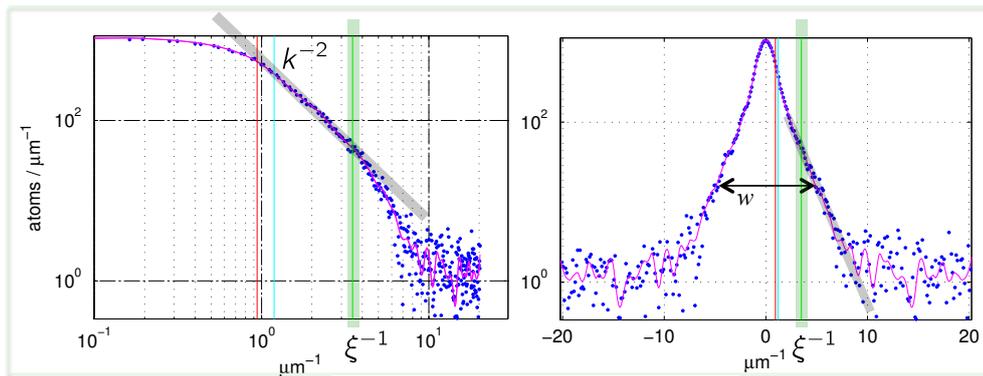
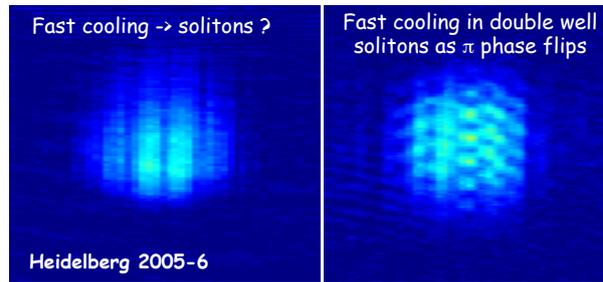
Bücker et al. Nature Physics **7**, 608 (2011)  
 Bücker et al. Phys. Rev. A **86**, 013638 (2012)



collaboration with S.Erne, B.Nowak, T.Gasenzer



Expect: Power law  $k^{-2}$  for  $k \ll \xi^{-1}$  and exponential drop-off beyond



J. Schmiedmayer: Does an Isolated Quantum System R... momentum distribution (focused)

## Atom Chip Experiment

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

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

### Atom Chip Fabrication

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

PhD and PostDoc position available

www.atomchip.org

www.CoQuS.at

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