

M. Bamba, K. Inomata, and Y. Nakamura,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **117**, 173601 (2016)

# Quantum and thermal phase transitions in circuit QED system

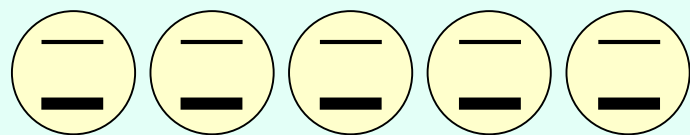
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Department of Materials Engineering Science, Osaka University, Japan  
& PRESTO, JST

In collaboration with Kunihiro Inomata & Yasunobu Nakamura



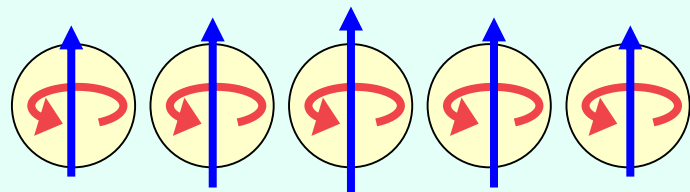
# Basic concept



Many atoms in electromagnetic vacuum  
(atoms in the ground state and no photon)

Super-radiant  
phase transition  
(SRPT)

Ultra-strong interaction (correlation)  
between atoms and electromagnetic fields



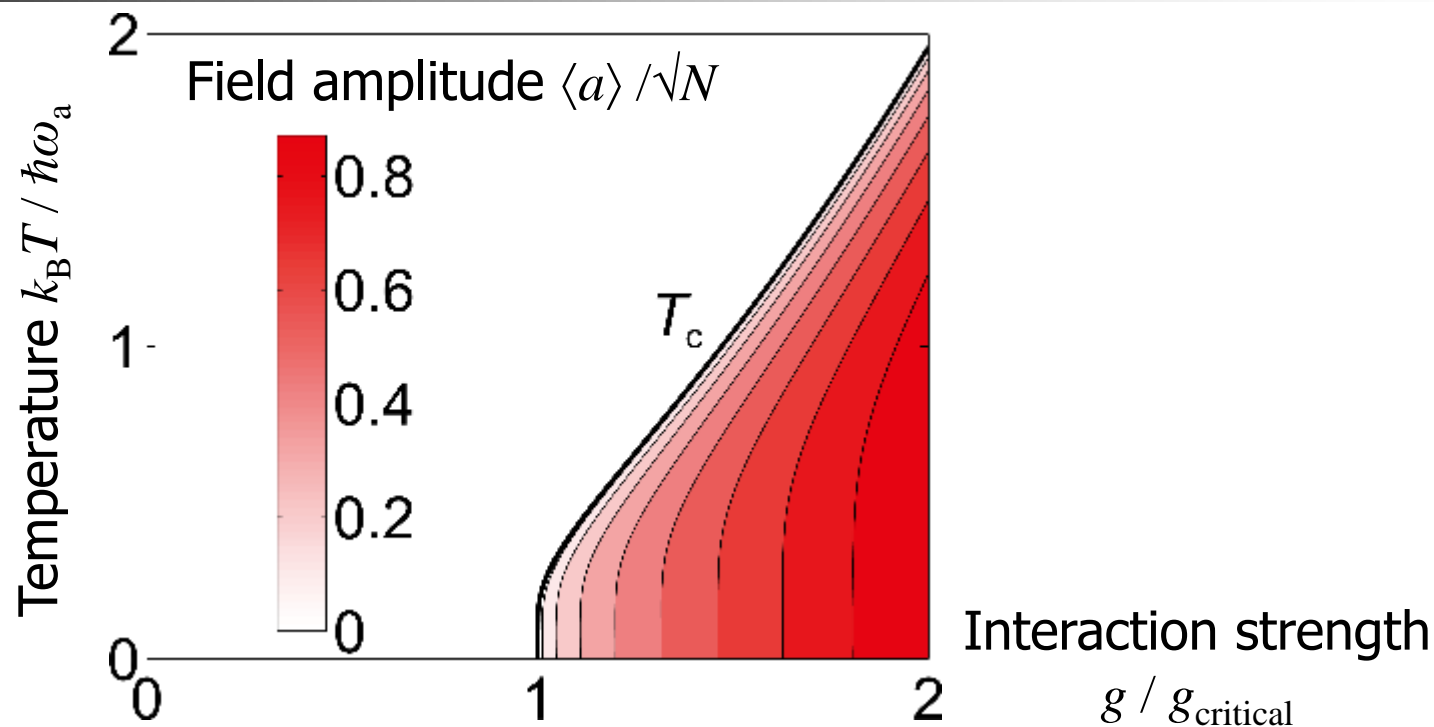
Static magnetic field & Stationary current  
appear spontaneously in thermal equilibrium

Energy decrease (gain)  
by ultra-strong interaction

>

Energy increase (loss) by  
spontaneous field & current

# Typical phase diagram & Brief summary

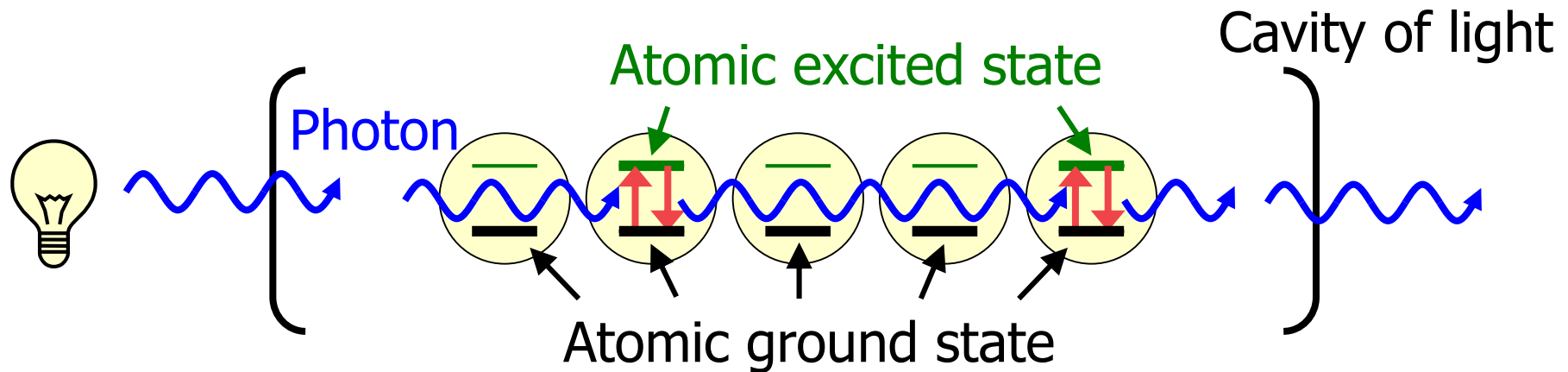


- The SRPT was proposed in 1973, but it has never been observed in experiments in thermal equilibrium.  
 K. Hepp and E. H. Lieb, *Ann. Phys.* **76**, 360 (1973)
- We found a superconducting circuit showing the SRPT, consisting of artificial atoms and microwave resonator.  
 M. Bamba, K. Inomata, and Y. Nakamura, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **117**, 173601 (2016)

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# Typical physics and systems in quantum optics

# Typical physics in quantum optics

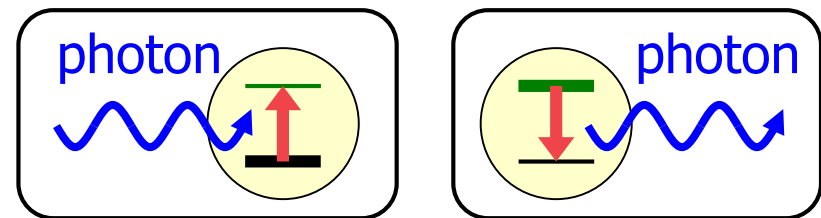


## Dicke Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H}_{\text{Dicke}} = \underbrace{\hbar\omega_c \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}}_{\text{Energy of photons}} + \sum_{j=1}^N \underbrace{\frac{\hbar\omega_a}{2} \hat{\sigma}_j^z}_{\text{Energy of atomic excitation}} + \frac{\hbar g}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^N (\hat{\sigma}_j^\dagger \hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}_j)$$

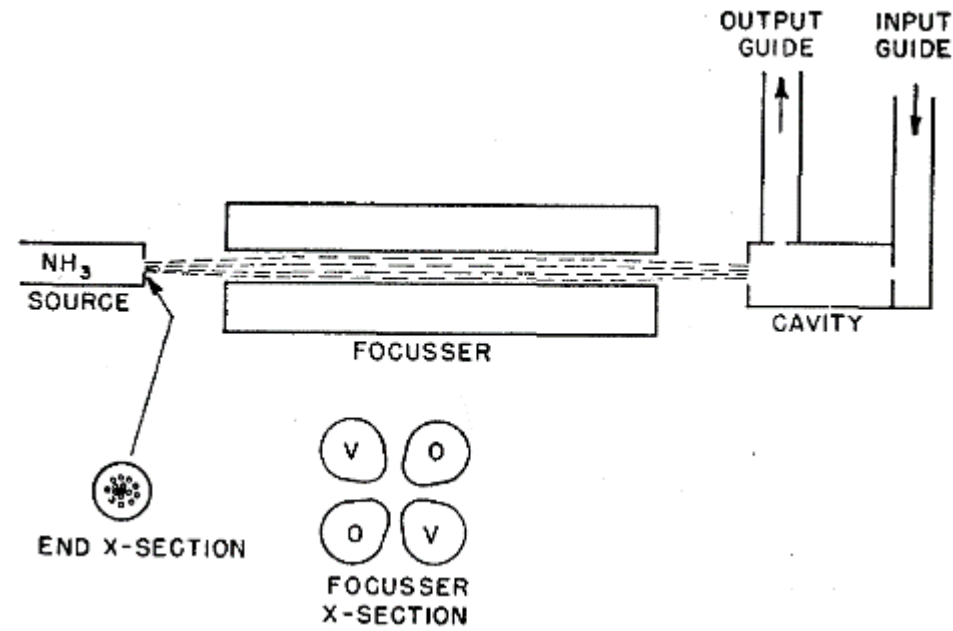
Interaction strength

$\hat{a}$  : Annihilating a photon  
 $\hat{\sigma}_j$  : Lowering of atom  $j$



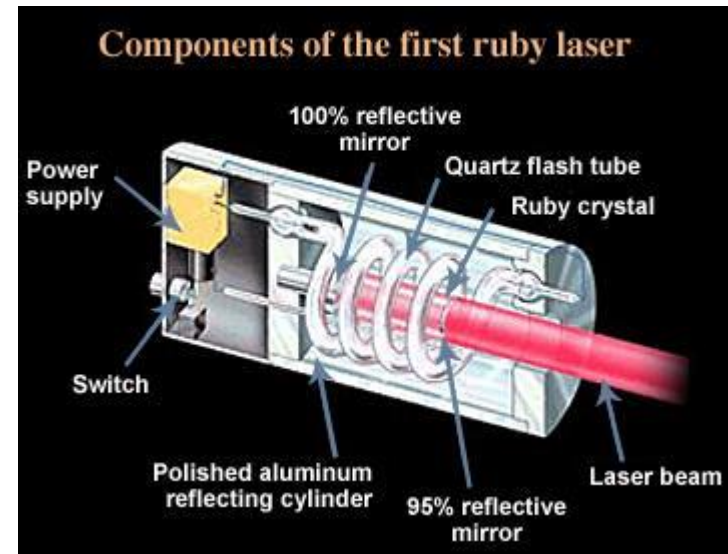
Non-equilibrium dynamics of photons & atoms is typically discussed

# Maser and Laser are typical systems



Maser (NH<sub>3</sub> in cavity)

J. P. Gordon, et al., Phys. Rev. **95**, 282 (1954)



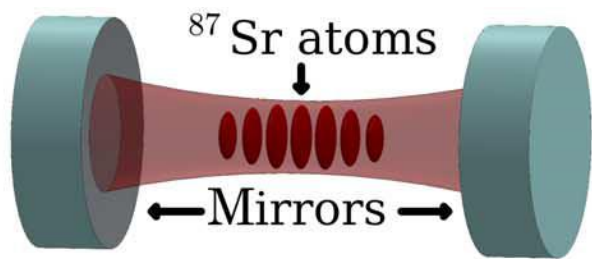
Laser (Cr<sup>3+</sup> in Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in cavity)

LaserFest

<http://www.laserfest.org/lasers/how/ruby.cfm>

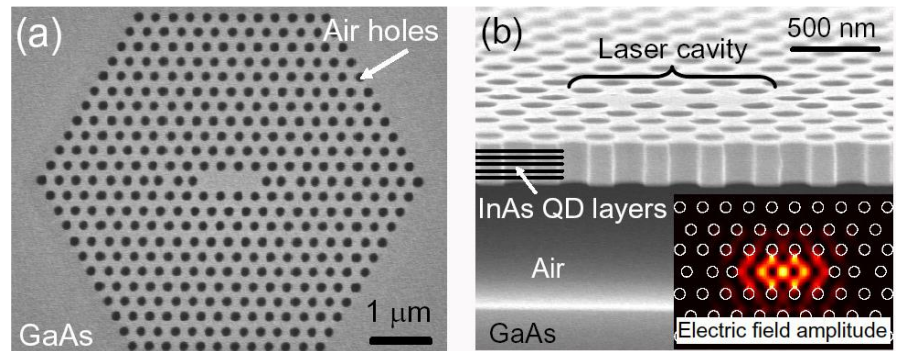
Three or four level atoms are needed for population inversion (amplification)

# Other typical systems



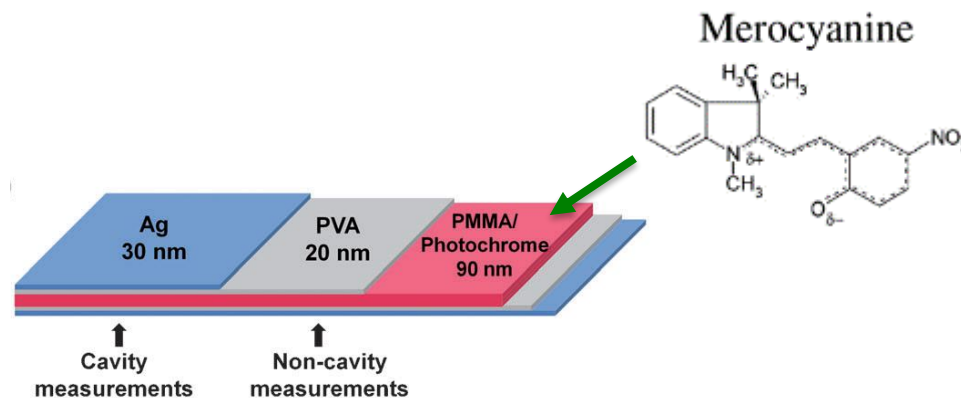
## Cold atoms in optical cavity

M. A. Norcia, et al., *Science Advances* **2**, e1601231 (2016)



## Semiconductor quantum dots in photonic crystal cavity

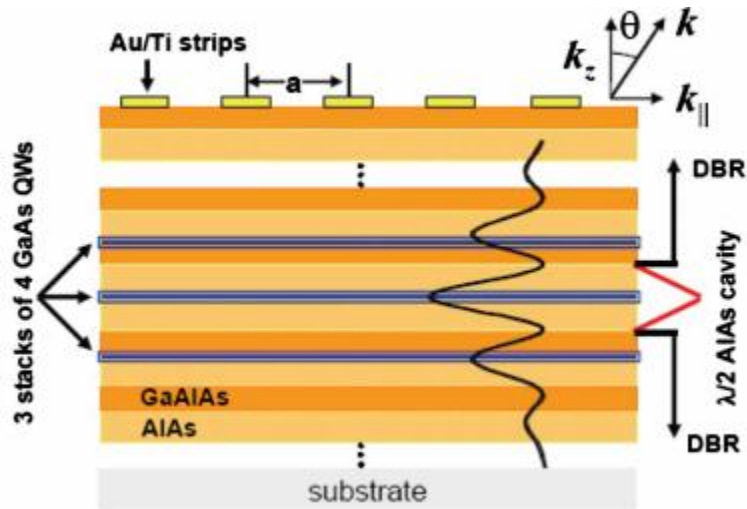
M. Nomura, et al., 11 December 2007, *SPIE Newsroom*



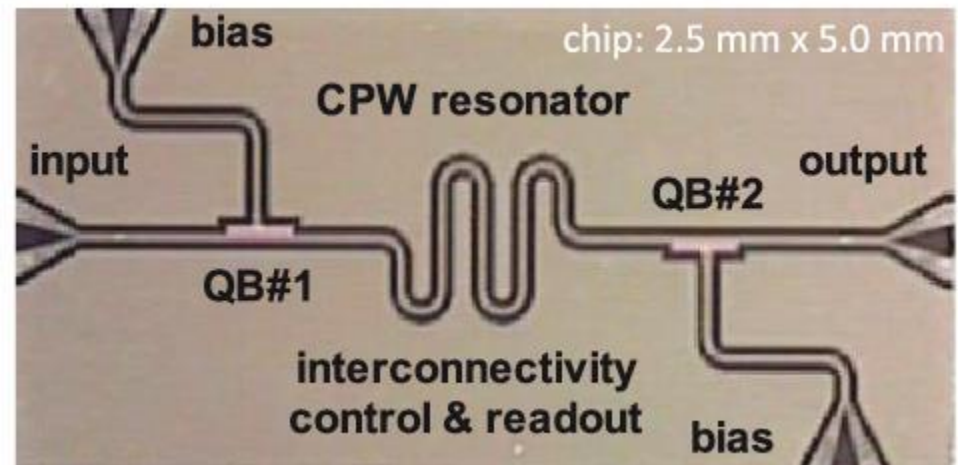
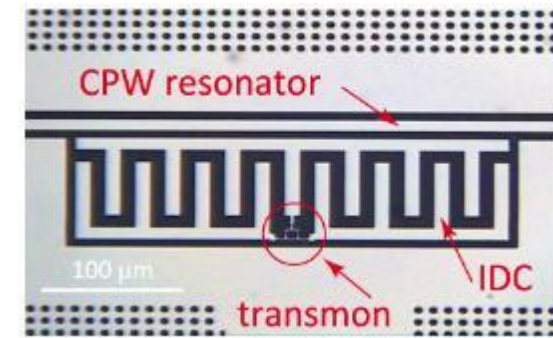
## Organic molecules in micro-cavity

T. Schwartz, et al., *PRL* **106**, 196405 (2011)

# Other typical systems



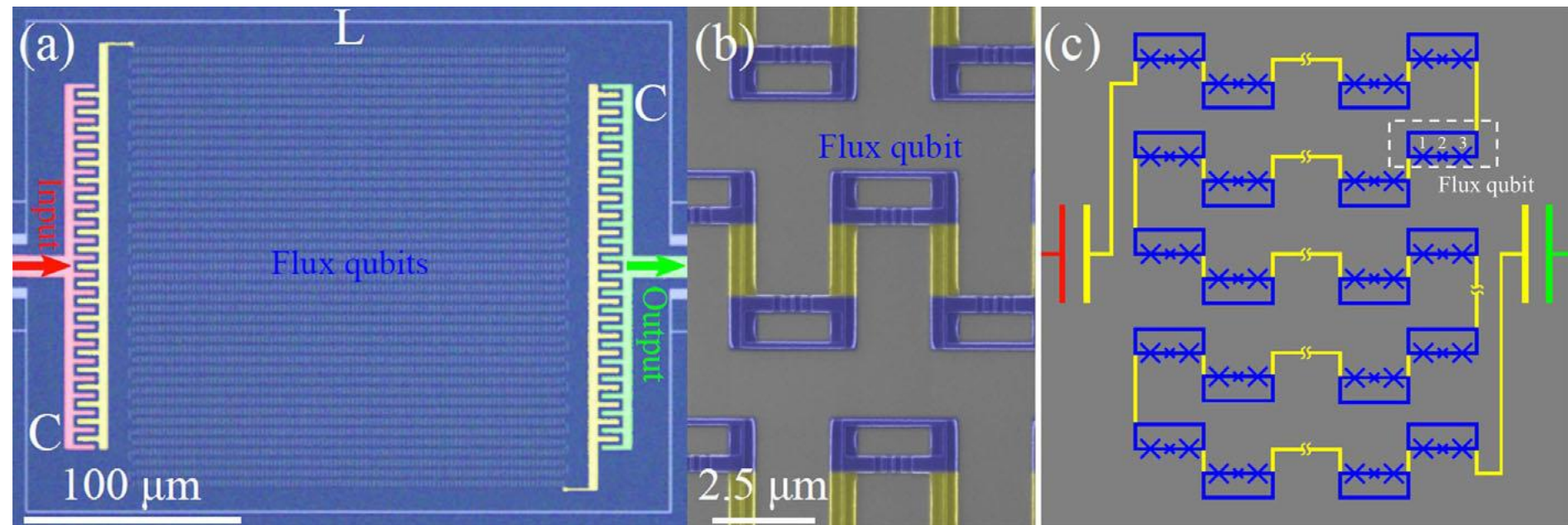
Semiconductor quantum-wells in micro-cavity  
 H. Deng, *et al.*, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **82**, 1489 (2010)



Superconducting circuit (circuit QED system)  
 W. D. Oliver & P. B. Welander, *MRS Bulletin* **38**, 816 (2013)



# Superconducting circuit with many atoms

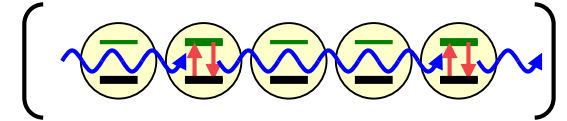


Microwave resonator (LC circuit) + 4300 artificial atoms (flux qubits)

K. Kakuyanagi, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **117**, 210503 (2016)

# Targets of quantum optics

Non-equilibrium dynamics of photons and atoms



- Quantum information technology
  - Quantum computation (D-wave, Google, IBM, Intel, etc.)
  - Quantum communication (secured communication)
- High-sensitive sensors
  - For magnetic field (spin)
  - For temperature
  - etc.
- Fundamentals of quantum physics
  - Bell's inequality (hidden variables)
  - etc.

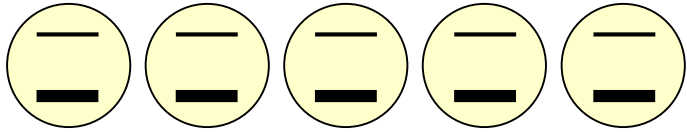
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Today's topic is a phase transition  
in the thermal equilibrium,

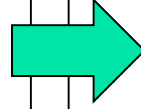
NOT a typical phenomenon in quantum optics

# Super-radiant phase transition (SRPT)

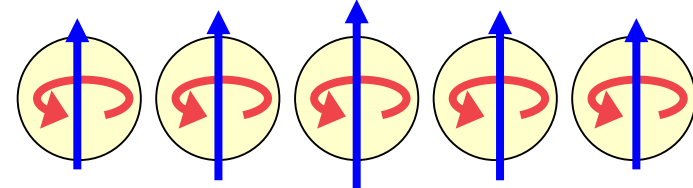
Thermal equilibrium



Atoms in the ground state  
and no photon ( $T = 0\text{K}$ )



Thermal equilibrium



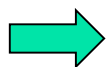
Static magnetic field  $B$  & Stationary current  $J$   
(Static electric field  $E$  & Static polarization  $P$ )  
appear spontaneously

$$\hat{H}_{\text{Dicke}} = \hbar\omega_c \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\hbar\omega_a}{2} \hat{\sigma}_j^z + \frac{\hbar g}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^N (\hat{\sigma}_j^\dagger \hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}_j)$$

Energy increase by field & current < Energy decrease by interaction

Requirements for SRPT

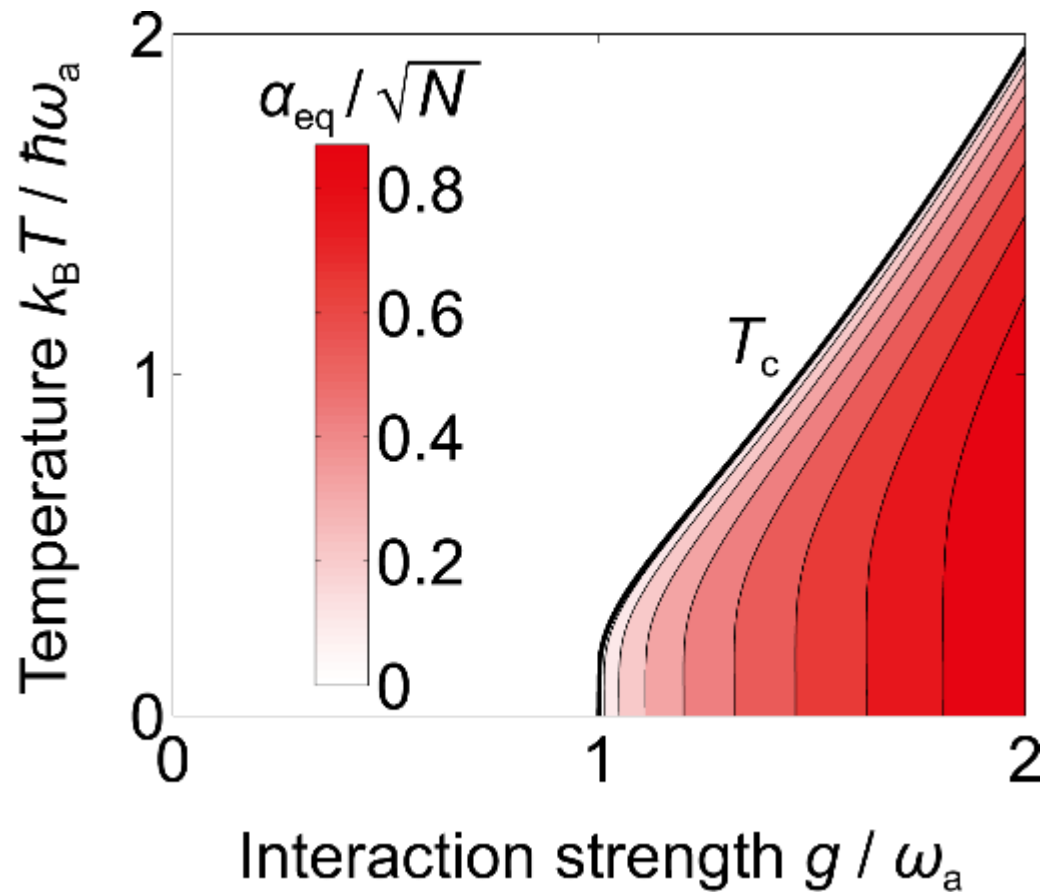
1. Ultra-strong interaction:  $g > g_{\text{critical}} = (\omega_a \omega_c)^{1/2}$
2. Thermodynamic limit:  $N \rightarrow \infty$
3. Critical temperature:  $T < T_c$  (thermal equilibrium; no light irradiation)



Photonic field gets a static amplitude spontaneously  $\langle a \rangle \neq 0$

# Phase diagram of Dicke Hamiltonian

In the case of  $\omega_c = \omega_a$



# Perspectives

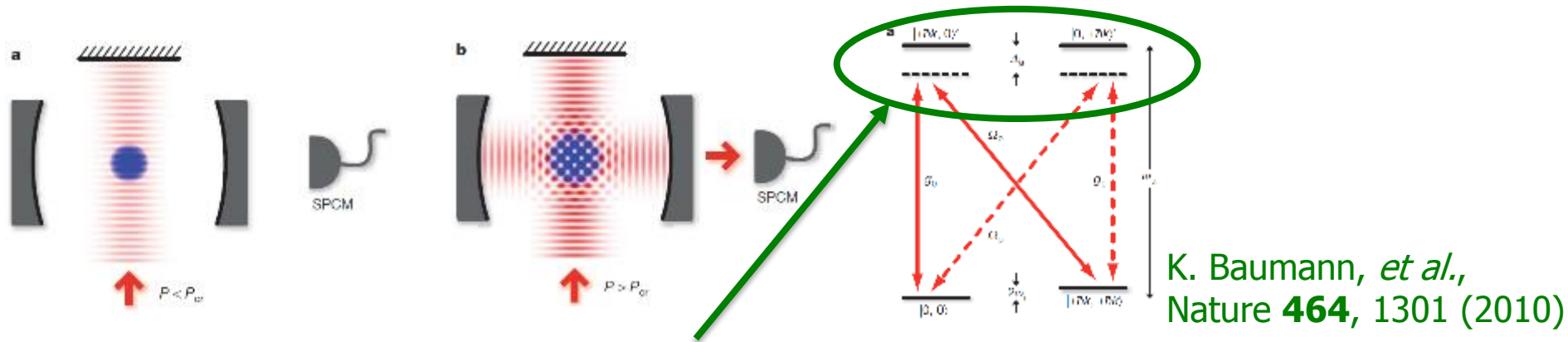
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- Thanks to the SRPT, we can introduce the heat and phase transitions into the systems of quantum optics, where non-equilibrium dynamics of atoms and photons have long been discussed.
  - We might find phenomena involving the heat, light, current, spins, etc., and also energy conversion technologies between them.
  - The non-equilibrium statistical physics can also be developed by comparing the SRPT and the laser (non-equilibrium transition).
- Quantum information technologies are developed, since the entanglement between atoms and photons is obtained even in the thermal equilibrium.

# SRPT in non-equilibrium

In non-equilibrium situation (**driven by laser light**)

SRPT analogue was observed in system of cold atoms



Eliminating higher atomic levels (almost virtual excitation)

➔ Dicke Hamiltonian is effectively implemented

$$\hat{H}_{\text{Dicke}} = \hbar\omega_c \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\hbar\omega_a}{2} \hat{\sigma}_j^z + \frac{\hbar g}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^N (\hat{\sigma}_j^\dagger \hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}_j)$$

Interaction strength  $g$  is tuned by the pump power

(called "quantum" phase transition, NOT a thermal transition,  
temperature cannot be defined in non-equilibrium)

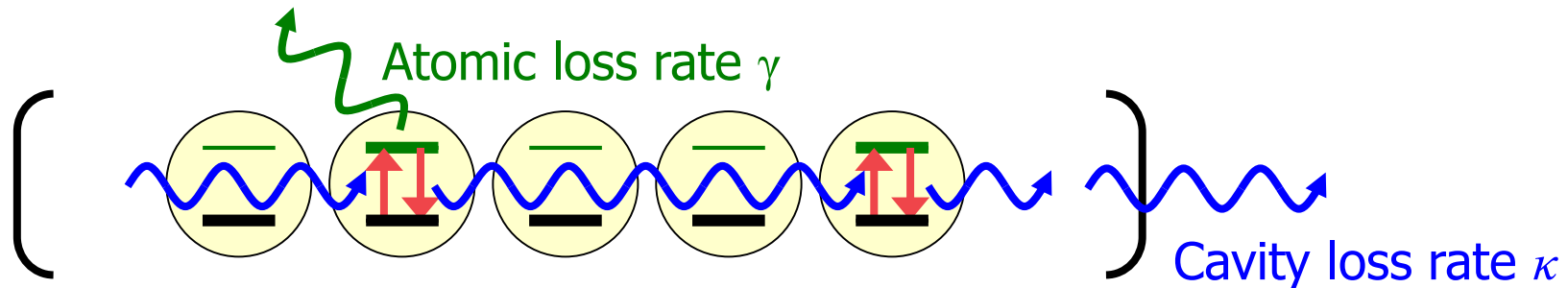
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How about the thermal SRPT?

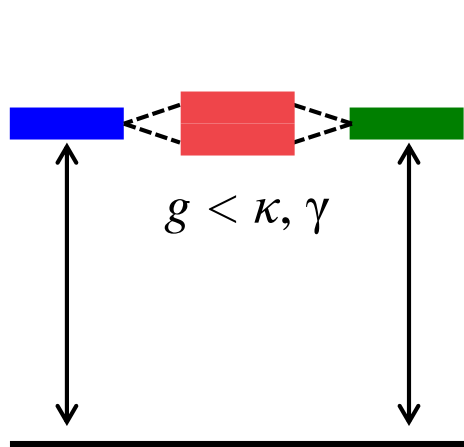


# Requirement 1: Ultra-strong interaction

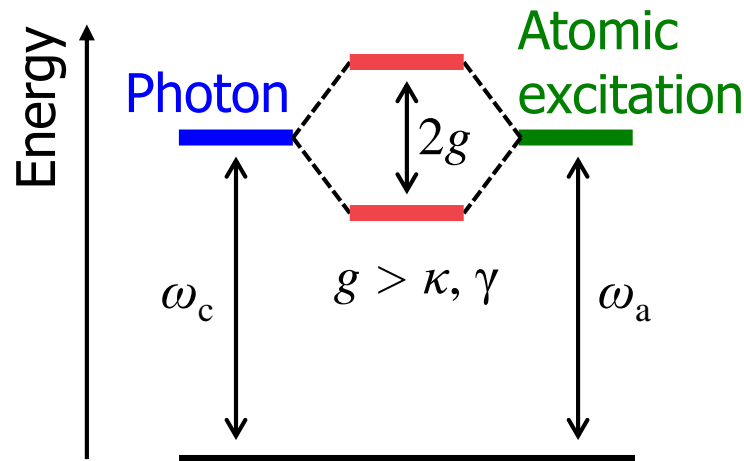
$$\hat{H}_{\text{Dicke}} = \hbar\omega_c \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\hbar\omega_a}{2} \hat{\sigma}_j^z + \frac{\hbar g}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^N (\hat{\sigma}_j^\dagger \hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}_j)$$



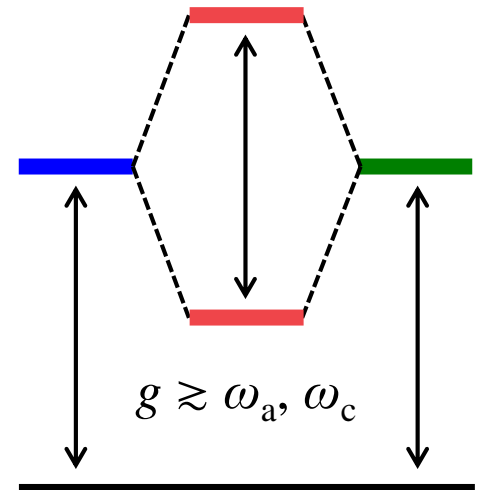
Weak coupling



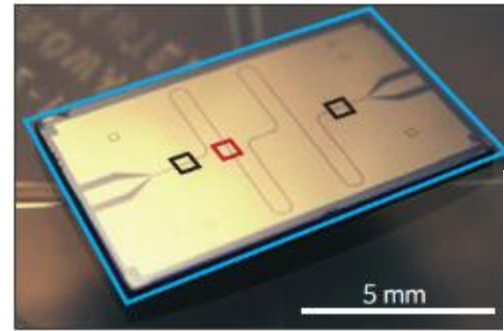
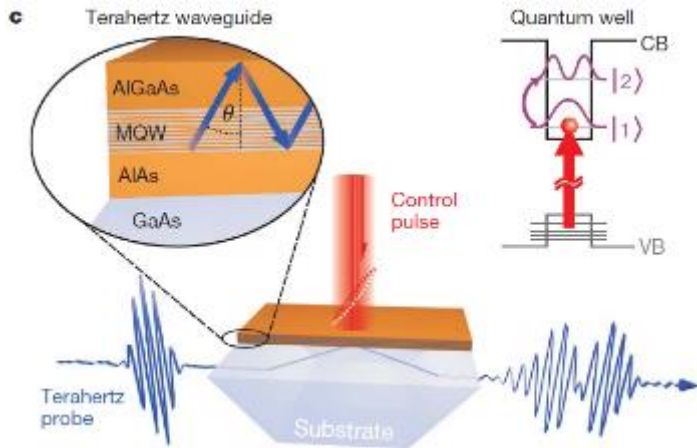
Strong coupling



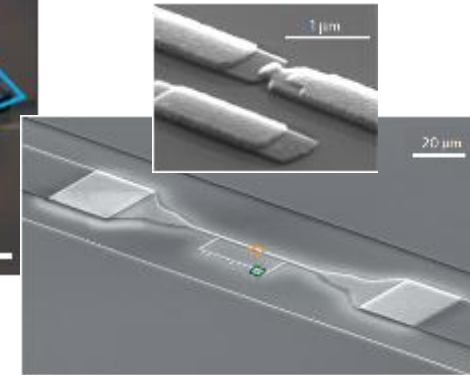
Ultra-strong coupling



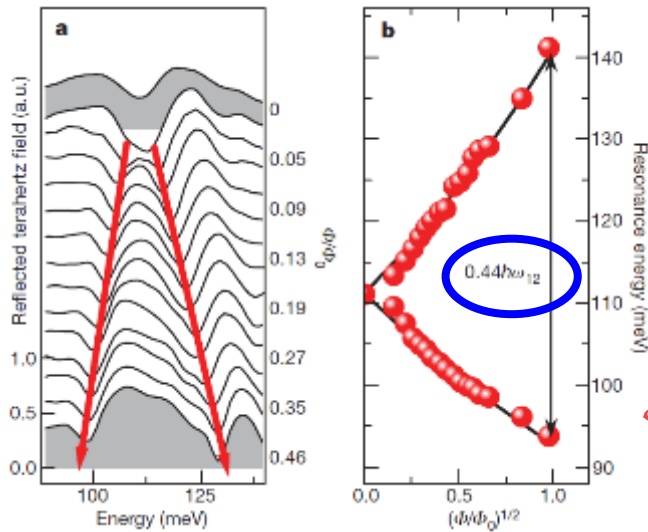
# Materials showing ultra-strong interaction



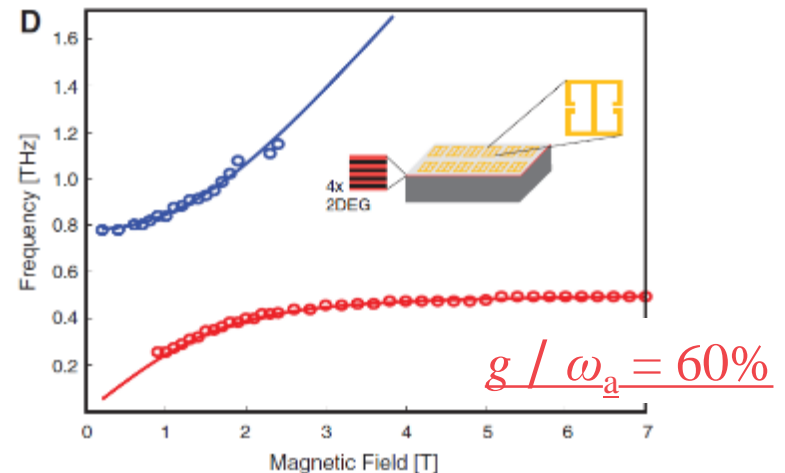
$$g / \omega_a = 12\%$$



Artificial atoms  
in superconducting circuits (microwave)  
T. Niemczyk, et al., Nature Phys. **6**, 772 (2010)



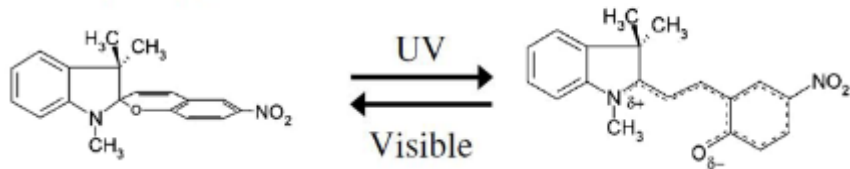
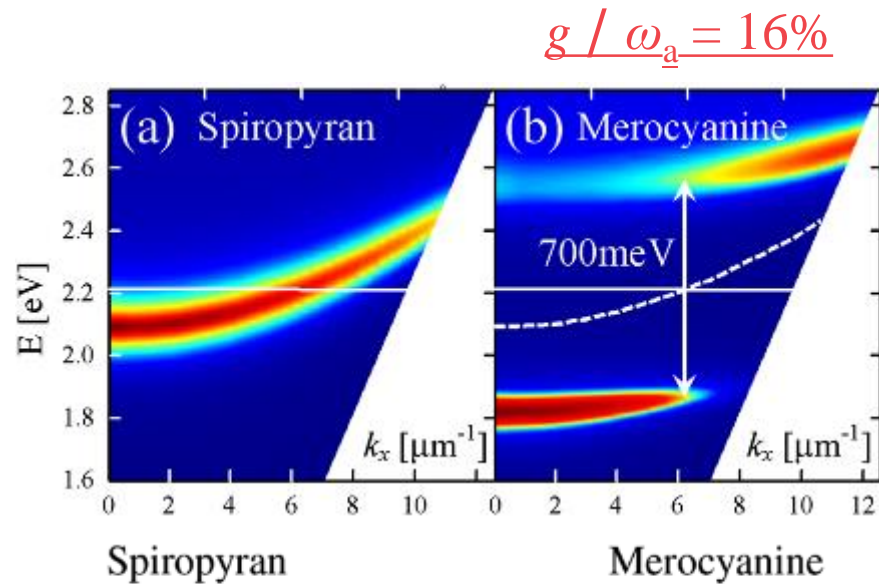
$$g / \omega_a = 22\%$$



Intersubband transition in QWs (THz)  
G. Gunter, et al., Nature **458**, 178 (2009)

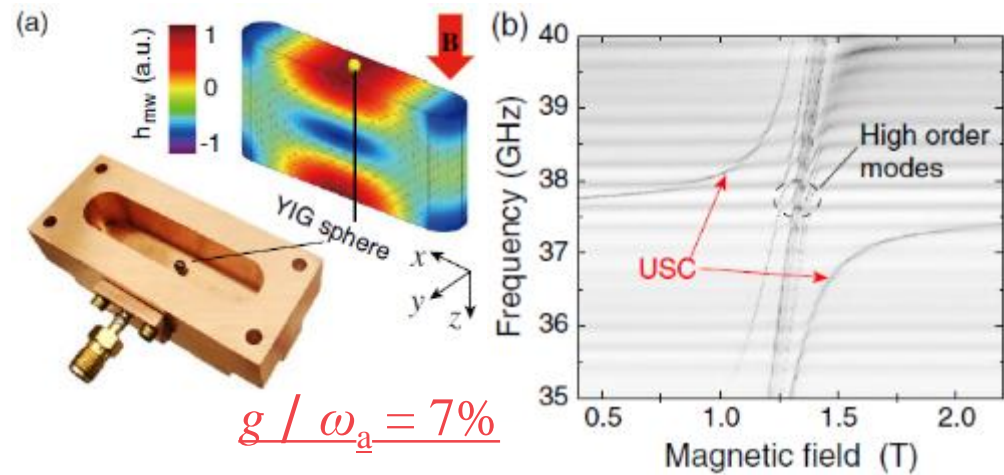
Cyclotron transitions (THz)  
G. Scalari, et al., Science **335**, 1323 (2012)

# Materials showing ultra-strong interaction



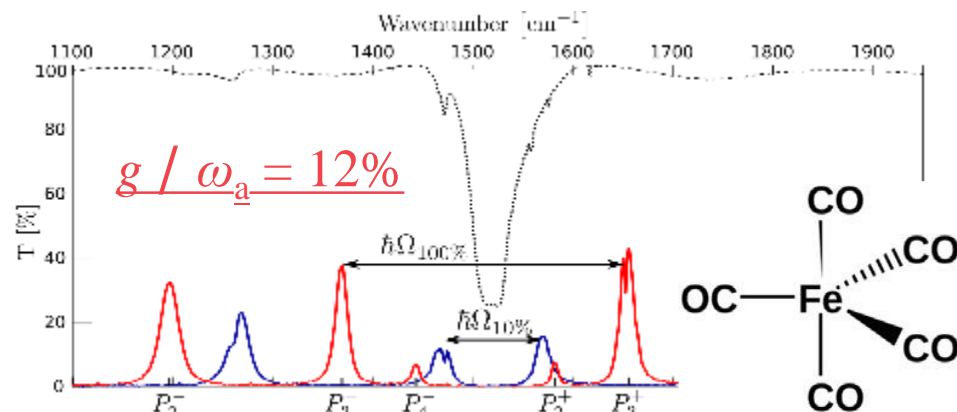
Dye molecules (visible)

T. Schwartz, et al., PRL **106**, 196405 (2011)



Magnon in YIG sphere (microwave)

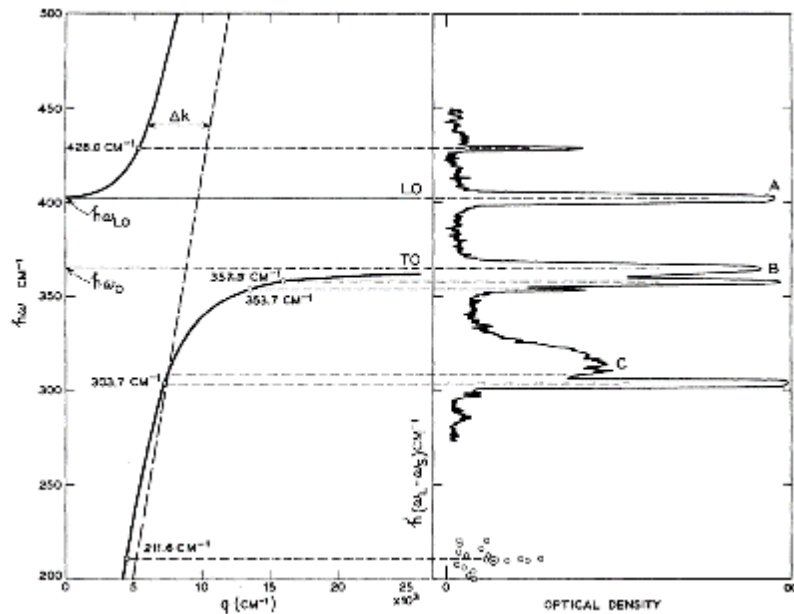
X. Zhang, et al., PRL **113**, 156401 (2014)



Molecular vibration (infra-red)

J. George, et al., PRL **117**, 153601 (2016)

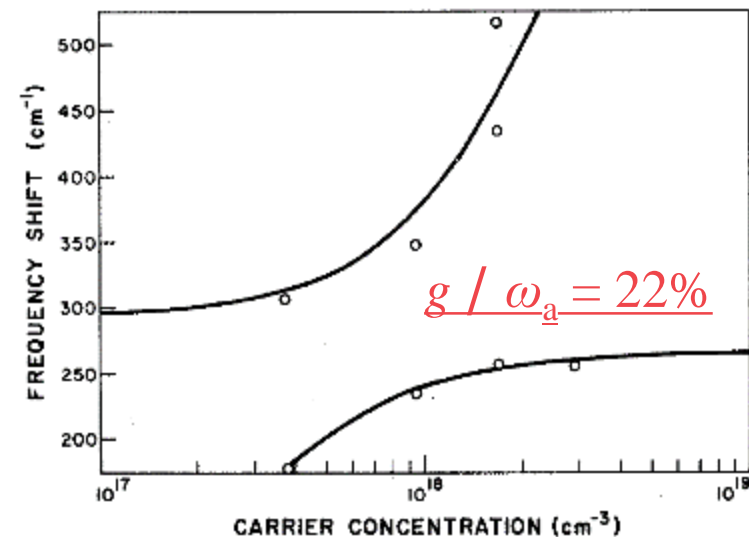
# Traditional systems in ultra-strong regime



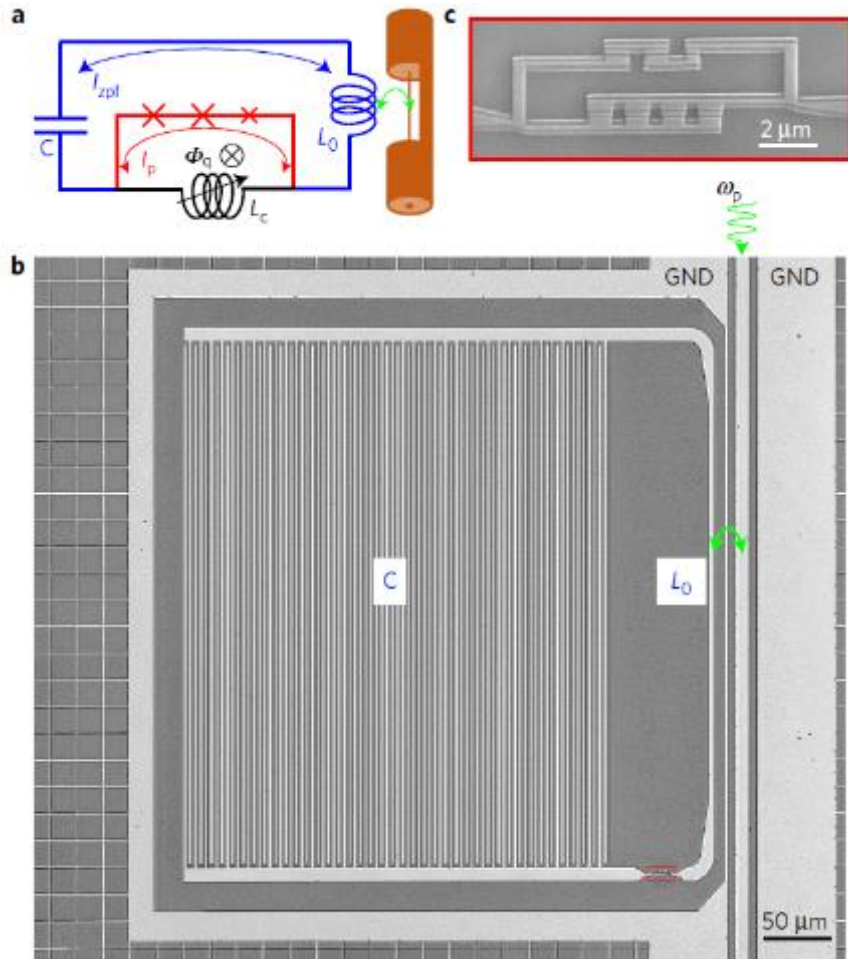
$$g / \omega_a = 23\%$$

Transverse optical phonon in GaP (THz)  
W. L. Faust & C. H. Henry, PRL **17**, 1265 (1966)

Longitudinal optical phonon  
- plasmon coupled (LOPC) mode in GaAs (THz)  
A. Mooradian & G. B. Wright, PRL **16**, 999 (1966)



# Beyond the critical interaction strength



$$\underline{g / \omega_a = 134\%}$$

Microwave resonator (LC circuit)  
 + an artificial atom (flux qubit)  
 F. Yoshihara, et al., Nat. Phys. **13**, 44 (2017)

However, the SRPT does not exist  
 even in the thermodynamic limit (many artificial atoms).

# What is the problem?

The thermal SRPT has NEVER been observed,

since the first proposals in 1973

$$\hat{H}_{\text{Dicke}} = \hbar\omega_c \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\hbar\omega_a}{2} \hat{\sigma}_j^z + \frac{\hbar g}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^N (\hat{\sigma}_j^\dagger \hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}_j)$$

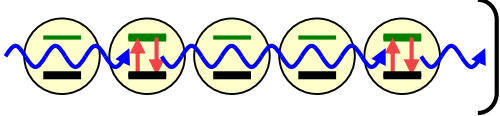
- It is not the problem of the interaction strength.
- Unfortunately, many systems CAN NOT be described by the Dicke Hamiltonian in the ultra-strong regime & in thermal equilibrium.
- The Dicke Hamiltonian is a toy model, and we must start from more fundamental Hamiltonians.

# Lacking term

## Minimal-coupling Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H}_{\min} = \int d\mathbf{r} \left[ \frac{\epsilon_0 \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{\perp}(\mathbf{r})^2}{2} + \frac{\hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{r})^2}{2\mu_0} \right] + \sum_{\lambda} \frac{1}{2m} \left[ \hat{\mathbf{p}}_{\lambda} + e\hat{\mathbf{A}}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\lambda}) \right]^2 + \frac{\hat{V}(\{\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\lambda}\})}{\text{Coulomb interaction}}$$

Electric field      Magnetic flux density      Vector potential  
 Momentum      Position  
 Kinetic energy

For two-level atoms in a cavity 

$$\hat{H}_{\min}^{\text{cavity}} = \hbar\omega_c \hat{a}^{\dagger} \hat{a} + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\hbar\omega_a}{2} \hat{\sigma}_j^z + \frac{\hbar g}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^N \underbrace{(\hat{\sigma}_j + \hat{\sigma}_j^{\dagger})(\hat{a} + \hat{a}^{\dagger})}_{\mathbf{p}_{\lambda} \cdot \mathbf{A}} + \frac{\hbar g^2}{\omega_a} \underbrace{(\hat{a} + \hat{a}^{\dagger})^2}_{A^2 \text{ term}}$$

Does not show the SRPT

Neglecting  $A^2$  term

## Dicke Hamiltonian

$$\hat{H}'_{\text{Dicke}} = \hbar\omega_c \hat{a}^{\dagger} \hat{a} + \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\hbar\omega_a}{2} \hat{\sigma}_j^z + \frac{\hbar g}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=1}^N (\hat{\sigma}_j + \hat{\sigma}_j^{\dagger})(\hat{a} + \hat{a}^{\dagger}) \text{ shows the SRPT}$$

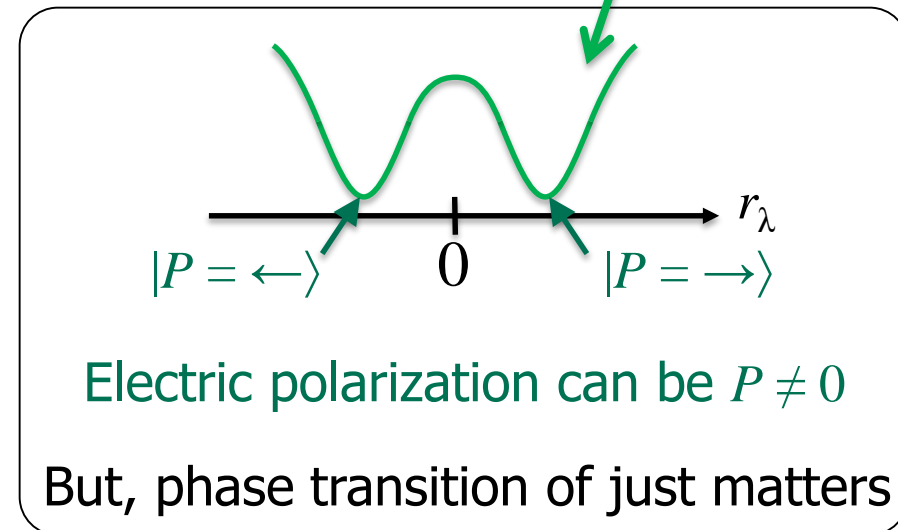
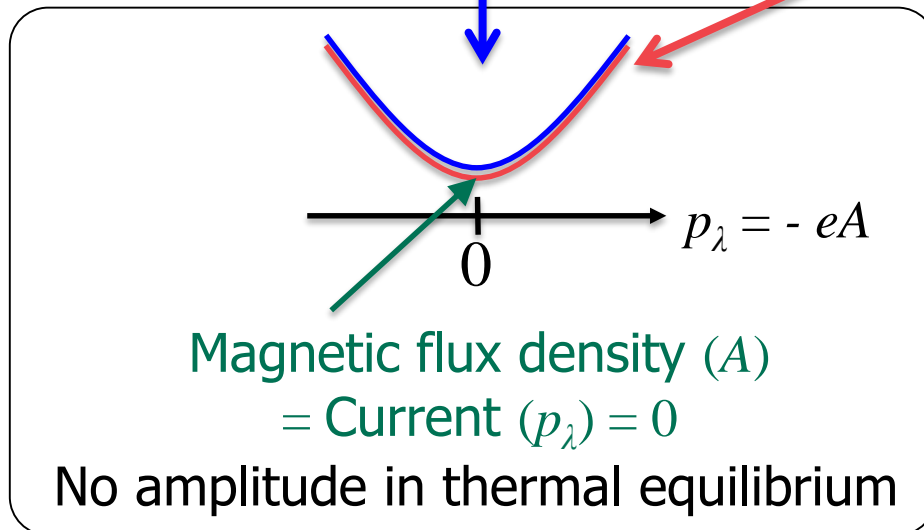
Recognition in 1970s: The SRPT is an artifact due to the lack of  $A^2$  term

# More generally (classical analysis)

The SRPT does not exist in minimal-coupling Hamiltonian

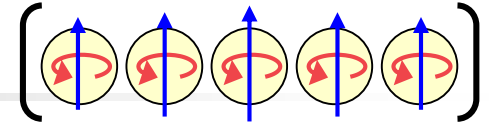
$$\hat{H}_{\min} = \int d\mathbf{r} \left[ \frac{\varepsilon_0 \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{\perp}(\mathbf{r})^2}{2} + \frac{\hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{r})^2}{2\mu_0} \right] + \sum_{\lambda} \frac{1}{2m} \left[ \hat{\mathbf{p}}_{\lambda} + e\hat{\mathbf{A}}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\lambda}) \right]^2 + \hat{V}(\{\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\lambda}\})$$

Electromagnetic energy      Kinetic energy minimized at  $p_{\lambda} = -eA$       Coulomb energy





# SRPT history



- In 1973, the SRPT was proposed for the Dicke Hamiltonian  $H_{\text{Dicke}}$ .  
 K. Hepp and E. H. Lieb, *Ann. Phys.* **76**, 360 (1973)
- In 1975, it was pointed out that  $H_{\text{Dicke}}$  is not good in ultra-strong regime.  
 K. Rzażewski, K. Wódkiewicz, and W. Żakowicz, *PRL* **35**, 432 (1975)
- In 1979-1981, it was pointed out that  
the SRPT does not exist in the minimal-coupling Hamiltonian.  
 I. Białynicki-Birula and K. Rzażewski, *PRA* **19**, 301 (1979)  
 K. Gawędzki and K. Rzażewski, *PRA* **23**, 2134 (1981)
- From 2009, many systems with ultra-strong interaction have been reported
- In 2010, a non-equilibrium analogue of the SRPT was reported  
 in cold atoms driven by laser light.  
 K. Baumann, *et al.*, *Nature* **464**, 1301 (2010)
- In 2010, discussion of thermal SRPT in superconducting circuit was started
- In 2016, we found a circuit showing the SRPT in thermal equilibrium  
 M. Bamba, K. Inomata, and Y. Nakamura, *PRL* **117**, 173601 (2016)

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# SRPT in superconducting circuits (circuit QED systems)

# Advantage of superconducting circuits

We have a large number of degrees of freedom  
in designing the Hamiltonian.

In contrast, real atoms are basically described  
 by the minimal-coupling Hamiltonian (not showing SRPT).

$$\hat{H}_{\min} = \int d\mathbf{r} \left[ \frac{\varepsilon_0 \hat{\mathbf{E}}_{\perp}(\mathbf{r})^2}{2} + \frac{\hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{r})^2}{2\mu_0} \right] + \sum_{\lambda} \frac{1}{2m} \left[ \hat{\mathbf{p}}_{\lambda} + e\hat{\mathbf{A}}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\lambda}) \right]^2 + \hat{V}(\{\hat{\mathbf{r}}_{\lambda}\})$$

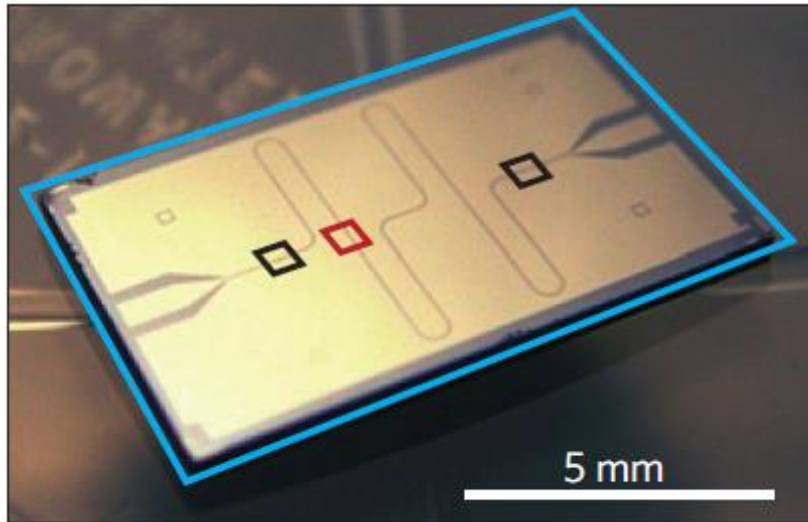
It is still controversial whether the SRPT exists or not  
 when we explicitly consider the spin degrees of freedom.

J. M. Knight, Y. Aharonov, and G. T. C. Hsieh, Phys. Rev. A **17**, 1454 (1978)

But, today's topic is superconducting circuits.

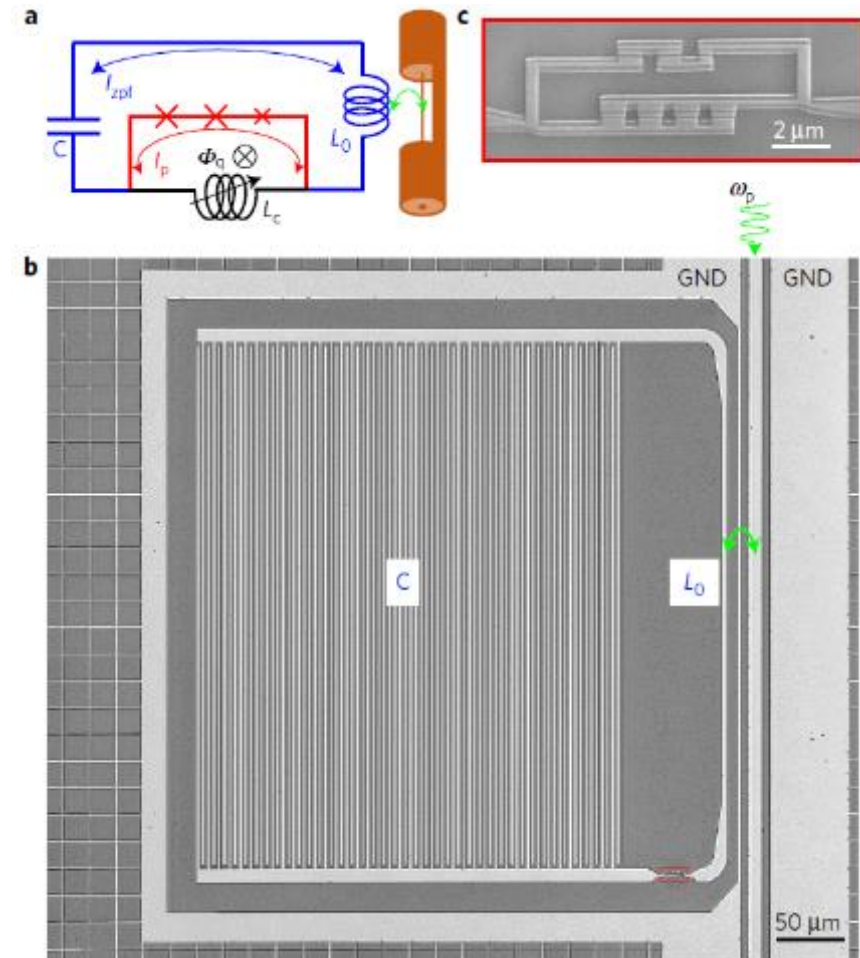
# "Photons" in circuit

Microwave confined in a waveguide with a finite length



T. Niemczyk, et al., Nature Phys. **6**, 772 (2010)

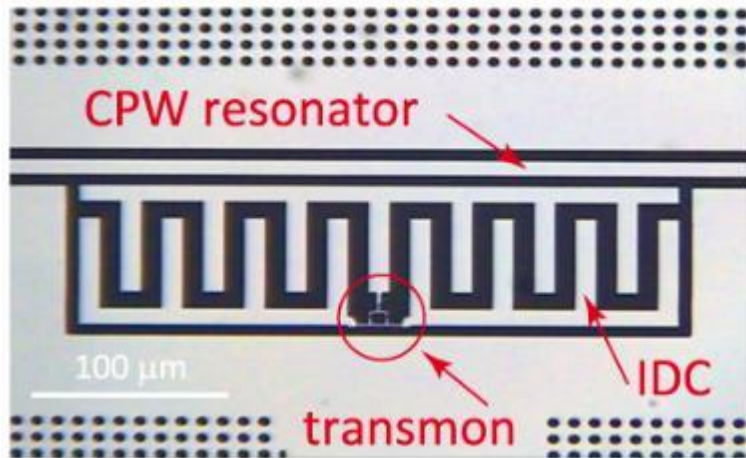
Oscillation of charge (current) in a LC circuit (resonator)



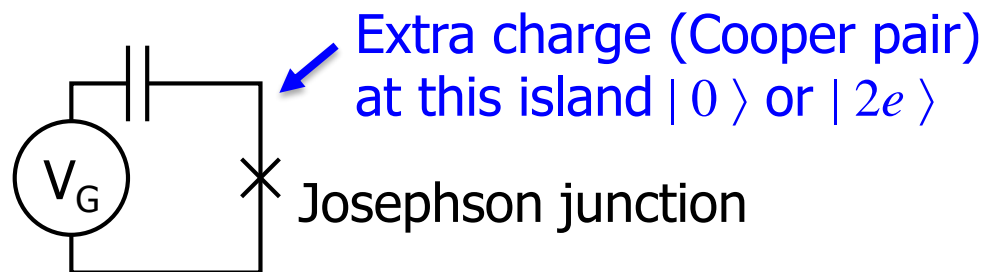
F. Yoshihara, et al., Nat. Phys. **13**, 44 (2017)

# "Atoms" in circuit

## Charge qubit (Transmon)



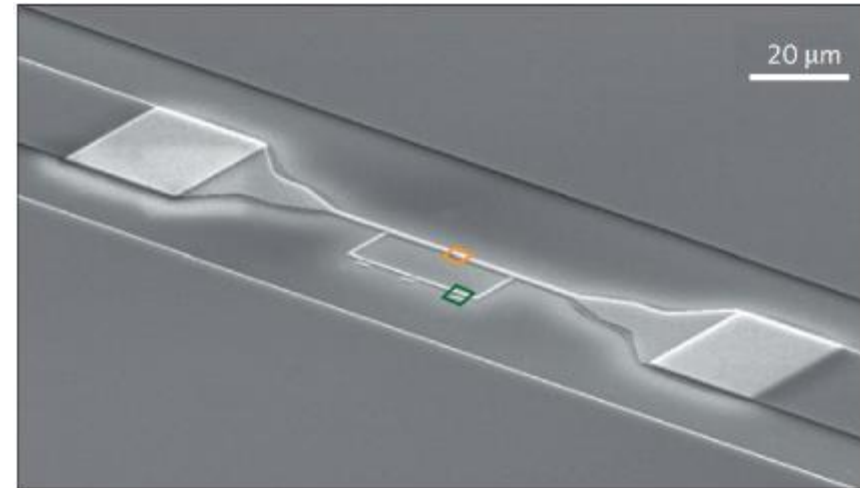
W. D. Oliver & P. B. Welander,  
MRS Bulletin **38**, 816 (2013)



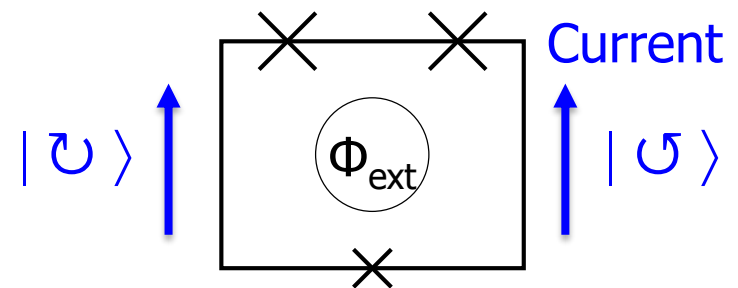
Superposition of charge:

$$|0\rangle \pm |2e\rangle$$

## Flux qubit



T. Niemczyk, et al., Nature Phys. **6**, 772 (2010)



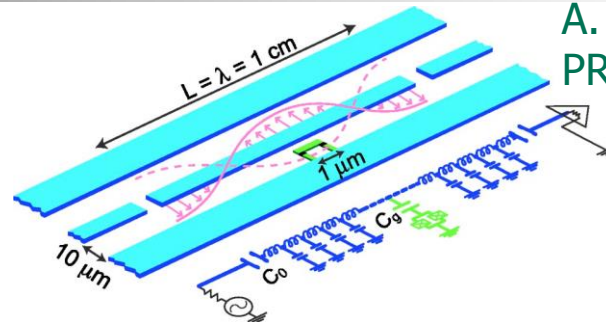
Superposition of current:

$$|\uparrow\rangle \pm |\downarrow\rangle$$

# Early theories on SRPT in circuits

- Possible by capacitive coupling

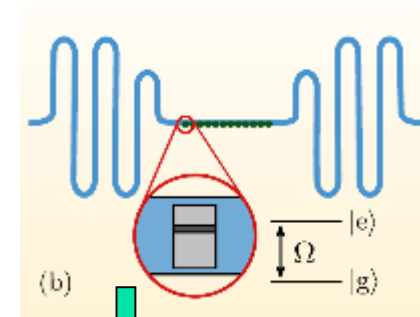
- Probably this kind of circuit →
  - P. Nataf and C. Ciuti, Nature Commun. **1**, 72 (2010)



A. Blais, et al.,  
PRA **69**, 062320 (2004)

- Impossible by capacitive coupling

- Above result is an artifact by a failure of estimating  $A^2$  term
  - O. Viehmann, J. von Delft, and F. Marquardt, PRL **107**, 113602 (2011)



- Possible by three-level artificial atoms with capacitive coupling

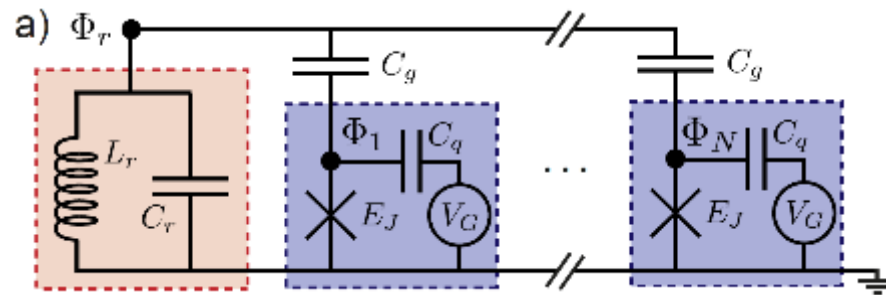
- Because the sum rule (for estimating  $A^2$  term) is modified
  - C. Ciuti and P. Nataf, PRL **109**, 179301 (2012)

However, they did not show any circuit diagrams, which are inevitable for examining how “photons” and “atoms” interact (e.g., whether  $A^2$  term exists or not).

# Absence of SRPT in a particular circuit

The following circuit diagram with capacitive coupling between **LC resonator** and **charge qubits** was examined.

T. Jaako, *et al.*, PRA **94**, 033850 (2016)



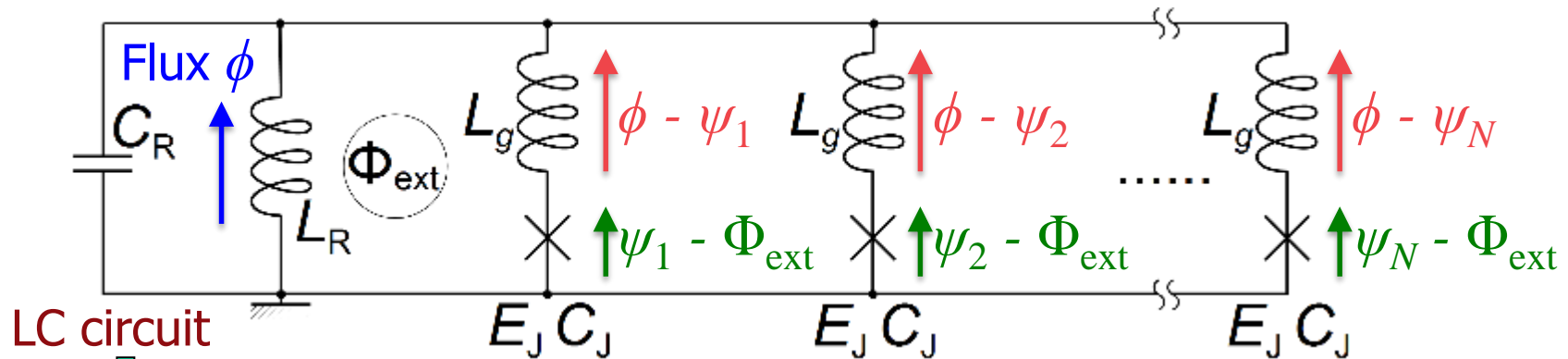
Hamiltonian was derived by the standard quantization procedure from this circuit diagram, and the absence of SRPT was confirmed in this circuit (but only for this circuit).

In contrast, we consider a different circuit  
with coupling through inductance

# Superconducting circuit showing SRPT

M. Bamba, K. Inomata, and Y. Nakamura, PRL **117**, 173601 (2016)

Current  $I = \phi / L_R$



“Photonic” resonator

Nonlinearity of Josephson junctions

Anharmonic “atomic” levels

Charge Flux Flux difference Charge Effective flux

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{q}^2}{2C_R} + \frac{\hat{\phi}^2}{2L_R} + \sum_{j=1}^N \left[ \frac{(\hat{\phi} - \hat{\psi}_j)^2}{2L_g} + \frac{\hat{\rho}_j^2}{2C_J} + E_J \cos \frac{2\pi \hat{\psi}_j}{\Phi_0} \right]$$

“Photonic” variables  $[\hat{\phi}, \hat{q}] = i\hbar$

“Atomic” variables  $[\hat{\psi}_j, \hat{\rho}_{j'}] = i\hbar \delta_{j,j'}$

External magnetic flux  $\Phi_{\text{ext}} = \Phi_0/2$   
flips the sign ( $\Phi_0 = h/2e$ )



# Origin of SRPT

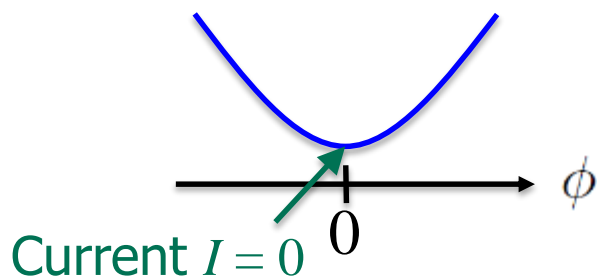
$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{q}^2}{2C_R} + \frac{\hat{\phi}^2}{2L_R} + \sum_{j=1}^N \left[ \frac{(\hat{\phi} - \hat{\psi}_j)^2}{2L_g} + \frac{\hat{p}_j^2}{2C_J} + E_J \cos \frac{2\pi\hat{\psi}_j}{\Phi_0} \right]$$

Interaction

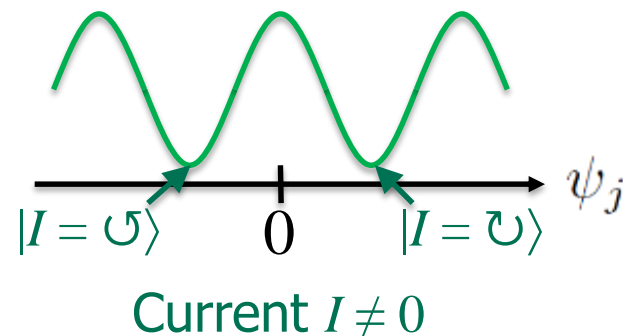
Anharmonicity

minimized at  $\phi = \psi_j$

"Photonic" flux energy



"Atomic" flux energy



Competition

SRPT in the thermodynamic limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$

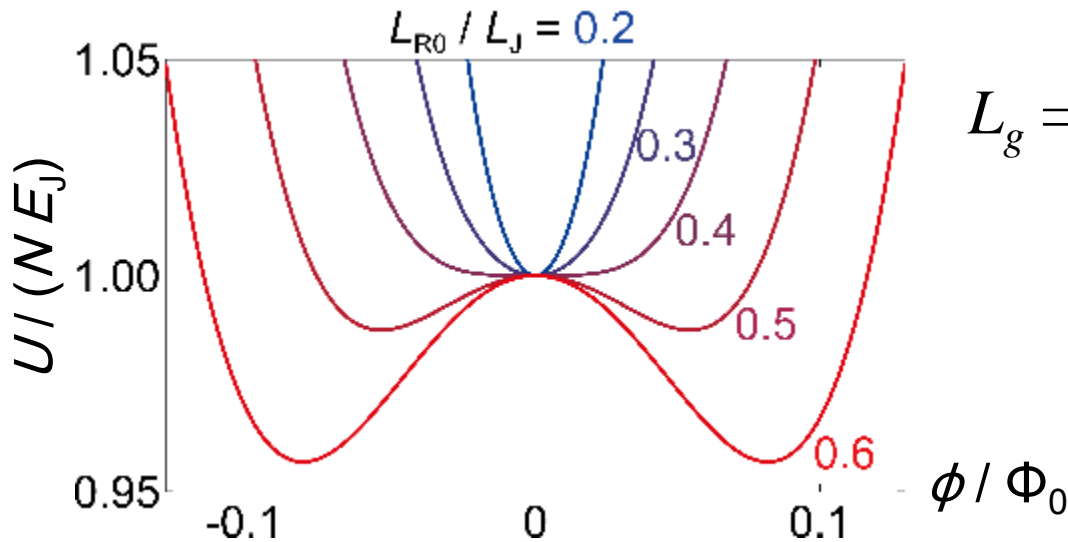
# Inductive energy & minimum

$$U(\phi, \{\psi_j\}) = \frac{\phi^2}{2L_R} + \sum_{j=1}^N \left[ \frac{(\phi - \psi_j)^2}{2L_g} + E_J \cos \frac{2\pi\psi_j}{\Phi_0} \right]$$

Minimized at  $\psi_j = [1 + L_g/(NL_R)]\phi$

$$L_J \equiv [\Phi_0/(2\pi)]^2/E_J$$

$L_R = L_{R0}/N$   $\rightarrow$   $U/N$  is  $N$ -independent

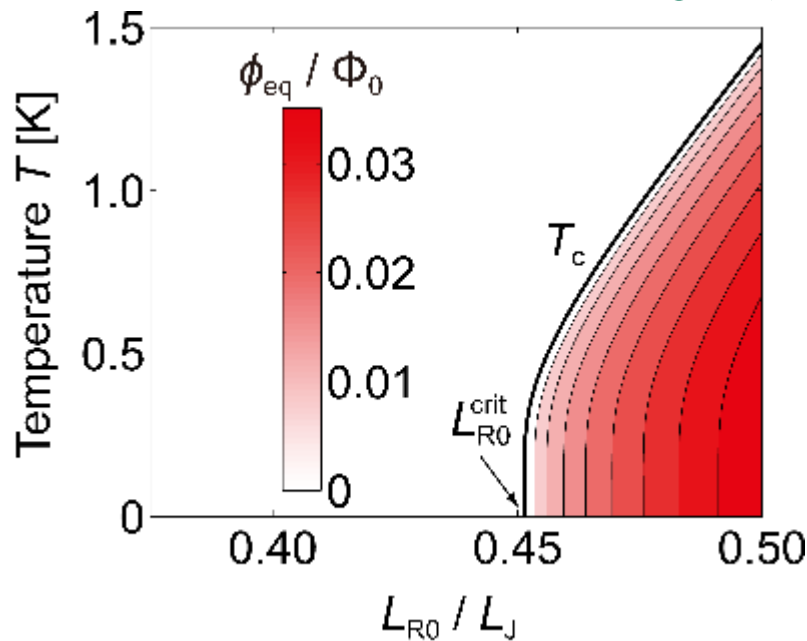


Non-zero flux amplitude  $\phi_{eq} \neq 0$  for  $L_{R0} > L_J - L_g (= 0.4L_J)$

$\rightarrow$  SRPT ("quantum" phase transition)

# Phase diagram of superconducting current

Expected flux amplitude  $\phi_{\text{eq}}$  is calculated through  $\mathcal{Z}(T) = \text{Tr}[e^{-\hat{H}/k_B T}]$   
for  $T > 0$  in thermodynamic limit ( $N \rightarrow \infty$ )



## Parameters

$$L_J = 0.75 \text{ nH}$$

$$L_g = 0.6L_J = 0.45 \text{ nH}$$

$$C_J = 24 \text{ fF}$$

$$C_{R0} = 2 \text{ fF} = C_R/N$$

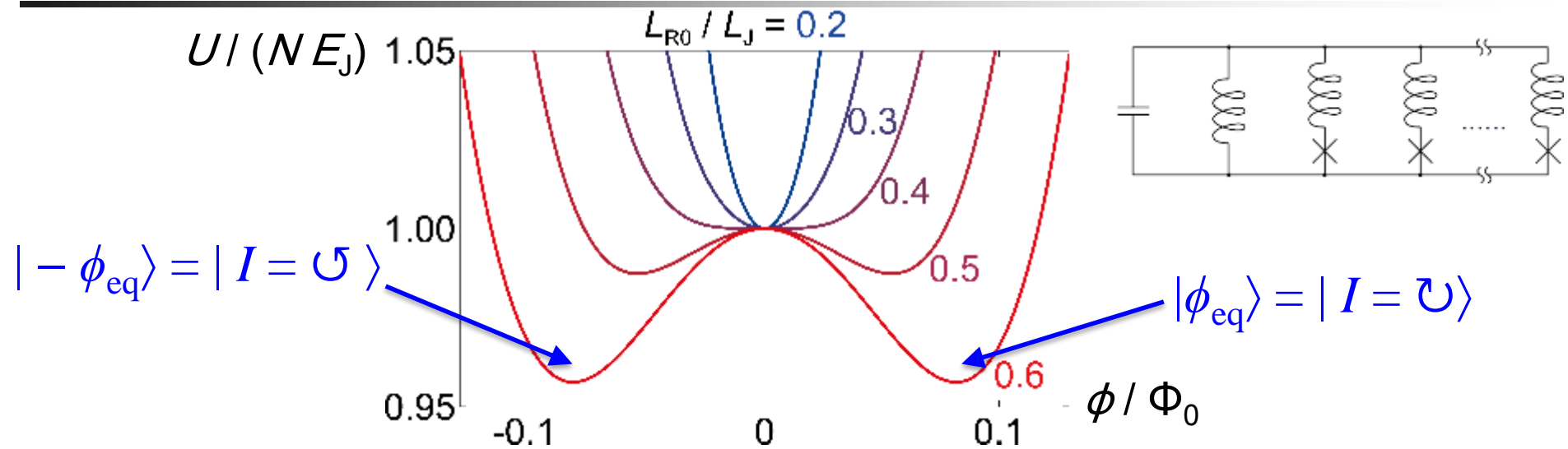
$$L_{R0} = NL_R$$

“Photonic” flux  $\phi_{\text{eq}} \neq 0$  (i.e., current) get an amplitude spontaneously for

$$L_{R0} > L_{R0}^{\text{crit}} \cong 0.45 L_J \quad \& \quad T < T_c \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Thermal phase transition}$$

↓  
“Quantum” phase transition (by the change of a parameter)

# Symmetry breaking in quantum physics



## Quantum theory for finite number of junctions

$$|g\rangle = \frac{|\phi_{eq}\rangle + |-\phi_{eq}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \text{Superposition of the two minima}$$

$$\longrightarrow \langle g | \hat{\phi} | g \rangle = \langle g | \hat{\psi}_j | g \rangle = 0 \quad \text{No coherent amplitude}$$

## Thermodynamic limit ( $N \rightarrow \infty$ ) justifies the classical analysis

$$|g\rangle = |\phi_{eq}\rangle \text{ or } |-\phi_{eq}\rangle$$

$$\langle g | \hat{\phi} | g \rangle = \pm \phi_{eq} \quad \text{Non-zero } \phi_{eq} = (\text{parity}) \text{ symmetry breaking}$$

# Essential difference from real atoms

Mixing and anharmonicity are described by  $p_\lambda$  and  $r_\lambda$ , respectively

➔ No-go theorem

I. Bialynicki-Birula and K. Rzażewski, PRA **19**, 301 (1979);  
K. Gawędzki and K. Rzażewski, PRA **23**, 2134 (1981)

$$\hat{H}_{\min} = \int d\mathbf{r} \left[ \frac{\varepsilon_0 \hat{\mathbf{E}}_\perp(\mathbf{r})^2}{2} + \frac{\hat{\mathbf{B}}(\mathbf{r})^2}{2\mu_0} \right] + \sum_\lambda \frac{1}{2m} \left[ \hat{\mathbf{p}}_\lambda + e\hat{\mathbf{A}}(\hat{\mathbf{r}}_\lambda) \right]^2 + \hat{V}(\{\hat{\mathbf{r}}_\lambda\})$$

$$\phi \rightarrow \mathbf{A}$$

$$\psi_j \rightarrow \mathbf{p}_\lambda$$

$$\rho_j \rightarrow \mathbf{r}_\lambda$$

Mixing

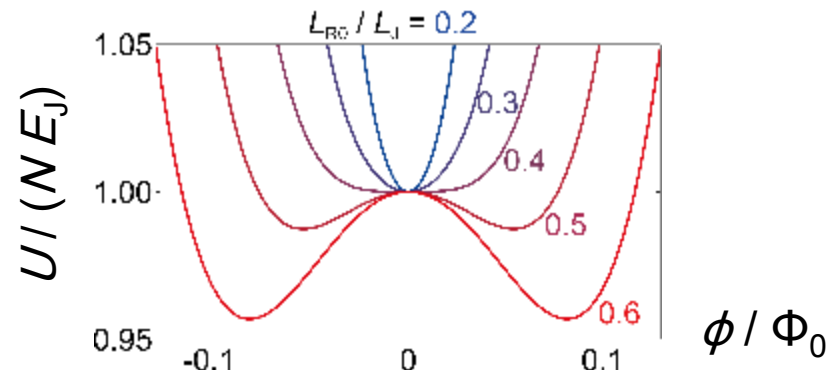
Anharmonicity

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{q}^2}{2C_R} + \frac{\hat{\phi}^2}{2L_R} + \sum_{j=1}^N \left[ \frac{(\hat{\psi}_j - \hat{\phi})^2}{2L_g} + \frac{\hat{\rho}_j^2}{2C_J} + E_J \cos \frac{2\pi\hat{\psi}_j}{\Phi_0} \right]$$

Mixing and anharmonicity  
are both described by  $\psi_j$



The no-go theorem is not applied



# Summary

- We propose a circuit showing a SRPT in thermal equilibrium
  - It has not been realized since the first proposals in 1973
- Our SRPT is a natural transition in classical analysis of circuit
  - In this sense, our proposal is reliable

Reliability of theoretical proposals  
 has long been the main issue

## Future directions

- Experimental observation (excitation spectra, SQUID, etc.)
- SRPT by spins, by replacing photons with phonons, etc.
- Phenomena (and energy conservation technologies) involving the heat, light, current, spins, etc.
- Non-equilibrium statistical physics by comparing SRPT and laser.
- Quantum information technologies by the entanglement between atoms and photons obtained even in the thermal equilibrium.

