

# Linear quantum refrigerators: the ultimate limit for cooling and the origin of the third law

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# Outline

- Motivation and context. Third Law of Thermodynamics (Unattainability principle)
- A general theory of linear quantum refrigerators
- Pairs creation as a fundamental limit for cooling (dynamical Casimir effect)
- Failure of the weak coupling approximation
- Minimum achievable temperature
- Conclusions and next steps

## Motivation and context

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- Describe processes in systems with few degrees of freedom
- Describe processes arbitrarily away from thermal equilibrium

# The dynamical third law

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> laws can and have been derived from first principles in a variety of settings. Some controversies exist regarding the dynamical third law.

## Nernst statement

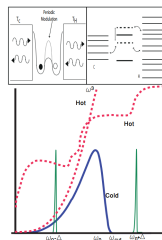
'It is impossible for any process, no matter how idealized, to reduce the entropy of a system to its absolute-zero value in a finite number of operations'

No-go theorem for ground state cooling given initial system-thermal bath factorization

Lian-Ao Wu<sup>1</sup>, Dvira Segal<sup>2</sup> & Paul Brumer<sup>2</sup>

Quantum Bath Refrigeration towards Absolute Zero: Challenging the Unattainability Principle

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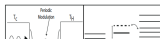
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No-go theorem for ground state cooling



## Main findings

- The *dynamical Casimir effect* (pairs creation) is a fundamental limitation for cooling.
- The *weak coupling approximation* breaks down for low temperatures.

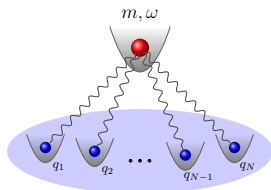
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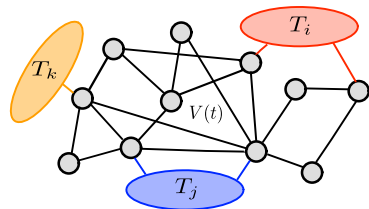
# A general theory of linear quantum refrigerators

## Model

Quantum Brownian Motion:



Generalized QBM:

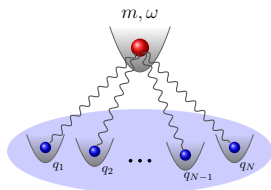


$$H_S(t) = \frac{1}{2} P^T M^{-1} P + \frac{1}{2} X^T V(t) X$$

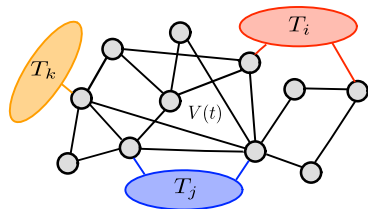
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$$H_S(t) = \frac{1}{2} P^T M^{-1} P + \frac{1}{2} X^T V(t) X$$

A periodic parametric driving is performed on the network:

$$V(t) = V(t + 2\pi/\omega_d) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{k=+\infty} V_k e^{i\omega_d k t}$$

What is the asymptotic state of the network? What are the heat currents?  
How can we cool a given reservoir?

# A general theory of linear quantum refrigerators

## Methods

- For bosonic reservoirs the problem can be solved exactly

$$H_T = H_S(t) + \sum_{\alpha} H_{E_{\alpha}} + \sum_{\alpha} H_{int,\alpha}$$

$$H_{E,\alpha} = \sum_j (\pi_{\alpha,j}^2/2m + m\omega_{\alpha,j}^2 q_{\alpha,j}^2/2) \quad H_{int,\alpha} = \sum_{j,k} C_{\alpha,jk} X_j q_{\alpha,k}$$

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- The central ingredient is the Green's function of the system.

$$\ddot{g}(t, t') + V_R(t)g(t, t') + \int_0^t d\tau \gamma(t - \tau)\dot{g}(\tau, t') = \delta(t - t')\mathbb{1}$$

$$\gamma(t) = \int_0^{\infty} d\omega I(\omega) \cos(\omega t)/\omega \quad [I_{\alpha}(\omega)]_{j,k} = \sum_l \frac{1}{m\omega} C_{\alpha,jl} C_{\alpha,kl} \delta(\omega - \omega_{\alpha,l})$$

# A general theory of linear quantum refrigerators

## Methods

We assume:

- Stable dynamics
- Long times
- Periodic driving

$$p(\omega, t) = \int_0^t g(t, t') e^{i\omega(t'-t)} dt' = \sum_k A_k(\omega) e^{ik\omega_d t}$$

$$\hat{g}(i(\omega + k\omega_d))^{-1} A_k(\omega) + \sum_{j \neq k} V_j A_{k-j}(\omega) = \mathbb{1} \delta_{k,0}.$$

Under those conditions the asymptotic state is also periodic. For example:

$$\sigma^{xp}(t) = \frac{1}{2} \langle X P^T + P X^T \rangle(t) = \text{Im} \left[ \sum_{j,k} \sigma_{j,k}^{xp} e^{i\omega_d(j-k)t} \right]$$

where:

$$\sigma_{j,k}^{xp} = \frac{\hbar}{2} \int_0^\infty d\omega (\omega + k\omega_d) A_j(\omega) \tilde{\nu}(\omega) A_k^\dagger(\omega)$$

# A general theory of linear quantum refrigerators

## Definitions of work and heat rates

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle H_S \rangle (t) = \sum_{\alpha} \underbrace{\frac{1}{i\hbar} \langle [H_S, H_{int,\alpha}] \rangle}_{\dot{Q}_{\alpha}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \langle H_S \rangle}_{\dot{W}}$$

We obtain the instantaneous rates:

$$\dot{W}(t) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} [\dot{V}(t) \sigma^{xx}(t)] \quad \dot{Q}_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} [P_{\alpha} \dot{\sigma}^{pp}(t) M^{-1}] + \text{Tr} [P_{\alpha} V(t) \sigma^{xp}(t) M^{-1}]$$

In the asymptotic state, we define the average rates per cycle:

$$\dot{W} = \frac{1}{\tau} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{n\tau}^{(n+1)\tau} \dot{W}(t) dt \quad \dot{Q}_{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\tau} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{n\tau}^{(n+1)\tau} \dot{Q}_{\alpha}(t) dt$$

Which satisfy:

$$\dot{W} + \sum_{\alpha} \dot{Q}_{\alpha} = 0$$

$$\sum_{\alpha} \frac{-\dot{Q}_{\alpha}}{T_{\alpha}} \geq 0$$

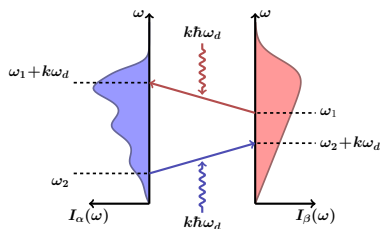
## Final result for the heat rates

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## (1) Resonant processes



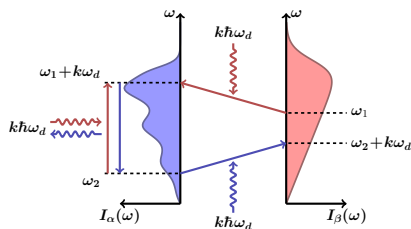
$$\begin{aligned} \dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RP}} = & \sum_{\beta \neq \alpha} \sum_k \int_0^\infty d\omega \hbar \omega p_{\beta, \alpha}^k(\omega) N_\alpha(\omega) - \\ & - \sum_{\beta \neq \alpha} \sum_k \int_0^\infty d\omega \hbar(\omega + k\omega_d) p_{\alpha, \beta}^k(\omega) N_\beta(\omega) \end{aligned}$$

$$p_{\alpha, \beta}^{(k)}(\omega) = \frac{\pi}{2} \text{Tr}[I_\alpha(|\omega + k\omega_d|) A_k(\omega) I_\beta(\omega) A_k^\dagger(\omega)]$$

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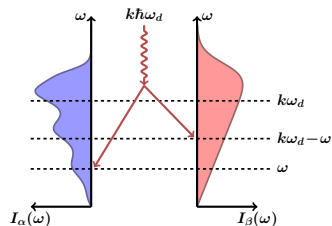
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# Final result for the heat rates

$$\dot{Q}_\alpha = \dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RP}} + \dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RH}} + \underbrace{\dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{NRH}}}_{(2)}$$

## (2) Non-resonant heating



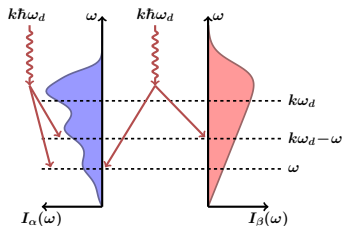
$$\begin{aligned} \dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{NRH}} = & - \sum_{k>0} \int_0^{k\omega_d} d\omega k\hbar\omega_d p_{\alpha,\alpha}^{-k}(\omega) \left( N_\alpha(\omega) + \frac{1}{2} \right) - \\ & - \sum_{\beta \neq \alpha} \sum_{k>0} \int_0^{k\omega_d} d\omega \hbar(k\omega_d - \omega) p_{\alpha,\beta}^{-k}(\omega) \left( N_\beta(\omega) + \frac{1}{2} \right) - \\ & - \sum_{\beta \neq \alpha} \sum_{k>0} \int_0^{k\omega_d} d\omega \hbar\omega p_{\beta,\alpha}^{-k}(\omega) \left( N_\alpha(\omega) + \frac{1}{2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

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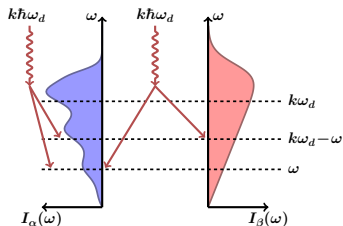
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The unattainability principle holds!

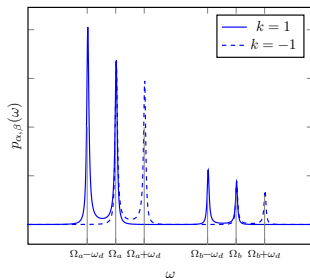
At zero temperature only  $\dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{NRH}} < 0$  survives!!  
There is always a minimum temperature that supports cooling

# Scaling laws

$$\dot{Q}_{\alpha \rightarrow \beta}^{\text{RP}} = \sum_k \int_0^\infty d\omega \hbar \omega p_{\beta, \alpha}^k(\omega) N_\alpha(\omega)$$

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If  $I_\alpha(\omega) \propto \gamma_0$ , then:

$$\dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RP}} \propto \gamma_0$$

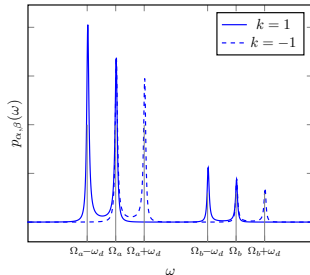
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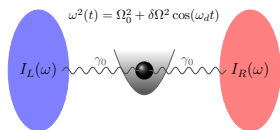
$$\dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RP}} \propto \gamma_0$$

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## Failure of the weak coupling approximation

Pairs creation into the reservoirs is a next-to-leading order effect in the weak coupling approximation (fourth order in the interaction Hamiltonian)

# Minimum temperature for a simple case



$$\dot{Q}_L^{\text{RP}} = e^{-\frac{\Omega_0 - \omega_d}{T_0}} \frac{|\delta\Omega|^4 (\pi^2/8)}{\Omega_0^2 (\Omega_0^2 - (\Omega_0 - \omega_d)^2)^2} \times \frac{1}{\Gamma_0} \left\{ I_R^0(\Omega_0) I_L^0(\Omega_0 - \omega_d) (\Omega_0 - \omega_d) - \Omega_0 I_L^0(\Omega_0) I_R^0(\Omega_0 - \omega_d) \right\}$$

- If  $I_L(\omega) = I_R(\omega)$ , then  $\dot{Q}_L^{\text{RP}} \leq 0$ . No symmetry broken.
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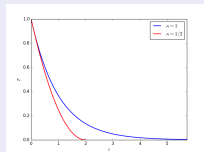
## Adaptative strategy - Challenging the third law

If we choose adjust  $\omega_d$  as  $\omega_d \simeq \Omega_0 - T_L$ :

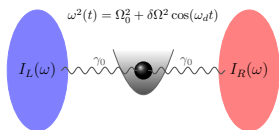
$$\frac{dT_L}{dt} = -\frac{1}{C_v} \dot{Q}_L \quad \dot{Q}_L^{\text{RP}} = \frac{\pi^2}{8e} \frac{\delta\Omega^4}{\Omega_0^6} T_L I_L(T_L) \frac{I_R^0(\Omega_0)}{\Gamma_0} \propto \gamma_0 T_L^{1+\lambda_L} \quad \text{for } I_L(\omega) \propto \gamma_0 \omega^{\lambda_L}$$

Typically,  $C_v \propto T_L^d$ , and therefore:

$$\frac{dT_L}{dt} = -\frac{1}{C_v} \dot{Q}_L \propto -\gamma_0 \eta T_L^{\overbrace{1+\lambda_L}^{\kappa} - d}$$



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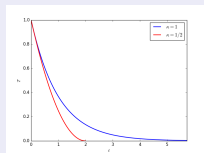
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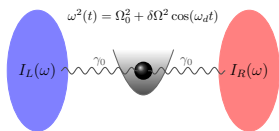
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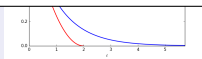
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Tip

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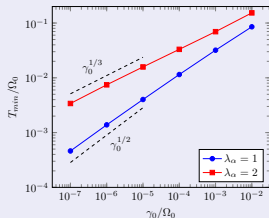
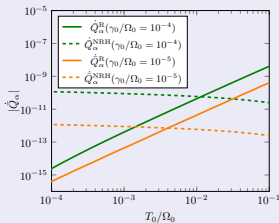
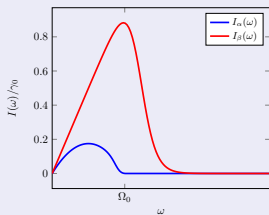


# Minimum temperature for a simple case

A simple scaling argument. . .

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{Q}_L^{\text{RP}} &\propto \gamma_0 T_L^{1+\lambda_L} \\ \dot{Q}_L^{\text{NRH}} &\propto \gamma_0^2 \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad T_{\text{min}} \propto \gamma_0^{\frac{1}{1+\lambda_L}}$$

A numerical verification. . .



# Main messages

- The **dynamical Casimir effect** is a **fundamental limit for cooling** in linear quantum refrigerators.
- This effect is non-resonant and **next-to-leading order in the weak coupling approximation**.
- The usual weak coupling approximation breaks down for low temperatures.

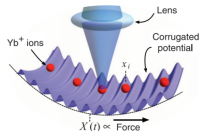
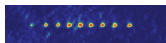
[arXiv:1607.04234](https://arxiv.org/abs/1607.04234)

**Fundamental limits for cooling of linear quantum refrigerators**

Nahuel Freitas<sup>1,2</sup> and Juan Pablo Paz<sup>1,2</sup>

# Next steps

- Study and design thermodynamical processes in ion crystals, nanomechanical devices, or circuit QED. Example: 'active' sympathetic cooling.



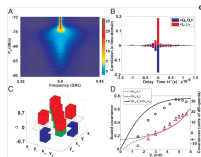
- Design strategies for the generation of steady state entanglement in open systems (quantum control?).

## Bringing Entanglement to the High Temperature Limit

Fernando Galve, Leonardo A. Pachón, and David Zueco  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **105**, 180501 – Published 25 October 2010

## Dynamical Casimir effect in a Josephson metamaterial

Pasi Lähteenmäki<sup>1</sup>, G. S. Paraoanu<sup>2</sup>, Juha Hassel<sup>2</sup>, and Pertti J. Hakonen<sup>1</sup>



- Extend results to the non-linear regime.

# Cooling processes and minimum temperature

## Design of cooling processes

$$\dot{Q}_\alpha = \dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RP}} + \overbrace{\dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RH}} + \dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{NRH}}}^{\leq 0}$$

For cooling, we need  $\dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RP}} > 0$ .

### Two general strategies:

- Spatial symmetry, asymmetric driving (directional pumping)
- Spatial asymmetry, symmetric driving (heat rectification)

## Minimum temperature

### Optimistic setting:

- Equal temperatures ( $T_\alpha = T_0$ )
- $\dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RP}} + \dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RH}} \geq 0$  for all  $T_0$

Still, there exists a value of  $T_0$  below which:

$$\dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{RH}} < |\dot{Q}_\alpha^{\text{NRH}}|$$

This value of  $T_0$  is the minimum temperature  $T_{\min}$  (not universal, depends on the process)

# Some similar results

Rapid Communication

## Dynamical Casimir effect and minimal temperature in quantum thermodynamics

Giuliano Benenti and Giuliano Strini

Phys. Rev. A **91**, 020502(R) – Published 17 February 2015

