Phase estimation of Mach-Zehnder interferometer via Laguerre excitation squeezed state

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Quantum metrology has an important role in the fields of quantum optics and quantum information processing. Here we introduce a kind of non-Gaussian state, Laguerre excitation squeezed state as input of traditional Mach-Zehnder interferometer to examine phase estimation in realistic case. We consider the effects of both internal and external losses on phase estimation by using quantum Fisher information and parity detection. It is shown that the external loss presents a bigger effect than the internal one. The phase sensitivity and the quantum Fisher information can be improved by increasing the photon number and even surpass the ideal phase sensitivity by two-mode squeezed vacuum in a certain region of phase shift for realistic case.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Optical quantum metrology is one of the most important branches in the field of quantum science, which plays a key role for the advanced development of science and technology application. It is characteristics of using quantum systems or quantum mechanical properties, such as entanglement, squeezing or nonclassical property, to achieve high precision measurements of physical parameters, by minimizing the measurement uncertainty. It is shown that the precision of measurement can break through the standard quantum limit (SQL) due to the quantum effects. Based on this interesting point, the researchers focus their attention on the improvement of measurement precision by using quantum properties.

To realize this purpose above, the Mach-Zehnder interferometer (MZI) is widely used in various tasks of quantum measurement [1-4]. Generally, the measurement process can be divided into three parts, i.e., the preparation of input states, the interaction between the input state and the considered system, and the detection on the output state [5, 6]. Thus, it is natural to examine these three parts separately or collectively for enhancing the measurement precision. For instance, when injecting separately the coherent state and the squeezed state into two input ports of MZI [7], the phase precision can beat the SQL of $1/\sqrt{N}$, with $N$ being the average photon-number of the input state. After that, many different quantum states have been proposed as the input states of MZI to achieve better performance. Among them, the NOON state [8], twin Fock state [9], and the two-mode squeezed vacuum state (TMSV) [10] et al. can achieve or even exceed the Heisenberg limit (HL) $1/\sqrt{N}$ [11,13], which have been verified by many experiments [14, 15]. However, on one hand, it is difficult to prepare a high average photon-number of quantum states of light [16]. On the other hand, the precision will be quickly destroyed due to the inevitable interaction between the systems and the environments [16-21]. For example, for the TMSV, the experimentally available squeezing parameter is approximately $1.15$ corresponding to a small average photon-number about $2\sinh^2r \approx 4$ [16]. In addition, the phase sensitivity is unstable relative to the phase shift. That is to say, the phase sensitivity will deteriorate rapidly when deviating from the optimal phase shift [22]. Thus, it is still a challenging task how to further improve the measurement precision and the ability against the decoherence.

Actually, the high nonclassical property including entanglement play an important role in various quantum information tasks, including quantum key distribution [23], quantum teleportation [24], and quantum metrology [7-10, 25-36]. Thus, preparing a kind of high nonclassical property state as inputs is an effective method to improve the measurement precision. For example, mixing photon-added/subtracted squeezed vacuum and coherent state as inputs, it is found that the phase sensitivity can be improved [25, 32-34]. Using photon-added/subtracted TMSV input the MZI can improve the precision of phase estimation [26, 27]. Recently, by employing multi-photon catalysis (MC) operating on the TMSV (MC-TMSV) as inputs of MZI [35], Zhang et al. studied the phase measurement including the case of photon losses. It is shown that the influences of photon losses before parity detection (external dissipation) on phase measurement accuracy is more serious than that after phase shifter (internal dissipation), but these effects can be suppressed by increasing the number of catalytic photons. In addition, the photon-number conversing operation is also used to improve phase estimation [36].

These above research works indicate that non-Gaussian operation is an effective way to improve the measurement precision. Inspired by this, we introduce a kind of non-Gaussian operation, i.e., Laguerre polynomial excitation operating on the TMSV as inputs of MZI, to improve the phase sensitivity. In fact, Laguerre polynomial excitation can achieve high nonclassicality and be theoretically realized [37, 38]. We shall investigate the phase sensitivity with parity detection and the quantum Fisher information (QFI) in both ideal and realistic
cases, by deriving an equivalent operator with the aid of the Weyl ordering invariance under similarity transformations. It is found that the phase sensitivity and the QFI can be improved whose effects become more obvious as the excited order.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we first introduce the Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state. Then, we examine the QFI and the phase sensitivity with parity measurement in ideal case, when considering Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state as inputs. In Sec. III, we further consider the effects of photon losses on the phase sensitivity including external and internal dissipations. In Sec. IV, we investigate the influence of photon losses on the QFI. The main results are summarized in the last section.

II. PHASE ESTIMATION WHEN THE LAGUERRE POLYNOMIAL EXCITATION SQUEEZED STATE AS INPUTS OF MZI IN IDEAL CASE

A. Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state as two-mode squeezed twin-Fock state

Actually, the Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state $|\text{Lagu}\rangle$ can be generated by applying two-mode squeezing operator on twin-Fock state $|n, n\rangle$, i.e.,

$$|\text{Lagu}\rangle = S(r) |n, n\rangle,$$  
(1)

where $S(r) = \exp\left\{ r(a^\dagger b - ab^\dagger) \right\}$ is the two-mode squeezing operator and $|n, n\rangle = |n\rangle_a \otimes |n\rangle_b$ is twin-Fock state. Using the coherent state representation of Fock state, i.e.,

$$|n\rangle_a = \frac{x^n}{\sqrt{n!}} d^n \tau^n \bigg| \tau = 0 \bigg.$$
(2)

and the transform relations

$$S(r) a S^\dagger(r) = a \cosh r - b^\dagger \sinh r,$$
(3)

$$S(r) b S^\dagger(r) = b \cosh r - a^\dagger \sinh r,$$
(4)

Eq. (1) can be rewritten as the following form

$$|\text{Lagu}\rangle = (-\tanh r)^n \left( u a^\dagger b^\dagger \right)^n S(00),$$
(5)

where we have used $u = 2/\sinh 2r$, $S(00) = \text{sech} r \exp\left\{ a^\dagger b^\dagger \tanh r \right\}$ and the formula $e^{A+B} = e^{A} e^{B} e^{B-A}$, which is valid for $[A, [A, B]] = [B, [A, B]] = 0$, as well as $e^\lambda a^\dagger e^{-\lambda a} = a^\dagger + \lambda$, and

$$L_n (xy) = \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \frac{\partial^{2n}}{\partial \tau^n \partial t^n} e^{-t \tau + \tau x + ty} |\tau = 0\rangle,$$
(6)

with $L_n (xy)$ being Laguerre polynomials. From Eq. (5), it is clear that Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed squeezed state is just the two-mode squeezed Fock state [29]. It is interesting that the twin-Fock states with 6 photons can be achieved experimentally [14, 40]. Thus, the Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state can be successfully realized.

Using Eq. (1) and Eq. (3) it is ready to have the total average photon number, i.e.,

$$\bar{N} = \langle \text{Lagu} | (a^\dagger a + b^\dagger b) |\text{Lagu}\rangle = 2n \cosh 2r + 2 \sinh^2 r.$$  
(7)

It is clear that the total average photon number of input state increases with $r$ and $n$.

B. Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state as input of MZI and parity detection

In order to establish the basis of studying the phase estimation via Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state in the non-ideal case, here we consider the Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state as input of MZI for discussing the effect of this non-Gaussian state on the precision of measurement in the ideal case. As shown in Fig. 1, the traditional MZI consist of two symmetrical beam splitters (BSs) (denoted as BS1 and BS2), two input ports (mode $a$ and $b$) and two completely reflecting mirrors as well as two-phase shifters. Here we should note that the two BSs are conjugated to each other.

For this ideal MZI in Fig. 1, according to Ref. [41], the effect is equivalent to a BS operator, i.e.,

$$U_{MZI} = e^{i\pi J_1/2} e^{-i\varphi J_3} e^{-i\pi J_1/2} e^{-i\varphi J_2},$$
(8)

where $J_1, J_2, J_3$ are Bosonic operators, defined as

$$J_1 = \frac{1}{2} (a^\dagger b + ab^\dagger),$$
(9)

$$J_2 = \frac{1}{2} (a^\dagger b - ab^\dagger),$$
(10)

$$J_3 = \frac{1}{2} (a^\dagger a - b^\dagger b).$$
(11)

1. The quantum Fisher information

Here we examine the QFI when inputting $|\text{Lagu}\rangle$ into the MZI in ideal case. For the model shown in Fig. 1,
the QFI $F_Q$ describes the amount of information containing phase parameters carried by light after it passes through the phase shifter. The quantum Cramér-Rao bound (QCRB) gives the highest theoretical measurement accuracy of phase shifts, which is expressed by the QFI $\Delta \varphi_{QCRB} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{F_Q}}$. 

For the pure state as the input state $|\text{in}\rangle$ of MZI, the QFI $F_Q$ can be calculated by

$$F_Q = 4 \left( |\langle \psi' (\varphi) |\psi' (\varphi) \rangle - |\langle \psi' (\varphi) |\psi (\varphi) \rangle |^2 \right),$$

where $|\psi (\varphi) \rangle = e^{-i\varphi z} e^{-i\pi z/2} |\text{in}\rangle$ is the quantum state after the evolution of the first BS and phase shifter, $|\psi' (\varphi) \rangle = \partial |\psi' (\varphi) \rangle / \partial \varphi$. Therefore, it can be known that in the case of $|\text{Lagu}\rangle$ as the input state of MZI, the expression of the QFI can be derived as

$$F_Q = \left[ 2 + 3 \sinh^2 (2r) \right] n (n + 1) + \sinh^2 (2r).$$

2. The phase sensitivity with parity detection

Through this paper, we shall take parity detection as measurement method. Here, we consider the parity detection at output mode $b$. Actually, the photon-number parity operator is given by

$$\Pi_b = (-1)^{b|b}\, e^{i\pi b|b},$$

whose normal ordering form is

$$\Pi_b = \exp \{ -2b|b \} : ,$$

where $: \ldots :$ is the symbol of the normal ordering. Thus using the formula converting operator $\hat{O}$ from normal ordering to its Weyl ordering form, i.e.,

$$\hat{O} = 2 : \int \frac{d^2 \alpha}{\pi} \langle -\alpha | \hat{O} | \alpha \rangle \, e^{2(\alpha^* b - b^* \alpha + b|b)} :,$$

where $|\alpha\rangle$ is the coherent state, the Weyl ordering form of parity operator $\Pi_b$ can be derived as

$$\Pi_b = \frac{\pi}{2} : \delta (b) \delta (b^*):,$$

where $: \ldots :$ is the symbol of the Weyl ordering and $\delta (\cdot)$ is the delta function [42, 43].

Noticing the Weyl ordering invariance under similarity transformations [44, 45], i.e.,

$$U_{MZI}^\dagger : \ldots : U_{MZI} = : U_{MZI}^\dagger : \ldots : U_{MZI} :,$$

and the transformation relations

$$e^{i\varphi \hat{J}} a e^{-i\varphi \hat{J}} = a \cos \frac{\varphi}{2} - b \sin \frac{\varphi}{2},$$

$$e^{i\varphi \hat{J}} b e^{-i\varphi \hat{J}} = b \cos \frac{\varphi}{2} + a \sin \frac{\varphi}{2},$$

then the parity operator under the unitary transformation is changed to be

$$\Pi_b \rightarrow \Pi_{MZI} = U_{MZI}^\dagger \Pi_b U_{MZI}$$

$$= \frac{\pi}{2} : \delta (b \cos \frac{\varphi}{2} + a \sin \frac{\varphi}{2})$$

$$\times \delta (b^* \cos \frac{\varphi}{2} + a^* \sin \frac{\varphi}{2}) :,$$

which is just the Weyl ordering form of the parity operator $\Pi_b$ under the unitary transformation $U_{MZI}$.

For a Weyl ordering operator, say $: f (a, a^*, b, b^*) :$, its classical correspondence can be obtained by replacing $a, a^*, b, b^*$ with complex parameters $\alpha, \alpha^*, \beta, \beta^*$, respectively, i.e., $: f (a, a^*, b, b^*) : \rightarrow f (\alpha, \alpha^*, \beta, \beta^*)$. Further using the relation between classical correspondence and Wigner operator [45], i.e.,

$$: f (a, a^*, b, b^*) :$$

$$= 4 \int d^2 \alpha d^2 \beta f (\alpha, \alpha^*, \beta, \beta^*) \Delta_a (\alpha) \Delta_b (\beta),$$

where $\Delta_{\alpha/\beta} (\alpha/\beta)$ is the Wigner operators whose normal ordering form is given by [46, 47]

$$\Delta_a (\alpha) = \frac{1}{\pi} : \exp \left[ -2 (a - \alpha) (a^* - \alpha^*) \right] :,$$

$$\Delta_b (\beta) = \frac{1}{\pi} : \exp \left[ -2 (b - \beta) (b^* - \beta^*) \right] :,$$

and using the integration within an ordered product (IWOP) technique [47, 48] as well as the following integral formula [49]

$$\int \frac{d^2 z}{\pi} e^{iz^2 + iz^* z^* + f z + g z^*} = e^{\frac{g - iv}{\sqrt{z^2 - 4 v g}}},$$

the normal ordering of $\Pi_{MZI}$ can be obtained, i.e.,

$$\Pi_{MZI} = \exp \left[ -(\sin \varphi - 1) a^* a + (\sin \varphi - 1) b^* b \right] \times \exp \left[ -(b^* a + a^* b) \cos \varphi \right].$$

According to Ref. [10], we have made a shift transformation $\varphi \rightarrow \varphi + \pi/2$ in Eq. (22). When the state $|\text{Lagu}\rangle$ as input of MZI, the expectation value of parity operator in the output state can be expressed as $(\Pi_b) = \langle \text{Lagu} | \Pi_{MZI}^\dagger \Pi_b U_{MZI} | \text{Lagu} \rangle = \langle \text{Lagu} | \Pi_{MZI} | \text{Lagu} \rangle$, where $\Pi_{MZI} = U_{MZI}^\dagger \Pi_b U_{MZI}$,
whose normal ordering form is given in Eq. (22). Inserting the completeness relation of coherent state and using Eq. (21), $\langle \Pi_0 \rangle$ can be calculated as

$$
\langle \Pi_0 \rangle = A_0 \hat{D}_n \{ \exp \left[ (x^2 + t^2 - y^2 - r^2) A_1 \right] \times \exp \left[ (xy + t \tau) A_2 \right] \times \exp \left[ (yt - x \tau) A_3 \right] \times \exp \left[ (xt + y \tau) A_4 \right] \},
$$

where $\hat{D}_n \{ \cdot \} \equiv (\alpha^*)^n \exp \{ \hat{x}^* \hat{x} \} \{ \cdot \} |_{x=y=t=\tau=0}$, and

$$
A_0 = \frac{\text{sech}^2 r}{\sqrt{\omega_0}},
$$

$$
A_1 = \frac{\sin (2 \varphi) \tanh r}{2 \omega_0 \cosh^2 r},
$$

$$
A_2 = \frac{(\cos (2 \varphi) - 1) (\tanh r + \tanh^3 r)}{\omega_0},
$$

$$
A_3 = \frac{\sin \varphi \cosh (2r) \text{sech}^4 r}{\omega_0},
$$

$$
A_4 = \frac{\cos \varphi \text{sech}^4 r}{\omega_0},
$$

(23)

as well as $\omega_0 = 1 - 2 \tanh^2 r \cos (2 \varphi) + \tanh^4 r$. Thus, using Eq. (23) we can get the phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi_0$ via error propagation formula, i.e.,

$$
\Delta \varphi_0 = \left| \frac{\Delta \Pi_0}{\partial \langle \Pi_0 \rangle / \partial \varphi} \right|,
$$

(25)

where $\Delta \Pi_0 = \sqrt{1 - \langle \Pi_0 \rangle^2}$. From the value of $\Delta \varphi_0$, in principle, we can know the phase measurement accuracy of Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state as input of MZI.

In particular, when $n = 0$ corresponding to the TMSV in MZI, the phase sensitivity with parity detection is given by

$$
\Delta \varphi_{TMSV} = \frac{\omega_0 \cosh^2 r}{2 \tanh r \cos \varphi},
$$

(26)

as expected $[10]$. 

III. EFFECTS OF PHOTON LOSSES ON PHASE SENSITIVITY

In the process of quantum precision measurement, photon losses is inevitable. It is of great practical significance to study the influence of photon losses on phase sensitivity. In this section, we consider the phase sensitivity with Laguerre polynomial excitation squeezed state as input of MZI in photon losses case. Here, we only examine that the photon losses occurs either before parity detection in MZI (outside the interferometer) or between the phase shift and the second BS (inside the interferometer), shown in Fig. 2.

FIG. 2: Schematic diagram of the parity detection in the presence of photon losses. (a) External dissipation: photon losses occur between the parity detection and the BS2. (b) Internal dissipation: photon losses occur between the phase shifter and the BS2.

A. Effects of photon losses before parity detection (external dissipation)

First, we focus on the case with photon losses before parity detection as shown in Fig. 2 (a) and investigate the effects of photon losses on the phase sensitivity. It will be convenient to redefine an equivalent parity operator including photon losses, which is different from the ideal case where parity operator is $\Pi_b = (-1)^{b\dagger b}$. For this purpose, we use an optical BS $B_{T_1}$ to simulate the photon losses at the probe end, shown in Fig. 2(a). The corresponding transform relation by $B_{T_1}$ is given by

$$
B_{T_1}^\dagger \left( \begin{array}{c} b \\ f_1 \end{array} \right) B_{T_1} = \left( \begin{array}{c} \sqrt{T_1} b \\ \sqrt{1-T_1} f_1 \end{array} \right),
$$

(27)

where $f_1 \left( f_1^\dagger \right)$ are photon annihilation (creation) operators corresponding to the dissipative mode $f_1$ of $B_{T_1}$ and $T_1$ is the transmissivity of $B_{T_1}$. $T_1$ is related to external dissipation. The larger $T_1$ is, the smaller external photon losses is.

Using Eqs. (15) and (27), and the Weyl ordering invariance under similarity transformations, the equivalent parity operator including photon losses $\Pi_b^{\text{loss}}$ can be calculated as

$$
\Pi_b^{\text{loss}} = \frac{\pi}{2} f_1 \left( 0 \right) \cdot B_{T_1}^\dagger \delta \left( b \right) \delta \left( b^\dagger \right) B_{T_1} \cdot \left( 0 \right)_{f_1},
$$

$$
= \frac{\pi}{2} f_1 \left( 0 \right) \cdot \delta \left( \sqrt{T_1} b + \sqrt{1-T_1} f_1 \right) \times \delta \left( \sqrt{T_1} b^\dagger + \sqrt{1-T_1} f_1^\dagger \right) \cdot \left( 0 \right)_{f_1},
$$

(28)

where $\left( 0 \right)_{f_1}$ is vacuum noise inputting BS $B_{T_1}$. In a similar way to deriving Eq. (22), using Eqs. (19)-(21), the
normal ordering form of $\Pi_b^{loss}$ is derived as

$$\Pi_b^{loss} = : \exp (-2T_1 b^\dagger b) : . \quad (29)$$

It is clear that for the case of $T_1 = 1$ corresponding to the photon lossless, $\Pi_b^{loss}$ just reduces to $\Pi_b = : \exp (-2b^\dagger b) :$, as expected. Thus, the expectation value of parity detection in the case of photon loss can be transformed to be $\langle \Pi_b^{loss} \rangle = (\text{out} | \Pi_b^{loss} | \text{out})$, where $|\text{out}\rangle$ is the output state after the second BS of MZI and before the photon loss.

In our scheme, using the completeness relation of coherent states, and combining the unitary transformations $U_{MZI} a^\dagger U_{MZI}^\dagger = a^\dagger \cos \frac{\varphi}{2} + b^\dagger \sin \frac{\varphi}{2}$, $U_{MZI} b^\dagger U_{MZI}^\dagger = b^\dagger \cos \frac{\varphi}{2} - a^\dagger \sin \frac{\varphi}{2}$ as well as the relation $U_{MZI} |0, 0\rangle = |0, 0\rangle$, the output state can be shown as

$$|\text{out}\rangle = \text{sech} \frac{\varphi}{2} \frac{\partial^{2n}}{\partial x^n \partial y^n} \int d^2 x d^2 \beta \frac{\pi^2}{n!} \times \exp [-|a|^2 - |\beta|^2 + \alpha^* \beta^* \tanh r - xy \tanh r + \alpha^* x \text{sech} r + \beta^* y \text{sech} r]$$

$$\times \exp [((\alpha \cos \frac{\varphi}{2} - \beta \sin \frac{\varphi}{2}) a^\dagger + (\alpha \sin \frac{\varphi}{2} + \beta \cos \frac{\varphi}{2}) b^\dagger)] |00\rangle \mid_{x=y=0}. \quad (30)$$

Thus, by further inserting the completeness relation of coherent states and using Eq. (21), the parity measurement in realistic case is calculated as

$$\langle \Pi_b^{loss} \rangle = C_1 \hat{D}_n \exp [C_2 + C_3 + C_4 + C_5] , \quad (31)$$

where

$$C_1 = \frac{\text{sech}^2 r}{\sqrt{\omega_1}},$$

$$C_2 = \frac{\mu_1 \varepsilon_1}{\omega_1} \left[ 1 - (\epsilon_1^2 + \epsilon_2 \epsilon_3) \tanh^2 r \right],$$

$$C_3 = \frac{\mu_1^2 \epsilon_1 \epsilon_2}{\omega_1} \tanh r,$$

$$C_4 = \frac{\varepsilon_1^2 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_3}{\omega_1} \tanh^3 r,$$

$$C_5 = (\epsilon_1 x + \epsilon_3 y) \tau \text{sech}^2 r + \epsilon_1 \epsilon_3 (\tau \text{sech} r)^2 \tanh r - (\tau r + xy) \tanh r . \quad (32)$$

and

$$\omega_1 = \left( (\epsilon_1^2 + \epsilon_2 \epsilon_3) \tanh^2 r - 1 \right)^2 - 4 \epsilon_1^2 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_3 \tanh^4 r,$$

$$\mu_1 = (\epsilon_1 x + \epsilon_3 y) \text{sech} r \tanh r + (2 \epsilon_1 \epsilon_3 r \tanh^2 r + t) \text{sech} r,$$

$$\varepsilon_1 = -T_1 \cos \varphi ,$$

$$\varepsilon_2 = 1 - T_1 (1 + \sin \varphi),$$

$$\varepsilon_3 = 1 - T_1 (1 - \sin \varphi) , \quad (33)$$

where $\varphi \rightarrow \varphi + \pi/2$ is used again. In particular, when $T_1 = 1$, i.e., the ideal case, Eq. (31) can be simplified to be Eq. (23). Furthermore, when $n = 0$, Eq. (31) becomes $\langle \Pi_b^{loss} \rangle = \frac{\text{sech}^2 r}{\sqrt{\omega_0}}$, as expected. Using the expectation value $\langle \Pi_b^{loss} \rangle$ of parity operator under external photon losses in Eq. (31), we can further obtain the phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi$ by using

$$\Delta \varphi = \frac{\Delta \Pi_b^{loss}}{|\partial \langle \Pi_b^{loss} \rangle / \partial \varphi|} . \quad (34)$$

which is similar to deriving Eq. (23).

According to Eq. (34), we can further investigate the phase sensitivity when the Laguerre polynomial excited squeezed state as input of MZI. As shown in Fig. 3, for both ideal and realistic cases, the phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi$ is plotted as the function of the squeezing parameter $r$ and the transmissivity $T_1$ of $B_{T_1}$ for some given parameters. From Fig. 3, it is clear that the phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi$ in the case of external dissipation is worse than that in the ideal case ($T_1 = 1$). However, $\Delta \varphi$ can be still improved with the increase of the excited photon number $n$ for any $r$. In addition, it is found from Fig. 3(b) that $\Delta \varphi$ can be improved with the increase of $T_1$.

Fig. 4 presents the relation between the phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi$ and the phase shift $\varphi$ for different excited photon-number $n$ and $T_1$ as well as given parameter $r = 0.7$. From Fig. 4(a), it is shown that (i) in the ideal case ($T_1 = 1$), the optimal phase sensitivity is at the point with $\varphi = 0$, and it becomes better as $n$ increases. Compared with the TMSV as inputs, however, the improved region of $\Delta \varphi$ becomes smaller with the increase of $n$. (ii) For the realistic case (say $T_1 = 0.95$), the optimal point of the phase sensitivity will deviate from $\varphi = 0$, and the $\Delta \varphi$ value corresponding to optimal point decreases with the increase of $n$. It is interesting to notice that, even in the realistic case, the phase sensitivity still surpass that by the TMSV in the ideal case, but the improved region of $\varphi$ becomes smaller with the increase of $n$ which is similar to the ideal case.

On the other hand, the energy is an important index to measure the phase sensitivity, here we further consider the phase estimation when fixing the total initial energy. Fig. 4(b) shows the phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi$ as the
function of $\varphi$ for different $n$ and $T_1$ as well as given total average photon number $\bar{N} = 8$. It is found that (i) in the ideal case ($T_1 = 1$), the optimal phase sensitivity is at the point with $\varphi = 0$, but it becomes worse as $n$ increases, which is the opposite to the above situation. However, it is interesting that the improved region of $\Delta \varphi$ becomes bigger with the increase of $n$, i.e., the phase sensitivity is more stable with respect to the phase shift. This implies that, when fixing the total initial energy, although the optimal phase sensitivity becomes worse, the improved region will become broader and more stable. (ii) In the realistic case (say $T_1 = 0.95$), it is clearly seen that external dissipation causes the optimal phase to deviate from $\varphi = 0$ and the optimal value of $\Delta \varphi$ decreases with the increase of $n$, i.e., the phase sensitivity becomes higher as $n$ increases which is similar to the case in Fig. 4(a). In addition, the improved region becomes bigger as $n$ increases, which is different from the case in Fig. 4(a). In a word, the phase sensitivity in the realistic case increases with the excited photon number, whether the initial energy is fixed or not.

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**B. Effects of photon losses between phase shifter and BS2 (internal dissipation)**

In this subsection, we examine the effects of photon losses between phase shifter and BS2 on the phase sensitivity. We name the photon losses between them as internal dissipation, as shown in Fig. 2(b). In a similar way, we adopt an optical BS $B_{T_2}$ with a factor $T_2$ to simulate the internal photon-losses process, whose transform relation is

$$B_{T_2}^{\dagger} \left( \begin{array}{c} b \\ f_2 \end{array} \right) B_{T_2} = \left( \begin{array}{cc} \sqrt{T_2} & \sqrt{1-T_2} \\ -\sqrt{1-T_2} & \sqrt{T_2} \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} b \\ f_2 \end{array} \right),$$

where $f_2$ ($f_2^\dagger$) are photon annihilation (creation) operators corresponding to the dissipative mode $f_2$ of $B_{T_2}$ and $T_2$ is the transmissivity of $B_{T_2}$. In this case, the average value of parity detection can be calculated as

$$\langle \Pi_b^{\text{loss}} \rangle = \langle \langle \Pi_b^{\text{loss}} | \langle \Pi_b^{\text{loss}} \rangle \rangle$$

where $|\text{in}\rangle$ is the input state of MZI, and $\Pi_b^{\text{loss}}$ is the equivalent operator of the entire lossy interferometer, including parity detection, given by

$$\Pi_b^{\text{loss}} = f_2 \langle \langle \Pi_b^{\text{loss}} | B_1^{\dagger} U^\dagger (\varphi) B_2^{\dagger} e^{i\pi b} B_2 B_{T_2} U (\varphi) B_1 | \text{in} \rangle \rangle,$$

where $B_1 (-\pi/2) = e^{-i \frac{\pi}{2} T_1}$ and $B_2 (\pi/2) = e^{i \frac{\pi}{2} T_1}$ are BS1 and BS2 operators, respectively, and satisfy the fol-
owing transform relation:

\[
B_1^\dagger \left( \begin{array}{c} a \\ b \end{array} \right) B_1 = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left( \begin{array}{cc} 1 & -i \\ -i & 1 \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} a \\ b \end{array} \right)
\]

\[
B_2^\dagger \left( \begin{array}{c} a \\ b \end{array} \right) B_2 = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \left( \begin{array}{cc} 1 & i \\ i & 1 \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c} a \\ b \end{array} \right)
\]

(37)

and \( U(\varphi) = e^{-i\varphi J_3} \) is the phase shifter.

In a similar way to deriving Eq. (28), by using Eqs. (35)–(37) and (15), one can obtain the normal ordering of \( \Pi_{b}^{\text{loss}} \), i.e.,

\[
\Pi_{b}^{\text{loss}} = e^{X_1 a^\dagger a - X_2 b^\dagger b - X_3 a^\dagger b + X_3 b^\dagger a},
\]

(38)

where

\[
X_1 = -\frac{2\sqrt{T_2 \sin \varphi} + 1 + T_2}{2},
\]

\[
X_2 = \frac{(T_2 + 1)^2 - 4T_2 \sin^2 \varphi}{2(iT_2 - i + 2\sqrt{T_2 \cos \varphi})},
\]

\[
X_3 = \frac{2\sqrt{T_2 \sin \varphi - 1 - T_2}}{2},
\]

(39)

where \( \varphi \rightarrow \varphi + \pi/2 \). In particular, when \( T_2 = 1 \) corresponding to the ideal case, we have \( X_1 \rightarrow -\sin \varphi - 1, X_2 = \cos \varphi, X_3 = \sin \varphi - 1 \). Then \( \Pi_{b}^{\text{loss}} \rightarrow e^{(-\sin \varphi - 1)a^\dagger a - \cos \varphi (b^\dagger b + b^\dagger a) + (\sin \varphi - 1)b^\dagger b} \), as expected (reduces to Eq. (22)).

In our scheme, the input state is given by Eq. (4). Thus, by using Eqs. (14), (21), and (38), and inserting completeness relation of coherent states, we can get the expectation value of \( \Pi_{b}^{\text{loss}} \) under the input state, which is given by

\[
\left\langle \Pi_{b}^{\text{loss}} \right\rangle = D_1 \hat{D}_n \{ \exp [D_2 + D_3 + D_4 + D_5] \},
\]

(40)

where

\[
D_1 = \frac{\text{sech}^2 r}{\sqrt{\omega_2}},
\]

\[
D_2 = \frac{\mu_2 X_2 (1 - E \tanh^2 r)}{\omega_2},
\]

\[
D_3 = -\frac{\mu_2 X_3 (X_3 + 1)}{\omega_2} \tanh r,
\]

\[
D_4 = \frac{X_2^2 (X_1 X_3 - X_2)}{\omega_2} \tanh^3 r,
\]

\[
D_5 = \frac{X_2^2 (X_1 X_3 - X_2)}{\omega_2} \tanh^3 r + (-X_1 X_3^2 - X_2^2) t^2 \tanh^2 r \tanh r - xy \tanh r - t \tau \tanh r,
\]

(41)

\[\omega_2 = \left( 1 - E \tanh^2 r \right)^2 - 4 |X_2|^2 (X_1 + 1) (X_3 + 1) \tanh^4 r,
\]

\[\mu_2 = (X_3^2 y + X_1 x + x) \tanh r \tanh r - 2 (X_1 + 1) X_2^* t \tanh^2 r \tanh r + \tau \tanh r,
\]

\[x_2 = E t \tanh r \tanh r + (X_3 + 1) y \tanh r - X_2 \tanh r,
\]

\[E = |X_2|^2 + X_1 X_3 + X_3 + X_1 + 1.
\]

(42)

For the ideal case of \( T_2 = 1 \), Eq. (40) reduces to Eq. (23), as expected. In addition, when \( n = 0 \), Eq. (40) becomes \( \left\langle \Pi_{b}^{\text{loss}} \right\rangle = \frac{\text{sech}^2 r}{\sqrt{\omega_2}} \). Eq. (40) is just the parity signal in the presence of internal dissipation, and it is ready to obtain the phase sensitivity combining Eqs. (34) and (40).

![FIG. 5: For the photon number \( n = 0, 1, 2, 3 \), (a) the phase sensitivity \( \Delta \varphi \) as a function of the squeezing parameters \( r \), for the phase shift \( \varphi = 0.001 \), the transmissivity of \( B_{T2} T_2 = 1 \) and \( T_2 = 0.95 \), (b) for \( r = 0.7 \) and \( \varphi = 0.05 \), \( \Delta \varphi \) as a function of \( T_2 \).](image-url)
In addition, comparing Figs. 3 and 4 with Figs. 5 and 6, it is ready to see the difference between internal dissipation and external one on the phase sensitivity. It is found that the external dissipation has a greater impact on the phase measurement accuracy than the internal dissipation. To clearly see this point, at fixed $\varphi = 0.05$, $r = 0.7$, we give the phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi$ as a function of $T_1$ ($T_2$) for several different $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$ as shown in Fig. 7. This result implies that, to get a better precision of phase measurement, special attention should be paid to the control of external photon losses.

In order to further clearly see the difference between internal and external dissipations, we plot the phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi$ as a function of the squeezing parameter $r$ for different excited photon number $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$ (optimized over the parameter $\varphi$) in Fig. 8. Here the SQL and the HL are also plotted for comparison. From Fig. 8, it is shown that (i) $\Delta \varphi$ can break the SQL and the HL for $n = 0$ [see Fig. 8(a)]. (ii) $\Delta \varphi$ can break through the SQL in a certain range of $r$. In particular, $\Delta \varphi$ with the internal dissipation can break through the SQL in a larger squeezing region than that with the external dissipation.

![Fig. 6](image1.png)

**FIG. 6:** The phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi$ as a function of the phase shift $\varphi$, for the photon number $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$, the transmissivity of $T_1=T_2=1$ and $T_2=0.95$, (a) for the squeezing parameter $r=0.7$, (b) for the total average photon number $N=8$.

![Fig. 7](image2.png)

**FIG. 7:** Comparing the influence of two dissipation ways on the phase sensitivity $\Delta \varphi$ for the photon number $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$.

### IV. Effects of Photon Losses on the QFI

The QFI theoretically gives the optimal accuracy of phase estimation independent of special measures, but this optimal accuracy is also affected by the photon losses in the realistic environment. In this section, we mainly consider the influences of photon losses along the path of photon interferometer on the QFI. As shown in Fig. 9, for simplicity, we assume that photon losses exist in the optical path of mode $b$, and the sources of photon losses is mainly located before and after the phase shift, which are respectively simulated by two optical BSs of $B_{n_1}$ and $B_{n_2}$, where $n_1 = n_2 = \eta$ are transmissivities of $B_{n_1}$ and $B_{n_2}$, related to the dissipation factor of photon losses.

According to the research on the bounds for error estimation in noisy systems of Escher et al. [50], in this case, the QFI $F_Q$ can be calculated by the following equation:

$$F_Q \leq C_Q = 4 \left[ \langle \psi | H_1 | \psi \rangle - | \langle \psi | \hat{H}_2 | \psi \rangle |^2 \right],$$

where the state $| \psi \rangle = e^{-i\hat{H}_1} | \text{Lagu} \rangle$ is the correlated probe state after the input state $| \text{Lagu} \rangle$ is injected into the first optical BS (BS1) of MZI, and Hermitian operators $\hat{H}_{1,2}$ are defined by

$$\hat{H}_1 = \sum_l \frac{d\hat{\Pi}_l(\varphi)}{d\varphi} \frac{d\hat{\Pi}_l(\varphi)}{d\varphi},$$

$$\hat{H}_2 = i \sum_l \frac{d\hat{\Pi}_l(\varphi)}{d\varphi} \hat{\Pi}_l(\varphi),$$

where $\hat{\Pi}_l(\varphi)$ are Kraus operators, i.e.,

$$\hat{\Pi}_l(\varphi) = \sqrt{\frac{1 - \eta}{l!}} e^{-i\varphi \sum_{a=1}^{l} a \hat{a} \hat{a}^\dagger} \eta^{\hat{b} \hat{b}^\dagger}. \tag{45}$$

where $\gamma = 0$ and $\gamma = -1$ represent the photon losses before and after the phase shifter, respectively. $\eta$ is related to the dissipation factor with $\eta = 1$ and $\eta = 0$ being the cases of complete lossless and absorption, respectively.
obtained will lead to the minimum value of photon losses, where the optimal value of \( \gamma \). Minimizing over the parameter \( \gamma \) in Eq. (46) will lead to the minimum value of \( C_Q \) in the presence of photon losses, where the optimal value of \( \gamma \) can be obtained

\[
\gamma_{\text{opt}} = \frac{\eta \langle \Delta^2 \hat{n}_b \rangle - \text{Cov} [\hat{n}_a, \hat{n}_b] - \eta \langle \hat{n}_b \rangle}{(1 - \eta) (\Delta^2 \hat{n}_b) + \eta \langle \hat{n}_b \rangle}.
\]

Thus substituting Eq. (47) into Eq. (46), the minimum value of \( C_Q \) can be ready to obtain.

Using Eqs. (1) and (3) and the transform relations

\[
e^{i \frac{2}{3} \hat{n}_a} e^{-i \frac{2}{3} \hat{n}_b} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} (a - ib),
\]

\[
e^{i \frac{2}{3} \hat{n}_a} e^{-i \frac{2}{3} \hat{n}_b} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} (b - ia),
\]

one can obtain

\[
\langle \hat{n}_a \rangle = \langle \hat{n}_b \rangle = n \cosh^2 r + (n + 1) \sinh^2 r,
\]

\[
\langle \hat{n}_a^2 \rangle = \langle \hat{n}_b^2 \rangle = (3n^2 + n) \frac{\cosh^4 r}{2} + (3n^2 + 5n + 2) \frac{\sinh^4 r}{2} + (3n^2 + 3n + 1) \frac{\sinh^2 (2r)}{2},
\]
and
\[
\langle \hat{n}_a \hat{n}_b \rangle = \left( n^2 - n \right) \frac{\cosh^4 r}{2} + \left( n^2 + 3n + 2 \right) \frac{\sinh^4 r}{2} + \frac{n^2 + n}{2} \sinh^2 (2r).
\] (50)

By combining Eq. (46) with Eq. (47) and further using Eq. (49) and Eq. (50), we can get the value of \( \gamma_{opt} \) and the minimum value of \( C_Q \), i.e. the QFI \( F_Q \) for the phase shift in the presence of photon losses in MZI, not shown here for simplicity. In particular, for the case of the transmissivity \( \eta = 1 \) corresponding to the ideal case, the expression for \( F_Q \) just reduces to Eq. (11), as expected.

Based on these formulas, we can clearly discuss the relation between QFI and related parameters. In Fig. 10, we present the QFI \( F_Q \) as a function of the transmissivity \( \eta \) for different photon number \( n = 0, 1, 2, 3 \) under given the squeezing parameter \( r = 0.7 \). From Fig. 10, it is clearly seen that the \( F_Q \) increases with the increase of \( \eta \) or \( n \). This indicates that although photon losses can reduce the QFI, it can be significantly improved by increasing the excited photon number. In addition, with the increasing of \( \eta \), the increasing of \( n \) has more clear improvement on the QFI.

Fig. 11 shows the QFI \( F_Q \) and the QCRB as a function of the squeezing parameter \( r \) for the different transmissivity \( \eta = 1, 0.8 \) and excited photon number \( n = 0, 1, 2, 3 \). It is shown that the \( F_Q \) can be increased by increasing the excited photon number \( n \) or the squeezing parameter \( r \). In particular, the difference of \( F_Q \) between ideal and photon-loss cases increase as \( n \) or \( r \), which becomes more clear in the small squeezing region. This implies that, in a realistic case, the \( F_Q \) with a higher excited photon-number is more susceptible to the environment, especially in small squeezing region. In addition, the case becomes less obvious in large squeezing region. This case is true for the QCRB where \( \Delta \phi_{QCRB} = 1/\sqrt{F_Q} \), see Fig. 11(b).

In order to further clearly see the relation between the QCRB and the SQL, the HL, we plot the QCRB \( \Delta \phi_{QCRB} \) as a function of the squeezing parameter \( r \) for different excited photon number \( n = 0, 1, 2, 3 \) and both ideal and realistic cases in Fig. 12. Here the SQL and the HL are also plotted for comparison. From Fig. 12, it is clear that (i) for the case of \( n = 0 \) corresponding to the TMSV, the QCRB can break the SQL and the HL. In fact, considering the TMSVs as inputs of the ideal MZI, it is found that \( \Delta \phi_{QCRB} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N^2 + 2N}} \) which exceeds the HL defined as \( \frac{1}{N} \) [27]. (ii) for the cases of \( n = 1, 2, 3 \), the QCRB is between the SQL and the HL. In particular, for the ideal case of \( \eta = 1 \), the QCRB with \( n = 1 \) basically coincides with the HL. (iii) the QCRB can almost saturate the HL as the increasing of \( r \). Although the QCRB breaks the HL at \( n = 0 \), the QCB can still be improved with increasing \( n \). In addition, the difference between ideal and realistic cases becomes smaller with increasing \( r \). These results imply that although the QCRB can break the HL for the TMSV, the QCRB can be further improved by introducing excited photon number.
V. CONCLUSION

In summary, we introduced a kind of non-Gaussian state, i.e., Laguerre polynomial excited squeezed state as input of the traditional MZI. Then we first investigated the phase sensitivity with parity detection and the QFI in ideal case. In particular, we derived an equivalent operator by using the Weyl ordering invariance under similarity transformations, whose normal ordering form is given. It is convenient to calculate the average of parity operator using the equivalent operator for any input state of the traditional MZI. This method is also effect when considering the realistic case.

We further examined the effects of photon losses on the phase sensitivity, including internal and external losses. It is found that the external loss presents a bigger influence than the internal one. Moreover, the phase sensitivity can be improved with the increase of the excited photon number $n$ for any squeezing parameter $r$. Specially speaking, the optimal phase sensitivity is at the point with $\varphi = 0$, and becomes better as $n$ increases for the ideal case. For the realistic case, however, the optimal point of the phase sensitivity will deviate from $\varphi = 0$, and the $\Delta \varphi$ value corresponding to optimal point decreases with the increase of $n$. It is interesting that even in the realistic case, the phase sensitivity still surpass that by the TMSV in the ideal case, but the improved region of $\varphi$ becomes smaller with the increase of $n$. When fixing the total input photon number, the phase sensitivity can also be enhanced by increasing $n$ in the realistic case, although this case is not true in the ideal case.

In addition, we investigated the effects of photon losses on the QFI. It is shown that although the QFI will reduce due to the photon losses, it can still increase as the squeezing parameter $r$ or the photon number $n$. But the $F_Q$ with a higher excited photon-number is more susceptible to the environment, which becomes more clear in the small squeezing region. The QCRB $\Delta \varphi_{QCRB}$ can break the SQL and even beat the HL, which can be further improved by introducing excited photon number. These results can be effectively applied to improve the accuracy of phase measurement in the realistic case.

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