Quantum-field dynamics of expanding and contracting Bose-Einstein condensates

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We analyze the dynamics of quantum statistics in a harmonically trapped Bose-Einstein condensate, whose two-body interaction strength is controlled via a Feshbach resonance. From an initially non-interacting coherent state, the quantum field undergoes Kerr squeezing, which can be qualitatively described with a single mode model. To render the effect experimentally accessible, we propose a homodyne scheme, based on two hyperfine components, which converts the quadrature squeezing into number squeezing. The scheme is numerically demonstrated using a two-component Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov formalism.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Multimode quantum fields are the appropriate description for a vast array of phenomena in high-energy physics, condensed matter physics and cosmology, but they are notoriously difficult to analyze theoretically. Unlike many quantum fields, it appears feasible that those describing degenerate Bose and Fermi gases can be experimentally manipulated, detected and studied. The development of techniques for this could have broad influence on a variety of outstanding problems in physics.

Understanding the many-body quantum state of a Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC) is relevant for systems including: squeezed atom-lasers \textsuperscript{1}, simulations of cosmological particle production in the early universe \textsuperscript{2, 3, 4}, and the quantitative description of collapsing condensates due to attractive interactions \textsuperscript{5, 6}. The quantum field equations describing expanding and collapsing condensates are analogues of those describing a quantum field on a curved space-time \textsuperscript{2}. Learning to experimentally manipulate and study the analogue system provided by expanding and collapsing condensates promises us a new window on processes such as signature change that may be relevant for the evolution of the early universe \textsuperscript{9}. The quantum field of expanding and contracting condensates is the subject of this paper.

While quantum-field models exist to approximately describe the time-evolution of Gaussian quantum states in such non-equilibrium situations \textsuperscript{10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19}, they require us to specify the initial quantum state of the condensate, which is complicated if interactions are present \textsuperscript{20, 21, 22}.

Due to the controllability of atomic interactions by Feshbach resonances, quantum field dynamics in a BEC can however be examined starting from a non-interacting initial state. Then, we assume that the many-body quantum state is represented by a coherent state; perhaps originating from a mixture of all different phases, as in the optical laser \textsuperscript{22}. This initial situation was realized in experiments on collapsing Bose-Einstein condensates with attractive interactions \textsuperscript{24}. We also theoretically consider it here, but with interactions suddenly rendered attractive or repulsive.

We show that the condensate’s state evolves from coherent to quadrature squeezed due to the Kerr effect. For repulsive interactions a single-mode model provides a qualitative description of the squeezing. However, a multi-mode analysis is required for a quantitative description, especially in the attractive case.

The experimental detection of quadrature squeezing requires a phase-reference, such as in homodyne detection \textsuperscript{25}. We propose such a scheme based on a splitting of the Bose-Einstein condensate into two separately conserved hyperfine components. We demonstrate the proposal using two-component Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov (HFB) theory with realistic experimental parameters. The homodyne detection is found reliable even in the presence of imperfections like interactions between the local oscillator component and the squeezing field. Also the Kerr squeezing of the local oscillator itself does not prevent us from attaining a measurable reduction of the number variance.

A single mode model of Kerr squeezing has previously been found useful despite the presence of multi-mode effects \textsuperscript{21}. The authors of Ref. \textsuperscript{11} also observe that the interference of two quadrature squeezed atom-lasers can yield a number squeezed state, in accordance with our successful simulation of the homodyne scheme with squeezed local oscillator. In contrast to Ref. \textsuperscript{11}, which is focussed on the creation of a squeezed atom laser, we consider a simpler setup and target studies of quantum field dynamics. A core ingredient in our work is a Feshbach resonance, allowing the use of a simple coherent initial state.

This paper is organized as follows. Section \textsuperscript{11} provides a brief overview of the three quantum theories employed: the single mode model, HFB theory and the truncated Wigner approximation (TWA). In section \textsuperscript{11} we analyse Kerr squeezing in a harmonically trapped condensate and in section \textsuperscript{11} we propose a matter-wave homodyne scheme to detect it. Technical details regarding variances in the

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II. METHODS

An ensemble of Bose condensed atoms in a harmonic trap is described by the many-body Hamiltonian

\[ \hat{H} = \int d^3x \hat{\Psi}^\dagger(x) \hat{H}_0(x) \hat{\Psi}(x) + \frac{U_0}{2} \hat{\Psi}^\dagger(x) \hat{V} \hat{\Psi}(x) \hat{\Psi}(x), \tag{1} \]

where

\[ \hat{H}_0(x) = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \nabla_x^2 + V(x) \tag{2} \]

is the single particle Hamiltonian, and \( \hat{\Psi}(x) \) denotes the field operator in the Heisenberg picture that annihilates atoms of mass \( m \) at position \( x \). We have assumed a contact interaction of strength \( U_0 \) and a spherically symmetric harmonic potential \( V(x) = m\omega^2x^2/2 \). Note that we use the physical coupling for the parameter \( U_0 \) directly, rather than the bare coupling, which we justify in section II B. The Heisenberg equation for the field operator is:

\[ i\hbar \frac{\partial \hat{\Psi}(x)}{\partial t} = \hat{H}_0 \hat{\Psi}(x) + U_0 \hat{\Psi}^\dagger(x) \hat{\Psi}(x) \hat{\Psi}(x). \tag{3} \]

In the following subsections we briefly introduce several methods to obtain approximate solutions to this multimode quantum field problem.

A. Single mode Kerr squeezing

Among the single particle bases in which we can analyze the atom-field dynamics of Eq. (3), the harmonic oscillator basis takes a special role. The condensate is initially assumed to be non-interacting and in the trap ground state. Thus in the oscillator basis we assume it is in a coherent state of one single particle mode. Let us expand the field operator as:

\[ \hat{\Psi}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \varphi_k(x) \hat{a}_k. \]

The \( \varphi_k(x) \) are the eigenstates of the single particle Hamiltonian for a harmonic potential, with a collective index \( k \) labelling all quantum numbers. The operator \( \hat{a}_k \) annihilates an atom in eigenstate \( \varphi_k(x) \), with

\[ \hat{H}_0 \varphi_k(x) = \hbar \omega_k \varphi_k(x). \]

Using this expansion, we can rewrite Eq. (3) as:

\[ i\hbar \frac{\partial \hat{a}_k}{\partial t} = \hbar \omega_k \hat{a}_k + \sum_{l,m} U_{klmn} \hat{a}_l^\dagger \hat{a}_m \hat{a}_n. \tag{4} \]

The \( U_{klmn} \) are overlap integrals of the form

\[ U_{klmn} = U_0 \int d^3x \ \varphi_k^\dagger(x) \varphi_l^\dagger(x) \varphi_m(x) \varphi_n(x). \tag{5} \]

Initially all the atoms are in state \( \varphi_0(x) \), and for short times we can approximate Eq. (4) by:

\[ i\hbar \frac{\partial \hat{a}_0}{\partial t} = \hbar \omega_0 \hat{a}_0 + U_{0000} \hat{a}_0^\dagger \hat{a}_0. \tag{6} \]

Using the trap ground state \( \varphi_0(x) = A \exp[-r^2/(2\sigma^2)] \) with \( A = (\pi \sigma^2)^{-3/4} \), \( \sigma = (\hbar m/\omega)^{-1/2} \), we find \( U_{0000} = U_0(2\pi \sigma^2)^{-3/2} \). The ground state energy term in Eq. (6) can be eliminated using rotating frame operators: \( \hat{b} = \exp(i\omega_0 t) \hat{a}_0 \). The equation of motion then becomes:

\[ i \hbar \frac{\partial \hat{b}}{\partial t} = -\chi \hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b}, \]

where \( \chi = U_{0000}/\hbar \). It is known that this operator equation gives rise to Kerr squeezing in the evolution of the quantum state. Further details can be found in Ref. [25]. Here we merely state the most important facts.

One can define quadratures for the state \( \varphi_0(x) \) as:

\[ \hat{X}^\theta = \hat{a}_0^\dagger e^{i\theta} + \hat{a}_0 e^{-i\theta}. \tag{7} \]

The variance of these operators, \( |\Delta \hat{X}^\theta|^2 = \langle [\hat{X}^\theta]^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{X}^\theta \rangle^2 \), gives information about the shape of the quantum state’s Wigner function in phase-space [25]. In the Kerr effect the variance in one quadrature \( \theta_{\text{sqz}} \) drops below the value for a coherent state \( |\Delta \hat{X}_c|^2 = 1 \), while for the orthogonal quadrature \( \theta_{\text{sqz}} + \pi/2 \) it increases.

B. Hartree-Fock-Bogoliubov theory

To go beyond the previous section and include multimode aspects of the quantum evolution, we make use of the HFB formalism [10, 11, 12, 13]. Thus we decompose \( \hat{\Psi}(x) \) into a condensate part \( \phi(x) \) and quantum fluctuations \( \chi(x) \), such that \( \hat{\Psi}(x) = \phi(x) + \chi(x) \) and \( \langle \hat{\Psi}(x) \rangle = \phi(x) \). The quantum fluctuations can be described in terms of their lowest order correlation functions: the normal density \( G_N(x,x') = \langle \chi^\dagger(x') \chi(x) \rangle \) and anomalous density \( G_A(x,x') = \langle \chi(x') \chi(x) \rangle \). The resulting equations of motion and their implementation for a spherically symmetric, trapped condensate have been described in Refs. [7, 8].

We now explain how to calculate variances of the oscillator ground state quadratures in HFB theory. Since we have \( \hat{a}_k = \int d^3x \varphi_k^\dagger(x) \hat{\Psi}(x) \), we can use

\[ \langle \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_{k'} \rangle = \int d^3x \int d^3x' \varphi_{k'}(x') \varphi_k^\dagger(x) \langle \hat{\Psi}^\dagger(x') \hat{\Psi}(x) \rangle. \tag{8} \]

Expressions like Eq. (8) are all we need to extract the quadrature variance of the trap ground state \( |\Delta \hat{X}_0|^2 \) from our HFB simulations using spherical symmetry (described in [12]). The result for the variance of the \( \theta \) quadrature is:

\[ |\Delta \hat{X}_0^\theta|^2 = 1 + 2 \int d^3x \int d^3x' \left[ \varphi_0(x') \varphi_0(x)^* G_N(x,x') + 2 \text{Re} \left\{ \varphi_0(x') \varphi_0(x)^* G_A(x,x') e^{-2i\theta} \right\} \right]. \tag{9} \]
For our analysis of the homodyne scheme we are also interested in the variance of the total atom number.  Using \( N = \int d^3x \hat{\Psi}^\dagger(x) \hat{\Psi}(x) \) we derive:

\[
[\Delta \hat{N}]^2 = N_{\text{tot}} + \int d^3x \int d^3x' \left[ 2\Re \{ \phi^\dagger(x) \phi^\dagger(x') G_A(x, x') \} + 2\phi^\dagger(x) \phi(x') G_N(x, x') + \left[ G_A(x, x')^2 + |G_N(x, x')|^2 \right] \right].
\]

Further details about the form of Eqs. (9) and (10) that we use for numerical solutions in spherically symmetric situations, are given in appendix A.

In this work we have found that the results are independent of the numerical cutoff \( K = \pi/\Delta x \), where \( \Delta x \) is the grid spacing, only without coupling renormalization.  As previously noted [12, 26], the diagonal part of \( G_A \) is the only divergent quantity in the formalism.  However, this contributes negligibly to the variances of interest here, Eqs. (9) and (10).

C. Truncated Wigner theory

We have highlighted the value of verifying numerical quantum-field theory results for a BEC by using two quite different formalisms in Ref. [8].  Here we follow the same approach, by investigating quadrature squeezing using the HFB method as well as the truncated Wigner approximation (TWA) [14, 15, 16, 17, 19].  We have given a compact summary of the method and its implementation in Ref. [8].  Our TWA simulations are based on solutions of the relevant stochastic differential equation in the harmonic oscillator basis [18].  The theory is then expressed in terms of the stochastic wave function \( \alpha(x) = \sum_n \alpha_n \phi_n(x) \).

To determine the quadrature variances in this framework, we use the appropriate correspondences between averages of the stochastic wave functions and operator expectation values.  Most importantly [13]:

\[
\overline{\alpha_n^\dagger \alpha_m} \to \frac{1}{2} \left( \langle \hat{\Psi}^\dagger_n \hat{\Psi}_m \rangle + \langle \hat{\Psi}_m \hat{\Psi}^\dagger_n \rangle \right)
\]

Using Eq. (11) we obtain

\[
[\Delta \hat{X}]^2 = 2 \left\{ \overline{\alpha_0^\dagger \alpha_0} - |\alpha_0|^2 \right\} + 2\Re \left\{ \overline{\alpha_0^\dagger \alpha_0} - |\alpha_0|^2 \right\} e^{-2i\theta} \right\}. \tag{12}
\]

III. SQUEEZING OF THE GROUND-STATE

In this section we discuss our simulations of ground state quadrature squeezing in a harmonically trapped condensate using the TWA and HFB.  We begin with a \(^{87}\)Rb condensate of 6000 atoms in a spherical trap with \( \omega = 12.8 \times 2\pi \) Hz.  Initially, the interaction between the atoms is tuned to zero by use of a Feshbach resonance so that all atoms occupy the trap ground state.  The scattering length is then suddenly switched to an either attractive or repulsive value, which we label \( a_{\text{dyn}} \).

We consider two cases: scenario I with \( a_{\text{dyn}} = -12a_0 \) and scenario II with \( a_{\text{dyn}} = +12a_0 \).  In scenario I the condensate contracts, as expected.  We evolve it for 5 ms, which is less than the Gross-Pitaevskii/HFB collapse time 24 of about 7.5 ms for this interaction strength 7.  More than 96% of the population stays in the trap ground state mode for these 5 ms.  All this is shown in Fig. 1.  For the repulsive interactions in scenario II, the BEC is stable and we evolve it for the longer span of 45 ms.  During this time the cloud performs roughly one breathing oscillation as shown in Fig. 1 (b).  Less population is transferred to non-ground state modes than in the attractive case.

We determine the evolution of the quantum state of the condensate in the HFB approximation.  The initial state is a coherent state, with \( G_A = G_N = 0 \), and these correlation functions evolve nonzero values describing the Kerr squeezing.  Our numerical results are shown in Fig. 2.  They show significant quadrature squeezing, which evolves to a maximum and then decreases.  We find the largest squeezing in the repulsive case (Scenario II): up to 9 dB.  These results are compared with the predictions of the single mode model of section II A.  For the repulsive scenario II the single mode model approximates the maximal squeezing attained and the time scale on which it occurs.  For the attractive scenario I the single mode model is accurate only for short times.  This is due to the contractive dynamical instability resulting
in greater production of uncondensed atoms than in the repulsive case [8, 27].

IV. MATTER-WAVE HOMODYNE SCHEME

Experimentally one can measure the uncertainty of observables, such as the total atom number in a BEC, by determining the shot-to-shot variance. However, the Hamiltonian \( \hat{H} \) commutes with the number operator \( \hat{N} = \int d^3x \, \hat{\Psi}^\dagger \hat{\Psi} \), so it, and its statistics, are conserved. The squeezing described in section III must therefore occur along some quadrature angle \( \theta \neq 0 \) of Eq. (7) and cannot be experimentally measured without the phase-reference provided by the local oscillator of a homodyne scheme [25]. Homodyne detection is well established in quantum optics. Its core ingredient is a strong laser beam whose quantum state is coherent. Its phase provides the reference necessary to extract the noise amplitude in any quadrature. In this section we propose a homodyne scheme for Bose-Einstein condensates in a harmonic trap, making use of interference between different hyperfine states of the condensed atoms.

To this end, we consider a condensate with two components denoted by [1] and [2]. Atoms are converted between components by applying electromagnetic fields; for example using microwave and RF fields in the \(^{87}\text{Rb} \) experiments of Ref. [28, 29]. The Hamiltonian for our two component Bose gas is hence

\[
\hat{H} = \int d^3x \left\{ \sum_{i=1,2} \hat{\Psi}_i^\dagger \left( -\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2m} + V \right) \hat{\Psi}_i \right. \\
+ \left. \sum_{i,j=1,2} U_{ij} \hat{\Psi}_i^\dagger \hat{\Psi}_j^\dagger \hat{\Psi}_j + \Omega \hat{\Psi}_i^\dagger \hat{\Psi}_2 + \Omega^* \hat{\Psi}_2^\dagger \hat{\Psi}_1 \right\}. 
\]

(13)

The field operator \( \hat{\Psi}_i(x) \) carries a hyperfine index \( i = 1, 2 \) and its spatial argument is suppressed in Eq. (13). We assume identical traps for both components. There are two intraspecies (\( U_{11} \), \( U_{22} \)) and one interspecies (\( U_{12} = U_{21} \)) interaction strength. The magnitude of the coupling coefficient \( |\Omega| \), the Rabi frequency, controls the rate of conversion between the species. The phase of \( \Omega \) controls the relative phase of the two atomic components (see Sec. IV.B).

A. Homodyne detection

Let \( \hat{\Psi} \) denote an atomic field, represented by component [1], that undergoes Kerr squeezing. The spatial argument \( x \) is suppressed and we will denote \( \hat{\Psi}(x') \) by \( \hat{\Psi}' \). Let \( \hat{\Phi} \) denote the local oscillator atomic field, represented by component [2], which we assume to be at all times in a coherent state \( \langle \hat{\Phi}(x) \rangle = b(x)e^{i\theta(x)} \), with \( b(x) \) and \( \theta(x) \) some real functions. We also assume a large amplitude for the local oscillator,

\[
|b(x)|^2 \gg \langle \hat{\Phi}'(x)\hat{\Phi}(x) \rangle. 
\]

(14)

In the following we denote \( \hat{X}^\theta = \hat{\Psi}e^{-i\theta} + \hat{\Psi}'e^{i\theta} \), where \( \theta(x) \) is abbreviated to \( \theta \), suppressing the spatial dependence, and \( \theta(x') \) is abbreviated to \( \theta' \).

We denote the combined field \( \hat{\varphi} = \hat{\Psi} + \hat{\Phi} \), and determine its number variance; \( |\Delta \hat{N}_{\text{tot}}|^2 = (\langle \hat{N}_{\text{tot}}^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{N}_{\text{tot}} \rangle^2) \) for \( \hat{N}_{\text{tot}} = \int d^3x \, \hat{\varphi}\dagger(x)\hat{\varphi}(x) \). The total number uncertainty can be obtained from:

\[
\langle \hat{N}_{\text{tot}}^2 \rangle = \int d^3x \int d^3x' \\
\times \langle \left( \hat{\Psi} + \hat{\Phi} \right)^\dagger \left( \hat{\Psi} + \hat{\Phi} \right) \left( \hat{\Psi}' + \hat{\Phi}' \right)^\dagger \left( \hat{\Psi}' + \hat{\Phi}' \right) \rangle \\
= \int d^3x \int d^3x' \left\{ \langle \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Psi}'\dagger \hat{\Psi}' \hat{\Psi} \rangle + \langle \hat{\Phi}\dagger \hat{\Phi}'\dagger \hat{\Phi}' \hat{\Phi} \rangle \right. \\
+ \left. \langle \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Phi}'\dagger \hat{\Phi}' \hat{\Psi} \rangle + \langle \hat{\Phi}\dagger \hat{\Psi}'\dagger \hat{\Psi}' \hat{\Phi} \rangle + \langle \hat{\Psi}'\dagger \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Psi} \hat{\Psi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Phi}'\dagger \hat{\Phi}\dagger \hat{\Phi} \hat{\Phi}' \rangle \\
+ \langle \hat{\Psi}'\dagger \hat{\Phi}\dagger \hat{\Phi} \hat{\Psi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Phi}'\dagger \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Psi} \hat{\Phi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Psi}'\dagger \hat{\Phi}\dagger \hat{\Phi} \hat{\Psi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Phi}'\dagger \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Psi} \hat{\Phi}' \rangle \\
+ \langle \hat{\Psi}'\dagger \hat{\Phi}\dagger \hat{\Phi} \hat{\Psi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Phi}'\dagger \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Psi} \hat{\Phi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Psi}'\dagger \hat{\Phi}\dagger \hat{\Phi} \hat{\Psi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Phi}'\dagger \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Psi} \hat{\Phi}' \rangle \\
+ \langle \hat{\Psi}'\dagger \hat{\Phi}\dagger \hat{\Phi} \hat{\Psi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Phi}'\dagger \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Psi} \hat{\Phi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Psi}'\dagger \hat{\Phi}\dagger \hat{\Phi} \hat{\Psi}' \rangle + \langle \hat{\Phi}'\dagger \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Psi} \hat{\Phi}' \rangle \right\} 
\]

and

\[
\langle \hat{N}_{\text{tot}} \rangle = \int d^3x \left( \langle \hat{\Psi}\dagger \hat{\Psi} \rangle + b(x)\langle \hat{\varphi}(x) \rangle \right). 
\]

(15)

In writing Eq. (15) we have factored the correlations between the fields \( \hat{\Psi} \) and \( \hat{\Phi} \). With a strong local oscillator, Eq. (14), we need only retain the leading order in \( b \), and
due to self-interaction in the first and second pulses the Kerr squeezing evolves, and component 1 can be understood by isolating the relevant parts of the oscillations between the hyperfine components. These detail. When it is switched on, the atoms undergo Rabi phase of an RF field, it may be easily adjusted between |t| and |t’|

$$\phi_0 \neq 0$$

We now consider the electromagnetic coupling in more detail. When it is switched on, the atoms undergo Rabi phase of an RF field, it may be easily adjusted between $|t|$ and $|t’|$. The phase of the local oscillator condensate. Through the mixing of the local oscillator with the squeezed field, the quadrature of reduced uncertainty can be rotated into the number “quadrature”.

### B. Component mixing

The experimental scheme we are modeling uses two pulses of radiation resulting in a non-zero $\Omega$ in Eq. (13). The first creates a small component |1⟩ field from an initial, large, non-interacting component |2⟩ field. Component |1⟩ is the field whose squeezing we seek to measure, and component |2⟩ serves as the local oscillator. Between the first and second pulses the Kerr squeezing evolves, due to self-interaction in the |1⟩ component. The second pulse, a time $t_{\text{evolve}}$ after the first, mixes the target field and the local oscillator so that the quadrature squeezing may be inferred from the number variance.

The particular quadrature measured is determined by the phase of the complex coupling $\Omega$. Since this is the phase of an RF field, it may be easily adjusted between the two pulses, allowing access to all quadratures.

We now consider the electromagnetic coupling in more detail. When it is switched on, the atoms undergo Rabi oscillations between the hyperfine components. These can be understood by isolating the relevant parts of the Heisenberg equations for the field operators

$$i\hbar \hat{\Psi}_1 = \Omega \hat{\Psi}_2, \quad i\hbar \hat{\Psi}_2 = \Omega \hat{\Psi}_1.$$ (19)

These have the solutions [30]

$$\hat{\Psi}_1 = \hat{\Psi}_1(0) \cos(|\Omega| t/\hbar) - i \frac{\Omega}{|\Omega|} \hat{\Psi}_2(0) \sin(|\Omega| t/\hbar),$$ (20)

$$\hat{\Psi}_2 = \hat{\Psi}_2(0) \cos(|\Omega| t/\hbar) - i \frac{\Omega}{|\Omega|} \hat{\Psi}_1(0) \sin(|\Omega| t/\hbar).$$ (20)

After $t = t_{\pi/2} = \hbar \pi/(4\Omega)$ the trigonometric functions have the value $1/\sqrt{2}$ and each field has equal contributions from the initial fields, called a $\pi/2$ pulse, with a relative phase determined by the phase of the coupling coefficient $\Omega$. The modulus of $\Omega$ is chosen such that $t_{\pi/2} \ll t_{\text{evolve}}$.

#### C. Feshbach resonances

The situation described in section [IV A] will be difficult to achieve. Since we require more atoms in the local oscillator component |2⟩ than in the component in which we wish to measure Kerr squeezing |1⟩, this configuration will give rise to Kerr squeezing in the local oscillator itself due to its self-interaction ($U_{12}$), invalidating the assumption for it to be in a coherent state. Further, there are interactions between the local oscillator and the component to be measured ($U_{12}$), which can even result in spatial phase separation [31], and will also affect component one’s Kerr squeezing.

Ideally, we would like to set $U_{22} = U_{12} = 0$ using a Feshbach resonance. However, this would require a rare coincidence of resonances in two different scattering channels. Hence we also consider three other options for improving the situation with a Feshbach resonance: (i) increasing $U_{11}$, possibly to the point that $U_{22}$ and $U_{12}$ can be neglected in comparison, (ii) turning off $U_{12}$ only, and (iii) turning off $U_{22}$ only.

We will present detailed results for option (i) and briefly comment on our findings for the other options, including the ideal case.

#### D. Two-component Hartee-Fock-Bogoliubov theory

To investigate the ideas of the previous sections in a full multi-mode quantum field simulation of the homodyne scheme, we employ HFB theory. For the two-component case the simulation uses two condensates, $\phi_i = (\hat{\Psi}_i)$, and six correlation functions, as detailed in appendix [B]. That appendix also gives our HFB equations of motion.

We simulate the evolution of squeezing in component |1⟩ followed by mixing with a highly populated component |2⟩. We show that this reduces the total number variance in one component below the shot-noise limit, given by the number in that component.

Since both $\hat{N}_1 = \int d^3x \hat{\Psi}_1^\dagger \hat{\Psi}_1$ and $\hat{N}_2 = \int d^3x \hat{\Psi}_2^\dagger \hat{\Psi}_2$ commute with the Hamiltonian (13) for $\Omega = 0$, we expect the number variance of each component, Eq. (13), to change only during the mixing step.
E. Numerical results

Now we present two-component HFB simulations of the homodyne scheme proposed in section IV A. We assume the BEC is initially split into a small cloud in component 1, which is to be squeezed, and a larger cloud in component 2, to serve as the local oscillator. We envisage the following creation sequence. After condensation the BEC is adiabatically brought to a non-interacting initial state with all atoms in the same hyperfine component as done in Ref. [24]. Using electromagnetically induced component mixing, the condensate is then split into small and large condensates in different states. This is the starting point of our simulations.

As discussed in section IV C after the splitting we assume that only one of the three couplings \( U_{ij} \) is tuned using a Feshbach resonance. For the other two, we used the scattering lengths of the \( ^{87}\text{Rb} \) hyperfine components 1 = \( |F = 1, m_F = -1 \rangle \) and 2 = \( |F = 2, m_F = 1 \rangle \) \(^{31}^{22}\), which are \( a_{11} = 100.4a_0 \), \( a_{22} = 95.47a_0 \) and \( a_{21} = 98.10a_0 \), where \( a_0 \) is the Bohr radius. We also considered parameters appropriate for \( ^{85}\text{Rb} \). For this case multi-component scattering length data is not available, thus we simply set both non-manipulated scattering lengths to \( a = -443a_0 \) \(^{33}\). The initial numbers are \( N_1 = 600 \), \( N_2 = 5400 \) both in a trap ground state. These states are shown in Fig. 3 (a).

For the results shown in Fig. 3 we increased \( a_{11} \) by a factor of five from its natural value, as in option (i). This is not enough to really make \( U_{22} \) and \( U_{12} \) negligible, however we found stronger interactions were not numerically tractable. In such cases we find that the local oscillator becomes squeezed as well, due to its self interaction, however \( |U_{11}| > |U_{22}| \) ensures that its squeezing does not much exceed that of component one.

For a time \( t_{\text{evolve}} = 0.4 \) ms we see that the ground-state of component one, with \( a_{\text{dyn}} = 502a_0 \), develops a minimum quadrature variance of about 0.86 (0.66 dB squeezing). During this time, since the electromagnetic coupling is off, the relative number variances \( \Delta N_i^2 / N_i \) remain one to within the Gaussian approximation of the HFB method. The slight reduction in the relative number variances seen in Fig. 4 (c,d) is presumed to be due to the development of higher order correlations than can not be treated with the HFB, or TWA, method. After \( t_{\text{evolve}} \), we apply a nonzero coupling for \( t_{\text{pulse}} \approx 5 \) ms, until the components have mixed to equal populations, and the total number variance now reflects the quadrature variance of the ground state of component one before the pulse, for a quadrature angle \( \theta \) which is controlled by the phase of the coupling, \( \arg(\Omega) \). Changing this phase we can pick up anti-squeezed or squeezed quadratures, shown in Fig. 4 (c) and (d) and Fig. 3 (b).

We find that the homodyne scheme reduces the number fluctuations of the atom field after recombination below \( N \) despite squeezing of the local oscillator. Similar findings have been reported in [1].

In the case shown in Fig. 3 corresponding to option (i) section IV C we find that the squeezing does not increase much with further evolution. Although, it should
increase with higher values of $a_{11}$ the results presented here are sufficient to prove the principle of the homodyne scheme. For the other two options, (ii) and (iii) of section [IVC] we found that setting $U_{22}$ to zero without increasing $U_{11}$ results in an even earlier turn-around of the squeezing in component one, which therefore is negligible. Setting $U_{12}$ to zero prevents this, but without increasing $U_{11}$ the local oscillator is much more squeezed than the other component.

Finally, we examined a $^{85}$Rb type scenario, with all three scattering lengths negative. For our simulations we increased the magnitude of $a_{11}$ by a factor of 5. This scenario is feasible if the evolution time is much shorter than the collapse time, but shows an earlier turn-around of squeezing than the corresponding repulsive case.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have shown that harmonically trapped condensates with a Feshbach resonance provide a clean and stable system to study the dynamics of quadrature squeezing in atom-optics. We showed how to implement a matter-wave homodyne scheme and numerically demonstrated it for experimentally feasible parameters.

The insight into the squeezing evolution of vacuum-fluctuations that our scheme affords might be useful for analogue cosmology along the lines proposed in [3, 4].

The Kerr effect studied here eventually gives rise to strongly non-Gaussian quantum fluctuations [25]. These have been conjectured to cause a notable discrepancy between experiment and theory in the collapse time of attractive BECs [8]. This aspect of Kerr squeezing in attractive condensates might merit further study.

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APPENDIX A: QUANTUM VARIANCES IN THE HARTREE-FOCK-BOGOLIUBOV FORMALISM

We also expanded the collective index $k ightarrow nlm$. Further we choose the spherical polar co-ordinate system $r'$, $\phi'$, $\theta'$ for the vector $\mathbf{x}'$ such that its $z$-axis points along the vector $\mathbf{x}$. $\theta'$ then denotes the angle between $\mathbf{x}$ and $\mathbf{x}'$, which appears as argument in the atom field correlation functions for the case of spherical symmetry [2]. Finally we use an expansion of $G_N$ in terms of Legendre polynomials $P_s$:

$$G_N(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \sum_{s=0}^{M} G_N^{(s)}(r, r') P_s(\cos \theta'),$$  \hspace{1cm} (A1)

where $r = |\mathbf{x}|$, $r' = |\mathbf{x}'|$. With this Eq. (8) becomes:

$$\langle \hat{a}_{nlm}^\dagger \hat{a}_{nl'm'} \rangle = \int_0^\infty dr'^2 \int_0^\infty dr'^2 \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_{-1}^{1} d\cos \theta \times \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi' \int_{-1}^{1} d\cos \theta' \sum_{s=0}^{M} Y_{lm'}(\theta', \phi') Y_{lm'}^*(\theta, \phi) P_s(\cos \theta')$$

$$\times G_N^{(s)}(r, r') f_{nl}(r) f_{nl'}(r').$$ \hspace{1cm} (A2)

For the oscillator ground state $Y_{00} = 1/\sqrt{4\pi}$. This allows us to carry out the angular integrations and obtain:

$$\langle \hat{a}_{000}^\dagger \hat{a}_{000} \rangle = 4\pi \int_0^\infty dr'^2 \int_0^\infty dr'^2 G_N^{(0)}(r, r') f_{00}(r) f_{00}(r').$$ \hspace{1cm} (A3)

We have used: $\int_0^1 dx P_m(x) = 2\delta_{m,0}$. Defining $f_{00}(r) = f_{00}(r)/r$ and $G_A^{(m)}(r, r') = G_A^{(m)}(r, r')/rr'$ we finally obtain:

$$\min_{\theta} \left[ \Delta R_{0}^{\theta} \right]^2$$

$$= 1 + 8\pi \left( \int_0^\infty dr \int_0^\infty dr' \left| \langle \hat{\phi}^* (R) \hat{\phi}^* (R') \rangle G_N^{(0)} (R, R') \right| \right).$$  \hspace{1cm} (A4)

Inserting the expansion in Legendre polynomials of the correlation functions into Eq. (10) we can also obtain:

$$[\Delta N]_2 = N_{tot}$$

$$+ 8\pi^2 \int dR \int dR' \left[ Re \{ \hat{\phi}^* (R) \hat{\phi}^* (R') \hat{G}_A^{(0)} (R, R') \} + \hat{\phi}^* (R) \hat{\phi} (R') \hat{G}_A^{(0)} (R, R') \right]$$

$$+ 4\pi^2 \int d^3 x \int d^3 x' \sum_{s=0}^{M} \frac{1}{2s+1}$$

$$\times \left[ \left| \hat{G}_A^{(s)} (R, R') \right|^2 + \left| \hat{G}_N^{(s)} (R, R') \right|^2 \right].$$ \hspace{1cm} (A5)
APPENDIX B: TWO-COMPONENT HARTREE-FOCK-BOGOLIUBOV EQUATIONS

To follow the quantum evolution of our two-component system through the initial squeezing past the mixing step, we make use of the HFB formalism. The set of variables used in \[\hat{\Psi}\] must be extended to accommodate two hyperfine states. We split the field operators into mean and fluctuations: \[\hat{\Psi}_1 = \phi_1 + \chi_1, \hat{\Psi}_2 = \phi_2 + \chi_2,\] with \[\langle \hat{\Psi}_n \rangle = \phi_n\] and six correlation functions (using \(i \in \{1, 2\}\)):

\[
\begin{align*}
G_{N1}(x, x') &= \langle \hat{\chi}_1(x') \hat{\chi}_1(x) \rangle, \quad (B1) \\
G_{Ai}(x, x') &= \langle \hat{\chi}_i(x') \hat{\chi}_i(x) \rangle, \quad (B2) \\
G_{CN}(x, x') &= \langle \hat{\chi}_2(x') \hat{\chi}_1(x) \rangle, \quad (B3) \\
G_{CA}(x, x') &= \langle \hat{\chi}_2(x') \hat{\chi}_1(x) \rangle. \quad (B4)
\end{align*}
\]

The equations of motion for the condensates and the correlation functions \(G_{Aj/Nj\pm1/2}\) are partially identical to those previously presented \[\hat{\Psi}\]. However, additional terms exist in all of them due to the coupling between the two hyperfine components. In the following we use the notation of Ref. \[\hat{\Psi}\], in particular: \(G_{N1} \equiv G_{N1}(x) \equiv G_{N1}(x, x), \phi_n \equiv \phi_n(x), \phi'_n \equiv \phi_n(x')\) etc. We further introduce the abbreviations: \(n_j = |\phi_j|^2 + G_{Nj}, \eta_j = \phi_j^0 + G_{Aj}, \xi = \phi_2 \phi_1 + G_{CA}, \zeta = \phi_2 \phi_1 + G_{CN}\) and \(H_{ij} = -\hbar^2 \nabla^2_{x'}/(2m) + V(x) + \nu_j, H_{ij}' = -\hbar^2 \nabla^2_{x'}/(2m) + V(x') + \nu_j\), where we allowed possibly different detunings \(\nu_j\) (not used in the present work). Our equations of motion are then:

\[
i \hbar \dot{\phi}_1 = H_{01} \phi_1 + U_{11} \left\{ 2 \hat{G}_{N1} + |\phi_1|^2 \right\} \phi_1 + G_{A1} \phi_1^* \right) \\
+ U_{12} \left\{ n_2 \phi_1 + G_{CN} \phi_2 + G_{CA} \phi_2^* \right\} + \Omega \phi_2,
\]

\[
i \hbar \dot{G}_{N1}(x, x') = (H_{01} - H_{01}') G_{N1}(x, x') \\
+ U_{11} \left\{ 2 [n_1 - n_1'] G_{N1}(x, x') \right\} \\
+ \eta_1 G_{A1}(x, x')^* - \eta_1^* G_{A1}(x, x') \right) \} \\
+ U_{12} \left\{ (n_2 - n_2') G_{N1}(x, x') \right\} \\
+ \zeta G_{CN}(x', x)^* - \zeta^* G_{CN}(x, x') \right) \} \\
+ \Omega G_{CN}(x', x)^* - \Omega^* G_{CN}(x, x') \right),
\]

\[
i \hbar \dot{G}_{CA}(x, x') = (H_{01} + H_{01}') G_{N1}(x, x') \\
+ U_{11} \left\{ 2 [n_1 + n_1'] G_{N1}(x, x') \right\} \\
+ \eta_1 G_{A1}(x, x')^* + \eta_1^* G_{A1}(x, x') \right) \} \\
+ U_{12} \left\{ (n_2 + n_2') G_{A1}(x, x') \right\} \\
+ \zeta G_{CA}(x', x) + \zeta G_{CA}(x', x') \right) \} \\
+ \Omega G_{CA}(x', x) + \Omega G_{CA}(x', x') \right),
\]

Throughout we have used:

\[
\langle \hat{\chi}_1(x') \hat{\chi}_2(x) \rangle = G_{CN}(x', x)^*, \quad (B9) \\
\langle \hat{\chi}_1(x') \hat{\chi}_2(x) \rangle = G_{CA}(x', x)^*. \quad (B10)
\]

One can deduce the equations for component two from those of component one by using the following symmetry relations, under exchange of particle labels 1 \(\leftrightarrow\) 2:

\[
G_{CN}(x', x)^* \leftrightarrow G_{CN}(x, x'), \quad (B11) \\
G_{CA}(x', x)^* \leftrightarrow G_{CA}(x, x'), \quad (B12) \\
G_{CN} \leftrightarrow G_{CN}^*, \quad (B13) \\
G_{CA} \leftrightarrow G_{CA}^*, \quad (B14) \\
\Omega \leftrightarrow \Omega^*. \quad (B15)
\]

The equations of motion for the cross correlation functions are:

\[
i \hbar \dot{G}_{CN}(x, x') = \\
\langle H_{01} - H_{02} \rangle G_{CN}(x, x') + 2 |U_{11} n_1 - U_{22} n_2'| G_{CN}(x, x') \\
+ U_{11} \eta_1 G_{CA}(x, x') - U_{22} \eta_2^* G_{CA}(x, x') \\
+ U_{12} \left\{ (n_2 - n_1) G_{CN}(x, x') \right\} \\
+ \zeta G_{A2}(x', x)^* - \zeta G_{A1}(x, x') \right) \} \\
+ \zeta G_{N2}(x, x') - \zeta G_{N1}(x, x') \right) \} \\
+ \Omega (G_{N2}(x, x') - G_{N1}(x, x')) \right), \quad (B16)
\]
and

\[ i\hbar \dot{G}_{CA}(x, x') = (H_{01} + H'_{02}) G_{CA}(x, x') + 2[U_{11} n_1 + U_{22} n_2'] G_{CA}(x, x') + U_{12} \left\{ n_2 + n_1' \right\} G_{CA}(x, x') + \xi \left[ G_{N2}(x, x')^* + \delta^{(3)}(x - x') \right] + \xi' G_{N1}(x, x') + \zeta G_{A2}(x, x') + \zeta' G_{A1}(x, x') + \Omega G_{A2}(x, x') + \Omega' G_{A1}(x, x'). \]

(B17)

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