Spatial and spectral mode selection of heralded single photons from Parametric Down-Conversion in bulk and PPLN

Stefania Castelletto\textsuperscript{b}, Ivo Pietro Degiovanni\textsuperscript{b}, Alan Migdall\textsuperscript{a}, Valentina Schettini\textsuperscript{b}

\textsuperscript{a}Optical Technology Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8441, \textsuperscript{b}Istituto Elettrotecnico Nazionale G. Ferraris, Strada delle Cacce 91-10135 Torino (Italy)

ABSTRACT

We describe an experiment in which photon pairs from a parametric down-conversion source are efficiently coupled into single-mode fibers. On detecting one of the photons, the presence of the other photon in its fiber is heralded with a probability of roughly 70\% for a pulsed pump configuration in a bulk crystal, and 80\% for a CW periodically poled downconverter. The heralding and heralded photons were then analyzed spectrally by a monochromator to determine the effect of the correlation between spectral and spatial mode-matching in the heralding efficiency. Moreover, we theoretically model the heralding efficiency of both bulk and periodically poled crystals. We compare this model with experimental results for these two cases and find good agreement. Analysis of spatial and spectral mode selection, and their mutual correlation, allows controlled engineering of the spectral and spatial emission modes of PDC single photons.

1. INTRODUCTION

Parametric down-conversion (PDC) consumes pump photons and produces light with a two-photon field description.\textsuperscript{1,2} This two-photon light, which allows one photon to indicate or herald the existence of its twin, is key to applications such as quantum metrology\textsuperscript{3} and quantum information.\textsuperscript{4–6} In particular, PDC allows the measurement of one photon to effectively prepare its twin in a well defined state,\textsuperscript{7} thus creating a single-photon source. The prepared state will be pure only if we project the first PDC photon (called also the heralding photon) into a single mode. To optimize this process of collection into a single mode, it is crucial to properly define and measure the efficiency of that preparation. For many quantum information processing applications\textsuperscript{5} this single-mode preparation and collection is particularly important.

Toward this goal previous work has defined an important experimental parameter in such a single-photon source - the heralding efficiency, or the mode preparation efficiency, $\chi_P$.\textsuperscript{8} This is the efficiency of preparing a photon in the heralded channel in a definite spectral and spatial mode, by specific mode selection of the heralding or trigger arm. It is found from the raw detection efficiency (coincidence / single counts), and the detection losses in the heralded channel. In other words, given the biphoton state with its correlations, the heralding channel, with its spectral and spatial definition, projects the heralded photon into a definite spectral and spatial mode.

Bulk and periodically poled crystal-based PDC sources have been shown to be feasible for Quantum Information (QI) applications. For high efficiency of pair production, and emission at the telecom wavelength, the use of periodically poled crystals is now becoming common.\textsuperscript{9} A periodically poled material allows higher PDC production efficiency via noncritical quasi-phase matching (QPM). By selection of the poling period and operational temperature these crystals can be tailored to many applications. While QI applications certainly benefit from higher pump conversion efficiency, it is not clear that other characteristics of the periodically poled crystals are compatible with these applications. Specifically, the level of uncorrelated background fluorescence (due to the color center formation in bulk periodic poled structure) may limit the uncertainties that can be achieved, particularly if this background light is comparable in intensity with the one of the PDC.

Further author information: (Send correspondence to Stefania Castelletto)
E-mail: castelle@ien.it, Telephone: 0039 011 3919223

In addition to the advent of new crystal types, pulse-pumping of the crystal is now common. With this change, narrow-band spectral filtering must be considered for temporal mode definition, and efficient coupling of the photons into single-mode fibers.

In this paper we present a theoretical analysis of the spectral and spatial PDC emission from both a bulk and a QPM periodically poled structure, and its impact on the coupling efficiency into single-mode fibers (SMF). Our analysis considers two experimental configurations: a pulse-pumped downconverter with a bulk crystal and a CW-pumped periodically poled downconverter. Central to this work is our continuing effort to explore the effect of the pulsed versus CW pump on the PDC spectral emission. Others efforts in this direction are pursued.

2. THEORETICAL MODEL FOR BULK AND PERIODICALLY POLED CRYSTALS WITH A PULSED PUMP

Here we use a theoretical approach to predict the spectral and spatial correlations of the PDC photon pair to allow the mode preparation efficiency to be maximized for the cases of a bulk nonlinear crystal and a periodically poled crystal. Our calculations, use the spatial mode preparation results obtained elsewhere. Because this derivation is taken only to first order to make the problem tractable, correlations between the spatial and spectral portions of the phasematching function are left out. To correct for this, an adhoc term is added. We deduce the fiber spectral selection from the slope of the PDC curve \( \theta_{\nu}(\lambda_{s,i}) \) (with no phase mismatch), while we get the width due to the longitudinal wavevector mismatch calculated to first order.

We note that the biphoton state can be written in terms of the classical pump field \( E_p(x, y, z, t) \) and the signal and idler photons’ negative frequency-portion of the electric field operators, \( \hat{E}_{\nu}^{(-)}(x, y, z, t) \), as

\[
|\psi\rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \int dx dy dz E_p(x, y, z, t) \hat{E}_{\nu}^{(-)}(x, y, z, t) \hat{E}_{\nu}^{(-)}(x, y, z, t) \chi^{(2)}(z)|\nu_k, \omega_i\rangle |\nu_k, \omega_i\rangle.
\]

\( \chi^{(2)}(z) = \chi^{(2)} \) is the nonlinear susceptibility for bulk crystal and \( \chi^{(2)} = \chi^2 \exp(-i2\pi/\Lambda z) \), for periodically poled with period \( \Lambda \). Here we replace the classical pump field with its transverse and spectral Fourier transform, according to

\[
E_p(x, y, z, t) = \int d^3k_p d\omega_p \hat{E}_{\nu_p}(\omega_p) e^{ik_p r - i\omega_p t},
\]

rewriting the two-photon state at the output surface of a PDC crystal oriented with its face perpendicular to the z-axis as obtained in ref.\textsuperscript{14}

\[
|\psi\rangle = \int d^3k_p d\omega_p d^3k_i d\omega_i \tilde{A}_{12}(k_s, k_i, \omega_i, \omega_s) |1_{k_i, \omega_i}\rangle |1_{k_i, \omega_i}\rangle,
\]

where

\[
\tilde{A}_{12}(k_s, k_i, \omega_i, \omega_s) \propto \int d^3k_p d\omega_p \int_S dx dy \int_0^L dz \hat{E}_{\nu_p}(\omega_p) \hat{E}_{\nu_p}(\omega_p) \chi^{(2)}(z) e^{i(\Delta k_x x + \Delta k_y y + \Delta k_z z)} \\
\times \delta(\omega_s + \omega_i - \omega_p) \times \delta \left[ k_{x_p} - \sqrt{\left( \frac{n(\Omega_p)\Omega_p}{c} \right)^2 - q_p^2} \right] \times \delta \left[ k_{x_i} - \sqrt{\left( \frac{n(\omega_i)\omega_i}{c} \right)^2 - q_i^2} \right] \times \delta \left[ k_{x_z} - \sqrt{\left( \frac{n(\omega_s)\omega_s}{c} \right)^2 - q_z^2} \right],
\]

(4)
\( S \) is the cross sectional area of the crystal illuminated by the pump, and \( L \) is the length of the crystal. The subscripts \( s, i, p \) indicate the signal, idler, and pump. The pump beam propagates along the \( z \) axis. We evaluate \( \Delta k_{x,y,z} = (k_p - k_s - k_i)_{x,y,z} \) in terms of the pump, signal, and idler \( k \)-vectors. The longitudinal component of the pump \( k \)-vector is

\[
k_{p,z} = \sqrt{\left( \frac{n(\omega_p)\omega_p}{c} \right)^2 - q_p^2},
\]

where \( q_p \) is the transverse component of the pump \( k \)-vector and \( c \) is the speed of light. Analogous expressions give the signal and idler longitudinal components.

\[
\tilde{E}_{\omega_p}(\omega_p) = \exp\left(-\frac{\omega_p^2}{\omega_0^2}\right),
\]

is the pump pulse frequency distribution, where \( T_p \) is the temporal width of the pulse at FWHM and \( \tilde{E}_{\omega_p} = \exp\left(-\frac{\omega_p^2}{2w_p^2}\right) \) is the pump transverse wavevector distribution with \( w_p \) being the pump field waist \((a = 2\sqrt{\ln(2)} \) is the conversion factor between the FWHM and \( 1/\theta^2 \) radius of the field profile). Both are assumed for simplicity to be Gaussian. We write the wavevector mismatch \( \Delta k_{x,y,z} \) as terms as

\[
\begin{align*}
\Delta k_x &= q_{p,x} - q_{s,x} - q_{i,x} \\
\Delta k_y &= q_{p,y} - q_{s,y} \cos \theta_s - q_{i,y} \cos \theta_i \\
\Delta k_z &= D_{pi}\nu_p + D_{is}\nu_s + (N_p - N_s \cos \theta_s - N_i \cos \theta_i) \frac{q_{p,z}}{K_p} + \sin \theta_s q_{s,z} + \sin \theta_i q_{i,z},
\end{align*}
\]

where \( \theta_{s,i} \) are the emission angles of the idler and signal photons, and \( K_{i,s,p} = \eta_{i,s,p}(\Omega_{i,s,p} - \phi) / c \) describe the directions of the central intensities of the wavevectors. \( \theta_{s,i} \) are obtained from the transverse and longitudinal perfect phase-matching condition for the central emissions and wavelengths, given for bulk respectively by \( K_i \sin \theta_i = K_s \sin \theta_s + K_p \sin \theta_p \), while for periodically poled \( K_p = K_s \cos \theta_s + K_i \cos \theta_i + \frac{2\pi}{\Lambda} \), namely the longitudinal perfect phase-matching given by the period \( \Lambda \). The terms, \( N_p = \frac{\Omega_p}{c} \frac{d\eta_p(\Omega_p,\phi)}{d\phi} \big|_{\phi_0} \) and \( N_{s,i} = \frac{\Omega_{s,i}}{c} \frac{d\eta_{s,i}(\Omega_{s,i},\phi)}{d\phi} \big|_{\phi_0} \) account for the effects of the refractive indexes of the pump and the signal due to the pump angular spread, which is responsible for a small deviation from the phase-matching angle \( \phi_0 \).

The other terms are defined as \( D_{is} = D_i(\cos \theta_i - \sin \theta_i \tan \theta_i) - D_s(\cos \theta_s + \sin \theta_s \tan \theta_i), D_{pi} = -D_i(\cos \theta_i + \sin \theta_i \tan \theta_i) + D_p, \) and \( \nu_{i,s,p} = \omega_{i,s,p} - \Omega_{i,s,p} \) with \( D_{is} \frac{d\eta_{s,i}(\Omega_{s,i},\phi)}{d\phi} \big|_{\Omega_{s,i}} \), \( D_p = \frac{d\eta_p(\Omega_p,\phi)}{d\phi} \big|_{\Omega_p}, \nu_p = \nu_i + \nu_s \). Note that \( N_{s,i} = 0 \) for Type I phase-matching in bulk crystal. In the periodically poled case there is no birefringence so \( N_{s,i} = N_p = 0 \), because we have non critical phase-matching, \( \phi_0 = \pi/2 \). Assuming \( S \) infinite, we integrate over \( x \) and \( y \), giving \( \Delta k_x = \Delta k_y = 0 \). To obtain the biphoton field in the transverse spatial and time variables, we take the Fourier transforms on the \( q \) and \( \nu \) variables and integrate over \( z \),

\[
A_{12}(\rho_1, \rho_2, t, \tau) \propto \frac{E_{\nu_p}(\nu_p) \cdot \frac{T - t + 2\tau D_{pi}/D_{is}}{2} E_{\nu_p}(x_1, y_1) - \frac{N_{p,s}\tau}{K_p D_{is}} \delta(x_1 - x_2) \times \delta(y_1 - y_2) + \frac{\alpha_s \tau}{D_{is}} \Pi_{D_{is}}(\tau)}{\Pi_{D_{is},L}(\tau)}
\]

where \( \delta(x_1 - x_2) \times \delta(y_1 - y_2) \) is similarly the Fourier transform of pump transverse momentum distribution \( E_{\nu_p} \). To calculate the coincidence rates measured by two single mode fibers in the signal and idler
arms, we assume first that the guided transverse spatial modes are Gaussian fields propagated back from the fibers through the lenses and crystal output surface, and are defined by

$$\varphi_j^i(x_j, y_j) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{1}{w_{0,j}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(x_j^2 + y_j^2)}{w_{0,j}^2} \right],$$

with $j = 1, 2$. The imaging optic $L_j$ is arranged to place the collection beam waist, $w_{0,j}$, $j = 1, 2$ are the fiber waists at the crystal with the lens clear apertures are greater than $\Delta \theta_{1,2}d_1$. We work in the perfect imaging configuration where the gaussian field guided by a fiber is magnified by the lens and if $w_{f,j}$ is the fiber waist at the fiber exit tip, the beam waist at the crystal is $w_{o,j} = M_j w_{f,j}$.

The resulting time dependent biphoton field is calculated by integrating over the transverse spatial variables according to

$$A_{12}(t, \tau) = \int dp_1 dp_2 A_{12}(\rho_1, \rho_2, t, \tau) \varphi_1^i(\rho_1) \varphi_2^j(\rho_2).$$

Here we have to consider that either we spectrally select the PDC photons by an interference filter and/or by single spatial mode collection, acting also as a spectral filter. We eventually identify a single mode fiber as a spectral filter with a gaussian spectral distribution given by $\tilde{T}_{\nu_1}(\nu_{s,i}) = e^{-\frac{(\nu_{s,i} - \nu)^2}{2\Delta^2}}$ with $\Delta_{1,2}$ being the FWHM of the spectral distribution. The geometric collection selected spectral width component at the FWHM by the fiber (see fig.1), $\Delta_{1,2}$, is given by the FWHM angular collection $\Delta \theta_{1,2} = a \frac{\Delta}{w_{o,1,2}}$ and the spectral/angular spread of the PDC, $\theta_s(\lambda_{s,i})$, around the central wavelength $\lambda_{s,i}$. Therefore by Fourier transforming the spectral filter distributions as $I_{\nu_1}(t - t' + \tau - \tau')$ and $I_{\nu_2}(t - t' - \tau + \tau')$ the coincidence rate is

$$C_{12} = \int dt dt' dr dr' A_{12}(t, \tau) A_{12}^{**}(t', \tau') I_{\nu_1}(t - t' + \tau - \tau') I_{\nu_2}(t - t' - \tau + \tau').$$

Singles rates are calculated with only one fiber-defined spatial mode, i.e. first by calculating

$$A_{12}(t, \tau, \rho_2) = \int dp_1 A_{12}(\rho_1, \rho_2, t, \tau) \varphi_1^i(\rho_1)$$

and then integrating over the spectral filter as

$$C_1 = \int dp_2 dt dt' dr dr' A_{12}(t, \tau, \rho_2) A_{12}^{**}(t', \tau', \rho_2) I_{\nu_1}(t - t' + \tau - \tau').$$

The mode preparation efficiency is finally

$$\chi_P = \frac{C_{12}}{C_1}.$$  

For the case where arm 1 is the heralding channel the general result is

$$\chi_P = \frac{4 T_p (w_{o,1}^2 w_{o,2}^2 + w_{p}^2 (w_{o,1}^2 + w_{p}^2)) \Delta_2}{(w_{o,2}^2 w_{p}^2 + w_{o,1}^2 (w_{o,2}^2 + w_{p}^2))^2 \sqrt{8a^6 + T_p^2 (\Delta_1^2 + \Delta_2^2)}} f(c_1, c_2)$$

where

$$f(p,q) = \frac{\int_0^1 dx e^{-px^2 + 2px^2} \text{Erf}[\frac{2ax}{\sqrt{2p}]} - \text{Erf}[\frac{-2p+ax}{\sqrt{2p}]}]}{\sqrt{p}}$$

The parameters are here explicitly written for a generic case:

$$c_1 = \frac{L^2}{4a^2} \left\{ -64 \frac{\alpha^2 D_p \alpha \Delta_1^2 - 32 \alpha^2 D_p \alpha (\Delta_1^2 + \Delta_2^2) + D_p (8 \alpha^2 \Delta_1^2 + T_p^2 (\Delta_1^2 + \Delta_2^2))}{8 \alpha^2 \Delta_1^2 + T_p^2 (\Delta_1^2 + \Delta_2^2)} \right\}.$$
\[ c_2 = \frac{2L^2\{8a^6D_{p1}^2\Delta_2^2 + [8 a^6(D_{s1} + D_{p2})^2 + D_{s1}T_p^2\Delta_2^2]\}}{a^2[8 a^6 + T_p^2(\Delta_1^2 + \Delta_2^2)]} \]

\[ s_1 = \frac{L^2}{2} \left\{ \frac{16 a^4D_{p1}^2}{T_p^2} + \frac{N_{s,p}}{K_p} \left( \frac{1}{w_p^2 + w_{o,1}^2} + \frac{1}{w_p^2} \right) + \frac{2N_{s,p}\alpha_s}{K_p w_p^2} + \alpha_s^2 \left( \frac{1}{w_{o,1}^2} + \frac{1}{w_p^2} \right) + \frac{2D_{s1}^2\Delta_1^2}{a^2} \right\} \]

\[ s_2 = \frac{L^2}{2} \left\{ \frac{16 a^4D_{p1}^2}{T_p^2} + \frac{|N_{s,p}w_{o,1}^2 + K_p(w_{o,1}^2 + w_p^2)\alpha_s^2|}{K_p^2w_{o,1}w_p^2(w_{o,1}^2 + w_p^2)} + \frac{2D_{s1}^2\Delta_1^2}{a^2} \right\} \)

The coincidence spectrum is determined by taking only the Fourier transform of the transverse spatial variables in Eq.(3), obtaining

\[
A_{12}(\rho_1, \rho_2, o, s) \propto \tilde{E}_{\nu p}(\nu_s + \nu_t)E_{\nu q}(x_1, y_1 + (y_1 - y_2)\frac{N_{s,p}}{K_p\alpha_s}) \times 
\exp\left[\frac{i(y_1 - y_2)(\nu_s D_{s1} + (\nu_t + \nu_s)D_{p1})}{\alpha_s}\right] \delta(x_1 - x_2)\Pi_{-L}(\frac{y_1 - y_2}{\alpha_s}).
\]

Therefore the resulting frequency dependent biphoton field is calculated by integrating over the transverse spatial variables according to

\[
A_{12}(\nu_s, \nu_t) = \int d\rho_1 d\rho_2 A_{12}(\rho_1, \rho_2, o, s) \varphi_1^\dagger(\rho_1)\varphi_2^\dagger(\rho_2).
\]

The coincidence spectrum is

\[
C_{12}(\nu_t) = \int d\nu_s |A_{12}(\nu_s, \nu_t)|^2 \tilde{I}_{\nu s}(\nu_s)\tilde{I}_{\nu t}(\nu_s) = \int d\nu_s C_{12}(\nu_s, \nu_s).
\]

We explicitly write \(C_{12}(\nu_t, \nu_s)\) as

\[
C_{12}(\nu_t, \nu_s) \propto \left| \tilde{E}_{\nu p}(\nu_s + \nu_t) \left( 1 + \frac{64 a^4\zeta^2[\nu_s D_{s1} + (\nu_t + \nu_s)D_{p1}]^2}{T_p^2(\nu_t + \nu_s)^2} \right)^{1/2} \right|^2 \tilde{I}_{\nu s}(\nu_s)\tilde{I}_{\nu t}(\nu_s)
\]

\[
\left| \text{Erf} \left[ -\frac{L}{2\zeta} - i\zeta[\nu_s D_{s1} + (\nu_t + \nu_s)D_{p1}] \right] + \text{Erf} \left[ i\zeta[\nu_s D_{s1} + (\nu_t + \nu_s)D_{p1}] \right] \right|^2
\]

where

\[
\zeta = \frac{K_p\sqrt{w_{o,2}^2w_p^2 + w_{o,1}^2(w_{o,1}^2 + w_p^2)}}{2\sqrt{N_{s,p}w_{o,1}^2 + w_{o,1}^2 + 2K_pN_{s,p}w_{o,1}^2\alpha_s + K_p(w_{o,1}^2 + w_p^2)\alpha_s^2}}.
\]

From Eq.(19) we deduce that the interplay between the spectral components \(\nu_t, s\) and the transverse parameters \(w_{o, p}\) is quantified by \(\zeta\), contained in the Erf terms, which is relevant to both the pump pulse envelope and the pump transverse distribution. Note that while for \(w_p\) large, the term \(\tilde{E}_{\nu p}(\nu_s + \nu_t)(1 + \frac{64 a^4\zeta^2[\nu_s D_{s1} + (\nu_t + \nu_s)D_{p1}]^2}{T_p^2(\nu_t + \nu_s)^2})^{1/2}\) contributes to a widened coincidence spectrum, the Erf terms instead reduce the overall coincidence spectrum width.
3. THEORETICAL MODEL FOR BULK AND PPLN CRYSTAL WITH A CW PUMP

The same approach can be used for a CW pump. The final result can be obtained from the biphoton field as

\[ A^{CW}_{12}(\rho_1, \rho_2, \tau) \propto E_q(x_1, y_1 - N_p \rho_1 \tau) \delta(x_1 - x_2) \times \delta(y_1 - y_2 + \alpha \tau) \frac{1}{D_1} \Pi_{D_1 L}(\tau). \]  

After the spatial integrations

\[ A^{CW}_{12}(\tau) = \int d\rho_1 \rho_2 A^{CW}_{12}(\rho_1, \rho_2, \tau) \varphi^*_1(\rho_1) \varphi^*_2(\rho_2), \]

and

\[ A^{CW}_{12}(\tau, \rho_2) = \int d\rho_1 A^{CW}_{12}(\rho_1, \rho_2, \tau) \varphi^*_1(\rho_1), \]

we obtain

\[ C_{12} = \int dt d\tau' A^{CW}_{12}(\tau) A^{CW}_{12}(\tau') I_{\nu_1}(t - t' + \tau - \tau') I_{\nu_2}(t - t' - \tau'), \]

and singles rates

\[ C_1 = \int d\rho_2 dt d\tau' A^{CW}_{12}(\tau, \rho_2) A^{CW*}_{12}(\tau', \rho_2) \varphi^*_1 I_{\nu_1}(t - t' + \tau - \tau'). \]

The mode preparation efficiency is

\[ \chi_p = \frac{4 w^4_{o,1} w^4_{o,2} w_p^2 (w^2_{o,1} + w^2_p) \Delta_2}{(w^2_{o,2} w^2_{o,1} + w^2_p (w^2_{o,2} + w^2_p))^2 \sqrt{(\Delta^2_1 + \Delta^2_2) f(s_1, s_2)}}. \]

The parameters are calculated from Eq.(16) simply as \( T_p \rightarrow \infty. \)

The biphoton field is

\[ A_{12}(\rho_1, \rho_2, \nu_1, \nu_2) \propto E_q(x_1, y_1 - (y_1 - y_2) \frac{N_p \rho_1 \tau}{\alpha \nu_1 \nu_2}) \times \exp\left[ -\frac{I(y_1 - y_2) \nu_s D_{ls} + \nu_1 + \nu_2 \nu_p L}{\alpha \nu_s \nu_1 \nu_2} \right] \delta(x_1 - x_2) \frac{\nu_i + \nu_s}{\alpha \nu_s} \delta(\nu_i + \nu_s). \]

The coincidence spectrum is in this case

\[ C_{12}(\nu_1, \nu_s) \propto \exp[-2\zeta^2 [\nu_s D_{ls} + (\nu_1 + \nu_2) D_{pi}]^2] I_{\nu_1}(\nu_1) I_{\nu_s}(\nu_s) \delta(\nu_1 + \nu_s) \]

\[ \left| \text{Erf} \left[ -\frac{L}{2 \delta_s} - i \zeta [\nu_s D_{ls} + (\nu_1 + \nu_s) D_{pi}] \right] + \text{Erf} \left[ i \zeta [\nu_s D_{ls} + (\nu_1 + \nu_s) D_{pi}] \right] \right|^2 \]  

4. PULSED PUMP EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

An overview of the source is shown in Figure 1. The idea is to select the heralding photon from a single spatial mode, and collect the heralded photon in a single spatial mode, where each mode is defined by a single-mode fiber(SMF). In both channels we define our single modes by backward propagating and imaging the single-mode fibers onto the PDC crystal as shown in Fig. (1). The goal is to match and overlap the single-mode beams in the crystal spatially, while considering the extra divergence due to the PDC phase-matching conditions over the wavelength range of interest.

In this experiment, the PDC source was a 5 mm long LiI04 crystal pumped by frequency-doubled Ti-Sapphire laser pulses at a repetition rate of 76 MHz and a wavelength of 394.5 nm, with a duration of approximately 150
Figure 1. Setup used to herald single-photons from pulsed parametric down-conversion (PDC). Filters F1,2, either cut-off or interference and various lenses L1,2 are used. Distances d1,2 were chosen for practical reasons, and the direction 1 was the heralding channel. A monochromator was inserted in the heralding channel fiber link to measure coincidence spectral distribution.

The LiF03 crystal was oriented to produce photon pairs at 789-791 nm at an external cone angle of θ0 = 3.4°, with a phase-matching internal angle of φo = 44.15°. In this case the theory in Section 1 is modified for the almost degenerate case and type I, namely D1s ≈ 0 and αs ≈ 0. Two small diametrically opposed regions of the emitted cone were coupled at two different distances from the crystal d1 = 53 cm and d2 = 38 cm, into single-mode fibers. Lenses (L1 and L2) are aspheric (details are given in Table I) The pump beam was focused at the crystal with a beam waist wp of 260 µm.

Table 1. Details of lens configurations for coupling fiber mode diameter of 4.2 µm, and M are magnifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L1 @ d1</th>
<th>w0,1 (µm)</th>
<th>M1</th>
<th>Δ1 (nm)</th>
<th>∆θ1 (°)</th>
<th>L2 @ d2</th>
<th>w0,2 (µm)</th>
<th>M2</th>
<th>Δ2 (nm)</th>
<th>∆θ2 (°)</th>
<th>χp (theory) (%)</th>
<th>χp (expt.) (%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f=8mm</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>f=8mm</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1. Experimental results

We now analyze the coincidence spectrum for the specific optical setup used. A Gaussian beam analysis yields FWHM angular spreads of ∆θ1,2 = 0.12, 0.17° for the photon field according to the lens configuration (refer to Table I), corresponding to a SMF spectral bandwidth ∆1,2 = 29, 40 nm.

We used a spectral filter F1 centered at 789.3 nm with FWHM of 5 nm in the heralding channel (trigger) to obtain the best heralding efficiency. A cut-off filter F2 was used to reduce the background light in the heralded arm. A monochromator with 1 nm resolution was used for the coincidence spectral scan. F1 reduced the bandwidth of the accepted trigger photons along with the bandwidth of the heralded photons. In this way, the choice of F1 can be used to tailor the spectral properties of the heralded photons. Figure 2 shows the effects of restricting the heralding photon bandwidth to 5 nm (centered at 789 nm) versus the case where only the raw bandwidths (namely the heralding and heralded bandwidths) selected by the two fibers are used. It is clear that, even in the absence of the interference filter, the overall coincidence bandwidth (heralded bandwidth) is reduced with respect to the single fiber selection spectral bandwidths, ∆1,2, and this is the signature that even in this case we have an entanglement between transverse and spectral components. We measured heralded bandwidth of ???? nm. With the 5 nm interference filter inserted, the final bandwidth is about 4 nm. The theoretical predictions match quite well with the experimental results.
These results show a narrow coincidence spectral bandwidth profile with respect to the estimated single channel bandwidth selection ($\Delta_{1,2}$), because the heralding channel bandwidth and the correlation dominate. Moreover to restrict the coincidence bandwidth, a narrow filter on the heralding arm is necessary. This means that a spatial mode defined by the SMF contains a wider spectral mode.

To determine the difference between the spatial mode and the spectral mode selection operated by the SMFs, we measured the mode preparation efficiency and the single counts of the heralded channel versus an iris aperture at the collecting lens. We observed that the heralding efficiency, and the single heralded counts level off almost the same iris aperture, corresponding to a measured waist of the mode at the lens of roughly 1.1 mm, which is in agreement with a gaussian mode of 2.1 $\mu$m waist at the fiber tip back propagated through a f=8 mm lens, in a perfect imaging configuration.

We made a coincidence spectral scan for 3 fixed iris apertures in Fig.3.

From the measured spectral scan, we see that the spectral width is independent of iris diameter down to at least 1 mm, which is to be expected as the "spectral mode waist" was estimated to be 0.7 mm ($1/\sqrt{2}$ of the spatial waist). In other words, in this case the fiber is just a spatial filter, providing an intensity profile selection. However to obtain the highest efficiency we must match the spatial modes, which are spatially wider than the spectral modes selected by the fiber. In contrast, spectral modes do not have to be matched. This is more evident in the pulsed case than in the CW case. In fact, the use of matched filters ($F_1$ and $F_2$) in pulsed PDC will cause an undesirable loss of heralded photons. The heralded bandwidth needs to be significantly wider than that of the trigger-photon filter $F_1$.

The experimental mode preparation efficiency was obtained by measuring the raw detection efficiency, $\chi_D$, of heralded photons, and then correcting for the losses in the heralded-photon arm, $\tau_{opt}$, and SMF-lens trans-
\[ \chi_D = (\eta_{\text{det}} \cdot \tau_{\text{opt}} \cdot \tau_{\text{SMF-lens}})^{-1} \times \chi_D. \]  

\( \chi_D \) was simply defined as the coincidence counting rate, \( R_c \), divided by the trigger photon detection rate, \( R_1 \),

\[ \chi_D = R_c / R_1. \]

Loss in the heralded-photon path of Figure 1 was due to a calibrated detector \( D_2 \) with quantum efficiency of \( \eta_{\text{det}} = 53.7\% \) at 790 nm, a measured \( F_2 \) transmittance of 91\% for the cut-off filter, and a measured transmittance of 96\% for the nonlinear crystal at 790 nm, giving \( \tau_{\text{opt}} = 87\% \). In addition, we estimate 4\% reflectance loss upon exiting fiber and connecting to the detectors coupling lens, and an additional 2\% loss due to the four anti-reflection-coated surfaces of the lens \( L_2 \), with a final \( \tau_{\text{SMF-lens}} = 91\% \). The total of these losses, along with the measured raw detection efficiency of \( \chi_D = 31\% \), implies a mode preparation efficiency of \( \chi_p = 70\% \). Our setup for practical reasons did not allow for exact spatial mode matching of the heralding and heralded modes (in fact, \( d_1 \) and \( d_2 \) were different). This is one of the reasons we could not reach the highest predicted efficiency of 86\%. As an explanation of the 20\% discrepancy between the predicted and measured single mode preparation efficiency, we figure out that, because of the non-perfect longitudinal phase-matching and of the finite transverse pump profile, a single direction in the heralding arm corresponds to an area of correlated photons; this area in a correct calculation is broader and equal in both dimensions, while in our approximation, it results narrower in the \( y \) direction. This is because we retain only the first order in the series for the longitudinal mismatch, the remaining transverse contribution is only in the \( y \) direction as it is clearly evident from Eq.(6).

5. CW PUMP EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

We have set up (fig. 4) a 5 mm periodically poled lithium niobate (PPLN) crystal pumped by a CW laser at 532 nm to produce 810 nm and 1550 nm photon pairs in a slightly noncollinear geometry. The crystal was operated in a quasi-phased-matching configuration, with noncritical phase-matching (90° phase-matching angle) and a 7.36 µm period to produce PDC photons at 810 nm and 1550 nm at external angles of 1° and 2°. Fine tuning of this output was achieved by adjusting the crystal temperature to 149 °C. A lens, \( L_p \) was used in the pump beam to
produce a gaussian beam waist of $w_p \approx 210 \mu m$ at the crystal, a cutoff filter $F_1$ blocked the pump laser and a
dichroic mirror (DM) separated the 810 nm (beam 1) and 1550 nm (beam 2) photons. A monochromator was
inserted in the heralding path to align the 810 nm light, measure its spectral width, and as a filter. The heralding
arm was routed to a SMF and then to a Si Avalanche Photodiode (APD), while the heralded arm, also coupled
to a SMF, was sent to a InGaAs APD, operating in gated mode. The heralded arm optical delay was adjusted
with an appropriate length SMF to observe coincidences when the InGaAs detector was gated by the detection
of a 810 nm photon in the heralding arm. The InGaAs detector, including the SMF and coupling lens optical
losses, was calibrated against a conventional detector standard using a attenuated laser source, yielding a raw
detection efficiency of $\eta_{det} = 9.8\%$.

5.1. Experimental results

The mode preparation efficiency as measured by the CW PDC source is given by Eq.(28), where

$$\chi_D = \frac{P_{coinc} - P_{uncorr}}{(1 - P_{uncorr})(1 - P_{background})}$$

(29)

$\tau_{opt}$ is the overall heralded arm optical transmittance (including PPLN, $F_1$, DM), $\tau_{SMF-lens}$ is the optical
transmittance of the $L_2$ and the SMF on the heralded arms, $P_{coinc}$ is the probability of coincident counts per
gate, $P_{uncorr}$ is probability of uncorrelated or accidental coincidence counts per gate (determined by changing
the heralding delay so the detection gate misses photons correlated to the herald photons), and $P_{background}$ is
the probability of gating counts produced by uncorrelated photons and dark counts on the heralding arm. The
theoretical mode preparation efficiency is given by Eq.(26), where $\Delta_{1,2} = 1, 2.7$ nm are the spectral bandwidths
selected by the SMFs in the two arms.

We used two lens configurations to mode match the fields (refer to Table 2).

With $L_1$ and $L_2$ both f=8 mm aspheric lenses, at $d_1=270$ mm and $d_2=220$ mm, and $w_1 = w_2=100 \mu m$,
from Eq.(1), we obtained the experimental value of $\chi_p = 64\%$, while from Eq. (29) we estimate $\chi_p=61\%$. With
$L_1$ and $L_2$ both 20x microscope objectives at $d_1=560$ mm and $d_2=190$ mm, and $w_1 = 144\mu m$ and $w_2=76$
Table 2. Details of lens configurations for coupling fiber mode diameter of 4.2 µm and of ?? µm

| L₁ @ d₁ | w₀₁ | M₁ | Δ₁ | Δθ₁ | L₂ @ d₂ | w₀₂ | M₂ | Δ₂ | Δθ₂ | χₚ(theory) | χₚ(expt.) |
|---------|-----|----|-----|-----|---------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|
| f=8mm   | 100 | 1  | 0.1 | f=8mm| 100     | 2.7 | 0.2| 61  | 64  |       |           |
| μm obj., 20x, f=9 mm | 144 | 0.5 | 0.1 | f=8mm| 76      | 3.6 | 0.3| 78  | 77  |       |           |

µm, we obtained the experimental value of χₚ =77% and the theoretical χₚ =78 %. Those values are in good agreement considering the difficulty to measure the bandwidths and waists at the crystal. The measured values in Eq.(??)are P_{coinc}=2.2%, 2.9%, P_{heralded}^{uncorr}=0.2%, 0.3% and P_{heralding}^{background}=41%, 29%. We measured the τ_{opt}=65 % and τ_{SMF−lens} =83 %, 73%, for the lenses and objectives configuration, respectively. The heralding background, properly measured using the monochromator, is due to the fluorescence of the PPLN. In a similar experimental configuration, without the insertion of the monochromator, the InGaAs APD was triggered at 142 KHz, with a 65 mW pump power, yielding 4.2 KHz of coincidences, corresponding to 0.07 pairs/(gate mW) generated. This result is in agreement with the expected efficiency of PPLN for pair production, as reported in.⁹

6. CONCLUSIONS AND FINAL REMARKS

In this paper we analyzed theoretically and experimentally strategies to maximize the heralding efficiency of a PDC pulsed source, considering spatial and spectral mode selection in bulk crystal and of a CW PDC down-converter based on PPLN. We provided a theoretical estimate of the heralding efficiency and of the coincidence spectrum, giving a practical method to tailor heralded photons in a defined spectral and spatial mode. We prove that spatial overlap alone is not enough when we have pulsed pumping and that attention has to be paid to define spectrally the mode preparation efficiency.

The theoretical prediction for this PPLN is in better agreement with the experimental value, because of a better measurement of the heralding bandwidth. This work was supported in part by ARDA, ARO, and DARPA/QUIST.

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16. We calibrated the detector efficiency by using a multimode fiber in the same configuration of coupling lenses used with the SMF after testing that in the heralded arm the correlated photons were collected.