Control of two-photon production rates in a pulse: toward construction of ultra-bright photon sources

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Ultra-bright photon sources play an important role in quantum information. The conventional photon source technique involves a ~ 80 MHz Ti Sapphire laser, a BBO crystal and Si avalanche photo detectors. However, this technique has several limitations, in terms of the brightness, multi-pair emission and speed. For the development of next generation of single photon sources, higher repetition-rate laser, more efficient crystal and faster detectors are required.

In this experiment, we demonstrated a photon source pumped by a 10/2.5 GHz repetition-rate tunable comb laser [1]. This photon source can achieve high count rates and low multi-photon emissions at high pump powers. The photons were generated from a group-velocity-matched PPKTP (GVM-PPKTP) crystal, which provided a high spectral purity [2, 3, 4]. Furthermore, the photons were detected with the state-of-the-art highly efficient superconducting nanowire single photon detectors (SNSPD) [5, 6].

From the signal to noise ratio (SNR) test and Hong-Ou-Mandel interference test, we concluded that the two-photon source pumped by a 2.5 GHz laser had a high SNR value and can maintain high visibilities at high pump powers, much higher than that pumped by the 76 MHz laser. We also constructed a theoretical model to analyze the experiment results. The theoretical analysis agreed well with the experimental data. We believe the combination of GHz laser, GVM-PPKTP crystal and SNSPD paves the road for the next generation of two-photon source with high-qualities, such as, high brightness, low multi-pair emission, high spectral purity, and high detection efficiency.

Reference:

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