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Thermal rectification through a nonlinear quantum resonator

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We present a systematic study of thermal rectification, R , in a nonlinear resonator. In the strongly anharmonic regime and weak system-bath coupling we derive general upper bounds on R . Beyond the weak-coupling regime we employ different methods: (i) including cotunneling processes, using (ii) nonequilibrium Green's function formalism and (iii) Feynman-Vernon path integral approach. We find that the weak coupling bounds are violated for strong coupling, providing signatures of high-order coherent processes. For weaker anharmonicity heat rectification is calculated with the equation of motion method and in mean-field approximation. We find that the former method predicts, for small or intermediate anharmonicity larger R .

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