Contribution ID: **70**   Type: **Poster**

Phase transition of photons and gravitons in a Casimir box

A first order phase transition for photons and gravitons in a Casimir box is studied analytically from first principles with a detailed understanding of symmetry breaking due to boundary conditions. It is closely related to Bose-Einstein condensation and accompanied by a quantum phase transition whose control parameter is the chemical potential for optical helicity.

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Session Classification: Reception & Poster session