images of quantum light



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theory

experiment

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cleland / phase qubit group

50

historical perspective



a precision theory

Quantum mechanics is the most precise physical theory :

atomic hydrogen 1S-2S transition frequency:

experiment: 2 466 061 413 187 103 Hz theory: 2 466 061 413 2XX XXX Hz

limited by precision of physical constants

"Measurement of the H 1*S*-2*S* transition" M. Niering et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett*. (2000) MPI Garching & Observatoire de Paris & LKB, Paris

not just for atoms



• dilution refrigerator: T = 20 mK

not just for atoms



However: Harmonic oscillators are always in the correspondence limit

Difficult to distinguish classical from quantum behavior
 Difficult to control at single photon level
 Difficult to measure at single photon level
 How to measure without destroying quantum effects?

resonator quantum control

how to measure a harmonic oscillator in quantum limit?

- 1. interpose a quantum two-level system (electronic atom)
- electronic atom and oscillator form coherent system 2.
- complete quantum control & measurement possible 3.



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electronic two-level atom



at 20 mK δ is a quantum variable:



 > strong nonlinearity

 can address just |g⟩ and |e⟩
 can energy splitting ω_{ge} tunable
 ħω_{ge}~30k_BT at 20 mK

$$U \qquad \begin{array}{c} dc \text{ josephson} \\ relation \\ bias \\ current \\ bias \\ current \\ \delta \end{array}$$

- 1. electronic two-level system
- 2. ground state below 300 mK
- 3. complete quantum control
- 4. single-shot measurement



- State of qubit measured with SQUID at end of preparation
- Single shot measurement yields qubit state ($|g\rangle$ or $|e\rangle$)
- Repeated preparation & measurement (~1000X) yields P(e)
- External flux bias Φ used to adjust $|e\rangle |g\rangle$ frequency, relative occupation & quantum phase

half-wave coplanar stripline resonator



coupled resonator & qubit



quantum light & sound



experimental system





coupled system energy levels



time-domain control

- > qubit off resonance (system in $|g\rangle|0\rangle$ state)
- > apply microwave π pulse to qubit (goes to $|e\rangle|0\rangle$ state)



time-domain control

- > qubit off resonance (system in $|g\rangle|0\rangle$ state)
- \triangleright apply microwave π pulse to qubit (goes to $|e\rangle|0\rangle$ state)
- tune qubit to resonator frequency
- Rabi oscillation: transfer photon from qubit to resonator



adding more photons

> detune qubit (system in $|g\rangle|1\rangle$ state)

> apply microwave π pulse to qubit (goes to $|e\rangle|1\rangle$ state)



adding more photons

- > detune qubit (system in $|g\rangle|1\rangle$ state)
- > apply microwave π pulse to qubit (goes to $|e\rangle|1\rangle$ state)
- > rune qubit to resonator, Rabi (goes to $|g\rangle|2\rangle$ state)



adding more photons

- > detune qubit (system in $|g\rangle|1\rangle$ state)
- > apply microwave π pulse to qubit (goes to $|e\rangle|1\rangle$ state)
- > tune qubit to resonator, Rabi (goes to $|g\rangle|2\rangle$ state)
- > repeat for *n* photons: each transfer \sqrt{n} faster



time-domain control

m. hofheinz et al. nature (2008)

measure resonator state with qubit

- qubit in $|g\rangle$
- resonator in $|n\rangle$
- tune qubit into resonance

Rabi oscillation: $|g\rangle|n\rangle \Leftrightarrow |e\rangle|n-1\rangle$ Rabi frequency scales as \sqrt{n}



quantum state tomography

arbitrary superposition states: $|g\rangle|0\rangle \Rightarrow |g\rangle(a|0\rangle + b|1\rangle + c|2\rangle + \cdots$)

- adapt Law & Eberly protocol (ion physics)
- reverse engineering: sequence from final state to ground state
- apply sequence in reverse order: ground state to final state

measure Wigner function $W(\alpha)$:

- quasiprobability distribution
- equivalent to measuring density matrix



prepare and measure $|0\rangle + |n\rangle$ states in resonator

M. Hofheinz et al. Nature (2009)





the voodoo cat

the ex-voodoo cat

PRL (2009)

time evolution of a superposed state $|\psi\rangle = |0\rangle + i |2\rangle + |4\rangle$

entangling two resonators

entangling two resonators

PRL (2011)

Storing delocalized photons in two resonators

Procedure:

- 1. Entangle qubits through resonator B: $|e\rangle_0|g\rangle_1 + |g\rangle_0|e\rangle_1$
- 2. Transfer state to resonators A & C: $|1\rangle_A |0\rangle_C + |0\rangle_A |1\rangle_C$
- 3. "Amplify" by boosting photon number to N

 $|\Psi\rangle \Longrightarrow |N\rangle_A |0\rangle_C + |0\rangle_A |N\rangle_C$

entangling two resonators

Coincidence measurement:

H. Wang et al. PRL (2011)

 $N=1: |1\rangle_A |0\rangle_C + |0\rangle_A |1\rangle_C \implies |e\rangle_0 |g\rangle_1 + |g\rangle_0 |e\rangle_1$

clear entanglement

quantum oscillators

summary:

generation & detection of photon Fock states

synthesis of arbitrary synthesis

movies of decoherence

delocalized photons in two resonators

we are still very far from an actual quantum computer

images of quantum light

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