

# Introduction to Circuit QED

Steven M. Girvin

## Experiment

**Rob Schoelkopf**  
**Michael Hatridge**  
**Luigi Frunzio**

+...

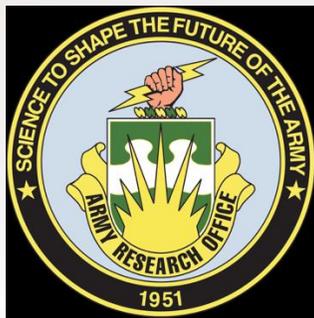


## Theory

**SMG**  
**Leonid Glazman**  
**Shruti Puri**  
**Alex Kubica**  
**Yongshan Ding**

+...

Disclosure: SMG is a consultant and equity holder in Quantum Circuits, Inc. and an equity holder in IBM, Inc.



Lecture notes on circuit QED (150 pages)  
2011 Les Houches Summer School

<https://girvin.sites.yale.edu/lectures>

Lecture series on quantum error correction and fault tolerance

[arXiv:2111.08894](https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.08894): Introduction to Quantum Error Correction and Fault Tolerance

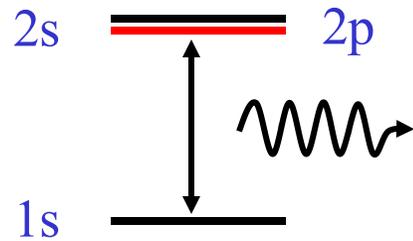
## OUTLINE:

### Introduction to Circuit QED

- **What is Cavity QED?**
- Quantum LC Oscillators
- Josephson Junctions & Transmon Qubits
- Qubits coupled to microwave cavities

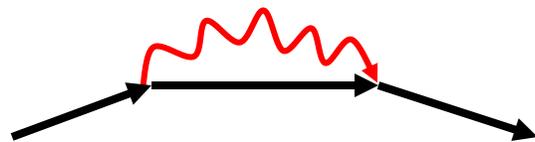
# QED: Atoms Coupled to Photons

## Zero-Point Fluctuations of the Vacuum Affect Atomic Spectra

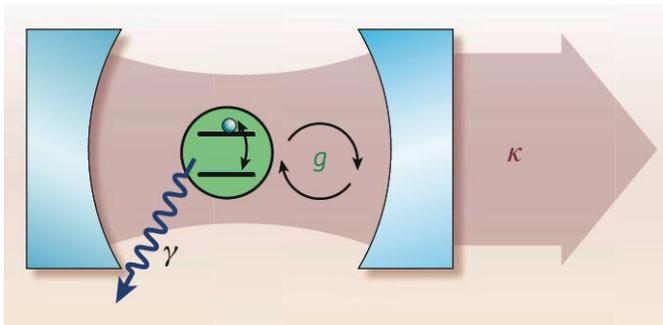


Irreversible spontaneous decay into the photon continuum:

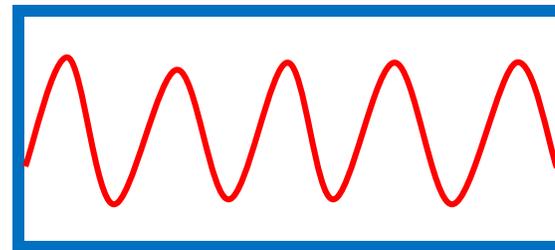
$$2p \rightarrow 1s + \gamma \quad T_1 : 1 \text{ ns}$$



Vacuum Fluctuations: electron mass renormalization;  
Virtual photon emission and reabsorption,  
**Lamb shift** lifts 2s-2p degeneracy



Optical cQED



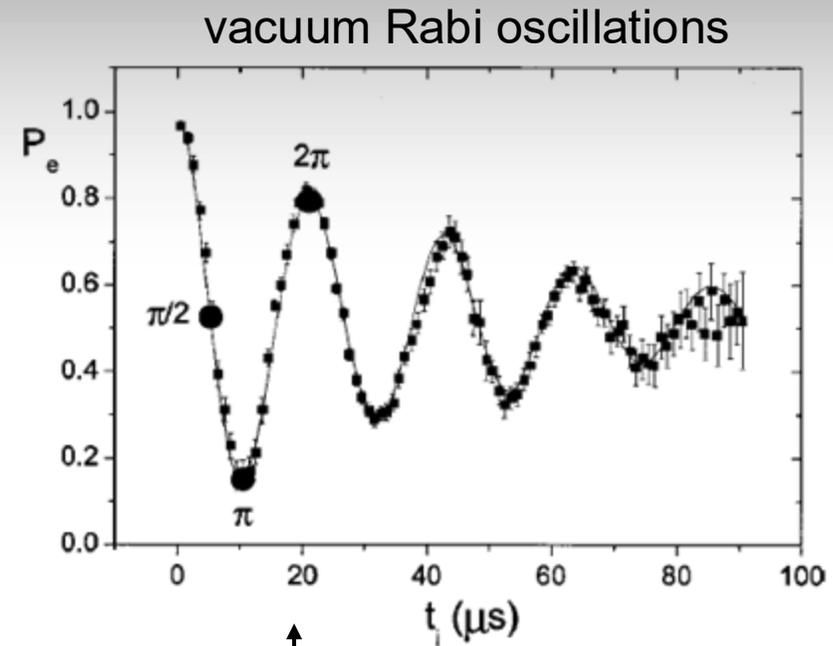
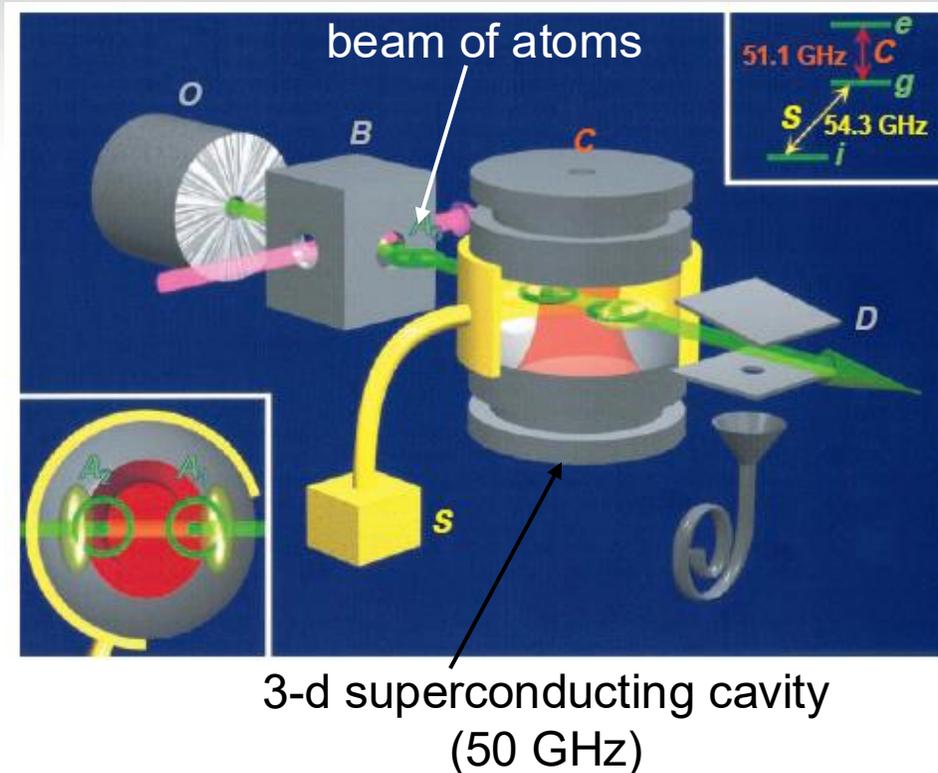
$\mu$ wave cQED

Cavity QED: What happens if we trap the photons in engineered discrete modes inside a cavity?

$$T_1^{cQED} \rightarrow 10^3 T_1$$

If cavity has no mode at atom's frequency.

# $\mu$ wave cQED with Rydberg Atoms

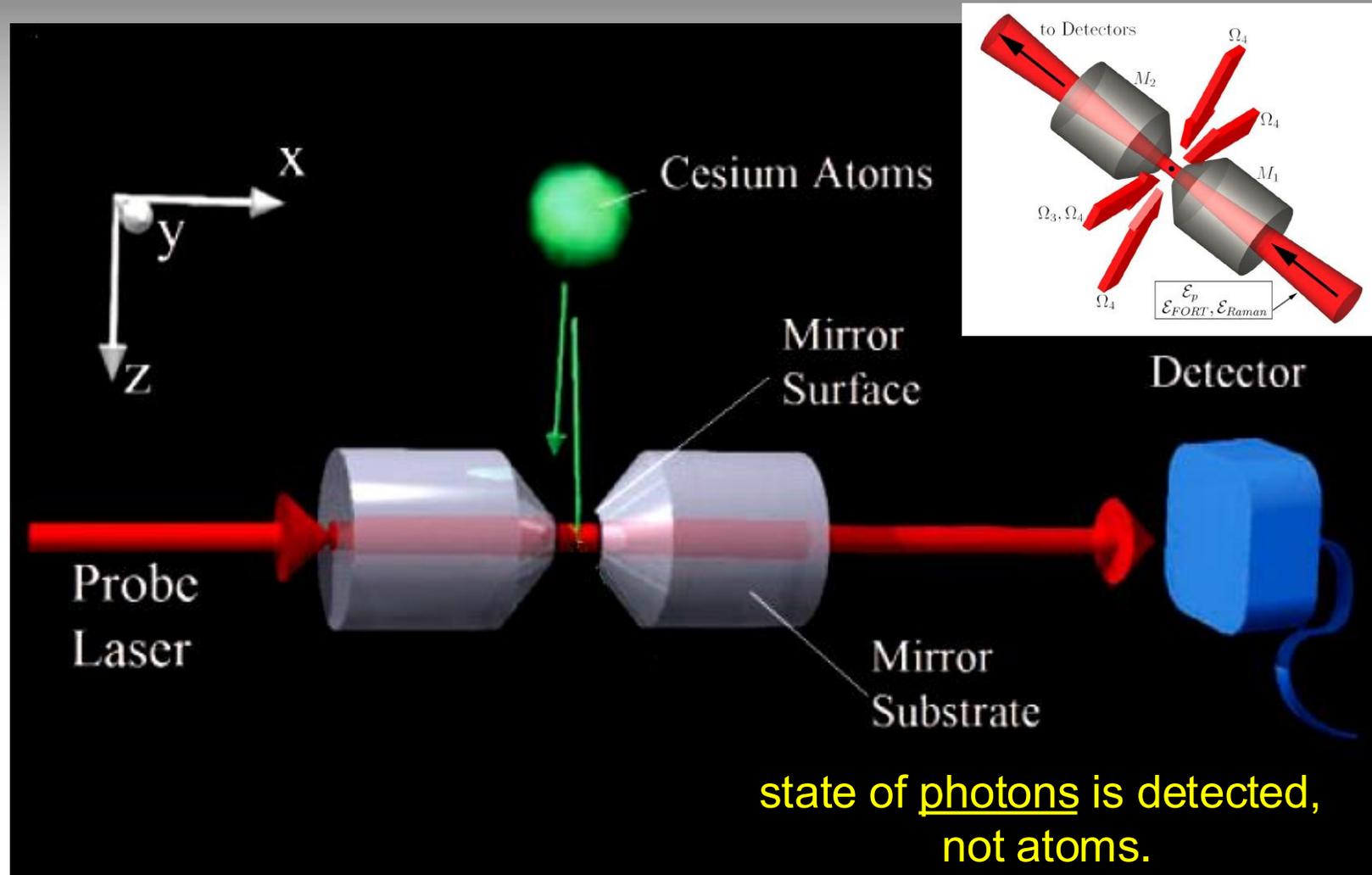


observe dependence of atom final state on time spent in cavity

measure atomic state, or ...

Review: S. Haroche Nobel Lecture, Rev. Mod. Phys. 85, 1083 (2013)

# cQED at optical frequencies



... measure changes in transmission of optical cavity

(H. J. Kimble, H. Mabuchi)

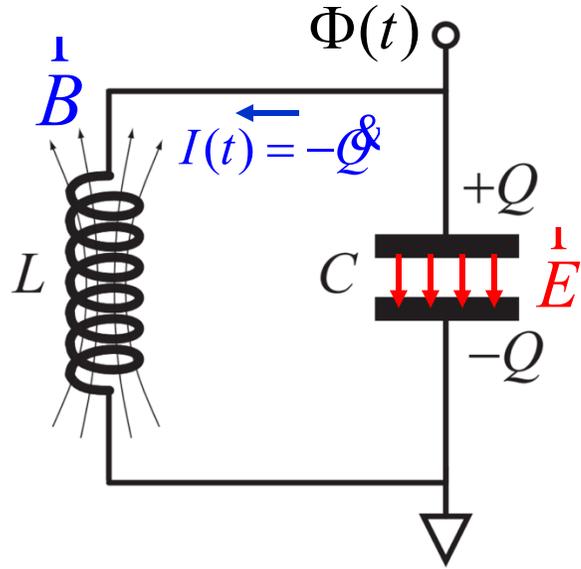
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- What is Cavity QED?
- **Quantum LC Oscillators**
- Josephson Junctions & Transmon Qubits
- Qubits coupled to microwave cavities

# How to be a quantum electrical engineer: Quantization of the LC Oscillator

Lumped element LC



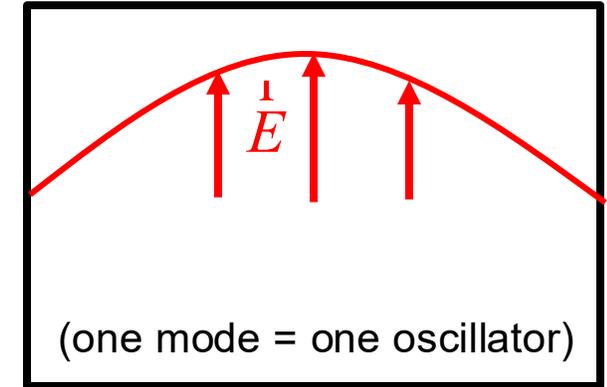
Define generalized flux

$$\Phi(t) = \int^t d\tau V(\tau)$$

$$\dot{\Phi}(t) = V(t)$$

(Faraday induction up to a minus sign)

3D cavity



Kinetic energy (aka electrostatic potential energy)

$$K = \frac{1}{2} CV^2 = \frac{1}{2} C \dot{\Phi}^2$$

Faraday:  $V = L \dot{I} = \dot{\Phi} \Rightarrow \Phi = LI$

Potential energy (aka magnetic energy)

$$U = \frac{1}{2} LI^2 = \frac{1}{2L} (LI)^2 = \frac{1}{2L} \Phi^2$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} C \dot{\Phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2L} \Phi^2$$

Conjugate momentum:

$$Q = \frac{\delta L}{\delta \dot{\Phi}} = C \dot{\Phi} = CV$$

$$H = Q \dot{\Phi} - L = \frac{Q^2}{2C} + \frac{\Phi^2}{2L}$$

Hamilton Eqns of Motion

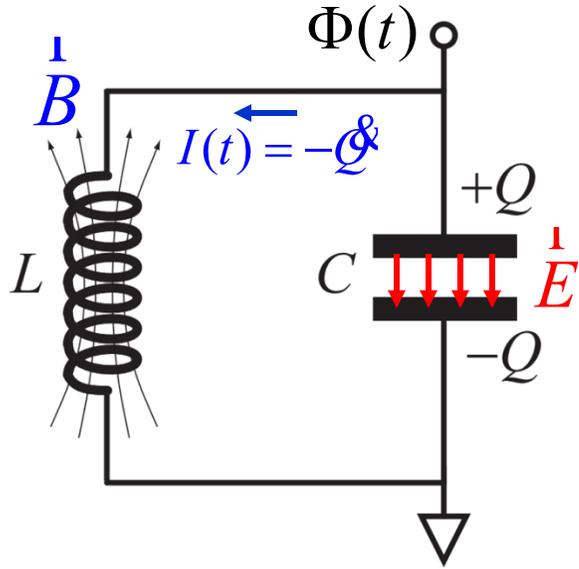
$$\dot{\Phi} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial Q} = \frac{Q}{C} \quad (\text{Faraday})$$

$$\dot{Q} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial \Phi} = -\frac{\Phi}{L} = -I \quad (\text{charge conservation})$$

$$\ddot{\Phi} = -\frac{1}{LC} \Phi \Rightarrow \omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

# How to be a quantum electrical engineer: Quantization of the LC Oscillator

Lumped element LC



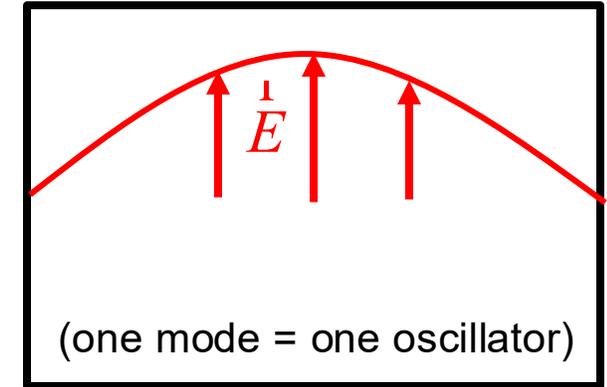
Define generalized flux

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(Faraday induction up to a minus sign)

3D cavity



$$I = I_0 \sin(\omega_R t + \theta)$$

$$V = I_0 Z_R \cos(\omega_R t + \theta)$$

$Z_R \equiv$  characteristic impedance

(nothing to do with dissipation:  $I, V$  90 degrees out of phase)

$$I = -\dot{\mathcal{Q}} = -C\dot{V} = +I_0 \frac{\omega_R C Z_R}{1} \sin(\omega_R t + \theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow Z_R = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$$

Hamilton Eqns of Motion

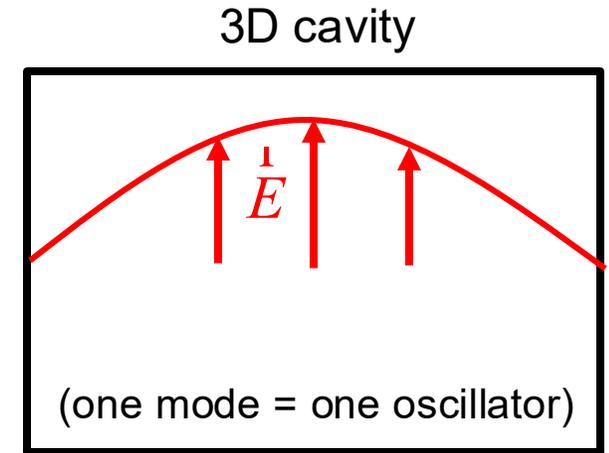
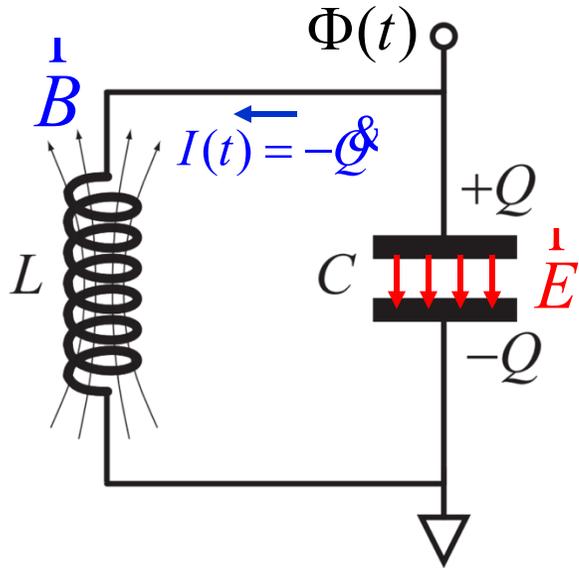
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$$\ddot{\Phi} = -\frac{1}{LC} \Phi \quad \Rightarrow \quad \omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

# How to be a quantum electrical engineer: Quantization of the LC Oscillator

Lumped element LC



$$Z_R = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}} \sim 50 - 500 \Omega$$

because impedance of free space is

$$Z_0 \equiv \sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\epsilon_0}} \approx 376.730\,313\,412\,(59) \Omega$$

Quantum of impedance (Klitzing constant)

$$Z_K \equiv \frac{h}{e^2} \equiv 25,812.807 \Omega \text{ (exact)}$$

Fine structure constant:

$$\alpha \equiv \frac{e^2}{hc} \left[ \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right] = \frac{e^2}{2h} \frac{\sqrt{\epsilon_0\mu_0}}{\epsilon_0} = \frac{Z_0}{2Z_K} \approx \frac{1}{137.035\,999\,177\,(21)}$$

SI units

# Quantizing the electromagnetic oscillator

$$H = \frac{\hat{Q}^2}{2C} + \frac{\hat{\Phi}^2}{2L}$$

$$[\hat{Q}, \hat{\Phi}] = -i\hbar$$

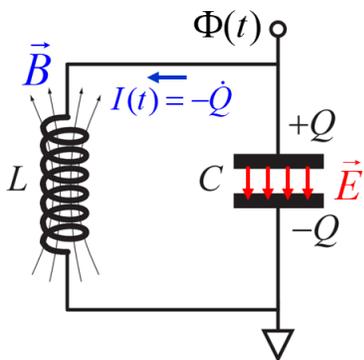
$$\hat{\Phi} = \Phi_{\text{ZPF}} (a + a^\dagger)$$

$$\hat{Q} = -iQ_{\text{ZPF}} (a - a^\dagger)$$

photon creation and  
destruction operators

$$[a, a^\dagger] = 1 \Rightarrow Q_{\text{ZPF}} \Phi_{\text{ZPF}} = \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

Lumped element LC



vacuum fluctuations

$$a|0\rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \langle 0|\hat{Q}^2|0\rangle = Q_{\text{ZPF}}^2 \langle 0|(a + a^\dagger)(a + a^\dagger)|0\rangle = Q_{\text{ZPF}}^2$$

zero-point energy:

$$\langle 0|H|0\rangle = \frac{\langle 0|\hat{Q}^2|0\rangle}{2C} + \frac{\langle 0|\hat{\Phi}^2|0\rangle}{2C} = \frac{1}{2} \hbar \omega = \frac{\hbar}{4\pi} \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$

$$\frac{Q_{\text{ZPF}}^2}{2C} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \hbar \omega \right) \Rightarrow Q_{\text{ZPF}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2Z_{\text{R}}}} = e \sqrt{\frac{Z_{\text{K}}}{4\pi Z_{\text{R}}}}$$

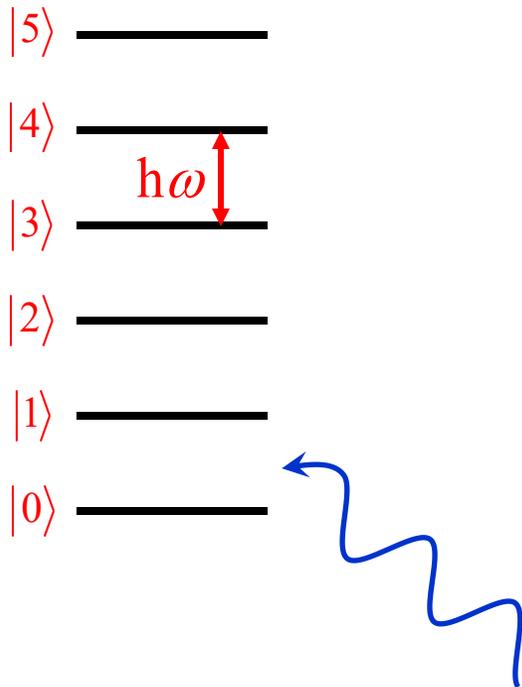
$$Q_{\text{ZPF}} = e \sqrt{\frac{Z_{\text{K}}}{4\pi Z_0} \left( \frac{Z_0}{Z_{\text{R}}} \right)} = e \sqrt{\frac{1}{8\pi\alpha} \left( \frac{Z_0}{Z_{\text{R}}} \right)} \approx 2.3e \sqrt{\left( \frac{Z_0}{Z_{\text{R}}} \right)} \approx 2 - 6 \text{ electrons}$$

$$Z_{\text{K}} = \frac{\hbar}{e^2} \approx 25 \text{ k}\Omega \quad Z_0 = \sqrt{\frac{\mu_0}{\epsilon_0}} \approx 377 \Omega \quad Z_{\text{R}} = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}} \approx 50 - 500 \Omega$$

Quantum Harmonic Oscillators have many important uses but:

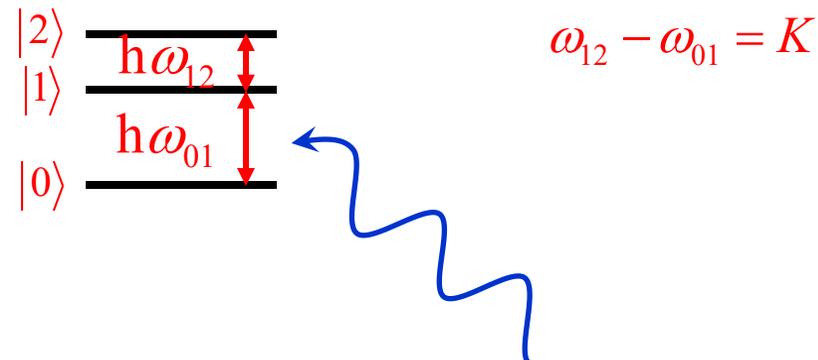
Their level spacing is uniform making them impossible to achieve full *quantum* control with *classical* signals.

$$H = \hbar\omega a^\dagger a$$



We need anharmonicity to make *qubits* and *auxiliary controllers* for oscillators:

$$H = \hbar \left[ \omega a^\dagger a - \frac{K}{2} a^\dagger a^\dagger a a \right]$$



## Quantum control paradox:

### Microwave resonators

- can have very long lifetimes (1ms – 1 s) compared to qubits
- contain a large Hilbert space in a simple empty box
- can replace multiple qubits

### But:

- require ancilla non-linear element (e.g. a qubit) to provide universal control

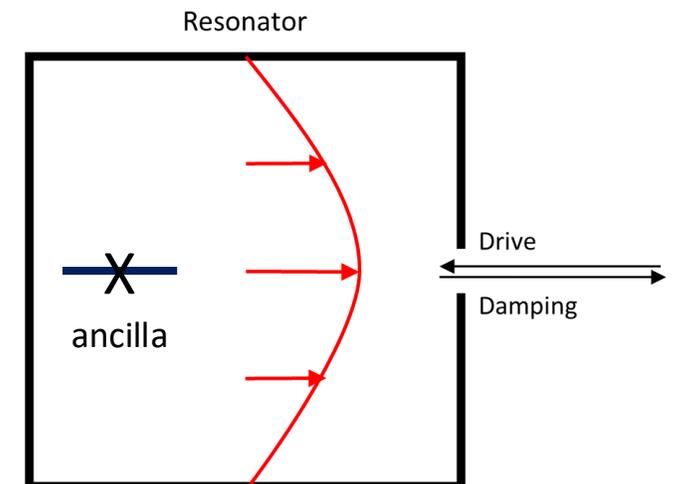
### Recent theory papers:

‘Hybrid Oscillator-Qubit Quantum Processors: Instruction Set Architectures, Abstract Machine Models, and Applications,’ Y. Liu et al., [arXiv:2407.10381](https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.10381)

‘Quantum control of bosonic modes with superconducting circuits,’ Wen-Long Ma et al., *Science Bulletin* **66**, 1789 (2021)

‘Photon-Number-Dependent Hamiltonian Engineering for Cavities,’ Chiao-Hsuan Wang et al. *Phys. Rev. Applied* **15**, 044026 (2021)

‘Constructing Qudits from Infinite Dimensional Oscillators by Coupling to Qubits,’ Yuan Liu et al., *Phys. Rev. A* **104**, 032605 (2021)



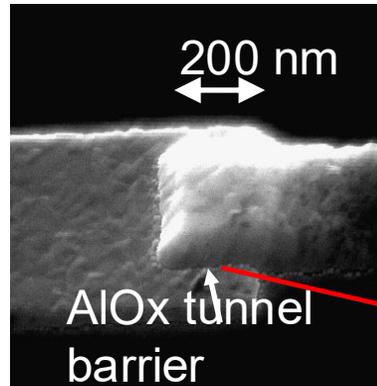
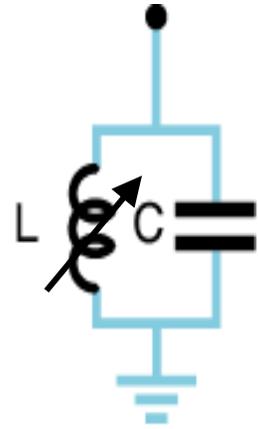
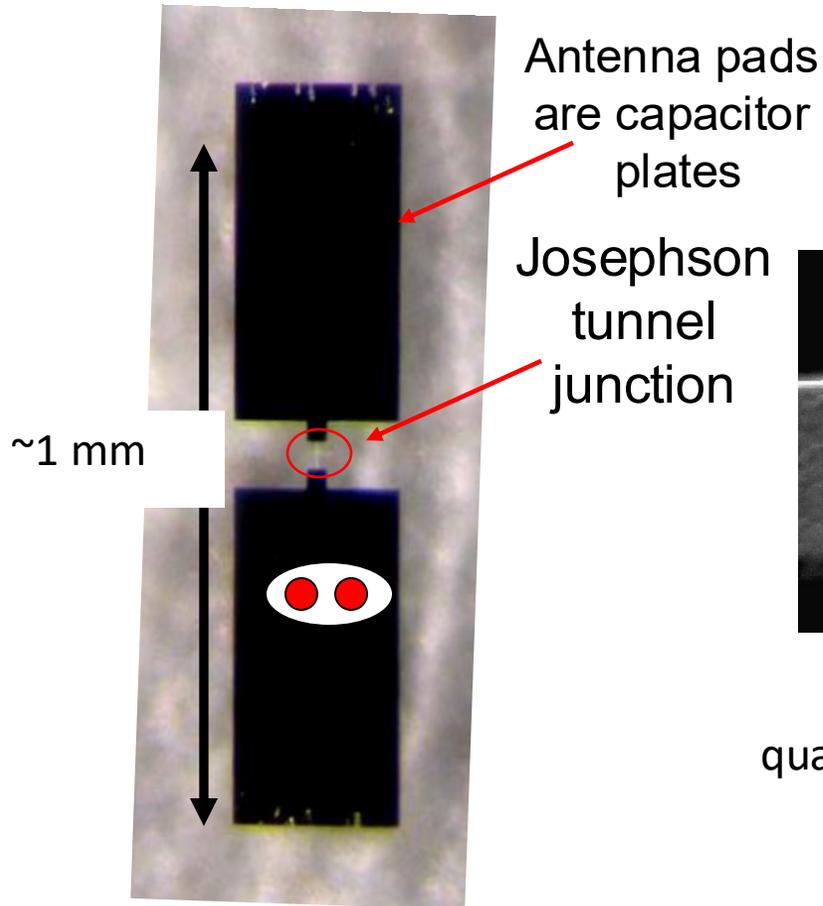
## OUTLINE:

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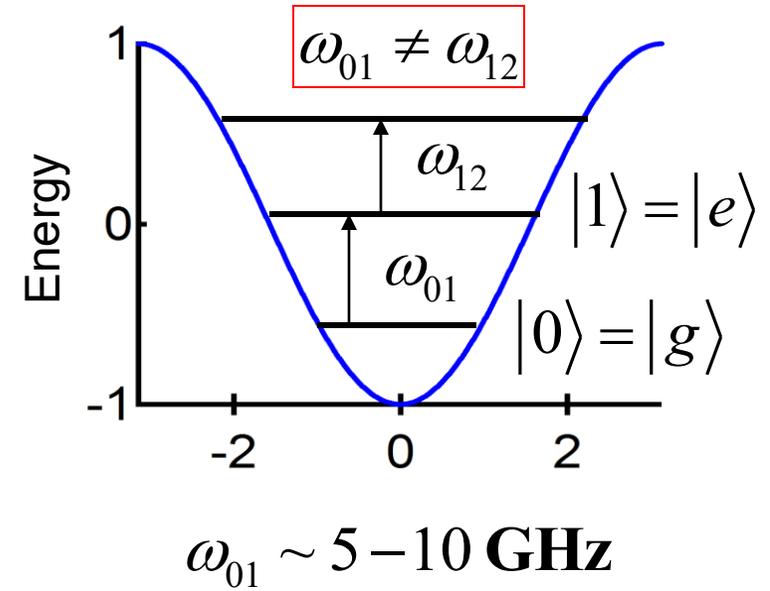
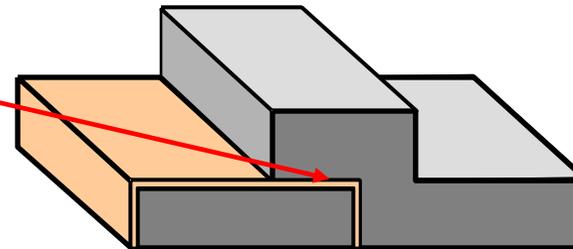
- What is Cavity QED?
- Quantum LC Oscillators
- **Josephson Junctions & Transmon Qubits**
- Qubits coupled to microwave cavities

Joseph tunnel junctions act as non-linear inductors to produce anharmonic oscillators and qubits

'Transmon' Qubit



'transistor of quantum computing'



## 'Circuit QED:'

- microwave photons inside superconducting circuits
- artificial atoms (Josephson junction qubits)

## Ultra-strong photon-'atom' coupling:

- non-linear quantum optics at the single photon level

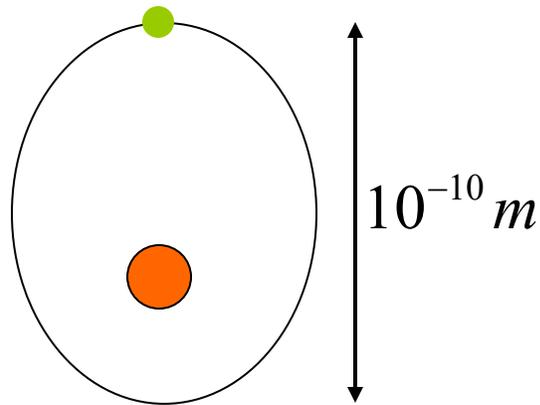
### Hydrogen atom

$$f_{1S-2P} \approx 2.46 \times 10^{15} \text{ Hz}$$

$$\tau_{2P} \approx 1.6 \text{ ns}$$

$$Q/2\pi \approx 4 \times 10^6$$

dipole  $\sim 1$  Debye



(Not to scale!)

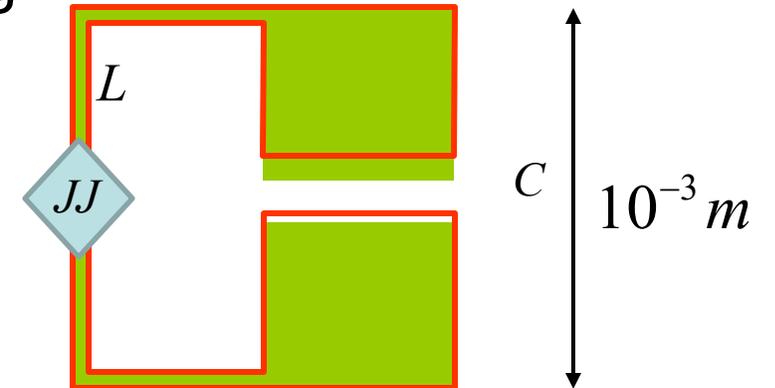
### Superconducting oscillator/qubit

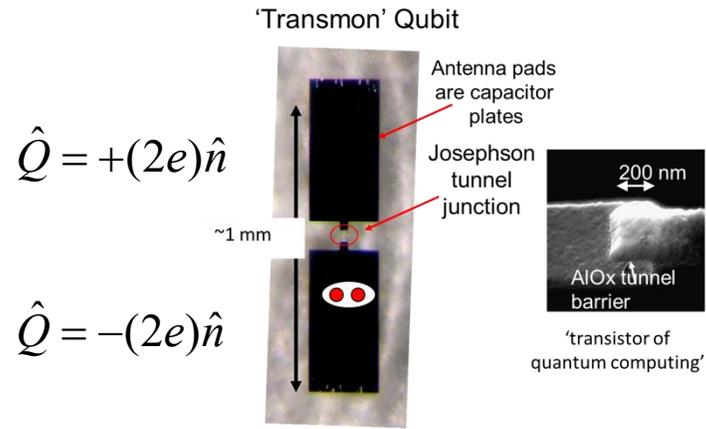
$$f_{01} \approx 7 \times 10^9 \text{ Hz}$$

$$\tau_{2P} \approx 300 \mu\text{s}$$

$$Q/2\pi \approx 2 \times 10^6$$

dipole  $\sim 3 \times 10^7$  Debye





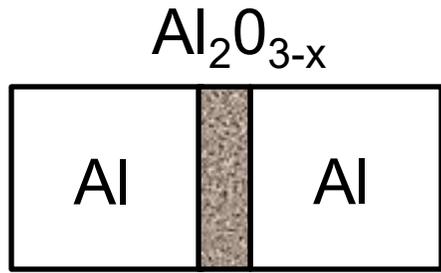
Transmon qubit is a synthetic atom with 'atomic number'  $\sim 10^{13}$

But the spectrum is simple.

Superconductivity gaps out single-particle excitations.

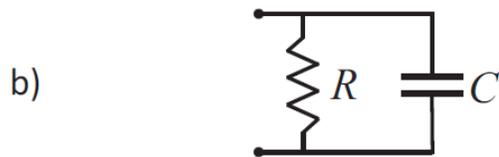
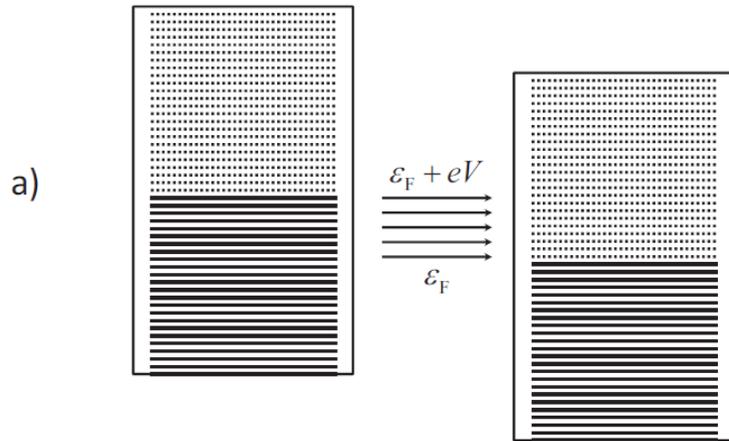
Coulomb interaction gaps out plasma waves in the antenna pads.

States in the low-energy Hilbert space are specified simply by the integer number  $n$  of Cooper pairs that have tunneled through the junction.

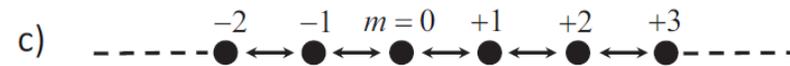
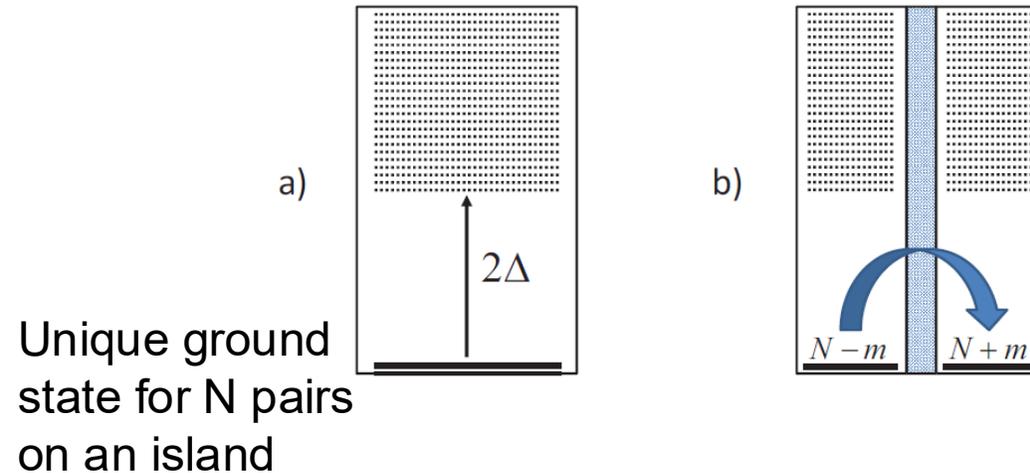


# Josephson Tunnel Junctions

## Normal tunnel junction

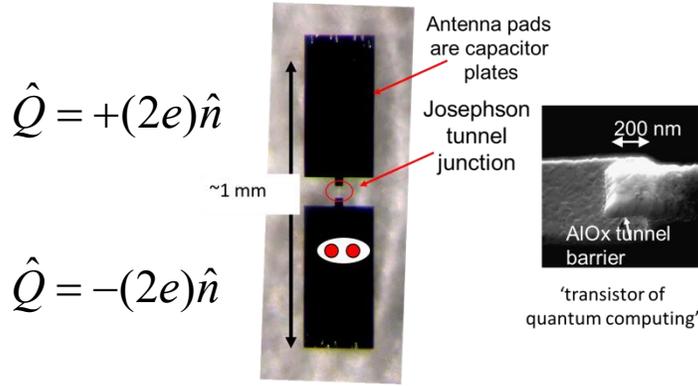


## Superconducting tunnel junction



Total number of Cooper pairs that have tunneled uniquely determines the low-energy quantum state of a pair of islands.

'Transmon' Qubit



Transmon qubit is a synthetic atom with 'atomic number'  $\sim 10^{13}$

But the spectrum is simple.

Superconductivity gaps out single-particle excitations.

Coulomb interaction gaps out plasma waves in the antenna pads.

States in the low-energy Hilbert space are specified simply by the integer number  $n$  of Cooper pairs that have tunneled through the junction.

Coulomb charging energy

$$U = \frac{\hat{Q}^2}{2C} = 4E_C \hat{n}^2$$

$$E_C \equiv \frac{e^2}{C}$$

square of a +/- integer

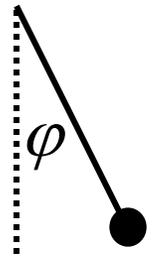
Notice that the (single axis) quantum rotor has integer angular momentum

$$\hat{L} = \hbar \hat{n} \quad \text{and kinetic energy}$$

$$T = \frac{\hat{L}^2}{2I_0} = 4E_C \hat{n}^2$$

(if we relate the moment of inertia to the capacitance).

Quantum Rotor



Charge (aka angular momentum) eigenstates:

$$\psi_m(\varphi) = e^{im\varphi} = \langle \varphi | m \rangle$$

$$\hat{n} = -i \frac{d}{d\varphi}$$

$$\hat{n} |m\rangle = m |m\rangle$$

$\varphi$  represents the condensate phase difference across the JJ

## Representing Josephson Tunneling in the Rotor Model

Notice that the operator  $T_{\pm} = e^{\pm i\varphi}$  changes the rotor angular momentum by one unit  $T_{\pm} |m\rangle = |m \pm 1\rangle$  which changes the tunneled charge  $Q = (2e) m$  by one Cooper pair

$$T_{\pm} = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} |n \pm 1\rangle \langle n|$$

We can represent the Josephson tunneling (in both directions) by

$$T = -\frac{E_J}{2}(T_+ + T_-) = -E_J \cos \varphi$$

where  $E_J$  is the Josephson energy.

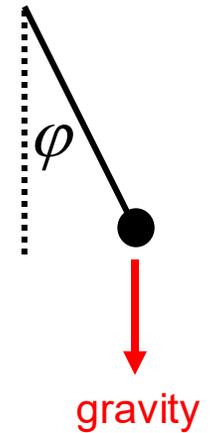
Represents a **torque due to gravity** that alters the angular momentum!

Transmon Hamiltonian

$$H = 4E_C \hat{n}^2 - E_J \cos \varphi$$

$$\hat{n} = -i \frac{d}{d\varphi}$$

## Quantum Rotor

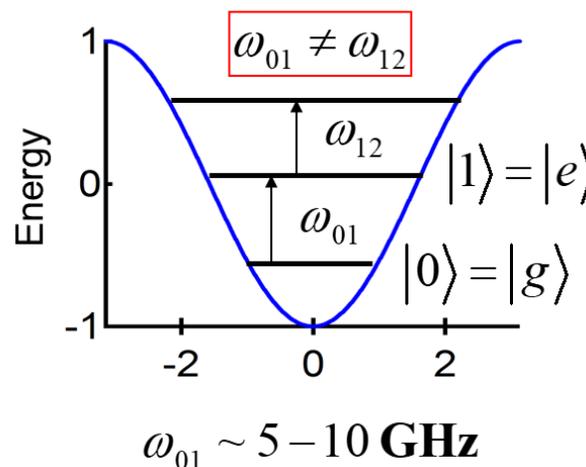


Strong gravity is:

$$E_J \ll E_C$$

Cooper Pair Box:  $E_J \leq E_C$

Transmon:  $E_J \sim 10^2 E_C$



$$\psi_m(\varphi) = e^{im\varphi} = \langle \varphi | m \rangle$$

$$\hat{n} = -i \frac{d}{d\varphi}$$

$$\hat{n} |m\rangle = m |m\rangle$$

## Transmon Hamiltonian

$$H = 4E_C \hat{n}^2 - E_J \cos \varphi$$

$$\dot{\varphi} = \frac{\partial H}{\hbar \partial \hat{n}}$$

$$\hbar \dot{\varphi} = 8E_C \hat{n} = 8 \frac{e^2}{2C} \hat{n} = (2e) \frac{(2e)\hat{n}}{C}$$

Voltage Josephson Relation:

$$\hbar \dot{\varphi} = (2e)V \Rightarrow \dot{\varphi} = \frac{2e}{\hbar} \Phi$$

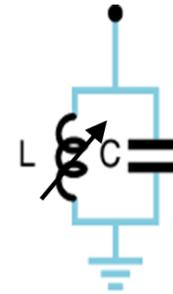
$$\varphi = 2\pi \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0} \quad \leftarrow \text{Flux} \quad \Phi_0 \equiv \frac{h}{2e}$$

← Flux quantum

## Transmon as a non-linear LC oscillator

$$H = \frac{\hat{Q}^2}{2C} - E_J \cos \left( 2\pi \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0} \right)$$

$$\approx \frac{\hat{Q}^2}{2C} - E_J + \frac{\Phi^2}{2L_J} + \lambda \Phi^4 + \dots$$



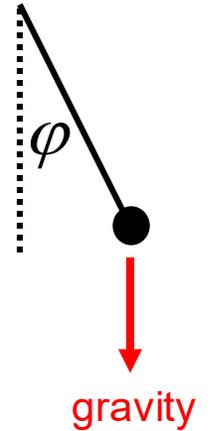
$$L_J \equiv \frac{1}{E_J} \left( \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

Current Josephson Relation:

$$I = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \Phi} = I_c \sin \left( 2\pi \frac{\Phi}{\Phi_0} \right)$$

$$I_c = \left( \frac{2\pi}{\Phi_0} \right) E_J \quad \text{critical current}$$

## Quantum Rotor

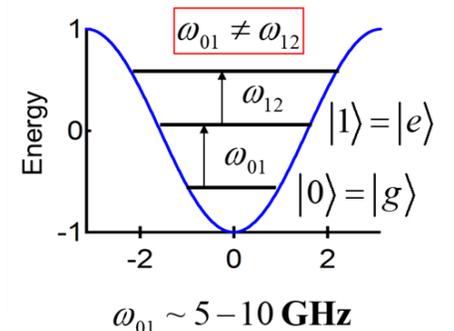


Strong gravity is:

$$E_J \ll E_C$$

Cooper Pair Box:  $E_J \leq E_C$

Transmon:  $E_J \sim 10^2 E_C$



## Anharmonic transmon as a two-level qubit

$$H_0 = \frac{\omega_{01}}{2} \sigma^z$$

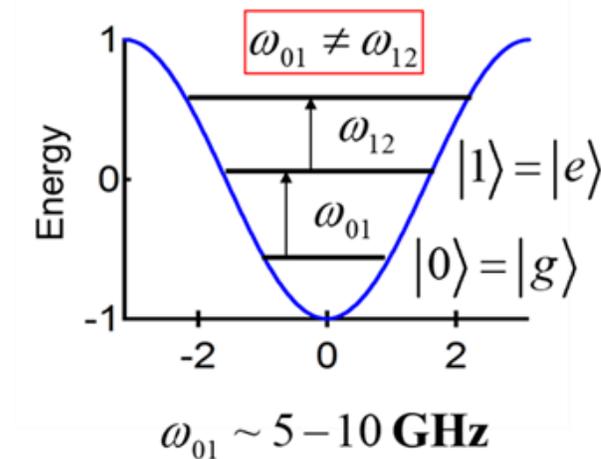
Classical control tones at  $\omega_{01}$  can rotate the qubit between  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$  without exciting the higher lying levels:

$$V_{\text{drive}}(t) = 2 \left[ \Omega_x \cos(\omega_{01}t) + \Omega_y \sin(\omega_{01}t) \right] \sigma^x$$

In the interaction picture (frame rotating with the qubit)

where  $H_0 \rightarrow 0$ ,  $V_{\text{drive}} \rightarrow \Omega_x \sigma^x + \Omega_y \sigma^y$ ,

giving universal single-qubit control since  $\{\sigma^x, \sigma^y\}$  generate SU(2).

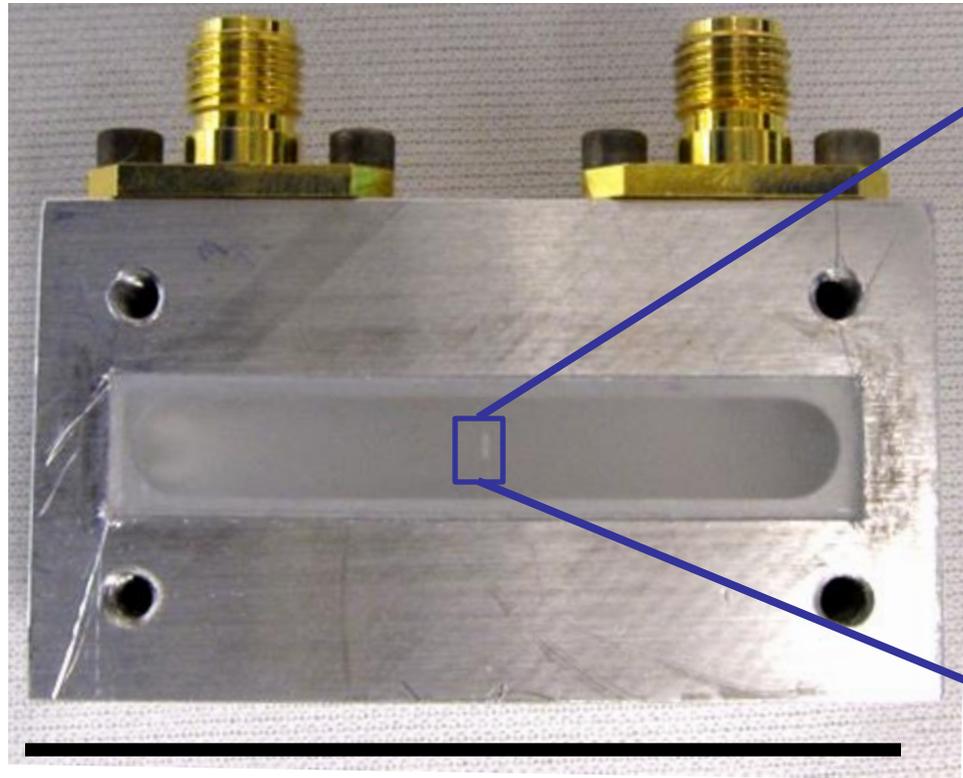


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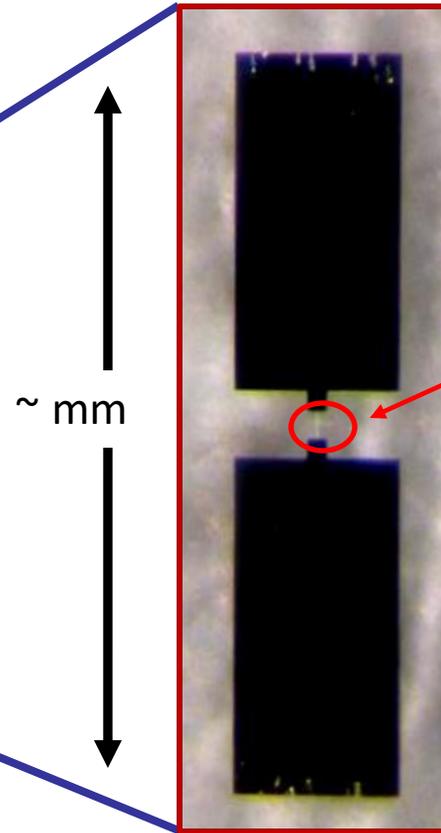
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# Transmon Qubit in 3D Cavity



50 mm



~ mm

Josephson junction

$$\frac{Q_{\text{ZPF}}}{2e} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{16\pi\alpha}} \sim 1-3$$

bit flip

$$g = \frac{\dot{\mathbf{d}} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{E}}_{\text{rms}}}{h}$$

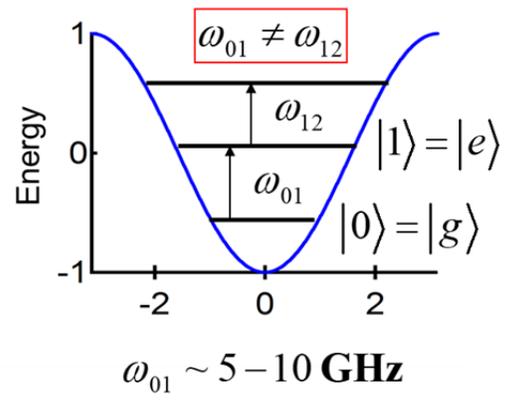
$$|\dot{\mathbf{d}}| = 2e \times 1 \text{ mm} \approx 10^7 \text{ Debye!!}$$

Huge dipole moment: strong coupling

$$V_{\text{dipole}} = g \sigma^x (a + a^\dagger)$$

$$g \sim 100 \text{ MHz}$$

Use anharmonicity to neglect higher excited states and treat transmon as a two-level system



Microwave resonator

Transmon qubit

Dipole Coupling

$$H = \omega_r a^\dagger a + \frac{\omega_q}{2} \sigma^z + g \sigma^x [a + a^\dagger] + H_{\text{damping}}$$

[Rabi]

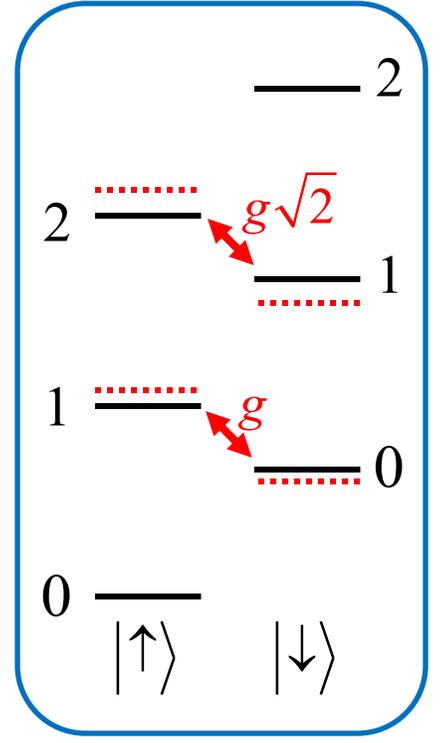
$$H = \omega_r a^\dagger a + \frac{\omega_q}{2} \sigma^z + g [a \sigma^+ + a^\dagger \sigma^-] + H_{\text{damping}}$$

[Jaynes-Cummings]

$$H = \omega_r a^\dagger a + \frac{\omega_q}{2} \sigma^z + \chi \sigma^z a^\dagger a + H_{\text{damping}}$$

[Dispersive]

$$\chi \sim \frac{g^2}{\omega_r - \omega_q} \quad (\text{strong anharmonicity}) \quad \chi \propto E_C \quad (\text{weak anharmonicity})$$



'Dressed atom'

# Strong Dispersive Hamiltonian

$$H = \omega_r a^\dagger a + \frac{\omega_q}{2} \sigma^z + \chi \sigma^z a^\dagger a + H_{\text{damping}}$$

resonator

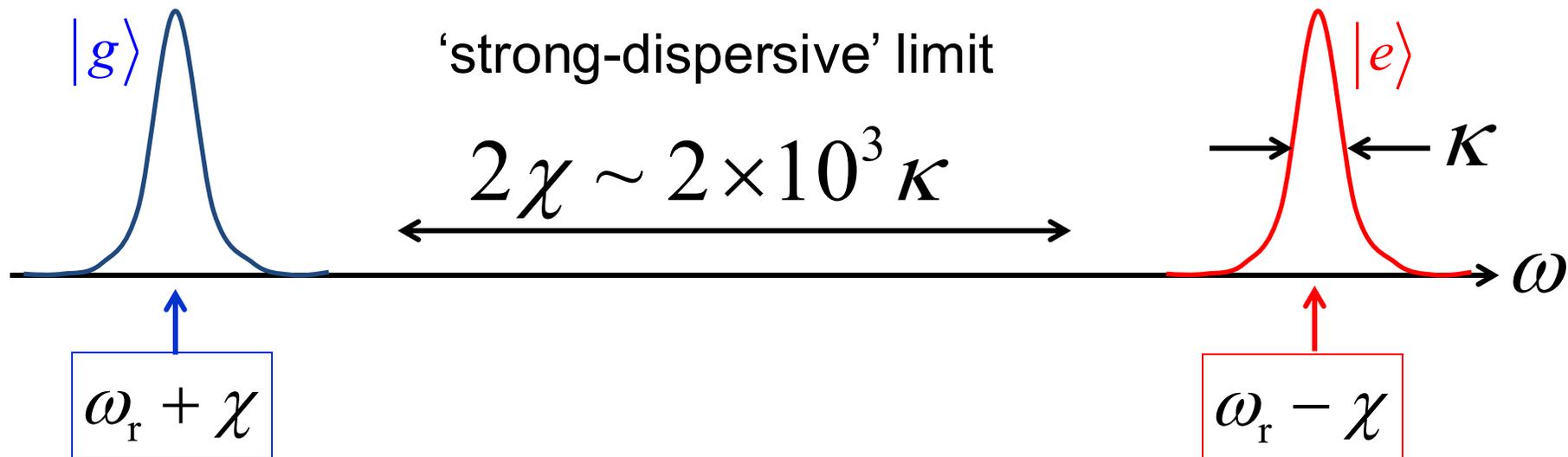
qubit

dispersive  
coupling

$$\chi \gg \kappa, \Gamma$$

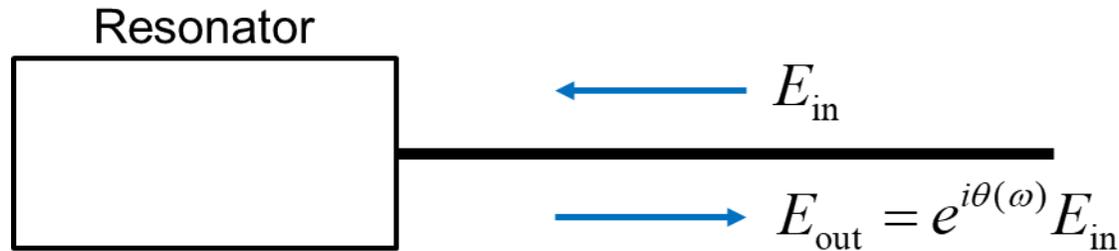
$$\text{cavity frequency} = \omega_r + \chi \sigma^z$$

[Cavity frequency can be used to readout state of qubit]



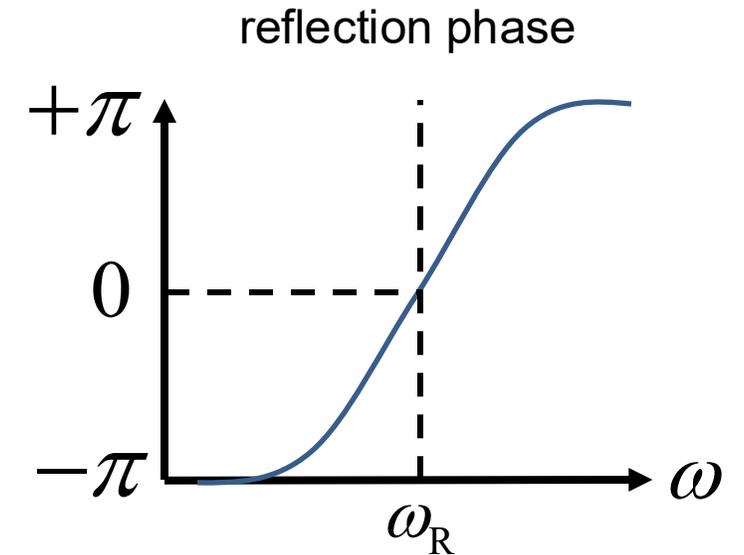
# Using (not so) strong dispersive coupling to measure the state of the qubit

The S matrix for reflection of microwaves from a resonator:



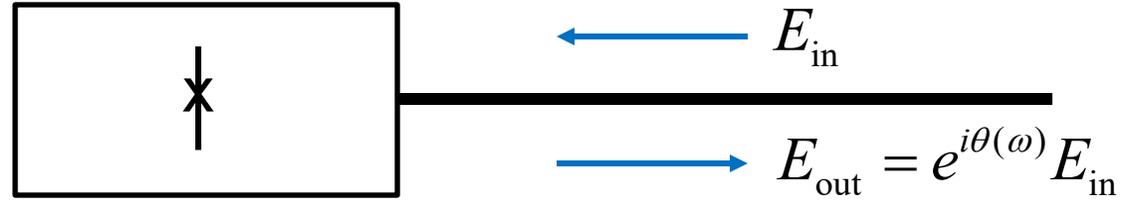
$$S(\omega) = e^{i\theta(\omega)} = -\frac{\omega - \omega_R - i\kappa/2}{\omega - \omega_R + i\kappa/2}$$

Probe frequency
Resonator frequency
Resonator damping



Recall that an oscillator driven on resonance responds **internally** with a phase shift of  $\frac{\pi}{2}$ . However, the **externally** reflected drive wave has a different phase shift.

## Resonator + qubit

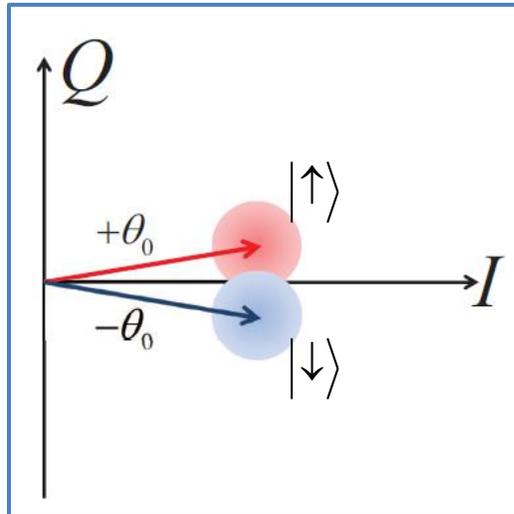


$$S(\omega) = e^{i\theta(\omega)} = -\frac{\omega - \omega_R - i\kappa/2}{\omega - \omega_R + i\kappa/2}$$

Probe frequency
Resonator frequency
Resonator damping

Quadrature amplitudes:  
*I* is oscillator position.  
*Q* is oscillator momentum.

Fuzzy due to uncertainty principle.



When we include the dispersive coupling of the resonator to the qubit

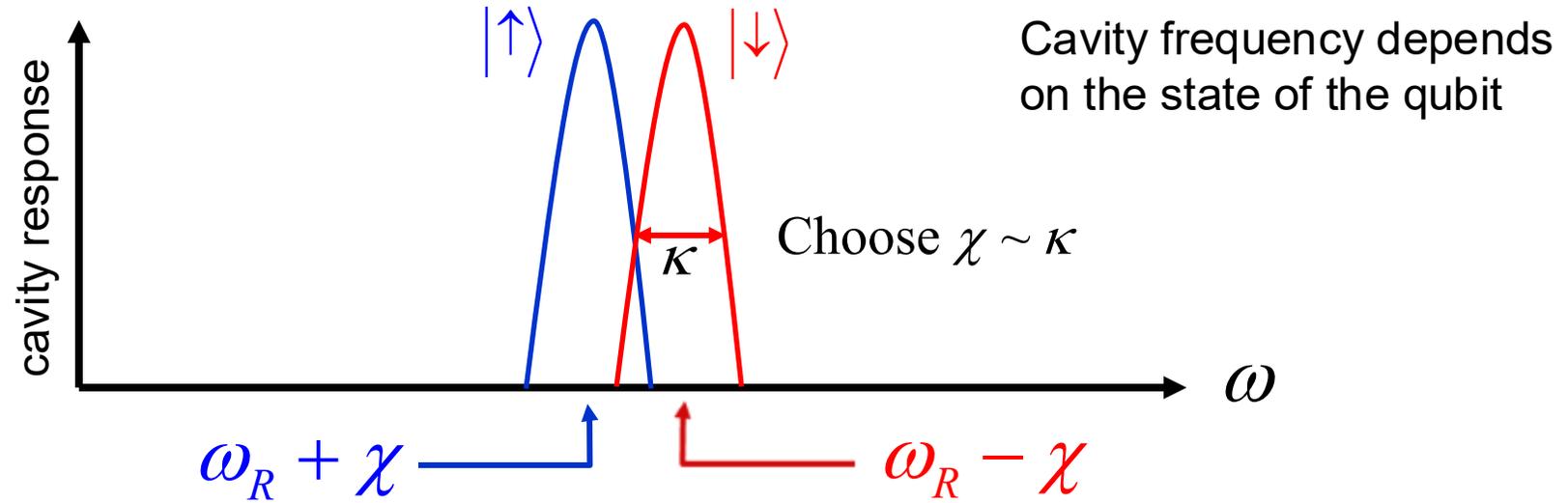
$$\omega_R \rightarrow \omega_R + \chi\sigma^z$$

Choosing the drive frequency  $\omega = \omega_R$  yields

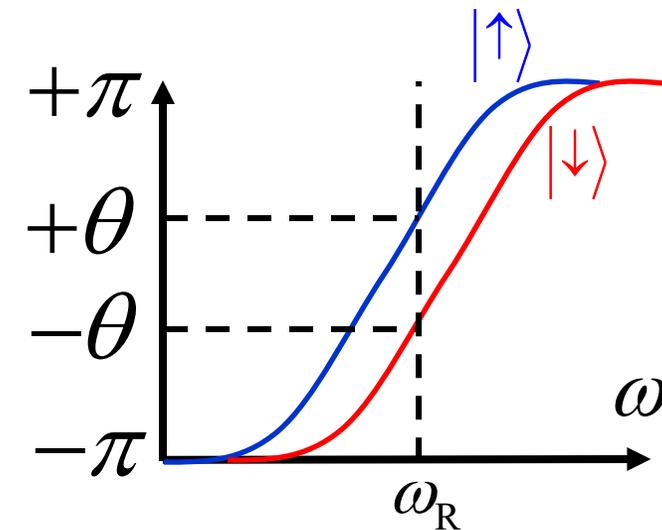
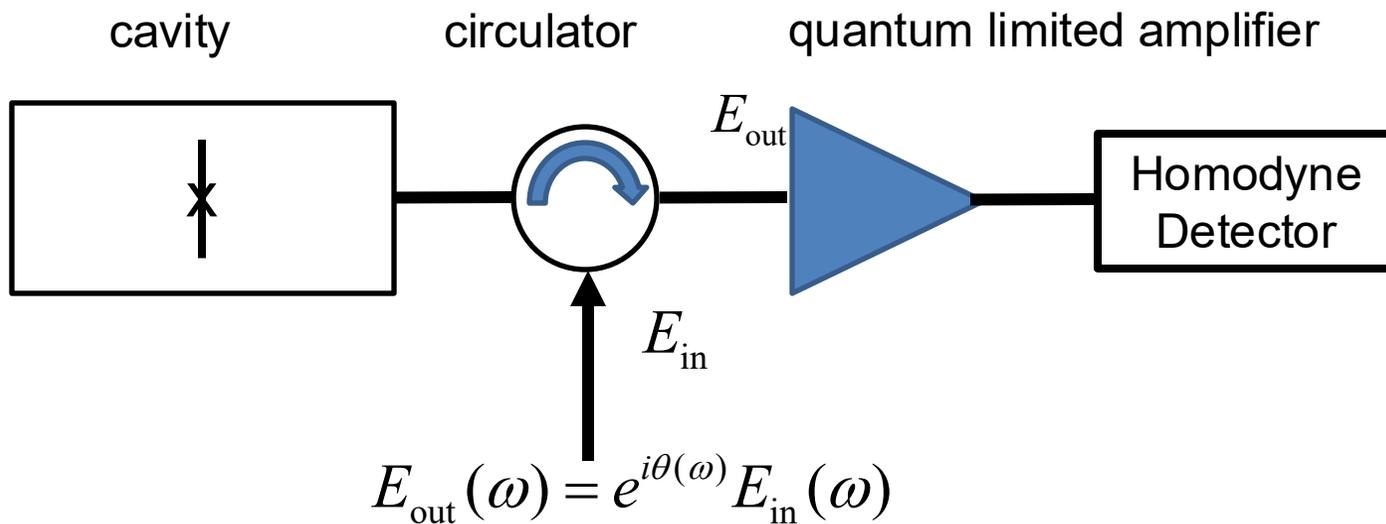
$$S(\omega_R) = e^{i\theta(\omega_R)} = -\frac{\chi\sigma^z - i\kappa/2}{\chi\sigma^z + i\kappa/2} = e^{i\theta_0\sigma^z}$$

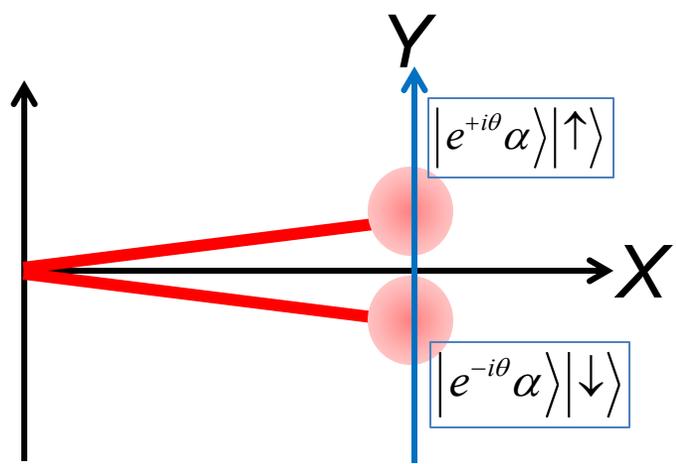
with  $\tan \frac{\theta_0}{2} = \frac{\kappa}{2\chi}$ .

Can read out qubit state by measuring cavity resonance frequency (which is shifted by the qubit)



Cavity reflection phase depends on the state of the qubit

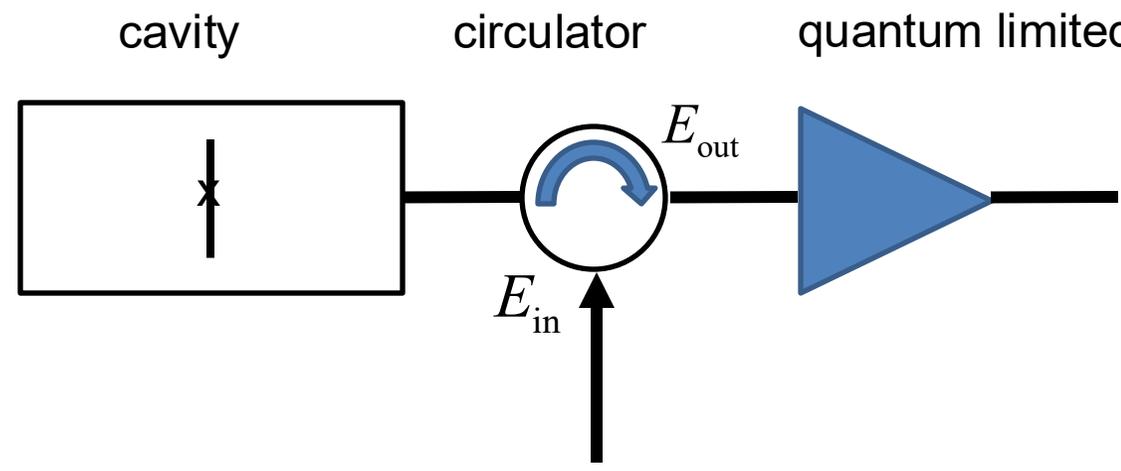




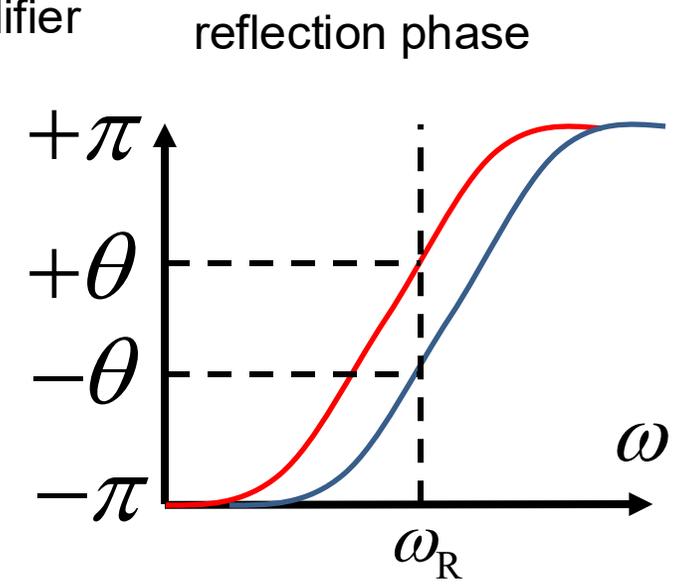
$$|\psi_{\text{in}}\rangle = \{a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle\}|\alpha\rangle$$

$$|\psi_{\text{out}}\rangle = a|e^{+i\theta}\alpha\rangle|\uparrow\rangle + b|e^{-i\theta}\alpha\rangle|\downarrow\rangle$$

State of qubit is entangled with the 'meter' (microwave phase)  
 Then 'meter' is read with amplifier.



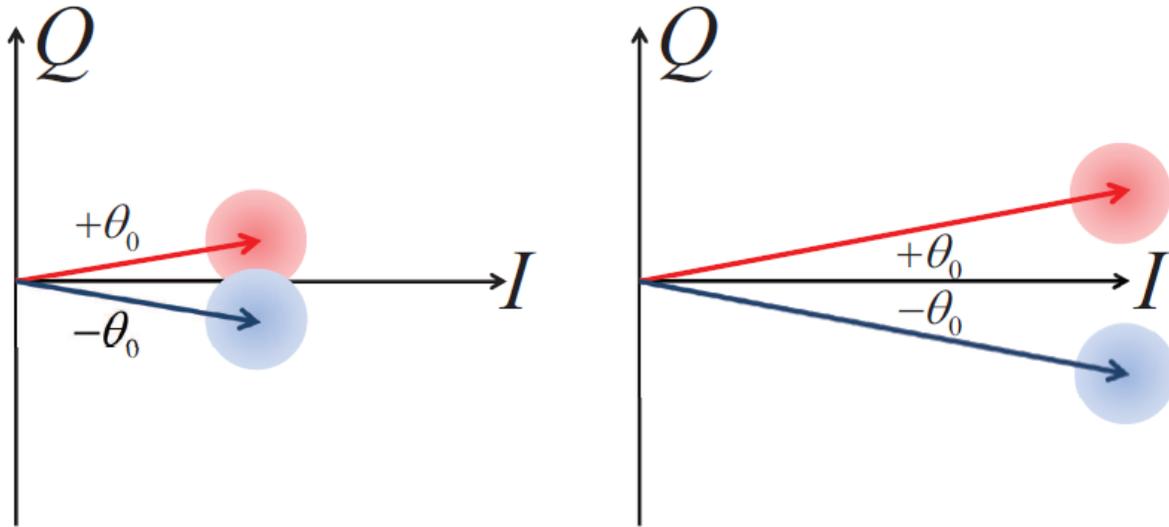
$$E_{\text{out}}(\omega) = e^{i\theta(\omega)} E_{\text{in}}(\omega)$$



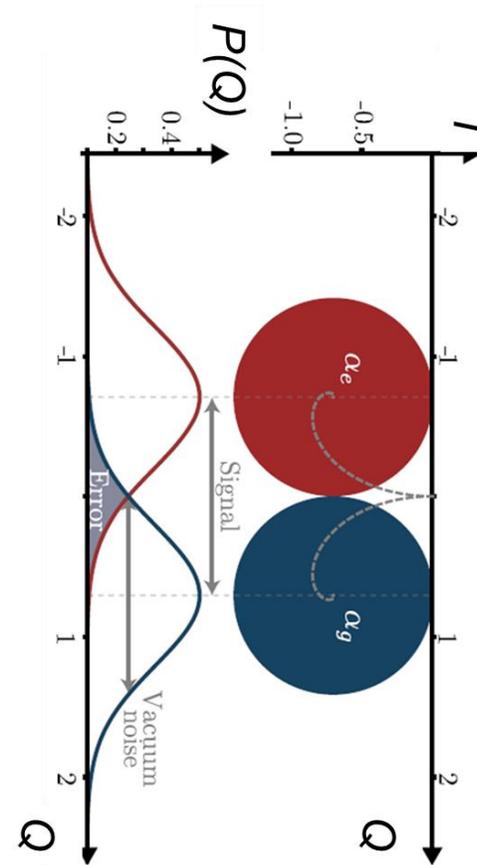
# Readout fidelity

vacuum noise  $\rightarrow$  shot noise

Measure  $Q$  to readout qubit state



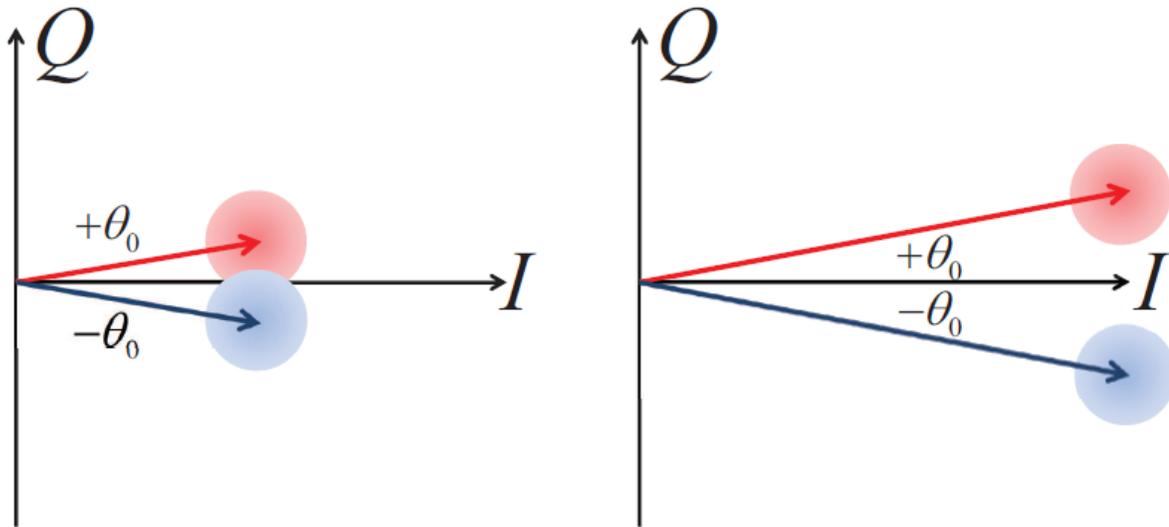
Quadrature amplitudes  $I, Q$  are canonically conjugate, leading to quantum vacuum noise



# Readout fidelity

vacuum noise  $\rightarrow$  shot noise

Measure Q to readout qubit state



*Quadrature amplitudes*  
*I, Q are canonically*  
*conjugate, leading to*  
*quantum vacuum noise*

We need a readout drive with definite phase so we can see the reflection phase shift. But this means the incoming microwave pulse has indefinite photon number:

Number - Phase Uncertainty Principle

$$\Delta N \Delta \theta = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Delta \theta < \theta_0 \Rightarrow \Delta N > \frac{1}{2\theta_0}$$

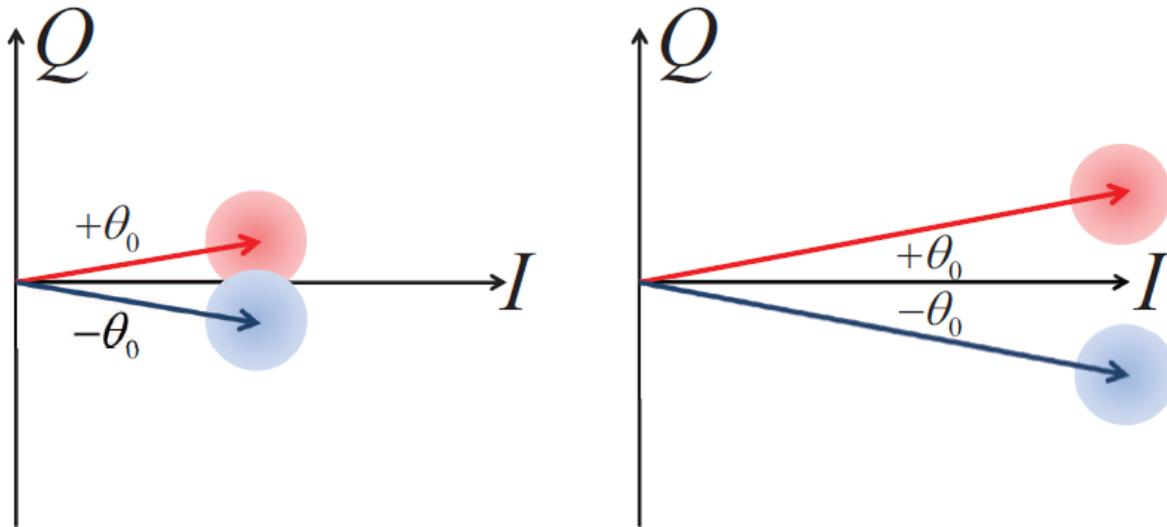
For coherent states  $\Delta N = \sqrt{\bar{N}} \Rightarrow$

$$\bar{N} > \frac{1}{4\theta_0^2}$$

# Readout fidelity

vacuum noise  $\rightarrow$  shot noise

Measure Q to readout qubit state



Quadrature amplitudes  $I, Q$  are canonically conjugate, leading to quantum vacuum noise

Formal derivation (for small  $\theta_0$ )

Coherent state:

$$|\alpha e^{i\theta_0}\rangle = e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}} e^{\alpha e^{i\theta_0} a^\dagger} |0\rangle = e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha e^{i\theta_0})^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$$

$$\bar{N} = \alpha^2$$

$$|\langle \alpha e^{-i\theta_0} | \alpha e^{i\theta_0} \rangle|^2 = e^{2\alpha^2 [\cos(2\theta_0) - 1]} \approx e^{2\alpha^2 [-2\theta_0^2]} = e^{-4\bar{N}\theta_0^2}$$

The two reflected waves become orthogonal

(and therefore distinguishable) for  $\bar{N}$  ?  $\frac{1}{4\theta_0^2}$ .

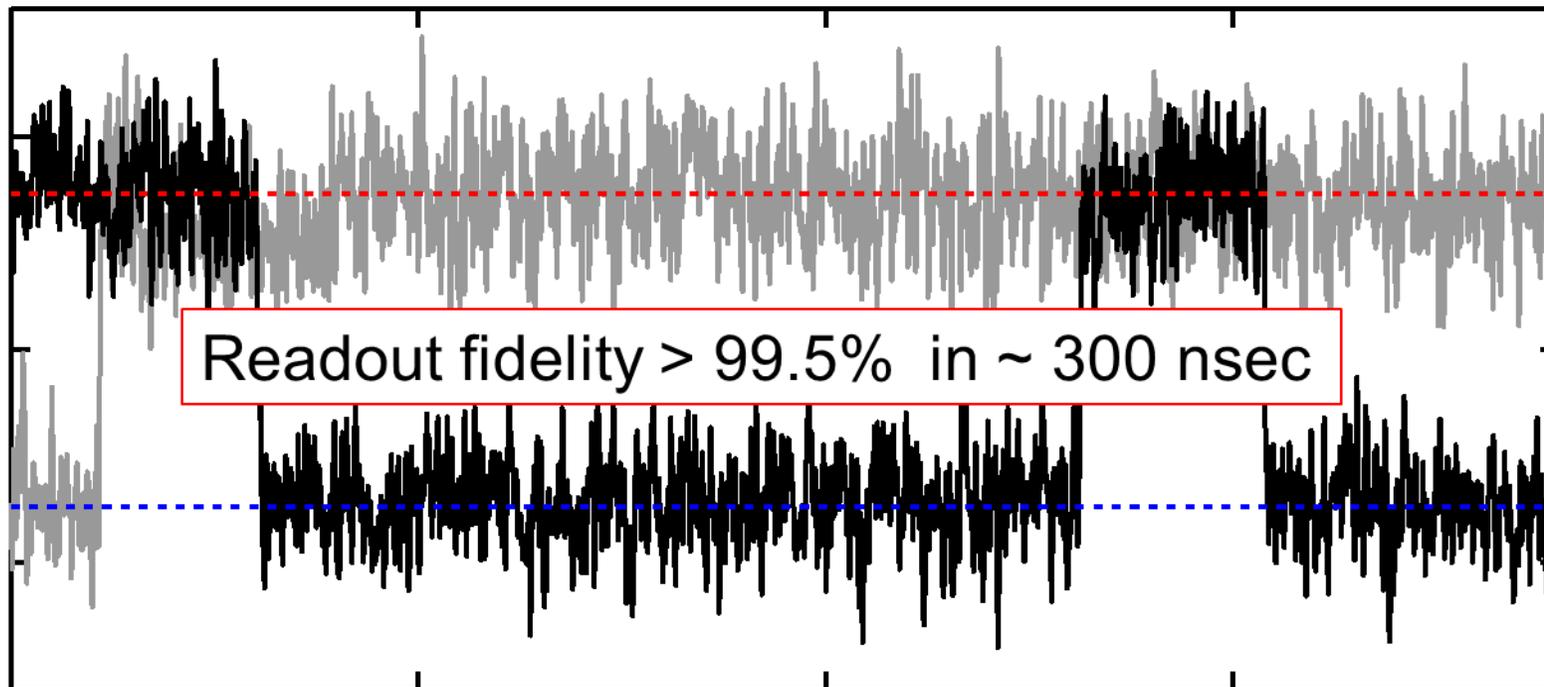
# Using (not so) strong dispersive coupling to measure the state of the qubit

Dispersive readout proposed in: Blais et al., *Phys. Rev. A* 69, 062320 (2004)

First experiment: Wallraff et al., *Nature* 431, 162 (2004)

Quantum limited amplifiers developed...

First single-shot quantum jumps observed: R. Vijay et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 106, 110502 (2011)



Data from: M. Hatridge et al.,  
*Science* 339, 178 (2013)

↑↓ Photon shot noise

Using strong-dispersive coupling to measure the photon number distribution in a cavity

Strong Dispersive Hamiltonian

$$H = \omega_r a^\dagger a + \frac{\omega_q}{2} \sigma^z + \chi \sigma^z a^\dagger a + H_{\text{damping}}$$

$$\chi \gg \kappa, \Gamma$$

resonator

qubit

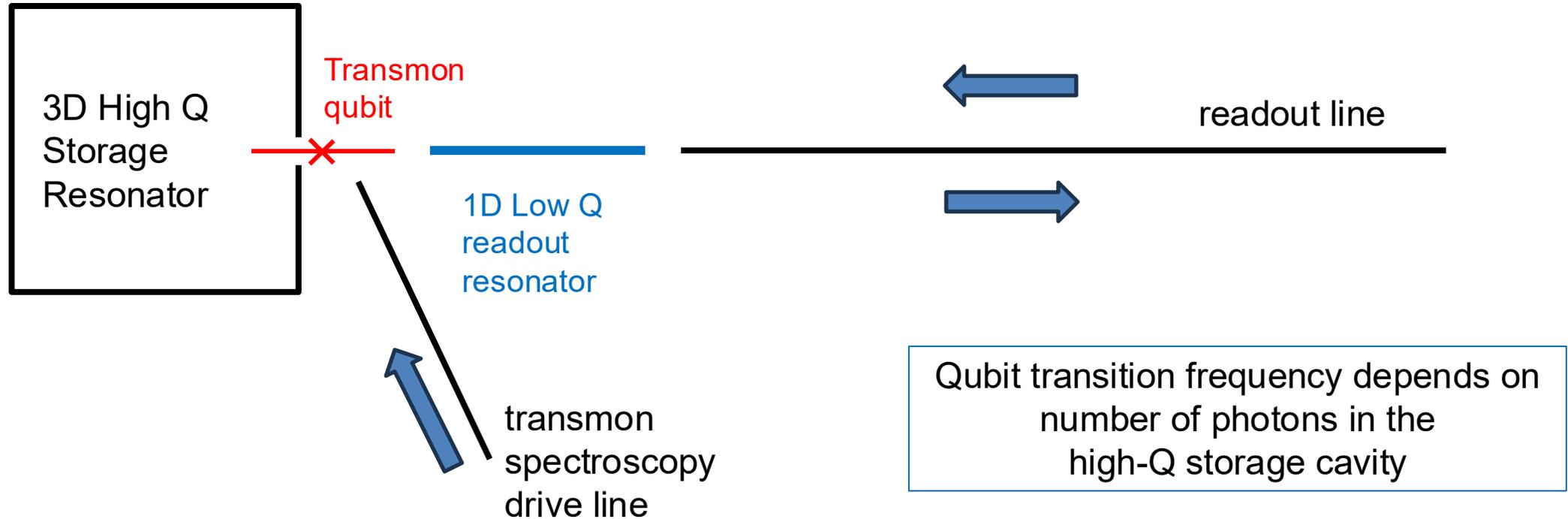
dispersive  
coupling

Reinterpretation of same Hamiltonian:  
Quantized Light Shift of Qubit Transition Frequency

$$H = \omega_r a^\dagger a + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^z \left[ \omega_q + 2\chi a^\dagger a \right] + H_{\text{damping}}$$

Spectrum of qubit  
depends on cavity  
photon number

# Using strong-dispersive coupling to measure the photon number distribution in a cavity

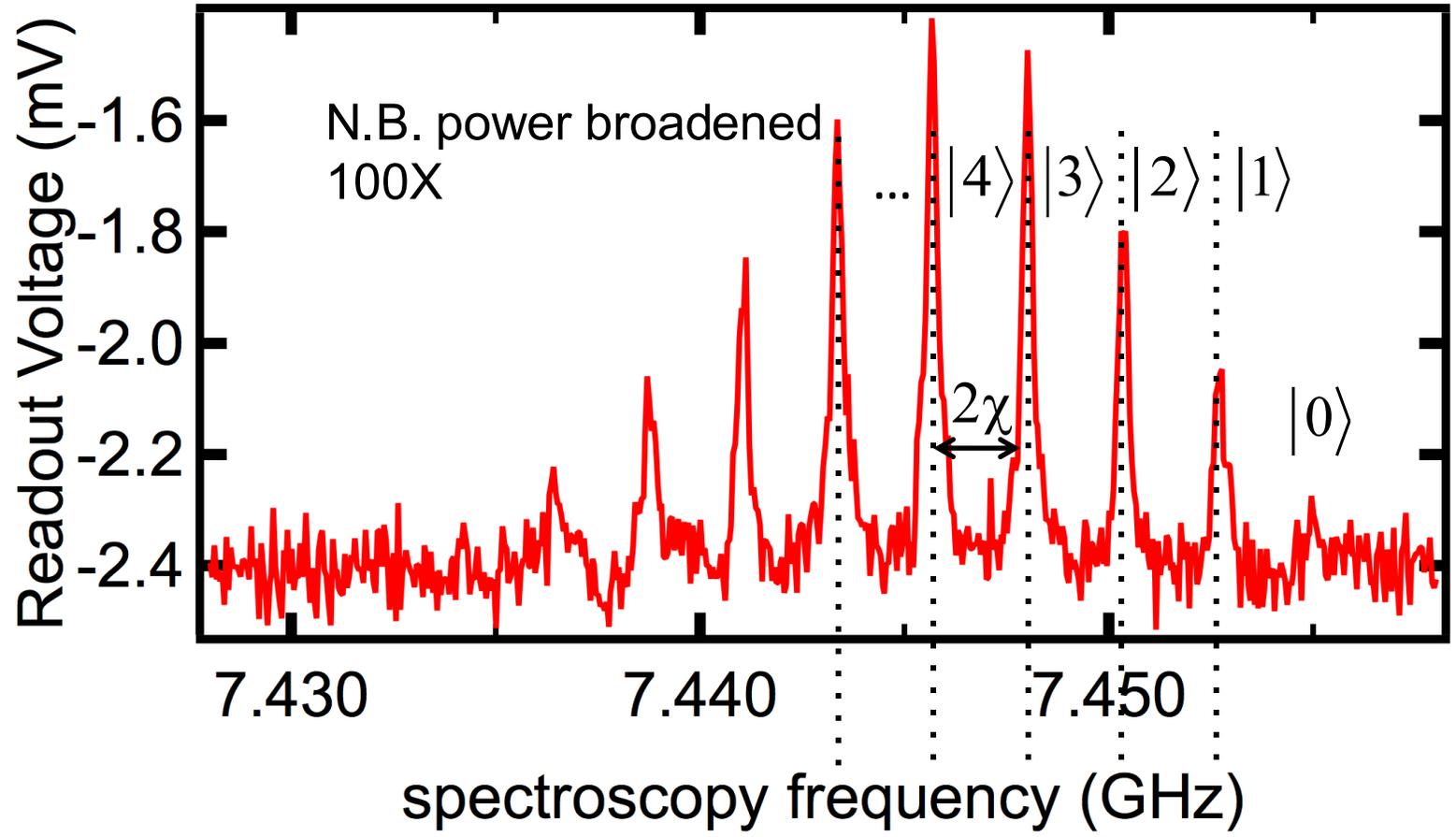


Measure photon number in high Q storage cavity via dispersive coupling to transmon.

Readout transmon state via dispersive coupling to low Q readout resonator.

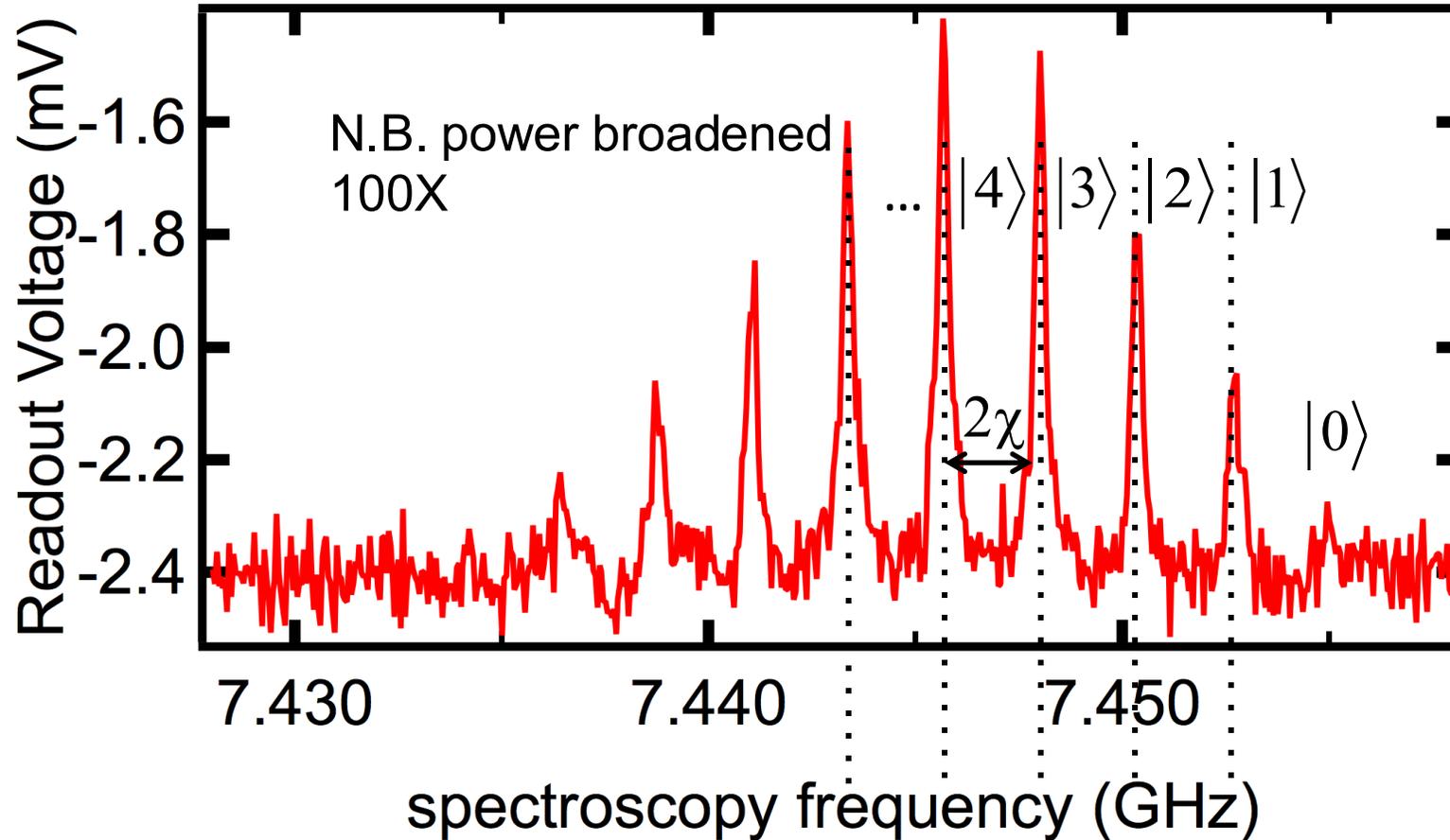
- quantized light shift of qubit frequency (coherent microwave state)

$$\frac{\omega_q + 2\chi a^\dagger a}{2} \sigma^z$$



- quantized light shift of qubit frequency  
(coherent microwave state)

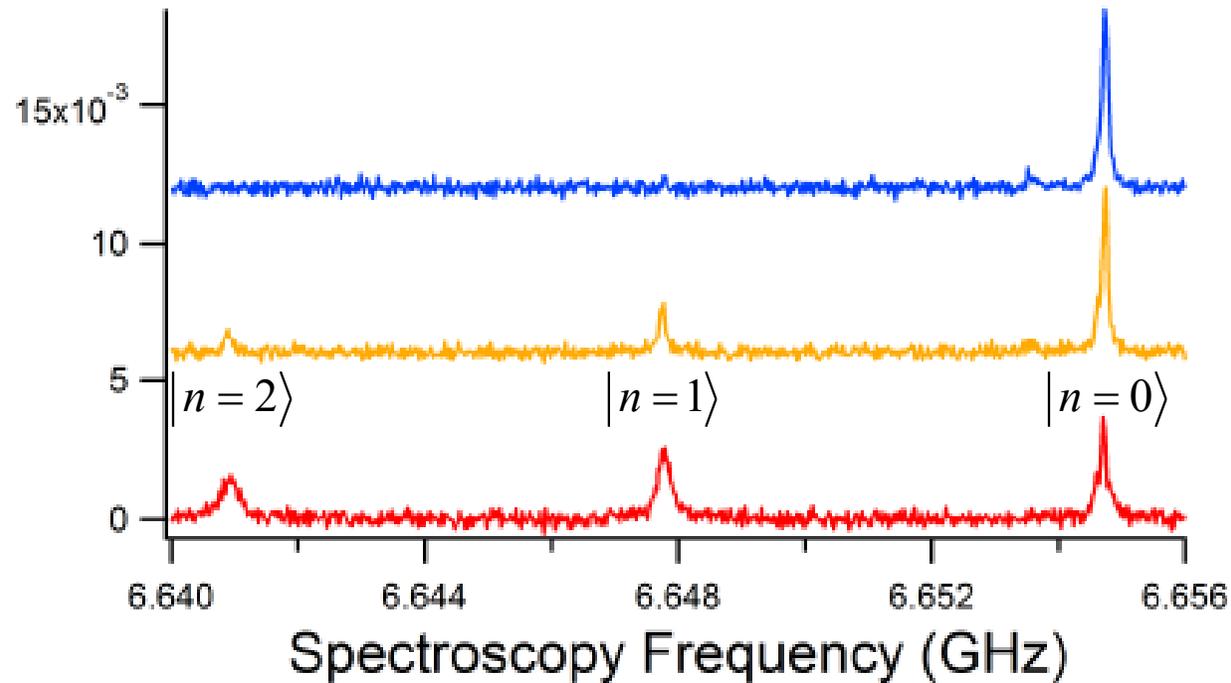
$$\frac{\omega_q + 2\chi a^\dagger a}{2} \sigma^z$$



Microwaves are particles!

- quantized light shift of qubit frequency (coherent microwave state)

$$\frac{\omega_q + 2\chi a^\dagger a}{2} \sigma^z$$



New low-noise way to do axion dark matter detection by QND photon counting  
Zheng et al. [arXiv:1607.02529](https://arxiv.org/abs/1607.02529) → A. Chou: PRL **126**, 141302 (2021)

# Photon number parity

$$\hat{P} = (-1)^{a^\dagger a} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |n\rangle (-1)^n \langle n|$$

Remarkably easy to measure using  
our quantum engineering toolbox

and

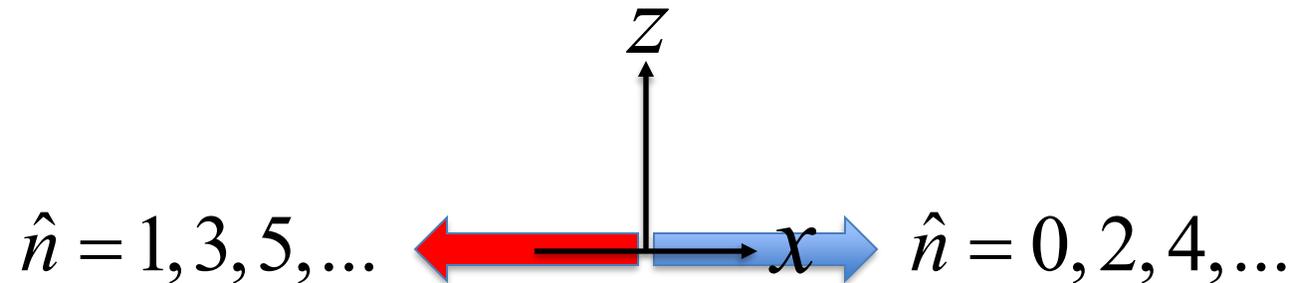
Measurement is 99.8% QND

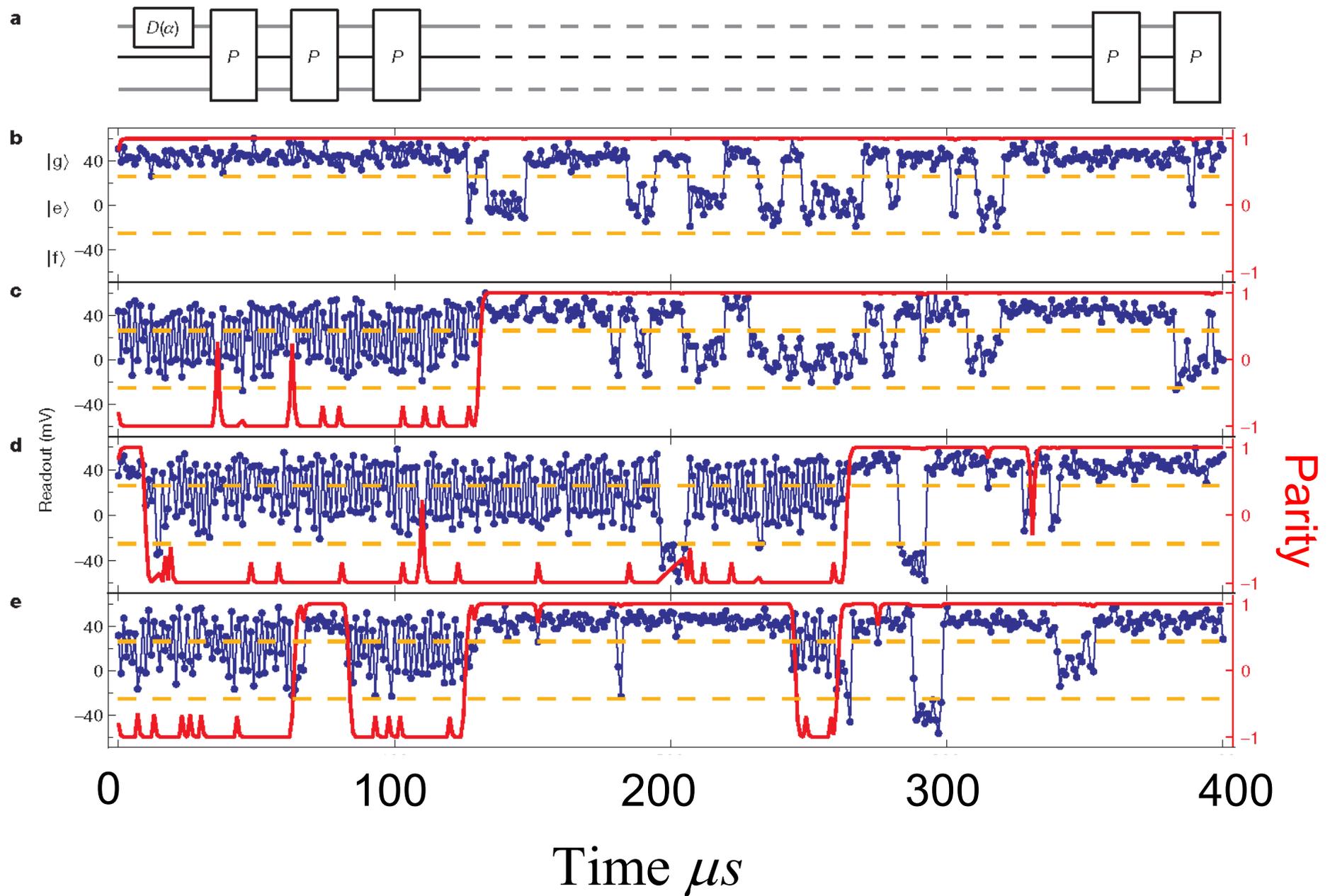
## Measuring Photon Number Parity

- use quantized light shift of qubit frequency

$$\frac{\omega_q + 2\chi a^\dagger a}{2} \sigma^z$$

$$e^{-i2\chi\hat{n}t\frac{\sigma^z}{2}} = e^{-i\pi\hat{n}\frac{\sigma^z}{2}}$$





*Nature* **511**, 444 (2014)

400 consecutive parity measurements (99.8% QND)

## Summary of Lecture I:

### Introduction to Circuit QED

- What is Cavity QED?
- Quantum LC Oscillators
- Josephson Junctions & Transmon Qubits
- Qubits coupled to microwave cavities
  - Control and QND measurement of both qubit and cavity