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Superconducting Circuits as Testbeds for Quantum Optics and Atomic Physics

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Circuit QED – quantum optics/atomic physics on macro scales



Schoelkopf et al, Nature 431, 162 (04)



Quantum Electrodynamics (QED)



Quantum electronics

Controlled transfer of single charge quanta (Coulomb blockade)





Nature 394, 154 (1998) Science 349, 1199 (2015)

$$G_0 = \frac{e^2}{h}$$

Quantum circuits

• Transmission lines

Resonators



• Linear elements



• Nonlinear element: Josephson junction



Josephson junction



Josephson atom

Superconducting circuit:

Decoupled from excitations

$$H_J = -E_J \cos(\varphi)$$
 $E_J = I_c \frac{\hbar}{2e}$





Quantum: embedded in circuit

Phase is a collective dof, embedded in electromagnetic environment

$$H = H_J + H_Z + H_{\rm int}$$



$$V = 0: \quad H = E_C N^2 - E_J \cos(\varphi) + \sum_n \frac{4e^2 N_n^2}{2C_n} + \frac{\hbar^2}{4e^2} \frac{(\varphi_n - \varphi)^2}{2L_n}$$
$$E_C = \frac{2e^2}{C}$$

$$[N,\varphi] = -i$$
, $[N_n,\varphi_n] = -i$

Number of transmitted Cooper pairs

$$H_J = \frac{E_J}{2} \left(\overrightarrow{T}_{2e} + \overleftarrow{T}_{2e} \right)$$

Quasi-continuum of modes: open quantum system

Linear impedances (Gaussian fluctuations) characterized by $Z(\omega)$

Non-Markovian (memory), weak to strong coupling

Low transmitting junction

$$E_J \ll E_C, k_{\rm B}T$$

Fermi's golden rule (sequential charge transfer)

$$I_J = \frac{\pi e E_J^2}{\hbar} P(2eV) \quad , \quad T = 0$$

Probability of the environment to absorb energy: phase-phase correlation



Limit: Single mode environment



Hofheinz et al, PRL 106, 217005 (2011)



Beyond low transmission: Josephson photonics



Gramich, Kubala, JA et al, PRL 111, 247002 (`13)

Josephson photonics



p-photon resonance $\omega_J pprox p \, \omega_0$

$$H_{\rm RWA}^{(p)} = \hbar \Delta \, a^{\dagger} a - (-i)^p \frac{E_J^*}{2} : \left[(a^{\dagger})^p + (-1)^p a^p \right] \frac{J_p(2\sqrt{\alpha \, a^{\dagger} a})}{(a^{\dagger} a)^{p/2}} :$$

$$\alpha = \frac{Z_{LC}}{2R_K} (\approx 0.07 \dots 1.5 \dots) \qquad Z_{LC} = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$$

$$E_J^* = E_J e^{-\alpha/2}$$

Gramich, Kubala, JA et al, PRL 111, 247002 (`13)

Josephson photonics



p-photon resonance $\omega_J pprox p \, \omega_0$



Gramich, Kubala, JA et al, PRL 111, 247002 (`13)

Josephson + cavity – micromaser (single atom maser)



$$\dot{\rho} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{atom-field}}[\rho] + \gamma \mathcal{L}_{\text{res}}[\rho]$$

Dambach et al, Phys. Src. 94, 104001 (`19)

J. McKeever et al, Nature 425, 268 (2003)

Sequential to coherent charge flow: current noise



"Phase transition"-like behavior



Semiclassics: critical behavior



From phase locking to amplitude locking

Towards single photon sources for microwaves

Weak driving
$$g^{(2)}(0) \approx \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)^2$$
 $g^{(2)}(\tau) = \frac{\langle a^{\dagger}(\tau) a^{\dagger} a \, a(\tau) \rangle_{\mathrm{st}}}{\langle n \rangle_{\mathrm{st}}^2}$

$$T_{12}(\alpha = 2) = \langle 2|H_{\text{RWA}}^{(1)}|1\rangle = 0$$



Gramich et al, PRL 113, 027001 (`14) Dambach et al, PRB 92, 054508 ('15) Atom physics: Rydberg blockade



Ripka et al, Science 362, 446 (2018)

Ultra-large coupling regime: single photon sources



Large coupling regime: multi-photon events



Multi-photon entanglement



$$H_N = \frac{E_J^*}{2} : \left(\prod_{k=1}^N a_k^\dagger + \prod_{k=1}^N a_k\right) \prod_{k=1}^N \frac{J_1(\sqrt{\alpha a_k^\dagger a})}{\sqrt{a_k^\dagger a_k}}$$

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Dambach et al, NJP 19, 023027 (2017)

Classical: Collective modes



OPTOELECTRONICS

Kouwenhoven et al, Science 355, 939 (`17)

Demonstration of an ac Josephson junction laser

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Tunable N-mode environment



Towards entangled photon sources

$$2eV = \hbar(\omega_a + \omega_b)$$



Saclay-Ulm, PRL 119, 137001 (2017) Leppäkangas et al, NJP 2014 Armour, Kubala, JA, PRB (2015)

Two cavities: correlated photons



Saclay-Ulm, PRL 119, 137001 (2017)

Entangled photon pairs



Wölk et al, PRA 90, 022315 (2014) Saclay-Ulm, in preparation

Summary

- Superconducting circuits as open quantum systems
- JJ-cavity devices: Weak to strong coupling
- Single to few-body quantum dynamics far from equilibrium
- Tailored light sources

