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# High fidelity latching readout in the photon blockade regime of circuit QED

Eran Ginossar

Lev S. Bishop, D. I. Schuster and S. M. Girvin

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Departments of Physics and Applied Physics Yale University









# Outline

- Quasi-coherent states in the driven-damped Jaynes-Cummings model
- Quantum-semiclassical bistability in the photon-blockade regime
- Coherent control for high fidelity readout

# Motivation: the readout fidelity problem in cQED



Cavity-qubit interaction leads to anharmonic ladder

$$H = \hbar \omega_{\rm r} \left( a^{\dagger} a + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{\hbar \Omega}{2} \sigma^z + \hbar g (a^{\dagger} \sigma^- + \sigma^+ a) + H_{\kappa} + H_{\gamma}$$

- Photon blockade: with  $g \gg \kappa$
- Transition frequencies change by many linewidths with each added photon.
- Anharmonicity diminishes with N: different physics at high excitations.



## **Quasi-harmonic long lived states**

Coherent state with average occupation <n> obeying approximately

$$\omega_{\bar{n}+2\sigma} - \omega_{\bar{n}-2\sigma} \approx \kappa$$

Total frequency shift from "end-toend" due to anharmonicity should be smaller than the linewidth.

find quasi-coherent states, co-existing with photon-blockaded states (for same parameters and drive).

→ Quantum states coexisting with semiclassical states (bistability)



# **Quantum trajectory simulations of quasi-stationary states**



# Quantum trajectory simulations of quasi-stationary states



# Coexistence of blockaded and long lived

#### quasi-coherent states



- Lifetime is large on the scale of the cavity lifetime (60ns)
- Experimental realistic for typical circuit QED parameters

## High fidelity readout : a dynamical mapping

Idea: use co-existence of bright and dim states to readout qubit.



## High fidelity readout : a dynamical mapping

Selective state transfer problem in coherent control



A different coherent control problem:

Typically: Given states  $|i\rangle$  and  $|f\rangle$ , maximize P(i  $\rightarrow$  f)

Given states  $|i,i'\rangle$  and  $|f,f'\rangle$ , maximize  $P(i \rightarrow f)+P(i' \rightarrow f')$ 

(and make it very close to it's upper bound value of 2)



• Chirping in the quasi-dispersive regime can be thought of as oscillator ringing

# **High fidelity readout : Coherent control**

Optimization of a linear chirp readout protocol in the bistable regime



- 1) An initial strong pulse excites the cavity-qubit system selectively (quasi-dispersive regime)
- 2) A weak long pulse displaces the quasi-coherent state and does not affect the blockaded state, thus generating the readout contrast.



#### **Cumulative probability distributions (s-curves)**



- High fidelities for a low photon threshold, trades off with contrast
- Robust against variations of the system and control parameters

# Summary

- Novel type of bistability:
  - $\rightarrow$  photon-blockaded states coexist with quasi-coherent meta-stable states
- Coherent control:

→ high-dimensional open system control problem, not of the usual initial-to-final state type

- Efficient readout protocol of individual qubits
  - high fidelity readout (already >90% for piecewise linear pulse)
  - no additional "moving parts", only qubit and cavity
  - further optimization naturally fits adaptive feedback control techniques

# Outlook

- Theory for the additional slow timescales that emerged in simulation
- What physics ultimately limits the fidelity and contrast?
- Improved optimal control algorithms (e.g. GRAPE)
- Extensions: multi-qubit readout, effect of additional Transmon levels.