

Tunable joint measurements in the dispersive regime of cavity QED

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Joint measurements of multiple qubits open new possibilities for quantum information processing. Here we present an approach based on homodyne detection to realize such measurements in the dispersive regime of cavity or circuit QED. By changing details of the measurement, the readout can be tuned from extracting only single-qubit to extracting only multiqubit properties. We obtain a reduced stochastic master equation describing this measurement and its effect on the qubits. As an example, we present results showing parity measurements of two qubits. In this situation, measurement of an initially unentangled state can yield, with near unit probability, a state of significant concurrence.

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In most current quantum information experiments, measurements are used to extract information only about single-qubit properties. Joint measurements in which information about both single and multiqubit properties can be obtained offer new possibilities. Examples are the test of quantum paradoxes [1], test of quantum contextuality [2], realization of quantum-state tomography with weak measurements [3–5], and cluster-state preparation [6]. A particularly powerful type of joint measurement is parity measurement, where information is gained only about the overall parity of the multiqubit state, without any single-qubit information. This type of measurement can be used for generation of entanglement without unitary dynamics [7–10], for quantum error correction [11,12], and for deterministic quantum computation with fermions [13,14]. In this paper, we show how such joint measurements can be realized in the dispersive regime of cavity QED [15]. In particular, we show how the character of the measurement can be tuned from purely single-qubit to parity readout. As a realistic example, we present results for circuit QED [3–5] and show that states with large concurrence can be obtained. Entanglement generation by measurement was previously studied in this system [16–19], but ignoring information about the parity. With parity measurements, entanglement generation by measurement can be deterministic rather than probabilistic.

We consider a pair of two-level systems (i.e., qubits) of frequencies ω_{a_j} , with $j = 1, 2$, coupled to a high- Q cavity of frequency ω_r . In the dispersive limit, where $|\Delta_j| = |(\omega_{a_j} - \omega_r)| \gg |g_j|$, with g_j the coupling strength of qubit j to the cavity, the Hamiltonian of this system takes the form [20]

$$H = \left(\omega_r + \sum_j \chi^j \sigma_z^j \right) a^\dagger a + \sum_j \frac{\tilde{\omega}_{a_j}}{2} \sigma_z^j + J_q (\sigma_-^1 \sigma_+^2 + \sigma_-^2 \sigma_+^1) + \epsilon_m(t) (a^\dagger e^{-i\omega_m t} + \text{H.c.}). \quad (1)$$

This result is valid to second order in the small parameter $\lambda_j = g_j/\Delta_j$. Here we have defined the dispersive coupling strength $\chi^j = g_j \lambda_j$, the Lamb-shifted qubit frequency $\tilde{\omega}_{a_j}$, and the strength of qubit-qubit coupling mediated by virtual

photons, $J_q = g_1 g_2 [(1/\Delta_1) + (1/\Delta_2)]/2$ [20]. The last term represents a coherent drive on the cavity of amplitude $\epsilon_m(t)$ and frequency $\omega_m \approx \omega_r$, appropriate for measurement of the qubits. With this choice of drive frequency, we have safely dropped a qubit driving term of amplitude $\lambda_j \epsilon_m$ [20]. To focus on entanglement generated by measurement only, we drop the term proportional to J_q . This is reasonable since the possible measurement outcomes are eigenstates of the flip-flop interaction $\sigma_-^1 \sigma_+^2 + \sigma_-^2 \sigma_+^1$, as made clear in the following.

Coupling to unwanted degrees of freedom is modeled using a Lindblad-type master equation [21]. In Ref. [16], a master equation for qubits only was obtained by enslaving the cavity to qubit dynamics. This approach is valid only in the limit where damping of the cavity κ greatly overwhelms the dispersive coupling strength χ^j . Here we go beyond these results by using a polaron-type transformation to trace out the cavity [22,23]. Starting from Eq. (1), we find, following Ref. [22], the effective master equation:

$$\dot{\rho} \approx -i \left[\sum_j \frac{\tilde{\omega}_{a_j}}{2} \sigma_z^j, \rho \right] + \sum_j \gamma_{1j} \mathcal{D}[\sigma_-^j] \rho + \sum_j \frac{\gamma_{\phi j}}{2} \mathcal{D}[\sigma_z^j] \rho + \kappa \mathcal{D} \left[\sum_j \lambda_j \sigma_-^j \right] \rho + \sum_{xy} (\Gamma_d^{xy} - i A_c^{xy}) \Pi_x \rho \Pi_y \equiv \mathcal{L} \rho, \quad (2)$$

where $\mathcal{D}[c] \cdot = c \cdot c^\dagger - \{c^\dagger c, \cdot\}/2$. In this expression, γ_{1j} is the relaxation rate of qubit j and γ_{ϕ_j} its pure dephasing rate. The fourth term represents Purcell damping at the rate $\lambda_j^2 \kappa$ [23], while the last contains both measurement-induced dephasing (Γ_d^{xy}) and ac Stark shift (A_c^{xy}) by the measurement photons.¹ In Eq. (2), x (y) stands for one of the four logical states ij with $i, j \in \{g, e\}$ the qubit's ground and excited states and $\Pi_x = |x\rangle\langle x|$. Measurement-induced dephasing and ac Stark shift are given by

$$\Gamma_d^{xy} = (\chi_x - \chi_y) \text{Im}[\alpha_x \alpha_y^*], \quad (3)$$

$$A_c^{xy} = (\chi_x - \chi_y) \text{Re}[\alpha_x \alpha_y^*], \quad (4)$$

¹In the single-qubit case, this last term reduces to Eqs. (3.11) and (3.13) of Ref. [22].

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where $\chi_x = \langle x | \sum_j \chi^j \sigma_z^j | x \rangle$ and α_x is the amplitude of the coherent state when the qubits are in state $|x\rangle$. This amplitude satisfies

$$\dot{\alpha}_x = -i(\omega_r + \chi_x)\alpha_x - i\epsilon_m(t)e^{-i\omega_m t} - \kappa\alpha_x/2. \quad (5)$$

The reduced master equation, Eq. (2) is a very good approximation to the full dynamics when $\kappa/2 \gg \gamma_{1j}$. Since γ_{1j} does not include Purcell damping, this inequality is easily satisfied with current Purcell limited qubits [24].

To go beyond information about average evolution, we use quantum trajectory theory of homodyne measurement on the transmitted cavity field to obtain information about single experimental runs [25]. Following the approach in Ref. [22], we find the reduced stochastic master equation (SME) in the multiqubit case,

$$\dot{\rho}_J = \mathcal{L}\rho_J + \mathcal{M}[c_\phi]\rho_J\xi(t) - i[c_{\phi-\pi/2}, \rho_J]\xi(t)/2, \quad (6)$$

and the measured homodyne current is proportional to $J(t) = \text{Tr}[c_\phi\rho_J] + \xi(t)$. Here $\mathcal{M}[c_\cdot] = \{c_\cdot, \cdot\}/2 - \text{Tr}[c_\cdot]\cdot$, and $\xi(t)$ is Gaussian white noise satisfying $E[\xi(t)] = 0$ and $E[\xi(t)\xi(t')] = \delta(t-t')$, with $E[\cdot]$ denoting an ensemble average over realizations of the noise. This stochastic equation is valid for $\kappa/2 \gg \gamma_{11} + \gamma_{12}$, which is again easily satisfied [24].

In Eq. (6), the joint measurement operator c_ϕ is

$$c_\phi = \sqrt{\Gamma_{10}(\phi)}\sigma_z^1 + \sqrt{\Gamma_{01}(\phi)}\sigma_z^2 + \sqrt{\Gamma_{11}(\phi)}\sigma_z^1\sigma_z^2, \quad (7)$$

where

$$\Gamma_{ij}(\phi) = \kappa\eta|\beta_{ij}|^2 \cos^2(\phi - \theta_{\beta_{ij}}),$$

$$\beta_{ij} = [\alpha_{ee} + (-1)^j\alpha_{eg} + (-1)^i\alpha_{ge} + (-1)^{i+j}\alpha_{gg}]/2, \quad (8)$$

where ϕ is the phase of the local oscillator, $\theta_\alpha = \text{Arg}(\alpha)$, and η the efficiency with which the photons leaking out of the cavity are detected. Γ_{ij} represents the rate of information gained about the first qubit polarization ($ij = 10$), second qubit polarization ($ij = 01$), or parity ($ij = 11$). An optimal measurement occurs when $c_{\phi-\pi/2} = 0$ since, in this case, all the back action arising from the measurement is associated with information gain [22]. Given the form of $c_{\phi-\pi/2}$, this cannot be realized, except in trivial cases.

Given that χ^j , $\Delta_r = \omega_r - \omega_m$, and ϕ can be changed in situ [3–5], the form of the measurement operator c_ϕ can be tuned (in the dispersive approximation, changing ϵ_m only leads to an overall rescaling). There are several useful choices of c_ϕ . For example, an equally weighted joint measurement (all $|\Gamma_{ij}|$ equal) is ideal for quantum-state tomography since in this case both the required single-qubit information and the two-qubit information are on an equal footing. In the limit $|\chi^1 \pm \chi^2| \gg \kappa$, this is achieved by choosing ω_m to match one of the four pulled cavity frequencies $\omega_r + \chi_x$. As shown in Fig. 1(b), for $\chi^1 = \chi^2$, an equally weighted joint measurement is realized by setting $\Delta_r = \pm 2\chi^j$. For this choice of χ^j , however, at $\Delta_r = 0$ it is not possible to determine which qubit is excited, and as a result, the measurement either is completely collective ($\sigma_z^1 + \sigma_z^2$) for $\phi = 0$ [16] or, more interestingly, extracts information only about the parity ($\sigma_z^1\sigma_z^2$) of the combined two-qubit state for $\phi = \pi/2$.

This can be understood by considering the steady-state cavity amplitude α_x . Figure 1(a) shows a phase-space plot

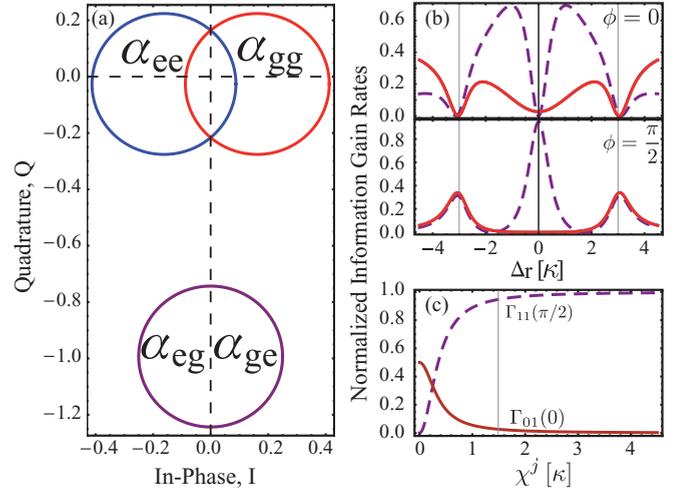


FIG. 1. (Color online) (a) Phase-space illustration of the stationary states $|\alpha_{ij}\rangle$ for $g_1 = -g_2 = -15\kappa$ and $\chi^j \sim 1.5\kappa$. The drive is at resonance with the bare cavity $\Delta_r = 0$, and its amplitude is $\epsilon = \kappa/2$. (b) Normalized rates of information gain for $\phi = 0$ or $\phi = \pi/2$: $\Gamma_{01}(\phi) = \Gamma_{10}(\phi)$ [solid (red) line] or $\Gamma_{11}(\phi)$ [dashed (purple) line]. Vertical lines are at $\pm 2\chi^j$. (c) Normalized rates at $\Delta_r = 0$ as a function of χ^j : $\Gamma_{01}(0) = \Gamma_{10}(0)$ [solid (red) line]. $\Gamma_{11}(\pi/2)$ [dashed (purple) line]. The vertical line indicates the value of χ^j used in b. Other rates, $\Gamma_{11}(0)$, $\Gamma_{01}(\pi/2)$, and $\Gamma_{10}(\pi/2)$, are 0 and are not shown.

corresponding to the four coherent states $|\alpha_x\rangle$ for the parameters given in the caption. Since $\chi^1 = \chi^2$, the coherent states α_{eg} and α_{ge} overlap, while $\text{Im}[\alpha_{ee}] = \text{Im}[\alpha_{gg}]$ but $\text{Re}[\alpha_{ee}] \neq \text{Re}[\alpha_{gg}]$.² As a result, measurement of the Q ($\phi = \pi/2$) quadrature reveals information only about the parity and I ($\phi = 0$) the collective polarization. Since, for these parameters, there is information in the quadrature orthogonal to the measurement, $c_{\phi-\pi/2} \neq 0$, and this measurement is not optimal. As illustrated in Fig. 1(c), however, as the ratio χ^j/κ is increased, the measurement becomes optimal for parity with $\Gamma_{01}(0)$, normalized by $\sum_{ij=01,10,11} [\Gamma_{ij}(0) + \Gamma_{ij}(\pi/2)]$, scaling as $(\kappa/\chi^j)^2$.

An application of parity measurements is the generation of entangled states from separable ones [7–10]. In contrast to collective polarization measurements [16–19], this can be achieved with unit probability. For example, with the initial separable state $(|g\rangle + |e\rangle) \otimes (|g\rangle + |e\rangle)/2$, the measurement ideally projects on the Bell state $|\phi_+\rangle = (|eg\rangle + |ge\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ or $|\psi_+\rangle = (|gg\rangle + |ee\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$. That is, evolution under Eq. (6) shows a collapse of the separable state to $|\phi_+\rangle$ or $|\psi_+\rangle$, conditioned on the record $J(t)$ being predominantly negative or positive, respectively.

There are four main causes of errors in this collapse. The first is relaxation and damping [dissipative terms in Eq. (2)]. Interestingly, with the parameters in Fig. 1, $\lambda_1 = -\lambda_2$ such that $|\phi_+\rangle$ is immune from Purcell decay [16]. The second is the time-dependent ac Stark shift [unitary contribution from the last term in Eq. (2)], which causes a phase accumulation

²It is possible to interchange the role of $\{ee, gg\}$ and $\{eg, ge\}$ by working with $\chi^1 = -\chi^2$.

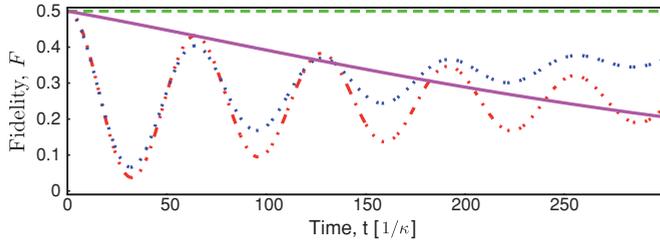


FIG. 2. (Color online) Mean fidelity to $|\phi_+\rangle$ [long-dashed vertical (green) and solid diagonal (purple) lines] and $|\psi_+\rangle$ [dotted-dashed (red) and dotted (blue) lines] obtained from solving Eq. (2). Long-dashed (green) and dotted-dashed (red) lines: $(\gamma_{1j}, \gamma_{\phi_j}) = (0, 0)$. Solid (purple) and dotted (blue) lines: $(\kappa/250, 0)$. The measurement drive is $\epsilon \tanh(t/\sigma)$, with $\sigma = 1/\kappa$, and the initial state $(|g\rangle + |e\rangle) \otimes (|g\rangle + |e\rangle)/2$. The other parameters are $g_1 = -g_2 = -100\kappa$, $\chi^j = 10\kappa$, $\epsilon = \kappa$, and $\kappa/2\pi = 5$ MHz.

between $|gg\rangle$ and $|ee\rangle$ in $|\psi_+\rangle$. This contribution can be seen as a slow oscillation of the fidelity $F = \langle \psi | \rho | \psi \rangle$ between the state $|\psi_+\rangle$ and those obtained by numerical integration of Eq. (2). This is illustrated in Fig. 2. There, the mean fidelity to $|\phi_+\rangle$ is always 1/2, since half the density matrices collapse to that state, while oscillations due to the ac Stark shift appear in the fidelity to $|\psi_+\rangle$. However, this shift is deterministic and can thus be undone. The third error comes from $c_0 \neq 0$ causing a stochastic phase between $|gg\rangle$ and $|ee\rangle$ [last term in Eq. (6)]. For a given experimental run, this does not reduce the concurrence or purity of the state [because $\xi(t)$ is known from $J(t)$]. However, since this phase varies from shot to shot, the ensemble averaged state is mixed. This error can be overcome by performing $J(t)$ -dependent single-qubit phase operations after the measurement or, more simply, by operating in the large χ^j limit, where its effect is negligible, as illustrated in Fig. 1(c). Finally, the measurement is not ideal in the sense that measurement-induced dephasing affects the measurement outcome $|\psi_+\rangle$ (i.e., $\Gamma_d^{ee,gg} \neq 0$). However, this effect can be made negligible by increasing the ratio χ^j/κ since $\Gamma_{11}(\pi/2)/\Gamma_d^{ee,gg} \sim (\chi^j/\kappa)^2$.

To show that the system collapses to $|\psi_+\rangle$ or $|\phi_+\rangle$, and that entanglement is generated with unit probability, Fig. 3(a) shows the mean concurrence $E[C(\rho_J)]$, averaged over 10^4 trajectories. There, departure from unit concurrence in the dotted-dashed (red) line (no damping, unit detector efficiency $\eta = 1$) is due only to measurement-induced dephasing. The long-dashed (green), dotted (blue), and solid (purple) lines take into account relaxation with $\kappa/\gamma_{1j} \sim 250$ and a detection efficiency of $\eta = 4/5$, $\eta = 1/5$, and $\eta = 1/20$, respectively. The latter corresponds to current experimental values [24]. The ratio κ/γ_{1j} is slightly out of reach of current experiments when taking into account that $\chi^j = 10\kappa$ is also required. This cannot be achieved with transmons, as current experiments have reached the maximal possible coupling [26]. However, new ideas on increasing the qubit-cavity coupling can help to achieve these parameters [27].

A low detection efficiency reduces the ratio $\Gamma_{11}/\Gamma_d^{ee,gg}$, which in turn corrupts $|\psi_+\rangle$. As illustrated in Fig. 3(a), this results in lower concurrences when $\eta < 1$. Interestingly, $|\phi_+\rangle$ is not affected by this detection efficiency [16]. Nevertheless, an improvement in detection efficiency is required to match

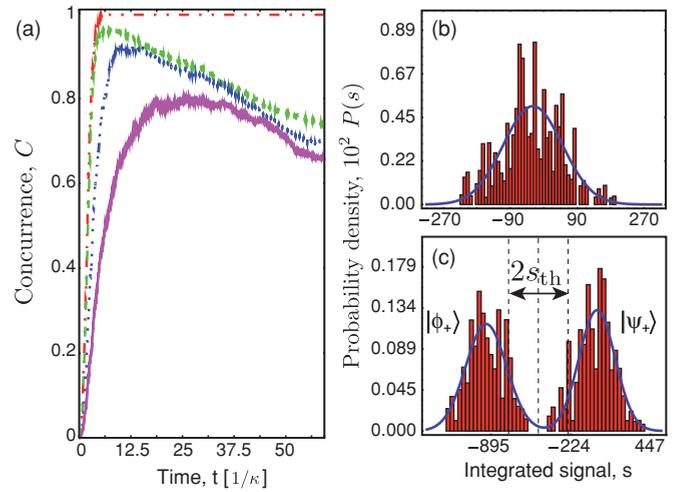


FIG. 3. (Color online) (a) Concurrence as a function of time for 10^4 trajectories. Dotted-dashed (red) line, $(\gamma_{1j}, \gamma_{\phi_j}, \eta) = (0, 0, 1)$; long-dashed (green) line, $(\kappa/250, 0, 0.8)$; dotted (blue) line, $(\kappa/250, 0, 0.2)$; and solid (purple) line, $(\kappa/250, 0, 0.05)$. $\phi = \pi/2$. All other parameters are the same as in Figs. 2(b) and 2(c). Histograms of the integrated current $s(t)$ at (b) $t = 1.6/\kappa$ and (c) $t = 6.3/\kappa$.

concurrences that can be realized with an entangling Hamiltonian [4]. Recent improvements with near-quantum-limited amplifiers are a good step in this direction [28].

Having generated one of the two orthogonal entangled states, it is necessary to distinguish them efficiently. Using the experimental record $J(t)$ to compute $\rho_J(t)$ from the SME, Eq. (6), is not efficient since the record is widely fluctuating. As a result, a useful and more efficient quantity to distinguish the states is the integrated current,

$$s(t) = \sqrt{\Gamma_{11}^s} \int_0^t J(t') dt', \quad (9)$$

where Γ_{11}^s is the steady-state value of $\Gamma_{11}(\pi/2)$. Figures 3(b) and 3(c) show two histograms of $s(t)$ at times $t = 1.6/\kappa$ and $t = 6.3/\kappa$. These results are for $\eta = 1$ and exclude damping for illustration purposes. The solid (blue) lines are Gaussian fits to the histograms. These separate at a rate of $\sim \Gamma_{11}$. At times large compared to $1/\Gamma_{11}$, but short compared to T_1 and T_2 , the distributions are well separated and correspond to $|\psi_+\rangle$ and $|\phi_+\rangle$.

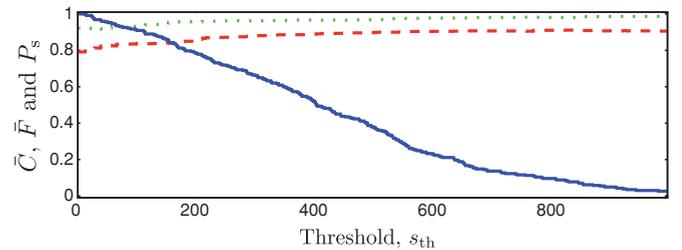


FIG. 4. (Color online) Average concurrence [dashed (red) line], average fidelity to $|\phi_+\rangle$ and $|\psi_+\rangle$ [dotted (green) line], and success probability [solid (blue) line] as a function of the threshold at time $t = 18.5/\kappa$. $(\gamma_{1j}, \gamma_{\phi_j}, \eta) = (\kappa/250, 0, 0.05)$. Other parameters are the same as in Fig. 2. The ac Stark shift affecting $|\psi_+\rangle$ was corrected before evaluating the fidelity.

As shown in Fig. 3(c), we introduce a threshold s_{th} to distinguish these states. All outcomes with $s(t) < s_0 - s_{\text{th}}$ (condition $c = -$) are assigned to $|\phi_+\rangle$, and those with $s(t) > s_0 + s_{\text{th}}$ (condition $c = +$) to $|\psi_+\rangle$, where s_0 is the median of s . Values outside this range are disregarded. A success probability P_s can then be defined as the probability of s being outside the range $s_0 \pm s_{\text{th}}$. To quantify the success in generation and distinguishability of the entangled states, we define the average fidelity $\bar{F} = [\langle \phi_+ | E_-[\rho_J] | \phi_+ \rangle + \langle \psi_+ | E_+[\rho_J] | \psi_+ \rangle] / 2$ and average concurrence $\bar{C} = [C(E_+[\rho_J]) + C(E_-[\rho_J])] / 2$. $E_c[\rho_J]$ represents the ensemble average over ρ_J for condition $c = \pm$. These quantities are illustrated as a function of s_{th} for the fixed integration time $t = 18.5/\kappa$ in Fig. 4. Even when keeping all events ($s_{\text{th}} = 0$), \bar{F} and \bar{C} are large, with values of 0.92 and 0.79, respectively. That is, with this procedure, it is possible to create and distinguish highly entangled states with unit probability. If one is willing to sacrifice some events, this

average fidelity and concurrence are increased to 0.98 and 0.91, respectively. The deviation from unity in the large s_{th} limit is due to slight corruption of the state $|\psi_+\rangle$ discussed previously.

In conclusion, we have shown how measurements in the dispersive regime of two-qubit cavity QED can be tuned from accessing single- to accessing multiqubit information, thus allowing for example parity measurements. In addition to allowing complete characterization of the two-qubit states [3–5] and the implementation of quantum information protocols [6,11,12], this allows for generation of entanglement by measurement with unit probability.

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