



Low frequency charge noise in coupled Josephson qubits

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A. Mastellone, A. D'Arrigo, E. Paladino, and G. Falci, EPJ ST, *in press*
A. Mastellone, A. D'Arrigo, E. Paladino, and G. Falci, IJQC, *in press*
A. Mastellone, A. D'Arrigo, E. Paladino, and G. Falci, *in preparation*



Outline

X Josephson qubits

X Noise sources

X Coupled qubits and i-SWAP gate

X Slow noise : adiabatic approximation

X Switching probability decay

Outline

Josephson qubits

Noise

i-SWAP

Coupled qubits

Slow noise

Adiabatic method

Coherence decay

Conclusions

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Josephson qubits and noise

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Josephson qubits

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i-SWAP

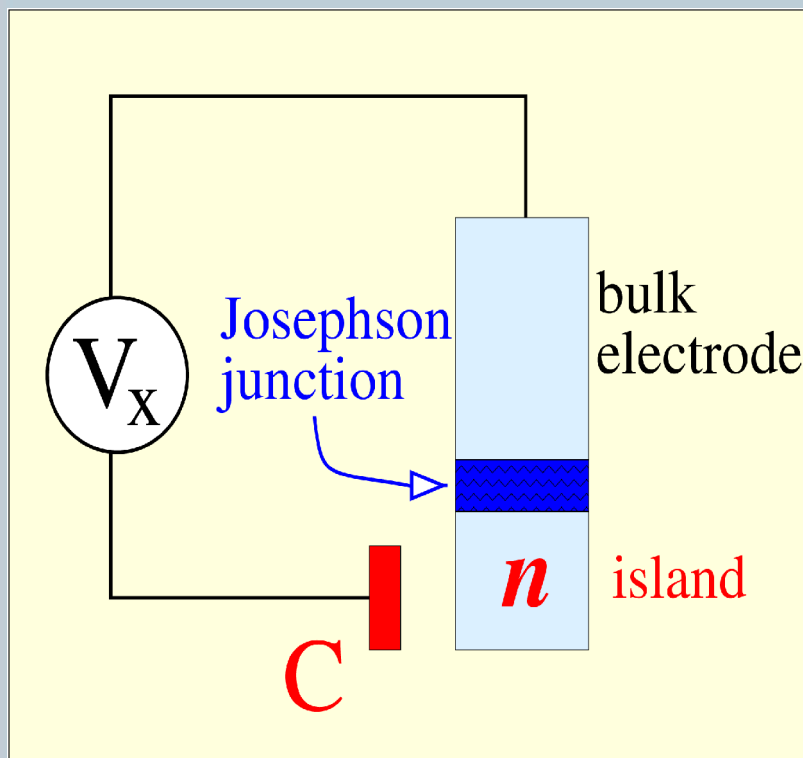
Coupled qubits

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Cooper Pair Box (CPB)

- Small (micron size) superconducting island with a Josephson junction
- Two relevant terms
 - Charging energy** E_C required to add one Cooper pair to island
 - Josephson energy** E_J related to the coherent tunneling across the junction
- The charging energy is **tunable** via the gate voltage V_x and this allows control of the pair number on the island \rightarrow computational states = charge states

Nakamura et al., *Nature* 1999



Josephson qubits and noise

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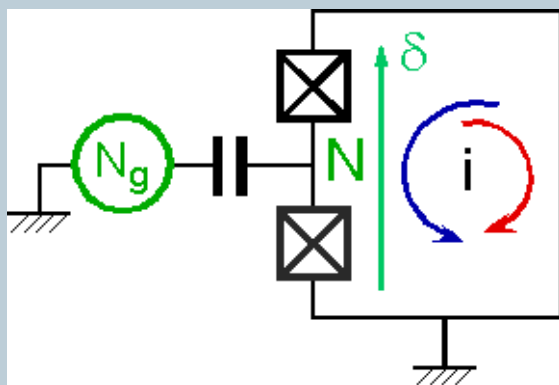
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Quantronium

- Splitted Cooper Pair Box in a loop.
- Two control knobs : **gate voltage** and **loop phase** (magnetic flux) → energy levels tuning (and **noise !** ☹)
- $T \rightarrow 0$: two lowest eigenstates correspond to the **computational basis**

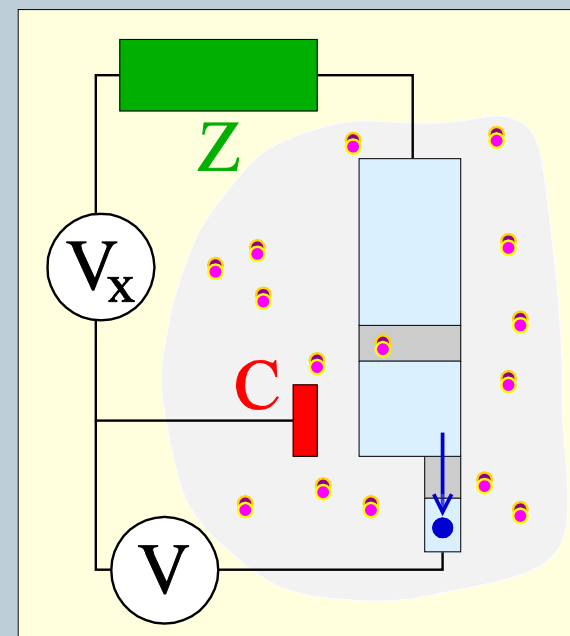
Noise sources

Electromagnetic fluctuations of the circuit → **impedance Z**

Discrete noise sources

- fluctuating background charges (BC) trapped in the substrate or in the junction
- trapped flux at the junctions

Modelled as **bistable fluctuators** (rate γ)



Vion et al., *Science* 2002; Paladino et al., *PRL* 2002; Ithier et al., *PRB* 2005

Optimal point

Quantronium Hamiltonian

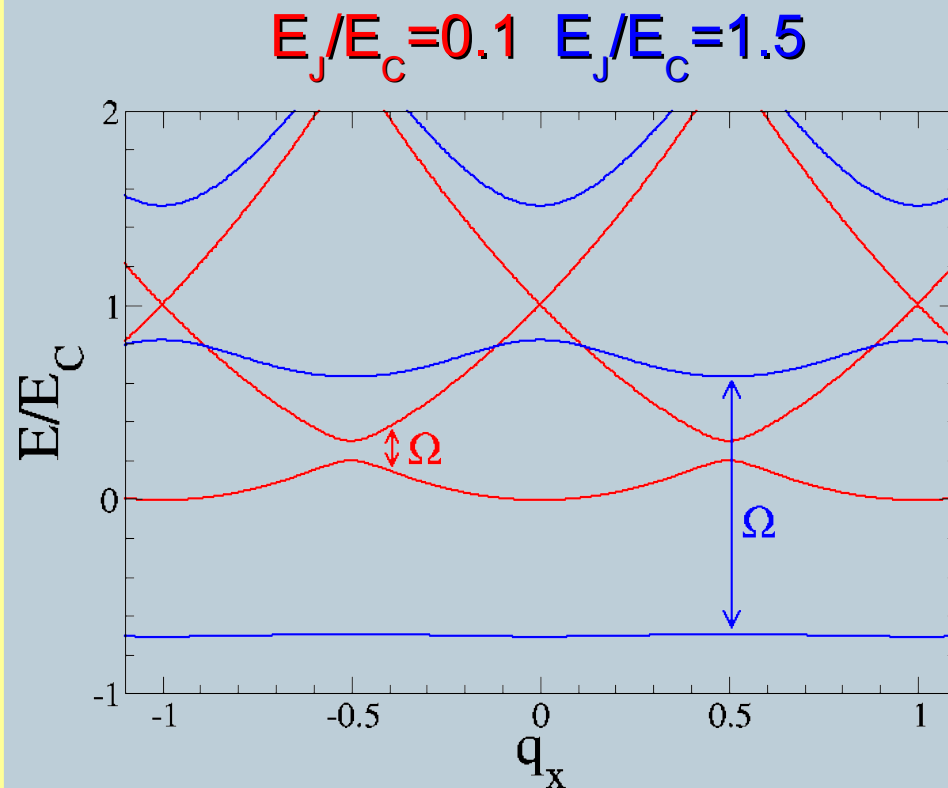
$$\mathcal{H} = E_C (\hat{q} - q_x \mathbb{I})^2 - E_J(\delta) \cos \hat{\phi}$$

The control knobs introduce **noise** in the system \leftrightarrow **fluctuations** of q_x and δ

At the **optimal point** ($q_x = 1/2, \delta = 0$) the effect of fluctuations on energy levels is **minimized**

Charge fluctuations are most **detrimental** than the phase ones

In the **charge-phase regime** the splitting is less sensitive to charge fluctuations



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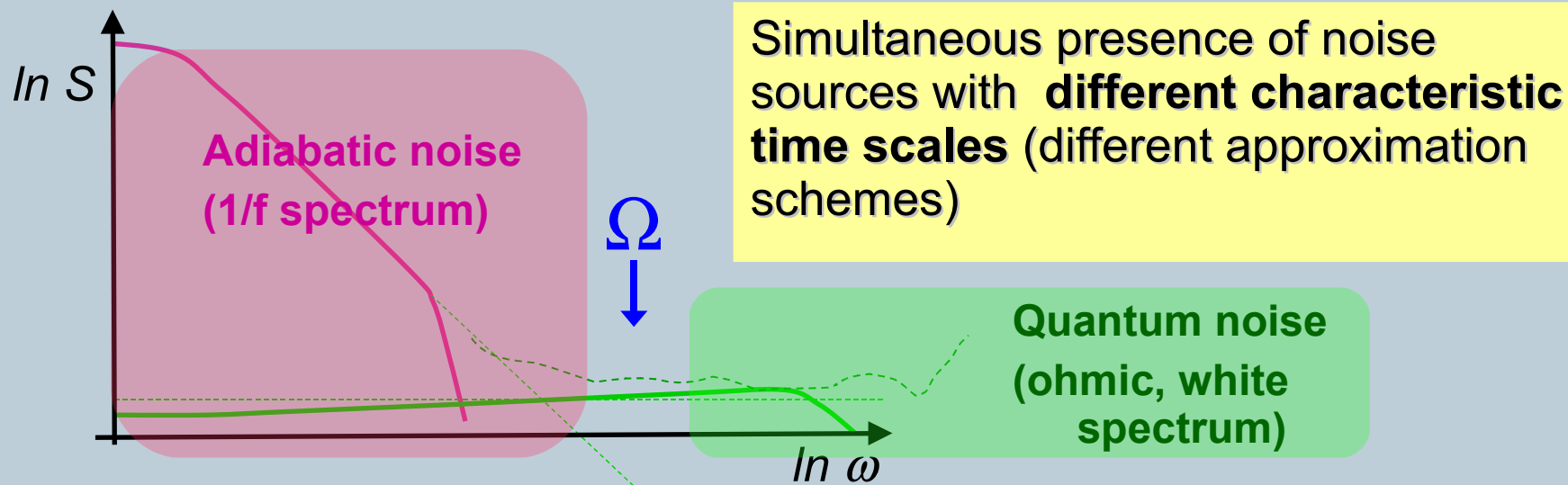
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Noise characterization

Variety of observations, material & device dependent



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1/f noise : Adiabatic approximation

Quantum noise: Spontaneous decay, Markovian Master Equation

Here we consider only the **slow** (adiabatic noise) component

I-SWAP gate

A **two-qubit gate** is a mandatory step toward a quantum computer since it provides **entanglement**

Simple implementation in a fixed-coupling scheme: **i-SWAP** gate

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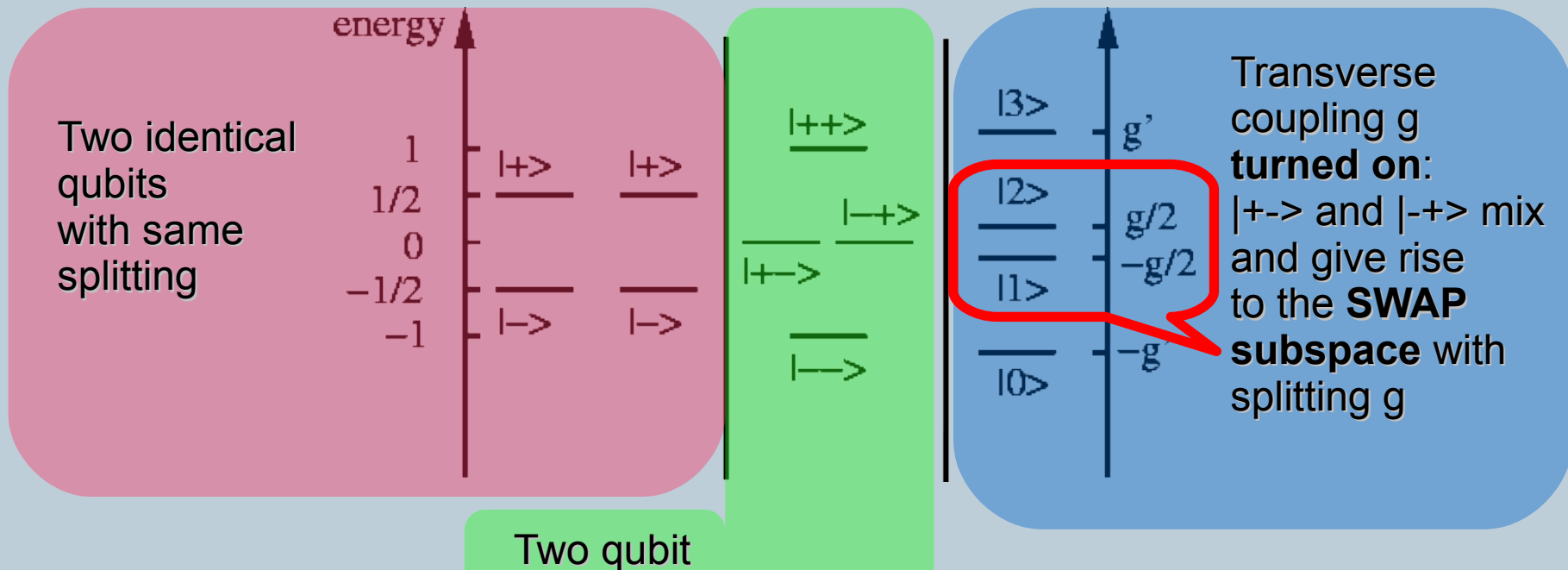
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SWAP space is fully **decoupled**: a system prepared in $|+-\rangle$ will freely evolve to the entangled one $|+-\rangle - i | -+\rangle$

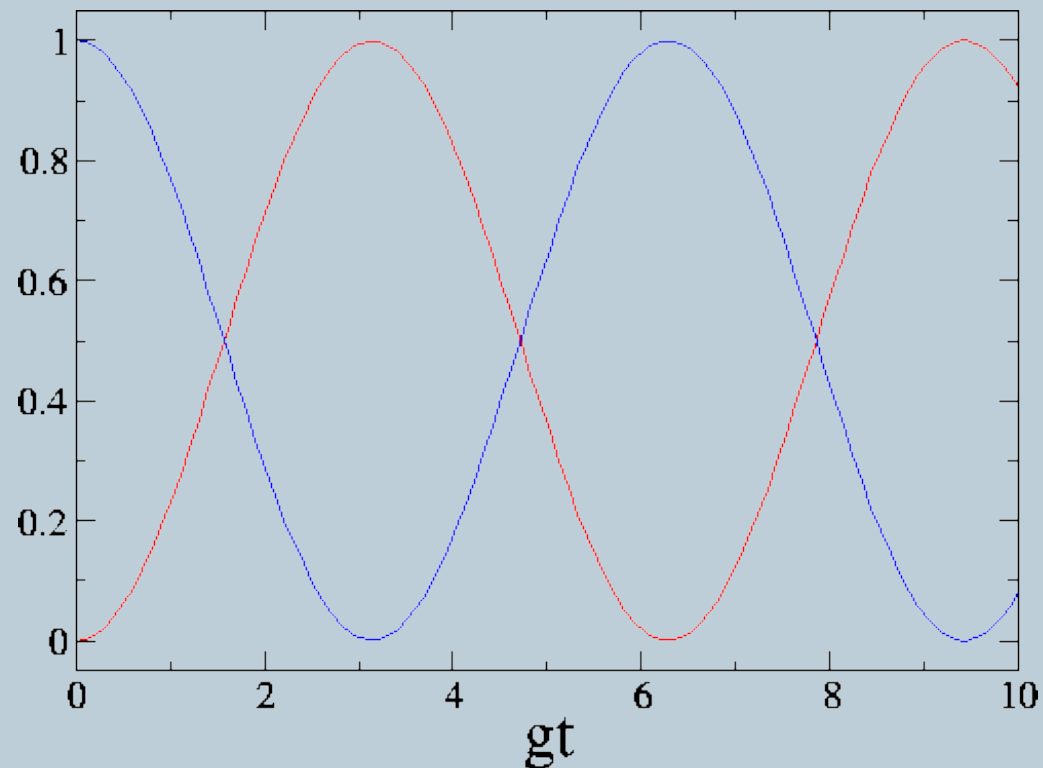
I-SWAP gate

Detection of i-SWAP gate:

P_1 : switching probability of qubit 1 from the initial state $|+\rangle$ to $|-\rangle$

P_2 : probability of finding qubit 2 in the initial state $|-\rangle$

Anticorrelation !



The anticorrelation of the probabilities has been detected !

D. Vion, *private communication*, 2007

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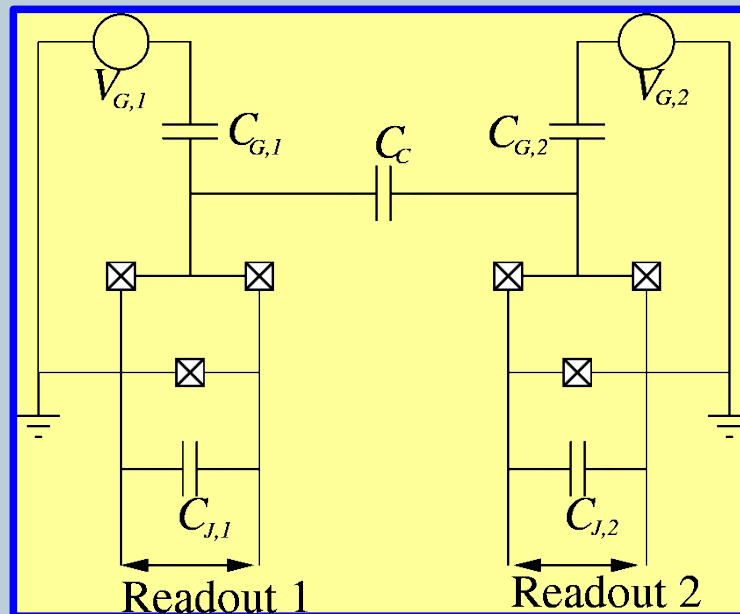
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Coupled Josephson qubits

Single qubit Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H}_\alpha = E_{\alpha,C} (\hat{q}_\alpha - q_{\alpha,x} \mathbb{I}_\alpha)^2 - E_{\alpha,J}(\delta_\alpha) \cos \hat{\phi}_\alpha$$



Two qubits with fixed capacitive coupling Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathbb{I}_2 + \mathbb{I}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2 + E_{CC} (\hat{q}_1 - q_{1,x} \mathbb{I}_1) \otimes (\hat{q}_2 - q_{2,x} \mathbb{I}_2)$$

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Coupled Josephson qubits

Two qubits with fixed capacitive coupling Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_1 \otimes \mathbb{I}_2 + \mathbb{I}_1 \otimes \mathcal{H}_2 + E_{CC} (\hat{q}_1 - q_{1,x} \mathbb{I}_1) \otimes (\hat{q}_2 - q_{2,x} \mathbb{I}_2)$$

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At low temperature the Hamiltonian is truncated to the four lowest energy states and rewritten in the pseudospin formalism

$$\mathcal{H}_S = -\frac{1}{2} \sigma_3^{(1)} \otimes \mathbb{I}_2 - \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{I}_1 \otimes \sigma_3^{(2)} + \frac{g}{2} \sigma_1^{(1)} \otimes \sigma_1^{(2)}$$

Dimensionless in terms of the common splitting Ω

The qubits are at **resonance** (common splitting)
The coupling is **transverse** at charge optimal point !

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Slow noise: adiabatic method

Charge noise as fluctuations in the control parameter

$$q_{\alpha,x} \rightarrow q_{\alpha,x} + \delta q_{\alpha,x} \quad \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H} + \delta \mathcal{H}$$

Additional noise term in the pseudo-spin representation (neglecting correlations)

$$\delta \mathcal{H} = -\frac{1}{2} x_1 \sigma_1^{(1)} \otimes \mathbb{I}_2 - \frac{1}{2} x_2 \mathbb{I}_1 \otimes \sigma_1^{(2)}$$

$$x_\alpha = \frac{4q_{+-}^{(\alpha)} E_{\alpha,C}}{\Omega} \delta q_{\alpha,x}$$
$$q_{+-}^{(\alpha)} = \langle + | \hat{q}_\alpha | - \rangle$$

Slow noise: $\gamma_M < \Omega \rightarrow$ **Adiabatic approximation**

- Qubit **populations** remain **constant**
- **Coherences: Static Path Approximation** \rightarrow effects of uncontrolled device calibration in a repeated measurement scheme (analogous to the inhomogeneous broadening in NMR)

G. Falci, A. D'Arrigo, A. Mastellone, E. Paladino, *PRL* 2005

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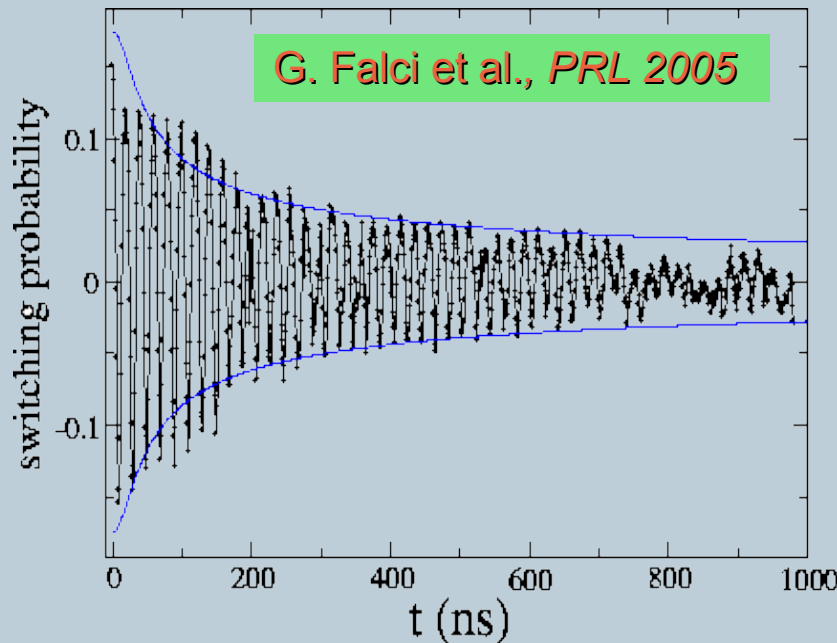
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Static Path Approximation

Static path on Single qubit



Large number of fluctuators:
gaussian distribution

$$P(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-x^2/(2\sigma^2)}$$

Variance is related to the noise
power spectrum

$$\sigma^2 = \int_0^\infty (d\omega/\pi) S(\omega)$$

Initial suppression of the signal is fitted by $\sigma=0.02$

Two qubit: switching probability

$$P_1 = \frac{1}{2} + \Re[\rho_{12}(t)]$$

$$\rho_{12}(\tau) = \rho_{12}(0) e^{i\omega_{12}^{(0)}\tau} \int dx_1 dx_2 P(x_1) P(x_2) \exp[i\delta\omega_{12}(x_1, x_2)\tau]$$

P_1 and SWAP coherence initial decays are **equivalent**

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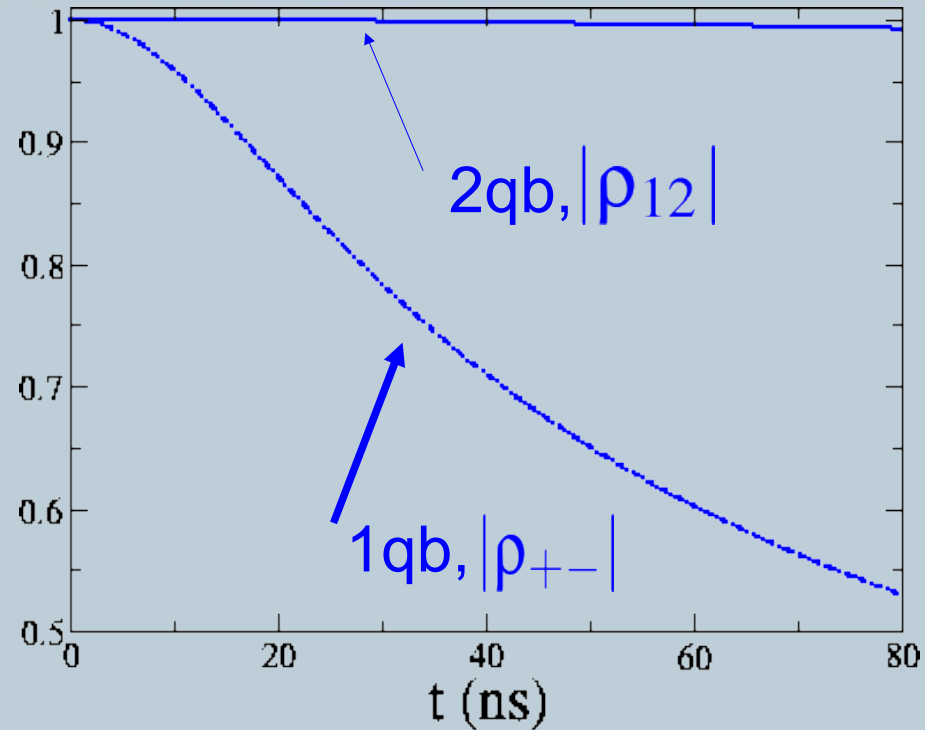
Coherence
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Coherence decay

Same noise as in the single qubit setup ($\sigma=0.02$ in both qubits)

The 2-qubits SWAP coherence decays much slower than the 1-qubit coherence



The coherence decay is **minimized** when the SWAP splitting ω_{12} shows a **reduced dependence** against noise parameters.

Variance over noise x_1, x_2

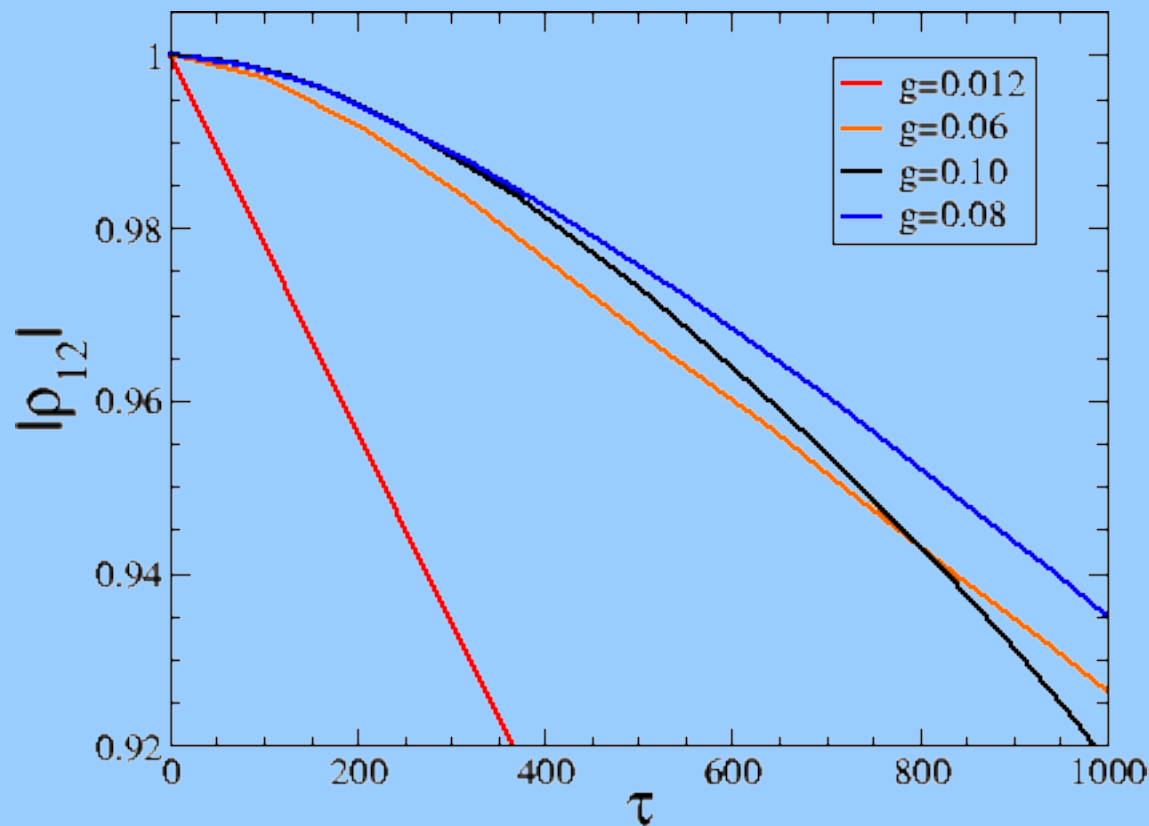
$$\sigma_{\delta\omega_{12}}^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{g} [(g^2 - \sigma^2)^2 + \sigma^4]$$

Minimized at $g \sim \sigma$

σ is **fixed** when the device is built up but one can always tune the coupling g !

Coherence decay

Strong noise level ($\sigma=0.08$)



Decay rate minimized at $g=0.08$!

σ is fixed when the device is built up
but one can always tune the coupling g !

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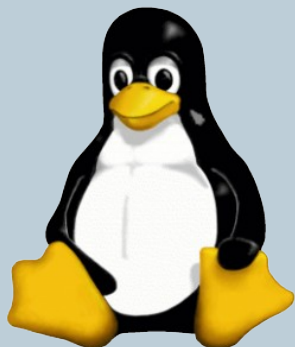
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Conclusions

- ✓ SWAP subspace is **protected** against charge noise
- ✓ Effects due to slow charge noise can be **minimized**
- ✓ **Work in progress**: fast charge noise, phase noise and charge noise correlations

Thank you for attention !



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