Interfacing Superconducting Quantum Processors with Cryogenic Digital Circuitry



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Rochester Institute of Technology Photonics for Quantum Workshop January 25, 2019

Acknowledgments

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Superconducting qubits

- 10⁵ improvement in qubit performance
- Promising architecture for quantum information processors



*C. Neill et al., Science (2018)

- Quantum optics with microwave photons
- Nodes for quantum network? need microwave-to-optical transducer...

*A. Kandala et al., Nature (2017)



Outstanding challenges for building large systems of superconducting qubits



- Qubit coherence
- Spread in qubit parameters
- Frequency crowding
- Hardware requirements for qubit control
- Hardware requirements for qubit state readout







Basics of superconducting qubits

Need a low-loss **anharmonic** oscillator at low-T

• Use a Josephson junction to form a *superconducting* nonlinear inductor









Transmon

*J. Koch et al., Phys. Rev. A, 76, 042319 (2007)



Microwave-based qubit control



Dispersive measurements of qubit state

• Coupling between cavity and qubit results in dispersive shift of cavity



★ Works well, but significant hardware overhead...

Single-shot readout fidelities > 99% in under 500 ns

*T. Walter et al., PR Applied (2017)

Reducing room-temperature hardware overhead



Superconducting digital logic

- Classical superconducting digital logic Single Flux Quantum (SFQ)
- Logical 1 (0) = presence (absence) of propagating fluxon

*Likharev and Semenov, *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercon.* 1991



- Low power consumption; high speed logic
- Ongoing intensive effort to implement SFQ-based large-scale processor — IARPA C3 program

*Manheimer, *IEEE Trans. Appl. Supercon.* 2015 $\Phi_0 \approx 2 \,\mathrm{mV} \times \mathrm{ps}$

$$V(t) = \frac{\Phi_0}{2\pi} \frac{\partial \delta}{\partial t}$$

On-chip digital control of qubits

- SFQ circuitry on same chip as qubits or flip-chip coupling
- Capacitively couple resonant train of narrow SFQ pulses to drive qubit rotations without microwaves
- Important to mitigate heating/ quasiparticles produced on-chip from operation of SFQ circuitry





$$\delta\theta = C_c \Phi_0 \sqrt{\frac{2\omega_{01}}{\hbar C}}$$

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\pi rotation with ~100 pulses
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~14 ns for 7 GHz qubit



Implementation of SFQ driver and qubits

- Collaborative hybrid fabrication
- High-Jc Nb/AlOx/Nb junctions from Wisconsin
- Low-Jc Al/AlOx/Al junctions from Syracuse





*Leonard *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Applied 11, 014009 (2019)



Layout of SFQ driver and qubit



Qubit Rabi oscillations with SFQ pulses

- Bias qubit at upper sweet spot: $\omega_{10}/2\pi = 4.958\,\mathrm{GHz}$
- Send microwave pulses to trigger input of SFQ driver



Qubit Rabi oscillations at $\omega_{10}/3$



SFQ Frequency (GHz)



Orthogonal gates with SFQ pulses



Characterizing SFQ-based gates

Randomized benchmarking



Gate fidelities limited by on-chip quasiparticle generation

Quasiparticle poisoning

- Trigger SFQ driver off-resonant from qubit subharmonics
- Phase slips of SFQ junctions generate quasiparticles that poison qubit



Mitigating quasiparticle poisoning







Multi-chip module: initial measurements

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SFQ Pulse Pattern Generator



- For more accurate qubit control, need to be able to generate more complex patterns of SFQ pulses
 - P. Liebermann et al., Phys. Rev. Appl. 6, 024022 (2016)





with O. Mukhanov, SeeQC (Hypres, Inc.)

See Q

- Single global clock (e.g., 30 GHz)
- Banks of shift registers to store/stream sequence (e.g., 10x200 bits)

Reducing room-temperature hardware overhead



Digital Readout of Qubit with Josephson Photomultiplier

*Opremcak *et al.*, Science 361, 1239 (2018)



Raw measurement fidelity $\approx 92\%$





Quantum layer = qubits and readout resonators only; minimal fab processing

Quantum-Classical interface layer = SFQ drivers; JPMs and SFQ output; flux bias lines

Summary

• Hardware challenges for scaling to large qubit arrays with conventional microwave-based control and readout

*McDermott *et al.*, Quant. Sci. Tech. 3, 024004 (2018)

• SFQ-based qubit control without microwave pulses

*Leonard *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Applied 11, 014009 (2019)

• Microwave photon counter JPMs for digital readout of qubit state

*Opremcak et al., Science 361, 1239 (2018)







Alternative approaches to dispersive readout in cQED



Tunneling events produce easily-measured, unambiguous "clicks".

Photon-capture approach for JPM-based readout



*Opremcak et al., Science 361, 1239 (2018)



Qubit and JPM device fabrication



Interfacing JPM output with SFQ logic

- Qubit measurement result encoded in classical circulating current states of JPM
- Inductively couple JPM loop to Josephson Transmission Line
- Sense of circulating currents results in state-dependent delay of SFQ pulses



JPM signal







