# Quantum Sensing of Low-Frequency Electromagnetic Signals

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 $|D\rangle = |m_{F} = +1, v = 0\rangle$ 



### Cold atoms



### Superconducting



frequency signals

### Trapped ions





Optomechanical

### Quantum sensing modalities



# Spins (electron / nuclear)





### Optical

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### One Motivation: A Golden Age for QIS and Dark Matter

### The Quantum Information Revolution



Qubit (Schuster)



Quantum computer (Google)

Advances in quantum control ⇒ Major governmental, industrial, and academic investment in new quantum technologies

Near-term opportunities for leveraging quantum advantage:

- Sensing beyond the standard quantum limit
- Quantum simulations of physical phenomena intractable to classical computers

### The Dark Matter Revolution

Progress in theoretical understanding of:

- Diverse range of dark-matter candidates
- QCD axion: uniquely motivated for resolving the Strong CP problem
- Searching for diverse range of dark-matter candidates requires diverse new quantum sensor technologies (photon detectors, atomic clocks, spins, superconducting qubits, ...)
  - Searching for QCD axion requires quantum sensitivity enhancement: reduce time to fully measure QCD axion band from millennia to years



# Focus on electromagnetic signal wavelength >= human scale



# 300 MHz ~ 0.015 Kelvin ~ 1 m

300 MHz ~ human scale ~ dilution refrigerator temperature

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# 300 MHz ~ 0.015 Kelvin ~ 1 m

This lecture will address techniques to measure frequencies < 300 MHz (including upconverting them to higher frequencies)

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# 300 MHz ~ 0.015 Kelvin ~ 1 m

Aaron Chou's lecture (next) will address microwave-frequency techniques with qubits

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# Continuous variables quantum information

- A qubit, or two-level system, is in some superposition of two states, |0> and |1>. It is "digital"-like.
- Physical observables (e.g. the strength of an electromagnetic field) have continuous intervals. They are "analog"-like.
- Often, continuous variables signals are sensed in a weak, continuous measurement, rather than a single projection. (the realized quantum limits are similar in either case).
- *The quantum optics approach to continuous variables*: model each mode of an electromagnetic field as a harmonic oscillator with annihilation & creation operators
- The state of the harmonic oscillator can be expressed as a phasor diagram, with  $\widehat{X}$  and  $\widehat{Y}$  quadrature components



### **Qubit with nonlinear level spacing**



SHO with linear level spacing

$$\widehat{H} = \hbar \omega \big( a^{\dagger} a + 1/2 \big)$$



# Low Frequency LC Circuit Quadratures of a single mode

Sensor Signal

Low-frequency signal (black) has components in the X-quadrature (blue) and in the Y-quadrature (red)

$$\widehat{\mathbf{X}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \widehat{a} \, e^{i\omega_a t} + \widehat{a}^{\dagger} e^{-i\omega_a t} \right)$$
$$\widehat{\mathbf{Y}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \widehat{a} \, e^{i\omega_a t} - \widehat{a}^{\dagger} e^{-i\omega_a t} \right)$$

$$\widehat{\Phi}(t) = \sqrt{2} \Phi_{zpt} ($$

See review: Clerk et al, RMP 82, 1155 (2010)



Consider a magnetic flux signal  $\widehat{\Phi}(t)$ 

```
(\widehat{\mathbf{X}}(t)\cos\omega_a t + \widehat{\mathbf{Y}}(t)\sin\omega_a t)
```

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### The Standard Quantum Limit for Electromagnetism

- A generic E&M signal has 'sine' and 'cosine' components, which do not commute.
- The Heisenberg uncertainty principle says we cannot measure both perfectly, so an amplifier must add noise.

• The "standard quantum limit" is achieved when both components are measured as well as possible, saturating the Heisenberg **Uncertainty Relation** 

• Equivalent to one photon of noise



$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{X}, \hat{Y} \end{bmatrix} = i \\ \Delta X \Delta Y \geq \frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix} \ \begin{array}{c} \text{Commutator} \\ \text{Heisenberg} \\ \text{Uncertainty} \\ \text{Relation} \end{array}$$



### The Standard Quantum Limit (SQL) in a harmonic oscillator

The Hamiltonian of a harmonic oscillator is

$$\widehat{H} = \hbar\omega \big( a^{\dagger}a + 1/2 \big)$$

The Hamiltonian can be written in the cosine component ( $\hat{X}$ ) and the sine component  $(\hat{Y})$ 

$$\widehat{H} = \frac{\hbar\omega}{2} \left( \widehat{X}^2 + \widehat{Y}^2 \right)$$

 $[\widehat{X}, \widehat{Y}] = \mathbf{i}$ 

When amplified, add one more  $\frac{1}{2}$ quantum

vacuum noise  $\Delta \hat{X} \Delta \hat{Y} \geq \frac{1}{2}$ 

- coherence time



Time representation

Phasor representation



$$N_{add} \ge \frac{1}{2}$$

"SQL": 1 photon of noise Per measurement Measure ~ once per resonator



### You can't know both amplitude and phase perfectly

Heisenberg tells us that you can't know the position and momentum of a particle perfectly at the same time:



A "classical" sensor measures both amplitude and phase with equal sensitivity, limited by the Standard Quantum Limit of  $\hbar\omega$ 

$$\Delta x \Delta p \ge \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

### $A\cos(\omega t + \phi) = X\cos(\omega t) + Y\sin(\omega t)$



What if I don't care about phase???





- ulletquadratures)
- $\bullet$ involve entanglement), and all obey the Uncertainty Principle.

### One way to evade the SQL - squeezing

F. Mallet et al. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **106**, 220502 (2011).

Don't measure both amplitude and phase. (Equivalently, don't measure both sine and cosine

There are several ways to achieve this outcome. They are deeply inter-related (and



# Better science thru evading the Standard Quantum Limit



- LIGO performs quantum measureme gravitational waves more sensitively
- LIGO uses squeezing to improve inter evasion (BAE).

### LIGO Livingston

### LIGO performs quantum measurements at better than the SQL to measure

LIGO uses squeezing to improve interferometry, but it could also utilize backaction



## HAYSTAC: Faster science through squeezing





HAYSTAC quantum accelerated science reach

Backes, Kelly M., et al. "A quantum enhanced search for dark matter axions." Nature 590.7845 (2021): 238-242.



### **Primer to TWPA: telegrapher equations**



$$\begin{cases} V(z,t) = V^+ e^{i[\omega t - kz]} + V^- e^{-i[\omega t - kz]} \\ I(z,t) = \frac{V^+}{Z_0} e^{i[\omega t - kz]} - \frac{V^-}{Z_0} e^{-i[\omega t - kz]} \end{cases}$$



From Florent's lecture:

Consider the single propagating mode limit

$$\frac{\partial_{\text{generic}}^2 V(z,t)}{\partial z^2} - LC \frac{\partial^2 V(z,t)}{\partial t^2} = 0$$
$$\frac{\partial^2 I(z,t)}{\partial z^2} - LC \frac{\partial^2 I(z,t)}{\partial t^2} = 0$$

$$Z_0 = \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}} \qquad \qquad \nu_p = \frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$$



- In a single-moded signal, at any point in the transmission line, *four numbers* are required to describe the electromagnetic signal.
- Propagating wave:

Re{V+}, Im{V+} for the right-propagating wave

Re{V-}, Im{V-} for the left-propagating wave

- Equivalently, you can use the voltage and current at each point in space for the sum of the left- and right- propagating waves:
- $Re{V}, Im{V}$
- $Re{I}, Im{I}$

### Single-mode, waves vs. IV

- $V(z,t) = V^+ e^{i[\omega t kz]} + V^- e^{-i[\omega t kz]}$  $I(z,t) = \frac{V^{+}}{Z_{0}} e^{i[\omega t - kz]} - \frac{V^{-}}{Z_{0}} e^{-i[\omega t - kz]}$ 
  - Good for scattering calculations
  - Microwave engineering
  - Scattering-mode amplifiers  $\bullet$
  - Useful for Ohm's Law /
  - Circuit diagrams
  - "Op-amp" mode amplifiers









### **Scattering-mode amplifiers**

- Amplification of waveforms
- Typical when length scale > lambda
- Input described by incoming and outgoing waves
- **RF** amplifiers and HEMTs, Parametric amplifiers



Quantum limits are analogous, but take different treatment

# Scattering mode / opamp mode

### "Op-amp"-mode amplifiers

- Amplification of state variable (voltage, current, flux)
- Typical when length scale < lambda
- Input described by state variable and backaction on input, and tuning coupling
- FETs, bipolar transistors
- dc SQUIDs









- A "best approximation" of a sinewave.
- Eigenstate of the annihilation operator
- Uncertainty balanced between  $\hat{X}$  and  $\hat{Y}$



### **Coherent states**



- Coherent state is a superposition of many different photon-number states.
- Eigenstate of photon number is "Fock" state
- Projection noise of coherent onto Fock state -> "shot" noise (another SQL)



# 300 MHz ~ 0.015 Kelvin ~ 1 m

Aaron Chou's lecture will address microwave-frequency techniques with qubits, including Fock state preparation

300 MHz ~ human scale ~ dilution refrigerator temperature Kent Irwin, USQIS Summer School 2023







# Sensing electromagnetic signals at low frequency

- Preparing Fock states difficult because of thermal photons
- Op-amp mode amplifiers used because length >> lambda
- Many types of amplifiers are traditionally available: FETs, bipolar transistors, SET electrometers. Most are far from any Standard Quantum Limit
- The more traditional amplifier that is often considered "quantum limited" is the dc SQUID, an op-amp mode amplifier
- Mode: flux-to-voltage amplifier (current can be transduced to flux, so can be a current-to-voltage amplifier).

Let's work through the problem of understanding quantum limits in a quantumlimited flux amplifier. *Noise matching and backaction are more central in an opamp-mode measurement than in a scattering-mode measurement* 

Then we consider newer alternatives to the dc SQUID







### **Brian Josephson** Nobel Prize, 1973



It gets more interesting when you make a loop:

## **Josephson Junctions**

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- Superconducting Quantum Interference Device (SQUID)
- Invented by Arnold Silver, Ford
- Quantum interference pattern analogous to a two-slit interferometer



Magnetic flux coupled to SQUID loop





### Noise sources in op-amp mode electrical measurement



- **1. Thermal Noise:** set by the resonator's thermal occupation.
- **2. Vacuum Noise:** required by quantum mechanics.
- **3. Amplifier Noise:** composed of *imprecision* and *backaction* noise, can be subject to a Standard Quantum Limit.

Vacuum + thermal + backaction noise

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### How do you noise match an op-amp mode amplifier?



There are other definitions of noise temperature! (e.g. Caves) -> including vacuum noise in zero-temperature source. This is just the amplifier added noise. See review: Clerk et al, RMP 82, 1155 (2010)

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{L_{\rm tot}C_{\rm res}}}$$

Our classical noise temperature definition:

$$e\{Z_{\rm res}\} = \mathcal{S}_{VV} + |Z_{\rm res}|^2 \mathcal{S}_{II} - 2\operatorname{Re}\{Z_{\rm res}^* \mathcal{S}_{IV}\}$$

On resonance  $Z_{res}(\omega_0) = R$ .

 $4k_{\rm B}T_{\rm n}(\omega_0)R = \mathcal{S}_{VV} + R^2\mathcal{S}_{II} - 2R\operatorname{Re}\{\mathcal{S}_{IV}\}.$ 





### $\operatorname{Re}\{\mathcal{S}_{IV}\}=0$

### $4k_B T_n(\omega_0)R = \mathcal{S}_{VV} + R^2 \mathcal{S}_{II}$

$$k_{\rm B}T_{\rm min} = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\mathcal{S}_{VV}\mathcal{S}_{II}}$$

 $k_{\rm B}T_{\rm min} = \hbar\omega_0/2$ 

Quantum limit on the added noise of an op-amp mode amplifier

Consider the special case of an amplifier without real correlations. This is generally true of a dc SQUID flux amplifier.

Noise match

Noise matched -> minimum noise temperature

Quantum limit on noise temperature (Devoret / Schoelkopf, not Caves' definition).







There is more to noise matching than on-resonance noise!

### Frequency

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### • SNR not degraded when readout subdominant to thermal noise











### Example of optimizing noise match for bandwidth with a dc SQUID



Resonator bandwidth: ~5 Hz Sensitivity bandwidth: ~150 Hz

### **DMRadio Pathfinder**



With optimized noise match, sensitivity bandwidth 30x larger than resonator bandwidth, with negligible degradation on resonance

ch,

- Resistive shunts mean that significant power can be dissipated.
- Significant damping shifts frequency, degrades Q of input circuit.
- Energy sensitivity is limited by design, noise impedance is fixed.
- Challenging to truly thermalize below ~100mK.

Resonant Circuit





## Other dc SQUID issues

E. C. van Assendelft, et al. IEEE Transactions on Applied Superconductivity (2023).

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- **Backaction evasion** to reduce both imprecision and backaction noise to below the standard quantum limit
- Or squeeze thermal noise

"Click" photon counting is not useful when  $hf \ll k_B T$ 

- $\sqrt{N}$  thermal fluctuations in the number of resonator photons
- Sensitivity not improved by photon "click" counting
- Preparing a high-N Fock state difficult
- $\rightarrow$  Need other techniques



# Better science thru evading the Standard Quantum Limit



- gravitational waves more sensitively
- evasion (BAE).

### LIGO Livingston

LIGO performs quantum measurements at better than the SQL to measure

LIGO uses squeezing to improve interferometry, but it could also utilize backaction

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### Radio-Frequency Quantum Upconverters: Analogous to Optomechanical Systems



$$\omega_a = \sqrt{rac{k}{m}} \quad \omega_b = rac{2\pi q c}{l(x)}$$

$$\begin{split} \widehat{\mathbf{H}} &= \hbar \omega_a \left( \hat{a}^{\dagger} \hat{a} + 1/2 \right) + \hbar \omega_b \left( \hat{b}^{\dagger} \hat{b} + 1/2 \right) + \widehat{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{INT}} \\ & \widehat{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{INT}} = -\hbar \widehat{F} \widehat{b}^{\dagger} \widehat{b} \left( \hat{a}^{\dagger} + \hat{a} \right) / \sqrt{2} \end{split}_{\text{Kent}} \end{split}$$

$$\omega_a = \sqrt{rac{1}{LC}} ~~~ \omega_b = \sqrt{rac{1}{L_r(\Phi)C_r}}$$

**Optomechanical Hamiltonian** 

![](_page_39_Figure_10.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

**Optomechanical Hamiltonian** 

$$\widehat{\mathbf{H}} = \hbar \omega_a \left( \hat{a}^{\dagger} \hat{a} + 1/2 \right) + \hbar \omega_b \left( \hat{b}^{\dagger} \hat{b} + 1/2 \right) + \widehat{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{INT}}$$

 $\widehat{H}_{\rm INT} = -\hbar \widehat{F} \widehat{b}^{\dagger} \widehat{b} \left( \widehat{a}^{\dagger} + \widehat{a} \right) / \sqrt{2}$ 

### **RF-to-Microwave Quantum Upconversion**

![](_page_40_Picture_7.jpeg)

• A tunable inductor is made of an interferometer with three Josephson junctions and two loops.

- The microwave resonator is a quarter wave stub of coplanar waveguide.
- Flux inputs couple a low-frequency input signal into the interferometer.
- Low-frequency (~MHz) signal is converted to microwave signal (~6 GHz)

Implementing the RQU

![](_page_41_Figure_6.jpeg)

# Implementing the RQU

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_3.jpeg)

- Al-AlOx-Al on silicon substrate.
- Single deposition process using shadow evap.
- Symmetric 3-junction interferometer with larger central junction inductance.
- Single-turn flux signal input loops next to interferometer.
- Coplanar waveguide quarter-wave resonator.
- Capacitor couples the resonator to the transmission line.

![](_page_42_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Figure_0.jpeg)

### **RQU Readout Chain**

![](_page_43_Figure_2.jpeg)

### **Data Illustrating RF Upconversion**

![](_page_44_Figure_1.jpeg)

- Data illustrating upconversion in RQU
- microwave carrier tone.

• The signal information is upconverted to symmetric sidebands on the

![](_page_44_Figure_8.jpeg)

Microwave Readout Signal

If the carrier tone is amplitude modulated in phase with the Xquadrature of the input signal, phase-sensitive amplification of only the X-quadrature is achieved.

> Clerk, New Journ. Phys. 10, 095010 (2008).  $\widehat{\mathbf{H}} = \hbar \omega_a (\widehat{a}^{\dagger} \widehat{a} + 1/2) + \hbar \omega_b$

 $\widehat{H}_{INT} = -\hbar A \widehat{F} \widehat{\Phi} = -\sqrt{2} \hbar \widetilde{A} \widehat{F}$ 

If the carrier tone is amplitude modulated in phase with the X-quadrature of the input signal, phase-sensitive upconversion of only the X-quadrature is achieved (averaged over multiple cycles).

### **Phase-Sensitive Upconversion**

![](_page_45_Figure_6.jpeg)

$$b(\hat{b}^{\dagger}\hat{b}+1/2)+\hat{H}_{INT}$$

$$\widehat{Y}[\widehat{X}(1 + \cos(2\omega_a t)) + \widehat{Y}\sin(2\omega_a t)]$$

### How to achieve amplitude modulation

- Measurement strength depends on microwave drive amplitude.
- A smooth amplitude modulation envelope, averaged over time, will contain no information about the Y quadrature.
- Create the amplitude modulated drive by injecting two microwave tones detuned from the resonant frequency by  $\pm \omega_{sig}$

![](_page_46_Figure_4.jpeg)

### Simulated data for illustration

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![](_page_46_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_9.jpeg)

### Demonstrated RQU phase-sensitive gain

# **Input**: 5 MHz flux signal into an RQU

**Carrier**: 5.26 GHz sinewave amplitude modulated at 5.26 GHz GHz

Measure: output tone power as a function of phase shift between input sinewave and AM modulation

Extinction ratio: ratio of maximum gain to minimum gain: Curve fit to > 50 dB Always measured to > 30 dB

![](_page_47_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_0.jpeg)

- $\bullet$ quadrature, on average, if it is 90 degrees out of phase.
- In this limit, if only the  $\widehat{X}$  quadrature is measured, the backaction is injected  $\bullet$ preferentially into the  $\widehat{Y}$  quadrature (which is not measured) - BAE
- If the Q of the microwave resonator is high enough (the "good cavity" limit), the  $\bullet$ sidebands are fully resolved

$$S_X(\omega) = \frac{\gamma}{(\omega - \omega_a)^2 + (\gamma/2)^2} [1/2 + n_{\text{th}} + n_{\text{leak}}] + S_{\text{IMP-X}}(\omega) \qquad n_{\text{leak}} = \frac{n_{\text{BA}}}{32} \left(\frac{\kappa}{\omega_a}\right)^2 S_Y(\omega) = \frac{\gamma}{(\omega - \omega_a)^2 + (\gamma/2)^2} [1/2 + n_{\text{th}} + n_{\text{BA}} + n_{\text{leak}}] + S_{\text{IMP-Y}}(\omega)$$

Braginsky, Vorontsov, and Thorne. Science 209, 547 (1980). AA Clerk, F. Marquardt, and K. Jacobs, *New Journ. Phys.* **10**, 095010 (2008).

### **Full Backaction Evasion**

### **Carrier tone modulated to measure** only X quadrature

A backaction signal from the microwave resonator only does work on an LC resonator

resonator linewidth

# Microwave

![](_page_48_Picture_11.jpeg)

### Backaction evasion (BAE): reduced readout noise in one quadrature

![](_page_49_Figure_1.jpeg)

The reduction in the total X-quadrature noise appears unimpressive on resonance

## Now that the backaction is reduced...

### Current Response

![](_page_50_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_2.jpeg)

### SNOWMASS: a comprehensive search for QCD axions

![](_page_52_Figure_1.jpeg)

QCD axions here: provably requires measurement below the SQL to probe the best models

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### SNOWMASS: a comprehensive search for QCD axions

![](_page_53_Figure_1.jpeg)

QCD axions here: New quantum sensing modalities required to cover all frequency space

![](_page_53_Picture_5.jpeg)

- Axions couple to nuclear spins  $\bullet$ through the strong force, inducing an effective nuclear electric dipole moment which oscillates at  $f_{ax}$ .
- A spin-polarized sample of nuclear  $\bullet$ spins will resonantly precess if f<sub>ax</sub> matches their Larmor frequency.
- The precessing magnetization can be  $\bullet$ detected with a SQUID magnetometer or quantum sensor.

### **CASPEr-electric**

Garcon, Antoine, et al. "The Cosmic Axion Spin Precession Experiment (CASPEr): a dark-matter search with nuclear magnetic resonance." Quantum Science and *Technology* 3.1 (2017): 014008.

# Searching for axions with NMR

![](_page_54_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Picture_10.jpeg)

### Accelerating NMR search: CASPEr-e

![](_page_55_Figure_1.jpeg)

 RQUs can help CASPEr's science reach to extend to the spin projection noise SQL

Spin squeezing can extend below the spin projection SQL

### Snowmass Graph: Axions and SLAC Quantum

![](_page_56_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Picture_5.jpeg)

- New breakthroughs in QIS are leading to a revolution in measurement.
- Compelling applications in fundamental physics, including dark matter, require measurement better than Standard Quantum Limits so that we can achieve results in *years* instead of *millennia*.
- Quantum measurement varies at different frequencies, and for different sources -> one size does not fit all, but the same principles underly all of them.
- Next lecture: Aaron Chou will talk about the quantum toolbox at microwave frequencies with qubits

### Conclusions