Macroscopic quantum phenomena in superconducting junctions







Davide Massarotti, February 8, 2019

The Josephson junction is a nonlinear dissipationless device. These unique features make the junction the primitive building block of all superconducting qubits. The quantum nature of the macroscopic degree of freedom- the phase difference φ– can be measured

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Superconducting quantum bits

John Clarke^{1,2} & Frank K. Wilhelm³

The Josephson junction as a nonlinear circuit element



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Schrödinger's cat is now fat

Gianni Blatter



*x*₀

*x*₀

Macroscopic quantum phenomena



Quantum Mechanics of a Macroscopic Variable: The Phase Difference of a Josephson Junction

John Clarke, Andrew N. Cleland, Michel H. Devoret, Daniel Esteve, John M. Martinis



Macroscopic atom

RE MACROSCOPIC DEGREES OF FREEDOM GOVERNED BY quantum mechanics? Our everyday experience tells us that a classical description appears to be entirely adequate. The trajectory of the center of mass of a billiard ball is predicted wonderfully well by classical mechanics. Even the Brownian motion of a tiny speck of dust in a drop of water is a purely classical phenomenon. Until recently, quantum mechanics manifested itself at the macroscopic level only through such collective phenomena as superconductivity, flux quantization, or the Josephson effect. However, these "macroscopic" effects actually arise from the coherent superposition of a large number of microscopic variables each governed by quantum mechanics. Thus, for example, the current through a Josephson tunnel junction and the phase difference across it are normally treated as classical variables. As Leggett (1) has

emphasized, one must distinguish carefully between macroscopic quantum phenomena originating in the superposition of a large number of microscopic variables and those displayed by a single macroscopic degree of freedom. It is the latter that we discuss in this article.

Our usual observations on a billiard ball or Brownian particle reveal classical behavior because Planck's constant \hbar is so tiny. However, at least in principle there is nothing to prevent us from designing an experiment in which these objects are quantum mechanical. To do so we have to satisfy two criteria: (i) the thermal energy must be small compared with the separation of the quantized energy levels, and (ii) the macroscopic degree of freedom must be sufficiently decoupled from all other degrees of freedom if the lifetime of the quantum states is to be longer than the characteristic time scale of the system (1). To illustrate the application of these NATURE|Vol 453|19 June 2008|doi:10.1038/nature07128

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Charge-Transmon



Flux-Phase

Josephson energy

 $H = \frac{Q^2}{2C} + \frac{(\phi - \phi_0)^2}{2L}$

Charging energy





Al/AlOx/Al Josephson junction $T_1, T_2 \sim 100 \ \mu s$





QT activities in Napoli



Hybrid ferromagnetic Josephson junctions





Hybrid ferromagnetic Josephson junctions





ferromagnetic Josephson junctions

D. Massarotti^{1,2}, A. Pal³, G. Rotoli⁴, L. Longobardi^{4,5}, M.G. Blamire³ & F. Tafuri^{2,4}

R. Caruso et al. PRL 2019





R. Caruso et al. JAP 2018H. Ahmad et al. in preparation



Hybrid ferromagnetic Josephson junctions





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Engineering oxide 2DES

LAO

ETO

STO







Tunable Josephson effect

LaAlO₃/EuTiO₃/SrTiO₃

2DES based nano junctions

Tunable superconductivity: unconventional superconducting ground state, possible topological states

LaAlO₃/SrTiO₃

LAO

STO



D. Stornaiuolo et al. PRB 2017

Electronic setup



See QC>



Electronic setup

Low temperature setup

Triton 400: base temperature 10 mK and cryogen-free

Dilution fridge Kelvinox MX 400

Josephson effect

Measurement & operation

Quantum Physics Quantum Engineering

Material science & nanotechnology

Zt Electromagnetic control

Hybrid Quantum Information Processing

Quantum Information is well transmitted by photons, better processed by superconducting circuits and efficiently stored with cold atoms

Hybrid Quantum Information Processing

Quantum Information is well transmitted by photons, better processed by superconducting circuits and efficiently stored with cold atoms

Unconventional Josephson junctions give more possibilities to quantum processors

Superconducting qubit processor

REVIEW

Superconducting Circuits for Quantum Information: An Outlook

M. H. Devoret^{1,2} and R. J. Schoelkopf¹*

Microwave resonator:

- Read-out of qubit states
- Multi-qubit quantum bus

Superconducting qubit!

- Josephson junction
 - Nearly dissipationless \rightarrow T₁, T₂ ~ 100 µs

Circuit Quantum electrodynamics (CQED)

The idea is to weakly connect the two level system to a superconducting RF resonant cavity, expecting the qubit state to slightly perturb the overall resonating properties (being the qubit a resonator itself)

If the cavity frequency $\omega_r = \sqrt{1/L_R C_R}$ is tuned far from energy transitions, an $\omega = \omega_r$ photon will not cause transitions between states!