

Local optimisation of extractable work, $\rho_0 = |+\rangle\langle+|$. We start in an Eigenstate of the Drive Hamiltonian, without loss of generality let $H_{DS} \propto \sigma_x$. By local optimisation we find $H'_{ST} = -\frac{\sigma_x}{2}$, $H_{ST} = \frac{\sigma_x}{2}$. This extracts the maximal $dW = 1$.

We now examine the following step, where state and transducer are now anti-parallel on the Bloch sphere. We can generalise this to an arbitrary state with zero y-component $\rho = \cos(\theta/2)|0\rangle + \sin(\theta/2)|1\rangle$. The current transducer Hamiltonian is given by $H_{ST} = -\frac{\sigma_x}{2}$. The total system Hamiltonian is given by

$$\begin{aligned} H &= H_{DS} + H_{ST} = \delta\sigma_+ + \delta^*\sigma_- - \frac{\sigma_x}{2} \\ &= \alpha\sigma_+ + h.c. = \text{Re}\{\alpha\}\sigma_x + \text{Im}\{\alpha\}\sigma_y \\ \delta &= \sin\theta_D e^{i\phi_D}/2. \end{aligned}$$

The evolved state ρ' is can be stated as

$$\begin{aligned} \rho' &= e^{-iH\Delta T} \rho e^{iH\Delta T} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{1} + \vec{r}' \cdot \vec{\sigma}), \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}' &= (\text{Re}\{a\}, \text{Im}\{a\}, b/2 + \cos(2\alpha\Delta T)\cos\theta), \\ a &= -\frac{\alpha}{|\alpha|}i \sin(2|\alpha|\Delta T)\cos\theta + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha^*} \sin\theta \sin^2(|\alpha|\Delta T) + \sin\theta \cos^2(|\alpha|\Delta T) \\ b &= -\frac{1}{\alpha} \sin(2|\alpha|\Delta T)\sin(\theta)\text{Im}\{\alpha\}. \end{aligned}$$

The step work output dW is then given by

$$\begin{aligned} dW &= \text{Tr}\{\rho'(H_{ST} - H'_{ST})\} = \text{Tr}\left\{\rho'\left(-\frac{\sigma_x}{2} - \text{Re}\{\tau\}\sigma_x - \text{Im}\{\tau\}\sigma_y\right)\right\}, \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}\text{Re}\{a\} - \text{Re}\{\tau\}\text{Re}\{a\} - \text{Im}\{\tau\}\text{Im}\{a\}, \\ \tau &= \frac{1}{2}\sin\theta_T e^{i\phi_T} \end{aligned}$$

dW has a maximum for $\theta_T = \frac{\pi}{2}$, $\phi_T = \arctan \frac{\text{Im}\{a\}}{\text{Re}\{a\}} + \pi$, giving

$$dW = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{\text{Re}\{a\}^2 + \text{Im}\{a\}^2} - \text{Re}\{a\} \right) \geq 0 \quad \forall a.$$

H'_{ST} is again anti-parallel to ρ'_S and thus the prerequisite (a passive transformation is required) for the above is given.