

**DELFT UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**MASTER THESIS**

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*Author:*  
Serwan Asaad

*Supervisor:*  
Dr. Alessandro Bruno

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**TODO:**

- Explain heterodyne detection
- Explain VNA
- Explain that resonance frequency  $f_r$  is not necessarily at the transmission minimum when the resonator exhibits asymmetry.

## INTRODUCTION

The subject of my Master's thesis will be on ways of improving T1 and T2 coherence times for qubits. The past few months I have been learning about superconducting circuit quantum electrodynamics. I have learned what set-ups are used for performing measurements on cQED samples, and about the types of measurements that are performed.

Traditionally the measurements were performed using Labview software. However, in the months that I have been working in the DiCarlo lab, a transition in measurement software has taken place from Labview to the Python-based QTLab. I have been very involved in this transition, as an important part of my research will be to characterize a sample quickly and accurately. This will enable a fast cycle from sample fabrication to characterization, hopefully leading to rapid progress in the development of quantum computing using cQED.

The past few weeks the focus of my measurements has shifted towards the characterization of resonators. This is largely due to the fact that two of my colleagues, Alessandro Bruno and Gijs de Lange, are working on a paper on ways of improving the quality factor of resonators. A large part of the data was already obtained before I joined the group, but a last set of measurements was required using the dilution refrigerator I most often operate at. The reason is that its base temperature is at 15 mK, which is considerably lower than the base temperature of the refrigerator at which the other measurements were performed, namely 250 mK. Because my focus so far has been more on resonators than on qubits, the main topic of this report will be on resonators, and I will include the topic of qubits in my final thesis.

Because the relevant regime where resonators interact with qubits is the single-photon regime, a very weak signal must be applied to determine its properties in that regime. At this point noise becomes a relevant issue. I will therefore also devote a section of this report on the subject of noise.

# **Part I**

## **Resonators**

When a signal enters a fridge it is attenuated in several stages and eventually reaches the sample being measured. In the sample the signal travels through a feedline. One or more resonators can then be capacitively coupled to the feedline. Qubits can then also be capacitively coupled to the resonators, and a resonator can even be used to connect qubits, in which case the resonator is known as a 'bus'. However in this report only resonators connected to a central feedline will be discussed.

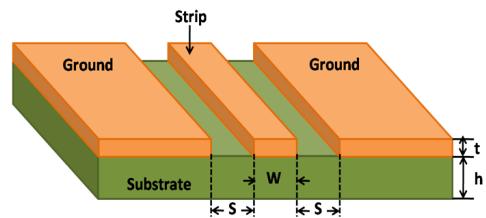
# Chapter 1

## Theory

### 1.1 COPLANAR WAVEGUIDE

In the context of circuit QED, one of the most common types of resonators are coplanar waveguides (CPW). Coplanar waveguides consist of a long central conducting track, with on both sides a neighbouring grounded track. The conducting track is separated from the grounded tracks by a fixed distance.

One end is usually capacitively coupled to a feed-line and has an open end, while the other end can either be open or shorted. This determines whether the resonant frequencies have a node or an antinode at that end. In the case of a shorted end, the resonant frequencies have an antinode at that end, resulting in a quarter wave resonator. This means that the wavelength of the fundamental mode fits a quarter times into the resonator. In the case of an open end, the resonant frequencies have a node at that end, resulting in a half wave resonator.



**Figure 1.1:** Schematic of a coplanar waveguide.

### 1.2 QUALITY FACTOR

The quality of a resonator can be quantified through its quality factor. Generally speaking, the quality factor of a resonator determines the ratio between energy stored in a resonator and the energy leaking away from the resonator. For cQED resonators this corresponds to the rate at which photons dissipate from the resonator. A high quality factor corresponds to a low dissipation rate.

The quality factor can also be defined in two different ways [10, pp.23-24]:

$$Q = \omega_0 \tau_1 = \omega_0 / \Delta\omega \quad (1.1)$$

Here  $\omega_0$  is the resonance frequency of the resonator, and  $\tau_1$  is the decay time of the resonator.

The decay time is the time taken by a resonator to dissipate its energy to  $1/e$  of its original energy. One can see that this definition is in accordance with the first definition, as the energy is related to frequency through the Planck-Einstein relation:  $E = \hbar\nu$ , and therefore increases with increasing frequency.

Photons can dissipate from the resonator through the resonator's different loss channels. Each of these loss channels has a corresponding quality factor. One such loss channel is due to resonators in cQED being capacitively coupled to a feedline. The quality factor associated to this loss channel is known as the coupling quality factor  $Q_c$ . This coupling quality factor depends on the amount of capacitive coupling between the resonator and the feedline. It can therefore be engineered to have a certain value, depending on the amount of interaction wanted between resonator and feedline.

The other loss channels are usually unwanted, and therefore desired to be as low as possible. These individual channels are usually lumped together, resulting in a combined quality factor, known as the intrinsic quality factor  $Q_i$ .

The total quality factor of the resonator is known as the loaded quality factor  $Q_l$ . It is related to  $Q_c$  and  $Q_i$  through:

$$\frac{1}{Q_l} = \frac{1}{Q_c} + \frac{1}{Q_i} \quad (1.2)$$

From equation 1.2 it can be seen that if the difference between  $Q_c$  and  $Q_i$  is large, then the loaded quality factor  $Q_l$  will be approximately equal to the minimum of the two.

For a quarter wave resonator the amplitude of transmission has a minimum  $S_{21}^{min}$ , given by [10, p29]:

$$S_{21}^{min} = \frac{Q_c}{Q_c + Q_i} \quad (1.3)$$

With knowledge of the resonant frequency  $\omega_0$ , the resonant width  $\Delta\omega$ , and the transmitted signal at resonance  $S_{21}^{min}$ , it is possible through equations 1.1 and 1.3 to determine both the coupling quality factor  $Q_c$  and the intrinsic quality factor  $Q_i$ . Note that as equation 1.3 depends on the ratio of the two quality factors, to get an accurate estimate of both quality factors, they should have a comparable value.

One reason why a high quality factor is important in the context of cQED is that a qubit can be coupled to a resonator. This qubit therefore experiences dissipation due to its coupling to the resonator, known as the Purcell effect. The result of dissipation is that when the qubit is in its excited state, it will relax to its ground state. The amount of relaxation due to the Purcell effect can be quantified through its relaxation time  $T_1^{\text{Purcell}}$ . The reason a high quality factor is important is because the Purcell relaxation time is proportional to the quality factor [7, p 22]. The Purcell relaxation time  $T_1^{\text{Purcell}}$  places an upper limit on the relaxation time  $T_1$  of a qubit. If the qubit's relaxation time  $T_1$  is close to this value, the qubit is said to be Purcell limited.

### 1.3 LOSSES

When a resonator is being driven at its resonance frequency, it is absorbing photons from the external source. When this external driving stops, the resonator slowly loses its photons

through its different loss channels.

One loss channel has already been discussed in section 1.2, namely through the coupling to the feedline. This loss channel is not unwanted, as the amount of coupling to the feedline determines how fast the resonator and feedline can interact with each other. The other loss channels, however, are unwanted. They cause dissipation of energy, and hence information. Some of the main causes of loss will be discussed in this section.

### 1.3.1 Causes of loss

#### 1.3.1.1 Two-level systems

Two-level systems (TLS) are systems which can be in a ground state or in an excited state. In some cases they can be useful. In fact a qubit itself is an example of a TLS. In other cases, however, TLS can also be a source of dissipation such as in the case of dielectric loss [9]. Study suggests that in cQED, most TLS reside in a thin oxide layer at the metal-substrate interface and the substrate-air interface [19].

Resonators are surrounded by a large quantity of TLS, each of which has its own resonance frequency, depending on its energy landscape. When the resonance frequency of a TLS is close to that of the resonator, it can absorb a photon from the resonator, upon which it tunnels to an excited meta-stable state. TLS have a finite lifetime in their excited state, after which they decay back to their ground state and are then again able to absorb a photon. The rate at which a TLS absorbs a photon depends on the electric field surrounding the TLS.

In the low power, low temperature regime, TLS reside mostly in their ground state, and only occasionally tunnel to the excited state, upon absorption of a photon. It is theorized that, in this regime, TLS are the main source of dissipation for resonators [6]. At higher powers and/or temperatures, TLS will tunnel to an excited state at a higher rate. Due to their finite lifetime they become saturated at a certain point. Since the quality factor depends on the ratio between energy stored and energy dissipated, when the TLS are saturated the amount of dissipation is limited, while the energy stored in the resonator can still increase. Therefore, in the low power, low temperature regime, increasing either of the two parameters results in an increase in quality factor. At a certain point, however, further increasing either of the two will not improve the quality factor. This is due to other effects dominating the dissipation rate in these regimes.

#### 1.3.1.2 Quasiparticles

Another source of dissipation for resonators is due to quasiparticles being present in the superconducting layer. When a Cooper-pair is broken up, Bogoliubov quasiparticles are formed [2, p16]. Once formed, the quasiparticles have a finite lifetime, depending on the temperature of the system. These quasiparticles can have either electron-like or hole-like properties. They are a source of dissipation for resonators, since they are non-superconducting and therefore cause the surface impedance to be slightly resistive [10, p18].

The breaking up of Cooper-pairs is due to excitations. These excitations can either be thermal, or due to photon absorption. Therefore an increase in temperature or an increase

in photon density will result in a higher density of quasiparticles. The quasiparticle density increases exponentially with increasing temperature [10, p44].

### 1.3.1.3 Radiation

A third source of dissipation is due to radiation from the resonator. This radiation is due to the spontaneous emission of photons.

The amount of dissipation due to radiation is directly related to the geometry of the resonator through [16, 10]:

$$Q_{\text{rad}} = \alpha \left( \frac{L}{s + w} \right)^{n_r} \quad (1.4)$$

As shown in Figure 1.1,  $s$  is the distance between the conducting and grounded track,  $w$  is the width of the conducting track, and  $L$  is the length of the resonator. The parameter  $\alpha$  depends on properties such as impedance and the dielectric constant of the substrate, and  $n_r$  depends on the shape of the resonator, and is equal to 2 in the case of a straight resonator. From Formula 1.4 it is clear that a decrease of the conducting track width or the distance between tracks leads to an increase in  $Q_{\text{rad}}$ . However, with a decrease of either of the two parameters, the field strength close to the resonator becomes higher. If the TLS are not saturated (i.e. low power and temperature), this will increase the amount of dissipation through TLS. Therefore it is not necessarily advantageous to minimize  $s$  and  $w$ .

Radiation loss becomes the dominant source of dissipation at high powers and/or temperatures, but otherwise usually is not the limiting factor. Since measurements relevant for quantum computing are usually operated at low power and temperature, this source of dissipation is usually less important than other sources, such as TLS dissipation.

### 1.3.1.4 Vortices

When a sample is cooled down to a superconducting state there may still be a small, but nonnegligible magnetic field present. The presence of a magnetic field can cause vortices to appear in superconducting materials. These vortices have a non-superconducting core. Current passing through superconductive material exerts a Lorentz force on vortices. For a resonator being driven on resonance, this AC current results in the vortices near the resonator experiencing a dissipative oscillatory motion [14].

It is interesting to note that the presence of vortices does not necessarily lead to a lower internal quality factor. The influence of a vortex on a resonator depends on its location. As reported by Nsanzineza et al. [13], a vortex close to a current antinode of a resonator, can result in a significant loss of the quality factor. A vortex close to a current node, however, may even increase the quality factor of the resonator. They attribute this increase in quality factor to quasiparticles, which would otherwise lead to dissipation, being trapped in the vortex.

### 1.3.2 Minimizing losses

#### 1.3.2.1 Surface treatment

Previous research has determined that for resonators, TLS are mostly present at the surfaces [6]. These oxides may reside at the interface between metal and dielectric, or between the dielectric and vacuum, or possibly between metal and vacuum (depending on the type of metal used). One explanation for TLS being present is the presence of an amorphous oxide layer at the interfaces. These oxides may act as TLS. During deposition of the metal on the dielectric, this oxide layer can become trapped between the two interfaces. For a silicon dielectric, this oxide layer can be removed by shortly treating the sample with hydrophluoric acid. This process is also known as an 'HF dip'.

Aside from the HF dip, additional surface treatment can be applied. For the resonators measured in this report, before depositing the metal on the substrate, an additional exposure to hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) was applied. The reason for this additional step is that there is a lattice mismatch between the metal and substrate. The intermediate layer of HMDS can possibly mediate this lattice mismatch. See [4] for more information.

#### 1.3.2.2 Infrared shielding

Aside from thermal excitation, quasiparticles are also formed from the absorption of photons. High-frequency photons (UV-range or higher) are usually not a significant contribution, as they are easily absorbed by materials, well before they reach the inner layers of the fridge. Lower-frequency photons, such as in the infrared range, however, can penetrate through the fridge to the sample. These infrared photons can cause the excititation of quasiparticles. By using infrared shielding, such as a coating film inside the fridge, the amount of infrared radiation reaching the sample can be lowered.

#### 1.3.2.3 Deep-reactive ion etching

Another technique applied to the resonators studied in this report is deep-reactive ion etching (DRIE), which is a type of Bosch process [4]. In this technique two alternating steps are performed:

1. An etching step in which an SF<sub>6</sub> plasma is used to etch the substrate layer.
2. A passivation step in which C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub> is released. The gas forms a protective layer on the substrate, except for the direction in which the etching plasma is accelerated. The result is that the sidewalls are protected from the etching process

Using DRIE, nearly vertical sidewalls can be created for the substrate. The result is that the substrate-air interface is removed from the regions between the CPW tracks, which are the regions where the electric field strength is high. As the dissipation due to TLS depends on the electric field strength, it is expected that DRIE will result in a lower TLS dissipation rate at this interface.

#### 1.3.2.4 Magnetic shielding and vortex trapping

Vortices are created when a magnetic field is present. One method to lower the amount of vortices is to use proper magnetic shielding around the sample. Furthermore, using nonmagnetic materials also result in lower amounts of vortices being present.

Even when using these methods to counter the presence of magnetic fields, there may still be a small amount of vortices present in the sample, which may lead to dissipation. To counter their movement a grid-like structure can be added in the superconducting material, effectively pinning the vortices.

# Chapter 2

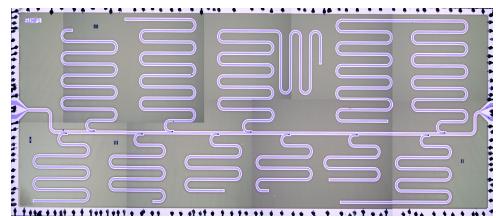
## Experimental set-up

The fridge used in this experiment is a dilution refrigerator, made by Leiden Cryogenics. The refrigerator has a base temperature of  $\sim 15$  mK. An input signal was generated using a Rohde & Schwarz ZVM vector network analyzer, connected to an Aeroflex 8310 step attenuator, which has an attenuation range of 120 dB. The signal out of the fridge was measured using the same vector network analyzer.

Using this set-up, quarter wave resonators, fabricated by Alessandro Bruno, were measured in a frequency range between 1–9 GHz. The sample is shown in Figure 2.1. The resonators were made using NbTiN on a silicon substrate. The advantage of NbTiN is that the metal atoms are bound to nitrogen, thereby inhibiting bond formation with oxides. In a way to minimize losses, all resonators were treated with HMDS and deep-reactive ion etching.

By driving a signal through the feedline, the resulting transmitted signal  $S_{21}$  can be measured. At or close to the resonance frequency of a resonator, the resonator will either cause enhanced transmission (half wave resonator), or diminished transmission (quarter wave resonator).

Unless stated otherwise, all measurements were performed with the fridge at base temperature ( $\sim 15$  mK).

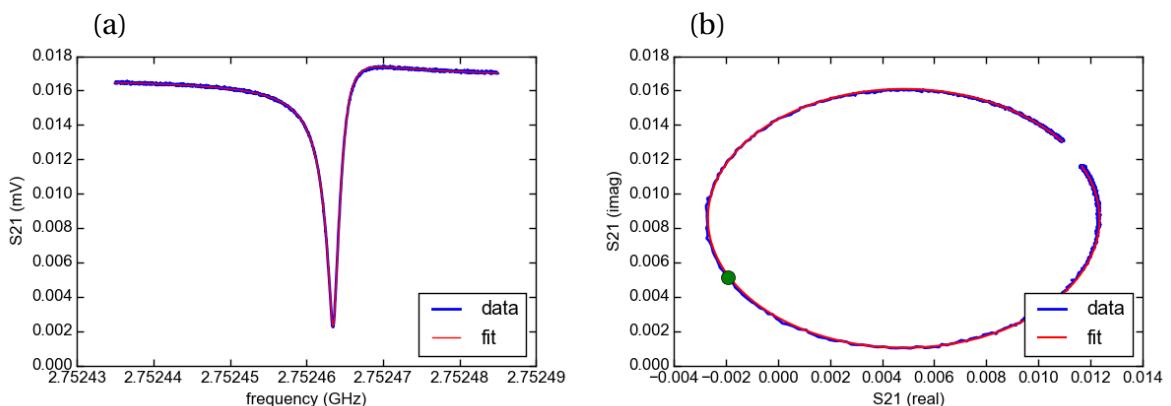


**Figure 2.1:** Optical microscopy image of the sample measured in this report. The sample consists of ten quarter wave resonators, with frequencies ranging between 1–11 GHz, connected to a central feedline. The resonators are made using NbTiN on a Si substrate. The sample is treated with HMDS and DRIE.

# Chapter 3

## Results and discussion

### 3.1 RESONATOR MEASUREMENT

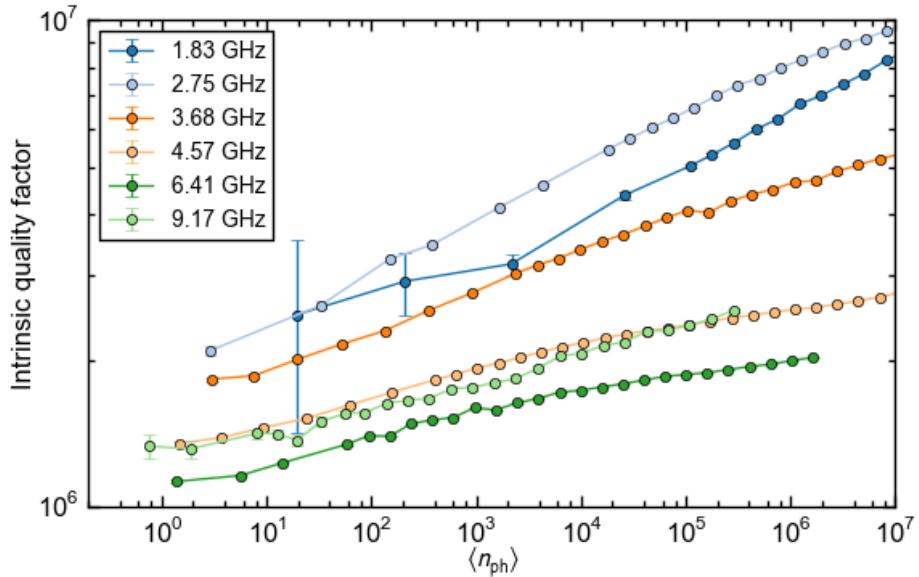


**Figure 3.1:** Forward transmission  $S_{21}$  spectrum of a resonator around 2.75 GHz. Panel (a) shows the amplitude of  $S_{21}$ , along with a fit (red). Panel (b) shows the path of  $S_{21}$  in the complex path, along with a fit (red). The green dot indicates the resonance frequency of the resonator. Measurement was performed at 15 mK at an input power of  $-123$  dBm corresponding to  $\sim 5 \times 10^4$  photons.

In Figure 3.1 the transmission  $S_{21}$  of a resonator is shown. Figure 3.1(a) shows the transmitted voltage  $|S_{21}|$  of the resonator as a function of frequency. As one can see, the resonator has a shape similar to a Lorentzian dip. One interesting point is that the Lorentzian exhibits an asymmetry, which is often attributed to reflections in the feedline [7, p192]. This could be caused by impedance mismatching.

### 3.2 POWER DEPENDENCE

To be able to study the behaviour of the resonators, measurements were performed for several powers. Using proper calibrations for the attenuation down to the sample, the power can be

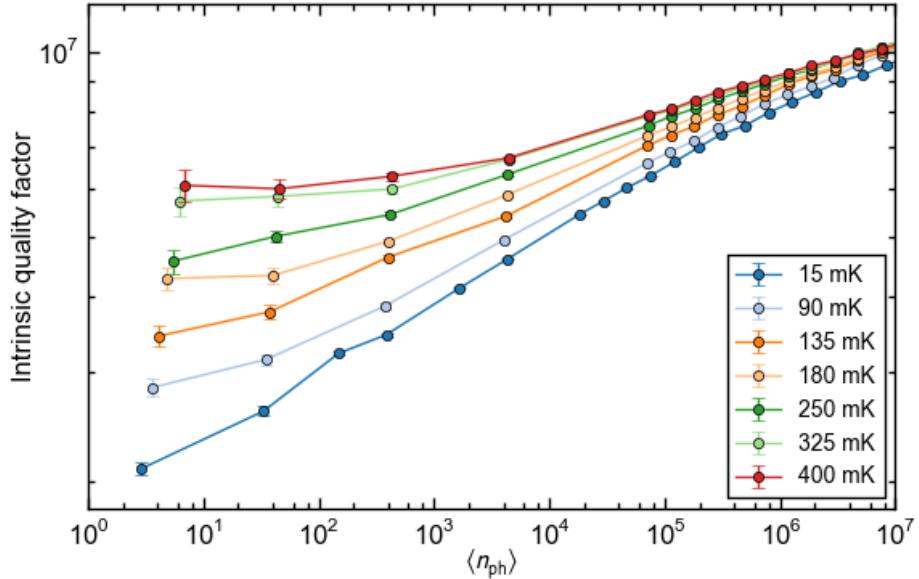


**Figure 3.2:** Intrinsic quality factor of resonators as a function of mean number of photons present in the resonator. Measurements were performed at 15 mK.

converted to the input power at the sample. This value can then be converted to the mean number of photons present in the resonator [4]. The results are shown in Figure 3.2.

As can be seen, the internal quality factor  $Q_i$  of all resonators decrease with decreasing photon number. One explanation for this phenomenon is that the dissipation is mainly due to TLS. Since measurements were performed at  $\sim 15$  mK, the TLS are not saturated since the rate of thermal excitation is low. As discussed in section 1.3.1.1, the relative loss due to TLS is highest at low power, in the regime where they are not saturated. Therefore the fact that the internal quality factor  $Q_i$  rises with the mean number of photons present in the resonator can be attributed to a larger amount of TLS being saturated. This would suggest that, even with HMDS and DRIE treatment of the sample, at low power and temperature, the internal quality factor is still limited by TLS being present.

The mean photon number of a resonator is inversely proportional to the square of frequency [4], so for resonators with a low frequency a lower input power is required than with a high frequency. At high photon numbers this is not a concern, as the transmitted signal is high enough to be accurately measured in a short period of time. For the single-photon powers, however, which is the region of interest for quantum computation, acquiring enough signal took up to five hours for the lowest frequencies. The reason that for the resonator with a resonance frequency at 1.83 GHz has large error bars at low powers can be partly attributed to this, but as we will see in section A.4, the main reason is that its frequency lies outside the bandwidth of the amplifiers and circulators of the set-up, resulting in a large amount of additional noise.



**Figure 3.3:** Intrinsic quality factor versus photon number for temperatures ranging from 15 mK up to 400 mK. All measurements were performed for a resonator with resonance frequency  $f_0 = 2.75$  GHz.

### 3.3 TEMPERATURE DEPENDENCE

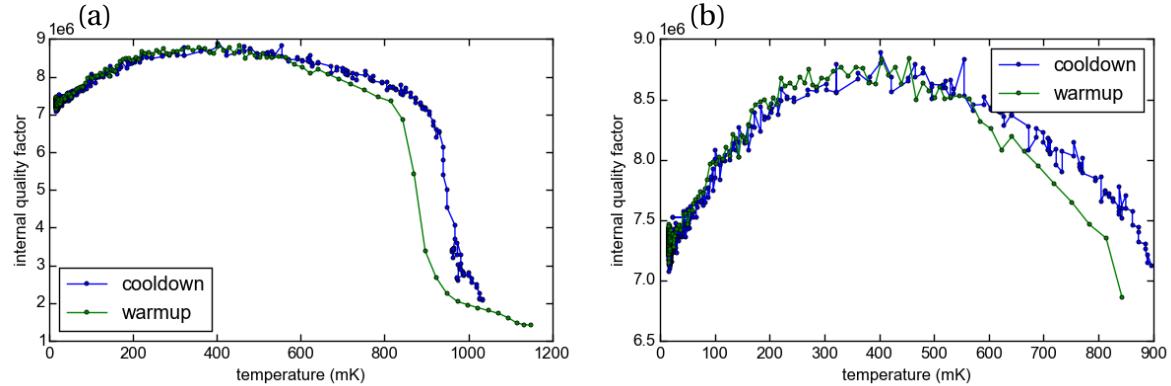
Aside from power, some of the dissipation channels also depend on the temperature of the system. To be able to study the effect of temperature on resonators, the resonator with frequency 2.75 GHz has been studied as a function of power for several temperatures ranging from 15 mK up to 400 mK. The reason for choosing this resonator is that it has the highest internal quality factor of all the resonators measured, and so any change in quality factor would be most clearly visible.

The results are shown in Figure 3.3. As can be clearly seen, the quality factor increases with increasing temperature. This is likely due to the fact that TLS are thermally excited for a larger percentage of time. Therefore, the relative energy dissipation with respect to total energy in the resonator will be lower, resulting in an increase in quality factor.

Another interesting point is that the increase in quality factor as a function of temperature is largest at low powers. This can also be explained when the limiting factor is due to TLS. With low powers, the TLS are almost exclusively excited thermally, while at higher powers, the excitation of TLS is not only due to thermal excitations, but also from photon absorption.

If one looks at the highest temperatures, it seems that the increase in quality factor as a function of temperature seems to slowly approach a saturation point. One reason is that the TLS are approaching their saturation, and so increasing the temperature further will have little effect on the percentage of time that the TLS are in the excited state. As will be shown in the next section, at 400 mK the quality factor of the resonator is close to its maximum value, and will decrease as temperature is further increased.

### 3.4 TEMPERATURE TRACKING



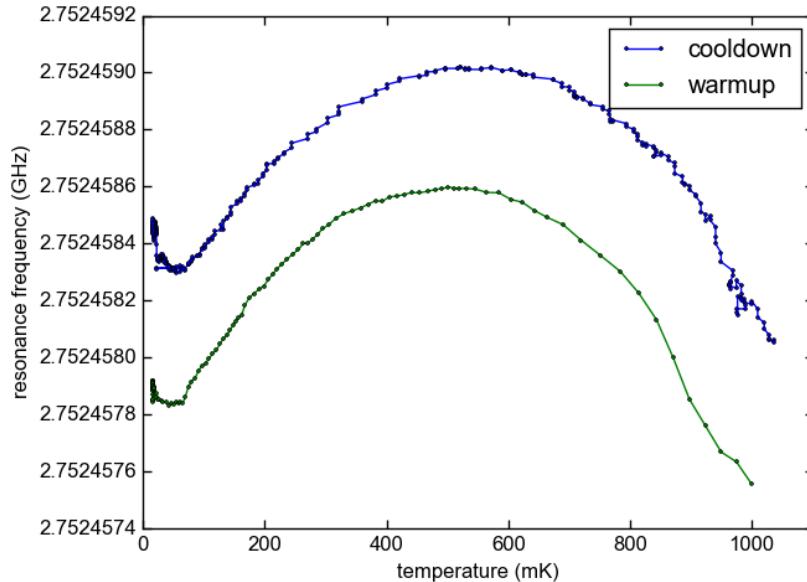
**Figure 3.4:** Internal quality factor versus temperature for the resonator with resonance frequency  $f_0 = 2.75$  GHz. Quality factor was continuously measured as the sample was cooled down and warmed up four days later. Panel (a) shows the full temperature range up to the helium condensation cycle. Panel (b) shows a close-up of the region until 900 mK.

To further investigate the temperature dependence of the resonator, a continuous measurement was performed on the resonator with resonance frequency 2.75 GHz during a cool-down and a subsequent warm-up of the fridge four days later. Measurements were performed for temperatures ranging from base temperature (15 mK) to roughly 1 K. Above this temperature, the fridge entered a cyclic helium condensation/evaporation process. All temperatures were measured at an input power of  $-113$  dBm, corresponding to roughly  $5 \times 10^5$  photons. In Figure 3.4 the internal quality factor versus temperature is shown during a cooldown and subsequent warm-up of the fridge. As can be seen, the quality factor reaches a maximum quality factor at a temperature of  $\sim 400$  mK. Below this temperature, the quality factor is likely limited by the presence of TLS (see sections 3.2 and 3.3). Above this temperature however, the quality factor decreases, indicating that TLS are not the limiting factor anymore for  $Q_i$ . One likely explanation is that the main source of dissipation is now due to the presence of quasiparticles in the resonator. At even higher powers other effects, such as vortices and enhanced radiation, contribute more and more significantly to the decay of the quality factor.

From Figure 3.4 it seems that there is some hysteresis at high temperatures. However, this is likely due to the fact that the thermometer is at a different position in the fridge as the sample, and does not thermalize equally fast. There may therefore be a delay between the temperature of the thermometer, and the actual temperature of the sample.

Aside from the internal quality factor, another quantity of interest is the resonance frequency  $f_0$  of the resonator, which also depends on the temperature. The result from tracking the resonance frequency of the resonator during cooldown and subsequent warm-up is shown in Figure 3.5. As can be seen in both cases, the resonance frequency reaches a maximum around 500 mK.

Between the cooldown and warm-up the resonance frequency seems to have shifted by roughly 500 Hz. As the sample was kept at 15 mK, it is unlikely that this decrease in resonance

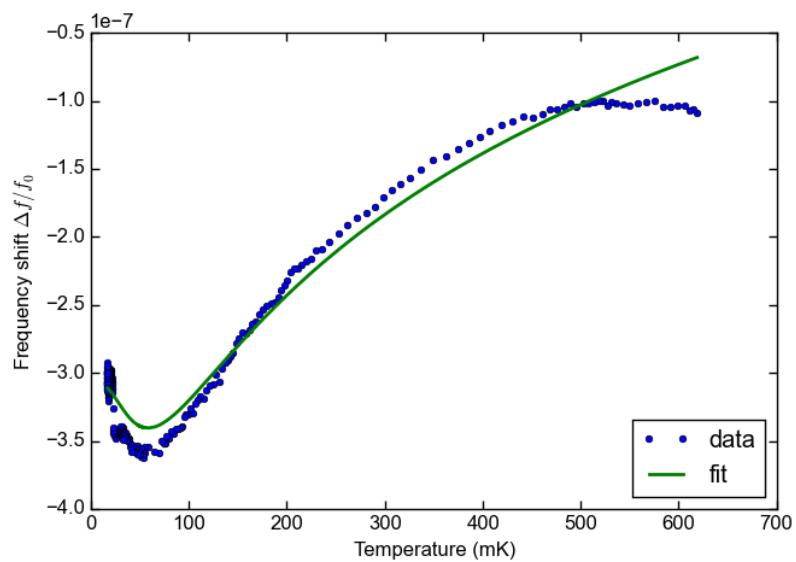


**Figure 3.5:** Resonance frequency versus temperature during a cooldown and subsequent warm-up four days later. In the period between cooldown and warm-up the resonance frequency has shifted by  $\sim 500$  Hz, possibly due to phase noise.

frequency is due to degradation of the sample. One possible explanation is that this change in resonance frequency is due to phase noise, which is known to shift the resonance frequency of the resonator. Further measurements are, however, required to determine if this is the case.

The decrease in resonance frequency at higher temperatures can be explained by the presence of quasiparticles, which increase the kinetic inductance [7, p91]. The resonance frequency is inversely proportional to the square root of the total conductance [1], and so an increase in kinetic inductance leads to a decrease in resonance frequency. For measurements done by Barends et al. [1], the change in resonance frequency due to changes in the kinetic inductance seem to roughly correspond with the decrease in center frequency measured in Figure 3.5.

The decrease in resonance frequency at lower temperatures can be explained due to TLS still being present. A model is presented by Gao et al. [6], in which they describe the decrease in resonance frequency due to the presence of TLS. As can be seen in Figure 3.6 the model corresponds well with the data at low temperatures. At higher temperatures the model deviates from data, which may be explained by quasiparticles dominating as source of dissipation. An interesting thing to note is that an increase in resonance frequency was predicted at the lowest temperatures, but as they did not reach temperatures sufficiently low they could not confirm this effect. In Figure 3.6 however, this increase in resonance frequency is observed. This supports the claim that at low temperatures the resonator is still limited by TLS, even after treatment of HMDS and DRIE.



**Figure 3.6:** Frequency shift versus temperature for low temperatures, along with fit (green). The fit was performed using the model by Gao et al. [6]. The fit corresponds well with data, even describing the frequency peak at the lowest temperatures.

# **Chapter 4**

## **Conclusion and future work**

Since the quality factor of all resonators is found to decrease with decreasing input power, this indicates that at low temperatures and powers the limiting factor is still due to TLS. The fact that the quality factor initially increases with higher temperatures, supports this claim. By also measuring the resonance frequency as a function of temperature, the curve obtained is in good agreement with a model describing the resonance frequency shift due to TLS [6]. The curve even shows an increase in resonance frequency at the lowest temperatures, which was also predicted by the model. These results suggest that even after HMDS surface treatment and deep-reactive ion etching was applied, the internal quality factor of the resonator at low temperatures and power is still limited by the presence of TLS.

Nevertheless, As shown by Bruno et al. [4], the application of HMDS surface treatment and DRIE resulted in an improvement of the internal quality factor of the resonators by almost an order of magnitude. More research must be done to determine at what interface the dissipation due to TLS is greatest after these two treatments.

The next step is to perform the same treatments (HMDS and DRIE) on transmon qubits, to study what the influence will be on coherence times.

## **Part II**

# **Muxmon experiment**

**large TODO:**

- Explain surface code architecture
- Explain the general structure of a chip:
  - Feedline through which signal is sent and measured
  - CPW resonators, capacitively coupled to feedline
  - Single qubit coupled to resonators (coupling location?)
  - Resonator buses
- Explain multiplexed readout

**small TODO:**

- Rename DAC voltage to flux, and mention early on that this renaming will be used
- flux-bias line or flux bias line?

# Introduction

At this moment circuit QED is at the stage where multi-qubit experiments are being realized.

- Scaling up
- Challenges involved in scaling
- Frequency re-use, Duplexer intro

# Chapter 5

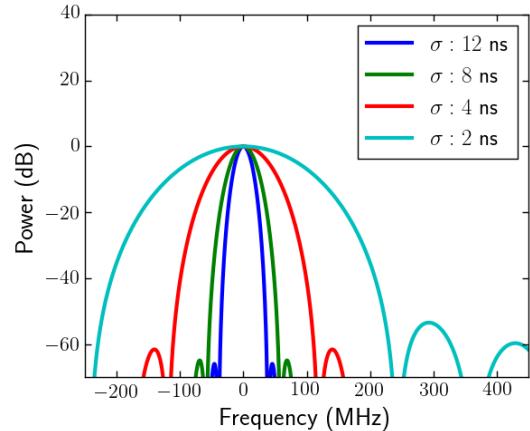
## Challenges in scaling up

### 5.1 FREQUENCY RE-USE

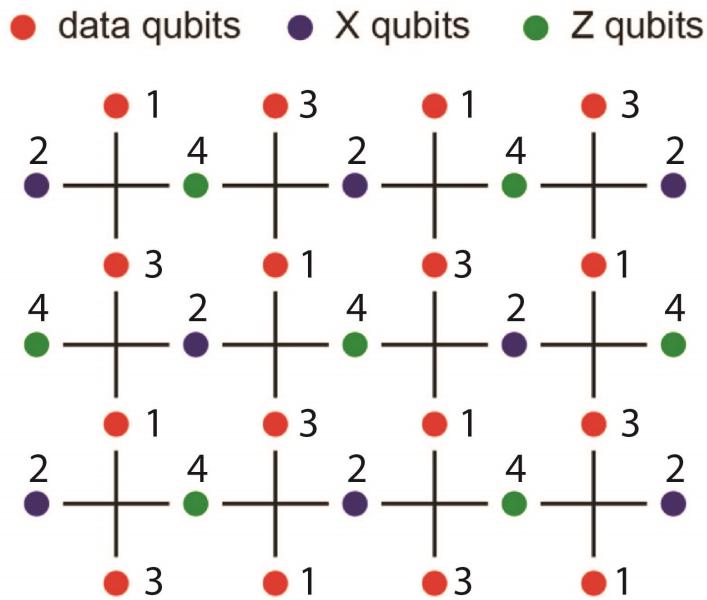
Even in large-scale quantum circuits individual qubit control is required. When multiple qubits are connected to a single drive line, being able to control the qubits individually requires their frequencies to be sufficiently separated. The amount by which the frequencies must be separated depends on the length of the pulses applied to the qubit. The shorter the pulse, the larger its corresponding frequency bandwidth, as can be seen in Figure 5.1. Longer pulses, on the other hand, result in less operations being possible within the coherence times of the qubit. It is therefore desirable to have pulses with a short duration. This means that the separation between qubit frequencies must be large. Since there is only a finite frequency spectrum, having many qubits, each with a different frequency, results in frequency crowding.

If the qubits are not connected to the same drive line, they can be individually controlled, even when they share the same frequency. This concept is known as frequency re-use, and is a possible way to overcome frequency crowding. Frequency re-use can be implemented in the surface code architecture. One possible implementation of frequency re-use in the surface code is shown in Figure 5.2, where every resonator is connected to four qubits. In this set-up four distinct frequencies suffice to enable individual driving of every qubit on the lattice.

Frequency re-use does pose potential issues. Two unwanted effects in particular arise when multiple qubits that are directly or indirectly coupled to each other share the same frequency. The first effect is cross-coupling, where an excitation can be transferred from one qubit to the other. This will be discussed in Section 8.2. The second effect is cross-



**Figure 5.1:** The frequency bandwidth corresponding to Gaussian pulses with different widths  $\sigma$ .



**Figure 5.2:** A surface code architecture with the implementation of frequency re-use. The different digits correspond to distinct frequencies.

driving, where a pulse that partially leaks through the components will drive other qubits. The components separating qubits do not act as perfect filters, and so the pulse will always partially leak through. This does not pose a problem as long as the frequency of the pulse is sufficiently detuned from the frequency of the other qubits. In the case of frequency re-use, however, the frequencies of the qubits are the same, and so a pulse leaking through will result in cross-driving. This effect is discussed in Section 8.3.

## 5.2 SELECTIVE BROADCASTING

A second challenge that exists when scaling up is that as the number of qubits grow, so do the instruments needed to control them. When thinking of a large-scale quantum computer, it is unrealistic to think that each qubit will have its own RF generator, AWG, and other necessary instruments. Therefore, alternatives have to be devised to combat this scaling of instruments. One such device is the Duplexer, shown in Figure 5.3. The Duplexer is a patented vector switch matrix designed by Duijde Deurloo, who is working at TNO. It has four input ports and two output ports. Signals going through each of the input-output port combinations pass through the following successive components:

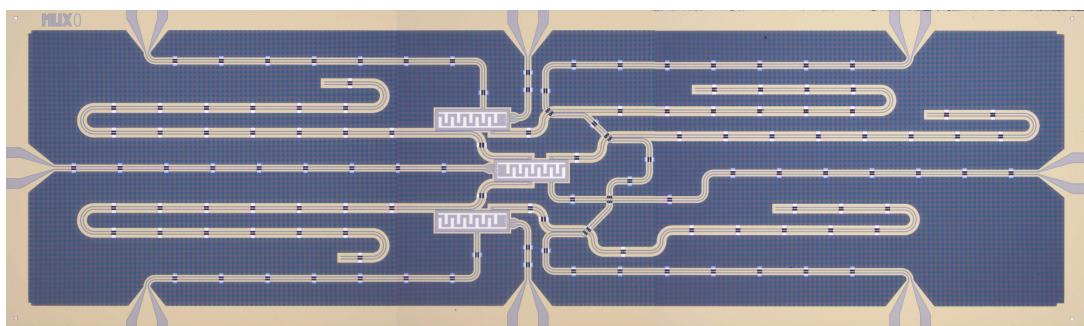


**Figure 5.3:** The Duplexer

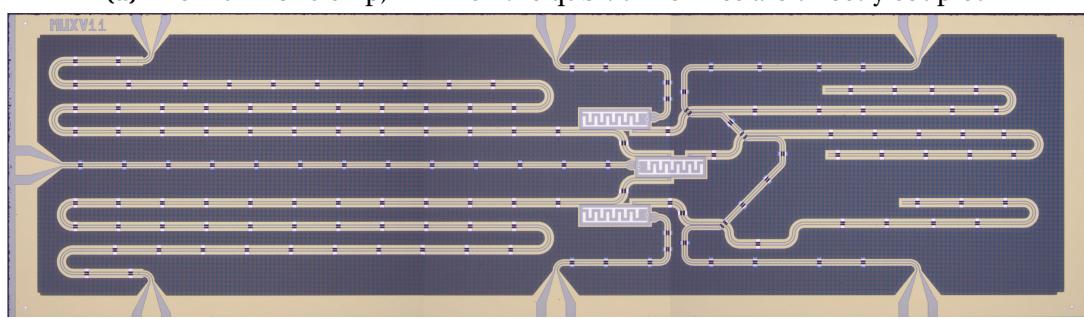
1. Digital switch
2. Variable phase-shifter
3. Variable attenuator
4. Amplifier

The Duplexer's digital switches have an RF-switching time of 4 ns. Using these switches, pulses may be sent to either of the two output ports, or to both output ports simultaneously. This allows for selective broadcasting, where pulses are routed to either or both of the two output ports at the nanosecond scale. When the output ports are connected to drive lines that are connected to qubits sharing the same frequency, the result is that two qubits can be controlled using a single generator and AWG. This property will be exploited in Randomized Benchmarking in Chapter 9.

### 5.3 THE MUXMON EXPERIMENT



(a) The Muxmon0 chip, in which the qubit drive lines are directly coupled



(b) The Muxmon1 chip, in which the qubit drive lines are capacitively coupled

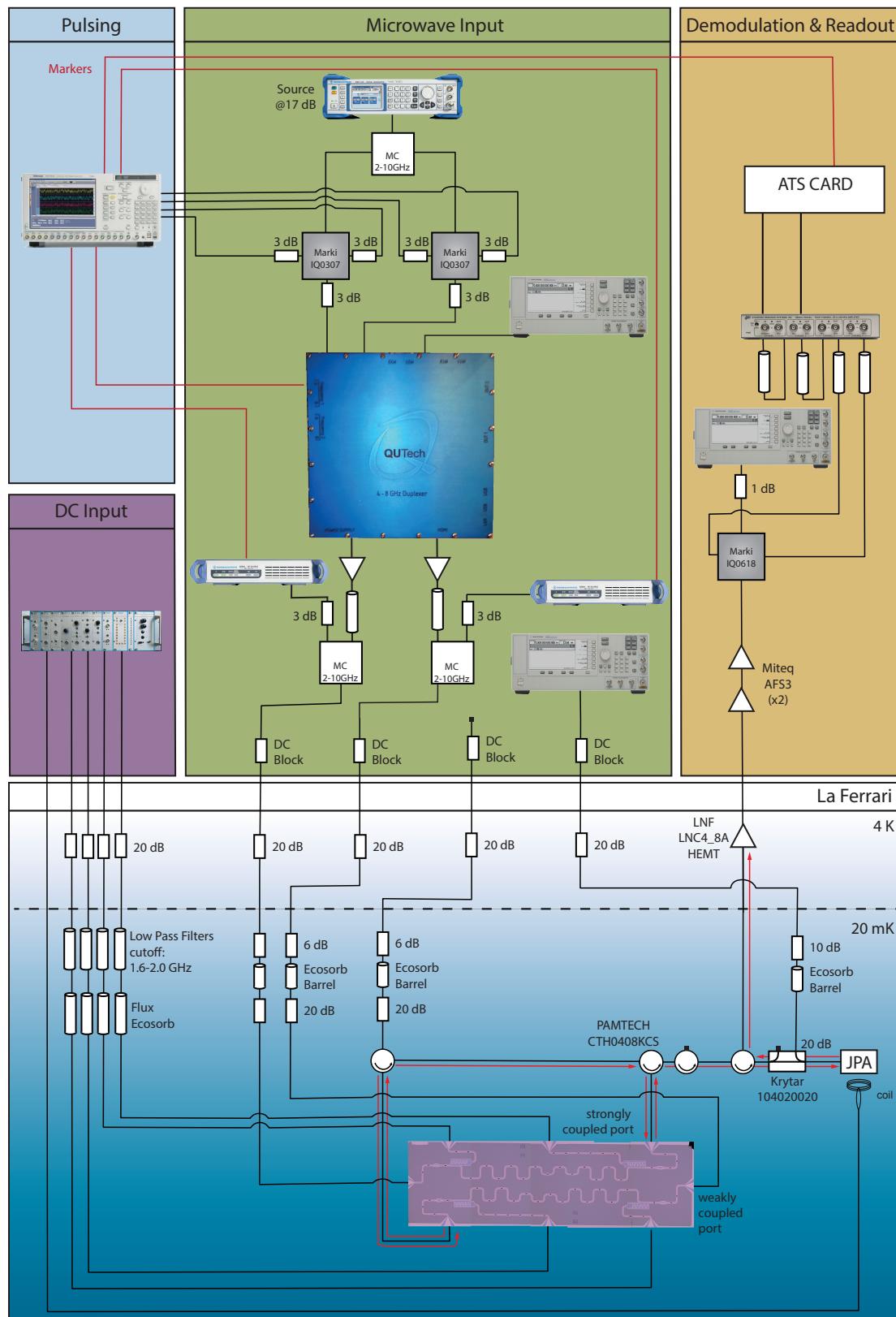
**Figure 5.4:** The Muxmon0 and Muxmon1 chips. The qubits of Muxmon0 have direct drive lines, while the qubits of Muxmon1 have drive lines capacitively coupled to the resonator buses.

The Muxmon experiment was performed specifically to study frequency re-use and selective broadcasting using the Duplexer. Two chips were designed, Muxmon0 and Muxmon1, shown in Figure 5.4. Both chips have three transmon qubits connected to them, all three

of which are flux-tunable. Air-bridges are used, not only to connect the ground-planes in the coplanar waveguides, but also such that the feed line can cross over other lines. The key difference between the two chips is the approach used to drive the qubits. In Muxmon0 all three qubits have their individual directly coupled drive lines. The top and bottom qubit are connected to the ancilla qubit through a bus. In the Muxmon1 the bus and drive lines are combined into two drive lines, each of which is capacitively coupled to the ancilla qubit and one of the other two qubits. The disadvantage of the direct drive lines in Muxmon0 is that they are an added decoherence channel for the qubits. However, the three drive lines of Muxmon0 ensure that individual qubit control of all three qubits is possible, even when they share the same frequency. This is in contrast to Muxmon1, where the ancilla qubit frequency must differ from that of the other two qubits. In the frequency re-use structure of the surface code, as explained in section ??, this should not be a problem, as frequency re-use is not applied to neighbouring qubits. Having capacitively coupled drive lines would result in less lines being required, both on-chip and outside the chip. Furthermore there would be one decoherence channel less. Therefore the capacitive coupled drive lines of Muxmon1 seemed the more attractive of the two options.

During initial characterization of the qubits on both chips it was found that the coherence times of the qubits in Muxmon1 were considerably worse than those in Muxmon0 (see Appendix C.2). It is, however, unlikely that this is due to the capacitively coupled drive lines, since one would expect the absence of direct drive lines to result in one less decoherence channel. Instead it is likely that the lower coherence times are simply due to some error in the chip fabrication process. Due to the lower coherence times of the qubits in Muxmon1, the focus of the experiment was on Muxmon0.

The Muxmon experiment set-up is shown in Figure 5.5. Two of the four input ports of the Duplexer are used. One input port receives the main pulse, the other receives the DRAG pulse (see Section 6.2.1 for more info). The main pulse and DRAG pulse are combined in the Duplexer. The output ports are connected to the drive lines of the top and bottom qubit.

**Figure 5.5:** The Muxmon set-up

# Chapter 6

## Qubit characterization

**Description** This chapter gives a step-by-step description of how to find a resonator and qubit, and subsequently how to tune the qubit's parameters.

In the design of cQED chips, the parameters of the qubits and resonators are always targeted which are ideal for the experiment. For coplanar waveguide resonators one can already obtain relatively good parameters for the required dimensions from simple formulae **TODO:** refer to formula. For superconducting transmon qubits, however, finding the right dimensions that correspond to the desired parameters is a much more complicated process. The qubit's frequency, for instance, depends on the qubit's coupling energy  $E_c$  and Josephson energy  $E_J$ . The coupling energy  $E_c$  can be reasonably estimated from classical simulations. Finding the right dimensions for the Josephson junction that result in the desired Josephson energy  $E_J$ , however, is difficult, and usually physically testing different junctions is necessary to determine an accurate conversion from the desired  $E_J$  to the Josephson junction dimensions.

Nevertheless, the actual parameters of the resonators and qubits are almost never where one expects them to be. Once the sample is cooled in the dilution refrigerator, an inevitable game of hide-and-seek follows with the goal of finding the frequency of the resonators and qubits, and subsequently determining their properties. This chapter describes the measurements that were performed to characterize the MuxMon samples.

### 6.1 CONTINUOUS-WAVE MEASUREMENTS

Once a sample is properly cooled down it is ready to be measured. At this stage the sample is still an unknown terrain, where the experimenter only has a rough map, containing the sample's targeted parameters, and the specific properties of the resonators and qubits.

The first step is to look for signs of life. These manifest themselves as resonance frequencies of the resonators and the qubits that are coupled to them. As we are not yet interested in the properties of the resonators and qubits which can only be obtained through measurements with accurately timed pulses, we send continuous tones through the feedline, and measure deviations in the transmission. These measurements are known as continuous-wave measurements

### 6.1.1 Scanning for resonators

Since communication with the qubits is mediated through their coupling to resonators, the first step is to find these resonators. This is done using a transmission measurement, in combination with heterodyne detection, and has been explained in section **TODO: Create section in Resonator chapter.**

There is one difference in measuring a resonator when there is a qubit coupled to it. When considering the qubit as a two-level system, the behaviour of the coupled resonator-qubit system is governed by the Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian [15]:

$$\hat{H} = \hbar\omega_r \left( \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{\hbar\omega_q}{2} \hat{\sigma}_z + \hbar g \left( \hat{a}^\dagger \sigma_- + \hat{a} \sigma_+ \right) \quad (6.1)$$

where  $\omega_r$  is the bare resonance frequency of the resonator,  $\omega_q$  is the resonance frequency of the qubit's ground to excited state transition, and the qubit's two states are in the spin-representation. This Hamiltonian consists of three terms. The first term corresponds to the energy level of the resonator, the second to the energy level of the transmon, and the third is a coupling term between the two with coupling strength  $g$ .

The difference between the resonator's frequency  $\omega_r$  and the qubit's frequency  $\omega_q$  is given by the detuning  $\Delta = \omega_q - \omega_r$ . If the magnitude of the detuning is large compared to the coupling strength  $g$ , the system is in the dispersive regime. In this case the Hamiltonian can be approximated by the dispersive Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\hbar\omega'_q}{2} \hat{\sigma}_z + \left( \hbar\omega'_r + \hbar\chi \hat{\sigma}_z \right) \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \quad (6.2)$$

The coupling between the qubit and resonator causes both qubit's frequency and the resonator's frequency to shift:  $\omega'_q = \omega_q + \chi_{01}$ ,  $\omega'_r = \omega_r - \chi_{12}/2$ .

Aside from experiencing a frequency shift dependent on the amount of detuning, Equation 6.2 shows that the resonator also experiences a shift depending on the state of the qubit. The resonator's frequency is decreased by an amount  $2\chi$  when the qubit is in the excited state. The parameter  $\chi$  is the dispersive shift, and is given by:

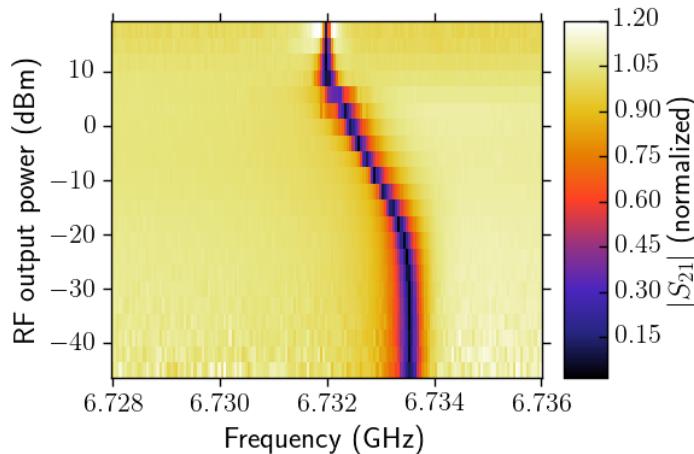
$$\chi = \chi_{01} - \chi_{12}/2 \approx \frac{g^2}{\Delta} \frac{E_c}{\hbar\Delta - E_c} \quad (6.3)$$

where  $\chi_{ij} = \frac{g_{ij}^2}{\omega_{ij} - \omega_r}$  are the partial dispersive shifts.

Due to this coupling between resonator and qubit, it is important to choose the right RF power. When the amount of photons in the resonator reaches a certain point, this coupling will result in the resonator experiencing nonlinear effects. The resonator will thereby lose its Lorentzian lineshape. Therefore the RF power should be kept sufficiently low to avoid these nonlinear effects, while still maintaining a good signal-to-noise ratio.

**TODO:**

- In the strong coupling regime (Leads to hybridization of qubit and resonator states: quton and fobit)



**Figure 6.1:** A powersweep of the resonator coupled to the ancilla qubit. The dispersive shift found is equal to  $\chi \approx 30$  MHz

- Explain that the quality factor is low because the resonator is coupled strongly to the qubit (equation including coupling to qubit?)
- Doesn't  $\chi$  diverge when  $\Delta \rightarrow E_c$ ?
- explain concept of anharmonicity, and that  $\alpha \approx E_c$
- Maybe explain concept of number splitting in dispersive Jaynes-Cummings. Number splitting is the phenomenon that the qubit's frequency shifts by an amount  $2\chi$  for every photon in the resonator.  
Alternatively mention this in another section.
- Mention that  $g_{12} = \sqrt{g}$ , and that other coupling strengths are exponentially suppressed in the transmon

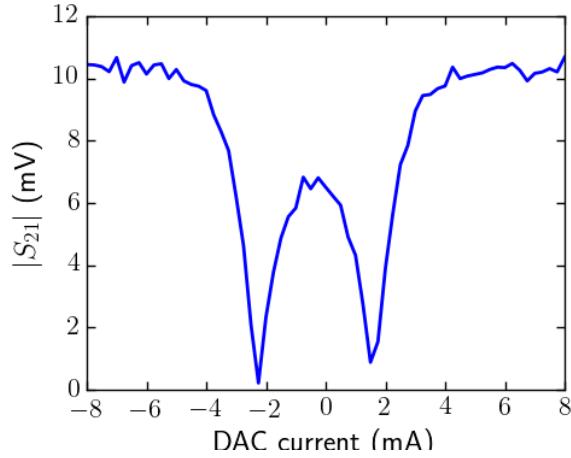
#### Figures:

- Figure of transmission showing all three Muxmon0 resonators

#### 6.1.2 Powersweeping the resonators

Once the resonators have been located, the next stage is to find the qubit that is capacitively coupled to each of the resonators. Instead of directly scanning the entire frequency spectrum in search of the qubit, it is relatively straightforward to perform some initial measurements aimed at gaining information about our resonator and qubit, which will allow us to search for our qubit with much greater accuracy.

As explained previously, the capacitive coupling between the resonator and qubit shifts the resonator frequency  $\omega_r$  from its bare frequency. When the amount of photons in the resonator reaches a certain point, the resonator experiences nonlinearity, thereby losing its



**Figure 6.2:** Fixed frequency transmission versus DAC current. The frequency is chosen to be slightly below the resonator frequency found when the DAC current is set to zero. The symmetry point in the linecut corresponds to the sweet-spot of the ancilla qubit.

Lorentzian lineshape. When increasing the RF power even further, at a certain point the resonator regains its Lorentzian lineshape. In doing so its resonance frequency has shifted to its bare frequency  $\omega_{\text{bare}}$ . If this frequency shift is observed, it indicates that the resonator's frequency was shifted, and hence that the qubit is alive. Measuring this frequency shift is commonly done in a powersweep. A powersweep is a measurement in which a resonator scan is performed for a range of powers.

A powersweep additionally provides information about at what power the resonator enters the nonlinear regime. For measurements involving the qubit the readout power must be below this threshold power. Furthermore, from the frequency shift between the dressed cavity frequency and the bare cavity frequency, the amount of detuning between the qubit and the resonator can be estimated using Equation 6.3.

If no shift is observed, it could mean that the qubit is dead (e.g. because the Josephson junction is shorted). However, this is not necessarily the case. An alternative possibility is that the detuning between qubit and resonator is very large, and as a result the frequency shift cannot be discerned. At this point it is too early to draw conclusions, and we may almost draw the analogy with Schrödinger's cat in a box.

#### TODO:

- Explain theory behind transition to bare cavity frequency (Reed's thesis has some information)

#### Figures:

- Powersweep of ancilla qubit

### 6.1.3 Scan for qubit sweet-spots

Some of the qubits have a tunable resonance frequency. This is done through a superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID). In this case the two islands that compose the transmon qubit are connected by two Josephson junctions instead of one, effectively forming a loop. The SQUID loop is sensitive to the amount of flux passing through the loop. The amount of flux going through the SQUID loop can be changed by changing the surrounding magnetic field. This is commonly done by having a flux bias line in close proximity to the SQUID loop. Current flowing through the flux-bias line alters the magnetic field in the vicinity of the SQUID loop, and hence changes the amount of flux through the SQUID loop. A digital-to-analog converter is used to specify the amount of current that is sent through the flux bias line. Depending on the amount of flux through the SQUID loop, the resonance frequency of the qubit changes accordingly. These qubits are therefore called flux-tunable.

For qubits that are flux-tunable, finding the sweet-spot of the qubit can be done without knowledge of the qubit's frequency. This can be done by sweeping the DAC voltage and measuring the shift in the resonance frequency. Because the frequency of the qubit varies as the amount of current through the flux-bias line changes, the detuning between the qubit and the resonator consequently changes. As a result the dispersive shift  $\chi$ , and therefore the resonator's frequency, also varies. At the sweet-spot of the qubit, the resonator's frequency  $\omega_r$  is at a maximum. This is irrespective of whether the qubit's frequency  $\omega_q$  is above or below the resonator's frequency.

The accurate way to measure the sweet-spot is to perform resonator scans as the DAC voltage is varied. The result is a 2D scan shown in **TODO:** Figure.

A faster second approach for finding the qubit sweet-spot, at the cost of providing less information, is by choosing a fixed frequency close to the resonator's frequency  $\omega_r$  (preferably slightly below, where the transmission slope is steepest). By measuring the amount of transmission as the DAC voltage is being varied, one obtains essentially a line-cut of **TODO:** Figure. The idea this measurement is that if the qubit's frequency  $f_q$  decreases, the resonator's frequency also decreases, resulting in a decrease in transmission (closer to  $\omega_r$ ). Likewise, if the qubit's frequency  $\omega_q$  increases, the resonator's frequency increases **TODO:** Why?, resulting in an increase in transmission (further away from  $\omega_r$ ).

At the qubit's sweet-spot, the resonator's frequency  $\omega_r$  is at a maximum, and so the transmission should also be at a maximum. Furthermore, because the amount of detuning only depends on the deviation from the flux sweet-spot **TODO:** improve, the transmission should be symmetric with respect to the DAC voltage sweet-spot. If the resonator's frequency  $\omega_r$  shifts by a large amount in the course of this measurement, it becomes harder to determine where the sweet-spot is (although even then often it can still be discerned). Nevertheless, this method is considerably faster than performing a full two-dimensional scan of frequency versus DAC voltage, and in most cases it works like a charm.

In the case where the powersweep showed no measurable frequency shift, these two measurements are also useful in discerning whether or not the qubit is actually dead, or whether it was simply far detuned from the resonator.

**TODO:**

- Explain how qubit's frequency has a cosine dependence on DAC

- Give detailed information on SQUID loop
  - Why does the qubit frequency change in a SQUID loop
  - Sweet-spot
- Mention flux-noise?
  - $1/f$  noise
  - usually not limiting, as it is very slow
  - This noise can be seen as occasional jumps (every few hours?) It would mean that every few hours the frequency must be recalibrated.

**Figures:**

- SEM picture of SQUID loop, including flux-bias line
- Figure of 2D resonator scan vs DAC voltage
- Figure of 1D resonator fixed frequency DAC voltage scan

#### 6.1.4 Scanning for qubits

Once the preliminary measurements have been performed that characterize the resonators and provide hints about the whereabouts of the qubit it is time to actually find the qubit.

The measurement to perform in order to find the qubit depends on the amount of detuning between the resonator and qubit, which can be estimated from powersweep measurements. If the amount of detuning is large compared to the coupling strength ( $\Delta \gg g$ ), the system is in the dispersive regime. In this case one commonly performs a two-tone spectroscopy to find the qubit's frequency. If, on the other hand, the detuning is comparable to the coupling strength ( $\Delta \sim g$ ), the qubit and resonator are hybridized, and experience an avoided crossing. In such cases a normal transmission measurement suffices.

If the qubit is flux-tunable, one important question to ask is: at what DAC voltage should the qubit be searched?

One option is to choose zero DAC voltage. In most cases this is alright, but there are cases when this is a bad choice. For instance, trapped magnetic fields during cool-down could position the qubit near the anti-sweet-spot for zero DAC voltage, in which case finding the qubit will be next to impossible.

A better option is to choose a DAC voltage that results in a detuning  $\Delta$  that is large compared to coupling strength  $g$ , such that the system is in the dispersive regime. However, the detuning  $\Delta$  should not be too high, as it would otherwise result in a negligible dispersive shift  $\chi$ . The optimum value is usually around a few hundred megahertz, although this is dependent on the device-specific parameters. The detuning can be approximated using powersweeps.

### 6.1.4.1 Spectroscopy

As was explained in section 6.1.1, in the dispersive regime the resonator experiences a  $2\chi$  frequency shift dependent on the state of the qubit. In the case of a resonator capacitively coupled to the feedline, the transmission experiences a dip at the resonator's frequency. This dip will correspondingly shift when the qubit's state is switched. The transmission at the resonator's dip when the qubit is in the ground state will therefore be dependent on the state of the qubit (low when the qubit is in the ground state, high when the qubit is in the excited state). This is the property exploited in a two-tone spectroscopy measurement.

In a two-tone spectroscopy measurement two tones are sent through the feedline.

1. A drive tone with varying frequency  $\omega_d$ .
2. A measurement tone at the resonator's frequency when the qubit is in the ground state.

The transmission through the feedline is measured while the frequency of the drive tone  $\omega_d$  is swept. When the drive frequency  $\omega_d$  is detuned from the qubit's frequency  $\omega_q$ , the drive is off-resonant with respect to the qubit, and so we measure a low transmission due to a dip being present. However, when the drive frequency  $\omega_d$  approaches the qubit's frequency  $\omega_q$ , then the qubit will start to oscillate between its ground and excited state, with a rate dependent on the detuning between the drive frequency  $\omega_d$  and the qubit's frequency  $\omega_q$ . The qubit will therefore have a partial population in the excited state, resulting in a shift of the resonator frequency, dependent on the population in the excited state. This is measured as an increase in transmission.

The minimum linewidth of the qubit using spectroscopy is set by its dephasing time  $T^2$ , which can be seen as the uncertainty in its frequency. However, the power of the drive tone causes an additional increase in the linewidth, due to stimulated emission of the qubit. This effect is known as power broadening. This effect can be quite useful for finding qubits, especially when designing high-quality qubits with a very narrow intrinsic linewidth. The optimal power for the drive strength is further dependent on the amount of detuning  $\Delta$  between the qubit and resonator. The resonator effectively acts as a bandpass filter, centered around the resonator frequency. Therefore, the stronger the detuning, the more the drive tone is suppressed.

The dispersive shift  $2\chi$  is also dependent on the amount of detuning  $\Delta$  between the qubit and resonator. If the detuning  $\Delta$  is large, the dispersive shift will be very small, and so the difference in transmission will also decrease. Since the resonator has a Lorentzian lineshape, at the resonance frequency this Lorentzian is flat, and so is insensitive to small deviations. To increase the contrast between the on-resonant and off-resonant transmission, it is usually advantageous to measure at a slight detuning  $\delta$  away from the resonance frequency, where the transmission slope is high. Since the resonator frequency shifts down when the qubit is excited, it is better to have a positive detuning  $\delta$  to ensure that the transmission increases as the drive frequency  $\omega_d$  approaches the qubit frequency  $\omega_q$  and decreases as it leaves the qubit frequency.

**TODO:** Spectroscopy section

- Is power broadening really due to stimulated emission?

- Explain optimal RF power
- Is the gradual increase really due to partial population? Is it then an average of the partial population? Or do you get other effects as well?

#### 6.1.4.2 Avoided crossing

When the detuning  $\Delta$  between the qubit and resonator is not large compared to their coupling strength  $g$ , the qubit and resonator experience an avoided crossing. Because all of the qubits in the Muxmon chips are considerably lower in frequency compared to their resonators, the system is always in the dispersive regime, and so the system never approaches the avoided crossing. Nevertheless it is worth mentioning the avoided crossing briefly, as it is a breeding ground for interesting physics.

At the avoided crossing the system is not in the dispersive regime, and so the dispersive Jaynes-Cummings Hamiltonian no longer applies. In this case the resonator and qubit are hybridized, and one can no longer speak of a qubit and resonator as separate entities. Instead, this hybridization results in a so-called quton and phobit.

**Avoided crossing info:**

- The coupling strength  $g$  is the minimum distance between the splitting
- From Reed's thesis p.63 explanation of this avoided crossing is given

$$E_0 = -\frac{\hbar\Delta}{2} \quad (6.4)$$

$$E_1 = n\hbar\omega_r \pm \frac{\hbar}{2}\sqrt{4g^2n + \Delta^2} \quad (6.5)$$

Joining  $E_0 + E_1$  results in a qubit approaching a resonator from the top.

When the frequency of the qubit equals that of the resonator, the energy difference reaches a minimum, and is equal to  $2g$ .

**TODO:** Avoided crossing

- Explain the quton phobit behaviour near the avoided crossing
- Explain how one can extract coupling from avoided crossing
- Explain that for the Muxmon qubit this effect is not present
- Explain multiple lines near avoided crossing

**figures:**

- Figure of avoided crossing

**TODO:**

- Use relatively high source power, results in power broadening
- Mention what to do if qubit is close to or far away from resonator
- Mention the term transmission measurement earlier on.
- Pulsed spectroscopy

### 6.1.5 Tracking the qubits

For flux-tunable qubits one is usually not interested in finding the frequency at one specific flux value. More important is finding how this frequency changes with varying flux. A naive approach would be to perform a two-dimensional scan of a fixed frequency range versus flux. At a certain flux the qubit crosses the boundary of the chosen frequency window. Every time this happens a new two-dimensional scan has to be performed with an updated frequency window. The larger the chosen frequency window, the less often this has to be updated. On the other hand, choosing a large window also means that a larger portion of the scan is spent not measuring the qubit. There is therefore a trade-off between measurement time and degree of human intervention. Furthermore, the resonator frequency also depends on the amount of detuning. Therefore the frequency of the measurement tone must also be updated every now and then.

As an alternative approach I have created a modified version of the spectroscopy versus flux scan, known as tracked spectroscopy. In this approach after every spectroscopy scan the qubit frequency is extracted through fitting. From the qubit frequencies measured in previous scans the expected frequency at the next flux value is extrapolated. The frequency window of the next spectroscopy scan are then centered around the expected qubit frequency. The qubit is therefore tracked as its frequency changes. The same method is applied to update the resonator frequency.

Tracked spectroscopy has several advantages over the two-dimensional spectroscopy versus flux scans. First of all, since the qubit's frequency follows a smooth curve (see Equation **TODO:** Refer to eqn), the qubit's frequency can be estimated quite accurately. The frequency windows can therefore be narrow. This greatly reduces the measurement time. Secondly, tracked spectroscopy does not need any human intervention, as the frequency window is automatically updated after every spectroscopy scan. Therefore measuring the flux-dependence of the qubit frequencies is an automatized process (provided that the qubit frequency can correctly be extracted).

For more information on the tracked spectroscopy algorithm see appendix E.1.

#### Improvements

- Avoided crossing
- Variable RF and drive power

#### TODO:

- Maybe mention possible improvements

**Figures:**

- Tracked spectroscopy of qubit and resonator

### 6.1.6 Finding the qubit's second transition

Once the qubit's frequency is known, it is possible to find the qubit's excited-state to second-excited-state transition  $\omega_q^{12}$ , which shall be referred to as the 12-transition. For consistent notation we shall temporarily denote the qubit's ground-state to excited-state transition frequency as  $\omega_q^{01}$ . The anharmonicity  $\alpha$  is then given by the difference in transition frequencies:  $\alpha = \omega_q^{12} - \omega_q^{01}$ . Knowledge of the anharmonicity  $\alpha$  allows determination of the coupling energy  $E_c$  through **TODO**:

The 12-transition can be found using three-tone spectroscopy, in a manner similar to two-tone spectropscopy measurement explained in section 6.1.4. The following three tones are used in three-tone-spectroscopy:

1. A drive tone with fixed frequency  $\omega_{\text{drive}}^{01}$  at the qubit frequency  $\omega_q^{01}$ .
2. A drive tone with varying frequency  $\omega_{\text{drive}}^{12}$  to scan for the 12-transition.
3. A third tone at the resonator frequency when the qubit is in the excited-state.

The first drive tone with frequency  $\omega_{\text{drive}}^{01}$  is used to drive the qubit to the excited-state. Since the first drive tone results in the excited-state being (partially) populated, the second tone with frequency  $\omega_{\text{drive}}^{12}$  is then able to drive the qubit from the excited-state to the second-excited-state. The transmission should therefore change when  $\omega_{\text{drive}}^{12}$  is on resonance with  $\omega_q^{12}$ .

In principle the first drive tone with frequency  $\omega_{\text{drive}}^{01}$  can be kept fixed at the 01-transition frequency  $\omega_q^{01}$ . However, by performing a two-dimensional scan, where  $\omega_{\text{drive}}^{01}$  is also varied in a small region around  $\omega_q^{01}$ , the 12-transition becomes much clearer. This can be seen in **TODO**: Figure. Here a shift in transmission is observed when  $\omega_{\text{drive}}^{01} = \omega_q^{01}$ . This corresponds to the 12-transmission frequency  $\omega_q^{12}$ . Additionally, a transmission shift is observed at a line crossing  $\omega_q^{12}$ . At this line  $\omega_q^{01} + \omega_q^{12} = \omega_q^{02}$ , resulting in some population in the second-excited state.

Once the 12-transition transition is found, and hence the qubit's anharmonicity  $\alpha$ , it is possible to calculate the coupling energy  $E_c$ . **TODO**:

Finding the resonator frequency when the qubit is in the excited-state can be tricky, as pulsed spectroscopy is usually required. Nevertheless a rough estimation can be found using a modified version of spectroscopy, where the drive tone  $\omega_{\text{drive}}$  is kept fixed, while the resonator frequency is swept. The lower peak will be a rough estimation of the resonator frequency when the qubit is in the excited-state. Alternatively it is also possible to use the resonator frequency when the qubit is in the ground-state, although this will reduce the contrast between driving on-resonance and driving off-resonance.

It is worthwhile to note that three-tone spectroscopy produces much more accurate results when using pulsed spectroscopy, as the difference in transmission is generally small compared to two-tone spectroscopy.

- Coupling energy through solving Hamiltonian (see [15]) .

### 6.1.7 Flux matrix

When a current is passed through a flux-bias line, it is not only the flux through the SQUID of the qubit directly connected to it that is affected. Instead, the flux through SQUIDs of neighbouring qubits are also affected, albeit to a lesser extent. Therefore changing the frequency of one qubit by changing its corresponding flux-bias line current also affects the frequencies of the other flux-tunable qubits on the chip. For the Muxmon experiment the frequencies of the three qubits have to be individually tuned to very specific frequencies, and so the frequency responses of the qubits have to be decoupled. This is done by implementing a flux matrix, which corrects for the flux cross-coupling effects.

A flux matrix  $\mathbf{F}$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix, where  $n$  is the number of flux-tunable qubits. Each row corresponds to a virtual flux, and can be interpreted as follows: in a row  $F_i = [f_{i1}, \dots, f_{in}]$  each element  $F_{ij}$  corresponds to the relative amount by which the flux-bias line of qubit  $j$  should be changed, such that only the frequency of qubit  $i$  changes, while the frequencies of the other qubits remain fixed. This results in  $n$  decoupled virtual flux parameters.

Creating a flux matrix is done by first determining for each qubit separately how much every flux-bias line affects its frequency. For a given qubit  $i$  this can be found by tuning the qubit away from its sweet-spot using its main flux-bias line, to a point where the slope  $\partial f_i / \partial V_i$  of the qubit frequency  $f_i$  as a function of DAC voltage  $V_i$  is steep. This is the region where we are sensitive to changes in qubit frequency. For the main flux-bias line we already know from tracked spectroscopy what the slope  $\partial f_i / \partial V_i$  is at this point. For each of the remaining flux-bias lines we measure the slope  $\partial f_i / \partial V_j$  as we vary the DAC voltage  $V_j$  and measure the response of the qubit frequency  $f_i$ . The slope  $\partial f_i / \partial V_j$  is a measure for the amount of flux cross-coupling, which should be considerably less than for the main flux-bias line. Finally dividing all the slopes by the slope  $\partial f_i / \partial V_i$  of our main flux-bias line, results in the ratio's of the frequency response of qubit  $i$  for each of the flux-bias lines. Performing this measurement for all the qubits results in a matrix  $\mathbf{M}$ , where each element  $M_{ij} = \partial f_i / \partial V_j$  is the normalized frequency response of qubit  $i$  when varying the DAC voltage of the flux-bias line corresponding to qubit  $j$ . The diagonal elements of matrix  $\mathbf{M}$  should be equal to one.

Tracked spectroscopy provides accurate information on the DAC voltage corresponding to the sweet-spot of a qubit. The sweet-spot may not lie exactly at zero DAC voltage. It may shift due to magnetic flux being trapped during the cooldown of the fridge. These sweet-spots are usually found in the case where all the remaining flux-bias lines are set to zero DAC voltage. There is a certain combination of DAC voltages  $\vec{V}^{ss}$  for which all the qubits are at their simultaneous sweet-spot. This simultaneous sweet-spot can be found using matrix  $\mathbf{M}$ . We know for each qubit  $i$  the DAC voltage  $V_i^0$  corresponding to its sweet-spot. Since  $\mathbf{M}$  stores the amount by which each flux-bias line affects the flux of any qubit, the qubit  $i$  remains at its sweet-spot as long as  $\mathbf{M}_i \vec{V} = V_i^0$  holds, where  $\vec{V}$  is the vector containing the

DAC voltages. Therefore the simultaneous sweet-spot  $\vec{V}^{ss}$  can be found by solving the set of equations  $\mathbf{M}\vec{V}^{ss} = \vec{V}^0$ , where  $\vec{V}^0$  contains the DAC voltages of the individual sweet-spots of the qubits.

The flux matrix  $\mathbf{F}$  can be found by inverting matrix  $\mathbf{M}$ . As mentioned earlier, each row of matrix  $\mathbf{F}$  corresponds to the ratio by which the DAC voltages of the flux-bias lines need to be varied, such that the frequency of only one qubit is changed. We may therefore multiply each row by a different constant, as long as the ratio between the elements in each row stays constant. One can normalize each row such that the main flux-bias line is equal to one. This has the advantage that there is a one-to-one correspondence between DAC voltage and flux, and as a result the tracked spectroscopy will look identical. Additionally, after the normalization each row can be multiplied by a factor such that the virtual flux is equal to the flux quanta present in the SQUID loop. This conversion factor can be obtained by fitting the qubit frequency curve obtained from tracked spectroscopy.

For a given virtual flux vector  $\vec{\Phi} = [\phi_1, \dots, \phi_n]$ , the corresponding DAC voltages  $\vec{V}$  are given by:

$$\vec{V} = \mathbf{F}\vec{\Phi} + \vec{V}^{ss} \quad (6.6)$$

By adding the simultaneous sweet-spot DAC voltages  $\vec{V}^{ss}$ , we obtain the additional property that the sweet-spot of the virtual fluxes is set to zero.

After determining the flux matrix  $\mathbf{F}$ , there will still be some small remaining cross-coupling, which depends on the accuracy of the measurements. The process of creating a flux matrix can then be repeated, but instead of using DAC voltages as the varying parameters to construct matrix  $\mathbf{M}$ , the virtual fluxes should be used. Furthermore, as the cross-coupling is small compared to before, the flux range can be much greater, such that small slopes can be accurately measured. The resulting flux matrix  $\mathbf{F}_2$  can then simply be multiplied with the first flux matrix  $\mathbf{F}$  to obtain a more accurate final flux matrix.

## 6.2 TIME-DOMAIN MEASUREMENTS

### 6.2.1 Qubit control

So far the measurements described have all dealt with continuous tones being applied and measuring the response in the transmission. These are crude measurements, that are nevertheless able to determine some properties of the qubit and resonator, such as their frequencies. However, to find more detailed properties of the qubits, such as their coherence times, one cannot apply a continuous tone, that drives some incoherent qubit population. Instead well-calibrated pulses are required, which modify the state of the qubit in a precise manner, corresponding to gates being applied to the qubit. These types of measurements are called time-domain measurements, as they require precise pulse timing.

A simple time-domain measurement usually consists of two parts. The first part consists of controlling the qubit. Here pulses are sent which modify the state of the qubit. The second part consists of measuring the state of the qubit. This is done through a readout tone, similar to spectroscopy measurements. This readout tone projects the state of the qubit onto the

Z-axis. From the response in the transmission the state of the qubit can be inferred. More complicated experiments may involve some sort of feedback loop, where additional qubit control can be applied depending on the measurement outcome. These measurements require the qubit readout to be quantum non-demolition, i.e. the state of the qubit is not destroyed in the process of qubit readout. This usually involves extremely low-noise amplification, such as through a Josephson parametric amplifier. Feedback measurements are not performed in this experiment, and are therefore beyond the scope of this thesis.

Qubit pulses usually have a Gaussian shape. These pulses can be generated by modulating a carrier signal from an RF generator, and is commonly done using an Arbitrary Waveform Generator (AWG). For the Muxmon experiment the Tektronix AWG5014 is used, which has four channels, each of which can control its voltage output at the nanosecond scale. It further has eight marker channels, which can be used to trigger devices, such as RF generators and the Duplexer. The carrier signal is sent through the LO port of the mixer, and an AWG channel is connected to the IF port of the mixer. The ouput at the RF port of the mixer is the modulated signal, the amplitude of which depends on the amplitude of the AWG channel output.

For IQ mixers it is also possible to modulate both quadratures of the carrier signal independently, using two AWG channels. This allows for single sideband modulation, which is done by convoluting the pulses of the I and Q quadrature channels with a sine and cosine respectively. The sideband modulation frequency  $\omega_{sb}$  of these sinusoidal functions is the amount by which the carrier signal is shifted. Single sideband modulation has the advantage that the carrier frequency  $\omega_c$  is shifted away from mixer leakage, which would otherwise cause a slight continuous rotation of the qubit. For more information on mixer leakage, see section 7.4.

The length of the pulse is an important consideration. Shorter pulses allow for more qubit operations within its coherence time. On the other hand, the shorter a pulse is in time, the larger its frequency spectrum will be. At a certain point the spectrum will be so broad that there will be a nonnegligible signal at the qubit's excited-state to second excited-state transition frequency. This will cause leakage to the second excited-state, thereby leaving the two-state Hilbert space. Furthermore, the finite resolution of the AWG causes the pulses to be discretized, resulting in the pulses being slightly distorted. The shorter the length of the pulse, the more discretization, and therefore distortion, will occur. This can cause further leakage to the second excited-state. It is therefore desirable to have a bandwidth, which is the inverse of the width  $\sigma$  of the Gaussian pulse, that is small compared to the anharmonicity of the qubit.

A second pulse, known as the Derivative Removal by Adiabatic Gate (DRAG) pulse [11], can be applied along with the main pulse, to reduce the amount of leakage. The DRAG pulse is the derivative of the main Gaussian pulse, and adiabatically populates the second excited state during the pulse, and subsequently withdraws this population back to the two-state Hilbert space. Using the DRAG pulse can reduce the amount of leakage by orders of magnitude.

#### TODO:

- Explain about the measurement process, and that many averages need to be performed to get an accurate estimate of the qubit state  $\sqrt{N}$ . This is important for single-shot measurements later on

- Explain more on Z projection
- Explain more on non-demolition.
- Signal quadrature determines the rotation angle
- Mention that AWG channel amplitude must not be too high, and that attenuation should be used to avoid spurious resonant modes
- Refer to Noise chapter for more information on single sideband modulation?
- Mention that amount of rotation depends on time duration, refer to Reed's thesis

**Questions:**

- Are both quadratures modulated independently in IQ mixers?
- Why use sideband modulation?
- Why are Gaussian pulses used?

**Figures:**

- Gaussian pulse with derivative

### **6.2.2 Drive amplitude calibration**

Performing gates on qubits requires knowledge of the parameters that define the pulse, such as the amplitude, phase, and pulse duration. The phase determines the axis along which the qubit is rotated. The duration and amplitude of the pulse determine the rotation angle. To rotate the qubit by a specific angle, either the pulse duration can be varied, keeping the amplitude fixed, or the pulse amplitude can be varied, keeping the pulse duration fixed. Both methods have advantages and disadvantages. Varying the pulse duration ensures that the maximum amplitude is roughly fixed, regardless of the rotation angle. On the other hand, pulses with a small rotation angle have a very small duration, and so their bandwidth will be large, which may lead to increased leakage. Varying the amplitude, on the other hand, ensures that pulses applied to multiple qubits end simultaneously, and so it is more natural to speak of a pulse clock cycle. In the measurements for this thesis the amplitude is varied, while the pulse duration is kept fixed.

Determining the correct amplitude for qubit gates is commonly performed using a Rabi measurement. In this measurement the amplitude of a pulse with rotation along the X-axis is varied monotonically. The pulse will cause the qubit to rotate at a Rabi rate  $\Omega_R$ , which depends on the pulse amplitude.

After application of a pulse with Rabi rate  $\Omega_R$  and duration  $\tau$ , the wavefunction will be in state  $|\psi\rangle = \cos\left(\frac{\Omega_R}{2}\tau\right)|0\rangle + \sin\left(\frac{\Omega_R}{2}\tau\right)|1\rangle$ . After a measurement the qubit will be in the excited state with probability  $\sin^2\left(\frac{\Omega_R}{2}\tau\right)$  [15]. The Rabi rate  $\Omega_R$  is proportional to the pulse amplitude.

In a Rabi measurement the amplitude is swept monotonically from a negative value to a positive value. The result should look like a cosine, as shown in Figure **TODO**. The center of this cosine is where the amplitude is zero, and therefore corresponds to the ground-state of the qubit. At the other peaks, where the deviation from the ground-state is the largest, the qubit is in the excited-state. The amplitude of the left peak corresponds to a negative pi-pulse, and the right peak to a positive pi-pulse. Usually the amplitude step between successive segments is tuned such that the excited-state peaks are at specific segments.

**Questions:**

- How does the rotation angle depend on the amplitude?

**TODO:**

- time variation or amplitude variation
- Refer to equation showing that rotation depends on time duration (Reed's thesis)

### 6.2.3 Qubit decoherence

#### 6.2.3.1 Qubit relaxation: T1

Once a pi-pulse has been tuned it is possible to excite the qubit. However, once the qubit is excited, it will not remain so indefinitely. Instead, the excitation will slowly leak away to different relaxation sources, some of which have been discussed in 1.3. These sources of relaxation lead to an exponential decay of the qubit's excitation, with a relaxation time  $T_1$ . This relaxation can be visualized on the Bloch sphere as the stateA typical measurement to characterize the relaxation time  $T_1$  is performed by first applying a pi-pulse, and the waiting for a monotonically increasing wait time  $\tau$ , after which the state of the qubit is measured.

relaxation time  $T_1$ ,

- Purcell limit

#### 6.2.3.2 Qubit dephasing: Ramsey

Aside from relaxation, the qubit also experiences another form of decoherence, namely dephasing, resulting from phase noise. Phase noise can be seen as fluctuations in the qubit frequency. It is characterized by the dephasing time  $T_2^*$ . The dephasing time  $T_2^*$  has an upper bound equal to  $2 T_1$  [3, pp56-58], but can decrease significantly due to other sources of phase noise, such as charge noise, fluctuating cavity photon number, and flux noise for flux-tunable qubits [17, p126]. Qubit dephasing results in a random phase being added to the qubit, and can be visualized on the Bloch sphere as the transversal component of the qubit's state decreasing in magnitude, as the qubit's phase has increased uncertainty. In the limiting case this will result in all phase information being lost, with the qubit's state thereby lying on the Z-axis.

One method of measuring the dephasing time  $T_2^*$  is by performing a Ramsey measurement. A Ramsey sequence consists of an initial  $X_{\pi/2}$  pulse, after which the qubit lies on the

equator of the Bloch sphere. After a certain wait time  $\tau$ , a second  $X_{\pi/2}$  pulse is applied to the qubit. The combination of the two pulses should result in the qubit ending up at the excited-state. However, during the wait time  $\tau$  the qubit experiences dephasing, causing it to deviate from its original position on the equator. Therefore the final state of the qubit will deviate from the qubit's excited-state. The probability of the final state to end up in the excited-state has an exponential decay, asymptotically approaching 0.5 (all phase information lost).

During the wait time  $\tau$ , when the qubit lies on the equator, it does not only experience dephasing. When the frequency of the driving tone  $\omega_d$  is different from the qubit frequency  $\omega_q$ , the qubit will precess along the equator with a frequency equal to the Rabi rate  $\Omega_R = \omega_d - \omega_q$ . At the moment we ignore effects such as decoherence and gate errors. The first pulse results in the qubit being at the equator. If there were no precession, the result of the second pulse is that the qubit is in its excited-state. However, any detuning  $\Delta$  causes the state of the qubit to deviate from the excited-state. In fact, after half a period the second pulse results in the qubit being in its ground-state. After one full period, however, the qubit has returned to its original position on the equator, and so the second pulse will result yet again in the qubit being in its excited-state.

In a Ramsey measurement the final state of the qubit is measured as the wait time  $\tau$  between the two pulses is monotonically increased. The result should exhibit an oscillatory behaviour, the frequency of which being equal to the Rabi rate  $\Omega_R$ . Furthermore, dephasing causes this oscillation to decay exponentially, at a rate  $1/T_2^*$ . The excited-state population  $P_1$  as a function of wait time is given by:

$$P_1(t) = e^{t/T_2^*} * \cos(2\pi\Omega_R t) + 1/2 \quad (6.7)$$

Usually in a Ramsey measurement artificial detuning is added to the pulse, such that if there were no real detuning, one would see around three to four oscillations. There are several reasons for this artificial detuning. One reason is that estimating the detuning using Equation 6.7 is more accurate once there are several oscillations present. Another reason is that if the real detuning is reasonably small compared to the artificial detuning, it is possible to estimate if the qubit's frequency is higher or lower than the drive, as this would result in a higher or lower oscillation frequency.

### Questions:

- Where does exponential noise and Gaussian noise come from? As I understand it Gaussian noise is due to flux
- Is  $T_1$  not noticeable in a Ramsey measurement?
- Why is maximally  $T_2^* = 2T_1$ ?

### Figures:

- Ramsey measurement
- $T_2^*$  vs. frequency?

### 6.2.3.3 Fast frequency qubit dephasing: Echo

The dephasing time  $T_2^*$  is a combination of several different phase noise sources. Some of these sources produce high frequency (fast) noise, while others produce low frequency (slow) noise. It is possible to distinguish these two effects by performing a second dephasing measurements that filters out slow noise, called an Echo measurement.

An Echo measurement is quite similar to a Ramsey measurements, where two  $X_{\pi/2}$  pulses are applied, separated by a wait time  $\tau$ . The difference is that in the middle of this wait time, at  $\tau/2$ , an additional refocusing  $X_\pi$  pulse is sent. This has the effect that the state of the qubit is essentially flipped on the Bloch sphere around the X-axis. Any slow phase noise, which we can view to be quasi-static, is thereby cancelled. Fast phase noise, however, will vary considerably during the wait time  $\tau$ , and so will still cause dephasing. In the absence of decoherence, the final state of the qubit is the ground-state, which is in contrast to a Ramsey measurement, where the final state is the excited-state.

An Echo measurement is performed by monotonically increasing the wait-time  $\tau$ , while keeping the three pulses relative to the wait time  $\tau$  fixed. The result is similar to a Ramsey measurement, showing an exponential decay, with corresponding Echo dephasing time  $T_2^E$ . This value should be higher or equal to the dephasing time  $T_2^*$ . The refocusing pulse has the additional effect that any precession due to detuning is also cancelled. This inhibits the oscillatory behaviour that is present in Ramsey measurements. To be able to better estimate the Echo dephasing time  $T_2^E$ , the phase of the final  $X_{\pi/2}$  pulse is monotonically shifted, such that the result is an oscillation in qubit state.

There are more complicated Echo sequences, involving multiple refocusing pulses. By placing these at specific times the different frequency contributions of the phase noise can be characterized. Furthermore, by repeatedly applying a refocusing pulse, the state of the qubit can be preserved much longer than the limit imposed by  $T_2^*$ .

- $T_2^E$  Should be larger than  $T_2^*$

#### **Figures:**

- Echo measurement.

### 6.2.4 Measuring single shots

### 6.2.5 Second excited-state

# Chapter 7

## Calibration routines

**TODO:** Introduction

### 7.1 ACCURATE FREQUENCY ESTIMATION

Spectroscopy provides an estimate for the frequency of the qubit. However, even with pulsed spectroscopy, the accuracy is limited to roughly a megahertz. When the frequency of the driving tone  $\omega_d$  is different from the qubit frequency  $\omega_q$ , the qubit will precess around the Z-axis with a frequency equal to the Rabi rate  $\Omega_R = \omega_d - \omega_q$ . As explained in Section 6.2.3.2, this detuning is measured in a Ramsey measurement, where the qubit frequency can be inferred from the precession rate.

A Ramsey measurement provides a very accurate estimate for the qubit frequency  $\omega_q$ . The longer the wait time  $\tau$ , the more the qubit precesses around the equator. Therefore tiny differences between the drive frequency  $\omega_{\text{drive}}$  and the qubit frequency  $\omega_q$  can be detected. The upper bound on the accuracy of being able to determine the qubit frequency is set by the qubit's dephasing time  $T_2^*$ . This is because the dephasing time  $T_2^*$  corresponds to the fluctuation in the qubit frequency.

The main goal of the Muxmon experiment is to measure the performance of space-division multiplexing using the Duplexer. One requirement for space-division multiplexing is that the top and bottom qubit are at the same frequency. Any effect due to weak coupling between the qubits is only present if the two qubits are accurately tuned to the same frequency. Furthermore, since only a single frequency will be used, any detuning will lead to a decrease in qubit performance. To this end the top qubit has been detuned from its sweet-spot, to match the bottom qubit, while both the bottom and ancilla qubit are kept at their respective sweet-spots. This process is greatly simplified through use of a flux matrix, as described in section 6.1.7. Initial top qubit frequency tuning was done using spectroscopy, which is a much faster measurement. After the initial frequency tuning, accurate frequency tuning was performed using Ramsey measurements. First the bottom qubit frequency  $\omega_q^B$  was determined, after which the top qubit frequency  $\omega_q^T$  was tuned to match  $\omega_q^B$ . This process has been fully automatized. Using this method the individual frequencies could be determined to within 10 kHz, and the two frequencies could be tuned to within 50 kHz of one another.

The reason the frequencies could not be tuned more accurately is due to the IVVI having a finite DAC voltage stepsize.

**Questions:**

- What is the resolution of the IVVI? To what qubit frequency difference does this correspond for the top qubit?

## 7.2 ACCURATE DRIVE AMPLITUDE CALIBRATION

To test the limits of performance using the Duplexer all gates need to be calibrated to a very high accuracy. The Rabi measurement explained in section 6.2.2 is able to tune the drive amplitude up to a certain degree. However, the degree to which one can tune the drive amplitude using Rabi is limited, and for fine-tuning different methods are required.

In the Muxmon experiment, the method used for accurate drive amplitude calibration is based on applying repeated pi-pulses on the qubit. The entire sequence can be summarized as  $(X_\pi)^{2N} X_{\pi/2} |0\rangle$ , where  $N$  is the segment number. In the absence of gate errors and decoherence, the qubit should return to the equator, regardless of the segment number  $N$ . However, any amount of overdriving or underdriving results in small rotations that are added coherently, resulting in a positive or negative slope respectively. These slopes serve as very accurate measures for the optimal drive amplitude. If the difference in driving strength is large, oscillations will be present, corresponding to rotations around the Bloch sphere.

**Figures:**

- PiX360 with positive, normal, negative slope

## 7.3 DRAG PARAMETER CALIBRATION

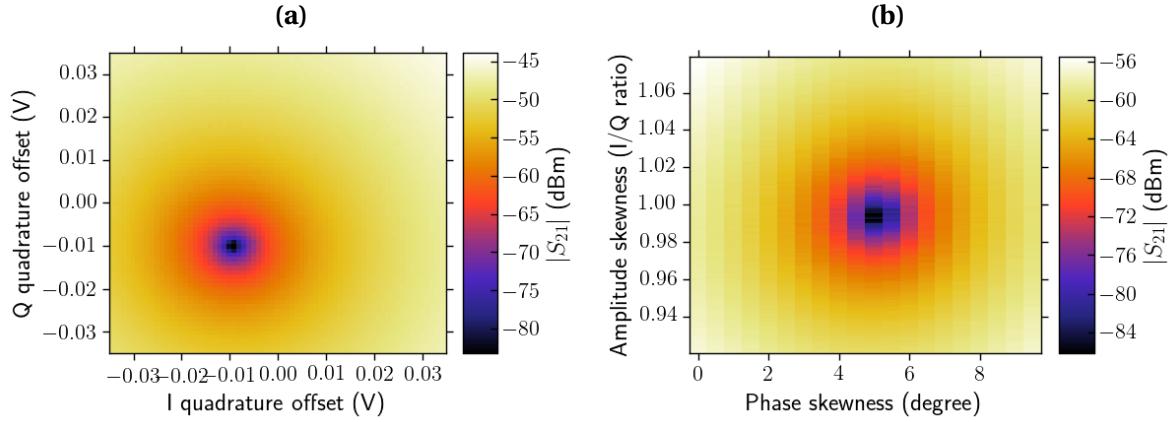
The DRAG parameter has been calibrated by measuring the difference in signal between an  $X_\pi Y_{\pi/2}$  pulse and a  $Y_\pi X_{\pi/2}$  pulse. Ideally for both pulses the final state should lie on the equator. However, an incorrectly tuned DRAG parameter would result in the first pulse to rotate the qubit slightly toward the excited-state, while the second pulse would rotate the qubit slightly toward the ground state. The DRAG parameter is found by minimizing this difference.

**Questions:**

- Why does this produce errors in opposite direction?

## 7.4 IQ MIXER CALIBRATION

An important calibration routine which must not be forgotten is correcting for mixer imperfections. There are mainly two **TODO:** that must be calibrated in an IQ mixer: the mixer carrier leakage, and the mixer skewness.



**Figure 7.1:** Mixer carrier leakage (a) and mixer skewness (b). Without any corrections both the mixer carrier leakage and the signal due to mixer skewness are equal to  $-58$  dBm. Compared to the main signal with output power equal to  $-32$  dBm, the mixer imperfections would result in two additional signals, each with strength  $-26$  dB.

For a perfectly balanced mixer, a signal of given frequency  $\omega_0$  at the LO port should produce no output at the RF port if no modulation signal is applied in the inphase and quadrature ports. However, any imperfections, due to for instance diode mismatches in the mixer, may lead to some signal at frequency  $\omega_0$  leaking through. This leakage can be compensated to a large extent by adding a DC offset to the inphase and quadrature IF signals leaving the AWG, for which the leakage is minimized. Determining the optimal DC offset can be performed by sending a carrier signal into the LO port of the mixer, and a continuous DC signal from the AWG to both IF ports of the mixer. The leakage can be measured as signal exiting the RF port at the carrier frequency  $\omega_0$ , and can be minimized by varying the offsets of the individual AWG channels.

Another type of IQ mixer imperfection is mixer skewness. The carrier signal entering the LO port is split into its inphase and quadrature component, where it is mixed with an inphase and quadrature IF signal. Ideally the inphase and quadrature components of the LO signal are perfectly orthogonal. However, in reality this is not the case, and so a small amount of skewness is present. Ideally the signal should be shifted in frequency to the desired sideband frequency  $\omega_0 + \omega_{sb}$ . However, any mixer skewness will lead to the signal being partially shifted in the opposite direction, resulting in some signal at the unwanted sideband frequency  $\omega_0 - \omega_{sb}$ . Additionally any amplitude skewness between the two IF ports will also result in signal at the unwanted sideband frequency. The signal at the unwanted sideband can be measured for a given carrier frequency  $\omega_0$  by adding a sine and cosine with sideband frequency  $\omega_{sb}$  to the inphase and quadrature ports respectively. This can be corrected during the generation of the pulses through a transformation  $(I, Q) \rightarrow (I', Q') = (I - Q \tan \phi, Q \sec \phi)$ , where  $\phi$  is the phase skewness. The skewness can be corrected by varying the phase and amplitude of one of the AWG channels, and minimizing the signal at the unwanted sideband. The inphase and quadrature signals have to be transformed for every phase. Note that the mixer skewness is dependent on both the carrier frequency  $\omega_0$  and the sideband modulation

frequency  $\omega_{sb}$

## 7.5 DUPLEXER PHASE CALIBRATION

The Duplexer has phase-shifters for each of input-output combinations. That means that the phases of each of the eight channels can be tuned individually.. In the case of the Muxmon experiment, where we have independent control over the main pulse and the DRAG pulse, we require the two channels to share the same phase. The phase of two Duplexer channels can be tuned to one another by sending two signals with opposite phase into the Duplexer. If the relative phase shift of these two signals induced by the Duplexer, these two signals should (partially) cancel each other, resulting in a dip in transmission. The amount of transmission at this dip depends on the amplitude difference between the two signals.

Calibrating the Duplexer phase can be done by splitting a signal from an RF generator, and then using single sideband modulation on both signals individually, where the phase of one of the sidebands is shifted by  $180^\circ$ , which can be realized using an AWG. As the phase of one of the channels is varied, a dip in transmission corresponds to both Duplexer channels sharing the same phase shift.

## 7.6 READOUT CALIBRATION

Should I include this?

## 7.7 ALLXY

There is a good measurement to test how well the qubit has been tuned, namely the AllXY measurement. This measurement consists of all 21 possible two-gate combinations of  $\{Id, X_\pi, Y_\pi, X_{\pi/2}, Y_{\pi/2}\}$ . Each combination is susceptible to different types of gate errors to a different degree. The AllXY combinations have therefore been arranged in such a way that the final state of the first five combinations is the ground-state, the final state of the second twelve combinatios is the equator, and the final state of the last four combinations is the excited-state. Furthermore the combinations are arranged in such a way that the most common sources of gate errors can be distinguished. The full list of combinations in correct order can be found in App D.1.2.1.

The errors that can be distinguished are extensive: drive amplitude, DRAG parameter, frequency detuning, signal reflections, and several more. This is the strength of AllXY, but simultaneously its weakness. If there are multiple errors present, their errors may interfere, resulting in symptoms which are difficult to diagnose. nevertheless, it is a powerful tool, especially if one source of gate error is dominant. For a detailed analysis of the AllXY symptoms produced by different types of gate errors, see Reef [15].

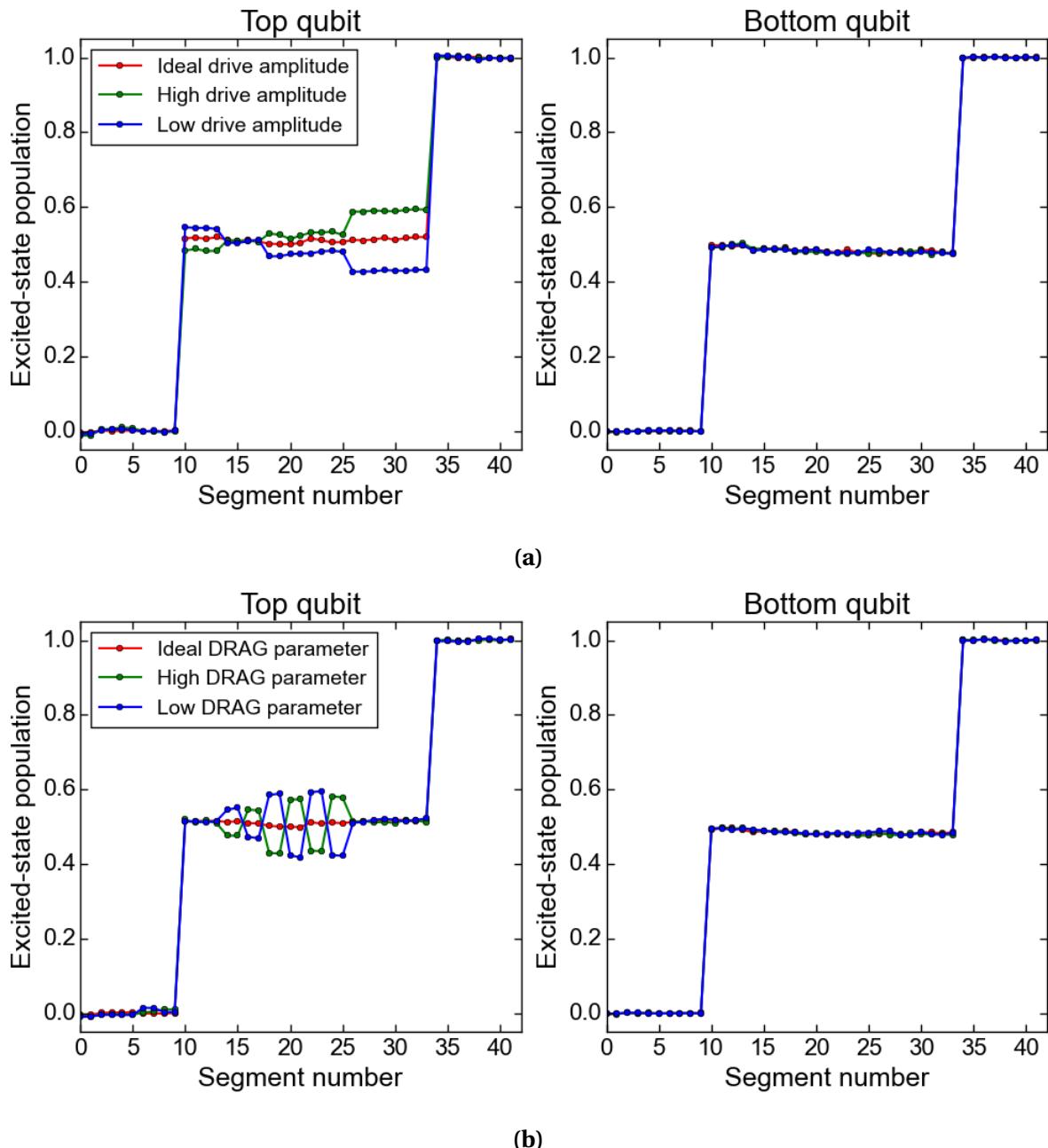
The Duplexer can modify the signal of each of its input-output port combinations individually. In the set-up used for the Muxmon experiment, both the drive amplitude and DRAG parameter can be separately tuned for each of the two qubits. In Figure 7.2 the AllXY results

are shown for the top and bottom qubits, as the drive amplitude and DRAG parameter of the top qubit is varied using the Duplexer. As can be seen there is no noticeable change in the AllXY of the bottom qubit, even though the top qubit's performance changes considerably. This shows that the Duplexer allows for individual drive amplitude and DRAG parameter control for each qubit, without affecting the other.

- The Muxmon0 and Muxmon1 chip are designed with two purposes
  1. Testing multiplexing using the Duplexer
  2. Explore qubit frequency re-use

**Ideas:**

- Title could be frequency re-use and multiplexing / selective broadcasting



**Figure 7.2:** AllXY measurement of the top and bottom qubit as one parameter of the top qubit is varied. The parameter varied is (a) drive amplitude, (b) DRAG amplitude. The AllXY sequences are placed on top of each other. As can be seen the bottom qubit has no noticeable change in the AllXY measurements when the parameters of the top qubit are varied.

# Chapter 8

## Exploring the Muxmon chip

### 8.1 PROPERTIES OF THE MUXMON0 CHIP

In the Muxmon0 chip the top and bottom qubits are each coupled to the ancilla qubit via a resonator bus. The frequencies of the qubits and their corresponding resonators are shown in Table 8.1. All three qubits are operating in the dispersive regime, as the minimum detuning is considerably larger than the coupling strength for all qubits. The resonator buses have a frequency of 4.88 GHz and 4.97 GHz for the bus connecting the ancilla qubit to the top and bottom qubit respectively (see Appendix C.3). These buses can be used for multi-qubit operations, such as excitation swapping.

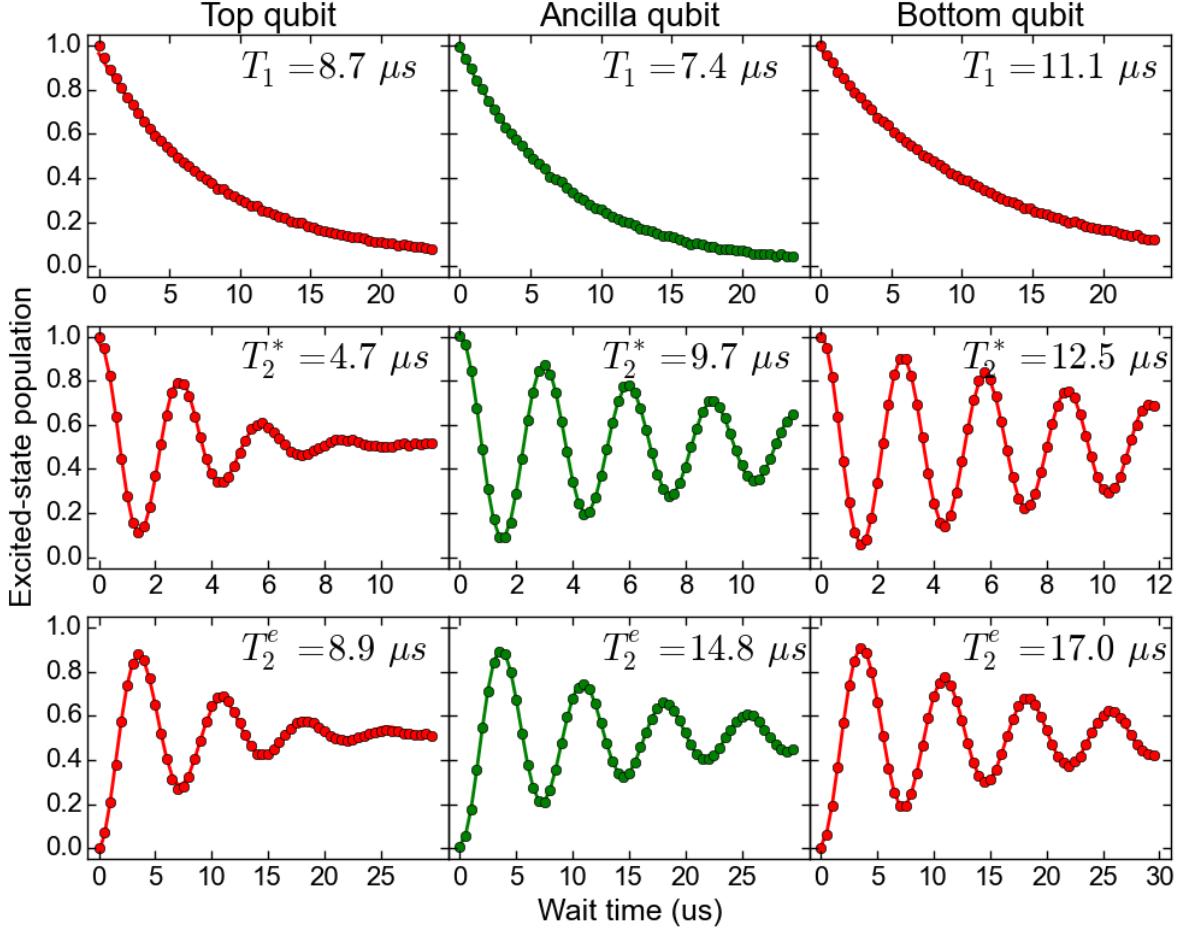
To study frequency re-use, the top qubit frequency has been tuned to that of the bottom qubit, while the ancilla and bottom qubits were kept at their respective sweet-spots. Under these conditions the coherence times of the three qubits are shown in Figure 8.1. The dephasing time  $T_2^*$  of the top qubit is considerably worse than of the ancilla and bottom qubit. This is because the top qubit has been tuned away from its sweet-spot, and so is more susceptible to flux noise.

#### TODO:

- explain top ancilla and bottom qubit
- find coupling strengths
- The fit to  $T_2^*$  of the top qubit has been performed using a Gaussian noise model.

Qubit	$f_{\max}$ (GHz)	$f_{\text{res}}$ (GHz)	coupling strength $g$
Top	6.277	6.700	?
Ancilla	6.551	6.733	?
Bottom	6.220	6.800	?

**Table 8.1:** Sweet-spot frequencies  $f_{\max}$ , resonator frequencies  $f_{\text{res}}$  and coupling strengths  $g$  of the three qubits in the Muxmon0 chip



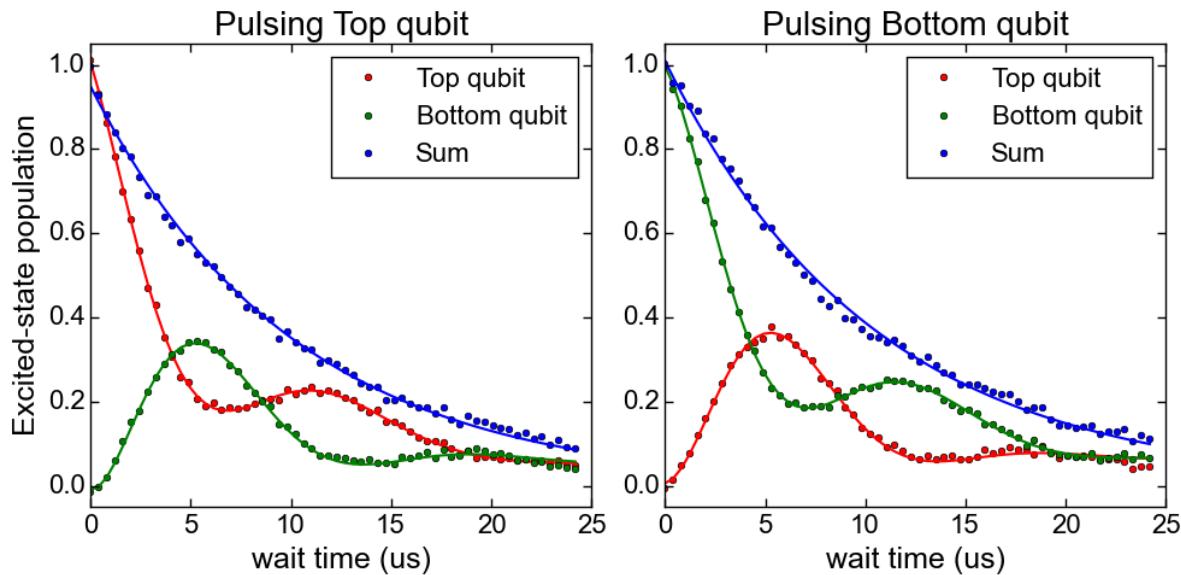
**Figure 8.1:** Coherence times of the three qubits in Muxmon0. The top qubit frequency is tuned to match the bottom qubit frequency (6.22 GHz).

## 8.2 CROSS-COUPLING

The top qubit is coupled to the bottom qubit via the following three successive components:

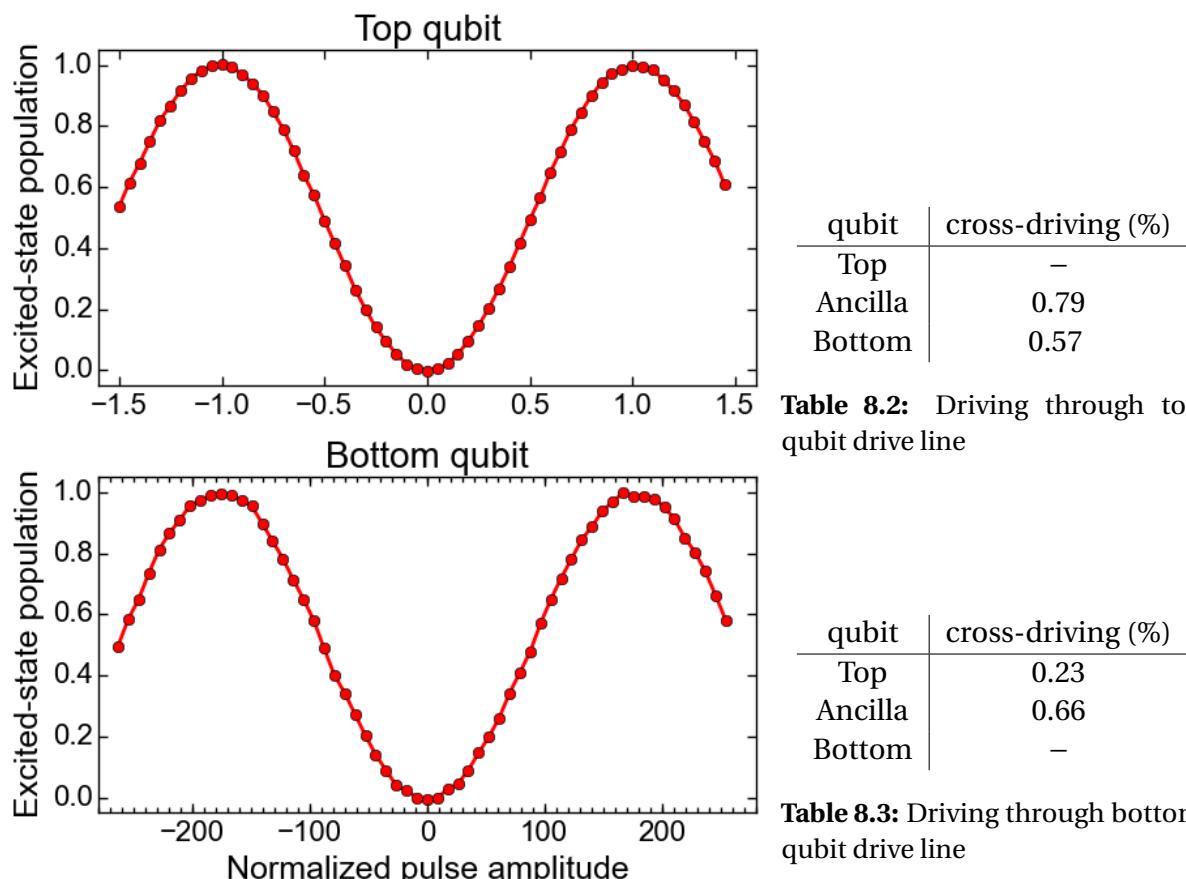
1. The resonator bus coupling the top qubit to the ancilla qubit.
2. The ancilla qubit.
3. The resonator bus coupling the two ancilla qubit to the bottom qubit.

When the top and bottom qubit are tuned into resonance, the two qubits experience an exchange interaction. This interaction leads to an excitation in one qubit being able to travel to the other qubit. This can result in the swapping of excitation between the top and bottom qubit, at a rate given by the interaction strength  $J$ . The excitation swapping of the top and bottom qubit when tuned into resonance can be seen in Figure 8.2. From these results the coupling  $J$  is found to be equal to  $J/2\pi = 72 \pm 1.8$  kHz. For more information on the exchange interaction see section 4.3.2 of the thesis by Chow [5].



**Figure 8.2:** After initially exciting one qubit, and measuring the excited-state population of both qubits versus time, an excitation swap is observed. The extracted coupling strength is equal to  $J/2\pi = 72.0 \pm 1.8$  kHz

### 8.3 CROSS-DRIVING



**Figure 8.4:** Required drive amplitude required to drive the top and bottom qubit through the top qubit drive line. The amplitude has been normalized to the amplitude required for a pi pulse on the top qubit.

When driving one of the qubits through its dedicated drive line, the signal can partially leak through to the other qubits. The cause of this leakage may be on-chip, where the components separating the qubits do not fully filter the signal, or may be off-chip, due to for instance imperfect isolation between the cables or other components. This signal leakage results in cross-driving effect, where driving one qubit will also partially drive the other qubits. Cross-driving effects affect the performance of the qubits when the frequency of the driven qubit and the cross-driven qubit are in resonance, as is the case with the Muxmon experiment.

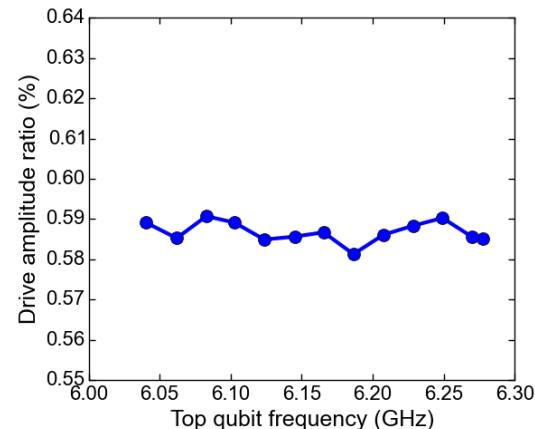
The amount of cross-driving can be determined by measuring the pulse amplitude required to drive each of the three qubits through a drive line. The cross-driving due to the finite isolation of the Duplexer has been separately measured (see Appendix B.1). At the frequencies used in the experiment, the isolation of the Duplexer was found to be typically around 50 dBm. The amount of cross-driving due to other sources was determined by measuring the pulse amplitude required to perform a Rabi on each of the qubits using a fixed drive line. The measurements were performed using the set-up shown in Figure 8.3. The results of a single cross-driving measurement is shown in Figure 8.4, where the top and bottom qubit are driven through the drive line of the top qubit. The pulse amplitude is normalized to the amplitude required for applying pi pulse to the qubit directly connected to the drive line. The amount of cross-driving is equal to the ratio of the pulse amplitude required for a pi rotation for the main qubit, and for the cross-driven qubit. The cross-driving ratio's are shown in Tables 8.3 and 8.3. The cross-driving ratio's are found to be less than one percent, and are higher for the ancilla qubit than for the other cross-driven qubit. This indicates that the main source of cross-driving is likely on-chip. Furthermore it can be seen that the cross-driving is stronger from the drive line of the top qubit than from the drive line of the bottom qubit.

As a check that the effects observed are indeed due to cross-driving, and not due to cross-coupling, the cross-driving when driving the bottom qubit through the drive line of the top qubit has been measured as the frequency of the top qubit is varied. The results are shown in Figure 8.5. If the effect is due to cross-coupling the amount of cross-driving should depend strongly on the detuning between the top qubit and bottom qubit. Instead we see that the cross-driving is approximately constant, indicating that this is indeed a cross-driving effect instead of a cross-coupling effect.

#### **Figures that need to be included:**

- schematic of cross-coupling and readout cross-talk

It could be good to create this using the actual Muxmon chip as background, with arrows indicating how the different effects operate



**Figure 8.5:** Cross-driving ratio of the bottom qubit when pulsing from the drive line of the top qubit, versus frequency of the top qubit.

# Chapter 9

## Randomized benchmarking

### 9.1 INTRODUCTION

When preparing the qubits for a quantum algorithm it is important to know what the performance is of the qubits, which can be characterized by its gate errors. One method has already been discussed in Section 7.7, namely the AllXY method. Although the AllXY is good at detecting specific errors, it is a crude method, which is unable to characterize gate errors with high accuracy. Another method used for gate characterization is quantum process tomography. Quantum process tomography measures the output density matrix resulting from the application of a specific to each of the system's basis states. Due to linear superposition of quantum states, the full effect of a gate is thereby characterized.

Quantum process tomography suffers from some important drawbacks. The first is that it is sensitive to state preparation and measurement errors, which make it difficult to distinguish whether the gate errors originate from the actual gate being characterized, or from the gates used for preparation and measurement. Another related drawback is that it is unable to measure small gate errors, which are required for fault-tolerant quantum computing. Additionally, quantum process tomography suffers from an exponential scaling in measurement with the number of qubits. These drawbacks result in quantum process tomography being an inadequate gate characterization method for gates with small errors.

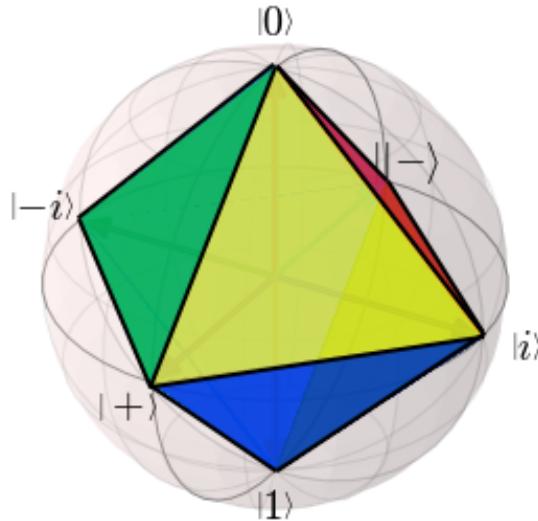
An alternative method to quantum process tomography is randomized benchmarking. It is based on repeated application of gates drawn randomly from a set of unitary operations, after which the fidelity to the final state in absence of errors is measured. The set of unitaries used in randomized benchmarking may be single-qubit or multi-qubit operations. Randomized benchmarking has the advantage that it is insensitive to state preparation and measurement errors, and is a relatively fast measurement, which is able to accurately determine the average unitary operation error.

In the Muxmon experiment the set of unitary operations is the single-qubit Clifford group, which will be discussed in Section 9.2. Randomized benchmarking will be used to characterize the performance of the qubits when using the Duplexer, and using selective broadcasting. By interleaving the unitary operations with a fixed gate the performance of that specific gate can be measured. This is known as interleaved randomized benchmarking,

and will be discussed in Section 9.5.

- uniform sampling on bloch sphere
- Process tomography shows the type of error

## 9.2 CLIFFORD GROUP



**Figure 9.1:** The single-qubit Clifford group can be visualized using an octahedron whose vertices correspond to the six cardinal states. The 24 Cliffords composing the single-qubit Clifford group correspond to the 24 distinct rotations of the octahedron such that the vertices are mapped onto themselves.

The single qubit Pauli group consists of the two-dimensional identity operator and the three Pauli matrices. The  $n$  qubit Pauli group is generated by the tensor product of  $n$  single qubit Pauli groups. The  $n$  qubit Clifford group  $C_n$  is equal to the set of unitary transformations on the  $n$  qubit Pauli group up to a global phase. The  $n$  qubit Clifford group  $C_n$  is generated by  $\{H_i, P_i, CNOT_{ij}\} \forall i, j \in (1, \dots, n)$ , where:

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix}, \quad CNOT = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (9.1)$$

The single qubit Clifford group  $C_1$  can be visualized using an octahedron in the Bloch sphere, as shown in Figure 9.1. Each Clifford in  $C_1$  corresponds to a distinct rotation of

the octahedron, where the six cardinal states are mapped onto themselves. If one sets the constraint that the state  $|0\rangle$  is mapped to itself, four distinct rotations are possible. Since the state  $|0\rangle$  can be mapped to each of the six cardinal states, there are  $6 \times 4 = 24$  distinct rotations, and hence 24 Cliffords in the single qubit Clifford group  $\mathcal{C}_1$ .

Each of the Cliffords in the single qubit Clifford group  $\mathcal{C}_1$  can be decomposed into rotations along the X and Y axis, as is shown in Appendix D.2.1. Each Clifford can be decomposed into a minimum of zero (identity) gates and a maximum of three gates. If one includes the identity as a gate, a Clifford requires on average 1.875 gates.

The Clifford group does not form a universal set of gates. This is because the rotations only map cardinal states onto themselves. Since single qubit gates and CNOT is universal ([12]), the Clifford group combined with the T-gate ( $\pi/4$  rotation) constitute a set of universal quantum gates.

### 9.3 THE RANDOMIZED BENCHMARKING PROTOCOL

Randomized benchmarking is a method to characterize the performance on qubits. It is based on repeated application of operations on the system, and measuring the fidelity to the ideal final state. The operations are randomly chosen from a set of unitary operations.

In the case of the Muxmon experiment randomized benchmarking is performed on individual qubits, and the set of unitary operations is the single qubit Clifford group. The randomized benchmarking protocol used in this experiment, depicted in Figure 9.2, is as follows:

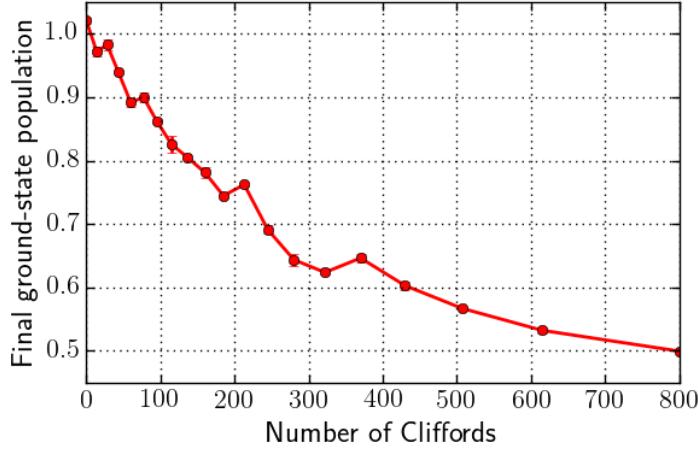
1. Initialize the qubit in the ground state
2. Apply  $n$  consecutive Cliffords  $\{C_1, \dots, C_n\}$ , where  $C_i \in \mathcal{C}_1 \forall i \in [1, \dots, n]$
3. apply final inverting Clifford  $C_{\text{inv}} = (C_n \dots C_1)^{-1}$
4. Measure the state of the qubit

After the final inverting Clifford  $C_{\text{inv}}$  the qubit should return to the ground-state. However, gate errors and decoherence result in the final state deviating from the ground-state. The qubit will therefore be in the excited-state with a nonzero probability. This probability increases as the number of Cliffords  $n$  is increased.

**TODO:** Something about exponential decay, T1 fidelity limit

$$P = Ap^n + B \quad (9.2)$$

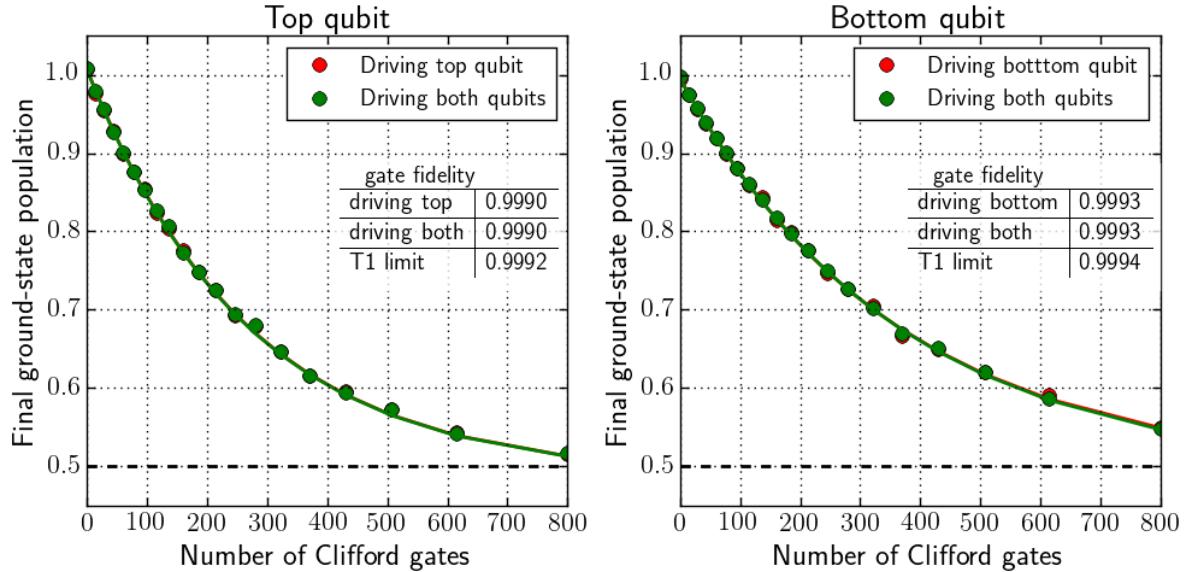
$$F_{\max} = \frac{1}{6} (3 + 2e^{-t_g/2T_1} + e^{-t_g/T_1}) \quad (9.3)$$



**Figure 9.3:** Randomized benchmarking results using a single seed. The final ground-state population decreases exponentially as the number of Cliffords  $n$  is increased. The points include errorbars, determined by the spread of three separate measurements.

To characterize the shape of the exponential decay, the successive values of  $n$  in a measurement are separated by an exponentially increasing amount. The randomized benchmarking results using a single seed are shown in Figure 9.3. Twenty points are chosen between  $n = 0$  and  $n = 800$  Clifford operations. As can be seen there is a clear exponential decay, in agreement with Formula 9.2. However, upon closer inspection the curve does not have a perfect exponential shape. This deviation is not due to insufficient averaging, but due to the fact that the Cliffords do not all have the same number of gates. A Clifford is on average composed of 1.875 gates, but may be composed of anywhere between 1 and 3 gates. The result is that in a single seed some segments contain on average more than 1.875 gates per Clifford, while others contain less. For a fixed error per gate, this results in fidelities deviating from the fidelity corresponding to exactly 1.875 gates per Clifford. To obtain an accurate estimate for the exponential decay rate, multiple seeds must be used to average out the random fluctuations from the average gate per Clifford.

- Clifford group can be efficiently simulated on a classical computer. Gottesman-Knill theorem ([8])
- Explain the formula relating  $n$  to an exponential curve.
- Coherence limit of RB
- Clifford fidelity to gate fidelity



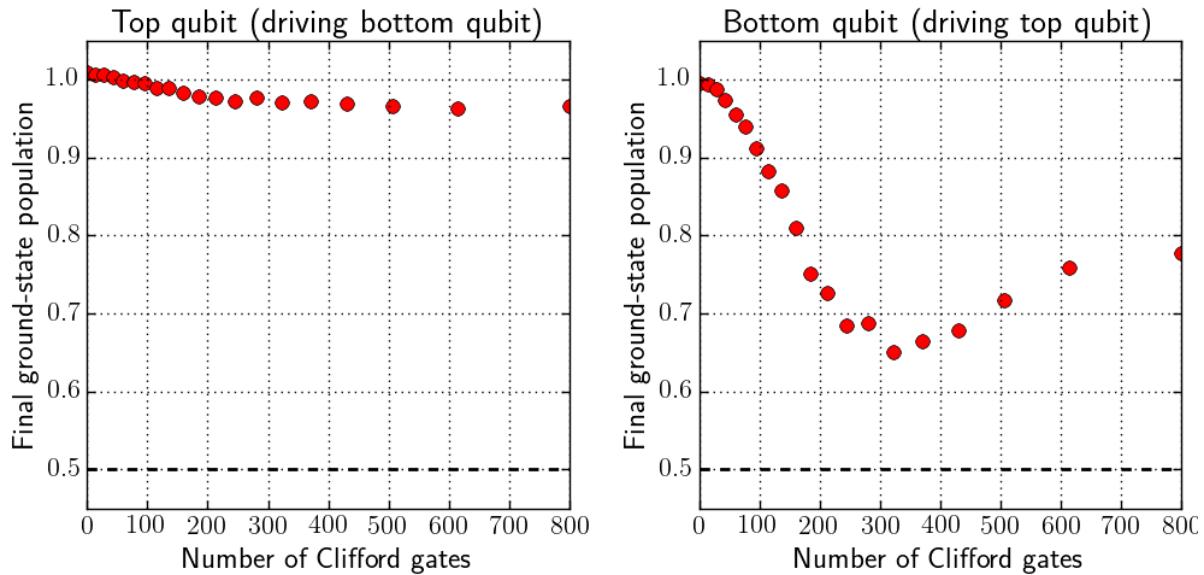
**Figure 9.4:** Randomized benchmarking results when driving a single qubit versus driving both qubits simultaneously. As can be seen there is no noticeable difference between driving only one qubit versus driving both qubits simultaneously. A total of 50 different seeds were used. T1 limits are calculated using Equation 9.3.

## 9.4 SINGLE QUBIT RANDOMIZED BENCHMARKING

### 9.4.1 Driving a single qubit versus driving both qubits

After tuning up the top and bottom qubit using the calibration methods explained in Chapter 7, their performance was determined using randomized benchmarking. To test whether the performance of the qubits change when driving only a single qubit or when simultaneously driving both qubits using the Duplexer, randomized benchmarking was performed in both cases. A total of 50 seeds were used for randomized benchmarking. For each seed 20 different number of Cliffords  $n$  are used, varying between  $n = 0$  and  $n = 800$ , with exponentially separated points. Re-calibration of the drive amplitude and top qubit frequency was performed every 5 seeds to correct for small fluctuations in time. Pulses of 16 ns were used, with 4 ns buffer between pulses. For 800 Cliffords this corresponds to a duration of 30  $\mu$ s.

The randomized benchmarking results when driving only a single qubit or when driving both qubits simultaneously are shown in Figure 9.4. As the number of Cliffords is increased, the ground-state population exponentially approaches the limiting value of 0.5. The performance of both qubits reaches 99.9% gate fidelity, and the performance of the bottom qubit is considerably better than that of the top qubit. This can be expected, as the relaxation time and the dephasing time of the top qubit ( $T_1 = 8.7\mu\text{s}$ ,  $T_2^* = 4.7\mu\text{s}$ ) is lower than that of the bottom qubit ( $T_1 = 11.1\mu\text{s}$ ,  $T_2^* = 12.5\mu\text{s}$ ). Nevertheless, the gate fidelities of both qubits are still close to the limit imposed by  $T_1$  (see Figure 9.4). This shows that the qubit performance is mainly limited by its coherence times, and not by the instruments including the AWG and



**Figure 9.5:** Excitation in qubit when only the other qubit is driven during randomized benchmarking. This effect is mostly due to cross-driving and is considerably stronger for the top qubit than for the bottom qubit.

Duplexer.

In Figure 9.4 it can furthermore be seen that there is no discernible difference in qubit performance between driving a single qubit and driving both qubits simultaneously. This indicates that cross-driving and cross-coupling effects do not affect the qubit performance during randomized benchmarking. Figure 9.5, however, shows the ground-state population during randomized benchmarking when only the other qubit is driven. This should ideally be unity irrespective of the number of Cliffords applied, but one can see that application of pulses on one qubit also affects the state of the qubit not being driven. The excitation of the qubit not being driven may be due to cross-coupling, or due to cross-driving, or a combination of the two effects. This effect is much stronger when driving the top qubit and measuring the bottom qubit than the other way around. This is in agreement with the cross-driving measurements in Section 8.3, indicating that the effect is mainly due to cross-driving, and not cross-coupling. Furthermore, the period of the excitation swap was previously found to be equal to  $J^{-1} \approx 14\mu\text{s}$ , whereas the duration of the longest pulse sequence, corresponding to  $n = 800$  Cliffords, is equal to  $30\mu\text{s}$ . Cross-coupling effects should not depend on which qubit is being driven, and so the fact that the top qubit is not excited much, even after  $n = 800$  Cliffords, places an upper bound on the cross-coupling effects. This further supports the claim that the main source of the undriven qubit's excitation is due to cross-driving.

#### 9.4.2 Second-state leakage

The exponential fits to the single qubit randomized benchmarking measurements show that the asymptote of the exponential curve actually lies slightly below a ground-state population

of 0.5. This is in contrast to expectation, as in the limiting case in randomized benchmarking, where all information about the qubit is lost, a measurement of the qubit should result in the qubit being found with equal probability in the ground-state and in the excited-state. One possible explanation for this deviation from 0.5 is that during the randomized benchmarking sequence the qubit experiences leakage to the second excited-state, which would shift the measured signal.

To test whether the exponential curve not saturating at 0.5 is indeed due to leakage, an identical randomized benchmarking measurement set has been performed using the same 50 seeds. At the end of each Clifford sequence a final pi pulse is applied. The result is that the final ground-state and excited-state populations are swapped. In this case the final state should therefore ideally be the excited-state.

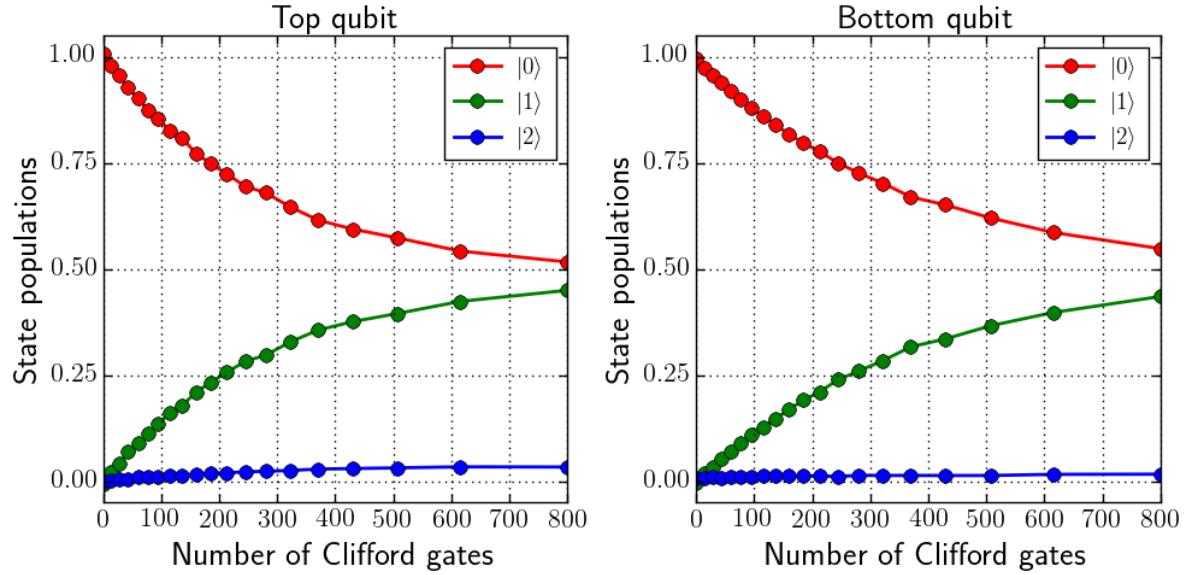
If we assume there is no further leakage into states higher than the second-excited state, these two measurements result in the following set of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} p_0 V_0 + p_1 V_1 + p_2 V_2 &= S_0 \\ p_1 V_1 + p_0 V_0 + p_2 V_2 &= S_1 \\ p_0 + p_1 + p_2 &= 1 \end{aligned} \tag{9.4}$$

where  $p_i$  is the final population of state  $|i\rangle$ ,  $V_i$  is the measured signal corresponding to state  $|i\rangle$ , and  $S_i$  is the signal measured for a fixed number of Cliffords  $n$  where the qubit's final state should ideally be  $|i\rangle$ . If the signals corresponding to all three states are known, the three populations can be extracted (see Appendix D.2.3 for details).

Using the methods explained in Section 6.2.5, the signal  $V_2$  of the second-excited state has been measured and added as a calibration point to the randomized benchmarking sequence. With knowledge of the signals corresponding to all three states, the populations of the first three states of the qubits during randomized benchmarking have been determined. The results are shown in Figure 9.6. As can be seen there is indeed a small amount of leakage present. The leakage rate is higher for the top qubit than for the bottom qubit. Increasing the pulse length would result in a smaller frequency bandwidth, and is therefore expected to lower the leakage rate. This has, however, not yet been tested.

- Mention that drag can be optimized for leakage, although this would result in a higher gate error



**Figure 9.6:** The populations of the first three states of the qubit during randomized benchmarking. Populations are extracted by comparing randomized benchmarking results with and without a final pi pulse (see Appendix D.2.3). As can be seen, both qubits suffer from a small amount of leakage to the second excited-state. The leakage rate for the top qubit is higher than for the bottom qubit.

## 9.5 INTERLEAVED RANDOMIZED BENCHMARKING

## 9.6 SECOND EXCITED STATE

# **Chapter 10**

## **Conclusions and outlook**

# **Appendices**

# Appendix A

## Noise

When performing measurements one is faced with the reality that no component is ideal. When a signal passes through the different parts of a set-up, noise is constantly being added. Noise is the term given for all the random fluctuations that are added to the signal. These fluctuations are the cumulative result of several noise source contributions.

Thermal noise is one of the most common sources of noise. It is the result of the random thermal fluctuations of electrons. It is an example of frequency-independent noise, also known as white noise. Noise sources can also be frequency-dependent, such as TLS, as discussed in Chapter ???. This is an example of  $1/f$ -noise: the amount of noise added increases with decreasing frequency. In fact, truly frequency-independent noise does not exist, as even white noise has been observed to decrease at extremely high frequencies ( $\sim 10^{15}$  Hz). At these frequencies a quantum correction needs to be added [18, p50].

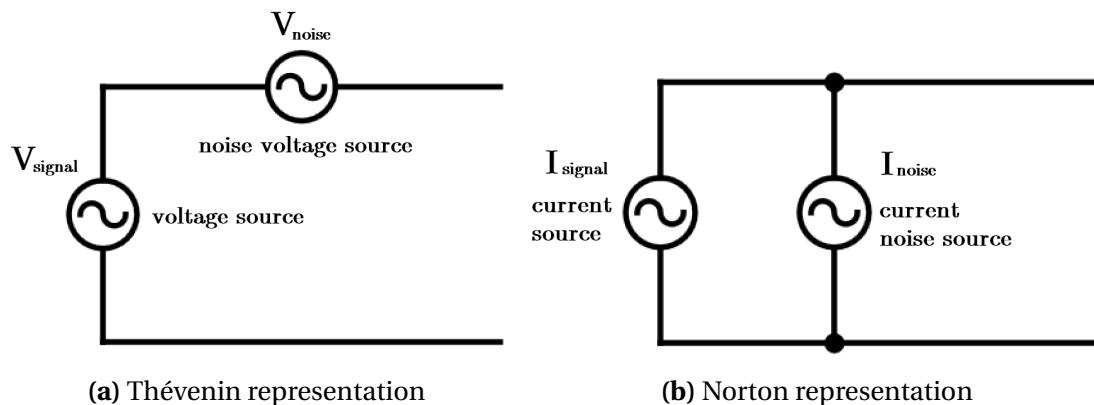
When performing measurements one important question to ask is how much noise is being contributed to the signal. In this chapter a model is presented for the general set-up used for measuring superconducting resonators and qubits. Using this model it is possible to characterize the amount of noise by determining its associated noise temperature. Finally, this model is applied to the set-up used to characterize the resonators presented in Chapter ??.

### A.1 CHARACTERIZING NOISE

#### A.1.1 Circuit representations

There are two circuit representations in which we can depict a system with a noise contribution: The Thévenin representation, and the Norton representation. In the Thévenin representation we can model the system as a voltage source, and the noise added to the system is a noise voltage source connected in series. In the Norton representation the system is a current source and the noise added is a noise current source connected in parallel to the current source. These two representations are identical and can be converted to each other. In this section we will adopt the Thévenin representation, and so the signal will be a voltage source combined in series with a noise voltage source.

Assuming the signal to be at a fixed frequency  $\omega$  and amplitude  $A$ , the combined voltage



**Figure A.1:** Two equivalent representations of a system containing noise. Panel **(a)** shows the Thévenin representation, in which a noiseless voltage source is connected in series with a noise voltage source. Panel **(b)** shows the Norton representation, in which a noiseless current source is connected in parallel with a noise current source.

$v(t)$  is then given by:

$$v(t) = v_{\text{signal}}(t) + v_{\text{noise}}(t) = A \cos \omega t + v_n(t) \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Note that the mean value of the noise voltage  $\bar{v}_n$  is equal to zero. The amount of noise can be quantified by the root-mean square noise voltage  $v_n^{\text{rms}}$ :

$$v_n^{rms} = \sqrt{v^2 - \bar{v}^2} = \sqrt{\bar{v}_n^2} \quad (A.2)$$

### A.1.2 Noise power spectral density

One way of quantifying the noise of the system is through the noise power spectral density  $S(f)$ , which is the distribution of noise power per unit bandwidth as a function of frequency. For the Thévenin representation, the noise spectral density is defined in terms of voltage. When the only noise in the system is white noise, the spectral density is independent of frequency. It is then given by:

$$S = \frac{\overline{v_n^2}}{\Delta f} \quad [V^2/Hz] \quad (A.3)$$

In this equation  $\Delta f$  is the noise bandwidth. This is the bandwidth over which the noise is measured.

## A.2 THE MODEL

As shown in the schematic in Figure A.2, we can model our set-up as a combination of four elements:

1. A noise source.
2. An amplifier to amplify the weak signal exiting the fridge.
3. A mixer to downconvert the signal.
4. A low-pass filter to remove unwanted high-frequency signal.

### A.2.1 Noise source

Using the Thévenin model, we can approximate the components up to the first amplifier in the fridge as a voltage source, with a noise voltage source connected in series.

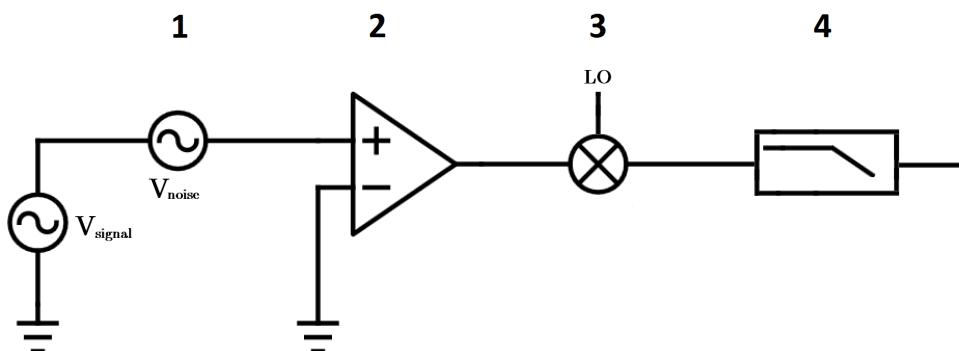
We can include the noise added by the amplifier in the noise voltage source, in which case we assume the amplifier to be ideal. Furthermore, we assume the signal to be amplified sufficiently, such that the mixer and low-pass filter add a negligible amount of noise. We also ignore effect such as mixer leakage. With these assumptions all of the noise is originated from the noise voltage source.

We can associate an effective noise temperature to the noise voltage source. The noise temperature is defined as the temperature at which a resistor would produce an equal amount of noise. Note that, since we are comparing the system to a resistor, the noise needs to have an (approximately) white spectrum.

According to Nyquist's theorem [18, p47], if the system experiences white noise, and is in thermal equilibrium, the root-mean square noise voltage  $v_n^{rms}$  is given by:

$$v_n^{rms} = \sqrt{v_n^2} = 4k_B T R \Delta f \quad (\text{A.4})$$

In this equation  $\Delta f$  is the bandwidth over which the noise is integrated,  $k_B$  is the Boltzmann constant,  $T$  is the noise temperature of the noise source, and  $R$  is the impedance of



**Figure A.2:** Schematic representation of the measurement set-up including a noise source.

the system. We see that the noise added depends linearly on the bandwidth over which is integrated.

Combining Equations A.3 and A.4, the noise power spectral density  $S_{V_n}$  can be rewritten as:

$$S = \frac{\overline{v_n^2}}{\Delta f} = 4k_B T R \quad (\text{A.5})$$

### A.2.2 Amplification

During the amplification stage both the signal and the noise is amplified by the same amount. This amount of amplification is determined by the gain  $G$ , which is defined as the ratio between the output voltage and the input voltage:

$$G = \frac{v_{\text{out}}}{v_{\text{in}}} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

According to the maximum power transfer theorem, the maximum power transfer between a source and load occurs when the impedances of source and load are matched, in which case half of the power is transferred. From this it follows that in the amplification process half of the signal is dissipated. However, as  $G$  is defined as the ratio between  $v_{\text{out}}$  and  $v_{\text{in}}$  (Equation A.6), the factor  $\frac{1}{2}$  is included in  $G$ .

During amplification not only the signal is amplified with gain  $G$ : the noise is amplified by the same amount. Defining the noise power spectral density before amplification as  $S^{\text{in}}$ , and after amplification as  $S^{\text{out}}$ , the following relation holds:

$$S^{\text{out}} = G^2 S^{\text{in}} = G^2 4k_B T R \quad (\text{A.7})$$

Note that in Equation A.7, the gain  $G$  is squared. This is due to the fact that the noise power spectral density depends quadratically on the root-mean square noise voltage (Equation A.3).

In our actual set-up the amplification occurs in multiple stages. Aside from amplifying the signal and its noise, at each stage additional noise, originating from the amplifier itself, is added as well. This added noise is then also amplified in the next amplification stage. Therefore it is always best to have the amplifier with highest gain and lowest noise temperature as the first amplifier in the chain. For more information see Friis formula [18, p103].

### A.2.3 Downconversion

After amplification the frequency  $\omega$  of the signal is still in the GHz range. In homodyne or heterodyne detection the signal is downconverted to DC (homodyne) or to a lower frequency (heterodyne), such that it can be measured more easily. To downconvert the signal, it is mixed in a mixer with a local oscillator (LO) signal having the same frequency  $\omega$  (homodyne) or a slightly higher frequency  $\omega + \Delta\omega$  (heterodyne). The mixer effectively multiplies the two signals. If the signal exiting the amplifier is given by  $v(t) = A \cos \omega t$ , then, ignoring a possible phase difference, the signal at the output of the mixer is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} v(t) \cdot \cos \omega t &= A \cos \omega t \cdot \cos(\omega + \Delta\omega) t \\ &= \frac{1}{2} A [\cos(2\omega + \Delta\omega)t + \cos \Delta\omega t] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.8})$$

As can be seen from Equation A.8, the output signal contains both the sum and the difference of the two signals. However, as the sum of both frequencies is in the GHz range, it can be filtered out using a low-pass filter, leaving only the downconverted signal, which is the result of the difference between the two frequencies. Note that the amplitude of the signal is reduced by a factor two. The noise amplitude is also reduced by a factor 2. Furthermore, in the case of a homodyne set-up, the difference signal is simply a DC signal ( $\Delta\omega = 0$ ), while in the case of heterodyne the signal still contains a slow frequency  $\Delta\omega$ . For simplification we assume our set-up to be a homodyne set-up, although the result is similar in the case of a heterodyne set-up.

#### A.2.4 Low-pass filtering

In the case of homodyne detection the signal at the frequency of interest is downconverted to DC. However, the signal at other frequencies have not disappeared; in the mixer these have also shifted in frequency. Since the signal of interest is at DC, a low-pass filter can be used to filter out signal above a certain frequency.

The frequency above which a low-pass filter will filter out the signal is defined by its cut-off frequency  $f_c$ . The cut-off frequency  $f_c$  is the frequency at which the signal is attenuated by 3 dB. For first-order low-pass filters the noise bandwidth  $\Delta f$  is related to the filter cut-off frequency  $f_c$  by [18, p81]:

$$\Delta f = \frac{\pi}{2} f_c \quad (\text{A.9})$$

### A.3 NOISE TEMPERATURE

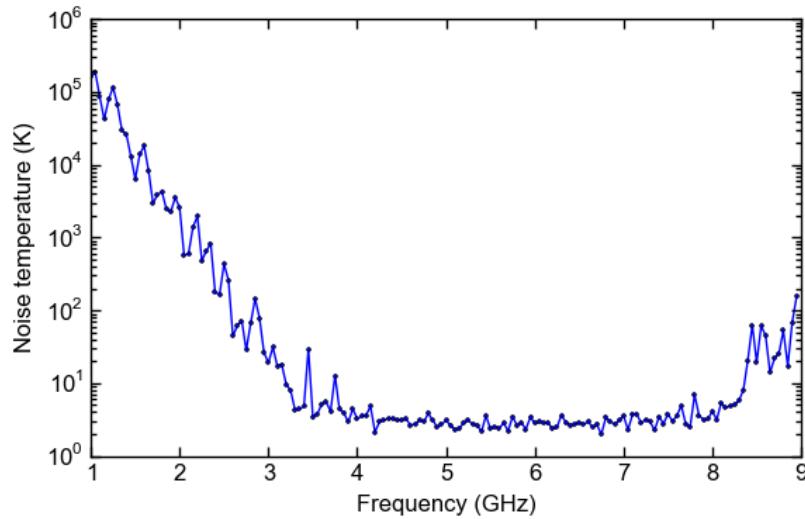
In the previous sections the influence of each of the components on the signal and on the noise has been analyzed. Using this information it is possible to determine the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), which is the ratio between the average power of the signal and the average power of the noise. The SNR is a measure for how well a signal can be separated from the noise, and is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SNR} &= \frac{\overline{v_{\text{out}}^2}}{\overline{v_n^2}} = \frac{1/4 G^2 \overline{v_{\text{in}}^2}}{S_{v_n}^{\text{out}} \Delta f} \\ &= \frac{1/4 G^2 \overline{v_{\text{in}}^2}}{G^2 S_{v_n}^{\text{in}} \frac{\pi}{2} f_c} \\ &= \frac{\overline{v_{\text{in}}^2}}{2 \pi k_B T R f_c} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.10})$$

Note that the factor 1/4 is because the amplitude is lowered by a factor of 2 due to mixing. Equation A.10 can be rewritten such that we have an expression for the noise temperature of the system:

$$T = \frac{\overline{V_{in}}^2}{2 \pi k_B R f_c \text{SNR}} \quad (\text{A.11})$$

## A.4 RESULTS

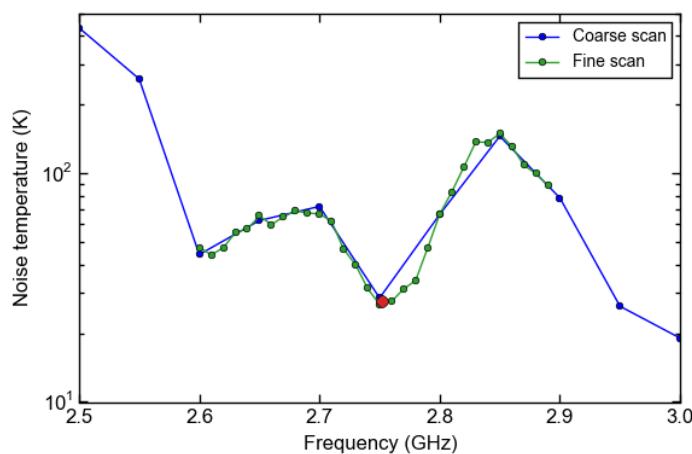


**Figure A.3:** Noise temperature versus frequency. The noise temperature has been calculated for 160 frequencies in the range 1–9 GHz. For each frequency 2001 points were measured, from which the signal, noise, SNR, and noise temperature was determined. Measurements were performed at an input power of  $-113$  dBm and an IF bandwidth of  $\Delta f = 300$  Hz.

Using the Rhode & Schwarz ZVM vector network analyzer, The transmission has been measured for 160 equidistant frequencies in the range 1–9 GHz. For each frequency a total of 2001 points was measured with an IF bandwidth  $\Delta f = 300$  Hz. From these measurements the signal-to-noise ratio has been determined for each frequency. With knowledge of the SNR, the noise temperature has then been determined as a function of frequency using Equation A.11 . The result is shown in Figure A.3.

From Figure A.3 it is clear that the noise temperature is highly temperature-dependent. In the frequency range 4–8 GHz the noise temperature is quite low, never reaching above 10 K. This is exactly the bandwidth of the cryogenic low-noise amplifier by Low Noise Factory, which is the first amplifier in the amplification chain. From the specifications of the amplifier, the noise temperature of the amplifier has been calculated at an ambient temperature of 8 K, and equals roughly 4 K for the entire bandwidth. Comparing the amplifier specifications with Figure A.3, it is likely that in the frequency range 4–8 GHz the first amplifier is the component contributing most to the total noise temperature.

Outside the 4–8 GHz frequency band, however, the noise temperature rapidly increases. This is partly due to the frequency lying outside of the bandwidth of the amplifier, in which case the amplification will be lower. However, this is not an adequate explanation for the fact that the noise temperature increases to several hundred thousand Kelvin. The reason for this unrealistic noise temperature is that in our model we did not take into account the noise added by components after the amplifier. While the gain of the amplifier decreases outside its bandwidth, the components after the amplification will still add the same amount of noise. When the gain decreases by a significant amount, the relative contribution of these post-amplification noise sources will increase. Furthermore the assumption that the noise spectrum is white is no longer correct at low frequencies, where  $1/f$  noise starts to contribute.



**Figure A.4:** Detailed scan of noise temperature versus frequency in the range 2.6–2.9 GHz. The resonator with  $f_0 = 2.75$  GHz (red dot) seems to reside at a local minimum of the noise temperature.

From Figure A.3 it can be seen that the noise temperature can vary by a large amount between consecutive points. To determine whether this variation is due to a large uncertainty, or due to the noise temperature actually fluctuating strongly with varying frequency, a more detailed scan has been performed in the frequency region 2.6–2.9 GHz, in which one resonator has a resonance frequency. The result is shown in Figure A.4. As the curve of the detailed scan follows the curve of the coarse scan pretty closely, it can be concluded that the noise temperature of the system in fact fluctuates quite strongly with varying frequency.

Another point of interest is that the resonance frequency of the resonator lies near the local minimum of the noise temperature in that region. This is quite a stroke of luck, as a slightly higher or lower frequency would have resulted in a much higher noise temperature.

## A.5 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The noise temperature gives us an estimate of the noise added to the system. It has been shown that the noise temperature can fluctuate strongly with varying frequency. In the model used to estimate the noise temperature it has been shown that outside the bandwidth of the

amplifier the model breaks down. At this point the noise added by the components after the amplification, and indeed even the amplifiers themselves, needs to be taken into account to obtain accurate estimates of the noise temperature.

However, even outside of the bandwidth of the amplifier, there are frequency regions in which the noise temperature may still be acceptable. It is therefore a good idea to initially perform measurements of the noise temperature of the set-up. This will give an indication of the signal-to-noise ratio, from which accurate estimates can be made as to what the amount of measurement time is needed to obtain a desired SNR.

The noise temperature measurements were performed using the Rhode & Schwarz ZVM vector network analyzer. It would be interesting to see how other measurement set-ups would compare to the vector network analyzer. One interesting candidate would be a heterodyne detector. However, as the vector network analyzer can also measure phase, a fair comparison would also require the heterodyne detector to be able to measure the phase. This heterodyne detector is currently being set up, and will hopefully soon yield interesting results.

Aside from only comparing the noise temperature, other properties are also important when comparing two set-ups. One of these is the duty cycle, which is the percentage of time actually spent measuring. For the vector network analyser the duty cycle seems to be around 50%, provided that a single measurement sweep takes at least a few seconds. Other set-ups may therefore offer an improvement in the duty cycle. Furthermore, properties such as phase stability and uncertainty would also be interesting to compare.

Another interesting measurement would be to see if the noise temperature as a function of frequency remains the same in future cooldowns, and for different samples.

## **Appendix B**

### **Duplexer characterization**

#### **B.1 DUPLEXER ISOLATION**

# **Appendix C**

## **Chip characterization**

### **C.1 QUBIT COHERENCE TIMES VERSUS FREQUENCY**

### **C.2 MUXMON1 COHERENCE TIMES**

### **C.3 MUXMON0 RESONATOR BUSES**

# **Appendix D**

## **Additional notes**

### **D.1 QUBIT CHARACTERIZATION**

#### **D.1.1 Part I: Continuous-wave measurements**

##### **D.1.1.1 Powersweep**

- If the resonator seems to disappear after the transition from dressed frequency to bare frequency (or vice versa), this is likely due to the qubit being extremely close to the resonator, and so the frequency shift is large.

##### **D.1.1.2 Spectroscopy**

- If the deviation in transmission becomes less due to more detuning, increasing the power can also increase the contrast.

#### **D.1.2 Part I: Time-domain measurements**

##### **D.1.2.1 AllXY**

**TODO:**

- Table of AllXY pulses

### **D.2 RANDOMIZED BENCHMARKING**

#### **D.2.1 Clifford gate decomposition**

#### **D.2.2 Individual randomized benchmarking measurements**

#### **D.2.3 Determining population in three states**

If there were no leakage present during randomized benchmarking, the full information about the state populations can be extracted from the randomized benchmarking results. However,

if leakage to the second-excited state is present, the full information about the populations of the three states can be extracted using two versions of randomized benchmarking, one without a final pi pulse, and one with a final pi pulse. The final pi pulse swaps the populations in the ground and excited state. We assume that the population of the second excited-state remains unaffected by this single final pulse.

Using these two randomized benchmarking sequences, two different signals  $S_0$  and  $S_1$  are measured, corresponding to a measurement without a final pi pulse, and a measurement with a final pi pulse, respectively. This leads to the following three equations:

$$\begin{aligned} p_0 V_0 + p_1 V_1 + p_2 V_2 &= S_0 \\ p_1 V_1 + p_0 V_0 + p_2 V_2 &= S_1 \\ p_0 + p_1 + p_2 &= 1 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D.1})$$

where  $p_i$  corresponds to the final population in state  $|i\rangle$ , and  $V_i$  is the signal of state  $|i\rangle$ . Filling in  $p_2 = 1 - p_0 - p_1$  into the first two equations of D.1, we are left with the following set of equations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_0 - V_2 & V_1 - V_2 \\ V_1 - V_2 & V_0 - V_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} S_0 - V_2 \\ S_1 - V_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{D.2})$$

This set of equations can be easily solved by matrix inversion, resulting in the following three populations:

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_0 \\ p_1 \end{bmatrix} = ((V_0 - V_2)^2 - (V_1 - V_2)^2)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} V_0 - V_2 & -V_1 + V_2 \\ -V_1 + V_2 & V_0 + V_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} S_0 - V_2 \\ S_1 - V_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$p_2 = 1 - p_0 - p_1 \quad (\text{D.3})$$

If one has knowledge of all three signals  $V_0$ ,  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  (see Section 6.2.5 for information on measuring  $V_2$ ), the three populations can be obtained using D.3.

# **Appendix E**

## **Algorithms**

### **E.1 TRACKED SPECTROSCOPY**

- Information may lie in amplitude or in phase, or in a combination of the two. For most accurate measure, calculate distance from ground state.

### **E.2 PEAK FINDING**

#### **E.2.1 Normal peak finder**

#### **E.2.2 Derivative peak finder**

### **E.3 COMPILED RB?**

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