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Quantum Zeno Effect in Detection of Itinerant Microwave Photons FERDINAND HELMER, Arnold Sommerfeld Center for Theoretical Physics, Physics Department, Center for NanoScience, Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich, Germany, MATTEO MARIANTONI, Walther Meissner Institut, Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Garching, Germany, ENRIQUE SOLANO, FLO-RIAN MARQUARDT, Arnold Sommerfeld Center for Theoretical Physics, Physics Department, Center for NanoScience, Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich, Germany — We analyze detection of itinerant photons using a QND measurement. We show that the backaction due to the continuous measurement poses a fundamental limit for the fidelity of detection in such a scheme. We illustrate this using a setup where signal photons have to enter a cavity in order to be detected dispersively. The measurement signal in this approach is the phase shift imparted to an intense beam passing through a second cavity mode. The restrictions on the fidelity are a consequence of the Quantum Zeno effect, and we discuss both analytical results and quantum trajectory simulations of the measurement process. Finally, we briefly mention a possible experimental realisation in the context of superconducting circuit QED.

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