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Coupling hybrid quantum systems: from atomic to solid-state qubits¹

JACOB TAYLOR, Joint Quantum Institute/National Institute of Standards and Technology

Controlling and understanding the coupling between different objects lies at the heart of modern quantum mechanics. Limits in our ability to couple and decouple certain objects, such quantum bits in solid-state devices, inevitably translate into fundamental constraints for application of these systems to quantum information science and metrology. However, one can conceive a scenario in which different, disparate objects—hybrid systems—can be used together to overcome these limitations. I will discuss how entangling spins with photons or phonons provides the fundamental building block for any such hybrid system, and enables both quantum communication and quantum computation. Specific examples such as circuit-QED devices coupled to atoms and superconducting quantum bits coupled to spins will be considered.

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