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Single Electron Spin in Interacting Nuclear Spin Bath — Coherence Loss and Restoration

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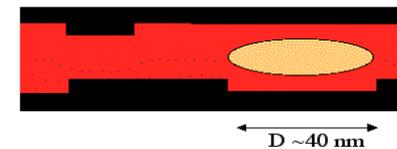
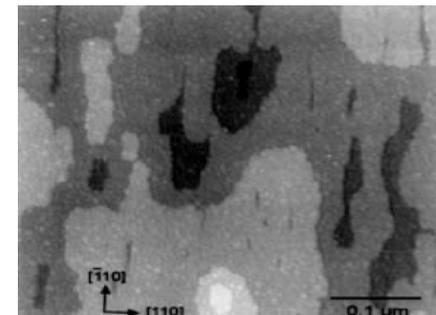
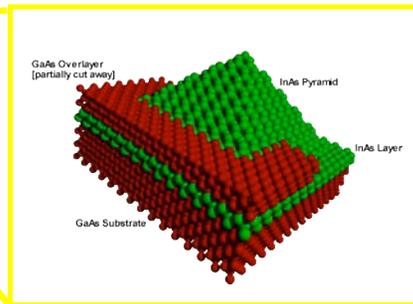
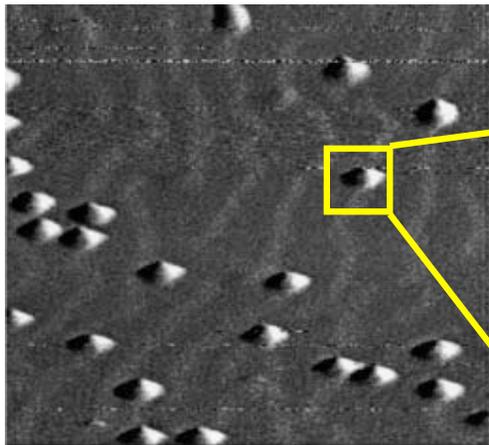


Issues and Problems

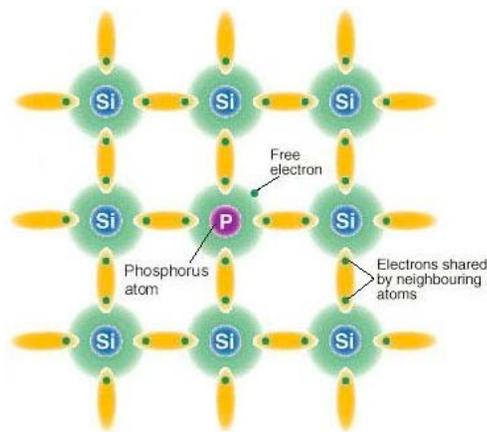
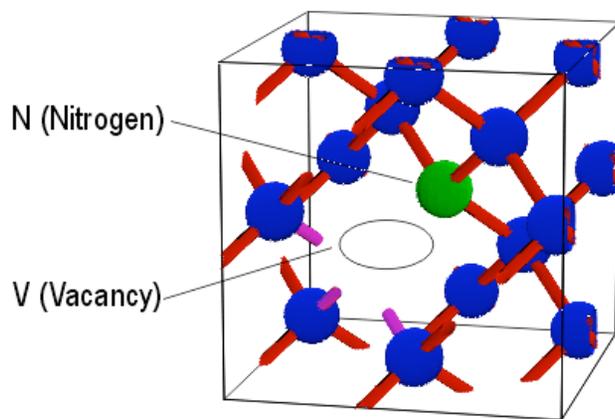
- ♦ Single spin in solids: decoherence and coherence protection

Single electrons localized in solids

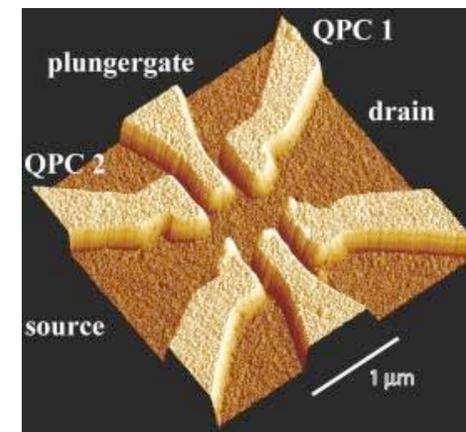
By quantum dot



By impurities



By electrical gate



Issues and Problems

- ♦ Single spin in solids: decoherence and coherence protection
- ♦ A 2-level system + many interacting bath spins

Theory of the spin bath

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Abstract

The quantum dynamics of mesoscopic or macroscopic systems is always complicated by their coupling to many 'environmental' modes. At low T these environmental effects are dominated by *localized* modes, such as nuclear and paramagnetic spins, and defects (which also dominate the entropy and specific heat). This environment, at low energies, maps onto a 'spin bath' model. This contrasts with 'oscillator bath' models (originated by Feynman and Vernon) which describe *delocalized* environmental modes such as electrons, phonons, photons, magnons, etc. The couplings to N spin bath modes are *independent* of N (rather than the $\sim O(1/\sqrt{N})$ dependence typical of oscillator baths), and often strong. One cannot in general map a spin bath to an oscillator bath (or vice versa); they constitute distinct 'universality classes' of quantum environment.

Theories antecedent on spin bath

Spectral diffusion theory

- Herzog & Hahn, PR 56", Klauder & Anderson, PR 61", semi-classical theory

Electron nuclear hyperfine interaction

- Schulten & Wolynes, J. Chem. Phys., 78" -frozen nuclear configuration
- Merkulov, Efros & Rosen, PRB 02"
- Khaetskii, Loss & Glazman, PRL 02", Coish & Loss, PRB 04"
- Schliemann, Khaetskii & Loss, PRB 02" - sys-bath entanglement
- Shenvi, De Sousa & Whaley, PRB 05" - small environment ~10 nuclei

Nuclear dipolar interaction plus diagonal e-n hyperfine coupling

- De Sousa & Das Sarma, PRB 03" - semiclassical stochastic solution
- De Sousa, Shenvi & Whaley, PRB 05" -semiclassical theory
- Witzel, De Sousa & Das Sarma, PRB 05" - ensemble study

Other low energy modes mapped to spin bath

- Prokov'ef & Stamp, Rep. Prog. Phys. 00" - magnets and superconducting systems

Sorry, not an exhaustive list.

Issues and Problems

- ♦ Single spin in solids: decoherence and coherence protection
- ♦ A 2-level system + many interacting bath spins
- ♦ Single electron in III-V semiconductor quantum dot

Spin decoherence in QD: Phonon Vs. Nuclei

Decoherence by phonon scattering

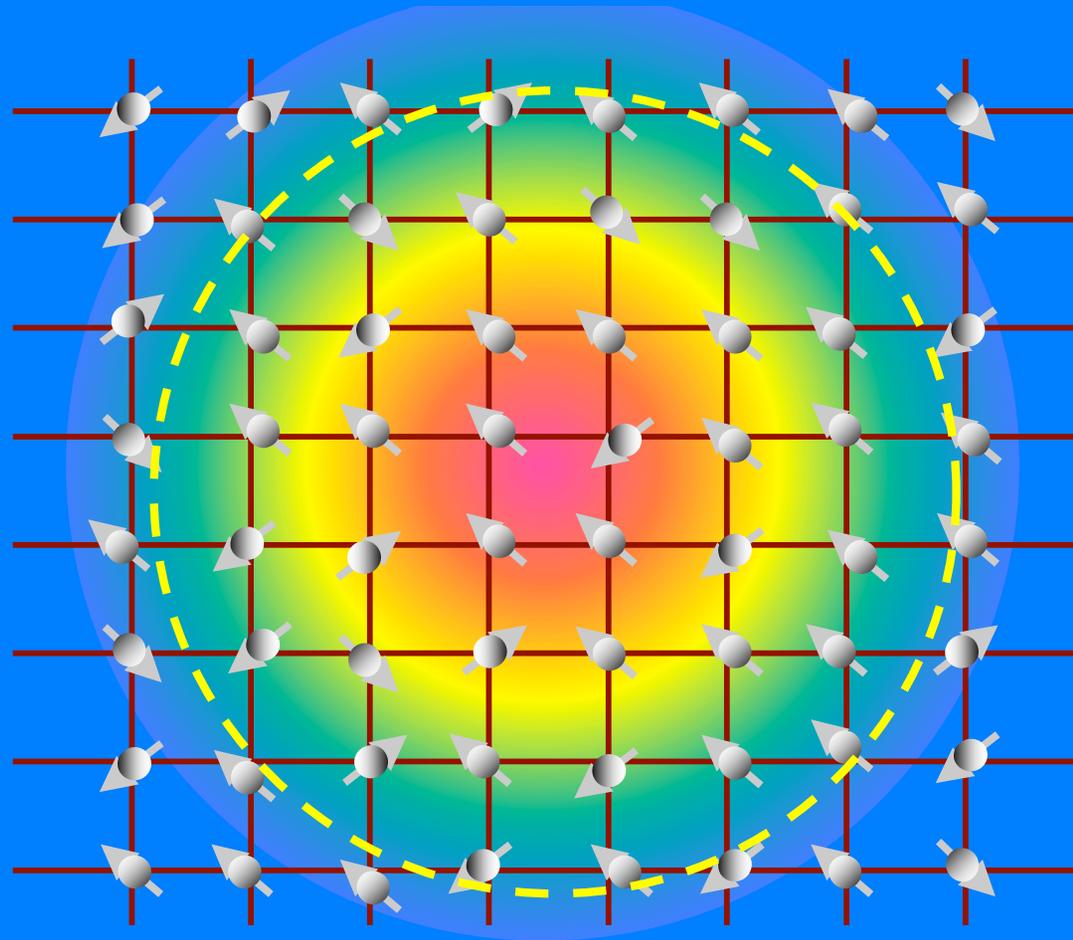
- Spin relaxation $T_1 \sim \text{ms} - \text{s}$, at $\sim \text{K}$ in QD
theories (Khaetskii and Nazarov; Woods, Reinecke and Lyanda-Gella);
experiments (Tarucha group; Kouwenhoven group; Finley group; Steel group)
- Pure dephasing suppressed at low-temp
theoretical estimation: $T_2 = 2T_1$ @ $\sim \text{K}$ and below
(Golovach, Khaetskii and Loss, PRL 04'; Semenov & Kim, PRL 04')

Spin transverse decoherence time from exp

- Single spin T_2 ? not measurable with current capability
- $T_2^* \sim 1-10 \text{ ns} \gg T_1$ gated dot in GaAs, SAD
- $T_H \sim 1.2 \mu\text{s} \gg T_1$ gated dot in GaAs (Petta *ea.*, Koppens *ea.*)

Nuclear spin is the dominant cause for transverse decoherence at low temp.

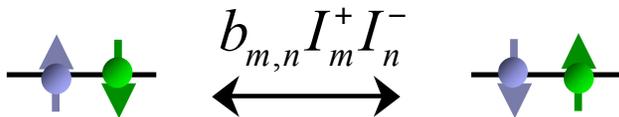
Electron spin in a nuclear spin bath



- E-N coupled through *contact* hyperfine interaction
- Mesoscopic size $N \sim 10^6$, *posterior* justification

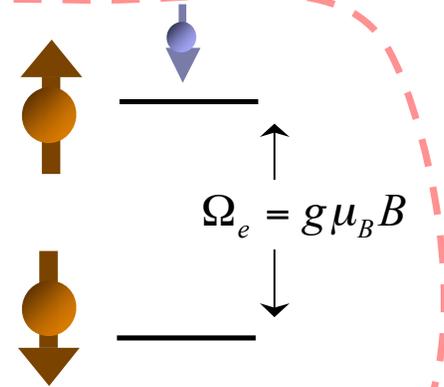
Electron nuclear dynamics

Intrinsic n-n interaction, e.g. dipolar



e-n interaction diagonal

$$a_n S_e^z I_n^z$$



e-n interaction off-diagonal

Dynamical fluctuation of zeeman energy $a_n - a_m \neq 0$

$$a_m S_e^- I_m^+$$

$$a_n S_e^+ I_n^-$$

Inhomogeneous broadening by nuclear field $\rightarrow T_2^*$

$$\frac{a_m a_n}{\Omega_e} S_e^z I_m^+ I_n^-$$

Zeeman energy

V.S.

e-n off-diagonal energy

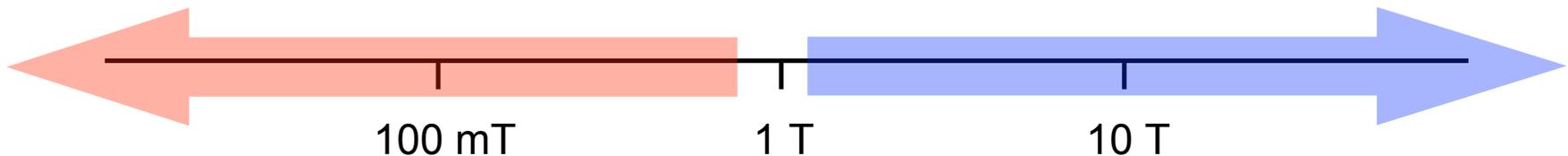
$$g\mu_B B \sim 10 \text{ GHz (1 T)}$$

$$\mathcal{A} \sim 1 \text{ THz}$$

Polarized

$$\mathcal{A}/\sqrt{N} \sim 0.1 - 1 \text{ GHz}$$

Unpolarized



Issues and Problems

- ♦ Single spin in solids: decoherence and coherence protection
- ♦ A 2-level system + many interacting bath spins
- ♦ Single electron in III-V semiconductor quantum dot
 - Low T and high field
 - Pure transverse decoherence ($T_1 \rightarrow \infty$)
 - Mesoscopic nuclear bath, $N \sim 10^6$, unpolarized
 - 1 + N well isolated from the rest universe
- ♦ Quantum mechanical origin of decoherence: entanglement

Decoherence of single quantum system

Zurek, RMP 03"; Schlosshauer, RMP 05"

Pure system state initially factorized environment

$$\rho^e(0) \equiv \text{Tr}[\rho_{tot}] = \left[\begin{array}{c} |\alpha|^2 \langle J^+ | J^+ \rangle \\ \alpha^* \beta \langle J^+ | J^- \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

$$\rho^e(t) = \left[\begin{array}{c} |\alpha|^2 \langle J^+ | J^+ \rangle \\ \alpha^* \beta \langle J^+ | J^- \rangle \end{array} \right]$$

$$(\alpha|+\rangle + \beta|-\rangle) \otimes |J\rangle$$

$$\alpha|+\rangle \otimes |J^+(t)\rangle$$

$$\beta|-\rangle \otimes |J^-(t)\rangle$$

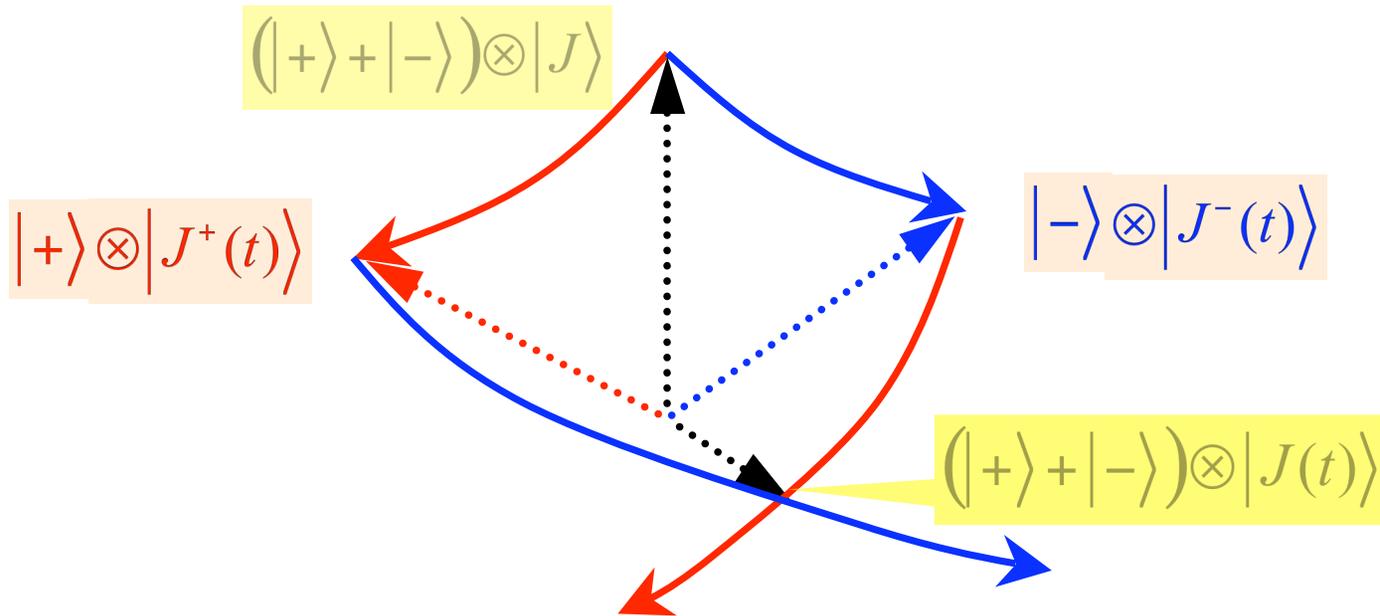
- Bath dynamics conditioned on system states
- Bath state bifurcates in the Hilbert space
- System (which-state) information measured by the bath
- Decoherence: decays of off-diagonal DM element (T_2)

Nuclear correlation func: $\mathcal{L}_{+,-}^s(t) \equiv \langle J^-(t) | J^+(t) \rangle$; $\rho_{+,-}^e(t) = \mathcal{L}_{+,-}^s(t) \rho_{+,-}^e(0)$

Issues and Problems

- ♦ Single spin in solids: decoherence and coherence protection
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- ♦ Quantum mechanical origin of decoherence: entanglement
- ♦ Coherence restoration by disentanglement

Recoherence by disentanglement



- Flip of system states redirects bath evolution
- Bath states intersect in Hilbert space (which-state info erased)
- System disentangled from bath \rightarrow Coherence restored
- Possible in mesoscopic bath: sys+bath isolate from rest universe

Nuclear spin dynamics: pair wise flip-flop

Elementary excitation:

$$|j_1\rangle \cdots |j_n\rangle \cdots |j_m\rangle \cdots |j_N\rangle \xrightarrow[|j_{n+1}\rangle |j_m-1\rangle \langle j_m| \langle j_n|]{k\text{th pair-flip}} |j_1\rangle \cdots |j_n+1\rangle \cdots |j_m-1\rangle \cdots |j_N\rangle$$

Transition amplitudes: $\pm A_k + B_k$ (if e-spin state is $|\pm\rangle$)

Energy cost: $D_k \pm E_k$

A_k Transition amplitude by hyperfine mediated n-n coupling
infinite-range, dominates non-local pair flip-flop

B_k Transition amplitude by intrinsic nuclear coupling
finite-range, dominates local pair flip-flop

D_k Energy cost by diagonal nuclear couplings

E_k Energy cost by hyperfine interaction

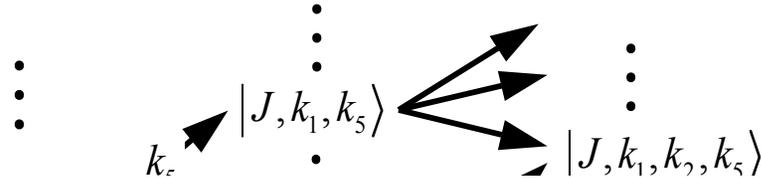
$$E_k = (a_n - a_m) / 2$$

B

Nuclear spin dynamics: pair wise flip-flop

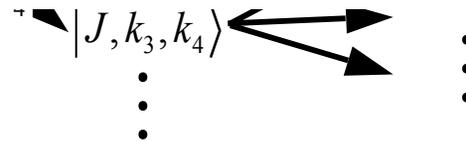
Hierarchy of dynamics:

1 excitation



In time scale of interest, the number of nuclear pair-flip excitations is small !

2 excitations

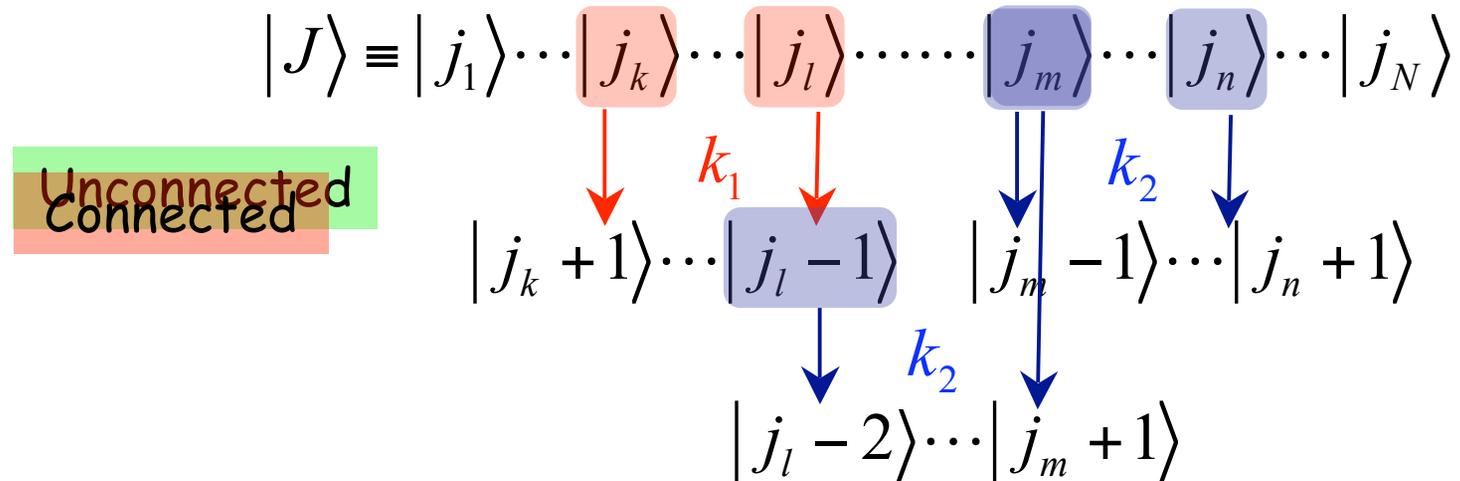


State at time t $\left| J^\pm(t) \right\rangle = C_J^\pm(t) |J\rangle + \sum_{k_1} C_{J,k_1}^\pm(t) |J, k_1\rangle + \sum_{k_1, k_2} C_{J,k_1, k_2}^\pm(t) |J, k_1, k_2\rangle + \dots$

Size of relevant Hilbert space $\sim C_N^{N/4} C_{3N/4}^{N/4} C_{N/2}^{N/4}$

Nuclear spin dynamics: pair wise flip-flop

- Unconnected pair-flips are independent



- Number of nuclear available for flip large
 $\sim N$ ($\sim 10^6$) for typical $|J\rangle$
- Number of flips much smaller than N

$$N_{\text{flip}} = \sum_{k_1} |C_{J,k_1}|^2 + 2 \sum_{k_1, k_2} |C_{J,k_1, k_2}|^2 + 3 \sum_{k_1, k_2, k_3} |C_{J,k_1, k_2, k_3}|^2 + \cdots \ll N$$

- Probability of having connected pair-flips

$$P_{\text{con}} \approx 1 - \exp(-N_{\text{flip}}^2 / N) \ll 1$$

Pair-Correlation-Method

- The two states connected by n-n pair-flip interactions is mapped into one two-state system (k^{th} pseudo-spin).

Flip-pair to pseudo spin:

$$|j_n\rangle|j_m\rangle \Rightarrow |\uparrow\rangle_k, \quad |j_n+1\rangle|j_m-1\rangle \Rightarrow |\downarrow\rangle_k$$

flip-flop of nuclear pair mapped to single pseudo spin flip

Initial state:

$$|J\rangle \Rightarrow \bigotimes_k |\uparrow\rangle_k$$

- The dynamics of the pseudo-spins (pair-flips) is treated independent of each other.

Flip-flop dynamics to pseudo spin rotations:

$$|J^\pm(t)\rangle \Rightarrow \bigotimes_k |\psi_k^\pm\rangle, \quad |\psi_k^\pm\rangle \equiv e^{-i\mathcal{H}_k^\pm t} |\uparrow\rangle_k$$

Nuclear correlation func:

$$\mathcal{L}_{+-}^s(t) = \left| \langle J^-(t) | J^+(t) \rangle \right| = \prod_k \left| \langle \psi_k^-(t) | \psi_k^+(t) \rangle \right|$$

WY, Liu and Sham, PRB 74, 195301, 2006

Pair-Correlation-Method

- Verified from a linked cluster expansion approach.

$$\langle J | T \exp \left(-i \int_0^t V(t') dt' \right) J \rangle = e^{\langle V_2(t) \rangle + \langle V_4(t) \rangle + \dots}$$

Linked diagrams

$$\langle V_2(t) \rangle = \begin{array}{c} j \downarrow \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ i \uparrow \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{time} \rightarrow \end{array}$$

$$\langle V_4(t) \rangle = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \end{array} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \end{array} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \end{array}$$

Independent pseudospin rotations:

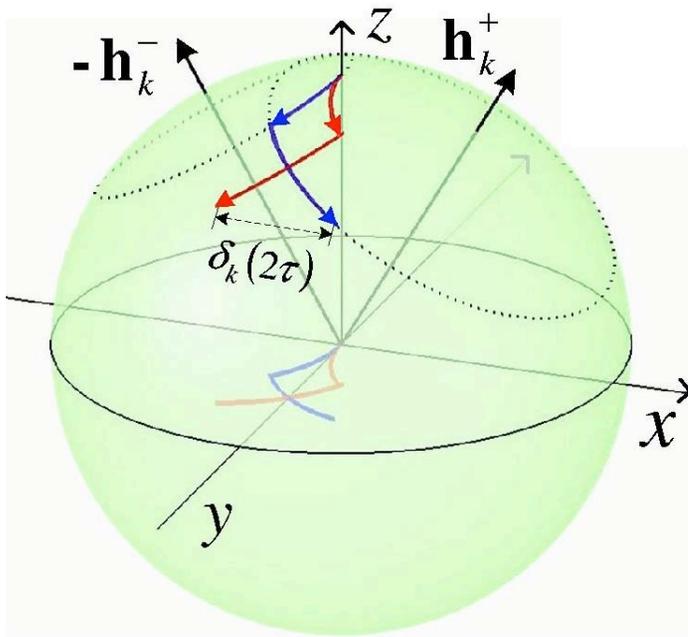
$$e^{\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \end{array}} = 1 + \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \end{array} + (1/2!) \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \end{array} + \dots$$

Saikin, WY and Sham, PRB 75, 125314, 2007

Geometrical picture for decoherence

$$\mathbf{h}_k^\pm = (B_k \pm A_k, 0, D_k \pm E_k) \quad i\partial_t |\psi_k^\pm(t)\rangle = (\mathbf{h}_k^\pm \cdot \hat{\mathbf{o}}_k / 2) |\psi_k^\pm(t)\rangle$$

- Rotation of Bloch vector $\mathbf{S}_k^\pm = \langle \psi_k^\pm(t) | \hat{\mathbf{o}}_k | \psi_k^\pm(t) \rangle$ in effective field \mathbf{h}_k^\pm .
- Distance $\delta_k = |\mathbf{S}_k^+ - \mathbf{S}_k^-| = \sqrt{1 - |\langle \psi_k^-(t) | \psi_k^+(t) \rangle|^2}$ is a direct measure of electron spin coherence.



Two mechanisms for pair-flip

Step 1: sort out all pseudo-spins (flip-pairs) from a given configuration

$$\mathcal{L}_{+,-}^s(t) = \left| \langle J^-(t) | J^+(t) \rangle \right| = \prod_k \left| \langle \psi_k^-(t) | \psi_k^+(t) \rangle \right|$$

Step 2: determine the pseudo-field from 1st-principle interactions

$$\mathbf{h}_k^\pm = (B_k \pm A_k, 0, D_k \pm E_k) \quad i\partial_t |\psi_k^\pm(t)\rangle = (\mathbf{h}_k^\pm \cdot \hat{\mathbf{o}}_k / 2) |\psi_k^\pm(t)\rangle$$

D_k by diagonal nuclear couplings

Non-local pairs: Extrinsic n-n interaction dominant $\square 10^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$

$$\mathbf{h}_k^\pm = (\pm A_k, 0, \pm E_k) \quad \square 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1} \quad \sim N^2 \text{ pairs, magnetic field dependent}$$

by diagonal hyperfine interaction

A_k by extrinsic hyperfine mediated nuclear coupling

Local pairs: Intrinsic n-n interaction dominant

infinite-range, $\propto B^{-1}$, $\square 1-10 \text{ s}^{-1}$ (for $B \sim 40-1 \text{ T}$)

$$\mathbf{h}_k^\pm = (B_k, 0, \pm E_k) \quad \sim N \text{ pairs, no field dependence}$$

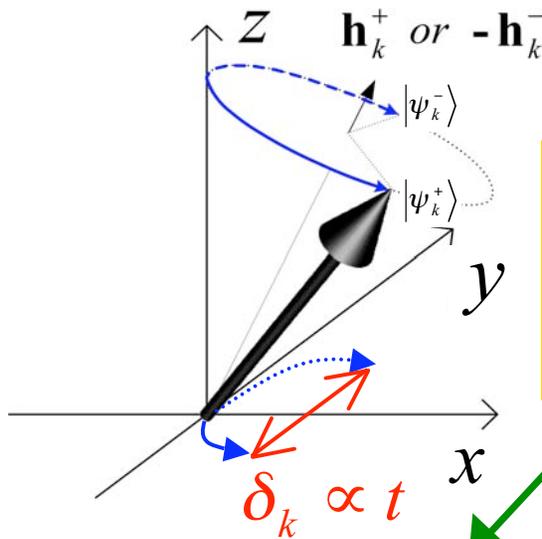
B_k by intrinsic nuclear coupling

finite-range, $\square 10^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for near neighbors

Two mechanisms for pair-flip

Extrinsic n-n interaction

$$\mathbf{h}_k^\pm = (\pm A_k, 0, \pm E_k)$$



$$\mathcal{L}_{+,-}^s(t) = \exp(-t^2 / T_{2,A}^2)$$

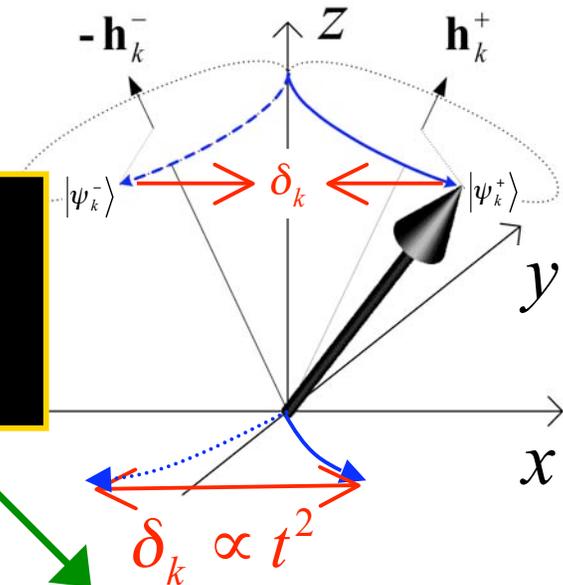
$$T_{2,A} \approx N \Omega_e \mathcal{A}^2$$

N : QD size

Ω_e : electron zeeman energy

Intrinsic n-n interaction

$$\mathbf{h}_k^\pm = (B_k, 0, \pm E_k)$$



$$\mathcal{L}_{+,-}^s(t) = \exp(-t^4 / T_{2,B}^4)$$

$$T_{2,B} \approx N^{1/4} \mathcal{A}^{1/2} b^{-1/2}$$

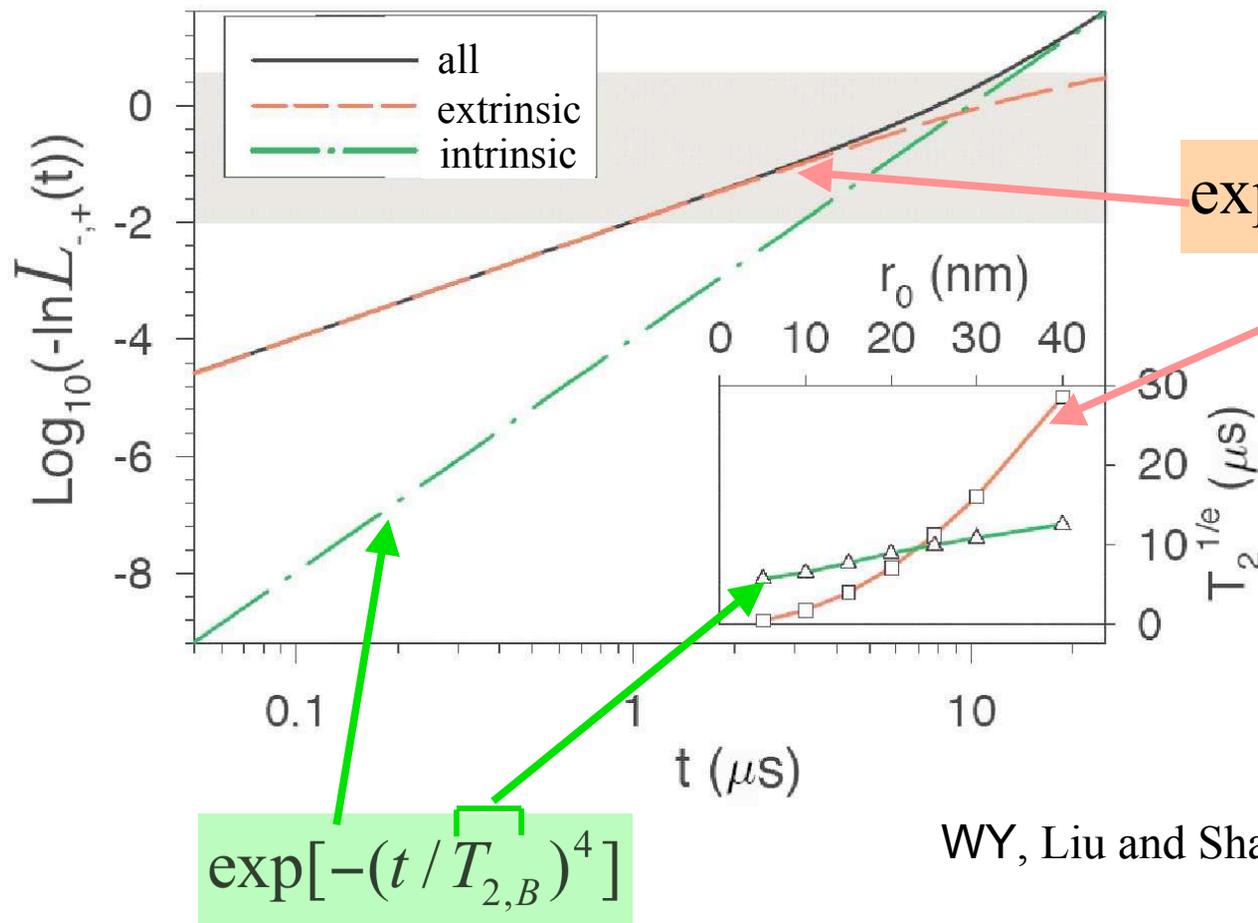
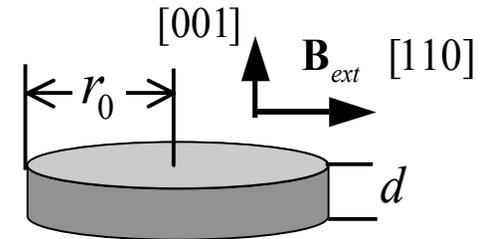
\mathcal{A} : hyperfine constant

b : intrinsic n-n coupling strength

Single spin FID: intrinsic vs extrinsic

Nuclear bath begins on a pure state of random configuration

GaAs, $d=6$ nm, $r_0=25$ nm, $B = 12$ T



Extrinsic interaction dominates small dot

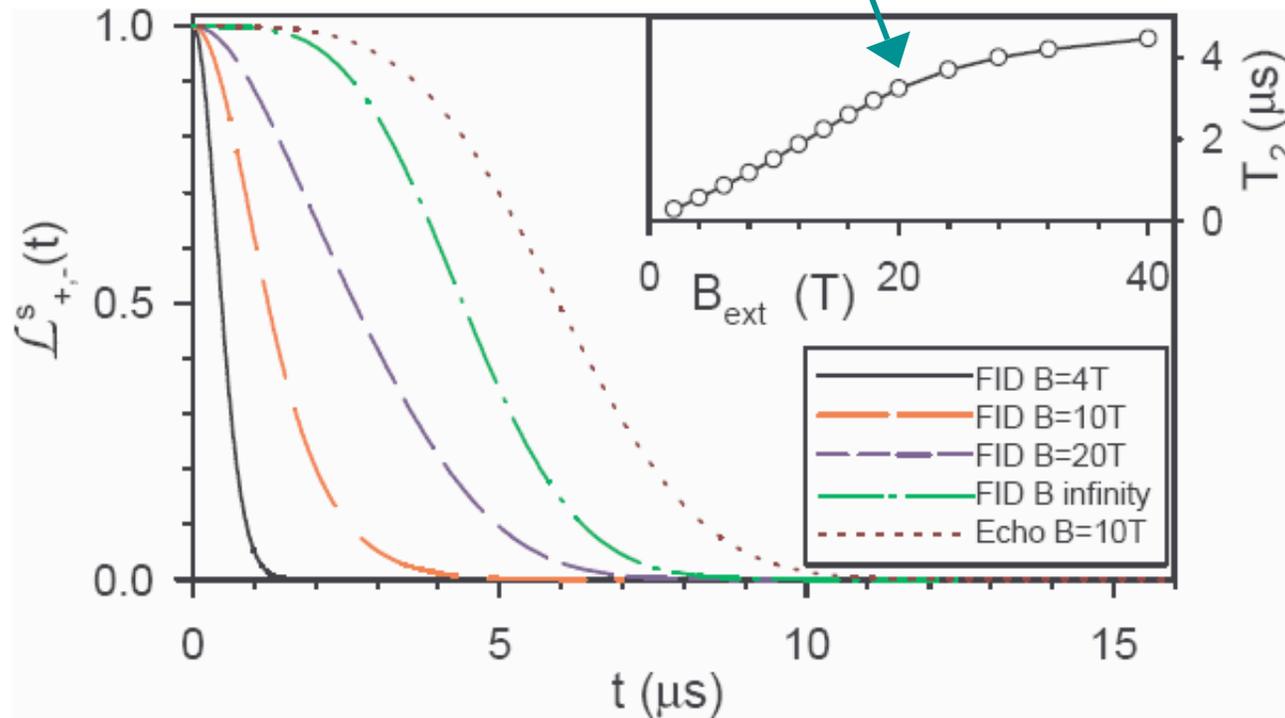
Intrinsic interaction dominates large dot

WY, Liu and Sham, PRB 74, 195301, 2006

Single System FID: field dependence

Nuclear bath begins on a pure state of random configuration

Strong field dependence shows extrinsic n-n interaction important



GaAs

$d=3\text{ nm}$

$r_0=15\text{ nm}$

Ensemble dynamics

Single system (t=0):

$$|\psi^e(0)\rangle \otimes |J\rangle$$

Ensemble (t=0):

$$\rho(0) = \rho^e(0) \otimes \sum_J P_J |J\rangle\langle J|$$

Ensemble correlation function:

nuclear Overhauser field $\mathcal{E}_J = \sum_n a_n j_n$

by the spectrum of flip-pairs of $|J\rangle$

$$\rho_{+,-}^e(t) = \mathcal{L}_{+,-}^{en}(t) \rho_{+,-}^e(0)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{+,-}^{en}(t) = \sum_J P_J e^{-i\mathcal{E}_J t} \left| \langle J^-(t) | J^+(t) \rangle \right|$$

- Number of flip-pairs $M \sim N$ (or N^2) for most $|J\rangle$
- Identical excitation spectrum up to an error of $\propto 1/\sqrt{M}$
- Identical temporal behavior for $\left| \langle J^-(t) | J^+(t) \rangle \right|$

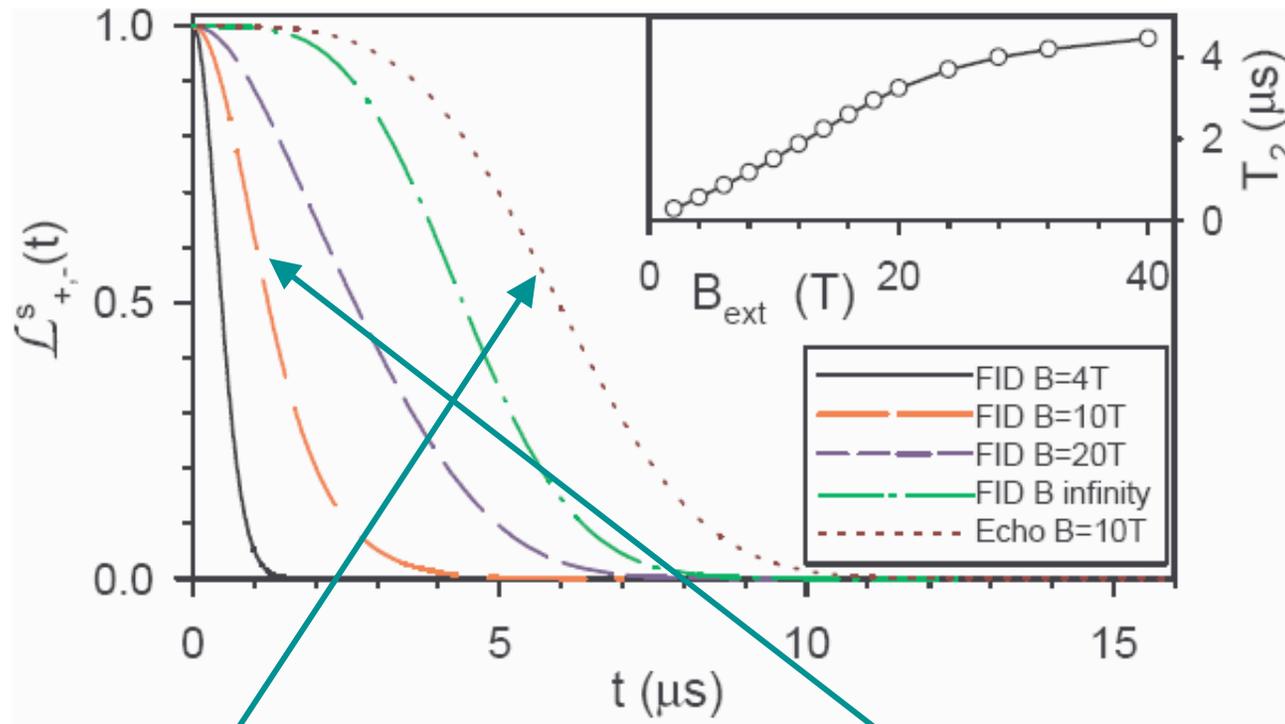
$$\mathcal{L}_{+,-}^{en}(t) = \left| \langle J_0^-(t) | J_0^+(t) \rangle \right| \sum_J P_J e^{-i\mathcal{E}_J t}$$

System-bath entanglement

Inhomogeneous broadening
 $\sum_J P_J e^{-i\mathcal{E}_J t} = e^{-(t/T_2^*)^2}, T_2^* \sim 10 \text{ ns}$

Single System FID and Ensemble Echo

Nuclear bath begins on a pure state of random configuration



GaAs

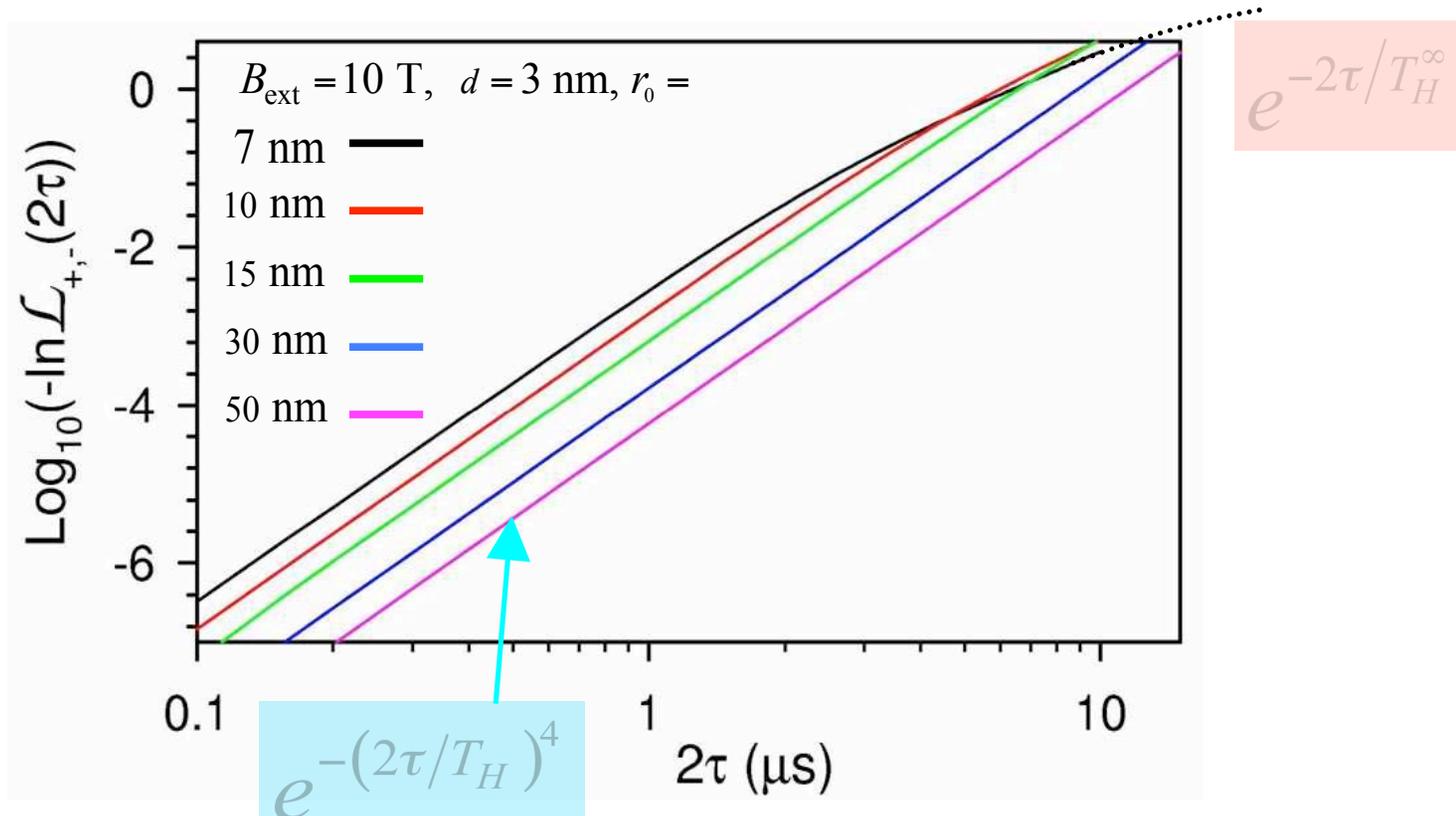
d=3 nm

$r_0=15$ nm

Spin echo (T_H) does NOT measure single spin FID (T_2)

WY, Liu and Sham, PRB 74, 195301, 2006

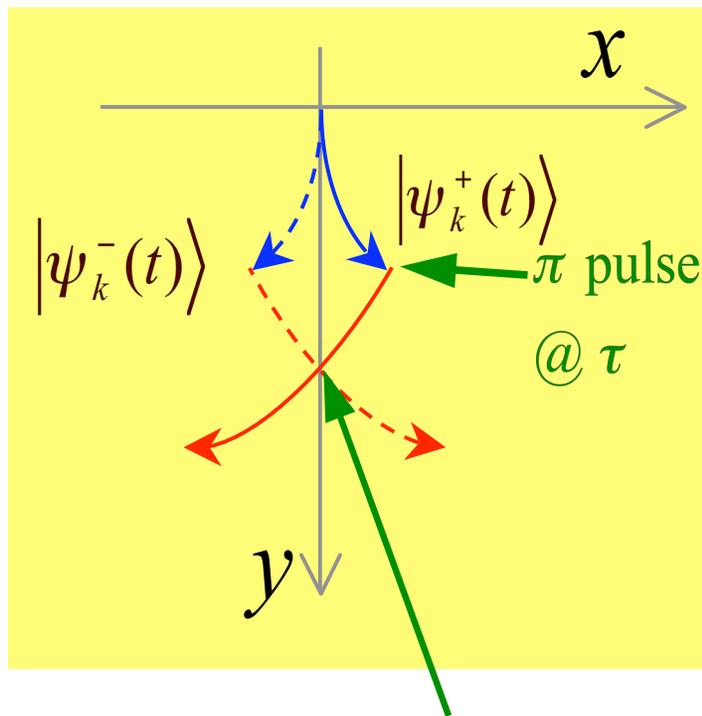
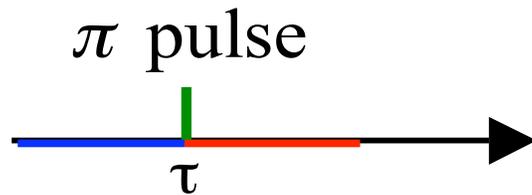
Ensemble Spin Echo



Decoherence due to hyperfine mediated nuclear interactions is removed in spin echo!

(also in simulation with ~10 bath spin, Shenvi, deSousa and Whaley, PRB 05")

Control of Bath Evolution for Disentanglement



Disentanglement

@ $\sqrt{2}\tau$

- Flip of electron redirects evolution of bath
- Pseudo-spin paths re-intersects
- Universally at $\sqrt{2}\tau$ for all pseudo-spins
- System disentangled from bath

$$(\alpha|+\rangle + \beta|-\rangle) \otimes |J(\sqrt{2}\tau)\rangle$$

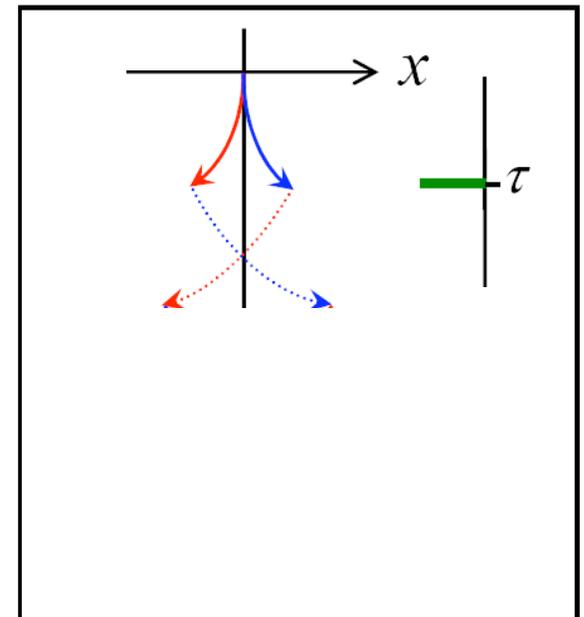
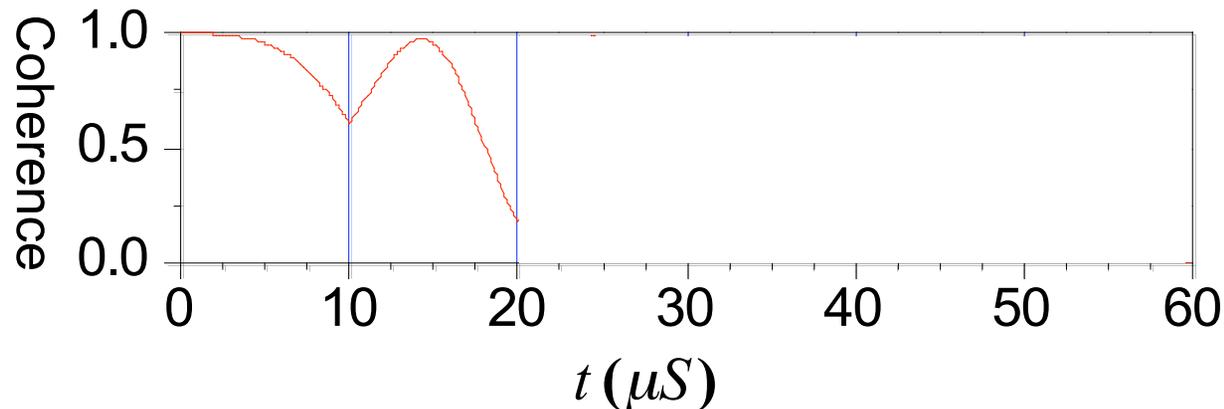
WY, Liu and Sham, PRL 98, 077602, 2007

Liu, WY and Sham, cond-mat/0703690

Coherence Echo in Single System Dynamics

Nuclear bath begins on a pure state of random configuration

$d = 6$ nm, $r_0 = 40$ nm, $B = 10$ T, intrinsic n-n interaction dominant



coherence echo @ $\sqrt{n(n+1)}\tau$

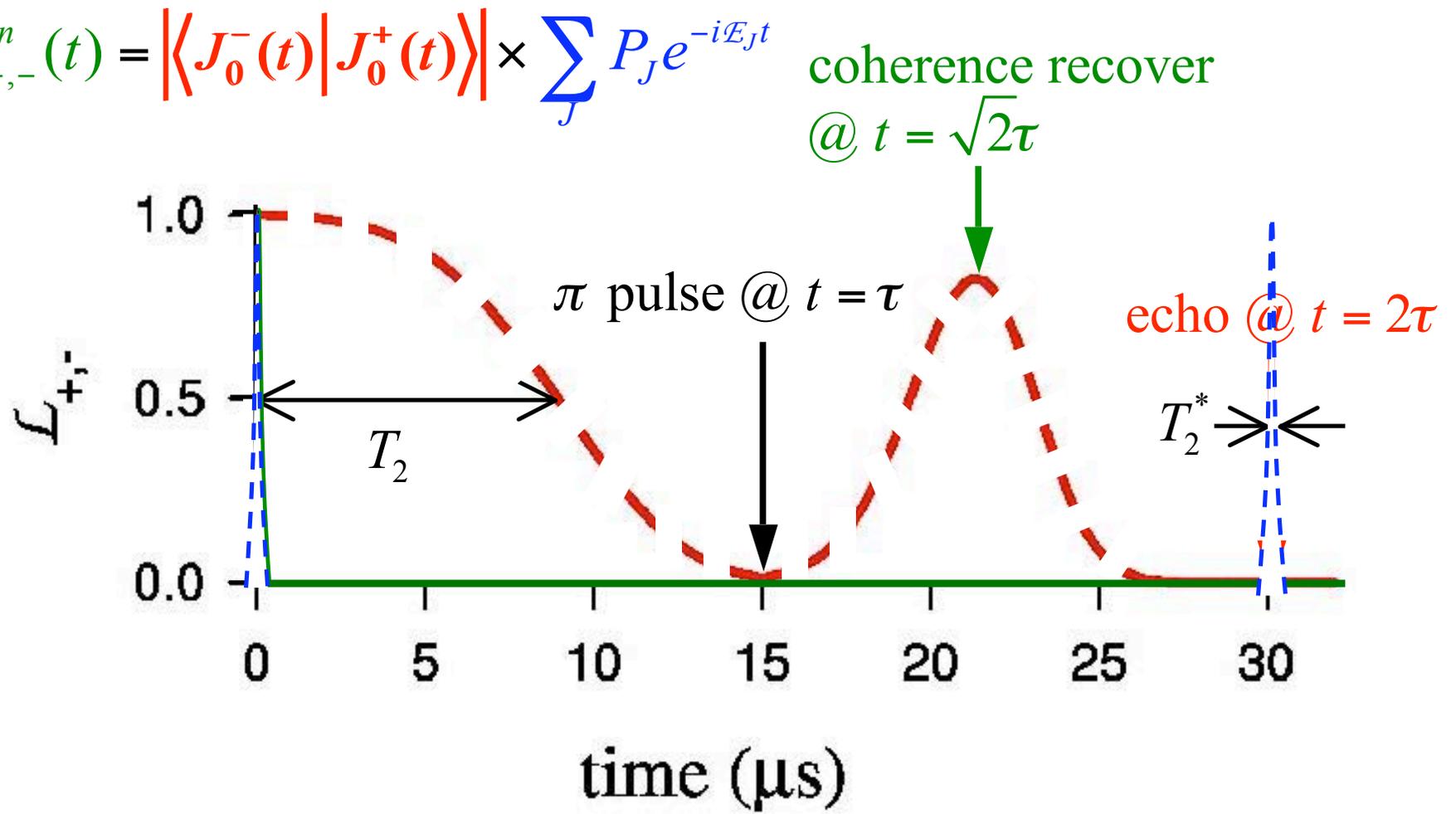
- Different from dynamical decoupling, sys-bath coupling does not vanish

$$e^{-iH_{\text{eff}}\sqrt{2}\tau} \equiv e^{iH^-(\sqrt{2}-1)\tau} e^{-iH^+\tau} \Rightarrow H_{\text{eff}} \neq 0$$

Disentanglement Concealed in Ensemble Dynamics

$d = 6$ nm, $r_0 = 40$ nm, $B = 10$ T, intrinsic n-n interaction dominant

$$\mathcal{L}_{+,-}^{en}(t) = \left| \langle J_0^-(t) | J_0^+(t) \rangle \right| \times \sum_{\mathcal{J}} P_{\mathcal{J}} e^{-iE_{\mathcal{J}}t}$$



Disentanglement Concealed in Ensemble Dynamics

To observe quantum disentanglement in ensemble dynamics

a. Filter inhomogeneous broadening by measurement projection

Schemes to be realized in near future:

Klauser, Coish & Loss, PRB 2006

Giedke, Taylor, D'Alessandro, Lukin & Imamoglu, PRA 2006

Stepanenko, Burkard, Giedke & Imamoglu, PRL 2006

or

b. Arrange disentanglement time to coincide ensemble echo time

WY, Liu and Sham, PRL 98, 077602, 2007

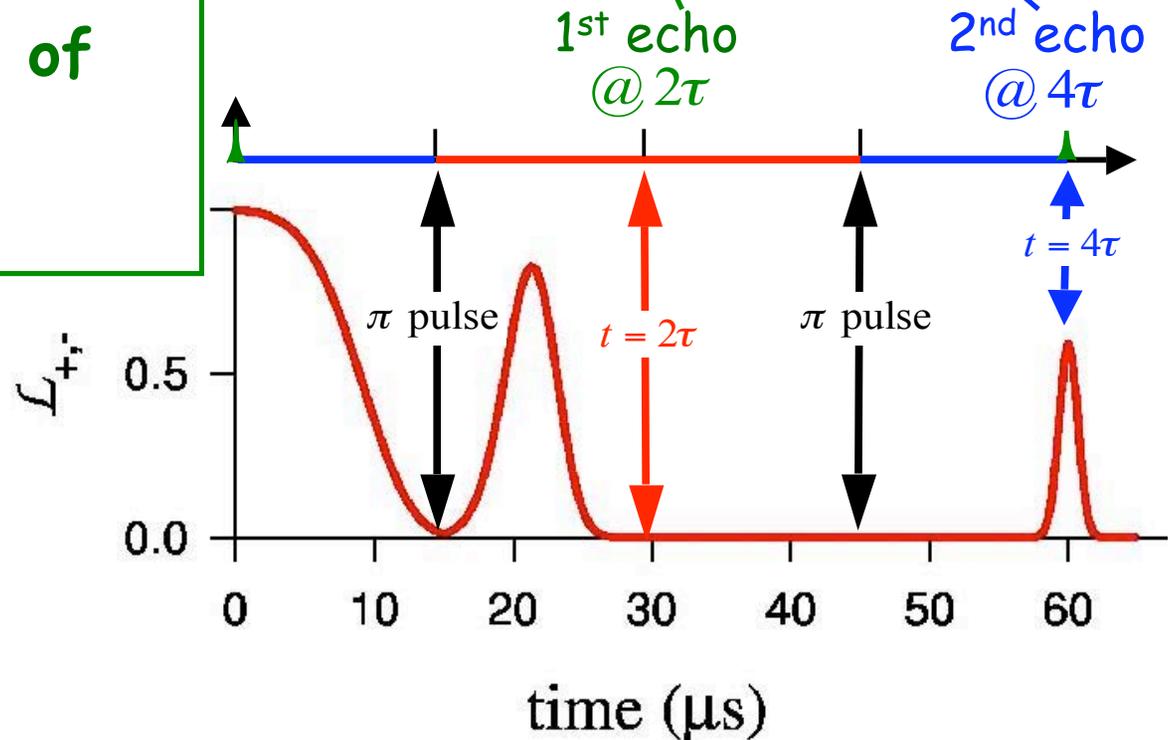
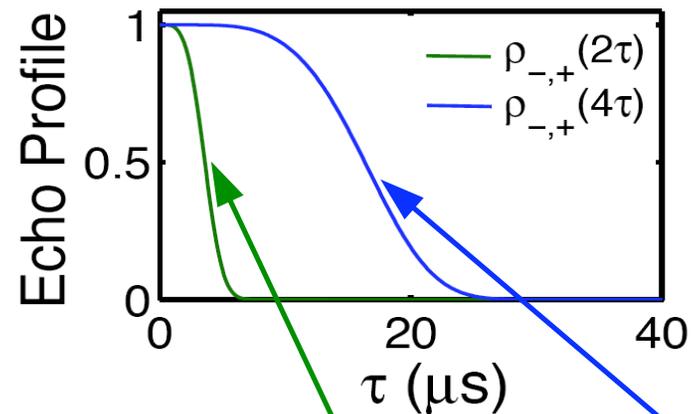
Liu, WY and Sham, cond-mat/0703690

Two-pulse control: Disentanglement at echo time

π pulse @ τ

Absences of spin echo
 \neq
 Irreversible loss of coherence

Disentanglement
 @ 2nd echo time



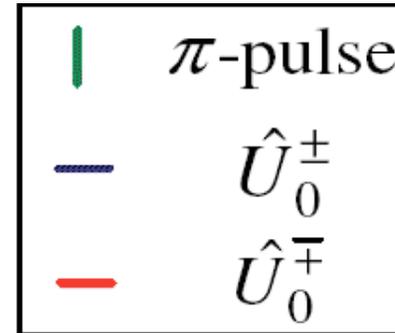
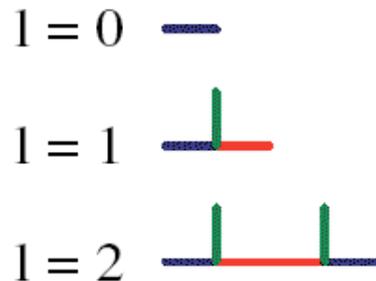
Concatenated Dynamical Decoupling

Concept of concatenation on dynamical decoupling, Khodjasteh and Lidar, PRL 05"

$$U_0^\pm \equiv e^{-i\mathcal{H}_k^\pm \tau}$$

$$U_1^\pm \equiv U_0^\mp U_0^\pm$$

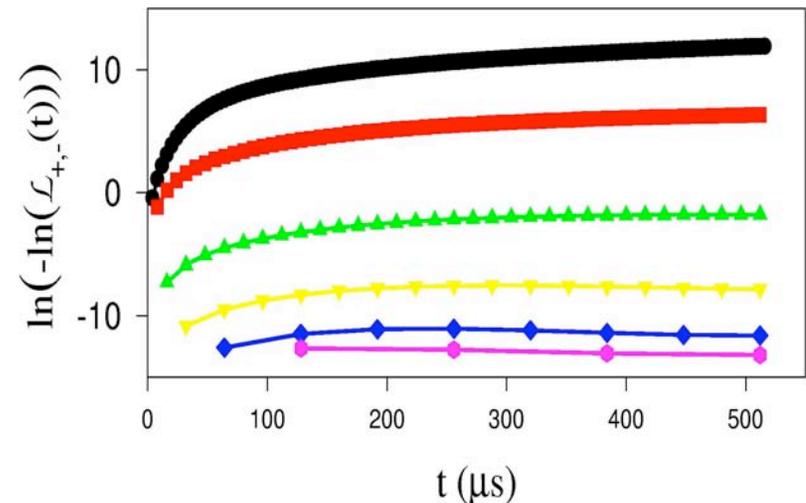
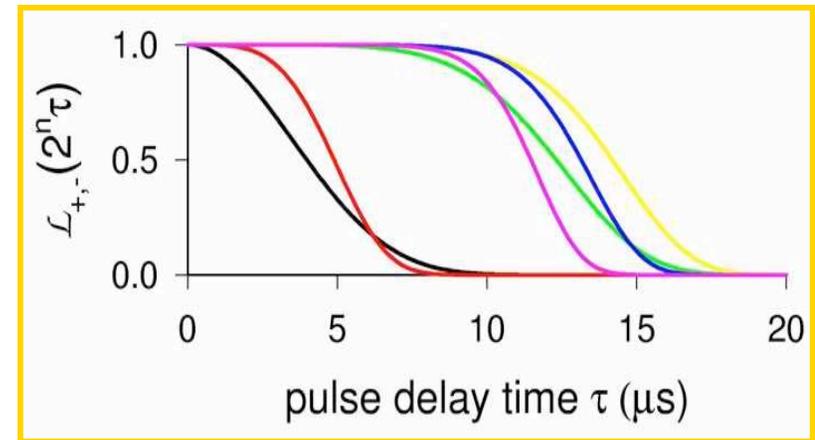
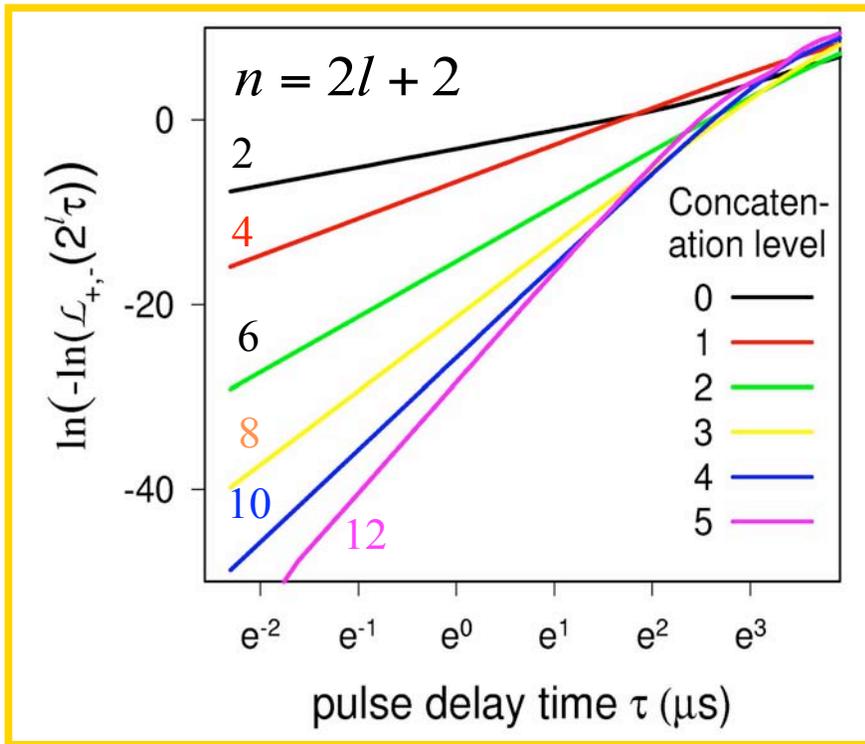
$$U_2^\pm \equiv U_1^\mp U_1^\pm$$



- Disentanglement occur at $\tau_l = 2^l \tau$
- Decoherence reduced by $(b\tau_l)^2$ with each level of concatenation
- Controlling small parameter: bath spin interaction $b \ll 10^2 s^{-1}$

Concatenated Dynamical Disentanglement

$$\exp\left(-t^{2l+2} / T_{c,l}^{2l+2}\right)$$



WY, Liu and Sham, PRL 98, 077602, 2007

Liu, WY and Sham, cond-mat/0703690

**Stabilization with repeated
of Concatenated units**

Summary

- ✓ **1+N isolated from rest universe in relevant timescale**
- ✓ **Quantum theory of decoherence: bath evolution conditioned on system state**
 - Decoherence by sys-bath entanglement
 - Operations on system affects bath evolution
 - Spin echo removes more than inhomogeneous dephasing
 - Echo decay time T_H NOT equivalent to single spin T_2
- ✓ **Slow bath dynamics: pair-correlations dominates**
- ✓ **Sys-bath disentanglement by pulse sequences on electron**
 - Concatenation design more efficient than periodic sequence.

Thank You!

Canonical transformation:

$$\hat{W} \equiv \exp\left(\sum_n \frac{a_n}{2(\Omega_e - \omega_n)} (\hat{S}_e^+ \hat{J}_n^- - \hat{S}_e^- \hat{J}_n^+)\right)$$

Effective Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H}_{\text{red}} = \hat{W} \hat{H} \hat{W}^{-1}$$

Rotation of wavefunction:

$$\hat{W}|\pm\rangle \otimes |\mathcal{J}\rangle \approx \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_n |w_n^\pm|^2\right) |\pm\rangle \otimes |\mathcal{J}\rangle \mp \sum_n w_n^\pm |\mp\rangle \otimes |j_n \pm 1\rangle \otimes |j_m\rangle_{m \neq n}$$

Visibility loss: $(\Omega_e \sqrt{N} / \mathcal{A})^{-2} \ll 1$ for $B > 1T$

Effective dynamics: $e^{-i\hat{H}t} |\pm\rangle \otimes |\mathcal{J}\rangle \cong e^{-i\hat{H}_{\text{red}}t} |\pm\rangle \otimes |\mathcal{J}\rangle$

Description of 2 level quantum system

Single quantum system

$$|\varphi\rangle = \alpha|+\rangle + \beta|-\rangle \quad \rho \equiv |\varphi\rangle\langle\varphi| = \begin{bmatrix} |\alpha|^2 & \alpha\beta^* \\ \alpha^*\beta & |\beta|^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Ensemble of identical quantum systems

$$\rho = \sum_{i=1}^N P_i |\varphi_i\rangle\langle\varphi_i| = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_i P_i |\alpha_i|^2 & \sum_i P_i \alpha_i \beta_i^* \\ \sum_i P_i \alpha_i^* \beta_i & \sum_i P_i |\beta_i|^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Reduced density matrix for open quantum system

$$|\psi_{tot}\rangle = \sum_i |\alpha_i\rangle_{sys} \otimes |\beta_i\rangle_{en} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \rho_{sys} = Tr_{en} [|\psi_{tot}\rangle\langle\psi_{tot}|]$$

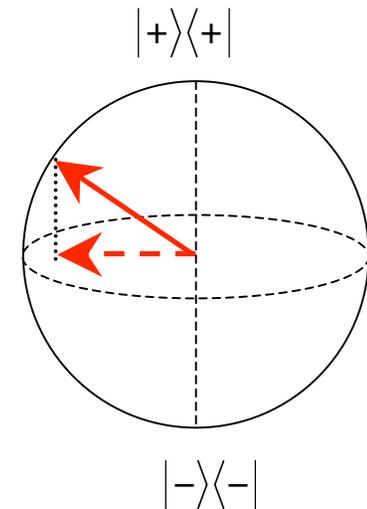
Decoherence: relaxation and pure dephasing

Geometric representation

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2}(I + \vec{a} \cdot \vec{\sigma}),$$

$$\text{Bloch vector : } \frac{1}{2}\vec{a} = \text{Tr}[\rho \vec{S}]$$

$$a_x = 2\text{Re} \rho_{21} \quad a_y = 2\text{Im} \rho_{21} \quad a_z = \rho_{11} - \rho_{22}$$

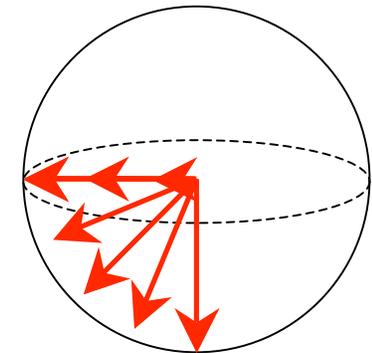


Longitudinal relaxation

$$T_2^{rl} = 2T_1 \quad \text{Decay of coherence as a result of decay of population}$$

Pure dephasing

$$T_2^{deph} \quad \text{No decay of population. Usually much faster than } T_1$$



Inhomogeneous broadening & spin echo

