

Quantum Memory Testbed Based on Nitrogen-Vacancy Centers in Diamond



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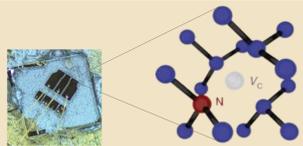
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Motivation

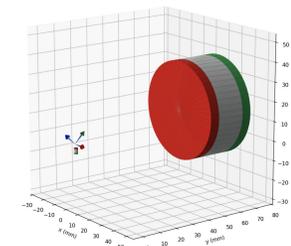
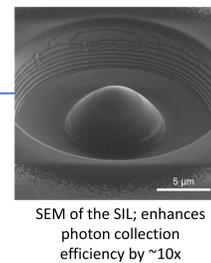
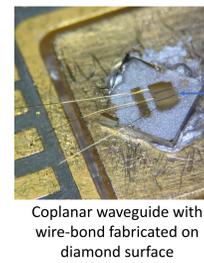
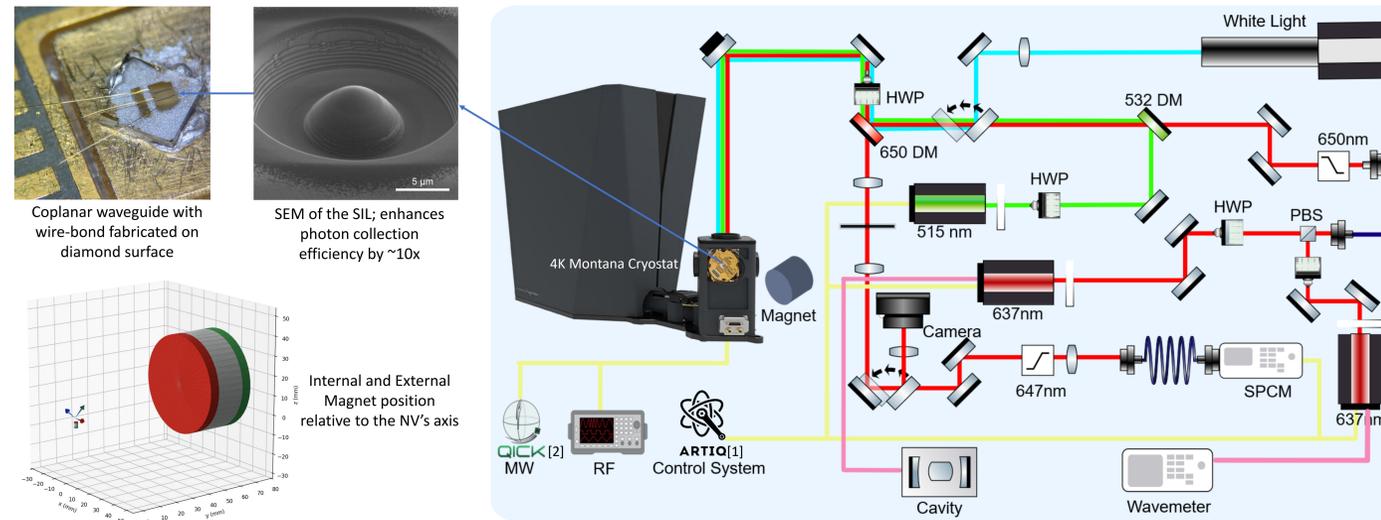
Negatively charged nitrogen-vacancy (NV⁻) centers in diamond are ideal for studying quantum control, open quantum systems, and multi-qubit entanglement:

- NV⁻ centers have long spin coherence times and accessible optical transitions at 4 Kelvin.
- A single NV⁻ center is naturally coupled to nearby nuclear spins via dipolar interaction, which allows for a system with more than 10 fully characterized qubits.
- Optical access for spin initialization and readout, and MW/RF for quantum gates.

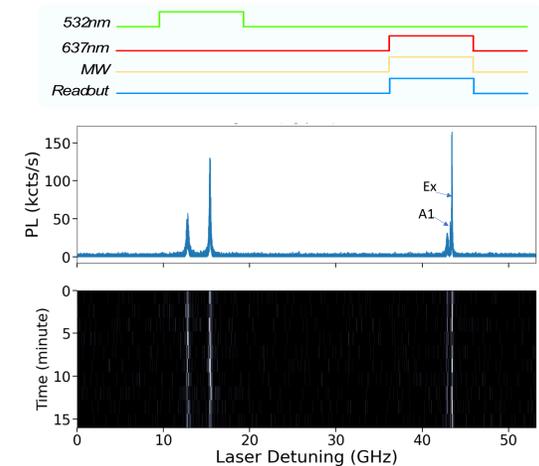


Left: Diamond surface with a fabricated antenna. Right: Atomic structure of the NV center, consisting of a substitutional nitrogen and adjacent vacancy.

Cryogenic Confocal Microscope

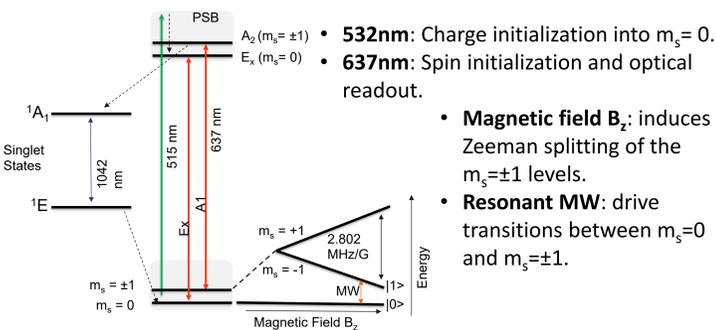


Resonant control



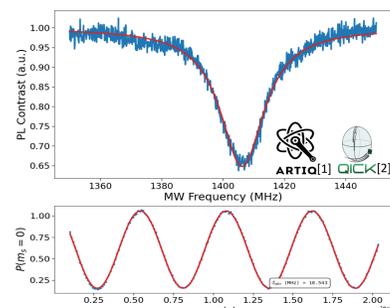
Photoluminescence Excitation spectra of the NV center. Blue arrow indicates the transitions Ex(A1) to optically pump the NV into $m_s = -1$ ($m_s = 0$).

NV energy level structure



- Magnetic field B_z :** induces Zeeman splitting of the $m_s = \pm 1$ levels.
- Resonant MW:** drive transitions between $m_s = 0$ and $m_s = \pm 1$.

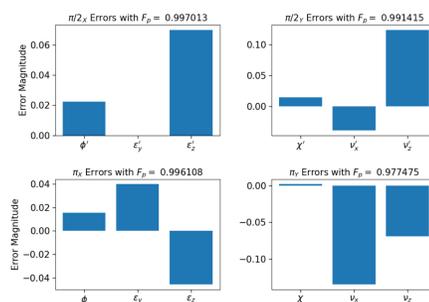
MW/RF control



- Rabi Oscillations and Optically Detected Magnetic Resonance with a magnetic field $B_z = 525$ G.

- MW and laser control using hybrid FPGA system composed of QICK and ARTIQ at 200ps resolution.

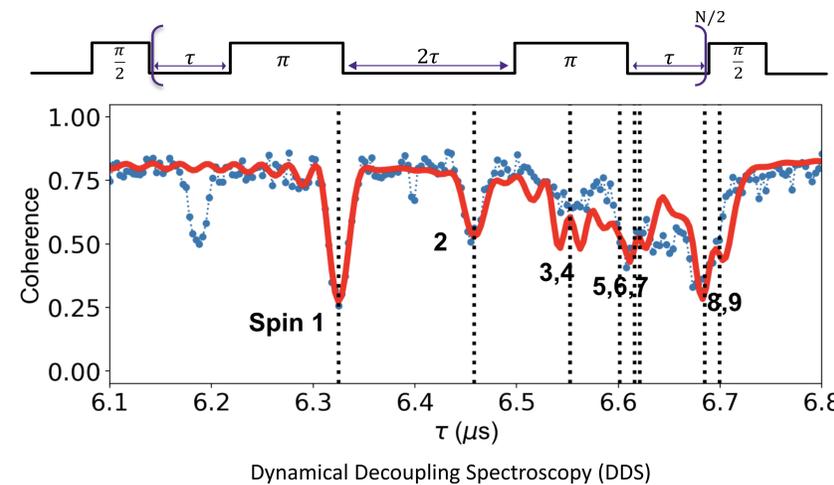
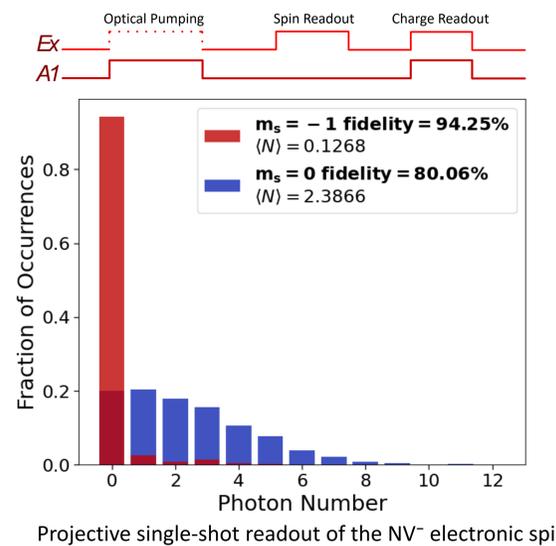
- MW Pulse error characterization to achieve accurate $\pi_{x,y}$ and $\pi/2_{x,y}$ pulses [3].



- Achieved 99% and 97% accuracy for π_x and π_y pulses.

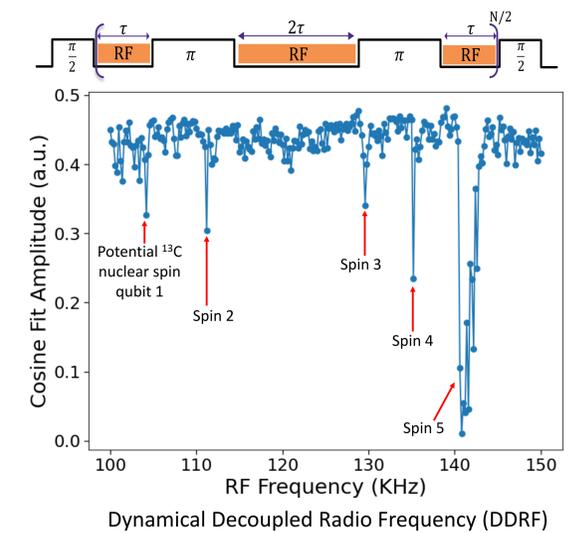
Current Results

- Single shot readout with average $m_s = 0$ and $m_s = -1$ fidelity of 87.15%.
- Dynamical Decoupling enhances NV electron spin coherence, while the characteristic dips occur at a nuclear spin resonance where the electron gets entangled with a nearby ^{13}C spin.
- The orange curve represents a fit to the data, identifying 9 unique nuclear with their associative hyperfine coupling strengths.
- Scanning the radio frequency during the DDS enhances nuclear spin detection by resolving weakly coupled ^{13}C nuclei.



Spin	$\omega_h/2\pi$ (kHz)	θ (deg)
1	133.059	68.610
2	50.282	44.927
3	51.398	69.341
4	51.356	69.319
5	31.748	101.337
6	44.654	95.552
7	92.178	90.898
8	80.027	88.124
9	69.168	85.927

Identified spins with their respective hyperfine coupling strength and orientation angle



Next Steps

- Machine Learning assisted nuclear spin spectroscopy.
- Nuclear spin polarization enhancement.
- Quantum error correction for correlated dephasing [4].
- Multi-qubit entanglement with parallel scheme [5].

Acknowledgements and References

This work was supported by NIST 60NANB23D202, NSF PHY-GRS 2233120, DMR-2019444, and Sandia National Laboratories. [1] QICK. QICK documentation. docs.qick.dev (2024). [2] M-Labs. ARTIQ manual. m-labs.hk/artiq (2026). [3] Dobrovitski, V. V. et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **105**, 077601 (2010). [4] Layden, D. et al. Phys. Rev. Lett. **124**, 020504 (2020). [5] Takou, E. et al. Phys. Rev. X. **13**, 011004 (2023).