

Nuclear spin qubits in a trapped-ion quantum computer

M. Feng,^{1,2,*} Y. Y. Xu,^{1,2,3} F. Zhou,^{1,2,3} and D. Suter^{4,†}

¹State Key Laboratory of Magnetic Resonance and Atomic and Molecular Physics, Wuhan Institute of Physics and Mathematics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan 430071, China

²Center for Cold Atom Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan 430071, China

³Graduate School, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100039, China

⁴Fakultät Physik, Technische Universität Dortmund, 44221 Dortmund, Germany

(Received 9 February 2009; published 22 May 2009)

Physical systems must fulfill a number of conditions to qualify as useful quantum bits (qubits) for quantum-information processing, including ease of manipulation, long decoherence times, and high fidelity readout operations. Since these conditions are hard to satisfy with a single system, it may be necessary to combine different degrees of freedom. Here we discuss a possible system based on electronic and nuclear spin degrees of freedom in trapped ions. The nuclear spin yields long decoherence times, while the electronic spin, in a magnetic field gradient, provides efficient manipulation, and the optical transitions of the ions assure a selective and efficient initialization and readout.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevA.79.052331](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.79.052331)

PACS number(s): 03.67.Lx, 42.50.Dv

I. INTRODUCTION

Trapped ions have been recognized as one of the most promising candidates for future quantum computing (QC) devices for some time [1]. This potential has been verified by initial demonstrations implementing simple quantum algorithms with trapped ions (see, e.g., [2]) or by entangling eight ultracold ions in a linear trap [3]. Nevertheless, a number of difficulties have to be overcome to scale these devices to larger numbers of qubits. The proposals for overcoming these obstacles include segmented traps where ions are transferred between different parts of the trap [4] or by joining many spatially separated traps in a quantum network [5].

Different groups rely on different ions for their experiments. The NIST group mainly uses ${}^9\text{Be}^+$ [6], the groups in Innsbruck, Oxford, Atlanta, and Wuhan employ ${}^{40}\text{Ca}^+$ [7–10], and the group in Maryland works with ${}^{111}\text{Cd}^+$ [11] and ${}^{171}\text{Yb}^+$ [12]. There are also some proposals and experimental reports using ${}^{171}\text{Yb}^+$ [13,14], ${}^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ [15,16], ${}^{138}\text{Ba}^+$ [17], and ${}^{88}\text{Sr}^+$ [18]. In all these cases, however, the qubits are encoded in two electronic states and the exchange of quantum information between ions occurs via quantized vibrational modes. The main conditions for these schemes to work include long lifetimes of the computational states and well-resolved vibrational modes. Recent experiments have demonstrated that quantum information can be conserved almost perfectly even when the ions are moved [19].

In the context of solid-state QC, several proposals have been put forward that suggest the use of nuclear spins for storing quantum information [20]. Nuclear spins are very well isolated from other degrees of freedom and therefore promise long storage times for quantum information. On the other hand, the weak interaction with their environment also makes initialization and manipulation of nuclear spins difficult and leads to low detection sensitivity. It may therefore

be necessary to combine nuclear spins with other degrees of freedom to combine long storage times with efficient manipulation and detection [21–25]. Of these proposals, so far only one system has been demonstrated experimentally, which combines the electronic spin of the diamond nitrogen-vacancy (N-V) center with a neighboring ${}^{13}\text{C}$ nuclear spin [26,27].

In this paper, we propose to combine nuclear spins with trapped ions. The goal is to design a system that combines long decoherence times with efficient manipulation and detection. The trapped-ion system that we consider is closely related to the proposal by Mintert and Wunderlich [28], which relies on a magnetic field gradient to address different ions and to induce couplings between the ions that do not rely on the motional degrees of freedom. This scheme can be used with different ions, such as ${}^{43}\text{Ca}^+$, whose nuclear spin is $I=7/2$, ${}^{135}\text{Ba}^+$ and ${}^{137}\text{Ba}^+$ with $I=3/2$, as well as ${}^{171}\text{Yb}^+$ with $I=1/2$. For specific discussions, we will refer to the ${}^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ system, but all our results are also applicable to the other three candidates.

The hyperfine splitting of the $S_{1/2}$ ground state of ${}^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ has been precisely measured [29,30]. Since our scheme works best when nuclear and electronic spins can be clearly distinguished, we explicitly consider the case of a strong magnetic field (i.e., the Paschen-Back regime).

The paper is structured as follows. In the following section, we first consider a single trapped ion and show how the quantum information can be encoded in the nuclear spin degree of freedom and transferred to the electronic spin. Section III introduces two-qubit operations, and in Sec. IV, we discuss the operation of the full quantum register, including addressing of individual qubits. Section V presents short summary and conclusions.

II. SINGLE ${}^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ ION

We first consider a single-trapped ${}^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ ion. In the Paschen-Back regime, we can write the Hamiltonian as

*mangfeng@wipm.ac.cn

†dieter.suter@uni-dortmund.de

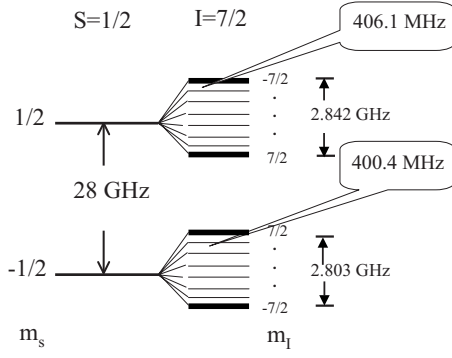


FIG. 1. Angular momentum states in the ground state of a $^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ ion in a magnetic field $B=1$ T (i.e., in the Paschen-Back regime). The four levels drawn in bold are used to define two qubits.

$$H_0 = \Omega_S S_z - \Omega_I I_z + A S_z I_z, \quad (1)$$

where we use units of $\hbar=1$, S_z , and I_z are the spin operators of the electron spin ($S=1/2$) and the nuclear spin ($I=7/2$). $\Omega_S = g_S \mu_B B$ and $\Omega_I = g_n \mu_B B$ are the Larmor frequencies of the electron and nuclear spins, and $A = -806.4$ MHz [30] is the hyperfine coupling constant. We include here only the high-field truncated part of the hyperfine coupling. In the absence of external radiation, the vibrational mode is not coupled to the spin degrees of freedom and was therefore not included in the Hamiltonian of Eq. (1).

Figure 1 shows the resulting energy-level structure in a magnetic field of $B=1$ T. The electron Zeeman interaction causes a splitting of 28 GHz. Each of these electronic states is split into eight nuclear spin sublevels by the hyperfine interaction. Due to the nuclear Zeeman interaction, the splittings within the two multiplets differ by 5.7 MHz.

Transitions between these spin states can be induced by the magnetic-dipole interaction. Changes of the electron spin correspond to frequencies in the microwave range centered

around 28 GHz, as shown in the upper part of Fig. 2. The lower part shows the transitions corresponding to changes of the nuclear spin state. Their frequencies correspond to $|A/2| \pm \Omega_I$.

While this system could in principle store four qubits (i.e., three in the nuclear spin and one in the electronic spin), we will consider here only two qubits. The first qubit corresponds to the electron spin and the second qubit will be encoded in the $m_I = \pm 7/2$ states of the nuclear spin.

To apply gate operations to these qubits, we use resonant microwave radiation,

$$H_1 = H_0 + 2 \cos(\Omega_{\text{mw}} t) [\omega_S S_x + \omega_I I_x]. \quad (2)$$

Here, H_0 is the system Hamiltonian of Eq. (1), ω_S and ω_I are the Rabi frequencies of the electronic and nuclear spins, and Ω_{mw} is the frequency of the applied field.

In the following, we will assume that the microwave field is weak enough that it interacts predominantly with a single transition. This is fulfilled if the Rabi frequencies are small compared to the splittings between the resonance lines,

$$\omega_S \ll |A|, \quad \omega_I \ll |\Omega_I|.$$

The electron-spin qubit can then be manipulated by microwave radiation if the microwave field is resonant with one of the two transitions at 25.2 and 30.8 GHz, which correspond to the nuclear spin being in the $m_I = 7/2$ and $-7/2$ states, respectively. A microwave pulse at one of these frequencies thus corresponds to a single-qubit rotation of the S spin conditioned on the I spin being in the corresponding state. Unconditional single-qubit operations on the S spin can be accomplished as a sequence of two (or two simultaneous) conditional operations.

Applying single-qubit gates to the nuclear spin qubit is less straightforward. In general, a resonant rf pulse takes the nuclear spin out of the state space associated with the nuclear spin qubit ($m_I = \pm 7/2$). An important exception is the opera-

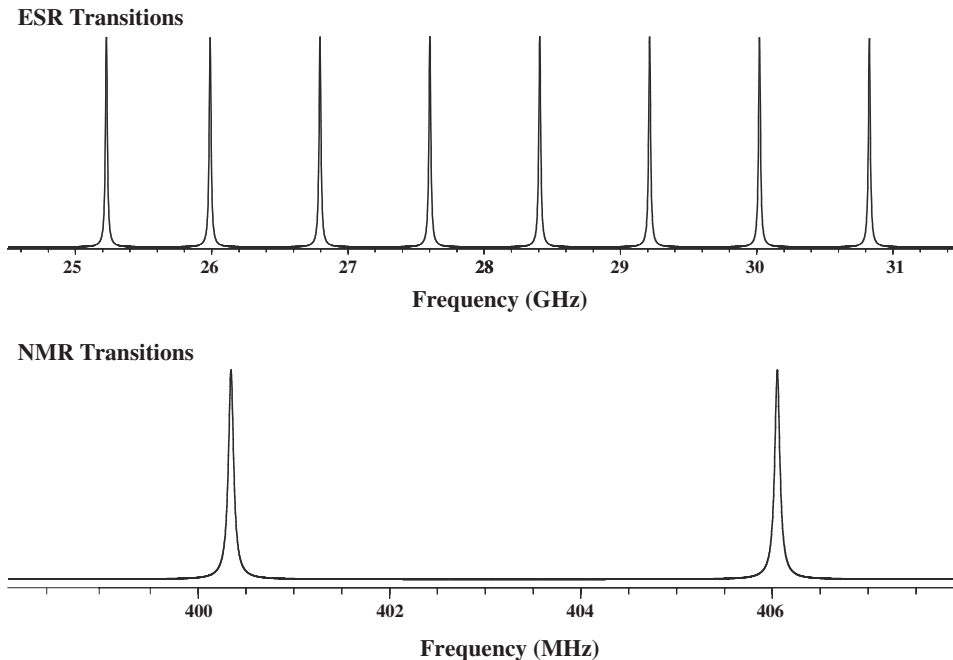


FIG. 2. Magnetic-dipole transitions in the $^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ spin system. The upper trace shows the transitions that correspond to a change in the electron spin. They fall into the microwave range, close to 28 GHz, and are split by the hyperfine interaction into eight transitions, each corresponding to a single nuclear spin state. The lower trace shows the transitions of the nuclear spin, which fall into the radio frequency range. The lower frequency line corresponds to the $m_S = -1/2$ state of the electron spin and the higher frequency transition to the $m_S = +1/2$ state.

tion $P_I = e^{-i\pi I_x}$, which simply interchanges the two states $|7/2\rangle$ and $|-7/2\rangle$,

$$e^{-i\pi I_x} I_z e^{i\pi I_x} = -I_z. \quad (3)$$

If we use resonant rf irradiation, the exchange becomes again conditioned on the state of the electronic qubit. As an example, a rf pulse at $\Omega_{mw} = 406.1$ MHz exchanges $|7/2\rangle_I |1/2\rangle_S \leftrightarrow |-7/2\rangle_I |1/2\rangle_S$, while the $|7/2\rangle_I |-1/2\rangle_S$ and $|-7/2\rangle_I |-1/2\rangle_S$ states remain invariant. This corresponds to a controlled-NOT (CNOT) operation, which we call CNOT_{SI}: the first index refers to the control qubit and the second to the target qubit. Similarly, a resonant π pulse applied to the electron-spin-resonance (ESR) transition at 25.2 GHz corresponds to a CNOT_{IS} operation.

We use these operations to implement a SWAP operation between electronic and nuclear qubits,

$$\text{SWAP} = \text{CNOT}_{IS} \text{CNOT}_{SI} \text{CNOT}_{IS} = \text{CNOT}_{SI} \text{CNOT}_{IS} \text{CNOT}_{SI}.$$

The SWAP operation can now also be used to implement arbitrary single-qubit operations U_I on the nuclear spin qubit,

$$U_I = \text{SWAP} U_S \text{SWAP},$$

where U_S is the single-qubit operation acting on the electron-spin qubit. The system allows thus to implement arbitrary one- and two-qubit operations.

III. A PAIR OF QUBITS

A. System and Hamiltonian

To implement a quantum register on the basis of the $^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ system, we need a string of trapped ions. We will use the $|\pm 7/2\rangle$ states of the nuclear spins as the qubits, while the electron spins are used to couple the nuclear spin qubits to each other.

When a magnetic field gradient $B(z) = B_0 + b\delta z$ is applied with $b = \partial B / \partial z$, the Hamiltonian of the system is

$$H_2 = \sum_i \Omega_S^i S_z^i - \sum_i \Omega_I^i I_z^i + A \sum_i S_z^i I_z^i - \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} S_z^i S_z^j, \quad (4)$$

where the first and the second terms represent the Zeeman energies of the electronic and the nuclear spins, respectively, and the third term is the hyperfine interaction. The Larmor frequencies Ω_S^i and Ω_I^i depend on the magnetic field gradient b and the position z_i of the ions as

TABLE I. CNOT_{S₁S₂} gating time T for a pair of trapped $^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ in a 1 T magnetic field for different center-of-mass trap frequencies ν_1 , magnetic field gradients b , and distances.

$\nu_1/2\pi$ (MHz)	b (T/m)	Δz_{\min} (μm)	J_{12} (kHz)	T (ms)
1.0	450	5.5	3.25	0.24
1.0	230	5.5	0.85	0.92
1.0	50	5.5	0.40	1.75
0.8	340	6.3	2.90	0.27
0.8	160	6.3	0.65	1.21
0.8	35	6.3	0.30	2.62

$$\Omega_S^i = g\mu_B(B_0 + bz_i)$$

and correspondingly for the nuclear spins.

The fourth term in Eq. (4) represents a coupling between the different ions, which takes the form of an Ising interaction. This effective interaction is generated by the magnetic field gradient. The coupling constants J_{ij} are proportional to the square of the ratio of the magnetic field gradient to the center-of-mass frequency [13,31,32]. It determines the gate operation time $T = \pi/J_{12}$ for two-qubit operations. In Table I, we list some possible combinations of trap parameters together with the corresponding gate operation times. For simplicity, we have omitted the corresponding interaction between the nuclear spins, which is very small compared to all other terms.

We first consider the case of two ions in the trap. For the parameters corresponding to the first line in Table I, the spectrum of the ion pair remains essentially the same as that of the single ion, as shown on the bottom of Fig. 3. The separation of the resonance lines due to the magnetic field gradient becomes apparent on an expanded frequency scale, as shown in the central trace of Fig. 3. The splitting due to the gradient-induced J coupling between the ions is then another 3 orders of magnitude smaller, as shown in the top trace.

B. Two-qubit operation

A CNOT operation between the two qubits can be achieved via the following three steps:

(1) the information encoded in nuclear spins is transferred to the electronic spins by the gates SWAP_{I₁S₁} and SWAP_{I₂S₂},

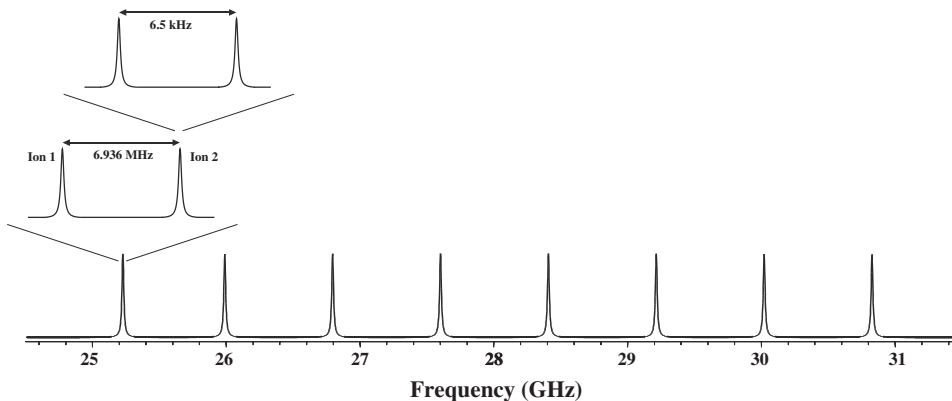


FIG. 3. ESR spectrum of two ions in a trap. The lowest trace shows the full spectrum; the middle trace shows the lowest frequency line on an expanded scale. The splitting is due to the magnetic field gradient. The uppermost trace shows the splitting due to the J coupling between the ions.

(2) CNOT_{S₁S₂} operation is applied to the electronic spins,
 (3) Step (1) is repeated to transfer the information back to the nuclear spins.

Looking in more detail at the second step, we note that the CNOT_{S₁S₂} operation does not involve the nuclear spin. We may thus disregard the nuclear spin degrees of freedom during this step. The problem reduces then to the conventional system of two spins $\frac{1}{2}$, which are described by an effective Hamiltonian

$$H_3 = \Omega_1 S_z^1 + \Omega_2 S_z^2 - J_{12} S_z^1 S_z^2. \quad (5)$$

Here, the Larmor frequencies $\Omega_{1,2}$ of the two electron spins include a contribution from the hyperfine coupling,

$$\Omega_1 = \Omega_S^1 + m_{I_1} A,$$

and analogously for the second ion. Here, $m_{I_1} = \pm 7/2$ denotes the nuclear spin state. This Hamiltonian is identical to that of a weakly coupled pair of spins $\frac{1}{2}$ in liquid-state NMR. The CNOT operation can therefore be carried out in complete analogy either by a selective pulse on one of the resonance lines corresponding to the transition between the states (1,0) and (0,1) [33] or by two $\pi/2$ pulses applied to the first qubit separated by a free precession period of duration π/J_{12} under the coupling Hamiltonian [34,35].

C. Selective SWAP operations

The SWAP operations required in steps (1) and (3) were discussed in Sec. II. However, since the quantum register now contains multiple ions, we need more specific control over the radiofrequency and microwave fields. Since the overall duration of any algorithm is determined mostly by the relatively weak J couplings, it is not necessary to make the Rabi frequencies very high. A useful Rabi frequency for the microwave pulses would then be on the order of 1 MHz, which can easily be achieved with very small microwave power. As an example, the devices described in [36] can generate 1 MHz Rabi frequencies with 6 μ W of microwave power. Being much smaller than the hyperfine coupling constant, the microwave will excite only the transition corresponding to the desired nuclear spin state and only the targeted ion, while the neighboring ions will not be affected. Such a pulse will, however, excite both lines of the doublet due to the J coupling.

D. Initialization and readout

Apart from the gate operations discussed so far, initialization and readout are essential steps for the implementation of a quantum-information processing (QIP). In this respect, our proposal is almost identical to that of conventional ion trap quantum computers [37]. Initialization is achieved by optical pumping, while readout is achieved by electronic shelving amplification [38]. Since the addressing of the ions as well as the interactions between them are magnetic, there is no need for cooling the ions to their ground state [13] but only into the Lamb-Dicke limit.

The main difference arises from the fact that the qubits are encoded in the nuclear spin degrees of freedom. After the

initialization, it is necessary to perform a SWAP operation on the initialized state into the nuclear spin. The same process is required in reverse for readout. The resulting state must undergo a SWAP operation from the nuclear spin degree of freedom to the electronic degree of freedom, where readout occurs.

IV. QUANTUM REGISTER

A. Addressing qubits

For an actual QIP implementation, more than two ions are required. In terms of trap dynamics, it should be possible to store more than ten ions in such a trap. Addressing of the ions is straightforward in the scheme described here, as long as the Larmor frequencies of the electronic spins do not overlap. This requires

$$g\mu_B b \Delta z N < A, \quad (6)$$

where N is the number of ions in the string.

Addressing the individual qubits can then be achieved by keeping the microwave field strength well below the difference of the Larmor frequencies of two neighboring ions,

$$\omega_1 < g\mu_B b \Delta z. \quad (7)$$

This condition can be easily met without increasing the total duration of any quantum algorithm.

So far, we have only considered the electronic spins. But as we have discussed in the previous section, actual gate operations require resonant excitation of the electronic as well as the nuclear spin. The magnetic field gradient also separates the nuclear Larmor frequencies by

$$\Delta\Omega_I = -18b\Delta z, \quad (8)$$

with Ω_I in MHz, b in T/m, and Δz in m. Compared to the electron-spin-resonance frequencies, this splitting is reduced by approximately 4 orders of magnitude, which amounts to ≈ 700 Hz for the parameters used above. Addressing the nuclear spins individually would thus increase the duration of a quantum algorithm significantly. However, this can be easily avoided if we notice that only π pulses are applied to the nuclear spins and that all relevant operations discussed in Secs. II and III involve two SWAP operations between the electron and nuclear spins of the ion and thus an even number of π pulses applied to the nuclear spins. We can therefore apply the rf pulses nonselectively, i.e., to all nuclear spins in the quantum register, using a strong rf field and short pulse durations. The individual π pulses will then affect all *nuclear* spins in the trap; however, for those ions that are not addressed by the frequency-selective pulses applied to the *electronic* spins, the operation of the π pulse is reversed by the next π pulse and results in no operation for the inactive qubits.

B. Refocusing operations

In a string of ions, the induced coupling varies with the position of the ions in the trap [13,28]. Couplings exist between all pairs of ions in the trap not only between nearest neighbors. Quantum algorithms therefore have to take the

full network of couplings into account. This operational form of the couplings $S_z^i S_z^j$ provides a close analogy to liquid-state NMR, where undesired couplings are usually eliminated by refocusing techniques (see, e.g., [34,35,39–42]).

In the present case, such refocusing operations are more straightforward than in the case of liquid-state NMR. If we want to implement a two-qubit operation between ions i and j , we want to have one active coupling between these two ions, while all other couplings should be refocused. Since all terms in the relevant Hamiltonian in Eq. (4) commute with each other, it is sufficient to consider the terms

$$H_4 = \Omega_S^i S_z^i + \Omega_S^j S_z^j - J_{ij} S_z^i S_z^j - J_{ik} S_z^i S_z^k, \quad (9)$$

where the index k represents any of the passive spins. The evolution of the two active spins i and j under the coupling J_{ij} is now achieved by letting the system evolve under this Hamiltonian for a duration $\tau = \pi/(4J_{ij})$, applying π pulses to spins i and j , and letting them evolve for another period τ , and applying another pair of π pulses. The resulting overall evolution is then

$$U_2 = e^{-iH_4(\pi/4J_{ij})} e^{-i\pi(S_y^i + S_y^j)} e^{-iH_4(\pi/4J_{ij})} e^{-i\pi(S_y^i + S_y^j)}. \quad (10)$$

Using

$$e^{-i\pi(S_y^i + S_y^j)} H_4 e^{-i\pi(S_y^i + S_y^j)} = -\Omega_S^i S_z^i - \Omega_S^j S_z^j - J_{ij} S_z^i S_z^j + J_{ik} S_z^i S_z^k, \quad (11)$$

we can simplify this to the desired evolution

$$U_2 = e^{-i\pi/2 S_z^i S_z^j}. \quad (12)$$

C. Decoherence

Like in other implementations of quantum-information processing, the operations must be completed in a time short compared to the decoherence time. We consider here two contributions to the decoherence: (i) dephasing due to magnetic field instability and (ii) heating of the motional degrees of freedom.

The evolution of the electronic spins in the magnetic field changes the phase of the qubits by

$$\Delta\varphi_i = \Omega_i \tau.$$

Instabilities of the magnetic field therefore affect the phase of the overall quantum state and must be reduced to

$$\Delta B \ll \frac{1}{g\mu_B \tau}.$$

Since the gate operation time τ is on the order of a few ms, this requires a stability on the order of 10^{-8} T. Clearly, this is a challenging condition; however, the corresponding magnet technology is well established in the field of high-resolution NMR, where field stability of better than 10^{-10} is required. The requirements can also be reduced, by working at lower magnetic field, by refocusing techniques, or by working in decoherence-free subspaces [43].

Additional contributions to the decoherence of trapped ions are due to mobile charges in the trap and to motional

heating. In the proposed trap, where the information is encoded in the spin degrees of freedom, such contributions should be considerably smaller than in conventional ion traps. Moreover, the couplings between different electron spins are due to the Coulomb interaction of the trapped ions under the magnetic field gradient, which only virtually excites the motional degrees of freedom. This also implies that motional heating during gate operation is suppressed, as discussed by Wunderlich and co-workers [13,28].

D. Experimental feasibility

A main point of our proposal is that we use only spin degrees of freedom. This leads to a considerable simplification of the level diagram compared to the case where electronic degrees of freedom contribute to the relevant Hilbert space spanned by $S_{1/2}$ and $D_{5/2}$ [16]. The possibility of addressing trapped ions using a magnetic field gradient and resonant microwave radiation was recently demonstrated using a magnetic field gradient weaker than 1 T/m [14,18]. Although such a magnetic field gradient is not big enough to generate efficient CNOT gates, this should become possible by an optimization of the experimental parameters. Stronger magnetic field gradients (up to 8000 T/m) can be generated, as discussed by Mintert and Wunderlich [28].

A larger field gradient would provide stronger couplings and therefore faster two-qubit gate operations. However, the gradient also couples the electron spin to the vibrational motion and thereby, if it is too big, reduces the fidelity of the gate operations. An upper limit to the usable gradient strength is given by the condition $\epsilon \ll 1$ [28], where the parameter

$$\epsilon = \frac{g\mu_B \frac{\partial B}{\partial z} \delta z}{\nu_1} = \frac{g\mu_B b}{\sqrt{2Nm\nu_1^3}},$$

in units of $\hbar = 1$ is a generalized Lamb-Dicke parameter, with m as the mass of the ion, N as the number of the confined ions, and ν_1 as the fundamental vibrational frequency. For our system, where $\nu_1 = 2\pi$ MHz, $N = 2$, $m = 43 \times 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg, and the upper limit for the magnetic field gradient becomes $b \leq 455$ T/m. Limitations on the magnetic field gradient for stable trapping of ions are also discussed by Cronin *et al.* [44].

V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have proposed a scheme for encoding quantum information in nuclear spin states of trapped ions. $^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ has also been used in Ref. [16], where the authors encoded the information in field-insensitive hyperfine states. Since we work in the Paschen-Back regime, there are no field-insensitive states. It is therefore necessary to use stable magnetic fields and, possibly, shield against undesired external fields. However, the requirements on the stability of the magnetic field remain significantly less strict than in the case of liquid-state NMR, where the field has to be kept stable on a scale of $\approx 10^{-10}$. We conclude that this should not be a significant obstacle.

The proposed scheme is also related to an earlier proposal for QC with doped fullerenes [22,23,25]. Both use nuclear and electronic spin degrees of freedom and work in the Paschen-Back regime. In terms of requirements for field stability, both systems should be comparable and the gate operations rely in both cases on resonant microwave pulses. The main advantage of the trapped-ion system over the fullerene scheme would be the relatively easy readout, which remains a significant challenge for the fullerene system. While the solid-state systems may be easier to scale up, our trapped-ion system may also be made scalable by approaches based on segmented traps [4] or multiple connected traps [5]. A third possibility might be the use of microtraps for single ions, which is also compatible with field-gradient-induced couplings between the ions [32].

Throughout this paper, we have relied on field-gradient-induced couplings between the ions to implement multiqubit gate operations. This is not the only possibility, however, because the use of nuclear spin degrees of freedom for shelving the quantum information is also compatible with the more conventional Cirac-Zoller [1] method or the Sørensen-

Mølmer [45] scheme which does not require extensive cooling of the ions.

In summary, we have investigated the possibility to carry out QC using nuclear spin qubits in $^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ ions. Using the nuclear spin should result in long decoherence times and working in the Paschen-Back regime results in a straightforward distinction of nuclear and electronic spin degrees of freedom. All the required gate operations can be achieved with microwave pulses, in which individual addressing of the qubits is achieved by frequency selection. If a few-qubit quantum computer on the basis of this scheme can be implemented, it could serve as a test bed not only for larger trapped-ion quantum computers but also for similar schemes based on condensed-matter systems such as endohedral fullerenes [22,23,25] or N-V centers in diamond [26,27].

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work is partly supported by NNSF of China under Grant No. 104774163, by the NFRP of China under Grant No. 2006CB921203, and by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

-
- [1] J. I. Cirac and P. Zoller, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **74**, 4091 (1995).
- [2] S. Gulde, M. Riebe, G. P. T. Lancaster, C. Becher, J. Eschner, H. Häffner, F. Schmidt-Kaler, I. L. Chuang, and R. Blatt, *Nature (London)* **421**, 48 (2003).
- [3] H. Häffner, W. Hänsel, C. F. Roos, J. Benhelm, D. Chekalkar, M. Chwalla, T. Körber, U. D. Rapol, M. Riebe, P. O. Schmidt, C. Becher, O. Gühne, W. Dür, and R. Blatt, *Nature (London)* **438**, 643 (2005).
- [4] D. Kielpinski, C. Monroe, and D. J. Wineland, *Nature (London)* **417**, 709 (2002).
- [5] D. L. Moehring, P. Maunz, S. Olmschenk, K. C. Younge, D. N. Matsukevich, L. M. Duan, and C. Monroe, *Nature (London)* **449**, 68 (2007).
- [6] C. Monroe, D. M. Meekhof, B. E. King, W. M. Itano, and D. J. Wineland, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **75**, 4714 (1995).
- [7] M. Riebe, H. Häffner, C. F. Roos, W. Hänsel, J. Benhelm, G. P. T. Lancaster, T. W. Körber, C. Becher, F. Schmidt-Kaler, D. F. V. James, and R. Blatt, *Nature (London)* **429**, 734 (2004).
- [8] M. J. McDonnell, J.-P. Stacey, S. C. Webster, J. P. Home, A. Ramos, D. M. Lucas, D. N. Stacey, and A. M. Steane, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **93**, 153601 (2004).
- [9] A. V. Steele, L. R. Churchill, P. F. Griffin, and M. S. Chapman, *Phys. Rev. A* **75**, 053404 (2007).
- [10] H. L. Shu, B. Guo, H. Guan, Q. Liu, X. R. Huang, and K. L. Gao, *Chin. Phys. Lett.* **24**, 1217 (2007).
- [11] B. B. Blinov, D. L. Moehring, L. M. Duan, and C. Monroe, *Nature (London)* **428**, 153 (2004).
- [12] S. Olmschenk, K. C. Younge, D. L. Moehring, D. N. Matsukevich, P. Maunz, and C. Monroe, *Phys. Rev. A* **76**, 052314 (2007).
- [13] C. Wunderlich, C. Balzer, T. Hannemann, F. Mintert, W. Neuhauser, D. Rei, and P. E. Toschek, *J. Phys. B* **36**, 1063 (2003).
- [14] M. Johanning, A. Braun, N. Timoney, V. Elman, W. Neuhauser, and C. Wunderlich, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **102**, 073004 (2009).
- [15] C. F. Roos, M. Chwalla, K. Kim, M. Riebe, and R. Blatt, *Nature (London)* **443**, 316 (2006).
- [16] J. Benhelm, G. Kirchmair, C. F. Roos, and R. Blatt, *Phys. Rev. A* **77**, 062306 (2008).
- [17] N. Kurz, M. R. Dietrich, G. Shu, R. Bowler, J. Salacka, V. Mirgon, and B. B. Blinov, *Phys. Rev. A* **77**, 060501(R) (2008).
- [18] S. X. Wang, J. Labaziewicz, Y. Ge, R. Shewmon, and I. L. Chuang, e-print arXiv:0811.2422.
- [19] D. Leibfried, B. DeMarco, V. Meyer, M. Rowe, A. Ben-Kish, M. Barrett, J. Britton, J. Hughes, W. M. Itano, B. M. Jelenkovic, C. Langer, D. Lucas, T. Rosenband, and D. J. Wineland, *J. Phys. B* **36**, 599 (2003).
- [20] For example, for solid-state systems, at website <http://qist.lanl.gov/pdfs/ss.pdf>
- [21] B. E. Kane, *Nature (London)* **393**, 133 (1998).
- [22] D. Suter and K. Lim, *Phys. Rev. A* **65**, 052309 (2002).
- [23] W. Harnett, C. Meyer, A. Weidinger, D. Suter, and J. Twamley, *Phys. Status Solidi B* **233**, 453 (2002).
- [24] J. Twamley, *Phys. Rev. A* **67**, 052318 (2003).
- [25] C. Ju, D. Suter, and J. Du, *Phys. Rev. A* **75**, 012318 (2007).
- [26] M. V. G. Dutt, L. Childress, L. Jiang, E. Togan, J. Maze, F. Jelezko, A. S. Zibrov, P. R. Hemmer, and M. D. Lukin, *Science* **316**, 1312 (2007).
- [27] P. Neumann, N. Mizuochi, F. Rempp, P. Hemmer, H. Watanabe, S. Yamasaki, V. Jacques, T. Gaebel, F. Jelezko, and J. Wrachtrup, *Science* **320**, 1326 (2008).
- [28] F. Mintert and C. Wunderlich, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **87**, 257904 (2001).
- [29] F. Arbes, M. Benzing, Th Gudjons, F. Kurth, and G. Werth, *Z. Phys. D: At., Mol. Clusters* **31**, 27 (1994).
- [30] J. Benhelm, G. Kirchmair, U. Rapol, T. Korber, C. F. Roos, and R. Blatt, *Phys. Rev. A* **75**, 032506 (2007).
- [31] Z. J. Deng, M. Feng, and K. L. Gao, *Phys. Lett. A* **344**, 97

- (2005).
- [32] D. Mc Hugh and J. Twamley, *Phys. Rev. A* **71**, 012315 (2005).
- [33] N. Sinha, T. S. Mahesh, K. V. Ramanathan, and A. Kumar, *J. Chem. Phys.* **114**, 4415 (2001).
- [34] M. A. Nielsen and I. L. Chuang, *Quantum Computation and Quantum Information* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, 2001).
- [35] J. Stolze and D. Suter, *Quantum Computing: A Short Course from Theory to Experiment*, 2nd ed. (Wiley-VCH, Berlin, 2008).
- [36] R. Narkowicz, D. Suter, and I. Niemeyer, *Rev. Sci. Instrum.* **79**, 084702 (2008).
- [37] R. Blatt and D. Wineland, *Nature (London)* **453**, 1008 (2008).
- [38] R. Blatt and P. Zoller, *Eur. J. Phys.* **9**, 250 (1988).
- [39] D. Suter and T. S. Mahesh, *J. Chem. Phys.* **128**, 052206 (2008).
- [40] L. M. K. Vandersypen and I. L. Chuang, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **76**, 1037 (2005).
- [41] M. A. Pravia, N. Boulant, J. Emerson, A. Farid, E. M. Fortunato, T. F. Havel, R. Martinez, and D. G. Cory, *J. Chem. Phys.* **119**, 9993 (2003).
- [42] T. Schulte-Herbrüggen and O. W. Sörensen, *Concepts Magn. Reson.* **12**, 389 (2000).
- [43] D. A. Lidar, I. L. Chuang, and K. B. Whaley, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **81**, 2594 (1998).
- [44] A. D. Cronin, J. Schmiedmayer, and D. E. Pritchard, e-print arXiv:0712.3703.
- [45] A. Sørensen and K. Mølmer, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **82**, 1971 (1999).

Erratum: Nuclear spin qubits in a trapped-ion quantum computer [Phys. Rev. A **79, 052331 (2009)]**

 M. Feng, Y. Y. Xu, F. Zhou, and D. Suter
 (Received 16 December 2009; published 19 January 2010)

 DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevA.81.019902](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.81.019902)

PACS number(s): 03.67.Lx, 42.50.Dv, 99.10.Cd

There is a minor error in Eq. (1) regarding the nuclear spin splitting term. The correct Hamiltonian of the system for $^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ in the Paschen-Back regime is

$$H_0 = \Omega_S S_z + \Omega_I I_z + A S_z I_z, \quad (1)$$

where we use units of $\hbar = 1$. S_z and I_z are the spin operators of the electron spin ($S = 1/2$) and the nuclear spin ($I = 7/2$). $\Omega_S = g_S \mu_B B$ and $\Omega_I = g_n \mu_B B$ are the Larmor frequencies of the electron and nuclear spins with $g_S = 2.00225664$ and $g_n = 2.0503 \times 10^{-4}$, and $A = -806.4$ MHz is the hyperfine coupling constant. The energy-level configuration in a magnetic field of $B = 1$ T is plotted in Fig. 1.

Compared to Eq. (1) in the original paper, the only change here is the sign in front of the nuclear spin splitting term. Since this term is much smaller than others, the energy-level configuration remains unchanged, but with the nuclear sublevel splitting varied. This implies that our scheme in the original paper still works, but some numbers in the text should be corrected. For example, in Sec. II, the rf pulse should be at $\Omega_{\text{mw}} = 400.4$ MHz in order to exchange $|7/2\rangle_I |1/2\rangle_S \longleftrightarrow |-7/2\rangle_I |1/2\rangle_S$, while the $|7/2\rangle_I |-1/2\rangle_S$ and $|-7/2\rangle_I |-1/2\rangle_S$ states remain invariant.

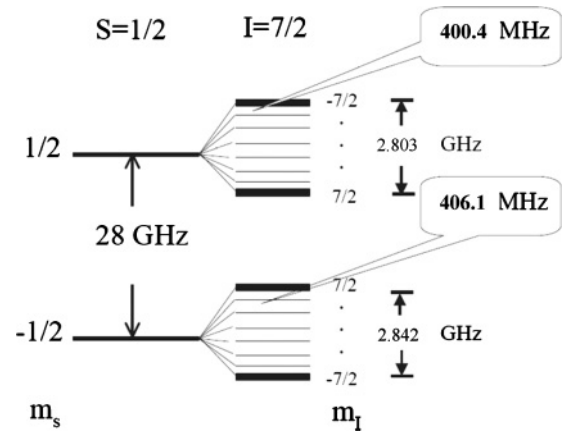


FIG. 1. Angular momentum states in the ground state of a $^{43}\text{Ca}^+$ ion in a magnetic field $B = 1$ T (i.e., in the Paschen-Back regime). The four levels drawn in bold are used to define two qubits.

Another correction is for a typographic error in Fig. 3, where the splitting in the middle trace should be 69.36 MHz, instead of 6.936 MHz.

We thank Kunling Wang for pointing out the errors to us.