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Resonant two-laser spin-state spectroscopy of a negatively charged quantum dot-microcavity system with a cold permanent magnet

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A high-efficiency spin-photon interface is an essential piece of quantum hardware necessary for various quantum technologies. Self-assembled InGaAs quantum dots have excellent optical properties, if embedded into an optical micro-cavity they can show near-deterministic spin-photon entanglement and spin readout. In order to address the individual spin states, an external magnetic field is required, which usually is done using a superconducting magnet. Here, we show a compact cryogenically compatible SmCo magnet design that delivers 475 mT in-plane Voigt geometry magnetic field at 5 K, which is suitable to lift the energy degeneracy of the electron spin states and trion transitions of a single InGaAs quantum dot. This quantum dot is embedded in a birefringent high-finesse optical micro-cavity which enables efficient collection of single photons emitted by the quantum dot. We demonstrate spin-state manipulation by addressing the trion transitions with a single and two laser fields. The experimental data agrees well to our model which covers single- and two-laser cross-polarized resonance fluorescence, Purcell enhancement in a birefringent cavity, and variation of the laser powers.

I. INTRODUCTION

An efficient, tunable spin-photon interface that allows high fidelity entanglement of spin qubits with flying qubits, photons, lies at the heart of many building blocks of distributed quantum technologies [1] – ranging from quantum repeaters [2], photonic gates [3, 4], to the generation of photonic cluster states [5–7]. Further, to secure connectivity within the quantum network, an ideal spin-photon interface requires near-unity collection efficiency. Therefore an atom or semiconductor quantum dot (QD) carrying a single spin as a quantum memory is integrated into photonic structures such as optical microcavities, where recently 57 % in-fiber photon collection efficiency has been achieved [8].

Within the pool of promising systems, singly-charged excitonic complexes of optically active QD devices in III-V materials [9] combine near-unity quantum efficiency, excellent zero-phonon line emission at cryogenic temperatures [10] with nearly lifetime-limited optical linewidth [11]. This, in combination with sub-nanosecond Purcell-enhanced lifetimes, enabled GHz-scale generation rates of indistinguishable single-photons [8, 12–17], robust polarization selection rules [18, 19], and simple on-chip integration facilitating stable-long term operation and tuneability.

The singly-charged QD can be optically excited to the trion state. If this is done with linearly polarized light,

Spin manipulation is more difficult if the QD dot is coupled to a polarization non-degenerate birefringent microcavity [8, 17, 24], since the orientation of the in-plane magnetic field needs to be aligned with a cavity polarization axis, and the Purcell enhancement of the QD transitions becomes polarization-dependent. Here we show two-laser resonant spectroscopy [21, 25] of a single spin in a single QD in such a birefringent cavity, and use crosspolarized collection of single photons. We use a simple cryogenic permanent magnet assembly to apply the magnetic field, and we are able to derive the spin dynamics by comparison to a theoretical model.

the spin state of the resident electron is transferred to the trion hole spin by the optical selection rules. If the trion decays, it will emit a single circularly polarized photon with a helicity depending on the hole spin state, Fig. 1(a). To achieve selective spin addressability which is necessary for spin initialization and readout, the QD is typically placed in an external in-plane (Voigt geometry) magnetic field [20, 21], which induces Zeeman splitting of the spin states and trion transitions [18]. The magnetic field modifies the eigenstates of the system and the optical selection rules, and four optical transitions are possible (see Fig. 1(b)), which are now linearly polarized. The electron and trion spin, as well as the photon polarization, are now connected by the modified optical selection rules. We obtain two intertwined Λ systems which can be used with steady-state light fields for spin initialization [20, 21], arbitrary spin ground state superposition generation [22], or dynamical spin decoupling from the nuclear bath [23].

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II. PERMANENT MAGNET ASSEMBLY

Magneto-optical QD-based experiments usually rely on large and complex superconducting magnets [7, 26], which generate strong magnetic fields but require both a stabilized current source and cryogenic temperatures. However, many experiments need only a static magnetic field of around 500 mT, which can be achieved with compact strong permanent magnets cooled down together with the QD device [27–29]. Unfortunately, many rare-earth magnetic materials such as NdFeB [30] suffer at cryogenic temperatures from spin reorientation [31] which lowers the effective magnetic field [32] and tilts the easy axis of the magnetic assembly [30, 33]. Especially, losing control over the magnetic field direction is problematic with QDs since it affects mixing between dark and bright states and thus changes both transition energies and optical selection rules [34].

To build our permanent magnet assembly, we have chosen from the strongest commercially available magnetic materials [35, 36] SmCo (grade 2:17) magnets with a room temperature remanence of 1.03 T. This industrially used magnetic system is known for its high Curie temperature (over 800 °C) and high magnetocrystalline anisotropy [37, 38] excellent for high-temperature applications in several fields [39-41]. Especially it is used above the Curie temperatures of NdFeB of 310 °C [38], where current NdFeB-based magnets have relatively poor intrinsic magnetic properties. Moreover, due to low temperaturedependence of remanence and coercivity [36, 42, 43]. SmCo-based magnets also show excellent thermal stability of the remanence with near-linear dependence [32, 42] down to 4.2 K. This is in contrast to other common rareearth magnet compounds such as NdFeB [30], where the remanence at temperatures below 135 K, depending on the specific material composition [32], decreases rapidly by several percent due to the spin-reorientation transition [31].

Our permanent magnet assembly in Fig. 1(c) is designed to fit on top of a XYZ piezo motor assembly in a standard closed-cycle cryostat with optical access via an ambient-temperature long working distance objective, which restricts its physical dimensions to approximately 1 cm in height. Thus, we built the assembly from two $9 \times 9 \,\mathrm{mm}$ commercially available rod-shaped SmCo magnets separated by a 4.5 mm air gap embedded in a $36 \times 24 \times 10.8 \,\mathrm{mm}$ copper housing. Due to the large remanence (1.03 T) and small air gap, the assembly in the center of the gap produces a homogeneous magnetic field of about 500 mT, as discussed in the Supplemental Material [44], Sec. S1. The assembly is rigidly attached by brass screws to the H-shaped copper sample mount, where the QD device is horizontally placed in the center of the air gap such that the magnetic field is in-plane (Voigt geometry). The assembly contains electrical contacts to apply a bias voltage $V_{\rm G}$ to the device. It has a low weight of 69 g (including 4.8 g per magnet), compatible

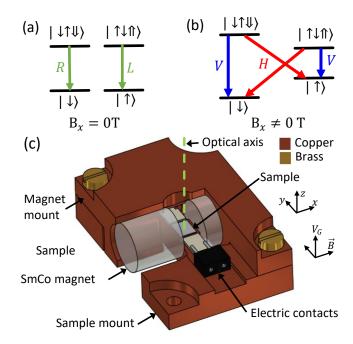


Figure 1. Energy level schemes of negatively charged QD and magnetic assembly. Optical selection rules of trion transitions without (a) and with (b) an external in-plane magnetic field. (c) Cut-away schematic of the permanent magnet assembly.

with standard nanopositioners allowing for fine-tuning of the sample position with respect to the optical axis.

The magnetic mount is then cooled down together with the sample to approximately 5 K. Since in SmCo, the spin reorientation transition was reported to be stable down to $10\,\mathrm{K}$ [32], we do not expect magnetization axis changes and assume only a small magnetic field drop of $5\,\%$ between the room and cryogenic temperatures [30]. This makes SmCo an ideal material choice for strong homogeneous cryogenic magnets, in our case delivering about $475\,\mathrm{mT}$ at $5\,\mathrm{K}$.

III. SPIN-STATE DETERMINATION

We study self-assembled InGaAs QDs emitting around $\lambda=935.5\,\mathrm{nm}$, embedded in $\sim\lambda$ thick GaAs planar cavity, surrounded by two distributed Bragg reflectors (DBR): 26 pairs of $\lambda/4$ thick GaAs/Al_{0.90}Ga_{0.10}As layers from the top and 13 pairs of GaAs/AlAs layers and 16 pairs of GaAs/Al_{0.90}Ga_{0.10}As layers at the bottom [24, 46]. The single QD layer is embedded in a *p-in* junction, separated from the electron reservoir by a 31.8 nm thick tunnel barrier including a 21.8 nm thick Al_{0.45}Ga_{0.55}As electron blocking layer designed to allow single electron charging of the QD [47, 48]. A voltage bias $V_{\rm G}$ applied over the diode allows for charge-control of the ground state of the QD and also to fine-tune the QD transition energies into resonance with the optical cavity mode. The optical in-plane cavity mode confine-

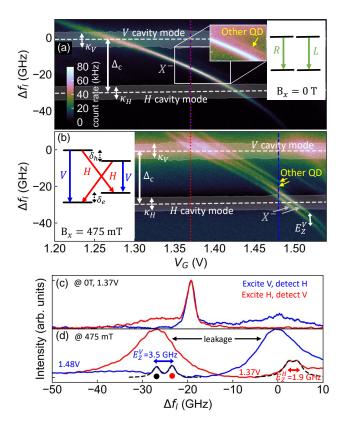


Figure 2. Resonant reflection as a function of laser frequency and gate voltage without (a) and with (b) an in-plane external magnetic field, plotted with the same color scale. The excitation laser is polarized along the V cavity axis and reflected laser light is filtered out using a crossed H polarizer, to select photons emitted by the QD trion. Insets show the corresponding optical selection rules. Dashed lines indicate the cavity resonance frequencies, and the cavity linewidth given by the decay rates κ_V , κ_H are shown highlighted; both are determined by semi-classical model fits [45]. The data in the inset of panel (a) are plotted on a logarithmic scale. Panels (c, d) show cross-sectional plots without and with magnetic field for two excitation polarizations (blue: excitation along V cavity mode, red: H) at voltages 1.37 V or 1.48 V, indicated by the vertical lines in panels (a, b). The Zeeman splittings determined from Lorentzian fits (black dashed lines) are given. The excitation power in front of excitation objective is 2 nW, laser scanning speed 41 GHz/s.

ment is achieved by ion-etching of eight circular trenches arranged in an octagon into the top DBR down to a 10 nm thick AlAs layer. By oxidation of this layer, an intra-cavity lens or aperture is formed, which leads to transverse mode confinement. Details about the device are discussed in Supplemental Material [44], Sec. S3. We fabricate 216 cavities per device [49] and select a suitable one with (i) a QD well-coupled to the cavity mode and (ii) low birefringence of the fundamental mode, for the device studied here, the two linearly-polarized cavity modes (H and V modes) are split by $\Delta_{\rm c}=28\,{\rm GHz}.$

First, we cool down the device to 5 K without the SmCo

magnet assembly in a closed-cycle cryostat. For resonant laser spectroscopy, we use a cross-polarization laser extinction method with laser rejection better than 10⁶ [50]. Using a free-space polarizer and half-waveplate, the polarization of the excitation laser is aligned along the V cavity polarization axis, and the light reflected from the cavity is recorded with a single-photon detector after passing again the half-wave plate and the crossed polarizer. In Fig. 2(a), we show a fluorescence map of this device measured in the cross-polarization scheme as a function of the laser frequency detuning from the Vpolarized cavity mode resonance Δf_l and applied bias voltage $V_{\rm G}$. We observe a single emission line which is shifted by the quantum-confined Stark effect. The line is in resonance with the V cavity mode at around $1.25\,\mathrm{V}$ and with the H cavity mode at around 1.40 V. The same line is visible also if the excitation and detection polarization are swapped, see the cross-sectional plot in Fig. 2(c). The fact that we observe the same single line under both perpendicular polarizations and that it is coupled to both fundamental cavity modes, suggests that the emitted photons are circularly polarized and originate from the charged exciton X^- .

Now we cool down the device with the SmCo magnet assembly, to lift the energy degeneracy of the trion transitions. In this scenario, with the energy level scheme in Fig. 2(b), the optical selection rules are modified by the in-plane magnetic field from circular to linear polarization. Thus the scanning excitation laser polarized along the V cavity mode can only resonantly address Vpolarized transitions, i.e., $|\downarrow\rangle \rightarrow |\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$ and $|\uparrow\rangle \rightarrow |\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$, therefore we expect to observe a pair of lines Zeeman-split by the energy $E_{\rm Z}^V = \delta_{\rm e} + \delta_{\rm h}$. Without cavity enhancement, each of the excited trion states radiatively decays with equal probability (by cavity Purcell enhancement, however, this is modified) into the single-spin ground state by emission of a single photon with either V or H polarization depending on the excited and ground states, as depicted in Fig. 2(b). Because we measure in cross-polarization, we filter out the emitted V-polarized single photons and detect only photons emitted by the $|\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle \rightarrow |\uparrow\rangle$ and $|\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \rightarrow |\downarrow\rangle$ transitions. Thus, the total detected rate is reduced to half of that without magnetic field. Similarly, the scanning laser polarized along the Hcavity mode excites only $|\uparrow\rangle \rightarrow |\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$ and $|\downarrow\rangle \rightarrow |\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$, and we observe again a pair of fluorescence lines, this time Zeeman split by $E_{\rm Z}^H = |\delta_{\rm e} - \delta_{\rm h}|$. Note that in Fig. 2(b) we observe two pairs of emission lines which originate from two different QDs. We focus only on the brighter QD, corresponding to the clear transition in Fig. 2(a). In agreement with the trion energy level scheme, the trion transitions exhibit a different Zeeman splitting of $E_{\rm Z}^V=3.5\pm0.1\,{\rm GHz}$ under V- and $E_{\rm Z}^H=1.9\pm0.1\,{\rm GHz}$ H-polarization excitation. This Zeeman splitting was extracted by Lorentizan fits (linewidth $\sim 1.5\,\mathrm{GHz}$) to the laser frequency scans shown in Fig. 2(d), which allows us to estimate [51] the electron and hole g-factors. We obtain $|g_e| = 0.39$ and $|g_h| = 0.12$; these values

agree to literature values for small InGaAs QDs [52]. We also observe a 25 GHz average energy shift of the QD emission caused by a combination of the diamagnetic shift (around 0.5 GHz assuming a diamagnetic constant of $-9.4\,\mu\text{eV}/T^2$ [25]), and temperature/strain induced band-gap changes between consecutive cooldowns. These changes are likely also responsible for the brightness change of the second QD, which has been only hardly visible in Fig. 2(a). Note that we also observe a broad emission, which is most likely due to non-resonant cavity-enhanced QD transitions [53, 54] in combination with imperfect polarization alignment and/or filtering [50].

IV. TWO-COLOR RESONANT LASER EXCITATION

Now, we demonstrate spin-state manipulation using two individually tunable narrow-linewidth lasers. For a high-degree cross-polarization extinction ratio, we perform resonance fluorescence spectroscopy in the vicinity of the H-cavity mode ($V_{\rm G}=1.49\,{\rm V}$). We use V polarization of both excitation lasers to solely address the transitions marked by dots in Fig. 2(d). These transitions show Zeeman splitting larger than the QD linewidth leading to frequency-labeling of the spin states, which we use to address the spin states.

In Fig. 3(d), we show a reflection map measured in cross-polarization as a function of both laser frequencies f_l (pump) and f_r (repump). The horizontal and vertical lines indicate the trion transition frequencies. Where these frequencies intersect interesting dynamics occurs. First, the nodes oriented along the diagonal represent a condition where both lasers are resonant with the same transition corresponding to the excitation scheme depicted in Fig. 3(b). We will call this configuration twolaser resonant excitation (2LRE). The system dynamics under this excitation is equivalent to single-laser excitation (1LRE) with stronger emission due to the higher driving power of $P_l + P_r$. The anti-diagonally oriented nodes correspond to emission under two-color excitation where each laser pumps a distinct transition [Fig. 3(c)]; we refer to this scheme as two-color resonant excitation (2CRE) [25]. For clarity, we further focus only on the situation where the first laser of constant power P_l continuously pumps the $|\downarrow\rangle \rightarrow |\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$ transition. Due to crosspolarization detection, we observe only H-polarized emission from the $|\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle \rightarrow |\uparrow\rangle$ transition, a signature of population shelving into the $|\downarrow\rangle$ spin state. This shelved population is repumped, and thus, the total (detected) singlephoton rate increased by re-pumping the $|\uparrow\rangle \rightarrow |\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$ transition with the second laser, and we observe a higher photon rate at the anti-diagonal nodes in Fig. 3(d).

To gain a more precise knowledge of the magnitude of the spontaneous decay rates Γ_{xy} as well as electron and hole spin-flip rates $\gamma_{\rm e}$ and $\gamma_{\rm h}$ involved in the system dynamics, we compare our experiments to a model which is derived

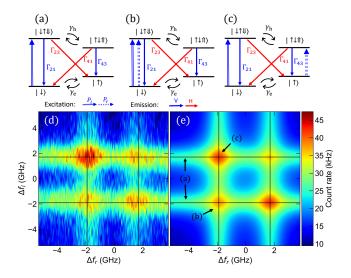


Figure 3. Two-color laser trion spectroscopy with a magnetic field in Voigt geometry. (a-c) Comparison of three different trion excitation conditions: single-laser excitation (a), two same-frequency lasers (b), and (c) each laser addresses different trion transitions. Experiment (d) and model (e) data for two-color experiments, for $P_l=2.1\,\mathrm{nW}$ pump laser power and $P_r=2.0\,\mathrm{nW}$ repump laser power, the black lines indicate the QD trion transition frequencies.

in the Supplemental Material [44], Sec. S5. For a laser power below the saturation power P_c , the model is derived from the rate equations describing the steady-state two-scanning lasers pump of the trion energy scheme in Fig. 3. The trion transitions are modeled as two coupled Λ systems with asymmetric V and H-polarized radiative transition rates due to cavity enhancement of the latter. A careful analysis of the model parameters and comparison to our experimental results allows us to determine the electron spin-flip rates to be $\gamma_{\rm e} \approx 2.5\,{\rm MHz}$, while the hole spin-flip rate cannot be determined because of the short lifetime of the excited trion states, as expected. Further we obtain lifetimes of $\Gamma_{21}=2.1\,\mathrm{GHz}, \Gamma_{43}=2.7\,\mathrm{GHz}, \mathrm{and}$ $\Gamma_{23} = \Gamma_{41} = 0.8\,\mathrm{GHz}$. Similar spin-flip rates were reported in earlier resonant two-color trion spectroscopy without cavity [25]; the cavity-enhanced radiative rates Γ_{21} , Γ_{43} agree with our power-broadening analysis where we expect a relaxation rate of about 3 GHz for a spectral width of 1.5 GHz, see the Supplemental Material [44], Sec. S4. Note, the cavity-enhanced rates Γ_{21} and Γ_{43} are different due to different Purcell enhancement of the transitions, while the non-enhanced rates Γ_{23} , Γ_{41} are identical, as expected [18, 25].

Figure 4 shows spin-flip rate dependency of the steady state occupation of the trion and electron spin states predicted by our theory. In the simulation with varied $\gamma_{\rm e}$, we used system parameters found above together with laser powers $P_l=2.1\,{\rm nW}$ and $P_r=2.0\,{\rm nW}$ to demonstrate spin pumping. First, if the electron spin-flip rate is small (below 1 kHz), the weak pump laser pumping

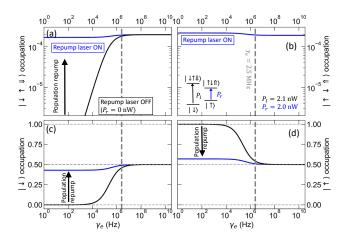


Figure 4. Steady-state trion states (a, b) and electron ground-state spin (c, d) occupation probability as a function of electron spin-flip rate, with (blue) and without (black) repump laser. The dashed lines show the determined spin-flip rate of $\gamma_{\rm e} \approx 2.5\,{\rm MHz}$.

the transition $|\downarrow\rangle \rightarrow |\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$ initializes the spin state $|\uparrow\rangle$. By optical repumping with the second laser on resonance with $|\uparrow\rangle \rightarrow |\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$, the shelved spin population can be largely transferred from $|\uparrow\rangle$ into $|\downarrow\rangle$ as demonstrated in Fig. 4(c,d). Due to the optical repumping, the resonant absorption on spin $|\uparrow\rangle$ becomes again possible, leading experimentally in the recovery of transmission signal at the resonant frequency with $|\downarrow\rangle \rightarrow |\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle$ [25, 55]. Our simulation for the determined spin-flip rate of $\gamma_e \approx 2.5\,\mathrm{MHz}$ shows that the electron spin-flip leads to a comparable spin population of both ground states even without repumping laser field, making conclusive absorption measurements difficult because of the small change between ground state populations with and without optical repumping. However, the spin repumping from $|\uparrow\rangle$ is accompanied by the population of $|\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$ resulting in extra emission from this spin state. Importantly, the presence of this extra emission is independent of the ground state spin-flip rate and can be thus used as a signature of optical spin repumping. Moreover, at low γ_e , the emission following the spin repumping benefits also from the extra excited state population of the state $|\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle$, see Fig. 4(a).

Finally, we test our model against a series of excitation-power-dependent experiments shown in Fig. 5. Both observed trion transitions under 1LRE (black and red symbols corresponding to lines in Fig. 2(d)) show saturation with power described by 180 kHz/(1+ $P_{\rm c}/P$) [46, 56] with a reasonable saturation power of $P_{\rm c}=22\pm2\,{\rm nW}$, in agreement to our model.

In contrast to these single-frequency measurements, the 2CRE scheme shown by the blue symbols in Fig. 5 shows clear signs of spin repumping: Due to the continuous repumping of the spin population of both ground states with the two lasers (at a constant $P_r = 2.0 \,\mathrm{nW}$), we control the individual steady-state spin populations by

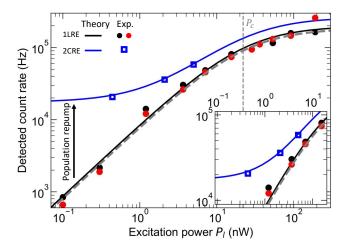


Figure 5. Power dependency of the trion resonant fluorescence under different excitation schemes, comparing experimental photon count rates (symbols) to our model (lines) with $\gamma_{\rm e}=2.5\,{\rm MHz}$: Only one pump laser for both trion transition (1LRE, black and red) and with repump laser (2CRE, blue). The gray dashed lines indicate the standard two-level system saturation behaviour.

altering the relative power of the lasers. Because higher repumping power leads to stronger repumping and thus to higher excited-state occupation, we experimentally observe increased photon rates, following our model predictions. This increase varies with relative powers between pump and repump laser beam from a factor higher than 10 at $P_l = 0.44\,\mathrm{nW}$ to factor 1.3 above P_c .

V. CONCLUSIONS

We developed a compact cryogenic SmCo permanent magnet assembly delivering an in-plane magnetic field of 475 mT. In contrast to superconducting solenoids, this solution does not need any active control and works from cryogenic to ambient temperatures. Therefore, we believe it could become a preferable, economical, and scalable architecture for spin-photon interfaces where the magnetic field is used in "set-and-forget" mode.

Using this magnetic assembly in Voigt geometry, we have shown Zeeman splitting and spin addressability of the electron and trion states of a negatively charged quantum dot embedded in a birefringent optical microcavity. We demonstrate spin-state manipulation using continuous-wave resonant two-laser spectroscopy, which in combination with a high-extinction ratio cross-polarization technique enables background-free single-photon readout. This two-laser excitation scheme, similar to earlier schemes [21, 22, 25] without a cavity, will allow for spin-state initialization and manipulation.

In principle, a weaker permanent magnet can be used to avoid frequency-labeling of the polarization states in spin-photon entanglement experiments [7, 57].

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