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Storage qubits and their potential implementation through a semiconductor double quantum dot

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In the context of a semiconductor-based implementation of a quantum computer the idea of a quantum storage bit is presented and a possible implementation using a double-quantum-dot structure is considered. A measurement scheme using a stimulated Raman adiabatic passage is discussed.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Quantum systems serving as computational devices have been shown to potentially be able to perform information processing tasks intractable for devices relying on classical physics.¹ This additional computational power provided by quantum information processing devices, i.e., quantum computers, has motivated a large number of different proposals for possible implementations (see Ref. 2, and references therein). A quantum computer should be able to perform a large number of gating operations within the typical decoherence time. One of the main problems with solid-state quantum computer proposals based on the charge degrees of freedom is to find a way to overcome the “fast” decoherence times. This is a general problem: coherent quantum manipulations (gating) usually imply a need for strong external coupling to the qubit degrees of freedom; on the other hand, strong coupling usually causes fast decoherence. A major step in overcoming this problem has been recently proposed by Biolatti *et al.*³ In their proposal they suggest ultrafast gate operations (UGO's) using laser pulses to drive energy-selected interband optical transitions. In the UGO proposal the qubit is implemented using excitonic degrees of freedom. The UGO is much faster than gating by time-dependent electrical fields.

Our paper is concerned with the question of finding a possible scheme to measure the state of a qubit in a solid-state quantum computation implementation: in fact a further requirement for a quantum computer realization is the possibility of performing projective measurements on qubits.² For the purpose of error correction one would like to be able to perform intermediate projective measurements on single qubits during the operation time of the quantum computer. For this to be possible, it is necessary to extract the information from a qubit on a time scale shorter than the decoherence time T_2 . Once again one faces the problem of short decoherence time. The problem, in this case, is even more acute since there is also a typical time T_1 for the decay of information in the qubit due to the finite excitonic lifetime. Short- T_1 limits the available time for the measurement process, even when no gating operations are being performed. There have been many recent proposals for measuring the quantum state of a solid-state implemented qubit, using a single-electron transistor (SET),^{4–6} tunnel junctions,⁷ and a ballistic point-contact detector.^{8,9} These proposals as well as other models,^{10–13} which could be adapted to measure qubits

implemented using quantum dots, involve continuous measurements schemes,¹⁴ i.e., schemes in which the current through the point contact or SET is being continuously measured. Regarding the UGO proposal continuous measurement schemes suffer major drawbacks. Since measurement induces decoherence in the measured system, in the proposed measurement schemes there should be no net current flowing through the point contact or SET until one decides to measure. Thus the measurement process involves the switching on of electric fields, involving again time scales which are long compared to the decoherence time T_2 and the excitonic lifetime T_1 . Furthermore, in these proposed measurement schemes even when there is no net current flow through the measurement apparatus, i.e., no electric field, still there are current fluctuations. These current fluctuations induce a random electric potential in the qubit, i.e., decoherence. In this paper we will show a possible way to overcome these problems via the use of a “storage qubit.” First we will introduce the idea of the storage qubit, then the measurement of the qubit by the storage qubit will be described, and finally we will present a possible implementation of the storage qubit using a double-quantum-dot (QD) structure.

II. STORAGE QUBIT

The idea of a storage qubit (S qubit) is to transfer information from the qubit to another qubit (the S qubit) where the information can reside for a long time; i.e., the S qubit possess a large T_1 compared to the original qubit. Moreover through the use of a S qubit one can increase the spatial distance between the qubit and the measurement device, decreasing the decoherence rate when no measurement is taking place. Due to its relatively large T_1 , the information inside the S qubit can be extracted by the proposed continuous measurement schemes without affecting the qubit. The S qubit will measure the qubit in a time that is “short” compared to the decoherence time and store the information. The generic way to describe this measurement is through the “controlled not” or c-not gate, which is also referred to as the measurement gate.¹⁵ The measurement of the qubit by the S qubit is thus described in the following way:

$$(\alpha|0_{QB}\rangle + \beta|1_{QB}\rangle)|0_{SQB}\rangle \rightarrow \alpha|0_{QB}\rangle|0_{SQB}\rangle + \beta|1_{QB}\rangle|1_{SQB}\rangle, \quad (2.1)$$

where $|i_{QB}\rangle$ and $|j_{SQB}\rangle$ ($i, j \in \{0, 1\}$), are the qubit and S -qubit states, respectively.¹⁶ This sort of measurement is just the

standard Von Neumann measurement model in which the time evolution operator is the generator of translations in the pointer basis,¹⁵ and the shift in the pointer basis is made accordingly to the initial state of the qubit: if the qubit is initially in state $|0_{QB}\rangle$, the pointer state is shifted by 0; if the qubit is initially in state $|1_{QB}\rangle$, the pointer is shifted by 1.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF A STORAGE QUBIT

We now consider a possible implementation of an S qubit with the use of the double-dot (DD) system described in a recent paper by Hohenester *et al.*¹⁷ This proposed S qubit could be used for measuring the quantum state of the qubit implementation proposed in the UGO scheme. We thus start by describing the computational subspace as defined accordingly to UGO proposal.³ The qubit is implemented through excitonic degrees of freedom in a QD. The two possible states of the qubit, $|0_{QB}\rangle$ and $|1_{QB}\rangle$, consist of the absence and presence of a ground-state exciton in the QD, respectively.

The S qubit designed to measure the excitonic state of the QD consists of two coupled semiconductor QD's. Through application of an external gate voltage a surplus hole occupies the DD system. The S -qubit states are thus defined as an excess hole in the right QD, $|R\rangle$, and excess hole in the left QD, $|L\rangle$.¹⁸ The original symmetry between the two states is lifted through the application of an electric field $F = -15$ kV/cm in the growth direction.¹⁷ Due to this field, the energy levels are lowered in the left dot with respect to the right. For the measurement process of the qubit by the S qubit we propose the use of coherent population transfer in coupled semiconductor QD's, as recently proposed in Ref. 17. The coherent population transfer (in this case the transfer of excess hole from the left to the right QD) is achieved through a stimulated Raman adiabatic passage (STIRAP).¹⁹ The idea is to use the Coulomb interaction between the exciton in the QD and the surplus hole in the DD to detune the coherent population transfer in the DD (see Fig. 1).

For the DD to be an implementation of a S qubit one should check the following properties: first the measured information about the state of the QD stored inside the DD should be long lived; i.e., states $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$ should be long lasting. That is, the tunneling between them should occur on a much larger time scale than the decoherence process T_2 and the exciton recombination time T_1 in the QD. Second the measurement of the qubit by the S qubit should be fast and reliable. For the measurement to be fast, the typical time for extracting information on the excitonic state of the QD should be much shorter than T_1 and T_2 . For the measurement to be reliable, the energy shift of the DD states due to the existence of an exciton on the QD should be larger than the energy uncertainty of the laser pulses and larger than the typical width of the energy levels due to interaction with the environment.

It should be mentioned that in the coming sections the estimates presented are based on the same parameters used in Ref. 17, except for the distance between the two QD's which has been extended to 100 Å. This change of the distance

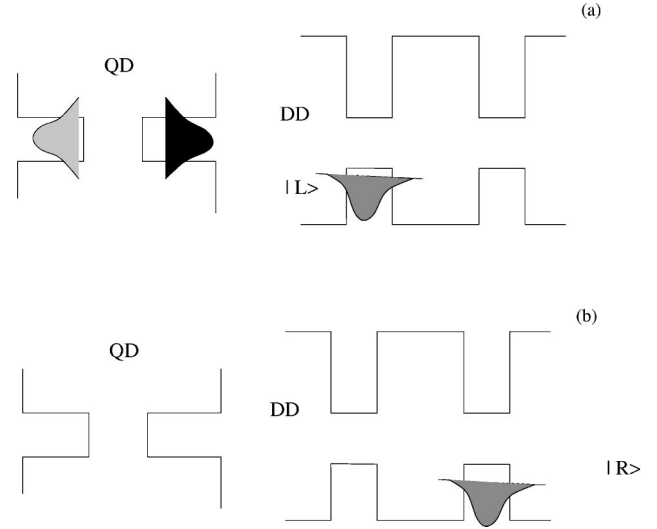


FIG. 1. Schematic illustration of the implemented qubit (QD) storage qubit (DD) structure. The double-dot states are labeled $|L\rangle$ and $|R\rangle$ and correspond to a hole in the left dot or in the right, respectively. The degeneracy between these two states is lifted by an external electric field. (a) State of DD corresponding to an exciton in the QD the STIRAP is detuned and the hole remains in state $|L\rangle$. (b) State of DD corresponding to no exciton in the QD, STIRAP is not detuned and hole is transferred to state $|R\rangle$.

between the dots will be discussed extensively when describing the measurement scheme.

A. Estimation of the storage lifetime

We begin by showing that the states $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$ are long lived. A rough estimate²¹ of the tunneling rate ν between these two states can be given by their overlap times an attempt frequency (ν_0), $\nu = \nu_0 \exp(-2r/\xi)$, where r is the distance between the two QD's and ξ is the localization length.

ν_0 is of the order of several picoseconds and it can be approximated by $\nu_0 \approx \hbar/2m_h l^2$, where $l = 50$ Å is the well width. The localization length can be estimated by $\xi \approx \hbar/\sqrt{2m_h(V-E)}$, where $V-E = 200$ meV is the effective potential barrier between the two hole states and $m_h = 0.34m_0$ (m_0 is the free electron mass) is the hole mass. Taking the distance between the two QD's to be $r = 100$ Å, one gets a tunneling time of the order of 1 ns. The naive approximation for the tunneling time between the two DD states, $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$, is orders of magnitude larger than the typical time T_2 for the QD exciton state.

In a more refined estimate of the tunneling time between the two hole states, one has to consider the effects of the coupling to the phonon environment. The major effect of the coupling to phonons is an activation process. As mentioned there is an applied external electric field opposite to the growth direction. Due to this field, the energy levels are modified by $\Delta E \approx 20$ meV in the left dot with respect to the right. Therefore there is a further exponential reduction term $\exp(-\Delta E/k_B T)$, where T is the temperature and k_B is the Boltzmann constant, when tunneling from $|L\rangle$ to $|R\rangle$. This factor is due to the fact that the tunneling is inelastic and one

has to consider the probability of absorbing a phonon of energy ΔE . For temperatures of the order of a few kelvin, the time information stored in state $|R\rangle$ is extremely long and the transition between $|R\rangle$ to $|L\rangle$ is highly improbable.²²

B. Measurement using a STIRAP process

Before describing the proposed measurement process we give a short description of the STIRAP process in the DD structure. The STIRAP process consists of three states, two of which are the long-lived lower energy states $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$, between which there are no dipole allowed transitions. Both these levels ($|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$) are instead dipole coupled to a third, higher-energy state, in this case a charged exciton state labeled $|X^+\rangle$. Through the use of two delayed laser pulses coherent population transfer can be achieved between $|L\rangle$ and $|R\rangle$ without ever occupying state $|X^+\rangle$. The first pulse (“Stokes”) is tuned to the $R-X^+$ resonance and the second pulse (“pump”) is tuned to the $L-X^+$ resonance.

For the STIRAP process to be effective the coupling of the excited state $|X^+\rangle$ to the two long-lived states should be of the same order. Moreover, the two long-lived states should be nondegenerate. In Ref. 17 this is achieved first by an electric field (in the growth direction), which lifts the original degeneracy of states $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$, and second, whereas the hole states are localized, the electron wave function in the excited state $|X^+\rangle$ is split between the two QD’s. This splitting of the electron wave function allows the coupling between the $|X^+\rangle$ state to the two states $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$ to be of the same order. In our proposed scheme for the implementation of an S qubit, we have increased the parameter for the spatial separation between the two wells to $r=100$ Å. This localizes the ground state and the first excited states of the electron in one of the QD’s. To have an electron wave function²³ which is spread in a similar way over the two QD’s, which is needed for an effective STIRAP process, one can think of two options. The first is using a charged exciton in which the holes are in the ground states in both QD’s and the electron is in a high-energy level in the QD’s, i.e., comparable to the confining potential. Thus in this case the proposed $|X^+\rangle$ excited state of our implementation scheme is composed of two localized hole functions in the two QD’s and an electron wave function which is split between the wells (see Fig. 2).

A second possibility is to have the holes again in their ground state and the electron excited to a continuum level above the QD confining potential. In this case the charged exciton state is a hybrid state of a confined exciton state for the hole and a bulk exciton state for the electron. The typical length scales for the hole wave function are given in this case by the confining potential width, $l=50$ Å and for the electron by the Bohr radius $a_B=95$ Å. Both the above possible excited states for $|X^+\rangle$ are very susceptible to decoherence. Especially the hybrid state where the electron is in a continuum level bound to the hole by Coulomb interaction is prone to decoherence: in fact outside the QD the electron is not shielded by the QD confining potential from interacting with phonons or other decoherencing mechanisms.

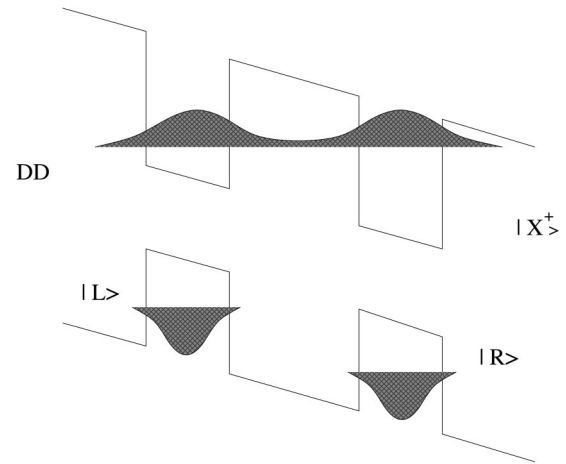


FIG. 2. Schematic illustration of the charged exciton state in the double-dot structure, $|X^+\rangle$. The two holes are in their ground states, while the electron is in an excited state such that its wave function is split between the QD’s.

The measurement of the QD state (exciton or absence of exciton in the QD) is based on exploiting the Coulomb interaction between the exciton and the charged states in the DD, i.e., the hole in the left (right) dot and charged exciton. The idea is to use the shift of the energy levels in the DD due to Coulomb interaction with the QD, to detune the coherent population transfer, in a way similar to what is done in the c-not gating operation in Ref. 3. The presence of an exciton in the QD prevents the coherent transfer of the excess hole from the left QD to the right QD of our DD by detuning the STIRAP process (see Fig. 1).

Concerning decoherence, one requires from the measurement device, i.e., the DD, to not decohere the QD when no measurement is taking place. This requirement is fulfilled since the presence of the hole in the DD apparatus does not disturb the QD states; rather, it causes a constant (time independent on the scale of the computation time) shift of the energy levels. Thus the measuring device will not affect the quantum computer when the measurement is not taking place.

Regarding the typical time on which the measurement takes place, the measurement of the state of the QD by the DD occurs on a time scale which is given by the duration of the laser pulses “Stokes” (“pump”) which induce the coherent population transfer. The duration of the laser pulses is of the order of 10 ps.¹⁷ Thus the typical time for extracting information on the state of the QD is fast compared to the exciton dephasing and recombination times [the dephasing time being of the order of 100 ps (Ref. 17)].

C. Shift of the energy levels of the double quantum dot

The measurement process of the QD by the DD is done via the detuning of the STIRAP process. The STIRAP process is rather robust: since in the adiabatic limit its efficiency is unaffected by perturbations of the virtual intermediate state and also since it lacks sensitivity to a small detuning of this state, still it is susceptible to detuning. In order for the STIRAP to take place one needs the adiabatic condition to be

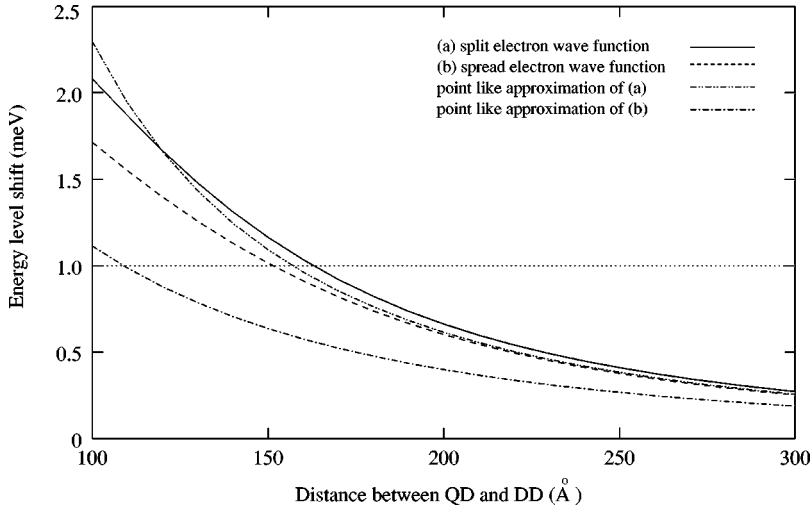


FIG. 3. Shift of energy levels of the DD as a function of the distance from the QD. The distance is measured from the center of the electron wave function in the QD to the center of the left (closest) QD of the DD configuration. For the case of an excited electron state spread over the dots we took the typical length scale for the wave function, in the growth direction, to be 100 Å. Results are presented for Gaussian and “point-like” wave functions for two cases: electron wave function split between the QD’s and electron wave function spread over the two QD’s.

fulfilled, i.e., $\Omega\tau \gg 1$, where τ is the duration of the pulses overlap and Ω is the typical Rabi frequency associated with the STIRAP process. A much stronger constraint is that the initial and final levels have to be in resonance in order to fulfill the energy conservation requirement during the transfer.²⁴ For the measurement process we need the STIRAP to take place *only* when there is *no* exciton in the QD.

We shall now show how the existence of an exciton destroys the probability for a STIRAP process to take place by, first, detuning the intermediate level such that the adiabatic condition is not fulfilled and, more important, by moving the final and initial levels out of resonance. When an (energy) detuning Δ_p of the pump laser from resonance with the $L-X^+$ transition and a detuning of the Stokes laser from the $R-X^+$ transition Δ_s are introduced, the Hamiltonian for the three-level system within the rotating wave approximation introducing has the form¹⁹

$$H = \frac{\hbar}{2} [(\Omega_p |X^+\rangle\langle L| + \Omega_s |X^+\rangle\langle R| + \text{H.c.}) + 2\Delta_p |X^+\rangle\langle X^+| + 2(\Delta_p - \Delta_s) |R\rangle\langle R|], \quad (3.1)$$

where Ω_p and Ω_s are the coupling Rabi frequencies, corresponding to the pump and Stokes pulses, respectively.

We first consider the case when the two-photon resonance condition applies, i.e., $\Delta_p = \Delta_s$. The instantaneous eigenstates and eigenfunction of the Hamiltonian, Eq. (3.1), are given by

$$\begin{aligned} |a_0\rangle &= \cos\theta |L\rangle - \sin\theta |R\rangle, & \omega_0 &= 0 \\ |a_{\pm}\rangle &\propto \sin\theta |L\rangle \pm \cot^{\pm 1}\phi |X^+\rangle + \cos\theta |R\rangle, \\ \omega_{\pm} &= \Delta_p \pm \sqrt{\Delta_p^2 + \Omega_p^2 + \Omega_s^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

where θ is the mixing angle defined by $\tan\theta = \Omega_p/\Omega_s$ and ϕ is given by the detuning and Rabi frequencies and is of no importance in the ensuing discussion. $|a_0\rangle$ is referred to as the “dark state” since it includes no contributions from the “leaky state” $|X^+\rangle$.

The condition for an adiabatic transfer is given by $|\dot{\omega}^{\pm} - \omega_0| \tau \gg 1$. For the parameters used in the paper of Hohenester *et al.*¹⁷ ($\Omega_{s,p} = 1.0$ meV, $\tau = 10$ ps) when the the laser

detuning Δ_p becomes of the order of the effective Rabi frequency $\Omega_{eff} = \sqrt{\Omega_p^2 + \Omega_s^2}$, the adiabatic condition is no longer fulfilled. In this case the STIRAP process is detuned when the levels in the DD are shifted such that the energy difference for the transition $L-X^+$ is shifted by more than 1.0 meV. When the adiabatic condition is no longer fulfilled one has a nonvanishing probability for occupying the leaky state. Once the leaky state is occupied there is a high probability of a transition to a different state, i.e., not one of the three states used for the STIRAP process. In this way the hole transfer from the left QD to the right does not take place.

As described in the Appendix, we have estimated that, when the electron wave function of the excited exciton state is split between the two QD’s, then up to a distance of 170 Å between the QD and DD, the energy level shift in the DD due to the presence of an exciton in the QD is bigger than 1.0 meV (see Fig. 3). It is worthwhile to note that using an excited state which is a hybrid between a bulk exciton for the electron and a confined exciton for the hole we obtain an energy level shift in the DD bigger than 1.0 meV for distances up to 150 Å. It is therefore not crucial to get the excited electron localized inside the QD’s, since from our estimates any excited electron state can provide the needed energy shift for distances up to 150 Å. It is also interesting to note that the excited electron state which is split between the two dots gives an energy shift which is quite similar to what one would obtain by using two pointlike charges (each of charge $e/2$) sitting in the center of the two dots (see Fig. 3). This means that the pointlike approximation is quite good for the localized excited electron state.

For the case when $\Delta_p \neq \Delta_s$, the STIRAP process is destroyed much sooner. Taking even a small nonzero $\epsilon \equiv \Delta_p - \Delta_s \ll 1$ one does not get a dark state any more. The zero eigenvalue moves to a value of the order of $\tilde{\omega}_0 \approx 2\Omega_p^2\epsilon/\Omega_{eff}^2$ which changes the dark state $|a_0\rangle$ such that it includes contributions from the leaky state $|X^+\rangle$, which are of the same order as $\tilde{\omega}_0$. Since in this case the energy conservation requirement is not fulfilled—i.e., the final and initial levels are not in resonance—in order to see if the

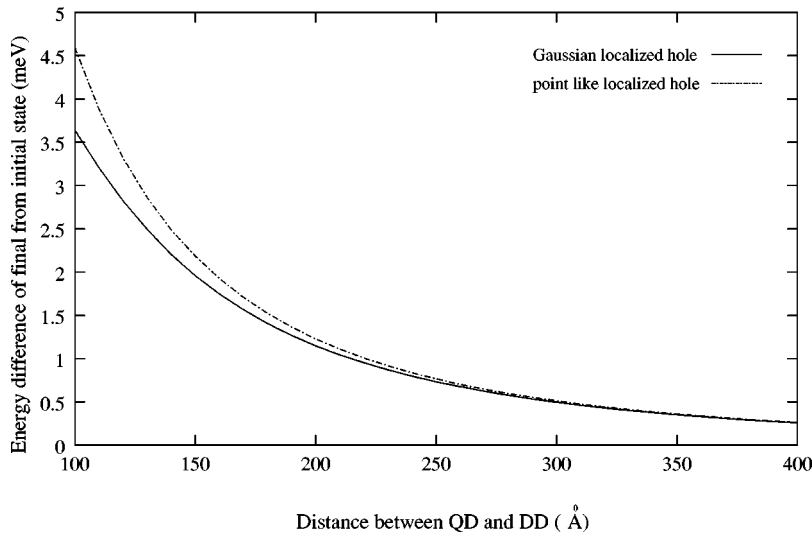


FIG. 4. Difference of the shift of initial state $|L\rangle$ and the final state $|R\rangle$ of the STIRAP process in the DD when there is an exciton in the QD as a function of the distance from the QD (the distance is measured in the same way as described for Fig. 3). Results are presented for Gaussian and “pointlike” wave functions.

STIRAP process takes place, one needs to compare the energy uncertainty of the pulse with the difference in the energy shift of the initial and final states. Therefore the condition for the STIRAP to take place is given by $\epsilon\tau \leq 1$.²⁵ Since $\tau = 10$ ps, it would be enough to have the energy shift larger than 0.5 meV. In Fig. 4 we show the difference in energy between the initial state $|L\rangle$ and the final state $|R\rangle$ of the DD when there is an exciton in the QD. This energy difference is much more susceptible to the existence of an exciton in the QD and is shown to be greater than 0.5 meV up to distances of 300 Å between the QD and DD centers (for details of the calculation see the Appendix). The reason it is much easier to detune the transition with respect to the initial and final states (hole in $|L\rangle$, hole in $|R\rangle$) rather than the initial (or final) state with regards to the intermediate state is due to the different charge configurations. The intermediate, leaky, state ($|X^+\rangle$) couples in a weaker way to an exciton in the QD since the detuning is basically due to a dipole-dipole interaction, whereas for the initial and final states the detuning is due to a charge-dipole interaction.

A possible alternative measurement scheme is the use of a two- π -pulse process. In this process one would first excite the system from the initial state to the intermediate, leaky, state via a π pulse, then using a further π pulse drive the system from the intermediate state to the final state, i.e., hole in right QD. There are two strong arguments in favor of using the STIRAP over this alternative idea. First of all in order to use the two- π -pulse method it is necessary to detune it, i.e., detune one of the two transitions involving the intermediate state. Since the coupling of this state to the exciton state in the QD is weaker, this method of implementing a measurement would be less effective. Second in variance to the STIRAP process using the two- π -pulse process would involve the occupation of the intermediate, leaky, state, thus involving unwanted transitions, i.e., losses.

IV. SUMMARY

To summarize, we have provided a measurement scheme which is fast compared to the short decoherence times typical of semiconductor implementation schemes of a quantum

computer. We have proposed the idea of a storage qubit which is used to measure the quantum computer’s qubit state and to store the information for a longer time so it can be extracted using conventional methods, e.g., using a SET (Refs. 4–6) or a point contact.^{8,9} A possible implementation of a storage qubit using the stimulated Raman adiabatic passage process was presented. This implementation scheme was shown to fulfill all the necessary requirements for a storage qubit: the information is stored in the storage qubit for a much longer time scale than in the qubit, and it is possible to perform a fast and reliable measurement of the qubit by the storage qubit.

There are some issues concerning the scalability of the specific implementation scheme suggested for a storage qubit. One could argue that having a double quantum dot as a small measuring device for each quantum computer qubit might constitute a too strong constraint on the scalability of the quantum computer. This constraint on scalability is two-fold: first one might question whether it is possible to arrange geometrically all these quantum dots and double quantum dots such that each quantum dot has a neighboring double dot and still have the possibility for an operating quantum computer. Second one might remark that qubits are difficult enough to construct and having such a measurement scheme enlarges the difficulty by at least a factor of 2. These arguments are not overwhelming: first of all it is possible to conceive a geometrical configuration in which the quantum computer is arranged on a plane while the storage double-dot structures are located in planes above and below it. Another possibility is to consider measuring only certain qubits in the quantum computer, i.e., specific quantum dots. The information can be transferred to these measurable quantum dots in a cellular automaton sort of scheme.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX A: ESTIMATE OF THE SHIFT OF THE TRANSITION FREQUENCY IN THE DD APPARATUS

In this appendix we first calculate the detuning of the pump laser from resonance with the L - X^+ transition, due to the shifting of the energy levels in the DD, and then the difference in the energy shift of the initial and final states, both due to the presence of an exciton in the “computing” QD (CQD). We begin by discussing the relative position of the two structures, the CQD and the DD: the presence of the hole state $|L\rangle$ in the DD will modify, through a Coulomb interaction, the length of the dipole in the CQD. In this respect, growing the DD on the QD substrate in the direction opposite to the field, i.e., with the DD hole aligned and closer to the CQD, electron than to the CQD hole, will induce a larger dipole in the CQD keeping the external field unchanged. This would affect in a positive way the quantum computing process since it could be used to enhance the biexcitonic shift between excitons in different CQD's and a large biexcitonic shift is at the core of the quantum computing scheme proposed in Ref. 3. Therefore this is the arrangement we will consider in our calculations.

Since both structures (DD and CQD) are in the strong-confinement regime—i.e., the typical length scale associated with the harmonic potential is much smaller than the effective Bohr radius—we can assume for $|X^+\rangle$ the factorized form $|X^+\rangle = |L\rangle|X\rangle$, where $\langle \mathbf{r}|X\rangle = \psi_e^{dd}(\mathbf{r})\psi_h^{dd}(\mathbf{r})$ consists of a ground-state hole in the right QD [$\psi_h^{dd}(\mathbf{r})$] and an excited electron wave function $\psi_e^{dd}(\mathbf{r})$. Similarly the exciton wave function in the CQD structure will be factorized as $\psi_{exc}(\mathbf{r}) = \psi_e^{qd}(\mathbf{r})\psi_h^{qd}(\mathbf{r})$, where $\psi_h^{qd}(\mathbf{r})$ is the hole [electron] single-particle wave function.

It should be noted that the single-particle wave functions we have defined are obtained solving the Schrödinger equation including the Coulomb interaction. As a first approximation the effects of Coulomb interaction on bounded, low-energy states, i.e., the hole states in the DD and on the states in CQD, can be neglected. This is not the case for the *excited* electron wave function $\psi_e^{dd}(\mathbf{r})$, whose shape is definitely influenced by the Coulomb interaction with the two holes.

Due to the factorization described above, the transition frequency shift will be given by the Coulomb interaction between the CQD exciton and $|X\rangle$; i.e., one does not need to consider the change in the left hole state $|L\rangle$ due to the state $|X\rangle$. The expression for the energy shift becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E &= \Delta E_{X^+} - \Delta E_L \\ &= \frac{e^2}{\epsilon} \int d^3 r_1 \int d^3 r_2 \int d^3 r_3 \\ &\quad \times \int d^3 r_4 |\psi_e^{qd}(\mathbf{r}_1)|^2 |\psi_h^{qd}(\mathbf{r}_2)|^2 |\psi_e^{dd}(\mathbf{r}_3)|^2 |\psi_h^{dd}(\mathbf{r}_4)|^2 \\ &\quad \times \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_3|} - \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_3|} - \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_4|} + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_4|} \right), \quad (\text{A1}) \end{aligned}$$

where ΔE_{X^+} and ΔE_L are, respectively, the energy shifts of states $|X^+\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$ due to the existence of an exciton in the CQD.

To calculate the expression (A1), we assume a three-dimensional Gaussian form for the ground-state single-particle wave functions ψ_e^{qd} , ψ_h^{qd} , and ψ_h^{dd} . In the quantum dot plane, in which the confining potential is modeled as a harmonic potential of frequency $\hbar\omega_i^j$, $i=e,h$ and $j=qd,dd$, their width is given, as expected, by $\lambda_i^j = \sqrt{\hbar/m_i\omega_i^j}$. The values used are $\hbar\omega_e^{qd(dd)} = 30$ meV for the electron states (both in the CQD and the DD) and $\hbar\omega_h^{qd} = 24$ meV for the hole state in the CQD and $\hbar\omega_h^{dd} = 5$ meV for the hole state in the DD.²⁰ In the growth direction z , in which the potential is modeled as a square well large a , the width is taken to be $\sqrt{\langle z^2 \rangle}$, where the average is done over the ground state of the corresponding infinite square well. Replacing the wave functions in the z direction by Gaussians in this way simplifies the calculations. This is a good approximation, since the difference between the two functions, i.e., single-particle wave function and Gaussian approximation, is very small. For the excited, delocalized, state ψ_e^{dd} we consider two different possibilities, the first corresponding to a state only weakly bounded (by the confining potentials) in the z direction, the second to a state bounded (only due to Coulomb interaction) in the z direction. In the first case, ψ_e^{dd} is modeled as the sum of two Gaussians, each on them centered in one of the two dots of the DD structure. Their width in the in-plane directions is still given by the confining harmonic potential, i.e., $\lambda_i^{dd} = \sqrt{\hbar/m_i\omega_i^{dd}}$, while in the growth direction (instead of using $\sqrt{\langle z^2 \rangle}$) it is simply given by the box size a . This choice accounts both for the wider spreading of the excited state and for the fact that the state is still confined by the DD wells. In the second case, the in-plane structure of ψ_e^{dd} remains the same, while its z component is a Gaussian centered in the middle of the DD structure and of width 100 Å, i.e., roughly the effective Bohr radius of the material.

In this approximation, the expression (A1) can be reduced to the sum of two-dimensional integrals, which are numerically easy to calculate. The calculation of the transition frequency shift (see Fig. 3) shows that, independently of the choice for ψ_e^{dd} , $\Delta E \approx 1$ meV when the distance between the two structures CQD and DD is of the order of 150 Å.

The calculation of the difference in energy shifts of the states $|L\rangle$ and $|R\rangle$ is much simpler, since one has only to calculate the following expression:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E &= \Delta E_L - \Delta E_R \\ &= \frac{e^2}{\epsilon} \int d^3 r_1 \int d^3 r_2 \int d^3 r_3 |\psi_e^{qd}(\mathbf{r}_1)|^2 \\ &\quad \times |\psi_h^{qd}(\mathbf{r}_2)|^2 (|\psi_h^{dd}(\mathbf{r}_3)|^2 - |\tilde{\psi}_h^{dd}(\mathbf{r}_3)|^2) \\ &\quad \times \left(\frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_3|} - \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_3|} \right), \quad (\text{A2}) \end{aligned}$$

where $\tilde{\psi}_h^{dd}(\mathbf{r})$ is the ground-state hole wave function in the right QD. Using the previous approximations, we obtain the detuning of the final and initial states presented in Fig. 4 as a function of the distance between the CQD and DD.

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