

Single-atom lasing in normal-superconductor quantum dots

Michele Governale¹ and Gianluca Rastelli²

¹*Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand*

²*Universität Konstanz and Zukunftscolleg, Konstanz, Germany*

Nanostructures coupled to quantum resonators have recently attracted a large theoretical [1,2] and experimental interest [3,4]. Quantum dots, due to their tunability and the availability of highly advanced fabrication and characterisation techniques, are an ideal platform to explore single-atom lasing [5]. The possibility of inducing superconducting correlations in the dot opens up new routes to achieve lasing in these nanoscale systems. We study a single-level quantum dot strongly coupled to a superconducting lead and tunnel coupled to a normal electrode, which can exchange energy with a single-mode resonator. This device can be experimentally realised either as an electromechanical system or as a photon cavity. By means of the Lindblad-equation formalism, we present a theory for lasing in this hybrid nanostructure. We find that the semiclassical mean-field equations differ from the text-book result. We derive the threshold coupling and the saturation occupation of the resonator mode, as well as the full Fock-state occupation distribution. The onset of lasing is clearly identifiable in the transport characteristics of the quantum dot.

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