

Combining energy efficiency and quantum advantage in cyclic machines

Waner Hou^{2,3}, Wanchao Yao^{2,3}, Xingyu Zhao^{2,3,4}, Kamran Rehan^{2,5}, Yi Li^{2,3}, Yue Li^{2,3},
Eric Lutz¹, Yiheng Lin^{2,3,4}, and Jiangfeng Du^{2,3,4,6}

¹*University of Stuttgart, Institute for Theoretical Physics I, Pfaffenwaldring 57, 70550
Stuttgart, Germany*

²*CAS Key Laboratory of Microscale Magnetic Resonance and School of Physical Sciences,
University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China*

³*Anhui Province Key Laboratory of Scientific Instrument Development and Application,
University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230026, China*

⁴*Hefei National Laboratory, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei 230088,
China*

⁵*Department of Physics, The University of Haripur, KP, Pakistan*

⁶*Institute of Quantum Sensing and School of Physics, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou
310027, China*

Energy efficiency and quantum advantage are two important features of quantum devices. We here report an experimental realization that combines both features in a quantum engine coupled to a quantum battery that stores the produced work, using a single ion in a linear Paul trap. We begin by establishing the quantum nature of the device by observing nonclassical work oscillations with the number of cycles as verified by energy measurements of the battery. We moreover apply shortcut-to-adiabaticity techniques to suppress quantum friction and improve work production. While the average energy cost of the shortcut protocol is only about 3%, the work output is enhanced by up to approximately 33%, making the machine significantly more energy efficient. We additionally show that the quantum engine consistently outperforms its classical counterpart in this regime. Our results pave the way for energy efficient machines with quantum-enhanced performance.

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