Enhanced Tripartite Interactions in Spin-Magnon-Mechanical Hybrid Systems

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Coherent tripartite interactions among degrees of freedom of completely different nature are instrumental for quantum information and simulation technologies, but they are generally difficult to realize and remain largely unexplored. Here, we predict a tripartite coupling mechanism in a hybrid setup comprising a single nitrogen-vacancy (NV) center and a micromagnet. We propose to realize direct and strong tripartite interactions among single NV spins, magnons, and phonons via modulating the relative motion between the NV center and the micromagnet. Specifically, by introducing a parametric drive (two-phonon drive) to modulate the mechanical motion (such as the center-of-mass motion of a NV spin in diamond trapped in an electrical trap or a levitated micromagnet in a magnetic trap), we can obtain a tunable and strong spin-magnon-phonon coupling at the single quantum level, with up to 2 orders of magnitude enhancement for the tripartite coupling strength. This enables, for example, tripartite entanglement among solid-state spins, magnons, and mechanical motions in quantum spin-magnonics-mechanics with realistic experimental parameters. This protocol can be readily implemented with the well-developed techniques in ion traps or magnetic traps and could pave the way for general applications in quantum simulations and information processing based on directly and strongly coupled tripartite systems.

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Introduction.—Coherent interactions between different quantum systems are a fundamental issue in the field of quantum physics and quantum technologies [1–21]. The Jaynes-Cummings (JC) model [22,23], which describes the pairwise coherent interactions between a two-level quantum system and a quantized field, is a textbook example of light-matter interactions in the quantum regime and lays the foundations of quantum optics [24–27]. With the fast development of quantum technologies, like quantum information processing [28–31] and simulations [32,33], the exploration of interactions beyond the pairwise interactions of the JC model in quantum optics is increasingly appealing, which could enable performing more complex tasks, like generating multipartite entanglement. However, compared to the bipartite interactions of the JC model, the realization of tripartite interactions among completely different degrees of freedom is an outstanding challenge and remains largely unexplored.

Recently, much attention has been paid to studying hybrid quantum systems based on nitrogen-vacancy (NV) centers in diamond [34–43], magnons in microscopic magnets [44–60], and mechanical motions [2,60–72]. Recent theoretical and experimental advances have revealed the coupling of NV spins to phonons in nanomechanical oscillators [43,68–87] and magnons of micromagnets [88–92], in addition to the interactions between magnons and phonons [57–60] or photons [46,93–101]. However, previous studies mostly focus on pairwise interactions between completely different physical systems to construct hybrid quantum setups; it seems to us that the tripartite coupling among spins and magnons as well as mechanical motions, which is fundamentally different from spin-magnon, spin-phonon, and magnon-phonon couplings, is still lacking.

In this Letter, we theoretically show how it is possible to achieve the tripartite interaction among single spins, magnons, and phonons in a hybrid setup comprising a single NV center in diamond and a micromagnet. We show that, when the relative motion between the spin and the micromagnet is modulated, it will change the magnetic field of the magnons felt by the nearby spin, which, thus, leads to direct coherent couplings among these three degrees of freedom at the single quantum level. To control and enhance this tripartite coupling, we propose to make use of a parametric drive to amplify the mechanical zero-point fluctuations of the vibration mode [102–109], which can exponentially enhance the spin-magnon-phonon coupling. Specifically, here the mechanical motion could be either the center-of-mass motion of a NV spin in diamond or that of a levitated micromagnet. For the former, it can be implemented in a setup with a nanodiamond sphere.
containing a single NV spin in a Paul trap [110–116] or a diamond cantilever with embedded NV centers, while for the latter it can be realized with a levitated micromagnet [such as a yttrium iron garnet (YIG) sphere] in a magnetic trap [73,117–119]. For both cases, we need only a time-dependent electrical driving to manipulate the effective spring constant of the harmonic motion, thus remarkably simplifying the experimental implementation with only minor modifications of existing experimental setups. But our proposal differs fundamentally from these experimental works with a markedly different kind of spin-magnon-phonon tripartite interaction. As intriguing applications, we also show the appearance and enlargement of the tripartite entanglement via the enhanced interaction of the spin-magnon-phonon coupling system, which could find useful applications in modern quantum technologies.

The model.—As illustrated in Fig. 1, we consider a hybrid system comprising a single NV center in diamond and a micromagnet of radius \( R \) (such as a YIG sphere), but with three degrees of freedom, including the single NV spin \( \hat{\sigma}_i \), the magnon mode \( \hat{a} \), and the mechanical mode \( \hat{b} \). Here, the mechanical mode is the relative motion between the spin and the micromagnet, which is subject to a two-phonon (parametric) drive \( \Omega(t) = \Omega_p \cos(2\omega_p t) \). The spin operators are defined as the Pauli operators \( \hat{\sigma}_i \) (with \( i = x, y, z \)) in the two-level-energy basis \( \{|g\}, |e\} \). The interaction among the NV spin, the mechanical mode, and the magnon can be described by the Hamiltonian (let \( \hbar = 1 \))

\[
\hat{H}_{\text{Trip}} = \lambda (\hat{b} + \hat{b}^\dagger)(\hat{\sigma}^+ \hat{\sigma}^- + \hat{\sigma}^0),
\]

with tripartite coupling strength \( \lambda \). Here, the spin operators satisfy \( \hat{\sigma}^\pm = (\hat{\sigma}_x \pm i\hat{\sigma}_y)/2 \).

We then present more details regarding the above interactions. The tripartite spin-magnon-phonon coupling results from the magnetic coupling between the spin and the magnon mode of the YIG sphere. First, we focus on the Kittel mode that is supported by the magnetic microsphere [120]. For this mode, all spins in the micromagnet precess in phase and with the same amplitude [47]. The free Hamiltonian of the magnon can be \( \hat{H}_K = \omega_K \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \). Here, \( \omega_K = |\gamma|B_{z,K} \) with a large external magnetic field \( B_{z,K} \) resulting in saturation magnetization of the spherical magnet and the gyromagnetic ratio \( \gamma \). Then, a quantized magnetic field \( \hat{B} \) is generated by the Kittel mode. The nearby NV center as a magnetic dipole, with the free Hamiltonian \( \hat{H}_{\text{NV}} = \omega_{\text{NV}} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}/2 \), experiences the magnetic field of the magnons. The interaction can be naturally described as the Hamiltonian \( \hat{H}_{\text{int}} = -(g_e \mu_B / \hbar) \hat{B} \cdot \hat{S} \), with the Landé factor \( g_e \), Bohr magneton \( \mu_B \), and spin operators \( \hat{S} = (\hbar/2)(\hat{\sigma}_x, \hat{\sigma}_y, \hat{\sigma}_z) \). To be much clearer, the interaction Hamiltonian can be written as \( \hat{H}_{\text{int}} = g (r_{ba}) (\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{\sigma}^- + \hat{\sigma}^+ \hat{a}) \), with the coupling strength \( g (r_{ba}) \) dependent on the distance between the NV spin and the micromagnet \( r_{ba} = r_0 + z \). Here, \( z \) (\( r_0 \)) denotes the modulated (static) part of the distance relative to the equilibrium, respectively. Then, by quantizing the modulated motion \( z \), it is possible to introduce a mechanical mode with the vibration frequency \( \omega_m \). Up to first order on the quantized coordinate \( \hat{z} = z_{\text{zpt}} (\hat{b} + \hat{b}^\dagger) \), with the zero-point fluctuation \( z_{\text{zpt}} = \sqrt{\hbar/(2M \omega_m)} \), the tripartite interaction appears with the coupling rate [120]

\[
\lambda = \frac{3g_e \mu_0 \mu_B}{8 \pi r_0^3} \sqrt{|\gamma| M_s V M \omega_m}.
\]

where \( \mu_0 \) is the permeability of vacuum, \( M_s \) is the saturation magnetization, \( M \) is the effective mass of the mechanical mode, and \( V \) is the volume of YIG sphere.

For the mechanical mode, we propose three probable schemes that can generate the relative motion between the NV center and the YIG sphere: an NV center in a trapped diamond nanoparticle or embedded in a cantilever [66,67] coupled to the magnon mode of a YIG sphere, and a single NV spin interacting with the magnon mode of a levitated micromagnet [119,134], as shown in Fig. 1(b). Here, we focus on the setup where the diamond nanoparticle containing a single NV center is trapped in a Paul trap [top part of Fig. 1(b)]. An additional oscillating electrical potential [108,135] supplies the approach to modulate and drive the center-of-mass motion of the trapped diamond particle, which gives rise to an added potential \( \hat{V}_d = -2qU_T (\hat{z} / d_T)^2 \cos(2\omega_p t) \), with the diamond particle charge \( q \), the voltage amplitude \( U_T \), and the characteristic trap dimension \( d_T \). Hence, the center-of-mass motion of the diamond particle can be described by the Hamiltonian \( \hat{H}_m = (p_z^2 / 2M) + \frac{1}{2} M \omega_m^2 z^2 + \frac{1}{2} k_c (r(t))^2 \), with

![FIG. 1. (a) Schematic of the physical model. The spin qubit (red circle), the phonon mode (cyan ellipse), and the Kittel magnon mode (green circle) are simultaneously coupled, with the enhanced coupling rate \( \lambda e^\gamma \) (blue trichotomous arrow) via a two-phonon driving (blue wavy arrow). (b) Schematic illustration of this proposal: a diamond particle with single NV spins in an electrical trap (top); an NV center embedded in a cantilever (middle); a YIG microsphere levitated in a magnetic trap (bottom).]
momentum operator $\hat{p}_z$. Here, the effective mass $M$ of the mechanical mode is the mass of the diamond particle, while the frequency $\omega_m$ is relevant to the electrical trap and the charge to mass ratio of the diamond particle. The rotation mode of the trapped diamond particle can be safely neglected, since its frequency is vanished with a spherical diamond \[136\]. The last term is the parametric drive with the time-dependent tunable stiffness coefficient \[120\]

$$ k_e(t) = -\frac{4qU_T}{d_P^2} \cos(2\omega_p t). \quad (3) $$

Employing the transformation $\hat{b} = \hat{z} / (2z_{zp}) + iz_{zp} \hat{p}_z / \hbar$, the Hamiltonian of the mechanical mode can be written as

$$ \hat{H}_m = \omega_m \hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b} - \Omega_p \cos(2\omega_p t)(\hat{b}^\dagger + \hat{b})^2, \quad (4) $$

with the parametric-drive amplitude $\Omega_p = 2qU_T z_{zp}^2 / (\hbar d_P^2)$. As alternatives in the middle and bottom parts in Fig. 1(b), similar results can be obtained for both cases \[120\].

In a suitable rotation framework, dropping the high-frequency oscillation and the constant terms as well, the total Hamiltonian of the system can be obtained as

$$ \hat{H}_{Tot} = \delta_K \hat{\sigma}^\dagger \hat{\sigma} + \delta_m \hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b} + \frac{\delta_{NV}}{2} \hat{\sigma}_z - \frac{\Omega_p}{2} (\hat{b}^2 + \hat{b}^\dagger)^2 $$

$$ + \lambda (\hat{b} + \hat{b}^\dagger)(\hat{\sigma}^\dagger \hat{\sigma} + \hat{\sigma} \hat{\sigma}^\dagger) + \hat{H}_{JC}, \quad (5) $$

with the detunings $\delta_K = \omega_K - \omega_p$, $\delta_m = \omega_m - \omega_p$, and $\delta_{NV} = \omega_{NV} - \omega_p$. Here, we have included the spin-magnon coupling term $\hat{H}_{JC} = \gamma_0(\hat{\sigma}^\dagger \hat{\sigma} - \hat{\sigma} \hat{\sigma}^\dagger)$, with the coupling rate $\gamma_0 = r_0 \lambda / (3z_{zp})$.

**Enhanced tripartite interactions.**—For the Hamiltonian (5), we can apply the unitary transformation $U_s(r) = \exp[r(\hat{b}^\dagger - \hat{b})^2 / 2]$ to diagonalize the center-of-mass mechanical mode. Here, the squeezing parameter $r$ is defined as $\tanh 2r = \Omega_p / \delta_m$. In this squeezed frame, the total Hamiltonian can be written as

$$ \hat{H}_{Tot}^s = \delta_K \hat{\sigma}^\dagger \hat{\sigma} + \Delta_m \hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b} + \frac{\delta_{NV}}{2} \hat{\sigma}_z $$

$$ + \lambda_{eff}(\hat{b} + \hat{b}^\dagger)(\hat{\sigma}^\dagger \hat{\sigma} + \hat{\sigma} \hat{\sigma}^\dagger) + \hat{H}_{JC}, \quad (6) $$

where $\Delta_m = \delta_m / \cosh 2r$ and $\lambda_{eff} = \lambda e^r$. The eigenstates of the free Hamiltonian $\{ |g, m, k \rangle, |e, m \pm 1, k - 1 \rangle \}$ can be applied to clarify the process of the tripartite interaction. Here, $g (e)$ denotes the $|0 \rangle (|+1 \rangle)$ state of the NV spin. The particle numbers of the phonons and magnons are denoted by $\{ m, m \pm 1 \}$ and $\{ k, k - 1 \}$. The condition for red (blue) detuning, $\delta_K \sim \delta_{NV} - \Delta_m$ ($\delta_K \sim \delta_{NV} + \Delta_m$), allows for the interaction $\hat{a} \hat{b} \hat{\sigma}^\dagger + \text{H.c.}$ ($\hat{a} \hat{b} \hat{\sigma} + \text{H.c.}$) in Eq. (1) with the transition between $\{ |g, m, k \rangle$ and $|e, m - 1, k - 1 \rangle \} \ (|e, m + 1, k - 1 \rangle \}$, which describes the spin and phonon annihilation upon magnon excitation (the spin annihilation with magnon and phonon excitation) and the inverse process.

Remarkably, we find that the tripartite coupling strength $\lambda_{eff}$ can be exponentially enhanced due to the amplification of the mechanical fluctuation caused by the phonon squeezing \[Fig. 2(a)\]. For the scheme of the trapped diamond nanoparticle, the tripartite interaction can have the same magnitude as the bipartite interaction. To make this clear, we define the ratio $\lambda_{eff}/\gamma_0 = 3e^r z_{zp}^2 / (d + R_s + R_s)$ with the diamond particle radius $R_s$ and the surface spacing $d$. With a proper choice of $r$ and $R_s$, this ratio exceeds 1, indicating the coexistence of the two different interactions \[see Figs. 2(b) and 2(c)\]. Naturally, as shown in Fig. 2(d), the effective tripartite coupling strength $\lambda_{eff}$ exponentially increases with the squeezing parameter $r$ and is inversely proportional to $R_s^2$.

We now consider this tripartite coupling system in a realistic situation. Here, we take into account the dephasing of the NV center spin ($\gamma_s$), the decay of the Kittel mode ($\gamma_K$), and the effective mechanical phonon ($\Gamma_m$). Though the effective mechanical decay rate is exponentially enlarged as well, one can define a generalized cooperativity $C = \lambda_{eff}^3 / (\Gamma_m \gamma_K \gamma_s)$ to quantify the coupling regime. As shown in Fig. 2(e), the system can reach the strong coupling regime ($C > 1$) with a large range of $R$ and $r$. The result shows that increasing $r$ and decreasing $R_s$ enable a large enhancement of the cooperativity. Note that the results displayed in magnon Fig. 2 are obtained with the surface spacing $d = 5$ nm and the diamond radius $R_s = 10$ nm.
Hamiltonian Eq. (6), with different squeezing parameters $r$ the whole system starts from the state $\rho_0$ and partial trace (subscript). We consider that partite system [137]. The contangles $k$ to 1, defined as can be obtained. The spin-magnon-phonon coupling at the single quantum level decay of the magnon, as illustrated in Fig. 3(d). Therefore, the squeezing parameter is large enough, despite the large tripartite coupling dominates the pairwise interaction when in Figs. 3(b) and 3(c), with different decays. The direct coupling. As the center-of-mass motion is modulated, the be neglected, and the dominant term is the spin-magnon cation ($\rho_{ij}$) and the center-of-mass motion (a) without mechanical amplifi-

To give more insight into this proposal, we numerically simulate the time-dependent occupation evolution of the spin qubit, the Kittel magnon, and the mechanical motion, as shown in Fig. 3. Figure 3(a) shows, without mechanical amplification, the population of the mechanical mode can be neglected, and the dominant term is the spin-magnon coupling. As the center-of-mass motion is modulated, the tripartite spin-magnon-phonon interaction needs to be considered. In the intermediate squeezed regime, e.g., $r = 3$, tripartite and dual interactions coexist, as shown in Figs. 3(b) and 3(c), with different decays. The direct tripartite coupling dominates the pairwise interaction when the squeezing parameter is large enough, despite the large decay of the magnon, as illustrated in Fig. 3(d). Therefore, by properly choosing the experimental parameters, strong spin-magnon-phonon coupling at the single quantum level can be obtained.

Applications.—We now consider generating tripartite entanglement among the spin qubit, the Kittel magnon, and the mechanical phonon via the enhanced tripartite coupling. Here, we employ the measure of genuine tripartite entanglement, minimum residual contangle ranging from 0 to 1, defined as $E^{ABC}_r = \min_{(A,B,C)} |E^{ABC}_r - E^{AB}_r - E^{AC}_r|$, where $(A,B,C)$ denotes all the permutations of the tripartite system [137]. The contangles $\{E^{ABC}_r, E^{AB}_r, E^{AC}_r\}$ are defined as the quadratic logarithm of $\{\|\rho^{T_A}\|, \|\rho^{T_B}\|, \|\rho^{T_C}\|\}$ with the trace norm ($\|\cdot\|$), partial transpose (superscript), and partial trace (subscript). We consider that the whole system starts from the state $|e,0,0\rangle$ under the Hamiltonian Eq. (6), with different squeezing parameters $r = \{0, 1.5, 3, 4.5\}$, as shown in Fig. 4(a). The minimum residual contangle vanishes without mechanical amplification, implying that the tripartite interaction is insignificant. When the center-of-mass motion is modulated by an applied electrical potential, the quality of the produced tripartite entangled state and the speed with which it is generated can be greatly improved. Using another entanglement measure three-tangle extended from the concurrence [138], we can obtain the same result as the one of minimum residual contangle [Fig. 4(b)]. The true tripartite entanglement between the degrees of freedom of the system can be widely used to execute tasks in the field of quantum information, such as quantum teleportation [139,140], dense coding [141], quantum computation [142], and quantum secure sharing [143,144].

We proceed to discuss how to detect the tripartite entanglement. The above measure of genuine tripartite entanglement is calculated from the density matrix of the whole system, which indicates that a possible approach can be the measurement of the density matrix using quantum state tomography [145–147] or direct measurement [148–150]. The readout of magnons can be realized by single-shot detection with a superconducting qubit [50,151]. For the NV center, the state can be detected by cycling optical transition [152] or photoelectrical detection of magnetic resonance [153]. The motion of nanodiamond particles can be detected by optical detection [116].

Experimental feasibility.—To examine the feasibility of this proposal for experiments, the center-of-mass vibration of a diamond particle can be obtained by levitating it in a quadratic potential. The Paul trap [110–116,154] is a proper electric potential to realize this scheme. At the equilibrium location, the electric field can operate as a force to oppose gravity. The levitated regime has been accomplished experimentally with a large mechanical factor $Q \sim 10^8$ [58,155]. In this setup, for the spin qubit, we select the transition between the state $|0\rangle$ and $|+1\rangle$ in the ground states of NV center with frequency $\omega_{NV} = D_0 + |y|B_{z,s}$. Here, $D_0/2\pi = 2.87$ GHz is the electronic
zero-field splitting. Applying variable external static magnetic field $B_{z,a}$ and $B_{z,K}$, hence, the detunings of the spin ($\delta_{NV}$) and the Kittel mode ($\delta_K$) can be tunable at the order of magnitudes of 10 GHz. To enlarge the direct tripartite interaction, we assume the driving amplitude $\Omega_p/2\pi \sim \omega_p/2\pi \sim 200$ MHz with the voltage amplitude $U_T = 12.6$ V and the characteristic trap dimension $d_p = 100 \mu$m [120]. Here, we estimate the charge to mass ratios on the order of $m_C/\mu_C$ [113]. At the same time, we estimate the mechanical frequency $\omega_m/2\pi \sim 1$ kHz [58]. Then the squeezing parameter satisfies $r \in [0, 5]$ to allow for the effective tripartite coupling $\lambda_{eff} \sim 100\lambda$. Given that $r = 4.5$, the enhanced coupling strength is $\lambda_{eff}/2\pi \sim 1.7$ MHz. Note that the frequencies $\omega_K$, $\omega_{NV}$ are on the order of 10 GHz, far larger than the mechanical frequency $\omega_m$. At low temperature $T \sim 10$ mK, the thermal magnon number can be ignored with $\bar{n}_K \ll 1$ for the case of $\omega_K/2\pi \sim 10$ GHz. For practical considerations with saturation magnetization, we assume the decay of Kittel mode as $\gamma_K/2\pi \sim 1$ MHz [58,97]. For the mechanical mode, the thermal decay rate is $\gamma_m/2\pi = k_B T/(2\pi R Q) \sim 2$ Hz, which comes from the heating due to collisions with gas molecules [156]. Here, the gas damping satisfies $\gamma_{gas} = \omega_m/Q$ with an ultralow pressure $P_{gas} \sim 10^{-9}$ mbar [120,154]. The mechanical amplification also leads to a magnification of the phonon decay by $e^{2\pi}$. The effective decay of mechanical mode can be obtained as $\Gamma_m/2\pi = e^{2\pi} \gamma_{\bar{n}}/2\pi \sim 21$ kHz. For a single NV center spin in diamond, the dephasing rate is about $\gamma_s/2\pi \sim 1$ kHz [38]. Therefore, we can naturally estimate the tripartite cooperativity $C \sim 10^5 \gg 1$, which definitely indicates the strong coupling regime.

**Conclusion.**—In this Letter, we propose an experimentally feasible method for realizing direct and strong tripartite interactions among single NV spins, the Kittel magnon mode, and the phonon by introducing the relative motion between a single NV center and a nearby micro-magnet. We show that the direct tripartite coupling strength can be exponentially enhanced by up to 2 orders of magnitude via modulating the mechanical motion via parametric amplification. We have shown the presence of tripartite entanglement via the enhanced spin-magnon-phonon coupling and the possibility to actively control the tripartite coupling for realistic experimental parameters. This is a promising platform for quantum science and technology based on spin-magnon-phonon tripartite strongly coupled systems.

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