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## Integrating gate-defined quantum dots with nuclear spin qudits in silicon

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High-dimensional qudit systems yield the exciting prospect of hosting error-correctable logical qubits [1]. The antimony (123Sb) donor in silicon is ideal for this purpose, because its spin-7/2 nucleus embeds an 8-dimensional Hilbert space (or 16-dimensional, including the electron [2]) that can encode Schrödinger cat states [3].

Scaling up this donor nuclear qubits requires using electrons to mediate the interaction between distant nuclei [4]. Using ion-implanted donors in metal-oxide-semiconductor devices opens the possibility of using the electrons in gate-defined quantum dots as the mediators of the interaction between multiple nuclei.

Here, we present experiments on a device that combines an implanted 123Sb donor in silicon with gate-defined quantum dots. We demonstrate tunability of the electron occupation in the donor-dot system, and measure strong exchange interaction between the donor- and dot-confined electrons when two electrons are loaded into the system. Additionally, we operate the device with only one electron and demonstrate controlled shuttling of the electron between the donor and the dot. This capability is key to operating the electrically-driven 'flip-flop'qubit [5] at the maximum speed, and opens the possibility of coupling distant flip-flop qubits via their induced electric dipole.

Our results open new pathways for donor-dot hybrid devices, where mobile electrons can be coupled to highly coherent, high-spin donor nuclei that locally encode logical qubits.

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- [3] X. Yu, et al., Nature Physics 21, 362 (2025)
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- [5] R. Savytskyy et al., Science Advances 9, eadd9408 (2023)

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