








## Fast parametric two-qubit gates with suppressed residual interaction using the second-order nonlinearity of a cubic transmon

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We demonstrate fast two-qubit gates using a parity-violated superconducting qubit consisting of a capacitively shunted asymmetric Josephson-junction loop under a finite magnetic flux bias. The second-order nonlinearity manifesting in the qubit enables the interaction with a neighboring single-junction transmon qubit via first-order interqubit sideband transitions with Rabi frequencies up to 30 MHz. Simultaneously, the unwanted static longitudinal (ZZ) interaction is eliminated with ac Stark shifts induced by a continuous microwave drive near resonant to the sideband transitions. The average fidelities of the two-qubit gates are evaluated with randomized benchmarking as 0.971, 0.958, and 0.962 for CZ, iSWAP, and SWAP gates, respectively.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Quantum information processing with superconducting qubits has been intensively studied recently. High-fidelity quantum manipulations and projective measurements have been achieved in multiqubit systems [1–5], and basic quantum error-correction protocols have been demonstrated [6–10]. For fault-tolerant quantum computing, however, the gate and read-out fidelity should be further improved by a few orders of magnitude [11,12].

To this end, a variety of two-qubit gates have been proposed and demonstrated. These can be classified into two groups, based on their use of either a coupling between (near-) degenerate qubits [1,2] or a microwave-induced parametric coupling [3–5,13–15]. For the gate operation, the former usually requires fast frequency tuning of the qubits and/or a coupler through a flux bias, while the latter only uses microwave pulses for the dynamical control, which makes the wiring for the qubit control less demanding. For the parametric gates, qubits are usually far off-resonant from each other in order to suppress residual couplings between them as well as to avoid frequency crowding in multiqubit systems. On the other hand, a large detuning typically slows down the gate speed, causing a trade-off that hinders the improvement of the gate fidelity. Recent works have addressed this issue by introducing various types of coupler circuits to

eliminate the residual coupling without sacrificing the gate speed significantly, but with a cost of additional complexity [16–18]. A configuration implementing faster and more precise gates with least complexity of its circuit and wiring is highly desired for a scalable integration of superconducting qubits.

In this article, we propose and demonstrate fast parametric two-qubit gates using sideband transitions between a conventional transmon qubit and a “cubic transmon,” which provides a second-order nonlinearity originating in a cubic component of the inductive potential of a Josephson-junction circuit under a finite magnetic flux bias. This circuit, known as a superconducting nonlinear asymmetric inductive element (SNAILE), was recently proposed [19] and utilized in parametric amplifiers [20], bosonic-mode qubits [21], and hybrid quantum systems [22]. The second-order nonlinearity allows for three-wave-mixing-type first-order sideband transitions to other quantum systems. Thus it introduces strong parametric interactions with a neighboring frequency-fixed transmon qubit at the lowest order [23–26]. We also eliminate the residual static interaction by using ac Stark shifts induced by a continuous near-resonant drive of the sideband transitions [27]. This approach of microwave-assisted elimination of the static interactions brings in more tuning knobs, i.e., amplitudes and frequencies of multiple drives, which can be applied to the cases with multiple adjacent qubits and higher-order residual couplings. This is in contrast with a scheme combining two qubits with opposite signs of anharmonicity, which suppresses a residual coupling between the two qubits only at a particular flux bias [28]. In principle, the same microwave-assisted elimination could be applied to other

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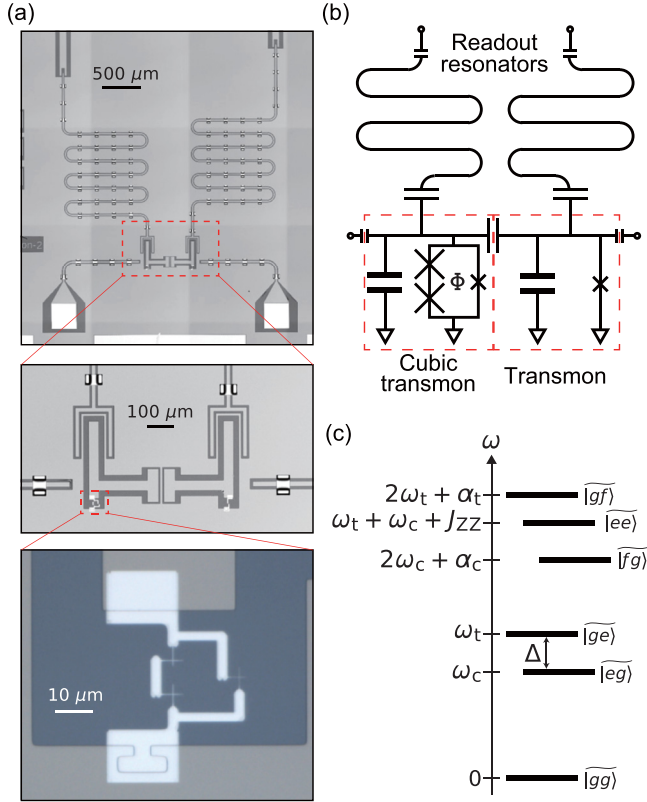


FIG. 1. (a) Photographs of the device. Most of the structures are made from Nb electrodes (light gray) on a Si substrate (dark gray), and the Josephson junctions (at the three crosses in the bottom picture) are made of Al/AIO<sub>x</sub>/Al junctions evaporated together with Al electrodes (white). Air bridges across the coplanar resonators and transmission lines suppress spurious modes on the chip. (b) Circuit diagram of the device. (c) Eigenstates  $|ij\rangle$  ( $i, j \in \{g, e, f\}$ ) of the two-qubit system. The vertical axis indicates the eigenfrequency of the states.

qubit systems, such as two frequency-fixed transmon qubits. However, in the absence of the second-order nonlinearity, i.e., the nonlinearity which allows the lowest-order sideband transitions based on the three-wave mixing processes, one has to rely either on a higher-order process involving more photons or on a transition involving higher energy levels.

## II. TWO-QUBIT GATE WITH THE CUBIC TRANSMON

Figures 1(a) and 1(b) present optical micrographs and a circuit diagram of the device, which contains two superconducting qubits and two resonators for the dispersive readout of each qubit. The qubit on the right-hand side is a conventional transmon, which is composed of a capacitively shunted single Josephson junction [29]. The other qubit is a cubic transmon, which is a capacitively shunted SNAIL circuit. The SNAIL is a Josephson-junction loop formed by a parallel circuit of a single small Josephson junction and two large Josephson junctions. The SNAIL loop is threaded by a flux  $\Phi$ . The Hamiltonian of the two-qubit system

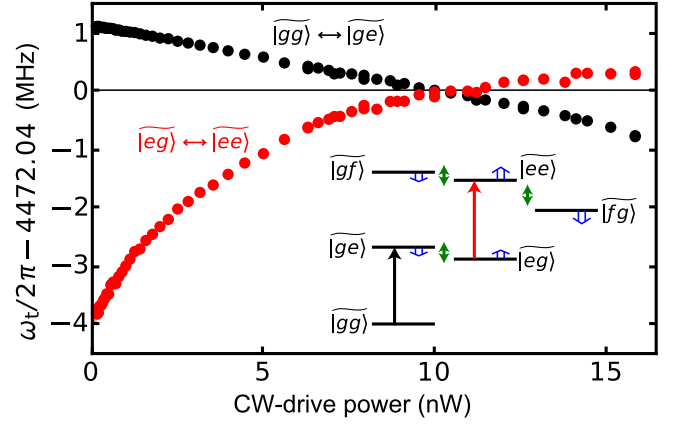


FIG. 2. Elimination of the static ZZ interaction with a continuous-wave (CW) drive. The black and red dots are, respectively, the frequencies of the  $|gg\rangle \leftrightarrow |ge\rangle$  and  $|eg\rangle \leftrightarrow |ee\rangle$  transitions, determined by spectroscopy. The inset shows the energy diagram. The black and red arrows, respectively, indicate the corresponding transitions, and the green arrows represent the CW drive, which simultaneously couples to all the sideband transitions. The blue arrows show the directions of the ac Stark shifts of the eigenstates. The transition frequencies become identical at the CW-drive power of  $\sim 10$  nW, and the static ZZ interaction is eliminated.

reads

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}/\hbar = & \omega_{c0}\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} + \beta_{c0}(\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}\hat{a}) + \frac{\alpha_{c0}}{2}\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}\hat{a} \\ & + \omega_{t0}\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b} + \frac{\alpha_{t0}}{2}\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}\hat{b} + g_0(\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{b} + \hat{a}\hat{b}^\dagger), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $\hbar = h/2\pi$  is the reduced Planck constant,  $\omega_{c0}$  and  $\omega_{t0}$  are the bare eigenmode frequencies, and  $\hat{a}$  and  $\hat{b}$  are the annihilation operators for the cubic transmon and conventional transmon, respectively. The coefficient  $\beta_{c0}$  is the second-order nonlinearity of the cubic transmon,  $\alpha_{c0}$  and  $\alpha_{t0}$  are the third-order nonlinearities of each qubit, and  $g_0$  is the capacitive coupling strength between the two qubits.

In the dispersive coupling regime  $|\Delta_0| \equiv |\omega_{c0} - \omega_{t0}| \gg g_0$ , the effective Hamiltonian can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}/\hbar = & [\omega_c + g(\hat{b}^\dagger + \hat{b})]\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} + \frac{\alpha_c}{2}\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}\hat{a} \\ & + \omega_t\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b} + \frac{\alpha_t}{2}\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}\hat{b} + J_{ZZ}\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $g(\propto \beta_{c0})$  is the effective coupling strength, and  $\omega_c$ ,  $\omega_t$ ,  $\alpha_c$ , and  $\alpha_t$  are the eigenmode frequencies and self-Kerr nonlinearities of the qubits after the perturbative treatment of the coupling term in Eq. (1), respectively. The term with a coefficient  $g$  arises from the second-order nonlinearity in the parity-violated cubic transmon and gives the interaction in the same form as the radiation pressure in optomechanics [22,30] and the state-dependent force in trapped ions [31,32]. There is also a static longitudinal (ZZ) interaction between the qubits, whose amplitude is  $J_{ZZ}$ . The detailed derivations and expressions of the parameters in Eqs. (1) and (2) are presented in Appendix C.

Figure 1(c) illustrates the eigenstates  $|ij\rangle$  ( $i, j \in \{g, e, f\}$ ) and their frequencies. The coupling between qubits hybridizes the bare qubit states  $|i\rangle_c|j\rangle_t$  and forms the

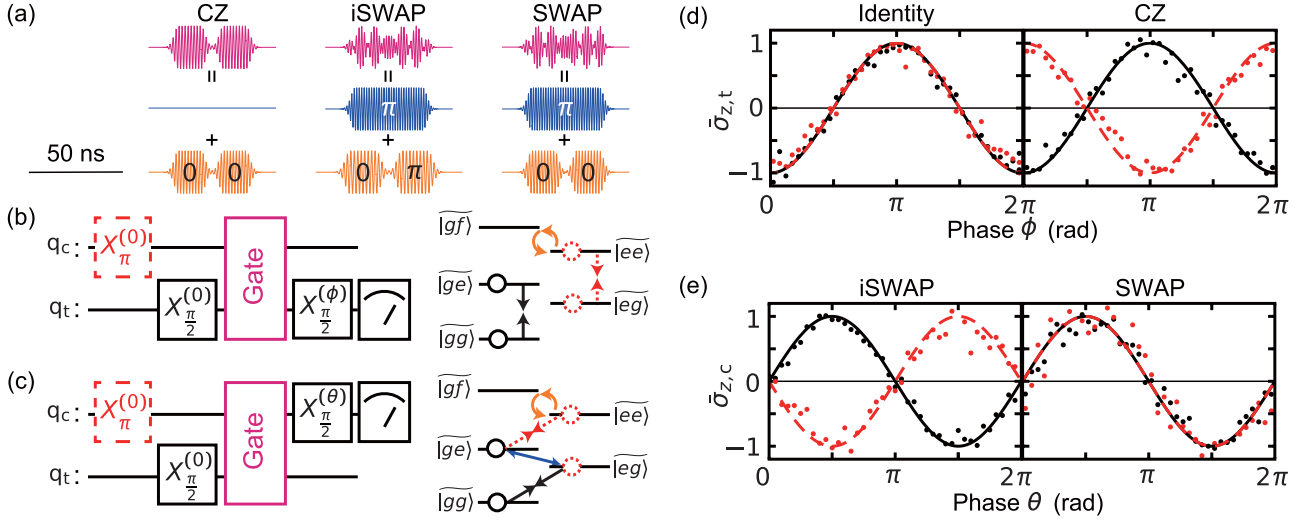


FIG. 3. Implementation of the two-qubit gates. (a) Composite pulses for CZ, iSWAP, and SWAP gates, applied to the cubic transmon. The frequencies of the blue and orange pulses are resonant to the  $|ge\rangle \leftrightarrow |eg\rangle$  and  $|ee\rangle \leftrightarrow |gf\rangle$  transitions, respectively. The relative phases of the second segment of the orange pulses are fine tuned to optimize the amount of the conditional phase. (b) [(c)] Pulse sequence for characterizing the two-qubit gates, identity and CZ (iSWAP and SWAP), and corresponding transitions.  $X_{\tau}^{(\phi)}$  ( $X_{\tau}^{(\theta)}$ ) represents a single-qubit rotation with the rotation angle  $\tau$  and phase  $\phi$  ( $\theta$ ). The right panels in (b) and (c) are energy-level diagrams illustrating the Ramsey interferometries involving a two-qubit gate. The black solid and red dashed arrows indicate pairs of interfering eigenstates. The blue and orange arrows indicate the sideband transitions. (d) [(e)] Ramsey-type interference, conditioned on the state of the cubic transmon, with the two-qubit gates such as identity and CZ (iSWAP and SWAP) gates. The excitation probability of the transmon  $\bar{\sigma}_{z,t}$  (the cubic transmon  $\bar{\sigma}_{z,c}$ ) is determined by the average readout in the time-ensemble measurement. The black (red) dots show the experimental results without (with) the initial  $X_{\pi}$  pulse [red dashed rectangles in (b) and (c)] for the cubic transmon. The black solid and red dashed curves represent the functions for the ideal gates.

eigenstates  $|ij\rangle$ . When a drive field at frequency  $\omega_d = |\Delta| \equiv |\omega_c - \omega_t|$  is applied to the cubic transmon, the two qubits resonate with each other in the rotating frame. Under the rotating-wave approximation, the parametric coupling follows:

$$\hat{H}_p/\hbar = \eta\Omega(e^{i\omega_d t + i\theta}\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{b} + e^{-i\omega_d t - i\theta}\hat{a}\hat{b}^\dagger), \quad (3)$$

$$\eta \equiv \frac{-2g_0\beta_{c0}(2\omega_{c0}^2 - \alpha_{c0}\Delta_0 + 2\alpha_{c0}\omega_{c0})}{\Delta_0(\Delta_0 - \omega_{c0})(\alpha_{c0} + \omega_{c0})(\alpha_{c0} + \omega_{c0} + \Delta_0)}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\Omega$  and  $\theta$  are the amplitude and phase of the drive field, respectively. Note that  $\eta$  is proportional to the second-order nonlinearity  $\beta_{c0}$  for the three-wave-mixing process occurring under the Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}_p$  in Eq. (3).

Under the resonant condition  $\omega_d = \Delta$ , the drive exchanges the excitation of the two qubits, and thus the iSWAP and SWAP gates can be implemented. Another type of two-qubit gate, controlled-phase (CZ) gate, is similarly achieved with a parametric drive. When the drive frequency is equal to  $\Delta + \alpha_t$ , the transition  $|ee\rangle \leftrightarrow |gf\rangle$  takes place. A  $2\pi$  rotation of the transition induces a geometric phase factor of  $-1$  only to the  $|ee\rangle$  state in the computational subspace.

In parallel with the dynamically induced coupling, there remains the spurious static ZZ interaction, the last term in Eq. (2), between the capacitively coupled qubits with higher energy levels [33]. Remarkably, the residual interaction can be eliminated also with a parametric drive. We irradiate the cubic transmon with a continuous-wave (CW) microwave field, whose frequency is slightly detuned from the transition of  $|ee\rangle \leftrightarrow |fg\rangle$ . The ac Stark effect by the CW drive shifts the

eigenfrequencies in the two-qubit subspace. These shifts give rise to a tunable ZZ interaction and allow compensation for the unwanted interaction.

### III. DEVICE PARAMETERS

In the experiment we use the device shown in Fig. 1. The parameters at the operating flux bias,  $\Phi = 0.34\Phi_0$ , where  $\Phi_0 \equiv h/2e$ , are the following: The eigenfrequencies of the cubic transmon and the transmon are  $\omega_c/2\pi = 3.633$  GHz and  $\omega_t/2\pi = 4.473$  GHz, respectively. The third-order nonlinearities of the qubits are  $\alpha_c/2\pi = -132$  MHz and  $\alpha_t/2\pi = -168$  MHz, and the bare coupling strength between the qubits is  $g_0/2\pi = 75$  MHz, which are determined by spectroscopic measurements. The details of the sample characterization are described in Appendices B and C. Using these values we estimate the second-order nonlinearity  $\beta_c/2\pi = -195$  MHz, the effective coupling strength  $g/2\pi = -14$  MHz, and the coupling coefficient of the parametric drive  $\eta = 0.022$ . The energy-relaxation and Ramsey-dephasing times of the qubits are  $T_1 = 3.9 \mu\text{s}$  and  $T_2^* = 0.6 \mu\text{s}$  for the cubic transmon, and  $T_1 = 4.0 \mu\text{s}$  and  $T_2^* = 2.3 \mu\text{s}$  for the transmon, respectively. The dephasing time of the cubic transmon is improved to  $T_2^E = 1.5 \mu\text{s}$  with an echo pulse, while no change is seen for the transmon.

### IV. CANCELLATION OF THE STRAY INTERACTION

We first eliminate the residual ZZ interaction by the CW drive (Fig. 2). The drive frequency is 930 MHz, and the detuning from the  $|ge\rangle \leftrightarrow |eg\rangle$  transition is 84 MHz. The inset

of Fig. 2 shows the shifts of eigenstates induced by the CW drive. The CW drive is red detuned from the  $|ee\rangle \leftrightarrow |fg\rangle$  transition and blue detuned from the  $|ge\rangle \leftrightarrow |eg\rangle$  and  $|ee\rangle \leftrightarrow |gf\rangle$  transitions. The sign of the frequency shifts are different from each other. The amplitude of the ZZ interaction corresponds to the frequency difference between the  $|gg\rangle \leftrightarrow |ge\rangle$  and  $|eg\rangle \leftrightarrow |ee\rangle$  transitions, which amounts to 5 MHz in the absence of the CW drive. The frequency difference vanishes at a certain power of the drive. It is also found that the CW drive does not degrade the coherence of the qubits (data not shown).

In the presence of the CW drive, we implement the two-qubit Clifford gate set, i.e., CZ, iSWAP, and SWAP gates, using parametric couplings induced by additional microwave pulses. These gates are within the family of the fermionic simulation gate set, characterized by two parameters, the swap angle  $\theta_{\text{sw}}$  and the conditional phase  $\theta_{\text{cp}}$  [34,35]. The CZ, iSWAP, and SWAP gates have the parameters  $(\theta_{\text{sw}}, \theta_{\text{cp}}) = (0, \pi)$ ,  $(\pi/2, 0)$ , and  $(\pi/2, \pi)$ , respectively (see Appendix E). In our setup,  $\theta_{\text{sw}}$  and  $\theta_{\text{cp}}$  are independently and simultaneously controlled via parametric couplings.

Figure 3(a) illustrates the waveforms of the synthesized two-tone pulses for these gates. The total gate time is 50 ns for each. The swap pulse (blue) is resonant to the  $|ge\rangle \leftrightarrow |eg\rangle$  transition and is used to control  $\theta_{\text{sw}}$ . The control-phase pulse (orange) is resonant to the  $|ee\rangle \leftrightarrow |gf\rangle$  transition and controls  $\theta_{\text{cp}}$  through the relative phase between two serial segments, applying the conditional phase  $\theta_{\text{cp}}$  as a geometrical phase only to the  $|ee\rangle$  state. Because the swap pulses also generate a small conditional phase due to the Stark shift, we simultaneously apply a control-phase pulse for iSWAP and SWAP gate to eliminate the unwanted phase.

Figure 3(b) [Fig. 3(c)] shows the pulse sequence of the Ramsey interferometry for characterizing the identity and CZ gates (iSWAP and SWAP gates). For the iSWAP and SWAP gates, which exchange an excitation between the qubits, we apply the second  $\pi/2$  pulse to the cubic transmon instead of the transmon to form an interferometric sequence [Fig. 3(c)], in contrast to the standard Ramsey experiments. Figures 3(d) and 3(e) show the experimental data of Ramsey oscillations, conditioned on the state of the cubic transmon, revealing the amount of the conditional phase  $\theta_{\text{cp}}$  of each two-qubit gate. The phase difference between the Ramsey oscillations, with and without an initial  $\pi$  rotation of the cubic transmon, corresponds to the conditional phase shift. The experimental data show good agreement with the ideal behaviors in Figs. 3(d) and 3(e).

## V. TWO-QUBIT RANDOMIZED BENCHMARKING

Finally, we characterize the average two-qubit gate fidelities with the randomized-benchmarking (RB) protocols [36–38]. The gate time is uniformly set to 50 ns for the CZ, iSWAP, SWAP gates and all the single-qubit gates. Figure 4 shows the experimental results of the two-qubit RB. From the standard RB, the average gate fidelity of the two-qubit Clifford gates is determined to be  $0.950 \pm 0.001$ . Using this value and those from the interleaved RB, we estimate the average gate fidelity of each two-qubit gate:  $0.971 \pm 0.002$ ,  $0.958 \pm$

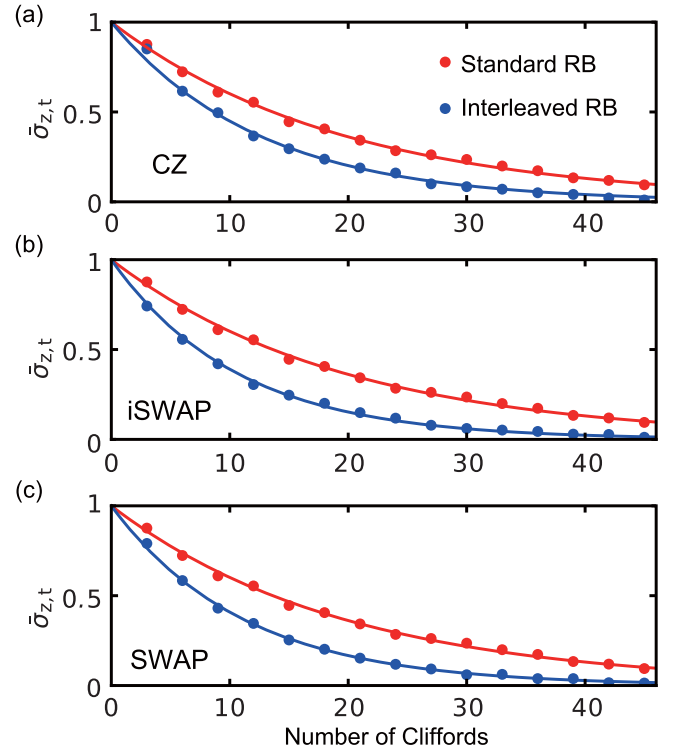
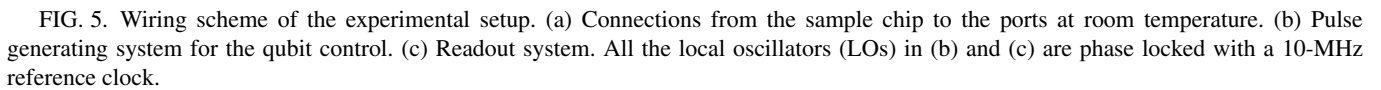


FIG. 4. Randomized benchmarking (RB) for two-qubit gates. The vertical axes show the normalized average quadrature amplitude  $\bar{\sigma}_{z,t}$  of the transmon readout signal [39]. The horizontal axes show the number of Clifford gates in the randomized sequence. The red dots show the result of standard RB with two-qubit gates, and the blue dots express those of interleaved RB for (a) CZ, (b) iSWAP, and (c) SWAP gates, respectively.

$0.001$ , and  $0.962 \pm 0.001$  for CZ, iSWAP, and SWAP gates, respectively. The achieved fidelities of the two-qubit gates are comparable to those of the single-qubit gates and mostly limited by the energy relaxation time of the qubits. The fidelities expected from the coherence time are approximately 0.97 according to the gate pulse widths, which are close to the observed fidelities. As the cubic transmon has basically the same layout as conventional transmons, we expect improvement of the relaxation time through optimizations of the design and fabrication.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, we have introduced a cubic transmon and realized microwave-controlled fast two-qubit gates between a cubic transmon and a conventional transmon. As the gates originate from the second-order nonlinearity of the cubic transmon, the coupling strength scales inversely proportional to the detuning between the qubits, not to the square of it, and is thus sufficiently large for a wide detuning range of the qubits. This is advantageous for a multiqubit system, which often suffers from a frequency-crowding problem. The residual static ZZ interaction is eliminated by applying a continuous microwave field, which will allow us to increase the bare coupling strength further and make the two-qubit gates as fast as 20 ns with optimal device parameters. This scheme for



## APPENDIX A: MEASUREMENT SETUP

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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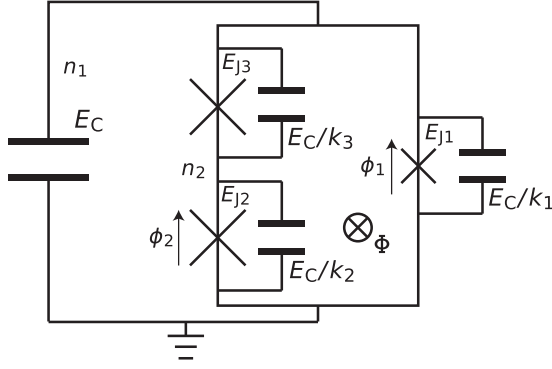


FIG. 6. Full-circuit model of a cubic transmon.

## APPENDIX B: SINGLE-PHASE APPROXIMATION OF A CUBIC TRANSMON

Figure 6 shows the full-circuit model of a cubic transmon. Each of the two isolated superconducting islands has two degrees of freedom of the phase and charge. The full Hamiltonian is written as

$$H = K - E_{J1} \cos \phi_1 - E_{J2} \cos \phi_2 - E_{J3} \cos(\phi + \phi_1 - \phi_2), \quad (\text{B1})$$

$$K = 4E_C (n_1, n_2) \mathbf{C} \begin{pmatrix} n_1 \\ n_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B2})$$

$$\mathbf{C} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 + k_1 + k_3 & -k_3 \\ -k_3 & k_2 + k_3 \end{pmatrix}^{-1}, \quad (\text{B3})$$

where  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are the numbers of excess Cooper pairs on each island,  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are the superconducting phases across each junction connected to the ground,  $\phi = 2\pi\Phi/\Phi_0$  is the reduced magnetic flux,  $\Phi$  is the flux threading the loop,  $\Phi_0 = h/2e$  is the flux quantum, and  $k_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ) are the scaling factors depending on the junction size.  $E_C$  is the single-electron charging energy of the shunt capacitance. We assume that each Josephson energy  $E_{Ji}$  scales as  $E_{Ji} = k_i E_{J0}$ , where  $E_{J0}$  is an independent parameter to be determined.

By diagonalizing the Hamiltonian we obtain wave functions of the eigenstates of the cubic transmon in the phase representation (Fig. 7). Under the condition of  $k_2 = k_3$ , the

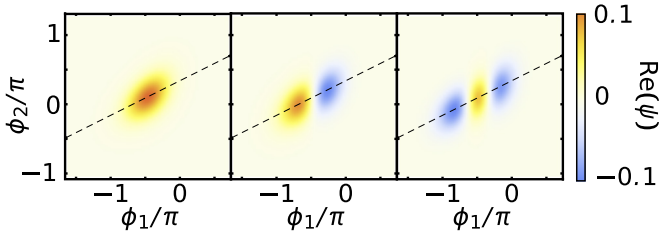


FIG. 7. Wave functions of the cubic-transmon eigenstates, obtained by diagonalizing the Hamiltonian [Eq. (B1)] with the parameters in the second line of Table I, where a condition  $k_2 = k_3$  is assumed. Real parts of the wave functions for the ground, first-excited, and second-excited states are plotted from left to right, respectively. The dashed lines represent the constraint  $2\phi_2 = \phi + \phi_1$ , which is used in the single-phase approximation.

fringes of the excited states lie on the dashed lines indicating the relation  $2\phi_2 = \phi + \phi_1$ . The confinement of the wave functions along the dashed line suggests an approximation  $2\phi_2 \approx \phi + \phi_1$ , which we call the single-phase approximation. Using this relation we can write the inductive energy of the SNAIL,

$$U(\varphi) = -k_1 E_{J0} \cos \varphi - 2k_2 E_{J0} \cos \left( \frac{\phi + \varphi}{2} \right) = D_2 \delta^2 + D_3 \delta^3 + D_4 \delta^4 + O(\delta^5). \quad (\text{B4})$$

This gives an effective model with a single phase degree of freedom  $\varphi$  ( $\equiv \phi_1$ ). The Josephson energies in the main text are defined as  $E'_J = k_1 E_{J0}$  and  $E_J = k_2 E_{J0}$ . The second formula in Eq. (B4) is the Taylor expansion around the phase  $\varphi_0$  at a minimum of the inductive energy, where  $\delta \equiv \varphi - \varphi_0$  is the relative phase variable for the expansion and  $D_i$  ( $i = 2, 3, 4$ ) are the expansion coefficients. The parity symmetry  $\delta \leftrightarrow -\delta$  is broken as seen in the existence of the  $\delta^3$  term in the presence of a finite magnetic flux penetrating through the SNAIL loop.

Under the approximation, the Hamiltonian of the cubic transmon up to the third-order nonlinearity is, as in the main text,

$$\hat{H}/\hbar = \omega_{c0} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \beta_{c0} (\hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{a}) + \frac{\alpha_{c0}}{2} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} \hat{a}, \quad (\text{B5})$$

where

$$\hbar\omega_{c0} = \sqrt{16D_2 E'_C} + \frac{12D_4 E'_C}{D_2}, \quad (\text{B6})$$

$$\hbar\beta_{c0} = 3 \left( \frac{E'_C}{D_2} \right)^{3/4} D_3, \quad (\text{B7})$$

$$\hbar\alpha_{c0} = \frac{12D_4 E'_C}{D_2}. \quad (\text{B8})$$

The effective charging energy  $E'_C$  is expressed as

$$E'_C \equiv E_C \frac{k_2 + k_3}{k_2 + k_3 + k_1(k_2 + k_3) + k_2 k_3}. \quad (\text{B9})$$

We quantitatively compare the single-phase approximation with the full-circuit model. We calculate the eigenmode frequency of the first excited state  $\omega_{c0}$ , third-order nonlinearity  $\alpha_{c0}$ , and second-order nonlinearity  $\beta_{c0}$  of the cubic transmon based on each model (Fig. 8). For the calculation with the single-phase approximation, we use the parameters obtained by the fittings in Figs. 9(a) and 9(b) below. Next, we use the same parameters in the full-circuit model and compare the results (red lines). For the full-circuit model, the second-order nonlinearity  $\beta_{c0}$  is evaluated from the transition moment between the ground and second-excited states. The transition moment is defined as

$$A_{ij} = |\langle i | n_1 | j \rangle|, \quad (\text{B10})$$

where  $i, j \in \{g, e, f\}$ . We write down two relevant transition moments,

$$A_{ge} = |\langle g | n_1 | e \rangle|, \quad (\text{B11})$$

$$A_{gf} = |\langle g | n_1 | f \rangle| = \frac{2\beta_{c0}}{\omega_{c0} + \alpha_{c0}} |\langle g | n_1 | e \rangle|, \quad (\text{B12})$$

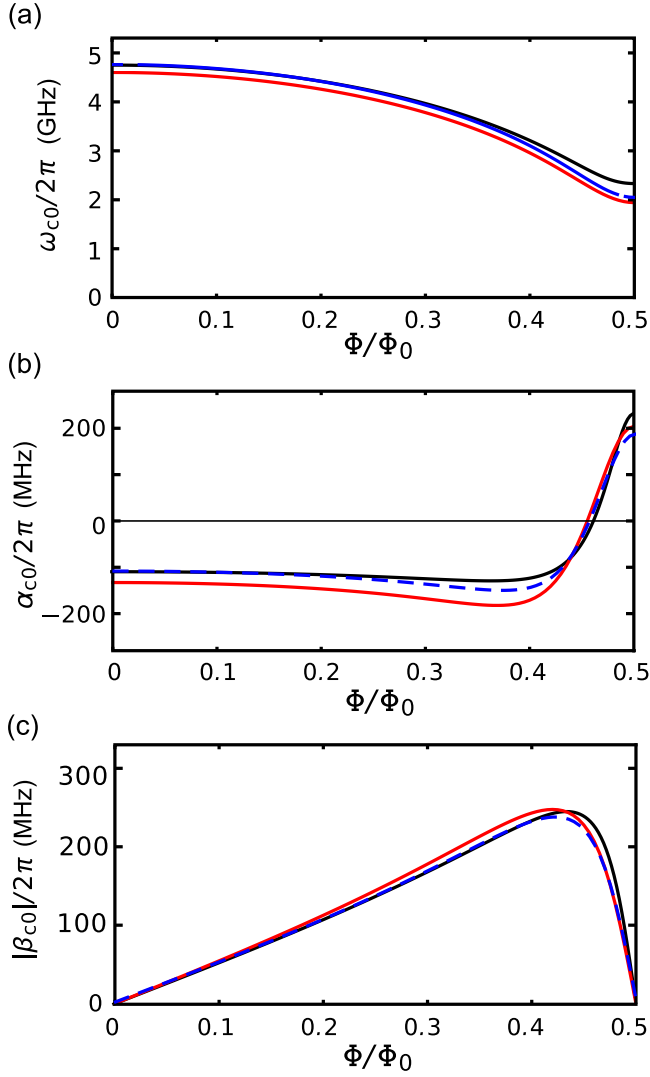


FIG. 8. Accuracy of the single-phase approximation. (a) Eigenfrequency  $\omega_{c0}$ , (b) third-order nonlinearity  $\alpha_{c0}$ , and (c) second-order nonlinearity  $|\beta_{c0}|$  of a cubic transmon as a function of  $\Phi$ . Black curves show the calculations based on the single-phase approximation with the parameters determined by the fittings in Figs. 9(a) and 9(b). Red curves are the simulation from the full-circuit model with the same parameters. Blue dashed curves are from the full-circuit model with adjusted parameters. The parameters are listed in Table I.

where the last expression in Eq. (B12) is obtained from the perturbative approach. Using these, we calculate the absolute value of  $\beta_{c0}$  as

$$|\beta_{c0}| = \frac{\omega_{c0} + \alpha_{c0} \frac{A_{gf}}{A_{ge}}}{2}. \quad (\text{B13})$$

The calculations based on these models qualitatively agree with each other [Figs. 8(a)–8(c)] and demonstrate the validity and accuracy of the single-phase approximation. There is a small quantitative deviation between the two models, which is not surprising as the wave functions of the eigenstates (Fig. 7) are not completely localized along the dashed line. This means that  $2\phi_2 = \phi + \phi_1$  is not strictly satisfied because of the quantum fluctuation of  $\phi_2$ , and we cannot construct an

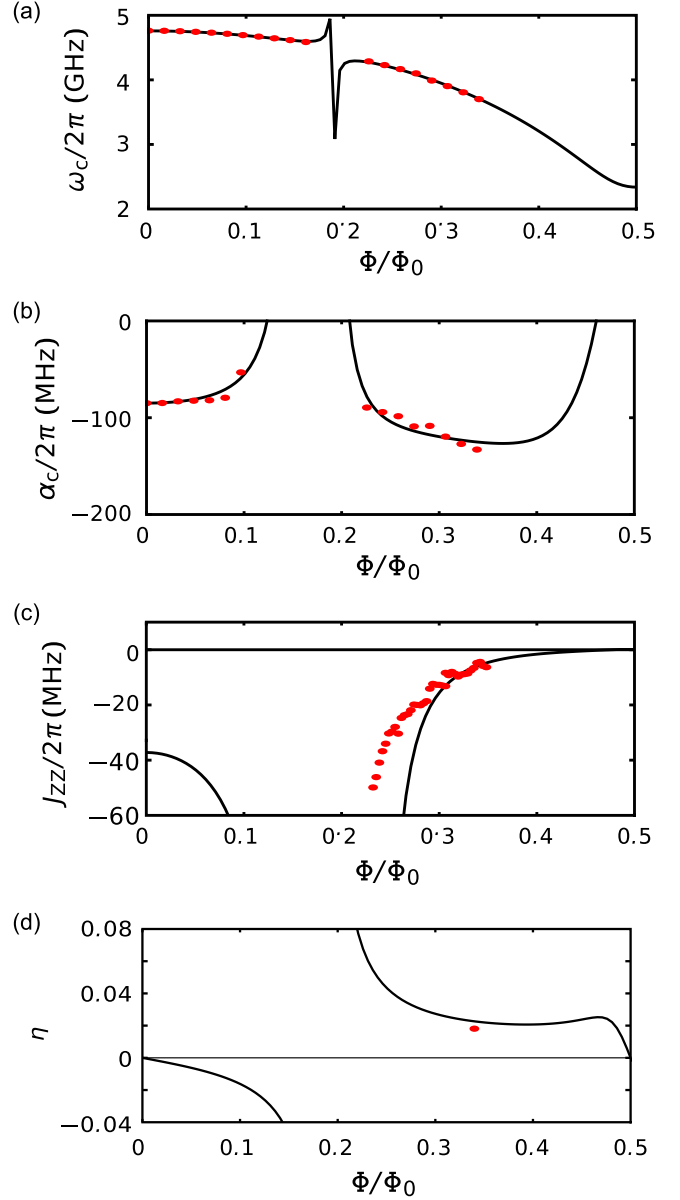


FIG. 9. Calibration experiments of the cubic-transmon-transmon coupled system. (a) Eigenfrequency of the first excited state  $\omega_c$ , (b) third-order nonlinearity  $\alpha_c$ , and (c) strength of the residual ZZ interaction  $J_{ZZ}$  as a function of the flux bias  $\Phi$ . Red dots are the experimental data. (d) Coupling coefficient of the parametric drive  $\eta$  calculated with Eq. (C19). Black curves in (a) and (b) are the fitting results using Eqs. (C8) and (C10). Black curves in (c) and (d) are calculated based on Eqs. (C14) and (C19), respectively, with the parameters determined by the fittings. In (d) we have a data point only at the flux bias point where the two-qubit gates are operated.

exact single-phase model. Blue dashed curves in Fig. 8 show calculations based on the full-circuit model with adjusted parameters to reproduce the results of the single-phase approximation. For the region with small reduced magnetic flux, these calculations have a good agreement with each other.

### APPENDIX C: COUPLED QUBITS

As described in the main text, the total Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}$  of the cubit-transmon-transmon coupled system is

given as

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}, \quad (\text{C1})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_0/\hbar = & \omega_{c0}\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} + \frac{\alpha_{c0}}{2}\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}\hat{a} \\ & + \omega_{t0}\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b} + \frac{\alpha_{t0}}{2}\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}\hat{b}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C2})$$

$$\hat{V}/\hbar = \beta_{c0}(\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}\hat{a}) + g_0(\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{b} + \hat{a}\hat{b}^\dagger). \quad (\text{C3})$$

The parameters are defined in the main text. We treat the off-diagonal part  $\hat{V}$  as a perturbative term and obtain the effective Hamiltonian via Schrieffer-Wolff transformation.

$$\hat{H}' \equiv e^{\hat{S}}\hat{H}e^{-\hat{S}} \sim \hat{H} + [\hat{S}, \hat{H}] + \frac{1}{2}[\hat{S}, [\hat{S}, \hat{H}]]. \quad (\text{C4})$$

We introduce  $\hat{S}_1$  which fulfills

$$\hat{V} = -[\hat{S}_1, \hat{H}_0]. \quad (\text{C5})$$

Then the effective Hamiltonian in the second order reads

$$\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}^{(2)} = \hat{H}_0 + [\hat{S}_1, \hat{V}] + \frac{1}{2}[\hat{S}_1, [\hat{S}_1, \hat{H}_0]]. \quad (\text{C6})$$

We calculate the effective Hamiltonian by ignoring states with more than four excitation quanta in each qubit and truncating it into a matrix with  $16 \times 16$  elements for the two-qubit system. The calculation is valid when  $g_0 \ll |\omega_{c0} - \omega_{t0}|$  and  $|\beta_{c0}| \ll \omega_{c0}$  are satisfied. The effective Hamiltonian reads

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}^{(2)}/\hbar = & [\omega_c + g(\hat{b}^\dagger + \hat{b})]\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a} + \frac{\alpha_c}{2}\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}\hat{a} \\ & + \omega_t\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b} + \frac{\alpha_t}{2}\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}\hat{b}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C7})$$

where  $\omega_c$ ,  $\omega_t$ ,  $\alpha_c$ , and  $\alpha_t$  are the eigenmode frequencies and self-Kerr nonlinearities of the qubits after the perturbative treatment of the coupling term. They are expressed as follows:

$$\omega_c = \omega_{c0} - \frac{2\beta_{c0}^2}{\omega_{c0} + \alpha_{c0}} + \frac{g_0^2}{\Delta_0}, \quad (\text{C8})$$

$$\omega_t = \omega_{t0} - \frac{g_0^2}{\Delta_0}, \quad (\text{C9})$$

$$\alpha_c = \alpha_{c0} - \frac{6\beta_{c0}^2\omega_{c0}}{(\omega_{c0} + \alpha_{c0})(2\alpha_{c0} + \omega_{c0})} - \frac{2g_0^2\alpha_{c0}}{\Delta_0(\alpha_{c0} + \Delta_0)}, \quad (\text{C10})$$

$$\alpha_t = \alpha_{t0} + \frac{2g_0^2\alpha_{t0}}{\Delta_0(\alpha_{t0} - \Delta_0)}, \quad (\text{C11})$$

where  $\Delta_0 \equiv \omega_{c0} - \omega_{t0}$  is the detuning between the qubit bare frequencies. We use these expressions to fit the experimental data, as shown in Figs. 9(a) and 9(b). The fitting parameters are listed in Table I.

The term  $g\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}(\hat{b}^\dagger + \hat{b})$  in the effective Hamiltonian [Eq. (C7)] results in the three-wave-mixing process, and the effective coupling strength  $g$  is expressed as

$$g = -\frac{g_0\beta_{c0}(\Delta_0 + \omega_{c0} + 2\alpha_{c0})}{(\alpha_{c0} + \Delta_0)(\alpha_{c0} + \omega_{c0})}. \quad (\text{C12})$$

The amplitude of the residual ZZ interaction  $J_{ZZ}$  between the qubits is derived through Schrieffer-Wolff transformation up

TABLE I. Parameters used for the calculations in Figs. 7 and 8. The values for the single-phase approximation are determined from the fittings in Figs. 9(a) and 9(b). Those for the full-circuit model are adjusted to obtain the blue dashed curves in Fig. 8, which closely reproduce the calculations based on the single-phase approximation.

	$\frac{E_c}{h}$ (GHz)	$\frac{E_{J0}}{h}$ (GHz)	$k_1$	$k_2 (= k_3)$
Single-phase approx.	0.21	84	0.070	0.20
Full-circuit model	0.18	103	0.070	0.20

to the fourth order of  $g_0$ ,

$$\hat{H}_{ZZ} = J_{ZZ}\hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}\hat{b}^\dagger\hat{b}, \quad (\text{C13})$$

$$J_{ZZ} = \frac{2g_0^2(\alpha_{c0} + \alpha_{t0})}{(\alpha_{c0} + \Delta_0)(-\alpha_{t0} + \Delta_0)}. \quad (\text{C14})$$

In Fig. 9(c) we plot  $J_{ZZ}$  obtained with the parameters that are determined from the fittings in Figs. 9(a) and 9(b). In the dispersive regime of the two qubits, i.e., for  $\Delta_0 \gg g_0$ , the experimental data in Fig. 9(c) has a good agreement with the theoretically expected values.

For the calculation of the parametric coupling, we continue this procedure one more step. We set  $\hat{S}_2$  such that

$$\hat{V}_2 = -[\hat{S}_2, \hat{H}_0], \quad (\text{C15})$$

where  $\hat{V}_2$  is the off-diagonal part of the effective Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}^{(2)}$ . We drive this system at the frequency  $\omega_d$  with a phase  $\theta$ , such that

$$\hat{H}_d/\hbar = \Omega(e^{-i\omega_d t - i\theta}\hat{a} + e^{i\omega_d t + i\theta}\hat{a}^\dagger), \quad (\text{C16})$$

and transform the drive Hamiltonian as

$$\hat{H}_{\text{dp}} = \hat{H}_d + [\hat{S}_1, \hat{H}_d] + \frac{1}{2}[\hat{S}_1, [\hat{S}_1, \hat{H}_d]] + [\hat{S}_2, \hat{H}_d], \quad (\text{C17})$$

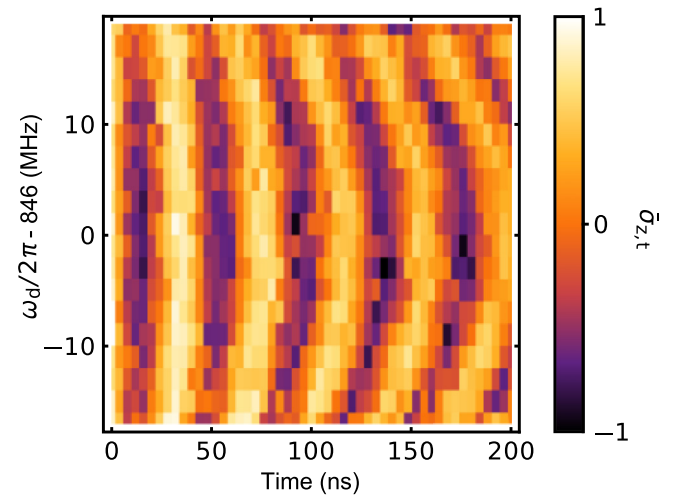


FIG. 10. Rabi oscillation of the  $|ge\rangle \leftrightarrow |eg\rangle$  transition. The vertical axis is the frequency of the parametric drive  $\omega_d$  and the horizontal axis is the interaction time. The color shows the normalized average quadrature amplitude  $\bar{\sigma}_{z,t}$  of the transmon readout signal.

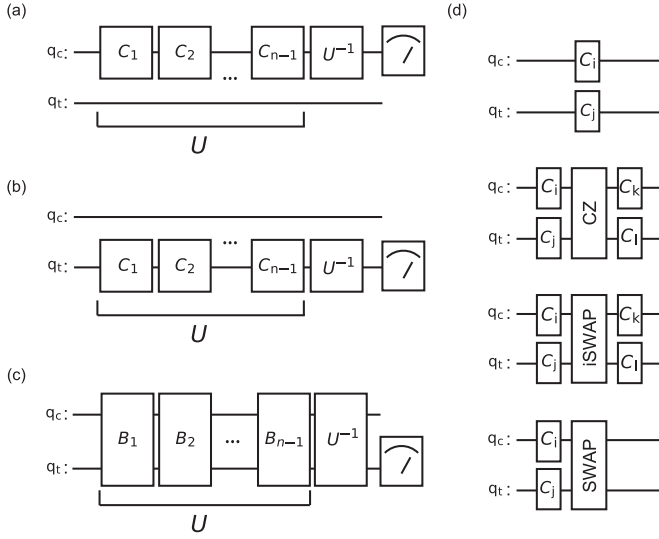


FIG. 11. Pulse sequences for RB. (a) and (b) Pulse sequences for single-qubit RB with the cubic transmon and transmon, respectively. An array of single-qubit random Clifford gates,  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{n-1}$ , is applied, and  $U^{-1}$  is the inverse of the preceding sequence. (c) Pulse sequence for two-qubit RB. An array of two-qubit random Clifford gates,  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_{n-1}$ , is applied, followed by the inverse  $U^{-1}$ . (d) Decompositions of two-qubit Clifford gates.

to obtain the parametric coupling of the SWAP interaction for  $\omega_d = \Delta \equiv \omega_t - \omega_c$  [Eqs. (3) and (4) in the main text],

$$\hat{H}_p/\hbar = \eta\Omega(e^{i\omega_d t + i\theta} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{b} + e^{-i\omega_d t - i\theta} \hat{a} \hat{b}^\dagger), \quad (C18)$$

$$\eta \equiv \frac{-2g_0\beta_{c0}(2\omega_{c0}^2 - \alpha_{c0}\Delta_0 + 2\alpha_{c0}\omega_{c0})}{\Delta_0(\Delta_0 - \omega_{c0})(\alpha_{c0} + \omega_{c0})(\alpha_{c0} + \omega_{c0} + \Delta_0)}. \quad (C19)$$

For the CZ gate we use the transition at  $\omega_d = \Delta + \alpha_t$  involving the second-excited state of the transmon, whose amplitude is similarly obtained as

$$\eta_{CZ} \equiv \frac{2\sqrt{2}g_0\beta_{c0}}{(\Delta_0 - \alpha_{t0})(\alpha_{t0} - \Delta_0 + \omega_{c0})(\alpha_{c0} + \omega_{c0})} \times \frac{2\omega_{c0}^2 - \alpha_{c0}\Delta_0 + 2\alpha_{c0}\omega_{c0} + \alpha_{c0}\alpha_{t0}}{\alpha_{c0} - \alpha_{t0} + \omega_{c0} + \Delta_0}. \quad (C20)$$

#### APPENDIX D: PARAMETRICALLY INDUCED TRANSITION

Figure 10 shows the experimental data of the parametrically induced  $|ge\rangle \leftrightarrow |eg\rangle$  transition. We prepare the  $|eg\rangle$  state with a  $\pi$  pulse to the cubic transmon and apply the parametric drive to the cubic transmon. The excitation is swapped between the two states by the parametric transition. The resonance frequency 846 MHz is the frequency difference between eigenfrequencies of the cubic transmon and transmon. The Rabi frequency is proportional to the amplitude of the drive, and the maximum Rabi frequency of 30 MHz is obtained.

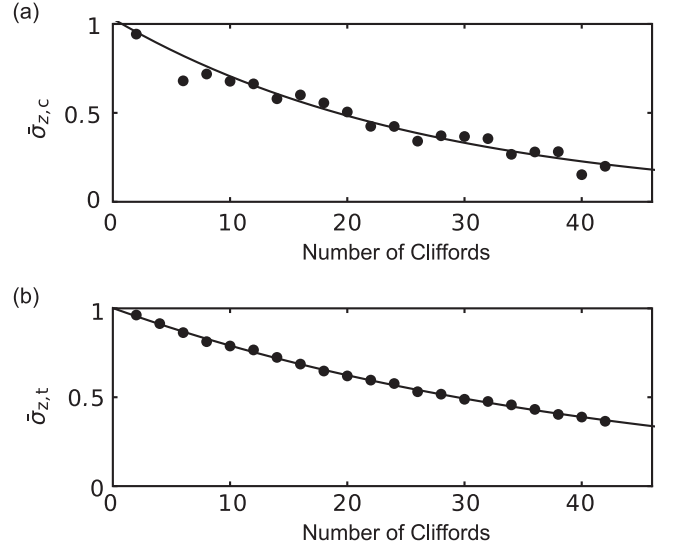


FIG. 12. Randomized benchmarking of the single-qubit gates. The vertical axes show the normalized average quadrature amplitudes of the readout signals for (a) the cubic transmon and (b) the transmon. The horizontal axes show the number of Clifford gates applied in the randomized sequence. Curves are the fittings to the depolarization model.

#### APPENDIX E: TWO-QUBIT GATES

The definitions of our two-qubit gates in the  $|\widetilde{gg}\rangle, |\widetilde{ge}\rangle, |\widetilde{eg}\rangle, |\widetilde{ee}\rangle$  basis are given by

$$U_{CZ} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (E1)$$

$$U_{i\text{SWAP}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & i & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (E2)$$

$$U_{\text{SWAP}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & i & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (E3)$$

#### APPENDIX F: RANDOMIZED BENCHMARKING

Figure 11 shows the gate sequences for the single-qubit and two-qubit randomized benchmarking (RB). We drive the cubic transmon with a CW field to eliminate the static ZZ interaction (not shown). The pulse shapes for the single-qubit gates are Gaussian with a full-width at half-maximum of 18.6 ns. The swap pulse and each segment of the control-phase pulse [Fig. 3(a) in the main text] have rising and falling edges of a Gaussian shape with the half-width at half-maximum of 3.0 and 1.5 ns, respectively. The length of the flat-top region is 32 ns for the swap pulse and 16 ns for each segment of the control-phase pulse.

The tails for all pulses are truncated when the amplitudes become  $10^{-3}$  times smaller than the maximum. For the interleaved RB, we add a target gate (CZ, iSWAP, and SWAP) between each Clifford gates. We repeat the sequences

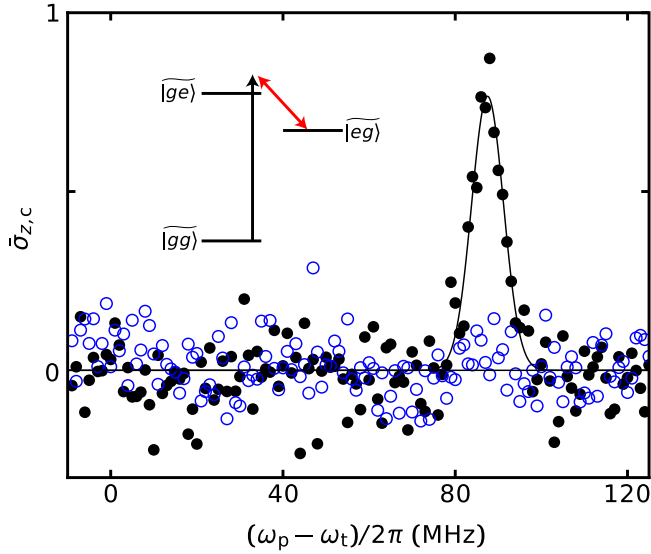


FIG. 13. Raman transition assisted by the CW drive. The vertical axis shows the normalized average quadrature amplitude of the readout signal for the cubic transmon. Horizontal axis is the frequency of the probe pulse  $\omega_p$  applied to the transmon, subtracted by the eigenfrequency of the transmon  $\omega_t$ . Black dots and blue circles are the experimental data with and without the CW drive. The black curve fits the data with a Gaussian function, whose spectral width is one of the fitting parameters and consistent with the temporal shape of the probe pulse. Inset shows the energy-level diagram. Red and black arrows represent the CW-drive and probe-microwave frequencies, respectively.

5000 times with 100 (50) different random patterns for the protocol in Figs. 11(a) and 11(b) [Fig. 11(c)]. We measure the average value of the  $\sigma_z$  component of the cubic transmon in the protocol in Fig. 11(a) and that of the transmon in Figs. 11(b) and 11(c).

Figure 12 shows the results of standard RB for the single-qubit gates. The average gate fidelities of the single-qubit gates are evaluated to be  $0.963 \pm 0.001$  for the cubic transmon and  $0.977 \pm 0.001$  for the transmon.

## APPENDIX G: RAMAN TRANSITION THROUGH A CONTINUOUS MICROWAVE FIELD

In the main text we irradiate the cubic transmon with a continuous microwave (CW) drive to eliminate the unwanted static ZZ interaction between the two qubits. However, this CW drive also induces an unwanted Raman transition which is mediated by the transmon excitation. Figure 13 shows the experimental data regarding the transition with pulsed spectroscopy. We sweep the frequency of the probe microwave pulse  $\omega_p$  around the transmon excitation frequency and measure the state of the cubic transmon. The pulse has a Gaussian shape with the full-width at half-maximum of 60 ns. The peak observed in Fig. 13 corresponds to the Raman transition process depicted in the inset. In accordance with the CW-drive detuning of 84 MHz from the  $|eg\rangle \leftrightarrow |ge\rangle$  transition, the Raman transition appears at  $(\omega_t/2\pi + 84)$  MHz. This transition is close to the transmon resonance and can be an error source for single-qubit gates with a short pulse. This error can be suppressed by the use of DRAG pulses [40].

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