

Erratum: Memory effect in a molecular quantum dot with strong electron-vibron interaction [Phys. Rev. B 67, 235312 (2003)]

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There are typos in Eqs. (45) and (46) in the above-named paper (Ref. 1). These equations have illustrated the absence of current switching (current bistability) in a molecular quantum dot (MQD) with a double-degenerate level, $d=2$. The typos are corrected below, but they do not change the result. Indeed, current bistability does not exist in the present model of electron coupled to vibronic excitations for degeneracy $d \leq 2$, and we showed earlier that it also does not exist in a negative- U model for the same degeneracy of the MQD (Ref. 2).

The rate equation (45) should read

$$n^2(a_0 - a_1 - b_0 + b_1) + n(2 - a_0 + 2b_0 - b_1) - b_0 = 0, \quad (1)$$

and Eq. (46) for the two solutions for the electron occupation number n should read

$$n_{1,2} = -\frac{2 - a_0 + 2b_0 - b_1}{2(a_0 - a_1 - b_0 + b_1)} \pm \left[\frac{(2 - a_0 + 2b_0 - b_1)^2}{4(a_0 - a_1 - b_0 + b_1)^2} + \frac{b_0}{a_0 - a_1 - b_0 + b_1} \right]^{1/2}. \quad (2)$$

It is straightforward to prove that the first term in Eq. (2) is *negative* at all parameters of the system. Indeed, we have shown that $0 < b_r < a_r < 1$ for any temperature and bias voltage.¹ Therefore, the numerator in the first term is positive, $2 - a_0 + 2b_0 - b_1 > 0$, and it is immediately clear from the definition of a_r and b_r , Eqs. (38) and (39) in Ref. 1, respectively, that $a_0 - b_0 > a_1 - b_1$, so that the denominator in the same term is also positive. Therefore, we see that the occupation number n has only one physical root, $n > 0$, for $d=2$.

We reaffirm our result that the current switching in the present model of MQD exists only for degeneracy $d > 2$.

¹A. S. Alexandrov and A. M. Bratkovsky, Phys. Rev. B 67, 235312 (2003).

²A. S. Alexandrov, A. M. Bratkovsky, and R. S. Williams, Phys. Rev. B 67, 075301 (2003).