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#### Adventures in Phase Space: Why Bosons are Better than Qubits for Quantum Error Correction



#### Take-home message:

#### Quantum error correction

&

#### Quantum simulations of physical models containing bosons

#### are both vastly more efficient on hardware containing 'native' bosons



# The Quantum Error Correction Problem

I am going to give you an <u>unknown</u> quantum state.

If you measure it, it will change randomly due to state collapse ('back action').

If it develops an error, please fix it.

*Mirable dictu*: It can be done!

- No-go theorem for error correction in classical analog computation.
- Quantum machines have both analog and digital features.
- <u>Rules of the QEC game</u>:
  - Noise demon has *universal* computational power using arbitrary
     K-local (bounded Pauli weight) gates (e.g. 1- and 2-qubit (continuous) gates).
  - Noise demon has bounded speed (we hope).
  - You have *less* computational power—only non-universal Clifford gates and measurements.

• You can win!

(If you are faster than the demon and don't make too many mistakes yourself)

Quantum Error Correction for an unknown state requires storing the quantum information *non-locally* in (non-classical) *correlations* over multiple physical qubits.



Non-locality: No single physical qubit can "know" the state of the logical qubit.

Special multi-qubit measurements can tell you about errors without telling you the logical state in which the error occurred.

<u>Miracle</u>: Quantum errors are analog (i.e. continuous). Measured errors are discrete (i.e. digital). State collapse is our friend!

# Quantum Error Correction



*N* qubits have errors *N* times faster. Maxwell demon must overcome this factor of *N* – and not introduce errors of its own! (or at least not uncorrectable errors)

#### Definition of "better" (QEC Gain)



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#### **Stabilizer Codes**

*N* qubits have 2<sup>*N*</sup> states. Define a 2D logical code subspace:  $C = \text{span} \{ |0_L\rangle, |1_L\rangle \}$ and logical operators  $X_L = |0_L\rangle\langle 1_L| + |1_L\rangle\langle 0_L|, \quad Z_L = |0_L\rangle\langle 0_L| - |1_L\rangle\langle 1_L|, \quad Y_L = +iX_LZ_L$ using *N*-1 stabilizers  $\{S_j; j = 1, ..., N-1\}$  and imposing *N*-1 constraints  $S_j |\psi_{\text{code}}\rangle = (+1) |\psi_{\text{code}}\rangle, \forall j.$ 

Stabilizers are mutually commuting and commute with logical operators. [So can be measured simultaneously and without affecting logical state.]

Stabilizers anti-commute with physical errors so measurement of stabilizers give error syndromes that collapse the error state without collapsing the logical state.

## Example stabilizer code

'Logical' qubit N 'Physical' qubits 8 6 5

9 qubit Shor code can correct 1 error: X,Y, or Z

3 types of errors x 9 locations = 27 possible error states + (no-error state)

Code requires 8 stabilizer measurements

- Z<sub>1</sub>Z<sub>2</sub>, Z<sub>2</sub>Z<sub>3</sub>, Z<sub>4</sub>Z<sub>5</sub>, Z<sub>5</sub>Z<sub>6</sub>, Z<sub>7</sub>Z<sub>8</sub>, Z<sub>8</sub>Z<sub>9</sub>
- ightarrow Detect bit flip errors
- $X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4 X_5 X_6, X_4 X_5 X_6 X_7 X_8 X_9$
- → Detect phase flip errors

Very difficult multi-qubit measurements! [N.B. cannot measure  $Z_1$ ,  $Z_2$  separately and multiply results! Need *joint* measurements.]

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Idea: Don't use material objects as qubits.

Use microwave photon states stored in high-Q superconducting resonators.

Cat code (first to exceed break-even): Ofek, et al., *Nature* **536**, 441–445 (2016)

#### **Binomial Code:**

Michael et al., *Phys. Rev. X* 6, 031006 (2016) Hu et al., *Nature Physics* 15, 503 (2019)

Autonomous Code (T4C truncated cat): Gertler et al., *Nature* **590**, 243 (2021)

GKP Codes:

Campagne-Ibarcq et al. Nature 584, 368 (2020)

de Neeve et al., Nature Physics 18, 296 (2022)

Royer et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **125**, 260509 (2020) *PRX Quantum* **3**, 010335 (2022)

Bosonic code reviews: W. Cai et al., <u>arXiv:2010.08699</u> A. Joshi et al., <u>arXiv:2008.13471</u>



Single-mode microwave resonators (harmonic oscillators) are empty boxes (vacuum surrounded by superconducting walls)



"Hardware Efficiency"

Oscillators have many quantum levels so can replace multiple physical qubits without adding more 'moving parts.'

#### Bosonic Quantum Error Correction Codes



Harmonic oscillator has an infinite number of states. A qubit has only two states.

We need to pick out two orthogonal states to act as 'logical code words' to hold one qubit's worth of (protected) information.

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\kappa E \Longrightarrow \frac{d\left\langle \hat{n} \right\rangle}{dt} = -\kappa \left\langle \hat{n} \right\rangle$$

Simplest code:  $|0_L\rangle = |0\rangle |1_L\rangle = |1\rangle$ 

Has smallest possible number of photons and therefore longest lifetime.

But <u>not</u> error correctable after photon loss:  $\alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle \rightarrow |0\rangle$ 

This is what we have to beat to reach break-even.

### **Experimental physics question**





Single-mode weakly damped oscillators have a very simple error model: photon loss

 $|\psi\rangle = \alpha |0_L\rangle + \beta |1_L\rangle$  Use 'code words' with definite photon number parity (e.g. even)

Only a single mode and only one kind of error—photon loss – NOT 3N errors as for qubits.

Measurement of parity does not tell us the photon number so stabilizer commutes with logical operators.

Only need one simple code 'stabilizer,' Photon number parity:

$$\hat{P} = (-1)^{\hat{n}}$$

Example code:



Photon loss error flips the parity:

Easy to QND measure with high fidelity (unlike in ordinary quantum optics)

$$\hat{P}a\hat{P} = -a$$

Parity stabilizer measurements 99.8% QND. L. Sun et al., *Nature* **511**, 444 (2014)

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Simplest bosonic code example: 'binomial code' uses only 5 photon states 0-4 ( $\ln_2 5$  bits) *Phys. Rev. X* 6, 031006 (2016) to correct errors to first order in  $\epsilon = \kappa \, \delta t$ .



Still keep

 $\sim 80\%$  of data

 $\approx 560 \mu s$ 

 $\tau \approx 290 \,\mu s$ 

 $\tau \approx 320 \mu s$ 

 $\tau \approx 130 \mu s$ 

 $\tau \approx 15 \mu s$ 

100

1.1x break even (unheralded)

1.75x break even (heralded)

First code to (slightly) exceed break even: Schrödinger Cat Code



Theory: Leghtas, Mirrahimi, et al., *PRL* **111**, 120501 (2013) Experiment: Ofek et al. *Nature* **536**, 441 (2016)

'GKP code': Coherent state lattice in phase space ("cat in 35 places at once")

C. Flühmann et al. (Home group) *Nature* 566, 513 (2019) (state preparation)
P. Campagne-Ibarcq et al. (Devoret group) *Nature* 584, 368 (2020) (QEC for X,Y,Z errors near break even)
de Neeve et al. (Home group) de Neeve et al. (J. Home group), *Nature Physics* 18, 296 (2022)
Royer, Singh et al. (Girvin group) *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 125, 260509 (2020); *PRX Quantum* 3, 010335 (2022)

Phase space map of oscillator states using Characteristic Function = FT of Wigner function

Stabilizers, errors, Clifford gates are all simple displacements!



Understanding phase space....



But recall that a crystal lattice produces sharp Bragg peaks in x-ray diffraction.



Gottesman, Kitaev and Preskill, Phys. Rev. A 64, 012310 (2001)

Proposed encoding a logical qubit in oscillator 'grid' states.

How can the points in this phase space grid be smaller than the minimum uncertainty wave packet?

They seem to be squeezed in both position AND momentum!?

This is possible for special choices of lattice unit cell areas.

 $[\hat{q}, \hat{p}] = +i \implies$  translations in phase space do not commute

$$\mathcal{D}(\Delta_q)\Psi(q) = e^{-i\Delta_q \hat{p}}\Psi(q) = \Psi(q - \Delta_q)$$
$$\mathcal{D}(i\Delta_p)\Psi(q) = e^{i\Delta_p q}\Psi(q)$$

$$\mathcal{D}(\Delta_q)\mathcal{D}(i\Delta_p) = e^{i\Delta_p\Delta_q}\mathcal{D}(i\Delta_p)\mathcal{D}(\Delta_q)$$
area

Harmonic Oscillator Phase Space

Inside the code space: *X,Y,Z* translations obey Pauli group

GKP code space is stabilized by special translations that <u>do</u> commute

$$S_p = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}}$$
  
 $S_q = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{p}}$ 

$$S_{q}S_{p} = e^{i4\pi}S_{p}S_{q}$$
$$S|0_{L}\rangle = (+1)|0_{L}\rangle$$
$$S|1_{L}\rangle = (+1)|1_{L}\rangle$$

$$2\sqrt{\pi}$$

$$S_{p} \pi \pi \pi$$

$$Y = 2\sqrt{\pi}$$

$$Z \frac{\pi}{2} \pi$$

$$X = S_{q}$$

$$Area 4\pi = 2 \text{ states}$$

 $\overline{}$ 

$$S_{p} = S_{q} = 1$$

$$X^{2} = S_{q} = 1$$

$$Z^{2} = S_{p} = 1$$

$$ZX = e^{i\pi}XZ = -XZ$$

$$ZX = e^{i\pi/2}Y = iY$$

# Exploring phase space with displacements of the oscillator controlled by the ancilla qubit



#### $\sigma^z$ is for ancilla qubit

not to be confused with X,Y,Z logical Pauli's for the cavity GKP code

Experimental Calibration of Controlled Displacements Non-Commutativity (Devoret Group)



$$|0\rangle + |1\rangle \rightarrow e^{-i\varphi_0}|0\rangle + e^{i\varphi_1}|1\rangle$$

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Code space is stabilized by:

$$egin{aligned} S_p &= e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}}\ S_q &= e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{p}} \end{aligned}$$

N.B. Unlike ordinary qubit stabilizers, these have a continuum of eigenvalues on the unit circle corresponding to continuous drift of position or momentum.

$$S_{p} \left| \Psi_{\delta} \right\rangle = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\delta} \left| \Psi_{\delta} \right\rangle$$

Continuous stabilizer eigenvalue on the unit circle in the complex plane.



Code space is stabilized by:

$$S_p = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}}$$
  
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Continuous stabilizer eigenvalue on the unit circle in the complex plane.

ONLY 2 STABILIZERS NEEDED TO REDUCE INFINITE STATE SPACE DOWN TO 2 LOGICAL STATES!



Code space is stabilized by:

$$S_p = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}}$$
  
 $S_q = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{p}}$ 

N.B. Unlike ordinary qubit stabilizers, these have a continuum of eigenvalues on the unit circle corresponding to continuous drift of position or momentum. Stabilization against drift errors in *position q* 

*Measure stabilizer to detect error:* 

$$\operatorname{Im}\left\langle S_{p}\right\rangle = \left\langle \sin[2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}]\right\rangle$$
$$= \int dq \sin[2\sqrt{\pi}q] |\psi(q)|^{2} = \sin[2\sqrt{\pi}\delta]$$

and feedback to correct.

Use 'Bang-Bang' controller to measure stabilizer with one-bit resolution (quantum phase estimation)

$$S_p = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}}$$

Measuring stabilizer using phase kickback from <u>conditional</u> displacement operation



Measuring stabilizer using phase kickback from <u>conditional</u> displacement operation



#### Quantum state tomography

Characteristic function for qubits:  $C(k) = \text{Tr}[\rho W_k], \quad W_k \in \{I, X, Y, Z\}^{\otimes n}$ 



#### Quantum state tomography

Characteristic function for oscillators:  $C(\beta) = \text{Tr}[\rho D(\beta)], \quad D(\beta) = \exp(\beta a^{\dagger} - \beta^* a)$ 



Α.

#### Gottesman-Kitaev-Preskill code

Characteristic function:  $C(\beta) = \text{Tr}[\rho D(\beta)], \quad D(\beta) = \exp(\beta a^{\dagger} - \beta^* a)$ GKP code stabilizers:  $S_X = D(\sqrt{2\pi}), \quad S_Z = D(\sqrt{2\pi}i)$ 



#### Gottesman-Kitaev-Preskill code

Characteristic function:  $C(\beta) = \text{Tr}[\rho D(\beta)], \quad D(\beta) = \exp(\beta a^{\dagger} - \beta^* a)$ GKP code stabilizers:  $S_X = D(\sqrt{2\pi}), \quad S_Z = D(\sqrt{2\pi}i)$ GKP code Pauli operators:  $X = D(\sqrt{\pi/2}), \quad Z = D(\sqrt{\pi/2}i)$ 



Small-Big-Small (SBS) protocol (autonomous and tuned for finite-energy approximate GKP states)



B. Terhal et al., (PRA, 2016); P. Campagne-Ibarcq et al., (Nature, 2020).

#### QEC gain $1.45 \pm 0.04$



courtesy V. Sivak

## QEC in action

[ T = number of rounds of QEC ]



#### Where do we stand? Qubit codes vs. Bosonic codes



Royer et al., *PRX Quantum* **3**, 010335 (2022) 'Tesseract' code highly robust against ancilla errors.

### Multimode GKP Code

act' code highly robust ancilla errors.	Lattice in $\mathbb{R}^{2m}$	Quantum code in <i>m</i> oscillators
		$\hat{\mathbf{X}} = (\hat{x}_1 \ \hat{x}_2 \dots \hat{p}_1 \ \hat{p}_2 \dots)$
Lattice Generators	$\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{2m}$	$\hat{T}(\mathbf{s}_1), \hat{T}(\mathbf{s}_2), \dots, \hat{T}(\mathbf{s}_{2m})$ $\hat{T}(\mathbf{v}) = e^{i\sqrt{2\pi}\hat{\mathbf{x}}\Omega\mathbf{v}}$
Stabilizers commute	$\mathbf{s}_i \Omega \mathbf{s}_j \in \mathbb{Z}$	$[\hat{T}(\mathbf{s}_i), \hat{T}(\mathbf{s}_j)] = 0 \qquad \qquad \Omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ -I & 0 \end{pmatrix}$
Encode a qubit	Unit cell: <u>Volume</u> of 2	Unit cell: Volume of 2 x (2π) <sup>m</sup>
		Original proposal : Gottesman, Kitaev and Preskill, Phys. Rev. A 64, 012310 (2001)

#### Take-home message:



Quantum error correction &

Molecular Vibrational Spectra via Boson Sampling Phys. Rev. X **10**, 021060 (2020)



Quantum simulations of physical models containing bosons

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