PHYC90045 Introduction to Quantum Computing

Week 8

Lecture 15
Simple classical error correction codes, Quantum error correction codes, stabilizer formalism, 5-qubit code, 7-qubit Steane code

Lecture 16
The more advanced quantum error correction codes, Fault Tolerance, QEC threshold, surface code.

Lab 8
Quantum error correction

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Fault Tolerance and Topological Error Correction

Physics 90045
Lecture 16

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Overveiw

This lecture we will introduce more advanced error correction for quantum computers:

- Review some of the concepts from last lecture
- Fault Tolerance
- Concatenating quantum error correction codes
- The "threshold"
- Topological quantum error correction: The surface code

Reiffel, Chapter 11
Kaye, Chapter 10
Nielsen and Chuang, Chapter 10

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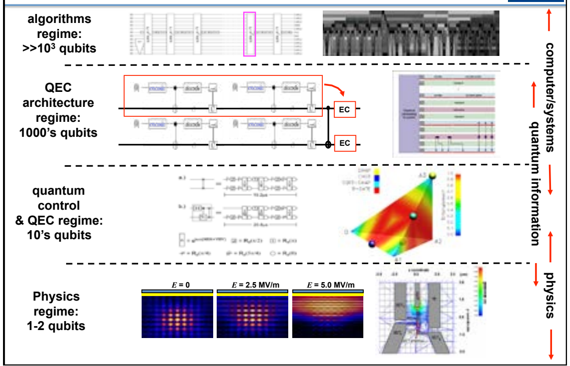
Quantum computing hierarchy



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Three qubit phase-flip code

Encode one qubit as three (redundant information)

$$\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle \to \alpha|+++\rangle + \beta|---\rangle$$

A rogue error occurs (*phase* flip of first qubit):

$$\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle \to \alpha|-++\rangle + \beta|+--\rangle$$

Measure correlations ("stabilizers") between qubits:

$$X_1X_2 = -1$$
$$X_2X_3 = +1$$

Correct errors which have occurred (in this case, phase flip the first qubit):

$$\alpha|-++\rangle + \beta|+--\rangle \to \alpha|+++\rangle + \beta|---\rangle$$

Repeat

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Correcting Both Bit and Phase Errors

$$IXZZX$$
$$XIXZZ$$
$$ZXIXZ$$
$$ZZXIX$$

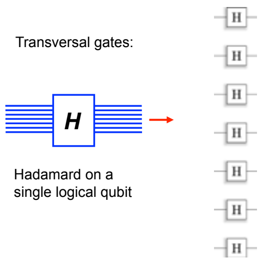
Five qubit code is the smallest QEC which corrects both bit and phase flips.

Seven qubit "Steane" code is a CSS code which allows encoded operations to be easily applied.

$$XXXXIII$$
$$XXIIXXI$$
$$XIXIXIX$$
$$ZZZZIII$$
$$ZZIIZZI$$
$$ZIZIZIZ$$

Logical Gates

Transversal gates:



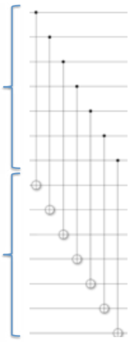
Hadamard on a single logical qubit

This gate can be operated while leaving the logical qubit encoded, protected by the QEC code.

Logical CNOT

Encoded Qubit 1

Encoded Qubit 2



Can also implement CZ, Swap transversally

Danger! CNOTs can propagate errors. We need to make sure this happens in a controlled way.

Fault Tolerance

Strategy: Take the original circuit and replace it with the *logical* version. In doing so we need to control the **spread** of errors. Doing this in a way which controls the spread of errors is known as fault tolerance:

Fault tolerant: a single error in any of the QEC procedures causes at most one error in the block of encoded qubits (which can be corrected)

A single error (on a physical qubit) should not propagate to two errors on the same logical qubit, otherwise we would not be able to correct that qubit.

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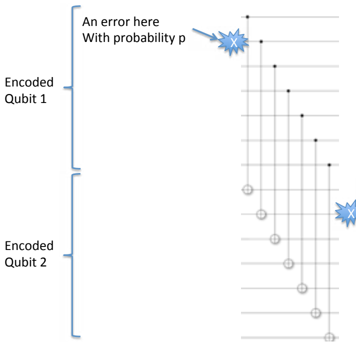
Transversal CNOT is Fault Tolerant



Propagates to an error here, but is still correctable. Neither logical qubit has more than one error.

Probability of **two** (uncorrectable) errors in this block is still proportional to p^2.

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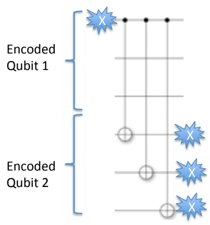
NOT Fault Tolerant

Consider the following CNOT gate for the 3-qubit bit flip code (000/111)



Although this circuit is "correct" (the operation it performs – assuming no error is an encoded CNOT)…

.. a physical single error can cause the second encoded qubit to be uncorrectable. It is **not** fault tolerant!

Care needed! Every operation (including measurement of syndromes) can have errors.
Not only do X errors propagate, so do Z errors.

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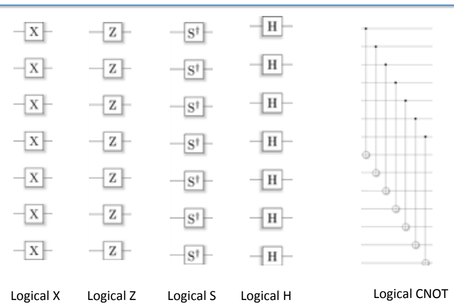
Transversal gates are Fault Tolerant



Not the only way to achieve fault tolerance, but a very useful one!

Larger distance codes

We have seen some simple error correction codes which correct one error (distance 3 codes). How can we construct quantum error correction codes which correct more than one error?

$$|0_L\rangle \rightarrow |00000\rangle$$
$$|1_L\rangle \rightarrow |11111\rangle$$

Distance 5 bit flip code

More errors needed before an uncorrectable, leading to a logical error.
More physical qubits give more locations for potential errors.

Concatenated codes

Systematic way to increase the distance of a code. Feed the code back into itself:

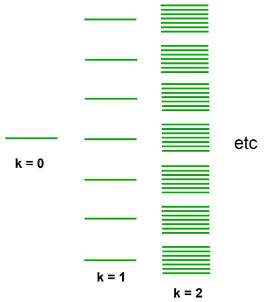
$$|0_{L2}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8}}(|0_L0_L0_L0_L0_L0_L0_L\rangle + |1_L0_L1_L0_L1_L0_L1_L\rangle + |0_L1_L1_L0_L0_L1_L1_L\rangle + |1_L1_L0_L0_L1_L1_L0_L\rangle$$
$$+ |0_L0_L0_L1_L1_L1_L1_L\rangle + |1_L0_L1_L1_L0_L1_L0_L\rangle + |0_L1_L1_L1_L1_L0_L0_L\rangle + |1_L1_L0_L1_L0_L0_L1_L\rangle$$
$$|1_{L2}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8}}(|1_L1_L1_L1_L1_L1_L1_L\rangle + |0_L1_L0_L1_L0_L1_L0_L\rangle + |1_L0_L0_L1_L1_L0_L0_L\rangle + |0_L0_L1_L1_L0_L0_L1_L\rangle$$
$$+ |1_L1_L1_L0_L0_L0_L\rangle + |0_L1_L0_L0_L1_L0_L1_L\rangle + |1_L0_L0_L0_L0_L1_L1_L\rangle + |0_L0_L1_L0_L1_L1_L0_L\rangle)$$

$$|0_L\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8}}(|0000000\rangle + |1010101\rangle + |0110011\rangle + |1100110\rangle + |0001111\rangle + |1011010\rangle + |0111100\rangle + |1101001\rangle)$$

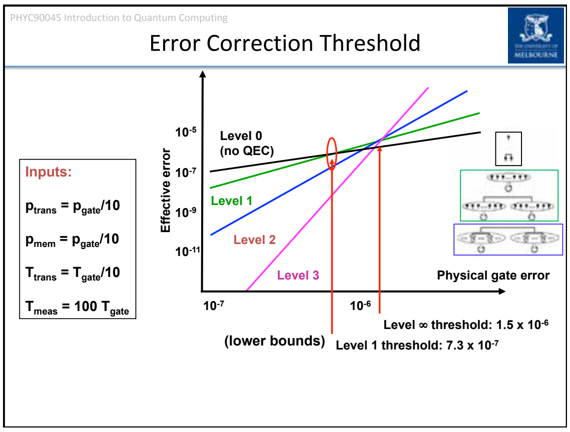
$$|1_L\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8}}(|1111111\rangle + |0101010\rangle + |1001100\rangle + |0011001\rangle + |111000\rangle + |0100101\rangle + |1000011\rangle + |0010110\rangle)$$

This method is known as "concatenation" of error correction codes.

Error after different levels of encoding



Logical error rate achieved $p_{fail} = p_{th}(p/p_{th})^{2^k}$ $p_{th} = 10^{-5} \cdot p = 10^{-6}$
k=1: $p_{fail} = 10^{-7}$
k=2: $p_{fail} = 10^{-9}$
k=3: $p_{fail} = 10^{-13}$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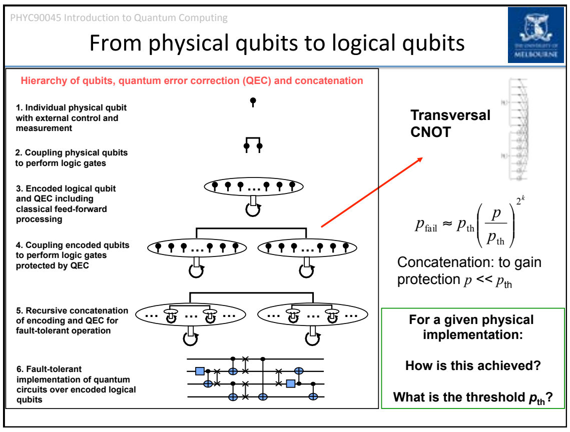
Error Correction Threshold
Inputs:
$p_{trans} = p_{gate}/10$
$p_{mem} = p_{gate}/10$
$T_{trans} = T_{gate}/10$
$T_{meas} = 100\ T_{gate}$
Effective error
10^{-5}
10^{-7}
10^{-9}
10^{-11}
Level 0 (no QEC)
Level 1
Level 2
Level 3
Physical gate error
10^{-7}
10^{-6}
Level ∞ threshold: 1.5×10^{-6}
(lower bounds)
Level 1 threshold: 7.3×10^{-7}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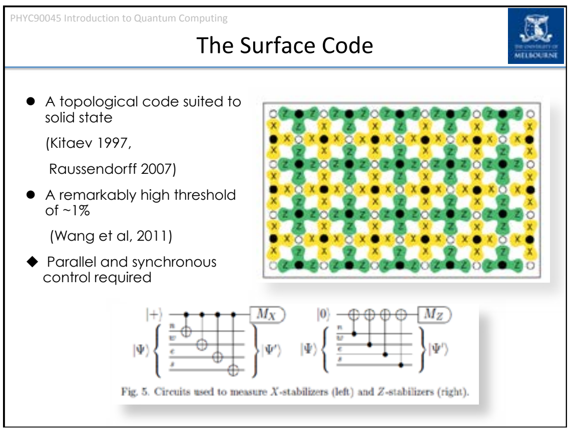
From physical qubits to logical qubits
Hierarchy of qubits, quantum error correction (QEC) and concatenation
1. Individual physical qubit with external control and measurement
2. Coupling physical qubits to perform logic gates
3. Encoded logical qubit and QEC including classical feed-forward processing
4. Coupling encoded qubits to perform logic gates protected by QEC
5. Recursive concatenation of encoding and QEC for fault-tolerant operation
6. Fault-tolerant implementation of quantum circuits over encoded logical qubits
Transversal CNOT
$p_{\text{fail}} \approx p_{\text{th}} \left(\frac{p}{p_{\text{th}}} \right)^{2^k}$
Concatenation: to gain protection $p << p_{th}$
For a given physical implementation:
How is this achieved?
What is the threshold p_{th}?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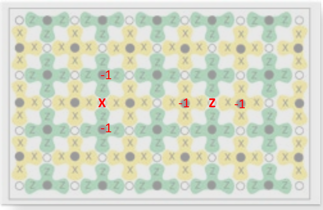
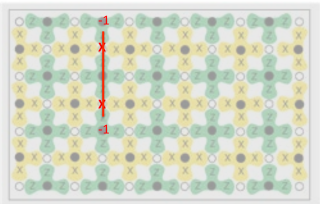
The Surface Code
A topological code suited to solid state
(Kitaev 1997,
Raussendorff 2007)
A remarkably high threshold of ~1%
(Wang et al, 2011)
Parallel and synchronous control required
Fig. 5. Circuits used to measure X-stabilizers (left) and Z-stabilizers (right).

Errors on the surface code

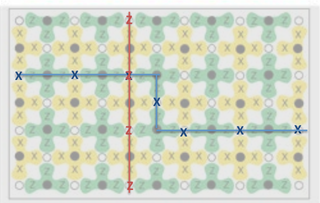


Chains of Errors



- Errors form chains, can only see syndrome changes (-1) at the ends.
- ***Minimum weight matching*** determines the most likely errors.
- Chains greater than half way across the surface can cause failure.

Logical Operators on the surface code

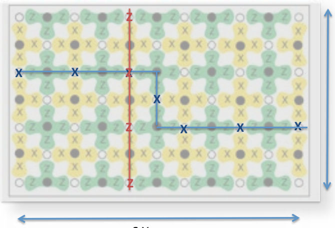


A logical X operation is a chain of X operations, left to right

A logical Z operation is a chain of Z operations, top to bottom

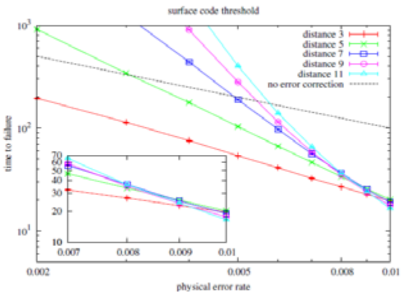
Logical operations anti-commute (as they should)

Distance of the Surface Code



- Distance of the code is equal to the length of a side.
- Scale up by simply making larger patch of surface code (concatenation not required)
- Topologically defined, so easy to map onto physical architectures

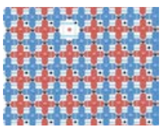
The Threshold

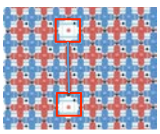


DS Wang et al

Mulitple qubits

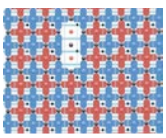
Code qubits

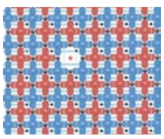




Logical Ops

Moving qubits





Defects are artificial boundaries

Requirements for an Error Corrected Shor

PHYSICAL REVIEW A 86, 032324 (2012)

Surface codes: Towards practical large-scale quantum computation

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Bits in factored number	2000
Number of Logical qubits required	4000
Number of qubits in surface code	~20 million qubits
Time for one measurement	100 ns
Total time required	26 hours

Research topic: Bring these requirements down!

Experimental proposal

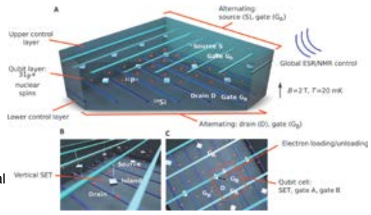
High-level:

Qubit: uniform nuclear spin

Addressing: electron load (not gate defined wavefn)

Gates: electron load and global ESR/NMR control

Operation: parallel, 60 MHz loading pulses, robust to local variations



C. Hill et al, *Science Advances* 2015

Criss-cross gate array → parallel <u>shared control</u> of qubit addressing (robust)

For N qubits, # control lines scales as $\sqrt{N}$

Established ESR/NMR spin control (Morton et al Nature 2008, Pla et al Nature 2013)

3D STM fabrication of array (McKibbin Nanotechnology 2013)

Initial proposal: CNOT dipole coupling (slow) → developing faster gates (MHz regime)

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Simple classical error correction codes, Quantum error correction codes, stabilizer formalism, 5-qubit code, 7-qubit Steane code

Lecture 16
The more advanced quantum error correction codes, Fault Tolerance, QEC threshold, surface code.

Lab 8
Quantum error correction