

# Quantum Tornado Error-Correction

Team YQuambinator

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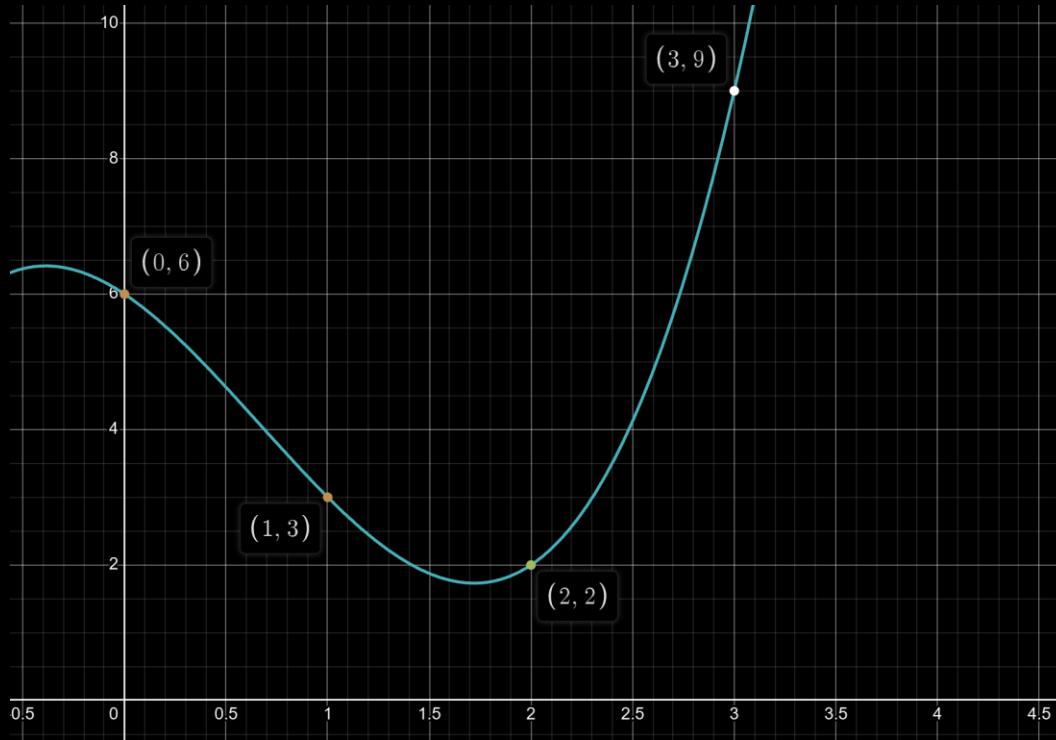
Alice & Bob iQuHack 2026

# Classical Reed–Solomon Error Correction

$$m=(m_0,m_1,m_2,m_3)$$

$$f(x) = m_0 + m_1x + m_2x^2 + m_3x^3$$

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$GF(8)$

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A field with elements  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  and operations  $+$  and  $\cdot$  similar to polynomials of degree  $\leq 2$  with coefficients mod 2.

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$$5 = 101$$

$$1x^2 + 0x + 1$$

$GF(8)$

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Ex.

$$3 \cdot 3 = 011 \cdot 011 = (x + 1)(x + 1) = x^2 + 2x + 1 = x^2 + 1 = 101 = 5$$

$$3 + 3 = 011 + 011 = (x + 1) + (x + 1) = 2x + 2 = 000 = 0$$

$$GF(8)$$

Primitive element: a **magic number** which, when self-multiplied, generates every non-zero element in the field.

1 → 2 → 4 → 3 → 6 → 7 → 5 → 2

$$f(x) = m_0x^0 + m_1x + m_2x^2 + m_3x^3$$

[1 **2** 4 3 6 7 5]

$$f(x) = m_0x^0 + m_1x + m_2x^2 + m_3x^3$$

$$[1 \ 2 \ 4 \ 3 \ 6 \ 7 \ 5]$$

$$f(x) = m_0x^0 + m_1x + m_2x^2 + m_3x^3$$

1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	2	4	3	6	7	5
1	4	6	5	2	3	7
1	3	5	4	7	2	6

$$f(x) = m_0x^0 + m_1x + m_2x^2 + m_3x^3$$

$$G_{sym} = \begin{pmatrix} x^0 \\ x^1 \\ x^2 \\ x^3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{matrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 & 3 & 6 & 7 & 5 \\ 1 & 4 & 6 & 5 & 2 & 3 & 7 \\ 1 & 3 & 5 & 4 & 7 & 2 & 6 \end{matrix}$$

$G_{sym}$  encodes a 4-digit message  $m$  into a 7-digit code  $c$ .

$$m \cdot G = (m_0 \ m_1 \ m_2 \ m_3) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x^0 \\ x^1 \\ x^2 \\ x^3 \end{pmatrix} = f(x) = c$$

# Quantum Reed–Solomon Error Correction

$[[21,12,4]]$   
 $[[21,9,6]]$

Goal: Implement  $G_{sym}$  in quantum circuit.

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Every entry in  $G_{sym}$  is transformed into a  $3 \times 3$  matrix.

Goal: Implement  $G_{sym}$  in quantum circuit.

$12 \times 21$



$$G_{bin} \xrightarrow{\text{RREF}} G_S = [I \mid P]$$

Parity Matrix

If  $P[i, j] = 1$ ,  $CX(i\text{-th data}, j\text{-th parity})$

Goal: Implement  $G_{sym}$  in quantum circuit.

$12 \times 21$



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Parity Matrix

If  $P[i, j] = 1$ ,  $CX(i\text{-th data}, j\text{-th parity})$

Goal: Implement  $G_{sym}$  in quantum circuit.

$12 \times 21$

$G_{bin}$



$$G_S = \begin{bmatrix} I & P \end{bmatrix}^{12 \times 12 \quad 12 \times 9}$$
$$H = \begin{bmatrix} P^T & I \end{bmatrix}$$

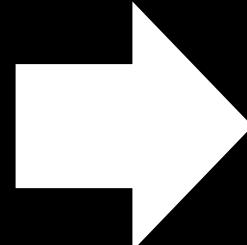
Goal: Implement  $G_{sym}$  in quantum circuit.

Encoder

$$G_S = [I | P]$$

Decoder

$$H = [P^T | I]$$



Quantum  
Circuit

Goal: Implement  $G_{sym}$  in quantum circuit.

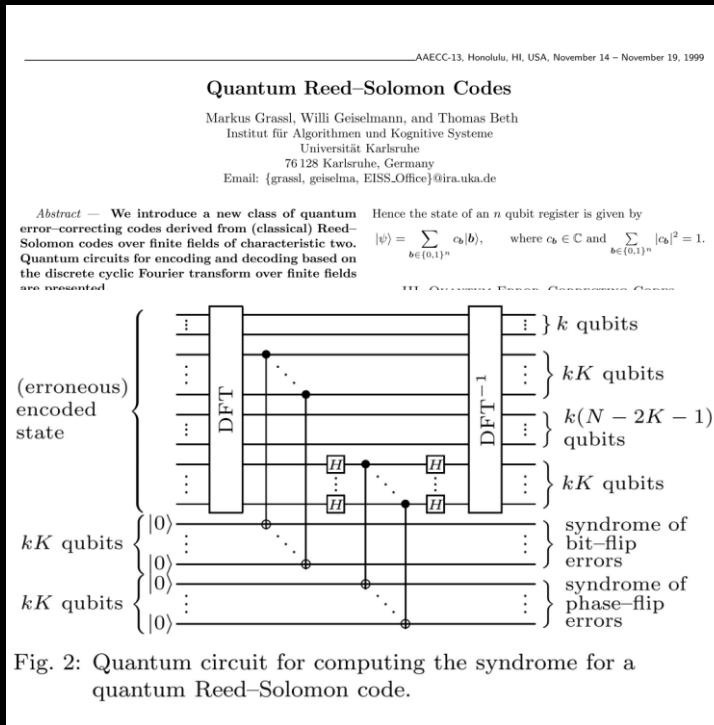
Encoder

$$G_S = [I | P]$$

Decoder

$$H = [P^T | I] \longrightarrow \text{Syndrome}$$

# Existing Quantum RS Implementations



- For cat qubits, unnecessarily corrects phase flip errors
- DFT requires non-Cliffords and is not implementable with Stim

# Repetition vs. Reed-Solomon

## Pros: Repetition

Simple, easy to implement and decode, robust against errors

## Cons: Repetition

Poor code rate, bad at handling bursts of errors

## Pros: Reed-Solomon

High code rate, robust against bursts and erasures, optimal code distance

## Cons: Reed-Solomon

Computationally intensive, harder to implement and decode

# Tornados: Best of Both Worlds

**Complexity separation** allows both codes to contribute

- Repetition (or other LDPC codes) deal with sparse error cases
- R-S code receives dramatically reduced workload
- Result is much faster than R-S and much more reliable than repetition

Raw message is encoded using  
repetition (fast)

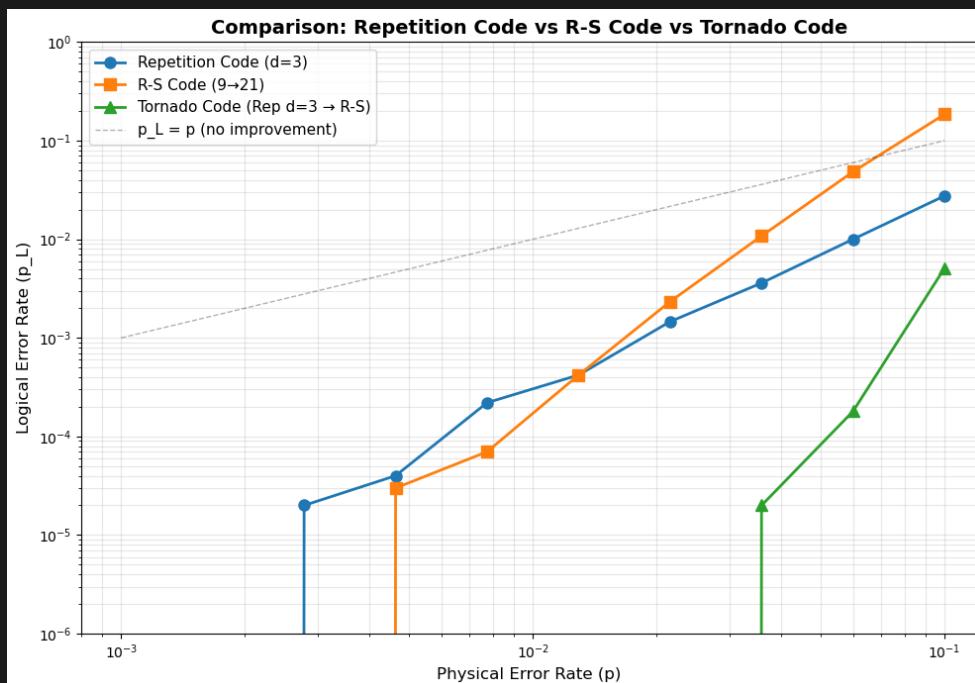
Repeated message is encoded  
using Reed Solomon (reliable)

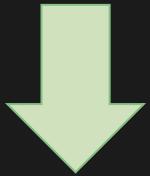
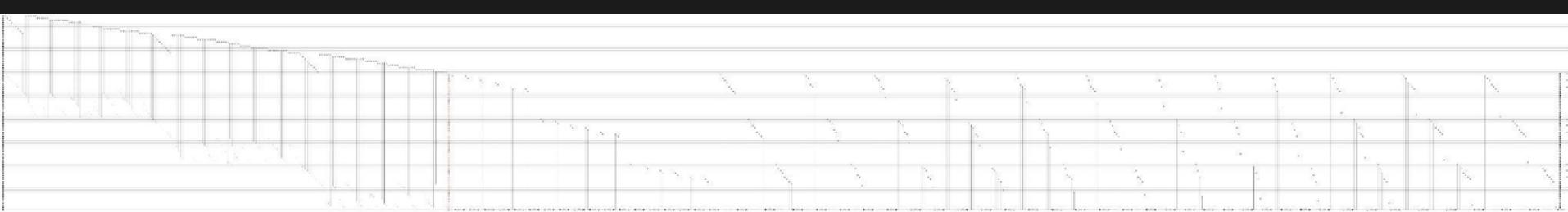
Decryption occurs in the  
opposite direction

# Quantum Tornado

To the best of our knowledge, we introduce the first instance of a tornado code for quantum error correction

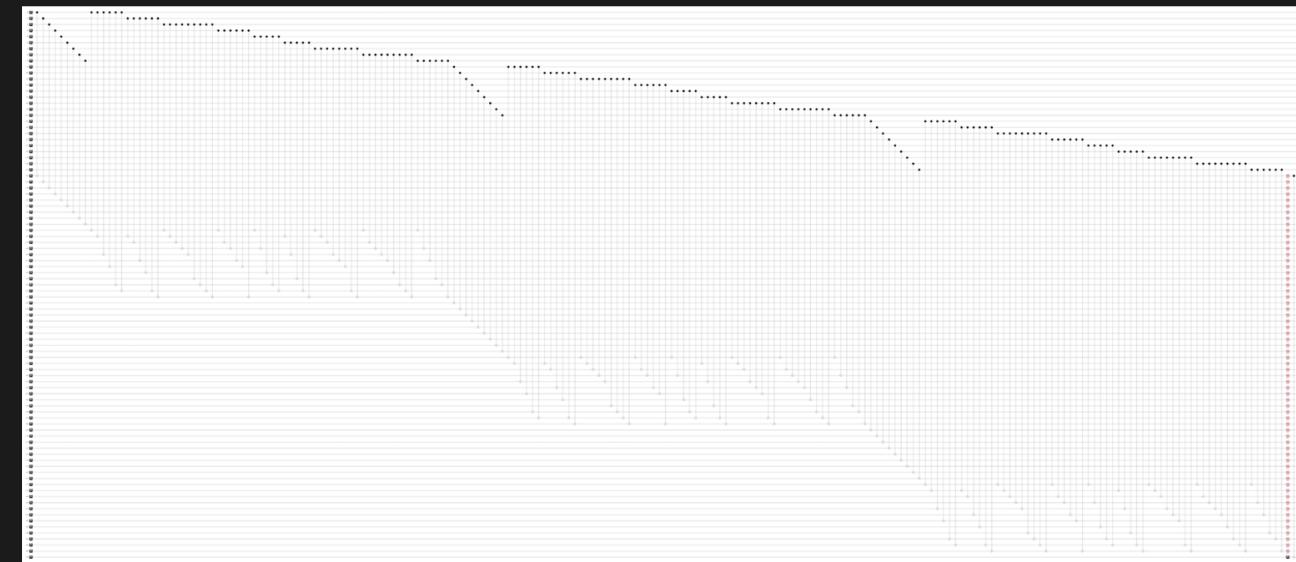
- Layers a repetition code and a quantum Reed-Solomon code
- Shows significant advantage over either algorithm
  - Over  $10^5$  tests at each error probability, tornado suppresses 100% of physical error for  $p < 0.03$
  - Up to  $p = 0.1$ , tornado is far better than each individual algorithm
- $10^6$  tests simulated in 8.5 seconds with Stim





9 logical qubits  
27 intermediate qubits  
63 final message qubits

Can be changed for any repetition count and R-S code



Repetition module

# Key Metrics

Connectivity

Code Rate

Code Distance

# Results

