

A decorative pattern of overlapping green squares and rectangles in various shades, creating a geometric, pixelated effect on the right side of the slide.

# Quantum Tornado Error-Correction

Team YQuambinator  
Cheng-You Ho, Daniel Wang, Henry Ng, Justin Luo, Simba Shi

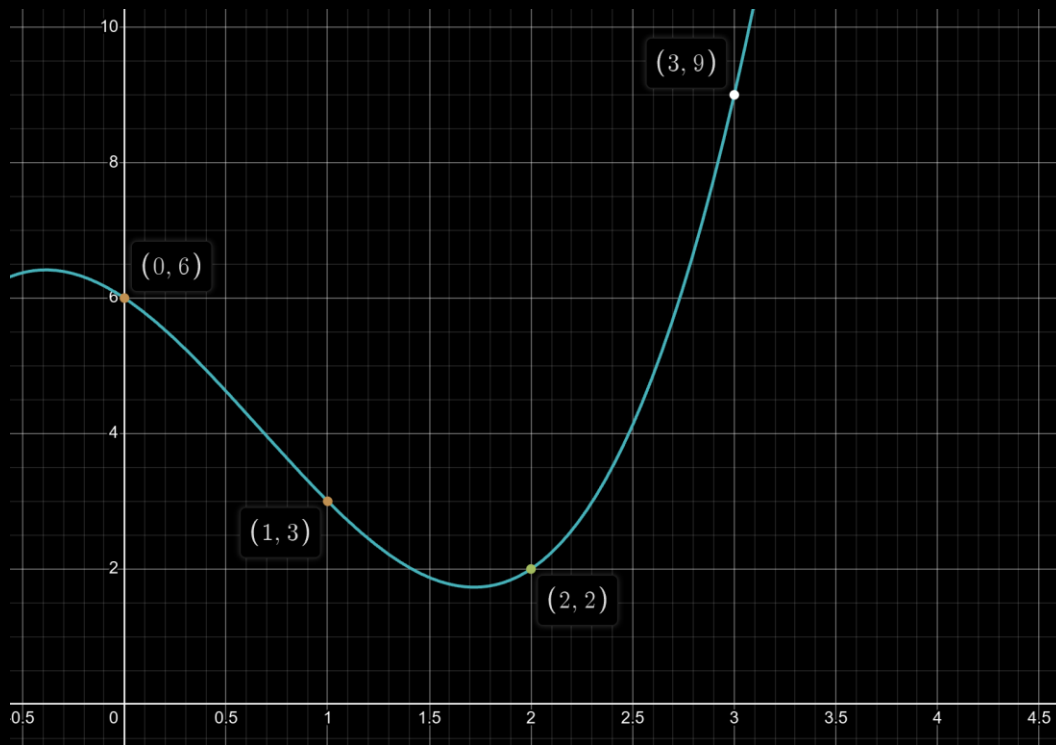
Alice & Bob iQuHack 2026

# Classical Reed–Solomon Error Correction

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

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

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



$$GF(8)$$

$$GF(8)$$

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.

$$GF(8)$$

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.

$$5 = 101$$

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



$$GF(8)$$

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.

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.

$$1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 6 \rightarrow 7 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 2$$

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

[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]

$$f(x) = m_0 x^0 + m_1 x + m_2 x^2 + m_3 x^3$$

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

$$f(x) = m_0 x^0 + m_1 x + m_2 x^2 + m_3 x^3$$

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

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

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

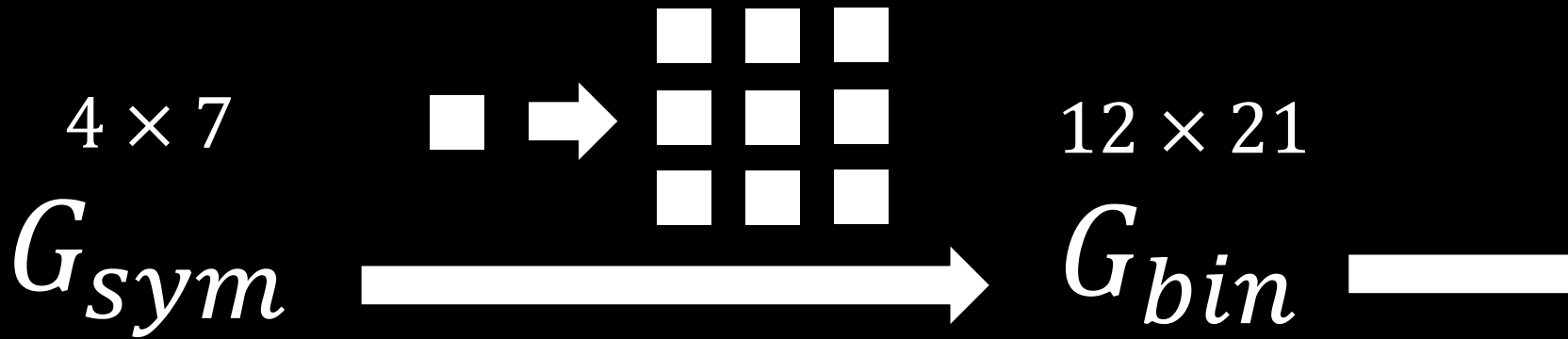
# Quantum Reed–Solomon Error Correction

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



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

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



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

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

$$\begin{matrix} 12 \times 21 \\ \rightarrow G_{bin} \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\text{RREF}} G_S = [I | \textcolor{brown}{P}]$$

**Parity Matrix**

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

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

$$\begin{array}{c} 12 \times 21 \\ \rightarrow G_{bin} \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{RREF}} G_S = [I | \textcolor{blue}{P}]$$

**Parity Matrix**

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

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

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 12 \times 21 & & 12 \times 12 \quad 12 \times 9 \\ G_{bin} & \longrightarrow & G_S = [I | P] \\ & & H = [P^T | I] \end{array}$$

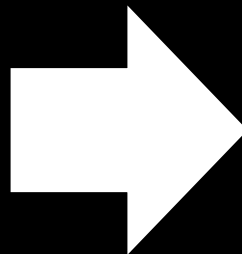
Goal: Implement  $G_{sym}$  in quantum circuit.

Encoder

$$G_S = [I | P]$$

Decoder

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



Quantum  
Circuit

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

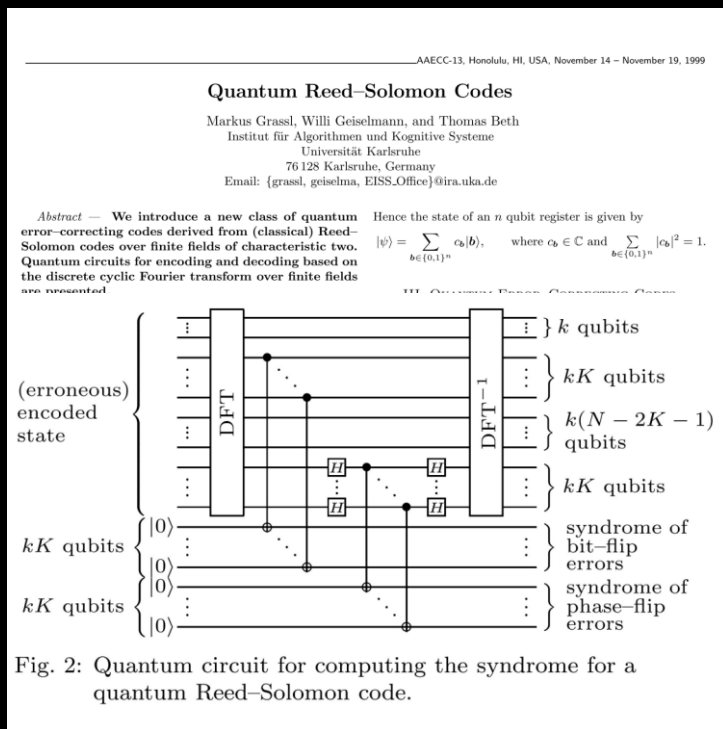
Encoder

$$G_S = [I | P]$$

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

## Pros: Reed-Solomon

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

## Cons: Repetition

Poor code rate, bad at handling bursts of errors

## 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)

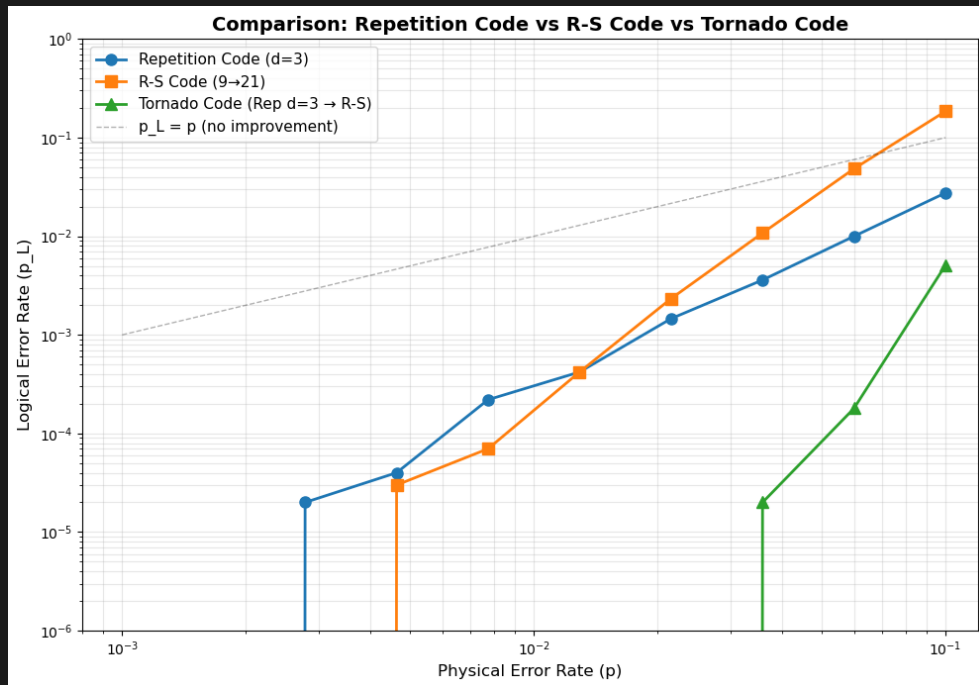
Repeated message is encoded  
using Reed Solomon (reliable)

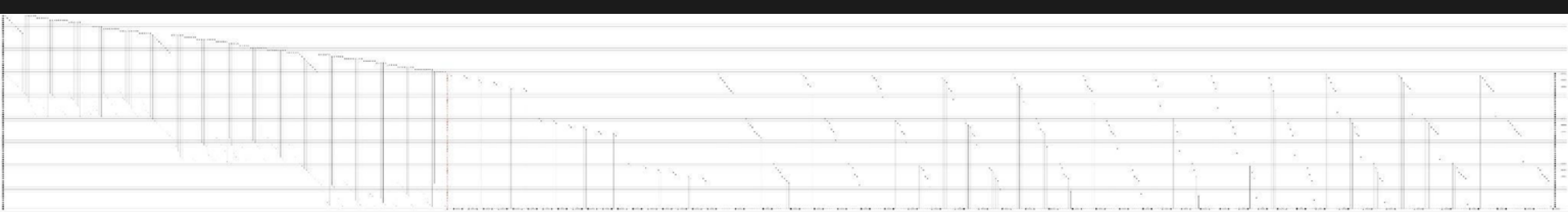
Decryption occurs in the  
opposite direction

# Quantum Tornado

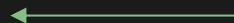
To the best of our knowledge, we introduce the first instance of a tornado code for quantum error correction

- 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

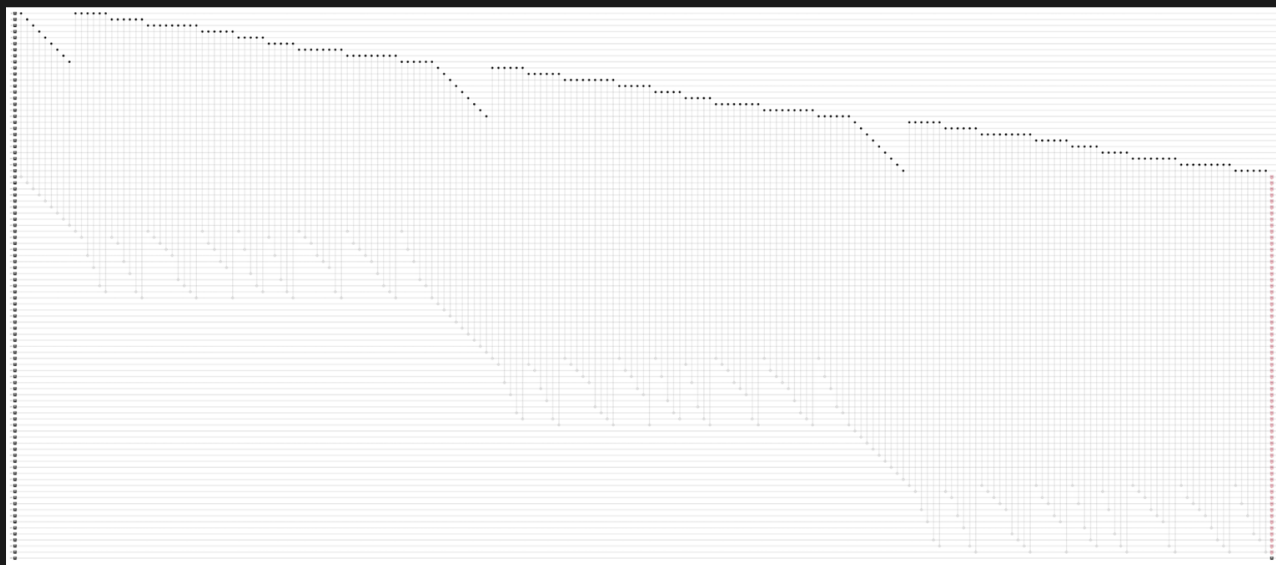




9 logical qubits  
27 intermediate qubits  
63 final message qubits



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



Repetition module

# Key Metrics

Connectivity

Code Rate

Code Distance

# Results

