



# Classical verification of quantum computational advantage

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Gregory D. Kahanamoku-Meyer

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Theory collaborators:

Norman Yao (Berkeley Physics)

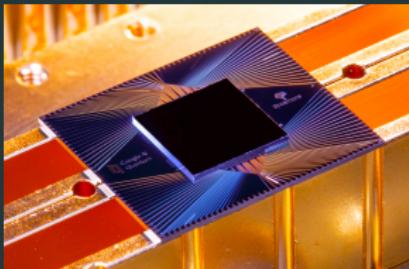
Umesh Vazirani (Berkeley CS)

Soonwon Choi (MIT Physics)



# Quantum computational advantage

Recent experimental demonstrations:



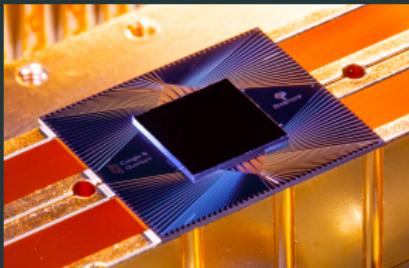
Random circuit sampling  
[Arute et al., Nature '19]



Gaussian boson sampling  
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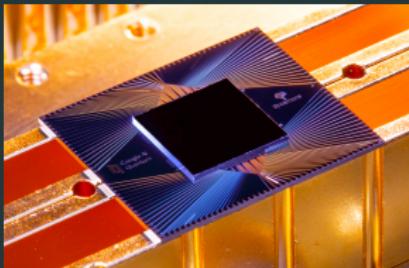


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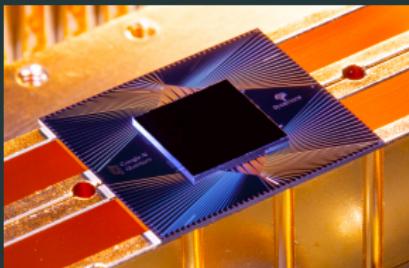
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“... [Rule] out alternative [classical] hypotheses that might be plausible in this experiment” [Zhong et al.]

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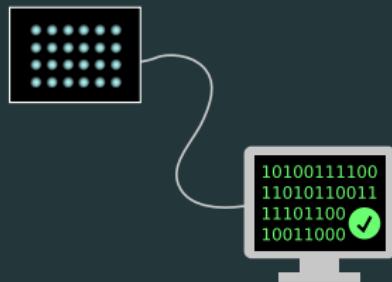
Quantum is the only reasonable explanation for observed behavior

## “Black-box” proofs of quantumness

Stronger: rule out **all** classical hypotheses, even adversarial!

# “Black-box” proofs of quantumness

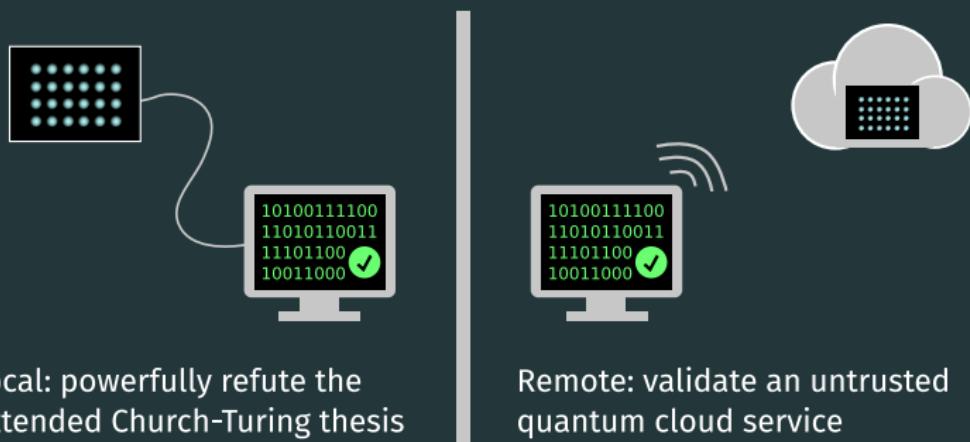
Stronger: rule out **all** classical hypotheses, even adversarial!



Local: powerfully refute the extended Church-Turing thesis

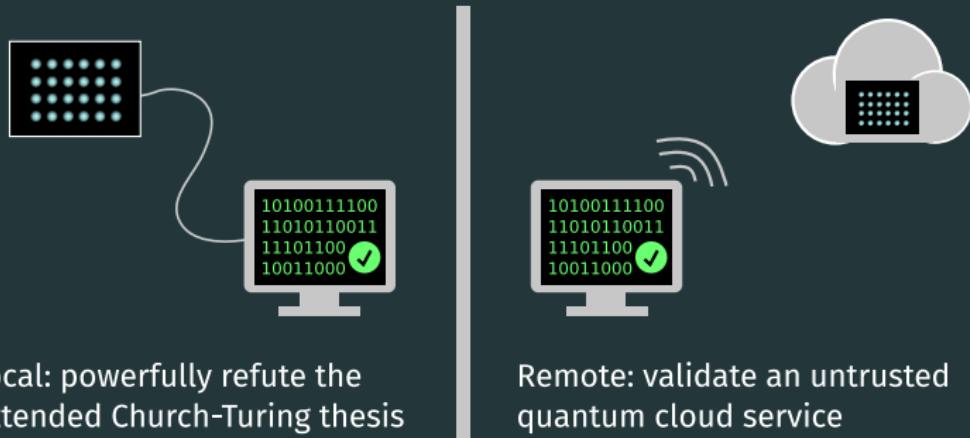
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Proof not specific to quantum mechanics: disprove null hypothesis that output was generated classically.

Need computational assumption—really an “argument”

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Efficiently-verifiable test that only quantum computers can pass.

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Efficiently-verifiable test that only quantum computers can pass.

For polynomially-bounded classical verifier:



Completeness

$\exists$  BQP prover s.t. Verifier accepts w.p.  $> \frac{2}{3}$



Soundness

$\forall$  BPP provers, Verifier accepts w.p.  $< \frac{1}{3}$

# NISQ verifiable quantum advantage

Trivial solution: integer factorization

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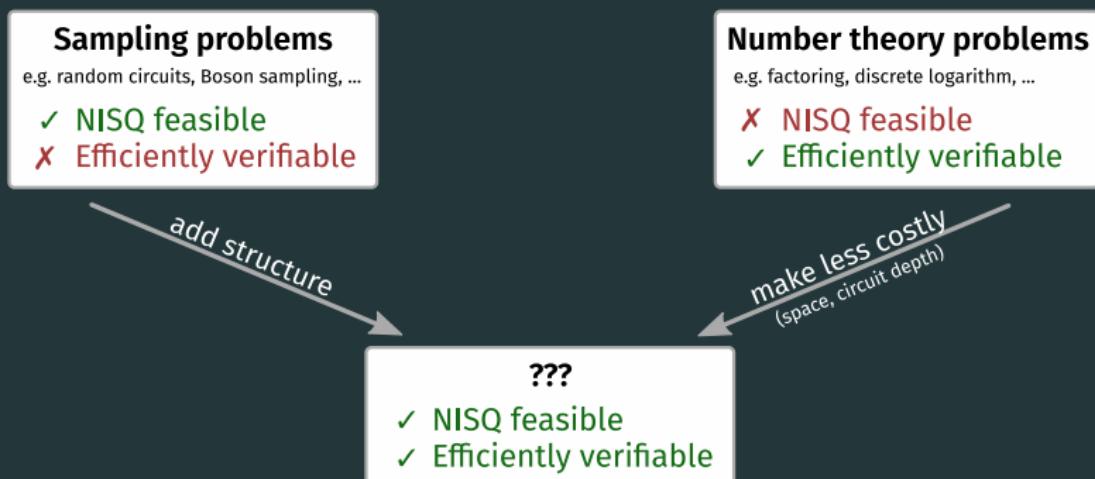
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NISQ: Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum devices



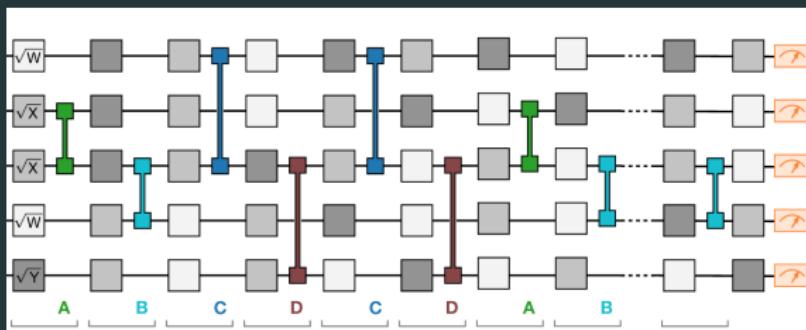
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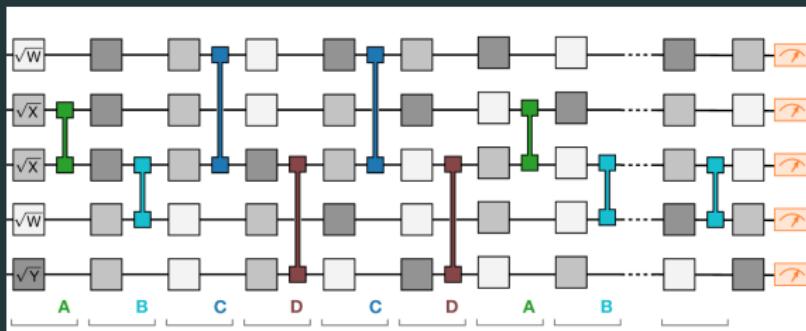
Arute et al. 2019

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## Sampling problems

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Arute et al. 2019

- Specify distribution via a quantum circuit
  - Intuitive classical hardness: no structure → need to simulate quantum, which is hard

# Adding structure to sampling problems

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The point of random circuits is that they **don't** have structure!

IQP circuits [Shepherd and Bremner, '08]:

- Hide a secret string  $s$  in the quantum circuit
- Set up circuit so it is *biased* to generate samples  $x$  with  $x^\top \cdot s = 0$ .

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Bremner, Jozsa, Shepherd '11: classically sampling IQP circuits would collapse polynomial hierarchy

Bremner, Montanaro, Shepherd '16: average case is likely hard as well

## IQP proof of quantumness [Shepherd and Bremner, '08]

Let  $\theta = \pi/8$  and  $P$  have the form:

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} G \\ \hline R \end{bmatrix}$$

$G^\top$  is generator of Quadratic Residue code,  $R$  random.

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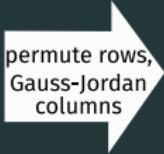
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permute rows,  
Gauss-Jordan  
columns



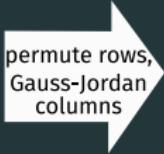
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**Conjecture [SB '08]:** Scrambling  $P$  cryptographically hides  $G$  (and equivalently  $s$ )

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QR code codewords are 50% even parity, 50% odd parity.

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Fact:  $(Gd) \cdot (Ge) = 1$  iff  $Gd, Ge$  both have odd parity.

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Classical:  $\Pr[Y^\top \cdot s = 0] = 0.75$

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Thus  $y \cdot s = 0$  with probability  $3/4$ !

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- Ultimately, would like to rely on standard cryptographic assumptions...

# NISQ verifiable quantum advantage

NISQ: Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum devices

## Sampling problems

e.g. random circuits, Boson sampling, ...

- ✓ NISQ feasible
- ✗ Efficiently verifiable

## Number theory problems

e.g. factoring, discrete logarithm, ...

- ✗ NISQ feasible
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*add structure*

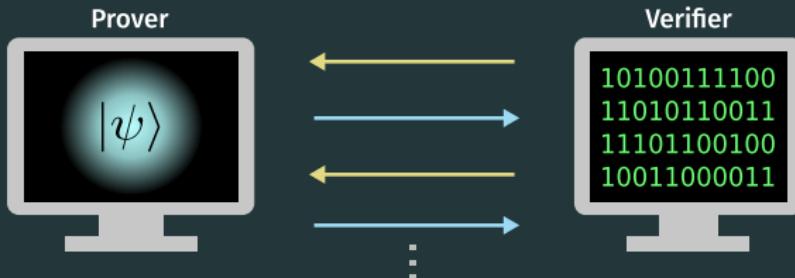
*make less costly  
(space, circuit depth)*

???

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# Interactive proofs of quantumness

Multiple rounds of interaction between the prover and verifier

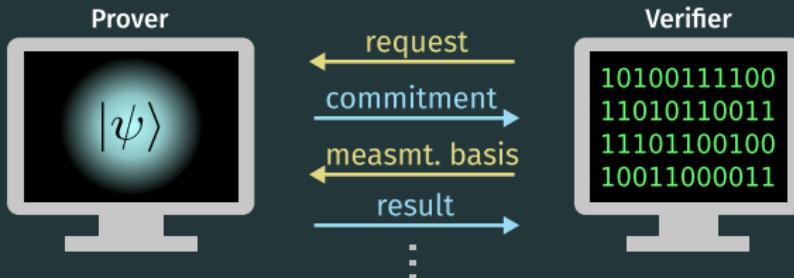


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Round 2+: Verifier asks for measurement in specific **basis**

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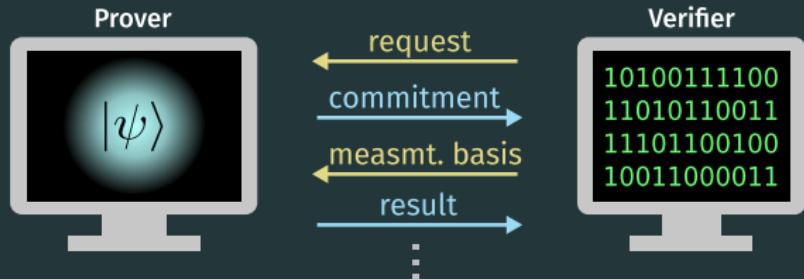
Round 2+: Verifier asks for measurement in specific **basis**

By randomizing choice of basis and repeating interaction,  
can ensure prover would respond correctly in *any* basis

Brakerski, Christiano, Mahadev, Vidick, Vazirani '18 (arXiv:1804.00640).

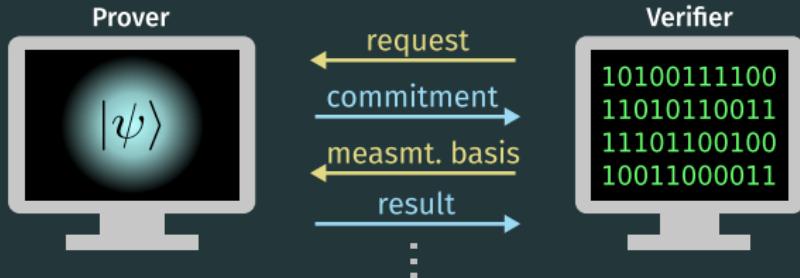
Can be extended to verify arbitrary quantum computations! (arXiv:1804.01082)

# Interactive proofs of quantumness



From a proof of security perspective:

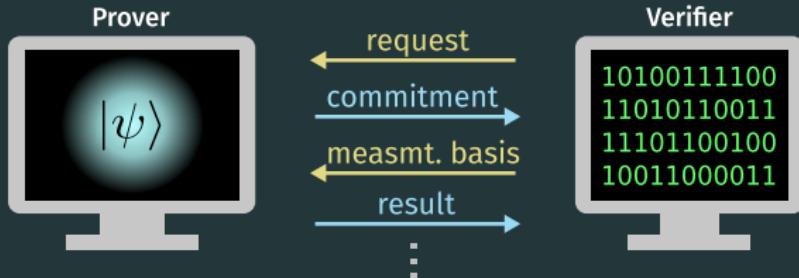
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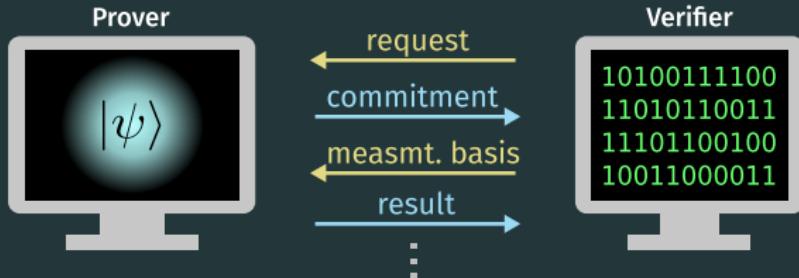
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“Rewinding” proof of hardness doesn’t go through for quantum prover—can use post-quantum cryptography!

## State commitment (round 1): trapdoor claw-free functions

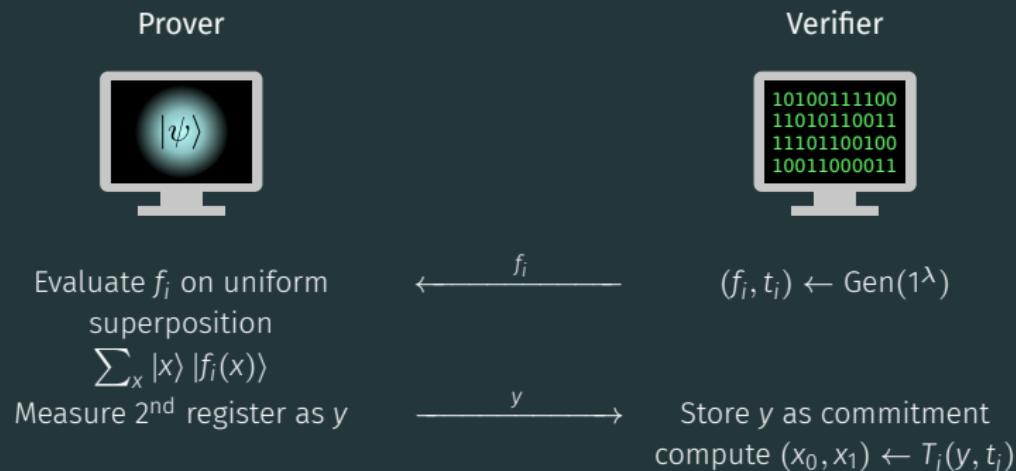
How does the prover commit to a state?

Consider a trapdoor claw-free function family (TCF)  $(\text{Gen}, \{(f_i, T_i)\})$ .

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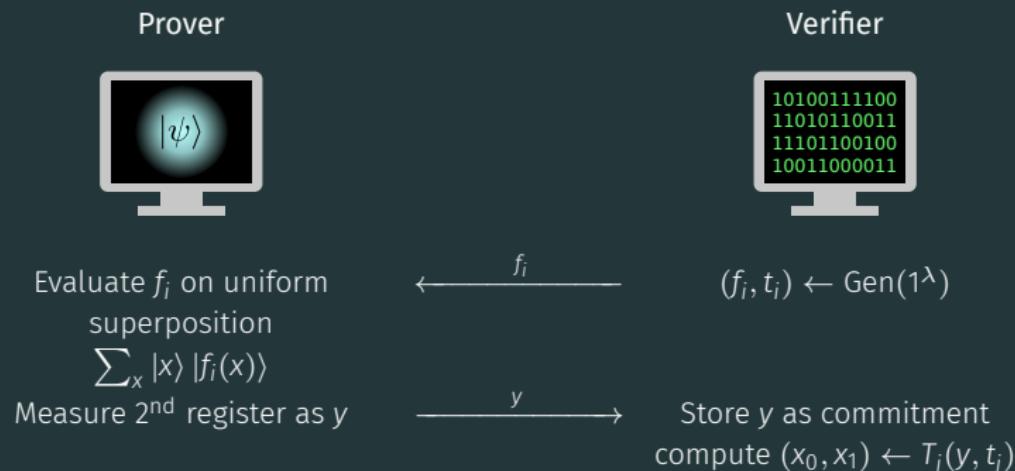
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# State commitment (round 1): trapdoor claw-free functions

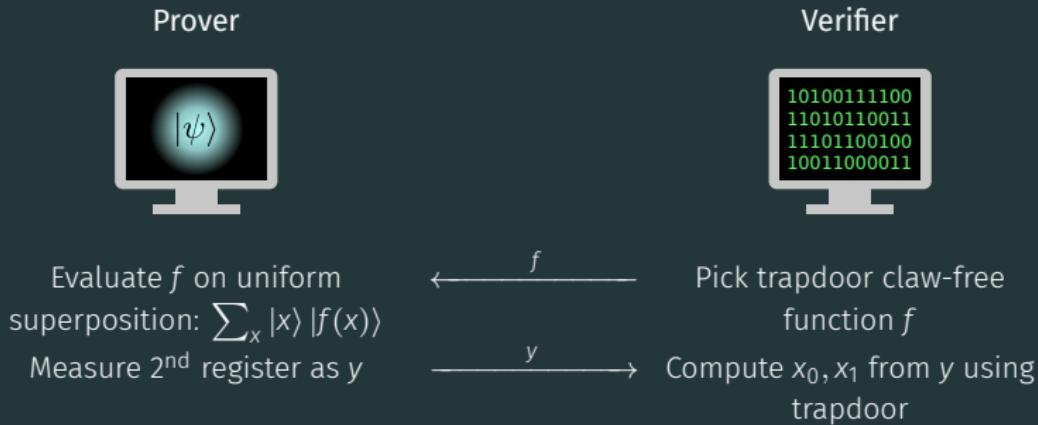
How does the prover commit to a state?

Consider a trapdoor claw-free function family (TCF)  $(\text{Gen}, \{(f_i, T_i)\})$ .

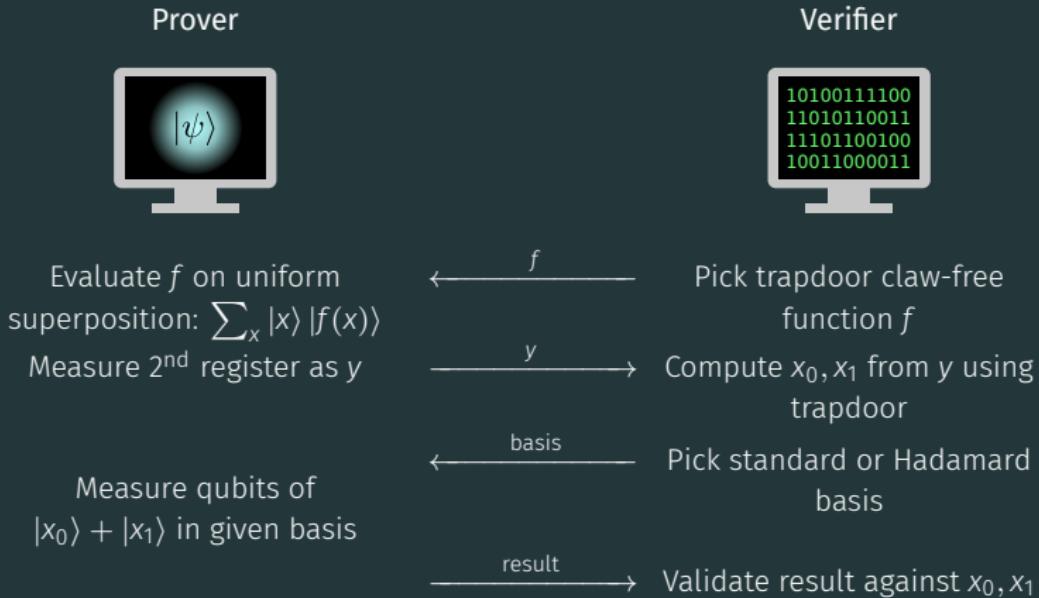


Prover has committed to the state  $(|x_0\rangle + |x_1\rangle)|y\rangle$

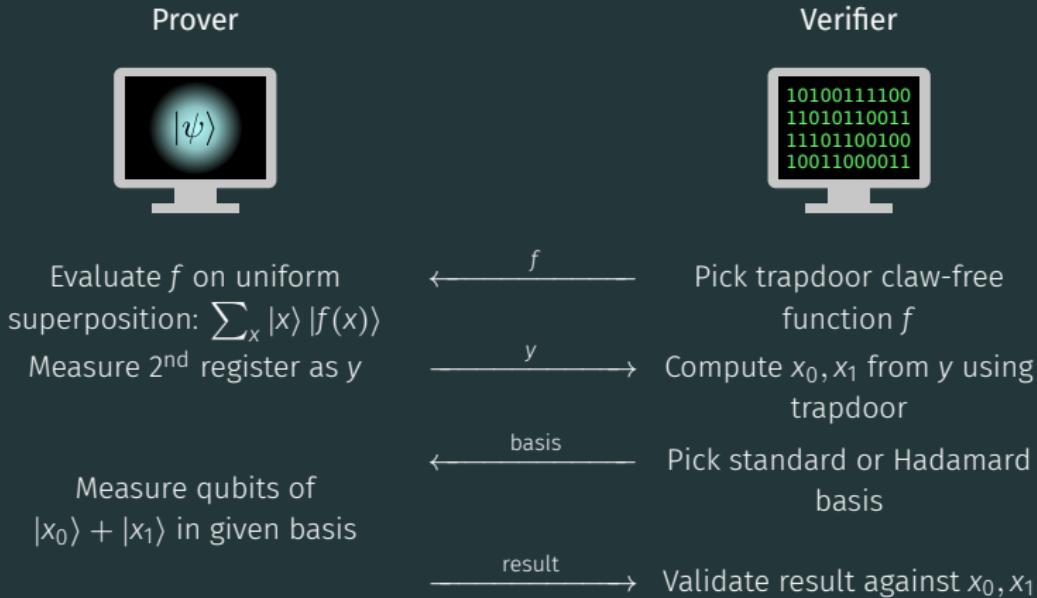
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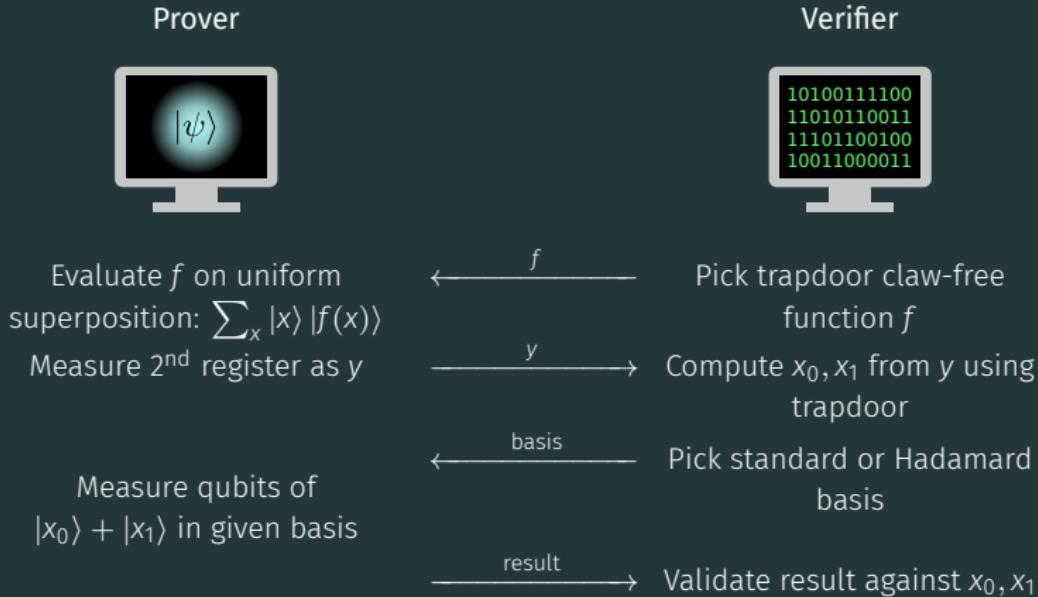


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Learning-with-Errors TCF has **adaptive hardcore bit**

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Computationally hard to generate a tuple  $(y, x_0, d, b)$  such that:

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**Note:** AHCB can be post-quantum secure and protocol still works!

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Can we remove AHCB in the standard model?

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Two-player cooperative game.



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Classical optimal strategy: return equal values, hope  $a \cdot b = 0$ .

75% success rate.

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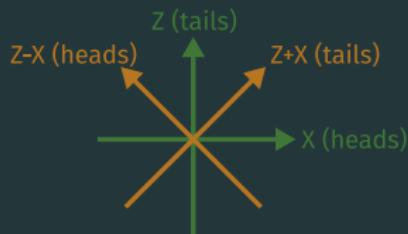


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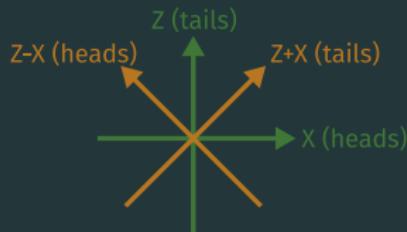


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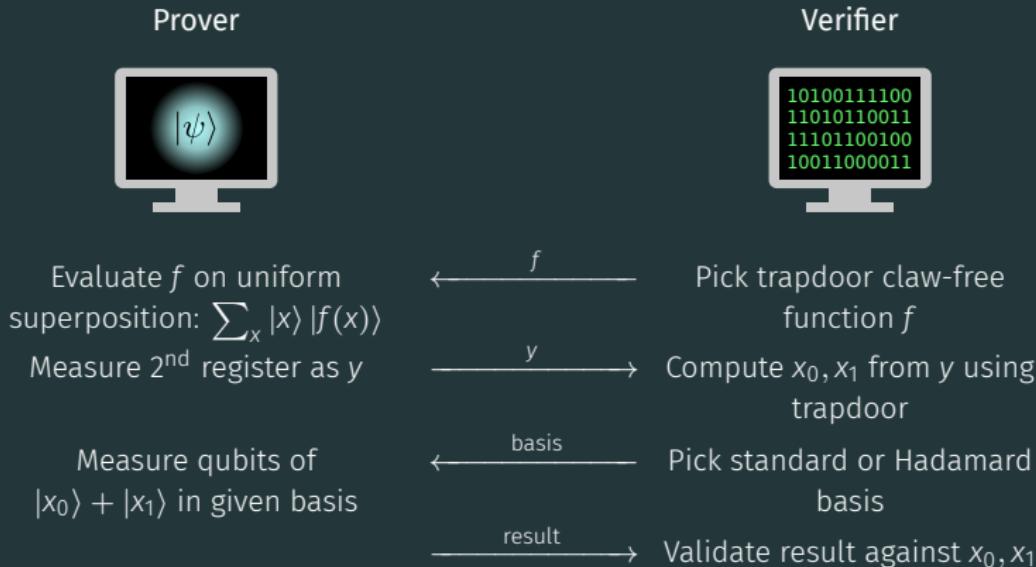
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**Quantum:  $\cos^2(\pi/8) \approx 85\%$**

Classical: 75%

BCMVV '18 protocol



Replace Hadamard basis measurement with “1-player CHSH”

Brakerski, Christiano, Mahadev, Vidick, Vazirani '18 (arXiv:1804.00640)

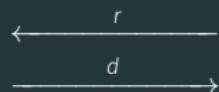
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⋮

$|x_0\rangle |x_0 \cdot r\rangle + |x_1\rangle |x_1 \cdot r\rangle$   
Measure all but ancilla in  
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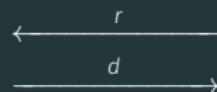
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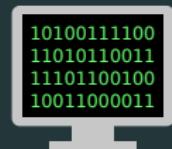
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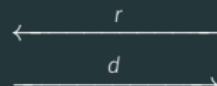
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Polarization hidden via:

Cryptographic secret (here)  $\Leftrightarrow$  Non-communication (Bell test)

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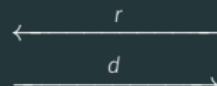


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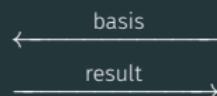
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Pick random bitstring  $r$

Measure all but ancilla in  
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Measure qubit in basis



Pick  $(Z + X)$  or  $(Z - X)$  basis

Validate against  $r, x_0, x_1, d$

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Run protocol many times, collect statistics.

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**Note:** Let  $p_s = 1$ . Then for  $p_{\text{CHSH}}$ :

Classical bound 75%, ideal quantum  $\sim 85\%$ . Same as regular CHSH!

GDKM, Choi, Vazirani, Yao '21 (arXiv:2104.00687)

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See arXiv:2104.00687 for details

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# TCF constructions

TCF	A.H.C.B.	Gate count	$n$ for hardness
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Q. advantage in  $10^6$  Toffoli gates

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**Security proof:** Given  $g^M$ , DDH hides rank of  $M$ . Inversion would imply algorithm to determine if  $M$  is full rank.

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- Reversible Euclidean algorithm is hard, maybe irreversible optimization can help?

## Paths forward

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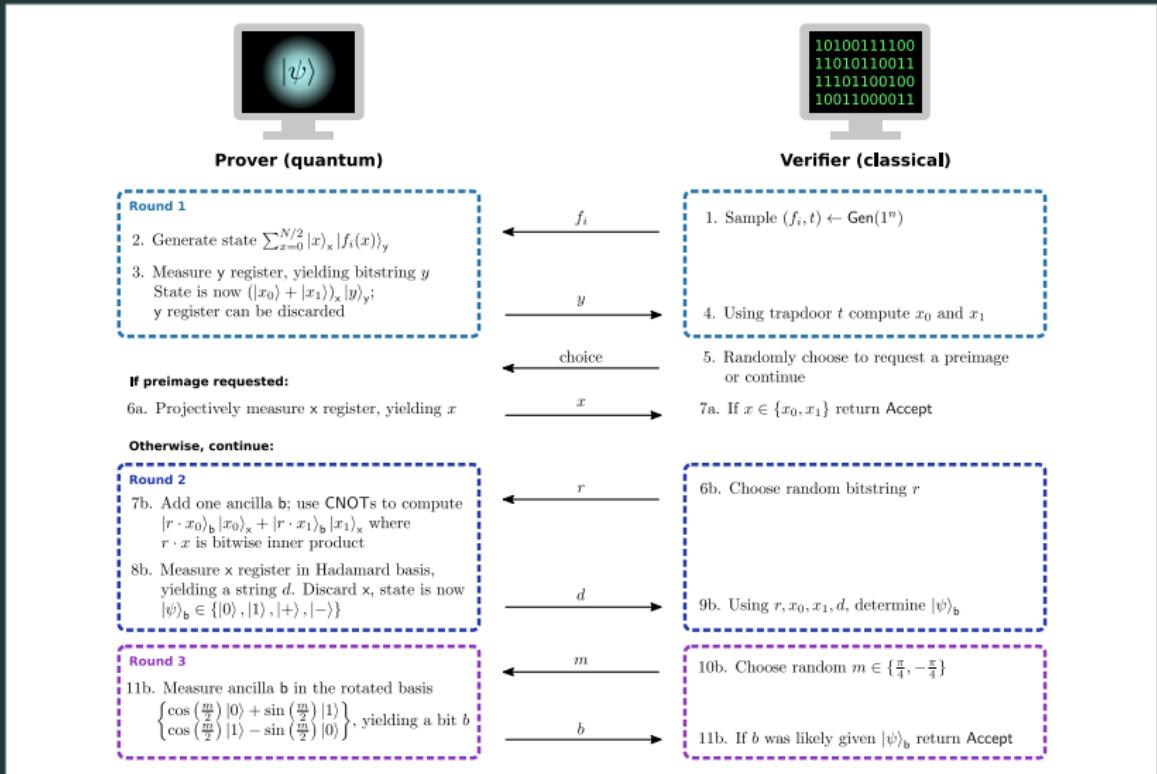
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Way outside the box?

# Backup!

# Full protocol



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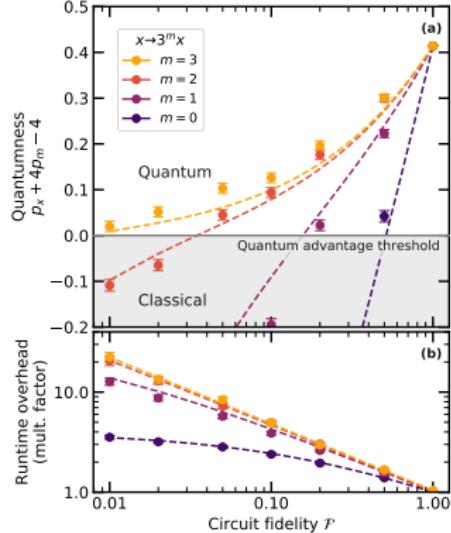
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When we generate  $\sum_x |x\rangle |f(x)\rangle$ , **add redundancy to  $f(x)$ , for bit flip error detection!**

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Numerical results for  $x^2 \bmod N$  with  $\log N = 512$  bits.

Here: make transformation  $x^2 \bmod N \Rightarrow (kx)^2 \bmod k^2N$

# Partial measurements in the lab



Trapped Ion Quantum Information lab at U. Maryland

Working on demonstration of protocols in trapped ions!



Prof. Christopher Monroe



Dr. Daiwei Zhu



Dr. Crystal Noel

and others!

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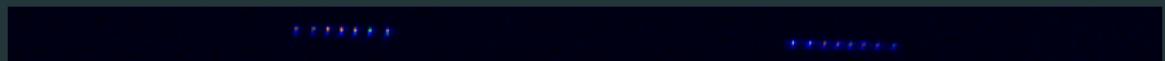
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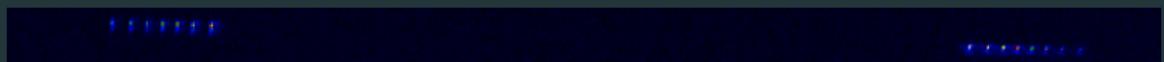
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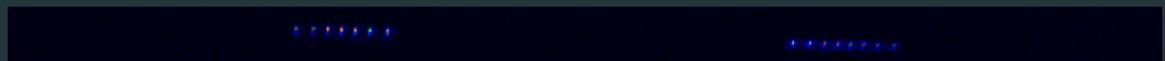
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Most demanding step in all these protocols: evaluating TCF

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Protocol allows us to make circuits irreversible!

## Technique: taking out the garbage

$$\text{Goal: } \mathcal{U}_f |x\rangle |0^{\otimes n}\rangle = |x\rangle |f(x)\rangle$$

When converting classical circuits to quantum:

**Garbage bits:** extra entangled outputs due to unitarity



Classical AND



Quantum AND (Toffoli)

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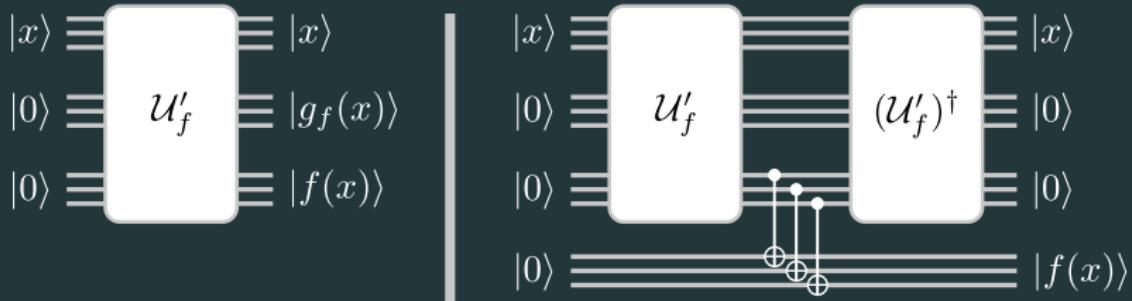
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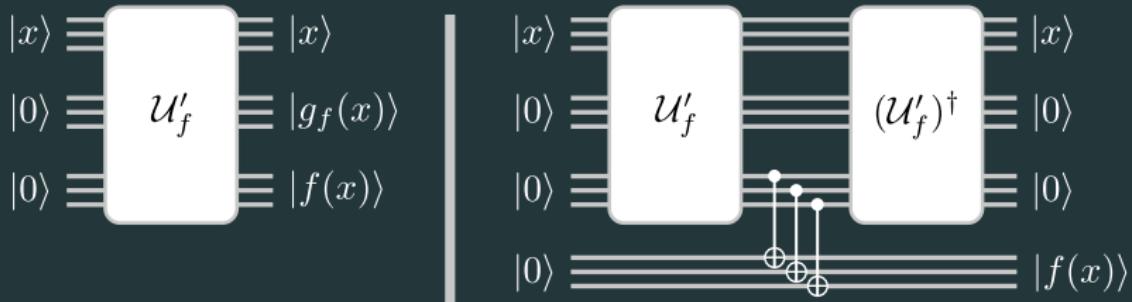
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Lots of time and space overhead!

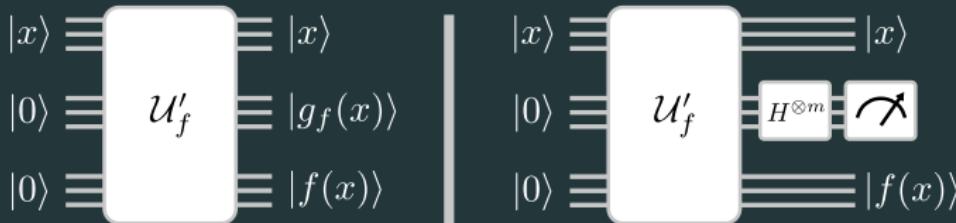
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Can we “measure them away” instead?

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Measure garbage bits  $g_f(x)$  in Hadamard basis, get some string  $h$ .

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1024-bit  $x^2 \bmod N$  costs only  $10^6$  Toffoli gates.