

#flo #inclass

1 | Fantastic qubits and where to find them!

elevator pitch: can realize every aspect of a quantum computer using atoms?

just having qubits is not enough, also needs to meet other criteria

q: what is a qubit? a: any quantum mechanical system that has two wavefolds that you can entangle?

1.1 | finding a qubit

- different orbits of an electron in an atom
 - can use the different orbits of electrons in a atom to mimic the quantum properties of a qubit
- only the first ring is stable
 - light is emitted out of the atom when they jump down orbits, which we can detect!
 - but how do we move them between orbits?
 - * hit them with the opposite light – just like phase transitions
- lower energy state is better for base state, so we choose the first orbit
- in the real world you can have more than one ground state! which is how we can have two stable states at once

1.2 | isolating the qubit

- we gotta isolate, and also interact.
 - put them in a vacuum and then hit them with lasers
 - * known as optical tweezers – think of the intersection of multiple beams
- how does light actually prevent atoms from moving with light?
 - if you use two lasers that aren't exactly resonant, it creates a pocket of lower energy?
- can also do something called optical pumping
 - which allows us to use auxiliary qubits to get over the fact that all our gates are unitary, hermitian, and thus invertible
- we can use 1Q gates to move a qubit anywhere else on the Bloch sphere
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