

~Graduation Thesis Presentation~

***Qryptic Chat* : a Simple Secure Chat Application based on Quantum Key Distribution(QKD)**

Takahara Yudai, 4th year Bachelor student

The University of Aizu

Supervisor: Prof. Anh T. Pham

Feb. 17, 2025



Outline

❖ **Research Background**

- Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)
- BB84 QKD Protocol
- Why is QKD necessary?
- My scope for the research

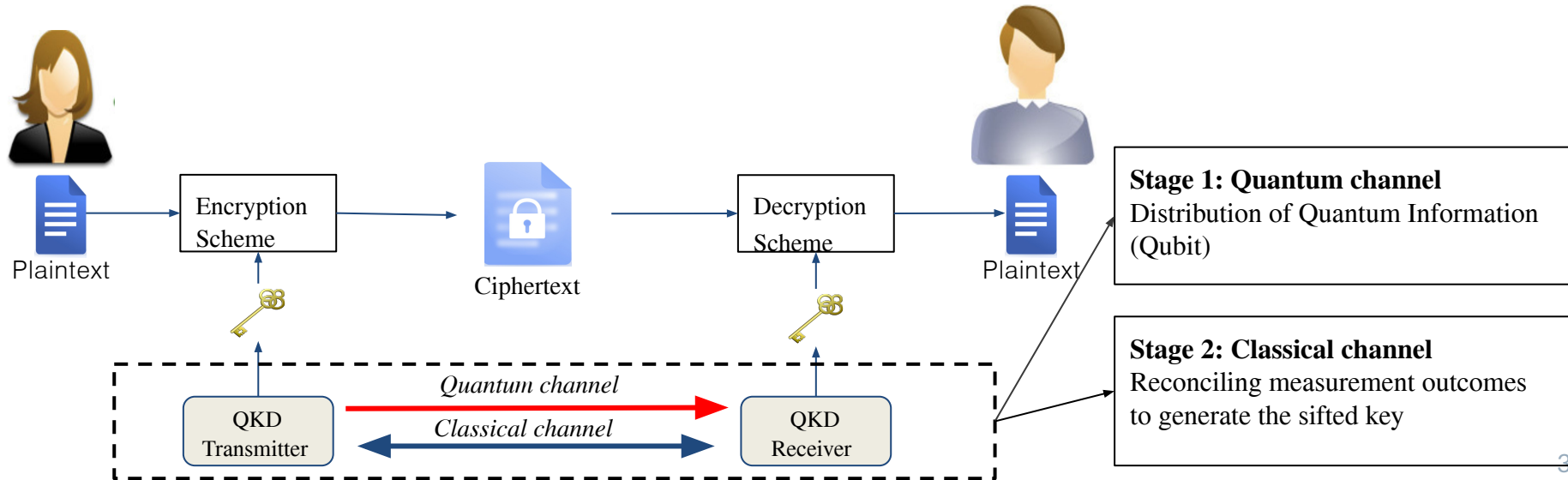
❖ **Simulation for QKD-based chat application**

- Raw Key Rate
- QBER
- Final Key Rate

❖ **Conclusion**





Quantum Key Distribution (QKD): Introduction

- QKD is a promising method to distribute secure keys secretly between legitimate users
 - It bases on the laws of quantum physics. → hard to attack for adversaries
 - First QKD protocol proposed by C. Bennett and G. Brassard in 1984, i.e., BB84 Protocol
 - Some of best-known Japanese companies have been working on various QKD projects, e.g., Toshiba, NEC, and NTT







BB84 QKD Protocol

- BB84 uses photon polarization states to encode the bits of the key
- Each bit is encoded with a random polarization basis: \leftrightarrow or $\nwarrow \nearrow$

Base \ Bit	0	1
\leftrightarrow		
$\nwarrow \nearrow$		







Alice

Bit	Base	Qubit State
0	\leftrightarrow	
0	\leftrightarrow	
1	\leftrightarrow	
0	$\nwarrow \nearrow$	



Bob

Base	Qubit State	outcome(bit)	Derived key
\leftrightarrow		0	0
$\nwarrow \nearrow$		1	discard
$\nwarrow \nearrow$		1	discard
$\nwarrow \nearrow$		0	0

- Problem of symmetric cryptography (The method that use secret key for encryption and decryption)
 - Key exchanging - How can share secret key between two legitimate users.
- Solution
 - **Asymmetric cryptography** (The method uses two types of keys : private key and public key)
 - Computational secure : guarantees the security with reasonable assumptions about an adversary's capabilities

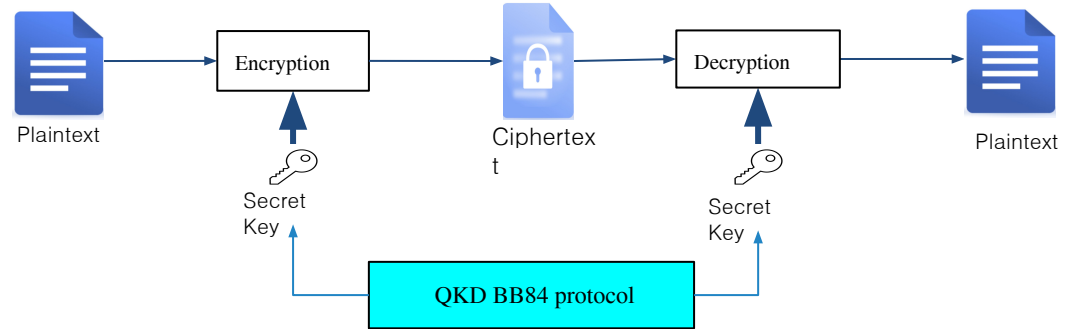
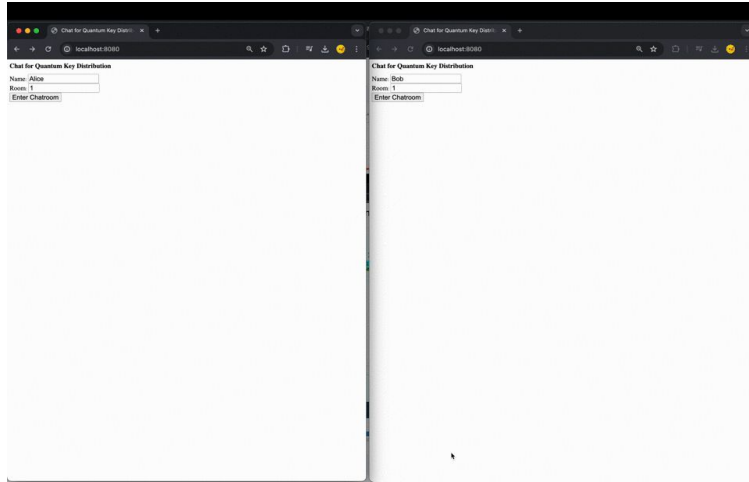
But in the near future

- Establishing Quantum computers (Computers with unusually fast processing speeds)
 - The algorithm of complex mathematical calculations (e.g., RSA) are easily deciphered.

→ **New key distribution method needed**

My Scope for the research

My Scope: To develop and simulate the Qryptic Chat, a simple secure E2E Chat Application based on QKD
➤ *The BB84 protocol* can be applied for sharing secret keys between two legitimate users



Develop and simulate **Secure Chat Application** using IBM Quantum Experience(IQX)

- IQX: an open platform offered by IBM and available for quantum computing services
- **Qiskit**, open source SDK for quantum computing and support to develop and simulate application
 - Generate Qubit (the basic unit information for quantum computing)

Outline

❖ Research Background

- Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)
- BB84 QKD Protocol
- Why is QKD necessary?
- My scope for the research

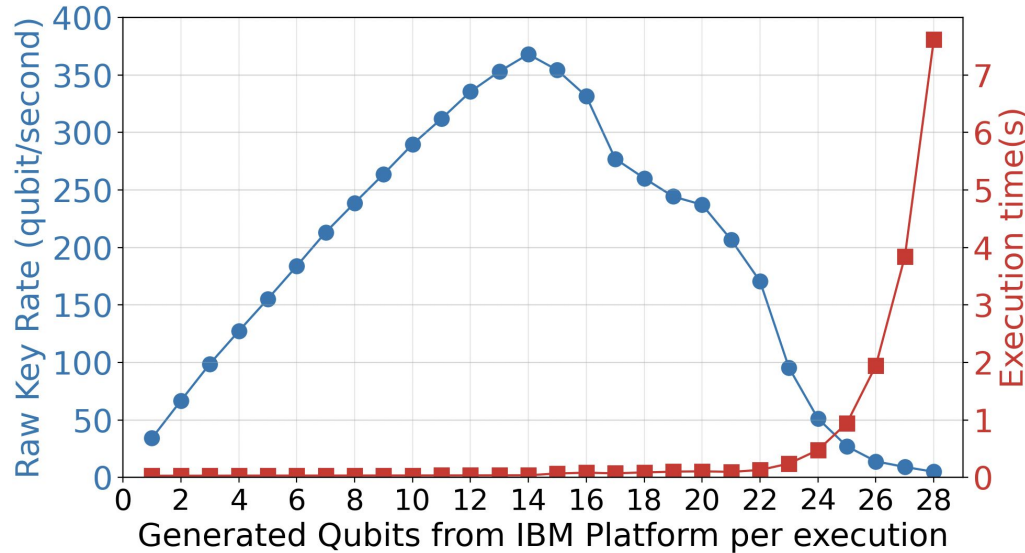
❖ Simulation for QKD-based chat application

- Raw Key Rate
- QBER
- Final Key Rate

❖ Conclusion

Simulation QKD-based chat App: Raw key rate

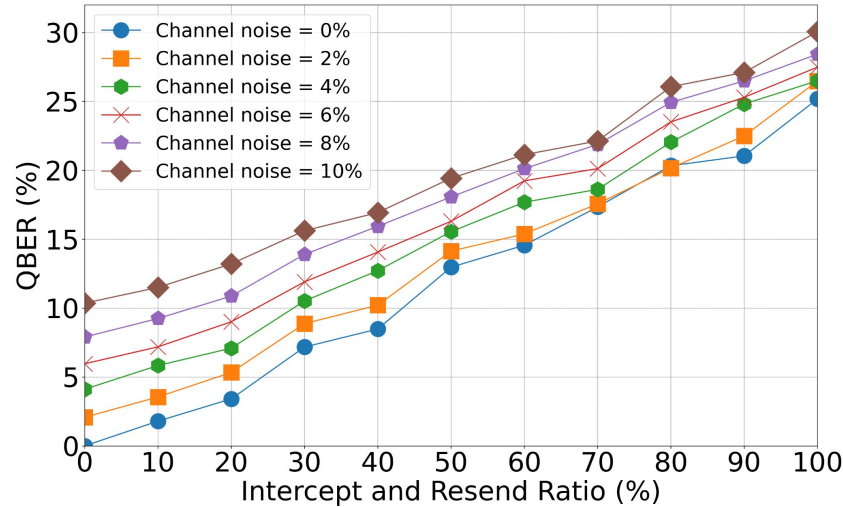
Raw key rate: How many Qubits are provided per second from IQX.



The highest raw key rate was found to be achieved with 14 qubits.

➤ Required key length can be generated in the shortest possible time.

QBER: Calculated based on bit errors between Alice and Bob in the sifted key
>> Ratio of bit errors in sifted keys



- ❖ Increases with higher IRA ratios and channel noise frequencies, reflecting more bit errors in the sifted key between Alice and Bob.
- ❖ In an ideal BB84 QKD protocol without channel noise (0%), Alice and Bob measure a QBER of 25% under 100% eavesdropping. >> Same as theoretical rate.

Final key rate [1]: $R = c \times s \times p \underline{[H(A|E) - fH(A|B)]}$

Raw key rate

Sifting coefficient (= 0.5 in case of BB84)

Parameter estimation coefficient (0.75 - 0.9)

The amount of information that Eve is uncertain about Alice's key after key reconciliation (KR) step

Notations

- $[H(A|E)]$ denotes the amount of information that Eve is uncertain about Alice's key after the sifting step.
- $[H(A|B)]$ denotes the theoretical amount of information that Alice and Bob need to exchange for KR, which is also the information leaked to Eve during the KR step.
- f is the efficiency of the error correction algorithm.

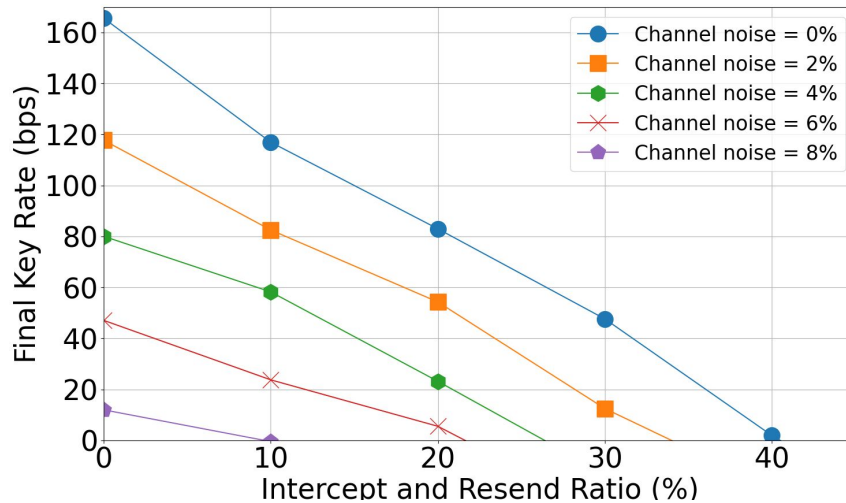
Remarks

- In the case of BB84, $H(A|E) = 1 - h(QBER)$ and $H(A|B) = h(QBER)$, where h is the binary entropy function

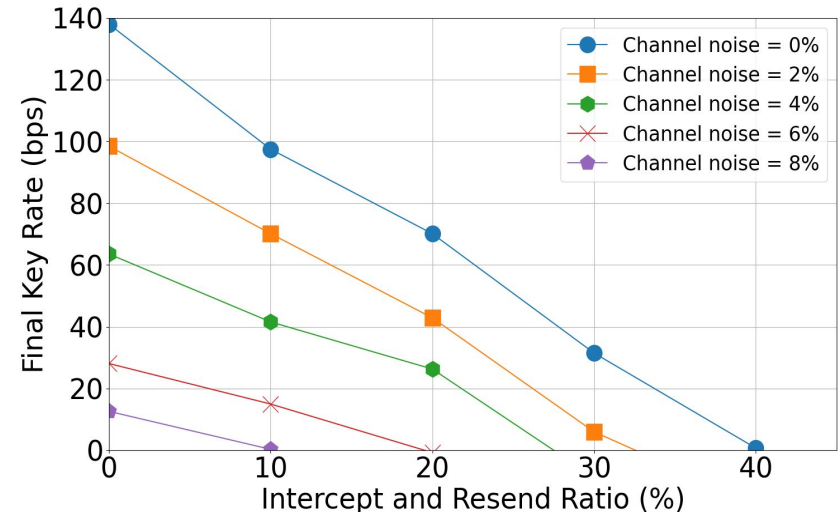
Simulation QKD-based chat App: Final key rate

Final key rate: $R = c \times s \times p [H(A|E) - fH(A|B)]$

Parameter	Value
c	368.0363931165903
p	0.9
s	0.5
f	1.22



Parameter	Value
c	368.0363931165903
p	0.75
s	0.5
f	1.22



The Final key rate falls as the Intercept and resend ratio and noise channel levels increase.

Outline

❖ **Research Background**

- Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)
- BB84 QKD Protocol
- Why is QKD necessary?
- My scope for the research

❖ **Simulation for QKD-based chat application**

- Raw Key Rate
- QBER
- Final Key Rate

❖ **Conclusion**

Conclusion

- Development of the Qryptic Chat
 - BB84 protocol was applied for that application to communicate securely.
 - **IBM Quantum Experience (IQX)** support to develop and simulate QKD-based application.
- Remarkable observations from the simulation results
 - *Raw key rate*
 - Investigate the number of qubits to reach the required key length (e.g. 1000 bits) in the shortest possible time, using the number of qubits provided by IQX.
 - *QBER*
 - Reached approximately 25% at 0% channel noise and 100% IRA ratio, aligning closely with the expected theoretical value for BB84
 - *Final key rate*
 - Decreased with increasing channel noise and IRA ratio, demonstrating the impact of these factors on key generation efficiency.
- The results verify the reliability of Qryptic Chat as a secure communication system and emphasize its potential for further optimization and practical implementation in real-world QKD applications.

Thank you for your listening!