

PHYC90045 Introduction to Quantum Computing

**Week 7**



**Lecture 13 - Quantum Supremacy**

- 11.1 Boson Sampling
- 11.2 IQP Problem
- 11.3 Google's pseudorandom circuits

**Lecture 14 - Errors**

- 12.1 Quantum errors: unitary and stochastic errors
- 12.2 Randomized Benchmarking
- 12.3 Purity

**Lab 7**

Quantum Supremacy and Errors

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**Quantum Supremacy**

Physics 90045  
Lecture 13

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**Determining supremacy?**



Gary Kasparov

vs



Deep Blue

On February 10, 1996, Deep Blue beat Kasparov under tournament regulations. In the subsequent 1997 rematch, Deep Blue won the series.

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# Quantum supremacy in the news

Google, Alibaba Spar Over Timeline for 'Quantum Supremacy'

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GOOGLE, ALIBABA SPAR OVER TIMELINE FOR 'QUANTUM SUPREMACY'



Is a quantum revolution near?  
ALFRED HIRSCH/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

By Chelesa Whyte

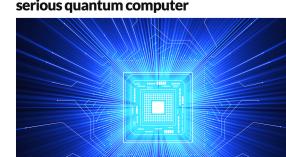
Google is racing to create the first quantum computer capable of solving a problem ordinary computers cannot – and it has just made that challenge much harder.

Achieving "quantum supremacy," as it is known, involves building a device that can solve a problem faster than any non-quantum computer.

<https://www.wired.com/story/google-alibaba-spar-over-timeline-for-quantum-supremacy/>

NewScientist

## Google just made it much harder to build a serious quantum computer



<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2176575-google-just-made-it-much-harder-to-build-a-serious-quantum-computer/>

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# What is quantum supremacy?

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Quantum supremacy is using a quantum computer to solve a problem which classical computers **practically** cannot.

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# Algorithms for quantum supremacy

The race is on to build a quantum computer which will achieve quantum supremacy. Implementing large scale factoring would demonstrate quantum supremacy, but that would require a very large (potentially millions of qubits) quantum computer. In the short term we will only have access to NISQ devices.

Noisy  
Intermediate Scale (50-100 qubits)  
Quantum devices

Three quantum algorithms that might be able to demonstrate quantum supremacy with 50-100 qubits:

- Boson Sampling
- Instantaneous Quantum Polynomial-Time circuits (IQP)
- Pseudorandom circuits

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## HOWTO quantum supremacy



Pick a problem which is:

- As easy as possible for a quantum computer
- As hard as possible for a classical computer to simulate

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## Boson Sampling

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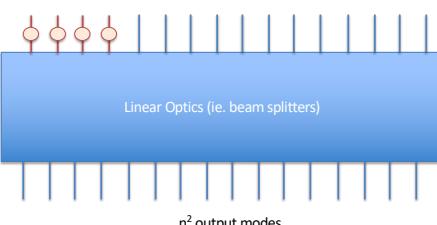
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## A little physics experiment...



n single photon sources



You won't need to know the physics of this device.

$n^2$  output modes.

Can a classical computer produce **samples** from the output which mimic the quantum device?

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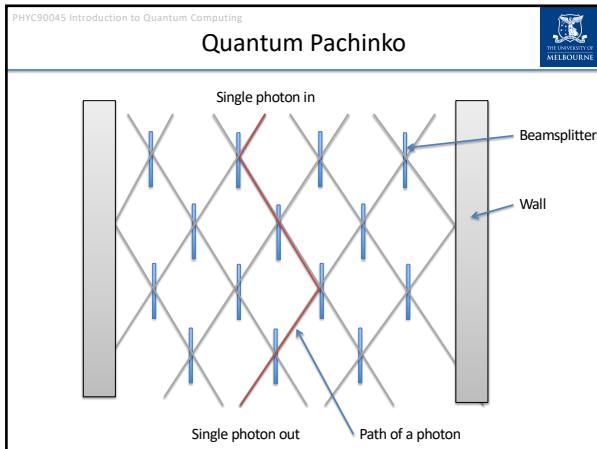


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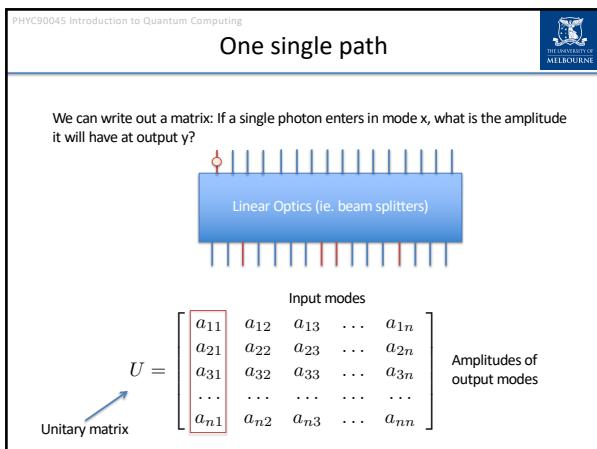
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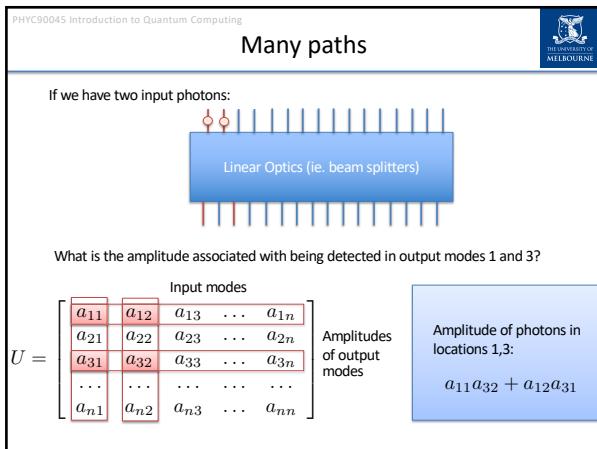
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## Many paths

In general take the submatrix corresponding to a particular input and output, and find its permanent:

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} & \dots & a_{3n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & a_{n3} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

Submatrix defined by the input modes and output modes

The resulting amplitude is the permanent of the submatrix:

$$\text{perm}(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i,\sigma(i)}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{perm}(A) = ad + bc$$

Same as determinant, but with no subtraction, all addition.

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## Complexity of finding permanent

Unlike determinants, finding a permanent of a matrix is a *surprisingly difficult* computational problem.

Finding the permanent is a #P complete problem.

#P is the set of counting problems associated with decision problems in NP.

**NP:** Is there as a satisfying assignment of variables to this 3SAT problem?  
**#P:** How many satisfying assignments of variables are there to this 3SAT problem?

**NP:** Is there a travelling salesman path with distance less than  $d$ ?  
**#P:** How many travelling salesman paths are there with a distance less than  $d$ .

Calculating amplitudes and probabilities for Boson sampling is a hard classical problem!

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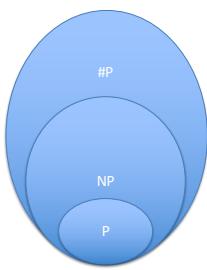


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## Some classical complexity classes



Informally:

- P:** Problems which can be solved in polynomial time
- NP:** Problems which can be checked in polynomial time (ie. they have an efficiently verifiable proof)
- #P:** Problems which count the number of solutions in NP

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## The polynomial hierarchy

Very quick introduction: Given an **oracle** in some complexity class which evaluates instantly, what problems can we now evaluate in polynomial time?

$P^P = P$

Polynomial time algorithm  
With access to an oracle which can instantaneously evaluate functions in P

$NP^P = NP$

But a polynomial time algorithm with an NP oracle appears to be more powerful than both P and NP:

$P^{NP}$

We can recursively define complexity classes this way, with oracles which increase in strength at each level. This whole hierarchy is known as the Polynomial Hierarchy, PH.

If, at some level, providing the oracle didn't lead to a superset of problems, the polynomial hierarchy would "collapse". Computer scientists don't think this happens.

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## Sampling is also hard to simulate

Calculating amplitudes and probabilities for Boson sampling is a hard classical problem!

Calculate the **permanent** of the submatrix:

$$\text{perm}(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \prod_{i=1}^n a_{i,\sigma(i)}$$

$$\text{perm} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} = ad + bc$$

We don't technically have to calculate the probabilities explicitly. Maybe we can *sample* from the probability distribution?

No – this would result in a collapse of the Polynomial Hierarchy.

Not proven, but like P=NP, computer scientists generally don't expect the polynomial hierarchy collapses.

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## HOWTO quantum supremacy

Boson Sampling is a problem which:

- "Easy" to implement using linear optics
- Hard for a classical computer to simulate –  
Polynomial Hierarchy would collapse

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## IQP Circuits

### Instantaneous Quantum Polynomial-Time

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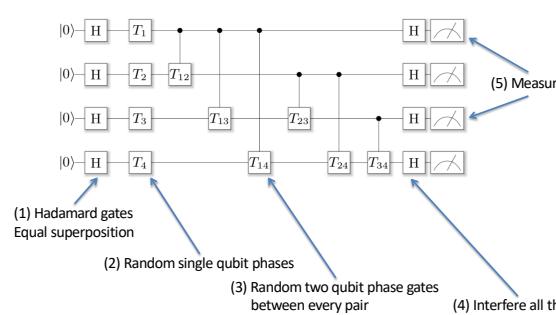
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## IQP Circuits



(1) Hadamard gates  
Equal superposition

(2) Random single qubit phases

(3) Random two qubit phase gates  
between every pair

(4) Interfere all the resulting states

(5) Measure

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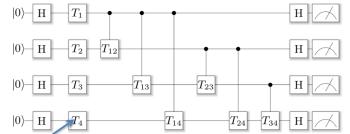
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## Random Phases



Each of these  $T_m$  gates is a rotation (around z) by a multiple of  $\pi/4$ :

$$T_m = \cos\left(\frac{k_m \pi}{8}\right) I + i \sin\left(\frac{k_m \pi}{8}\right) Z_m$$

$$T_m = R_z\left(-\frac{k_m \pi}{4}\right) \quad \text{on the } m^{\text{th}} \text{ qubit}$$

Where  $k_m$  is an integer chosen uniformly at random between 0 and 7. This is equivalent (up to a global phase) of applying a T gate  $k_m$  times.

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### Random Joint Phases

Each of these  $T_{mn}$  gates is a joint phase rotation by a multiple of  $\pi/8$ :

$$T_{mn} = \cos\left(\frac{k_{mn}\pi}{8}\right) I + i \sin\left(\frac{k_{mn}\pi}{8}\right) Z_m Z_n$$

Where  $k_m$  is an integer chosen uniformly at random between 0 and 7.

In the lab we can implement a similar algorithm with controlled  $T_{mn}$  gates.

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### "Instantaneous"

All of these phase gates commute

The order which you apply the single and two qubit phase gates doesn't matter. They commute with each other, so can be applied in any order.

Eg.

$$ZT_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T_2Z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{bmatrix}$$

Diagonal  
gates  
commute

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### Collapse of the polynomial hierarchy

Aim: To sample from the output of this circuit. Easy for a quantum computer.

If this could be done efficiently using a classical computer, it would imply the collapse of the polynomial hierarchy (and so isn't expected to be possible).

Practically, classical simulations are limited to <50-70 qubits (for low error rates).

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## Pseudorandom Circuits

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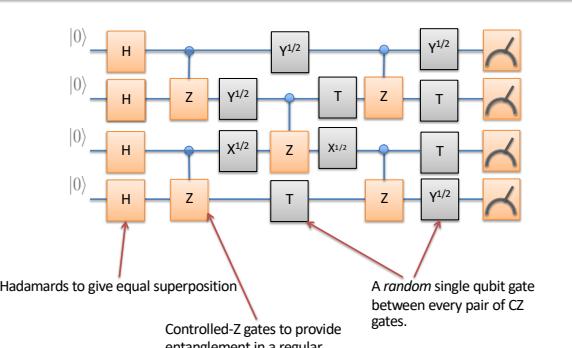
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## The circuit



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## Square Root X and Y

In the previous slide, we simply have that

$$X^{1/2} = R_x \left( \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$

and similarly,

$$Y^{1/2} = R_y \left( \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$$


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### Schedule of CZ

FIG. 6. Layouts of CZ gates in a  $6 \times 6$  qubit lattice. It is currently not possible to perform two CZ gates simultaneously in two neighboring superconducting qubits [33, 34, 49, 52]. We iterate over these arrangements sequentially, from 1 to 8.

From Boixo et al, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1608.00263.pdf>, 2016.

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### Sampling is hard

Once again, the aim of the algorithm is to sample from the measured values.  
If this were possible to do efficiently classically, it would imply a collapse of the polynomial hierarchy.  
In practice, simulating  $\sim 45$  qubits for this problem is hard (note: need high depth circuit)

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### What do you need for quantum supremacy?

- Many qubits ( $>\sim 50$ )
- Large depth circuit ( $>\sim 100$ )
- Entanglement, high T gate count
- Low error rates ( $<1\%$ )

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## 60 Qubit Simulations of Shor's algorithm

Using MPS, Aidan Dang wrote parallel code were able to do large scale simulations of Shor's algorithm.

$l$	$r$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$n_{\text{node}}$	$t_U$	$t_{\text{meas}}$	$t_{\text{QFT}}$	$t_{\text{total}}$
16	28140	2	7035	2	1538	353	4290	6181
17	57516	2	14379	24	1694	406	4544	6644
20	479568	4	29973	216	4271	1496	20236	26003

Table 3.2: Further QCMPs benchmarks, this time across multiple nodes of a supercomputer. Each node has 24 cores and 64 GB of RAM. With  $n_{\text{node}}$  nodes, we simulated the three cases  $l = 16$ ,  $N = 56759$ ,  $a = 2$ ;  $l = 17$ ,  $N = 124631$ ,  $a = 2$ ; and also  $l = 20$ ,  $N = 961307$ ,  $a = 5$ .

Source: Dang, thesis, 2017

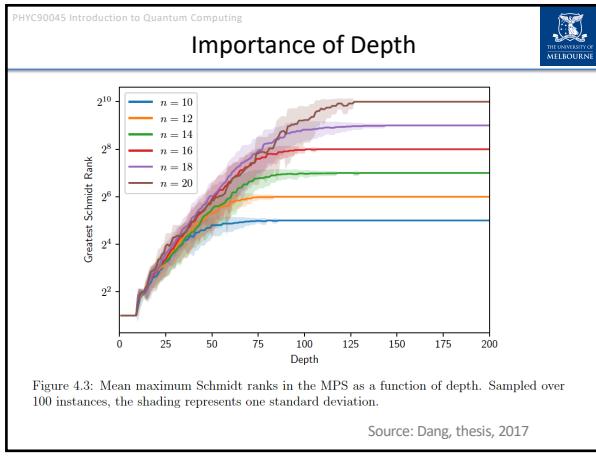
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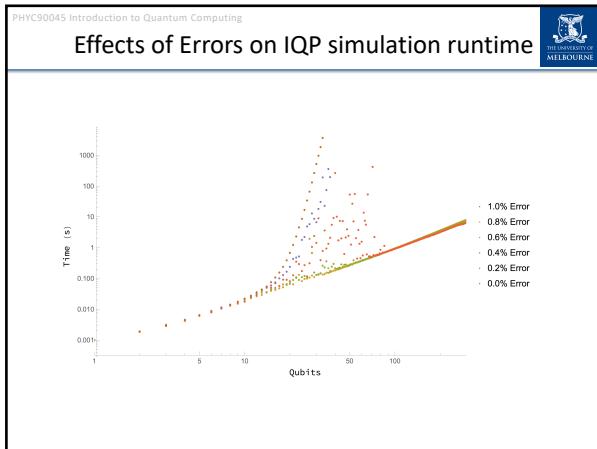
## Simulating Google's Pseudo-Random Circuits

Depth of the circuit is equivalent to the number of timesteps

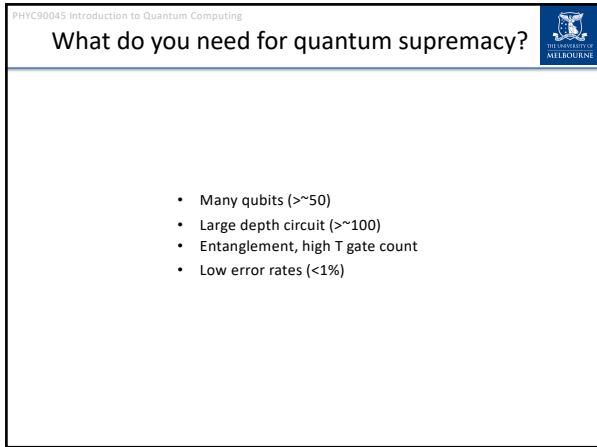
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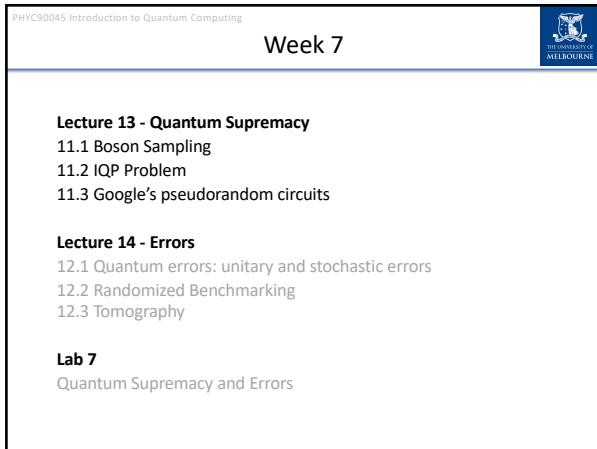
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