Black holes and quantum computers

David Wakeham



University of British Columbia February 3, 2021

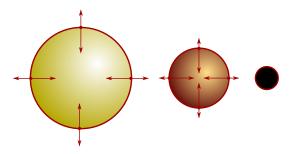


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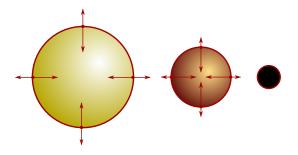
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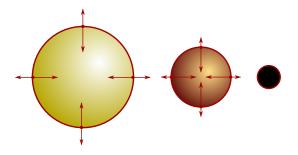


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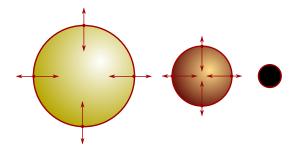
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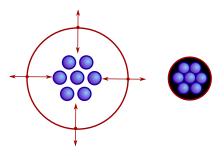
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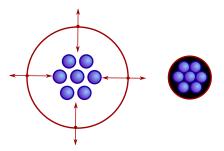
► It's black because the collapsed star traps light. Nothing travels faster than light, so it traps everything else as well!

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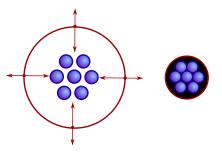


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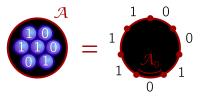


▶ If the qubits were in a pure state $|\psi\rangle$ before collapse, we assume they remain in a pure state.

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Each qubit gets a surface pixel of area A_0 .

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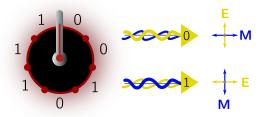
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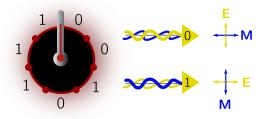
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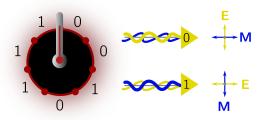


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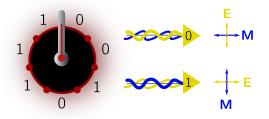
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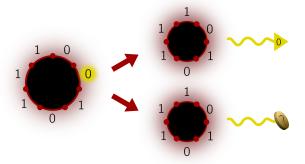


Photons have two independent polarizations, i.e. two ways the fields can wobble. This makes them qubits.

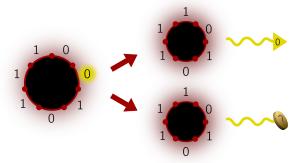
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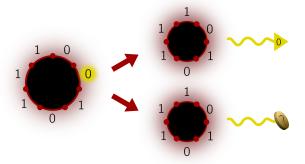
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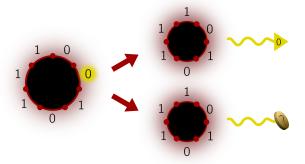
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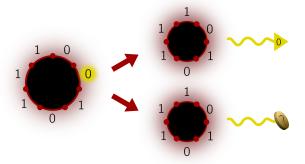
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► Deleting qubits like this

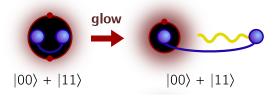
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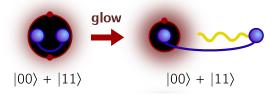
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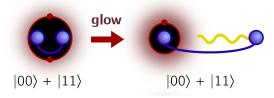


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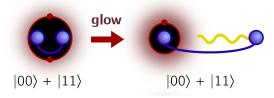
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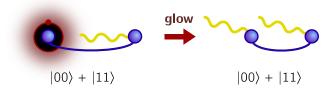
▶ When it glows, let's assume the photon carries off a qubit without affecting the entanglement.

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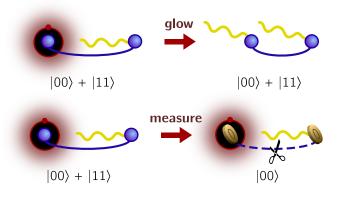
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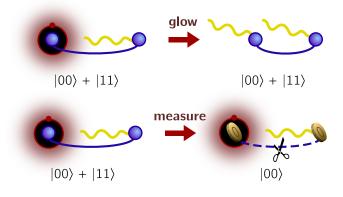
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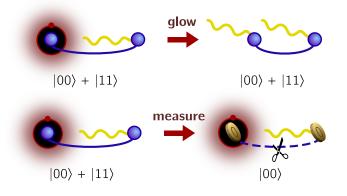


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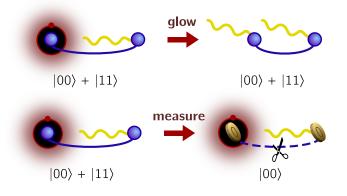
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▶ But if we wait until both qubits are emitted without measuring, we recover the entangled pair!

▶ This gives us a new way to think about horizons.

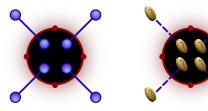
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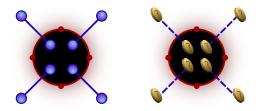
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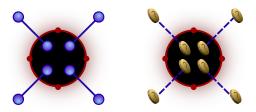


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- ► The horizon is a sort of entanglement bottleneck.
- ► They don't need to pair up, but they can if they want.

► It's useful to keep track of how many photons are entangled,

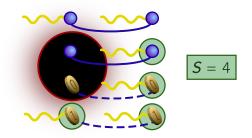
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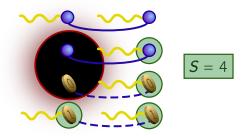
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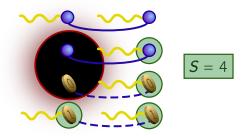


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Note that if you measure only one end of an entangled pair, you effectively turn it into a coin.

► Using *S*,

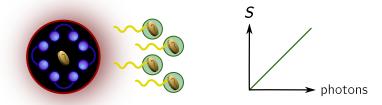
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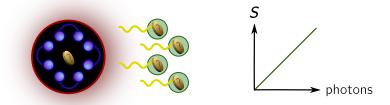
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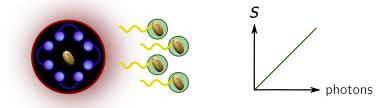


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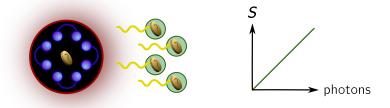
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We call this the Hawking curve. It's as if the black hole itself measures any departing qubits.

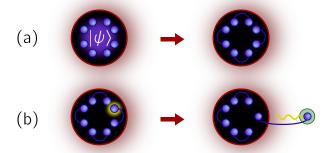
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- ► What if the black hole doesn't measure the qubits?
- ▶ We assume the black hole

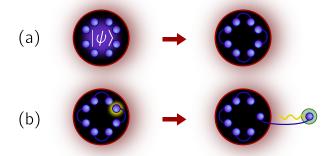
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Note that there are no coins in this model!

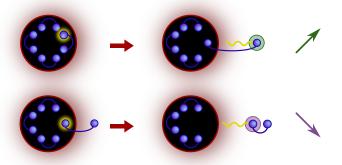
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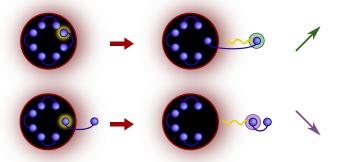
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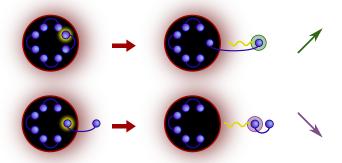


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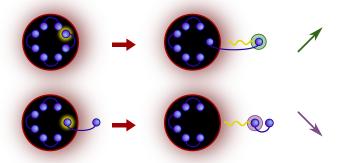
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▶ When the second partner of a "half pair" is emitted, S decreases.

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▶ When the second partner of a "half pair" is emitted, *S* decreases. Fewer lines cross the horizon.

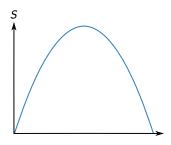
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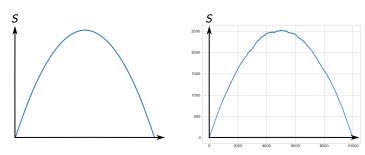
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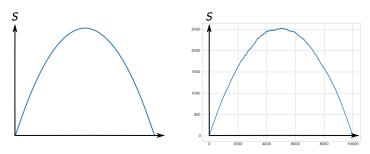
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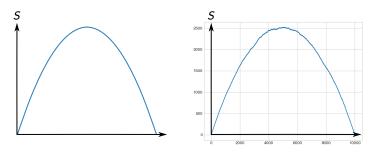


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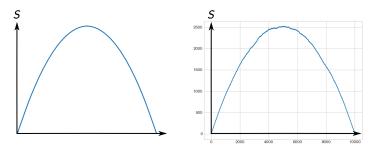
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► Our guess (left) matches simulations (right). We call this up-and-down behaviour

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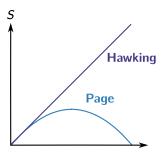
▶ Our guess (left) matches simulations (right). We call this up-and-down behaviour the Page curve.

► The Page curve is consistent with quantum mechanics.

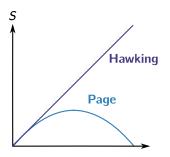
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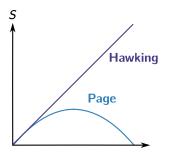


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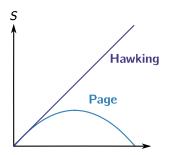
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▶ It comes down to the following question: how should we calculate entanglement entropy from gravity?

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Thanks for listening!

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Thanks for listening! Questions?