

# Michael Zurel

Personal email: [mzurel@pm.me](mailto:mzurel@pm.me)  
Work email: [mzurel@sfu.ca](mailto:mzurel@sfu.ca)  
Website: [mzurel.github.io](https://mzurel.github.io)

## EDUCATION

---

- PhD** University of British Columbia  
Physics (Quantum information and computation) Sep., 2020 – Aug., 2024
  - Supervisors: Dr. Robert Raussendorf and Dr. William G. Unruh
  - Thesis: [Classical descriptions of quantum computations: foundations of quantum computation via hidden variable models, quasiprobability representations, and classical simulation algorithms](#)
- MSc** University of British Columbia  
Physics (Quantum information and computation) Sep., 2019 – Oct., 2020
  - Supervisor: Dr. Robert Raussendorf
  - Thesis: [Hidden variable models and classical simulation algorithms for quantum computation with magic states on qubits](#)
- BSc** University of British Columbia  
Combined honours in Physics and Mathematics Sep., 2014 – May, 2019
  - Honours thesis: Contextuality and Simulating Quantum Computation with Magic States

## EXPERIENCE

---

- NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow** Vancouver, Canada  
Department of Mathematics, Simon Fraser University Sep., 2024 –
- Research Assistant** Vancouver, Canada  
Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of British Columbia Sep., 2018 – Aug., 2024
- Teaching Assistant** Vancouver, Canada  
Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of British Columbia Sep., 2019 – Dec., 2023
- Research Assistant** St. John's, Canada  
Department of Geography, Memorial University May, 2017 – Aug., 2018

## AWARDS

---

- NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship (NSERC PDF), \$140,000 2024 – 2026
- CGS - Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (NSERC CGS-MSFSS), \$6,000 2023
- Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship (NSERC CGS-D), \$105,000 2021 – 2024
- UBC Four Year Doctoral Fellowship (UBC 4YF) 2021 – 2024
- President's Academic Excellence Initiative PhD Award 2020 – 2024
- UBC Faculty of Science PhD Tuition Award 2020 – 2024

## SUCCESSFUL FUNDING

---

- PIMS Workshop grant: Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Advantage, \$20,000 Awarded Nov., 2024  
*Joint with Nadish de Silva (SFU) and Carmen Constantin (UCL/Oxford)* Unlisted co-author
- NSERC Alliance Catalyst Grant, \$25,000 Awarded Jul., 2024  
*Joint with Nadish de Silva (SFU) and Mark Howard (Galway)* Unlisted co-author

## PATENTS

---

- Patent Application US20230206102A1; EP4128083A1; WO2021195783A1 Status: Pending
- Method of simulating a quantum computation, system for simulating a quantum computation, method for issuing a computational key, system for issuing a computational key*

- [1] **MZ**, C. Okay, and R. Raussendorf, “Simulating Quantum Computation: How Many ‘Bits’ for ‘It’?” *PRX Quantum*, vol. 5, p. 030 343, 2024. DOI: [10.1103/PRXQuantum.5.030343](https://doi.org/10.1103/PRXQuantum.5.030343). arXiv: [2305.17287](https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.17287).
- [2] **MZ** and A. Heimendahl, “Efficient classical simulation of quantum computation beyond Wigner positivity,” 2024. arXiv: [2407.10349](https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.10349).
- [3] **MZ**, C. Okay, R. Raussendorf, and A. Heimendahl, “Hidden variable model for quantum computation with magic states on qudits of any dimension,” *Quantum*, vol. 8, p. 1323, 2024. DOI: [10.22331/q-2024-04-30-1323](https://doi.org/10.22331/q-2024-04-30-1323). arXiv: [2110.12318](https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.12318).
- [4] **MZ**, L. Z. Cohen, and R. Raussendorf, “Simulation of quantum computation with magic states via Jordan-Wigner transformations,” [Accepted for publication in Physical Review A], 2023. arXiv: [2307.16034](https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.16034).
- [5] R. Raussendorf, C. Okay, **MZ**, and P. Feldmann, “The role of cohomology in quantum computation with magic states,” *Quantum*, vol. 9, p. 979, 2023. DOI: [10.22331/q-2023-04-13-979](https://doi.org/10.22331/q-2023-04-13-979). arXiv: [2110.11631](https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.11631).
- [6] C. Okay, **MZ**, and R. Raussendorf, “On the extremal points of the  $\Lambda$ -polytopes and classical simulation of quantum computation with magic states,” *Quantum Information & Computation*, vol. 21, no. 13&14, pp. 1091–1110, 2021. DOI: [10.26421/QIC21.13-14-2](https://doi.org/10.26421/QIC21.13-14-2). arXiv: [2104.05822](https://arxiv.org/abs/2104.05822).
- [7] **MZ**, C. Okay, and R. Raussendorf, “Hidden Variable Model for Universal Quantum Computation with Magic States on Qubits,” *Physical Review Letters*, vol. 125, p. 260 404, 2020. DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevLett.125.260404](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.125.260404). arXiv: [2004.01992](https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.01992).
- [8] R. Raussendorf, J. Bermejo-Vega, E. Tyhurst, C. Okay, and **MZ**, “Phase-space-simulation method for quantum computation with magic states on qubits,” *Physical Review A*, vol. 101, p. 012 350, 2020. DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevA.101.012350](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.101.012350). arXiv: [1905.05374](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.05374).

For PDFs see [mzurel.github.io](https://mzurel.github.io); for citation statistics see [Google Scholar](#).

## SOFTWARE

---

- [BinarySymplectic.jl](#) — Tools for working with symplectic vector spaces and symplectic groups over  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ .
- [QuditStabilizers.jl](#) — Tools for working with the stabilizer formalism on odd-prime-dimensional qudits.
- [RandomQM.jl](#) — Julia functions for generating random quantum states and random quantum channels
- [LasserreIS.jl](#) — Julia code for computing Lasserre bounds for the independence number of graphs.
- [RandomStabilizers.jl](#) — Julia code for generating random stabilizer states and random symplectic group elements based on the “SYMPLECTICImproved” algorithm of J. Math. Phys. **55** 122202 (2014).
- [NetworkViz](#) — Data visualization web app for input-output data, census data, and other socio-economic data in Newfoundland and Labrador. Written in R.

Code available on GitHub: [github.com/mzurel](https://github.com/mzurel)

## CONFERENCE TALKS

---

- Quasiprobability distributions in quantum information (QuiDiQua3) [Invited] 35 minute talk  
*Efficient classical simulation of quantum computation beyond Wigner nonnegativity* Nov., 2025
- Foundations of Quantum Computation 5 minute lightning talk  
*The  $\Lambda$  polytopes and their applications* Jun., 2025
- Foundations of Quantum Computational Advantage (FoQaCiA) Workshop [Invited] 45 minute talk  
*Introduction to the  $\Lambda$  polytopes and their applications* Jun., 2025
- Algebraic Structures in Quantum Computation VI (ASQC6) [Invited] 45 minute talk  
*Introduction to the  $\Lambda$  polytopes and their applications* Feb., 2025

- Quantum Physics and Logic (QPL) 30 minute talk  
*Efficient classical simulation of quantum computation beyond Wigner positivity* Jul., 2024
- Southwest Quantum Information and Technology (SQuInT) Workshop 30 minute talk  
*Simulating quantum computation: how many “bits” for “it”?* Oct., 2023
- Quantum Physics and Logic (QPL) [presented by a co-author] 30 minute talk  
*Simulation of quantum computation with magic states via Jordan-Wigner transformations* Jul., 2023
- Coogee Workshop 2023 [Invited] 60 minute talk  
*No-go theorems for discrete Wigner functions and alternative quasiprobability representations for quantum computation with magic states* Feb., 2023
- Foundations of Quantum Computational Advantage (FoQaCiA) Workshop [Invited] 45 minute talk  
*A polytopes and classical simulation of quantum computation with magic states* Nov., 2022
- Theory of Quantum Computation, Communication, and Cryptography (TQC) 25 minute talk  
*Hidden variable model for quantum computation with magic states on qudits of any dimension* Jul., 2022
- Quantum Physics and Logic (QPL) 10 minute talk  
*Hidden variable model for quantum computation with magic states on qudits of any dimension* Jun., 2022
- Algebraic Structures in Quantum Computation V (ASQC5) 45 minute talk  
*Hidden variable models for quantum computation with magic states* Jun., 2022
- Theory of Quantum Computation, Communication, and Cryptography (TQC) 30 minute talk  
*Hidden variable model for universal quantum computation with magic states on qubits* Jul., 2021
- Quantum Physics and Logic (QPL) 30 minute talk  
*Hidden variable model for universal quantum computation with magic states on qubits* Jun., 2021
- Algebraic Structures in Quantum Computation IV (ASQC4) 60 minute talk  
*Hidden variable model for universal quantum computation with magic states on qubits* Jun., 2020
- Quantum Physics and Logic (QPL) 25 minute talk  
*Phase-space-simulation method for quantum computation with magic states on qubits* Jun., 2019

For slides, videos, etc., see [mzurel.github.io/talks](https://mzurel.github.io/talks)

#### INVITED SEMINARS

- 
- School of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences seminar @ University of Galway 60 minute talk  
*Efficient classical simulation of quantum computation beyond Wigner nonnegativity* Nov., 2025
  - David Gross group seminar @ University of Cologne 60 minute talk  
*Efficient classical simulation of quantum computation beyond Wigner positivity* Apr., 2024
  - Quantum information group seminar @ Leibniz University Hannover 60 minute talk  
*A hierarchy of classical simulation algorithms for quantum computation of increasing complexity* Apr., 2024
  - Quantum information group seminar @ DAMTP, University of Cambridge 60 minute talk  
*A hierarchy of classical simulation algorithms for quantum computation of increasing complexity* Apr., 2024
  - Dan Browne group seminar @ University College London 60 minute talk  
*A hierarchy of classical simulation algorithms for quantum computation of increasing complexity* Apr., 2024
  - QLOC Group Seminar @ Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory 60 minute talk  
*A hierarchy of classical simulation algorithms for quantum computation* Sep., 2023
  - Shealf talks (Samson Abramsky group seminar @ University of Oxford) 60 minute talk  
*The role of cohomology in quantum computation with magic states* Dec., 2022
  - David Gross group seminar @ University of Cologne 60 minute talk  
*Quasiprobability representations for quantum computation with magic states* Jul., 2022

- Math Grad Seminar @ Bilkent University 60 minute talk  
*Polytopes in quantum computation and quantum information* Jun., 2022
- Institute of Applied Mathematics Seminar @ University of British Columbia 60 minute talk  
*Polytopes in quantum computation and quantum information* Jun., 2022
- Internal talk for QuEra Computing Inc. software/algorithms team 45 minute talk  
*Classical simulation of quantum computation with magic states* Apr., 2022

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

---

- Year of Quantum Across Canada @ Perimeter Institute  
*The role of cohomology in quantum computation with magic states* Sep., 2025
- Helgoland 2025: 100 Years of Quantum Mechanics  
*Hidden variable model for universal quantum computation and Wheeler's "It from Bit"* Jun., 2025
- Southwest Quantum Information and Technology (SQuInT) Workshop  
*Efficient classical simulation of quantum computation beyond Wigner negativity* Oct., 2024
- Theory of Quantum Computation, Communication, and Cryptography (TQC)  
*Efficient classical simulation of quantum computation beyond Wigner positivity* Sep., 2024
- Quantum Information Processing (QIP)  
*Simulation of quantum computation with magic states via Jordan-Wigner transformations* Jan., 2024
- Quantum Information Processing (QIP)  
*Simulating quantum computation: how many "bits" for "it"?* Jan., 2024
- Southwest Quantum Information and Technology (SQuInT) Workshop  
*Simulation of quantum computation with magic states via Jordan-Wigner transformations* Oct., 2023
- Quantum Physics and Logic (QPL)  
*Simulating quantum computation with magic states: how many "bits" for "it"?* Jul., 2023
- Max Planck - UBC - UTokyo Centre for Quantum Materials Annual Meeting,  
*Hidden variable model for quantum computation with magic states on qudits of any dimension* Sep., 2022
- Max Planck - UBC - UTokyo Centre for Quantum Materials Annual Meeting  
*The role of cohomology in quantum computation with magic states* Sep., 2022
- Theory of Quantum Computation, Communication, and Cryptography (TQC)  
*The role of cohomology in quantum computation with magic states* Jul., 2022
- Quantum Information Processing (QIP)  
*Hidden variable model for quantum computation with magic states on qudits of any dimension* Mar., 2022
- Quantum Information Processing (QIP)  
*Hidden variable model for universal quantum computation with magic states on qubits* Mar., 2021
- Southwest Quantum Information and Technology (SQuInT)  
*Phase-space-simulation method for quantum computation with magic states on qubits* Feb., 2020

For poster PDFs see [mzurel.github.io/talks](https://mzurel.github.io/talks)

## WORKSHOP & SUMMER SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

---

- Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Advantage Workshop, 2nd edition May, 2026  
*Simon Fraser University* Co-organizer
- Mathematical Foundations of Quantum Advantage Workshop May, 2025  
*Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada* Co-organizer

- Algebraic Structures in Quantum Computation V (ASQC5) June, 2022  
*University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada* Co-organizer
- Cornerstone Models of Quantum Computing Summer School August, 2021  
*TRIUMF, Vancouver, Canada* Teaching assistant for MBQC module
- Cornerstone Models of Quantum Computing Summer School August, 2020  
*TRIUMF, Vancouver, Canada* Teaching assistant for MBQC module

## PEER REVIEW

---

Referee for the following journals:

- Physical Review Letters
- PRX Quantum
- Physical Review A
- Physical Review Applied
- npj Quantum Information
- Quantum Journal
- Journal of Mathematical Physics
- Journal of Physics A: Mathematical and Theoretical
- Journal of Applied and Computational Topology

Subreviewer for the following conferences:

- Quantum Information Processing (QIP)
- Theory of Quantum Computation, Communication and Cryptography (TQC)

I also serve on NSERC Review Committee 178 (Physics and Astronomy), a review committee for postdoctoral fellowships and postgraduate scholarships offered by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

- Teaching assistant: Computational Physics Sep., 2023 – Dec., 2023
- Teaching assistant: Frontiers in Physics Sep., 2023 – Dec., 2023
- Teaching assistant: Introduction to Quantum Mechanics Jan., 2022 – Apr., 2022
- Teaching assistant: Electricity and Magnetism Sep., 2021 – Dec., 2021
- Teaching assistant: Electricity and Magnetism Sep., 2020 – Dec., 2020
- Teaching assistant: Enriched Physics I Sep., 2020 – Dec., 2020
- Teaching assistant: Introductory Physics for Engineers II Jan., 2020 – Apr., 2020
- Teaching assistant: Introductory Physics Sep., 2019 – Dec., 2019

Last updated: September, 2025