



# Introduction to Quantum Error Correction

Steven M. Girvin

Experiment

**Michel Devoret  
Luigi Frunzio  
Rob Schoelkopf**

GKP QEC: +**Alec Eickbusch  
+Vlad Sivak**

Theory

**SMG  
Leonid Glazman  
Shruti Puri**

**Liang Jiang  
Mazyar Mirrahimi**

+...



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY**

**Office of  
Science**



## Take-home message:

Quantum error correction

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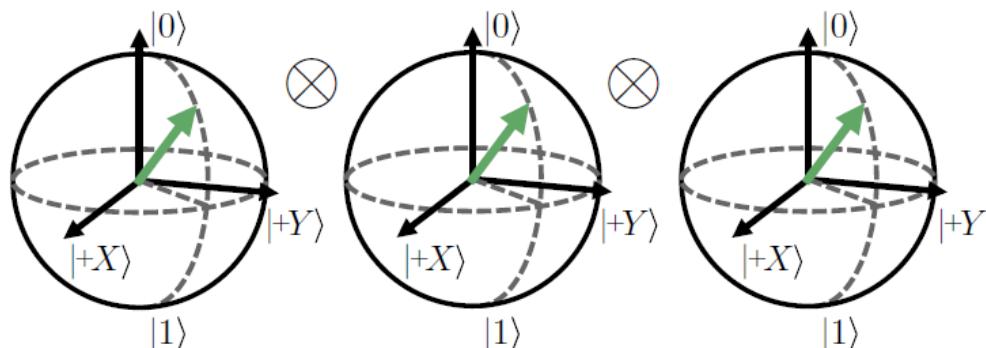
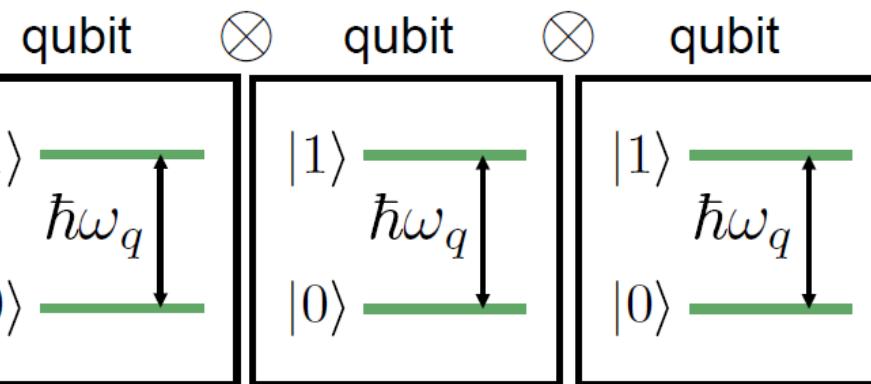
Quantum simulations of physical models containing bosons

are both vastly more efficient on hardware containing '**native**' bosons

Discrete variable  
(transmon qubits)

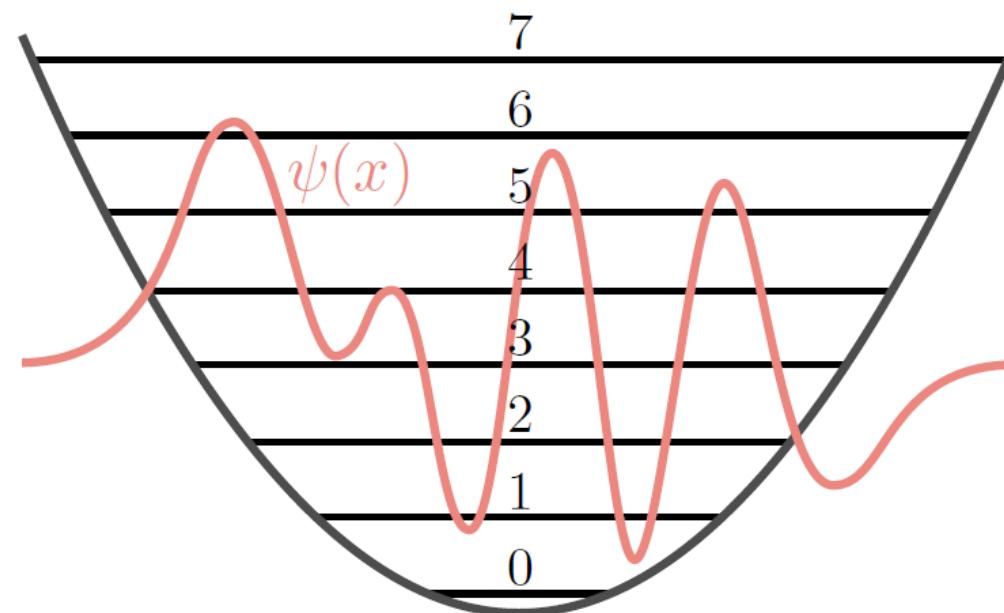
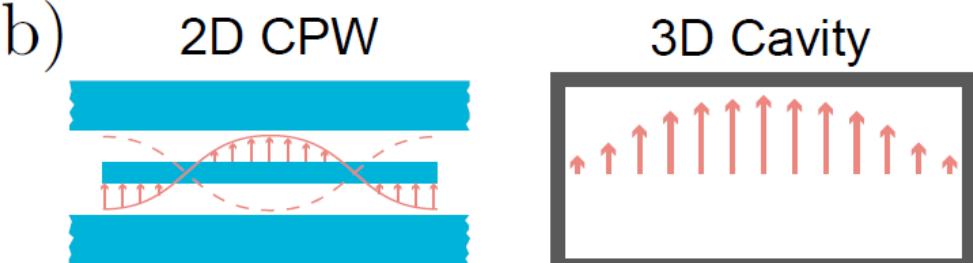
Continuous variable  
(microwave or mechanical oscillators)

(a)



$$|\psi\rangle = a_0|000\rangle + a_1|001\rangle + a_2|010\rangle + a_3|011\rangle + a_4|100\rangle + a_5|101\rangle + a_6|110\rangle + a_7|111\rangle$$

(b)



Boson Fock  
(photon number)  
states

$$|\psi\rangle = a_0|0\rangle + a_1|1\rangle + a_2|2\rangle + a_3|3\rangle + a_4|4\rangle + a_5|5\rangle + a_6|6\rangle + a_7|7\rangle$$

# Hybrid DV-CV hardware architectures

DV = discrete variable = two-level qubit

CV = continuous variable = harmonic oscillator = boson

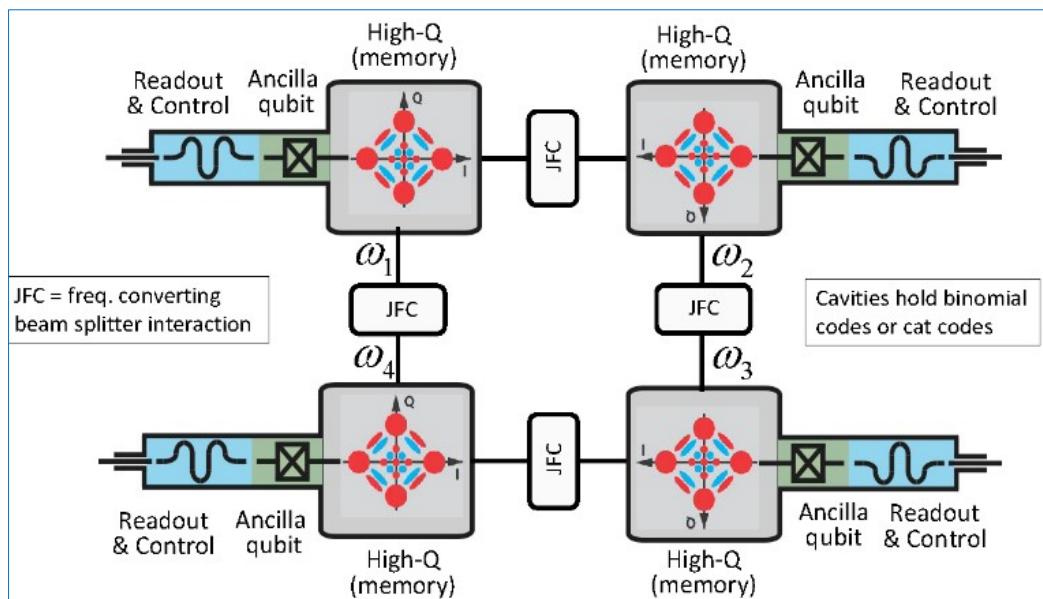
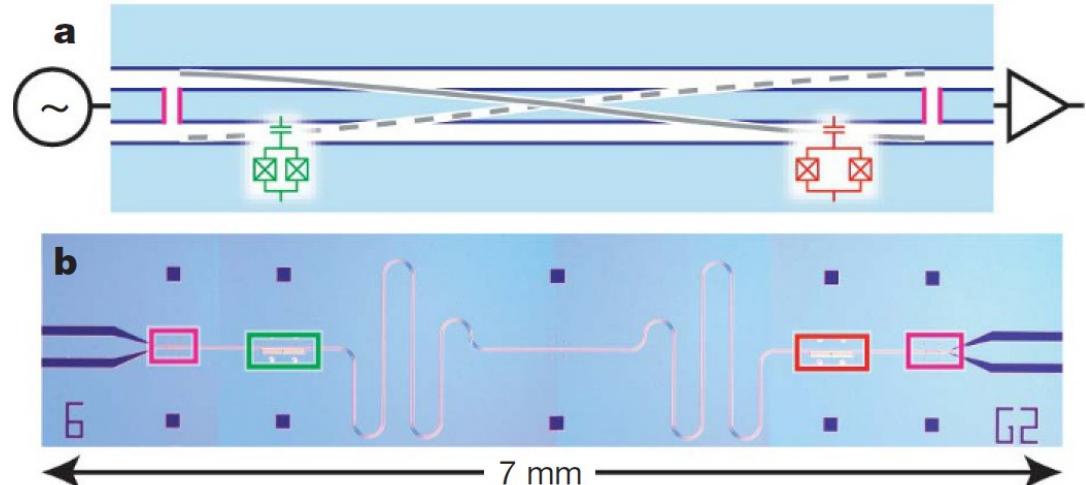
**"DV-dominant:"**

transmon qubits coupled through  
passive quantum busses (bosonic resonators)

**"CV-dominant:"**

bosonic encoded resonators controlled  
and coupled through ancilla  
transmons

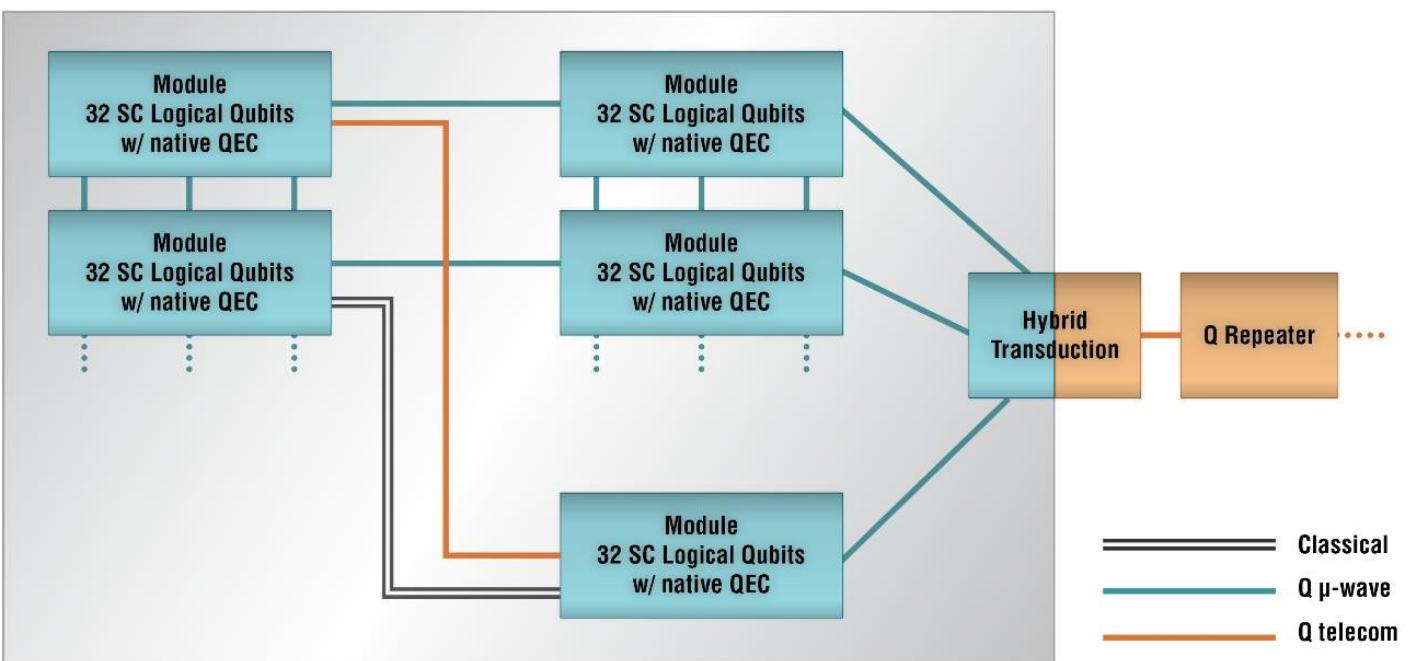
J. Majer et al., *Nature* **449**, 443 (2007)  
L. DiCarlo et al., *Nature* **460**, 240 (2009)



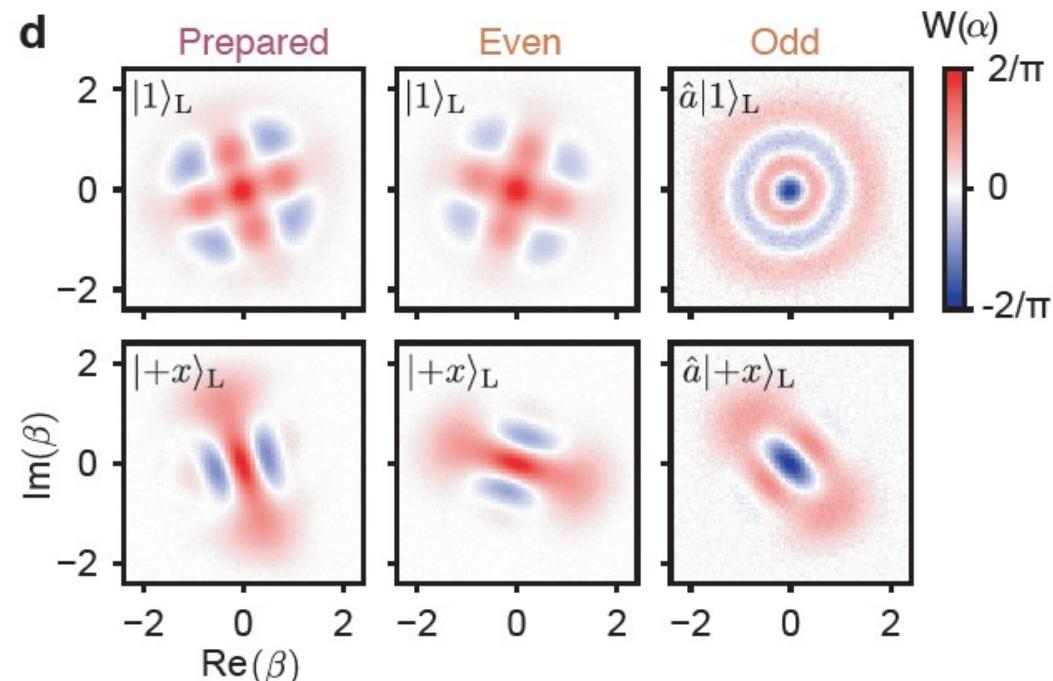
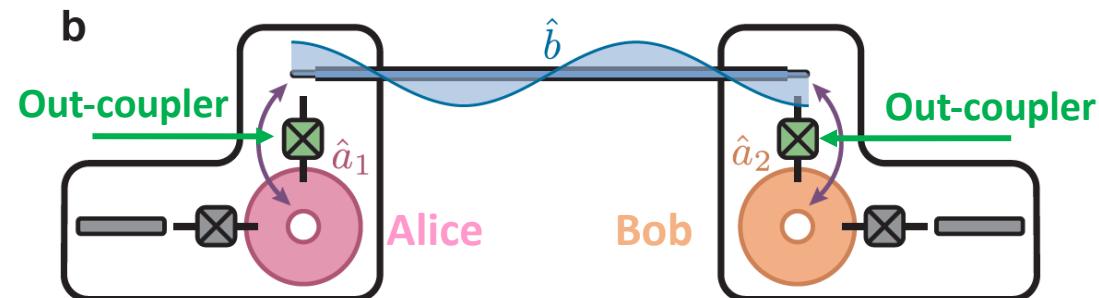
## Benefits of bosonic encoding:

Bosonic QEC code words of ‘standing’ photons in resonators can be:

- Out-coupled as ‘flying’ photons for QEC local quantum communication
- Transduced to ‘flying’ photons for QEC at telecom wavelengths



‘Error-detected state transfer and entanglement in a superconducting quantum network,’  
L. Burkhardt et al., *PRX Quantum* **2**, 030321 (2021)



# Quantum Control and Measurement of Hybrid DV-CV Systems

Recent theory papers:

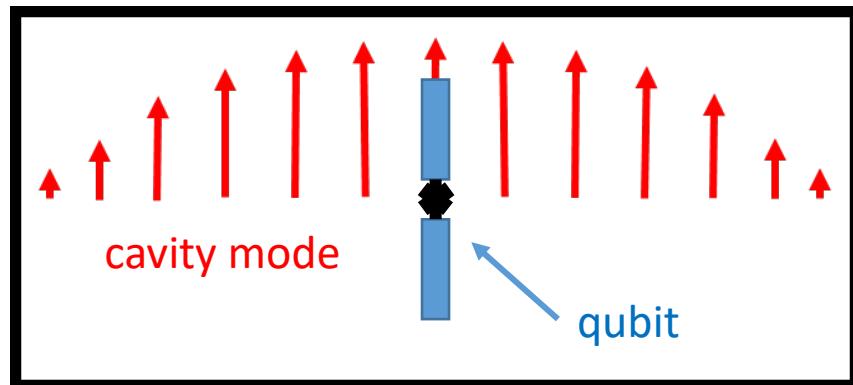
'Quantum control of bosonic modes with superconducting circuits,'  
Wen-Long Ma et al., arXiv:2102.09668

'Photon-Number-Dependent Hamiltonian Engineering for Cavities,'  
Chiao-Hsuan Wang et al. *Phys. Rev. Applied* **15**, 044026 (2021)

'Constructing Qudits from Infinite Dimensional Oscillators by Coupling to Qubits,'  
Yuan Liu et al., arXiv:2105.02896

Universal Control/Measurement required to  
create and manipulate logical qubits. [Less power needed to correct errors.]

## Universal quantum control of hybrid qubit-oscillator systems



Strong-dispersive coupling

$$H = \omega_c a^\dagger a + \frac{\omega_q}{2} \sigma^z + \chi \sigma^z a^\dagger a$$

$$H_{\text{control}} = [\dot{\alpha}(t) a^\dagger + \dot{\alpha}^*(t) a] + [\Omega(t) \sigma^+ + \Omega^*(t) \sigma_-]$$

cavity drive

qubit drive

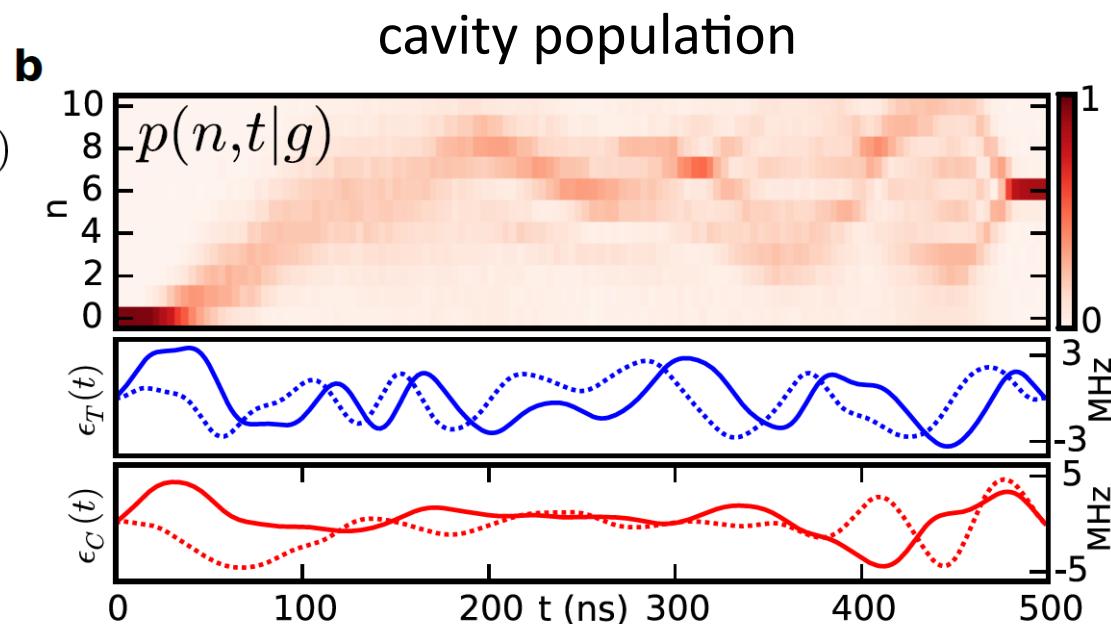
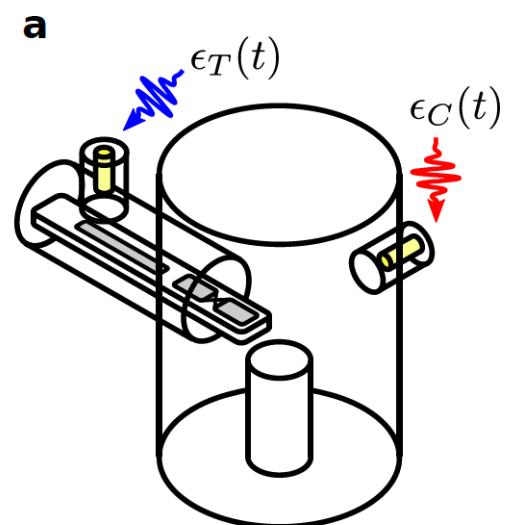
Strong-dispersive coupling permits:

- Cavity displacement conditioned on qubit state
- Qubit rotation conditioned on cavity state

Provable universal control

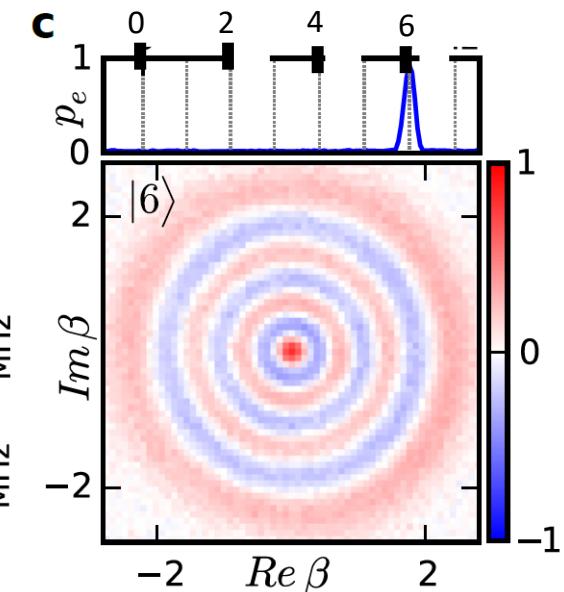
[Phys. Rev. A 92, 040303(R) (2015)]

Example of universal control: preparation of photon Fock state  $|n \pm 6\rangle$   
using OCT GRAPE pulses



ancilla and cavity quadrature drives

Definite number, completely  
indefinite phase



Measured  
Wigner function  
(quasi-probability  
distribution in phase space)

Heeres et al. (Schoelkopf lab)  
*Nature Communications* 8, 94 (2017)

Key enabling resource for Wigner function:  
ability to measure photon number parity

# Noise, Errors and Quantum Error Correction

The huge information content of quantum superpositions comes with a price:

$$|000\rangle + |001\rangle - |010\rangle - |011\rangle \text{ [OLE]} |100\rangle + |101\rangle + |110\rangle - |111\rangle$$

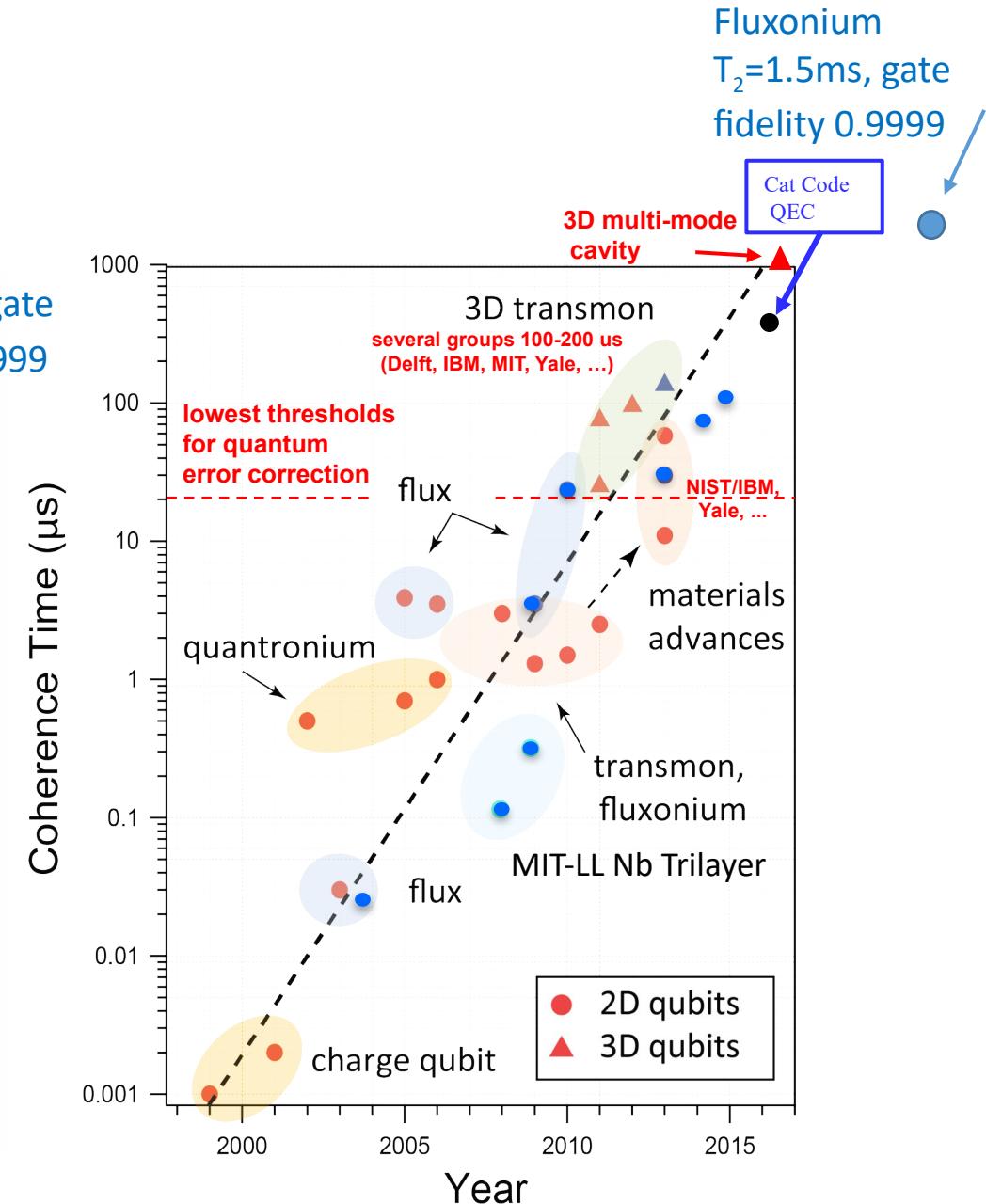
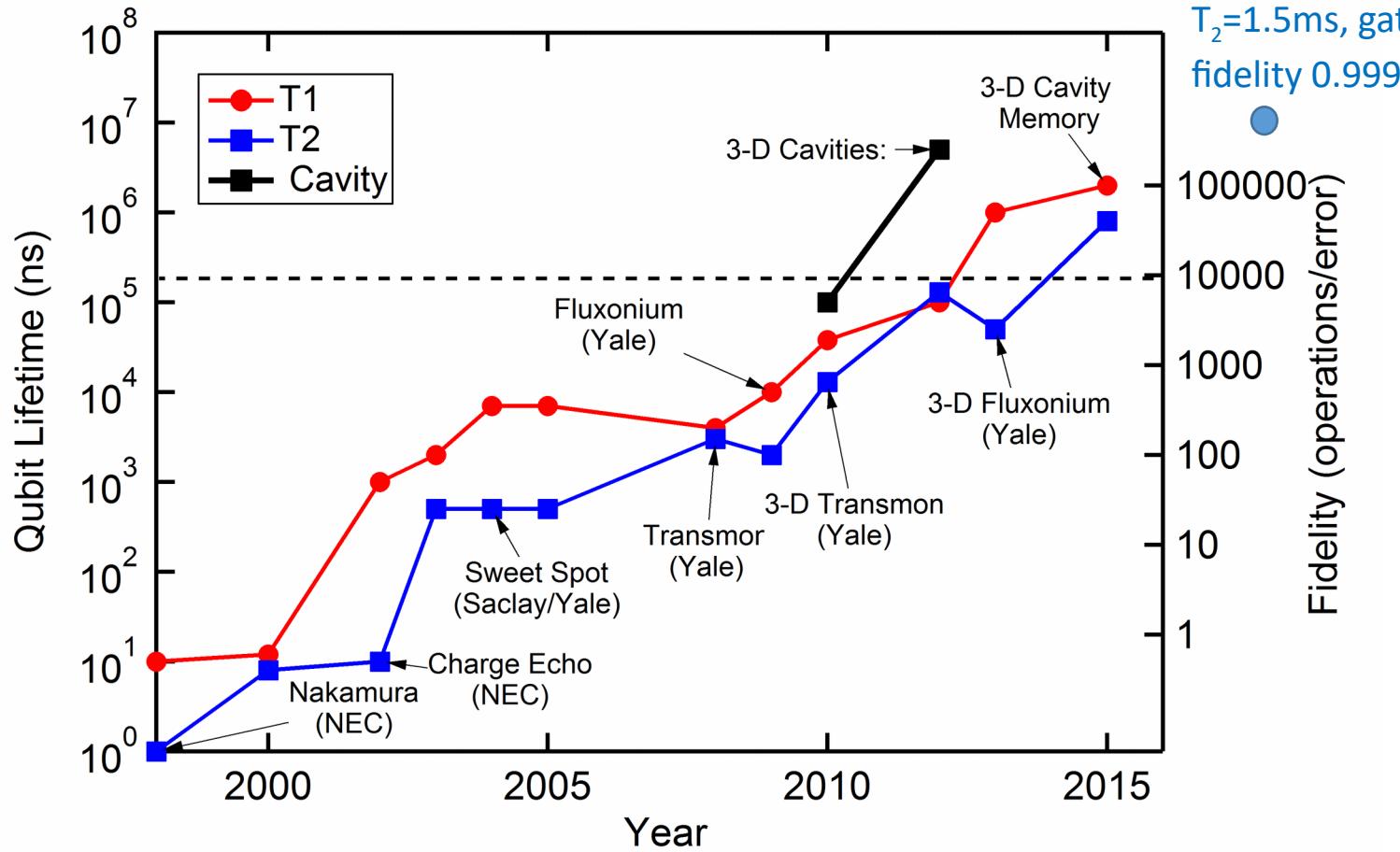
Great sensitivity to noise, perturbations and dissipation.

The quantum phase of superposition states is well-defined only for a finite ‘coherence time’ 

$$|0\rangle + |1\rangle \text{ [OLE]} |0\rangle - |1\rangle$$

Despite this sensitivity,  
we have made exponential progress in qubit coherence times.

# Exponential Growth in SC Qubit Coherence



No matter how much progress there is in increasing coherence times, we still must contend with the fundamental law of quantum devices:

There is no such thing as  
too much coherence.

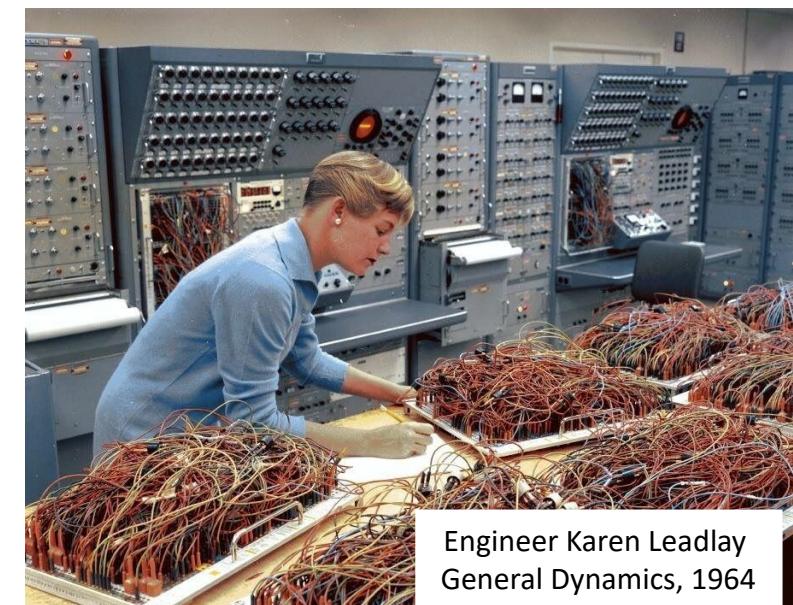
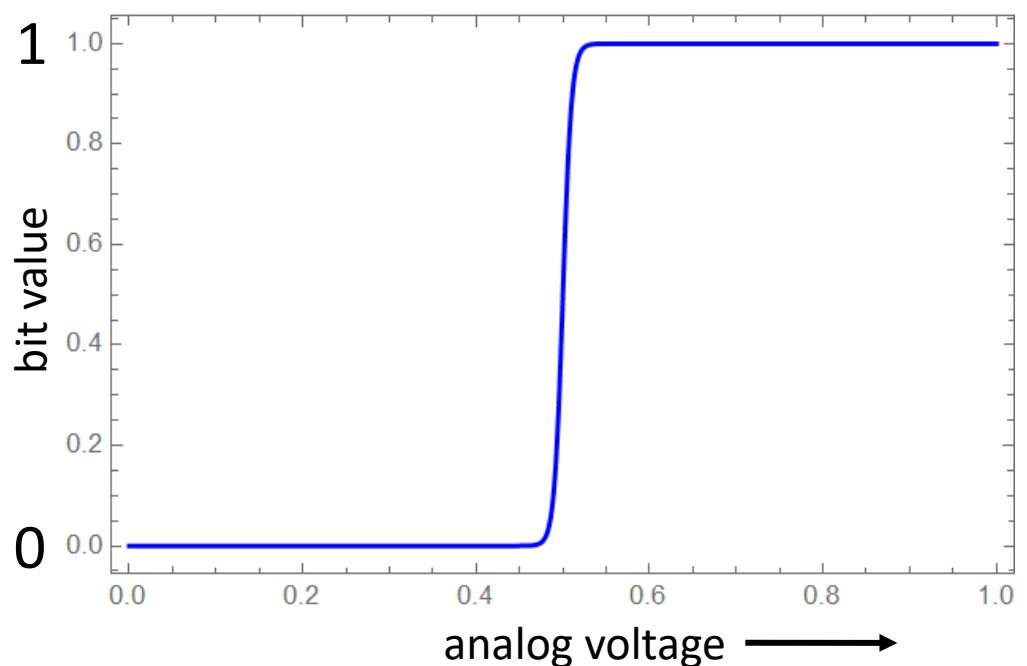
We need quantum error correction!

# QUANTUM COMPUTERS ARE ANALOG MACHINES



Courtesy: Xavier Waintal

DIGITAL  $\neq$  ANALOG



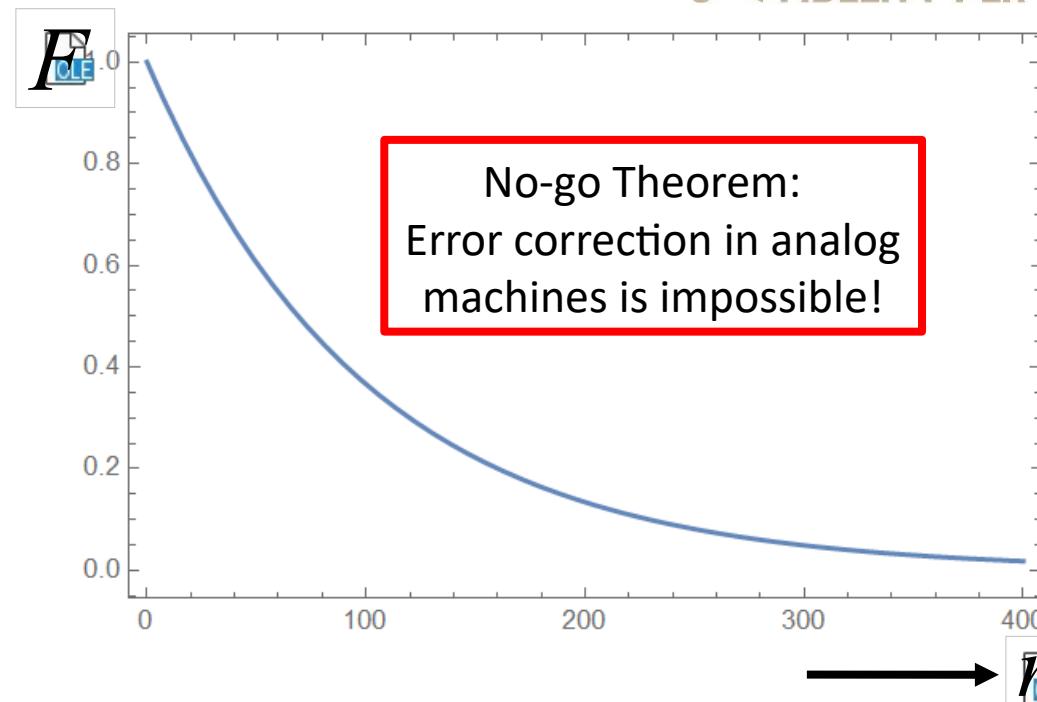
Engineer Karen Leadlay  
General Dynamics, 1964

# THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF ANALOG MACHINES

$$F = f^n$$

NUMBER OF GATES  
FIDELITY  
 $0 < \text{FIDELITY PER GATE} < 1$

Courtesy: Xavier Waintal



# The Quantum Error Correction Problem

I am going to give you an unknown quantum state.

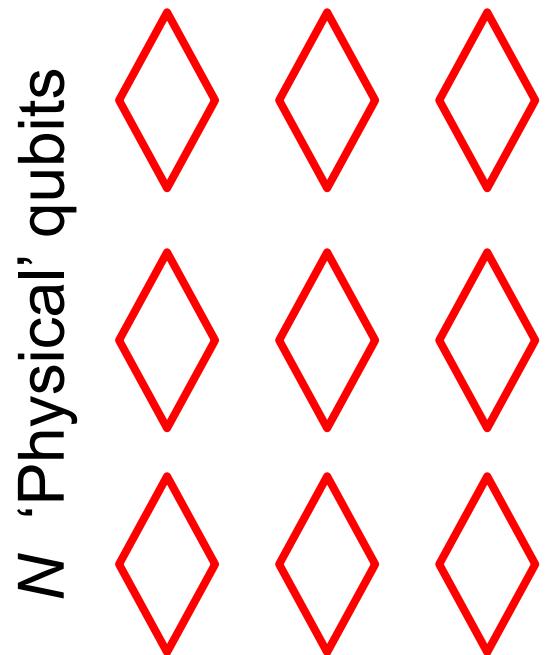
If you measure it, it will change randomly due to state collapse ('back action').

**If it develops an error, please fix it.**

***Mirabile dictu: It can be done!***

Quantum Error Correction for an unknown state requires storing the quantum information *non-locally* in (non-classical) *correlations* over multiple physical qubits.

'Logical' qubit



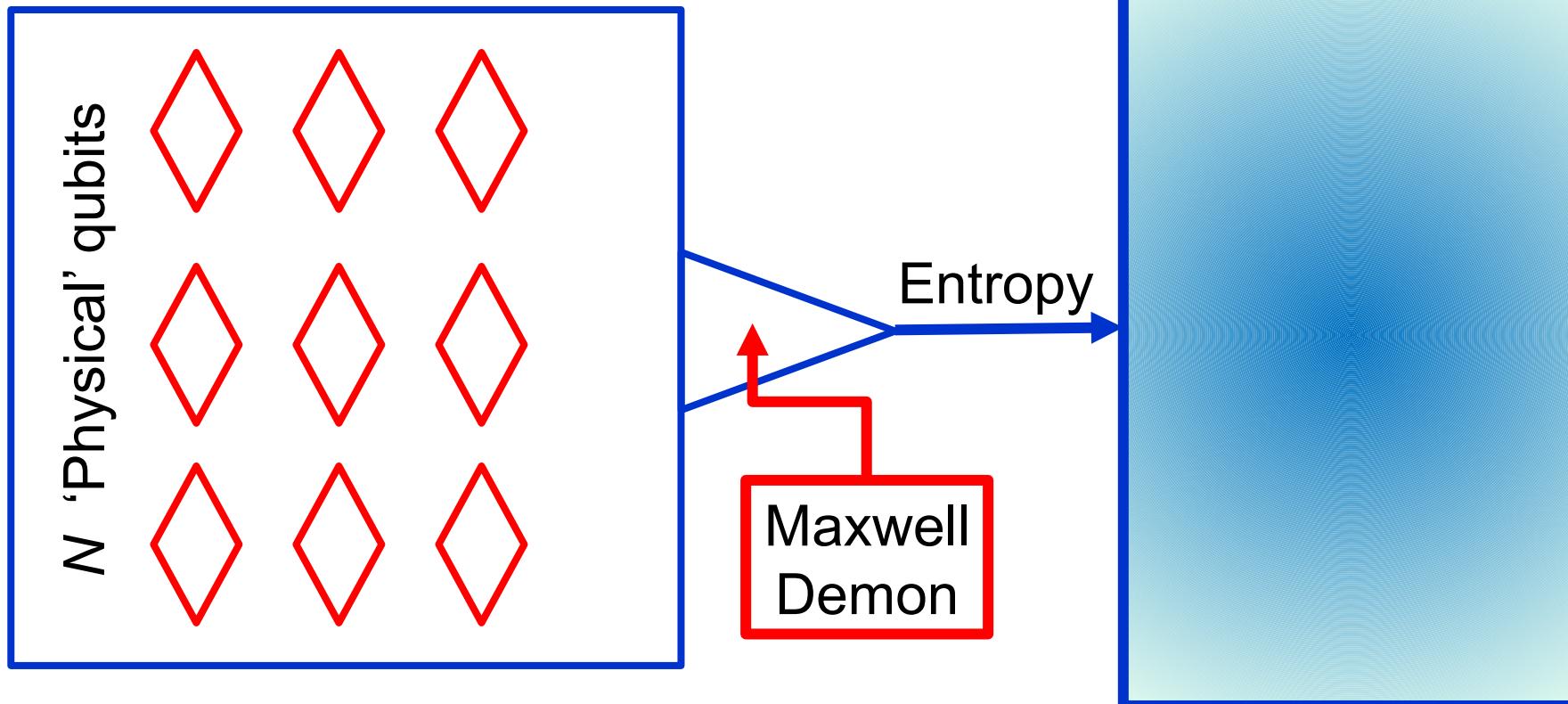
Non-locality: No single physical qubit can “know” the state of the logical qubit.

Special multi-qubit measurements can tell you about errors without telling you the logical state in which the error occurred!

Miracle: Quantum errors are analog (i.e. continuous). Measured errors are discrete (i.e. digital). State collapse is our friend!

# Quantum Error Correction

'Logical' qubit



$N$  qubits have errors  $N$  times faster. Maxwell demon must overcome this factor of  $N$  – and *not introduce errors of its own!* (or at least not uncorrectable errors)

## Stabilizer Codes

$N$  qubits have  $2^N$  states. Define a 2D logical code subspace:  $C = \text{span} \left\{ |0_L\rangle, |1_L\rangle \right\}$  and logical operators

$$X_L = |0_L\rangle\langle 1_L| + |1_L\rangle\langle 0_L|, \quad Z_L = |0_L\rangle\langle 0_L| - |1_L\rangle\langle 1_L|, \quad Y_L = +iX_LZ_L$$

using  $N-1$  stabilizers  $\{S_j; j = 1, \dots, N-1\}$  and imposing  $N-1$  constraints

$$S_j |\psi_{\text{code}}\rangle = (+1) |\psi_{\text{code}}\rangle, \forall j.$$



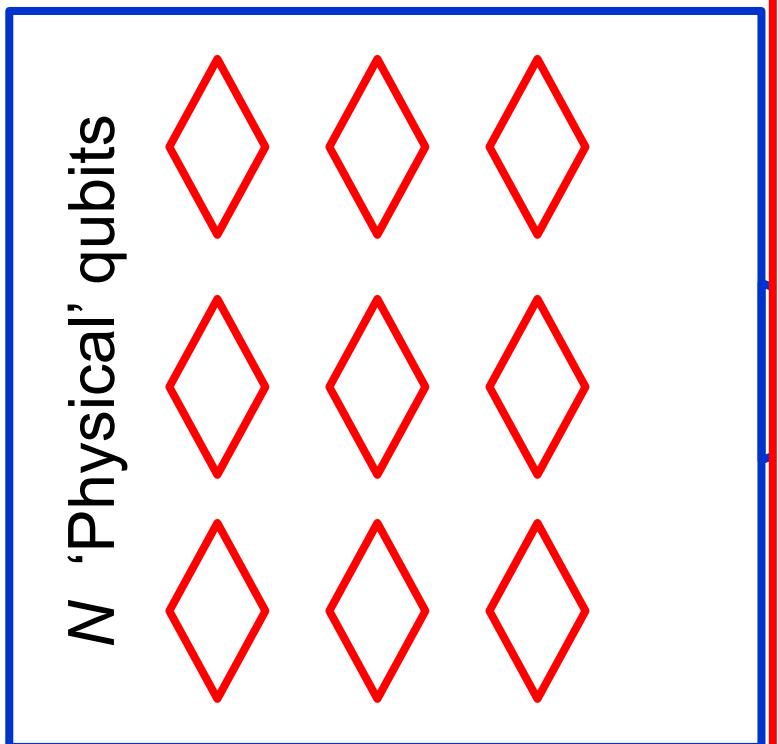
Stabilizers are **mutually commuting** and **commute with logical operators**.

[So can be measured simultaneously and without affecting logical state.]

Stabilizers **anti-commute** with physical errors so measurement of stabilizers give error syndromes that collapse the error state without collapsing the logical state.

# Quantum Error Correction

'Logical' qubit



9 qubit Shor code can correct 1 error: X,Y, or Z

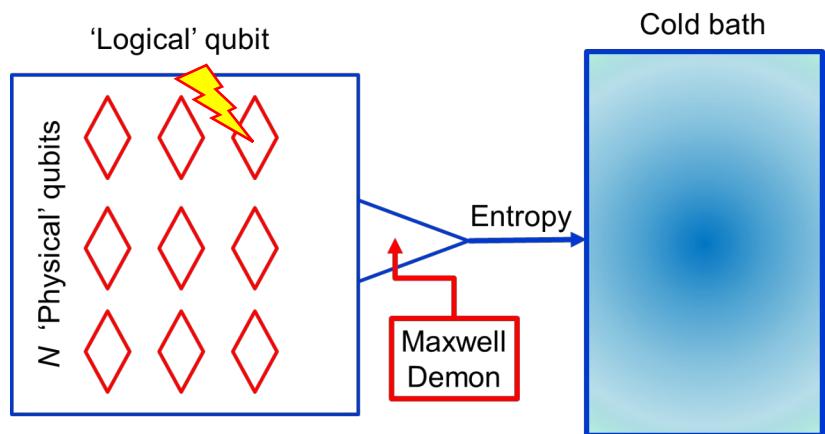
3 types of errors x 9 locations = 27 possible error states + (no-error state)

Code requires 8 stabilizer measurements

- $Z_1Z_2, Z_2Z_3, Z_4Z_5, Z_5Z_6, Z_7Z_8, Z_8Z_9$   
→ Detect bit flip errors
- $X_1X_2X_3X_4X_5X_6, X_4X_5X_6X_7X_8X_9$   
→ Detect phase flip errors

Very difficult multi-qubit measurements!

[N.B. cannot measure  $Z_1, Z_2$  separately and multiply results! Need *joint* measurements.]



Idea:  
Don't use material objects as qubits.  
  
Use microwave photon states stored in  
high-Q superconducting resonators.

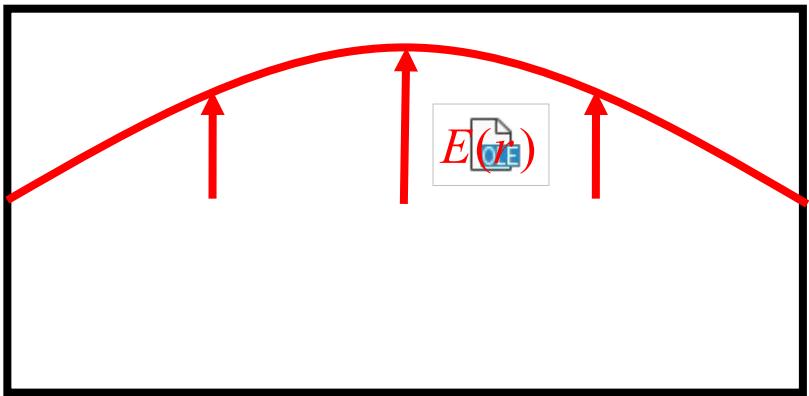
Cat code (first to exceed break-even):  
Ofek, et al., *Nature* **536**, 441–445 (2016)

Binomial Code:  
Michael et al., *Phys. Rev. X* **6**, 031006 (2016)  
Hu et al., *Nature Physics* **15**, 503 (2019)

Autonomous Code (T4C truncated cat):  
Gertler et al., *Nature* **590**, 243 (2021)

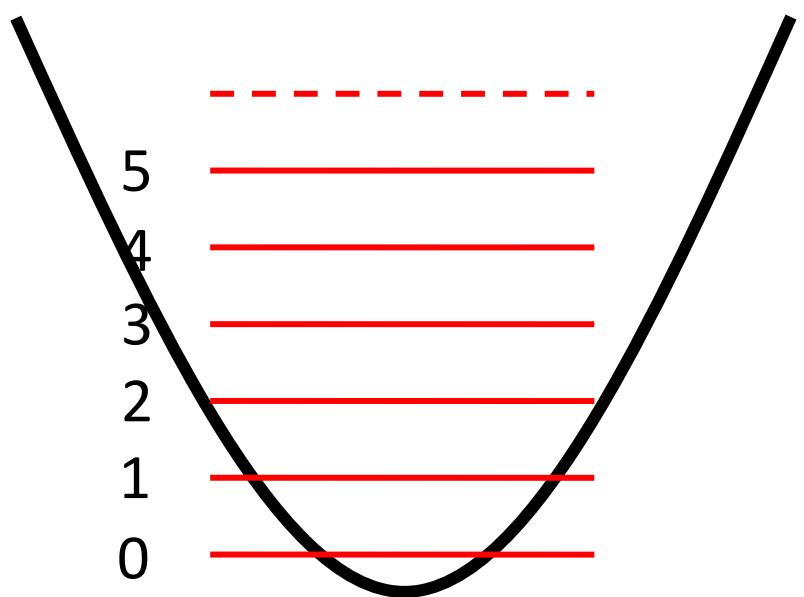
GKP Codes:  
Campagne-Ibarcq et al. *Nature* **584**, 368 (2020)  
  
de Neeve et al., *Nature Physics* **18**, 296 (2022)  
Royer et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **125**, 260509 (2020)  
*PRX Quantum* **3**, 010335 (2022)

Bosonic code reviews:  
W. Cai et al., [arXiv:2010.08699](https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.08699)  
A. Joshi et al., [arXiv:2008.13471](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.13471)



Single-mode microwave resonators  
(harmonic oscillators) are empty boxes  
(vacuum surrounded by superconducting walls)

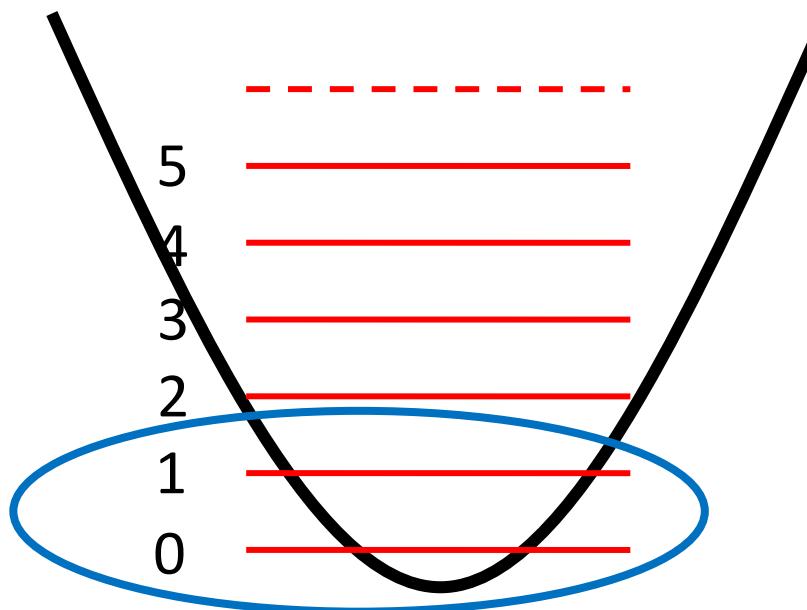
$$H = \hbar\omega a_{\text{QO}}^\dagger a = \hbar\omega \hat{n}$$



“Hardware Efficiency”

Oscillators have many quantum levels so can  
replace multiple physical qubits without adding  
more ‘moving parts.’

## Bosonic Quantum Error Correction Codes



Simplest code:  $|0_L\rangle = |0\rangle \text{[OLE]} |1_L\rangle = |1\rangle$

Harmonic oscillator has an infinite number of states. A qubit has only two states.

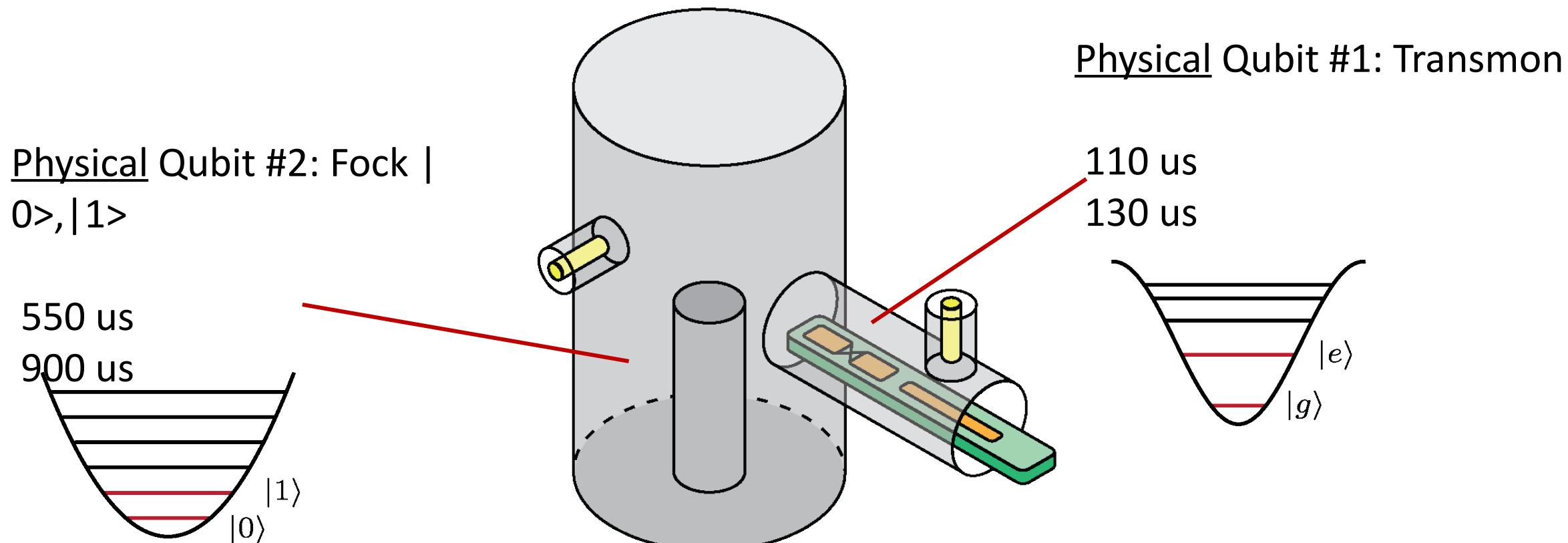
We need to pick out two orthogonal states to act as ‘logical code words’ to hold one qubit’s worth of (protected) information.

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\kappa E \Rightarrow \text{[OLE]} \frac{d\langle \hat{n} \rangle}{dt} = -\kappa \langle \hat{n} \rangle$$

Has smallest possible number of photons and therefore longest lifetime.  
But not error correctable after photon loss:  $\alpha|0\rangle + \beta \text{[OLE]} |1\rangle \rightarrow |0\rangle$

# Experimental physics question

Can we leverage active quantum error correction to create  
a “logical qubit” better than all constituent “physical qubits”?



Transferring QI from transmon to cavity strongly increases lifetime but does NOT constitute QEC “Gain.” No QEC yet.

courtesy V. Sivak

# Definition of “better”

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Average channel fidelity  
M. Nielsen, Phys. Lett. A (2002)

$$\overline{\mathcal{F}}[\mathcal{E}] = \int d\psi \langle \psi | \mathcal{E}(|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|) |\psi\rangle$$

Short time expansion

$$\overline{\mathcal{F}}(\delta t) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{\mathcal{E}} \delta t$$

Amplitude damping + dephasing

$$\gamma_{\mathcal{E}} = \frac{\gamma_1 + 2\gamma_2}{3}$$

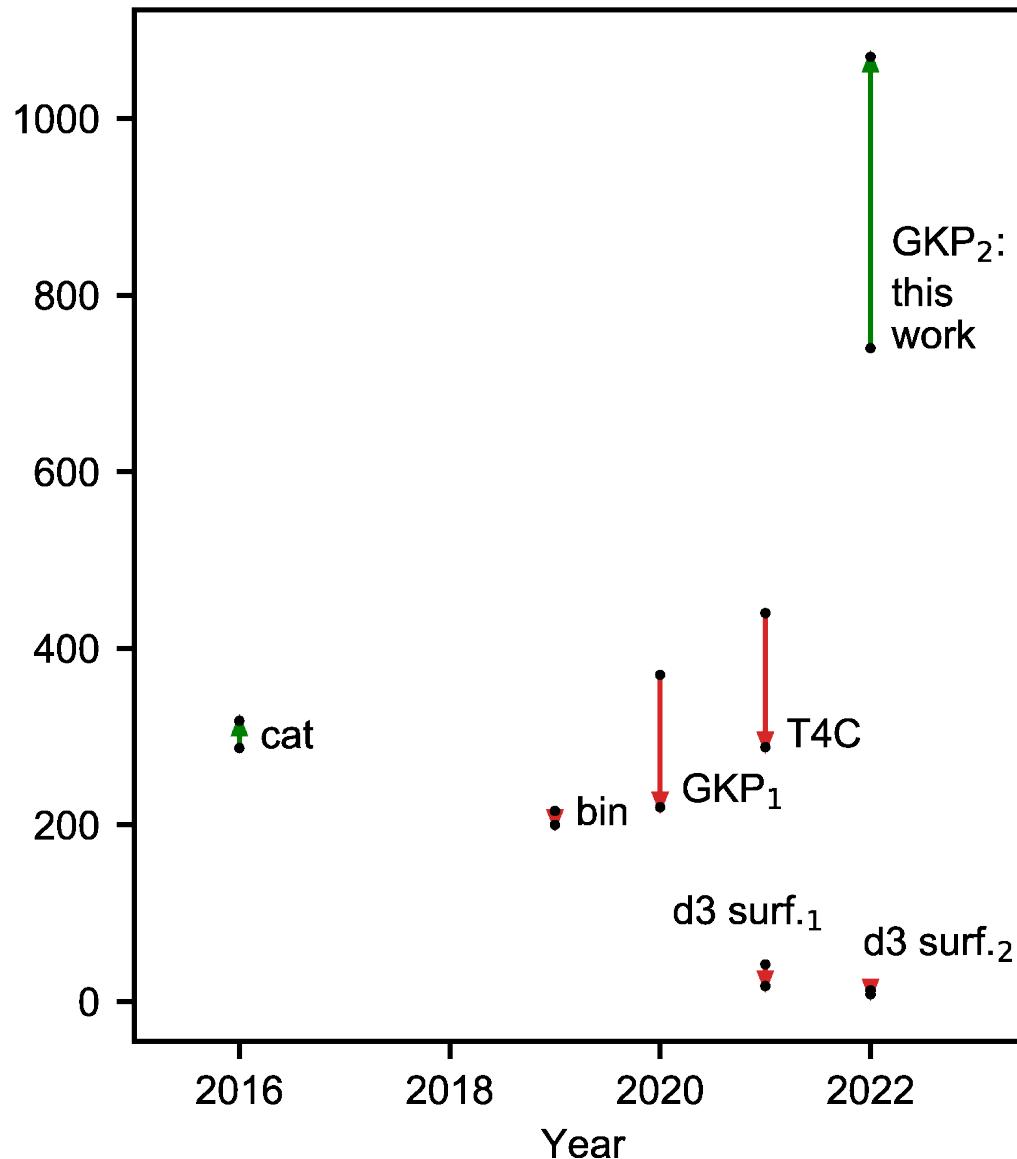
Pauli channel

$$\gamma_{\mathcal{E}} = \frac{\gamma_X + \gamma_Y + \gamma_Z}{3}$$

QEC gain  $G = \frac{\min_i [\gamma_{\mathcal{E}}^{(i)}]}{\gamma_L}$

“Break-even”  $G = 1$

# Where do we stand? Qubit codes vs. Bosonic codes



	$G$	$1/\gamma_L$	$1/\min_i[\gamma_{\mathcal{E}}^{(i)}]$
4-legged cat code N. Ofek <i>et al.</i> , (Nature, 2016)	1.11	318 $\mu$ s	287 $\mu$ s
Binomial code L. Hu <i>et al.</i> , (Nature Physics, 2019)	0.93	200 $\mu$ s	216 $\mu$ s
GKP code (1) P. Campagne-Ibarcq <i>et al.</i> , (Nature, 2020)	0.59	220 $\mu$ s	$\geq 370 \mu$ s
T4C code J. Gertler <i>et al.</i> , (Nature, 2021)	0.65	288 $\mu$ s	440 $\mu$ s
D3 surface code (1) S. Krinner <i>et al.</i> , (Nature Physics, 2021)	17.5 $\mu$ s	42.2 $\mu$ s	
D3 surface code (2) Y. Zhao <i>et al.</i> , (arXiv, 2022)	8.1 $\mu$ s	12.4 $\mu$ s	
GKP code (2) This work	1.45	1070 $\mu$ s	740 $\mu$ s

courtesy V. Sivak

Table with more QEC exps.: see SM of Google Quantum AI (Nature, 2021)

# Where do we stand?

## Process fidelity

M. Nielsen, Phys. Lett. A (2002)

$$\overline{\mathcal{F}}[\mathcal{E}] = \int d\psi \langle \psi | \mathcal{E}(|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|) |\psi \rangle$$

## Short time expansion

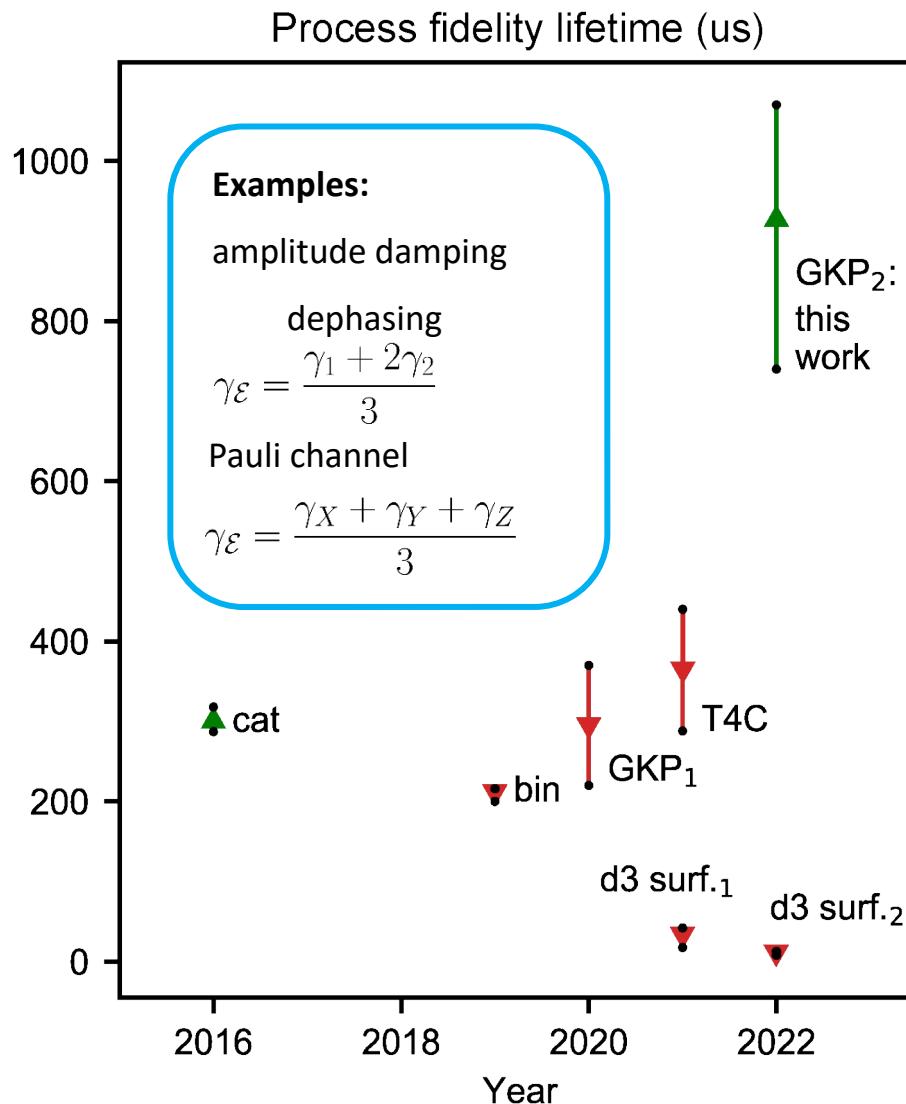
$$\overline{\mathcal{F}}(\delta t) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{\mathcal{E}} \delta t$$

Best physical qubit

$$\text{QEC gain } G = \frac{\gamma_P}{\gamma_L}$$

Logical qubit

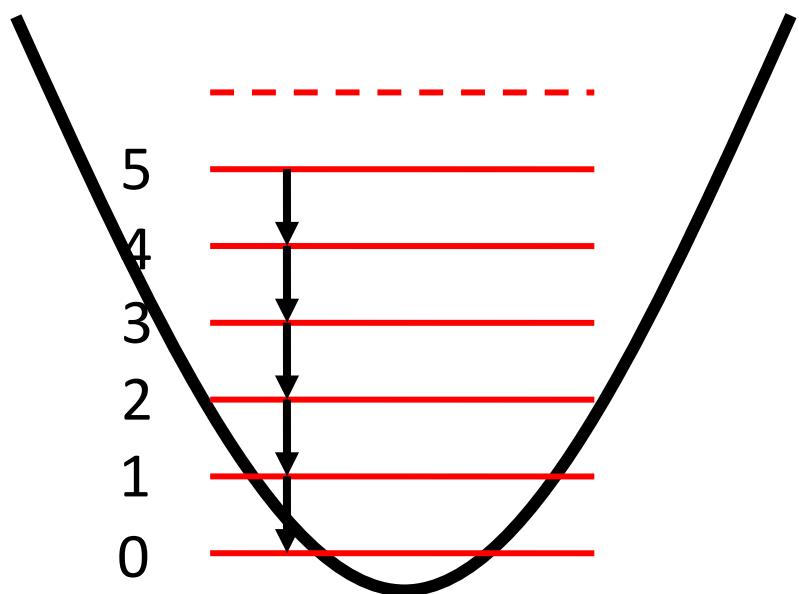
“Break-even”     $G = 1$



## QEC experiment

	$G$
4-legged cat code N. Ofek <i>et al.</i> , (Nature, 2016)	1.11
Binomial code L. Hu <i>et al.</i> , (Nature Physics, 2019)	0.93
GKP code (1) P. Campagne-Ibarcq <i>et al.</i> , (Nature, 2020)	0.59
T4C code J. Gertler <i>et al.</i> , (Nature, 2021)	0.65
D3 surface code (1) S. Krinner <i>et al.</i> , (arXiv:2112.03708, 2021)	0.41
D3 surface code (2) Y. Zhao <i>et al.</i> , (arXiv:2112.13505, 2022)	0.65
GKP code (2) This work	1.45

Table with more QEC experiments, see  
SM of Google Quantum AI (Nature, 2021)



Measurement of parity does not tell us the photon number so stabilizer commutes with logical operators.

Example code:

$$|0_L\rangle = \frac{|0\rangle + |4\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$|1_L\rangle = |2\rangle$$

Photon loss error flips the parity:

Easy to QND measure with high fidelity  
(unlike in ordinary quantum optics)

Single-mode weakly damped oscillators have a very simple error model: photon loss

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0_L\rangle + \beta|1_L\rangle$$

Use ‘code words’ with definite photon number parity (e.g. even)

Only a single mode and only one kind of error—photon loss – NOT  $3N$  errors as for qubits.

Only need one simple code ‘stabilizer,’  
Photon number parity:

$$\hat{P} = (-1)^{\hat{n}}$$

$$\hat{P}a\hat{P} = -a$$

Parity stabilizer measurements  
99.8% QND. L. Sun et al.,  
*Nature* 511, 444 (2014)

Simplest bosonic code example: ‘binomial code’ uses only 5 photon states 0-4 ( $\ln_2 5$  bits)  
*Phys. Rev. X* 6, 031006 (2016) to correct errors to first order in  $\hat{O} = \boxed{\mathcal{K}} \delta t$ .

Logical code words  
 (even parity)

$$|0_L\rangle = \frac{|0\rangle + |4\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$|1_L\rangle = |2\rangle$$

error words  
 (odd parity)

$$a|0_L\rangle = \sqrt{2}|3\rangle$$

$$a|1_L\rangle = \sqrt{2}|1\rangle$$

Error model Kraus ops.

$$\hat{K}_0 = \sqrt{\hat{I} - \kappa dt} \hat{n}$$

$$\hat{K}_1 = \sqrt{\kappa dt} a$$



number of photons

“no-jump”

“jump”

Universal control permits recovery  
 after parity jump:

$$U|3\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|0\rangle + |4\rangle]$$

$$U|1\rangle = |2\rangle$$

No jump evolution:

$$\theta = 2\delta \boxed{OLE} 2\kappa \delta t$$

$$\frac{|0\rangle + |4\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \rightarrow \cos \theta \frac{|0\rangle + |4\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \boxed{OLE} \sin \theta \frac{|0\rangle - |4\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}; \quad |2\rangle \rightarrow |2\rangle$$

Simplest bosonic code example: ‘binomial code’ uses only 5 photon states 0-4 ( $\ln_2 5$  bits)  
*Phys. Rev. X* 6, 031006 (2016) to correct errors to first order in  $\tilde{O} = \frac{K}{\delta t}$ .

## Logical code words

(even parity)

$$|0_L\rangle = \frac{|0\rangle + |4\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$|1_L\rangle = |2\rangle$$

## error words

(odd parity)

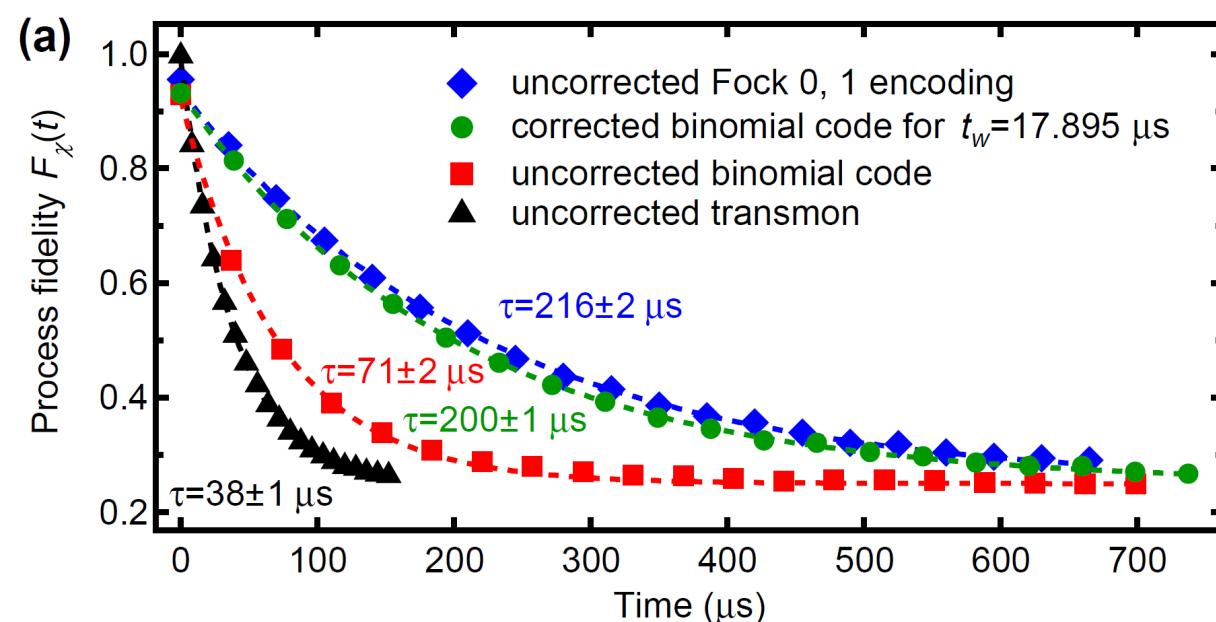
$$a|0_L\rangle = \sqrt{2}|3\rangle$$

$$a|1_L\rangle = \sqrt{2}|1\rangle$$

Break-even for bosonic codes is defined as  
 beating the best uncorrectable bosonic  
 code (0,1) photon Fock encoding:

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$$

Reaches 92% of break even  
 Luyan Sun group (Tsinghua)  
*Nature Phys.* **15**, 503 (2019)



Simplest bosonic code example: ‘binomial code’ uses only 5 photon states 0-4 ( $\ln_2 5$  bits)  
*Phys. Rev. X* 6, 031006 (2016) to correct errors to first order in  $\tilde{O} = \boxed{K \delta t}$ .

## Logical code words

(even parity)

$$|0_L\rangle = \frac{|0\rangle + |4\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$|1_L\rangle = |2\rangle$$

$$\langle a^\dagger a \rangle_{OLE} = 2$$

Loss is 4x larger!

## error words

(odd parity)

$$a|0_L\rangle = \sqrt{2}|3\rangle$$

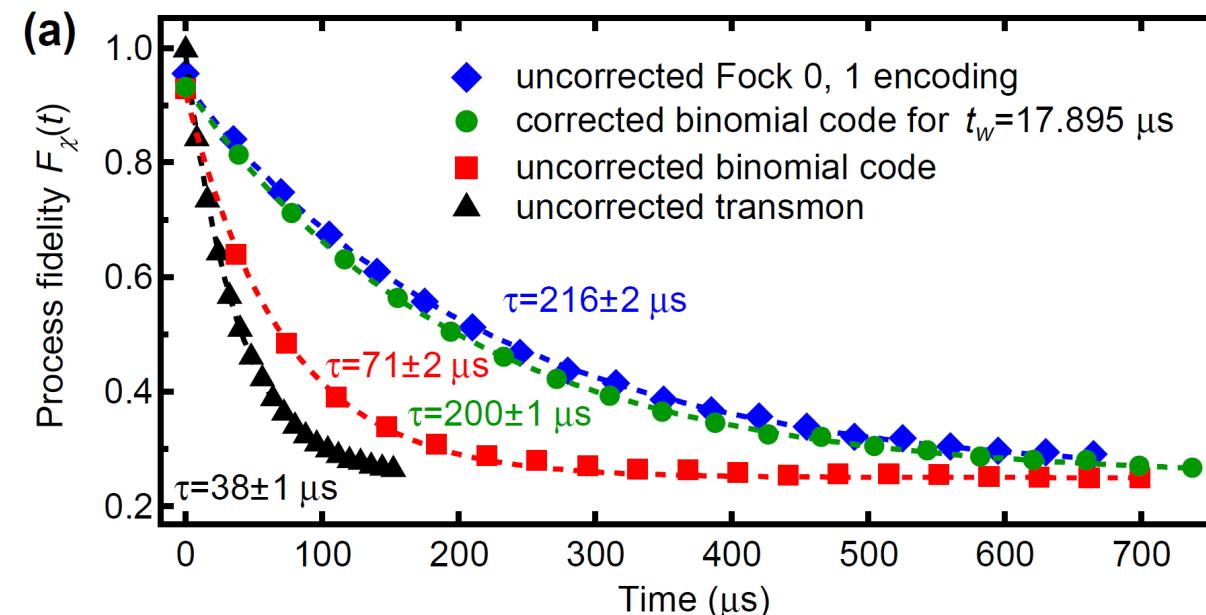
$$a|1_L\rangle = \sqrt{2}|1\rangle$$

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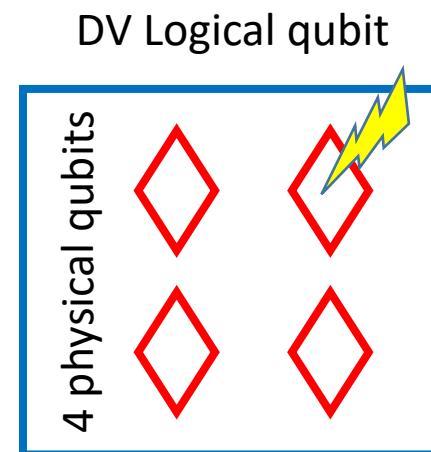
$$\langle a^\dagger a \rangle_{OLE} = 1/2$$

Reaches 92% of break even  
 Luyan Sun group (Tsinghua)  
*Nature Phys.* **15**, 503 (2019)

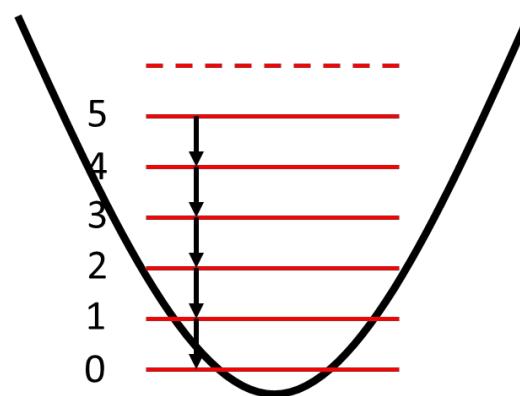


Head-to-head comparison of simplest codes that correct amplitude damping to first order:

DV: 4-qubit amplitude damping code:  
(first to recognize approx. QEC: Knill-Laflamme does not have to be fulfilled exactly)  
Debbie Leung et al., *Phys. Rev. A* **56**, 2567 (1997).



CV: Binomial bosonic code:  
M. Michael et al., *Phys. Rev. X* **6**, 031006 (2016)



DV: 4-qubit  
amplitude  
damping code

QND stabilizer  
measurements  
are challenging

$$|0_L\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [ |1100\rangle + |0011\rangle ]$$

$$|1_L\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [ |0000\rangle + |1111\rangle ]$$



$$S_1 = Z_1 Z_2$$

$$S_2 = Z_3 Z_4$$

$$S_3 = X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4$$

CV: binomial  
code

Parity stabilizer  
measurements  
99.8% QND. L. Sun et al.,  
[Nature](#) **511**, 444 (2014)

Error model Kraus ops.

$$\hat{K}_0 = \sqrt{\hat{I} - \gamma dt \hat{n}} \text{ where } \hat{n} = \sum_{j=1}^4 \sigma_j^+ \sigma_j^-$$

number of  
excited qubits

$$\hat{K}_1 = \sqrt{\gamma dt} \sigma_1^-$$



$$\hat{K}_2 = \sqrt{\gamma dt} \sigma_2^-$$

$$\hat{K}_3 = \sqrt{\gamma dt} \sigma_3^-$$

$$\hat{K}_4 = \sqrt{\gamma dt} \sigma_4^-$$

Error model Kraus ops.

$$\hat{K}_0 = \sqrt{\hat{I} - \kappa dt \hat{n}} \text{ where } \hat{n} = a^\dagger a$$

$$\hat{K}_1 = \sqrt{\kappa dt} a$$



number of  
photons

## Comparison of amplitude damping codes: 4-qubit vs. bosonic (binomial)

	4-qubit Code	Bosonic Kitten Code
Code word $ 1_L\rangle$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}( 0000\rangle +  1111\rangle)$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}( 0\rangle +  4\rangle)$
Code word $ 0_L\rangle$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}( 1100\rangle +  0011\rangle)$	$ 2\rangle$
Mean excitation number $\bar{n}$	2	2
Hilbert space dimension $D$	$2^4 = 16$	$\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} = 5$
$N_{\text{error}}$	$\{\hat{K}_0, \sigma_1^-, \sigma_2^-, \sigma_3^-, \sigma_4^-\} = 5$	$\{\hat{K}_0, a\} = 2$
Stabilizers	$S_1 = Z_1Z_2, S_2 = Z_3Z_4, S_3 = X_1X_2X_3X_4$	$\hat{\Pi} = (-1)^{a^\dagger a}$
Number of Stabilizers $N_{\text{Stab}}$	3	1
Approximate QEC?	Yes, 1st order in $\gamma t$	Yes, 1st order in $\kappa t$

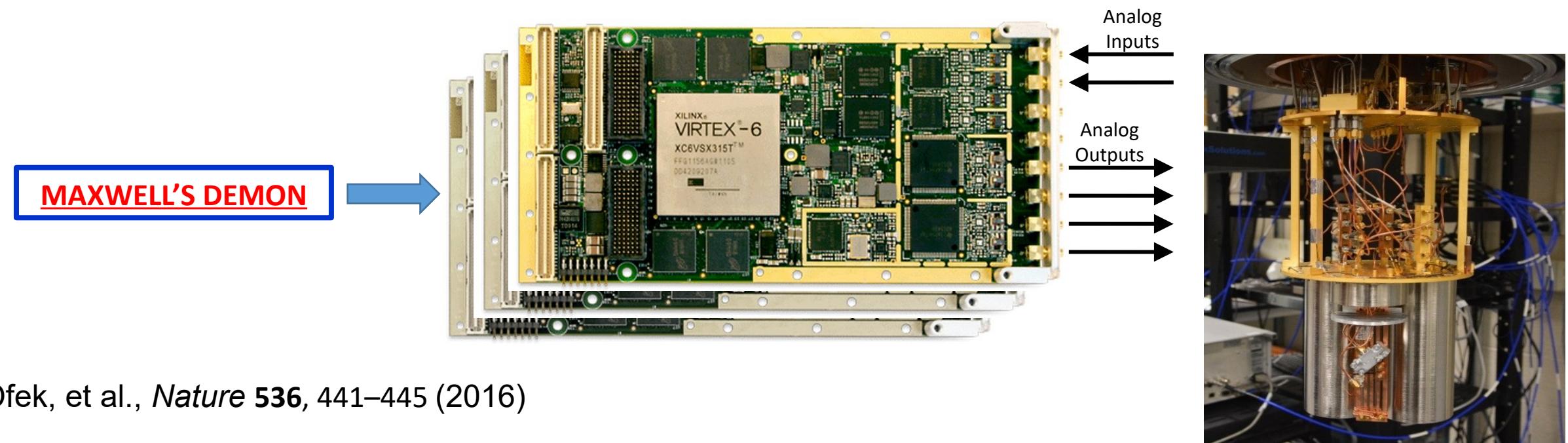
Qubit code has 4 distinct places errors can occur. Oscillator only 1.

Qubit code stabilizer measurements require multiple CNOT operations.

Boson parity is relatively easy and QND.

This is why, to date, only bosonic modes have reached break even!

# 'cat code' parity measurement and rapid feedback error correction engine

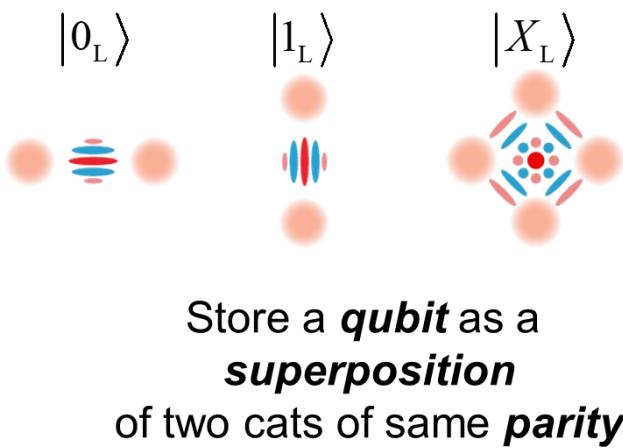


Ofek, et al., *Nature* 536, 441–445 (2016)

'Cat code'

$$|W_0\rangle = |0_L\rangle = \frac{|+\alpha\rangle + |-\alpha\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$
  

$$|W_1\rangle = |1_L\rangle = \frac{|+i\alpha\rangle + |-i\alpha\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$



Photon loss flips parity

Nice feature of this code:  
no-jump evolution need not be corrected on the fly.

First code to (slightly) exceed break even: Schrödinger Cat Code

$$|\Psi\rangle = \psi_0 |0_L\rangle + \psi_1 |1_L\rangle$$

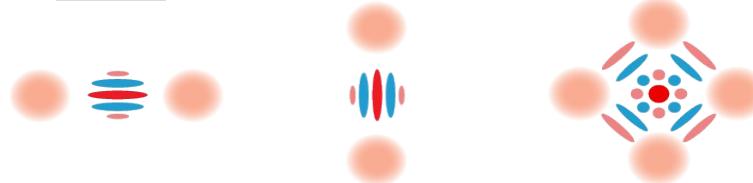
$$|0_L\rangle = |\alpha\rangle + |-\alpha\rangle$$

$$|1_L\rangle = |i\alpha\rangle + |-i\alpha\rangle$$

$$|0_{\text{QE}}\rangle$$

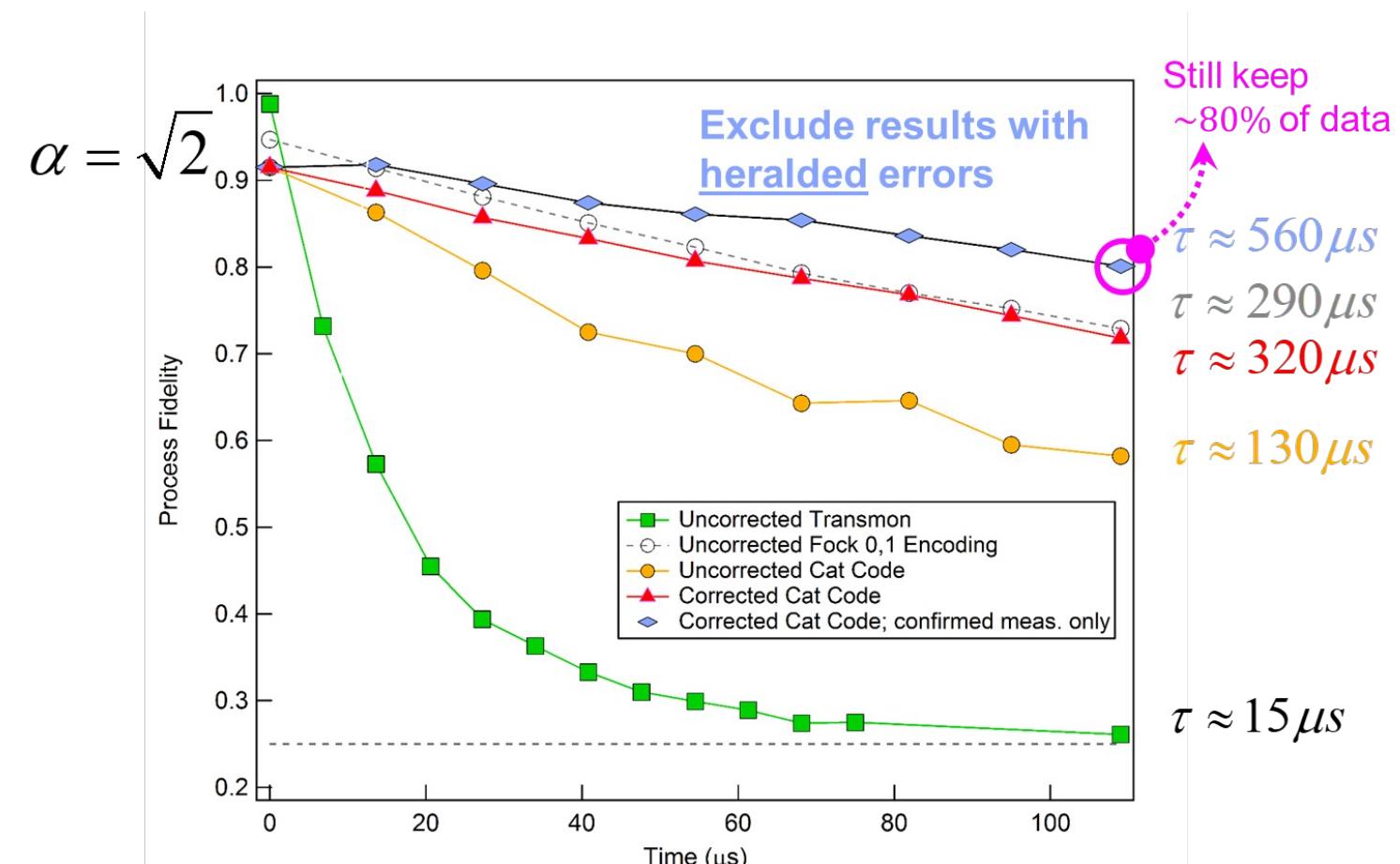
$$|1_{\text{QE}}\rangle$$

$$|X_{\text{QE}}\rangle$$



Store a ***qubit*** as a  
***superposition***

of two cats of same ***parity***



QEC Gain G:

1.1x break even (unheralded)

1.75x break even (heralded)

Theory: Leghtas, Mirrahimi, et al., *PRL* **111**, 120501 (2013)

Experiment: Ofek et al. *Nature* **536**, 441 (2016)

**'GKP code'**: Coherent state lattice in phase space ("cat in 35 places at once")

C. Flühmann et al. (Home group) *Nature* **566**, 513 (2019) (state preparation)

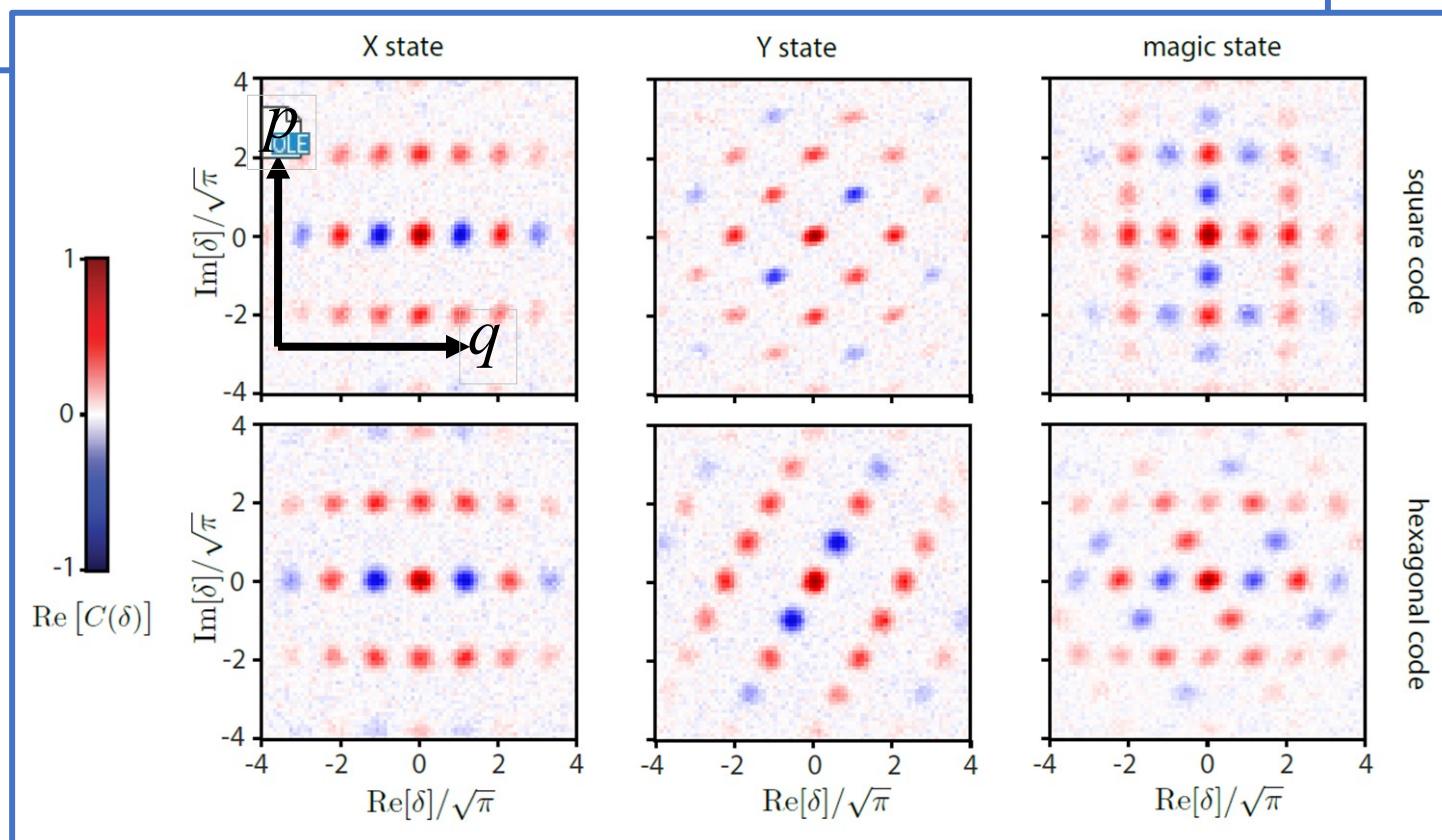
P. Campagne-Ibarcq et al. (Devoret group) *Nature* **584**, 368 (2020) (QEC for X,Y,Z errors near break even)

de Neeve et al. (Home group) de Neeve et al. (J. Home group), *Nature Physics* **18**, 296 (2022)

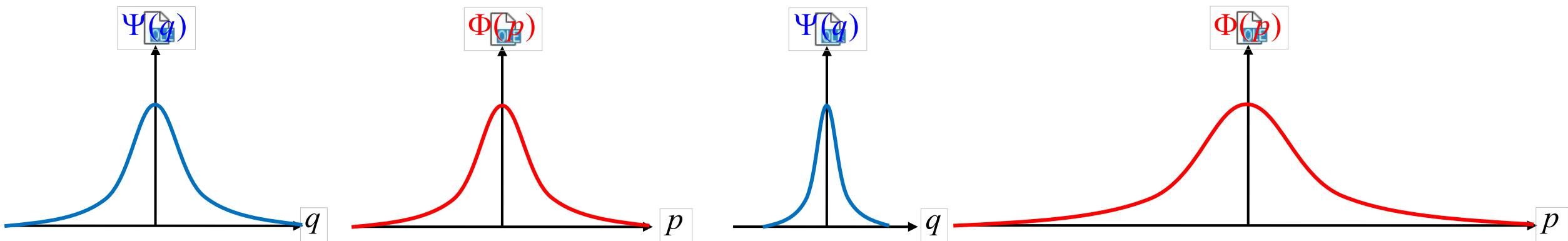
Royer, Singh et al. (Girvin group) *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **125**, 260509 (2020)

Phase space map of oscillator states  
using Characteristic Function = FT of  
Wigner function

Stabilizers, errors, Clifford gates  
are all simple displacements!

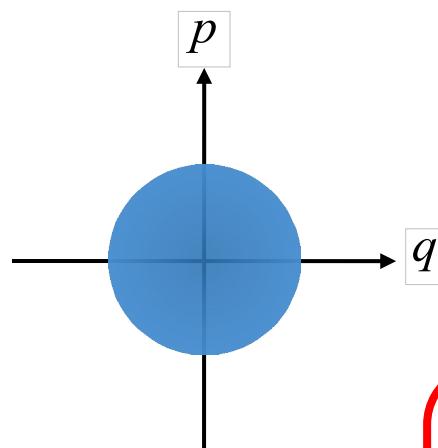


# Understanding phase space....



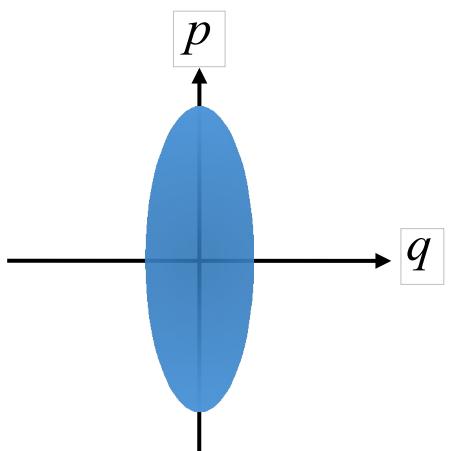
Heisenberg  
Uncertainty

$$[\hat{q}, \hat{p}] = i \Rightarrow \Delta q \Delta p \geq \frac{1}{2}$$



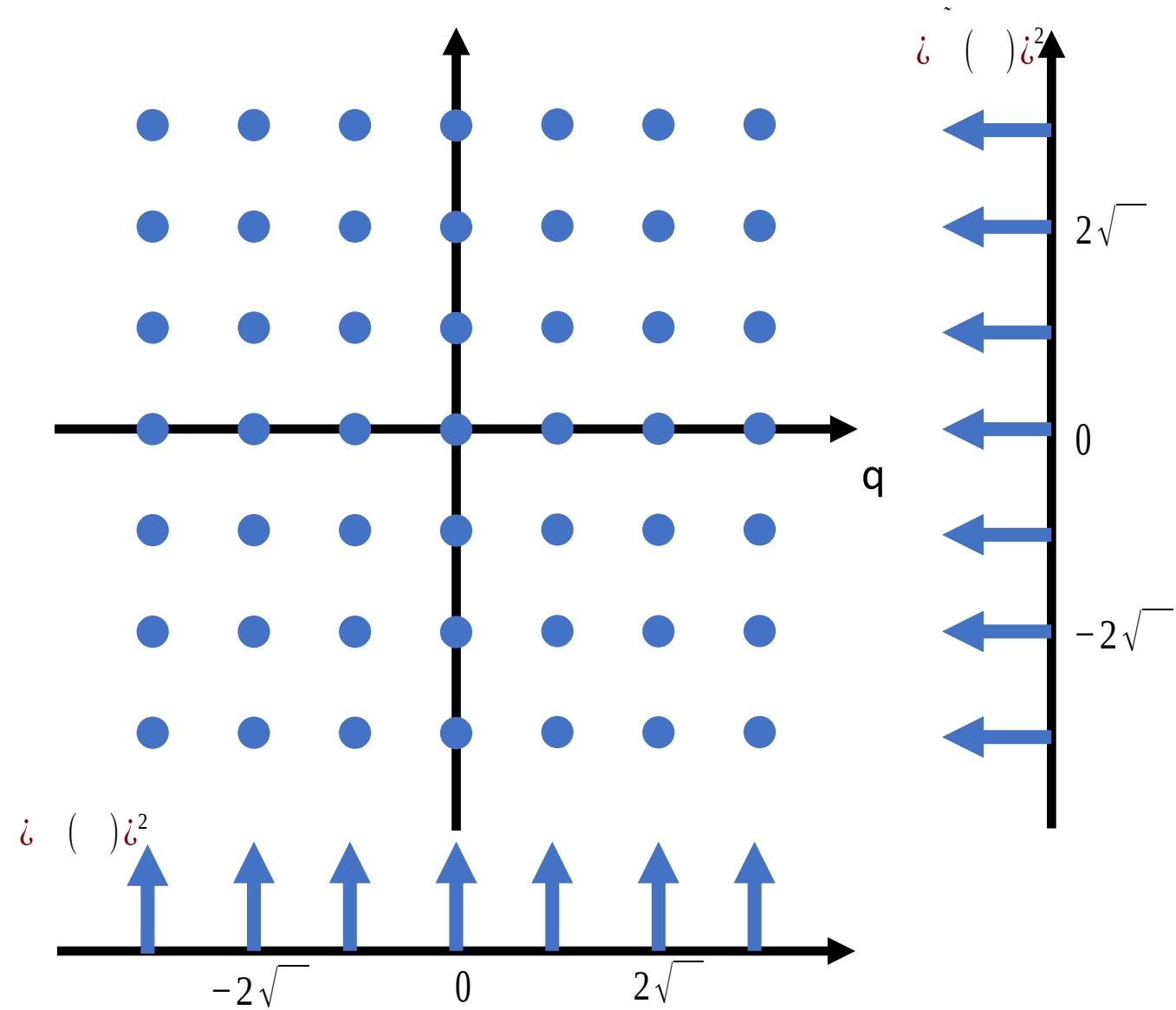
Phase space seems to be  
'incompressible'

One state per area  $h = 2\pi$



Note: squeezing can be  
achieved by simply measuring  
the position of the oscillator  
with uncertainty less than the  
zero-point motion.

But recall that a crystal lattice produces sharp Bragg peaks in x-ray diffraction.



Gottesman, Kitaev and Preskill,  
Phys. Rev. A 64, 012310 (2001)

Proposed encoding a logical  
qubit in oscillator 'grid' states.

How can the points in this phase  
space grid be smaller than the  
minimum uncertainty wave  
packet?

They seem to be squeezed in  
both position AND momentum!?

This is possible for special choices  
of lattice unit cell areas.

$[\hat{q}, \hat{p}] = +i \Rightarrow$  translations in phase space do not commute

$$D(\Delta_q)\Psi(q) = e^{-i\Delta_q \hat{p}}\Psi(q) = \Psi(q - \Delta_q)$$

$$D(i\Delta_p)\Psi(q) = e^{i\Delta_p \hat{q}}\Psi(q)$$

$$D(\Delta_q)D(i\Delta_p) = e^{i\Delta_p \Delta_q} D(i\Delta_p)D(\Delta_q)$$

area

GKP code space is **stabilized** by special translations that do commute

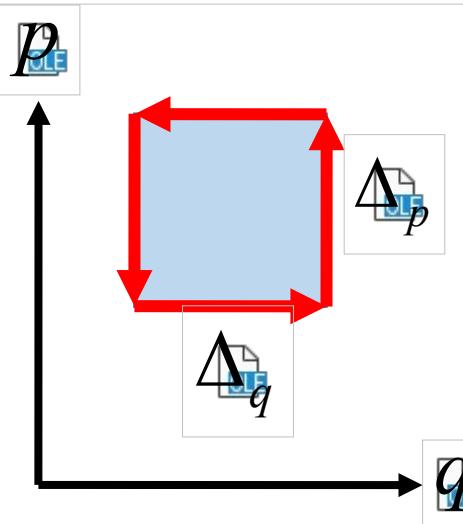
$$S_p = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}}$$

$$S_q = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{p}}$$

$$S_q S_p = e^{i4\pi} S_p S_q$$

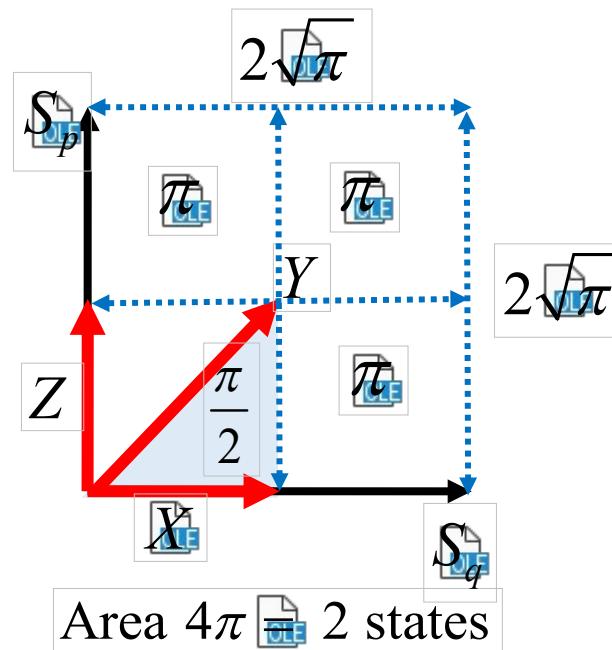
$$S|0_L\rangle = (+1)|0_L\rangle$$

$$S|1_L\rangle = (+1)|1_L\rangle$$



Harmonic Oscillator  
Phase Space

Inside the code space:  
X,Y,Z translations obey  
Pauli group



$$S_p = S_q = 1$$

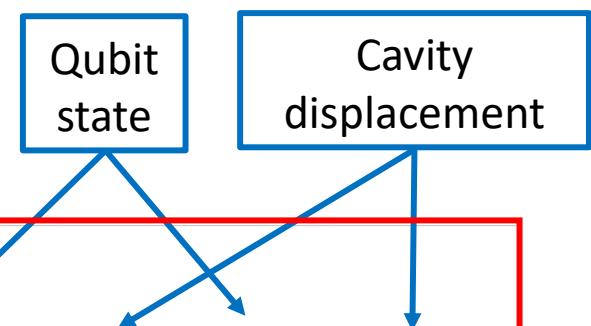
$$X^2 = S_q = 1$$

$$Z^2 = S_p = 1$$

$$ZX = e^{i\pi} XZ = -XZ$$

$$ZX = e^{i\pi/2} Y = iY$$

## Exploring phase space with displacements of the oscillator controlled by the ancilla qubit

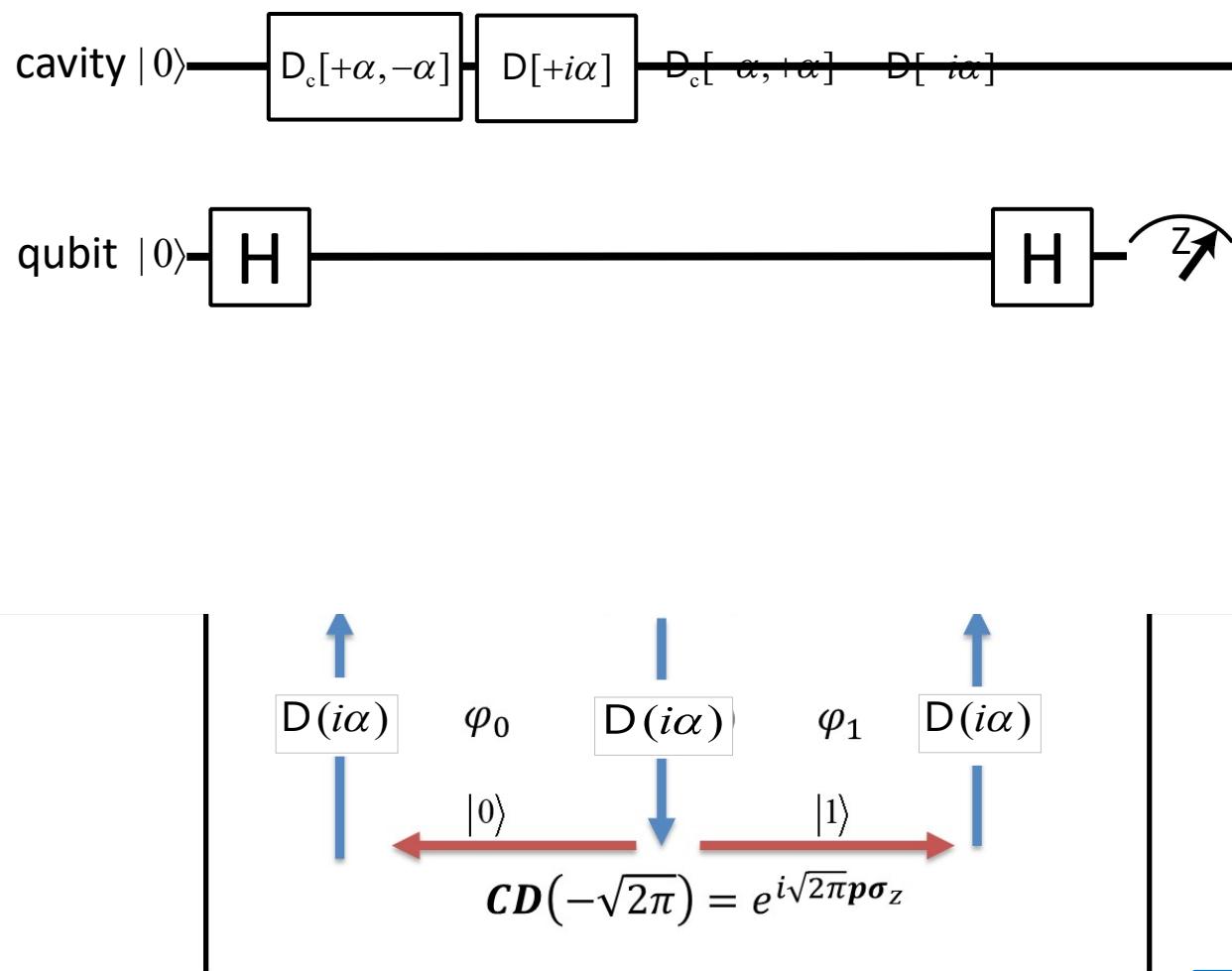


Key ancilla-controlled cavity operation:

Controlled Displacement gate:  $D_c[\alpha] = e^{Z[\alpha a^\dagger - \alpha^* a]} = |0\rangle\langle 0|D[+\alpha] + |1\rangle\langle 1|D[-\alpha]$

$Z = \sigma^z$  for ~~ancilla~~ qubit

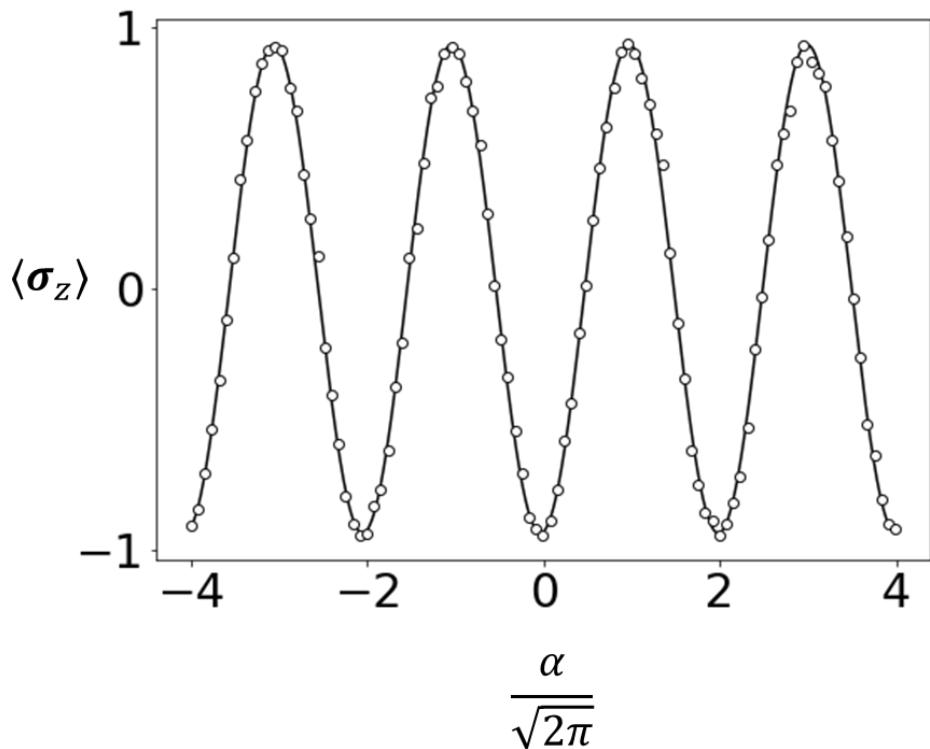
## Experimental Calibration of Controlled Displacements Non-Commutativity (Devoret Group)



geometric phase acquired over 1 cycle:

$$|0\rangle + |1\rangle \rightarrow e^{-i\varphi_0}|0\rangle + e^{i\varphi_1}|1\rangle$$

EXP. DATA: BERRY PHASE OSC.



Campagne-Ibarcq, Eickbusch, Touzard, et al [Nature 584, 368 \(2020\)](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2570-0)

Bosonic QEC with  
(idealized) GKP  
states of an oscillator

Stabilizers define  
code space:

$$S_p |0_L\rangle = S_q |0_L\rangle = (+1)|0_L\rangle$$

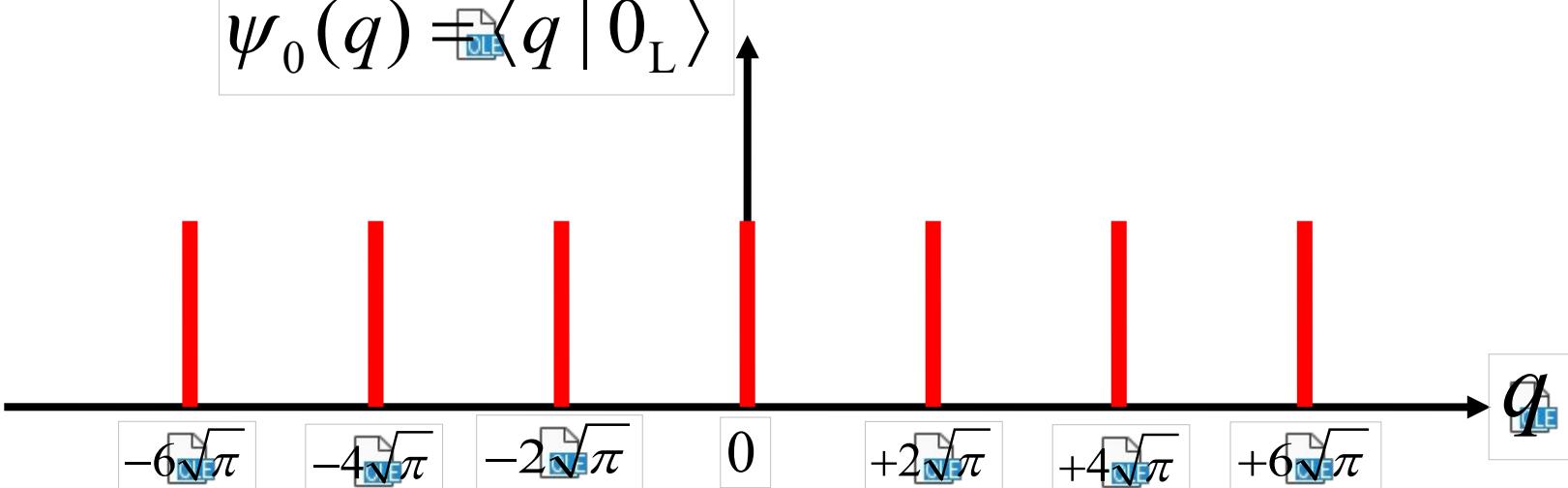
$$S_p |1_L\rangle = S_q |1_L\rangle = (+1)|1_L\rangle$$

$$S_p = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}}$$

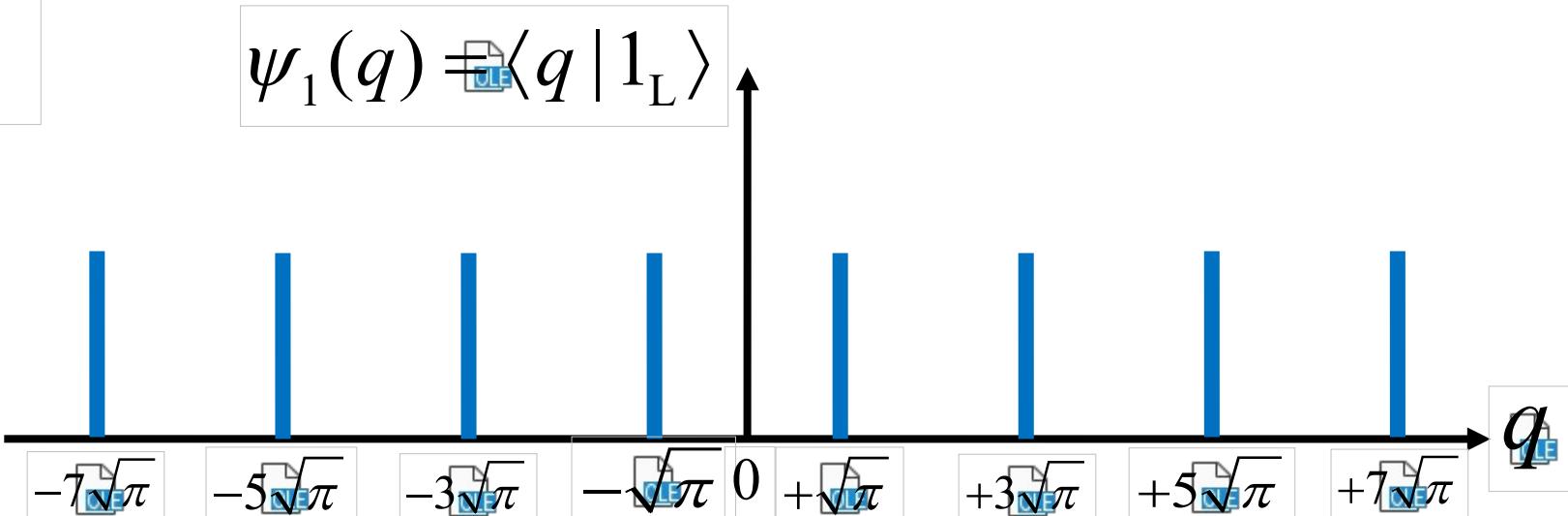
$$S_q = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{p}}$$

### Idealized GKP wave functions

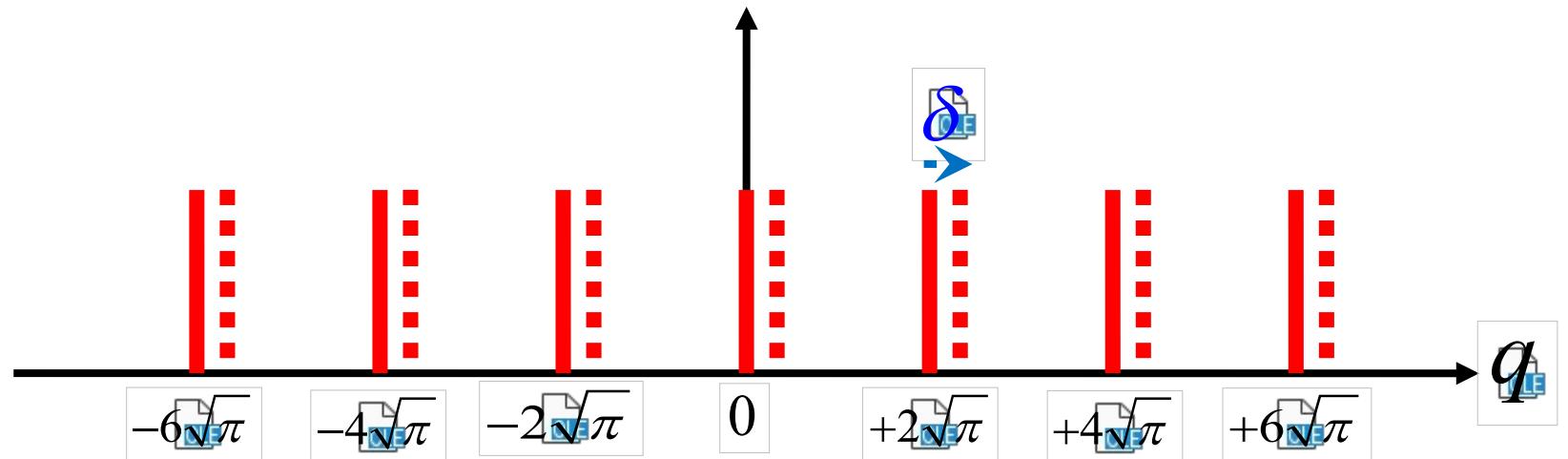
$$\psi_0(q) = \langle q | 0_L \rangle$$



$$\psi_1(q) = \langle q | 1_L \rangle$$



## Bosonic QEC with GKP states of an oscillator



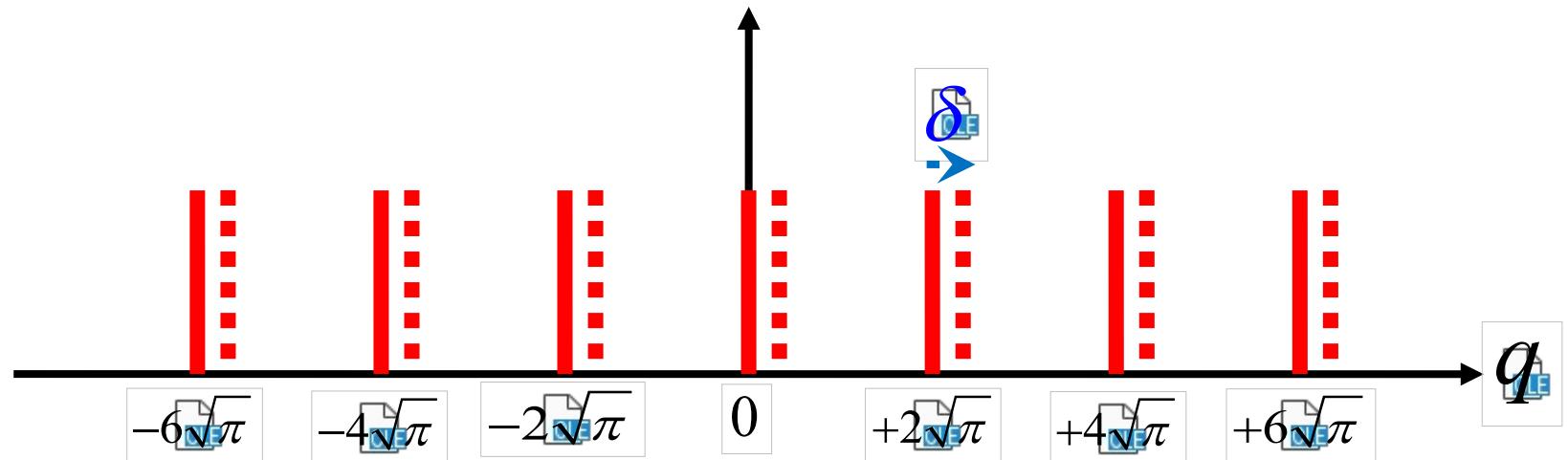
Code space is stabilized by:

$$\begin{aligned} S_p &= e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}} \\ S_q &= e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{p}} \end{aligned}$$

N.B. Unlike ordinary qubit stabilizers, these have a continuum of eigenvalues on the unit circle corresponding to continuous drift of position or momentum.

$$S_p |\Psi_\delta\rangle = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\delta} |\Psi_\delta\rangle$$

Continuous stabilizer eigenvalue on the unit circle in the complex plane.



Code space is stabilized by:

$$S_p = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}}$$

$$S_q = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{p}}$$

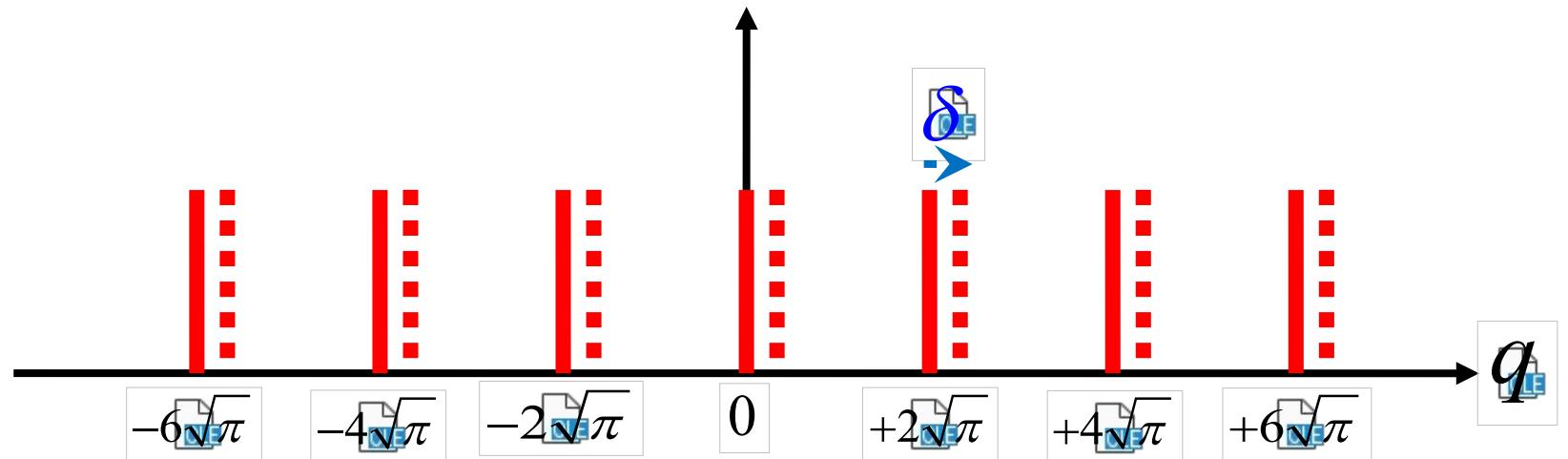
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$$S_p |\Psi_\delta\rangle = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\delta} |\Psi_\delta\rangle$$

Continuous stabilizer eigenvalue on the unit circle in the complex plane.

**ONLY 2 STABILIZERS NEEDED TO  
REDUCE INFINITE STATE SPACE  
DOWN TO 2 LOGICAL STATES!**

Bosonic QEC with GKP  
states of an oscillator



Code space is stabilized by:

$$S_p = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}}$$

$$S_q = e^{i2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{p}}$$

N.B. Unlike ordinary qubit stabilizers, these have a continuum of eigenvalues on the unit circle corresponding to continuous drift of position or momentum.

Stabilization against drift errors in *position q*

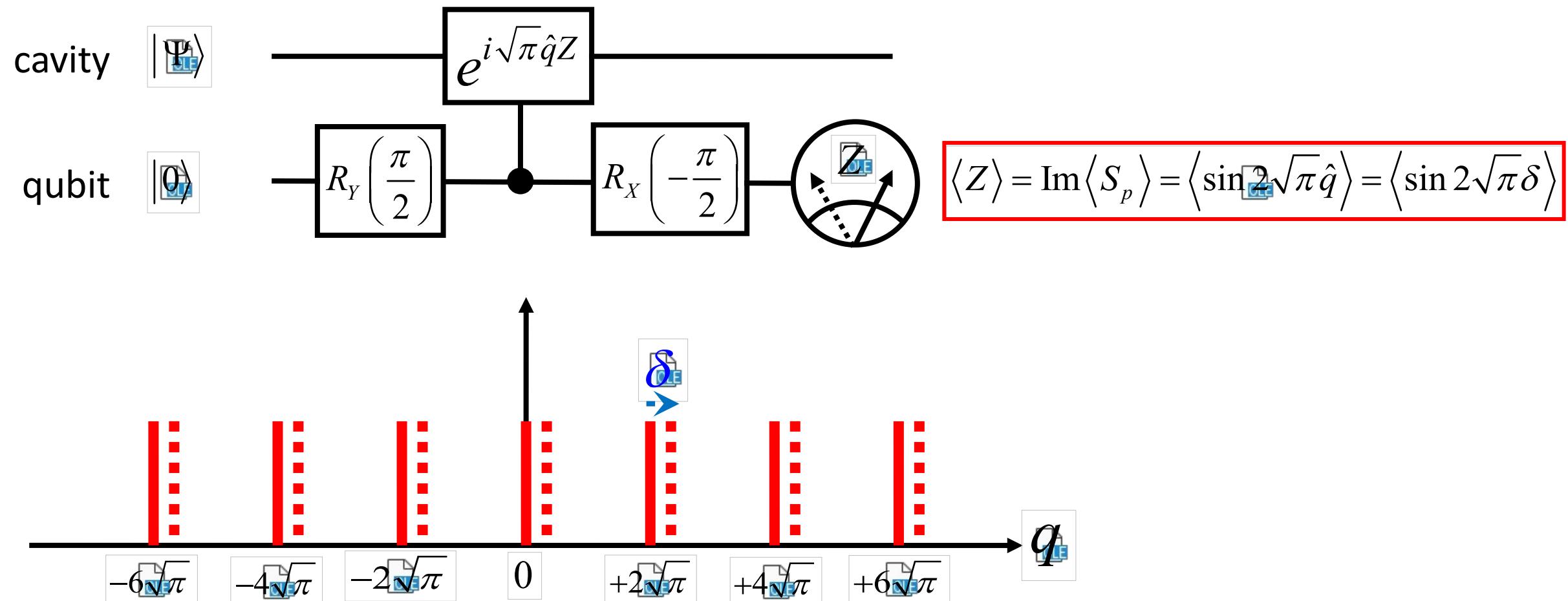
*Measure stabilizer to detect error:*

$$\text{Im} \langle S_p \rangle = \langle \sin[2\sqrt{\pi}\hat{q}] \rangle$$

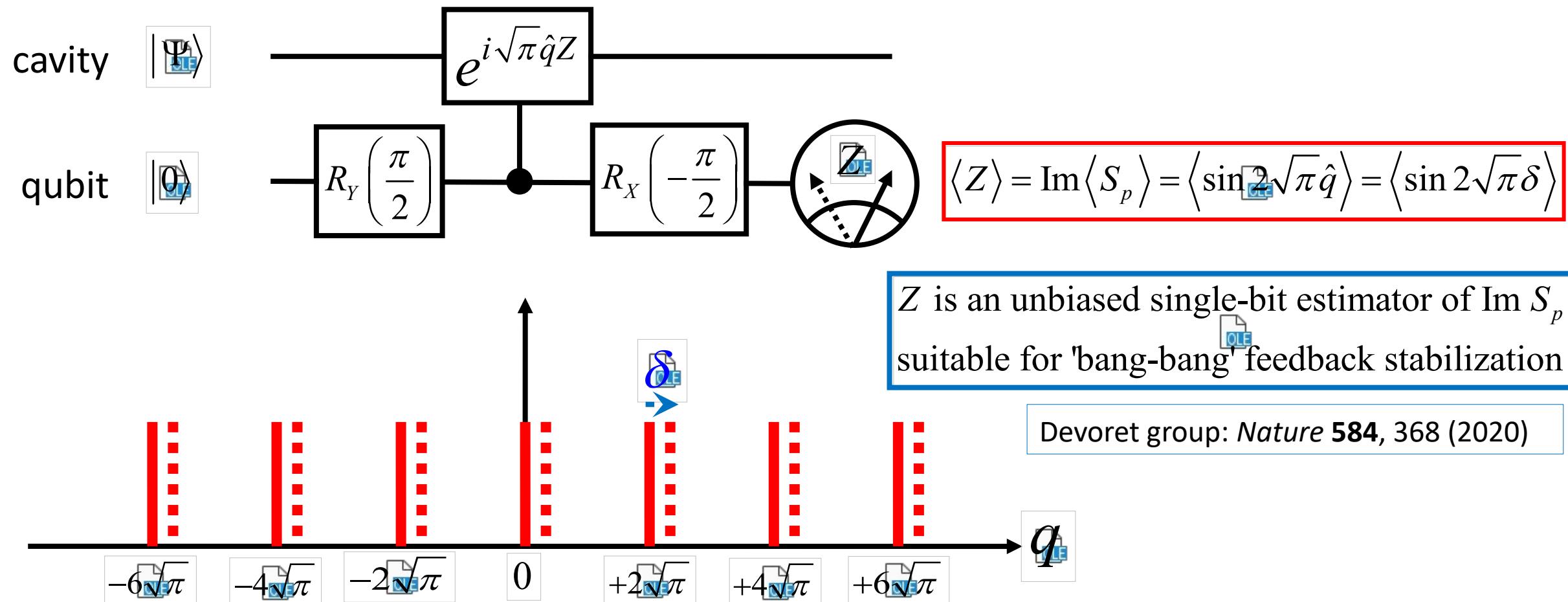
$$= \int dq \sin[2\sqrt{\pi}q] |\psi(q)|^2 = \sin[2\sqrt{\pi}\delta]$$

*and feedback to correct.*

## Measuring stabilizer using phase kickback from conditional displacement operation



## Measuring stabilizer using phase kickback from conditional displacement operation



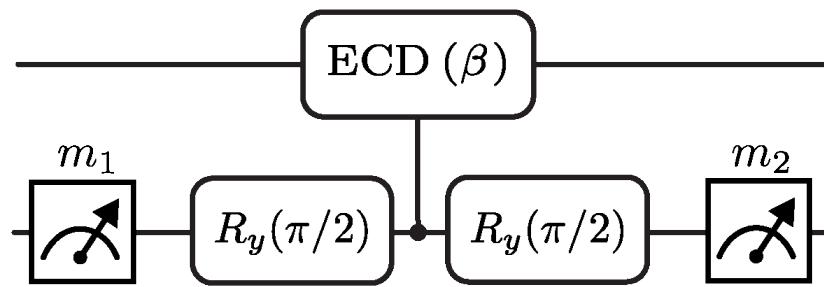
# Quantum state tomography

---

Characteristic function:  $C(k) = \text{Tr}[\rho W_k], \quad W_k \in \{I, X, Y, Z\}^{\otimes n}$

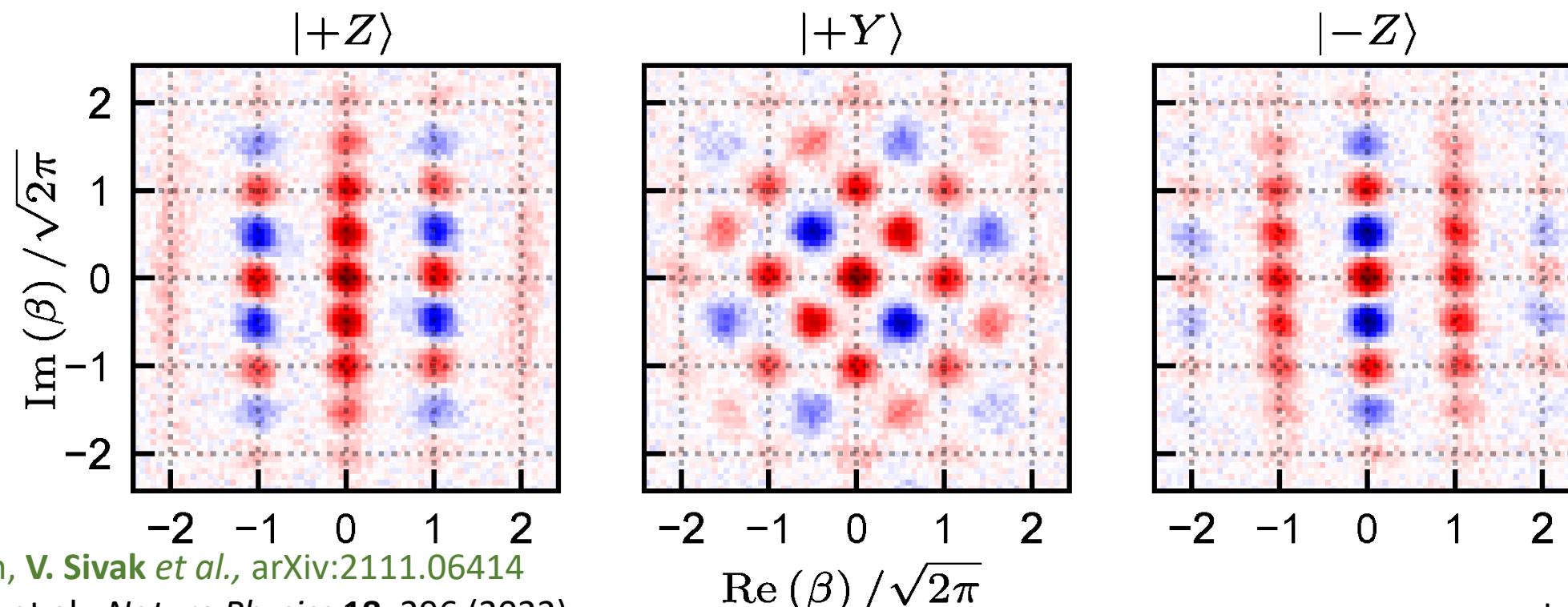
# Quantum state tomography

Characteristic function:  $C(\beta) = \text{Tr}[\rho D(\beta)]$ ,  $D(\beta) = \exp(\beta a^\dagger - \beta^* a)$



Fidelity

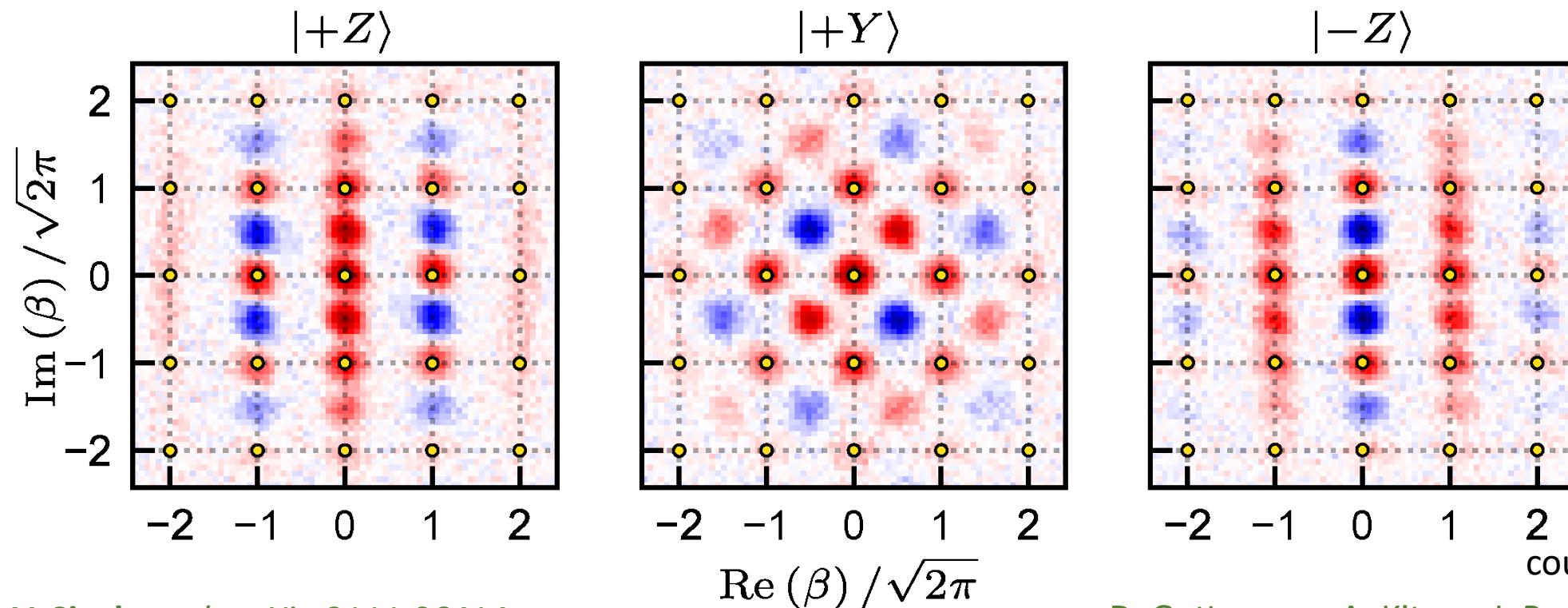
$$\mathcal{F} = 0.8 - 0.85$$



# Gottesman-Kitaev-Preskill code

Characteristic function:  $C(\beta) = \text{Tr}[\rho D(\beta)], \quad D(\beta) = \exp(\beta a^\dagger - \beta^* a)$

GKP code stabilizers:  $S_X = D(\sqrt{2\pi}), \quad S_Z = D(\sqrt{2\pi}i)$

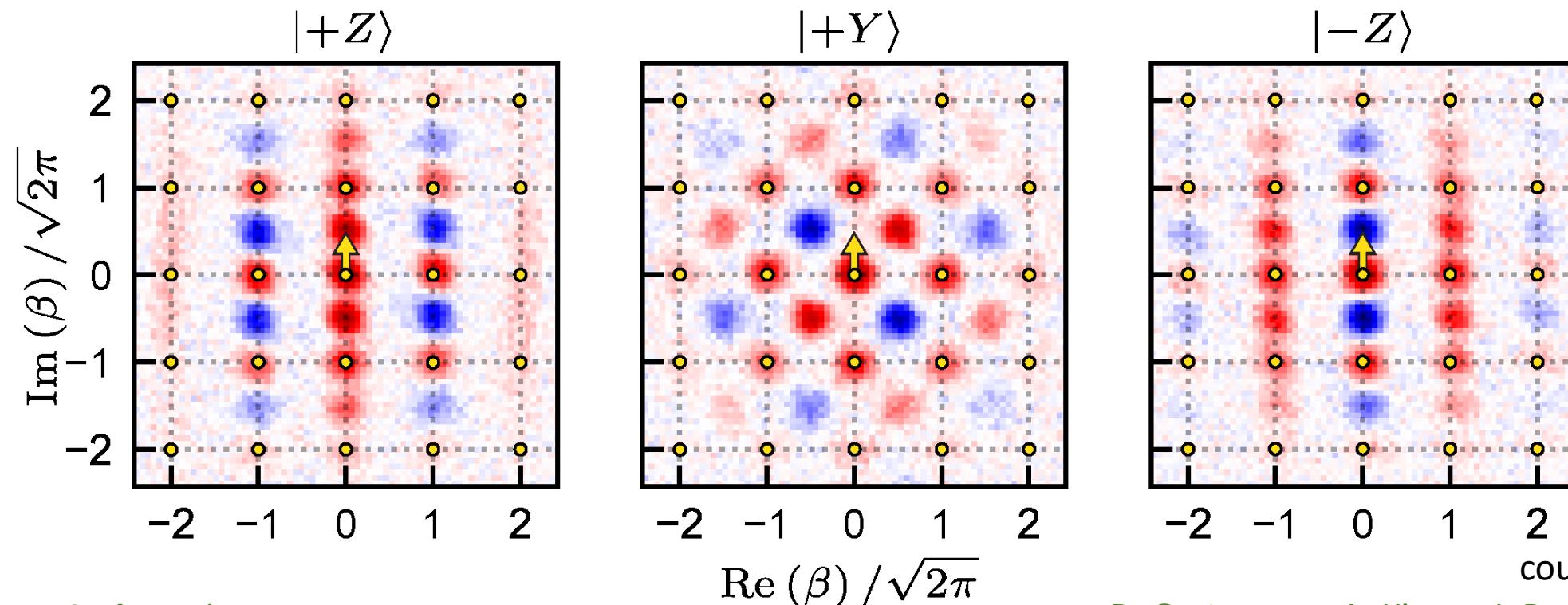


# Gottesman-Kitaev-Preskill code

Characteristic function:  $C(\beta) = \text{Tr}[\rho D(\beta)], \quad D(\beta) = \exp(\beta a^\dagger - \beta^* a)$

GKP code stabilizers:  $S_X = D(\sqrt{2\pi}), \quad S_Z = D(\sqrt{2\pi}i)$

GKP code Pauli operators:  $X = D(\sqrt{\pi/2}), \quad Z = D(\sqrt{\pi/2}i)$



courtesy V. Sivak

# Small-Big-Small (SBS) protocol

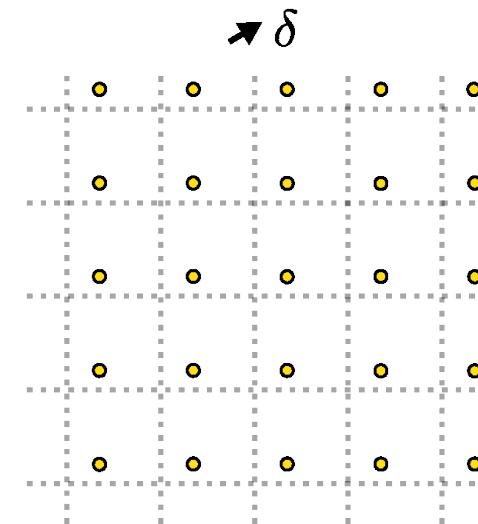
(autonomous and tuned for finite-energy approximate GKP states)

Small displacement error:  $|\psi_\delta\rangle = D(\delta)|\psi\rangle$  Still a grid state!

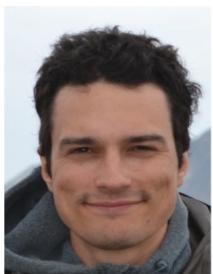
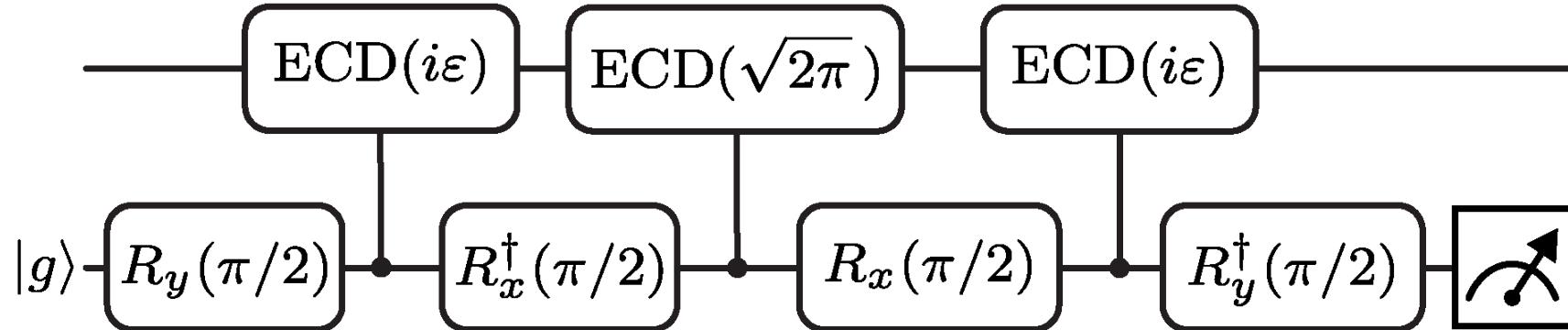
$$S_Z |\psi_\delta\rangle = e^{+2i\sqrt{2\pi}\text{Re}[\delta]} |\psi_\delta\rangle$$

$$S_X |\psi_\delta\rangle = e^{-2i\sqrt{2\pi}\text{Im}[\delta]} |\psi_\delta\rangle$$

Stabilizer phase estimation



Envelope pre-distortion

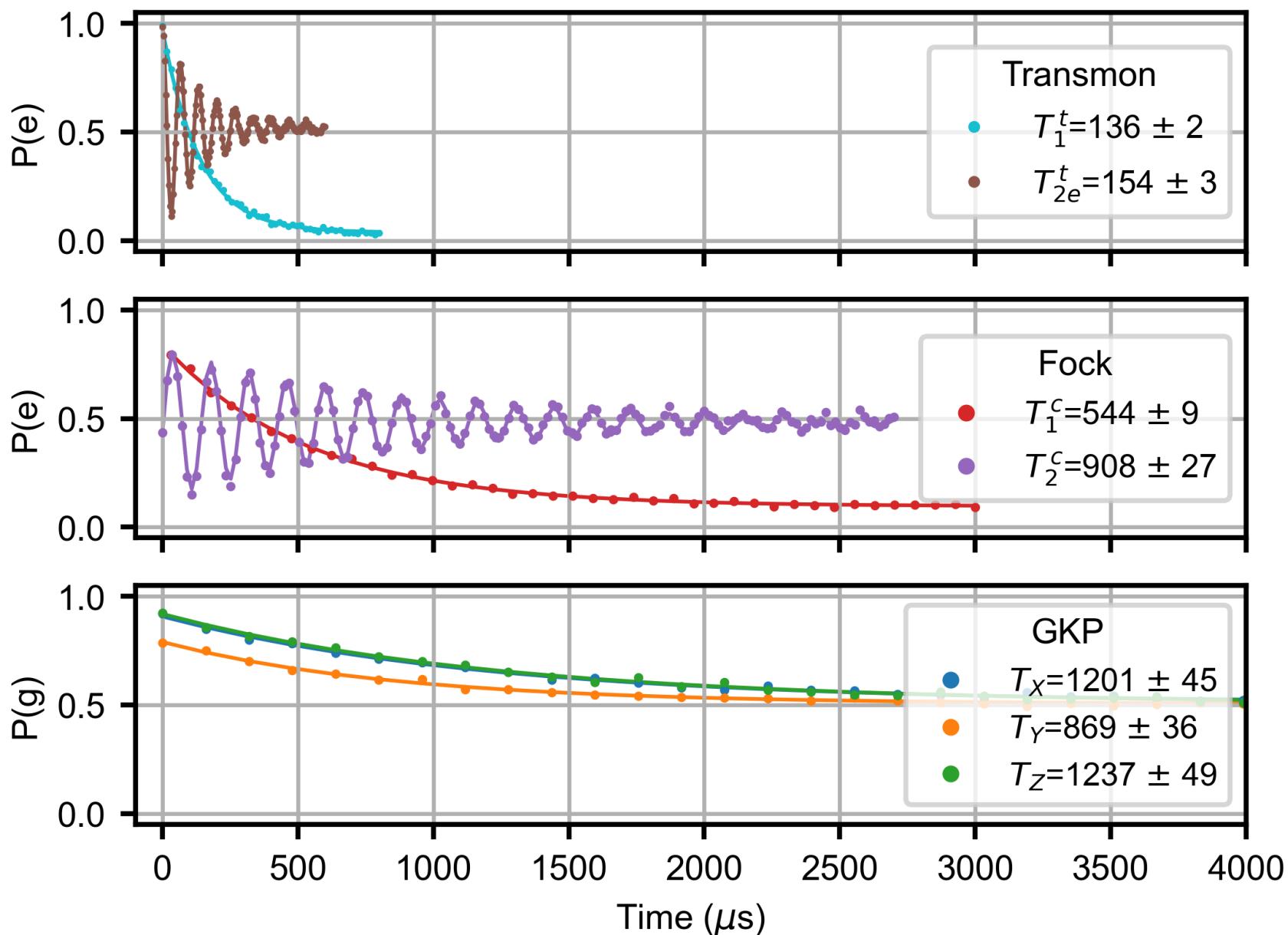


Displacement error correction

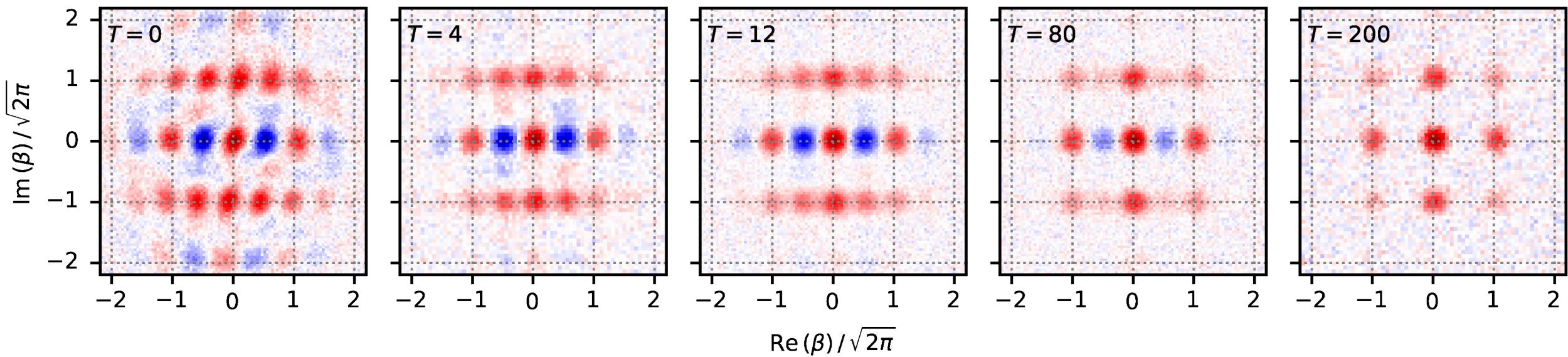
B. Royer et al., (PRL, 2020); B. de Neeve et al., (Nature Physics (2022);  
B. Terhal et al., (PRA, 2016); P. Campagne-Ibarcq et al., (Nature, 2020).

Ancilla reset courtesy V. Sivak

# QEC gain



# QEC in action



↑  
- Envelope too big  
- Distorted

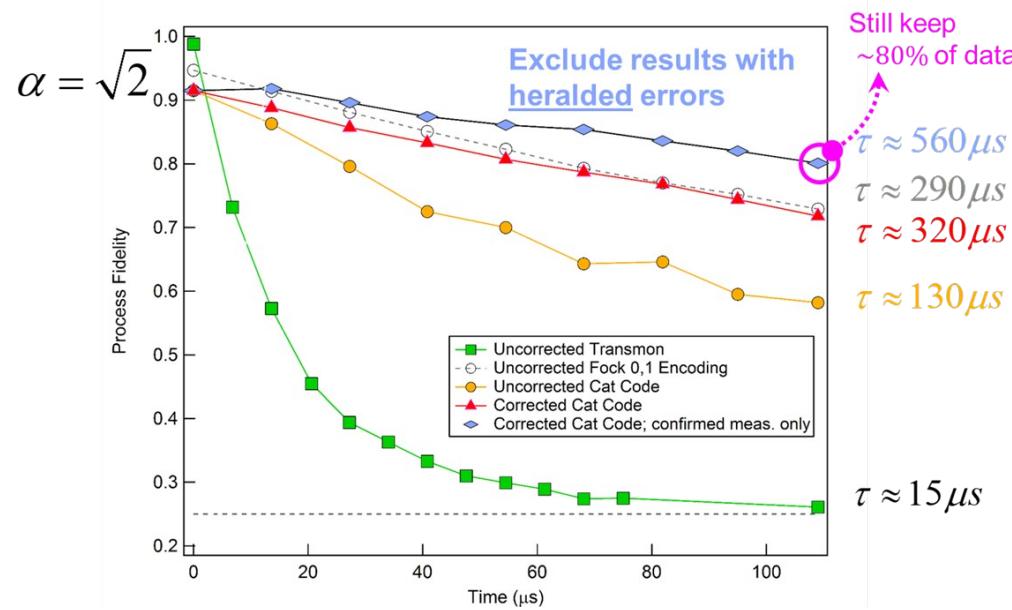
- Clip to the grid  
- Resize envelope

↑  
- Remove all  
deformations

- Depolarization  
in logical manifold

↑  
- Fully mixed  
logical state

## Take-home message:

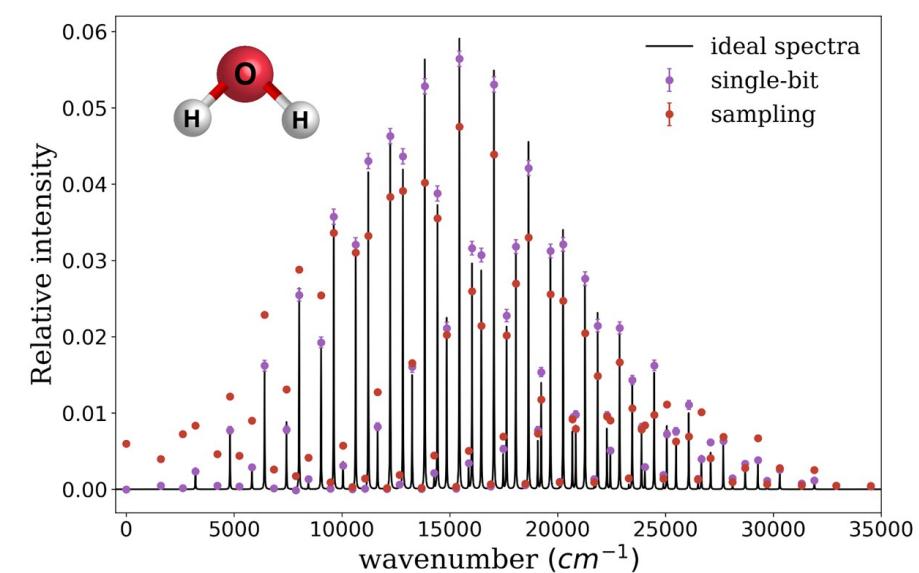


Quantum error correction  
&

Quantum simulations of physical models containing bosons

are both vastly more efficient on hardware containing ‘native’ bosons

*Molecular Vibrational Spectra via Boson Sampling*  
*Phys. Rev. X* **10**, 021060 (2020)



# Schoelkopf Lab



B. Lester

Y. Y. Gao

Y. Zhang



J. Freeze

V. Batista

P. Vaccaro



I. Chuang

L. Jiang

S. Girvin

# Devoret Lab

