

How to implement arbitrary  $U$ ?

→ Universal gate set

$CNOT, Z, H, T$

$T^4 = Z$   
( $1/8$  gate)

gives any  $U$

difficulty with 5-qubit code:

"hard" to get  $H, CNOT$

instead use:

7-qubit "Steane code"

# 7-qubit Steane Code ↓

$$\begin{array}{l}
 X X X X \underline{I} I I = M_2 \quad | \quad N_2 = \underline{z z z z} 1 1 1 \\
 X \cancel{X} I I X X I = M_1 \quad | \quad N_1 = z z 1 1 z z 1 \\
 X \underline{I} X I X I X = M_0 \quad | \quad N_0 = z 1 z 1 z 1 z
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_0 \text{ error } M_i (z_0 | \Psi) &= z_0 M_i | \Psi \\
 \Leftrightarrow M_0 = -1 &= -z_0 | \Psi
 \end{aligned}$$

$$X_0 \text{ error } \Leftrightarrow N_0 = -1$$

Y errors ~~the~~ same error syndrome for both  $N_i, M_i$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 (z_0 X_0) M_0 = -1 \quad N_0 = -1 \quad N_1 = N_2 = M_1 = M_2 \\
 X_i Z_j \Leftrightarrow Y_0 \text{ error} = +1
 \end{aligned}$$

Some 2 qubit errors  $z(3n+1) \ll 2^n$   
4 4      128

# 7-qubit code

$$M_0 = X_0 X_4 X_5 X_6$$

$$N_0 = Z_0 Z_4 Z_5 Z_6$$

$$M_1 = X_1 X_3 X_5 X_6$$

$$N_1 = Z_1 Z_3 Z_5 Z_6$$

$$M_2 = X_2 X_3 X_4 X_6$$

$$N_2 = Z_2 Z_3 Z_4 Z_6$$

$$M_i^2 = 1 = N_i^2 \quad [M_i, M_j] = [N_i, N_j] = 0$$

$$[M_i, N_j] = 0$$

$$|\bar{0}\rangle = \frac{1}{2^{3/2}} (1+M_0)(1+M_1)(1+M_2)|0^7\rangle$$

$$|\bar{1}\rangle = \frac{1}{2^{3/2}} \prod_{i=0}^2 (1+M_i)|1^7\rangle$$

$$\langle \bar{0} | \bar{0} \rangle = \frac{1}{2^3} 2^3 \langle 0^7 | \prod_i (1+M_i) | 0^7 \rangle$$

$(1+M_i)^2 = 2(1+M_i)$  (only contribution same for:)

$$\langle \bar{0} | \bar{1} \rangle = \langle \bar{1} | \bar{0} \rangle = 0 \quad (\text{odd/even})$$

$$\langle \bar{1} | \bar{1} \rangle = 1$$

$$\bar{X} = X_0 X_1 \dots X_6$$

$$\bar{Z} = z_0 z_1 \dots z_6$$

$$\bar{X} | \bar{0} \rangle = | \bar{1} \rangle \quad \bar{X} | \bar{1} \rangle = | \bar{0} \rangle$$

$$\bar{Z} | \bar{0} \rangle = | \bar{0} \rangle \quad \bar{Z} | \bar{1} \rangle = - | \bar{1} \rangle$$

$$\bar{X}^2 = \bar{Z}^2 = 1 \quad \bar{X} \bar{Z} = - \bar{Z} \bar{X}$$

Now  $\bar{H} = H_0 H_1 H_2 H_3 H_4 H_5 H_6 = H^{\otimes 7}$

need to show:

$$\bar{H} | \bar{0} \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} ( | \bar{0} \rangle + | \bar{1} \rangle ) \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} ( | 1 \rangle - | 0 \rangle )$$

$$\bar{H} | \bar{1} \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} ( | \bar{0} \rangle - | \bar{1} \rangle )$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \bar{0} | \bar{H} | \bar{0} \rangle &= \langle \bar{0} | \bar{H} | \bar{1} \rangle = \langle \bar{1} | \bar{H} | \bar{0} \rangle \\ &= - \langle \bar{1} | \bar{H} | \bar{1} \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle \bar{x} | \bar{H} | \bar{y} \rangle = \bar{H} M_i = N_i \bar{H}$$

$$\frac{1}{2^3} \langle 0^7 | \bar{X}^x \prod_i (1 + M_i) \bar{H} \prod_i (1 + M_i) \bar{X}^y | 0^7 \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{2^3} \langle 0^7 | \bar{X}^x \prod_i (1 + M_i) \bar{H} \prod_i (1 + M_i) \bar{X}^y | 0^7 \rangle$$

$$= 2^3 \langle 0^7 | \bar{X}^x \bar{H} \bar{X}^y | 0^7 \rangle$$

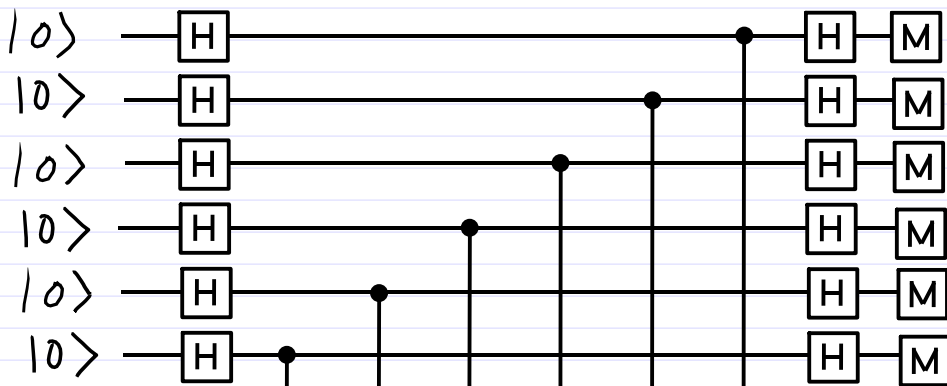
$$= 2^3 (\langle 0 | X^x H X^y | 0 \rangle)^7$$

$$= \cancel{2^3 (\langle 0 | X^x H X^y | 0 \rangle)^6} \langle 0 | X^x H X^y | 0 \rangle$$

$$= \langle 0 | X^x H X^y | 0 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

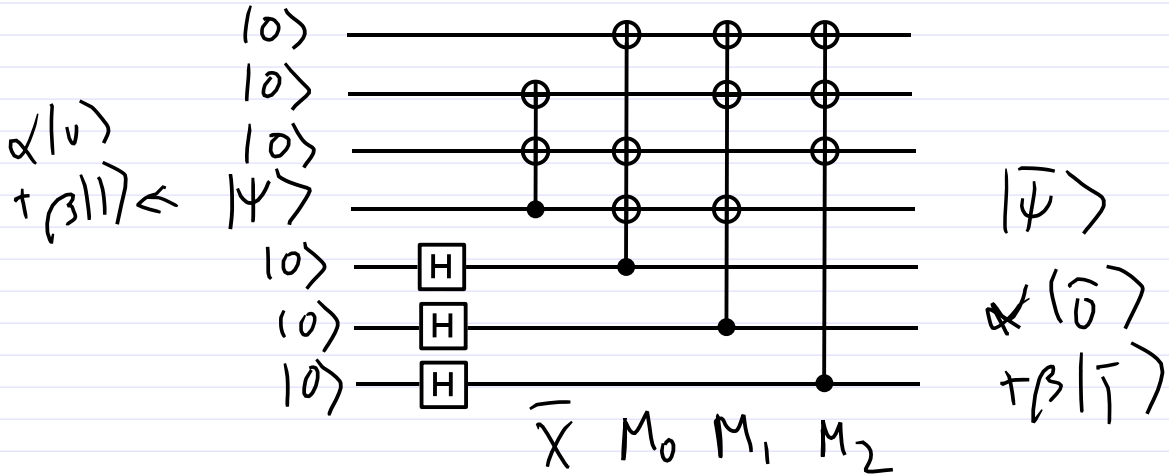
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# 7-qubit measurement gates

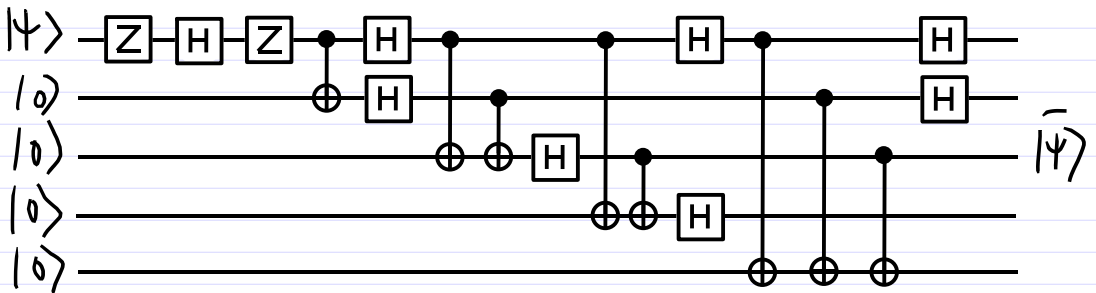


$N_0$   $N_1$   $N_2$   $M_0$   $M_1$   $M_2$

# 7-qubit encoding circuit



# Compare to 5 qubit encoding circuit



$$\prod (1 + M_i) |0^7\rangle$$

each term  $|0001111\rangle$

has even # of 1s

$\langle 1^7 |$  odd # of 1s so

always 0.

$$\text{encoded } |\psi\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$$

21 possible errors

$$X_i \quad Y_i \quad Z_i$$

$$+ 1 \text{ uncorrupted} = 22$$

orthogonal 2d spaces

	1	$X_0$	$X_1$	$X_2$	$X_3$	$X_4$	$X_5$	$X_6$
$M_0$		•				•	•	•
$M_1$			•		•		•	•
$M_2$				•	•	•		•

	1	$Z_0$	$Z_1$	$Z_2$	$Z_3$	$Z_4$	$Z_5$	$Z_6$
$N_0$		•				•	•	•
$N_1$			•		•		•	•
$N_2$				•	•	•		•

error syndromes:

$X_i$  error  $\Rightarrow$  look at which  $N_i$ 's  
flip sign

$Z_i$  error  $\Rightarrow$  look at which  $M_i$ 's  
flip sign

$Y_i$  error  $\Rightarrow$  look at both  $M, N$  flips [pattern of  
have to be SAME]

$$M_j X_i |\psi\rangle = X_i |\psi\rangle$$

$$N_0 = -1 \quad \text{error?}$$

$$X_0$$

$$M_1 = M_2 = -1$$

$$Z_3$$

(all 6)

$$M_0 = \dots = N_2 = -1$$

$$Y_6$$

# 7-qubit CNOT

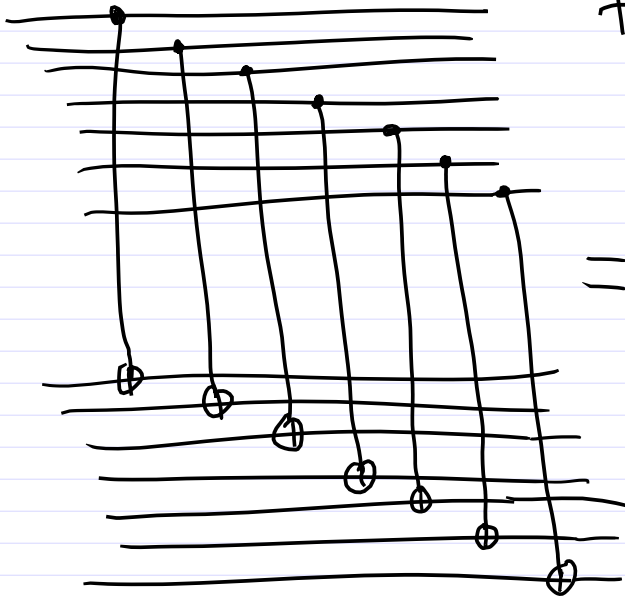
also simple structure:

If control is  $|0\rangle$ , then pattern of  $M_i$ 's applies  $\prod_i (1+M_i)$  to target, no effect.

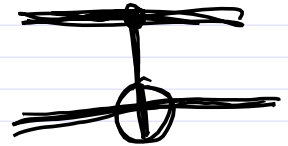
If control is  $|1\rangle$ , then applies additional  $\bar{X}$  to target

$$|0\rangle = \prod_i (1+M_i) |0^{\otimes 7}\rangle$$

$$|1\rangle = \bar{X} |0\rangle$$



=



and  $\overline{\text{CNOT}} = \text{CNOT} \otimes \bar{X}$

$\overline{\text{CNOT}}, \bar{H}, \bar{X}, \bar{Z}$  all parallelize,

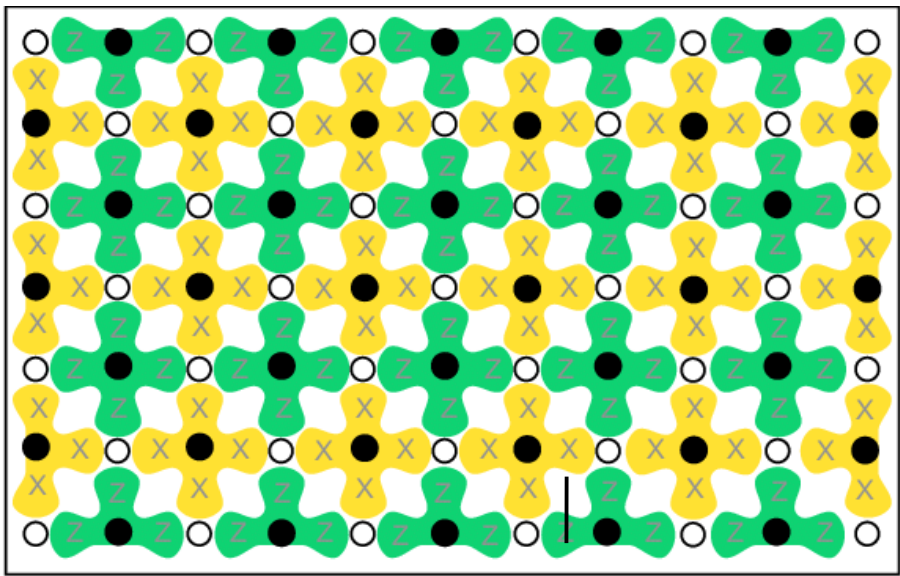
7-qubit code can be  
made fault tolerant,

BUT current qubits  
still not stable enough -

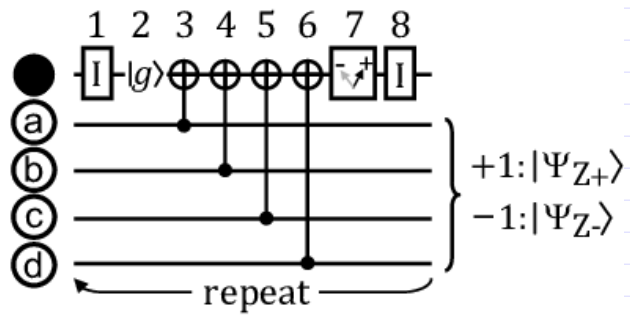
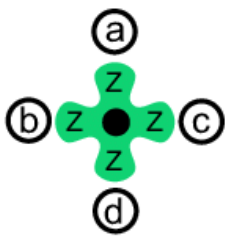
Need surface code,  
thousands of physical qubits  
per logical qubit.

Then can preserve single  
qubit phase coherence  
for millions of years

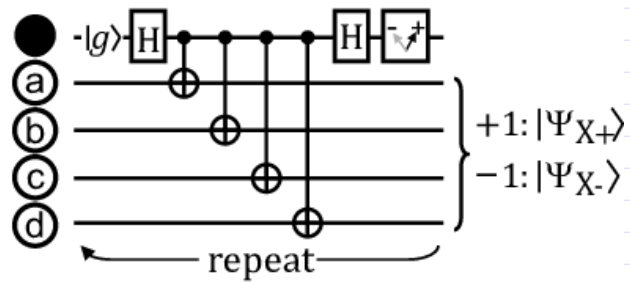
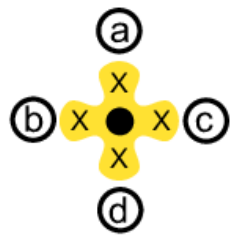
This will all be one logical qubit



(b)



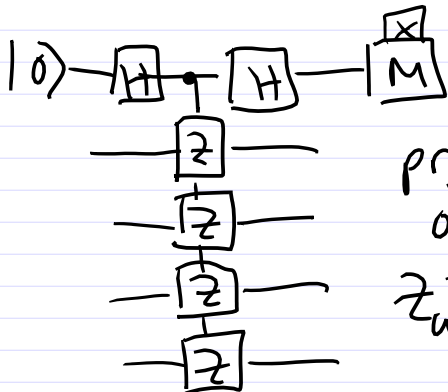
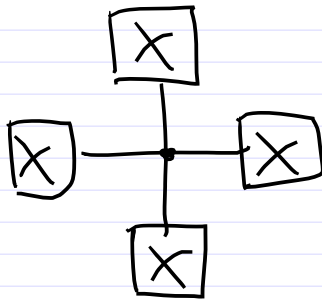
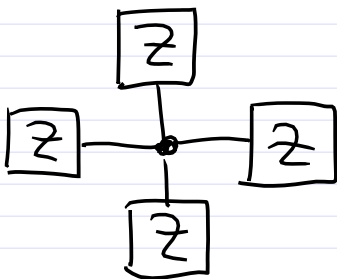
(c)



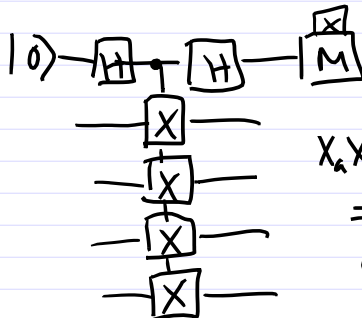
arXiv: 1208.0928

0 = "data" qubits  $2^{39} / 2^{38} = 2$

● = measurement qubits  
 either measure  $Z_a Z_b Z_c Z_d$  or  $X_a X_b X_c X_d$  on neighboring qubits



projects  
 onto  
 $Z_a Z_b Z_c Z_d$   
 $= (-1)^x$  eigenstate



$X_a X_b X_c X_d$   
 $= (-1)^x$   
 eigenstate

5-qubit code  $M_0, M_1, M_2, M_3$   
 $\pm 1$

7-qubit code  $N_0, N_1, N_2, M_0, M_1, M_2$   
"stabilizers"

~~Surface code~~

Arbitrarily many stabilizers  
of the form  $Z_a Z_b Z_c Z_d$   
 $X_a X_b X_c X_d$

$|0000\rangle$   $|1111\rangle$   $|0011\rangle$   
 $\pm 1$   $|0101\rangle$

Each measurement reduces the dimension of the Hilbert space by a factor of 2.

Start with  $4 \cdot 6 + 3 \cdot 5 = 39$  data qubits so  $2^{39}$  dim space.

But  $4 \cdot 5 + 3 \cdot 6 = 38$  measurement qubits so  $2^{39} / 2^{38} = 2$   
 $\Rightarrow 1$  logical qubit

For example, 2 qubits

$|00\rangle |01\rangle |10\rangle |11\rangle$

measure  $z_0 z_1 = +1 \Rightarrow |00\rangle, |11\rangle$

$= -1 \Rightarrow |01\rangle, |10\rangle$

Joint eigenstates of  
 $z_0 z_1$ ,  $x_0 x_1$  (they commute)

$z_0 z_1$      $x_0 x_1$

1

1

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|00\rangle + |11\rangle)$$

1

-1

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|00\rangle - |11\rangle)$$

-1

1

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|01\rangle + |10\rangle)$$

-1

-1

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|01\rangle - |10\rangle)$$

"Bell Basis"

For 4 qubits, there are eight  $Z_a Z_b Z_c Z_d = +1$  eigenstates:

$|0000\rangle, |0011\rangle, \dots, |1100\rangle, |1111\rangle$   
(all with even # of 1's)

Similarly, eight  $Z_a Z_b Z_c Z_d = -1$  eigenstates:

$|0001\rangle, |0010\rangle, \dots, |1101\rangle, |1110\rangle$   
(all with odd # of 1's)

Same for  $X_a X_b X_c X_d$  in terms

$$| \pm \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle \pm |1\rangle)$$

+1  $|++++\rangle, |++--\rangle, \dots, |--++\rangle, |----\rangle$

-1  $|+++-\rangle, |--+-\rangle, \dots, |- - + -\rangle, |----\rangle$

Now consider error syndromes

$$Z_a Z_b Z_c Z_d X_a |\psi\rangle$$

error  
on qubit a

$$= -X_a Z_a Z_b Z_c Z_d |\psi\rangle = -X_a |\psi\rangle$$

(if started in +1 eigenstate)

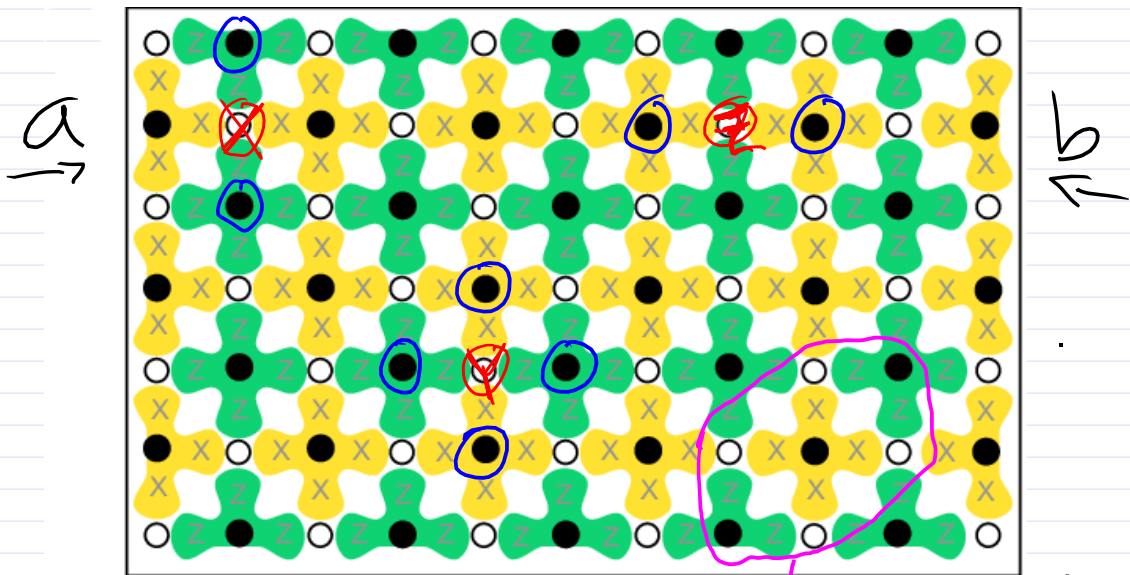
Similarly  $\swarrow$  error on qubit b

$$X_a X_b X_c X_d Z_b |\psi\rangle$$

$$= -Z_b X_a X_b X_c X_d |\psi\rangle = -Z_b |\psi\rangle$$

$\bigcirc$  = flipped measurement value

$\bigcirc$  = error on data qubit



$a = X$  error

$b = Z$  error

$c = Y$  error

39  $\bigcirc$  "data"

38  $\bigcirc$  "meas"

2d or 1 qubit

# Repeated Quantum Error Detection in a Surface Code

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 Nathàn Lacroix,<sup>1</sup> Graham J. Norris,<sup>1</sup> Mihai Gabureac,<sup>1</sup> Christopher Eichler,<sup>1</sup> and Andreas Wallraff<sup>1</sup>

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(Dated: December 20, 2019)

The realization of quantum error correction is an essential ingredient for reaching the full potential of fault-tolerant universal quantum computation. Using a range of different schemes, logical qubits can be redundantly encoded in a set of physical qubits. One such scalable approach is based on the surface code. Here we experimentally implement its smallest viable instance, capable of repeatedly detecting any single error using seven superconducting qubits, four data qubits and three ancilla qubits. Using high-fidelity ancilla-based stabilizer measurements we initialize the cardinal states of the encoded logical qubit with an average logical fidelity of 96.1%. We then repeatedly check for errors using the stabilizer readout and observe that the logical quantum state is preserved with a lifetime and coherence time longer than those of any of the constituent qubits when no errors are detected. Our demonstration of error detection with its resulting enhancement of the conditioned logical qubit coherence times in a 7-qubit surface code is an important step indicating a promising route towards the realization of quantum error correction in the surface code.

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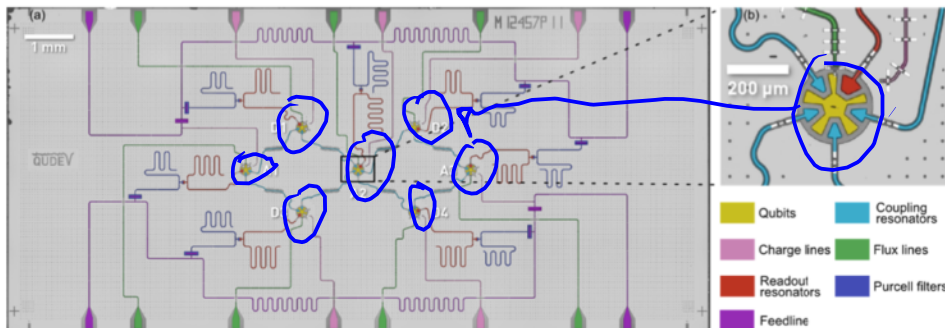
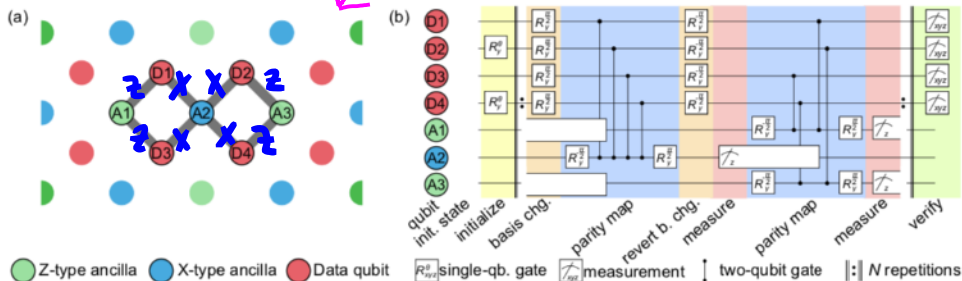


FIG. 2. Seven-qubit device. (a) False colored micrograph of the seven-qubit device used in this work. Transmon qubits are shown in yellow, coupling resonators in cyan, flux lines for single-qubit tuning and two-qubit gates in green, charge lines for single-qubit drive in pink, the two feedlines for readout in purple, transmission line resonators for readout in red and Purcell filters for each qubit in blue. (b) Enlarged view of the center qubit (A2) which connects to four neighboring qubits.

## Quantum Physics

[Submitted on 13 Jul 2022 (v1), last revised 20 Jul 2022 (this version, v2)]

## Suppressing quantum errors by scaling a surface code logical qubit

Practical quantum computing will require error rates that are well below what is achievable with physical qubits. Quantum error correction offers a path to algorithmically-relevant error rates by encoding logical qubits within many physical qubits, where increasing the number of physical qubits enhances protection against physical errors. However, introducing more qubits also increases the number of error sources, so the density of errors must be sufficiently low in order for logical performance to improve with increasing code size. Here, we report the measurement of logical qubit performance scaling across multiple code sizes, and demonstrate that our system of superconducting qubits has sufficient performance to overcome the additional errors from increasing qubit number. We find our distance-5 surface code logical qubit modestly outperforms an ensemble of distance-3 logical qubits on average, both in terms of logical error probability over 25 cycles and logical error per cycle ( $2.914\% \pm 0.016\%$  compared to  $3.028\% \pm 0.023\%$ ). To investigate damaging, low-probability error sources, we run a distance-25 repetition code and observe a  $1.7 \times 10^{-6}$  logical error per round floor set by a single high-energy event ( $1.6 \times 10^{-7}$  when excluding this event). We are able to accurately model our experiment, and from this model we can extract error budgets that highlight the biggest challenges for future systems. These results mark the first experimental demonstration where quantum error correction begins to improve performance with increasing qubit number, illuminating the path to reaching the logical error rates required for computation.

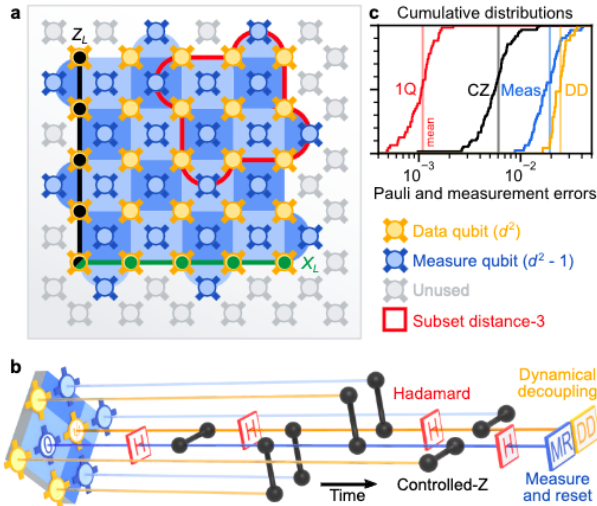


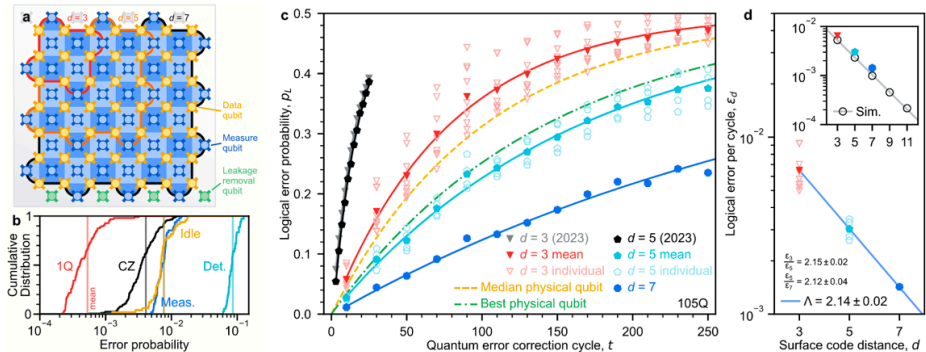
FIG. 1. **Implementing surface code logical qubits.** **a**, Schematic of a 72-qubit Sycamore device with a distance-5 surface code embedded, consisting of 25 data qubits (gold) and 24 measure qubits (blue). Each measure qubit is associated with a stabiliser (blue colored tile, dark:  $X$ , light:  $Z$ ). Representative logical operators  $Z_L$  (black) and  $X_L$  (green) traverse the array, intersecting at the lower-left data qubit. The upper-right quadrant (red outline) is one of four subset distance-3 codes (the four quadrants) we compare to distance-5. **b**, Illustration of a stabiliser measurement, focusing on one data qubit (gold) and one measure qubit (blue), in perspective view with time progressing to the right. Each qubit participates in four controlled-Z (CZ) gates with its four nearest neighbours, interspersed with Hadamard gates (H), and finally, the measure qubit is measured and reset to  $|0\rangle$ . Data qubits perform dynamical decoupling (DD) while waiting for the measurement and reset. All stabilisers are measured in this manner concurrently. Cycle duration is 921 ns, including 500 ns measurement and 160 ns reset. **c**, Cumulative distributions of errors for single-qubit gates, CZ gates, measurement, and data qubit DD (idle during measurement and reset). Benchmarked in simultaneous operation using random circuit techniques, on the 49 qubits used in distance-5 and the four CZ layers from the stabiliser circuit [31, 32]. Vertical lines are means.

## Quantum Physics

[Submitted on 24 Aug 2024]

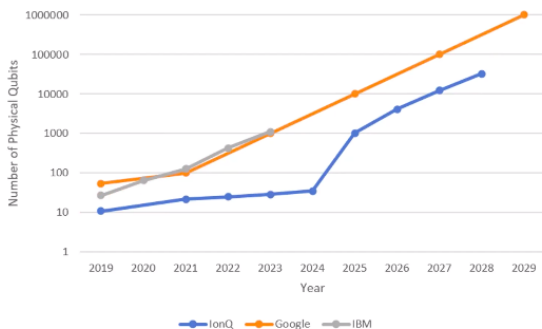
## Quantum error correction below the surface code threshold

Quantum error correction provides a path to reach practical quantum computing by combining multiple physical qubits into a logical qubit, where the logical error rate is suppressed exponentially as more qubits are added. However, this exponential suppression only occurs if the physical error rate is below a critical threshold. In this work, we present two surface code memories operating below this threshold: a distance-7 code and a distance-5 code integrated with a real-time decoder. The logical error rate of our larger quantum memory is suppressed by a factor of  $\Lambda = 2.14 \pm 0.02$  when increasing the code distance by two, culminating in a 101-qubit distance-7 code with  $0.143\% \pm 0.003\%$  error per cycle of error correction. This logical memory is also beyond break-even, exceeding its best physical qubit's lifetime by a factor of  $2.4 \pm 0.3$ . We maintain below-threshold performance when decoding in real time, achieving an average decoder latency of  $63 \mu\text{s}$  at distance-5 up to a million cycles, with a cycle time of  $1.1 \mu\text{s}$ . To probe the limits of our error-correction performance, we run repetition codes up to distance-29 and find that logical performance is limited by rare correlated error events occurring approximately once every hour, or  $3 \times 10^9$  cycles. Our results present device performance that, if scaled, could realize the operational requirements of large scale fault-tolerant quantum algorithms.



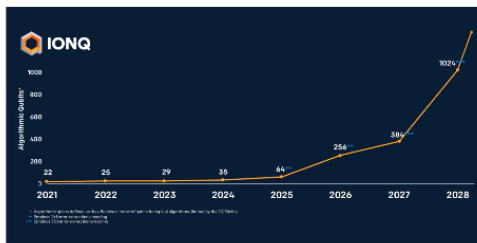
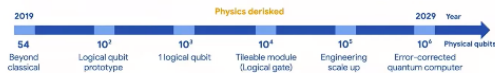
**FIG. 1. Surface code performance.** **a**, Schematic of a distance-7 surface code on a 105-qubit processor. Each measure qubit (blue) is associated with a stabilizer (blue colored tile). Red outline: one of nine distance-3 codes measured for comparison ( $3 \times 3$  array). Orange outline: one of four distance-5 codes measured for comparison (4 corners). Black outline: distance-7 code. We remove leakage from each data qubit (gold) via a neighboring qubit below it, using additional leakage removal qubits at the boundary (green). **b**, Cumulative distributions of error probabilities measured on the 105-qubit processor. Red: Pauli errors for single-qubit gates. Black: Pauli errors for CZ gates. Blue: Average identification error for measurement. Gold: Pauli errors for data qubit idle during measurement and reset. Teal: weight-4 detection probabilities (distance-7, averaged over 250 cycles). **c**, Logical error probability,  $p_L$ , for a range of memory experiment durations. Each datapoint represents  $10^5$  repetitions decoded with the neural network and is averaged over logical basis ( $X_L$  and  $Z_L$ ). Black and grey: data from Ref. [17] for comparison. Curves: exponential fits after averaging  $p_L$  over code and basis. To compute  $\epsilon_d$  values, we fit each individual code and basis separately [24]. **d**, Logical error per cycle,  $\epsilon_d$ , reducing with surface code distance,  $d$ . Uncertainty on each point is less than  $5 \times 10^{-5}$ . Symbols match panel c. Means for  $d = 3$  and  $d = 5$  are computed from the separate  $\epsilon_d$  fits for each code and basis. Line: fit to Eq. 1, determining  $\Lambda$ . Inset: simulations up to  $d = 11$  alongside experimental points, both decoded with ensembled matching synthesis for comparison. Line: fit to simulation,  $\Lambda_{\text{sim}} = 2.25 \pm 0.02$ .

# Hardware comparison: vendor roadmaps



- IonQ, Google, and IBM are all predicting **~1000 physical qubits** in either **2023** (Google/IBM) or **2025** (IonQ).
- IonQ is predicting **~32,000 physical qubits** in 2028. Google is predicting **1,000,000 physical qubits** in 2029, and IBM does not make a concrete prediction this far out.

## Google AI Quantum hardware roadmap



### Scaling IBM Quantum technology

Year	Qubits	Technology
2019	27 qubits	Qiskit
2020	65 qubits	Hybrid quantum-classical
2021	127 qubits	Qiskit
2022	433 qubits	Qiskit
2023	1,121 qubits	Qiskit
and beyond	Peak to 1 million qubits and beyond	Large-scale systems

c. 2020