

Efficient Quantum Computing for Lattice QED and Error Correction Codes for Pure SU(2) LGT

Xiaojun Yao



InQubator for Quantum Simulation

University of Washington



QuantHEP 2026
Queen's Mary University of London

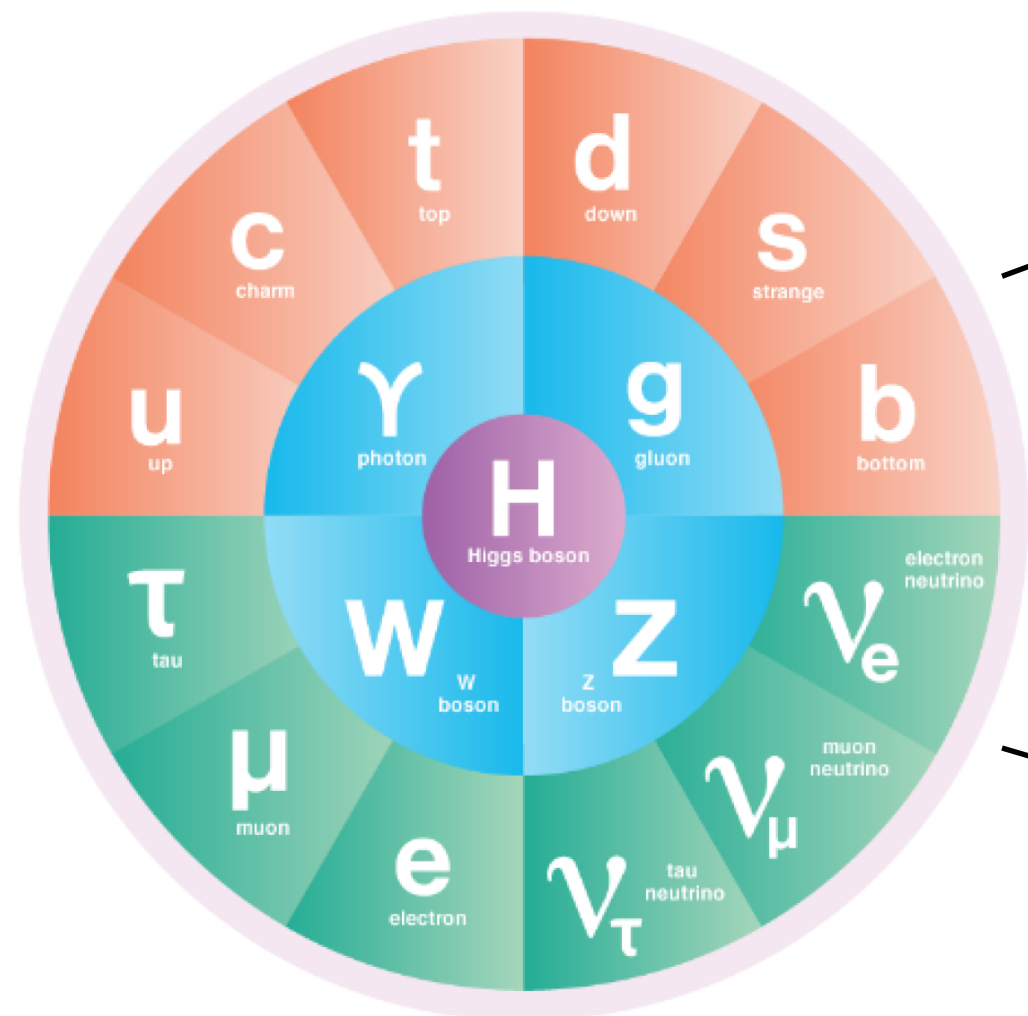
July 14, 2026

W
PHYSICS

W
ARTS &
SCIENCES

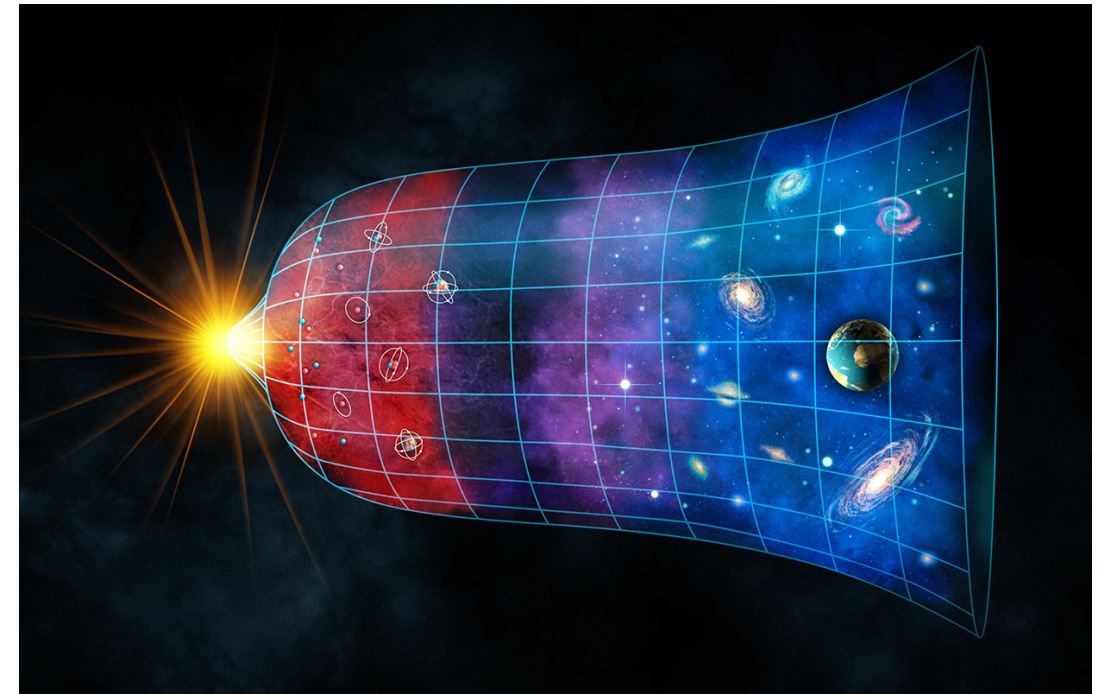
Standard Model

- EM, weak, strong forces formulated as gauge theories

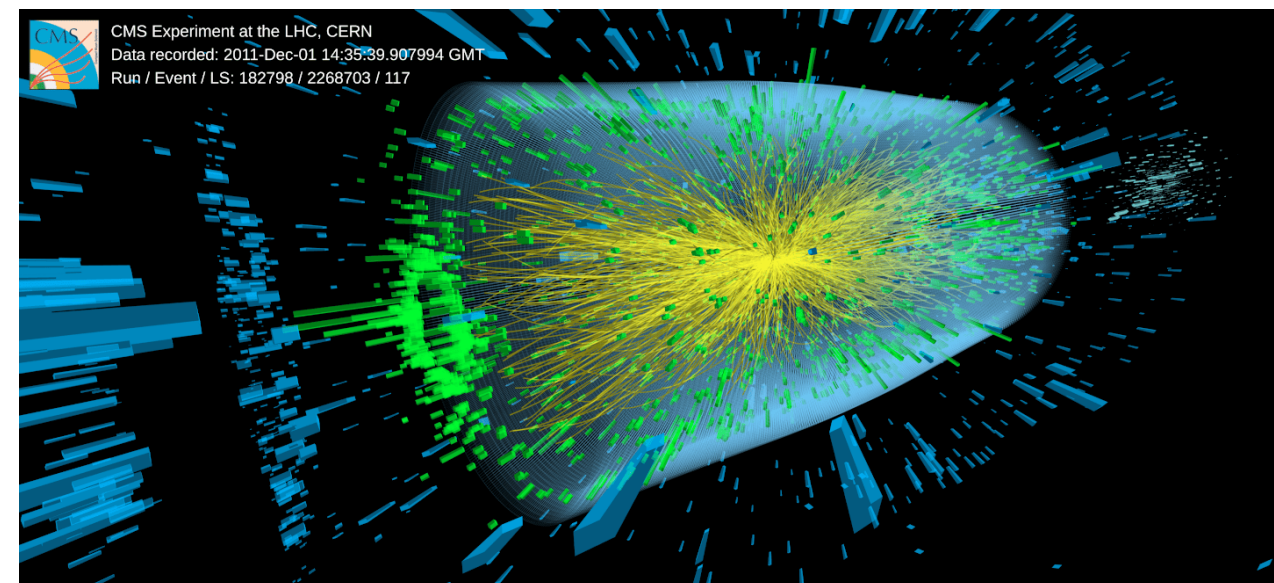


● QUARKS ● LEPTONS ● BOSONS ● HIGGS BOSON

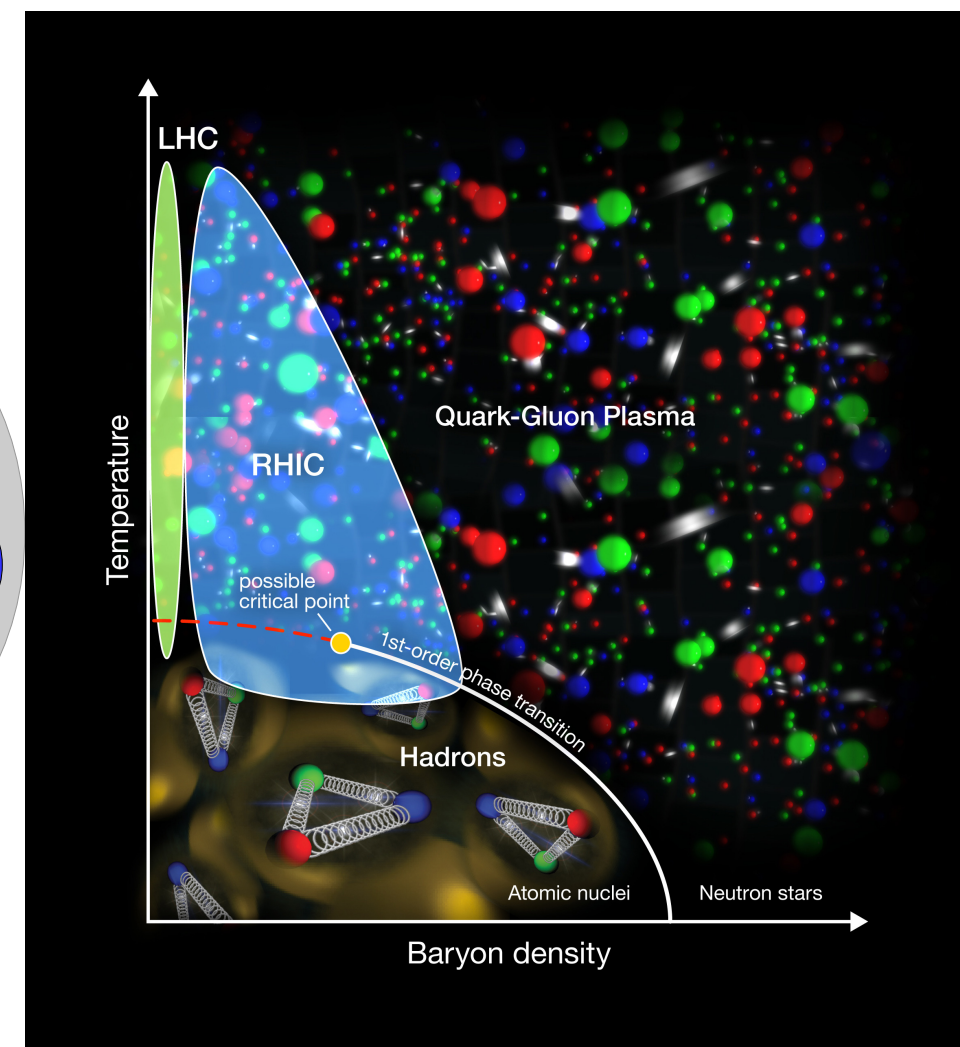
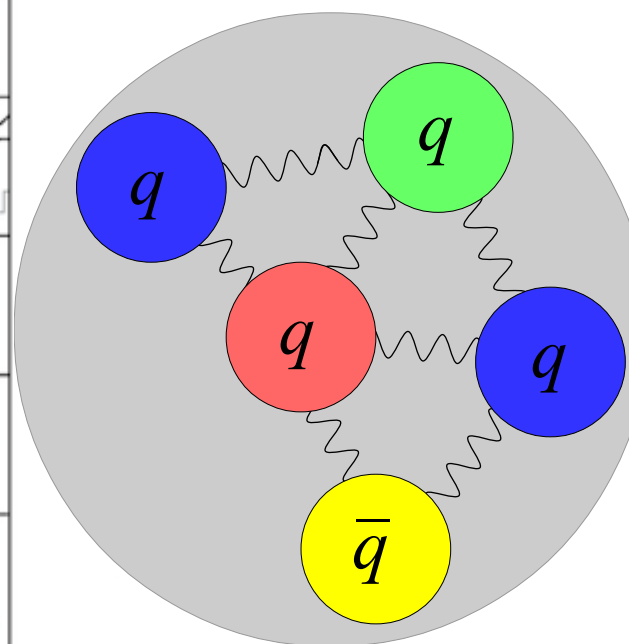
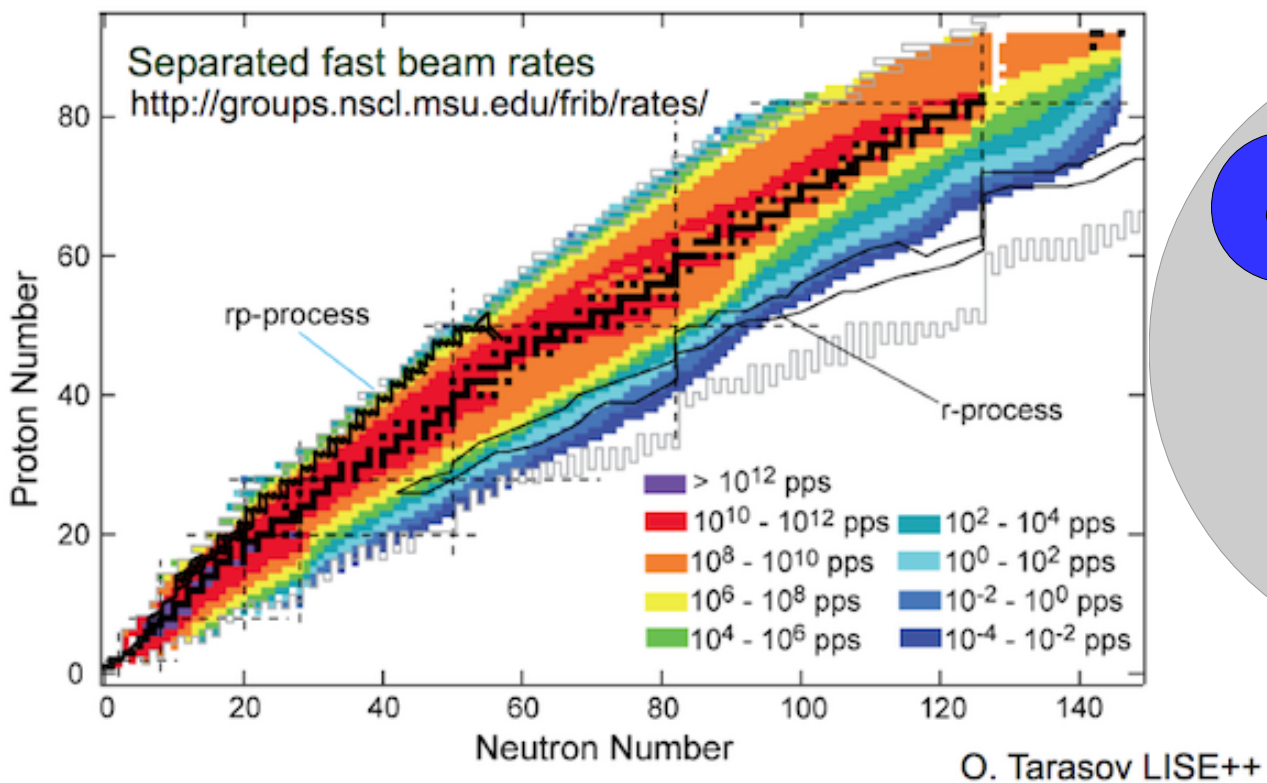
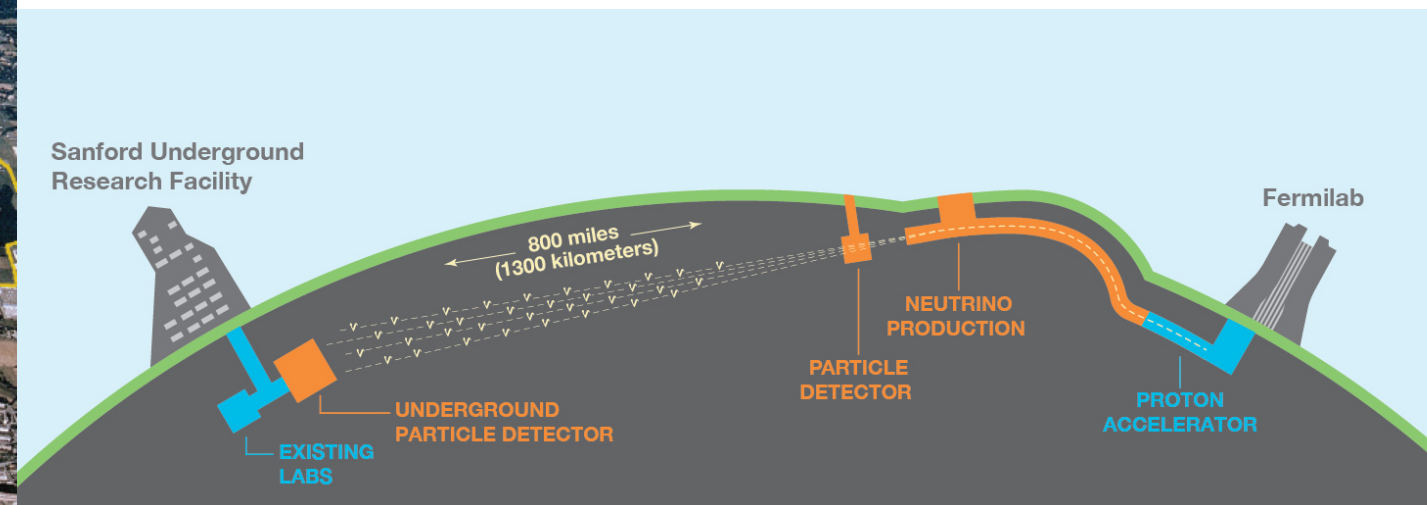
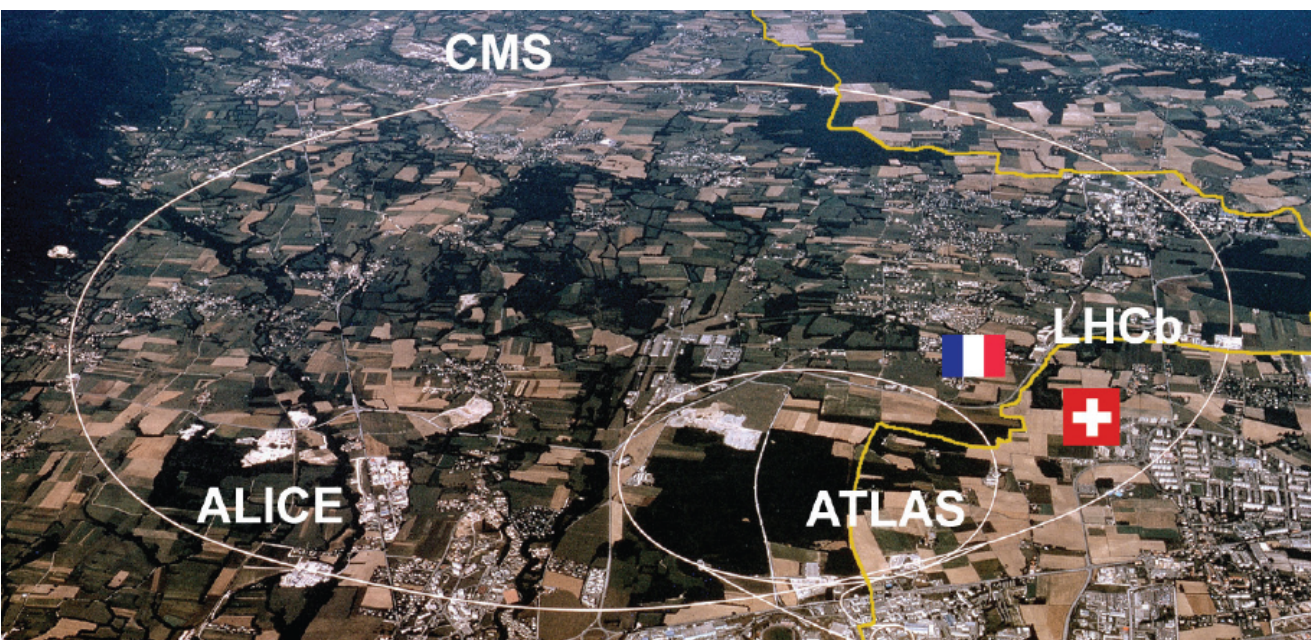
<https://www.energy.gov/science/doe-explainsthe-standard-model-particle-physics>



<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/space-science/expansion-universe>



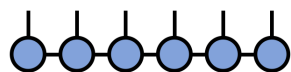
Nuclear and Particle Physics



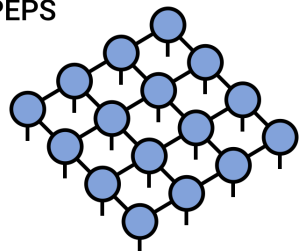
Why Hamiltonian Lattice Gauge Theory?

- **QCD is nonperturbative at hadronic scale: need nonperturbative input for precision comparison with experimental data**
- **Euclidean lattice QCD is very successful:** hadron mass and structure, muon $g-2$, transport coefficients such as heavy quark diffusion
- **But faces sign problems for real-time and finite baryon density:** QCD critical point, real-time non-equilibrium dynamics
- **Hamiltonian lattice gauge theory attracts a lot of interest due to advancement of computing tools**

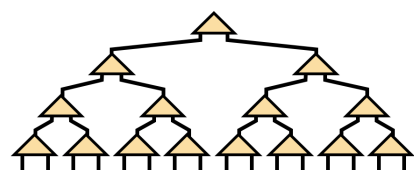
Matrix Product State /
Tensor Train



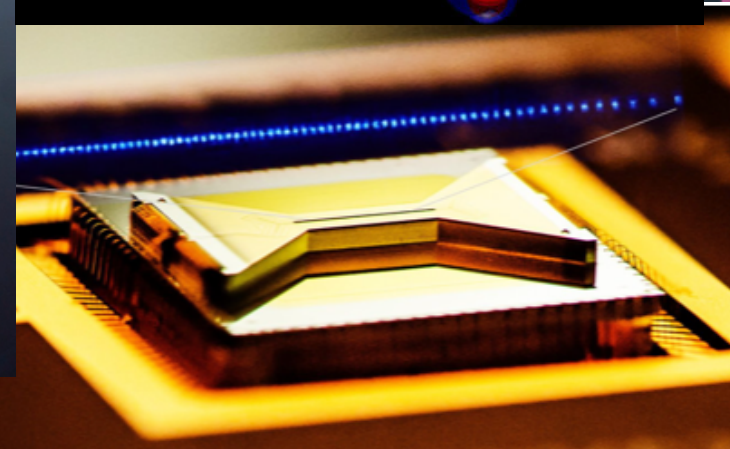
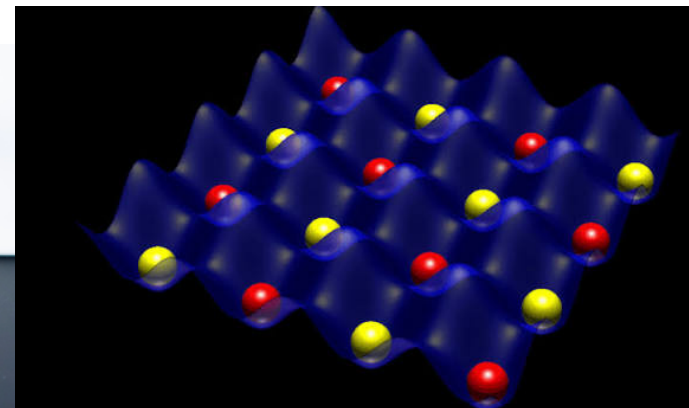
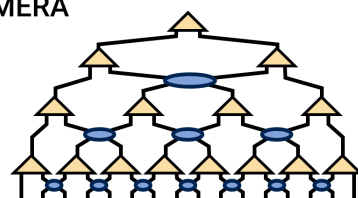
PEPS



Tree Tensor Network /
Hierarchical Tucker



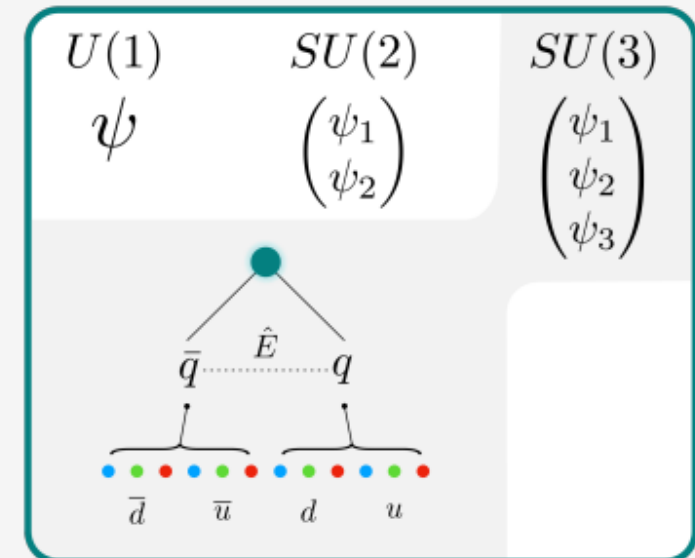
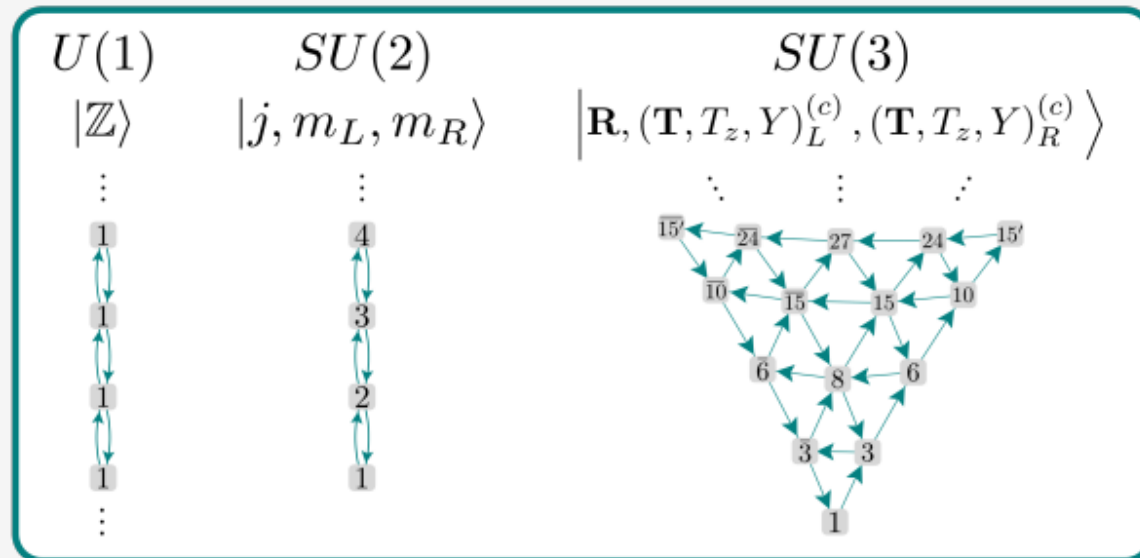
MERA



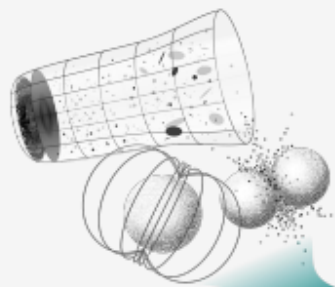
Contents

- Review of Hamiltonian lattice gauge theory (LGT): Kogut-Susskind (KS) Hamiltonian in the electric basis
- Efficient setup for lattice QED using a different Hamiltonian
- Convert Gauss law in KS into error correction codes

Kogut-Susskind Hamiltonian ($A_0 = 0$)

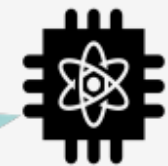


$$\hat{\mathcal{H}} \sim g^2 |\hat{E}(\mathbf{x})|^2 - \frac{1}{g^2} \text{Tr} [\hat{U}_1 \hat{U}_2 \hat{U}_3^\dagger \hat{U}_4^\dagger + \text{h.c.}] + \hat{\mathcal{H}}_\psi$$



$$\hat{G}^a(\mathbf{x}) |\Phi\rangle_{\text{phys}} = 0$$

Gauss law, originate from
secondary first-class constraint
or integrating A_0 in path-integral



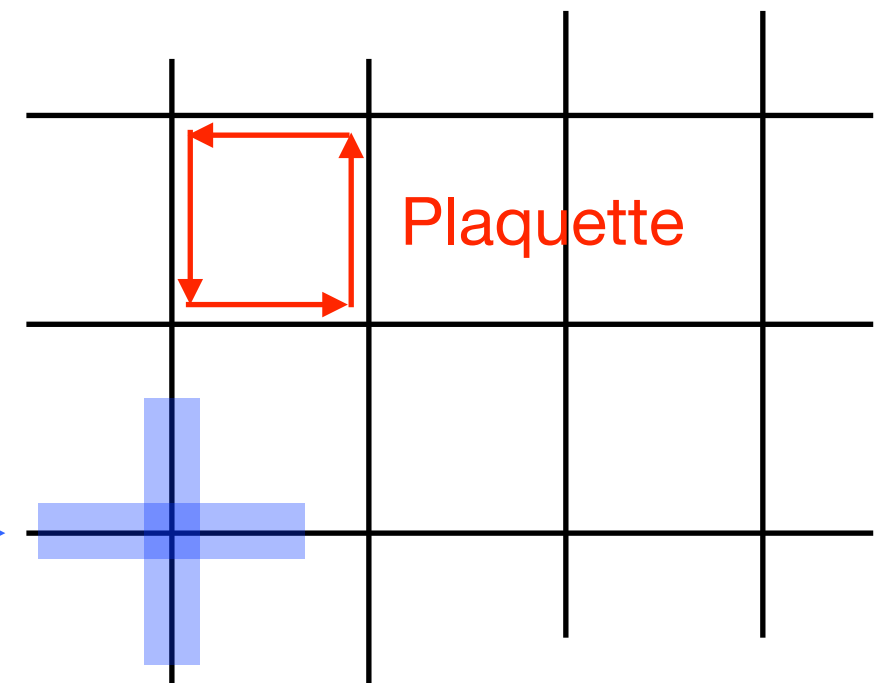
Electric Basis and Gauss Law

- **Electric basis on links: irrep and weight** $|R, m\rangle$

Electric energy is diagonal $(E_i^a)^2 |R, m\rangle = C_1 |R, m\rangle$

Total Hilbert space $\bigotimes_{\text{links}} |R, m\rangle$

Byrnes, Yamamoto, quant-ph/0510027



- **Work in the subspace of gauge invariant states**

Impose Gauss law: construct **singlets** at each vertex, which is given by a linear combination

$$\sum_{m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4} c_{m_1 m_2 m_3 m_4} |R_1, m_1\rangle \otimes |R_2, m_2\rangle \otimes |R_3, m_3\rangle \otimes |R_4, m_4\rangle$$

Klco, Stryker, Savage, 1908.06935; Rahman, Lewis, Mendicelli, Powell, 2103.08661; Zache, González-Cuadra, Zoller, 2304.02527; Hayata, Hidaka, 2305.05950; Müller, XY, 2307.00045

- **Express plaquette operator in 6j symbols**
- **On quantum computer, need to work out controlled gates**

Lattice QED in Coulomb Gauge

Motivation: Efficient Simulation for ϕ^4 Theory

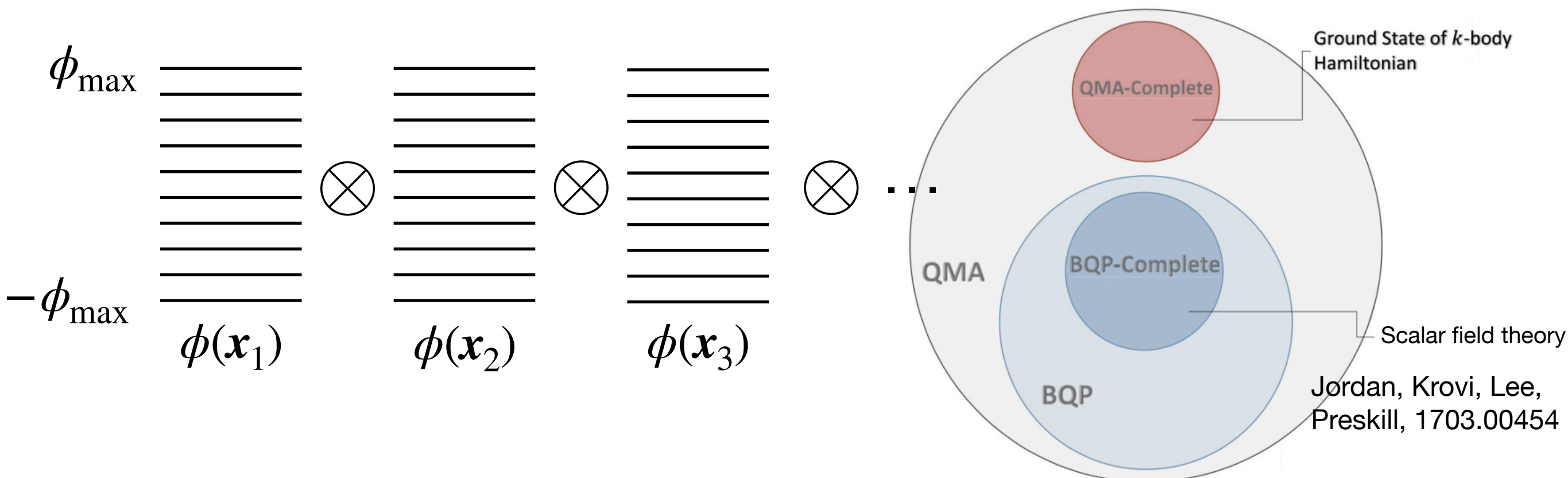
- Quantum Fourier transform to efficiently convert between Λ and Π local spaces

$$H = a^d \sum_{\mathbf{x}} \left[\frac{1}{2} \Pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla_i \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_0^2 \phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4!} \phi^4 \right]$$

$$[\phi(\mathbf{x}), \Pi(\mathbf{y})] = i a^{-d} \delta_{\mathbf{x}\mathbf{y}}$$

Jordan, Lee, Preskill, 1112.4833

Trotterized Hamiltonian pieces H_ϕ and H_Π are diagonal in each space,
also efficient to construct Pauli gates

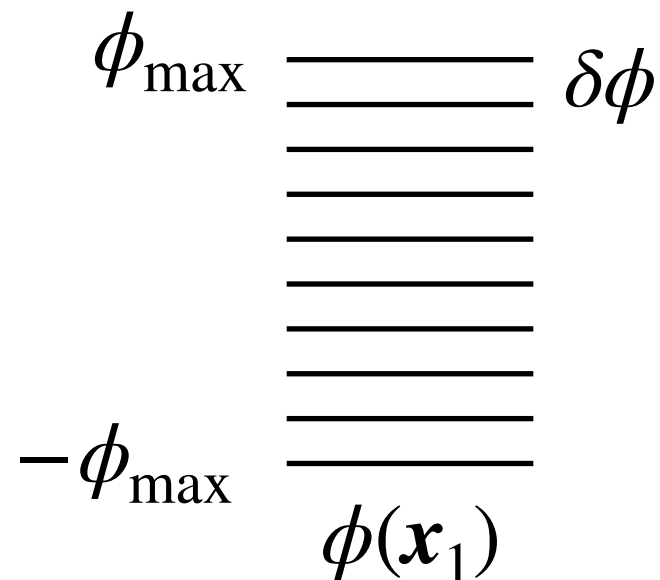


Motivation: Proved Bounds of Resources for ϕ^4

- Easy to prove resources at given volume, field digitization $\delta\phi$ and truncation $\phi_{\max}$
- **Key to prove resources for describing all states up to E with accuracy ϵ**



Desired QFT is only low-energy EFT of the LGT



Number of qubits per site

$$n_b = \lceil \log_2 (1 + 2\phi_{\max}/\delta\phi) \rceil$$

$$\pi_{\max} = \frac{\pi}{a^d \delta\phi(\mathbf{x})}$$

Use Chebyshev's inequality

$$\phi_{\max} = O \left(\max_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} \sqrt{\frac{\mathcal{V}}{\epsilon_{\text{trunc}}} \langle \psi | \phi(\mathbf{x})^2 | \psi \rangle} \right),$$

$$\pi_{\max} = O \left(\max_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} \sqrt{\frac{\mathcal{V}}{\epsilon_{\text{trunc}}} \langle \psi | \pi(\mathbf{x})^2 | \psi \rangle} \right),$$

$$\langle \psi | \phi(\mathbf{x})^2 | \psi \rangle \leq \frac{2E}{a^d m_0^2},$$

$$\langle \psi | \pi(\mathbf{x})^2 | \psi \rangle \leq \frac{2E}{a^d}.$$

Dirac Quantization of QED in Coulomb Gauge

- **Motivation: straightforward circuit construction, rigorous resource estimate**
- **Choosing a gauge turns first-class constraints to second-class**

$$\Pi^0 = 0, \partial_i \Pi^i = J^0$$

In Coulomb gauge:

$$\mathcal{H}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \Pi_{\perp i}^2(\boldsymbol{x}) + \frac{1}{2} [\varepsilon_{ijk} \partial_j A_k(\boldsymbol{x})]^2 - J^i(\boldsymbol{x}) A_i(\boldsymbol{x}) - \frac{1}{2} J^0(\boldsymbol{x}) A_0(\boldsymbol{x}) - \bar{\psi}(\boldsymbol{x}) (i\gamma^i \partial_i - m) \psi(\boldsymbol{x})$$

Dirac quantization: $[A_i(\boldsymbol{x}), A_j(\boldsymbol{y})] = 0$, $[\Pi_{\perp i}(\boldsymbol{x}), \Pi_{\perp j}(\boldsymbol{y})] = 0$,

$$[A_i(\boldsymbol{x}), \Pi_{\perp j}(\boldsymbol{y})] = i \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{\partial_i \partial_j}{\nabla^2} \right) \delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y})$$

Choose dynamical variable to be Π_j $\Pi_{\perp i}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{\partial_i \partial_j}{\nabla^2} \right) \Pi_j(\boldsymbol{x})$

$$[\Pi_{\perp i}(\boldsymbol{x})]^2 \rightarrow \Pi_i(\boldsymbol{x}) \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{\partial_i \partial_j}{\nabla^2} \right) \Pi_j(\boldsymbol{x})$$

$[A_i(\boldsymbol{x}), \Pi_j(\boldsymbol{y})] = i\delta_{ij} \delta^{(3)}(\boldsymbol{x} - \boldsymbol{y})$ Like scalar field theory now

Discretized Green's Function for Transversality

- **Discretization on lattice** Green's function of discrete Laplacian, analytically known

$$\hat{H}_\Pi = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}, i} \hat{\Pi}_i^2(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}, i, j} \hat{\Pi}_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \hat{\Pi}_j(\hat{\mathbf{y}}) \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L+)} \partial_{\hat{y}_j}^{(L+)} G(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{\mathbf{y}})$$

$$\hat{H}_A = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}, i} \hat{A}_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) [\nabla_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}^{(L)}]^2 \hat{A}_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}, i, j} \hat{A}_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L+)} \partial_{\hat{x}_j}^{(L-)} \hat{A}_j(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$$

$$[\hat{A}_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}), \hat{\Pi}_j(\hat{\mathbf{y}})] = i \delta_{ij} \delta_{\hat{\mathbf{x}} \hat{\mathbf{y}}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L+)} f(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) &\equiv f(\hat{\mathbf{x}} + \hat{\mathbf{i}}) - f(\hat{\mathbf{x}}), & [\nabla_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}^{(L)}]^2 &\equiv \sum_i \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L+)} \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L-)} = \sum_i \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L-)} \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L+)} \\ \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L-)} f(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) &\equiv f(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) - f(\hat{\mathbf{x}} - \hat{\mathbf{i}}) \end{aligned}$$

- **Use the lattice inverse of Laplacian guarantees decoupling of longitudinal fields**

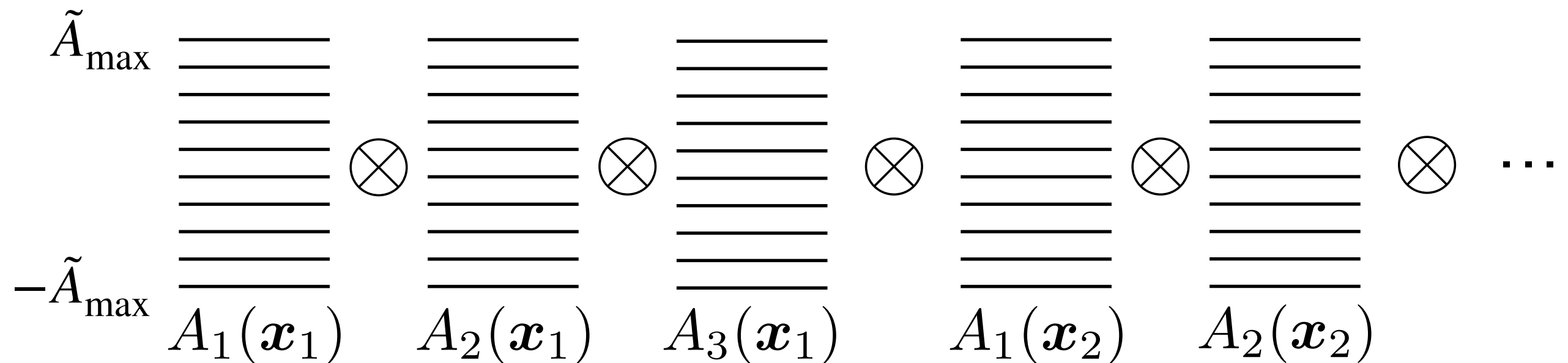
$$\hat{A}_{//i}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{y}}, j} \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L+)} G(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) \partial_{\hat{y}_j}^{(L-)} A_j(\hat{\mathbf{y}}) \text{ gives vanishing } \hat{H}_A$$

$$\left[\sum_i \partial_{\hat{x}_i}^{(L-)} \hat{A}_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}), \hat{H} \right] = 0, \quad \forall \hat{\mathbf{x}} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Longitudinal field is never generated} \\ \text{Similarly for } \hat{\Pi}_{//} \end{array}$$

Efficient Simulation for LQED in Coulomb Gauge

- Quantum Fourier transform to efficiently convert between A and Π local spaces

$$[\hat{A}_i(\hat{\mathbf{x}}), \hat{\Pi}_j(\hat{\mathbf{y}})] = i\delta_{ij}\delta_{\hat{\mathbf{x}}\hat{\mathbf{y}}}$$



Qubit# per site per direction $n_A = \lceil \log_2(2\tilde{A}_{\max}/\delta\tilde{A} + 1) \rceil$

Use Chebyshev's inequality, take care of coupling w/ fermion and **Dirac fermion sea**

$$\tilde{A}_{\max} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{E}'\hat{V}^{5/3}}{2\pi^2\epsilon}} + \frac{g\hat{V}^{2/3}}{6\pi^2} \quad \frac{\pi}{\delta\tilde{A}} = \tilde{\Pi}_{\max} = \sqrt{\frac{6\hat{E}'\hat{V}}{\epsilon}} \quad \text{XY, 2507.01089}$$

Single- and two-qubit gate costs $O(n_A^2 \hat{V}^2) \longleftarrow \hat{A}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}) = -\frac{1}{2}\delta\tilde{A} \sum_{j=0}^{n_A-1} 2^j \sigma_j^z(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$

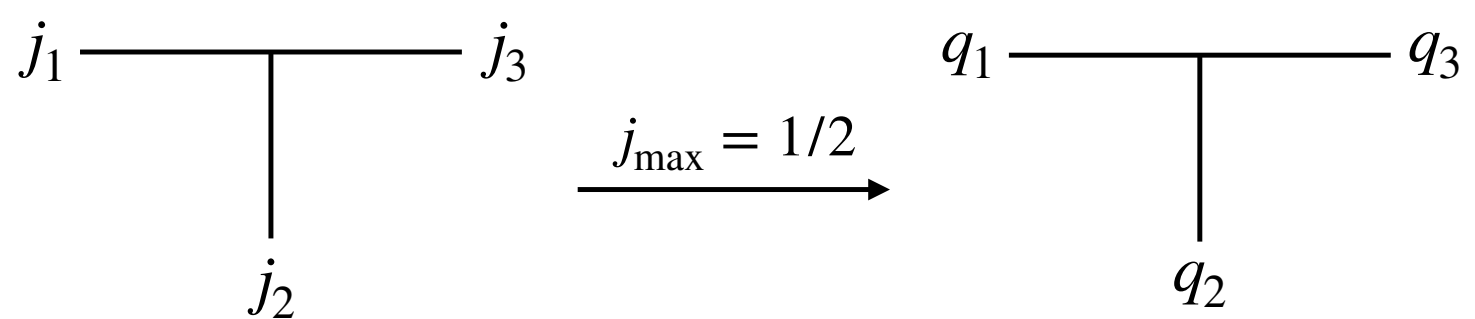
Quantum Error Correction Codes from Gauss Law in Truncated $SU(2)$

Example 1

Gauss Law Error Correction Code in Truncated SU(2)

- Consider $j_{\text{max}} = 1/2$ and map onto qubits

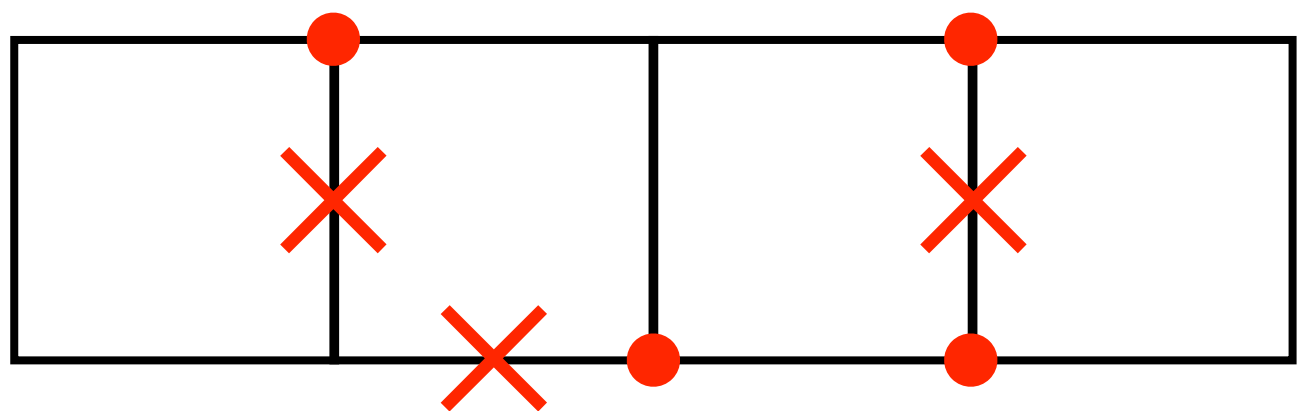
XY, 2511.13721



$ j_1 j_2 j_3\rangle$	$ q_1 q_2 q_3\rangle$
$ 000\rangle$	$ 000\rangle$
$ \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} 0\rangle$	$ 110\rangle$
$ \frac{1}{2} 0 \frac{1}{2}\rangle$	$ 101\rangle$
$ 0 \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2}\rangle$	$ 011\rangle$

Stabilizer $Z_1 Z_2 Z_3$

- Gauss law able to detect and correct any single-bit flip error (classical code)



Every vertex checks the ZZZ parity

For N -plaquette w/ OBC:

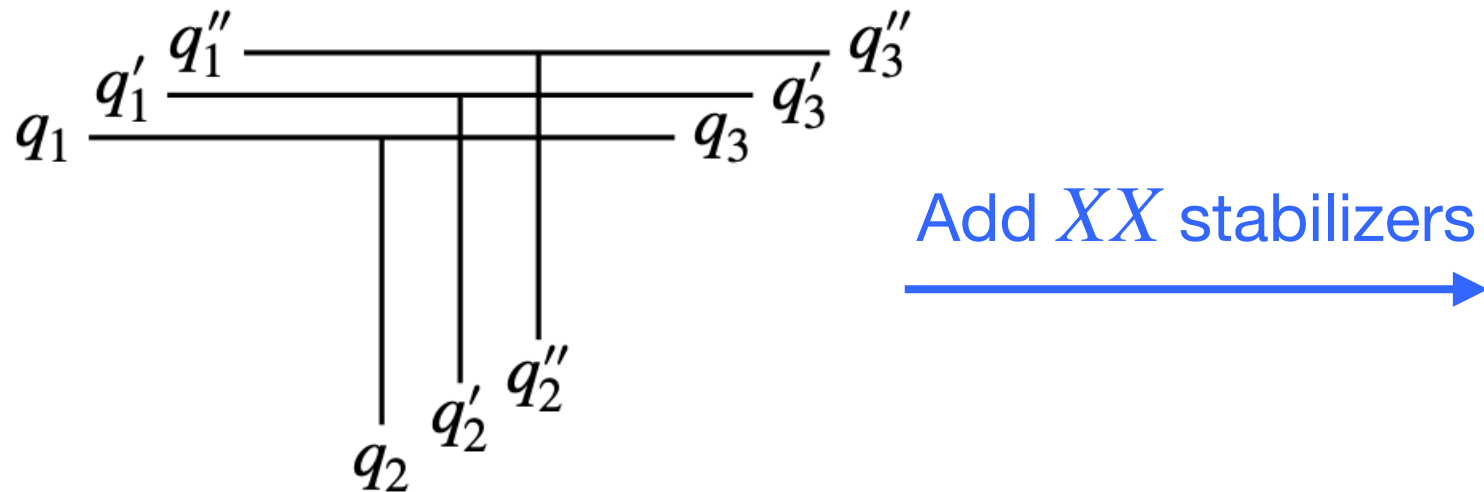
$$[3N + 1, N, 4]$$

Detectable

Correctable

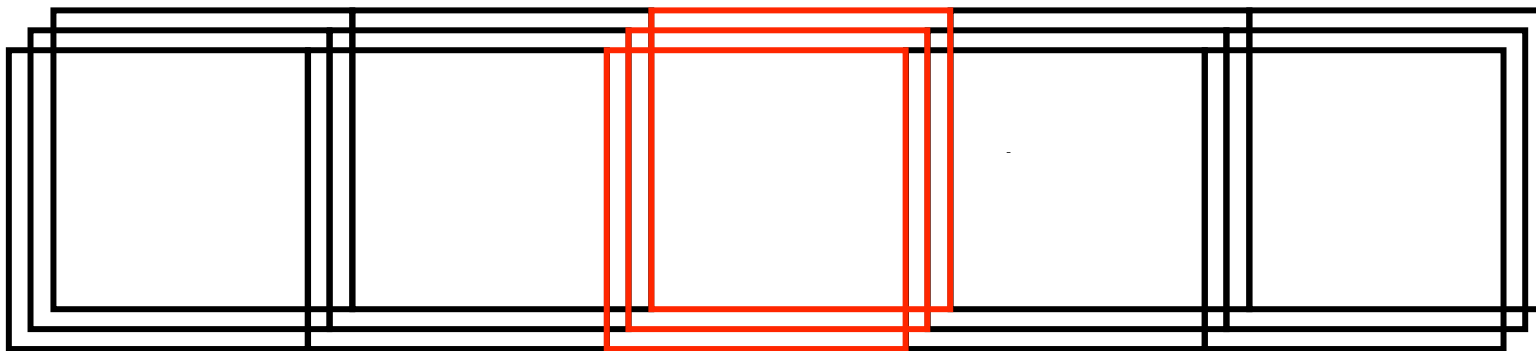
Make the Code a Quantum Code

- **To correct phase error: use repetition** For Z_2 , U(1), see Spagnoli, Roggero, Wiebe, 2405.19293



Syndromes						Error
$X_1 X_{1'}$	$X_{1'} X_{1''}$	$X_2 X_{2'}$	$X_{2'} X_{2''}$	$X_3 X_{3'}$	$X_{3'} X_{3''}$	
1	1	1	1	1	1	No
-1	1	1	1	1	1	Z_1
-1	-1	1	1	1	1	$Z_{1'}$
1	-1	1	1	1	1	$Z_{1''}$
1	1	-1	1	1	1	Z_2
1	1	-1	-1	1	1	$Z_{2'}$
1	1	1	-1	1	1	$Z_{2''}$
1	1	1	1	-1	1	Z_3
1	1	1	1	-1	-1	$Z_{3'}$
1	1	1	1	1	-1	$Z_{3''}$

- **Able to detect and correct any single-qubit error (flip and phase)**



For N -plaquette w/ OBC:

$$[[9N + 3, N, 3]]$$

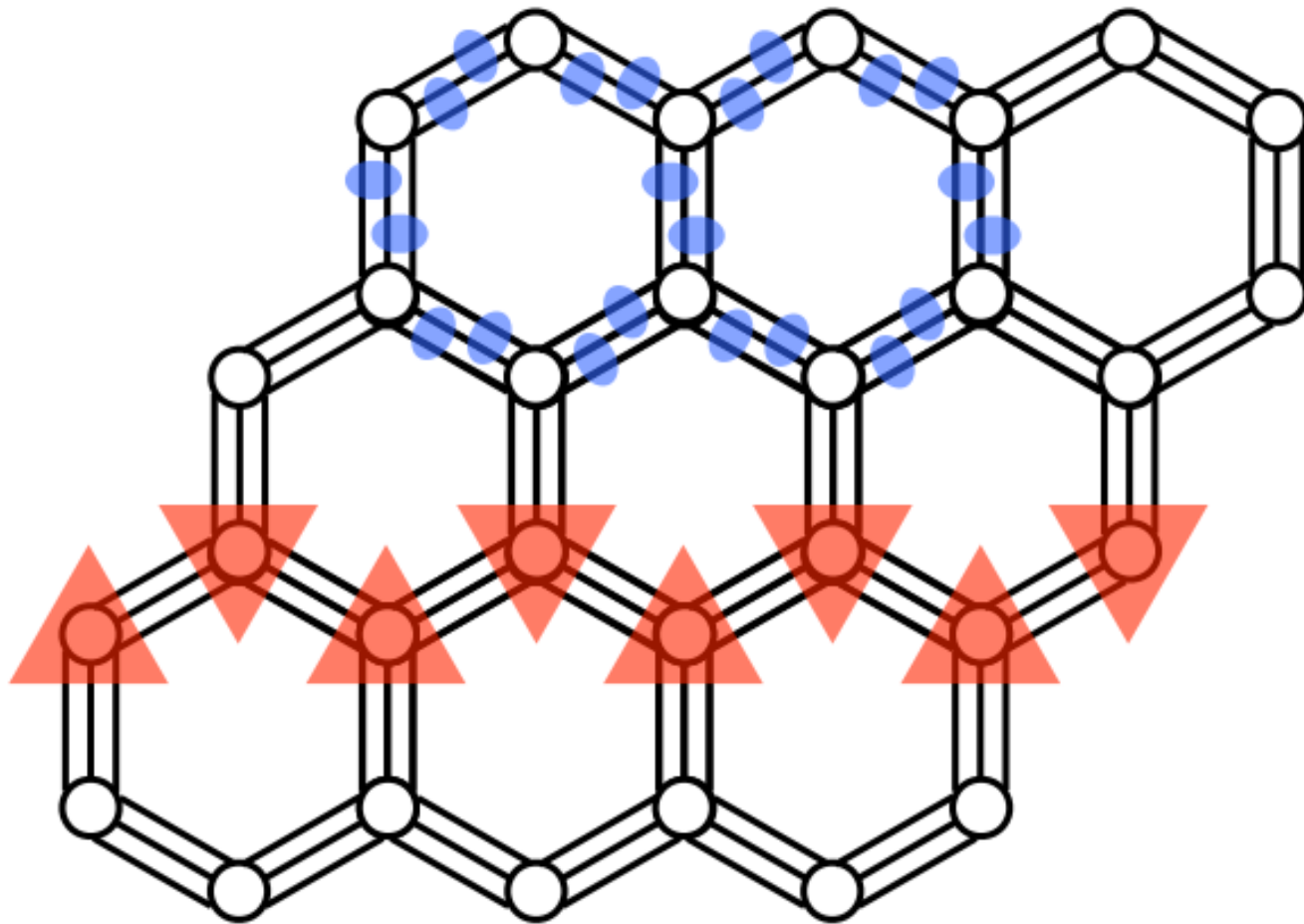
XY, 2511.13721

- **Logical operators correspond to excitations of singlet states**

$$\overline{X}(n) = X_t(n) X_r(n) X_b(n) X_l(n) \quad \overline{Z}(n) = Z_t(n) Z_{t'}(n) Z_{t''}(n)$$

Easily Generalized to 2+1D and 3+1D

- 2+1D: honeycomb lattice



Stabilizers: XX and $Z^{\otimes 9}$

XY, 2511.13721

For OBC:

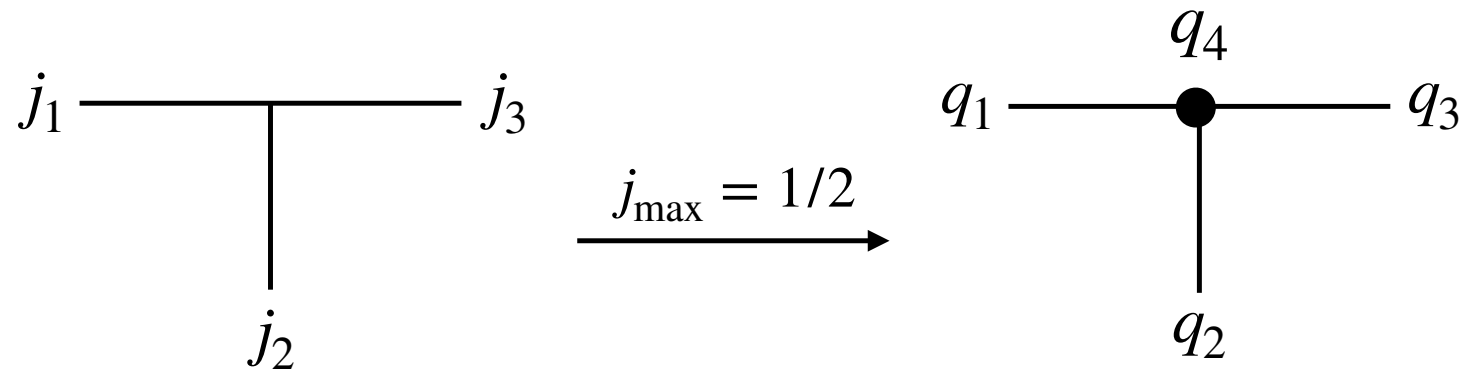
$$[[3(3N_x N_y + 2N_x + 2N_y - 1), N_x N_y, 3]]$$

Quantum Error Correction Codes from Gauss Law in Truncated $SU(2)$

Example 2

Carbon Code from SU(2) Gauss Law

- Add an extra qubit at each vertex



$ j_1 j_2 j_3\rangle$	$ q_1 q_2 q_3 q_4\rangle$
$ 000\rangle$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (0000\rangle + 1111\rangle)$
$ \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} 0\rangle$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1100\rangle + 0011\rangle)$
$ \frac{1}{2} 0 \frac{1}{2}\rangle$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (1010\rangle + 0101\rangle)$
$ 0 \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2}\rangle$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (0110\rangle + 1001\rangle)$

Stabilized by $Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 Z_4$ and $X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4$

Locally a $[[4,2,2]]$ code

- Make it a quantum error correction code: encode data qubits by another code

Concatenate with $[[6,2,2]]$ code and get $[[12,2,4]]$ carbon code

$$|q_1 q_1' q_1'' q_2 q_2' q_2'' q_3 q_3' q_3'' q_4 q_4' q_4''\rangle$$

10 stabilizers:

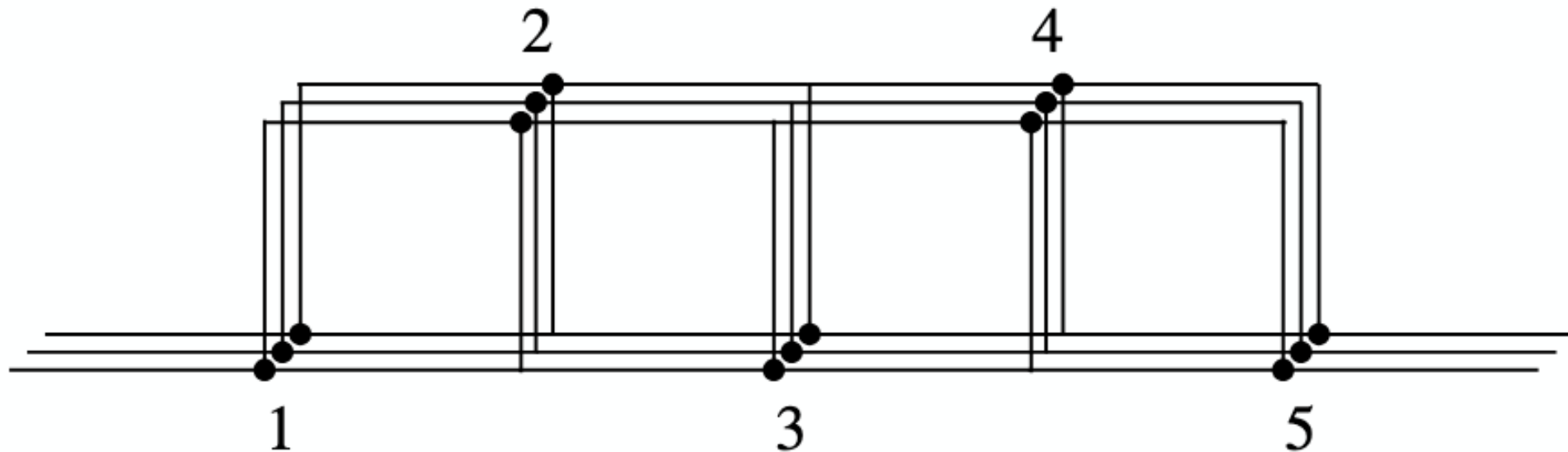
$$\begin{aligned}
 &Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 Z_4, \quad Z_1' Z_2' Z_3' Z_4', \quad Z_1'' Z_2'' Z_3'' Z_4'', \\
 &X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4, \quad X_1' X_2' X_3' X_4', \quad X_1'' X_2'' X_3'' X_4'', \\
 &Z_1 Z_1' Z_1'' Z_2 Z_2' Z_2'', \quad Z_2 Z_2' Z_2'' Z_3 Z_3' Z_3'', \\
 &X_1 X_1' X_2' X_2'' X_3'' X_3, \quad X_2 X_2' X_3' X_3'' X_1'' X_1.
 \end{aligned}$$

Carbon Code from SU(2) Gauss Law

- Logical gates

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{Z}_1 &= Z_1 Z_{1'} Z_2 Z_{4'} , & \bar{Z}_2 &= Z_{1'} Z_{1''} Z_{2'} Z_{4''} , \\ \bar{X}_1 &= X_3 X_{3'} X_4 X_{4'} , & \bar{X}_2 &= X_3 X_{3''} X_4 X_{4''} .\end{aligned}$$

- Hamiltonian in terms of logical gates



$$H_E = \frac{3g^2}{16} \sum_n [3 - \bar{Z}_1(n) - \bar{Z}_2(n) - \bar{Z}_1(n)\bar{Z}_2(n)]$$

$$\square(n) \rightarrow \bar{M}_2(n-1)\bar{M}_1(n)\bar{M}_2(n+1)\bar{M}_1(n+2)\bar{X}_2(n)\bar{X}_1(n+1)$$

$$\bar{M}_i(n) = \frac{1 + \bar{Z}_i(n)}{2} + \frac{1 - \bar{Z}_i(n)}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

Summary

- Efficient quantum computing for lattice QED in Coulomb gauge, proved rigorous bounds for resources to describe all states up to a given energy and accuracy
- Constructed two quantum error correction codes for minimally truncated Kogut-Susskind $SU(2)$ LGT from Gauss law constraints