

# Testing physics with quantum computers



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USC

Based on joint work with Rui Chao,  
Chris Sutherland, Falk Unger,  
Umesh Vazirani, Thomas Vidick

# How can we test **small** quantum computers?



Is nature exponential?  
(Do  $n$  qubits give  $2^n$  dimensions?)

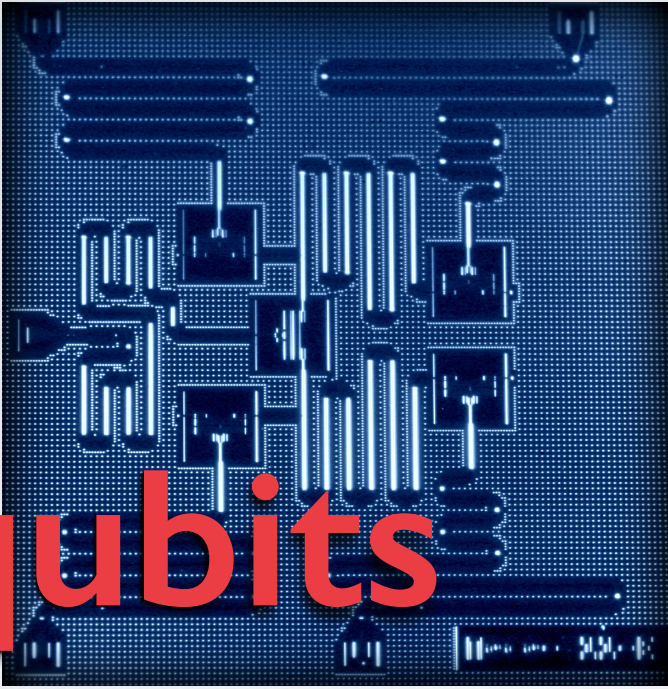
Does God play dice?  
(Is there an underlying classical model?)

Does entanglement break down?

Locality: Are errors independent?

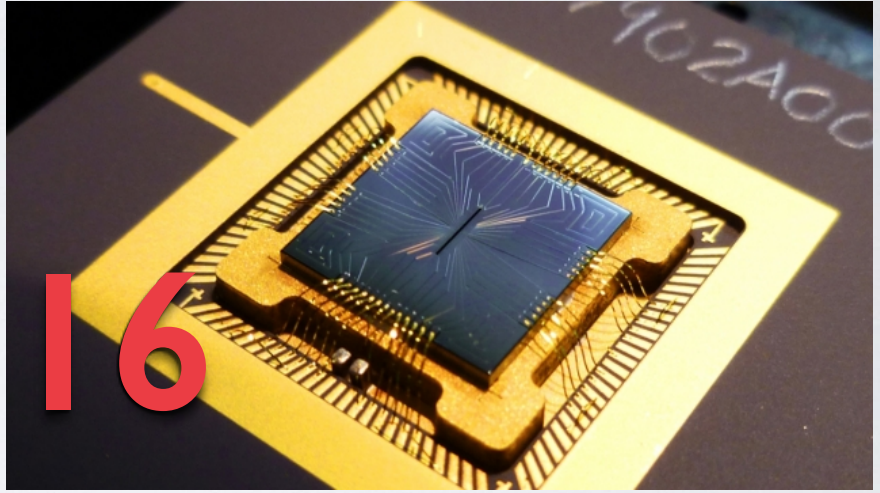
# **Dimension test**

5 qubits



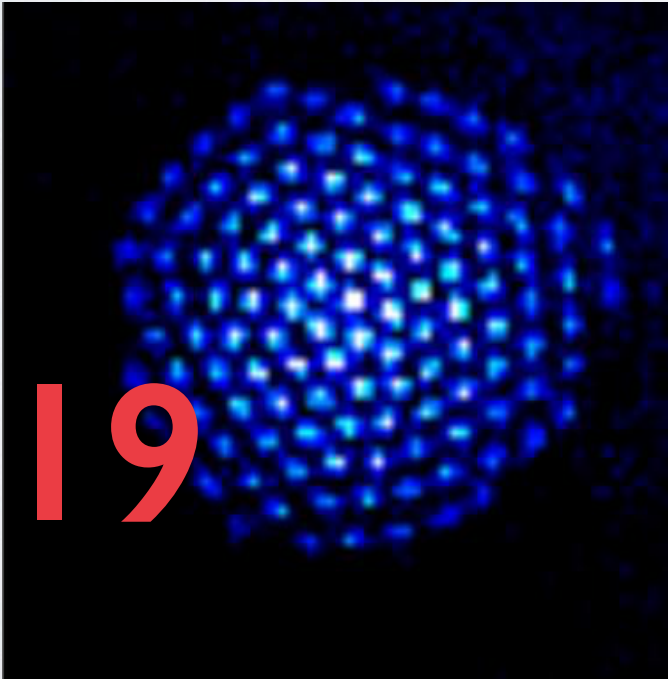
IBM

16



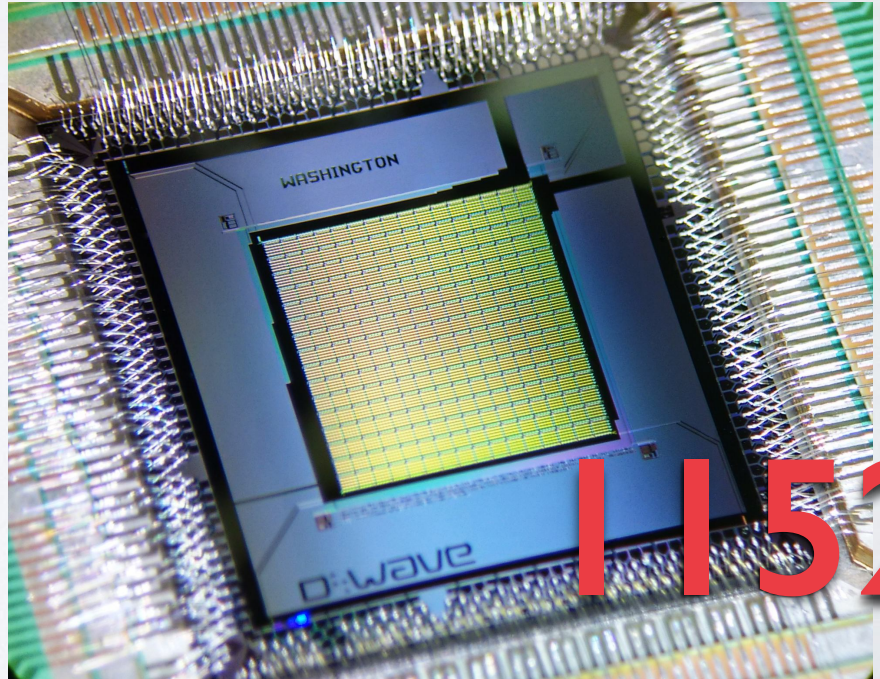
NIST/JM/D

219



NIST

1152



D-Wave

# Is nature exponential?

Huge  $\mathcal{H}$

$2^n$

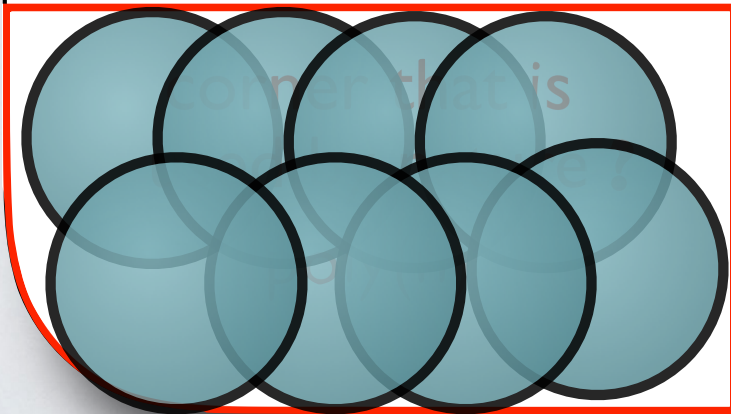
corner that is  
used by nature ?

$\text{poly}(n)$

# Is nature exponential?

Huge  $\mathcal{H}$

$$2^n$$





Roll over image to zoom in

## Samsung EVO 64GB Micro SDXC Memory Card with Adapter up to 48/MB/s (MB-MP64DA/AM)

★★★★☆ 11,932 customer reviews

| 946 answered questions

### Available from these sellers.

- Compatible with devices with SDXC slots-usage in non SDXC slot lead to reduced performance
- Great for Cell phones, Smartphones, Android Tablets, Tablet PCs.
- Great speed and performance for full HD video recording, high resolution pictures, mobile gaming, music and more.
- Water proof, Temperature Proof, X-Ray proof, Magnetic proof

New (28) from \$23.57 & FREE shipping.



Samsung EVO 64GB Micro SDXC...

See all buying options

Available from these sellers.

## Top Customer Reviews

★☆☆☆☆ Does Amazon themselves now carry bootlegs??

By Enrique E. on February 7, 2015

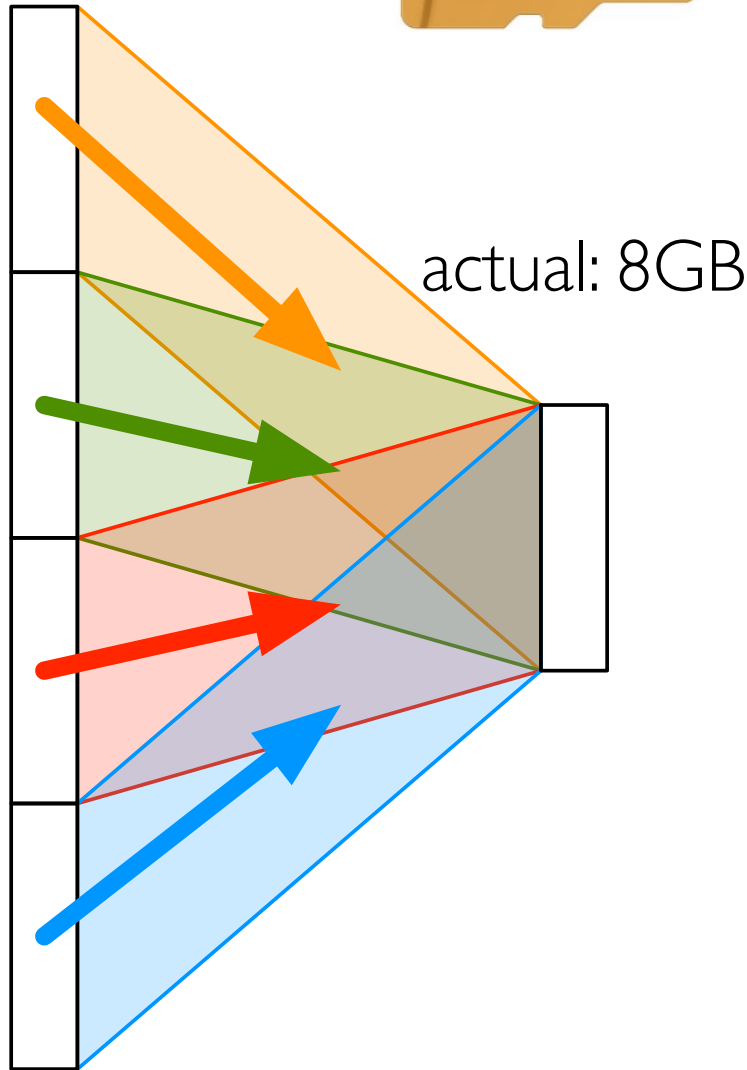
### Verified Purchase

Ordered my first card (from Amazon LLC themselves, not marketplace); came with no ad biggy. Packaging coloring was a bit faded, and the back of the packaging was in Chinese English. Huh.

Then when I tried to move files into it, it wouldn't take anything more than about 10GB. Pl be randomly corrupted, and entire folder contents mysteriously vanishing/being deleted (itself still intact). Also had extremely slow performance; reformatting took 6+ hours! These are signs of a bootleg card.

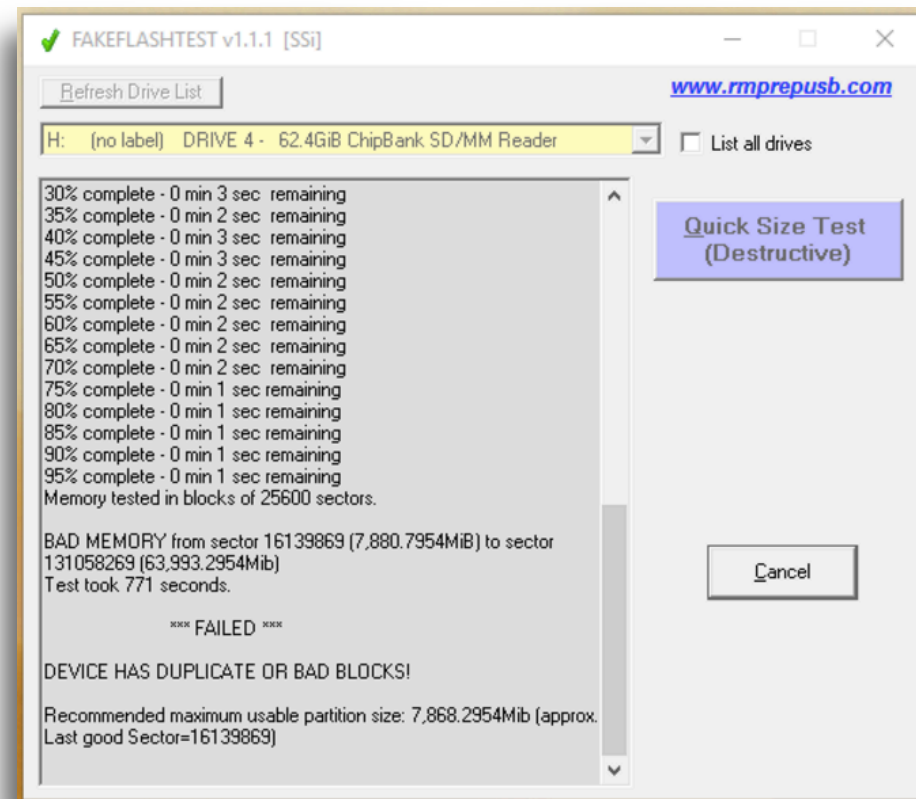


reported capacity:  
64GB

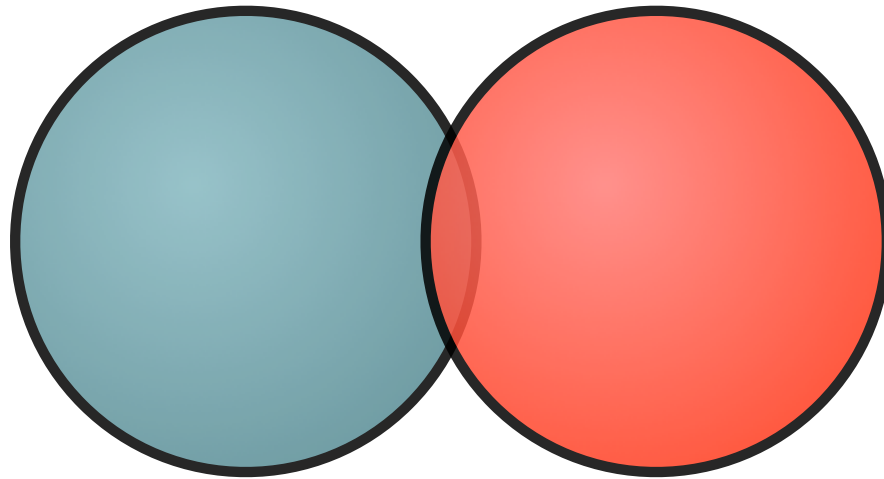


## Memory test:

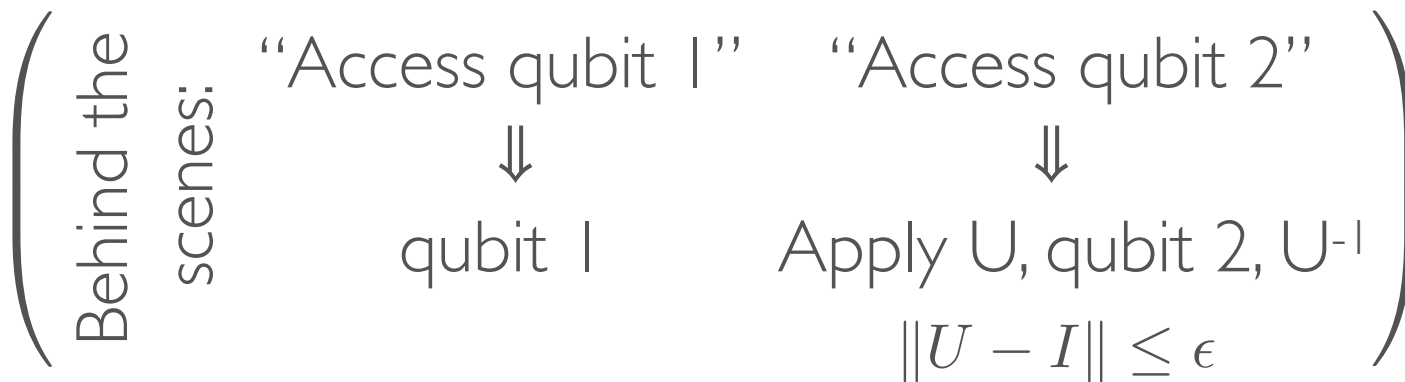
1. Store n random bits
2. Retrieve a random index & check it's correct



Quantum systems are continuous,  
so can cheat in more interesting ways...

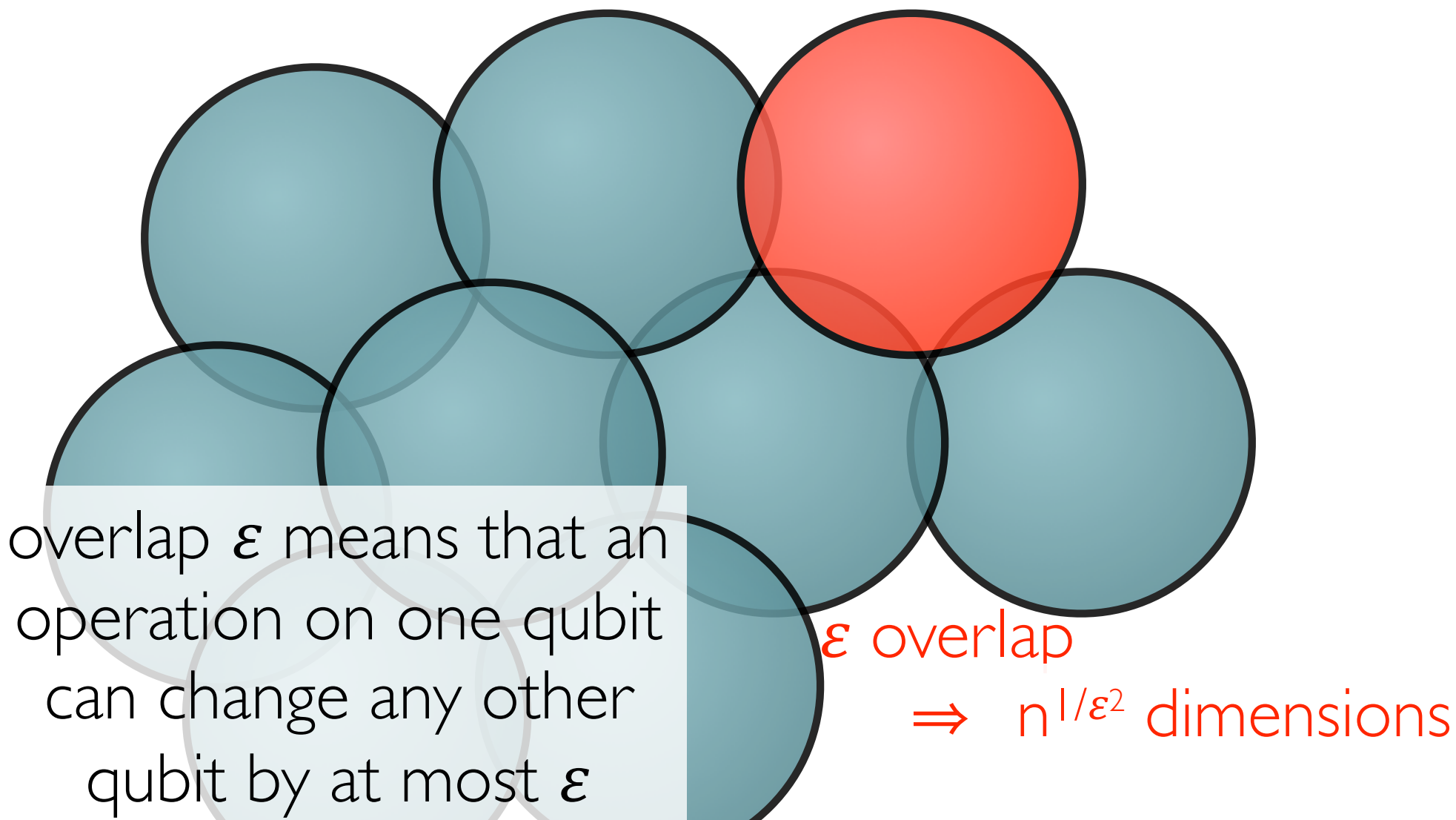


These qubits *slightly* overlap.



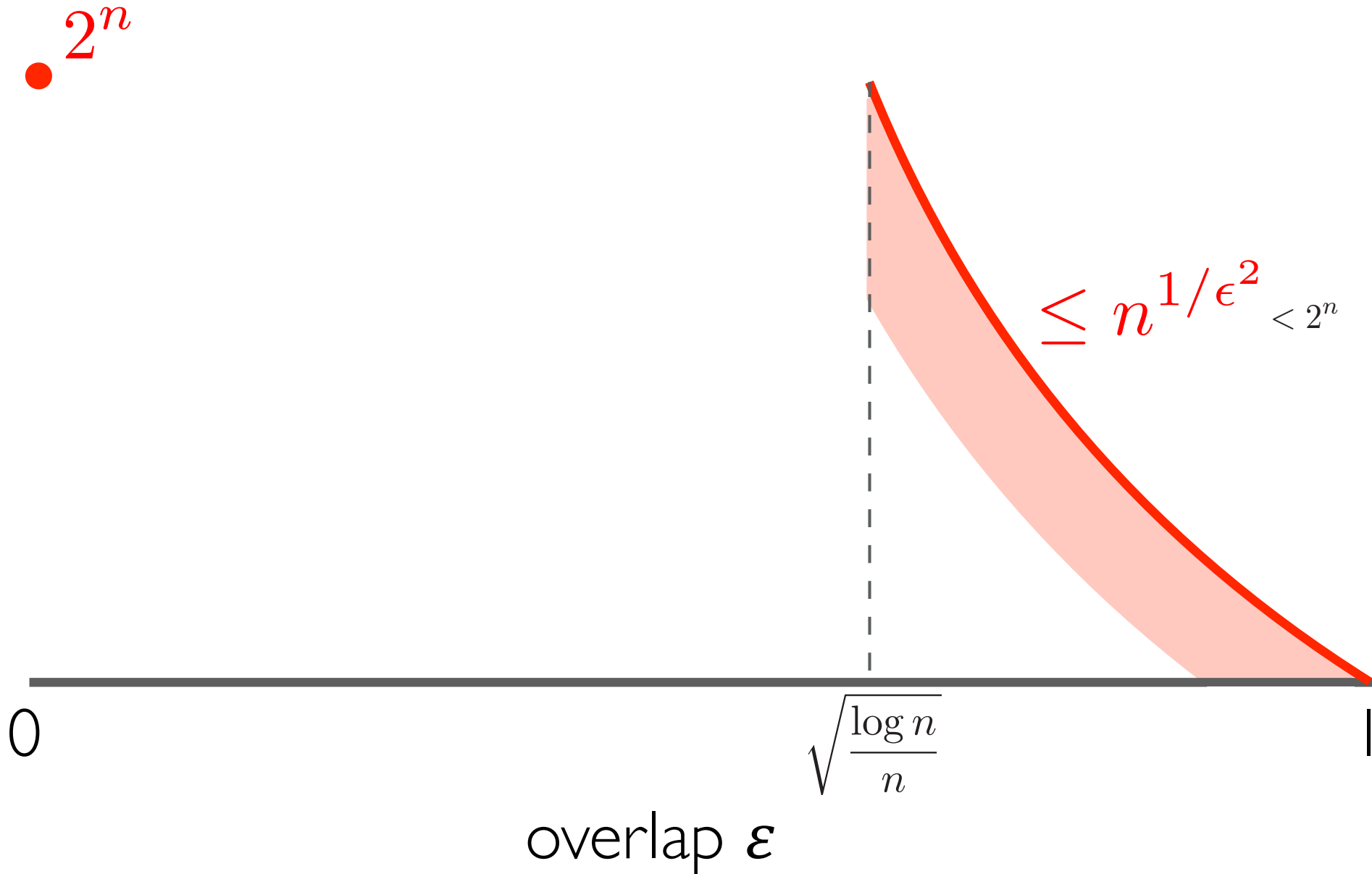
## Theorem 1:

$n$  overlapping qubits can fit in  $\text{poly}(n)$  dimensions



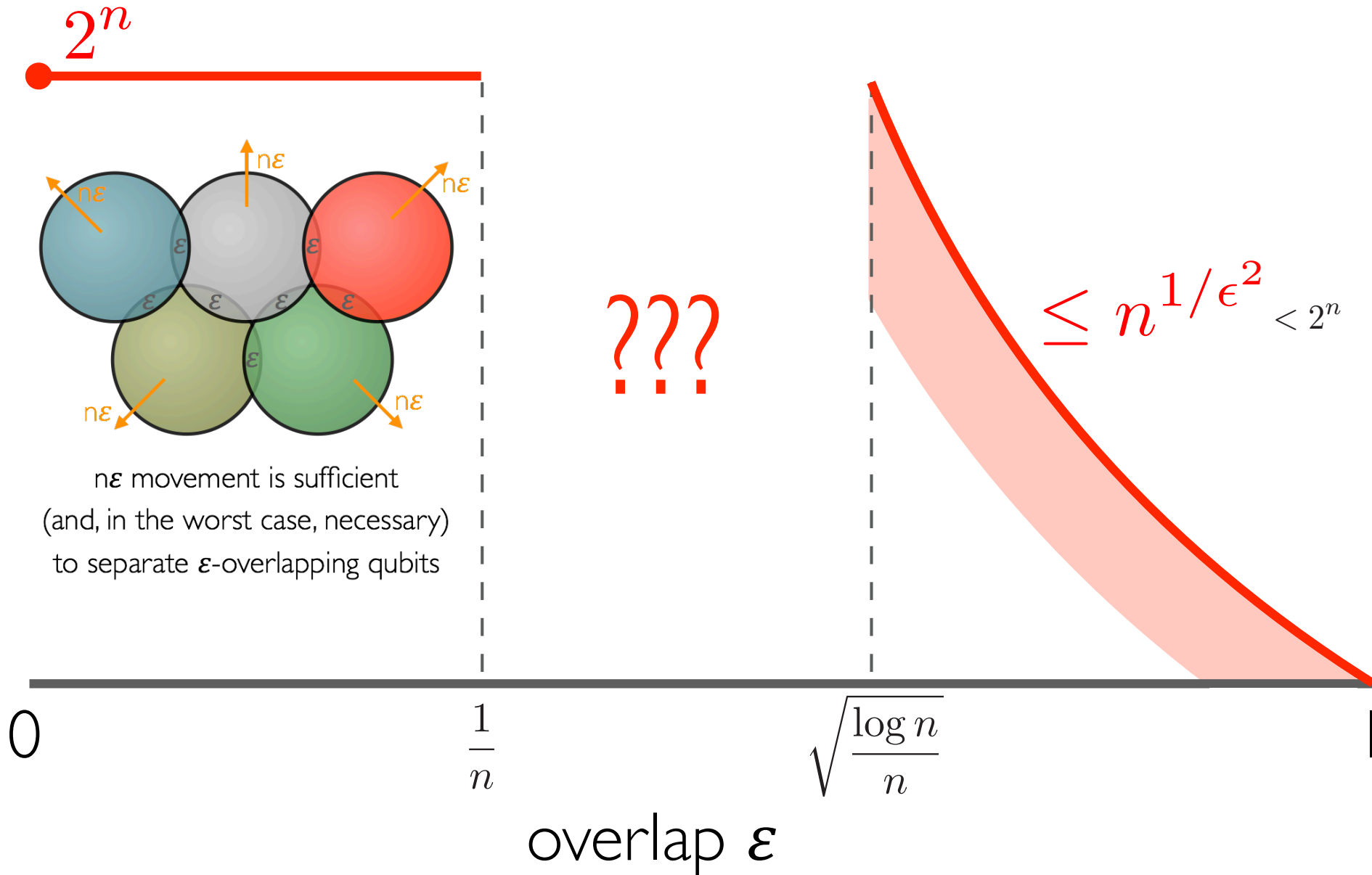
# Dimension

to pack  $n$  qubits with overlaps  $\varepsilon$



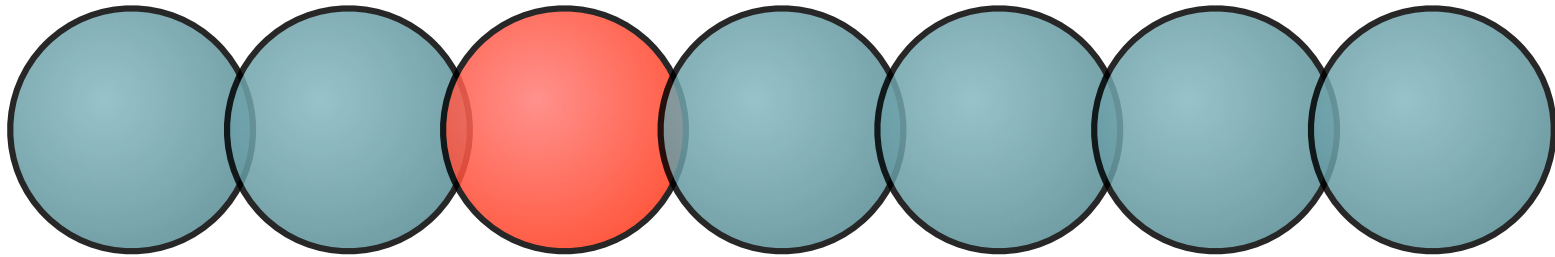
# Dimension

to pack  $n$  qubits with overlaps  $\epsilon$



# Dimension test

1. Store  $n$  random **qubits** (sequentially, each either  $|0\rangle, |1\rangle, |+\rangle, |-\rangle$ )
2. Retrieve a random index & check it's correct



## Theorem 2:

$$\Pr[\text{pass test}] \geq 1 - \delta \Rightarrow \text{dimension} \geq (1 - n^2 \delta) 2^n$$

The conclusion is actually stronger: Sequences of qubit operators are close to tensor-product operators, in their effects on a random state.

c.f. Nayak (FOCS '99)

**Dimension test**

**Entanglement test**

# How to verify entanglement?

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

**Answer:** Measure  $Z \otimes Z$

Measure  $X \otimes X$

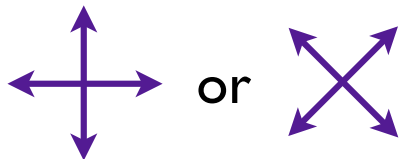


# Quantum key distribution

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

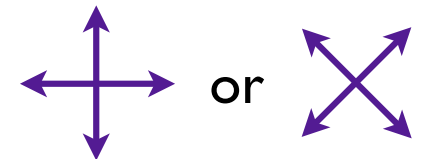
**Alice**

measure in basis



**Bob**

measure in basis







same basis  $\Rightarrow$  one key bit



Scheme is **insecure** if photons are 4D:

Eve

photon

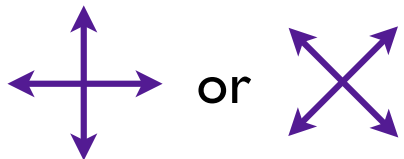
If I'm measured in direction...	... then output result
	$b_1$
	$b_2$

If I'm measured in direction...	... then output result
	$b_1$
	$b_2$

If I'm measured in direction...	... then output result
	$b_1$
	$b_2$

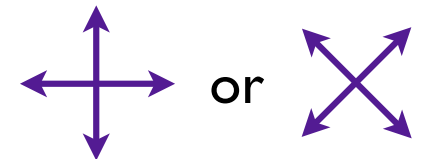
Alice

measure in basis



Bob

measure in basis



## Loophole-free Bell inequality violation using electron spins separated by 1.3 kilometres

B. Hensen, H. Bernien, A. E. Dréau, A. Reiserer, N. Kalb, M. S. Blok, J. Ruitenberg, R. F. L. Vermeulen, R. N. Schouten, C. Abellán, W. Amaya, V. Pruneri, M. W. Mitchell, M. Markham, D. J. Twitchen, D. Elkouss, S. Wehner, T. H. Taminiau & R. Hanson

Nature 526, 682–686 (29 October 2015)

### Editor's summary

The celebrated Bell inequality, a theorem published by John Bell in 1964, has long served as a basis for experimentally testing whether nature satisfies local realism. All experiments conducted to date have implied rejection of local-realist hypotheses. But because of experimental limitations all those tests suffered from loopholes — either the locality or the detection loophole. Here, Ronald Hanson and colleagues perform a Bell test that closes these loopholes. Their results are consistent with a violation of the inequality, although the authors reject local-realist hypotheses by two standard deviations only. The experimental setup allows for improvements in the statistics that may consolidate the result. In addition to its fundamental importance, a loophole-free Bell test is an important building block in quantum information processing.

## QUANTUM THEORY BY STARLIGHT

By David Kaiser February 7, 2017



In parsing the strange dance of subatomic particles, it can be helpful to think of them as twins. IMAGE BY CHRONICLE / ALAMY

The headquarters of the National Bank of Austria, in central Vienna, are exceptionally secure. During the week, in the basement of the building, employees perform quality-control tests on huge stacks of euros. One night last spring, however, part of the bank was given over to a different sort of testing. A group of young physicists, with temporary I.D. badges and sensitive electronics in tow, were allowed up to the top floor, where they assembled a pair of telescopes. One they aimed skyward, at a distant star in the Milky Way. The other they pointed toward the city, searching for a laser beam shot from a

## FREE WILL, VIDEO GAMES, AND THE MOST PROFOUND QUANTUM MYSTERY

By David Kaiser May 9, 2018



The Big Bell Test probed quantum mechanics using crowdsourced inputs from volunteer players. Photograph Courtesy ICFO

The word “predictable” first entered the English language two centuries ago. Its debut came in neither a farmer’s almanac nor a cardsharp’s manual in *The Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature*, a Unitarian periodical. In 1820, one Stephen Freeman wrote a dense treatise in which he criticized the notion that human behavior—seemingly manifest

Alice

X

different!

same

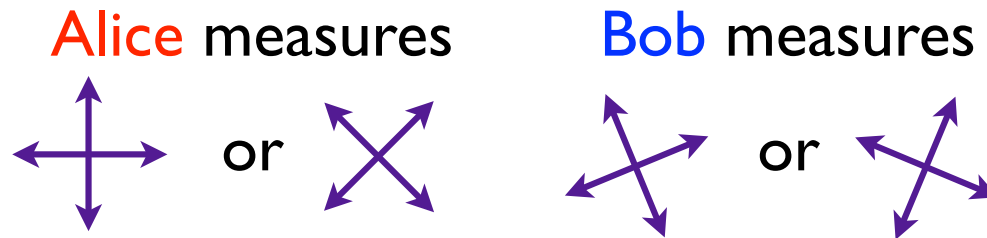
(just like in the QKD protocol, same question ⇒ same answer)

Classical devices win with probability  $\leq 75\%$

Entangled quantum devices can win with probability 85%

## Optimal quantum strategy

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

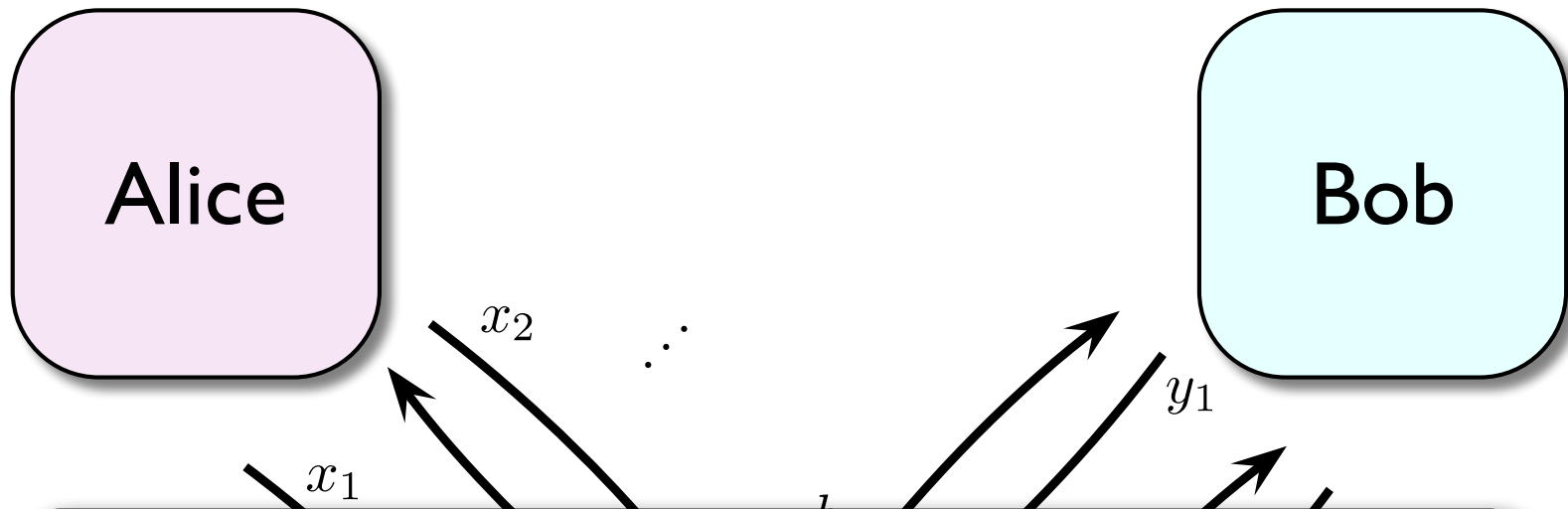


**Theorem:**

This is the *only* way of winning with 85% probability.

$\Pr[\text{win}] \geq 85\% - \epsilon \Rightarrow$  State and measurements are  $\sqrt{\epsilon}$ -close to above strategy (up to local isometries)

To establish many qubits of entanglement,  
consider many CHSH games

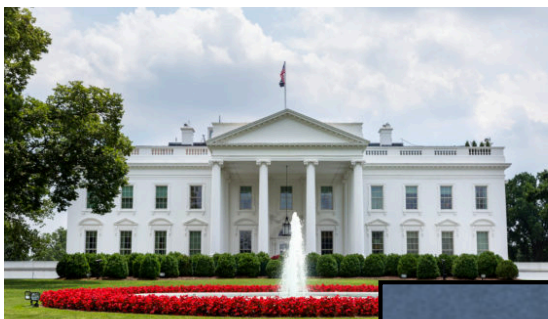


**Main Theorem:**

If  $\Pr[\text{win} \approx 85\% \text{ of games}] \approx 1$

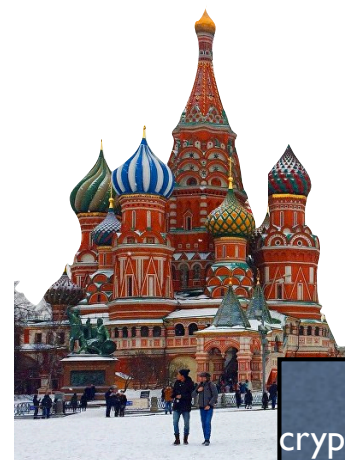
$\Rightarrow$  W.h.p. for a random set of  $n^{1/c}$  sequential games,

Devices' strategy  $\approx$  Ideal strategy



crypto device  
"Alice"  
Made in China

Secure channel



crypto device  
"Bob"  
Made in China

## Device-Independent QKD

- Assumptions:
  1. Authenticated classical communication
  2. Random bits can be generated locally
  3. Isolated laboratories
  4. Quantum theory is correct

~~Computational  
assumptions~~

~~Trusted devices~~



quantum computer

## How do you know it works?

- For some problems, you can check the answer

$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

- But not always! (e.g., quantum simulation)

# Secure delegated quantum computation

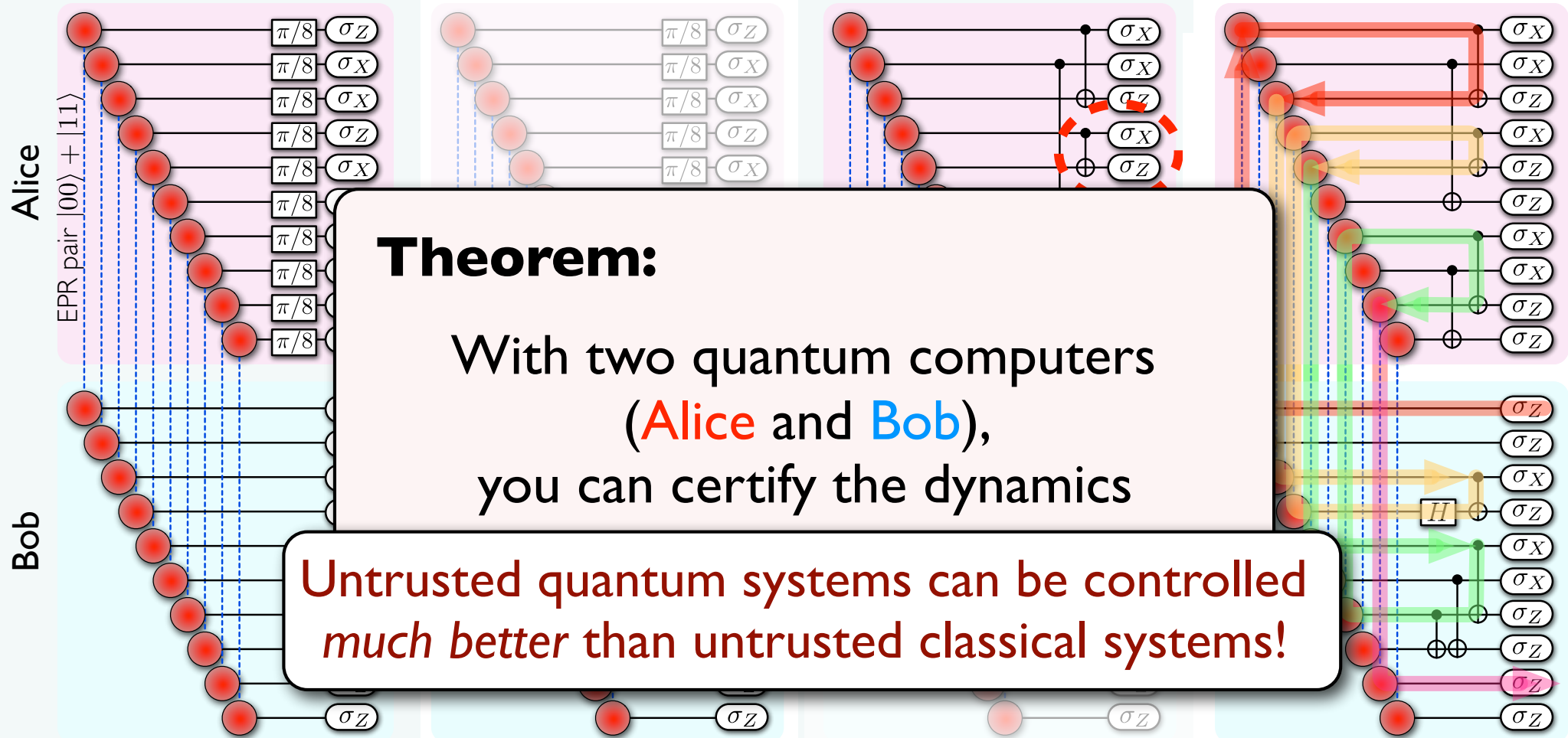
Run one of four protocols, at random:

(a) CHSH games

(b) State tomography

(c) Process tomography

(d) Computation



## Theorem:

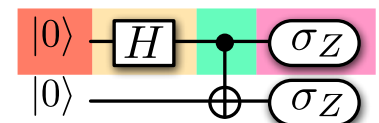
With two quantum computers  
(**Alice** and **Bob**),  
you can certify the dynamics

Untrusted quantum systems can be controlled  
*much better* than untrusted classical systems!

ask Bob to prepare resource states on Alice's side by collapsing EPR pairs (Alice can't tell the difference)

ask Alice to apply Bell measurements (Bob can't tell the difference)

by teleportation



**Theorem:** If tests a-c pass w.h.p., then protocol d's output is correct.



**Dimension test**

**Entanglement test**

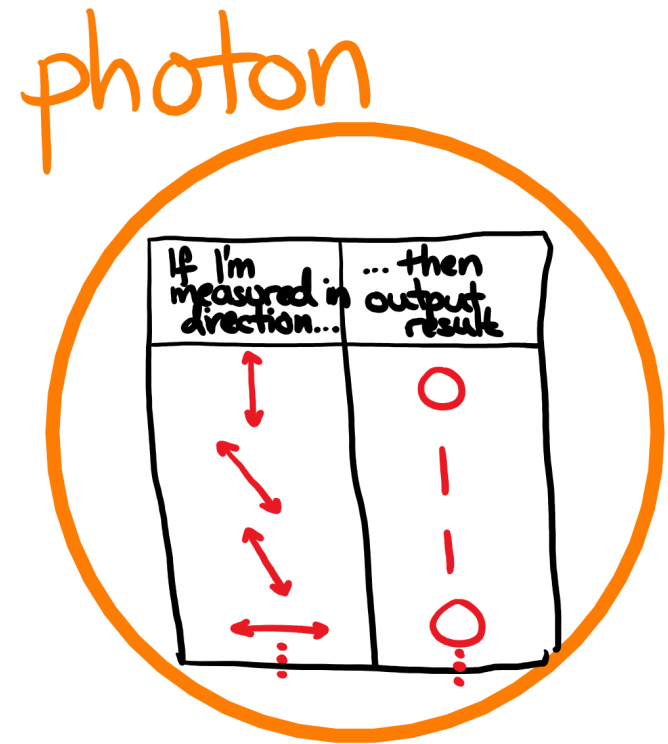
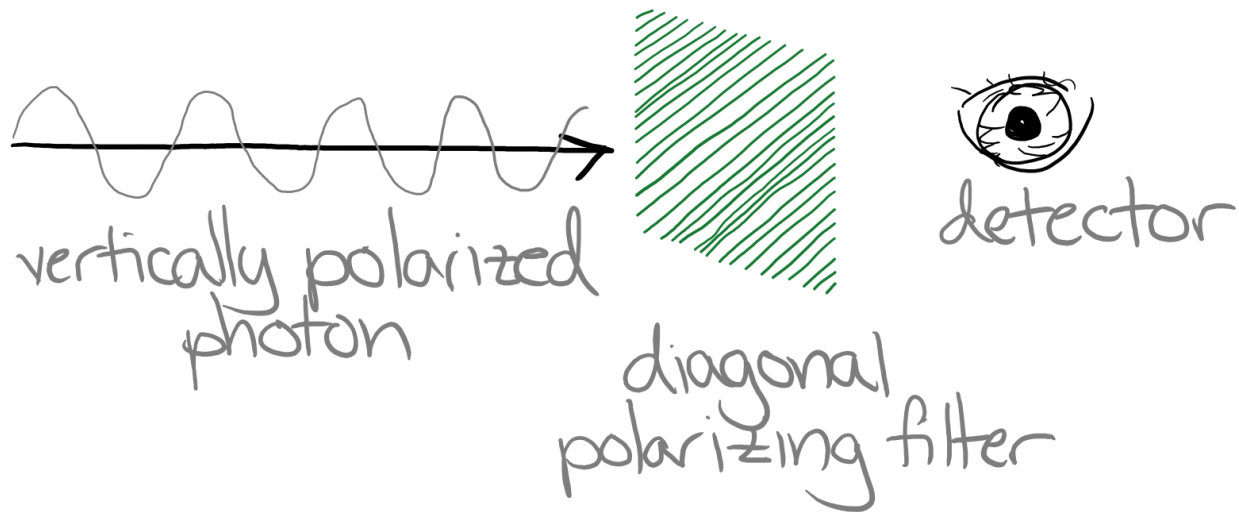
**Nonlocality test**

# Can Quantum-Mechanical Description of Physical Reality Be Considered Complete?

A. EINSTEIN, B. PODOLSKY AND N. ROSEN, *Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey*

(Received March 25, 1935)

Does God play dice?  
(Is the universe random or deterministic?)



Local hidden variable model

# Models for the universe

Local  
realist

Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen



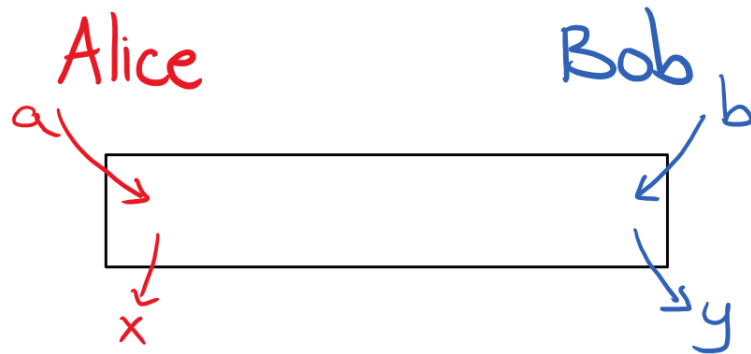
- ① "Local": *Alice's* result depends only on measurement setting  
(no faster-than-light communication *from Bob*)
- ② "Realist" = deterministic

Quantum

× game with  
Local realist = 75%  
Quantum ≈ 85%

What about a local *randomized* classical model?

# Popescu-Rohrlich nonlocal box



Bob  $b$

		Bob $b$																									
		0	1																								
Alice $a$	0	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" rowspan="2"></th> <th>0</th> <th>1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><math>\frac{1}{2}</math></td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <th>0</th> <td><math>\frac{1}{2}</math></td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <th>1</th> <td>0</td> <td><math>\frac{1}{2}</math></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" rowspan="2"></th> <th>0</th> <th>1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><math>\frac{1}{2}</math></td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <th>0</th> <td>0</td> <td><math>\frac{1}{2}</math></td> </tr> <tr> <th>1</th> <td><math>\frac{1}{2}</math></td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
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- Each player's marginal output dist<sup>n</sup> depends only on her input (no FTL comm.)
- But  $x + y = a \cdot b \pmod{2}$  always!

# Models for the universe

Local  
realist

Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen



- ① "Local" : *Alice's* result depends only on measurement setting  
(no faster-than-light communication *from Bob*)
- ② "Realist" = deterministic

Quantum

"Nonsignaling"  
(local randomized)



× game with  
Local realist = 75%  
Quantum ≈ 85%  
NS = 100%

# Models with 3 parties

## Theorem:

There exists a 3-party game with

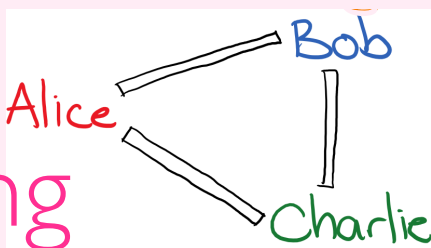
Quantum  $\geq 92.6\%$

2-party NS  $\leq 87.5\%$

Local  
realist



2-party  
nonsignaling



Quantum

3-party nonsignaling

## Theorem:

There exists a 3-party game with

Quantum  $\geq 92.6\%$

2-party NS  $\leq 87.5\%$

Alice

Bob

Charlie

① <sup>Alice-Charlie</sup> Consistency subgame  
 $a = c = 0$   
want outputs  $x = z$

② <sup>Alice-Bob</sup> CHSH subgame  
 $c = 1$   
want  $x + y = ab + z \pmod{2}$

# Models with $k+1$ parties

Local  
realist



$k$ -party  
nonsignaling

Quantum

## **Theorem:**

There exists a  $(k+1)$ -party game with  
**(Quantum -  $k$ -party NS)  $> \epsilon$**

$k+1$	CHSH gap	Best $\text{CHSH}_n$ gap
3	$5.178 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$4.272 \cdot 10^{-2}$ (with $n = 3$ )
4	$2.071 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.318 \cdot 10^{-2}$ ( $n = 4$ )
5	$7.397 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.079 \cdot 10^{-2}$ ( $n = 5$ )
6	$2.526 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$4.454 \cdot 10^{-3}$ ( $n = 8$ )
7	$8.488 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$1.695 \cdot 10^{-3}$ ( $n = 13$ )
8	$2.837 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$6.122 \cdot 10^{-4}$ ( $n = 22$ )



Local  
realist



k-party  
nonsignaling

Quantum

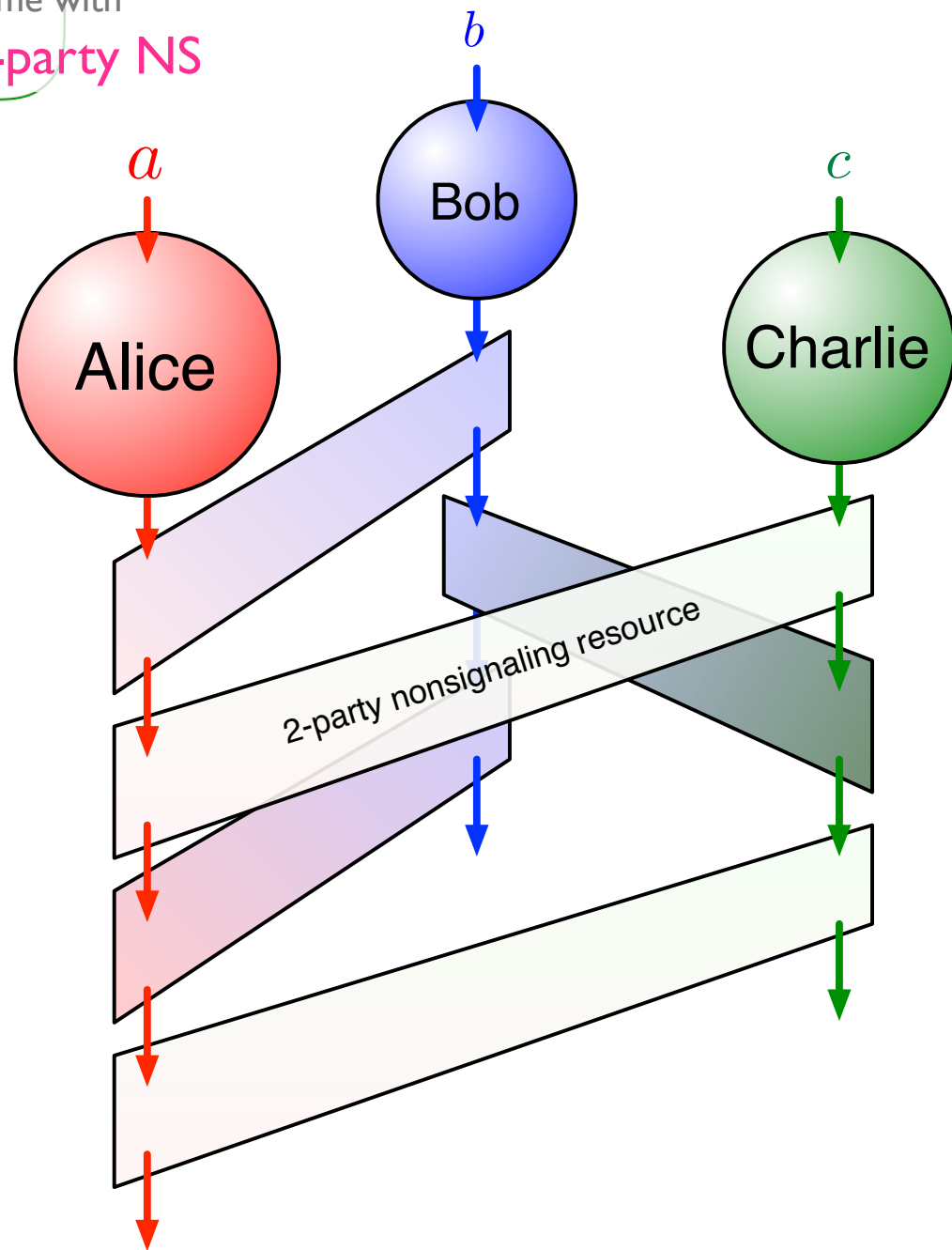
× (k+1)-party game with

Quantum > k-party NS

Main proof difficulty:

Upper-bounding success  
probability for k-party nonsignaling

Adaptive strategies



Local  
realist



k-party  
nonsignaling

Quantum

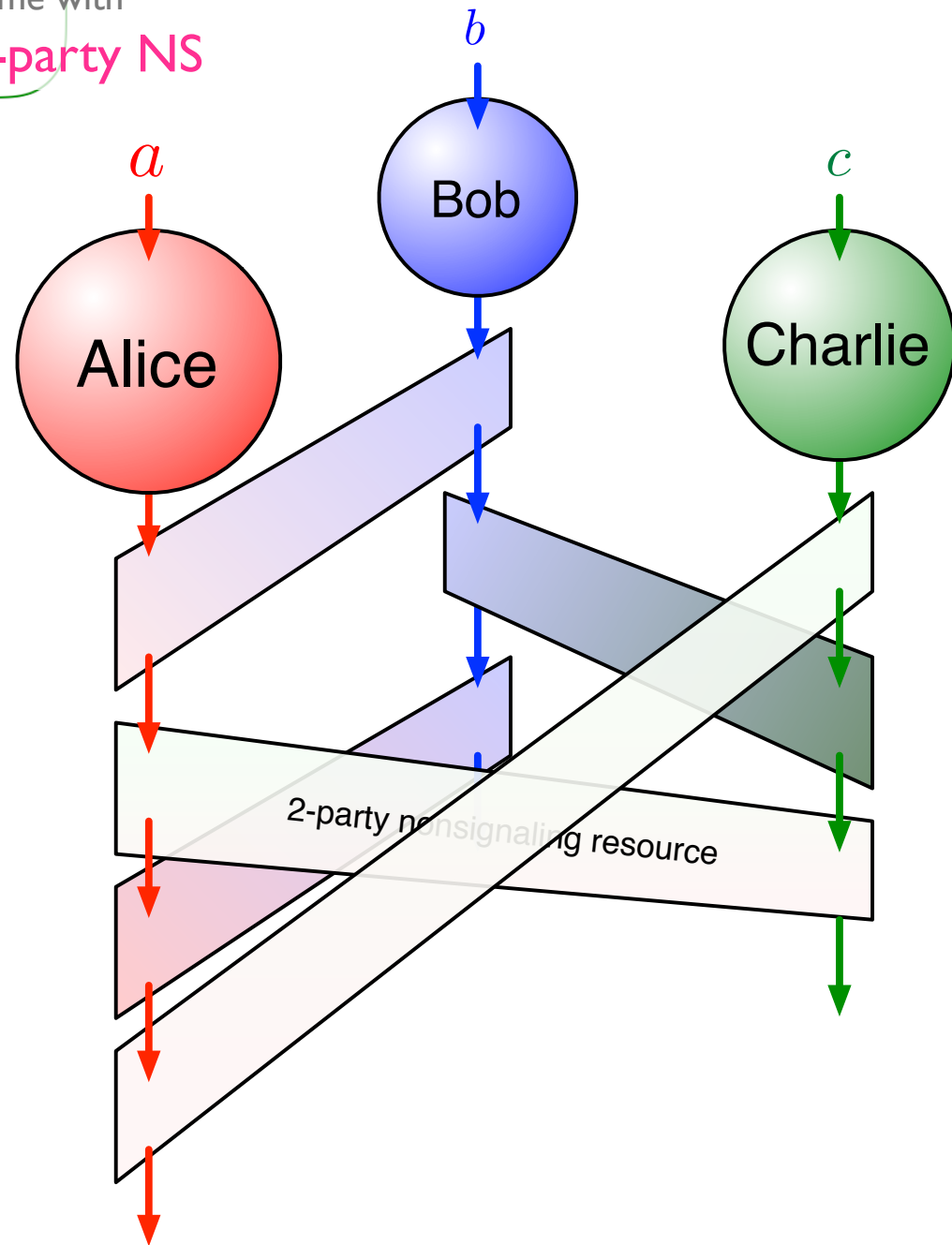
× (k+1)-party game with

Quantum > k-party NS

Main proof difficulty:

Upper-bounding success  
probability for k-party nonsignaling

Adaptive strategies



**Dimension test**

**Entanglement test**

**Nonlocality test**

**Fault-tolerance test**

Shor's algorithm  
 factors a 1024-bit numbers  
 using  $10^8$  gates on 5000 qubits  
 $\Rightarrow$  need error  $< 10^{-11}$  per gate

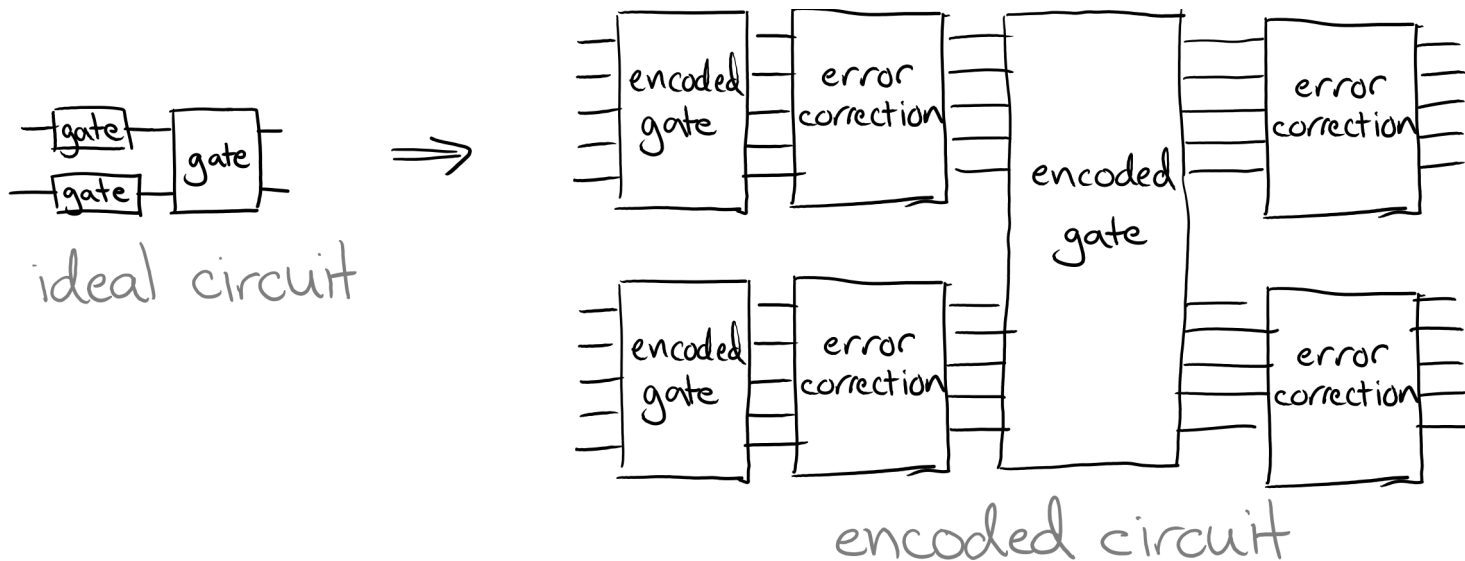
But typical noise rates are  $10^{-2}$  to  $10^{-4}$  per gate

Operation	Current duration	Current infidelity	Anticipated duration	Anticipated Infidelity
Single-qubit gates	$5 \mu\text{s}$	$5 \cdot 10^{-5}$	$1 \mu\text{s}$	$1 \cdot 10^{-5}$
Entangling (2 qubits)	$40 \mu\text{s}$	$1 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$15 \mu\text{s}$	$2 \cdot 10^{-4}$

Assessing the progress of trapped-ion processors towards fault-tolerant quantum computation

A. Bermudez, X. Xu, R. Nigmatullin, J. O'Gorman, V. Negnevitsky, P. Schindler, T. Monz, U. G. Poschinger, C. Hempel, J. Home, F. Schmidt-Kaler, M. Biercuk, R. Blatt, S. Benjamin, M. Müller

# Fault tolerance is amazing!



# Will fault tolerance work?

Threshold theorems are for ideal models, might not apply to real noise

1. Noise might be *correlated*

2. *Coherent* noise might have quadratically lower tolerable noise rates

Stochastic noise:  $p + p + \dots + p = np$

Coherent noise:  $e^{i\theta} \times e^{i\theta} \times \dots \times e^{i\theta} = e^{ni\theta}$

$$\downarrow$$
$$n^2\theta^2 \text{ error probability}$$

# Will fault tolerance work?

Threshold theorems are for ideal models, might not apply to real noise

1. Noise might be *correlated*
2. *Coherent* noise might have quadratically lower tolerable noise rates

## How will fault tolerance work?

### **Concatenated codes**

Good for low noise rates

### **Surface codes**

Good with limited (2D)  
qubit connections

# Will fault tolerance work?

Threshold theorems are for ideal models, might not apply to real noise

1. Noise might be *correlated*
2. *Coherent* noise might have quadratically lower tolerable noise rates

## How will fault tolerance work?

### Options:

Many codes,  
many ways of using each code,  
and they can all be combined

### Regimes:

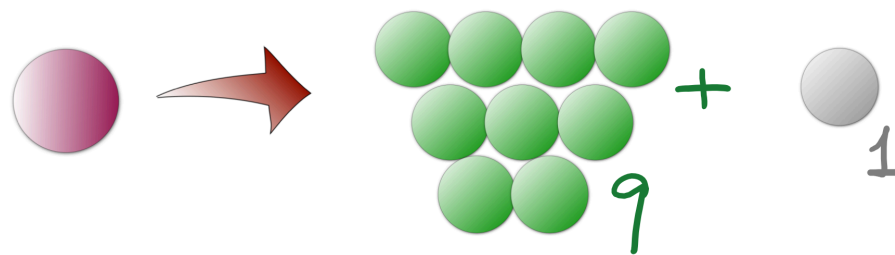
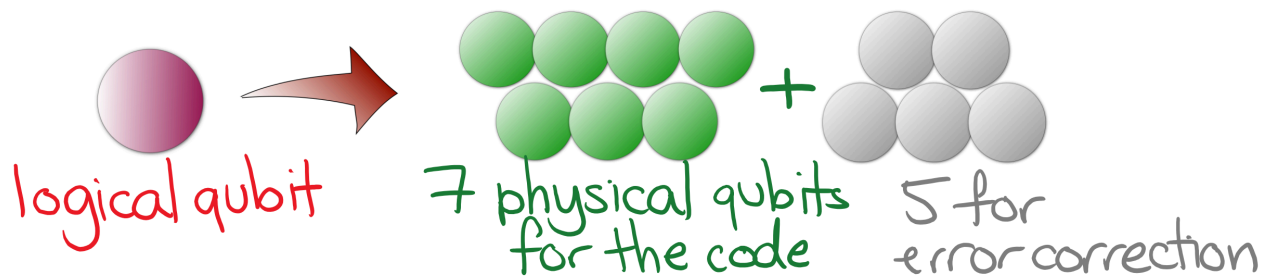
Local vs. ranged gates  
Fast vs. slow measurements  
Good vs. bad memory  
High vs. low errors

But simulations are difficult & bounds are too conservative

Goal: Implement fault-tolerant error correction and computation on small quantum devices

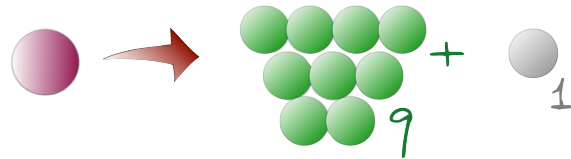
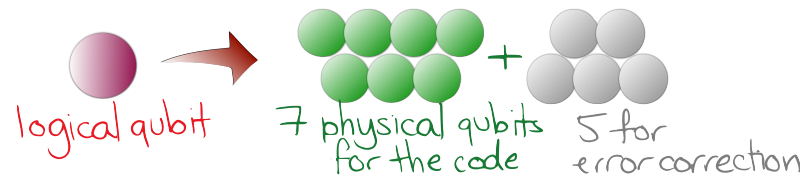
- to test/demonstrate the theory
- to assess FT schemes' performance in real error models
- to adapt FT schemes to real noise

Previous methods:

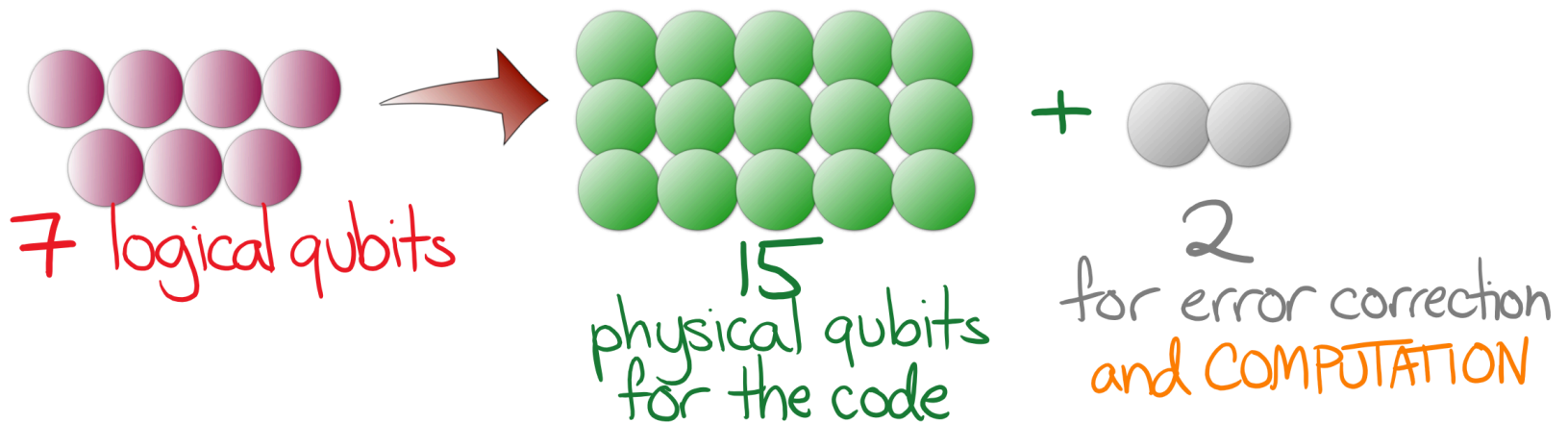
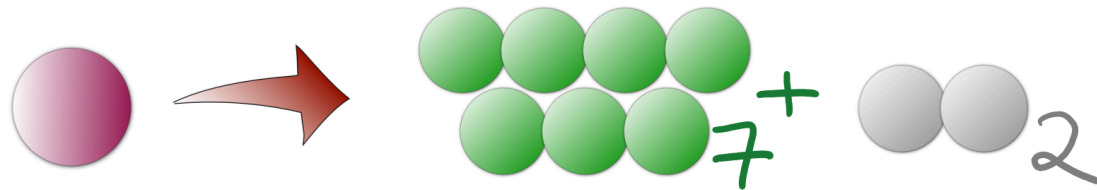
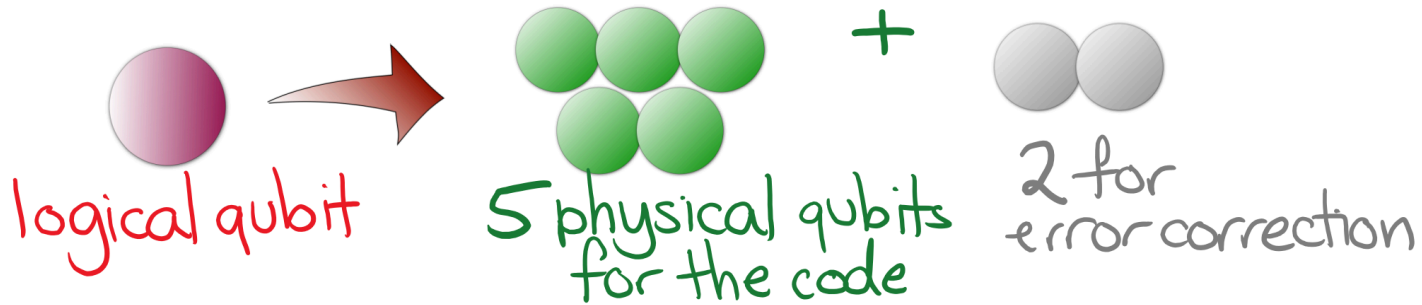




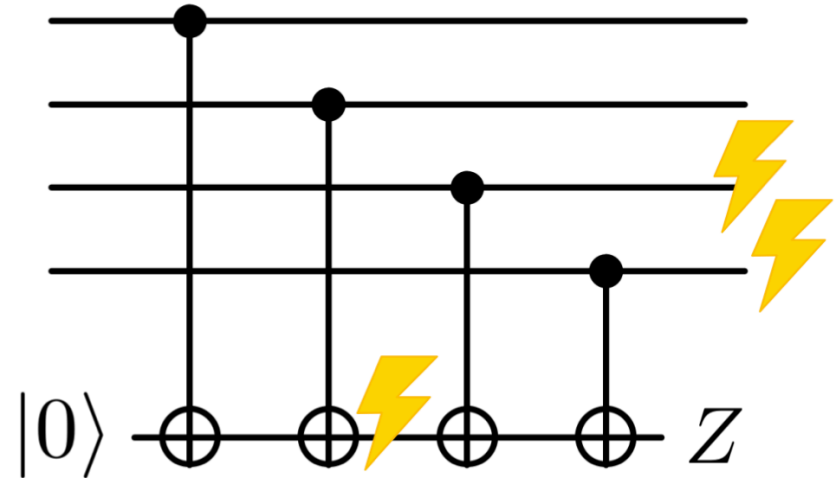
Previous methods:



Our method:



**Main problem:** Errors can spread



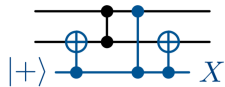
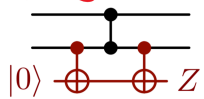
**Previous approaches:**

Try to avoid this

**Our idea:**

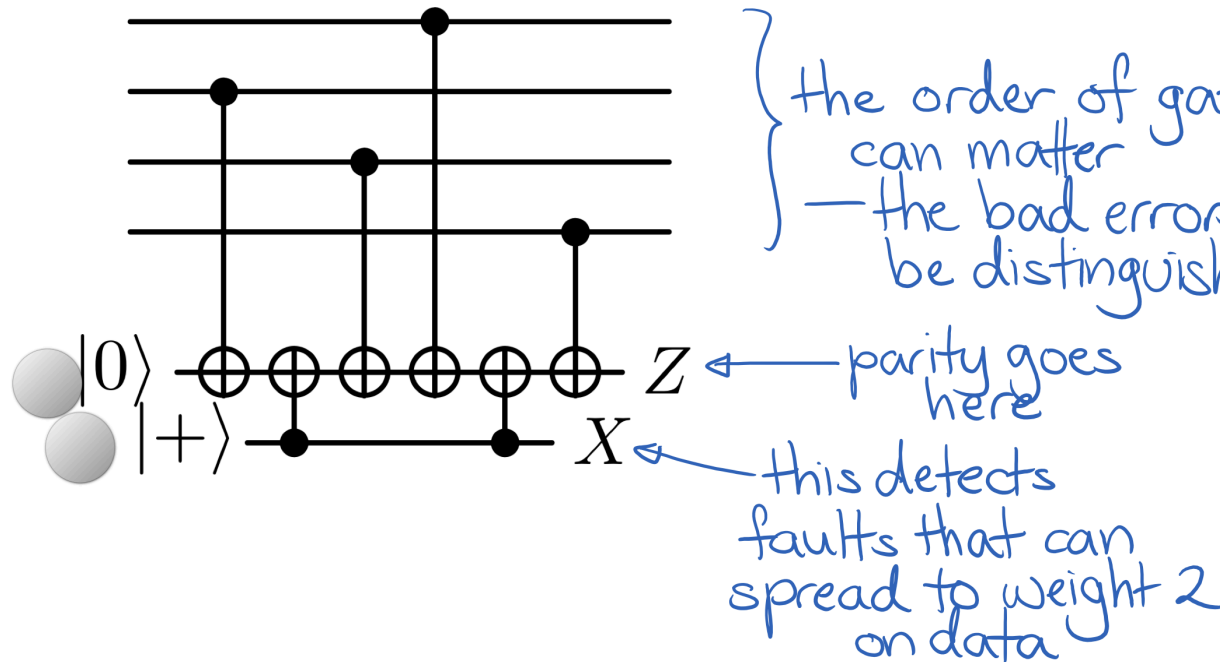
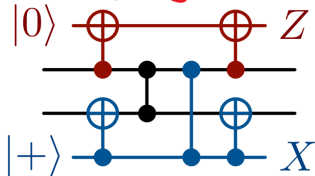
Catch the errors that spread

*X gadget:* applies CZ, catches  $XX, XY, YX, YY$



*Z gadget:* catches  $ZZ, YX$

*Combined gadget:* catches all true 2-qubit failures



**Thank you!**



# Locality & entanglement tests

# Fault-tolerant computation

untrusted, adversarial  
quantum systems

Alice

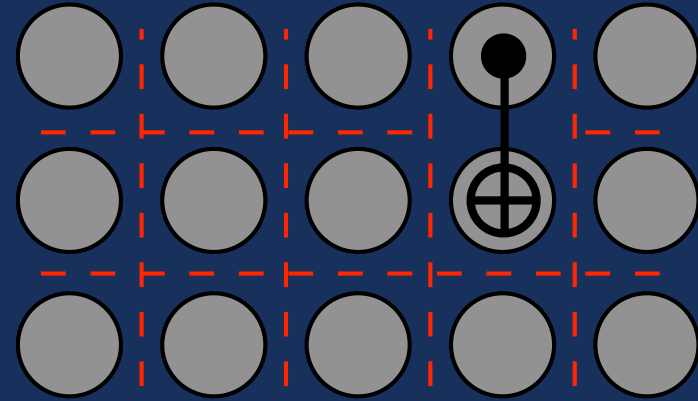
Bob

no communication

classical control



noisy quantum bits



local noise

many rounds  
of interaction  
for computation  
& error correction



Goal: Implement fault-tolerant error correction and computation on small quantum devices

- to test/demonstrate the theory
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**nature** International weekly journal of science

current issue > letters > article

NATURE | LETTER

### Loophole-free Bell inequality violation using electron spins separated by 1.3 kilometres

**B. Hensen, H. Bernien, A. E. Dréau, A. Reiserer, N. Kalb, M. S. Blok, J. Ruitenberg, R. F. L. Vermeulen, R. N. Schouten, C. Abellán, W. Amaya, V. Pruneri, M. W. Mitchell, M. Markham, D. J. Twitchen, D. Elkouss, S. Wehner, T. H. Taminiau & R. Hanson**

*Editor's summary*


The celebrated Bell inequality, a theorem published by John Bell in 1964, has long served as a basis for experimentally testing whether nature satisfies local realism. All experiments conducted to date have implied rejection of local-realist hypotheses. But because of experimental limitations all those tests suffered from loopholes — either the locality or the detection loophole. Here, Ronald Hanson and colleagues perform a Bell test that closes these loopholes. Their results are consistent with a violation of the inequality, although the authors reject local-realist hypotheses by two standard deviations only. The experimental setup allows for improvements in the statistics that may consolidate the result. In addition to its fundamental importance, a loophole-free Bell test is an important building block in quantum information processing.

Nature 526, 682–686 (29 October 2015)

THE NEW YORKER

### QUANTUM THEORY BY STARLIGHT

By David Kaiser February 7, 2017




*In parsing the strange dance of subatomic particles, it can be helpful to think of them as twins.*  
IMAGE BY CHRONICLE / ALAMY

The headquarters of the National Bank of Austria, in central Vienna, are exceptionally secure. During the week, in the basement of the building, employees perform quality-control tests on huge stacks of euros. One night last spring, however, part of the bank was given over to a different sort of testing. A group of young physicists, with temporary I.D. badges and sensitive electronics in tow, were allowed up to the top floor, where they assembled a pair of telescopes. One they aimed skyward, at a distant star in the Milky Way. The other they pointed toward the city, searching for a laser beam shot from a

THE NEW YORKER

### FREE WILL, VIDEO GAMES, AND THE MOST PROFOUND QUANTUM MYSTERY

By David Kaiser May 9, 2018



*The Big Bell Test probed quantum mechanics using crowdsourced inputs from volunteer players.*  
Photograph Courtesy ICFO

The word “predictable” first entered the English language two centuries ago. Its debut came in neither a farmer’s almanac nor a cardsharp’s manual in *The Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature*, a Unitarian periodical. In 1820, one Stephen Freeman wrote a dense treatise in which he criticized the notion that human behavior—seemingly manifest

Classical devices  $\Rightarrow \text{Pr}[\text{win}] \leq 75\%$

Quantum devices can win with prob. up to  $\approx 85\%$

## Test for “quantum-ness”

Play game  $10^6$  times. If the devices win  $\geq 800,000$ , say they’re quantum.