



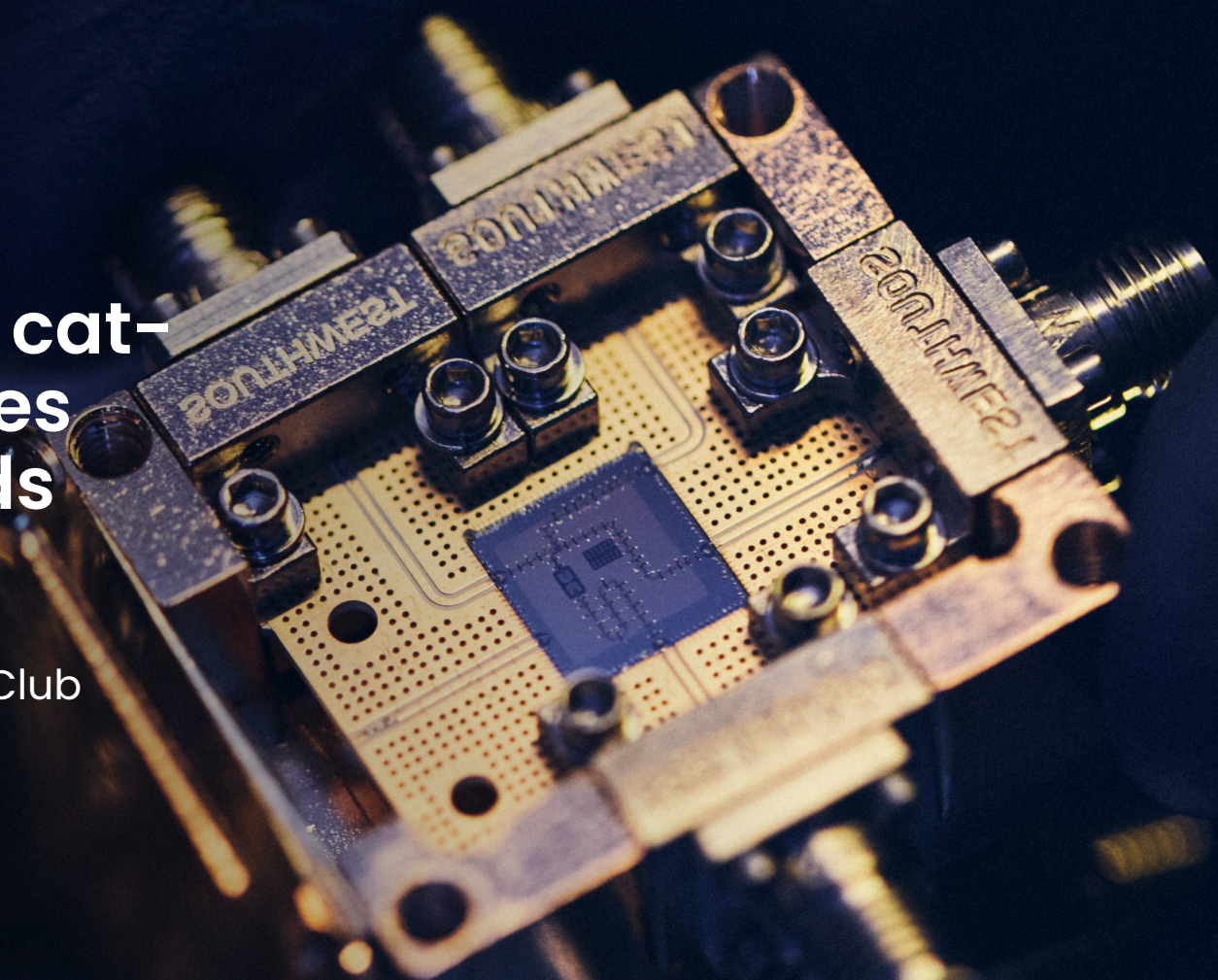
ALICE & BOB

# Quantum control of a cat-qubit with bit-flip times exceeding ten seconds

arXiv:2307.06617

Ronan Gautier | ETHZ Quantum Paper Club

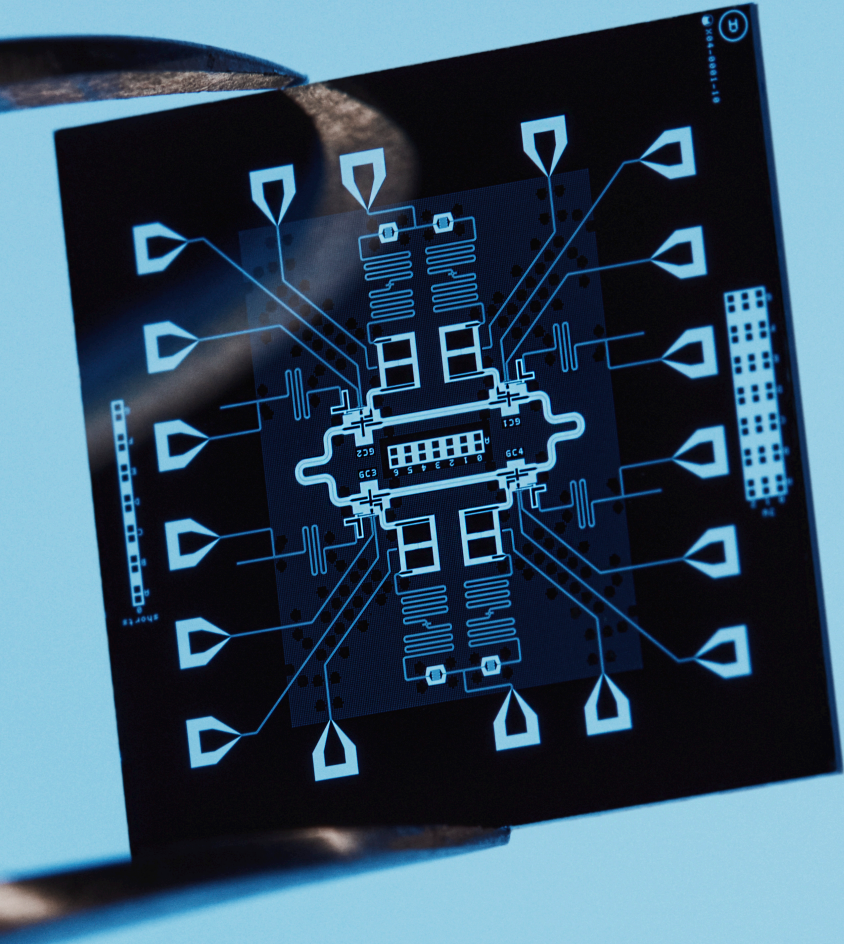
December, 14th 2023





01

# A primer on cat qubits



# A quantum computer for simulating Nature



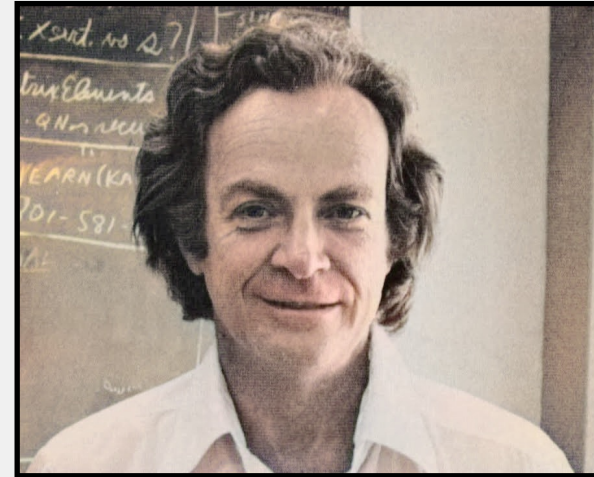
## Feynman's 1981 talk

“ The full description of quantum mechanics [...] *cannot be simulated with a normal computer.*

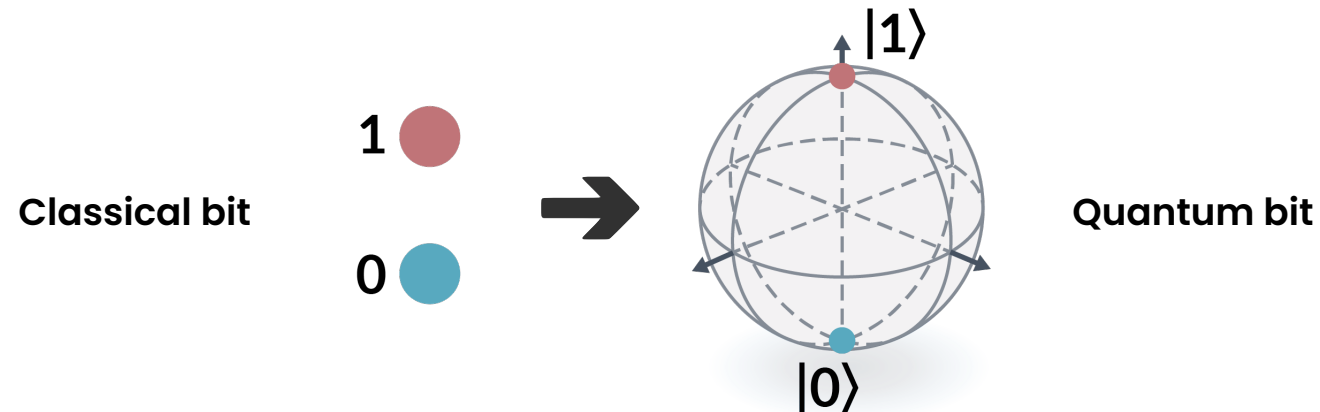
Can you do it with a new kind of computer — a quantum computer? [...] *It's not a Turing machine, but a machine of a different kind.*

Nature isn't classical, dammit, and if you want to make a simulation of Nature, you'd better make it quantum mechanical.

And by golly it's a wonderful problem because *it doesn't look so easy.*”



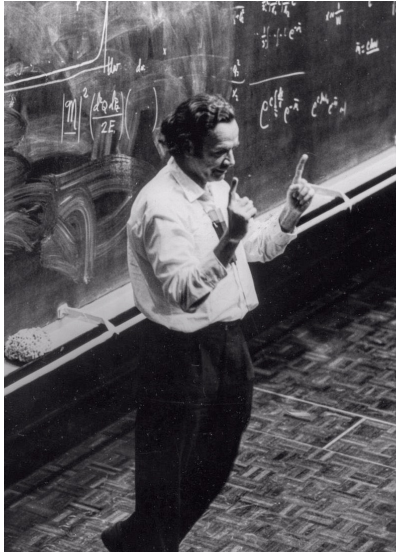
Richard Feynman at Caltech, circa 1980



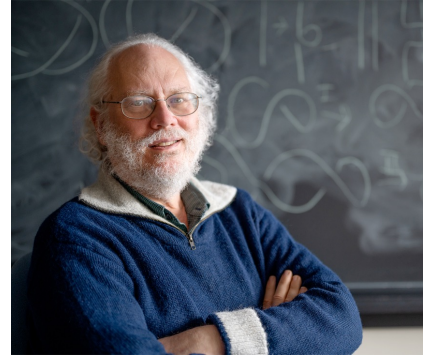
# The development of superconducting circuits



Feynman's talk on QC



Shor's algorithm



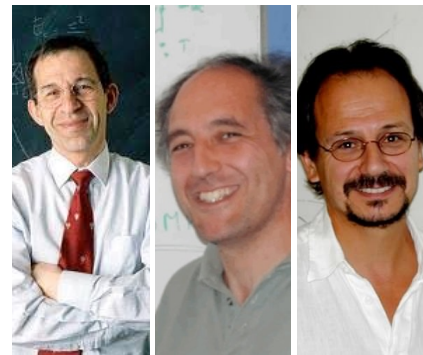
Quantum Error Correction



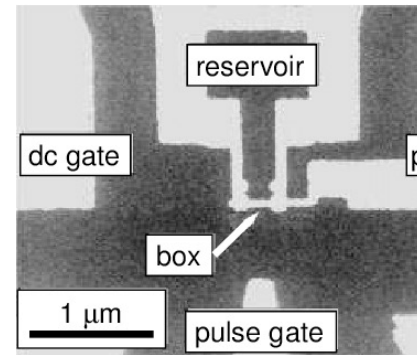
1994

1995-1997

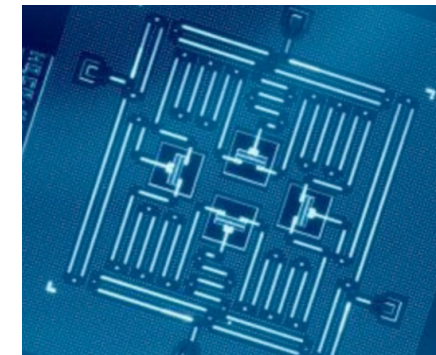
Creation of Quantronics



Cooper Pair Box



Transmon



1981

1985

1999

2007

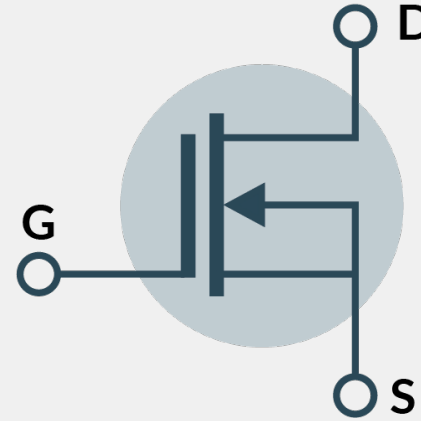
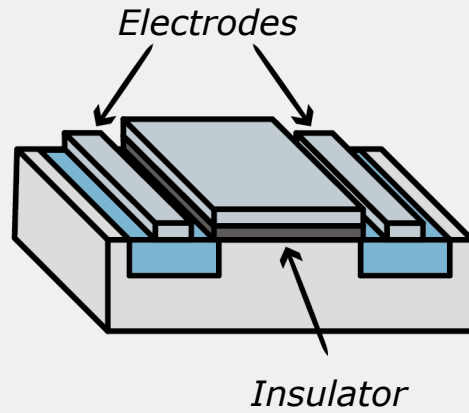


# From transistors to transmons

Transistor

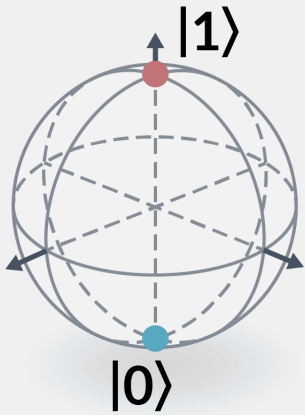
1 ●  
0 ●

Field-Effect Transistor

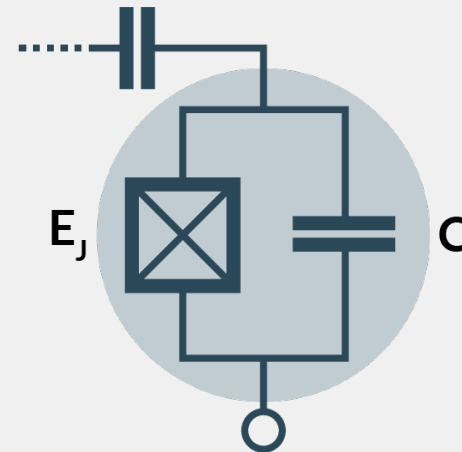
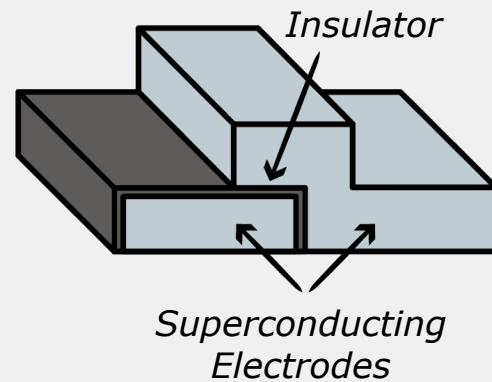


Error per operation  
 $\sim 10^{-20} - 10^{-22}$

Transmon



Josephson Junction



Error per operation  
 $\sim 10^{-2} - 10^{-4}$



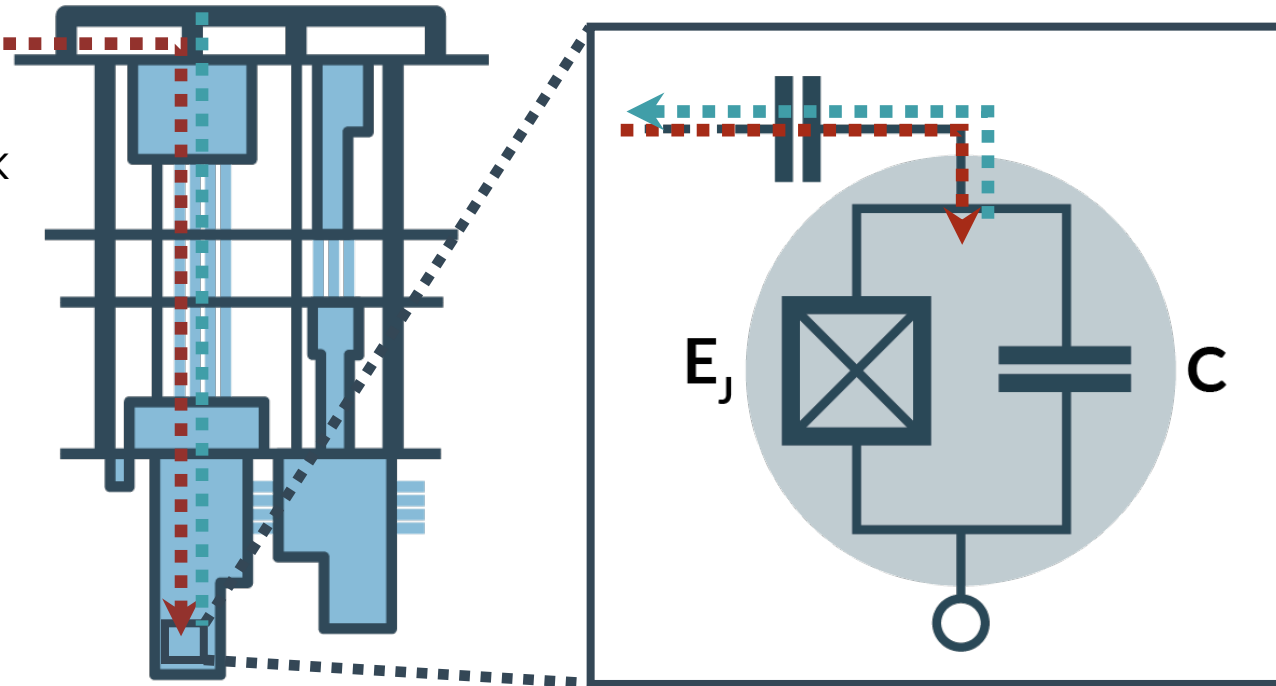
# A fundamental predicament

High controllability ↔ Long lifetime

Readout signal ←

Signal @ room temp. →

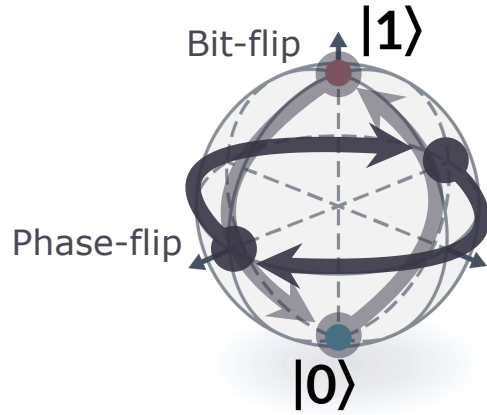
- Cooled down to  $\sim 20\text{mK}$
- Frequency filtered
- Amplified



Inevitable coupling to bath

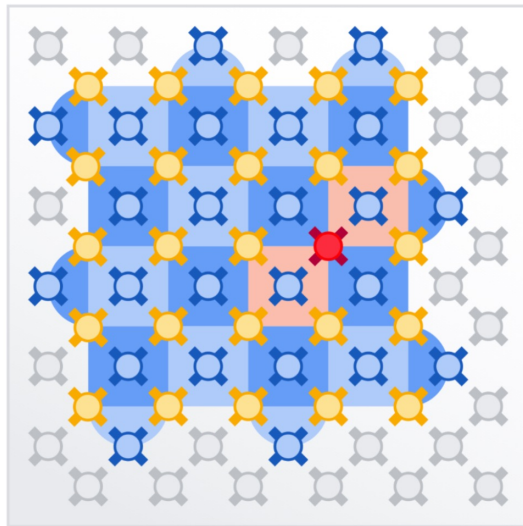


# Quantum error correction



**Error discretization theorem**  
Correcting Pauli errors = correcting arbitrary errors

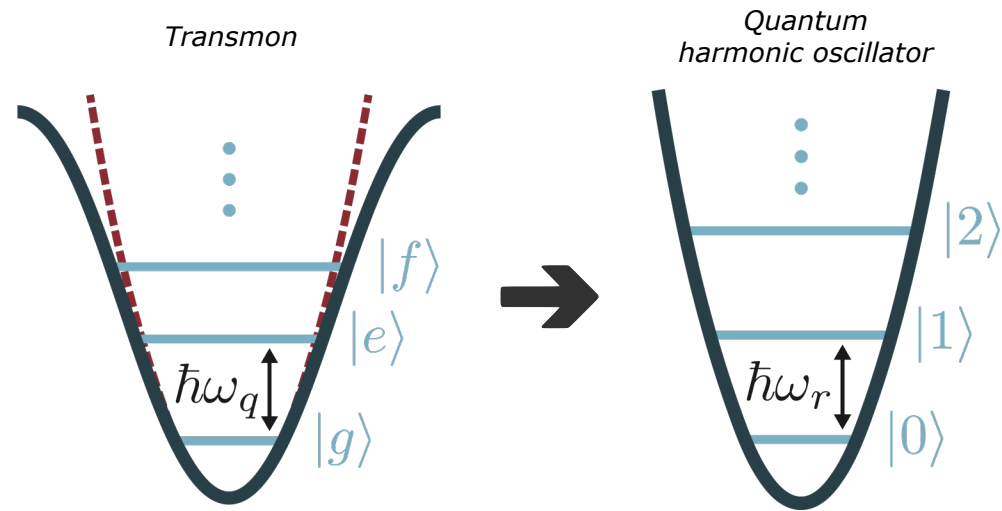
Discrete qubit codes



Data qubit Measure qubit Data qubit with error

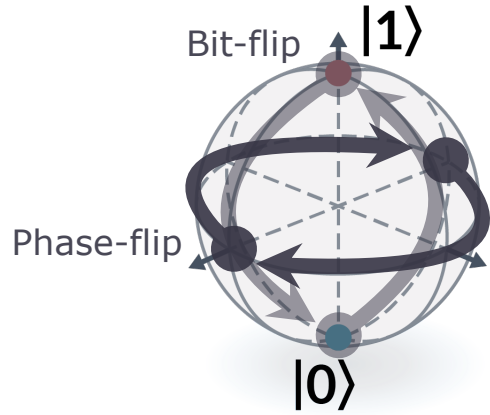
Google Quantum AI, Nature 2022

Bosonic codes



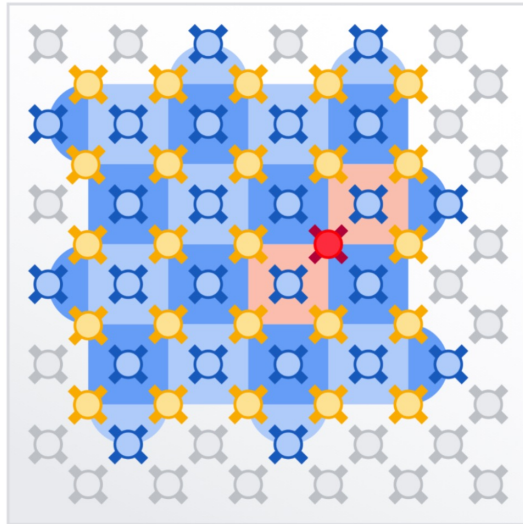





# Quantum error correction



**Error discretization theorem**  
Correcting Pauli errors = correcting arbitrary errors

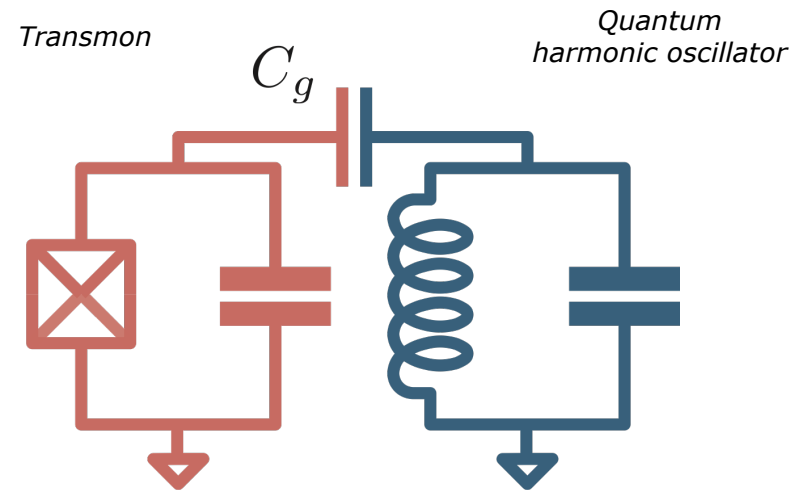
## Discrete qubit codes



 Data qubit  Measure qubit  Data qubit with error

Google Quantum AI, Nature 2022

## Bosonic codes

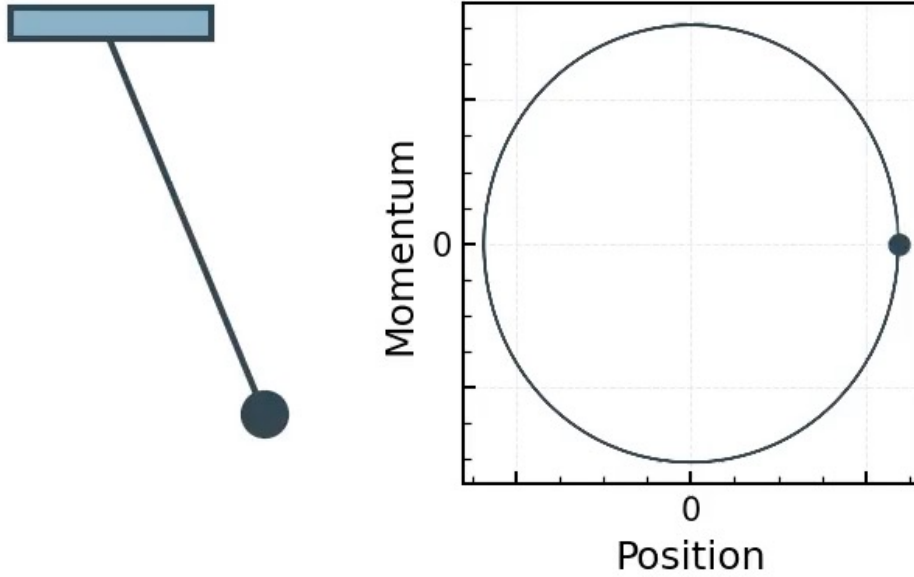




# Encoding harmonic oscillators



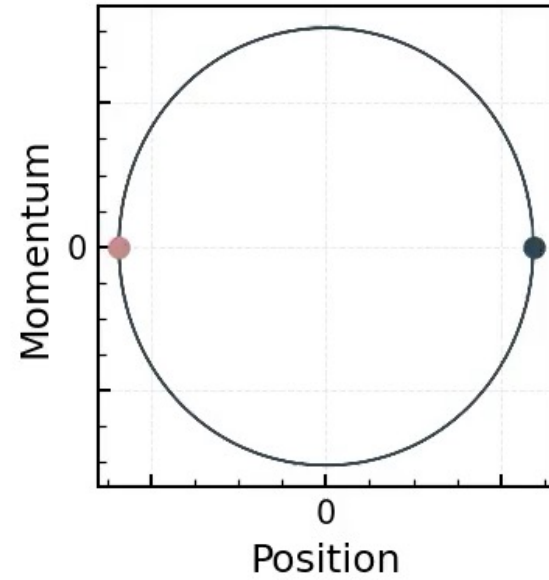
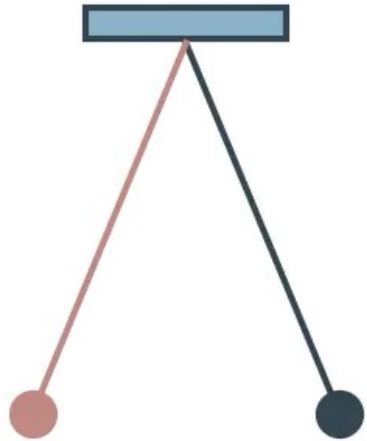
How can we encode a harmonic oscillator?



# Encoding harmonic oscillators



How can we encode a harmonic oscillator?

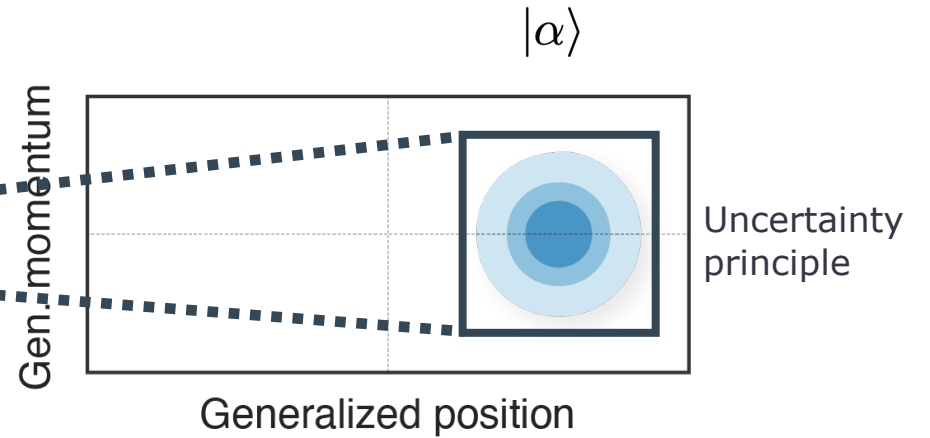
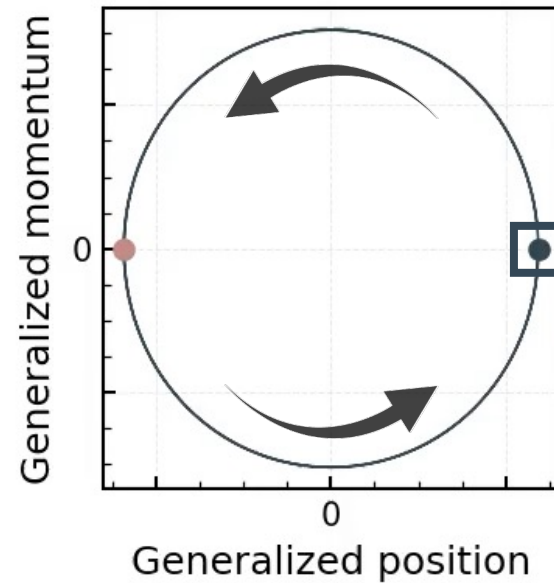
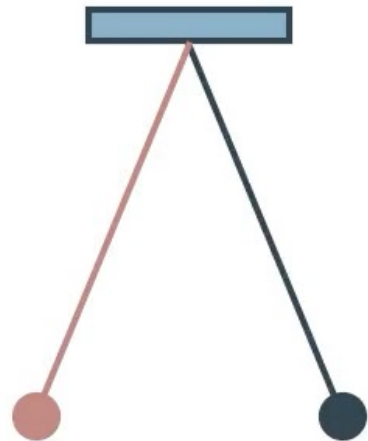




# Encoding harmonic oscillators

How can we encode a harmonic oscillator?

How can we encode a quantum harmonic oscillator?



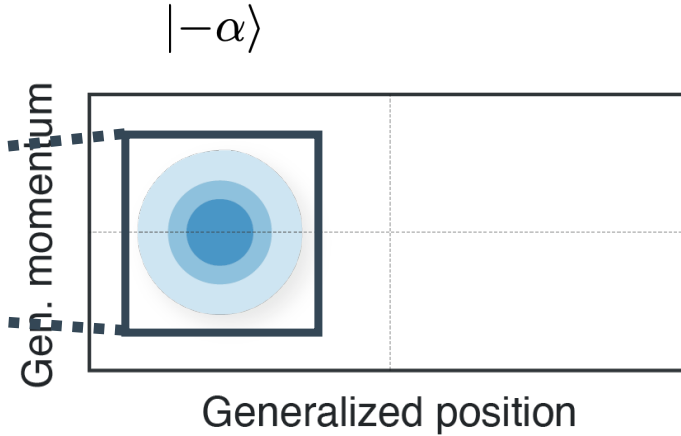
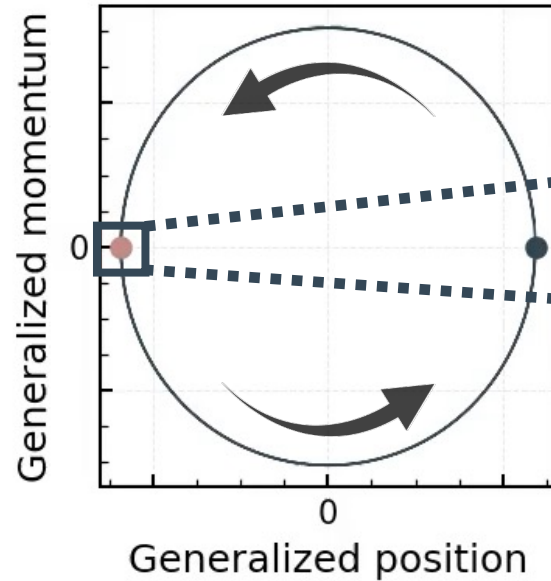
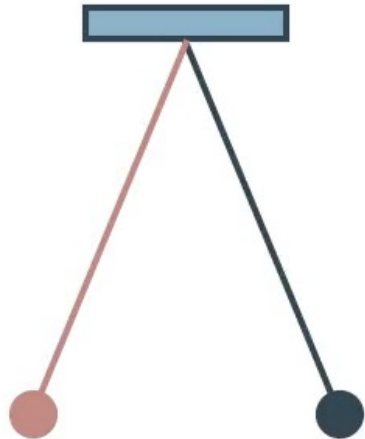
$$\text{where } \hat{a}|\pm\alpha\rangle = \pm|\pm\alpha\rangle$$
$$\text{with } \hat{a} = \hat{x} + i\hat{p}$$



# Encoding harmonic oscillators

How can we encode a harmonic oscillator?

How can we encode a quantum harmonic oscillator?

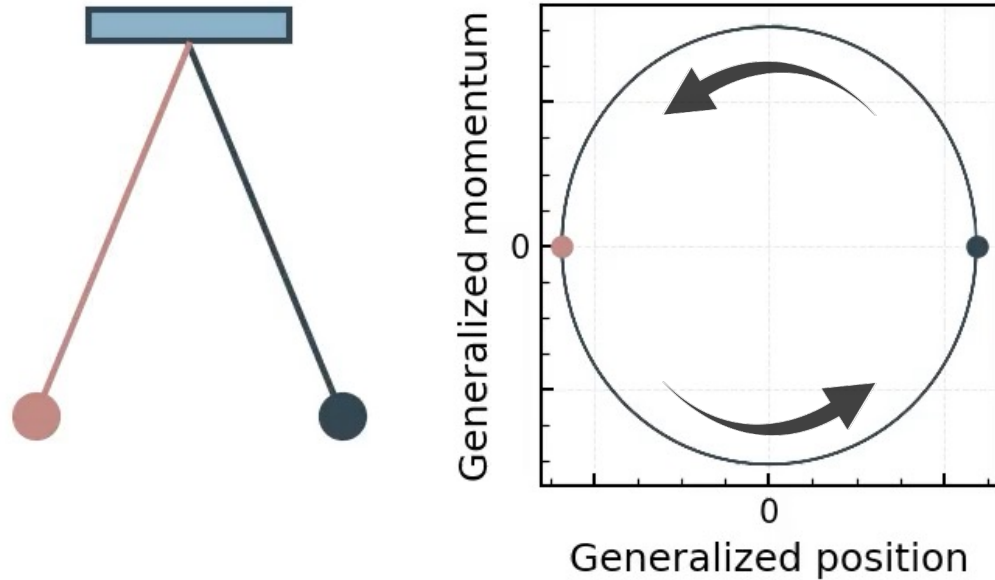


where  $\hat{a}|\pm\alpha\rangle = \pm|\pm\alpha\rangle$   
with  $\hat{a} = \hat{x} + i\hat{p}$

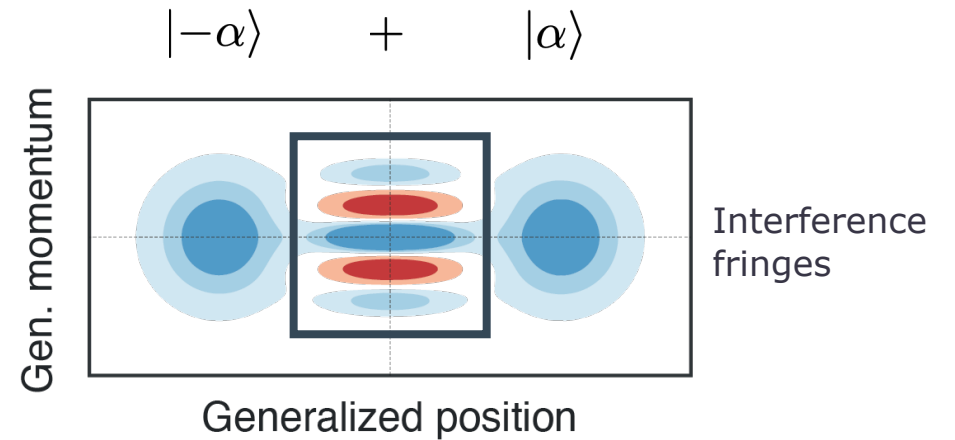


# Encoding harmonic oscillators

How can we encode a harmonic oscillator?



How can we encode a quantum harmonic oscillator?

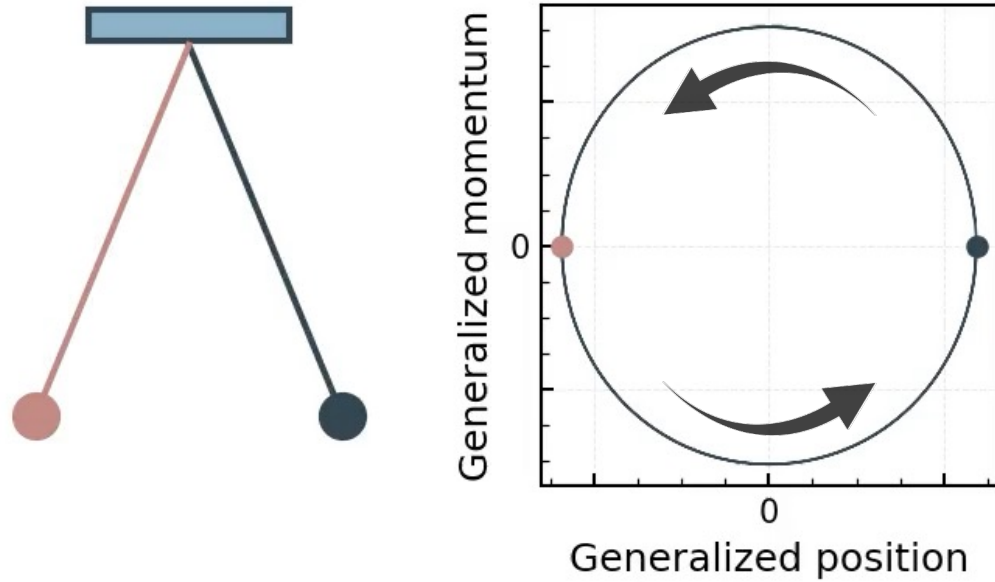


where  $\hat{a}|\pm\alpha\rangle = \pm|\pm\alpha\rangle$   
with  $\hat{a} = \hat{x} + i\hat{p}$

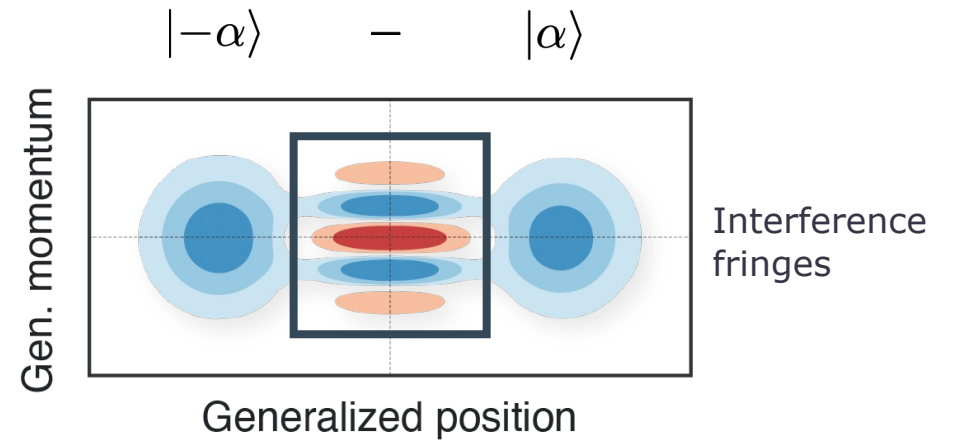


# Encoding harmonic oscillators

How can we encode a harmonic oscillator?

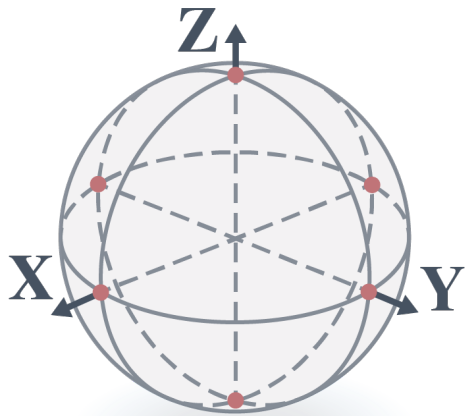


How can we encode a quantum harmonic oscillator?

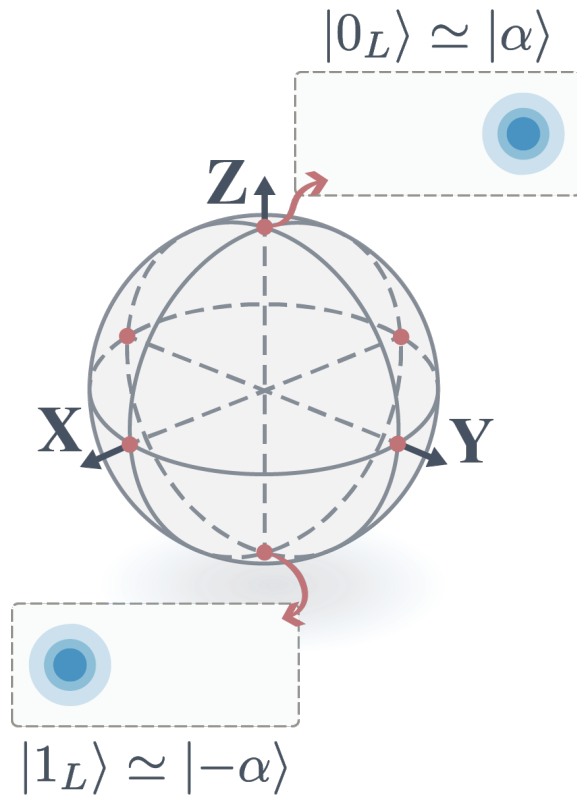


where  $\hat{a}|\pm\alpha\rangle = \pm|\pm\alpha\rangle$   
with  $\hat{a} = \hat{x} + i\hat{p}$

# Cat qubits

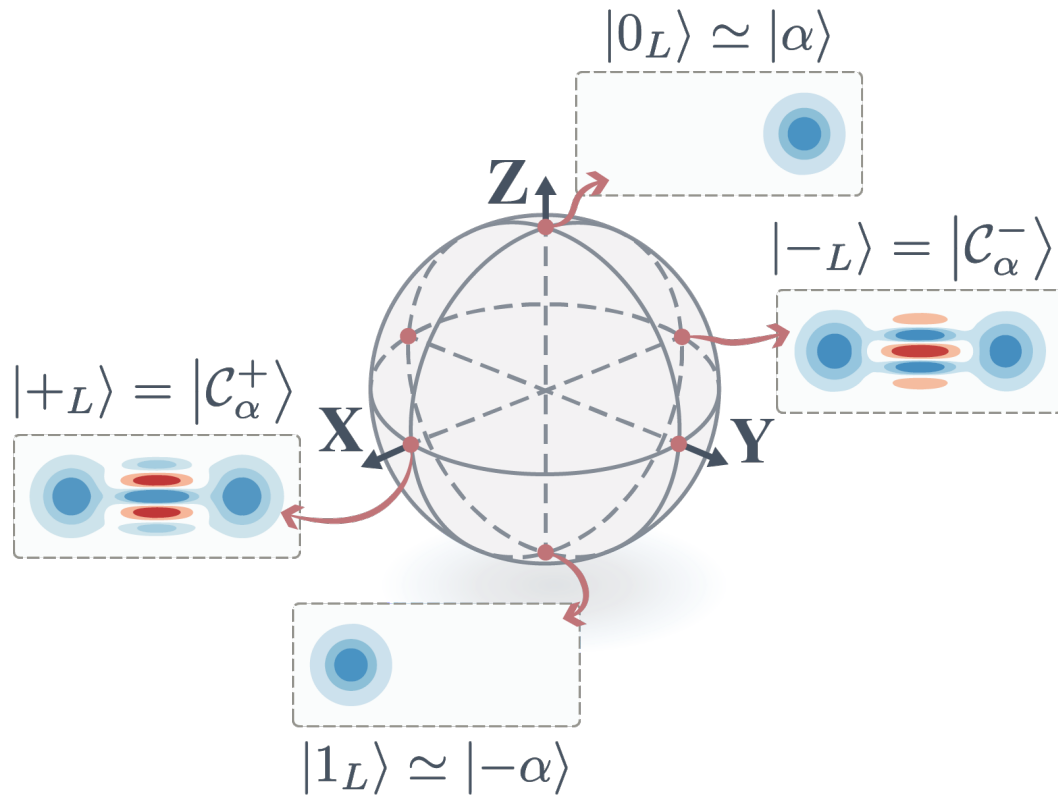


# Cat qubits

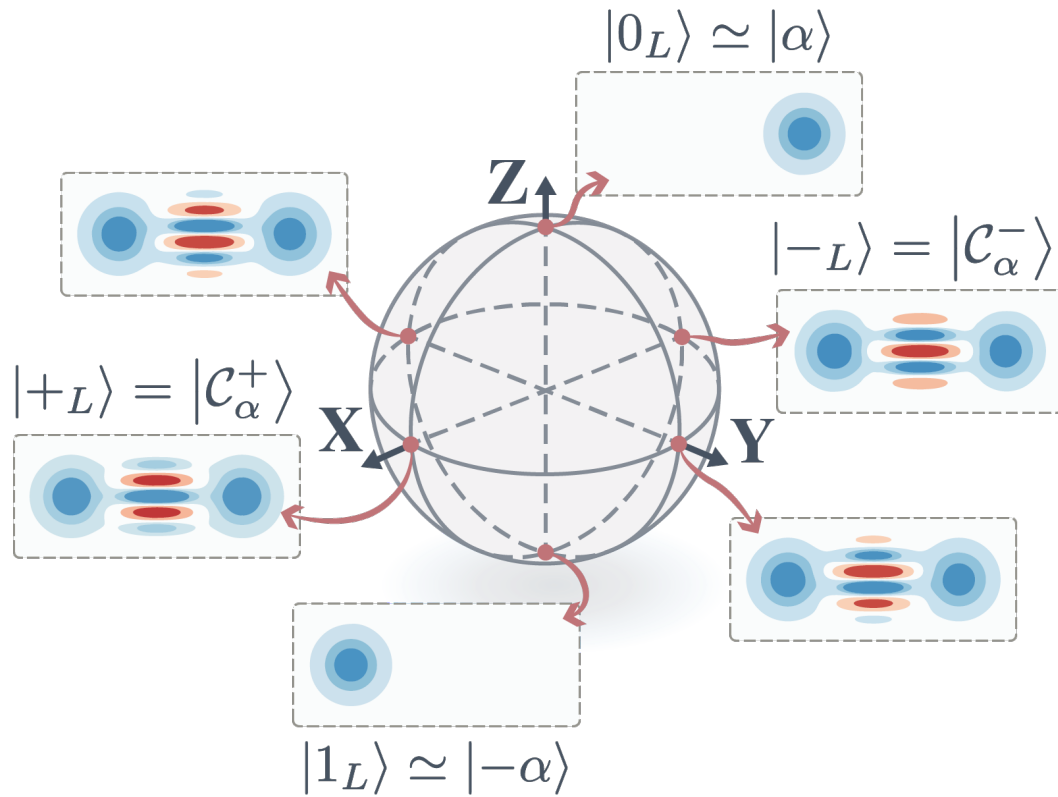




# Cat qubits



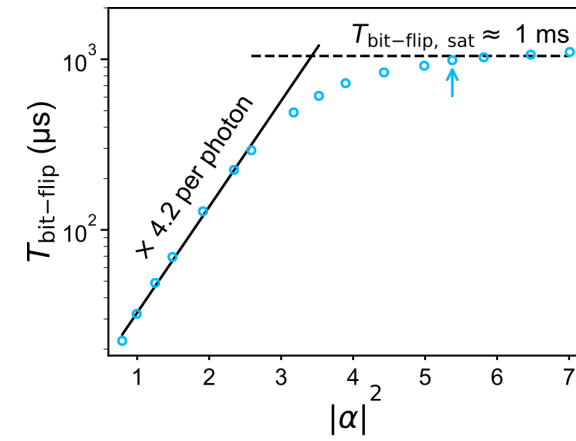
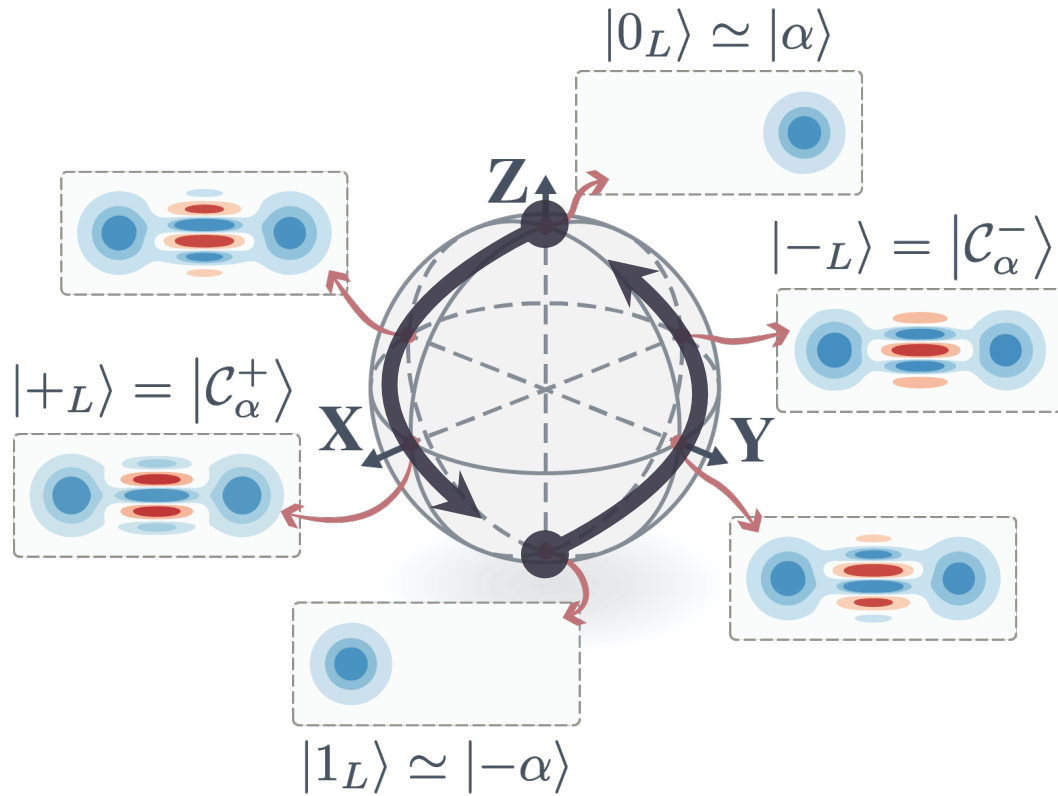
# Cat qubits





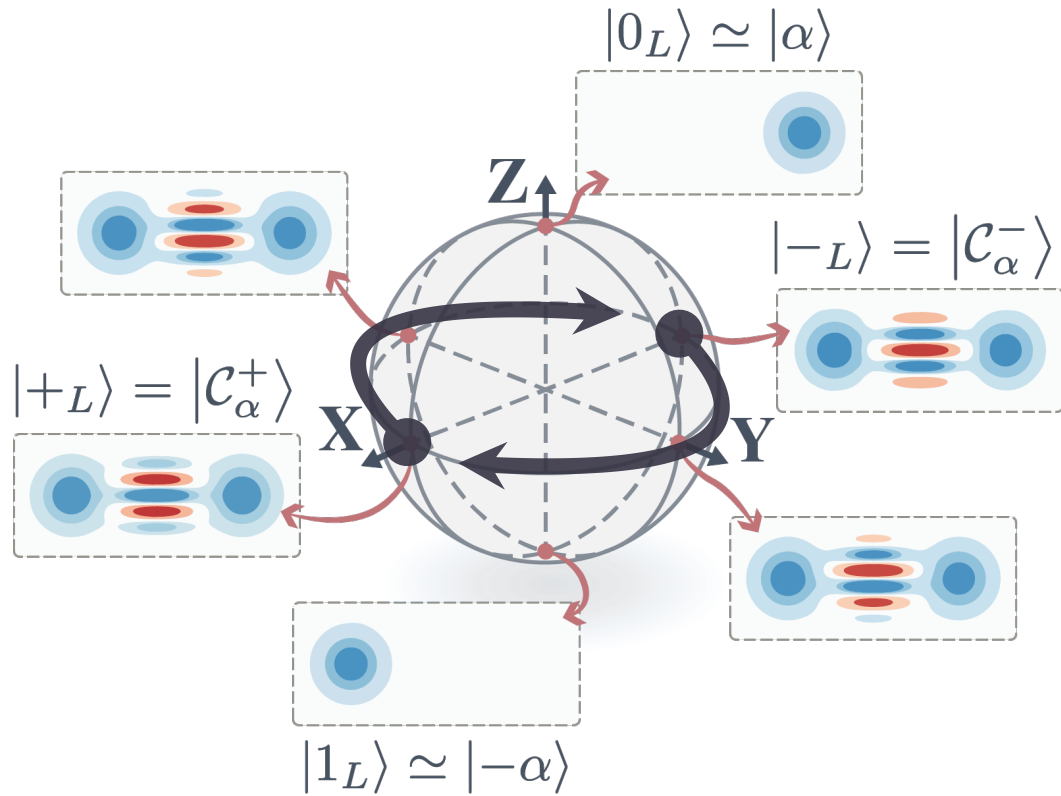
# Cat qubits

➤ Cat qubits are **exponentially** biased against bit-flip errors

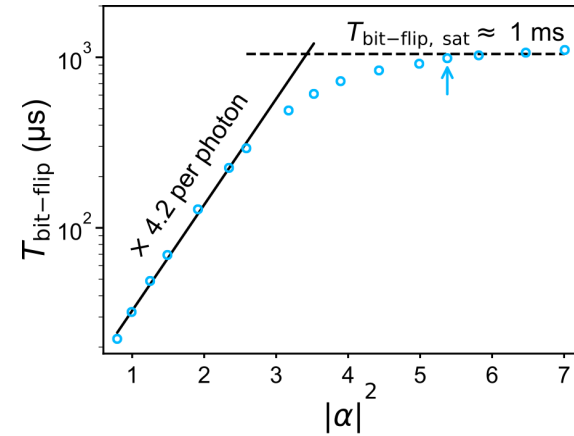




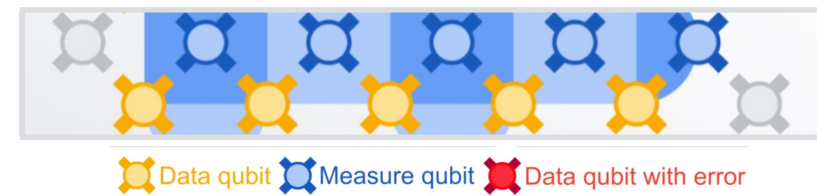
# Cat qubits



- Cat qubits are **exponentially** biased against bit-flip errors

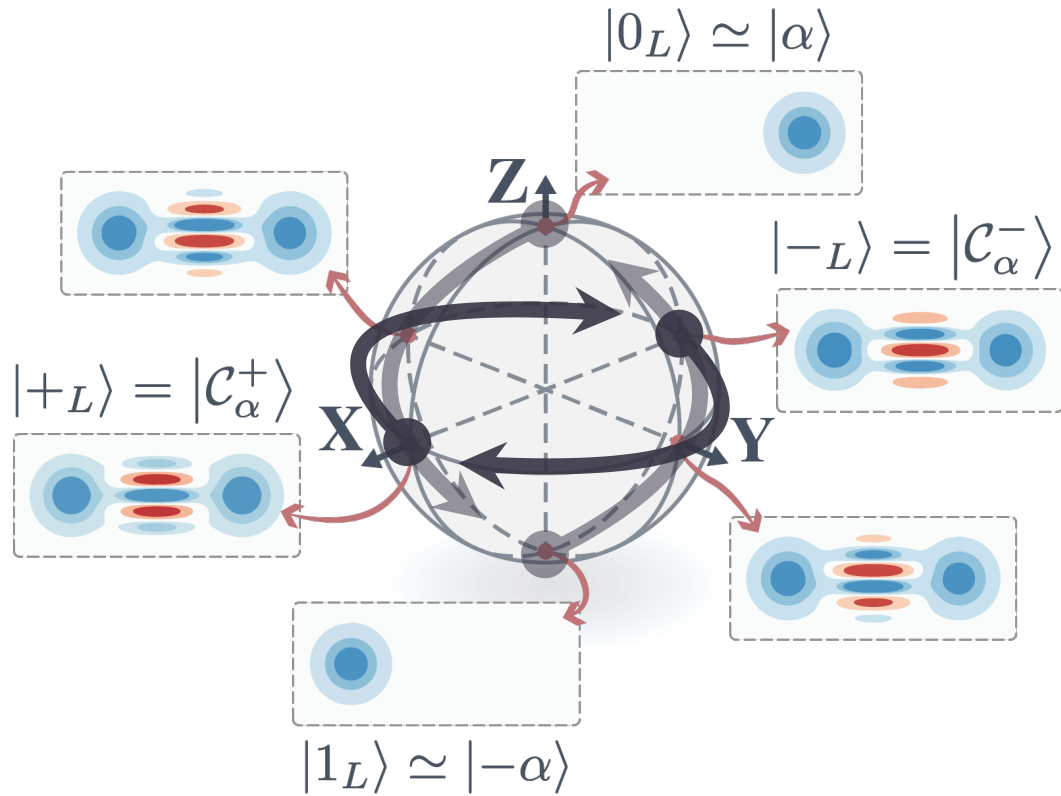


- A repetition code takes care of phase-flip errors

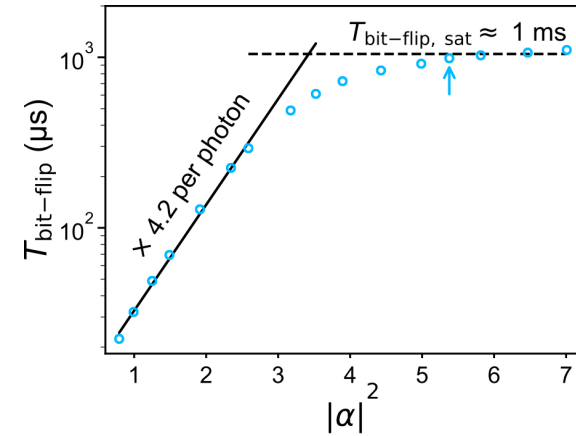




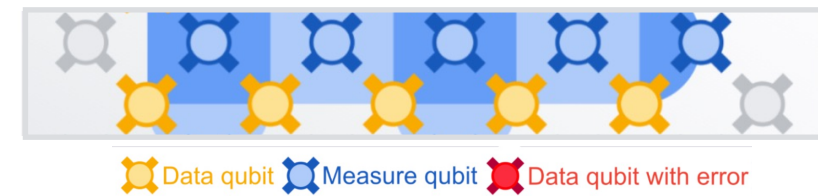
# Cat qubits



- Cat qubits are **exponentially** biased against bit-flip errors



- A repetition code takes care of phase-flip errors



- Inner: cat qubits (bit-flips)  
Outer: repetition code (phase-flips)



# Protecting cat qubits

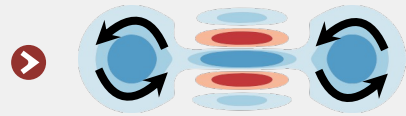
Kerr cat qubits

- Hamiltonian confinement

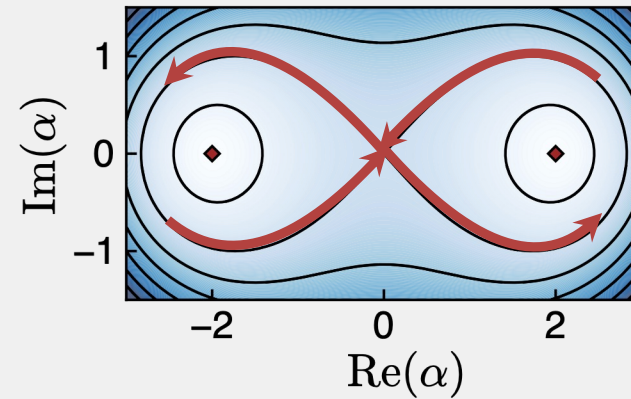
$$H = -K(a^{\dagger 2} - \alpha^{*2})(a^2 - \alpha^2)$$

$$\text{since } (a^2 - \alpha^2)|\pm\alpha\rangle = 0$$

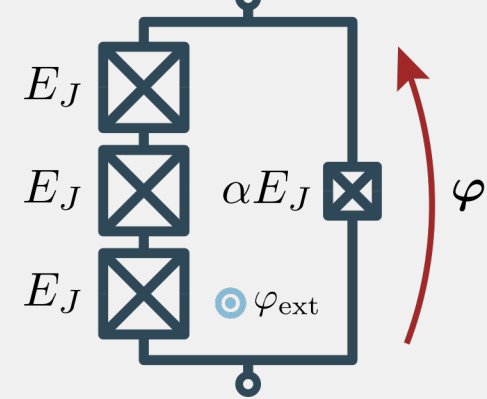
- Kerr non-linearity + two-photon driving



Semiclassical potential



SNAIL

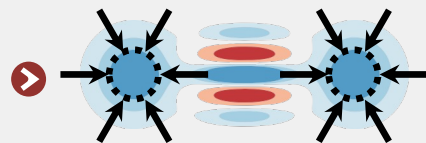


Dissipative cat qubits

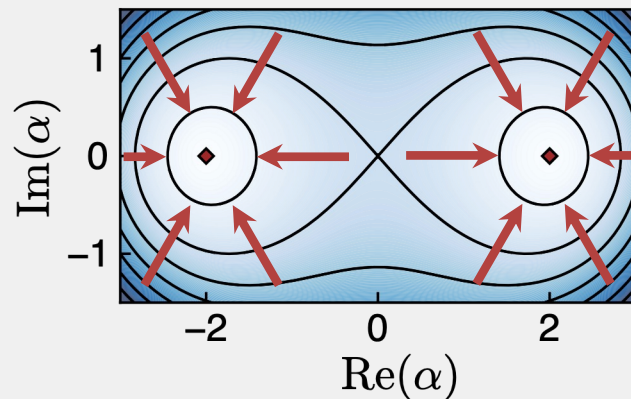
- Dissipative stabilization

$$\mathcal{L} = \kappa_2 \mathcal{D}[a^2 - \alpha^2]$$

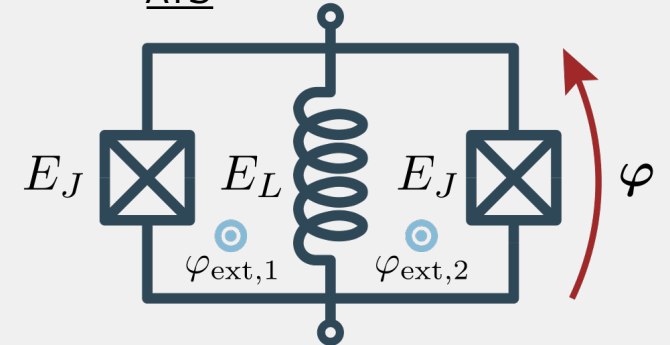
- Two-photon dissipation + two-photon driving

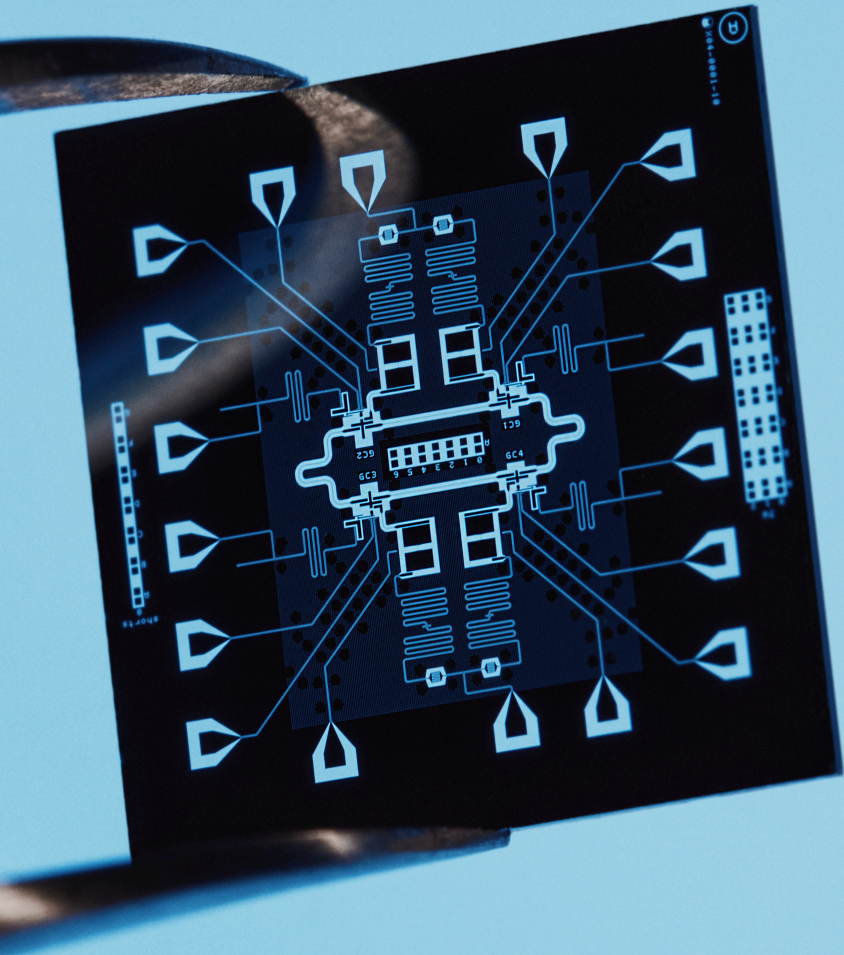


Semiclassical potential



ATS





# 02

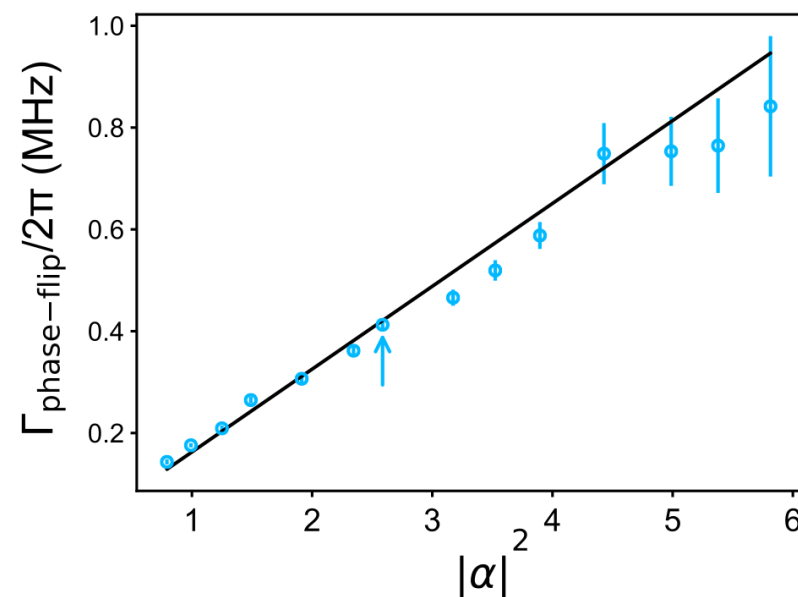
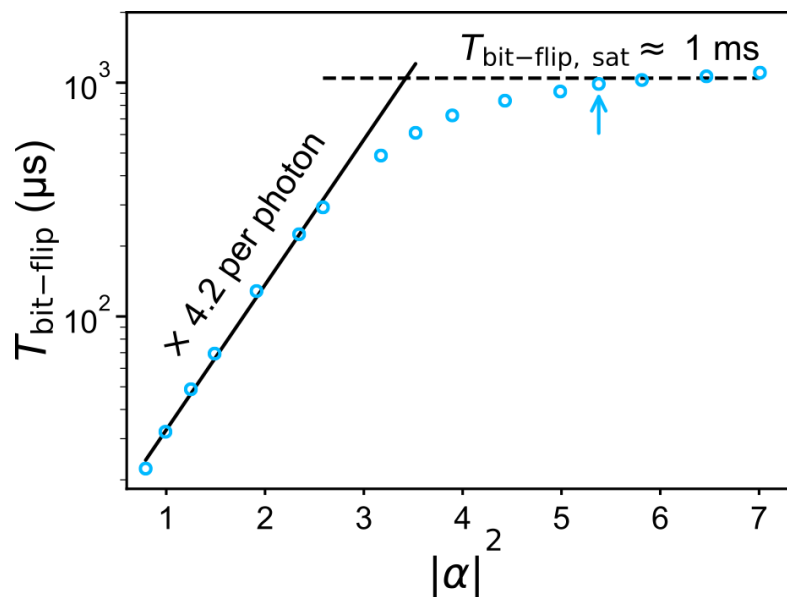
## An exponentially biased qubit



# Exponential suppression of bit-flips in a qubit encoded in an oscillator

[Raphaël Lescanne](#), [Marius Villiers](#), [Théau Peronnin](#), [Alain Sarlette](#), [Matthieu Delbecq](#), [Benjamin Huard](#), [Takis Kontos](#), [Mazyar Mirrahimi](#) & [Zaki Leghtas](#) ✉

[Nature Physics](#) **16**, 509–513 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)



$$\Gamma_{\text{bit-flip}} \propto \exp(-\gamma|\alpha|^2)$$

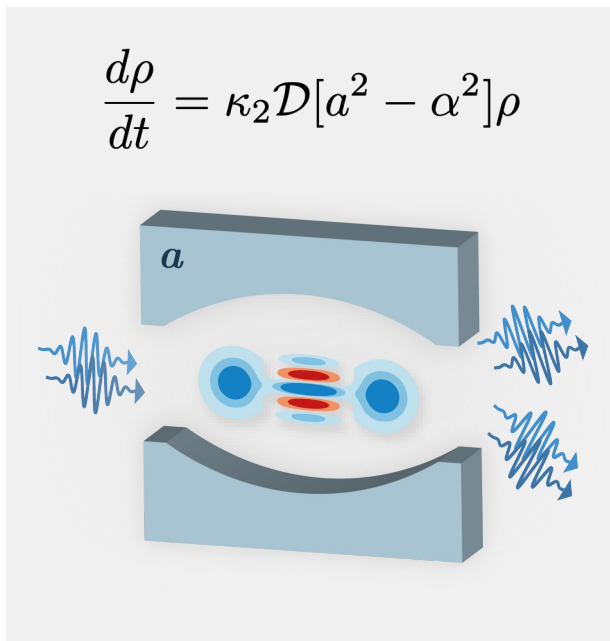
$$\Gamma_{\text{phase-flip}} \propto \kappa_1|\alpha|^2$$



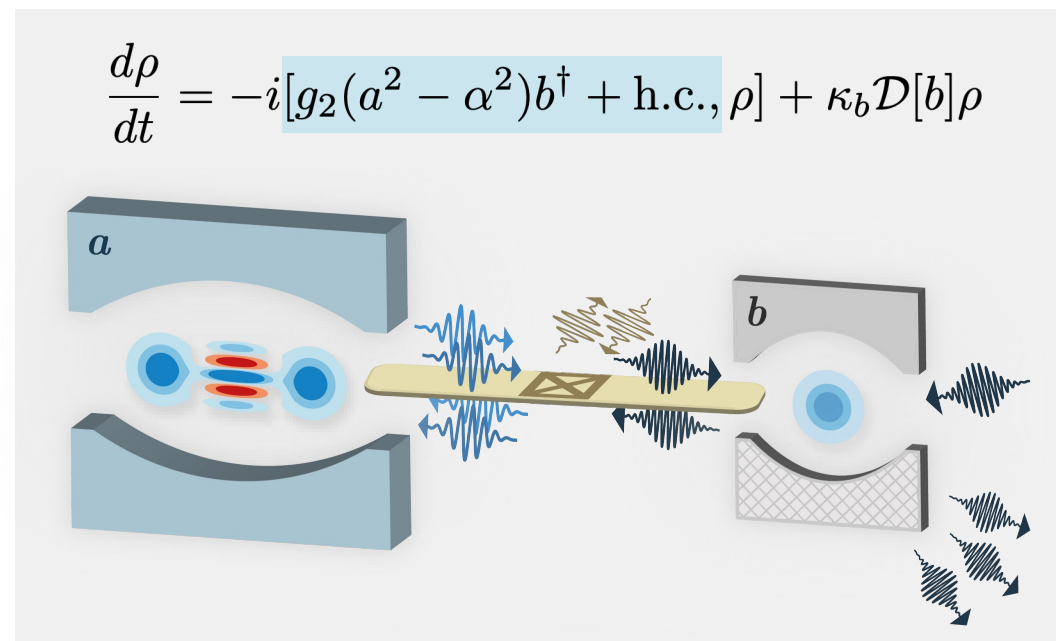
# Reservoir engineering of two-photon dissipation



Memory



Memory + Buffer

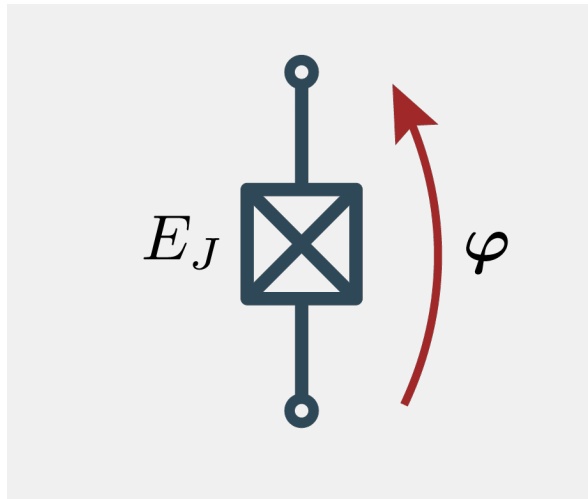


Requires frequency-tunable four-wave mixing

# Frequency-tunable four-wave mixing

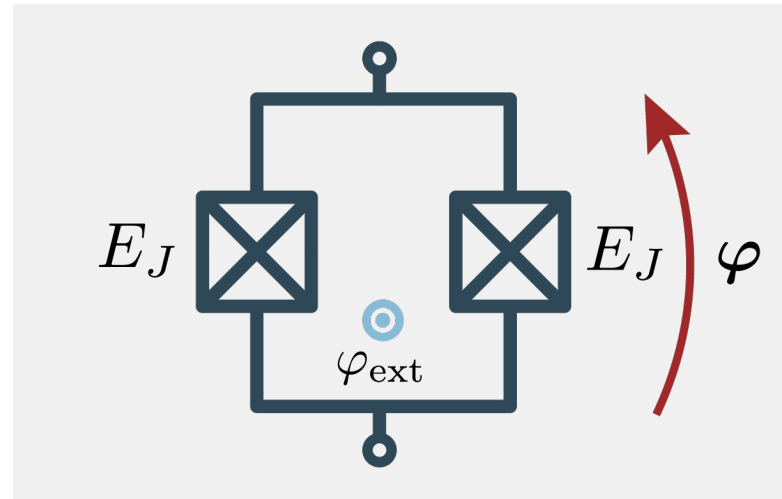


**Josephson Junction**



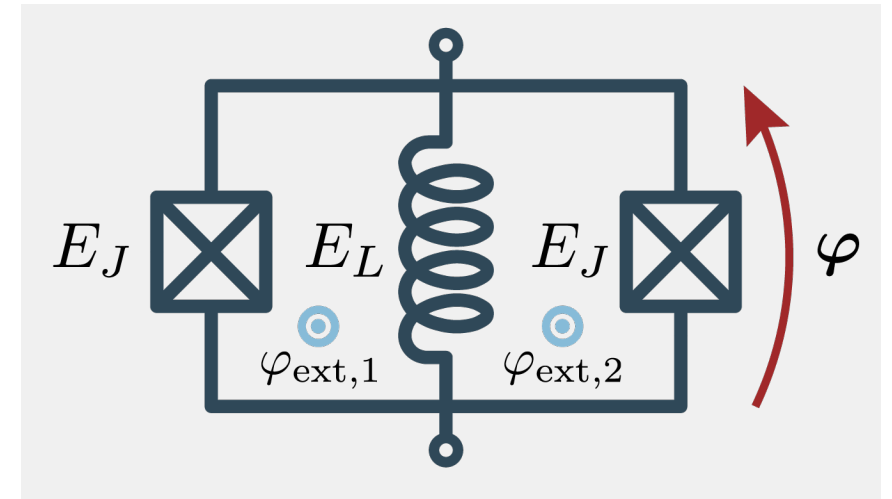
$$\hat{H} = -E_J \cos(\hat{\varphi})$$

**SQUID**



$$\hat{H} = -E_J \cos(\varphi_{\text{ext}}) \cos(\hat{\varphi})$$

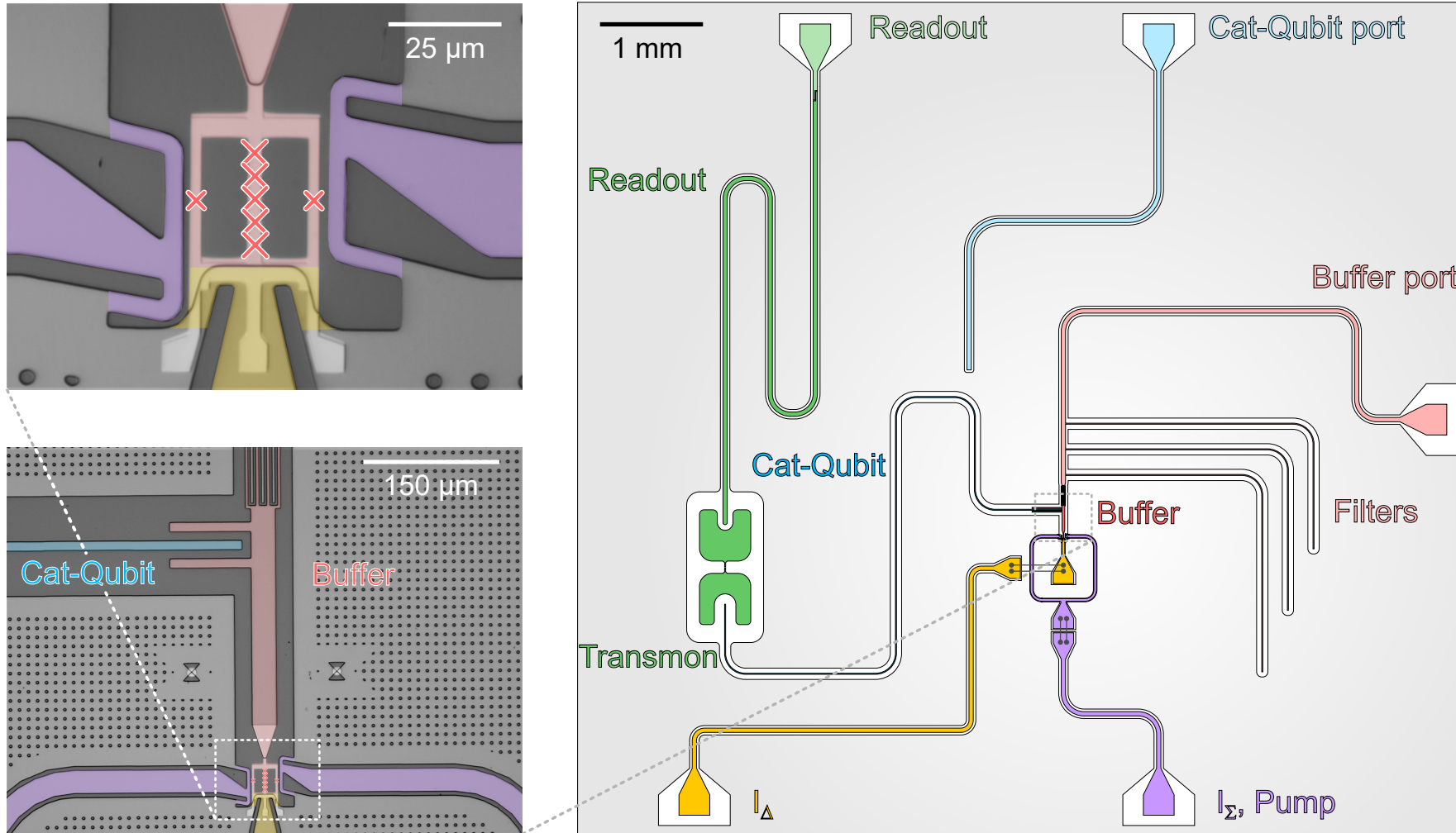
**Asymmetrically Threaded SQUID**



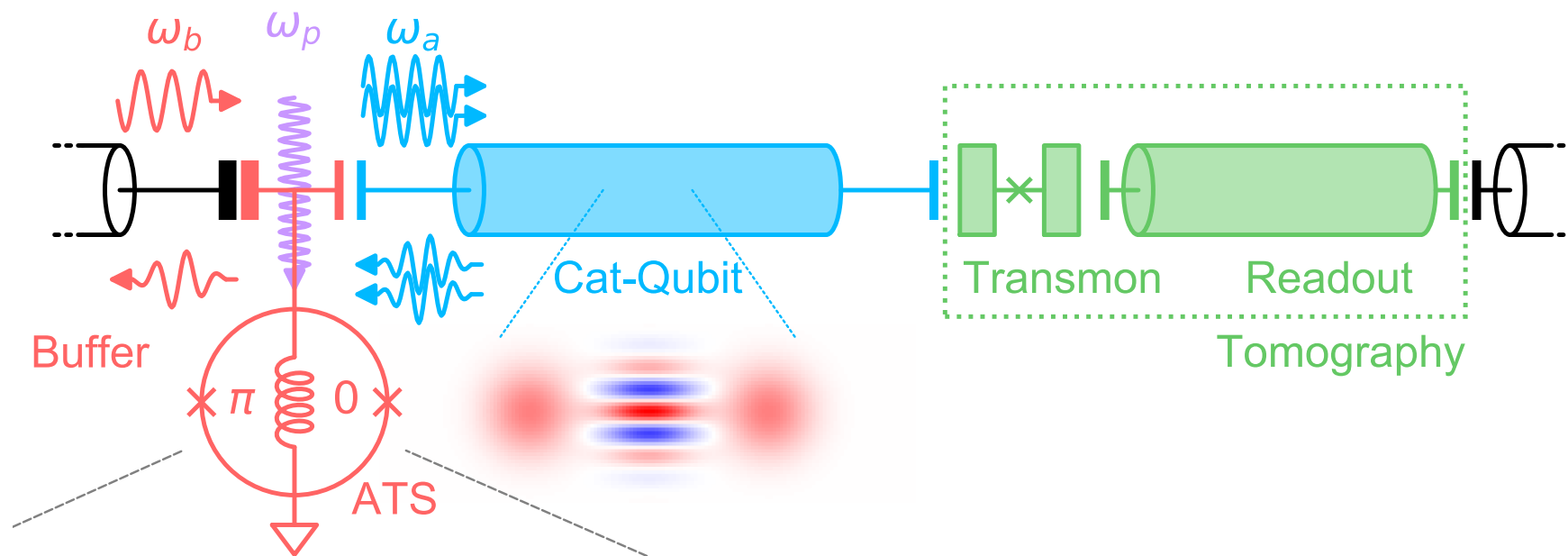
$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H} &= \frac{1}{2} E_L \hat{\varphi}^2 - 2E_J \cos(\varphi_{\Sigma}) \cos(\hat{\varphi} + \varphi_{\Delta}) \\ &\rightarrow \frac{1}{2} E_L \hat{\varphi}^2 - 2E_J \cos(\varphi_{\Sigma}) \sin(\hat{\varphi}) \end{aligned}$$



# Experimental setup



# Experimental setup

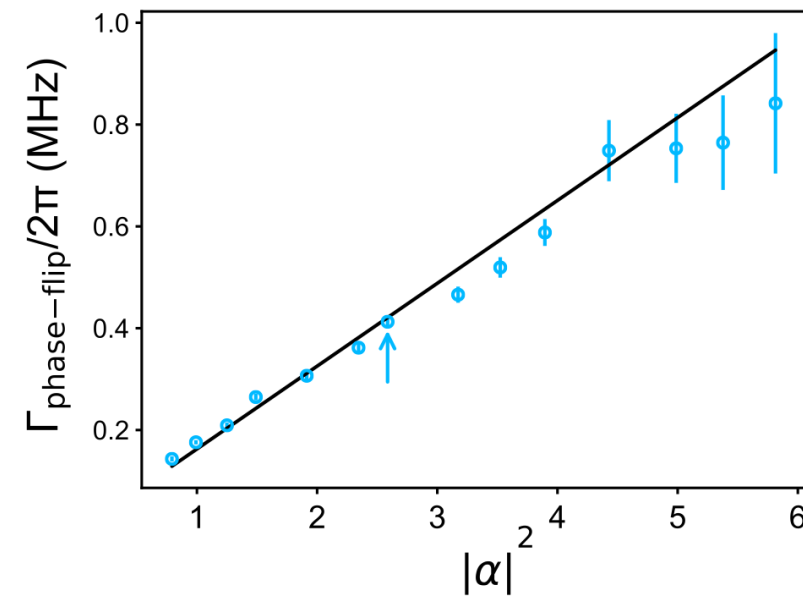
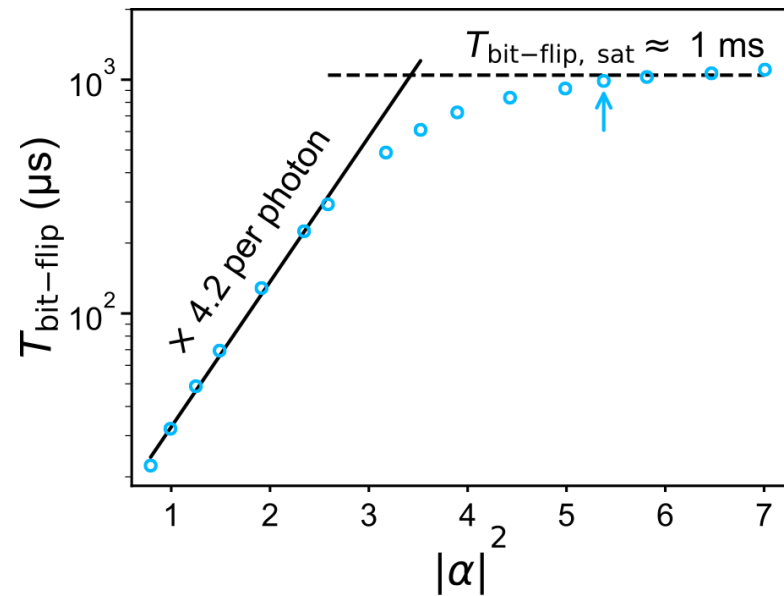




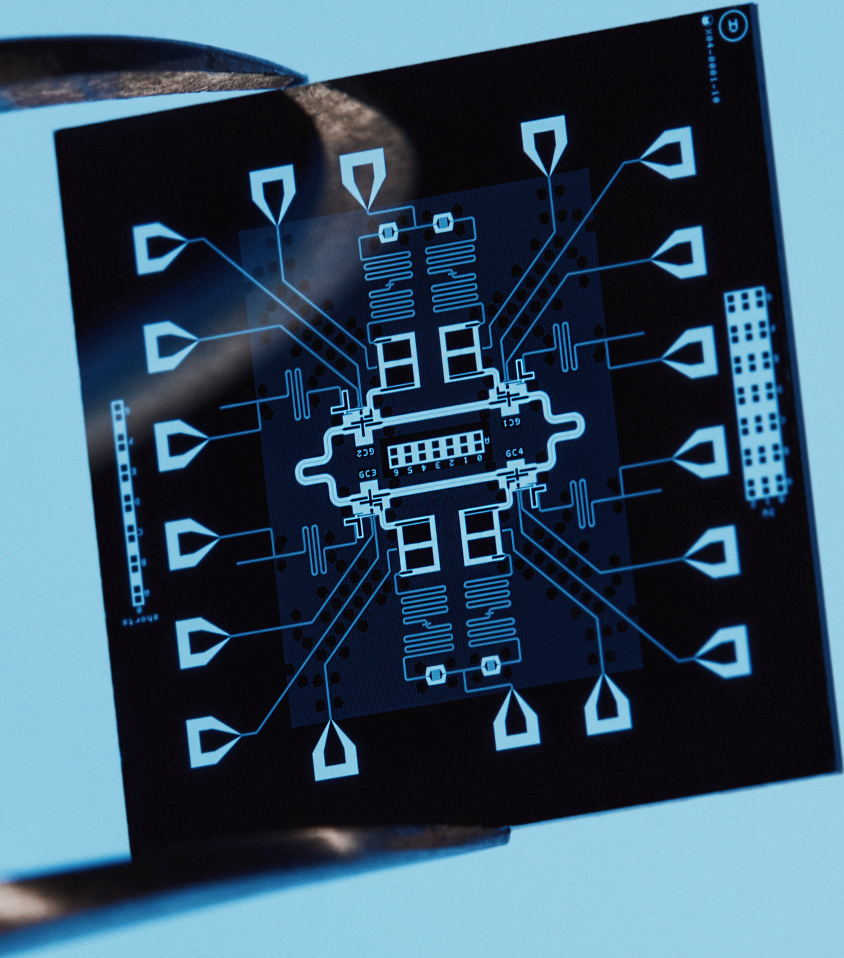
# Exponential suppression of bit-flips in a qubit encoded in an oscillator

[Raphaël Lescanne](#), [Marius Villiers](#), [Théau Peronnin](#), [Alain Sarlette](#), [Matthieu Delbecq](#), [Benjamin Huard](#), [Takis Kontos](#), [Mazyar Mirrahimi](#) & [Zaki Leghtas](#) ✉

[Nature Physics](#) **16**, 509–513 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)



**Saturation due to readout transmon**  
Confirmed in Berdou et al. PRX Quantum (2022)



# 03

## Macroscopic bit lifetime



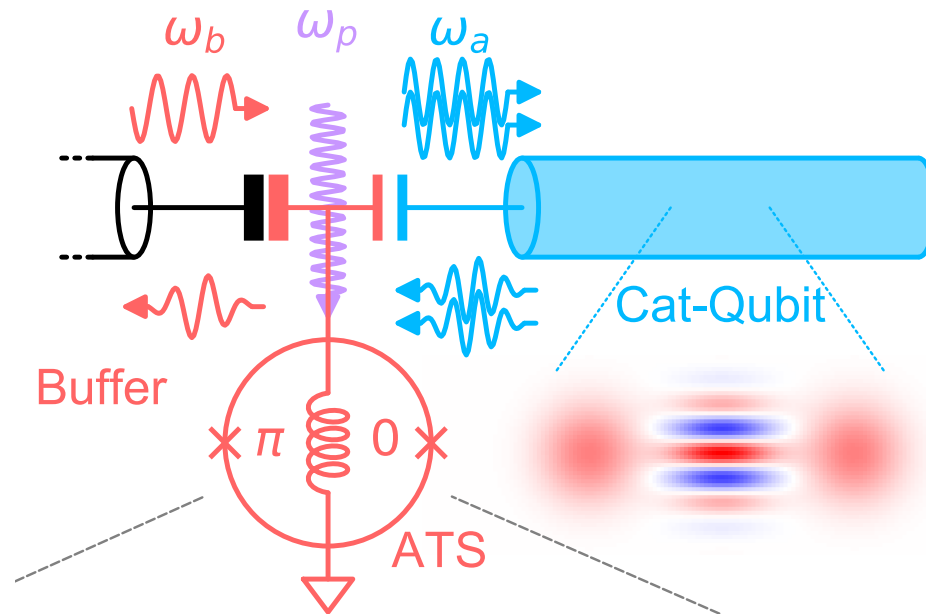
## Quantum control of a cat-qubit with bit-flip times exceeding ten seconds

U. Réglade,<sup>1,2,†</sup> A. Bocquet,<sup>1,2,†</sup> R. Gautier,<sup>2</sup> A. Marquet,<sup>1,3</sup> E. Albertinale,<sup>1</sup> N. Pankratova,<sup>1</sup> M. Hallén,<sup>1</sup> F. Rautschke,<sup>1</sup> L.-A. Sellem,<sup>2</sup> P. Rouchon,<sup>2</sup> A. Sarlette,<sup>2</sup> M. Mirrahimi,<sup>2</sup> P. Campagne-Ibarcq,<sup>2</sup> R. Lescanne,<sup>1</sup> S. Jezouin,<sup>1,‡</sup> and Z. Leghtas<sup>2,§</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Alice & Bob, 53 Bd du Général Martial Valin, 75015 Paris, France

<sup>2</sup>Laboratoire de Physique de l'Ecole normale supérieure, ENS-PSL, CNRS, Sorbonne Université, Université Paris Cité, Centre Automatique et Systèmes, Mines Paris, Université PSL, Inria, Paris, France

<sup>3</sup>Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, CNRS, Laboratoire de Physique, F-69342 Lyon, France



**Problem: how do we readout?**



# Readout protocol

## Wigner distribution

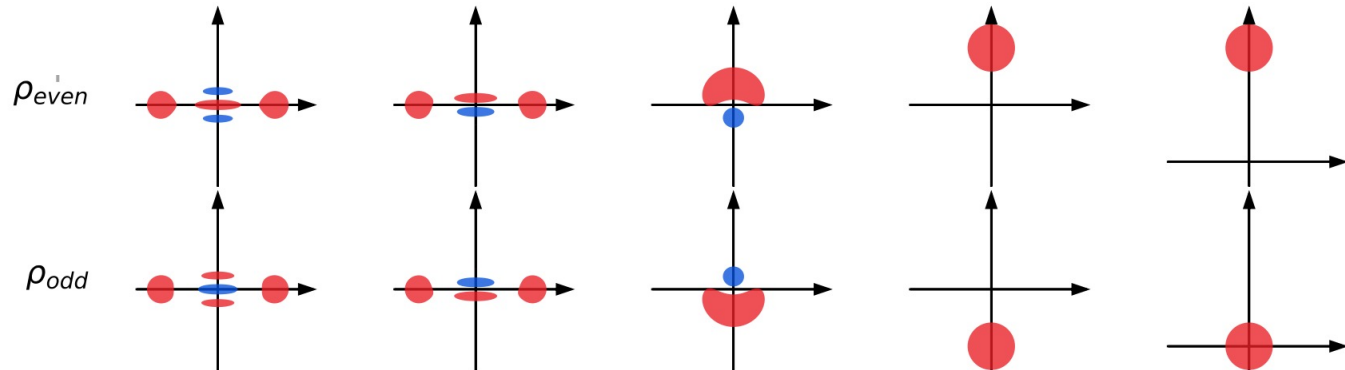
$$W(\lambda) = \langle \hat{D}(\lambda) \hat{P} \hat{D}^\dagger(\lambda) \rangle$$

with parity operator  $\hat{P} = e^{i\pi \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a}}$

with displacement operator  $\hat{D}(\lambda) = e^{\lambda \hat{a}^\dagger - \lambda^* \hat{a}}$

### Three-step process:

- (1) Displace state
- (2) Map parity to coherent states
- (3) Readout coherent states

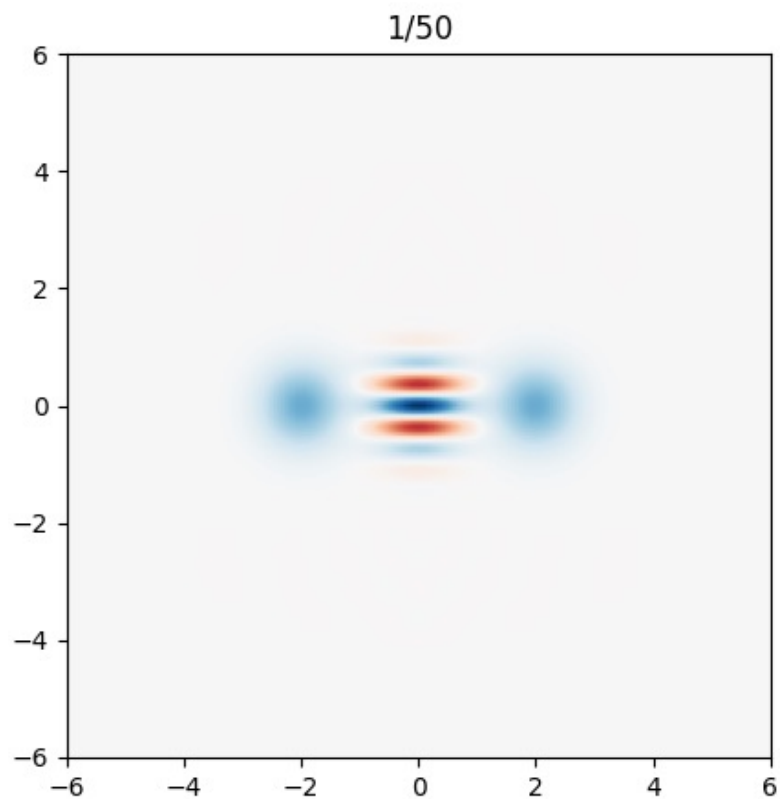




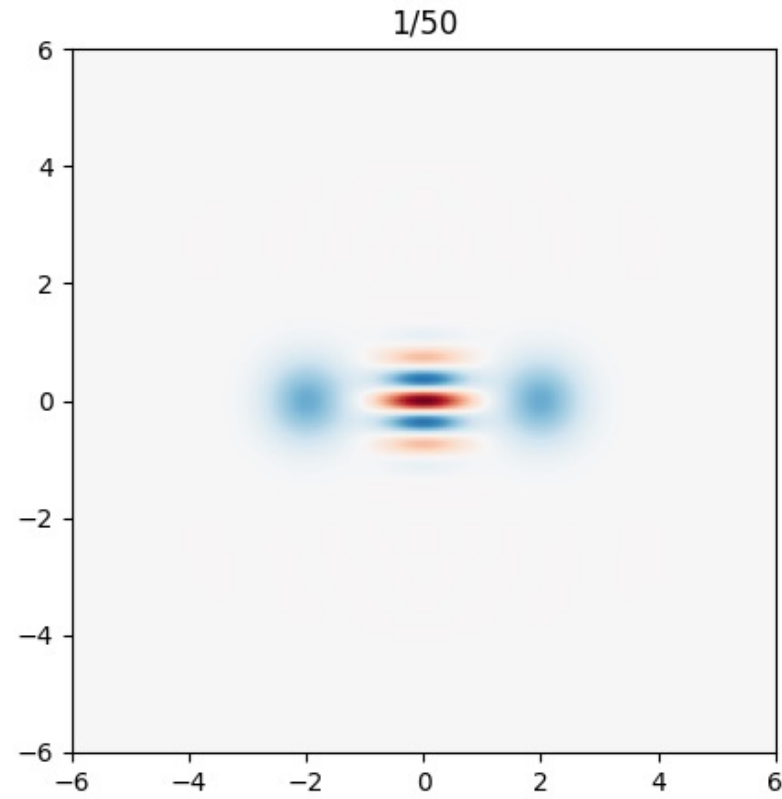
# Mapping parity to coherent states



Even parity

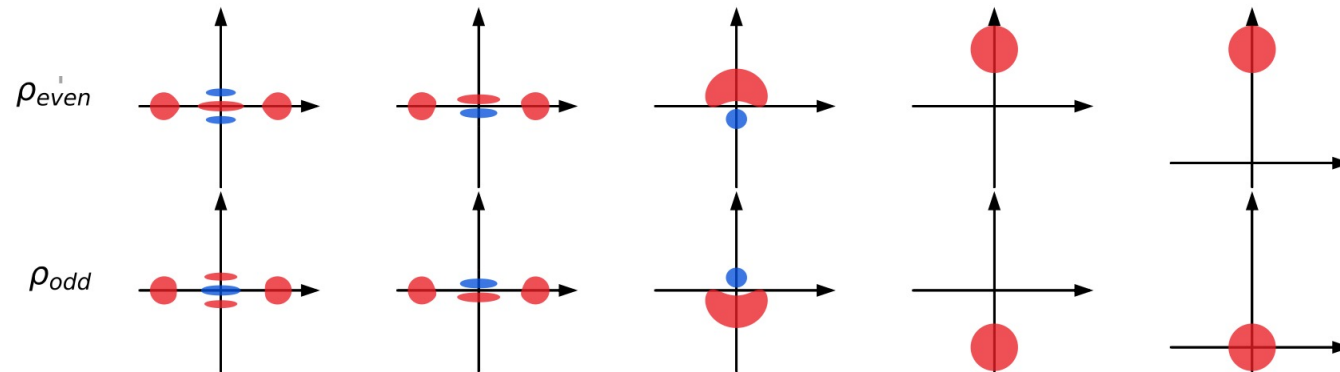
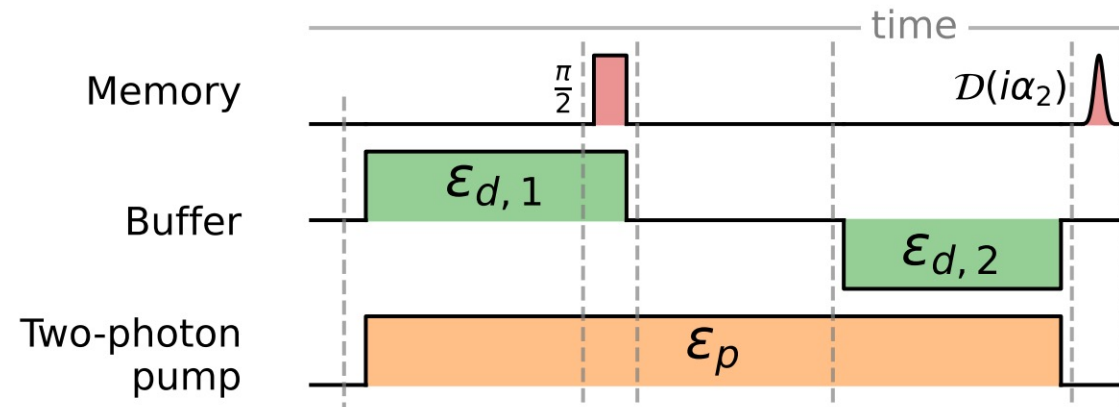


Odd parity





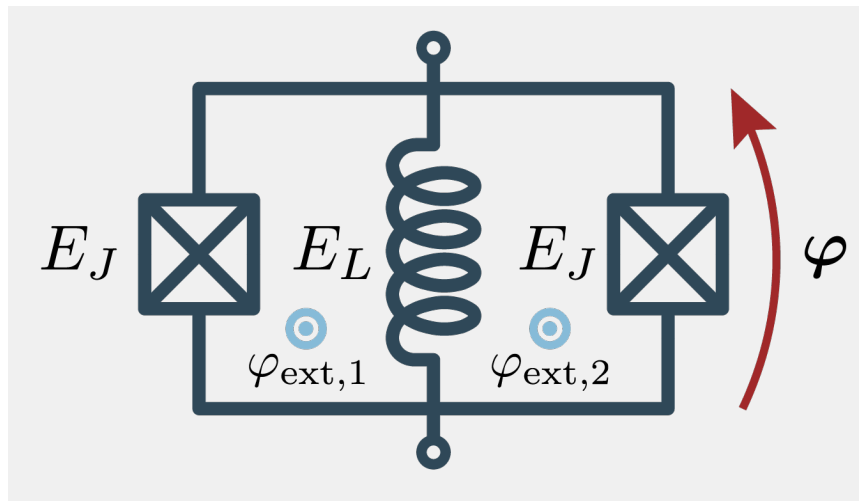
# Pulse sequence





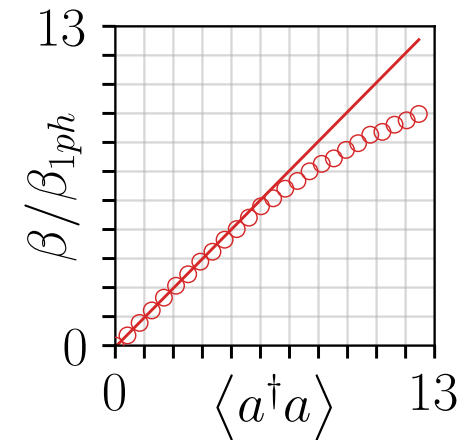
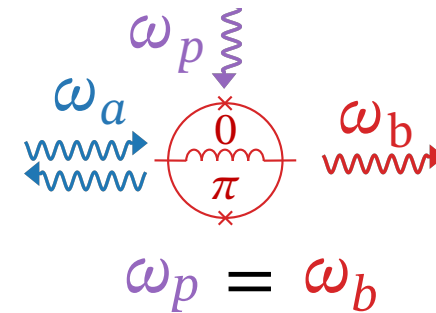
# Readout of coherent states

## Asymmetrically Threaded SQUID

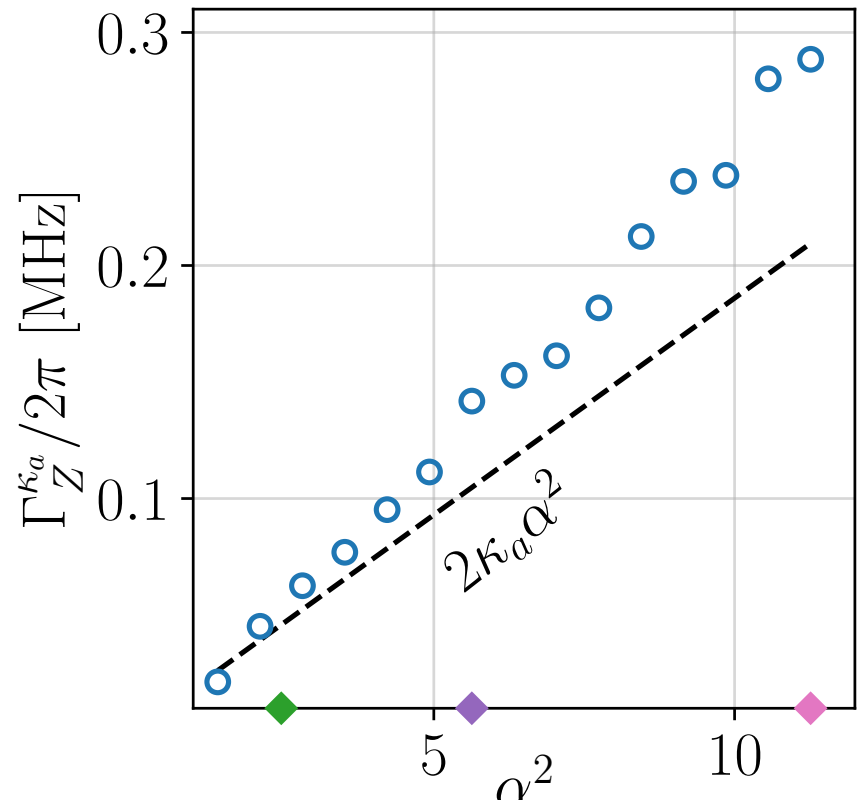
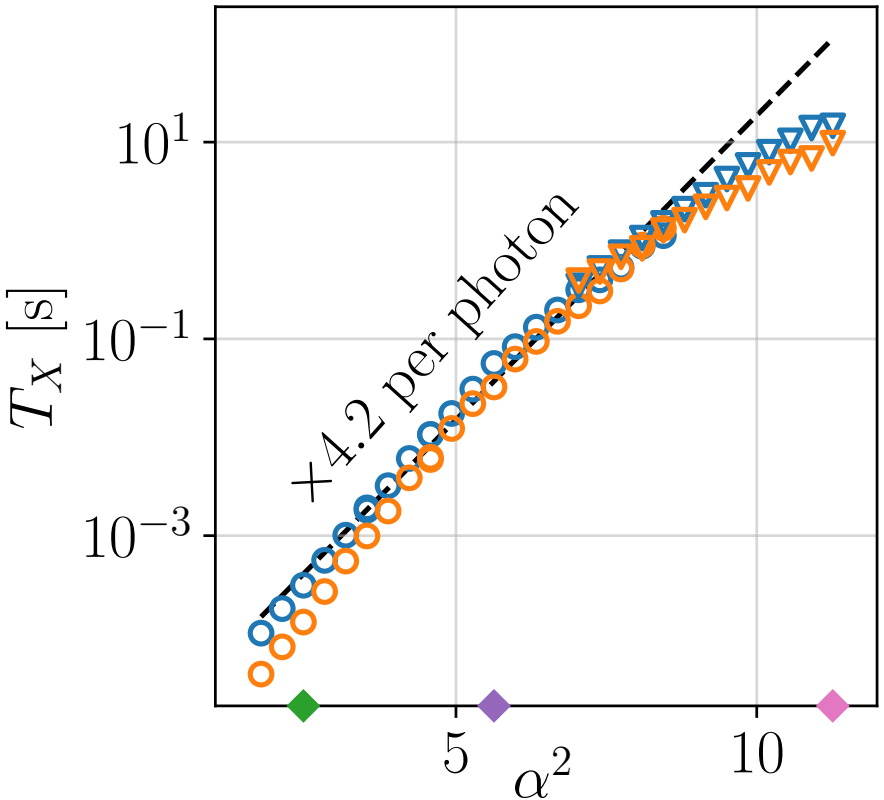


$$\omega_{\text{pump}} = \omega_b \quad \rightarrow \quad \hat{H} = g_l \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} (\hat{b} + \hat{b}^\dagger)$$

$$\begin{cases} \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} = 0 : \text{Buffer stays in vacuum} \\ \hat{a}^\dagger \hat{a} > 0 : \text{Buffer is displaced} \end{cases}$$



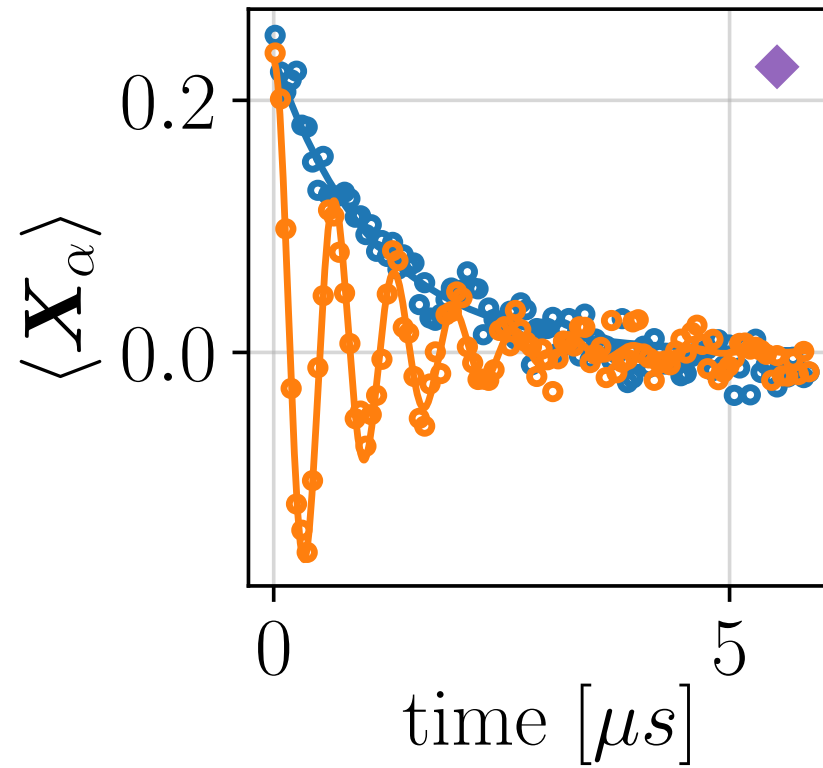
# Exponentially biased qubits



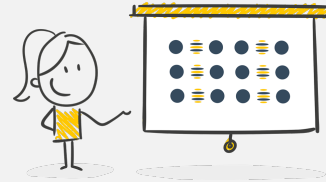
Bit lifetime at > 10 seconds !



# Rabi oscillations



Coherent control of interference fringes up to  $\sim 1\mu s$



Cat qubits are exponentially biased qubits  
→ outer quantum error-correcting code  
with small footprint

# Thank you for your attention!



In 2019, saturation at 1ms (transmon)  
→ In 2023, lifetime at >10s



Coherent control of fringes in a  
bias-preserving way

