

**Title:** Towards large-scale quantum simulations with trapped ions - Rajibul Islam

**Speakers:** Kazi-Rajibul Islam

**Collection/Series:** Waterloo-Munich Joint Workshop

**Subject:** Quantum Information

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# Towards large-scale quantum simulations with trapped ions



Waterloo-Munich Joint Workshop  
Perimeter Institute, Waterloo  
30 Sep 2024

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Dejan Plavsic, Gary Zhong, Zachary  
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Sainath Motlakunta → IonQ Canada



## Quantum Information with Trapped Ions (QITI)

[qiti.iqc.uwaterloo.ca](http://qiti.iqc.uwaterloo.ca)



\$\$ University of Waterloo, NSERC, NFRF, CFREF, Ontario Early Researcher Award, US ARO

# Outline

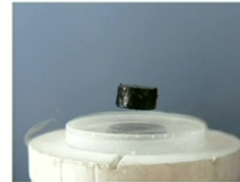
- A quick overview/refresher on trapped ion quantum simulations
- Our efforts to develop programmable and large-scale trapped-ion quantum simulators
  - Increase qubit count
  - Expand *Native* qubit interactions toolset
  - Develop high-precision coherent and incoherent control over individual ions
  - Robust and modular systems engineering
- Beyond the lab – developing open-source, full-stack quantum processors (Open Quantum Design)

# Quantum Simulation

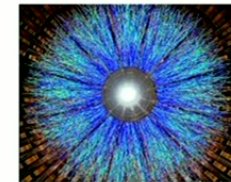
- Simulating quantum many-body system is hard, especially quantum dynamics where the quantum state has `a lot of' entanglement!
- Exponential growth of Hilbert space,  $2^N$  for  $N$  qubits/spin-1/2 objects
- “Can Physics be simulated by a universal computer?” (Feynman, 1982)
  - “Let the computer itself be built of quantum mechanical elements which obey quantum mechanical laws.”

➔ Universal quantum simulator

**Microscopic description?**



High Temperature superconductor

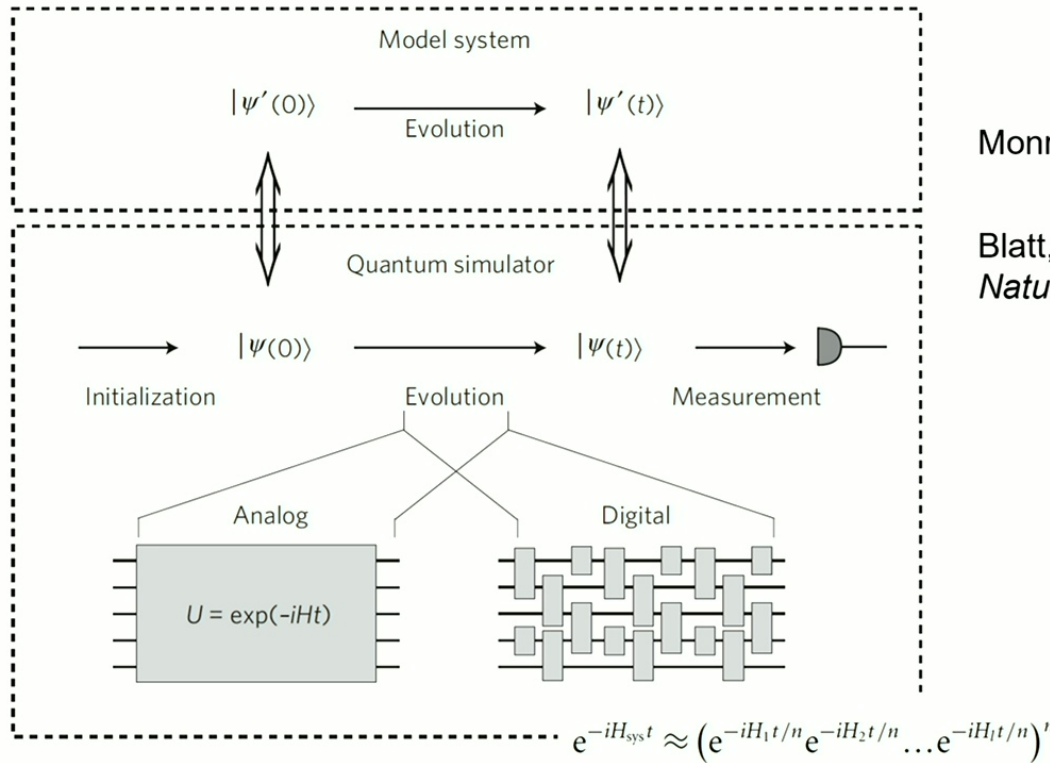


Quark Gluon 'plasma'

## Potential use of quantum simulators

- Understanding/optimizing chemical reactions - Nitrogen fixation
- Phase diagram of many-body Hamiltonians
- Understanding QCD dynamics - high energy physics problems
- Predicting new materials, battery ...

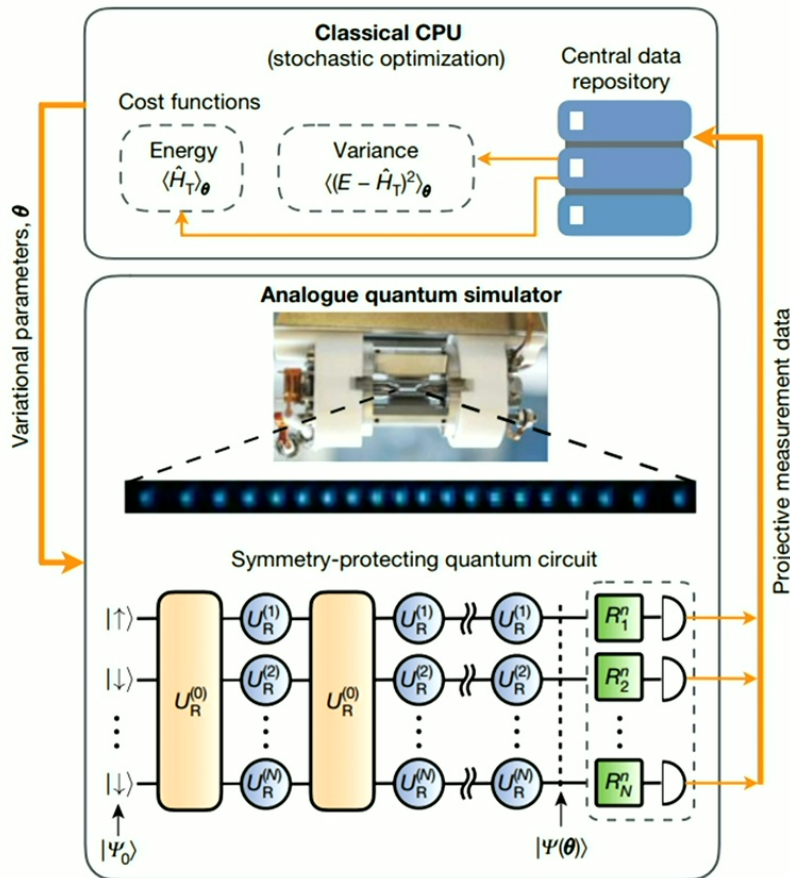
# Analog and Digital Quantum Simulation



Monroe et al, Rev Mod Phys (2021)

Blatt, R and Roos, C. F.,  
*Nature Physics* **8**, 277 (2012)

# Hybrid classical-quantum simulation/computation

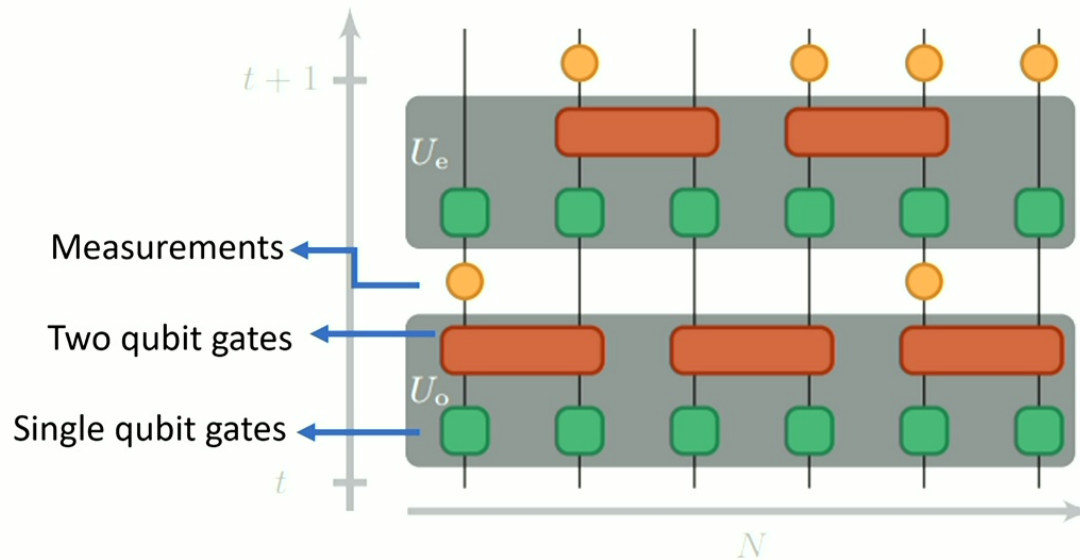


Hybrid computation suitable for solving problems in high-energy physics (quantum chromodynamics simulations etc.)

From Kokail et al. Nature 569, 355 (2019)

6

# Quantum simulations with coherent evolution and 'mid-circuit' measurements

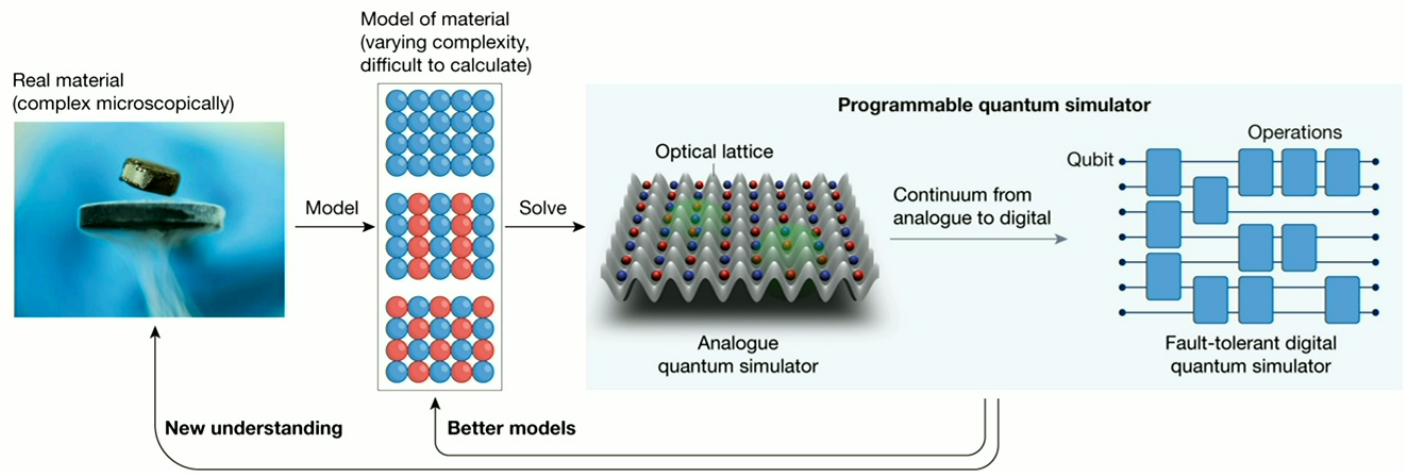


e.g.,  
Simulating a measurement-  
induced phase transition for  
trapped-ion circuits  
Stefanie Czischek et. al PRA 104,  
062405 (2021)

Also check:

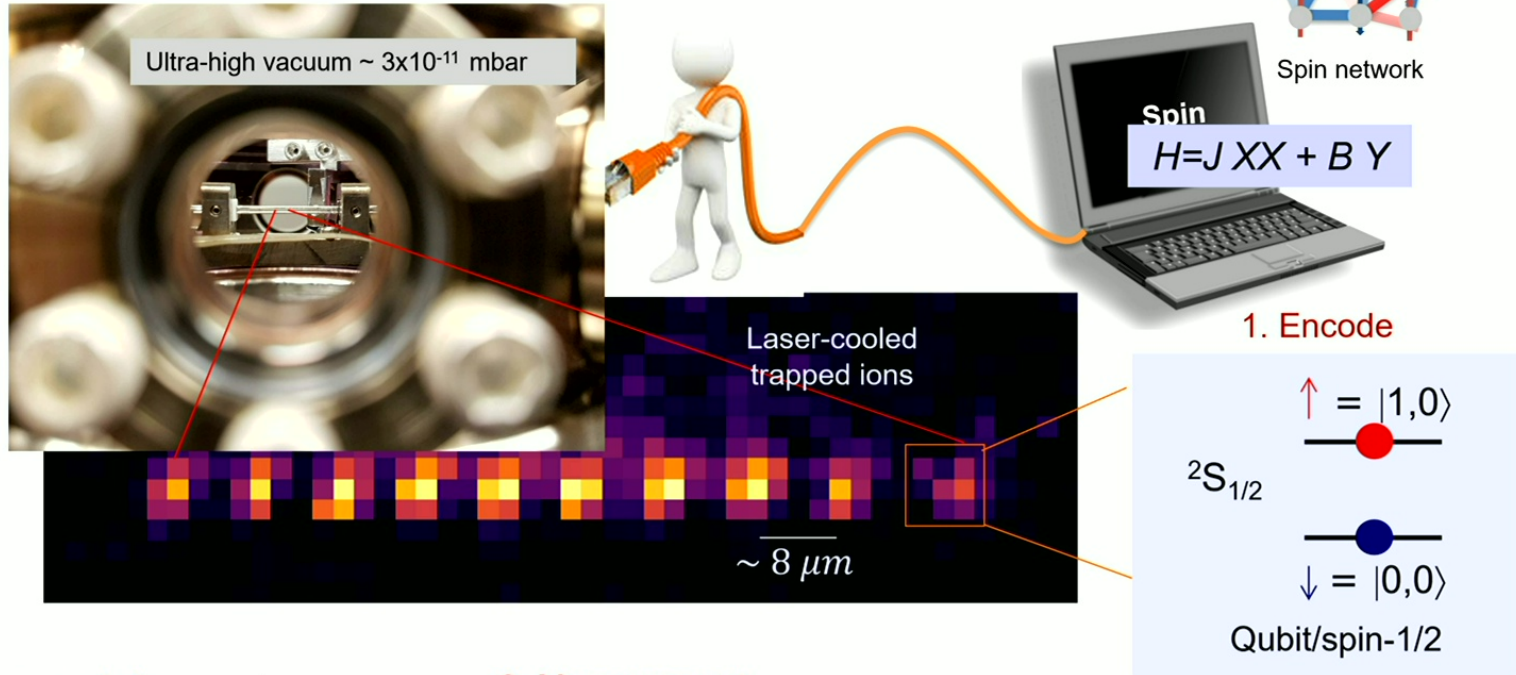
Measurement-induced quantum phases realized in a trapped-ion quantum computer.  
Noel, C., Niroula, P., Zhu, D. et al. *Nat. Phys.* **18**, 760–764 (2022).



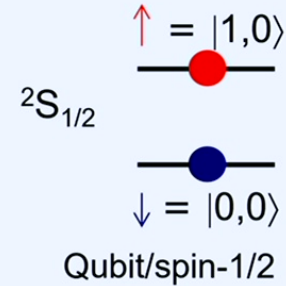


Daley, A.J., Bloch, I., Kokail, C. *et al.*  
 Practical quantum advantage in quantum simulation. *Nature* **607**, 667–676 (2022).

# Quantum Simulation

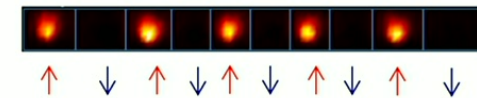
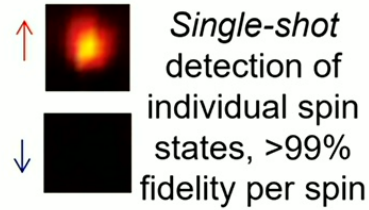


## 1. Encode



2. Time evolution requires experimental control of the Hamiltonian (and any programmed dissipation) but otherwise 'free' (we are using a real quantum system!)

## 3. Measurement



Repeat for statistics and probability

# Ions as a platform for quantum computation/simulation

- All qubits/spins are identical
- Long coherence time (> 1 hr demonstrated)
- Near perfect state initialization and detection of quantum states
- High fidelity control of individual spins/qubits and interaction between spins (entangling gates)

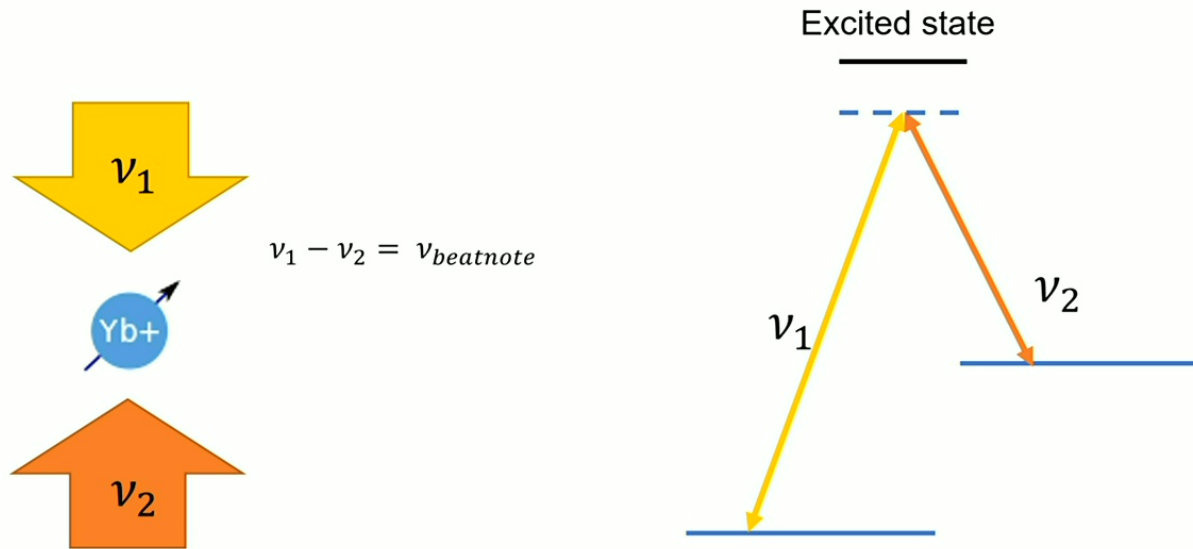
Single spin control → simulation of external magnetic field

single qubit fidelity 99.9999% [Lucas group, Oxford]

Entangling operation / interaction between spins

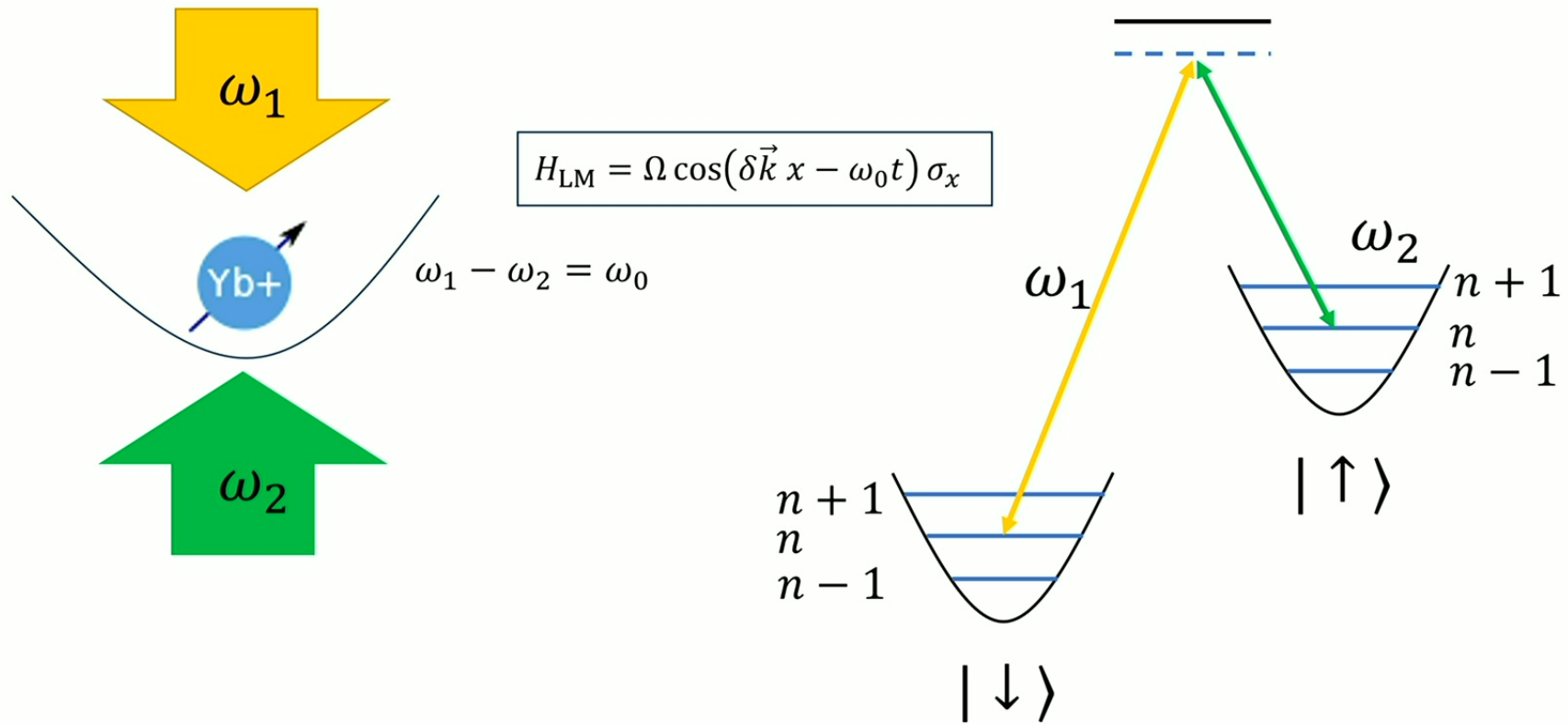
two qubit gate fidelity 99.97% [Oxford Ionics]

# Coherent manipulation of single spins



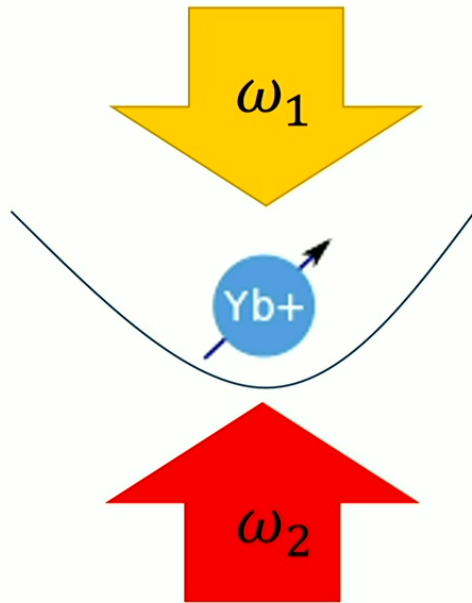
# Coherent interactions: Carrier Transition

$$H_a = \frac{\omega_0}{2} \sigma_z + \omega_m a^\dagger a$$



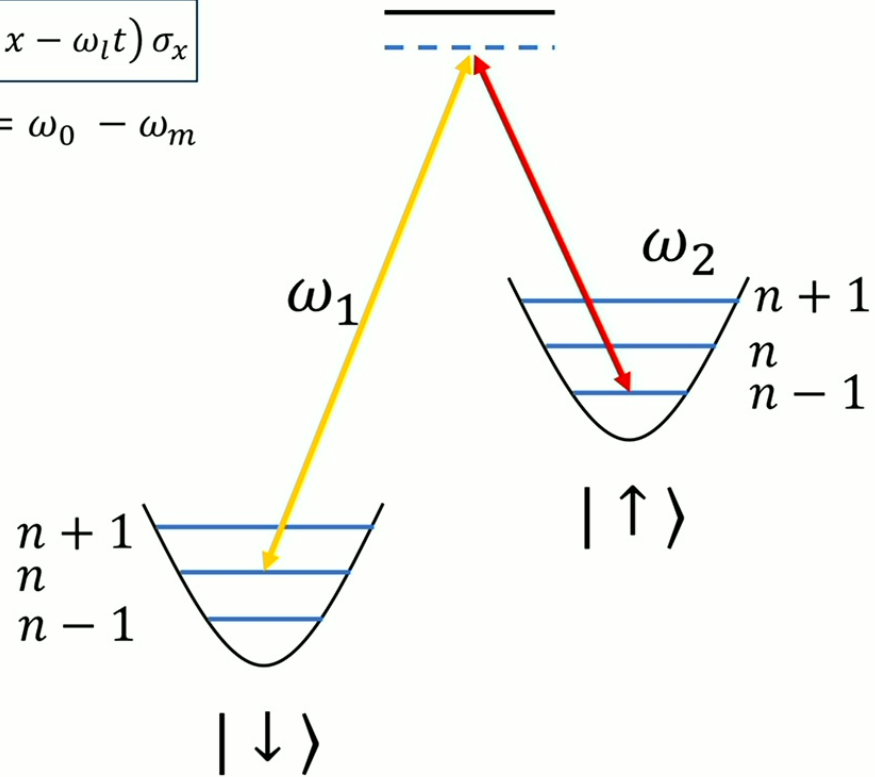
# Coherent interactions: Red Sideband

$$H_a = \frac{\omega_0}{2} \sigma_z + \omega_m a^\dagger a$$



$$H_{af} = \Omega \cos(\delta \vec{k} x - \omega_l t) \sigma_x$$

$$\omega_l = \omega_1 - \omega_2 = \omega_0 - \omega_m$$

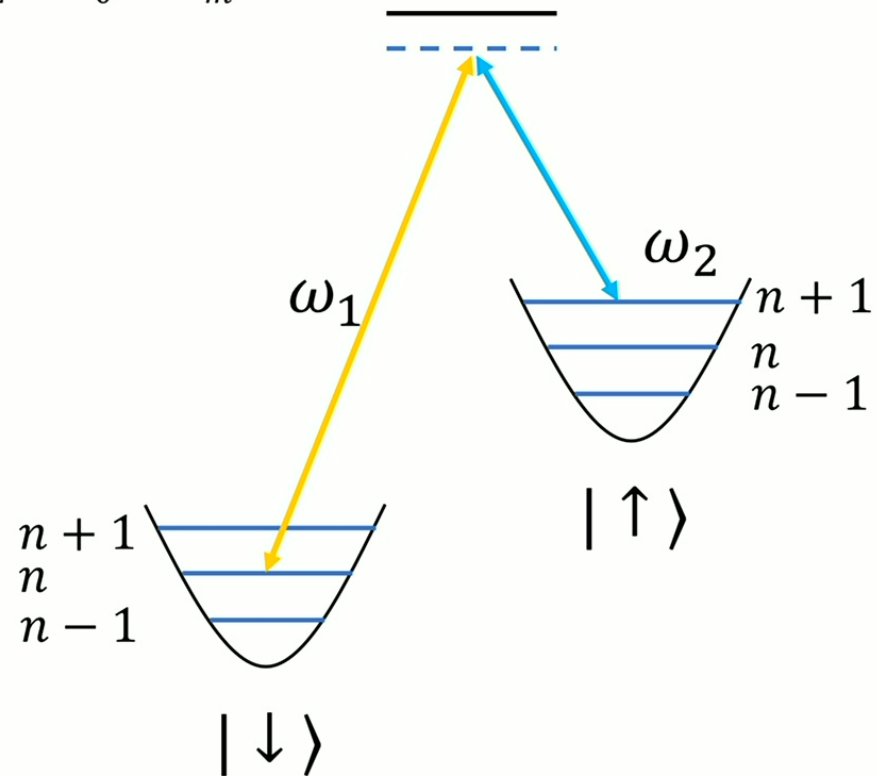
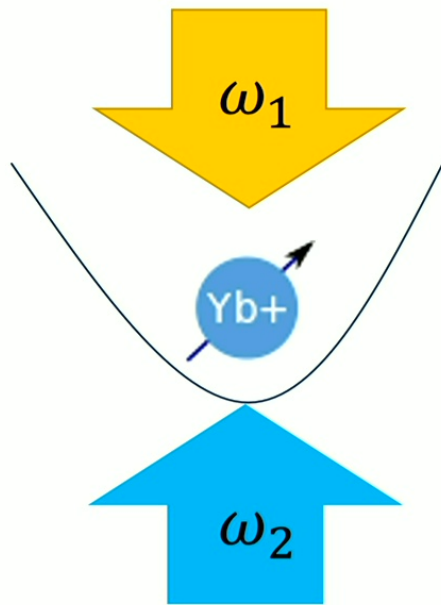


# Coherent interactions: Blue Sideband

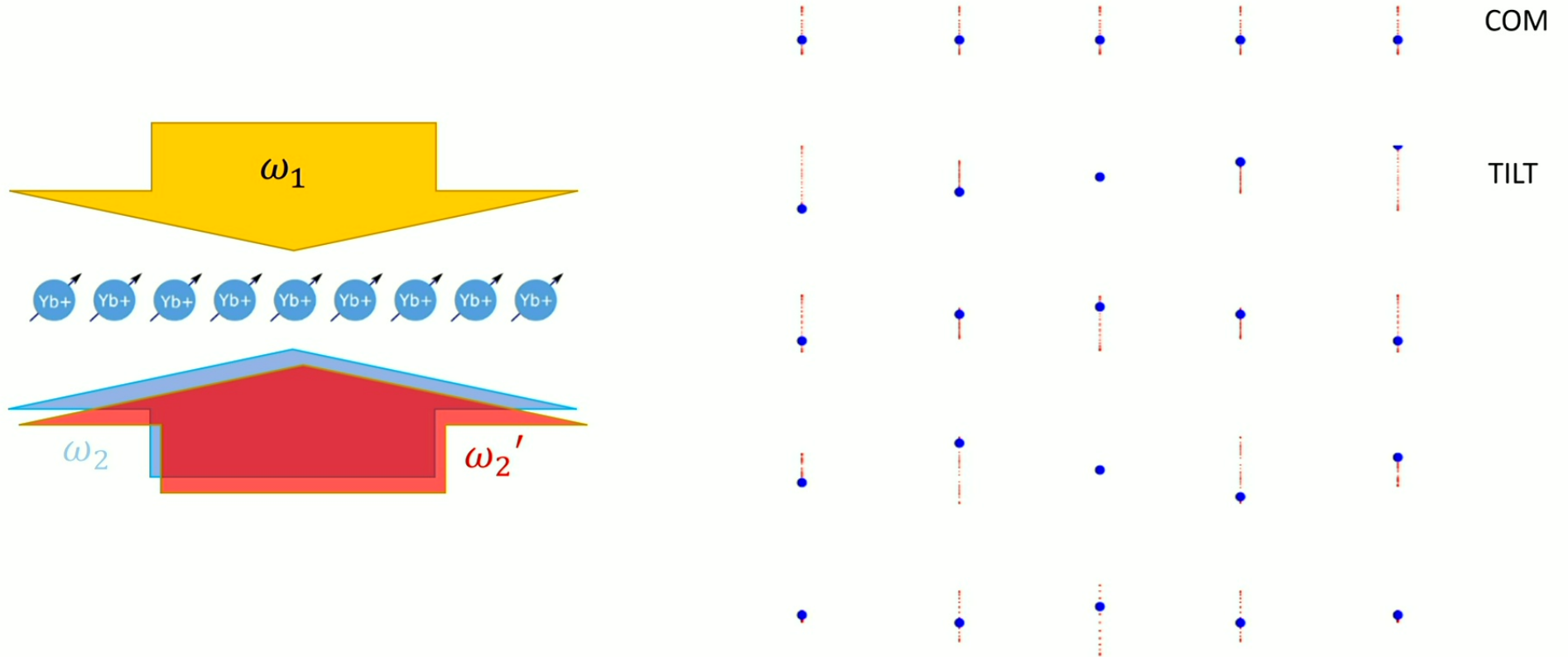
$$H_a = \frac{\omega_0}{2} \sigma_z + \omega_m a^\dagger a$$

$$H_{af} = \Omega \cos(\delta \vec{k} x - \omega_l t) \sigma_x$$

$$\omega_l = \omega_1 - \omega_2 = \omega_0 + \omega_m$$



# Collective Oscillation of Ions : Normal Modes





# Spin-spin interactions using collective vibration (phonon) of ions



Cirac and Zoller, Phys. Rev. Lett. **74**, 4091 (1995)  
C. Monroe, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **74**, 4714 (1995)  
F. Schmidt-Kaler, et al., Nature **422**, 408 (2003)  
Molmer, Sorensen Phys. Rev. Lett. **82**, 1835 (1999)

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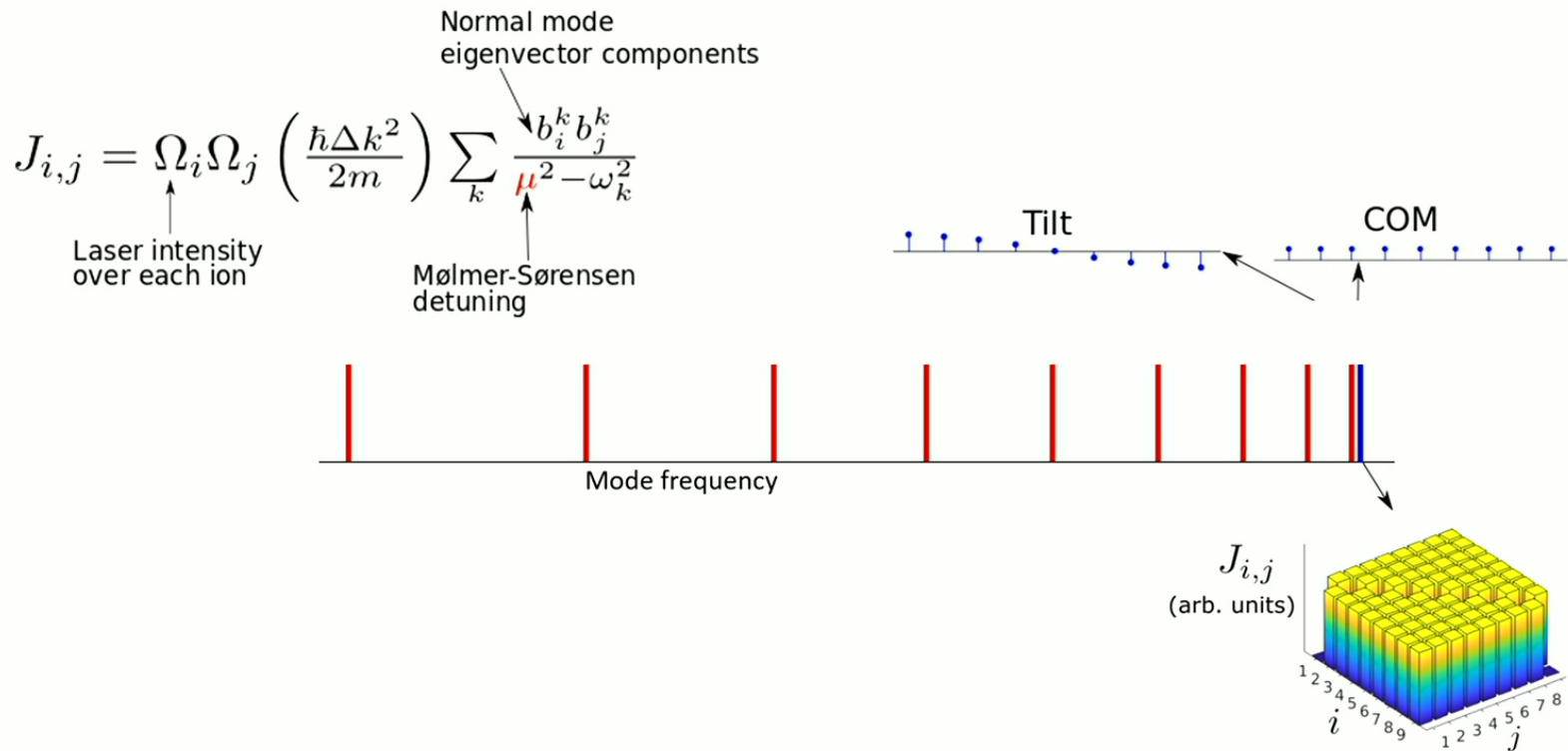


Internal states of these ions entangled

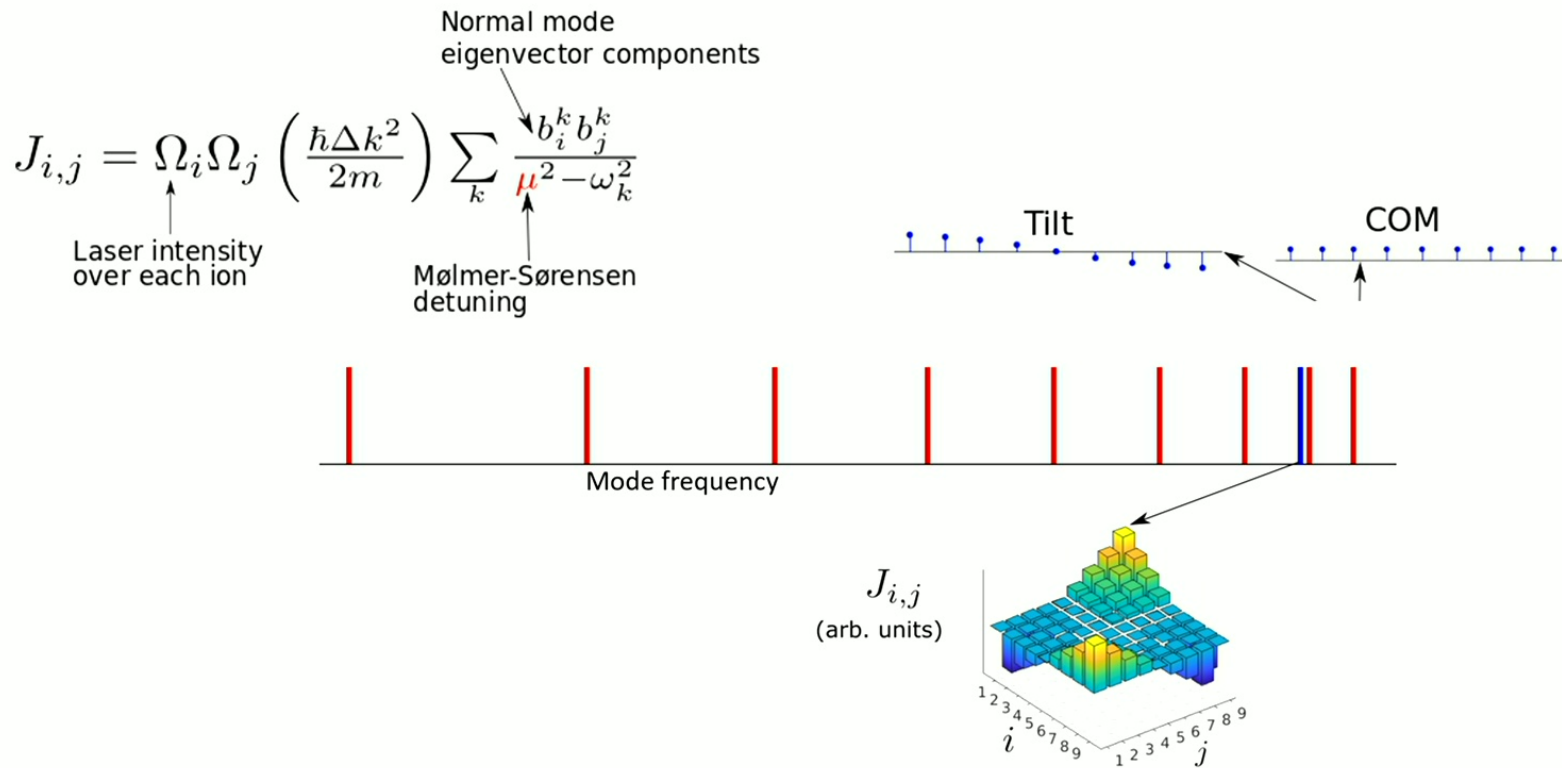
$$H = \sum J_{i,j} \sigma_x^i \sigma_x^j \quad (\text{Ising})$$

- Cirac and Zoller, Phys. Rev. Lett. **74**, 4091 (1995)
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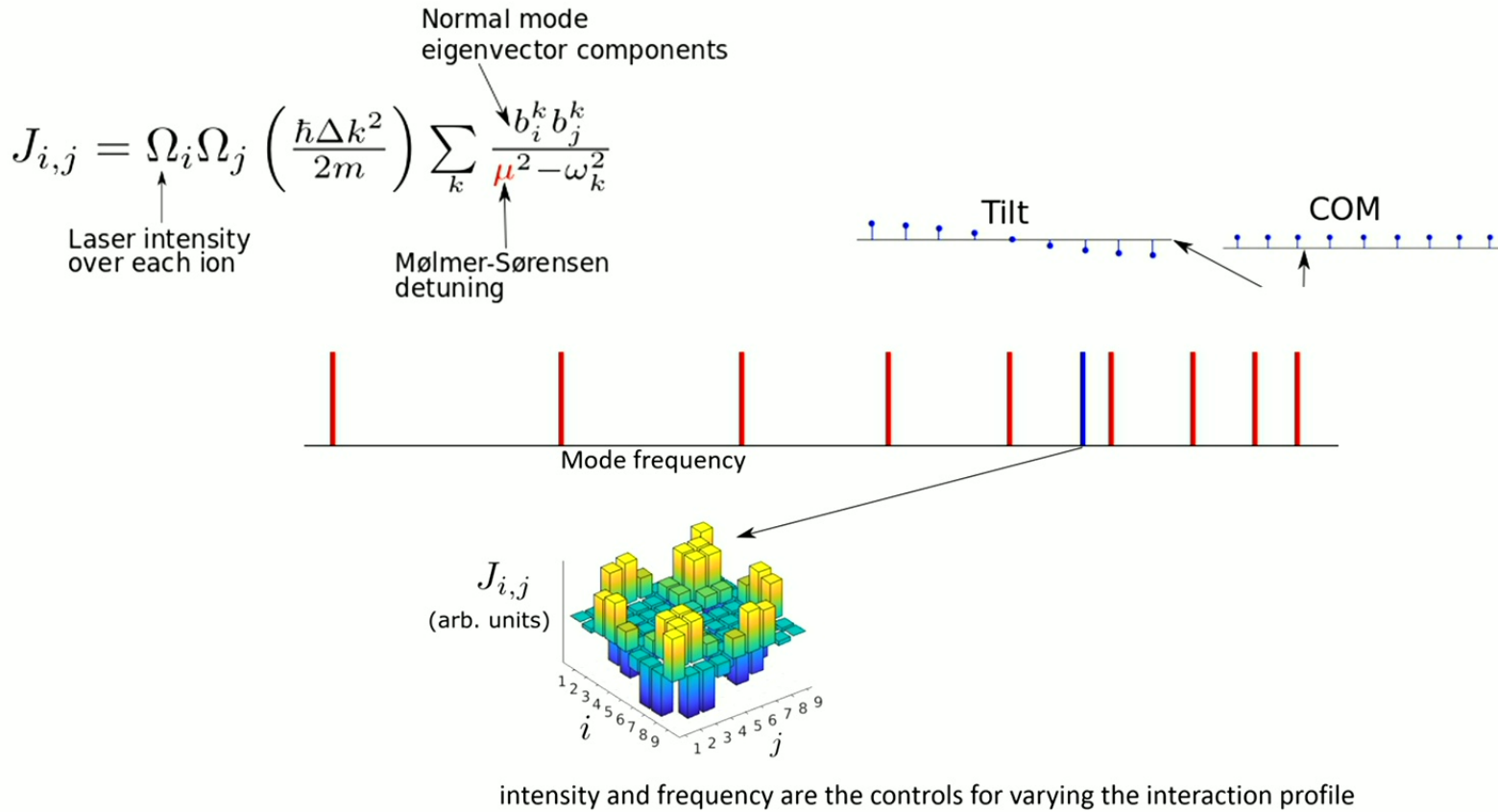
# Spin dependent force = Spin-Spin Interactions



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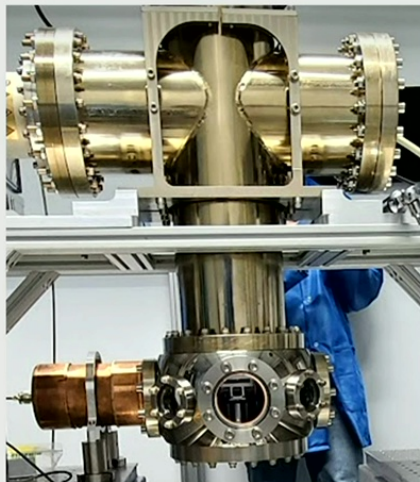
# Our Quantum Processors



## **Amethyst**

Yb<sup>+</sup> ion-based quantum simulator  
( $< 10$  qubits)

*Operational*



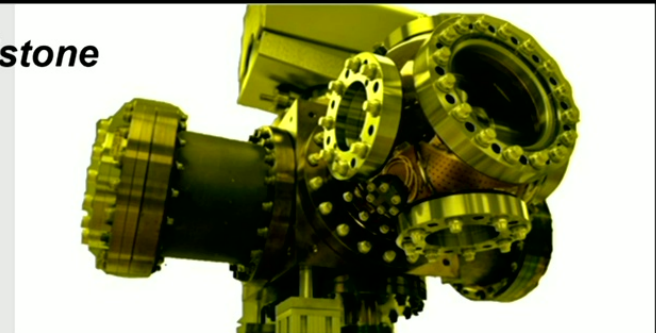
## **Beryl**

jointly with Crystal Senko group

Ba<sup>+</sup> in surface trap (Sandia Nat'l Lab), up to 16 qubits/qudits with maximum individual control

*final stages of construction*

## **Bloodstone**



Yb<sup>+</sup> ion-based quantum processor for long ion chains ( $> 30$  qubits), programmable interactions, mid-circuit measurements

*Trying to trap first ions!*



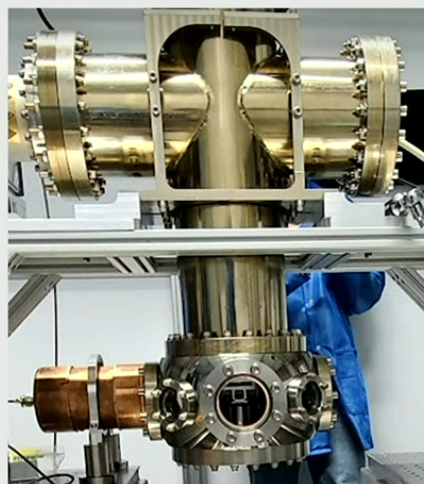
# Our Quantum Processors



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Yb<sup>+</sup> ion-based quantum simulator  
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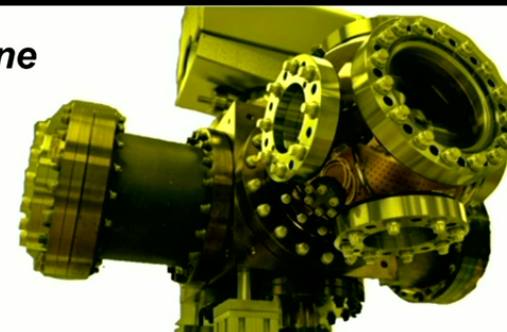
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## **Bloodstone**



Yb<sup>+</sup> ion-based quantum processor for long ion chains (> 30 qubits), programmable interactions, mid-circuit measurements

Fullstack control and remote access at various levels  
(collaborations with Crystal Senko, Roger Melko)

## Increasing qubit count

How many ions can we trap and work with (lifetime practical for performing complex quantum simulation experiments)?

- Lifetime limited by vacuum pressure and trap depth

How many qubits can we control practically?

- Typically limited by available optical controls and coherence time in presence of control fields

# Requirement: Extreme High Vacuum

## Langevin Collision Rate

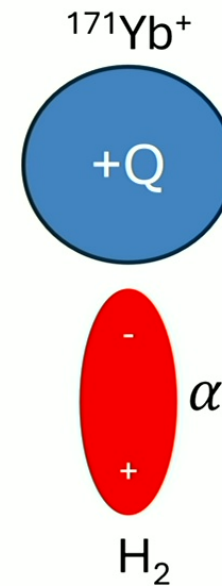
$$\gamma \approx \frac{PQ}{k_B T} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha \pi}{2m\epsilon_0}}$$

P = Pressure

Q = Ion Charge

$\alpha$  = Polarizability of background gas

m = Mass of gas atom



Recent 53 ion experiments observe 5-minute collision free lifetimes [1]

For observing the dynamics for 100 ms  $\approx$  20-30 minutes

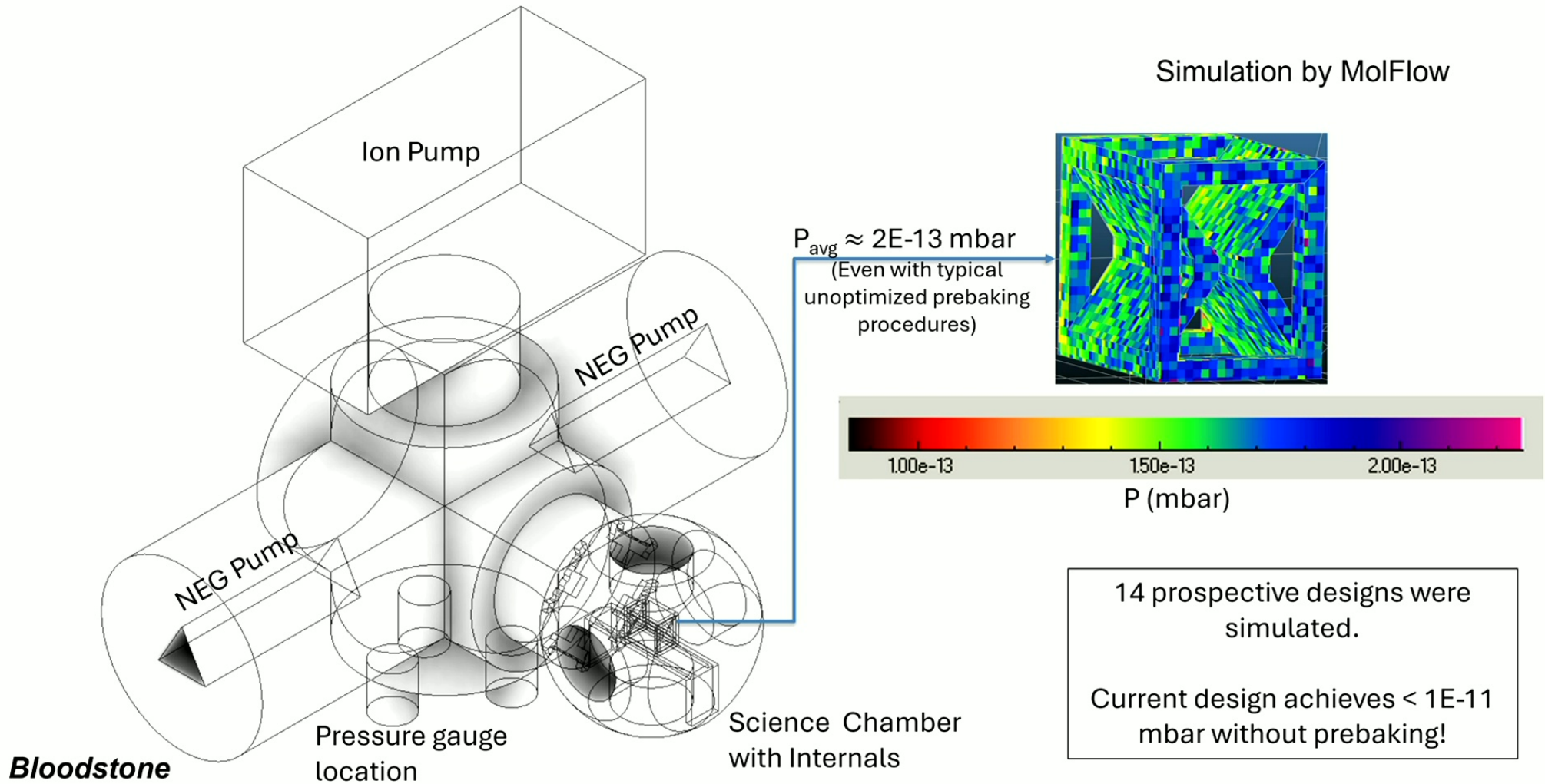
For  $P = 2 \times 10^{-11}$  mbar ( $\gamma \approx 5 \times 10^{-4}$ ) i.e. every min (30 ions)

For  $N$  ions:  $P < \frac{2}{N} \times 10^{-11}$  mbar

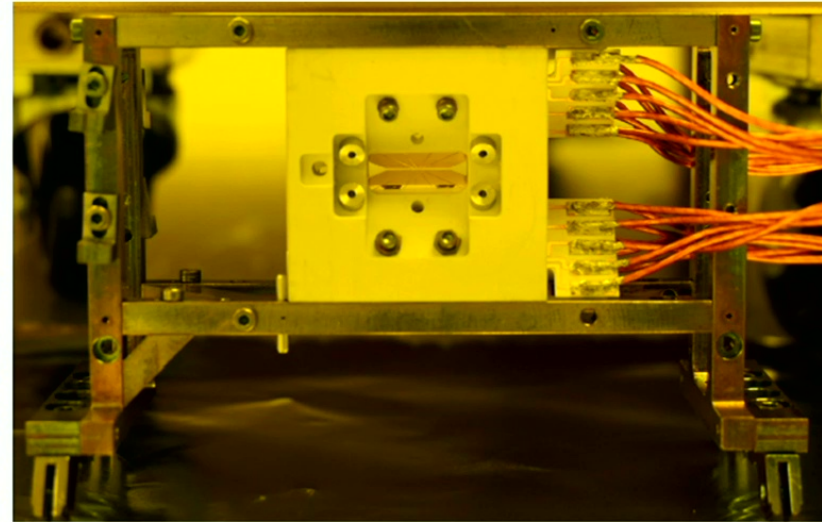
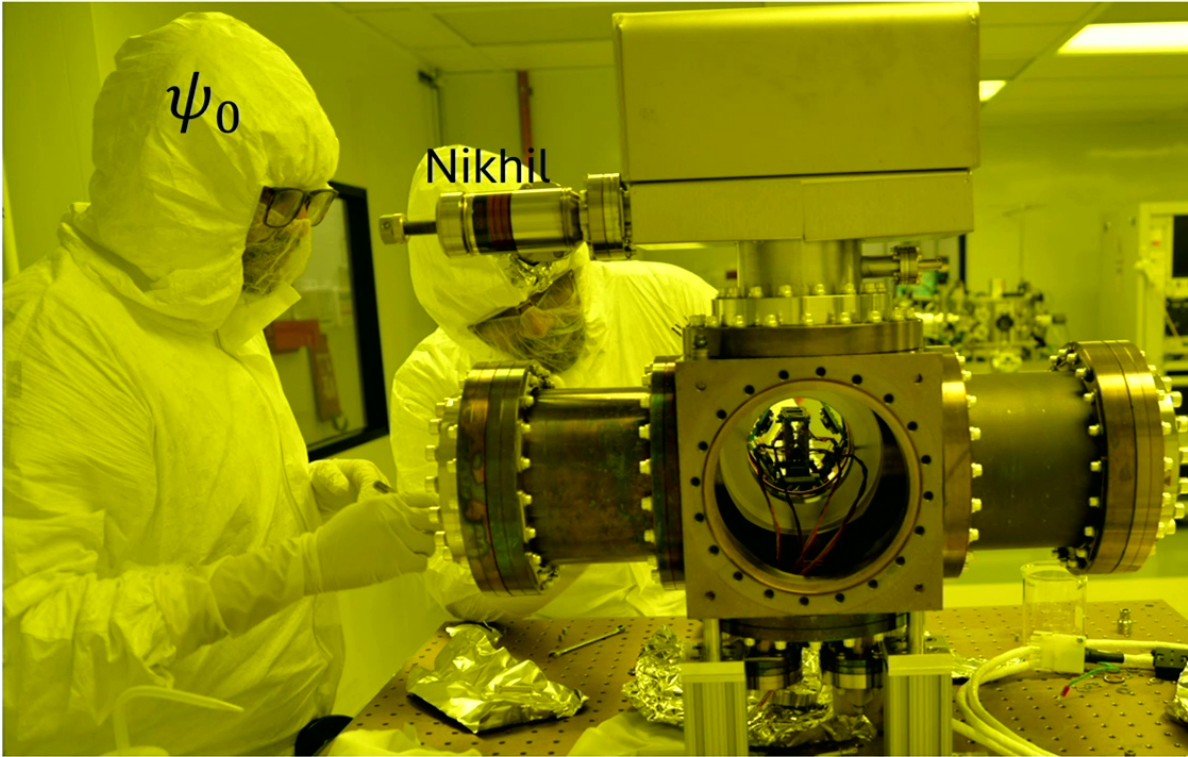
For 50 ions:  $P < 4 \times 10^{-13}$  mbar (Extreme High Vacuum, XHV)

[1] Zhang et. al Nature 551 601-604 (2017)

# Room temperature XHV system possible?



# Clean Vacuum Assembly

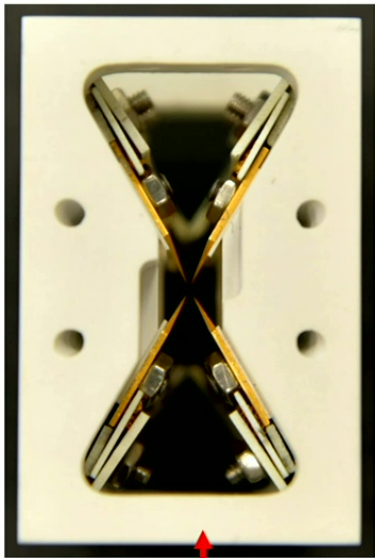


- All assembly inside cleanroom
- All metallic parts pre-treated at 400 C
- Trap ceramic mount pre-treated at 900 C
- Each internal component tested for vacuum compatibility

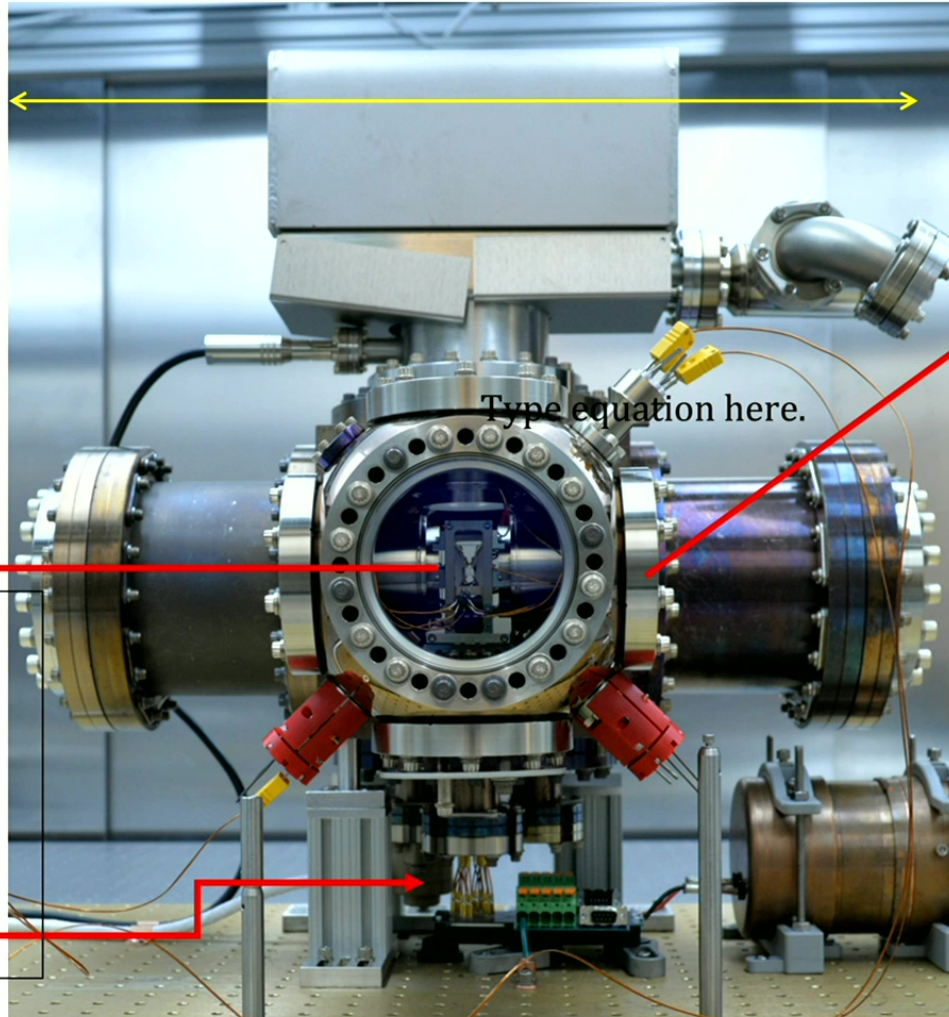
**Bloodstone**

Picture Credits: Lewis Hahn

# A room temp XHV system

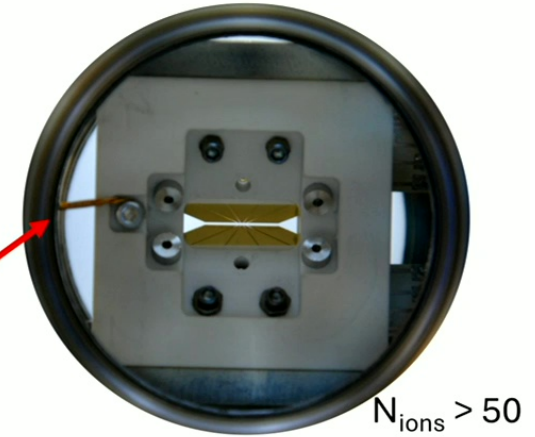


XHV

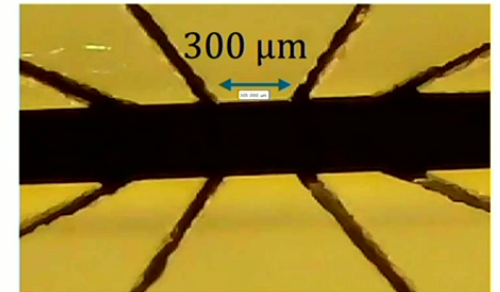


Type equation here.

Side View



$N_{\text{ions}} > 50$



Segmented 'blade style' electrodes  
Trap depth  $> 10^5$  K

$P_{\text{meas}} < 1.7\text{E-}12$  mbar  
 $P_{\text{est}} < 6\text{E-}13$  mbar

Current state of the art (room temp systems)  
 $P \approx 1\text{E-}11$  mbar

**Bloodstone**

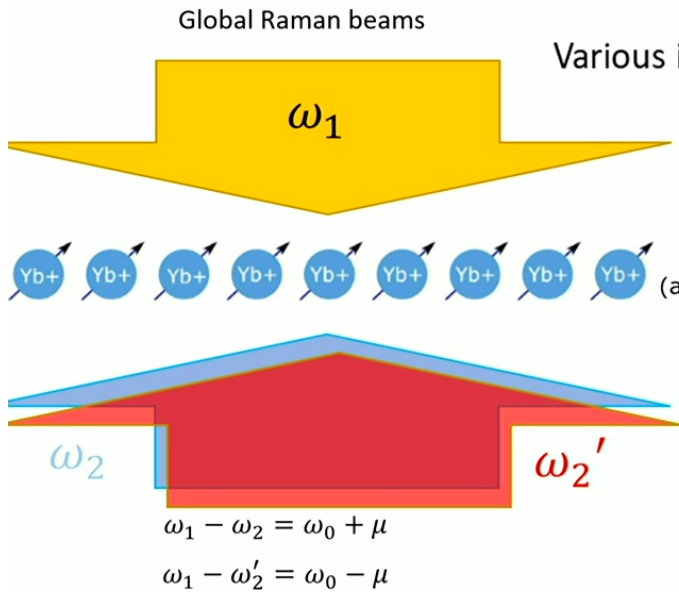
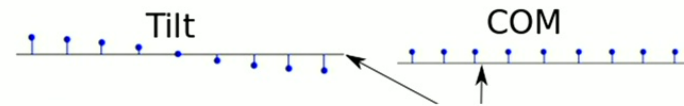
How controllable are the spin-spin interactions?

# Spin-Spin Interactions

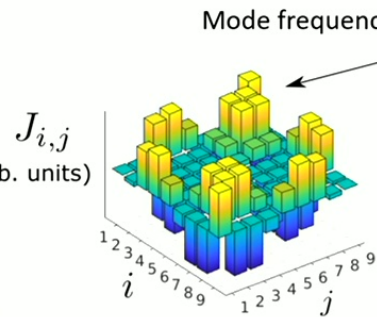
$$J_{i,j} = \Omega_i \Omega_j \left( \frac{\hbar \Delta k^2}{2m} \right) \sum_k \frac{b_i^k b_j^k}{\mu^2 - \omega_k^2}$$

↑ Laser intensity over each ion
 ↑ Mølmer-Sørensen detuning

Normal mode eigenvector components  
 $b_i^k b_j^k$

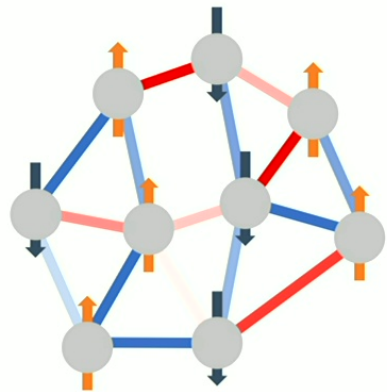


Various interaction profiles accessible by changing the detuning  $\mu$



Various interaction profiles accessible by changing the detuning  $\mu$

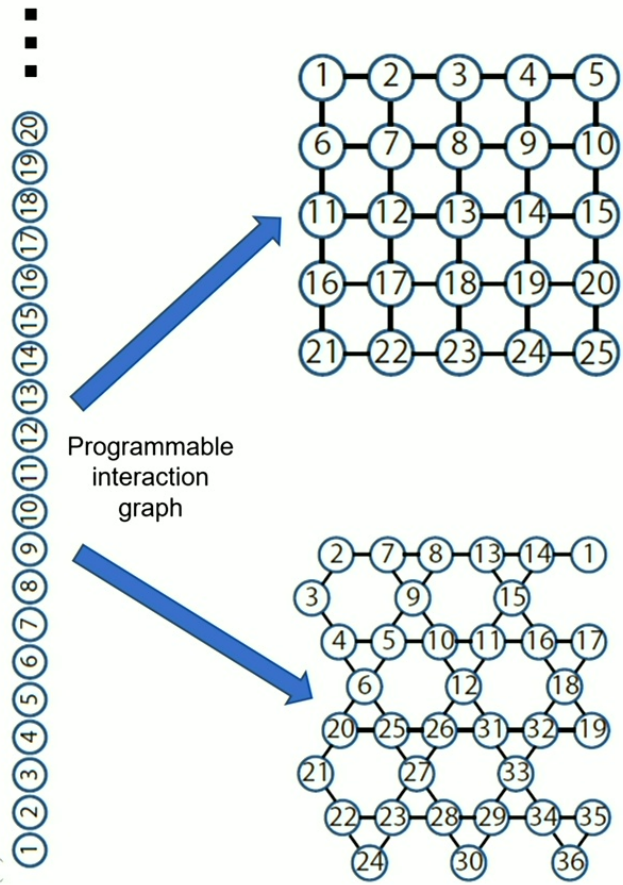




Fully-connected spin system

Also see:

- Efforts to build 2D traps (Phil Richerme, Kihwan Kim, NIST ...)
- Dynamical Hamiltonian engineering:  
F. Rajabi, S. Motlakunta, C. Shih, N. Kotibhaskar, Q. Quraishi, A. Ajoy, R. Islam  
*npj Quantum Information* 5:32 (2019)

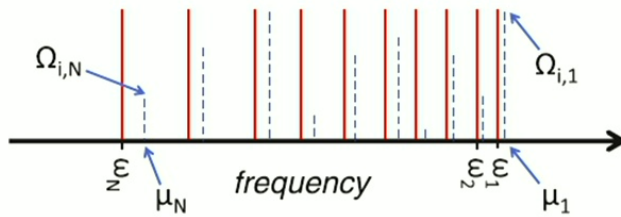
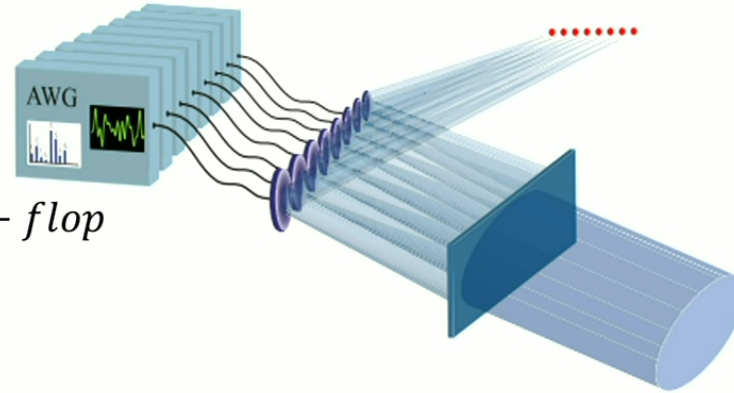


Arbitrary interaction graph  
between spins

S Korenblit et al 2012 New J. Phys. 14 095024.

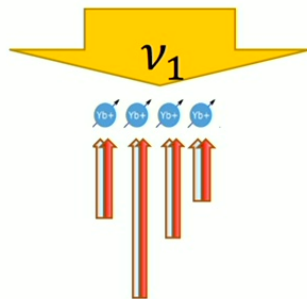
$$H = \sum J_{i,j} \sigma_x^i \sigma_x^j \quad (\text{Ising})$$

$$H_{XY} = \sum J_{i,j} (\sigma_x^i \sigma_x^j + \sigma_y^i \sigma_y^j) \quad \text{Flip - flop}$$



$$\eta_{i,m} = b_{i,m} \delta k \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2M\omega_m^{(x)}}}$$

$$J_{i,j} = \sum_n \Omega_{i,n} \Omega_{j,n} \sum_m^N \frac{\eta_{i,m} \eta_{j,m} \omega_m^{(x)}}{\mu_n^2 - \left(\omega_m^{(x)}\right)^2}$$



Laser power  
(Rabi frequency)

Individual addressing

~ laser detuning

Excite multiple  
modes selectively

$O(N^2)$  controls required.

Finding the  $N^2$  Rabi frequencies is a hard problem involving non-linear optimization

$$J_{i,j} = \sum_n \boxed{\Omega_{i,n}} \Omega_{j,n} \sum_m^N \frac{\boxed{\eta_{i,m}} \eta_{j,m} \omega_m^{(x)}}{\boxed{\mu_n^2} - \left(\omega_m^{(x)}\right)^2}$$

$\eta_{i,m} = b_{i,m} \delta k \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2M\omega_m^{(x)}}}$   
 Lamb-Dicke parameter

Rabi Frequencies (laser powers),  $N^2$  parameters  
 Raman Beatnote Detunings (laser frequencies),  $N$  parameters

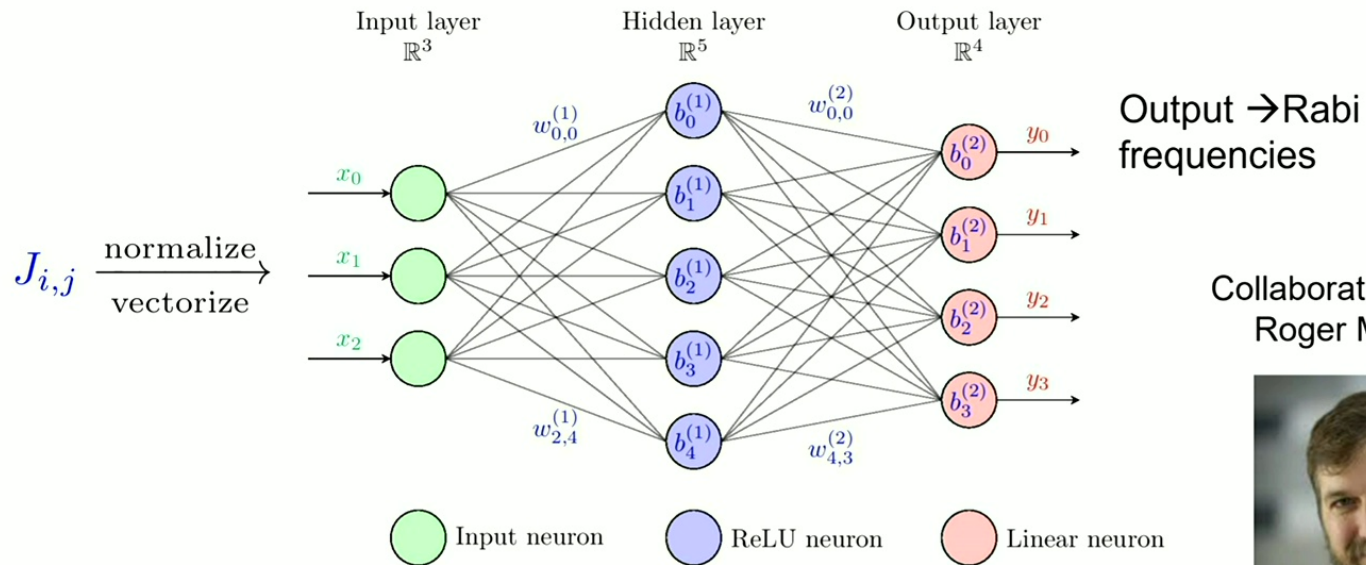
**EASY** ←  
 → **HARD**

S Korenblit et al 2012 New J. Phys. 14 095024

**APPROACH:** Use machine learning to find the Rabi frequencies,  $\Omega_{i,n}$ , given an arbitrary  $J_{i,j}$ .<sup>31</sup>

# Feed Forward Neural Network

## To tune an analog quantum simulator



Collaboration with  
Roger Melko

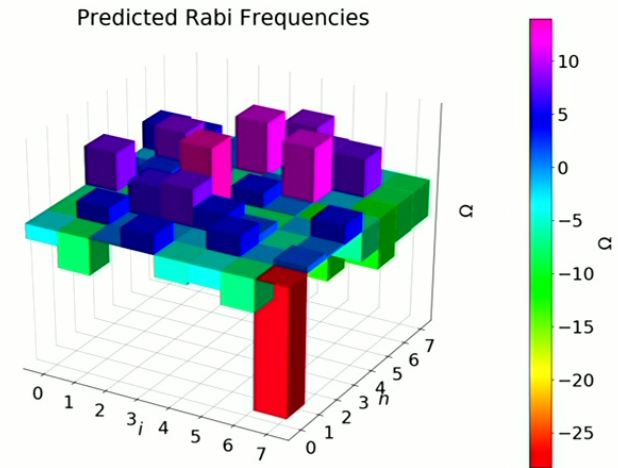
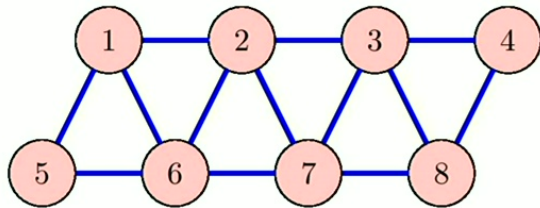


Yi Hong Teoh, Marina Drygala, Roger Melko, Rajibul Islam  
*Quantum Science and Technology*, 5 (2020) 024001

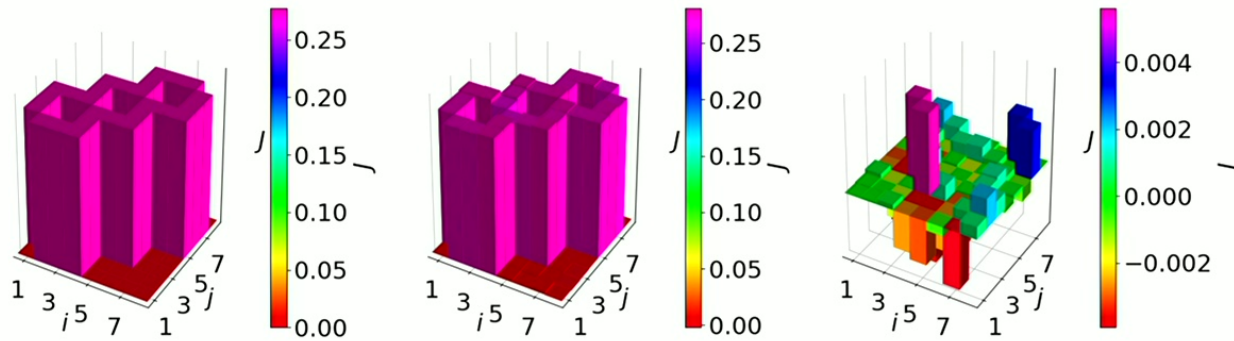


# Test Cases

Two-Dimensional Triangular Lattice



Target Interaction Matrix    Predicted Interaction Matrix    Interaction Matrix Error



**Error:**  
**0.74%**

Yi Hong Teoh, Marina Drygala, Roger Melko, Rajibul Islam  
*Quantum Science and Technology*, 5 (2020) 024001

# Beyond Ising-type interactions

Can we create  $\sum_{i>j} J_{ij}^x \sigma_x^i \sigma_x^j + J_{ij}^y \sigma_y^i \sigma_y^j$  ?

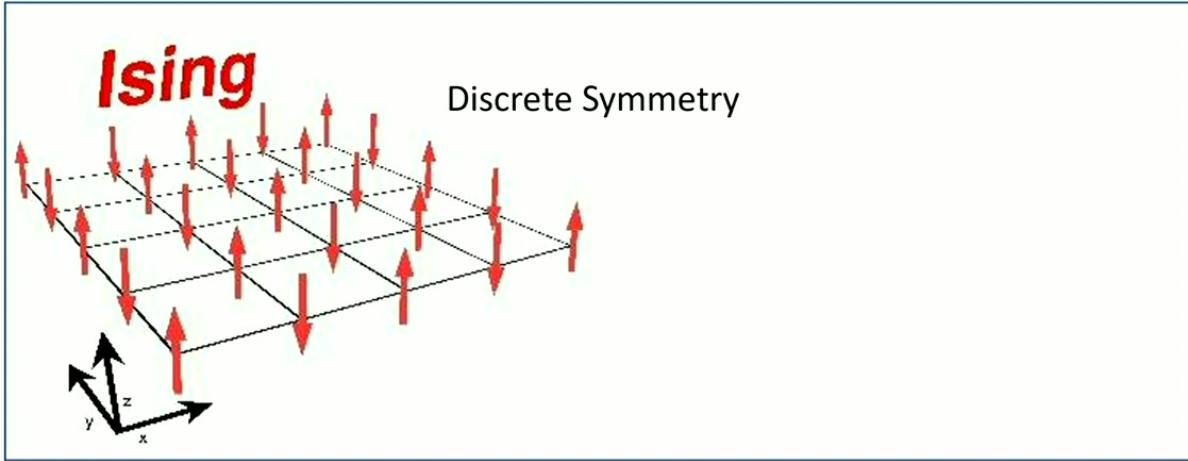
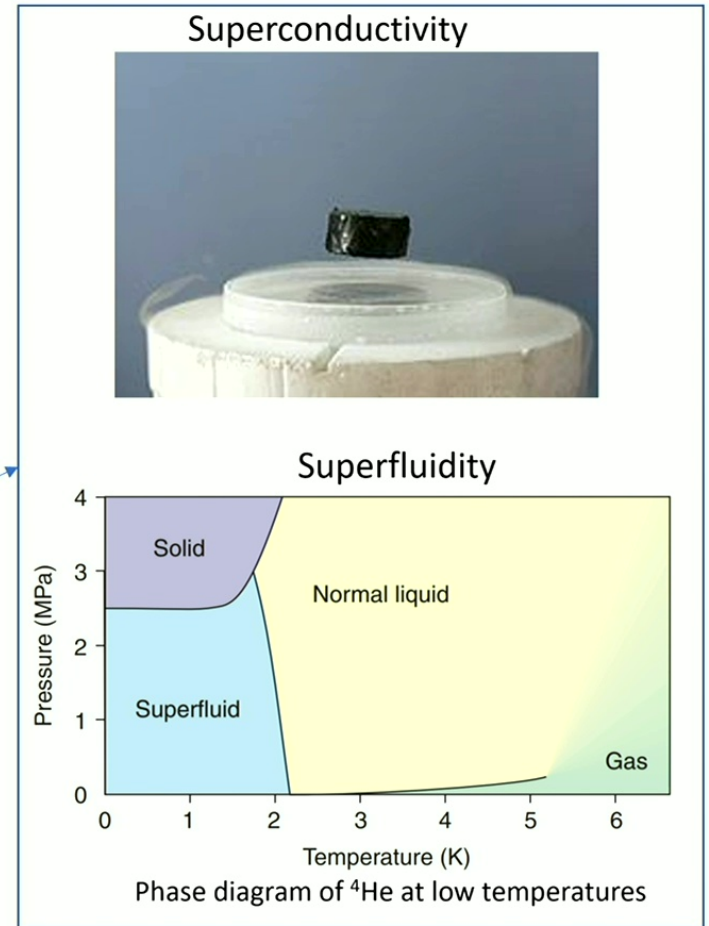
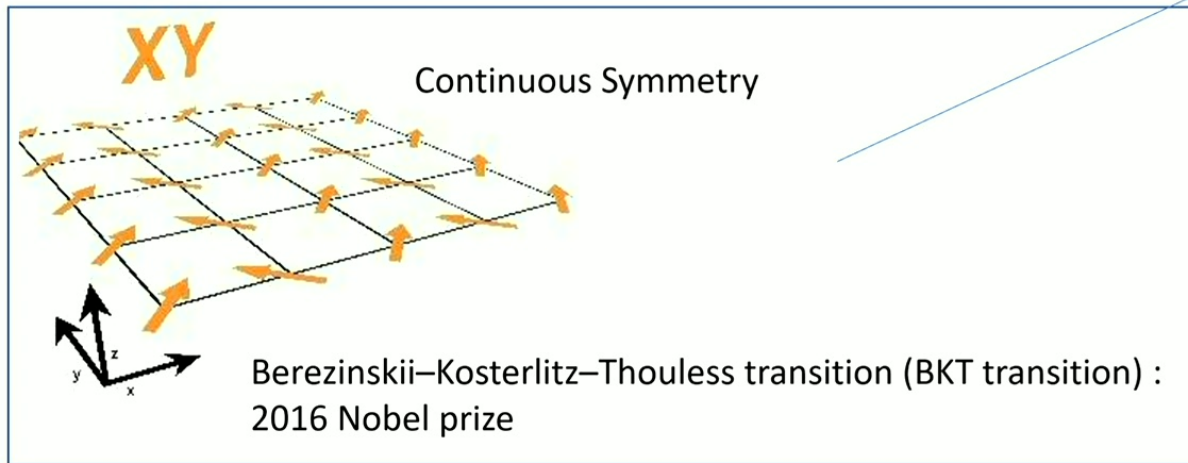


Image courtesy: physics.org



# Can we create $\sum_{i>j} J_{ij}^x \sigma_x^i \sigma_x^j + J_{ij}^y \sigma_y^i \sigma_y^j$ ?

## Approach 1

$$\sum_{i>j} J_{ij} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \sum_i B_i \sigma_i^z$$

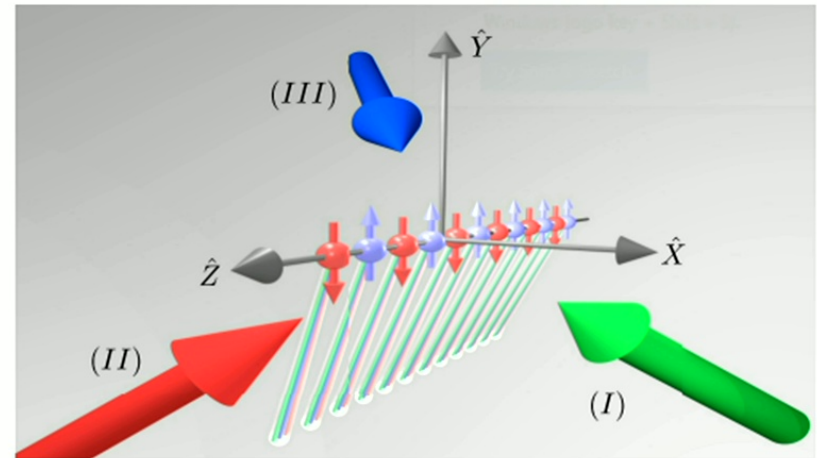
$\downarrow$  RWA  $B_i \gg J_{ij}$

$$\mathcal{H}_{XY} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i<j} J_{ij} (\sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_j^y)$$

Richerme et al. *Nature* 511, 198–201 (2014).  
 Jurcevic et al, *Nature* 511, 202 (2014)

Issues with this approach:  
 Thomas G. Kiely and J. K. Freericks  
*Phys. Rev. A* **97**, 023611

## Approach 2 (Proposal)

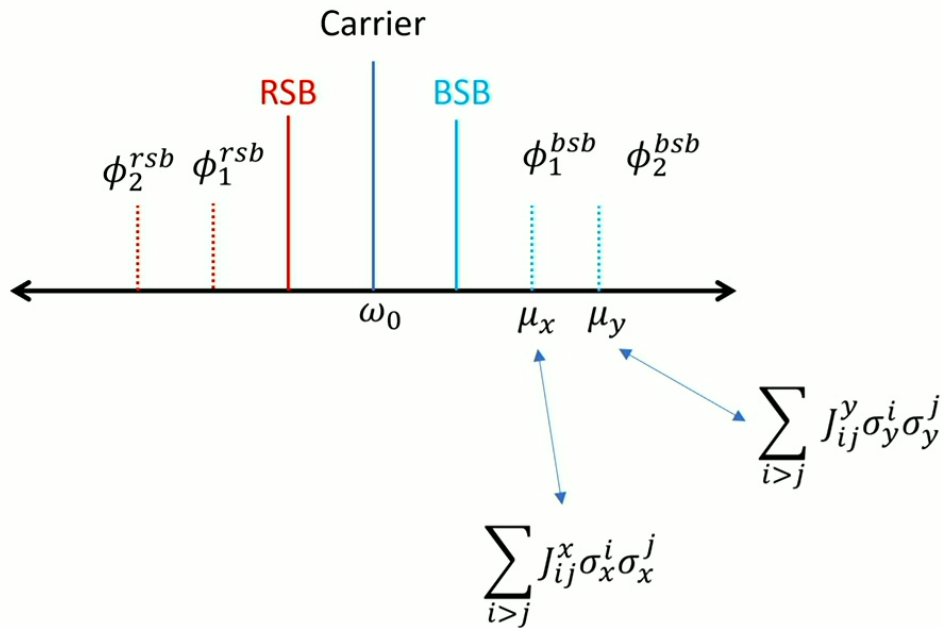


Davoudi et al. *Phys. Rev. Research* 2, 023015

**Approach 3 (Floquet)** – Periodic drive of XX and YY terms, fast enough to reduce Trotter errors



# How much can a single motional mode do ?



$$H = \sum_{i>j} J_{ij}^x \sigma_x^i \sigma_x^j + J_{ij}^y \sigma_y^i \sigma_y^j$$

If we drive a dual-tone Molmer-Sorensen scheme, can we get the anisotropic XY model?

Turns out, **Yes!**

Provided,

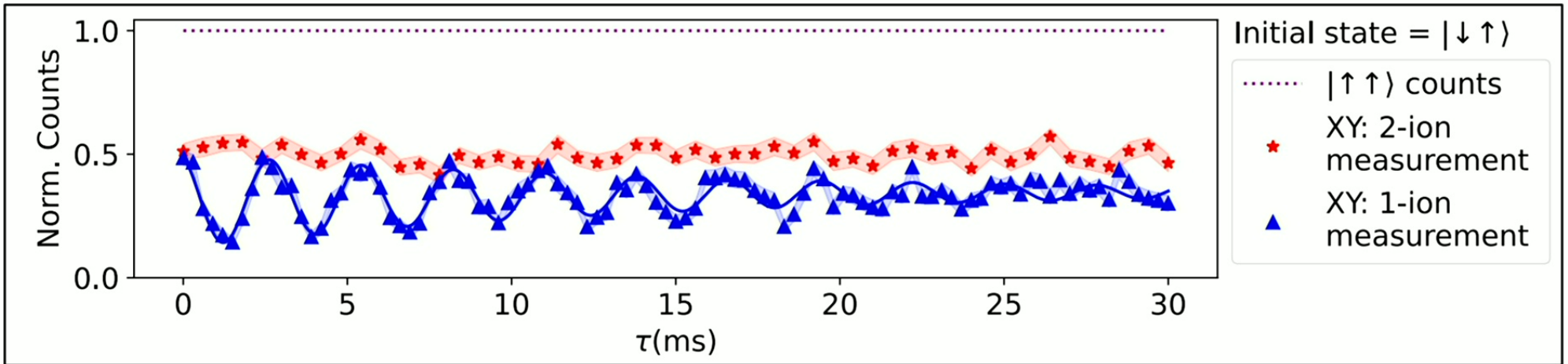
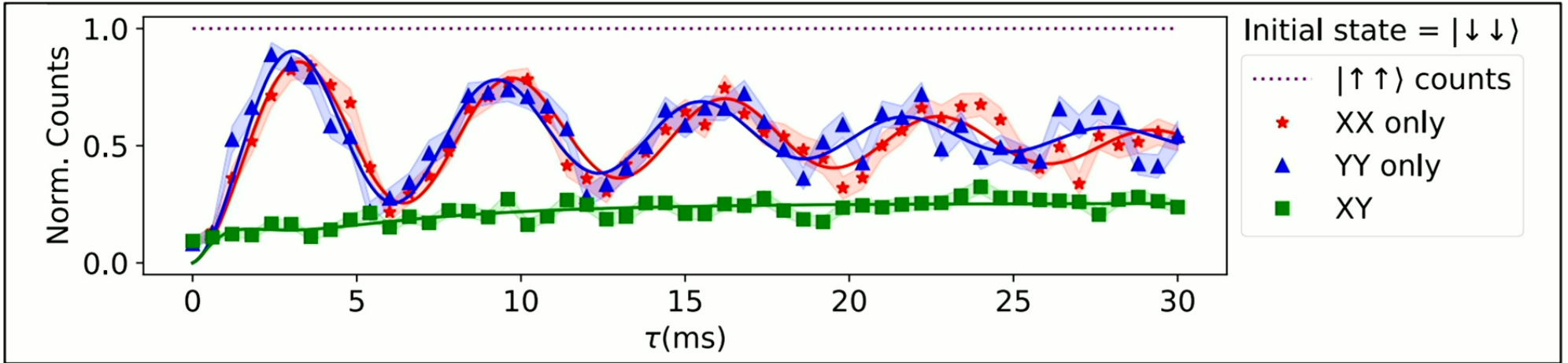
$$|\mu_x - \mu_y| \gg \max(|J_{ij}^{x,y}|)$$

(easy constraint to satisfy experimentally!)

Kotibhaskar et al. *Phys. Rev. Research* **6**, 033038 (2024)

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# Experimental XY data



**Amethyst**

Kotibhaskar et al. *Phys. Rev. Research* **6**, 033038 (2024)



# Individual control of qubits

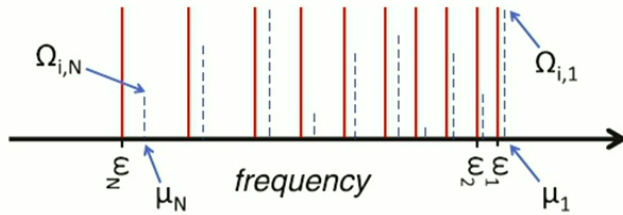
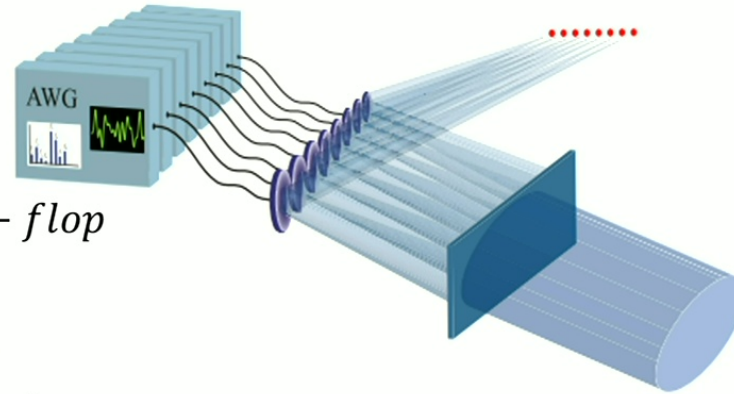
Coherent and mid-circuit measurement and reset

Arbitrary interaction graph  
between spins

S Korenblit et al 2012 New J. Phys. 14 095024.

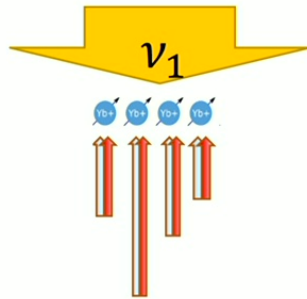
$$H = \sum J_{i,j} \sigma_x^i \sigma_x^j \quad (\text{Ising})$$

$$H_{XY} = \sum J_{i,j} (\sigma_x^i \sigma_x^j + \sigma_y^i \sigma_y^j) \quad \text{Flip - flop}$$



$$\eta_{i,m} = b_{i,m} \delta k \sqrt{\frac{\hbar}{2M\omega_m^{(x)}}}$$

$$J_{i,j} = \sum_n \Omega_{i,n} \Omega_{j,n} \sum_m^N \frac{\eta_{i,m} \eta_{j,m} \omega_m^{(x)}}{\mu_n^2 - \left(\omega_m^{(x)}\right)^2}$$



Laser power  
(Rabi frequency)

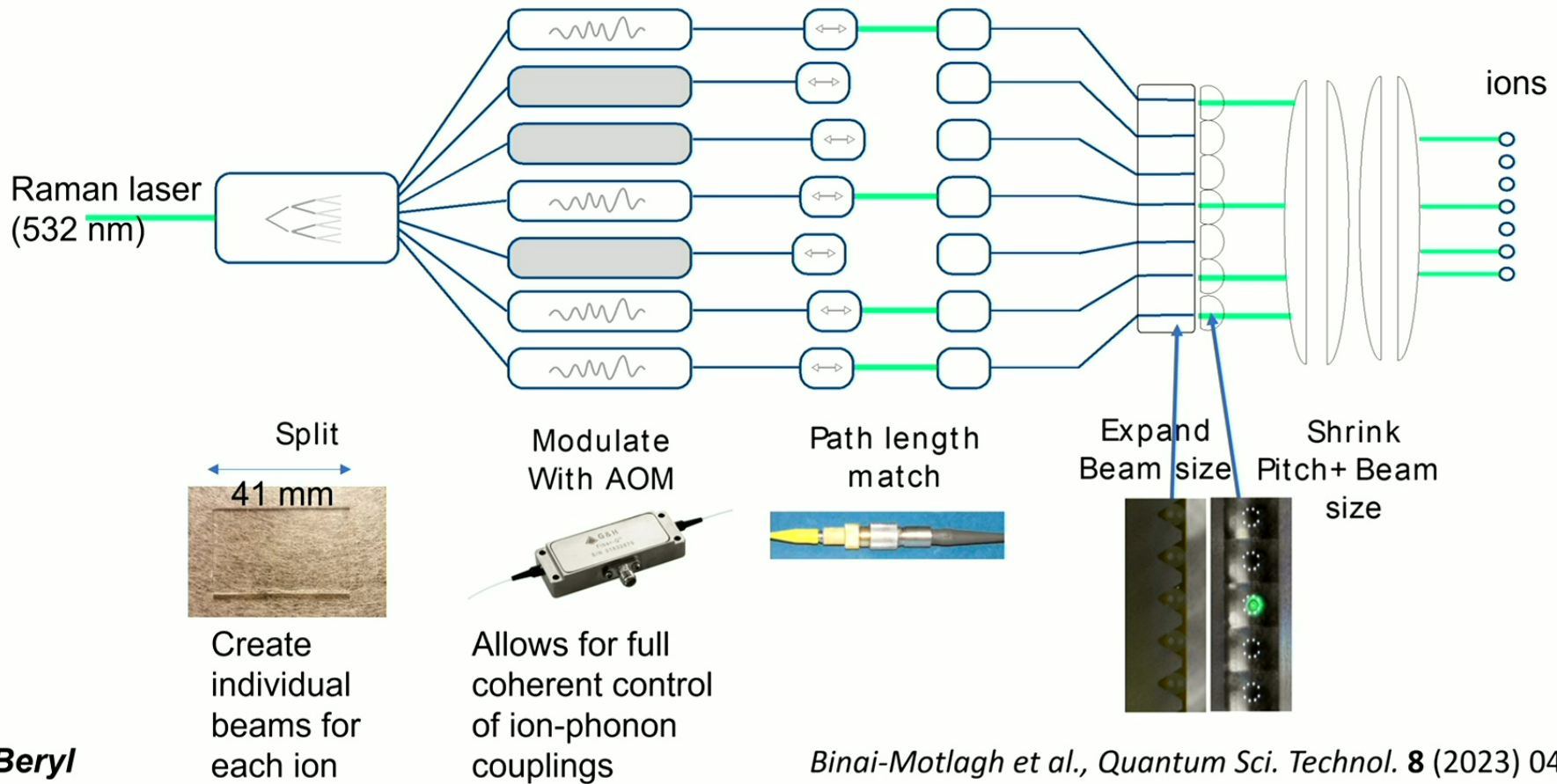
Individual addressing

~ laser detuning

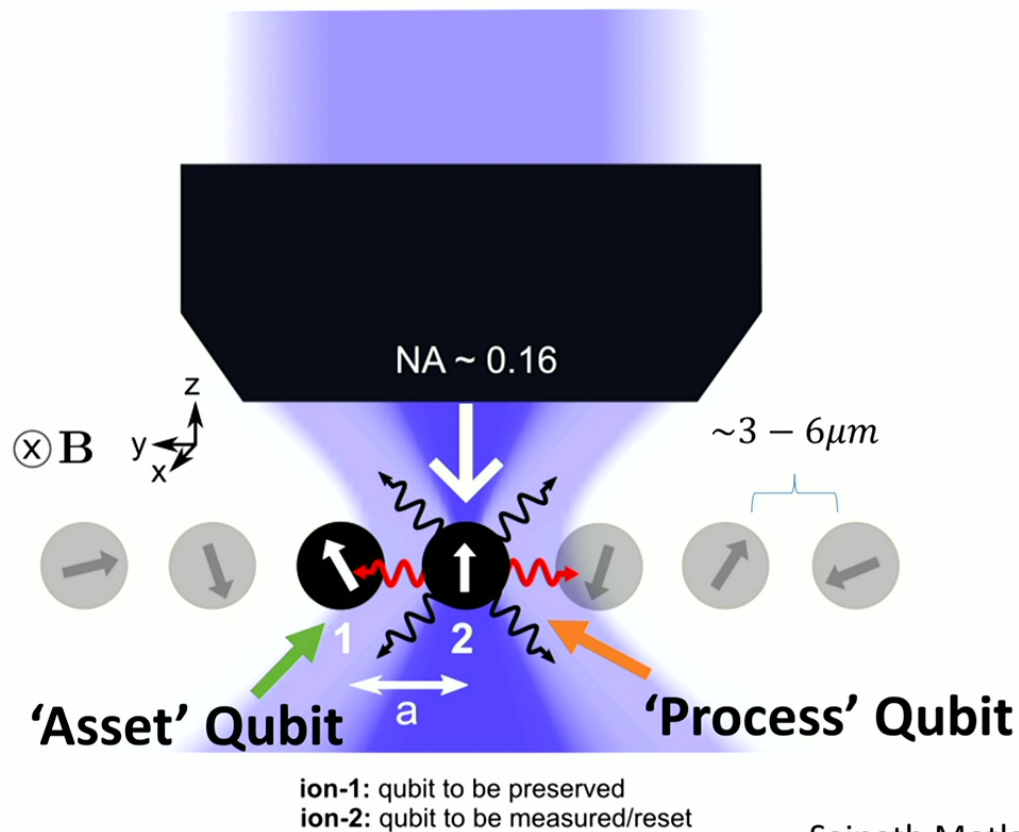
Excite multiple  
modes selectively

$O(N^2)$  controls required.

# Raman transitions in Ba<sup>+</sup> with individual addressing



# Mid-circuit measurement and reset: Accidental quantum measurements (AQM)

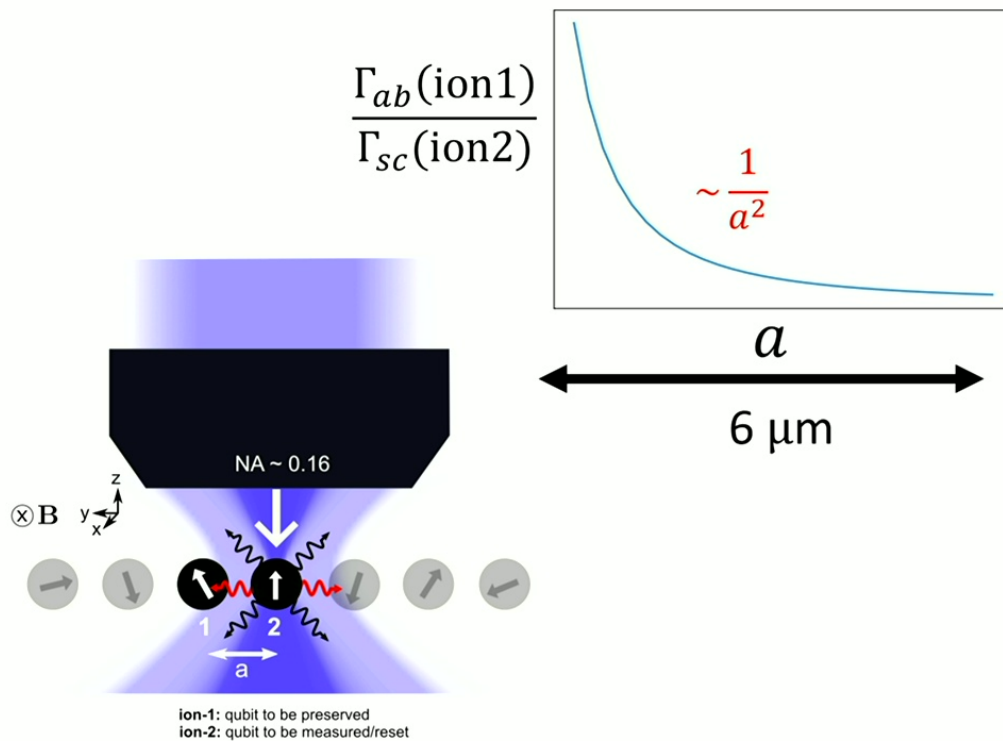


Sainath Motlakunta et al., *Nature Communications* 15:6575 (2024)

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# Fundamental limit of decoherence

## Absorption of scattered photon from ion 2



$$\frac{\Gamma_{ab}(\text{ion1})}{\Gamma_{sc}(\text{ion2})} \leq 5E-6$$

(for  $^{171}\text{Yb}^+$  ions placed  $6 \mu\text{m}$  away)

Corresponds to

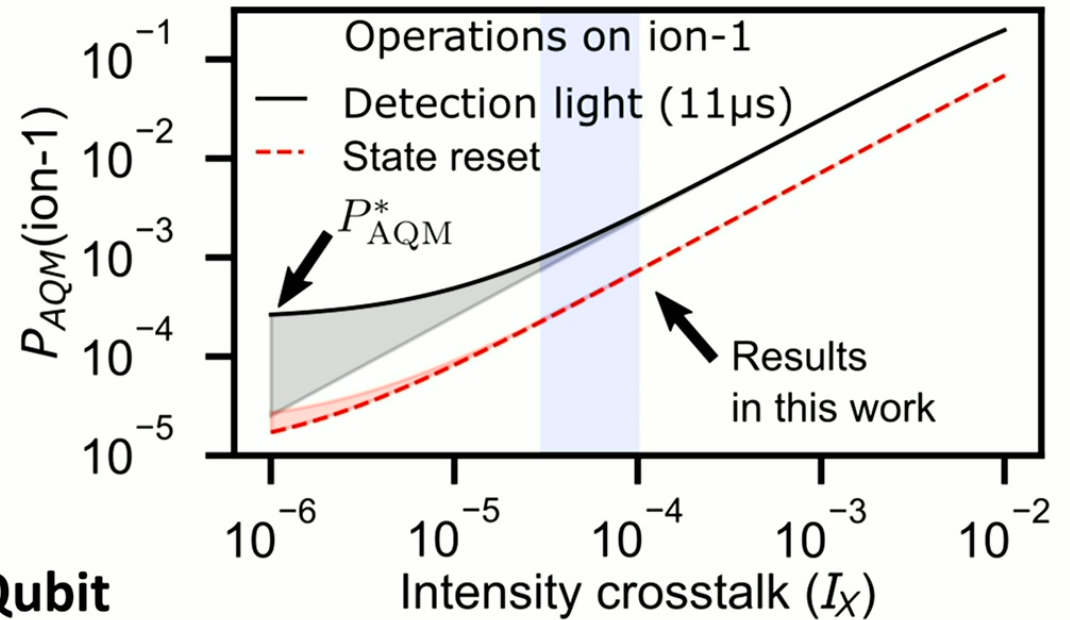
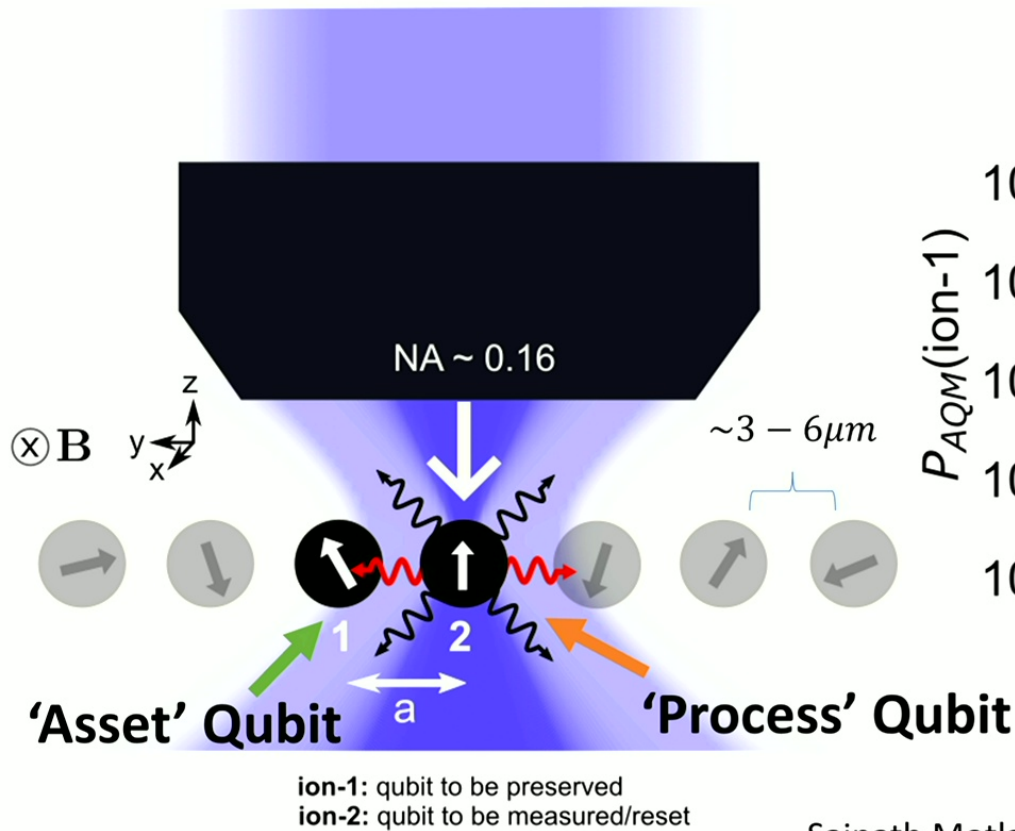
$$F_{2|1} \approx 99.996\% \text{ for optical pumping}$$

$$F_{2|1} \approx 99.96\% \text{ for state detection}$$

( $11 \mu\text{s}$  detection time)

Can be further improved with magnetic field orientation

# Mid-circuit measurement and reset: Accidental quantum measurements (AQM)

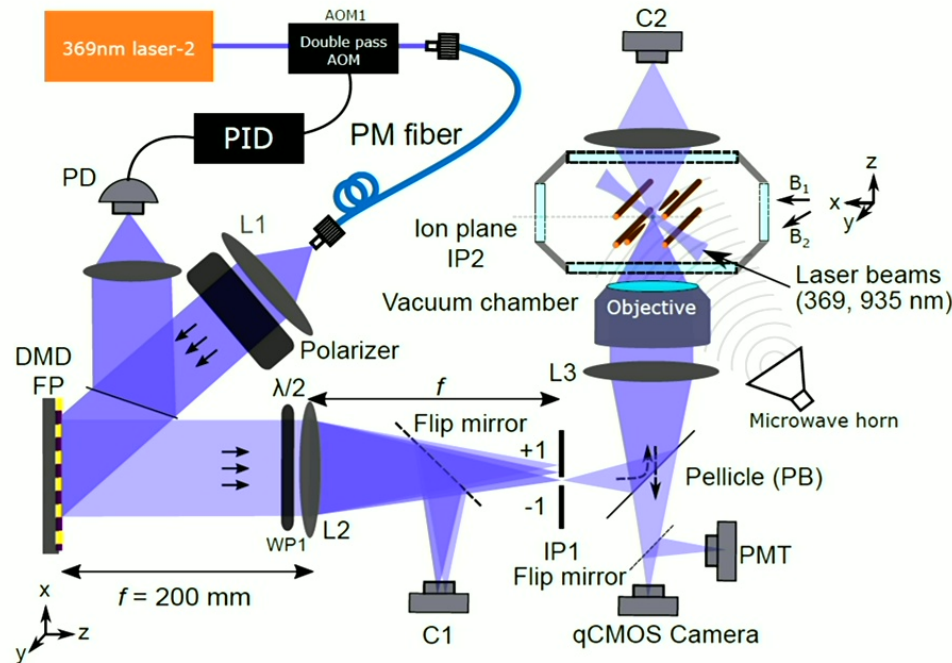


Sainath Motlakunta et al., *Nature Communications* 15:6575 (2024)

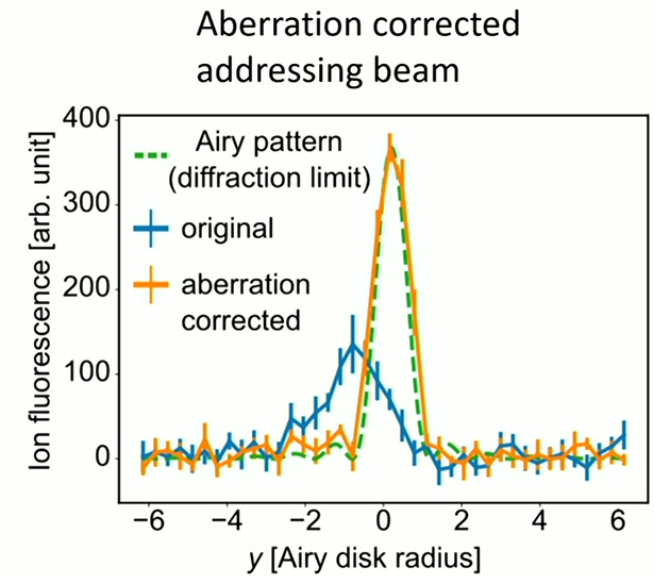
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# Minimal intensity crosstalk – Aberration corrected addressing



Chung-You Shih et. al  
*npj Quantum Information* 7: 57 (2021)

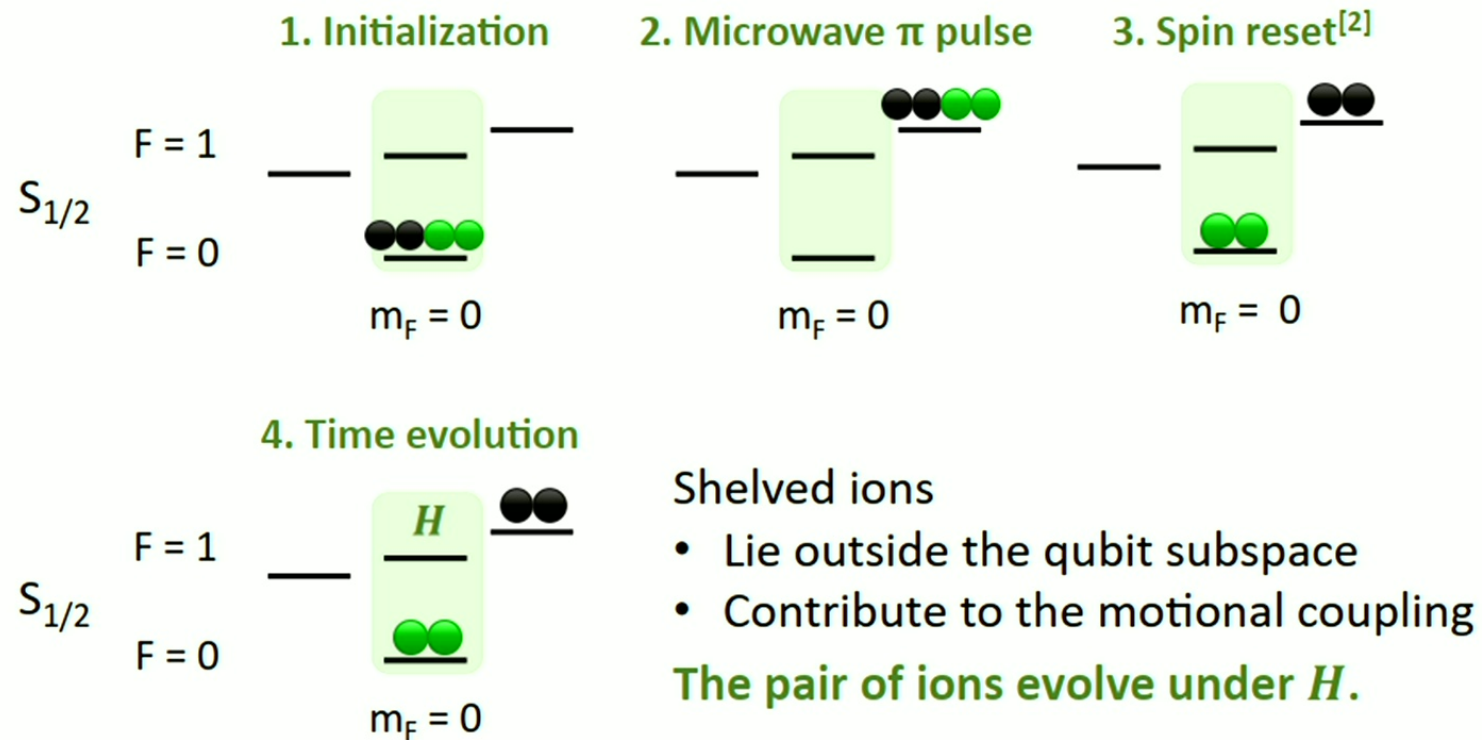


- Use a single ion as sensor for aberration at a single point
- Use DMD to create a Fourier hologram
- Compensate for the aberrations
- Used IFTA(iterative Fourier transform) to create diffraction limited beam profiles

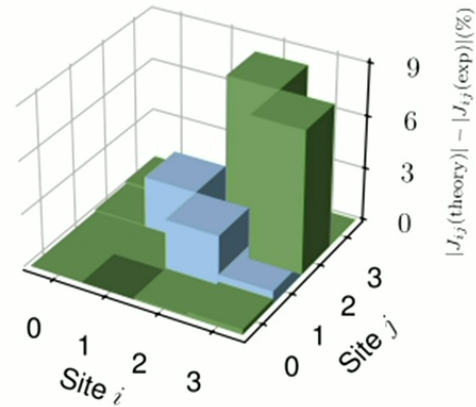
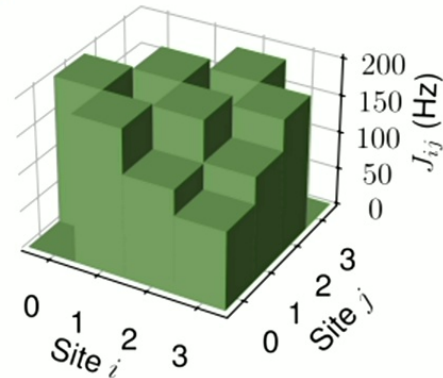
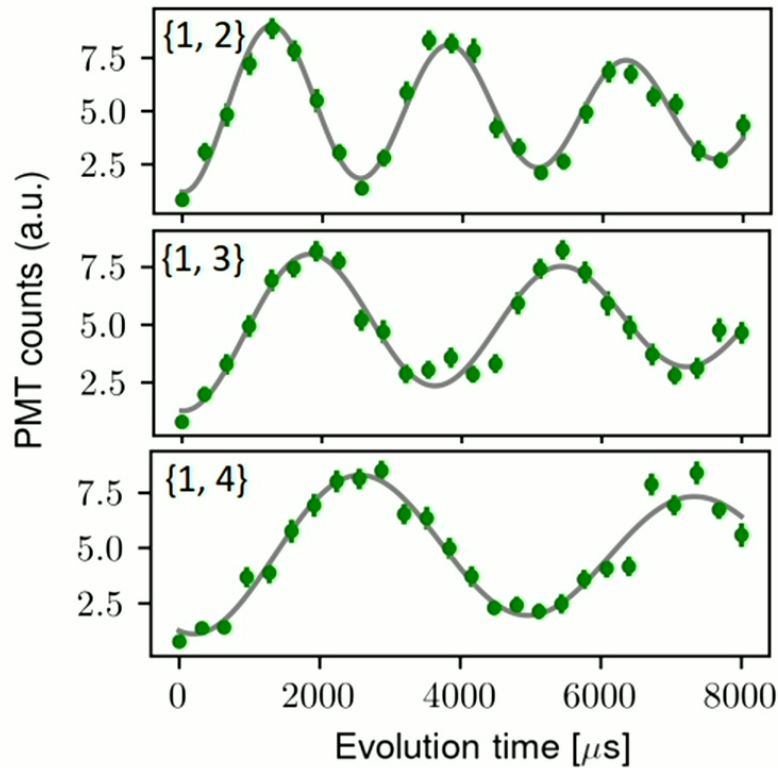
Sainath Motlakunta et al., *Nature Communications* 15:6575 (2024)

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# Hamiltonian verification through shelving

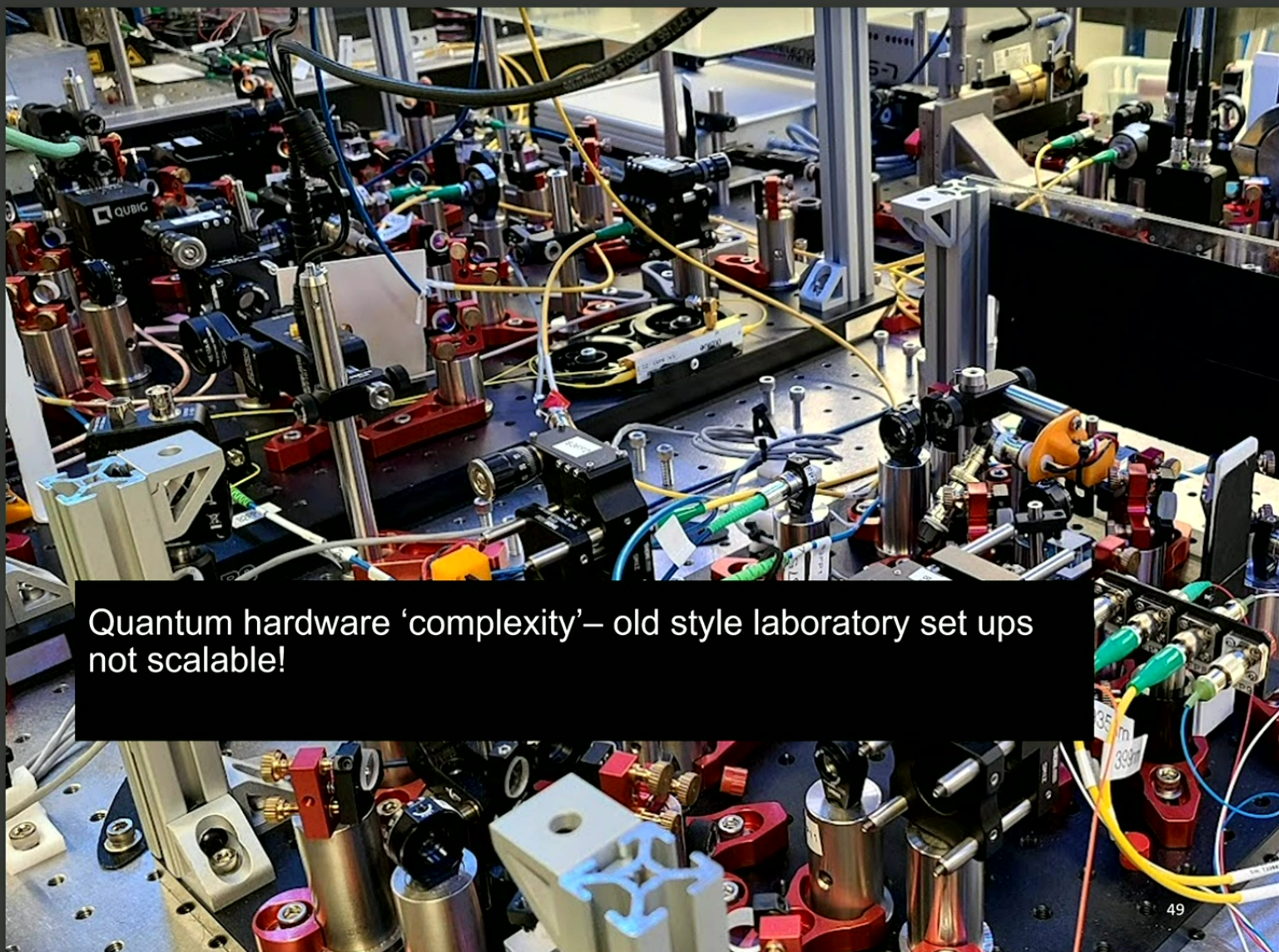


$$H = \hbar \sum_{ij} J_{ij} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x$$



Preliminary Data

Ongoing collaboration  
with Tim Hsieh, Liujun  
Zou on Hamiltonian  
benchmarking



Quantum hardware 'complexity' – old style laboratory set ups not scalable!

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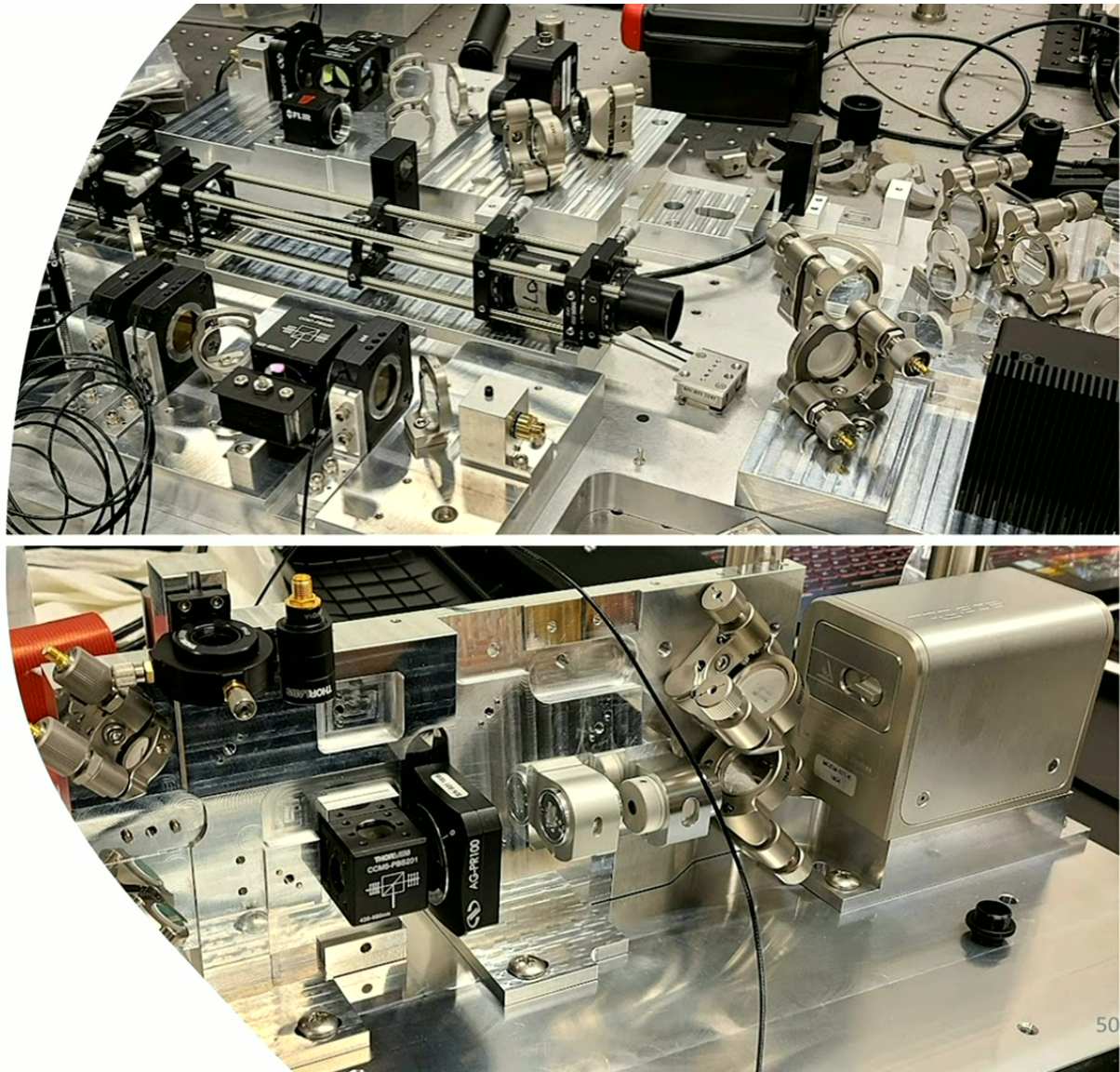
## Systems engineering approach

CAD optimization and Custom CNC-milled optics 'pegboards' for stability and compactness!

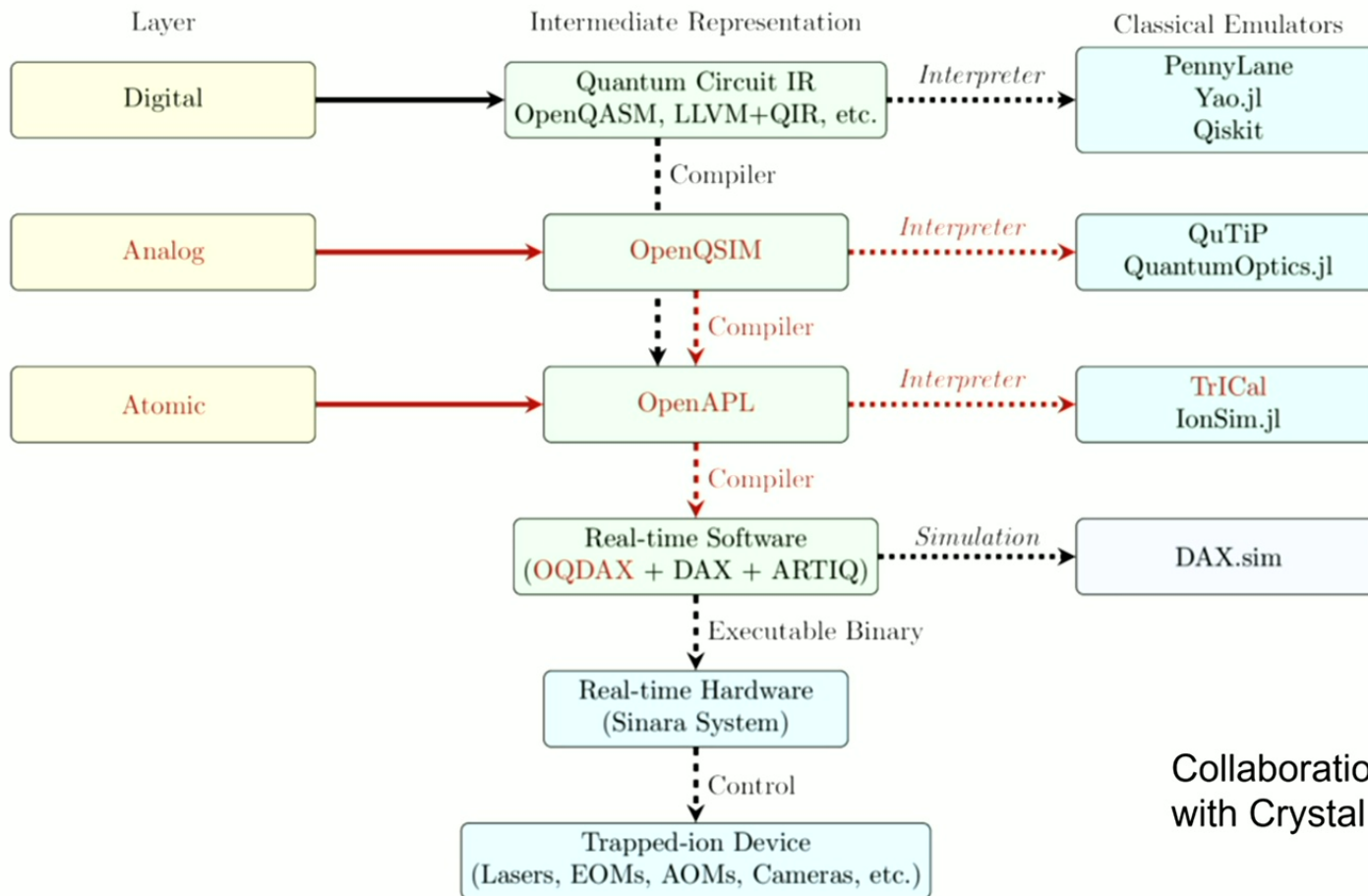
Start up from the lab →  
**Lightflow Optics Inc.**



Optimal design flow for optical circuits



# Development of fullstack quantum operating systems!



Collaborations  
with Crystal Senko, Roger Melko



Crystal Senko



Roger Melko

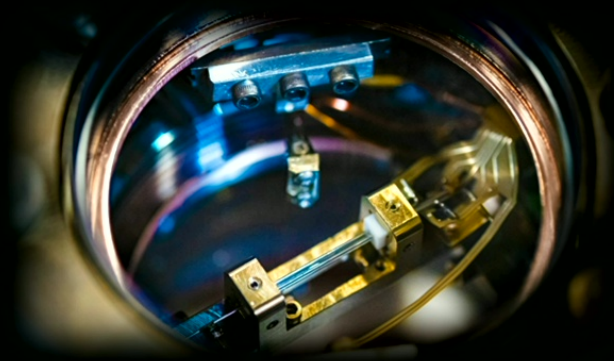


Greg Dick (CEO)



Rajibul Islam

# An Accessible Quantum Platform



OpenQuantumDesign.org

### **Open Source**

Non-profit organization to foster collaborations and build strong research ecosystems.

### **Full Stack**

Open hardware and software at all levels, providing flexibility and intuitive tools.

### **Quantum Computing**

Robustly engineered trapped-ion hardware for tackling difficult problems.

# Summary

- Trapped ions – a versatile platform for quantum simulation. Strength – versatility of interactions including arbitrarily programmable all-to-all couplings, long coherence time (compared to gate and measurement time)
- We are developing trapped-ion programmable quantum simulators
  - **Amethyst** – Our first gen quantum simulation testbed that demonstrated native anisotropic XY interactions, feasibility of in-situ mid-circuit reset and measurement
  - **Bloodstone** – Arbitrary single and two-qubit gates on >30 Yb+ ions, mid-circuit measurement and reset (arguably the lowest vacuum pressure of any room temp ion system achieved)
  - **Beryl** – Fully-connected spin system with up to 16 Ba+ ions (qubits and possibility of extending to qudit operations), shuttling operations.
- Development of open-source full-stack control with Open Quantum Design!