

# Testing Quantum Devices

Stephanie Wehner

Based on:

- Capacity estimation with arbitrarily correlated errors, 2016  
C. Pfister, A. Rol, A. Mantri, M. Tomamichel, S. Wehner
- Randomized benchmarking for many qubits using few samples, 2016  
J. Helsen, J. Wallman, S. Flammia, S. Wehner
- On representations of the Clifford group, 2016  
J. Helsen, J. Wallman, S. Wehner



# People

## Capacity estimation



Corsin Pfister



M. Adriaan Rol  
(DiCarlo Group)

## Benchmarking



Jonas Helsen



Atul Mantri



Marco  
Tomamichel



Steve  
Flammia



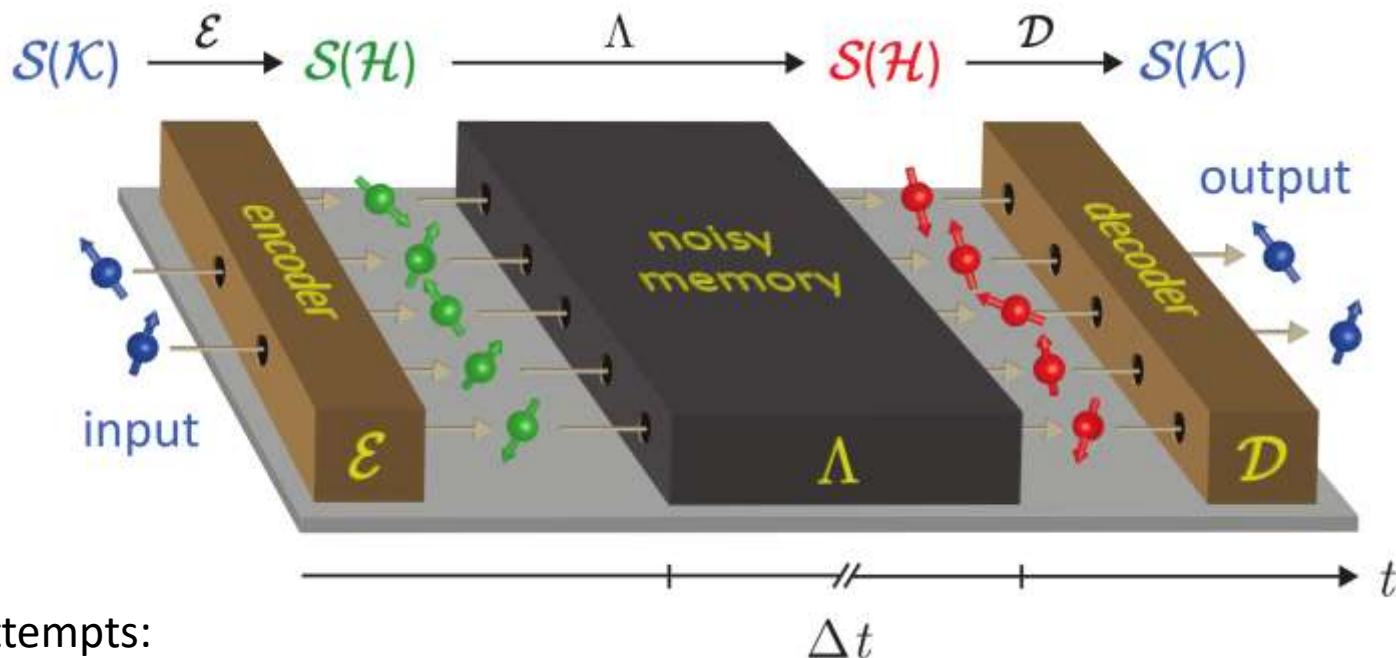
Joel  
Wallman

# Menu

- How good is a quantum memory or communication channel?
  - New Procedure: Capacity estimation and verification
- How good is the fidelity of quantum gates?
  - Analysis: Reducing the number of samples to perform randomized benchmarking.

# Problem 1:

How well can we store (or transmit) quantum information ?



Some attempts:

- Let's implement an error correcting code!
- Let's fully characterize the device!
- Well... then let's assume  $\Lambda = M^{\otimes N}$  and then characterize!
  - Noise is almost never of that form.
  - Even if we knew  $M$ , some capacities are unknown.

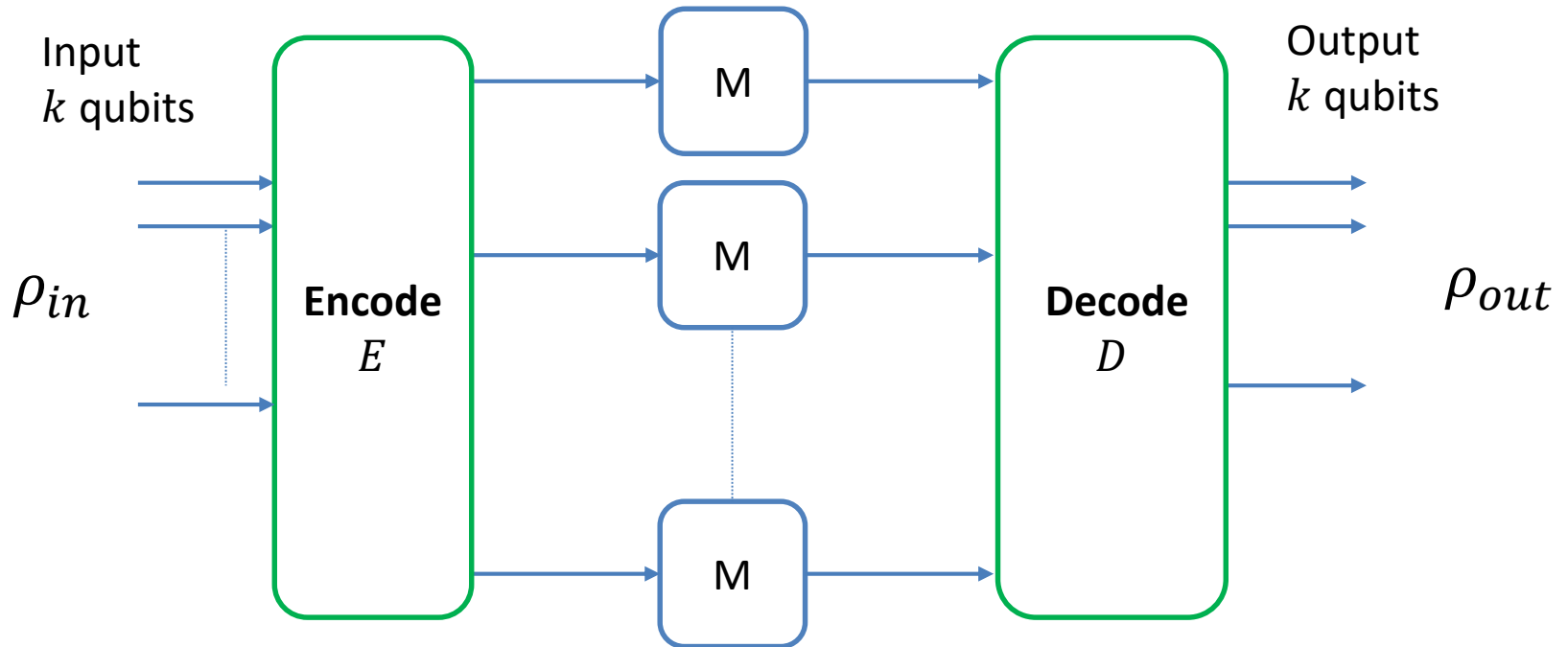
**Goal:**

**estimate the quantum capacity directly, for any device, using only simple operations**

# What is the capacity?

Store/transmit  $n$  qubits

$$\Lambda = M^{\otimes n}$$



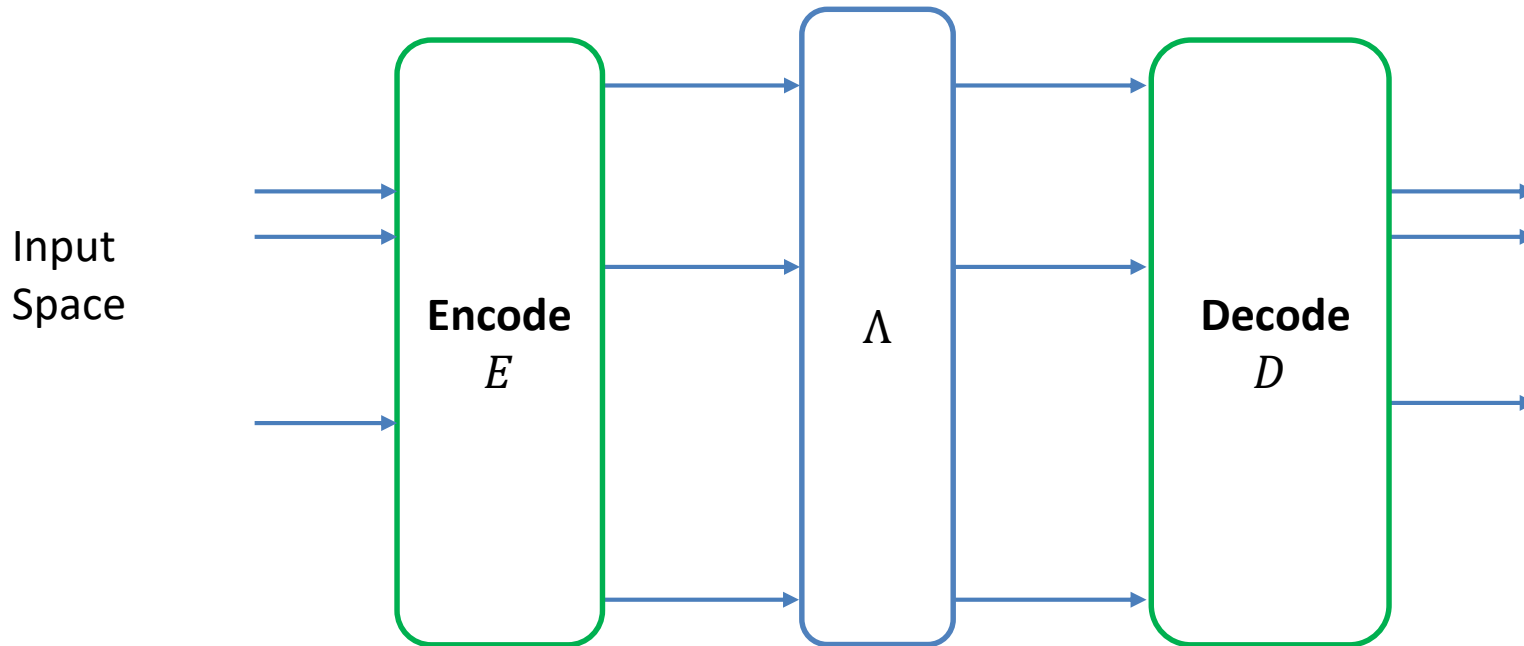
$$\text{Rate } R = \frac{k}{n}$$

Capacity: maximum rate

# Single-shot capacity

- No structure – arbitrarily correlated errors
- Finite number of channel uses

Store/transmit  $n$  qubits



Definition

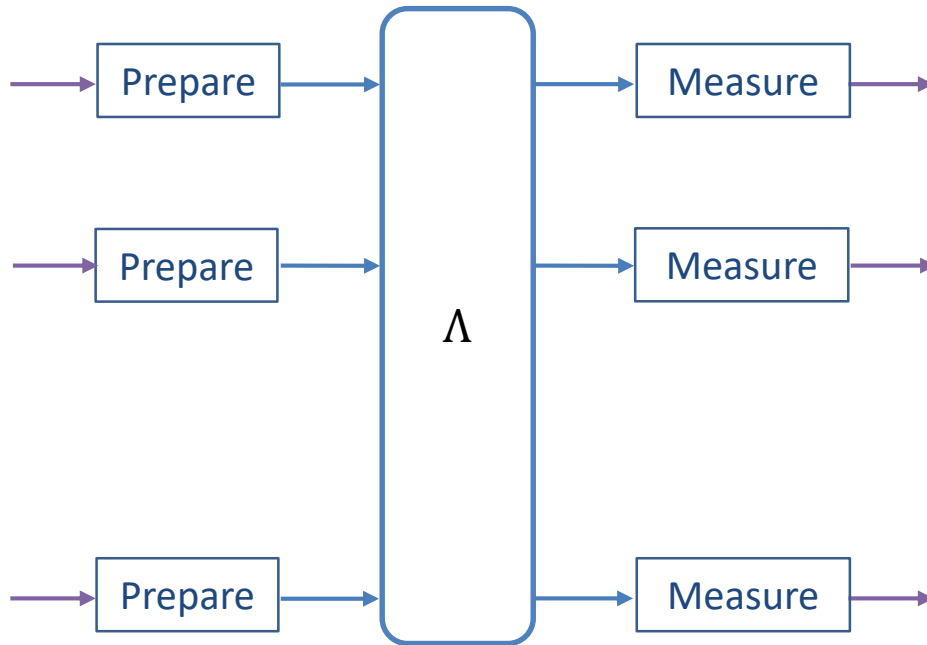
$$Q^\epsilon(\Lambda) = \max\{\log m \mid F_{\min}(\Lambda, m) \geq 1 - \epsilon\}$$

$$F_{\min}(\Lambda, m) = \max_{\substack{H_{in} \\ \dim(H_{in})=m}} \max_{D,E} \min_{|\Phi\rangle \in H_{in}} \langle \Phi | (D \circ \Lambda \circ E) | \Phi \rangle$$

# Goal

- Estimate  $Q^\epsilon(\Lambda) \geq ?$
- Using only
  - Single qubit preparations and measurements
- Two flavors
  - Capacity estimation of all qubits used
  - Capacity verification of data qubits

# Capacity estimation with correlated errors



Goal

$$Q^\epsilon(\Lambda) \geq f(\text{measured data})$$



# A simple protocol for capacity estimation

- Choose  $s \in \{0,1\}^N$  and  $b \in \{X,Z\}^N$  s.t.  $X, Z$  occur  $\frac{N}{2}$  times in  $b$
- For each  $i = 1, \dots, N$ 
  - Prepare qubit in state  $|s_i\rangle_{b_i}$  and send through channel
  - Measure qubit in basis  $b_i$  to obtain outcome  $s'_i$
  - Estimate error rates

$$e_X = \frac{\sum_{i \in I_X} s_i \oplus s'_i}{|I_X|}$$

$$e_Z = \frac{\sum_{i \in I_Z} s_i \oplus s'_i}{|I_Z|}$$

$$I_X = \{i \mid b_i = X\}$$

$$I_Z = \{i \mid b_i = Z\}$$

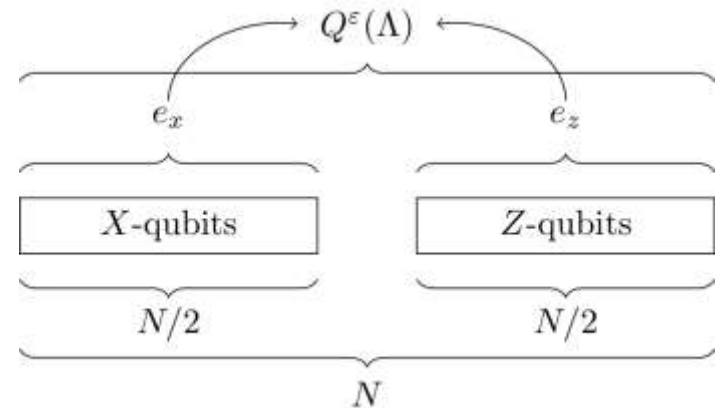
Conclude

$$Q^\epsilon(\Lambda) \gtrsim N(q - h(e_X) - h(e_Z))$$

$$q = -\log \max_{i,j \in \{0,1\}} |\langle i_X | j_Z \rangle| = 1 \text{ (Preparation quality)}$$

$$h(p) = -p \log(p) - (1-p) \log(1-p)$$

# Capacity estimation: a more precise statement



**Theorem 1 :** Let  $N \in \mathbb{N}_+$  be an even number, let  $e_x$  and  $e_z$  be error rates determined in a run of the Estimation Protocol where the used bases  $X$  and  $Z$  had a preparation quality of  $q$ . Then, for every  $\epsilon > 0$  and for every  $p \in [0, 1)$ , it holds that

- either, the probability that at least one error rate exceeds  $e_x$  or  $e_z$ , respectively, was higher than  $p$ ,
- or the one-shot quantum capacity of the  $N$ -qubit channel  $\Lambda$  is bounded by

$$Q^\epsilon(\Lambda) \geq \sup_{\eta \in (0, \sqrt{\epsilon/2})} \left[ N \left( q - h(e_x + \mu) - h(e_z + \mu) \right) - 2 \log(\kappa) - 4 \log\left(\frac{1}{\eta}\right) - 2 \right], \quad (1)$$

where  $h$  is the binary entropy function

$$h(x) := -x \log(x) - (1 - x) \log(1 - x) \quad (2)$$

and  $\mu$  and  $\kappa$  are given by

$$\mu = \sqrt{\frac{N+2}{N^2} \ln \left( \frac{3 + \frac{5}{\sqrt{1-p}}}{\sqrt{\epsilon/2} - \eta} \right)}, \quad \kappa = 2 \left( \frac{3 + \frac{5}{\sqrt{1-p}}}{\sqrt{\epsilon/2} - \eta} \right)^2. \quad (3)$$

# What is this parameter $p$ ?

- either, the probability that at least one error rate exceeds  $e_x$  or  $e_z$ , respectively, was higher than  $p$ ,

Example: Fully depolarizing channel on  $N$  qubits

$$\Lambda(\rho^N) = \frac{I}{2^N}$$

Channel has zero capacity, yet with probability  $p = \frac{1}{2^N}$  we have  $e_x = e_z = 0$

Let's say we observe  $e_x = e_z = 0$  which is highly untypical. We have

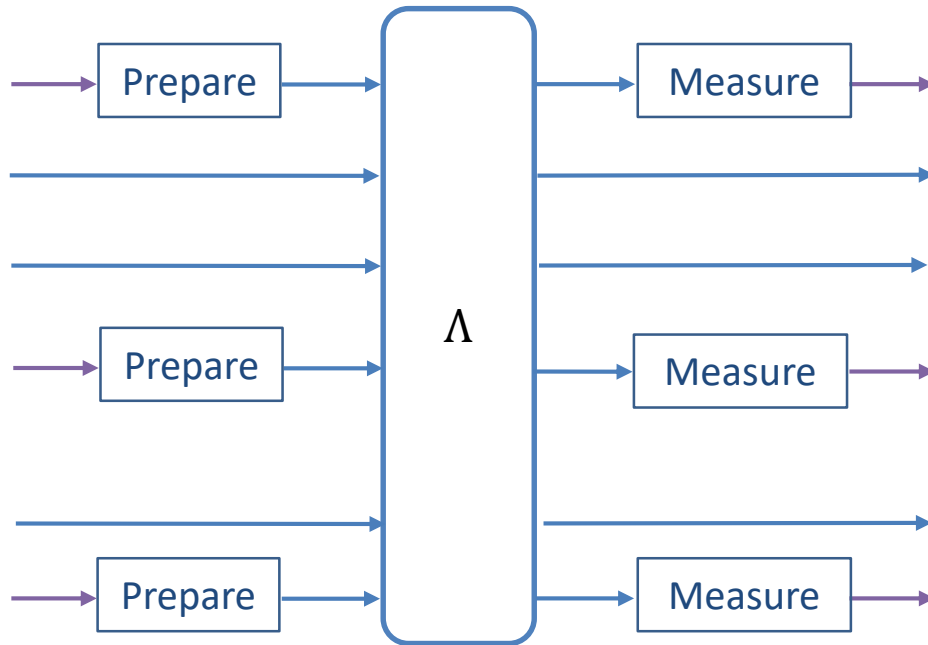
- Either probability the error rate exceeds 0 was actually higher than  $p = 1/2^N$
- Or the capacity bound applies

**In practice: Pick any constant  $p$**

Already for moderately sized  $N$ , the estimate is essentially independent of any constant  $p$ . Example:  $p = 1/2$ .



# Capacity verification with correlated errors



Goal

$$Q^\epsilon(\Lambda \text{ on data qubits}) \geq f(\text{measured data})$$

# A simple protocol for capacity verification

- Decide on maximum acceptable error rates  $e_x$  and  $e_z$
- Choose  $s \in \{0,1\}^{3N}$  and  $b \in \{X,Z,D\}^{3N}$  s.t.  $X, Z, D$  occur  $N$  times in  $b$
- For each  $i = 1, \dots, 3N$ 
  - If  $b_i = D$  send data!
  - else
    - Prepare qubit in state  $|s_i\rangle_{b_i}$  and send through channel
    - Measure qubit in basis  $b_i$  to obtain outcome  $s'_i$
    - Estimate error rates

$$\gamma = \frac{\sum_{i \in I_X} s_i \oplus s'_i}{|I_X|}$$

$$I_X = \{i \mid b_i = X\}$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\sum_{i \in I_Z} s_i \oplus s'_i}{|I_Z|}$$

$$I_Z = \{i \mid b_i = Z\}$$

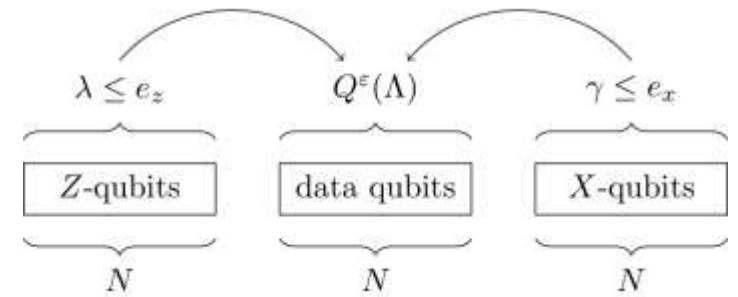
If  $\gamma > e_x$  and  $\lambda > e_z$  abort, else conclude

$$Q^\epsilon(\Lambda) \approx N(q - h(e_x) - h(e_z))$$

$\Lambda$  is channel on data qubits only!



# Capacity verification a more precise statement



**Theorem 2 :** Let  $N \in \mathbb{N}_+$ , let  $e_x, e_z \in [0, 1]$ . Assume that the Verification Protocol is run successfully without abortion, where the used bases  $X$  and  $Z$  had a preparation quality of  $q$ . Then, for every  $\epsilon > 0$  and for every  $p \in [0, 1)$ , it holds that

- either, the probability that the protocol aborts was higher than  $p$ ,
- or the one-shot quantum capacity of the channel  $\Lambda$  on the  $N$  data qubits is bounded by

$$Q^\epsilon(\Lambda) \geq \sup_{\eta \in (0, \sqrt{\epsilon/2})} \left[ N \left( q - h(e_x + \mu) - h(e_z + \mu) \right) - 2 \log(\kappa) - 4 \log\left(\frac{1}{\eta}\right) - 2 \right], \quad (4)$$

where  $\kappa$  and  $\mu$  are given by

$$\mu = \sqrt{\frac{2(N+1)}{N^2} \ln\left(\frac{3 + \frac{5}{\sqrt{1-p}}}{\sqrt{\epsilon/2} - \eta}\right)}, \quad \kappa = 2 \left(\frac{3 + \frac{5}{\sqrt{1-p}}}{\sqrt{\epsilon/2} - \eta}\right)^2. \quad (5)$$

# How can this be proven?

Already know (Barnum, Knill, Nielsen (2000) and Buscemi, Datta (2010))

$$Q^\epsilon(\Lambda) \geq \sup_{\eta \in (0, \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon}{2}})} \left( H_{min}^{\frac{\sqrt{\epsilon}}{4} - \eta}(A|E)_\rho - 4 \log \frac{1}{\eta} - 1 \right) - 1$$

$$H_{min}^\delta(A|E)_\rho = \max_{\rho' \in B^\delta(\rho)} H_{min}(A|E)$$

$$H_{min}(A|E) = -\log[|A|Dec(A|E)]$$

$$Dec(A|E) = \max_{\Lambda_{E \rightarrow A}} F(\Phi_{AA'}, I_A \otimes \Lambda_{E \rightarrow A}(\rho_{AE}))$$

**Measure how entangled E has become with A!**



# If only A was classical.....

Using a tripartite uncertainty relation (Tomamichel, Renner PRL 2011)

$$H_{\min}(X|E) + H_{\max}(Z|B) \geq q$$

Not qubits?  
Change this to extend!

Using a number of properties of the min and max entropies

$$H_{\min}(A|E) \geq Nq - \left( H_{\max}(X^N|B)_{\rho} + H_{\max}(Z^N|B)_{\rho} \right) - f(\epsilon)$$

Estimate using error rates as in QKD!



# How well does this work?

Example: Capacity estimation, i.i.d. dephasing noise

$$\Lambda = D^{\otimes N} \quad \text{with } D(\rho) = (1 - r)\rho + r Z\rho Z$$

What happens?

- Z basis left invariant:  $e_Z = 0$
- X basis flipped with probability  $r$ :  $e_X = r$  (asymptotically)
- Asymptotically bound is  $q - h(0) - h(r) = 1 - h(r)$

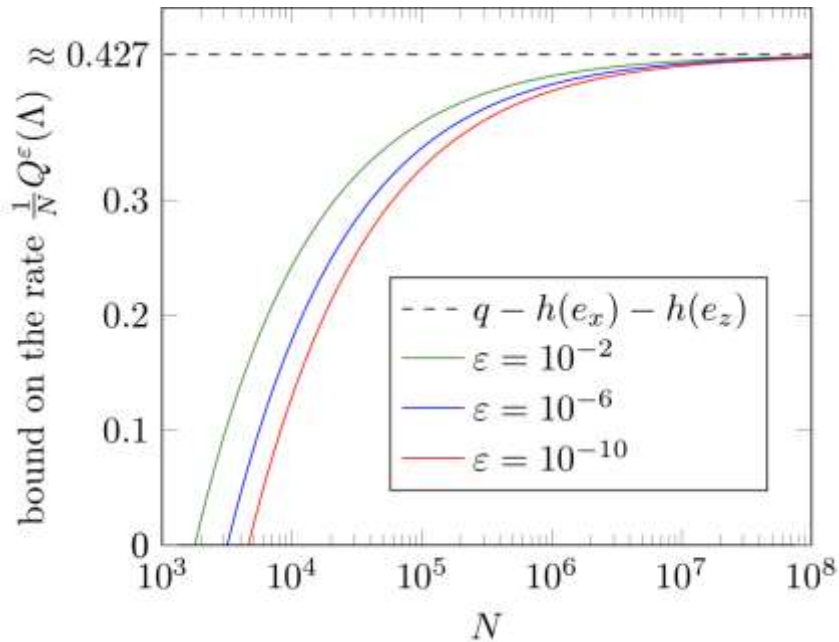
This is the quantum capacity of dephasing noise.

Asymptotically optimal!

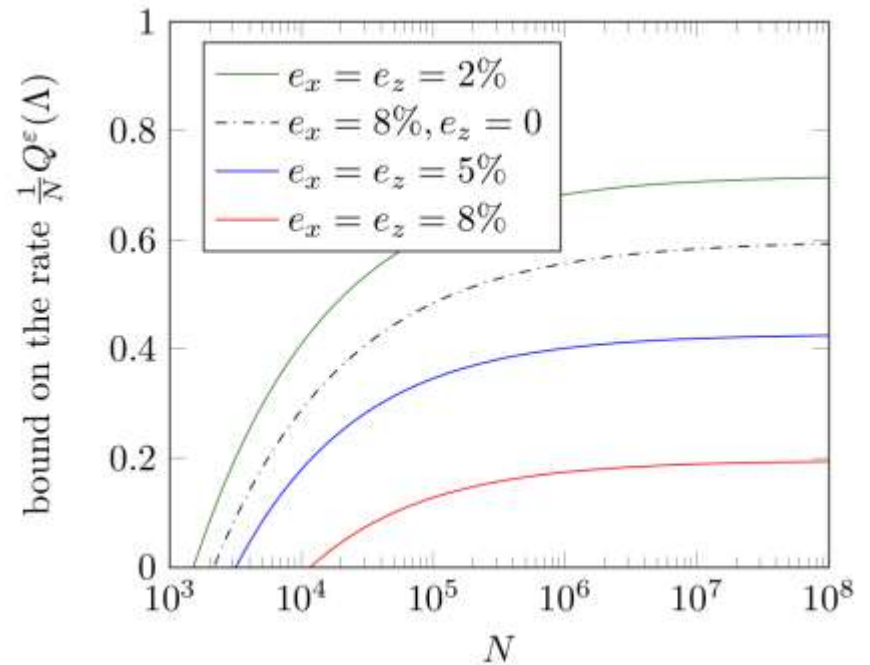


# Scaling

## Finite size



## Dependence on error rate



Remark:

- Same finite size effects in QKD
- Capacities are in fact much smaller for finite  $N$

(W. Matthews, S. Wehner, IEEE Trans. IT 2012,  
M. Berta, J. Renes, M. Tomamichel, Nat. Comm. 2016, ....)

# What is this “X” and “Z”?

Example: Capacity estimation, i.i.d. dephasing noise

$$\Lambda = D^{\otimes N} \quad \text{with } D(\rho) = (1 - r)\rho + r Z\rho Z$$

**Wait! Doesn't this depend on the noise being aligned with the bases used??**

What happens?

- Z basis left invariant:  $e_Z = 0$
- X basis flipped with probability  $r$ :  $e_X = r$  (asymptotically)
- Asymptotically bound is  $q - h(0) - h(r) = 1 - h(r)$

Of course 😊

In practice:

- Any choice of basis gives a bound.
- Rotate to minimize error rate ahead of time.
- Best way to do so: **open question!**





# Test in experiment

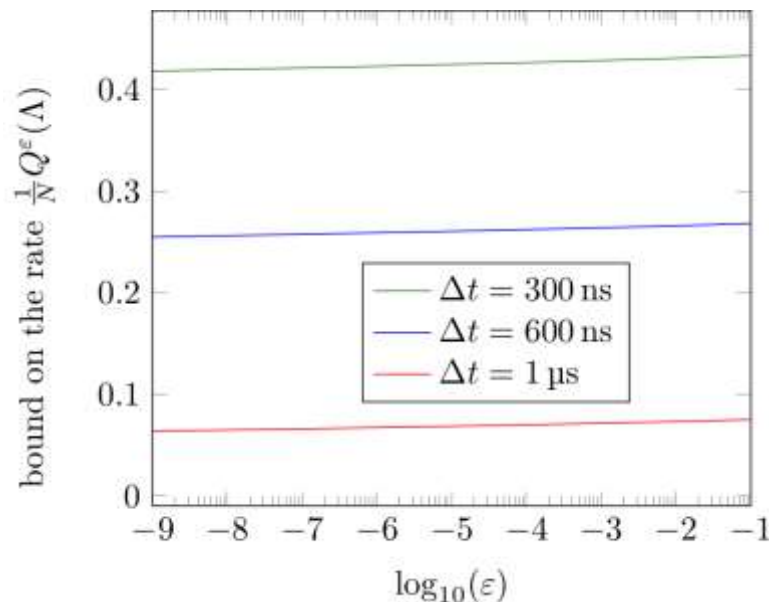
Transmon qubit (Leo DiCarlo group, QuTech),  $N = 1.04 \times 10^6$ ,  $\sim 1.5$  hours

Take:  $q = 0.9, p = 0.5$

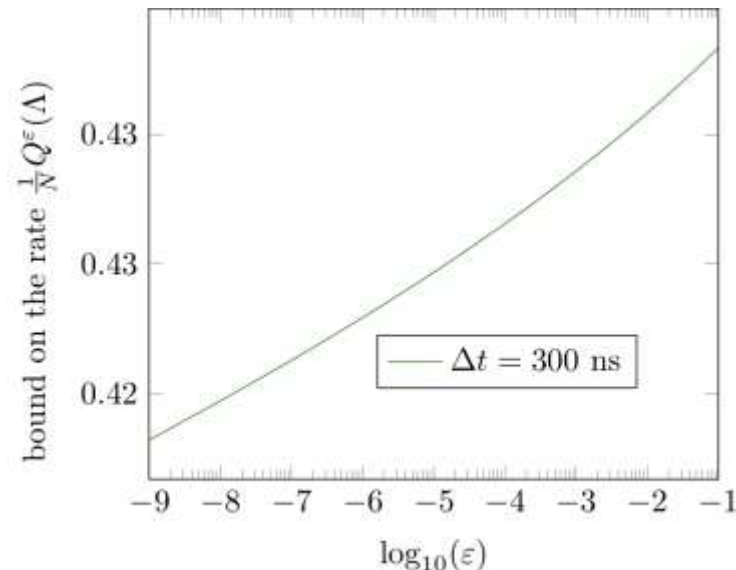
Estimate the capacity of the idling operation  $I(\Delta t)$

- Generate 8000 pairs of random numbers  $b, s$
- For each element
  - Rotate  $|0\rangle$  to the right state
  - Wait time  $\Delta t$
  - Rotate if measuring X
  - Measure Z
- Repeat 130 times

## Dependence on $\epsilon$



## Zoomed in



# Errors over time

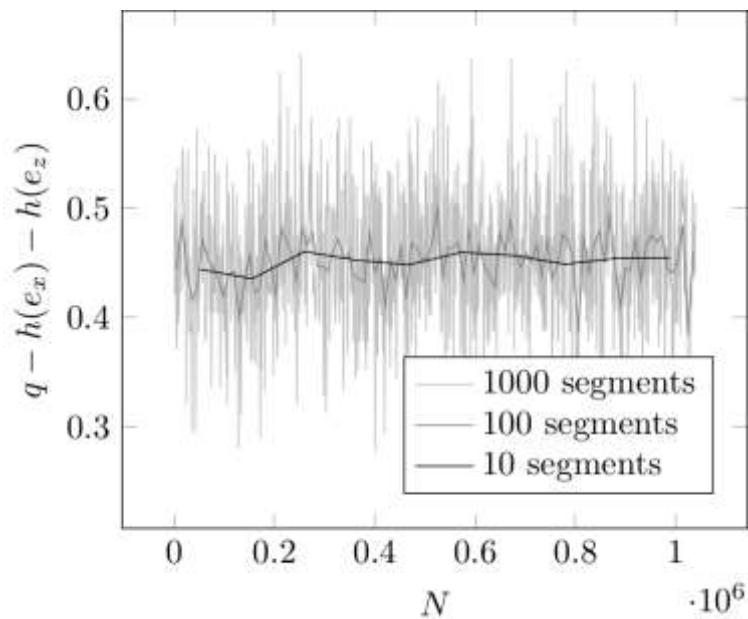
$$N = 1.04 \times 10^6$$

$$\epsilon = 10^{-6}$$

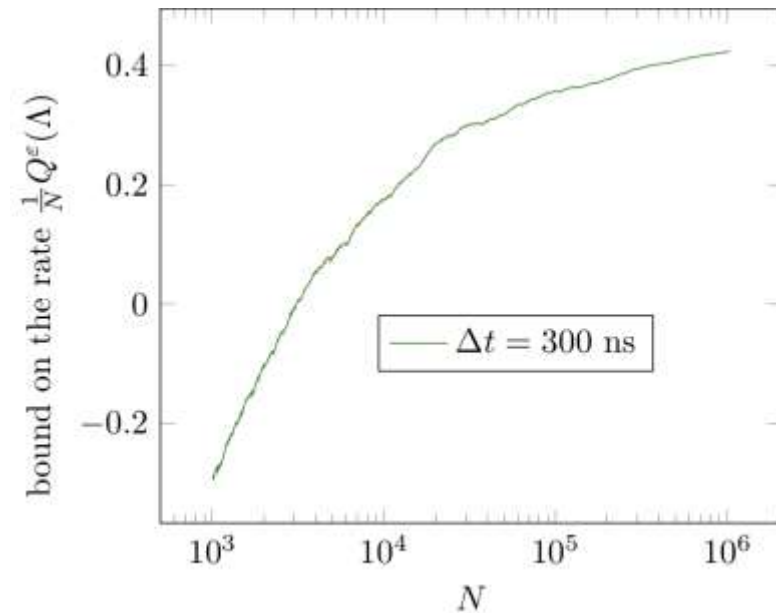
$$p = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$q = 0.9$$

## Fluctuations asymptotic bound



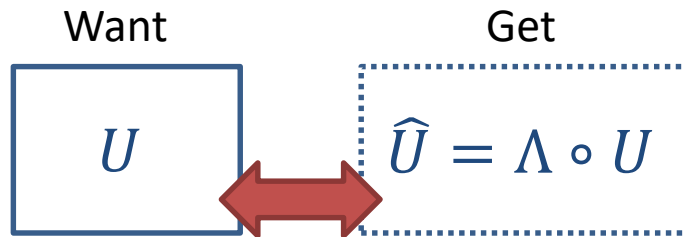
## Cumulative bound



# Menu

- How good is a quantum memory or communication channel?
  - New Procedure: Capacity estimation and verification
- **How good is the fidelity of quantum gates?**
  - Analysis: Reducing the number of samples to perform randomized benchmarking.

# Testing quantum gates



Average fidelity

$$F_{avg}(\Lambda, U) = \int d\phi F(U(\phi), \hat{U}(\phi)) = \int d\phi \langle \phi | \Lambda(\phi) | \phi \rangle$$

Entanglement fidelity

$$f(\Lambda) = \langle \Phi | I_A \otimes \Lambda(\Phi) | \Phi \rangle$$

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \sum_{j=1}^d |j\rangle_A |j\rangle_B$$

Equivalent estimate

$$f(\Lambda) = \frac{d F_{avg}(\Lambda, U) - 1}{d - 1}$$

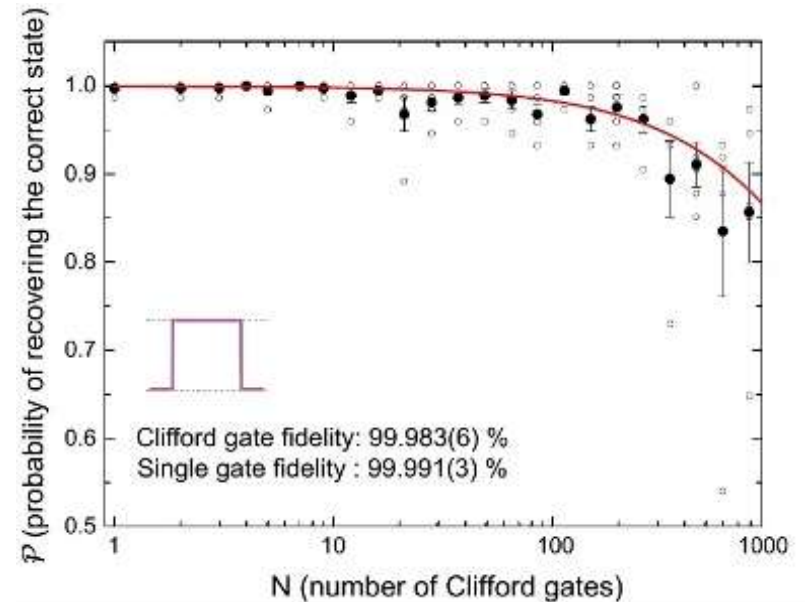
# Randomized Benchmarking

What is Randomized Benchmarking?



1. Initialize state  $\rho$
2. Apply (noisy) gates  $U_1, \dots, U_m$
3. Apply inversion gate  $U_{inv}$
4. Measure output state
5. Repeat for **many (N)** random  $U_1, \dots, U_m$
6. Average over measurement results
7. Repeat for many values of  $m$
8. Plot results and find decay

Apply strings of random gates:  
errors accumulate exponentially  
(on average)



Decay constant gives average fidelity of **gate set**.



# Randomized Benchmarking: what we do

Let's be a little more precise:

## Question:

We perform RB by sampling  $m$  gates from the Clifford group  $\mathcal{C}$   
 How many ( $N$ ) strings  $U_1, \dots, U_m$  do I

~~Need to check ALL Clifford constraints on all possible strings of  $m$  gates~~  $\rightarrow$  Impossible to do in practice!

Fit  $P_m$  to function  $Af^m + B \rightarrow$  Yields estimate for  $f$

$f$  is related to the ~~average gate fidelity~~  $F$  of an average gate in  $\mathcal{C}$

$\text{Prob}(|P_m - P_{m,N}| \geq \epsilon) \leq \delta$   
 study the probability distribution that arises  
 from applying **random** strings of Clifford gates

$P_m$  is the true average over all possible strings  
 Try to upper bound **variance** of this distribution

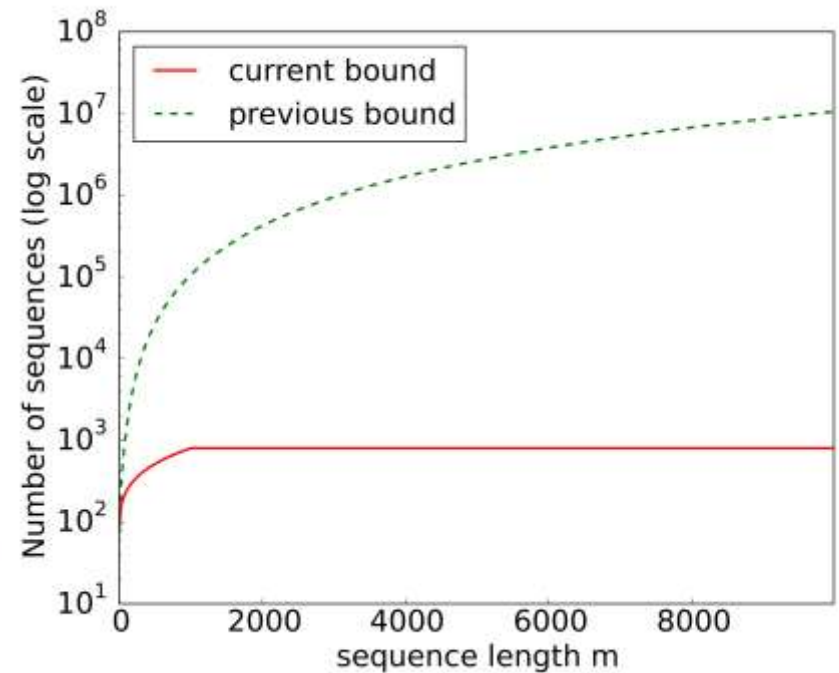
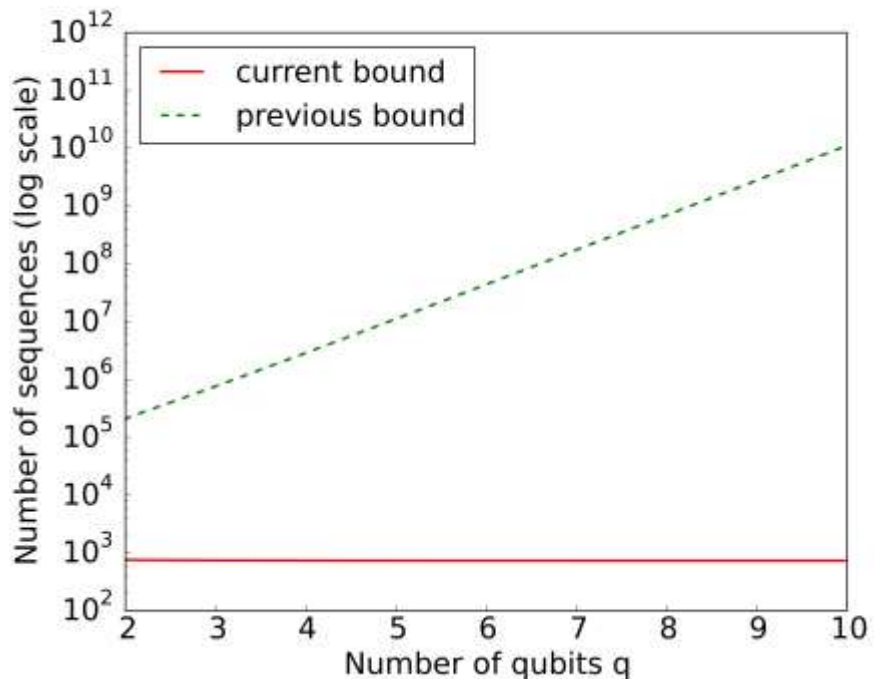
$P_{m,N}$  is the empirical average over a subset of strings  
 Clifford group is a group  $\rightarrow$  Use **REPRESENTATION THEORY**



Jonas Helsen - PhD student

# Results on randomized benchmarking

Crucial ingredient: Analysis of the representations of the Clifford group!

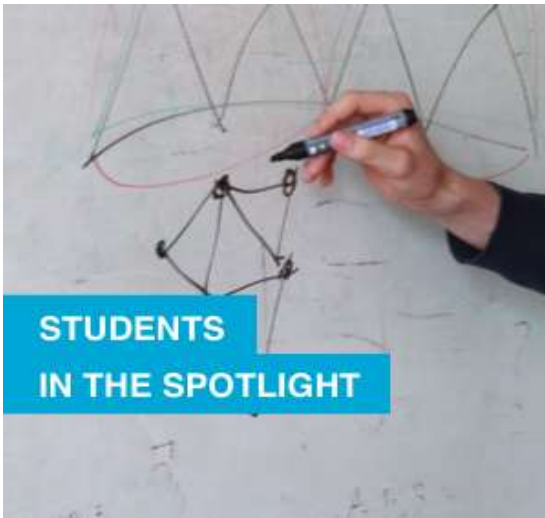


# Summary and open questions

- First procedure for direct capacity estimation and verification
  - Using only simple preparations and measurements
  - Asymptotically optimal for dephasing noise
  - Tested in experiment: bad qubits? They may still be useful 😊
- Open questions
  - How about non-qubits? Change uncertainty relation!
  - What is a good way to calibrate the bases before or during the protocol?
  - Better method?
- Randomized benchmarking
  - Significantly less samples!
  - How about correlated forms of noise?

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