

Introduction to Quantum Computing

Lecture 25: Universal Blind Quantum Computing

Petros Wallden

School of Informatics, University of Edinburgh

11th November 2025



- 1 Blind Quantum Computing: What & Why
- 2 Tools for MBQC-based Universal Blind Quantum Computing
- 3 UBQC protocol and Verification

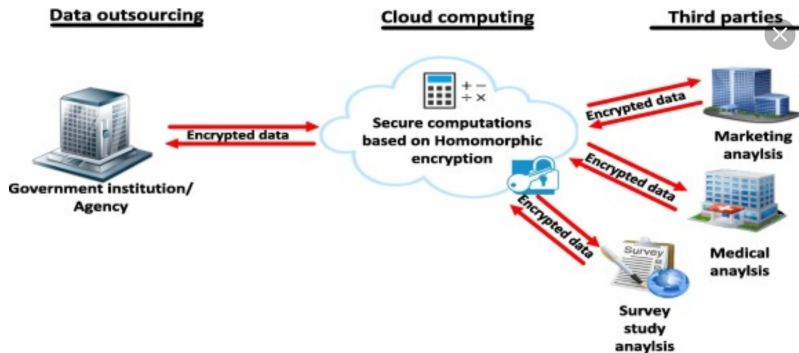
Blind Quantum Computing: What & Why

Secure Cloud Computing

Modern Cyber Security goes beyond encryption

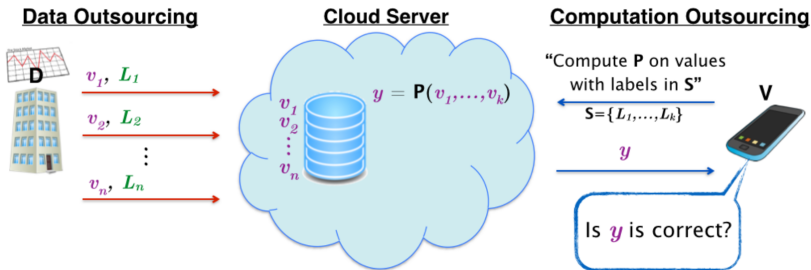
(e.g. Privacy-preserving Data Mining)

Delegated Private Computation (e.g. sensitive medical data)



Modern Cyber Security goes beyond encryption (e.g. Privacy-preserving Data Mining)

Verified Delegated Private Computation

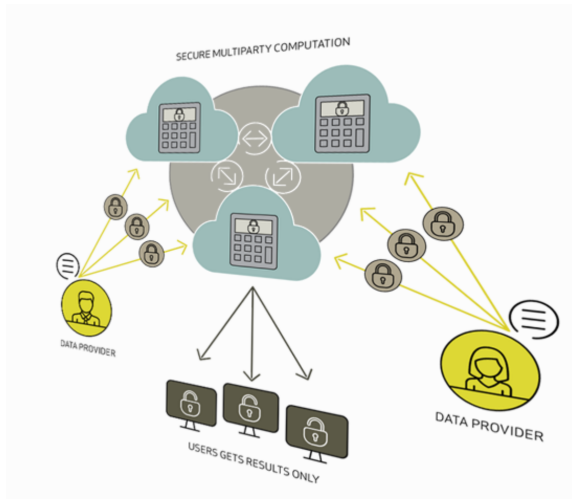


Secure Cloud Computing

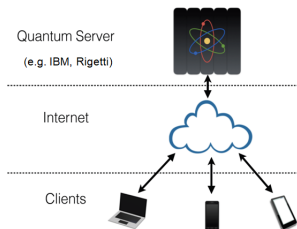
Modern Cyber Security goes beyond encryption

(e.g. Privacy-preserving Data Mining)

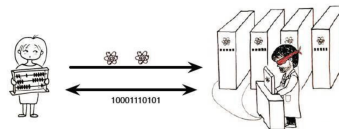
Secure Multiparty Computation (e.g. e-voting, auctions)



The Secure Quantum Cloud



- Clients want to maintain **privacy, accuracy** and **reliability**
- Clients want to use the **extra power of quantum computing**



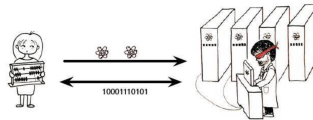
- Universal Blind Quantum Computation (Broadbent, Fitzsimons, Kashefi 2009)
- Basis for numerous extra functionalities
- Client sends **random single qubits** to Server

The Secure Quantum Cloud

- Realistic setting (few large quantum computers)
- Active area to obtain efficient quantum analogues (e.g.):

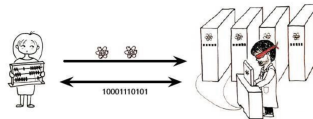
The Secure Quantum Cloud

- Realistic setting (few large quantum computers)
- Active area to obtain efficient quantum analogues (e.g.):
Secure Quantum Cloud



The Secure Quantum Cloud

- Realistic setting (few large quantum computers)
- Active area to obtain efficient quantum analogues (e.g.):
Secure Quantum Cloud

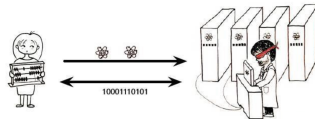


Verifiable Secure Quantum Cloud



The Secure Quantum Cloud

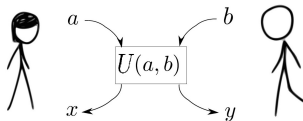
- Realistic setting (few large quantum computers)
- Active area to obtain efficient quantum analogues (e.g.):
Secure Quantum Cloud



Verifiable Secure Quantum Cloud



Secure Two-Party Quantum Computation



Tools for MBQC-based Universal Blind Quantum Computing

Blind Computation Setting

Alice/Client:

- Limited computational power
- Wants to use a quantum computer
- Does not trust Bob/Server

Blind Computation Setting

Alice/Client:

- Limited computational power
- Wants to use a quantum computer
- Does not trust Bob/Server

Bob/Server:

- Has universal quantum computer
- Is willing to help Alice
- Will not lend Alice his device

Blind Computation Setting

Alice/Client:

- Limited computational power
- Wants to use a quantum computer
- Does not trust Bob/Server

Bob/Server:

- Has universal quantum computer
- Is willing to help Alice
- Will not lend Alice his device

Blind Computation $\Rightarrow$ Bob cannot determine Alice's:

- Input
- Intended output
- Computation (not required for fully homomorphic encryption)

Alice must encrypt everything (input, computation, output)

- **Use of MBQC** (possible otherwise)
 - **Alice's power:**
 - 1 **Can** prepare single qubits
 - 2 **Cannot** measure, store, prepare entangled qubits, apply unitary gates

- **Use of MBQC** (possible otherwise)
 - **Alice's power:**
 - 1 **Can** prepare single qubits
 - 2 **Cannot** measure, store, prepare entangled qubits, apply unitary gates
 - **Alice:**
 - 1 Sends single qubits to Bob (**not** of the $|+\rangle$ form)
 - 2 Instructs Bob to **entangle** them ($\wedge Z$) as in a cluster state for MBQC and then **measure** them after further interaction

- **Use of MBQC** (possible otherwise)

- **Alice's power:**

- ① **Can** prepare single qubits
- ② **Cannot** measure, store, prepare entangled qubits, apply unitary gates

- **Alice:**

- ① Sends single qubits to Bob (**not** of the $|+\rangle$ form)
- ② Instructs Bob to **entangle** them ($\wedge Z$) as in a cluster state for MBQC and then **measure** them after further interaction

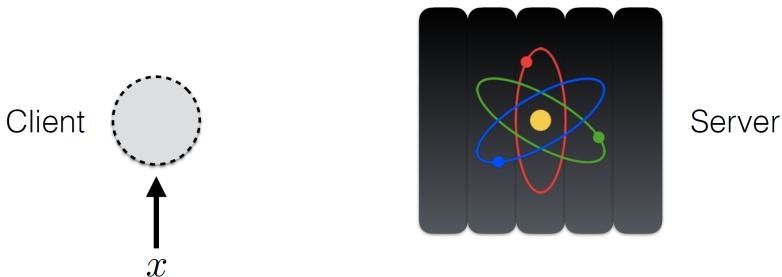
- **Bob:**

- ① Does **not** know what states Alice sends him
- ② Follows instructions; returns measurement outcomes to Alice

Blindness w.r.t. the “true” default angles $\{\phi_i\}_i$ and the shape of the “true” resource $|G\rangle$

Universal Blind Quantum Computation (UBQC)

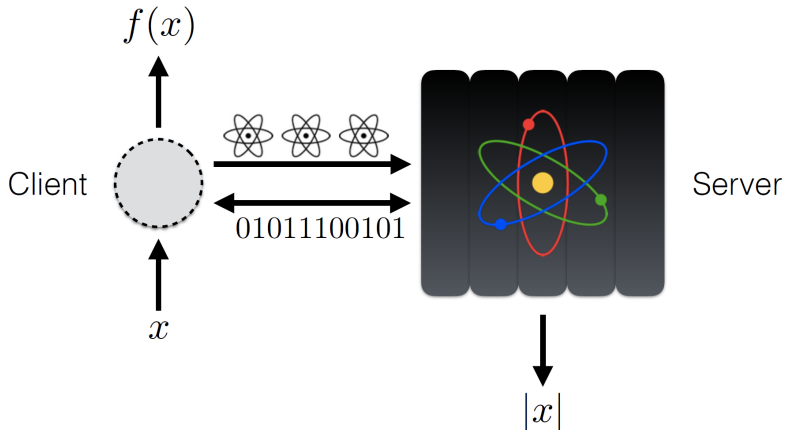
Keep x and $f(x)$ hidden from server



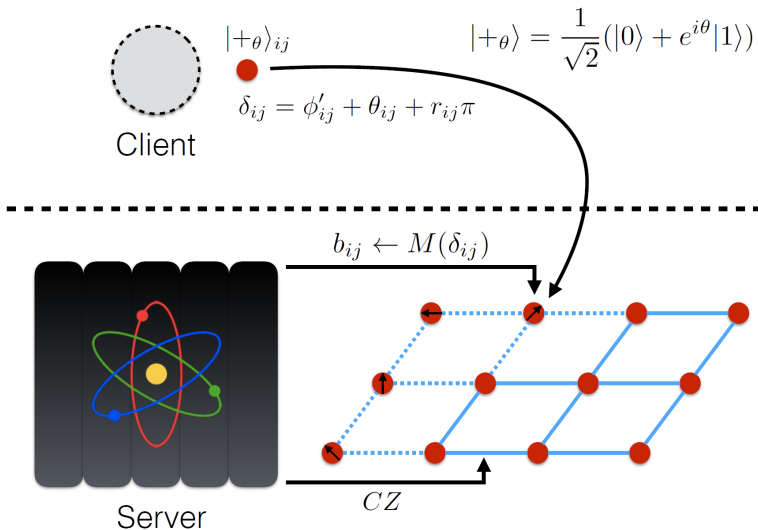
Client $\in$ BPP

Server $\in$ BQP

Universal Blind Quantum Computation (UBQC)



Universal Blind Quantum Computation (UBQC)



Broadbent, Fitzsimons, Kashefi - FOCS 2009

Trick 1: Hiding the measurement angle

- **Properties:**

(a) $R(\theta_1)R(\theta_2) = R(\theta_1 + \theta_2) = R(\theta_2)R(\theta_1).$

Rotations (on same axis), commute and act additively

Trick 1: Hiding the measurement angle

- **Properties:**

(a) $R(\theta_1)R(\theta_2) = R(\theta_1 + \theta_2) = R(\theta_2)R(\theta_1).$

Rotations (on same axis), commute and act additively

(b) $|+\theta\rangle = R(\theta)|+\rangle = R(\theta)H|0\rangle.$

Preparing “ $+\theta$ ” states from “0”.

$$|-\theta\rangle = R(\theta)|-\rangle = R(\theta)H|1\rangle.$$

Trick 1: Hiding the measurement angle

- **Properties:**

(a) $R(\theta_1)R(\theta_2) = R(\theta_1 + \theta_2) = R(\theta_2)R(\theta_1).$

Rotations (on same axis), commute and act additively

(b) $|+\theta\rangle = R(\theta)|+\rangle = R(\theta)H|0\rangle.$

Preparing “ $+\theta$ ” states from “0”.

$$|-\theta\rangle = R(\theta)|-\rangle = R(\theta)H|1\rangle.$$

(c) $M^\alpha = M^Z H R(-\alpha).$

Measuring at an angle is equivalent with applying the inverse circuit that prepares $|\pm_\alpha\rangle$ and then measure in comp. basis.

Trick 1: Hiding the measurement angle

Consider Two Scenarios:

- **Scenario 1** (normal MBQC)

$$M_1^\phi \wedge Z_{12} |+\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} J(-\phi) |+\rangle_2 = |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} H R(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

Trick 1: Hiding the measurement angle

Consider Two Scenarios:

- **Scenario 1** (normal MBQC)

$$M_1^\phi \wedge Z_{12} |+\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} J(-\phi) |+\rangle_2 = |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} HR(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

- **Scenario 2** (Input that is θ pre-rotated)

$$M_1^{(\phi+\theta)} \wedge Z_{12} |+\theta\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} J(-\phi - \theta) |+\theta\rangle_2$$

$$|s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} HR(-\phi - \theta) R(\theta) |+\rangle = |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} HR(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

Trick 1: Hiding the measurement angle

Consider Two Scenarios:

- **Scenario 1** (normal MBQC)

$$M_1^\phi \wedge Z_{12} |+\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} J(-\phi) |+\rangle_2 = |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} HR(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

- **Scenario 2** (Input that is θ pre-rotated)

$$M_1^{(\phi+\theta)} \wedge Z_{12} |+\theta\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} J(-\phi - \theta) |+\theta\rangle_2$$

$$|s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} HR(-\phi - \theta) R(\theta) |+\rangle = |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} HR(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

- Two scenarios have **same** effect
- If θ is unknown to Bob, when he measures $(\phi + \theta)$ he is ignorant of the “true” angle of the J -gate he implements.

Trick 2: Hiding the measurement outcome

Consider Two Scenarios:

- **Scenario 1** (normal MBQC)

$$M_1^\phi \wedge Z_{12} |+\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} J(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

Trick 2: Hiding the measurement outcome

Consider Two Scenarios:

- **Scenario 1** (normal MBQC)

$$M_1^\phi \wedge Z_{12} |+\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} J(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

- **Scenario 2** (outcome hidden by $r \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$)

$$M_1^{\phi+r\pi} \wedge Z_{12} |+\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |b_1\rangle_1 X^{b_1} J(-\phi - r\pi) |+\rangle_2$$

$$|b_1\rangle_1 X^{b_1} HR(-r\pi) R(-\phi) |+\rangle_2 = |b_1\rangle_1 X^{b_1} HZ^r R(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

$$|b_1\rangle_1 X^{b_1+r} HR(-\phi) |+\rangle_2 = |b_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} HR(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

where $s_1 := b_1 + r$

Trick 2: Hiding the measurement outcome

Consider Two Scenarios:

- **Scenario 1** (normal MBQC)

$$M_1^\phi \wedge Z_{12} |+\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |s_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} J(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

- **Scenario 2** (outcome hidden by $r \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$)

$$M_1^{\phi+r\pi} \wedge Z_{12} |+\rangle_1 |+\rangle_2 \rightarrow |b_1\rangle_1 X^{b_1} J(-\phi - r\pi) |+\rangle_2$$

$$|b_1\rangle_1 X^{b_1} HR(-r\pi) R(-\phi) |+\rangle_2 = |b_1\rangle_1 X^{b_1} HZ^r R(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

$$|b_1\rangle_1 X^{b_1+r} HR(-\phi) |+\rangle_2 = |b_1\rangle_1 X^{s_1} HR(-\phi) |+\rangle_2$$

where $s_1 := b_1 + r$

- Two scenarios have **same** effect on qubit 2
- If Bob doesn't know r , when he measures $\phi + r\pi$ he is ignorant of the “true” measurement outcome s_1 and how to correct in the future angles.

Hiding measurement angle & outcome

- Alice sends $|+\theta\rangle$ instead of $|+\rangle$ to Bob (θ unknown to Bob)

Hiding measurement angle & outcome

- Alice sends $|+\theta\rangle$ instead of $|+\rangle$ to Bob (θ unknown to Bob)
- Let ϕ_i be the default and $\phi'_i = (-1)^{s_x} \phi_i + \pi(\sum_{j \in S_Z} s_j)$ be the corrected measurement angles
- Define angle:

$$\delta_i = \phi'_i + \theta_i + r_i \pi$$

where $r_i \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$ is unknown to Bob

Hiding measurement angle & outcome

- Alice sends $|+\theta\rangle$ instead of $|+\rangle$ to Bob (θ unknown to Bob)
- Let ϕ_i be the default and $\phi'_i = (-1)^{s_i} \phi_i + \pi(\sum_{j \in S_Z} s_j)$ be the corrected measurement angles
- Define angle:

$$\delta_i = \phi'_i + \theta_i + r_i \pi$$

where $r_i \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$ is unknown to Bob

- Measuring ϕ'_i angle on state $|+\rangle$ is the same as measuring $\phi'_i + \theta_i$ angle on state $|+\theta_i\rangle$
- Adding $r_i \pi$ does **not** change the measurement, only flips the outcome ($s_i = 0$ goes to $s_i = 1$ and visa-versa)

Summary of Instructions

- Alice sends $|+\theta_i\rangle$ and instructs Bob to measure in δ_i
- Bob returns outcome b_i
- Alice computes $s_i = b_i \oplus r_i$ and uses this for $\phi'_j | j \in \{\text{future of } i\}$

Summary of Instructions

- Alice sends $|+\theta_i\rangle$ and instructs Bob to measure in δ_i
- Bob returns outcome b_i
- Alice computes $s_i = b_i \oplus r_i$ and uses this for $\phi'_j | j \in \{\text{future of } i\}$

The pre-rotation θ_i one-time-pads the true measurement angle ϕ'_i , and r_i one-time-pads the true measurement outcome s_i

Bob is **blind** to both measurement angle (computation) *and* measurement outcome!

Hiding measurement angle & outcome

Summary of Instructions

- Alice sends $|+\theta_i\rangle$ and instructs Bob to measure in δ_i
- Bob returns outcome b_i
- Alice computes $s_i = b_i \oplus r_i$ and uses this for $\phi'_j | j \in \{\text{future of } i\}$

The pre-rotation θ_i one-time-pads the true measurement angle ϕ'_i , and r_i one-time-pads the true measurement outcome s_i

Bob is **blind** to both measurement angle (computation) *and* measurement outcome!

Note: Interaction is required so that Alice can compute the corrected measurement angle ϕ'_i which depends on the (corrected) measurement outcomes (and thus cannot be computed by Bob).

Trick 3: Hiding the shape of the graph state

- The shape of the resource state used may leak information about the specific computation

Trick 3: Hiding the shape of the graph state

- The shape of the resource state used may leak information about the specific computation

Solution:

- A general graph (e.g. 2-dim lattice) where the actual graph used can be embedded
- A trick to “break” the graph at a vertex (remove vertex and break connectivity of the graph)

Trick 3: Hiding the shape of the graph state

- The shape of the resource state used may leak information about the specific computation

Solution:

- A general graph (e.g. 2-dim lattice) where the actual graph used can be embedded
- A trick to “break” the graph at a vertex (remove vertex and break connectivity of the graph)
- Alternatively, could consider certain graph states that are universal with only $|\pm\phi\rangle$ measurements (e.g. “brickwork state”)

Trick 3: Hiding the shape of the graph state

- $\wedge Z_{12} |0\rangle_1 |\psi\rangle_2 = |0\rangle_1 |\psi\rangle_2$; $\wedge Z_{12} |1\rangle_1 |\psi\rangle_2 = |1\rangle_1 (Z |\psi\rangle_2)$

Computational basis qubits do **not** get entangled with $\wedge Z$

$$\wedge Z_{12} |d\rangle_1 |\psi\rangle_2 = |d\rangle_1 (Z^d |\psi\rangle_2)$$

Trick 3: Hiding the shape of the graph state

- $\wedge Z_{12} |0\rangle_1 |\psi\rangle_2 = |0\rangle_1 |\psi\rangle_2$; $\wedge Z_{12} |1\rangle_1 |\psi\rangle_2 = |1\rangle_1 (Z |\psi\rangle_2)$

Computational basis qubits do **not** get entangled with $\wedge Z$

$$\wedge Z_{12} |d\rangle_1 |\psi\rangle_2 = |d\rangle_1 (Z^d |\psi\rangle_2)$$

- **Scenario 1:** Alice sends randomly $\{|+\rangle, |-\rangle\}$ state, with equal probability

$$\text{Bob's view: } \rho = \frac{1}{2} (|+\rangle \langle +| + |-\rangle \langle -|) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- **Scenario 2:** Alice sends randomly $\{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$ state, with equal probability

$$\text{Bob's view: } \rho = \frac{1}{2} (|0\rangle \langle 0| + |1\rangle \langle 1|) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Trick 3: Hiding the shape of the graph state

- Alice can send random computational basis qubits $|d\rangle$, instead of $|+\theta\rangle$ for vertices that she wants the graph to “break”

These are called “**dummy**” qubits

Trick 3: Hiding the shape of the graph state

- Alice can send random computational basis qubits $|d\rangle$, instead of $|+\theta\rangle$ for vertices that she wants the graph to “break”

These are called “**dummy**” qubits

- Bob cannot distinguish the positions that the graph breaks from other positions, thus he is **ignorant of the “true” shape of the resource used**

Trick 3: Hiding the shape of the graph state

- Alice can send random computational basis qubits $|d\rangle$, instead of $|+\theta\rangle$ for vertices that she wants the graph to “break”

These are called “**dummy**” qubits

- Bob cannot distinguish the positions that the graph breaks from other positions, thus he is **ignorant of the “true” shape of the resource used**
- The dummy qubits produce a Z^d **correction** to all neighbouring qubits.

These corrections are:

(i) known to Alice only, (ii) known from the start

Alice takes them into account when computing the angle that she asks Bob to measure

(Adds $d\pi$ to the angle of qubits neighbouring with $|d\rangle$ qubit)

UBQC protocol and Verification of Quantum Computing

A first UBQC protocol

We assume only M^α measurements (breaking to the desired resource state happens as described)

We assume classical input/output (can generalise)

Input:

- Graph G of m qubits sufficient for given computation
- m “default” measurement angles ϕ_i performing desired computation
- m random variables $\theta_i \leftarrow \{0, \pi/4, \dots, 7\pi/4\}$, m random variables $r_i \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$ chosen secretly by Alice

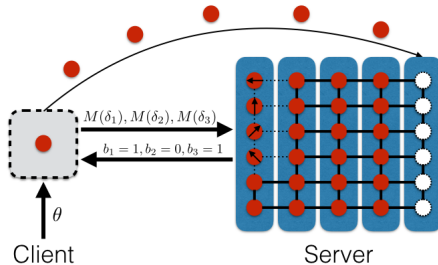
Initial Step:

- Alice sends to Bob m qubits of the form $|+\theta_i\rangle$
- Bob applies $\wedge Z_{ij}$ according to the graph and generates the “secretly rotated” resource state

A first UBQC protocol

Step i : $1 \leq i \leq m$

- Alice computes the angle $\delta_i = \phi'_i + \theta_i + r_i\pi$ and instruct Bob to measure qubit i at this angle
- Bob measures qubit i and returns outcome b_i to Alice
- Alice sets the value $s_i = b_i \oplus r_i$
- Alice moves to step $i + 1$ until $i = m$ where the protocol terminates
- The outcome is obtained from the last “layer” of measurements



Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- Consider qubit i where **all** neighbours are dummies.
- Qubit i is disentangled from the rest graph

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- Consider qubit i where **all** neighbours are dummies.
- Qubit i is disentangled from the rest graph
- Is called **trap qubit** and is at the state:

$$Z^{\sum_{j \in N_G(i)} d_j} |+\theta_i\rangle_i$$

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- Consider qubit i where **all** neighbours are dummies.
- Qubit i is disentangled from the rest graph
- Is called **trap qubit** and is at the state:

$$Z^{\sum_{j \in N_G(i)} d_j} |+\theta_i\rangle_i$$

- If measured in the $\{|+\theta_i\rangle, |-\theta_i\rangle\}$ basis it will (deterministically) give the outcome:

$$b_i := \sum_{j \in N_G(i)} d_j$$

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- Consider qubit i where **all** neighbours are dummies.
- Qubit i is disentangled from the rest graph
- Is called **trap qubit** and is at the state:

$$Z^{\sum_{j \in N_G(i)} d_j} |+\theta_i\rangle_i$$

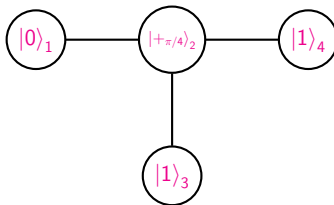
- If measured in the $\{|+\theta_i\rangle, |-\theta_i\rangle\}$ basis it will (deterministically) give the outcome:

$$b_i := \sum_{j \in N_G(i)} d_j$$

- Alice knows this result in advance, but Bob doesn't
(Bob neither knows the d 's nor the position that a trap exists)

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

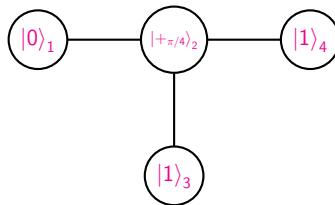
An example: with $d_1 = 0, \theta_2 = \pi/4, d_3 = 1, d_4 = 1$



Example trap at qubit 2

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

An example: with $d_1 = 0, \theta_2 = \pi/4, d_3 = 1, d_4 = 1$



Example trap at qubit 2

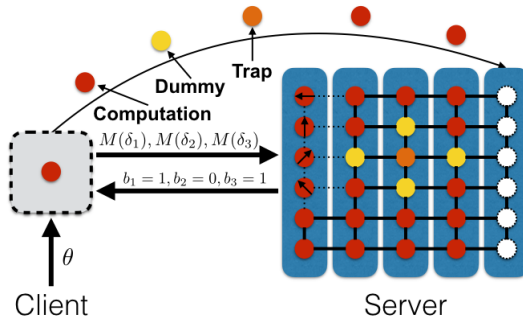
- The trap qubit (after $\wedge Z$ -gates) is at state:

$$Z^{d_1+d_3+d_4} |+\pi/4\rangle = Z^2 |+\pi/4\rangle = |+\pi/4\rangle$$

- If measured in the $\{|+\pi/4\rangle, |-\pi/4\rangle\}$ -basis we get (always)
 $b_2 = 0$

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- **Position** of traps and dummies is **unknown** to Bob
- **Result of measurement of trap**, if measured in M_t^θ -basis is deterministic and **known** in advance to **Alice**
- **If Bob deviates** at the protocol, he may deviate on the trap qubit and this will be **detected by Alice**!



Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- Can insert **multiple independent traps** without revealing anything or disrupting the computation

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- Can insert **multiple independent traps** without revealing anything or disrupting the computation
- Computation encoded with **QECC**.
- **Computation** $\Rightarrow$ logical qubits, **traps** $\Rightarrow$ physical qubits.

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- Can insert **multiple independent traps** without revealing anything or disrupting the computation
- Computation encoded with **QECC**.
- **Computation** $\Rightarrow$ logical qubits, **traps** $\Rightarrow$ physical qubits.
- **Single error on trap** $\Rightarrow$ abort, **multiple errors on computation** for corrupt the computation.
- **Protocol fails with ϵ -probability for “corrupt AND not-abort”**

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- Can insert **multiple independent traps** without revealing anything or disrupting the computation
- Computation encoded with **QECC**.
- **Computation** $\Rightarrow$ logical qubits, **traps** $\Rightarrow$ physical qubits.
- **Single error on trap** $\Rightarrow$ abort, **multiple errors on computation** for corrupt the computation.
- **Protocol fails with ϵ -probability for “corrupt AND not-abort”**
- **verification (VBQC) = blindness + traps**
- Verify correctness against malicious prover $\Rightarrow$ correctness against errors due to noise/malfunctions (even correlated)

Towards Verification of Quantum Computation

- Can insert **multiple independent traps** without revealing anything or disrupting the computation
- Computation encoded with **QECC**.
- **Computation** $\Rightarrow$ logical qubits, **traps** $\Rightarrow$ physical qubits.
- **Single error on trap** $\Rightarrow$ abort, **multiple errors on computation** for corrupt the computation.
- **Protocol fails with ϵ -probability for “corrupt AND not-abort”**
- **verification (VBQC) = blindness + traps**
- Verify correctness against malicious prover $\Rightarrow$ correctness against errors due to noise/malfunctions (even correlated)

Method to verify/test any quantum computation device

Blind Quantum Computation

- ① A. Broadbent, J. Fitzsimons and E. Kashefi, *Universal Blind Quantum Computation*, in Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS) 517, (2009).
- ② Stefanie Barz, Elham Kashefi, Anne Broadbent, Joseph F. Fitzsimons, Anton Zeilinger, Philip Walther, *Demonstration of Blind Quantum Computing*, Science 335, 303 (2012).

Verifiable Blind Quantum Computation

- ③ J. Fitzsimons and E. Kashefi, *Unconditionally verifiable blind computation*, preprint 1203.5217 (2012).
- ④ S. Barz, J. Fitzsimons, E. Kashefi and P. Walther, *Experimental verification of quantum computations*, Nature Physics, 9 727 (2013).
- ⑤ E. Kashefi and P. Wallden, *Optimised resource construction for verifiable quantum computation*, J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 50 145306 (2017).