# Towards simulating quantum field theories with photons and atoms

## **Eden Figueroa**









SIMONS FOUNDATION >15 interconnected quantum devices

### **Photon Sources**

### Ancilla qubits



### **Entangled photons**





Network of quantum memories

PR App. 8, 064013 (2017)



### **Bell measurements**



Homodyne detectors Measurement stations

arXiv:1808.07015 (2018) PR App. 8, 034023 (2017)

### Outline

- Analog quantum simulators with light.
- Photon-photon interaction experiments.
- Scaling the size of the simulators.



## I. Analog quantum simulators

International Journal of Theoretical Physics, Vol. 21, Nos. 6/7, 1982

### **Simulating Physics with Computers**

**Richard P. Feynman** 

Department of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California 91107

Received May 7, 1981







- Optimizing control of quantum matter systems to engineer their interactions to resemble different physical systems.

### **Ising Quantum simulators**



**Superconducting Quantum Simulators** 

Google rigetti CREATIVE M DESTRUCTION





- Interactions among neighbors (NR)
- **Operation at 2K**
- Solves particular problems

### Next evolution: Programable light based quantum computer



Control Light 
$$V_g$$
  
Probe Light  $\Omega_C$   $\Omega_P$   
 $2$ 

$$\hat{\Psi}(z,t) = \cos\theta(t)\hat{E}(z,t) - \sin\theta(t)\sqrt{N}\,\hat{\sigma}_{bc}(z,t)$$
$$\cos\theta(t) = \frac{\Omega(t)}{\sqrt{\Omega^2(t) + g^2N}},$$
$$\sin\theta(t) = \frac{g\sqrt{N}}{\sqrt{\Omega^2(t) + g^2N}}.$$

$$\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + c\cos^2\theta(t)\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right]\hat{\Psi}(z,t) = 0$$

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- The Dirac equation merges quantum mechanics with special relativity.

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = H_{\rm D}\psi = (c\hat{p}\sigma_x + mc^2\sigma_z)\psi$$

- The Jackiw-Rebbi model describes a Dirac field coupled to a soliton field.



$$i\partial_t \Psi = \left( \alpha c p_z + \frac{\beta m c^2}{\kappa} \phi(z) \right) \Psi$$



A kink in the soliton yields a topologically protected zero-energy mode.
Leads to charge fractionalization.



### How to build a quantum simulator using dark state polaritons?



### Dirac dynamics using spinor of light



### **Creating spinors of light experimentally**





### Realizing topological relativistic dynamics with slow light polaritons at room temperature

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#### arXiv:1711.09346

### **Quantum simulation of Dirac spinor dynamics**



"Realizing JR would require **beams of relativistic particles interacting with Fermi quantum fields**. This realization of the **same physics requires only diode lasers and a cell of Rb atoms**."

### arXiv:1711.09346

# II. Photon-photon interaction experiments.

### Photon-photon gate systems



Scientific Reports 5, 16581 (2015).

arXiv:1803.07012

### **Reconstruction of wave-functions**





- Triggered pi phase shifts
- High transmission (~80%)
- High-Fidelity (~90%)
- Room-Temperature

arXiv:1803.07012

### Implementation of a crossed cavity QED/EIT system



**Current Status:** 

- Construction of cavities in a multi-layer system
- Observation of magneto-optical trapping and characterization of atomic cloud
- Observation of coupling between atoms and the two cavities.

### **Outlook: Quantum simulation with quantized light fields**



### **Fundamental tools**



## III. Scaling the number of qubits

### Entanglement imaging (SBU/BNL)



- TimePix camera with intensifier.
- Single photon level detection in time and space.
- Entanglement pictures.

arXiv:1808.06720 (2018).





### **Entanglement characterization (SBU/BNL)**

$$S = E(\alpha, \beta) + E(\alpha', \beta) - E(\alpha, \beta') + E(\alpha', \beta') \le 2$$

## $E(\alpha,\beta) = \frac{N_{VV}(\alpha,\beta) + N_{HH}(\alpha,\beta) - N_{VH}(\alpha,\beta) - N_{HV}(\alpha,\beta)}{N_{VV}(\alpha,\beta) + N_{HH}(\alpha,\beta) + N_{VH}(\alpha,\beta) + N_{HV}(\alpha,\beta)}$

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arXiv:1808.06720 (2018).

### Scaling and multiplexing: a quantum grid (SBU/BNL)



- TimePix camera with intensifier.
- Single photon level detection in time and space.
- 16-rail system created.
- Rubidium interaction.



### Interaction with entangled photons from quantum dots (SBU/KTH)



### **Electromagnetically Induced Transparency with quantum dot photons (SBU/KTH)**



New dynamics of fast photons interacting with atoms on resonance.
 Control-field-induced transparency for fast photons.

arXiv:1808.05921 (2018).



### Take-home ideas

### Small summary.

- Quantum simulation with light and atoms.
- Phase switching operations triggered by a few photons.
- Interaction with entangled photons.
- Grids with many light-qubits coming soon.



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