

[P9] (Coupling spins via bus qubit in ion-based quantum computer). In the lecture we saw that the following Hamiltonians can be realized in the trapped-ion architecture (the subscripts “b” and “r” allude to a certain “red” or “blue” detuning):

$$H_b(\phi) = S_+ a^\dagger e^{i\phi} + S_- a e^{-i\phi}, \quad H_r(\phi) = S_+ a e^{i\phi} + S_- a^\dagger e^{-i\phi},$$

where  $\phi$  is a tunable phase,  $S_-$  is the ladder operator for the spin-1/2 degree of freedom of a given ion ( $S_-|0\rangle = 0, S_-|1\rangle = |0\rangle$ ),  $S_+$  is its adjoint, and  $a : |n\rangle \mapsto \sqrt{n}|n-1\rangle$  is the usual annihilation operator acting on the center-of-mass motional mode. A basis of the joint system formed by one ion and the bus is given by

$$\{|m, n\rangle \mid m \in \{0, 1\}, n \in \mathbb{N}_0\},$$

where  $m$  encodes direction of the spin and  $n$  the number of phonons in the bus mode. On the bus, we will use  $|m=0\rangle$  to encode a logical “0” and  $|m=1\rangle$  for “1”. States with more than one phonon do not carry a meaning in our scheme, and we must therefore take care not to excite them. With this in mind, we refer to the (four-dimensional) subspace  $\{|00\rangle, |01\rangle, |10\rangle, |11\rangle\}$  of the (infinite-dimensional) physical Hilbert space of the joint system as the *computational subspace*.

(1) First, we verify that we can move information from the spin onto the bus. Assume that the bus is initially in the ground state  $|0\rangle$ , whereas the spin is in an arbitrary state  $|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$ . Let  $T : |0\rangle \mapsto |0\rangle, |1\rangle \mapsto -i|1\rangle$  be a unitary operation acting only on the spin (we will work out how to realize such transformations in the lecture). Show that

$$e^{i\frac{\pi}{2}H_r(0)}(T \otimes \mathbb{1})(|\psi\rangle \otimes |0\rangle) = |0\rangle \otimes |\psi\rangle.$$

(2) Unfortunately,  $H_b$  couples the computational subspace to the state  $|1, 2\rangle$  which features two phonons. Here, we will show that one can nevertheless use  $H_b$  to perform transformations within the computational space. Indeed, show that in the basis  $\{|10\rangle, |00\rangle, |11\rangle, |01\rangle, |12\rangle\}$  (in that order!), the Hamiltonian becomes block-diagonal. Use this representation to prove that  $e^{itH_b(\phi)}$  does preserve the computational subspace if  $t$  is a multiple of  $\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2}}$ . What is more, show that for every  $t$  and every  $\phi_1, \phi_2$ , the unitary

$$U = e^{itH_b(\phi_1)} e^{i\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2}}H_b(\phi_2)} e^{-itH_b(\phi_1)}$$

preserves the computational subspace (hint: in the block representation, no calculations are necessary for this).

(3) Show (using a computer algebra system if necessary) that choosing  $\phi_1 = -\pi/2, \phi_2 = 0, t = \pi/4$  in the definition for  $U$  above, one obtains a diagonal matrix. Result: With respect to the basis  $\{|00\rangle, |01\rangle, |10\rangle, |11\rangle\}$ , one should get

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-i\pi/\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & e^{i\pi/\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $S(\gamma)$  be the unitary that maps  $|0\rangle \rightarrow |0\rangle, |1\rangle \rightarrow e^{i\gamma}|1\rangle$ . Find phases  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3$  such that  $e^{i\gamma_1}(S(\gamma_2) \otimes S(\gamma_3))W$  is the controlled- $Z$  gate.

(4) How does all this allow us to perform a controlled- $Z$  gate between two spins in the ion trap?