Abstract Submitted for the MAR14 Meeting of The American Physical Society

**Protected Josephson Rhombi Chains**<sup>1</sup> MATTHEW BELL, JOSH PARAMANANDAM, LEV IOFFE, MICHAEL GERSHENSON, Rutgers University — We have studied the low-energy excitations in a minimalistic protected Josephson circuit which contains two basic elements (rhombi) characterized by the  $\pi$  periodicity of the Josephson energy. The novel design of these elements, which reduces their sensitivity to the offset charge fluctuations, has been employed. We have observed that the lifetime  $T_1$  of the first excited state of this quantum circuit in the protected regime is increased by up to  $70\mu$ s, a factor of ~100 longer than that in the unprotected state. The decay quality factor  $\omega_{01}T_1$  of this qubit exceeds  $10^6$ . Our results are in agreement with theoretical expectations; they demonstrate the feasibility of symmetry protection in rhombi-based qubits fabricated with existing technology.

<sup>1</sup>Templeton Foundation, NSF, and ARO

Matthew Bell Rutgers University

Date submitted: 15 Nov 2013

Electronic form version 1.4