Detecting bit-flip errors in a logical qubit using stabilizer measurements
DIEGO RISTÈ, QuTech and Kavli Institute of Nanoscience, Delft University of Technology

Quantum data is susceptible to decoherence induced by the environment and to control errors. A future fault-tolerant quantum computer will use quantum error correction (QEC) to actively protect against both. In the smallest QEC codes, the information in one logical qubit is encoded in a two-dimensional subspace of a larger Hilbert space of multiple physical qubits. For each code, a set of non-demolition multi-qubit measurements, termed stabilizers, can discretize and signal physical qubit errors without collapsing the encoded information. Using a 5-qubit superconducting processor, we realize the two parity measurements comprising the stabilizers of the three-qubit repetition code protecting one logical qubit from physical bit-flip errors. We construct these stabilizers as parallelized indirect measurements using ancillary qubits, and evidence their non-demolition character by generating three-qubit entanglement from superposition states. We demonstrate stabilizer-based quantum error detection (QED) by subjecting a logical qubit in any initial state to bit-flip errors on its constituent three physical qubits. Crucially, and in contrast to previous QED implementations, this approach keeps the quantum information encoded at all times, meeting a fundamental requirement for fault tolerance.