

# Circuits mésoscopiques quantiques:

La voie des qubits robustes  
vers le calcul quantique



Daniel ESTEVE

QUANTUM  
ELECTRONICS GROUP



AEIS, Institut Curie, Oct. 2021

# The (first) quantum revolution

1900-1930



**a revolutionary formalism:**

*-Superposition principle:*

The **superposition of physical states** is still a possible physical state

The superposition defines the quantum state and the possible outcomes of a measurement

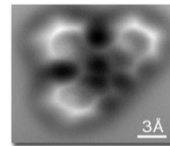
*-Evolution rules of quantum state among all possible superpositions*

**1930s** → **Quantum formalism applied to all areas of physics and at all scales**

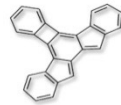
Particles nuclei



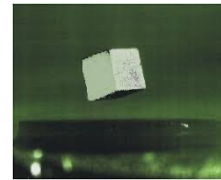
atoms



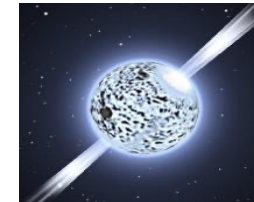
molecules



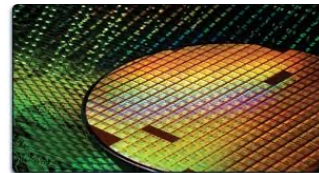
condensed matter



neutron stars ...



The basis of many technologies based on advanced materials (lasers, semiconductor electronics,...)



But does QM apply to all degrees of freedom ?

**Second quantum revolution of quantum machines ?**

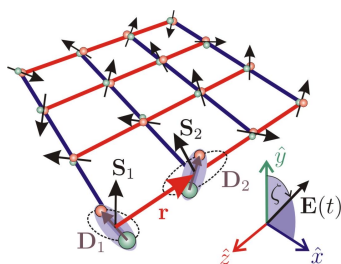


# Quantum machines for Quantum Computing

1982: Solving quantum systems too difficult  
quantum simulation needed!



R. Feynman



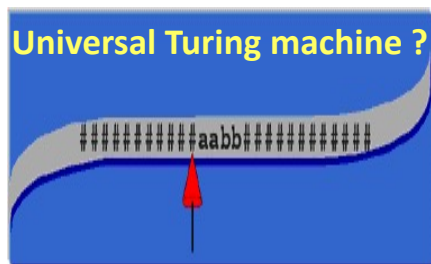
1985: unexpected breakthrough



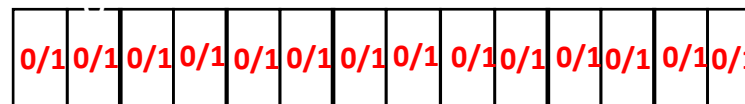
D. Deutsch,  
and others

*Quantum mechanics  
provides  
computational resources*

## Classical computing:



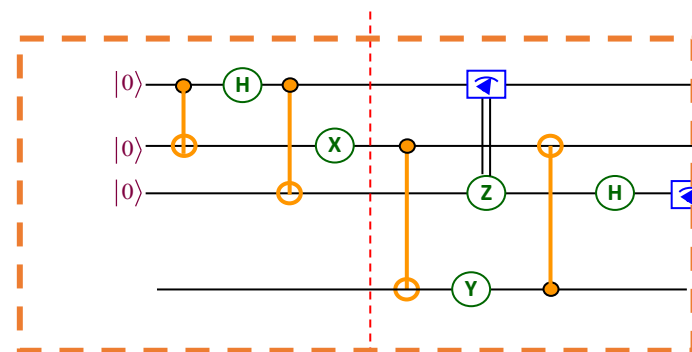
N (0,1) bits evolving  
among  $2^N$  states



$$R = (i_1, i_2, i_3 \dots i_{2^N}) \quad i_k = 0, 1$$

## Quantum computing:

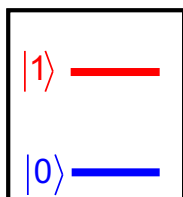
evolution of a N qubit  
quantum register among  
superpositions of  $2^N$  basis states



Readout

returns 0 or 1  
for each qubit :  
a basis state

qubit  
2 level system



N =  $2^n$  computational  
basis states

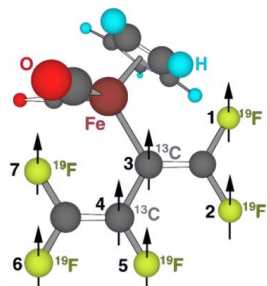
$$\overbrace{|010001\dots 1\rangle}^n = |p\rangle$$

$$\sum_{i_k=0,1} a_{i_1 i_2 i_3 \dots i_{2^N}} |i_1, i_2, i_3 \dots i_{2^N}\rangle$$

(entangled state)

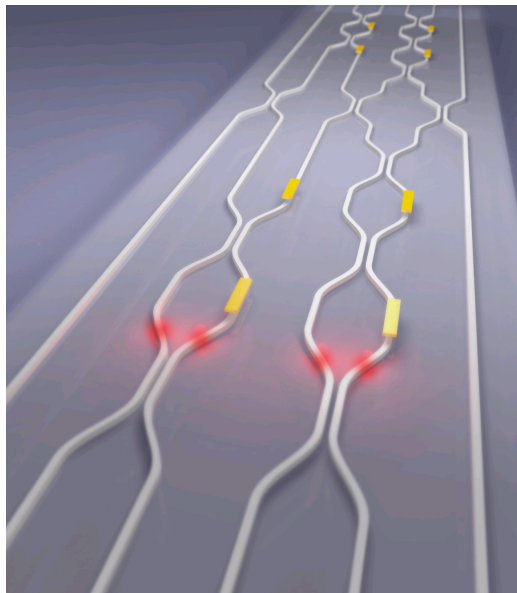
# A disruptive technology ?    Physical implementations ?

**NMR**



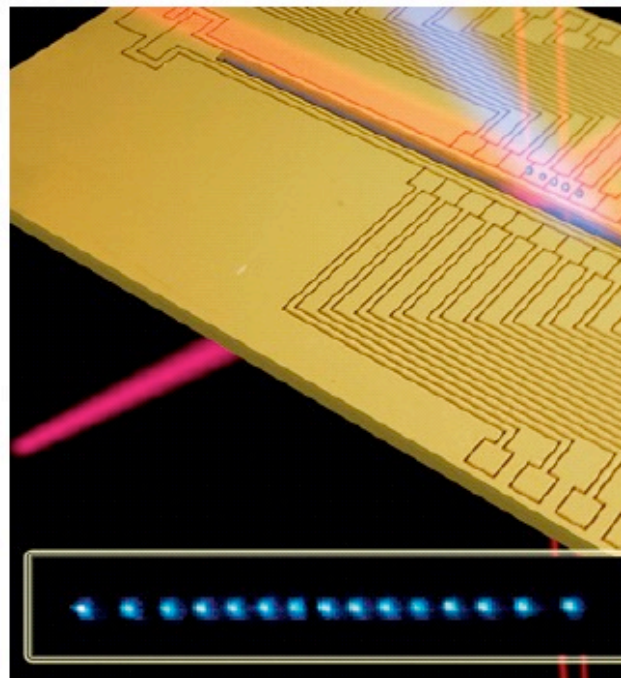
not scalable

**Photons**



Photons weakly interact  
->measurement based QC  
efficiency ?

**Trapped ions  
(or atoms)**



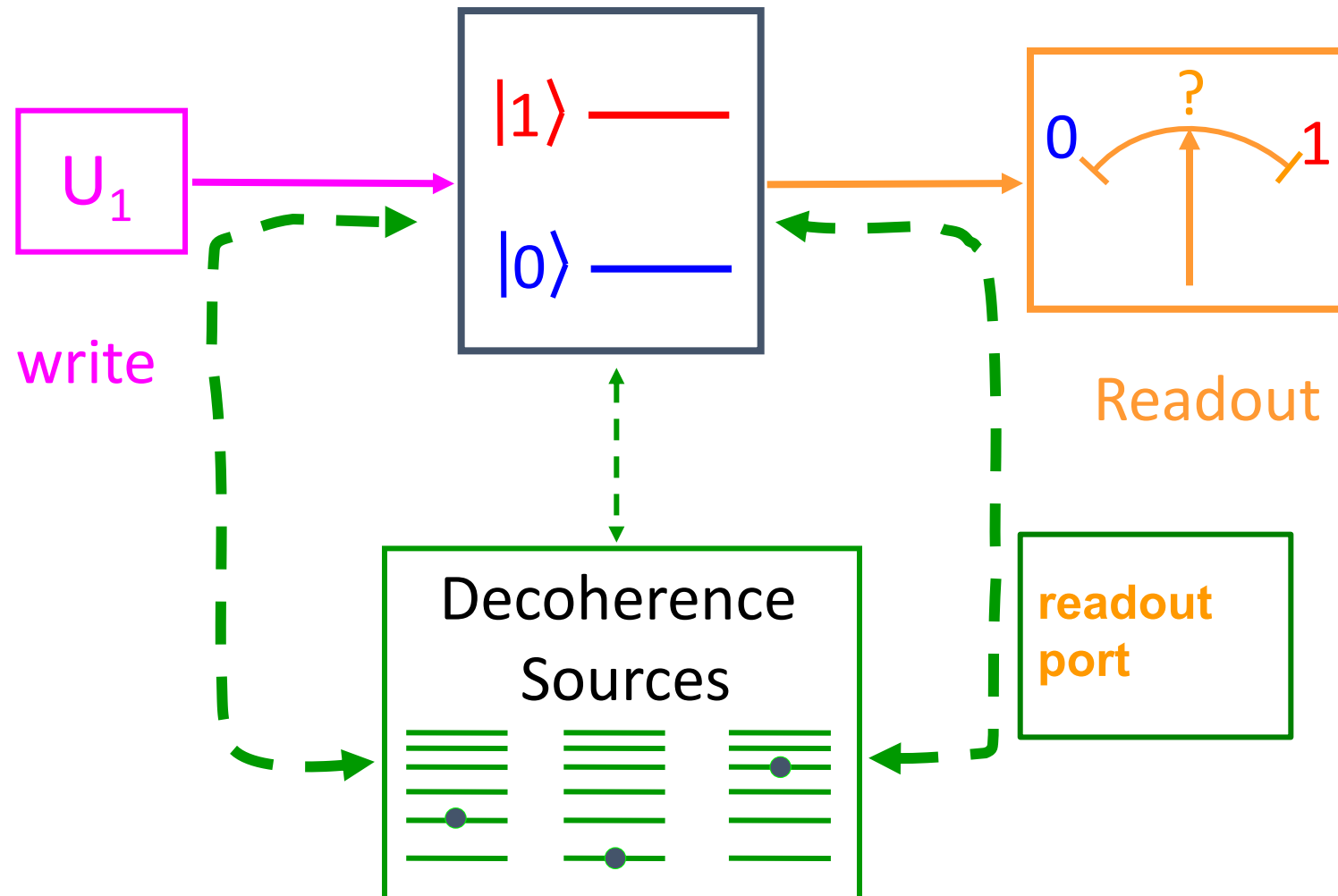
**An advanced platform**

## Electrical circuits ?

**usually not quantum !**  
superconducting qubits  
semiconducting qubits (less advanced, scalable fab.)

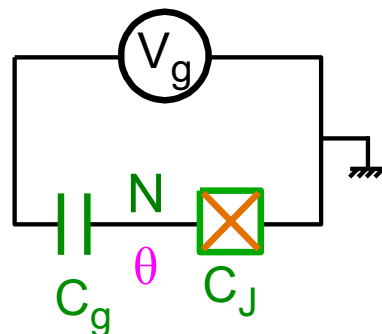
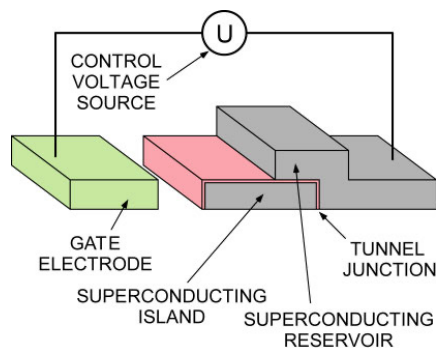


# A major issue: coupling to the environment yields decoherence



# An electrical quantum bit : the Cooper pair box

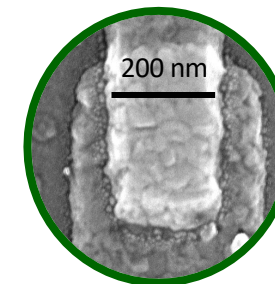
Quantronics  
1997



solvable quantum circuit

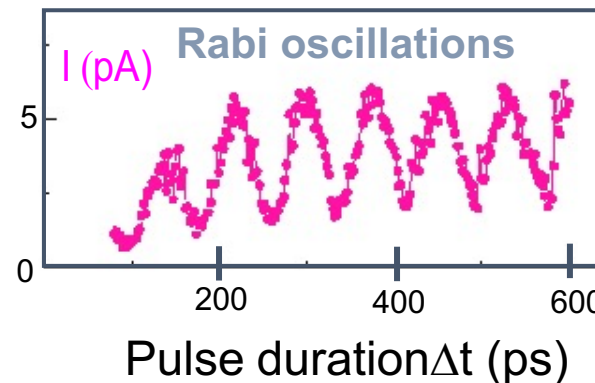
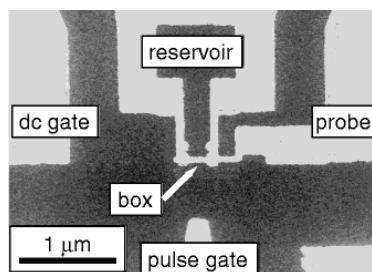
$$\hat{H} = E_C (\hat{N} - N_g)^2 - E_J \cos \hat{\theta}$$

$N_g = C_g U / 2e$



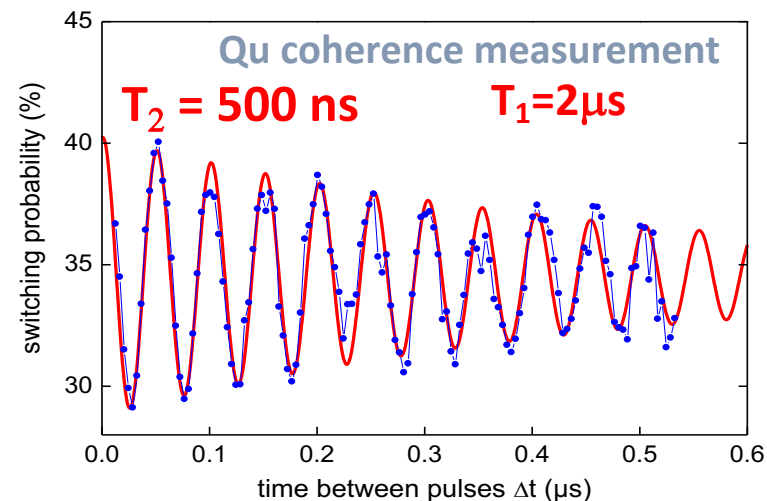
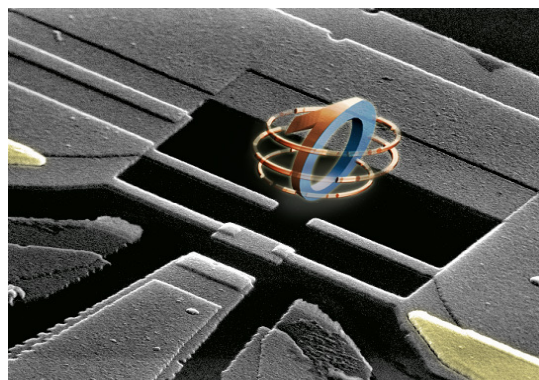
1 degree of freedom  
{  $N, \theta$  }

quantum coherence btw 2 states  
(Nakamura, Pashkin & Tsai, 1999)  
in the Cooper pair box circuit



A true artificial atom :  
Quantronium circuit  
(Vion et al., 2002)

control,  
single shot readout  
&  
coherence

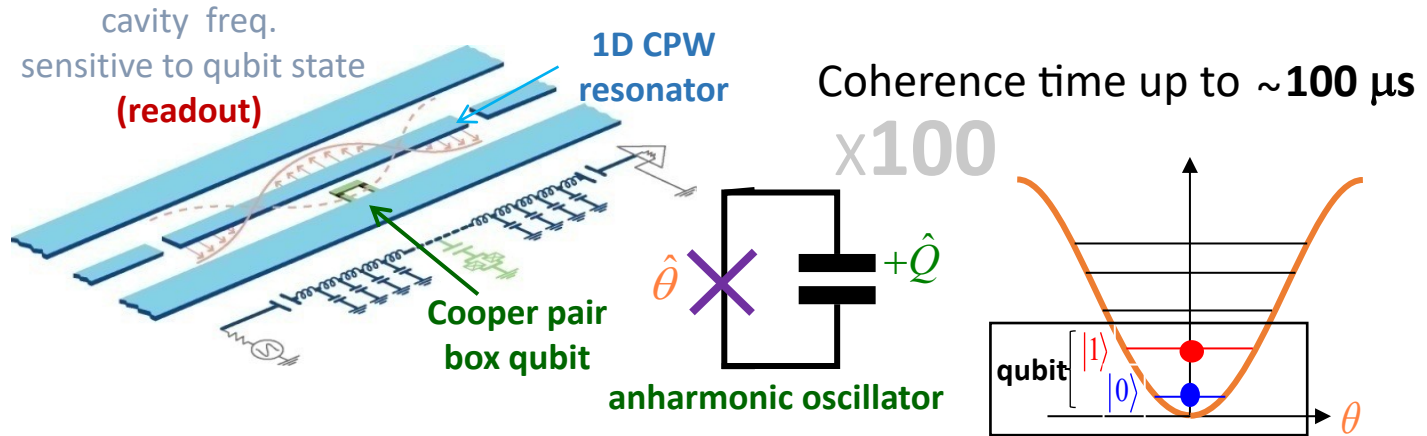




# Superconducting qubits : state of the art

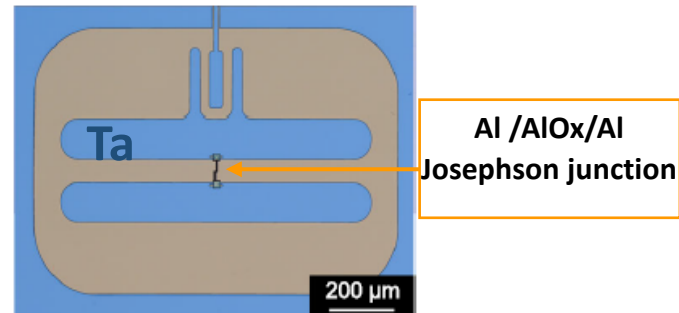
## Transmon

Cooper pair box in microwave cavity (Yale, 2007)



## Recent progress:

Reducing material losses ( $T_a$ ) improves quantum coherence (Princeton 2020)

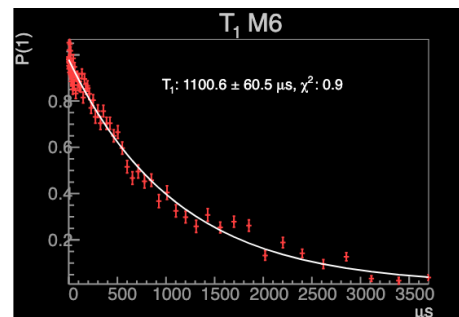


$\times 3$

Coherence time: 250  $\mu\text{s}$

process tested  
IBM, China  
Qnantronics, ...

Best result from IBM (unpublished)

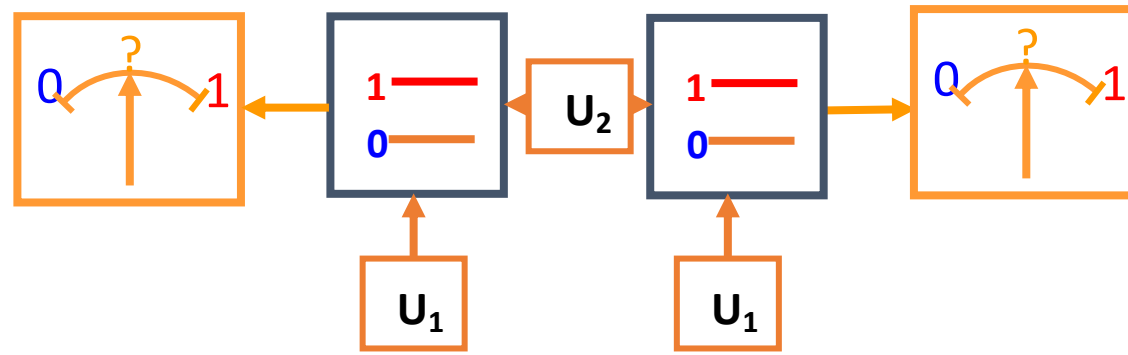


$\times 4$

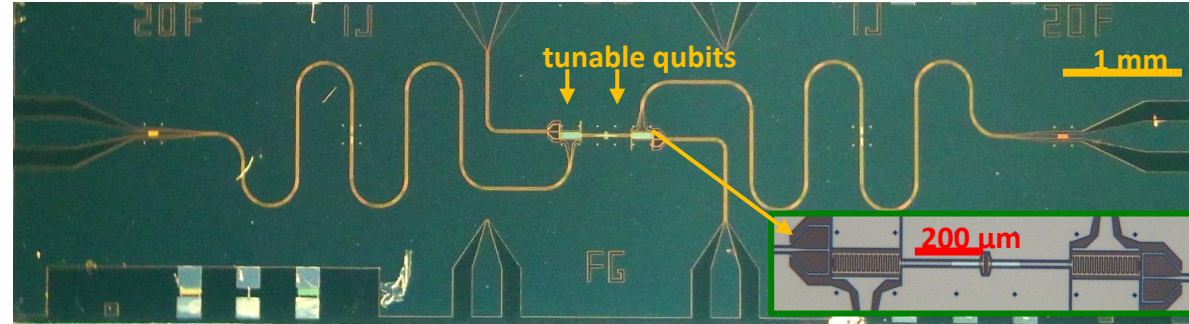
$T_1, T_2$  in ms range

But processors not yet there...

# Quantum processors ?



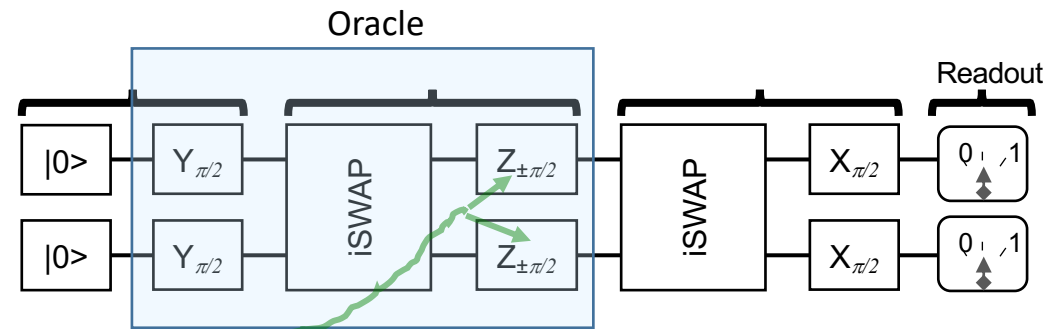
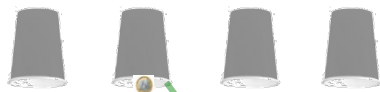
Proof of concept of an **elementary** two qubit processor



Quntronics, 2012

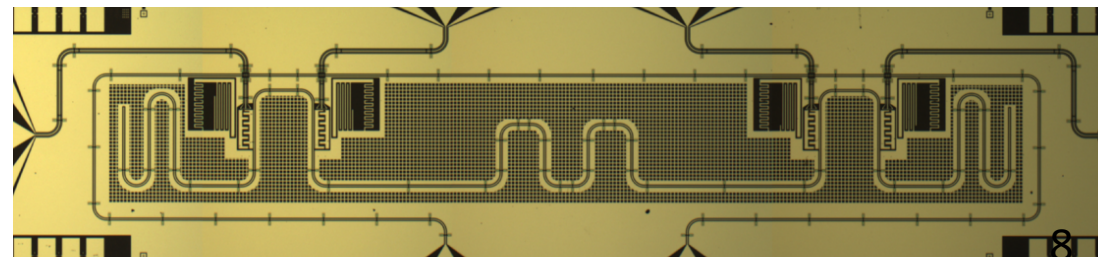
Dewes et al., PRL & PRB 2012

demonstration of the **Grover search quantum algorithm** (here: find 1 state out of 4 in a single identification call )



Proof of principle of quantum acceleration

4 qubit processor with multiplexed readout

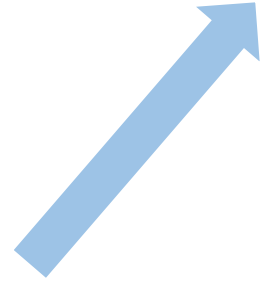




# The scalability challenge

Use-cases for gate-based quantum computing needs >100 logical qubits

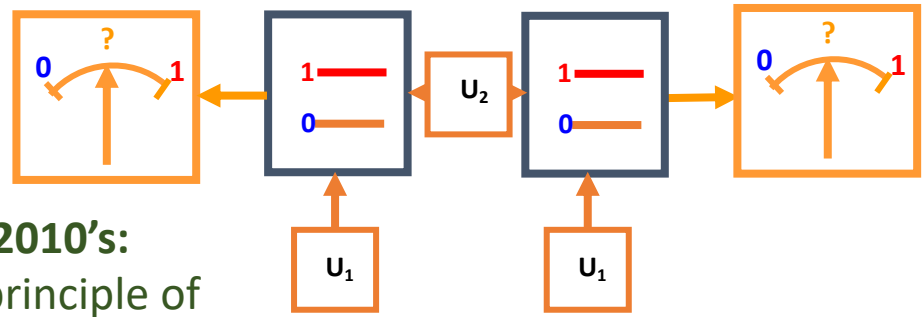
Gate-based quantum processor:  
quantum coherent qubits, universal set of gates, readout, reset



N

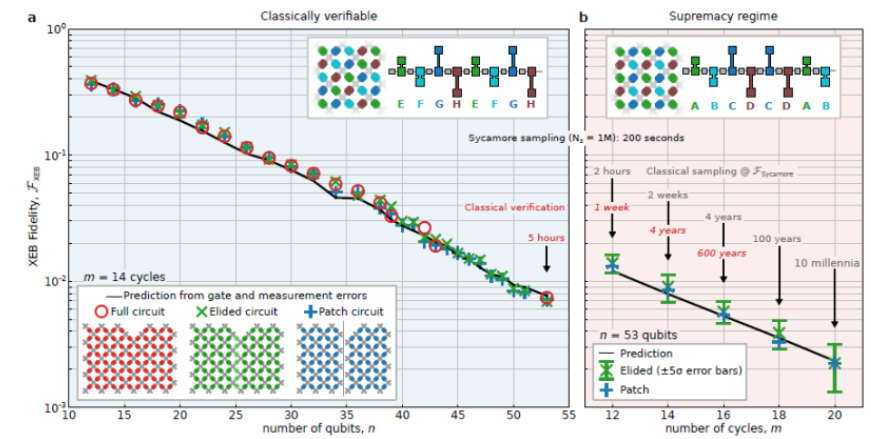
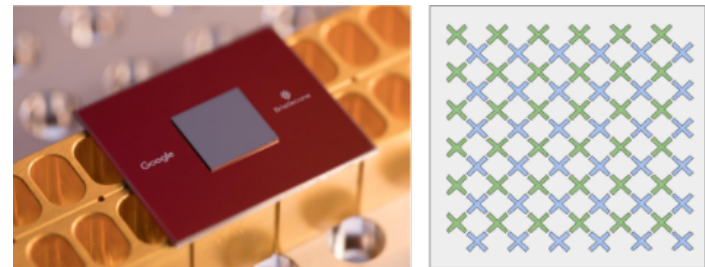
Quantum Error correction issue:  
**copy forbidden**

- Quantum systems: quantum chemistry, materials, nuclear physics, ...
- Linear algebra: quantum inversion of sparse matrices
- Classification : Optimization Machine learning



Early 2010's:  
proof of principle of small quantum processors

2019:  
Google Sycamore 53 qubit processor



$$F \sim (0.995..)^{N(\#gates/step, \#depth)} \rightarrow 0 \text{ too quickly for being useful}$$



# Strategies for addressing the quantum error correction challenge

## Fault-tolerant architecture based on the Surface Code

**Method:** detect & identify error  
correct, or keep record

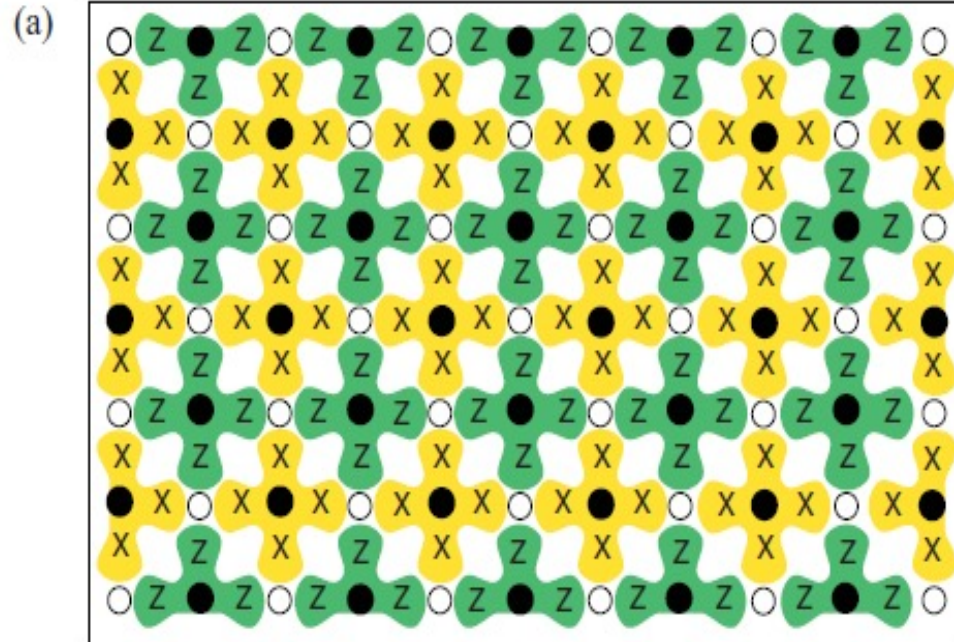
( Fowler et al, PRA 86 , 2012)



Data



measurement



**pro :** <1 % error threshold enough

**con :** huge resource overhead

1 logical qubit  $\gg 10^3$  physical qubits

**ONLY POSSIBLE WITH  
SCALABLE FAB**

adapted to semiconducting qubit  
LSI circuits





# Other routes ?

# Robust qubits with more coherence and less overhead

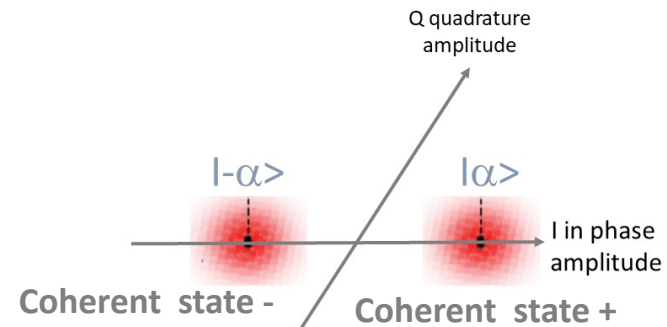
## Cat-state qubits

## impurity spin qubits

## topologically protected qubits

Qubit states built from high Q resonator coherent states

qubit states  $|\alpha\rangle \pm |-\alpha\rangle$



Full protection: in progress Lescanne et al., Nat Phys 2020

1D code of cat-qubits (est x50 overhead)

**fault-tolerant architecture**

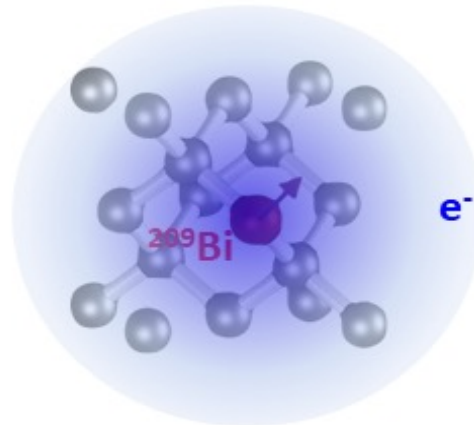
Guillaud-Mirrahimi PRX 2019

Quantic team (ENS, INRIA, Mines)

Alice&Bob , Yale

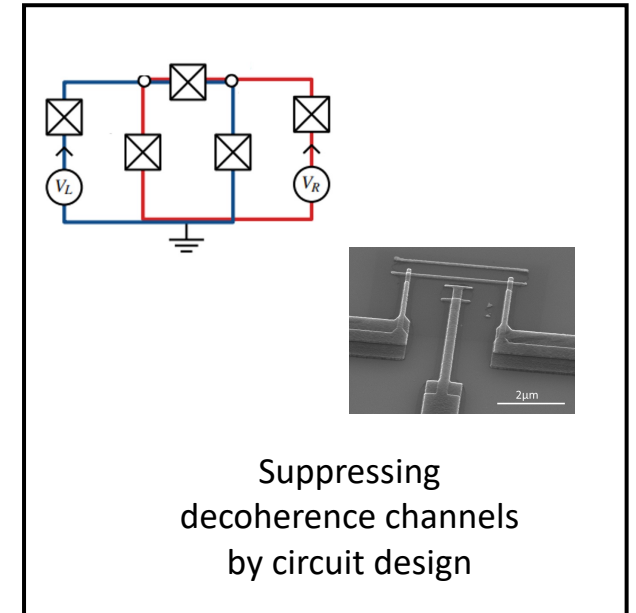


electro-nuclear levels with superior quantum coherence



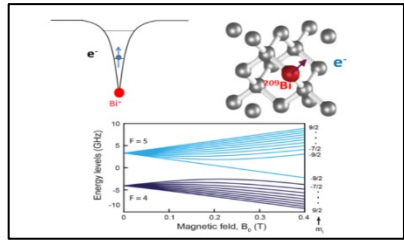
Coherence times up to **seconds**

but microscopic objects **hard to control**



# A new hybrid route : spins coupled to superconducting circuits

Highly coherent electro-nuclear spin states

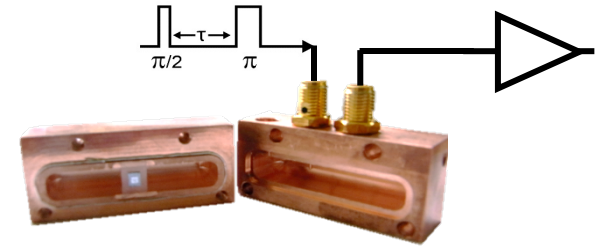
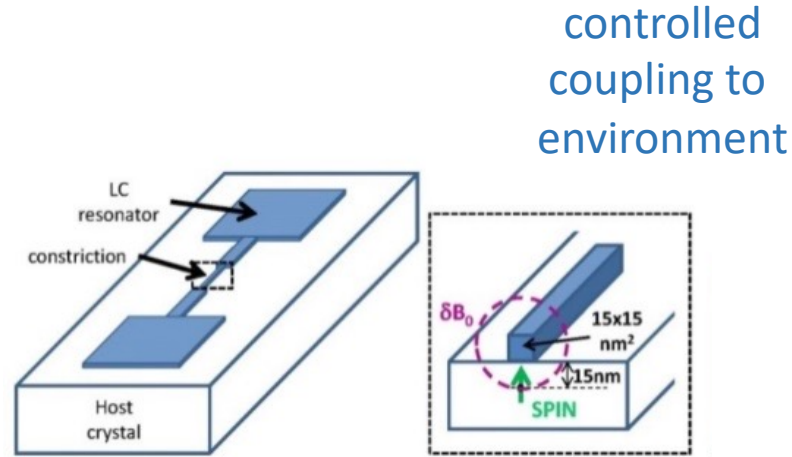
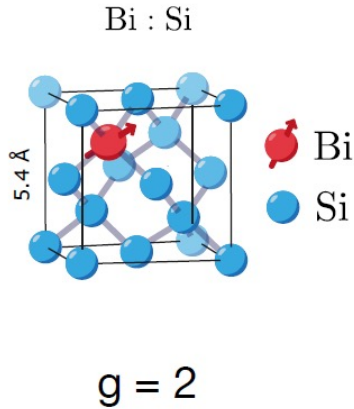


Coherence times:  
 electronic spins: ms, s  
 nuclear spins: s, h

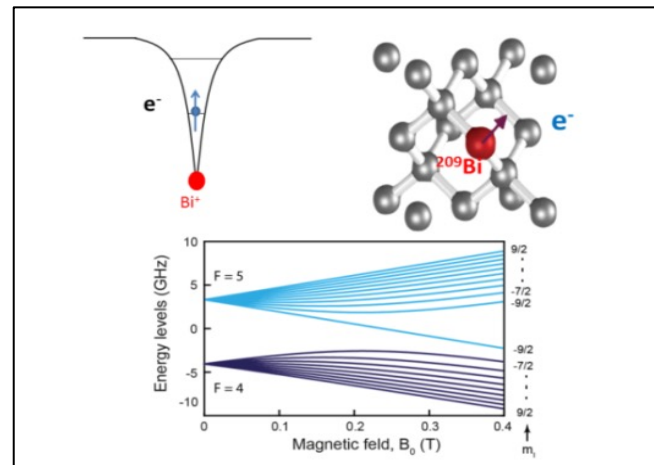
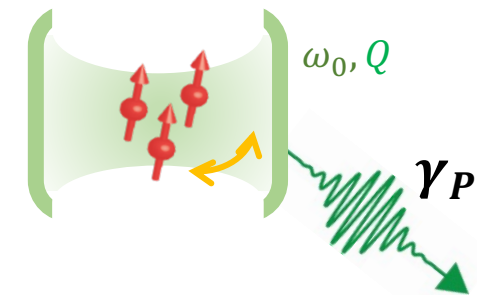
- Electronic spin = 1/2
- Nuclear spin I=9/2
- Large hyperfine coupling  $\frac{A}{2\pi} = 1.4754\text{GHz}$

$$\frac{H}{\hbar} = \mathbf{AI} \cdot \mathbf{S} + \mathbf{B}_0 \cdot (-\gamma_e \mathbf{S} - \gamma_n \mathbf{I})$$

20 electro-nuclear states  
 for making qubits

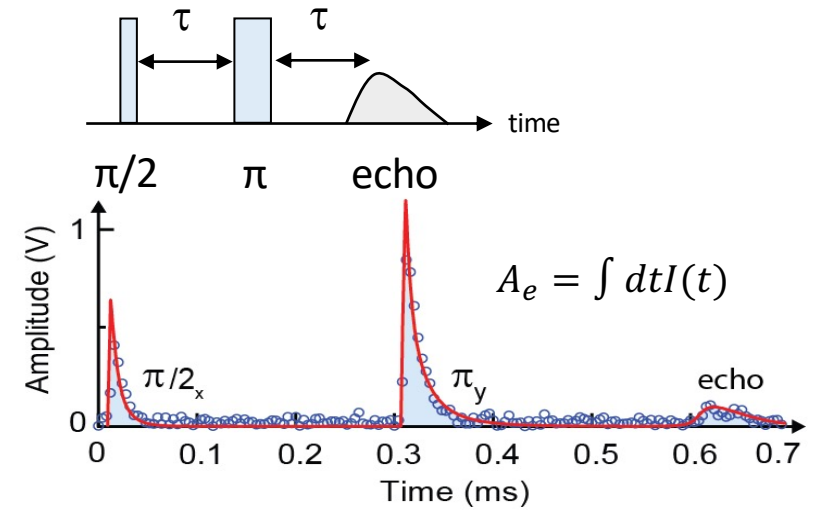
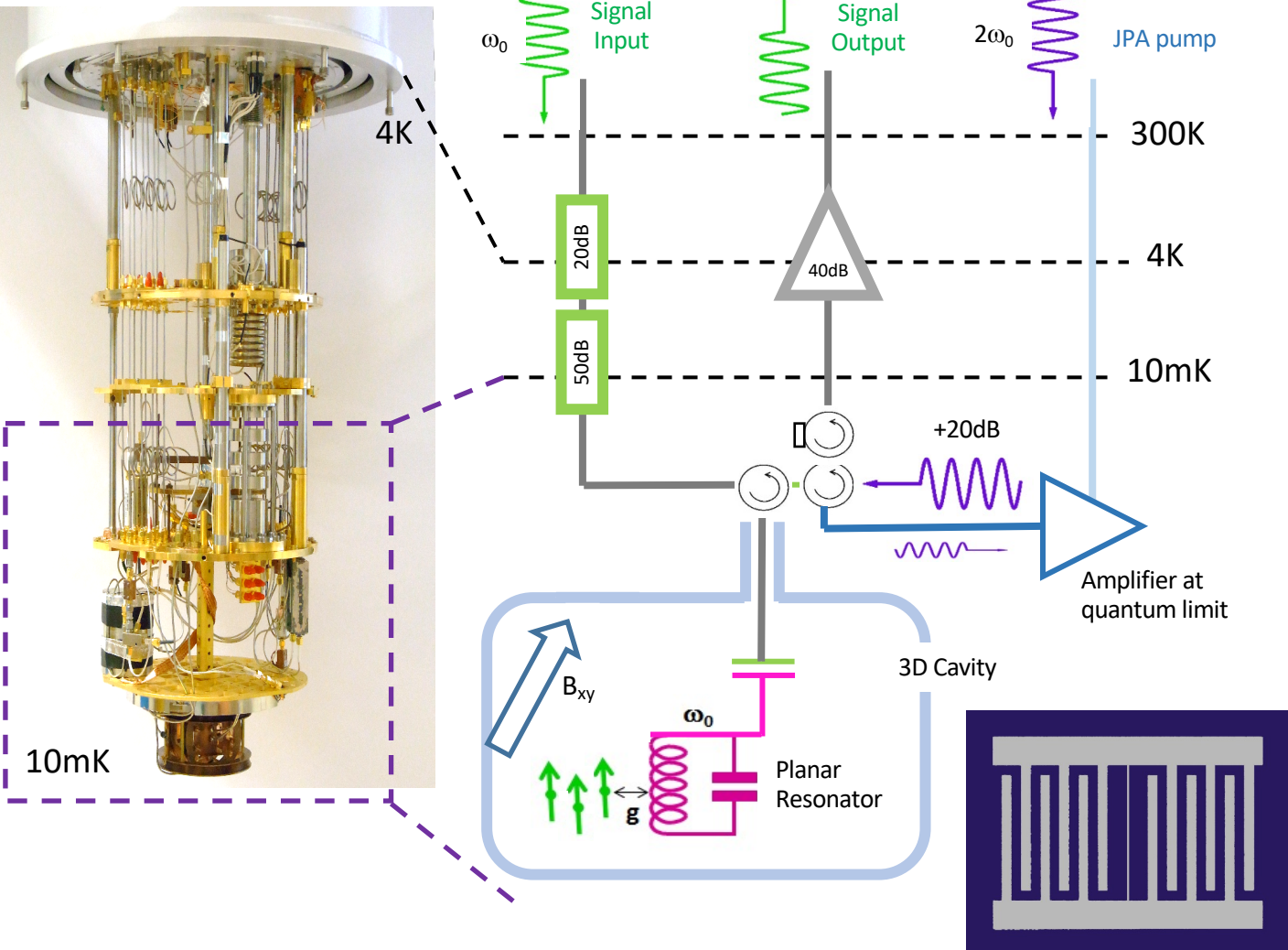


Strong coupling:  
 radiative relaxation  
 channel dominant  
 (Purcell regime)



1946  
 E. Purcell

# Quantum limited ESR spectrometry



best achieved ESR detection sensitivity:  
 single echo :  $\sim 100$  spins  
 10 spins /  $\sqrt{Hz}$  @  $T_1 = 21$  ms

S. Probst et al.,  
 Appl. Phys. Lett.  
 (2017)

scitation.org/journal/apl

Applied Physics Letters

Volume 116, Issue 18, 4 May 2020

Electron spin resonance spectroscopy with femtoliter detection volume

Appl. Phys. Lett. 116, 180307 (2020); doi: 10.1063/1.5060337

V. Rurjan, S. Probst, N. Pfeiffer, S. Scherzer, D. Sauer, T. Talmay, J. J. L. Borja, and A. Schenk

AIP Publishing

inductance:  
 length=0.1mm  
 width=0.5 $\mu$ m  
 Mode vol  $\approx 200fL$

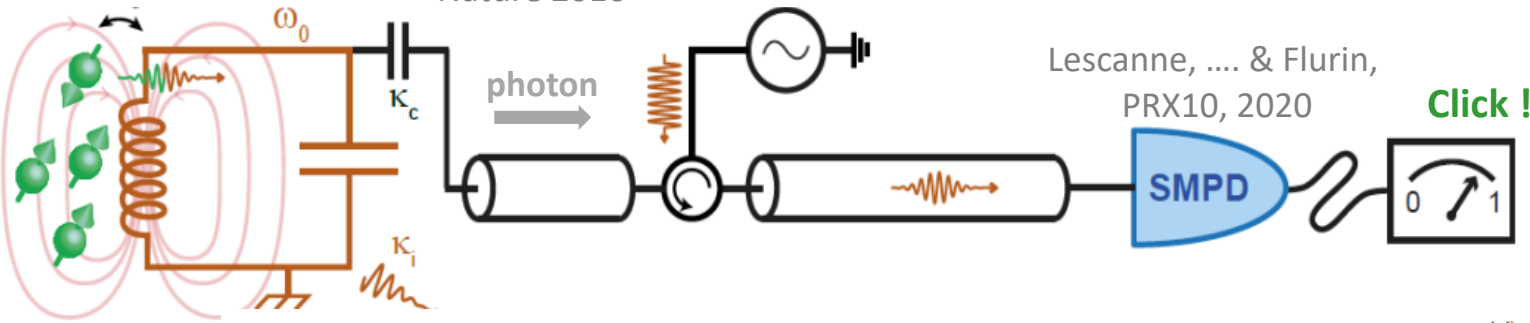


# A new detection strategy based on a single microwave photon counter

E. Albertinale... & E. Flurin  
 to appear in Nature  
 arXiv:2102.01415

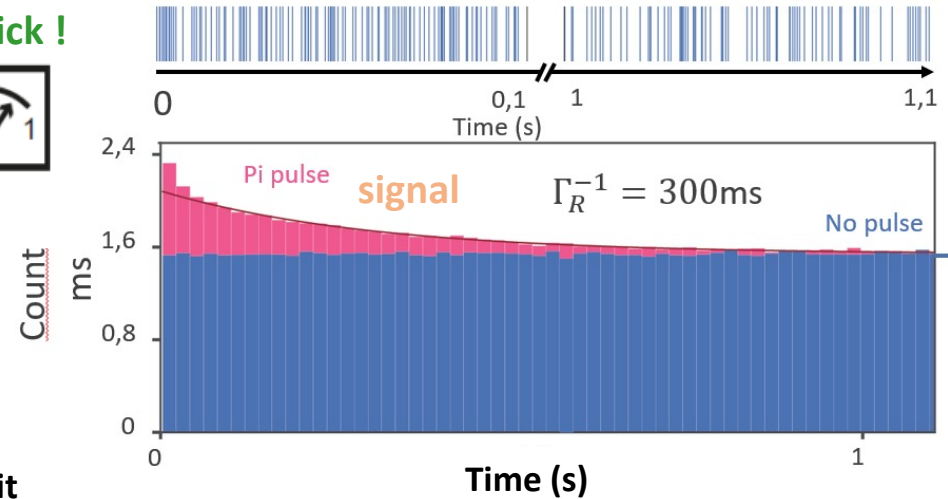
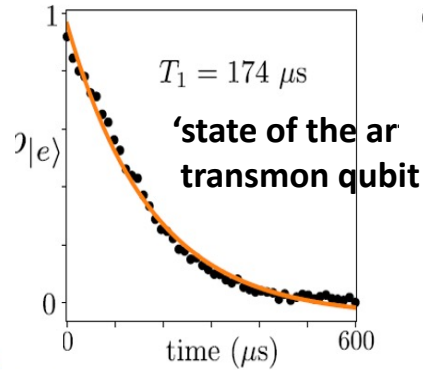
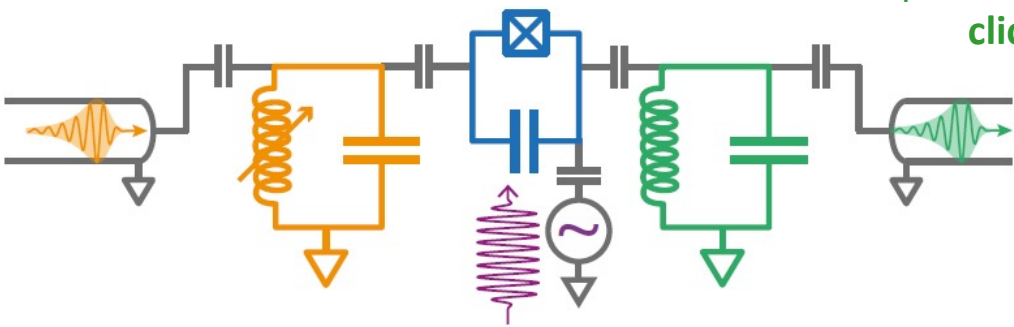
spin fluorescence

Bienfait et al.,  
 Nature 2016

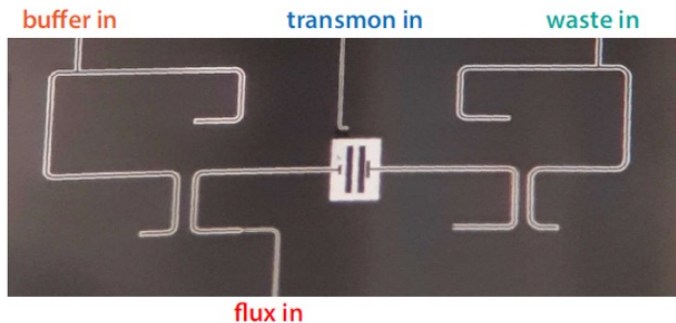
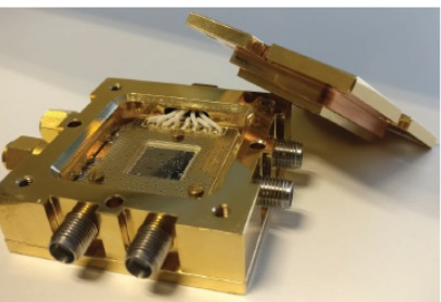
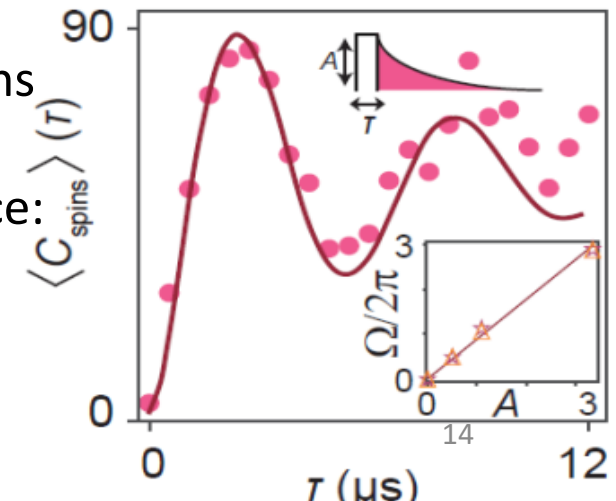


Lescanne, ... & Flurin,  
 PRX10, 2020

mixing with photon excites a transmon qubit readout :  
 click !



Rabi oscillations  
 detected  
 by fluorescence:



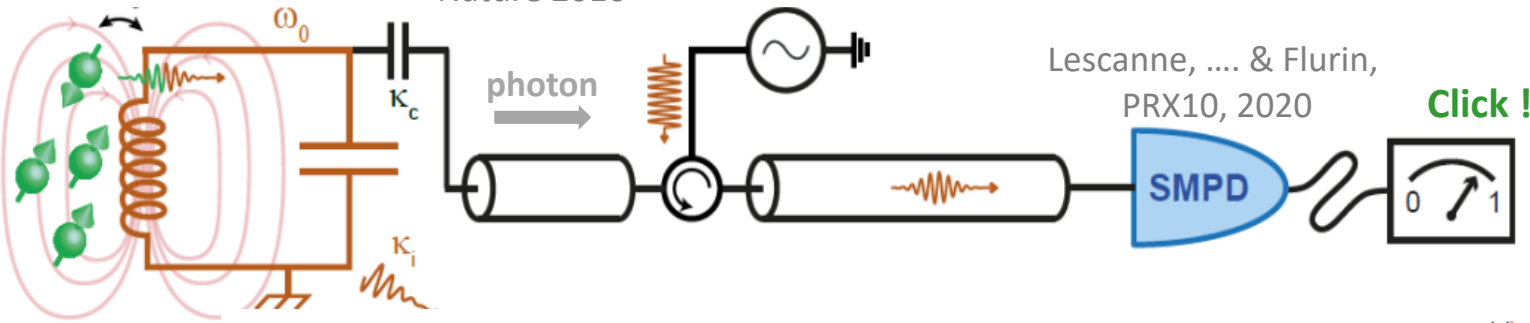
dark count rate:  
 70 counts/s  
 goal:  
 1 count/s

# A new detection strategy based on a single microwave photon counter

E. Albertinale... & E. Flurin  
 to appear in Nature  
 arXiv:2102.01415

spin fluorescence

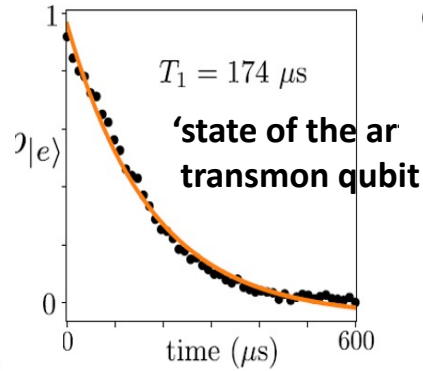
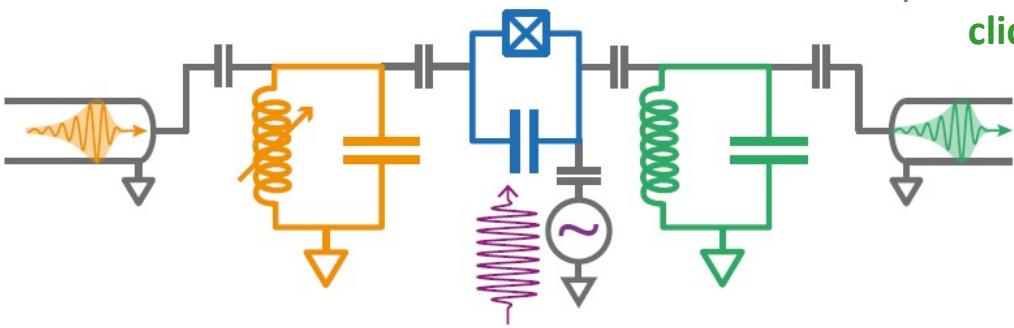
Bienfait et al.,  
 Nature 2016



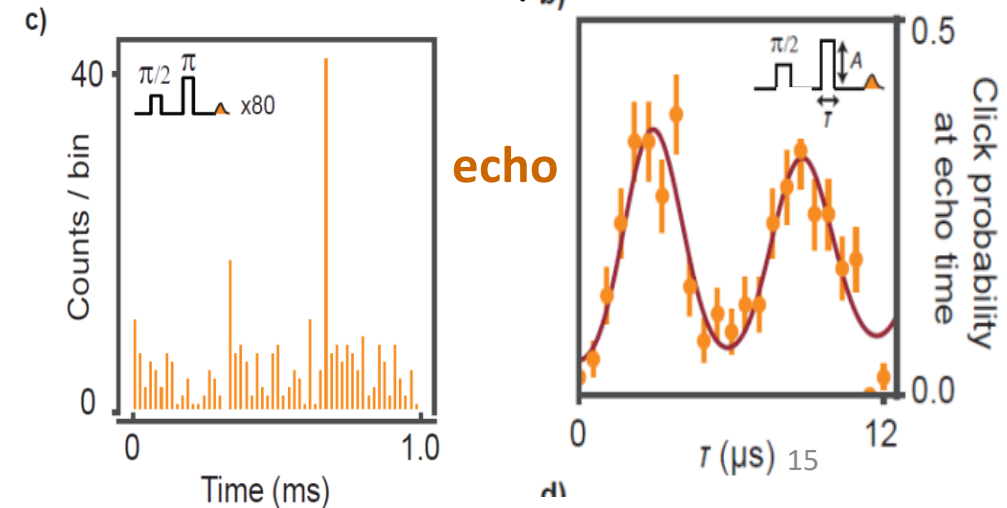
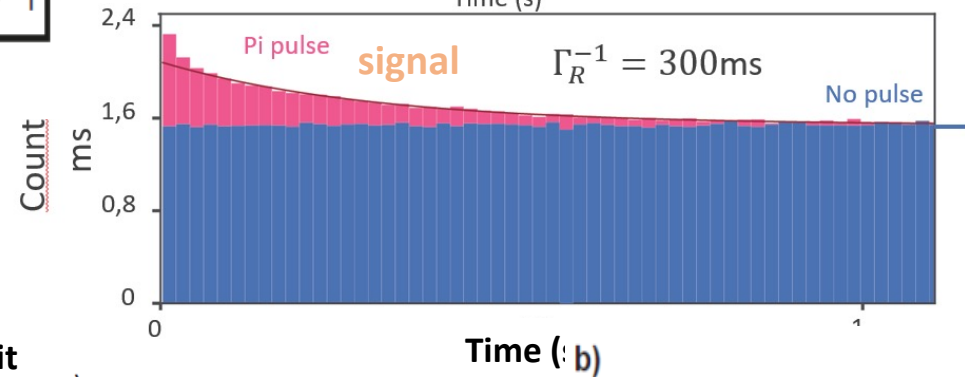
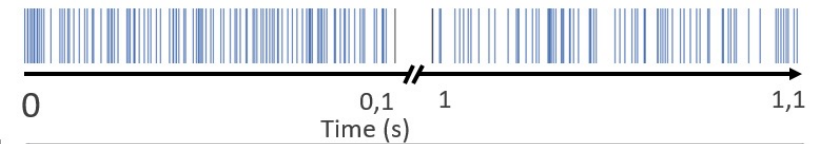
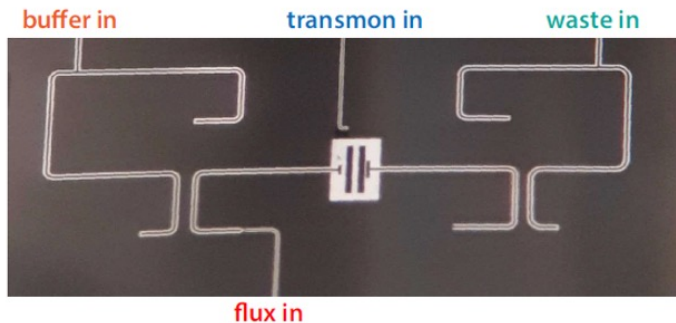
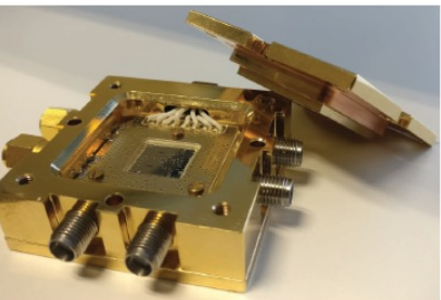
Lescanne, ... & Flurin,  
 PRX10, 2020

mixing with photon excites a transmon qubit readout :

click !

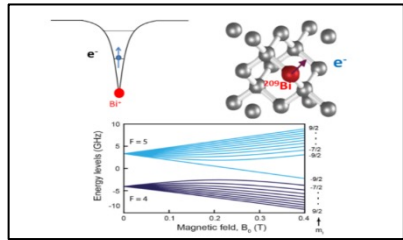


dark count rate:  
 70 counts/s  
 goal:  
 1 count/s

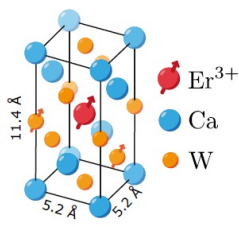


# An hybrid route toward quantum information

## Electro-nuclear spin systems

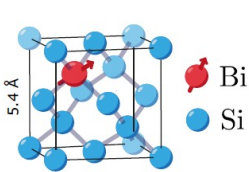


$\text{Er}^{3+} : \text{CaWO}_4$



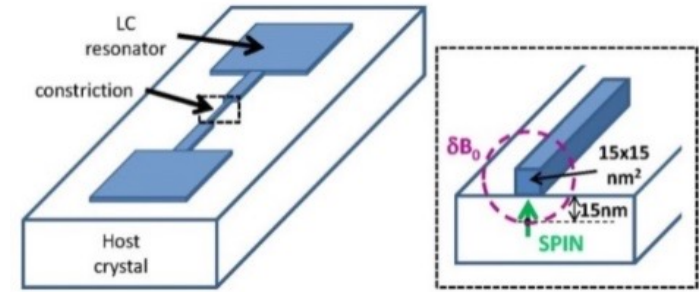
$g = 8$

$\text{Bi} : \text{Si}$

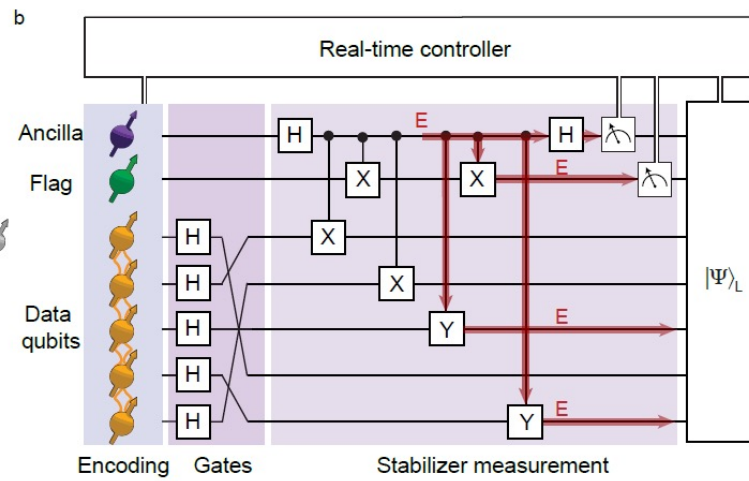
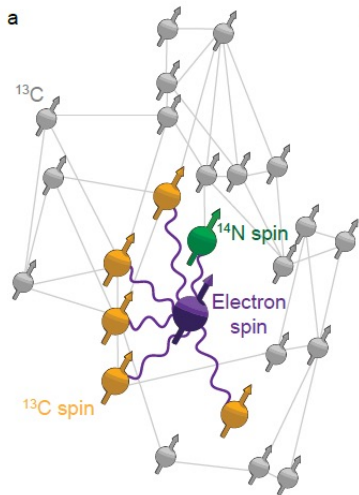


$g = 2$

controlled coupling to environment

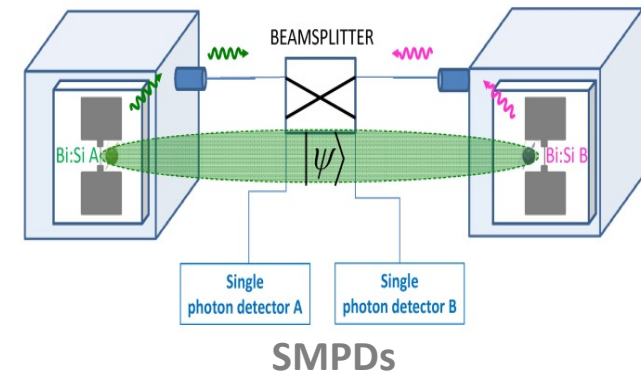


## Proof of concept (TUD, 2021)



generating entanglement

measurement based QC



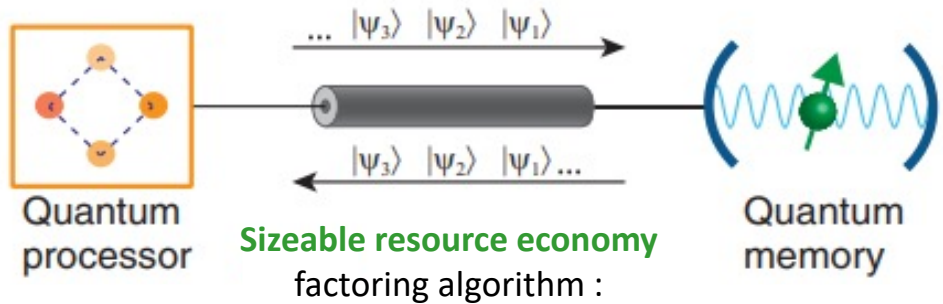
Work in progress



# Another QC paradigm : a small processor coupled to a quantum memory

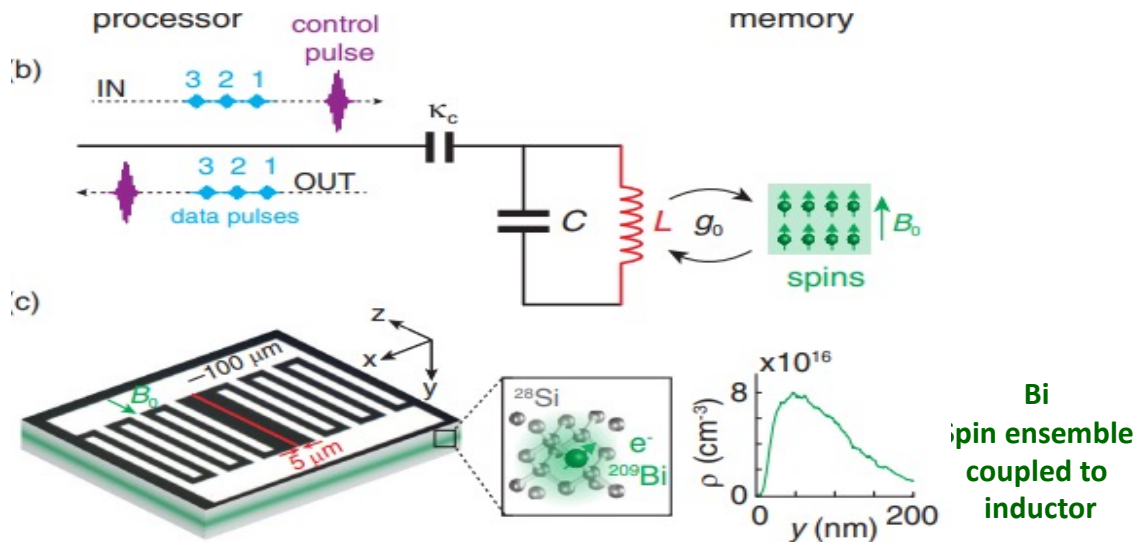
## Architecture

small processor coupled to a quantum memory



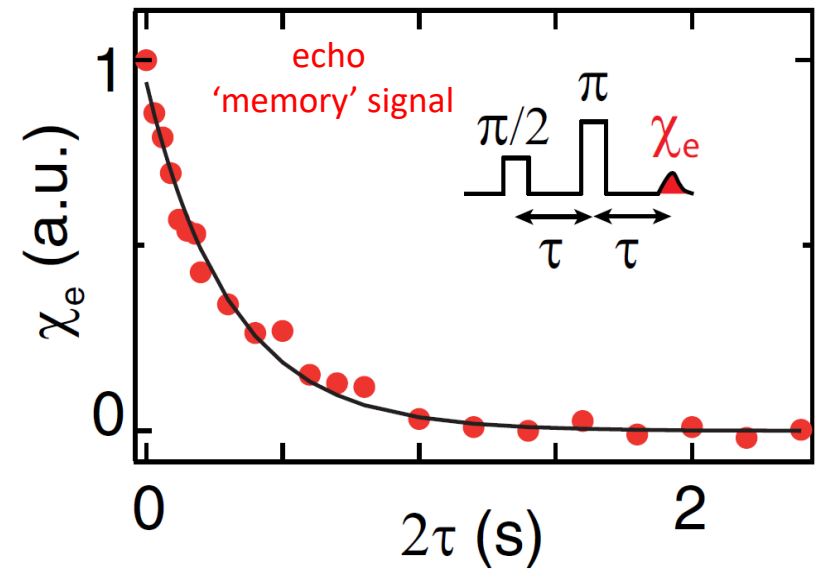
factoring algorithm :  
E. Gouzien & N. Sangouard (IPhT) PRL 2021

## Spin ensemble based quantum memories (Grèzes et al, PRL 2014)



Preliminary result : microwave pulse storage

Ranjan et al, PRL 125 (2020) **long 300ms memory time**  
**but low efficiency**

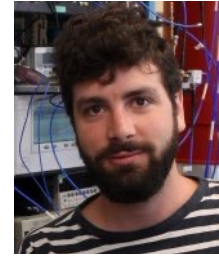


Ongoing memory work :  
CEA-FZJ collaboration



P. Bertet, B. Albanese, J.F. Dasilva Barbosa, E. Albertinale, M. Le Dantec,  
V. Ranjan, M. Lee, M. Rancic, E. Flurin, D. Vion, D. Esteve

Collaborations: UCLondon, Hong Kong U, UC Berkeley, U. Paris Sorbonne,



Emmanuel  
FLURIN



Audrey  
BIENFAIT



Sebastian  
PROBST