# Rydberg blockade



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Highly exited neutral atoms.

Strong long-range dipolar forces.



Rydberg blockade

Highly excited neutral atoms.

Strong long-range dipolar forces.

Energy shift  $\Delta E$ .

 $\Delta E > \hbar \Omega \rightarrow$  blockade.





Motivation

Advantages

- large distance  $(\mu m)$ 



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- large distance (µm)
- scalable to more atoms



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- large distance  $(\mu m)$
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- can be turned on/off



Motivation

Advantages

- large distance  $(\mu m)$
- scalable to more atoms
- can be turned on/off
- Application
  - quantum gates



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#### Experimental setup











#### Blockade detection



Red, green: Single atom excitation (2. trap empty).

Blue: Product of red and green. Black: Simultaneous excitation.

Blockade detection

Rabi frequency  $\Omega$ .

No interaction at 18 µm.

Rydberg blockade at 3.6 µm.





Red: Single atom excitation (2. trap empty).

Blue: Singel atom excitation (2. atom present).



Indication for entanglement.

#### Collective excitation

Atoms excited by same pulses.

 $\rightarrow$  Entanglement.

$$|\Psi_{\pm}
angle = rac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|r,g
angle \pm |g,r
angle ).$$

Effective Rabi frequency  $\sqrt{2\Omega}$ .

 $|\Psi_{-}\rangle$  not coupled (wrong parity).



#### Problems measuring entanglement

$$\begin{split} |\Psi_{+}\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}_{a}} \left| r,g \right\rangle + e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}_{b}} \left| g,r \right\rangle \right), \\ \rightarrow |\Psi_{+}\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \left| r,g \right\rangle + e^{i\phi} \left| g,r \right\rangle \right), \quad \phi = \vec{k} \cdot (\vec{r}_{a} - \vec{r}_{b}). \end{split}$$

 $\vec{k} = \vec{k}_R + \vec{k}_B$  wave vectors of the lasers,  $\vec{r}_a, \vec{r}_b$  position of the atoms.

Movement during excitation negligible.

Phase  $\phi$  varies randomly over  $2\pi$ .  $\rightarrow$  Effective decoherence.





Mapping the Rydberg state to another groundstate  $|\downarrow\rangle$ .

 $\vec{k}_{excitation} \approx \vec{k}_{mapping} \rightarrow$  Phase  $\phi$  rewindet during emission.

$$|\Psi_{+}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |r,g\rangle + e^{i\phi} |g,r\rangle \right),$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |\downarrow,\uparrow\rangle + |\uparrow,\downarrow\rangle \right).$$

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Density matrix elements given by global Raman rotations.

Probability to recapture two atoms: p = 0.62(3).

Fidelity: F = 0.75(7) (theoretical maximum F = 0.97).



#### H-Cz CNOT gate

Atoms controlled separately.



4. CNOT gate

#### H-Cz CNOT gate

Atoms controlled separately.

 $2\pi$  pulse gives a  $\pi$  phase shift to the target atom.





## 5. Summary & references



T. Wilk, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 104, 010502 (2010).