

## Nearly Deterministic Bell Measurement for Multiphoton Qubits and its Application to Quantum Information Processing

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We propose a Bell-measurement scheme by employing a logical qubit in Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger entanglement with an arbitrary number of photons. Remarkably, the success probability of the Bell measurement as well as teleportation of the Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger entanglement can be made arbitrarily high using only linear optics elements and photon on-off measurements as the number of photons increases. Our scheme outperforms previous proposals using single-photon qubits when comparing the success probabilities in terms of the average photon usages. It has another important advantage for experimental feasibility in that it does not require photon-number-resolving measurements. Our proposal provides an alternative candidate for all-optical quantum information processing.

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Photons are a promising candidate for quantum information processing [1,2]. A well-known method to construct a photonic qubit is to use a single photon with its polarization degree of freedom [1]. A crucial element in quantum communication and computation using linear optics and photon measurements [3] is the Bell state measurement that discriminates between four Bell states. The standard Bell-measurement scheme for the Bell states of single-photon qubits utilizes beam splitters and photodetectors [4,5]. This method, in effect, projects two photons onto a complete measurement basis of two Bell states and two product states so that only two of the Bell states can be unambiguously identified. Because of this reason, the success probability of the Bell measurement using linear optics elements and photodetectors is limited to 1/2 [4,5]. This has been a fundamental hindrance to deterministic quantum teleportation and scalable quantum computation [1,2]. There are proposals to improve the success probability of the Bell discrimination using ancillary states [6,7], additional squeezing operations [8], and different types of qubits encoding using coherent states [9] or hybrid states [10]. In fact, all these schemes suffer from the requirement of photon-number-resolving detection [6–10]. The requirement of ancillary resource entanglement [6,7] and the limited success probabilities [8] are other features to overcome.

In this Letter, we propose a Bell-measurement scheme using linear optics and photon on-off measurements with qubit encoding in the form of the Greenberger-Horne-Zeilinger (GHZ) entanglement. It is shown that the logical Bell states can be efficiently discriminated by performing  $N$  times of Bell measurements on the individual photon pairs, where  $N$  is the number of photons in a logical qubit, using only the standard technique with beam splitters and on-off

photodetectors. The limitation that each measurement for photon pairs can only identify two of the four Bell states is overcome by the fact that each of the four  $N$ -photon Bell states is characterized by the number of contributions from the two single-photon-qubit Bell states that can be identified in the measurement of photon pairs. As a result, the logical Bell measurement fails only when none of the  $N$  pairs is a detectable Bell state, resulting in a success probability of  $1 - 2^{-N}$  that rapidly approaches unity as  $N$  increases; it outperforms the previous approaches [6–8] in its efficiency against the number of photons *without* using photon-number-resolving detection. With the use of this Bell-measurement scheme, a qubit in an  $N$  photon GHZ-type entanglement can be teleported with an arbitrarily high success probability with a GHZ-type entangled channel of a  $2N$  number of photons as  $N$  becomes large. In our framework, a universal set of gate operations can be constructed using only linear optics, on-off measurements, and multiphoton entanglement. This may be a competitive new approach to photonic quantum information processing due to the aforementioned advantages.

*Multiphoton Bell measurement.*—We define single-photon-qubit Bell states as

$$\begin{aligned} |\Phi^\pm\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+\rangle|+\rangle \pm |-\rangle|-\rangle), \\ |\Psi^\pm\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+\rangle|-\rangle \pm |-\rangle|+\rangle), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

in the diagonal basis  $|\pm\rangle = (|H\rangle \pm |V\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$  in terms of horizontal and vertical polarization single-photon states  $|H\rangle$  and  $|V\rangle$ . Only two of the four Bell states in Eq. (1) can be discriminated by the standard Bell-measurement technique using linear optics [4,5]. For example, one can

identify  $|\Phi^-\rangle$  and  $|\Psi^-\rangle$  using beam splitters and four on-off photodetectors [5]. We shall refer to this single-photon-qubit Bell measurement as  $B_s$ .

The logical basis is defined with  $N$  photons as

$$\begin{aligned} |0_L\rangle &\equiv |+\rangle^{\otimes N} = |+\rangle_1|+\rangle_2|+\rangle_3\cdots|+\rangle_N, \\ |1_L\rangle &\equiv |-\rangle^{\otimes N} = |-\rangle_1|-\rangle_2|-\rangle_3\cdots|-\rangle_N, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

and then a logical qubit is generally in a GHZ-type state as  $\alpha|+\rangle^{\otimes N} + \beta|-\rangle^{\otimes N}$ . Let us first consider the simplest case of two-photon encoding ( $N = 2$ ) with  $|0\rangle_L \equiv |+\rangle \otimes |+\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle_L \equiv |-\rangle \otimes |-\rangle$ . The logical Bell states can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} |\Phi_{(2)}^\pm\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+\rangle_1|+\rangle_2|+\rangle_{1'}|+\rangle_{2'} \pm |-\rangle_1|-\rangle_2|-\rangle_{1'}|-\rangle_{2'}), \\ |\Psi_{(2)}^\pm\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+\rangle_1|+\rangle_2|-\rangle_{1'}|-\rangle_{2'} \pm |-\rangle_1|-\rangle_2|+\rangle_{1'}|+\rangle_{2'}), \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where the first logical qubit is of photonic modes 1 and 2 while the second is of 1' and 2'. Simply by rearranging modes 1' and 2 as implied in Fig. 1(a), these Bell states can be represented in terms of the single-photon-qubit Bell states in Eq. (1) as

$$\begin{aligned} |\Phi_{(2)}^\pm\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\Phi^+\rangle_{11'}|\Phi^\pm\rangle_{22'} + |\Phi^-\rangle_{11'}|\Phi^\mp\rangle_{22'}), \\ |\Psi_{(2)}^\pm\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\Psi^+\rangle_{11'}|\Psi^\pm\rangle_{22'} + |\Psi^-\rangle_{11'}|\Psi^\mp\rangle_{22'}). \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

It then becomes clear that the four Bell states  $|\Phi_{(2)}^\pm\rangle$  and  $|\Psi_{(2)}^\pm\rangle$  can be discriminated with a 75% success probability by means of two separate  $B_s$  measurements performed on two photons, one from the first qubit and the other from the second as shown in Fig. 1(a). Note that a  $B_s$  measurement can identify only  $|\Phi^-\rangle$  and  $|\Psi^-\rangle$  with the total success probability 50%. From the results of two  $B_s$  measurements, one can distinguish the Bell states as follows. (i)  $|\Phi_{(2)}^+\rangle$

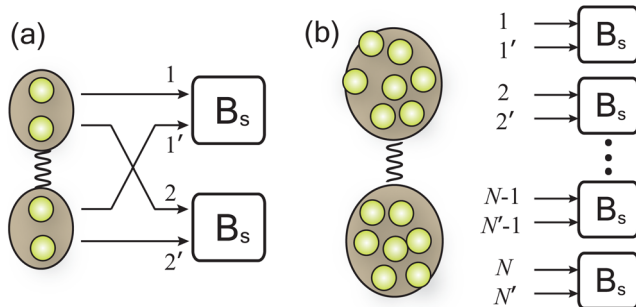


FIG. 1 (color online). (a) Bell measurement for two-photon qubits using two single-photon-qubit Bell measurements  $B_s$ . Each logical qubit is of two photons. (b) Bell measurement for  $N$ -photon qubits through  $N$  times of  $B_s$  measurements.

when both  $B_s$  measurements succeed with results  $|\Phi^-\rangle$ , (ii)  $|\Phi_{(2)}^-\rangle$  when one measurement succeeds with  $|\Phi^-\rangle$ , (iii)  $|\Psi_{(2)}^+\rangle$  when both succeeds with  $|\Psi^-\rangle$ , (iv)  $|\Psi_{(2)}^-\rangle$  when one measurement succeeds with  $|\Psi^-\rangle$ , and (v) failure occurs when both the measurements fail (i.e., neither  $|\Phi^-\rangle$  nor  $|\Psi^-\rangle$  is obtained). Assuming equal input probabilities of Bell states, we can obtain the success probability of the Bell measurement as  $P_s = 3/4$ .

This scheme can be generalized to arbitrary  $N$  photon encoding. The logical Bell states  $|\Phi_{(N)}^\pm\rangle = (|0_L\rangle|0_L\rangle \pm |1_L\rangle|1_L\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$  and  $|\Psi_{(N)}^\pm\rangle = (|0_L\rangle|1_L\rangle \pm |1_L\rangle|0_L\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$  can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} |\Phi_{(N)}^+\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^{N-1}}} \sum_{j=0}^{[N/2]} \mathcal{P}[|\Phi^+\rangle^{\otimes N-2j} |\Phi^-\rangle^{\otimes 2j}], \\ |\Phi_{(N)}^-\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^{N-1}}} \sum_{j=0}^{[(N-1)/2]} \mathcal{P}[|\Phi^+\rangle^{\otimes N-2j-1} |\Phi^-\rangle^{\otimes 2j+1}], \\ |\Psi_{(N)}^+\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^{N-1}}} \sum_{j=0}^{[N/2]} \mathcal{P}[|\Psi^+\rangle^{\otimes N-2j} |\Psi^-\rangle^{\otimes 2j}], \\ |\Psi_{(N)}^-\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^{N-1}}} \sum_{j=0}^{[(N-1)/2]} \mathcal{P}[|\Psi^+\rangle^{\otimes N-2j-1} |\Psi^-\rangle^{\otimes 2j+1}], \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where  $[x]$  denotes the maximal integer  $\leq x$ , and  $\mathcal{P}[\cdot]$  performs the permutation of  $N$  elements of photon pairs (see the Supplemental Material [11]). For example,  $|\Phi_{(3)}^+\rangle = (|\Phi^+\rangle^{\otimes 3} + \mathcal{P}[|\Phi^+\rangle|\Phi^-\rangle^{\otimes 2}])/2 = (|\Phi^+\rangle^{\otimes 3} + |\Phi^+\rangle|\Phi^-\rangle^{\otimes 2} + |\Phi^-\rangle|\Phi^+\rangle|\Phi^-\rangle + |\Phi^-\rangle^{\otimes 2}|\Phi^+\rangle)/2$ . The four logical Bell states can be discriminated by performing  $N$  times of  $B_s$  measurements as illustrated in Fig. 1(b). Each  $B_s$  is performed on two photons, one from the first logical qubit and the other from the second. Clearly, the results of the logical Bell measurement are (i)  $|\Phi_{(N)}^+\rangle$  when an even number of  $B_s$  measurements succeed with result  $|\Phi^-\rangle$ , (ii)  $|\Phi_{(N)}^-\rangle$  for an odd number of  $|\Phi^-\rangle$ , (iii)  $|\Psi_{(N)}^+\rangle$  for an even number of  $|\Psi^-\rangle$ , (iv)  $|\Psi_{(N)}^-\rangle$  for an odd number of  $|\Psi^-\rangle$ , and (v) the measurement fails when none of the  $B_s$  measurements succeeds. In fact, one can perform the logical Bell measurement effectively via either spatially or temporally distributed  $N$  times  $B_s$  measurements, irrespectively of the order of measurements.

Assuming equal input probabilities of the Bell states, we can obtain the success probability of the Bell measurement as  $P_s = 1 - 2^{-N}$ . Remarkably, our scheme shows the best performance among the Bell discrimination schemes for photons with respect to the attained success probability against the average photon number ( $\bar{n}$ ) used in the process as shown in Fig. 2 (see the Supplemental Material [11]). For example, it reaches  $P_s = 0.996$  with  $N = 8$  ( $\bar{n} = 16$ ). Our scheme does not require

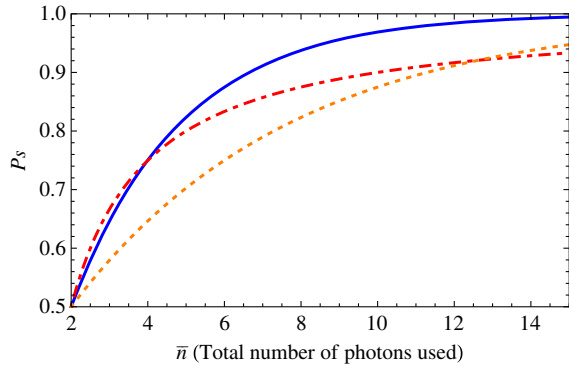


FIG. 2 (color online). The success probability of Bell measurements against the average photon number ( $\bar{n}$ ) used in the process. It is given as  $1 - 2^{-\bar{n}/2}$  for our Bell-measurement scheme (blue curve),  $1 - 1/\bar{n}$  for Grice's scheme (red dot-dashed curve) [6],  $P_s = 0.643$  with  $\bar{n} = 6.00029$  for the squeezing scheme (green circle) [8], and  $1 - 2^{-\bar{n}/4}$  for scheme using ancillary photons (orange dotted curve) [7].

photon-number-resolving detectors, in contrast to previous schemes suggested to improve the success probability of a Bell measurement [6–8].

*Nearly deterministic quantum teleportation.*—Our Bell-measurement scheme immediately enhances the success probability of the standard quantum teleportation [12]. Suppose that an unknown qubit  $|\phi_N\rangle_A = a|+\rangle_A^{\otimes N} + b|-\rangle_A^{\otimes N}$  with  $N$  photons at site  $A$  is to be teleported via a channel state  $|+\rangle_A^{\otimes N}|+\rangle_B^{\otimes N} + |-\rangle_A^{\otimes N}|-\rangle_B^{\otimes N}$  to site  $B$ . The sender carries out  $N$  times of  $B_s$  measurements, where each  $B_s$  is performed on two photons, i.e., one from  $|\phi_N\rangle_A$  and the other from site  $A$  of the channel. The receiver at site  $B$  can then retrieve  $|\phi_N\rangle$  by performing appropriate unitary transforms. The required Pauli  $X$  (bit flip) and  $Z$  (phase flip) operations in the logical qubit basis can be implemented deterministically by phase flipping all photon modes and by executing a bit-flip on any one mode, in the  $\{|H\rangle, |V\rangle\}$  basis, respectively. Therefore, the success probability of teleportation equals that of the Bell measurement  $P_s = 1 - 2^{-N}$ .

*Universal quantum computation.*—With the use of our framework, a universal set of gate operations can be constructed. For example, Pauli  $X$ , arbitrary  $Z$  (phase), Hadamard, and controlled- $Z$  operations constitute such a universal set. Pauli  $X$  and arbitrary  $Z$  (phase) operations are straightforward to implement in the way explained earlier for teleportation. Hadamard and CZ gates can be implemented through the gate teleportation protocol with specific types of entangled states [13]. The success probability of the gate operations based on the teleportation protocol can be made nearly deterministic by increasing the number of photons for a logical qubit. The cost is the preparation of multiphoton entanglement as resource states. Such multiphoton entanglement has been experimentally demonstrated [14]. For example, GHZ-type entanglement up to

8 photons [15,16] and cluster states up to 8 photons [17] were generated. On-demand generation schemes [18,19] are also expected to be realized based on semiconductor quantum dots [20].

*Effects of photon losses.*—Photon loss is a major detrimental factor in optical quantum information processing [2]. We assume that the photon loss rate for any single mode is  $\eta$  and analyze the errors caused by the photon losses using the master equation (Supplemental Material [11]) [21]. Photon loss during quantum computing occurs with rate  $P = 1 - (1 - \eta)^N$  for a logical qubit. If a photon is lost, the qubit experiences a Pauli  $Z$  error with probability  $1/2$ . The failure probability  $(1 - P_s)$  of the logical Bell measurement is obtained as

$$P_f(\eta) = \sum_{k=0}^N \binom{N}{k} (1 - \eta)^{N-k} \eta^k \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{N-k} = \left(\frac{1 + \eta}{2}\right)^N, \quad (6)$$

where  $\binom{N}{k}$  represents the binomial coefficient. Note that errors caused by loss at any single-photon mode are in fact detectable by loss of the photon at any detector(s) during the logical Bell measurement. Such an error noticed immediately by a measurement is called “locatable” [2]. Moreover, missing photons in the input qubit can be compensated at the output qubit as far as the teleportation succeeds. In our scheme, unlocatable errors that should be corrected by an error correction code appear only in quantum memory with rate  $P$ , i.e., the photon loss rate of a logical qubit.

We summarize the assumptions made for our analysis of quantum computing as follows. Multiphoton entangled states, both for logical qubits and for entangled channels for gate teleportation, are provided by off-line processes. During the off-line process of producing multiphoton entanglements used as quantum channels, loss occurs with rate  $\eta$ ; as a result, imperfect channels (in which photons are lost with rate  $\eta$  at each photonic mode) are supplied into the in-line computation process. The initial logical qubits are assumed to be in ideal pure states when they are first supplied into the in-line computation process. During the in-line process of quantum computing, for each gate operation and corresponding time in quantum memory, the same loss rate  $\eta$  is applied to each mode of the multiphoton qubits. We note that the total resource cost depends upon the efficiency of the off-line generation process.

*Fault-tolerant quantum computation.*—In order to build arbitrary large-scale quantum computers, the amount of noise per operation with appropriate error corrections should be below a fault-tolerance threshold [22]. We carried out numerical simulations to obtain the threshold for a given loss rate  $\eta$ . We here employ the seven-qubit STEANE code [23] with several levels of concatenation based on the circuit-based telecorrection [24]. In fact, the

TABLE I. Fault-tolerant noise thresholds ( $\eta$ ) for different number of photons in a logical qubit ( $N$ ) using the seven-qubit STEANE code and the telecorrection protocol [24]. The highest threshold is obtained when  $N = 4$ .

$N$	Noise threshold $\eta$	$N$	Noise threshold $\eta$
3	$1.3 \times 10^{-3}$	6	$1.3 \times 10^{-3}$
4	$1.7 \times 10^{-3}$	7	$1.1 \times 10^{-3}$
5	$1.5 \times 10^{-3}$	8	$0.9 \times 10^{-3}$

STEANE code can correct arbitrary logical or unlocatable errors; however, for the purpose of this calculation we assume that the errors other than loss errors are negligible compared to the loss errors. The details of the method [24,25] are presented in the Supplemental Material [11], and the noise thresholds of our model are obtained as shown in Table I. Interestingly, the largest threshold is obtained when the qubit is encoded with 4 photons ( $N = 4$ ), and a further increase of  $N$  lowers the threshold due to the increase of unlocatable errors. The obtained noise threshold ( $\sim 1.7 \times 10^{-3}$ ) is much higher than those for coherent-state qubits ( $\sim 2 \times 10^{-4}$ ) [25–27] and hybrid qubits ( $\sim 5 \times 10^{-4}$ ) [10] and is almost equivalent to the one using parity states [28,29]. We expect that even much higher thresholds may be attainable by employing recently proposed topological error codes [17,30], which will be interesting future work.

*Remarks.*—We have proposed a nearly deterministic Bell discrimination scheme using multiphoton qubit encoding. The limitation that only two of four Bell states can be identified by the standard single-photon-qubit Bell measurement,  $B_s$ , is overcome by multiphoton encoding with GHZ entanglement and  $N$  times of  $B_s$  measurements, where  $N$  is the number of photons in a logical qubit. The logical Bell measurement is performed through  $N$  times of  $B_s$  measurements, and the process fails only when none of those  $N$  times of  $B_s$  measurements succeeds. As a result, the success probability of the logical Bell measurement  $1 - 2^{-N}$  rapidly approaches unity as  $N$  increases. It outperforms previous schemes devised to improve success probabilities of Bell measurements using single photons and linear optics, regarding the efficiency in terms of average photon usages. Another remarkable advantage of our scheme over the previous ones is that it does not require photon-number-resolving measurements, but only on-off measurements suffice. It means that all errors due to photon losses are locatable and are relatively easy to handle during quantum information processing. We have finally demonstrated fault-tolerant quantum computation using our approach. Remarkably, the highest noise threshold is obtained with 4-photon qubits and 8-photon entangled channels that are accessible in current laboratories [15–17].

Our scheme for the Bell measurement can be performed via either spatially or temporally distributed  $N$  times  $B_s$

measurements. We note that such an experiment can be performed utilizing temporal mode entanglement as done in Refs. [31–33]. It then follows that only one single-photon-qubit Bell-measurement device [4] is sufficient to perform temporally separate  $N$  number of  $B_s$  measurements for a logical Bell measurement. As a proof-of-principle experiment of our scheme, quantum teleportation from two transmitters to two receivers using 4-photon entanglement and two  $B_s$  measurements, for example, would be immediately realizable using current technology. Our idea, in principle, is not limited to optical systems but can be applied to other multipartite systems. It reveals the possibility of using multipartite entangled systems for efficient quantum communication and computation.

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