



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI  
**FEDERICO II**

**itee**<sup>PhD</sup>  
information technology  
electrical engineering



**Jessica Illiano**

# On the Protocol Stack for the Quantum Internet

Tutor: Prof. Angela Sara Cacciapuoti

Cycle: XXXVI

co-Tutor: Dr. Antonio Manzalini

Year: 3rd

# Background information

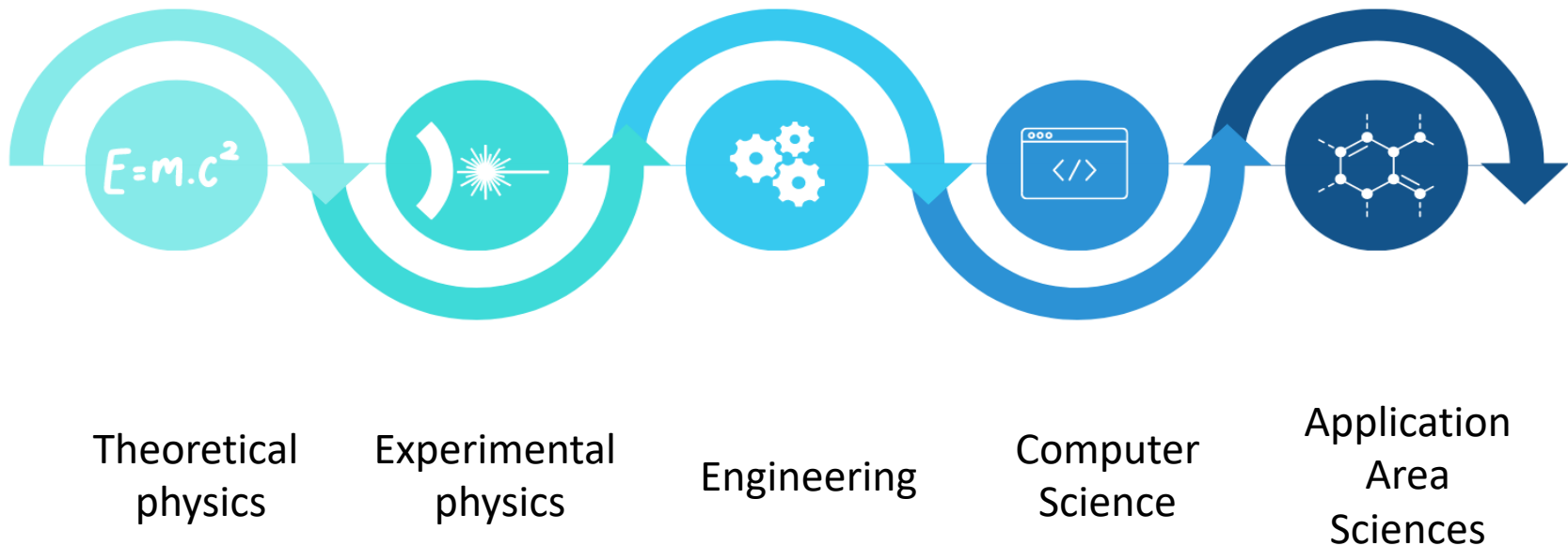
- MSc degree : Telecommunication Engineering
- Research group/laboratory: Quantum Internet Research Group
- PhD start date: 1/11/2020  
end date: 31/10/2023
- Scholarship type: company funded
- Partner company: TIM S.p.A.
- Periods abroad: Nu-Quantum L.t.d.,  
Cambridge (UK)  
Oct 22-Jan 23

# Summary of study activities

- Courses:
  - Quantum Information
  - Nanotechnologies for Electrical Engineering
  - Introduction to Quantum Circuits
  - Quantum Photonic Technologies
- Seminars (partial list):
  - Quantum communications with continuous variables of light
  - The Quantum Internet: the quest for a network paradigm shift
  - Cavity magnonics in strong coupling regime – from magnon-polariton hybrid states to perspectives for quantum sensing
- Attended Conferences (partial list) :
  - International conference on Quantum Technologies for High Energy Physics, QTHEP22, 1-4/11/22, CERN Geneva, Switzerland
  - Conference on Quantum Computing Theory in Practice, QCTiP23, 17-19/04/2023 Jesus College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom;
  - NATO Quantum Science and Technology Workshop, 12-15/06/2023, Turin, Italy

# Research areas

- Design of the protocol stack for the Quantum Internet
  - communication network envisioning at its final stage to globally interconnect heterogeneous quantum networks.
- ICT area of quantum technologies domain



# Research results

- Analysis of the impact of quantum entanglement on the design of an abstract quantum network model;
- Design and analysis of a genuinely quantum protocol for solving the entanglement access functionality:
  - Entanglement Access Control (EAC) protocol;
  - Theoretical model for noisy entanglement distribution;
  - Performance analysis of the EAC protocol;
- Optimized decision for multiple attempt entanglement distribution strategy;
- Conceptualization and analysis of the classical-quantum interface:
  - bi-directional interplay between classical Internet and the Quantum Internet;
  - enhancement of classical Internet network functionalities;
- Application perspective on the impact of entanglement on the Quantum Internet:  
Distributed Quantum Computing

# Research products – 3<sup>rd</sup> year

[P1]	A. S. Cacciapuoti, J. Illiano, M. Caleffi, <i>Quantum Internet Addressing</i> , to appear on <b>IEEE Network</b> , 2023
[P2]	A. S. Cacciapuoti, M. Viscardi, J. Illiano, M. Caleffi, <i>Entanglement Distribution in the Quantum Internet: Knowing when to Stop!</i> , under review.
[P3]	J. Illiano, M. Caleffi, M. Viscardi, A. S. Cacciapuoti, <i>Design and Analysis of Genuine Entanglement Access Control for the Quantum Internet</i> , under review.
[P4]	M. Caleffi, M. Amoretti, D. Ferrari, D. Cuomo, J. Illiano, A. S. Cacciapuoti, <i>Distributed Quantum Computing: a Survey</i> , under review.
[P5]	L. D'Avossa, M. Caleffi, C. Wang, J. Illiano, S. Zorzetti, A.S. Cacciapuoti, <i>Towards the Quantum Internet: entanglement rate analysis of high-efficiency electro-optic transducer</i> , To appear in Proc. of <b>IEEE International Conference on Quantum Computing (QCE23)</b> , Sep 17–22, 2023
[P6]	M. Viscardi, J. Illiano, A.S. Cacciapuoti, M. Caleffi <i>Entanglement Distribution in the Quantum Internet: an optimal decision problem formulation</i> , To appear in Proc. of <b>IEEE International Conference on Quantum Computing (QCE23)</b> , Sep 17–22, 2023
[P7]	J. Illiano, A. S. Cacciapuoti, <i>On the Entanglement Role for the Quantum Internet</i> , In: M.S. Greco, D. Cassioli, S.L. Ullo, M. J. Lyons, (eds) Women in Telecommunications. Women in Engineering and Science. <b>Springer, Cham.</b>

# Research products - 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year

[P8]	J. Illiano, M. Caleffi, A. Manzalini, A. S. Cacciapuoti <i>Quantum Internet Protocol Stack: a Comprehensive Survey</i> , <b>Computer Networks</b> , vol. 213, August 2022, 109092,
[P9]	A. S. Cacciapuoti, J. Illiano, S. Koudia, K. Simonov, M. Caleffi, <i>The Quantum Internet: enhancing Classical Internet Services one Qubit at a Time</i> , <b>IEEE Network</b> , vol.36, no.5, p 6-12, September/October2022.
[P10]	A. S. Cacciapuoti, J.Illiano, M. Viscardi, M. Caleffi, <i>Quantum Internet: the Dawn of the Quantum Paths</i> , Invited Paper, Proc. of <b>ACM International Conference on Nanoscale Computing and Communication (ACM NANOCOM 22)</b> , October 5-7, 2022,
[P11]	J. Illiano, M. Viscardi, S. Koudia, M. Caleffi, A.S. Cacciapuoti. <i>Quantum Internet: from Medium Access Control to Entanglement Access Control</i> , Proc. of <b>IEEE Globecom 2022</b> , pp. 1329- 1334,
[P12]	M. Caleffi, J. Illiano, S. Koudia. A.S. Cacciapuoti, <i>The Quantum Internet: a Communication Engineering Perspective</i> , Proc. of <b>IEEE International Conference on Quantum Computing and Engineering (QCE)</b> , 2021, pp. 365-365,
[P13]	J. Illiano, A. S. Cacciapuoti, A. Manzalini, M. Caleffi, <i>The Impact of the Quantum Data Plane Overhead on the Throughput</i> , Proc. of <b>ACM International Conference on Nanoscale Computing and Communication (ACM NANOCOM21)</b> , September 2021, Pages 1-6,

# PhD thesis overview

- Problem statement:
  - The Quantum Internet is at its early stage of conceptualization
  - It is not possible to exploit classical strategies
  - Its design requires a network paradigm shift to harness quantum mechanics specificities
- Objective:
  - Design of the Quantum Internet protocol stack
- Methodology:
  - Analysis of the impact of entanglement on the design of the Quantum internet protocol stack
  - Design of protocols for quantum network functionalities (EAC)
  - Classical-quantum Interface



# PhD thesis

- Design of the Quantum Internet protocol stack demands for a network paradigm shift [P8, P1]
- Analysis of the impact of entanglement on the design of the Quantum Internet functionalities [P8,P9,P2]
- Design and analysis of Entanglement Access Control protocol [P3]
- Classical-Quantum Interface [P9]

# Design of the Quantum Internet protocol stack

- The design of an abstract quantum network model that leads to the definition of a reference standard for the quantum Internet is still an open problem
- The design of the Quantum Internet demands a network paradigm shift:
  - Governed by the laws of quantum mechanics
  - Phenomena with no counterpart in classical networks:
    - no-cloning, quantum measurement, entanglement, decoherence
  - Entanglement revolutionizes the concept of communication network

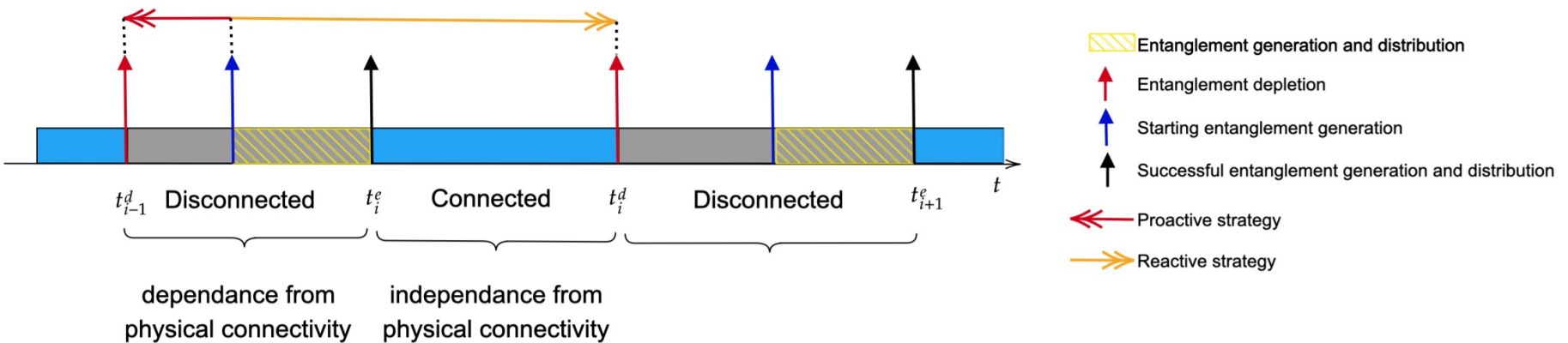
# Entanglement Unconventional Features

**Table 1**  
A schematic summary of the differences arising with quantum bits and quantum entanglement with the respect to classical bits.

	Bit	Qubit	Entanglement
Temporal constraints	<b>No:</b> can be stored indefinitely	<b>Yes:</b> irreversibly degrades over time as a consequence of the decoherence process	
Duplication constraints	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes:</b> due to the no-cloning theorem	<b>No:</b> entangled states exploited in the network are in a known state, so they can be prepared repeatedly
Singleton	<b>Yes:</b> self-contained entities		<b>No:</b> a single entangled qubit is useless in the network without the awareness of the remaining entangled qubits
Scope	<b>Local:</b> any processing affects only the information available locally at the node		<b>Non-local:</b> any processing of a single entangled qubit has an instantaneous effect on the remaining entangled qubits
State	<b>Nearly stateless:</b> the node storing the bit does not need to retain any additional information	<b>Stateful:</b> the node storing the qubit needs to retain at least temporal information	<b>Profoundly stateful:</b> the node storing the entangled qubit needs to retain temporal information and the identities of the entangled nodes
Value	<b>Local and pre-determined:</b> the encoded information is valuable only for the destination and not for the intermediate nodes		<b>Global and dynamic:</b> the entangled state represents a valuable resource for any set of nodes sharing it
Order of operations & Flow direction	<b>Yes,</b> with a strict ordering: source, intermediate nodes, destination	<b>Flexible</b> the order: among the communication channels traversed by a quantum information carrier, can be indefinite	<b>Flexible:</b> the swapping operation can happen simultaneously or without any particular order
Classes	<b>No:</b> there exist no classes of bits or qubits		<b>Yes:</b> with a complex classification

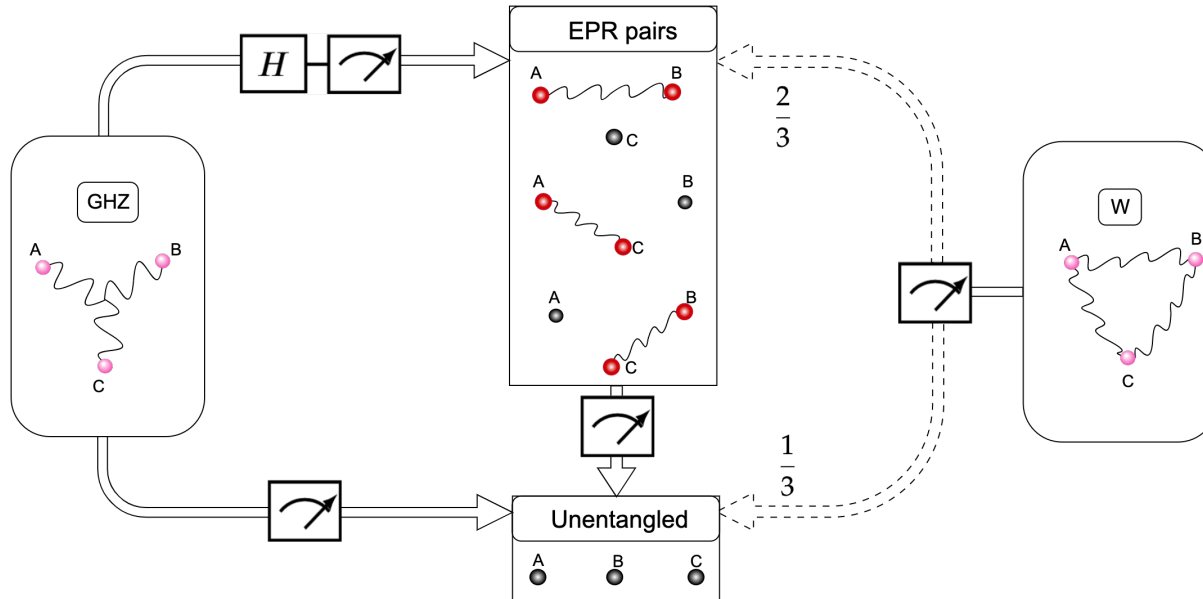
J. Illiano, M. Caleffi, A. Manzalini, A. S. Cacciapuoti, "Quantum Internet Protocol Stack: a comprehensive survey", Computer Networks, p. 109092, 2022

# Impact of entanglement



- quantum teleportation: transmission of qubit without any use of a quantum link as long as EPR shared
- qubit transmission regardless of the instantaneous conditions of the underlying physical quantum channel

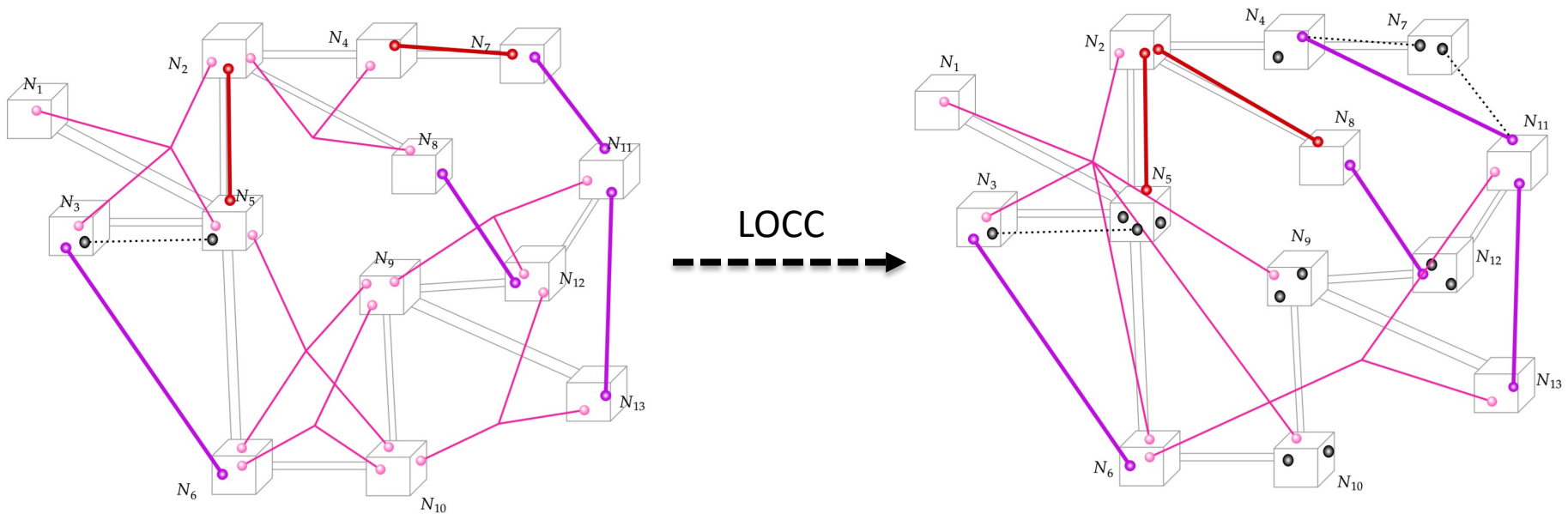
# Entanglement- based connectivity



- EPRs resemble of an half-duplex unicast channels
- Multipartite entangled states represent a shared resource and enable multiple unicast channels between disjoint pairs of nodes

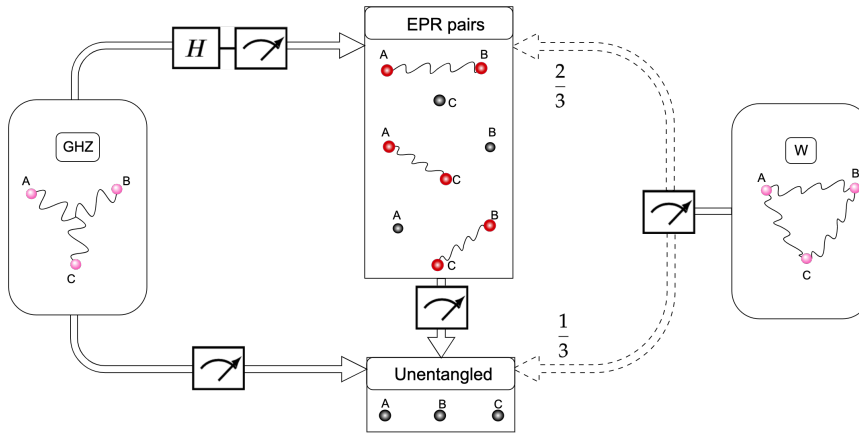
J. Illiano, M. Caleffi, A. Manzalini, A. S. Cacciapuoti, "Quantum Internet Protocol Stack: a comprehensive survey", Computer Networks, p. 109092, 2022

# Entanglement- based connectivity



- The new concept of connectivity affects the entire network stack
- It redefines the concept of neighbor nodes, which is at the base of many communication functionalities in classical network
- Demands for ad-hoc functionalities such as *entanglement access*

# Entanglement Access Control



- EPRs resemble of an half-duplex unicast channels
- Multipartite states enable the extraction of an EPR pair among any disjoint couple of nodes sharing it

Table 1

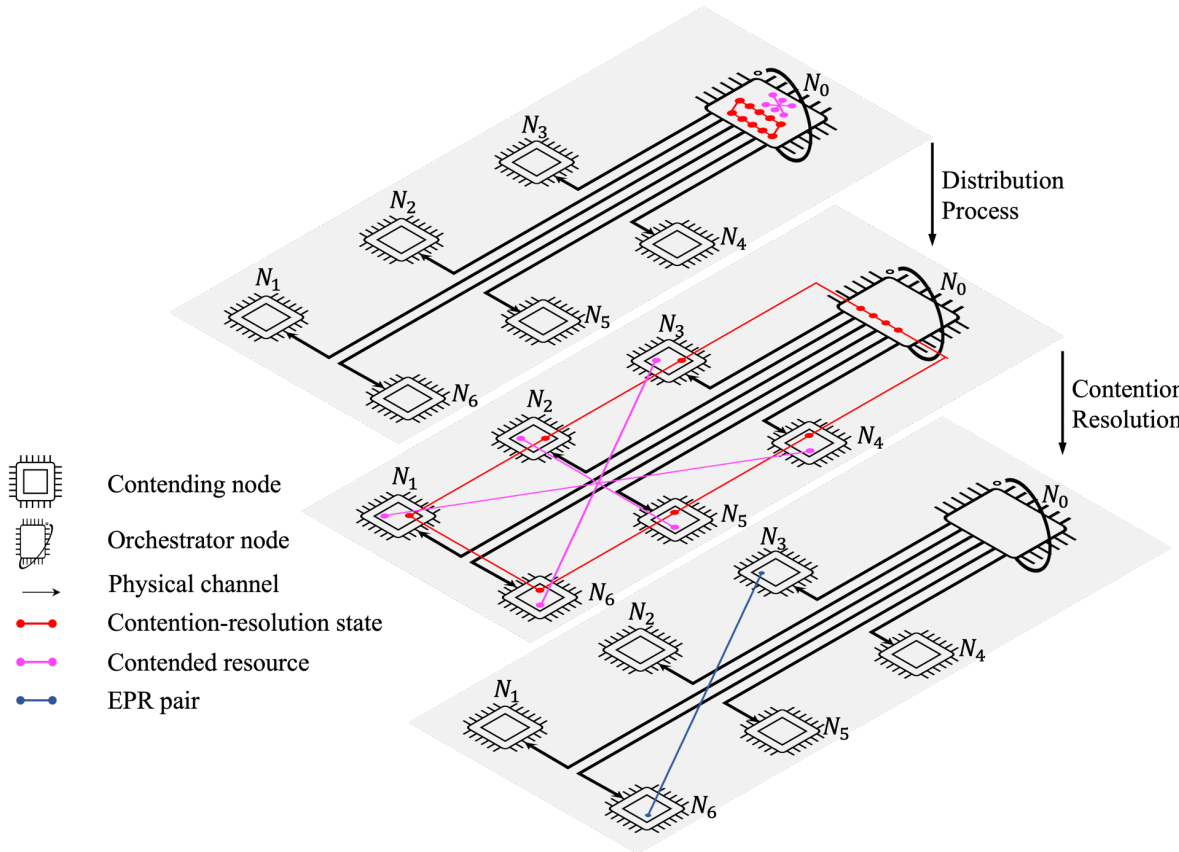
A schematic summary of the differences arising with quantum bits and quantum entanglement with the respect to classical bits.

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Classes	No: there exist no classes of bits or qubits		Yes: with a complex classification

- Non-local scope
- Global value
- Stateful resource
- Heterogeneous resource

The principles of quantum mechanics forbid to use classical strategies

# Entanglement Access Control protocol



- Contended resource

$$|GHZ_n\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle^{\otimes n} + |1\rangle^{\otimes n})$$

- Contention resolution state

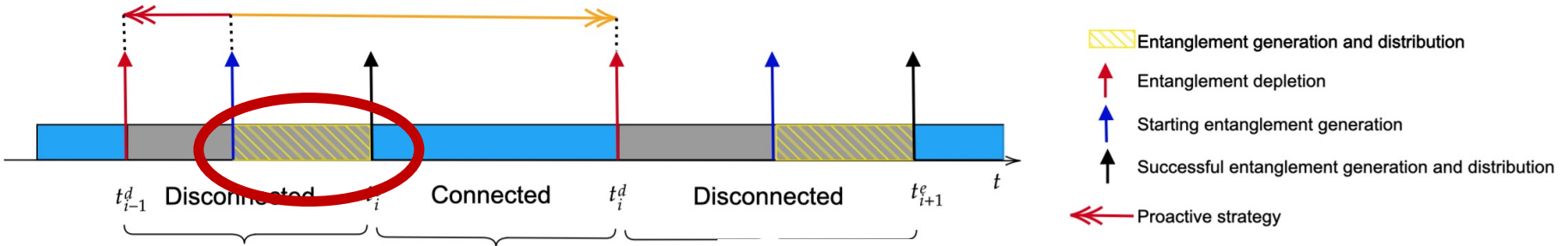
$$|D_n^k\rangle = \left[ \binom{n}{k} \right]^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{i \in \{0,1\}^n : d_H(i)=k} |i\rangle$$

## Collision-free genuinely quantum EAC protocol

J. Illiano, M. Caleffi, M. Viscardi, A. S. Cacciapuoti, "Design and Analysis of Genuine Entanglement Access Control for the Quantum Internet", arXiv:2305.01276, May 2023

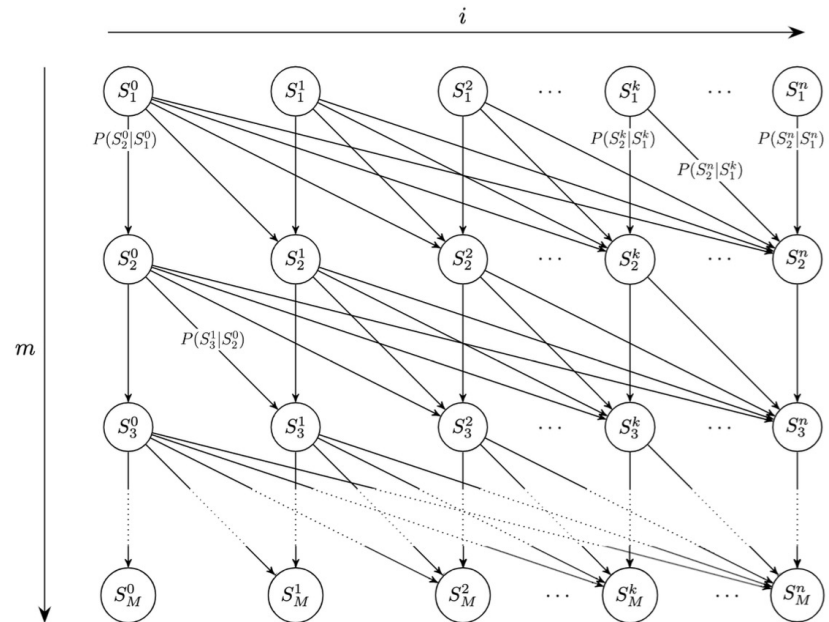


# Noisy Entanglement Distribution

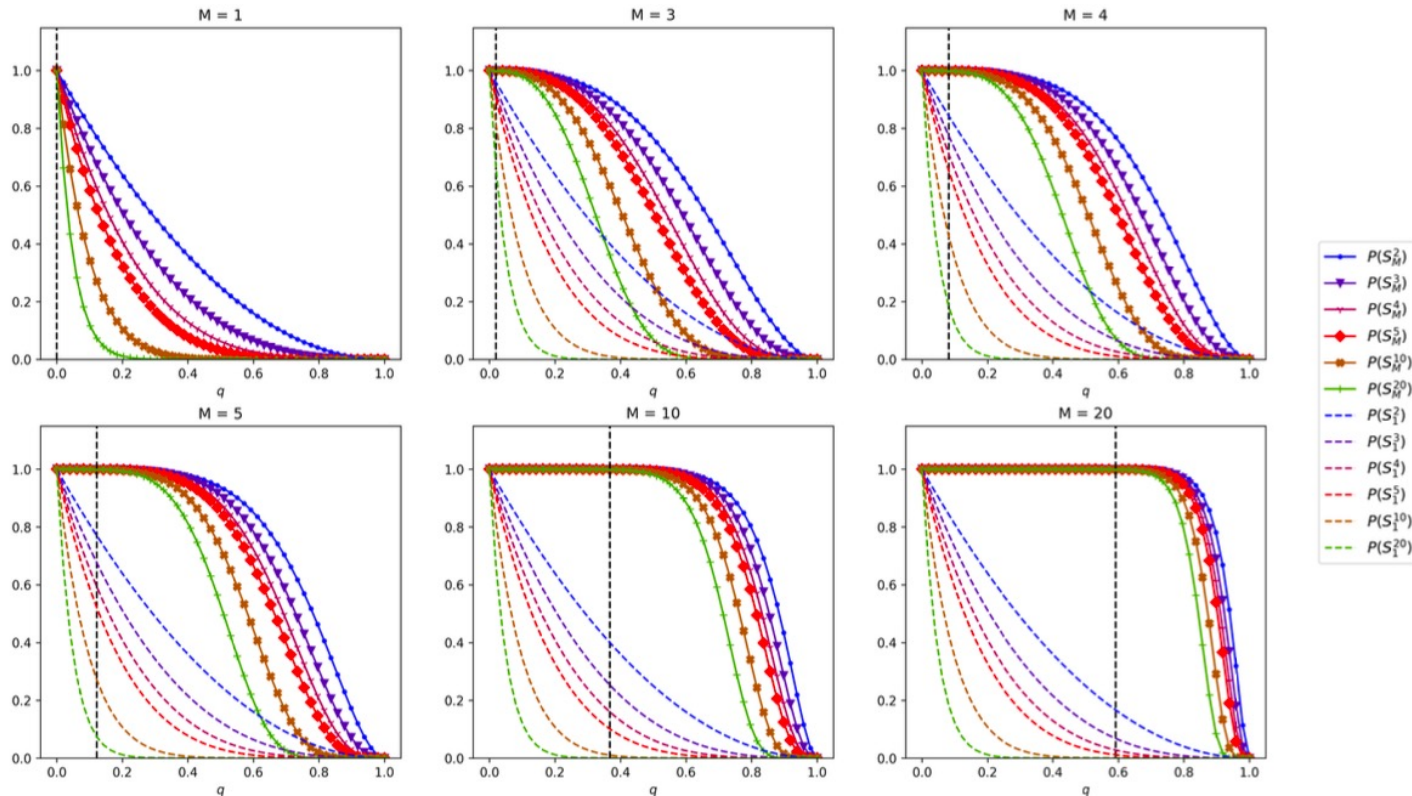


dependance from physical connectivity      independance from physical connectivity

- Quantum absorbing channel (worst case scenario)
- discrete Markov chain model for multiple attempt entanglement distribution strategy
- Closed form expression for transition probabilities

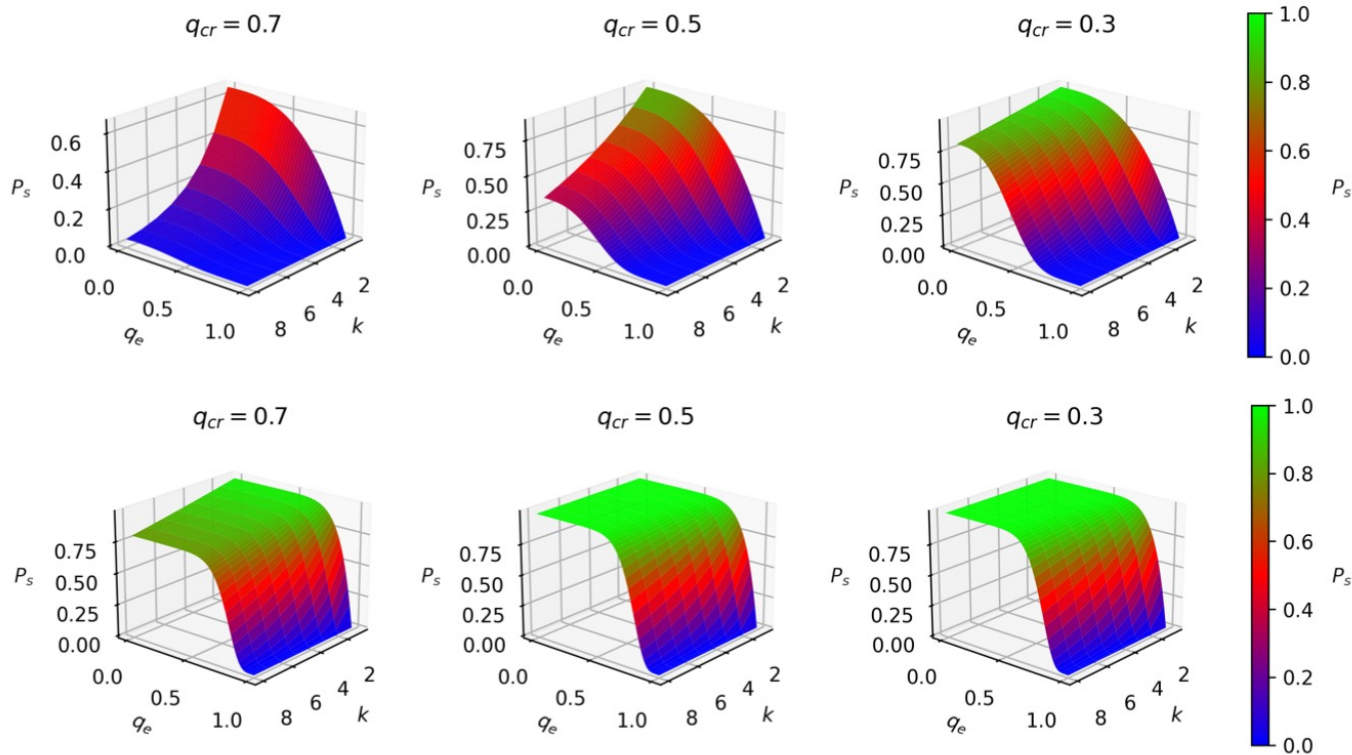


# EAC performance evaluation



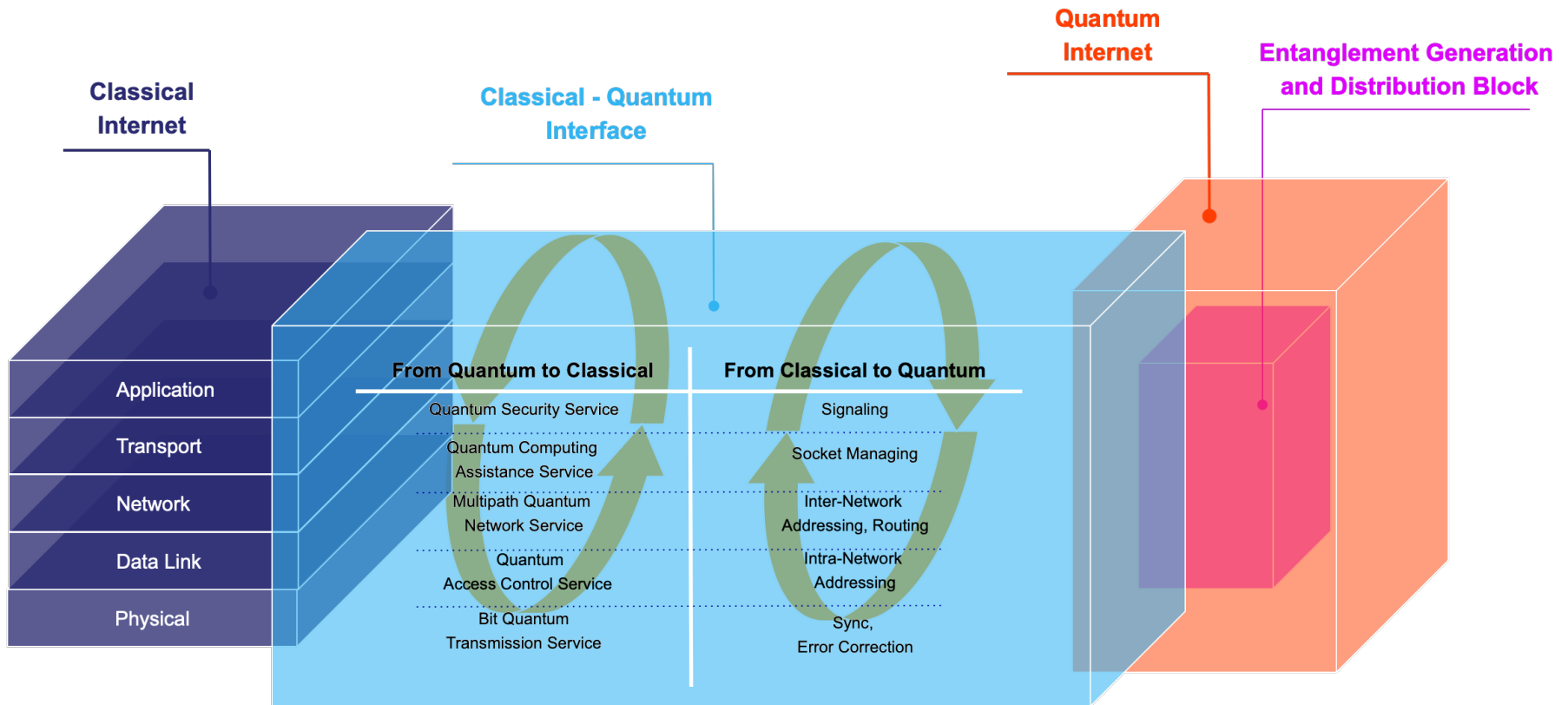
- State probability  $P(S_j^M)$  with  $j = n$ , versus failure distribution probability  $q$ , for different values of  $n$  and distribution attempts  $M$ .

# EAC performance evaluation



- EAC contention-resolution probability for noisy entanglement distribution towards  $n = 8$  contending nodes.

# Classical—Quantum Interface



- The Quantum Internet cannot operate independently or autonomously from the classical Internet
- Cross-layer interactions between classical Internet and Quantum Internet

A. S. Cacciapuoti, J. Illiano, S. Koudia, K. Simonov, M. Caleffi, "The Quantum Internet: Enhancing Classical Internet Services one Qubit at a Time", IEEE Network, vol.36, no.5, p 6-12, September/October2022

Thank you for your attention