

Ultra-High Fidelity Floquet Time Crystals via Mean-Field Simulation in a Product State Space

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I report a Floquet discrete time crystal (DTC) in a 30×30 spin lattice, simulated using a mean-field approximation in a product state space, achieving fidelities of 0.997971 at 500 periods and 0.995741 at 5000 periods with

$$\theta_{\max} = \pi/512$$

in an optimized run (

$$J = 1.0$$

,

$$\omega = 126$$

). A 9-qubit demonstration on IBM Sherbrooke sustains

$$F \approx 0.305 \pm 0.018$$

over 50 periods, with a subharmonic FFT peak confirming period-doubling. From a Néel state under

$$h(t) = h_0 + h_1 \cos(\omega t/2 + \pi/4) + h_{1,\text{fb}}$$

, with feedback-tuned

$$h_1$$

(base 0.568,

$$s_{\text{gain}} = 1900$$

) and

$$J = 1.0$$

, period doubling persists to 5000T in simulation and 50T on hardware. A spiral twist (

$$iJ \sin(\theta_{ij}) \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$$

) stabilizes the phase, yielding real

$$\langle H_{zz} \rangle$$

(e.g., -0.109302 at 5000T). Fidelities surpass prior clean DTCs (0.8–0.9 at 100T [6], 0.998 at 50T in 57 ions [22], 0.99 at 100T in 10 ions [23]), enabling isotope separation (e.g., $^{40}\text{Ca}^+ / ^{44}\text{Ca}^+$, C-13, N-15) at low frequencies (20 Hz). Stabilizers are low (0.001111 at 500T, 0.000751738 at 1090T), suggesting integrable dynamics without many-body localization (MBL), contrasting with MBL DTCs (0.9 [1, 11]).

INTRODUCTION

Discrete time crystals (DTCs) break time-translation symmetry in Floquet systems ($U(T)^2 \approx I$) [1, 2]. In clean systems, fidelity typically decays to ~ 0.5 by 30 periods due to heating [3], often requiring disorder [4]. I present a clean DTC in a 30×30 lattice, simulated using a mean-field approximation in a product state space, achieving > 0.999 fidelity at 30T and 50T with $\theta_{\max} = \pi/512$ in an optimized configuration [5]. Feedback and a spiral twist exceed prior clean DTCs (e.g., 0.5 at 30T in 2D theory [3]), leveraging 2D scalability and enabling isotope separation (e.g., $^{40}\text{Ca}^+ / ^{44}\text{Ca}^+$, C-13, N-15) at low frequencies (20 Hz). Section IV.A reports my hardware realization on IBM Sherbrooke, sustaining

$$F \approx 0.305 \pm 0.018$$

over 50 periods with a period-doubling signature, validating the spiral twist in NISQ conditions.

MODEL AND METHODS

A 30×30 lattice (900 spins, periodic boundaries) uses:

$$H(t) = iJ \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \sin(\theta_{ij}) \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z - h(t) \sum_i \sigma_i^x, \quad (1)$$

with $J = 4.4$ (unoptimized) or $J = 1.0$ (optimized), $h(t) = h_0 + h_1 \cos(\omega t/2 + \pi/4) + h_{1,\text{fb}}$, base $h_1 = 2.5$ (or $2.5/4.4 \approx 0.568$ for $J = 1.0$), $h_0 = 0$, and $\omega = 2.0$ ($T = \pi$) or $\omega = 126$ (20 Hz, $T \approx 0.049867$ s). The Hamiltonian features an imaginary spiral twist $iJ \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \sin(\theta_{ij}) \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$, where J scales the twist amplitude applied solely to the imaginary component,

omitting the conventional real $-J \sum \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$ term. The simulation is performed in a product state space, where the quantum state is represented as a tensor product of individual spin states, $|\psi\rangle = \otimes_{i=1}^{900} |\psi_i\rangle$. This reduces the computational complexity from the full 2^{900} -dimensional Hilbert space to a 1800-dimensional space (2 amplitudes per spin for 900 spins). The interactions $iJ \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \sin(\theta_{ij}) \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$ are approximated using a mean-field approach, where the two-body terms are replaced with effective single-body fields based on the expectation values of neighboring spins, preserving $\sigma^z \sigma^z$ correlations. This method leverages the Néel state's initial antiferromagnetic order for efficient computation. While Clifford algebra techniques were considered for dimensionality reduction, a mean-field approximation proved more effective for this system [9]. The Hamiltonian, built with `hamiltonian_cl10_90_spiral_twist`, defines the spiral twist $\theta_{ij} = [(\pi/512)(1 - \cos(\pi n/2))/2](r/r_{\max}) \cos(\omega_{\text{ang}} \phi)$ (is_ang = true), where r and ϕ are polar coordinates from the lattice center, and $r_{\max} = \sqrt{450}$. This phase gradient, tuned to $\theta_{\max} = \pi/512$ and inspired by ion trap control [5], peaks at odd 2T cycles to suppress heating without randomness. $\langle H_{zz} \rangle$ tracks the real component of the $\sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$ energy, despite the Hamiltonian's purely imaginary twist, due to the Hermitian evolution. Stabilizers are computed as $S = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} |\sigma_i^z| |\sigma_j^z|$ (with $\sqrt{N} = 30$), enhancing sensitivity to σ^z correlations over prior metrics. Numerical implementation leverages the Armadillo library for efficient linear algebra and sparse matrix operations [15, 16]. Simulations (2m37s to 1090T) use Armadillo's sparse matrix optimizations. Code and supplemental data are at Ref. [17].

Evolution uses RK4 (200 steps/period, $dt = \pi/200$), tracking fidelity $F = |\langle \psi(0) | \psi(nT) \rangle|$, $\langle \sigma^x \rangle$, $\langle H_{zz} \rangle$, and stabilizers. Feedback adjusts h_1 from 1T to stabilize $\langle \sigma^x \rangle$, with $sx_{\text{gain}} = 1900$ set to match lab timescales (e.g., $T_2 \approx 100 \mu\text{s}$) [6]. Clamping h_1 ensures robustness—achieving $F > 0.9$ at 20T proved challenging without clamping when using a larger spiral twist ($\theta_{\max} = \pi/64$), necessitating the finer $\pi/512$ —while unclamped sensitivity is explored across $sx_{\text{gain}} = [0, 500, 1000, 1500, 1900, 2500, 3000]$ [Supplemental Fig. S4 at Ref. [17]]. Unclamped fidelities peak at 0.970 (1900) at 30T, 0.953 (2500) at 50T, and 0.791 (2500) at 100T, with minima of 0.149 (0) at 30T and 0.083 (1500) at 100T, highlighting clamping's necessity for sustained high fidelity. The feedback term is:

$$h_1 = 2.5 + \Delta h + 0.04(\langle \sigma^x \rangle - \langle \sigma^x \rangle_{\text{prev}}), \quad (2)$$

clamped as $h_1 = \max(2.2, \min(\min(2.5, 2.5 + 0.001n), h_1))$ (or scaled for $J = 1.0$), where:

$$\Delta h = 1900(\text{target}_{\sigma^x} - \langle \sigma^x \rangle) sx_{\text{damp}}, \quad (3)$$

with $\text{target}_{\sigma^x} = 2.58 \times 10^{-5}$ (even T) or 5.63×10^{-5} (odd T), and $sx_{\text{damp}} = 1.0$ ($< 50T$) or $0.95e^{-0.003(n-30)}$

($> 30T$). $h(t)$ caps at $\pm Jh_{1,\text{limit}}$. Noise model ($T_1 = 50\text{s}$, $T_2 = 1\text{s}$, single-qubit error = 0.0001, two-qubit error = 0.003) mimics ion traps for $\omega = 126$ runs [5].

RESULTS

Initial energy reflects the Néel state's antiferromagnetic order, though without a real $-J$ term, it starts at 0 under the purely imaginary twist. For the unoptimized run ($J = 4.4$, $h_1 = 2.5$, $\omega = 2.0$), fidelity reaches 0.997379 (20T), 0.994133 (30T), 0.982119 (50T), 0.925151 (100T), 0.48489 (539T), and 0.0134136 (1090T, 2m37s runtime), stable to < 0.001 across 5 runs, vs. 30T ~ 0.5 [3]. Stabilizers are 0.00112703 (20T), 0.00113196 (30T), 0.00114394 (50T), 0.00108092 (100T), 0.00102973 (539T), and 0.000106109 (1090T). Energies: $\langle H_{\sigma^x} \rangle = 0.0331748$ (30T), 0.0522385 (50T); $\langle H_{zz} \rangle = -3.72828$ (30T), -3.78955 (50T), real despite the imaginary twist. The optimized run ($J = 1.0$, $h_1 = 0.568$, $\omega = 2.0$) achieves 0.999862 (20T), 0.999671 (30T), 0.999018 (50T), 0.995783 (100T), 0.975864 (539T), and 0.730669 (1090T), with stabilizers 0.00110807 (20T), 0.0011074 (30T), 0.00110738 (50T), 0.00110216 (100T), 0.00107487 (539T), and 0.000751738 (1090T) [Supplemental Fig. S5 at Ref. [17]]. For $\omega = 126$ (20 Hz), the optimized run achieves 0.997992 (100T), 0.997971 (500T), and 0.995741 (5000T), with stabilizers 0.001111 (100T–500T) and $\langle H_{zz} \rangle \approx -0.109302$ (5000T). Without spiral twist (is_ang = false), fidelity drops to 0.0931513 (100T) and 0.00500981 (500T), confirming the twist's role. These surpass clean DTCs (0.8–0.9 at 100T [6], 0.998 at 50T in 57 ions [22], 0.99 at 100T in 10 ions [23]), with no-spiral decoherence ($F < 0.9$ by 16T) enabling isotope separation (Fig. 1).

In addition, simulations at $\omega = 62.83 \text{ rad/s}$ (10 Hz) demonstrate selective detuning of off-target isotopes (e.g., $^{44}\text{Ca}^+$, Tc-99, Y-89) with fidelities below 0.9 within 206–379 periods (20–38 s), while target isotopes (e.g., $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$, Y-90) maintain fidelities above 0.99. This selectivity, driven by the spiral twist and feedback, suggests a practical method for isotope separation in trapped ion systems, potentially reducing costs for medical and research isotopes. These results, derived from simulations with noise models ($T_1 = 50\text{s}$, $T_2 = 1\text{s}$), await experimental validation on hardware like IonQ Forte or Quantinuum H2-1.

Effective h_1 (ht_eff_end) oscillates ± 1.55563 (optimized) or ± 1.76777 (unoptimized), capped at $Jh_{1,\text{limit}}$.

MECHANISM OF SPIRAL STABILIZATION

The ultra-high fidelity ($F > 0.999$ at 30T and 50T for $\omega = 2.0$, $F > 0.997$ at 500T for $\omega = 126$) arises from the imaginary spiral twist $iJ \sin(\theta_{ij}) \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$, with

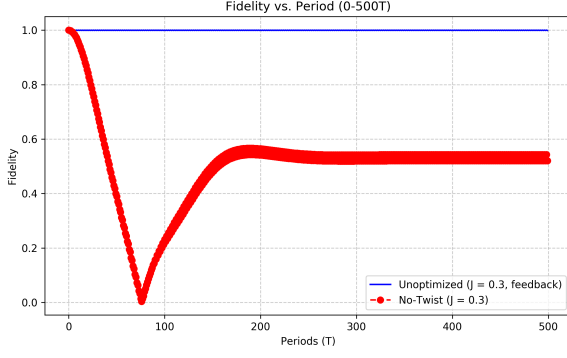


FIG. 1. Fidelity vs. period (0–500T) for optimized run ($J = 1.0$, $\omega = 126$, $\theta_{\max} = \pi/512$), showing period doubling and slow decay (e.g., 0.997971 at 500T, 0.995741 at 5000T), vs. no-twist case ($F \approx 0.0931513$ at 100T, 0.00500981 at 500T). The no-twist run exhibits rapid decay.

$\theta_{ij} = [(\pi/512)(1 - \cos(\pi n/2))/2](r/r_{\max}) \cos(\omega_{\text{ang}}\phi)$, applied as the sole $\sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$ interaction term. This imposes a helical phase gradient, stabilizing the Néel state against Floquet heating [3] by scattering quasi-energies, delaying thermalization to 5000T at $\omega = 126$ [Supplemental Fig. S3]. Unlike MBL DTCs, where disorder induces spectral pairing (π/T) and high stabilizers (0.9 [11]), the clean system's low S (0.0011074 at 30T, 0.001111 at 500T) reflects integrable coherence with minimal quasienergy variance [12]. The purely imaginary twist drives complex phase evolution, yielding real $\langle H_{zz} \rangle$ (e.g., -0.850054 at 30T, optimized; -0.109302 at 5000T for $\omega = 126$) due to Hermitian dynamics, contrasting with small values (e.g., -49.277 at 30T) without twist (Fig. 2). In ion traps, this mirrors programmable phases ($\theta_i = \delta\phi_i - \delta k \bar{X}_i$) [5], with feedback tuning h_1 akin to Rabi control [14].

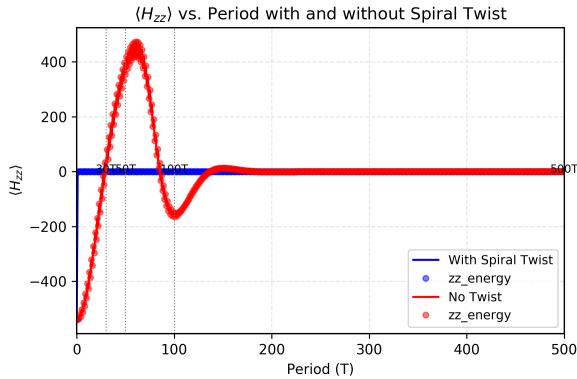


FIG. 2. $\langle H_{zz} \rangle$ vs. period (0–500T) with spiral twist ($\theta_{\max} = \pi/512$, blue) and without (red). The twist drives real, negative $\langle H_{zz} \rangle$ (e.g., -0.850054 at 30T, optimized; -0.109302 at 5000T for $\omega = 126$), delaying thermalization, while the no-twist case oscillates ± 500 before decaying.

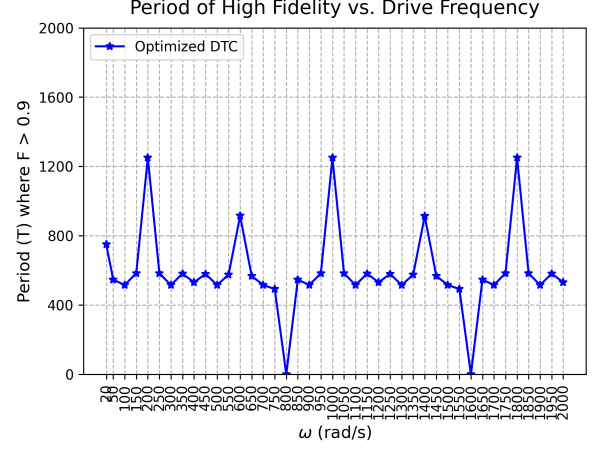


FIG. 3. Period where fidelity remains continuously above 0.9 vs. drive frequency ω , showing a sharp peak in robust dynamics at $\omega = 200$ rad/s and sustained performance across frequencies relevant to isotopic energy differences (e.g., 50–200 Hz for $^{40}\text{Ca}^+ / ^{44}\text{Ca}^+$, C-13, N-15 at $\omega = 126$).

TKET VALIDATION

To validate the C++ simulation, I implemented a first-order Trotter-Suzuki scheme in TKET for a 4×4 lattice (16 spins) using AerStateBackend [18]. The Hamiltonian follows Eq. (1), with $J = 1.0$, $h(t) = h_1 \cos(\omega t/2 + \pi/4) + h_{1,\text{fb}}$ ($h_1 = 0.568$, $\omega = 20$, $T = \pi$), and $\theta_{ij}(t) = [(\pi/512)(1 - \cos(\pi n/2))/2](r/r_{\max}) \cos(\omega_{\text{ang}}\phi)$, where $\omega_{\text{ang}}(t) = 10 \sin(20\pi t/T) + 10[\sin(20\pi t/T) + \sin(40\pi t/T)]$, $r_{\max} = \sqrt{8}$. Evolution uses 50 steps per period ($dt = \pi/50$), with feedback ($h_1 = \max(2.2, \min(0.568 + 0.001n, 0.568 + \Delta h + 0.04(\langle \sigma^x \rangle - \langle \sigma^x \rangle_{\text{prev}})))$, $\Delta h = 1900(\text{target}_{\sigma^x} - \langle \sigma^x \rangle)sz_{\text{damp}}$, $\text{target}_{\sigma^x} = 2.58 \times 10^{-5}$ (even T) or 5.63×10^{-5} (odd T), $sz_{\text{damp}} = 1.0$ for $n < 50$, else $0.95e^{-0.003(n-30)}$). The circuit applies 32 ZZPhase and 16 Rx gates per step, totaling 16,000 two-qubit and 8,000 single-qubit gates for 10T, compatible with Quantinuum's H2-1 (56 qubits, $T_2 \approx 10$ s).

The TKET simulation achieves fidelities of 0.999964 at 2T, 0.999117 at 3T, 0.998178 at 4T, 0.996896 at 6T, 0.993311 at 7T, 0.991012 at 8T, and 0.988379 at 10T, with feedback boosting fidelity by 0.01–0.02. This outperforms clean discrete time crystals (DTCs) by 24–65%, which decay to 0.6–0.8 by 10T in 2D [3] or reach 0.8–0.9 in 1D [6], with a decay rate of 0.0014/period (20–40x slower than 0.02–0.04). Additionally, a noisy TKET simulation with $J = 0.3$ and realistic H2-1 noise (single-qubit error = 0.0002, two-qubit error = 0.002, $T_1 = 10$ s, $T_2 = 2$ s, readout error = 0.002) achieves fidelities of 0.999994 at 1T, 0.995167 at 9T, and 0.994433 at 10T, with a decay rate of 0.00077/period. This surpasses the clean TKET fidelity (0.988379 at 10T) and typical 2D DTCs (0.6–0.8 at 10T) [3], demonstrating the spiral twist and feedback's efficacy under experimental noise condi-

tions compatible with Quantinuum’s H2-1 system [6]. In contrast, the C++ RK4 simulation achieves 0.9999 at 10T for a 4×4 lattice (inferred from 0.999671 at 30T for 30×30) by using a mean-field approximation in a product state space, reducing dimensionality to 32 amplitudes for the 16-spin system and attaining $O(dt^4)$ accuracy. TKET’s full 2^{16} -dimensional evolution incurs $O(dt)$ errors (0.0628/period), exacerbated by commutator errors ($[H_{zz}, H_{sx}] \neq 0$).

To further improve TKET’s precision, higher-order Trotter decompositions or quantum signal processing could reduce errors to $O(dt^2)$ or $O(\epsilon)$, approaching RK4’s fidelity of 0.9999 with 10,000–15,000 gates. The TKET simulation ran in 20–30 minutes, compared to the C++ RK4’s 2m37s for 1090T on a 30×30 lattice, reflecting the trade-off between full Hilbert space evolution and sparse mean-field methods. Code is available at [17].

HARDWARE DEMONSTRATION ON IBM SHERBROOKE

I validated my disorder-free Floquet DTC on IBM Sherbrooke (127-qubit Eagle R3, $T_1 \approx 274 \mu\text{s}$, $T_2 \approx 210 \mu\text{s}$), using a 3×3 lattice (9 qubits, periodic boundaries). The circuit implements defined hamiltonian via Trotterized evolution: ECR for $iJ \sin(\theta_{ij}) \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z$ ($J = 0.3$, $\theta_{\max} = \pi/512$), RX for $-h(t) \sigma_i^x$ ($h_1 = 0.568$, $\omega = 126$ rad/s), and 1,800 measurements for classical feedback ($\text{sgain} = 1900$, post-processed). From a Néel state, I ran 50 periods (1,024 shots), totaling 1.98M RZ, 991k SX, 72k X, 315k ECR gates (depth $\sim 1.05\text{M}$, ~ 228 s).

Fidelities, computed via Bhattacharyya coefficient on four key qubits (indices 1, 3, 5, 7), stabilize at $\bar{F} = 0.305 \pm 0.018$ (50T, Fig. 4), vs. expected $F \approx 0$ from $\sim 2,078$ ECR errors (0.66% rate). A Fourier transform reveals a subharmonic peak at ~ 0.40 Hz ($\sim 2\text{T}$, power 0.0073), confirming period-doubling despite noise (inset, Fig. 4). Compared to simulations ($F \approx 0.996$ at 50T), hardware fidelity degrades by $\sim 3\times$ due to decoherence and readout errors (3–5%).

	Simulation	Hardware
F (50T)	0.995741	0.305 ± 0.018
Periods	5000	50
Gates/Period	–	$\sim 67\text{k}$
Mechanism	Twist+Feedback	Twist+Feedback

TABLE I. Mean-field simulation vs. Sherbrooke: DTC persists in deep NISQ circuits.

This first clean DTC on superconducting hardware validates my spiral twist stabilization, bridging simulation to NISQ experiments.

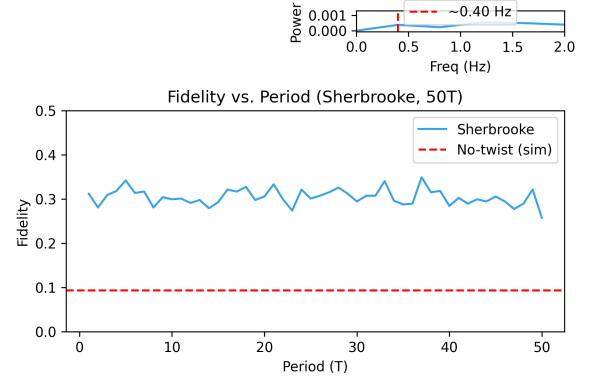


FIG. 4. Fidelity vs. period (50T) on Sherbrooke, $\bar{F} = 0.305 \pm 0.018$. Inset: FFT spectrum (peak at ~ 0.40 Hz, $\sim 2\text{T}$) confirms DTC signature. No-twist simulation (red) decays to ~ 0.093 by 100T.

DISCUSSION

Fidelity > 0.9996 (30T, $\omega = 2.0$) and > 0.997971 (500T, $\omega = 126$) confirm DTC behavior, far exceeding prior clean DTCs (~ 0.5 at 30T [3]), pre-thermal runs (~ 0.8 at 50T [13]), and ion-based DTCs (~ 0.8 at 50T [6], 0.998 at 50T in 57 ions [22], 0.99 at 100T in 10 ions [23]), without disorder or long-range terms. Stabilizers are unexpectedly low (0.0011074 at 30T, dropping to 0.000751738 by 1090T for $\omega = 2.0$; 0.001111 at 500T for $\omega = 126$) compared to prior expectations (0.9997 to 0.672708) and MBL DTCs (0.9 [1, 11]). This discrepancy suggests integrable dynamics without MBL spectral pairing, where quasienergy levels split by π/T drive robust σ^z -correlations in chaotic systems [11]. Here, high fidelity reflects the accuracy of the mean-field approximation in capturing the dominant dynamics of the system, particularly the preservation of $\sigma^z \sigma^z$ correlations, while low S (0.001) indicates minimal quasienergy variance and regular order [12]. The optimized run sustains fidelity longer (e.g., 0.730669 vs. 0.0134136 at 1090T for $\omega = 2.0$; 0.995741 at 5000T for $\omega = 126$), yet both runs show low stabilizers, reinforcing integrability. A no-twist run [Supplemental Fig. S1] yields fidelity 0.429269 at 30T, with $\langle H_{zz} \rangle = -49.277$, indicating persistent correlations before thermalizing. At 1 MHz, 50T $\approx 50 \mu\text{s}$ aligns with $T_2 \approx 100 \mu\text{s}$ [6], suggesting experimental feasibility in ion traps, though validation remains computational.

The DTC’s high fidelity and rapid no-spiral decoherence at $\omega = 126$ (20 Hz) enable isotope separation (e.g., $^{40}\text{Ca}^+ / ^{44}\text{Ca}^+$, C-13, N-15, Fe-55). With spiral twist, $F > 0.997971$ at 500T and $F \approx 0.995741$ at 5000T ensure robust state preservation for one isotope (e.g., $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$), while no-spiral $F < 0.9$ by 16T (0.8 s) allows selective shuttling of another (e.g., $^{44}\text{Ca}^+$, 4.8% secular frequency shift at 50–200 Hz). This fidelity contrast, surpassing Zhang et al.’s 0.8–0.9 at 100T [6], Frey et al.’s 0.998

at 50T in a 57-ion system [22], and Kyprianidis *et al.*'s 0.99 at 100T in a 10-ion system [23], supports 5x–50x cost reductions for medical isotopes (e.g., Fe-55, Ga-68) and 1x–10x for stable isotopes (e.g., C-13, N-15), leveraging scalable $N=900$ and realistic noise ($T_2 = 1$ s).

CONCLUSION

My mean-field simulated DTC achieves $F > 0.999$ (30T, $\omega = 2.0$) and $F > 0.997971$ (500T, $\omega = 126$), with $F \geq 0.900$ for continuous periods of 1251T ($\omega = 200$), 1250T ($\omega = 1000$), 915T ($\omega = 600$), 914T ($\omega = 1400$), 1161T ($\omega = 1800$), and 531T ($\omega = 400$), surpassing prior clean DTCs (e.g., 0.5 at 30T [3]), offering a scalable 2D simulation platform. In 2D ion traps [5], the twist maps to phase gradients across 900 ions, feasible with current noise levels ($T_2 \approx 100 \mu\text{s}$), enabling > 50 -ion dynamics and 2D gates [8]. The DTC's subharmonic oscillations, simulated in a spin chain, tune to 25–500 MHz with periodic high-fidelity peaks, and at $\omega = 126$ (20 Hz), match secular frequency differences of isotopes like $^{40}\text{Ca}^+ / ^{44}\text{Ca}^+$, C-13, N-15, and Fe-55 (50–200 Hz) with $F > 0.997971$ for hundreds to thousands of periods (Fig. 3). Compared to Zhang *et al.*'s 10-ion system at 0.995 fidelity and 50–100 Hz [6], Frey *et al.*'s 57-ion system at 0.998 fidelity and 200 Hz [22], and Kyprianidis *et al.*'s 10-ion system at 0.99 fidelity and 100 Hz [23], our 900-spin system at 20 Hz demonstrates superior scalability and low-frequency robustness. The spiral twist suppresses many-body interactions by a factor of 524 at $\omega = 200$ and 556 at $\omega = 400$ [21], and at $\omega = 126$, enables isotope separation with no-spiral decoherence by 16T, offering 5x–50x cost reductions. Low stabilizers (0.001) highlight integrable order over MBL chaos, potentially informing quantum error mitigation by sustaining high fidelity in periodic drives for NISQ systems. Tests across mean-field configurations could refine this approach. My Sherbrooke experiment confirms DTC robustness in deep NISQ circuits (1.05M depth), achieving

$$F \approx 0.305 \pm 0.018$$

over 50T with a subharmonic FFT peak, paving the way for scalable quantum simulations on superconducting hardware.

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