


PHYC90045 Introduction to Quantum Computing

**This Week**

**Lecture 1**  
Quantum search – introduction to Grover’s algorithm for amplitude amplification, geometric interpretation

**Lecture 2**  
Optimality, Succeeding with Certainty, Quantum Counting

**Lab**  
Grover’s algorithm




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**Grover’s Algorithm**

Physics 90045  
Lecture 7




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**Introduction to Grover’s algorithm**

- This lecture: Grover’s search algorithm
  - Grover’s algorithm
  - Worked Example
  - Geometric interpretation

**References:**  
 Reiffel, Chapter 9.1-9.2  
 Kaye, Chapter 8.1-8.2  
 Nielsen and Chuang, Chapter 6.1-6.2




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### Reminder: Outer Product

For two quantum states  $|\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $|\phi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix}$

We can define an outer product between them:

$$|\psi\rangle\langle\phi| = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} c^* & d^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ac^* & ad^* \\ bc^* & bd^* \end{bmatrix}$$

$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$   $|1\rangle\langle 2|$

For number basis states, this specifies a matrix with a single "1" in the location 1,2. In general:

$|\text{row}\rangle\langle\text{column}|$

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### Unordered Search

Grover's algorithm performs a similar\* problem to this: You are given a *telephone book*

And a phone number: 23675

**Your task:**  
Find the name which goes with that number...



Part of Norfolk Island's telephone book, with people listed by nickname (Photo: Wikimedia)

\* Not all that similar, better examples later....

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### Quantum search – Grover's problem

Given an black box (oracle),  $U_p$  which computes the function:

$$f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

Find an  $x$  s.t.  $f(x) = 1$

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### Grover's Algorithm (1996)

- Unordered search, find one marked item among many
- Classically, this requires  $N/2$  queries to the oracle
- Quantum mechanically, requires only  $O(\sqrt{N})$  queries.

Simple problem = search for one integer marked by the oracle.

High level structure:

Lov Grover

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### Two basic steps in Grover's algorithm

Quantum database:  $|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$  (i.e. all integers 0 to N-1)

The "oracle" identifies a particular marked state,  $m$

$I - 2|\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi|$  "inversion about the mean"

Repeat these two operations  $O(\sqrt{N})$  times

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### The Oracle

The task of recognizing the correct solution goes to the "oracle".

Binary function, or "oracle" identifying a marked state,  $m$

Designed to flip the last bit if the input,  $i$ , is a solution

The oracle is just a Boolean function (as seen in previous lectures)

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### Phase kickback for Boolean function

Binary function, or "oracle"

After the function has been applied:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (-1)^{f(i)} |i\rangle \otimes \frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

If the oracle function evaluates to "1" then the target qubit is flipped, and we pick up a phase (associated with the control qubit state). Otherwise, there is no phase applied. This is a simple way to write that.

Target qubit remains the same

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### Example: Oracle recognizing the state "2 = |10>"

Phase kickback

00>	→	00>
01>	→	01>
10>	→	- 10>
11>	→	11>

The effect on each of the 4 states in the 2-qubit control register, x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I - 2|10\rangle\langle 10|$$


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### The marked state

Initially in Grover's algorithm, we will be searching for a *single (integer) solution, m*. In that case the effect of the oracle on the control register is:

$$I - 2|m\rangle\langle m| \quad (\text{in decimal ket notation})$$

As a matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{-1 in the } m^{\text{th}} \text{ position}$$

Here, as in future slides, we are only writing out the control qubits (in this case 2 qubits only).

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### Example: Oracle recognizing the state $|2\rangle = |10\rangle$

Phase kickback

$|00\rangle \rightarrow |00\rangle$   
 $|01\rangle \rightarrow |01\rangle$   
 $|10\rangle \rightarrow -|10\rangle$   
 $|11\rangle \rightarrow |11\rangle$

In practice we can implement the oracle without the check qubit using a controlled-Z gate (ex. Show the circuit right marks the state  $|10\rangle$ , i.e.  $|m=2\rangle$ ).

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### Two steps to Grover's algorithm

Set up "data base"

$I - 2|m\rangle\langle m|$        $I - 2|\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi|$   
 The oracle      "Inversion about the mean"

Repeat these two operations  $O(\sqrt{N})$  times

One iteration of Grover where  $|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$

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### Unpicking the details: "Inversion" operation

The "Inversion" part is just applying a phase to the zero state:

$$I - 2|0\rangle\langle 0| = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

How? Recall outer product etc:  $|\psi\rangle\langle\phi| = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} c^* & d^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ac^* & ad^* \\ bc^* & bd^* \end{bmatrix}$

$$|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad |0\rangle\langle 0| = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \otimes (10\dots 0) = \begin{pmatrix} 10\dots 0 \\ 00\dots 0 \\ \vdots \\ 00\dots 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad I = \begin{pmatrix} 100\dots 0 \\ 010\dots 0 \\ 001\dots 0 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix}$$

$$I - 2|0\rangle\langle 0| = \begin{pmatrix} 100\dots 0 \\ 010\dots 0 \\ 001\dots 0 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} - 2 \begin{pmatrix} 10\dots 0 \\ 00\dots 0 \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$


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### Inversion about the mean

$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$  Set up "data base"

$I - 2|\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi|$

"Inversion about the mean"...let's see how that works.

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### Apply inversion about the mean to general state

Applying Hadamards both sides:

$$I - 2H^{\otimes n} |0\rangle\langle 0| H^{\otimes n} = I - 2|\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi|$$

$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$   
Equal superposition

General state  $|\Psi\rangle = \sum_i a_i |i\rangle \rightarrow |\Psi'\rangle = (I - 2|\Phi\rangle\langle\Phi|) \sum_i a_i |i\rangle$

$$= \sum_i a_i |i\rangle - 2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_k |k\rangle \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_j \langle j| \sum_i a_i |i\rangle$$

$$= \sum_i a_i |i\rangle - 2 \sum_k |k\rangle \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_j a_j \right)$$

$$= \sum_i (a_i - 2A) |i\rangle$$

$A \equiv \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_j a_j \right)$   
Average amplitude in state  $|\Psi\rangle$

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### Inversion about the mean

Consider a general state. The resulting amplitude from the "Inversion about the mean" step is:

$$\sum_i a_i |i\rangle \rightarrow \sum_i (a_i - 2A) |i\rangle$$

Original amplitude      Average amplitude

In practice on the QUI...

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### Inversion about the mean

Amplitudes of the state, before and after:

When the state undergoes this transformation:

$$\sum_i a_i |i\rangle \rightarrow -\sum_i (2A - a_i) |i\rangle$$


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### Effect of inversion about the mean

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### Interactive Example

<https://codepen.io/samtonetto/full/BVOGmW>

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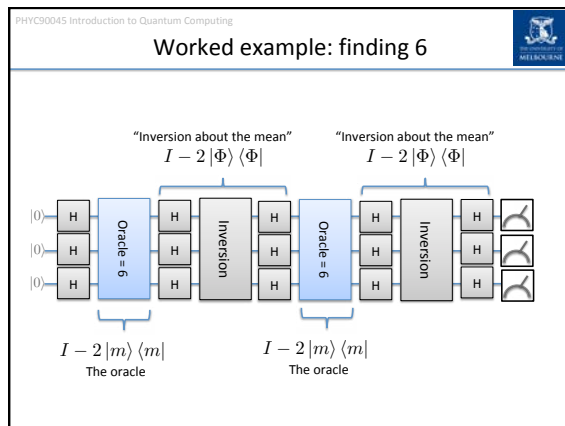
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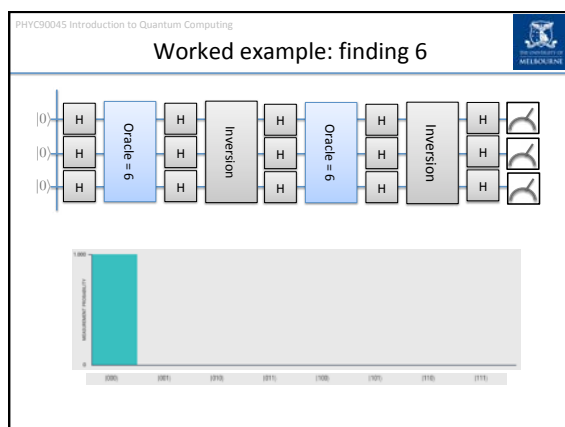
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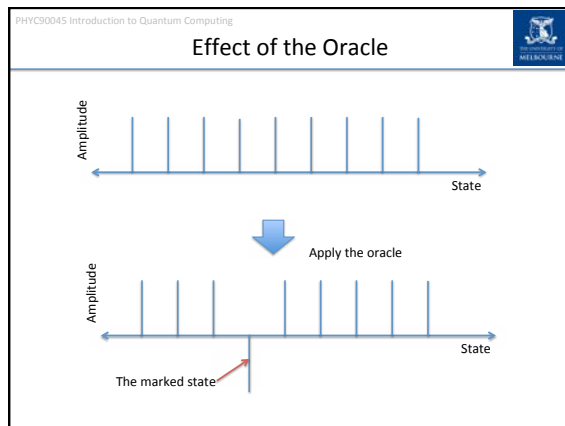
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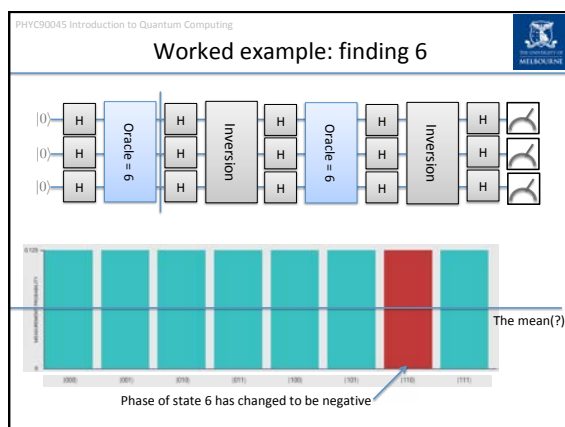
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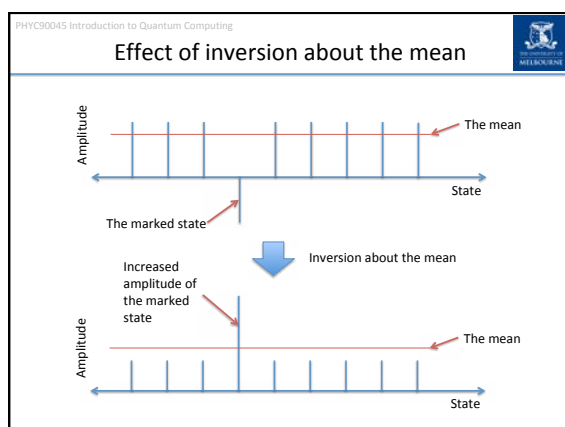
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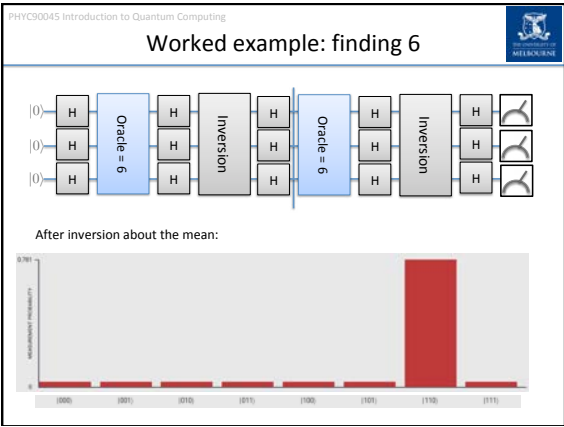
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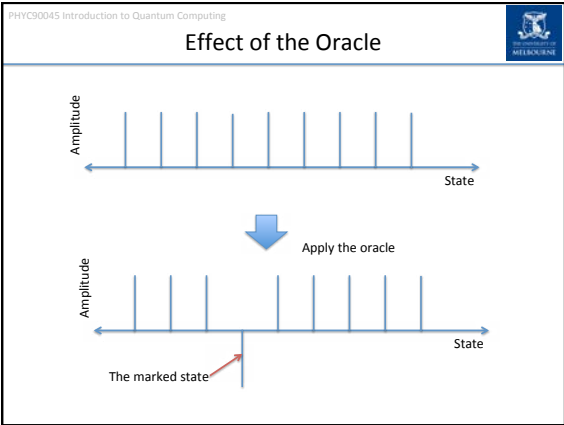
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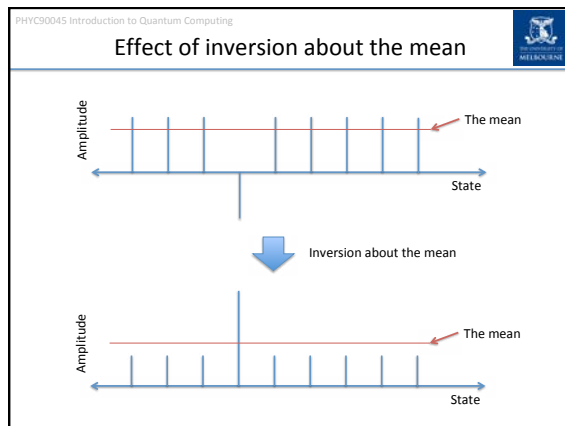
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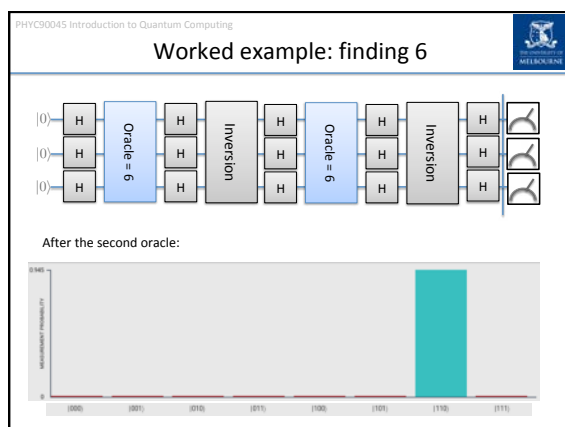
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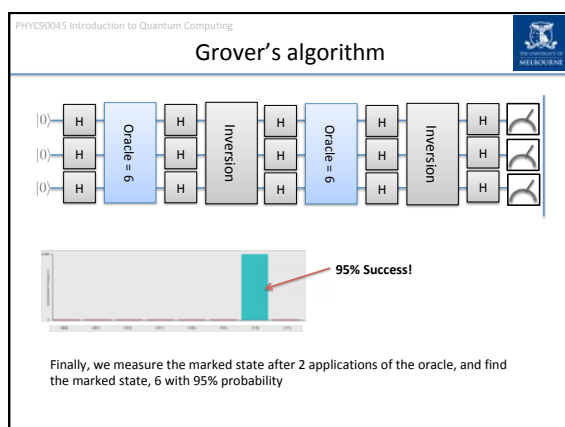
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### Geometric interpretation of Grover's algorithm

A very useful basis:

$$|a\rangle = |m\rangle$$

$$|b\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N-1}} \sum_{i \notin \text{solutions}} |i\rangle$$

Solution! 😊

Non-solutions... 🚫

We only need to consider the amplitude of these two states in Grover's algorithm. Every operation is also real, so we can plot on a circle.

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### Geometric Interpretation

Every state in Grover's algorithm can be expressed as a superposition of these vectors

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### Equal superposition

Equal superposition state:

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} |a\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{N-1}}{\sqrt{N}} |b\rangle$$

$$|a\rangle = |m\rangle \quad |b\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N-1}} \sum_{i \notin \text{solutions}} |i\rangle$$


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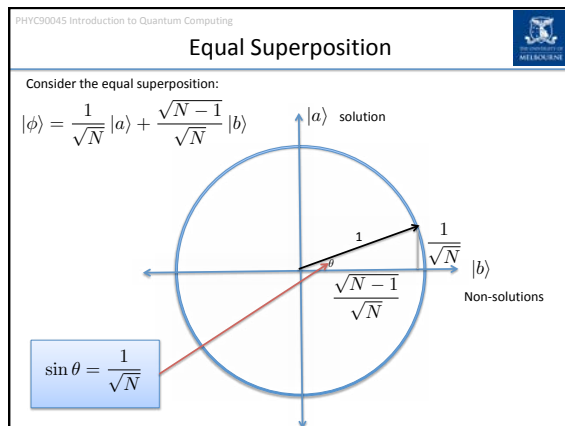
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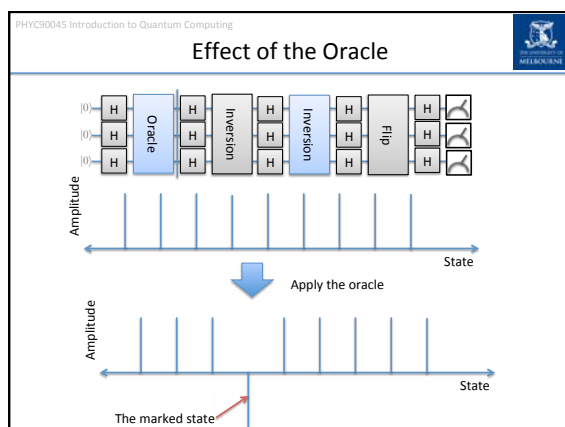
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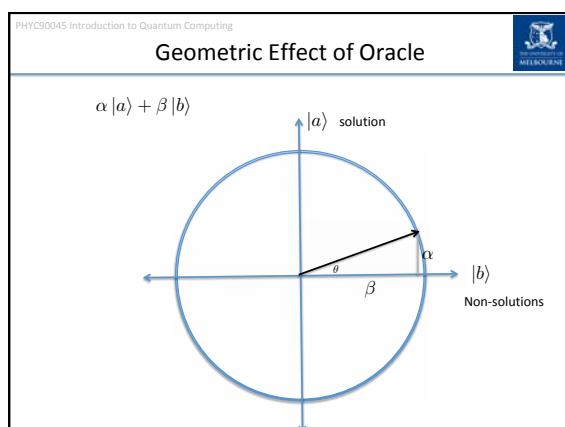
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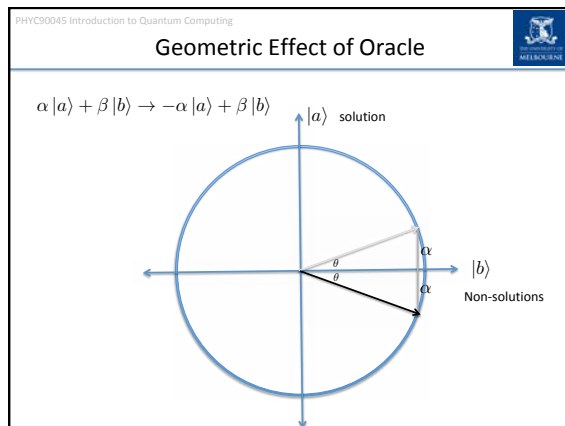
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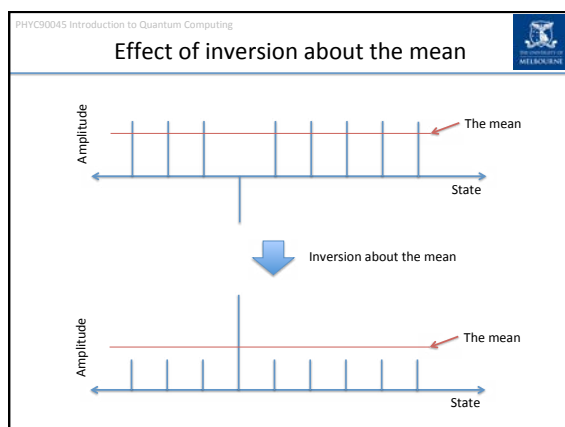
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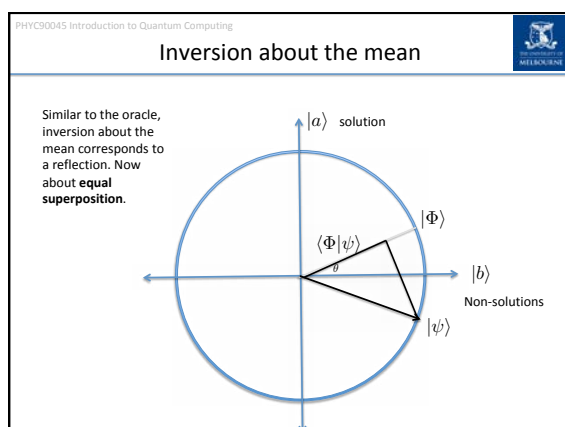
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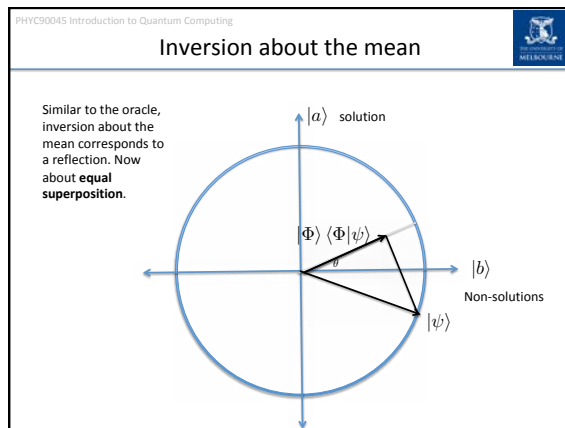
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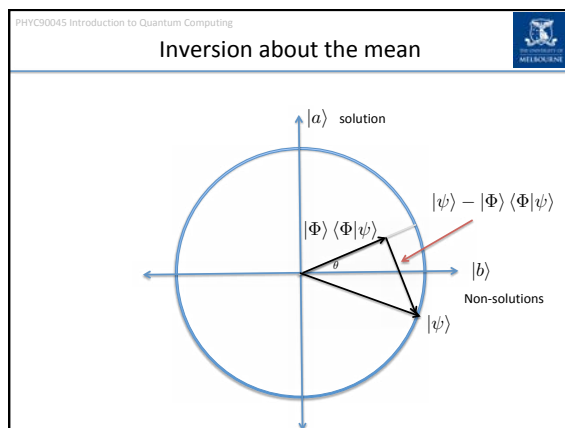
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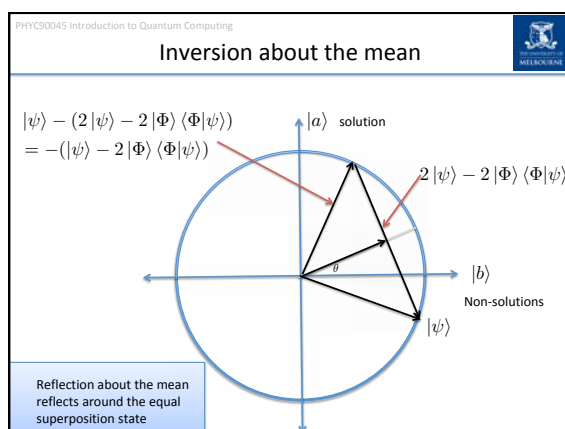
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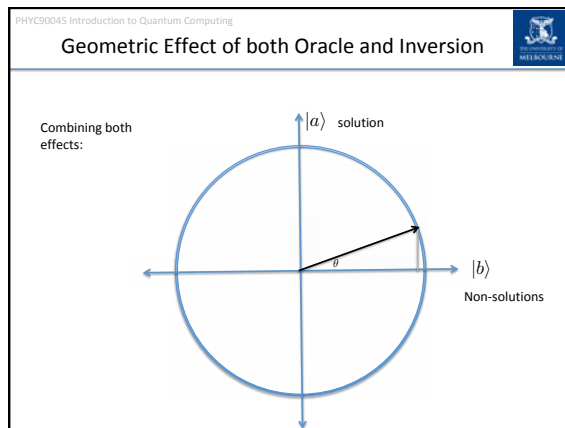
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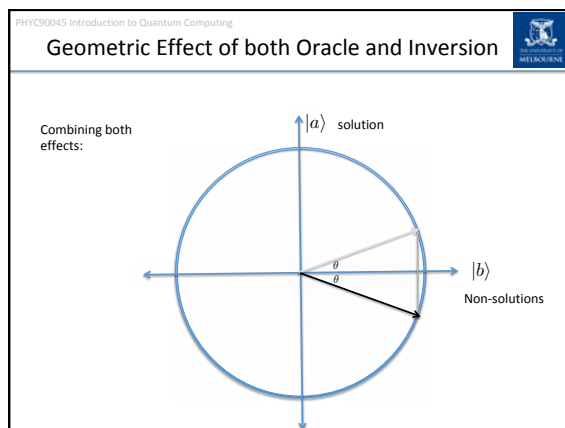
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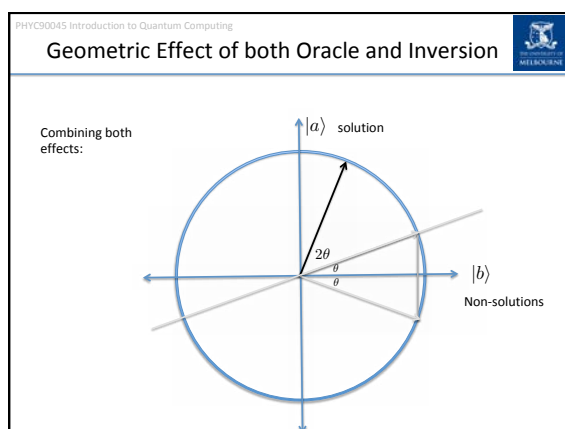
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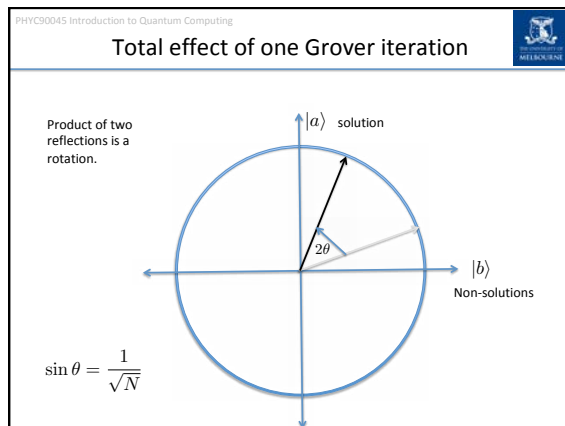
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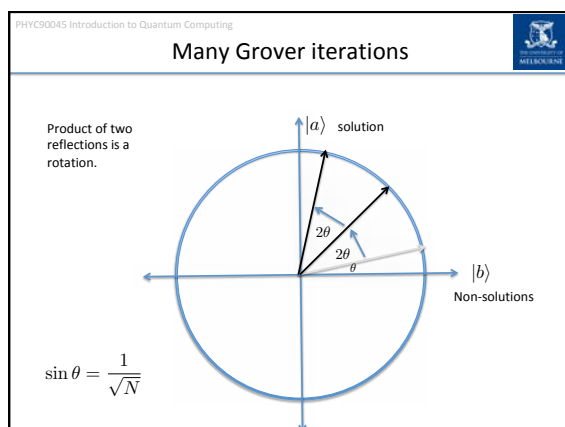
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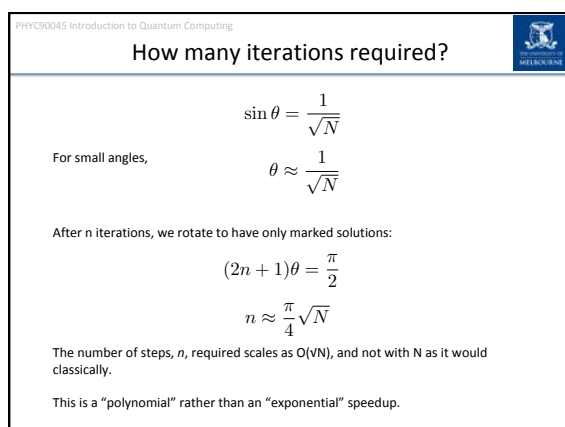
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### Multiple Solutions

There can be more than one solution to a problem.

Amplitude

State

Apply the oracle

The  $M=2$  marked states

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### Geometric interpretation of Grover's algorithm

A very useful basis:

$$|a\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{i \in \text{solutions}} |i\rangle$$

Solutions! 😊

$$|b\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N-M}} \sum_{i \notin \text{solutions}} |i\rangle$$

Non-solutions... 🚫

We only need to consider the amplitude of these two states in Grover's algorithm. Every operation is also real, so we can plot on a circle.

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### Geometric Interpretation

Every state in Grover's algorithm can be expressed as a superposition of these vectors

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### Equal superposition

Equal superposition state:

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$$

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{\sqrt{M}}{\sqrt{N}} |a\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{N-M}}{\sqrt{N}} |b\rangle$$

$$|a\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{i \in \text{solutions}} |i\rangle$$

$$|b\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N-M}} \sum_{i \notin \text{solutions}} |i\rangle$$


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### Equal Superposition

Consider the equal superposition:

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{\sqrt{M}}{\sqrt{N}} |a\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{N-M}}{\sqrt{N}} |b\rangle$$

$\sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{M}}{\sqrt{N}}$

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### Effect of the Oracle

Amplitude

State

Apply the oracle

Amplitude

State

The marked state

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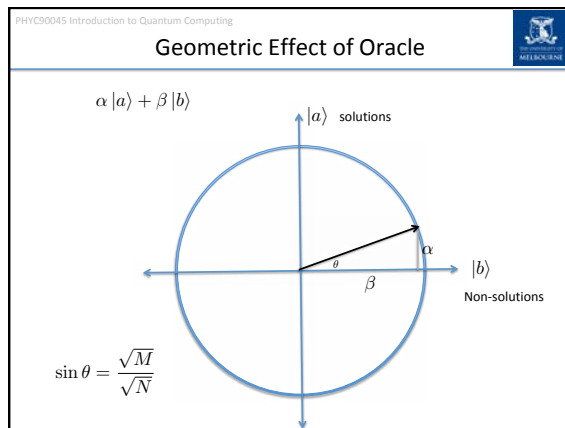
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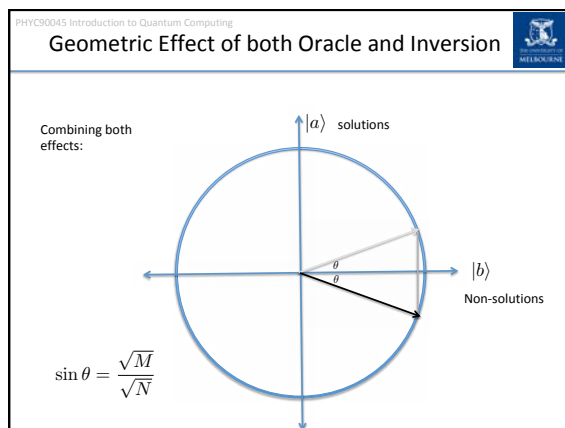
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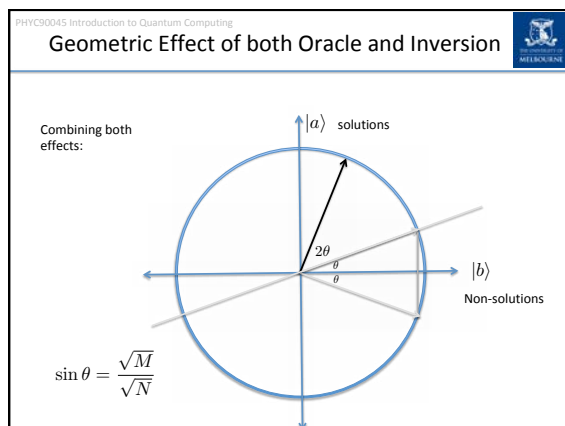
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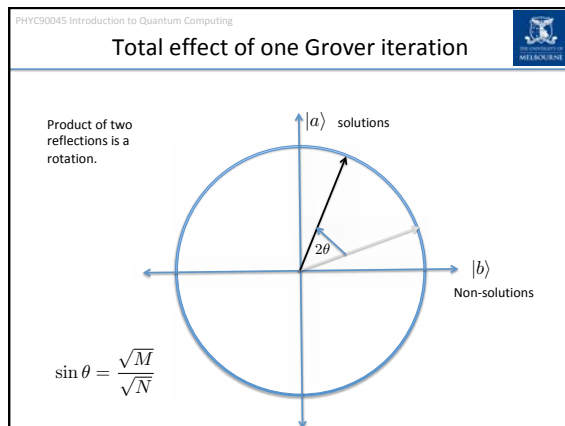
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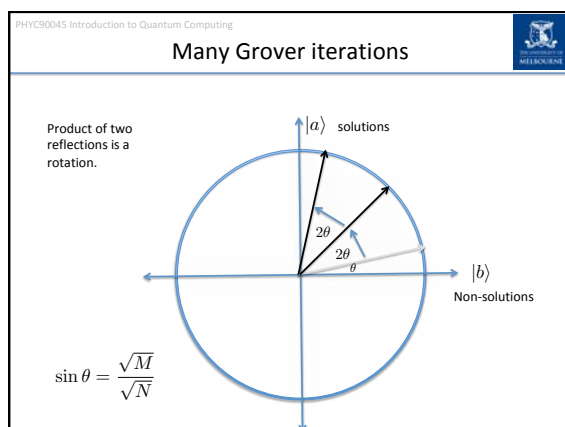
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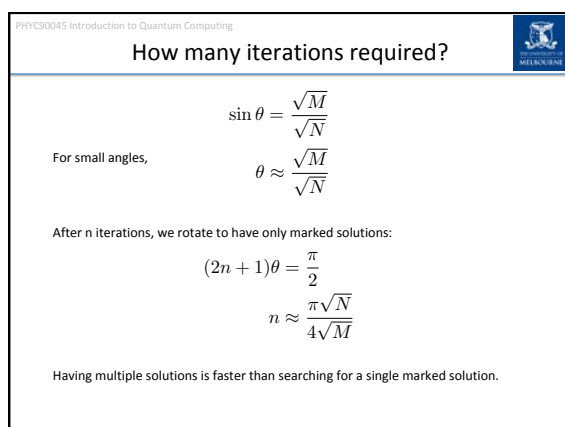
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## Grover's Algorithm

- Unordered search, find one marked item among many
- Classically, this requires  $N/2$  uses of the oracle
- Quantum mechanically, requires only  $O(\sqrt{N})$ .

Lov Grover

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