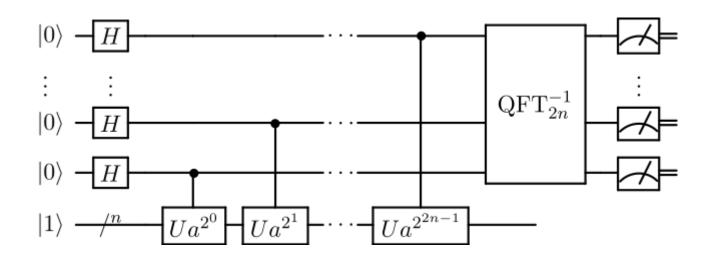
#### **Shor's Algorithm**

Shor's algorithm is a quantum algorithm for finding the prime factors of an integer. It was developed in 1994 by the American mathematician Peter Shor. Shor proposed multiple similar algorithms solving the **factoring problem**, the **discrete logarithm problem**, and the **period (order) finding problem**. The discrete logarithm and the factoring problems are instances of the period finding problem.



# Shor's Algorithm – What is period finding problem?

The **modulo** operation returns the remainder of a division. Given two positive numbers a and n,  $a \pmod{n}$  is the remainder of the Euclidean division of a by n. For example:

$$7 \pmod{15} = 7$$
,  $49 \pmod{15} = 4$ 

Right hand side of equation can be rewritten with modulo operation too, such as

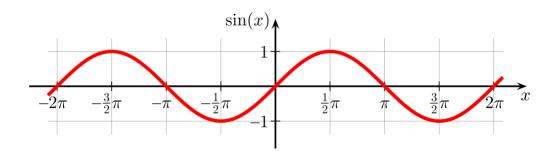
$$7 \equiv 7 \pmod{15}$$
,  $49 \equiv 4 \pmod{15}$ 

**Period finding problem** involves finding the period (repeating cycle) of a periodic function. A function f(x) is said to be periodic if,

$$f(x) = f(y)$$
, if and only if  $y = x + r$ 

where r is some nonzero constant, which is called the period of the function. With module operation, a periodic function is defined as,

$$f(x) = f(y)$$
, if and only if  $y \equiv x \pmod{r}$ 



For example, sin function has a period of  $2\pi$ :

$$\sin(x + 2\pi) = \sin(x)$$
,  $x + 2\pi \equiv x \pmod{2\pi}$ 

# Shor's Algorithm – What is discrete logarithm problem?

**Discrete logarithm problem** is a fundamental problem in the field of cryptography and computational number theory. It defines as finding the solution for function f(x),

$$f(x) = a^x \equiv b \pmod{N}$$

where a, b, N are constant, and N is a prime number.

For example, let's take a=7, b=4, N=15 $f(x)=7^x \equiv 4 \pmod{15}$ 

By testing few small positive integers,

when 
$$x = 2$$
,  $7^2 = 49 = 3 \times 15 + 4 \equiv 4 \pmod{15}$   
when  $x = 6$ ,  $7^6 = 117649 = 7843 \times 15 + 4 \equiv 4 \pmod{15}$   
when  $x = 10$ ,  $7^{10} = 282475249 = 18831683 \times 15 + 4 \equiv 4 \pmod{15}$   
:

The solution is x = 2, 6, 10, ..., 2 + 4n where n is a positive integer.

We notice that f(x) has a period of 4.  $f(2) \equiv f(6) \equiv 4 \pmod{15}$ 

## **Shor's Algorithm – What is factoring problem?**

**Factoring problem** involves finding the prime factors of a composite (not prime) number, which is a number that can be divided by numbers other than 1 and itself.

A complete factoring algorithm is possible if we're able to efficiently factor an arbitrary integer N, find two integers p and q greater than 1, such that

$$N = p \cdot q$$

For example,  $15 = 3 \cdot 5$ . Then for complete factoring problem we can keep solve this problem until only primes factors remain. For example,

$$120 = 2 \cdot 60 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 30 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 15 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$$

To solve the factoring problem, Shor's algorithm consists of two parts

- A classical reduction of the factoring problem to the problem of order-finding.
- A quantum algorithm to solve the order-finding problem.

Before explaining how to perform classical reduction, we need to introduction several terms:

- Greatest common divisor
- Chinese remainder theorem
- Euler's totient function
- Fermat's little theorem
- Euler's theorem
- Order finding problem

**Greatest common divisor (GCD)** of two integers, which are not all zero, is the largest positive integer that divides each of the integers. For two integers a, b, it is denoted as gcd(a, b).

$$gcd(15, 21) = 3$$
,  $gcd(21, 98) = 7$ ,  $gcd(7, 15) = 1$ 

**Chinese remainder theorem** states that if one knows the remainders of the Euclidean division of an integer n by several integers, then one can determine *uniquely* the remainder of the division of n by the product of these integers, under the condition that the divisors are pairwise coprime (no two divisors share a common factor other than 1).

Let  $p_1, p_2, p_3, ..., p_n$  be pairwise coprime  $(\gcd(p_i, p_j) = 1$ , where  $i \neq j$ ). The system of n equations

$$\begin{cases} x \equiv a_1 \ (mod \ p_1) \\ x \equiv a_2 \ (mod \ p_2) \\ \vdots \\ x \equiv a_n \ (mod \ p_n) \end{cases}$$

has a unique solution for  $x \pmod{N}$ , where  $N = p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdot p_3 \cdot ... \cdot p_n$ . There could be more solution, such as  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , but they are congruent modulo N.

$$x_1 \equiv x_2 \equiv x \pmod{N}$$

**Chinese remainder theorem** implies we can represent an element  $x \pmod{pq}$  by one element of  $a \pmod{p}$  and one element of  $b \pmod{q}$ , and vice versa.

Example system of 2 equations:

$$x \equiv 1 \ (mod \ 3), x \equiv 4 \ (mod \ 5)$$
 We can easily find  $x = 4, 19, 34, 49, ...$ , which is  $x \equiv 4 \ (mod \ 15)$ .  $x \equiv 4 \ (mod \ 15)$  can write as  $x \equiv (1, 4) \ (mod \ 3, mod \ 5)$  To compute  $7^3 \ (mod \ 15)$ :  $7^3 \ (mod \ 15) \equiv 7 \times 7 \times 7 (mod \ 15)$ 

 $\equiv (1 \times 1 \times 1, 2 \times 2 \times 2) \equiv (1, 8) \equiv (1, 3) \pmod{3, mod 5}$  $\equiv 13 \pmod{15}$ 

To compute  $7^4 \pmod{15}$ :

$$7^{4} (mod 15) \equiv 7 \times 7 \times 7 \times 7 (mod 15)$$

$$\equiv (1 \times 1 \times 1 \times 1, 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2) \equiv (1, 16) \equiv (1, 1) (mod 3, mod 5)$$

$$\equiv 1 (mod 15)$$

**Euler's totient function** counts the positive integers up to a given integer n that are relatively prime to n. It is written as  $\varphi(n)$ . In other words, it is the number of integers k in the range  $1 \le k \le n$  for which the greatest common divisor  $\gcd(n, k) = 1$ .

For example, n=15, there are 8 numbers coprime to 15: 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14  $\varphi(15)=8$ 

To compute Euler's totient function

$$\varphi(n) = n\left(1 - \frac{1}{p_1}\right)\left(1 - \frac{1}{p_2}\right)\cdots\left(1 - \frac{1}{p_r}\right)$$

where  $n = p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \cdots p_r^{k_r}$ 

For example,

15 = 3 × 5, 
$$\varphi(15) = 15\left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right)\left(1 - \frac{1}{5}\right) = 8$$

**Fermat's little theorem** states that if p is a prime number, then for any integer a, such as  $a \le p$ . The number  $a^p - a$  is an integer multiple of p.

$$a^p \equiv a \pmod{p} \Rightarrow a^p - a \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$$

If a is coprime to p

$$a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p} \Rightarrow a^{p-1} - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$$

For example,

$$a = 1, p = 2,$$
  $1^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{2}$   
 $a = 2, p = 7,$   $2^7 \equiv 128 \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$ 

**Euler's theorem** is a generalization of Fermat's little theorem: For any modulus n and any integer a coprime to n,

$$a^{\varphi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$$

For example,

$$\varphi(15) = 8 \Rightarrow a^8 \equiv 1 \pmod{15}$$
  
 $1^8 \equiv 1, 2^8 \equiv 1, 4^8 \equiv 1, 7^8 \equiv 1 \cdots \pmod{15}$ 

**Order-finding problem** is similar to discrete logarithm problem. But instead of finding the solution for function f(x), it finds the period of function f(x),

$$f(x) = a^x \pmod{N}$$

Find period, or order r, which is the smallest (non-zero) positive integer such that:

$$a^r \pmod{N} \equiv 1 \text{ or } a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$$

Using a similar example a = 7 and N = 15:

$$7^{0} \equiv 1 \pmod{15}$$
  
 $7^{1} \equiv 7 \pmod{15}$   
 $7^{2} = 49 \equiv 4 \pmod{15}$   
 $7^{3} = 343 \equiv 13 \pmod{15}$   
 $7^{4} = 2401 \equiv 1 \pmod{15}$   
 $\vdots$ 

We find the order r = 4

- 1. If *N* is not an even integer or a perfect power of prime, we start the algorithm.
- 2. Pick a random number 1 < a < N
- 3. Compute  $K = \gcd(a, N)$ , the greatest common divisor of a and N.
- 4. Determine whether K == 1 or not.
  - 1. If  $K \neq 1$ , then K is a nontrivial factor of N. We done p = K,  $q = \frac{N}{K}$ .
  - 2. If K = 1, then use the **quantum algorithm** to find the order r of a, where  $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ .
- 5. If r is odd, then go back to step 2.
- 6. Compute  $g = \gcd(a^{\frac{1}{2}} + 1, N)$ . Determine whether g == 1 or not
  - 1. If  $g \neq 1$ , then g is a nontrivial factor of N. We done p = g,  $q = \frac{N}{g}$ .
  - 2. If g = 1, then go back to step 2.

The first important part Shor's algorithm is **quantum Fourier transform (QFT)**. QFT is a quantum implementation of the discreet Fourier transform. Using quantum computing, QFT is exponentially faster than the famous Fast Fourier Transform of classical computers.

The classical Fourier transform acts on a vector  $(x_0, x_1, ..., x_{N-1})$  and maps it to the vector  $(y_0, y_1, ..., y_{N-1})$  according to the formula:

$$y_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} x_j e^{\frac{2\pi i}{N} \cdot (jk)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} x_j \omega_N^{jk}$$

where k=0,1,2,...,N-1 and  $\omega_N=e^{\frac{-N}{N}}$ 

Similarly, the **QFT** acts on a quantum state  $|x\rangle = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} x_j |n\rangle$  and maps it to a quantum state  $|y\rangle = \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} y_k |k\rangle$  according to the same formula above. In case that  $|j\rangle$  is a basis state, the QFT can also be expressed as the map:

$$|j\rangle \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \omega_N^{jk}$$

The **QFT** can be performed efficiently on a quantum computer with a decomposition into the product of simpler unitary matrices. The **QFT** can be viewed as a unitary matrix acting on quantum state vectors:

$$F_{N} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1\\ 1 & \omega & \omega^{2} & \omega^{3} & \cdots & \omega^{N-1}\\ 1 & \omega^{2} & \omega^{4} & \omega^{6} & \cdots & \omega^{2(N-1)}\\ 1 & \omega^{3} & \omega^{6} & \omega^{9} & \cdots & \omega^{3(N-1)}\\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots\\ 1 & \omega^{N-1} & \omega^{(N-1)2} & \omega^{(N-1)3} & \cdots & \omega^{(N-1)(N-1)} \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\omega=e^{\frac{2\pi i}{N}}$ . For example, in case of N=4 and  $\omega=e^{\frac{2\pi i}{4}}=i$ :

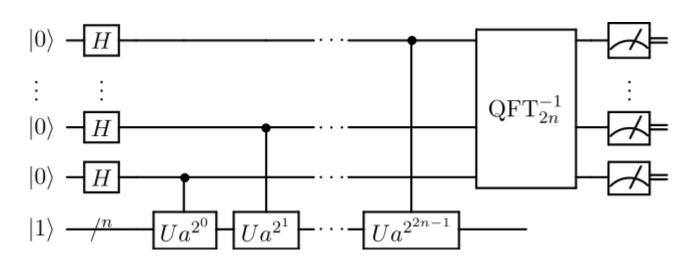
$$F_4 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & i & -1 & -i \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & -i & -1 & i \end{bmatrix}$$

From step 4.2. "If K = 1, then use the **quantum algorithm** to find the order r of a, where  $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ ."

The goal of the quantum order-finding subroutine of Shor's algorithm is finding the order r:  $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ 

where r is the smallest positive integer, not zero.

- 1. Use **quantum phase estimation** with unitary U representing the operation of multiplying by  $a \pmod{N}$ . Then we will measure a phase  $\phi = \frac{s}{r}$ .
- 2. Use **continued fractions algorithm** to extract the period r from the measurement outcomes obtained in the previous stage.



1. Use **quantum phase estimation** with unitary U representing the operation of multiplying by  $a \pmod{N}$ . Then we will measure a phase  $\phi = \frac{s}{r}$ .

We have a unitary operator:

$$U|x\rangle = |a \cdot x \pmod{N}\rangle$$

A superposition of the states in this cycle  $|u_0\rangle$  would be an eigenstate of U:

$$|u_0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} |a^k \pmod{N}\rangle \text{ and } U|u_0\rangle = |u_0\rangle$$

Prove:

$$U|u_{0}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} |a \cdot a^{k} \pmod{N}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} |a \cdot a^{r-1} \pmod{N}\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{k=0}^{r-2} |a \cdot a^{k} \pmod{N}\rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} |a^{r} \pmod{N}\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{k=1}^{r-1} |a^{k} \pmod{N}\rangle$$

Since  $a^r \equiv 1 \equiv a^0 \pmod{N}$ 

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} |a^{0} (mod N)\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{k=1}^{r-1} |a^{k} (mod N)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} |a^{k} (mod N)\rangle = |u_{0}\rangle$$

1. Use **quantum phase estimation** with unitary U representing the operation of multiplying by  $a \pmod{N}$ . Then we will measure a phase  $\phi = \frac{s}{r}$ .

Similar, we can define another eigenstate and apply the same unitary operator:

$$|u_1\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} e^{-\frac{2\pi i k}{r}} |a^k \pmod{N}\rangle \quad \text{and} \quad U|u_1\rangle = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{r}} |u_1\rangle$$

Prove:

$$\begin{split} &U|u_{1}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}\sum_{k=0}^{r-1}e^{-\frac{2\pi ik}{r}}|a\cdot a^{k}\ (mod\ N)\ \rangle\\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}e^{-\frac{2\pi i(r-1)}{r}}|a\cdot a^{r-1}\ (mod\ N)\ \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}\sum_{k=0}^{r-2}e^{\frac{2\pi i}{r}}e^{-\frac{2\pi i(k-1)}{r}}|a\cdot a^{k}\ (mod\ N)\ \rangle\\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}e^{\frac{2\pi i}{r}}|a^{r}\ (mod\ N)\ \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}e^{\frac{2\pi i}{r}}\sum_{k=1}^{r-1}e^{-\frac{2\pi ik}{r}}|a^{k}\ (mod\ N)\ \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}\sum_{k=1}^{r-1}|a^{k}\ (mod\ N)\ \rangle\\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}e^{\frac{2\pi i}{r}}\sum_{k=0}^{r-1}e^{-\frac{2\pi ik}{r}}|a^{k}\ (mod\ N)\ \rangle = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{r}}|u_{1}\rangle \end{split}$$

1. Use **quantum phase estimation** with unitary U representing the operation of multiplying by  $a \pmod{N}$ . Then we will measure a phase  $\phi = \frac{s}{r}$ .

Then we can define general eigenstate and apply the same unitary operator:

$$|u_s\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} e^{-\frac{2\pi i k}{r} \cdot s} |a^k \pmod{N}\rangle \quad \text{and} \quad U|u_s\rangle = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{r} \cdot s} |u_s\rangle$$

where  $0 \le s \le r - 1$ , and each eigenstate is unique.

If we sum up all these eigenstates, the different phases cancel out all computational basis states except |1>

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{s=0}^{r-1} |u_s\rangle = |1\rangle$$

Since the computational basis state  $|1\rangle$  is a superposition of these eigenstates:

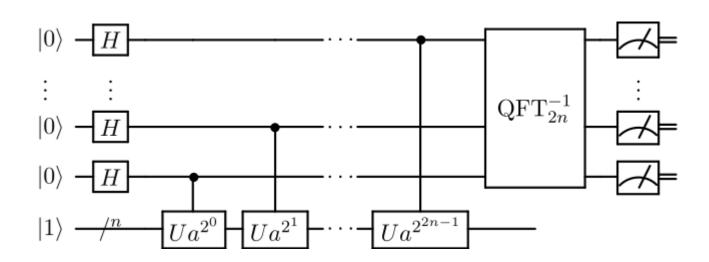
$$U|1\rangle = U \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{s=0}^{r-1} |u_s\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} e^{\frac{2\pi i}{r} \cdot s} \sum_{s=0}^{r-1} |u_s\rangle = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{r} \cdot s} |1\rangle$$

we will measure a phase  $\phi = \frac{s}{r}$ 

The goal of the quantum order-finding subroutine of Shor's algorithm is finding the order r:  $a^r \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ 

where r is the smallest positive integer, not zero.

- 1. Use **quantum phase estimation** with unitary U representing the operation of multiplying by  $a \pmod{N}$ . Then we will measure a phase  $\phi = \frac{s}{r}$ .
- Use continued fractions algorithm to extract the period r from the measurement outcomes obtained in the previous stage.



1. Example using quantum phase estimation.

Give example 
$$a=7$$
 and  $N=15$ : With quantum phase estimation on  $7^0\equiv 1\ (mod\ 15)$  the unitary operator  $U$ : 
$$7^1\equiv 7\ (mod\ 15)$$
 
$$7^2\equiv 4\ (mod\ 15)$$
 
$$r=4$$
 
$$U|1\rangle\equiv |7\rangle$$
 
$$U^2|1\rangle\equiv |4\rangle$$
 
$$U^3|1\rangle\equiv |13\rangle$$
 
$$U^4|1\rangle\equiv |1\rangle$$
 
$$\vdots$$

With eigenstates:

$$|u_{0}\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|1\rangle + |7\rangle + |4\rangle + |13\rangle)$$

$$|u_{1}\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|1\rangle + e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{4}}|7\rangle + e^{-\frac{4\pi i}{4}}|4\rangle + e^{-\frac{6\pi i}{4}}|13\rangle)$$

$$|u_{2}\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|1\rangle + e^{-2\frac{2\pi i}{4}}|7\rangle + e^{-2\frac{4\pi i}{4}}|4\rangle + e^{-2\frac{6\pi i}{4}}|13\rangle)$$

$$|u_{3}\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|1\rangle + e^{-3\frac{2\pi i}{4}}|7\rangle + e^{-3\frac{4\pi i}{4}}|4\rangle + e^{-3\frac{6\pi i}{4}}|13\rangle)$$

1. Example using **quantum phase estimation.** With eigenstates:

$$|u_0\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|1\rangle + |7\rangle + |4\rangle + |13\rangle)$$

$$U|u_0\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(U|1\rangle + U|7\rangle + U|4\rangle + U|13\rangle)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(|7\rangle + |4\rangle + |13\rangle + |1\rangle) = |u_0\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} |u_{1}\rangle &= \frac{1}{2}(|1\rangle + e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{4}}|7\rangle + e^{-\frac{4\pi i}{4}}|4\rangle + e^{-\frac{6\pi i}{4}}|13\rangle) \\ U|u_{1}\rangle &= \frac{1}{2}(U|1\rangle + Ue^{-\frac{2\pi i}{4}}|7\rangle + Ue^{-\frac{4\pi i}{4}}|4\rangle + Ue^{-\frac{6\pi i}{4}}|13\rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(|7\rangle + e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{4}}|4\rangle + e^{-\frac{4\pi i}{4}}|13\rangle + e^{-\frac{6\pi i}{4}}|1\rangle) \\ &= e^{\frac{2\pi i}{4}}\frac{1}{2}(e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{4}}|7\rangle + e^{-\frac{4\pi i}{4}}|4\rangle + e^{-\frac{6\pi i}{4}}|13\rangle + e^{-\frac{8\pi i}{4}}|1\rangle) = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{4}}|u_{1}\rangle \end{aligned}$$

1. Example using quantum phase estimation.

Sum up all these eigenstates:

$$U|1\rangle = U \frac{1}{\sqrt{4}} \sum_{s=0}^{3} |u_{s}\rangle = U \frac{1}{2} (|u_{0}\rangle + |u_{1}\rangle + |u_{2}\rangle + |u_{3}\rangle)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (|u_{0}\rangle + e^{\frac{2\pi i}{4}} |u_{1}\rangle + e^{\frac{4\pi i}{4}} |u_{2}\rangle + e^{\frac{6\pi i}{4}} |u_{3}\rangle)$$

$$= e^{\frac{2\pi i}{4} \cdot s} |1\rangle$$

where  $0 \le s \le 3$ 

2. Use **continued fractions algorithm** to extract the period r from the measurement outcomes obtained in the previous stage.

The **continued fractions algorithm** find integers b and c, where  $\frac{b}{c}$  gives the best fraction approximation for the approximation measured from the quantum circuit. For b, c < N and coprime b and c.

$$\frac{s}{r} = \frac{192}{256} = \frac{3}{4} = \frac{b}{c}$$

2. Use **continued fractions algorithm** to extract the period r from the measurement outcomes obtained in the previous stage.

Give example a = 7, N = 15, and r = 4.

$$U|1\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|u_0\rangle + e^{\frac{2\pi i}{4}}|u_1\rangle + e^{\frac{4\pi i}{4}}|u_2\rangle + e^{\frac{6\pi i}{4}}|u_3\rangle)$$

Using 8 qubits for the quantum circuit, we could have the following measurements:

$$000000000 = 0 (dec), \qquad \frac{0}{256} = 0$$

$$010000000 = 64 (dec), \qquad \frac{64}{256} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$100000000 = 128 (dec), \qquad \frac{128}{256} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$110000000 = 192 (dec), \qquad \frac{192}{256} = \frac{3}{4}$$

Therefore, we find r could be 2 or 4. We can the larger probability one r=4.