

Clifford Tableaus and the Stabilizer Algorithm

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Outline



- Preliminary Definitions
- Stabilizer Formalism
- Stabilizer Algorithm

Pauli Matrices



$$I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Products of Pauli matrices:

$$I^2 = X^2 = Y^2 = Z^2 = I$$

$$IX = XI = X \qquad IY = YI = Y \qquad IZ = ZI = Z$$

$$XY = iZ \qquad YX = -iZ$$

$$YZ = iX \qquad ZY = -iX$$

$$ZX = iY \qquad XZ = -iY$$

[1] Scott Aaronson and Daniel Gottesman. "Improved simulation of stabilizer circuits". In: *Physical Review A—Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics* 70.5 (2004), p. 052328



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- Inverse: $\forall g \in G \Longrightarrow \exists g^{-1} \in G$ such that $g \cdot g^{-1} = g^{-1} \cdot g = e$



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$$\mathcal{P}_1 = \{ \pm I, \pm iI, \pm X, \pm iX, \pm Y, \pm iY, \pm Z, \pm iZ \}$$

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Size of a Pauli Group: $|\mathcal{P}_n| = 4^{n+1}$

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Pauli Group Operations



Given two Pauli operators $P = i^{m_P} \bigotimes_{j=1}^n P_j$ and $Q = i^{m_Q} \bigotimes_{j=1}^n Q_j$, their product, as necessitated by Group Definition, is:

$$P \cdot Q = i^{m_P + m_Q} \bigotimes_{j=1}^n P_j Q_j$$

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P commutes with Q if the number of indices j such that P_j anti-commutes with Q_j is even.

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Group Generators



A set of l elements $\{g_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq l}$ generates a group G if every element $g \in G$ can be written as a product of the generators.

In this case, the group G can be written in terms of its generators:

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Examples:
$$\mathcal{P}_1 = \langle X, Z, iI \rangle$$
 $\langle X \rangle = \{I, X\}$

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Stabilizer Groups Definitions



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- $S \cong$ Subgroup of the Pauli Group \mathcal{P}_n : $S \subseteq \mathcal{P}_n$.
- $V_S =$ Set of n-qubit states stabilized by S:

$$V_S = \{ |\psi\rangle \mid S \subseteq \mathcal{P}_n, \forall g \in S \text{ holds: } g |\psi\rangle = |\psi\rangle \}$$



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Example:
$$S=\{\pm I,\pm X\}$$

$$(-I)\in S \text{ and } (-I)|\psi\rangle=-|\psi\rangle \implies |\psi\rangle=\vec{0} \implies V_S=\left\{\vec{0}\right\} \text{ (trivial)}$$



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Conditions for S such that V_S not trivial:

Commutativity: $\forall g_1, g_2 \in S$ holds: $g_1g_2 = g_2g_1$



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Conditions for S such that V_S not trivial:

- **Commutativity:** $\forall g_1, g_2 \in S$ holds: $g_1g_2 = g_2g_1$
- Strict Identity: $-I \notin S$, $iI \notin S$, $-iI \notin S$

[2] Michael A Nielsen and Isaac L Chuang. *Quantum computation and quantum information*. Cambridge university press, 2010
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Suppose g_1 and g_2 anti-commute:

$$|\psi\rangle=g_1g_2\,|\psi\rangle=-g_2g_1\,|\psi\rangle=-\,|\psi\rangle\quad\Longleftrightarrow\quad |\psi\rangle=\vec{0}\quad\Longrightarrow\quad V_S \ \text{is trivial}.$$

Stabilizer Conditions



Commutativity Proof

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- $\Longrightarrow g_1$ and g_2 commute.

Stabilizer ConditionsStrict Identity Proof



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Stabilizer Conditions Strict Identity Proof



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$$\begin{aligned} (-I) \in S & \implies |\psi\rangle = (-I) |\psi\rangle = -|\psi\rangle & \iff |\psi\rangle = \vec{0} & \implies V_S \text{ is trivial.} \\ (iI) \in S & \implies |\psi\rangle = (iI) |\psi\rangle = i |\psi\rangle & \iff |\psi\rangle = \vec{0} & \implies V_S \text{ is trivial.} \\ (-iI) \in S & \implies |\psi\rangle = (-iI) |\psi\rangle = -i |\psi\rangle & \iff |\psi\rangle = \vec{0} & \implies V_S \text{ is trivial.} \end{aligned}$$

Stabilizer Conditions Strict Identity Proof



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Check MatrixStructure



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More explicitly, with $h_{i,j}$ denoting the element of H_S at row i and column j:

If g_i contains I on the j^{th} qubit $\Longrightarrow h_{i,j} = 0$ and $h_{i,n+j} = 0$.



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- If g_i contains Z on the j^{th} qubit $\Longrightarrow h_{i,j} = 0$ and $h_{i,n+j} = 1$.
- If g_i contains Y on the j^{th} qubit $\Longrightarrow h_{i,j} = 1$ and $h_{i,n+j} = 1$.

Check Matrix Example Steane Code



For Readability tensor product operator signs are left out. $\sigma_i \sigma_j$ corresponds to $\sigma_i \otimes \sigma_j$.

Γ0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	07
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	$1 \rfloor$

	Generator	Operator			
	g_1	IIIXXXX			
<u></u>	g_2	IXXIIXX			
	g_3	XIXIXIX			
	g_4	IIIZZZZ			
	g_5	IZZIIZZ			
	g_6	ZIZIZIZ			



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⇒ If we can describe a state by its stabilizers, we can easily compute the stabilizers of the state that emerges from the previous state under a unitary operation.



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(Unkown) State $|\psi\rangle$ stabilized by X.



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Example:

(Unkown) State $|\psi\rangle$ stabilized by X.

 \longrightarrow Apply Hadamard gate H to $|\psi\rangle$.

 \Longrightarrow Resulting (Unkown) state $|\psi'\rangle$ stabilized by Z.

Unitary Operations Transformation under Conjugation



Operation	Input	Output
	X_1	X_1X_2
CX	X_2	X_2
	Z_1	Z_1
	Z_2	Z_1Z_2
Н	X	Z
	Z	X
S	X	Y
) 3	Z	Z

Operation	Input	Output
X	X	X
Λ	Z	-Z
V	X	-X
1	Z	-Z
Z	X	-X
Z	Z	Z



We want to measure observable $q \in \mathcal{P}_n$ of state $|\psi\rangle$, stabilized by $\langle q_i \mid i \in \mathbb{N}, 1 < i < l \rangle$.



We want to measure observable $g \in \mathcal{P}_n$ of state $|\psi\rangle$, stabilized by $\langle g_i \mid i \in \mathbb{N}, 1 \leq i \leq l \rangle$.

Two possibilities:

1. q commutes with all generators of the stabilizer.



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 - ⇒ Measurement outcome is deterministic.



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- 1. g commutes with all generators of the stabilizer.
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- 1. g commutes with all generators of the stabilizer.
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g commutes with all g_i and assume g does not have a global phase.



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$$\forall i \text{ holds: } g_i g | \psi \rangle = g g_i | \psi \rangle = g | \psi \rangle \implies g | \psi \rangle \in V_S$$



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$$g^{2} |\psi\rangle = I |\psi\rangle = |\psi\rangle \implies g |\psi\rangle = \pm |\psi\rangle \implies g \in S \vee (-g) \in S$$



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$$g \in S \quad \Longrightarrow \quad g \, |\psi\rangle = |\psi\rangle \qquad \Longrightarrow \quad \text{Measurement yields } +1$$



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In both cases the measurement does not disturb the state of the system, and leaves the stabilizer invariant.

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Without loss of generality, let g anti-commute with g_1 and g does not have a global phase.

$$\forall g_j$$
 with $j \neq 1$ and $g_j g = -g g_j$: Replace g_j with $g_j' = g_1 g_j$

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$$\implies g_j' g = g_1 g_j g = -g_1 g g_j = g g_1 g_j = g g_j'$$

MeasurementNon-deterministic case preliminaries



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$$\forall g_j \text{ with } j \neq 1 \text{ and } g_j g = -g g_j : \text{ Replace } g_j \text{ with } g_j' = g_1 g_j$$

$$\implies g_j' g = g_1 g_j g = -g_1 g g_j = g g_1 g_j = g g_j'$$

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Because g has eigenvalues ± 1 , the measurement operators are: $M_{\pm g}=\frac{I\pm g}{2}$

Measurement Non-deterministic case continuation



Measurement probabilities:

$$p(+1) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\frac{I+g}{2}\left|\psi\right\rangle\left\langle\psi\right|\right) \qquad \wedge \qquad p(-1) = \operatorname{tr}\left(\frac{I-g}{2}\left|\psi\right\rangle\left\langle\psi\right|\right)$$



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Outline



- Preliminary Definitions
- Stabilizer Formalism
- Stabilizer Algorithm

Gottesman-Knill Theorem



Suppose a quantum computation is performed which involves only the following elements:

- State preparations in the computational basis
- Hadamard gates
- Phase gates
- Controlled-NOT gates
- Pauli gates
- Measurements of observables in the Pauli group

Together with the possibility of classical control conditioned on the outcome of such measurements. Such a computation may be efficiently simulated on a classical computer.



Mainly:

Circuit consisting solely of CX, H, S and M gates.



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$$SWAP(a, b) = CX(a, b)CX(b, a)CX(a, b)$$

Clifford Tableau Structure



Basically an expanded Check Matrix.

Clifford Tableau



Structure

Basically an expanded Check Matrix.



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 \blacksquare Rows 1 to n represent Destabilizers.

			-				
1	$x_{1,1}$		$x_{1,n}$	$z_{1,1}$		$z_{1,n}$	$ r_1 \rangle$
	i	٠	:	:	٠.,	÷	:
	$x_{n,1}$		$x_{n,n}$	$z_{n,1}$		$z_{n,n}$	r_n
	$x_{(n+1),1}$		$x_{(n+1),n}$	$z_{(n+1),1}$		$z_{(n+1),n}$	r_{n+1}
	:	٠	:	:	٠	:	;
	$x_{(2n),1}$		$x_{(2n),n}$	$z_{(2n),1}$		$z_{(2n),n}$	r_{2n}
	$x_{(2n+1),1}$		$x_{(2n+1),n}$	$z_{(2n+1),1}$		$z_{(2n+1),n}$	r_{2n+1}



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	•		•				•
($x_{1,1}$		$x_{1,n}$	$z_{1,1}$		$z_{1,n}$	$ r_1 \rangle$
	÷	٠.,	:	:	٠.,	÷	:
	$x_{n,1}$		$x_{n,n}$	$z_{n,1}$		$z_{n,n}$	r_n
	$x_{(n+1),1}$		$x_{(n+1),n}$	$z_{(n+1),1}$		$z_{(n+1),n}$	r_{n+1}
	:	٠.,	:	:	٠.,	÷	;
	$x_{(2n),1}$		$x_{(2n),n}$	$z_{(2n),1}$		$z_{(2n),n}$	r_{2n}
	$x_{(2n+1),1}$		$x_{(2n+1),n}$	$z_{(2n+1),1}$		$z_{(2n+1),n}$	r_{2n+1}



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	3		- 3				5 - 1
($x_{1,1}$		$x_{1,n}$	$z_{1,1}$		$z_{1,n}$	$ r_1 \rangle$
	:	٠.	÷	:	٠.,	÷	:
	$x_{n,1}$		$x_{n,n}$	$z_{n,1}$		$z_{n,n}$	r_n
	$x_{(n+1),1}$		$x_{(n+1),n}$	$z_{(n+1),1}$		$z_{(n+1),n}$	r_{n+1}
	:	٠.	:	:	٠.	:	:
	$x_{(2n),1}$		$x_{(2n),n}$	$z_{(2n),1}$		$z_{(2n),n}$	r_{2n}
	$x_{(2n+1),1}$		$x_{(2n+1),n}$	$z_{(2n+1),1}$		$z_{(2n+1),n}$	r_{2n+1}



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- $ightharpoonup r_i$ of row i represents the global phase, $r_i=0$ for +1 and $r_i=1$ for -1.

,	3		3				0 1-
($x_{1,1}$		$x_{1,n}$	$z_{1,1}$		$z_{1,n}$	$ r_1 \rangle$
	i	٠	:	:	٠.,	÷	:
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	$x_{(n+1),1}$		$x_{(n+1),n}$	$z_{(n+1),1}$		$z_{(n+1),n}$	r_{n+1}
	÷	٠	:	:	٠	÷	:
	$x_{(2n),1}$		$x_{(2n),n}$	$z_{(2n),1}$		$z_{(2n),n}$	r_{2n}
	$x_{(2n+1),1}$		$x_{(2n+1),n}$	$z_{(2n+1),1}$	• • •	$z_{(2n+1),n} \\$	r_{2n+1}



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Tableau for
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 is
$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



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In the following slides, let R_i denote the i-th row of the stabilizer tableau.



Suppose we apply a Hadamard gate to qubit a of current state $|\psi\rangle$.



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 \Longrightarrow For all stabilizers and destabilizers R_i the entries $x_{i,a}$ and $z_{i,a}$ determine the entries $x'_{i,a}$ and $z'_{i,a}$ of the new stabilizers and destabilizers R'_i after the Hadamard gate application in the following way:



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Operation summary: $x'_{i,a}=z_{i,a} \quad \wedge \quad z'_{i,a}=x_{i,a} \quad \wedge \quad r'_i=r_i \oplus (x_{i,a}\cdot z_{i,a})$



Suppose we apply a Phase gate to qubit a of current state $|\psi\rangle$.



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- $\blacksquare x_{i,a}z_{i,a} = 01 \implies P_{i,a} = Z \implies P'_{i,a} = SZS^{\dagger} = Z \implies x'_{i,a}z'_{i,a} = 01 \land r'_i = r_i$



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- $\blacksquare x_{i,a}z_{i,a} = 00 \implies P_{i,a} = I \implies P'_{i,a} = SIS^{\dagger} = I \implies x'_{i,a}z'_{i,a} = 00 \land r'_i = r_i$



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Operation summary: $x'_{i,a} = x_{i,a} \wedge z'_{i,a} = x_{i,a} \oplus z_{i,a} \wedge r'_{i} = r_{i} \oplus (x_{i,a} \cdot z_{i,a})$

References



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- [2] Michael A Nielsen and Isaac L Chuang. *Quantum computation and quantum information*. Cambridge university press, 2010.