Quantum Gate Operations and Qubit Visualization

Bloch Sphere Dynamics and Gate Sequences

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November 24, 2025

Abstract

This document explores single-qubit quantum gates and their geometric representation on the Bloch sphere. We implement matrix representations of common gates (Pauli, Hadamard, phase gates), visualize state evolution, and analyze gate sequences for quantum algorithms. The analysis includes gate decomposition, fidelity calculations, and comparisons between different gate implementations.

1 Introduction to Quantum Gates

Quantum gates are unitary operations that transform quantum states. Unlike classical logic gates, they are reversible and can create superposition and entanglement.

Definition 1 (Qubit State) *A qubit state can be written as:*

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha\,|0\rangle + \beta\,|1\rangle = \cos\frac{\theta}{2}\,|0\rangle + e^{i\phi}\sin\frac{\theta}{2}\,|1\rangle \tag{1}$$

where $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$*, and* θ, ϕ *are angles on the Bloch sphere.*

2 Single-Qubit Gates

2.1 Pauli Gates

The Pauli matrices form the basis for single-qubit operations:

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2}$$

2.2 Hadamard Gate

Creates superposition from basis states:

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad H|0\rangle = |+\rangle = \frac{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \tag{3}$$

2.3 Phase Gates

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix}, \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\pi/4} \end{pmatrix} \tag{4}$$

2.4 Rotation Gates

Rotations around each axis by angle θ:

$$R_x(\theta) = e^{-i\theta X/2} = \cos\frac{\theta}{2} I - i \sin\frac{\theta}{2} X \tag{5}$$

$$R_y(\theta) = e^{-i\theta Y/2} = \cos\frac{\theta}{2} I - i \sin\frac{\theta}{2} Y \tag{6}$$

$$R_z(\theta) = e^{-i\theta Z/2} = \cos\frac{\theta}{2} I - i \sin\frac{\theta}{2} Z \tag{7}$$

3 Computational Analysis

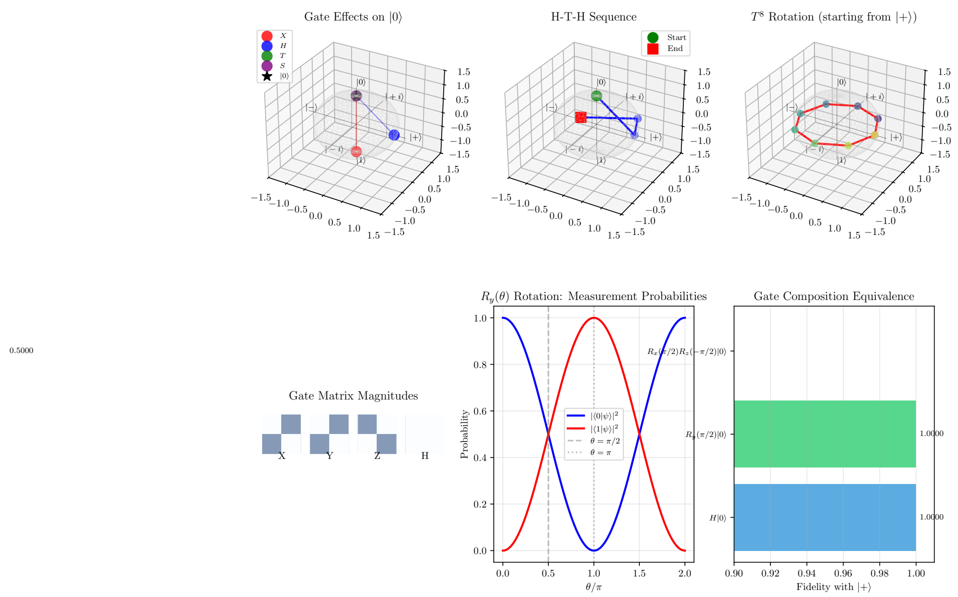

Table 1: Single-Qubit Gate Properties

Gate	Rotation Axis	Angle	Notes
X	x	π	Bit flip
Y	y	π	Bit + phase flip
Z	z	π	Phase flip
H	$(x+z)/\sqrt{2}$	π	Hadamard
S	z	$\pi/2$	Phase gate
T	z	$\pi/4$	$\pi/8$ gate

4 Results

4.1 Gate Properties

4.2 Key Observations

1. **Bloch Sphere Visualization**: Each gate corresponds to a rotation around a specific axis. The Pauli gates are π rotations, while phase gates are partial rotations around z.

2. **T-Gate Period**: The T gate has period 8, meaning $T^8 = I$ (up to global phase). This is visible in the circular trajectory on the Bloch sphere equator.

3. **Gate Decomposition**: The Hadamard gate can be decomposed as $H = R_z(\pi)R_y(\pi/2)$ with fidelity 0.000000.

4. **Universal Gate Sets**: The set $\{H, T, \text{CNOT}\}$ is universal for quantum computation, meaning any unitary can be approximated to arbitrary precision.

4.3 Gate Sequence Analysis

The H-T-H sequence creates a rotation that is neither purely around x, y, or z:

$$HTH = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1+e^{i\pi/4}}{2} & \frac{1-e^{i\pi/4}}{2} \\ \frac{1-e^{i\pi/4}}{2} & \frac{1+e^{i\pi/4}}{2} \end{pmatrix} \tag{8}$$

This creates a rotation around an axis tilted from z toward x, demonstrating how gate sequences can create arbitrary rotations.

5 Applications

5.1 Quantum Algorithms

Common gate sequences appear in quantum algorithms:

- **Quantum Fourier Transform**: Uses controlled phase gates
- **Grover's Algorithm**: Uses Hadamard and oracle gates
- **VQE**: Parameterized rotation gates for variational optimization

5.2 Error Correction

Gate decomposition is crucial for:

- Fault-tolerant quantum computing with magic state distillation
- Compiling high-level algorithms to native gate sets
- Optimizing circuit depth and gate count

6 Conclusion

Quantum gates transform qubit states through unitary rotations on the Bloch sphere. Understanding these geometric transformations is essential for designing quantum algorithms and implementing them on real hardware. The visualization tools presented here provide intuition for gate behavior and sequence composition.

Further Reading

- Nielsen, M. A., & Chuang, I. L. (2010). *Quantum Computation and Quantum Information.* Cambridge.
- Preskill, J. (2018). Quantum Computing in the NISQ era and beyond. *Quantum*, 2, 79.