# Understanding quantum information and computation

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Lesson 1
Single systems





### Descriptions of quantum information

#### Simplified description (this unit)

- Simpler and typically learned first
- Quantum states represented by <u>vectors</u>; operations are represented by <u>unitary matrices</u>
- Sufficient for an understanding of most quantum algorithms

#### General description (covered in a later unit)

- More general and more broadly applicable
- Quantum states represented by *density matrices;* allows for a more general class of measurements and operations
- Includes both the simplified description and classical information (including probabilistic states) as special cases

#### Classical information

Consider a physical system that stores information: let us call it X.

Assume X can be in one of a finite number of classical states at each moment. Denote this classical state set by  $\Sigma$ .

#### Examples

- If X is a bit, then its classical state set is  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ .
- If X is a six-sided die, then  $\Sigma = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ .
- If X is a switch on a standard electric fan, then perhaps  $\Sigma = \{\text{high, medium, low, off}\}.$

There there may be *uncertainty* about the classical state of a system, where each classical state has some *probability* associated with it.

#### Classical information

For example, if X is a bit, then perhaps it is in the classical state 0 with probability 3/4 and in the classical state 1 with probability 1/4. This is a *probabilistic state* of X.

$$Pr(X = 0) = \frac{3}{4}$$
 and  $Pr(X = 1) = \frac{1}{4}$ 

A succinct way to represent this probabilistic state is by a column vector:

This vector is a probability vector:

- All entries are nonnegative real numbers.
- The sum of the entries is 1.

### Dirac notation (first part)

Let  $\Sigma$  be any classical state set, and assume the elements of  $\Sigma$  have been placed in correspondence with the integers  $1, \ldots, |\Sigma|$ .

We denote by  $|\alpha\rangle$  the *column vector* having a 1 in the entry corresponding to  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ , with 0 for all other entries.

#### Example 1

If  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , then

$$|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 and  $|1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ 

### Dirac notation (first part)

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#### Example 2

If  $\Sigma = \{ \clubsuit, \blacklozenge, \blacktriangledown, \spadesuit \}$ , then we might choose to order these states like this:  $\spadesuit, \blacklozenge, \blacktriangledown, \spadesuit$ . This yields

### Dirac notation (first part)

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We denote by  $|\alpha\rangle$  the *column vector* having a 1 in the entry corresponding to  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ , with 0 for all other entries.

Vectors of this form are called *standard basis vectors*. Every vector can be expressed uniquely as a linear combination of standard basis vectors.

### Measuring probabilistic states

What happens if we *measure* a system X while it is in some probabilistic state?

We see a *classical state*, chosen at random according to the probabilities.

Suppose we see the classical state  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ .

This changes the probabilistic state of X (from our viewpoint): having recognized that X is in the classical state  $\alpha$ , we now have

$$Pr(X = a) = 1$$

This probabilistic state is represented by the vector  $|\alpha\rangle$ .

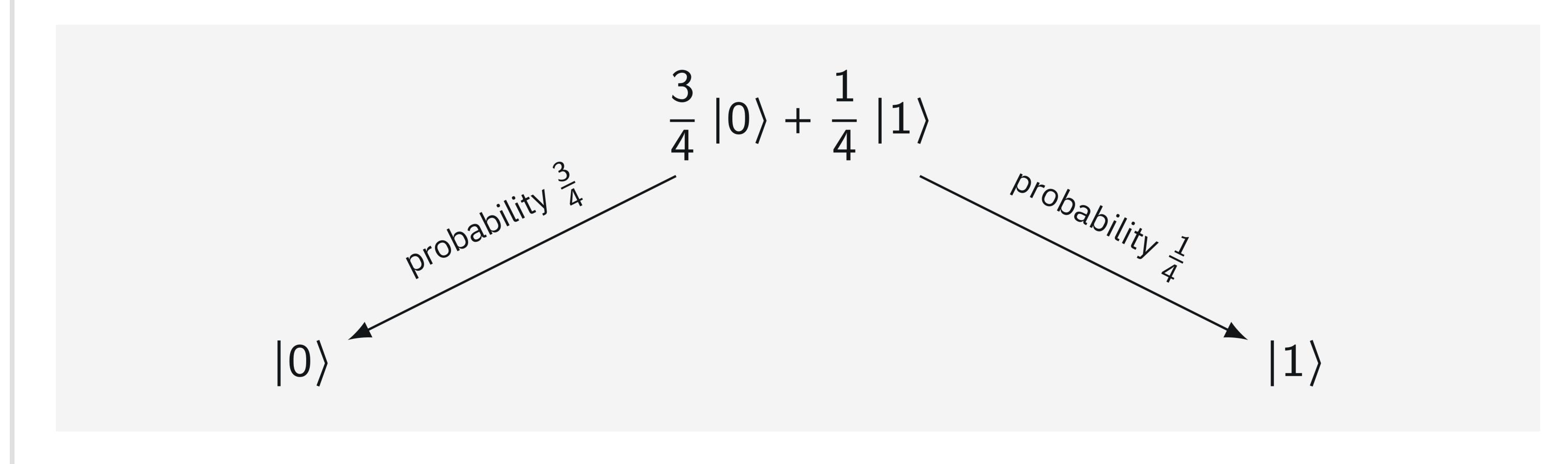
## Measuring probabilistic states

#### Example

Consider the probabilistic state of a bit X where

$$Pr(X = 0) = \frac{3}{4}$$
 and  $Pr(X = 1) = \frac{1}{4}$ 

Measuring X selects (or reveals) a transition, chosen at random:



## Deterministic operations

Every function  $f: \Sigma \to \Sigma$  describes a *deterministic operation* that transforms the classical state  $\alpha$  into  $f(\alpha)$ , for each  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ .

Given any function  $f: \Sigma \to \Sigma$ , there is a (unique) matrix M satisfying

$$M | \alpha \rangle = | f(\alpha) \rangle$$
 (for every  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ )

This matrix has exactly one 1 in each column, and 0 for all other entries:

$$M(b,a) = \begin{cases} 1 & b = f(a) \\ 0 & b \neq f(a) \end{cases}$$

The action of this operation is described by matrix-vector multiplication:

$$\nu \longmapsto M\nu$$

### Deterministic operations

#### Example

For  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , there are four functions of the form  $f: \Sigma \to \Sigma$ :

Here are the matrices corresponding to these functions:

$$M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
  $M_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$   $M_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$   $M_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ 

$$M(b, a) = \begin{cases} 1 & b = f(a) \\ 0 & b \neq f(a) \end{cases}$$

$$M | a \rangle = | f(a) \rangle$$

Let  $\Sigma$  be any classical state set, and assume the elements of  $\Sigma$  have been placed in correspondence with the integers  $1, \ldots, |\Sigma|$ .

We denote by  $\langle \alpha |$  the *row vector* having a 1 in the entry corresponding to  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ , with 0 for all other entries.

#### Example

If  $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}$ , then

$$\langle 0| = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 and  $\langle 1| = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ 

Let  $\Sigma$  be any classical state set, and assume the elements of  $\Sigma$  have been placed in correspondence with the integers  $1, \ldots, |\Sigma|$ .

We denote by  $\langle \alpha |$  the *row vector* having a 1 in the entry corresponding to  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ , with 0 for all other entries.

Multiplying a row vector to a column vector yields a scalar:

$$\begin{pmatrix} * \\ * \\ * \\ \vdots \\ * \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} * \\ * \\ \vdots \\ * \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle a|b\rangle = \langle a||b\rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & a = b \\ 0 & a \neq b \end{cases}$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Multiplying a column vector to a row vector yields a matrix:

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$$|0\rangle\langle 0| = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$|0\rangle\langle 1| = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1\\0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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In general, the matrix

$$|a\rangle\langle b|$$

has a 1 in the (a, b)-entry and 0 for all other entries.

# Deterministic operations

Every function  $f: \Sigma \to \Sigma$  describes a *deterministic operation* that transforms the classical state  $\alpha$  into  $f(\alpha)$ , for each  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ .

Given any function  $f: \Sigma \to \Sigma$ , there is a (unique) matrix M satisfying

$$M | \alpha \rangle = | f(\alpha) \rangle$$
 (for every  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ )

This matrix may be expressed as

$$\mathcal{M} = \sum_{b \in \Sigma} |f(b)\rangle\langle b|$$

Its action on standard basis vectors works as required:

$$M|a\rangle = \left(\sum_{b\in\Sigma} |f(b)\rangle\langle b|\right)|a\rangle = \sum_{b\in\Sigma} |f(b)\rangle\langle b|a\rangle = |f(a)\rangle$$

### Probabilistic operations

Probabilistic operations are classical operations that may introduce randomness or uncertainty.

#### Example

Here is a probabilistic operation on a bit:

If the classical state is 0, then do nothing.

If the classical state is 1, then flip the bit with probability 1/2.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Probabilistic operations are described by stochastic matrices:

- All entries are nonnegative real numbers
- The entries in every column sum to 1

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$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Probabilistic operations are described by stochastic matrices:

- All entries are nonnegative real numbers
- The entries in every column sum to 1

### Composing operations

Suppose X is a system and  $M_1, \ldots, M_n$  are stochastic matrices representing probabilistic operations on X.

Applying the first probabilistic operation to the probability vector v, then applying the second probabilistic operation to the result yields this vector:

$$\mathcal{M}_2(\mathcal{M}_1\nu) = (\mathcal{M}_2\mathcal{M}_1)\nu$$

The probabilistic operation obtained by composing the first and second probabilistic operations is represented by the matrix product  $\mathcal{M}_2\mathcal{M}_1$ .

Composing the probabilistic operations represented by the matrices  $M_1, \ldots, M_n$  (in that order) is represented by this matrix product:

$$M_n \cdots M_1$$

### Composing operations

Suppose X is a system and  $M_1, \ldots, M_n$  are stochastic matrices representing probabilistic operations on X.

Composing the probabilistic operations represented by the matrices  $M_1, \ldots, M_n$  (in that order) is represented by this matrix product:

$$M_n \cdots M_1$$

The order is important: matrix multiplication is not commutative!

$$M_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad M_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_2 \mathcal{M}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathcal{M}_1 \mathcal{M}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

#### Quantum information

A *quantum state* of a system is represented by a *column vector* whose indices are placed in correspondence with the classical states of that system:

- The entries are complex numbers.
- The sum of the absolute values squared of the entries must equal 1.

#### Definition

The *Euclidean norm* for vectors with complex number entries is defined like this:

$$v = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_n \end{pmatrix} \implies ||v|| = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{n} |\alpha_k|^2}$$

Quantum state vectors are therefore *unit vectors* with respect to this norm.

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#### Examples of qubit states

- Standard basis states: |0> and |1>
- Plus/minus states:

$$|+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |1\rangle$$
 and  $|-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |0\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |1\rangle$ 

• A state without a special name:

$$\frac{1+2i}{3}|0\rangle-\frac{2}{3}|1\rangle$$

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#### Example

A quantum state of a system with classical states  $\clubsuit$ ,  $\diamondsuit$ ,  $\triangledown$ , and  $\spadesuit$ :

$$\frac{1}{2} | \clubsuit \rangle - \frac{i}{2} | \blacklozenge \rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} | \spadesuit \rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -\frac{i}{2} \\ 0 \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

### Dirac notation (third part)

The Dirac notation can be used for arbitrary vectors: any name can be used in place of a classical state. Kets are column vectors, bras are row vectors.

#### Example

The notation  $|\psi\rangle$  is commonly used to refer to an arbitrary vector:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1+2i}{3}|0\rangle - \frac{2}{3}|1\rangle$$

For any column vector  $|\psi\rangle$ , the row vector  $\langle\psi|$  is the conjugate transpose of  $|\psi\rangle$ :

$$\langle \psi | = | \psi \rangle^{\dagger}$$

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For any column vector  $|\psi\rangle$ , the row vector  $\langle\psi|$  is the *conjugate transpose* of  $|\psi\rangle$ :

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#### Example

The notation  $|\psi\rangle$  is commonly used to refer to an arbitrary vector:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1+2i}{3}|0\rangle - \frac{2}{3}|1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1+2i}{3} \\ -\frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle \psi | = \frac{1-2i}{3} \langle 0 | -\frac{2}{3} \langle 1 | = \left( \frac{1-2i}{3} - \frac{2}{3} \right)$$

For this lesson will restrict our attention to standard basis measurements:

- The possible *outcomes* are the *classical states*.
- The probability for each classical state to be the outcome is the *absolute value squared* of the corresponding quantum state vector entry.

#### Example 1

Measuring the quantum state

$$|+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|1\rangle$$

yields an outcome as follows:

Pr(outcome is 0) = 
$$\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right|^2 = \frac{1}{2}$$
 Pr(outcome is 1) =  $\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right|^2 = \frac{1}{2}$ 

For this lesson will restrict our attention to standard basis measurements:

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Example 2

Measuring the quantum state

$$|-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|0\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|1\rangle$$

yields an outcome as follows:

Pr(outcome is 0) = 
$$\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right|^2 = \frac{1}{2}$$
 Pr(outcome is 1) =  $\left|-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right|^2 = \frac{1}{2}$ 

For this lesson will restrict our attention to standard basis measurements:

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- The probability for each classical state to be the outcome is the *absolute value squared* of the corresponding quantum state vector entry.

Example 3

Measuring the quantum state

$$\frac{1+2i}{3}|0\rangle-\frac{2}{3}|1\rangle$$

yields an outcome as follows:

Pr(outcome is 0) = 
$$\left| \frac{1+2i}{3} \right|^2 = \frac{5}{9}$$
 Pr(outcome is 1) =  $\left| -\frac{2}{3} \right|^2 = \frac{4}{9}$ 

For this lesson will restrict our attention to standard basis measurements:

- The possible *outcomes* are the *classical states*.
- The probability for each classical state to be the outcome is the *absolute value squared* of the corresponding quantum state vector entry.

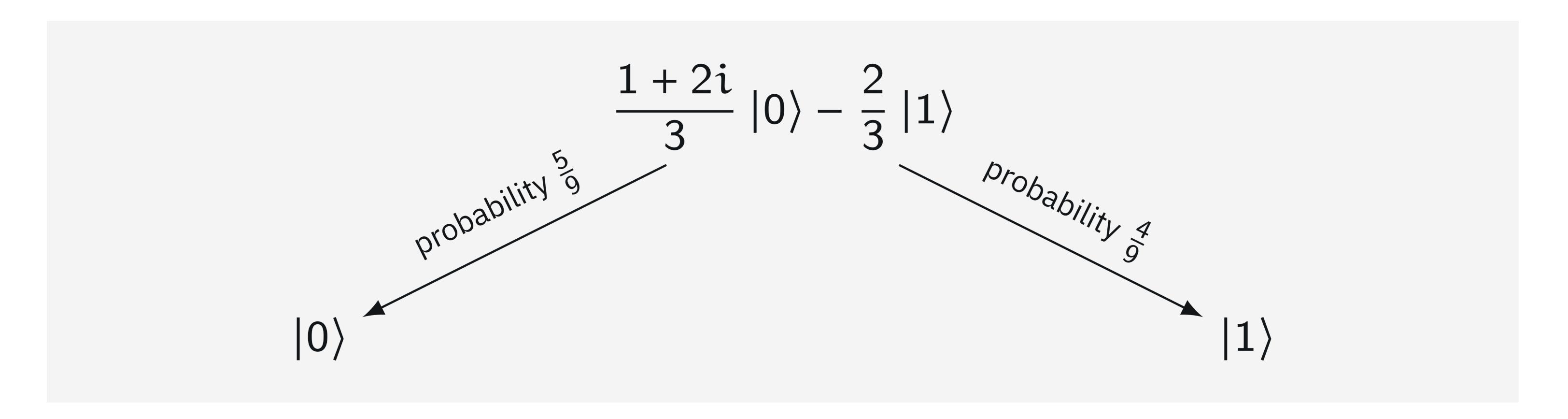
#### Example 4

Measuring the quantum state  $|0\rangle$  gives the outcome 0 with certainty, and measuring the quantum state  $|1\rangle$  gives the outcome 1 with certainty.

For this lesson will restrict our attention to standard basis measurements:

- The possible *outcomes* are the *classical states*.
- The probability for each classical state to be the outcome is the *absolute value squared* of the corresponding quantum state vector entry.

Measuring a system changes its quantum state: if we obtain the classical state  $\alpha$ , the new quantum state becomes  $|\alpha\rangle$ .



## Unitary operations

The set of allowable *operations* that can be performed on a quantum state is different than it is for classical information.

Operations on quantum state vectors are represented by unitary matrices.

#### Definition

A square matrix U having complex number entries is *unitary* if it satisfies the equalities

$$u^{\dagger}u = 1 = uu^{\dagger}$$

where  $\textbf{U}^{\dagger}$  is the conjugate transpose of U and 1 is the identity matrix.

Both equalities are equivalent to  $\mathbf{U}^{-1} = \mathbf{U}^{\dagger}$ .

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A square matrix U having complex number entries is *unitary* if it satisfies the equalities

$$u^{\dagger}u = 1 = uu^{\dagger}$$

where  $\textbf{U}^{\dagger}$  is the conjugate transpose of U and 1 is the identity matrix.

The condition that an  $n \times n$  matrix U is unitary is equivalent to

$$\|\mathbf{u}\mathbf{v}\| = \|\mathbf{v}\|$$

for every  $\mathfrak{n}$ -dimensional column vector  $\mathfrak{v}$  with complex number entries.

If  $\nu$  is a quantum state vector, then  $U\nu$  is also a quantum state vector.

#### 1. Pauli operations

Pauli operations are ones represented by the Pauli matrices:

$$\mathbb{1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \sigma_{\chi} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \sigma_{y} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \sigma_{z} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Common alternative notations:  $X = \sigma_x$ ,  $Y = \sigma_y$ , and  $Z = \sigma_z$ .

The operation  $\sigma_{\chi}$  is also called a *bit flip* (or a NOT operation) and the  $\sigma_{z}$  operation is called a *phase flip:* 

$$\sigma_{\chi}|0\rangle = |1\rangle$$
  $\sigma_{z}|0\rangle = |0\rangle$   $\sigma_{\chi}|1\rangle = |0\rangle$   $\sigma_{\chi}|1\rangle = |1\rangle$ 

#### 2. Hadamard operation

The Hadamard operation is represented by this matrix:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Checking that H is unitary is a straightforward calculation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}^{\dagger} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

#### 3. Phase operations

A phase operation is one described by the matrix

$$P_{\theta} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\theta} \end{pmatrix}$$

for any choice of a real number  $\theta$ .

The operations

$$S = P_{\pi/2} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T = P_{\pi/4} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

are important examples.

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

$$H |1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} = |-\rangle$$

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

$$H |-\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = |1\rangle$$

$$H |0\rangle = |+\rangle \qquad H |+\rangle = |0\rangle$$

$$H |1\rangle = |-\rangle \qquad H |-\rangle = |1\rangle$$

$$H \left(\frac{1+2i}{3}|0\rangle - \frac{2}{3}|1\rangle\right) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1+2i}{3} \\ -\frac{2}{3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-1+2i}{3\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{3+2i}{3\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{-1+2i}{3\sqrt{2}}|0\rangle + \frac{3+2i}{3\sqrt{2}}|1\rangle$$

$$T|0\rangle = |0\rangle \quad \text{and} \quad T|1\rangle = \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}}|1\rangle$$

$$T|+\rangle = T\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|1\rangle\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}T|0\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}T|1\rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|0\rangle + \frac{1+i}{2}|1\rangle$$

$$T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$T |+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |0\rangle + \frac{1+i}{2} |1\rangle$$

$$HT|+\rangle = H\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |0\rangle + \frac{1+i}{2} |1\rangle\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} H|0\rangle + \frac{1+i}{2} H|1\rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |+\rangle + \frac{1+i}{2} |-\rangle$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2} |0\rangle + \frac{1}{2} |1\rangle\right) + \left(\frac{1+i}{2\sqrt{2}} |0\rangle - \frac{1+i}{2\sqrt{2}} |1\rangle\right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1+i}{2\sqrt{2}}\right) |0\rangle + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1+i}{2\sqrt{2}}\right) |1\rangle$$

$$H |0\rangle = |+\rangle$$

$$H |1\rangle = |-\rangle$$

## Composing unitary operations

Compositions of unitary operations are represented by matrix multiplication (similar to the probabilistic setting).

Example: square root of NOT

Applying a Hadamard operation, followed by the phase operation S, followed by another Hadamard operation yields this operation:

$$HSH = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1+i}{2} & \frac{1-i}{2} \\ \frac{1-i}{2} & \frac{1+i}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Applying this unitary operation twice yields a NOT operation:

$$(HSH)^{2} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1+i}{2} & \frac{1-i}{2} \\ \frac{1-i}{2} & \frac{1+i}{2} \end{pmatrix}^{2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$