

A self-contained, simplified analysis of span program algorithms

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September 18th, 2020

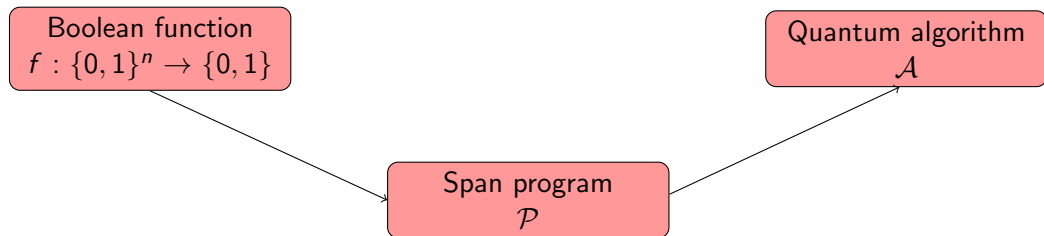
Span programs – overview

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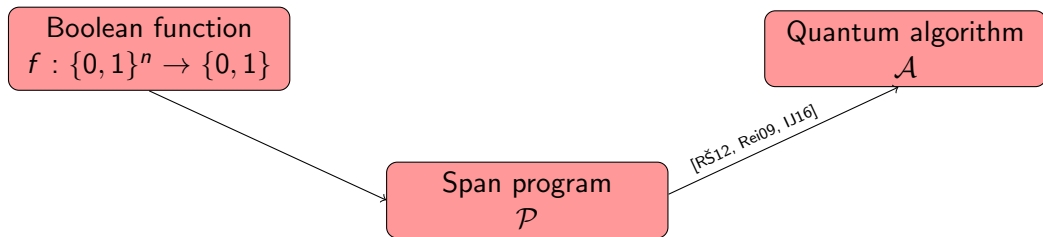
Boolean function
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Quantum algorithm
 \mathcal{A}

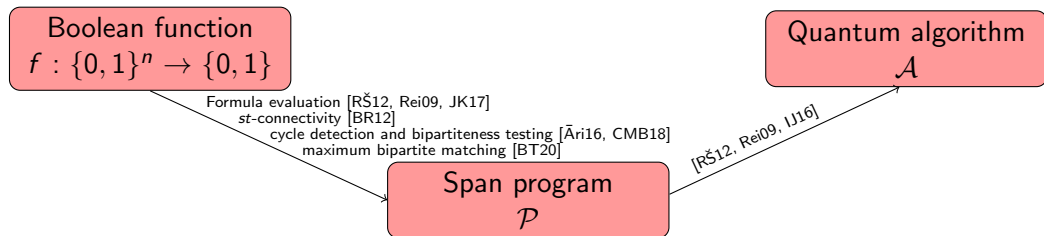
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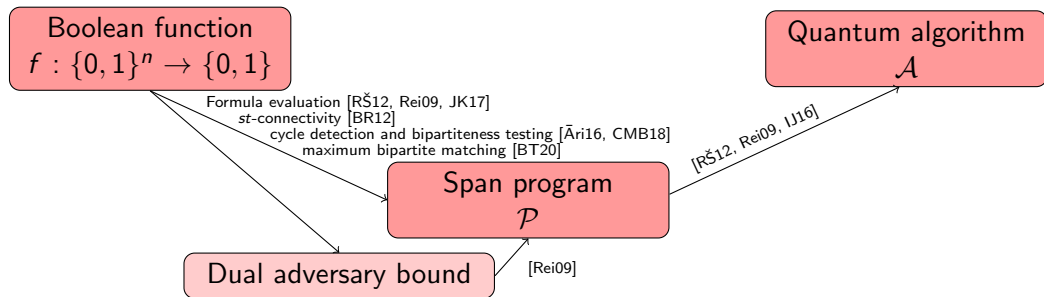
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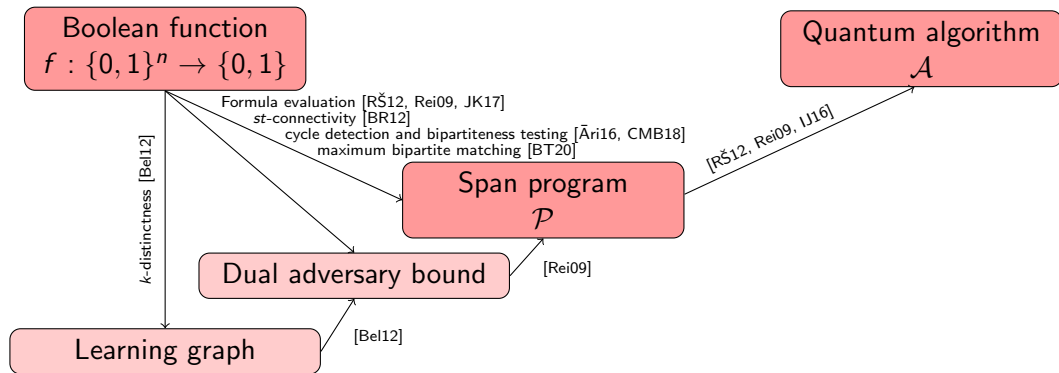
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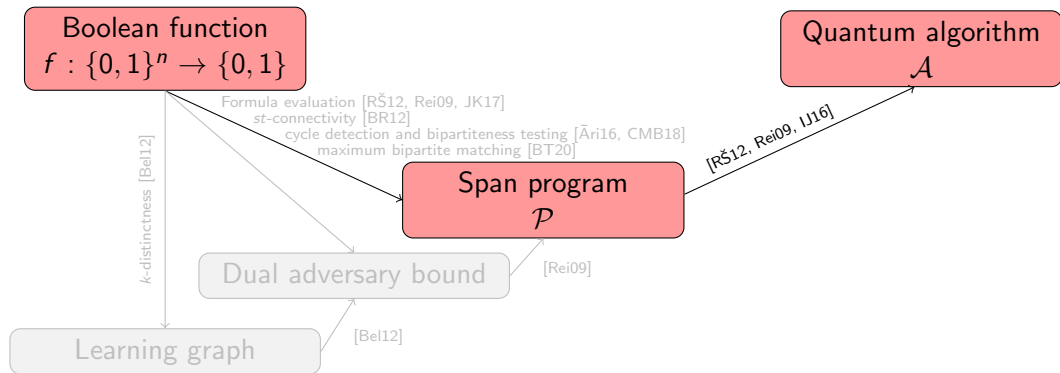
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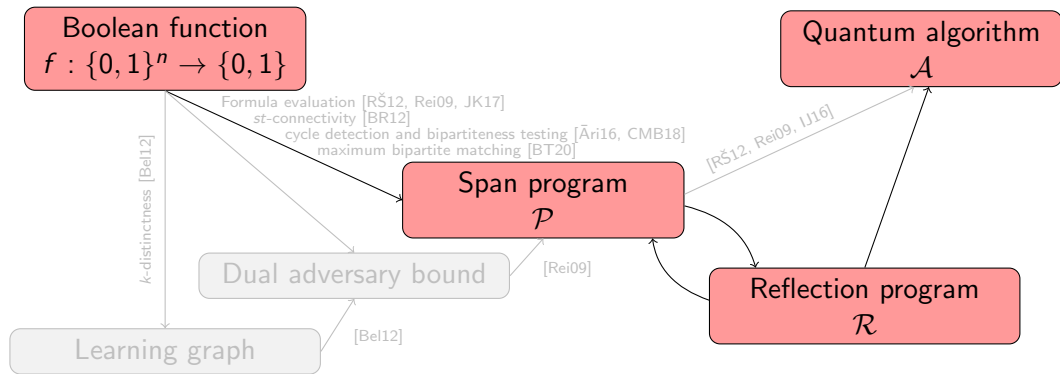
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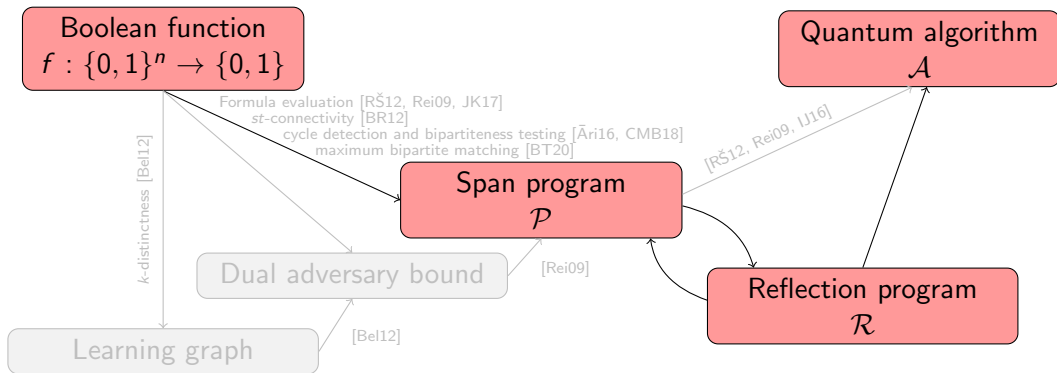
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Span programs – overview



Span programs – definition



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“A span program is an encoding of a boolean function into the geometry of a Hilbert space.”

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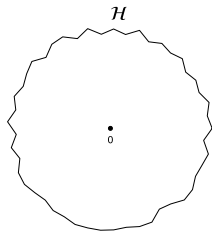


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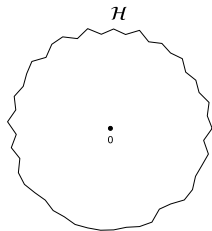


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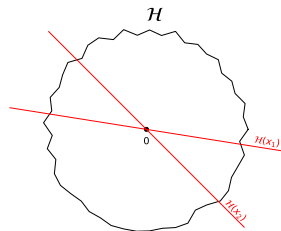


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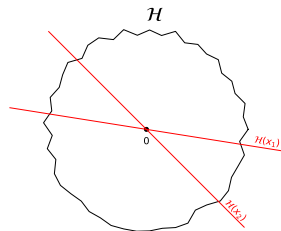


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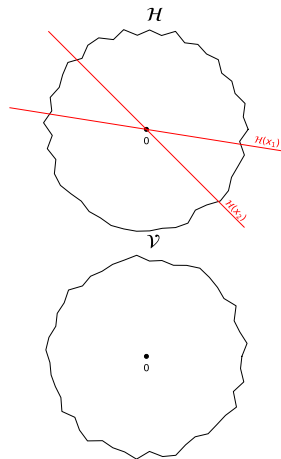


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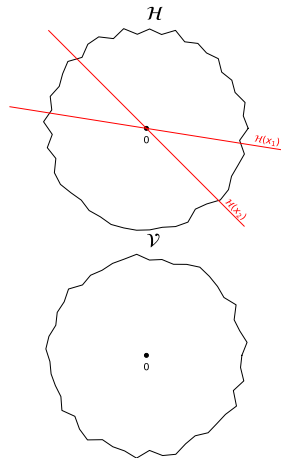


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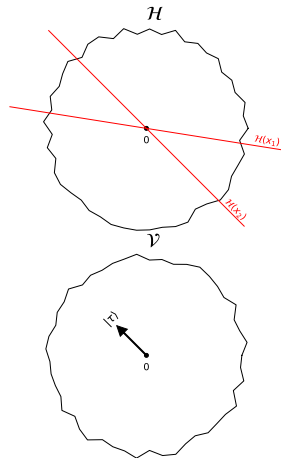


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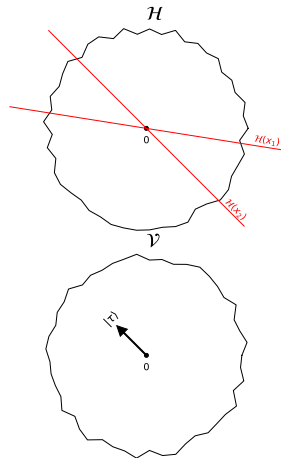


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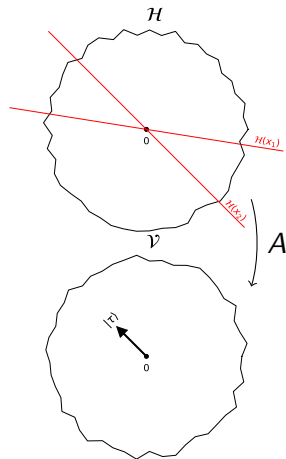


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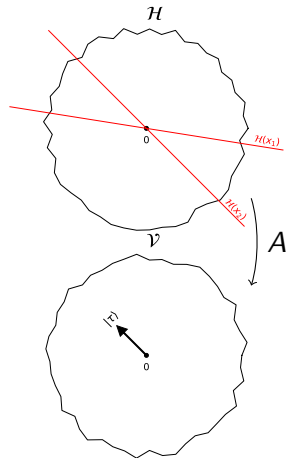
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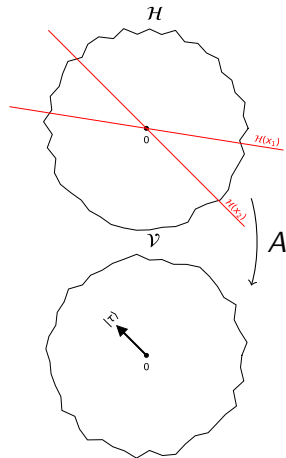
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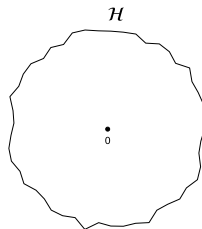


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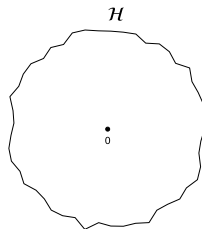


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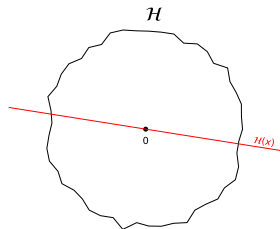


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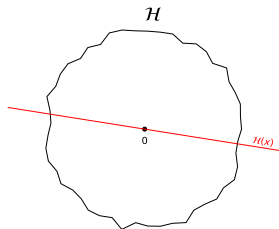


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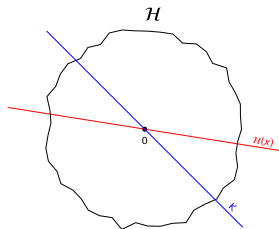


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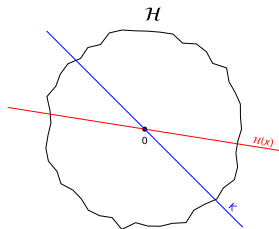


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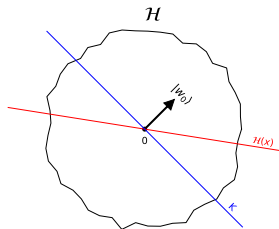


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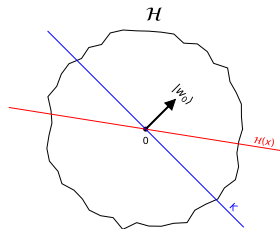
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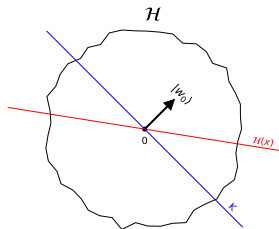
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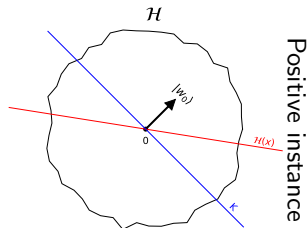
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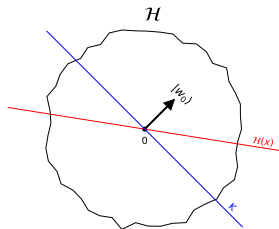
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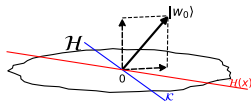
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Positive instance

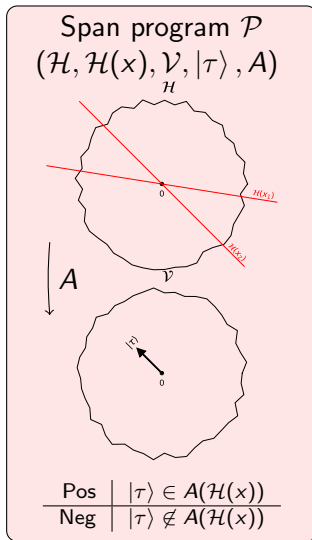


Negative instance

Conversions between span and reflection programs



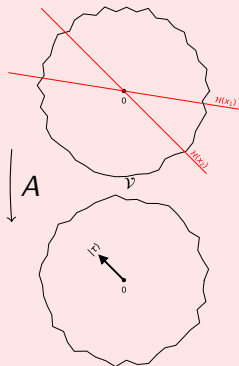
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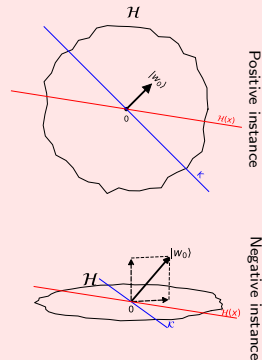


Span program \mathcal{P}
 $(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{V}, |\tau\rangle, A)$



Pos	$ \tau\rangle \in A(\mathcal{H}(x))$
Neg	$ \tau\rangle \notin A(\mathcal{H}(x))$

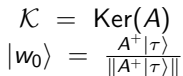
Reflection program \mathcal{R}
 $(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{K}, |w_0\rangle)$



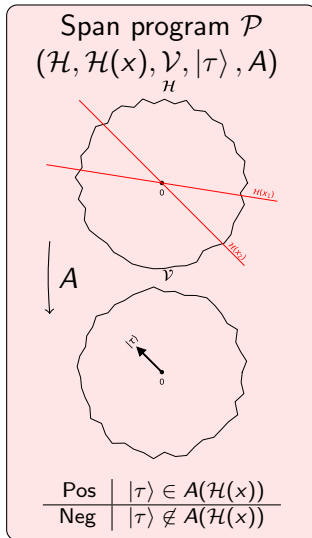
Pos	$ w_0\rangle \in \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{H}(x)$
Neg	$ w_0\rangle \notin \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{H}(x)$

```

graph LR
    f[f] --> P[P]
    P --> R[R]
    R --> P
    R --> A[A]
    style f fill:#ccc
    style P fill:#f00
    style R fill:#f00
    style A fill:#ccc
  
```

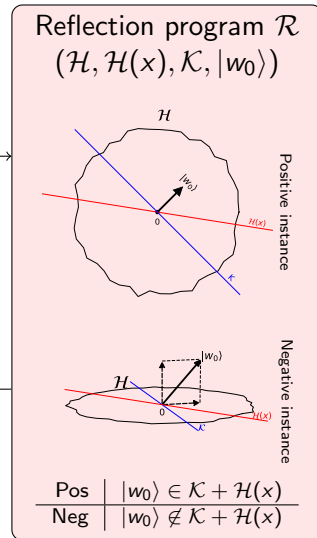


Conversions between span and reflection programs



$$\mathcal{K} = \text{Ker}(A)$$

$$|w_0\rangle = \frac{A^+|\tau\rangle}{\|A^+|\tau\rangle\|}$$

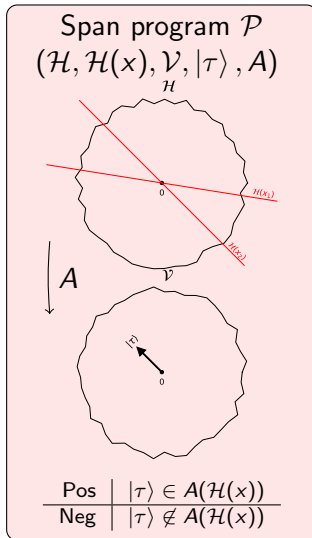


$$\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{H},$$

$$|\tau\rangle = |w_0\rangle$$

$$A = I - \Pi_{\mathcal{K}}.$$

Conversions between span and reflection programs



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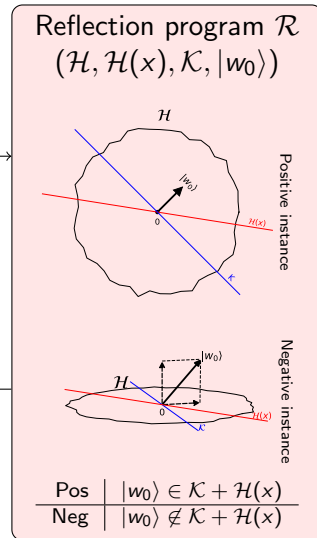
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*These conversions don't
change positive and
negative instances.*

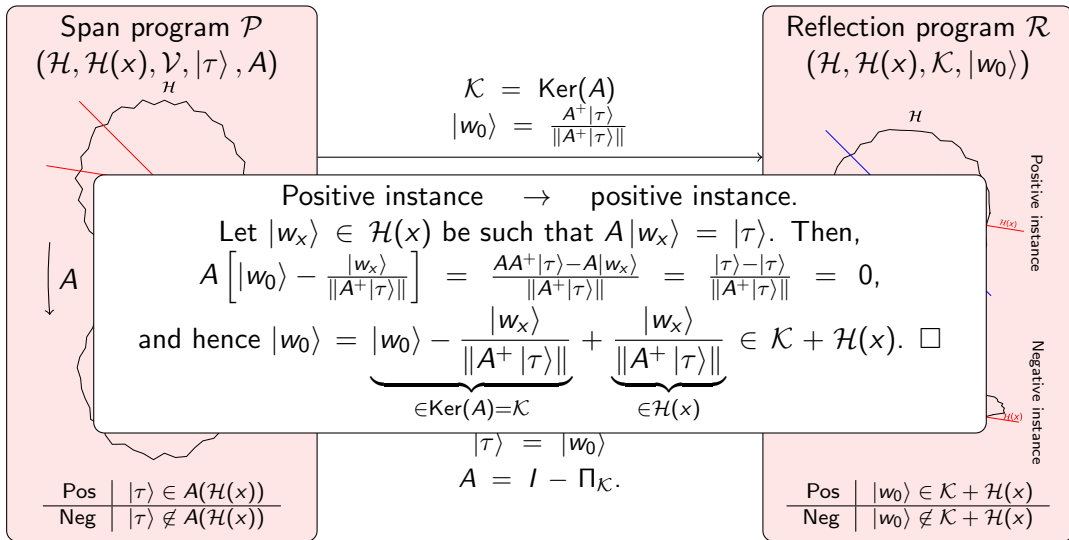
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Conversions between span and reflection programs



Szegedy's spectral lemma [Sze04]



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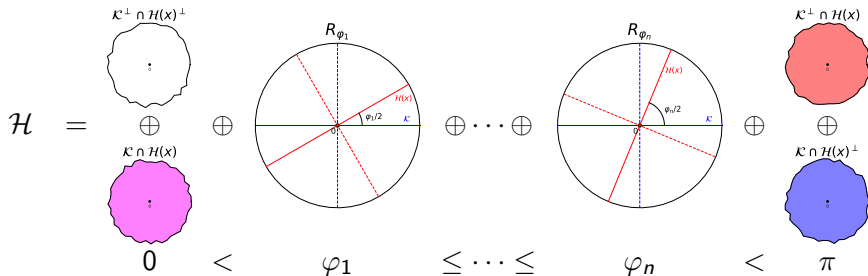
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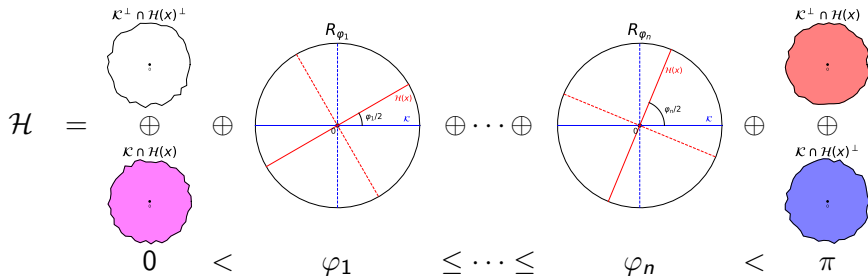
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- ④ $\Pi_{\mathcal{K}}$ and $\Pi_{\mathcal{H}(x)}$ commute with the projectors on all these spaces.



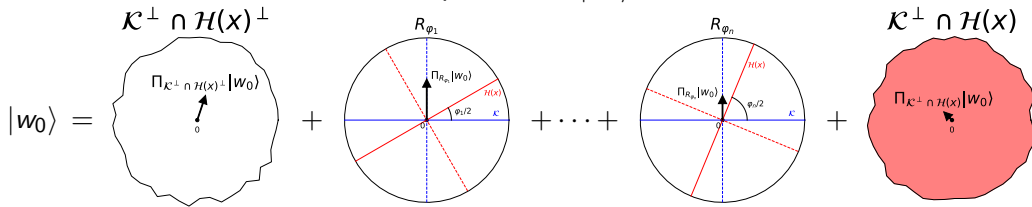
Decomposition of $|w_0\rangle$



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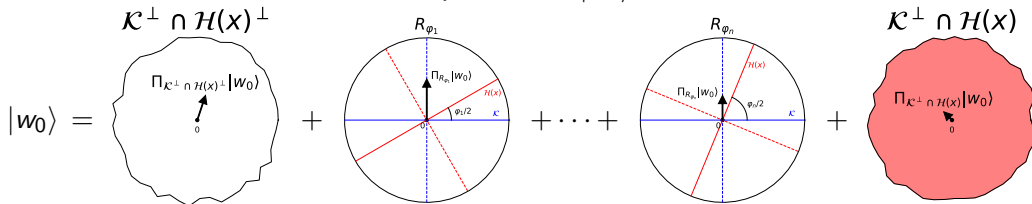
Decomposition of $|w_0\rangle \in \mathcal{K}^\perp$:



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Decomposition of $|w_0\rangle \in \mathcal{K}^\perp$:



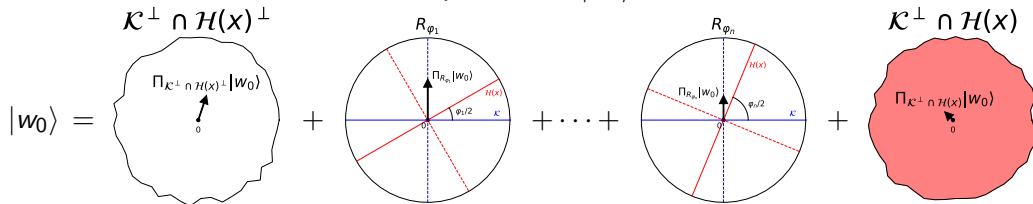
Positive instance: $|w_0\rangle \in \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{H}(x)$

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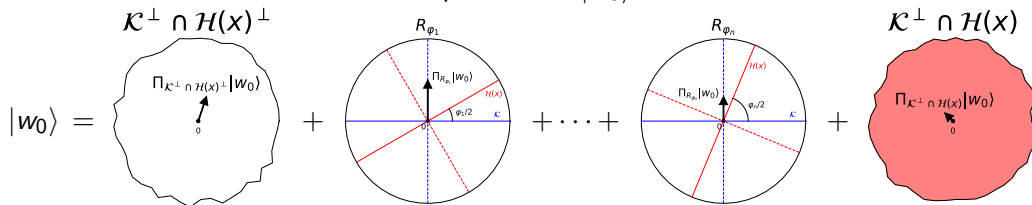
Positive instance: $|w_0\rangle \in \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{H}(x) \Leftrightarrow \Pi_{\mathcal{K}^\perp \cap \mathcal{H}(x)^\perp} |w_0\rangle = 0$

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Thought experiment: run phase estimation

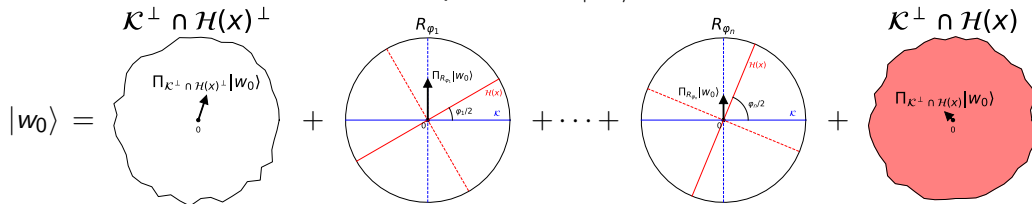
- ① With operator $U(x)$,
- ② With initial state $|w_0\rangle$,
- ③ With *infinite precision*,

call the outcome Φ .

Decomposition of $|w_0\rangle$



Decomposition of $|w_0\rangle \in \mathcal{K}^\perp$:



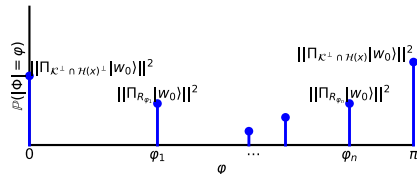
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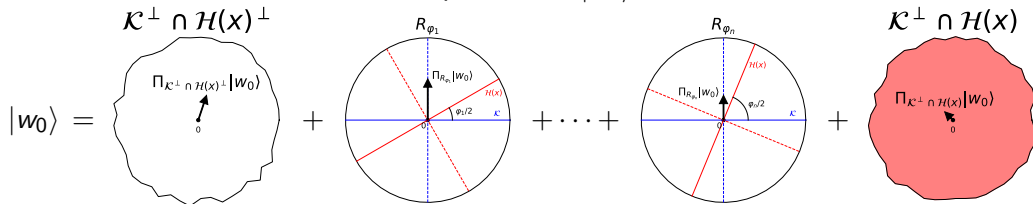
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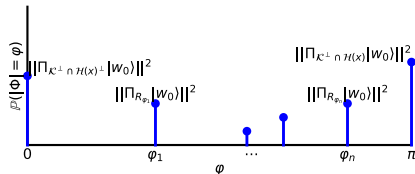
Positive instance: $|w_0\rangle \in \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{H}(x) \Leftrightarrow \Pi_{\mathcal{K}^\perp \cap \mathcal{H}(x)^\perp} |w_0\rangle = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) = 0$

Negative instance: $|w_0\rangle \notin \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{H}(x) \Leftrightarrow \Pi_{\mathcal{K}^\perp \cap \mathcal{H}(x)^\perp} |w_0\rangle \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) > 0$

Thought experiment: run phase estimation

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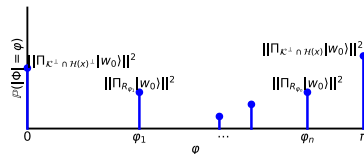
call the outcome Φ .



Finite precision



Positive instance:	$\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) = 0,$
Negative instance:	$\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) > 0.$



Finite precision



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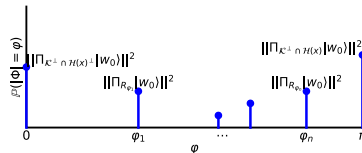
Negative instance: $\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) > 0.$

Finite precision algorithm:

① Run phase estimation

- ① With operator $U(x),$
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- ③ With precision $\delta > 0,$

call the outcome $\Phi_\delta.$



Finite precision



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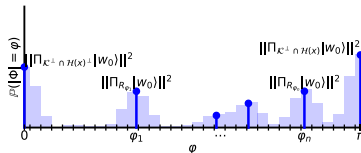
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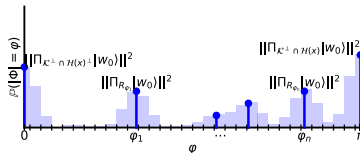
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call the outcome $\Phi_\delta.$

② Distinguish between

- ① $\mathbb{P}(\Phi_\delta = 0) \leq \varepsilon/2$ (output $f(x) = 1$),
- ② $\mathbb{P}(\Phi_\delta = 0) \geq \varepsilon$ (output $f(x) = 0$),

by running amplitude estimation with precision $\Theta(\sqrt{\varepsilon}).$



Finite precision



Positive instance: $\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) = 0,$

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Finite precision algorithm:

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- 2 With initial state $|w_0\rangle,$
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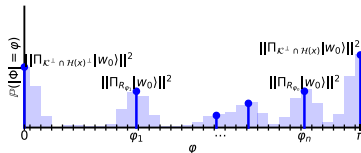
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- 1 $\mathbb{P}(\Phi_\delta = 0) \leq \varepsilon/2$ (output $f(x) = 1$),
- 2 $\mathbb{P}(\Phi_\delta = 0) \geq \varepsilon$ (output $f(x) = 0$),

by running amplitude estimation with precision $\Theta(\sqrt{\varepsilon}).$

Total cost: $\Theta\left(\frac{1}{\delta\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right)$ calls to $U(x).$



Positive instance: $\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) = 0$,
 Negative instance: $\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) > 0$.
 Finite precision algorithm:

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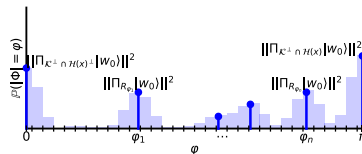
call the outcome Φ_δ .

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Analysis of phase estimation:

$$\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) \leq \mathbb{P}(\Phi_\delta = 0) \leq \delta^2 \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{\sin^2(\frac{\Phi}{2})} \right],$$

Finite precision



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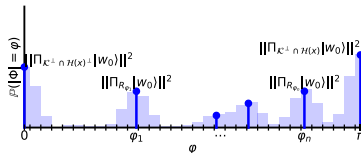
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Analysis of phase estimation:

$$\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) \leq \mathbb{P}(\Phi_\delta = 0) \leq \delta^2 \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{\sin^2(\frac{\Phi}{2})} \right],$$

We need to ensure that:

1 For positive instances:

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{\sin^2(\frac{\Phi}{2})} \right] \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2\delta^2}.$$

Finite precision



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- 1 With operator $U(x)$,
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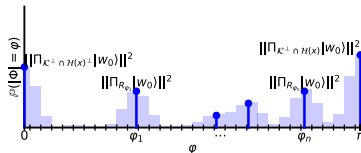
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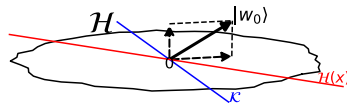
2 For negative instances:

$$\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) \geq \varepsilon.$$

Negative witnesses

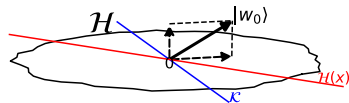


For all negative instances, we need to ensure that $\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) \geq \varepsilon$.



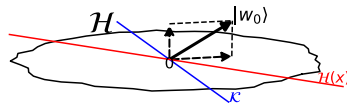
For all negative instances, we need to ensure that $\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) \geq \varepsilon$.

$$\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) = \left\| \Pi_{\mathcal{K}^\perp \cap \mathcal{H}(x)^\perp} |w_0\rangle \right\|^2$$



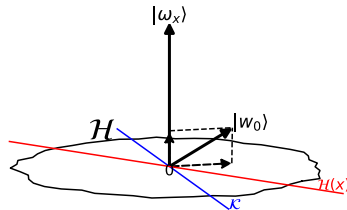
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$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) &= \left\| \Pi_{\mathcal{K}^\perp \cap \mathcal{H}(x)^\perp} |w_0\rangle \right\|^2 \\ &= \min \left\{ \left\| |\omega_x\rangle \right\|^2 : \underbrace{|\omega_x\rangle \in \mathcal{K}^\perp \cap \mathcal{H}(x)^\perp, \langle \omega_x | w_0 \rangle = 1}_{\text{negative witness}} \right\}^{-1}\end{aligned}$$



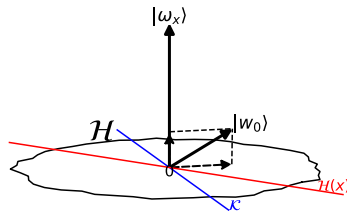
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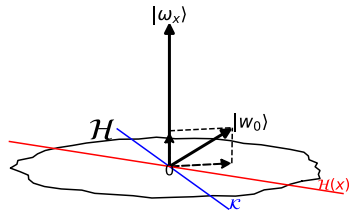
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for any negative witness $|\omega_x\rangle$.

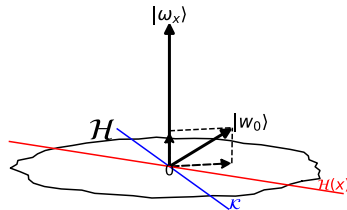


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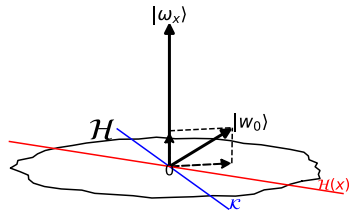
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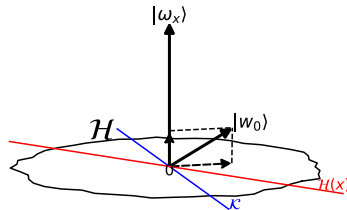
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$$W_- := \max_{x \in f^{-1}(0)} \| |\omega_x\rangle \|^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbb{P}(\Phi = 0) \geq \frac{1}{W_-} =: \varepsilon.$$



Shorter negative witnesses give better bounds.

Positive witnesses



For all positive instances, we need to ensure that $\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{\sin^2(\frac{\Phi}{2})} \right] \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta^2}$.



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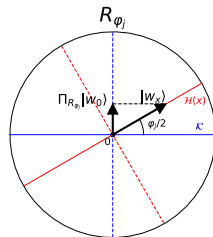
$$\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{\sin^2 \left(\frac{\Phi}{2} \right)} \right] = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\left\| \Pi_{R_{\varphi_j}} |w_0\rangle \right\|^2}{\sin^2 \left(\frac{\varphi_j}{2} \right)}$$

Positive witnesses



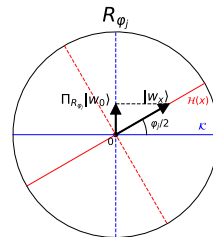
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$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{\sin^2\left(\frac{\Phi}{2}\right)} \right] &= \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\|\Pi_{R_{\varphi_j}} |w_0\rangle\|^2}{\sin^2\left(\frac{\varphi_j}{2}\right)} \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n \min\{\| |w_x\rangle \|^2 : |w_x\rangle \in \mathcal{H}(x) \cap R_{\varphi_j}, \Pi_{\mathcal{K}^\perp} |w_x\rangle = \Pi_{R_{\varphi_j}} |w_0\rangle\} \end{aligned}$$

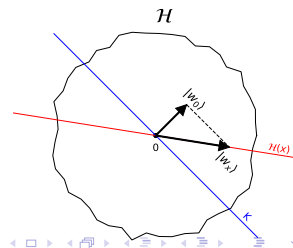
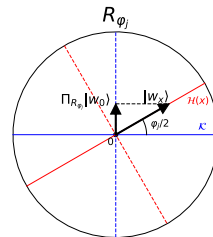


Positive witnesses



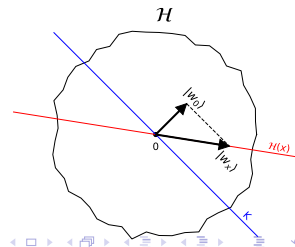
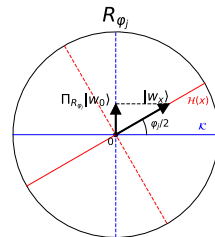
For all positive instances, we need to ensure that $\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{1}{\sin^2(\frac{\Phi}{2})} \right] \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{\delta^2}$.

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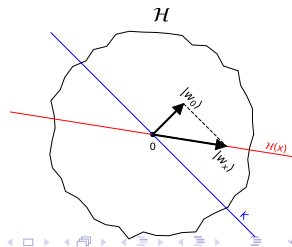
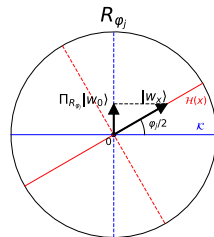
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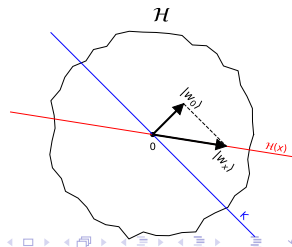
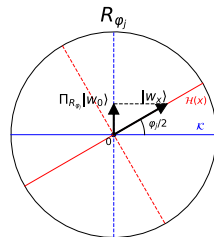
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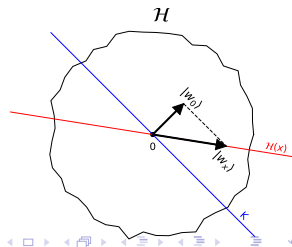
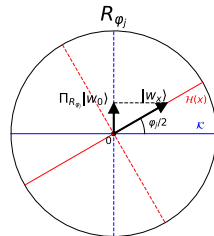


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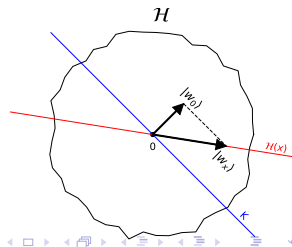
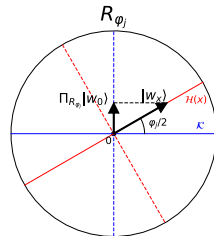


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Summary of the algorithm



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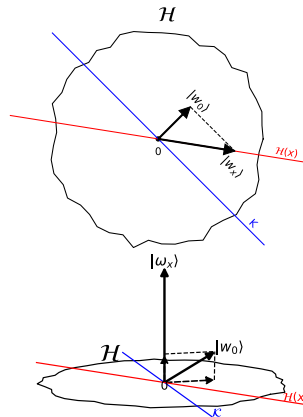


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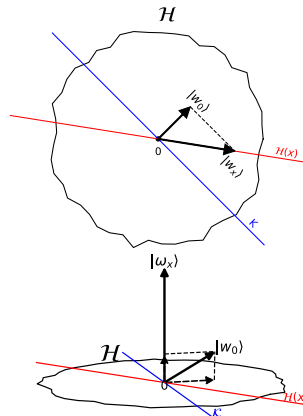
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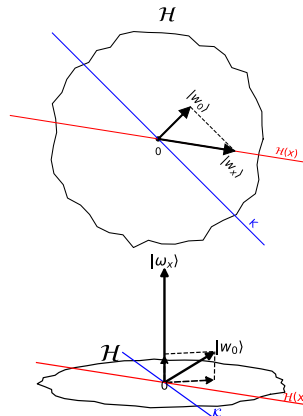
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 call the outcome Φ_δ .



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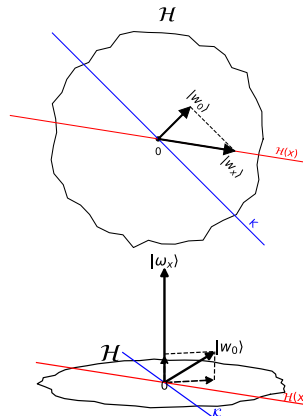
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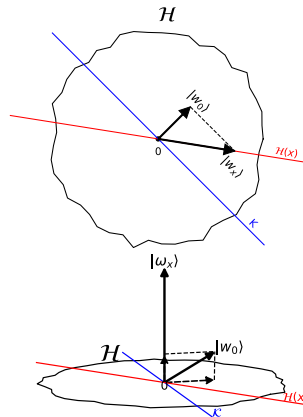
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Total calls to $U(x)$: $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\delta\sqrt{\varepsilon}}\right) = \mathcal{O}(W_- \sqrt{W_+})$,



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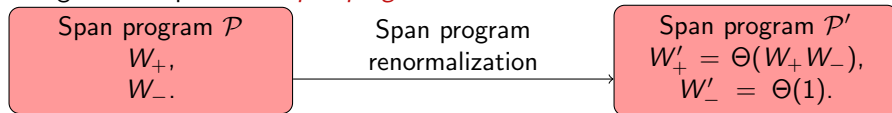
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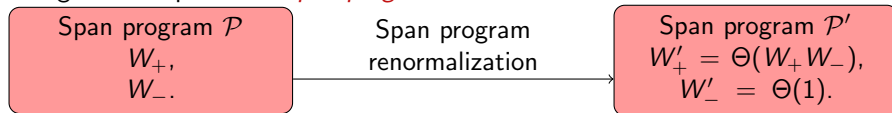
- ① The complexity can be improved from $\mathcal{O}(W_- \sqrt{W_+})$ to $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{W_- W_+})$:
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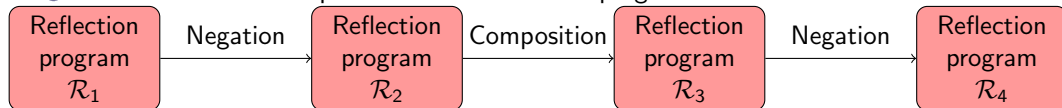
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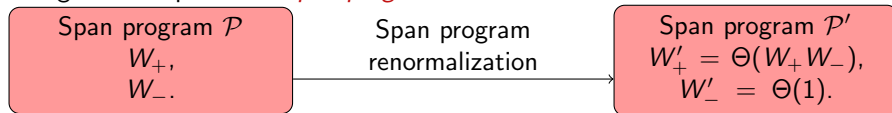
② How does this technique look in the reflection program case?



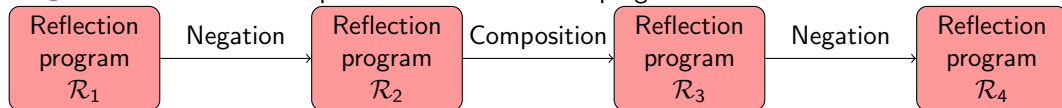
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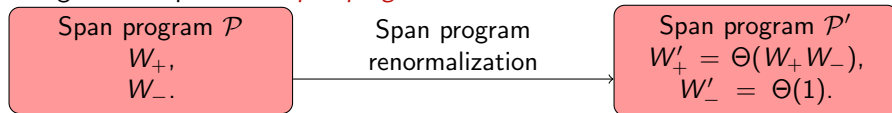
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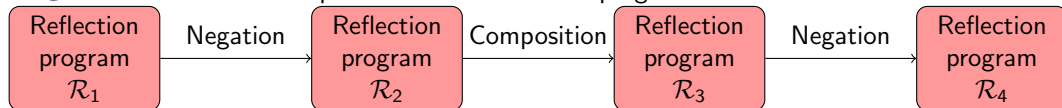
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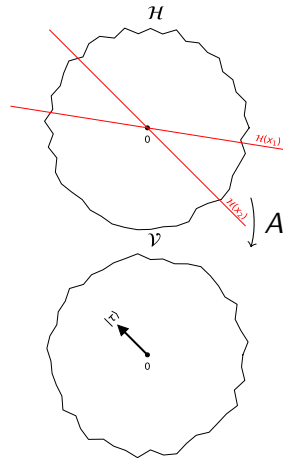
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To be continued...

Thanks for your attention!
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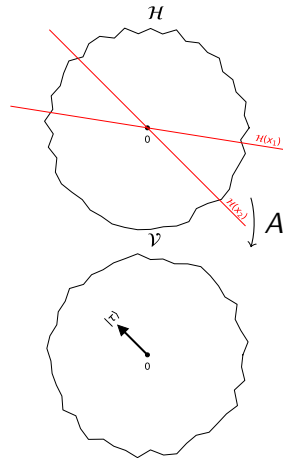
Span programs – example



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Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

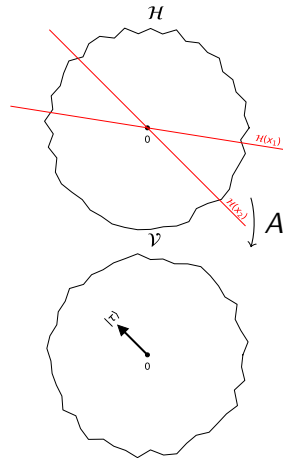


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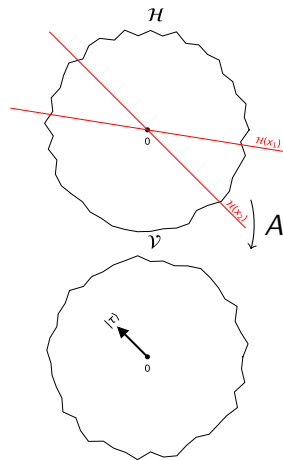


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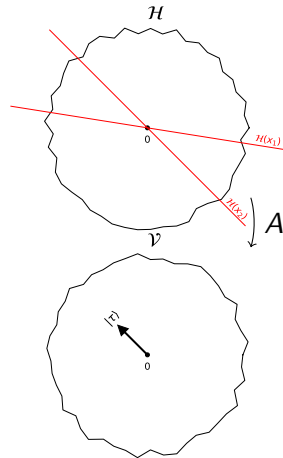


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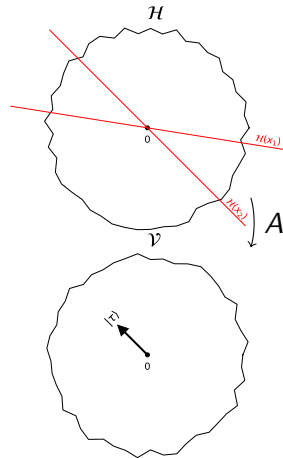


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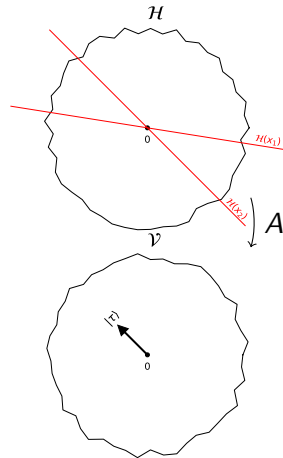


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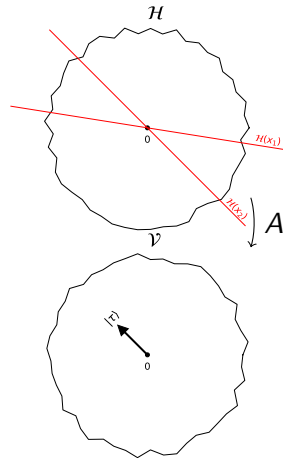
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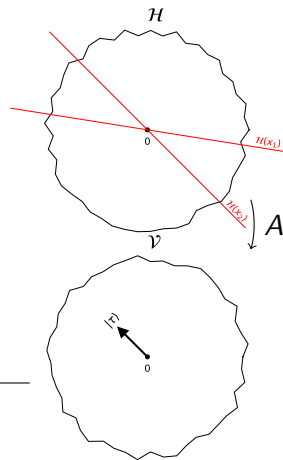


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Positive instance:	$x \neq 0^n \Rightarrow$
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Span programs – example

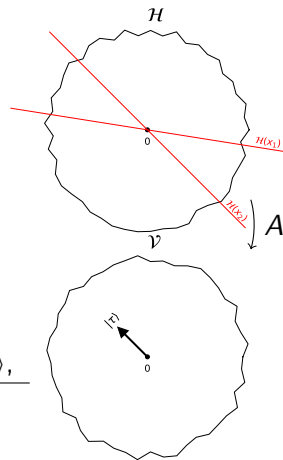


Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

- 1 $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.
- 2 $\mathcal{H}(x) = \text{Span}\{|j\rangle : x_j = 1\}$.
- 3 $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{C}$.
- 4 $|\tau\rangle = 1$.
- 5 $A = \sum_{j=1}^n \langle j|$.

$\mathcal{P} = (\mathcal{H}, x \mapsto \mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{V}, |\tau\rangle, A)$ evaluates f , as:

Positive instance:	$x \neq 0^n \Rightarrow$	Let $x_j = 1$, $A j\rangle = 1 = \tau\rangle$,
Negative instance:	$x = 0^n \Rightarrow$	



Span programs – example

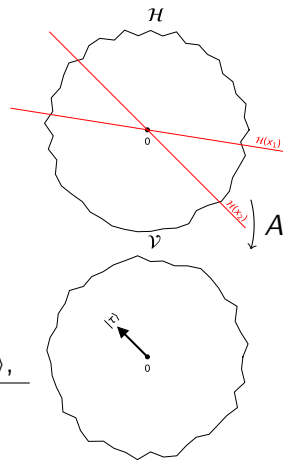


Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

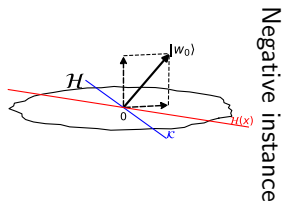
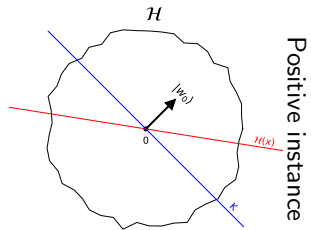
- 1 $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.
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$\mathcal{P} = (\mathcal{H}, x \mapsto \mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{V}, |\tau\rangle, A)$ evaluates f , as:

Positive instance:	$x \neq 0^n \Rightarrow$	Let $x_j = 1$, $A j\rangle = 1 = \tau\rangle$,
Negative instance:	$x = 0^n \Rightarrow$	$A(\mathcal{H}(x)) = \{0\} \not\ni \tau\rangle$.



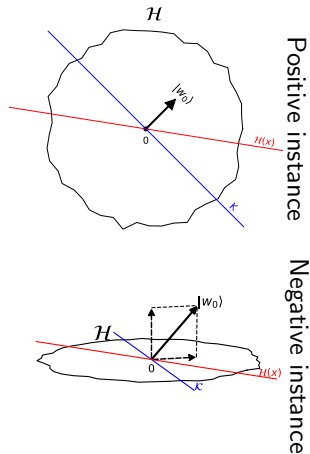
Reflection programs – example



Reflection programs – example



Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

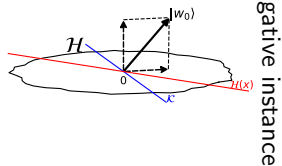
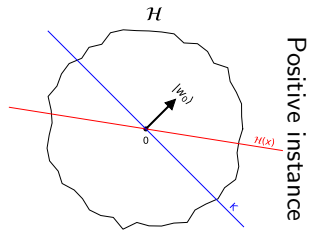


Reflection programs – example



Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

- 1 $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.
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- 4 $|\tau\rangle = 1$.
- 5 $A = \sum_{j=1}^n |j\rangle\langle j|$.



Reflection programs – example



Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

1 $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.

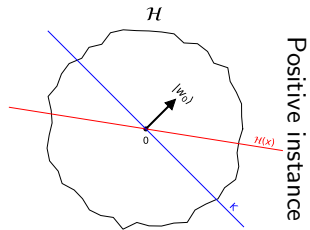
2 $\mathcal{H}(x) = \text{Span}\{|j\rangle : x_j = 1\}$.

3 $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{C}$.

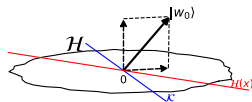
4 $|\tau\rangle = 1$.

5 $A = \sum_{j=1}^n |j\rangle\langle j|$.

1 $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.



Positive instance



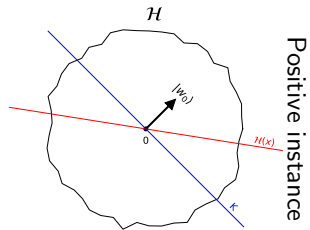
Negative instance

Reflection programs – example

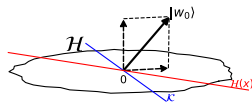


Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$. | 1 $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$. |
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| 3 $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{C}$. | |
| 4 $ \tau\rangle = 1$. | |
| 5 $A = \sum_{j=1}^n j\rangle$. | |



Positive instance



Negative instance

Reflection programs – example



Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

① $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.

② $\mathcal{H}(x) = \text{Span}\{|j\rangle : x_j = 1\}$.

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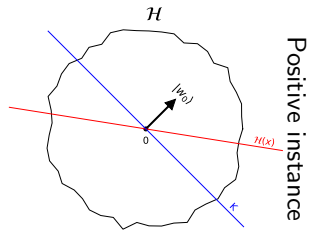
④ $|\tau\rangle = 1$.

⑤ $A = \sum_{j=1}^n |j\rangle\langle j|$.

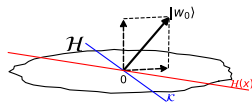
① $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.

② $\mathcal{H}(x) = \text{Span}\{|j\rangle : x_j = 1\}$.

③ $|w_0\rangle = \frac{A^+|\tau\rangle}{\|A^+|\tau\rangle\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n |j\rangle$.



Positive instance



Negative instance

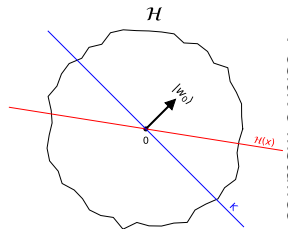
Reflection programs – example



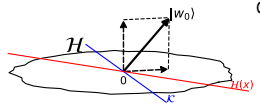
Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

- 1 $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.
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- 4 $\mathcal{K} = \text{Ker}(A) = \text{Ker}(\langle w_0|) = \text{Span}\{|w_0\rangle}^\perp$.



Positive instance



Negative instance

Reflection programs – example



Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

① $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.

② $\mathcal{H}(x) = \text{Span}\{|j\rangle : x_j = 1\}$.

③ $\mathcal{V} = \mathbb{C}$.

④ $|\tau\rangle = 1$.

⑤ $A = \sum_{j=1}^n \langle j|$.

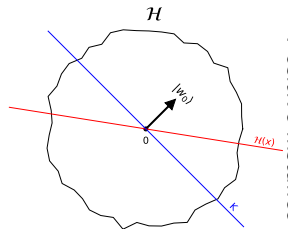
① $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$.

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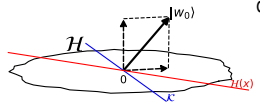
③ $|w_0\rangle = \frac{A^+|\tau\rangle}{\|A^+|\tau\rangle\|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n |j\rangle$.

④ $\mathcal{K} = \text{Ker}(A) = \text{Ker}(\langle w_0|) = \text{Span}\{|w_0\rangle}^\perp$.

$\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{H}, x \mapsto \mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{K}, |w_0\rangle)$ evaluates f , as:



Positive instance



Negative instance

Reflection programs – example



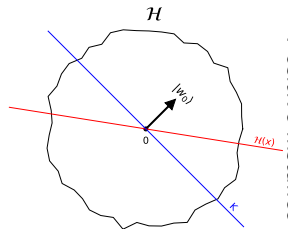
Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ① $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$. | ① $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$. |
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| ④ $ \tau\rangle = 1$. | ④ $\mathcal{K} = \text{Ker}(A) = \text{Ker}(\langle w_0) = \text{Span}\{ w_0\rangle}^\perp$. |
| ⑤ $A = \sum_{j=1}^n \langle j $. | |

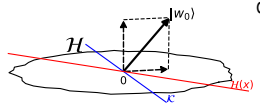
$\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{H}, x \mapsto \mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{K}, |w_0\rangle)$ evaluates f , as:

Positive instance: $x \neq 0^n \Rightarrow$

Negative instance: $x = 0^n \Rightarrow$



Positive instance



Negative instance

Reflection programs – example



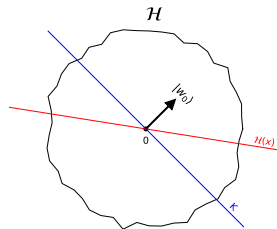
Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

- | | |
|---|---|
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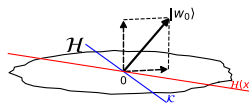
$\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{H}, x \mapsto \mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{K}, |w_0\rangle)$ evaluates f , as:

Positive instance:	$x \neq 0^n \Rightarrow \text{Let } x_j = 1,$ $ w_0\rangle = \underbrace{\sqrt{n} j\rangle}_{\in \mathcal{H}(x)} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{k=1}^n k\rangle - \sqrt{n} j\rangle}_{\in \mathcal{K}} \in \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{H}(x)$
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Negative instance:	$x = 0^n \Rightarrow$
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Positive instance



Negative instance

Reflection programs – example



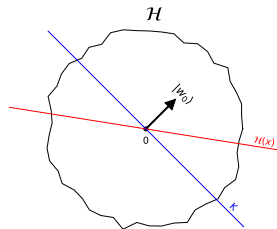
Search function: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \vee \dots \vee x_n$.

- | | |
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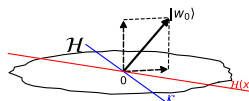
$\mathcal{R} = (\mathcal{H}, x \mapsto \mathcal{H}(x), \mathcal{K}, |w_0\rangle)$ evaluates f , as:

Positive instance:	$x \neq 0^n \Rightarrow \text{Let } x_j = 1,$ $ w_0\rangle = \underbrace{\sqrt{n} j\rangle}_{\in \mathcal{H}(x)} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{k=1}^n k\rangle - \sqrt{n} j\rangle}_{\in \mathcal{K}} \in \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{H}(x)$
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Negative instance:	$x = 0^n \Rightarrow \mathcal{K} + \mathcal{H}(x) = \mathcal{K} = \text{Span}\{ w_0\rangle}^\perp \not\ni w_0\rangle.$
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Positive instance



Negative instance