

Quantum Computation Notes

Measurement and Evolution

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1 Measurements

We reexamine the third postulate of quantum mechanics as outlined in the previous section.

Postulate 3: Quantum measurements are described by a collection of $\{M_m\}$ of measurement operators. If a quantum system is in state $|\psi\rangle$, then the probability that result m occurs is $p(m) = \langle\psi|M_m^\dagger M_m|\psi\rangle$ and the state after the system is $\frac{M_m|\psi\rangle}{\sqrt{\langle\psi|M_m^\dagger M_m|\psi\rangle}}$. The measurement operators satisfy the completeness equation $\sum_m M_m^\dagger M_m = I \implies 1 = \sum_m p(m)$.

Example The measurement of a qubit in computational basis $|0\rangle, |1\rangle$ is a simple and important example. We can define projectors $M_0 = |0\rangle\langle 0|, M_1 = |1\rangle\langle 1|$. We can easily verify each measurement operator is Hermitian (for any $v, |v\rangle\langle v|$ is Hermitian), nonnegative, and that $M_i^2 = M_i$ (follows from definition of projector, see Nielsen 2.16). Suppose we measure $|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$. We measure this in the computational basis.

$$\begin{aligned} p(0) &= \langle\psi|M_0^\dagger M_0|\psi\rangle = \langle\psi|M_0|\psi\rangle \\ &= \langle\psi|(\alpha|0\rangle\langle 0|0\rangle + \beta|0\rangle\langle 0|1\rangle) \rangle \text{ by orthogonality of comp. basis,} \\ &= \alpha\langle\psi|0\rangle = |\alpha|^2 \end{aligned}$$

The post measurement state is $\frac{M_0|\psi\rangle}{\sqrt{p(0)}} = \frac{\alpha}{|\alpha|}|0\rangle \equiv |0\rangle$

See the textbook's rigorous proof as well as intuitive explanation using Alice/Bob game for why we cannot reliably distinguish non-orthogonal states!

2 Projective Measurement/Orthogonal Measurement

Projective measurements are a special case of general measurement. Preskill refers to these as orthogonal measurements. A projective measurement is described by an observable M , a Hermitian operator on the state space of the system being observed. The observable has spectral decomposition $M = \sum_m m P_m$, where P_m is the projector onto the eigenspace of M with eigenvalue m . The probability of result m is given by $p(m) = \langle\psi|P_m|\psi\rangle$ and the state after the measurement is $\frac{P_m|\psi\rangle}{\sqrt{p(m)}}$. Both of these follow from the definitions established above provided that the measurement operators satisfy completeness relation, M_m are Hermitian, and that $M_m M_{m'} = \delta_{m,m'} M_m$.

PVM key conditions:

1. $M_m^\dagger M_m = M_m$
2. $M_m M_{m'} = \delta_{mm'} M_m$
3. $\sum_m M_m = I$
4. M_m can only have eigenvalues of 0,1.

Recall from notes0 that $E(M) = \langle A \rangle = \langle\psi|M|\psi\rangle$ and recall from PSTAT120AB that $(\Delta(M))^2 = \langle M^2 \rangle - \langle M \rangle^2$ (variance formula). Common phrasing is "to measure in basis $|b\rangle$ ", where $|b\rangle$ forms an orthonormal basis, means to form projective measurement with $P_m = |m\rangle\langle m|$. Another useful fact (see Bloch sphere, notes 0!): for any 3 dimensional unit vector v , we can define observable: $v \cdot \sigma = v_1 \sigma_1 + v_2 \sigma_2 + v_3 \sigma_3$.

3 POVM Measurements/Generalized Measurement

POVM measurements, which stands for positive operator valued measure, are more concerned with the probabilities of certain outcomes than with the post measurement state. Preskill refers to these as generalized measurements.

Suppose a measurement is described by measurement operators M_m and it is performed upon a quantum system in state $|\psi\rangle$. Then the probability of outcome m is given by $p(m) = \langle\psi|M_m^\dagger M_m|\psi\rangle$. Define $E_m = M_m^\dagger M_m$. Then from postulate 3, E_m is a positive operator that follows completeness property and that $p(m) = \langle\psi|E_m|\psi\rangle \implies$ we can use the set of E_m to determine probabilities of different measurement outcomes, known as POVM elements, where the set $\{E_m\}$ is a POVM. Consider a projective measurement described by operators P_m , where $P_m P_{m'} = \delta_{mm'} P_m$ (orthonormality) and $\sum_I P_m = I$ (completeness). Only in this instance (!!) the POVM elements are the operators themselves.

POVM key conditions: Any set of operators $\{E_m\}$ such that

1. Each E_m is positive.
2. $\sum_m E_m = I$, necessary for all probabilities summing to 1.
3. $p(m) = \langle\psi|E_m|\psi\rangle$

The key thing is that they aren't necessarily orthogonal. As discussed previously, we cannot distinguish between non-orthogonal states. However, we can perform a POVM measurement which never mis-identifies.

Nielsen and Chuang have deriving a unitary map from a POVM as an exercise (see Nielsen 2.63) while Preskill has deriving POVM from unitary map.

Suppose we have POVM operator E_m . The measurement operator $M_m = U_a \sqrt{E_m}$ satisfies $M_m^\dagger M_m = E_m$ where U_a is arbitrary unitary from the polar decomposition \implies post measurement state is $U_m \frac{\sqrt{E_m}|\psi\rangle}{\|\sqrt{E_m}|\psi\rangle\|}$

Example: Textbook example covering equations 2.118-2.120

4 Quantum Channels

Suppose we make a POVM measurement without recording the outcome, so instead we sum over all outputs weighted by probability to guess output state (expected value). First, recall that for outcome m , $p(m) = \text{tr}(M_m \rho M_m^\dagger) = \langle\psi|M_m^\dagger M_m|\psi\rangle = \langle\psi|E_m|\psi\rangle$ where $\sum_m E_m = I$. Then, recall that for a pure state $|\psi\rangle$, performing measurement M_m causes $|\psi\rangle$ to collapse to $|\psi'\rangle = \frac{M_m|\psi\rangle}{\sqrt{p(m)}} \implies$

for density operator $\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$, $\rho' = \left(\frac{M_m|\psi\rangle}{\sqrt{p(m)}}\right)\left(\frac{\langle\psi|M_m^\dagger}{\sqrt{p(m)}}\right) = \frac{M_m \rho M_m^\dagger}{\text{tr}(M_m \rho M_m^\dagger)}$ Thus to

compute the expected value after a POVM measurement we can define linear map

$$E(\rho) = \sum_a p_a \rho_a = \text{tr}(M_a \rho M_a^\dagger) \frac{M_a \rho M_a^\dagger}{\text{tr}(M_a \rho M_a^\dagger)} = \sum_a M_a \rho M_a^\dagger = \rho'$$

where $M_a^\dagger M_a$ follows completeness prop.

Vocab alert!

E acts on any density operator and is called a *quantum channel*, also known as a *trace-preserving completely positive map* or TPCP map. The summation above is referred to as the *operator-sum representation* of the quantum channel, and operators $\{M_a\}$ are *Kraus operators* or *operation elements* of the channel.

TPCP Key Properties:

1. Linearity: $E(\alpha\rho_1 + \beta\rho_2) = \alpha E(\rho_1) + \beta E(\rho_2)$
2. Preserves Hermiticity: $\rho = \rho^\dagger \implies E(\rho) = E(\rho)^\dagger$
3. Preserves positivity: $\rho \geq 0 \implies E(\rho) \geq 0$
4. Preserves trace: $\text{tr}(E(\rho)) = \text{tr}(\rho)$

See Preskill's notes for a proof/derivation for how each Kraus operator M_a is proportional to a single unitary matrix and thus that E is a unitary map.

Example: Find the Kraus operators and the quantum channel for the qubit depolarizing channel. With probability $1 - p$, no error occurs, and with probability p , one of three equally likely Pauli errors occurs.

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, Y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix}, Z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

We know that $\rho' = p_0\rho_0 + p_1\rho_1 + \dots p_n\rho_n$ where the probability of each ρ_i is p_i . To satisfy $p(m) = \langle \psi | M_m^\dagger M_m | \psi \rangle$, it must be that $M_0 = \sqrt{1-p}I, M_1 = \sqrt{\frac{p}{3}}X, M_2 = \sqrt{\frac{p}{3}}Y, M_3 = \sqrt{\frac{p}{3}}Z$

We can also clearly see that since each Pauli matrix is unitary, $\sum_i M_m^\dagger M_m = (1-p)I + 3(\frac{p}{3}I) = I$, so the completeness condition is met. Thus:

$$\rho' = E(\rho) = (1-p)\rho + \frac{p}{3}(X\rho X + Y\rho Y + Z\rho Z)$$

We will revisit this later after discussing Stinespring dilations.

We can extend our discussion of POVMs and quantum channels as both are considered to be special cases of quantum operations. Suppose we have Kraus operators $\{M_{a\mu}\}$ that obey the usual completeness relation. Suppose then that

after a measurement, we remember a but forget μ . Then, if the state is ρ before measurement, then the post-measurement state is:

$$E_a(\rho) = \sum_{\mu} M_{a\mu} \rho M_{a\mu}^{\dagger}, p(a) = \text{tr}(E_a(\rho)) = \sum_{\mu} p(a, \mu).$$

The completeness principle implies $\sum_{\mu} M_{a\mu}^{\dagger} M_{a\mu} \leq I$. If $\mu = 1$, then it is a POVM. A quantum channel or a POVM must be completely positive, but a quantum operator may not be. All must be linear.

5 Channel-state duality and dilation

We will show that we can uniquely map channels to states via the *Choi-Jamiołkowski isomorphism*. First consider channel $I \otimes E$ on maximally entangled state

$$|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle_{RA} = \sum_i^{d-1} |i\rangle_R \otimes |i\rangle_A$$

where A, R have dimension d . This vector is not normalized for the sake of convenience. Then, if $E : A \rightarrow A'$ is completely positive, then $I \otimes E$ maps $|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle \langle \tilde{\Phi}|$ to a density operator on RA' . Thus:

$$(I \otimes E)(|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle \langle \tilde{\Phi}|)_{RA} = \sum_a |\tilde{\Psi}_a\rangle \langle \tilde{\Psi}_a|$$

Then, consider vector $|\phi\rangle_A = \sum_i \phi_i |i\rangle_A = \sum_i \phi_i \langle i|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle = \langle \phi^*|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle_{RA}$

$$\implies E(|\phi\rangle \langle \phi|) = \sum_a (\langle \phi^*|\tilde{\Psi}\rangle \langle \tilde{\Psi}|\phi^*\rangle)$$

Stinespring dilation is a method for realizing operator sum representation of channel $E : A \rightarrow A'$ as a unitary map on an extended system. Introduce system E with $\dim = \text{num of Kraus operators}$ and define map:

$$U_{A \rightarrow A'E} : |\psi\rangle \mapsto \sum_a M_a |\psi\rangle \otimes |a\rangle$$

The core idea of the Stinespring dilation is to introduce system E s.t. the channel $E(\rho)$ is yielded when you trace out E . Given such a $|\phi\rangle$, we can define $M_A |\phi\rangle_A = \langle \phi^*|\tilde{\Phi}\rangle_{RA'}$

Example: Calculate the unitary operator representation for the qubit depolarizing channel. We construct system E that is four dimensional, one for each outcome/Kraus operator. In the previous example, we should what each M_a must be. Thus. the unitary operator representation is:

$$U_{A \rightarrow AE} : |A\rangle \mapsto \sqrt{1-p} |\psi\rangle_A \otimes |0\rangle_E \\ + \sqrt{\frac{p}{3}} (X |\psi\rangle_A \otimes |1\rangle_E + Y |\psi\rangle_A \otimes |2\rangle_E + Z |\psi\rangle_A \otimes |3\rangle_E)$$

We see that the partial trace over the environment in the $\{|a\rangle\}$ basis yields each M_A as expected:

$$M_A = \langle a| U$$

6 Axioms revisited

We reformulate the axioms of quantum mechanics in terms of open systems instead of closed systems as we originally did in *notes0.tex*.

1. **States:** A state is a density operator, a nonnegative Hermitian operator in Hilbert space with unit trace.
2. **Measurement:** A measurement is a POVM, a partition of unity by non-negative operators. A measurement E_A on state ρ occurs with probability $\text{tr}(E_A \rho)$.
3. **Dynamics:** Time evolution is described by a TPCP.

7 Exercises

1. (Mosca 3.43) Verify that a measurement of Pauli observable X is equivalent to a complete measurement with respect to basis $\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle - |1\rangle)\}$

Solution:

2. (Nielsen 2.57)

Solution: Intuition: Measure L_l , state becomes $L_l |\psi\rangle$. Measure this with M_m . Show its same as N_{lm} . See definition of post measurement state.

3. (Nilsen 2.58) Suppose we prepare a quantum system in eigenstate $|\psi\rangle$ of some observable M , with corresponding eigenvalue m . What is the expected value of M and the standard deviation of M .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} E[M] &= \langle M \rangle = \langle \psi | M | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi | m | \psi \rangle = m \langle \psi | \psi \rangle = m \\ E[M^2] &= \langle \psi | M(M | \psi) \rangle = m \langle \psi | M | \psi \rangle = m^2 \langle \psi | \psi \rangle = m^2 \\ &\iff (\Delta(M))^2 = m^2 - (m)^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

4. (Nielsen 2.62) Show any measurement where the measurement operators and the POVM elements coincide is a projective measurement.

Solution:

Proof. Suppose the measurement operators and the POVM elements coincide. Then, for all M_m , $M_m = E_m$. Since $E_m = M_m^\dagger M_m = M_m$, we have idempotence (prop 1). Then, since $\sum_m E_m = I \iff \sum_m M_m = I$ and therefore we have completeness.

Then, consider $\sum_m M_m = I \implies M_n \sum_m M_m = M_n$

$$\implies M_n^2 + \sum_{m \neq n} M_n M_m = M_n \iff M_n^2 + \sum_{m \neq n} M_n M_m = M_n$$

$$\sum_{m \neq n} M_n M_m = 0 \iff \sum_{m \neq n} \langle \psi | M_n M_m | \psi \rangle = 0$$

Since 0 is the sum of all strictly positive operators, it must be that each $M_n M_m$ is zero. Thus we have $M_m M_n = \delta_{mn} M_m$. Therefore if measurement operators and POVM elements coincide, then it is a projective measurement. \square

5. (Nielsen 2.63) Suppose a measurement is described by measurement operators $\{M_m\}$. Show there exist unitary operators U_m such that $M_m = U_m \sqrt{E_m}$ where E_m is the POVM associated to the measurement.

Solution:

Proof. Suppose we are given measurement operator M_m . Then, using polar composition there exists unitary operator U such that $M_m = U_m J_m$, where J_m is a positive operator. A positive operator always has a positive square root $\iff \exists E_m \text{ s.t. } J_m = \sqrt{E_m}$, satisfying first condition for POVM (positive).

See that $M_m^\dagger = \sqrt{E_m}^\dagger U_m^\dagger = \sqrt{E_m} U_m^\dagger$

$$\implies M_m^\dagger M_m = \sqrt{E_m} U_m^\dagger U \sqrt{E_m} = E_m$$

Since $\sum_m M_m^\dagger M_m = \sum_m E_m = I$, the second condition is met. Since $M_M^\dagger M_M = E_M \iff p(m) = \langle \psi | E_m | \psi \rangle$, satisfying the third condition. Therefore we see a there exists a unitary operator U such that $M_m = U_m \sqrt{E_m}$ where E_m is the POVM associated to the measurement. \square