

PHYC90045 Introduction to Quantum Computing

This Week



**Lecture 9**  
Quantum search – introduction to Grover's algorithm for amplitude amplification, geometric interpretation

**Lecture 10**  
Optimality, Succeeding with Certainty, Quantum Counting

**Lab**  
Grover's algorithm

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Grover's Algorithm

Physics 90045  
Lecture 9

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**Introduction to Grover's algorithm**



- This lecture: Grover's search algorithm
  - Grover's algorithm
  - Worked Example
  - Geometric interpretation

References:

Reiffel, Chapter 9.1-9.2  
Kaye, Chapter 8.1-8.2  
Nielsen and Chuang, Chapter 6.1-6.2

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## Reminder: Outer Product

For two quantum states  $|\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $|\phi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix}$

We can define an outer product between them:

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi\rangle\langle\phi| &= \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} c^* & d^* \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} ac^* & ad^* \\ bc^* & bd^* \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad |1\rangle\langle 2|$$

For number basis states, this specifies a matrix with a single "1" in the location 1,2. In general:

|row⟩ ⟨column|

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# Unordered Search

Grover's algorithm performs a similar\* problem to this: You are given a *telephone book*

And a phone number: 23675

## Your task:

Find the name which goes with that number...

<b>R</b>	Rowan	30427	<b>R</b>	Robbie	23222			
Han	Mobile	50489	Han	Mobile	50200			
Han	Mobile	50488	Han	Mobile	50199			
Han	Mobile	50487	Han	Mobile	50198			
Han	Mobile	50486	Han	Mobile	50197			
<b>S</b>	Sherlock	23069	<b>T</b>	Troyboy	23212			
Nippa	Mobile	23171	Nippa	Country	23020			
Nippa	Mobile	22246	Sherly	Mobile	23043			
Ollie	Mobile	22289	Short (Graham)	22236	<b>U</b>	Uma	23000	
<b>W</b>	Wesley	22236	Short (Nobbs)	22235	<b>M</b>	Mike	23010	
P	Patricia	22485	Shore	Mobile	50340	<b>W</b>	Willie	23010
Patricia	Mobile	22484	Shore	Mobile	50341	<b>W</b>	Willie	23011
Pete	Mobile	22453	Slack	Mobile	22159	<b>Y</b>	Yarm	23077
Pete	Mobile	22452	Smash	Mobile	22158			
Pete	Mobile	22451	Smash	Mobile	22157			
Pete	Mobile	22450	Smash	Mobile	22156			
Pete (Nobbs)	Mobile	22403	Smash	Mobile	22077			
Pete (Nobbs)	Mobile	22402	Smash	Mobile	22076			
Pete (Nobbs)	Mobile	22401	Smash	Mobile	22075			
Hummer	Mobile	22051	Snobell	Mobile	23028			
Fuzz	Mobile	22275	Snobell	Mobile	50250			
Poof	Mobile	23075	Snobell	Mobile	50249			
Poppy	Mobile	23076	Snobell	Mobile	51128			
Poppy	Mobile	24248	Snobell	Mobile	23588			

Part of Norfolk Island's telephone book, with people listed by nickname (Photo: Wikicommons)

\* Not all that similar, better examples later....

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## Quantum search – Grover’s problem

Given an black box (oracle),  $U_f$ , which computes the function:

$$f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$$

Find an  $x$  s.t.  $f(x) = 1$

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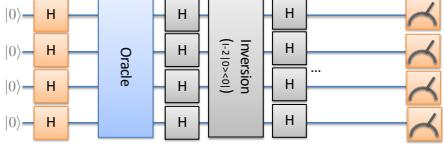
### Grover's Algorithm (1996)



- Unordered search, find one marked item among many
- Classically, this requires  $N/2$  queries to the oracle
- Quantum mechanically, requires only  $O(\sqrt{N})$  queries.

Simple problem = search for one integer marked by the oracle.

High level structure:



Lov Grover

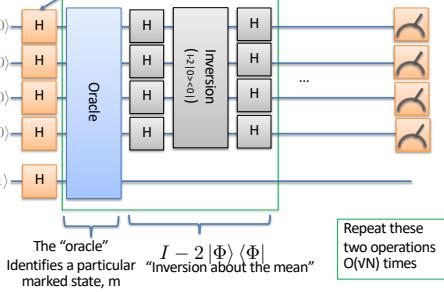
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### Two basic steps in Grover's algorithm



Quantum database:  $|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$  (i.e. all integers 0 to  $N-1$ )



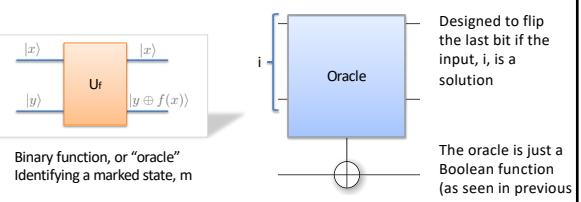
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### The Oracle



The task of recognizing the correct solution goes to the "oracle".



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### Phase kickback for Boolean function

Binary function, or "oracle"

After the function has been applied:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (-1)^{f(i)} |i\rangle \otimes \frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

If the oracle function evaluates to "1" then the target qubit is flipped, and we pick up a phase (associated with the control qubit state). Otherwise, there is no phase applied. This is a simple way to write that.

Target qubit remains the same

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### Example: Oracle recognizing the state "2 = $|10\rangle$ "

The effect on each of the 4 states in the 2-qubit control register, x:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I - 2|10\rangle\langle 10|$$

Phase kickback

$ 00\rangle$	$\rightarrow$	$ 00\rangle$
$ 01\rangle$	$\rightarrow$	$ 01\rangle$
$ 10\rangle$	$\rightarrow$	$- 10\rangle$
$ 11\rangle$	$\rightarrow$	$ 11\rangle$

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### The marked state

Initially in Grover's algorithm, we will be searching for a single (integer) solution,  $m$ . In that case the effect of the oracle on the control register is:

$$I - 2|m\rangle\langle m| \quad (\text{in decimal ket notation})$$

As a matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

-1 in the  $m^{\text{th}}$  position

Here, as in future slides, we are only writing out the control qubits (in this case 2 qubits only).

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**Example: Oracle recognizing the state “2 = |10>”**

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**Phase kickback**

$ 00\rangle \rightarrow$	$ 00\rangle$
$ 01\rangle \rightarrow$	$ 01\rangle$
$ 10\rangle \rightarrow$	$- 10\rangle$
$ 11\rangle \rightarrow$	$ 11\rangle$

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## Two steps to Grover's algorithm

The diagram illustrates the two main steps of Grover's algorithm:

- Set up “data base”**: A vertical stack of four qubits, each initialized to  $|0\rangle$ . The first three qubits pass through a sequence of Hadamard ( $H$ ) gates, while the fourth qubit passes through a sequence of identity ( $I$ ) gates. This prepares an equal superposition state across the first three qubits.
- Oracle**: A blue rectangular block labeled "Oracle". It takes the four qubits as input and produces four output qubits. The first three qubits are measured and shown to be in states  $|1\rangle$ ,  $|1\rangle$ , and  $|0\rangle$  respectively, while the fourth qubit remains in an unknown state. Below the Oracle, the text "The oracle" is written.
- Inversion**: A sequence of gates labeled "Inversion" followed by the expression  $\{z \mid \langle p \rangle < 0\}$ . This block consists of a series of Hadamard ( $H$ ) and controlled-NOT ( $CNOT$ ) gates. The first three qubits act as controls for the CNOT gates, which are applied between adjacent qubits. The fourth qubit acts as the target for these CNOT gates. Below this block, the text "Inversion about the mean" is written.
- Output**: The final state of the four qubits is shown as  $|1\rangle$ ,  $|1\rangle$ ,  $|0\rangle$ , and  $|1\rangle$ . Each qubit is measured and shown in its respective state. Ellipses indicate that this sequence of operations is repeated multiple times.
- Repeat**: The text "Repeat these two operations O( $N$ ) times" is located at the bottom right, indicating that the entire sequence of Oracle and Inversion steps is iterated  $O(N)$  times to achieve the desired search result.

One iteration of Grover where  $|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$

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## Unpicking the details: “Inversion” operation

The “Inversion” part is just applying a phase to the zero state:

$$I - 2|0\rangle\langle 0| = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

How? Recall outer product etc:  $|\psi\rangle\langle\phi| = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} \otimes \begin{bmatrix} c^* & d^* \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} ac^* & ad^* \\ bc^* & bd^* \end{bmatrix}$

$$|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad |0\rangle\langle 0| = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes (10\dots 0) = \begin{pmatrix} 10\dots 0 \\ 00\dots 0 \\ \vdots \\ 00\dots 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad I = \begin{pmatrix} 100\dots 0 \\ 010\dots 0 \\ 001\dots 0 \\ \vdots \\ 000\dots 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$I - 2|0\rangle\langle 0| = \begin{pmatrix} 100\dots 0 \\ 010\dots 0 \\ 001\dots 0 \\ \vdots \\ 000\dots 1 \end{pmatrix} - 2 \begin{pmatrix} 10\dots 0 \\ 00\dots 0 \\ \vdots \\ 00\dots 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

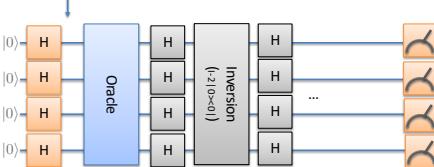
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## Inversion about the mean



$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$  Set up “data base”



$$I - 2 |\Phi\rangle \langle \Phi|$$

“Inversion about the mean”...let’s see how that works.

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# Apply inversion about the mean to general state

Applying Hadamards both sides:

$$|Ψ\rangle = \sum_i a_i |i\rangle \quad |\Psi'\rangle$$

$$I - 2 H^{\otimes n} |0\rangle \langle 0| H^{\otimes n}$$

$$= I - 2 |\Phi\rangle \langle \Phi| \quad |\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$$

Equal superposition

General state

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_i a_i |i\rangle \rightarrow |\Psi'\rangle = (I - 2 |\Phi\rangle \langle \Phi|) \sum_i a_i |i\rangle$$

$$= \sum_i a_i |i\rangle - 2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_k |k\rangle \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_j \langle j| \sum_i a_i |i\rangle$$

$$= \sum_i a_i |i\rangle - 2 \sum_k |k\rangle \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_j a_j \right)$$

$$= \sum_i (a_i - 2A) |i\rangle$$

$A \equiv \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_j a_j \right)$

Average amplitude in state  $|\Psi'\rangle$

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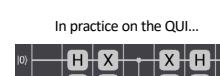
# Inversion about the mean

Consider a general state. The resulting amplitude from the “Inversion about the mean” step is:

$$\sum_i a_i |i\rangle \rightarrow \sum_i (a_i - 2A) |i\rangle$$

Original amplitude                              Average amplitude

In practice on the QUI...



```

  graph TD
    H1[ ] --> H1_1[H]
    H1 --> H1_2[H]
    H1 --> H1_3[H]
    H1_1 --> C1[CNOT]
    H1_2 --> C1
    C1 --> H2[H]
    C1 --> X2[X]
    H2 --> C2[CNOT]
    X2 --> C2
    C2 --> H3[H]
    C2 --> Z3[Z]
    H3 --> X3[X]
    Z3 --> X3
  
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### Inversion about the mean

Amplitudes of the state, before and after:

When the state undergoes this transformation:

$$\sum_i a_i |i\rangle \rightarrow -\sum_i (2A - a_i) |i\rangle$$

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### Effect of inversion about the mean

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### Interactive Example

<https://codepen.io/samtonetto/full/BVOGmW>

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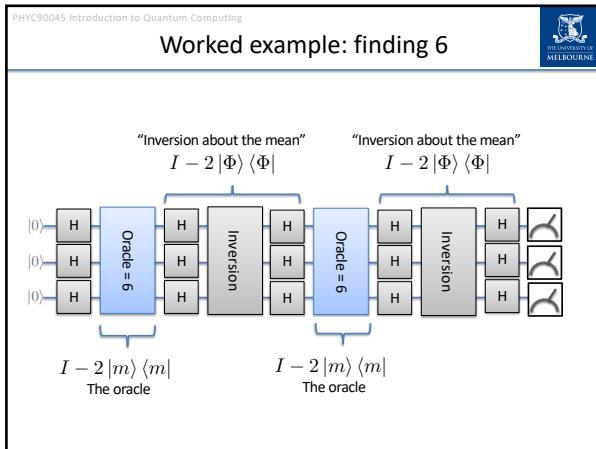
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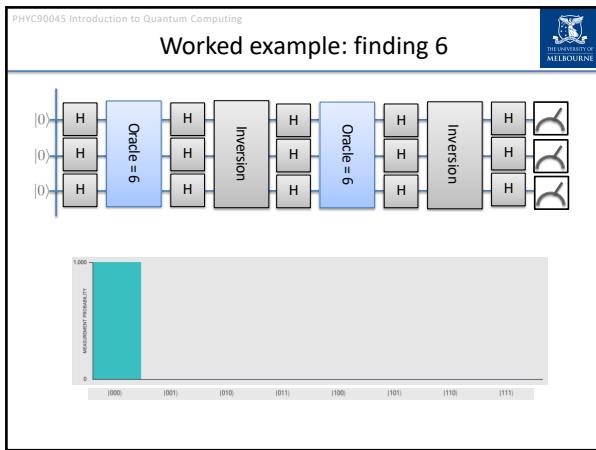
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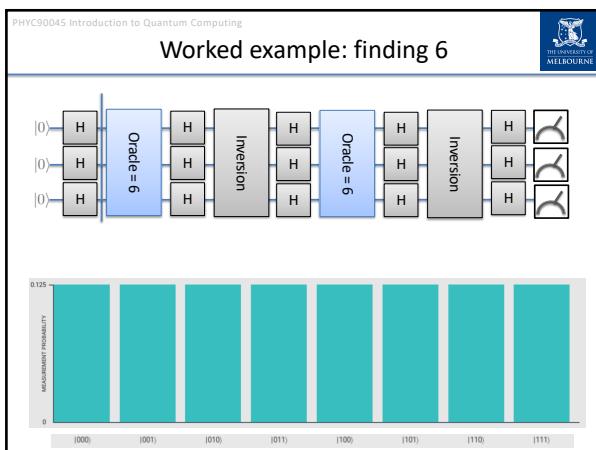
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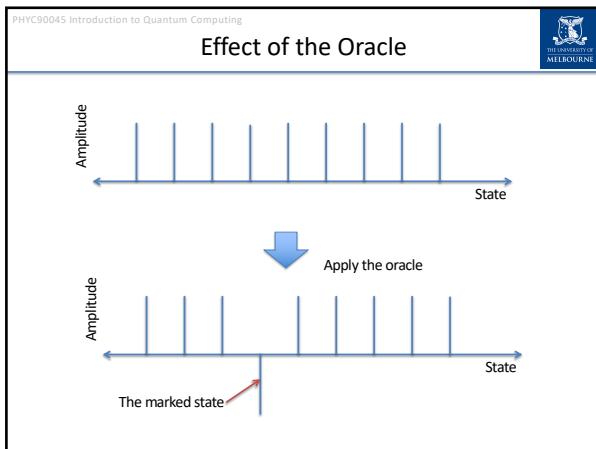
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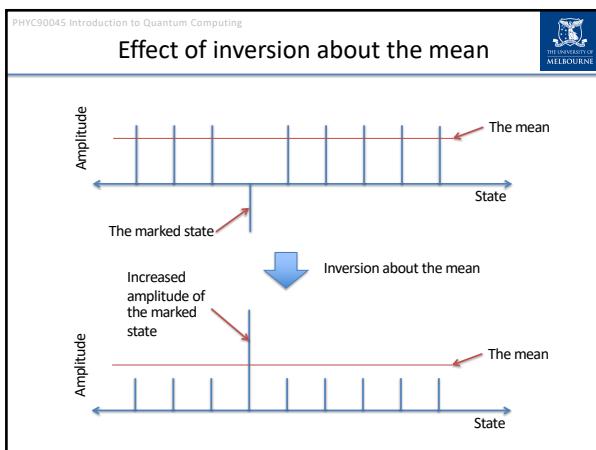
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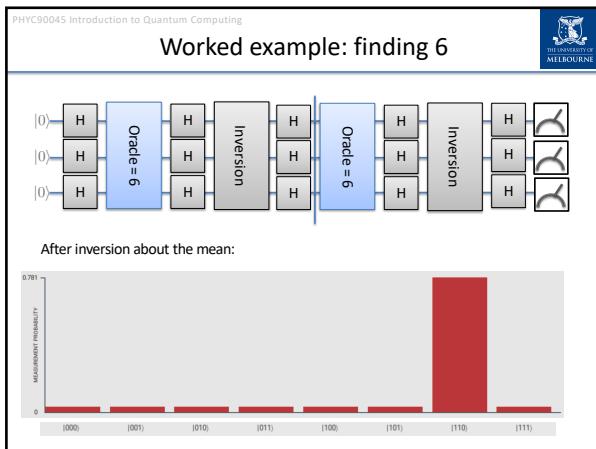
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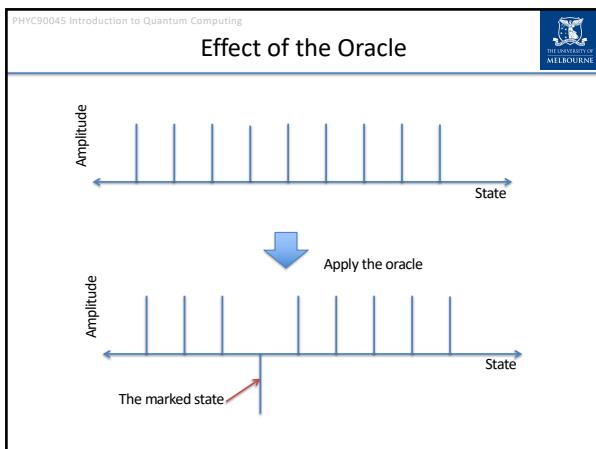
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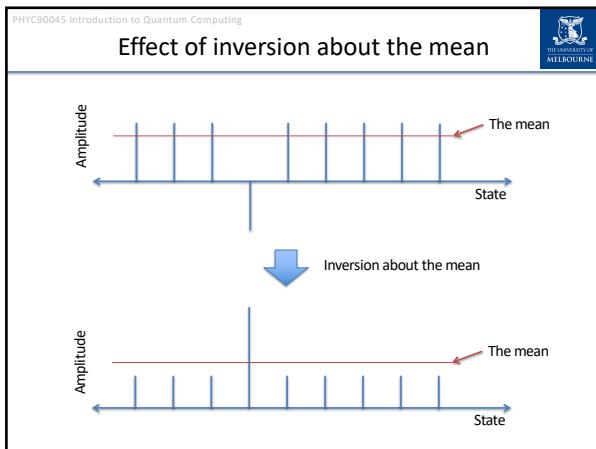
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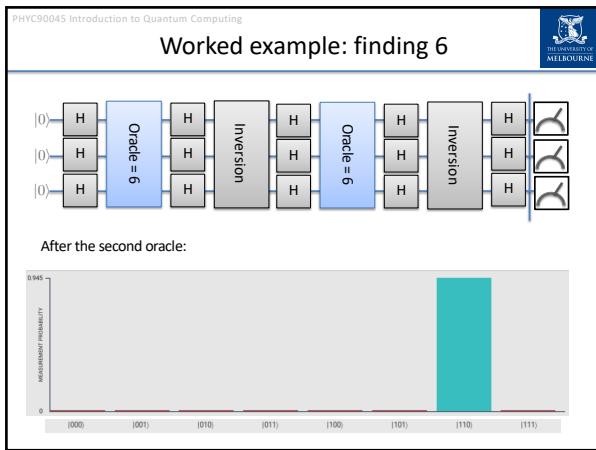
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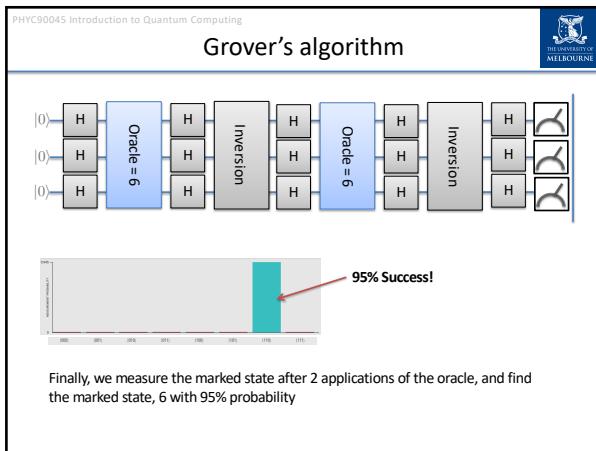
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### Geometric interpretation of Grover's algorithm

A very useful basis:

$$|a\rangle = |m\rangle \quad \text{Solution!} \quad \text{Smiley face}$$

$$|b\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N-1}} \sum_{i \notin \text{solutions}} |i\rangle \quad \text{Non-solutions...} \quad \text{Red circle with slash}$$

We only need to consider the amplitude of these two states in Grover's algorithm. Every operation is also real, so we can plot on a circle.

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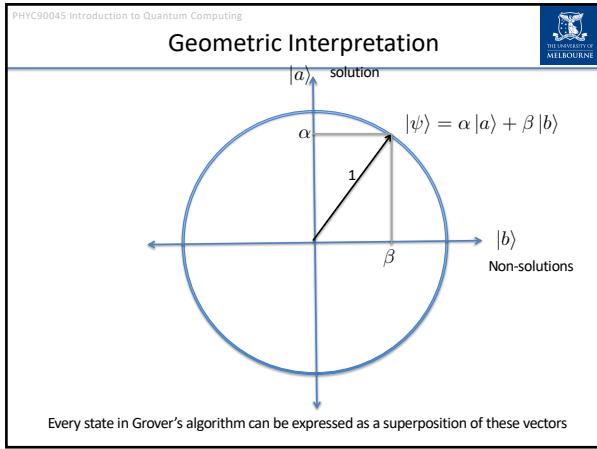
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### Equal superposition

Equal superposition state:

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} |a\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{N-1}}{\sqrt{N}} |b\rangle$$

$$|a\rangle = |m\rangle \quad |b\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N-1}} \sum_{i \notin \text{solutions}} |i\rangle$$


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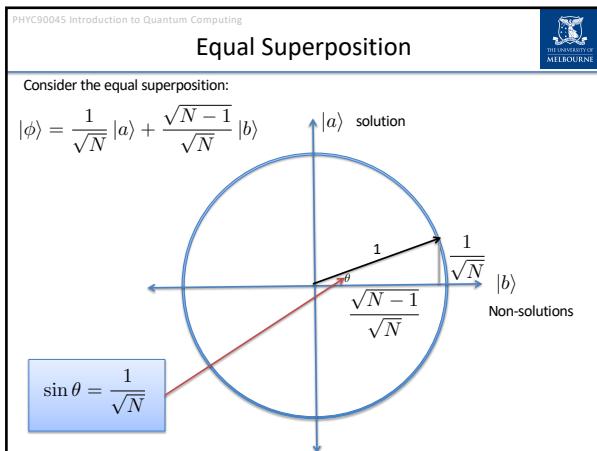
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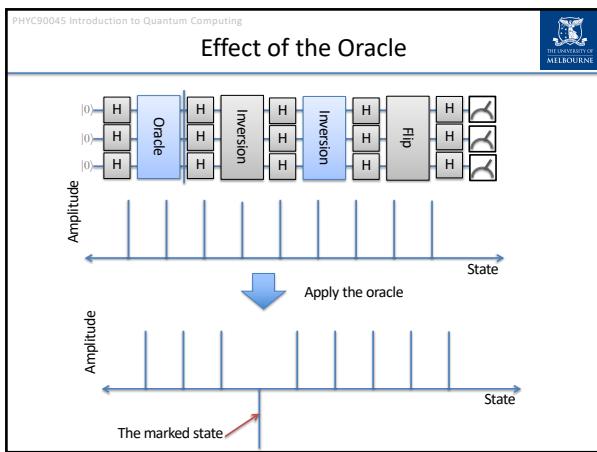
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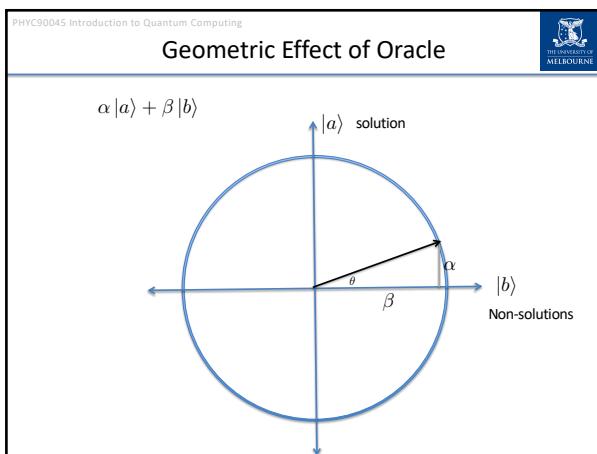
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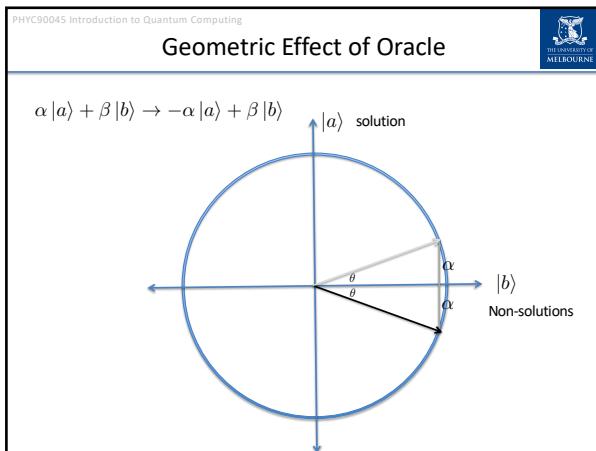
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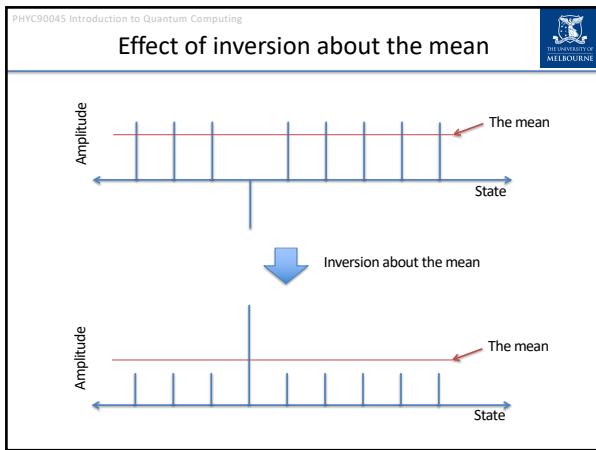
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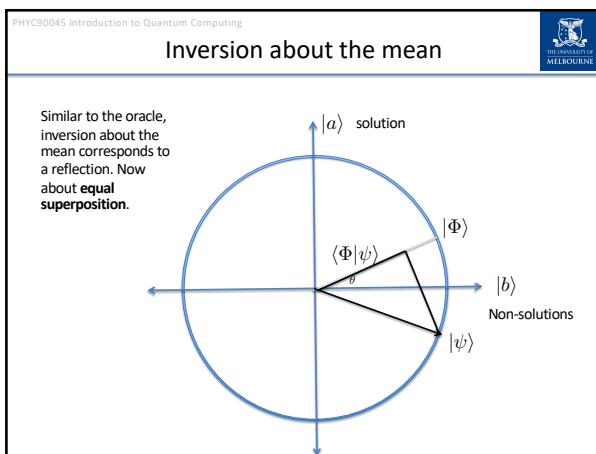
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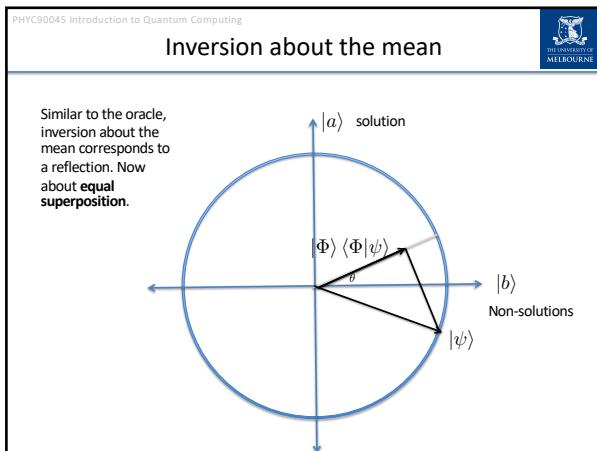
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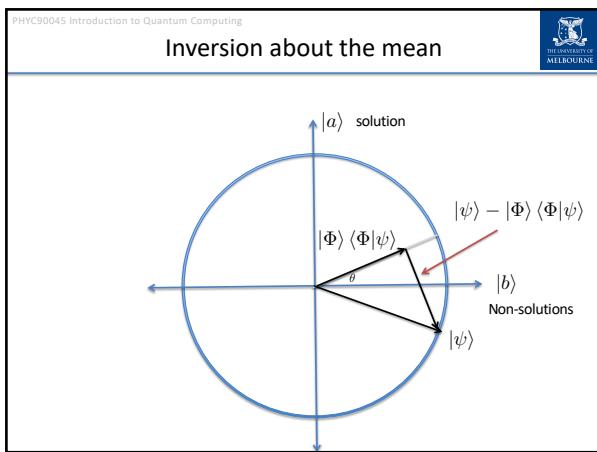
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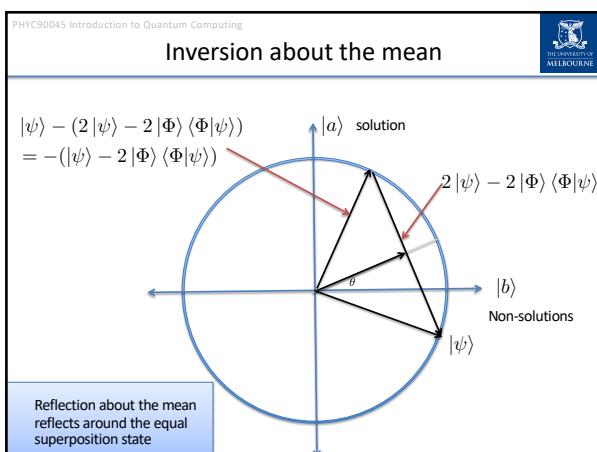
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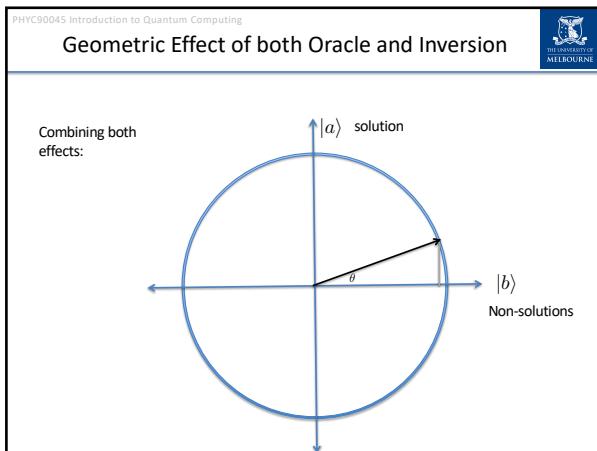
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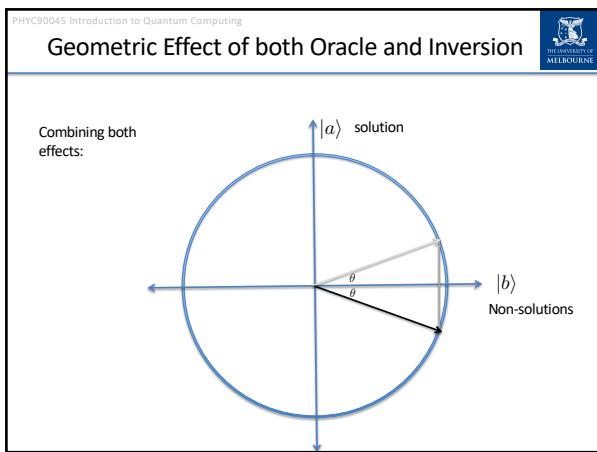
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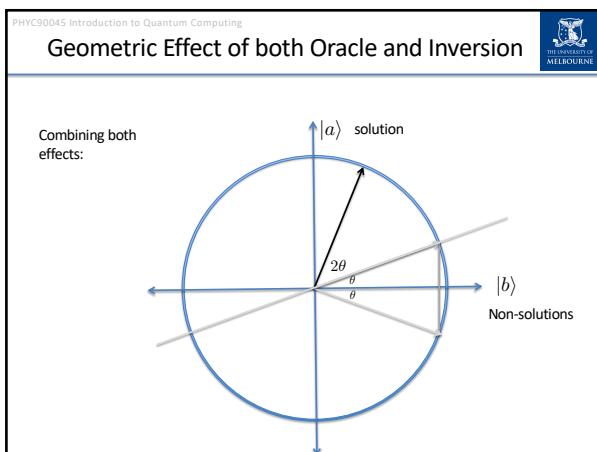
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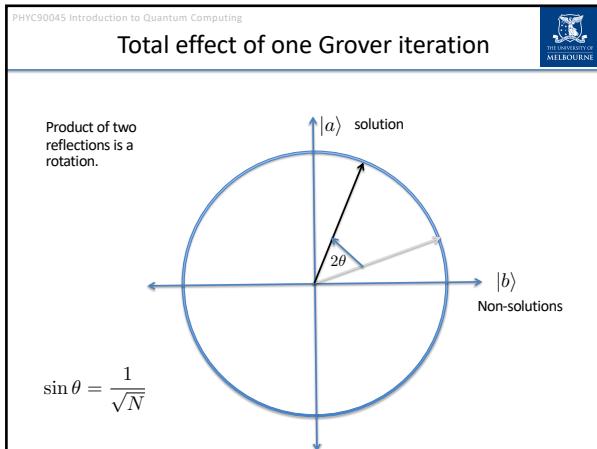
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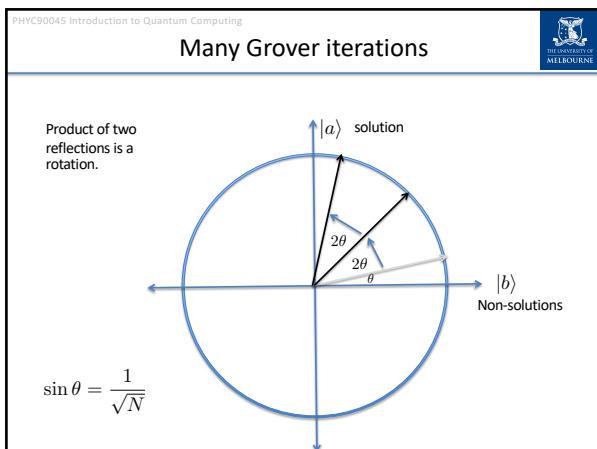
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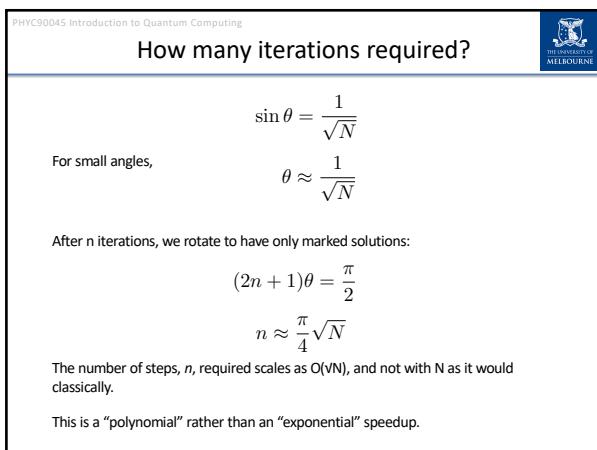
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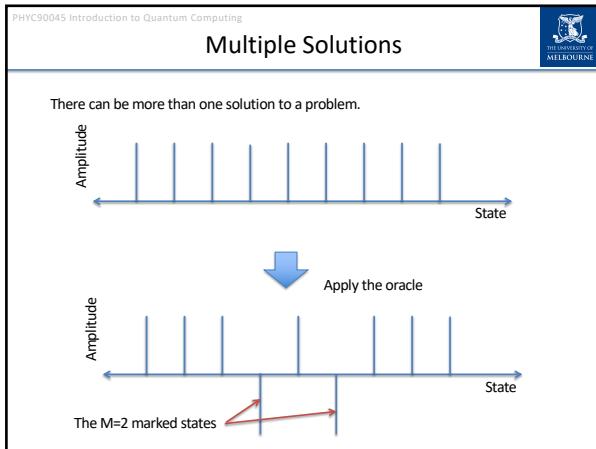
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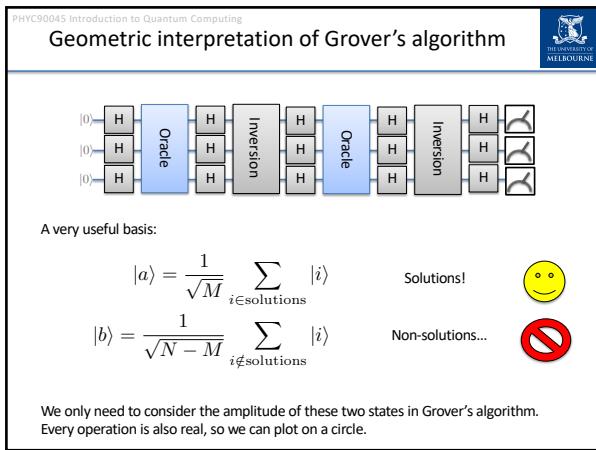
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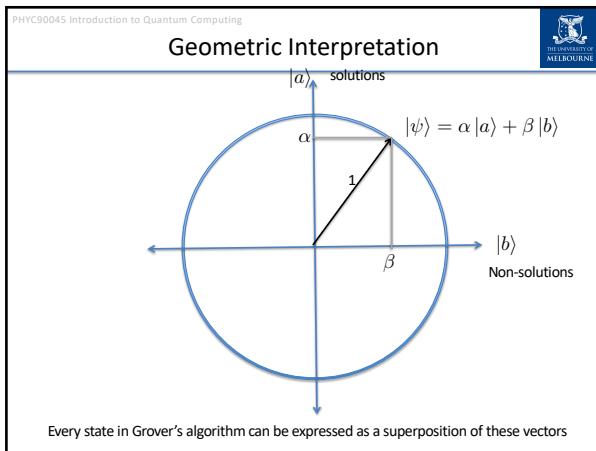
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### Equal superposition

Equal superposition state:

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_i |i\rangle$$

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{\sqrt{M}}{\sqrt{N}} |a\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{N-M}}{\sqrt{N}} |b\rangle$$

$$|a\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{i \in \text{solutions}} |i\rangle$$

$$|b\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N-M}} \sum_{i \notin \text{solutions}} |i\rangle$$

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### Equal Superposition

Consider the equal superposition:

$$|\Phi\rangle = \frac{\sqrt{M}}{\sqrt{N}} |a\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{N-M}}{\sqrt{N}} |b\rangle$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{M}}{\sqrt{N}}$$

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### Effect of the Oracle

Amplitude

State

Apply the oracle

Amplitude

State

The marked state

57

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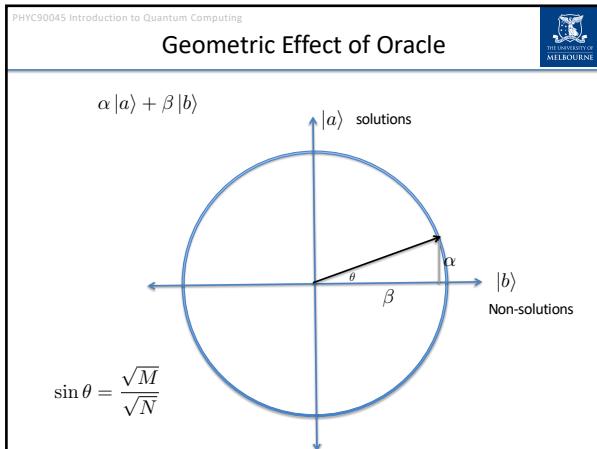
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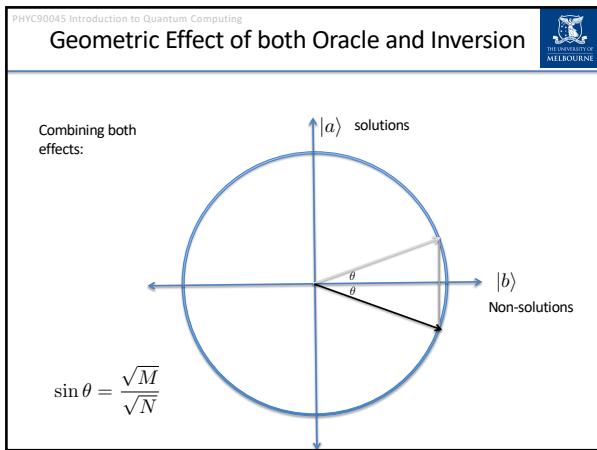
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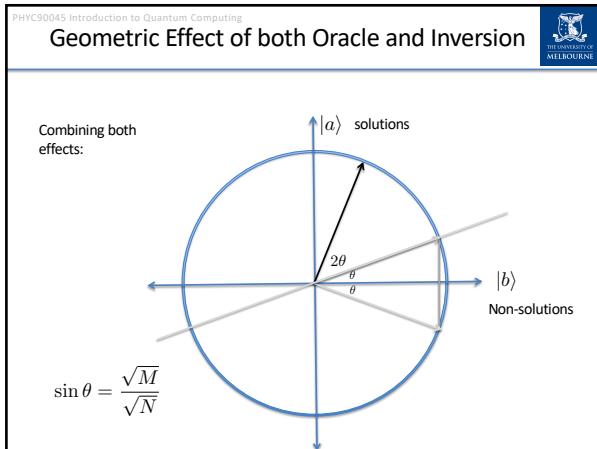
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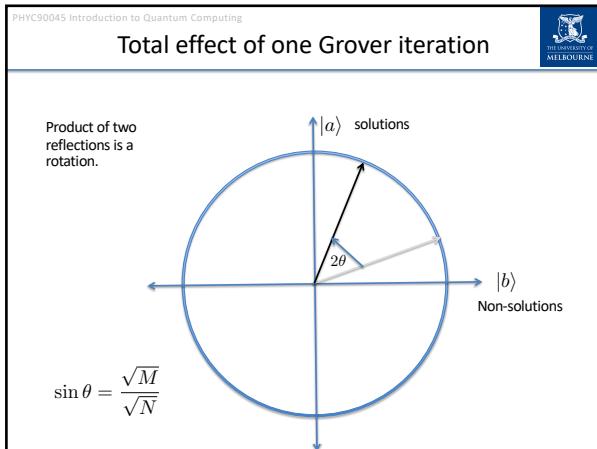
58



59



60



61

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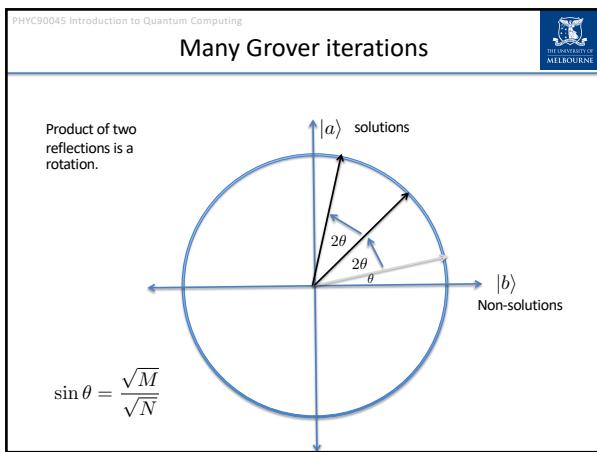
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62

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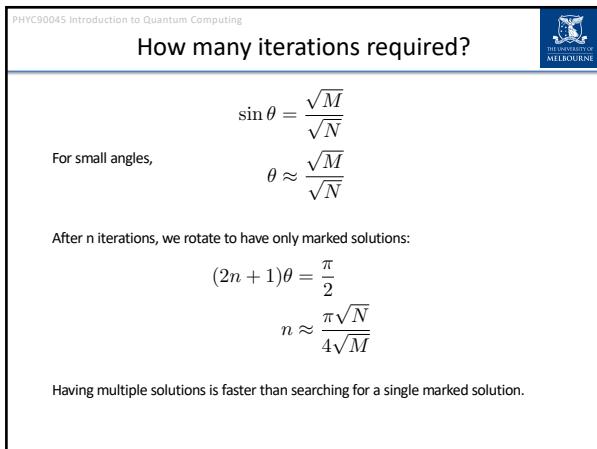
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63

PHYC90045 Introduction to Quantum Computing

## Grover's Algorithm

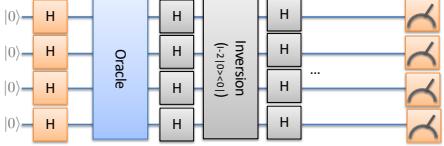
• Unordered search, find one marked item among many

• Classically, this requires  $N/2$  uses of the oracle

• Quantum mechanically, requires only  $O(\sqrt{N})$ .



Lov Grover



The diagram shows a quantum circuit with four qubits. Each qubit starts in the  $|0\rangle$  state. The circuit consists of the following sequence of operations: Hadamard gates (H) on each qubit, followed by an Oracle block, then a series of Inversion blocks (represented by grey boxes). The Oracle block contains two Hadamard gates. The Inversion blocks contain three Hadamard gates. The circuit concludes with another sequence of Hadamard gates on each qubit. The final state of the circuit is  $(|z\rangle, |0\rangle)$ , where  $|z\rangle$  is the marked state.

64

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