

# Purpose of the Phase in Quantum State Preparation

## 1. Relative Phase = New Information

A balanced superposition alone isn't enough to represent a general qubit state. The *relative phase* between the  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$  terms carries unique information.

Example:

$$|+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle), \quad |-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle - |1\rangle)$$

These two states differ **only** by a phase factor, yet they behave very differently under interference and measurement.

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## 2. Bloch Sphere Interpretation

- Without a phase: a Hadamard ( $H$ ) puts the qubit on the equator at  $0^\circ$  longitude (the state  $|+\rangle$ ).
- With a phase gate  $P(\theta)$ : the state rotates around the equator to longitude  $\theta$ .

→ The phase lets us **steer the qubit around the Bloch sphere's equator**, changing how it interacts with future gates and measurements.

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## 3. Why It Matters in Teleportation

The teleportation protocol needs to prove it can transmit *any* state, not just simple ones like  $|0\rangle$  or  $|+\rangle$ .

By preparing a state with a relative phase:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0\rangle + e^{i\theta}|1\rangle)$$

we demonstrate that **even fragile phase information** is preserved when the qubit is teleported.

If Bob recovers this exact state, it shows the protocol works for general states — not just basis states.

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## 4. Practical Purpose

Relative phases underpin: - **Quantum interference** (Deutsch, Grover, Shor's algorithms) - **Quantum communication** (encoding and transmitting info via phase) - **Quantum error correction** (must preserve phase as well as amplitude)

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✓ The phase change in teleportation demos isn't arbitrary — it's proof that the protocol can handle **general qubit states with arbitrary phase**, not just the "easy" ones.