# A Practical Introduction to Quantum Computing

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# What are the elements of a quantum circuit?

- Every computation has three elements: data, operations and results
- In quantum circuits:
  - Data = qubits
  - Operations = quantum gates
  - Results = measurements

#### What is a Qubit

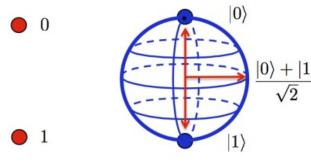
- A classical bit can take two different values (0 or 1). It is discrete.
- A qubit can "take" infinitely many different values. It is continuous.
- Qubits live in a Hilbert vector space with a basis of two elements that we denote

A generic qubit is in a superposition

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are complex numbers such that

$$|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$$



## Measuring a qubit

- The way to know the value of a qubit is to perform a measurement.
   However
  - The result of the measurement is random
  - When we measure, we only obtain one (classical) bit of information
- If we measure the state  $|\psi\rangle = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$  we get 0 with probability  $|\alpha|^2$  and 1 with probability  $|\beta|^2$ .
- Moreover, the new state after the measurement will be |0> or |1> depending of the result we have obtained (wavefunction colapse)
- We cannot perform several independent measurements of  $|\psi\rangle$  because we cannot copy the state (no-cloning theorem)

# What are quantum gates?

 Quantum mechanics tells us that the evolution of an isolated state is given by the Schrodinger equation

$$H(t)|\psi(t)\rangle = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t}|\psi(t)\rangle$$

 In the case of quantum circuits, this implies that the operations that can be carried out are given by unitary matrices. That is, matrices U of complex numbers verifying

$$UU^{\dagger} = U^{\dagger}U = I$$

where U † is the conjugate transpose of U.

Each such matrix is a possible quantum gate in a quantum circuit

# Reversible computing

- Reversible means given the operation and output value, you can find the input value
  - For Ax=b, given b and A, you can uniquely find x
- Operations which permute are reversible: operations which erase and overwrite are not
  - Identity and Negation are reversible
  - Onstatnt-0 and constant-1 are not reversible
- Quantum computers use only reversible operations
  - In fact, all quantum operators are their own inverses

## Reversible computation

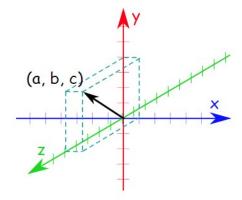
- As a consequence, all the operations have an inverse: reversible computing
- Every gate has the same number of inputs and outputs
- We cannot directly implement some classical gates such as or, and, nand, xor...
- But we can simulate any classical computation with small overhead

# Writing convention

• Bra-Ket is a way of writing special <u>vectors</u> used in Quantum Physics that looks like this:

<br/>ket>

Here is a vector in 3 dimensions:



We can write this as a column vector like this:

Or we can write it as a "ket":

$$|r\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: the complex conjugate is written with a little star like this:

- z = s + it
- $z^* = s it$

Example: This ket:

$$|a\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 2-3i \\ 6+4i \\ 3-i \end{bmatrix}$$

Has this bra:

$$\langle a | = [2+3i \ 6-4i \ 3+i]$$

The values are now in a row, and we also **changed the sign** (+ to -, and - to +) in the middle of each element? That is all we have to do to get the conjugate.

But kets are special:

- •The values (a, b and c above) are complex numbers (so they can be real numbers, imaginary numbers or a combination of both)
- •Kets can have any number of dimensions, including infinite dimensions!
- •The "bra" is similar, but the values are in a **row**, and each element is the complex **conjugate** of the ket's elements.

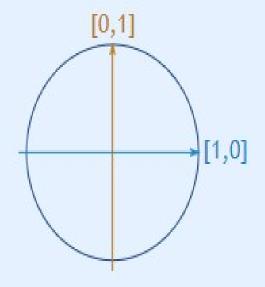
We can easily have many dimensions.



Imagine "Quantum Dice": any single die is a superposition of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 until we measure it. Then it "collapses" into one of those states.

Its ket looks like:

For a fair die all elements (a, b, c, d, e, f) are equal, but **your** dice may be loaded!



$$|a\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
, and  $|b\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ 

So:

$$\langle a|b\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 1 \times 0 + 0 \times 1 = 0$$

This can be a simple test to see if vectors are **orthogonal** (the more general concept of "at right angles")

# Dirac Vector Notation Representing classical bit as a vector

- |0>
  - One bit with the value 0

 $\binom{1}{0}$ 

- |1>
  - One bit with the value 1

 $\binom{0}{1}$ 

## One qubit

A single qubit state is

$$\binom{\alpha}{\beta} = \alpha \binom{1}{0} + \beta \binom{0}{1} = \alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$$

We must not forget that

$$|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$$

Then, a one-qubit gate can be identified with a matrix

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$
 that satisfies

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \overline{a} & \overline{c} \\ \overline{b} & \overline{d} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Where  $\overline{a}, \overline{b}, \overline{c}, \overline{d}$  are the conjugates of complex numbers a, b, c, d.

### Mathematical Preliminaries

# Recalling complex numbers

• A complex number is written as

$$z = x + iy$$

Where x, y are real numbers and  $i^2 = -1$ 

- The conjugate of z is  $\dot{z} = x iy$
- The modulus of complex number is |Z|

$$|z|^2 = z\acute{z} = x^2 + y^2$$

## Matrix Multiplication

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} ax + by \\ cx + dy \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} ax + by + cz \\ dx + ey + fz \\ gx + hy + iz \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w & x \\ y & z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} aw + by & ax + bz \\ cw + dy & cx + dz \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \\ d \end{pmatrix}$$

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

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# Tensor product of vectors



 If we have two separated qubits, we can describe their collective state using the tensor product

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{0} \\ x_{1} \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} y_{0} \\ y_{1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{0} \begin{pmatrix} y_{0} \\ y_{1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{0} y_{0} \\ x_{1} y_{0} \\ x_{1} y_{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_{0} \\ x_{1} \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} y_{0} \\ y_{1} \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} z_{0} \\ y_{1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_{0} y_{0} z_{0} \\ x_{0} y_{0} z_{1} \\ x_{0} y_{1} z_{0} \\ x_{0} y_{1} z_{1} \\ x_{1} y_{0} z_{1} \\ x_{1} y_{0} z_{0} \\ x_{1} y_{1} z_{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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#### Quantum bits – Qubits

Quantum bits – Qubits :

A qubit is the fundamental unit of quantum information just as a bit is the fundamental unit of classical information.

- A bit can exist in two states: 0 and 1.
- A qubit is a vector having two complex components.

Consider the vector space 
$$\mathbb{C}^2 = \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} : a, b \in \mathbb{C} \right\}$$

A vector of the form  $a\ b$  defines a state of a qubit if and only if

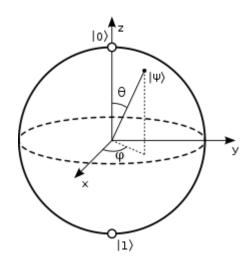
$$|a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1$$

# Hilbert space

A Hilbert space is a vector space equipped with an inner product, an operation that allows defining lengths and angles.

### Bloch sphere

the **Bloch sphere** is a geometrical representation of the pure state space of a two-level quantum mechanical system (qubit), named after the physicist Felix Bloch.



# Basis of $\mathbb{C}^2$

• The set of vectors  $\{\binom{1}{0},\binom{0}{1}\}$  is said to be a basis is  $\mathbb{C}^2$  since any element in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  can be written uniquely as a linear combination

$$\binom{a}{b} = a \binom{1}{0} + b \binom{0}{1}.$$

• Any set of vectors with this property is said to be a basis of  $\mathbb{C}^2$ .

For example: 
$$\left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix}1\\1\end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix}1\\-1\end{pmatrix}\right\}, \left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix}1\\\mathbf{i}\end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix}1\\-\mathbf{i}\end{pmatrix}\right\}$$
 where  $\mathbf{i}^2 = -1$ .

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# Inner product on $\mathbb{C}^2$

• Inner product of two vectors  $\binom{a}{b}$ ,  $\binom{c}{d} \in \mathbb{C}^2$  is

$$\binom{a}{b}^{\dagger}\binom{c}{d}=(\bar{a}\quad \bar{b})\binom{c}{d}=\bar{a}c+\bar{b}d.$$

· Two vector are said to be orthogonal if

$${\binom{a}{b}}^{\dagger} {\binom{c}{d}} = (\bar{a} \quad \bar{b}) {\binom{c}{d}} = \bar{a}c + \bar{b}d = 0.$$

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#### Orthonormal basis of C<sup>2</sup>

• Suppose  $\{\binom{a}{b}, \binom{c}{d}\}$  is a basis such that

$$\binom{a}{b}^{\dagger} \binom{c}{d} = (\bar{a} \quad \bar{b}) \binom{c}{d} = \bar{a}c + \bar{b}d = 0$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}^{\dagger} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = (\bar{a} \quad \bar{b}) \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \bar{a}a + \bar{b}b = |a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} c \\ d \end{pmatrix}^{\dagger} \begin{pmatrix} c \\ d \end{pmatrix} = (\bar{c} \quad \bar{d}) \begin{pmatrix} c \\ d \end{pmatrix} = \bar{c}c + \bar{d}d = |c|^2 + |d|^2 = 1$$

#### Orthonormal basis of C<sup>2</sup>

• Computational basis:  $\mathcal{B} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ :

(Standard basis)

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^{\dagger} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = (\overline{1} \quad \overline{0}) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \overline{1}0 + \overline{0}1 = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^{\dagger} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = (\overline{1} \quad \overline{0}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \overline{1}1 + \overline{0}0 = 1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}^{\dagger} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = (\overline{0} \quad \overline{1}) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \overline{0}0 + \overline{1}1 = 1$$

# Orthonormal basis of $\mathbb{C}^2$ : Examples

• Hadamard basis:  $\mathcal{H} = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ .

• Nega-Hadamard basis:  $\mathcal{N} = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathbf{i} \end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\mathbf{i} \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ .

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#### Dirac's bra/ket notation

- A vector  $\binom{a}{b} \in \mathbb{C}^2$  is written as  $|\psi\rangle$  read as "ket psi".
- The vector  $\binom{a}{b}^{\dagger} = (\bar{a} \quad \bar{b})$  is written as  $\langle \psi |$ .
- Inner product of two vectors  $|\phi\rangle = {c \choose d}$ , and  $|\psi\rangle = {a \choose b}$  is  $\langle \psi | \phi \rangle = {a \choose b}^\dagger {c \choose d} = (\bar{a} \quad \bar{b}) {c \choose d} = \bar{a}c + \bar{b}d$ .

The order in the which  $|\phi\rangle$  and  $|\psi\rangle$  appear matters. This is the inner product of  $|\phi\rangle$  and  $|\psi\rangle$  and  $|\phi\rangle$ .

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#### Computational, Hadamard and Nega-Hadamard Bases in Dirac's notation

• Computational basis: 
$$|0\rangle = {1 \choose 0}$$
,  $|1\rangle = {0 \choose 1}$ . (Z-bases)

• Hadamard basis: 
$$|+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} {1 \choose 1} = \frac{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$
,  $|-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} {1 \choose -1} = \frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$  (X-bases)

Nega-Hadamard basis: (Y-bases)

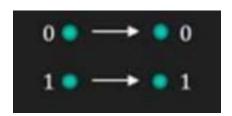
$$|\mathbf{i}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} {1 \choose \mathbf{i}} = \frac{|0\rangle + \mathbf{i}|1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}, |-\mathbf{i}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} {1 \choose -\mathbf{i}} = \frac{|0\rangle - \mathbf{i}|1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

# Single Qubit Gates

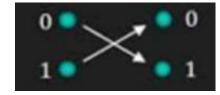
# Operations on one classical bit

Identity

$$f(x) = x$$

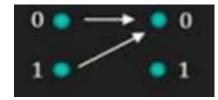


• Negation 
$$f(x) = \neg x$$



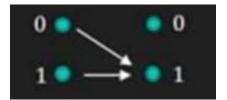
• Constant-0 f(x) = 0

$$f(x) = 0$$



Constant-1

$$f(x) = 1$$



#### Operations on one classical bit...cont

Identity

$$f(x) = x$$

Negation

$$f(x) = \neg x$$

• Constant-0 f(x) = 0

$$f(x) = 0$$

• Constant-1

$$f(x) = 1$$

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

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

$$\binom{0}{1} \quad \binom{1}{0} = \binom{0}{1}$$

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

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

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

$$\binom{0}{1} \quad \binom{0}{1} = \binom{0}{1}$$

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

# The I gate

'Id-gate' or 'Identity gate'

$$I = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

a gate that does nothing

$$|0\rangle$$
  $|0\rangle$ 

$$|1\rangle - \boxed{1} - |1\rangle$$

- Applying the identity gate anywhere in your circuit should have no effect on the qubit state
- Then why it is even considered a gate?
  - it is often used in calculations. for example: proving the X-gate is its own inverse: I = XX
  - it is often useful when considering real hardware to specify a 'donothing' or 'none' operation.

## The X or NOT gate

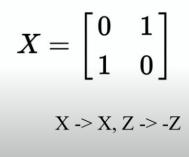
- The X gate is defined by the (unitary) matrix
- Its action (in quantum circuit notation) is

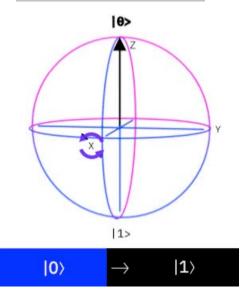
$$|1\rangle - X - |0\rangle$$

 $\alpha |\mathbf{0}\rangle + \beta |\mathbf{1}\rangle - |\mathbf{X}| - \beta |\mathbf{0}\rangle + \alpha |\mathbf{1}\rangle$ 

that is, it acts like the classical NOT gate

On a general qubit its action is



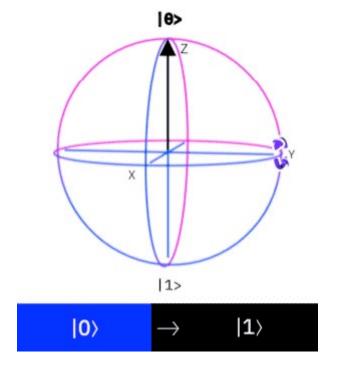


#### Y Gate



• The Pauli Y gate is equivalent to Ry for the angle  $\pi$ .

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



#### **Z** Gate

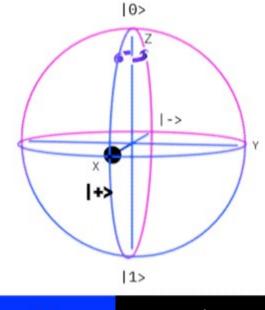
Z

the Z-gate appears to have no effect on our qubit when it is in either of these two states. This is because the states  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$  are the basis of the Z-gate. In fact, the *computational basis* is often called the Z-basis.

- The Pauli Z gate has the property of flipping the |+> to |->, and vice versa.  $\pi$ .
- It is equivalent to Rz for the

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

$$X \rightarrow -X, Z \rightarrow Z$$



# **Qbits and superposition**

- The cbit vectors we've been using are just special cases of qbit vectors
- A qbit is represented by  $\binom{a}{b}$  where a and b are complex numbers and  $||a||^2 + ||b||^2 = 1$
- complex numbers and  $||a||^2 + ||b||^2 = 1$  The cbit vectores of and of the fit within this definition

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Qubits and superposition

- Superposition means the qbit is both 0 and 1 at the same time
- When we measure the qbit, it collapses to an actual vale of 0 or 1
- If a qbit has value  $\binom{a}{b}$  then it collapses to 0 with probability a2 and 1 with probability b2
- For example, qbit  $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$  has a  $\left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right\|^2 = \frac{1}{2}$  chance of collapsing to 0 or 1 (coin flip)
- O The qbit  $\binom{1}{0}$  has a 100% chance of collapsing to 0, and  $\binom{0}{1}$  has a 100% chance of collapsing to 1

#### The Hadamard Gate



It is useful for making superposition

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

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

We usually denote

$$|+\rangle:=rac{|0
angle+|1
angle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

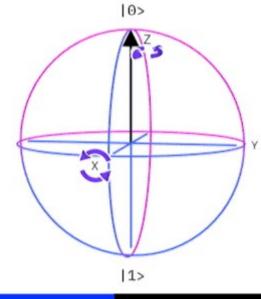
and

$$|-
angle:=rac{|0
angle-|1
angle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

• it is useful for moving information between the x and z bases.

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

$$X \rightarrow Z, Z \rightarrow X$$



## The Hadamard gate

 The hadamard gate takes a 0 or 1-bit and puts it into exactly eqaul superposition

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

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

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