

Quantum...

Computing

From Classical to Quantum



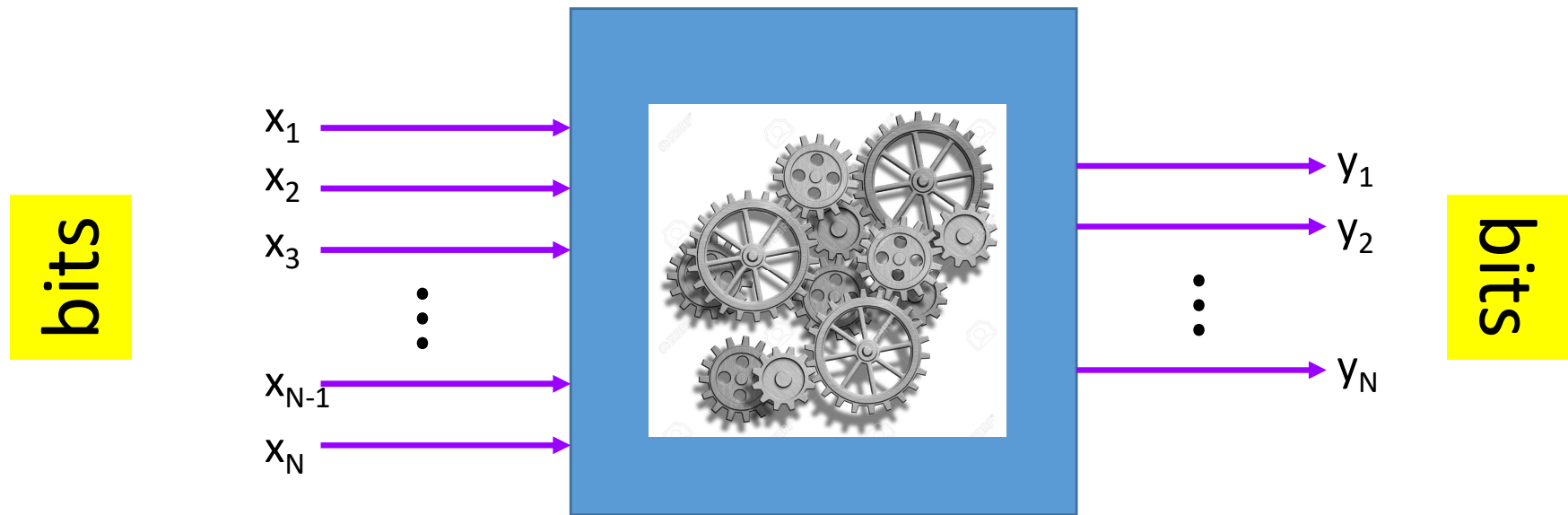
Logistics

- Instructors:
 - Bhiksha Raj
 - Daniel Justice
 - Rita Singh
- TA:
 - Thomas Cantalapiedra
- Timings/Location: 5-6.20pm Mon/Wed, GHC 4215
 - Lectures will be on zoom until Feb 8, in person thereafter
 - Labs will be in person, 5-6.20, GHC
- Grading: 10% attendance, 30% quiz, 30% homeworks, 30% group project

Logistics

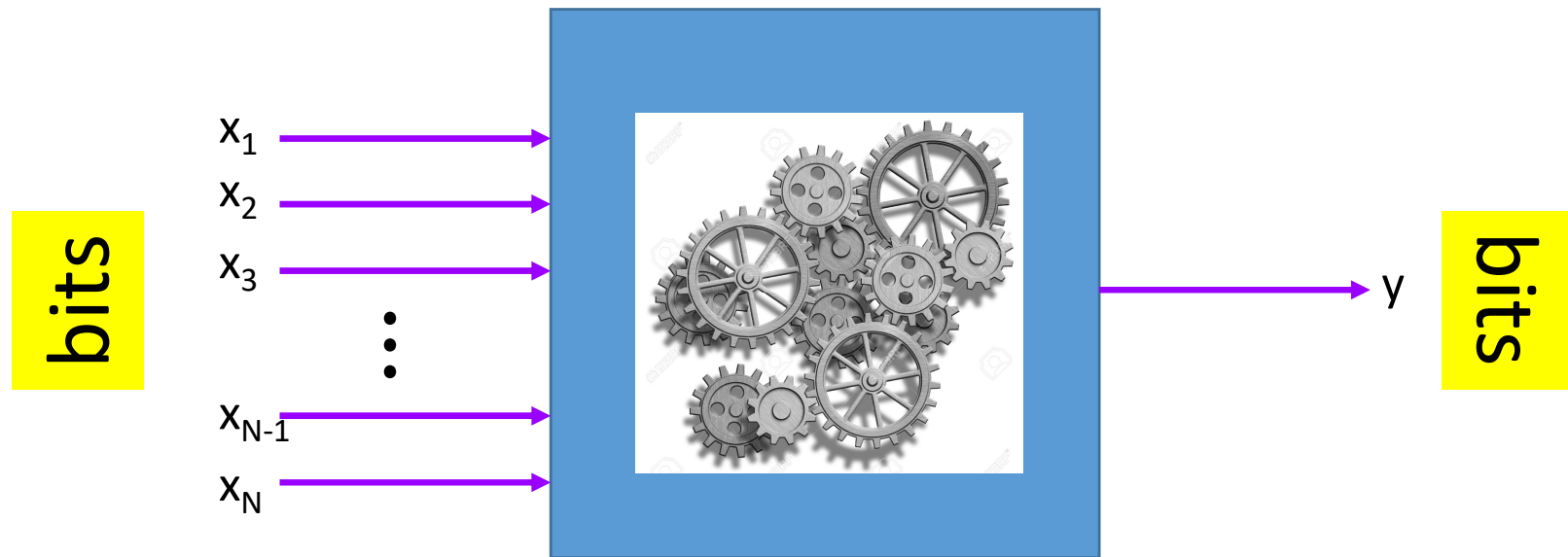
- Syllabus posted on course website, piazza and canvas
- Course website:
<https://thequantumturtle.github.io/courses/2025-Spring-11860/homepage/>
 - Soon to be <https://quantum.lti.cs.cmu.edu>
- Course piazza:
<https://piazza.com/class/m5szmfcg9a12k9>
- Course canvas:
<https://canvas.cmu.edu/courses/44546>

A standard model for Boolean functions (aka algorithms)

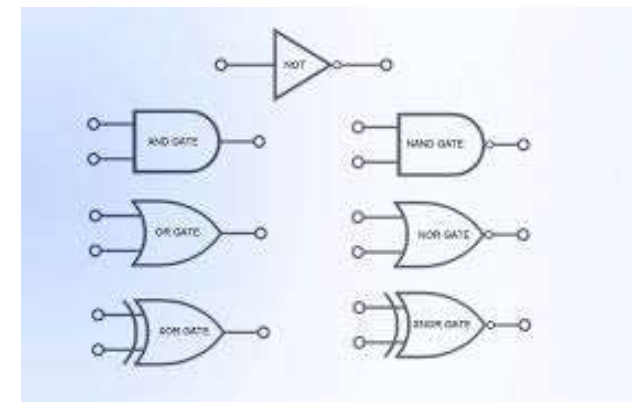


- A bunch of bits go in, and a bunch of bits come out

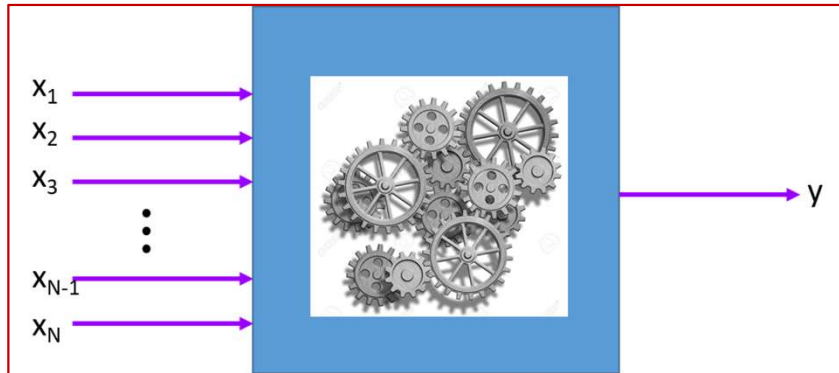
A simpler model for computation



- A bunch of bits go in, and one bit comes out.
- Examples to the right

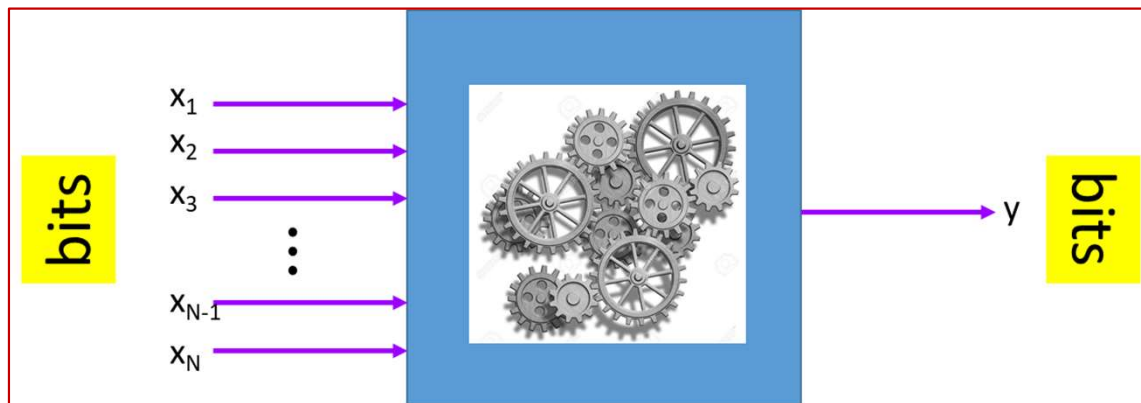


A simpler model for computation

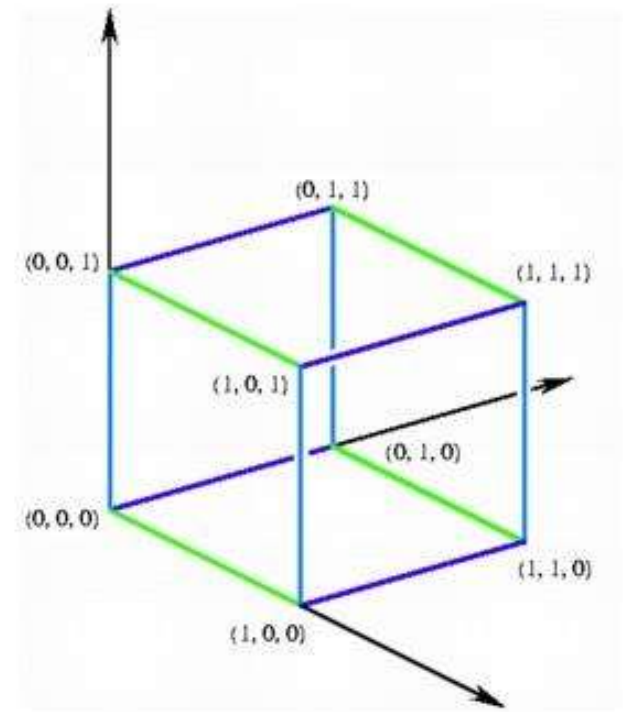


- The model to the left is in fact a generalization of the model to the right
 - How?

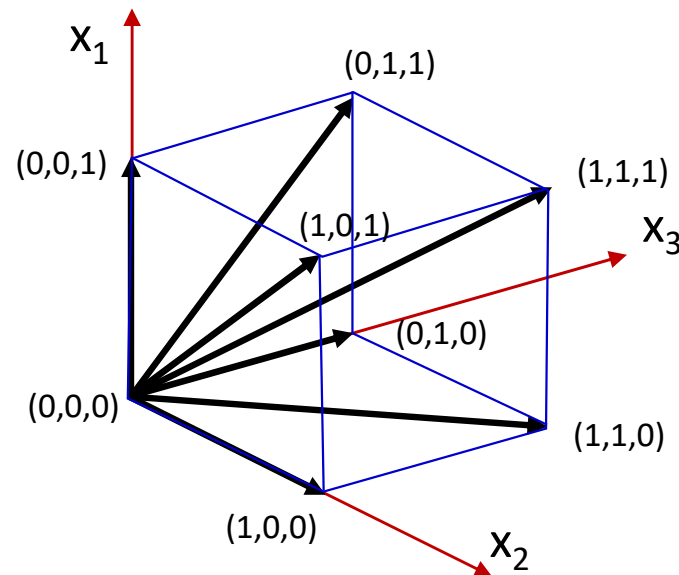
The actual model of computation



- It is a function of N bits
 - An input goes in, a unique value comes out
- The inputs lie in an N-dimensional space
 - Each input dimension can take only two values [0,1].
 - Other values are not defined
- The entire set of all possible inputs lies on the corners of an N-dimensional hypercube
 - The interior of the cube is infeasible
- The function is defined on the corners of this hypercube

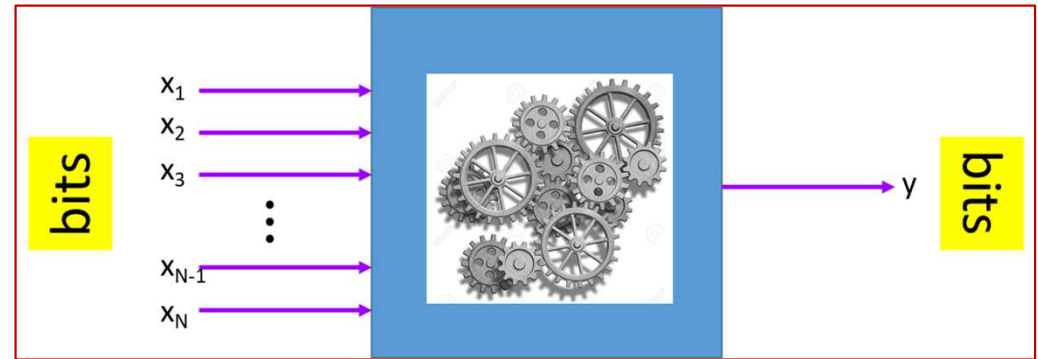
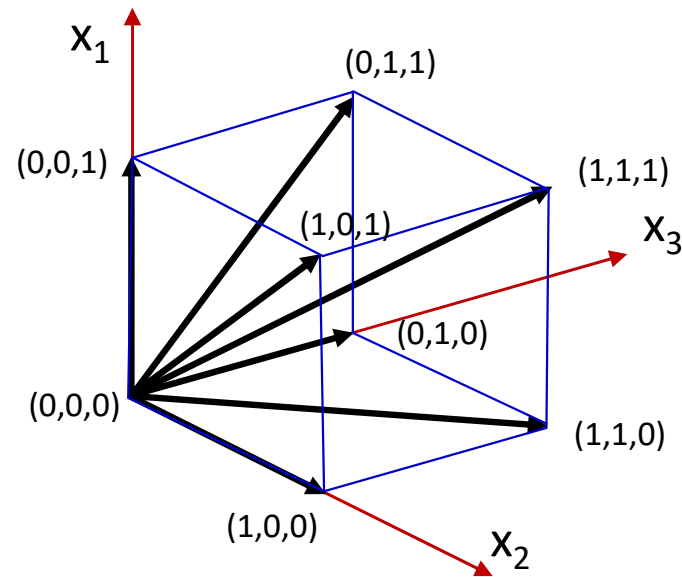


The input space representation



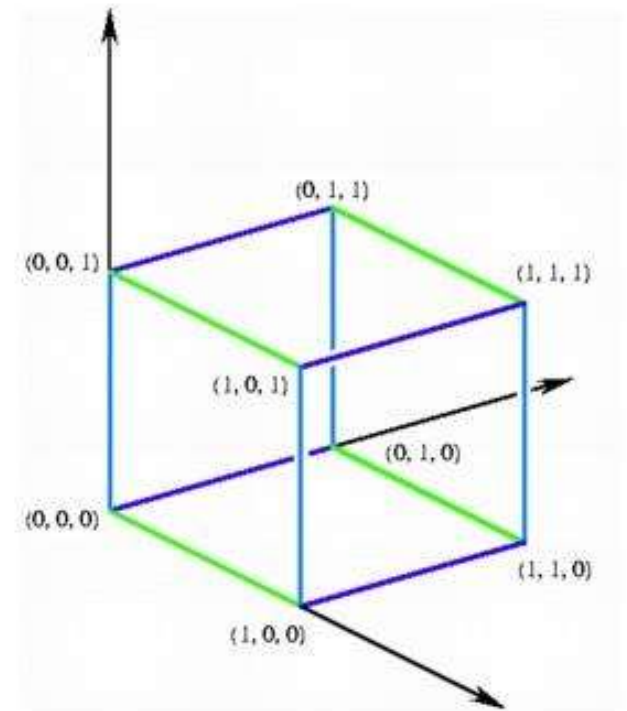
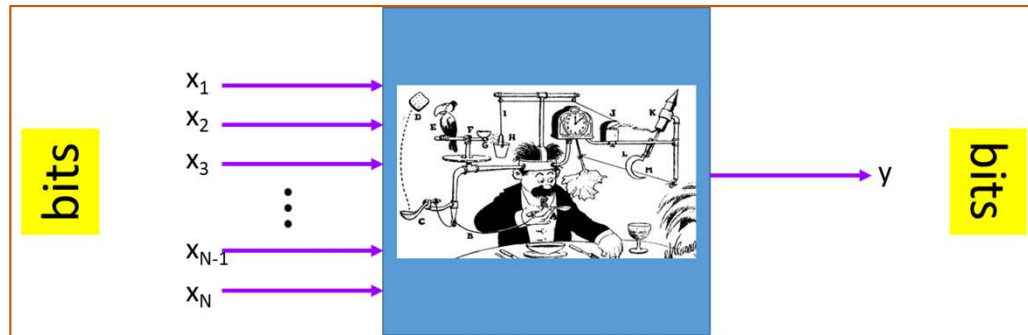
- For a function over N bits, the function is defined over an N -dimensional input space
 - **Each input bit represents an orthogonal direction in the space!**
- Each feasible input combination is an N -dimensional vector in this space
 - The feasible set of inputs is a countable, finite set of 2^N points.
- In order to fully represent an input, N values must be provided
 - One number for each input coordinate

The function



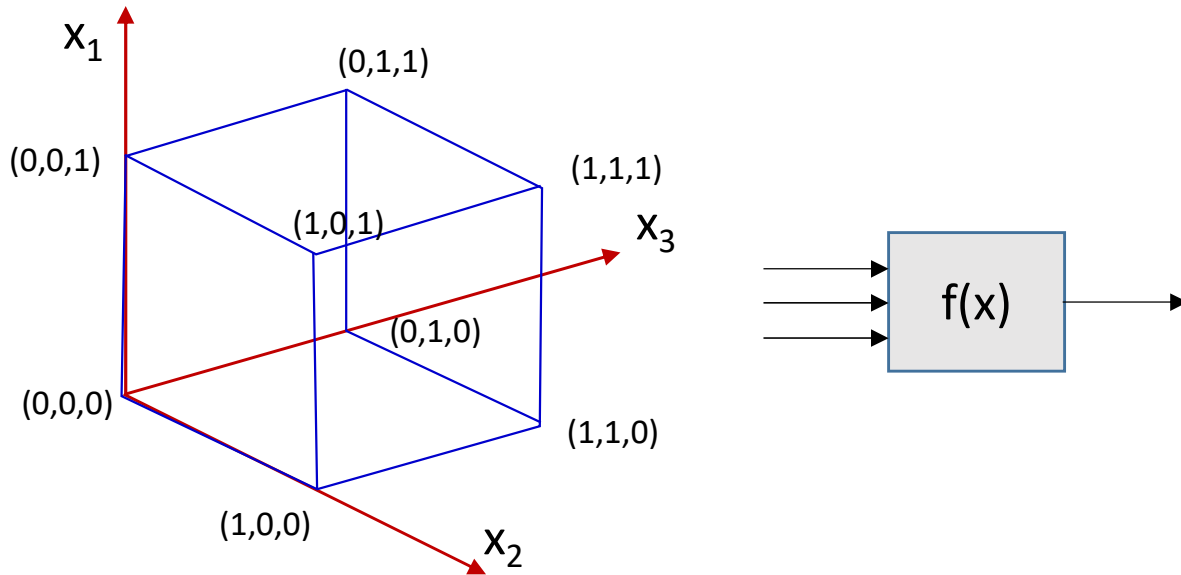
- The algorithm is simply a function that operates on this input space
 - It transforms each input vector to a Boolean value
- Note again that each input vector represents a *single* possible combination of bits
 - When operated on a vector, the function computes the output for that combination of input bits

The unknown function problem



- You are given an uncharacterized function
 - N inputs
 - You know the formulae in it, but don't know what outputs it will produce for any input
- You must characterize the function fully
- How many measurements must you make?
 - "Measurement" : provide an input and note the output

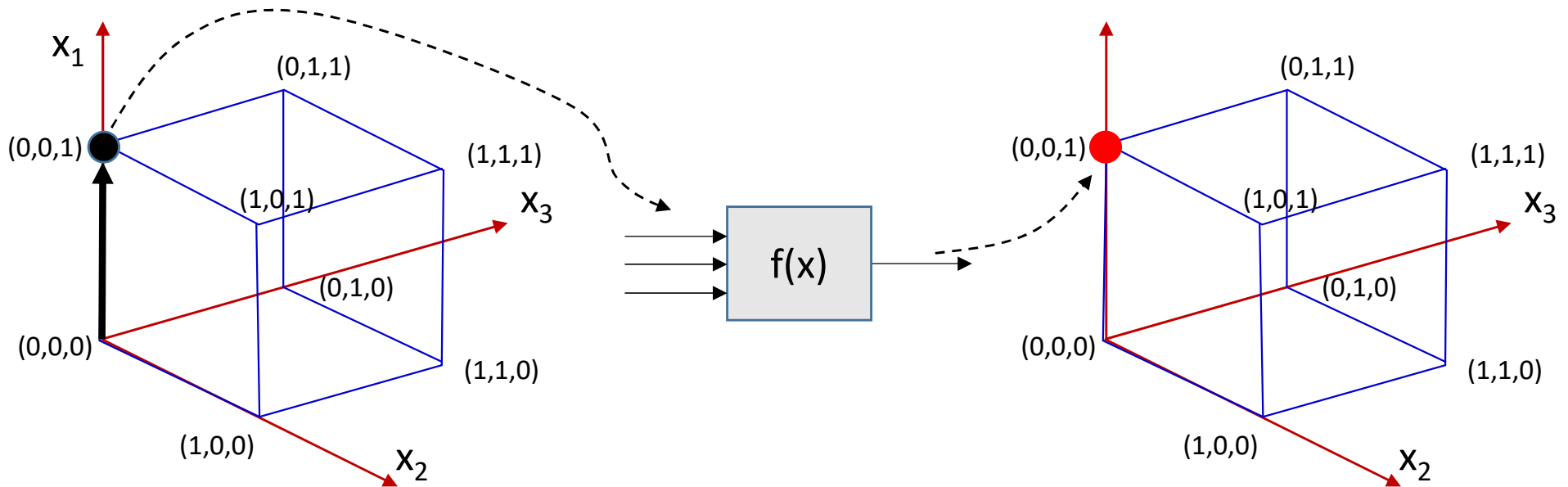
“Discovering” a 3-bit function



Determine this function fully!

- Find out how it responds to any input

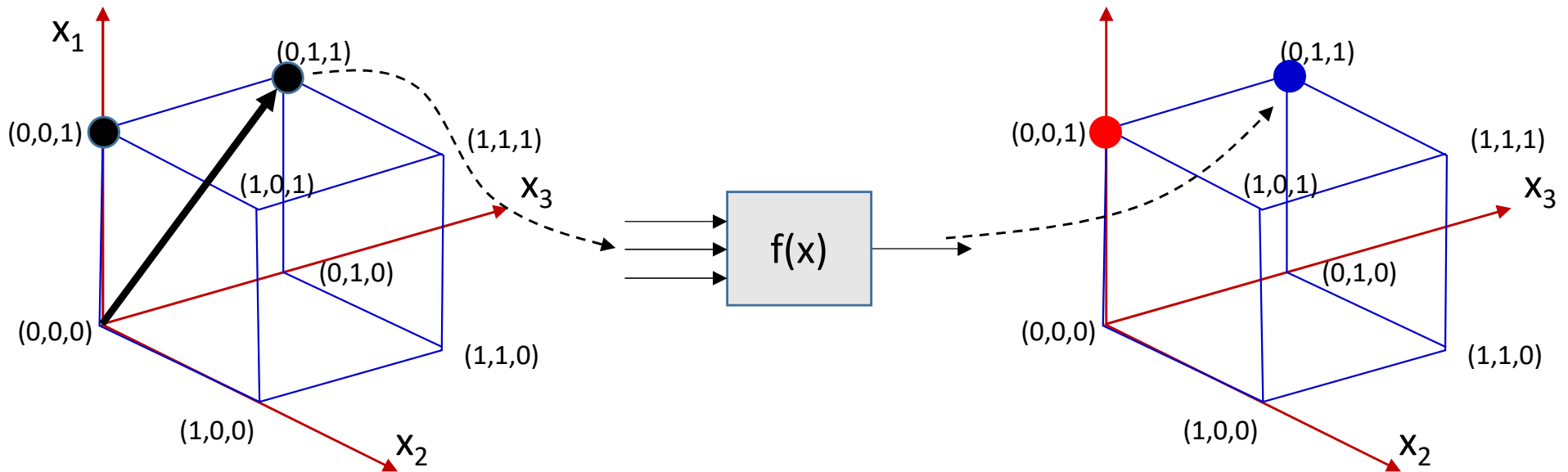
“Discovering” a 3-bit function



Determine this function fully!

- Pass each possible input vector through the function and compute its response

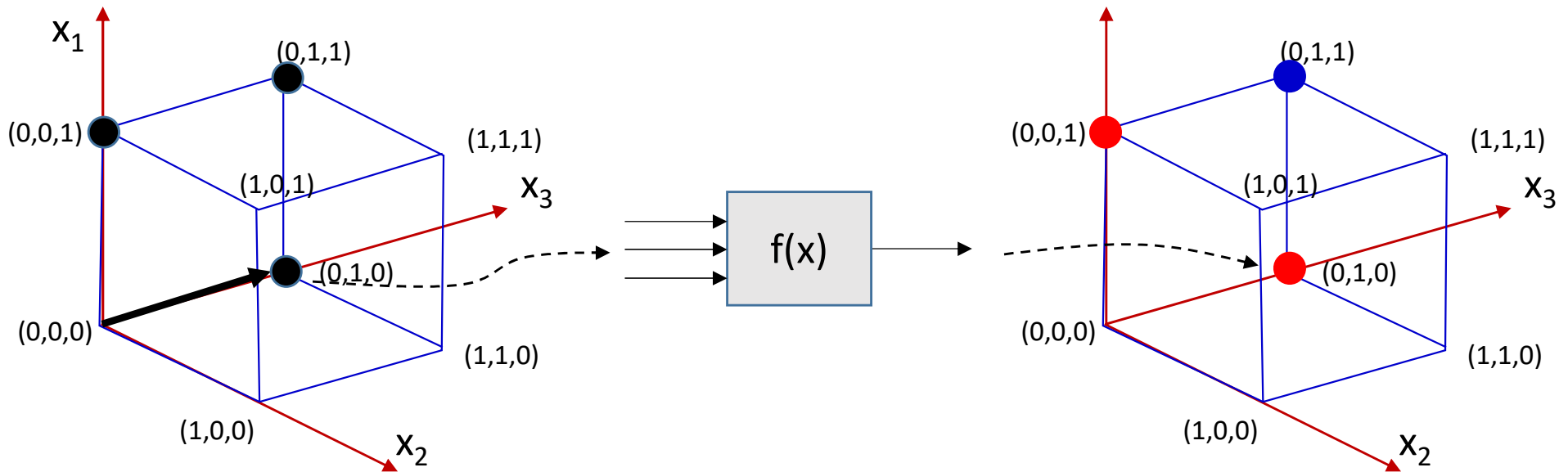
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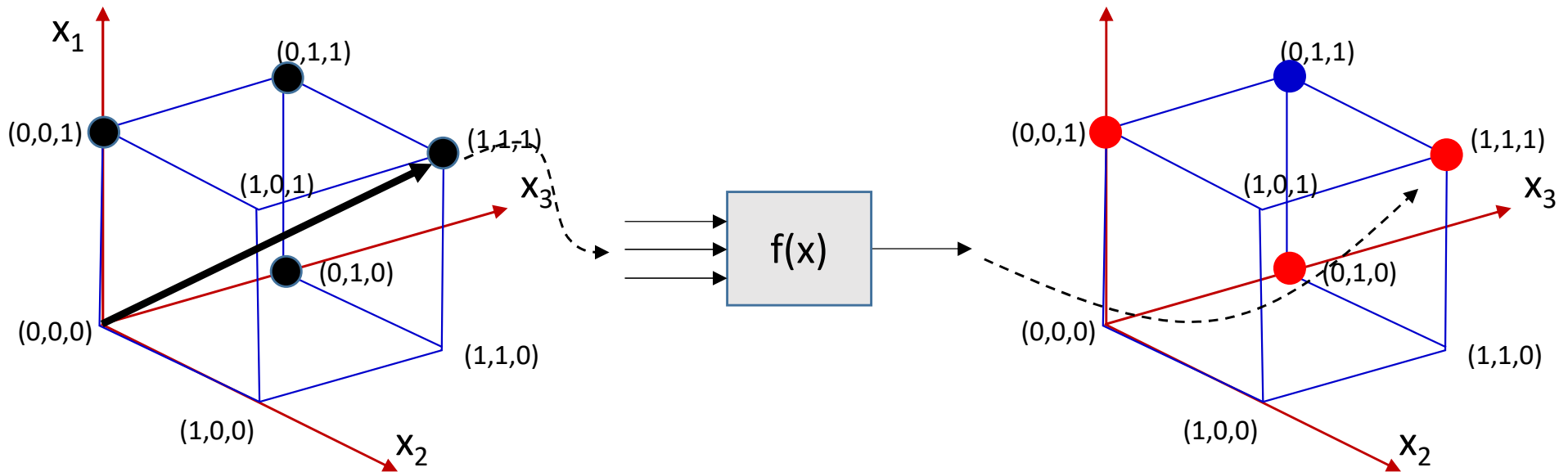
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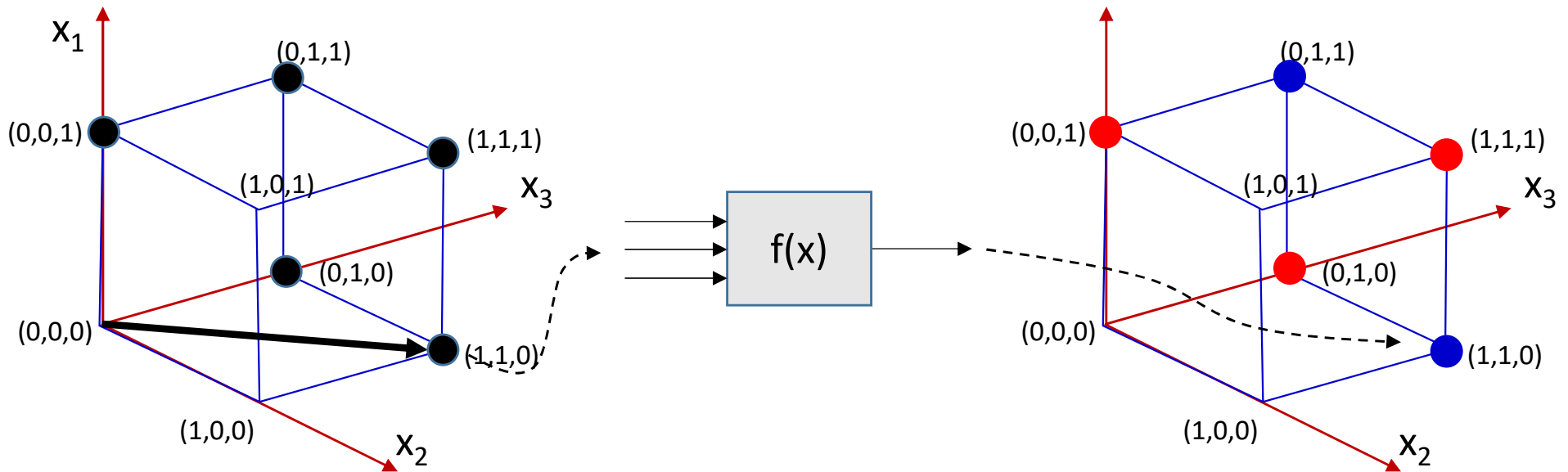
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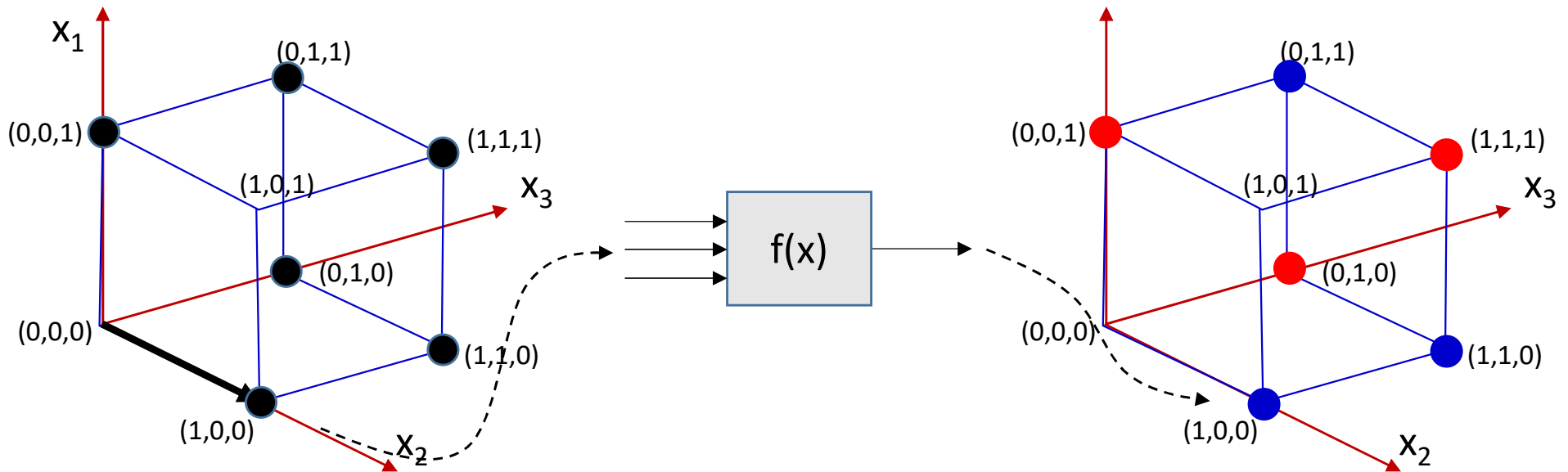
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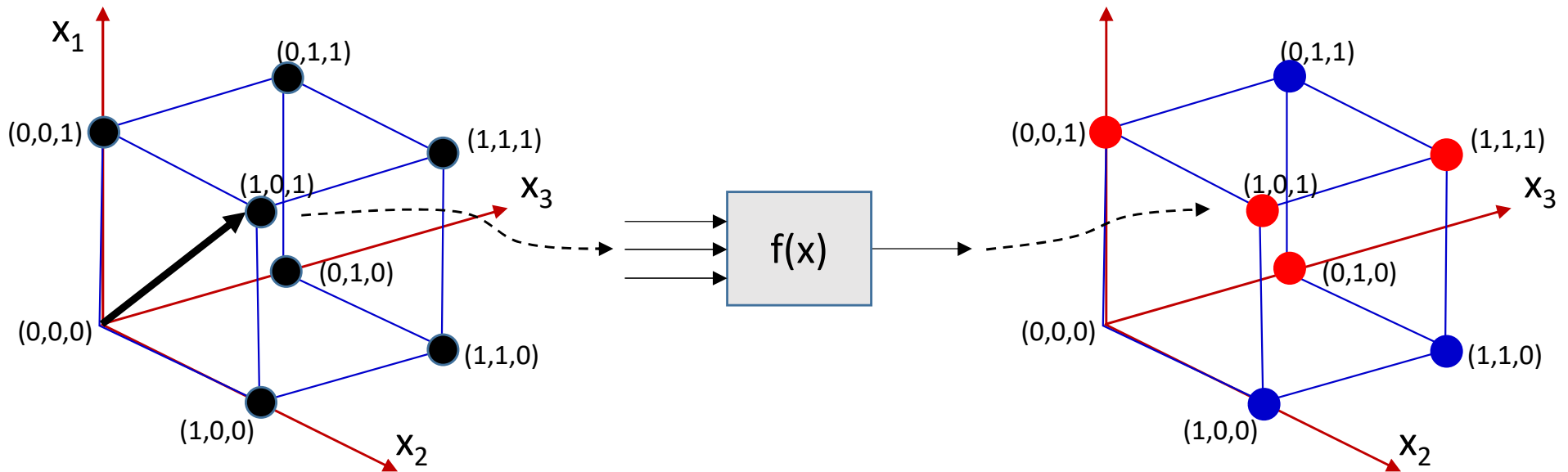
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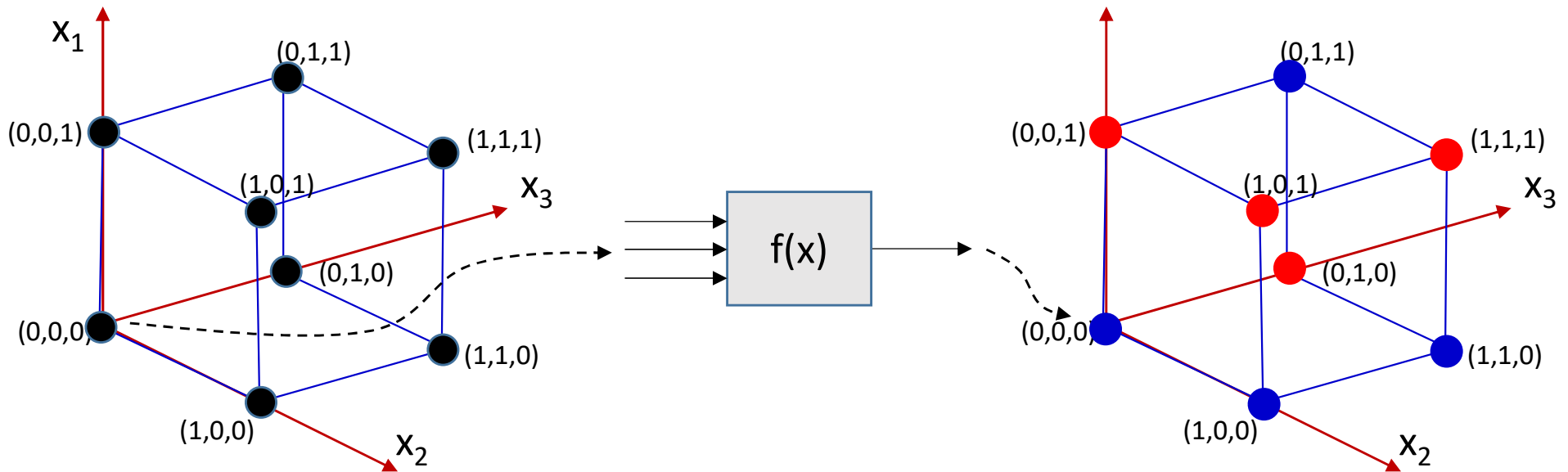
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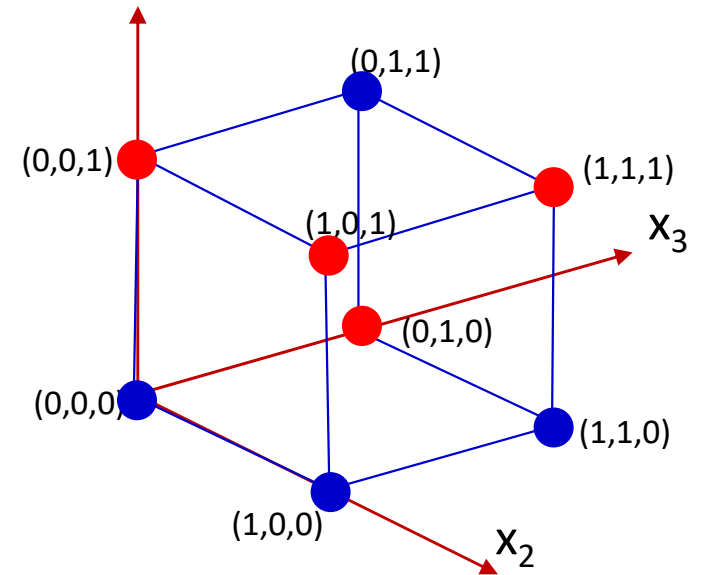
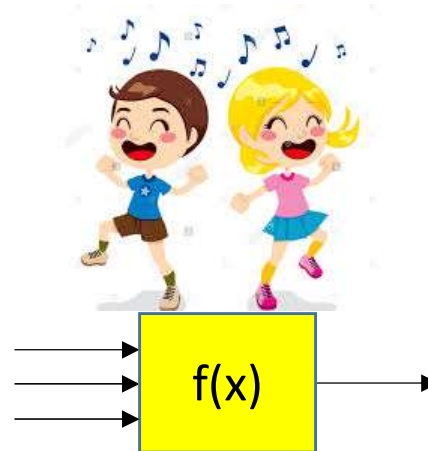
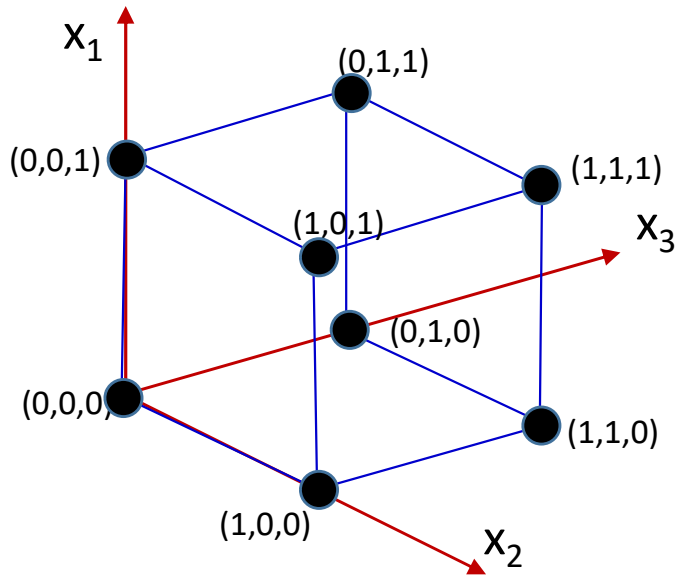
“Discovering” a 3-bit function



Determine this function fully!

- Pass each possible input vector through the function and compute its response

“Discovering” a 3-bit function



- Pass each possible input vector through the function and compute its response
- *And now its known*

Poll 1 A

- You are given an N -input Boolean function and a claim that the function outputs a 1 for some inputs, without specifying which. You would like to verify that this is true.

What is the only way to be absolutely certain of your conclusion?

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What is the only way to be absolutely certain of your conclusion?

- *You must test the function for each possible input, until you find one that results in an output of 1*
If none of the inputs output a 1, the original claim is false

Poll 1 B

You are given an N -input Boolean function and a claim that the function outputs a 1 for some inputs. You would like to verify that this is true.

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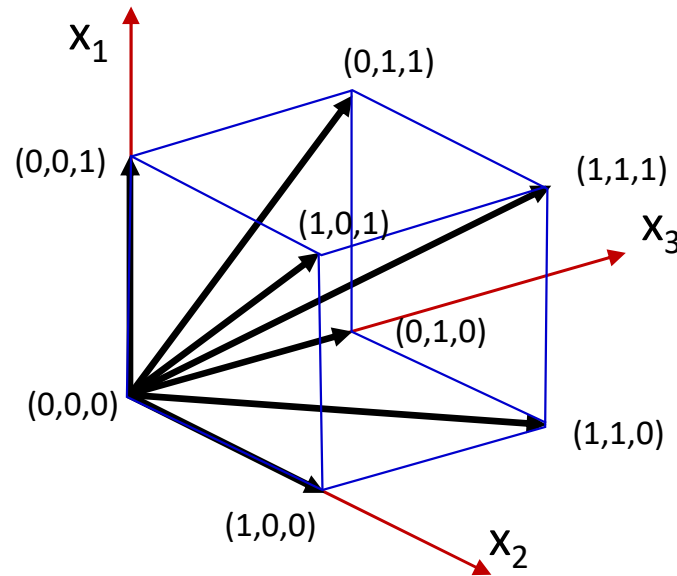
1. How many different inputs must you test to verify the claim (in the worst case):
 - 2^N
2. Will you always need to test those many inputs?
 - Yes
 - No

Poll 1 B

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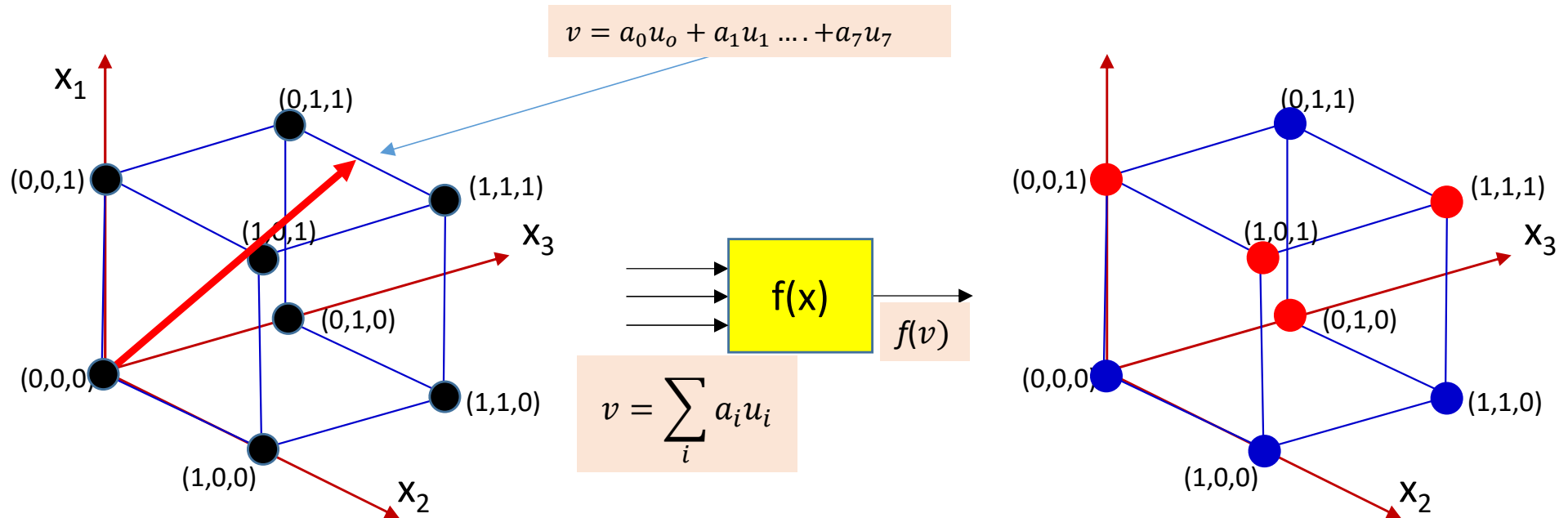
1. How many different inputs must you test to verify the claim (in the worst case):
 - 2^N
2. Will you always need to test those many inputs?
 - Yes
 - **No**. There are many problems where you can verify the claim in sub-exponential, polynomial, or even linear time

“Discovering” a 3-bit function



- Problem with this approach: Each possible input vector must be *individually* evaluated
- *Is there a shortcut?*

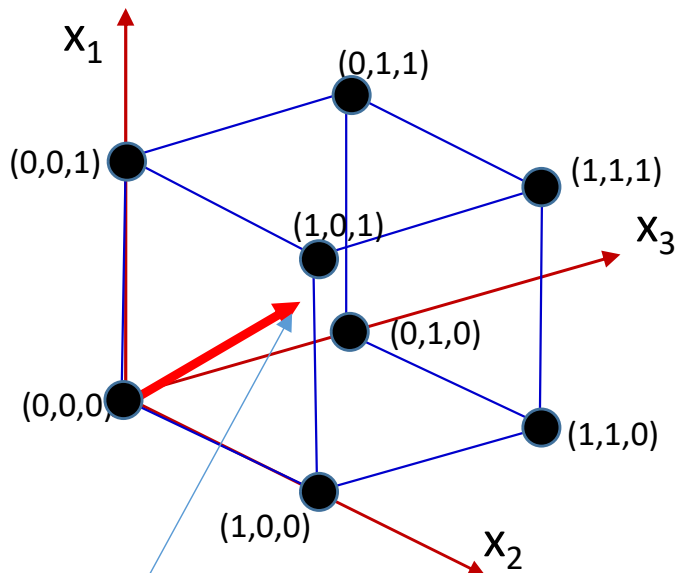
Let's try to improve on this...



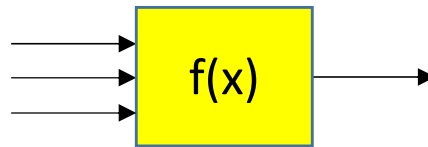
Here's an idea...

- How about we send in a *linear combination* of valid inputs?
 - Would the resultant output allow us to determine the outputs for each of the constituents of the combination in one shot?

Poll 2



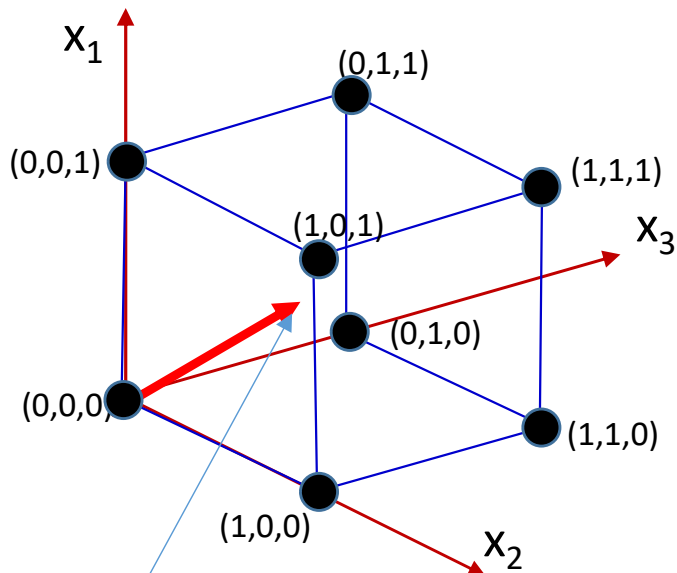
$$v = a_0u_0 + a_1u_1 + \dots + a_7u_7$$



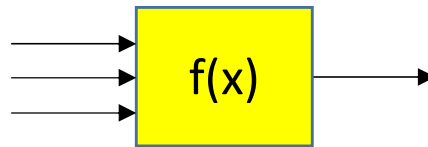
- Consider a 3-bit function
- Let $u_0 \dots u_7$ be the 8 possible binary inputs
- We input a linear combination $v = a_0u_0 + a_1u_1 + \dots + a_7u_7$ to the function, and obtain an output $f(v)$

- From the one measurement $f(v)$, we can recover the responses to the individual patterns: $f(u_i), i = 0 \dots 7$
 - True: we can unambiguously identify the outputs in response to each input from the output in response to the linear combination of inputs
 - False. This is not possible.

Poll 2



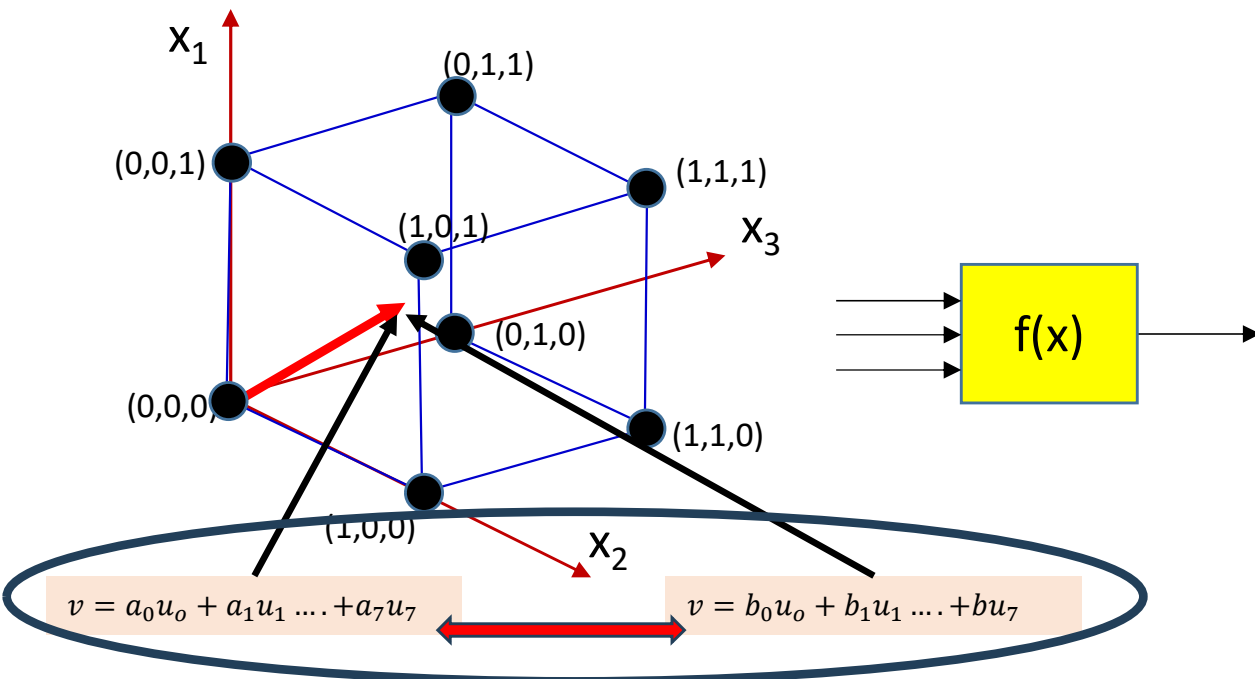
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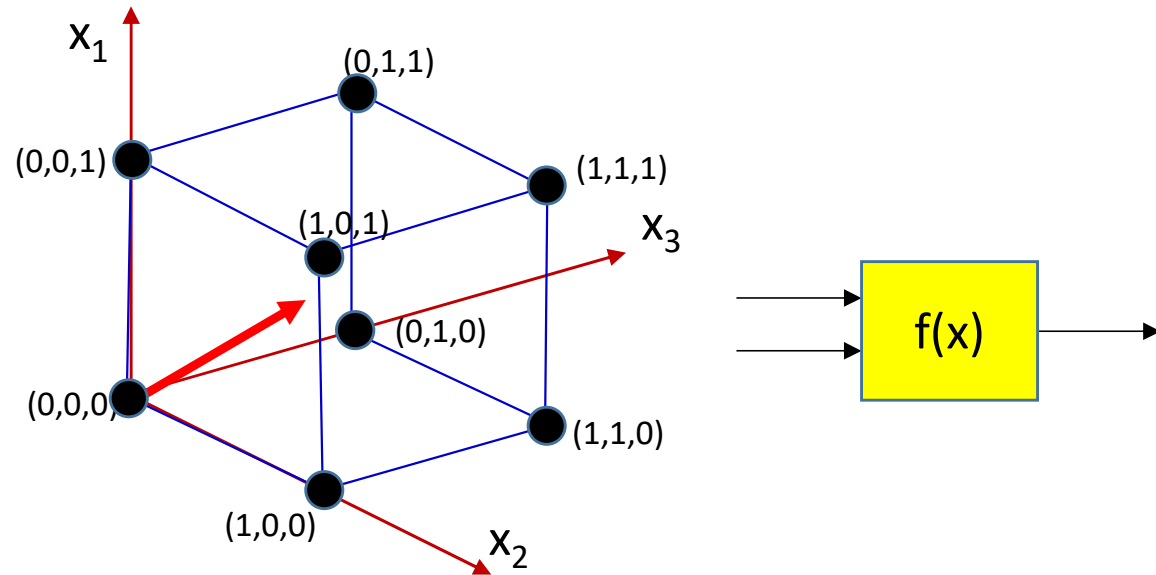
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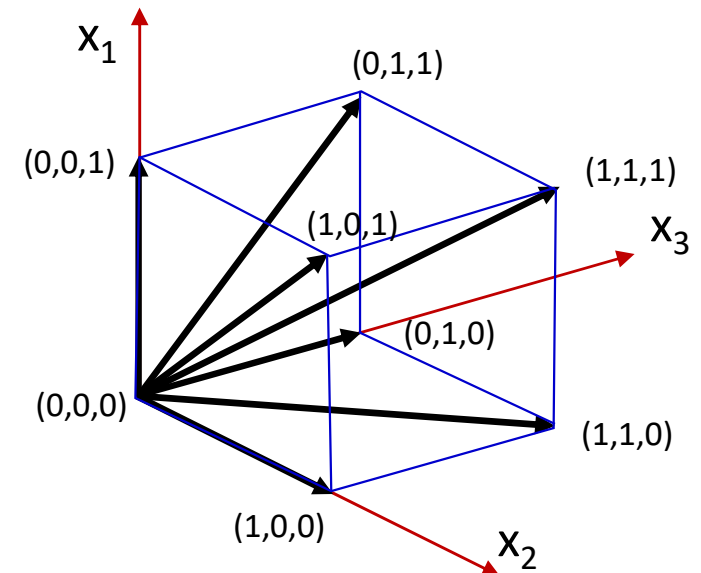
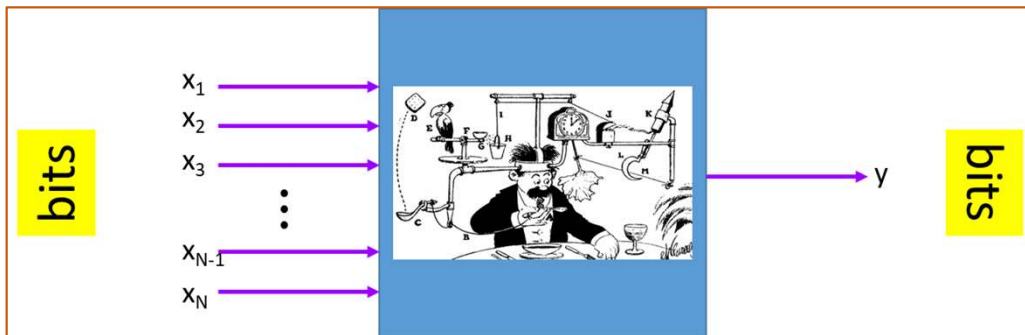
- FALSE for many reasons
- This is a 3 dimensional space. v can be composed in infinite different ways from the 8 u_i s (underdetermined)
 - So, we would not know which u_i s to attribute the result to, and how much
- $f(v)$ may itself be non-invertible
 - Many different v s may result in the same $f(v)$, further increasing the ambiguity

The problem with classical computation



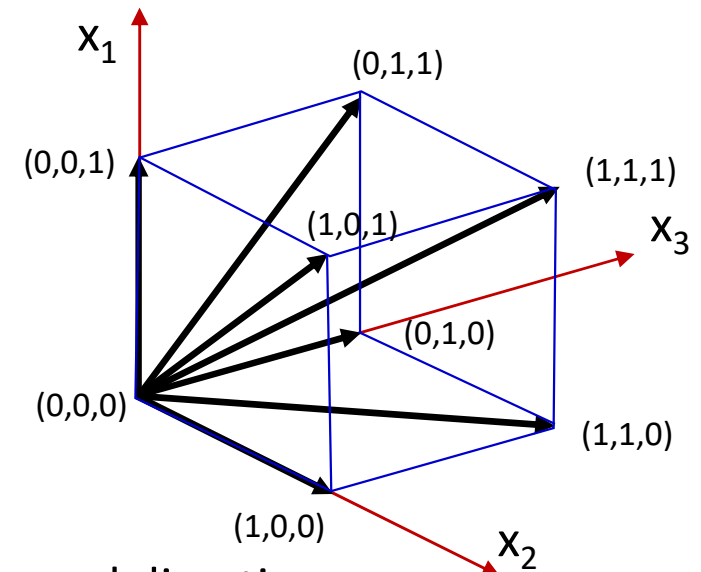
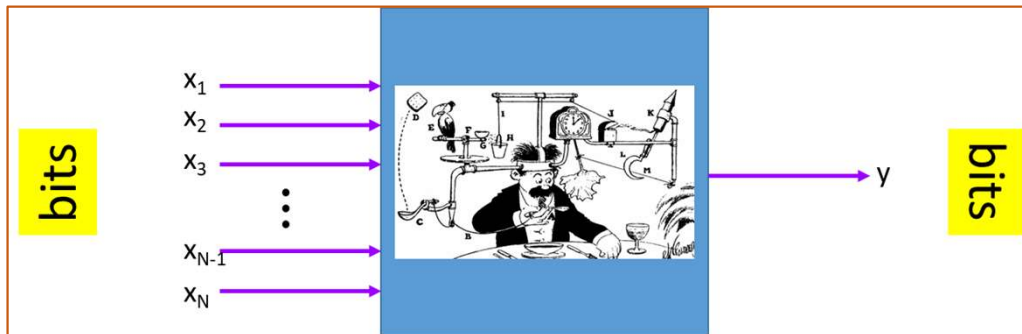
- The function must explicitly be computed on each bit pattern u_i
- Cannot take shortcuts by using linear combinations $v = \sum_i a_i u_i$ of patterns as inputs to the function
 - Any vector v is a non-unique combination of bit patterns, and assignment of the output to the individual bit patterns is ambiguous
 - The functions $f(v)$ themselves are generally uninvertible, increasing the ambiguity
- Explicit computation of the function for each of the 2^N inputs becomes mandatory

Recap: The N-bit unknown function problem



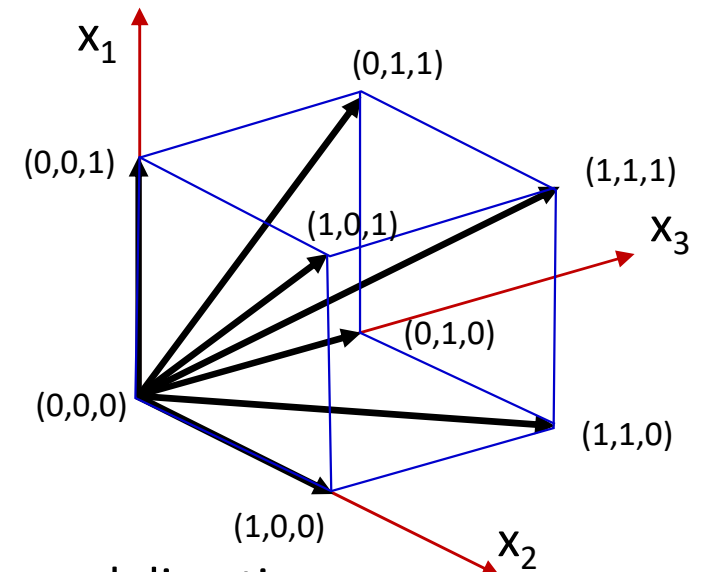
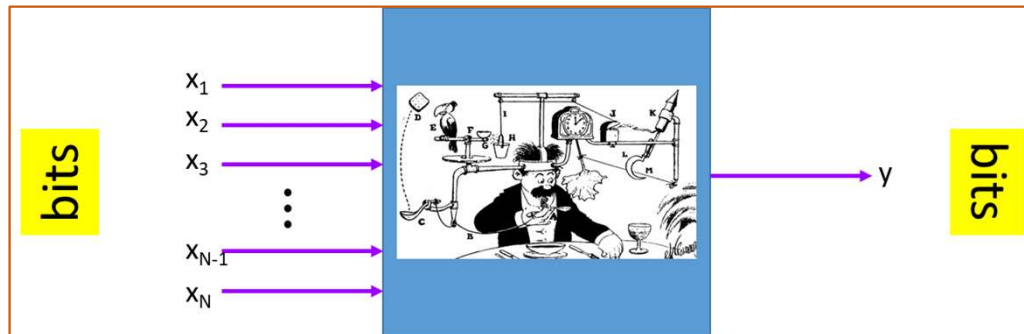
- Recall: For a function over N bits, the function is defined over an N -dimensional input space
- The feasible set of inputs is a countable, finite set of 2^N vectors.
- The function must be individually evaluated at each of these 2^N vectors to define it fully
 - Requiring 2^N evaluations in the worst case
 - This cannot be reduced

Why this limitation?



- In the classical paradigm each of the bits is an orthogonal direction
- Feasible bit patterns are vectors in this N-D space. To characterize the function all 2^N feasible input vectors must be explicitly evaluated
- Cannot 'mix' feasible input vectors to recover the outputs at multiple feasible inputs in a single measurement
 - An infinity of linear combinations can result in the same 'mixed' vector making unambiguous recovery of response to individual vectors impossible
 - The function itself may be non-invertible, making unambiguous recovery of response to individual vectors impossible

Why this limitation?

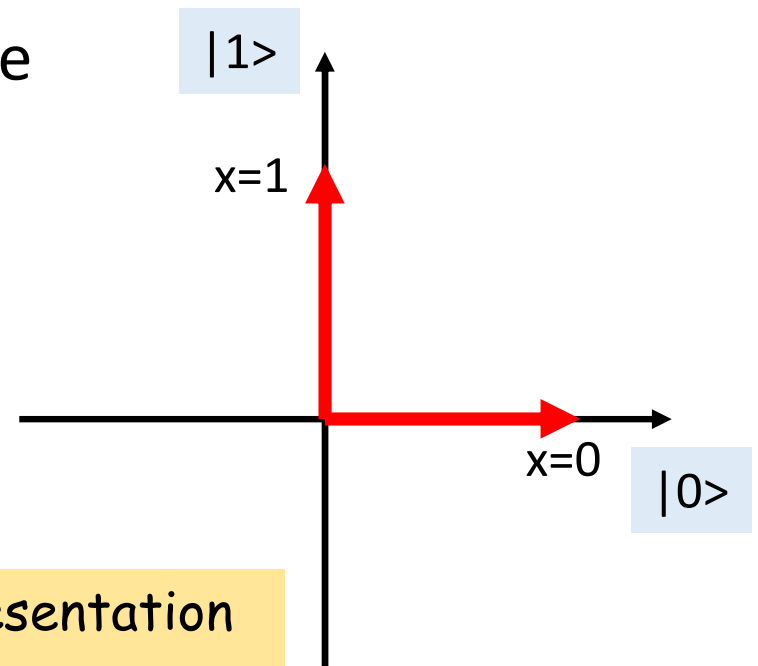
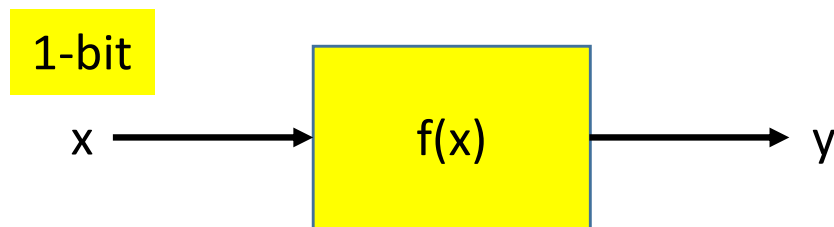


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• Can we change the mathematical paradigm itself to resolve this problem?

A different approach

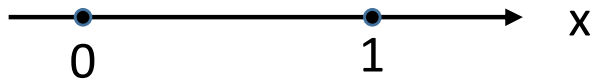
- Modify the representation
- Instead of **each *bit* representing a (orthogonal) coordinate direction** we will make **each *combination of bits* represent a orthogonal coordinate direction!**
- Even 1 bit is now in a 2-D input space



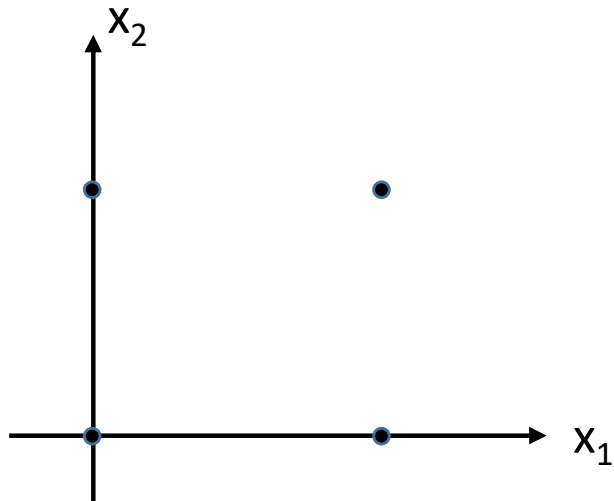
Note that this a fundamentally different representation from standard representations!

A different approach

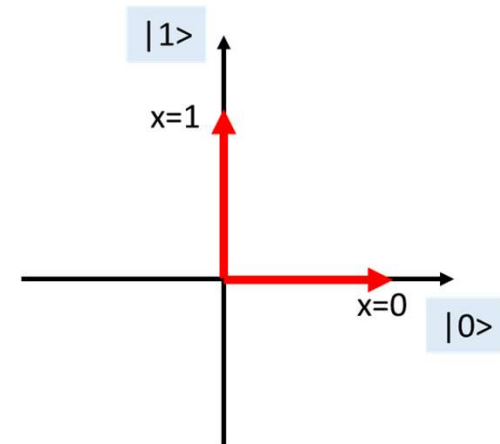
- 1 bit: Old representation



- 2 bits: Old representation



- 1 bit: New representation

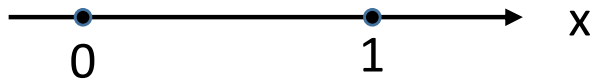


- 2 bits: New representation

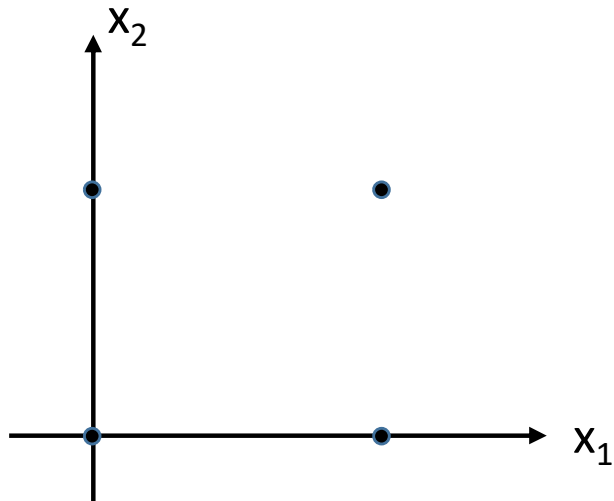
Can't really visualize
(why)?

A different approach

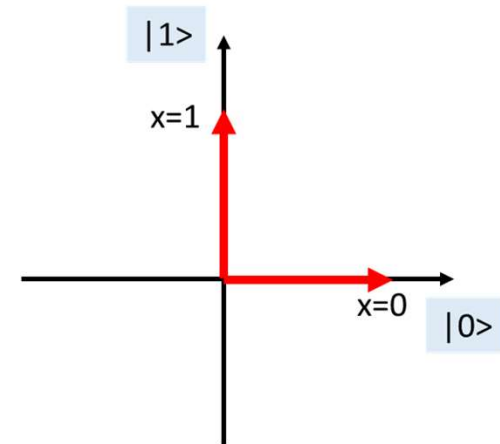
- 1 bit: Old representation



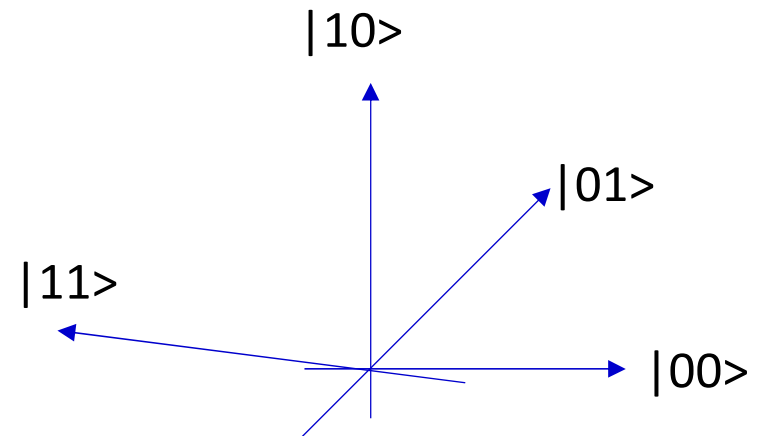
- 2 bits: Old representation



- 1 bit: New representation



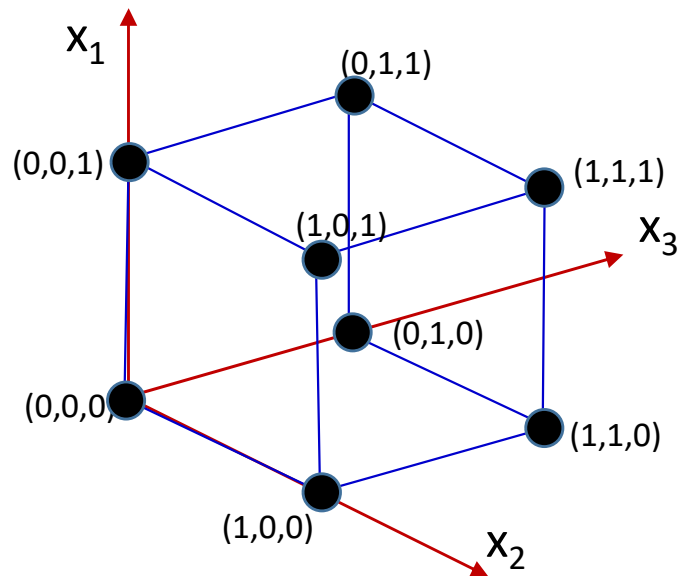
- 2 bits: New representation



Lame attempt at visualizing 4D

A different approach

- 3 bits: Old representation

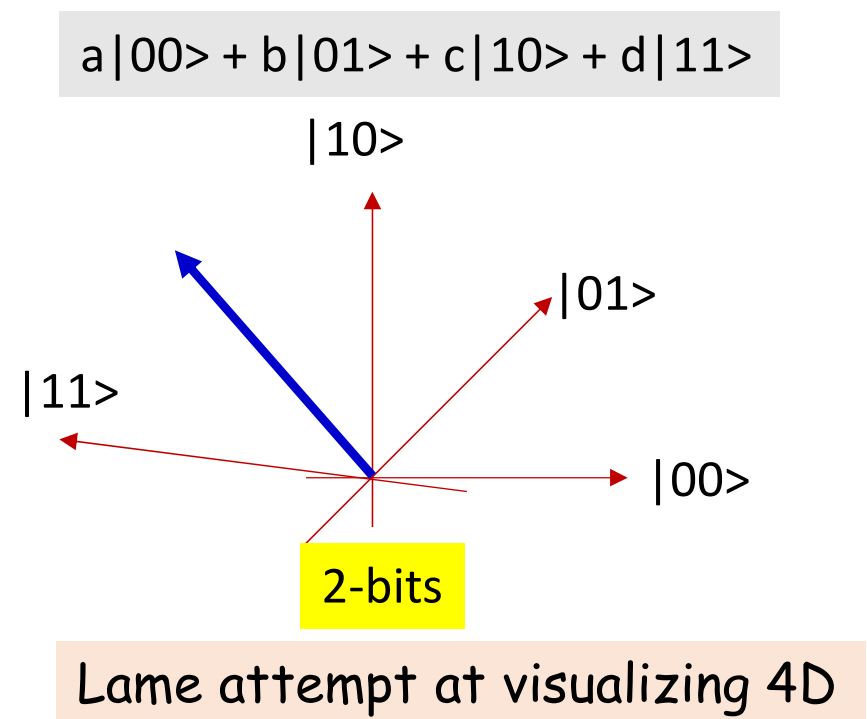
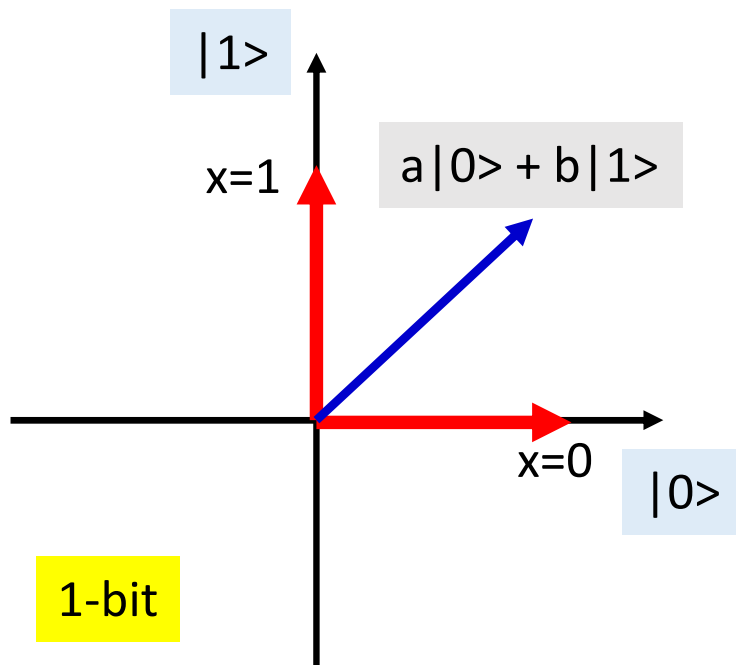


- 3 bits: New representation

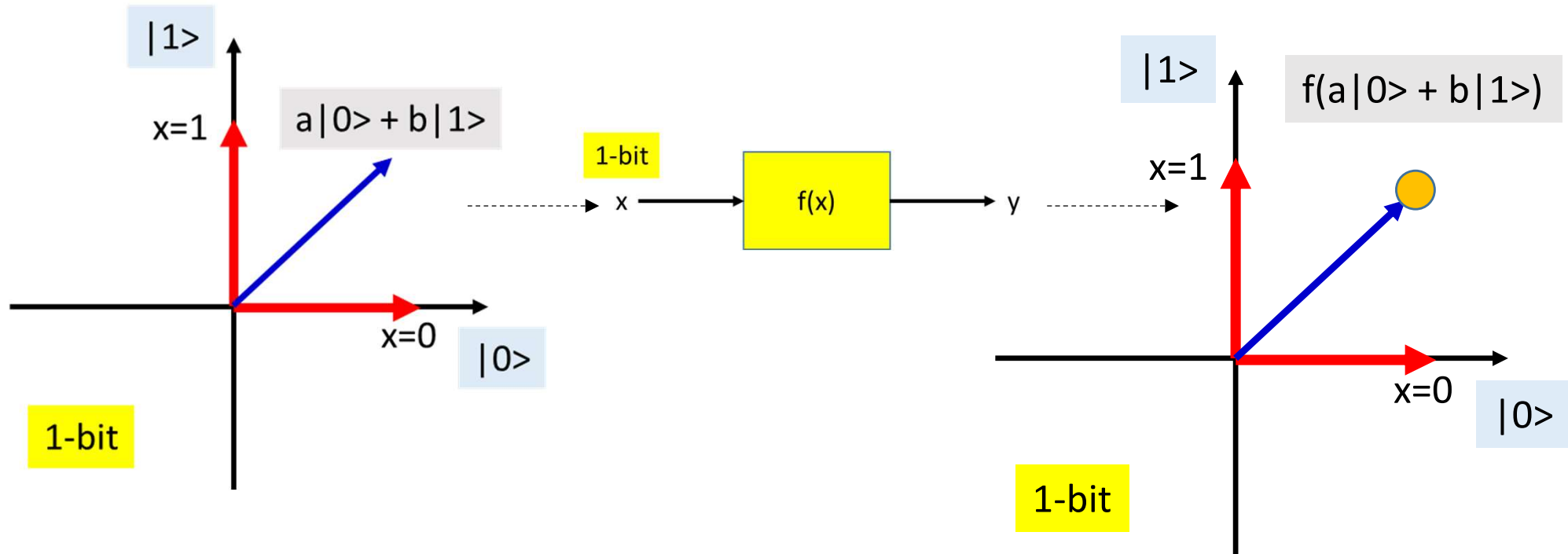
Can't really visualize
(why)?

The modified representation

- A vector in this representation is a linear, *unambiguous* combination of *all* input bit patterns
- Unambiguous because we set each bit pattern to be an *orthogonal* direction to every other pattern

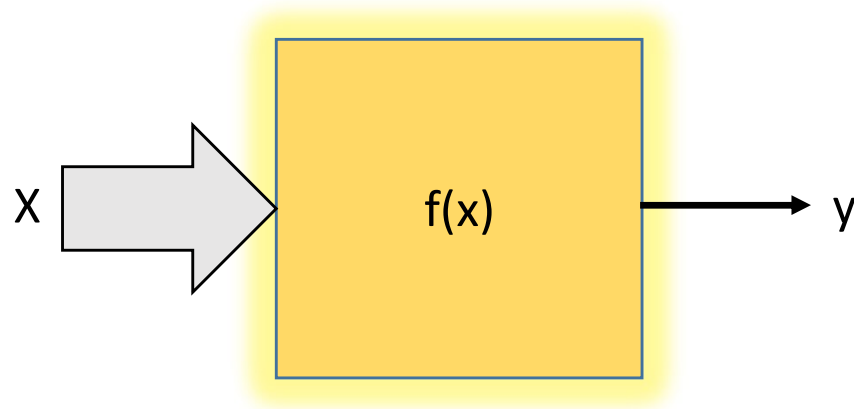


Working with the modified representation



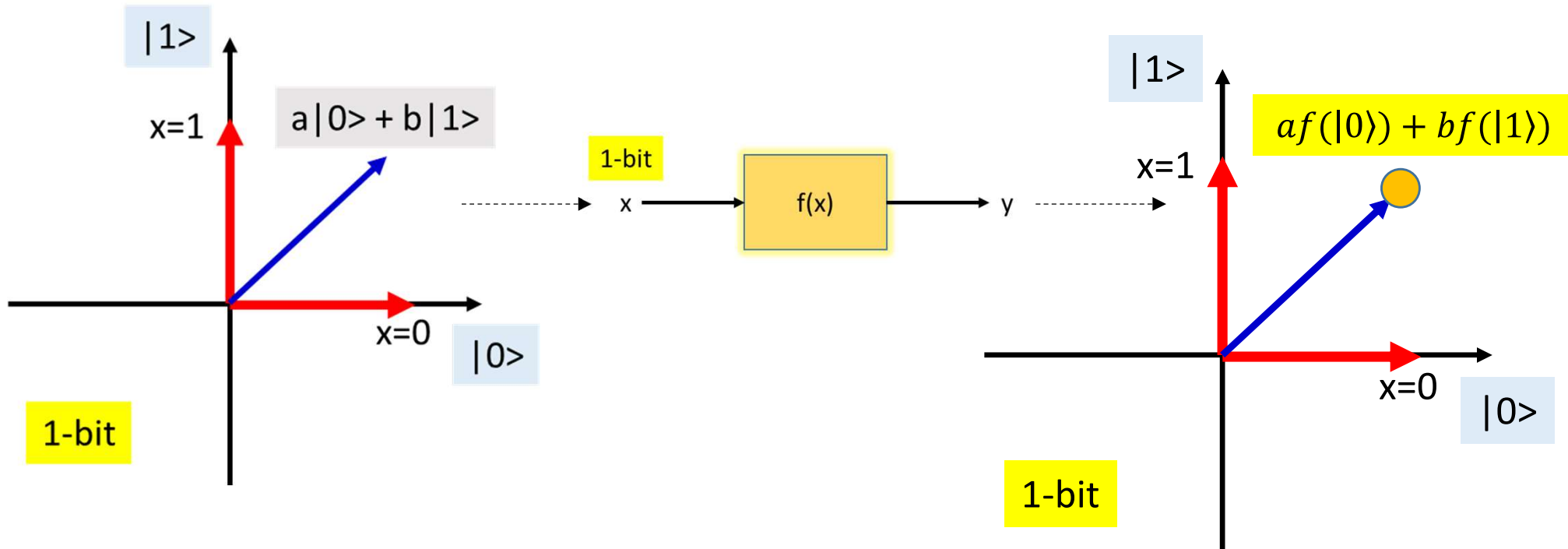
- When the function operates on a vector, it operates on a linear combination of all possible input values
 - How does this help?
 - Not directly, we need to make some assumptions

Adjustment 1: Linear functions



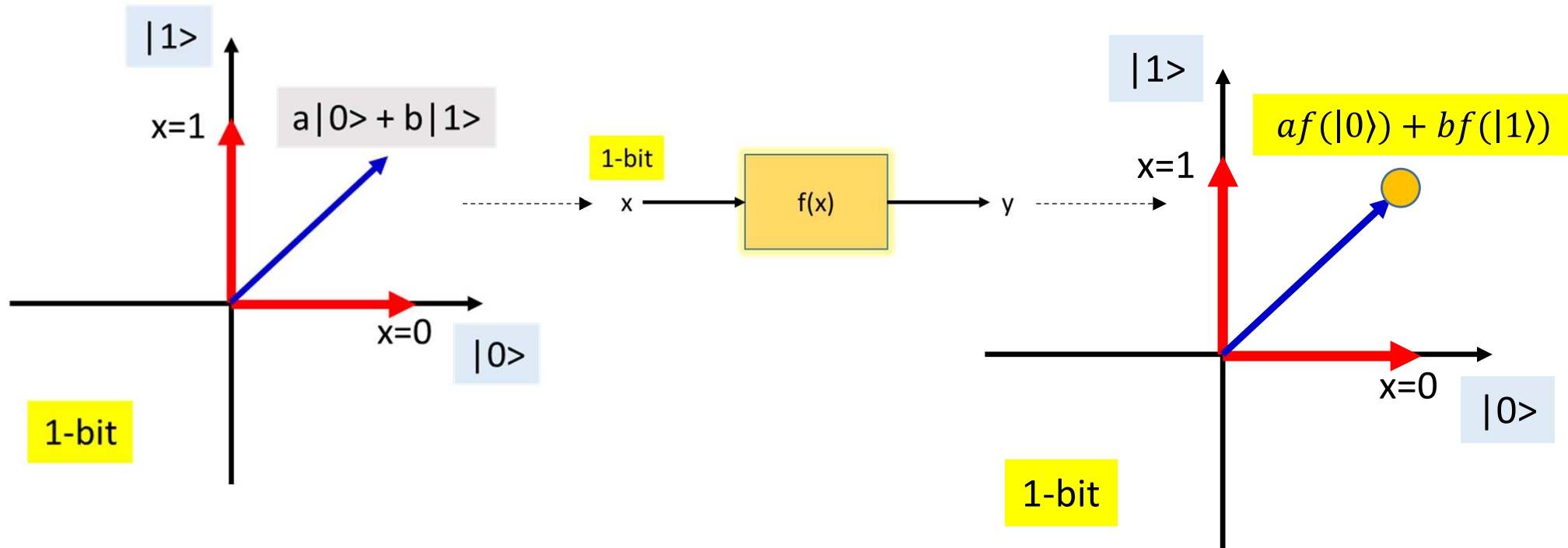
- A function $f(x)$ is *linear* if
$$f(ax + by) = af(x) + bf(y)$$
for any two scalars a and b
- We assume our function $f(x)$ to be linear
 - As it happens, Boolean functions can always be cast as linear operators

For linear $f(x)$



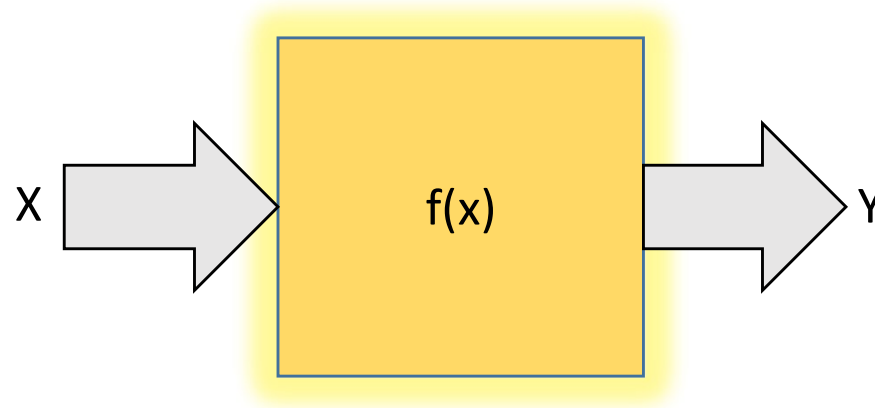
- For linear $f(x)$, the output is a linear combination of the outputs for the individual bit patterns!
- By simply measuring the output at a *single* input vector, we obtain the combined outputs for *all* input bit patterns!
 - *One evaluation!!* (As opposed to 2^N)
- But are we done yet?

For linear $f(x)$



- The combined output for the individual bit patterns doesn't tell us what the output is for any *single* bit pattern
 - I.e you can't divine $f(|0\rangle)$ and $f(|1\rangle)$ from $af(|0\rangle) + bf(|1\rangle)$
- We need the output to maintain the distinction
 - The function must separately compute the output for each input combination and keep the answers distinct

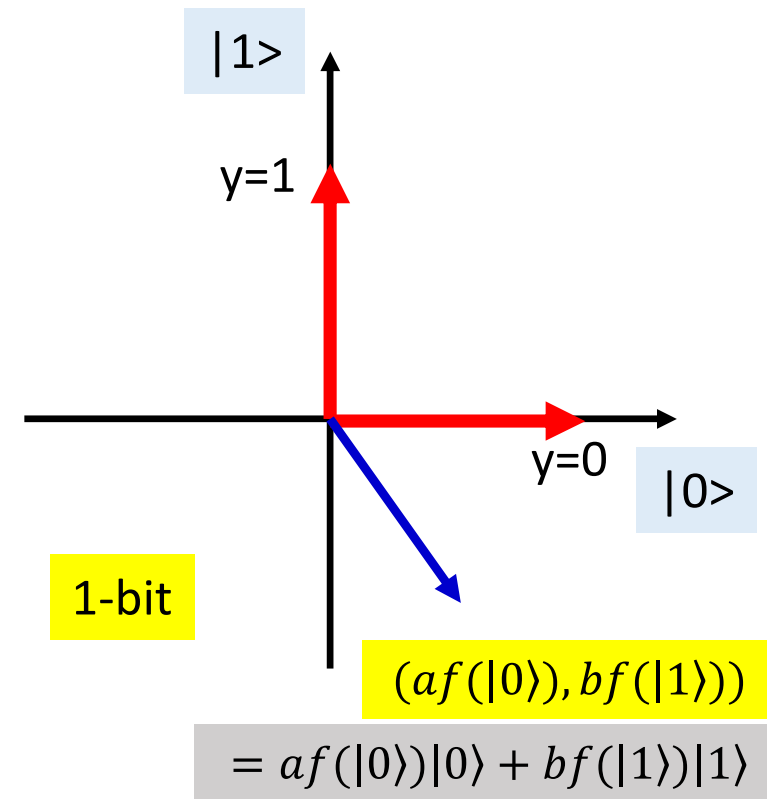
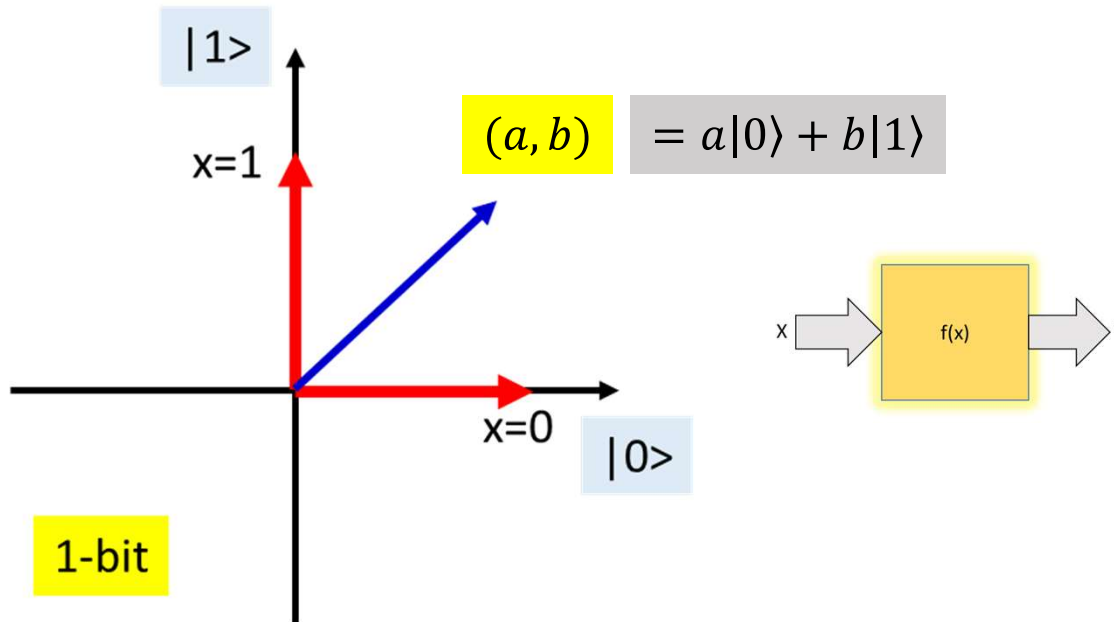
Adjustment 2: Vector functions



- The output too is a vector

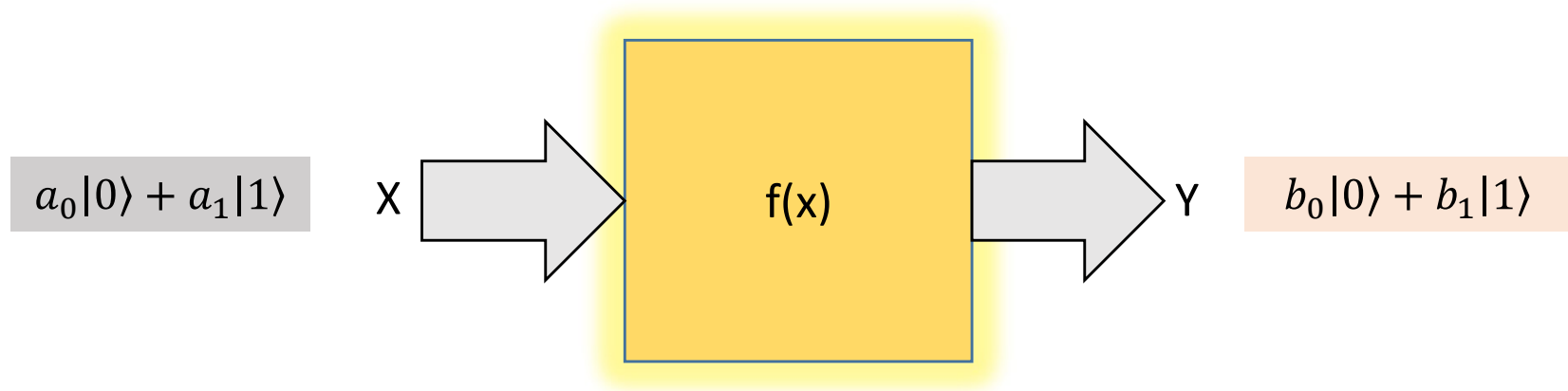
$$f(a|0\rangle + b|1\rangle) = af(|0\rangle)|0\rangle + bf(|1\rangle)|1\rangle$$

For linear $f(x)$



- Instead of merely computing a value at the vector, the function moves the vector to a new position, where the individual components represent the responses to individual bit patterns
 - Amazingly enough, every Boolean function can be recast in this manner

Adjustment 2: Vector functions



- $f(.)$ is a linear transform

$$f \circ \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

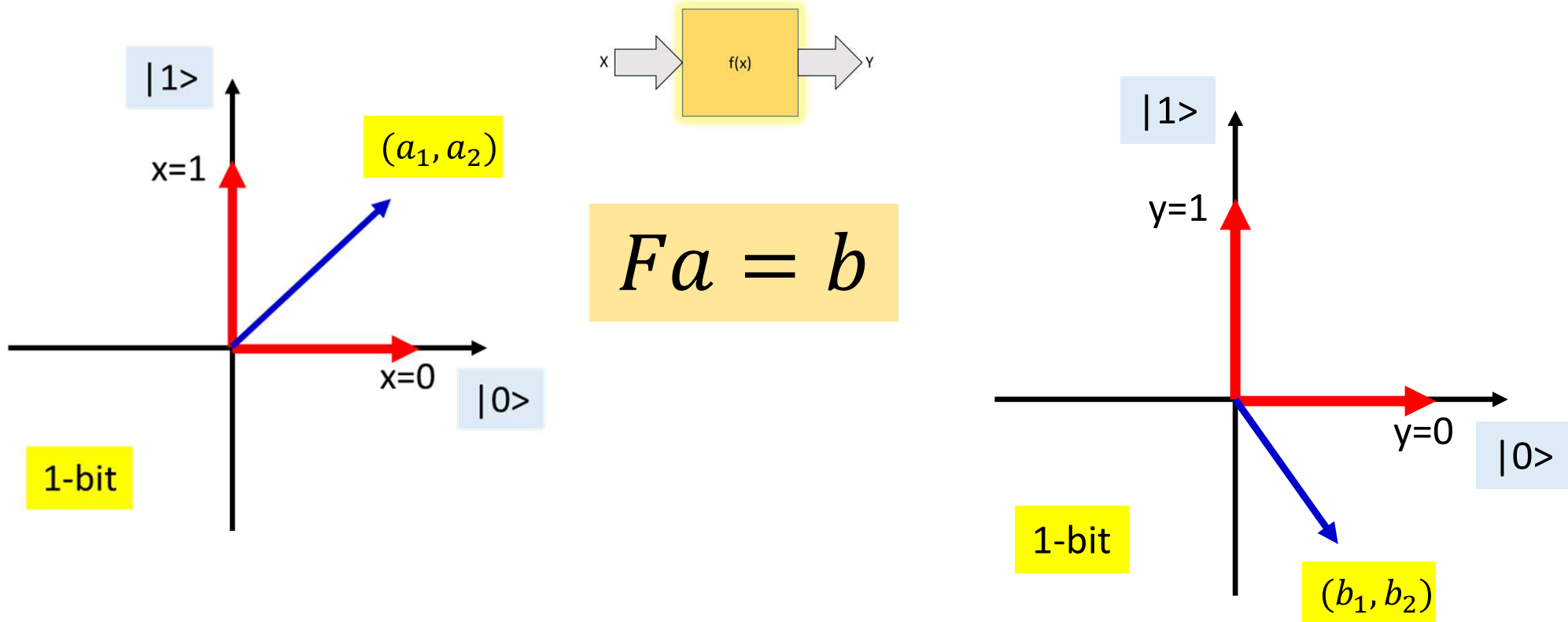
- More generally:

$$f \circ \begin{bmatrix} a_{00\dots0} \\ a_{00\dots1} \\ \vdots \\ a_{11\dots1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_{00\dots0} \\ b_{00\dots1} \\ \vdots \\ b_{11\dots1} \end{bmatrix}$$

In other words $f()$ is a matrix operator.

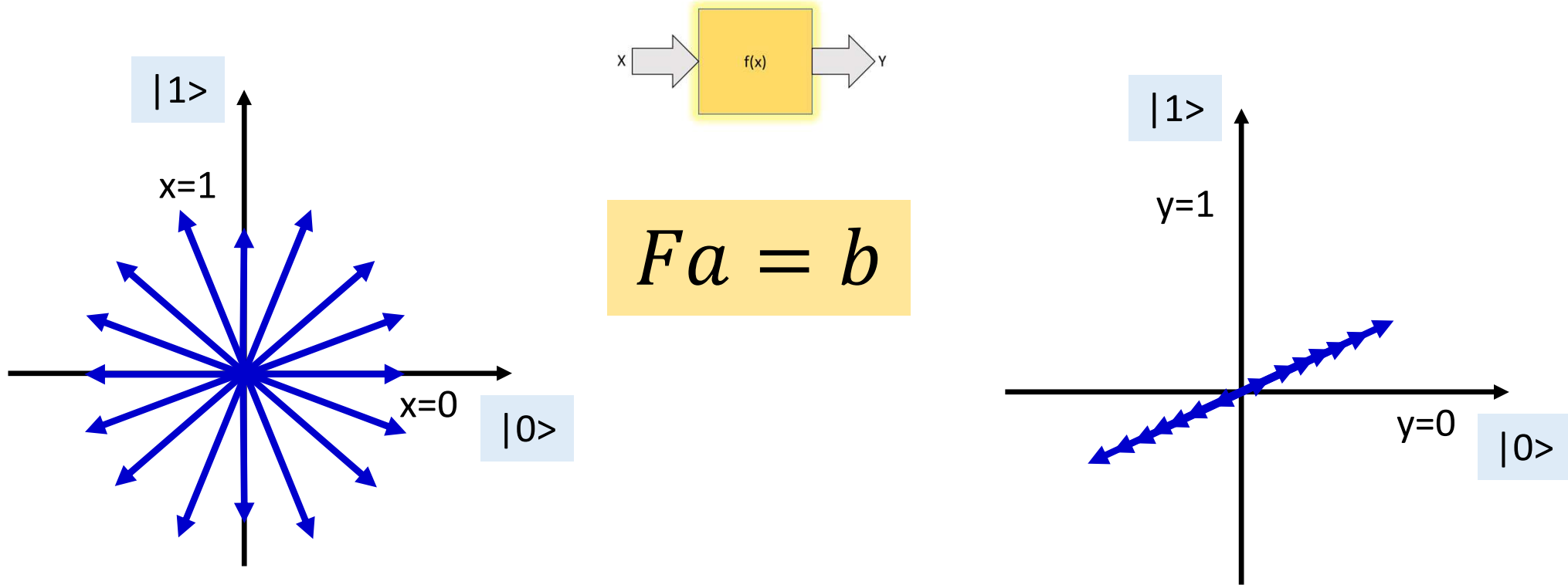
Note that this is a linear operation

For $f(x)$ to retain information



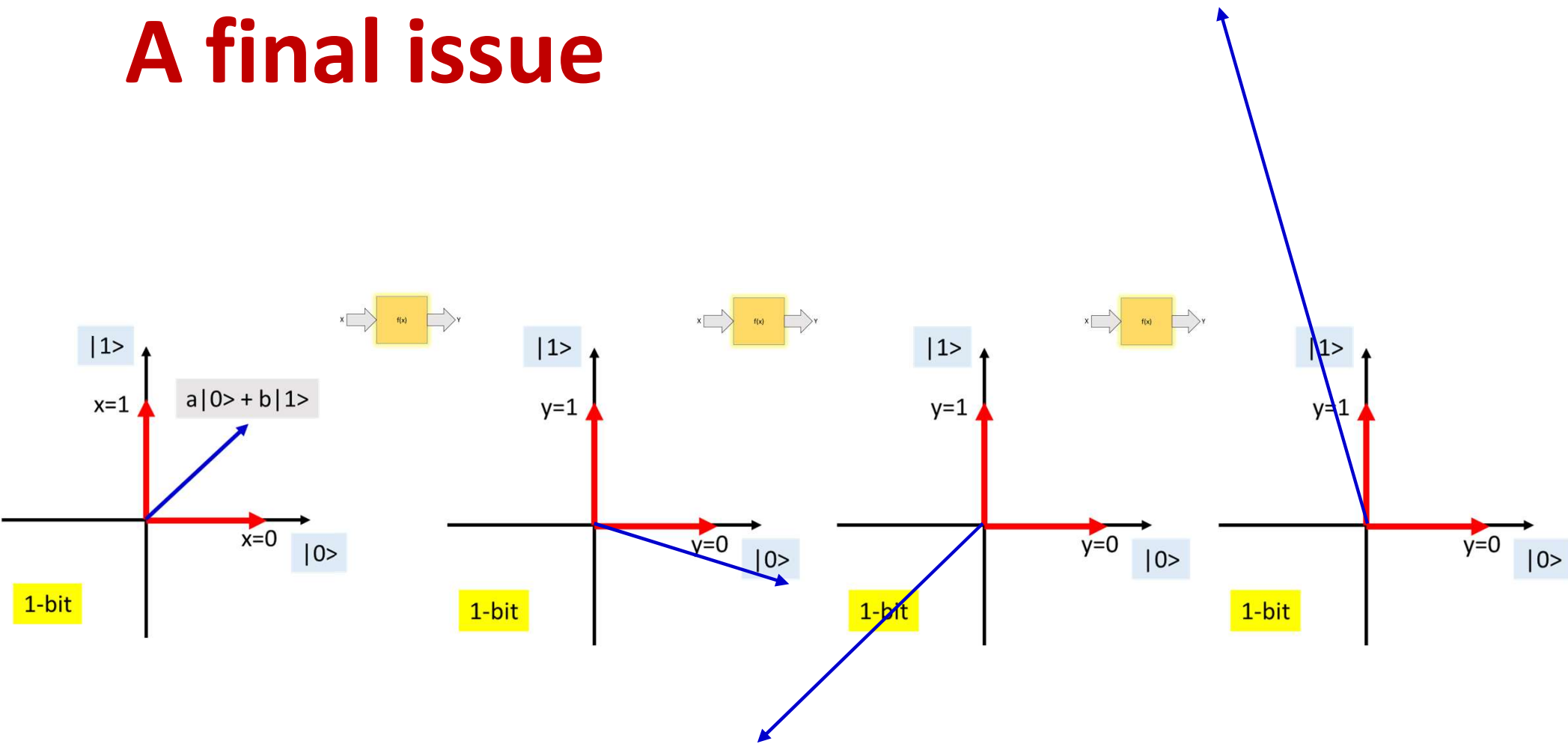
- The function is a linear transform that transforms an input vector to an output vector
 - In the process, it determines the output for *every input bit pattern in one step!!*
 - A single computation uncovers the entire function!
 - But there is one more requirement... (what)?

For $f(x)$ to retain information



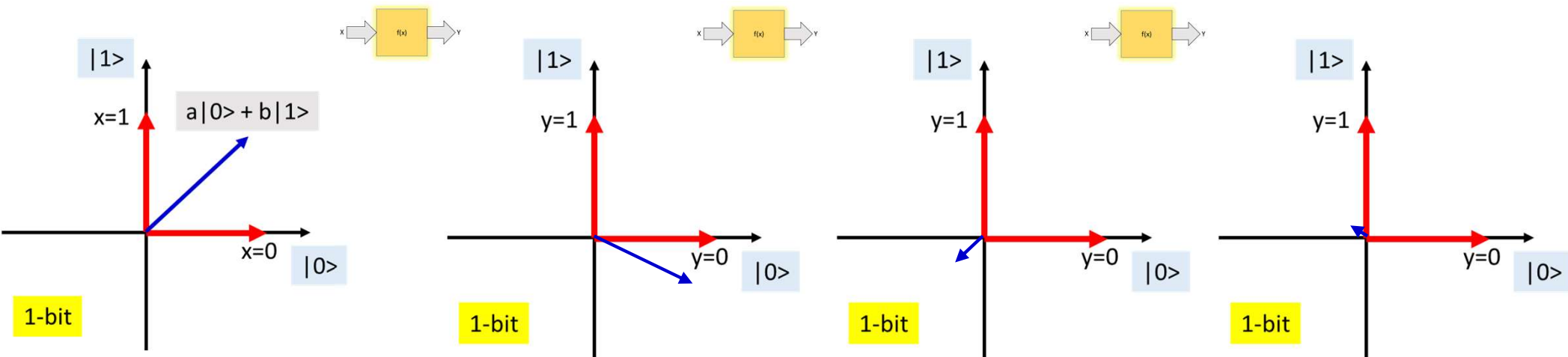
- F must be full rank
 - Otherwise, we cannot recover the contribution of all components of the input vector
 - I.e. we cannot resolve the contributions of all bit patterns to the result
- In other words, F must be *invertible*!!

A final issue



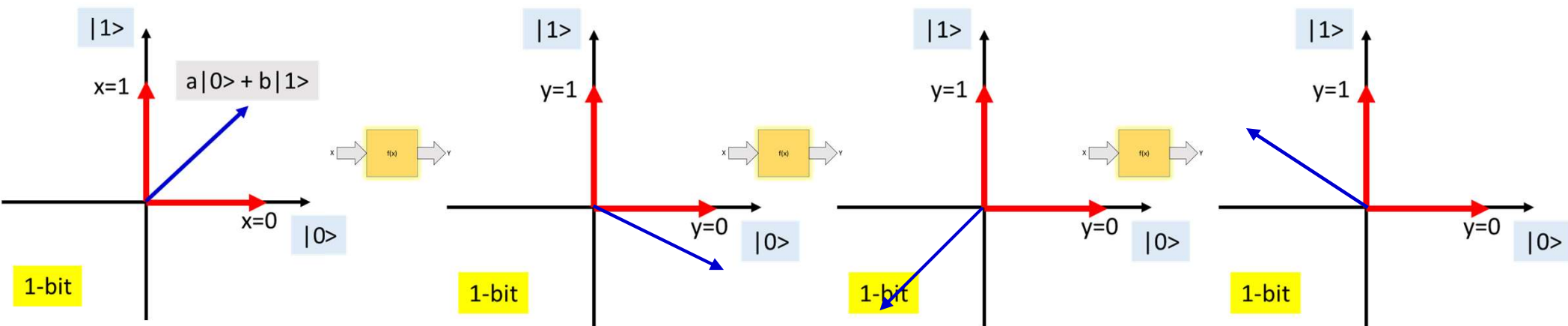
- Repeated applications of linear transforms can make a vector longer and longer and blow up...

A final issue



- Repeated applications of linear transforms can make a vector longer and longer and blow up...
- ... or shrink and vanish

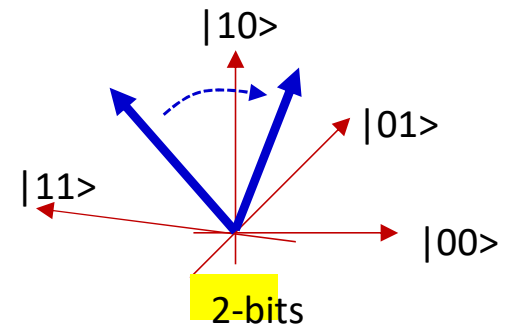
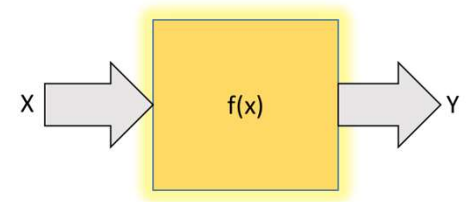
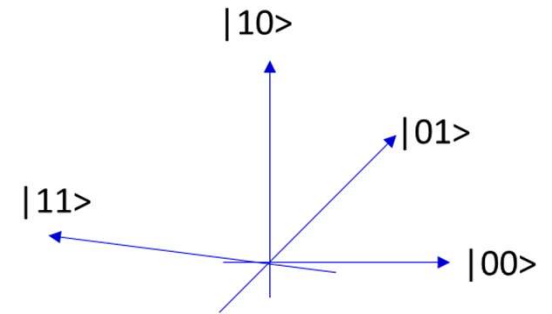
The solution



- F must not change the length of the vector
- i.e. it must be a *unitary* transform!
 - Actually, a *rotation* transform as we shall see.

The new paradigm

- Modified representation: Every bit *pattern* is an orthogonal direction of the input space
 - A vector in this space is a linear combination of all bit patterns
- The function being computed is representable as an invertible linear transform
 - More specifically a rotation
- Evaluation of the function on a single vector can compute the output for every possible bit pattern, in an identifiable way



Poll 3a

- What are the key differences between the classical and new paradigms
 - a) In the classical paradigm, each bit is a unique dimension of the representation, in the new paradigm bit *patterns* are the unique dimensions
 - b) In the classical paradigm any vector in the space is a valid input to the function, in the new paradigm only the axes, representing unique bit patterns, are valid inputs
 - c) In the classical paradigm only the vectors representing the corners of the hypercube are valid inputs to the function, whereas in the new paradigm any vector is valid
 - d) In the classical paradigm the function $f(x)$ must be invertible, whereas in the new paradigm $f(x)$ need not be invertible
 - e) In the classical paradigm $f(x)$ is unrestricted, whereas in the new paradigm $f(x)$ must be linear and invertible

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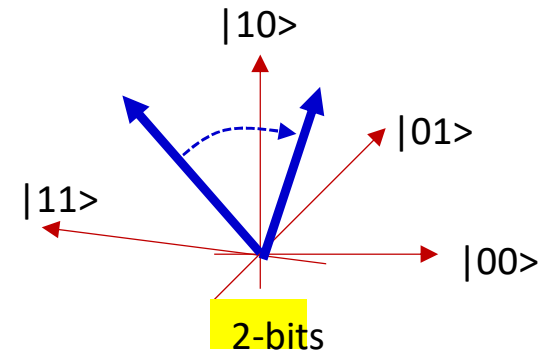
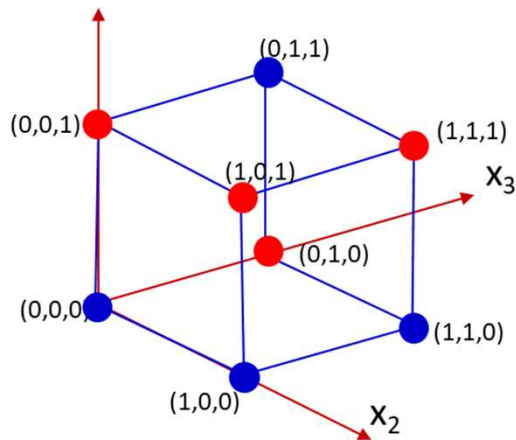
Poll 3b

- Which of the following are representations from the new math. Here “ $|0\rangle$ ” represents a single bit taking value 0, “ $|01\rangle$ ” represents a bit pair taking the values 0 and 1 respectively
 - 0
 - $a |0\rangle + b |1\rangle$
 - 11
 - $a |00\rangle + b |01\rangle + c |10\rangle + d |11\rangle$

Poll 3b

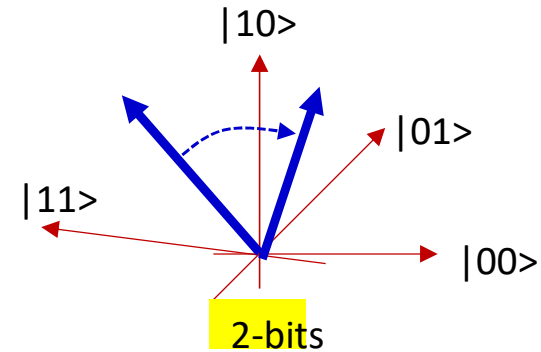
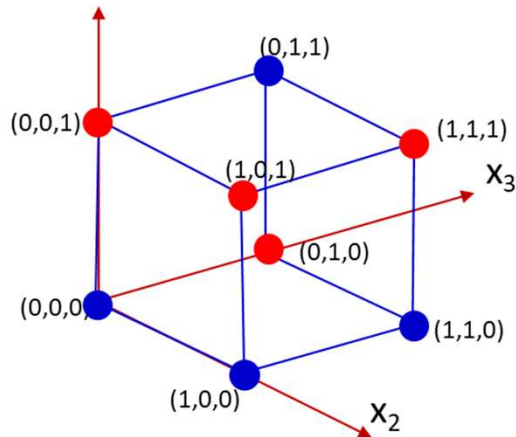
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Old vs. the new paradigm



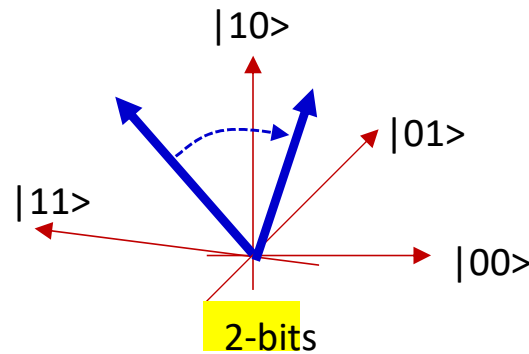
- Each bit is a coordinate dimension
 - Must explicitly evaluate function for every input to fully determine it
 - 2^N computations
 - In reverse: Given only the output, must evaluate every input to determine which one generated it
- Each bit pattern is a coordinate dimension
 - A single evaluation fully determines the function
 - In reverse: Given an output, determining which input produced it is a single-step computation
 - Because computation is reversible

Where is this useful



- Satisfiability problems
 - Does any bit pattern produce the output 1
- Search problems
 - Is any bit pattern in my library exactly equal to 11001010
 - Equivalent to SAT problems
- Combinatorial optimization problems
-
- Any problem that can be set as a SAT problem

What are the practical issues?



- Is this practically realizable?

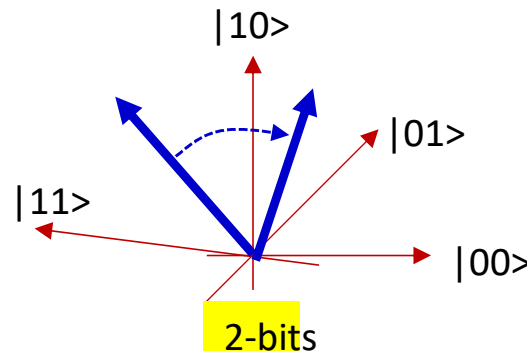
Poll 4

- In the new match, how many numbers are required to represent an input, for a function of 100 bits
 - 100
 - 100^2
 - 2^{100}
 - Insufficient information to decide

Poll 4

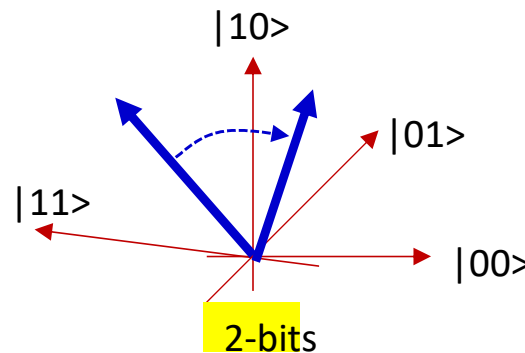
- In the new match, how many numbers are required to represent an input, for a function of 100 bits
 - 100
 - 100^2
 - **2^{100}**
 - Insufficient information to decide
- **Since each of the 2^{100} bit patterns is an independent axis, and a vector has as many components as axes, you need 2^{100} numbers to represent an input**

What are the practical issues?



- Is this practically realizable?
- A conventional (classical) computer requires a *single* N-bit register to represent a value
 - A function takes in a single N-bit value and produces a single bit
- The new representation requires 2^N numbers to represent a single value!
 - For even $N=100$ bits, this requires $\sim 100000000000000000000000000000000$ numbers
 - A function take in 2^{100} values and produces 2^{100} values
 - I.e it's a 2^{200} -valued transform!
 - Which is why its not a very *useful* way of thinking about things
- Is there a *parsimonious* way of representing a 2^{100} component vector without taking up the entire universe?

What are the practical issues?

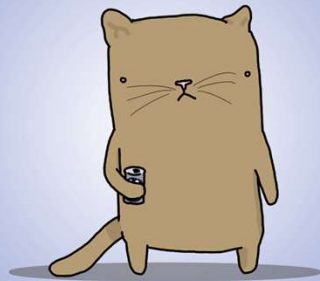


Fact that may only interest me:
"Graham's number" is a number that's
so large there isn't enough space in the
universe to write it..

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- Is there a *parsimonious* way of representing a 2100 component vector without taking up the entire universe?

Enter.. The cat!!

Schrödinger's cat walks into a bar.
And doesn't.



- Introducing Quantum, the cat



The world according to Schroedinger

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

- The magical formula that represents the quantum number 42

The world according to Schroedinger

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

- The magical formula that represents the quantum number 42
- The wave function!
 - For any physical system you have a wave function and a Hamiltonian
 - Which you could design

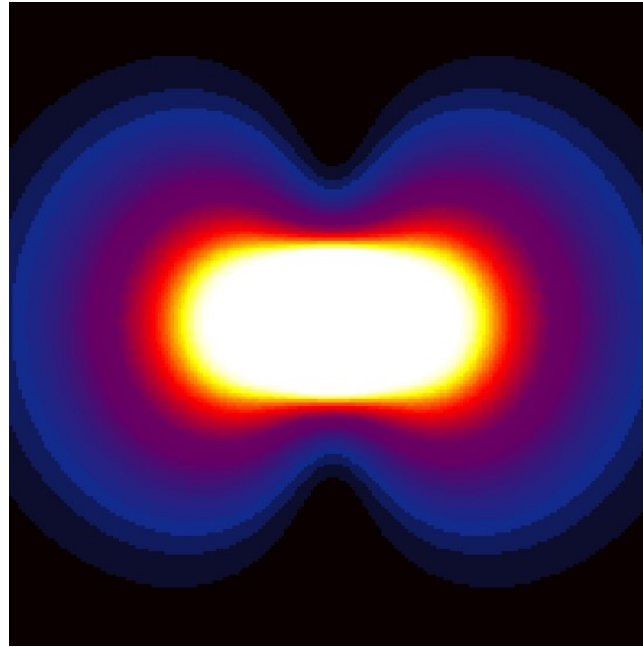
The wave function for any particle predicts its probability

$$\psi(t, x)$$

$|\psi(t, x)|^2$ is the probability that the system will be in configuration x at time t

- What does this mean

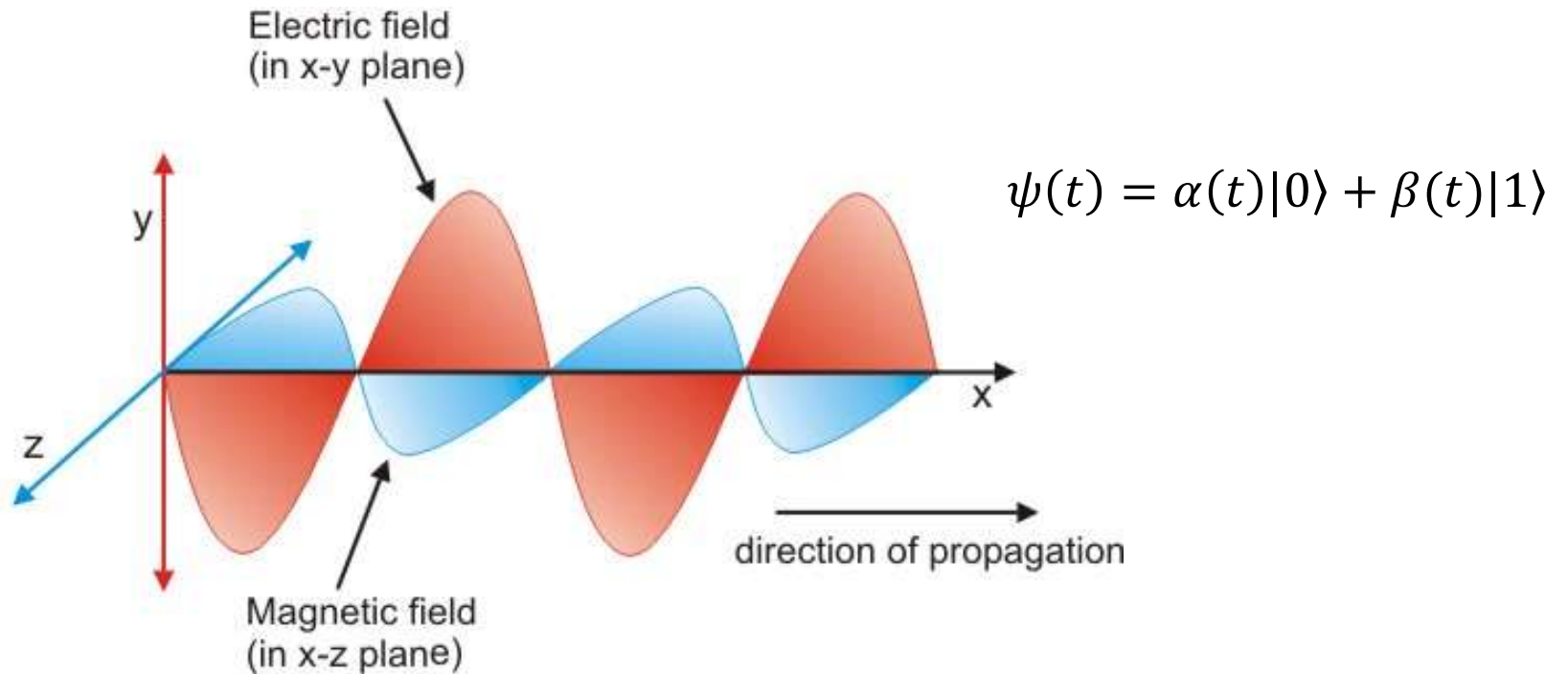
The hydrogen atom



$$\psi(t) = \alpha(t)|0\rangle + \beta(t)|1\rangle$$

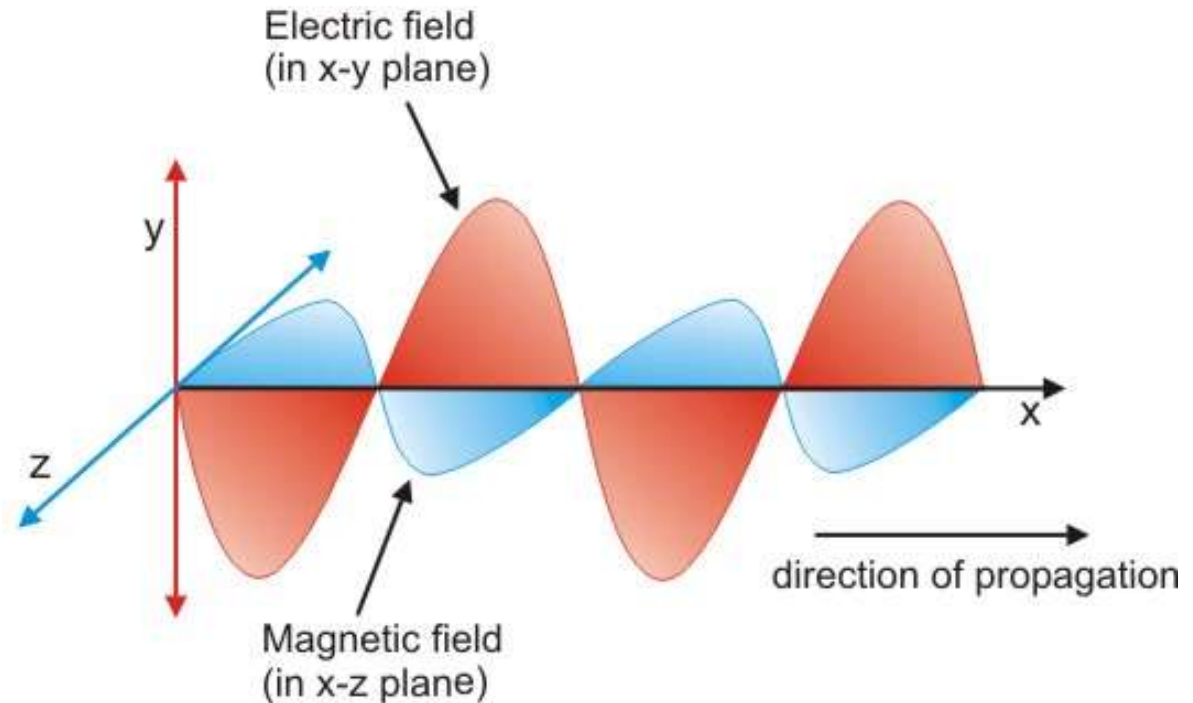
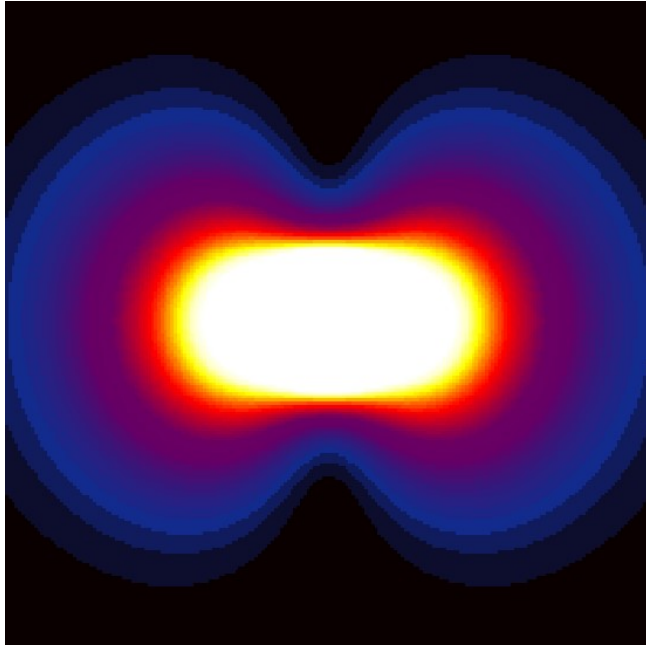
- The probability of the electron in the hydrogen molecule

The polarization of light

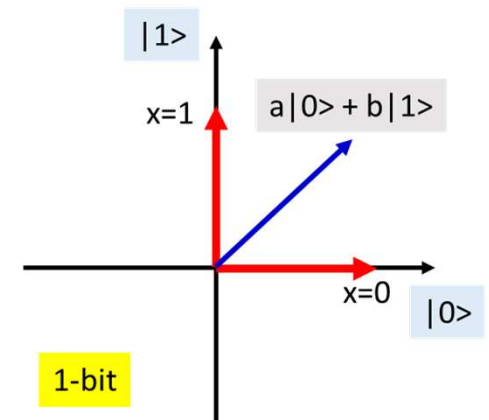


- How do polarizing glasses work?
 - Send through the component of the E/M fields that are aligned with the polarizer
- The light actually exists in both polarizations at the same time

Quantum systems

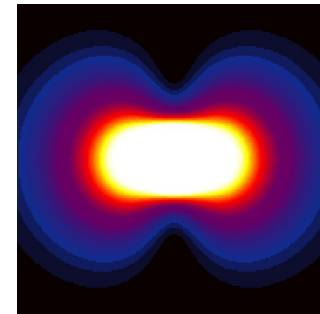
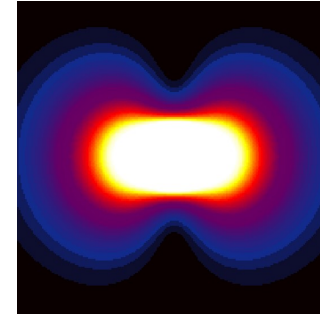
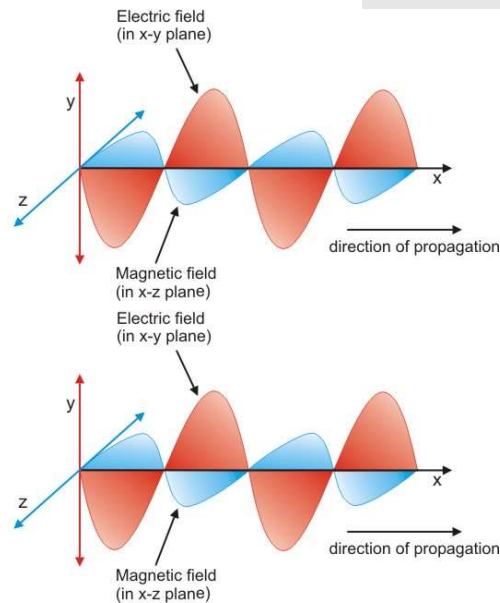


- Quantum systems naturally exist in a superposition of multiple values
 - If we assign each value to a bit value (or bit pattern), we get a quantum computing platform

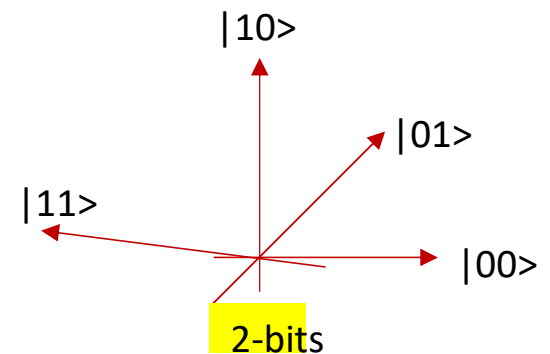


Multiple bits

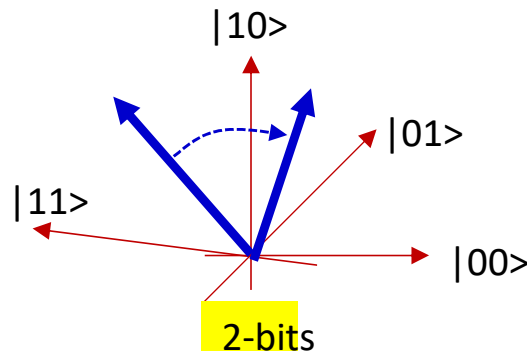
$$a|00\rangle + b|01\rangle + c|10\rangle + d|11\rangle$$



- Increasing the number of bits only takes increasing the number of basic quantum units

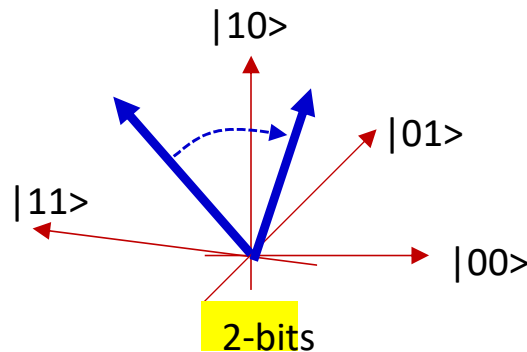


Practical implementation



- Simply use a collection of quantum bits
 - Will simultaneously represent all states
- What is missing?

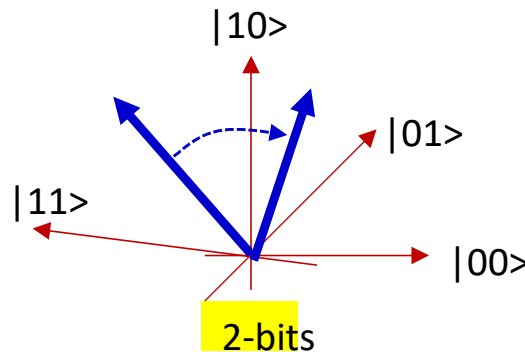
Practical implementation



- Simply use a collection of quantum bits
 - Will simultaneously represent all states
- What is missing?
 - How do you implement the functions?
 - Invertible rotations $ih \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = 2\pi H |\psi(t)\rangle$

But first you must design the functions (we will see how)

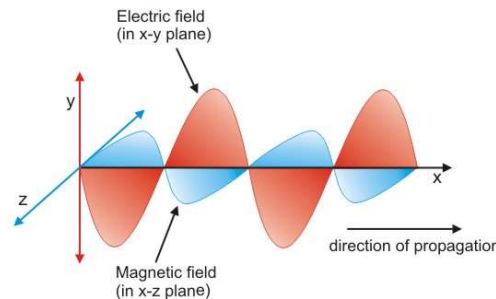
Practical implementation



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- What is missing?
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 - Invertible rotations $ih \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = 2\pi H |\psi(t)\rangle$
 - How do you measure the output vectors?

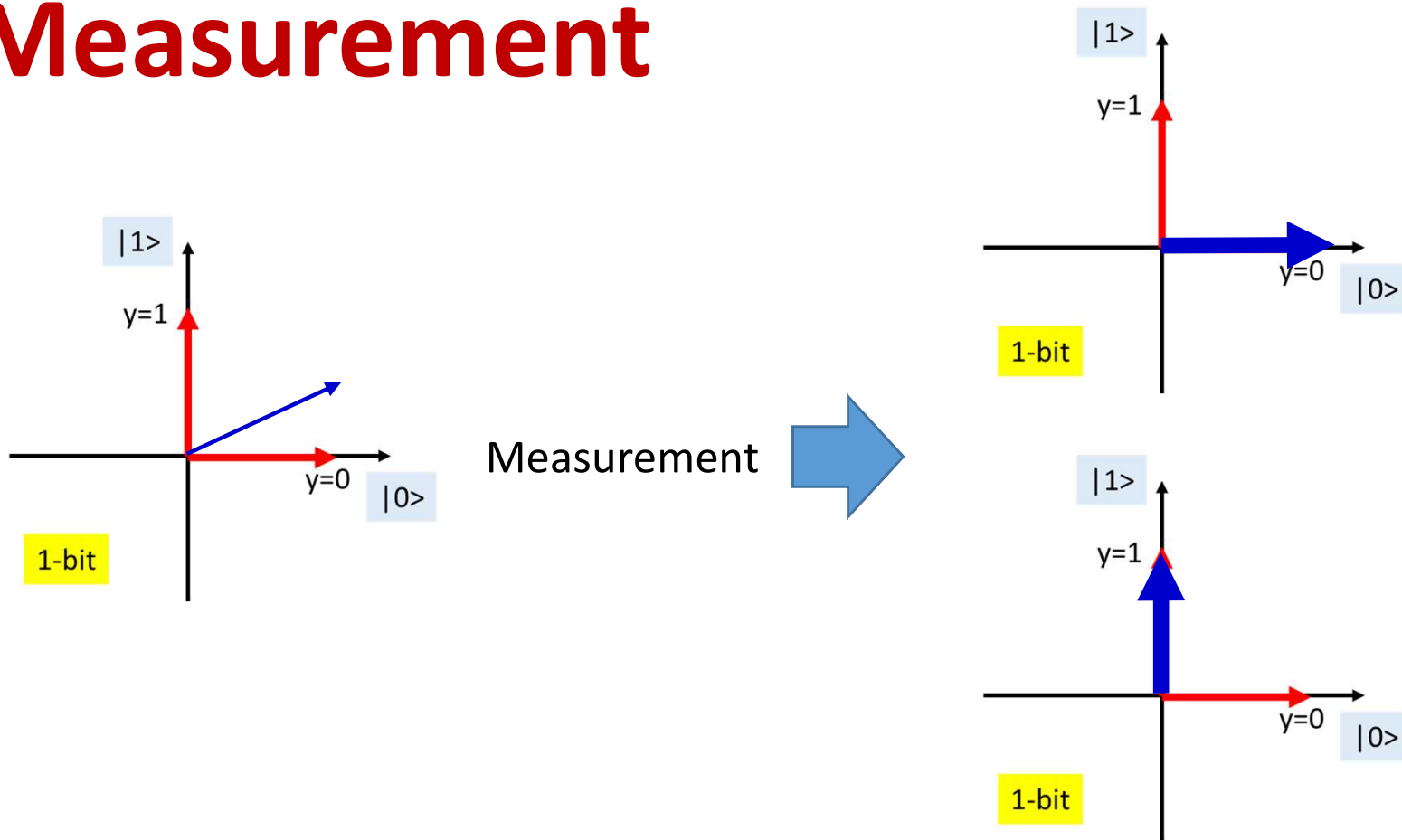
The problem with measurement

- Reality Doesn't Exist Until We Measure It, Quantum Experiment Confirms
- <https://www.sciencealert.com/reality-doesn-t-exist-until-we-measure-it-quantum-experiment-confirms>



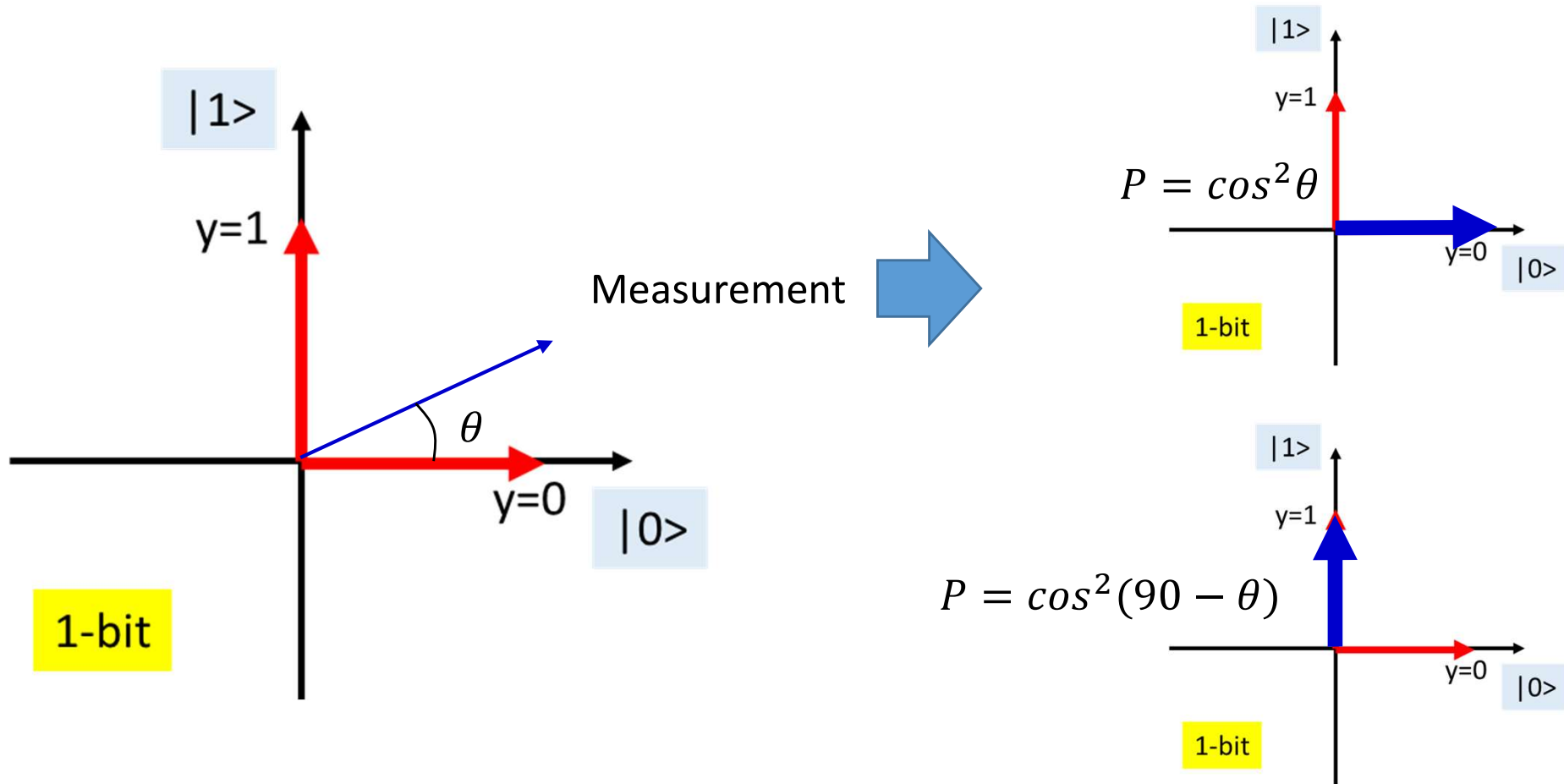
- Measuring a quantum variable “collapses” it

Measurement

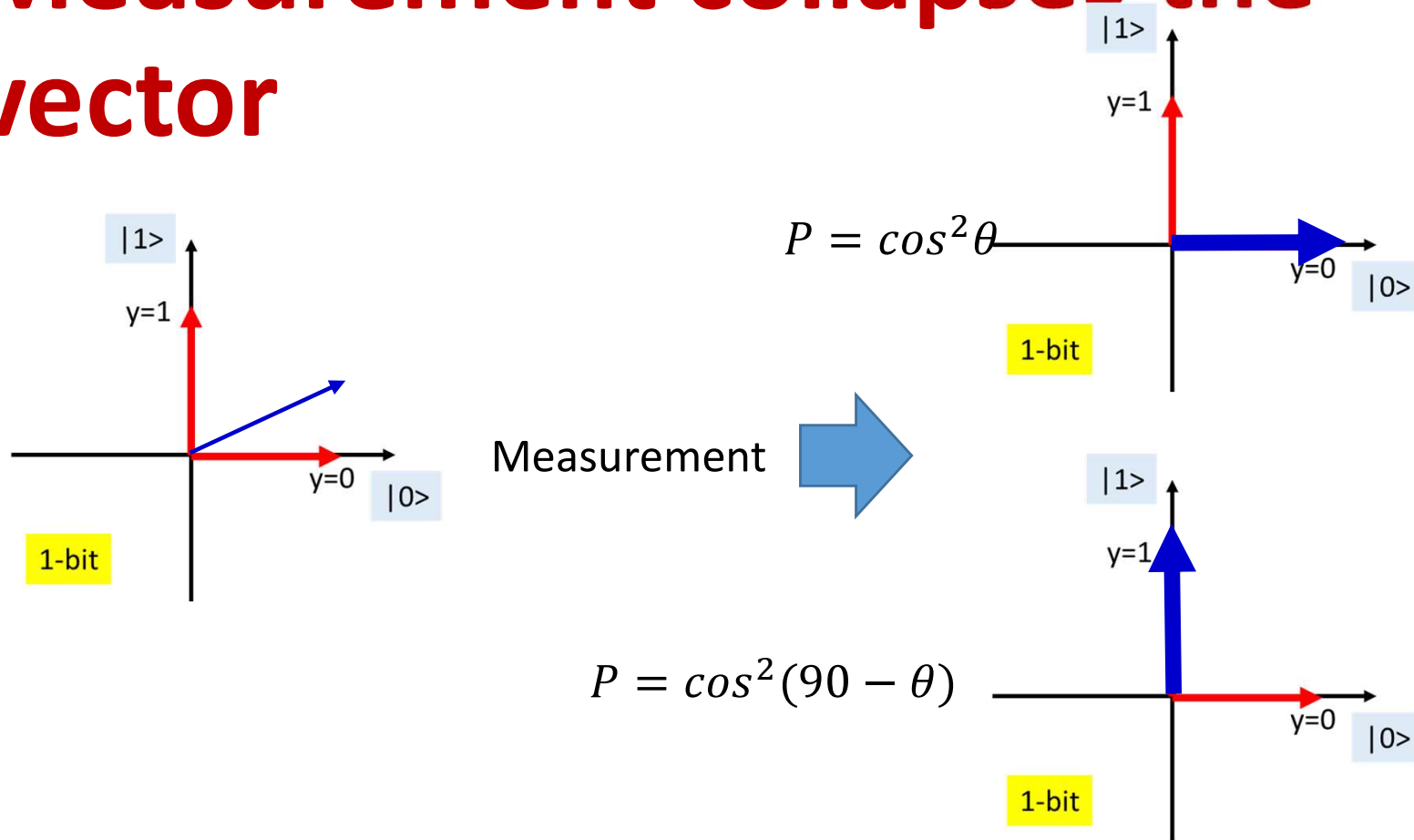


- Measuring the output collapses the vector to one of the states
 - Bit pattern
- Which one

Measurement

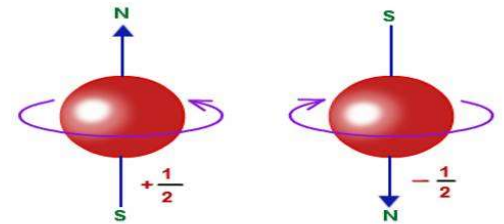
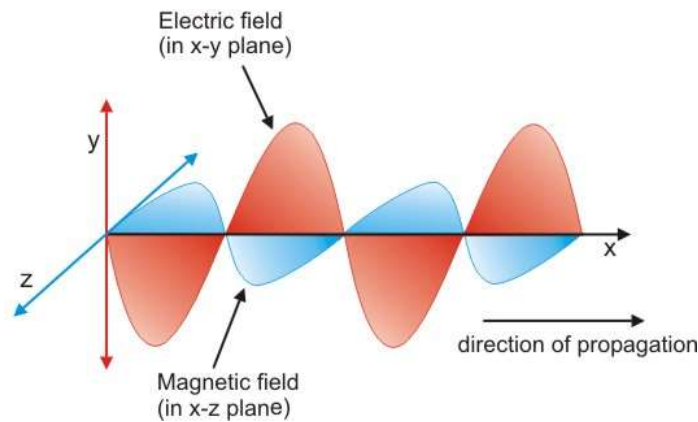
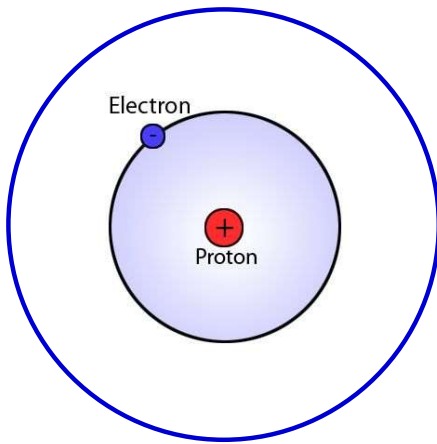


Measurement collapses the vector



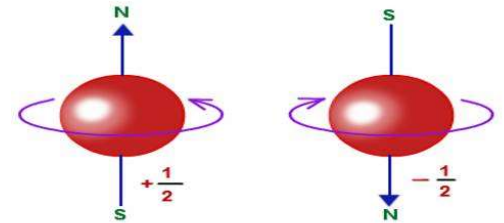
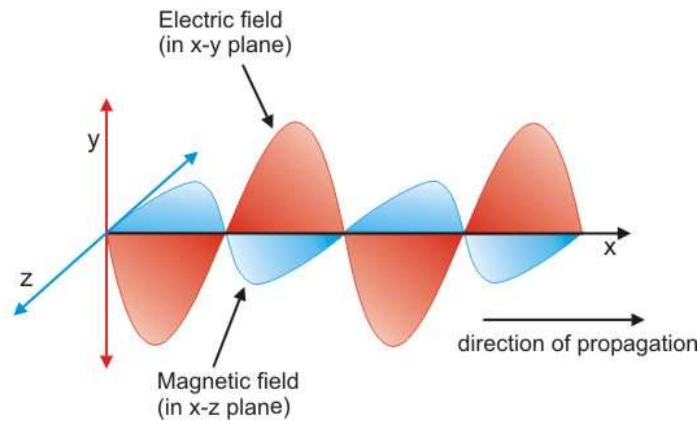
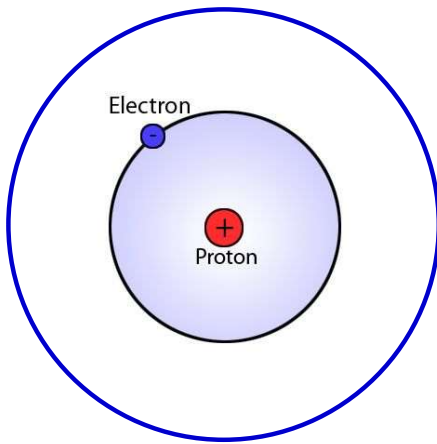
- If you want to recover the vector how many measurements must you take
 - Keeping in mind that each measurement means creating and manipulating “quantum bits” or “qubits” from scratch

The physical Qubit



- Hydrogen atom electron:
 - Ground state = $|0\rangle$, excited state = $|1\rangle$
- Photon polarization
 - Horizontal = $|0\rangle$, vertical = $|1\rangle$
- Electron spin
 - NS = $|0\rangle$, SN = $|1\rangle$

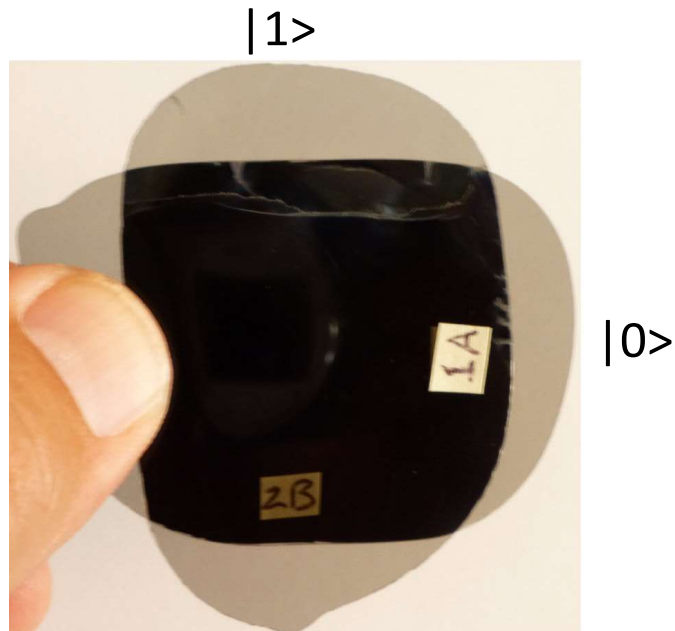
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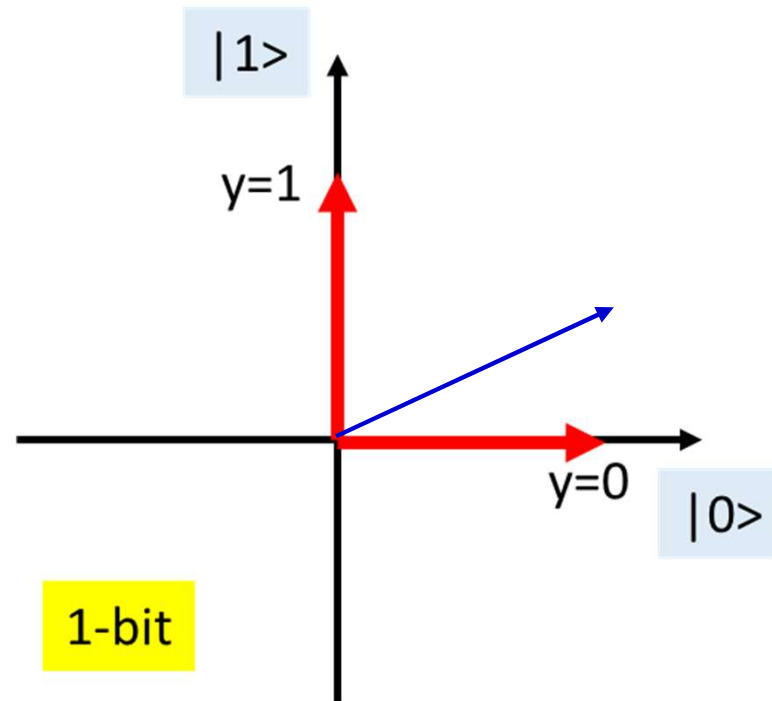
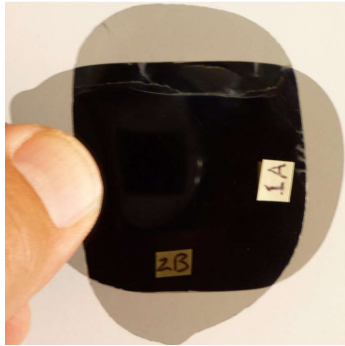
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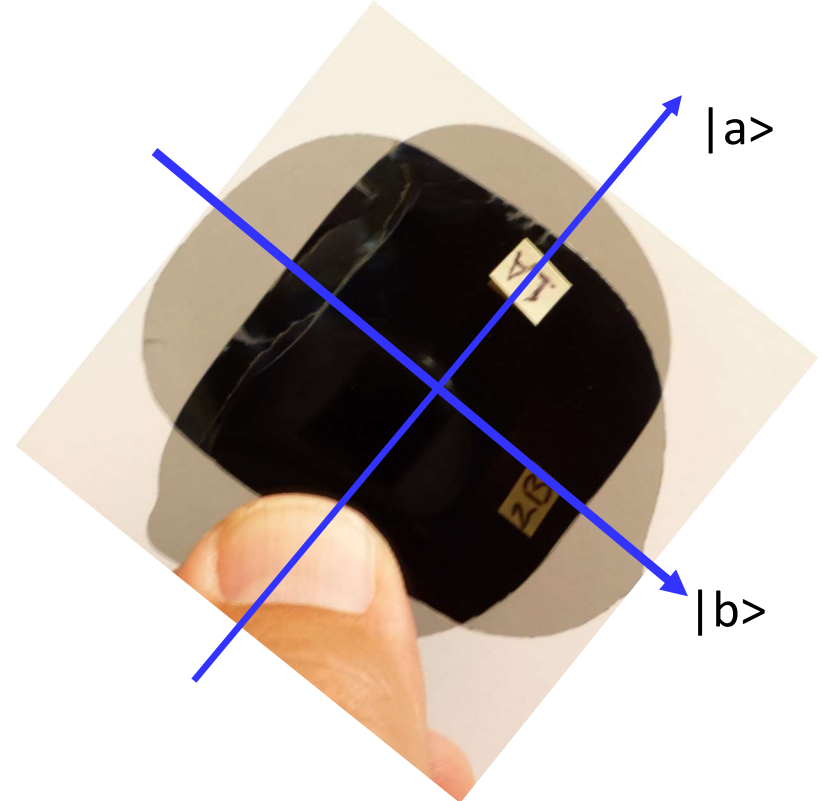
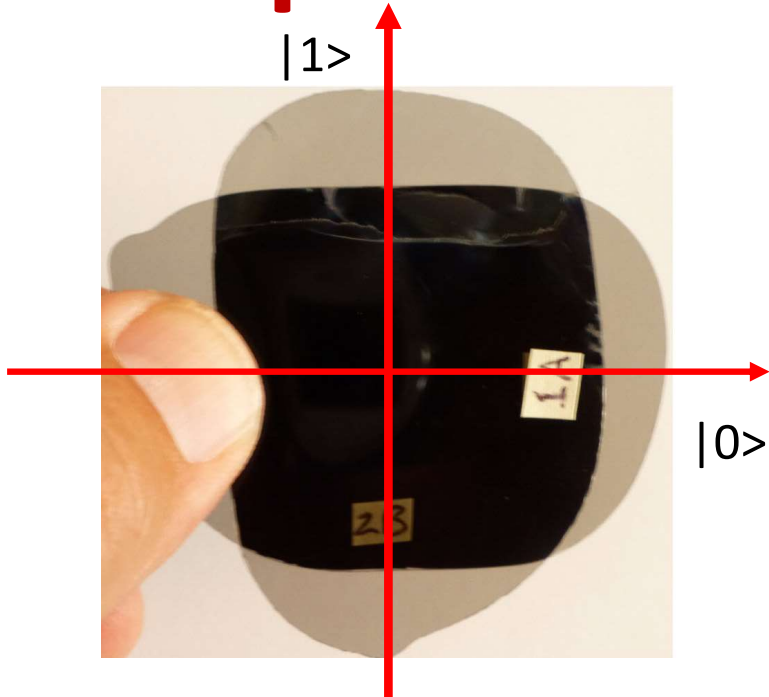
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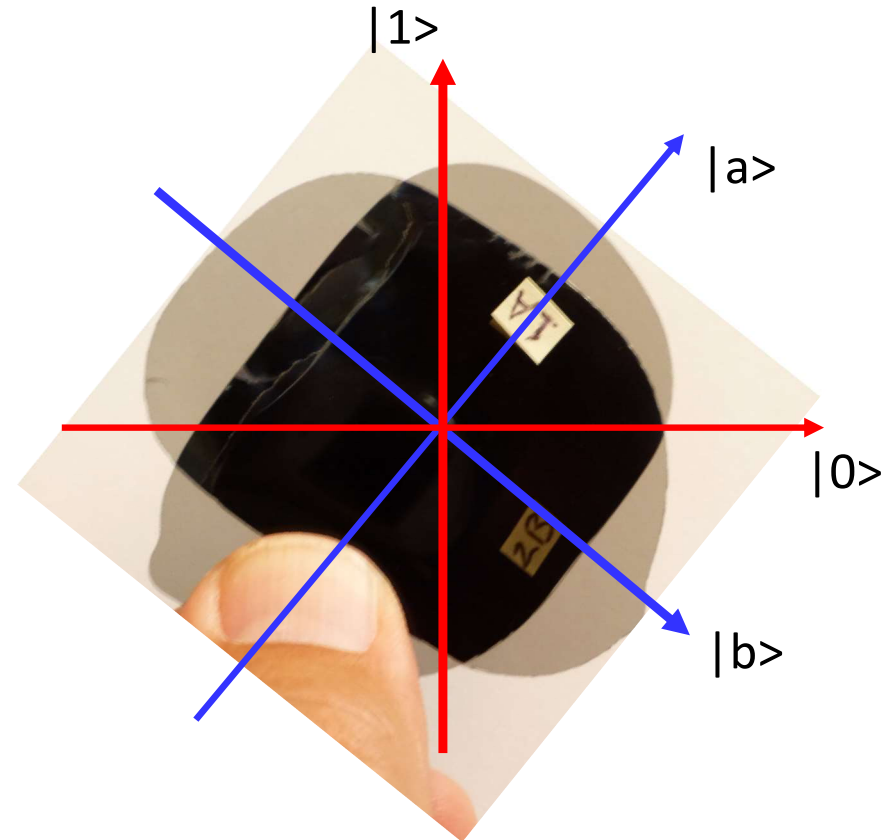
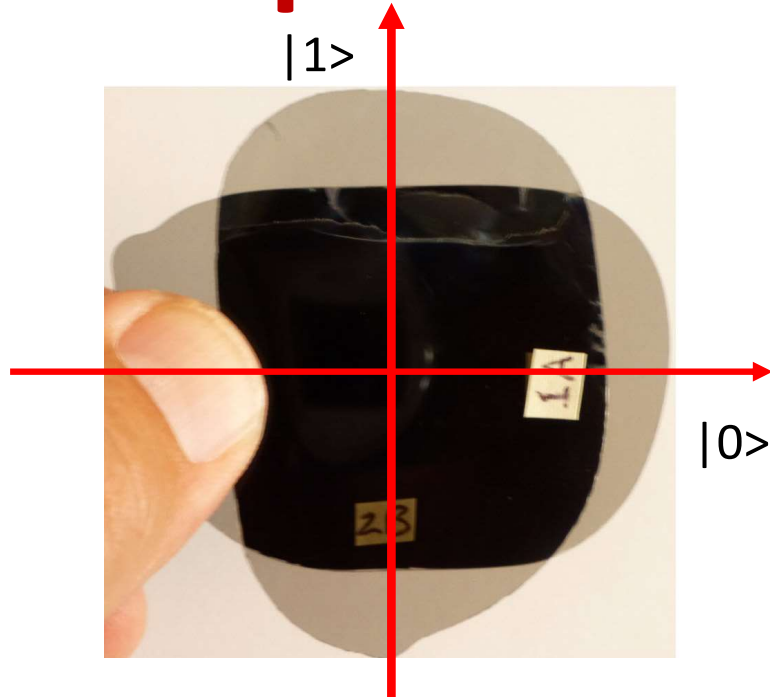
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Multiple bases



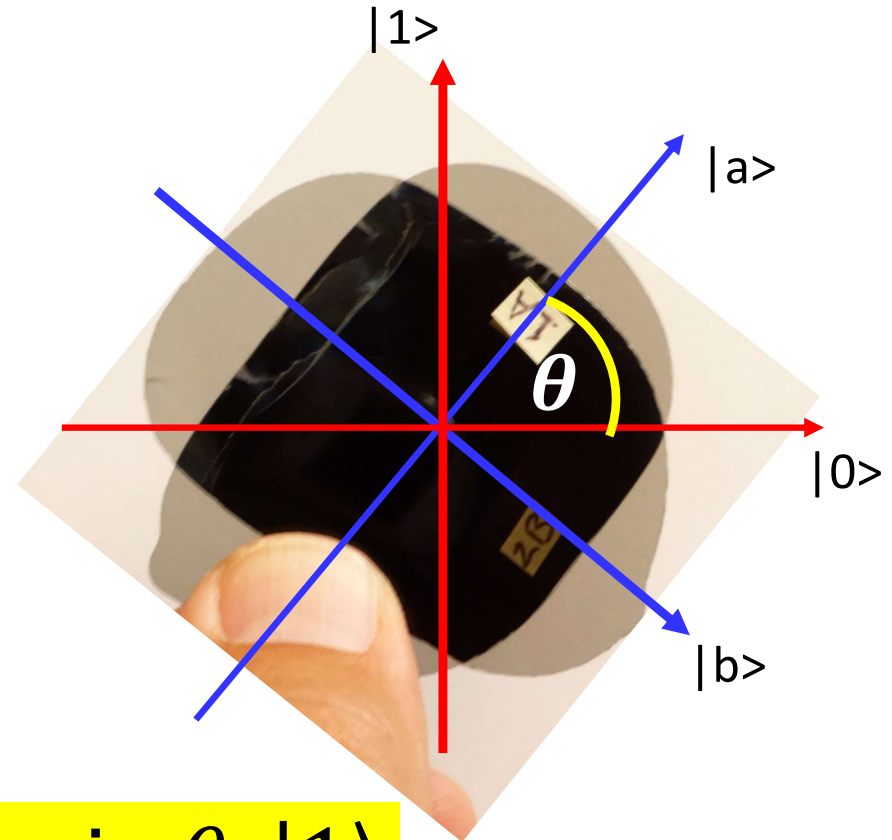
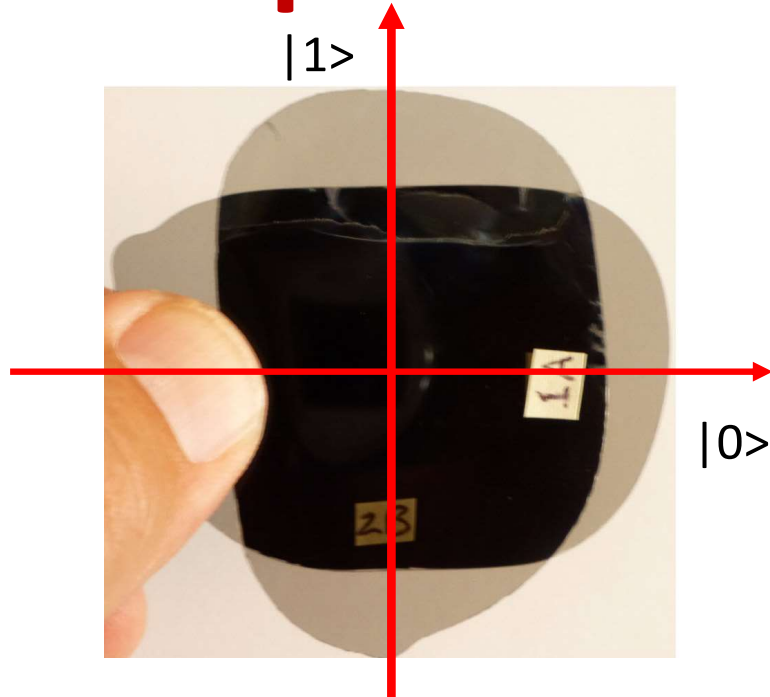
- The two sets of bases shown here are both valid bases, but they are not the same
- If we (quite arbitrarily) designate the first set of bases (on the left) as $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$, then the second set of bases on the right will require a different designation

Multiple bases



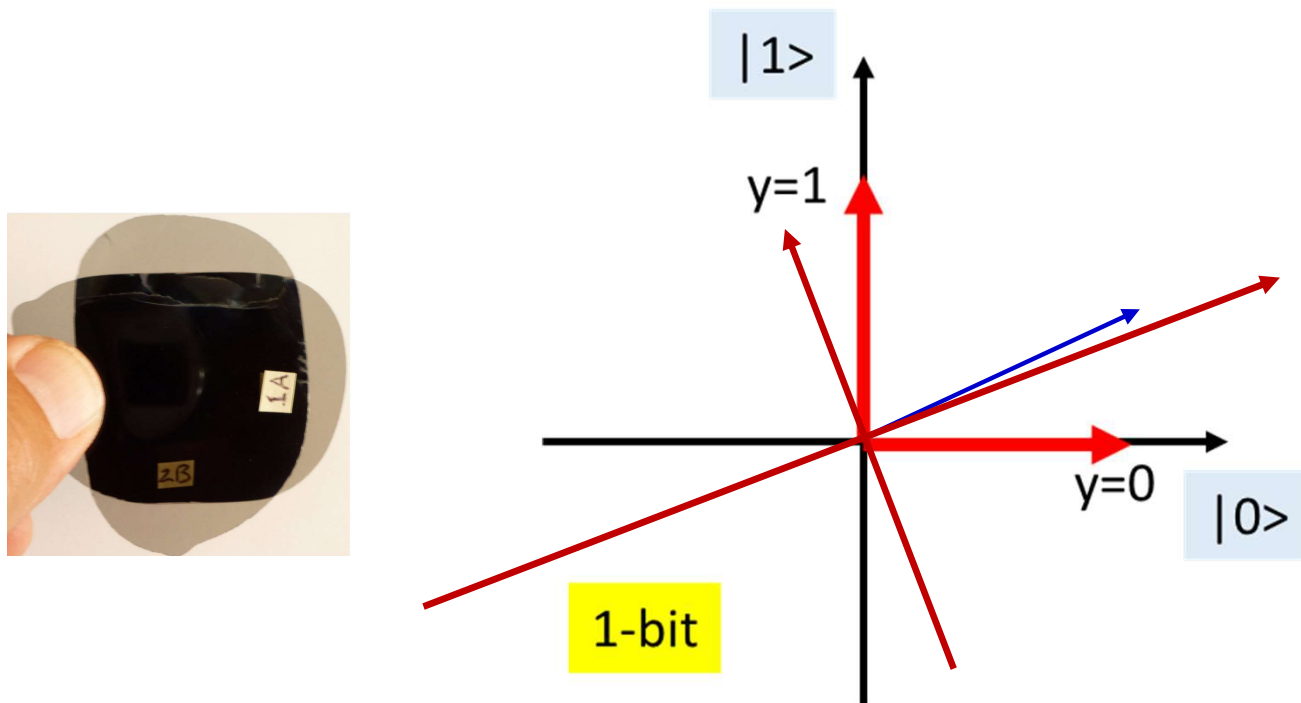
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- One set of bases can, in fact, be specified in terms of the other!

Multiple bases



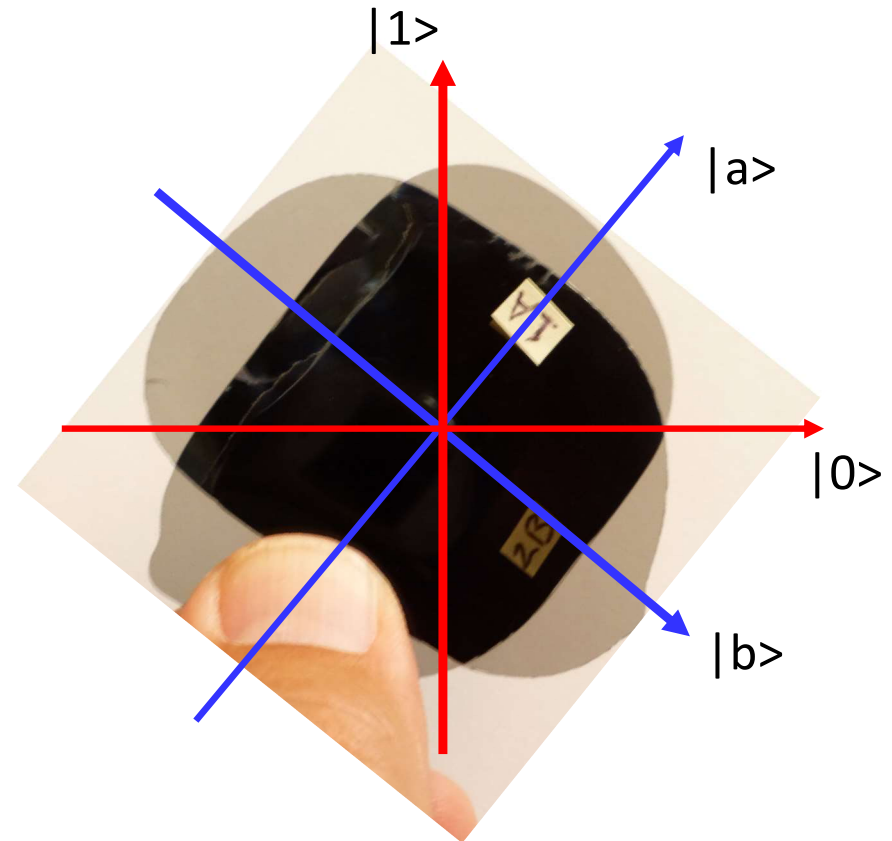
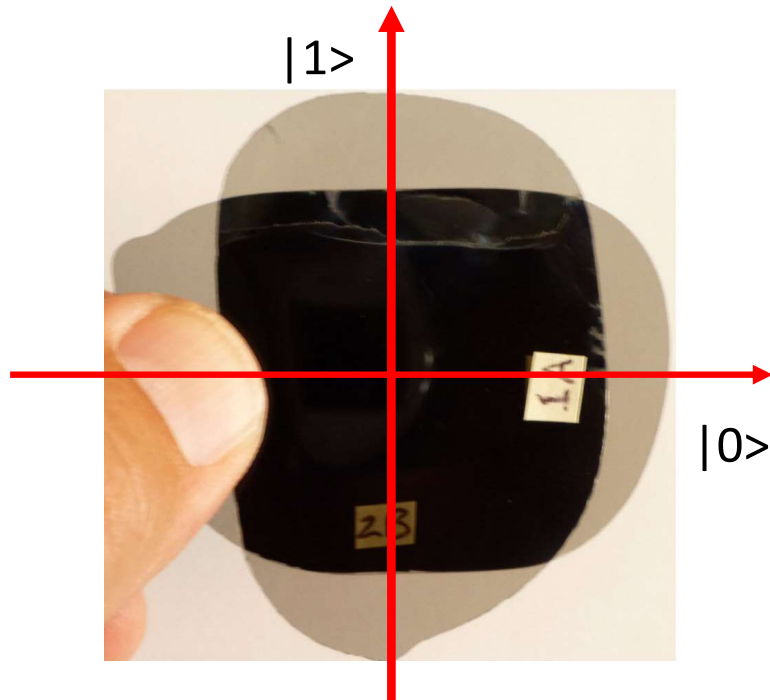
- The two sets of bases are different, but they are not the same
 $|a\rangle = \cos \theta |0\rangle + \sin \theta |1\rangle$
 $|b\rangle = \sin \theta |0\rangle - \cos \theta |1\rangle$
- If we (quite arbitrarily) designate the first set of bases (on the left) as $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$, then the second set of bases on the right will require a different designation
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The physical Qubit



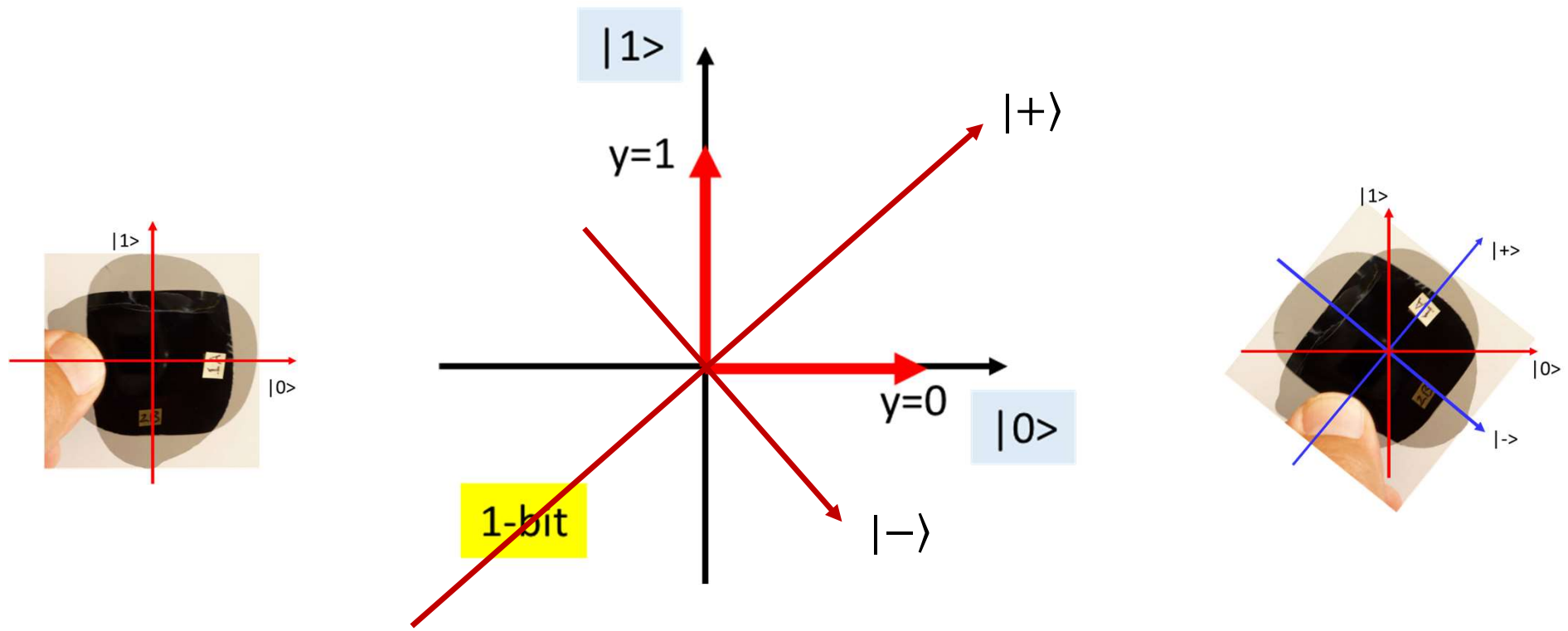
- The definition of your “bases” is a matter of convention
- The only requirement is that they are at right angles to one another.
- The representation of the vector will, obviously, depend on the bases

BASES



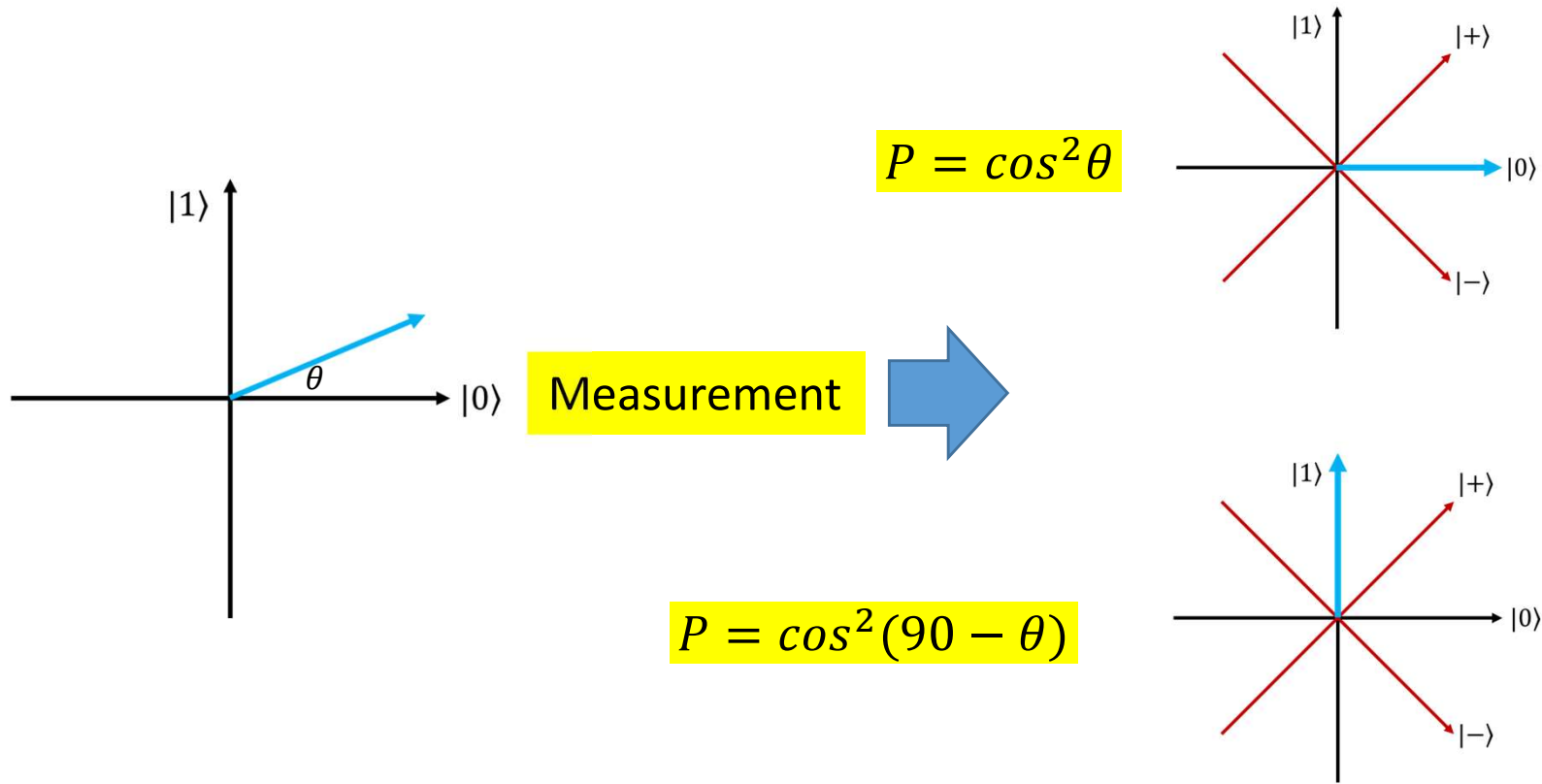
- We *always* specify some (possibly arbitrarily chosen) directions as our “canonical” bases
 - These are typically designated as the “bit” bases, representing the bit values $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$
- But we can *also* have *other* bases
 - Which can be defined in terms of our bit bases (or, alternately, our bit bases can be defined in terms of these other bases)

Alternate bases: The “sign” bases



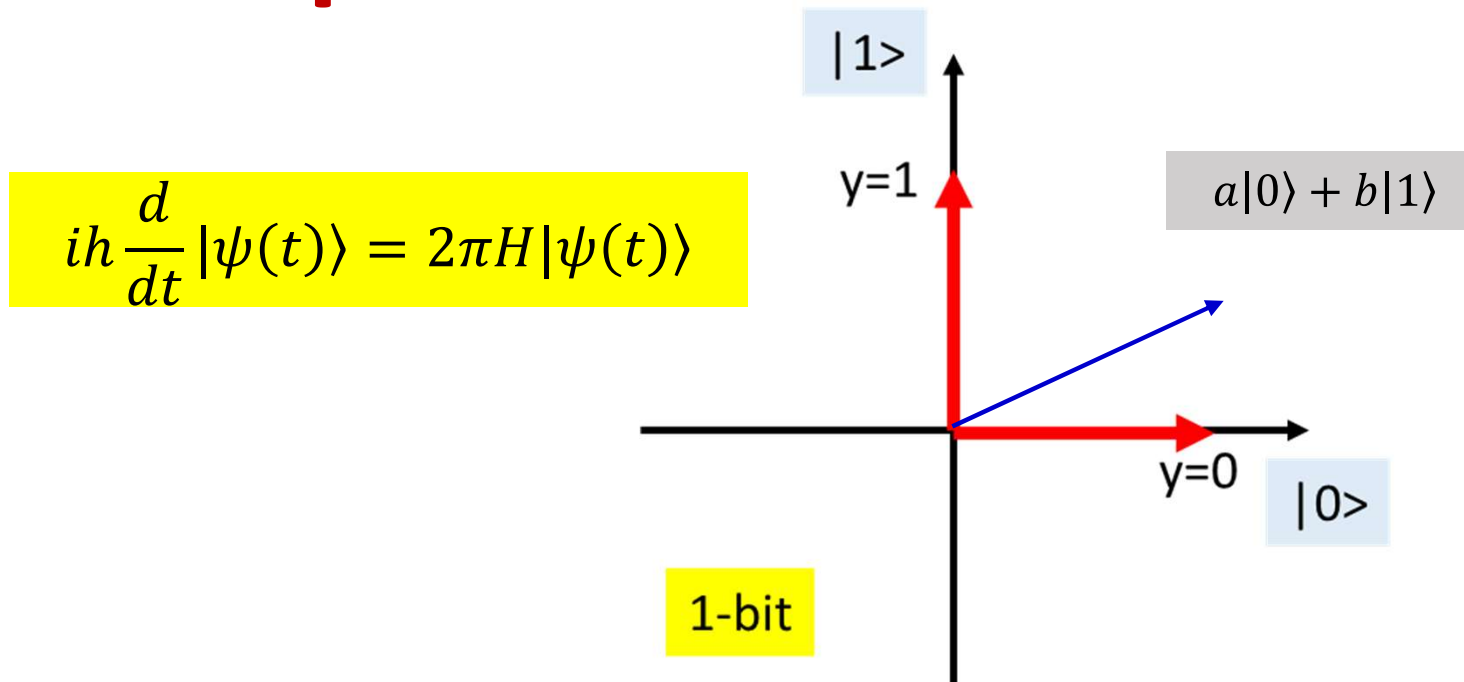
- A very popular set of alternate bases are the “sign” bases
 - Designated as $|+\rangle$ and $|-\rangle$ respectively
 - These are at $+45$ and -45 degrees to the bit bases, respectively
- Flipping between bit-based representations and sign-based representations is an often-encountered operation

Measurement is not absolute



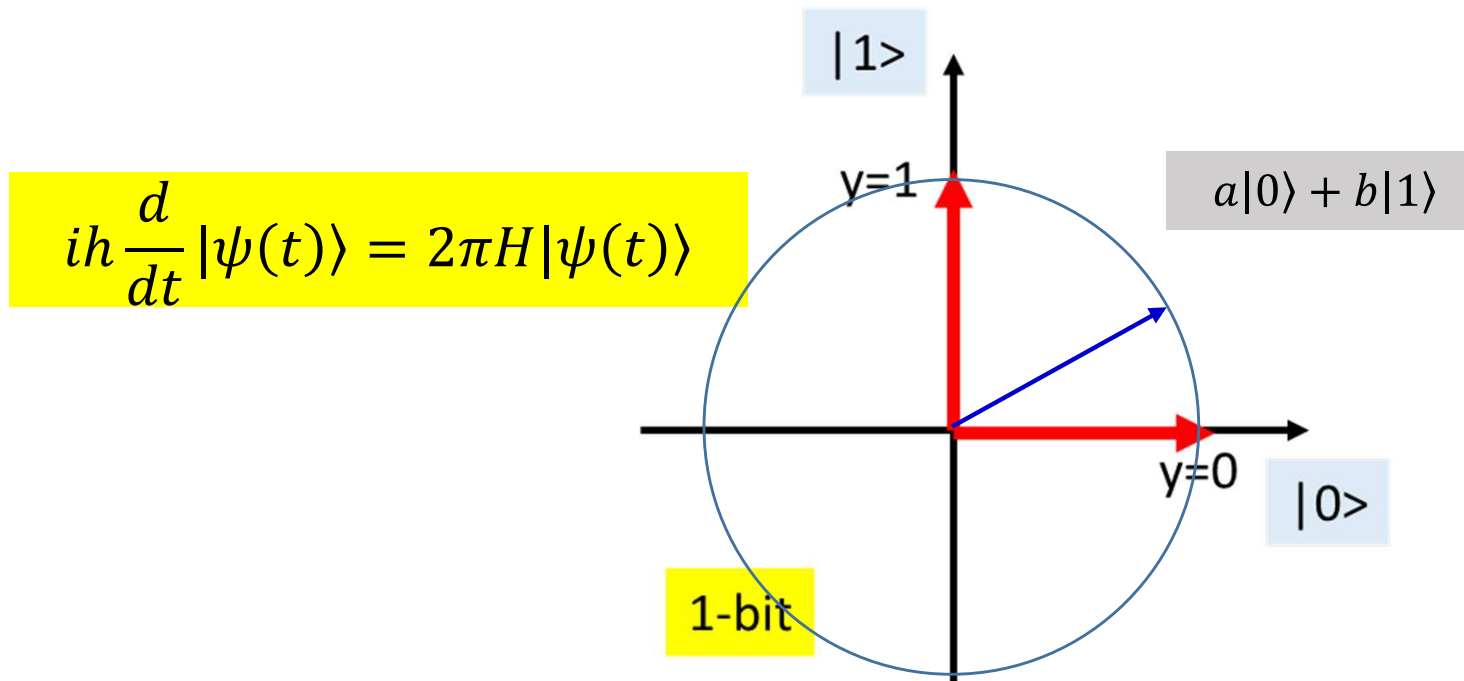
- Collapsing the vector according to one basis can still keep it indeterminate for other bases!
 - We will use this feature

Its all complex, but not at all complicated



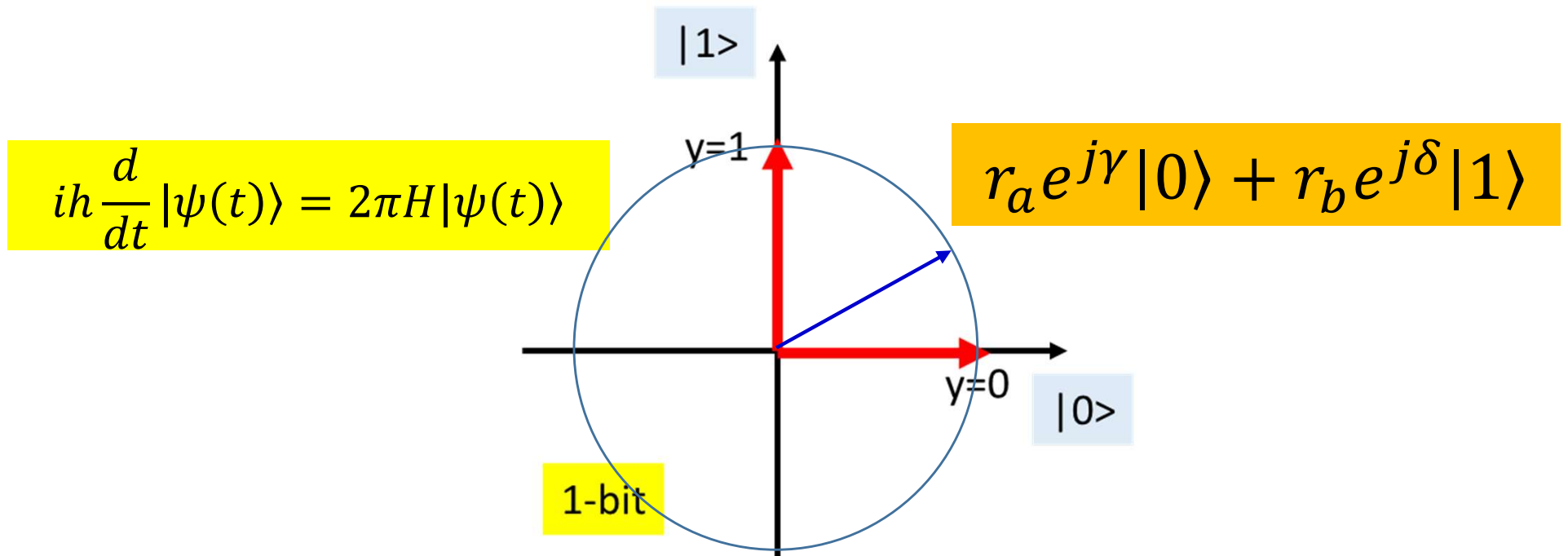
- The “weights” a and b are actually complex variables
 - Because Schroedinger’s equation describes them as complex
- This simple visualization is *wrong*
 - Its missing two dimensions
 - The imaginary components of a and b

Restrictions on the weights



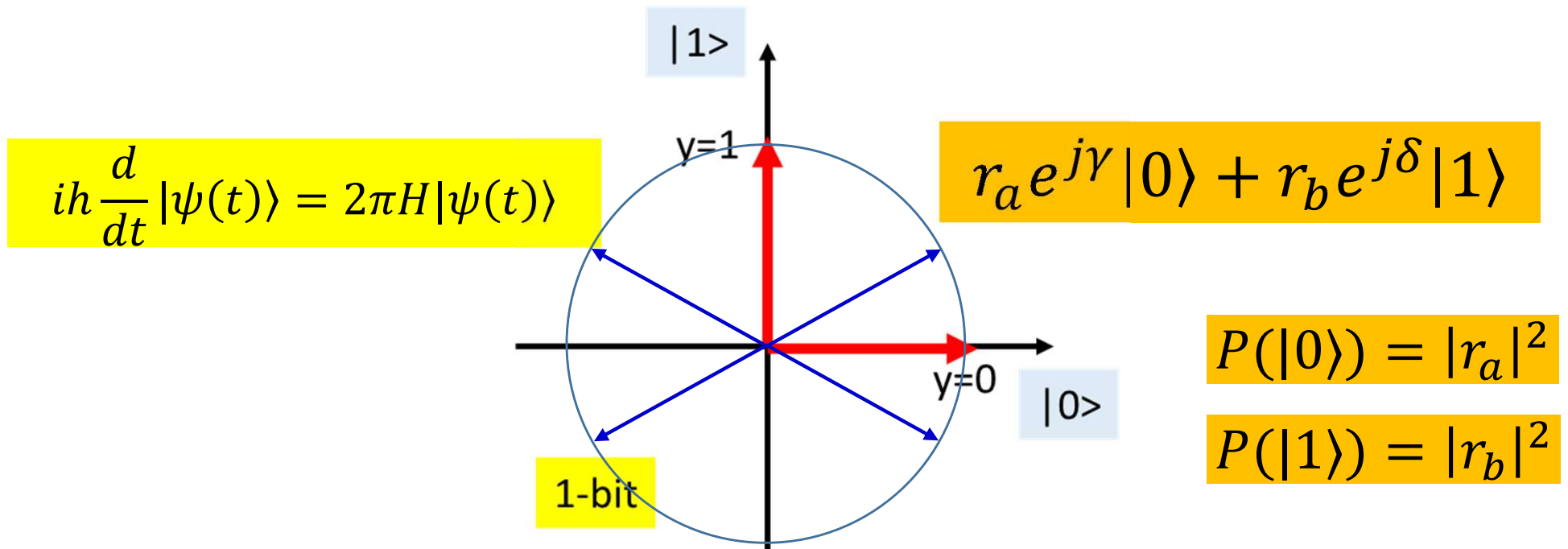
- $|a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1$
 - The qubits live on the surface of a hypersphere
- $P(|0\rangle) = |a|^2, P(|1\rangle) = |b|^2$
- $a = r_a e^{j\gamma}, b = r_b e^{j\delta}$
 - What is the relation between r_a and r_b

Restrictions on the weights



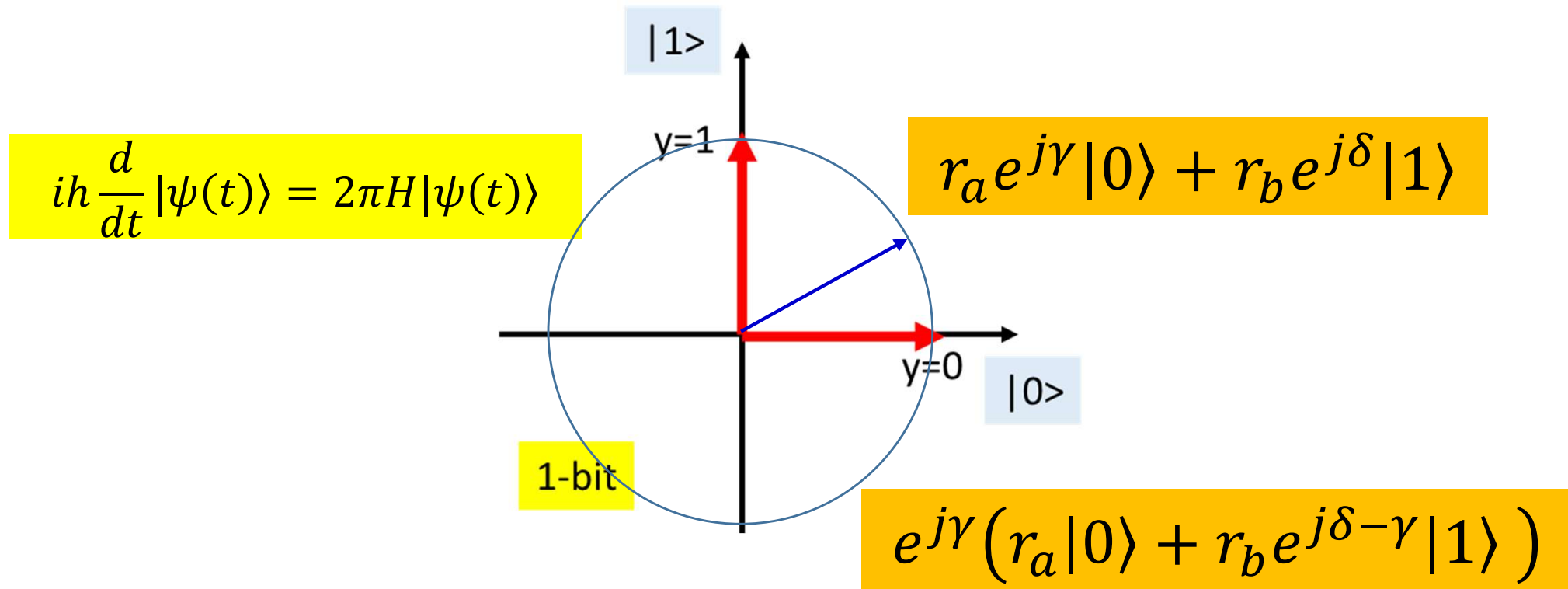
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Something odd



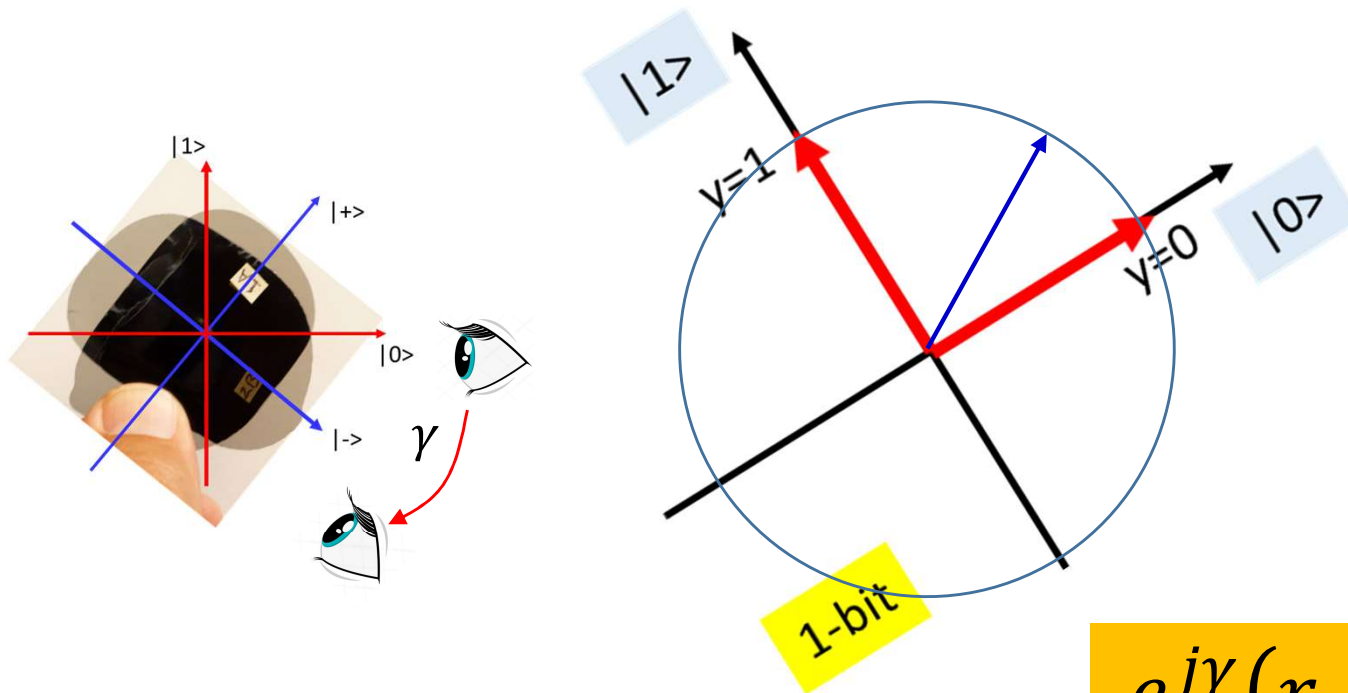
- All of these vectors represent the *same* $P(|0\rangle)$ and $P(|1\rangle)$
- But they're actually different "phasors"
 - Something we will use all the time

Restrictions on the weights



- $|a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1$
 - The qubits live on the surface of a hypersphere
- $P(|0\rangle) = |a|^2, P(|1\rangle) = |b|^2$
- $a = r_a e^{j\gamma}, b = r_b e^{j\delta}$
 - What is the relation between r_a and r_b

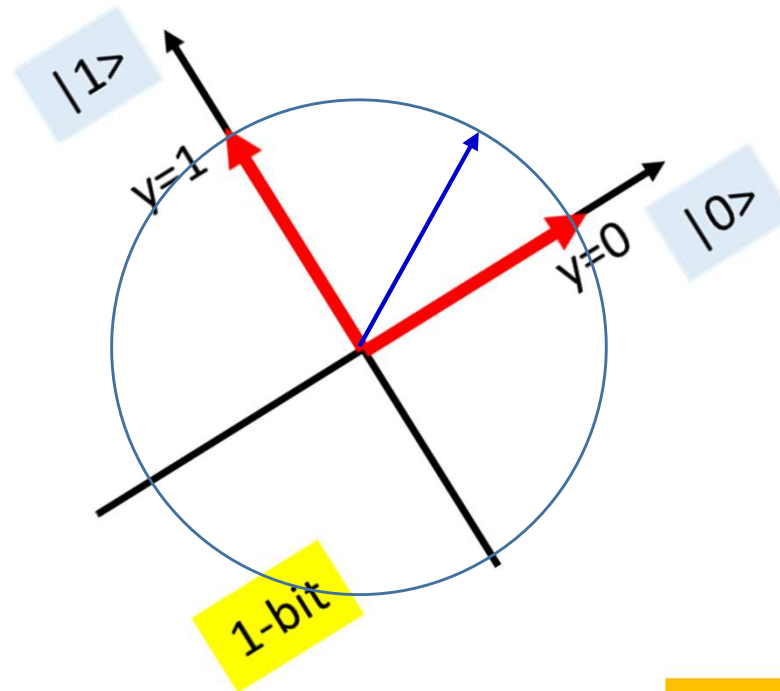
The qubit is rotation invariant



$$e^{j\gamma} (r_a |0\rangle + r_b e^{j(\delta-\gamma)} |1\rangle)$$

- Rotating your viewpoint doesn't matter
 - Alternately, rotating the entire space doesn't matter
 - Does not change its overall relative arrangement
- γ represents a global change of viewpoint and can be ignored

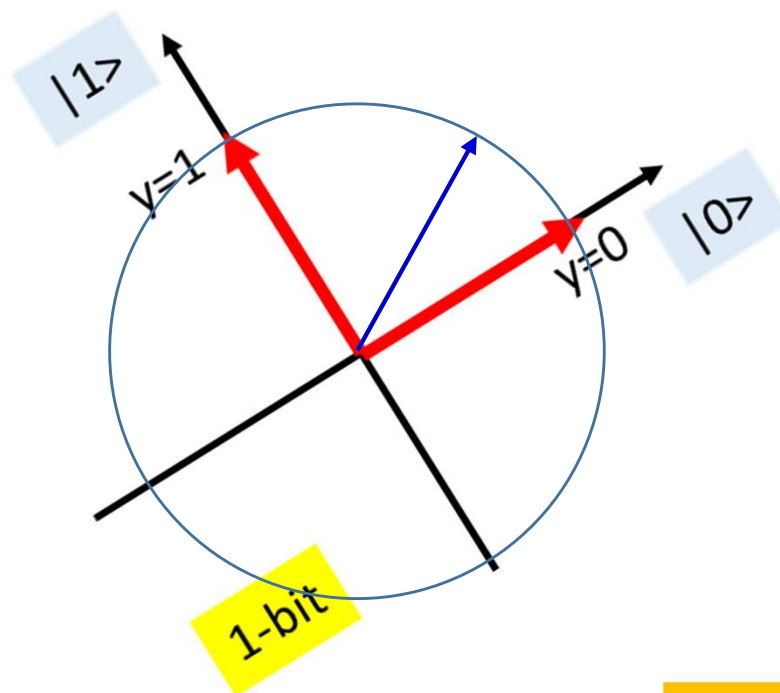
The qubit is rotation invariant



$$r_a|0\rangle + r_b e^{j(\delta-\gamma)}|1\rangle$$

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 - What is the relation between r_a and r_b

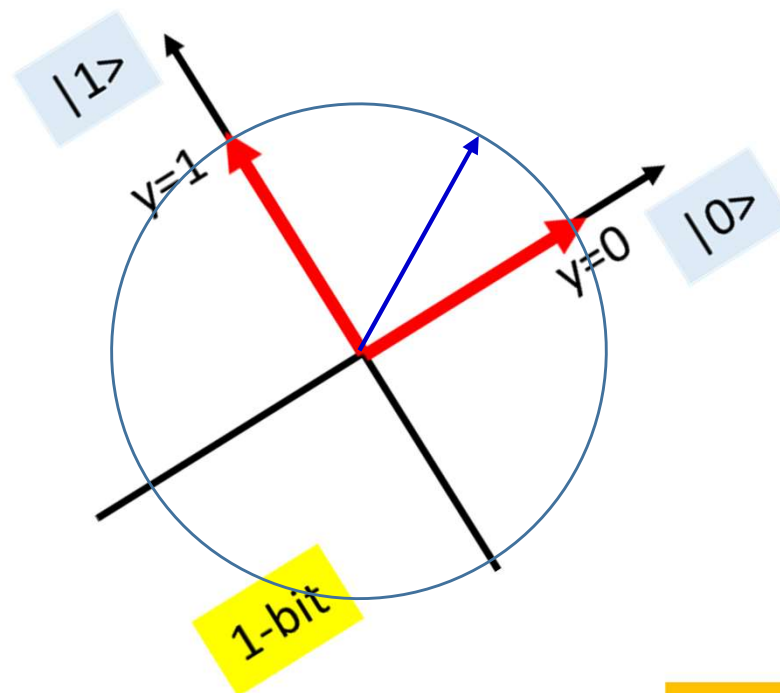
The qubit is rotation invariant



$$r_a|0\rangle + r_b e^{j\phi}|1\rangle$$

- Rotating the space doesn't matter
 - What is the relation between r_a and r_b

The qubit is rotation invariant

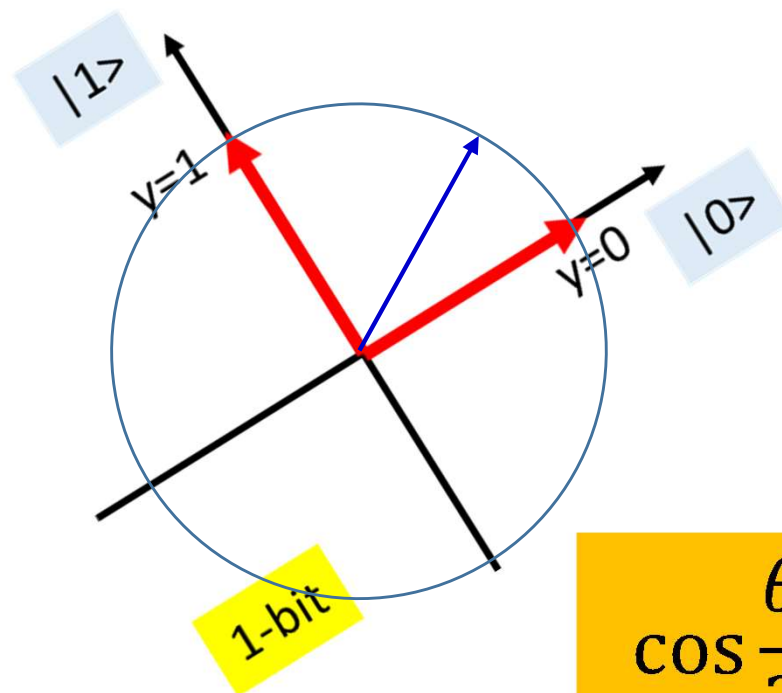


$$r_a|0\rangle + r_b e^{j\phi}|1\rangle$$

- Rotating the space doesn't matter
 - What is the relation between r_a and r_b

$$r_a^2 + r_b^2 = 1 \Rightarrow r_a \text{ and } r_b \text{ are analogous to the sine and cosine}$$

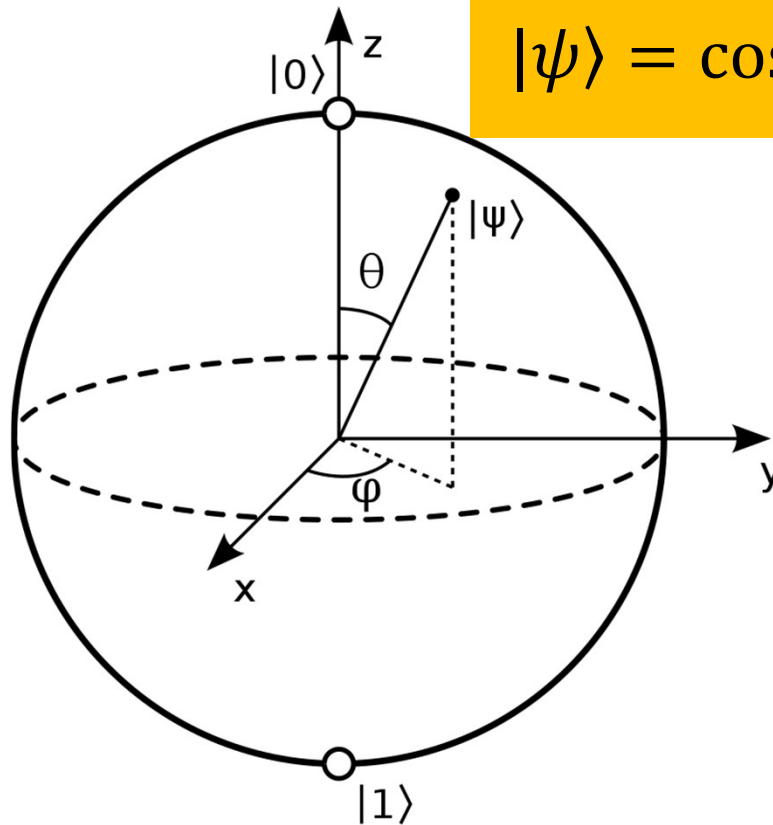
The qubit is rotation invariant



$$\cos \frac{\theta}{2} |0\rangle + \sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{j\phi} |1\rangle$$

- Set $r_a = \cos \frac{\theta}{2}$ and $r_b = \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$
 - The $\frac{1}{2}$ in the angle is for convenience of visualization...
- This is now a two-variable representation of two variables!
 - Can be visualized

The Bloch Sphere



$$|\psi\rangle = \cos\frac{\theta}{2}|0\rangle + \sin\frac{\theta}{2}e^{j\phi}|1\rangle$$

- Visualizing the qubit
 - 2 variable visualization in a 3D space
 - More on this later...