

COL863: Quantum Computation and Information

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Administrative Information

- Instructor
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- Grading Scheme
 - ① Quizzes (announced) : 25%
 - ② Minor 1 and 2: 20% each.
 - ③ Major: 35%
- Policy on cheating:
 - Anyone found using unfair means in the course will receive an **F** grade.

- Textbook: Quantum Computation and Quantum Information by *Michael A. Nielsen and Isaac L. Chuang*.
- Gradescope: A paperless grading system. Use the course code **74525Z** to register in the course on Gradescope. Use only your IIT Delhi email address to register on Gradescope.
- Course webpage: <http://www.cse.iitd.ac.in/~rjaiswal/Teaching/2021/COL863>.
 - The site will contain course information, references, problems. Please check this page regularly.

Introduction

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- What is *quantum mechanics*?
 - Mathematical framework for constructing physical theories.

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 - Mathematical framework of for designing quantum algorithms and information processing.
 - Examples where quantum information processing systems have gone beyond classical ones.
 - Factoring, discrete logarithm, superdense coding, quantum search...

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 - Mathematical framework of for designing quantum algorithms and information processing.
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- **This is not a Quantum Mechanics course!**
 - We will start and build from a purely mathematical abstraction without going into the details of how the mathematical framework was arrived at or why such a framework might be reasonable.

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Computation: A historical perspective

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- What about quantum mechanical processes? Can they be simulated efficiently by Turing Machines?
 - There are examples where this is **not known**.
 - So, quantum computation may be the (only) candidate counterexample to the extended Church-Turing Thesis.

- **Shannon's noiseless channel coding theorem**
 - Quantifies the physical resources required to store the output of an information source.
- **Shannon's noisy channel coding theorem**
 - Quantifies the amount of information that is possible to reliably transmit through a noisy channel.
- What is the quantum analogue of the physical resource for encoding information? **Qubit**
- Some surprising results:
 - Superdense coding: Two classical bits can be communicated using a single quantum bit.
 - Distributed quantum computation: Quantum computers can require exponentially less communication to solve certain problems compared to classical computers.

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 - Main issue: How do Alice and Bob share a secret key?
 - Quantum key distribution (Weisner,1960; Bennett and Brassard, 1984): Alice and Bob can communicate over a quantum channel to share a secret key even in presence of an adversary.
- **Public key cryptography**:
 - Alice and Bob both have a pair of public-private keys.
 - Messages are encoded using public key (that everyone knows) and can be decoded using the corresponding private key (that only the owner knows).
 - Such protocols exist. However, some popular ones become insecure if efficient algorithms for **factoring** and **discrete logarithm** problems are built.
 - Quantum algorithms: There are efficient quantum algorithms for both discrete logarithm and factoring.

- What is a **qubit**?
 - Qubit is to quantum computation as bit is to classical computation.
- Classical bit can be realised in real physical systems. Does it hold for qubits?
 - Yes but with a lot of *ifs* and *buts*. People would not have started talking about this concept if it were completely imaginary.
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- Okay ... the classical bit has two states 0 and 1 (and that is pretty much the full description of the bit). Is qubit similar?

- What is a **qubit**? Quantum analogue of classical bit.
- Classical bit can be realised in real physical systems. Does it hold for qubits? We will work with yes.
- The classical bit has two states 0 and 1. Is qubit similar?
 - Yes and no. A qubit can be in states $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$. However, these are not the only two states of the qubit.
 - A qubit can be in a **superposition** or linear combination of states:

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

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- What is a **qubit**? **Quantum analogue of classical bit.**
- Classical bit can be realised in real physical systems. Does it hold for qubits? **We will work with yes.**
- The classical bit has two states 0 and 1. Is qubit similar?
 - Yes and no. A qubit can be in states $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$. However, these are not the only two states of the qubit.
 - A qubit can also be in a **superposition** or linear combination of states such as: $|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$, where α and β are complex numbers.
- Then is it true that there are infinitely many possible states for a qubit?
 - Yes this is true.
- Can all these infinitely many states be recognised or measured? In other words, can one determine the state of a qubit (i.e., α, β)?
 - No. A measurement results in either 0 or 1 as output.
 - For a qubit in state $\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$, the probability of 0 is $|\alpha|^2$ and 1 is $|\beta|^2$ (*Note that this means $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$*)
 - Measurements changes the state of the qubit. If the measurement results in $x \in \{0, 1\}$, then the post-measurement state is $|x\rangle$.

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