## COL863: Quantum Computation and Information

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# Quantum Computation: Phase estimation 

## Quantum Computation <br> Phase estimation

## Phase estimation

Suppose a unitary operator $U$ has an eigenvector $|u\rangle$ with eigenvalue $e^{2 \pi i \varphi}$. The goal is to estimate $\varphi$.

- We will use the assumption that there are black-boxes that:
- prepare the state $|u\rangle$, and
- perform the controlled- $U^{2^{j}}$ operation.
- We will describe a phase estimation procedure that uses two registers:
- A $t$-qubit register initially in state $|0 . . .0\rangle$ (the value of $t$ to be decided later), and
- a register that begins in the state $|u\rangle$.


## Quantum Computation <br> <br> Phase estimation

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- Claim 1: The final state of the first register in the circuit below is given by:



## Quantum Computation <br> Phase estimation

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- Claim 1: The final state of the first register in the circuit below is given by:

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\frac{1}{2^{t / 2}}\left(|0\rangle+e^{(2 \pi i) 2^{t-1} \varphi}|1\rangle\right)\left(|0\rangle+e^{(2 \pi i) 2^{t-2} \varphi}|1\rangle\right) \ldots\left(|0\rangle+e^{(2 \pi i) 2^{0} \varphi}|1\rangle\right)=\frac{1}{2^{t / 2}} \sum_{k=0}^{2^{t}-1} e^{(2 \pi i) \varphi k}|k\rangle
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- Question: Suppose $\varphi$ may be expressed exactly as $\varphi=\left[0 \cdot \varphi_{1} \varphi_{2} \ldots \varphi_{t}\right]$. Suggest a way to retrieve the value of $\varphi$ ?


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- Question: Suppose $\varphi$ may be expressed exactly as $\bar{\varphi}=\left[0 \cdot \varphi_{1} \varphi_{2} \ldots \varphi_{t}\right]$. Suggest a way to retrieve the value of $\varphi$ ?
- Taking the inverse-fourier transform and measuring the value of the first register in the computational basis gives $\varphi$.
- In general, we will show that the inverse Fourier transform has the following behaviour:

$$
\frac{1}{2^{t / 2}} \sum_{j=0}^{2^{t}-1} e^{(2 \pi i) \varphi j}|j\rangle|u\rangle \rightarrow|\tilde{\varphi}\rangle|u\rangle
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where $|\tilde{\varphi}\rangle$ denotes a state that is a good estimator for $\varphi$ when measured.

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## Claim 2

It is sufficient to run the phase estimation technique with $t=n+\log \left(2+\frac{1}{2 \varepsilon}\right)$ in order to obtain $\varphi$ accurate to $n$ bits with probability at least $(1-\varepsilon)$.

## Quantum Computation <br> Phase estimation

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## Proof sketch

- Let $0 \leq b \leq 2^{t}-1$ be an integer such that $\frac{b}{2^{t}}=\left[0 \cdot b_{1} \ldots b_{t}\right]$ is the best $t$ bit approximation to $\varphi$ that is less than $\varphi$. Let $\delta=\varphi-\frac{b}{2^{t}}$ (which implies $0 \leq \delta \leq 2^{-t}$ ).
- Claim 2.1: Applying the inverse Fourier transform on the first register in state $\frac{1}{2^{t / 2}} \sum_{k=0}^{2^{t}-1} e^{(2 \pi i) \varphi k}|k\rangle$ ends in the following state:

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\frac{1}{2^{t}} \sum_{k, l=0}^{2^{t}-1} e^{\frac{-(2 \pi i) k l}{2^{t}}} e^{(2 \pi i) \varphi k}|I\rangle
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## Quantum Computation <br> \section*{Phase estimation}

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- Claim 2.2: Let $\alpha_{I}$ be the amplitude of $\left|(b+I) \bmod 2^{t}\right\rangle$. Then $\alpha_{I}=\frac{1}{2^{t}}\left(\frac{1-e^{(2 \pi i)\left(2^{t} \varphi-(b+l)\right)}}{1-e^{(2 \pi i)\left(\varphi-(b+l) / 2^{t}\right)}}\right)=\frac{1}{2^{t}}\left(\frac{1-e^{(2 \pi i)\left(2^{t} \delta-l\right)}}{1-e^{(2 \pi i)\left(\delta-I / 2^{t}\right)}}\right)$.


## Quantum Computation <br> Phase estimation

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- Claim 2.3: Let $e$ be the error parameter and let $m$ be the outcome of the measurement. Then

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\operatorname{Pr}[|m-b|>e] \leq \frac{1}{2(e-1)}
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- The claim follows by setting $t=n+p$ and $\varepsilon=\frac{1}{2\left(2^{p}-1\right)}$.


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## Phase estimation

Suppose a unitary operator $U$ has an eigenvector $|u\rangle$ with eigenvalue $e^{2 \pi i \varphi}$. The goal is to estimate $\varphi$.

- The phase estimation protocol works when the second register is set to the eigenstate $|u\rangle$. In general, this may not be feasible.
- Observation: Any general state $|\psi\rangle$ may be written in terms of the eigenstates of $U$ as $\sum_{u} c_{u}|u\rangle$.
- Exercise: The phase estimation procedure takes state $(|0\rangle)\left(\sum_{u} c_{u}|u\rangle\right)$ to $\sum_{u} c_{u}\left|\tilde{\varphi}_{u}\right\rangle|u\rangle$. If $t=n+\left\lceil\log \left(2+\frac{1}{2 \varepsilon}\right)\right\rceil$, then the probability of measuring $\varphi_{u}$ accurate to $n$ bits at the end of the phase estimation procedure is at least $\left|c_{u}\right|^{2}(1-\varepsilon)$.


## Quantum Computation <br> Phase estimation

## Phase estimation

Suppose a unitary operator $U$ has an eigenvector $|u\rangle$ with eigenvalue $e^{2 \pi i \varphi}$. The goal is to estimate $\varphi$.

- Phase estimation enables us to design quantum algorithms for the order-finding and factoring problems.



# Quantum Computation: Order finding 

## Quantum Computation <br> Phase estimation $\rightarrow$ Order-finding

- Given integers $N>x>0$ such that $x$ and $N$ have no common factors, the order of $x$ modulo $N$ is defined to be the least positive integer $r$ such that $x^{r}=1(\bmod N)$.
- Exercise: What is the order of 5 modulo 21 ?


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## Order finding

Given co-prime integers $N>x>0$, compute the order of $x$ modulo $N$.

- Exercise: Is there an algorithm that computes the order of $x$ modulo $N$ in time that is polynomial in $N$ ?


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## Order finding

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- Exercise: Is there an algorithm that computes the order of $x$ modulo $N$ in time that is polynomial in $N$ ? Yes
- Exercise: Is it an efficient algorithm?
- Let $L=\lceil\log n\rceil$. The number of bits needed to specify the problem is $O(L)$. So, an efficient algorithm should have running time that is polynomial in $L$.


## Quantum Computation <br> Phase estimation $\rightarrow$ Order-finding

## Order finding

Given co-prime integers $N>x>0$, compute the order of $x$ modulo $N$.

- Consider the operator $U$ that has the following behaviour:

$$
U|y\rangle \equiv\left\{\begin{array}{lc}
|x y(\bmod N)\rangle & \text { if } 0 \leq y \leq N-1 \\
|y\rangle & \text { if } N \leq y \leq 2^{L}-1
\end{array}\right.
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- Exercise: Show that $U$ is unitary.


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- Exercise: Show that $U$ is unitary.
- Exercise: Show that the states defined by

$$
\left|u_{s}\right\rangle \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} e^{-(2 \pi i) \frac{s k}{r}}\left|x^{k}(\bmod N)\right\rangle
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are the eigenstates of $U$. Find the corresponding eigenvalues.

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- Main idea for determining $r$ : We will use phase estimation to get an estimate on $\frac{s}{r}$ and then obtain $r$ from it.
- How do we implement controlled $U^{2^{j}}$ ?
- How do we prepare an eigenstate $\left|u_{s}\right\rangle$ ?


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- Main idea for determining $r$ : We will use phase estimation to get an estimate on $\frac{s}{r}$ and then obtain $r$ from it.
- How do we implement controlled $U^{2^{j}}$ ? Modular exponentiation
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## Quantum Computation

Phase estimation $\rightarrow$ Order-finding

## Modular exponentiation

Given $|z\rangle|y\rangle$, design a circuit that ends in the state $|z\rangle\left|x^{z} y(\bmod N)\right\rangle$.

- What we wanted to do was $|z\rangle|y\rangle \rightarrow|z\rangle U^{z_{t} 2^{t-1}} \ldots U^{z_{1} 2^{0}}|y\rangle$ but then this is the same as $|z\rangle\left|x^{z} y(\bmod N)\right\rangle$.
- Question: Suppose we work with the first register being of size $\overline{t=2 L+1}+\left\lceil\log \left(2+\frac{1}{2 \varepsilon}\right)\right\rceil=O(L)$ What would be the size of the circuit?


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- Main idea for determining $r$ : We will use phase estimation to get an estimate on $\frac{s}{r}$ and then obtain $r$ from it.
- How do we implement controlled $U^{2^{j}}$ ? Modular exponentiation
- How do we prepare an eigenstate $\left|u_{s}\right\rangle$ ?
- We work with $|1\rangle$ as the first register since $\frac{1}{\sqrt{r}} \sum_{s=0}^{r-1}\left|u_{s}\right\rangle=|1\rangle$.


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- So, we will argue that for each $0 \leq s \leq r-1$, we will obtain an estimate of $\varphi \approx \frac{s}{r}$ accurate to $2 L+1$ bits with probability at least $\frac{(1-\varepsilon)}{r}$.
- Question: How do we extract $r$ from this? Continued fractions


## Quantum Computation <br> Digression: Continued fractions

## Continued fraction

A finite simple continued fraction is defined by a collection of positive integers $a_{0}, \ldots, a_{N}$ :

$$
\left[a_{0}, \ldots, a_{N}\right] \equiv a_{0}+\frac{1}{a_{1}+\frac{1}{a_{2}+\frac{1}{\ldots+\frac{1}{a_{N}}}}}
$$

The $n^{\text {th }}$ convergent $(0 \leq n \leq N)$ of this continued fraction is defined to be $\left[a_{0}, \ldots, a_{n}\right]$.

- Theorem: Suppose $x \geq 1$ is a rational number. Then $x$ has a representation as a continued fraction, $x=\left[a_{0}, \ldots, a_{N}\right]$. This may be found by the continued fraction algorithm.
- Exercise: Find the continued fraction expansion of $\frac{31}{13}$.
- Question: What is the running time for the continued fractions algorithm for any given rational number $\frac{p}{q} \geq 1$ ?


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- Question: What is the running time for the continued fractions algorithm for any given rational number $\frac{p}{q} \geq 1$ ?
- Theorem: Let $a_{0}, \ldots, a_{N}$ be a sequence of positive numbers. Then $\left[a_{0}, \ldots, a_{n}\right]=\frac{p_{n}}{q_{n}}$, where $p_{n}$ and $q_{n}$ are real numbers defined inductively by $p_{0} \equiv 0, q_{0} \equiv 1, p_{1} \equiv 1+a_{0} a_{1}, q_{1} \equiv a_{1}$, and for $2 \leq n \leq N$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
p_{n} & \equiv a_{n} p_{n-1}+p_{n-2} \\
q_{n} & \equiv a_{n} q_{n-1}+q_{n-2}
\end{aligned}
$$

In the case when $a_{j}$ are positive integers, so too are $p_{j}$ and $q_{j}$ and moreover $q_{n} p_{n-1}-p_{n} q_{n-1}=(-1)^{n}$ for $n \geq 1$ which implies that $\operatorname{gcd}\left(p_{n}, q_{n}\right)=1$.

End

