

A 3D perspective view of a grid of cubes. Most cubes are grey, but one cube in the upper-left quadrant is gold. The cubes are arranged in a staggered pattern, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The lighting is soft, casting gentle shadows between the cubes.

# Information Theory

Book III

Spin state of an electron (disregard position and momentum) is an example of a qubit, which is a vector  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^2 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} : \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C} \right\}$ .

Standard basis of  $\mathbb{C}^2$ :  $|+\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $|-\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$   
 "spin up" "spin down"

$$|\psi\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = \alpha|+\rangle + \beta|-\rangle, \quad |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1.$$

An electron in this spin state is in a superposition of spin up and spin down states

A linear functional on  $\mathbb{C}^2$  is a linear transformation

$$\langle\phi| : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

bra notation

$$\langle\phi| = (r \ s) : \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} \mapsto (r \ s) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = r\alpha + s\beta \in \mathbb{C}$$

Dual basis:

$$\langle+| = |+\rangle^* = (1 \ 0) \quad \langle\phi|\psi\rangle$$

$$\langle-| = |-\rangle^* = (0 \ 1)$$

$$|\psi\rangle^* = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}^* = (\bar{\alpha} \ \bar{\beta}) = \bar{\alpha}\langle+| + \bar{\beta}\langle-|$$

$$\langle+|\psi\rangle = \langle+|(\alpha|+\rangle + \beta|-\rangle) = \alpha$$

$$\langle-|\psi\rangle = \beta$$

Spin states are unit vectors in  $\mathbb{C}^2$  i.e.  $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$ .

i.e. in  $\mathbb{R}^4$

so  $|\psi\rangle \in S^3 =$  unit sphere in  $\mathbb{R}^4$ .

$$\alpha_1^2 + \alpha_2^2 + \beta_1^2 + \beta_2^2 = 1$$

$$\begin{cases} \alpha = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 i \\ \beta = \beta_1 + \beta_2 i \end{cases} \} \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \beta_1, \beta_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

A measurement of an electron in this spin state yields a single bit of classical information:

- spin up, with probability  $|\alpha|^2$ ;
- spin down, with probability  $|\beta|^2$ .

This says what happens when we measure with respect to the z-axis. (For measurement in a different direction/axis, we'll say later.)

As soon as the measurement is taken, the spin state collapses; all knowledge of  $\alpha, \beta$  is then lost.

Any time we measure a spin state  $|\psi\rangle \in S^3$ , it collapses.

But it is possible to perform certain reversible operations  $|\psi\rangle \mapsto A|\psi\rangle$  where  $A$  is a  $2 \times 2$  unitary matrix ( $AA^* = A^*A = I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ ) over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

Special examples of unitary matrices are scalar matrices  $\begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $|\lambda| = 1$

These perform an operation on  $|\psi\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$  whose only effect is to alter the phase of  $\alpha, \beta$

$$|\psi\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} \mapsto A|\psi\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda\alpha \\ \lambda\beta \end{pmatrix} = \lambda \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = e^{i\theta} \quad (\theta \in [0, 2\pi))$$

which has no physical significance. For this reason the so-called density matrix

$$\underbrace{|\psi\rangle}_{2 \times 1} \underbrace{\langle\psi|}_{1 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\alpha} & \bar{\beta} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha\bar{\alpha} & \alpha\bar{\beta} \\ \beta\bar{\alpha} & \beta\bar{\beta} \end{pmatrix}$$

$2 \times 2$

Hermitian  $2 \times 2$  matrix

$$H \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times 2} \quad (2 \times 2 \text{ complex matrix})$$

$$\text{satisfying } H^\dagger = H$$

which holds all the physically significant information of the single qubit.

The map  $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \lambda\alpha \\ \lambda\beta \end{pmatrix}$  does not change this density matrix.

Entanglement typically occurs when we include multiple electrons in our system.

Start by reviewing statistical dependence works:

Let's say we take a random individual A from a population.

Imagine the population is 40% male, 60% female; 30% short, 70% tall.

Sampling by selecting one person gives two bits: MS, MT, FS, or FT.

Combinations of attributes:

12%, 28%, 18%, 42% if gender is independent of height.

In this example, gender and height are independent.

		S	T	
Gender	M	0.12	0.28	0.4
	F	0.18	0.42	0.6
		0.3	0.7	1

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.4 \\ 0.6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.3 & 0.7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.12 & 0.28 \\ 0.18 & 0.42 \end{bmatrix}$$

Outer product of two vectors is a rank 1.

More typical distribution

		S	T	
Gender	M	0.1	0.3	0.4
	F	0.2	0.4	0.6
		0.3	0.7	1

The matrix  $\begin{bmatrix} 0.1 & 0.3 \\ 0.2 & 0.4 \end{bmatrix}$  has rank 2.

In this second example gender and height are (statistically) dependent.

If one electron has (spin) state  $|\psi_1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2$  and a second electron has spin state  $|\psi_2\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma \\ \delta \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2$   
 $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$   $|\gamma|^2 + |\delta|^2 = 1$

the pair of electrons has state  $|\psi_n\rangle = \alpha_{11}|++\rangle + \alpha_{12}|+-\rangle + \alpha_{21}|-+\rangle + \alpha_{22}|--\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^4$

If the two electrons are not entangled then

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & \delta \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{rank 1.}$$

$$\alpha_{ij} \in \mathbb{C}, \quad |\alpha_{11}|^2 + |\alpha_{12}|^2 + |\alpha_{21}|^2 + |\alpha_{22}|^2 = 1.$$

↑  
prob. of  
both electrons  
having spin up

If the matrix has rank  $\geq 2$  then the two electrons are entangled.

Ex.  $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|++\rangle + |--\rangle)$  i.e.  $\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$  } Examples of EPR pairs  
 $|\psi'\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|+-\rangle + |-+\rangle)$  i.e.  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

One way to talk about the spin state of a set of  $n$  electrons is

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n} \alpha_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n} |\pm \pm \pm \dots \pm\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^{2^n} \quad \sum |\alpha_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n}|^2 = 1$$

$i_1 \in \{0, 1\}$   
 $i_2 \in \{0, 1\}$   
 $\vdots$   
 $i_n \in \{0, 1\}$

all  $2^n$  combinations of  $\pm$

$(\alpha_{i_1 i_2 \dots i_n} : i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n \in \{0, 1\})$  is a  
 $\underbrace{2 \times 2 \times 2 \times \dots \times 2}_n$  array or tensor

$\mathbb{C}^2 = \underbrace{\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{C}^2}_{n \text{ times}}$  tensor product. Take basis  $|+\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $|-\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

has basis  $|++\dots+\rangle = |+\rangle \otimes |+\rangle \otimes \dots \otimes |+\rangle$   
 $|++\dots+-\rangle = |+\rangle \otimes |+\rangle \otimes \dots \otimes |-\rangle$   
 $\vdots$   
 $|-\dots-\rangle = |-\rangle \otimes |-\rangle \otimes \dots \otimes |-\rangle$

More generally if  $v_i \in \mathbb{C}^2$  ( $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ )

then  $v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n \in \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ . (pure tensors)  
 $\mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^2 \times \dots \times \mathbb{C}^2 \xrightarrow{\otimes} \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 = \mathbb{C}^{2^n}$  (simple)

$(v_1, \dots, v_n) \mapsto v_1 \otimes v_2 \otimes \dots \otimes v_n$  this map is multilinear  
 i.e. linear in each argument separately.

Bell's Theorem

Gleason's Theorem

Kochen-Specker Theorem