

Today's outline - March 29, 2022





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- Mixed and pure states



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- Properties of traces



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- Density operators



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Reading assignment: 10.2 – 10.3



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Homework Assignment #06:

See Blackboard

Due Tuesday, April 05, 2022

Quantum circuit simulator <https://algassert.com/quirk>



Mixed and pure states (ensembles)

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When all these systems are measured, the results are the same as for the measurement of the **pure** states but the system is fundamentally different since **pure** states have phase information that can produce interference effects not found in **mixed** states



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Knowing the **mixed** states of all the subsystems only provides full knowledge of the system when it is unentangled in that specific subspace decomposition



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This is a useful method of computing an inner product



Restricting operators to subsystems

For any operator O_{AB} on $A \otimes B$, there is a family of operators on subsystem A that is defined by any pair of states $|b_1\rangle$ and $|b_2\rangle$ in B as $\langle b_1|O_{AB}|b_2\rangle : A \rightarrow A$



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$$\begin{aligned} \langle x | O \otimes I | x \rangle &= \left(\sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \overline{x_{ij}} \langle \alpha_i | \otimes \langle \beta_j | \right) (O \otimes I) \left(\sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} x_{kl} |\alpha_k\rangle \otimes |\beta_l\rangle \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} \overline{x_{ij}} x_{kl} \langle \alpha_i | O | \alpha_k \rangle \langle \beta_j | \beta_l | \xrightarrow{\delta_{jl}} = \sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \overline{x_{ij}} x_{kj} \langle \alpha_i | O | \alpha_k \rangle \end{aligned}$$



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All information from subsystem A alone can be obtained with the density operator



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Suppose the subsystem is the whole system, that is $A = X$, then the system is in a pure state $|x\rangle = \sum_i x_i |\chi_i\rangle$ with basis $\{|\chi_i\rangle\}$



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The density operator is thus



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To obtain the density matrix ρ_x^A use the partial trace over B of ρ_x^X



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$$\begin{aligned}\rho_x^A &= \text{Tr}_B(\rho_x^X) = \text{Tr}_B \left(\sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} \overline{x_{ij}} x_{kl} |\alpha_k\rangle |\beta_l\rangle \langle \alpha_i| \langle \beta_j| \right) \\ &= \sum_{u=0}^{M-1} \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} \left[\sum_{w=0}^{L-1} \langle \alpha_u | \langle \beta_w | \left(\sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} \overline{x_{ij}} x_{kl} |\alpha_k\rangle |\beta_l\rangle \langle \alpha_i| \langle \beta_j| \right) |\alpha_v\rangle |\beta_w\rangle \right] |\alpha_u\rangle \langle \alpha_v| \\ &= \sum_{u=0}^{M-1} \sum_{v=0}^{M-1} \sum_{w=0}^{L-1} \overline{x_{vw}} x_{uw} |\alpha_u\rangle \langle \alpha_v|\end{aligned}$$



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However, it is not possible to recover the state of the entire system from the set of all subsystem density operators



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Alice controls the first qubit of an EPR pair, $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|00\rangle + |11\rangle)$



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$$\rho_{\psi}^A = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \rho_{\psi}^B = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$