

A quantum state "is" any vector  $(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N)$  of complex entries such that  $\|a\|^2 = |a_1|^2 + |a_2|^2 + \dots + |a_N|^2 = 1$ . Unit vector

When  $N = 2^n$ , we say  $n$  is the number of qubits (implicitly if not explicitly)

The allowed operations  $A$  on quantum states "are"  $N \times N$  matrices that map any unit vector to a unit vector. Mathematically, this is equivalent to

$$A \cdot A^* = I = A^* \cdot A \quad \text{Unitary \{matrix operator\}}$$

Notation (YMMV):  $\bar{a}$  or  $a^*$ : complex conjugate of complex scalar  $a$   
 E.g. if  $w = \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}}$  then  $\bar{w} = \frac{1-i}{\sqrt{2}}$  or write it as  $w^*$

• If  $x = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ \vdots \\ a_N \end{pmatrix}$  then  $x^* = (\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2, \dots, \bar{a}_N)$  as a row vector.  
 $\bar{x}$  would only mean  $\begin{pmatrix} \bar{a}_1 \\ \bar{a}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \bar{a}_N \end{pmatrix}$

• If  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$ , transpose  $A^T = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{21} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$  Conjugate transpose, also called adjoint  $A^* = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{a}_{11} & \bar{a}_{21} \\ \bar{a}_{12} & \bar{a}_{22} \end{bmatrix}$

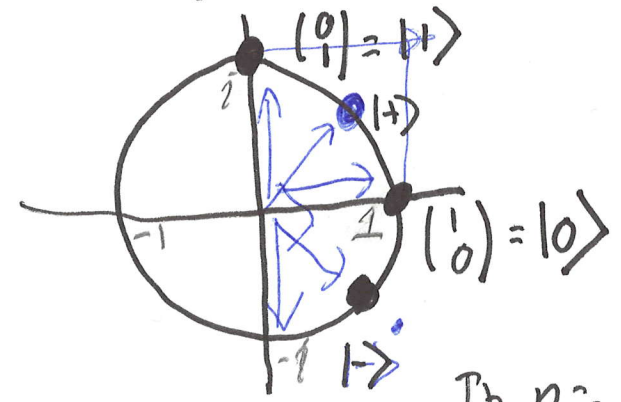
YMMV: Many (newer) sources write  $A^\dagger$  for conjugate transpose, also  $x^\dagger$ .

OMWV: Dirac Notation:  $|x\rangle$  denotes a column vector in which "x" is an attribute we can treat as basic.  
 Our mileage will vary. Its (conj) transpose is  $|x\rangle^* = \langle x|$  as a row vector "bra-x"  $\langle x|y\rangle$  is a bracket

One Qubit:  $N=1$ ,  $N=2$ . Standard Basis:  $e_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$   $e_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Two Ways to Visualize: "Cartesian" and "Bloch"

Cartesian Unit "Circle" for a Qubit



Good intuition: Vectors at 90° angle are orthogonal.

The blue point is  $\frac{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}{\sqrt{2}}$

Its Dirac name is  $|+\rangle = \frac{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$

Also  $\frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$  is called  $|-\rangle$

Defn: The real inner product for two vectors  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$   $y = (y_1, \dots, y_k)$

is  $x \cdot y = \sum_{i=1}^k x_i y_i$

The complex inner product, however, conjugates  $x$ :  $\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^k \bar{x}_i y_i$ . Dirac:  $\langle x | y \rangle = \overline{\langle y | x \rangle}$

Norm:  $\|x\| = \langle x | x \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^k \bar{x}_i x_i$  Unit vectors have  $\|x\| = 1$ .

Defn:  $x$  and  $y$  are orthogonal if  $\langle x, y \rangle = 0$  Examples:

$\langle 0 | 1 \rangle = \langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}^* \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1 \cdot 0 + 0 \cdot 1 = 0$  as a scalar

$\langle + | - \rangle = \langle \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}}{\sqrt{2}} \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} (1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot (-1)) = 0$

Some unitary matrices

Hadamard  $H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$   $H^* = H$   $H$  is self-adjoint, aka Hermitian.  $HH^* = HH = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = I$   $Y^* = Y$

$X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  note:  $X \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$   $X \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  aka NOT,  $X^2 = I$   $Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$   $Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$