

QM fundamentals:  
Projective Measurements

"Axiom" A physical system corresponds to a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  (If  $\mathcal{H}$  is finite-dimensional, then the system is bounded).

At any given time the system is in a state represented by a unit vector  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}$

$|\psi\rangle$  and  $e^{i\theta}|\psi\rangle$  represent the same physical state

[We will redefine a state later to fix this defect.]

Def: Given a  $\mathbb{C}$ -space  $\mathcal{H}$ , A complete set of orthogonal projectors (CSOP) is

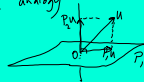
a set  $\{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$  of projectors on  $\mathcal{H}$  such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^k P_j = I (=Id_{\mathcal{H}})$$

Fact: in a CSOP  $\{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$ ,

$$P_i P_j = 0 \text{ for all } i \neq j.$$

Ex:  $\mathbb{R}^2$  analogy



Given a system  $\mathcal{H}$  (bounded), A projective measurement on

$\mathcal{H}$  corresponds to a CSOP  $\{P_1, \dots, P_k\}$  on  $\mathcal{H}$ .

Given  $\mathcal{H}$  is in state  $|\psi\rangle$

Measuring with this CSOP results in one of the "outcomes"  $1, \dots, k$ , where outcome  $i$  occurs with probability  $\|P_i|\psi\rangle\|^2$

Given outcome  $i$ , the post-measurement state changes to  $\frac{P_i|\psi\rangle}{\|P_i|\psi\rangle\|}$ .

Note:  $\|P_i|\psi\rangle\|^2$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \langle P_i|\psi\rangle, P_i|\psi\rangle \rangle \\
 &= \langle P_i|\psi\rangle \rangle^* P_i|\psi\rangle \\
 &= |\psi\rangle^* P_i^* P_i|\psi\rangle \\
 &= \langle \psi | P_i | \psi \rangle \\
 &= \langle \psi | P_i | \psi \rangle = P_i[i]
 \end{aligned}$$

Note:  $|\psi\rangle$  &  $e^{i\theta}|\psi\rangle$  give the same prob dist of outcomes of a proj. measurement:

Let  $|\psi'\rangle := e^{i\theta}|\psi\rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\langle \psi' | P_i | \psi' \rangle \\
 &= \langle e^{i\theta}|\psi\rangle \rangle^* P_i \langle e^{i\theta}|\psi\rangle \rangle \\
 &= \langle \psi | e^{-i\theta} P_i e^{i\theta} | \psi \rangle \\
 &= \langle \psi | P_i | \psi \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

Post-measurement state is

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{P_i|\psi\rangle}{\|P_i|\psi\rangle\|} = \frac{P_i|\psi'\rangle}{\|P_i|\psi'\rangle\|} \\
 &= \frac{e^{i\theta} P_i|\psi\rangle}{\|P_i|\psi\rangle\|} = \frac{e^{i\theta} P_i|\psi\rangle}{\|P_i|\psi\rangle\|} = e^{i\theta} \frac{P_i|\psi\rangle}{\|P_i|\psi\rangle\|}
 \end{aligned}$$

time post-meas state  
is the same

Ex:  $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^2$

$$P_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \left. \vphantom{P_1} \right\} \text{c.sop}$$

$$P_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

More generally,  $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^n$

$$P_1, \dots, P_n \text{ s.t.}$$

$$P_j = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Def: A qubit is a 2-dimensional physical system. ( $\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^2$ )

$$|0\rangle := e_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} (= |\uparrow\rangle)$$

$$|1\rangle := e_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} (= |\downarrow\rangle)$$

(qubit = "quantum bit")

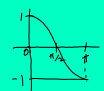
1-qubit states. Generally a qubit state is of the form

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

for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$

Can assume (by adjusting the phase factor) that  $\alpha \geq 0$ .  
So  $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$

Choose unique  $\theta, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$  such that  $\alpha = \cos(\frac{\theta}{2})$



$$|\alpha|^2 = \cos^2(\frac{\theta}{2}) = \alpha^2$$

$$|\beta|^2 = 1 - |\alpha|^2 = 1 - \cos^2(\frac{\theta}{2}) = \sin^2(\frac{\theta}{2})$$

$$\therefore |\beta| = \sin(\frac{\theta}{2})$$

So  $\beta = e^{i\varphi} \sin(\frac{\theta}{2})$

for some  $\varphi$   
( $\varphi$  is unique if constrained to  $[0, 2\pi)$ .)

$$|\psi\rangle := \cos(\frac{\theta}{2})|0\rangle + e^{i\varphi} \sin(\frac{\theta}{2})|1\rangle$$

$$0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$$

$$0 \leq \varphi < 2\pi$$

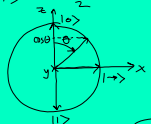
Bit value projective measurement:

$$P_{10} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, P_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_{10}|\psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \\ e^{i\varphi} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\langle \psi | P_{10} | \psi \rangle = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} & e^{-i\varphi} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \cos^2(\frac{\theta}{2}) = \frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2}$$

Def:

$$\langle \psi | P_{10} | \psi \rangle = \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{2}$$


$\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$

$$|\rightarrow\rangle = \cos \frac{\pi}{4} |0\rangle + e^{i\varphi} \sin \frac{\pi}{4} |1\rangle$$

$\left[ \varphi = 0 \text{ for } |\rightarrow\rangle \right]$

$$|\rightarrow\rangle = \frac{|0\rangle + |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} =: |\rightarrow\rangle$$

$|\leftarrow\rangle : \varphi = \pi$

$$= \frac{|0\rangle + e^{i\pi} |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} =: |\leftarrow\rangle$$

$\Theta$  &  $\varphi$  are the spherical coordinates of the electron spin direction.

Def: The Pauli spin matrices are

$$\sigma_0 := I := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_1 := X := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_2 := Y := \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_3 := Z := \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Given  $|\psi\rangle = \cos\frac{\Theta}{2} + e^{i\varphi} \sin\frac{\Theta}{2}$

Consider the operator

$$\rho := |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{1-dimensional} \\ \text{projector} \end{array} \right]$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \cos\frac{\Theta}{2} \\ e^{i\varphi} \sin\frac{\Theta}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos\frac{\Theta}{2} & e^{-i\varphi} \sin\frac{\Theta}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \cos^2\frac{\Theta}{2} & e^{-i\varphi} \cos\frac{\Theta}{2} \sin\frac{\Theta}{2} \\ e^{i\varphi} \cos\frac{\Theta}{2} \sin\frac{\Theta}{2} & \sin^2\frac{\Theta}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \cos\Theta & e^{-i\varphi} \sin\Theta \\ e^{i\varphi} \sin\Theta & 1 - \cos\Theta \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} e^{i\varphi} = \cos\varphi + i \sin\varphi \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \cos\Theta & \sin\Theta \cos\varphi - i \sin\Theta \sin\varphi \\ \sin\Theta \cos\varphi + i \sin\Theta \sin\varphi & 1 - \cos\Theta \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left( \begin{array}{l} I + \sin\Theta \cos\varphi X + \sin\Theta \sin\varphi Y \\ + \cos\Theta Z \end{array} \right)$$

Spherical  $\rightarrow$  cartesian:

$$X = \sin\Theta \cos\varphi$$

$$Y = \sin\Theta \sin\varphi$$

$$Z = \cos\Theta$$