

There is a useful way of representing linear operators which makes use of the inner product.

Take  $|v\rangle$  in inner product space  $V$   
 $|w\rangle$  " " " "  $W$

Define  $|w\rangle\langle v|$  to be the linear operator from  $V \rightarrow W$  such that

$$(|w\rangle\langle v|)(|v'\rangle) \equiv |w\rangle\langle v|v'\rangle = \underbrace{\langle v|v'\rangle}_{\in \mathbb{C}} |w\rangle \in W$$

Linear combination of outer products:

$$\left(\sum_i \alpha_i |w_i\rangle\langle v_i|\right)(|v'\rangle) \triangleq \sum_i \alpha_i \langle v_i|v'\rangle |w_i\rangle$$

Usefulness of outer product notation:

Consider an orthonormal basis set  $|i\rangle$

$$|v\rangle = \sum_i v_i |i\rangle$$

$$\langle i|v\rangle = v_i$$

$$\text{So } \left(\sum_i |i\rangle\langle i|\right)|v\rangle = \sum_i |i\rangle\langle i|v\rangle = \sum_i v_i |i\rangle = |v\rangle$$

This is true for all  $|v\rangle$ 's in  $V$ !

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\sum_i |i\rangle\langle i| = \mathbb{1}} \quad \text{d is dimension of } V$$

This is known as the Completeness relation

problem: check it is true for bases  $[|0\rangle, |1\rangle]$  &  $[|v_1\rangle, |v_2\rangle]$

## First use of Completeness relation

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Representation of an operator in the outer product notation

Suppose we have a linear operator  $A: V \rightarrow W$

$|v_i\rangle$  is an orthonormal basis in  $V$

$|w_j\rangle$  " " " " "  $W$

$$\text{Then } A = I_W A I_V$$

$$\text{So, } A = \sum_j |w_j\rangle \langle w_j| A \sum_i |v_i\rangle \langle v_i|$$

$$A = \sum_{ij} \langle w_j | A | v_i \rangle |w_j\rangle \langle v_i|$$

which is called the outer product representation of  $A$ .

### Exercise 2.9 p. 68

Pauli operators and the outer product.  $V = W = \mathbb{C}^2$

The Pauli matrices can be considered as operators with respect to an orthonormal basis  $|0\rangle, |1\rangle$  for a two-dimensional Hilbert space.

Express each of the Pauli matrices in the outer product notation ( $\sigma_x, \sigma_y, \sigma_z$ )

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

$$|0\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ \& \ } |1\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \leftarrow \text{[selected basis vectors]}$$

$$\sigma_x = \sum_{i,j=0}^1 \langle i | \sigma_x | j \rangle |i\rangle \langle j|$$

$$\langle 0 | \sigma_x | 1 \rangle = [1 \ 0] \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = [1 \ 0] \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 1$$

$$\langle 0 | \sigma_x | 0 \rangle = [1 \ 0] \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = [1 \ 0] \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\langle 1 | \sigma_x | 0 \rangle = [0 \ 1] \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = [0 \ 1] \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 1$$

$$\langle 1 | \sigma_x | 1 \rangle = [0 \ 1] \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = [0 \ 1] \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma_x = +1 |0\rangle \langle 1| + 0 |0\rangle \langle 0| + 1 |1\rangle \langle 0| + 0 |1\rangle \langle 1|$$

$$\sigma_x = |0\rangle \langle 1| + |1\rangle \langle 0|$$

The outer product representations of  $\sigma_y$  and  $\sigma_z$  can be derived the same way.

Note: The outer product representation would be different if we had selected another orthonormal base in  $\mathbb{C}^2$ . As an exercise, you could repeat the analysis above using the basis  $|v_1\rangle, |v_2\rangle$  on page 4.

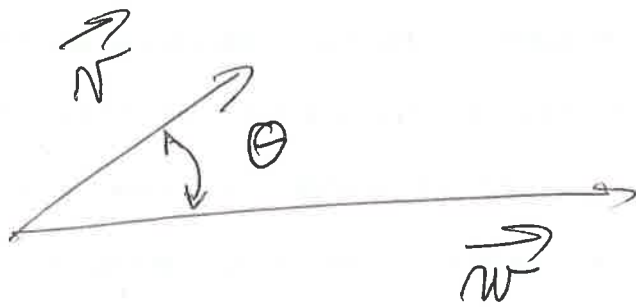
Review

in  $\mathbb{R}^3$

Before 19

$$\|\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}\| \leq \|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\| \quad \text{Cauchy-Schwarz inequality}$$

$$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = \|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\| \cos \theta$$



$$-1 \leq \cos \theta = \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}}{\|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\|} \leq +1$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{|\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}| \leq \|\vec{v}\| \|\vec{w}\|}$$



# Second application of the completeness relation

The CAUCHY-SCHWARTZ inequality

$$\forall |v\rangle, |w\rangle \in \mathcal{V} \text{ (dimension } d\text{)}$$
$$|\langle v|w\rangle|^2 \leq \langle v|v\rangle \langle w|w\rangle$$

We use the Gram-Schmidt procedure to construct an orthonormal basis of vectors  $|i\rangle$  with the first  $|i\rangle$  as

$$|i\rangle = \frac{|w\rangle}{\| |w\rangle \|} = \frac{|w\rangle}{\sqrt{\langle w|w\rangle}}$$

Using  $\sum_i |i\rangle \langle i| = \mathbb{1}$  (completeness relation)

$$\langle v|v\rangle \langle w|w\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^d \langle v|i\rangle \langle i|v\rangle \langle w|w\rangle$$

Dropping some non-negative terms (keeping only  $i=1$  term)

$$\langle v|v\rangle \langle w|w\rangle \geq \left[ \frac{\langle v|w\rangle \langle w|v\rangle}{(\sqrt{\langle w|w\rangle})^2} \right] \langle w|w\rangle$$
$$\langle v|v\rangle \langle w|w\rangle \geq \langle v|w\rangle \langle w|v\rangle$$

Hence  $\langle v|w\rangle \langle w|v\rangle \leq \langle v|v\rangle \langle w|w\rangle$

$$\text{or } |\langle v|w\rangle|^2 \leq \langle v|v\rangle \langle w|w\rangle$$

Equality occurs if  $|v\rangle = \alpha |w\rangle$ , i.e., if the 2 vectors are linearly related ( $\alpha$  is a real number)

# Section 2.1.5 Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues

Definition (a) Eigenvector of linear operator  $A$  is a non-zero vector  $|v\rangle$  such that

$$A |v\rangle = \lambda |v\rangle$$

where  $\lambda$  is a complex number known as the corresponding eigenvalue.

(b) Eigenvalues? are solutions of

$$\det |A - \lambda \mathbb{1}| = 0$$

polynomial in  $\lambda$

The eigenspace corresponding to an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  is the set of vectors with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ . It is a vector subspace of the vector space on which  $A$  acts.

Diagonal representation of  $A$  also known as orthonormal decomposition of  $A$

$$A = \sum_i A_i |i\rangle \langle i|$$

where  $|i\rangle$  vectors form an orthonormal set of eigenvectors of  $A$ .

An operator is diagonalizable if it has a diagonal representation. Soon, we will see the necessary and sufficient conditions for an operator to be diagonalizable

# Example

Bob

Intro to Quantum Computing : ECES 622 - Winter 2007

Midterm Exam: Tuesday February 13, 2007

**Problem I:** Consider the following matrix A

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

- (1) • Calculate the eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors of this matrix. Normalize the eigenvectors.
- (2) • What are the angles  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  in the general expression of the qubit on the Bloch sphere, i.e.,

$$|\xi_n^+\rangle = \cos\frac{\theta}{2}|0\rangle + \sin\frac{\theta}{2}e^{i\phi}|1\rangle, \quad (2)$$

associated to the two eigenvectors of the matrix A?

- (3) • Give the outer product representation of A using the basis formed by the two kets  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$ , i.e., what are the coefficients ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ , and  $\delta$ ) in the decomposition:

$$A = \alpha|0\rangle\langle 0| + \beta|0\rangle\langle 1| + \gamma|1\rangle\langle 0| + \delta|1\rangle\langle 1| \quad (3)$$

- (4) • Give the expression of a *non-diagonal* matrix which commutes with the matrix A. Explain how you obtained that matrix B.

(1) 
$$\begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 1-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \rightarrow (1-\lambda)^2 - 4 = 0$$
  

$$\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 3 = 0 \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4+12}}{2} = 3, -1$$

$\lambda = 3 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 2 \\ 2 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = |+\rangle_x$

$\lambda = -1 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = |-\rangle_x$

(3) 
$$A = 1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + 1 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\alpha |0\rangle\langle 0|$     $\beta |0\rangle\langle 1|$     $\gamma |1\rangle\langle 0|$     $\delta |1\rangle\langle 1|$

(4)  $\begin{pmatrix} X & \\ & B_{11} \end{pmatrix}$  has eigenvectors  $|+\rangle_x$   $|-\rangle_x$   
 $\rightarrow$  Commute with A.

Example  $\sigma_z = z = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$  has obviously eigenvalues 1 and -1

Furthermore  $\sigma_z \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = +1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  or  $\sigma_z |0\rangle = +1 |0\rangle$

$$\sigma_z \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = -1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } \sigma_z |1\rangle = -1 |1\rangle$$

Therefore the diagonal representation of  $\sigma_z$  is (orthonormal decomposition)

$$\sigma_z = (+1) |0\rangle\langle 0| + (-1) |1\rangle\langle 1|$$

$$\sigma_z = |0\rangle\langle 0| - |1\rangle\langle 1|$$

Backwards

$$|0\rangle\langle 0| = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (\text{Kronecker product})$$

$$|1\rangle\langle 1| = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$z = \sigma_z \text{ is indeed } = |0\rangle\langle 0| - |1\rangle\langle 1| = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$



## Section 2.1.6 Adjoint and Hermitian Operators

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If  $A$  is a linear operator on a Hilbert space  $V$  there exists a unique operator  $A^\dagger$  ( $\dagger$  is pronounced dagger) on  $V$  such that

$$\forall |v\rangle, |w\rangle \in V,$$

$$\langle |v\rangle, A|w\rangle \rangle = \langle A^\dagger|v\rangle, |w\rangle \rangle$$

$A^\dagger$  is called ADJOINT or HERMITIAN CONJUGATE of  $A$ .

If  $A, B$  are linear operators on  $V$   $A^\dagger, B^\dagger$  their respective adjoints, then  $(AB)^\dagger = B^\dagger A^\dagger$

Proof:

$$\langle |v\rangle, AB|w\rangle \rangle = \langle (AB)^\dagger|v\rangle, |w\rangle \rangle$$

$$\langle |v\rangle, A[B|w\rangle] \rangle = \langle A^\dagger|v\rangle, B|w\rangle \rangle$$

$$= \langle (B^\dagger A^\dagger)|v\rangle, |w\rangle \rangle$$

So, indeed  $(AB)^\dagger = B^\dagger A^\dagger$

By convention,  $|v\rangle^\dagger \equiv \langle v|$  and  $\langle v|^\dagger \equiv |v\rangle$

So  $(A|v\rangle)^\dagger = \langle v|A$

# If $A^\dagger = A$ Hermitian Properties of Adjoint

- ①  $(A^\dagger)^\dagger = A$
- ②  $(\sum_i a_i A_i)^\dagger = \sum_i a_i^* A_i^\dagger$  adjoint operator is antilinear
- ③  $(|w\rangle\langle v|)^\dagger = |v\rangle\langle w| \Rightarrow |v\rangle\langle w|$  is Hermitian for any vector  $|v\rangle$

## Matrix Representation of Adjoint

$$A^\dagger = (A^*)^T$$

\* stands for complex conjugation  
 T " " transpose

Example:  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1+3i & 2i \\ 1+i & 1-4i \end{bmatrix}$

$$A^\dagger = \begin{bmatrix} 1-3i & -2i \\ 1-i & 1+4i \end{bmatrix}^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1-3i & 1-i \\ -2i & 1+4i \end{bmatrix}$$

An operator whose adjoint is A itself

is said to be SELF-ADJOINT  
OR HERMITIAN

$A^\dagger = A$   
 ↓  
 diagonal elements are real

$$(A^\dagger)^\dagger = A.$$

Proof

$$\text{Call } B = A^\dagger$$

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$$(|n\rangle, B^\dagger |n\rangle)$$

"

$$(B |n\rangle, |n\rangle)$$

"

$$(A^\dagger |n\rangle, |n\rangle)$$

"

$$(|n\rangle, A |n\rangle)$$

Equal  $\rightarrow B^\dagger = A$

or

$$(A^\dagger)^\dagger = A$$

$$\left(\sum_i \alpha_i A_i\right)^\dagger = \sum_i \alpha_i^* A_i^\dagger$$

First  $(A+B)^\dagger = A^\dagger + B^\dagger$   
 $(|n\rangle, (A+B)|m\rangle) = ((A+B)^\dagger |n\rangle, |m\rangle)$

$$(|n\rangle, (A+B)|m\rangle) \stackrel{(1)}{=} ((A+B)^\dagger |n\rangle, |m\rangle)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\stackrel{(2)}{=} (|n\rangle, A|m\rangle + B|m\rangle) = (|n\rangle, A|m\rangle) + (|n\rangle, B|m\rangle) \\ &= (A^\dagger |n\rangle, |m\rangle) + (B^\dagger |n\rangle, |m\rangle) \\ &= ((A^\dagger + B^\dagger) |n\rangle, |m\rangle) \end{aligned}$$

So  $(A+B)^\dagger = A^\dagger + B^\dagger$  indeed

Second  $(\alpha A)^\dagger = \alpha^* A^\dagger$

$$\begin{aligned} (|n\rangle, \alpha A |m\rangle) &\stackrel{(1)}{=} \alpha (|n\rangle, A |m\rangle) \\ &\stackrel{(2)}{=} \alpha (A^\dagger |n\rangle, |m\rangle) \\ &\stackrel{(3)}{=} \alpha (|n\rangle, A^\dagger |m\rangle) \\ &\stackrel{(4)}{=} (\alpha^* A^\dagger |n\rangle, |m\rangle) \\ &\stackrel{(5)}{=} (\alpha^*)^* (|n\rangle, A^\dagger |m\rangle) \\ &= [\alpha^* (|n\rangle, A^\dagger |m\rangle)]^* \\ &= [(|n\rangle, \alpha^* A^\dagger |m\rangle)]^* \\ &= (\alpha^* A^\dagger |n\rangle, |m\rangle) \\ &\stackrel{(6)}{=} ((\alpha A)^\dagger |n\rangle, |m\rangle) \end{aligned}$$



## Property ③ p.23

$$\boxed{(|w\rangle\langle v|)^{\dagger} = |v\rangle\langle w|}$$

$$(|w\rangle, A|w\rangle) = (|w\rangle, |w\rangle\langle v|w\rangle)$$

$$= \langle v|w\rangle (|w\rangle, |w\rangle)$$

$$= (|w\rangle\langle v|w\rangle, |w\rangle)$$

$$= \langle v|w\rangle^* (|w\rangle, |w\rangle)$$

$$= \langle v|w\rangle (|w\rangle, |w\rangle)$$

equal

# Important Class of Hermitian operators

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## PROJECTOR

Take  $W$  a  $k$ -dimensional subspace  
of  $d$ -dimensional vector space  $V$

Using the Gram-Schmidt procedure, it is possible  
to construct an orthonormal basis  $|1\rangle, \dots, |d\rangle$  for  $V$   
(of dimension  $d$ ), such that  $|1\rangle, \dots, |k\rangle$  is an  
orthonormal basis for  $W$ .

By definition,

$$P = \sum_{i=1}^k |i\rangle\langle i|$$

is the projector onto the subspace  $W$ .

$|i\rangle\langle i|$  is Hermitian for any vector  $|i\rangle$ , hence

$P$  is Hermitian, i.e.,  $P^\dagger = P$  (PROVE IT!)

By definition, the orthogonal complement of  $P$  is

the operator  $Q = I - P$ .  $Q$  is a projector  
onto the vector space spanned by the vectors

$$|k+1\rangle, \dots, |d\rangle$$

Completeness relation:

$$\sum_{i=1}^d |i\rangle\langle i| = \sum_{i=1}^k |i\rangle\langle i| + \sum_{i=k+1}^d |i\rangle\langle i|$$

$I = P + Q$

- An operator is normal if  $A^\dagger A = A A^\dagger$   
Clearly, any Hermitian operator is also normal.

Important Theorem: An operator is a normal operator if it is diagonalizable  
This is called the SPECTRAL DECOMPOSITION THM (P. 72)

- A matrix is unitary if  $U^\dagger U = \mathbb{I}$   
Similarly, an operator is unitary if  $U^\dagger U = \mathbb{I}$

Clearly,  $U^\dagger U = \mathbb{I} = U U^\dagger$

A unitary operator  $U$  is normal and therefore also has a spectral decomposition.

- What's so important about unitary operators?

As we will see later, they play a key role in quantum computing as any action on qubit will be using unitary operators.

These operators preserve inner products between vectors.

$\forall |v\rangle, |w\rangle$ , if  $U$  is a unitary operator

$$\langle U|v\rangle, U|w\rangle = \langle v|U^\dagger U|w\rangle = \langle v|\mathbb{I}|w\rangle = \langle v|w\rangle$$

$= \langle |v\rangle, U^\dagger U |w\rangle$   $\langle |v\rangle, |w\rangle$

# Outer Product Representation of any unitary operator $U$

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The previous result leads to the following elegant outer product representation of any operator  $U$  (unitary)

Take  $|v_i\rangle$  any orthonormal basis set

Define  $|w_i\rangle \equiv U|v_i\rangle$

The  $|w_i\rangle$ 's also form an orthonormal basis set since unitary operators preserve inner products

$$U = \sum_j |w_j\rangle \langle v_j|$$

$$U|v_i\rangle = \sum_j |w_j\rangle \underbrace{\langle v_j|v_i\rangle}_{\delta_{ij}} = |w_i\rangle$$

Conversely, if  $|v_i\rangle$  and  $|w_i\rangle$  are any two orthonormal bases, then it is easily checked that  $U$  defined by

$$U \equiv \sum_i |w_i\rangle \langle v_i|$$

is unitary!

Proof:  $U^\dagger U = \left( \sum_i |w_i\rangle \langle v_i| \right)^\dagger \left( \sum_j |w_j\rangle \langle v_j| \right)$

$$= \sum_i \sum_j |v_i\rangle \underbrace{\langle w_i|w_j\rangle}_{\delta_{ij}} \langle v_j|$$

$$= \sum_i |v_i\rangle \langle v_i| = \mathbb{1} \rightarrow U \text{ is unitary.}$$

↑ ↑  
Completeness relation