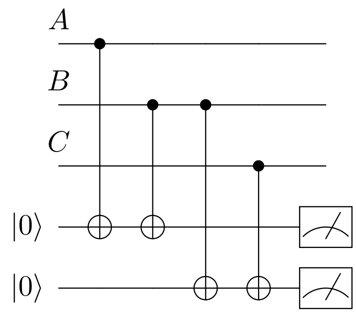
CS333 - Problem Set 10

See final page for hints.

1. In class, we showed how to create a quantum error correcting code that protected against an error of the form X on any of the three qubits. Show that this code also protects against any error that is a rotation about the $\hat{x}$ axis of the Bloch sphere. That is, an error of the form:

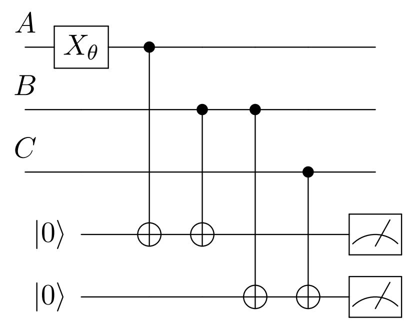
$$X_\theta = \cos(\theta)I + i\sin(\theta)X = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) & i\sin(\theta) \\ i\sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta). \end{pmatrix}. \tag{1}$$

To do this, consider the error correcting circuit we looked at in class:



(2)

(a) Suppose that an error X_θ occurred on the qubit A before running the error correction scheme. So the effective circuit with error is



(3)

If the input state to the circuit in Eq. (19) is $a|000\rangle_{ABC} + b|111\rangle_{ABC}$, what are the possible measurement outcomes of the final two qubits, and what does the system collapse to in the case of each possible outcome? (Please analyze the circuit above, rather than using projective measurements.)

(b) Depending on the measurement outcome, what should you do to recover the state $a|000\rangle + b|111\rangle$ on system ABC?

(c) The calculation is similar if X_θ occurs on B or C. What are the possible measurement outcomes in each case, and how should you correct the error based on the measurement outcome? (You do not need to do any calculations, just state what happens and what you should do, given the results of part a/b, and the analysis we did in class.)

(d) Explain why you don't have to know θ in order to correct the error. Why is the collapse helpful? What is going on here?

2. In this problem, we consider the same bit flip code as before: $a|0\rangle + b|1\rangle$ is encoded as $a|000\rangle + b|111\rangle$, which we have seen is protected against X-rotations on a single qubit. We have so far only considered the case where exactly one qubit has been affected by a unitary error. A more realistic error model is that small rotations affect all of the qubits at any time step. Consider an error model where the error is the unitary X_θ from question 1 acting in parallel on all 3 qubits in the code:

$$X_\theta^{\otimes 3}. \tag{4}$$

In this problem, you should imagine that θ is very small.

(a) If the logical qubit is initially in the state $a|000\rangle + b|111\rangle$ for $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, (this just makes the calculations simpler), what is the state of the logical qubit after this error has occurred? (That is, calculate $X_\theta^{\otimes 3}(a|000\rangle + b|111\rangle)$. You can keep your answer undistributed if that is easier.)

(b) Consider the projective measurement:

$$\begin{aligned} M = \{P_0 &= |000\rangle\langle 000| + |111\rangle\langle 111|, P_1 = |100\rangle\langle 100| + |011\rangle\langle 011|, \\ P_2 &= |010\rangle\langle 010| + |101\rangle\langle 101|, P_3 = |001\rangle\langle 001| + |110\rangle\langle 110|\}. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Use the projective measurement formalism (rather than the ancillas used above) to analyze the probability that P_0 and P_1 each occur, and how the state collapses in each case. (By symmetry, the case of P_2 and P_3 will be similar to P_1, so you do not need to go through them.)

(c) If outcome P_0 occurs, we do nothing , and if outcome P_1 occurs, we apply X to the first qubit. What does the state become in this case?

(d) Even though error correction doesn't return us to our original state $a|000\rangle + b|111\rangle$, the state that we do recover are extremely close to $a|000\rangle + b|111\rangle$ when θ is small. To see this, consider a measurement $M = \{|\phi_0\rangle, |\phi_1\rangle, \ldots, |\phi_7\rangle\}$, where $|\phi_0\rangle = a|000\rangle + b|111\rangle$. If we measure a state $|\psi\rangle$ with the measurement M, the higher the probability of getting outcome $|\phi_0\rangle$, the closer $|\psi\rangle$ is to $|\phi_0\rangle$, and the harder it is to distinguish between $|\psi\rangle$ and $|\phi_0\rangle$. (We can't actually make this measurement without knowing what a and b are...so this is just a thought experiment to see how well the error correction works.) Please plot the average probability of measuring $|\phi_0\rangle$ if this error correction scheme is applied as a function of θ (averaged over the possible outcomes of the projective measurement). Compare that (by plotting) to the probability of measuring $|\phi_0\rangle$ if no error correction circuit is applied. Create these plots in the case that $a = b = 1/\sqrt{2}$.

Hints!

1. (a) The state before the partial measurement is

$$\cos(\theta)\left(a|000\rangle + b|111\rangle\right)|00\rangle + i\sin(\theta)\left(a|100\rangle + b|011\rangle\right)|10\rangle. \tag{6}$$

2. (a)

   (b) Prob of P_0 is $\cos^6\theta + \sin^6\theta$, and state becomes

$$\frac{(a\cos^3\theta - ib\sin^3\theta)|000\rangle + (b\cos^3\theta - ia\sin^3\theta)|111\rangle}{\sqrt{\cos^6\theta + \sin^6\theta}}. \tag{7}$$

   Prob of P_1 is $\sin^2\theta\cos^2\theta$ and state becomes

$$(ai\cos\theta - b\sin\theta)|100\rangle + (bi\cos\theta - a\sin\theta)|011\rangle) \tag{8}$$

   (c)

   (d) Take the probabilities you found in part d, weighted by the corresponding probabilities you found in part b. (Don't forget a factor of 3 for the three outcomes P_1, P_2, P_3. You can assume they are all the same by symmetry!)