

# Lecture 17 - Learning a Mystery Rotation

Last time: Grover's alg on  $n$ -input circuit  $C$ .

Let's write  $p = \text{frac. of } x \in \{0,1\}^n \text{ s.t. } C(x)=1$ .

(i) Classical random guessing:  $\approx 1/p$  trials

(ii) If you know  $p$  (up to 10%)

↳ know Grover rot. (up to 5%)

↳ know good # of "combs" to do

unique case:  
 $p = \frac{1}{2^n} = \frac{1}{N}$

$$\approx \frac{\pi}{4} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{1}{p}}$$

Today: #SAT : Estimate  $p$  up to  $\pm 10\%$ ,  
(approximate) (with high confidence)

First: Classical alg. for estimating of  $p$ ?

Plug a random string string to  $C$

$$\rightsquigarrow \begin{cases} 1 & \text{w. prob. } p \\ 0 & \text{w. prob. } 1-p. \end{cases}$$

→ We played around with estimating a coin's bias in  
**Scratch!**

Takeaways

" " " " " "

## Takeaways

- Getting  $p$  to within 10%  $\approx$  getting 1 or 2 sigfigs

- Do 10 flips, 100 flips, 1000 flips....

only the "last" batch really costs you...

If you finally see "heads" on doing  $10^6$  flips,  
preceding 111,110 flips are just 11% more

- If  $p \ll 10^{-6}$ , probably won't see any heads  
till  $10^6$  flips  $\rightarrow$  negl.

- OTOH: say you do  $\frac{100}{p}$  flips...

$$\Pr[\text{no heads}] = (1-p)^{100/p} \leq (e^{-p})^{100/p} \\ = e^{-100}$$

- Say, e.g.,  $p = 4/6 \times 10^{-9}$

Say you do  $n = 10^{11}$  flips.

$$E[\# \text{ heads}] = np = 4/6$$

Is it plausible we'll see  $4/6 \pm 42$ ?

$\rightarrow$  Binomial  $(n, p)$ : Variance =  $np(1-p) \sim np$   
std.dev. =  $\sqrt{\text{Var}} = \sqrt{np}$

in e.g.:  $\sqrt{4/6} \approx 21$

In general: if you want stddev  $\leq 10\%$  expec.

$$\sqrt{np} \leq 0.1 np$$

$$10 \leq \sqrt{np}$$

$$100 \leq np$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \uparrow \\ & 100 \leq np \\ & n \geq 100/p. \end{aligned}$$

SUMMARY: With  $O(1/p)$  coin flips, can estimate unknown coin's bias to  $\pm 10\%$ . (high confidence)

Exercise/homework: It's  $O(1/\epsilon^2)/p$  flips to estimate  $p$  to range  $(1-\epsilon)p \dots (1+\epsilon)p$ .

Back to Grover's alg!

Recall: Starting from  $C$ , cooked up:

- Mystery Rotation ("combo" of 2 reflections)
- "starting state"  $|u\rangle$  (unif. superpos.)

starting here, doing MysteryRot a bunch of times, we stay in a certain 2-dim. subspace.

MysteryRot was by  $\theta$ :

$$\cos \theta = 1 - 2p \Leftrightarrow \theta \sim 2\sqrt{p} \quad \leftarrow \text{if } p < \frac{1}{100}, \text{ correct to w/i } 0.1\%$$

$$\Rightarrow p \sim \frac{\theta^2}{4}$$

Estimate  $\theta$ :

$$.96\theta \leq \hat{\theta} \leq 1.04\theta \quad \textcircled{*}$$

$$\downarrow \hat{p} \sim \frac{\theta^2}{4}$$

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

$$.96^2 \frac{\theta^2}{4} \leq \frac{\theta^2}{4} \leq 1.04^2 \frac{\theta^2}{4}$$

$$.91 p \leq \hat{p} \leq 1.09 p$$

Suffices to estimate  $\theta$  to w/i 4%  
to get  $p$  to w/i 10%.

Temporary Simplification:

Say MysteryRot $_{\theta}$  is just operating on 1 qubit  
in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

Q: How many times to use Rot $_{\theta}$  to estimate  
 $\theta$  to 10%?

As we saw in Scratch:

$O(1/\theta)$  uses to get "1 sigfig"  
or  $\pm 10\%$  accuracy

→ Measure Rot $_{\theta}^k |0\rangle$  100 times to  
see if you get a  
reasonable split of  
"0" & "1"

for  $k = 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 100, \dots$

Remembering in Grover:  $\theta_{\text{grover}} \sim 2\sqrt{p_c}$

$\therefore \boxed{O(\frac{1}{\sqrt{p}})}$  uses of MysteryRot  
are enough to estimate  $p$  to 10%!



$\therefore \boxed{O(\sqrt{p})}$  uses of  $\text{Rot}_\theta$  are enough to estimate  $\theta$  to 10%!

Getting even more accuracy for  $\theta$ .

↑ let's measure it in fractions of  $2\pi$

E.g.: if  $\theta \approx \underbrace{.00000000000004}_{12 \text{ zeroes}} \cdot 2\pi$

We'll need to repeat  $\text{Rot}_\theta$   $10^{12}$  times to "get in ballpark"

E.g. inductively we've determined  
 $\theta \approx .00 \dots (12 \text{ zeroes}) \dots 047583 \underbrace{(6?)}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{super-sure}}} \underbrace{(2??)}_{\substack{\nwarrow \\ \text{frankly not sure}}} \cdot 2\pi$   
↑ kinda sure

Let  $U = \text{concat. of } 10^{16} \text{ Rot}_\theta\text{'s}$

Now  $U$  rotates by  $4758.3$   $(6?)(2??)$   $\cdot 2\pi$ ,

equivalently  $0.3(6?)(2??) \cdot 2\pi$

35% ... 37% of  $2\pi$

$130^\circ \pm 4^\circ$   $|31.3^\circ \pm .2^\circ$

Apply  $U$  to  $|0\rangle$  100 times

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(\text{measuring "0"}) &= \cos(130^\circ \pm 4^\circ)^2 \\ &= 34\% \dots 47\% \end{aligned}$$

With ~~100~~  $O(1)$  measurements  
 (can nail to  $41.1\% \pm 1$ )  
 can improve our confidence

...  $(1/2)(1/2)(1/2)$

↳ can improve our confident

$$.3(?) (2??) \rightarrow .36(?) (8??)$$

∴  $U$  is rotating by  $4758.36(?) (8??)$

∴  $\theta$  is  $.000000000000475836(?) (8??)$

Summary: With  $O(10^6)$  uses of  $\text{Rot}_\theta$ ,  
get 17<sup>th</sup> digit of accuracy in  $\theta$

$O(10^{17})$  uses  
↳ 18 digits

or with  $O(10^d)$  uses of  $\text{Rot}_\theta$ ,  $\leftarrow O(1/\epsilon)$

get  $\hat{\theta}$  that's  $\theta \pm 10^{-d}$  (with very high confidence)

Or: additive accuracy  $\pm \epsilon$  on  $\theta$   
with  $O(1/\epsilon)$  uses of  $\text{Mystery Rot}_\theta$ .

## OBSERVATIONS

① Getting  $\theta$  to  $\pm 10^{-16}$  requires  $10^6$  repetitions  
of Mystery Rot.

What if we understood  $C$  well enough  
that we could build  $(\text{Rot}_\theta)^{10^{16}}$   
efficiently??!

Analogy: Compute  $37 \bmod 251$ ,  
 $10^{16}$

Analogy: Compute  $37^{16} \bmod 251$ .  
 Don't  $10^{16}$  mults by 37.

$\leadsto O(16^2)$  operations

② Grover scenario: a bit harder than MysteryRot on 1 qubit.

"We 'know'  $|0\rangle$  but not  $|1\rangle$ ."

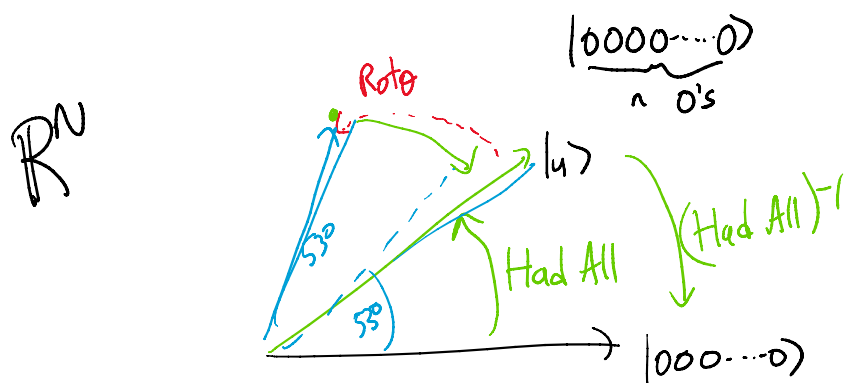
Property: We can make starting vector  $|u\rangle$ , unit. superpos easily.

We don't know another basis vector for 2-d subspace where all rotation.

Not a problem:

Algorithm can measure in any basis of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  that includes  $|u\rangle$ .

Got this by doing Had All on



$(\text{Had All})^{-1}$  Rotated vector is  $53^\circ$   
 $\leadsto 10000...0$

(Had All) Rotated vector is  $53^\circ$   
away from  $100 \dots 0$

Standard measurement:

getting " $00 \dots 0$ ": like measuring  
to  $10^\circ$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$

not " $00 \dots 0$ ":   $10^\circ$  in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .