

# A Semidefinite Programming Formulation of Quantum and Classical Oracle Problems

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# Outline

1. Semidefinite Programming Formulation of Quantum Computation [2,3]
  - Can calculate **exact** error probabilities for a quantum computer optimally solving arbitrary quantum oracle problems
2. Remote State Preparation, and a Generalized Objective
3. Restricted Computation
  - Decoherence and analyzing a computation subject to noise
  - Optimal algorithms using reduced quantum resources (briefly)
4. Quantum Clocks

# Quantum Algorithms, Generically

**Goal:** Minimize the number of queries of a **quantum query algorithm** via a generalization of Ambainis' adversary method [1] (and recent progress given in [8])

Try to express a **quantum query algorithm** as a **semidefinite program (SDP)**:

**Semidefinite Programming:** Linear programming with semidefinite constraints

**Quantum Query Algorithm:** Arbitrary unitary operators interspersed with oracle operators acting on some initial state, followed by a measurement

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = U_t \Omega U_{t-1} \Omega \dots \Omega U_0 |\psi(0)\rangle$$

# Grover's Algorithm

**Goal:** Search – Find the marked element

1.  $|\psi(0)\rangle = |0\rangle$
2.  $U_0|\psi(0)\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|0\rangle + |1\rangle + |2\rangle + |3\rangle)$
3.  $\Omega U_0|\psi(0)\rangle = \frac{1}{2}((-1)^{\Omega_0}|0\rangle + (-1)^{\Omega_1}|1\rangle + (-1)^{\Omega_2}|2\rangle + (-1)^{\Omega_3}|3\rangle)$
4.  $\Omega U_0|\psi(0)\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|0\rangle - |1\rangle + |2\rangle + |3\rangle)$
5.  $U_1\Omega U_0|\psi(0)\rangle = |1\rangle$

$U$  = Inversion about the Mean  $a_i \rightarrow -a_i + 2 * \langle a \rangle$

$$\Omega|\psi(t)\rangle = \sum_i a_i \Omega|i\rangle \rightarrow \sum_i a_i (-1)^{\Omega_i} |i\rangle$$

$\Omega_0$	$\Omega_1$	$\Omega_2$	$\Omega_3$
0	1	0	0

# Other Oracles Are Possible

We can also have:

$\Omega(0)$ 

1	0	0	0
---	---	---	---

$\Omega(1)$ 

0	1	0	0
---	---	---	---

$\Omega(2)$ 

0	0	1	0
---	---	---	---

$\Omega(3)$ 

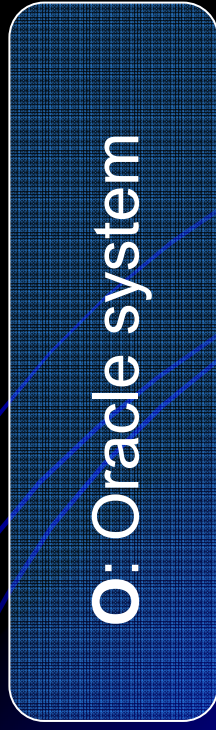
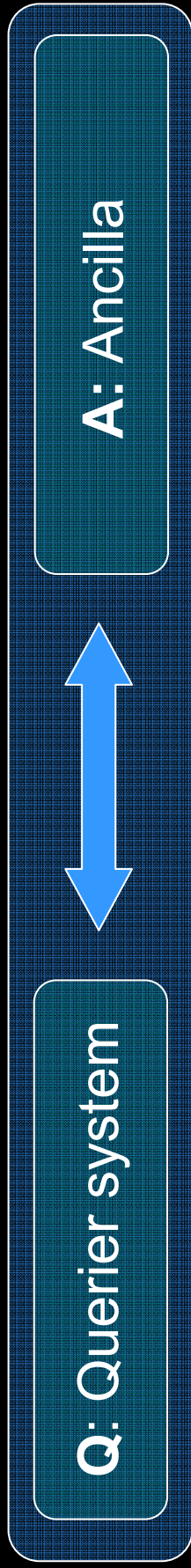
0	0	0	1
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Assume each oracle can be given to our computer with some probability

**New Goal:** Find the marked element →  
Identify the applied oracle

# The Computer

$$\rho^Q = \sum_{i,j} a_{i,j} |i\rangle\langle j|$$

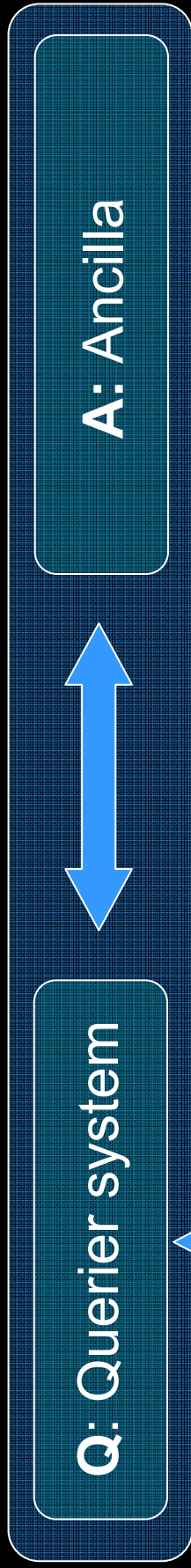


$$\rho^O = \sum_{x,y} \sqrt{p_x} \sqrt{p_y} |x\rangle\langle y|$$

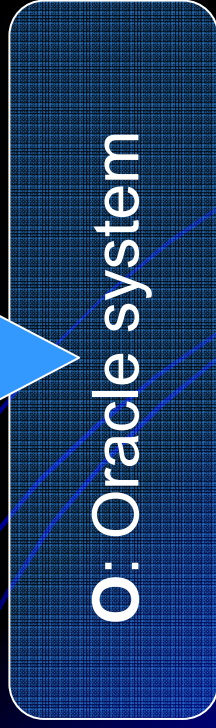
Pure state over possible oracles

# The Computer

$$\rho^Q = \sum_{i,j} a_{i,j} |i\rangle\langle j|$$



$$\Omega^{OQ} = \sum_x |x\rangle\langle x| \Omega^Q(x)$$

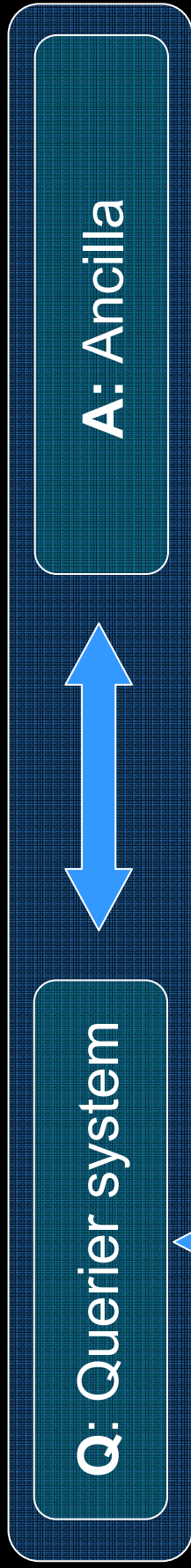


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Pure state over possible oracles

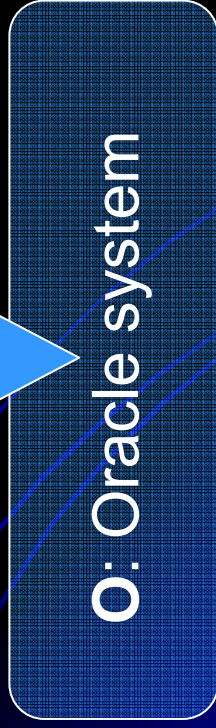
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$$\rho^Q = \sum_{i,j} a_{i,j} |i\rangle\langle j|$$



$$\Omega^{OQ} = \sum_x |x\rangle\langle x| \Omega^Q(x)$$

$$\Omega^{OQ} (|x\rangle^O \otimes |\psi\rangle^Q) \rightarrow (|x\rangle^O \otimes \Omega^Q(x) |\psi\rangle^Q)$$



$$\rho^O = \sum_{x,y} \sqrt{p_x} \sqrt{p_y} |x\rangle\langle y|$$

Pure state over possible oracles







# Quantum Algorithm $\rightarrow$ SDP (1)

Need both an objective and a set of linear constraints over  $\rho^{OQ}$

(Straightforward) Constraints

$$\rho^{OQ}(t) \geq 0, \quad \rho^O(t) \geq 0$$

$$\rho^O(t) = \text{tr}_Q(\rho^{OQ}(t))$$

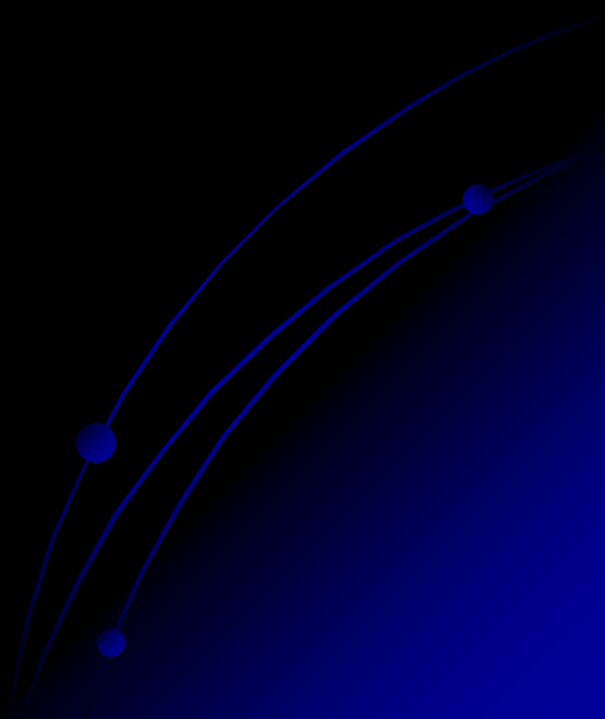
$$\rho^O(0) = \rho_0$$

$$t \in \{0 \dots t_f\}$$

## Quantum Algorithm $\rightarrow$ SDP (2)

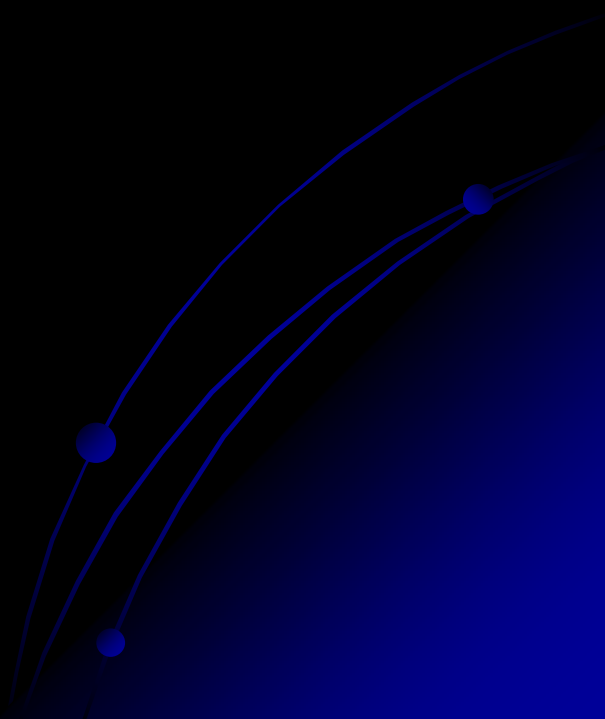
$$|\psi(t)\rangle = U_t \Omega U_{t-1} \Omega \dots \Omega U_0 |\psi(0)\rangle$$

$$\rho^O(t) = \text{tr}_{Q_A}(U_t^{\dagger Q_A} \Omega^{\dagger O Q} \rho_{O Q A}(t-1) \Omega^{O Q} U_t^{Q A})$$



## Quantum Algorithm $\rightarrow$ SDP (2)

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi(t)\rangle &= U_t \Omega U_{t-1} \Omega \dots \Omega U_0 |\psi(0)\rangle \\ \rho^O(t) &= \text{tr}_{QA}(U_t^{\dagger QA} \Omega^{\dagger OO} \rho_{OO} U_t^{QA} (t-1) \Omega^{OO} U_t^{QA}) \\ \rho^O(t) &= \text{tr}_{QA}(U_t^{QA} U_t^{\dagger QA} \Omega^{\dagger OO} \rho_{OO} U_t^{QA} (t-1) \Omega^{OO}) \end{aligned}$$



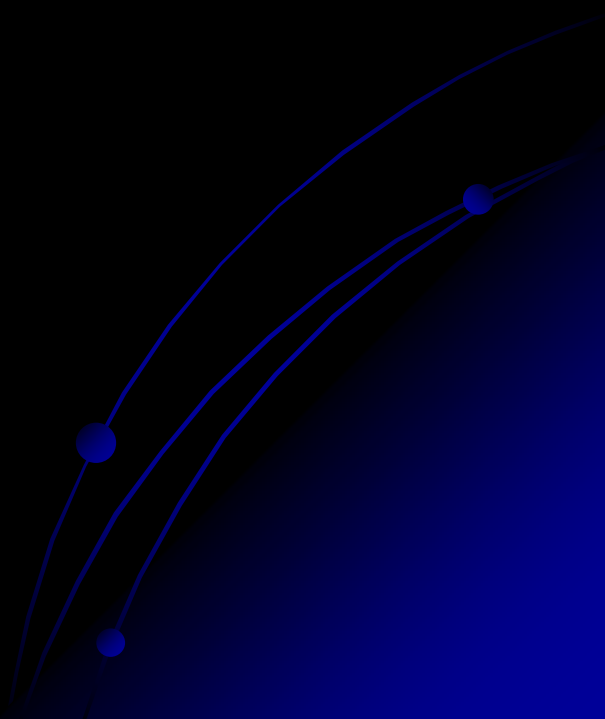
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$$\rho^O(t) = \text{tr}_Q(\Omega^{\dagger OQ} \rho_{OQ}(t-1) \Omega^{OQ})$$



## Quantum Algorithm $\rightarrow$ SDP (2)

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$$\rho^O(t) = \text{tr}_{QA}(U_t^{\dagger QA} \Omega^{\dagger OQ} \rho^{OQA}(t-1) \Omega^{OQ} U_t^{QA})$$

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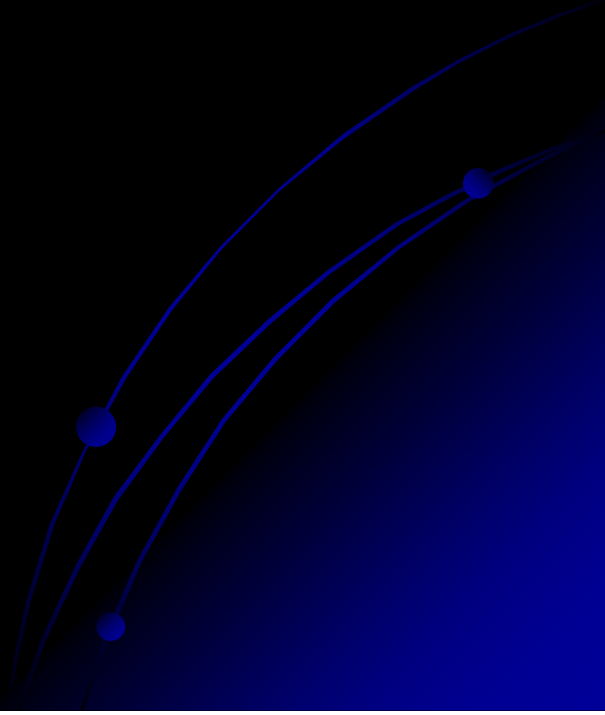
Leads to the SDP  $S_E$ , corresponding to the application of oracle and unitary operators as above

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \rho^{OQ}(t) \geq 0, \quad \rho^O(t) \geq 0 \\ \rho^O(t) = \text{tr}_Q(\rho^{OQ}(t)) \\ \rho^O(t) = \text{tr}_Q(\Omega^{\dagger OQ} \rho^{OQ}(t-1) \Omega^{OQ}) \\ \rho^O(0) = \rho_0 \\ t \in \{0 \dots t_f\} \end{array} \right.$$

# Measurement and Remote State Preparation

The following protocol describes the measurement process at the end of the computation at time  $t_f$ . [6]

1. Q makes a measurement with any complete POVM  $\{P_i^{QA}\}_i$



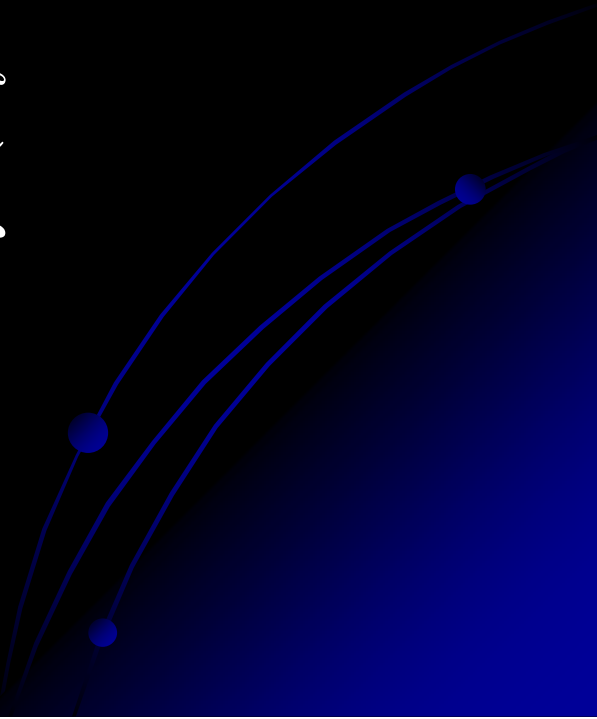


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$$\sigma_i = \text{tr}_{QA}(P_i^{QA} \rho_{OQA}(t_f))$$



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Q's POVM is unconstrained, but the set of states that can be prepared on O is restricted by:  $\sum_i \sigma_i^O = \rho^O(t_f)$

# The Complete SDP

$$S_M = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Minimize } \sum_i \text{tr}(\sigma_i A_i) \text{ subject to:} \\ \forall_i \sigma_i \geq 0 \\ \sum_i \sigma_i^O = \rho^O(t_f) \end{array} \right.$$

$$S_E = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \rho^{OQ}(t) \geq 0, \quad \rho^O(t) \geq 0 \\ \rho^O(t) = \text{tr}_Q(\rho^{OQ}(t)) \\ \rho^O(t) = \text{tr}_Q(\Omega^{\dagger OQ} \rho^{OQ}(t-1) \Omega^{OQ}) \\ \rho^O(0) = \rho_0 \\ t \in \{0 \dots t_f\} \end{array} \right.$$

$$S = S_M \cup S_E$$

# Conventional Cost Function

- Each measurement outcome  $i$  corresponds to the querier's guess of which oracle was applied
  - Search:  $i = 2$  – The marked element is in position 2
- Average Probability of Error: Probability that you had oracle  $x$ , measured outcome  $i$ , and that you shouldn't measure outcome  $i$  on oracle  $x$ 
  - Search:  $x = 1000, i = 2$

$$(\sigma_i)_{x,x} = P(\text{measured } i \cap \text{oracle} = x)$$

$$\epsilon = \sum_i \sum_{x:x \neq i} (\sigma_i)_{x,x} \quad \langle x | A_i | x \rangle = 1 - \delta(i, x)$$

- This error probability will be **exact**. Q is free to choose the POVM which optimizes the cost function, and the SDP will find this optimum subject to its constraints.

# Restricted Computation

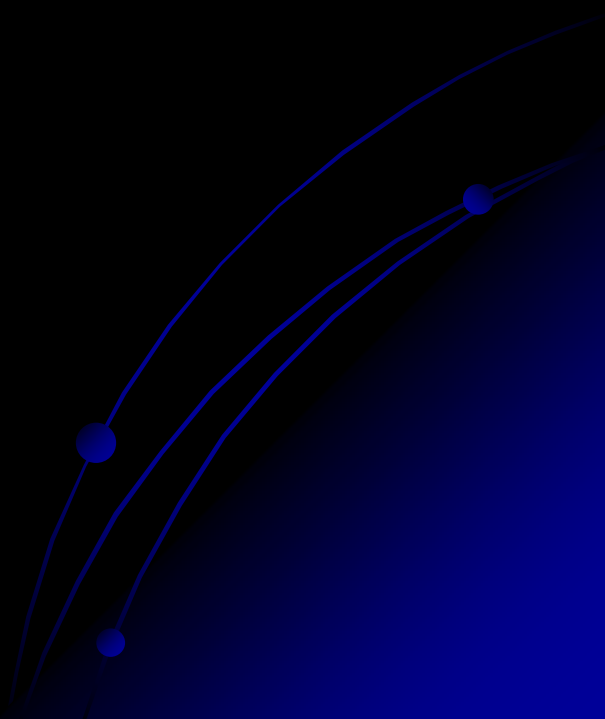
- All experimentally available quantum computers are subject to noise
- Decoherence can reduce or eliminate any quantum advantage.
- All current, general quantum lower bound methods assume perfect quantum computation.
- We would like a way to characterize how “quantum” our device is

# Decoherence

After each query, the environment will interact with the computer and will decohere the querier [11]

## Post Unitary, Pre-Query

$$|\psi(0)\rangle_{OQE} = \sum_{x,i} a_{x,i}^x |x\rangle_O |i\rangle_Q |\epsilon_0\rangle_{E_1}$$



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$$|\psi(0)\rangle_{OQE} = \sum_{x,i} a_{x,i}^x |x\rangle^O |i\rangle^Q |\epsilon_0\rangle^{E_1}$$

## Post Query

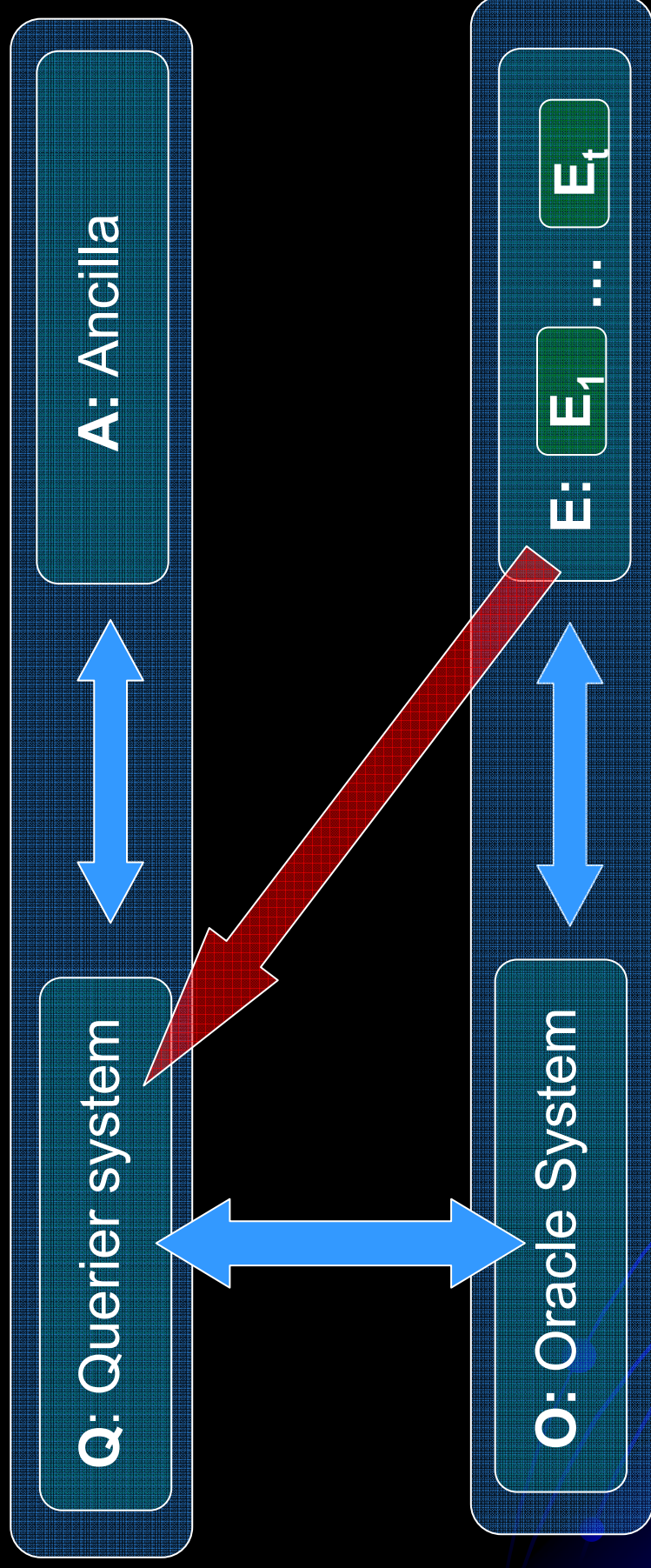
$$|\psi(1)\rangle_{OQE} = \sum_{x,i} a_{i,a}^x |x\rangle^O (-1)^{\Omega(x)_i} |i\rangle^Q |\epsilon_i\rangle^{E_1} |\epsilon_0\rangle^{E_2}$$

The size of the environment grows with every query, so at time  $t$ :

$$E(t) \equiv E = E_1 \otimes E_2 \dots \otimes E_t$$



# Adding the Environment



The environment is part of the oracle system that the querier has no access to, but acts on the querier during each query.

# The Extended SDP

Minimize  $\text{tr}(\sum_i \sigma_i A_i)$  subject to:

$$\forall_i \sigma_i^{OE} \geq 0$$

$$\rho^{QQE}(t) \geq 0, \quad \rho^{OE}(t) \geq 0$$

$$\sum_i \sigma_i^{OE} = \rho^{OE}(T)$$

$$\rho^{OE}(t) = \text{tr}_Q(\rho^{QQE}(t))$$

$$\rho^{OE}(t) = \text{tr}_Q(D^{\dagger QE_t} \Omega^{\dagger OQ} \rho^{QQE}(t-1) \otimes |\epsilon_0\rangle_{E_t} \langle \epsilon_0| \Omega^{OQ} D^{QE_t})$$

$$\rho^{OE}(0) = \rho_0$$

$$t \in \{0 \dots t_f\}$$

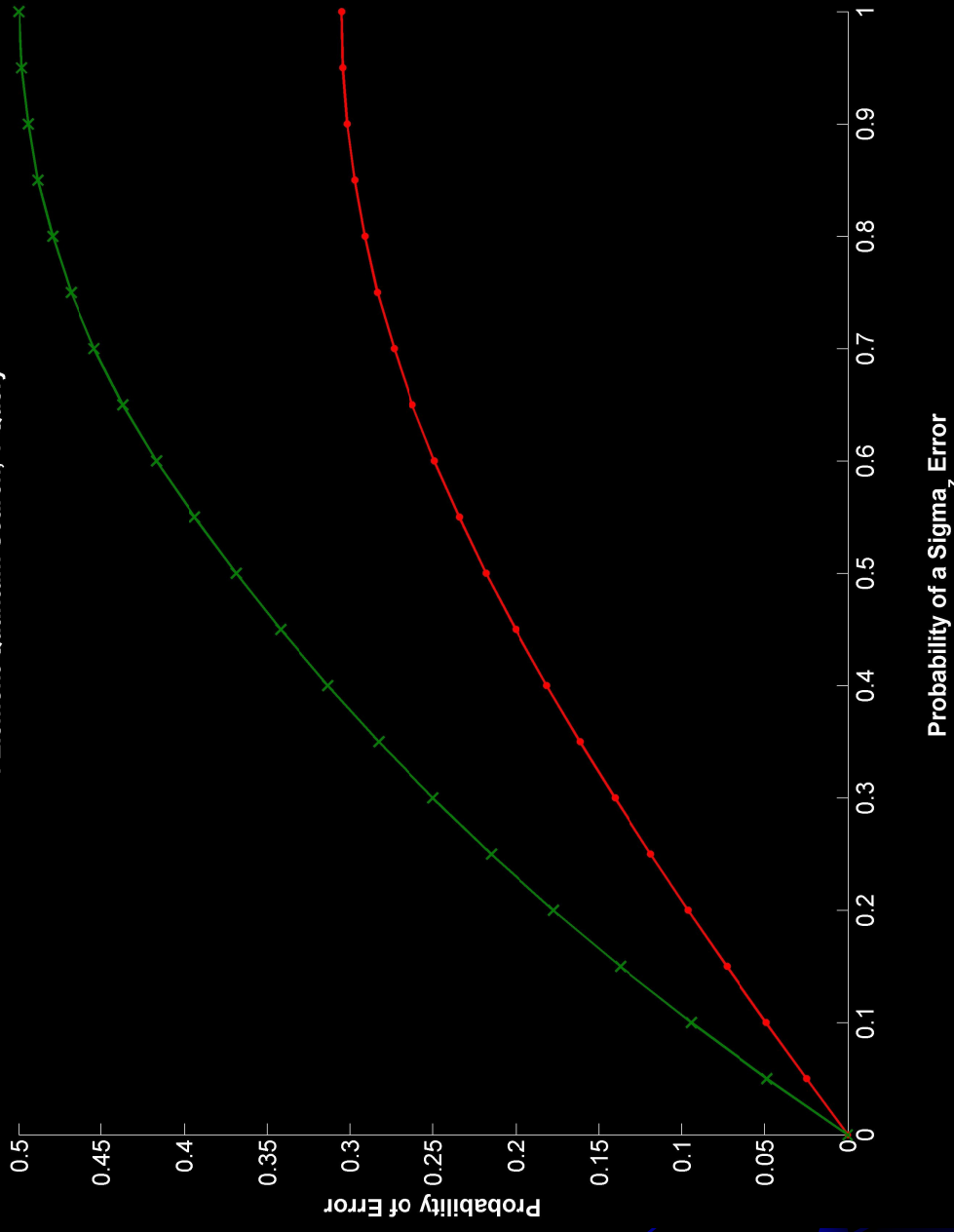
# Quantum/Classical Interpolation

One or more qubits may decohere independently with probability  $p$

$$|x\rangle^O |i\rangle^Q |\epsilon_0\rangle^E \rightarrow \sqrt{1-p}|x\rangle^O (-1)^{\Omega(x)_i} |i\rangle^Q |\epsilon_0\rangle^E + \sqrt{p}|x\rangle^O (-1)^{\Omega(x)_i} |i\rangle^Q |\epsilon(i)\rangle^E$$

**Red:** One qubit decoherence  
**Green:** Two qubit decoherence

4 Element Quantum Search, 1 Query



# Comments

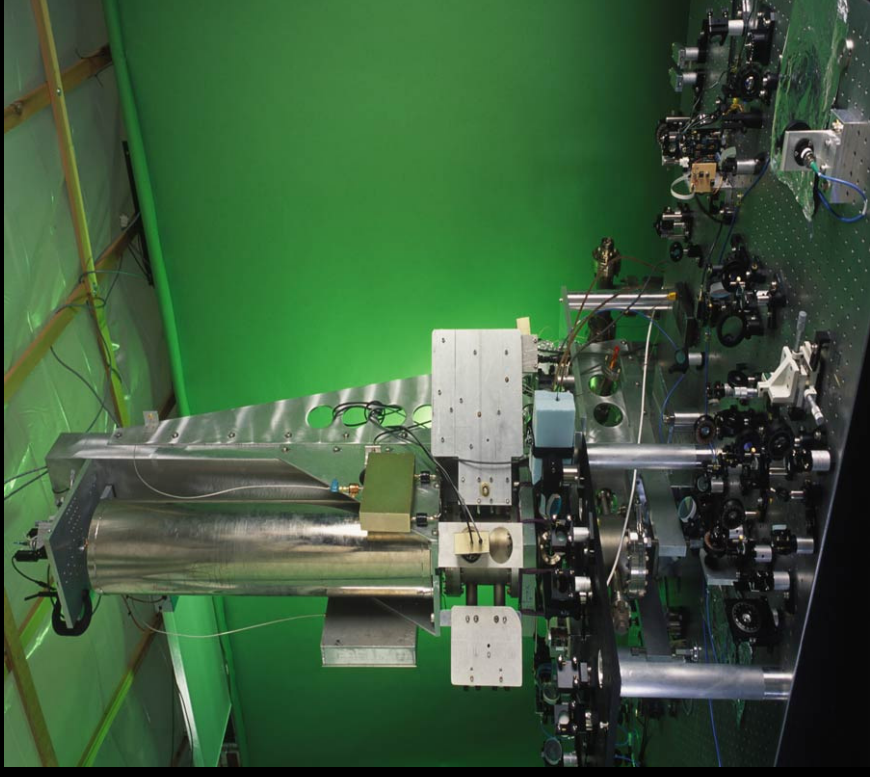
- The size of the SDP grows rapidly, particularly when modeling decoherence. ( < 10 qubits )
- Since the SDP outputs the optimal density matrix at every time step, we can reconstruct the inter-query unitaries, and hence the optimal algorithm
- We have recently explored these issues from an alternate angle by asking: *Is there an equally optimal algorithm that uses fewer quantum resources?*
  - Use an alternate SDP which tries to split the optimal algorithm into two or more parts that can be classically combined
  - Use the Von Neumann entropy to quantify the quantum resources needed in each branch
- See slides at end of talk for details

# Clocks

- Our SDP formulation is highly general, and can describe quantum processes as well as quantum query algorithms
- Specifically, if an element drawn from a continuous set of unitary operators, indexed by some parameter, acts on a state, our formulation can be used to optimally estimate the value of this parameter
- We will use this idea to optimize the accuracy of quantum clocks
- **Goal:** Express the operation of the a quantum clock as a black box oracle problem.

# Atomic Clock Basics

- Count the ticks of some periodic system and interpret as time.
- Atoms have a discrete set of energy levels and can transition between them by absorbing or emitting photons. ( $E = hf$ )
- Atomic clocks count the oscillations of a laser whose frequency is stabilized to some atomic transition
- 1 second  $\equiv$  9,192,631,770 cycles of the radiation corresponding to a hyperfine transition in Cesium



NIST F1

# Spectroscopy

- Consider a set of  $N$  ions and the set of states labeled by  $|k\rangle$  which have  $k$  ions in the excited state and  $N - k$  ions in the ground state. (Dicke states)
- Over time, our laser/classical oscillator will drift from the atomic resonance. We need to measure and correct this detuning.
- After an interrogation period of length  $T$  with a laser tuned near resonance [7]

$$|k\rangle \rightarrow e^{-ik(f-f_0)T} |k\rangle$$

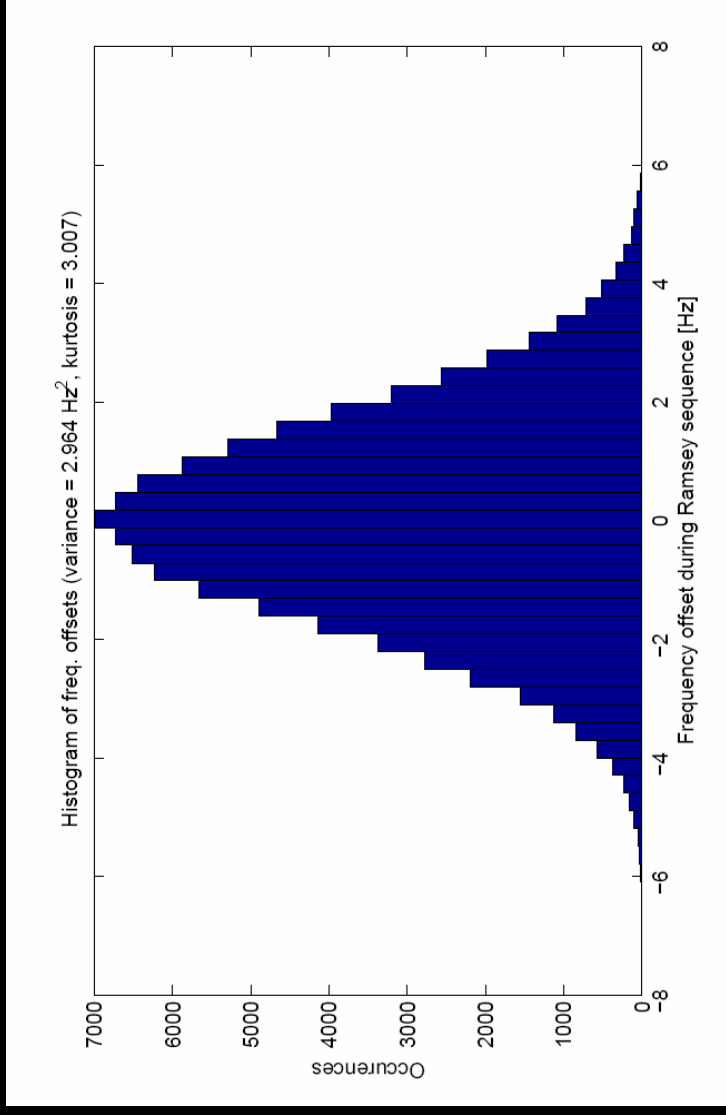
- This acts as our black box/oracle operation.

**Goal:** Phase Estimation

# Frequency Priors and the Clock Oracle

Given  $f - f_0$  we know that:  $|k\rangle \rightarrow e^{-ik(f-f_0)}T|k\rangle$

We don't know  $f - f_0$ , but we can construct a prior probability distribution over  $f - f_0$ . Likewise, before, we didn't know which oracle our algorithm would be given, so we assigned each a probability.





# Clock SDP

$$\rho^Q = \sum_{k,l} a_{kl} |k\rangle\langle l|$$

$$\rho^O = \sum_{x,y} \sqrt{p_x} \sqrt{p_y} |x\rangle\langle y|$$

$$\Omega = \sum_x |x\rangle\langle x| e^{-i\Delta f_x \sigma_z T/2}$$

Goals:

1. Determine optimal initial state of Q
2. Determine optimal measurement

After one query

$$\Omega^\dagger \rho^O \Omega \rightarrow \sum_{x,y} \sum_{k,l} a_{x,y,k,l} |x\rangle\langle y| \otimes e^{i\Delta f_x k T} |k\rangle\langle l| e^{-i\Delta f_y l T}$$

# Clock Cost Function

- Measure with a discrete, complete POVM  $\{P_i^Q\}_i$ , whose elements each correspond to a frequency guess,  $\Delta f_i$
- Remote State Preparation:

$$\sigma_i = \text{tr}_Q(P_i^Q \rho^{QQ})$$

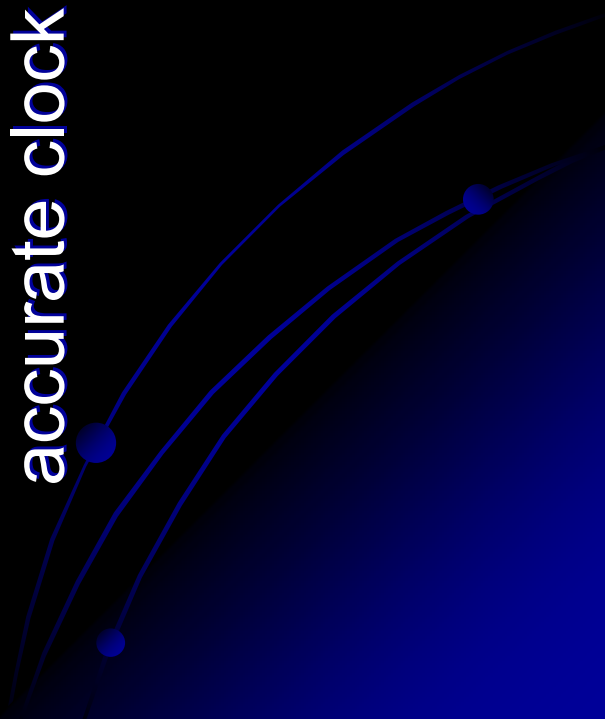
$$(\sigma_i)_{x,x} = P(\text{measured } \Delta f_i \cap \text{frequency} = \Delta f_x)$$

- Penalize guesses far from the true frequency

$$\langle \Delta f_x | A_i | \Delta f_x \rangle = (\Delta f_i - \Delta f_x)^2$$

- From the final density matrix and the remotely prepared mixed states, we can reconstruct this optimal POVM

## Discussion

- Prior work has assumed a uniform probability distribution over clock oracles. [4]
  - This technique is subject to discretization error
  - Working on bounds – error appears small
  - Al<sup>+</sup> Clock at NIST is a natural application of this technique. Uses only 1-2 ions and is the most accurate clock in the world (  $8.6 \times 10^{-18}$  ) [5,9]
- 

# Results

- Optimal initial states have equal amplitudes for  $k$  ions in the excited state and  $N - k$  in the ground state. e.g. for  $N = 3$ :

$$|\psi_0\rangle = a_0 (|0\rangle + |3\rangle) + a_1 (|1\rangle + |2\rangle)$$

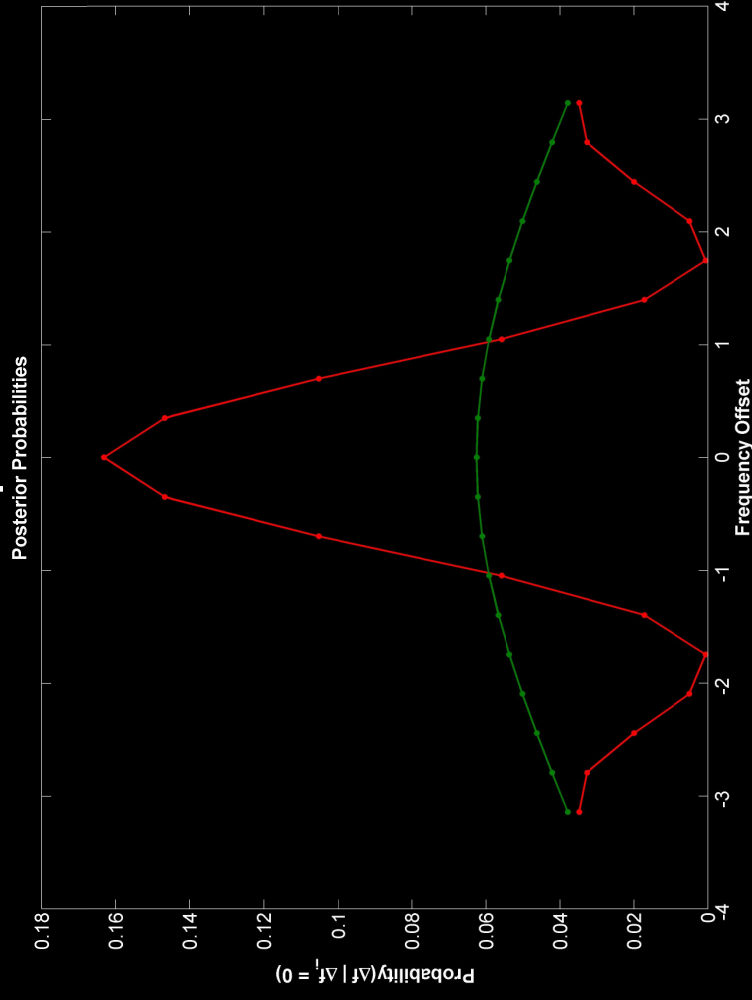
- One query on 2 ions is equivalent to 2 queries on one ion. Not necessarily true with more ions and more queries.

A narrower posterior corresponds to an increase in knowledge.

Green: Priors

Red: Posteriors

$$P(\Delta f | \Delta f_i = 0)$$



# Conclusions

- This SDP formulation is a powerful and highly general way of describing quantum algorithms and quantum processes
- The size of the SDP grows quickly, but this technique remains applicable to many interesting problems.
- Here we analyzed quantum computers subject to decoherence, and developed a technique to examine the “quantumness” of a device.
- The application of our SDP to quantum clocks indicates that it likely has many other applications

# References

1. A. Ambainis, *Quantum lower bounds by quantum arguments*
2. H. Barnum, M. Saks, and M. Szegedy, *Quantum query complexity and semidefinite programming*
3. H. Barnum, *Semidefinite programming characterization and spectral adversary method for quantum complexity with noncommuting unitary queries*
4. V. Buzek, R. Derka, and S. Massar, *Optimal quantum clocks*
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7. N.F. Ramsey, *Molecular Beams*
8. B. Reichardt, *Reflections for quantum query complexity: The general adversary bound is tight for every boolean function*
9. P.O. Schmidt, et. al., *Spectroscopy using quantum logic*
10. B. Schumacher, *Quantum coding*
11. W. Zurek, *Decoherence, einselection and the quantum origins of the classical*

# Algorithm Reconstruction

- SDP outputs a density matrix corresponding to the state of the computer at every timestep
- Purify the following pairs of states into  $A$ , where  $|A| = |O||Q||E|$

$$D^{\dagger QE_t} \Omega^{\dagger QO} \rho^{OQE}(t) \Omega^{QO} D^{QE_t} \rightarrow \rho'^{OQEA}(t)$$
$$\rho^{OQE}(t+1) \rightarrow \rho^{OQEA}(t+1)$$

- Since we know that

$$\rho^{OQEA}(t+1) = U(t)^{\dagger QA} \rho'^{OQEA}(t) U(t)^{QA}$$

we can solve for the inter-query unitaries. Since the SDP yields the solution with the optimal probability of success, this reconstructs an optimal algorithm. (quantum or classical)

## Measuring Quantum Resources

- Our SDP formulation will yield the algorithm with the optimal probability of success.
- But can we find an “alternate” algorithm with the same probability of success that uses fewer quantum resources?
- Quantify quantum resources via Von Neumann entropy

$$S(\rho) \equiv \text{tr}(\rho \lg(\rho))$$

- By Schumacher’s quantum coding, we know this is the minimum number of qubits needed to represent a quantum state [10]



# Separate Computational Paths

- Let the optimal algorithm run normally until time  $t_s$ , then measure
- Quantify the quantum resources needed to reach timestep  $t_s + 1$ 
  - Try to express  $\rho^O(t_s)$  as the incoherent sum of  $\rho_1^O(t_s), \rho_2^O(t_s) \dots \rho_n^O(t_s)$
  - These independent computational paths can be classically combined.

- Calculate entropy as:

$$S_T = \text{tr}(\rho_1^O) S \left( \frac{\rho_1^O}{\text{tr}(\rho_1^O)} \right) + \text{tr}(\rho_2^O) S \left( \frac{\rho_2^O}{\text{tr}(\rho_2^O)} \right) + \dots$$

- Since the full density matrix is pure:  
 $S(\rho^O) = S(\rho^{QA})$

# Splitting SDP

- Add the following constraints to a new SDP

$$\rho_{opt}^O(t) = \rho_1^O(t) + \rho_2^O(t)$$

$$\text{tr}_Q(\rho_1^{OQ}(t)) = \rho_1^O(t) \quad t \geq t_s$$

$$\text{tr}_Q(\rho_2^{OQ}(t)) = \rho_2^O(t)$$

with the usual sets of constraints on these new density matrices. Here, the oracle density matrix is the optimal solution to our original SDP.

- Add an objective which maximizes the distance between the two subparts of the oracle density matrix.
- This will be a nonlinear objective so we use an iterative strategy

# Splitting Results

- Recursively perform this splitting, calculating the entropy at each iteration.

## 8 Element Search/OR:

0. 2.056  
2. 2.0096  
4. 2.0093  
8. 2.0093

## 4 Element PARITY

0. 2  
2. 1  
4. 0  
8. 0

- Parity looks classical in the Hadamard basis.
- Entropy is a basis independent quantity.