

Quantum computing for cryptographers I

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idea and design by Daniel J. Bernstein

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SAC – Post-quantum cryptography

The state of a computer

Data (“state”) stored in 3 bits:
a list of 3 elements of $\{0, 1\}$.
e.g.: $(0, 0, 0)$.

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$(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1,$
 $0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1).$

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a list of 8 numbers, not all zero.
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Data stored in 64 qubits:

a list of 2^{64} numbers, not all zero.

The state of a quantum computer

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Data stored in 4 qubits: a list of 16 numbers, not all zero. e.g.:

(3, 1, 4, 1, 5, 9, 2, 6, 5, 3, 5, 8, 9, 7, 9, 3).

Data stored in 64 qubits:

a list of 2^{64} numbers, not all zero.

Data stored in 1000 qubits: a list of 2^{1000} numbers, not all zero.

Note: These numbers can be complex.

For this exposition we do not normalize the entries.

Measuring a quantum computer

Can simply look at a bit.

Cannot simply look at the list of numbers stored in n qubits.

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State is then all zeros except 1 at position q .

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Measurement produces

000 = 0 with probability $1/8$;

001 = 1 with probability $1/8$;

010 = 2 with probability $1/8$;

011 = 3 with probability $1/8$;

100 = 4 with probability $1/8$;

101 = 5 with probability $1/8$;

110 = 6 with probability $1/8$;

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All outcomes equally likely.

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000 = 0 with probability 9/173;

001 = 1 with probability 1/173;

010 = 2 with probability 16/173;

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100 = 4 with probability 25/173;

101 = 5 with probability 81/173;

110 = 6 with probability 4/173;

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5 is most likely outcome.

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