

Quantum Computing: Grover's Algorithm

Luís Paulo Santos



Problem Statement: function inversion

- Let $f: \{0, 1, \dots, 2^n - 1\} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$, with $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \neq x^* \\ 1 & \text{if } x = x^* \end{cases}$
- Grover's algorithm returns, with high probability, $x^*: f(x^*) = 1$
- On its simplest form requires that there is a single solution x^*

Problem Statement Example: Search

- Let v be a vector (array) with 2^n elements
- Grover's algorithm can be thought as searching for the index, x^* , of some unique key, y , within this vector:

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } v[x] \neq y \\ 1 & \text{if } v[x] = y \end{cases}$$

Classical Problem Complexity

Given that:

- Nothing is known about $f(x)$ -- black box analogy
- The value of $f(x)$ for each x can only be known by evaluating $f(x)$

then a classical solution for finding $x^*: f(x^*) = 1$ requires, in the worst case, exhaustive search, i.e., evaluating all $N = 2^n$ values of x ;

- its complexity is $\mathcal{O}(N)$

Quantum Problem Definition: Oracle

- $f(x)$ becomes the operator \hat{O} , which is applied to an **uniform superposition** of all

$$N = 2^n \text{ states} \quad |s\rangle = \hat{H} |0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{x=0}^{N-1} |x\rangle$$

- The “Oracle”, \hat{O} , negates state $|x^*\rangle$ sign:

$$\hat{O} |s\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{x=0, x \neq x^*}^{N-1} |x\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} |x^*\rangle$$

- \hat{O} is often denoted as the reflection operator \hat{S}_f , conditionally changing the signal of the good state:

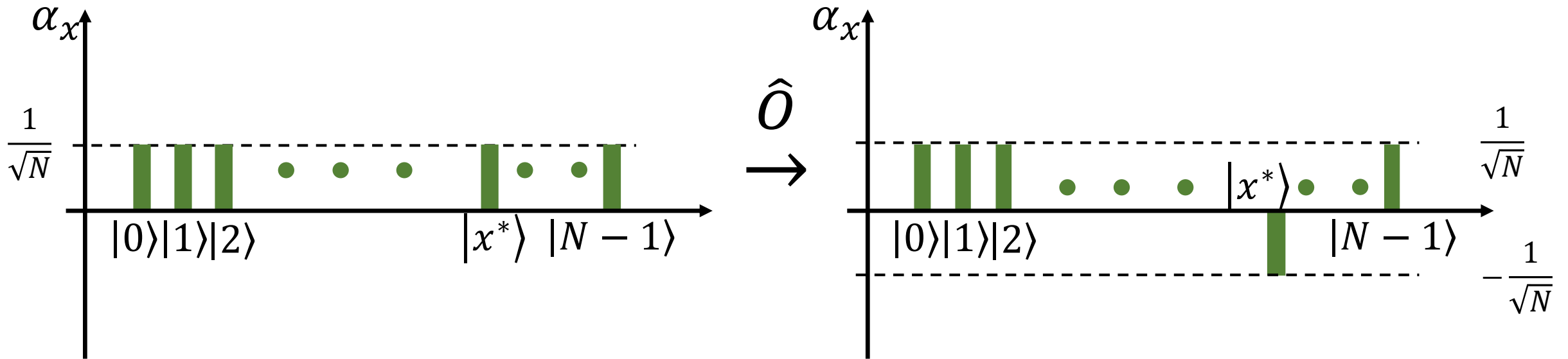
$$\hat{S}_f |x\rangle = \begin{cases} |x\rangle & \text{if } f(|x\rangle) = 0 \\ -|x\rangle & \text{if } f(|x\rangle) = 1 \end{cases}$$



Oracle Graphical Interpretation

- The oracle negates the sign of the desired state $|x^*\rangle$:

$$\hat{O} |s\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{x=0, x \neq x^*}^{N-1} |x\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} |x^*\rangle$$



The probability of measuring each state doesn't change: $P(x) = |\alpha_x|^2$

Grover's Diffusion Operator

- Grover's diffusion operator, \hat{D} , amplifies the magnitude of $|x^*\rangle$
- It reflects the coefficients over their mean:

$$\sum_{x=0}^{N-1} \alpha_x |x\rangle \xrightarrow{\hat{D}} \sum_{x=0}^{N-1} (2\mu - \alpha_x) |x\rangle, \text{ with } \mu = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{x=0}^{N-1} \alpha_x$$

- After the oracle \hat{O} the mean is

$$\mu = \frac{1}{N} \left(\frac{N-1}{\sqrt{N}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \right) = \frac{N-2}{N\sqrt{N}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} - \epsilon, \quad \epsilon = \frac{2}{N\sqrt{N}} \approx 0$$

Grover's Diffusion operator

- Given:

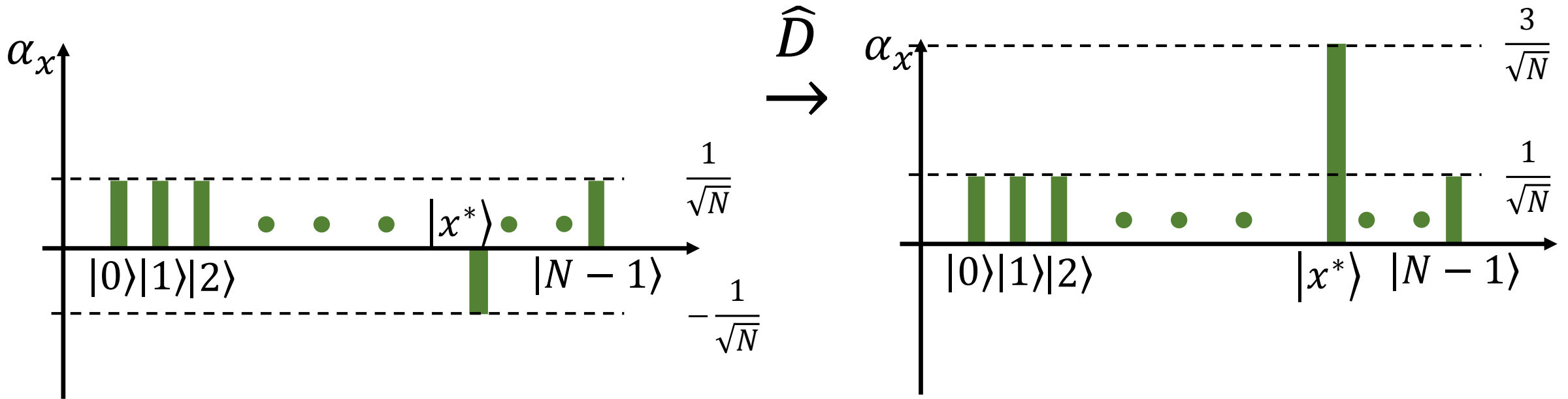
$$\sum_{x=0}^{N-1} \alpha_x |x\rangle \xrightarrow{\hat{D}} \sum_{x=0}^{N-1} (2\mu - \alpha_x) |x\rangle, \text{ with } \mu \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$$

- Applying \hat{D} to the oracle's output yields:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_{x, x \neq x^*} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \xrightarrow{\hat{D}} \alpha_{x, x \neq x^*} = (2\mu - \alpha_x) \approx \frac{2}{\sqrt{N}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \\ \alpha_{x^*} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \xrightarrow{\hat{D}} \alpha_{x^*} = (2\mu - \alpha_{x^*}) \approx \frac{2}{\sqrt{N}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{N}} \end{array} \right.$$

Grover's Diffusion Operator

Grover's diffusion operator \hat{D} reflects the coefficients over their mean

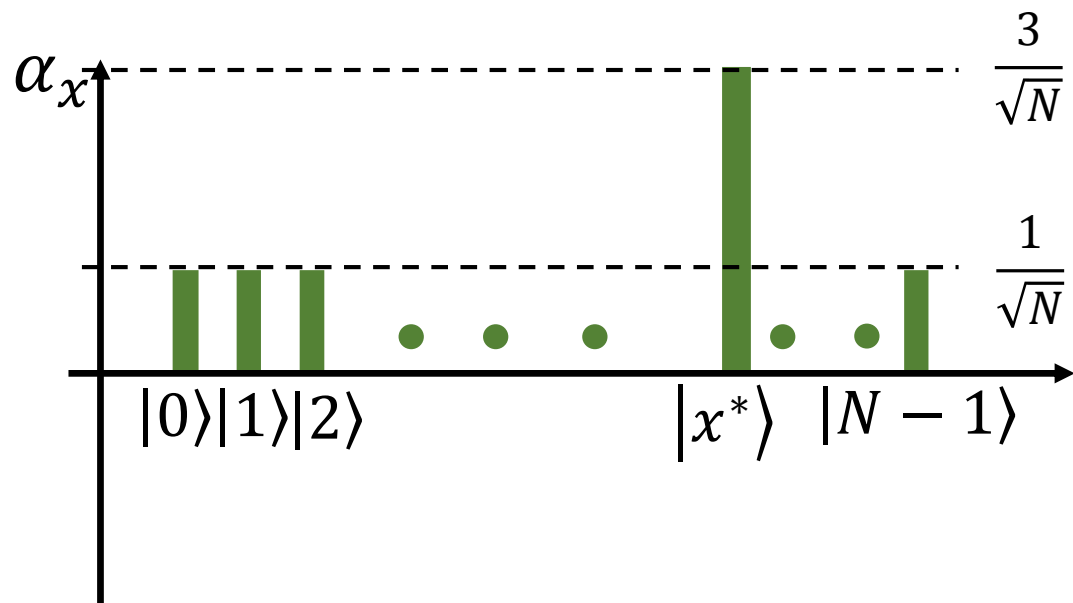


The probability of measuring state $|x^*\rangle$ is amplified $P(|x^*\rangle) = \frac{9}{N}$

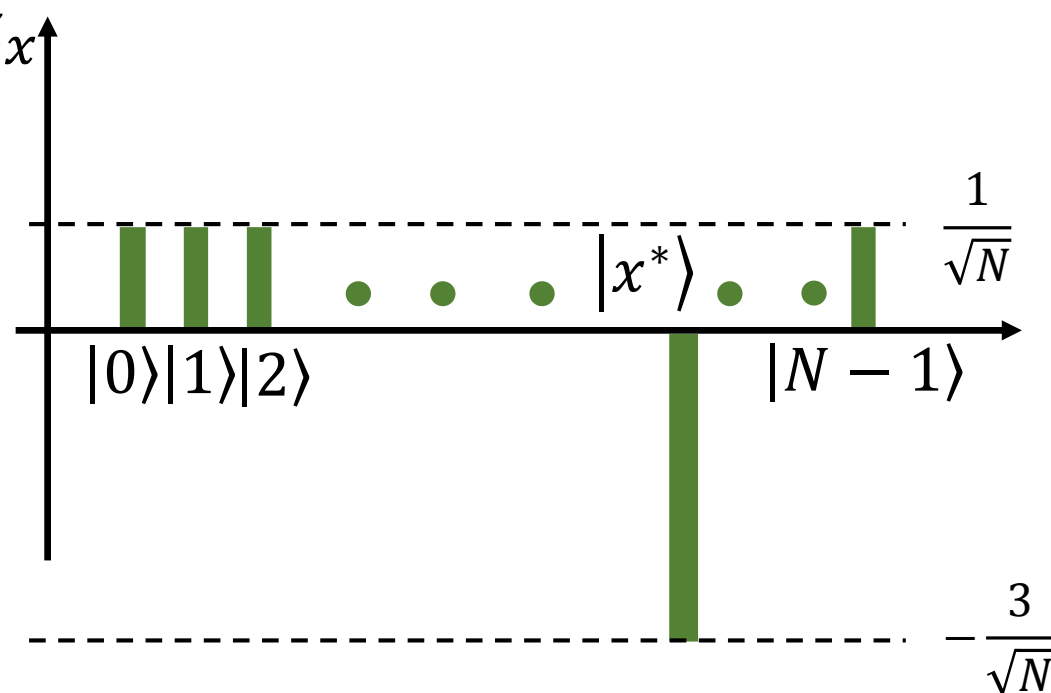
Grover's Iterations

- The operators $\hat{D}\hat{O}$ are iteratively applied r times: $|\Psi^{(r)}\rangle = (\hat{D}\hat{O})^{(r)}|s\rangle$

Example: 2nd iteration

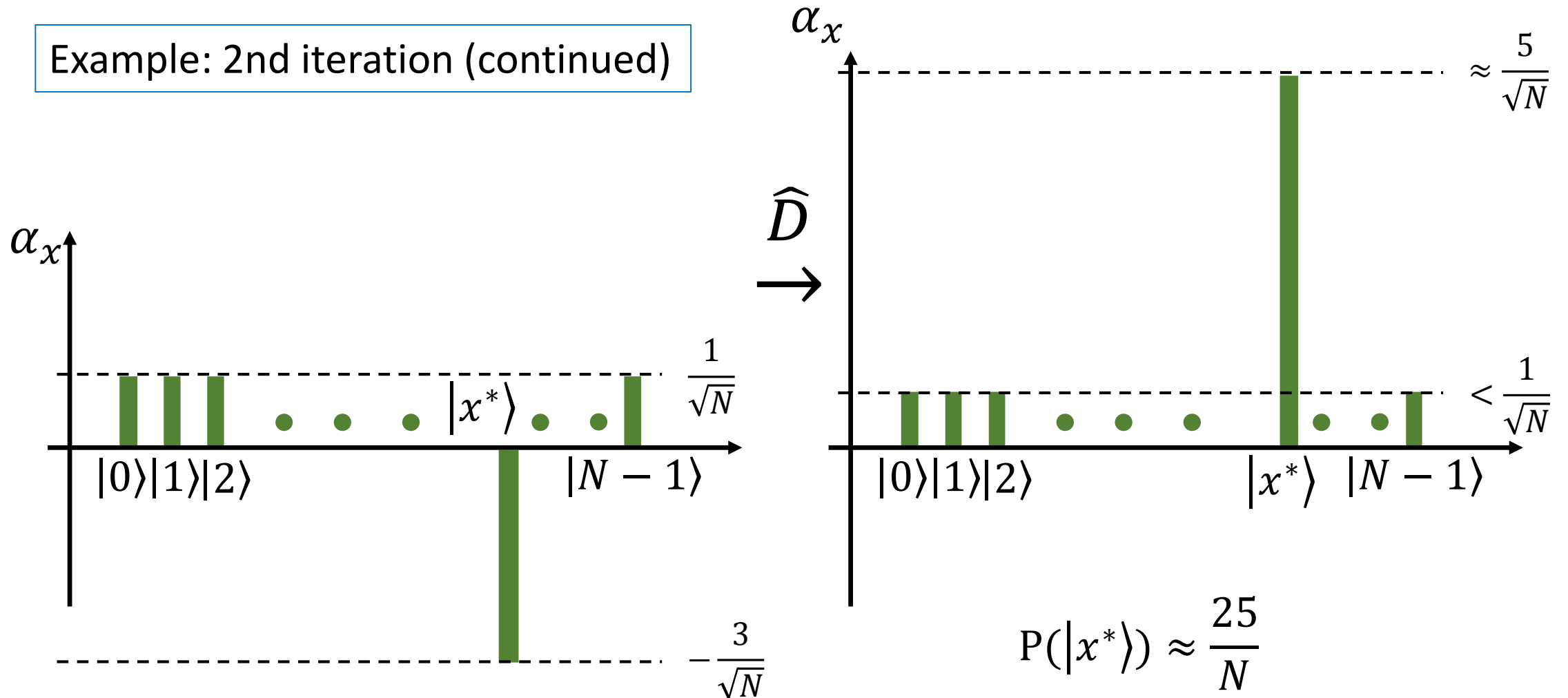


\hat{O}



Grover's Iterations

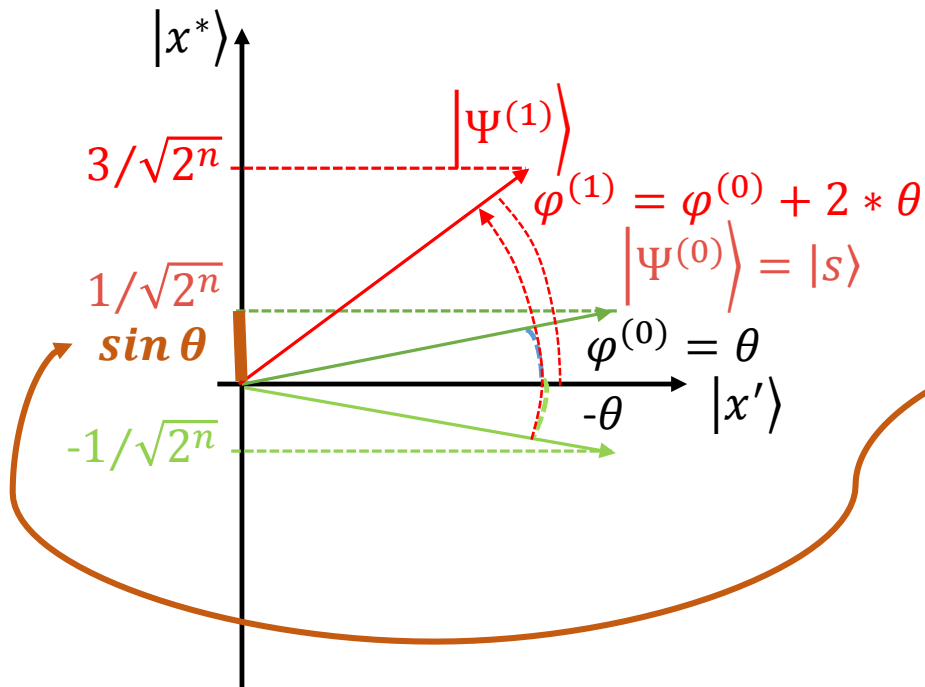
Example: 2nd iteration (continued)



Grover's Iterations

[To diffusion slide](#)

- Goal: compute $|\Psi^{(r)}\rangle = (\widehat{D}\widehat{O})^{(r)}|s\rangle$, such that $P(|x^*\rangle) \approx 1$
- What is the number of iterations r ?



\widehat{O} - oracle

\widehat{D} - diffusion

$$\varphi^{(r)} = (2r + 1)\theta \approx \pi/2$$

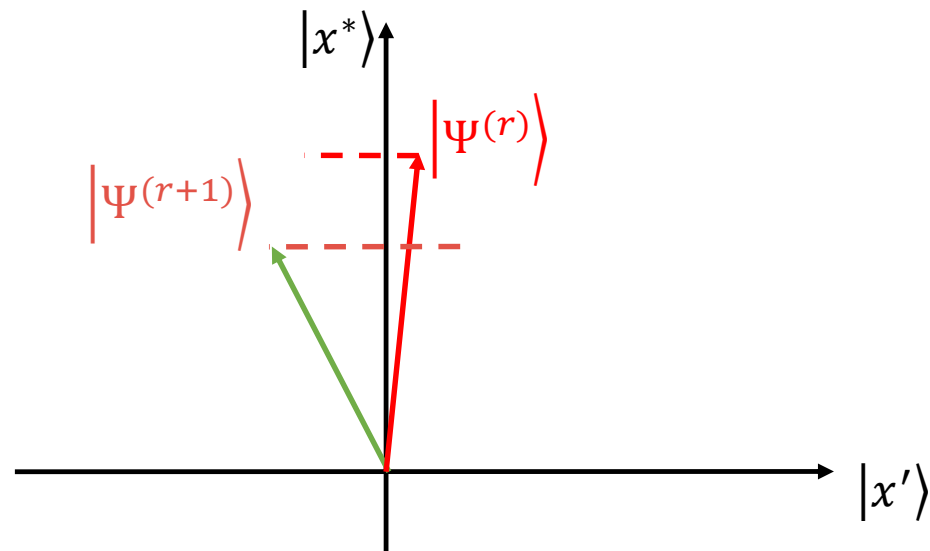
$$\sin \theta = 1/\sqrt{2^n}; n \gg 1 \Rightarrow \theta \approx 1/\sqrt{2^n}$$

$$\frac{2r + 1}{\sqrt{2^n}} \approx \pi/2 \Leftrightarrow 2r \approx \frac{\pi}{2}\sqrt{2^n} - 1 \Rightarrow$$

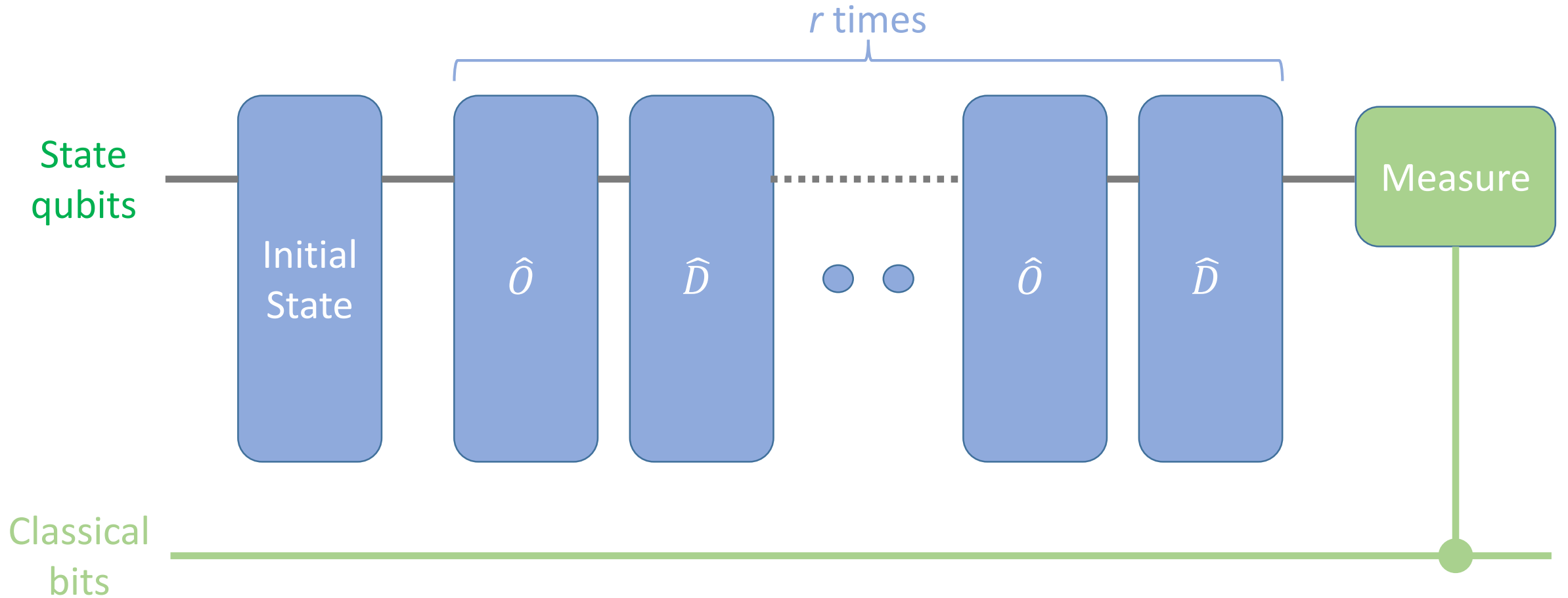
$$\Rightarrow r = \frac{\pi}{4}\sqrt{2^n} - \frac{1}{2} \approx \lceil \sqrt{2^n} \rceil, n \gg 1$$

Grover's Iterations

- $r = \lceil \sqrt{2^n} \rceil$, meaning the oracle is evaluated $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{2^n})$ times, representing a quadratic advantage over classical ($\mathcal{O}(2^n)$)
- Note that iterating more than r times reduces the probability of measuring $|x^*\rangle$



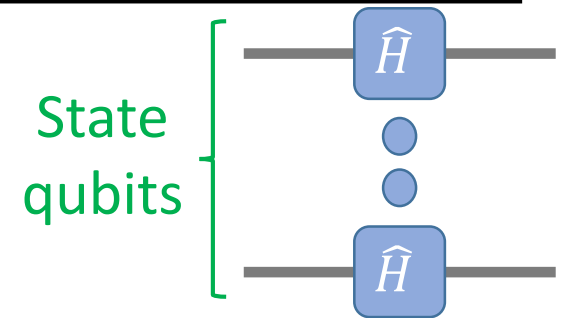
Grover's Implementation



Grover's Implementation: Initial State

The state qubits are set onto an uniform superposition:

$$|x\rangle = \hat{H}^{(n)} |0\rangle$$



$$\hat{H}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix};$$

$$\hat{H}^{(n)} = \hat{H}^{(1)\otimes(n)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2^n}} \left(\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \otimes \dots \otimes \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}}_{n \text{ times}} \right)$$

- Example for 2 qubits: $|x\rangle = \hat{H}|0\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ 1/2 \\ 1/2 \\ 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$

Grover's cZ Implementation: Oracle

$$\sum_{x=0}^{N-1} \alpha_x |x\rangle \xrightarrow{\hat{O}} \sum_{x=0, x \neq x^*}^{N-1} \alpha_x |x\rangle - \alpha_{x^*} |x^*\rangle$$

Z gate:

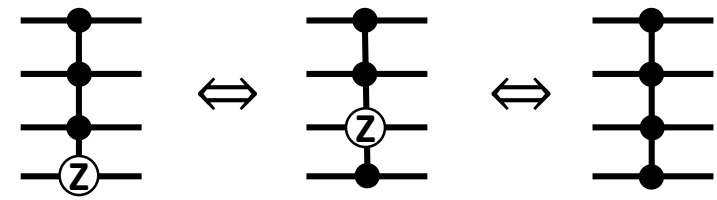
flips the signal of the $|1\rangle$ basis state coefficient:

$$\hat{Z} |\Psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \alpha_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ -\alpha_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$c^m Z$ gate:

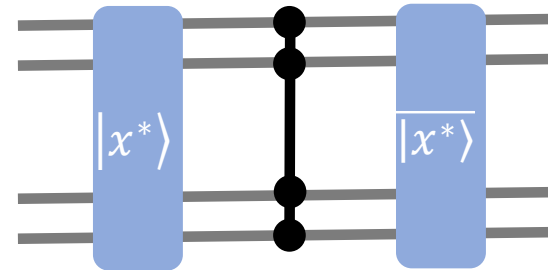
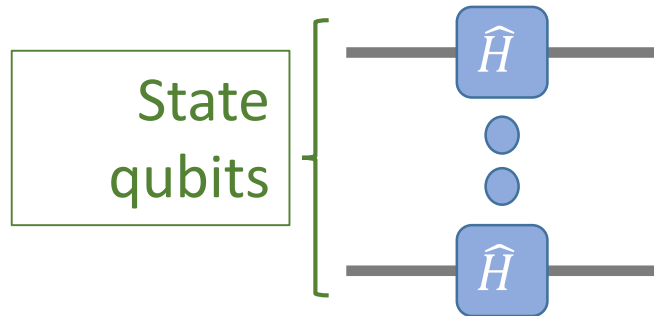
flips the signal of the $|1\rangle^{\otimes(m+1)} = |\mathbf{1}\rangle$ basis state coefficient:

$$c\hat{Z} |\Psi\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ \alpha_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_0 \\ \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \\ -\alpha_3 \end{bmatrix}$$



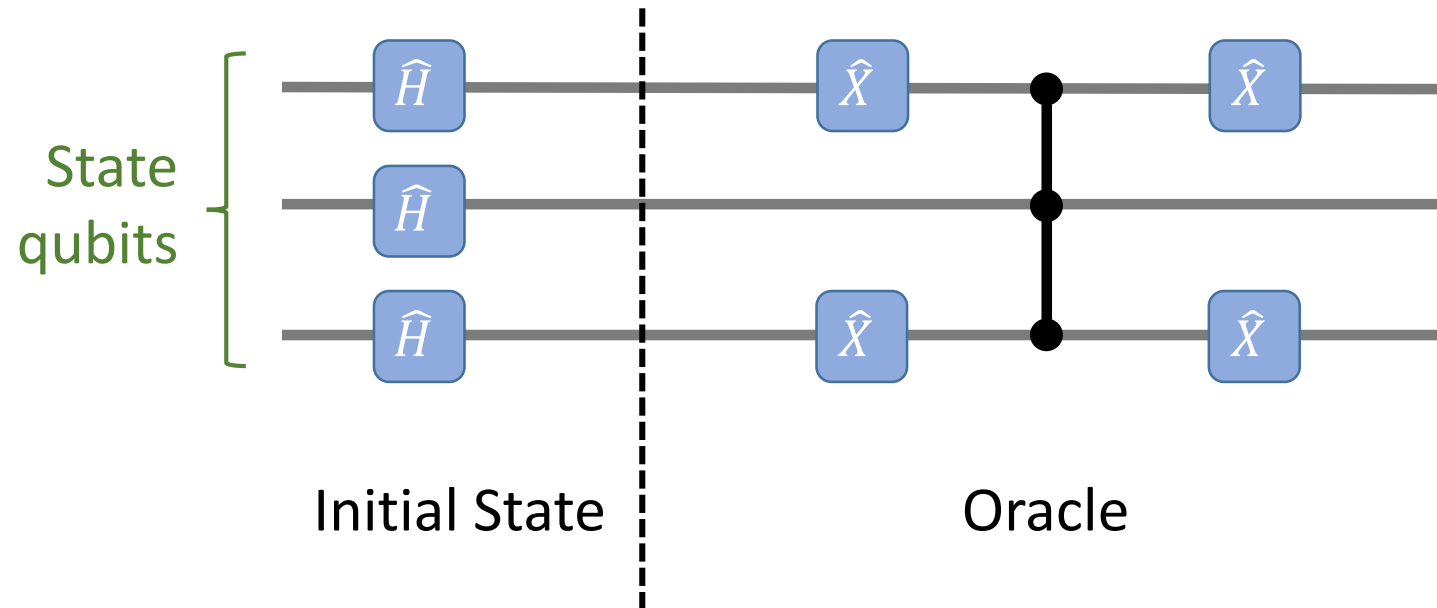
symmetric on the
position of Z

Grover's cZ Implementation: Oracle



Grover's cZ Implementation: Oracle

Example circuit for 3 qubits and $|x^*\rangle = |010\rangle$



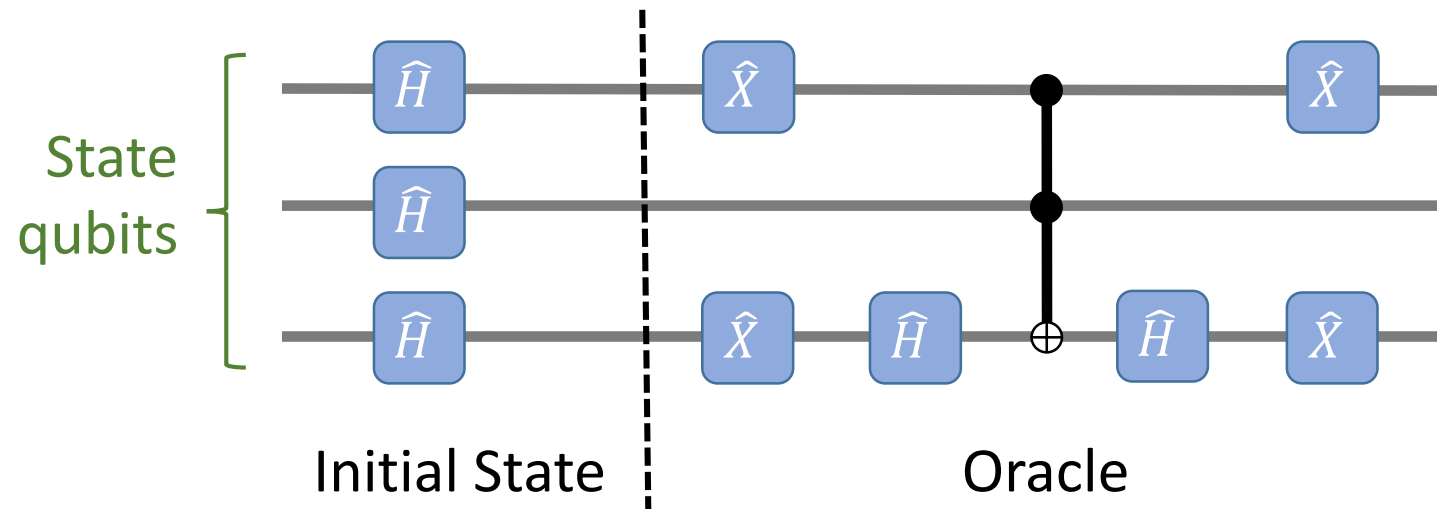
Grover's cZ Implementation: Oracle

Example circuit for 3 qubits and $|x^*\rangle = |010\rangle$

c^mZ gates are equivalent to:

1. applying Hadamard to the target qubit
2. then a c^mNOT gate
3. then Hadamard again

(since the Hadamard transform rotates the X axis to Z and Z to X, and cNOT is a cX)



Grover's Implementation: Diffusion Operator

- Geometric analysis of \hat{D} -> reflection over the uniform superposition ([see slide again](#)):

$$\hat{D} = 2 |s\rangle\langle s| - \hat{I}$$

- By using the Hadamard transform this can be made into a reflection over $|0\rangle$ (remember that $|s\rangle = \hat{H}|0\rangle$ and \hat{H} is its own inverse):

$$\hat{D} = 2 \hat{H} |0\rangle\langle 0| \hat{H} - \hat{I}$$

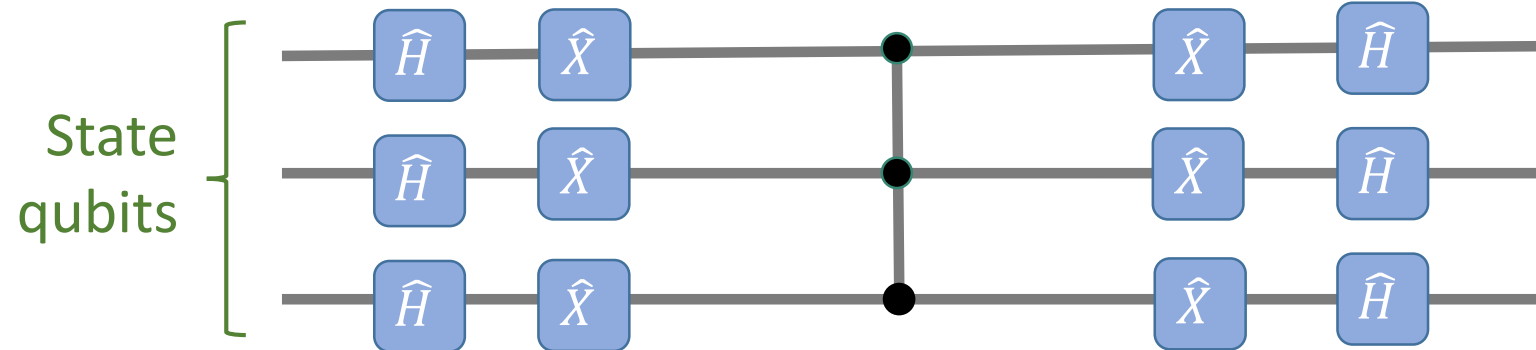
- Let $-\hat{S}_0$ be the negated reflector over $|0\rangle$: changes the sign of state $|0\rangle$

$$-\hat{S}_0 |x\rangle = \begin{cases} |x\rangle & \text{if } |x\rangle \neq |0\rangle \\ -|0\rangle & \text{if } |x\rangle = |0\rangle \end{cases}$$

- Then $-\hat{D} |x\rangle = -\hat{H}\hat{S}_0 \hat{H} |x\rangle$
(the sign is not relevant, since the probability is given by the squared amplitude)

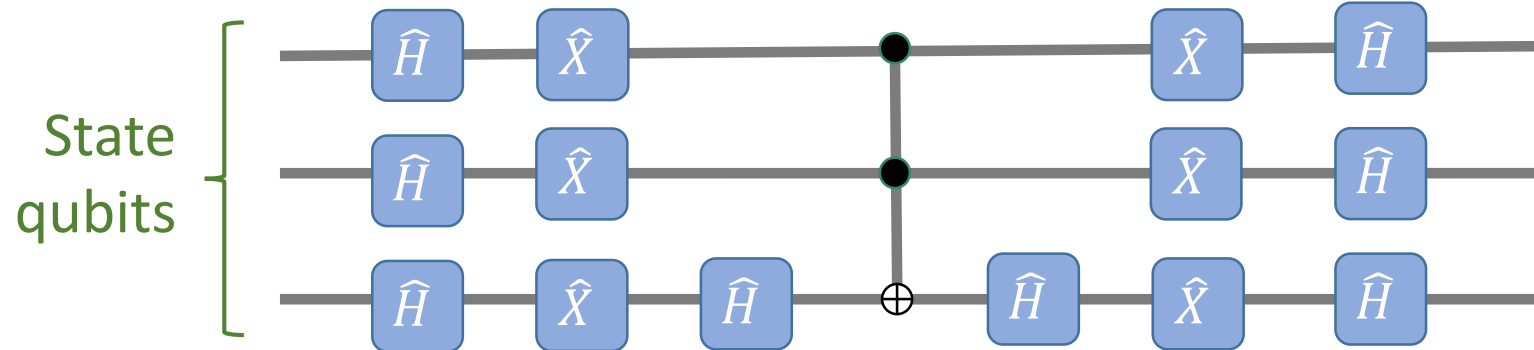
Grover's implementation: DIFFUSION OPERATOR

$-\hat{D} = -\hat{H}\hat{S}_0\hat{H}$ - Example circuit for 3 qubits (ccZ gate):

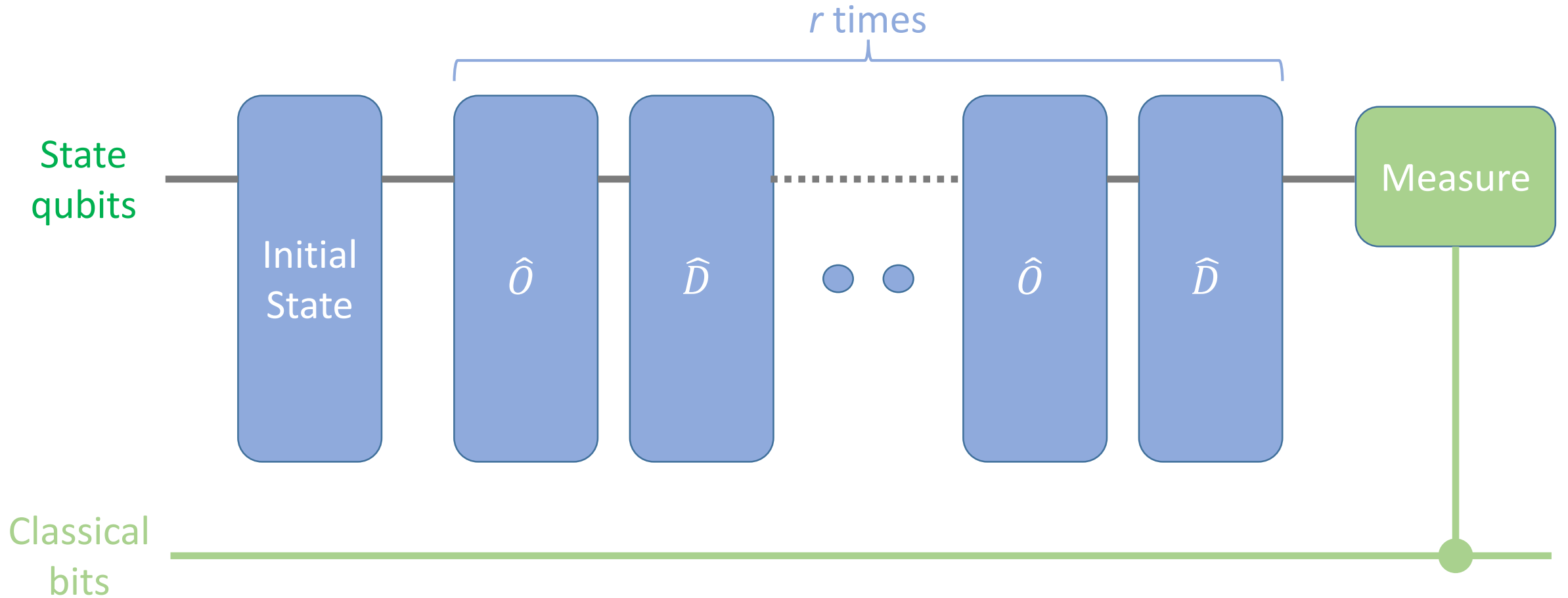


Grover's implementation: DIFFUSION OPERATOR

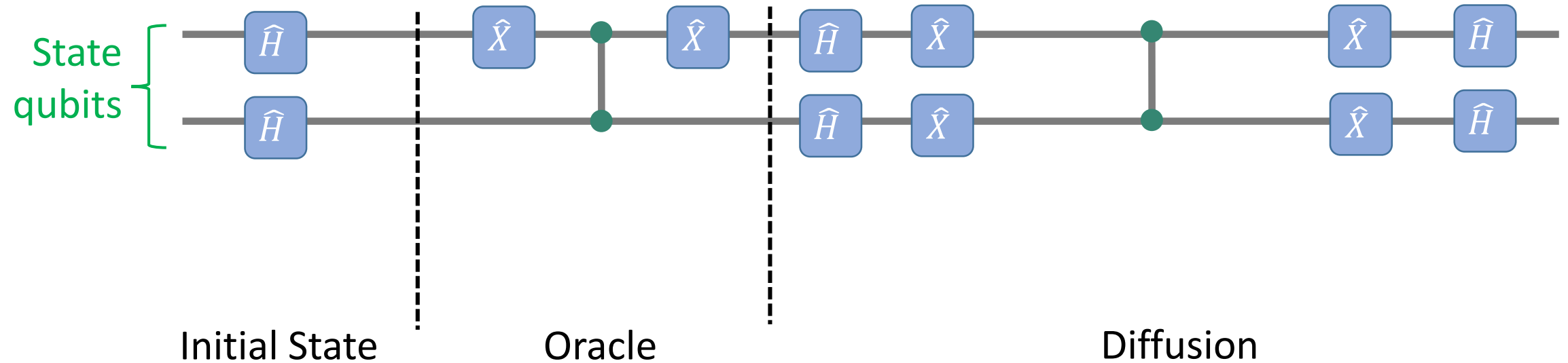
Example circuit for 3 qubits (which as seen [here](#) can be designed with ccX gates):



Grover's Implementation



Grover's Circuit: 2 qubits and $|x^*\rangle = |01\rangle$



Grover: multiple solutions

- If there are $M < N$ ($N = 2^n$) solutions, then the number of iterations r to search for 1 solution is

$$r \approx \sqrt{N/M}$$

- r can not exceed the ideal number of iterations, therefore the above applies for M known
- If the number of solutions, M , is unknown then [Brassard2000] use either :
 - a probabilistic algorithm
 - an approximate counting algorithm to estimate N/M , using an approach similar to Shor's algorithm (period finding via Quantum Fourier Transform)

Brassard, Gilles; Hoyer, Peter; Mosca, Michele; Tapp, Alain; "Quantum Amplitude Amplification and Estimation", May 2000

Grover multiple solutions: probabilistic Qsearch [Brassard2000]

1. $l = 0 ; 1 < c < 2$
2. $l = l + 1 ; S = \lceil c^l \rceil$
3. $|s\rangle = \hat{H} |0\rangle ; x = \text{measure}(|s\rangle) ; \text{if } f(x) == 1 \text{ then stop}$
4. $|s\rangle = \hat{H} |0\rangle$
5. $j = \text{random_integer}(1..S)$
6. $|\psi\rangle = (\hat{D} \hat{O})^j |s\rangle$
7. $x = \text{measure}(|s\rangle) ; \text{if } f(x) == 1 \text{ then stop}$
8. goto 2

Exponential searching: S , the search space, increases exponentially

$$\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{N/M})$$

Grover: arbitrary initial state [Brassard2000]

- Generalized: initial state $|\psi\rangle$ different from uniform
superposition $|s\rangle$ [Brassard2000]

- Grover: $|s\rangle = \hat{H} |0\rangle ; \hat{O} = \hat{S}_f ; \hat{D} = -\hat{H} \hat{S}_0 \hat{H}$

- Generalized: $|\psi\rangle = \mathcal{A} |0\rangle ; \hat{O} = \hat{S}_f ; \hat{D} = -\mathcal{A} \hat{S}_0 \mathcal{A}^{-1}$

number of iterations $r \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} ; a = P(|x^*\rangle)$

Grover: finding the minimum

1. Select initial minimum threshold index

$$y = \text{random_integer}(0..N - 1)$$

2. Run the [QSearch](#) algorithm



3. If $v(x) < v(y)$ then $y = x$

4. If $timeSteps < 22.5\sqrt{N} + 1.4 \log_2 N$ goto 2

5. Output y

