

CMPT 476 Lecture 12

Teleportation



Previously we saw that **shared entanglement** allows one to send **2 classical bits** by sending only **1 qubit**. Today we look at the opposite:

Can we send quantum bits by sending only classical bits?

At first glance it appears impossible...

$$\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$$

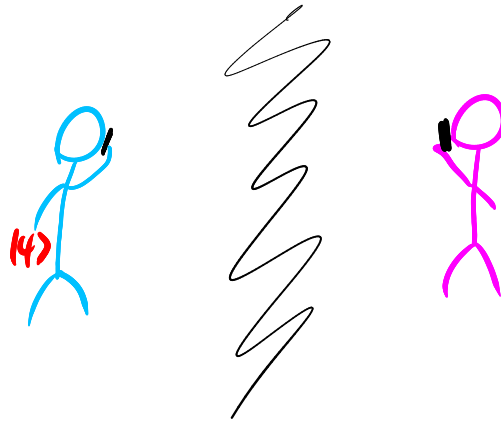
Communicating the above state classically would require **infinite precision** since α and β are arbitrary complex numbers. However, the surprising protocol of **quantum teleportation** in fact allows **Alice** to "send" **Bob** an arbitrary qubit using only pre-shared entanglement and **2 classical bits**.

Caution:

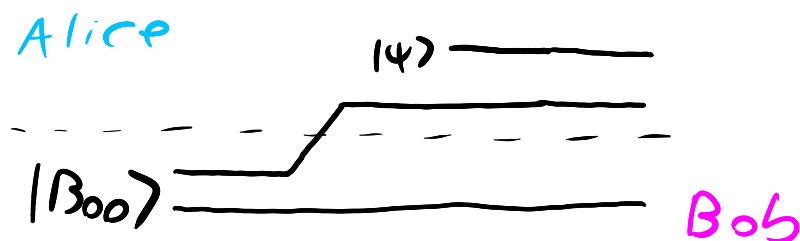
the content of this lecture may be underwhelming and ruin your enjoyment of science fiction films

(Quantum teleportation)

The set up is this: Alice has a qubit $|4\rangle$ that she wants to send to Bob, but their only means of communication is a cell phone.



She can't send it over the phone because it's stored in the spin of some particle. However, Alice and Bob do share an EPR pair $|B_{00}\rangle$ from last year's Christmas party. We can picture the scenario as a circuit like this:



The idea is to give Bob "instructions" to turn his qubit into $|4\rangle$. Figuring out those instructions becomes a little game of shuffling around vectors. First we have to ask what is their joint state?

Suppose $|4\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$. Then

$$|4\rangle|B_{00}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\alpha|100\rangle + \beta|110\rangle + \alpha|011\rangle + \beta|111\rangle)$$

Next, without any motivation, we're going to re-write **Alice's** two qubits over the Bell basis.

Recall from last lecture that

$$|B_{00}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|00\rangle + |11\rangle)$$

$$|B_{01}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|01\rangle + |10\rangle)$$

$$|B_{10}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|00\rangle - |11\rangle)$$

$$|B_{11}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|01\rangle - |10\rangle)$$

Conversely, we have

$$|00\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|B_{00}\rangle + |B_{10}\rangle)$$

$$|01\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|B_{01}\rangle + |B_{11}\rangle)$$

$$|10\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|B_{01}\rangle - |B_{11}\rangle)$$

$$|11\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|B_{00}\rangle - |B_{10}\rangle)$$

So writing $|4\rangle|B_{00}\rangle$ with **Alice's** qubits in the Bell basis gives

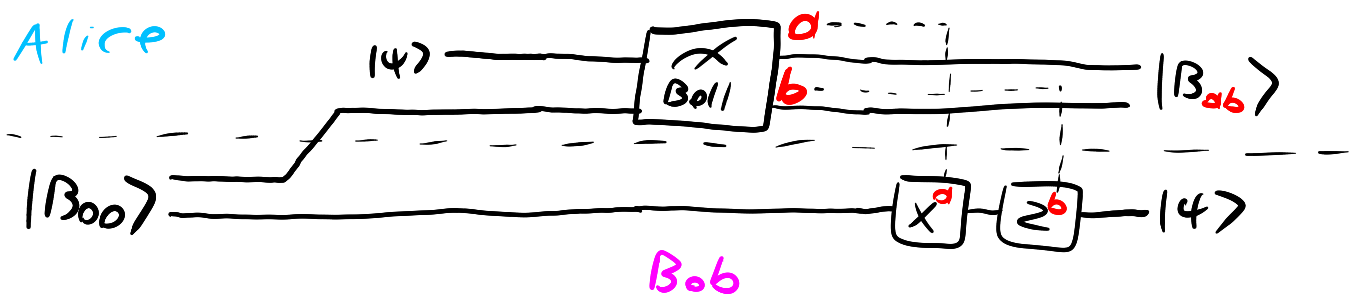
$$\begin{aligned} |4\rangle|B_{00}\rangle &= \frac{1}{2}(\alpha(|B_{00}\rangle + |B_{10}\rangle)|0\rangle + \beta(|B_{01}\rangle - |B_{11}\rangle)|0\rangle \\ &\quad + \alpha(|B_{01}\rangle + |B_{11}\rangle)|1\rangle + \beta(|B_{00}\rangle - |B_{10}\rangle)|1\rangle) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(|B_{00}\rangle(\alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle) + |B_{01}\rangle(\alpha|1\rangle + \beta|0\rangle) \\ &\quad + |B_{10}\rangle(\alpha|0\rangle - \beta|1\rangle) + |B_{11}\rangle(\alpha|1\rangle - \beta|0\rangle)) \end{aligned}$$

If **Alice** were to measure her qubits in the Bell basis, this would be the result:

Alice's result	B_{00}	B_{01}	B_{10}	B_{11}
Bob's state	$\alpha 0\rangle + \beta 1\rangle$ 11 $ 4\rangle$	$\alpha 1\rangle + \beta 0\rangle$ 11 $X 4\rangle$	$\alpha 0\rangle - \beta 1\rangle$ 11 $Z 4\rangle$	$\alpha 1\rangle - \beta 0\rangle$ 11 $XZ 4\rangle$

In every case **Bob's** state is, up to a local transformation, equal to the teleported state! While **Bob** doesn't know which of the 4 states he has, **Alice** can communicate the measurement result using 2 bits over the phone, which will tell **Bob** the correction he needs to make, p.g. if **Alice** sends B_{11} , **Bob** applies ZX to give $ZX(XZ|4\rangle) = ZX XZ|4\rangle = |4\rangle$

The complete protocol is shown below

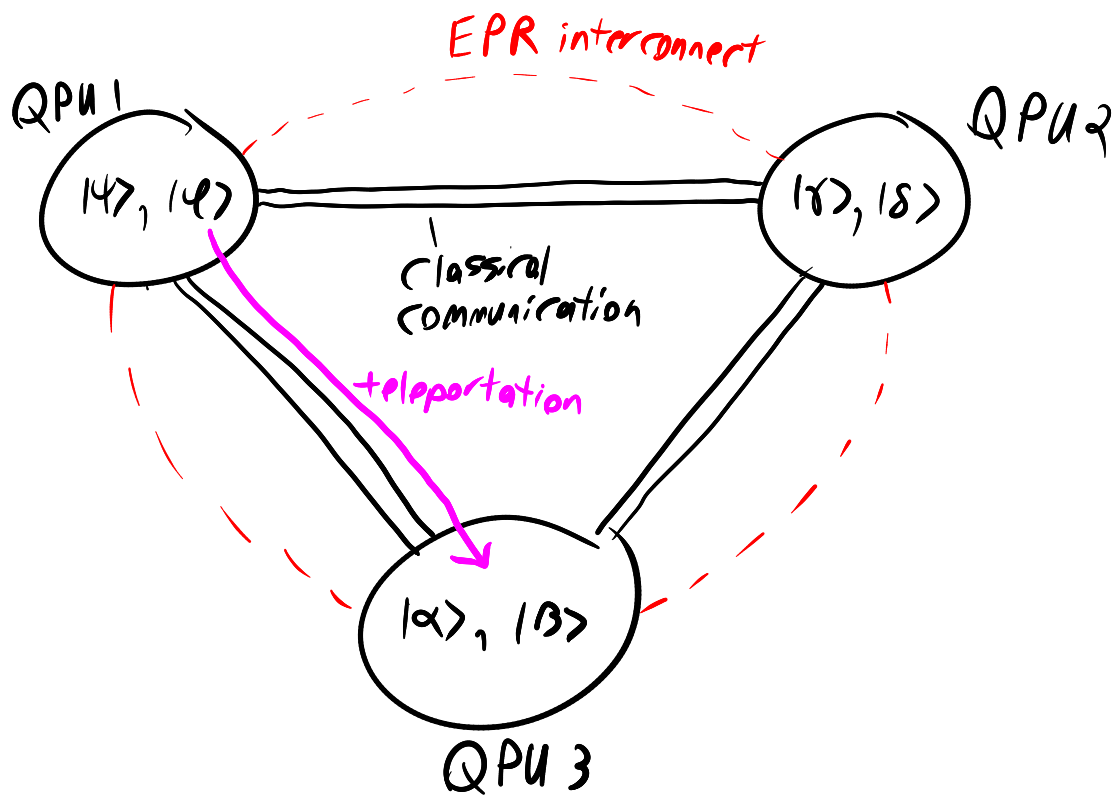


So what does this mean?

One thing that should be clear is that teleportation doesn't work like in the movies. While it may look like abstract mathematical manipulation, it has been experimentally verified many times over great distances. The key idea is that **entanglement is a resource** which can be used to facilitate the transfer and manipulation of quantum information over long distances. This is particularly important in recent proposals to scale quantum computation via **distributed quantum computing** and the **quantum internet**.

(Distributed quantum computing)

We need **many** qubits to perform quantum algorithms. Many more than would fit on a single chip in fact. To deal with this and other issues, recent proposals for scaling QC are based around establishing **interconnects** between processors — either at local scales or truly distributed **“internet”** scales — which allow the teleportation of qubits from one processor to another.



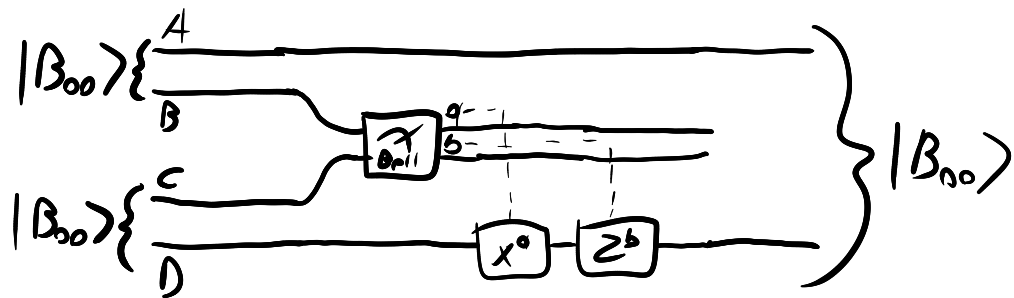
Question:

Do we need interconnects between each processor to move qubits freely between any pair?

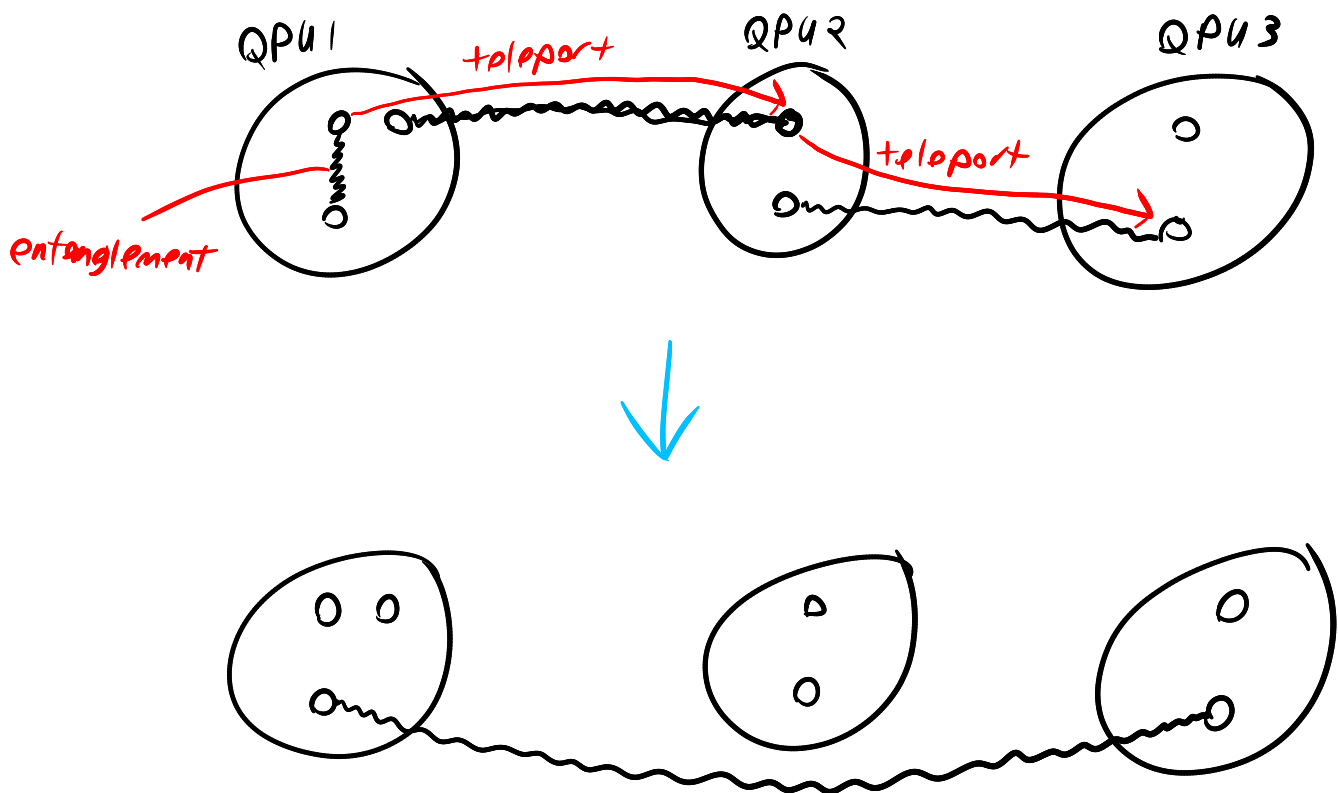
No, due to entanglement swapping

(Entanglement swapping)

Suppose we have 4 qubits, A, B, C, D with $A \& B$ entangled and $C \& D$ entangled. Teleporting $B \longrightarrow D$ entangles $A \& D$ without $A \& D$ ever interacting directly.



We can use this protocol to generate entangled pairs between any pair of **path-connected** processors, e.g.

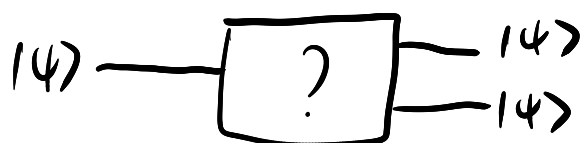


(State cloning)

One thing that we may notice about the teleportation protocol is that it is in a sense highly destructive: Alice loses her initial state $|\psi\rangle$ (and both Alice and Bob burn up an EPR pair...). A reasonable and practically important question is can we **clone** the state $|\psi\rangle$ first so that Alice retains a copy? Classically this is the FANOUT gate



The question is: Does there exist a quantum analogue of the **FANOUT** gate

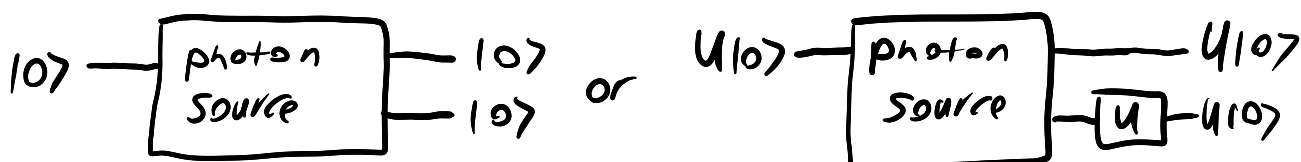


(No-cloning theorem (Wootters & Zurek, 1982))

(Informally)

It is **physically impossible** to clone an arbitrary quantum state

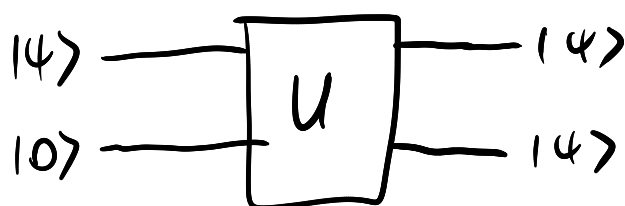
The **arbitrary** requirement is important here, since we can easily clone **particular** states.



(Ancillas)

Note that the **photon source** operation above is **non-unitary** since it increases the number of qubits. Yet, it is physically implementable. We typically assume access to something like a photon source which will allow us to **add** a new qubit in the **$|0\rangle$** state to a computation, called an **ancilla**. Another way we can view this is to say that the qubit **previously existed**, but since it was not yet used and its state was not entangled with the rest of the qubits, we simply **ignored** it.

With **ancillas**, we can start to hone in on what a general cloner might look like mathematically. In particular, is there a unitary transformation U s.t.



(An almost cloner)

Recall the CNOT gate $CNOT = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ which sends

$$\begin{aligned} |0\rangle|0\rangle &\mapsto |0\rangle|0\rangle \\ |1\rangle|0\rangle &\mapsto |1\rangle|1\rangle \end{aligned}$$

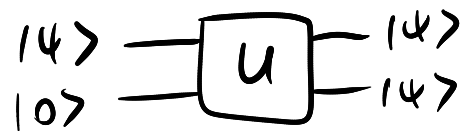
So it looks a lot like a cloner. Let's see what happens when the first qubit is in the state

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$$

By linearity,

$$\begin{aligned} CNOT|\psi\rangle|0\rangle &= CNOT(\alpha|00\rangle + \beta|10\rangle) = \alpha|00\rangle + \beta|11\rangle \\ &\neq |\psi\rangle|\psi\rangle \end{aligned}$$

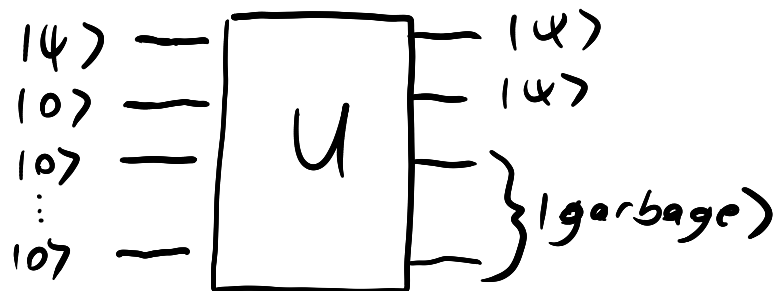
The fact that there is no cloner



is trivial, because if $|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$, then

$$|\psi\rangle|0\rangle \xrightarrow{U} |\psi\rangle|\psi\rangle = \alpha^2|00\rangle + \alpha\beta|01\rangle + \alpha\beta|10\rangle + \beta^2|11\rangle$$

is **not even linear!** However, it could be linear in some **larger state space**, for instance a computation which uses some additional ancillas and leaves them in some **(unentangled) garbage state**, i.e.



This is what is sometimes called a **general quantum operation**.

(No-cloning Theorem)

There is no general quantum operation U as above.

Proof

Let $|\psi\rangle$ and $|\varphi\rangle$ be states such that

$$0 < |\langle\psi|\varphi\rangle| < 1$$

$$\text{Hence, } 0 < |\langle\psi|\langle 00\dots 0|\cdot|\varphi\rangle|00\dots 0\rangle| < 1$$

$$= \langle\psi|\varphi\rangle\langle 00\dots 0|00\dots 0\rangle$$

$$= \langle\psi|\varphi\rangle$$

Now, since U preserves inner products we have

$$\langle\psi|\langle 00\dots 0|\cdot|\varphi\rangle|00\dots 0\rangle = \langle\psi|\langle\psi|\langle\text{garbage}|\cdot|\varphi\rangle|\varphi\rangle|\text{garbage}'\rangle$$

$$\langle\psi|\varphi\rangle = \langle\psi|\varphi\rangle^2 \langle\text{garbage}|\text{garbage}'\rangle$$

$$1 = \langle\psi|\varphi\rangle \langle\text{garbage}|\text{garbage}'\rangle$$

But $|\langle\psi|\varphi\rangle| < 1$ and $\langle\text{garbage}|\text{garbage}'\rangle \leq 1$, a contradiction

□