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Published in:
14th Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science Conference (ITCS 2023)

DOI:
10.4230/LIPIcs.ITCS.2023.29

Publication date:
2023

Document version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

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Citation for published version (APA):
https://doi.org/10.4230/LIPIcs.ITCS.2023.29

Download date: 07. jan., 2024
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Abstract

Majority vote is a basic method for amplifying correct outcomes that is widely used in computer science and beyond. While it can amplify the correctness of a quantum device with classical output, the analogous procedure for quantum output is not known. We introduce quantum majority vote as the following task: given a product state $|\psi_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |\psi_n\rangle$ where each qubit is in one of two orthogonal states $|\psi\rangle$ or $|\psi^\perp\rangle$, output the majority state. We show that an optimal algorithm for this problem achieves worst-case fidelity of $1/2 + \Theta(1/\sqrt{n})$. Under the promise that at least $2/3$ of the input qubits are in the majority state, the fidelity increases to $1 - \Theta(1/n)$ and approaches 1 as $n$ increases.

We also consider the more general problem of computing any symmetric and equivariant Boolean function $f : \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$ in an unknown quantum basis, and show that a generalization of our quantum majority vote algorithm is optimal for this task. The optimal parameters for the generalized algorithm and its worst-case fidelity can be determined by a simple linear program of size $O(n)$. The time complexity of the algorithm is $O(n^4 \log n)$ where $n$ is the number of input qubits.

2012 ACM Subject Classification Computer systems organization → Quantum computing

Keywords and phrases quantum algorithms, quantum majority vote, Schur–Weyl duality

Digital Object Identifier 10.4230/LIPIcs.ITCS.2023.29


Funding

Harry Buhrman: NWO Gravitation grants Networks (024.002.003) and QSC (024.003.037).
Laura Mančinska: Villum Fonden grant for the QMATH Centre of Excellence (10059) and Villum Young Investigator grant (37532).
Ashley Montanaro: QuantERA project QuantAlgo, EPSRC grants (EP/R043957/1, EP/T001062/1), EPSRC Early Career Fellowship (EP/L021005/1), and ERC grant (817581).
Maris Ozols: NWO Vidi grant (VI.Vidi.192.109).

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