

Topics in Quantum Information

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Timetable: 16 hrs. Class meets on Wednesday and Friday from 10:30 to 12:30. First lecture on Wednesday, February 20, 2013, Room DEI/G (Dept. of Information Engineering, Via Gradenigo 6/a, Padova).

Course requirements: Standard linear algebra and probability theory.

Examination and grading: Homeworks and final project.

Aim: The Course aims to serve as an introduction to a selection of topics of interest in quantum information theory, with a focus on the role of uncertainty and noise. A mathematically consistent approach will be developed, in order to tackle problems of information encoding, communication and error-correction for finite-dimensional systems.

Topics:

1. **Quantum Theory as a Probability Theory;** Densities, observable quantities, measurements in a non-commutative setting. Unitary dynamics. Composite systems and entanglement. Partial trace and marginal densities.
2. **Quantum Information Distances, Uncertainty and Distinguishability;** Entropy, relative entropy, trace norm, their interpretation and basic properties. Fidelity and related quantities.
3. **Quantum Dynamical Systems and Noise;** Open quantum systems and quantum operations. Kraus representation theorem. Errors and Markov noise models. Examples for two-level systems.
4. **Encoding Information in Quantum Systems;** The logical qubit. Encoding qubits in physical systems, operational requirements and "good codes".
5. **Classical and Quantum Information over Quantum Channels;** No-cloning theorem. Schumacher's quantum noiseless coding theorem. The Holevo-Schumacher-Westmoreland theorem.
6. **Advanced topics;** To be selected, depending on the research focus and interest of the attending students.

References: The main reference is M. A. Nielsen and I. L. Chuang, Quantum Computation and Quantum information (Cambridge, 2000). Other relevant references, on-line notes and research papers will be provided during the course.