

For the sake of clarity, we reproduce here the algebraic manipulations done in class.

We consider state  $|y\rangle$ , consisting on  $n$  qubits, that is  $|y\rangle = |y_1 \dots y_n\rangle = |y_1\rangle \otimes \dots \otimes |y_n\rangle$ , which gives us  $2^n \equiv N$  basis states.

The Quantum Fourier Transform is the change of basis:

$$\underbrace{|\hat{x}\rangle}_{\text{Fourier basis}} \equiv QFT \underbrace{|x\rangle}_{\text{Computational basis}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} e^{\frac{2\pi i x y}{N}} |y\rangle \quad (1)$$

We now plug in  $y$  written in the binary representation  $y = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} y_k 2^{n-k}$  :

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} e^{\frac{2\pi i x}{2^n} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} y_k 2^{n-k}} |y\rangle \stackrel{\text{simpler}}{=} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} e^{2\pi i x \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} y_k 2^{-k}} |y\rangle$$

A summation on the exponent turns into a product:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} e^{2\pi i x y_k 2^{-k}} |y_1 \dots y_n\rangle$$

Now the key idea is that we can split the summation into  $n$  summations, one for each qubit with possible values  $\{0, 1\}$  :

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{y_1=0}^1 \dots \sum_{y_n=0}^1 \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} e^{2\pi i x y_k 2^{-k}} |y_1 \dots y_n\rangle \quad (2)$$

Let us work out in detail using (2) for the case of two qubits ( $n=2$ ):

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{y_1=0}^1 \sum_{y_2=0}^1 \prod_{k=1}^2 e^{2\pi i x y_k 2^{-k}} |y_1 y_2\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{y_1=0}^1 \sum_{y_2=0}^1 e^{2\pi i x [\frac{y_1}{2} + \frac{y_2}{2^2}]} |y_1 y_2\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{y_1=0}^1 e^{2\pi i x y_1 / 2} [e^{2\pi i x 0 / 2^2} |y_1 0\rangle + e^{2\pi i x 1 / 2^2} |y_1 1\rangle]$$

The final expression we get can be easily recast as a tensor product:

$$\frac{1}{2} [(|00\rangle + e^{2\pi i x / 2^2} |01\rangle + e^{2\pi i x / 2} |10\rangle + e^{2\pi i x [\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^2}]} |11\rangle] = \frac{1}{2} (|0\rangle + e^{2\pi i x / 2^2} |1\rangle) \otimes (|0\rangle + e^{2\pi i x / 2} |1\rangle)$$

With a bit of work, we get an idea of the structure of the transform for the general case ( $n$  qubits) by performing the summation for some qubits:

First:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{y_1=0}^1 \dots \sum_{y_{n-1}=0}^1 \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} e^{2\pi i x y_k 2^{-k}} [|y_1 \dots y_{n-1} 0\rangle + e^{2\pi i x / 2^n} |y_1 \dots y_{n-1} 1\rangle]$$

Second:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{y_1=0}^1 \dots \sum_{y_{n-2}=0}^1 \prod_{k=0}^{n-2} e^{\frac{2\pi i x y_k}{2^k}} [|y_1 \dots y_{n-2} 00\rangle + e^{2\pi i x / 2^n} |y_1 \dots y_{n-2} 01\rangle + e^{2\pi i x / 2^{n-1}} |y_1 \dots y_{n-2} 10\rangle + e^{2\pi i x [\frac{1}{2^{n-1}} + \frac{1}{2^n}]} |y_1 \dots y_{n-2} 11\rangle]$$

and so on. We see we get  $2^n$  states in this fashion, whose coefficients we know how to write down. For example, some of them are:

$$|0 \dots 0\rangle + \dots + e^{2\pi i x / 2^{n-2}} |0 \dots 0100\rangle + e^{2\pi i x [\frac{1}{2^{n-2}} + \frac{1}{2^n}]} |0 \dots 0101\rangle + \dots + e^{2\pi i x / 2} |10 \dots 0\rangle + \dots + e^{2\pi i x [\sum_k \frac{1}{2^k}]} |1 \dots 1\rangle$$

Finally, convince yourself that you can write those terms as  $n$  tensor products:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} (|0\rangle + e^{2\pi i \frac{x}{2^n}} |1\rangle) \otimes \dots \otimes (|0\rangle + e^{2\pi i \frac{x}{2^n}} |1\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \bigotimes_{l=1}^n [|0\rangle + e^{2\pi i x 2^{-l}} |1\rangle]. \quad (3)$$