

Task: Given N , find a non-trivial factor of N

Classical algorithm:

- Pick $a \in \{2, \dots, N-1\}$ uniformly at random
- Compute $d = \gcd(a, N)$ with Euclid's algo.
- If $d > 1$, return d ✓
- If $d = 1$, find the multiplicative order of a modulo N , i.e. (see next page)

|| find the smallest natural number r such
|| that $a^r = 1 \pmod{N}$.

Aside: if $\gcd(a, N) = 1$, then $\exists \alpha \in \{2 \dots N-1\}$
s.t. $a \cdot \alpha = 1 \pmod{N}$ (multiplicative inverse)

Example: $N=5$, $a=2$, $\gcd(a, N)=1 \Rightarrow \alpha=3$

Proof: extended Euclid's algo gives (α, v) s.t.

$$a \cdot \alpha + N \cdot v = 1 \quad \text{i.e.} \quad a \cdot \alpha = 1 \pmod{N} \#$$

Given a and N s.t. $\gcd(a, N) = 1$, could it be that $a^r = 0 \pmod N$ for some r ?

Claim: This cannot happen: $1 = a \cdot \alpha = (a \cdot \alpha)^r$
 $= a^r \cdot \alpha^r \pmod N$ so $a^r \neq 0 \pmod N$

So a, a^2, a^3, a^4, \dots is never 0

So $\exists r_1 \neq r_2$ s.t. $a^{r_1} = a^{r_2} \pmod N$ (there are only $N-1$ non zero elements).

$$\text{Say } r_1 > r_2 : a^{r_1} - a^{r_2} = 0 \pmod{N}$$

$$\text{so } a^{r_2} \cdot (a^{r_1 - r_2} - 1) = 0 \pmod{N}$$

$$\text{so } \underbrace{a^{r_2} \cdot a^{r_2}}_{= (a \cdot a)^{r_2}} \cdot (a^{r_1 - r_2} - 1) = 0 \pmod{N}$$
$$= (a \cdot a)^{r_2} = 1 \pmod{N} \text{ (so not 0)}$$

$$\text{so } a^{r_1 - r_2} - 1 = 0 \pmod{N}$$

$$\text{so } \exists r > 0 \quad \text{s.t.} \quad a^r = 1 \pmod{N}$$

(and finite) $\left(r = \text{"order" of } a \pmod{N} \right)$

Back to the factoring algorithm:

Let r be the smallest natural number such that $a^r = 1 \pmod{N}$.

(NB: this is the difficult part, where the classical algorithm is slow)

- If r is odd, then declare failure & restart
- If r is even, then write $a^r - 1 = (a^{r/2} - 1)(a^{r/2} + 1)$

• Can it be that $a^{r/2} - 1 = 0 \pmod N$?

No, because we assumed that r is the smallest value s.t. $a^r - 1 = 0 \pmod N$.

• So $\underbrace{a^r - 1}_{\text{multiple of } N} = \underbrace{(a^{r/2} - 1)}_{\text{not a multiple of } N} \cdot (a^{r/2} + 1) :$

{ either $a^{r/2} + 1$ is a multiple of N : declare failure
or $\gcd(a^{r/2} - 1, N)$ and $\gcd(a^{r/2} + 1, N)$
are non-trivial \rightarrow we are done

Claim: $\mathbb{P}(\text{failure of the algo}) \leq \frac{1}{4}$

(without proof)

We will see next how to compute r efficiently with a quantum algorithm.

(We know that $1 \leq r \leq N-1$, so checking all the possible values of r is prohibitive; classically, we can do a bit better than that.)

Note: There are easy numbers to factorize:

- N even
- N multiple of 3
- N multiple of 5 ...
- $N = p^e$ (try all the roots)

The hardest numbers to factorize are:

$$N = p \cdot q \quad \text{with } p \neq q \text{ large primes}$$

Task: find the multiplicative order of $a \bmod N$
i.e. the smallest value of $r > 0$ s.t. $a^r = 1 \bmod N$

Define $f_{a,N}(x) = a^x \bmod N$

$$f_{a,N}: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$$

Then $f_{a,N}(x+r) = f_{a,N}(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{Z}$

So r is also the period of $f_{a,N}$

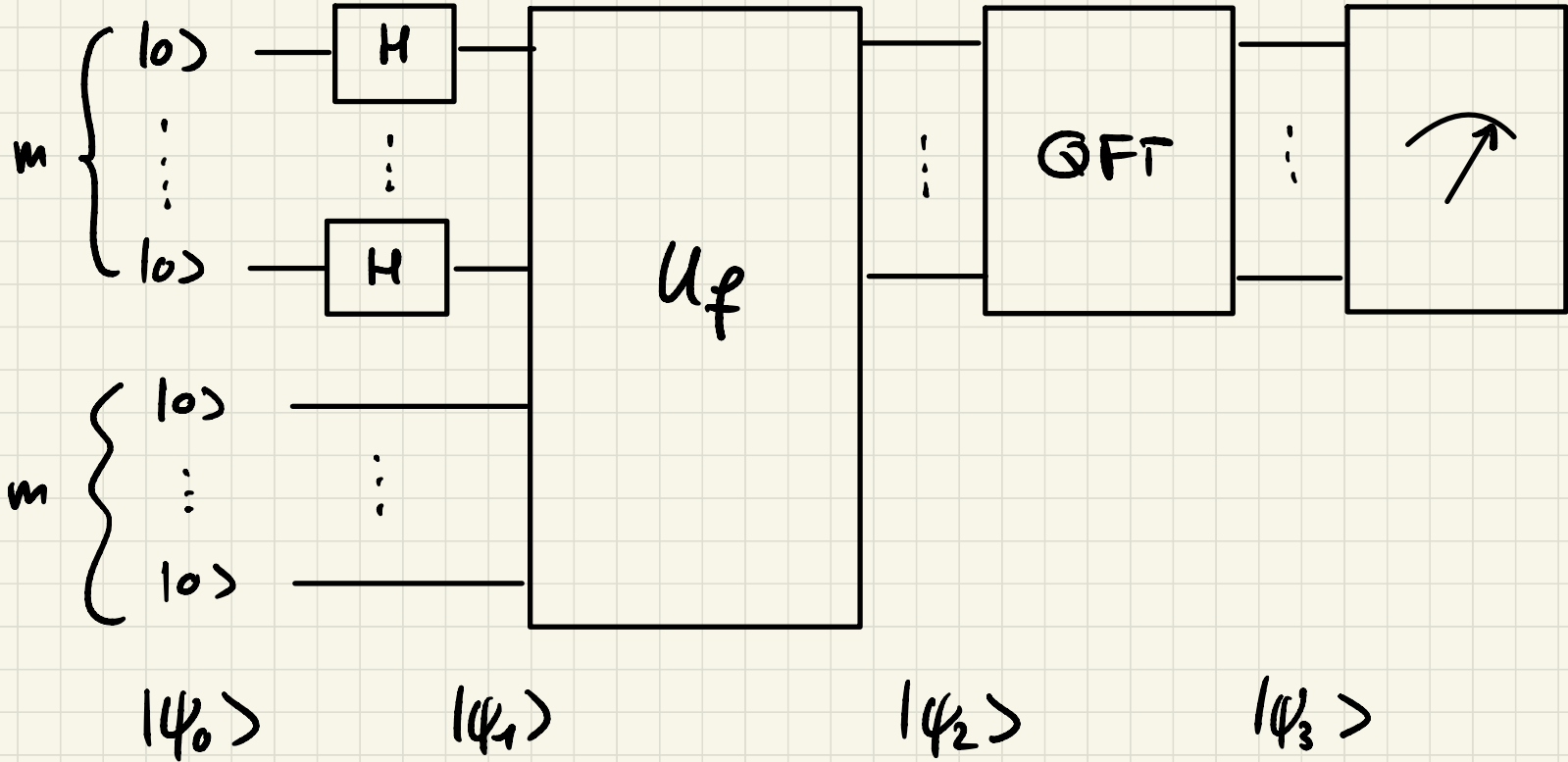
⚠ $|\mathbb{Z}| = \infty$, but Simon's algo was operating on
a finite domain

Solution: Pick $M \gg r$ (typically $M \sim N^2$)

and $f: \{0..M-1\} \rightarrow \{0..M-1\}$

For now, assume for simplicity $M = 2^m$ for
some $m \geq 1$ and $M = k \cdot r$ for some $k \geq 1$.

Quantum circuit:



$$|\psi_0\rangle = \underbrace{|0 \dots 0\rangle}_m \otimes \underbrace{|0 \dots 0\rangle}_m$$

$$|\psi_1\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{x=0}^{M-1} |x\rangle \otimes |0 \dots 0\rangle$$

$$|\psi_2\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{x=0}^{M-1} |x\rangle \otimes |f(x)\rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{x_0=0}^{M-1} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{M}{r}-1} |x_0 + jr\rangle \otimes \underbrace{|f(x_0 + jr)\rangle}_{=f(x_0)}$$

Quantum Fourier transform

$$\text{QFT } |x\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{y=0}^{M-1} \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i x y}{M}\right) |y\rangle$$

= unitary operation

State $|\psi_3\rangle$, measurement \Rightarrow next week!

(and some more details...)