

# Compressed Sensing Quantum State Tomography: An Alternate Approach

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## Abstract

The matrix generalizations of Compressed Sensing (CS) were adapted to Quantum State Tomography (QST) previously by Gross et al. [Phys. Rev. Lett. 105, 150401 (2010)], where they consider the tomography of  $n$  spin-1/2 systems. For the density matrix of dimension  $d = 2^n$  and rank  $r$  with  $r \ll 2^n$ , it was shown that randomly chosen Pauli measurements of the order  $O[dr \log(d)^2]$  are enough to fully reconstruct the density matrix by running a specific convex optimization algorithm. However, these results utilized the low operator-norm of the Pauli operator basis, which are available only in power-of-two dimensional Hilbert spaces. In the present work [Phys. Rev. A 101, 062328 (2020)], we propose an alternate CS-QST protocol for states in Hilbert spaces of non-power-of-two dimensions, which still achieves the bounds on number of measurement settings  $O[dr \log(d)^2]$  presented in [Phys. Rev. Lett. 105, 150401 (2010)]. In this alternate protocol, we use a unitary operator  $W$  to "move" the quantum information from a  $d$  dimensional system to a  $d_1$  dimensional ancilla, where  $d_1$  is a power of two. We prove that choosing the optimal value for  $d_1$  and performing the standard CS-QST protocol using simple Pauli measurements on the ancilla will guarantee full recovery from  $O[dr \log(d)^2]$  measurements. We show that the unitary operator  $W$  can be efficiently implemented using only  $poly[\log(d)^2]$  single qubit gates at most, which is relatively a small overhead compared to the cost of CS-QST protocol. For states in Hilbert spaces of non-power-of-two dimensions, one may consider performing the standard CS-QST protocol using the  $SU(d)$  operators. We point out that the  $SU(d)$  operators, owing to their high operator norm, do not provide a significant savings in the number of measurement settings required for successful recovery of all rank- $r$  states. We use numerical simulations to show that the proposed alternate approach outperforms the one using  $SU(d)$  operators.

## Introduction

The matrix generalization of CS techniques, known as matrix completion [1], are adapted to quantum state tomography (QST) by Gross *et al.* [2] where they consider tomography of  $n$  spin-1/2 systems, whose density matrix  $\rho$  is of dimension  $d = 2^n$  and rank- $r$ .

### Theorem

[2] Let  $\rho$  ( $d \times d$ ) be an arbitrary state of rank  $r$ . Let  $\Omega \subset \{w_a\}_{a=1}^{d^2}$  be a randomly chosen set. Each operator  $w_a$  is a  $k$ -fold tensor product of the Pauli basis operators  $\{\sigma_i\}_{i=0}^3$  for matrices on  $(\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes k}$ , where  $d^2 = 2^k$ . If the number of Pauli expectation values  $m = |\Omega| = cdr \log(d)^2$  then the solution  $\sigma^*$  to the following optimization program,

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \|\sigma\|_1 \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \text{Tr}(w_a \sigma) = \text{Tr}(w_a \rho) \quad \forall w_a \in \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

is unique and equal to  $\rho$  with failure probability exponentially small in  $c$ .

The main results of Ref. [2] were generalized to any given matrix basis in Ref. [3].

### Theorem

[3] Let  $\rho$  ( $d \times d$ ) be a rank- $r$  matrix with coherence  $\nu$  with respect to the operator basis  $\{w_a\}_{a=1}^{d^2}$ . Let  $\Omega \subset \{w_a\}_{a=1}^{d^2}$  be a randomly chosen set. The solution  $\sigma^*$  to the following optimization program,

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \|\sigma\|_1 \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \text{Tr}(w_a \sigma) = \text{Tr}(w_a \rho) \quad \forall w_a \in \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

is unique and equal to  $\rho$  with probability of failure smaller than  $e^{-\beta}$  provided that

$$|\Omega| \geq O[dr\nu(\beta + 1) \log(d)^2].$$

The number  $\nu$  is the "coherence" of the density matrix with respect to the given matrix basis.

**Definition:** The coherence  $\nu$  of a  $d \times d$  matrix  $\rho$  with respect to an operator basis  $\{w_a\}_{a=1}^{d^2}$  is given by  $\min(\nu_1, \nu_2)$  if

$$\max_a \|w_a\|^2 \leq \nu_1 \left(\frac{1}{d}\right) \quad (3)$$

and

$$\max_a \|P_U w_a + w_a P_U - P_U w_a P_U\|_2^2 \leq 2\nu_2 \left(\frac{r}{d}\right) \quad (4)$$

hold.  $P_U$  is the projection operator onto the column (or row) space of  $\rho$ .

The operator norm of any normalized Pauli operator is  $\sqrt{1/d}$ , and hence,  $\nu_1 = 1$ , which makes it incoherent to all low rank matrices. Theorem [2] utilizes the above property of the Pauli operator basis, which are available only in power-of-two dimensional Hilbert spaces.

## Problem Statement

- How do we achieve the bounds on number of measurement settings  $O(dr \log(d)^2)$  even for qudits in Hilbert spaces of non-power-of-two dimensions?

## SU( $d$ ) Operator basis

Since the Pauli operators can only be defined in  $\mathbb{C}^{2^k \times 2^k}$  as a  $k$ -fold tensor product of  $SU(2)$  operators, a natural candidate would be to use the  $SU(d)$  operator basis [4]. The operator norm of  $SU(d)$  basis elements is greater than or equal to  $1/2$ , and hence,  $\nu_1 > d/2$ . In this case, we [5] find that one can obtain non-trivial bounds on the number of  $SU(d)$  measurement settings from Theorem 1 only if  $\nu_2$  is small, which is true for a very limited set of states.

## An Alternate Approach

- Move the quantum information from a  $d$  dimensional system to a  $d_1$  dimensional ancilla, where  $d_1$  is a power of two, using the following unitary operator,

$$W = \sum_{i,j}^{d_1} |i_S\rangle\langle j_S| \otimes |j_A\rangle\langle i_A| + \sum_i^{d_2-d_1} 1 \otimes |i_A\rangle\langle i_A|, \quad (5)$$

Example:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{11} & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{13} \\ \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{22} & \sigma_{23} \\ \sigma_{31} & \sigma_{32} & \sigma_{33} \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow_W \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_{11} & \sigma_{12} & \sigma_{13} & 0 \\ \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{22} & \sigma_{23} & 0 \\ \sigma_{31} & \sigma_{32} & \sigma_{33} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- The new state of Ancilla  $\rho'_A = \sum_{i,j}^{d_1} \rho_{ij} |i_A\rangle\langle j_A|$  has the same rank as  $\rho_S$
- We use the following program to reconstruct  $\rho'_A$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \|\sigma\|_1 \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \text{Tr}(w_a \sigma) = \text{Tr}(w_a \rho'_A) \quad \forall w_a \in \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where  $\Omega$  is the set of randomly chosen Pauli operators.

- From Theorem 1,  $|\Omega| = cd_2 r \log(d_2)^2$  Pauli measurements are enough for the output of the program (6) to be unique and equal to  $\rho'_A$  with failure probability exponentially low in  $c$ .
- Set  $d_2$  as the smallest power of two greater than or equal to  $d_1$  ( $d_1 < d_2 < 2d_1$ ).

$$\begin{aligned} cd_2 r \log(d_2)^2 &< c'd_1 r \log(d_1)^2 \\ \Omega &= O(d_1 r \log(d_1)^2) \end{aligned}$$

- The Unitary  $W$  ( $d_1 d_2 \times d_1 d_2$ ) is 1-sparse matrix and hence can be implemented with accuracy  $\epsilon$  using at most  $poly[\log(d_1), 1/\epsilon]$  gates [6].

## Numerical Simulations

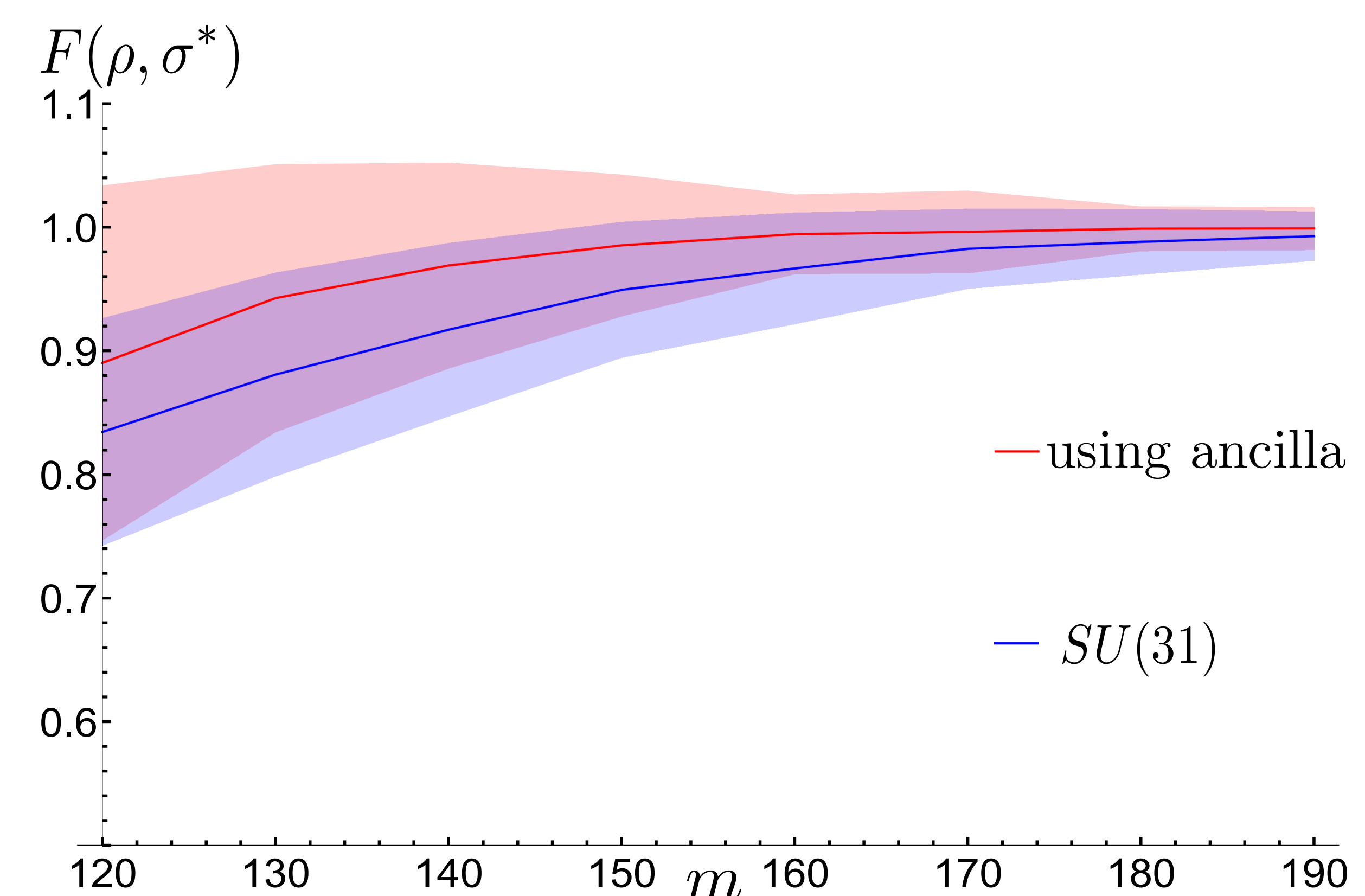


Figure 1: The fidelity  $F(\rho, \sigma^*)$  between the estimated ( $\sigma^*$ ) and the true states ( $\rho$ ) against the number of measurement settings ( $m$ ) for  $SU(31)$  basis measurements (orange) and Pauli measurements on the ancilla (blue) is shown. Fidelity is calculated over 1000 randomly generated  $31 \times 31$  rank-1 density matrices.

## References

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