# Chapter 10 Quantum Phase–Hebbian Image Processing

In this chapter, some specific characteristics of quantum-implementable phase-Hebbian content-addressable associative memory and pattern recognition are discussed. Quantum formalism, constrained by the closure relation, is generalized into a flexible information-processing system by a suitable (re)interpretation of quantum states involving "fuzzification" of the orthonormality and closure relations.

**Core of the quantum associative net.** Let us first repeat the core of the Quantum Associative Network model. In Feynman's path-integral formalism, the Schrodinger equation can be rewritten (AuxLit 16) in the form

$$\Psi(\vec{r}_2, t_2) = \int \int G(\vec{r}_1, t_1, \vec{r}_2, t_2) \Psi(\vec{r}_1, t_1) d\vec{r}_1 dt_1$$
(10.1)

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where the kernel G is the propagator or the Green function having form of a projection-operator (Bjorken & Drell, 1964/65):

$$G(\vec{r}, t_1, \vec{r_2}, t_2) = \sum_{k=1}^{P} \psi_k(\vec{r_1}, t_1) * \psi_k(\vec{r_2}, t_2)$$
(10.2)

The wave-function  $\Psi$  is a superposition of P eigen-wave-functions  $\psi_k$  which can represent plane-waves

$$\psi_{k}(\vec{r},t) = A_{k}(\vec{r},t)e^{i\varphi_{k}(\vec{r},t)}$$
(10.3)

or wavelets (Lee, 1996; Schempp, 1994, 1995).<sup>1</sup> For simplicity we will not use the Gabor wavelets as wave-packets  $\psi_k$  in the formalism explicitly, but this neuropsy-chologically-important option is allowed.

It is assumed that it is possible to encode information into quantum eigenwaves  $\psi_k$ : we let an *eigen-wave-function represent an image*. For each possible vector-basis  $\psi_k$  (k = 1,..., P) there is an expression of the same type as Equation (10.2) (Messiah, 1965) which "stores" the eigenpatterns and performs projections to eigen-subspaces. Now it will be shown how such a quantum system can be manipulated in order to realize content-addressable memory storage and associative retrieval.

**Opening the closure relation.** Because propagator (10.2) must reproduce the initial state in dynamical Equation (10.1) when  $t_i = t_{22}$  the quantum closure relation

$$\sum_{k=1}^{P} \psi_k(\vec{r}_1, t) * \psi_k(\vec{r}_2, t) = \delta(\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2) \text{ or } \sum_{k=1}^{P} \psi_k(\vec{r}_1) * \psi_k(\vec{r}_2) = \delta(\vec{r}_1 - \vec{r}_2)$$
(10.4)

must be satisfied (Messiah, 1965).

Closure relation (10.4) implies the postulate of complete and orthonormal set of quantum eigenstates: i.e  $\Psi = \sum_{k} c_k \psi_k$  (completeness), and the scalar product of eigenvectors  $\psi_k$ , which have norm 1, is 0 (orthonormality).

Prescription (10.4) ensures reversible and unitary quantum evolution<sup>2</sup> determined by the linear Schrodinger equation (implying complete orthonormal set of eigenwaves in kernel— Equation (10.2)) *if* the system is closed, i.e. if there is no disturbance from environment. On the other hand, the same kernel, (10.2), serves as a projection-operator realizing non-unitary, non-linear and irreversible "collapse of the wave-function" *if* the system is *open*, i.e. if there is a disturbance from environment (Wheeler & Zurek, 1983). If we "perturb" the system, incorporating an "informa-

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