# PERSISTENT HOMOLOGY AND INTERACTION GRAPHS

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Abstract. The optimization of quantum circuits for specific hardware backends remains a major challenge in the field of quantum computing. In this paper, we present a comprehensive study of the techniques for optimizing quantum circuits using transpiling and persistent homology. We first introduce the concept of transpiling and its challenges, and discuss the impact of different basis gate sets on circuit performance. We then explore the concept of weighted interaction graphs, which are used to represent the connectivity and entanglement properties of a quantum circuit. We present two methods for computing the weights of the edges in a weighted interaction graph: two-qubit gate count between each pair of qubits and von Neumann entanglement entropy. We discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each method and demonstrate the utility of weighted interaction graphs for understanding the topological structure of quantum circuits. Finally, we delve into the application of persistent homology for analyzing the topological properties of weighted interaction graphs. We demonstrate the use of persistent homology for optimizing circuit transpiling and hardware design and present experimental results on the impact of persistent homology on circuit performance. Our study provides a comprehensive overview of transpiling, weighted interaction graphs, and persistent homology for quantum computing and highlights their potential for optimizing quantum circuits and hardware design.

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## 1. Introduction

Quantum computing is a rapidly evolving field that has the potential to revolutionize computing as we know it. However, the design and optimization of quantum circuits remain a major challenge due to the complex and fragile nature of quantum systems. To address this challenge, researchers have developed techniques for transpiling quantum circuits from one basis gate set to another, and for analyzing the topological properties of quantum circuits using persistent homology.

In this paper, we present a comprehensive study of these techniques and their applications for designing quantum hardware backends and optimizing circuit transpiling. We begin by introducing the concept of transpiling, which involves converting a quantum circuit from one basis gate set to

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another in order to optimize its performance on a specific quantum hardware platform. We discuss the challenges and strategies involved in transpiling quantum circuits.

Next, we explore the concept of weighted interaction graphs, which are used to represent the connectivity and entanglement properties of a quantum circuit. We describe two methods for computing the weights of the edges in a weighted interaction graph: two-qubit gate count between each pair of qubits, and von Neumann entanglement entropy. We present a comparison of these methods and their respective strengths and weaknesses, and demonstrate the utility of weighted interaction graphs for understanding the topological structure of quantum circuits.

Finally, we delve into the application of persistent homology for analyzing the topological properties of weighted interaction graphs. We discuss the concept of persistent homology and its use for identifying the most significant topological features of a graph at different scales. We demonstrate the application of persistent homology for optimizing circuit transpiling and hardware design, and present experimental results on the impact of persistent homology on circuit performance.

Overall, our study provides a comprehensive overview of transpiling, weighted interaction graphs, and persistent homology for quantum computing, and highlights the potential of these techniques for optimizing quantum circuits and hardware design.

## 2. Transpiling a Quantum Circuit to Chosen Basis Gates

Transpiling a quantum circuit to a chosen basis gate set means converting the circuit, which is specified in terms of a set of quantum gates, into an equivalent circuit that uses only a different set of gates, known as the basis gates. This is done to make the circuit more compatible with a specific quantum hardware or simulator, as different quantum systems may have different sets of native gates that can be implemented directly.

The process of transpiling a circuit involves decomposing each gate in the original circuit into a sequence of basis gates, which can be implemented directly on the target quantum system. The decomposition is done using a gate synthesis algorithm, which searches for a sequence of basis gates that approximates the original gate to a desired level of accuracy.

The choice of basis gates can depend on various factors, such as the hardware architecture, gate error rates, and gate fidelities. Commonly used basis gate sets include the Clifford+T gate set, which consists of the Hadamard, CNOT, and T gates, and the universal gate set, which consists of any two-qubit gate and a single-qubit gate that can generate arbitrary single-qubit rotations.

Transpiling a circuit to a chosen basis gate set is an important step in implementing a quantum algorithm on a specific quantum system, as it ensures that the circuit can be executed efficiently and accurately on the target hardware or simulator.

## 3. Computing the Weighted Interaction Graph

Suppose we are given a quantum circuit with density matrix $\rho$ and with qubits $\{q_k\}_{k=0}^{n-1}$ with corresponding reduced density matrices $\{\rho_k\}_{k=0}^{n-1}$. We would like to define a weighted interaction graph with nodes corresponding to qubits, and edge weights corresponding to

(1) The two-qubit gate count between each pair of qubits,
(2) the von Neumann entanglement entropy between qubits.

To define a weighted interaction graph with nodes corresponding to qubits and edge weights corresponding to the von Neumann entanglement entropy between qubits in a quantum circuit, you can follow these steps:

Compute the reduced density matrix $_k$ for each qubit $q_k$ in the circuit. The reduced density matrix describes the state of a single qubit in the circuit, obtained by tracing out the other qubits.

For each pair of qubits $(q_i, q_j)$ in the circuit, compute the von Neumann entanglement entropy $S_{i,j}$ between the reduced density matrices $_i$ and $_j$. The von Neumann entanglement entropy measures the amount of entanglement between the two qubits, and is defined as:

$$S_{i,j} = -\text{tr}(\rho_i \log_2 \rho_j) = -\text{tr}(\rho_j \log_2 \rho_i)$$

Use the entanglement entropies $S_{i,j}$ to define the weights of the edges in the graph. Specifically, the weight of an edge between qubits $q_i$ and $q_j$ is given by $w_{i,j} = S_{i,j}$.

Construct the weighted interaction graph with nodes corresponding to qubits and edge weights corresponding to the von Neumann entanglement entropy. Specifically, the vertices of the graph correspond to the qubits in the circuit, and the edges correspond to the interactions between the qubits induced by the gates. The weight of an edge between qubits $q_i$ and $q_j$ represents the strength of the entanglement between the two qubits, as quantified by the von Neumann entanglement entropy.

Once the weighted interaction graph is constructed, it can be used to study the properties of the quantum circuit, such as the connectivity of the qubits, the degree of entanglement, and the presence of certain gate sequences. The graph can also be used in the transpiling process to find an efficient decomposition of the original circuit into a sequence of basis gates that can be implemented on a specific quantum hardware or simulator.

## 4. Persistent Homology of Weighted Interaction Graphs

Persistent homology is a mathematical tool used to study the topological properties of data sets, including graphs. In the case of a weighted interaction graph, we can use persistent homology to study the connectivity and structure of the graph at different scales defined by the weights of the edges.

To study a weighted interaction graph using persistent homology, we need to define a filtration parameter that increases monotonically with the edge weights. This filtration parameter is used to define a sequence of subgraphs of the original graph, where each subgraph includes all edges with weights less than or equal to the filtration parameter.

We can then compute the homology groups of each subgraph in the sequence, which describe the connected components, loops, voids, and higher-dimensional features of the graph at different scales. By tracking the birth and death of these topological features as the filtration parameter increases, we can construct a persistence diagram or barcode that summarizes the persistent homology of the graph.

To apply persistent homology to a weighted interaction graph, we can follow these steps:

(1) Construct the weighted interaction graph as described earlier, with nodes corresponding to qubits and edge weights corresponding to the von Neumann entanglement entropy between qubits (or simply use gate two-qubit gate count).
(2) Define a filtration parameter based on the edge weights. For example, we can use the entanglement entropy as the filtration parameter, so that the filtration parameter increases monotonically with the strength of the entanglement between qubits.
(3) Use a persistent homology software package, such as Giotto-TDA or Scikit-TDA, to compute the homology groups of each subgraph in the sequence defined by the filtration parameter.
(4) Construct a persistence diagram or barcode that summarizes the persistent homology of the graph. This diagram shows the birth and death of topological features, such as connected components, loops, and voids, as the filtration parameter increases. The persistence diagram can be used to identify the most persistent topological features of the graph, which correspond to the most significant structural features of the circuit.

By studying the persistence diagram of a weighted interaction graph, we can gain insights into the topological structure of the graph at different scales defined by the weights of the edges. This can help us understand the connectivity and entanglement properties of the quantum circuit, and guide the design of more efficient and accurate quantum algorithms and circuits.

## 5. Comparing to Hardware Topology

The interaction graphs notebook [AS4] shows how to transpile a quantum circuit from one gate set to a chosen basis gate set, then compute the interaction graph and weighted interaction graphs in order to analyze interaction topology. This can help in choosing a hardware backend that is best suited to run the circuit and can be used in the design of quantum ASICs. The notebook ends with a comment on how one should apply persistent homology to study the weighted interaction graph. Circuits which transpile to a circuit with weighted interaction graph such that interactions have low persistence may imply less topological constraints on the hardware backend. In particular, if there is weak entanglement between two qubits due to low two-qubit gate count between those two qubits, then this will show up in the persistent homology of the weighted interaction graph and will imply that direct connectivity of those qubits is less necessary than two qubit with a high amount of interaction. This is quantifiable in terms of persistence diagrams and Betti numbers.

## References

[AS3] Amelie Schreiber, *Hybrid Qudit Surface Codes in Google Cirq*, https://github.com/Amelie-Schreiber/quantum_surface_codes

[AS4] Amelie Schreiber, *Persistent Homology of Weighted Interaction Graphs Notebook*, https://github.com/Amelie-Schreiber/chatgpt/blob/main/interaction_graphs%20(2).ipynb

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