Quantum Solutions for the Poisson Equation: Implementing the HHL Algorithm

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Womanium Quantum Hackathon 2024
Team: QAI Climate MX

9 de agosto de 2024

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Problem Statement

The Poisson equation is a fundamental partial differential equation (PDE) that describes potential distribution in static fields. It is crucial for various applications in science and engineering, including heat conduction, fluid dynamics, electrostatics, semiconductor physics, optics, and mechanics.

Problem Statement

The Challenge: Solving the Poisson equation efficiently is computationally challenging, especially for large-scale problems where classical methods become resource-intensive.

Project Goal: This project aims to explore the potential of quantum computing, specifically the HHL algorithm, to solve the Poisson equation more efficiently. The goal is to determine whether quantum methods can offer a significant computational advantage over classical approaches.

Background

The Poisson equation plays a crucial role in modeling various phenomena related to weather, climate, geophysical systems, and clean energy.

Groundwater Flow: Used in the simulation of groundwater flow, essential for understanding aquifer behavior, managing water resources, and predicting climate change impacts on water availability. [1] [2]

Atmospheric Science: Models electrostatic potentials, aiding in understanding and predicting weather patterns, including storm formation and pollutant distribution. [3]

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[1] Yang, C. N., & Lee, T. D. (1952). **Statistical theory of equations of state and phase transitions. I. Theory of condensation.** Physical Review, 87(3), 404.

[2] Bear, J. (1972). **Dynamics of Fluids in Porous Media.** Dover Publications.

[3] Markson, R. (2007). **The Global Circuit Intensity: Its Measurement and Variation Over the Last 50 Years.** Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, 88(2), 223-241.

Classical Methods for Solving the Poisson Equation

Finite Difference Method (FDM): Approximates the derivatives in the Poisson equation using difference equations, converting the PDE into a system of algebraic equations. [4]

Advantages: Straightforward to implement; effective for problems with simple geometries and boundary conditions.

Disadvantages: Computationally intensive for large-scale problems due to the increase in the number of grid points required for accurate solutions.

[4] Ames, W. F. (1992). **Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations.** Academic Press.

Classical Methods for Solving the Poisson Equation

Spectral Methods: Represent the solution to the Poisson equation as a sum of basis functions (e.g., Fourier or Chebyshev polynomials) and solve for the coefficients of these functions. [5]

Advantages: Highly accurate for problems with smooth solutions.

Disadvantages: Can struggle with complex geometries and discontinuities.

[5] Boyd, J. P. (2001). **Chebyshev and Fourier Spectral Methods.** Dover Publications.

Integration of AI/ML and Quantum Computing Techniques

Solving the Poisson equation efficiently is essential for accelerating developments that rely on computer simulations and real-world experiments. However, conventional methods for solving the Poisson equation demand significant computational resources and encounter exponential growth in computational complexity as the problem size increases. Therefore, exploring new approaches such as quantum computing and AI/ML techniques to solve the Poisson equation is crucial for advancing these fields.

Quantum Computing Approaches

Objective 1: Implementing the HHL Algorithm

The HHL algorithm was chosen for its potential to solve systems of linear equations exponentially faster than classical methods under certain conditions. The project involves adapting this algorithm to solve the Poisson equation.

Quantum Computing Approaches

HHL Algorithm: Designed to solve systems of linear equations exponentially faster than classical algorithms under certain conditions.

The algorithm works by encoding the problem into a quantum state, applying a sequence of quantum operations (including the Quantum Fourier Transform), and then decoding the result to obtain the solution. For the Poisson equation, this involves discretizing the equation, representing the resulting linear system in a sparse matrix form, and using HHL to solve it. [6]

It requires significant quantum resources, such as qubits and coherence time, which are challenging to maintain with current quantum hardware.

[6] Daribayev, B., Mukhanbet, A., & Imankulov, T. (2023). **Implementation of the HHL algorithm for solving the Poisson equation on quantum simulators.** Applied Sciences, 13(20), 11491.

Demo App: Solving the Poisson Equation with HHL Algorithm

In this project, we implement the HHL algorithm to solve the Poisson equation, following the work of Daribayev et al. [7]. The core idea is to use a quantum algorithm to transform the state vector encoding the solution of a system of equations into a superposition of states corresponding to the significant components of this solution. This superposition is then measured to obtain the solution of the system of equations.

[7] Daribayev, B., Mukhanbet, A., & Imankulov, T. (2023). **Implementation of the HHL algorithm for solving the Poisson equation on quantum simulators.** Applied Sciences, 13(20), 11491.

Demo App: Solving the Poisson Equation with HHL Algorithm

The Poisson equation is a partial differential equation of the form:

$$\nabla^2 \phi = f$$

where ∇^2 is the Laplacian operator, ϕ is the potential function, and f is the source term. In our case, we transform this problem into a matrix equation of the form:

$$A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

Demo App: Solving the Poisson Equation with HHL Algorithm

Objective 2: Design and Implementation of the Quantum Circuit

A quantum circuit was designed using Qiskit, where the matrix representing the Laplacian operator was encoded into the quantum state. The circuit includes key steps like state initialization, controlled-unitary operations, and quantum phase estimation (QFT and IQFT).

Execution

The code sets up and runs a quantum algorithm to solve the Poisson equation using a quantum circuit. It initializes a quantum state corresponding to the vector b, applies controlled-unitary operations based on the matrix A, performs quantum phase estimation, and measures the result.

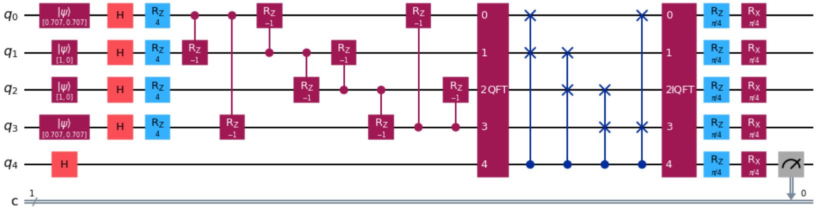

Figura: Circuit Implementation

Simulation Results

Objective 3: Validation through Simulation

The quantum circuit is then executed on a quantum simulator (AerSimulator) incorporating a noise model to reflect realistic quantum errors, which allows us to simulate the behavior of a quantum computer. The results are compiled and run on the simulator, and the output is visualized using a histogram.

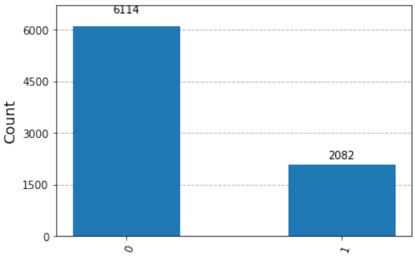

Figura: Histogram

Results Discussion

The implementation of the HHL algorithm to solve the Poisson equation in this project produced promising results. The ancillary qubit was measured in state 0 approximately 75 % of the time, indicating that the algorithm effectively approximated the solution. The presence of noise, simulated through a depolarizing error model, resulted in a 25 % occurrence of state 1, reflecting the algorithm's sensitivity to noise.

Success Metrics & Impact

The goal was to achieve a high probability of measuring the ancillary qubit in state 0, indicating a successful solution to the Poisson equation.

The simulation showed that the ancillary qubit was measured in state 0 in approximately 75 % of the shots, demonstrating the algorithm's effectiveness.

The project showcases the potential of quantum computing, particularly the HHL algorithm, in solving complex PDEs like the Poisson equation. This contributes to advancing the field of quantum computing and its applications in scientific and engineering problems.

Future Scope

Next Steps:

Error Mitigation: Implement advanced error mitigation techniques to further reduce the impact of noise and improve result accuracy.

Scaling: Explore the scalability of the algorithm by increasing the number of qubits to handle more complex and larger systems. Real-World Application: Test the algorithm on actual quantum hardware to assess its practicality and address any real-world challenges.

Limitations:

Hardware Constraints: Current quantum hardware limitations, such as qubit coherence time and error rates, are significant challenges that need to be addressed for scaling and achieving more accurate results.

Conclusion

The HHL algorithm successfully demonstrated its capability to solve the Poisson equation on a quantum simulator, with the majority of measurements aligning with the expected solution. Despite the impact of noise, the results confirm the algorithm's potential in quantum computing applications, particularly for solving complex partial differential equations. Future work could focus on mitigating noise effects and scaling the algorithm to more qubits for broader applicability.