

Daniel Y. Liang

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Research Interests

My focus is on the application of learning theory to quantum problems. That is, given some unknown quantum system, try and learn it, under varying definitions of the word "learn". During my PhD, I focused on leveraging properties of the stabilizer formalism to tackle topics such as tomography, PAC/SQ/Agnostic learning, property testing, and pseudorandomness. I am additionally broadly interested in quantum information, quantum complexity theory, and theoretical computer science.

Education

University of Texas at Austin

PhD in Computer Science

Advisor: Dr. Scott Aaronson

Austin, TX

2017-2023

Dissertation: On Computationally Efficient Learning for Stabilizers and Beyond

Cornell University College of Engineering

Bachelors of Science in Engineering, Magna Cum Laude

Double Major in Computer Science and Engineering Physics

Ithaca, NY

2013-2017

Academic Positions

Rice University

Postdoctoral Fellow

Supervisor: Dr. Nai-Hui Chia

Houston, TX

2023-2024

Work Experience

X, the Moonshot Factory (formerly Google[x])

Quantum Resident

Published Work: Investigating quantum approximate optimization algorithms under bang-bang protocols.

Mountain View, California

Summer 2019

Microsoft

Software Engineering Intern

Anti-Spam Machine Learning for Microsoft Office Exchange.

Redmond, Washington

Summer 2017

FedEx Services

Information Technology Intern

Memphis, Tennessee

Summer 2016

Publications (Alphabetical Order Unless Stated Otherwise)

- [1] S. Grewal, V. Iyer, W. Kretschmer, and **D. Liang**. Efficient learning of quantum states prepared with few non-clifford gates ii: Single-copy measurements, 2023. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.07175>.
- [2] S. Grewal, V. Iyer, W. Kretschmer, and **D. Liang**. Efficient learning of quantum states prepared with few non-clifford gates, 2023. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.13409>.
- [3] S. Grewal, V. Iyer, W. Kretschmer, and **D. Liang**. Improved stabilizer estimation via bell difference sampling, 2023. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2304.13915>.
- [4] **D. Liang**. Clifford Circuits can be Properly PAC Learned if and only if $RP = NP$. *Quantum*, 7:1036, June 2023. ISSN 2521-327X. URL <https://doi.org/10.22331/q-2023-06-07-1036>.
Presented at QTML 2022
- [5] S. Grewal, V. Iyer, W. Kretschmer, and **D. Liang**. Low-Stabilizer-Complexity Quantum States Are Not Pseudorandom. In Y. Tauman Kalai, editor, *14th Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science Conference (ITCS 2023)*, volume 251 of *Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics (LIPIcs)*, pages 64:1–64:20, Dagstuhl, Germany, 2023. Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik. ISBN 978-3-95977-263-1. URL <https://drops.dagstuhl.de/opus/volltexte/2023/17567>.
ITCS 2023 Best Student Paper
- [6] A. Gollakota and **D. Liang**. On the hardness of PAC-learning stabilizer states with noise. *Quantum*, 6:640, feb 2022. URL <https://doi.org/10.22331/q-2022-02-02-640>.
- [7] **D. Liang**, L. Li, and S. Leichenauer. Investigating quantum approximate optimization algorithms under bang-bang protocols. *Physical Review Research*, 2(3), sep 2020. URL <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevResearch.2.033402>.
Author Contribution Order

- [8] P. Rall, **D. Liang**, J. Cook, and W. Kretschmer. Simulation of qubit quantum circuits via pauli propagation. *Physical Review A*, 99(6), jun 2019. URL <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevA.99.062337>.
Author Contribution Order

TA Experience

UT-Austin.....

Spring 2023: Algorithms and Complexity

Spring 2022: Introduction to Quantum Information Science II

Helped create the following lecture notes:
<https://www.scottaaronson.com/qisii.pdf>

Fall 2020: Introduction to Quantum Information Science

Fall 2018: Introduction to Quantum Information Science

Cornell University.....

Spring 2017: AEP 4220: Mathematical Physics II

Fall 2016: CS 3110: Data Structures and Functional Programming

Spring 2016: CS 4820: Introduction to Analysis of Algorithms

Fall 2015: CS 3110: Data Structures and Functional Programming

Spring 2015: CS 2110: Object-Oriented Programming and Data Structures

Service

Graduate Representative Association of Computer Sciences at UT-Austin

Elected Representative

Austin, TX

Fall 2018 – Fall 2020

Journal Reviewer

Quantum, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, Quantum Machine Intelligence

Conference Reviewer

IEEE Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science (FOCS), ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC), Conference on Quantum Information Processing (QIP), Quantum Techniques in Machine Learning (QTML), IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT)