

Project: Error Mitigation of Quantum Chemistry Computations

Some of the most promising near-term applications of quantum computers lie in solving classically intractable problems in chemistry, leading to potential breakthroughs in disease prevention. However, quantum computers of today are both highly susceptible to errors and limited by the number of qubits to correct them. For the near term, scientists are exploring error mitigation techniques to reduce the effects of quantum computational noise. As part of this effort, I developed novel and benchmarked existing error mitigation strategies to improve accuracy of ground state energy calculations of the Hydrogen molecule and Lithium Hydride on noisy quantum devices. These strategies pave the way for achieving chemical accuracy on near term quantum devices.

Skills: Variational Quantum Algorithms; Quantum Noise and Error Mitigation; Scientific Computing and Statistical Modeling in Python; Programming using IBM's QISKIT, Numpy and Matplotlib frameworks

Project: Quantum Algorithms for Combinatorial Optimization

Hybrid quantum-classical algorithms such as the Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm (QAOA) have great potential for demonstrating quantum advantage. QAOA relies on the optimization of classical parameters to find the minimum energy solution. Various techniques have been proposed to avoid the direct optimization of parameters for a given instance to speed up calculations. One of the promising techniques is transferring or reusing optimal parameters of similar QAOA instances. However, defining and computing such transferability remains a challenge.

In this project, I developed and tested multiple similarity metrics that predict the transferability of optimal parameters between QAOA instances. Aside from predicting transferability, I also developed a novel scheme to directly predict QAOA optimal parameters of a graph. Taken together, my findings present a pathway to use local properties of instances to speed up QAOA and other hybrid quantum-classical algorithms.

Skills: Tensor Network Simulators and contraction algorithms; Numerical Optimization Techniques; Python Data Visualization; Introduced to High Performance Computing Infrastructure and Quantum Machine Learning techniques.

Project: Quantum Optimal Control of Superconducting Qubits

One leading platform for constructing quantum computers combines superconducting circuits and microwave cavities. Here, efficient control of cavities, or a collection of quantum harmonic oscillators, is essential for error-corrected computation, quantum-enhanced sensing, robust quantum communication, and quantum simulation. At Chakram Lab, I am developing numerical strategies for such high fidelity control of a multimode cavity weakly coupled to a transmon qubit.

Skills: Reinforcement Learning; Parameter Optimization; Circuit Quantum Electrodynamics; Design of superconducting quantum systems; Quantum Optimal Control