Real-time error mitigation for variational optimization on quantum hardware

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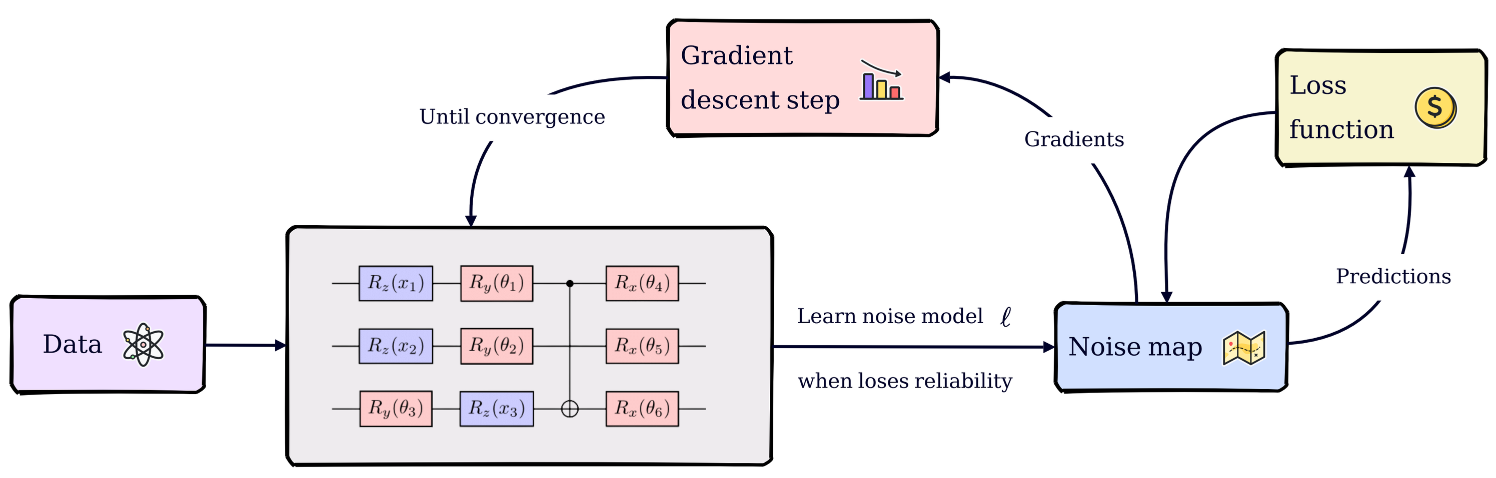
Aim

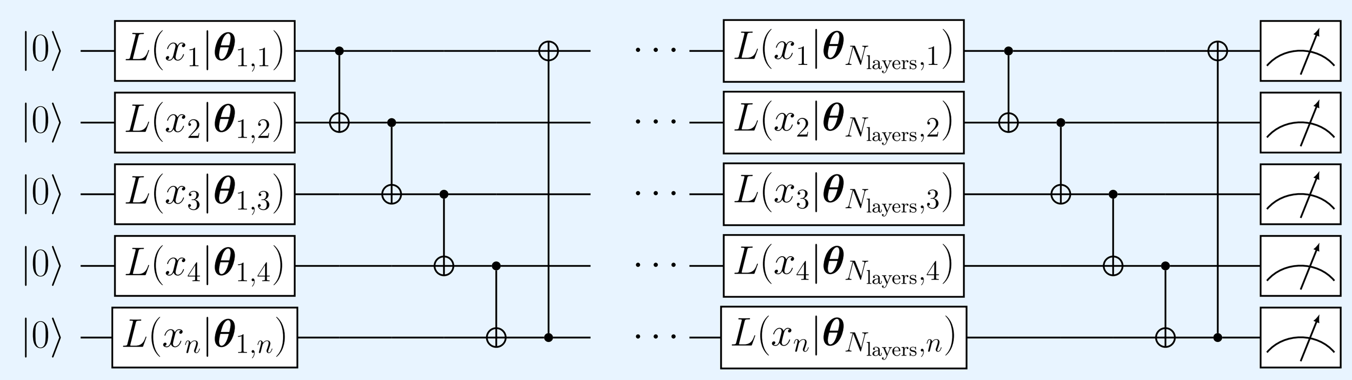
we put forward the inclusion of error mitigation routines in the process of training Variational Quantum Circuit (VQC) models. In detail, we define a Real Time Quantum Error Mitigation (RTQEM) algorithm to coadiuvate the task of fitting functions on quantum chips with VQCs.

Schematic pipeline of the RTQEM algorithm



Ansatz

We tackle multi-dimensional regression problems using a VQC as Quantum Machine Learning (QML) model. The data $\boldsymbol{x}$ are encoded into the circuit via Data Reuploading [1]:



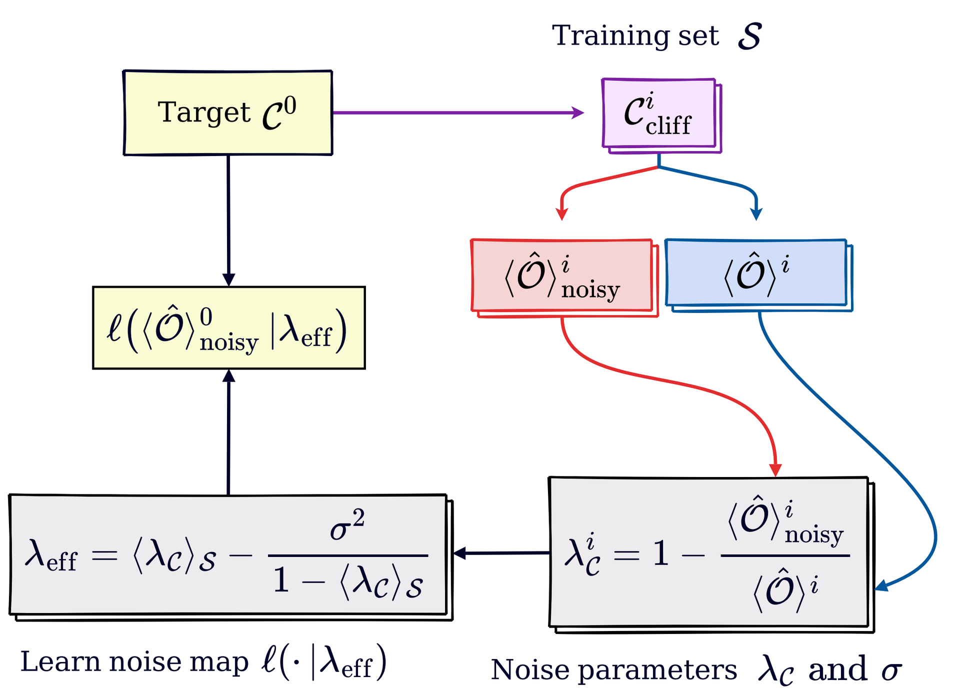
where we use the following definition of the uploading channel:

$$L(x_j|\boldsymbol{\theta}_{l,j}) = R_z(\theta_3 x_j + \theta_4) R_y(\theta_1 \kappa(x_j) + \theta_2)\,, \qquad (1)$$

which uploads the j-th component of $\boldsymbol{x}$ at the circuit layer l.

Noise of a quantum hardware

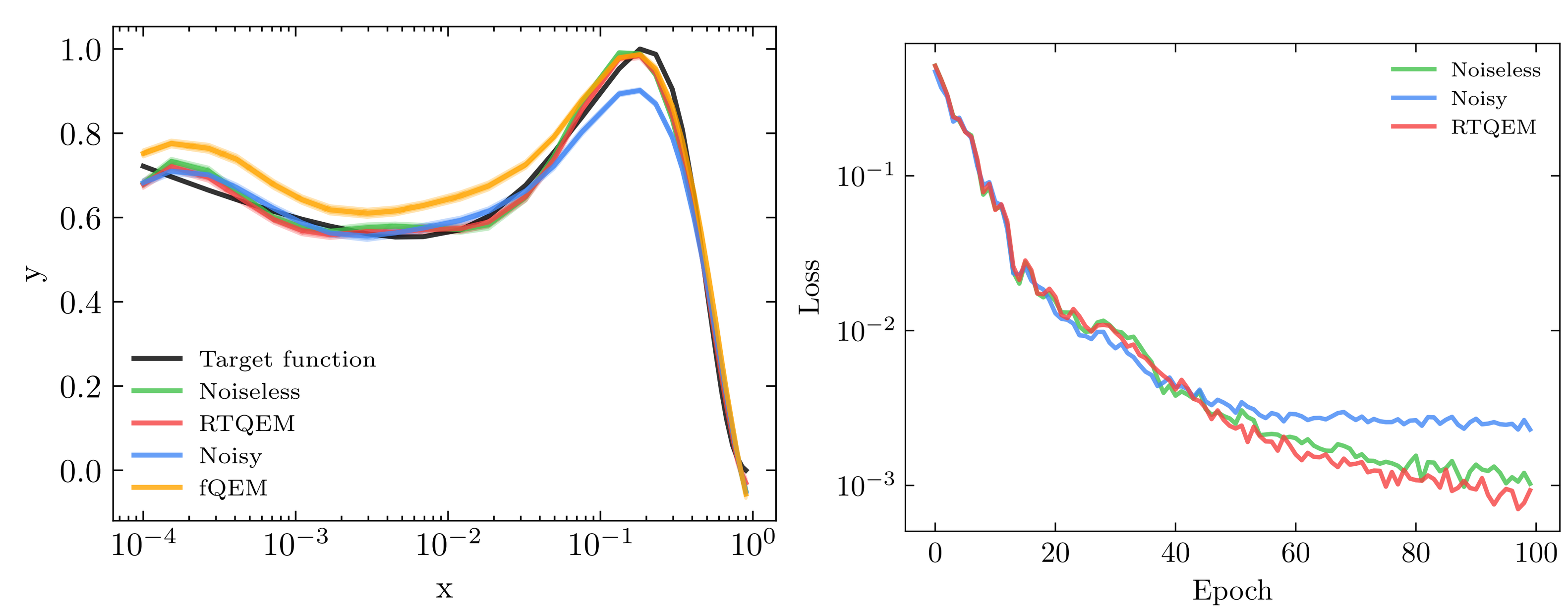
We consider a quantum system affected by local pauli noise with parameters $-1 \le q_X, q_Y, q_Z \le +1$ and readout noise parametrized by bit-flip probability $(1-q_M)/2$. This setup gives rise to Noise-Induced Barren Plateaus (NIBP) [2], which tend to concentrate the expectation value around 0.



To mitigate the effect of the noise, we use the Importance Clifford Sampling (ICS) [3] technique, which is a learning-based method which can be used to learn a noise map ℓ using a training set of Clifford circuits $\mathcal{S} = \{\mathcal{C}^i_{\rm cliff}\}$ built on top of the target circuit $\mathcal{C}^0$.

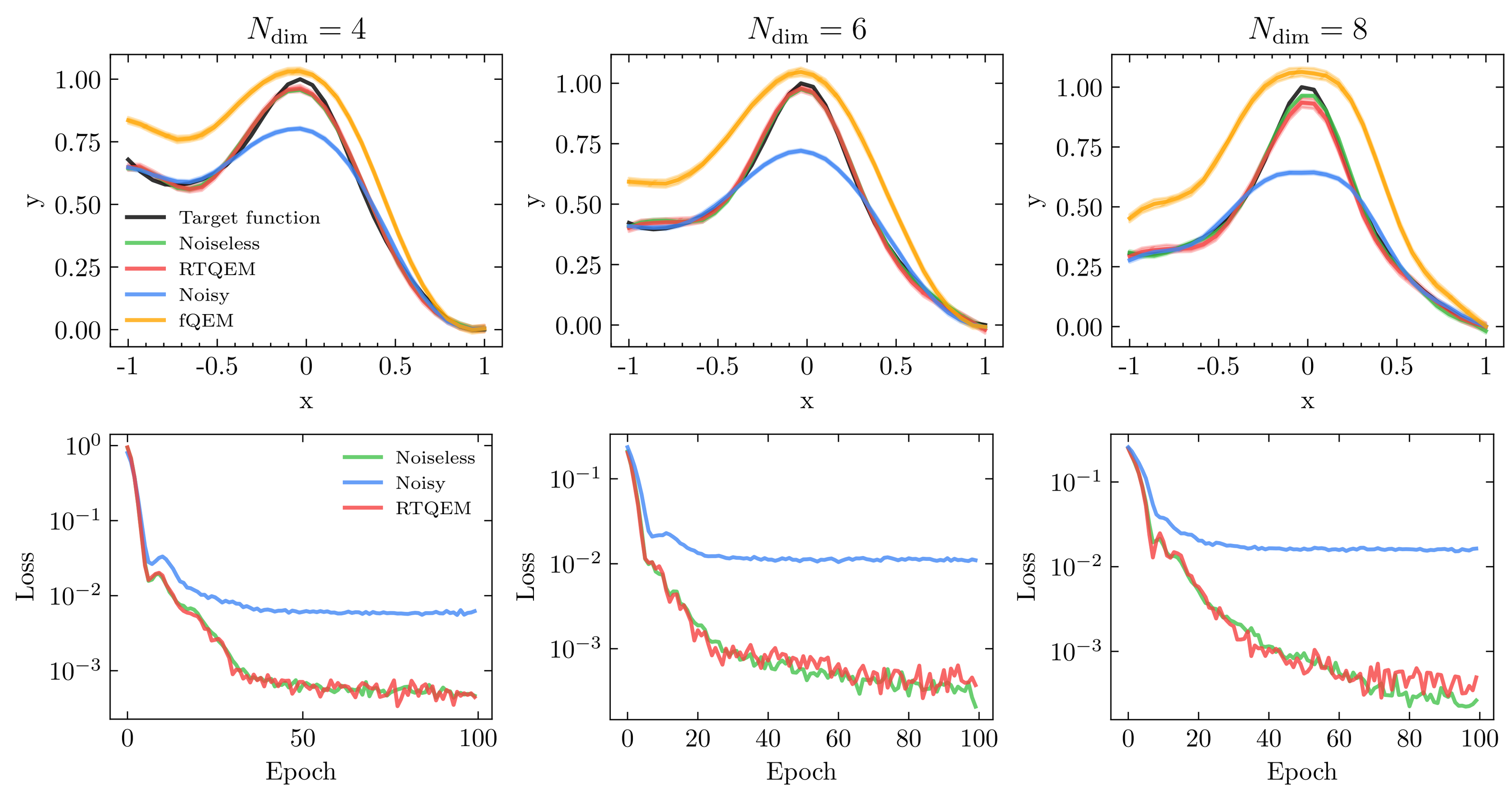
Simulation 1-dim: u-quark PDF

We firstly use a single-qubit circuit to fit the u-quark Parton Distribution Function (PDF). We set $q_M = 0.005$, $q_X = 0.007$, $q_Y = 0.003$ and $q_Z = 0.002$. We compare four configurations: noiseless, noisy unmitigated, noisy with mitigation on the final predictions (fQEM) and noisy trained with RTQEM.



Simulation n-dim

We then tackle a simple multi dimensional target to scale up with the number of qubits.



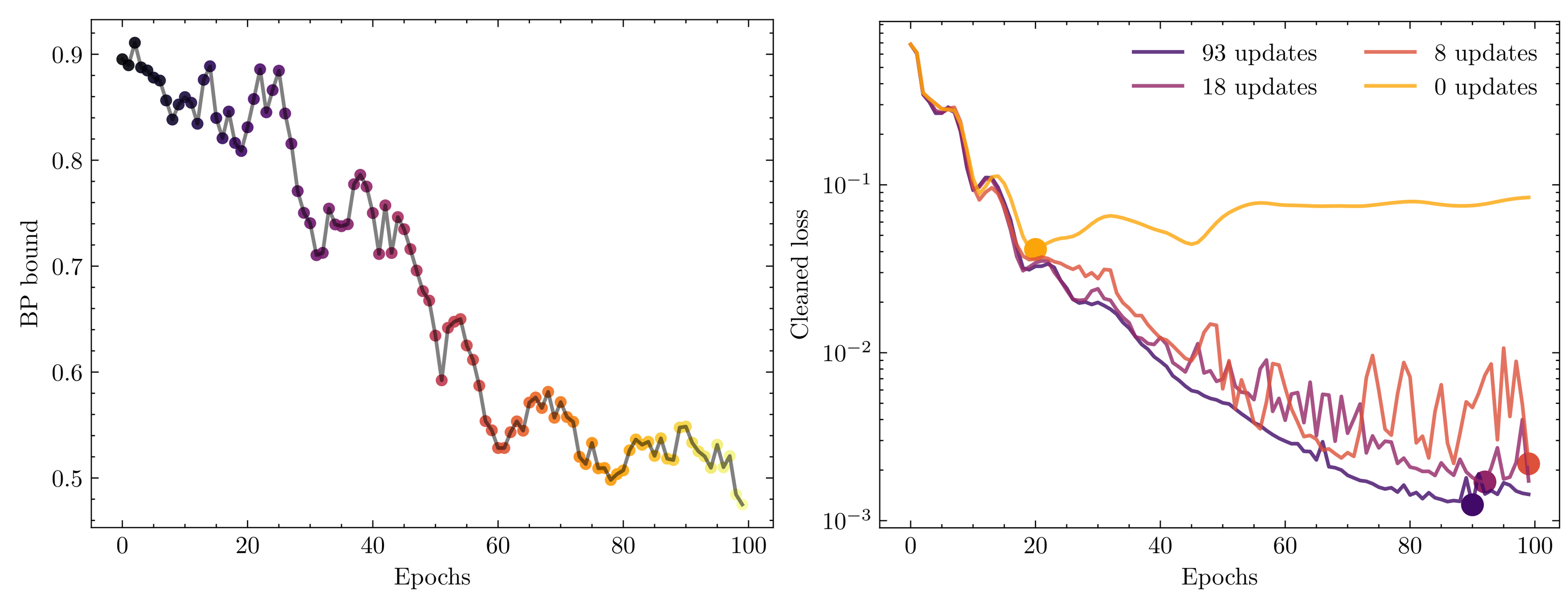
Simulation results

Mean squared error between the target labels and the predicted values.

Target	$\text{MSE}_{\text{noiseless}}$	$\text{MSE}_{\text{noisy}}$	MSE_{fqem}	$\text{MSE}_{\text{rtqem}}$
u PDF	0.008	0.018	0.023	0.008
$\cos 4$d	0.003	0.043	0.140	0.003
$\cos 6$d	0.002	0.083	0.214	0.002
$\cos 8$d	0.001	0.118	0.360	0.004

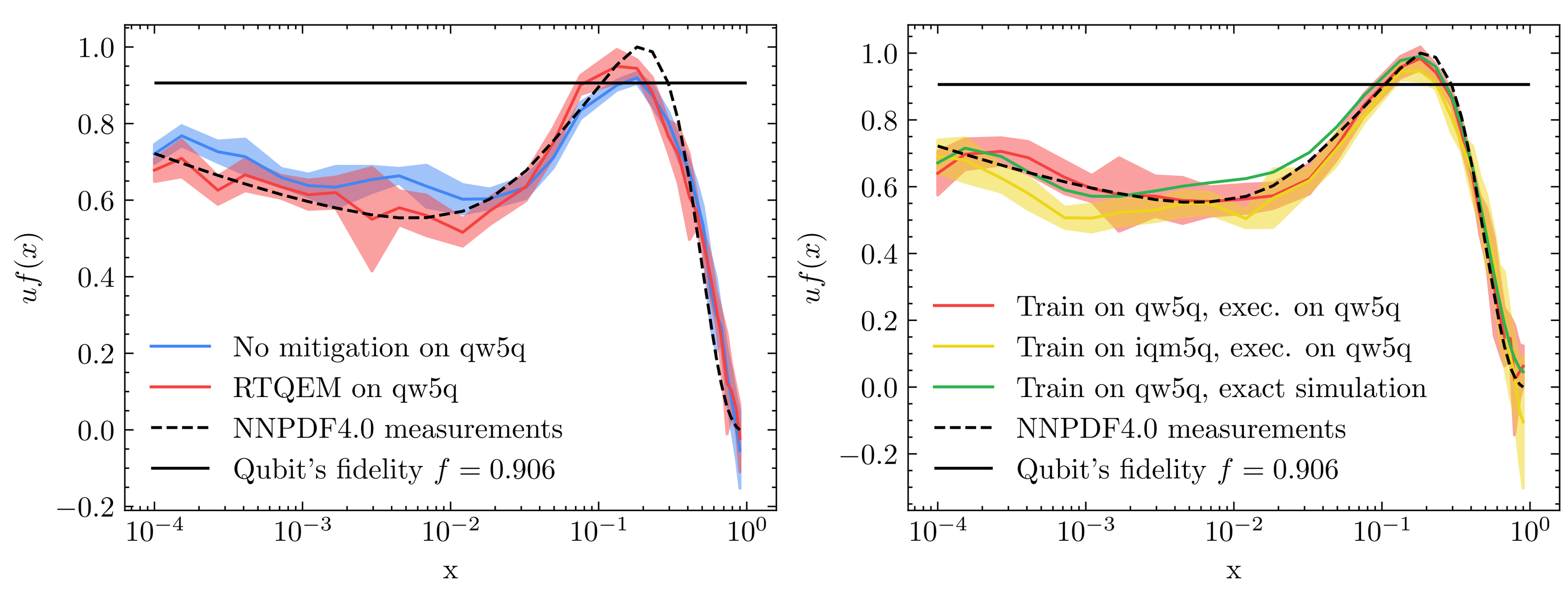
Evolving noise scenario

To study how the RTQEM procedure behave in a realistic scenario, we let the noise parameters vary following a Random Walk-like evolution.



u-quark PDF fit on superconducting devices

We finally test the RTQEM algorithm on two superconducting devices.



Hardware results

We benchmark the MSE values of various prediction configurations.

Training	Predictions	Config.	$N_{\rm epochs}$	MSE
qw5q	qw5q	Noisy	50	0.0055
qw5q	qw5q	RTQEM	50	0.0042
qw5q	qw5q	RTQEM	100	0.0013
iqm5q	qw5q	RTQEM	100	0.0037
qw5q	sim	RTQEM	100	0.0016

References

[1] A. Pérez-Salinas, A. Cervera-Lierta, E. Gil-Fuster, and J. I. Latorre, "Data re-uploading for a universal quantum classifier," *Quantum*, vol. 4, p. 226, feb 2020.

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