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1 Introduction

The harmonic oscillator is a fundamental model in physics described by the differential equation:

$$y'' + \omega^2 y = 0$$

This project solves the harmonic oscillator equation using a quantum algorithm and compares the results against classical solutions. The main objectives include:

- Simulating the oscillator's dynamics using a quantum circuit.
- Evaluating the system's kinetic and potential energy over time.
- Optimizing the quantum circuit for efficiency.

2 Quantum Algorithm Framework

The quantum algorithm used in this project consists of three stages:

- 1. **Encoding:** Preparing the initial quantum state based on the problem's initial conditions.
- 2. **Entanglement and Dynamics:** Evolving the system through quantum gates to represent the dynamics of the oscillator.
- 3. **Decoding:** Reversing parts of the encoding process and extracting results via measurements.

Key features:

- An ancilla register stores computational states.
- A work register facilitates entanglement and measurement.

3 Results

3.1 Comparison with Classical Solutions

The quantum algorithm successfully reproduced the solution $y(t) = \sin(t) + \cos(t)$ for the interval $t \in [0, 1]$, matching the classical results with high accuracy.

3.2 Energy Dynamics

- **Kinetic Energy (KE):** Simulated and matched the classical form $0.5 \times (\cos(t) \sin(t))^2$.
- Potential Energy (PE): Simulated and matched $0.5 \times \cos^2(t)$.

3.3 Parameter Range Observations

Accuracy decreased slightly for extended simulation bounds, highlighting the importance of optimizing parameters for larger intervals.

4 Circuit Optimization

The circuit's complexity grows with the number of qubits:

- Gate Count: Scales approximately as $2^n(n-1)$, where n is the number of qubits.
- Optimization: By minimizing the depth and adjusting parameters, computational costs were reduced while maintaining accuracy.

5 Key Insights and Future Work

5.1 Insights

- 1. Quantum algorithms can accurately model physical systems like the harmonic oscillator.
- 2. Energy evaluations align well between classical and quantum frameworks.
- 3. Circuit optimization is crucial for balancing resource costs and accuracy.

5.2 Future Directions

- Extend simulations to coupled oscillators or higher-dimensional systems.
- Incorporate error mitigation techniques to improve reliability.
- Explore alternate encoding methods for greater scalability.

6 Conclusion

This project demonstrates the potential of quantum algorithms for solving differential equations. While challenges like circuit complexity persist, the promising results indicate significant opportunities for broader quantum simulations.