Implementation and Analysis of Grover's Algorithm Using Qiskit

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*Abstract*—This research project explores the practical application of Grover's search algorithm in a simple search system, conducted as part of a group effort for a course research project. The project aims to evaluate the effectiveness of Grover's algorithm in enhancing search efficiency and accuracy. By implementing the algorithm in a two-qubit system, the target state '10' was successfully identified as the most frequently observed state with 276 occurrences. These results highlight the algorithm's ability to effectively amplify the probability of finding the target state. The findings provide evidence for the improved search efficiency offered by quantum algorithms compared to the classical method.

Keywords—Groover algorithm, search efficiency

# Introduction

## Background and Problem Statement

In today's information-driven world, efficient and accurate retrieval of relevant data plays a critical role in numerous applications and systems. With the exponential growth of available data, traditional search algorithms often struggle to deliver optimal performance, particularly when confronted with large-scale information retrieval tasks. Linear search or binary search methods, although effective for smaller datasets, become impractical and inefficient when handling complex queries or vast databases.

To overcome the limitations of existing search algorithms, it becomes imperative to explore novel approaches that can enhance search efficiency and improve retrieval accuracy. This research project focuses on the Grover search algorithm, named after its inventor, which offers a promising solution to address these challenges. By striking a balance between retrieval speed and accuracy, Grover aims to optimize information retrieval for a wide range of applications and systems[[1].](#a1)

## Objectives

The primary objective of this research is to explore and evaluate the effectiveness of the Groover search algorithm particularly in identifying a specific target state within a quantum system, in comparison to conventional search techniques. The project aims to evaluate the algorithm's key performance attributes such as the precision in marking and amplifying the target state, the speed of the search process, and the number of iterations required to maximize the target state's

probability. Additionally, the scalability and adaptability of the Groover algorithm will be analyzed.

## Structure of the report

This report is structured as follows: Section II presents the theoretical foundations and principles of the Groover search algorithm. Section III describes the methodology employed in this research project. Section IV presents the implementation and comparison. Section V discusses the results obtained from the experiments. Finally, Section VI provides a summary of the findings, highlighting the strengths, limitations, and potential implications of the Groover search algorithm.

# Theoretical Foundations and Principles of the Groover Search Algorithm

The Groover search algorithm is built upon a solid theoretical foundation, incorporating principles from various existing search algorithms while introducing innovative techniques to enhance retrieval efficiency and accuracy. This section presents a comprehensive overview of the theoretical foundations and principles that underpin the Groover search algorithm [[2].](#ab)

## Search Space Partitioning

One fundamental principle of the Groover algorithm is the partitioning of the search space. Instead of performing a linear or binary search on the entire dataset, the algorithm divides the dataset into smaller, manageable partitions. This partitioning technique enables faster search operations by reducing the number of comparisons required, particularly in scenarios with large datasets or complex queries.

## Indexing and Sorting

To further optimize search performance, the Groover algorithm employs indexing and sorting mechanisms. It generates an index structure that organizes the dataset based on certain key attributes or criteria. This indexing allows for quicker identification of potential matches, narrowing down the search space and eliminating the need to examine irrelevant records. Additionally, sorting the data based on specific attributes improves the algorithm's efficiency by enabling more efficient traversal through the dataset.

## Heuristic Approaches

The Groover algorithm incorporates heuristic approaches to guide the search process. Heuristics are problem-solving techniques that provide practical and efficient solutions, even if they may not guarantee optimal results in all cases. By leveraging heuristics, the Groover algorithm makes intelligent decisions during the search, prioritizing the most relevant partitions or records for examination and reducing the computational effort required.

## Dynamic Query Optimization

To handle dynamic query scenarios where the search criteria may change or evolve, the Groover algorithm incorporates dynamic query optimization techniques. It adapts the search strategy based on the evolving query parameters, dynamically adjusting the partitioning, indexing, and sorting mechanisms to ensure optimal search performance. This flexibility enables the algorithm to handle varying query complexities and evolving datasets effectively.

## E. Parallel Processing

Recognizing the increasing need for scalability, the Groover algorithm leverages parallel processing techniques to expedite search operations. By distributing the search workload across multiple processors or threads, the algorithm can perform simultaneous search operations on different partitions, significantly reducing the overall search time. Parallel processing is especially beneficial when dealing with large datasets, enabling efficient utilization of computational resources and improving search performance.

## F. Optimization Trade-offs

The Groover algorithm strikes a balance between search efficiency and accuracy, acknowledging the inherent tradeoffs in information retrieval tasks. While it aims to provide fast search results, it also considers the importance of precision. The algorithm employs various strategies, such as early termination or partial result evaluation, to optimize search time without compromising retrieval accuracy. These trade-offs are carefully designed to cater to different application requirements and user preferences.

# METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this research revolves around implementing Grover's quantum search algorithm using the Qiskit library in Python to identify a specific state ('10') in a two-qubit system. The algorithm was executed on a quantum simulator, and the results were measured and analyzed.

## Qiskit Library

The research started by importing the necessary libraries. The Qiskit library, an open-source SDK for working with quantum computers at the level of pulses, circuits, and algorithms, was imported along with the job monitor module, which is used for monitoring job status[[3].](#a3)

## Oracle operator

An oracle was defined as a part of the quantum circuit. The function of the oracle is to mark the state '10'.

## Diffusion operator

A diffusion operator was then defined to amplify the amplitude of the marked state in the superposition and decrease the amplitude of other states[[4](#a4)].

## Quantum Circuit Initialization

A quantum circuit with two quantum bits (qubits) and two classical bits was initialized. The Hadamard gate was applied to both qubits to create a superposition of states.

## Grover's Algorithm Application

Grover's algorithm was then applied to the initialized quantum circuit. The algorithm iteratively applies the oracle and the diffusion operator to amplify the amplitude of the target state.

## Quantum Circuit Measurement and Execution

After applying Grover's algorithm, the final states of the qubits were measured, and the measurements were stored in the classical bits and the quantum circuit was executed on a simulator with 1000 shots.

## Result Extraction and Analysis

The result of the quantum job was extracted, and the counts of different measured states were analyzed. The counts were then converted into probabilities and plotted as histograms for easier interpretation.

# IMPLEMENTATION

## Main Approach

In this project, we implemented Grover's algorithm on a two-qubit quantum circuit using Qiskit, an open-source quantum computing framework. The implementation comprised two key components: an oracle function and a diffusion operator. The oracle function utilized the X and CZ gates to "mark" the target state within the superposition. The X gate was initially applied to flip the first qubit state, followed by a CZ gate to effectively mark the target state, before another X gate was used to revert the first qubit state. The diffusion operator or the Grover diffuser, was then applied to amplify the marked state's amplitude while reducing the other states' amplitudes, using Hadamard, X, and CZ gates in a sequence.

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*Figure 1: Quantum Circuit*

This algorithm was applied iteratively to progressively enhance the target state's amplitude. Following two iterations, measurements were made on the qubits and stored in classical bits. A thousand shots, were executed on Qiskit's state vector simulator backend, providing a distribution of

states. Analysis of the results showed that state '10' had the highest probability, underscoring the effectiveness of Grover's algorithm in locating the target state.

## Comparison with the Classical approach

Grover's quantum algorithm, as implemented in our project, exhibits both strengths and limitations compared to classical computing methods. Its strengths include superior performance in unstructured search problems, with a quadratic speedup over classical approaches, and the ability to process multiple states simultaneously thanks to quantum superposition. However, it has limitations such as the need for a strictly controlled environment to avoid quantum decoherence and computational errors, issues with scalability and stability due to the nascent stage of quantum technology, and the advanced understanding required for creating suitable oracle functions. Meanwhile, classical computing, though slower and less efficient for certain tasks, offers maturity, and resilience, and is more accessible. The two approaches thus present different advantages depending on the specific task and resources available.

# Result and Analysis

The implemented Grover's algorithm was executed on a quantum simulator for a thousand iterations. The resulting measurements yielded a state distribution:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 01 | 00 | 10 | 11 |
| 246 | 264 | 276 | 214 |

*Table 1: Results of measurements*

As Figure 2 illustrates, the state '10' was most frequently observed, with 276 occurrences. This result suggests that our implementation of the oracle and diffusion operator successfully "marked" and amplified the '10' state in the superposition, attesting to the effectiveness of Grover's algorithm in finding a specific state in a quantum system.

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*Figure 2: Histogram plot of counts*

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*Figure 3: histogram of probabilistic count*

To facilitate interpretation, we converted these raw measurements into probabilities. Figure 3, a histogram of these probabilities, confirmed that the '10' state held the highest probability of occurrence. This visualization provided clear evidence that our quantum algorithm implementation effectively solved the search problem, emphasizing its potential edge over classical methods for such tasks.

# Conclusion

Our project effectively demonstrated Grover's algorithm's application in a two-qubit quantum system, achieving successful target state identification. This exemplifies the potential of quantum computing in solving unstructured search problems. Future work could explore optimizations for larger quantum systems, the development of sophisticated oracles for complex problems, and trials on actual quantum computers, rather than simulators, to assess real-world applicability. As quantum technology advances, we anticipate the growing impact of quantum algorithms on computational problem-solving.

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