



# QOC: Quantum On-Chip Training with Parameter Shift and Gradient Pruning

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**TEXAS** Yale  
The University of Texas at Austin



# Outline

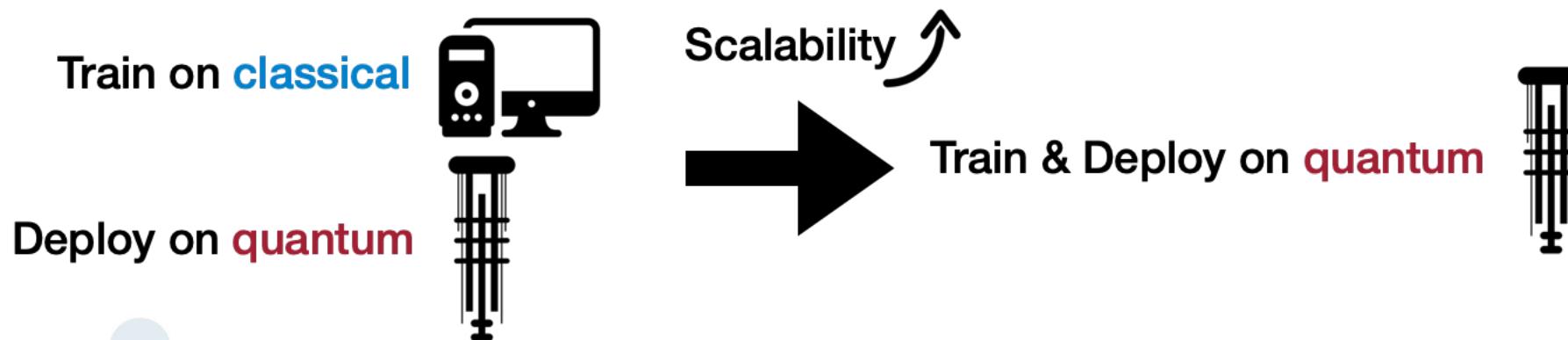
- Overview
- Background
- QOC Methodology
- Evaluation
- TorchQuantum Library
- Conclusion

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# QOC Overview

- Conventional: train on **classical** simulator
  - Unscalable
- QOC: train on **quantum** machine
  - Calculates gradients on **quantum** machines
  - **Scalable**

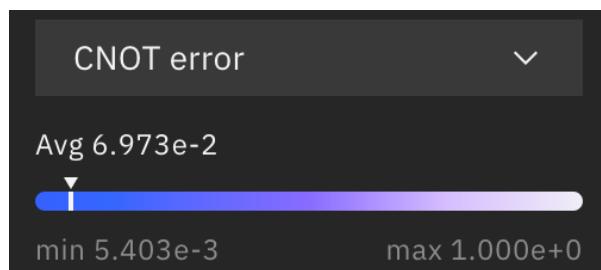
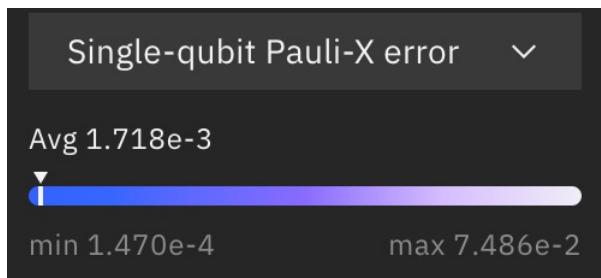


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# NISQ Era

- Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum (NISQ)
  - **Noisy**: qubits are sensitive to environment; quantum gates are unreliable

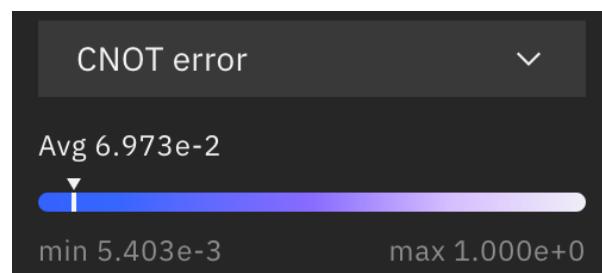
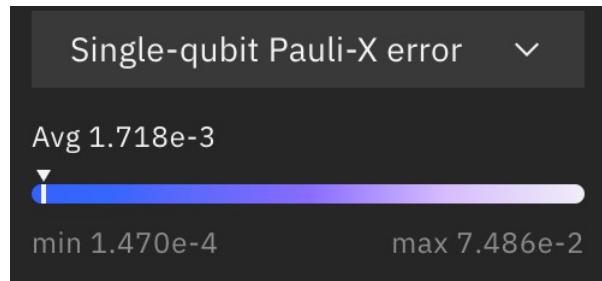


Gate Error Rate

<https://quantum-computing.ibm.com/>

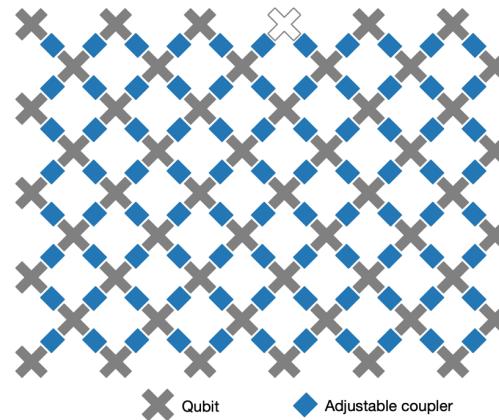
# NISQ Era

- Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum (NISQ)
  - **Noisy**: qubits are sensitive to environment; quantum gates are unreliable
  - **Limited number** of qubits: tens to hundreds of qubits

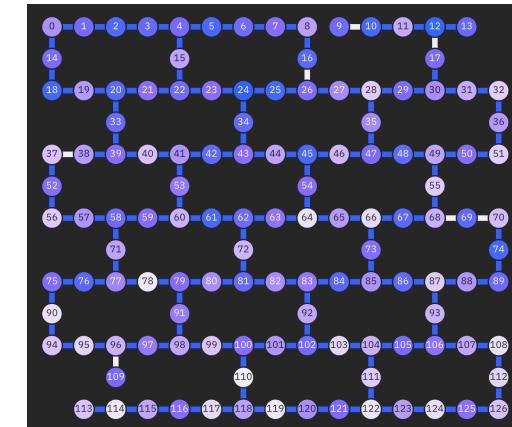


Gate Error Rate

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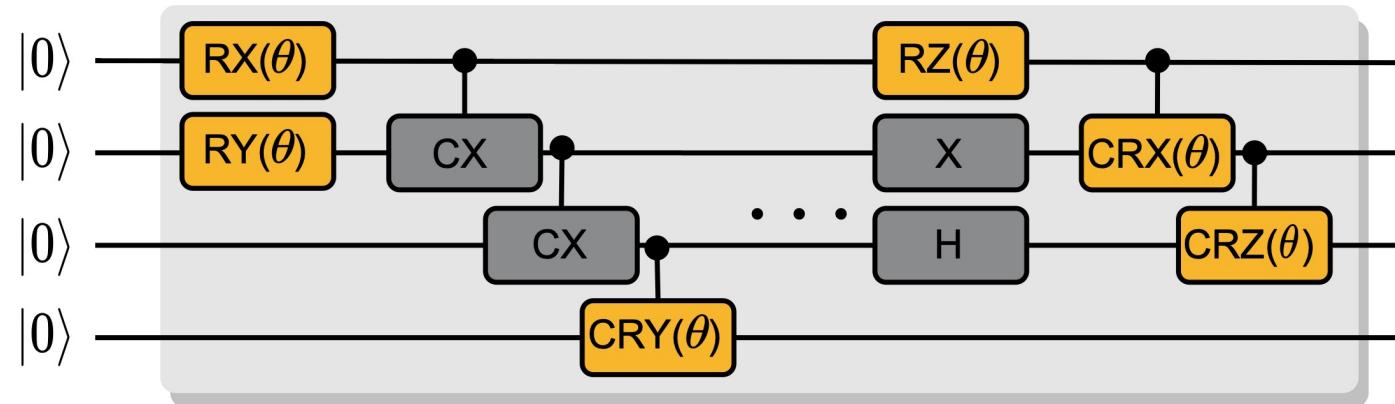
Google Sycamore  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-019-1666-5>



IBM Washington  
<https://quantum-computing.ibm.com/>

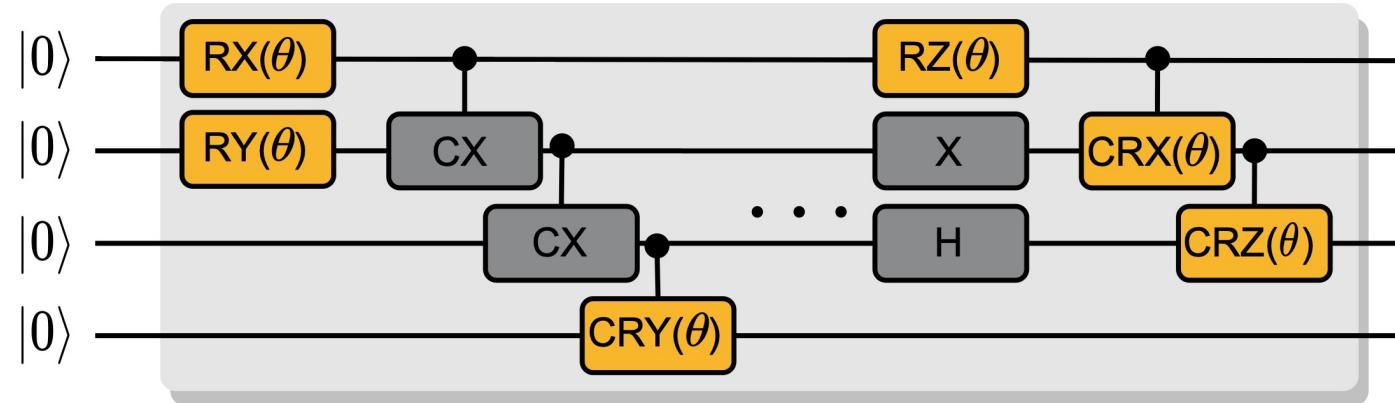
# Parameterized Quantum Circuits (PQC)

- Parameterized Quantum Circuits (PQC)
- Quantum circuit with fixed gates and **parameterized gates**



# Parameterized Quantum Circuits (PQC)

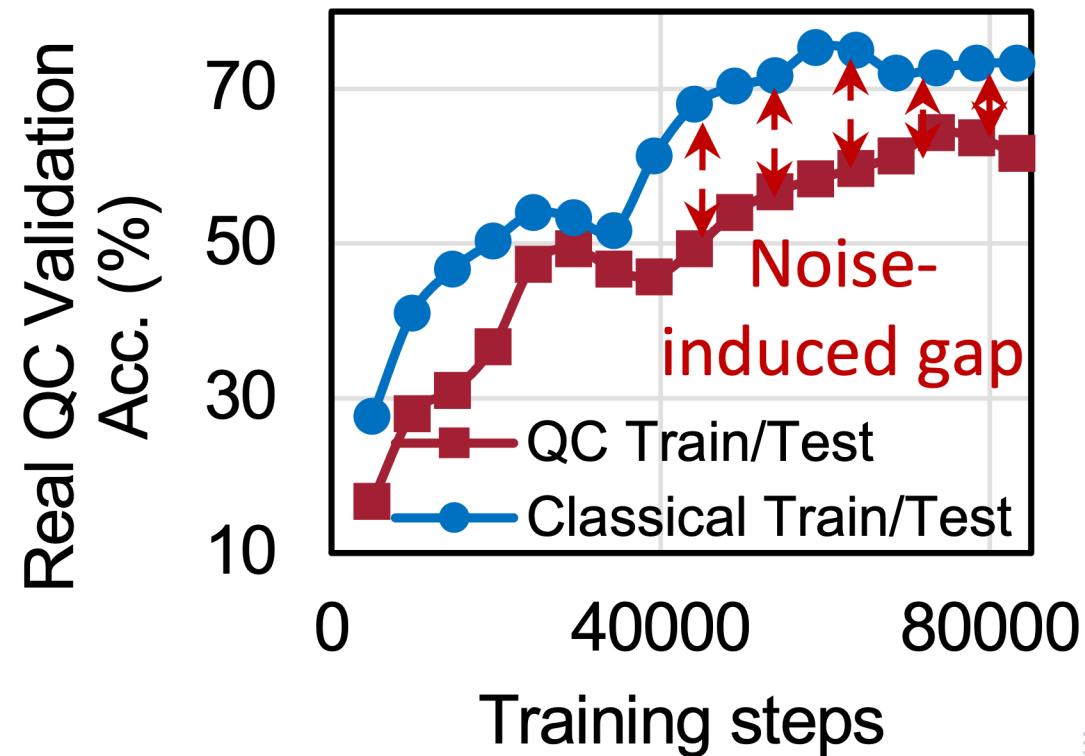
- Parameterized Quantum Circuits (PQC)
- Quantum circuit with fixed gates and **parameterized gates**



- PQCs are commonly used in **hybrid classical-quantum** models and show promises to achieve quantum advantage
  - Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE)
  - Quantum Neural Networks (QNN)
  - Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm (QAOA)

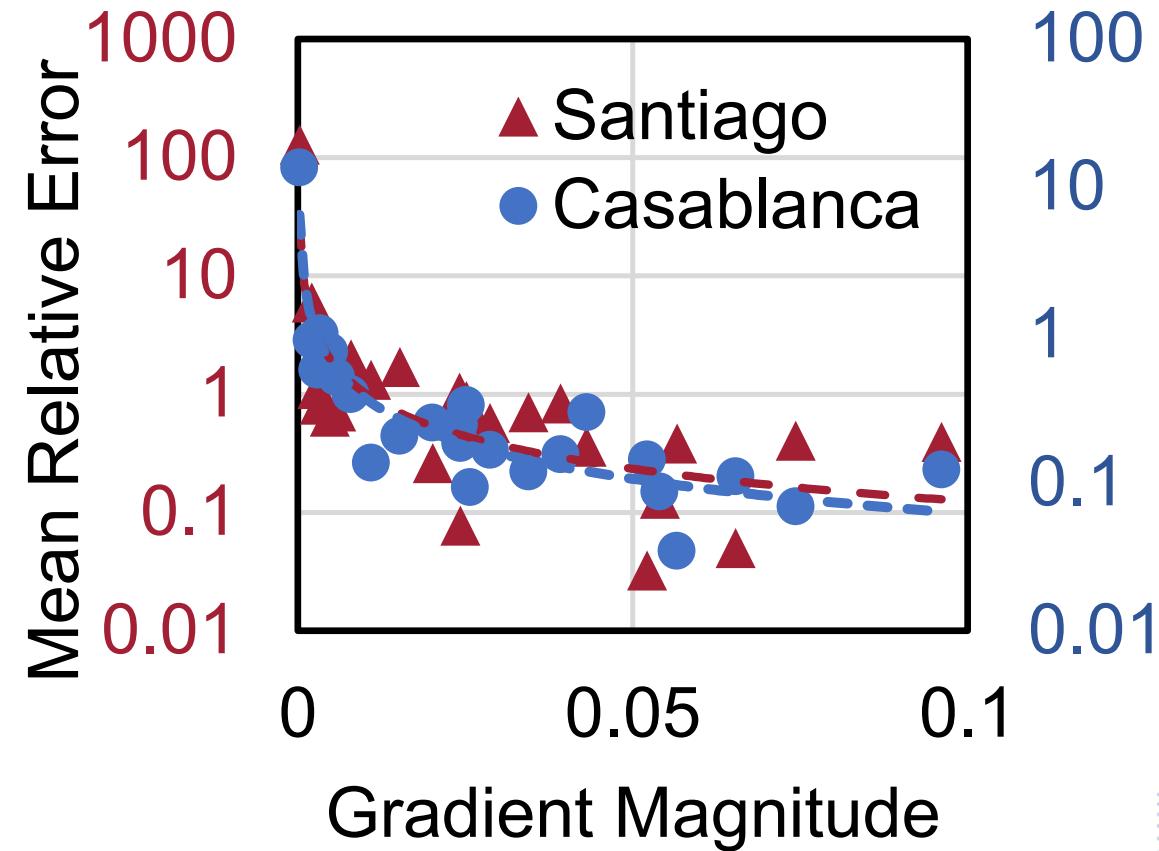
# Challenge of On-chip Training: noise

- Noise **reduces reliability** of on-chip computed gradients



# Challenge of On-chip Training: noise

- Noise **reduces reliability** of on-chip computed gradients
- **Small** magnitude gradients have **large** relative errors

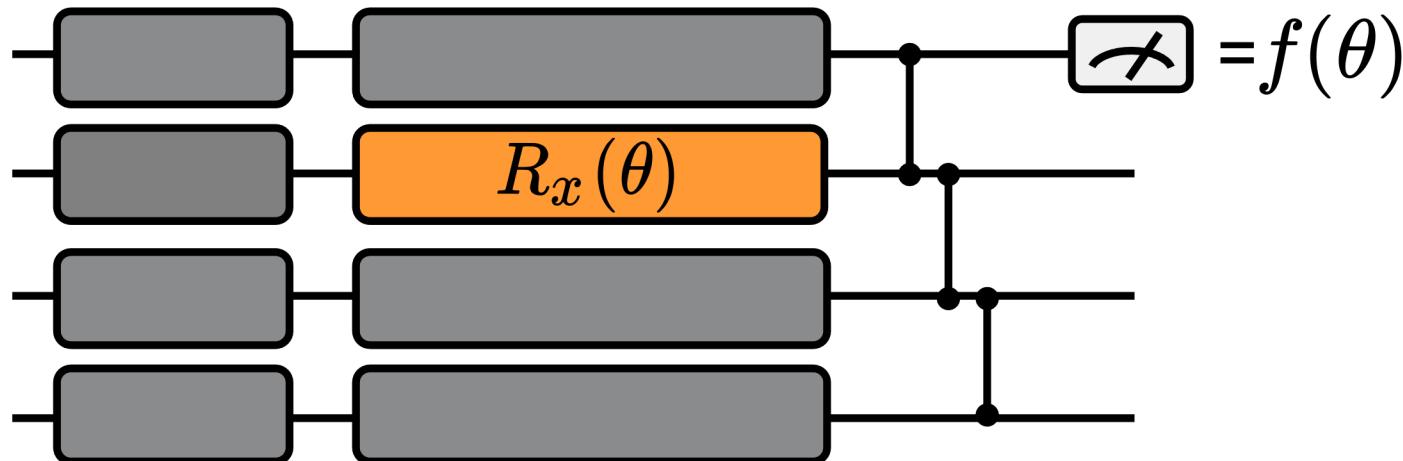


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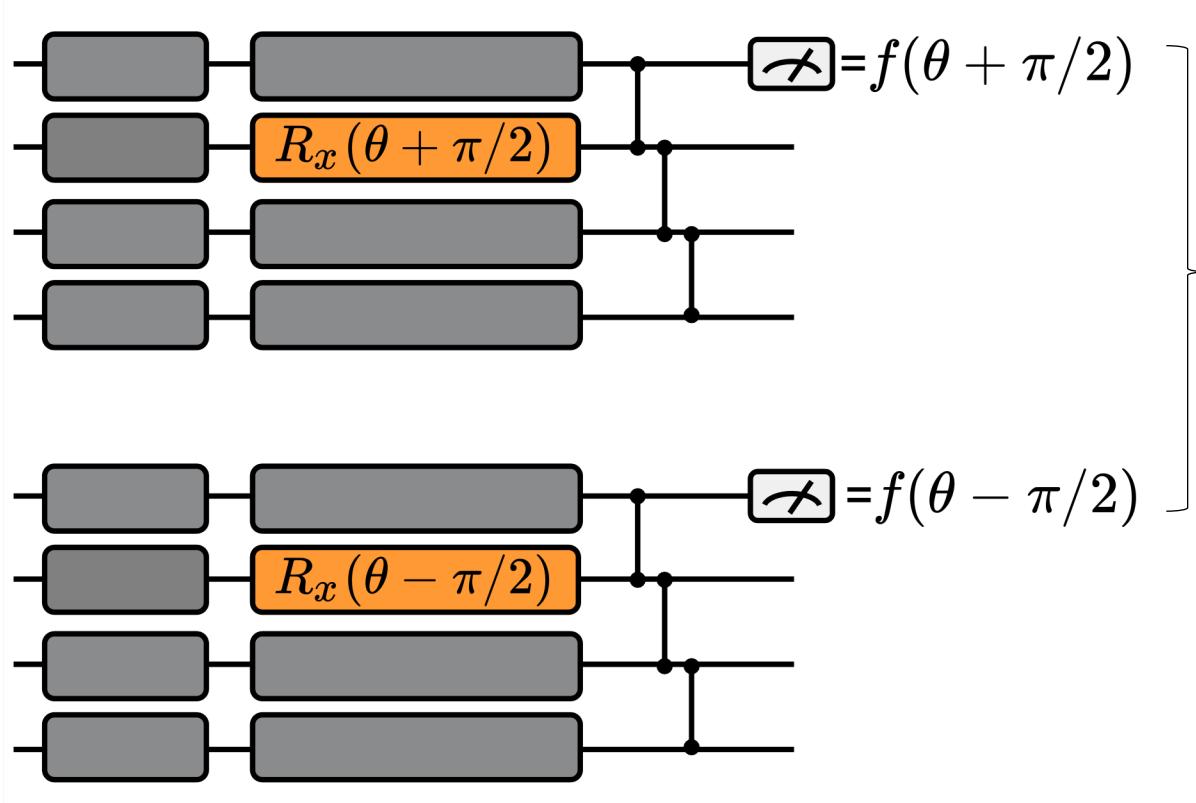
# Parameter Shift Rules

- Calculate the gradient of  $\theta$  w.r.t.  $f(\theta)$ .



# Parameter Shift Rules

- Shift  $\theta$  twice



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \left( f\left(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) - f\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \right)$$

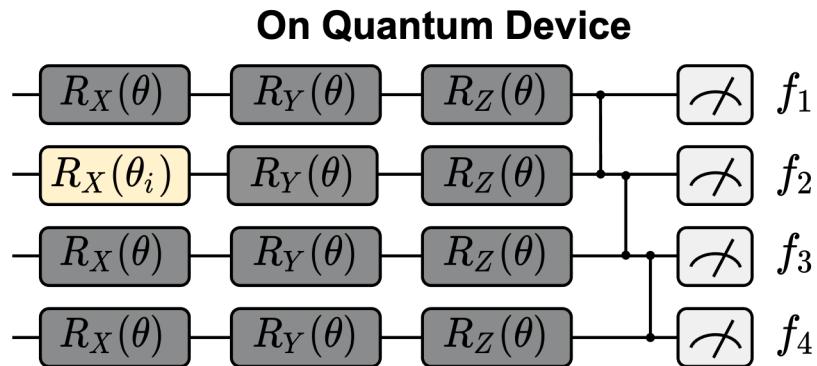
# Parameter Shift Rules

- This formula is valid to all rotation gates
  - RZ, RY, RX, RXX, RZZ
- One gradient requires two runs on real quantum machine

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \left( f\left(\theta + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) - f\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \right)$$

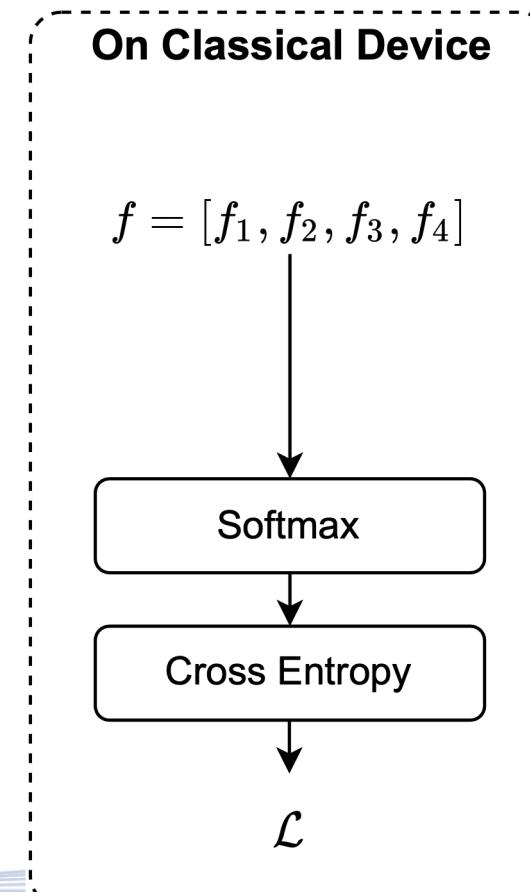
# Calculate Gradients of PQC

- Step 1: Run on QC without shift to obtain  $f$



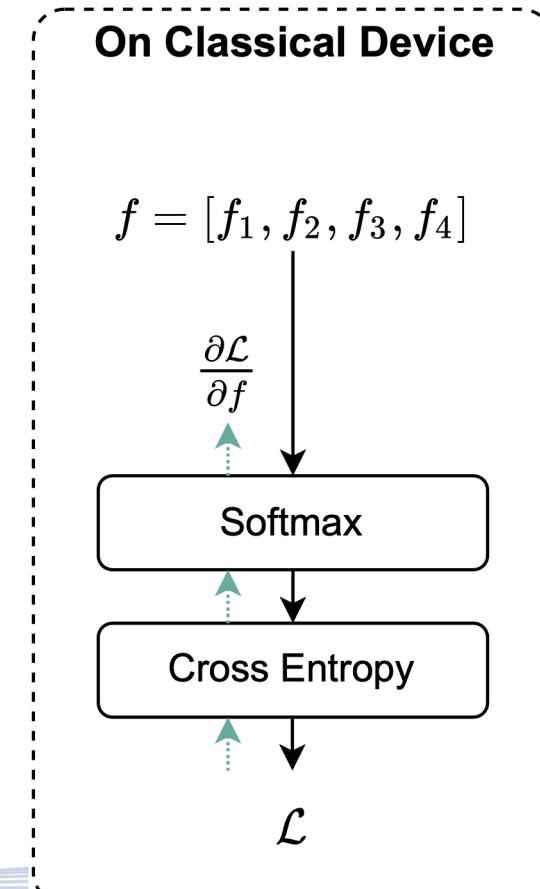
# Calculate Gradients of PQC

- Step 2: Further forward to get *Loss*



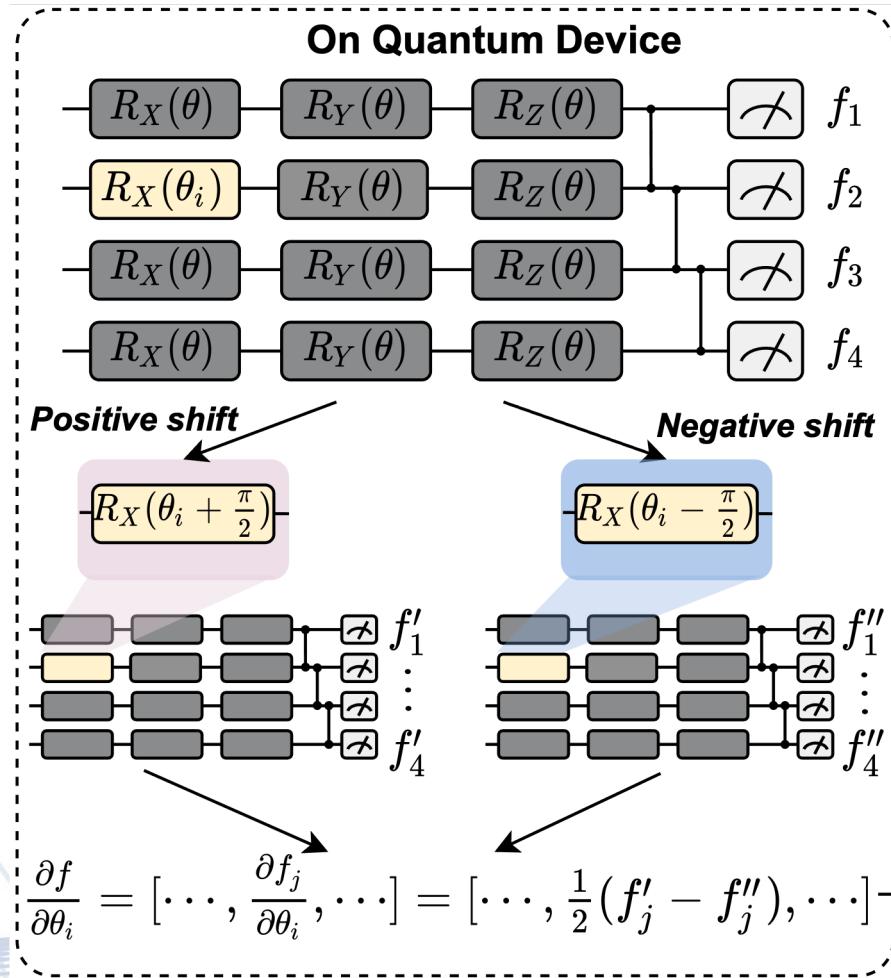
# Calculate Gradients of PQC

- Step 3: Backpropagation to calculate  $\frac{\partial Loss}{\partial f(\theta)}$



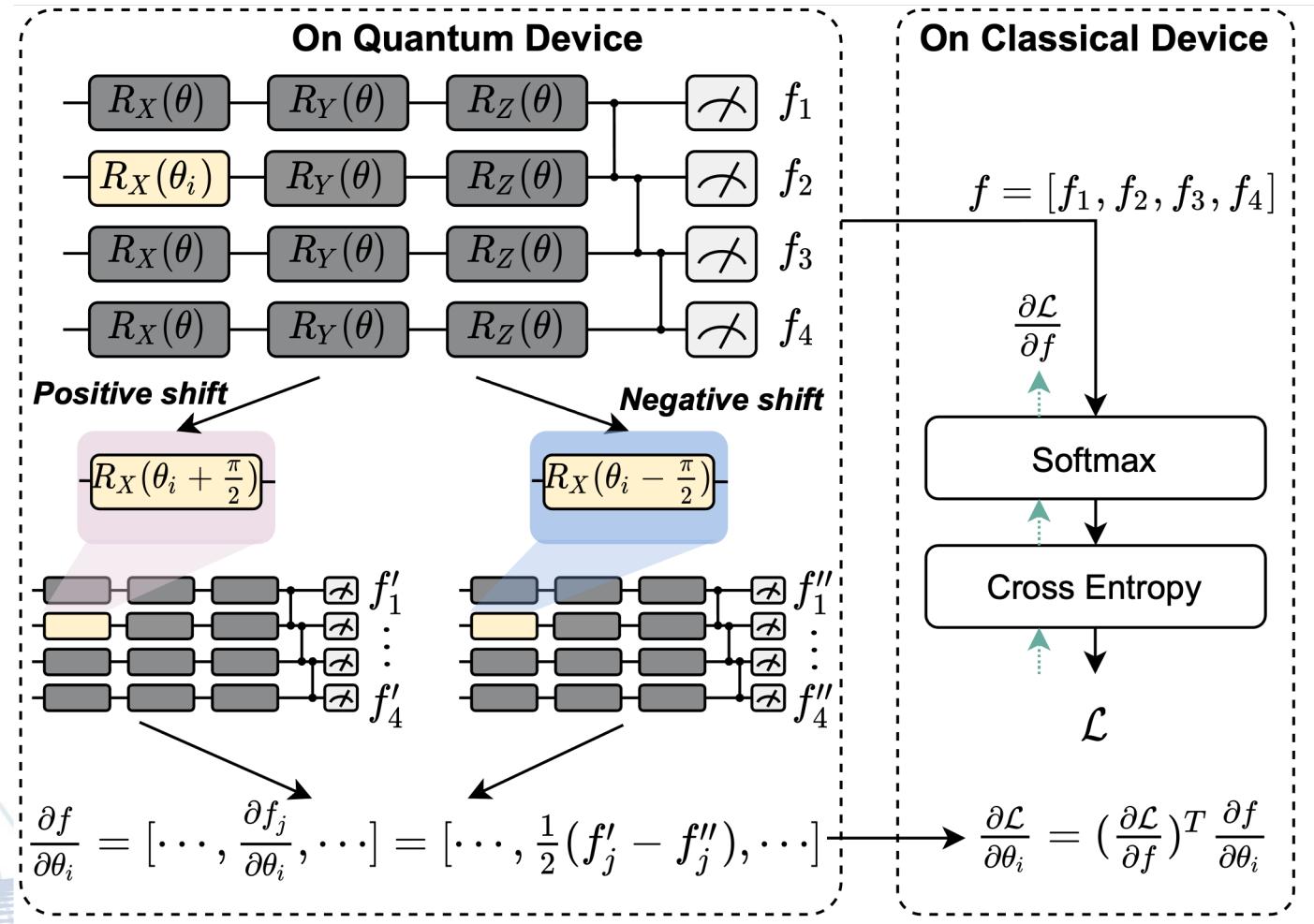
# Calculate Gradients of PQC

- Step 4: Shift twice and run on QC to calculate  $\frac{\partial f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i}$



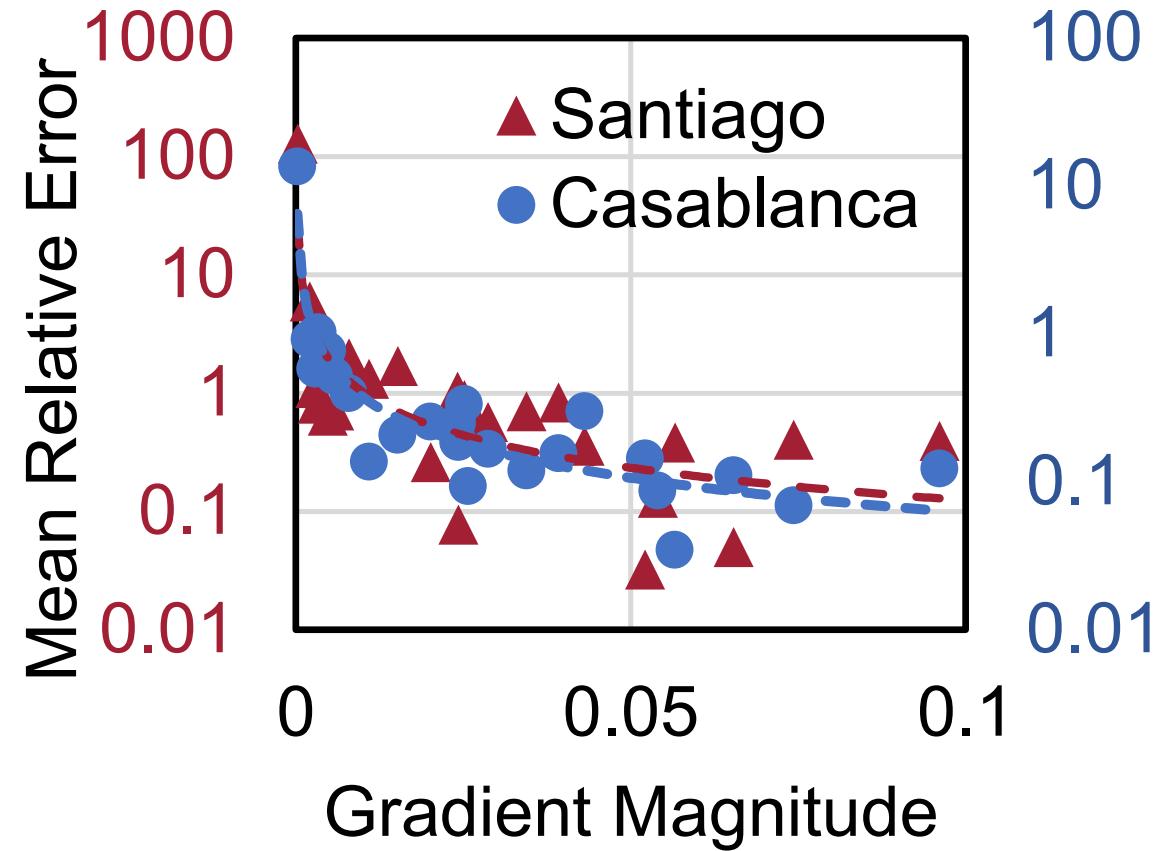
# Calculate Gradients of PQC

- Step 5: By Chain Rule:  $\frac{\partial \text{Loss}}{\partial f(\theta)} \frac{\partial f(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i} = \frac{\partial \text{Loss}}{\partial \theta_i}$ , sum over 4 passes (4 qubits)



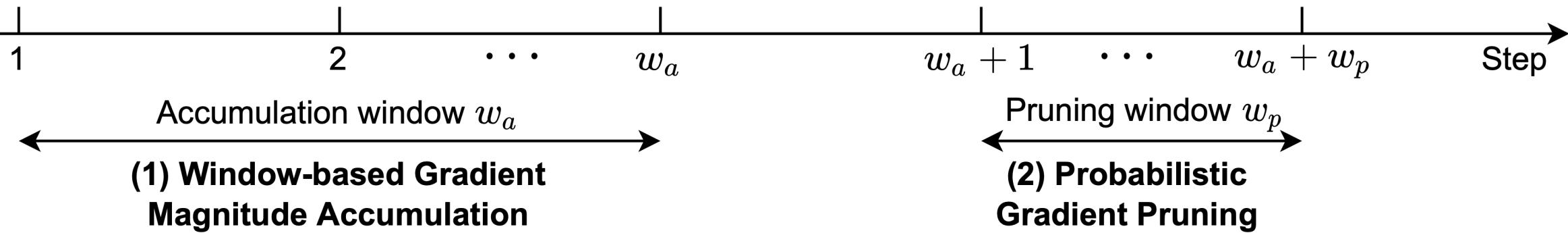
# Probabilistic Gradient Pruning

- **Small** magnitude gradients have **large** relative errors



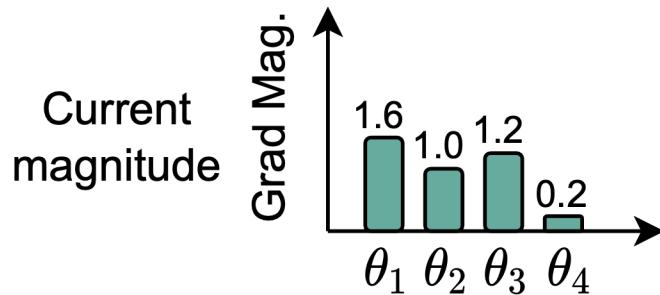
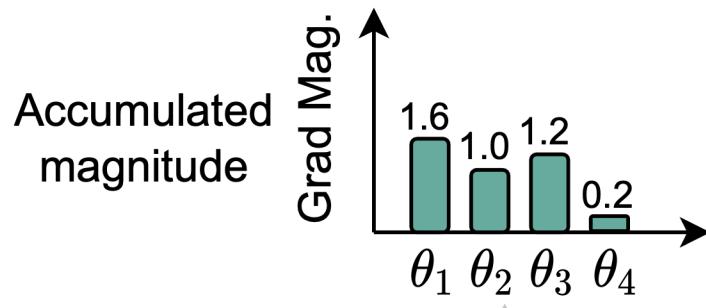
# Probabilistic Gradient Pruning

- Accumulation Window followed by Pruning Window repeatedly



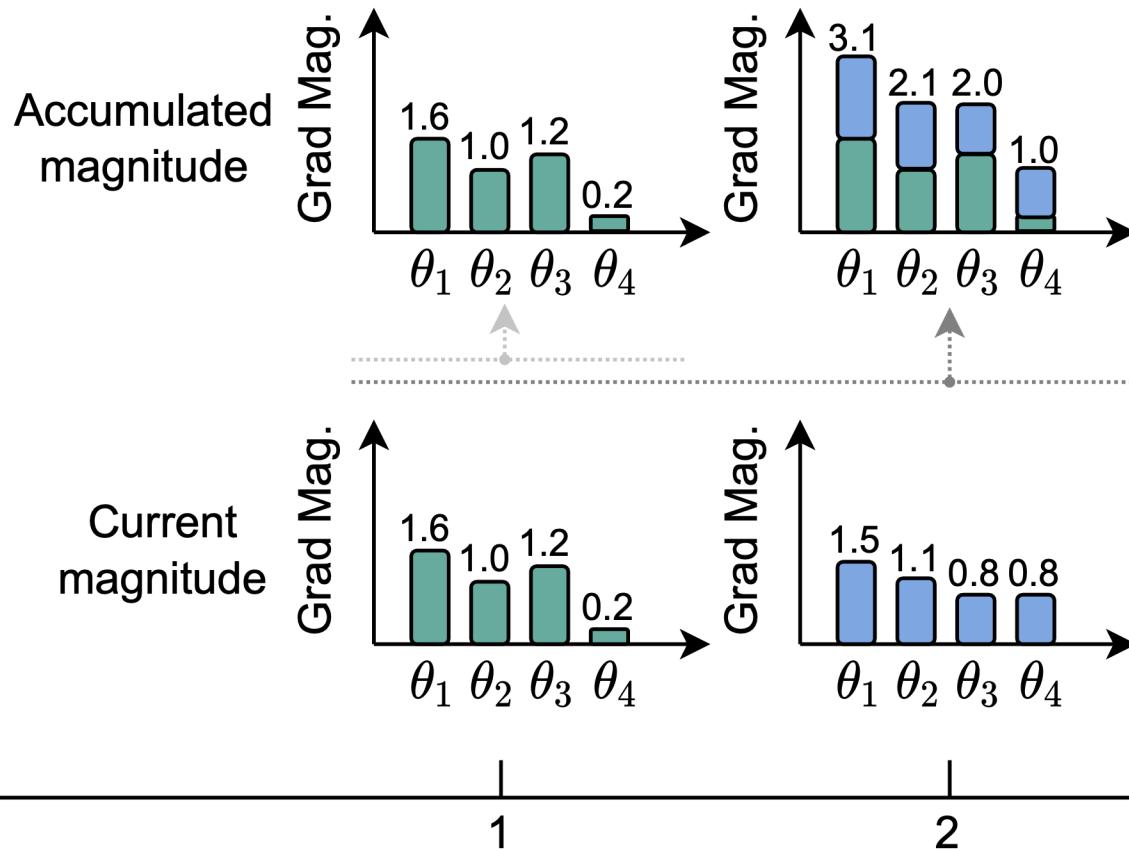
# Accumulation Window

- Keep a record of accumulated gradient magnitude



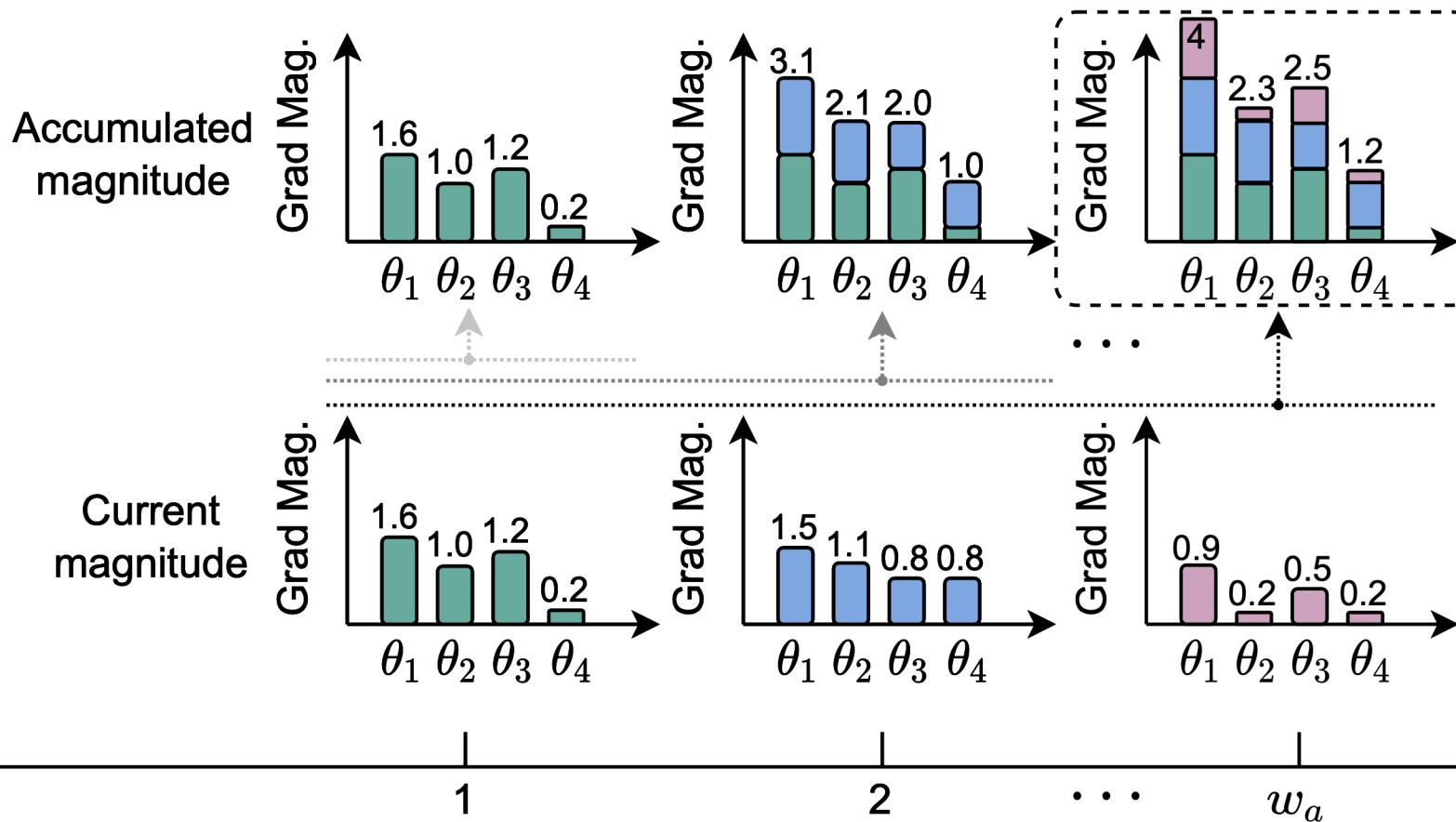
# Accumulation Window

- Keep a record of accumulated gradient magnitude.



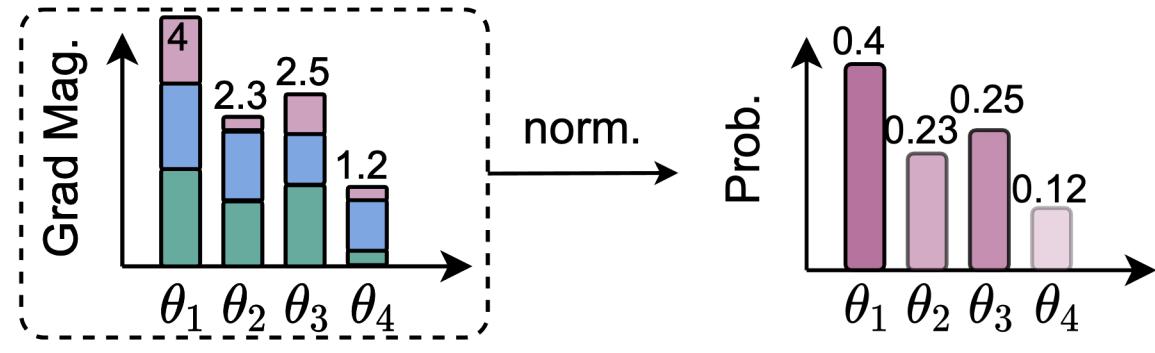
# Accumulation Window

- Keep a record of accumulated gradient magnitude



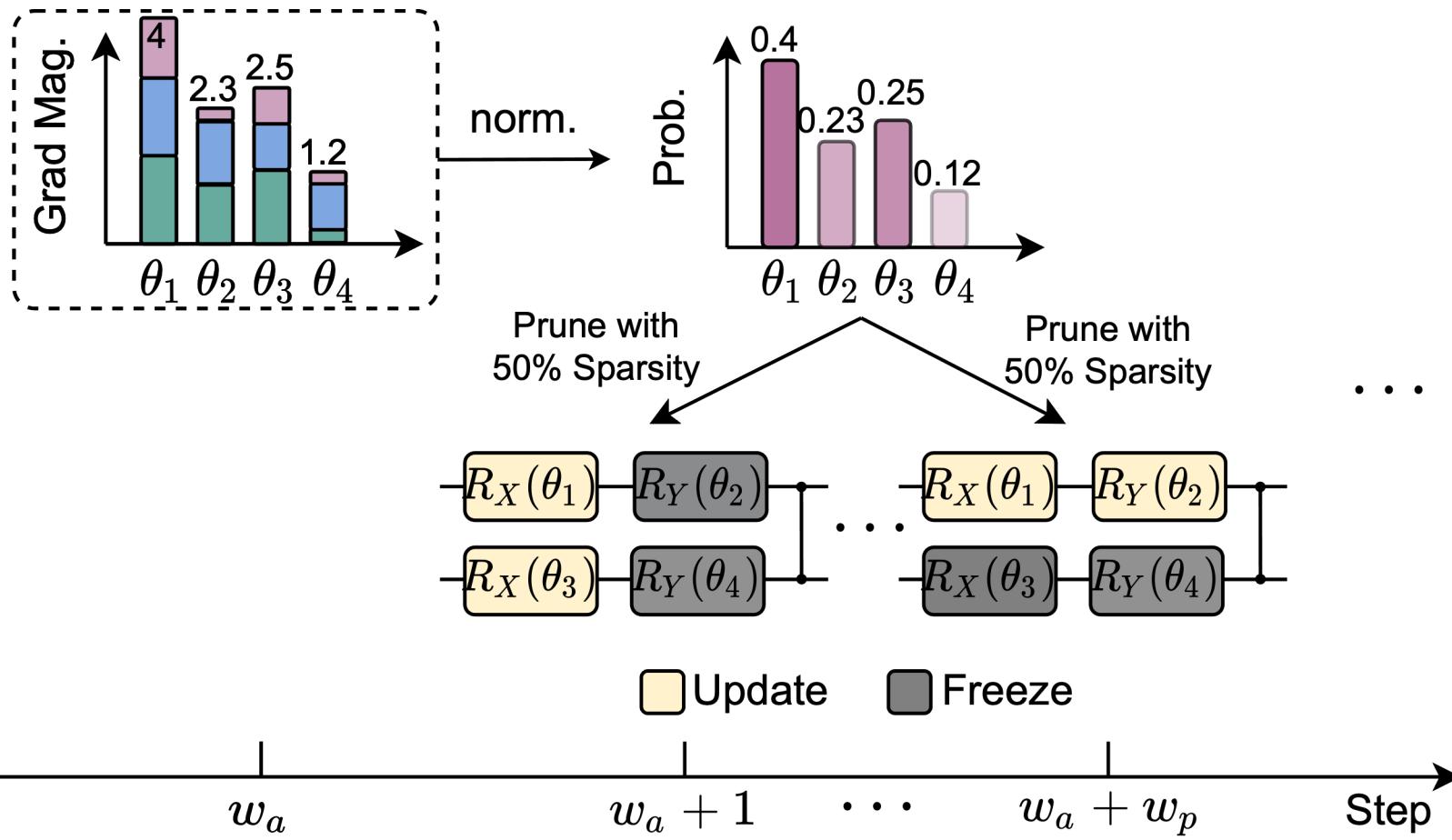
# Pruning Window

- Normalize the accumulated gradient magnitude to a probability distribution



# Pruning Window

- Prune the calculation of some gradients according to the probability distribution



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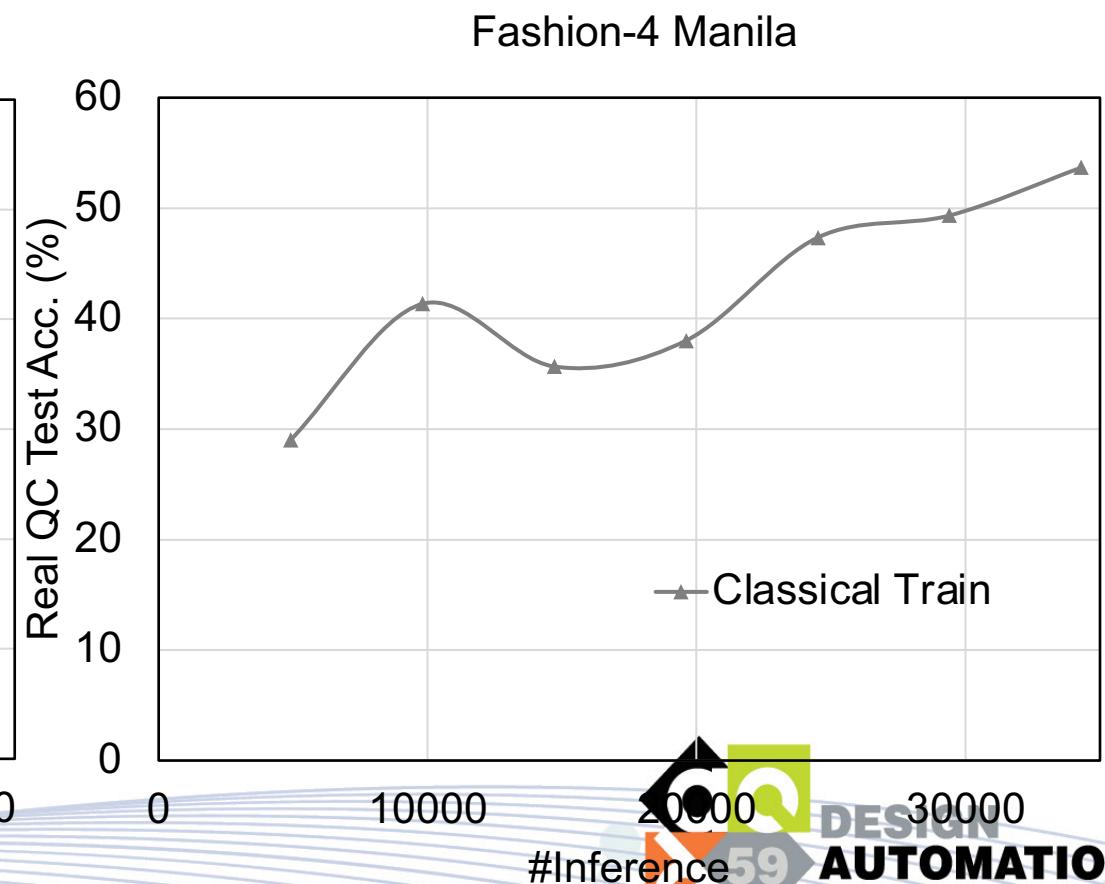
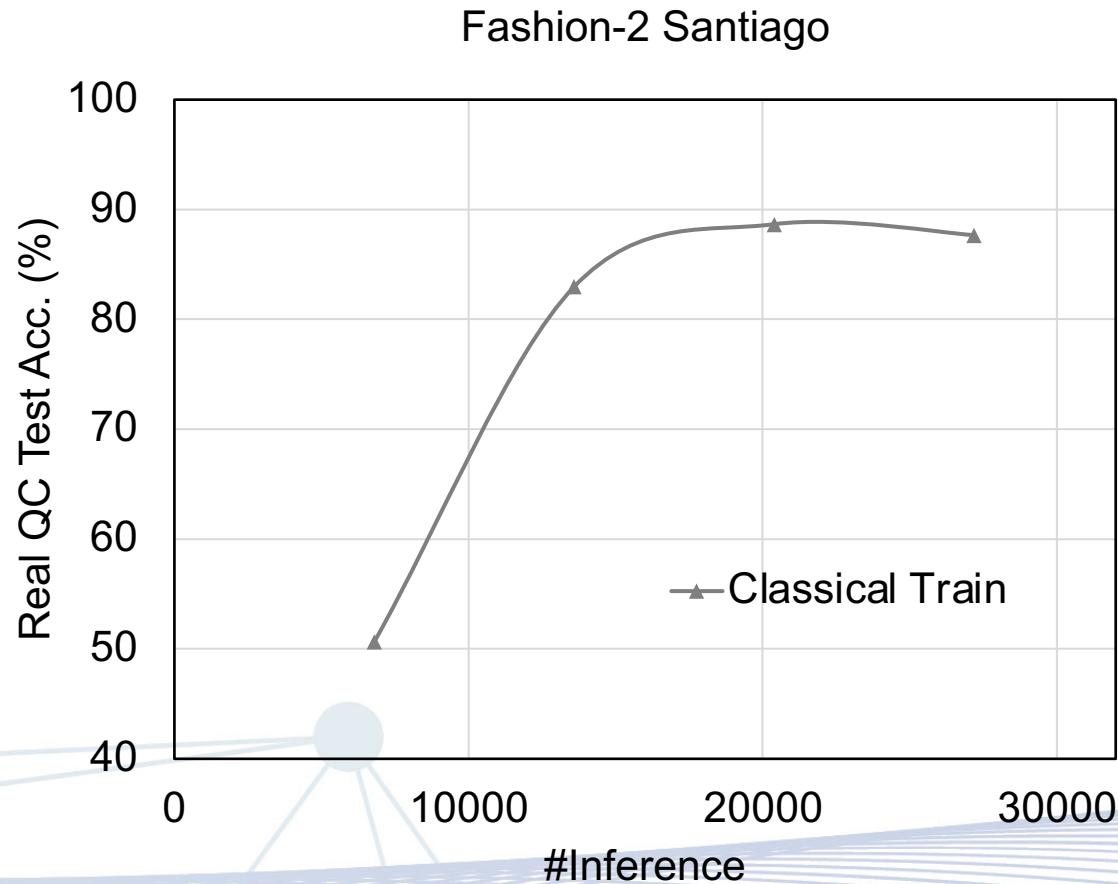
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# Evaluation

- Benchmarks
  - Quantum Machine Learning task: MNIST 4-class, 2-class, Fashion MNIST 4-class, 2-class, Vowel 4-class
  - Variational Quantum Eigensolver task: H<sub>2</sub> molecule
- Quantum Devices
  - IBMQ
  - #Qubits: 5 to 7
  - Quantum Volume: 8 to 32
- Circuit architecture
  - RZZ+RY, RXYZ+CZ, RZX+RXX

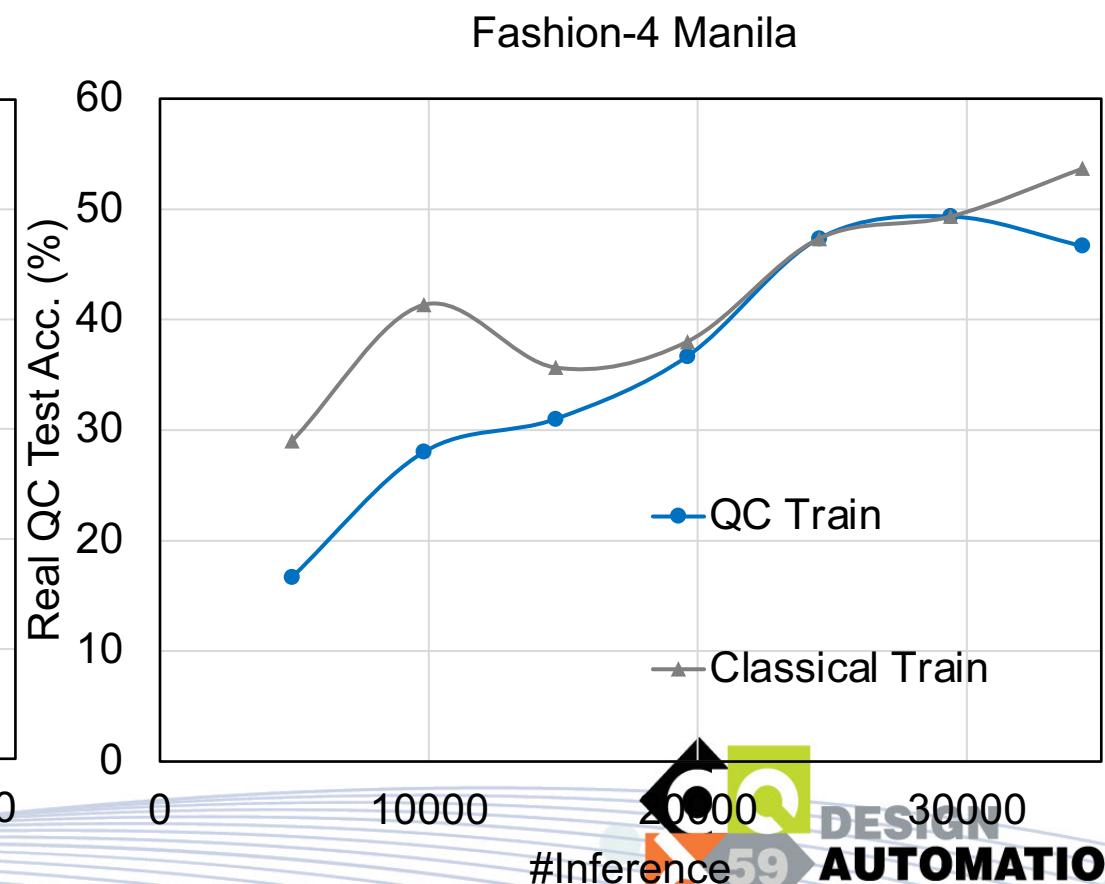
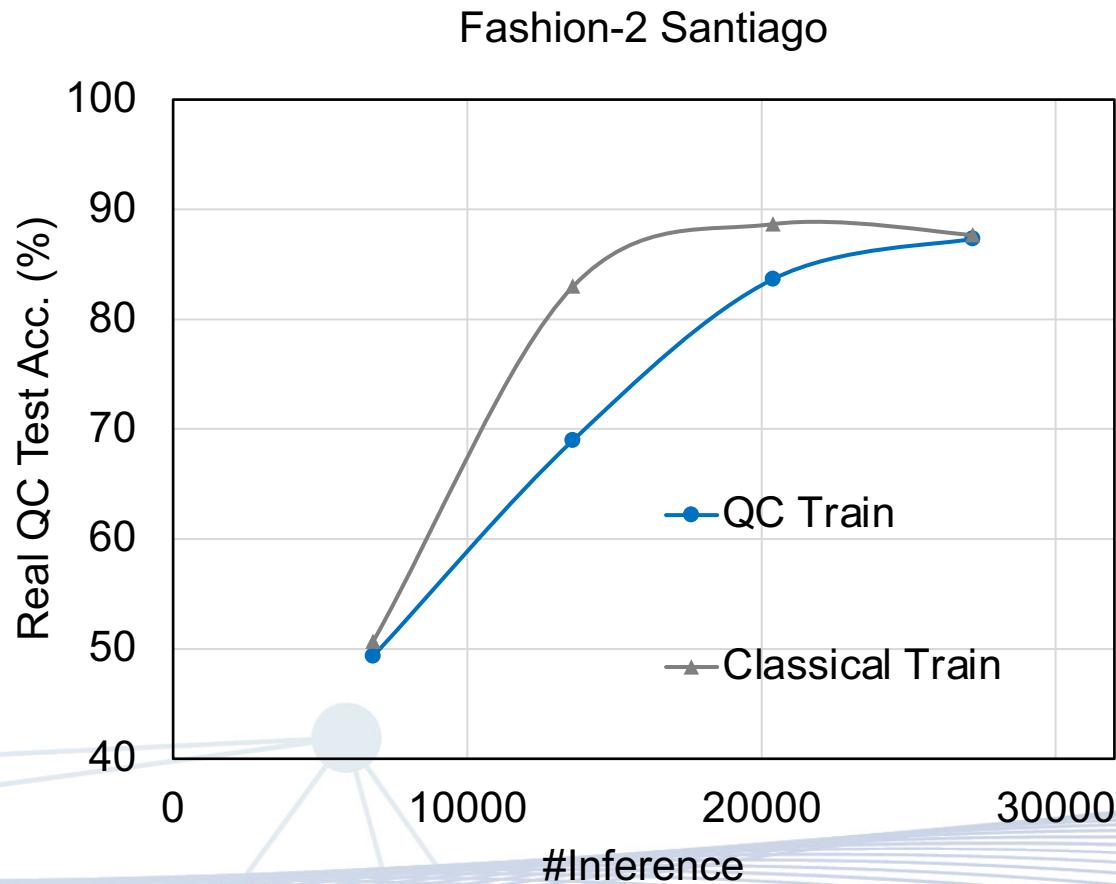
# QNN Training Curves

- Classical Train:
  - Train on classical simulator and test on real QC



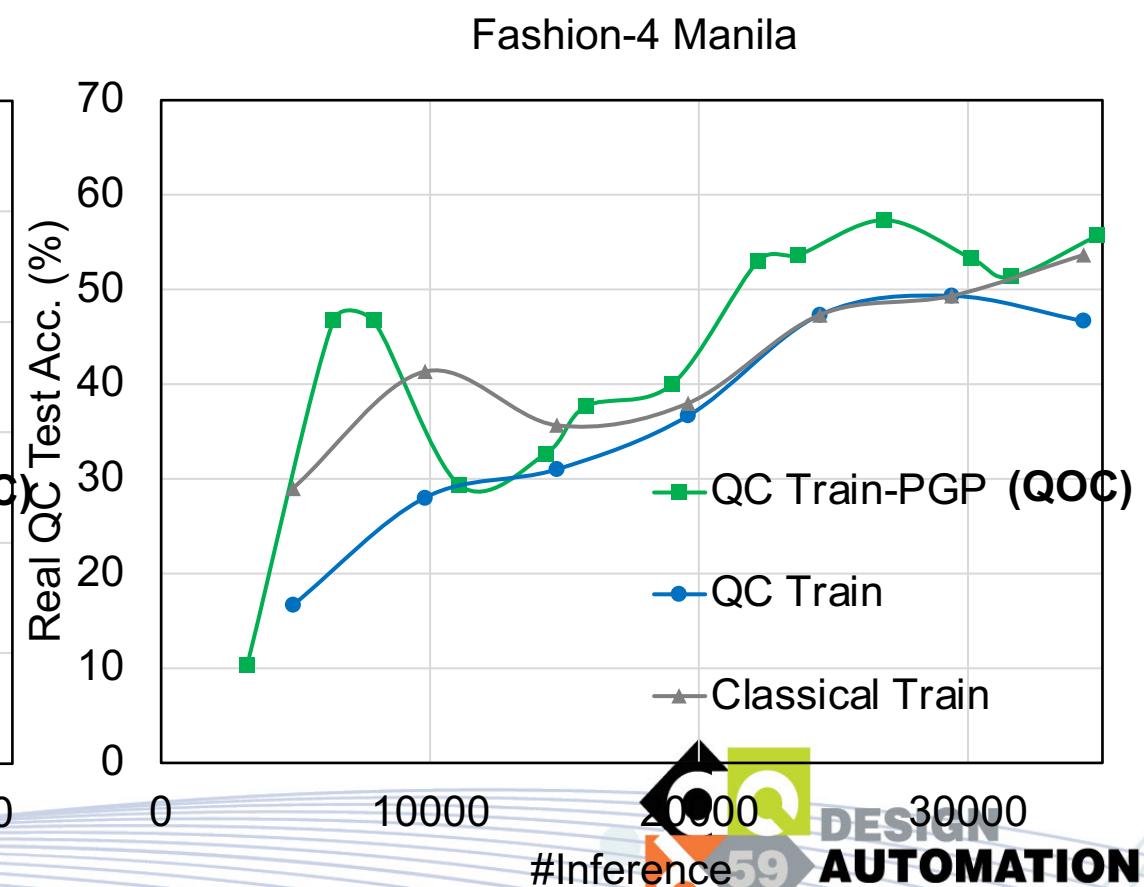
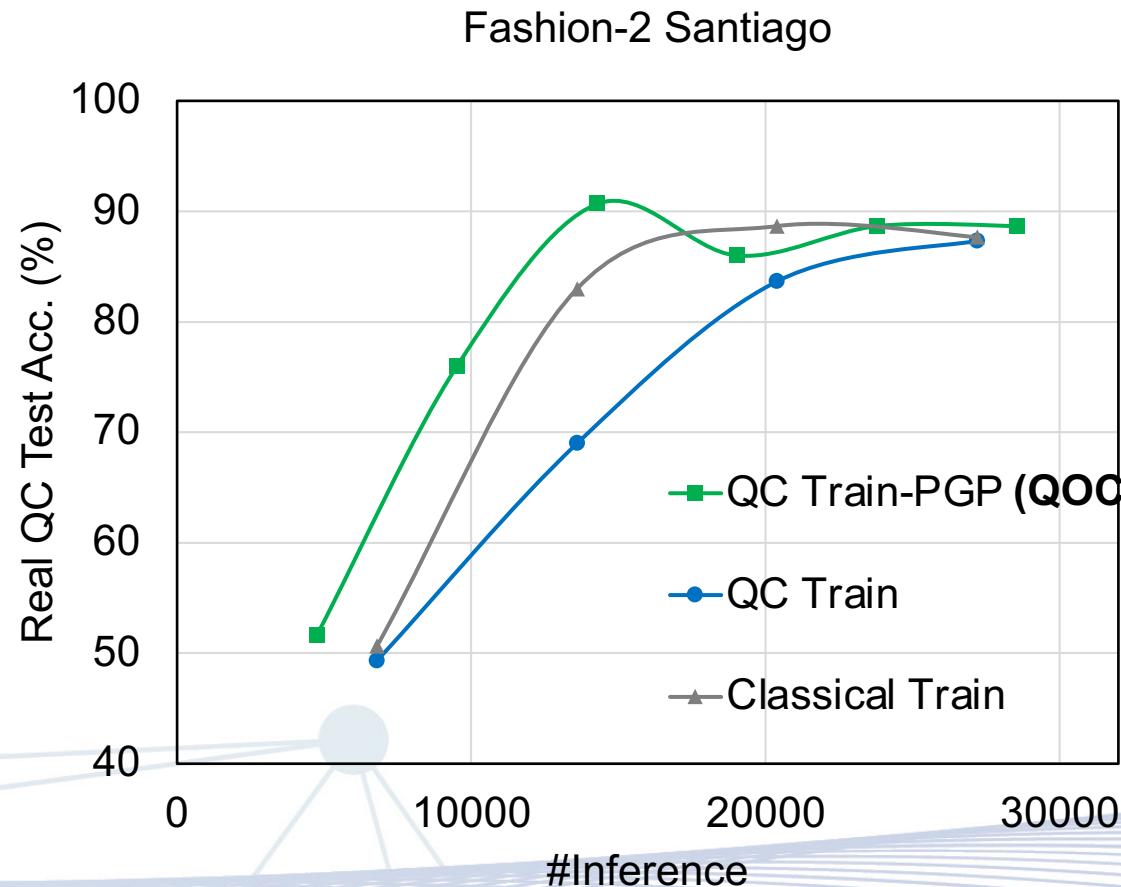
# QNN Training Curves

- QC Train:
  - Train and test the model on real QC



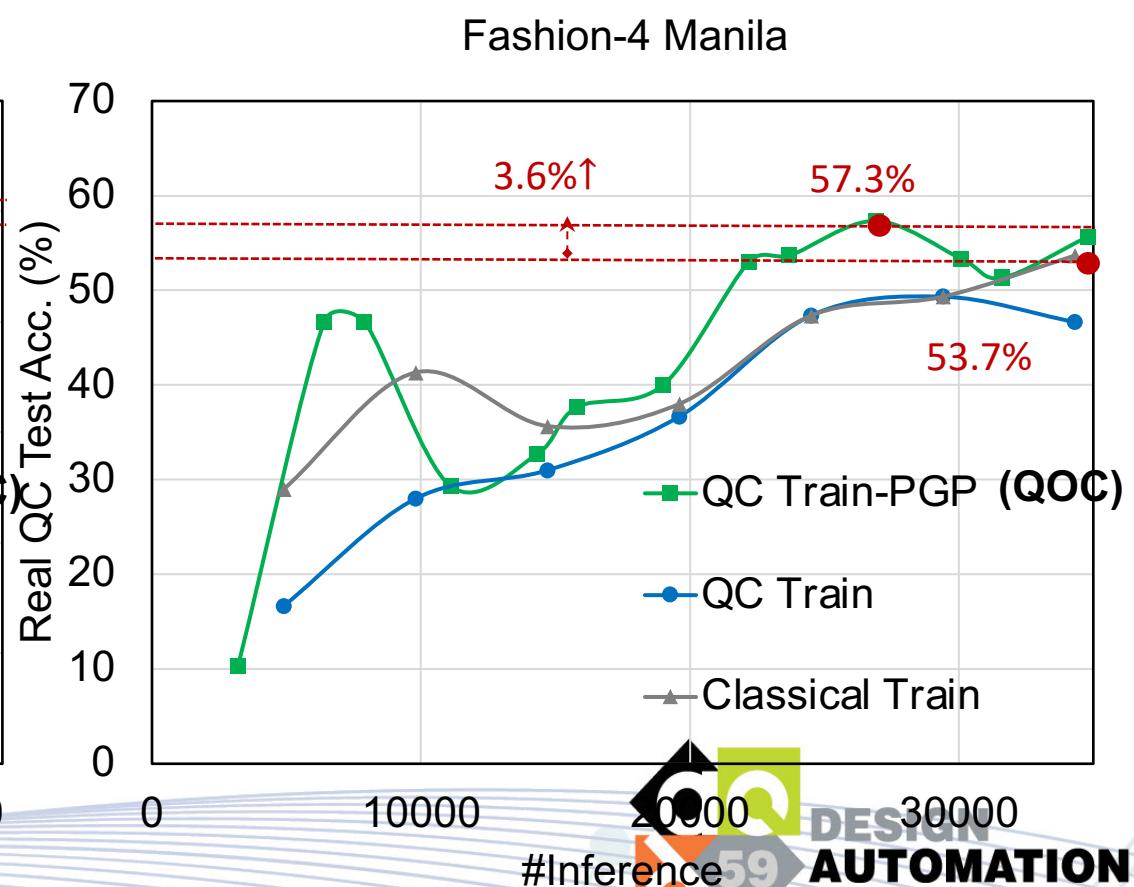
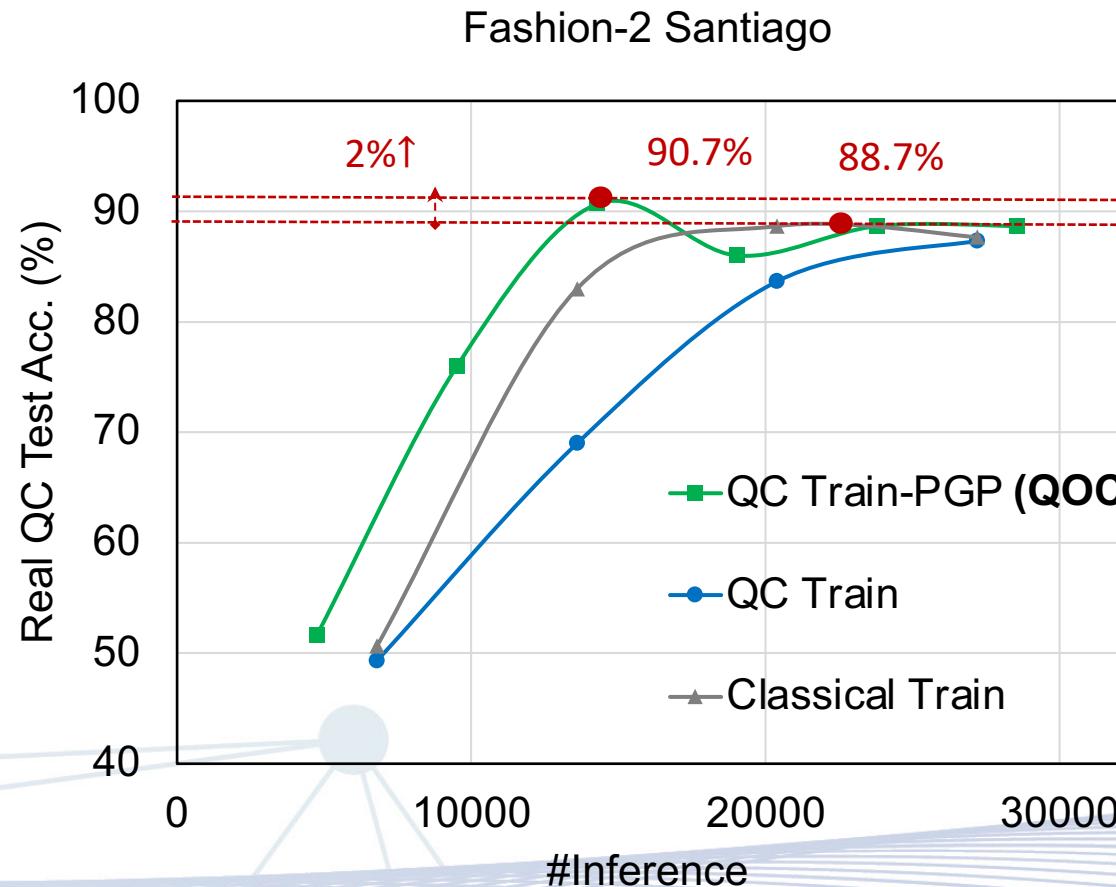
# QNN Training Curves

- QC Train-PGP (QOC):
  - Train and test on real QC with gradient pruning



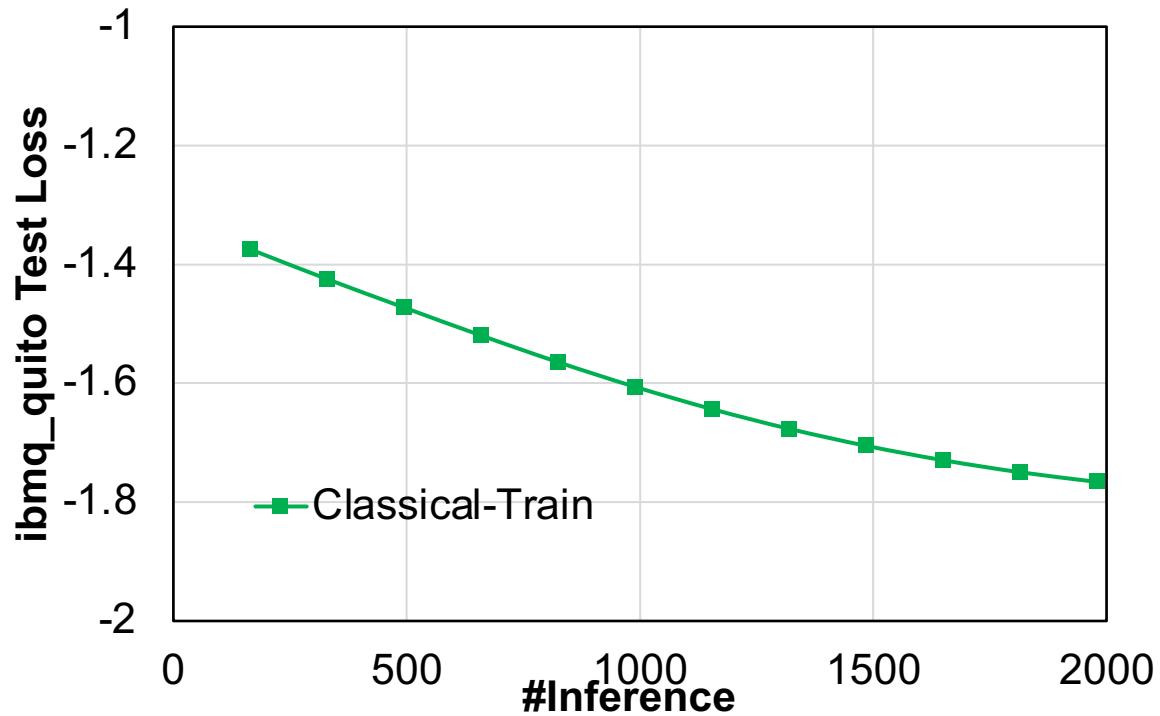
# QNN Training Curves

- Gradient pruning can brings **2%~4%** accuracy improvements
- Pruning **accelerate convergence**



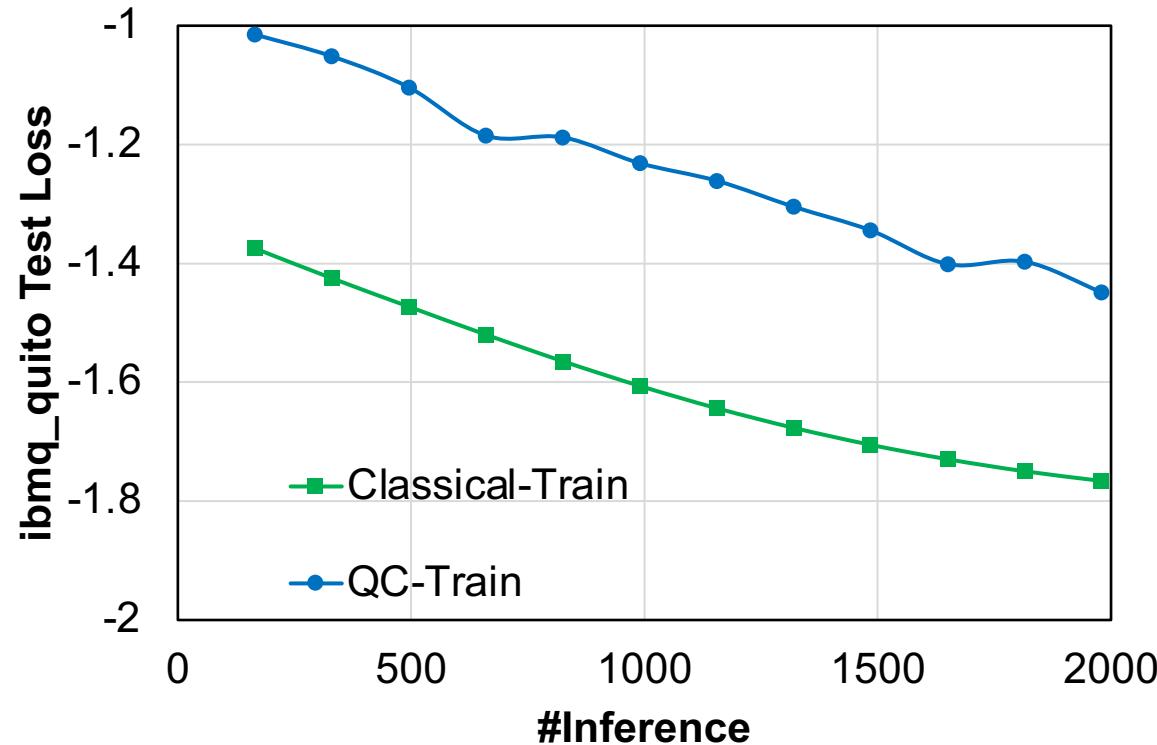
# VQE H2 Training Curves

- Estimated ground state energy (y-axis) is the lower the better



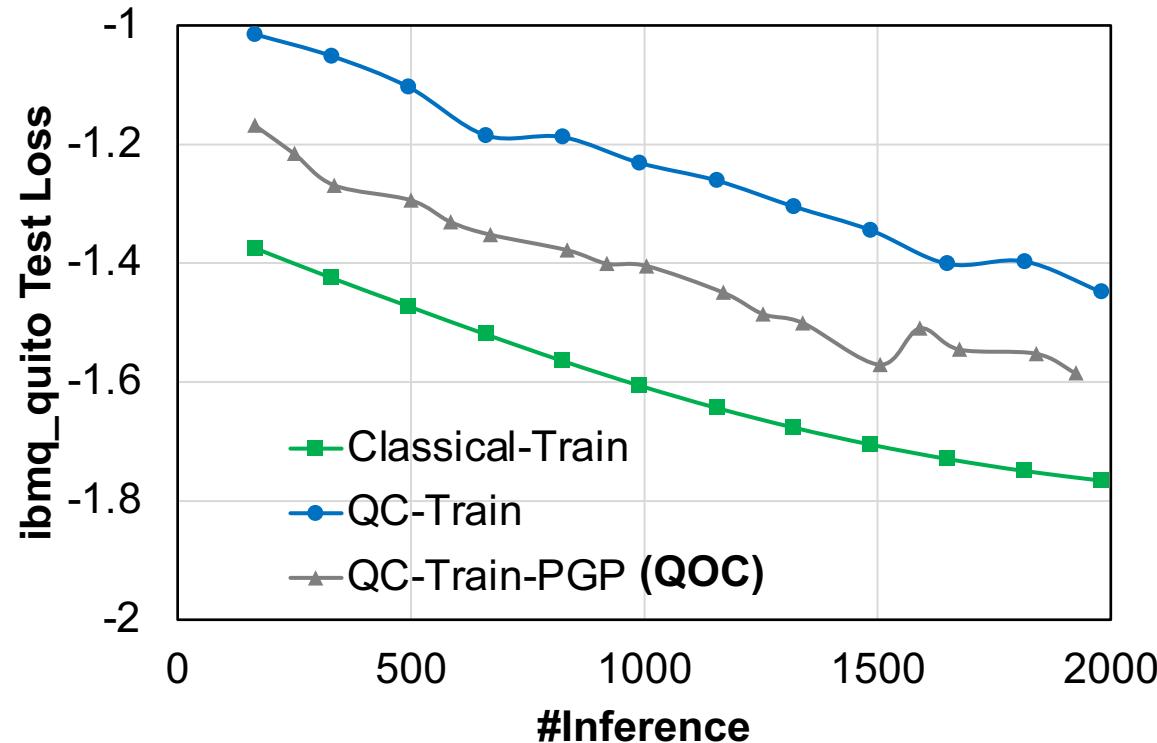
# VQE H2 Training Curves

- The loss on real QC is **higher** than that on classical computer



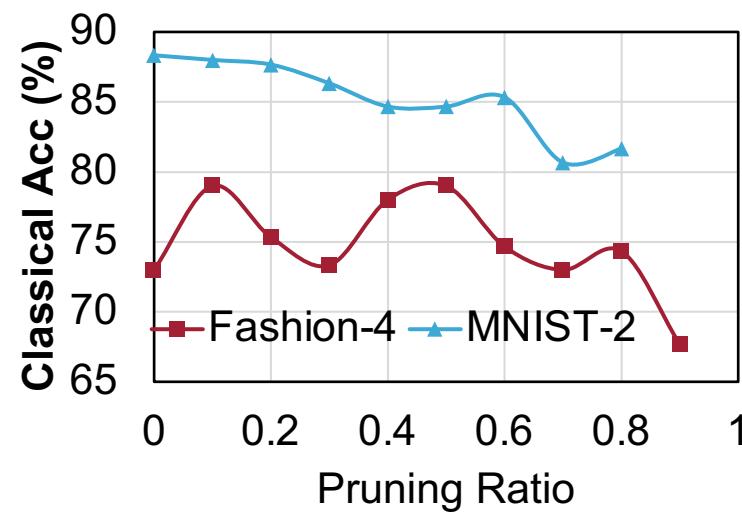
# VQE H2 Training Curves

- Gradient pruning can **reduce the gap** between quantum and classical



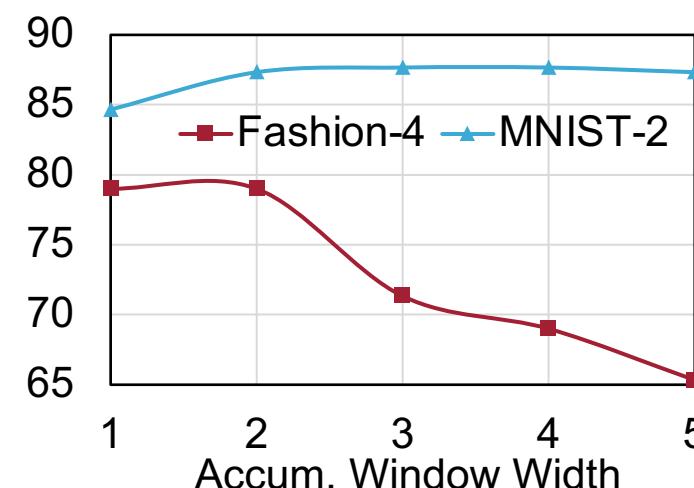
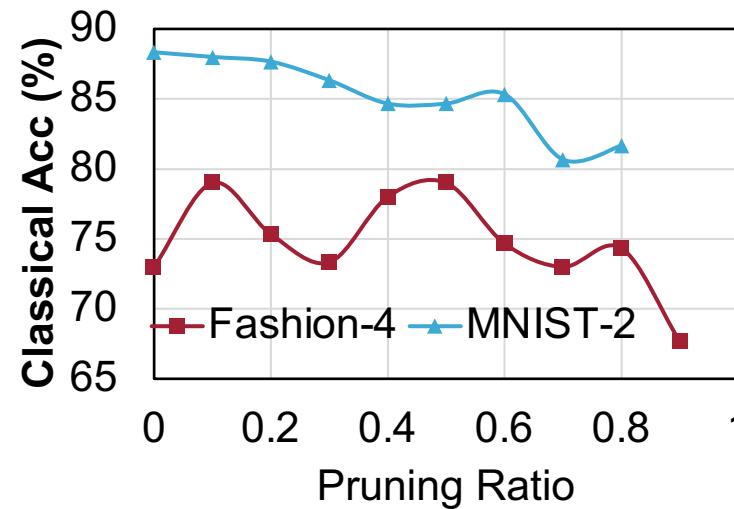
# Hyperparameters

- Hyperparameter setting:
  - Pruning ratio 0.7



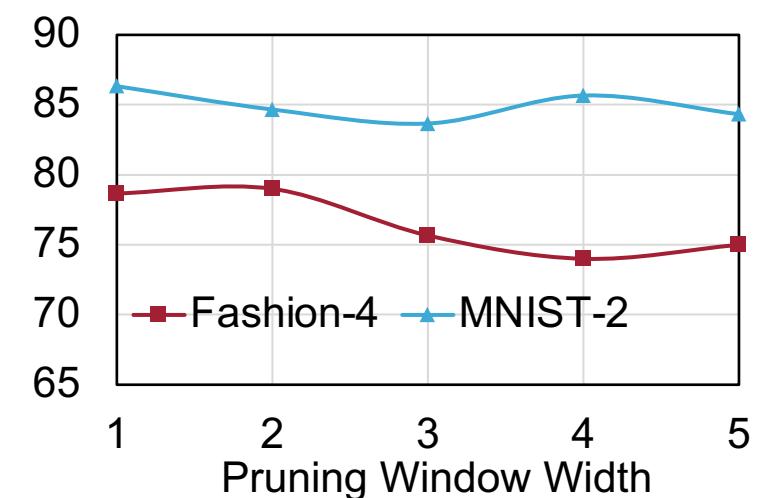
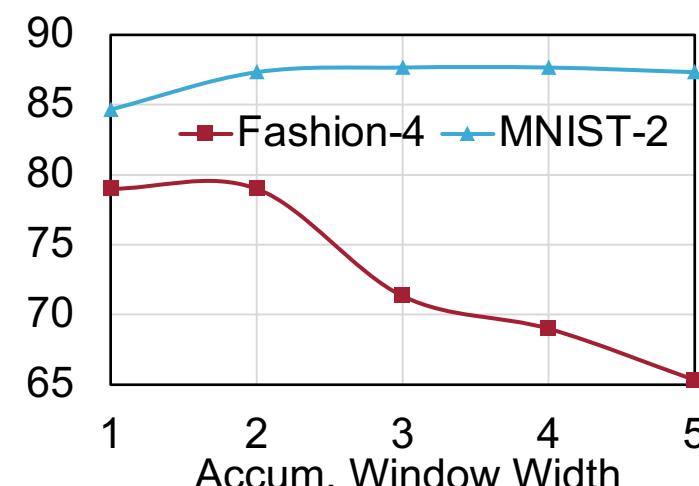
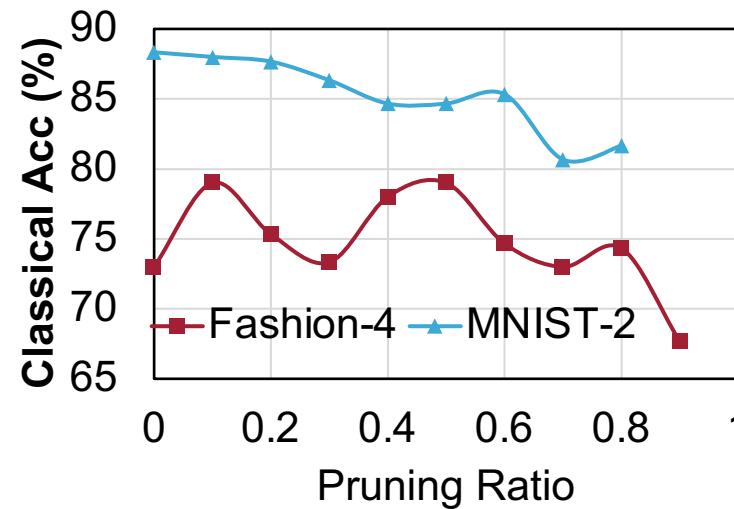
# Hyperparameters

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  - Accumulation window width: 1



# Hyperparameters

- Hyperparameter setting:
  - Pruning ratio 0.7
  - Accumulation window width: 1
  - Pruning window width: 2



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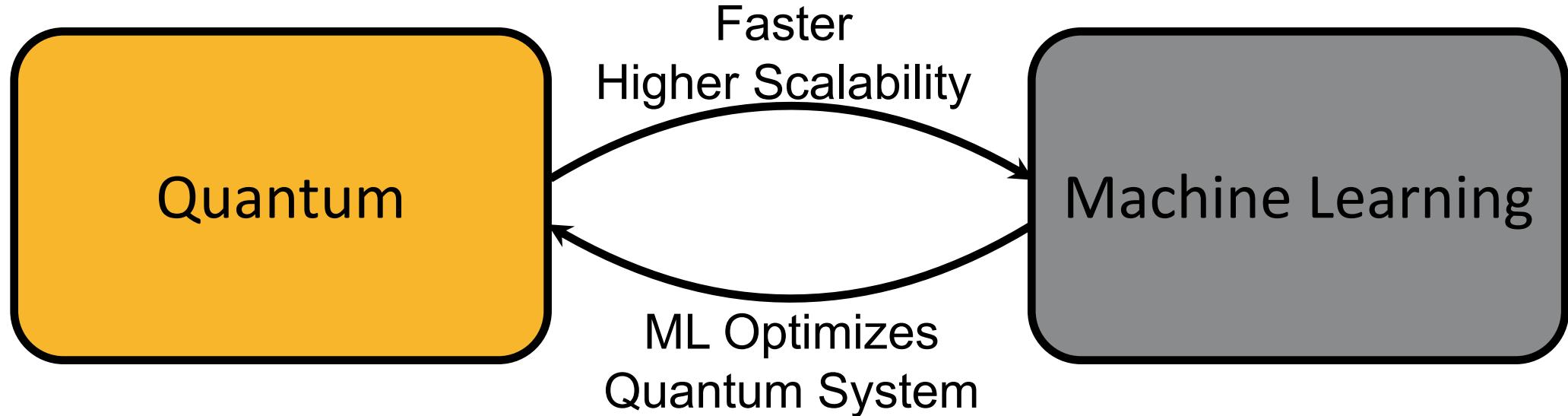
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Torch  
Quantum

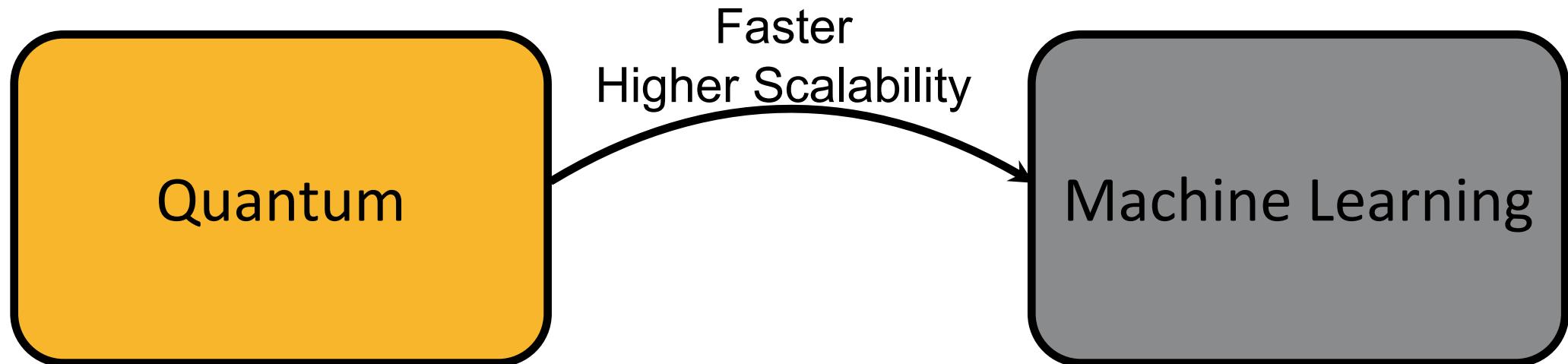
# Open-source: TorchQuantum

- TorchQuantum — An open-source library for interdisciplinary research of quantum computing and machine learning
- <https://github.com/mit-han-lab/torchquantum>



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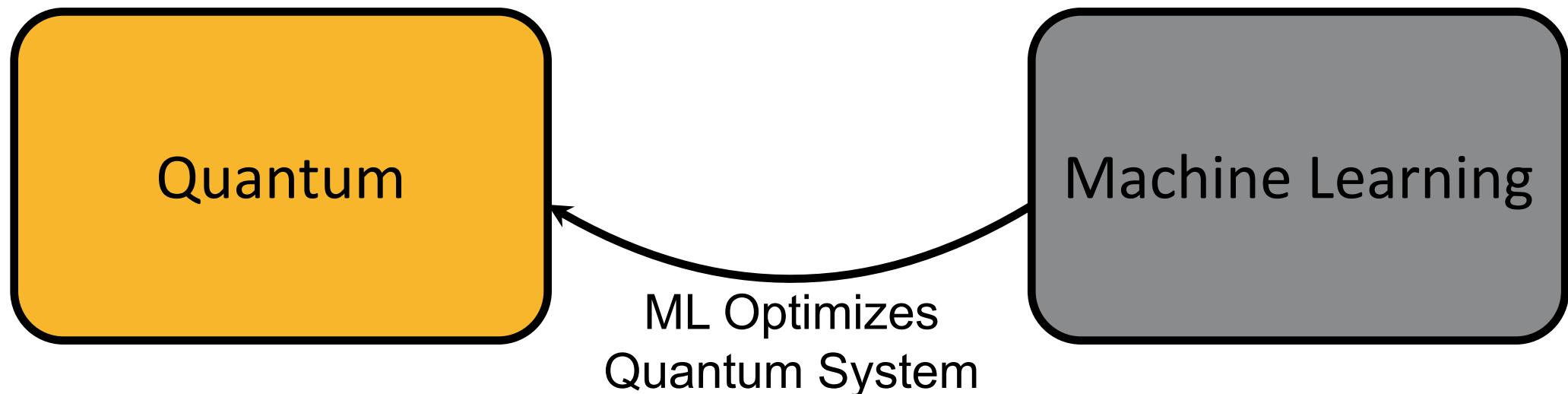
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- Quantum ML
  - Quantum neural networks
  - Quantum kernel methods

# Open-source: TorchQuantum

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- <https://github.com/mit-han-lab/torchquantum>



- ML for Quantum
  - ML optimizes quantum compilation

# TorchQuantum Features

- Features
  - Easy construction of **parameterized quantum circuits** such as Quantum Neural Networks in PyTorch
  - Support **batch mode inference and training** on GPU/CPU, supports highly-parallelized training
  - Support **easy deployment** on real quantum devices such as IBMQ
  - Provide tutorials, videos and example projects of QML and using ML to optimize quantum computer system problems

# TorchQuantum Examples & Tutorials



Torch  
Quantum

## TorchQuantum Tutorials Opening



Hanrui Wang  
MIT HAN Lab



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## TorchQuantum Tutorials Quanvolutional Neural Network

Zirui Li, Hanrui Wang  
MIT HAN Lab



MIT HAN Lab



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# Conclusion

- QOC: **first experimental demonstration** of quantum on-chip training
  - Higher **scalability**
  - Over 90% and 60% accuracy for 2-class and 4-class classification tasks
- Gradient pruning reduces QC running time by **2x**
- Open-sourced **TorchQuantum** library for Quantum + ML research



Torch  
Quantum

<https://github.com/mit-han-lab/torchquantum>



[qmlsys.mit.edu](http://qmlsys.mit.edu)

