Grover’s Quantum Algorithm CPSC 4110

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**Introduction**

This project is based on the use of Grover’s quantum algorithm in solving the satisfiability problem. To talk about the algorithm, we first need to discuss the satisfiability problem itself, specifically, Boolean satisfiability.

**Boolean Satisfiability**

The Boolean satisfiability problem “asks whether the variables of a given Boolean formula can be consistently replaced by the values TRUE or FALSE in such a way that the formula evaluates to TRUE” [1]. The input in this problem is a Boolean expression that connects multiple clauses (made up of k variables connected by the Boolean OR operator) using the Boolean AND operator. When k = 3, this looks like:

where n is the number of clauses, and each clause looks like some variation of:

the variation being that each of the k variables can be as written v or NOT v (, using the Boolean NOT operator [1]. This is important because this sets each of the variables to TRUE or FALSE, giving us a string of Boolean values combined using OR. Let’s look at an example of the Boolean satisfiability along with one solution and one non-solution to the problem:

In this case, we see that is a solution because:

A non-solution would be because:

**Theory Behind Grover’s Quantum Algorithm**

To explain Grover’s algorithm, we first need to define the “hit vector” and the “solution-smoothness property” [2]. To define the “hit vector” we say that if is a solution and if is not a solution [2]. The solution-smoothness property states two facts:

1. *All entries of that are indexed by solutions have the same value.*
2. *The entries corresponding to non-solutions also agree on their value.*

[2]

Now that we have defined and the solution-smoothness property, we can state another fact:

*Every vector in the two-dimensional subspace spanned by and*

*has the solution-smoothness property.*

[2]

Using this fact, we can now use Grover’s oracle to compute the reflection of about [2].

**The Algorithm**

To state Grover’s algorithm, we assume that , the number of solutions, is known. Then, the steps in the algorithm are as follows:

1. Initialize the vector to be the start vector .
2. Compute and .
3. Repeat the following Grover iteration times:
4. Apply the reflection of to via the Grover oracle , obtaining the vector .

(Note: here refers to the “miss vector” which returns the opposite values of the hit vector).

1. Apply the reflection of to , obtaining the new value of .
2. Measure the final state , giving a string .
3. If , we stop because we have found a solution. Otherwise, we repeat the process.

**Quantum Algorithm vs. Classical Algorithm**

Now that we have defined Grover’s algorithm, the question becomes: “Why is this better than a classical algorithm that does the same thing?” The answer, as with many quantum algorithms, is that the Quantum algorithm is faster, and in this section, we will explain why this is true.

We want to show that “Grover’s algorithm finds a member of in an expected number iterations, where , and in overall time ” [2].

**Using Grover’s Quantum Algorithm to Solve the Boolean Satisfiability Problem**

References

1. <https://qiskit.org/textbook/ch-applications/satisfiability-grover.html>
2. Textbook by Lipton