Thomas Propson

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EDUCATION

The University of Chicago

2017-2021

B.A. Physics, Minor Computer Science

GPA: 3.89 / 4.0

Research Experience

Experimental Control of Superconducting Qubits

2019-Present

The University of Chicago Department of Physics, Advisor: David I. Schuster

- Perform calibration, control, and readout on superconducting qubits
- Develop numerical techniques using control theory and trajectory optimization to engineer high fidelity quantum gates in the presence of decoherence and systematic errors

Quantum Hardware and Algorithm Optimization

2018-2019

The University of Chicago Department of Computer Science, Advisor: Frederic T. Chong

- Developed a method for compiling variational quantum algorithms that achieves a 30x latency reduction
- Developed an operation scheduling algorithm for frequency-tunable qubits that mitigates cross-talk by an order of magnitude
- Investigated properties of near-term quantum hardware and algorithms to optimize quantum architectures for fidelity and latency

Hyperparameter Optimization

2018

Argonne National Laboratory Division of Math and Computer Science

Advisors: Stefan Wild, Prasanna Balaprakash

- Developed a software package to evaluate hyperparameter optimization algorithms that exposes a novel search space definition system
- Deployed neural network experiments on high-performance computing infrastructure

PUBLICATIONS

- 1. T. Propson, B. Jackson, Z. Manchester, D. I. Schuster, "Robust Control of a Fluxonium Qubit." In preparation (2020).
- 2. Y. Ding, P. Gokhale, S. F. Lin, R. Rines, T. Propson, F. T. Chong, "Systematic Crosstalk Mitigation for Superconducting Qubits via Frequency-Aware Compilation." Proceedings of the 53rd Annual IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Microarchitecture, 201-214 (2020). [arxiv:2008.09503]
- 3. P. Gokhale, Y. Ding, T. Propson, C. Winkler, N. Leung, Y. Shi, D. I. Schuster, H. Hoffmann, F. T. Chong, "Partial Compilation of Variational Algorithms for Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum Machines." Proceedings of the 52nd Annual IEEE/ACM International Symposium on Microarchitecture, 266-278 (2019). [arxiv:1909.07522]

PATENTS

1. P. Gokhale, Y. Ding, **T. Propson**, F. T. Chong, "System and Method for Partial Compilation of Variational Algorithms in Quantum Computers." Pending.

Honors and Awards

Grainger Scholarship, UChicago Physics, full-tuition senior year	2020
Barry Goldwater Scholarship	2020
Enrico Fermi Scholar, UChicago PSD, major GPA in top 5% from past 5 years	2020
Summer Research Fellowship, UChicago	2019
Liew Family College Research Fellowship, UChicago	2018
Jeff Metcalf Research Fellowship, UChicago	2018
University Scholarship, UChicago	2017 – 2021

Contributed Talks

Systematic Crosstalk Mitigation for Superconducting Qubits via Frequency-Aware Compilation

• MICRO 53 Conference (virtual), Athens, Greece, 2020

Partial Compilation of Variational Algorithms for Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum Machines

• MICRO 52 Conference, Columbus, OH, 2019

Commercial Outlook for Quantum Computing

• The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Chicago, IL, 2019

Contributed Posters

Benchmarking Hyperparameter Optimization Algorithms on Deep Neural Networks

- The University of Chicago Undergraduate Research Symposium, Chicago, IL, 2018
- Argonne National Laboratory Summer Student Symposium, Lemont, IL, 2018

OUTREACH

The University of Chicago Department of Physics

2020-Present

• Organize a pre-freshman, summer, physics program for first-generation and limited-income students

Uncommon Hacks 2018–Present

- Organize an annual MLH endorsed hackathon to provide a platform for 300+ students to collaborate with peers, learn technical skills, and develop relationships with employers
- Lead a 10-person team of designers and software developers to build websites that reach 1000+ users

Strive Learning 2018

 Met weekly with students from limited-income households in the Chicago Public Schools to assist with coursework, college applications, and connecting students to extracurricular activities

Teaching

The University of Chicago

• Grader, Winter 2020, CMSC 23300 Networks and Distributed Systems

WORK EXPERIENCE

PanorArt Inc.

Full-Stack Web Developer

- Developed a production server in Node.js to communicate with clients via HTTP and manage databases
- Improved online presence by implementing search engine optimization techniques