Noise-induced shallow circuits and absence of barren plateaus

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Joint work with:

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Outline

Noise in quantum circuits

Effective shallow circuits



Classical simulation of Pauli expectation values of noisy random circuits

Barren plateaus



Limitations





• Many previous works modeled noise as solely **depolarizing**.

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'Non-unital' noisy circuits can be made fault-tolerant, without fresh auxiliary qubits!

What happens for generic noisy circuits?



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(Even for ALL circuits)



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(for most circuits)



Proposition.

For any initial state ρ_0 (possibly complex) and observable O,

$$\mathbb{E}_{\Phi}\left[\left|\operatorname{Tr}\left(O\Phi(\rho_{0})\right) - \operatorname{Tr}\left(O\Phi_{[L-k,L]}(\sigma_{0})\right)\right|\right] \leq \|O\|_{\infty}\exp(-\Omega(k)). \quad \Phi$$

Target expectation value







<u>Task</u>: Estimate $\mathrm{Tr}(P\Phi(\rho_0))$, with high probability over the choice of Φ .

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 $\begin{array}{l} \underline{\mathbf{Task:}} \text{ Estimate } \mathrm{Tr}(P\Phi(\rho_0)), \text{ with high probability over the choice of } \Phi.\\ \underline{\mathbf{Solution:}} \text{ It suffices to output } \mathrm{Tr}(P\Phi_{[L-k,L]}(|0^n\rangle\langle 0^n|)).\\ \hline \\ \underline{\mathbf{Previous proposition.}}\\ \mathbb{E}_{\Phi}\left[|\mathrm{Tr}(P\Phi(\rho_0)) - \mathrm{Tr}\left(P\Phi_{[L-k,L]}(|0^n\rangle\langle 0^n|)\right)|\right] \leq \exp(-\Omega(k+|P|)). \\ \hline \\ \mathbf{Choosing } k = O(\log(\varepsilon^{-1})) \text{ suffices to have:} \leq \varepsilon \end{array}$

• We have $\operatorname{Tr}\left(P\Phi_{[L-k,L]}(|0^n\rangle\langle 0^n|)\right) = \operatorname{Tr}\left(\Phi_{[L-k,L]}^*(P)|0^n\rangle\langle 0^n|\right)$



Barren plateaus are bad for variational algorithms



https://www.eurekalert.org/multimedia/739167

Gradient vanishes in all directions; can't figure out where to go!

Barren plateaus make optimization hard



Math translation of 'vanishing gradient':

$$\operatorname{Var}_{U_1,\ldots,U_m}[C] = O(\exp(-n))$$

Recall: We are optimizing over

 $U_1, \ldots U_m$

C = gradient of cost function



Cost function:
$$C := \operatorname{Tr}(P\Phi(\rho_0))$$



% Noiseless [1]:





% Noiseless [1]: Barren plateaus for depth $\geq \Omega(n)$.





ℜ Noiseless [1]: Barren plateaus for depth ≥ Ω(*n*). Var[*C*] ≤ exp(−Θ(*n*)),





 $\text{ $\$$ Noiseless [1]: Barren plateaus for depth } \geq \Omega(n). \qquad \text{Var}[C] \leq \exp(-\Theta(n)), \\ \text{Var}[\partial_{\mu}C] \leq \exp(-\Theta(n)).$







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 $\begin{aligned} & \text{Noiseless [1]: Barren plateaus for depth} \geq \Omega(n). \quad & \operatorname{Var}[C] \leq \exp(-\Theta(n)), \\ & \text{(All the gates are not-trainable)} \quad & \operatorname{Var}[\partial_{\mu}C] \leq \exp(-\Theta(n)). \end{aligned}$

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Compare with: [3] Beyond unital noise in variational quantum algorithms: noise-induced barren plateaus and fixed points. Singkanipa et al., ArXiv. (2024).





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$$(D_X, D_Y, D_Z), (t_X, t_Y, t_Z) \in \mathbb{R}^3$$
$$\mathcal{N}(I) = I + t_X X + t_Y Y + t_Z Z$$
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Open questions

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Thanks a lot for your attention!

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