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Learning theory in the "physical" corner of the Hilbert space

Anurag Anshu

Harvard University

October 31, 2024

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Upcoming section

Motivation and goals

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In the beginning...

Nature and Nature's laws,

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In the beginning...

Nature and Nature's laws, Lay hidden in night,

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In the beginning...

Nature and Nature's laws, Lay hidden in night, God said, let Hilbert space be!

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In the beginning...

Nature and Nature's laws, Lay hidden in night, God said, let Hilbert space be! -yet still, not enough light. (Alexander Pope, ChatGPT)

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The physical corner of Hilbert space

• Quantum formalism says that a system of *n* particles is described by a Hilbert space of dimension exp *n*.

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- However, physical systems live in a much smaller "corner", where the locality of natural laws prevails.

The physical corner of Hilbert space

- Quantum formalism says that a system of *n* particles is described by a Hilbert space of dimension exp *n*.
- However, physical systems live in a much smaller "corner", where the locality of natural laws prevails.
- This has a major impact on our understanding of the 'learnability' of physical systems.



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General quantum state learning problem

• A collection of quantum states on n qubits, C_n .

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Goal is to minimize the sample complexity S under further specifications:

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Type of approximation

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- Whether ρ' should be in \mathcal{C}_n or not

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Goal is to minimize the sample complexity S under further specifications:

- Type of approximation
- Whether ρ' should be in \mathcal{C}_n or not
- Time-efficient quantum measurements?
- Quantum measurements that only correlate a few qubits?

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Physical quantum states

 When C_n = the set of all quantum states, each quantum state is specified by ≈ 2²ⁿ parameters. The sample complexity of learning an unknown general quantum state scales as ≈ 2²ⁿ ([O'Donnell, Wright 2016], [Haah, Harrow, Ji, Wu, Yu, 2016]).

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Physical quantum states

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- In physical settings, the number of relevant parameters turn out to be poly(n). Two sources:
 - Experiments can only probe poly(*n*) parameters.
 - Locality in physical systems.

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Quantum many-body systems



• A fundamental way locality arises in quantum many-body systems is via interaction between qubits, described by a local Hamiltonian $H(\mu) = \sum_{i} \mu_{i} E_{i}$ (where, E_{i} are a basis of operators, such as Pauli operators).

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- A fundamental way locality arises in quantum many-body systems is via interaction between qubits, described by a local Hamiltonian $H(\mu) = \sum_{i} \mu_{i} E_{i}$ (where, E_{i} are a basis of operators, such as Pauli operators).
- The local nature of interactions also forces that elementary quantum gates act locally.

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Widely studied quantum many-body systems

Gibbs state (specified by the Hamiltonian's coefficients μ)

$$ho_eta(\mu) = rac{e^{-eta H(\mu)}}{Z_eta(\mu)}.$$

A quantum circuit of depth t (specified by O(nt) local unitaries)



A tensor network state (specified by local tensors of dimension $d \times D \times D \dots$)



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Our plan

• Discuss sample efficient algorithm (with local measurements), followed by time efficient algorithm.

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- Focus on main challenges:
 - How to operationally use the 'virtual' locality in these states?
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- Why these 3 classes of states?
 - They capture all three range in our understanding: fairly well understood, mildly well understood, very unclear.

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 - How to operationally use the 'virtual' locality in these states?
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- Why these 3 classes of states?
 - They capture all three range in our understanding: fairly well understood, mildly well understood, very unclear.
 - Fundamental quantum many-body ansatz in the regime of low entanglement.

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Learning unknown Hamiltonian from Gibbs state



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Main open question

Is there a polynomial time learning algorithm that achieves this task with sample complexity

$$\mathcal{O}\left(\operatorname{poly} \mathsf{log}(m) \cdot \mathsf{exp}(\mathcal{O}(\beta)) \cdot \operatorname{poly} \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)$$
?

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Highly desirable to perform 'local measurements' - only entangle a few neighbouring qubits.

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The known lower bound is

$$\Omega\left(\log(m)\cdot\exp(O(\beta))\cdot\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}
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Polynomial sample complexity

 Suppose we collect local data from quantum Gibbs samples. If we have enough time, is it possible to recover the Hamiltonian?

Polynomial sample complexity

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Polynomial sample complexity

- Suppose we collect local data from quantum Gibbs samples. If we have enough time, is it possible to recover the Hamiltonian?
- We may have enough time to go over all Hamiltonians $H' = \sum_i \mu'_i E_i$, and find one that agrees with all the local data.
- (A., Arunachalam, Kuwahara, Soleimanifar 2020) non-negligible changes in local data force the Hamiltonians to be different. A $O(\text{poly}(n)e^{\text{poly}(\beta)}/\varepsilon^2)$ sample complexity can be obtained.

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- Main technical ingredient: strong convexity of quantum partition function. Variance lower bound on extensive observables.

Time efficient algorithm

- (Bakshi, Liu, Moitra, Tang, 2024): $O(\text{poly}(n)e^{e^{\text{poly}(\beta)}}/\varepsilon^2)$ sample and time complexity.
- Entangling measurements act on $e^{\text{poly}(\beta)}$ qubits.
- Recent improvement: $e^{\operatorname{poly}(\beta)} \to \operatorname{poly}(\beta)$.
- New locality property of the imaginary time evolution operator $e^{\beta H}Ae^{-\beta H}$.
- Sum-of-squares techniques play a crucial role.

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- Optimal algorithms known for
 - (Haah, Kothari, Tang, 2023): High temperature case ($\beta < \beta_c$).
 - (A., Arunachalam, Kuwahara, Soleimanifar, 2021): Commuting case.
- Learning Gibbs states in quantum Wasserstein distance is also considered in (Rouze, Franca, Quantum 2024) and (Palma, Marvian, Trevisan, Lloyd, 2021).

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Open directions

• Improving poly(*n*) sample complexity to poly log *n* sample complexity.

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Open directions

- Improving poly(*n*) sample complexity to poly log *n* sample complexity.
- Learning the structure of the interaction graph, with sparsity the only guarantee (already open for the commuting case).

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Learning shallow quantum states

Quantum states of the form |ψ_U⟩ = U |0ⁿ⟩, where U is a quantum circuit of depth t, have emerged as important ansatz in approximating low energy quantum states.



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Sample efficient learning

Local data: marginals $\psi_{U,i}$ of the qubits in the 'light cones' L_i (set of qubits that can influence the qubit *i*).



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Sample efficient learning

Local data: marginals $\psi_{U,i}$ of the qubits in the 'light cones' L_i (set of qubits that can influence the qubit *i*).



• Search over all unitaries U' of depth t, compute the marginals of $\psi_{U'}$ and see if they are close.

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Sample efficient learning

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• Search over all unitaries U' of depth t, compute the marginals of $\psi_{U'}$ and see if they are close.

• If
$$\psi_{U',i} \stackrel{\varepsilon/n}{\approx} \psi_{U,i}$$
, then $\psi_{U'} \stackrel{\varepsilon}{\approx} \psi_{U}$.

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Sample efficient learning

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- Search over all unitaries U' of depth t, compute the marginals of $\psi_{U'}$ and see if they are close.
- If $\psi_{U',i} \stackrel{\varepsilon/n}{\approx} \psi_{U,i}$, then $\psi_{U'} \stackrel{\varepsilon}{\approx} \psi_{U}$.
- Thus, sample complexity is $2^{O(t)} \frac{n^2}{\epsilon^2}$.

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- (Huang, Liu, Broughton, Kim, A., Landau, McClean, STOC 24) show a poly(n) time algorithm to learn such states for 2D geometrically local circuits.
 - W has depth O(t).

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 - W has depth O(t).
- (Liu, Landau, 24) developed an algorithm that works in higher dimensions.
- (Huang, Liu, Broughton, Kim, A., Landau, McClean, STOC 24) also solve the problem with "circuit" access given a blackbox that implements *U*, output a *W* that's close to to *U* in diamond norm.
 - W has depth O(t) on finite dimensional lattices. Depth is $2^{O(t)}$ on general graphs.

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- These algorithms work by finding "local inversions" to the circuit and then developing schemes to join them together.
- The measurements act on qubits roughly the size of the 'lightcone'.
- Technical contribution goes in resolving the following issue local inversions may not be consistent with each other.



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Open directions

- Can shallow state learning be achieved on general graphs?
- Can the depth of output circuit in circuit learning be optimized to O(t) on general graphs?
- Can the sample complexity be significantly improved in the presence of noise?

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Learning tensor network states



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Are tensor network states locally learnable?

• Consider the CAT states:

$$|CAT_{\pm}\rangle = rac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|0\ldots 0
angle \pm |1\ldots 1
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Are tensor network states locally learnable?

Consider the CAT states:

$$|CAT_{\pm}\rangle = rac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\ldots 0\rangle \pm |1\ldots 1\rangle).$$

• These can be written as 1D Tensor Network States (Matrix Product States)



• However, they look the same locally! Thus, they can't be learned locally in general.

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Learning Matrix Product States

• Matrix product states (with matrices of dimension D) can be written as a sequential circuit: $|\psi\rangle = U_1 U_2 \dots U_{n-1} |0^n\rangle$.



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Learning Matrix Product States

 Matrix product states (with matrices of dimension D) can be written as a sequential circuit: |ψ⟩ = U₁U₂...U_{n-1} |0ⁿ⟩.



 Algorithm in [Cramer, Plenio, Flammia, Somma, Gross, Bartlett, Landon-Cardinal, Poulin, Liu, Nat Comm 2010] learned and inverted the sequential circuit.

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Learning Matrix Product States

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- Algorithm in [Cramer, Plenio, Flammia, Somma, Gross, Bartlett, Landon-Cardinal, Poulin, Liu, Nat Comm 2010] learned and inverted the sequential circuit.
- Measurements efficient, but acted globally.
- Does not work for general tensor networks.

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Locally learning classes of Matrix Product States

- Main open question obtain efficient learning algorithm using local measurements, which outputs an MPS of bond dimension O(D).
 - Assuming certain "invertability condition".
- Progress in [Fanizza, Galke, Lumbreras, Rouze, Winter, 2023], which learns a Matrix Product Operator of bond dimension D^2 that is close to the MPS.

Learning invertible tensor network states?

• For invertible tensor network states in general, similar scheme can give a sample efficient algorithm (by searching the space of all tensor networks).

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Learning invertible tensor network states?

- For invertible tensor network states in general, similar scheme can give a sample efficient algorithm (by searching the space of all tensor networks).
- However, no time efficient method is known.
- Technical question that might help for a tensor network with gapped parent Hamiltonian, is it possible to reconstruct the tensor network ground state?

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Outlook

• Learning theory of quantum many-body systems has emerged as a highly successful new field, showing remarkable new locality properties of physical states.

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Outlook

- Learning theory of quantum many-body systems has emerged as a highly successful new field, showing remarkable new locality properties of physical states.
- This talk covered a "corner" of known results; important other developments include learning Hamiltonian from time evolution, learning phases of matter, verification of states, practical learning algorithms, learning stabilizer states, learning continuous variable states, learning Pauli noise, .

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Outlook

- Learning theory of quantum many-body systems has emerged as a highly successful new field, showing remarkable new locality properties of physical states.
- This talk covered a "corner" of known results; important other developments include learning Hamiltonian from time evolution, learning phases of matter, verification of states, practical learning algorithms, learning stabilizer states, learning continuous variable states, learning Pauli noise, .
- Thanks for your attention!